

# **WATERLOO PARK MASTER PLAN**

## **APPENDICES**

**OCTOBER 2009**



# **WATERLOO PARK MASTER PLAN 2009**

## **APPENDIX 1.1**

### **LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS/STAKEHOLDER GROUPS**

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*Appendix 1.1 List of Stakeholders/Stakeholder Groups*

<b>ARTS</b>	<b>FESTIVALS</b>	<b>INSTITUTIONS</b>
Potters Workshop	Wonders of Winter	Luther Village
Waterloo Community Arts Centre	Summer Concert Series	MacGregor School
Princess Cinemas	Royal Medieval Faire	University of Waterloo Staff & Students
Waterloo Concert Band	Waterloo Arts Festival	Waterloo Public Library
<b>COMMITTEES</b>	Afro Festival	Wilfrid Laurier University
Youth Council	<b>SPORTS GROUPS</b>	WLU Students' Union
GRAAC	Waterloo Sunrise Cricket Club	Uptown Residents Association
WCEAC	Waterloo Minor Soccer	McGregor/Albert St. Community Association
Advisory Committee on Culture	Waterloo Minor Fastball Association	<b>STAFF/SUPPORT</b>
Municipal Heritage Committee	Waterloo Minor Girls Softball Association	Environment and Parks Services Operation and Maintenance
Uptown Vision Committee	Waterloo Minor Baseball Association	Economic Development
Town and Gown Committee	KW Minor Lacrosse	Development Services
Safe and Healthy Community	Waterloo Tennis Club	Recreation and Leisure Services
<b>ASSOCIATIONS</b>		Grand River Conservation Authority
Uptown Waterloo BIA		Asset Management Department

# **WATERLOO PARK MASTER PLAN 2009**

## **APPENDIX 1.2**

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# 1 PUBLIC OPINION OF WATERLOO PARK

Community input was solicited on Waterloo Park using stakeholder interviews and public surveys. A total of 42 stakeholder interviews were conducted and 141 survey responses were received. An outline of the stakeholder and survey input is contained in *Exhibit I, Stakeholder/Survey Data, Spring/Summer 2007*. The stakeholder/survey responses established public opinion on existing valued attributes, existing maintenance/ condition issues and potential future initiatives for the Park. The primary opinions expressed by the public are outlined in *Table 1.1, Public Opinion Findings on Waterloo Park*.

**Table 1.1 – Public Opinion Findings on Waterloo Park**

<b>Waterloo Park’s Valued Attributes</b>	<b>Maintenance/Condition Issues</b>	<b>Recommended Changes/Additions</b>
<p><b>Urban Oasis</b> parks natural setting seen as an ‘oasis’ in an expanding urban context</p> <p><b>Eby Farmstead</b> family oriented use with broad based appeal</p> <p><b>Silver Lake</b> great asset</p> <p><b>Wonders of Winter</b> popular winter attraction</p> <p><b>Festivals</b> good setting for festival events (particularly on west side in conjunction with bandshell and servery)</p> <p><b>Non-Commercial Aspect</b></p>	<p><b>Infrastructure</b> infrastructure deteriorated throughout park, buildings in poor state, inadequate washroom facilities and other amenities (benches/garbage receptacles/drinking fountains)</p> <p><b>Silver Lake</b> disappointed with water quality/sediment issue and lack of uses</p> <p><b>Bandshell</b> building in poor condition</p> <p><b>Eby Farm</b> display area aged, limited opportunity for interaction with animals</p> <p><b>Pathways</b> poor condition, conflicts with vehicles, way finding is challenging, weak connection between east and west side, weak linkages to context</p> <p><b>Field Access</b> conflict between uses, inaccessibility of exclusive use fields</p> <p><b>Winter Activities</b> lack of winter activities</p>	<p><b>Infrastructure Upgrades</b> upgrade aging infrastructure</p> <p><b>Layout and Orientation</b> create balance between highly utilized east side and underutilized west side, install way-finding signage</p> <p><b>Pathways</b> improve condition of roads/pathways, create stronger pathway linkages between east and west side of park, resolve pedestrian/vehicle conflicts</p> <p><b>Parking</b> correct confusing layout of parking lots, conflicting opinion on amount of parking</p> <p><b>Use Conflicts</b> resolve conflicts between uses (programmed uses/rental uses)</p> <p><b>Casual/Public Sports Facilities</b> increase access to sports fields for open unstructured pick-up play</p> <p><b>Outdoor Festivals/Events</b> expand upon festivals/events, resolve noise issue associated with festivals/events on west side</p> <p><b>Community Gardens</b> expand horticultural display and make it visible</p> <p><b>Concessions</b> provide access to concessions at strategic locations but do no over-commercialize</p>

## **2 CONCEPT LAYOUT DEVELOPMENT REVIEW**

The public was invited to attend a Public Input Session on June 19 and 25, 2008 at the Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex and RIM, respectively, to comment on the comment on three concept layouts and associated program elements. *Table 2.1, Scenario Development Questionnaire Summary*, summarizes the key comments received during the two open houses. There was general agreement that the main pedestrian loop in the interior of the Park (shown in all three concepts) is a great initiative. The other design element that received wide support was the establishment of a new focal point in the current Visitor and Heritage Information Centre Parking Lot area to signify the presence of the Park and visually bring the Park closer to the Uptown.

### **CONCEPT #1**

People felt that the main festival area (located in the Oval) is too close to the residential neighbourhood. There was a wide range of opinions on having two festival areas - a main one on the east side and a smaller one on the west. Some thought that this was too much and others thought that the addition of a smaller festival area was a good idea to accommodate the smaller, more intimate events. Concept #1 also received a couple of negative comments for retaining some of the vehicular roads in the interior of the Park.

### **CONCEPT #2**

This concept received a very positive feedback for the elimination of the vehicular roads from the Park interior and for keeping the parking areas along the perimeter of the Park. The opinions were divided on the location of the festival area; some supported the notion of having the festival area remain in its current location on the west side, while others cautioned about it being too close to the residential area. The opinions were also divided on the introduction of an alternative layout configuration for Silver Lake. While many welcomed the possibility of a permanent solution for the siltation of the lake, others were concerned about the technical difficulties around such plans.

### **CONCEPT #3**

Concept #3 also received a very positive feedback for the elimination of the vehicular roads from the Park interior and for keeping the parking areas along the perimeter of the Park. The proposed new festival area location (along Seagram Drive) received positive comments for being in a more prominent location, while being further away from residential areas. People also commented on the location of the Guild area, they thought that it occupies a very prominent spot with the best view of the lake, and that this area should rather have an activity that caters to the entire community, such as a garden or a community green.

**2.1 Table 2.1 Concept Layout Development Questionnaire Summary**

Design Objective	Strongly Agree	Agree	Somewhat Agree	Total Agree	Neutral	Total Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a. Develop opportunities that would support arts, culture and heritage related uses and activities such as:									
i. guild area – provide opportunity for a variety of artisans to practice, demonstrate and offer learning opportunities (i.e. pottery, glass blowing, etc...).	11	12	2	25	2	2	2	0	0
ii. festival area with outdoor bandshell/stage – provide opportunity to accommodate a variety of events (i.e. music/theatre, festivals, movie theatre, etc...).	15	7	2	24	1	4	1	3	0
iii. open air market area – provide opportunity for vendors to sell <b>local</b> goods and/or produce.	7	6	4	17	8	4	2	2	0
b. Explore opportunities to increase area for open unstructured pick-up play by phasing out organized sports in the Park.	7	4	6	17	8	4	3	0	1
c. Integrate youth oriented activities into the open unstructured play area like basketball, volleyball and a skateboarding area.	4	6	6	16	6	6	4	1	1
d. Create a pedestrian friendly park by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>eliminating or significantly reducing vehicular access to the interior, and</li> <li>limiting parking to the perimeter where possible.</li> </ul>	12	11	4	27	1	1	1	0	0
e. Advocate for a stop/station in the Park along the Rapid Transit Initiative route that could be situated within the existing railway corridor.	10	7	4	21	6	2	1	0	1
f. Pursue an off-line lake configuration for Silver Lake as a concept option (stream with	5	2	5	12	12	5	0	0	5

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*Appendix 1.2 Summary of Public Input*

stand alone lake).									
g. Establish landscape settings that look more structured/ managed and are identifiable along the edge of the Park.	2	9	8	1 9	7	3	2	1	0

### 3 PREFERRED CONCEPT PLAN REVIEW

The focus of this report section is to summarize the feedback received on the preferred concept plan and associated implementation strategy being put forth by the Task Force for the Waterloo Park master plan update. The feedback was derived from the following consultation efforts:

- Stakeholder Follow-up Interviews (existing park users, agencies, Councillors, Committees of Council, universities, City staff as an example of major groups)
- Public Input Session, June 24 and 25, 2009 at the Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex; and Waterloo Arts Festival, June 13 and 14, 2009 in Waterloo Park, and
- Committees of Council Presentation Feedback

Target questions were developed to generate specific feedback on the preferred concept plan and implementation strategy. The public was asked to identify the following:

- The most positive aspects of the plan that had the greatest appeal
- The weakest aspects along with suggestions for improving them, and
- What aspects of the plan would they implement first and why

The feedback has been catalogued and addressed by the Task Force in some capacity. Specific feedback related to any suggested improvements have been reviewed and addressed by the Task Force in the preferred concept plan and are described in detail below. A number of detail design specific comments were received and have been captured in the design brief section of the report.

#### **3.1 Stakeholder Follow-up Interview Feedback**

Interviews were conducted prior to the outset of the master plan of 43 key stakeholders or stakeholder groups. A follow-up interview was conducted with the initial stakeholders to solicit input on the preferred concept plan and implementation strategy. The intent of the follow-up interview was to ensure that the initial input from the stakeholders was adequately addressed. The stakeholders were asked the three target questions outlined on the interview form. The responses have been compiled by question as follows.

