



Recommendations and Addenda to those recommendations to the Park Board from the Barrie Park Master Plan process

The Barrie Park Master Plan process

The process has included the following: A site walkthrough with staff; community focus group meetings; meetings with PDOP and Village staff; 4 community meetings; presentations to the P. D. Citizen's Committee and the Board of the Park District and a presentation to the Transportation Commission of the Village of Oak Park.

Some proposed concepts were received well and reached a consensus while other concepts resulted in debate and deferral of a decision. Below is a list of recommendations to the Board regarding the various proposals for Barrie Park that reached consensus. Also included are the addenda to those recommendations requested by community members who attended the fourth and final community meeting.

It should be noted: The community members who attended the meetings praised the Board of the Park District for coming to the community and promoting an open discussion on the future of this park.

Items that reached consensus as Part of the Barrie Park Master Plan:

Lombard Avenue

Add a Speed Table on Lombard Avenue between Barrie Center and the main Park
Expand of the drop-off area

The Village of Oak Park Transportation Commission endorsed the proposal. However, parking capacity and the fact that Lombard is a bicycle greenway route must be addressed.

Tot Lot expansion

Improve Safety

Redesign

Add more seating and planting

Add Peter Pan mural

Add small scale water feature

Add picnic pavilion

Apply green solutions

(Please note: The Village in the near future, may have to make repairs to pipes under the Tot Lot. This work should be coordinated between the PDOP and the Village)



Access Ramps

Create a new accessible ramp configuration at the Center and reduce amount of concrete pavement, add planting

Barrie Center

Create better bathroom access to a family bathroom

Create larger multi-use space for rentals

Retrofit work station into kitchen

Construct a garage, whose design is to be in keeping with garages along the alley, for parking for staff and storage. Please note: Currently there are parking restrictions in the morning on Lombard.

Reservoir

The use of the top of the reservoir for recreation space was part of the original design intent in the 1960's.

The PDOP currently has a 99 year lease from the Village, signed 4 years ago.

The design team met with the Village Engineer Bill McKenna and established that the PDOP will continue to use the top of the reservoir for recreation/public space.

Mr. McKenna also agreed to the construction of a roof structure over part of the reservoir. The roof structure should be designed to allow access to the reservoir for inspection and repair. The Village should be kept informed as to when and what will be constructed and the Village should review and approve structural design.

Proposed recommendations for the top of the reservoir

Add a partial roof to the south side of the reservoir to provide a year-round usable space

This roof will provide rental space for family gatherings, films, picnicking etc.

Also accommodate the following:

Community Gardens (could be movable)

Space for older kids, chess tables, ping pong etc. (movable)

Batting and Golf practice cages (Northside away from houses)

A multi-use space for 2 basketball half courts with removable rims

Baggo/Bean bag games (could be in any scheme, keep in storage)

Soccer kick-wall (use the existing pump station wall)

Make the space more accessible for residents by opening the gates on the west side of the space.

Proposed recommendations for main park space east of Lombard Avenue:

General Recommendations that reached consensus for the main park space

- Follow the layout of park elements as shown in design schemes 4 A and 4 B



- Add rain gardens and apply other stormwater detention stratagems throughout, for aesthetic and practical reasons and to comply with new MWRD standards
- Improve park entryways, make them more welcoming
- Flip the baseball back stop to Northeast corner of the park
- Add a picnic grove, seating and trees
- Add exercise stations along the park perimeter
- Add maps to signage posts that call out the distance/length of the paths around the park
- Add training course on both sides of sledding hill

Proposed recommendations for the playground:

- Redesign the playground, remove the concrete planters
- Improve lines of sight
- Add a flex spaces for pop-up uses
- Create fitness areas for parents
- Add a “natural area” with more boulders logs and plants
- Art mosaics or sculpture to enliven the space

Proposed recommendations the field:

There were multiple plans produced by the design team during the process. The community favored the layout of park elements as shown in schemes 4 A and 4 B.

The schemes are similar. The differences being that 4 A shows the use of a natural grass field at 240' x 165' t and 4 B shows a synthetic turf field at 290' x 165'.

Consensus was not achieved on the use of grass or synthetic turf. The community approved the proposed recommendation below with a series of addenda.

The proposed recommendation to the Board is the following:

The Park District is to move forward with both plans as shown in Schemes 4 a and 4 b; develop an opinion of probable cost for both, and defer the choice of using synthetic turf or natural grass for the field, until the time of detailed design in approximately 4-5 years.

Addenda to the Recommendation

The community requests that the Board of the Park District at that time will carry out the following in addition to the normal design development, on which to base their decision, regarding the installation of an artificial turf or a grass playing surface:

- Review and consider current studies that relate to health concerns associated with the use of synthetic turf and/or its infill material



- Review the latest national trends related to the installation and/or removal of synthetic turf fields

And

- Regardless of the material selected for the field, there will not be a fence surrounding the perimeter of the field
- Whether the field material selected is synthetic turf or natural grass, the site must be amended to address the drainage issues.

And

- The PDOP will host a public meeting to review the plan for the field prior to making an allocation of funding.

Proposed recommendations for the sled hill:

The sled hill is a very popular component of the park. However, the design of the sled hill is also controversial and attendees at the fourth meeting also requested that addenda be added to the recommendations.

The proposed recommendation

- Add a low/roll hill for smaller children to whatever scheme is chosen
- Improve the Southwest entry into the park and make it more welcoming
- Consider alternate planting for the hill's main slope and improve plantings and overall appearance of concrete walls
- Add exercise/training course to the sides of the hill
- Carry out repairs as necessary

Addenda to the Recommendation

The community requests that the Board of the Park District, at the time of detailed design of the sled hill, will consider alternate treatments for the hill and hill wall. This will include ways to make the hill less visually intrusive on the neighborhood and to provide a more pleasing and "natural" aesthetic. Any concepts should take careful consideration for safety standards and to not affect the adjacent field dimensions.

End of Recommendations
