Barrie Park Site Master Plan: Process
“A Blue Print for the Future”

Site walkthrough, Focus Groups, 2 Community meetings and a Presentation to the P. D. Citizen Committee and to the Board of the Park District have taken place

**Wednesday April 22nd at 7pm**    Community Mtg #3 Barrie Center

**April 27th 2015**    Presentation to the Transportation Commission re: speed table

**May 13th**    Community Mtg #4, if necessary

**Thursday June 4th**    Present recommendation and cost estimate to Board at Committee Meeting at Conservatory

**Monday June 18th**    Park Board to consider accepting final plan at regular Board meeting, 218 Madison Street.
Barrie Park Site Master Plan: Main Issues Discussed at Meetings

• Lack of Park Space for competing interests
  10 acres of park space per 1,000 residents
  With 82.29 acres = 1.6 acres per 1,000 residents

• Art Turf or Grass Field

• Organized Sports or Spontaneous Outdoor Play (why not both)

• Playground with mulch and natural look or soft surface rubber (why not both)

• Active Adults (exercise, passive rec.) “A park for the community and all ages’

• Parks as ecological systems

• Connecting young people to the outdoors and nature
Barrie Park Site Master Plan: Ranking Activities

From Latest Questionnaire in Order

1. Playgrounds
2. Spontaneous Play/Passive
3. Landscaped Areas, trees and mounds
4. Picnic Grove
5. Native Plantings
6. Soccer
7. Garden Spaces
8. Picnic Shelter
9. Baseball

Total 90 respondents most had not attended meetings
Morning Drop-off: Traffic Builds Quickly

Barrie Park - Park District of Oak Park
Sporadic during day
Bus drop-off 3:30, baseball 4, soccer 5:15
Add more activity for summer events
Proposal: Expand the Drop-off and Add a Speed Table
Alert drivers, Calm traffic, Join Center & Park together
Speed Table most popular and has least impact on area traffic
And in latest questionnaire there is a call for a speed table on Taylor as well
The Center:
Renovated, popular and well used, pre/after school, indoor play, meetings
Community members said there was too much concrete and not enough planting
West Side of Center
Underused space
Suggestion for Barrie Center Focus Groups, Survey and Last Meeting

1. Create better bathroom access (a family bathroom)
2. Create larger multi-use space
3. Retrofit work station into kitchen
4. Parking for Staff - garage at rear

This would mean remodeling the Center and potentially expanding the Center to the west into underused space.
View of tot lot and entry plaza at Barrie Center
“A lot of concrete, gets very hot” and “not enough seating or shade”
Main suggestions for Tot Lot at Barrie Center
Most Popular suggestions from Questionnaires and Meetings

1. Improve Safety

2. Redesign

3. Add Peter Pan mural

4. Add water feature

5. Add picnic pavilion

6. Apply green solutions:

To achieve all this we will need more space

In 2nd questionnaire 11 people voted for the Tot Lot to move as shown in scheme 6
Issues: Ramp splits area into segments
Large areas of green space separated by paths
Issues: Large Areas of Concrete
Example: Ramp becomes a place
Scheme 1

Barrie Park - Park District of Oak Park
Scheme 1
Enlarged planting areas, 3 different seating pods, space for garden

- Tot Lot w seating
- Seating Pod
- Seating Pod
- Children's Garden
- Butterfly Garden
- Might be area for building expansion
The Top of Reservoir
Multi-use space, Volley ball, 2 Half Courts, 2 Tennis Courts, 143 ft x 123 ft (17,589 sq ft) But space is “cut-off” from the rest of the facility
Call for roofing Top of Reservoir to make it useable year-round

Issues: What Village will allow
Potential Roof Schemes: Cantilevered Roof
Has to have foundations outside of reservoir and reach out over the reservoir.
Potential Roof Schemes:
Tension structure/mono pitch cantilever

Bean Bags, Horseshoes when needed
Soccer kick-wall
Movie screen

Multi-use Space
Basketball
Golf Driving Range
Community Gardens?

Grilles, games, Seating,
Batting Cages
Storage
Potential Roof Schemes:
Roof should not dominate surrounding homes
Potential Roof Schemes: Set back from Harvey
Uses from last Questionnaire and Last Meeting in order

1. Pavilion/Rental Space for family gatherings, films, grilling,
2. Community Gardens
3. Basketball
4. Space for Older Kids, chess tables, ping pong etc.
5. Battling Cages
6. An Aerarium, a gym without walls Basketball
7. Mini Skate Park
8. Volley Ball (can’t be sand volleyball)
9. Tennis
10. Golf practice cages
11. Bocce
12. Soccer kick-wall
13. Bean bag games
14. Horse Shoes

Total 90 respondents to Questionnaire 2
Entries: Could we make Entrances more Welcoming?
Suggestions include removing walls, limbing up or removing vegetation

