



WORKSHOP SUMMARY REPORT

THE CREDIT RIVER PARKS STRATEGY

November 23, 2010

Community /Stakeholder Meeting
Summary Report

Prepared by Lura Consulting and Schollen & Company Inc.
for the City of Mississauga



This Workshop summary report was prepared by Lura Consulting. Lura has been retained to provide third-party facilitation services as part of the Credit River Parks Strategy. This summary captures the key discussion points raised during the workshop. It is not intended as a verbatim transcript of comments received. If you have any questions or comments regarding the summary, please contact either:

City Of Mississauga
The Credit River Parks Strategy
905-615-3200, ext. 4498
creditriverparks.strategy@mississauga.ca

OR

Lura Consulting
Phone: 905-410-3888 ex. 8
Acancelli@lura.ca

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION	1
2.0 COMMUNITY/STAKEHOLDER MEETING DETAILS	1
2.1 Background	1
2.2 Public Notification	2
2.3 Meeting Format	2
2.4 Public and Stakeholder Attendance	3
2.5 Project Team Attendance	3
3.0 SUMMARY OF PUBLIC FEEDBACK	4
4.0 COMMENT FORM SUBMISSIONS	4
5.0 MAPPING EXERCISE	10
6.0 QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD	12
7.0 NEXT STEPS	13

APPENDIX A: MEETING AGENDA

APPENDIX B: STUDY AREA MAP

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The 27 km long Credit River flows approximately north to south through the City of Mississauga. It is home to thousands of animals and plants and is a natural wonder within a growing urban city. With over 5km² of parkland along the river, the area has the potential to support a strong natural heritage system, as well as all season recreation, leisure, stewardship, and education opportunities.

City staff and a multidisciplinary team of expert consultants are working together to understand the opportunities for the land in order to develop a strategy that will align current City initiatives with the preservation and enhancement of the Credit River parklands.

The purpose of the Credit River Parks Strategy is to develop a sustainable, innovative and environmentally responsible strategy to guide the planning, development, conservation and management of publicly owned and accessible parklands and natural areas along the Credit River over the next 25 years. The strategy will provide a framework for emphasizing the Credit River, fostering awareness and action around its conservation, providing all-season activities and be a destination for residents and tourists alike.

The strategy development process is designed to consult and engage with Mississauga residents and stakeholders. A range of meetings and activities are planned to provide the public, stakeholders groups, First Nations and other government agencies opportunities to provide their input and feedback throughout the strategy development process.

The first public consultation event for the Strategy was held on November 23, 2010 at the Mississauga Civic Centre. This report summarizes the event and the input and comments received from the participants.

2.0 MEETING DETAILS

2.1 Background

The consultation process for the Credit River Parks Strategy is designed to encourage feedback and constructive input from stakeholders and the general public, while also generating awareness of the importance of the strategy and fostering increased stewardship of the Credit River and the City's adjacent parkland.

The first community and stakeholder consultation event for the Credit River Parks Strategy was held on November 23, 2010 at Tower Garden Cafe, in

the Mississauga Civic Centre. The purpose of this event was to educate the public and stakeholders about the Strategy and seek input from them on public use, values, and park and trail policy principles. This was also the first opportunity for the project team to present the findings from the 'Inventory Assessment' and confirm the preliminary mapping information that had been gathered.

2.2 Public Notification

Notice of the community/stakeholder consultation was provided through a variety of means in an effort to promote the study to the broadest cross-section of interested parties. Notification regarding the meeting included, but was not limited to, the following:

- all residents and landowners located within 120 metres (400 feet) of the Credit River were notified via Canada Post
- a comprehensive list of community and government stakeholders was developed and all were notified via Canada Post and e-mail
- a project specific webpage
- the general City of Mississauga Website
- general press releases to local media
- portable signs
- local newspapers
- detailed information to the local community channel

