

Grange Park - Comments received after July 7 meeting:

I have just come back from the public consultation on July 7th and have a few things I wanted to give feedback on.

1. Safety: It is hard to tell from the renderings, but I am concerned the height of the tall grasses/plants or installations could be areas for people with bad intentions to lurk. It is important to be able to have a relatively clear view in the park, especially at night.

2. As someone had mentioned at the meeting, can you please consider planting some milkweed for the Monarch butterflies to lay their eggs during their migration?

Overall, I really like the design and can't wait to see the New Grange Park take shape. Also I want to say thank you to GPAC for the inclusion of a fenced area for dogs!

I want to confirm that the trees in the park which are to be taken down are, as possible, re-purposed and not simply put into land fill.

Steve Mann and I talked a bit about play for adults at the open meeting yesterday.

These rope net pyramids are my favorite. They have some huge ones in Europe that are over 30' tall but I doubt that's legal under the CSA framework. (there is a smallish one on the Toronto Island).

<http://www.climbinet.com/net-pyramid-playground-equipment-single-mast-nets.php>

<http://www.hucknet.com/playground/category/1683/>

I also wanted to suggest you consider activities like Aerial Silks and tight rope walkers. We use trees now (this video is of a grander scale but I thought it might give you some ideas) but perhaps there is a way to include steel towers to allow these sorts of activities? If you're interested send me an email and I'll put you in touch with people that can give you an idea of what would make our lives better.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0sBSxhl6Vdk>

If you have any questions let me know.

In 2008 there was a proposal to take the fence between ocadu and grange park and to have basketball court in the park, I do not see where it has been discussed in further detail in the plans for grange park.

Please can you show me where this idea was crushed, the plans are accommodating, children, younger children and adults to enjoy the park I don't see where urban youth have been considered for activity in the park.

(Note: email reply went to this individual to advise that basketball courts were established at Heydon Park Secondary School in 2009 in response to the community discussion in 2008. Also advised that the play equipment in Grange Park will accommodate a range of ages from toddler to young adults.

I went to Monday's meeting and was very impressed with the way the landscape architects incorporated suggestions from April's meeting and kept the integrity of the design.

I like the idea of including fruit trees. It's a fine experiment and looks to the future.
I like the continued importance afforded to the trees.

Thanks to Everyone for all of Their hard work.

Hello, I was at the July 7th but did not get to sign the list to be put on the email list. Please put my info on the list.

I was very impressed with the plan for the new park. I did not get the name of the lady from the architect firm that is planning the park. Can you please forward her name & email.

Thank you.

I was at the meeting at the AGO and I wanted to say that I think the revised design looks great.
:-)

I have a suggestion regarding the development phasing. My son is 2 years old and plays in the park every day. It would be great if during the construction, we could still play in the park.

Since the new design has the new little kids playground in the north, and the existing one in the south; could you make it so that one is available during both phases? If you leave the existing playground alone while the north playground is built, then when it's done, we could access it through butterfield park while the old one is being worked on during phase 2.

Lastly, can you please upload the slides and animation from the meeting. I'd love to show my wife, who was unable to attend.

Keep up the great work :-)

I still feel that access to Butterfield Park is very inadequate. That boardwalk type of path is too narrow and obstructed with benches. It is not really a path from Butterfield Park towards Beverley Street, but rather just a minor secondary access to some seating around the playground with no consideration given to ease of pedestrian flow towards Beverley Street, and there is no hint of any intention to at least consider a flow in design or pedestrian movement between Butterfield Park and Grange Park.

I would like to make two comments about seating.

First, you are removing traditional park benches and replacing them with something that looks a lot less comfortable; sitting on the edge of a planter box with nothing to lean against. All seating should have backs and be welcoming to the many senior citizens who enjoy the park.

Second, something needs to be done to the seating in the grove area to make sure it doesn't become an obstacle course for skateboarders. I have seen them taking video of each other doing jumps and tricks on the seating outside Metro Hall and the CBC, and it has ruined the surfaces. Also, the seating should not be comfortable for laying down and sleeping. We don't want to encourage people to sleep in the park.

