



PIER 8 PROMENADE PARK DESIGN PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY

April 20, 2017 at 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Royal Hamilton Yacht Club,
555 Bay Street N, Hamilton ON



BACKGROUND

The City of Hamilton held a public meeting about the Pier 8 Promenade Park. The purpose of the public meeting was to provide information about the limited design competition process that will be used to procure a design for the park and give members of the public an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed park vision, objectives and elements and discuss whether the proposed design objectives and program elements describe a public place that will be useful and meaningful to the community and city and is in keeping with approved vision for Pier 8. The free event was open to all residents. Approximately 40 members of the public attended the meeting. The public was invited to submit comments via email for an additional one (1) week time period following the meeting. Five (5) residents, including a representative of a local youth group, provided further comments by email.

Feedback collected at the meeting and via email has been summarized by staff and used to revise the proposed Design Objectives and Park Elements for the Pier 8 Promenade Park. The revised Design Objectives and Park Elements have been shared with design competition participants.

KEY THEMES

Some of the key themes that emerged throughout the group discussions and in the comments that were submitted online were:

- Greenspace and natural features such as trees and green beds is highly desired by members of the public
- Naturalized play features or interactive public art pieces that combine innovative play, activity and creativity could be incorporated into the design in different ways in the park's play areas, street furniture, paving treatment, etc.
- The area's marine, social, cultural, environmental, and working heritage could be highlighted throughout the design but particularly through the use of commemorative plaques
- The park design should provide balance between the park's role as a key city destination, tourist attraction and prime waterfront feature but also take into consideration that the space should be peaceful, serene and future uses won't disrupt adjacent residential areas
- Amenities like drinking fountains, lighting, washrooms and spaces that offer shelter from harsher weather elements will make the park easier to use for all ages and people
- Public safety, particularly the safety of children, is a particular concern for the edges of the pier. Innovative design features, rather than fences that block the view of the water, are preferred to address the concern.

PART 1: SUMMARY OF PUBLIC RESPONSE TO PROPOSED DESIGN OBJECTIVES AND PARK ELEMENTS

Design Objectives:

The park's purpose as a waterfront destination:

Public Comments:

- Park should be a highly sought-after tourist attraction
- Park should be animated with small/mid-sized public events and programming but not large events that will disrupt surrounding residential areas.

Staff Response:

- Designers will be asked to ensure that park design proposals are flexible and allow for evolution of use over time. The flexible nature of the park will accommodate for small scale events as well as events that align with larger events taking place in other areas on the waterfront, such as Canada Day fireworks at Bayfront Park.

History & heritage:

Public Comments:

- Public education and interpretive elements throughout the park should make note of: area's historic significance, the community's character, nautical themes, naval veterans, environmental elements. These elements could be incorporated into the park design using: informative plaques or markers, street or site names, street furniture, design of buildings and public art pieces.
- The balance between the working port and residential areas should be maintained and the views of the tugboats and large ships to the east of Pier 8 should remain unobstructed so that area visitors and residents have an appreciation for Hamilton's working port.

Staff Response:

- Design proposals will celebrate the waterfront's industrial and marine heritage through the use of materials and design features. Materials from previous heritage industrial buildings previously existing on the site have been salvaged and area available for designers to integrate in designs for a shade structure or pavilion.
- Each design proposal will also be flexible in nature, allowing for future changes and the addition of interpretive elements later on as park uses evolve.

Connections to new and existing residential areas:

Public Comments:

- The park's role as prime waterfront destination should not reduce the area's local residents' ability to enjoy their homes in peace and quiet. Consideration of noise mitigation, security, safety should be included in the design of the park.

Staff Response:

- Since the Pier 8 Promenade Park is located close to sites intended for larger events, the Promenade Park is intended to be used for smaller scale events. Any events held in the park will be subject to approval from the City of Hamilton's Special Events Advisory Team (SEAT).

- Waterfront views and vistas should be highlighted and emphasized, rather than hidden by the design of the park.

- Urban design guidelines included in the Pier 7 + 8 Urban Design Study (the planning document for the whole of Pier 8) emphasize the maintenance of waterfront views. Terminus plazas will allow open views to the edge of the water from Guise St.