### **3.1.1 Question 1 – Positive Aspects**

In general, the stakeholders' feedback on the preferred concept plan was predominantly positive. The following main aspects received overwhelming support:

- 1. Focus on the pedestrian experience, including the**
  - a. Creation of the continuous interior perimeter walkway and associated pathway links, and
  - b. Limiting vehicles to parking lots strategically located near the periphery of the park directly adjacent to the activity areas they service.
- 2. Focus of the Park on arts, culture and heritage.**
- 3. The creation of a main entrance off Father David Bauer Drive with the new festival grounds.**
- 4. The inclusion and proposed location of the youth play area.**
- 5. The proposed light rail rapid transit stop in the Park.**

### **3.1.2 Question 2 – Suggestions for Improvement**

In general, the suggested items for improvement centered on the following key issues and concerns:

- 1. In general, sports groups would like to make sure that they are not phased out until there is an alternate facility for them to go to.**

***Response:** The Task Force is recommending that the City commit to retaining the existing sports groups in the Park until a new improved facility can be established elsewhere in the City.*

- 2. Cricket group expressed a desire to remain in the Park and cited that the park is integral to the success and growth of the sport in the community. The Sunrise Cricket Club expressed a desire to develop a national and international venue for cricket in the Oval along with supporting infrastructure.**

***Response:** The Task Force is recommending that the City commit to retaining the existing sports groups in the Park until new improved sports facility can be established elsewhere in the City. The Task Force is suggesting that Waterloo Park is not an appropriate venue for a dedicated cricket pitch with exclusive use rights. The majority of the Oval on the original east side of the Park is currently utilized to accommodate the cricket pitch. The cricket group has ambitious plans to develop world class cricket infrastructure in Waterloo Park including a club house, practice area, spectator stand, television and broadcasting structures and parking.*

*The Task Force is suggesting that a cricket facility of this caliber is best suited elsewhere in the City where it can be integrated into the planning context and provided sufficient room to accommodate appropriate infrastructure.*

- 3. Band shell users expressed concern about the transition period between the existing band shell and the new Festival Area performance building. A commitment was sought to ensure that if the existing band shell was removed a temporary performance area and associated amenities would be provided until the new Festival performance building could be built.**

***Response:** The Task Force is recommending that the platform component of the existing Bandshell structure be retained until a new performance building can be established in the Festival Area.*

- 4. Potential noise associated with the Festival Area is of concern to neighbourhood residents.**

***Response:** Design criteria for the Festival Area specific to noise have been generated to mitigate sound generation. Criteria related to the development of the Festival Area include: 1) undertaking an acoustical study (establish background noise levels and establish design strategy to mitigate sound migration), 2) incorporating acoustical control measures into the design of the performance building (for interior and exterior application), 3) investigate siting and orientation options for the performance building with the aim of minimize noise impacts, 4) control and manage amplified sound (develop a site specific sound system solution (not one single source that requires projection of sound over extended distances but a series of point sources with specific projection zones)).*

- 5. Safety related issues were raised around the following:**

- a. Proximity of Promenade and Farmstead to adjacent Rapid Transit route,
- b. Crossing of Rapid Transit Route, and
- c. Lighting of interior perimeter pathway and trails.

***Response:** The Task Force has addressed the safety concerns noted as follows: a) Promenade has been configured to incorporate landscape measures to create soft boundaries to delineate the edge of RTI corridor. Region of Waterloo RTI team has been formally advised of desire to create soft boundaries along the edge. b) Region of Waterloo RTI team has also been advised of number of proposed formal crossing of RTI corridor within preferred concept plan. The WPMU has aligned the design and construction of the Promenade with the RTI project. The design of the Promenade and RTI will be coordinated with the Region. c) The Task Force is suggesting that lighting be integrated into the primary pedestrian pathways:*

*Promenade and interior perimeter walkway. Noted in design brief section of report related to Circulation and Linkages.*

**6. Staff recognized some challenges that centered around the following:**

- a. Need for additional parking for events (e.g. Waterloo Memorial Recreation Centre (WMRC) uses Bauer Lot for spill over parking for large events),
- b. Maintaining convenient access to the park for picnicking and other public events,
- c. Providing adequate road access to the park to facilitate operation and maintenance activities, and
- d. Addressing safety issues related to greater access of the west side of park.

**Response:** *a) The Task Force would like to explore opportunities for shared parking that take advantage of other parking lots within close proximity of the Park to accommodate larger events in the Park and at the WMRC. A shuttle service from the adjacent parking lots to the Park may also be considered for the larger events. Signage and clear identification of available parking areas is critical to the efficient use of parking spots in the Park and for directing people to other adjacent lots. The number of permanent parking spots in the Park will aim to service everyday user numbers. The Task Force is also relying on increasing the public's dependency on public transportation to access the park with the inclusion of a Rapid Transit Initiative non-peak hour stop in the Park and improved bus routes that capture the Park. b) The Task Force has strategically located the parking lots within the proposed activity areas. Minimal distances from parking lots allow for clear and direct access to the interior of the Park. The parking lot configurations will be adjusted during the detail design to address site specific access requirements. c) The Task Force has incorporated a service road to address operation and maintenance requirements for the Farmstead Area. Direct road access to parking lots and associated activity areas is provided in order to dramatically reduce the need to access the interior of the park for operation/maintenance needs (other than routine grass cutting, garbage collection and snow clearing). d) Improved access to the west side is being proposed with the inclusion of the interior perimeter walkway. Additional linkages to destinations on the west side of the park, placement of interior perimeter walkway within close proximity to the edge of the park and the removal of vegetation along the edge of the park is intended to improve visibility and access to the west side and the proposed interior perimeter walkway.*

Feedback was received that was geared toward detail aspects of some of the elements contained in the preferred concept plan. The design specific comments for each proposed activity area included the following:

### **1. Festival Area**

- a. Consider multiple venues for performances to occur simultaneously,
- b. Design of performance building should include: indoor space with year-round use, seating for up to 400 people (flexible seating that can be set up and taken down), and the stage must be able to support a variety of events and shows, and
- c. Controlled lighting (not interfere with hosting of events like movie nights).

### **2. Interior Perimeter Walkway**

- a. Integrate shuttle service along interior perimeter walkway that links to the various activity areas (particularly during events), and
- b. Provide bicycle rental facility in the park (self-serve basis).

### **3. Community Green**

- a. Consider alternate locations/configurations for the parking area off of Young Street to minimize visual impact, and
- b. Retain Victorian Garden in current location and integrate into master plan.

### **3.1.3 Question 3 – Implementation Priorities**

In general, the following aspects of the preferred concept plan were recommended for implementation first along with the supporting rationale:

#### **1. Main Entrance and Festival Area off of Father David Bauer Drive along with Second East-West Connection**

- a. Use appeals to a broad cross-section of the community,
- b. Significantly improves profile of festivals and other events in the park (music, theatre, movies, etc.,
- c. Establishes prominent destination on west side along interior perimeter walkway, and
- d. Improves connection between east and west side.

#### **2. Youth play area**

- a. Public pointed out need for a space in the City geared toward youth interests.

### **3. Promenade**

- a. Ties into main north-south pathway linking Uptown to University Lands,
- b. Supports busy commuter route between Uptown and Universities (pedestrian, cycling and other recreational modes of transport), and
- c. Integrates well with adjacent to Rapid Transit Route to support pedestrian and cycling along primary transportation corridor.

### **4. Accessibility Playground**

- a. Replaces aged playground in park, and
- b. Integrates playground elements geared toward people with disabilities.

### **5. Farmstead**

- a. Interests with broad-based community appeal and a focus on children, and
- b. Retains use with strong community support.

### **6. Community Green**

- a. Takes advantage of relaxed environment associated with lake front setting.

## **3.2 Public Input Session Review Comments and Responses**

The public was invited to attend a Public Input Session on June 24 and 25, 2009 at the Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex to comment on the preferred concept plan and implementation strategy. In addition, feedback was obtained from park users during the Waterloo Arts Festival on June 13 and 14, 2009. A questionnaire with the three target questions was generated to solicit input. The questionnaire was also posted on the City of Waterloo web site. A total of 35 completed questionnaires were received. The following is a summary of the key comments received. *Table 3.1 through 3.3, Public Input Session Feedback* outlines the responses to each of the three target questions.

### **3.2.1 Question 1 – Positive Aspects**

In general, the feedback on the preferred concept plan derived from the public input session was overwhelmingly positive. *Table 3.1, Public Input Session Feedback – Positive Aspects of the Preferred Concept Plan* lists the positive aspects of the concept plan:

**Table 3.1 Public Input Session Feedback - Positive Aspects of the Preferred Concept Plan**

Item #	Positive Aspects	Number of Responses
1	New main entrance, festival area with band shell and picnic area off of Father David Bauer Drive	9
2	Phasing out of organized sports in order to gain space for pick-up play	8
3	Giving priority to the pedestrian experience, providing a continuous trail around the park and providing better connections between the east and the west side of the park	8
4	Addition of a youth play area and a skateboard park	6
5	Location of parking along the perimeter and adjacent to activity areas	6
6	People oriented, family friendly and interactive – especially for kids	4
7	More picnic areas with shelter and servery	4
8	LRT stop in the park – public transit access to the park	3
9	Focus on arts, culture and heritage	3
10	Introduction of multiple gathering/performance areas	2
11	Maintaining the integrity of natural areas	2
12	Phasing out city-wide maintenance activities	2
13	Showcasing Silver Lake with the addition of the Community Green	2
14	Addition of an arboretum and the Eco/Education Area	2
15	Provision of two free waterplay areas	2
16	Development of the Rail Station Common	1
17	Better development of the west side of the Park	1

**3.2.2 Question 2 – Suggestions for Improvement**

In general, the suggestions for improvement of the preferred concept plan centred on the desire to either retain programmed sports fields/groups or ensure that there was a commitment to replace them before they area eliminated from the Park. *Table 3.2, Public Input Session Feedback - Suggestions for Improving the Preferred Concept Plan* lists the suggested improvements and outlines the Task Forces response. Again, some of the improvements suggested are geared toward detail aspects of some of the elements contained in the preferred concept plan. The detail design comments have been catalogued and are referenced in the design brief that outlines the design context of each activity area.

