

# weston Loop

## Appendix B Engagement Summary Report

November 2025

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An aerial photograph of a city park, likely Central Park in Toronto, showing a winding river (Keele St) and surrounding urban development. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The word "Introduction" is centered in white text, flanked by two horizontal white lines.

# Introduction

## Study Scope

SvN Architects & Planners were retained by the Weston Developer Group, in partnership with Councillor Frances Nunziata (York South-Weston) and the Weston Village Community Association (WVCA), to develop a Master Plan for five parks along the Humber River that frame the community of Weston. The five parks are (from north to south): Crawford-Jones Park, Memorial Park, Mallaby Park, Cruickshank Park, Little Avenue Memorial Park, and Weston Lions Park.

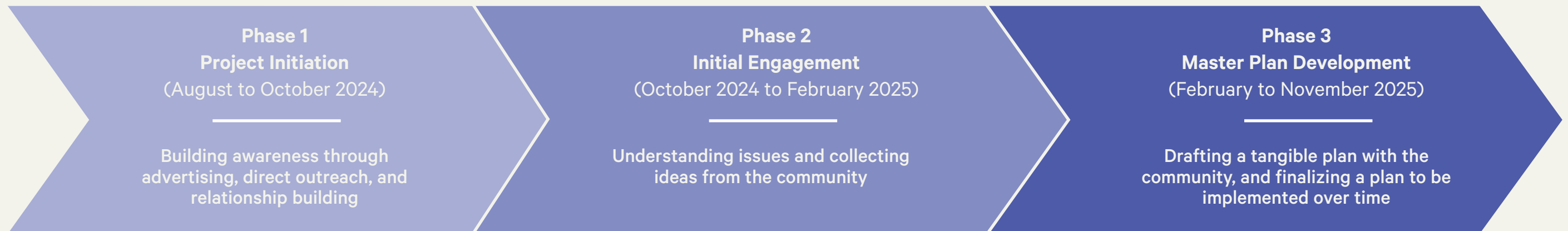
The idea for this project was borne out of discussions between Councillor Nunziata, the WVCA, and the Weston Village Developer Group. Recognizing the growth that is planned for Weston in the coming decade, it was acknowledged that now is the time to invest in the neighbourhood's green spaces. In July 2024, Councillor Frances Nunziata

submitted a motion for Council to endorse a community-built design exercise and Master Plan for the Weston park system. The motion received unanimous support and was adopted without amendment. Member Motion MM20.2 is included in the [Weston Loop Background Report](#) (Appendix C).

A robust, well-connected park system is critical to a great quality of life in Weston for existing residents and new neighbours. This project supports the growth occurring in the Weston community with a series of strategic improvements to its green space network. The Weston Loop Master Plan identifies opportunities to improve connectivity, enhance amenities, and encourage a sense of local ownership and stewardship through the creation of a strong, cohesive identity for the parks of

Weston. The Master Plan includes recommendations for projects that may be funded through the Capital Budget, as well as through the allocation of Section 42 cash-in-lieu of parkland funds that are collected from new development. There may be opportunities to pool cash-in-lieu contributions from development in Weston to have greater impact for the community.

A comprehensive community engagement program formed the foundation of the Weston Loop Master Plan to identify and address existing gaps or needs, and ensure that community ideas and priorities were reflected as the Master Plan developed. The timeline below outlines how engagement was carried out in parallel with the project phases.



**Figure 77:** Diagram illustrating the project's phased timeline and key activities completed within each stage.

# 5 weston loop PARKS



**CRAWFORD-JONES**  
PARK



**MALLABY**  
PARK



**CRUICKSHANK**  
PARK



**MEMORIAL**  
PARK



**WESTON LIONS**  
PARK

## Study Area

The community of Weston is located in the northwest part of the City of Toronto and is generally bounded by the Humber River to the west, Jane Street to the east, Oak Street to the north, and Edmund Avenue to the south (Figure 78).

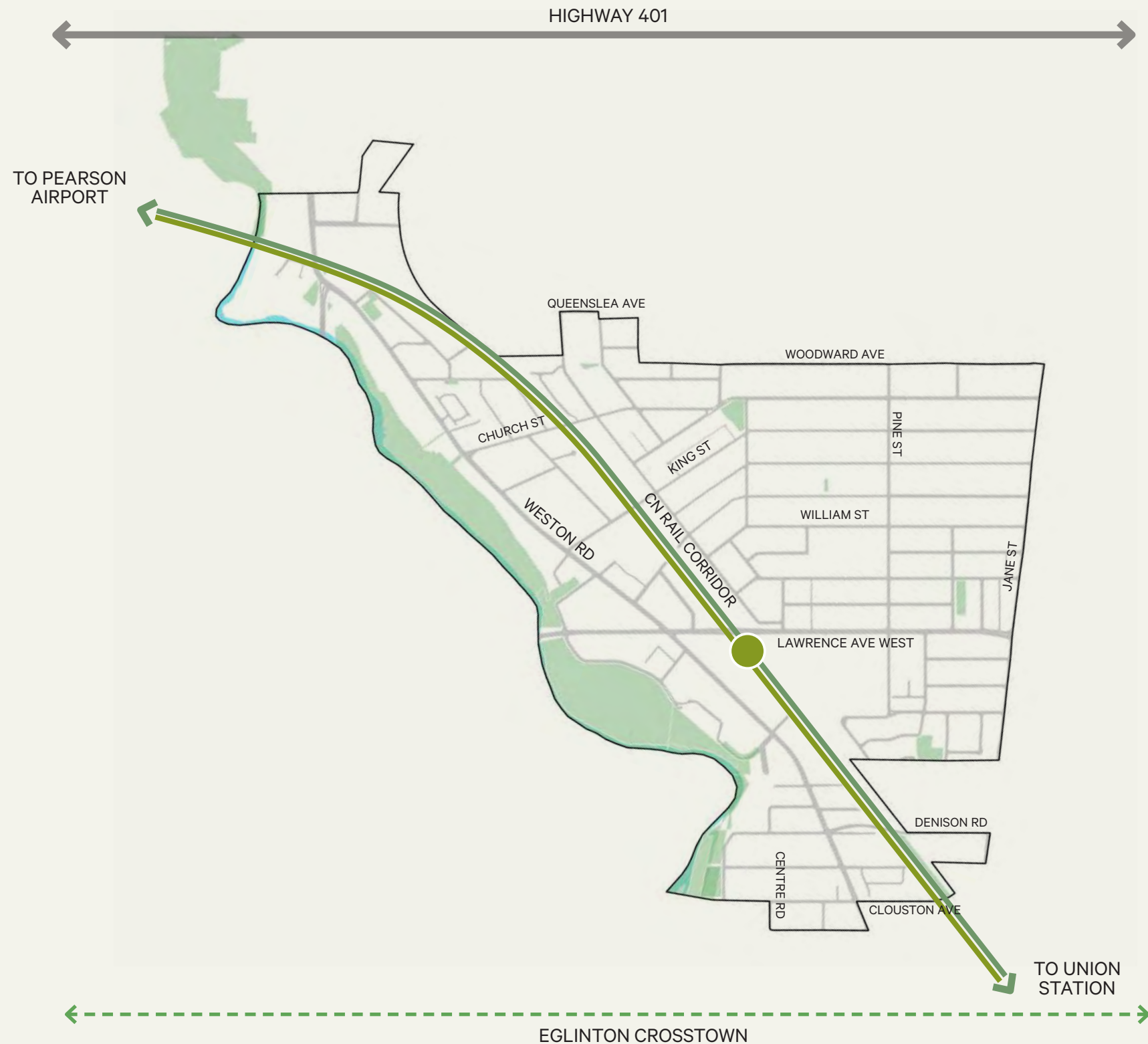
### A Village Along the Humber

The history of Weston is intertwined with the Humber River, known as Niwa'ah Onega'gaih'ih (Seneca language) or Cobechehenonk Zibii (Anishnaabe language), and the Carrying Place trail, an ancestral footpath and portage route. The Humber River and Carrying Place trail continue to be of great significance to Indigenous Peoples, who have journeyed the paths along the Humber for millennia. It connected trade routes and facilitated movement between families and communities. The river and its valley lands continue to support the lives of plants, animals, and humans.

Weston Village was settled by people of European descent over 230 years ago, with the establishment of a sawmill on the west bank of the Humber in 1792. Weston initially developed along both sides of the river until a disastrous flood in 1850 destroyed the west bank settlement. 100 years later, in October 1954, Hurricane Hazel flooded the Humber River valley, causing major destruction and loss of life.

