

Leitrim Parks 2 and 9

Public Consultation Details

A public open house was held for the proposed development of Leitrim Parks 2 and 9 on June 12, 2019, in the Gloucester Lions Hall at Fred G. Barrett Arena, 3280 Leitrim Road. Notice of the open house was provided through the Public Engagement section of Ottawa.ca, Councillor Darouze's office, Councillor Meehan's office, and a City of Ottawa Public Service Announcement. Staff also requested that the developers/home builders for the Cowan's Grove and Lilythorne subdivisions provide notification of the open house to new home purchasers. The open house was attended by approximately 25 people. Concept plans were also posted in the Public Engagement section of Ottawa.ca. Comment sheets were provided and collected at the open house. Public comments were requested by June 28, 2019.

Summary of Public Comments and Responses

Comment:

- A fenced dog run is strongly recommended for consideration for inclusion in Leitrim Park 2 (community park). Rationale/Remark: 41% of Canadian households currently contain at least one dog; strength of feeling clearly evident at meeting; will help constrain dogs from other areas of the park.
- I do believe a fenced area for dogs would be a great addition. I notice green space in Park No. 2 that could be used to that effect.
- I would like to see a dog park, preferably in Park No. 9, but either is better than none. Would need gate surrounding.

Response: The City currently has nine fenced off-leash dog areas, representing a small percentage of the City's 1060 parks. The nearest existing facility is located at Rideau View Park at 910 Earl Armstrong Road in Riverside South. A new fenced off-leash dog area is planned to be developed as part of the Diamond Jubilee Park Phase 2 development in Leitrim. This dog park will be located at the northwest corner of the Kelly Farm Drive and Trollius Way intersection approximately 1.7 km from Leitrim Park 9 and 2 km from Leitrim Park 2. Construction on the Phase 2 park project commenced

in fall 2019 and is anticipated to be completed in fall 2020. The fenced off-leash dog area will be approximately 0.4 hectares (1 acre) in size.

The City's approach has been to gradually add fenced off-leash dog areas in parks where there is adequate land and funding available, and in locations that are compatible with other park amenities and surrounding land uses. Fenced off-leash dog areas need to have a sufficient size, proper surfacing such as decomposed granite for smaller dog parks or a mix of decomposed granite and grassed areas for larger dog parks, adequate drainage, waste storage facilities such as large capacity sunken waste containers, tree protection, seating areas on an accessible route, perimeter and entry vestibule fencing, maintenance access and parking for the areas to function well and to be adequately maintained by parks operations staff. Fenced off-leash dog areas are generally located away from playgrounds, sports fields and residential uses. The City's standards are based on providing an overall area of 0.3 to 0.6 hectares for a fenced off-leash dog area. There is insufficient space and budget to add a fenced off-leash dog area with a suitable size to Leitrim Park 2 and 9.

Comment: Signage for "no dogs" ... hope it is marked.

Response: The City's By-law and Regulatory Services Branch is responsible for administering the Dogs-in-Parks Designation Policy. The policy establishes fair and consistent criteria which, when applied city-wide, ensures access to parkland by dogs with their owners as well as freedom from dogs where parks, parts of parks, or park activities are not compatible with the presence of dogs. The policy includes the following types of designations: no dogs, dogs on-leash, dogs allowed (off-leash) and mixed designation (combination of the three previously mentioned dog designation). The policy also describes the process to change the type of designation for a park.

The policy can be viewed at the following link:

<https://ottawa.ca/en/residents/recreation-and-parks/parks-and-green-space/dog-parks#dogs-parks-designation-policy>

If a park is not designated, it will automatically default to 'dog on-leash'. The By-law & Regulatory Services Branch will designate new parks using the 'dogs-in-park designation policy' and present their suggestion to the Ward Councillor for their approval. Once a park has been designated, the public or community association can present a petition to By-law & Regulatory Services to redesignate the park.

Signs will be posted to inform the public of the dog designation(s).

Comment: Recommend flood lit tennis courts in addition to the outdoor rink lighting.

Rationale/Remark: In the heat of the summer this would permit play late in the evening when temperatures are cooler.

Response: The electrical engineering scope of work for the Leitrim Park 2 project has been expanded to add lighting at the tennis/pickleball courts.

Comment:

- Whilst the presence of benches for seating is acknowledged and appreciated the provision of picnic tables is highly desirable. Rationale/Remark: Inclusion of picnic tables will enhance sense of community and likely encourage longer visits to the park.
- More benches for Park 2.

Response: The number of picnic tables at Park 2 has been increased from two to four. Park 2 will also include four benches. The intent is to provide seating at the playground area, the gazebo, the tennis courts and the soccer field. Four benches are proposed at the playground area for Park 9. The final quantities may vary depending on the actual construction costs for other park amenities.

