




# INFORMATION REPORT



<b>TO:</b>	Chair and Members Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board Liaison Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	September 12, 2022
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Berms at Bernie Morelli Recreation Centre/Bernie Custis Secondary School (Joint City – Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board Report) (PW22082) (Ward 3) <b>(Outstanding Business List Item)</b>
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	Ward 3
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	City of Hamilton Cynthia Graham (905) 546-2424 Ext. 2337 Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board David Anderson (905) 527-5092 Ext. 2271
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Craig Murdoch Director, Environmental Services Public Works Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

## COUNCIL DIRECTION

On July 8, 2022, Council approved the following:

That staff from the City and Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board report back to the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board Liaison Committee, with respect to the details, including costs, regarding the removal of the berms at Bernie Custis Secondary School.

## INFORMATION

The green space along Cannon Street East, between the Bernie Custis Secondary School (BCSS) and the Bernie Morelli Recreation Centre, was designed as an unprogrammed open space, and is located on City owned lands but is maintained by the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board.

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OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

It is understood that there is not an adjacent dedicated green space for use by classes and sports teams at BCSS. Additionally, planned access to the future Brightside Park with the replacement of the Brian Timmis field will provide space for teams and classes. However, Brightside Park has not yet progressed through environmental approvals and construction is anticipated in future years so will not be a solution for BCSS soon.

Staff were directed to report back on the removal of the berms in order to understand costs and logistics of creating a space that was more suitable for use by physical education classes and sports teams. It should be noted that the improvement of this space for use by BCSS is not intended to curtail or remove the use of Tim Horton's Field by BCSS, rather the intent is to supplement outdoor learning opportunities.

Report PW22082 outlines the costs and considerations of removal of the berms internal to the greenspace and does not consider the removal of the berms directly along the road frontage of Cannon Street East. The berms along Cannon Street East function as safety features, and the removal would require consideration of fencing along the road frontage. The berms to be removed are illustrated in Appendix "A" to Report PW22082.

#### Site Plan Approval

The approved site plan for the development of the school included the green space and shows the berms that exist on the site.

Staff have confirmed that a new or updated site plan approval is not required for the removal of the berms, however, an updated plan showing the revised grading is requested for documentation and filing.

#### Buried Infrastructure Considerations

There are buried storm sewers and infrastructure in the green space. Staff have reviewed the plans and believe that the removal of the berms will not interfere with any buried infrastructure. It should be noted that "cutting off" the berms to adjacent grade levels will not create a flat, sports field-like surface. The green space drains stormwater runoff to a swale in the middle of the greenspace with connection to the stormwater infrastructure in the road along Cannon Street, and ensuring this drainage is maintained is a consideration in the analysis of this initiative.

#### Excess Soils Management

In Ontario, soils removed from a property as part of a construction initiative, are required to follow the regulations under O. Reg. 406/19: On-Site and Excess Soil Management. Included in this requirement is a required testing of the soils, registration of the recipient

site for the soils, and documentation. This requirement will add costs to the berm removal initiative.

#### Use of the City Lands for Physical Education Classes

Across Hamilton, many schools use city lands for physical education classes and sports team practices. In those instances, an agreement is typically required that outlines the space to be used and covers insurance needs of both the city and school board. Staff would pursue the establishment of an agreement for formal use of this space by the school if there is a desire by the school to use the City lands for classes and teams, in order to establish use of the space considering how to address the public when school programs are using the space.

#### Financial Impacts of Berm Removal

A high-level cost estimate to remove the berms is outlined in Table 1 of Report PW22082. There is not an identified city funding source for this work, and the school board has no dedicated funding, but anticipate that cost share funds for the work could be found. The costs outlined are based on an assumption of clean soil removal and historical City bid prices.

Table 1: Cost Estimate for Berm Removal

Description	Cost
Soil removal, minor grading, grass establishment	\$50,000
Excess soils testing and documentation	\$15,000
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$65,000</i>

#### APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix “A” to Report PW22082 – Location Map