2.3 Meeting Format

The community/stakeholder meeting consisted of an open house from 7:00 to 7:30pm, during which participants were able to view the map and project panels and speak with the project team. The formal presentation began at 7:30. **Laura Piette**, Director, Community Services from the **City of Mississauga** gave welcoming remarks and introduced the presentation and project team. **Mark Schollen** from **Schollen & Company Inc.** provided a review of the project to date. He explained that the workshop was to be an investigative exercise to promote input from stakeholders and the public. The project team wanted participants to speak to what they knew about the Credit River park system, how they used the parkland and what about the parks was most important to them. Mark provided a brief overview of the study area which includes lands inside the valley corridor, from the Railway Bridge in Streetsville to Highway #407. He also indicated that seven (7) specific sites within the study area would be examined in greater detail. Mark went on to provide a review the 'Inventory Assessment', which is a components of the first phase the strategy development. As part of this assessment, the consulting team conducted site visits and research in order to identify characteristics, barriers and patterns of use within the Study Area. Mark explained that they had found that the

Credit Valley park system was generally healthy, and had great historic, cultural and archeological significance.

Leah Lefler, a representative from **North-South Environment** spoke about the ecological review completed to date and described the approach being undertaken to identify and accommodate sensitive areas and species.

Mark Schollen concluded the presentation with a summary of challenges and opportunities in moving forward, such as existing policies, sensitive areas, private property, natural hazards, existing facilities, public safety, accessibility and barriers to connectivity.

Upon conclusion of the presentation, a short question and answer period was facilitated by **Jim Faught** from **Lura Consulting**. The comments were recorded and are summarized in Section 6.0 of this report.

Following the question and answer period, the participants were encouraged to provide input during a workshop session, and record their ideas on the comment forms distributed at the beginning of the meeting. In addition, some attendees chose to provide feedback on the initial mapping and identify particular locations within the study area that they felt to be of specific concern. The comment forms and map feedback were collected at the end of the evening. A summary of this input is included in Sections 4.0 and 5.0 of this report.

Mark Howard, the project lead, from the **City of Mississauga**, provided closing remarks and spoke briefly about the next steps for the project, including the Places and Spaces campaign and online survey thereby concluding the workshop at 9:00 p.m.

2.4 Public and Stakeholder Attendance

A total of 85 public and stakeholders attended the community/stakeholder meeting throughout the evening, with 57 providing contact information through the meeting registration process.

2.5 Project Team Attendance

Mark Schollen - *Schollen and Company*

Markus Hillar - *Schollen and Company*

Jim Faught - *Lura Consulting*

Leah Lefler - *North-South Environment*

Mark Howard - *City of Mississauga*

Ruth Marland - *City of Mississauga*

Laura Piette - *City of Mississauga*

David Marcucci - *City of Mississauga*

Andy Wickens - *City of Mississauga*

Tristan McIntosh - *City of Mississauga*

3.0 SUMMARY OF PUBLIC FEEDBACK

The following is a summary of the issues and comments most frequently raised at the open house. It includes the feedback received from the comment forms, the mapping exercise and question and answer period as completed on November 23, 2010. For a full description of the input received, please see Section 4.0-5.0.

- in the future, provide opportunities, both for **active recreation**, such as swimming, biking, kayaking, ice-skating, and skiing; as well as **passive recreation**, such as walking, hiking and picnicking
- parks to be accessible **year-round**, (both summer and winter activities)
- **preservation of the natural state** of the Credit River should be an important focus of the strategy; the parks should be a place to experience nature
- the parkland should be a **resilient and sustainable eco-system**
- **restoration** of the river's natural features and functions
- long **continuous trails** throughout the parks, for walking, hiking, cross-country skiing and experiencing nature
- **native plants and animals** are preferred
- increased **access to the river** at various locations
- more **facilities** for shelter, shade and picnicking would attract people to the parks
- the **future** growth of Mississauga, including population and development, should be considered in the planning process
- the project team should **consult long-term residents** and discuss how to integrate respect for the **private property owners** along the river into the strategy
- there are **safety and connection** issues along some of the trails within the park system
- more festivals and programmed events in the parks
- opportunities for **learning, interpretation, stewardship and volunteerism** are valued
- there are issues with **vandalism**/alcohol and drug use/noise in several places throughout the study area

4.0 COMMENT FORM SUBMISSIONS

A summary of all feedback received from the comment on November 23rd is presented below. The feedback is presented based on the 5 questions included on the comment form, which is included in Appendix C. For each question, several themes have been identified; under each theme is a full record of all the comments received. *An asterix (*) indicates the number of*

additional times a comment was made (one asterix (*) per comment). Please note that the comments in this section are not verbatim.

