

Engagement summary

Hammill Park Master Plan

Summary of Phase 2 feedback

What we did

Between July 27 and August 17, 2021, we shared a revised design for the Hammill park master plan with the community on the [project page](#) as well as haveyoursay.guelph.ca. This design incorporated [feedback from the phase one](#) of our park engagement project earlier this summer.

The revised design presented the following features:

- Playground and swings
- Shade structure
- Picnic tables and benches
- Games tables and ping pong table
- Rain garden
- Space for a community garden
- Green spaces

What we heard

The survey included one open ended question asking respondents to provide any comments they have about the preferred concept plan, Green Flow. In all, 4 survey responses were received during the phase 2 engagement, including comments around:

- desired removal of low shrub plantings by the townhouses
- lack of accessibility in the use of wood chips around the playground area, limiting full use of the park against kids or caregivers with a disability.
- approval of the park design as presented

In addition, two emails were received from members of the community directly to the park planning team. These emails contained feedback including:

- lack of nearby parking access
- accessible pedestrian connection off street
- an offer to donate elm trees in honour of Ken Hammill

What we are doing

The final master plan includes the following:

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- Shrubs by the townhouses have been removed
 - A depressed curb, curb ramp and tactile warning surface indicators have been installed to allow movement of a wheelchair or any other mobility device on sidewalk across the park front and access to the park on the proposed asphalt pathways.
 - Four elm trees

What we couldn't do

Parking spaces

Hammill Park is a neighbourhood park in Guelph and is too small to accommodate parking spaces on site and is not allowed under the City's Zoning Bylaw.

Accessibility

Engineered Wood fibre is the preferred surfacing type for neighbourhood parks.

Engineered Wood fibre (mulch) is used in neighbourhood parks throughout Guelph and offers a firm and stable surface that meets Canadian Standards Association (CSA) children's playground equipment and surfacing requirements for stability and protection from falls. It also meets the City's own accessibility requirements laid out in the Facility Accessibility Design Manual (FADM).

Alternative materials like rubber do meet the CSA's safety requirements, however, using rubber exclusively is not practical for neighbourhood parks. It would result in significantly higher costs than current budgets allow, shorter playground lifecycles due to durability of the material and loss of other amenities to balance budget limitations.

Next steps

- Playground equipment pre-selection, fall 2021
- Tendering process, winter 2022
- Award of contract, winter 2022
- Park construction, summer 2022

For more information

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