

PELHAM CIVIC SPACE

PELHAM, ON.

MASTER PLAN REPORT

AUGUST 2022

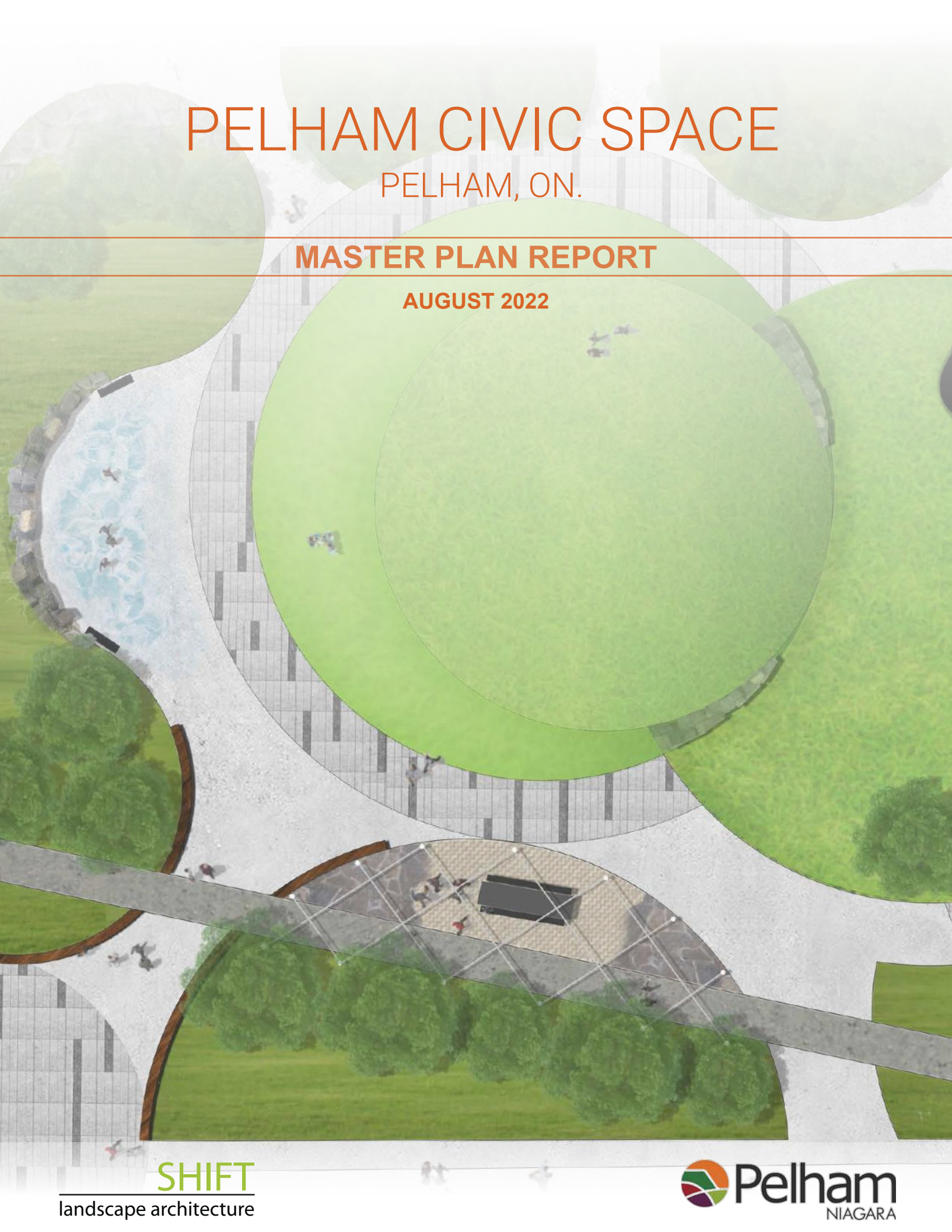


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1 Project Summary

Background

In August 2021, the Town of Pelham issued an RFP for the Vision and Design for Pelham Civic Space. SHIFT Landscape Architecture was the successful proponent and began working with the Town in January 2022. The overall deliverables of the project involved the development of two preliminary concepts for public consultation, online public engagement, and the refinement of a preferred concept vision, including an illustrative plan and supporting graphics for council review. A cost estimate has been completed supplementary to the preferred vision concept.

The design and development of the new public space is motivated by the growing community of East Fonthill, defined further as a primary growth area for the Town of Pelham. The proposed main civic space area totals approximately 4400m², with pockets of designed public space incorporated on the other three corners of the intersection. The one acre parcel and the corresponding corners of Wellspring Way and Meridian Way are zoned as EF-Open Space, permitting parks and urban squares designed for the recreational enjoyment of the community. This Master Plan project will implement the approved zoning on the property to fulfill the intention of this site, being an urban square for use by the broader community, as determined by the East Fonthill Secondary Plan. The implementation of a new civic space will establish the four-corner block of Meridian Way and Wellspring Way as a community hub. The addition of exterior public space should be complementary of the recently built Meridian Community Centre across the street and the future retirement living neighbouring the site.

SHIFT listened to the community to create and refine concepts that will meet their needs, build a cultural landscape, and offer a supportive place for recreation, gathering, and programming.



