

## **APPENDIX D - PUBLIC INPUT**

### **FEEDBACK FROM MAY 18, 2017 PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**

#### **Kilbride:**

**What are the things that make Kilbride Park a good site for the proposed skatepark?**

- Close to home
- Safe place- close to firehall, there are always people around
- Larger community of kids
- Kids do not have to be driven to the park. They can walk there
- More activities already present in the park
- There is a higher presence of community safety with houses near by
- It is a more central park in North Burlington communities
- It is the “heart of the community” where the kids go to school and play
- It is not close to any busy roads
- Pro-athletic/supporting community; sports hub
- NEC is more likely to approve
- Parking is more available especially on weekends
- There are facilities (washroom)
- It is not on a flood plain
- Kids are accountable because it's in their community

**What are the things that concern you that make Kilbride park ‘not’ a good site for the proposed skatepark?**

- Security/ vandalism after park hours
- Lack of lighting and signage (hours of operation)
- Washroom facilities not open all the time
- Additional workload for volunteer firefighters with increase alarm impact to neighbourhood
- Invite others from surrounding communities (Carlisle)
- Impact to housing on Blessington
- Proposed location is currently used for skating rink and soccer

**Lowville:**

**What are the things that make Lowville Park a good site for the proposed skatepark?**

- More central to all of North Burlington\
- Immediate access to bathroom
- Close to large playground where kids and family are already
- More available space
- Established, well-used park
- Supported by parks and recreation

**What are the things that concern you that make Kilbride park ‘not’ a good site for the proposed skatepark?**

- Kids have to be driven to Lowville
- It is a “destination” park and not a community park
- The park is too enclosed by trees and therefore there is a concern with strangers around kids. It is too isolated
- There is concerns about skaters on the paths
- There is an impact on artisan community
- Additional workload for volunteer firehouse
- Increase “alarm” impact to neighbourhood
- It is not a central community for the kids
- It is not near a school
- The park is protected land (flood plains)
- Signs of unwelcome activities (beer bottles littered around park)
- It has bad cellphone reception
- It would disturb other users especially picnic users

- It is not part of the Lowville Park master plan
- Weekend parking is over capacity
- Washroom use is at capacity on weekends
- There is already too much concrete at the park
- NEC and Conservation Halton would likely not approve
- Park closes at dusk

## INDIVIDUAL SUBMISSIONS

We can attend Thursday night's meeting we should do so in order to support the children and their goal of having their skate park in Kilbride. Point out the glaring traffic safety issues of the valley. Hope is that there is enough traffic info re volume and violations to outweigh the positives of Lowville Park as a setting. Just imagine a pre-teen from Kilbride deciding to ride his skate board to the new skate park in Lowville. Which kid wouldn't want to ride their board down that curvy hill? That thought alone should be enough to stop the Lowville Park setting in its tracks.

Lowville is a more natural landscape and not the right place for this activity in my opinion.

Kilbride Park is a more appropriate location for a skatepark since it is denser settlement area and closer to the school...therefore more kids can walk to it.

...didn't make sense to have something like this where there was no public transport to get people there. This seems even more relevant when the target audience probably doesn't drive – and probably wouldn't be seen dead being driven by parents.

We don't need any more concrete in Lowville Park. I can't imagine either the NEC or Halton Conservation approving more concrete in a flood prone area.

Request came from the kids at Kilbride Public School and they asked for a structure to be built within their community so they didn't have to be driven to these places, why did Lowville Park even come up as a possibility?

Almost any kid wanting to use a facility like this would have to be driven to it if it were in Lowville. What would parents do – simply drop them off and return some time later and leave kids on to their own devices? Older teens who could drive themselves there and hang around would be in an area that is not easily patrolled like it would be in an urban setting.

Skatepark... easily visible, walking distance to many things and can be readily policed for problems. Lowville does not meet those criteria.

My kids were rural kids. We drove our kids to places that they needed to be driven to. We didn't expect the City or the local community groups to create new expensive parks for our kids benefit.

## EMAIL COMMENTS

The park has always been a nature park and is wonderful place to enjoy and observe all the incredible features nature has endowed to this park. You get a serenity and feeling of wellbeing just by walking through it. ....a permanent skating rink in Lowville Park. This would not be an asset to this, a nature park and would detract from the original design as such. Take a walk through the park yourself and feel the calming effect of nature at Lowville Park and try to envision how unsuitable a cement rink with all the extra traffic will be.

