

Engaging Children in Neighbourhood Planning Informs Prioritized Investment in a Local Play Space to Increase Access to Play

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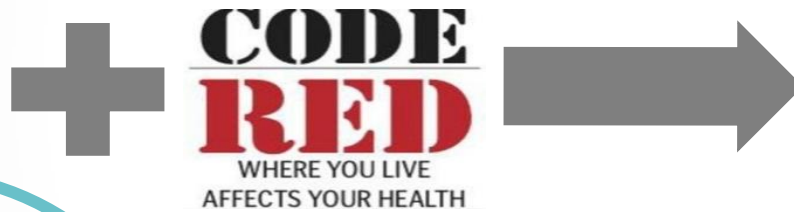
IPA World Conference 2017

Land Acknowledgement

- We would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the Treaty 7 territory and the traditional territory of the Niitsitapi (Blackfoot), Nakoda (Stoney), and Tsuut'ina.
- We would also like to acknowledge that the land which we will be talking about today, is the traditional territory of the Haudensaunee and Anishnaabeg. The territory is the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is directly adjacent to Haldimand Treaty territory.

Nursing & Social Work & Planning & Play





The Neighbourhood

Rolston Neighbourhood

What is a community asset?

A community asset is anything that improves the quality of community life.

Physical Place & Space Assets

- 1 Access to the LINC
- 2 Basketball Court (Property: Annunciation of Our Lord (Catholic Elementary School))
- 3 Bridge over LINC to Gourley Neighbourhood
- 4 Bus Route # 35
- 5 Captain Cornelius Park
- 6 Urban Forest
- 7 Toboggan Hill
- 8 Connection to Park from Fassett Avenue
- 9 City of Hamilton Housing
- 10 Kendale Court Apartment Complex
- 11 Mountain Arena (Dave Andreychuk Arena)
- 12 Newlands Park
- 13 No Frills/ Grocery Store
- 14 Paved Trail/Walkway through park
- 15 Westmount Recreation Centre
- 16 William McCulloch Park (Baseball Diamonds)
- 17 Views to Toronto
- 18 Bus Stop in front of Library
- 19 Basketball Court
- 20 Samir Hall Grocery
- 21 Gourlay Park (Baseball Diamonds and Tennis Courts)

Features Not Shown on Map

- Multiple Bus Stops
- Diverse Housing Options
- Lots of Green Space

Educational/Health Assets

- 1 Annunciation of Our Lord Catholic Elementary School
- 2 Calvin Christian Elementary School
- 3 CHOICES Developmental Service
- 4 Dentist (Dr. Gabor Felo)
- 5 Early Scholars Preschool
- 6 Christian Horizons Residence
- 7 Infant Jesus Kindergarten and Nursery
- 8 Mount In Secondary School
- 9 Proximity to Mohawk College
- 10 Proximity to St. Joseph's Healthcare West 5th Campus
- 11 St. Charles Education Centre for Adults and Continuing Education: Outreach Centre - St. Martin's Manor
- 12 St. Thomas Moore Catholic Secondary School
- 13 Westwood Elementary School
- 14 Westview Middle Elementary School
- 15 Westmount Secondary School
- 16 PRG Medical Clinic - Walk-In
- 17 Public Health Clinic (891 Upper James St.)

Economic/Employment Assets

- 1 Plaza (Limeridge Rd W) (Opportunity/Potential for Redevelopment)
- 2 Upper James Street Commercial District
- 3 VPI Inc. (Employment Strategies)
- 4 Westcliff Mall

Safety Assets

- 1 Crossing Guard
 - 2 Fire Station No. 3
 - 3 Well lit parking lot behind Westmount School
- Features Not Shown on Map**
- Sidewalks on both sides throughout most of the Neighbourhood

LEGEND

- Neighbourhood Boundary
- Possible Neighbourhood Boundary Extension (Yeoville)
- Trail
- Bus Route
- Parks and Open Space
- City Kids Program Site
- Bridge
- Trees
- Library
- Bus Stop
- Elementary School
- Middle Schools
- Secondary School
- Churches
- Playground
- Basketball Court
- Crossing Guard
- Community Garden
- Assets Outside of Neighbourhood
- Recreation Centre