The five parks of the Weston Loop (Crawford Jones Memorial Park, Mallaby Park, Cruickshank Park, Memorial Park, and Weston Lions Park) are a legacy of Hurricane Hazel. The devastation of the hurricane led to significant policy and regulatory changes to prevent it from

**Figure 78:** Weston Boundary (Weston In Gear Study Area) and regional connections in relation to the Weston Loop Park System.



happening again. Conservation Authorities were created to direct land use planning and conservation on a watershed level, and floodplain regulations were introduced to prevent new construction in flood-prone areas. Through these initiatives, thousands of acres of vulnerable land have been converted into public parkland. Commemorative plaques in the Weston Loop parks remind us of this legacy.

### Weston Community Growth and Development

From early its history, Weston has been a vibrant community with places for people to live and work. Major manufacturing firms in the nearby area employed Weston residents, including CCM and Kodak. When the factories closed in the 1980s and 1990s, the neighbourhood began to decline. As Downtown Toronto experienced a revival and increased prosperity, Weston, along with other areas further from the core, have experienced a downturn. In 2014, and again in 2020, Weston was designated as one of the Neighbourhood Improvement Area (NIA) under the Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy. The NIAs fall below the recommended Neighbourhood Equity Benchmark, a measure that signals that the overall burden of inequities faced by a neighbourhood requires action. This designation provides Weston with priority status for funding to advance economic, social, health, environmental and participation outcomes, as well as community safety.

In 2010, the Province announced the UP Express, a new rail connection between Union Station and Pearson Airport, with a new GO station in Weston. Over the past two decades, Provincial and City planning policy have prioritized the coordination of land use and transportation planning, with direction for increasing housing in areas that are well served by public transit. This has been a catalyst for change in Weston,

leading to significant development interest and proposals for a number of tall buildings of 40 storeys and more.

With all of this development, more people will be living in Weston and equitable access to a connected park and open space network is critical to support this growth. The Loop is Weston's green spine and its communal back yard. The Master Plan will recommend enhancements to this incredible neighbourhood asset to support current residents and future generations in Weston.



**Figure 79:** Historic photographs of the Hurricane Hazel aftermath.

An aerial photograph of a city landscape. In the foreground, a wide river flows from the bottom right towards the center. To the left of the river, there are several tall, modern apartment buildings. A multi-lane road runs vertically on the left side of the image. The middle ground is filled with dense green trees and smaller residential buildings. In the background, a city skyline is visible under a cloudy sky. The text "Engagement Strategy" is centered in the middle of the image, flanked by two horizontal white lines.

# Engagement Strategy

*This section outlines the goals that underscored the community engagement program for the Weston Loop, and the approach that was undertaken by the Project Team.*

### Engagement Goals

Community buy-in is critical to the success of the Master Plan. The central objective of the community engagement program was to infuse the Master Plan with the ideas and priorities generated through conversations with people in Weston, the people who use the Loop parks on a regular basis. Specific goals of the engagement strategy included:

- Creating awareness of the Project with broad outreach to community residents, local organizations, and other stakeholders;
- Establishing a shared Vision and Principles for the Loop that will inspire participation and stewardship over the long term,
- Building positive, lasting relationships within the community; and
- Delivering a Master Plan that can be implemented over time with ongoing collaboration between the community, developers, and public agencies.

### Engagement Principles

Engagement for the Weston Loop was underpinned by the following principles:

#### *Comprehensive notice by multiple channels*

Providing notice on the Project website, through emails, social media, printed materials, and word of mouth helps ensure that communication reaches as broad an audience as possible.

#### *Reducing barriers to participation*

Engagement must consider an audience of all ages, abilities, and circumstances. This means tailoring materials to have clear, simple language that does not use jargon. Engagement events will offer both in-person and online options to accommodate participants’ schedules and ensure broader access for shaping the Weston Loop Final Master Plan.

#### *Letting the community lead*

It is important that the voices and perspectives of participants are represented in the final recommendations for the Weston Loop. To ensure this, the Final Master Plan is led by input and feedback put forth by the community.

### Engagement Plan

**Phase 1 (Initial Outreach & Background Research)** focused on building awareness and gathering information to understand the community’s priorities for the Loop. It was critical to cast a broad “net” to capture as many perspectives as possible through multiple methods of notification, including the project website, social media, and local networks. In-person activations or “pop-ups” were also part of this phase, which initiated conversations about the Loop parks and the Master Plan.

**Phase 2 (Landscape Framework)** was critical to ensuring the Master Plan authentically reflected community desires and needs. The Project Team engaged in active listening, using visual tools and conversational prompts to elicit specific feedback about what works, what doesn’t, and what might be missing from the Loop parks. A community design charrette was the primary engagement event, complemented by small group sessions with specific populations, and a community-led park walk that offered firsthand feedback.

In **Phase 3 (Master Plan)** the community had an opportunity to give feedback on the initial directions and recommendations for the Master Plan. The draft plan was shared publicly, allowing residents to review, provide feedback, and shape the final Master Plan.

**Ongoing Engagement** occurred throughout the project, with opportunities for public input via the project website and regular check-ins with the Stakeholder Advisory Group for feedback on draft materials. Engagement with Indigenous organizations and Rights Holders also occurred throughout all phases. A full account of the engagement events that occurred is provided in Section 4.

### Engagement Methods

- In person
- Online
- Targeted

In person engagement events provided residents an opportunity to meet with the project team in person to discuss their views and priorities on the project. In person engagement was complemented by online methods including two surveys and a project website to provide those who couldn't make it to in person engagement events an opportunity to learn and provide comments on the project. Targeted engagement for Weston residents and youth groups occurred to ensure that people who may not have otherwise had the opportunity to hear about the project were provided an opportunity to share their feedback.

### Data Extraction and Synthesis

People provided feedback in a variety of ways, including written feedback provided via email correspondence or in surveys, sketches and sticky notes, and verbal conversations. Project Team members took detailed notes at all in-person engagement activities. These notes as well as the written comments that were received were transcribed and catalogued in a database, and then coded by theme.