Comment:

- Taking into account the anticipated number of users at peak times, 24 parking spaces is considered insufficient. The suggested solution of using neighbouring streets as overflow parking is considered sub-optimal. Rationale/Remark: There appears to be ample space on the plans to accommodate a lot at least twice the currently envisioned size.
- More parking, at least double.
- More parking spaces for Park 2.
- 24 parking spaces isn't sufficient for a huge park like this. I would really hope to add at least 20 more parking spaces.

Response: The capacity of the parking area will be increased to 31 parking spaces, which can be accommodated within the project budget. Space has been provided to the south of the parking area to allow for a potential future parking lot expansion. The park has frontage on three public streets with a total frontage of approximately 459 m.

There is sufficient on-street parking available to accommodate overflow parking during peak activity periods.

Comment: The intention to use the outdoor rink for a basketball court in the spring/summer season is fully supported. Rationale/Remark: Commendable dual use; increasing popularity of basketball.

Response: Noted.

Comment:

- Will there be trash bins?
- A thorough review of the planned number and location of garbage receptacles is recommended. Rationale/Remark: Litter reduction; these receptacles fill quickly on busy days and there never seems to be enough of them.

Response: Three waste receptacles mounted on concrete pads are proposed for Park 2, and two are proposed for Park 9. The waste receptacles would be located along the pathway entrances to the parks and near the streets for ease of access by parks operations staff. Additional waste barrels may be added temporarily by parks operation staff as needed during the summer months.

Comment: The intent to plant a diverse species of trees, with emphasis on native species, is highly commended. It is suggested that a scheme be generated whereby each household in the community purchase and plant a tree. Rationale/Remark: Provides shade cover and generates a healthy environment for both humans and wildlife; pride of ownership and increased sense of community; cost savings would allow other amenities to be included in plan.

Response: The park development will include tree planting by the developer's contractor in accordance with the developer-built park process. After the park construction is completed, residents or an organization such as a community association may approach the City's Forestry Management Branch to propose planting of additional trees. Community tree planting would require approval from the Forestry Management Branch and the Parks and Facilities Planning Branch and may require a consent to enter agreement.

Comment: Less birch trees (severely allergic).

Response: No Birch trees are proposed to be planted in the parks. One River Birch tree is being considered for tree retention in Park 2.

Comment: We all like weeping willows.

Response: Black Willows are proposed in the adjacent Pond Tree Planting. The pond presents more suitable conditions for willow to thrive than the park.

Comment: Any mosquito mitigation tactics (apparently fir trees attract mosquitos)?

Response: No specific mitigation tactics have been implemented. General site design will deter any ponding water on site.

Comment: Recommend the splash pad be removed from the plans. Rationale/Remark: In the era of climate change water preservation and conservation will become increasingly critical; average household water usage in Canada is already significantly high in comparison to other first world countries; this amenity is difficult to maintain and most established splash pads in the City have been delayed in opening due to “mechanical issues”; costs saved would allow other amenities to be included in plan.

Response: Splash pads are popular and fun park amenities for younger children. The City receives many requests from residents to locate splash pads in their neighbourhoods. The City’s approach is to distribute splash pads throughout communities primarily in larger parks, such as Leitrim Park 2, which have a larger catchment area and attract more residents. The City reviews water consumption at splash pads every few years to evaluate consumption patterns. When patterns indicate that there is excessive consumption, a project is initiated to make adjustments to reduce water consumption. Splash pad mechanical issues are addressed through the park construction process, and maintenance requirements are factored into the City’s operating budget. It is noted that splash pads can also provide relief from warmer temperatures that are associated with climate change. Staff are not supportive of the removal of the splash pad from the Leitrim Park 2 program.

Comment: If it is logistically possible, a track to run on around the soccer field would be a great addition.

Response: There is not enough space within the park around the soccer field to accommodate a 400m running track. Tracks are generally provided at schools, colleges and universities rather than City parks with the exception of the polyurethane track at

the Terry Fox Athletic Centre, which is part of an extensive track and field and sports field complex.

Comment:

- Taking example on the park near my current residence, the exercise station is a big hit (pull up bars, dip bars, etc.). Myself and others use it on a regular basis and it encourages adults to remain active when they bring their kids to the park.
- Adult gym equipment (i.e. pull up bars).
- Some fitness structure / signage for adults at Park 2.

Response: Staff would support the addition of a fitness park to Leitrim Park 2.

However, the park development budget cannot accommodate the addition of a fitness park. Space is available to accommodate a fitness park if funding becomes available in the future. The City's practice is to incorporate fitness signage at new fitness parks with a description of how to use the fitness equipment.

