

HAAA GROUNDS RENEWAL PLAN

Community Consultation Summary

CONTACT

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KEY STAKEHOLDER DESIGN WORKSHOP

Through the City of Hamilton online interactive engagement tool, the public shared ideas and observations to guide the development of a Renewal Plan for the HAAA grounds.

The online engagement period was active between February 1, 2021 - March 11, 2021, and was introduced to the public during the Virtual Public Information Center (PIC) No. 1 which took place via. zoom on February 4 and 6th.

The Renewal Plan is to help city staff determine park upgrades, as the current site amenities are nearing the end of their service life and will need to be replaced. Through public engagement, park programming and conceptual design of park features will be developed resulting in a phased plan.

WHAT WE HEARD

The following key themes emerged during the on-line feedback. These ideas have been incorporated into the conceptual designs for presentation on June 17th. These will be further explored through the Design Development Phase.

Park Character

Preserving and enhancing features which are important to the character of the park. Features to be integrated into the Renewal Plan include existing topography, trees, Charlton streetscape and gardens, open space, walking/running track and heritage commemoration.

Heritage

Creative and integrative ideas were put forward to expand on the commemoration in the park, including interpretive panels and public art.

Park Circulation

Creating safe, accessible and inviting park entrances as well as designing for improved circulation through the park were identified as important for the park renewal.

Amenities

Some amenity ideas that arose from public engagement, included additional seating, picnic areas, shade structure(s), gathering/event space, chess/checker tables, and a water Fountain.

Safety & Accessibility

Steep gradients, obstructed sightlines, poorly placed site elements, curbs and loose surfaces are impediments to accessibility and safety. Specific locations of concern were noted through the 'Place a Pin' tool. The Renewal Plan will address and rectify these site issues.

Basketball

Public feedback provided support for Improvement to the playability of basketball through reconstruction of a full court with two nets and multi-use opportunities including hockey.

Waterplay

Dynamic, colourful waterplay images were shared. The public input supports an expanded water play feature for the park, that is situated in proximity to supervised play and shade seating.

Programming

Expand park programming for both passive and active uses, incorporating higher quality design to improve the experience of the park user. New ideas included outdoor fitness and the 'skatedot', a small integrated skateboard element.

Walking/Running Track

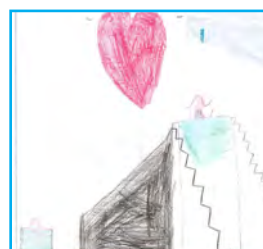
Identified as a well used and unique feature in the park, there was support for reduction in size of the track to provide accessible walkways across the north end of the park and use of alternate surface materials.

Play

The existing park facilities are well used. The community provided numerous examples of play experiences, with specific examples of projects. Expanding on the playability of the park features is important to the community. Colourful, innovative play systems including nature and adventure based play were submitted. Challenging climbers, bouldering, slides, accessible swings, naturalized play integrating organic materials, and specific project examples were provided.

Environment

Ideas for naturalization of the park include pollinator gardens, native trees including Carolinian species (Tulip tree, Sassafras, Sycamore), preservation of the existing tree canopy, management of water on site through bioswales, storm water management, solar charging stations, small wind turbines, recycled materials and recycling receptacles.



Big slide -
Lyonsgate School Student



Grange Park, AGO
-PFS Studio -Earthscape

ONLINE ENGAGEMENT TOOLS

Four Tools were used for public input:

Q and A

Eleven questions were posted and publicly answered with respect to site conditions, public consultation process, ideas for play design, accessibility, maintenance and the environment.

