



SUBJECT: Sherwood Forest Park Revitalization

TO: Development and Infrastructure Committee

FROM: Capital Works

Report Number: CW-10-16

Wards Affected: 5

File Numbers: 930-01

Date to Committee: September 12, 2016

Date to Council: October 3, 2016

Recommendation:

Approve the Sherwood Forest Park Revitalization Plan as the framework to guide future capital renewal to park and building infrastructure; and

Approve the removal of the designation of the future Fairview Street Road Allowance through Sherwood Forest Park.

Purpose:

1. To present the Sherwood Forest Park Revitalization Plan for renewals.
2. To present the Sherwood Forest Park Implementation Strategy.

A Healthy and Greener City

- Healthy Lifestyles
- Environmental and Energy Leadership

An Engaging City

- Good Governance
- Community Building through Arts and Culture via Community Activities

Background and Discussion:

Sherwood Forest Park is a 24 hectare City park located in the southeast quadrant of the City that was acquired in 1974. The park is divided into distinctive east and west sides that are separated by a woodlot and watercourse.



The east side is primarily programmed for baseball and softball and the west side of the park is primarily programmed for soccer and rugby along with a creative playground. There are 2 pedestrian bridges that link the east and west sides together. The north side of the park is bordered by a very active rail corridor and the south by the Centennial Multi-use trail and a well established residential neighbourhood. Presently the park is well utilized by sport and casual use.

With many of the park facilities being constructed over 40 years ago, a large percentage of the park infrastructure is nearing the end of its useful life including 2 park buildings. These buildings are not energy efficient and most significantly, are limiting in terms of accessibility. Sherwood Forest Park is also home to 2 existing Joint Venture organizations whereby the community partners have exclusive use of space.

To address the renewal need related to existing infrastructure and to take advantage of an opportunity to consult with park stakeholders, a revitalization process was undertaken with the overall goal to improve the quality of the park user experience and to bring the infrastructure up to current standards.

To develop a successful revitalization strategy for Sherwood Forest Park, the following key steps were undertaken;

- define a revitalization process,
- create a project schedule and public engagement plan,
- develop guiding principles,
- program refinement,
- conceptual design, and
- implementation strategy.

Each of these components of the process is described in more detail below.

Defining a Revitalization Process

The Sherwood Forest Park Revitalization plan is defined as a process that describes existing and proposed elements and relationships, identifies opportunities for park renewals and/or enhancements, and recommends strategies for implementation. Since the mid seventies, the park has experienced incremental development of infrastructure in support of various park uses and programs. The start of the revitalization process included confirmation of park utilization, what facilities were valued by the community and stakeholders and identification of possible changes to the park program. This was a key initial step as information gathered would determine if assets should be decommissioned, renewed and/or replaced.



Project Schedule and Public Engagement Plan

Public engagement was an integral component of the revitalization plan. The first step in developing the project schedule was identifying the public engagement goals for each phase of the project to ensure the community and stakeholders were informed, consulted and involved at appropriate junctures. The project commenced with a public engagement opportunity where the stakeholders were asked to identify issues with the park and building assets, what they valued in the park and where they saw opportunity for improvement, and how they wanted to be consulted. Through the public engagement process, participants were informed how their input would be used to shape the revitalization plan. For a summary of the process and community partnerships, refer to the Public Engagement Matters section of this report.

Guiding Principles

The following are the 5 Guiding Principles that were developed and presented to the community and stakeholders:

1. **Similar Use** - Sherwood Forest Park, as a City Park, will continue to have a primary focus on sport
2. **Community Partnership** - Neighbourhood and stakeholder input is an important consideration. Partnership opportunities will be explored.
3. **Supporting Amenities** - Park usage will drive requirements for building amenities and parking.
4. **Asset Management** - Current standards will be incorporated into ongoing asset management. Any enhancements will be considered through a business case.
5. **Environmental Stewardship** - The natural areas and trails will be preserved.

These Guiding Principles were used as the foundation to consider changes to the park and building facilities and for the proposal of new and enhanced park amenities.

Program Refinement, Conceptual Design and Implementation Strategy

Using the Guiding Principles as a guideline to discuss changes to the park, the project team compiled input from the community and park stakeholders into key areas of consideration to refine the park and building program. While many ideas and viewpoints were shared by stakeholders at various public meetings, general themes included improved vegetation, mobility, casual park amenities and sports facilities.

