

Alleyways: Strategies for the retention of our public land

Public Works Committee

April 29, 2019

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What brings me here today

- Notice that was posted through the City's website on **April 10, 2019** for the sale of 2 parcels of public land (alleyways) at:
 - 255-261 Wellington Street North
 - 21 Colbourne Street

What brings me here today

- This comment from the staff report with respect to the sale of public land adjacent to Colbourne:
 - “There were 2 objections received from **land owners** who do not directly abut the Subject Lands and **are not negatively affected** by this application. Staff are in support of the closure and sale to the owners of 21 Colbourne St, Hamilton.”

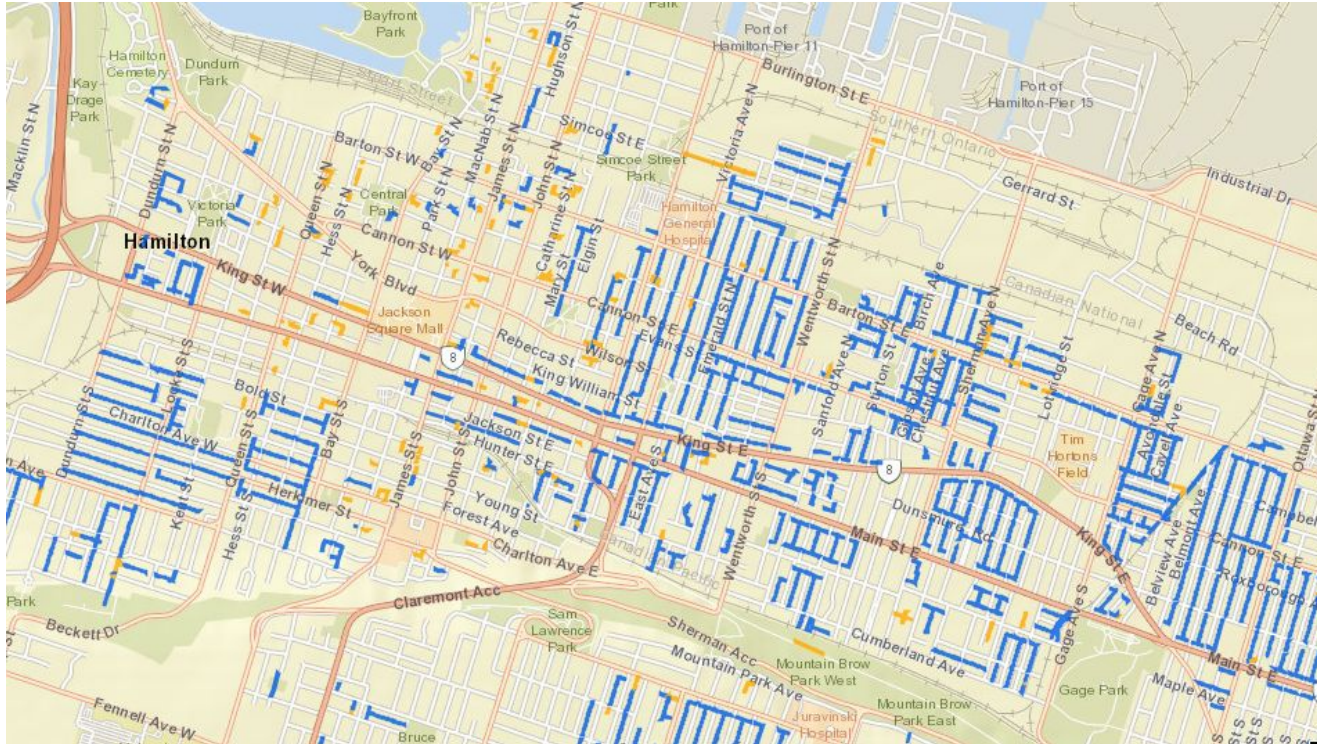
What brings me here today

- The information contained in the following reports:
 - PW07033 (a) - 2011
 - PW07033 (b) - 2011
 - 2013 Budget - Public Works
 - PW17008 - 2017
 - PW19032 - 2019
 - PW19033 - 2019