MAPS

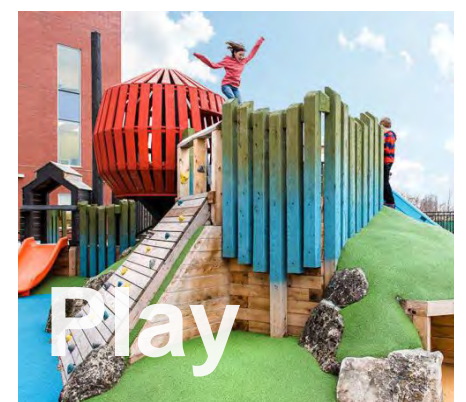
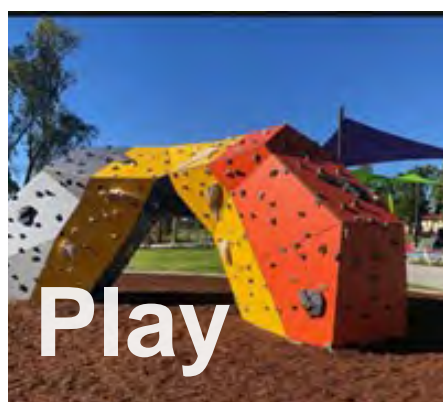
Place a pin on the map

This interactive tool provided input on site specific opportunities and issues pertaining to site safety and accessibility. There were 90 contributions with shared ideas including shade shelters, play precedents, multi-use court, enhanced park entrances, gathering spaces, dynamic spray pad and solar USB charging stations.

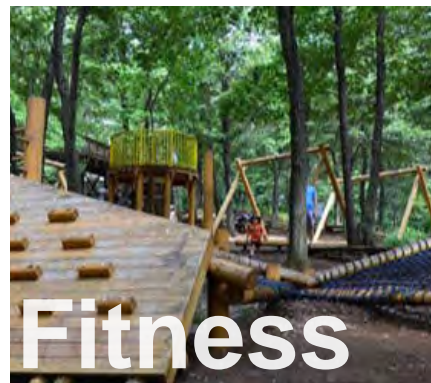
SHARE YOUR IDEAS

Virtual Brainstorming

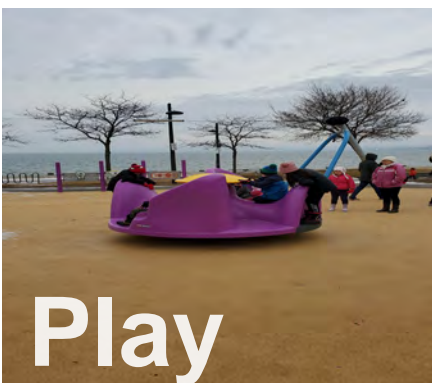
A collection of 425 precedent images, sketches and written ideas were posted for the Renewal Plan, including ideas for new and improved park features, improved park active and passive programming, maintenance, infrastructure, safety and accessibility. The images included in this summary represent some of those ideas.



SHARE YOUR IDEAS
Virtual Brainstorming



Multi-Use Court



Carousel



Climbing Rope



Churchill Park, Hamilton



Concession



Public Realm-High Quality



Interpretive Plaque



Climbing Frame

SURVEY TOOLS

Online Survey Results:

A 31-question survey was made available online to the public from February 1 to March 11, 2021. There were 128 contributors to the survey. The majority of the respondents lived within close proximity to the park.

Park users between the ages of 18 and 35 years make up approximately 50%. The 13-18 age category made up 11% of the park users, the smallest user group.

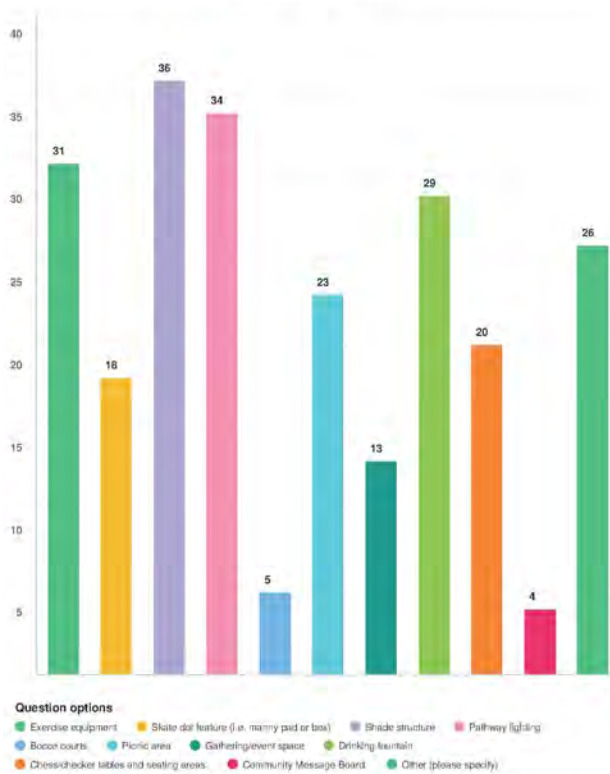
The primary reasons identified for using the park are active play (play structure/spray pad), followed by exercise. The top five amenities most often used in the park are the walking/running track, open green space, asphalt pathways, playground/swings and spray pad.

