

Tuesday August 8, 2023

Greetings Brock Council,

I am writing this letter in an effort to encourage you to pull from reserve funds to build a sidewalk in Sunderland along Albert Street before the end of this calendar year, 2023.

As you know, a park is scheduled to be installed on Albert Street near Antioch Court. While this is a wonderful space, it is not accessible in a safe manner for all children in the area. Building this park without installing a sidewalk that extends along Albert Street is grossly irresponsible. The assumption that the children who will be accessing this park will detour through the Fairgate subdivision if they're coming from the school or Lorne Street area is absurd.

Sunderland is a small community and the fact that this area still doesn't have a sidewalk is confusing. This is an area that would assist in making Sunderland a much more walkable community. Many residents can attest to how popular this stretch of roadway is with walkers, runners, bikers, etc as well as how busy it is with vehicular traffic. Therefore, even if the park was not going in this area a sidewalk should have already been a strong consideration. With the placement of the park it doesn't make any sense that a sidewalk isn't being prioritized.

Anyone on council who has children or has ever interacted with children MUST know that a child will not detour and will ultimately access the park in the easiest possible way. Therefore, a sidewalk is absolutely necessary in order to provide safe access to this park.

On a side note, when I called to question this matter, the information provided alluded to the fact that since this land and the funds used for the park come from developer fees the town ultimately doesn't feel responsible for providing access to community members who live outside of the Fairgate development. While I understand the financial thinking, this is not how a community should be treated and I'm certain that if more people who don't live in Fairgate called and learned this there would be outrage.

My final comment on this matter is that I actually already addressed this concern with council when the park was initially being discussed. Therefore, I am even more frustrated that in my previous letter I indicated the need for a sidewalk if this location was chosen and despite that letter, council has approved the park and ignored the safety concern. This raises a lot of questions from me as a resident. I would ask that you approve this sidewalk with reserve funds immediately.

I am happy to further discuss this matter if there is any confusion or concerns. You can reach me via email at [REDACTED] or phone at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,

Rebecca Anderson  
Sunderland resident