Site Photo Captured March 2022

Site Analysis

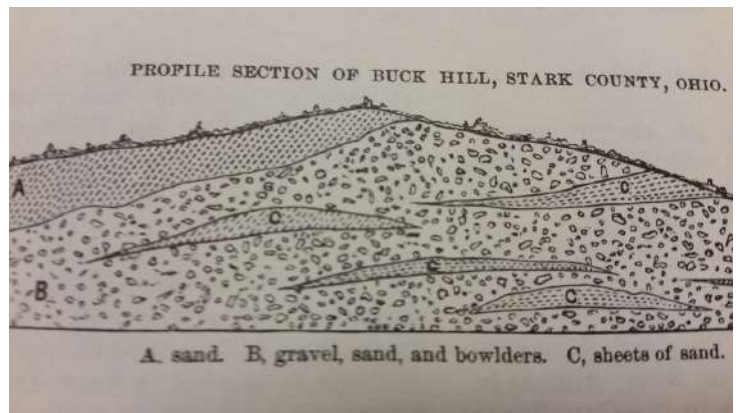
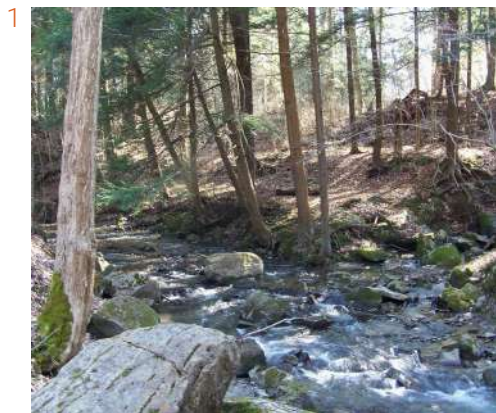
The site of the future civic space currently exists as an open greenfield at the corner of Meridian Way and Wellspring Way. The location of the future civic space is in a quickly growing area defined as a primary growth area of Pelham. For a significant period of time, the site and its immediate surroundings were used for agricultural purposes. Within the last ten years, the area has been urbanized and developed to provide housing, commercial, and recreational land uses. Specifically, the project site is bordered by a commercial shopping plaza to the northwest and a recreational community centre across Meridian Way to the southeast. The relationship to the Meridian Community Centre is a significant driver of the civic space project and suggests the need for suitable outdoor community space. The community centre houses several local minor league sports teams and is a recognized Seniors Active Living Centre. In relation, the land north and east of the future square will become a sizeable future retirement living complex. The surrounding lands of the proposed civic space are contextually diverse and should influence the demographics of site visitors by attracting all ages and a diverse variety of community members.



Site Context Over the Years

Local Influences

The Town of Pelham has a strong cultural and physiological context that strengthens the identity of the land. The Town of Pelham is located on the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, many of whom continue to live and work in the area today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the land protected by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum agreement. The future civic space will be an emblem of the town and it should reflect local influences and be a place that celebrates the culture of its associated landscape. The topographic forms and vegetation of the natural environment surrounding the area are relative to the Niagara Escarpment, which has had major influence on the establishment of Pelham. The Niagara Escarpment affects the climate, topography and flora of the landscape. Further, the Fonthill Kame defines the Pelham area geologically, and has had great influence culturally. It is a large glacial deltaic complex of sand and gravel that became a significant aggregate resource for the region. Aggregate extraction is an important industry in the region, with the Town of Pelham being a main contributor. Lastly, Pelham's location in the middle of the Niagara Peninsula allows tender fruits to be grown, such as peaches, cherries, pears and plums. The capability to grow these types of fruits is because of the geographic character and opens up the opportunity for locally inspired and native plantings to be incorporated into the civic space.



1. Niagara Escarpment

2. Fonthill Kame

3. Aggregate Extraction Industry

4. Fruit Growing

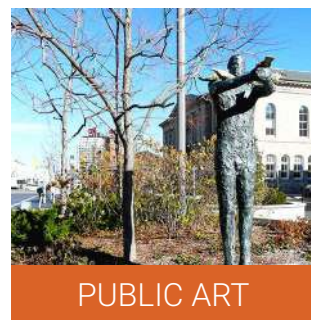
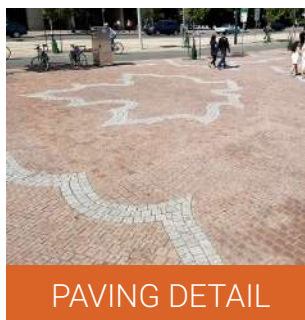
2 Preliminary Concepts

Following the collection of background information and initial grounding of the project with Town staff, SHIFT focused on developing preliminary conceptual designs. During this period, various design options were considered to address the programming needs requested by the Town. The conceptual exercise explored the inclusion of different public space elements and assessed several functional site layouts.

As a result, two preliminary concepts were prepared intended for public review. The concepts were thoughtfully developed to contrast one another to encourage valuable feedback on the likes and dislikes of the community. A two week public engagement period was held online to display the designs and gather public input on the concepts. The concepts were presented with supporting imagery, including perspective renderings and precedent images, along with small-scale physical models of the concepts. Section 3 Public Engagement provides a description of the engagement format and a summary of the results.

Concept 1

Concept 1 has a significant entry plaza at the corner of Wellspring Way and Meridian Way, referred to as 'Bloom Plaza' to honour the fruit growing of the region. Anchored at the top of the plaza space is a large flowering vine trellis that people will move through to enter the civic space. Three sides of the site are planted with trees, creating a green frame for separation from the future residential use on the east side and a parking lot to the north. A lawn is located centrally along with a stage and pavilion. The lawn and stage will allow for informal gathering as well as larger events, such as movie nights and theatre performances. An extensive Indigenous garden is located along Wellspring Way promoting a meaningful connection between the civic space and all members of the community. The intent is for the Indigenous community to be engaged during the detailed design stage to provide ideas for the space. A water feature emerges from the berm at the Indigenous garden to create a dramatic design feature that takes inspiration from water movement along the Niagara Escarpment. When the water is turned off, the feature can transform into a small event area, providing flexibility to the space.