Health, safety & physical activity:

Public Comments:

- The public’s ability to use the site for recreation and physical activities should be included in the park design. Active play elements and interactive public art pieces could be used to encourage physical activity in park users of all ages.
- A designated playground or play area isn’t needed if play elements are included throughout the design.
- Public safety around the unprotected edges of the pier should be considered and addressed through creative design rather than through a fence or large barrier which obstructs waterfront views and feelings of openness.

Staff Response:

- Interesting and functional features that encourage play and interaction will be added to the list of optional program elements.
- Park designers will be aware that consideration for public safety and compliance with AODA guidelines is to be included in their designs.

Environment & sustainability:

Public Comments:

- Youth participants identified environmental sustainability as their preferred design objective. In addition, Park elements should be designed to be eco-friendly and sustainable.
- Youth participants noted that modernization of the area should not detract from its existing use/heritage of the area as an open recreational space.
- Green elements should be incorporated into the design to naturalize the area, “break up” the concrete of the pier and provide protection from harsh weather.

Staff Response:

- Any impact of previous industrial activities on Pier 8 will be addressed in a way that complies with the provincial Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change parkland standards.
- The design objectives will ask design competition to consider environmental sustainability in their design proposal and to prioritize the use of indigenous, non-invasive plants.

Program Elements (required and optional)

Youth friendly elements:

Public Comments:

- Youth participants identified their top preferred park elements as green park, retail park, splash pad and beach area. However, youth also noted that certain proposed park elements that already exist in other waterfront locations (such as playground and splash pad at Pier 4, beach areas). When possible, existing park elements should be improved or renovated rather than replicated at the Pier 8 Promenade Park in order to use budget effectively.
- The design should consider and accommodate for how youth will use the space for skateboarding, biking, etc.

Staff Response:

- Since other parks in the West Harbour include play areas, the suggestion to include a playground area in design competition submissions will be removed from the list of optional program elements. Interactive play features be added to the list of optional program elements.
- Design competition participants will be asked to create designs that are safe, inviting and accessible for all citizens during all seasons day and night.
- The trail area will accommodate youth-friendly activities, such as skateboarding, roller blading and cycling, but the park will not include dedicated areas for active recreation.

Public health & safety elements:

Public Comments:

- Drinking water stations should be available on site.
- Defibrillators and other emergency medical supplies should be provided on site.
- Add safety measures to discourage crime or vandalism in the park.
- Night lighting should be included in the park.

Staff Response:

- The list of required program elements will be updated to include as least one hydration station(s) within the park design.
- Design proposals will consider public safety and will comply with standard requirements for guaranteeing safe use.

Recreation & physical activity:

Public Comments:

- A designated play area or play structure is not preferred and should not be required. Play elements should be incorporated throughout the design.
- Play elements should be interactive to encourage group activity and play, and should be naturalized and/or constructed from natural materials.
- Play areas and elements should not be overly "safe" in design (as there is the perception that too much consideration for safety makes the areas less fun and less

Staff Response:

- Since other parks in the West Harbour include play areas, the suggestion to include a playground area in design competition submissions will be removed from the list of optional program elements. Interactive play features be added to the list of optional program elements.
- A location to moor boats will be remain on the list of required program elements. The City of Hamilton is responsible for providing a location to launch boats during shoreline reconstruction work so this feature will not be

interactive).

- Boat launch and mooring areas for non-motorized boats (i.e. canoes and kayaks) should be required but mooring area for larger, motorized boats should not be included in the park because that particular amenity is already provided at Pier 7 Gateway Park and the marinas.
- The design should include areas and amenities for activity such as beach volleyball areas, guided exercise classes/martial arts, and water classes such as stand up paddle boarding, kayaking, SoBi rentals, etc.

added to the list of program elements that park designers are required to provide.

- Designated areas for sports, such as basketball or beach volleyball courts, will not be added to the list of required or optional program elements because amenities for these activities are already included in other West Harbour area parks.
- Programmable multi-use areas will remain on the list of required program elements.
- Secure bike parking will be included on the list of required program elements.

Accessibility:

Public Comments:

- Wayfinding signage should be included in the park.
- Washrooms on the eastern edge of the pier would allow seniors, families with children or people with accessibility needs to better enjoy the entire park and reduce the need to travel all the way back to the western edge of the pier to use the facilities located there.

