



March 7, 2016

Netami Stuart, Landscape Architect
Parks, Forestry and Recreation
City of Toronto
Metro Hall, 55 John Street, 24th floor
Toronto, ON M5V 3C6
nstuart@toronto.ca

CCFEW Comments on the Humber Bay Parks Project Master Plan Development and Pavilion Design

Vision & Outdoor Activities

1. What is your vision for Humber Bay Park East and West?

CCFEW's vision of the Humber Bay Parks is a place for passive recreation in a primarily naturalized environment. As noted in the TRCA's [Terrestrial Biological Inventory and Assessment](#), Humber Bay East has the greatest amount of, and potential for, high quality naturalized spaces. These areas should be protected and enhanced as much as possible. Humber Bay Park West is never likely to have the same quantity and quality of naturalized spaces due to the large portion of the park occupied by boating clubs.

2. What activities would you like to be included as part of the Master Plan?

The Master Plan should focus on passive recreational activities. These would include walking, cycling, nature viewing, fishing, and picnicking.

Pavilion & Related Activities

1. What is your vision for a Pavilion at Humber Bay East?

The pavilion is an ill-conceived notion with no clear use or purpose. It is very reminiscent of the Power House at Colonel Samuel Smith Park. That facility sat largely unused for years despite having a fully staffed community centre (Ken Cox) just 200 metres away. To date, the only long term, ongoing use it has found is as a skate changing facility for the skating trail.

The pavilion has been described both as a community centre, and as not a community centre. We should not be putting a community centre in these parks. Humber Bay Parks may have been large and underused when they were first built, but they are now heavily used, and highly valued, as the surrounding area continues to be transformed into a dense urban residential area. The site identified for the pavilion is in, or adjacent to, the areas identified as having the best quality natural habitat and the [areas most sensitive to disturbance from development](#). Many of us have been pointing out for years that there are no community centres, libraries, or schools being built for all these new residents. That is no justification for now carving a piece out of a waterfront park to address that deficiency.

The community deserves a true community centre, not a pseudo community centre occupying precious waterfront park space. It should be a priority in the development plan for the Mondelēz (former Christie) site.

2. What are the activities that should be accommodated in the Pavilion design?

As stated above, we see no clear use for the pavilion. If it is going to be open, it must be staffed. If it is staffed it must be programmed. If it is programmed, it must be a community centre. A community centre doesn't belong in a waterfront park.

Natural Environment & Ponds

1. With respect to the natural environment and ponds, what issues should be considered in the Master Plan?

The plan should consider a strategy of replacing exotic species with native ones, where practical, and controlling invasives. Upgrades to the existing trail network should be considered, both to prevent erosion and trampling, and to maximize the size of contiguous habitat blocks providing shelter for a variety of wildlife.

2. With respect to the natural environment and ponds, what opportunities should be considered in the Master Plan?

- Designated viewing locations, possibly elevated, should be considered at the eastern pond and wetland regeneration embayments to reduce damage from informal access routes.
- Areas of high quality habitat, particularly in Humber Bay East, should be protected and

enhanced.

- A wind-powered pumping system should be considered for the ponds. This could provide an opportunity to learn about old technology and sustainable solutions while providing a low cost pumping solution.
- The stormwater management ponds create important wildlife habitat, particularly in the final stage pond. The floating walkway provides excellent viewing opportunities. Further habitat enhancement and protection of the south-east shoreline should be considered.

Circulation, Parking & Accessibility

1. With respect to circulation, parking and accessibility, what issues should be considered in the Master Plan?

There is a very large portion of Humber West dedicated to parking. A study should be undertaken to determine if there is an oversupply. Humber Bay Park West is under-used. A combination of trail realignment and signage should be used to encourage more people to explore there. The remaining boat launch at Humber Bay West is an important facility that should be maintained. There are very few other public boat launches on the western waterfront. There are extensive informal trails in Humber Bay East. Most of these should be upgraded to formal trails in order to reduce damage to surrounding vegetation.

2. With respect to circulation, parking and accessibility, what opportunities should be considered in the Master Plan?

- Many informal trails should be upgraded so they don't become muddy quagmires in winter and spring.
- Signage and trail connections should be improved in Humber Bay West to encourage more users to explore the outer portion of the park. Cyclists should be encouraged to use the roadway in Humber Bay West in order to reduce the need to widen the existing paved trail.
- The Air India Memorial should be modified so that it is possible to pass without using stairs. There is a muddy path around it created by people with bicycles, strollers, wheelchairs, etc.
- The Mimico Creek bridge is a pinch point. Creating a lookout platform at one end would

help by creating a place other than the bridge for people to stop and look at the creek and lake.

These comments are submitted by consensus on behalf of Citizens Concerned About the Future of the Etobicoke Waterfront (CCFEW)

Brian Bailey
President, CCFEW
brian@ccfew.org

c.c. Peter Klambauer, Senior Project Co-ordinator, City of Toronto
Leah Winter, Lura Consulting
Councillor Mark Grimes
Nancy Gaffney, TRCA
Friends of Humber Bay Park
Humber Bay Shore Condominium Association
Mimico Lakeshore Network