GROCERY STORE

B

PATHWAY

WELLSPRING WAY

VINE TRELLIS

INDIGENOUS GARDEN

WATER FEATURE

PARKING

RAIN GARDEN

RAIN GARDEN

SEATING BERM

RAIN GARDEN

LAWN

STAGE + PAVILION

TABLES

BENCH

BENCH

VINE TRELLIS

HARVEST TABLE

FLOWERING TREES

BLOOM PLAZA

BENCH

SEATING

PAVING DETAIL

MERIDIAN WAY

SEATING

WELLSPRING CENTRE

MERIDIAN COMMUNITY CENTRE

1 = PERSPECTIVE VIEWS

1

BLOOM PLAZA

View from Meridian Way and Wellspring Way looking into the Civic Space.



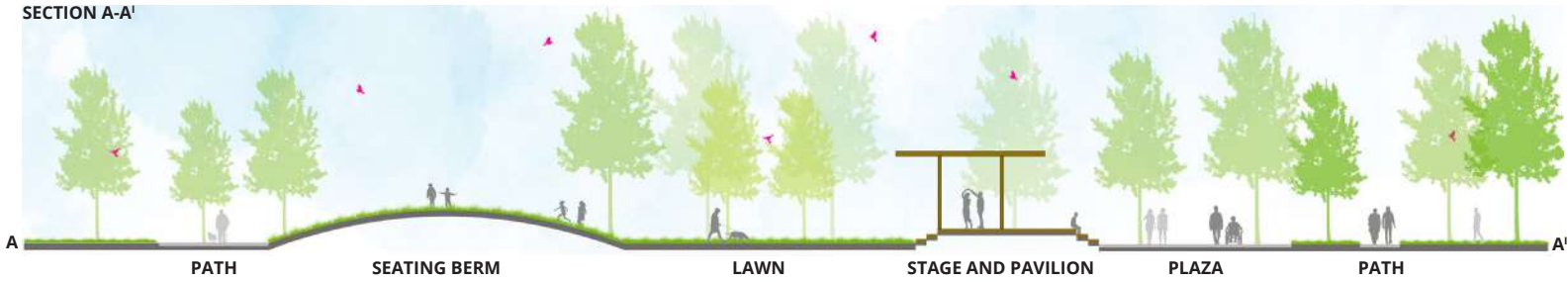
2

WATER FEATURE

Looking northwest to Wellspring Way toward the shopping plaza.



SECTION A-A'



SECTION B-B'





Concept 2

Concept 2 incorporates a large tree grove in bound aggregate that meets the corner of Wellspring Way and Meridian Way providing a welcoming, green entry. A harvest table and several benches sit within this space for people to enjoy the shade of the tree grove. Cutting through the grove is a paving element that recalls the farm laneway that once served the nursery which used to occupy the site. The laneway marker connects to the Indigenous garden and continues across the street to a seating node. A large community deck creates a unique space for gathering and 'play'. On a day-to-day basis, this deck can be used as a unique seating area and gathering space in addition to being an area for special event programming and community events. Integrated into the green spaces along the eastern edge are rain gardens to capture stormwater runoff on-site. A gas fire feature is located near the deck and grove to offer winter use. A water plaza allows for play but can be turned off to become a space for larger events in relation to the community deck.



COMMUNITY DECK



GAS FIRE FEATURE



GATHERING GROVE



GARDEN PLANTING



PAVILION



GROCERY STORE

PATHWAY

SEATING

WELLSPRING WAY

B

SEATING

SEAT WALL + GARDEN

WATER FEATURE

1

GAS FIRE FEATURE

HARVEST TABLE

GATHERING GROVE

2

PAVING DETAIL

MERIDIAN WAY

PARKING

A

SEATING SLOPE

PAVILION

B'

COMMUNITY DECK

RAIN GARDEN

LAWN

INDIGENOUS GARDEN

RAIN GARDEN

FARM LANEWAY MARKER

WELLSPRING NIAGARA

MERIDIAN COMMUNITY CENTRE

1 = PERSPECTIVE VIEWS

1

COMMUNITY DECK

Looking to the Northeast from the water feature.



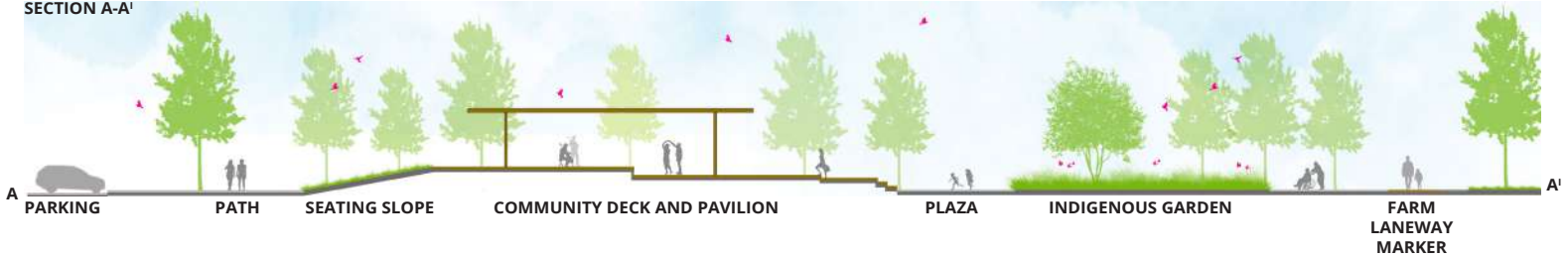
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SEATING GROVE

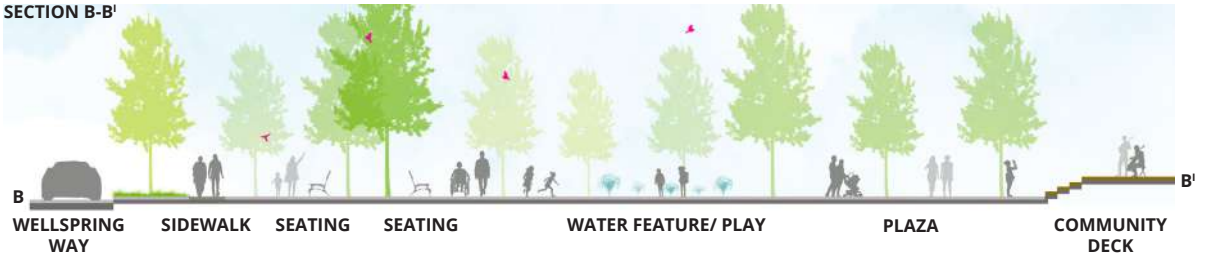
View from within the grove near Meridian Way and Wellspring Way.



