



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:** September 5, 2019

**Subject:** Report PACAC19-045  
Designation of Jackson Park Cultural Heritage Landscape

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## **Purpose**

A report to recommend that the PACAC recommend to Council that Jackson 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 PACAC19-045, dated September 5, 2019 of the Heritage Resources Coordinator, as follows:

That Jackson 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 (the 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 its meeting of June 3, 2019, General Committee requested that staff prepare a report regarding the potential for the designation of Jackson Park as a cultural heritage landscape. Staff have determined that the area is suitable for designation as a landscape under Part IV of the Act because of the significance of the area as a whole, including its interrelated natural and architectural elements, and because of its significance to the community as a popular and longstanding recreational space.

Under the Act, Council is required to consult with its municipal heritage committee prior to issuing a notice of intention to designate a property. The designation brief for the landscape outlining its significance is attached as Appendix A for PACAC to review.

### **Jackson Park CHL**

Jackson Park Cultural Heritage Landscape has cultural heritage value or interest as an excellent and representative example of a late Victorian naturalistic urban park and includes two connected green spaces in the city: Jackson Park and Hamilton Park. Initially designed and constructed between 1894 and 1895, the landscape has specific physical and design value as a naturalistic urban park from the late nineteenth century and integrates key design elements from this landscape type, including the use of natural features within a designed park landscape, built elements such as the Pagoda Bridge, and a series of irregular drives and trails throughout the park. It also demonstrates a high level of craftsmanship through the design of the Pagoda Bridge (1895) and other built elements including the Caretaker's Cottage and the park gates on Parkhill Road West, both constructed in the 1920s. Historically, it has direct associations with, and yields significant information regarding, recreation and park use in Peterborough in the late nineteenth and throughout the twentieth century. It also has historical connections to a number of important figures in Peterborough history including Charlotte Nicholls, the Dixon family, and John Belcher, the architect of the park. It also yields information on the development of park land, both municipal and privately owned, within the city. From a contextual perspective, the landscape is connected to its surroundings as an integral part of the development of the north end of Peterborough. It is also a landmark within the city and it recognized by the community as an important local asset.

Submitted by,

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Attachments:

Appendix A – Designation Brief Riverside Park Cultural Heritage Landscape