Bar charts and pie charts have been extracted here, from the full Project Report.

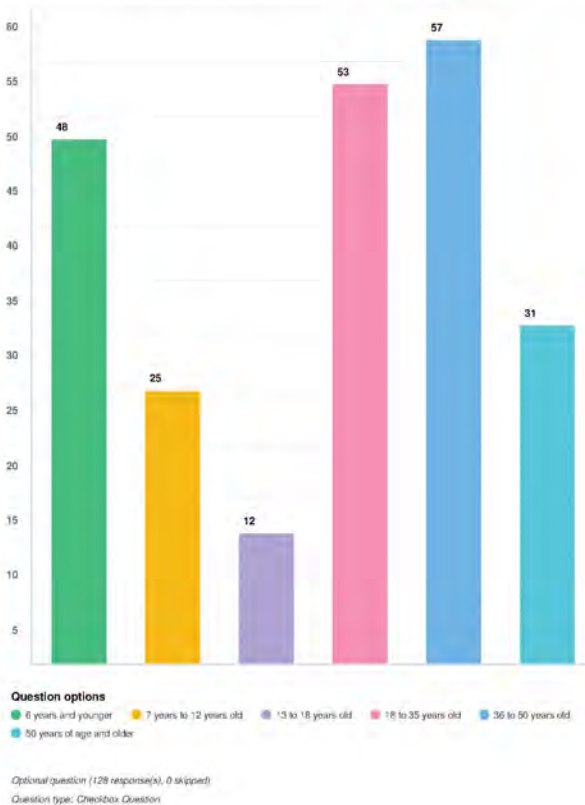
Highlights

- 5 contributors posted 11 questions, to the 'Q and A'-HAAA Renewal Questions
- 18 contributors placed 90 pins to 'Maps' -Place a Pin
- There were 128 contributors to the 'Survey Tools'-HAAA Renewal Plan Survey
- 54 contributors shared 425 ideas to the 'Share your Ideas'

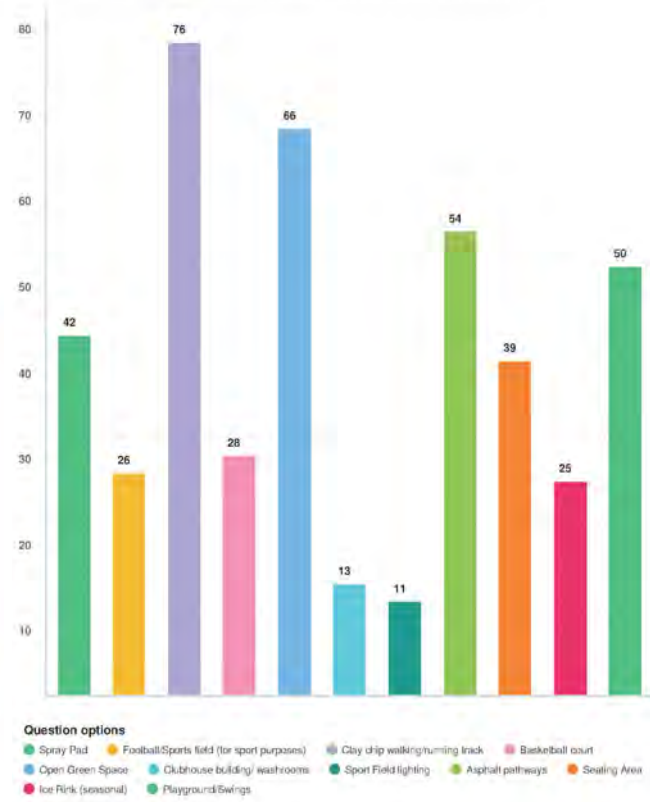
What additional amenities would you like to see at HAAA, if any. Identify your first and second choice if applicable.