Comment:

- Can we get a bigger playground at Park 2? The most crowded area for each park is always the kids playground. But we have slightly small size for the kids in the park.

Response: The playground size and equipment has been designed to provide a broad range of play activities suitable for the scale of a community park including:

- a double-bay swing with a bucket seat, two belt seats, and an accessible seat
- a splash pad
- a junior playstructure with a double slide, climber, transfer station and village seat panel
- spring toy
- spinner
- a senior playstructure with a curved slide, tilted rock wall, accordion climber and transfer station
- a large climbing structure with multiple integrated play elements including an overhead link to the senior play structure, a web wall walker (rope climbing element), agility pods (floating stepping pods on moving poles), a rope hammock, an infinity flex climber, an ocean surge climber (climber with steps that alternate

sides) and overhead climbing elements with a mix of overhead bars, stationary rungs and moving rings

- an infinity wing climber
- activity panels at the playstructures
- sand play area

The size of the playground and mix of equipment is appropriate for a community park. The project team will review if it is possible to add additional equipment within the project budget during the detail design phase of the project. The focus will be on expanding the play equipment in the junior play area.

Comment: If we could get some larger playset for junior at Park 2 like double slides one. We are expecting a lot of kids for Park 2. I don't think there is enough room for babies and toddlers.

Response: Junior play areas for children aged 18 months to 5 years of age are smaller in size than senior play areas. The proposed junior play structure includes a double slide. The junior play equipment also includes a spring toy, a spinner, a separate sand play area, and swings. The senior play area includes some equipment that is designed for the 18 month to 5 year age group. The project team will review if a larger junior playstructure or an additional free-standing element could be provided in the junior play area later during the detail design stage of the project.

Comment: Further the playground from the residences for Park 2 a little bit considering the noise from the playground.

Response: The playground area will be relocated in a northwesterly direction closer to the permanent boarded rink to increase the separation distance from residences on Longworth Avenue and to provide better visibility and access from the parking lot area.

Comment: In Park 2, some early information report mentioned a skateboarding facility. It is not in the presentation here. We hope this is a permanent decision. Many neighbours don't like a skateboarding facility in such a park which is not in the centre of big community.

Response: A skateboard park was included as a proposed amenity for Park 2 in the Leitrim Modified Area Parks Plan and on the initial facility fit sketches for the park. The skateboard park was proposed in the northwest corner of the park between the soccer field and Highgarden Terrace. Staff were concerned that that skateboard park would be

too close to surrounding residents and have deleted the skateboard park from the park development program.

Comment: The accessible swings are great but unfortunately for kids who have very high tone and are unable to sit they do not work very well and the kids tend to slip out. I have to sit with my daughter and hold her in this kind of swing and it is getting more and more difficult.

I am sending you a picture of a swing where kids can lie down. You can find it at Sacha's park in l'Original Ontario a completely accessible park. They have just received funding for a splash pad as well.

I hope the city can consider adding more of these swings. Typical kids can sit on them and special needs kids can lie on them.

The best of both worlds.

Response: Saucer swings meet the accessibility standards that the City follows when developing playgrounds and are an acceptable alternative to an accessible seat. The proposed swings at Leitrim Park 9 have been revised to include a saucer swing, two belt seats and two bucket seats.

Comment: Many people are unaware of the operating hours for City parks. Can signage be included with the park hours?

Response: City of Ottawa By-law 2004-276 regulates and promotes the responsible enjoyment and use of parks and facilities. The By-law describes the hours of operation of parks as follows:

HOURS OF OPERATION

3. (1) No person shall:
 - (a) remain or enter into any park between the hours of 11:00 o'clock in the afternoon (p.m.) and 5:00 o'clock in the forenoon (a.m.) except as a participant or spectator of a function approved by the Director;
 - (b) remain in the park upon completion of an activity as a participant or spectator of any function between the hours of 11:00 o'clock in the afternoon (p.m.) and 5:00 o'clock in the forenoon (a.m.); or
 - (c) enter any place where a sign prohibiting admittance or trespassing is displayed or where admission is otherwise prohibited or restricted.

(2) Despite subsection (1), where the hours of operation in a park are posted and differ from those in subsection (1), no person shall remain or enter into the park outside of the posted hours provided that the posted hours are no later than 11:00 o'clock in the afternoon (p.m.) or earlier than 5:00 o'clock in the forenoon (a.m.).

(3) Where the posted hours are later than 11:00 o'clock in the afternoon (p.m.) or earlier than 5:00 o'clock in the forenoon (a.m.), clauses (a) and (b) of subsection (1) shall apply.

The City's practice is not to post a park's hours of operations unless there are operating hours for a specific park that deviate from the operating hours described in the By-law, or if there are ongoing issues at a specific park with individuals or groups that are not complying with the hours of operation described in the By-law.