**Table 3.2 Public Input Session Feedback – Suggestions for Improving the Preferred Concept Plan**

Item #	Suggestions for Improvement	Number of Responses
1	<b>Concerns relating to sports activities</b>	
a	Do not remove the programmed sports fields in the Park	3
b	Do not phase out organized sports before an alternative location for these activities is identified, developed and made available by the City	2
c	Keep and improve the baseball diamonds in the Park	2
<i>Response: The Task Force is suggesting that the City commit to retaining the existing programmed sports fields in the Park until new improved facilities can be established elsewhere in the City.</i>		
2	<b>Suggestions for additional activities in the Park</b>	
a	Add a community garden	3
<i>Response: A potential use that could be integrated into the concept plan during the detail design stage. Noted in design brief section of report related to a number of activity areas.</i>		
3	<b>Concerns/suggestions for the detail design phase of the plan</b>	
a	Community Green: Do not eliminate existing garden by Young Street parking lot	4
<i>Response: Options for the integration of the existing Victorian garden will be explored during the detail design phase of the Community Green. Options for the layout of the parking lot and integration of the Victorian gardens will be explored. Noted in design brief section of report related to Community Green Activity Area.</i>		
b	Pathways: Provide for separate bike lanes and walkways to avoid conflict	3
<i>Response: The configuration of the interior perimeter walkway, FDB Drive multi-use trail, west side multi-use trail and promenade will incorporate dedicated bike and pedestrian lanes. Noted in design brief section of report related to Circulation.</i>		
c	Parking: Maximize the number of parking spots that can be accommodated in the proposed parking areas	3
<i>Response: Paving and marking of lots will make best use of the land area dedicated to parking. Noted in design brief section of report related to Circulation.</i>		
d	Silver Lake: Clean-up Silver Lake	2
<i>Response: Related studies being coordinated by the City of Waterloo Stormwater Division will be investigation options for Silver Lake. Noted in design brief section of report related to Silver Lake Activity Area.</i>		

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Appendix 1.2 Summary of Public Input

Item #	Suggestions for Improvement	Number of Responses
e	Signage: Improve signage throughout the Park	1
	<b>Response:</b> Task Force has recognized need for general way finding signage and set aside implementation dollars in 2010 budget.	
f	Signage: Avoid too much signage and “theme park” look	1
	<b>Response:</b> Noted in design brief section of report. Location and form of signage will be established during subsequent detail design.	
g	Amenities: Improve opportunities for recycling in the Park	1
	<b>Response:</b> Noted in design brief section of report.	
h	Rail Station Common: Add coffee shop to the Rail Station Common	1
	<b>Response:</b> Noted in design brief section of report related to Rail Station Common Activity Area.	
i	Farmstead: Connect Eby Farmhouse to the Farmstead Area	1
	<b>Response:</b> Pathway connection added to final concept plan.	
j	Silver Lake: Put fountain into Silver Lake	1
	<b>Response:</b> Noted in design brief section of report related to Silver Lake Activity Area.	
k	Amenities: Add outdoor ice rinks	1
	<b>Response:</b> A use that has been identified by the Task Force. Noted in design brief section of report related to Open Unstructured/Youth Play Area and Community Green Area.	
l	Accessibility: Provide good accessibility for people with mobility issues	1
	<b>Response:</b> The Task Force has strategically located parking lots directly adjacent to the activity areas, provided direct road access to the parking lots, and situated the interior perimeter walkway, main circulation route in the park, directly adjacent to the parking lots. Temporary and controlled vehicle access may be permitted into the Park at strategic times of the year for viewing of special seasonal events (i.e. Wonders of Winter along the Promenade).	
m	Accessibility: Ensure the picnic areas have parking close by	1
	<b>Response:</b> Opportunities for picnicking exist throughout the park. Dedicated picnic areas are situated within close proximity to proposed parking lots. Shuttle service is to be considered along interior perimeter walkway as activity areas evolve. Noted in design brief section of report related to Picnic Areas.	
n	Silver Lake: Reduce geese population	1
	<b>Response:</b> Management strategy noted in environmental management plan. Noted in design brief section of report related to Environmental Management Plan.	

Item #	Suggestions for Improvement	Number of Responses
o	Amenities: Do not add to many concession areas and commercialize the Park	1
<i>Response: The Task Force has strategically located concession facilities to service the proposed activity areas.</i>		
p	Community Green: Put viewing deck on the top of the existing Lion's Lagoon Building	1
<i>Response: The Task Force has acknowledged the potential of the Community Green Area with the development of a series of landscaped terraces that focus on views of the lake. No temporary modifications to the existing Lion's Lagoon building are being proposed by the Task Force. All available funding has been dedicated to target initiatives associated with the implementation of the master plan update vision.</i>		
4	<b>Concerns/suggestions related to regional initiatives (Rapid Transit Initiative (RTI) within CNR railway corridor)</b>	
a	Provide for better transit connections to the Park, especially the youth play area	2
<i>Response: The Task Force has recognized the potential of the Regional RTI for providing public access to the park. In response, the Task Force has requested the inclusion of a non-peak hour stop in the Park. Noted in design brief section of report related to Circulation and Linkages.</i>		
b	Separate RTI an appropriate distance from the adjacent activity areas	1
<i>Response: Refer to response noted in Stakeholder Feedback Section to Question 2, Suggestions for Improvement, Item #5.</i>		
c	Install RTI wires underground	1
<i>Response: The Region of Waterloo RTI team has been formally advised of the desire to bury any infrastructure associated with the proposed light rail system in the Park.</i>		
d	Retain Wonders of Winter wiring when the RTI project commences	1
<i>Response: Wonders of Winter will be retained in the Park. The extent of the Wonders of Winter displays will need to be resolved depending on the impact the RTI has on the existing infrastructure associated with it.</i>		

### 3.2.3 Question 3 – Implementation Priorities

In general, public open house respondents identified the following aspects of the preferred concept plan for implementation first. *Table 3.3, Public Input Session Feedback – Implementation Priority for Preferred Concept Plan* outlines the supporting rationale for the priority rating and the number of respondents who identified it as their priority.

**Table 3.3 Public Input Session Feedback – Implementation Priority for Preferred Concept Plan**

<b>Item #</b>	<b>Implementation Priorities – with Supporting Rationale</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>
1	<b>New Festival Grounds and Band Shell</b> – replaces existing band shell that is falling apart, provides amenities that support and promote the hosting of festivals, supports an activity the whole community can enjoy, improves the profile of Park and festivals space, aids festival organizations in our community, improves utilization of west side of Park, vastly improves the appearance of the storage area that currently occupies the space	10
2	<b>Youth Play Area</b> – draws visitors to the Park, provides places for skateboarders to go and takes the pressure off of the urban square, allows casual group play, caters to seriously underserved segment of population	9
3	<b>Promenade</b> – improves safety by separating cyclists from pedestrians along trail	5
4	<b>Community Green</b> – improves access of the lake to the whole community, increases profile of Silver Lake, takes advantage of highly visible location, takes advantage of heavily used area	5
5	<b>West Side in General (Arboretum)</b> – establishes a quiet place with trees and benches, opportunities for a wide variety of passive uses	4
6	<b>Picnic Areas</b> – benefits all park users and age groups	3
7	<b>Farmstead</b> – upgrades animal enclosures	2
8	<b>Clean Silver Lake</b> – none provided	2
9	<b>Rail Station Common</b> – addresses anticipated increased use of Park by higher density developments like the proposed Barrel Yards	2
10	<b>Interior Perimeter Walkway</b> – supports ability to walk all the way around the inside of the Park, gets people out of their cars and walking	2
11	<b>Accessibility Playground</b> - none noted	1
12	<b>Relocate Parking to Perimeter</b> – removes the need to have cars in the Park	1
13	<b>Labyrinth</b> – none provided	1
14	<b>Ecological/Educational Area</b> – none provided	1

### **3.3 Committee of Council Feedback**

Presentations were made to a number of Committees of Council to solicit feedback on the preferred concept plan and implementation strategy. Committees were asked to provide a formal response outlining comments specific to their Council approved mandate. A list of the Committees and the feedback comments received are provided in *Exhibit II, Committees of Council Feedback on Preferred Concept Plan*. The comments provided by each committee related to the preferred concept plan are outlined below along with a description of how the comment was addressed.

#### **3.3.1 Recreation and Leisure Committee (RLC)**

The Recreation and Leisure Committee saw the value of the vision for Waterloo Park and was supportive of the goal to create a strong and vibrant park. The preferred concept plan was well received but agreement on all aspects of the plan could not be reached. Issues brought forth have been addressed by the Task Force as follows:

- 1. Noise issue needs to be dealt with prior to investing any monies in the development of any activities that might give rise to the conflict.**

*Response:* Refer to response noted in Stakeholder Feedback Section, Question 2, Suggestions for Improvement, Item #4.

- 2. Safety concerns regarding the integration of the RTI in the Park.**

*Response:* Refer to response noted in Stakeholder Feedback Section to Question 2, Suggestions for Improvement, Item #5.

- 3. Concern about lack of lighting form University Parking Lot.**

*Response:* Access to the Park from privately held property has been removed. Access to the University of Waterloo parking lots is now provided along Seagram Drive from public right-of-way.

- 4. Retain a mix of structured and unstructured use.**

*Response:* The Task Force has retained the ability for all park users to play sports in the Park but on a pick-up play basis only. The Task Force is recommending that dedicated sports fields that are programmed for exclusive use should be transitioned out of the Park.

#### **3.3.2 Transportation and Trails Advisory Committee (TTAC)**

The TTAC were supportive of the proposed trail system associated with the preferred concept plan and the objective of creating a pedestrian oriented park. TTAC offered the following comments:

- 1. Provide a minimum of 3 formal crossings of the RTI corridor in Waterloo Park that are not grade separated.**

*Response: Four formalized crossings of the rail corridor are proposed and will be coordinated with the Regional RTI Team during the detail design stage.*

- 2. Which trails to be paved?**

*Response: The interior perimeter walkway, promenade would be paved and the surface treatment of other pathways would be based on site specific basis (target users, erosion potential).*

- 3. Include bike racks and number of bike parking spaces.**

*Response: The need to include bike racks and bike parking areas will be addressed.*

- 4. CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) principles to be considered in design of pathways.**

*Response: Staff are trained in the application of CPTED principles and apply them to the design of park spaces and trails.*

### **3.3.3 Waterloo Council Environmental Advisory Committee (WCEAC)**

The WCEAC were supportive of the direction of the preferred concept plan and had no concerns.

### **3.3.4 Advisory Committee on Culture (ACC)**

The ACC generally supports and endorses the preferred concept plan. One concern was raised regarding the following issue:

- 1. Develop a solution to transition the Potters' Workshop out of the Eby Farmhouse and consider a joint venture initiative with the City of Kitchener (similar to the process undertaken in relocating the Woodworkers Shop).**

*Response: The City will identify a mutually agreed upon transition period within the new lease agreement with the Potters' Workshop executive. The Potters Workshop will remain in the Eby Farmhouse until a new use can be identified for the building, funded and implemented.*

### **3.3.5 Grand River Accessibility Advisory Committee (GRAAC)**

The GRAAC endorses in principle the preferred concept plan and welcomed the opportunity to participate in future discussions around the accessibility playground,

pavement surfaces, transit route access to the Park, safety aspects associated with the crossing of the RTI corridor, and signage/way finding.

The committee suggested that the recommendations contained in the Herrington Group audit, 2007 be considered during the design of the various project initiatives.

