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Susan Tibaldi Parkette and Carlton Park Improvements

Posted on: [12-11-2012](#) Posted in: [Bulletins](#)

In an effort to build our local park infrastructure, I am ensuring that major upgrades will happen during 2013 in *Susan Tibaldi Parkette* and *Carlton Park*. As follow up to the public meetings I hosted on December 3rd, it is my pleasure to provide these notes and design panels from our meetings, and to welcome additional comments.

Process: As with any proposed change to our community, consultation with area residents was my main focus. Three public meetings were held for these projects. In the Autumn of 2011, I brought together residents and staff to create a wish-list for each park. Taking our budget for such improvements into account, I then selected several items from each wish-list and brought the proposals back to the community for review and revision in Spring 2012. Once community approval was received, Parks staff generated proposed designs and equipment options. On December 3rd we once again met and finalized our priorities and plans for these parks. I will continue to provide all residents who express interest with opportunities to participate as we move through detailed design and tendering phases in the coming months.

Results: In each park, I allocated a substantial amount of funding toward physical infrastructure upgrades. Parks Capital Staff will be tendering these projects as early as possible to ensure we get as much benefit for our public dollars as possible. As a result, our community will soon be able to experience these revitalized public parks.

Susan Tibaldi Parkette:

- Natural play elements and naturally coloured contemporary playground equipment with wood fibre as the play area's base material
- Large, relatively mature trees to be planted in order to provide shade
- Fencing to be added along the laneway in place of existing guard rail
- New drinking fountain and dog bowl
- Landscaping, including more flowers on the east side of this parkette
- Lighting and electrical upgrades, including the addition of power outlets
- Additional benches

Carlton Park:

- New paved, accessible entrance features at southern corners, with seat walls and landscaping
- Concrete pathways through the park
- Remove baseball diamond and restore to open, grassy space
- Install fire pit
- New drinking fountain with dog bowl and step
- Maintain concrete court for possible addition of picnic shelter
- Possibility for low picket fence proposed for south of the park, but not high priority

Next Phases:

Detailed design and tendering phases will begin in the new year and continue through early spring (subject to Council's approval of the 2013 Capital Budget). Construction is slated to begin in spring and be completed

Council's approval of the 2013 Capital Budget). Construction is slated to begin in spring and be completed around the time that the school-year winds to a close. Before, during and after the building of our new physical infrastructure, I will continue to work on building our social infrastructure in Susan Tibaldi Parkette, Carlton Park and throughout Ward 18.

As City Councillor for Ward 18, part of my job is to remove barriers, and provide enhanced opportunities for the spirit of community to flourish in our local public spaces. This part of my job will be amplified by the fact that I was recently appointed by Council to serve as a member of the Community Development and Recreation Committee (CDRC). In both my capacity as Councillor and as a CDRC member, I look forward to working with Ward 18 residents, local organizations, my Council colleagues and Staff. Together we will find innovative ways to remove barriers and improve access to the programs and services that will help build social infrastructure in our parks and our city as a whole.

With respect to Susan Tibaldi Parkette and Carlton Park upgrades, I will continue to seek residents' participation in the design process and look for opportunities to engage local schools, artists and other interested groups to incorporate more creative, colourful and locally-produced elements into these parks. The active Facebook groups for the Friends of Susan Tibaldi Parkette and the Carlton Park People's Auxilliary are good forums for these ongoing discussions, and I am happy to host additional discussion at this year's Ward 18 Community Parks Summit and elsewhere.

Building social infrastructure around our local parks will take place to the extent that residents become actively engaged with each other and with my office. As neighbours to these parks, local residents are my eyes and ears; your insights and participation determine the shape of our combined efforts and together we can experience success. At minimum, you are encouraged to contact my office to report any issues and opportunities. If greater involvement is desired we can work with you and create more engaging forums for local participation.

I would like to thank those residents who have participated throughout this process and welcome residents who wish to become more engaged. Thank you for helping to bring very positive changes to our community.

As always, you are encouraged to contact my office by email to councillor_bailao@toronto.ca or calling 416-392-7012.

Sincerely,



Ana Bailão

Toronto City Councillor

Ward 18, Davenport