



# INFORMATION REPORT

<b>TO:</b>	Chair and Members Emergency & Community Services Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	March 7, 2016
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Gage Park Family Skills Bike Park Update – Monitoring Plan 2015 (CES16012) (Ward 3)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	Ward 3
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<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

## Council Direction

Not Applicable

## Background Information:

The City of Hamilton constructed a Family Bike Skills Park (pump track) in Gage Park in the summer of 2015. The initiative was proposed by the Crown Point Youth Council and was moved forward after a presentation was made by the Youth Council at Public Works Committee in June 2015 (Report PW14066). Funding for the project was approved through the Capital Budget process. The City is now in the process of running a two-year pilot project at the pump track to assess its success and other factors. The Recreation Division is the lead for implementing and managing the monitoring plan that is now in place.

### What is a pump track?

A pump track is a constructed recreational play space for cyclists. It includes a three dimensional surface, forming a closed circuit, with rollers in between and berms at each end. They are designed to be ridden without pedalling. Riders get a full body workout by using their body to pump - or push down into the dip after an elevation and pull up before the crest of a mound - throughout the continuous loop. Images of the pump track are attached in Appendix "A" to Report CES16012.

The City prepared a YouTube video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUjx7M9hUgg>) to share the project history and awareness of the Gage Park Family Skills Bike Park, with footage captured at the opening event held in August 2015.

## **Monitoring Plan**

The design and completion of the pump track demanded a cross departmental effort involving staff from throughout the City. An implementation team was struck to work on addressing issues and build on potential opportunities. A key deliverable for the team was a monitoring plan that would address and measure information pertaining to the use of the pump track.

### Indicator Summary

Five theme areas were identified as “key indicators” to be monitored as part of the monitoring plan. The five theme areas are maintenance, safety, user satisfaction, usage, and community issues. The detailed monitoring plan, with indicators is attached as Appendix “B” to Report CES16012, and is summarized below:

### Maintenance Indicators

These indicators were prepared to measure the activities related to the maintenance of the new pump track. The maintenance indicators verify that the construction materials and design are performing well with only expected routine maintenance work required. To date, there has been no reported increase in rehabilitative maintenance (e.g. graffiti removal, vandalism, sign repair) in Gage Park as a result of the installation of the pump track.

### Safety Indicators

Prior to the construction of the pump track, concern was raised by park users regarding the safety and risk associated with this form of recreation activity. Measures were established to determine the validity of these concerns. For the 2015 season (August 2015 to November 2015) no cases of bodily harm were reported to the City’s Risk Management staff or Recreation Division. In addition, the Hamilton Police Services liaison indicated that there was no increase in negative activity reported as it related to the use of the pump track. Data obtained from the eco-counter installed in the track also indicated that pump track users are generally complying with the hours of operation for the pump track (dawn to dusk). This information demonstrates that the safety of the park has not been compromised by the installation of the pump track.

Public Health and Recreation staff also collaborated on the provision of free multi-sport helmets for youth riders and helmet safety messaging signage. In 2015, 20 free helmets were provided to riders and helmet safety was promoted at the pump track opening.

### User Satisfaction

An online survey was deployed in the fall of 2015 to measure pump track user satisfaction. A total of 150 survey responses were received. Of the users surveyed, 90% responded as satisfied/very satisfied with the design of the pump track. In addition, 94% of respondents were satisfied with the materials used in the construction of the track (clay based track). The survey also captured usage patterns, demographics and travel information for users, as shown in Appendix “C” to Report CES16012. The survey

responses from the pump track users are positive, with responses far exceeding the 70% satisfaction target set by the monitoring plan.

### Usage

As this project was initiated by local youth, the understanding prior to the pilot was that there was an existing demand for this type of recreation facility in the community. In an effort to quantify the usage at this pilot pump track, a counting device (eco-counter) was built into the base of the track. This device measures the use of the track in revolutions, capturing data based on date and time. A modest target of the proposed usage for daily usage patterns was anticipated at 100 revolutions per day. Actual usage patterns on a summer day were approximately 4,338 revolutions, reflecting a far greater response from the community than originally anticipated. The usage of this pilot pump track clearly demonstrates that the facility has satisfied a community recreation need.

### Gage Park Stakeholder Engagement

As part of the engagement process completed prior to the implementation of the pump track, Gage Park stakeholders were asked to provide comments on the proposed facility in Gage Park. The stakeholders included Crown Point Soccer, Gage Park Softball Association, Roselawn Bowling, Rosedale Tennis Club, Gage Park Community Garden, and the Friends of Gage Park. As part of the monitoring plan, the groups were contacted again, by letter, to request feedback on any concerns or issues that may have emerged since the pump track became operational. The letters were emailed in November and no responses have been received to date.

It should be recognized that Rosedale Tennis Club has demonstrated collective ownership in supporting the implementation of the pump track. As a direct neighbour to the pump track, the Club has been gracious in offering access during construction and is supportive in facilitating the use of hoses and shared storage space for pump track maintenance equipment.

### Community Issues

An indicator was established to capture neighbourhood/community impacts for unlawful parking. Gage Park is an active and busy greenspace with parking provided near to the programmed recreation facilities on the South end of the park. To date, there has been no increase in unlawful parking since the development of the pump track.

### **Next Steps**

#### Continue Monitoring Plan for 2016/2017

The pilot project has been set for a two-year cycle, to be evaluated through the monitoring plan until August 2017. The monitoring team may amend or adapt indicators as required. However, the main focus is collecting a series of data points to assist with the evaluation and assist with the review of future sites. Staff will provide annual updates to the Emergency & Community Services Committee on the pilot project.

At the end of the two-year pilot, staff will prepare a recommendation based on the review of the facility and monitoring plan. From this point, if appropriate, a feasibility study would be undertaken to identify future needs and opportunities for more bike parks/pump tracks.

### **Appendices**

Appendix A to Report CES16012 - Gage Park Pump Track Images

Appendix B to Report CES16012 - Monitoring Plan

Appendix C to Report CES16012 - User Group Survey - Fall 2015