

Corporate Report

Report from Recreation & Community Services, Parks and Facilities

Date of Report: October 22, 2012

Date of Meeting: October 29, 2012

Report Number: RCS-627-2012

File: 68.31.99

Subject: West St. Catharines Welcome Gateway: Boulevard at St. Paul Street West and Louth Street

Recommendation

That Council receive the report for information purposes.

Background

At its meeting of November 7, 2011, Council approved the following motion made by Councilor Kushner:

“That Council direct staff to report on the unsightly and dangerous boulevard conditions near Gale’s Gas Bar and Tim Horton’s at St. Paul Street West and Louth Street.”

The subject boulevard is part of the south side of St. Paul Street West within Niagara Region’s road allowance. The large area between the road curb and sidewalk was created through the re-alignment of the intersection by Niagara Region to produce a standard 90 degree traffic junction. This area was never improved or landscaped as part of the Region’s construction project and is currently stone. This stone area is used improperly as a temporary parking area for over-sized vehicles that have difficulty accessing the nearby coffee shop’s parking lot.

Report

The City of St. Catharines Garden City Plan and Recreation Master Plan support the enhancement of public places with suitable landscaping and gateway features where geographically appropriate. The Western Hill Revitalization Study designated the intersection of St. Paul Street West and Louth Street as an important identifiable destination describing it as an “Arrival Gateway”.

The Wine Council of Ontario have given their support to a “Gateway” feature in this general location to help promote the new Niagara Wine Route through St. Catharines and to create a visual enhancement at this busy intersection.

Recreation and Community Services staff has developed a West St. Catharines Welcome Gateway Landscape Design for the boulevard within this intersection (Appendix "1"). An illuminated welcome sign, plantings and decorative stone have been positioned in the area between the existing sidewalk and the curb to maximize visibility and aesthetics while maintaining the orderly function of the transit bus stop and the entrance to the adjacent gas station.

This project has the approval of the Niagara Region's Smarter Niagara Incentives Programs: Public Domain Incentives Program. The West St. Catharines Welcome Gateway fits into the Region's criteria for urban renewal and revitalization through streetscape and related public realm improvements, and accordingly, the Region has approved funding for this joint venture.

Regional Niagara Traffic (RNT) staff has reviewed the design and are satisfied with the proposal. RNT has noted that the proposed improvements to the area will resolve the oversized vehicle parking issues on the site.

The design was circulated to the abutting land owners, Gale's Gas Bar, and they are pleased with the proposed boulevard improvements provided they are not responsible for the maintenance of the new landscaped area.

Construction schedule for this proposal is projected to be summer of 2013, dependent on 2013 municipal budget approval.

Financial Implications

The estimated cost of the project is \$80,000 which is to be funded through a City of St. Catharines/Regional Niagara partnership. Recreation and Community Services has submitted a request for \$40,000 in the 2013 operating budget for Council's consideration.

Regional Niagara funding is encumbered by its approval criteria which requires that all of the "Public Realm" projects that the City of St. Catharines initiates with the Region are complete before the cost sharing amounts are transferred.

Submitted by:

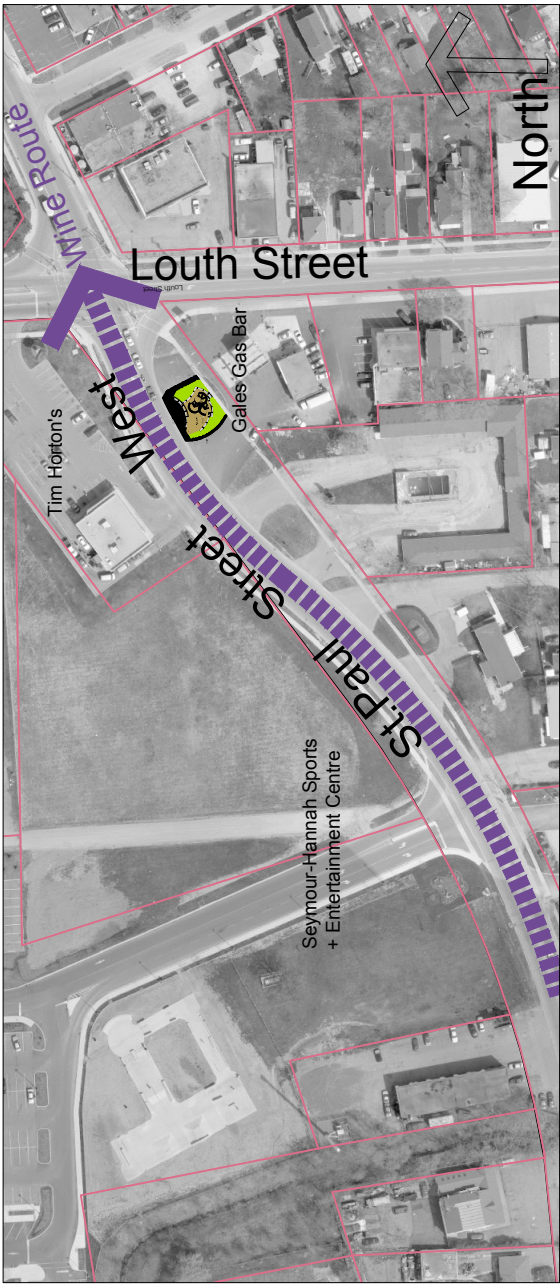
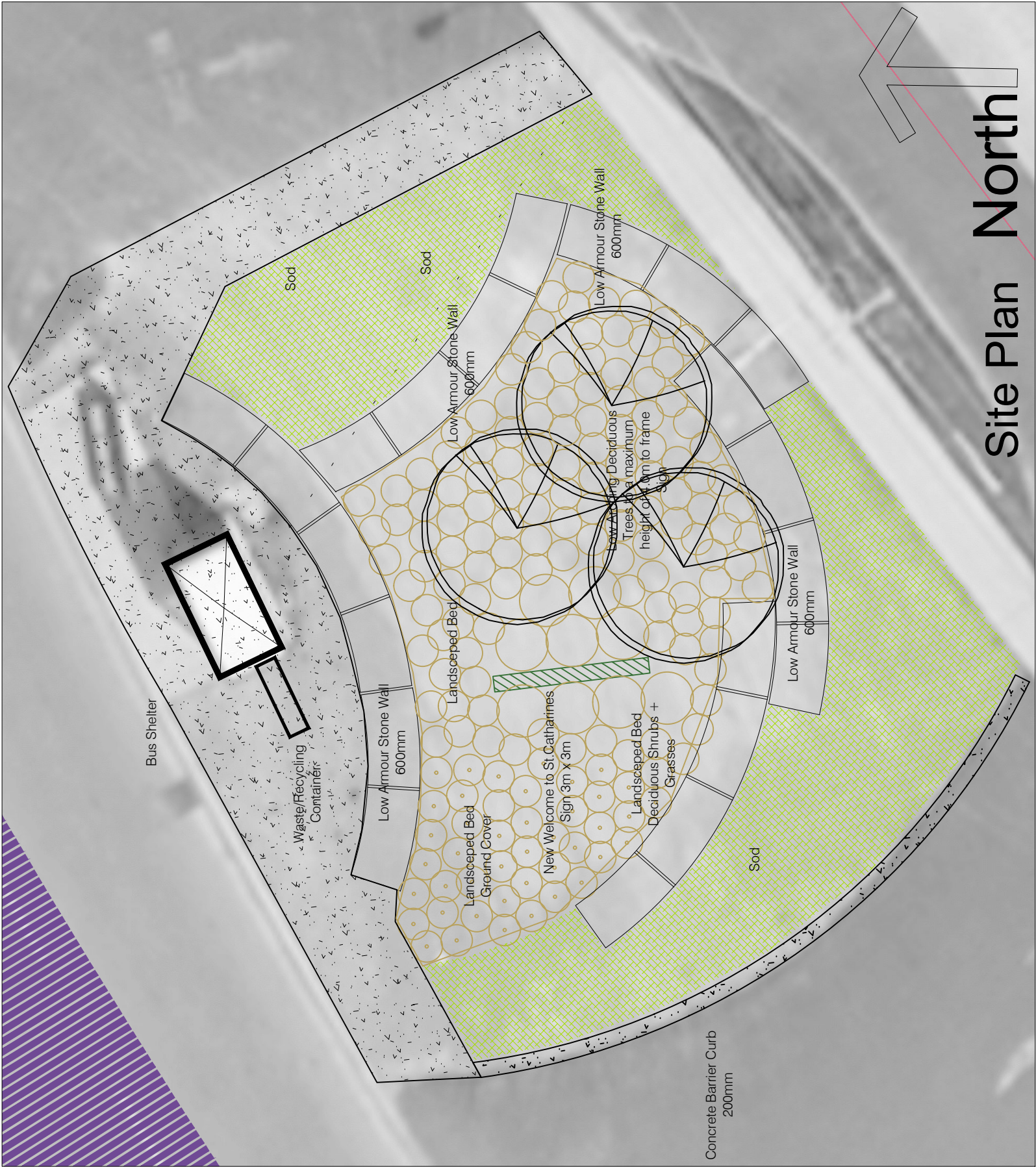
Jim Benson, Assistant Director of RCS / Manager of Parks & Facilities

