Victoria Park Open House: Resident Feedback Summary

Victoria Park Community Centre
October 23rd, 2024
6:00 – 8:00 pm

Summary of Key Themes

- **Safety**: Ensuring safe access across Airport Road, safe play areas for children, and safe parking near the park.
- **Inclusive Design**: Accessible equipment for various age groups, accessible walking and biking paths, and the inclusion of all ages in park activities.
- **Infrastructure Needs**: Need for more seating, lighting, and restroom access, as well as additional bike paths, pickleball/tennis courts and beach volleyball.
- **Maintenance and Upkeep**: Concerns regarding the state of park facilities, the need for pest and plant management, and the condition of trees and pathways.
- **Additional Features**: Desire for a splashpad, dog park, and shade structures, as well as the preservation of the toboggan hill as a key feature of the park.

General Feedback

Toboggan Hill:

A strong desire to keep the toboggan hill, with suggestions to ensure the bottom of the hill remains clear for safety, and to keep it away from the playground area.

- ***Response:*** *A proposed berm will be incorporated into the design to mitigate safety hazards associated with tobogganing activities in the Park. New tree planting will be kept clear of the tobogganing areas identified during the public meeting.*

Safe Access:

There are concerns about safe access across Airport Road to reach the park, particularly for children.

- ***Response:*** *At this time, Airport Road is a Regional Road. Any improvements or dedicated crossings are considered the Region of Peel responsibility.*

Playground and Play Areas:

The playground should be accessible for various age groups (3-12 years), with requests for equipment like monkey bars, a zipline, and a climbing wall.

- ***Response:*** *A junior and senior playground are proposed in the current design concept. The selection of playground equipment will be considered at the detailed design stage with further input from the community.*

Requests for a shade structure for the playground and benches and picnic tables in the park.

- ***Response:*** *Shade structure and benches are proposed in the current design concept. The selection of site furnishings will be determined at the detailed design stage.*

A splashpad is a popular request among children and parents.

- ***Response:*** *Provision of a splashpad was investigated during the design visioning process. The existing site servicing and budget does not support a splashpad without limiting the provision of other play features.*

Bike Infrastructure:

Strong support for a bike path through the park, with emphasis on ensuring it is close to the play structure and has enough space.

- ***Response:*** *A looped asphalt trail is provided in the current design concept. All trail pathways will be provided at three-meter width to accommodate for multi-function use such as bike riding, walking etc...*

Need for a large bike trail for safe bike riding, as kids currently have nowhere to ride.

- ***Response:*** *Biking activity will be considered in a multifunctional pathway design. All multifunctional trails must meet the minimum accessibility requirement OREG 191/11 Integrated Accessibility Standards.*

Park Facilities:

Requests for more seating (benches and picnic tables).

- ***Response:*** *Provided in design concept, picnic tables are provided under the shade structure as per current design concept. An additional seat wall adjacent to the proposed playground will be considered at the detailed design stage.*

Lighting is considered crucial for safety and usability, particularly in the evening.

- ***Response:*** *Path lighting will be considered during detailed design stage.*

Suggestions to maintain parking away from children for safety, with concerns raised about the danger of the current parking lot.

- ***Response:*** *The current design concept has provided a separation between vehicle and play areas. The parking lot reconfiguration will be determined at the detailed design stage in consultation with the Town's Corporate Facilities Department.*

Strong desire to keep the baseball diamond as is, with some suggesting the diamond should not be prioritized over walking/biking trails.

- ***Response:*** *The existing baseball diamond will remain in its current layout. This field was originally designed for T-ball and was not intended to accommodate full-scale baseball.*

A suggestion was made to add a beach volleyball court in place of the proposed additional pickleball facility, as there is already an existing pickleball court in the park.

- ***Response:*** *The proposed dedicated pickleball courts have been included in accordance with the Parks and Recreation Masterplan due to the growing demand for this sport. These new courts will be located separately from the tennis courts, though the existing pickleball court lines will remain. The additional pickleball will support the two sports in a separate space.*

Dog Park:

Some residents suggest adding an enclosed dog park due to concerns about dogs being off-leash in the open field. However, there are opposing views, with some suggesting the dog park be located across the street from the playground, rather than near it.

- ***Response:*** *As outlined in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the Town will be conducting a Dog Park study to assess the population and distribution of dog owners in Caledon. At this time, an off-leash area is not planned for Victoria Park.*

Community Centre & Facilities:

Concerns about upgrading the community center to meet the community's needs.