### **3.3.6 Uptown Vision Committee (UVC)**

The UVC was not able to support the preferred concept plan in principle until more detailed feasibility analysis is completed, a contiguous link between Uptown and Waterloo Park is established. In addition, the following issues were identified by the committee and addressed by the Task Force as follows:

- 1. Desire to have free flow of pedestrian traffic across the train and light rail system tracks. The tracks should be on grade and as unobtrusive as possible.**

*Response:* Refer to response noted in Stakeholder Feedback, Question 2, Suggestions for Improvement, Item #5.

- 2. Desire to bury any wires associated with the RTI.**

*Response:* Refer to response noted in Public Input Session Feedback, Question 2, Suggestions for Improvement, Item #4c.

- 3. The Park plan allows for no staff needs. Has staff been surveyed about park plan.**

*Response:* The Task Force has suggested that only park specific operation and maintenance activities be coordinated out of the Park. City wide operation and maintenance activities should be transitioned out of the Park. Staff did provide input into the preferred concept plan and recognized the long term impacts. Staff will be actively involved in any future design initiatives.

- 4. Preserve heritage buildings in the Park (Eby Farmhouse, Schoolhouse, cook houses).**

*Response:* The Task Force unanimously approved three motions that deal with the retention of the above noted historical buildings in the Park. Noted in design brief section of report related to Building Assets.

- 5. What happens to the existing buildings.**

*Response:* A detail assessment of the building assets was undertaken by the City of Waterloo Asset Management Division. The existing buildings are old and the cost to upgrade them in some cases exceeds the replacement cost. Buildings have been identified that are to be retained, retained and relocated or removed in the long term.

**6. Access to the Park Inn has not been well addressed.**

**Response:** *The Park Inn has been integrated into the Community Green area. A formal outdoor patio space has been integrated around the building. Access to the building is possible from the parking lot off of Young Street. The interior perimeter walkway is situated directly adjacent to the Park Inn and connects the building to the other activity areas spread across the east and west side of the Park.*

**7. Interest in preserving the Victorian Garden on the east side of the Park.**

**Response:** *Refer to response noted in Public Input Session Feedback, Question 2, Suggestions for Improvement, Item #3a.*

**8. Will the theming study remain?**

**Response:** *The Task Force has decided not to carry the theming study forward. The Task Force did not want to limit the design palette to one period in time. Existing Victorian elements will be preserved as a representation of that stylistic era.*

**9. Will cricket remain in the Park.**

**Response:** *Refer to response noted in Stakeholder Feedback Section to Question 2, Suggestions for Improvement, Item #2.*

**10. A public prioritization exercise should take place for the spending of the \$1 million dollars in capital funding.**

**Response:** *The Task Force obtained public and stakeholder input in the prioritization of the project initiatives at public open house and stakeholder interviews. The implementation strategy outlined in this report reflects the input from the public and stakeholders. Refer to implementation strategy outlined in Section 5, Implementation Strategy of this report.*

**3.3.7 Municipal Heritage Committee (MHC)**

The MHC has reviewed the preferred concept plan and has made suggestions that aim to recognize the major historic, architectural and heritage resources in the Park. The MHC is exploring opportunities to put forward a cultural heritage landscape recommendation for Waterloo Park. The highlights intended to highlight the heritage significance of Waterloo Park are:

**1. Incorporate cannons into the master plan.**

**Response:** *The Task Force will identify the three cannons as historical elements and incorporate them into the master plan update. Noted in design brief section of report related to Building Assets.*

**2. Schoolhouse should remain in the present locale for both heritage and education purposes.**

**Response:** *The Task Force passed a motion to retain the Schoolhouse in the Park.*

*The 1820 Schoolhouse, the first schoolhouse in the area, is to be preserved and integrated as a functional component in one of the identified activity areas outlined in the Waterloo Park Master Plan Update. The 1820 Schoolhouse must be integrated in such a way as to be completely open to the public and offer opportunities for profiling its historical past.*

**3. Protect Eby Farmhouse and cook houses in their historic form.**

**Response:** *The Task Force passed a motion to retain the Eby Farmhouse in the Park. The Eby Farmhouse, the original home of Jacob B. Eby whose land was purchased to create Waterloo Park in 1893, is to be preserved and retained in its current location in Waterloo Park. The Eby Farmhouse is to be integrated as a functional component in one of the identified activity areas outlined in the Waterloo Park Master Plan Update. The Eby Farmhouse must be integrated in such a way as to be completely open to the public and offer opportunities for profiling its historical past in the Park.*

**4. Care should be taken to respect the heritage value of the Bandshell through conservation in its present form or in any adaptive reuse of the site.**

**Response:** *The Task Force has suggested that the bandshell be demolished. The building requires extensive repairs and does not offer the protection or amenities required by the users that make use of the structure and surrounding landscape. The Task Force is open to exploring active reuse of elements of the building that can be integrated into the proposed Festival Area.*

**5. Any restoration of the riparian borderlands of the Creek should include native species and communities as well as those characteristics of the Victorian landscape.**

**Response:** *The riparian borderlands of Laurel Creek are situated in the west side of the park that was once owned by Canada Barrels and Kegs Limited. In 1958, the 34 acre industrial lands were purchased by the Town and added to expand the park proper to Westmount Road.*

*The Task Force has one initiative related to the creek that pertains to the channelized section adjacent to the UW parking lot. The Task Force would like to naturalize this section.*

**6. Efforts should be made to reduce the number, size and extension of the proposed trails and roads in order to maintain space for Victorian landscapes.**

***Response:** The proposed trails outlined in the preferred concept plan are conceptual. The proposed trails are pedestrian oriented, create strong connections between the various activity areas and links the park to the intensifying urban context. The need and alignment of the proposed trails will be considered and refined as project initiatives move forward.*

**7. Overall, the move in the proposed plan from an historic and natural Park to an Uptown Urban Playground should be minimized.**

***Response:** The Task Force has recognized that the traditional role of parks as places of recreation and visual interest has evolved. The social function of Parks has expanded to the point where they are also seen as contributors to broader urban policy objectives related to job opportunities, youth development, public health, community development and the environment.*

# **WATERLOO PARK MASTER PLAN 2009**

## **Exhibit I**

### **STAKEHOLDER/SURVEY DATA SPRING/SUMMER 2007**

## **EXHIBIT I.1 STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW SUMMARY**

The Waterloo Park Master Plan Update Project Team interviewed 42 stakeholders or stakeholder groups about Waterloo Park prior to initiating the master plan update in the Spring/Summer of 2007. We asked them about their connection to the Park, their thoughts on positive and negative aspects of the Park and their opinion on different aspects of the Park. We have reviewed their responses and have compiled this interview summary. The responses are organized into two groups (positive & negative feedback) and are grouped into themes. Numbers in brackets tally the number of stakeholders who made the comment in question. For example, (12/42) indicates that 12 out of 42 interviewed stakeholders have made the same comment.

Stakeholders had the following positive feedback about the Park:

1. The Park's beautiful, natural setting combined with its prime location is one of the greatest assets of Waterloo Park (32/42). As one stakeholder put it, "when you are in the Park, you feel as though you are away from the City, and yet you are in the middle of it". People value this contrast with Uptown, and have expressed their desire to keep the Park's natural environment intact. They also voiced their strong opposition to over-developing or over-commercializing the Park (14/42).
2. The Eby Farm is one of the greatest attractions of the Park. From parents with small children, through teenagers and University students to older adults, all have expressed their appreciation of the animal display (24/42). Though most of the stakeholders understand the limitations the display is coping with; they point out that the significance of the display will grow with the increasing urbanization in the area. They have raised a concern about the display's current poor condition, and many of them feel that a more interactive (petting zoo like) display, that primarily features farm animals, would be a better option for the display (18/42). Only one stakeholder has expressed an opinion that the animal display is altogether an inappropriate idea for the Park (1/42).
3. The Silver Lake is a great asset of the Park (12/42), but people have expressed their concern about its current poor state and the lack of uses it offers (20/42).
4. The Wonders of Winter is another cherished attraction of the Park (10/42).
5. Festival and event organizers are especially fond of the area at the West side that is a host to larger events in the Park (9/42). They praise its beautiful natural setting and the fact that it is a large open area unobstructed by buildings. They note the importance of the space being away from major roads and surrounded by planting, to keep the light and noise pollution to the minimum. The bandshell (even though in poor condition), the Servedy and the pavilion are also essential for this area's success. The slope in front of the bandshell is ideal for the audience.

6. Safety and security are given good marks for the Park; stakeholders who have reported concern (9/42) have all noted that the issues are minor. The level of vandalism in the Park is perceived as being fairly low (5/42).
7. Stakeholders are fond of the diversity of available uses in the Park (6/42), and are mentioning the new concession stand as a nice addition to the Park (7/42).
8. Stakeholders are complimenting Waterloo Park Staff for keeping the Park well maintained (5/42) and are very fond of the good working relationship between Staff and the user groups (4/42).

The following issues and concerns were raised:

- 1. Lack of understanding of the Park layout, location and availability of facilities and activities within the Park. This lack of understanding is based on the following comments:**
  - The lack of sufficient signage, landmarks, gathering points and information booths within the Park (33/42),
  - The poor and confusing layout of the roads/pathways in the Park (22/42),
  - The lack of connection between the East and West side of the Park (15/42), and
  - The lack of communication with regard to ongoing and upcoming events, availability of programs/facilities in the Park, and the lack of clear and comprehensive information on how to organize an event in the Park (15/42).
  
- 2. Lack of knowledge of the Park in general, and the existing or perceived difficulties and barriers for accessing the Park, being described by:**
  - The entrances being “inadequate, awkward, non-descript, confusing and obscure” (25/42) and the lack of prominent pedestrian access points to the Park (6/42),
  - The lack of and inadequacy of connections between the Park and the surrounding areas (WMRC, Uptown, Ward 6, etc.) (10/42),
  - Busy roadways and major intersections creating a barrier rather than a connection between the Park and the surrounding area (10/42), and
  - The Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery and the Perimeter Institute visually not being an integral part of the Park and thus separating the Park from the Uptown core by creating the perception that the Park is further away from the Uptown, than it actually is (6/42).

