

Summary

We heard that the community wants wildlife habitat to be protected and enhanced, ecological and flooding-related improvements made to Bowker Creek, more trees, and open space for informal recreation. Accessible, all-weather pathways connecting the hospital and through the park is also a priority.

Community feedback falls into a number of themes:

Very Strong Support for:

- **RESORE / NATURALIZE / WILDLIFE / INCREASE BIODIVERSITY**

Increase wildlife habitat by planting native plants to provide food and shelter, increase tree and vegetation cover.

- **STORMWATER MANAGEMENT**

Resolve flooding issues.

Strong Support for:

- **RESTORE / IMPROVE ECOLOGICAL HEALTH OF CREEK**

Improve creek health and water quality, make banks less steep, plant riparian area. Some references to doing improvements as per Bowker Creek Blueprint plan, i.e. moving creek further into the park.

- **MORE TREES / SHADE**

Retain existing and plant more trees, expand the urban forest.

- **DOGS**

Dog walking and off-leash dog walking are very important to dog owners, and the open space and shade are appreciated. Some concern was expressed about allowing dogs to access all areas of the park (i.e. creek and wildlife areas). Minor opposition to off-leash dogs.

- **OPEN SPACE**

Keep open space for dogs, kids, and unstructured play and recreation.

- **CONNECTIONS / GREENWAY**

Improve connections to the hospital, through park, and link to Spirit Garden. Main trails and park-entry points should be flood-proof, all-weather, and accessible. Recognize link to the Bowker Greenway and treat accordingly (multi-use trail).

Significant Support for:

- **RESTORE BOWKER CREEK AS PER BOWKER CREEK BLUEPRINT**
Relocate/meander the creek within the park.

- **EDUCATION / ACCESS TO NATURE**
Provide kids / schools with access to nature / outdoor classroom.

- **ACTIVITIES**
Relaxation.
Unstructured play for children in open and treed space.
Disk golf station.

- **CLIMATE MITIGATION**
Consider site's ability to help mitigate climate change; water retention, more trees.

- **AMENITIES**
Seating.
Garbage cans – more and/or changed more frequently.
(Note playgrounds specifically opposed by a number of people.)

- **SAFETY**
Keep sight lines into the park.

- **NO CHANGE**
Keep it exactly as it is.

Other Ideas:

- **ZONE P-4N**
Zone park P-4N 'Natural Park Zone'.

- **AMENITIES**
Bridges (if needed to cross new creek alignment)
I.D. signage
Interpretive signage: history of creek / past farming
Drinking fountain
Public washroom
Landscaping / flower beds
Potential nature house / community nature education centre
Lighting