

06

Maintenance Recommendations

6.1 Maintenance Recommendations

The transformation of Centennial Park is hinged on a landscape management plan that will address the increased maintenance, stewardship and care required in a revitalization project of this scale.

The Centennial Park Master Plan Facilities and Service Planning Assessment identifies that this site is underperforming and requires special attention and facilities upgrades in the future. The Priority Projects listed in Section 7 includes new amenities, such as the skating trail, additional fields, and relocated and upgraded fields. Given the additional programming, there should be an appropriate operations budget for this work, including additional staff and resources to order to maintain the new facilities.

Centennial Park maintenance and operational care is divided in the following areas:

- Recreation and Playground Facilities
- Paved Surfaces
- Site Structures
- Planting and Restoration Through Stewardship

6.1.1 Recreation and Playground Facilities

Currently, there is a premier turf (lit), one multipurpose field (Class A unlit), 11 Soccer fields which vary in Class levels (4 Class A, 2 Class B, 5 Class C, 1 lit), six baseball diamonds (3 Class A, 3 Class C, all lit), and two cricket pitches and a practice wicket. The Updated Master Plan takes into consideration the recommendations in the Facilities and Service Planning Assessment proposing to promote the retention, improvement and/or expansion of the rectangular fields adding three soccer fields. In addition to the soccer the fields, the Centennial Park Master Plan Update recommends adding one cricket pitch and reducing the baseball diamonds, but improving all the fields. As such, the class rating may shift to a higher, more premium level. These changes and added capacity to the fields will require an expanded turf management approach, as well as additional resources for Park Operations.

For class rated field, and depending on classification criteria (Premier, Class A, B or C) the City of Toronto has identified the minimum requirements and criteria (refer to <https://www.toronto.ca/data/parks/prd/facilities/ratings/index.html#fields>).

The following recommendations have been highlighted in this Updated Master Plan, and should be considered in the maintenance and budget requirements for the park as field development occurs:

For the existing Class C fields, not irrigation, the following minimum requirement has been identified: Cut 1 time per week; aerified 1 time annually; fertilized 1 time annually (0.63 lbs. total nitrogen per 1000 ft²); overseeded 1 time annually; topdressed 1 time annually; (100 fields per season [rotated], 50% turf area - goal line to goal line)

Mowing: During the playing season, the turf should be mowed once a week. Aeration is also critical to the long-term care and health of the lawn. Aerating a minimum of four times a year, will ensure that the soil beneath the sod does not get too compacted, causing poor drainage and bald patches.

Bald Patches: Should bald patches occur because of the poor drainage or over-use, the City should aerate, top-dress and re-seed these areas and allow these spaces to regenerate. Temporary hoarding may be required to protect early germination until establishment.

Irrigation: Class A fields will require irrigation to maintain the grass. Currently none of the Class B or C fields are irrigated. An Irrigation study and analysis is required to bring all the Class A irrigation systems upgraded. Key fields for improvement will need to be identified in that Irrigation Assessment.

Fall Maintenance of Fields: Aeration is critical during the fall months and topdressed (spread sand), especially for fields that have compaction, bare spots and drain poorly. Top up the baseball infields in the early spring.

Playgrounds:

All play environments (District, Adventure or Natural) should undergo an annual review by a CSA inspector to ensure that the equipment meets all standards and requirements. The maintenance required for poured-in-place rubber includes sweeping, washing with a pressure washer, and removal of any weeds or mold on the surface. The surface should be reviewed for any trip hazards or uneven surfaces over time.

6.1.2 Paved Surfaces

Centennial Park’s new circulation system will consist of a hierarchy of paths. Each will have a range of maintenance requirements based on year-round use, paving material, permeability, and type of use.

Primary Multi-use Path (4.0m, Asphalt), Secondary Multi-use Path (3.0m, Asphalt) for High Capacity – This is the largest of a network of proposed pathways that will run through the entire park and designed to accommodate emergency and park service vehicles.

Since this will be heavily used throughout the year, patching and general pathway maintenance will be required. Plowing and lighting is also recommended for the Primary Multi-use Path.

Primary Pedestrian Path (3.0m, Asphalt) and Secondary Pedestrian Path (2.1m, Asphalt) will not be plowed, however consideration should be given to improve winter access to park amenities.

Tertiary Pedestrian Path (2.1m, Natural Material) – Annual assessment of the top-up requirements.

Active Recreation Paths and Trails (Varies, Natural Material) – Annual assessment of the top-up requirements.

Special Uses (Events) (4.0m, Unit Pavers-) – Leaf blower – removal of leaves, sweep and weed annually or as required.

Permeable – Refill joint material: once, between 3 and 6 months after initial installation. Repeat, approximately every 5-10 years, as required.

6.1.3 Site Structures

The washrooms identified in Section 5 will need to be mechanically upgraded and winterized should the intent be for year-round use; this direction must be weighed against the need for heightened maintenance for a winterized building. All of the buildings will require a building assessment and feasibility strategy and report.

6.1.4 Planting and Restoration Through Stewardship

The maintenance and establishment of the Ecological Community Targets identified in Section 5 will require additional site specific studies and coordination with the Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA). The main Community Targets will have specific maintenance regimes and implementation strategies over time. Critical to the success of these restoration programs will be to incorporate educational programs focusing on local schools (for instance Hollycrest Middle School, Seneca School, Mill Valley Junior School). Additionally, local community groups (Friends of Centennial Park Conservatory and any other local community group) should be engaged and included in planting and restoration events. Currently, TRCA has organized Etobicoke Creek Clean Up days with a local community group. The daily events to engage the local community and foster stewardship can be integrated into the invasive species removal strategy, as well as for the planting days in the establishment of the target ecological community groups.

Nursery Propagation for New Planting:

It is recommended that the City enter into a partnership with a selected commercial nursery for planning, propagating and growing production towards the replanting of this 500 acre park. The nurseries start the plants from local seeds or cuttings and will grow them for one to three years. They will then be delivered as bare root seedlings or transplants and installed at Centennial Park either in Spring, while the plants have no leaves, or in Fall when the leaves have shed. It is possible to incorporate this programming with the Conservatory, educational programs and/or employment training opportunities.

Stormwater Management Areas: Regular monitoring and inspection is required to maintain quality and quantity controls for all SWM ponds and wetlands. Ongoing maintenance include the removal of invasive species such as Phragmites, regular dredging (as required), cleanout of outlet structures, debris and litter removal and re-stabilizing eroded slopes or banks.

Infiltration area and Low Impact Development in the upgraded parking lots should include maintenance practices that will ensure that the infiltration areas will function and perform well over many decades. Sweep or use a leaf blower weekly. Do a monthly assessment of any clogging and when necessary, use a wet/dry shop-vacuum for small areas or vacuum truck for larger areas in order to remove debris from joint aggregate material and allow for



Pit and Mound Meadow Planting Technique

infiltration. Sweep and replenish the lip layer of the paver annually. It is recommended that a seasonal maintenance schedule is provided by the paver manufacturer.

Gardens: Garden areas should have appropriate services and facilities integrated into the site design (i.e. hose bibs, areas for composting, and storage sheds) to better enable Park Operations horticultural staff and/or local community groups to provide ongoing maintenance for the horticultural or farm beds. This would apply to all specialty, community-run gardens such as (but not exclusive to) the Indigenous Medicine Garden and Orchard.