Question 1: Imagine Credit River Parks 25 years from now. What elements and activities would you like to see?

- Opportunities for activity and recreation:
 - both summer* and winter activities*
 - festivals*
 - passive recreation, especially walking* i.e. walking trails and tours
 - active recreation, such as such as fishing, ice-skating, kayaking, swimming, biking
 - activities that do not compromise the natural features of valley
 - opportunities for children, adults, seniors and people with disabilities to use the park
 - the river is not suited for intense sport
- Connections, linkages and transportation:
 - a continuous bike path*** (north-south without road travel; from Dundas to the Lake; from one end to the other and beyond)
 - a connected trail system***
 - more complete connectivity of the parks via the Culham trail
 - a scenic trail to connect Streetsville and Port Credit
 - completion of Culham Trail*
 - access to public transportation
 - parking lots
 - bikes for rent at key spots in the park in order to link transit and parks
- Naturalization and restoration of the river:
 - restoration of the river's natural features and functions***
 - naturalization of the river**
 - opportunities for engaging with the river at a more intimate level*
 - restoration of water table levels
 - restored water quality
 - strict monitoring of the river to bring back original fish species
 - tree restoration
- Protection of ecological systems and natural heritage:
 - a sustainable natural eco-system** – resilient to climate change
 - preservation of the natural environment as it is*

- small animals, fish*, birds*
 - buffering of the riparian eco-system to enhance the natural heritage system
 - flower gardens, bushes, trees, water ponds, waterfalls, streams
 - vegetation and animals native to the area
- Other comments:
- more/better signage*
 - reclaim land as opportunities arise
 - utilize Pinchin Farm property as a mixed-use park and consider it for heritage conservation status
 - preservation of historic features
 - diversity
 - free internet access in park with work benches and tables
 - more shaded areas
 - no structures

Question 2: What would attract you to the Credit River Parks in the future?

- Natural heritage features:
- preservation of the park in its natural state****
 - opportunities to experience nature**
 - more animals
 - open areas
 - improved water quality
 - improved wild salmon and trout fishery
- Opportunities for learning and interpretation:
- a nature interpretive centre
 - educational panels about the park and its connection to the community
 - creation of a park identity through artistic interventions
 - learning opportunities for school children, teens, and adults
 - historical re-creations
- Park facilities and infrastructure:
- more picnic areas* with shade
 - splash pads
 - weather shelters
 - sanitary facilities
 - a small zoo
 - ice rinks

- Rentals and park services:
 - canoe/kayak rentals
 - bike rentals
 - concession stands along bike routes
- Recreational opportunities:
 - picnicking*
 - winter activities, such as skating, skiing*
 - swimming
 - a quiet natural place to walk
 - ability to hike the length of the river
- Programmed events and activities:
 - nature tours or clubs
 - volunteer activities
 - walking tours
 - free activities
- A trail system for various uses:
 - long continuous trails***** (like Bruce County)
 - nature trails*
 - cross-country ski trails*
 - walking trails
 - ice trails
 - a multi-use trail from Lake Ontario to the upper most part of the River in Mississauga
 - not a series of parks but one continuous park (similar to the lakefront)
 - bicycle paths
 - walking paths
- Other:
 - accessibility*** (easy access for groups; accessible roads, access to the river at multiple points)
 - better access to the river**
 - more parks and expansion of existing ones*
 - safety
 - cleanliness
 - no commercialism; no restaurants
 - direction signage
 - car free paths
 - vibrant harmony of use (open year-round)

