

# Online Consultation Summary Report

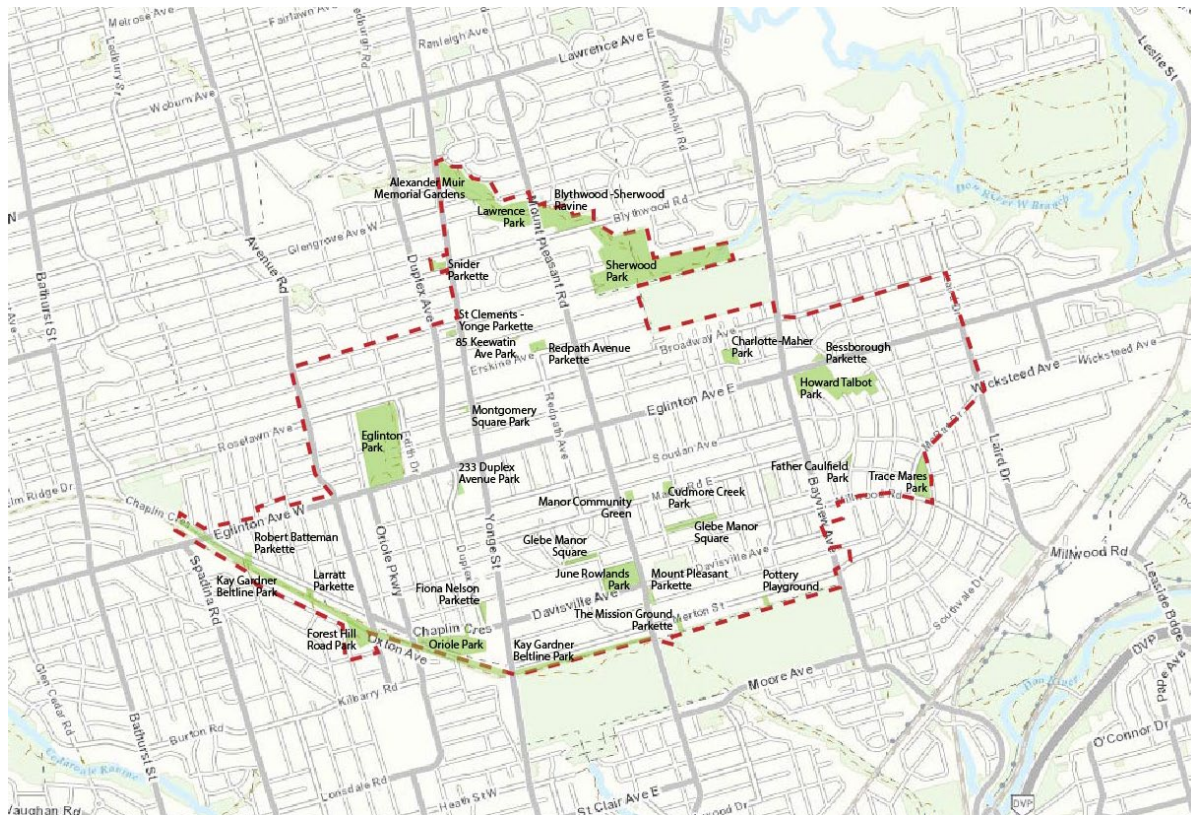
## Midtown Parks and Public Realm Social Pinpoint Mapping Exercise

*This report is not intended to provide a verbatim transcript of the comments provided, but instead provides a summary of the participants' inputs. If you have any questions after reviewing this summary, please contact Teresa Liu, Planner, Parks, Forestry & Recreation Division, City of Toronto, at [Teresa.Liu@toronto.ca](mailto:Teresa.Liu@toronto.ca) or 416-392-3390*

## 1. Consultation Background

As part of the *Ready, Set, Midtown* study, the City looked at parks in the Yonge–Eglinton area to identify opportunities for improvement. The improvements aim to upgrade the function, condition, quality and amenity of parks to better meet the community's recreation, social and environmental needs and objectives.

In this context, Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff launched a public online consultation to collect public input, identify opportunities and confirm priorities for park improvements in the Yonge–Eglinton area (Figure 01).