Moving forward, these community gathering spaces and events (large and small) are increasing in popularity and will only continue to grow. It's critical that the maintenance and restoration requirements be incorporated into any permit or agreement in order to help preserve and sustain the existing and new facilities, as well as the new and restored ecological plant communities in Centennial Park.

07

Recommendations and Guidelines

7.1 Overall Master Plan Update Recommendation and Guidelines

Given the size of Centennial Park, achieving the final park vision will require time and an understanding of priority and future implementation projects. It is important to note that the phasing will not be instantaneous, but has been prioritized based on budget, importance, and immediate impact.

The Priority Recommendations and Guidelines reflect the guiding principles of the Master Plan Update, focusing accessibility, aging infrastructure, ecological restoration, and the most pressing of the sports and facilities improvements and upgrades. The Recommendations related to the recreational and sports facilities have been identified in the Centennial Park Master Plan Facilities and Service Planning Assessment (FMP), can be implemented on a project-by-project basis and have a impact quickly. After those elements and transformative projects are implemented, the future Recommendations are highlighted by area and type, which will help guide and prioritize further revitalization of the Park depending on the capital funds.

Demonstration Plans of Recommendations and Guidelines

The Recommendations and Guidelines are incorporated into three conceptual demonstration plans, the Heart of the Park, Hill and Pond to illustrate how the proposed strategies can be applied to enable a variety of enriching experiences for users to enjoy. The demonstration plans also serve to highlight how different programming is tied to the Park's unique topographic and hydrologic features. Each demonstration plan area highlights how the Master Plan's Objectives of Consolidate Spaces, Enhance Programming, Improve Connectivity, Celebrate Water, Foster Inclusion, and, Build Identity are integrated into a new vision for Centennial Park.

Community Collaboration

The demonstration plans are a culmination of ideas and aspirations identified through engagement events with community members during a series of workshops and meetings. Separate events were held with the Stakeholder Advisory Committee, Indigenous community leaders, and local youth to gather ideas for the three demonstration plan areas. Group discussions and collaborative drawing with a digital platform called Scribble helped to distill key takeaways during these events about the types of activities, elements, and experiences that were desired in each site-specific area.

7.2 Project Recommendations

Project recommendations below begin with the Priority Projects identified through the Public Consultation, Facility Master Plan, and impact and transformative nature of the project.

Summary of the Priority Projects:

The City of Toronto and Design Team have identified the following Priority Projects for Centennial Park. The Demonstration Plans will highlight all of these Priority Projects, putting them in context for the final vision of each space.

- The Hill:** Creating a dynamic winter hub is central in the revitalization of Centennial Park. During the process of winding down of the existing ski programming, the Master Plan seeks to create new and exciting programming on the Hill and at the base of the Hill. The Priority Projects for the Hill include: Removal or abandonment of ski centre equipment and other obsolete infrastructure (eg barn/shed at hill base), improvements to chalet and repurposing of the lift building. The planning, design and implementation of a new skating trail will happen as the ski activities wind down as well.
- The Heart:** The Priority Projects include the planning, design and implementation of the District Playground and Splash Pad, upgrades to existing pathways for accessibility and connectivity, screening and improving the interface with the service yard, and removing unused and remnant fences which act as barriers to the circulation.
- Sports Fields and Facilities:** The following items are noted in the FMP as being priorities facilities to include in the Master Plan: The addition of one (1) new cricket pitch, multi-use courts and/or pickle ball courts, one (1) new stadium bubble, the addition of a skateboard park.
- Accessibility and Circulation Improvements:** Improved Sidewalks (along Centennial Park Boulevard), missing sidewalks along Rathburn, Crossing locations at Rathburn/Elmcrest Park, at Centennial Park Boulevard, the Multi-use Paths (MUP) identified on the plan throughout Centennial Park.
- Ecological Restoration:** The Elmcrest Creek Restoration is high priority with respect to the ecological and restoration projects, and should to be prioritized first along with select picnic areas. These projects will require coordination with Toronto Water and TRCA.



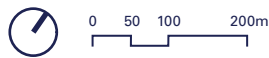
Priority Implementation Items





Legend

- — —** Project Boundary
- A1** Cricket Pitch (Add 1, Improve 2)
- A2** Basketball/Multi-use Court (Add)
- A3** Skatepark (Add)
- A4** Stadium Bubble
- A5** Skating Trail
- A6** District Playground and Splash Pad
- A7** Multi-use Commuter Paths
- A8** Missing Sidewalks along Rathburn (2023)
- A9** Crossing at Rathburn to Elmcrest park (2023)
- A10** Crossing of Centennial Park Boulevard (2022 or 2023)
- A11** Pedestrian Pathway Along Centennial Park Boulevard
- A12** Creek Improvements (Elmcrest Creek Restoration Work TRCA)
- A13** Removals (Ski Lifts, Snow Maker, Lighting, Abandon Infrastructure)
- A14** Ski Chalet Improvements (Programming Improvements)



Priority implementation items include adding or improving existing amenities and access to the park. These items include creek improvements, adding active recreation amenities, and pedestrian pathways.

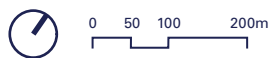
Future Recommendations Items





Legend

- — —** Project Boundary
- B1** Pedestrian Accessible upgrades to all pathways (secondary and tertiary)
- B2** Integrated Park Signage and Wayfinding
- B3** Vehicular and pedestrian gateways
- B4** Refurbishment and construction of picnic shelters
- B5** Adventure (Natural) Playground (North of Pond)
- B6** Dispersed playgrounds
- B7** The mow / no mow and tree planting
- B8** Invasive Species management
- B9** fitness trail improvements
- B10** Planting along pathway improvements
- B11** The Hill plaza, the amphitheatre, and look outs.
- B12** Native Arboretum (Meadow or Orchard Walk)
- B13** Accessible pathways and bridges
- B14** Planting + Invasive Removals along Pond Edge
- B15** The Pond lookout
- B16** The Parking lots at the District Playground, Stadium lot, Arena parking lot, Olympium, Baseball, Conservatory, Pond and BMX (including bioswales)
- B17** Service and Operations Yards (Refurbish + Add)



- **Winterizing Washrooms:**

Washroom improvements and refurbishments are required across the site and includes introducing winterized washrooms for year-round use. Refurbishment includes creating accessible and gender neutral washroom facilities.

Future Recommendations

In a park of this scale, the incremental and larger scale implementation projects need to be identified below by area and type. These projects are highlighted as key transformative moves, which can be implemented as capital funds become available.

Pedestrian / Multi-purpose Paths:

- Pedestrian Accessible upgrades to all pathways. In addition to the Priorities Projects listed, there are still curb-cuts, railing improvements, and surface improvements to be made throughout the site. Connecting the paths per the Master Plan (Secondary and Tertiary paths) to the Multi-use Path will need to be incremental as the Park develops.
- New sidewalk along Centennial Park Road and associated cross walks are required as well to the sidewalks identified in the Priority Projects.
- Multi-use Trail (Centennial Park Boulevard). Hopefully this project can occur during the construction work of the sidewalks (Priority Project).

