

Delegation to Hamilton City Council

August 8, 2016



- Hamilton is our city.
- One of the great attributes of our democratic citizenry is capacity to volunteer and get involved.
- Hamilton's vision statement: “The Best Place to Raise a Child and Age Successfully”.
- With the City’s commitment to revitalise downtown, Beasley has evolved into a very different neighbourhood. There is growing investment in the area, new families are moving in, there is a renewed sense of community and a great deal of excitement about the future of this historic neighbourhood.

- The use of land in between the Beasley park and Dr. J. Edgar Davey school (located at the corner of Wilson Street and Ferguson Avenue North) for a transformer station is inappropriate and incompatible with the surrounding land uses.
- It **contradicts** the City's commitment and plans to revitalize the downtown core, encourage business investment, and attract people to live and stay in the downtown core.

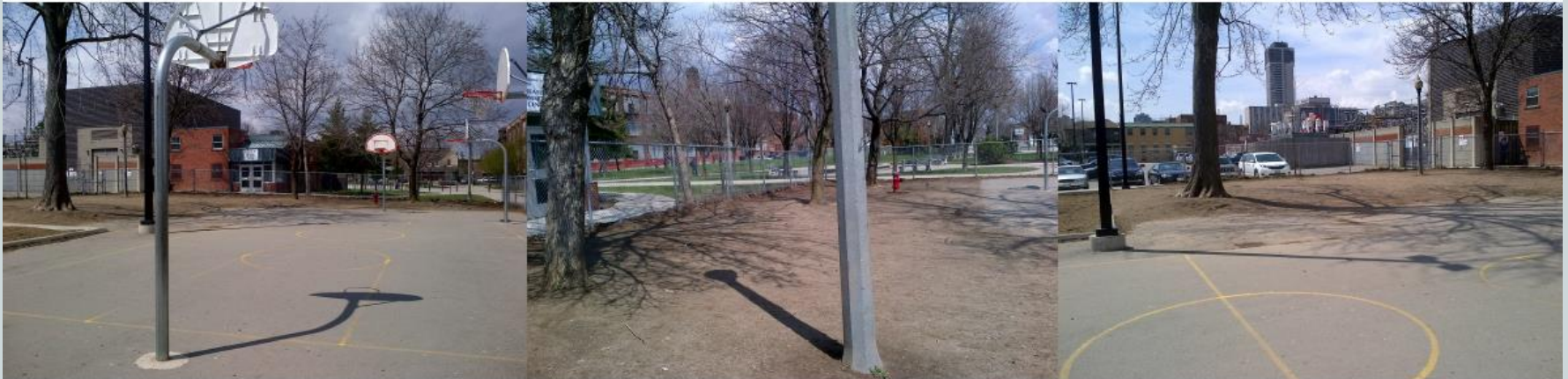
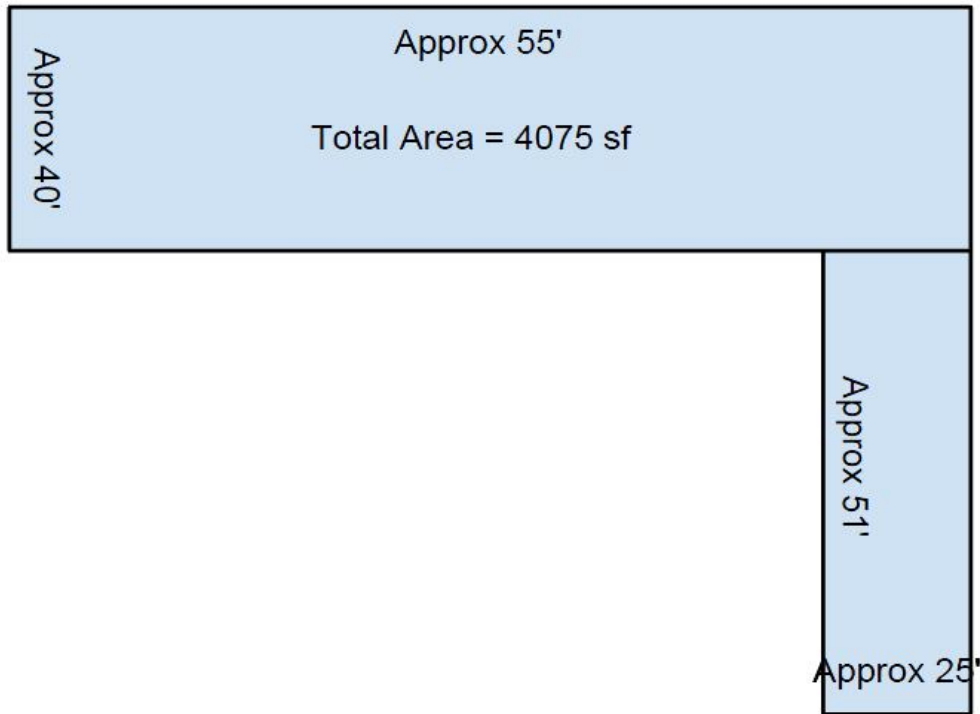
- It also undermines the ongoing efforts of a group of dedicated community minded volunteers who work assiduously on improving the playground and quality of education for students at Dr. J. Edgar Davey, an inner city elementary school.

