



**CITY OF HAMILTON**  
**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
*Environmental Services Division*

<b>TO:</b>	Chair and Members Public Works Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	July 12, 2018
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Sam Lawrence Park Masterplan 255 and 371 Concession Street (PW18056) (Ward 7)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	Ward 7
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	John Vandriel (905) 546-2424 extension 3662
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Craig Murdoch, B.Sc. Director, Environmental Services Public Works Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

**RECOMMENDATION**

That staff acquire and work with an external consultant to undertake a design masterplan for Sam Lawrence Park, to consider existing and future use and condition of the park specifically considering escarpment degradation and lifecycle of current infrastructure, to be funded in the amount of \$250,000 from Ward 7 Area Rating Reserve Account #108057 to the Sam Lawrence Park Project Id #4401656603.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to seek authorization to proceed with consultation and design toward a masterplan for Sam Lawrence Park, as shown in Appendix "A" attached to Report PW18056, and to approve the allocation of funds to complete the masterplan.

A capital project was approved in 2016 for evaluation of geotechnical conditions related to the safety of a walkway at the park. In the context of recent and ongoing changes to the escarpment face due to falling rocks and the changing stability of the escarpment, the walkway locations at the park as well as the condition of the retaining walls should be evaluated for ongoing health and safety of the public. The current state of the park continues to be safe for visitors and staff with the exception of one walkway that is temporarily barricaded; however, staff recommend undertaking a masterplan to anticipate future degradation, and to determine if the current park state meets the needs of the public.

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In addition to the approved project for geotechnical study, consultation with the Councillor for Ward 7, and preliminary site reconnaissance, staff notes that several features in the park are in need of upgrade. As such, the City has the opportunity to examine existing and future use of Sam Lawrence Park, through a design masterplan process.

### **Alternatives for Consideration – See Page 4**

### **FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

**Financial:** The costs for the masterplan process are anticipated to not exceed the \$250,000 identified in Report PW18056, to be funded in the amount of \$250,000 from Ward 7 Area Rating Reserve Account 108057 to the Sam Lawrence Park Project Id #4401656603.

**Staffing:** There are no staffing implications related to the masterplan; however, if changes are recommended to the park, the operational requirements may change. Those will be identified in future capital budget requests as operational impacts.

**Legal:** There are no legal implications for this masterplan.

### **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

Sam Lawrence Park's major site features (stone walls, pathways, benches, lighting, and flower gardens) were originally constructed in the 1950s and 1960s under the direction of landscape architect K. Matt Broman. In 1989, Landscape Architectural Services (then Parks Division) retained J.L. McDermott to prepare a design concept for the park. During 1990 to 1994, Sam Lawrence Park underwent a major upgrading that included repairing the stone walls, installing new walkways, site lighting, site furniture, and redeveloping the major rock garden.

Today, many of the park's features that were upgraded decades ago are in decline due to weathering and vandalism. As such, the time is right to explore the park's existing and future uses. Hamilton's changing urban landscape and population growth warrant undertaking a design masterplan for Sam Lawrence Park.

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS**

Sam Lawrence Park is currently designated and zoned a P3 City-wide Park. Changes to the park will require approvals from the Niagara Escarpment Commission due to its location and designations as Urban Area and Escarpment Natural Area in the Niagara Escarpment Plan.

## **RELEVANT CONSULTATION**

The following internal stakeholders were consulted and have no concerns with the direction to undertake a design masterplan:

- Ward 7 Councillor
- Public Works - Parks and Cemeteries Operations
- Public Works - Forestry and Horticulture
- Planning and Economic Development - Cultural Heritage
- Planning and Economic Development - Transportation Planning

Consultation with the public and stakeholder groups will be sought for input during the design masterplan process, in addition to extensive consultation with various City departments.

## **ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION**

The park sits on the Niagara Escarpment, a designated United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) World Biosphere Reserve and an internationally recognized landform that is the cornerstone of Ontario's Greenbelt. Considered one of the jewels of Hamilton's parks system, it offers spectacular views and vistas of the lower city, Hamilton Harbour, and the Dundas Valley. The park is considered a unique and treasured geological, historical, cultural, and environmental resource for current and future generations. Undertaking a design masterplan will seek to restore prominence of this important public space and reimagine its role in Hamilton's park system for subsequent decades.

A design masterplan for Sam Lawrence Park should be undertaken for the following reasons:

- The City's changing urban landscape and population growth are putting pressure on open spaces, particularly those with city-wide prominence.
- Many of the park's existing features are in decline due to age, weathering and vandalism.
- A design masterplan has not been undertaken in almost 30 years.
- The Mountain Brow Path feasibility study identifies pathway connections through Sam Lawrence Park, so the masterplan will look at opportunities to enhance these connections.

City staff believe that acquiring an external consultant to undertake a design masterplan represents an optimal use of resources to achieve the project's intended outcomes (Value for Money approach, as specified in Report PW17063).

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## **ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION**

An alternative to the recommendation of Report PW18056 would be to not direct staff to undertake a masterplan for Sam Lawrence Park. If this alternative were to proceed, the park will continue in its current state and use. By not undertaking a masterplan now, any degradation to the existing features of the park from rock fall or other causes will require a reactionary response to park management and may affect park uses. As such, alterations or future changes in use to the site will be rendered on a piecemeal basis and not as part of a larger, comprehensive undertaking. As costs increase every year, from inflation and other factors, the required funding for the project may increase as well. This alternative is not recommended. A masterplan can help to predict and plan for future needs and inform future budget requests.

## **ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN**

### **Healthy and Safe Communities**

Hamilton is a safe and supportive city where people are active, healthy, and have a high quality of life.

### **Clean and Green**

Hamilton is environmentally sustainable with a healthy balance of natural and urban spaces.

### **Built Environment and Infrastructure**

Hamilton is supported by state of the art infrastructure, transportation options, buildings and public spaces that create a dynamic City.

### **Culture and Diversity**

Hamilton is a thriving, vibrant place for arts, culture, and heritage where diversity and inclusivity are embraced and celebrated.

## **APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

Appendix “A” - Sam Lawrence Park Location Map