
TO: MAYOR J. LEHMAN AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

FROM: R. SUTTON, P. ENG., DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING

**NOTED: R. FORWARD, MBA, M.SC., P. ENG., GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE
AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT**

M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

**RE: MILITARY HERITAGE PARK UPDATE
(FILE: R04-MI)**

DATE: OCTOBER 16, 2017

The purpose of this memorandum is to update members of Council on the Military Heritage Park development including the status of the park construction, a review of potential anti-graffiti measures within the park, an update on the official opening of the park, and next steps.

Status of Completion

The overall park construction is nearing completion with substantial performance of the landscape contract expected by October 13th. The most recent works have been the installation of the planting beds associated with the CoreTen steel image panels and the bulb plantings associated with the “crater field” located next to the trench wall. Additional works over the next week will include the installation of the LED walkway lighting, the up-lights for the entry sign, and completion of sodding and naturalized seeding within the park.

All park elements are highlighted in an aerial image of the park taken on October 3, 2017, as shown in Appendix “A”.

Anti-Graffiti Measures

The question of anti-graffiti measures has been raised for this project and staff have reviewed the available alternatives. Numerous anti-graffiti products have been tested throughout the City in past years with a particular focus around our major Corporate Facility buildings. Currently, the City’s Parks Operations Department has stopped using these types of products as they have not been proven to be reliable, and they require annual re-applications to sustain the coverage. What is recommended is to increase security within the park itself through the use of cameras and anti-loitering devices, and to advise the Barrie Police Service and our By-law Enforcement Cycling patrols that this new section of the park requires surveillance. Once the LED walkway lighting has been installed, the illumination of the park will help deter nighttime activities. Skate deterrents have been installed on the concrete seating wall and will be on the Ogden benches to prevent “railing”.

Coordination of Park Construction

Through the course of construction, Parks Planning and Development staff worked closely with other departments including Facilities, Culture, Parks and Forestry, Water Operations, and Access Barrie to ensure that the park construction would not impact corporate events, festivals, weddings, and other activities within the area surrounding the construction. This coordination resulted in no unplanned impacts to the Southshore Centre. Weekly updates were issued through Access Barrie and posted on the City’s Twitter page to advise the public on how the park was developing. This has led to many favourable comments being received by the City on the new park features.

Of particular note, our landscape contractor, Latitude 67 Limited, has been very accommodating to the needs and expectations of local user groups. One example of this is their assistance to allow access to the rose garden, and a water supply to maintain the site throughout the summer.

Coordination for Events and Festivals

Despite the wet summer season, the construction of the park has proceeded very efficiently due to the well-draining nature of the site. As a result, the City was able to open up the newly constructed west parking lot ahead of schedule to allow both Kempenfest and Illuminate Barrie to place their portable stages directly on the parking lot surface. This allowed for a faster set-up by the Kempenfest organization which permitted the remainder of the park to host the public activities. The end result is that this section of Allandale Station Park will now become a successful event space for future festivals.

Official Park Opening

The official park opening is scheduled for Friday, October 27th at 11:00am within the Military Heritage Park. Parks Planning staff are working with the Mayor's office, Access Barrie, and Culture staff to assist with the event coordination. Formal invitations are expected to be distributed well in advance of the opening.

Next Steps

Staff will continue to work on the implementation of interpretive signage and educational panels with the members of the Military Heritage Park Working Group and our First Nations representatives, while also assisting the Public Art Committee, various local artists, and stakeholders on the placement of future art and sculptures throughout the site.

If there are any questions, please contact Walter Fischer at extension 5101 or by email at walter.fischer@barrie.ca.

Appendix "A" – Aerial Image of Military Heritage Park