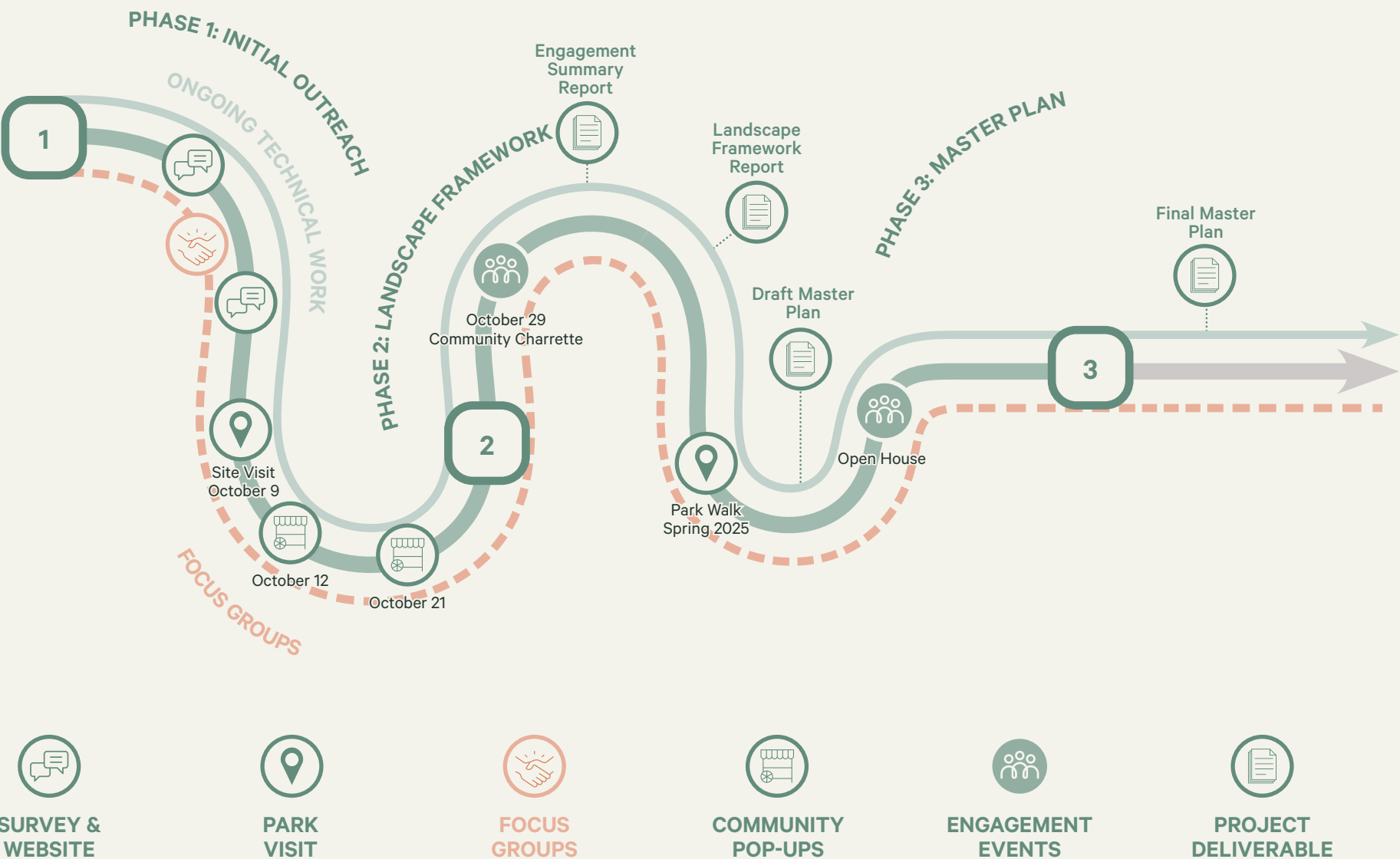


Figure 80: Infographic depicting the public engagement work plan and deliverables.



ARTSCAPE  
WESTON CON

# Audience



*Weston Loop engagement participants generally fall into seven non-exclusive audiences. Individuals may self-identify as a member of more than one audience.*

**Weston Residents**

Residents of Weston Village have a direct interest in the outcomes of the Project. They have ideas and feedback rooted in lived experience that can inform the Master Plan vision and directions. Residents may or may not be members of the Weston Village Community Association.

**Park Users**

While many park users may also be residents of Weston Village, we know that people outside of Weston also use the Loop parks. Regular parkgoers will have key knowledge about what is working, and what needs to improve within the park network.

**Environmental Organizations and Local Service Providers**

Community organizations are rooted in Weston and are deeply invested in the neighbourhood’s well-being. They know the area well and may have connections that can be leveraged to better understand the Weston Loop.

**Indigenous Rights Holders and Organizations**

The Humber River has deep significance for First Nations and Indigenous peoples. The Project Team conducted outreach to the Mississaugas

of the Credit and other groups, as identified through our stakeholder mapping exercise and through discussions with City of Toronto staff. The Project Team has reviewed and included findings from previous Indigenous engagement from other relevant initiatives in the area, including for the recently completed Picture Mount Dennis Planning Study, the ongoing Weston in Gear Planning Study, and the City-wide Parkland Strategy Update.

**Youth and Youth Organizations**

Parks are of critical importance for young people growing up in the city. They provide space for exploration, learning, sports, and more. Youth are an important group to engage with, and we recognize that traditional engagement methods are not always accessible to youth or families with young children. Targeted engagement was necessary to get input from this population.

**City Departments and External Agencies**

There are a number of other City-led initiatives in Weston and the surrounding that are happening concurrently with this Project. In order to coordinate activities and reduce duplication, the Project Team established regular contact with project teams for The Ravine Strategy and Loop Trail, Mid-Humber Gap, Weston in Gear, Weston Cycling Connections and Cruickshank Park Playground Improvements.

**Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG)**

The SAG is a small group of Project champions that met at regular intervals through the duration of the Project and provide direction on

Project scope and key deliverables, before they are shared with the larger community. SAG group members include:

- Key community leaders;
- City of Toronto representatives including the local Councillor, Planning, and Parks, Forestry & Recreation (PF&R);
- Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) staff; and
- Developers with ongoing projects in the area.

A woman stands at the front of a room, presenting to a seated audience. Two large projection screens display a cityscape image with the word 'Western' overlaid. The audience is seated in rows of chairs, facing the front. The room has a drop ceiling with fluorescent lights. The text 'Phased Engagement' is overlaid in the center of the image, flanked by two horizontal white lines.

# Phased Engagement

## Phase One: Initial Outreach & Background Research

A project website and Instagram account were created to share information about the project. Project notice was also provided through phone calls, email, and word of mouth. Postcards with project information were distributed to local businesses and at community events, and the Project stakeholder database to share with their broader community networks.

A stakeholder database was built through stakeholder mapping; beginning with local agency and organizational contacts collected by Castlepoint Numa through their public engagement for the Weston Park Baptist Church redevelopment. Other contacts were added through website sign-ups and people who visited an in-person engagement event and provided their contact details. News about the project was also distributed by Councillor Frances Nunziata through her email list; as well as the Weston Village Resident’s Association email list.

## Digital Engagement

### Project Website

The Project website ([www.westonloop.com](http://www.westonloop.com)) was set up as an online repository for Project information, including upcoming events, a link to the Project survey, historical context, and highlights from completed engagement activities. The Project website also provided a platform for interested community members to provide input and sign up for updates as the project progresses.

### Social Media

A dedicated Instagram account for the Project was established under the tag **@weston\_loop** to provide an additional means of digital communication, with regular posts and updates. Additionally, social media posts on SvN’s Instagram and LinkedIn provided another avenue for outreach to the Project’s audience.

### Survey #1

The initial project survey was made available in paper and digital format and ran from October 12, 2025 to November 13, 2024. Paper surveys were distributed at the WVRA AGM, the Weston BIA Farmers’ Market engagement booth, and at the Community Design Charrette. The survey was also available online through the Project website. This offered a means of providing feedback to those unable to attend in-person engagement events. The survey consisted of 10 questions designed to obtain feedback from those who use and have interest in the parks (Chapter 7). The initial survey had 54 completions:

- 34 surveys were completed at the Farmer’s Market
- 2 surveys were completed at the Community Design Charrette
- 19 surveys were completed online.



Figure 81: Engagement at first Community Design Charrette.



**In-Person Engagement**

**Farmer’s Market Activation**

The first public engagement session for the Weston Loop involved a pop-up booth at the Weston Village Business Improvement Area (BIA) Farmers’ Market. Informational display panels and interactive activities were employed to capture an audience that may not typically go to a scheduled public engagement session. Copies of the informational display panels are included in Chapter 7.

The engagement booth for the Weston Loop Project was open on Saturday, October 12th, 2024 from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at the Weston Village BIA Farmers’ Market. Five Project Team members were on hand to talk about the project, answer questions, and record feedback. Councillor Frances Nunziata was also present for a period of time to field questions and feedback from the community.

The booth was set up to include activities that would engage younger participants, including chalk, lego, and a see-saw. Informational display panels with a Loop map and individual park photos helped participants to understand the study area and visualize the parks. Feedback was primarily gathered using sticky notes to record participant feedback on a large-scale round table map.

Paper copies of the survey were available for people to provide their feedback in writing.

**Weston Village Resident’s Association Annual General Meeting**

On October 21st, 2024, representatives of the Project Team attended the Weston Village Resident’s Association (WVRA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. to present project information to meeting participants. Following the presentation, the informational display panels were posted and a team member was available to talk to attendees and answer questions.

**Figure 83:** Farmer’s Market Booth at Artscape Weston Commons.

### Community Design Charrette

The Community Design Charrette was the main engagement milestone for Phase 1. The goal of the charrette was to elicit specific comments, concerns, and ideas through focused small-group discussions using maps, photos, and other visual tools.

The charrette occurred on a Tuesday evening on October 29th, 2024 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. It was hosted at the York West Active Living Centre (YWALC), at the intersection of Weston Road and Lawrence Avenue West. Participants were asked to sign in when they arrived, and were provided name tags. The same informational display boards from the pop-up events were available to provide background information to participants, and the Project Team, along with Councillor Nunziata, provided an overview of the project and the charrette process.

Ten Project Team members were on hand facilitate engagement at each of the tables. Tables included large maps showing existing conditions for each of the parks, as well as two table maps for the entirety of the Weston Loop Study Area. Each table had a dedicated facilitator, precedent discs, and sticky notes. A kids table with Lego and colouring pages was also available. The table engagement lasted approximately 45 minutes, giving everyone the opportunity to share their experiences, concerns, and ideas. Following the facilitated session, a designated representative from each table presented a short summary of the feedback gathered to all participants. Final thoughts were then shared by the Project Team, concluding the event.

| Event                            | Farmer’s Market                                                                                                                | Weston Village Resident’s Association<br>Annual General Meeting                                 | Community Design Charrette                                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date                             | October 12th 2024                                                                                                              | October 21st 2024                                                                               | October 29th 2024                                                                                                                                            |
| Time                             | 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.                                                                                                        | 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.                                                                          | 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.                                                                                                                                       |
| Location                         | Artscape Weston Common                                                                                                         | Weston Masonic Temple                                                                           | York West Active Living Centre                                                                                                                               |
| Format                           | Information booth with round table maps, project display boards, youth engagement, surveys, and a facilitated engagement table | Community meeting with a project overview presentation and Q&A, with project information easels | Open house & interactive table-based activity, project overview presentation and Q&A, project information easels, and multiple facilitated engagement tables |
| Audience                         | Weston Village residents, park users, youth                                                                                    | Weston Village residents, park users                                                            | Weston Village residents, park users, members of community organizations, Weston developers, City representatives                                            |
| Estimated Number of Participants | 50                                                                                                                             | 75-80                                                                                           | 35                                                                                                                                                           |

Table 6: Phase One Engagement Events.

## Phase Two: Landscape Framework

Phase Two focused on building the momentum generated in Phase One of engagement by weaving the priorities and feedback shared by the community and stakeholders into the landscape typologies and Draft Master Plan for the Weston Loop.

### Digital Engagement

#### Project Website

The Project website was updated in Phase Two to host project outputs, including the Typology Vignettes and the Engagement Summary Report, which provided an opportunity for interested parties to provide comments and feedback on the progress of the project.

### Focus Groups

The Project Team conducted focused engagement throughout Phase Two to capture perspectives from a broad audience. A key goal of Phase Two was to invite participation from groups who may face barriers to traditional consultation methods or have historically been underrepresented in planning processes.

#### Rights Holders and Indigenous Organizations

The Project Team held meetings with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) as well as the City of Toronto Indigenous Affairs Office (IAO). Meetings included an overview presentation to provide background information and progress on the project to date. Presentations were then followed by a discussion period. This was important to keep Rights Holders and Indigenous Organizations

informed about the Weston Loop and to provide an opportunity for Indigenous perspectives and knowledge to inform the direction of the project. For further information on Indigenous engagement, see the Engagement with Rights Holders & Indigenous Groups section at the end of this chapter.

#### Families and Youth

The Project Team held two sessions with families and youth groups in Weston. This included attending a Family Math Session with the Early Childhood Development Initiative, a non-profit organization in Weston that is focused on serving families of African descent, and a meeting of Student Council leaders at Weston Collegiate. This presented an opportunity to speak with younger audiences and hear what they like or dislike, or would like to see, for the future of the Weston Loop parks.

#### York-Weston-Pelham Community Coordination Plan Cluster Meeting

Two Project Team members also attended a meeting for the York-Weston-Pelham CCP Cluster, which is a group that aims to create solutions to meet the needs of equity-deserving communities within the cluster. This provided an opportunity to share the project to a new audience with a focus on equity-deserving communities.

#### Toronto Police Services 12 Division

Two Project Team members attended a meeting with Staff Sergeant Paul Dominey and Sergeant Greg Falconer to share community perceptions around safety and to understand safety concerns and priority areas from the perspective of 12 Division throughout the parks.



Figure 84: Participants and Project Team members at the Weston Loop Jane’s Walk.

| Event                            | ECDI Youth Engagement                                                                                                     | Weston Collegiate Youth Engagement                                                                                        | MCFN Meeting #1                                                             | Indigenous Affairs Office Meeting                                           | Meeting with TPS 12 Division                                                        | York Weston-Pelham CCP Cluster Meeting                           | Jane's Walk                                                                               | MCFN Meeting #2                                                             |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date                             | November 30, 2024                                                                                                         | December 9, 2024                                                                                                          | January 22, 2025                                                            | January 24, 2025                                                            | February 4, 2025                                                                    | February 28, 2025                                                | May 4, 2025                                                                               | May 22, 2025                                                                |
| Time                             | 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.                                                                                                    | 11:00 a.m – 1:00 p.m..                                                                                                    | 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.                                                    | 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.                                                      | 10:00 a.m – 10:30 a.m.                                                              | 9:30 – 11:00 a.m                                                 | 12:30 p.m – 2:00 p.m                                                                      | 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.                                                      |
| Location                         | 1834 Weston Road                                                                                                          | 100 Pine Street                                                                                                           | Virtual                                                                     | Virtual                                                                     | Virtual                                                                             | Virtual                                                          | The Weston Loop                                                                           | Virtual                                                                     |
| Format                           | Presentation and community meeting with a project overview presentation and Q&A, information easels, and youth activities | Presentation and community meeting with a project overview presentation and Q&A, information easels, and youth activities | Virtual meeting with a project overview presentation and discussion session | Virtual meeting with a project overview presentation and discussion session | Presentation and feedback on safety, including facilitated discussion with officers | Presentation and Q+A                                             | Walking tour with pamphlets, a facilitated discussion followed by a roundtable discussion | Virtual meeting with a project overview presentation and discussion session |
| Audience                         | Weston Village residents, park users, youth                                                                               | Weston Village residents, park users, older youth                                                                         | First Nations Rights Holders                                                | City Staff, Indigenous Organization                                         | Staff Sergeant and Sergeant of 12 division                                          | York-Weston-Pelham Park Community Development Cluster United Way | Weston Village residents, park users                                                      | First Nations Rights Holders                                                |
| Estimated Number of Participants | 75-80                                                                                                                     | 50                                                                                                                        | 4                                                                           | 3                                                                           | 2                                                                                   | 15                                                               | 65-70                                                                                     | 4                                                                           |

Table 7: Phase Two Engagement Events.

## In-Person Engagement

### Jane's Walk

The Jane's Walk of the Weston Loop Park system occurred on May 2, 2025 from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. concurrently with other Jane's walks occurring in the City of Toronto and around the world for Jane's Walk Festival Weekend. The Weston Loop routes were divided into three separate loops for participants to choose from:

- Crawford-Jones Loop;
- Cruickshank-Memorial Loop; and
- Weston Lions Loop

Informational pamphlets for each loop were provided to walk participants, with representatives from the Project Team at each loop to answer questions and record feedback to inform the project. Councillor Frances Nunziata was also present for a period of time to answer questions and receive feedback from the community.

Upon completion of the walk, participants were encouraged to debrief and share their thoughts at the Weston Park Baptist Church. A table map was provided as well as sticky notes for recording area specific feedback. Project Team members were also on hand for 1 on 1 conversations with community members.

## Phase Three: The Master Plan

In Phase Three, the Project Team shared a more refined Draft Master Plan with the community and stakeholders. Feedback gathered during this stage helped shape the final version of the plan to be brought forward to Council. Phase Three primarily consisted of three in-person engagement events, including a pop-up at Weston Neighbour's Night Out, a community design charrette at Weston Artscape Commons, and the Community Conversations meeting at Progress Place Hub. An updated project survey was also shared in Phase Three to provide additional online engagement options and an opportunity for participants to provide updated feedback on the Phase One survey.

## Digital Engagement

### Survey Update

A second project survey was made available in digital format. The survey was distributed to all contacts who had signed up for email updates on the Project and was also available online through the Project website. This offered a means of providing feedback to those unable to attend in-person engagement events. The survey consisted of 28 questions designed to present concepts and ideas for the parks that have been developed over the course of the project, while also providing and opportunity feedback from those who use and have interest in the parks. The updated project survey was open from July 4, 2025 to September 8, 2025 and received 62 completions.

## In-Person Engagement

### Weston Neighbour's Night Out

The first in-person engagement event for Phase 3 involved a pop-up booth at Neighbours Night Out on June 23, 2025 in Elm Park. Informational display panels and interactive activities were employed to capture an audience of park users that may not typically go to a scheduled public engagement session.

Three Project Team members were on hand from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. to talk about the project, answer questions, and record community feedback to inform the Master Plan.

Informational display panels with updated project concepts helped participants understand how the project has progressed from the onset. Feedback was primarily gathered using sticky notes to record participant feedback on a large-scale round table map. The booth was set up to include activities that would engage younger participants, including chalk and Lego.

