



## **Belle Park Master Plan Community Engagement Summary Open House – May 1, 2019**

(Comments from Phase 3 will be considered in conjunction with feedback from previous phases)

On May 1, 2019, the City of Kingston hosted an open house at the Belle Park clubhouse where proposed concepts for the Belle Park master plan was presented. A morning, an afternoon and an evening session were offered to allow people to view and comment on the proposed concept. In the evening session, the concept was also presented by Thinc Design, followed by a question and answer period. The presentation included a history of the site, Council direction, results of public consultation to date and details of the proposed concept. Approximately a total of 45 people attended the open house sessions. Following the open house, an online platform was also made available between May 15 to May 28. Over 200 residents provided feedback online.

The following general points were made:

- The proposed concept appears to offer a lot to various people. It is felt that many of the concerns and request has been considered, but still offers a great balance between urban recreation and natural.
- There are opposing opinions on the amount of parking and location of the parking. Some felt the parking should not be in the park beyond the frontage, while others, especially those with accessibility concerns, want the parking closer to amenities. Parking related to dog park users and circulation routes should be considered.
- Pickleball players think the proposed number of courts is appropriate due to the growing demand and aging community in Kingston. Currently, there are some nights where there just are not enough courts for everyone who wants to play. While others find the number of courts to be excessive and believe that this is sport is just a fad that will not last.
- Mix opinions on the potential indoor tennis bubble. Some loved the idea as there currently there is a lack of indoor tennis in Kingston and will allow people to be active in the winter. Currently, only pickleball is available for play indoors. Some wanted the indoor tennis dome to also include pickleball. Others do not like the idea of indoor tennis and question the compatibility of the facility with nature. If one is to be done, it was recommended that 4 courts are a minimum needed to have active programming based on past experience.
- Some mixed opinion on maintaining the driving range since it takes a lot of space and the netting needed may block some views. While others are happy that some of Belle Park's golf

history of the park is maintained and suggest the pitch and putt and driving range located to allow better integration into the more traditional park activities around the clubhouse.

- Within the dog off leash area, there are desires for natural elements such as trees and trails, but also separations between smaller and larger dogs. Although there are opposing opinions on whether or not there should a dog off leash area or if it should be fenced, more people felt the dog off leash area would need some type of fencing to keep dogs, other park users, and wildlife safe.
- Different views on the location of the mountain biking location behind the hill. Some are excited for the proposed amenity while others fear it might damage plants and wild life habitat.
- Many like the variety of trails and scale to see nature and the opportunities for winter activities such as cross country skiing and snowshoeing. Some fear that the smaller nature trails may fragment the natural environment in case people create unofficial trails. It was suggested to block off access or defer creating a trail on the Parks Canada hump until the marsh and space can be made safe for users.
- Happy to see lookouts, especially by the shore on the plan. For the lookout on the hilltop, it was suggested that it is better if kept simple.
- The space was seen to be a great place for education on nature as well as history and culture.

Questions raised:

- **There was some confusion on the term successional landscaping if it meant it was to be maintained that way and how it will be developed as it is expected it would be developed at the same time.**

It is a zone between grass land and woodland where smaller forms of landscaping may exist such as shrubs.

- **What is the cost to develop the woodland? How many trees can the land at peninsula support without impacting the land fill?**

This would be determined as part of a detailed design process in the future.

- **What is the water source of the wet area near the proposed dog off leash area?**

The land is seasonally wet from swales draining into the low point in the land. This can be adjusted with grading.

### **Sample of comments provided through the survey**

- This area seems to be well thought. It concentrates all built infrastructure and areas for programmed activities near the Montreal St. corridor, and away from the peninsula.
- I appreciate you're attempting to meet diverse needs and desires.

- I am glad that the end of the peninsula near the indigenous land, will remain untouched (be made natural).
- I like that some form of Belle Park's golf history is being preserved in this plan and generally like how many different uses of the space are being offered in this plan, something it seems for everyone here.
- 12 pickleball courts seems a lot for a sport that is very recent and MAY have a "short shelf life"
- I am happy to see that there are a decent number of courts indicated for pickleball. This sport is definitely not a fad and is being embraced by many small municipalities and regions in a big way. In excess of 500 people are registered for the Nationals at the Invista Centre which says a lot about this sport.
- I like the plan. It utilizes the space in a way that caters to many different groups.
- This appears to have been well thought out and planned with a long-term outlook.
- Plenty of variety and home for the wildlife. Deer should still feel safe.
- So far the design seems to have many different areas of interest to a great variety of users, which is what I was hoping for. We came to Kingston from Whitby, which has a beautiful waterfront park for its citizens. It tremendously improves the quality of life for everyone who uses it. Kingston's Belle Park will no doubt be as beneficial.