SECTION A-A'



SECTION B-B'





3 Public Engagement

SHIFT Landscape Architecture developed two preliminary concepts to present to the public. Public engagement was held online via Engage Pelham, launching April 8th 2022 for two weeks, closing April 26th. Two conceptual plans with supporting imagery, including perspective views, sections, and precedents, were prepared for the purpose of receiving insight from the community on the designs. To collect feedback, a survey was created on Engage Pelham. The survey included 11 questions pertaining to ideal future uses, activities, and site programming options, as well as inquiry of individual preferences toward different design elements.

SHIFT had panels printed of each concept that were on display in the lobby of Meridian Community Centre for the same duration as the online public engagement session, from April 8th to April 26th. Notably, these were present for the Home Show. Physical models of each concept, constructed by SHIFT, accompanied the panels to offer a better experiential understanding of the concepts. The variety of presentation material shown to the public offered effective communication methods that produced valuable results.

The survey generated 21 responses, demonstrating overall support of the project and the designs. SHIFT reviewed the responses and summarized the results in the Pelham Civic Space Engagement Summary, appended in this report.

There was strong support for the design to be an open, multi-use space that accommodates all generations, with many respondents specifying a space catering to families with children. Some of the key ideas and takeaways from the results included, the support of a water feature, tree planting, and space to support community gathering and cultural events. Garden spaces were prioritized with an emphasis on ecological value and a source of screening from the adjacent road and future residential development and parking lot. The engagement highlighted a few areas that the community feels are important to make the project a success. Proper considerations of safety, inclusivity, and accessibility were noted.

Overall, most responded with a preference for a combination of ideas from each concept. The information that was gathered from the PIC was used to influence the final design.

The Civic Space will be most successful if it is able to accommodate a wide variety of uses, needs and activities. Please rate how important these elements are to you.



Optional question (21 response(s), 0 skipped)
Question type: Likert Question

“Multi-faceted space that will allow for community use within an environmentally sound design.”

“Including work by local artists as well as having room for smaller events is vital to keep our growing town feel like a community still.”

“Trees for shade, pavilion area, seating, area for social events, water feature for kids to play in.”

“I would likely use it for a place to go and sit and chat or read before or after my kids activities (ie. hockey). I could also picture picking up some take out or bringing a picnic and having a bite to eat there on a nice day.”

“Considering the location/proximity to commercial spaces I think it is important to create a place which is versatile. A calm relaxing space with lots of shade and plants for passive day to day use is important. I think a space with some movable tables/structures or features to turn on and off to allow the Town to convert sections of the space from passive use to active use for organized events. Events could be small food markets/food truck nights, small craft markets, private rented gatherings, cultural demonstrations etc.”

“I think the future civic space should be a gathering place, where people of all ages can come and enjoy the space.”

4 Final Master Plan

The Master Plan for Pelham Civic Space was developed based on the feedback heard during public engagement and consultation with Town staff. Based on the recommendations, the final concept combines ideas, forms, and elements from both preliminary concepts to achieve a dynamic space that reflects the desires of the future users. The final design embodies a multi-use space that would encourage the community to use the space daily and come together in larger groups for events. Many areas are provided to nurture different experiences within the civic space and to consider the diverse users that would use the public space.

The design of the civic space creates a beautiful street frontage and establishes a pleasant entry experience. Long expanses of planting run along the sidewalk and a large welcoming plaza is situated at the intersection of Meridian Way and Wellspring Way. The plaza incorporates permeable paving to address sustainable design principles while enriching the aesthetic value. Wood-top seat walls frame the entry path to guide people into the civic space while also providing the option for people to sit and relax.

At the core of the civic space is a great lawn for people to use freely and to accommodate formal gatherings and events. One half of the lawn is bermed to offer sloped seating. The portion of the berm descending toward the stage is a long gradual slope to provide room for crowds, and a shorter slope faces the water feature to provide a resting spot in view of the water. The berm is bordered by permeable pavers at its base to help collect stormwater runoff from the slope.

A stage with a pavilion roof extends into the great lawn. The stage offers a designated space to host performances and events within the civic space. The north side of the stage is enclosed by seat walls running along a rain garden, allowing the stage to be utilized in either direction depending on the size of the crowd.

A water feature sits within a cove off of the main circulation path with an interesting backdrop of a stacked stone wall. The water feature is intended to be a cooling feature by using fountain jets at-grade. This idea provides options for water play for children to engage with or adults to stroll through or sit near to enjoy the spray.

Several other exciting gathering areas are proposed around the civic space. In a defined pocket off of the main path is a harvest table that sits on aggregate and flagstone paving under a post and cable trellis. String lights or climbing vines can stretch along the trellis for added interest. The harvest table is also symbolic with

the purpose of supporting the coming together of the community. Steps away from the harvest table area is a gathering space centered around two gas fire features. The fire feature area is a main point of interest that supports evening operation and use of the civic space into the colder months. A combination of seat walls and Adirondack chairs wrap around the features to provide seating around the protected fires. Trees and plantings sit at an appropriate distance away while still sheltering the space from wind.