Staff Response:

- The City of Hamilton's current system for wayfinding signage will be implemented as the site develops over time.
- The park budget does not allow for a washroom facility. Designers will be asked to identify a location where a washroom building could be constructed at a later date, if the need for the washroom is identified and if budget money is allocated towards it. Washroom facilities are currently available on the western edge of the pier.

Year-round enjoyment of the park:

Public Comments:

- Wind or cold weather shelters should be included in the park to allow for cold-weather enjoyment.
- Design could allow for skating track.
- Shade structures or shade elements should be provided, large shade trees and natural elements are preferred over man-made structures.

Staff Response:

- Park designers will be asked to create a park that is a safe, inviting and accessible place for all citizens during all seasons day and night. Specific program elements suited to cold weather will be included in designs based on the designers' discretion in a way that suites the character and style of the design.
- The open spaces provided for vehicle access and special event parking will be included in a way that will allow residents to park alongside the park during colder months

and enjoy a view of the water.

- Green planted areas will be added to the list of required program elements.

Public art pieces and design elements:

Public Comments:

- Should be functional, similar to the benches on James St N, and interactive, similar to musical swings in Montreal.
- Does not necessarily need to feature industrial elements. Could instead celebrate or memorialize naval heritage or naval veterans due to nearby location of the HMCS Haida
- References to indigenous art or culture should not be made without consulting indigenous communities and stakeholders.
- Walking trail should be visually interesting, not just a concrete strip.
- Proposed terminus spaces/plazas should not be sterile, desolate or empty spaces. These areas should include visual elements that will attract and interest people.

Staff Response:

- The Sunrise Gathering Circle will be removed from the list of optional program elements and, in its place, instruction will be added that any public art or features that evoke indigenous culture must be designed and developed in consultation with members of the indigenous community.
- The list of design objectives includes the requirement to demonstrate excellence in public space design, which indicates to design competition participants that their design proposals must be visually interesting and exciting for visitors.

Green space:

Public Comments:

- Green space and elements such as plants, large shade trees, grassy areas, etc. are strongly preferred. The landscaping of the park should not only be concreted, hard surfaces.
- Green space should be well maintained, not wild with weeds.

Staff Response:

- Green planted areas will be added to the list of required park elements.
- Future green spaces will be maintained regularly by City staff to avoid weeds and the appearance of being overgrown.

Use of the space:

Public Comments:

- Allow for nearby businesses and shops to spill out into the park to help animate the space.
- Vendors should be able to “pop-up” in the park during peak hours rather than be forced into long-term contracts.
- Provide vendors with an on-site storage area.

Staff Response:

- These potential park uses suggested by the public regarding use of the space are already included on the list of required programming elements.
- The open spaces provided for vehicle access and special event parking will be available for use by pop-up vendors.

- Vendors could include: food vendors, farmers or craftspeople/artisans.
- Create an area suitable for classes (either information sessions or fitness classes).

The City of Hamilton will be responsible in the future for setting requirements for use of the park area by temporary vendors.

PART 2: REVISED PARK OBJECTIVES AND ELEMENTS

Based on public feedback, the Pier 8 Promenade Park Design Objectives and Park Elements have been revised and shared with the Pier 8 Promenade Park Design Competition participants. The revised park design objectives and park elements are listed below. Questions about the revised Park Design Objectives or Park Elements, can be submitted by email to: westharbour@hamilton.ca

4.0 DESIGN VISION AND OBJECTIVES

The proposed Pier 8 Waterfront Promenade Park shall be an integral and cohesive part of the public spaces along Hamilton's waterfront and the new waterfront neighbourhood planned for Pier 8. This new public space shall demonstrate excellence in public space design and be in keeping with the unique context and vision for Piers 7 and 8 developed through community consultation and set out in the council approved Pier 7+8 Urban Design Study and this RFP. Proposals shall be scored by the Evaluation Team in part on how well they achieve the proposed Vision Statement and Design Objectives including but not limited to the following:

4.1 Vision Statement:

Pier 8 will become a vibrant urban waterfront neighbourhood to be enjoyed by all residents of the City. The vitality of Hamilton's urban waterfront will be supported by a mix of residential, commercial, community and cultural uses.

