



Staff Report for Committee of the Whole Meeting

Date of Meeting: July 2, 2019

Report Number: SRPRS.19.129

Department: Planning and Regulatory Services
Division: Development Engineering & Transportation

Subject: **SRPRS.19.129 – Lake Wilcox Youth Park –
Parking Restrictions and Pedestrian Safety
Improvements**

Purpose:

To respond to resident complaints regarding on-street parking and to address pedestrian and cycling safety concerns along Bayview Park Lane associated with the Lake Wilcox Park Youth Area.

Recommendation(s):

- a) That staff be authorized to implement the pavement marking, signage, and Level 2 - Type C pedestrian crossing with flashing beacons on the north leg of Bayview Park Lane at the intersection of Sandbanks Drive;
- b) That Chapter 1030 of the Municipal Code (Community Safety Zone Designation) be amended as follows, in order to create a Community Safety Zone along Bayview Park Lane:
 - (i) Roadway: Bayview Park Lane
 - (ii) Limits of Community Safety Zone: Bayview Avenue to Sunset Beach Road
 - (iii) Effective Time: 24 Hours a day; 7 Days a week
- c) That Chapter 1126 of the Municipal Code (Speed Restrictions - Roads) be amended as follows, in order to reduce the existing posted maximum speed limit from 50 km/h to 40 km/h along Bayview Park Lane, from Bayview Avenue to Sunset Beach Road:
 - (i) Street: Bayview Park Lane
 - (ii) From: Bayview Avenue
 - (iii) To: Sunset Beach Road

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- d) That York Regional Police be notified of the new Community Safety Zone and speed limit reduction and be requested to provide the necessary enforcement
- e) That Chapter 1116, Schedule 'A' (Parking Prohibited-Signs-Displayed) of the Municipal Code be amended as follows, in order to prohibit parking along Bayview Park Lane Bayview Avenue to a point 120 metres north of Sandbanks Drive:
 - (i) Highway: Bayview Park Lane
 - (ii) Side: Both
 - (iii) From and To: Bayview Avenue to a point 120 metres north of Sandbanks Drive
 - (iv) Prohibited Time of Day: Anytime
- f) That Chapter 1116, Schedule 'B' (Stopping Prohibited-Signs-Displayed) of the Municipal Code be amended as follows, in order to prohibit stopping on Bayview Park Lane, from Sandbanks Drive to a point 30 metres north of Sandbanks Drive:
 - (i) Highway: Bayview Park Lane
 - (ii) Side: Both
 - (iii) From and To: From Sandbanks Drive to a point 30 metres north of Sandbanks Drive
 - (iv) Prohibited Time of Day: Anytime
- g) That Chapter 1116, Schedule 'A' (Parking Prohibited-Signs-Displayed) of the Municipal Code be amended as follows, in order to prohibit parking on Sandbanks Drive, Bayview Ridge Court to Bayview Park Lane
 - (i) Highway: Sandbanks Drive
 - (ii) Side: Both
 - (iii) From and To: Bayview Ridge Court to Bayview Park Lane
- h) That Chapter 1116, Schedule 'A' (Parking Prohibited-Signs-Displayed) of the Municipal Code be amended as follows, in order to prohibit parking along Bayview Ridge Court:
 - (i) Highway: Bayview Ridge Court
 - (ii) Side: West

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(iii) From and To: Sandbanks Drive to South Limit

- i) That staff be authorized to implement the pavement marking, signage, flashing beacons and crossing improvements recommended in staff report SRPRS.19.129 for Bayview Park Lane at the intersection of Sandbanks Drive
- j) That a project be established for the Bayview Park Lane enhancements with \$45,000 for the pedestrian crossing funded from the Federal Gas Tax Reserve Fund and \$5,000 for parking signage and remaining works from the Transportation Network Repair and Replacement Reserve Fund
- k) That notices be issued to affected residents on Bayview Park Lane, Sandbanks and Bayview Ridge Court immediately following the approval of the parking changes.

Contact Person:

Robert Cowie, Senior Traffic Analyst, 905-747-6455 and/or

Richard Hui, Manager, Transportation, 905-771-5478

Report Approval:

Submitted by: Kelvin Kwan, Commissioner of Planning and Regulatory Services

Approved by: Neil Garbe, City Manager

All reports are electronically reviewed and/or approved by the Division Director, Treasurer (as required), City Solicitor (as required), Commissioner and City Manager. Details of the reports approval are attached.

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Background:

The Lake Wilcox Youth Park officially opened on June 8, 2019. The Youth Park is located at the south end of Lake Wilcox Park complex, near Bayview Park Lane and Sandbanks Drive. The park includes a skate park, four beach volleyball courts, two multi-use courts for basketball or ball hockey, fitness equipment, Wi-Fi access and space to congregate and socialize.