The final concept suggests different materiality and details around the civic space to bring in elements of local character and interest. The use of stone is proposed in several forms, including a stone wall reveal emerging from the berm, a crushed aggregate path indicating the previous farm lane that crossed the site, stacked boulders, and various pavers, all to integrate different details around the site. The local character can also inspire the proposed planting, including the introduction of flowering trees, a designated Indigenous Garden, and planting that thoughtfully recalls the surrounding natural landscape.



VIEW FROM ENTRY PLAZA



VIEW OF HARVEST TABLE AREA



VIEW OF FIRE FEATURE AREA

5 Examples of Concept Ideas

GREAT LAWN



SEATING SLOPE



WATER FEATURE



HARVEST TABLE



FIRE FEATURE



CABLE TRELLIS



STONE WALL REVEAL



TREE PLANTING



RAIN GARDEN



MOUNDED PLANT BEDS



6 Low-Impact Design Strategies

A project such as the Pelham Civic Space provides many opportunities to rethink how we build public spaces so that they provide not only a cultural amenity but also so they work to reduce the impacts of a developed landscape. Outlined below are several strategies that could be employed to assist in combating the effects of climate change while enhancing the overall experience for the community. The proposed ideas will aid in reducing the civic space's impact, however, the materials, design ideas and processes outlined can also serve as a starting point for broader implementation throughout the Town which would have a much more substantial benefit in time.



TREE PLANTING

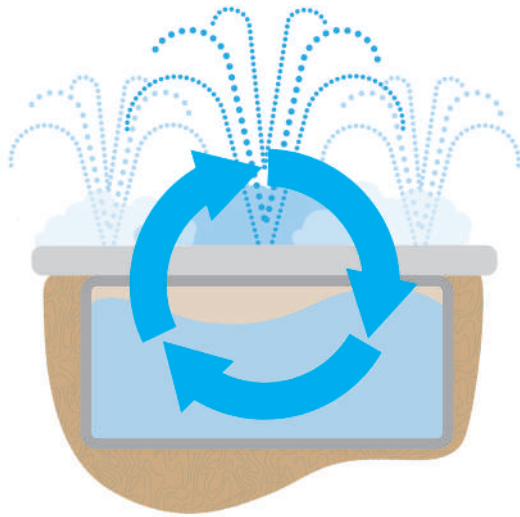
Increased tree planting is a necessary approach to mitigate the Urban Heat Island effect. The civic space may be affected by the Urban Heat Island effect with higher temperatures as a result of the introduction of paved space absorbing and storing more heat energy. Significant tree canopy coverage will offer a cooling effect, while assisting with the transpiration of stormwater and adding to the experiential quality of the space.



NATIVE PLANTS

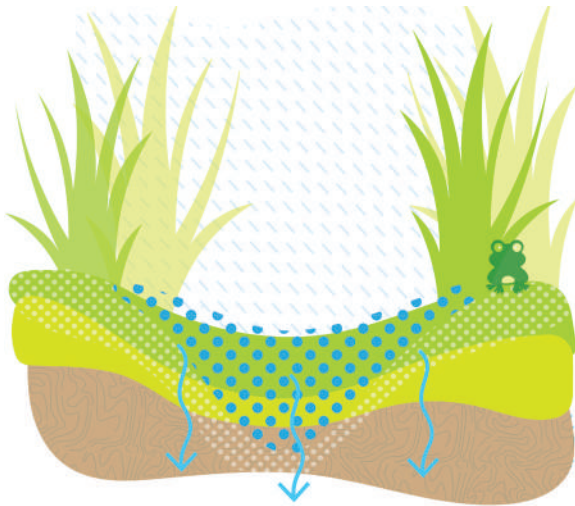
The use of native plants is a simple, yet effective way to add ecological value to the landscape. Strategic selections of native plants will provide food and habitat for local birds and insects, and can enrich biodiversity in the area. Native plants tend to be more resilient and low-maintenance once established, easing the need for frequent upkeep. The concept features several significant planting areas intending to enhance the beauty and ecological role of the civic space.

WATER RECIRCULATION



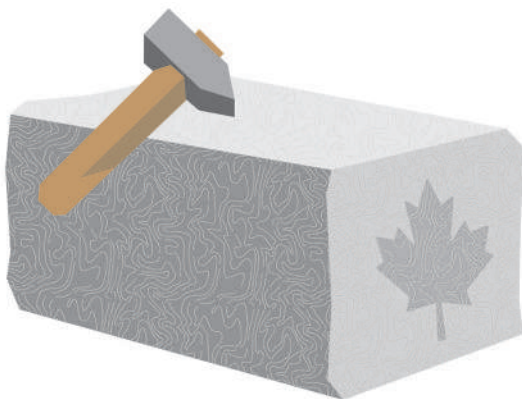
A water feature provides a source of cooling in hot temperatures, working to create a comfortable microclimate within the civic space. The water feature could employ a UV filtering system so that water is recirculated rather than being directed to the sewer system.

RAIN GARDEN



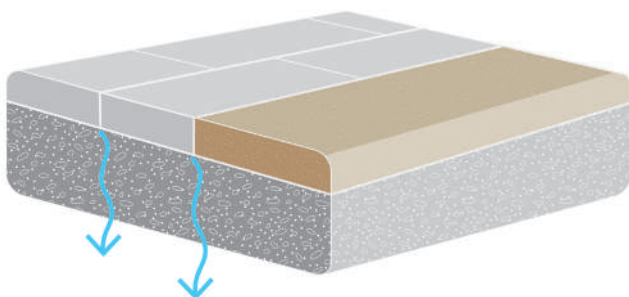
Rain gardens are an excellent example of low impact design that alleviate the pressures on infrastructure by naturally managing stormwater runoff on-site. These green gardens can be located at the low points of the civic space to collect water and provide points of infiltration. Rain gardens bring beauty with functional benefit, making them a great design element. It should be noted that to achieve optimal results, it requires extra consideration to the proper soils, grading, and planting.

