Council Direction:
Committee of the Whole at its meeting of December 8, 2008 approved the following: “That an accessible washroom, using the Barrier-Free Design Guidelines be designed and constructed on the East Hamilton Recreational Trail Hub and Waterfront Link on the Globe Park side of the trail as close to the nearest bus stop, in addition to any other washroom locations already identified by City.

Information:
The East Hamilton Recreational Trail Hub and Waterfront Link (EHRTWL) project was presented to the Access and Equity sub committee October 1st, 2008 to provide an overview of the new trail system and bridge crossing over the QEW. The committee members expressed concern over the pedestrian travel distance to the closest accessible public washroom from this new trail system and requested staff investigate the location for an accessible washroom on the south side of the QEW.

At present, public washroom sites exist at Globe Park on the south side of the QEW and the Lakeland Centre on the north side. The washroom at Lakeland meets current accessibility guidelines, the washroom at Globe park was constructed in 1970 and does not meet current accessibility guidelines. Two commercial facilities along the waterfront trail, Hutches and Baranga’s, provide public access to washrooms. HSR route #4 runs along Woodward Avenue with stops at the corner of Woodward and Brampton, Woodward and Rennie, and Woodward and Glow (Appendix A).
Globe Park is an irregularly shaped 12 hectare site located between the water treatment plant and the closed Brampton Landfill. The park site occupies the expansion area for the water treatment plant. The expansion of the Water/Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) will require the removal of all existing recreational amenities from the Globe Park site including the existing public washroom building along with the removal of space planned for a soccer field as part of the EHRTWL programme. Existing programming of the ball field facilities at Globe will be accommodated at Turner Park.

Due to the size of the plant expansion footprint and construction staging areas a new stand alone washroom building will not be possible at the Globe site. An accessible washroom can be accommodated at the new Water Centre of Excellence (WCE) & Consolidated Works Yard (CWY) facilities being planned for the area east of the Woodward Avenue WWTP, adjacent to the former Brampton Landfill Site.

At present, the conceptual/preliminary plans call for the actual WCE building to be sited south of the existing WWTP maintenance outfall to Red Hill Creek, and to lie in a roughly north-south axis parallel to and west of the old landfill. Current plans call for a terraced feature on the north end of the building, with a link provided to the Trail and Pedestrian bridge as part of the landscaping design, and a publicly accessible washroom on the north side of the building directly off the top terrace. As we move forward with project implementation, details will have to be worked out for the hours that this washroom will be open for public use and who will be responsible for servicing and maintaining it. Washrooms in the public areas of the new WCE would be available during normal business hours, however, trail users will be encouraged to employ the washroom off the terrace. In addition, the public parking areas for the new WCE&CWY will be available for Trail users after hours and on weekends.

The new WCE&CWY facilities must (of necessity) take second place to the more pressing needs of the WWTP Expansion and Upgrades projects; at this time, it appears that the new WCE building (and hence the publicly accessible washroom) is unlikely to be constructed and commissioned until 2011 at the earliest and possibly even sometime in 2012.

Future Replacement Green Space

Globe Park is currently zoned P2 (Community Park) in the City’s Official Plan located in the Parkview East planning area and is not included in the City’s calculation for neighbourhood parkland. The Parkview East planning area does not contain neighbourhood parkland and has a requirement for 0.44 hectares based on 2006 census data. The loss of 12 hectares of green space from Globe Park may be partially offset through the creation of a new neighbourhood park on City property south of Brampton Street. The proposed site would be zoned P1, Neighbourhood Parkland and close to 2 hectares in size. The site would be large enough to accommodate the soccer field originally included in the EHRTWL programme. The park site would be rough graded on the north portion of the Rennie Works Yard site as part of the works for the Water Treatment Plant expansion. Staff will be making a future recommendation to Council through the Capital Budget process to develop the parkland on the north half of the Rennie Works yard site once the land has been made available after Water
Treatment Plant construction. The timing of Parkland development will be included in the future capital budget 10 year forecast.

The future Rennie works yard site could contain an accessible washroom however the washroom building would be in contravention to the City’s zoning bylaw 05-2007.1 (P1). The Neighbourhood Park zoning bylaw states: No person shall erect, or use any building greater than 100 sq metres and the building shall only be used for utility and storage purposes. Zoning for the WCE building accommodates washrooms and given the proximity to the new multiuse trail will be well situated to provide an accessible washroom on the East Hamilton Recreational Trail Hub and Waterfront Link.

Public Works remains committed to providing facilities without barriers to persons with various disabilities in the built environment. Through the implementation of the WCE facility construction project all public areas including the accessible washroom will adhere to the City of Hamilton Barrier – Free Design Guidelines.