3. What should the project team take into consideration as they develop a strategy for the Credit River Parks?

- A plan for the future:
 - consider the effects of climate change
 - do not plan too far into the future; in the past there has been relatively little progress on parks/trails planning
 - consider how Mississauga will expand and the effect of new office towers, business center, condos, manufacturing, servicing centers and medical facilities
 - plan trails that require low-maintenance
- Restoration and protection of natural features in Mississauga and the Credit River:
 - the remaining heritage land in Mississauga is precious*
 - increase forest canopy and biodiversity
 - the spread of invasive species
 - make the park natural
 - encourage use of river corridor
 - integrate with other conservation areas within Mississauga
 - continue with re-naturalization and land reclamation
- Partnerships and the needs of stakeholders:
 - the management of the park system will require complex partnerships
 - consult the long-term residents
 - have respect for the riparian rights and private property of the home owners
- Demographics and population changes:
 - the ethno-cultural diversity in Mississauga
 - aging demographics
 - the projected large increases in population in Mississauga
- Access to the river:
 - ensure that the public has access at various points along the river****
 - bridges or paths are needed to provide access at certain parts of the river
 - the entry points to the parks need to be established beyond the population centre to achieve a flow of visitors
 - access from designated access points to other multi-use trails
 - opportunities for fishing and canoeing
- Education and stewardship:

- there should be strategies to educate the public about the park*
 - community outreach to develop appreciation for the park would be good
 - highlight why the park is unique, unusual, threatened, etc.
 - encourage schools to do spring/fall clean-ups
- Other comments for the project team to consider:
- park use should be year-round*
 - location and generation of pollution
 - the importance of continuity with existing plans affecting the area
 - use existing unmapped trails for the creation of formal trails
 - the Culham Trail should be continuous from Brampton to the Lake and it should be paved
 - have a continuous trail the length of the river that is accessible at various locations
 - fishing draws thousands of anglers to Erindale Park every year

4. Is there any baseline information missing or needing correction on the maps?

- details on the current public ownership issues within the study area
- the Milton GO line is mislabelled on the map
- Atlantic salmon and Lake Sturgeon were missed from the endangered species list
- Credit River is Mississauga's only large, functioning natural heritage land
- the golf courses in Mississauga are not included on the map and need to be considered in the plan

5. Are there areas in the parks or adjacent to the parks that have issues?

- bike routes and linkages at various points within the valley
- illegal dumping occurring at 2nd line north of Highway #401, near Donway Drive
- structures and development within the flood plain such as Kraft Mill and the golf courses
- vandalism/alcohol and drug use/noise in several places
- off leash dogs
- lack of connection due to private lands (below Dundas, Kraft property in Streetsville, Humphrey Farm north of Hwy. 401)
- maintenance of the playgrounds for children

6. Other Comments?

- there should be opportunities for people to volunteer to clean up, plant trees, and contribute to trail and nature preservation
- trails and parks along the Credit River are loved
- safety/security is an issue
- presenters spoke too fast; presenters should post their names; screen information was too small
- consider a program to plant canopy lanes that cross the residential and commercial areas and link the parks to each other
- who is going to pay for all this work? How will they pay for it?
- “parks” should not be groomed grass, but rather naturalised areas
- consider designating Old Meadowvale Village as a heritage area as a way of revitalization
- sports facilities, buildings, playing fields, etc. should be located in the areas that are not adjacent to the river and its valley
- allow use of unmapped existing trails
- please keep the Credit Valley in its natural state
- there is a large untapped synergy between University of Toronto-Mississauga (UTM), the Credit River and its natural resources
- the Credit River is home to one of the largest trout runs in the Great Lakes
- the valley is home to deer, coyote, fox, wild turkey, nesting ducks and geese, and hundreds of other birds, insects, invertebrates, animals, trees and reptiles
- there is potential for an outdoor recreation and environmental science education program at UTM

5.0 MAPPING EXERCISE FEEDBACK

Workshop participants were given the opportunity to make comments about specific locations on the map. Their comments were recorded and a red sticker placed on the map in relation to the particular comment. The following is a description of the comments received from the exercise. The comments have been summarized for the purposes of clarity. The corresponding project consulting team map is included in Appendix B.

