

#2

Neighbourhood Greenspaces

The Talwood community is among the most dense neighbourhoods in Peterborough. It is seven times more dense than the Peterborough average, and over 90% of residents live in apartment buildings. Therefore, most people do not have private lawns and gardens, and it is very important to residents that people living in the dense tower environment have access to outdoor spaces.

The Talwood neighbourhood currently has a lot of greenspace, but few of these spaces are protected public park land. An informal trail network linking the neighbourhood to amenities at Clonsilla Ave. & The Parkway in the south and Sherbrooke St. & Medical Dr. corridor is well used for active transportation and recreation. It is currently zoned as public service and is reserved for a potential roadway extension.

Many greenspaces in the neighbourhood are privately owned by the owners of the Talwood Towers. The only municipal parks in the area are Nevin Park and Whitefield

Park. Whitefield Park has a playground and a thriving community garden, however, because of the natural features and layout of the park, some tower residents do not feel connected to the playground area of the park and have stressed the desire for outdoor park amenities closer to the towers. Whitefield Park has been identified in the City of Peterborough's parks review as a high priority park for upgrades.

The Byersville Creek also runs through the greenspaces in the neighbourhood. People love having the creek close by, and it is an important habitat for species like brook trout. Unfortunately, residents have noted that it can become full of garbage.

Given the zoning and ownership structures of the greenspaces in the neighbourhood, there are some challenges to enhancing and managing the greenspace, and ensuring that the Talwood residents have access to greenspaces in the future.



SPOTLIGHT: Kayla

"It's nice to have greenspace in the neighbourhood. There are lots of children who like to play in the parks. There is lots of green space right beside the buildings. It would be nice to have some playgrounds closer to the buildings. Another community garden would also be good. The ones already in the neighbourhood are at capacity, and there are many more people in the buildings who would like the opportunity to garden. I love the creek, but it needs to be tended as it gets full of garbage. I would like to clean it up. I really like having nature around. When living in the city, it makes a huge difference to live in a place with trees and access to greenspace."



Indigenous
Park/ Garden

Formalized Trail
Crossing

Formalized Trail

LEGEND

-  Trees
-  Lights
-  Benches
-  Signage
-  Recycling and Garbage

DESIGN CONCEPTS



!! Formalize the trail

Enhance trail network with accessible surfaces, signage, and official recognition as a multi-use trail corridor. Address the main trail in the short-term, and later explore enhancing the small side paths that allow people to enjoy the creek and woodlands.

- Accessible
- Walk Bike & Transit Friendly
- Inclusive & Welcoming

Create Indigenous gardens and spaces for Indigenous communities

Partner with local organizations and Indigenous communities to develop Indigenous plant gardens and/or a small park in the area that celebrates the Indigenous history and ongoing presence on the land. The park may include signage and names that honour and reflect the Michi Saagig stewardship of this land, and would provide a space for urban Indigenous folks living in the Talwood neighbourhood to connect with the land.

- Inclusive & Welcoming
- Natural & Green



!! Enhance safety and lighting

Add lighting along the trails so that they feel safer at night. Consider installing emergency phones in the more remote areas of the trail network similar to the type found on university grounds.

- Inclusive & Welcoming



Add park and trail amenities

Add features that help people feel comfortable and engaged when using the greenspaces in the neighbourhood. Features suggested by residents include benches or picnic tables, garbage and recycling receptacles, shade structures, and wayfinding signs.



Vibrant & Clean



Inclusive & Welcoming



Natural & Green



"It's our responsibility to stay consistent in our own neighbourhoods, like with [greenspace] clean ups."

"This highly populated area thrives because of the greenspaces that give such natural benefits."

"We use the greenspace to play cricket during the summer and autumn time and I know people with pets use it a lot too."

Care for Byersville Creek

The creek flows through both private and public land, which can cause some challenges with stewardship and upkeep. Explore joint efforts between stakeholders and residents to help steward the creek. Activities may include community litter pick-ups, shoreline plantings, and invasive species removal.



Vibrant & Clean



Natural & Green



RESIDENT QUOTE

"I hope people appreciate our beautiful greenspaces near the birds and animals. I want more gardens for the bees and designated recreational spaces."