**3. Conflicts of different uses in the Park described as:**

- Conflicts between structured and non-structured activities, where areas and facilities of the park are “over-structured” and “over-programmed”, making it impossible for unorganized groups to use the Park in a casual manner for activities like pick-up games, picnics, etc. (17/42),
- Conflicts between different traffic uses (vehicular vs. pedestrian), where car drivers are speeding and are inconsiderate of the pedestrians, as well as using pedestrian pathways as roads (9/42),
- Conflicts in facility usage, such as facilities being able to accommodate only one type of use (baseball diamonds) or the facility being hardly ever open for non-structured play (soccer field at Seagram entrance) (5/42), or one particular group dominating a certain facility, making it hard for other groups to use the same area - both by time constraints and introduction of physical barriers for other uses (cricket in the oval) (6/42),
- scheduling conflicts between events, where two large events are scheduled at the same time (sports and cultural, or two cultural events) (5/42),
- Conflicts with regards to the noise issue on the West side of the park - identified both by event organizers and user groups (4/42) and by the effected residents (3/42),

**4. Parking issues in general (21/42) described by:**

- Poor, confusing layout and lack of connection between parking lots, as well as the lack of knowledge about parking choices in general (16/42),
- Not enough (13/42) / too much (7/42) parking (depending on the stakeholder’s vision of the Park), and
- Unauthorized use of parking lots (students going to the Universities or by Park patrons using the tennis club parking lot), or patrons parking on grass (5/42).

**5. Poor state, lack of, or excess of certain facilities in the Park:**

- The poor state of Silver Lake (21/42),
- The existing bandshell facility being inadequate and in very poor condition (19/42) and the need for a sheltered or covered multi-purpose facility in the Park (15/42),
- The need for a pavilion or a sheltered facility in the east side of the Park (16/42),
- The lack of or poor state of washroom facilities, washroom maintenance problems and hours of operation issues (15/42),

- The need for additional services in the park, such as drinking fountains, benches, garbage receptacles, pay-phones, bank machines, help-phones along the promenade and panic buttons in washrooms (14/42),
- Road/pathway quality issues (muck, holes, standing water on paths, accessibility and winter maintenance issues, pavement type not accommodating different uses) (14/42),
- The poor physical state, low standard and utilitarian look of buildings in the Park (15/42),
- The poor quality of lighting along the Park pathways (11/42),
- The lack of winter activities in the Park (10/42),
- The lack of shade in parts of the Park (8/42),
- The excess of utilitarian buildings in the Park (service centre, fire hall, woodworker's shop) (7/42), or facilities that serve only one user group (tennis club, rink-in-the-park, potter's workshop) (5/42),
- the lack of or inadequate site servicing (electrical, water, etc.) and the poor state of infrastructure in general (6/42),
- the lack of visual connection between the Park and the buildings in it (2/42),
- The lack of concession stand in the West side of the Park (2/42), and
- The need for off-leash area in the Park (2/42).

**6. Accessibility issues:**

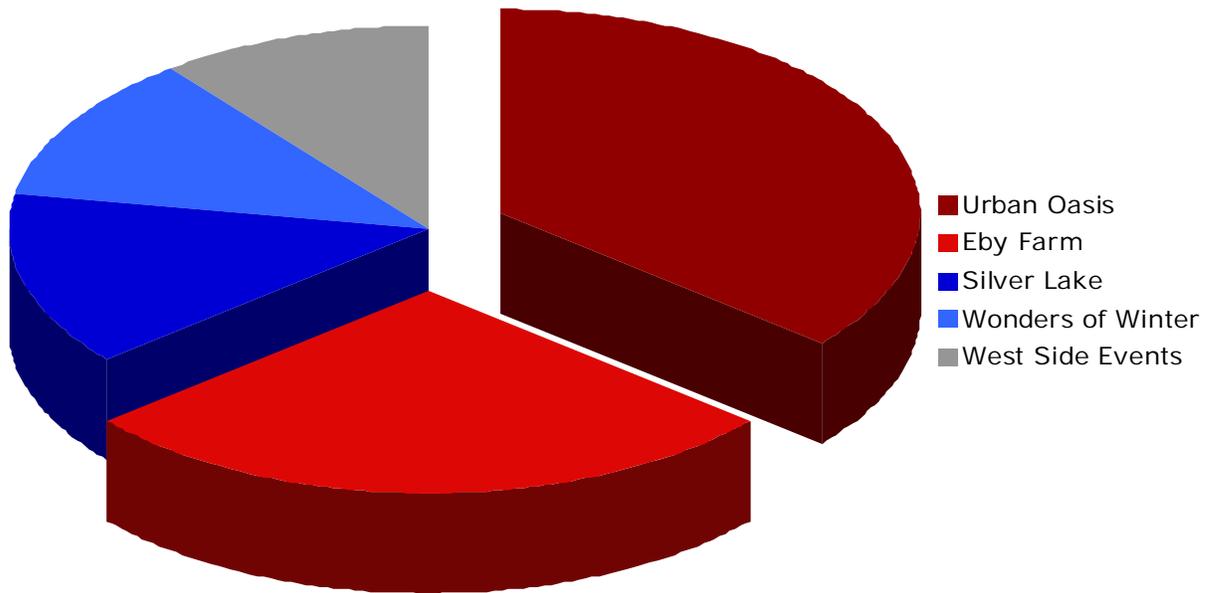
- Accessibility issues in general and accessibility for events in the Park, as well as the need for different forms of accessibility to be considered (10/42).

**7. Financial considerations:**

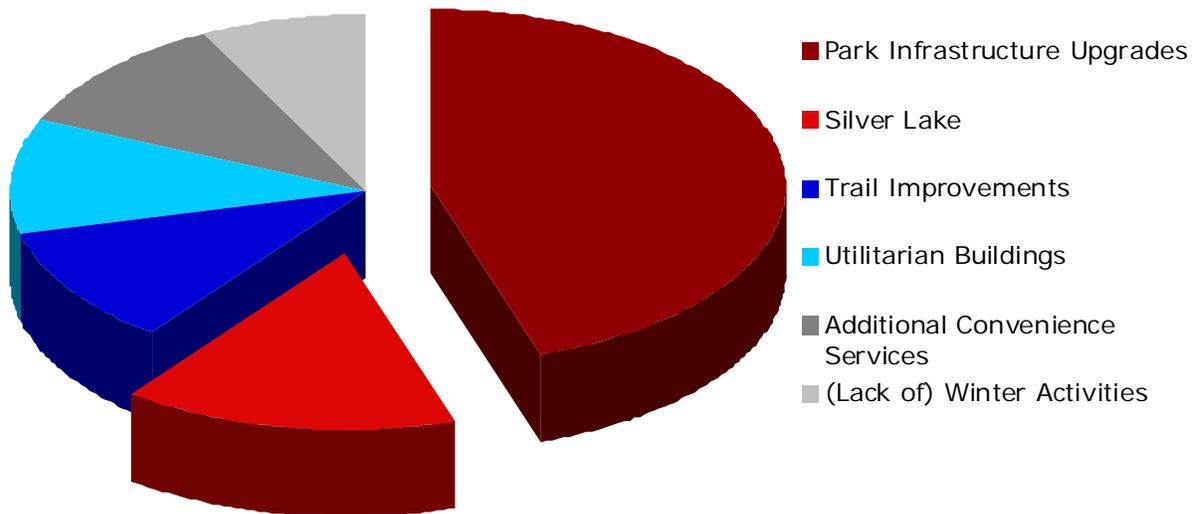
- Stakeholders have concerns about the lack of operations and maintenance resources, and have raised the issue of financial sustainability of the Park (3/42).

## EXHIBIT I.2 Stakeholder Interview Diagrams

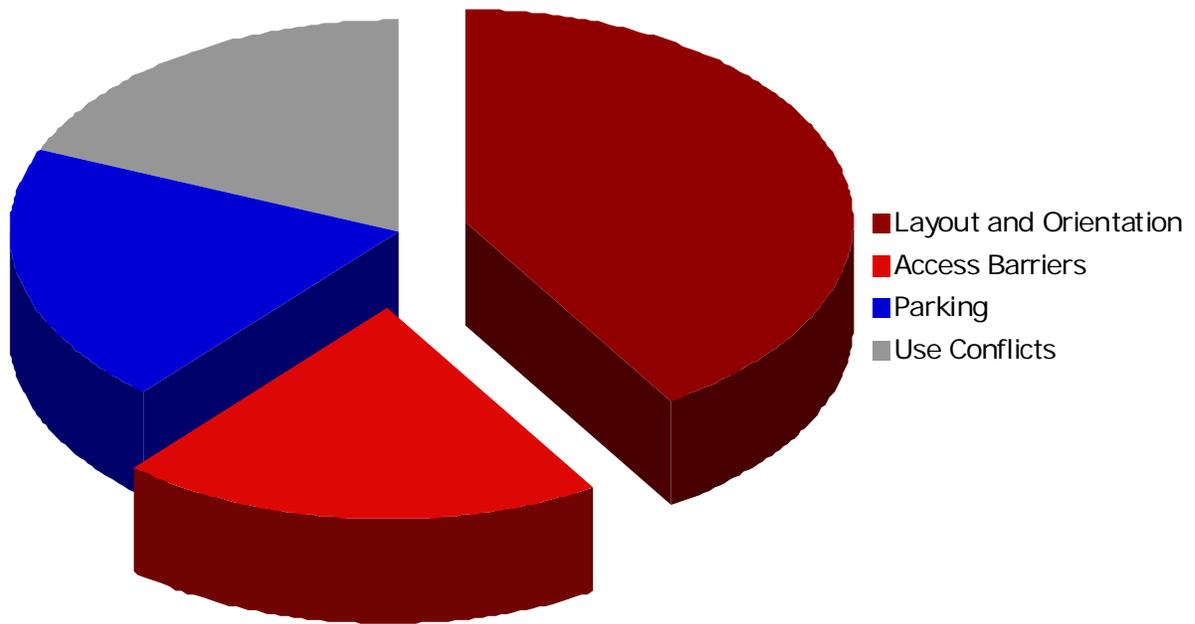
**Figure I1: Stakeholder Interviews - Waterloo Park's Positive Attributes**



**Figure I2: Stakeholder Interviews - Park Maintenance/Condition Issues**



**Figure 13: Stakeholder Interviews - Recommended Changes/Additions to Waterloo Park**



## EXHIBIT I.3 Survey Data Results

Total Number of Respondents: 141

### 1. Do you live in the City of Waterloo?

Residents: 115  
Non-Residents: 26

### 2. What is your gender?

Male: 62  
Female: 78  
N/A: 1

### Age/Gender Breakdown

	Male	Female
<b>13-19:</b>	3	3
<b>20-30:</b>	18	24
<b>31-40:</b>	13	23
<b>41-50:</b>	8	16
<b>51-64:</b>	10	4
<b>65+:</b>	9	8