Art/Placemaking/Wayfinding:

- A signage and wayfinding program and plan should be established to allow for flexibility and incorporating the current City of Toronto TO360 Wayfinding System Strategy.
- Integrated Park Signage and Wayfinding implementation should occur after the establishment of the wayfinding program. It is recommended that the program highlight the recreational signage, directional signage types, and interpretative marker and placekeeping signage.
- Interpretive marker and placekeeping signage can incorporate Indigenous culture, history and language, in addition to the histories and languages of marginalized communities that include local and Canadian Black, African and Caribbean communities.
- Create opportunities for visitors to connect with nature and learn about local ecosystems through signage and public art. Focus on pollinator ways, butterfly gardens and the Park's hydrology/ waterways.
- Vehicular and pedestrian gateways will likely require more capital than the wayfinding signage. These large scale gateways have been identified at Eglinton Ave and Centennial Park Boulevard, Rathburn Road and Centennial Park Boulevard, Rathburn and Centennial Park Road.

- Picnic shelters along the experience loops can be refurbished for integration into placemaking initiatives.

Play:

- In addition to the Priority District Playground and Splash Pad, the following playground types and locations have been identified:
- Adventure (Natural) Playground located on the Illustrative Plan just north of the Pond.
- Dispersed playgrounds can be implemented on a small scale and should be incorporated with any adjacent improvements when possible (trails, fields, etc.).
- Incorporate culture-based play features, such as the African table game Wari.

Planting:

- The mow / no mow and tree planting opportunities are possible to implement in small increments, over the first 5 years. The tree planting strategy for the forestation work should begin with a stewardship or local school program to encourage the involvement of the community in the process.
- The establishment of the maintained and non maintained meadows.
- Continue with the Invasive Species management of Buckthorns in Forest Area.

Hill:

- Additional Improvements to the Hill include: Fitness trail improvements and associated planting adjacent to the trail and pathway improvements listed in the Priority Projects.

- Restoration planting in areas identified for naturalization can also occur incrementally.
- The Hill is being envisioned as a year-round space, including a plaza, the amphitheatre, and look outs. For all three of those elements, it is encouraged that the works incorporate Indigenous cultural and ceremonial programming and/or engage with an Indigenous Artist.
- Amphitheatre programming should welcome Etobicoke performers and artists.
- It is encouraged that the amphitheatre is programmed with storytelling by Black communities for Black communities.

The Heart:

- Although most of the elements are included in the Priority Projects, the community plaza, Native Arboretum (Meadow or Orchard Walk), as well as accessible pathways and bridges are important to the year-round activities and dynamic programming vision for this area.

The Pond:

- The Pond ecological and recreational projects include the planting and picnic plaza refurbishment.
- Planting and invasive removals along pond edge.
- Accessible pathways around the pond, connecting to Centennial Park Boulevard and the East-West Pedestrian Multi-use Path through the Park.
- Additional benches along the path will be required.

- The winterization of the washroom at the Pond has been identified as a priority for washroom improvements. The refurbishment / improvements of the washroom and two adjacent shelters (three structures total) should occur at the same time.
- A lookout at the Pond, bringing people to the water's edge, is located at the North-East edge of the Pond.
- A natural playground is also included along the accessible path around the Pond (identified under Play).

Parking:

- The Parking lots at the District Playground, stadium lot, arena parking lot, Olympium, baseball, conservatory, Pond and BMX greening projects, including bioswales
- Soccer field reorganization and baseball field relocation and upgrade have been identified as Large Scale Projects, requiring considerable capital funding and coordination efforts in phasing.
- The ponding along Elmcrest Creek, daylighting projects, and pond by the cricket fields will also require coordination efforts with the TRCA and funding to implement.
- The new cafe, snack bars, lookouts and pedestrian bridges are identified as Large Scale Projects requiring a significant budget.
- The Mini-Indy Parking lot configuration, and Etobicoke Creek access work will require coordination effort with the tenant and Province and will require a more significant budget.

Service and Operations Yards

- In the Centennial Park Master Plan, three Service and Operations yards have been identified: The Forestry Yard, the current Service Yard adjacent to the conservatory and new operation building at 5429 Eglinton Ave (former Soccer City Building).
- The Forestry Yard: Will remain in the same location but requires an entry that separates the yard from the pedestrian pathways leading to Etobicoke Creek.
- The existing Service Yard should be reorganized and consolidated when the District Playground and Splash Pad are implemented.
- The proposed Service Yard on Eglinton (former Soccer City) should be investigated and pedestrian and cyclist connections to Eglinton Ave and the East side of Centennial Park should be maintained.

Partnerships & Community Stewardship

Through the extensive public consultation process, the Design Team met hundreds of residents passionate about Centennial Park. Many are involved in one or more of the site's amenities and recreational facilities, but also there are local residents who are invested in the ecology and sustainability of Centennial Park as beloved green space.

Moving forward, establishing a Friends of Centennial Park group, in order to continue to unite the involvement in Centennial Park is critical to the success of the Updated Master Plan and the future stewardship in the park.

Culture based programming can be developed by:

- Creating partnerships and welcoming festivals that cater to Toronto's diverse communities such as Caribana.
- Establishing partnerships focused on youth programming, such as with Little Sprouts Garden, to provide educational opportunities for children and youth.
- Connecting with local arts and culture organizations such as Arts Etobicoke.

Friends of Centennial Park

Currently, there is a thriving Friends of the Centennial Park Conservatory, who meet monthly and actively promote the public awareness and understanding and the botanical and cultural resources of Centennial Park Conservatory. Establishing a Friends of Group for the overall park, similar to the Friends of Toronto Island will help with the upkeep and the overall wellbeing of Centennial Park.

Another important recommendation is partnering and procurement of Indigenous/ BIPOC professionals and organizations (ie. FirstStory, The Moccasin Identifier Project, The Black Farmers Collective Toronto, Evergreen, etc.).

- Continued engagement and outreach with the Indigenous Community Leaders and members of the Partnership & Accountability Circle (PAC).

- Coordination with key funding partners to source alternative funding (ie. Public Art, ArtworksTO, etc.).

Connecting Through Food

Centennial Park has a history of hosting large events such as Rib Fest, which can draw thousands of people to the Park. It is recommended that the City of Toronto continue to investigate the possible food partnerships on site. Partnering with Food Production Consultants to form environmental stewardship, economic development opportunity, community cohesion through the establishment of farmer's markets, local food production partnerships on site (Food Share or Fresh City Farms, for example), and more diverse food events (food festivals, garden establishment - medicinal or vegetable, community bake oven events) can allow for new programming and strengthen this connection with local businesses, community groups and residents.

In the following Demonstration Plans, the multi-functional plazas, amphitheatre and social spaces have been identified, to ensure the social programming can continue to develop. Centennial Park's programming will then expand beyond the current emphasis on the recreational needs, and the Park can foster a sense of community and stewardship.



- | | |
|--|--|
| Priority | Medium |
| Large | Small/Incremental |

High Priorities

- Removal of ski centre equipment and other obsolete infrastructure (eg barn/shed at hill base)
- Improvements to chalet and repurposing of lift building for new uses
- Planning and implementation of future skating trail

Year-round Programming

JERK FESTIVAL



POW WOW



SUMMER MARKET



7.3 The Hill

The hill is re-imagined to bring year-round programming that works through all seasons, focusing on establishing an arts and culture hub and expanding recreational pathways within the area for walking, running, and biking.

Plans to wind down the ski hill over the upcoming years creates opportunities for new programming that allow park visitors to further engage with the hill. A network of trails can be established to structure and frame significant views. Strategically located across the hill, lookout points and temporal installations are envisioned to provide specially curated experiences for park visitors to encounter as they explore the hill.

Each component of the hill lends itself to be more favourable for certain types of activities due to the topographic characteristics of the site, with spaces for both small and large gatherings for a variety of activities, programs, and events.

The Top of the Hill

As the highest elevation point on-site, the top of the hill offers excellent views east towards the city, overlooking the arena, stadium, and adjacent hydro corridor. Various lookout points can help frame scenic views and serve as small communal gathering spaces. Our Indigenous engagement noted the importance of fire in gathering and ceremonial areas. The top of the hill may be very

appropriate in terms of having that connection between fire and sky that was identified as an essential element of culture.

Active Slopes

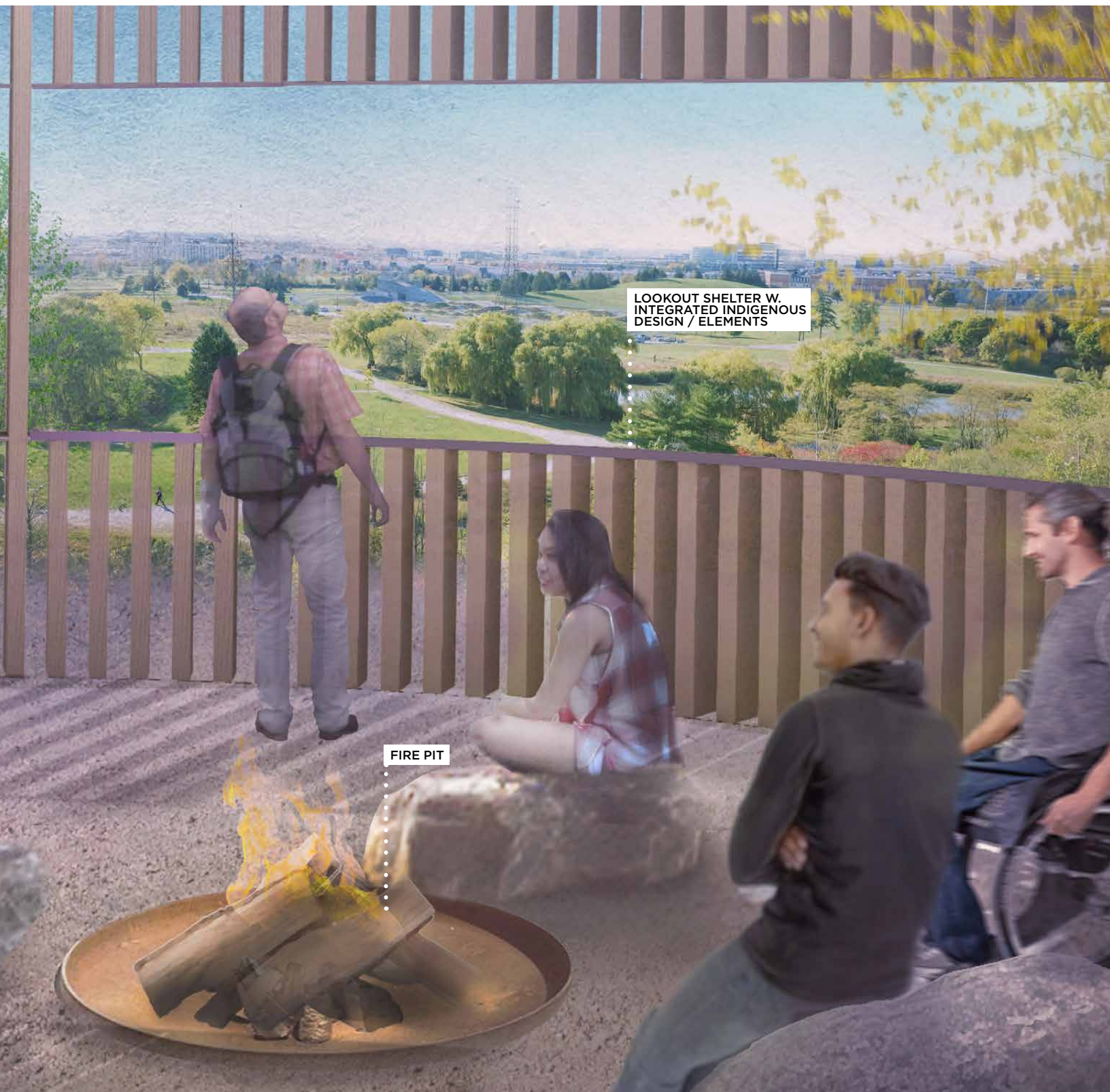
The steep slopes used for skiing are considered assets that can be repurposed for everyday activities such as running and biking. In addition to paved paths, fitness trails of different challenge levels and designated mountain bike paths can help bring new activities and users to this area. Integrating a toboggan run at the top of the hill can tap into the hill's winter potential and enhance seasonal programming at this location.

The Base

At the foot of the hill, the ski chalet can be enhanced with more diverse programming, transformed into a community hub with a staging area, large plaza, and terraced seating integrated into the slope of the hill. This area is seen to have the potential to host various large events such as Rib Fest, the annual Jerk Festival, Ukrainian Festival, Pow Wows and summer markets.



INTEGRATED SEATING



LOOKOUT SHELTER W.
INTEGRATED INDIGENOUS
DESIGN / ELEMENTS

FIRE PIT

AMPHITHEATRE

ACCESSIBLE
PATH

MULTI-USE TRAIL



SKATE TRAIL/
SUMMER PLAZA

PLAZA DECK

FIRE PIT

INTEGRATED SEATING

MOVEABLE
SEATING



7.4 The Heart of the Park

The Heart of the Park builds on the area’s existing character, centred around the presence of the Conservatory and District Playground.

Expanding the Heart

There is an opportunity to expand on the activities of growing and cultivating as part of existing greenhouse operations, increasing connections to the local community by introducing community garden space for residents to use.

In addition, the creation of an Indigenous medicine/healing garden, expressive of indigenous culture and plant communities, is an essential presence in the park Plan. These elements have been represented in the Heart plan, but will require additional consultation and design during the implementation of the District Playground and Splash Pad project.

Establishing a Native Arboretum

Building off of the programming and identity of the conservatory, additional outdoor learning opportunities can be introduced with establishing an Arboretum. The Arboretum will showcase native plants, flowering trees,

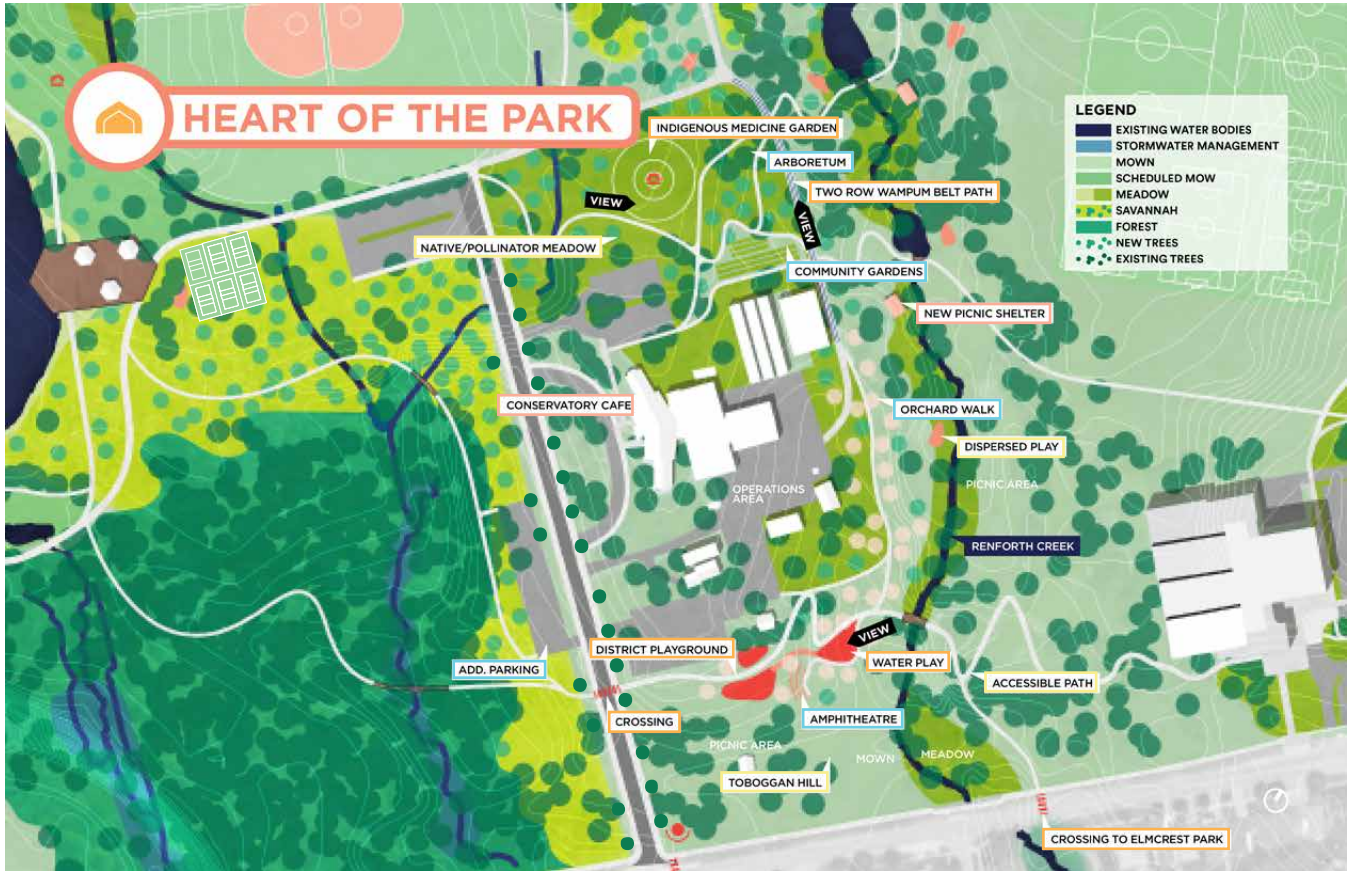
shrubs and pollinators to compliment the Indigenous medicine/healing garden that is proposed.

Introducing Diverse Play

While the existing district playground is a valuable play space for children within the park, creating more accessible areas and water play experiences can help create a more inclusive environment for children of different ages and abilities.

The existing proximity to Elmcrest Creek can provide more varied natural play experiences, focused on engaging with water.

Play elements, such as terraced seatings and an embankment slide with planting embedded into the site’s existing topography, can help bring more varied play experiences while at the same time provide a very real connection with nature.



- Priority
- Medium
- Large
- Small/Incremental

Priorities

- The planning and implementation of the District Playground and Splash Pad
- Crossing at Elmcrest Park and Renforth Road
- Upgrades to existing pathways for accessibility and connectivity
- Screen and improve the interface with the Service Yard
- Remove unused and remnant fences

SHELTER W. INTEGRATED
ART / SIGNAGE

INDIGENOUS
MEDICINE GARDEN





INTERPRETATIVE
SIGNAGE

INDIGENOUS ARBORETUM

TWO ROW WAMPUM
BELT PATH (DESIGN
TBD)

INDIGENOUS
POLLINATOR GARDEN



LARGE-SCALE INDIGENOUS ART (DESIGN TBD)

INDIGENOUS ELEMENTS/ ART INTEGRATED INTO WATER PLAY

MINI AMPHITHEATRE

INDIGENOUS ELEMENTS/ART
INTEGRATED INTO PLAY

CREEK-BASED
SPLASHPAD

ACCESSIBLE PATH

SLOPE PLAY

SENSORY PLAY
PATH



7.5 The Pond

The Pond offers the potential to reimagine how local ecology can be enhanced while introducing more significant opportunities for people to engage with water and wetland habitats through cultural activities.

Balancing Human and Wildlife Use

During our consultation events, we heard of the desire to balance and enhance natural elements while offering opportunities for people to engage with the Pond at the water's edge.

A defined pathway ebbing towards and away from the Pond is shown as a potential strategy to allow different wetland ecologies to thrive unencumbered while bringing visitors close to the water at critical moments.

Integrating a contemplative hill by altering the existing topography is also seen to mitigate human disturbance within wetland habitats while enabling visitors to enjoy the presence of a large serene pond, which is a rare feature to be found within the city.

Activating the Water's Edge

Introducing lookout areas, integrating opportunities for art within the Pond area and improving the picnic experience by the water's edge are ideas that can draw different people to the site to interact with the Pond.

Enhancing Habitats

There are also opportunities for reforestation and enhancing meadow habitats which could make the Pond a destination for species watching in addition to small scale programming events for ecological education or day camp activities.

A natural play area situated between the main circulation path and pond can act as a transitional space for children to engage with water.

Overall, the Pond is viewed as a unique feature within the park and increasing accessibility to it through introducing enhanced circulation and programming can help improve visitor experience in this area to explore and discover.



 Priority

Priorities

- Accessible pathway around the Pond
- Accessible crossing at Centennial Park Boulevard

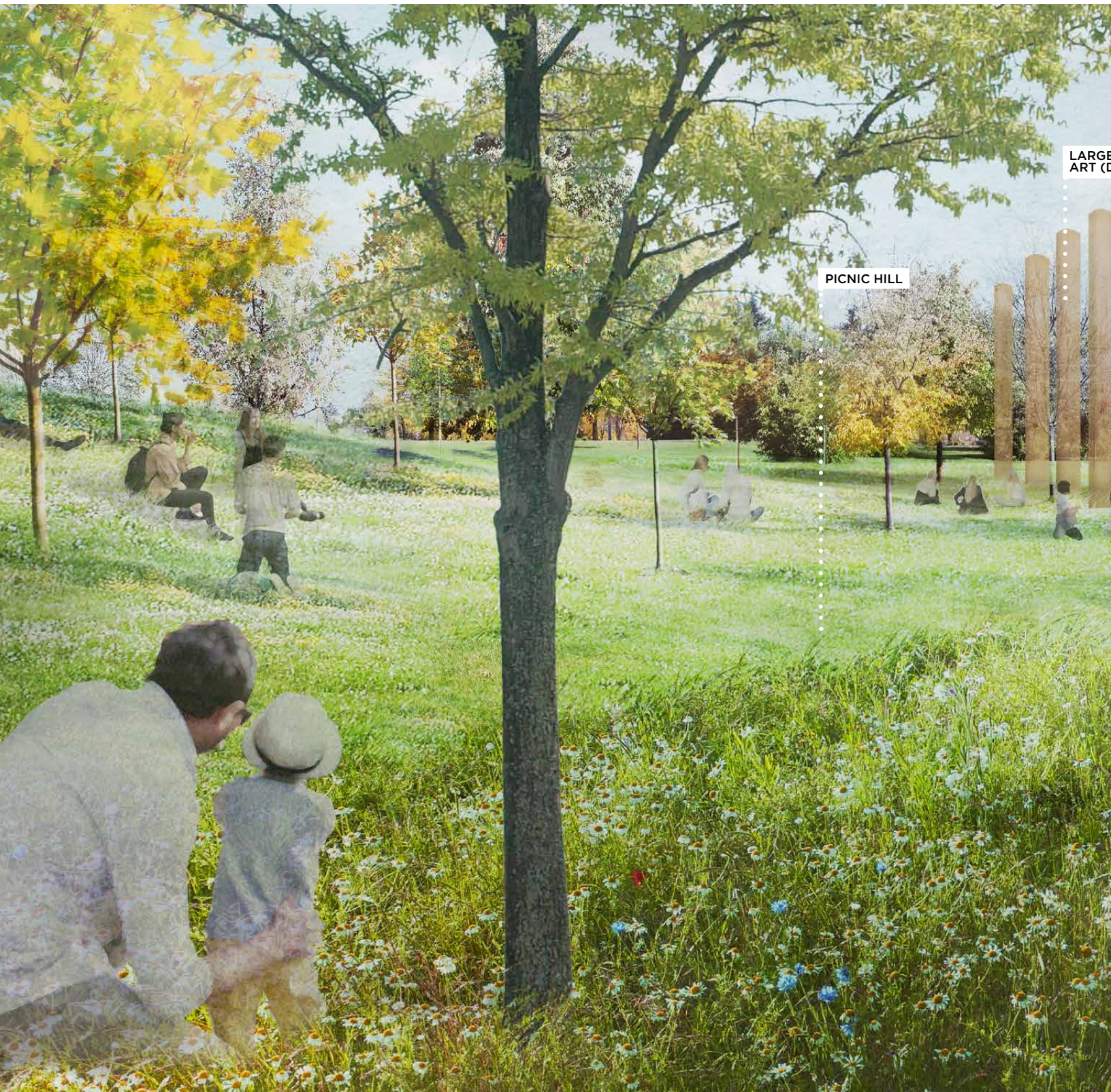


INTERPRETATIVE
SIGNAGE



LOOKOUT DECK

INTEGRATED SEATING



PICNIC HILL

LARGE
ART (D

SCALE INDIGENOUS
DESIGN TBD)

INTEGRATED PATH
WAYFINDING

MEADOW

POND NAMING
OPPORTUNITY

LOOKOUT DECK



CONCLUSION

The Recommendations highlighted in the Centennial Park Master Plan Update will guide decision-making around capital improvements, ecological restoration, programming, and maintenance of the Park over decades to come. The Master Plan will be implemented incrementally, but with the vision of creating a diverse, equitable space, balancing healthy ecological communities with recreational and programmed spaces.

The Priority Projects identified in Section 7 require the involvement of multiple City divisions such as the City's Transportation Services Division and partners such as the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, as well as community outreach and local partnerships. This Master Plan looked to the Council-approved Parkland Strategy, Ravine Strategy and the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan, as well as the Facilities Master Plan for Centennial Park for guidance on the Priority Projects, along with the extensive public consultation work to identify all future works for the Park. The final design illustrates a dynamic and culturally rich landscape for Centennial Park. The goal is for Centennial Park's revitalization initiatives to reach beyond current park boundaries, through the ecological restoration initiatives and through the narratives told in park redesign. In the upcoming decades, we will see a transformation of Centennial Park into one of Toronto's largest 'Legacy' parks; a sustainable, connected, resilient urban environment, with a strong sense of local community and land stewardship.

08

Appendices and References

APPENDIX A

Consultation Summary Reports

Meetings

Public Visioning Workshop – March 11, 2020

Public Workshop – July 25, 2020

Youth Workshop – July 25, 2020

Accountability Circle – February 6, 2021

Virtual Open House – May 2021

Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting 1 – March 2, 2020

Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting 2 – July 20, 2020

Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting 3 & Youth Meeting – October 26, 2020

Indigenous Community Leaders Meeting 1 – July 29, 2020

Indigenous Community Leaders Meeting 2 – November 30, 2020

APPENDIX A

Public Visioning Workshop – March 11, 2020

Held at Etobicoke Olympium, this public workshop allowed for an opportunity to learn more about the master planning process and to help create a community vision for the park. The workshop included a project presentation and visioning activities with the aim to discuss the opportunities and challenges of the Master Plan update. The information outlined below represents the emerging top findings from the Public Visioning session related to Centennial Park's Four-Stories: Water; Ecology; Movement; and Culture.

Water and Ecology

- People indicated that the Centennial Park water system is undervalued and underused.
- People indicated that the Centennial Park water system is inaccessible.
- People indicated they would like different opportunities by the water (i.e. paddle boat rentals, fishing rentals).
- Some people indicated that the woodlots should have managed access (i.e., designated paths) and some people indicated that the woodlots should have unmanaged access.
- Some people indicated that the natural features of Centennial Park should be used as anchors for new park features.

Culture

- People identified feeling unsafe in the park. Consider intensifying program in certain areas so people feel safer.
- People indicated a desire for a dog off leash area (DOLA). Consider a DOLA near the cricket pitches / hydro corridor.
- People indicated interest in community events / opportunities (i.e., movie night in Centennial Park) however there is a need to identify community members /organization to steward.
- Some people indicated the need to generate revenue opportunities at the park.
- People indicated that Centennial Park should have its own app where visitors can access different types of park maps that highlight different park experiences.
- People indicated excitement about incorporating Indigenous history and stories

Movement

- People indicated that the paths throughout Centennial Park are in poor condition and are not accessible. Consider connecting all the paths throughout the park.
- People indicated that Centennial Park is currently poorly serviced by transit and most people get to the park by car.
- People indicated that the park wayfinding system is in poor condition / lacking overall and in particular people indicated challenges finding sports fields.
- People indicated that Centennial Park Blvd is currently designed only for cars.
- People indicated that Centennial Park Blvd needs sidewalks and cycling infrastructure.

Public Workshop – July 25, 2020

Building off of the Public Visioning Workshop findings, PROCESS and PMA led the virtual workshop to refine the park concept. The following is a summary of key findings from the Centennial Park Master Update's second Public Workshop.

- Incorporate Indigenous culture and art such as a learning centre, having educational signage or incorporate Indigenous art throughout Centennial Park, such as totem poles or art that connects to nature.
- Create a design for physical accessibility, including pathways, programs, and activities.
- Ensure extensive communication with the public, especially local residents and park users, of the Master Plan Update process and opportunities to engage and provide feedback to the project. When engaging with the public ensure that the diversity of park users and their needs are reflected.
- Increase availability of parking throughout the park to accommodate new uses. Participants suggested extending parking lots rather than permitting parking along Centennial Park Boulevard.
- Repurpose Centennial Park Ski Centre for another use. While some public participants were disappointed to hear the ski hill may have to be repurposed, they understood the benefits of repurposing the hill. Some participants indicated that they liked the Fitness Hub option.

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Youth Workshop – July 25, 2020

The virtual meeting took place over Zoom. The meeting began with a general welcome and a land and anti-racism acknowledgement. Next, youth engaged in an interactive Indigenous Cultural Training led by Trina Moyan Bell. Afterwards, PMA presented on what the Project Team has heard to date from stakeholders and the public since March 2020 and presented the emerging design concepts for the Master Plan Update. Throughout the presentation youth participants asked questions in the Zoom chat. Youth participants were divided into breakout rooms where the Engagement Team (PROCESS) led an interactive activity on site-specific design ideas using Zoom and Scribble. Key findings from the workshop have been summarized below.

- Address anti-Black racism within the park through the design of the Master Plan Update as well as taking the initiative to address systemic issues of anti-Black racism within the City staff, departments, and structures.
- Incorporate Indigenous art and culture into the design was seen as an important element of the park's design. Participants wanted to see Indigenous representation as well as education of Indigenous peoples, culture, and art.
- Implement safety measures into the design to ensure all park users feel safe during all times of day. One suggestion was to incorporate emergency station posts throughout the park.
- Include cultural and community infrastructure and programming into the design of the park to provide other options than sports and active recreation for people to enjoy within parks.
- Connect people to nature by planting native plants, protecting at-risk species, creating land-stewardship opportunities, having educational programs and signage, and creating community gardens. Other suggestions included having edible trees and plants or creating a "butterfly way" or pollinator garden.
- Repurpose Centennial Park Ski Centre and invest in other uses for the hill. Youth suggested incorporating both cultural and fitness uses but placed emphasis on including cultural elements as they help build community.

Accountability Circle – February 6, 2021

In order to develop a framework for the Black Community Accountability Circle (BCAC) that was relevant to Centennial Park and Parks Forestry and Recreation, members of the Engagement Unit

at PFR met with the Confronting Anti Black Racism PFR team and developed a tailored approach. The team decided on two meetings, a Community Meeting with Black, African and Caribbean residents and park users and an Internal Meeting with PFR staff with representatives from various units and representatives from Municipal Licencing and Standards (MLS). For this process, PFR hired Vanessa N. Oraekwe - Community Development & Project Coordinator with experience working and facilitating conversations with Black, African and Caribbean communities in Toronto. Key meeting highlights and comments have been summarized under the four categories below.

Design and Placemaking

- Participants liked the idea of art spaces within the park like the amphitheatre. They highlighted that opportunities for storytelling was really important.
- Participants expressed that they would like the Centennial Park to celebrate Black history in Canada, and that this could be done particularly through signage, lighting, art cultural markers and wayfinding. They also suggested including languages like Somali, Patois and other African and Caribbean languages from communities that live in the area. “Can we find ways for Black communities to not be seen from a place of deficit?”
- Participants also suggested faith spaces that could “formalize [Black] practices and rituals”. They also suggested that African games could be integrated into the park.
- One participant suggested that picnic tables could be moveable in order to be able to provide enough distance from other park users noting often the police is called on them for being “too loud”.

- It was highlighted that regardless of how beautiful the space is, it won’t matter unless it is accessible and safe for Black communities. A participant noted how easy it was for most communities to have picnics and birthday celebrations but that Black communities always feel uncomfortable.

Partnerships and Programming

- Participants asked that when it came to develop historic and cultural makers that celebrated Black communities, that collaborations and partnerships with Black communities should be developed.

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- Participants also suggested developing relationships with events led by Black communities like Caribanna. And including Black folks in the programming of park openings or ribbon cuttings for example.

Booking

- Many participants raised concerns over accessibility and booking. Participants expressed hesitancy around booking systems, high booking fees and general “welcomeness” from City staff. Youth present suggested app booking systems as a way to make booking more accessible. It was also suggested that staff could be more “culturally sensitive”

Interactions with security, MLS, neighbours and police

- Most participants expressed not feeling welcomed particularly due to policing, interactions with security and MLS. They expressed instances of neighbours calling the police on them for being in the park
- Participants suggested that when there are instances of anti-Black racism, the city needs to not only respond, but actively communicate to Black communities what is being done about it in order for them to feel safe.
- All participants expressed that they felt that white neighbours disproportionately called the police on them for simply using the park. Participants suggested including signage indicating to not call the police on Black park users.
- All participants express feeling “over policed” saying the police is called on them for using the park, being “too loud” or being in large groups. All participants expressed not feeling safe in the presence of police. Some participants described interactions with police as “traumatizing”.
- Some suggested alternatives and “innovative ways” to keep the park safe without police. Intermediaries or community leaders that are doing work to keep spaces safe without police presence.
- It was also noted that bylaw enforcement officer’s main role should be to educate before enforcing. Most of the public is not aware of that and that is a problem. Most of the times that bylaw enforcement officers meet Black park users, they are not aware of why they are being singled out or approached.

Virtual Open House – May 2021

Over 200 participants joined the virtual Open House to learn more about the vision that will shape the future of the park. The online event began with a short presentation and opening remarks, followed by breakout sessions where participants reviewed site-wide strategies and demonstration plans and asked questions to the project team.

Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting 1 – March 2, 2020

PROCESS and PMA led an in-person Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting at Etobicoke Olympium, which was attended by 25 Centennial Park stakeholders including, local organizations, park permit holders, agencies, environmental groups, school boards and interested residents, plus the consultant team and City staff. The following section is a summary of key messages from the Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting organized by Centennial Park's Four Stories.

Water

- Improve stormwater management to reduce flooding issues around the park and in nearby neighbourhoods.
- Enhance water circulation and habitat to avoid stagnant water.
- Provide improved access to water features by increasing the number of pathways.
- Increase opportunities for individuals and families to have more water experiences.

Ecology

- Enhance and expand both naturalized and maintained environments. Importance was placed on expanding the tree canopy.
- Improve access to nature that is physically accessible and without needing to travel long-distances.
- Create more opportunities to connect and discover nature through trails or stewardship programs (e.g., tree planting or community gardening).
- Provide eco-educational programs for children and school groups.

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Movement

- Pave pathways and parking lots to reduce maintenance and improve accessibility for people of all abilities and ages.
- Enhance signage and wayfinding through key gateways, park features and an online app.
- Create a hierarchy of pathways that connect park features, such as a main pathway that links to a smaller network of formal and informal trails.
- Encourage active transportation and circulation throughout the park through a bike-share program.

Culture

- Provide opportunities for community gatherings such as an outdoor theatre on the ski hill, farmers markets, community events, etc.
- Ensure there are opportunities in the park for people of all ages and abilities, especially seniors and children.
- Provide opportunities for education such as teachings about Indigenous histories and cultures.
- Balance recreational space with opportunities for passive recreation.
- Strategize location and co-location of programming with existing facilities.

Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting 2 – July 20, 2020

PROCESS and PMA led a virtual Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting attended by six Centennial Park Stakeholders including local organizations, park permit holders, agencies, environmental groups, local schools and interested residents. The following section is a summary of key findings from the Centennial Park Master Plan Update's second Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting.