Since its opening, the Youth Park has experienced significant usage. Consequently, this has generated significant vehicular and pedestrian activity and on-street parking demands in the Bayview Park Lane/Sandbanks Drive area, which has resulted in a number of local resident complaints.

In response to these complaints, City Staff conducted field investigations, and reviewed Bayview Park Lane improvements proposed as part of the Youth Park project. Based on their evaluation, it was confirmed that there is a need to implement additional measures to improve pedestrian safety and manage on-street parking, in the vicinity of the Youth Park.

A number of measures were assessed by staff, and the following have been identified as appropriate for the situation:

- Community Safety Zone
- Speed Limit Reduction
- Parking & Stopping Prohibitions
- Pedestrian Crossover

Assessment:

Subject Roads

Bayview Park Lane is a local residential road that extends from Bayview Avenue to Sunset Beach Road. It has a 20 metre right-of-way with an 8.5 metre pavement width, as well as a sidewalk along one side, except where the pavement width widens to 15 metres to accommodate 4 lanes from Sandbanks Drive to the signalized intersection at Bayview Avenue, approximately 100 metres to the east.

Sandbanks Drive is a local residential road that extends from Nantucket Drive to Bayview Park Lane. It has a 20 metre right-of-way with a 9.75 metre pavement width and sidewalks along both sides.

The posted maximum speed limit for both roads is 50 km/h.

Community Safety Zone

A Community Safety Zone (CSZ) is intended for areas where there is a high volume of vulnerable pedestrian activity such as at Schools, Parks, Playgrounds, and where there

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has been an observed pattern of violations under the Highway Traffic Act (HTA), or a high potential for conflicts or collisions with motor vehicles.

When Community Safety Zones are recommended, the objectives are:

- To reduce posted speed limits through the Community Safety Zone to 40 km/h;
- Provide enhanced enforcement and police presence to reinforce compliance;
- Doubling the fines of infractions; and
- Providing signage to advise and make motorists aware that they are entering a Community Safety Zone area, where there are large volumes of pedestrians and cyclists, higher volumes of vulnerable users, and that the fines for any infractions will be doubled.

The Community Safety Zone Policy, as approved by Council, provides a procedure for implementation and establishes warrants that have to be satisfied before a portion of a road is recommended for a Community Safety Zone. These warrants are as follows:

Warrant 1: Designated Areas of Special Concern requires that the proposed Community Safety Zone be a location where special concerns related to public safety are obvious to the road user. Examples of such special concern locations include elementary or secondary schools, daycare and community centers, parks, high pedestrian traffic areas, senior centers and residences, and road sections with high accident rates. This warrant also requires that a Community Safety Zone must be a minimum length of 0.5 kilometres to a maximum of 2.5 kilometres.

Warrant 2: Safety Warrant requires that the Community Safety Zone meets a minimum safety warrant. The Safety Warrant lists eight (8) risk factors that are considered key in assessing whether a candidate site shall be designated as a Community Safety Zone. Each risk factor has its own respective threshold range of values used in an overall point score evaluation process.

Bayview Park Lane has satisfied the minimum requirements of **Warrant 1 & Warrant 2**. As such, staff recommend that a Community Safety Zone be established along Bayview Park Lane, from Bayview Avenue to Sunset Beach Road.

Speed Limit Reduction

All Community Safety Zones within the City of Richmond Hill are located on roads where the posted speed limit is 40 km/h. In order to be consistent with past practice, it is recommended that the posted speed limit along Bayview Park Lane be reduced from 50 km/h to 40 km/h.

A speed limit reduction is recommended on Sandbanks Drive at this time. Speed and volume data collected on Sandbanks Drive show that the current speed limit is acceptable. Staff will continue to monitor the speeds and traffic operations on Sandbanks Drive and take appropriate actions as needed in the future.

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Parking/Stopping Prohibitions

Staff have received complaints from residents regarding the magnitude of on-street parking in the Bayview Park Lane/Sandbanks Drive area since the opening of the Lake Wilcox Youth Park. Filed observations have confirmed that on-street parking near the Park is negatively impacting visibility for pedestrians and cyclists to cross and in general creating cycling and pedestrian safety concerns, as well as impacts to overall traffic flow and operations along the street.