LOCAL MATERIALS



This project aims to use locally sourced materials, such as quarry stone, lumber, and paving products. Local supply brings the benefit of economic contribution, sustainable practices, and community pride. Cost and supply constraints can come into play that may make this objective challenging to achieve.

PERMEABLE PAVING



Permeable paving is an effective method to enhance on-site stormwater infiltration. Increased infiltration around the civic space reduces the amount of water runoff and prevents stormwater systems from becoming overloaded. It can take the form of permeable unit pavers and bound aggregates that can be introduced into the civic space to provide both environmental and aesthetic benefit.

7

Cost Estimate

SHIFT

landscape architecture

Pelham Civic Space

Town of Pelham

Cost Estimate - August 2022

<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Unit Price</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Quantity Cost</u>
1.00 Demolition, site prep, permits				\$ 108,395.00
1.01 Site mobilization, survey, demobilization etc	ls	\$ 50,000.00	1	\$ 50,000.00
1.02 Bonding, Insurance	ls	\$ 40,000.00	1	\$ 40,000.00
1.03 Temp. site perimeter fencing	lin m	\$ 35.00	283	\$ 9,905.00
1.04 Temp. silt control fencing	lin m	\$ 30.00	283	\$ 8,490.00
2.00 Grading and earthworks				\$ 125,000.00
2.01 Strip and stockpile and redistribute topsoil	ls	\$ 50,000.00	1	\$ 50,000.00
2.02 Site grading	ls	\$ 75,000.00	1	\$ 75,000.00
3.00 Site services and water play features				\$ 225,000.00
3.01 Electrical site work (connections, lighting, equipment)	ls	\$125,000.00	1	\$ 125,000.00
3.02 Water services and connections	ls	\$ 50,000.00	1	\$ 50,000.00
3.03 Stormwater services and connections	ls	\$ 50,000.00	1	\$ 50,000.00
4.00 Paving				\$ 551,100.00
4.01 PIP concrete paving w/ micro-etch	sq m	\$ 170.00	1165	\$ 198,050.00
4.02 Permeable pavers	sq m	\$ 450.00	617	\$ 277,650.00
4.03 New curbs	lin m	\$ 200.00	22	\$ 4,400.00
4.04 Stonedust surfacing	sq m	\$ 100.00	50	\$ 5,000.00
4.05 Crushed aggregate surfacing (farm lane path)	sq m	\$ 300.00	170	\$ 51,000.00
4.06 Flagstone	sq m	\$ 500.00	30	\$ 15,000.00
5.00 Site furnishings, fencing, signage				\$ 645,500.00
5.01 Concrete w/ wood top seat walls	lin m	\$ 1,500.00	48	\$ 72,000.00
5.02 Concrete seat walls @ fire feature area	lin m	\$ 1,500.00	12	\$ 18,000.00
5.03 Stacked stone wall	lin m	\$ 2,500.00	18	\$ 45,000.00
5.04 Stone wall reveal @ berm	lin m	\$ 2,500.00	10	\$ 25,000.00
5.05 Irregular granite boulders @ planting beds	ls	\$ 25,000.00	1	\$ 25,000.00
5.06 Tree grates	ea	\$ 2,500.00	3	\$ 7,500.00
5.07 Adirondack chairs	ea	\$ 2,000.00	8	\$ 16,000.00
5.08 Bike ring	ea	\$ 800.00	10	\$ 8,000.00
5.09 Waste bin	ea	\$ 2,000.00	3	\$ 6,000.00
5.10 Custom fire feature	ea	\$ 50,000.00	2	\$ 100,000.00
5.11 Harvest table	ls	\$ 18,000.00	1	\$ 18,000.00
5.12 Cable Trellis	ls	\$ 80,000.00	1	\$ 80,000.00
5.13 Stage + Pavilion	ls	\$225,000.00	1	\$ 225,000.00
6.00 Water Feature				\$ 150,000.00
6.01 Water play feature	ls	\$150,000.00	1	\$ 150,000.00

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7.00	Planting				\$ 223,500.00
7.01	Planting medium at planting areas	cu m	\$ 100.00	450	\$ 45,000.00
7.02	Bioretention soil at rain garden (400mm depth)	cu m	\$ 150.00	188	\$ 28,200.00
7.03	Trees in soil cells	ea	\$ 20,000.00	3	\$ 60,000.00
7.04	Supply/Install: deciduous trees (50mm plus)	ea	\$ 850.00	40	\$ 34,000.00
7.05	Supply/Install: shrubs	ea	\$ 50.00	200	\$ 10,000.00
7.06	Supply/Install: perennials and grasses	ea	\$ 35.00	1000	\$ 35,000.00
7.07	Supply/Install: sod	sq m	\$ 10.00	1130	\$ 11,300.00
8.00	Testing				\$ 20,000.00
8.01	Testing allowance	allowance	\$ 20,000.00	1	\$ 20,000.00
9.00	Consultants (Detailed Design, Contract Documents + Contract Administration)				\$ 275,000.00
9.01	Consultants allowance	allowance	\$275,000.00	1	\$ 275,000.00
Subtotal					\$ 2,323,495.00
Contingency @ 25%					\$ 580,873.75
TOTAL					\$ 2,904,368.75