**Figure 01: Midtown online consultation perimeter and parks.**

## 2. Consultation Overview

The online public consultation was carried out through an interactive mapping exercise on the Social Pinpoint platform. The exercise was open to the general public and the community was invited to participate through signs placed at Midtown parks, social media ads, and councillor and community newsletters.

A map of the Midtown parks area was presented with background information on recent and ongoing park development, improvement, and recreation facility projects. The community participated by adding "pins" to the map using the following categories: show *What You Like* (green pins), *Areas of Concern* (purple pins), and *Opportunities & Suggestions* (yellow pins) to make existing parks in Midtown more enjoyable and welcoming (figure 02).

The participants were also able to interact with the provided comments through replies, likes and dislikes marks.

The consultation was open from August 4, 2021 to September 14, 2021 and counted a total of 737 interactions (including comments and replies).

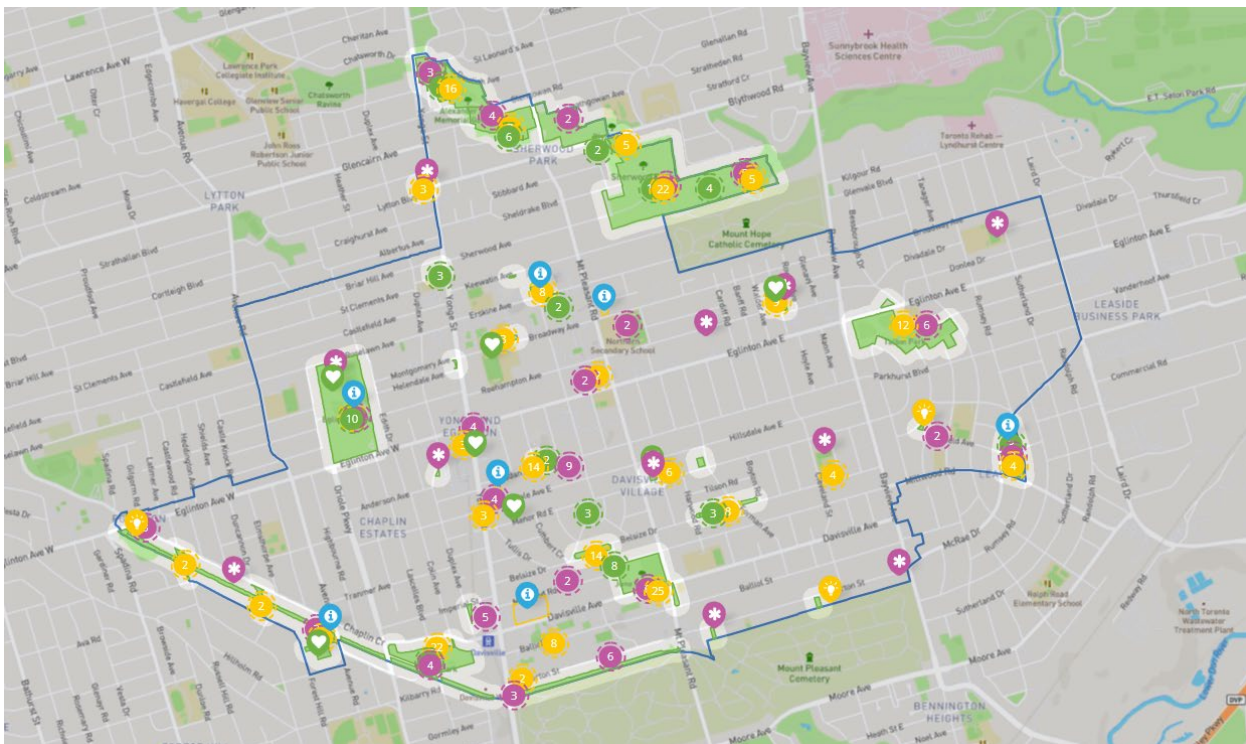


Figure 02: Online interactive mapping exercise.