Your latest plan suggests a dozen tables seating 4 people along the path north of John to the park itself. I walk that path daily and personally do not like the idea of going through the winding

obstacle path, crowded by homeless and other questionable people. Before you invest money to install permanent fixture, why not PILOT YOUR IDEA by placing portable, less expensive picnic tables, with varying number and locations, and see how they work, like what the city did on John Street south of Queen to Richmond.

.....



Saw these at Vermont Sq on Palmerston- thought they'd be a nice alternative to the backless benches.

.....

I attended the presentation yesterday and like the new design very much. It will be a great addition to the city, residents and tourist.

I wanted to ask a question, but I was not able to stay long enough because I had my two year old son with me. He was getting restless and I had to leave so that I would not disturb the meeting.

I want to make sure you have good playground equipment for kids. It would include a slide, swings for older kids and toddlers. It can be done very tastefully so that it complements the upscale design of the park. It could be something like I saw at the new Battery Park in NYC when I visited my sister. The park was very small, but very nicely done.

Living downtown, we do not have backyards and I consider the park as my background.

.....

At the meeting someone asked about swings for babies and I recall the answer was yes. However, I have just looked up all the kids play equipment from a photo I took of the plans which were on the easels and it looks like all the play equipment to be installed is only for the 5-12 age range.

Henderson Online Catalogue: <http://www.hendersonplay.ca/catalogueViewer.php>

Picadilly Circle.2.1 - [pg16 Age:5-12]

Eddie.02 - [pg20 Age:5-12]

Spirelli.01 - [pg16 Age:5-12]

Spirelli.02 - [pg14 Age:5-12]

Disk - [pg18 Age:5-12]

Orbit.01 - [pg14 Age:5-12]

Swingo.2.2 - [pg14 Age:5-12]

Swingo.2.4 - [pg20 Age:5-12]

PinTail - [pg16 Age:5-12]

Kompan Embankment Slide, Age 4+: <http://www.kompan.co.uk/playground-equipment/slides/Embankment-Slide-TR0004P>

The Henderson Large Custom play piece is covered in netting, so unsuitable for little kids. [Age range ??]

Is there any equipment missing from my list? I would guess that most of the kids in the playground right now are 2-5, so missing out this group is a major omission.

.....

We feel that the currently planned play equipment is inadequate to meet the needs of the many small children in the neighbourhood. All the equipment is rated for children 5-12, and the playground is currently utilised by a prominently younger group of kids.

We are circulating a petition to neighbourhood families, requesting that a more interactive and useful structure replace the custom net structure and most of the freestanding metal play pieces, as they don't seem like they would be appropriate for children under 5.

I wanted to inform you that we were planning to submit the petition in advance, so that the current plans might still be able to be altered.

.....

Our backyard becomes downtown itself, with the many events we can see at Y&D square, City Hall, Harbourfront, Buskerfest, etc.. and our local parks.

My suggestion would be to surround the playground with nice built-in bench seating which matches the design of the park.

Within that space, use woodchips or sponge type flooring, some rocking stone elephant, hippo animals the kids can sit on, see-saw, slide, few swings and the waterplay area.

Perhaps even have an apparatus that replicates the shape of the AGO, with a slide like the back stairs!

Thank you. I can't wait to see when the park is done!

.....

I attended the Grange Park Community Meeting earlier this month and am writing to wish you belated, but whole-hearted congratulations and also to share a little feedback. Kudos to the advisory committee, the architect, designers, municipal staff and community at large for doing a fantastic job! I am so excited about all the wonderful features that the design of the new park incorporates. As a dog owner, and frequent visitor to the park, am especially thrilled about plans for a fenced in off-leash area. Several people at the meeting indicated their preference for wood chips rather than gravel as the surface for the dog run and I concur. My little pooch has difficulty with the gravel stones in other dog parks like Clarence Park, for example. If there is flexibility in choosing the material, which I understand there is, my vote is wood chips! Thank you for your consideration.

.....

The other day I happened to walk past Courthouse Square, a park on Court Street. It is a small park, yet it has a dozen or so antique-looking park benches. The amazing thing about these benches is that they are comfortable. Attached is a picture of these benches.

It disappoints me that there will be nothing comfortable to sit on in the new Grange Park. It appears you are removing the park benches and replacing them with wooden planks. Just because wooden planks surround a planter box doesn't automatically make them something I want to sit on for more than a minute.

