

## **Norval Park Community Workshop Notes**

*March 22, 2018*

Upper Canada College

### **Norval Park Re-Design Proposal led by Norval Community Association**

*A: Advantages: What benefits does this initiative bring to the Norval Park experience?*

- Washrooms – especially for Japanese bus tours
- Veterans Memorial – “should have been done 20 years ago”
- Would be nice to have indoor space.
- Trails – like that it is not accessed by a main road so children can safely access without traffic concerns. Trails help create an active community.
- Natural Playground – the Town currently does not have a natural playground. This playground would benefit the educators and schools in town. Outdoor education is a big trend in 2018.
- Open space is good for dogs.

*I: Impediments: Do you envision and concerns or challenges?*

- Privacy for local residents is threatened, especially neighbouring homes.
- Loss of baseball diamond is a problem as ball groups use this diamond and there currently is a shortage of diamonds in Halton Hills.
- Overload to the community (village).
- Extra parking brings increased traffic, which causes problems for neighbouring homes.
- Individually, each item has merit, but all together seems like too much impact on the small community.
- People use the current parking lot for carpooling, with a proposed increase in parking available, there may be more people using this lot for carpooling.
- Washrooms – what are the potential restrictions and issues associated with installation (i.e. sewage)?
- Private property blocks park users from accessing the river.
- Many dog owners let their dogs run free at ball diamond.
- Auto Body Shop is very close to the park.
- Lots of traffic on Draper Street.
- Should there not be a list of priorities for these projects, not all at the same time.

*M: Maybes: What questions do you have? How might we strengthen/refine the ideas?*

- Why does Norval Community Association get to decide what goes into this park design?
- Will the Town make sure that Norval citizens and homeowners are consulted?
- Norval Community Association does not speak for all citizens and residents.
- What is the main reason/goal for doing these projects? Tourism? Improve lives of residents? Preserve ecology?
- What does extra foot traffic mean to Willow Park?
- Would there be lights?
- Who manages the washrooms?
- Liability with respect to the children's park?
- What happens if UCC Trail moves or changes?
- Moving of telephone pole?
- Have the landowners beside the park been notified?
- Any possibility of cycling lanes going towards Georgetown?
- Can we consider plantings along the road that will minimize sound and create a more peaceful environment?
- Is the ball diamond currently used?
- Possible to make diamond smaller?
- Washroom hours and security?
- Will it be one big park?
- Will the area become too busy?

### **Upper Canada College Trail *led by Upper Canada College***

*A: Advantages: What benefits does this initiative bring to the Norval Park experience?*

- Opening a trail to everyone
- People want to walk the trail
- Arrowhead finding
- UCC closer to the community
- Identify different trees, etc. educate the trail users (signs)
- Promote Norval – historical signs
- Town will maintain trails
- Cohesive look with Willow Park (same philosophy)
- CVC connection
- Enjoy nature
- Trails to get through nature
- Positives outweigh the negatives
- Connect to Willow Park

- No lighting is a good thing
- Great project
- Deer protected
- Pioneer Village beside you (UCC) no need to go to Toronto
- Visitors come to Town will need package (currently Willow Park)
- History Sign Board – connection with Winston Churchill and Lucy Maud – opportunity to educate walkers
- New neighbourhood that backs onto property welcome trail
- Very positive comments
- Encourage people to be outside and enjoy land
- Long term plans are great, one end of Town to the other
- Don't need to drive; can walk
- Possible stop light at Hall Road
- Links to Credit Valley Trail
- Love to see it happen!

*I: Impediments: Do you envision and concerns or challenges?*

- Trespassing, trail users vs. UCC students
- May need a gate on the bridge - who would monitor this?
- Lives beside Norval Park – concerned it may be heavily used for parties at night – people coming to park after visiting Nashville North
- Flood plan?
- Good lighting will be necessary
- Poachers go on land
- Can trail be expanded? Make it part of curriculum (UCC)?
- Parking – increase parking in Norval Park (on Mary Street)

*M: Maybes: What questions do you have? How might we strengthen/refine the ideas?*

- Willow Park Ecology Centre needs to handle public traffic
- How long?
- Timeframe to build?

*M: Mitigation/Modifications*

- Poachers
- Impact to environment and animal life (deer)
- Traffic and parking
- May have trespassers into UCC (school) – monitoring period – river may be the barrier or a gate/lock

- Liability to UCC; share liability with the Town
- Accessibility – 5 years into project “down the line”
- Lack of Parking
- Don’t disturb any homes
- Don’t scare the deer away
- Dogs must be on a leash – no dog feces
- Vandalism that Willow Park currently experiences, may increase
- Monitor trail use
- Trail cameras
- No police access
- CVC – “hoops to jump through”
- Will require signage (directional)
- Hall Road trail – have there been problems? Ask home owners.

