Agenda

- Welcome (Ward 6 Councillor Jackson & Ward 7 Councillor Skelly)
- Project Overview
- Site Conditions Review
- Analysis & Vista Evaluation
- Draft Concept Plan
- Draft Management Plan
- Next Steps
Project Overview
Scope & Outcomes
Project Overview
Principles

- Protect and enhance the natural features (slopes, forest, habitats) in the Niagara Escarpment Plan lands.
- Improve the urban forest in the Niagara Escarpment Plan lands.
- Minimize the impact and further encroachment of urban development on the Escarpment environment.
- Ensure that further visual intrusion of the urban area on the Escarpment is minimized.
Project Overview

Policy Framework
Site Conditions

Public vs. Private Access and Vistas
Site Conditions

NEC Landscape Evaluation Study – Scenic Value
Site Conditions

Natural Heritage, Open Space & Urban Forest
Site Conditions

Urban Footprint
Site Conditions

Amenities
Site Conditions

Recreation & Trails Master Plan
Site Conditions

Slope Analysis
Site Conditions

Slope Analysis

- Areas with >33% slope
  - 1 block with 3 trees
  - 2 blocks with 6 trees

- Areas with 33% slope
  - 1 block with 3 trees
  - 1 block with 6 trees

- Areas with 20% slope
  - 1 block with 6 trees
Stakeholder Workshop (Wards 6, 7 & 8)

- Escarpment and urban forest valued
- Less concern with new vistas, but more over protection of the ecosystem/local ecology
- Maintaining existing vistas; trimming & native species selection
- Most important selection criteria for new vistas: protection of ecological integrity and slope stability
- Other concerns regarding parking, accessibility, connectivity, lighting, waterfall views and effects of climate change
Framing the Vista

Community Input & Technical Analysis
# Vista Evaluation

## Mountain Brow Vista Study & Management Plan

**Draft Vista Evaluation (June 2016)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ward</th>
<th>Vista Type</th>
<th>Vista #</th>
<th>Natural Heritage Quality Assessment</th>
<th>Slope Analysis*</th>
<th>Cultural Heritage Feature</th>
<th>Tree Offset Planting Potential</th>
<th>Scenic View</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1. Good - to be protected</td>
<td>1. 10-20% (gentle)</td>
<td>1. No Features</td>
<td>1. No Adjacent Planting Space</td>
<td>1. Obscured</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Observations</th>
<th>Overall Score (15 max)</th>
<th>Community Comments</th>
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Vista Evaluation

Technical Assessment
Vista Evaluation

Existing Priority Vistas

New Priority Vistas
Mountain Brow Vista Study & Management Plan

Draft Vista Concept

Mountain Brow Vista Study
Vista Locations – Ward 6
Vista Locations – Ward 7
Visual Impact Assessment

- Prepared technical visibility modeling for opening views
- Included before and after simulations
- Very limited visual impact
- Urban forest enhancements on the Escarpment brow reduce visual impacts
- Aligned with NEC objectives for protecting the Escarpment
Draft Vista Management Recommendations

• Maintain Existing Priority Vistas along the Escarpment brow
• Create New Priority Vistas along the Escarpment brow
• Allow natural succession in non-priority area
• Recover the potential urban forest canopy loss by replanting native large-stature trees in open areas in close proximity to the vista openings
• Establish site-specific recommendations for landscape management zones (removals and restoration)
Mountain Brow Vista

Vista Extent & Management
Draft Vista Management Recommendations

• Develop a **maintenance plan** with corresponding schedule and budget, giving priority to views in public parks and lookouts (i.e. vista openings in Sam Lawrence to be maintained every 2 years, and all others every 3 years)

• **Plant native shrubs and other understory plants** within the 3 to 5 metre landscape management zone to establish native low-lying vegetative cover
Other Management Recommendations (Future)

• Improve **recreational infrastructure** (i.e. trails, lighting, parking, etc.) to support the user and visitor demands

• Enhance the experience along the Escarpment brow with interpretative signage, trailheads and UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve information.

• Evaluate undertaking a Niagara Escarpment Parks and Open Space System (**NEPOSS** management plan) that includes all of the public recreation facilities in the Niagara Escarpment Plan Area
Questions?

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