

St. Vital Park Fire Pit Plaza Public Art Opportunity

An on-site information session with WAC, City Staff and the new pavilion architects took place on Tuesday, November 19. The following is a summary of the Q & As.

What activities happen in St. Vital Park?

St. Vital Park is a hub of activity year-round. The duck pond is one of Winnipeg's most popular winter skating and summer picnicking destinations. It seasonally attracts migratory geese. The park also has extensive trails, a new premiere soccer pitch, sand volleyball courts and toboggan slides. There is a formal garden that can be booked for weddings and photos. Additional info about park amenities can be found on the City's website here:

<http://www.winnipeg.ca/publicworks/parksandfields/parkbooking/bookableparks/stvitalpark.asp>

What are the hours of operation of St. Vital Park?

The Park is open from dawn till dusk, or 7:30am to 10pm.

How will the public access the artwork site?

The artwork will be sited on the grassed area adjacent to the new pavilion. It is flanked by the road and an asphalt path that follows the duck pond. The City may develop future pathways near the pavilion, duck pond and fire pit plaza based on public desire lines (informal paths created by foot traffic).

Is natural gas available to this site?

No, natural gas is not available at the site. The fire-pit should be designed to burn wood.

Who will supply the wood for the fire pit?

The City will provide a limited supply of fire wood. The public will also have the option of bringing in their own fire wood as is the current practice with other park BBQ pits.

Will the public be allowed to use the fire-pit as a BBQ?

The fire-pit is not to function as a BBQ, although the toasting marshmallows or sausages will not be monitored, and may not be prevented.

Will the fire pit plaza be available to the public for private rentals?

The City has not yet determined if the fire pit will be available for private rentals.

Is there electrical service available to the site?

The nearest electrical service is at the pavilion. Trenching and electrical hook up will have to be included in your budget if your design requires electricity.

What materials can be used in the design of the fire pit plaza?

There is no restriction in materials; however consideration should be given to durability, maintenance, resistance to vandalism, and non-combustibility in proximity to the fire pit. You may also choose to consider a skate friendly ground surface.

Can the existing trees be tied into the structure of the fire pit plaza?

No, the design should not damage/impact the existing trees. Any potential impact to trees will require an evaluation by City of Winnipeg Forestry Dept

Should the fire pit be designed above or below ground?

The fire pit may be designed either way as long as it is located at least 10 feet from any structures, branches or other combustible materials and the chimney/vents are covered with non-combustible mesh with openings no greater than 0.5 inches in diameter.

What seating will be provided?

The design of the fire pit plaza must include seating for approximately 20 people. Consideration should be given to access by people with different abilities. It is recommended that the use of stairs be avoided. For more information, please see the 2010 CITY OF WINNIPEG ACCESSIBILITY DESIGN STANDARDS: http://www.winnipeg.ca/ppd/pdf_files/Access_Design_Standards.pdf

What is the public access to the new pavilion?

The adjacent pavilion has been designed to include space for ongoing public use and private rentals.

What is the grading?

The site slopes somewhat to allow for runoff into the pond. Please see Topographic Survey here: http://www.winnipeg.ca/finance/findata/matmgt/documents/2013/317-2013/317-2013_Drawing_%20A0.1_R1.pdf

Are there underground lines?

This is currently unknown. If a design requires underground infrastructure, the costs of investigation into the existing underground conditions must be included in the artist's budget.

Will there be snow removal?

Yes, if the design provides access for the 4ft wide plow. However, it is unlikely that there will be resources for hand-shovelling.

Should the plaza design include a foundation?

Yes, a foundation will likely be required. The costs of any foundation work must be included in the artists' budget.

Are permits needed?

Yes, the selected artist will be responsible for obtaining all necessary permits. The cost must be included in the artist's budget.

What are the selection criteria, are they weighted?

The selection criteria are not weighted. As published in the Call-to-Artists, they are:

- Qualifications and professional experience of the artist
- Preliminary concept and expressed sensitivity to the site and context
- Ability to complete the project by August 2014
- Demonstrated ability of the artist to work collaboratively with design and construction professionals
- Demonstrated ability to successfully execute a project of this scale under the criteria developed and within the budget and timeline set out
- Experience with and expressed desire to create artwork for and in the public realm

If you have any more questions about this project and the application process, please contact tamara rae biebrich, Artist Projects Manager, Winnipeg Arts Council, by telephone, 204-943-7668 or by email, tamara.rae@winnipegarts.ca.