### Community Design Charrette #2

The second Community Design Charrette for the project provided an opportunity to present the Draft Master Plan and facilitate table-based discussions for each park. Participants provided comments, concerns, and ideas through focused small-group discussions using maps, photos, and other visual tools.

The Charrette occurred on a Tuesday evening on July 29, 2025 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Artscape Weston Commons. Informational display boards were available to provide background information to



Figure 85: Pop-up Engagement at Neighbour's Night Out on June 23, 2025.

01

02

03

04

05

06

07

Phased Engagement

participants. The Project Team, along with Councillor Nunziata, provided an update on the project and provided an overview of the charrette process.

Seven Project Team members were on hand facilitate engagement throughout the room and at each of the tables. Tables included large maps showing existing conditions for each of the parks, as well as two table maps for the entirety of the Weston Loop Study Area. Each table had a dedicated facilitator, precedent discs, and sticky notes. A 15-minute introductory presentation was given, followed by approximately an hour of table of discussion, giving everyone the opportunity to share their experiences, concerns, and ideas. Discussion points were captured primarily with sticky notes.

### Community Conversations Meeting

The community conversations meeting provided an opportunity to present the Draft Master Plan to Weston based organizations. The meeting occurred on September 18, 2025 and involved a presentation and discussion with those in attendance. Representatives from Community Service Providers including Progress Place, Urban Arts, ENAGB Indigenous Youth Agency, Frontlines, the Weston King Neighbourhood Centre, the Learning Enrichment Foundation, and Crossroads Theatre were on hand at the event.

A presentation outlining the progress of the Draft Master Plan was delivered, followed by a Q&A session and group discussion. The meeting presented an important opportunity to hear from groups that were under-represented in the engagement process to date. Three Project Team members were on hand to present, facilitate discussion, and record feedback.

| Event                            | Weston Neighbours Night Out                                                                                           | Community Design Charette #2                                                                                                                                 | Community Conversations Meeting                                                             |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date                             | June 23, 2025                                                                                                         | July 29, 2025                                                                                                                                                | September 18, 2025                                                                          |
| Time                             | 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.                                                                                                | 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.                                                                                                                                       | 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.                                                                      |
| Location                         | Elm Park                                                                                                              | Artscape Weston Commons                                                                                                                                      | Progress Place Hub                                                                          |
| Format                           | Information booth with round table maps, project display boards, youth engagement, and a facilitated engagement table | Open house & interactive table-based activity, project overview presentation and Q&A, project information easels, and multiple facilitated engagement tables | Presentation and community meeting, followed by a facilitated discussion period             |
| Audience                         | Weston Village residents, park users, youth                                                                           | Weston Village residents, park users, youth                                                                                                                  | Weston Community groups, representatives from marginalized groups, Indigenous organizations |
| Estimated Number of Participants | 100+                                                                                                                  | 30-35                                                                                                                                                        | 30                                                                                          |

Table 8: Phase Three Engagement Events.

## Engagement with Rights Holders & Indigenous Groups

Indigenous engagement was identified as a priority early in discussions with the Stakeholder Advisory Group. The Weston Loop parks hold deep historic significance, shaped by the Humber River, Carrying Place Trail, and surrounding waterways central to many Indigenous cultural and spiritual practices.

The Project Team met twice with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Department of Consultation and Accommodation (MCFN), and once with Staff from the City’s Indigenous Affairs Office. Introductory emails were sent to several urban Indigenous organizations – some expressed interest but noted limited capacity to participate, while others did not respond.

Recognizing that Indigenous communities receive frequent consultation requests with limited resources, the Project Team reviewed recent Indigenous engagement reports from other park and ravine projects to ensure Indigenous knowledge, priorities, and perspectives were meaningfully reflected. These revealed key insights relevant to the Weston Loop, many of which were echoed in discussions with the MCFN.

We acknowledge that the Master Plan marks only the beginning of improvements to the Weston Loop parks. MCFN and Indigenous community members should be invited to help establish a “Friends of the Weston Loop” group and be consulted on future detailed design work. Indigenous designers and artisans should also be engaged in future projects, public art installations, and activations within the Weston Loop.

Relevant takeaways were drawn from the following projects:

**The Mount Dennis Planning Framework**, a City-led study in an area adjacent to Weston, with a significant Indigenous population.

**The Humber River Watershed Plan:** A TRCA project to guide the management of the watershed, with MCFN as key partners.

The **Centennial Park** and **Toronto Island Park Master Plans**, two recently completed City-led plans offering insights from Indigenous participants.

The following themes integrate feedback from MCFN with these reports and have informed the Weston Loop Master Plan.

### 1. Indigenous Placekeeping and Making Culture Visible

A central theme across these projects is the need for parks and public spaces that welcome Indigenous presence, reflecting living, contemporary cultures and values alongside historical acknowledgement.

**Ceremonial and Cultural Spaces:** There is a strong desire for dedicated, safe, and accessible spaces for ceremony, healing, and cultural uses, including sacred fires, sweat lodges, teaching lodges, pow-wows, feasts, and land-based learning camps. These spaces should be flexible, multi-use and accessible for Elders and those with mobility challenges.

**Signage and Language:** Signage should go beyond land acknowledgments to share Indigenous history, culture, treaty rights, and stories of the land. Incorporating Indigenous languages like Anishinaabemowin into wayfinding and interpretive elements is crucial, and renaming parks or features with Indigenous names was encouraged.

**Art and Design:** Public art, murals, and sculptures by Indigenous artists should be commissioned to make Indigenous identity more visible. Design concepts could draw from Indigenous worldviews.

### 2. Ecology, Food Sovereignty, and Connection to the Land

Restoring the natural environment through an Indigenous lens was identified as a high priority across the four projects. This emphasizes honouring the personhood of nature, particularly the Humber River, and regenerating landscapes using traditional ecological knowledge and native species. Water, viewed as sacred and central to Indigenous worldviews, should be protected and celebrated through wetland restoration and educational water features. The vital role of Indigenous women as keepers of the water was also highlighted.

**Re-naturalization and Native Species:** Previous engagement reports noted strong participant support for returning waterways to natural states, removing concrete channels, and revitalizing ecological areas with native plants, trees, and medicines. An emphasis was placed on managing and removing invasive species.

**Food and Medicine:** There is a significant interest in creating spaces for food sovereignty and security. This includes traditional medicine gardens, shared community gardens, fruit trees, and seed banks or exchanges. These gardens should be open to the community and cared for by Indigenous people.

### 3. Community, Safety, and Services

Ensuring that public spaces are safe, accessible, and serve the needs of the local Indigenous population is critical.

**Safety and Accessibility:** A safe neighborhood is a priority, with requests for better lighting on paths, more crosswalks, bigger sidewalks, and safe access points for Elders.

**Recreation and Youth:** There is a desire for both traditional and contemporary recreation. This includes space for lacrosse, soccer, and other sports, as well as multi-use trails. Youth-specific spaces like skate parks and programming were also noted as important.

**Economic Opportunities:** Engagement should lead to tangible economic benefits, such as hiring Indigenous people and firms, commissioning artists, creating space for Indigenous-owned businesses (e.g., markets, cafes, galleries), and providing job training.

### 4. Collaboration

**Reciprocity and Ceremony:** When changes are made to the land, such as moving soil, it is important to conduct a ceremony to honour the reciprocal relationship with the Earth. Previous study participants noted the importance of this when any work is undertaken in natural areas.