### 3. Consultation Highlights, Findings and Key Themes

- Of the 737 interactions (comments and replies) 596 were related to *parks*, 103 to other *public areas* inside the perimeter and 38 *did not present a direct relationship* to Midtown's parks or public realm.
- Considering the overall comments and replies, the most mentioned **topics** were the ones related to *dogs* (206), followed by requests for *upgrade and improvements* (191), comments regarding *parks condition* (108) and *safety* (76).
- The 206 comments mentioning **dogs** reflected a variety of perspectives around this topic, included 75 inputs related to *requests for off leash areas*, 54 to *off leash enforcement*, 38 to *dog waste*, 32 to *fenced off leash areas* and 7 *requests not to create off leash area for dogs*.
- From the inputs requesting **upgrades or improvements**, the majority asked for *general upgrades* at specific parks or public spaces (33), adding or improving *seating* (28), adding or improving *playgrounds* (25), adding fitness pods (24) and improving signage (24).
- Besides the comments related to improvements for amenities and signage, the consultation also registered 72 specific requests for **recreation facilities** – 49 related to *tennis courts*, 11 to *basketball courts*, 6 for *pickleball areas*, 4 for *baseball areas* and 2 for *outdoor pools*. From the 49 comments related to *tennis courts*, 38 are specific requests to adding *new tennis courts* at *Lawrence Park*.
- Another important finding included comments regarding *planting* (45), inputs related to issues or requesting improvements to *pedestrian access* (38), and asking for *winter maintenance* in specific parks or public spaces (33).
- A variety of comments were provided related to **cyclists**. There are 21 comments related to bikes and cyclists – the major of them mentioning conflict between speeding bikes and pedestrians/park users (10), providing suggestions to improve cycling and cycling routes in Midtown (9) and requesting bike signage improvement (6)<sup>1</sup>.
- Regarding the inputs presented to specific **locations**, the sites with most interactions were *Sherwood Park* (188); *Eglinton Park* (70) and *Kay Gardner Beltline Park* (64).

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<sup>1</sup> Most comments contained multiple suggestions/concerns.

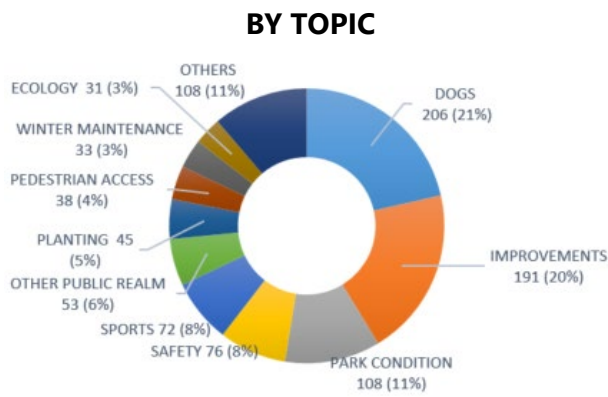


Figure 03: Comments by topic.



Figure 04: Comments related topic *dogs*.

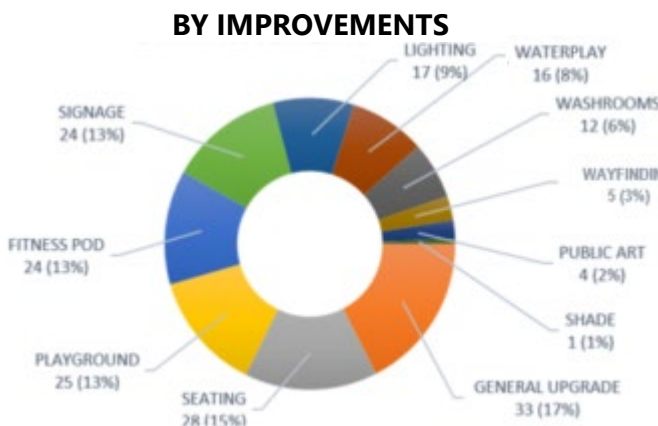


Figure 05: Comments related to improvements.

