

To Kitchissippi residents:

Re-Development of Reid Park Final report and recommendations

As many of you know, we have spent the last five months conducting public consultations regarding how to spend the earmarked \$1,000,000 cash-in-lieu of parkland funds towards the re-development of Reid Park. We would like to thank everyone who participated in any of the sessions, as well as everyone who reached out to our office with comments and suggestions – your input was valuable and appreciated. **YOU** have re-shaped this park and when the re-development is completed, you should feel really great about being a part of that process.

During the course of the consultation period, it was determined that Reid Park rests upon four main cornerstones: safe activity areas for children and teens, expansive green space, community gathering and a welcoming place for dogs. Our goal is to integrate those cornerstones and highlight them during the re-development process.

We are now turning this project over to park planners, to make this detailed plan into reality.

Our facilitator, Wesley Petite, wrapped up the consultation process with his final report (which can be found here [\[link\]](#)), and we are using it as a guide to use with City staff. We understand that these requests may not reflect everyone's desires and options, but Wesley's recommendations represent as close to a census as we could reach during the consultations.

What follows below will be our direction to staff. As we begin discussions with park planners, various details will begin to evolve. For example, we will know more specifically where park benches, garbage bins, trees and pathways will be installed. **Where there is opportunity for further consultation, we will make sure to do so.** Our request contains two main variables: the former municipal yard and a washroom. A park planner will help us more thoroughly understand how we can use the former municipal yard and a more accurate cost for remediation of the soil. We will also be exploring other funding options for the soil remediating. As well, we received a quote of \$400,000 for a washroom and change room building, which we won't be able to afford with everything else that was requested. We will therefore explore obtaining additional quotes and options. As the planning process evolves, we will continually direct the park planners to Wesley's report, to obtain as close to the original requests as possible.

Once the final plan is developed by the park planners, it will also be put forward to the public for any final minor tweaks.

Based on this report, here is what we will be asking staff:

Big picture summary:

We are asking...

- To relocate the parking area for the park to the Elmdale Bowling Club parking lot.
- To remove the Reid Farmhouse as it is beyond repair, but integrate its materials and historical features within the park to preserve its memory.
- To open-up the former municipal yard, remediate the soil and install a basketball court, fitness circuit and a community garden in the area.

- To create an attractive but distinct 2-3 foot high barrier to delineate the dog area and the children's play area.
- To install a washroom and a change area near the splash pool, if the price can be reduced from the quoted \$400K and fit within the overall project budget.
- To install new play structures, benches, new garbage bins, connected asphalt pathways, bike racks, historical features, and plant more trees and shrubs.

The details:

Parking

- Remove the existing parking lot at the Reid Ave entrance and replace with additional green space, and controlled access.
- Utilize the Elmdale Bowling Club parking lot as the main parking lot, with the north-east corner of the lot serving as the access point into Reid Park.
- Rearrange the fencing to secure the Elmdale Bowling Club and consult with the Elmdale Bowling Club about where their gates can be located for an accessible and maintained entrance to their club.
- Improved lighting on MacFarlane Avenue and in the parking lot will also be requested.

Reid Farmhouse

- Unfortunately the Reid farmhouse is beyond salvage or repair. We are requesting that it be removed, but that materials such as stone from the building be used on new additions to the park, detailed below. We will also be requesting historical features to honour the deep history of the Reid family and their farm.

Former Municipal Yard

- We are asking that staff look at the feasibility of integrating the former municipal yard into the rest of Reid Park, to both broaden the currently useable landmass of the park and to discourage undesired patrons in this space.
- The soil will need to be remediated at a cost of \$150K. We are requesting to explore alternate sources of funding for the cost of the remediation.
- In opening up the former municipal yard, the chain-link fence will be removed.
- Install a basketball court and a fitness circuit.
- Establish an official community garden.
- Install better lighting that will illuminate the area without shining into the windows of nearby residents.
- Install a series of benches, and beautify the fence next to the Queensway by adding trees.
- Look into creating a controlled pedestrian access point from for Young St.

Dog Run

- To address concerns of child safety and sanitation, we are requesting to build an aesthetically pleasing but effective 2-3 foot barrier (possibly made out of recycled materials from the Reid farmhouse) along the crest of the slope running along the east side of the dog run.

Washroom

- A washroom and change-room with storage is strongly desired. However, the \$400K cost-estimated provided by Parks and Recreation was found to be too expensive. We will be encouraging Parks and Recreation to find a more affordable way to meet this demand.

- The location of the washroom would be as close to the wading pool as possible.
- **Overall, this seasonal need is not prioritized over other uses of the available funds.**

Play structure

- The existing play structure is considered good as is.
- We are asking to install either two new play structures - one for younger children and one for school aged children - or to install one play structure that has equipment for both age groups.
- These new play structure additions for both younger and school age groups should be installed on accessible surfacing.

Historical tribute

- We are asking that as many materials as possible be salvaged from the Reid Farmhouse and be included as building or decorative materials for a fence, wall and/or seating area (a seating area, or amphitheatre, was without cost estimate but remained a supported idea among participants).
- Other possible uses of the materials include pillars mounted with plaques at both MacFarlane and Reid entrances.
- The Civic Hospital History and Heritage subcommittee via the Civic Hospital Neighbourhood Association **must be** consulted in the design of the historical feature.

Pathways

- Develop a series of asphalt pathways across the park, which connect to each entrance and exit (MacFarlane Avenue, Elmdale Bowling Club parking lot, former municipal yard, and Reid Ave controlled access).

Infrastructure and Beautification

- Repair the existing garbage receptacles.
- Install bike racks.
- Install more shaded space, such as a gazebo, near the play area.
- Plant more trees to decrease sound from the 417 and repopulate trees lost to Ash Borer.

Drainage and Gradation

- Address the drainage issue in the north-western area of the park, adjacent to the north-east side of the Elmdale Lawn Bowling Club.
- Adjust the gradation of the current location of the Reid Farmhouse as a sledding hill for multiple age groups, once the farmhouse is removed.

Recommendations outside the cash-in-lieu of parkland fund:

- Demolish Reid Farmhouse and remove lilac bushes receiving the necessary funds from Lifecycle/Asset Management group.
- Explore the possibility of using other existing funds for the costs of remediating the former municipal yard as well.

Visuals:

Parking:



Former municipal yard:



Dog run and possible washroom location:



Example of possible pathway routes:

