

Attachment 2. Executive Summary, Don Mills Recreation Facility Planning Public Consultation Report

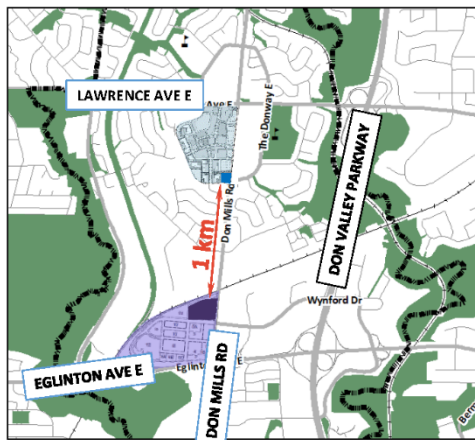


DON MILLS COMMUNITY RECREATION FACILITY PLANNING

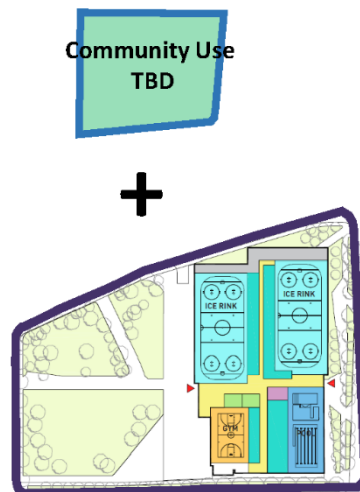
Community Engagement Executive Summary Don Mills Community Recreation Facility Planning Community Engagement Activities

The City of Toronto, with the services of LURA Consulting, undertook a comprehensive community engagement process to inform decision making regarding the future of community recreation facility planning along the Don Mills Corridor (from York Mills Road in the north to Flemingdon Park hydro corridor/park in the south). Engagement was specifically focused around future recreation facilities, with two options for facility locations and programming presented to the community: a Preferred Facility and Alternate Proposal.

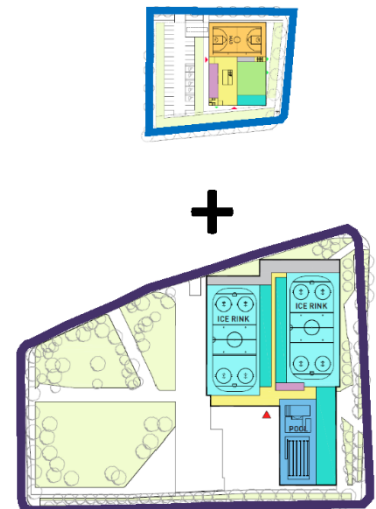
PROPOSAL COMPARISON



PREFERRED FACILITY



ALTERNATE PROPOSAL



Graphic illustrating the locations and features of the proposed recreation facility options

The engagement process was designed to maximize geographic and demographic reach across the Don Mills Corridor. Engagement activities included: one public open house targeting residents throughout the Don Mills Corridor; four stakeholder meetings targeting Wynford Tower Residents Association, Don Mills Residents Inc. (DMRI), Flemingdon Park stakeholders, and Civitan Arena user groups; six pop-up engagements across the Don Mills Corridor; and an online webpage and feedback form

for community members who prefer digital engagement opportunities. The following table provides an overview summarizing the types of engagement activities undertaken and the dates on which they occurred. More detailed information about each engagement activity can be found in the Overview of Engagement Activities section in this report.

Table 1: Engagement Activity Dates and Attendance

Engagement Activity	Date	Approximate Attendance
Stakeholder Meetings	February 26, March 13, March 18, and March 25, 2019	42
Pop-ups	March 14, March 30, April 6 (x3), and April 27, 2019	281
Public Open House	May 6, 2019	170
Online Webpage	On-going	N/A <i>(informational only)</i>
Online Feedback Form, Email Correspondence, Phone Calls	April to May, 2019	35

Key Themes of Feedback from Community Engagement Activities

User Experience & Convenience

Many participants noted that a single, consolidated multi-use site would be beneficial, as this would create a “one-stop” recreation location. This would increase convenience for families who participate in multiple recreation programs under one roof, thereby removing any requirement to drive between multiple facilities to participate in different programming.

Many participants noted that the central location of the Preferred Facility (Celestica site) within the Don Mills Corridor would be beneficial as it is highly transit accessible (one bus away for many Corridor residents, and beside the soon-to-open Crosstown LRT Science Centre station), easier to access by walking or biking, close to large populations and areas of future population growth, close to the Flemington Neighbourhood Improvement Area, and close to the Ontario Science Centre.

Some participants, particularly those in the far northern end of the Corridor in the Don Mills & Lawrence community, and in the southern end of the Flemington community, felt that the Celestica site would be too far to walk to, especially for seniors and youth during winter. These participants would prefer a community recreation facility closer to their respective homes. In general there was a direct co-relation to people’s preference and proximity to their place of residence.

Some participants also shared concerns that the single Preferred Facility may reach capacity prematurely due to the high levels of anticipated growth throughout the Corridor, especially in Flemington Park, which has the largest existing population. Additionally, some participants noted that the Preferred Facility may be too large and intimidating for seniors to comfortably use and navigate.

Facility & Programming

Participants were asked to select the recreation activities and programs they would most like to see in a new Don Mills community recreation facility. The top 5 selections for recreation activities and programs include: a pool play area; free skating; swimming lessons; skating lessons; and a walking track. For aquatics programming specifically, participants expressed a desire for activities beyond swimming lessons, such as pool play and lane swimming. Top selections also included cooking/kitchen programs, community gatherings and multi-purpose space, basketball, and fitness classes.

Participants noted that the Preferred Facility would be a state-of-the-art recreation destination that would create greater opportunities for mingling and community-building across diverse communities, provide more opportunities for intergenerational and age-targeted programming, and create greater opportunities for programming partnerships. Some participants remarked upon the cost efficiencies the Preferred Facility would entail by co-locating all programming on a single site, and participants also liked having access to more parking.

Some participants also noted the outdoor programming potential of the larger Preferred Facility: It would present an opportunity for more outdoor landscaping and park space that would support and complement the community recreation centre (playground, splash pad etc.).

Process & Project History

Some participants, especially those living in the Don Mills & Lawrence community, stated their disapproval of both proposals (Preferred Facility and Alternate Proposal) as this would not honour the 2010 Section 37 agreement which intended to locate a recreation facility at the Don Mills Centre site (“a deal is a deal”). Some participants stated that an option throughout the engagement process should have been the original design for the Don Mills Centre site, as proposed in the Section 37 agreement.

Some participants noted that regardless of the option selected, they would like the City to ensure that the land originally designated for a community recreation facility at Don Mills Centre remain public, regardless of its specific use.

Some participants, especially those at the Wynford and Flemingdon stakeholder meetings, were eager for the City to begin the design and construction of the Preferred Facility to provide additional recreational capacity in the Don Mills Corridor sooner, given that Dennis Timbrell CRC had already reached a state of overcapacity and the complete lack of community facilities in the Wynford community.

Participants of the Flemingdon Park stakeholder meeting specifically requested a participatory budgeting process with the community during the design phase of the Preferred Facility project, as well as engagement materials that are more visually intuitive and translated into multiple languages. All participants desired a transparent, continuous, and proactive engagement and communication process with residents of all ages across the Don Mills Corridor for the remainder of the project in a variety of formats (e.g. pop-ups, public meetings). Participants from the Don Mills & Lawrence

community specifically requested that meetings be held closer to them within their neighbourhood.

Growth, Access & Equity

Overall, participants shared that they would like to see activities and programming offered that are accessible to a wide range of community members of different ages, interests, abilities, and income levels in a safe and welcoming space.

Participants said they wanted the new recreation facility(ies) to serve the growing communities across the entire Don Mills Corridor. Many recognized that the Celestica site’s (Preferred Facility’s) proximity to Flemingdon Park would enhance equity of access to recreational programming by locating a new facility closer to where the projected population growth is concentrated at Don Mills & Eglinton and closer to a City-designated neighbourhood improvement area (Flemingdon Park). However, some participants from the Don Mills & Lawrence area stated that the recreation needs of the northern end of the Don Mills Corridor should still not be ignored in favour of those in Flemingdon Park. They noted that residents in Don Mills & Lawrence had waited a long time for a community centre and should now receive one. Other participants (particularly from Flemingdon Park) expressed concern over the affordability of programming and parking at the future Preferred Facility.

Preference for the Preferred Facility

Based on the feedback received through the multiple engagement techniques described above, the majority of those engaged favoured the Preferred Facility. The chart below summarizes the preference that emerged from each engagement event.

Table 2: Facility Preference by Engagement Activity

Engagement Activity	Preference
Stakeholder Meeting: Wynford Tower Residents Association	Preferred Facility
Stakeholder Meeting: Don Mills Residents Inc. (DMRI)	Neither (DMRI prefers the original 2010 proposal)
Stakeholder Meeting: Flemingdon Park Community	Preferred Facility
Stakeholder Meeting: Don Mills Civitan League	Preferred Facility
Pop-Up: Dennis R. Timbrell Resource Centre	Preferred Facility
Pop-Up: Playground Paradise	Preferred Facility
Pop-Up: Real Canadian Superstore	Preferred Facility
Pop-Up: Don Mills Library	Alternate Proposal
Pop-Up: Sunny Food Mart	Preferred Facility
Pop-Up: CF Shops at Don Mills	Split with a slight preference for the Alternate Proposal
Public Meeting/Open House	Geographically Varied. Please refer to Public Consultation section

Secondary Themes of Feedback from Community Engagement Activities

Existing Recreation Facilities

Many participants noted that the existing Dennis R. Timbrell Community Resource Centre is in deteriorating condition and currently over capacity, struggling to meet the demand of Flemingdon Park's rapidly growing population (especially youth). Community members are concerned that the Dennis R. Timbrell Community Resource Centre will be closed due to its condition, which would reduce recreational capacity in the neighbourhood.

- *Note: City staff confirmed that the Council approved Facilities Master Plan supported the renovation of the Dennis R. Timbrell Community Resource Centre.*

Some participants, particularly members of the Don Mills Civitan Hockey League, expressed concern about the upcoming closure of the existing Civitan Arena. Participants requested that the City create a transition plan and explore a short-term lease extension so as to prevent lost ice time and member attrition between the closure of Civitan Arena and the opening of the Celestica site's twin ice pads.

Parking, Traffic, and Safety

Some participants noted that parking provisions at both the Celestica site and Don Mills Centre site would need to be sufficiently large to accommodate demand. Participants noted that especially at the Don Mills Centre site, parking is a concern as current parking availability is low at CF Shops at Don Mills.

Increased traffic congestion at both the Celestica site and the Don Mills Centre site was a concern among some participants. Participants also noted that the Alternate Proposal may result in added local traffic between the two facilities.

Some participants were concerned about being able to safely access a facility at the Celestica site, specifically crossing the fast-moving traffic at the large intersection of Don Mills Road and Eglinton Avenue East.