



City of  
**Peterborough**

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**To:** **Members of the General Committee**

**From:** **Sandra Clancy, Chief Administrative Officer  
and Acting Commissioner of Community Services**

**Meeting Date:** **June 3, 2019**

**Subject:** **Report CSACH19-007  
Designation of Riverside Park Cultural Heritage Landscape**

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## **Purpose**

A report to recommend that Council designate Riverside Park Cultural Heritage Landscape under Part IV, Section 29 of the **Ontario Heritage Act** as being a property of cultural heritage value or interest to the City of Peterborough.

## **Recommendations**

That Council approve the recommendations outlined in Report CSACH19-007, dated June 3, 2019, of the CAO and Acting Commissioner of Community Services, as follows:

- a) That the recommendation of the Peterborough Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (PACAC) to designate the property known municipally as 325 Burnham Street as a cultural heritage landscape under Part IV, Section 29 of the **Ontario Heritage Act (R.S.O. 1990, c.O.18)** being of “cultural heritage value or interest” be approved; and
- b) That Council’s intention to designate be advertised in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality as per the **Ontario Heritage Act R.S.O. 1990, c.O.18, s.31 (3)**; and
- c) That the owners of the properties to be designated, and the Ontario Heritage Trust, be served with a Notice of Intention to Designate as per the **Ontario Heritage Act R.S.O. 1990, c.O.18, s.29 (3)**.

## Budget and Financial Implications

There are no budgetary or financial implications as the result of the recommendations of this report.

## Background

Under Part IV of the **Ontario Heritage Act**, municipalities may designate individual properties deemed to be of “cultural heritage value or interest” to the community, through the passage of municipal By-Laws. The designation process strikes a balance between the freedom of the individual property owners and the recognized need of the community to preserve its heritage resources. Heritage designation prohibits unwarranted demolition and controls major alterations that might otherwise harm specific heritage features.

The Act also allows for the designation of cultural heritage landscapes under Part IV or Part V of the Act. Like all other designated properties, cultural heritage landscapes are evaluated against Regulation 9/06 of the Act which lays out the criteria for determining significance of heritage resources. Staff is recommending that the Riverside Park Cultural Heritage Landscape be designated under Part IV of the Act, as a property of cultural heritage value or interest. This landscape was reviewed by the PACAC at their meeting of May 2, 2019 and recommended by the committee to Council for designation.

### 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 heritage 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 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. It is a good example of an evolved landscape because its evolution over time, which began with the establishment of sports field in this location in the nineteenth century, has continued throughout the twentieth century as the facility developed to fit the needs of the community with regard to organized sport and recreational space. The designation brief for the landscape outlining its significance is attached as Appendix A. The property has been identified as the Riverside Park Cultural Heritage Landscape because this is the historic name of the park; it includes the Riverside baseball diamond, as well as East City Bowl, the Hunter Street Bridge, and the informal sports and recreation areas which make up James Stevenson Park. If designated, it would be Peterborough's first designated property explicitly recognized as a Cultural Heritage Landscape. Designation under Part IV of the Act is most suitable for this landscape because of its small size, its limitation to a single property and the roadway, and the fact that it is entirely owned by the City of Peterborough.

## Riverside Park Cultural Heritage Landscape

Riverside Park Cultural Heritage Landscape has cultural heritage value 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 outdoor space for sports and recreation. It has retained its importance to the community in this capacity.

The property has design and physical value as a representative example of baseball and softball field design as it evolved through the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The landscape demonstrates the evolution of the sport through its built form which has been retained in the locations they were originally established in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It also demonstrates a high level of craftsmanship and technical achievement through the Hunter Street Bridge, which was, for its time, a significant engineering feat and one of the longest concrete bridges in Canada during the early twentieth century.

Historically, the property has significant association with a number of key themes in the historic development of Peterborough. Specifically, the landscape yields information regarding the development of organized sport in the city throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, notably both baseball and softball which were important parts of the city's sporting culture during this period. This also yields information on the development of the recreational life of the community and its industrial base, particularly in the twentieth century, when company culture was intimately tied to organized sport. The landscape also yields additional 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 define the wider landscape of the Otonabee River shoreline. The park and bridge are both visible from multiple vantage points throughout the city and help define key views. There are also important views from both the park and the bridge of important historic structures and landscapes in Peterborough, including downtown East City, the Market Hall Clock Tower, and the Quaker Oats factory. The longstanding presence of this landscape, dating back to the nineteenth century, and its importance to the community as a sports facility make it an important local landmark and it has been recognized as such since the early twentieth century.

## Summary

This report recommends the designation of Riverside Park Cultural Heritage Landscape under Part IV of the **Ontario Heritage Act**.

Submitted by,

Sandra Clancy

Chief Administrative Officer and Acting Commissioner of Community Services

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Attachments:

Appendix A: Designation Brief Riverside Park Cultural Heritage Landscape

Appendix B: Bylaw Draft Riverside Park