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Hamilton

June 25, 2021

**Alexander Skate Park – Online Public Information Centre
June 8th 7:30-9:00pm**

Question and Answers

On June 8, 2021 a joint online Public Information Centre (PIC) was held by Councillor Wilson's office to introduce two (2) projects at Alexander Park. Staff from Landscape Architectural Services outlined plans for a new community-level skate park called: Alexander Skate Park. Recreation presented high-level information for a proposed community hub building in the existing storage/washroom building. The following is a summary of questions, answers and related comments from the skate park portion of the meeting.

Q&A:

Question 1:

Is there potential to work with Hydro One to integrate the hydro corridor as a potential mountain bike park mountain bikes can't use this park? If people want to just give some comments to LAS as they look at that master plan is there a place that they can say, "hey we support this, and we'd like to see it in this place or these places?"

Answer:

Conversations were started a few years ago, but due to maintenance, access and safety issues, Hydro generally does not allow amenities within their corridors. The City is currently updating its Recreational Trails Master Plan, which will also consider amenities for mountain biking. Although we currently do not have a comprehensive study with respect to mountain bike amenities, this will be a near-future planning initiative.

Anyone interested in providing feedback regarding a mountain bike study can send an email with contact information to ken.wheaton@hamilton.ca. Information and feedback will be kept on-file until the project begins.

Question 2:

Are there skateparks planned for other parts of Hamilton, or is this the only one?

Answer:

The City completed a skateboard Park Study, which outlines candidate sites which will be considered for skate parks. The study is available at:

<https://www.hamilton.ca/parks-recreation/creating-new-parks/skateboard-park-study>. A skate park will be constructed later this summer at Valley Park in upper Stoney Creek.

The skatepark study identified specific locations and rated them using an evaluation criterion. Once evaluated staff go back and review the site with stakeholders who are using the site to determine if those sites are still appropriate based on what's happening in those parks. We are continuing to look at opportunities to install skate parks in new parks that are coming through the planning process, but are using the Skateboard Park Study as a guiding document for installation.

Question 3:

Will the skate park be 'accessible'?

Answer:

The City will work with the Consultant to ensure the skate park is designed in a manner that incorporates adaptive skateboarding and accessibility.

Question 4:

How big will the skatepark be? What is the square footage of the Iceland park? asking for comparison sake.

Answer:

Alexander Skate Park will be roughly 1,000 square metres, or approximately 10,000 square feet, not counting the access walkways and area for seating, sun shelter etc. By comparison, Iceland Skate Park is roughly 2,000 square metres including access walkways.

Question 5:

What company is the design consultant and when will the name of the consultant be released?

Answer:

The City has an approved consultant roster. Depending on the value of the procurement, the consultant could be one of three capable firms. All firms will be required to carry costs to hire a skate park designer as a sub-consultant to ensure the skate park is designed to industry standards. It will take roughly 6 weeks to hire the design consultant.

Question 6:

I am very interested in becoming a part of the group! How can I get involved?

Answer:

Individuals interested in becoming part of the Rider focused working group are asked to send a email with contact information to either ken.wheaton@hamilton.ca, or to the project email at alexanderskatepark@hamilton.ca.

UPDATE June 24, 2021: 40 interested individuals have expressed interest in the becoming members of the working group, including multiple residents from Dundas.

Question 7:

Is the proposed location for the skate park within Alexander Park the only possible location? It looks like there is a lot of greenspace between the baseball diamonds and at the south end of the park that would be further away from the splash pad/playground for young children.

Answer:

Existing services (water, sewer, electrical), sight lines and future sports field improvements were taken into consideration when proposing the location for the skate park.

Context: The land directly to the west of this site is owned by the French school board. The City has approached the board to purchase these lands for park expansion plans, but the proposal has been denied by the French board repeatedly.

Question 8:

Are there other potential upcoming developments for Alexander park other than the skate park/hub retrofit?

Answer:

The skate park and the Hub building retrofits are the only projects on the current work plan.

Question 9:

This area is already on an existing bus route, which is fantastic, but will there be parking available?

Answer:

There is no space to devote to on-site parking. The City will contact St. Mary Catholic Secondary School to determine if there are parking options after school hours.

Question 10:

How will Ward 1 residents be told about the online user surveys?

Answer:

The City's online survey platform Engage Hamilton will be used to administer surveys and voting on concept plans. Please monitor the project website for important project updates.