### 3. What age group do you fall within?

13-19: 6  
20-30: 42  
31-40: 36  
41-50: 24  
51-64: 14  
65+: 17  
N/A: 2

### 4. How many children do you have and what age group do they fall in?

Under 6: 28      Average number of kids: 1.93  
6 to 12: 35  
13 to 18: 24

**5. How did you hear about the master plan update for Waterloo Park?**

Phone Call: 2  
Mail: 3  
Webpage: 12  
Radio/TV: 0  
Newsletter: 2  
Word of Mouth: 44  
Other: 86

**6. When is the last time you visited Waterloo Park?**

In the last week: 84  
In the last month: 22  
In the last 3 months: 19  
In the last 6 months: 5  
In the last year: 7  
More than a year ago: 4

**7. On average how often do you visit Waterloo Park?**

Almost daily: 33  
At least once a week: 38  
At least once a month: 30  
Seasonally: 17  
Once or twice a year: 16  
Other: 9

**8. About how long do you usually stay at Waterloo Park?**

Less than an hour: 58  
1-2 hours: 55  
2-4 hours: 22  
more than 4 hours: 6

**9. What time of year do you typically visit Waterloo Park?**

Spring: 19  
Summer: 50  
Fall: 16  
Winter: 7  
Any time of year: 82

**10. With whom do you usually come to Waterloo Park?**

Friends: 46  
Your spouse/partner: 52  
Your children: 32  
School or other group: 4  
Other: 43

**11. How do you usually travel to Waterloo Park?**

Public Transit: 3  
Car: 63  
Walk: 57  
Bike: 27  
Other: 5

**12. How long does it usually take you to get to Waterloo Park?**

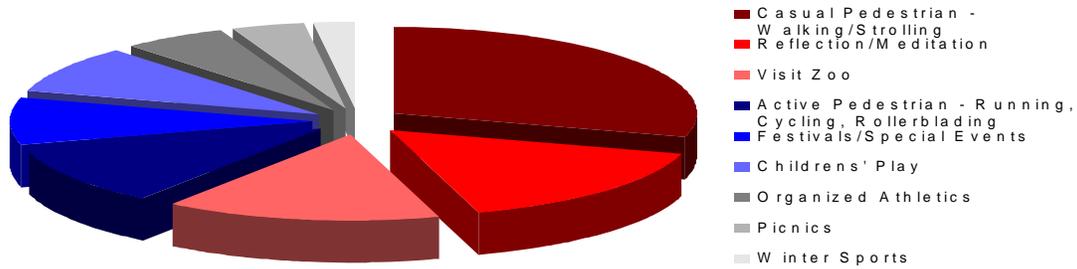
Less than 15 minutes: 114  
15-29 minutes: 21  
30-59 minutes: 5  
1-2 hours: 3  
More than 2 hours: 0

### **13. Activities when visiting Waterloo Park.**

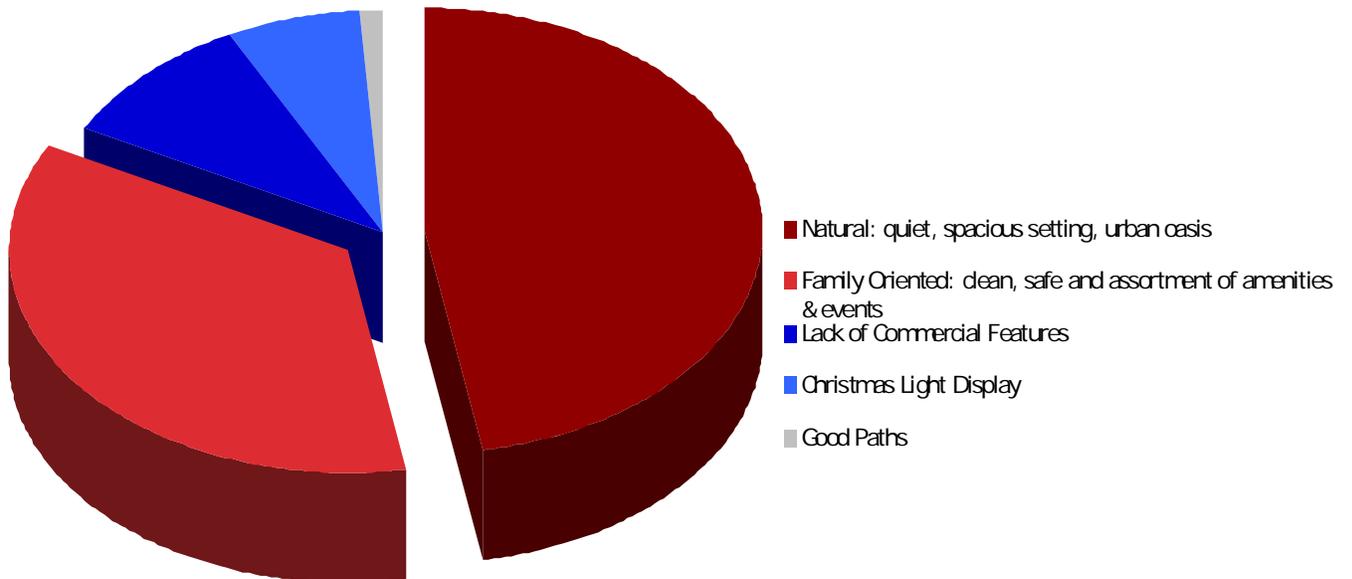
Walk/Stroll:	128
Visit animals:	113
Play organized sport:	27
Take kids to playgrounds:	38
Take kids to Lions Lagoon:	31
Visit Park Office:	7
Picnic:	37
Snack/Drink from Park Inn:	31
Sit and relax:	90
Play tennis:	4
Jog/run/speed-walk:	39
Rollerblade:	8
Bicycle:	50
Take nature trails:	64
Bird-watch:	26
Fly a kite:	10
Go ice skating:	1
Corss-country ski:	8
Go tobagganing:	3
Go fishing:	0
Attend a special event:	66
Attend training:	8
Work in park:	13
Part of route to destination:	44
Other:	22

## EXHIBIT I.4 Survey Data Diagrams

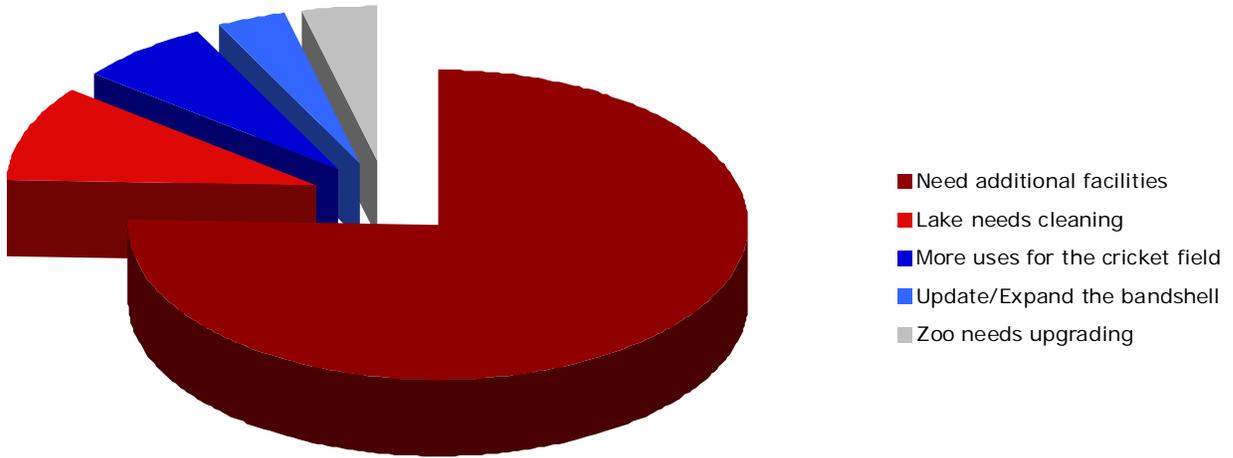
**Figure I4: Survey Responses - Typical Park Uses**



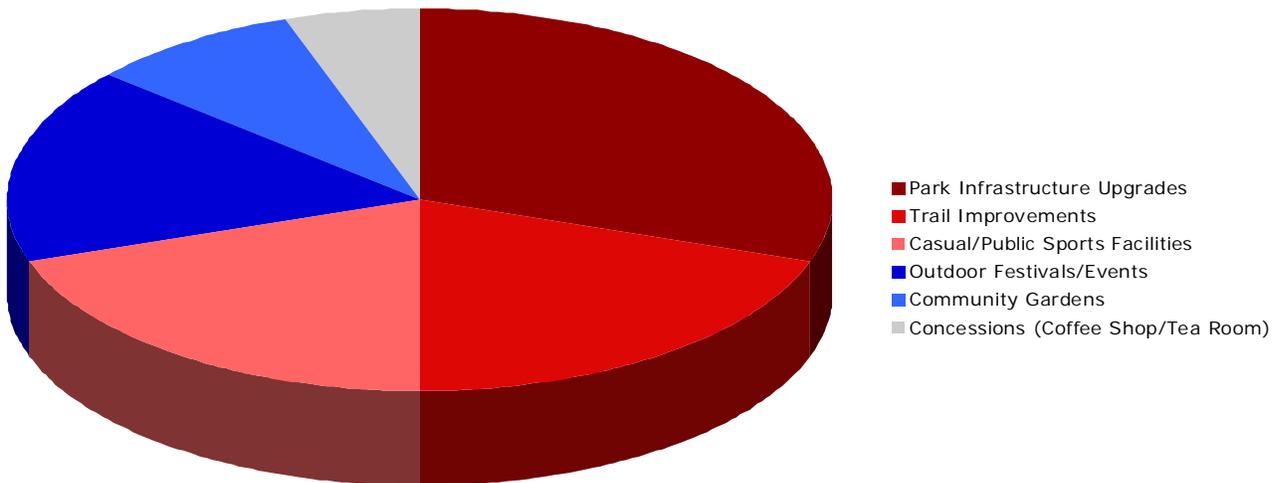
**Figure I5: Survey Responses - Waterloo Park's Positive Attributes**