The character of Pier 8 will be designed to be compatible with Pier 7 and to create a strong connection between this exciting new community and the rest of the Western Waterfront.

The Pier 7 & 8 Urban Design Study (p.16-17)

4.2 Proposed Design Objectives:

To propose a design for a new Pier 8 Promenade Park that:

- is a safe, inviting and accessible place for all citizens during all seasons day and night;
- demonstrates excellence in public space design;
- is flexible, allowing for the evolution of the use of the park over time as the new area develops by providing spaces that can accommodate a range of future programming and features;
- provides a variety of areas that will attract both active and passive uses;
- maintains and enhances views of the harbour from the neighbourhood streets and from the park to important landmarks around the harbour;

- embraces and highlights sustainability by prioritizing the use of indigenous, non-invasive plant material, promoting biodiversity, using on site stormwater management strategies and the creation of shade;
- employs materials and features that balance the need to minimize the long term ongoing maintenance costs of the park with its program and the requirement to demonstrate design excellence; and
- celebrates and recalls the City's industrial heritage and the area's marine heritage through the use of materials, the design of features such as but not limited to; furniture, lighting and railings and proposing themes and locations for future public art work(s).

5.0 PARK PROGRAM

The park shall be designed to accommodate small scale events such as yoga classes, pop-up markets and other small events to minimize disturbance to the adjacent residential uses. These events may be discrete and neighbourhood based or may be adjunct to city wide events such as Canada Day Fireworks where the center of activity and large crowds are located on the west end of Pier 8 or at other locations in the West Harbour.

The following proposed program elements have been identified through public consultation and discussions with relevant City staff. Recognizing that the park shall evolve over time these elements have been organizing into those that are required to be included in the proposed design for immediate construction, those that are optional to be included at the discretion of the Prime Consultant if budget permits and those to be allowed for in future.

5.1 Required Program Elements:

The following program elements shall be included in the proposed design and construction cost:

- A continuous six (6) metre wide multi-use trail to accommodate, walking, cycling, in-line skating and the waterfront trolley.
- Secure bike parking located along the length of the trail and at activity areas.
- The ability to moor and service large ships for special events such as Tall Ships visits by allowing for short term temporary access for small to medium size tank and delivery trucks along the water's edge and one 200 amp electrical service centrally located in the park.
- Green planted areas such as but not limited to lawns, planting beds and trees.
- Innovative and energy efficient lighting that reduces light-pollution, provides safe lighting levels and maintains views to the water.
- At least one hydration station consisting of a drinking fountain and water bottle filling station.
- View terminus plazas, one at the foot of Street A (Hughson Street) and one at the foot of Street B (John Street) intended as informal gathering spaces to maintain the views to the Harbour and to enhance wayfinding capabilities to park activities.
- A location for a future 1500 sq. ft. building, guidelines for its design and a proposed in-term use and design for the location (design of the building is excluded from this proposed scope of work).
- A minimum of three (3) informal gathering spaces, open areas with hard surfaces and services that can be programed for events such as but not limited to exercise classes, small performances or pop-up markets. These may include the two (2) view terminus plazas.

- A minimum of two (2) formal gathering spaces for passive uses that may include tables, seating areas and shade structures among other elements.
- A shade structure/pavilion constructed in-part with materials salvaged for re-use from heritage industrial buildings previously existing on the site. (See Shed 7 Structure Salvage Excerpt and Photos in the Reference Documents)

5.2 Optional Program Elements:

Proponents may select program element(s) from the following list to include in their proposed design if they are in keeping with their design and can be accommodated within the construction budget and maintenance plan.

- Multi-use park pavilion(s);
- Water Feature(s);
- Landscape, street furniture or other features that have a function and encourage play and interaction; and
- Art integrated into the design of the park, created by professional artists working with the design team and in keeping with the design objectives outlined in this RFP.

5.3 Future Program Elements or Features:

Proponents may suggest features from the optional program elements list or other features such as public art that enhance the proposed design for the City to consider for implementation in future. A recommended location for these features(s) may be noted on the proposed plan in the Proponent's Proposal.

5.4 Indigenous Culture:

Public art and other features that evoke indigenous culture are welcome however they should be designed and developed in consultation with indigenous artists or consultants recognized by the local indigenous community.