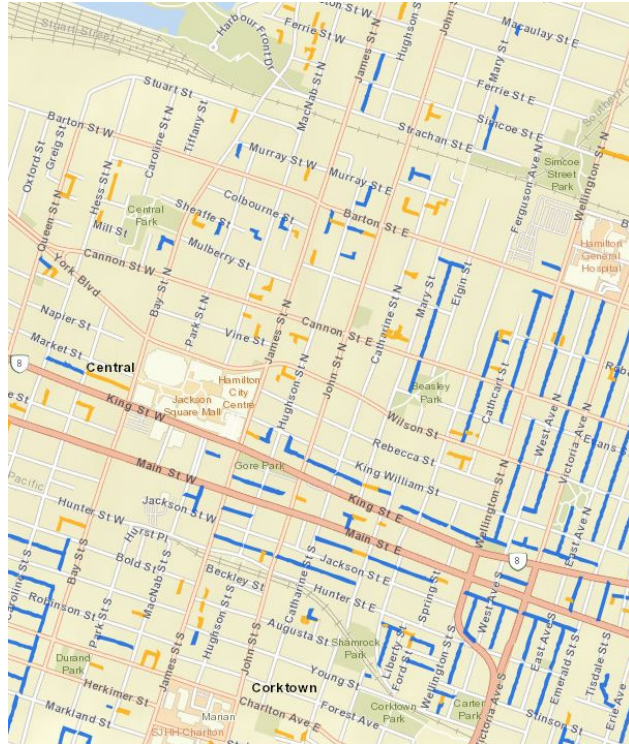
What is public land?

- Public land, broadly defined, is land that the public has unrestrained access to. Some of this land is owned by the City of Hamilton, some by other public entities.
- Alleyways, especially the vast majority defined as “unassumed”, fall under this broad definition of public land.

Alleyways in Wards 1-3

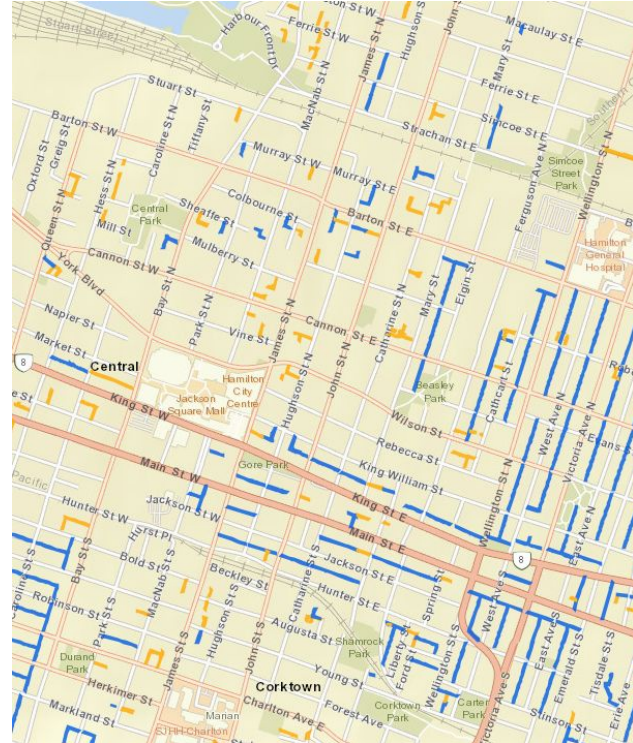


Alleyways in Ward 2



Network Fragility in Ward 2

- As the map clearly demonstrates, there aren't many alleyways left in Ward 2
- We must protect the alleyways we have, and preserve them as public land



Who Uses Alleyways?

- Not just “land owners” - the staff report seems to privilege this category of respondents and seems to privilege those individuals who “abut the alleyway”
- Public land is for the public and many pedestrians, cyclists, and others, use alleyways to get around
- Those “negatively affected” include a broad cross-section of residents and citizens

Engagement

- When we think about who is affected by alleyway closures and who needs to be able to comment:
 - The City needs to provide more time for comments (April 10-29 isn't enough); reports must be timely
 - We need notices to be sent out to a wider group, in more formats, than just those "land owners" who abut alleyways

What I'm Asking For

- Prioritize the timely completion of the Alleyway Management Strategy (in talks since at least 2008 and on the books since 2011 with less than 25% complete)
- Go beyond the “minimum required by law” and ensure that notice periods for the sale of all public land are lengthy, in accessible formats, wide spread, and deliberate
- Prioritize the preservation of all public land, including our alleyways