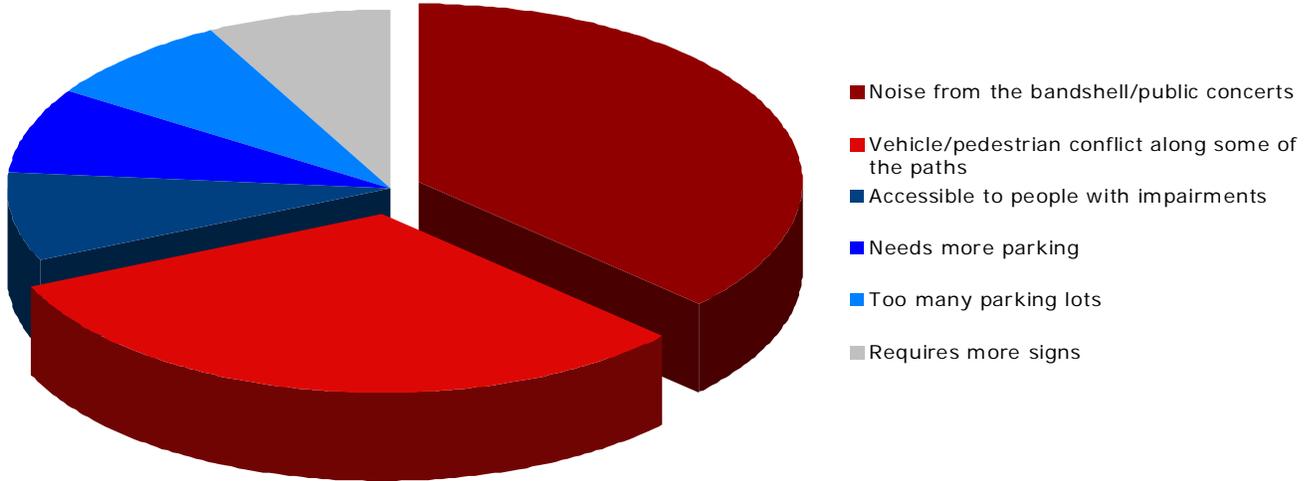
**Figure 16: Survey Responses - Park Maintenance/Condition Issues**



**Figure 17: Survey Responses - Recommended Changes/Additions to Waterloo Park**



**Figure 18: Survey Responses - Other Issues – Barriers, User Conflicts, Parking**



# **WATERLOO PARK MASTER PLAN 2009**

## **EXHIBIT II**

### **COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL FEEDBACK ON PREFERRED CONCEPT**

**Recreation and Leisure Committee - March 31, 2009**

The Recreation and Leisure Advisory Committee sees value in the vision presented in the Waterloo Park master plan and support the goal of a strong and vibrant park. While we like the Waterloo Park Master Plan concept, we do not agree with every aspect of the report. The following is taken from the power point presentation in regards to the Waterloo Park Master Plan.

- **Premier City-wide park supporting open space opportunities with a focus on venues that support:**
  - Arts, culture, and heritage,
  - Children play, and
  - Youth play.

***Comment:** There has been much discussion reported in the news in regards to on-going conflict with the residents around the park and the noise from the park. A number of festivals and events have been relocated because of the conflict with residents and the noise restrictions. We believe that these issues need to be dealt with before any monies are invested in theatres or any activity that will give rise to a noise conflict.*

- **Give priority to the pedestrian experience by limiting vehicular access (operational vehicles access Park along dedicated service road).**

***Comment:** Safety concerns were raised about the Rapid Transit going through the park, not only for people but also for the animals in the farmstead area.*

*Concern over the loss of 100 parking spaces within the park. There is support for limiting access to the park, but more parking needs to be provided on the perimeter.*

- **Improve internal connections (particularly between east and west side separated by the rail corridor) and linkages to surrounding context.**

***Comment:** Concern over the lack of lighting on pathways from the University parking lots. The University has tried several different methods to stop people from using these paths but they still do. It was suggested that rather than stopping people from using these unauthorized paths, use them in your plans. Let the people set the paths, rather than force a preconceived notion of where the paths should go.*

- **Explore opportunities for more unstructured/free leisure play areas by phasing out of organized sports (soccer, baseball and cricket would be relocated once space is available elsewhere and as supported by the R&LS Master Plan City-Wide Outdoor Sport Field & Diamond Strategy).**

**Comment:** *The committee would like to see some organized sports in the park. The committee does not support taking out all the sports fields. There should be room for unstructured and structured use in the design.*

- **Create children’s play venues that incorporate interactive playground and water play elements,**
- **Create versatile dynamic spaces that are able to accommodate several complementary uses (eliminate conflicts),**
- **Integrate broader and longer range planning initiatives: RT Initiative, Barrel Yards Dev., Balsillie School, PI Expansion, Knox Church, Nodes and Corridors Study, OP, etc., and**
- **Investigate Partnerships/Joint Ventures – community development and capacity building.**

**Comment:** *There is not enough information on the costs at this point. The plan indicates that there are no funds to support this initiative, and that other avenues would need to be considered. The committee would like to see those cost analysis before they commit to supporting this project.*

We on the committee look forward to hearing on the on-going work re the Master Plan, and on the concerns that have been raised here.

### **Transportation and Trails Advisory Committee – February 25, 2009**

Minutes from February 25, 2009 Committee Meeting related to presentation on Waterloo Park Master Plan – Final Draft Conceptual Design:

- **Eckhard Patrik outlined the Conceptual Design with the following features:**
  - Promenade – activity nodes,
  - New Farmstead,
  - Youth area – skatepark – basketball,
  - Cars limited to parking areas,
  - Special events – may allow vehicles, emergency vehicle access,
  - Father David Bauer – enhanced streetscape, trail, non-organized sports, passive or pick-up sports,
  - Five parking lots with 400 spaces, 45 on street spaces on Father David Bauer Drive, Central, Young and Seagram Drive,
  - School house will be relocated,
  - The farmstead lease with Potter to be removed,
  - Washrooms, restaurant, youth area, splash pad, farmstead,
  - Public access year round,
  - Train station to remain,

- Support RT stop in Park,
- Trail connections, PI to Barrel Yards,
- No barriers on RT.
  
- **Questions or concerns from committee**
  - 3 crossings of the proposed Rapid Transit Corridor in Waterloo Park,
  - Which trails to be paved?
  - Separation of e cyclists and pedestrians?
  - Stone dust erosion problem,
  - Connections from UW lots informal,
  - Access to Festival area from Seagram,
  - UW trying to discourage number of access points into UW parking lots,
  - RT crossing? barrier/safety,
  - LRT – freight line/separation,
  - Need a crossing where it,
  - Trail to Westmount/University,
  - Bike racks, Number of bike parking spaces,
  - How many parking spaces does UW have adjacent to park,
  - Joan – endorse trail system, no obstructions along rail corridor, free flow over promenade from Seagram to Erb, same formal crossings,
  - With further input at next meeting on cycling parking, eyes on street, visibility (CPTED principles) Next meeting, and
  - Endorses concept – PMV prohibited, access, emergency and maintenance vehicle only.

**Waterloo Council Environmental Advisory Committee (WCEAC) - March 10, 2009**

Further to the action item identified in the minutes of WCEAC’s March 10, 2009 meeting regarding the submission of comments on the master plan update, no concerns were raised and WCEAC was supportive of the project.

*Moved by AK, Seconded by JI.*

*“THAT WCEAC supports the objectives and design elements of the Preliminary Concept Plan of the Waterloo Park Master Plan Update”.*

*Carried Unanimously*

**Advisory Committee on Culture - March 10, 2009**

The Advisory Committee on Culture generally supports and endorses the Waterloo Park Master Plan, as presented by park staff to the ACC Committee meeting on March 10, 2009. The plan has kept the best and most valued qualities of the park. There is a concern however, regarding the future of the Waterloo Potters Workshop.

The committee acknowledges that the workshop can't stay in the park in the long term and feels that there needs to be a solution and the City of Waterloo should facilitate the solution. Consideration should be given to a Joint Initiative with Kitchener. (Similar to woodworkers)

- Moved by Doug Bean, seconded by Lauren Judge. The motion was approved.

### **Grand River Accessibility Advisory Committee (GRAAC) - Thursday May 28, 2009**

Andrea and Eckhard attended the meeting to provide an update of the master plan process and outline key objectives to GRAAC members via a PowerPoint presentation and to ask for feedback from the group. The presentation is a culmination of the efforts of the task force in establishing the concept plan. Currently, staffs are gathering input and have already talked to City of Waterloo staff, committees of Council and stakeholders. 48 interest groups that use the park were interviewed to help create a long term vision for the park over the next 20 years and beyond.

#### **Presentation:**

- Propose the "oval" remain the same, keeping the character of the space in original, historic condition,
- Youth play: will include a skateboard park, basketball courts, ½ of the field for pick-up soccer games, and a baseball diamond (there will no longer be organized sports such as soccer and cricket in the park,
- The Farmstead area will profile domestic farm animals and will be interactive. Simple concessions will be added in this area along with a patio, washrooms and seating; it will include a themed playground and splash pad. There will be a picnic area within the farmstead with a pavilion/servery,
- Community green: this area currently includes a parking lot and Lions Lagoon – the plan is for the space and views to be utilized for people not cars, thus relocating the parking lot,
- Silver Lake: there was no focus on this as it is a project of its own,
- Festival area: this area will be developed to take advantage of street frontage on Father David Bauer Drive and will access the playground and splash pad.
  
- Building use will be changed in keeping with the festival area but specific plans haven't been developed yet. It will also cater to festival-goers with non-amplified sound, and will provide internal seating space for 200-300 people,

- An eco-education centre will be located off Seagram Drive with an arboretum, a flood plain, an outdoor open area, and themed walkways,
- The rail station common will draw the park out closer to uptown Waterloo and a new entry will be created on Father David Bauer Drive (FDBD), as well as an alternate pedestrian link to uptown,
- There will be an interior perimeter walkway around the park that will be maintained year round, paved and linking all areas of the park. North/South on the Iron Horse Trail will be a dedicated bike lane and pedestrian lane integrated with rapid transit,
- The planned light rail transit system is slated to run directly through the park.
- Multi-use off road terrain on FDBD plus a west-side multi-use track to facilitate bike users to go through park and not congest pedestrian traffic nor interfere with the transit track,
- There will be multiple new entrances/access points, and
- The service entrance will be off Seagram Drive.

### **Questions/Answers**

- The tennis club is remaining – the parking lot will be retained and accessed off a service entrance,
- Waterloo Park consists of approximately 124 acres,
- The park is bordered by Father David Bauer Drive on the south; Westmount & University; Seagram Drive and Albert St; Caroline & Erb,
- The Perimeter Institute, the train station, the Clay and Glass Gallery are all located in the park,
- The pool was removed in 1994 & a splash pad added,
- There have been complaints about noise from the festivals from the retirement home,
- There is now one transit stop on Westmount Road. The new park needs to be served better by GRT,
- Want to cater to patrons' needs and activities in the park so people don't have to drive,
- Will the speed of the LRT and patron safety be an issue in the park? Two principal corridors will cross the tracks. Staffs do not want any barriers and feel it will be easy to make it safe in the park without erecting barricades.
- The train will come every 7 minutes or so,

- There is no concept yet for the accessible playground but the project is first on books to carry out,
- Stone dust or wood chips will be used on themed walkways; other access ways will be paved,
- Eckhard asked for a motion of support from GRAAC. GRAAC members advised that they want more information before they provide support, and
- Andrea and Eckhard were thanked for attending the meeting and were praised for a great project.