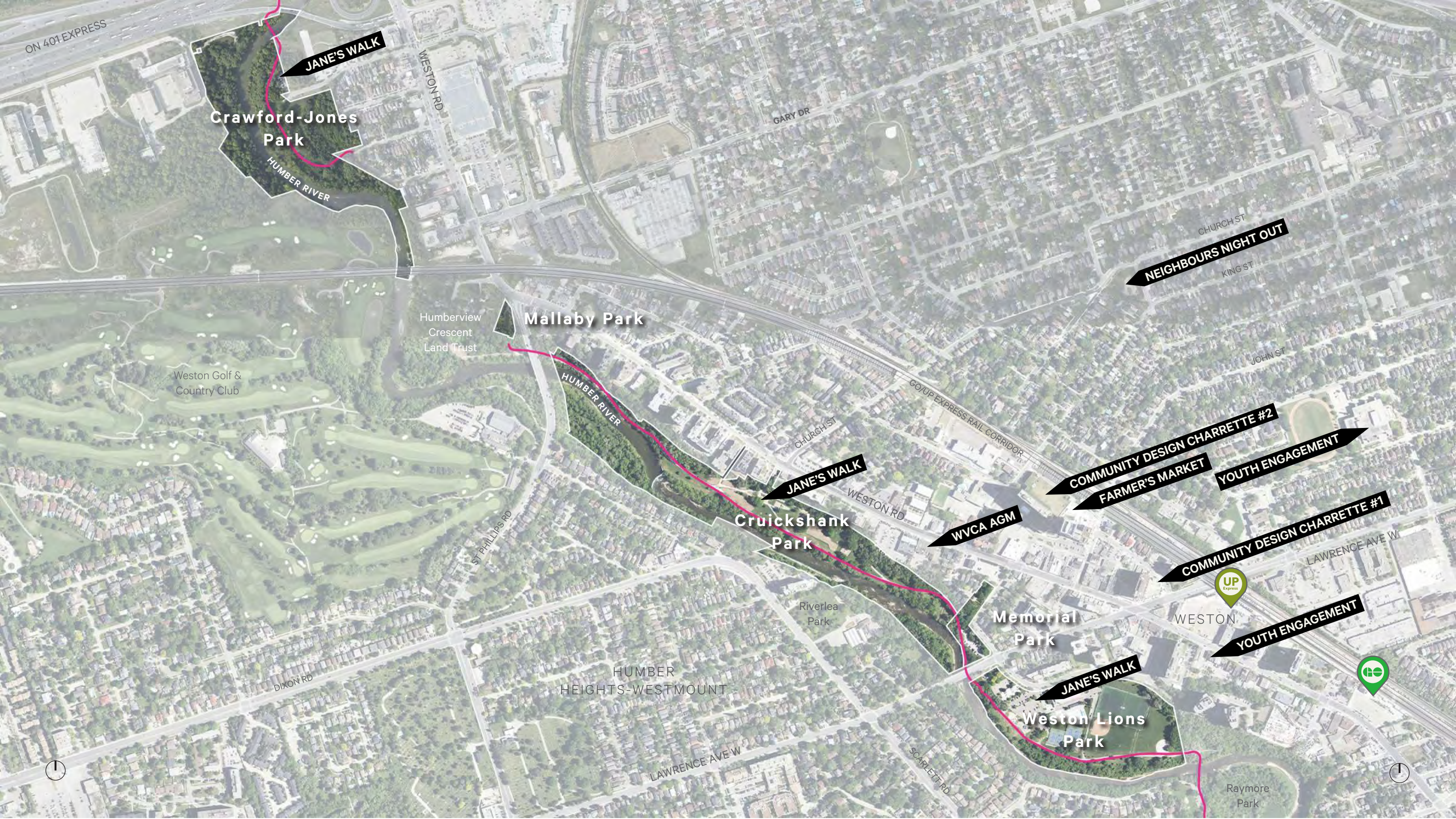
**Co-Management:** The idea of shared stewardship was raised across previous Indigenous engagement, noting that Indigenous peoples should have a role in the ongoing governance and management of parks.



**Figure 86:** Fallen tree along the shore of the Humber River.



**Figure 87:** Images from various public engagement events (Farmer's Market, ECDI engagement, Community Design Charrette 1 and 2)



ON 401 EXPRESS

JANE'S WALK

Crawford-Jones Park

HUMBER RIVER

WESTON RD

GARY DR

Humberview  
Crescent  
Land Trust

Mallaby Park

HUMBER RIVER

Weston Golf &  
Country Club

CHURCH ST

JANE'S WALK

Cruickshank  
Park

WESTON RD

GO/UP EXPRESS RAIL CORRIDOR

NEIGHBOURS NIGHT OUT

CHURCH ST

KING ST

JOHN ST

COMMUNITY DESIGN CHARRETTE #2

FARMER'S MARKET

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

COMMUNITY DESIGN CHARRETTE #1

LAWRENCE AVE W

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

UP  
Express

WESTON

Memorial  
Park

JANE'S WALK

Weston Lions  
Park

Raymore  
Park

HUMBER  
HEIGHTS-WESTMOUNT

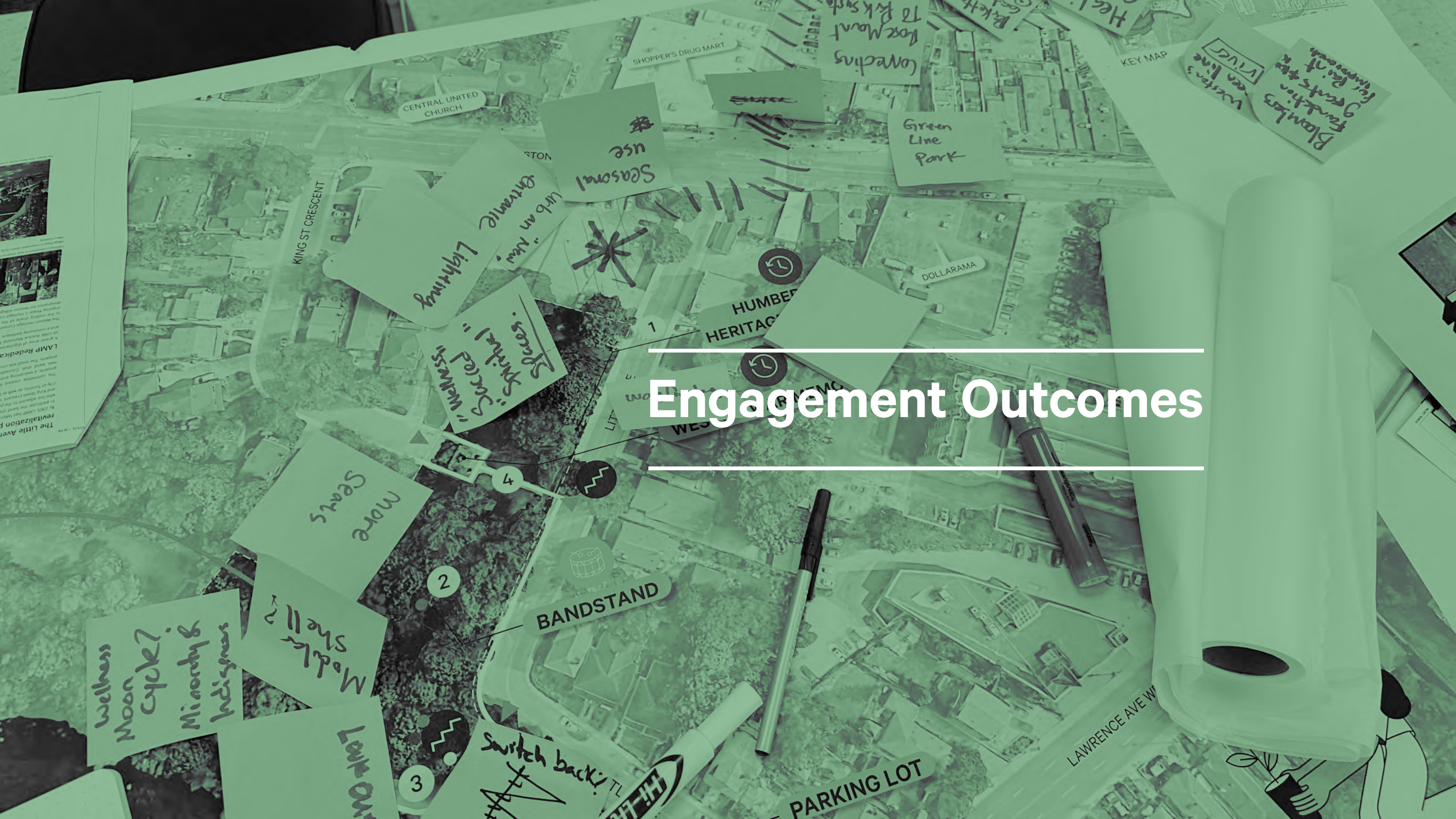
Riverlea  
Park

DIXON RD

LAWRENCE AVE W

SCARLETT RD

# Engagement Outcomes



CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH

SHOPPER'S DRUG MART

Green Line Park

DOLLARAMA

HUMBER HERITAGE

BANDSTAND

PARKING LOT

LAWRENCE AVE W

KING ST CRESCENT

Seasonal use

Urban 'New' Entrance Lighting

Space 'Sacred' 'Western' 'Sacred'

More Seats

Welness Moon Cycle? Minority & Indigenous Models? Switch back?