Highlights of stakeholder input include:



- adding trees throughout the park,
- decommissioning 3 small soccer fields and rebuilding one mid-size soccer field into one larger multi-use field,
- decommissioning the 3-court tennis facility and replaced with one smaller multi-use court,
- removing the gravel parking lot (adjacent the creek) and interior park road on the east side (that conflicted with the multi-use trail),
- expanding the main parking lots on both sides of the park
- improving trail connections and signage,
- adding shade as part of each park building reconstruction and
- including modest park amenities in support of the local community such as a splash pad, fitness stations along the existing multi-use trail and a playground on the east side of the park.

The preferred version of the draft revitalization plan of the park was presented to stakeholders in October 2015. For an illustration of this plan, refer to Appendix A – Sherwood Forest Park Revitalization Plan.

The Implementation Strategy proposes to implement the preferred revitalization plan as 5-phases over the next 10 years in order to minimize disruption to sport user groups and the local neighborhood, adhere to financial guidelines of the Capital Budget and Forecast, and allow time to develop community partnership agreements and financial commitments.

All phases of construction will have impacts on park use and programming however, this phased strategy is intended to keep as many park facilities in operation as possible and phase the implementation into logical construction phases for efficiencies and cost benefits. Each phase of the Implementation Strategy is described in Appendices B through J providing the year and proposed work.

Financial Matters:

Approximately ninety percent of the recommended work is considered renewal whereby park assets are intended to be replaced based on their life cycle and need as identified through public consultation. The balance of the work includes both decommissioning of assets (and not replacing them) and/or adding new park enhancements.



Total Financial Impact

The following table provides a financial summary of proposed work for the Implementation Strategy for Sherwood Forest Park over the next 10 years. It is presented to differentiate between new and renewal funding. All costs are reflected in 2016 construction dollars.

Table 1 – Financial Summary Comparing New and Renewal Cost

Year and Project	New and Renewal City Portion		
	New/ Enhancements	Renewal	Total Cost
2016 - Design Phases 1 & 2	\$ -	\$ 316,050	\$ 316,050
2017 - Construction Phase 1	\$ -	\$ 950,000	\$ 950,000
2018 - Construction Phase 2	\$ 184,000	\$ 3,103,000	\$ 3,287,000
2019 - Design Phases 3, 4 & 5 and Construction Phase 3	\$ -	\$ 1,073,000	\$ 1,073,000
2020 - Construction Phase 4	\$ 358,400	\$ 8,761,260	\$ 9,119,660
2025 - Construction Phase 5	\$ -	\$ 420,000	\$ 420,000
	\$ 542,400	\$ 14,623,310	\$ 15,165,710
	Total Cost NEW/ ENHANCEMENTS	Total Cost RENEWAL	Total Cost NOT including External Recoveries

Enhanced park amenities are being considered as part of the Sherwood Forest Park Revitalization Plan with implementation included as part of the renewal projects for contract efficiencies. All proposed construction work will be coordinated between Facilities and Buildings and Parks and Open Space projects. The approved 2016 Capital Budget and 2017 – 2025 Capital Budget Forecast include these projects and funding.



There may be an additional \$3M to \$4M dollar investment through external recoveries in the year 2020 based on the interest and commitment of community partner organizations participating in the reconstruction of the community building on the east side of the park.

Other Resource Impacts

From a parks maintenance perspective, it is anticipated that there will be an increase of approximately \$20,000 annually starting in 2021 for playground inspections, garbage removal and splash pad operations. From a facilities operations perspective, based on the current conceptual design, it is anticipated that there will not be an increase in costs however; this will be reviewed as part of detailed design of the Sherwood Community Centre and east washroom building. All new construction will incorporate sustainable energy design standards which could result in reduced utility costs.

Connections:

Developing concurrently to the Sherwood Forest Park Revitalization project were the Transportation Master Plan and the Community Trails Strategy. Project leaders from all initiatives were consulted and attended public meetings for the Sherwood Forest Park project to ensure that projects were coordinated and to respond to any questions related to these initiatives.

The Fairview Street extension was being examined as part of the **Transportation Master Plan**. Based on preliminary traffic analysis, it was determined that the Fairview Street extension through the park is not required. The future need for an extension of Fairview Street, and the subsequent alignment, will be studied as part of future Mobility Hub Master Planning studies. If future studies determine that the extension of Fairview Street is required, it is anticipated that the extension will be aligned west of Sherwood Forest Park and constructed in conjunction with intensification / redevelopment of the Appleby Line Mobility Hub.