I would choose Kilbride Park. Children can walk from their homes to this location. The population base is much larger. The bussed children would have the opportunity to experience this activity as well.

A skatepark in Lowville Park would require transportation to and from home and park. It would also have a negative effect on the overall ambience of the park, especially after spending so much effort to create this lovely park.

...felt that Lowville Park was perhaps not as safe a park for younger kids in the evenings. It is not as open a space as Kilbride.

Neither...nor myself agree that Lowville Park should be the home of a skate board facility. Lowville is an urban park and with the great effort of man people we have fought hard to keep it as natural as possible. Skateboard facilities are located where there are a number of children and also other sports facilities. Kilbride fits that bill with baseball diamonds, soccer pitches, tennis courts and climbing frames. All supported by a local school with many children from Grade 1 to high school level.

The students from Kilbride gave an excellent presentation to Council to support the installation of a skateboard facility so that is where it should go, NOT Lowville Park.

Did the children of Kilbride think that Cityview Park would be too far away for a skatepark? I think this offers an opportunity to build on the community as it is a link between rural and urban Burlington....there does not appear to be any transit hub or access at Cityview Park. ....extend the Burlington North West-Headon Forest line to the Cityview Park.

My concern about a skate park addition to Lowville is traffic safety. ...Guelph Line...this particular stretch of road is quite dangerous. ...hate to see children trying to make their way from Kilbride or anywhere else on skateboards to reach Lowville Park. At over 7000 cars a day (last traffic study 2015) including 18 wheeler trucks any increased activity will only exasperate an already challenging situation.

That (skateboard park for Lowville Park) it should not happen. It's about time we stopped tinkering with a natural area and adding more concrete.

Kids should try walking through the park and enjoying nature instead of using some wheeled device requiring more concrete. There are enough playing fields, sports arenas and skateboard parks, so let's keep a natural place...well natural.

I feel Lowville should remain a natural park. ...would be very disappointed if the City spoiled the natural environment they have tried so hard to maintain, by installing a cement skatepark.

My daughter's friends use the City skateparks frequently. They are a fantastic addition to most parks, unfortunately I do not believe Lowville is a park that would benefit.

Since the larger community in Kilbride consists of more families, and the park there is behind the school, this would be the obvious choice for a skate park. The majority of residents in Lowville have no interest nor children of the age to use a skate park here. This would mean that users would be coming from outside the community which seems wrong on many levels. There is far too much cement in Lowville already and because of its relative isolation as dusk and after dark, safety is also a concern there.

I am stunned that, given the strong feelings that local residents have against further urbanization of Lowville Park, that the City would even consider it as a location for a skatepark!

The request comes from students at Kilbride Public School, the majority of whom live in that community. They are already there and sustainability would dictate that we not be driving to another location if possible. As well, there are already sports in the park there which means lighting is already present and supervision is better. There are few families in Lowville who have children of an age to utilize this facility and, if so they attend Kilbride Public School already.

The bylaws state that Lowville Park closes at dusk. It is relatively isolated and without installing lighting, safety and security of the uses could not be guaranteed. This not only includes risk from human attacks, but here are coyotes and other animals that are out at night. Installing skate park may also encourage partying from older teens, which is a problem on many levels.

Lowville Park is in a flood plain and residents are unable to make changes improvements to their properties as a result. How will the City justify this? If they locate this facility near the parking lot, the entrance to the park will be a mess with playground equipment, the well, picnic areas etc. all literally on top of each other. Locating it elsewhere interferes with the ecosystem and safety issues arise.

Further damage to this delicate ecosystem would result from installing more cement. It would also be an eyesore and not in keeping with the focus of this park. Thousands of dollars have been invested in restoring the reek for fish habitats and tree plantings have been undertaken to keep this park natural. It seems wrong to then plan an urban activity for the park.

Noise levels would increase with introducing more people to the area. It is bad enough on summer weekends with overuse and noise!

The baseball diamonds have been decommissioned over the past few years...if we are removing formal sports due to underutilization, why are we adding another activity that, as I have stated, would be for a select few.

Skateboarding and similar activities are potentially hazardous and it would be necessary to locate the facility where EMS could easily access. The parking lot on a weekend is virtually inaccessible now because cars are jammed into small spaces and many users don't follow the parking guidelines....By adding another activity to this already crowded park, you would be adding more noise, more cars and more people.

Thrilled to read about potential skatepark for rural Burlington. Happy with either Lowville or Kilbride.