

## **Grand Ave. Park Master Plan Consultation Process Community Walking Tour #2 — June 12th 2017**

### **Overview**

Approximately 30 people attended the second Community Walking Tour of Grand Ave. Park. The purpose of the tour was to visualize the proposed Master Plan design on site, to respond to information requests, and gather final thoughts and feedback. Many participants asked specific questions about construction phasing, detailed design and funding, with City staff and resource people responding. The Grand Avenue Park Master Plan was developed by PMA Landscape Architects and informed by local knowledge and input provided throughout the consultation process. The walk was facilitated by consultation lead, Jane Farrow, and was attended by Jim Melvin of PMA Architects, Bob Duguid of the City of Toronto Parks Forestry and Recreation department, and Councillor Mark Grimes. Notes for the walk were taken and prepared by Jacob Stanescu.

### **Summary of Discussion & Feedback**

#### **Phasing and Detailed Design Plans**

- Participants reviewed a site plan and asked general questions about the phasing of the project, next steps and the difference between a Master Plan and a detailed design plan was outlined:
  - The Master Plan is an important step in helping secure funding from City Council. Funding has not been allocated for all the features delineated in the Master Plan.
  - Future stages of planning and detailed design looks more closely at specific park features, including how and when they are built and how they fit within the funding structures.
- Many participants expressed concern that the park remain accessible and useable through all phases of design and construction. Additionally, people expressed a desire to see funding for all future stages of design and construction in place before removing existing tree cover and park amenities.
  - It was explained that the implementation stages are designed to create a functional park after phase 1, and that phase 1 is unlikely to proceed until the necessary funding has been allocated.
  - Funding has yet to be secured for all future phases. s

#### **Playground & Sports Field**

- In response to inquiries about the playground location, it was explained that the Master Plan situates the playground at a safe distance from

Grand Ave., but the exact position of playground features may change based on the upcoming detailed design process.

- A few participants asked whether more winter programming and recreational features could be planned for the park.
  - It was explained the current Master Plan doesn't necessarily preclude more winter features from being added to the park in the detailed design stages. However, with the increased effects of climate change, many winter features, like natural ice rinks, are becoming less viable.
- In response to inquiries about the siting of the multi-sport field, it was explained that existing below ground infrastructure impacted the proposed siting of the field, particularly existing sanitary sewer maintenance chambers, and that it is oriented to provide the best sun angles to accommodate play activities, and therefore its location in the overall design is unlikely to change.

### **Landscaping & Circulation**

- Participants asked about details regarding the implementation of the 'pioneer forest' planting recommended for the northwest section of the park
  - It was explained that the pioneer forest would create the environment required to establish future hardwood forests.
  - The pioneer forest would be fenced off after it is first planted. This planting is currently scheduled for phase 1 of the park's implementation, however additional tree planting will take place in future construction phases.
  - The detailed design consultation scheduled for the fall of 2017 will more closely consider forest features and ecology.
- Many participants expressed a desire to prioritize park beautification throughout the implementation process.
  - Some stated they felt that greening the park should be prioritized over building the sports field.
  - It was explained that the parks facility survey carried out by the City deems this area deficient in sport field facilities thus the need to construct the field in early phases.
- Participants emphasized the importance of local connectivity, especially a good link to the future Legion Road extension. Walking and biking connections across the eastern end of the park should be planned in the detailed design process.
  - It was explained that the status of 'Parcel H' was a factor in completing an east-west trail through the site and the master plan

proposes a north-south connection which could be used by a variety of recreational modes of traffic.

### **Dog Off-Leash Area**

- The proposed area for a Dog Off-Leash area in the southeast corner of the park, (Parcel H) was generally favoured by participants. Several participants expressed a desire to see the City prioritize the establishment of a dogs off-leash area in the in the first phase of the park construction.
  - It was explained that 'Parcel H' is to be transferred to the city once the owner, a condo developer, removes the soil as per the agreement held with the City of Toronto. The timeline on this work up to the developer who is still in negotiation with the City.
  - Participants asked that a temporary dog park area be considered during the planning and construction phases, to ensure park users and dogs are safely separated and served.