Related to the **Community Trails Strategy**, the Sherwood Forest Park Revitalization Plan includes improvements to the trail network within the park, including new connections, the addition of signage and seating. Due to the proximity of the Centennial Bikeway, which runs along the south limits of the park through the hydro corridor, the Community Trails Strategy identifies the Sherwood Community Park building as a potential trail hub for user convenience.



Public Engagement Matters:

Using the City's approved Public Engagement Charter as a guide; the Sherwood Forest Park Public Engagement Plan included 4 public meetings and a smaller sport user group stakeholder meeting with representation from the general public in attendance. Generally, all public meetings were very well attended with an average of 55 people at each meeting and representation by the local community and park stakeholder groups.

The format for each public meeting included a brief presentation by staff followed by a round table discussion. Feedback from participants was documented and later circulated to attendees in draft form to confirm that all information was captured and accurate before summary notes were published on-line. All final reports (which include the summary notes and key messages) are available on the project web page.

<http://www.burlington.ca/en/services-for-you/sherwood-forest-park-revitalization.asp>

In addition to the public meetings, the Sherwood Forest Revitalization Plan and Implementation Strategy was presented and discussed at 2 Burlington Accessibility Advisory Committee meetings. This Committee will continue to be consulted through the detailed design process.

As a component of the engagement process, the city conducted an expression of interest process to allow park stakeholders the opportunity to provide their intent for inclusion in the revitalization of the park and community center building. The City received community partnership proposals from the following

1. Burlington Youth Soccer Club (BYSC),
2. Burlington Centaurs Rugby Football Club (RFC), and
3. Friends of Sheldon Creek.

Below are details related to each expression of interest.

Community Partnerships - RFC and BYSC

Staff met with the existing joint venture organizations (RFC) and (BYSC) that submitted an expression of interest for use of dedicated space in the building. Both organizations expressed interest in having exclusive space in the community centre. Over the past year, staff refined draft conceptual designs and cost estimates to include dedicated space in the community centre building so that the organizations can assess their options and financial commitment for their dedicated space. Staff recognizes the financial commitment is considerable and therefore will continue to meet with both organizations to determine their specific involvement.

The Sherwood Forest Park community building on the east side is at its end of life cycle. In the interim, staff will complete required repair work to ensure safe use until its



renewal in 2020. Parks and Recreation staff will continue to work with BYSC and RFC to determine the validity of their business cases for joint venture agreement for consideration by Council.

Community Partnerships - Friends of Sheldon Creek

Sherwood Forest Park has many unique environmental features including a large woodlot and creek in the middle of the park and a forest in the south east corner (below the Centennial Multi-Use Trail). Staff walked through the park with representatives of Friends of Sheldon Creek to discuss opportunities to address environmental stewardship within the framework of the Sherwood Forest Park Revitalization. Many of the findings were consistent with environmental matters coming out of the revitalization strategy. Below is a list of environmental improvements to be coordinated as part of various renewal phases of work in the park.

- decommissioning the gravel parking lot on the top of bank at the creek,
- reducing invasive plant material, protecting the older growth forest on the southeast section of the park, supporting creek clean up initiatives,
- preserving and restoring habitat (through vegetation and trail layout), and
- increasing the overall native tree canopy throughout the park.

Any renewal drawings of the park will take these opportunities into consideration as well as City policies and Provincial regulations, to ensure the implementation of the various construction phases are undertaken with regard to acceptable environmental practices.

Conclusion:

The Sherwood Forest Park Revitalization Plan provides a sound strategy to guide future capital renewals to park and building infrastructure and is successfully aligned with other corporate initiatives such as the Transportation Master Plan and Community Trails Strategy. Public and stakeholder consultation was an integral component of the process that has shaped the revitalization plan and implementation strategy for Sherwood Forest Park.



Respectfully submitted,

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Appendices:

- a. Sherwood Forest Park Revitalization Plan
- b. Design Phase 1 & 2
- c. Construction Phase 1
- d. Construction Phase 2
- e. East Side Washroom Building Schematic
- f. Construction Phase 3
- g. Construction Phase 4
- h. West Side Community Building Schematic First Floor
- i. West Side Community Building Schematic Second Floor
- j. Construction Phase 5

Report Approval:

All reports are reviewed and/or approved by Department Director, Director of Finance and Director of Legal. Final approval is by the City Manager.