In your graphic presentation of the new Grange Park you have displays of Children's Play Equipment, Exercise Equipment, and Lighting among other things. I hope you add a page that shows seating options that will be available, something that, I hope, will show more than wood planks. Something I would enjoy sitting on for an afternoon.



July 8, 2014

Grange Park Revitalization

Features and Material Considerations

1. All Seating - Design and Material Suggestions

- 1.1 Seating support structure - formed concrete, fiberglass, recycled plastic, stone, wood, metal.
- 1.2 Seating surface (body contact relationship to the seat) - best sustainable wood material for durability and comfort (re thermal conductivity) - examine least amount of heat transfer from human body to seat surface and vice versa re summer and winter seasons.
- 1.3 Back support (elderly), arm rests (comfort) on most site furniture - wood surface material preferred on back support - possibly recycled plastic material in arm rests or metal with wood application on surface.
- 1.4 Skateboard deterrents on seating units - through sculpted edges or fixed stainless steel ribs.

2. Zone B - Great Lawn

- 2.1 The area must be slightly mounded with highest elevation at the center such that the field drains effectively. Proper drainage can be achieved with drain trenches and drain collectors designed as a component of the walkways at the perimeter of the lawn.
 - a) Understanding that the existing soil in this area is compacted and that additional soil will be added and graded, water absorption (multiple winter snow melts throughout winter season on frozen ground soil) is not possible in the winter months.
 - b) An irrigation and sprinkler system such as one suitable on a golf course to maintain the lawn throughout the summer months - possible water saving reservoir under the lawn or walkways (below freezing level), collects from perimeter drains and is filtered and used as supplementary water for irrigation system (recycling of site water) - set timer for night time sprinkling.
 - c) Mounding of the lawn will facilitate more rapid drainage of the water during heavy rainfalls to ensure a reasonably dry field for use shortly after such soakings.

3. Universal Accessibility - Accommodates Everyone

- 3.1 Consider that the Park will be used by a wide scope of people of varying sizes, shapes as well as differing physical and mental abilities.
- 3.2 Babies, children, teens, young families, youth, adults, elderly, people with disabilities - various stages in life.
 - a) Walkways must allow strollers, tricycles, bicycles, wheelchairs, electric scooters, wheeled walkers.
 - b) Walkways of concrete, stone pavers, wood (as opposed to asphalt) - heat conductivity.
 - c) Furniture with tables to allow wheelchair positioning.
- 3.3 Washrooms would help to minimize the tendency to eliminate human waste throughout the property - what will be available? - what hours of operation per season?
- 3.4 Skateboards, inline roller skates and bike tricks - they are bound to be there at some point. Other than a ban, what can be done to accommodate in one location and protect site furniture and facilities from damage?
- 3.5 Management of Dogs
 - a) Off-leash area - with appropriate containment and security (fence with closure)
 - ground cover to be pea gravel, 3/8" size, round, color not critical (wood chip cover as secondary preference)
 - provide a flat surfaced concrete area with water spout of potable water for drinking and rinsing of dirt
 - provide bench style seating for people in at least two separate locations within the containment
 - b) Children's playground areas - no dogs allowed
 - c) Great Lawn - not allowed between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. (except leashed)
 - may be allowed off leash and supervised from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m.
 - d) Throughout the Park - dogs must be leashed and supervised

I am worried about seating in the new Grange Park.



As you can see in this picture, the women are relaxing on the bench, and allowing the young child to pull himself up and stand. Look at their comfortable body language. I don't see how scenes like this can return to the Grange Park when the benches are removed.



As you can see in this picture, sitting on the wide edge of a planter box is neither inviting nor comfortable. The man's bum is lower than his knees, which will make it difficult for him to stand up. When you bring your grandmother to the park, is this the best seat you can offer her? And how long do you think she would want to stay?



As you can see in this picture, these folks put up an ugly retro-fit bench, probably because people weren't comfortable sitting on the wide ledge of a planter box. And even the retro-fit doesn't work because it's too high, the woman's feet can't touch the ground.

In the Grange Park, let's get it right the first time. When you design the seating, make it welcoming and comfortable. Make all of it something your grandmother would be happy to sit in for hours.

At the next public meeting please bring a sample seat, a prototype of what you are proposing so we can clearly understand what we all will be sitting on.

— 5 —