Culture, Faith & Community Assets

- 1 Annunciation of Our Lord Parish (Roman Catholic)
- 2 BBQ/Kid's Parade
- 3 Neighbourhood Carolling
- 4 Church of the Resurrection
- 5 City Kids Pick Up Location
- 6 Neighbour 2 Neighbour Centre
- 7 Neighbour 2 Neighbour: Community Garden
- 8 Hess Family Burial Ground (hidden cemetery)
- 9 Immanuel Christian Reformed Church
 - Neighbourhood Picnic
 - Out of the Cold
 - Well Lit Parking Lot and Basketball Hoops
- 10 Leap Year Street Party
- 11 Living Hope Church
- 12 Montclair Community Garden
- 13 Kaboom Playground
- 14 Montclair Community House
- 15 People's Church
- 16 St. Michael's Hungarian Greek Catholic Church Hall
- 17 Terryberry Library Branch
- 18 Parenting and Family Literacy Centre (Westwood Elementary School)
- 19 New Testament Baptist Church
- 20 Dental Health Bus
- 21 Church on the Rock



Date:
June 2015



Hamilton



Photovoice

“Photovoice is a participatory action research strategy which can contribute to youth mobilization for community change”

Wang, 2006, p. 147



Goals of Photovoice

- 1) to enable people to record and reflect on strengths and concerns
- 2) to promote critical group discussion
- 3) to influence change makers

Who was involved

- Public Health Services and Community & Emergency Services
- Social Planning & Research Council
- McMaster University School of Nursing
- 2 Elementary Schools
- Montcalm Community House
- 1 Community Developer and 1 Public Health Nurse
- 8 McMaster Nursing students
- ~45 participants (age 4-14 years)

Framework: Wang's Photovoice Process

1. Select and recruit a target audience of policy makers or community leaders.
2. Recruit a group of Photovoice participants.
3. Introduce the Photovoice methodology to participants, and facilitate group discussion about cameras, power and ethics.
4. Obtain informed consent.
5. Pose initial themes for taking pictures.
6. Distribute cameras to participants and review how to use the camera.
7. Provide time for participants to take pictures.
8. Meet to discuss photographs and identify themes.
9. Plan with participants a format to share photographs and stories with policy makers or community leaders.

Wang (2006). Youth participation in photovoice as a strategy for community change.

- *Journal of Community Practice*, 14(1-2), pp. 147-161

Process

- Mapped assets and needs
- Took photos and identified themes
- Did a visioning exercise
- Identified and prioritized action items
- Shared photos and stories with decision makers and community
- Ideas to action



Improve traffic around schools

“Someone slipped and was nearly hit but most people drive cautiously because it is so busy. Because of all the traffic, a recent accident occurred. It happened outside of Westwood Elementary School while a mother was dropping off her child. A 6-year old boy was hit and stuck between 2 cars.” Megan, 12.



**"Lots of
green trees"**



**"Nature is
beautiful.
Parks attract
wildlife"**





Crime Happens Here

“I saw people doing drugs in this forest.”

Outcomes

- Knowledge transfer, participants shared with:
 - Student peers; school staff; neighbourhood leaders; parents/caregivers; elected officials & civil service
- Leadership development:
 - Advocacy skills for participants
 - Mentorship, health promotion and SDOH for nursing students



- Presented a funding opportunity (consultation and capital)
- Opportunity to leverage other resources: funding; partners; relevant initiatives; data from Photovoice.
- Allowed for finding out what the community wanted in Captain Cornelius Park: it brought out our dreamers and our protectors.



Rolston Youth Engagement Strategy

- Children & youth one of the largest users of community green spaces & parks
- Before making improvements to the park → need to understand needs & activities of youth:
 - *how and why they use (or don't use) the forest park*
 - *changes that would most increase their usage*
 - *changes that would improve their experience of the park*
- Engaging youth in decision-making can also be a powerful stewardship tool



Youth Engagement Workshops

- Workshops with 4 neighbourhood schools → 100+ students, Grades 2-8
- Workshop Structure
 - a. Group discussions to understand their current use and experience (positive & negative)
 - b. Forest Mapping Exercise → positioned youth as co-researchers
 - c. Big Idea Blitz
- Results from activities were shared back with the Community Advisory Group & Consulting Team



How do Rolston youth feel about the forest? Experience it?

on the positive side ...

- feels peaceful; quiet
- great shortcut
- fun to explore
- provides shelter & shade
- experience of nature

How do Rolston youth feel about the forest? Experience it?

but on the negative side ...