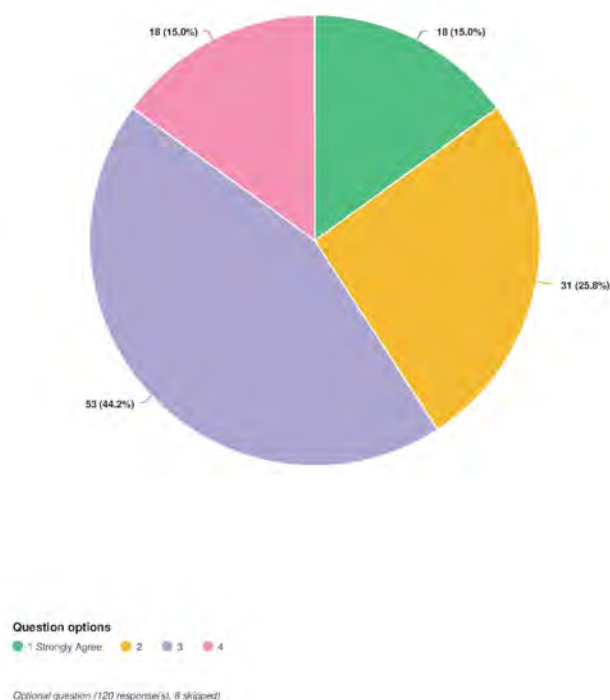
What are the ages of people in your family that use the HAAA



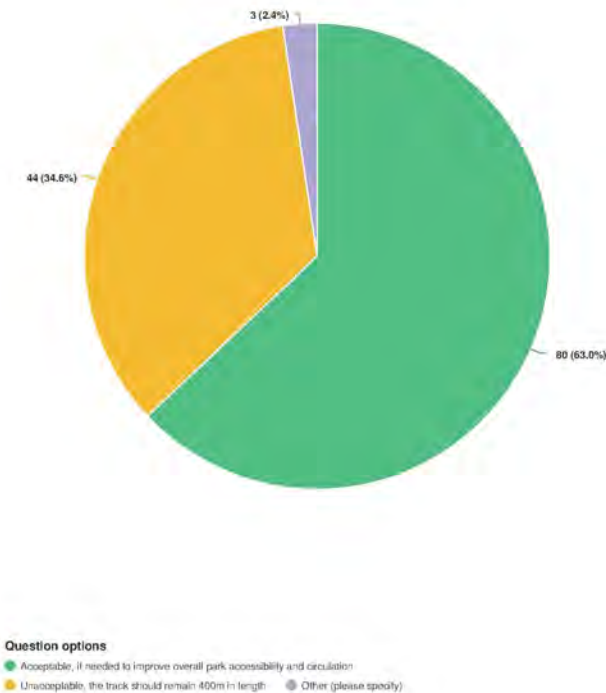
I/we most often use the following amenities when we visit HAAA Grounds



