

Introduction

Fred Hamilton Park and Playground at 155 Roxton Street (between Roxton and Shaw, South of College) has been identified by Councillor Layton and City staff as being in need of maintenance and capital upgrades. These upgrades will begin this summer. Additionally, Fred Hamilton Park has been designated to receive park levies from local developments.

Councillor Layton has convened a steering committee from members of your community to work with the neighbours to help shape the extent and types of upgrades. March 21st is one of many opportunities you will have to give your input into these upgrades. Suggestions can always be given to Councillor Layton and the staff in his office. You can also visit the new website set up by the steering committee, and share your thoughts that way.

<http://fredhamiltonplayground.wordpress.com>

The steering committee wishes to include George Ben Park and Roxton Parkette under their auspices to ensure these two smaller parks in close proximity are not left to deteriorate.

The group has formed a 'Friends of' group to offer on-going stewardship to the parks beyond the eminent revitalization. We are still deciding on the name having started with our attentions directed at Fred Hamilton Park, but with the inclusion of the two smaller parks are leaning toward the name 'Friends of the Roxton Road Parks'.

Important contact info:

311 City of Toronto

Councillor Mike Layton 416-392-4009

<http://fredhamiltonplayground.wordpress.com>

Frequently Asked Questions

How will this be paid for?

- There is about \$130,000 available for state-of-good repair (SOGR) funds for work on the washroom building.
- Various local development park levies

Are there any other funds available?

Yes. Additional funding may be available from:

- the City to support making our park accessible to all neighbours via the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act
- further park levies on future developments in our ward
- any private parties or businesses interested in donating to the park.
- individual grants may support new initiatives

What are SOGR Funds?

State of Good Repair (SOGR) funds are from the City's capital budget which comes from tax revenues, and is assigned to specific projects. SOGR funds are dedicated to repairing existing infrastructure (example: washroom buildings). These funds can be augmented from other sources including the federal Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RiNC) program to improve recreational infrastructure, or the provincial Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) program to make public sites accessible to everyone.

What are park levies?

New building developments (ie. condos) are subject to fees payable by the building developer or owner to the City of Toronto in the form of cash or park land in lieu of cash, to be used by the City specifically for improving City parks. The most likely source of additional park levies in the near future in our area is the condo development at 486 Shaw Street (former Church and Catholic School).

What does the City cover using maintenance funds?

The City has an annual budget to maintain our park in good working order. This includes cutting grass, replacing gravel in Bocci courts, replacing burned out light bulbs in our park lighting and repairing fences.

What can we do right away to fix our park?

- If you see garbage on the ground, take the time to pick it up and toss it in one of the garbage cans.
- If you see a problem in the park, call the City's help line 311 or at www.toronto.ca/311
This can be for anything from overflowing garbage cans, to abandoned cars in the laneway adjoining the park.
- Come out on park cleanup day Saturday April 21.

What can we do *this* summer?

The city has maintenance and capital funds to address the following:

1. Pathways: There is hope for our muddy pathways! These will be replaced this summer with concrete or patterned asphalt. Tell us your preference at the Mar 21 meeting, online at our blog, or call Councillor Layton's office.
2. Stairs: These nasty deteriorating steps can be replaced as is, but if we replace them with ramps, we make the park easily accessible to everyone! Look at the ramp idea developed by the city and tell us what you think!
3. Bocce courts: Repairs to the boards will happen this summer and new crushed limestone is on its way!
4. Water fountains: The City is committed to ensuring our two water fountains operate properly this year!
5. Add picnic tables and good quality benches.
6. Care for our trees.
7. Renew our community garden and add signage.
8. Add bike posts or racks.

What can we do *next* summer?

Here is a list of some ideas. Please tell us what you would like to see happen!

Bigger ideas for 2013 or beyond
Build coffee shop / kitchen for lease
Piazza at centre where paths cross
Design feature to service as a meeting place for local community
2nd story dine in the park
Better / safer washrooms
Convert washroom building
Bird habitat: Cardinals, Evening Grosbeak, American Redstart
Bike path (Trinity Bellwoods to Roxton Road - Northbound)
Boece court expansion
Tennis court / community run rink
Wading pool (upgrade to...)
Splash pad
Fountain (water fountains, dog fountains, decorative fountains)
Reno pool building for storage
Upgrade lighting fixtures, including solar
Name change
Additional trees, new species?
Fruit trees in Roxton Parkette
Allotment Gardens in Roxton Parkette or George Ben Park
Natural / more interesting features in playground
Boulders or other fun play features / scramble
Goats, sheep and chickens
Remove partial fence in lower playground
Solar shade area
Solar on roof of buildings
Artist's projects
Wood stove
Community message board
Zipline
Plumbing for community garden in FHP
Painting Shaw Street garage doors
Other ideas?

www.fredhamiltonplayground.wordpress.com
Get in touch or leave us a note and your contact info in the comments book March 21.