## Survey Results

### SURVEY #1

Survey #1 ran during Phase 1 of engagement for the Weston Loop. The purpose of Survey #1 was to collect initial information on how people use the Loop parks, what they like or dislike, and any suggestions for improvement. A copy of the survey is included in Chapter 7.

Survey #1 received 54 completions. Participants were asked to self-identify if they are a Weston resident. Feedback from the survey was primarily from Weston residents at 85%, with the majority of responses coming from the 30- to 50-year-old age group (Figure 88). Among survey participants, Cruickshank Park and Weston Lions Park were the most well-used parks, with 47% of respondents visiting Cruickshank Park at least once a week, and 57% visiting Weston Lions at least once a week.

The open-answer feedback indicated that the most frequently mentioned concerns or needs are for better connectivity, and safety improvements. Multiple respondents emphasized the need for better connections between parks and the neighbourhoods, particularly requesting safe cycling and walking routes across Weston Road and an improved connection from Wilby Crescent into the parks. There was strong support for completing the trail along the Mid-Humber Gap, with users noting that the current detour up to Weston Road is dangerous. Respondents called for improved wayfinding and signage, especially around the John Street Footbridge area, to help visitors navigate between public spaces.

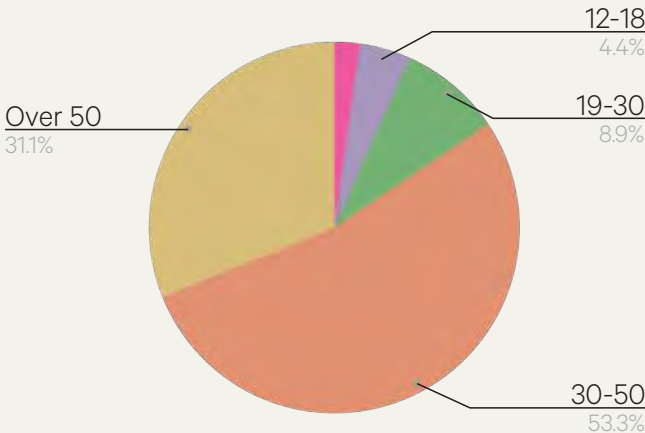


Figure 88: Age of Weston Loop Survey Respondents

Safety concerns were repeatedly raised, with respondents noting issues with encampments and a desire for a greater police presence in the Loop parks. Several participants also requested traffic calming measures on nearby streets. Facility improvements and maintenance emerged as another significant theme. Multiple respondents called for better overall maintenance, increased garbage pickup across the parks, additional public washroom facilities, and hand washing stations. Other desired amenities included barbecue facilities, seating, and tables in parks, enhanced playgrounds, and improved lighting. Several participants emphasized the need for better accessibility, ensuring that the paths that connect the parks are accessible. There were also calls for expanding park spaces and creating new community spaces to serve the growing population.

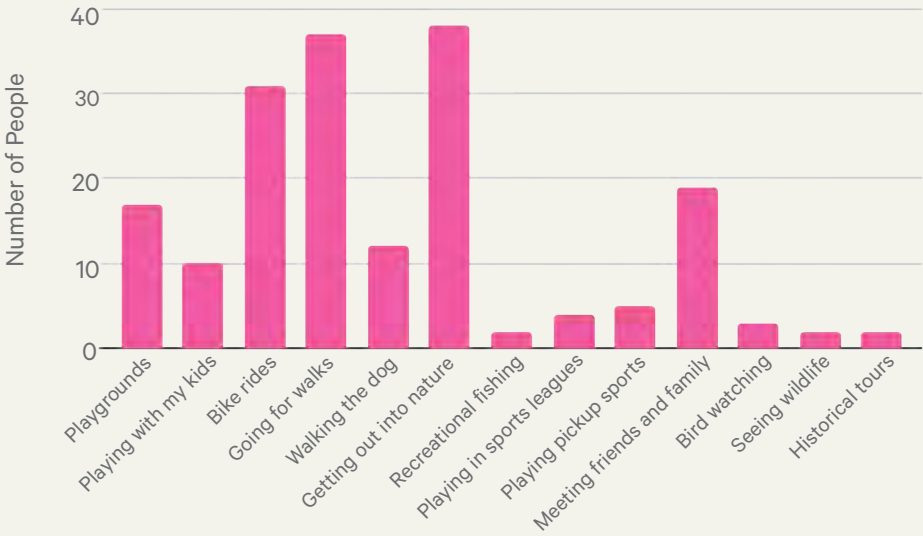


Figure 89: Respondent Reasoning for Visiting Weston Parks

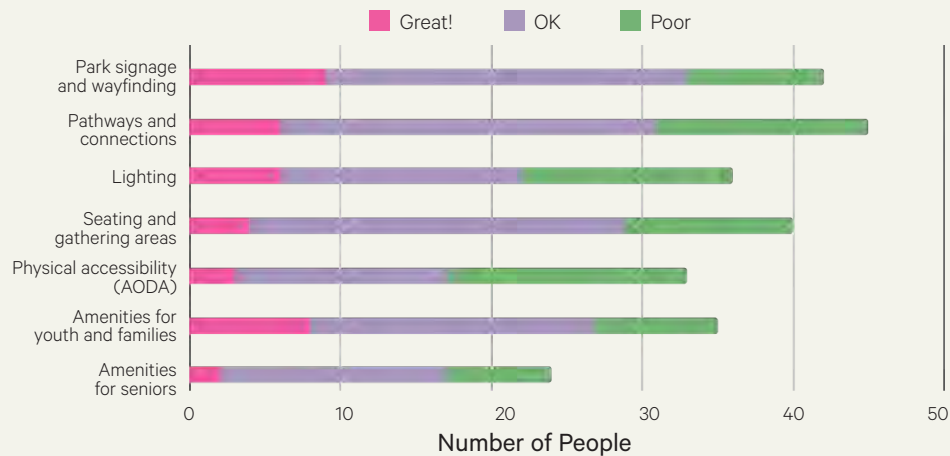


Figure 90: Ranking of Weston Loop Park Elements

Survey participants ranked how they felt about particular park elements: pathways and connections, lighting, and physical accessibility have the most improvement opportunities.

### SURVEY #2

Survey #2 ran during Phase 3 of engagement for the Weston Loop. The purpose of Survey #2 was to present concepts and ideas for the parks that have been developed over the course of the project, while also providing and opportunity feedback from those who use and have interest in the parks.

Survey #2 received 62 completions. A copy of the survey is included in Chapter 7.

Feedback from the survey was primarily from respondents aged 35-44 (39%) (Figure 91). The majority of survey respondents visit the parks weekly (34 selections), with the top three reasons for visiting being to walk or jog (42 selections) observe nature (38 selections) and to participate in sports/fitness (27 selections) (Figure 93).

In open-answer feedback, participants heavily emphasized their appreciation of how the Weston Loop Parks provide access to greenspace, the river, and wildlife, which serves as a reprieve away from the pace of the city. Participants largely expressed enthusiasm for the presented design concepts in the open answer feedback. Input on other design interventions and activities in the parks was highly varied, with feedback centring on increased activity offerings, a need for more washrooms and seating throughout the parks, the need to create sustainable and maintainable improvements, while establishing who will take care of new additions to the parks, and the need for increased connectivity between parks. Connectivity was mentioned across multiple short answer responses with the need for a connection to Wilby

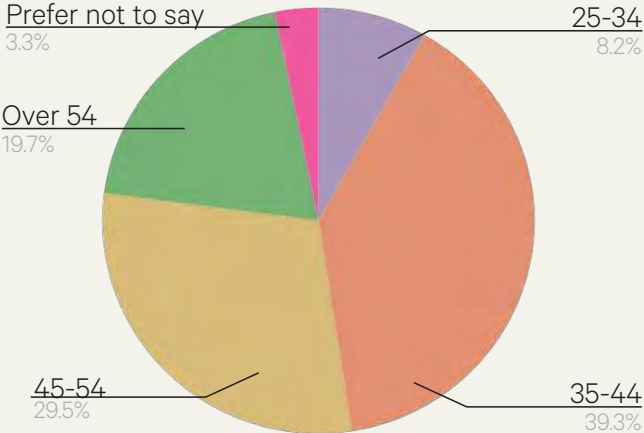


Figure 91: Age of Weston Loop Survey Respondents

Crescent mentioned, a need for the connectivity from the Mid-Humber Gap as soon as possible, and better connections to Weston Road and the broader neighbourhood. Ensuring safety through better lighting and pathway design was also mentioned, particularly in Mallaby Park for increased lighting and support for a lighting feature.