Appendix A - Sherwood Forest Park Revitalization Plan





Appendix B – Design Phase 1 & 2



2016

EAST SIDE
Ball Diamond D4 Replacement
Phase 1 & 2 Detailed Design



Appendix C – Construction Phase 1



EAST SIDE
Ball Diamond D3 Replacement
Parking Lot Reconstruction

2017



Appendix D – Construction Phase 2



WEST SIDE

Artificial Turf Replacement F2
Sports Lighting Replacement F5

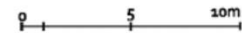
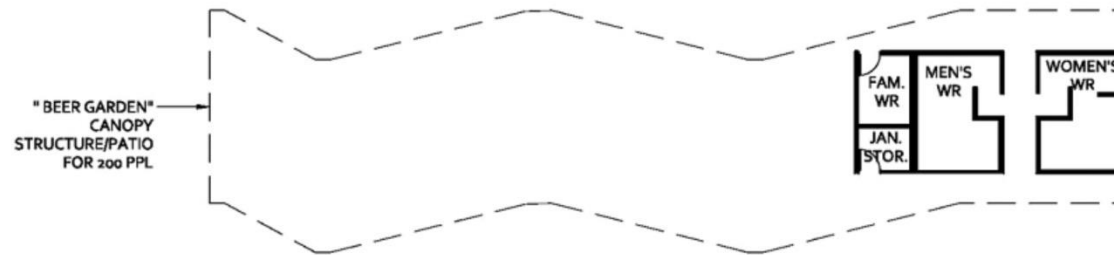
EAST SIDE

Playground, Site Furnishings & Fitness Stations
Ball Diamond D1 Replacement
Trails & Planting
Decommission of gravel lot & driveway
Main Parking Lot renewal
Washroom Building & Shade Pavilion Construction

2018



Appendix E - East Side Washroom Building Schematic



FLOOR PLAN

2018

EAST SIDE
Washroom Building and Shade Pavilion Reconstruction



Appendix F – Construction Phase 3



WEST SIDE
Phase 3, 4 and 5 Detailed Design
Parking Lot Reconstruction

2019



Appendix G – Construction Phase 4



WEST SIDE

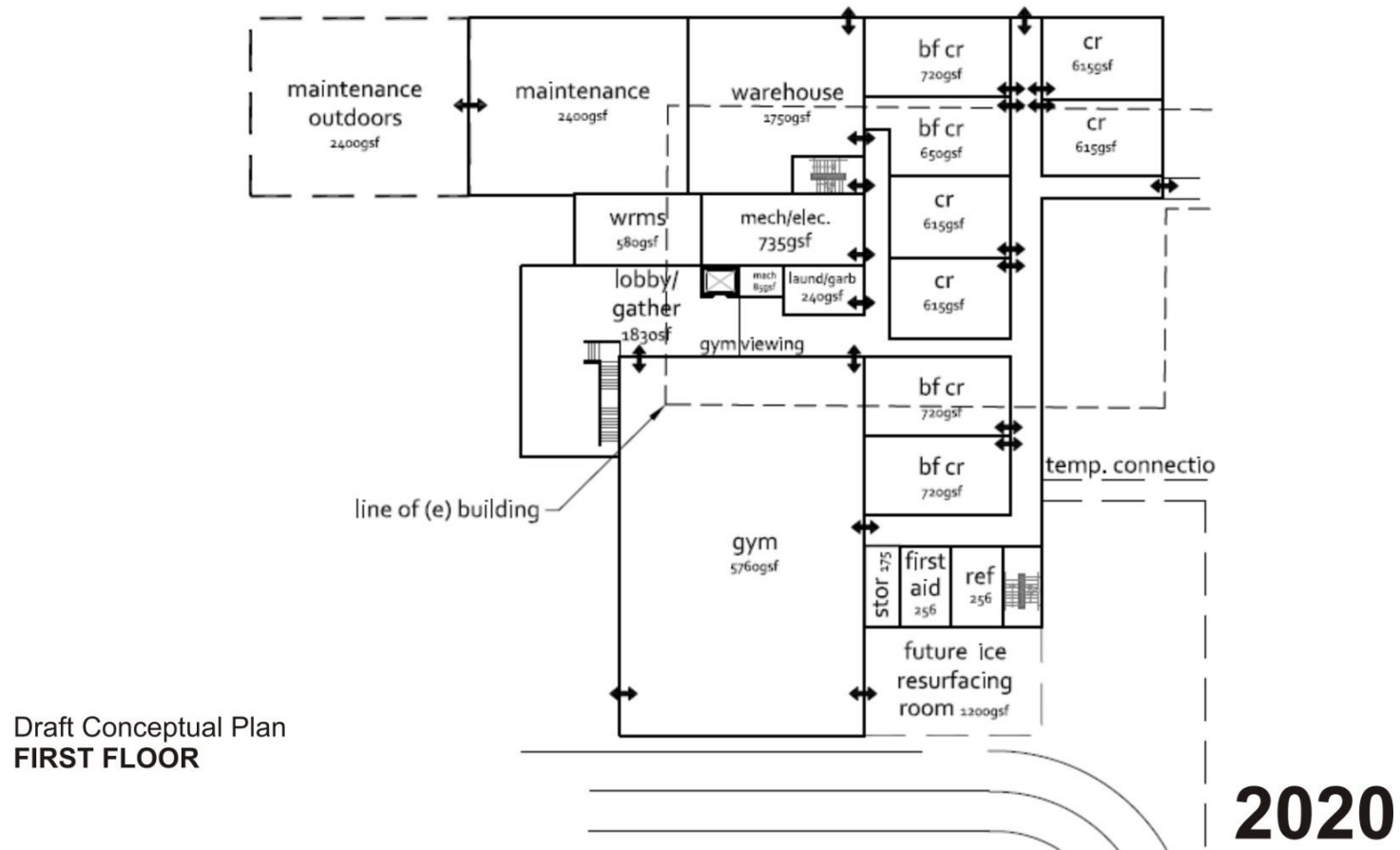
Splash Pad & Shade Structure
Playground
Site Furnishings & Fitness Stations
Trails & Planting