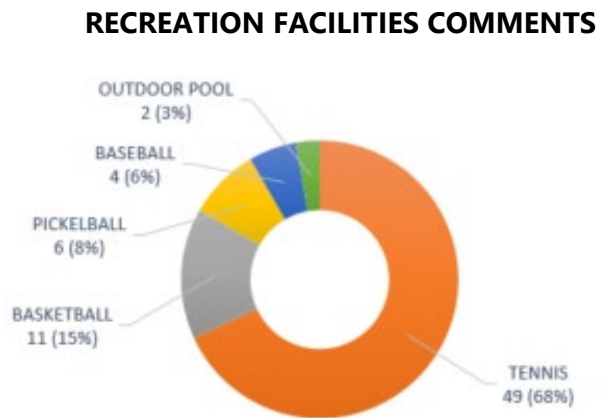


Figure 06: Comments related to recreation facilities.

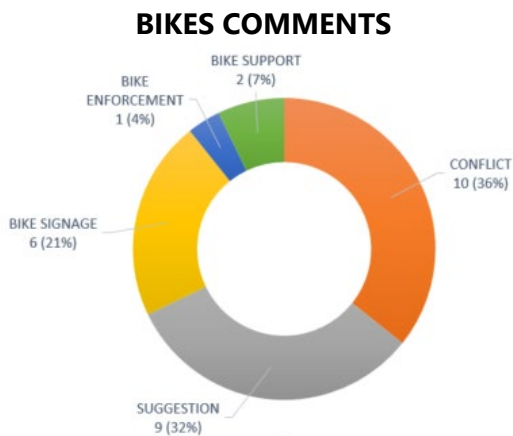


Figure 07: Comments related to topic *bikes*.

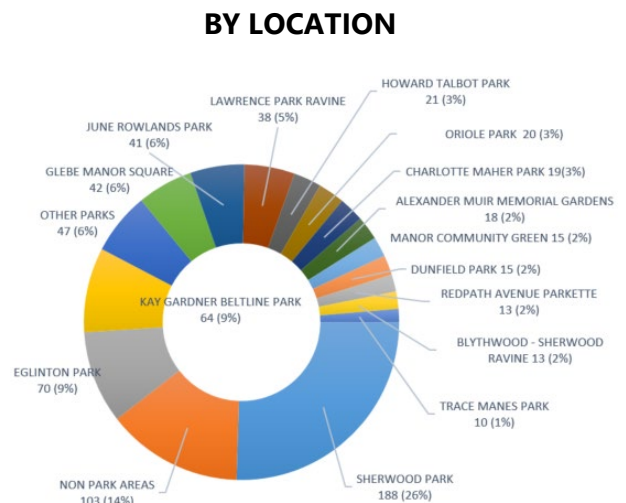


Figure 08: Comments by location.

## 4. Summary of Comments

The comments and replies received through the online consultation are grouped by location in the table below. The content of comments was summarized and do not necessarily reflect exact wording that was shared. Some comments contained multiple suggestions/concerns.

The list includes the inputs provided for parks that received more than 10 mentions (including comments and replies). The complete list of comments and replies can be accessed at [Social Pinpoint - Midtown Parks and Public Realm Plan \(mysocialpinpoint.ca\)](https://mysocialpinpoint.ca).

	PARK/AREA	COMMENTS
1	Sherwood Park	<p><b>Enjoyable aspects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trails, pathways, trees, playground, washrooms, off leash area, nature, birds, wildlife, path not being cement</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities and Suggestions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install hand rail at path close to Blythwood Rd</li> <li>Remove invasive species</li> <li>Implement new tennis courts</li> <li>Improve the washrooms and open at expanded hours/months</li> <li>Improve the baseball diamond</li> <li>Remove the baseball diamond</li> <li>Add an outdoor fitness area</li> <li>Maintain the tobogganing area for kids</li> <li>Repair the wood stairs at east access</li> <li>Repair fence in the off leash area</li> <li>Improve signage and wayfinding</li> </ul> <p><b>Concerns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conflict with off-leash dogs outside designated areas</li> <li>Erosion along the stream</li> <li>People sleeping rough in park</li> <li>Dog walkers with many dogs in off-leash trail</li> </ul>
2	Eglinton Park	<p><b>Enjoyable aspects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large field for sports, playground, tobogganing hill, plan to expand accessibility, outdoor skating rink</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities and Suggestions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add water fountain for people and dogs</li> <li>Install off-leash area</li> <li>Remove invasive species</li> <li>Improve outdoor fitness equipment, wading pad, fitting rooms</li> <li>Repair/improve tennis courts</li> <li>Install basketball nets, improve concrete pavement</li> <li>Expand the park</li> <li>Create a green roof to accommodate a community garden</li> <li>Implement a community garden</li> <li>Fence the playground area</li> <li>Provide shade</li> <li>Provide additional ice pad at North Toronto Memorial Arena</li> <li>Improve the community centre</li> <li>Install artificial turf field</li> <li>Provide a safer access at Eglinton</li> <li>Add benches</li> </ul>

	PARK/AREA	COMMENTS
2	Eglinton Park (cont.)	<p><b>Concerns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessibility at winter months</li> <li>• Safety in the access at Eglinton</li> <li>• Conflict with off-leash dogs</li> <li>• Conflict with bikes</li> <li>• Large areas of park designated for organized sports, constrain other uses</li> <li>• Pedestrian crossing safety at Orchard View Blvd</li> <li>• Garbage</li> </ul>
3	Kay Gardner Beltline Trail Park	<p><b>Enjoyable aspects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tree canopy, mural</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities and Suggestions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install dog water fountain at the end of the trail at Mt. Pleasant Rd.</li> <li>• Provide access to the cemetery from east side of Mt. Pleasant Rd.</li> <li>• Extend the Beltline trail east of Mt. Pleasant Rd.</li> <li>• Add benches</li> <li>• Enforcement of off-leash dogs</li> <li>• Install compost bins for dog waste</li> <li>• Install off leash area at Avenue Road and Chaplin Cr</li> <li>• Add a dog park and an adult outdoor pool connected with Beltline</li> <li>• Implement a tree planting and a soil aeration strategy</li> <li>• Install etiquette signs, improve signage</li> <li>• Rearrange the horse's sculptures to provide more space to pedestrians</li> <li>• Remove invasive species</li> <li>• Improve safety at Oriole Pkwy and Avenue Rd crossings</li> <li>• Install a phone booth</li> <li>• Install bike lanes at Chaplin Cr to improve conflict with bikes at Beltline</li> <li>• Add lighting</li> <li>• Provide Bikeshare along the trail</li> <li>• Add artwork, installations and colour to the trail</li> <li>• Install washrooms</li> </ul> <p><b>Concerns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Erosion along several spots of the trail and accesses</li> <li>• Conflict between pedestrians, off-leash dogs, cyclists, gas scooters and e-bikes</li> <li>• Bumpy access for cyclists at both sides of the bridge</li> <li>• Invasive species</li> <li>• Safety at crossing roads like Oriole Pkwy, Avenue, Rd and Bathrust</li> <li>• Safety of trail after subway station implementation</li> </ul>
4	Glebe Manor Square	<p><b>Enjoyable aspects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trees, size, benches, maintenance, balance between sun and shadow</li> <li>• Multiple use neighbourhood park, safe space for children, neighbourhood gathering point</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities and Suggestions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plant perennials in the existing garden bed close to Harwood Rd</li> <li>• Add seating and picnic tables</li> <li>• Add swings, outdoor gym equipment, concrete ping pong table</li> <li>• Add lights, garbage and green bins, water fountain for people/dogs</li> <li>• Improve signage</li> <li>• Add more wood chips along the walking path</li> <li>• Enhance grass coverage</li> <li>• Add sidewalks at both sides of Belsize</li> <li>• Remove north side sidewalk</li> <li>• Improve safety at Forman/Belsize and Cuthbert/Belsize</li> <li>• Add off leash dog's area</li> </ul>