- garbage & graffiti feels uncomfortable, unsafe
- older teens make us uncomfortable
- angry that others don't care for the forest
- rumours about bad things happening in the forest → drugs, drinking, smoking, fires
- can get lost, disoriented easily
- uneven, rocky, narrow paths can make it difficult to walk, bike



Forest Mapping Exercise

- Youth as co-researchers; helping to understand how the forest is currently used by community
- Small groups each investigated & mapped uses of the forest, as well as assets & challenges posed by the current environment; developed own legend based on priority issues



Forest Mapping Exercise

- Exercises also designed to allow youth to investigate possibilities for positive experiences & desirable activities → *photo array of ideas to consider*



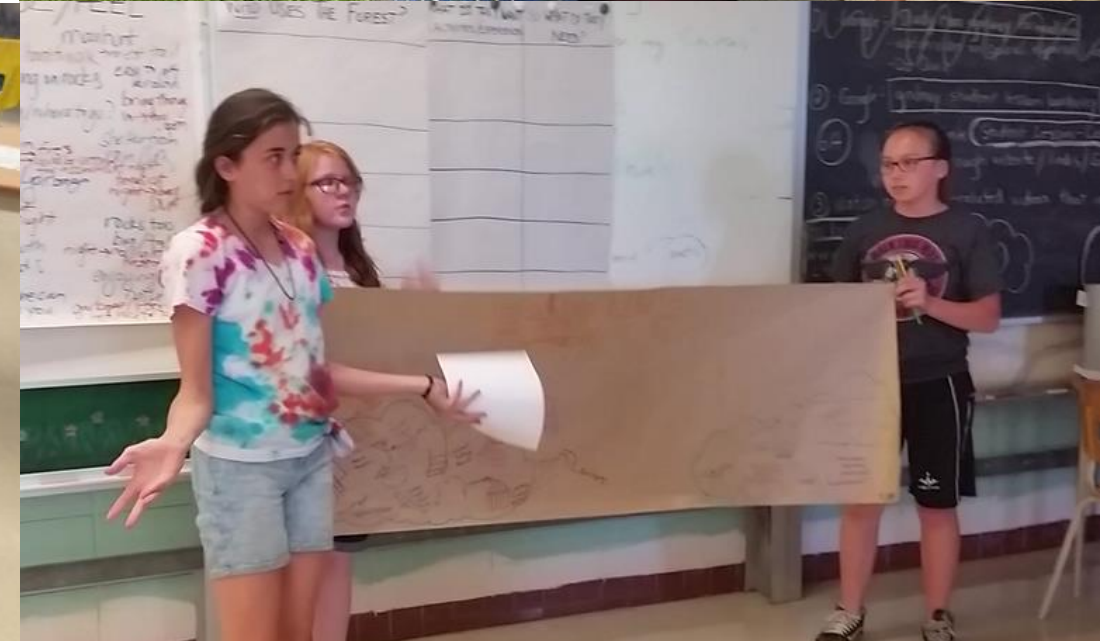
Big Idea Blitz

- Youth were challenged to consider 2 'Big Ideas' for changing or improving the Forest → *1 for their age group, 1 for other community user group*
- Each group had 20 minutes to sketch out their 'Big Ideas' on a large poster



Big Idea Blitz

- Groups then took turns delivering a 1 minute 'Blitz Pitch' to their peers
- Mapping findings and ideas discussed as a large group



Rolston youth most want to see ...

spaces for eating with family & friends

more places to sit

clearer, wider, smoother, safer trails

things to climb... trees, rocks, walls, logs,
pyramid

natural play huts, forts, or dens

bike paths, park and ramps

garbage/recycling receptacles & signage

water features ... a pond, a stream, a waterfall

play area with a nature theme (eg jumping stumps)

swings and ladders hanging from the trees

more small, open spaces or clearings

more defined pathway

treehouses or platforms, with bridges between trees

more flower and food gardens

obstacle, ropes or parkour courses

large group seating or amphitheatre

signs to help orient to paths, exits

art and sculpture

They considered needs of others in the community...

- play forts or treehouses, with seats nearby
- places for picnics; more places to sit
- orchard or community gardens
- smoother paths for strollers, walkers
- natural climbing structures; tire swings from trees



families, parents & younger kids

- smoother, wider paths for walking
- more places to sit and to rest along paths
- navigational signs
- signs with historical & other info about the forest
- flowers along trail edges; gardens



- older adults or seniors

What do Rolston youth envision for the Forest?



Take-Aways



Youth are thoughtful and sophisticated, and under estimated.

“Sometimes the elderly people complain about the noisy Westmount High School students going to [Westmount Recreation Centre] to eat their lunch or use the recreation facilities.” Lasha, 12.



Take-Aways

1. Youth are thoughtful and sophisticated, and under estimated.
2. Caregiver's for families with complex vulnerabilities support their children's successes.
3. Credibility from nursing as a profession
<https://insightswest.com/news/nurses-doctors-and-scientists-are-canadas-most-respected-professionals/>
4. Credibility of adult youth for adolescent youth
5. Purposive recruitment with community allies helped sustain participation
6. Get their hands dirty! Value of methods that get kids directly into the study environment
7. Permissions to share data and art → Commit to using their work to make the changes that they want, and share, share, share with change makers!
8. Celebrate
9. Relationships & partnerships drive opportunities
10. Youth leadership

Celebrate!