Streetscape Costing

<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Unit Price</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Quantity Cost</u>	
10.00	Demolition, site prep, permits			\$ 201,940.00	
10.01	Site mobilization, survey, demobilization etc	ls	\$ 50,000.00	1	\$ 50,000.00
10.02	Bonding, Insurance	ls	\$ 40,000.00	1	\$ 40,000.00
10.03	Removals	ls	\$ 50,000.00	1	\$ 50,000.00
10.04	Traffic management	ls	\$ 40,000.00	1	\$ 40,000.00
10.05	Temp. site perimeter fencing	lin m	\$ 35.00	316	\$ 11,060.00
10.06	Temp. tree protection fencing	lin m	\$ 35.00	40	\$ 1,400.00
10.07	Temp. silt control fencing	lin m	\$ 30.00	316	\$ 9,480.00
11.00	Grading and earthworks			\$ 50,000.00	
11.01	Grading and earthworks	ls	\$ 50,000.00	1	\$ 50,000.00
12.00	Paving			\$ 408,500.00	
12.01	PIP concrete paving w/ micro-etch	sq m	\$ 170.00	370	\$ 62,900.00
12.02	Precast pavers on concrete	sq m	\$ 600.00	560	\$ 336,000.00
12.03	New curbs	lin m	\$ 200.00	48	\$ 9,600.00
13.00	Site furnishings, fencing, signage			\$ 40,000.00	
13.01	Furnishing allowance	allowance	\$ 40,000.00	1	\$ 40,000.00
14.00	Planting			\$ 50,000.00	
14.01	Planting allowance	allowance	\$ 50,000.00	1	\$ 50,000.00
15.00	Consultants (Detailed Design, Contract Documents + Contract Administration)			\$ 100,000.00	
15.01	Consultant allowance	allowance	\$100,000.00	1	\$ 100,000.00
Subtotal					\$ 850,440.00
Contingency @ 25%					\$ 212,610.00
TOTAL					\$ 1,063,050.00

8 Appendices

Pelham Civic Space

Summary of public input from PIC #1

Initial Design Concepts

Introduction

The Town of Pelham and SHIFT Landscape Architecture hosted a Public Information Centre (PIC) via Engage Pelham that lasted 2 weeks from April 8th to April 26th, 2022. In addition, SHIFT LA had panels of each concept along with physical models in the lobby at the Meridian Community Centre. These were installed April 8th, 2022, and were in place for the home show on April 9th and 10th. The panels and models remained in place for the duration of the online engagement period. A paper survey was available for people to complete.

Presentation materials were made available on Engage Pelham along with the survey. Following the completion of the survey, Shift LA reviewed the responses to gather community opinion on the proposed conceptual designs.

The overall response from the community is positive and supportive of the conceptual designs for Pelham Civic Space. Through the feedback received, some issues or gaps were identified, and many of the comments will help inform detailed design decisions as the project proceeds. There were 35 visits to the site in total, 19 contributors, and 21 survey responses. 3 hardcopies were emailed to Lindsay Richardson, a Community Planner at the Town of Pelham.

Summary of Survey

The survey consisted of 11 questions and the primary intent of the online survey was to gather feedback and gain input from the public on future site programming, uses and activities as well preference for the concepts with follow-up questions catering to the different elements of the designs.

Survey Responses

Question 1.

Pelham Civic Space will be...How would you like to use the future Civic Space? What would you like to share to help us develop a final concept?

Question 1 was intended to be open-ended to understand the programming and use opportunities the community felt would benefit the civic space. Out of the 21 responses, a majority advocated for open, multi-use spaces that catered to families, especially those with young children. A majority also voiced preference to an abundance of plants to not only become ecological and ornamental elements of the future site but also to serve as a buffer between the adjacent commercial spaces and parking. Some also indicated the need for both passive and active uses for events such as vendor markets, concerts and other social events.

Question 2.

Pelham Civic Space will include...The Civic Space will be most successful if it is able to accommodate a wide variety of uses, needs and activities. Please rate how important these elements are to you.

This question was framed to understand the importance of different elements and uses of the site. The users were asked to rate each element as, *Very Important, Important, Somewhat Important or Not Important* (see Appendices,

“page 5of27” for graphic representation of results). Of the 23 responses, majority of the elements were labeled as very important; which included tree planting, open space for cultural events and areas for gathering. Quiet spaces, shade structures, and garden space following suit in importance. And public art installations, heritage interpretation and gas fireplace were among those that weren’t favoured as much.

Question 3.

Further, the survey asked respondents if they had any additional elements or uses, not included in the previous questions that would be important to them. The variety of suggestions was highly dispersed, and the results are summarized below with the frequency of responses in brackets.

Additional suggestions and considerations

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water features (3) • Community gardens (3) • More trees (3) • Pathways connecting gardens to adjacent roads (1) • Drinking fountain (1) • Space for children/ outdoor learning (4) • Bike stands (2) • Interactive/musical art display (1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low maintenance elements (1) • Active space for concerts (2) • Elements supporting multi-generational users (1) • Shaded seating (1) • Vendor markets (4) • Beehives (2) • Recycling/compost receptacles (1) • Gathering spaces (2) • Shade structures (1)
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Question 4.

Four-season uses...What elements would attract you to the Civic Space in the warmer part of the year (late spring, summer, early fall)? *(This question was left open-ended, giving the respondent freedom to describe their preferences)*

Water is often most sought after in warmer months and, not surprisingly, most popular among the respondents included some sort of water feature (10 responses). Elements such as gardens (8 responses), and organized events (5 responses) were also a popular response. Other responses included shaded structures, tables for picnics and art installations. A respondent expressed that the popularity of the space would bring them out to use the site. The concern of better maintenance for the site was also a re-occurring element among the respondents.

Question 5.

Four-season uses...What elements would attract you to the Civic Space in the colder part of the year (early spring, winter, late fall)? *(This question was left open-ended, giving respondent freedom to describe their preferences)*

In winter, warmth is often a crucial element that needs to be addressed and an overwhelming number of responses expressed attraction to a fire element within the site (14 responses). Although the concern for the safety of the hot surface (if enclosed) or open fire arose -which is something that would need to be addressed to make the space safe

for all users. 9 respondents also expressed that an ice rink is something that would be a popular attraction; one respondent wrote:

“An outdoor ice rink or ice trail for skating/exercise. Picturing a figure 8 or winding trail around the space that is artificially cooled. I have seen these in various areas around the GTA and it gets people out of their homes in the winter, engaging in the community and exercising through the winter. Parking spaces for food trucks to park on higher traffic days (ie. ice cream truck) would be ideal. I can envision having multiple gas fireplaces in order to provide some warmth.”