Outdoor Court
Parking Lot & Lighting Systems
Community Building Reconstruction
(with Community Garden)

2020

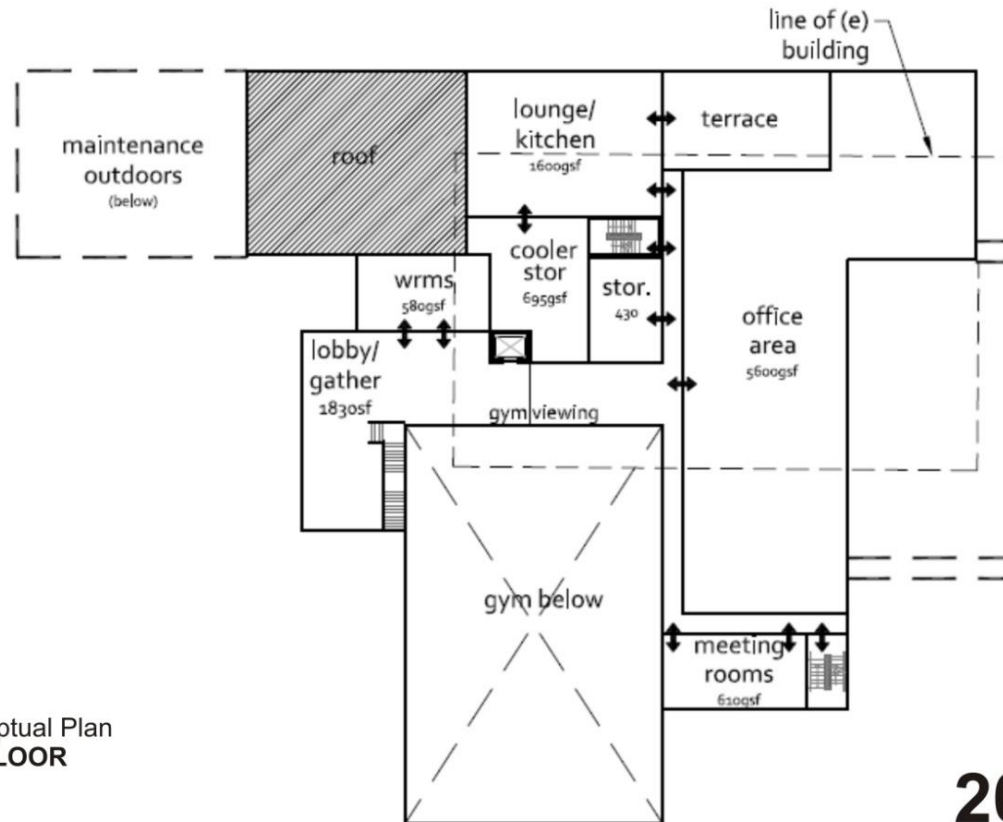


Appendix H - West Side Community Building Schematic First Floor





Appendix I – West Side Community Building Schematic Second Floor





Appendix J – Construction Phase 5



WEST SIDE
Multi-Use Field F3
Soccer Field Renewal F6
Parking Lot and Lighting Systems

2025