In order to address these complaints and to improve traffic operations and pedestrian and cyclist safety and visibility, staff recommend that parking/stopping prohibitions be implemented on Bayview Park Lane, Sandbanks Drive, and Bayview Ridge Court, as follows:

- Bayview Park Lane – No Parking Anytime - Both Sides – Bayview Avenue to a point 120 metres north of Sandbanks Drive;
- Bayview Park Lane – No Stopping Anytime – Both Sides – Sandbanks Drive to a point 30 metres north of Sandbanks Drive;
- Sandbanks Drive – No Parking Anytime - Both Sides – Bayview Ridge Court to Bayview Park Lane
- Bayview Ridge Court – No Parking Anytime - West Side – Sandbanks Drive to South Limit

The location of these parking restrictions is illustrated in Appendix 1.

Staff will issue notices to all affected residents on Bayview Park Lane, Sandbanks Drive and Bayview Ridge Court immediately following the approval of the above noted changes. Implementation of the on-street parking restrictions will take effect approximately 2 weeks after issuance of the notices.

Pedestrian Crossover

Staff have received complaints from area residents regarding safe pedestrian crossing from the community to the Lake Wilcox Youth Park, at the “T”-intersection of Bayview Park Lane and Sandbanks Drive.

A formal pedestrian crossover assessment has not yet been completed at this location as the Youth Park only opened June 8th, and such a study would typically be completed once a facility has had a chance to reach a mature operational state. However, based on initial usage patterns, desire lines, and traffic volumes as well as forecasted pedestrian activity, it is expected that pedestrian volumes at this location will increase to a level that will satisfy the requirements of Ontario Traffic Manual (OTM) Book 15.

As such, in anticipation of this increased pedestrian activity (and particularly vulnerable users such as children) accessing the Youth Park throughout the day, a pedestrian crossover is recommended as a proactive countermeasure to address pedestrian safety concerns at this location.

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It is noted that the purpose of the OTM Books is to provide information and guidance for transportation practitioners. Based on the above noted factors and forecasts as well as a review of the various facility types, Staff recommend that a Level 2 - Type C pedestrian crossover be installed on the north approach of the Bayview Park Lane/Sandbanks Drive intersection. The location is shown in Appendix 1.

This pedestrian crossover will consist of zebra pavement markings, flashing beacon lights, and appropriate regulatory signage.

Financial/Staffing/Other Implications:

The additional improvement measures for the Bayview Park Lane/Sandbanks Drive area noted above are estimated to cost in the order of \$50,000.

The cost of the pedestrian crossing facility is estimated at \$45,000 and funding for this is recommended from the Federal Gas Tax Reserve Fund, while the remaining \$5,000 for parking signage and other works is recommended from the Transportation Network Repair and Replacement Reserve Fund.

York Region Police #2 District will also be required to provide sufficient staff resources to patrol this Community Safety Zone on an ongoing basis.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan:

The recommendations of this report are consistent with the City's Strategic Plan to support goals for a vibrant community. It also demonstrates responsible municipal management of the City's road network. In addition, the recommendations are consistent with the Strategic Plan's objectives of "building stronger connections" within the community, by providing better and safer choices for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists.

Conclusion:

In response to resident complaints regarding on-street parking and pedestrian safety concerns along Bayview Park Lane associated with the Lake Wilcox Park Youth Area, Staff undertook a review of potential remedial measures.

As a result of this review, the following measures have been assessed and are recommended by Staff:

- The creation of a Community Safety Zone on Bayview Park Lane, from Bayview Avenue to Sunset Beach;
- Speed Limit Reduction to 40 km/h along Bayview Park Lane, within the Community Safety Zone;
- Parking Prohibitions along Bayview Park Lane, Sandbanks Drive, and Bayview Ridge Court, in the vicinity of the Youth Park;

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- A Level 2 - Type C Pedestrian Crossover on the north leg of the Bayview Park Lane/Sandbanks Drive intersection.

The implementation of the above noted measures will provide an environment that enhances pedestrian safety and manages on-street parking demands in the Lake Wilcox Youth Park area.

It is recommended that a budget of \$50,000 be established for the works, \$45,000 funded from the Federal Gas Tax Reserve Fund and the remaining \$5,000 funded from the Transportation Network Repair and Replacement Reserve Fund.

Attachments:

The following attached documents may include scanned images of appendixes, maps and photographs. If you require an alternative format please call contact person listed in this document.

- Appendix 1 – Map of Recommended On-Street Parking and Pedestrian Safety Improvements for the Lake Wilcox Park Youth Area.

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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	SRPRS.19.129 Lake Wilcox Youth Park - Pedestrian Crossing Improvements.docx
Attachments:	- Appendix 1 - SRPRS.19.129 BAYVIEW PARK LANE.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Jun 24, 2019

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Dan Terzievski - Jun 24, 2019 - 2:24 PM

Kelvin Kwan - Jun 24, 2019 - 2:26 PM

David Dexter - Jun 24, 2019 - 3:08 PM

Neil Garbe - Jun 24, 2019 - 3:49 PM