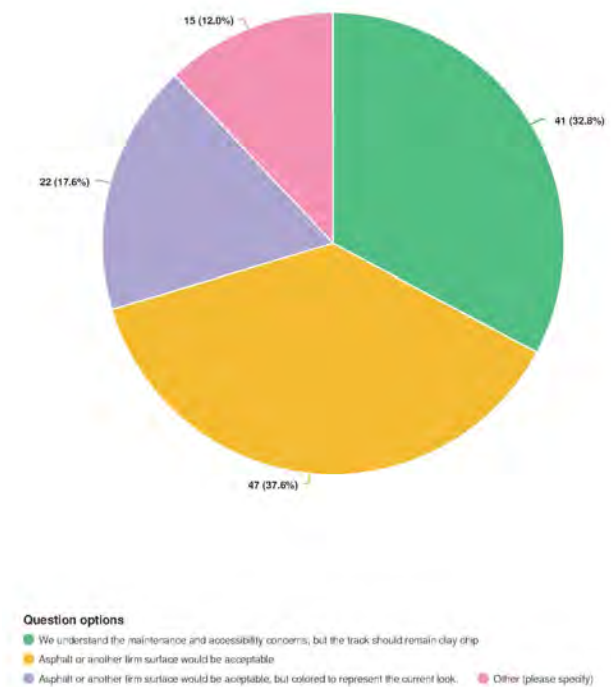
I feel the park address the needs of those 13-18 years of age.



To improve accessibility routes within the park, the 400m track may need to be reduced in size. Would you consider this change?



The current track is clay chip which poses some maintenance and accessibility issues. Would you consider alternative surfaces?



SHARE YOUR IDEAS

Virtual Brainstorming

Lyonsgate Montessori School students shared their ideas for the Renewal Plan, through the use of drawings. These colourful illustrations feature a variety of features including slides, a rock climbing wall, sand box, glow in the dark slide, video game wall, zip line, big slide, outdoor pool, outdoor bowling, swing bars/gymnastics bars, recycling bins, seesaw for 4 to 8 people, dome-shaped climbing frame, water fountain, ice skating rink that can be a roller skating rink, benches, climbing rope and challenging monkey bars. Youth engagement will continue to be important as the designs are developed. There are many exciting opportunities.



Video Game Wall



Zip line with a drop



Pool



Slides



Sand Box



Glow in the Dark Slide



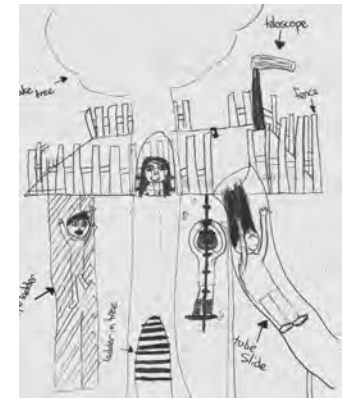
Rock Climbing Wall



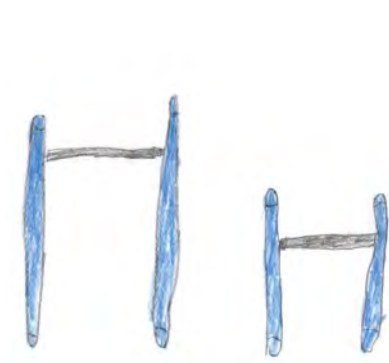
Outdoor pool



Zip Line



Tree Fort Ladder



Different height bars



Glow in the dark slide



Zip Line



Games

Final Remarks

Important themes and ideas were shared through public input. It is important to the community to improve the condition of the park, while preserving the existing character by protecting and integrating existing trees, land forms, track and open field, Charlton Avenue streetscape and Heritage Commemoration.

There were many suggestions for improving the function of the park. Many ideas were presented for new active and passive park opportunities for all ages and abilities, providing new programming, a more thoughtful pathway hierarchy system, integrated features within the existing topography, ample gathering and seating and recreational opportunities. Ideas were provided for the naturalization of the park by introducing pollinator plants, native trees, as well as storm water retention. Natural and adventure play ideas were also described. Renewable energy ideas were put forward, including a solar powered shade structure, charging stations and small wind turbine. Safety and accessibility challenges on the site were identified with the mapping exercises.

Community comments to date have provided direction for the concepts developed for Public Information Centre #2 . The ideas shared will be important to carry forward into the next steps of the process as the park design is developed.