### **Motion**

A motion was made by Brad, seconded by Gord, that GRAAC endorse in principle the concept of the new Waterloo Park Master Plan subject to obtaining more details from staff. GRAAC welcomes the opportunity to participate in future discussion around accessible playground, transportation and signage and way finding, subject to identified priorities and suggest that staff refer to the Herrington Group audit recommendations from 2007. All in favour; the motion was carried.

### **Action:**

**Andrea and Eckhard will find out whether there will be audible signals when the train is approaching in the park.**

### **Uptown Vision Committee - April 17, 200 and June 12, 2009**

#### **MOTION:**

That Uptown Vision Committee (UVC) reviewed carefully the Concept Plan for Waterloo Park. At this time, the UVC cannot support the Concept Plan, in principle, until more detailed feasibility analysis is completed and the issues outlined in our summary report (below) are further addressed, including the need to ensure a continuous linkage between the Uptown and Waterloo Park.

Moved by: Carol Wiebe

Seconded by: John Shortreed

Passed by majority

The general idea that the Park should be more people oriented and less car oriented was well received.

### **1. Entrance**

Completing the 4<sup>th</sup> and final (?) entrance on Father David Bauer Drive is a necessity and will complete 4 park entrances, one each at North, South, East and West sides of the Park.

**2. Walking Loop**

The walking loop around the Park looks great and will lead people in a scenic walk, bike around the whole Park.

**3. LRT Issue**

There is a concern that we need a “free flow” of pedestrian traffic across the “moat” of tracks which will cut the Park in two not just the two structured crossings. There are 2 such crossings in front of Perimeter Institute and only 2 such crossings along the whole length of the Promenade. (This is the peoples’ Park first not the LRT’s – the Park has been here for 129 years – this LRT is not a happy addition!)

The tracks should be on grade and as unobtrusive as possible (e.g. grass right up to the tracks).

**4. Noise**

Has the noise factor of the LRT been considered and can it be mitigated.

**5. Visible Pollution**

Visible pollution of the LRT wires – all Park wires are underground can these be underground?

**6. Staff Needs and Storage Space**

Currently there is a staff building with a small storage yard in a somewhat secluded area. Staff were supposed to store most of the large equipment at the Service Centre; however, staff have spread their storage far beyond this small area into the Bauer Lot – an ugly sight from Father David Bauer Drive.

This Park plan allows for no staff needs (preferably in a secluded spot in the Park). Has anyone surveyed the Park staff re: their needs?

Note: Storage needs of hundreds of thousands of lights for Wonders of Winter.

**7. Buildings and Heritage Buildings**

Many of the original Park buildings were not maintained and were torn down during the 1950’s (lost were the delightful Pavilion, the Band Shell and the Viewing Stand by the Oval).

To-day we stand to lose the original Eby Farm House. This is the original Eby Farm home purchased by the Board of Trade in 1890 in order to create “West Side Park”. It is still standing but barely. According to staff it needs \$89,000 - \$90,000 worth of work NOW just to keep it from being condemned in the next few years.

There are two old “cook houses” dating from the 1890’s era and the 1820’s first school house.

Our committee recommends that these remaining few heritage buildings be assessed for renovation needs and be saved and conserved NOW.

That the Farm House have a more passive use (one causing less wear and tear) and that it be more accessible to the general public as a tea house, or chess and bridge place or rented out for small events etc. That the old school house be further preserved. (lots of squirrels in the attic now).

## **8. Other Buildings**

Barn, washrooms, etc. Do they stay or go?

## **9. Removal of Lion’s Lagoon and Storage Issue**

The removal of the Lion’s Lagoon building and pool area after the current water feature has aged has merit (what is to be put in its place?) except for the immense cost and dealing with the Lion’s legacy. And the need for storage – currently hundreds of thousands of Wonders of Winter lights are stored there.

The removal of the pool was costed in the mid 1990’s and was considered too expensive to remove as it is extremely solidly built – like a cement fortress.

## **10. Accessibility**

Accessibility to the Park Inn area – the best viewing spot in the Park must be recognized and planned for. It has not been well addressed.

## **11. Victorian Garden**

It is sad to see the Victorian Garden becoming a parking lot!! The Victorian Garden was created to have a focal point to the lake where there was supposed to be a tall fountain. (Geneva style) at the end of the focal point (no money ever became available for this). The fountain was also to be seen from UpTown Waterloo (a high plume of water) which would announce the Park and would “bring the Park into the UpTown”. It would also help the lake by oxygen into the lake.

## **12. Theming**

What is the theming of the Park? Theming can create continuity throughout the Park. (same lighting, garbage cans, benches, etc.)

In the past the public was adamant that Council “do” a theming study (which was done setting out design elements and a Victorian colour scheme. Will this theming remain? Has this been considered?

### **13. Playing Fields**

There is a general consensus to end organized league games (when other fields are created elsewhere) BUT to leave some of the fields for pick up and less formally organized play such as soccer, baseball, etc. These would be useful when folks are picnicking in the Park.

One member on our committee who lives in the UpTown enjoys being a spectator at cricket matches. Should cricket remain?!

### **14. Music and Related Events/Programming**

Bring the music back to the Park. Dr. Thiele used to have concerts attracting up to 10,000 people to the Park. Sounds of Summer also brought thousands of people. It is a place full of nature and music!

### **15. Environmental Education Centre**

The committee feels this has served its purpose and does not need to be preserved.

### **16. Feasibility**

The Uptown Vision Committee would like to express concern over the financial feasibility of this visioning exercise for the Waterloo Park Re-design. With a ten-year budget of \$1 million, a public prioritization exercise should take place to ensure that:

- a) Projects maximize the cost-benefit to the public,
- b) Projects that are initiated are fully funded and completed, and
- c) Projects chosen are consistent with UVC's vision of Waterloo Park as a gathering place for the enrichment of the extended community, providing a broad range of recreational and cultural activities.

### **Municipal Heritage Committee - May 8, 2009**

The Municipal Heritage Committee has reviewed the draft Waterloo Park Master Plan and wishes to make some recommendations that would strongly improve the proposal. First, the Park should be recognized as a major historic, architectural and heritage resource, a fundamental perspective that is not reflected in any serious way in the proposed Plan.

Some highlights intended to illustrate the heritage significance of Waterloo Park are:

1. The origins of Waterloo Park lie in the creation of Westside Park by the Village of Waterloo following the purchase of 65 acres of the historic Jacob Eby farmstead for park purposes in 1890. In its beginnings, therefore,

Waterloo Park is one of the early municipal parks in Ontario and, like many of these, exhibits the historic Victorian landscape style of extensive lawns, copses of trees, winding streams with riparian vegetation, picnic groves, walking paths, an animal exhibit and other features which deserve respect in any new park plan.

2. The Park millpond was purchased by the Town of Waterloo from William Snyder for Park use in 1917. This millpond is historically significant. The mill was the nucleus of the settlement of Waterloo and reflects the City's early industrial origins. The integrity of the millpond, therefore, deserves respect and interpretation in any new Waterloo Park plan.
3. The cannons have been an important feature of the Park since 1895. The large 1846 military gun seen near the Oval today was donated by A. R. Dickey, Canada's Deputy Minister of Militia and Defense. The "baby cannon" was cast at Jacob Bricker's Foundry to celebrate the incorporation of the Village of Waterloo. It was first fired in 1857 and then annually to celebrate the Queen's birthday.
4. The Oval is still in active use by walkers, runners and bicyclists today. It was the sight of early championship cycling races beginning in 1892.
5. In 1894 Waterloo's first log school house was purchased and moved to the Park where it has remained for over 115 years. In the Committee's view the school house should stay in its present locale and be maintained in its present form for both heritage and educational purposes.
6. The Park Inn was originally designed by Councillor Charlie Voelker, built in 1955 and renovated in 2005. Careful consideration should be given to maintaining the style and context of this Inn in the new park plan.
7. Most of the original buildings in the Park were removed by the 1950s with the exception of the Eby farmhouse (c.1870s) and the small pressed tin cookhouse. The Committee views the farmhouse and the cookhouse as significant features of the historic park landscape which should be protected in their historic form.
8. On the occasion of the Canadian Centennial and to demonstrate the City's pride in our nation, the Waterloo Centennial Bandshell was built in 1967. This Centennial project was designed by the local architectural firm of Karl Kruschner and William Dailey.

In 2003, Dailey was honoured to receive the “Waterloo Award” in recognition of his service to the City as an Architectural advisor for the Site Plan Review Committee.

9. Given its significance as a Canadian Centennial project and also as a symbol of the strong role music has played in Waterloo Park, in the City of Waterloo and the Region generally, care should be taken to respect the heritage value of the Bandshell through conservation in its present form or in any adaptive reuse of the site.
10. Laurel Creek flows through the Park largely in its historic channel and should be maintained as a reflection of the environmental history of Waterloo and as an important element in the Victorian landscape of Waterloo Park.  
Any restoration of the riparian borderlands of the Creek should include native species and communities as well as those characteristic of the Victorian landscape.
11. The proposed Waterloo Park Plan includes many recommendations for trail and road development. Efforts should be made to reduce the number, size and extension of the proposed trails and roads in order to maintain space for Victorian landscapes as well as woodland and wetland restoration in line with contemporary environmental concerns such as biodiversity and climate change.
12. Overall the move in the proposed Plan from an historic and natural Park to an Uptown Urban Playground should be minimized.

A proposal for consideration of Waterloo Park as a cultural heritage landscape is under consideration by the Waterloo Municipal Heritage Committee. A cultural heritage landscape according to Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, consists of: “...a geographical area that involves a grouping of features such as buildings, spaces and natural elements which collectively form a significant type of cultural heritage resource”. The Municipal Heritage Committee’s consideration of the Park as a cultural heritage landscape is strongly supported by the foregoing historic, architectural and contextual qualities as well as others not yet explicitly recognized by the Committee. The Committee is exploring opportunities to put forward a cultural heritage landscape recommendation for Waterloo Park.

Respectfully submitted by,

The Waterloo Municipal Heritage Committee