In 2013, the playground at Dr. Davey looked like this:





Dr Davey Playground Area 3



- A fundraising campaign was done for the purpose of replacing wood chips with rubberized matting, and dust or mud with artificial turf.
- Contacted the city Councillor to inquire about the removal of the fire hydrant from the middle of the playing field.



- A major re-development of Beasley Park included the removal of the entire back section of the playground.
- In spite of the fact it had been used by students since the school was rebuilt in 2010, we were told by the city that the school does not have a right to use it; it is part of the former-Elgin Street allowance.
- The fence was moved and the playground area decreased at once, by approximately **2000 square feet**.
- We met with staff from the City and the HWDSB to come up with a compromise plan.

Everyone agreed that Dr. Davey kids have far too little space to play!

Children need to **PLAY** to
BE ADAPTABLE
CONSTRUCT KNOWLEDGE
PROBLEM LEARN CREATE
SOLVE PROCESS EMOTIONS
INTERNALISE EXPERIENCES
DISCOVER CHALLENGE
BE HEALTHY THEMSELVES
LAUGH & HAVE FUN
LEARN TO WORK IMAGINE
TOGETHER LEARN TO LEAD
EXPRESS EXPLORE SPEAK
IDEAS DEVELOP READ
MANAGE AN INQUIRING
STRESS MIND WRITE
Because **PLAY** **COUNT**
matters.



To make up for the loss of outdoor space, it was arranged that the playground would be expanded into the school parking lot, and that street parking would be zoned in to make up for the lost parking spots.

Everyone went home happy!

In early 2016, we learned that this plan for the much needed expansion of the school yard was in **grave jeopardy**.

Hydro One runs the Elgin Street Transformer Station right next to Dr. Davey and Beasley Park.

They have been planning for 8 years to conduct a 4 years refurbishment project on Elgin TS station, and use the former-Elgin Street allowance for staging.