Question 11:

Will there be lights? A water fountain as the previous bowl had would be ideal as well. A concession stand that also has some small parts for sale such as hardware, bearings etc. would be great. Safety equipment rental much like the roller skating at Pier 4 couldn't hurt.

Answer:

Yes, there will be lighting for the skate park. A drinking fountain was installed as part of the new playground installation in 2020. The City will look at the feasibility to add a second drinking fountain in the park. Drinking fountains have a substantial capital cost, so the possibility of adding this amenity would be budget dependent.

Question 12:

With a catchment area of Dundas/West Hamilton for the skate project, is there a projection of usage?

Answer:

This skate park will be designed as a community level skate park, with a larger catchment area than a neighbourhood skate park. While the total projected usership was not specifically defined in the skate park study, it is expected that the core users of this amenity will be from residents of Dundas, west Hamilton and possible residents from Ancaster. Proximity to McMaster University and student housing in Westdale could also increase usership.

Question 13:

What defines a mountain bike? Can we say that hardtail Dirt Jump mountain bikes are allowed at the park?

Answer:

The definition of a mountain bike is actually determined by the type of wheels and frame style of the bike. The knobby wheels of a mountain bike are known to carry debris like dirt and rocks, which could create safety issues and tripping hazards for the smaller wheels of the skateboards, inline skates and scooters. While City staff do not monitor or police this issue, skate parks It's really about a respect and shared use of this amenity. Making sure that everyone who is using it can use it safely and appropriately. Often in the first year or so of operation, we'll have a staff support to come and help with the grand opening and stick around for a season or two just until people are comfortable with the amenity. And we help enforce these

types of rules and understanding of what's acceptable, what's not acceptable. There will be a bit of an education period when we first open this space.

Question 14:

Would that be larger than Turner Skateboard Park?

Answer:

Turner Skateboard Park is a city-wide amenity and is roughly 2,000 square meters. Alexander Skate Park is a community wide amenity and will be roughly half the size of Turner, not including walkways.

Question 15:

Are there any traffic-slowing measures planned for that section of Whitney Avenue? Any additional crosswalks to be added closer to the park?

Answer:

The Councillor's office have identified Whitney Ave and Rifle Range Rd. as candidate areas for traffic calming measures. The Ward 1 office, LAS and Traffic Safety will be in discussions to determine appropriate traffic calming/pedestrian safety and accessibility measures in this area.

Question 16:

Will additional trees be planted to replace those that will need to be removed for the skate park?

Answer:

A tree management plan will be prepared as part of the skate park design. The City aims to preserve existing trees and avoid impacts where possible. If trees are damaged or removed as part of this project, replacements will be planted to the satisfaction of the City's Urban Forestry section.

Question 17:

What is the parking lot off of Iona Avenue for? Is that also land owned by the French school?

Answer:

This parking lot is owned by Hydro One.

Comments:

- 1) Multiple comments were received from patrons who are excited that there will now be a local skate park that does not require a long commute to get to.
- 2) Skate parks are dangerous. they promote drug use, ambulance cost, out of town traffic, and general neighbourhood disturbance. soccer fields and tennis courts

are far more reasonable. I went to Prince Philip by the way. you guys also tore that down, thanks. [Public schools are under the jurisdiction of the HWDSB].

- 3) I see kids having fun – what do you see?
- 4) As a user of skate parks and the father of kids who use skate parks, these spaces create productive communities and promote physical activity among a demographic who has few public spaces in which to congregate around a shared interest. Without places like this, adolescent citizens will struggle to find community and accessible activities. This initiative is a fantastic move by the City.
- 5) Great presentation. Exciting project that's great for the neighbourhood and city!
- 6) I'm very excited to see a skate park being built in the area! I'm not a rider, but I think they are good for the community, and contrary to popular belief, can reduce criminal behaviour by giving youth a place to go, and building social skills! Very happy to see this project!
- 7) Thank you so much for the session today! As a student at McMaster University, I am very excited for this new piece of recreational infrastructure so close to the school that would cater to a huge amount of the target demographic.
- 8) Parking on site may be good to add for those who need 'disabled' parking spaces onsite.
- 9) For notification remember that not everyone has social media or internet. There are a number of social housing homes in this Ward.
- 10) Engage the Hamilton Skateboard Assembly and the local skate shops to increase engagement from the rider community.
- 11) Excited for this development.
- 12) Posting a short list of skatepark rules would be great for new skatepark users.
- 13) Thanks for the information and the opportunity to ask questions. True community engagement.