



## PORT COLBORNE

### Chestnut Park – Port Cares Affordable Housing Project FAQ

#### Affordable Housing Project

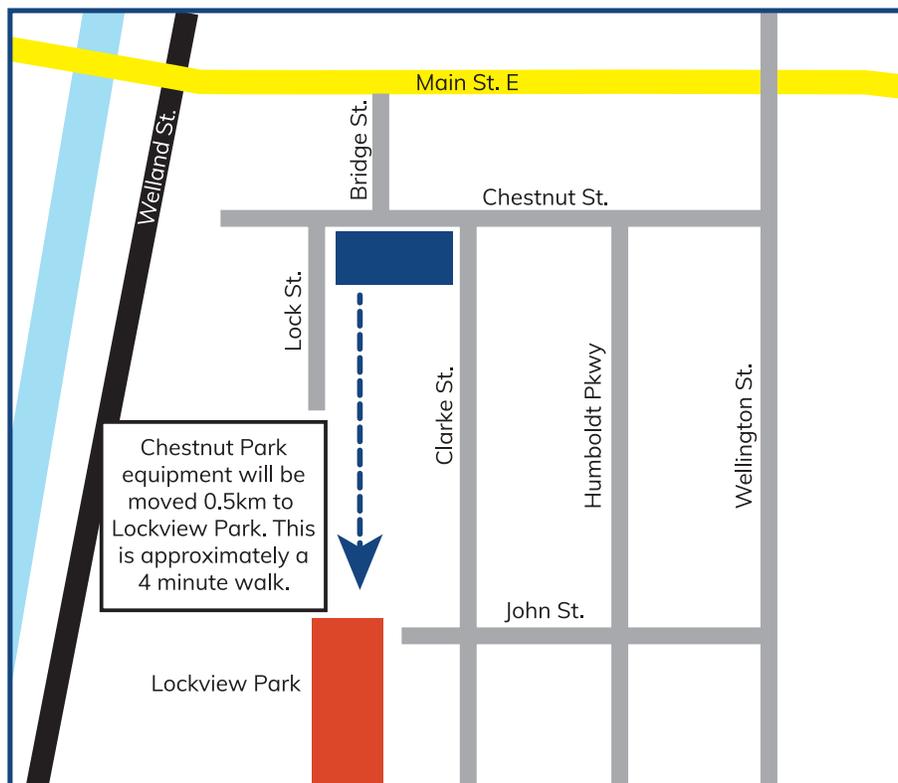
- On December 14, 2020 Port Colborne City Council approved the City donating Chestnut Park to Port Cares for the purpose of building affordable housing units for the community
- Port Cares will acquire the Chestnut Park property from the City for \$1, to construct a multi-unit, low rise affordable housing structure with approximately 30 to 40 one and two-bedroom units
- The intent is to create affordable housing for independent seniors who are over the age of 55, current Port Colborne residents, and are making less than \$35,000 a year; and/or single families with children, currently living in Port Colborne who make less than \$35,000 a year.
- The affordable housing units will be available to Port Colborne residents only, as per Port Cares mandate
- Parking will be available for tenants, based on City Zoning By-law provisions. At a minimum, there will be one parking spot per every three dwelling units.
- This is a multi-year project, with Port Cares currently completing the first phase of the building analysis which will take approximately three to four months
- The City of Port Colborne and Port Cares will actively engage with the community, including facilitating consultation sessions, which is anticipated to start August 2021

#### Chestnut Park Relocation

- The playground equipment at Chestnut Park will be relocated to nearby Lockview Park (please see map below). Lockview Park is located approximately 0.5 km adjacent to Chestnut Park.
- As Port Cares moves forward with their necessary due diligence and planning process, Chestnut Park will remain as is until both Port Cares and the City are ready to proceed with construction. This process could take up to 12 months.
- The goal, which is supported by the City's 2020 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, is to create premier parks by investing in new amenities to make them more modern, enjoyable, and accessible for residents and visitors
- City staff will seek public consultation from residents to better understand the needs within the community. City staff will bring a report to Council in March 2021 outlining the details of a community engagement plan to obtain input regarding the redevelopment of nearby Lockview Park.
- The 2021 budget has already been approved, with reserve funds set aside for potential infrastructure improvements to Lockview Park, based on Council's approval

## Affordable Housing & Homelessness in Port Colborne

- One in four residents are at risk of homelessness because they are spending 30 per cent of their net income on housing
- Of the one and four at risk of homelessness, 50 per cent are over the age of 55
- Seniors are at a higher risk of experiencing homelessness due to marital or relationship separation, illness, cost of medications and job loss
- According to Niagara Regional Housing (2019), the average wait time for individuals seeking social housing in Port Colborne is as follows:
  - Seniors aged 55 and older looking for a one-bedroom unit: five years
  - Singles aged 16 – 54 looking for a one-bedroom unit: 11 years
  - Households with dependents looking for a two or three-bedroom unit: four years
- City Council recognizes the situation is serious and is committed to working with local partners like Port Cares to find solutions to build economic and social sustainability in the community; everyone deserves a safe place to call home.



**PORT COLBORNE**

For more information regarding this project, please feel free to reach out to Gary Long, Strategic Initiatives Manager at [gary.long@portcolborne.ca](mailto:gary.long@portcolborne.ca).

For information regarding affordable housing in Port Colborne and inquiries on being on a wait list for this new development, please contact Port Cares at [portcares@portcares.ca](mailto:portcares@portcares.ca).

For up-to-date information please visit [www.portcolborne.ca/chestnutpark](http://www.portcolborne.ca/chestnutpark).