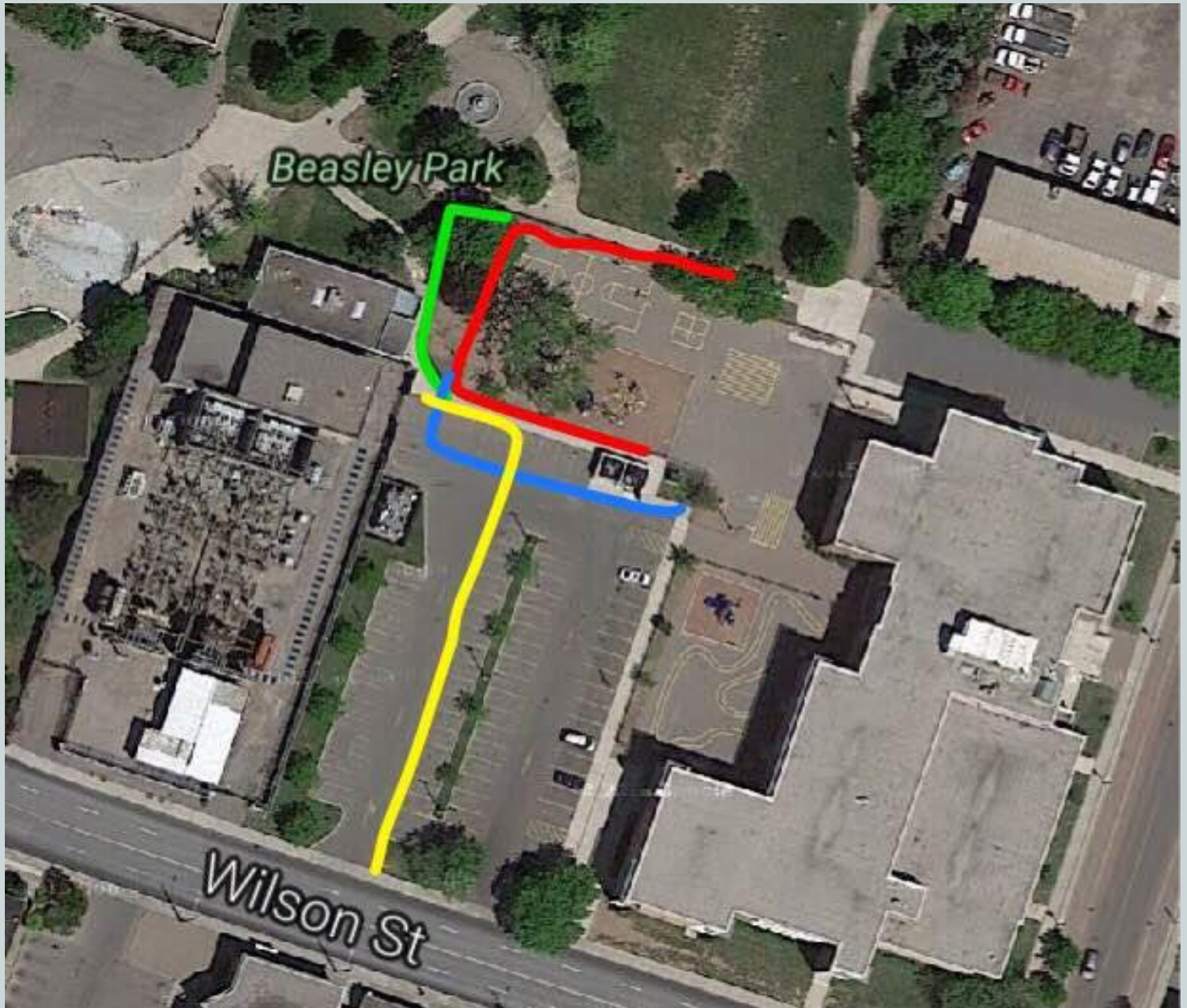
KEY:

* **Red:** current playground boundary

* **Green:** former playground boundary

* **Blue:** proposed playground expansion

* **Yellow:** Hydro One proposed staging area



The parking lot at Dr. Davey is already **extremely** dangerous.

Making it a construction site will be **madness.**

Dr. Davey and Beasley deserve better!



Fortunately, we have a
solution!