Prepared by:

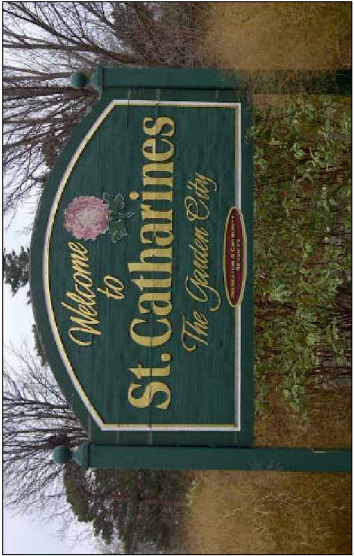
Stuart Green, Landscape Architect

Approved by:

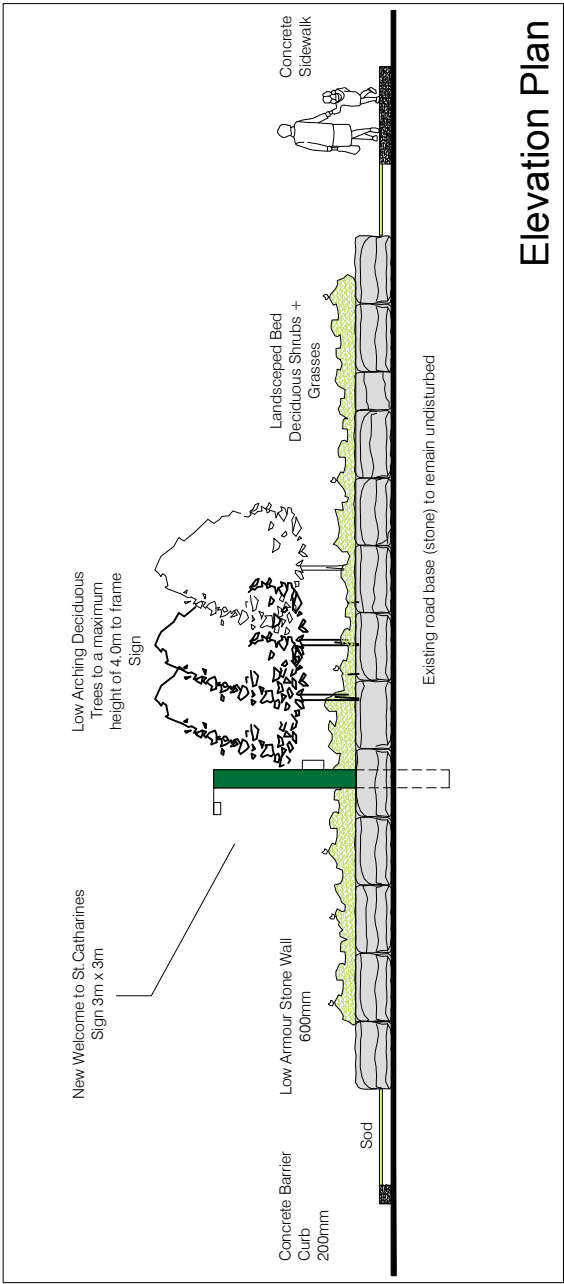
Rick Lane, R.M.D.R., Director of Recreation and Community Services



Location Map



Welcome Sign



Western St.Catharines Gateway Concept

Recreation and Community Services Department November 23, 2011