• Remove the walls and open up views into the park

• Residents liked the idea of moving the back stop to create a welcoming entry into the park
Entries: Yes we can make entryways more welcoming
Open up corners, Add a rain garden at the entry, we will need detention areas with new codes
Drainage a major issue for all
Mounds and grading block drainage, path becomes swale
Drainage
North side path in shadow and gets icy
Drainage
Move paths into the park and regrade and add swales
Sled Hill:
Issues include erosion of Hill and Field, overuse and training of this popular feature.
Sled Hill Issues and Opportunities

“Runners kill the turf in the summer.” In fact it is not just runners that use it when it was supposed to be closed many people using it, “it is fun.”
Sled Hill Issues and Opportunity
From last meeting and 2nd Questionnaire

1. “Create a secondary small hill for kids.” By far the most popular recommendation

2. Residents on Harvard “But do not block all views into park”

3. Add an exercise stair and exercise course

4. Create fitness stations

5. “Lower the hill 42” allowing a more gradual slope and a better opportunity for maintenance.” This will also give more space for other activities

6. “Reseed as short grass prairie.”
Add Exercise Stairs to Hill

Barrie Park - Park District of Oak Park
Southern Entries:
Could we make Entrances more Welcoming?
Long term prepare for the replacement of the play center?
View of playground:
“Planters block views and use up space”
Play Ground

- Rubber surface and contemporary equipment or
- a “nature based” play area with wood chips or both.
- “Really like the boulders at Carroll”
Play Ground
Rubber surface and contemporary equipment or a “nature based” play area with wood chips or both.

9. There is a proposal to redesign the playground in the SE corner of Barrie Park. What surface do you prefer for the playground?

- Rubberized surface similar to surface at Barrie Center tot lot - 51.7%
- Wood mulch/Fibar as is used today - 48.3%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surface Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wood mulch/Fibar as is used today</td>
<td>48.3%</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubberized surface similar to surface at Barrie</td>
<td>51.7%</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
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Play Ground

Rubber surface and contemporary equipment or a “nature based” play area with wood chips or both.

Rustic Play with boulders, logs, etc. 55.8%

Contemporary similar to the equipment at Irving Elementary or Longfellow School 33.7%

But can we have both?
Play Ground Suggestions Survey and last meeting:

1. Redesign the playground, remove the concrete planters

2. Improve lines of sight

4. Add a flex space - Create fitness areas for parents

6. Add more boulders like at Carroll

7. Bring playground and ball field (back stop) closer

8. Add multipurpose space for pop-up uses

9. Art mosaics or sculpture to enliven the space
Field Issues and Opportunities
From Focus Groups, Meeting and Survey

- Field doesn’t drain. Fix drainage
- Artificial turf field v Grass Field
- Soccer has attracted 60 percent more participation than any other recreational sport during the past decade.
- Batting cages and storage
- Distance markers and exercise stations
- Sitting areas along the path
- Planted and Natural areas
- Exploration and Picnic areas
- Pop-up areas for multiple activities
Play Ground and Field Suggestions:
Exercise Stations, Mini Spartan Course, Distance Markers

Grasses and No Mow areas
Similar to Mills Park not areas of Field Park

Seating Pods
Stone seating/exercise area

Barrie Park - Park District of Oak Park
The ‘fenceless’ Humboldt Park soccer field – one of the ten ‘Take the Field’ soccer fields in the City of Chicago

Barrie Park - Park District of Oak Park

Courtesy of Randy Machelski
smith group jjr
11. There is interest in an artificial turf field at Barrie Park. Under which of the following conditions would you support an artificial turf field? (more than one box may be checked)

- Under any conditions, artificial turf is essential: 10.9%
- Only if it is not fenced: 20.7%
- Only if the size of the field is reduced from its current size: 9.8%
- Only if there is a corresponding natural or landscaped area: 34.8%
- I would not support an artificial turf field under any conditions: 48.9%

Total: 92

76.2 points for art turf under certain conditions versus 48.9 points under no conditions
Previous Schemes 1, 2, 3

Barrie Park - Park District of Oak Park
Previous Schemes 4, 5, & 6

Barrie Park - Park District of Oak Park
Scheme 6 followed by 4 most popular in questionnaire and at last meeting.
Both have a speed table
Both move the Back Stop, Large entry into park on NW, Improves safety and helps join Park and Center

Barrie Park - Park District of Oak Park
Both schemes add “Parklike” space
Positive relationship of Playgrounds to Back stop in #6
However, staff think tot lot location unsafe
Scheme 6 has expanded hill the most popular element, improved NW & NE entries, & playground behind backstop.
Schemes 6:

- Speed Table and connection to Center
- Opens the both Northern Corners
- Tot lot next to Playground behind backstop
- One BB Diamond
- More Trees, Planting, Gardens
- Berms buffer to Garfield and Ike
- **Expanded Sled Hill with different elevations for different ages most popular feature**
Issues and Concerns

• Will it all fit?