- Ensure the park is physically accessible specifically with playgrounds and connections to | water features.
- Density with the layout of sports facilities should be considered to ensure there is sufficient space between sports games. For example, proposed new soccer and proposed new cricket amenities have a high density of sports fields close together.

- Accommodate both current uses as well as new uses for Centennial Park. For example, allow cross-country practice and tournaments to continue in the south-east portion of the site while allowing for new uses, such as proposed new soccer and proposed new basketball facilities.
- Consider flood plains, sensitive wetlands, typography for the location of activities and facilities, specifically when involving high-risk populations such as children and playground locations. For example, the Heart of the Park playground is located within a flood plain.
- Naturalization of edges and water features are preferred over hardened edges, even when it will increase access to the feature. When determining if an edge should be hard, consultation with TRCA is necessary.
- Provide space for arts and culture was seen as an opportunity to bring more arts and culture into Etobicoke, where there is currently a lack of these spaces. For example, there is a lack of performance spaces and SAC members thought the addition of amphitheatre is an excellent opportunity to bring more performance space to Etobicoke. SAC members indicated that use of a new facility should favour local Etobicoke artists.
- Repurpose Centennial Park Ski Centre for another use. While SAC members indicated that the ski hill should be repurposed, they will miss having a local ski hill.

Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting 3 & Youth Meeting – October 26, 2020

The purpose of the meeting was for members of the SAC and youth participants to provide informed advice, feedback and ideas to contribute to the development of the Centennial Park Master Plan Update. Six stakeholders attended the Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting #3 and one youth. The following section is a summary of key findings from the Centennial Park Master Plan Update's third Stakeholder Advisory Committee and Youth meeting.

The Pond

- Create education moments and interpretive signage along the Pond and throughout the park. This will increase opportunities for self learning and education.
- Provide infrastructure for non-motorized boating, including paddle boarding, kayaking and canoeing. This should include a safe launch area and storage space.

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The Hill

- Repurpose Centennial Park Ski Centre for a four season uses. While SAC members indicated that the ski hill should be repurposed, they will miss having a local ski hill. They noted that the implementation of the skating trail will be a nice alternative.
- Provide trails for mountain biking and cyclo-cross. While the plan locates areas for walking trails, there is an expressed desire for mountain biking specific dirt trails.
- Consider the location of event space. Festivals are often common at Centennial Park, and must be considered when planning the walking trails and vegetation on and around the hill.

The Heart of the Park

- Opportunities for family-specific activities are exciting new additions to the park. The inclusion of a colourful splash pad and district playground allows for family oriented activities. Consider including an outdoor oven/cooking spaces.
- Include a running circuit with benchmarkers throughout the park. While the trails allow for running, the addition of distance markers will create a running circuit, similar to the Miracle Mile.
- Ensure the park has evenly distributed picnic areas . The accessibility of the picnic areas, in relation to parking, will be beneficial when creating a destination park that people will spend extended periods of time in.
- Increase the tree coverage / canopy in the Heart of the Park. While the space is large and open, it is important to include many trees to make it more intimate and separate from the surrounding roads.

Indigenous Community Leaders Meeting 1 – July 29, 2020

The digital workshop took place over Zoom and was led by Indigenous Consultant, Trina Moyan Bell. Indigenous Elder, Catherine Tamaro, opened and closed the workshop with a prayer. There were an estimated 15 participants including community leaders, elders, knowledge keepers, families and entrepreneurs. The following section is a summary of key findings from the Centennial Park Master Plan Update's first meeting with Indigenous Community Leaders.

- Ensure that the park reflects and honours Indigeneity, the history of the land, the cosmology of original inhabitants of the land and the many indigenous communities that now call Etobicoke home.
- Educate park visitors on Indigenous culture, history, and stories. Participants indicated that educational opportunities should be embedded throughout the park. Education should be easy for park users to access and the park should be seen as a “teacher”.
- Ensure that there is Indigenous representation and placekeeping incorporated throughout the park. Participants indicated that language plays an important role and one suggestion was to include Indigenous languages on the Centennial Park interpretive signage and wayfinding. Create meaningful connections and relationships with Indigenous people.
- Participants mentioned that this can take the form of Indigenous people owning or operating features of the park and gaining economic benefits, creating art or educational signage, and collaborating with Knowledge Keepers throughout the park.
- Restore balance in the park by creating greater connectivity both within the park as well as connecting the park to other ecological areas in Toronto.
- Emphasize how important water is to Indigenous people and use water features in the park as educational tools.
- Provide opportunities for Indigenous representation and teachings throughout the ecology of the park. Some suggestions were to create an Indigenous flower garden, locate Indigenous medicine plants throughout the park, and create a garden into the geometric pattern of an Indigenous Medicine Wheel.

Indigenous Community Leaders Meeting 2 – November 30, 2020

A second meeting with Indigenous Community Leaders took place over Zoom and was led by Indigenous Consultant, Trina Moyan Bell. There were an estimated 15 participants including community leaders, elders, knowledge keepers, families and entrepreneurs. A recap of previous consultation takeaways was provided by PMA and specific element ideas were discussed with participants. This section provides a summary of the specific element ideas.

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- Star viewing platform (Spotted Turtle Clan) - Keeper of the Heavens.
- Elder to name the park, add or replace the name of the park.
- Medicinal plants and food plants throughout the park beyond the specific medicine garden in the Heart of the Park. Programming supports:
 - A plant identification game to help identify and learn all the shapes and names of plant relatives.
 - Allowing harvest and encouraging people to harvest medicines.
 - Prevent spraying plants by park staff.
 - Signage with native plant info in both Indigenous and English using medicine wheel as symbol on signs featuring Indigenous knowledge.
 - Youth engagement opportunity to hire them for planting.
- Memory wall for names of residential school children with seating and eternal flame.
- Inukshuk with names of residential school children.
- Two Row Wampum Path
 - Signage for Two Row Wampum info.
 - Clear geometric shapes in detailed design to identify that it is the Two Row Wampum.
 - Match and indicate the historical trade routes and trails of the park and Toronto.
- Moccasin Identifier Project as play structures
 - Oversized moccasins that are a raised form, part of the group. Such that you could climb, sit on or sit inside.
 - Could be placed at each entrance.
- Entryway/marker system -significance of cardinal directions and entrances shown.
- Seven Sun Shade Spaces in a circle within the park to be teaching locations about the seven grandfather teachings; with an outside ring of 13 features that represent the 13 moon calendar.
- Elders gathering place (maybe the ski lodge).

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Grace JerkFest 2017 at Centennial Park

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Cricket Game in Centennial Park

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Playground with Cognitive Play Elements

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Ice Skate Trail

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Beach Skatepark

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Playground with Separated Play Areas

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Open Flume Slides on Hill

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Natural Playground with Large Log Features

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Pavillion Structure with Canopy

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Shade Structure in Open Lawn

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Pedestrian Path through Planted Meadow

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Natural Material Path with Bridge Crossing

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Creek Corridor Naturalization

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Stepped Edge with Boardwalk

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Deck Lookout with Elevated Platform

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Moccasin Identifier Project at Trillium Park

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Painted Text on Multi-use Trail

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Colour Block Graphic Pattern

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Sculptural Placekeeping Elements

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Pit and Mound Meadow Planting Technique

Source: Dougan & Associates





