



City of  
**Peterborough**

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**To:** Members of the Peterborough Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (PACAC)

**From:** Erik Hanson, Heritage Resources Coordinator

**Meeting Date:** May 2, 2019

**Subject:** Report PACAC19-031  
Designation of Riverside Park Cultural Heritage Landscape

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## **Purpose**

A report to recommend that the PACAC recommend to Council that Riverside Park Cultural Heritage Landscape be designated under Part IV the **Ontario Heritage Act**.

## **Recommendation**

That the Peterborough Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee approve the recommendation outlined in Report PACAC19-031, dated May 2, 2019 of the Heritage Resources Coordinator, as follows:

That Riverside Park Cultural Heritage Landscape be recommended to Council for designation pursuant to Part IV, Section 29 of the **Ontario Heritage Act** as being of cultural heritage value or interest.

## **Budget and Financial Implications**

There are no budgetary or financial implications associated with the recommendation.

## **Background**

### **Cultural Heritage Landscapes**

Cultural Heritage Landscapes have been identified for several decades as a specific type of heritage resource. Landscapes are complex resources that include both physical elements as well as intangible elements such as religious, cultural, or historic associations. In general, landscapes also include both natural elements and those made by humans and respond to the surrounding environment and context.

In Ontario, a Cultural Heritage Landscape is defined in the 2014 Provincial Policy Statement as:

a defined geographic area that may have been modified by human activity and is identified as having cultural heritage value or interest by a community, including an Aboriginal community. The area may involve features such as structures, spaces, archaeological sites or natural elements that are valued together for their interrelationship, meaning or association.

There are many different types of cultural heritage landscapes which can be designated under Part IV or Part V of the **Ontario Heritage Act**, depending on the scope and complexity of the landscape. Landscapes can include, but are not limited to, heritage conservation districts, streetscapes, parks, gardens, neighbourhoods, cemeteries, natural areas, and industrial complexes. The designation of a property or properties as a cultural heritage landscape recognizes the physical elements of the site as well as its relationship to the local community through its usage, history or significance.

There are three main categories of landscapes, which are recognized by UNESCO: designed landscapes which are designed explicitly by humans; evolved landscapes which began from human action and have evolved in association with its environment; and association landscapes which possess religious or cultural associations with natural elements and may have limited material cultural evidence. These categories assist in the identification, understanding, and preservation of cultural heritage landscapes.

The designation and preservation of cultural heritage landscapes is governed by the same regulations as the designation of properties under the Act and landscapes should be evaluated based on Regulation 9/06 of the Act which establishes the criteria for determining cultural heritage significance. A landscape can either be designated under Part IV or Part V of the Act, depending on its unique circumstances. In general, Part IV designations are suitable for smaller landscapes or those on single parcels of land which are contained and can be protected similarly to an individual property. The designation of a cultural heritage landscape under Part V of the Act, as a heritage conservation district, is more suitable for larger areas which encompass multiple properties; in essence, a conservation district is a type of cultural heritage landscape, whether or not it has been referred to as such in the district plan.

At their meeting of March 7, 2019, the PACAC requested that staff research and prepare a designation brief for East City Bowl/James Stevenson Park. Staff have determined that the area is suitable for designation as a cultural heritage landscape because of the significance of the wider landscape as a whole, including elements such as the views, natural features, and the Hunter Street Bridge, and the fact that activities,

both historic and contemporary, that take place within the park are integral to its meaning and significance to the community. The designation brief for the landscape outlining its significance is attached as Appendix A. If designated, it would be Peterborough's first designated property explicitly recognized as a Cultural Heritage Landscape.

### **Riverside Park Cultural Heritage Landscape**

Riverside Park Cultural Heritage Landscape (CHL) has cultural heritage value or interest as a longstanding and important sports facility within the city of Peterborough. It is a landscape which includes the interrelated elements of sports fields, green space, the Otonabee River shoreline, and the Hunter Street Bridge which form a single, cohesive landscape that has evolved from the nineteenth century as an outdoors space for sports and recreation and has retained its importance to the community in this capacity. It has specific physical and design value as a representative example of baseball and softball field design as it evolved throughout the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries, as well as in the high level of craftsmanship and technical innovation of the Hunter Street Bridge which marks the northern limit of the landscape. Historically, it has direct associations with, and yields significant information regarding, the development of organized sport, specifically baseball and softball, in Peterborough which is related to the growth of the community and its industrial base, particularly in the twentieth century. It also yields information on the development of parkland in Peterborough, both in a private capacity and as a municipal asset. From a contextual perspective, the landscape is an integral aspect of the former Village of Ashburnham, now East City, and helps in defining the wider landscape of the Otonabee River shoreline. Its longstanding presence, dating back to the late nineteenth century and its importance to the community make it an important local landmark, and it has been recognized as such since the early twentieth century.

Submitted by,

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Attachments:

Appendix A – Designation Brief Riverside Park Cultural Heritage Landscape