### **Lucy Maud Montgomery Museum & Literary Centre led by the Lucy Maud Montgomery Heritage Society**

*A: Advantages: What benefits does this initiative bring to the Norval Park experience?*

- Tourists
- Increased value of property
- Changing demographics/owners
- Planning
- Trails/connections/community strengthening
- Historical/heritage context
- Historical trail
- Additional economic spin-off
- Better land use (higher value)
- Curriculum (school programs)
- Logical
- Church Connection/Proximity to lands – existing facilities
- Facility space
- Parking shared with church
- Willow Park connection
- Connection to gardens

*I: Impediments: Do you envision and concerns or challenges?*

- Ghosts (paranormal)
- Parking/Transport/Buses

- Access
- Traffic
- Impact community/neighboring properties
- Feedback/dialogue on community impacts
- Marketing (visual) – wouldn't know it existed
- Zoning
- Focus on story (balance with commerce)
- Time – momentum – loss of context
- Slowly – throughout process
- Flexible
- Sharing information – how do you get the message out?
- Narrow roads
- Bus traffic

*M: Maybes: What questions do you have? How might we strengthen/refine the ideas?*

- University of Guelph connection and resources
- Zoning
- Restoring order against??? and profit
- Money funding
- Parking
- Message/marketing

*M: Mitigation/Modifications*

- Better communication of project
- Marketing/community engagements
- Educations/school curriculum
- Connection adjacent groups (Lucy Maud)
- Education possible (funding)
- Public Transit
- Best planted (trees)
- Hands on experience
- All ages can experience
- Technology
- Nature/observation area possible? Light pollution
- Information/marketing
- Mental health (part of her life) – opportunity
- Literacy
- Connection to nature – trails, special spaces she named
- Beer Making history

## **Credit Valley Trail led by Credit Valley Conservation**

*A: Advantages: What benefits does this initiative bring to the Norval Park experience?*

- Sounds great
- Along the Credit River there are a lot of hamlets due to the milling history-heritage as well as environment makes sense as a theme
- Hikers will enjoy it

*I: Impediments: Do you envision and concerns or challenges?*

- Land use permissions on private property
- Will parking for trail take away from local parking? Trail as more of a pass through. There aren't a lot of places to stop and eat etc. in Norval
- Optimum trail route runs through private property – that won't happen. Proposed trail route might lead people to believe land has been sold or permission granted (has not at this time) A dotted line would be better for public perception to show it is a proposed route.
- It's won't happen today or tomorrow. Long term
- Parking. Increase all traffic in our community. People parking on side streets to come and go.
- Trash?
- There is a dam, not navigable. Therefore people cut through private fence line and private residents are picking up trash all the time. (note this refers to canoers)
- Environmental impact. Right now private property closes off the river. If you open it up, there will be a lot more garbage, pollution etc.
- Do not put down Draper Street. I don't want everyone going down my street
- Will some sections be not family friendly or accessible?
- Trails need to connect. Right now because some trails do not connect people are bringing their canoes on private property and some are quite aggressive. I am concerned about safety. There are families in this area. Once you open the area for more visitations, people will come with their boats and come onto private property.
- Side tributary of credit runs through a culvert will it be an impediment?
- Issues with territorial land owners
- Issues with teenagers having parties? How often does this happen say on the Limehouse trail?
- How will you keep people from letting their dogs run free and bother the wildlife?

*M: Maybes: What questions do you have? How might we strengthen/refine the ideas?*

- Trail heads to direct people into villages and hamlets
- Biking? Not just hiking?
- Parking areas?
- Canoe route?
- How does UCC trail connect?
- Natural path? No barriers?
- How to deal with fences?
- How do you enforce staying on trail, not littering, etc.?
- Bridge over the river?
- Tie into extensive Halton Hills trail network. How to get the town trail across Hwy 7 to Willow Park.
- Why is route circuitous and going around the hamlet?
- Naming portions of the trail after advocates i.e., John Hutton?
- Washrooms?
- Show the 32 km already built on the map to help create more buy in
- Education of kids so they can recognize the North Star and follow it so as to not get lost? (note: more to do with UCC trail and safety concerns for kids in their programming)
- Bike stands at trailhead parking lots
- It would be a shame to build something that bypasses all the other projects happening downtown.
- Full trail would be 4 to 5 days hiking. Have you considered if people who want to do the whole trail can pitch a tent and stay the night and continue the next day?

*M: Mitigation/Modifications*

- Change proposed route so as to not have to deal with private property. Swing down through lower back valley part around the flood plain. 99% of the time it's dry. Allows you to walk through the village.
- Identify best intended audience for each section in information and marketing materials.
- Education and culture takes time. Need to develop it properly.
- A canoe route needs an exit route and areas not navigable need to be identified.
- This is an area for no canoes. It is not safe. Need to put up a high fence.



### **Other Ideas**

- Multi-use paved pathway along Highway 7(north side) – safety concerns for bicycles and pedestrians (not all users will use trail) – sidewalk to go from Concept Ford to meet up with proposed multi-use paved pathway near McFarlane.
- Set of lights at McFarlane to Hall Road/Guelph Street.
- Need volunteers who are physically able to complete gardening and physical work.
- Youth Programs – have youth participate in the garden and life skills programming.

### **Guiding Principles**

- Respecting nature and the environment
- Ongoing consultation with residents/informing