#	Ref.	Description	Comment
1	K1	North end – along the river	issue with the impact of parkland on private property.
2	J3	Mississauga Golf & Country Club and; the Credit Valley Golf & Country Club	concerned about the impact of park use on the golf clubs; as well as safety issues for parks users who find their way onto the golf course
3	J2	Along the river; near Stavebank Road	there is currently a lot of garbage in this area; it should be cleaned up
4	J2		the Credit Valley Golf and Country Club is not labelled on the map
5	K1	Port Credit, west of CNR Go Line	lots of garbage is left and young people often leave their beer bottles
6	L1	Port Credit, west of CNR Go Line	Port Credit Park restoration was good (outside the study area)
7	C5		not the Milton Go Line
8	C4	410 and St. Lawrence and Hudson Railway	connectivity is a problem, from one side of the 401 to the other; it is an important spot for cyclists.
9	F5	Streetsville Memorial Park	there should be bike trails south out of Streetsville Memorial Park as nothing exists there now
10	I5	Erin Dale Mark and Mississauga Road	a trail ends and there needs to be a connection for cyclists.
11.	F5	Streetsville Memorial Park	there is no connection for cyclists
12.	C4	410 and St. Lawrence and Hudson Railway	the only way to stay on the trail here is to cross a bridge, which can be dangerous.
13.	C2	Main north-south road in between 401 and Britannia Road West	shared bicycle lanes on this road are dangerous, but it is the only way for bicycle commuters to go. It would be better if they were separated from the cars
14.	H4	Along the river; Erin Dale park	significant historical/geological and ecological area what should have signage to indicate its importance

6.0 QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD SUMMARY

The following is a summary of the questions and answers raised at the November 23rd workshop. The comments have been summarized for the purposes of clarity.

Q1 - How do you plan to balance the need for accessibility and safety?

A1 - This is something that we will work to figure out and look for input on. The solutions will depend on the characteristics of the particular site.

Q2 – Is ‘restoration’ going to be a component of your plan?

A2 – Yes. Restoration is fundamental to our approach- both natural and cultural heritage restoration.

Q3 – How do you plan to deal with issues of vandalism and damage to private property along the river?

A3 – This is something we will be looking into further during the study.

Q4 – Is there potential to purchase private property within Mississauga in order to achieve continuity of the trails and park system?

A4 – Yes. The purchasing of private property has been discussed in meetings.

Q5 – Is it possible to use rocks as a way of dealing with erosion along the river, similar to what was done at Erindale Park?

A5 – Erosion is a complex, natural process that is an important consideration in the plan. Armouring (creating a hard surface) the river from erosion is an older approach to dealing with erosion. We will be looking for more long-term solutions where possible.

Q6 – To what extent do you intend to make Credit Valley a destination point or tourist destination? And can you do this as well as maintain the parks natural heritage integrity.

A6 – The tourist element will be addressed in the planning process. There are certainly opportunities to make the park a tourist destination, more so than it already is.

Q7 – You have identified the importance of a number of policies for the plan. You also have an ambitious public consultation plan. If the average person is not aware of the park policies in Mississauga, will you be forced not to incorporate the feedback from these people in the end?

A7 - Thank you for your comment. It will be considered in the consultation during the project.

7.0 NEXT STEPS

The November 23 workshop is one of many opportunities for the public and stakeholders to contribute their input to the Credit River Parks Strategy. The next set of public and stakeholder consultations will be held during phase 2 of the project, and will be an opportunity for the project team to receive feedback on the concept plans for feature sites and the Interim Park Strategy. The dates of these meetings are still to be confirmed. The Places and Spaces campaign and the online survey are also being conducted during the months of December, January, and February.

Appendix A: Meeting Agenda



credit river parks strategy

AGENDA

Credit River Parks Strategy Open House and Workshop

Tuesday, November 23, 2010

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Mississauga Civic Centre, 300 City Centre Drive

Tower Garden Café, 12th floor

- 6:30 Registration**
- 7:00 Open House - View Maps & Panels**
- 7:30 Introductions - Laura Piette, Director, Community Services**
- 7:35 Presentation - Mark Schollen, Principal, Schollen & Company**
- 8:00 Questions and Answers - Jim Faught, Director, Lura Consulting**
- 8:15 Workshop - Public Input**
- 8:55 Next Steps - Mark Howard, Project Lead, Credit River Parks Strategy**
- 9:00 Adjourn**

For more information:

Visit: www.mississauga.ca/creditriversstrategy

Call: 905-615-3200 ext. 4498

Email: creditriversstrategy@mississauga.ca



**Our Future
Mississauga**

Appendix B: Study Area Map