	PARK/AREA	COMMENTS
4	<b>Glebe Manor Square (cont.)</b>	<b>Concerns</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Off leash dogs</li> <li>• Safety at crossings around the square</li> </ul>
5	<b>June Rowland Park</b>	<b>Enjoyable aspects</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sandbox, musical instruments, quirky slides, climbing structures, community hub, urban green space</li> </ul> <b>Opportunities and Suggestions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add wayfinding</li> <li>• Improve playground structure for all ages</li> <li>• Add picnic tables and benches</li> <li>• Add basketball court, ping pong table, outdoor fitness equipment, wading pool, swings</li> <li>• Add fenced dog park</li> <li>• Add an outdoor stage</li> <li>• Extend public hours at tennis courts</li> <li>• Get a bubble to make the tennis courts accessible all year</li> <li>• Improve access at south-east corner with steps</li> </ul> <b>Concerns</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintenance trucks parking on the grass</li> </ul>
6	<b>Lawrence Ravine</b>	<b>Enjoyable aspects</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beautiful setting to play tennis, tennis club, clay tennis courts, trails</li> </ul> <b>Opportunities and Suggestions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More signage and enforcement to avoid cyclists speeding</li> <li>• Expand clay tennis courts</li> <li>• Unused space besides tennis courts could be used for farmer's market or other activities managed by the community</li> <li>• Add a permanent path from the tennis courts and the paved road</li> <li>• Reduce lawn bowling greens to add more tennis courts</li> <li>• Add small off leash area</li> <li>• Add outdoor fitness equipment, playground, splash pad, washroom</li> <li>• Add kiosk for food</li> </ul> <b>Concerns</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conflict with bikes</li> <li>• Tennis courts are currently very busy</li> <li>• Lane down to the parking lot, besides the tennis club, is very narrow for accommodating pedestrians, dogs and vehicles</li> </ul>
7	<b>Howard Talbot Park</b>	<b>Opportunities and Suggestions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add a baseball batting cage</li> <li>• Upgrade baseball diamond fence</li> <li>• Add lights at east baseball diamond</li> <li>• Renovate baseball club house and change rooms</li> <li>• Add lights at the tennis courts, re-surface tennis courts</li> <li>• Add a ping pong table</li> <li>• Upgrade splash pad</li> <li>• Improve user safety at southwest corner of the ancillary building</li> <li>• Repair/repave the uneven path through the park by the swings and splash pad</li> <li>• Install barrier to separate park from houses</li> </ul>

	PARK/AREA	COMMENTS
7	<b>Howard Talbot Park (cont.)</b>	<p><b>Concerns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chimney of ancillary building is deteriorated</li> <li>• Conflict with off leash dogs</li> <li>• Conflict with vehicles; pedestrian and children safety at blind corner (southwest) of the ancillary building</li> <li>• Western goalpost is rusted, appears to be risk of collapse</li> <li>• Path through the park by the swings and splash pad is uneven</li> <li>• School driveway is not separated from the park, so the entrance is not safe due to cars and delivery vans coming in and out the driveways</li> </ul>
8	<b>Oriole Park</b>	<p><b>Enjoyable aspects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lovely and quiet area for reading a book and having a picnic, connection with Kay Gardner Trail, park facilities, garden, hills and ping pong table</li> <li>• Good park for kids; community park with users of different ages</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities and Suggestions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add fitness equipment, basketball court, sandbox, more tennis courts</li> <li>• Add a fenced off-leash area</li> <li>• Add lights at tennis courts, re-surface tennis courts</li> <li>• Formalize a path from Oriole Pkwy across to Lascelles and Colin Ave, pave or cover in gravel</li> <li>• Add crosswalk sign at Chaplin x Colin Ave access</li> </ul> <p><b>Concerns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of rules about private tennis lessons at the public courts</li> <li>• Surface condition of tennis courts</li> <li>• Tennis courts used as off-leash dog area</li> <li>• Safety at Chaplin x Colin Ave access, where cars don't make full stop</li> </ul>
9	<b>Charlotte Maher Park</b>	<p><b>Enjoyable aspects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location and size of the park is perfect for the area</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities and Suggestions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add ping pong table, splash pad, washroom</li> <li>• Add a compost bin</li> <li>• Improve seating options – Muskoka chairs, more picnic tables</li> <li>• Modernize water fountain</li> <li>• Improve use and create space for adult/teenager use</li> <li>• Add fenced off leash dog area</li> <li>• Improve use of west &amp; south areas of park</li> <li>• Plant more trees</li> </ul> <p><b>Concerns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conflict with off-leash dogs</li> <li>• Park is dirty and needs to be cleaned more frequently</li> <li>• Park is dark and dingy – trees should be heavily pruned or removed</li> </ul>
10	<b>Alexander Muir Memorial Garden</b>	<p><b>Enjoyable aspects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flowers beds and planting, natural trails, well maintained, pleasant to sit in and walk</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities and Suggestions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some accesses with just a few steps that could be converted to ramps</li> <li>• Make it stroller friendly</li> <li>• Better upkeep of gardens</li> <li>• Add a pollinator garden</li> <li>• Add a winter skating rink</li> </ul> <p><b>Concerns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This park is not accessible to people with disabilities or strollers</li> </ul>



