



**PORT COLBORNE**

**Subject: Lockview Park – Concept Plan**

**To: Council**

**From: Chief Administrative Office**

Report Number: 2021-256

Meeting Date: October 12, 2021

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**Recommendation:**

That Chief Administrative Office Report 2021-256 be received; and

That Council approve the final concept plan for Lockview Park attached as Appendix A to Chief Administrative Office Report 2021-256.

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**Purpose:**

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the community's preferences and comments on Lockview Park, as gathered through online surveys, virtual open houses, and stakeholder engagement, and to seek Council approval of the final concept plan. The final concept plan incorporates input received from residents, community stakeholders, and Council.

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**Background:**

After receiving resident feedback from an online survey and at the first virtual open house on June 2, 2021, which combined to generate ideas and preferences for redeveloping Lockview Park, City staff retained MHBC Planning, Urban Design and Landscape Architecture to help create two concept plans. MHBC completed the City's Parks and Recreation Master Plan, so they already have knowledge of Port Colborne parks and a deep understanding of current and emerging trends in park design and amenities.

After a second virtual open house on August 11<sup>th</sup>, City staff issued a media release on August 19<sup>th</sup> asking residents to participate in another online survey and vote for their preferred concept plan from the two prepared by MHBC. Staff also posted the two concept plans on a dedicated page on the City's website, and the project-specific email

address and phone extension stayed active so that residents could provide feedback. The online survey was posted from August 19<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> and received 255 responses. 50.59% of survey participants favoured concept one and 49.41% preferred concept two.

City staff also engaged key community stakeholder groups, including the City's Seniors Advisory Committee and Active Transportation Committee, and the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

Report 2021-223 from the Council meeting on August 23<sup>rd</sup> committed staff to bring back a new update report with a revised concept plan, a proposed budget, and funding source.

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## Discussion:

The final concept plan is based on the two concept plans shared with residents, community stakeholders, and Council. The plan situates Lockview Park in the southwest corner of the area, which maintains access to and from John Street, allows for future development on the vacant lands further north, and orients the park in the direction of the canal. It includes a new multi-purpose court that can be used for basketball, tennis, and pickleball, several picnic tables, benches, a pavilion and sitting area, a natural playground, perennial beds, pathways, and signage. The final concept plan proposes landscape features, such as a large sod mound, that will create a viewing area of the canal to align with the "Lockview" name.

A key focus for the future redevelopment of Lockview Park has been "placemaking", by which a quality space is created for individuals and families of all ages and abilities, and connections and linkages with other public spaces, facilities, and community assets throughout the City are created. The term placemaking is often used in urban development to mark the importance of designing public spaces to promote people's happiness, health, safety and well-being.

Input received from residents, community stakeholders, and Council has been incorporated into the final concept plan in the following ways:

- encourages socialization among the senior community through structures like chat benches with tree shade and a pavilion with seating;
- provides an on-site parking lot and dispersed lighting for improved safety and accessibility;
- offers perennial beds that can be planted by residents and community groups;
- addresses concerns regarding the safety of a pathway to Welland Street; and
- includes a viewing platform with three elevation grades for individuals with different mobility needs.

Feedback shared earlier about property grading, drainage, washrooms, and a pathway connection between Lockview Park, Lakeshore Catholic High School, and Welland Street are all being carefully examined by staff across several departments.

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### **Internal Consultations:**

The redevelopment plan for Lockview Park has been reviewed by Corporate Services, Corporate Communications, Office of the CAO, Economic Development and Tourism Services, Parks, and Public Works.

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### **Financial Implications:**

The 2022 Capital Budget includes \$350,000 for Lockview Park, and this is being funded in full through a community partnership with Vale. Additional sources of funding are being investigated through ongoing dialogue with community partners such as the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

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### **Public Engagement:**

Council approved a public engagement plan at their meeting on March 22, 2021. In May, letters were mailed to neighbourhood residents, followed by an online survey and virtual open houses on June 2<sup>nd</sup> and August 11<sup>th</sup>. Staff also engaged the City's Senior Citizens Advisory Council and Active Transportation Advisory Committee, as well as senior officials from the Niagara Catholic District School Board, given the proximity of Lockview Park to Lakeview Catholic High School. A dedicated page was added to the City's website, along with a project-specific email address and phone extension for communication between residents and staff. Two concept plans prepared by MHBC Planning, Urban Design and Landscape Architecture were shared with key community stakeholder groups and residents at the August 11<sup>th</sup> virtual open house. A media release was issued on August 19<sup>th</sup> that announced another online survey would be available until August 31<sup>st</sup> for public comments and preferences on the two concept plans.

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### **Strategic Plan Alignment:**

The initiative contained within this report supports the following pillar(s) of the strategic plan:

- Attracting Business Investment and Tourists to Port Colborne
- City-Wide Investments in Infrastructure and Recreational/Cultural Spaces

- Value: Financial Management to Achieve Financial Sustainability
  - Governance: Communications, Engagement, and Decision-Making
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## **Conclusion:**

Two concept plans created for redevelopment at Lockview Park have been shared with residents, community stakeholders, and Council, and this feedback has been used to create the final concept plan for review by Council. Staff are recommending Council approval. Staff are continuing to have a dialogue with the Niagara Catholic District School Board about a potential shared-use agreement and a financial contribution to the park given the close proximity to Lakeshore Catholic Secondary School.

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## **Appendices:**

- a. Final concept plan prepared by MHBC Consultants

Respectfully submitted,

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## **Report Approval:**

All reports reviewed and approved by the Department Director and also the City Treasurer when relevant. Final review and approval by the Chief Administrative Officer.