



**Parks Master Plan
Steering Committee Meeting #16
Parks Training Room
November 20, 2007 @ 7pm**

Present: Hal Gibbard, Helen Tremaine, Cornelia Lange, Councillor Pam Madoff, Alison Meyer, Planner; Gary Darrah, Manager -Park Development, David Speed, General Manager – Parks Division

Absent: Vernon Wiebe, Bryan Melnyk, Katia Gauvin, Larry Hutchings, Dennis Seed

Gary Darrah introduced the new General Manager of Parks, David Speed to the Committee members, whom in turn, gave a brief description of their backgrounds/interests.

1. Develop more general goals and strategies for the plan:

- Sports Athletic Fields
 - This seems to be a non-issue at community meetings
 - seems people outside of the municipality are using City fields
 - Respondents prefer natural areas, walkways
 - Expected decrease in numbers of people playing organized sports
 - District of Saanich is building five all-weather sports fields
 - Youth soccer experiencing a growth
 - There is pressure from sport groups for the fields to be maintained & upgraded
 - Need for better drainage and renew infrastructure
 - Most users are quite satisfied with maintenance levels of fields
 - Look for opportunities to upgrade
 - Need to review 2002 Sports field policy to see which recommendations are still outstanding and which recommendations are still valid/relevant
 - Fields need to make sportsfields/parks..multi-use and multi-generational
 - Need to make an informed statement regarding maintaining existing fields versus expansion
 - Conflict between sportfields program activities versus people wanting natural areas
 - Maintain current inventory of sport facilities but look for oportunties to increase capacity...enhance fields
 - Synthetic fields are usually single use..need to maintain multi-use
 - Synthetic fields: what is the environmental impact of field..what happens to material once replacement is needed
 - Tennis courts...need to be made multi-use what is impact to surface area if other uses (roller blades) introduced? It is hard on the surface and expensive to repair.

- Stadacona Park..possibility of converting some of the courts to multi-use
- At tennis courts...is there a way to deal with issue of reservations verses casual use?
- Dogs Off-Leash Areas
 - DIPS Committee working on implementing new areas
 - Impact of off-leash areas was monitored for one year...results, only minor impact on area
 - Goal to relieve pressure from the Dallas Road off-leash area..results, no significant impact
 - 6 potential new areas...Public Consultation required, tentative implementation date in 2008
 - Some people won't use park with dog off-leash area
 - Conflict with park users on pathway
 - Conflict with wildlife habitat
 - Restrict areas to those areas not heavily used by pedestrian traffic, wildlife habitat or with high ecological value
 - Ensure dog bag dispensers and garbage cans are conveniently located..promotes use and keeps areas clean
 - Explore options that allow parents to watch children and exercise dogs
 - Survey results..#1 issue that people don't want more off leash areas
 - Craft a policy regarding Dallas Road off-leash area to address user conflicts: dog vs dog and people vs dogs
 - Provide information to dog owners regarding Animal Control Bylaw
- Beaches & Waterways
 - Existing access to beaches okay
 - Ensure driftwood build up doesn't block access
 - Clarify launch points
 - Keep beaches and waterfront natural and unstructured as possible
 - Existing Harbour Plan doesn't cover southern coastline
 - Maintain character of beach
 - Careful what type of erosion control is implemented in order not to change the existing landscape
- Other
 - 'Daylighting' streams and springs—opening up lost creeks in parks
 - Celebrate the connectivity with the Ocean
 - Possibilities: Blue Heron Cove in James Bay; Cecelia Creek, Bowker Creek
 - Daylighting where possible (e.g. Hillside Mall / hospital area)
 - Acquisition of lands where daylighting streams is possible (add to unique opportunities re: land acquisition)

- Exposing springs; work with other departments to make springs visible
- Improve access to parks and in parks..mobility issues
- crosswalks and sidewalks to access parks
- create definition for general park design
- incorporate idea of parks being legible; understanding what a park is
- promote the idea of circulating a variety of activities within a park
- allow people to cut through park
- how to structure space
- play opportunities
- natural restoration
- develop park design standards..Gary Darrah and Deborah Bate will prepare a draft
- identify the top 10 parks that need serious upgrading and prioritize parks create criteria for identifying these parks
- Environmental Best Practices
- People have issues with use of pesticides
- Develop management plans for each individual park
- Light ordinances..reducing city lights...enhance the magical aspects of the parks

2. Develop goals and strategies (where needed) for each neighbourhood:

- Time was limited, each member is to find the highlights, specific issues for their neighbourhoods and email these to each other (not through Alison) and or bring them to the December 4th meeting. before the next meeting.

3. Pedestrian Master Plan - Cornelia

- Cornelia brought to the attention of the Committee the Pedestrian Master Plan developed by the City's Engineering section.
- Gary, Alison and David will consult with Transportation regarding the issue of sidewalks in Beacon Hill Park

Hal Gibbard provided the Committee members with information on the City of Guelph's Parks Master Plan. Items for the members to review are: the budgeting process between all the departments concerned with greenways, parks and recreation and the classification of parks and purpose of classifications.

4. Next meeting date: December 4, 2007