• Look at turning the field N/S. E/W not desirable

• Issues with sled hill and field overlap or if art turf used, mixing them in this scheme

• Need to minimize walls to sledding hill on Harvard to provide views into park

• Protect playground from Garfield: “we need space for mounds”

• Staff safety Concern: “The Tot Lot should stay beside the Center “ They do not want tots crossing Lombard.
Northern Playgrounds and “Natural” Areas
Looking at Concepts but they could be elsewhere in the park

Tot Lot to move back?
Suggestion for Playgrounds:
We could have both Natural Area and Rubber Surface
Unstructured Outdoor Recreation: Why is it important

National Movement
“Launched in 2006, No Child Left Inside® is a promise to introduce children to the wonder of nature – for their own health and well-being, for the future of environmental conservation, and for the preservation of the beauty, character and community.”

Barrie Park - Park District of Oak Park
The PDOP created a different type of playground at Mills Park Discovery Area.

A labyrinth, mounds, boulders, petroglyphs, and a carved tree stump

But we would need more
Scott Sampson of Dinosaur Train and Curator at Denver Museum of Nature

“Research shows that free play is critical for brain growth, body growth, and emotional growth. The outdoors provides this multi-sensory smorgasbord of opportunities to engage, not just on a computer screen, but through sight, sound, touch, and smell.”

“For young children, it's mostly about unstructured play.”

“BUT YOU HAVE TO LET YOUR KIDS GET MESSY”
“BUT YOU HAVE TO LET YOUR KIDS GET MESSY”

THIS IS NOT REALITY
“BUT YOU HAVE TO LET YOUR KIDS GET MESSY”
More Like This
“BUT YOU HAVE TO LET YOUR KIDS GET MESSY”
And Think like a Child: A Landscape Narrative
Distinctive Elements: White Trees on Mounds
Sycamores and Aspens (Ghost Trees)

Aspens will not be as densely planted
Distinctive Elements: Interesting Evergreens

Fox Willow Grove Illinois
Distinctive Cellular Paths: Paths and Spaces at same time
Distinctive Boulders: Benches and art pieces at same time
Maybe we are ready to take design of discovery areas farther? Can we interpret these land forms from a creek in Robinson’s Woods?
Curved paths and mounds
How can we interpret these land forms?
How can we interpret these land forms? Mounds and Islands?
Curving Path, Mounds, Lots of Trees, Keep Fallen Trees, add Boulders
New Scheme # 7 Detail of the North End

Barrie Park - Park District of Oak Park
New Scheme #7 Detail of North End

- Natural Area mounds, logs, boulders, fibar/mulch path
- Playground with Rubber surface and contemporary equipment
- Tot Lot? Or additional play/picnic/natural area
- Rain Garden
- Island
- Logs
- Mound and boulders
- Cellular path/pop up space
- Plaza BB and playground viewing

Barrie Park - Park District of Oak Park
Making it all Fit: Something’s got to Give

Playgrounds
Natural Areas
Field
Sled Hill
If we turn the field and move the field away from the sled hill “Natural” area and Playgrounds would be reduced in the north.
If we have art turf, the fields can overlap and less impact on “Natural” area/Playgrounds & Hill.
New Scheme # 7

Issues
• Tot Lot moved back but there is still an issue with
• Field/Sled Hill overlap
New Scheme 8: Space for Natural areas, Field & Sled Hill

- Art Turf Field shares space with BB infield

Barrie Park - Park District of Oak Park
Scheme 8 gives space for all the elements

Barrie Park - Park District of Oak Park
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Comparison between Scheme 7 and 8

Scheme 7:
- Natural Area
- Playground
- Picnic and Viewing
- Grass field
  - U11-U12 Soccer
  - 230 x 155

Scheme 8:
- Natural Area
- Playground
- Picnic and Viewing
- Art turf
  - U11-U12 Soccer
  - 230 x 155
- Sled hill with different elevations
- Plaza
THANK YOU
NOW YOUR COMMENTS
Barrie Park Site Master Plan: Agenda

Ideas may strike you later you can email Diane at
Diane.Stanke@pdop.org

There will be a survey on Park District Website
http://www.pdop.org

and go to
http://www.pdop.org/about/park-planning-projects
for this presentation
Barrie Park Site Master Plan: Tree Survey

Tree population at Barrie Park mainly younger trees.

Bald cypress, Crabapple, Norway Spruce, River Birch, Austrian Pine

Trees generally in good condition

1 River Birch tree in the playground in decline

Green Ash EAB infested. Monitor and eventually remove
Barrie Park Site Master Plan: Baseball Fields

7 with this orientation