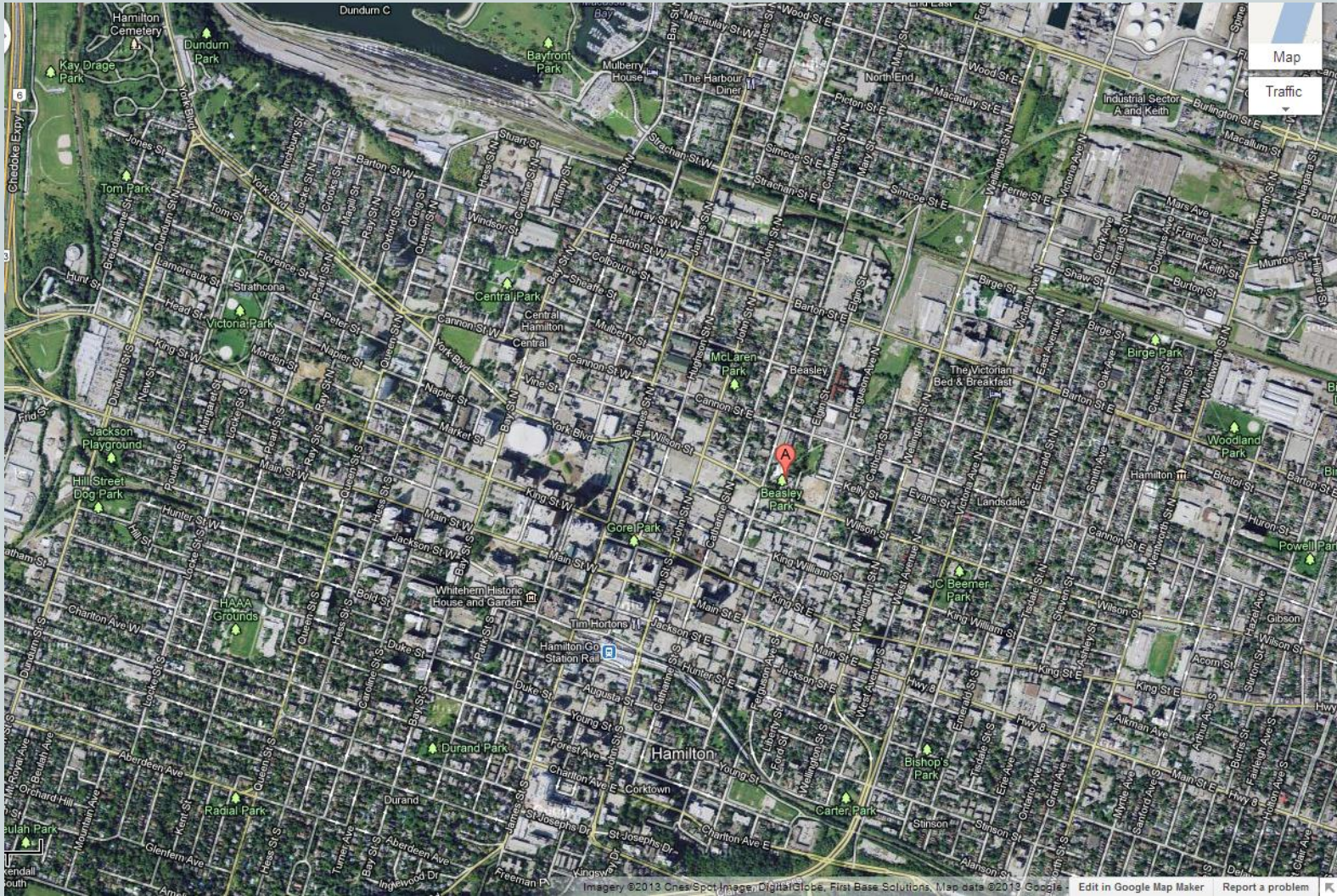
It is obvious that the worst possible place for an Electrical Transformer Station is between an elementary school and a park.



Hydro One
is about to
spend
millions of
dollars and
several
years
completely
overhauling
this Station.



Isn't this a perfect opportunity for the station to move – to one of the many, many empty lots in the immediate neighbourhood – and let Beasley prosper?



So, why are we coming to you, and
not the HWDSB?

Remember that picture earlier with the
coloured boxes?

The area that Hydro One wants to use
is **City of Hamilton land**.

(The former-Elgin Street allowance)

We hope that you will see it our way:

- That Dr. Davey kids **already** have too little outdoor space.
- That decreasing their outdoor space in this **unsafe** manner is **inequitable**.
- That the Hydro One station is in a poor position and is **due for a change**.

We hope that you will help us by not entering into an agreement to permit Hydro One the use of the Dr. Davey Elementary School parking lot.



Partners in Powerful Communities

We look forward to
working with you in order
to provide the Best Place
to Raise a Child in all
areas of this fair and
equitable city.

Thank you!