- ***Response:*** *This matter falls under the responsibility of Corporate Facilities and will be forwarded to this department's attention. At this time, there are no plans to update the community center.*

EV charging stations should be placed behind the community center.

- ***Response:*** *This matter falls under the responsibility of Corporate Facilities and will be forwarded to this department's attention.*

Accessibility to washrooms is important, and there are concerns about washrooms being closed during the day.

- ***Response:*** *This matter falls under the responsibility of Corporate Facilities and will be forwarded to this department's attention. Currently, washrooms are only available for use with rental of the facility.*

Park Features Panel

Playground:

Popular features include a big slide, tube slides, climbing structures, and monkey bars.

- ***Response:*** *This will be evaluated during the detailed design stage. The Town will share the design for community feedback.*

Desire for imaginative play opportunities for children over 5 years old.

- ***Response:*** *This will be evaluated during the detailed design stage. The Town will share the design for community feedback.*

Pickleball Courts:

Strong demand for additional pickleball courts and more tennis courts due to heavy use and wait times at existing facilities.

- ***Response:*** *This will be evaluated during the detailed design stage. Dedicated pickleball courts to free up tennis. Dedicated pickleball courts will help free up use on the tennis courts. The Town will share the design for community feedback.*

Community Feedback Panel

Toboggan Hill:

As noted, keeping the toboggan hill is essential, with recognition that it's the only safe location for tobogganing in the area.

- ***Response:*** *This will be evaluated during the detailed design stage. The Town will share the design for community feedback.*

Crossing Airport Road:

Concerns about the safety of crossing Airport Road to get to the park, suggesting the need for improved pedestrian access.

- ***Response:*** *At this time, Airport Road is a Regional Road. Any improvements or dedicated crossings are considered the Region of Peel responsibility at this time.*

Park Maintenance:

Park maintenance is a concern, with a need for assurance on how new parks will be maintained.

- ***Response:*** *Park maintenance is managed by Parks Operations. With the park redesign, maintenance will be enhanced to meet current standards. The maintenance needs will be aligned with the park's operating budget, and additional operating budget funding will be requested to support the upkeep of the new park features and facilities once built.*

The lawn areas are plagued by grubs, attracting wildlife like skunks and raccoons.

- ***Response:*** *The Town will monitor turf areas after construction and restoration, but does not provide a service level for applying chemical treatment for grubs. Any turf damage caused by wildlife that create a trip hazard will be repaired.*

Virginia Creeper infestation in the trees is a concern as it's damaging to plants and trees.

- ***Response:*** *A tree inventory and hazard risk assessment will be conducted during the detailed design phase. Any hazardous trees will be identified and actioned accordingly. Tree/shrub and vine maintenance is based on service requests. A service request will be made and the work scheduled accordingly. Service standards post construction will not include the eradication of Virginia Creeper from the area completely, as it is a native plant that provides food and resources to foraging pollinator and bird populations.*

The lack of maintenance in some areas, including the condition of trees and pathways, is another issue.

- ***Response:*** *Currently, there are no formal pathways in the park. A tree inventory and hazard risk assessment will be conducted during the detailed design phase. Any hazardous trees will be identified and actioned accordingly.*

Splashpad:

Strong support for a splashpad to be added to the park for children to enjoy.

- ***Response:*** *Provision of a splashpad was investigated during the design visioning process. The existing site servicing and budget does not support a splashpad without limiting the provision of other play features.*

Other Parks in Need of Attention

King Park:

Suggestions to upgrade the playground and walking trail in this area.

- ***Response:*** *See below for information on playground replacement and trail improvements in* ***Lions Park****.*

Lions Park:

Requests to fix the walking track, clean up the area, and repair rusted and leaning lights. Concern about the lack of lighting along the walking track, which poses safety issues.

- ***Response:*** *Playground replacement will be completed through a separate project, part of the Town's 2025 playground improvements. A public survey has been completed, and the results will help guide the selection of new playground equipment. Improvements to the walking trail require further study as annual flooding of the path is contributing to deterioration of the trail conditions and a drainage solution is required before improvements can be implemented.*

John W. Nichols Park:

Suggestions to replace trees, tidy up the playground (including removing grass), weed shrubs, and repair pathways (specifically addressing a dangerous hole at the entrance).

- ***Response:*** *Tree and shrub maintenance is based on service requests. Service requests will be made and the work scheduled accordingly. Playground surfacing will be scheduled when ground conditions improve. The hole will be inspected and filled to eliminate any trip hazards.*