



Hamilton

Clear Skies Park, Concept Design Feedback Summary

Between August 8th and September 8th, 2023, the City of Hamilton hosted an online campaign via Engage Hamilton (<https://engage.hamilton.ca/clearskiespark>) to gather public input for the development of Clear Skies Neighborhood Park in Waterdown (Ward 15). This initiative was launched to provide the community an opportunity to provide feedback on the overall parks design that was shared at the time of the survey launch.

As part of the Clear Skies Neighbourhood Park community engagement via Engage Hamilton, the design team shared the Clear Skies Park concept design and residents were asked to provide their comments and feedback on the proposed concept design. We received plenty of community feedback on the proposed park concept design. This feedback provides the project team valuable insight as to what the community would like to see incorporated within the proposed park. Below is a summary of the general feedback received.

PLEASE NOTE: We have reviewed all feedback received in relation to the proposed concept design, and the below is a summary where we have grouped comments that focus on similar items. (i.e. courts, playground, benches etc.)

CLEAR SKIES PARK
DEVELOPMENT ENGAGEMENT



Requests for Additional Amenities:

Through the design comment feedback we received many requests for additional amenities to be included to the development of the neighbourhood park space.

Phase one of the development of Clear Skies Park is to support the communities need of a neighborhood park. The typical programming of a neighbourhood park includes a sun shelter, playground, multi-use sports court, accessible pathways and lighting at the playground and shade structure, tree plantings, walkways and open green space for passive and recreational activities. Many of the additional amenities that were requested in the design comment feedback such as splash pads, dog parks, community gardens, tennis courts, bocce courts and programmed soccer fields are not amenities typically incorporated in a neighbourhood park of this size.

Unfortunately, not all amenities can be incorporated into the parks design, but the comments and feedback collected from this survey will be kept on file for consideration in the design of the future park expansion to the North. Timing of that expansion is unknown at this time as those are currently not City owned lands.

Trees and provision of shade through tree plantings:

Survey respondents provided comments on the quantity, placement and species of trees to be planted in the park.

In line with the City of Hamilton Urban Forestry Strategy the park development will be designed with a target goal of 30% or greater canopy coverage. Efforts will be made in the design to align the positioning of tree plantings to provide shade for park amenities and seating.

Trees planted within new park developments will be selected to align with the “Approved Tree Species for Parks and Open Spaces” list within the Open Space Development Guidelines. The planting of native tree species will be prioritized during design.

Pollinator Gardens / Biodiversity:

Survey respondents requested pollinator gardens to be included in the park design.

In line with the City of Hamilton Biodiversity Action Plan and climate change initiatives the inclusion / incorporation of a pollinator garden will be reviewed during the design phase.

Waste Receptacles:

Survey respondents asked for garbage bins (waste receptacles) to be included in the park space design.

While waste receptacles are not shown as part of the concept design, they will be made available in the park at locations as determined appropriate by Parks operations staff subsequent to the construction of the park space.



Seating:

Survey respondents requested additional benches to be incorporated to the new park space.

The quantity and placement of benches will be reviewed during the design phase. Contributing factors to the provision and placement of benches in the parks space will be based on providing seating for park amenities such as playgrounds and sports courts, providing evenly spaced rest points throughout the park space.

Lighting:

Survey respondents requested additional lighting to be provided in the park space, with some requests for lighting to be placed adjacent to the multi-use sports court area.

Park hours are 7 am to 11 pm, lighting is provided limitedly in neighbourhood park spaces at sun shelter and play areas in order to provide sight lines to these areas and ambient light in the early evening hours.

Lighting is generally not provided at multiuse court areas in an effort to mitigate noise generated in these areas into the later evening hours.

Drinking Fountains:

Survey respondents requested that a drinking fountain be provided in the park.

The design team will look for opportunities to incorporate a drinking water fountain within the park space during the design phase.

Shade Structures:

Survey respondents commented on the quantity and positioning of shade structures to be provided in the park space.

The size of land available for development of Clear Skies Park and the programming of a neighbourhood park provides limited ability for the inclusion of multiple shade structures within the park space.

The placement and orientation of the sun shelter to be installed will be reviewed during the design phase.

Design Layout:

Survey respondents commented on the general design layout and location of amenities within the park space.

The proposed layout of park amenities will be evaluated during the design phase. Final placement of park amenities will be based on the best ability to provide the base programming of a neighbourhood park to fit within the existing site conditions and restraints.



Accessible Playground Areas / Elements:

Survey respondents provided feedback on safety surfacing materials in the playground area as well as an emphasized need for accessibility and inclusiveness within the play area.

Staff work with various playground manufactures to design these active spaces for all children to enjoy. They are designed using the below accessibility standards:

1. CAN/CSA Standards Z614 – Children’s Playspaces and Equipment (latest edition).
2. Annex H of the CAN/CSA Standards Z614 – Children’s Playspaces and Equipment (latest edition), Children’s Playspaces and Equipment that are Accessible to Persons with Disabilities.
3. Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 and Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001.

While the above will form the minimum standards to be accommodated within the playground, opportunities for enhancements will be evaluated in the design phase and incorporated where feasible.

Requests for Bike Parking:

Survey respondents requested bike parking to be provided within the park space.

The design team will review opportunities for the inclusion of bike parking within park space.