Hamilton
NEIGHBOURHOOD
ACTION PLANNING

Certificate of Recognition

In appreciation for the work of

Becky Phan

creating the Westview PhotoVoice project and contributions to

**Neighbourhood Action Strategy
Rolston Neighbourhood**



Terry Whitehead
Councillor Ward 8

Relationships and partnerships drive opportunity

HAMILTON
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION



Hamilton
NEIGHBOURHOOD
ACTION STRATEGY



NEIGHBOUR
— 2 —
NEIGHBOUR



Hamilton
Best Start
Hamilton
Meilleur départ

SPRC
SOCIAL PLANNING
& RESEARCH COUNCIL
OF HAMILTON



thrive design consulting



IWC | IMMIGRANTS
WORKING CENTRE



Youth Leadership

- Co-facilitation with teams of 4-5 students from the McMaster University School of Nursing.
- Reporting back to community (and blowing their minds!)
 - Schools
 - Community
 - City Council
 - Passive shows schools
 - Gallery shows at arts festival
- Demonstrating community leadership to their families
- Assisted with additional projects
 - Participants contributed to development of youth leadership course
 - Youth data used to inform development of capital projects, and participated in follow up consultation
 - AODA compliant hiking trail
 - Community garden

CITY OF HAMILTON
NOTICE OF MOTION

City Council: May 10, 2017

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WHITEHEAD.....

Initiative to Fund Captain Cornelius Path within the Rolston Neighbourhood

WHEREAS, City Council has made a concerted effort to focus on initiatives to help improve communities across the City based on the resident voice;

WHEREAS, the Rolston Neighbourhood Action Plan was endorsed by Council March 2016;

WHEREAS, Captain Cornelius Park, and the urban forest on the property, has been deemed a prominent asset within the Rolston Community by the residents;

WHEREAS, through the youth voice and the resident engagement resulting in a desire to improve environmentally appropriate access to the urban forest for all residents has been deemed a priority;

WHEREAS, through a substantial community engagement process, the residents designed their wishes for a fully accessible path through the forest; and,

WHEREAS, through funding from the Healthy Kids Community Challenge, consultants were engaged and designed a path and other amenities for the Captain Cornelius Park.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- a) That City Council support the construction of a fully accessible (*Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* compliant), path through the urban forest on the Captain Cornelius Park;
- b) That in 2017, \$50,000 be funded from Ward 8 Area Rating account 33017 09800 to assist in the funding of the construction of the path; and,
- c) That in 2018, \$50,000 be funded from Ward 8 Area Rating account 33018 09800 to assist in the funding of the construction of the path.

“Initiative to Fund Captain Cornelius Path within the Rolston Neighbourhood”

“youth voice... resulted in a desire to improve...access”

\$50 000 x 2 years

Resources

- **Photovoice Toolkit:**

<https://d3fpllf1m7bbt3.cloudfront.net/sites/default/files/media/browser/2015-03-06/neighbourhoodactionstrategyphotovoicetoolkit.pdf>

- **Photovoice: Through the Lens - A case study:**

<http://jps.library.utoronto.ca/index.php/youthengage/article/view/22134>

- **Rolston Neighbourhood Action Plan:**

<https://d3fpllf1m7bbt3.cloudfront.net/sites/default/files/media/browser/2016-04-29/rolston-neighbourhood-action-plan.pdf>

- **Ryan, L., Mackinnon, S., & Crowe, A. (2017). Youth engagement in community planning. In A.R. Vollman, E.T. Anderson & J. McFarlane (Eds.), Canadian Community as Partner (317-326). Philadelphia: Wolters Kluwer.**

- **Westview students at General Issues Committee, City of Hamilton:**

Coleman, J. [Joey Coleman]. (2014, May 21). *General Issues Committee for May 21, 2014 [Live at 9:30am]* [<https://youtu.be/eFQpXC2eU0Y?t=31m52s>] Retrieved from URL



Coleman, J. [The Public Record - Hamilton]. (2016, September 21). *Hamilton City Council GIC for September 21, 2016* [<https://youtu.be/7euNn-MZYSO>] Retrieved from URL

- **Motion available in Hamilton City Council agenda, May 10, 2017:**

<https://www.hamilton.ca/council-committee/council-committee-meetings/city-council>