	PARK/AREA	COMMENTS
11	Dunfield Park	<p><b>Enjoyable aspects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Little hangout spot for kids and parents, feels like a community</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities and Suggestions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install fence around the playground or enclosing the park</li> <li>• Install a swing, splash pad, better playground equipment</li> <li>• Provide more shade</li> </ul> <p><b>Concerns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kids running into the street</li> <li>• Conflict with off-leash dogs</li> <li>• Dogs waste</li> </ul>
12	Manor Community Garden	<p><b>Enjoyable aspects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lots of seats, great to enjoy a coffee or take-out lunch</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities and Suggestions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add off-leash area</li> <li>• Could provide bocce balls for use</li> <li>• Add play structure, swing, slide</li> <li>• Add drinking fountain</li> </ul> <p><b>Concerns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Park is underused</li> <li>• Bocce Court is underused</li> <li>• Back end of the park is not inviting</li> <li>• Often used as off-leash dog area</li> </ul>
13	Blythwood-Sherwood Ravine	<p><b>Enjoyable aspects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ravine and natural trails that connect Alexander Muir, Blythwood and Sherwood Park</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities and Suggestions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add winter maintenance</li> <li>• Address invasive species/weed growth issue</li> <li>• Add extra hand rails at downhill portion at Blythwood Rd</li> <li>• Add public art (commission local artists) under the bridge at Mt. Pleasant</li> <li>• Add a public washroom under the bridge at Mt. Pleasant</li> </ul> <p><b>Concerns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trail condition is poor, trail is muddy after rain or snow melt</li> <li>• Invasive species</li> </ul>
14	Redpath Avenue Parkette	<p><b>Opportunities and Suggestions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add splash pad, wading pool, play structure and swings for older kids, outdoor fitness equipment, washrooms</li> <li>• Add water fountain, seating area/picnic tables, lighting</li> <li>• Add a fenced dog park</li> <li>• Improve safety for kids - can run easily to Erskine Ave</li> <li>• Needs a total rebuild/makeover</li> <li>• Expand the park</li> </ul> <p><b>Concerns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conflict with dogs</li> <li>• Park is outdated</li> <li>• Has no shade</li> <li>• There's no seating space</li> </ul>

	PARK/AREA	COMMENTS
15	Trace Manes Park	<p><b>Enjoyable aspects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New playground, low fences, good mix of activities for young children, used by families from all over the city</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities and Suggestions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add pickle ball courts, outdoor fitness equipment</li> <li>• Add additional programming beside park next to the library</li> <li>• Develop better sitting or passive space rear the community center</li> <li>• More playground space</li> </ul> <p><b>Concerns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dog waste</li> <li>• Drug usage and waste left behind</li> <li>• Pedal Heads Program impedes public use of part of park in summer, causes vehicular congestion, parking and unsafe crossing issues</li> <li>• Large walnut tree looks not well protected and declined during ongoing construction, needs to be checked</li> </ul>

## 5. Final Considerations

The comments collected through the online consultation exercise were reviewed and analyzed by staff, and were considered in the development of park improvement priorities outlined in the Midtown Infrastructure Implementation Strategy.