In colder parts of the year, snow is of concern and 4 respondents expressed concern for snow removal and maintenance, as it is one of the main reasons that deters users. Overall, the other responses mimic those from the previous questions with attraction to elements such as, shaded seating, gardens, sculptures and more trees.

Question 6.

There are 2 preliminary concepts for discussion. Please indicate which you prefer?

This question was asked to understand the preference of the presented design concepts and received 22 responses. The survey noted that the final design may end up being a combination of both concepts, and by choosing one over the other you are not selecting the final design. The survey offered four options, *Concept 1*, *Concept 2*, *I don't have a preference* or *A combination of two concepts*. Most responded with a preference for a combination of both concepts (8 responses) and second highest voted was concept 2 (7 responses). 1 person did not have a preference.

Question 7. (follow-up of Question 6.)

I prefer Concept 1 because...

Below are some of the responses:

“The water feature includes a space for children to play while adults enjoy the space”

“Prettier garden stuff”

“The flow of the spacing”

“More concert space that could also be used for vendor markets.”

“It's more aesthetically pleasing, more separate areas and versatility. Dislike the large deck in concept 2”

“More flexible community area; there should be a community input before the 2 options were proposed; who provided direction to the contractor/Town staff??”

Question 8. (follow-up of Question 6.)

I prefer Concept 2 because...

Below are some of the responses:

“It doesn't affect the road. The interlocking in Fenwick hasn't held up”

“Water feature mixed with landscape features, community seating”

“Bigger stage, nice water splash area. Larger pavilion for future events. Nice look”

“The stage area looks inviting gardens fire feature nice addition”

Question 9.

I would like to see a combination of both concepts because...

Below are some of the responses:

“I liked the more natural/nature feeling given by option one, this will bring a nice feel to a more commercial area. The idea of the more versatile space in option two is appealing.”

“There are some options from each that I really like”

“Stage area should face towards the MCC so the green space across the road can be utilized as overflow/expanded viewing area as per concept 2.”

“Fire and water features, harvest table, covered tables”

“Water and heat features, trees, picnic areas, lawn, art”

“Large harvest table providing seating is flexible and permits for wheelchairs, great lawn allows for flexibility of use, gas fireplaces to increase seasonal usage, water feature a great idea, community deck seems great as well.”

Question 10. Favourite elements or design ideas...Which ideas, elements or features from the concepts do you think are the most important? Which do you want to see in the final concept?

EVENT	NUMBER OF RESPONSES
Child-friendly space	5
Water feature	6
Surrounded by plants	6
Fire feature	5
Seating *	6
Pavilion	2
Shaded area	7
Versatile gathering area	6
Parking space	2
Picnic Tables	1
Bloom arch	1
Restroom facilities	1
Open space	1

Pollinator Support	1
Bike Lanes	1
No storage building	1
Vendor markets	1

*one respondent voiced concern for seating that supports elderly and pregnant users

A respondent voiced that they feel both designs are too ambitious and adding too many elements will end up crowding the space -decreasing community gathering capacity for the site.

Question 11.

Do you have any additional comments regarding the Pelham Civic Space project?

Below are some of the responses:

“This would be a wonderful way to start to get back the small town feel that we have lost to the retail development in that area. Our family would greatly appreciate a community space in the “hub” of Fonthill to visit and enjoy”

“Having recently moved from St. Catharines to Fonthill I really enjoy and appreciate the focus the Town puts on civic spaces, parks walking trails and the naturalized creeks and ponds! It makes for a very enjoyable calm atmosphere and maintains a Town that all can take pride in. Keep up the great work!”

“It would be helpful to know what guidance the consultant was provided with. What were the goals of the project as identified by the Town?”

“Please make this something family friendly, not just another space for people to go sit. Recognizing a senior centre is to be built next to it, should be more than just a spot to go walk/sit. Inclusive for all ages and abilities.”

“Why are we pushing our civic square to the edge of our municipal boundary? This space is generally inaccessible to most of the population, not within walking distance and no available parking. I have most recently seen this space used as overflow parking for the MCC. This area is very poorly planned, high density urban/commercial on one side and rural open space on the other, very incohesive.”

“I believe that having an outdoor skating trail would very much enhance the space and it would certainly allow Pelham to stand out in Niagara. I think that a skating trail would allow for a great deal of use by citizens of ALL ages compared to having an outdoor rink and would increase the sense of community throughout the winter months. It would provide a safe place for kids to engage in outdoor activity and opportunities for people to gather outside in winter.”

Overall Feedback:

The feedback received from the survey is generally supportive of the proposed conceptual designs with some issues with gaps in designs or concerns for safety what were highlighted. The public feedback from this survey suggests that both concepts have incorporated many of the community’s desires for this space.

Of the concerns, considerations and suggestions that were raised through this engagement effort, most notable were questions around the safety of the fire element, suggestions about site accessibility and the need for the site to be inclusive for all ages, especially with a senior center in close proximity. There was also a concern for the proposed site

elements decreasing the available site capacity for gathering. Additional suggestions for civic space elements may be further explored in the detailed design phase with material selection and refined spatial layout. Project budget will be significant in determining what can be realized on the public space. The community is supportive of green elements and the inclusion of natural spaces in the civic space. Outdoor learning spaces for children is also a suggestion that was brought up by a few respondents.

There is a strong desire to ensure that the civic space is safe, accessible and representative of the community character. Opportunities to interact with nature also remain important to the civic space design. Overall, the community appears to be supportive of the project. A final design will be guided by the general needs of this type of public space and the information gathered through this outreach.

END OF REPORT