The survey asked participants to rank their top three priority projects for each park. The results for each park have been visualized below in Figures 94-98.

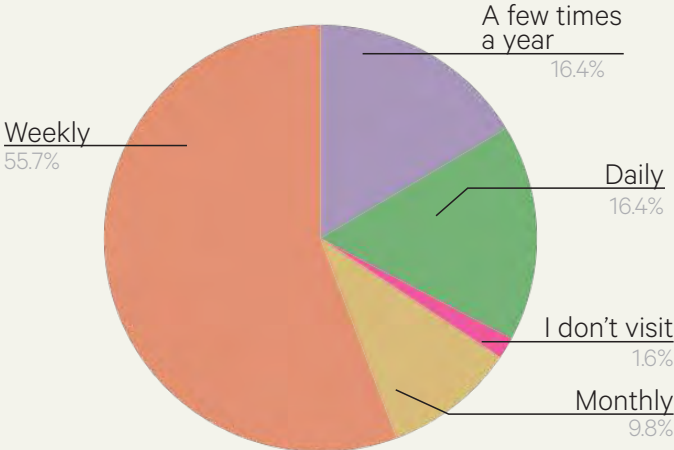


Figure 92: Distribution of Park Frequency

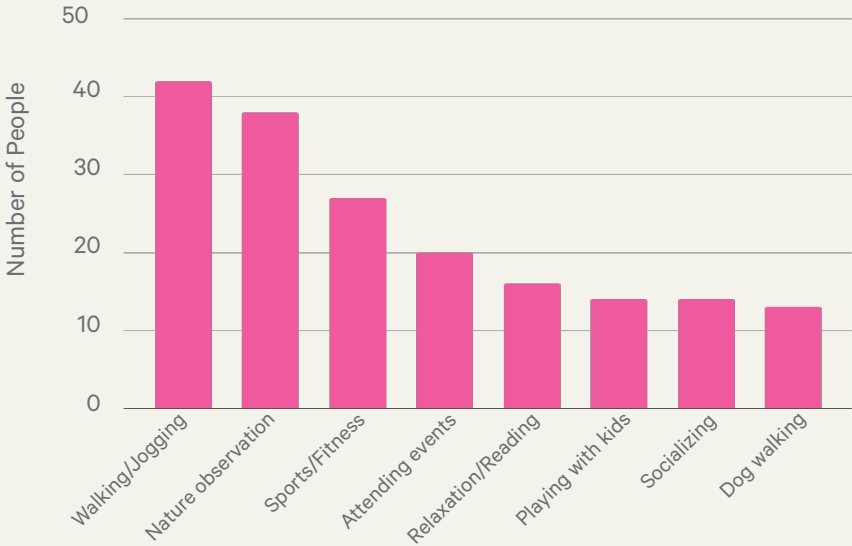


Figure 93: Main Reason for Visiting Parks

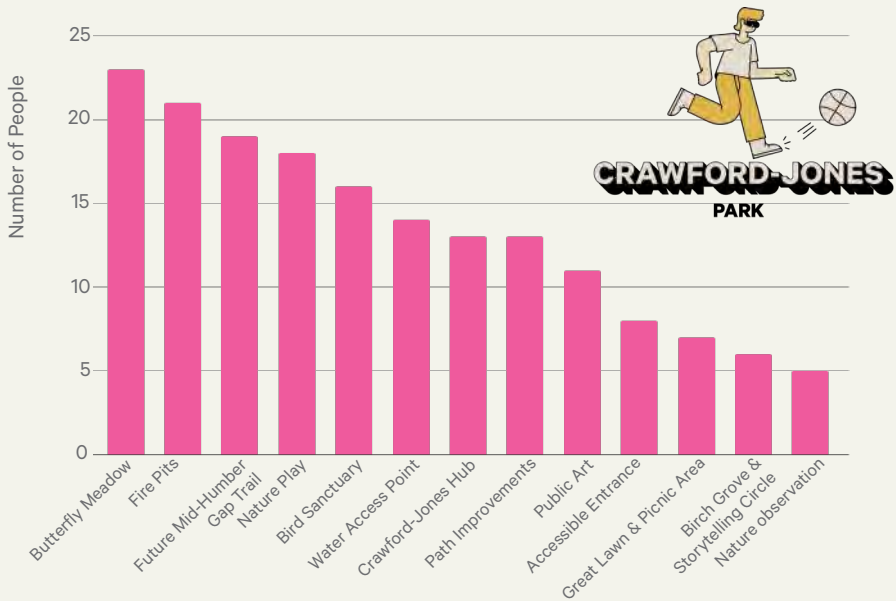


Figure 94: Top Priority Projects for Crawford-Jones Park

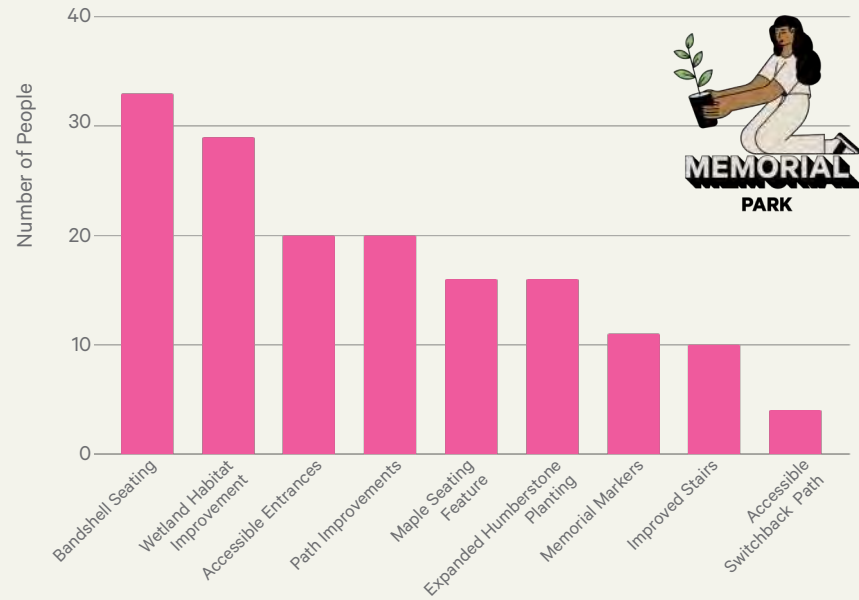


Figure 97: Top Priority Projects for Little Avenue Memorial Park

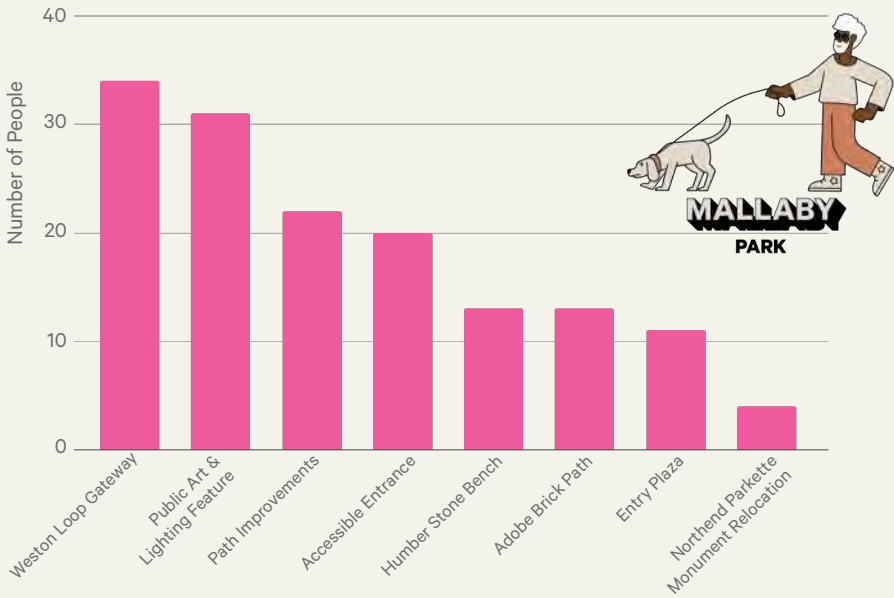


Figure 95: Top Priority Projects for Mallaby Park

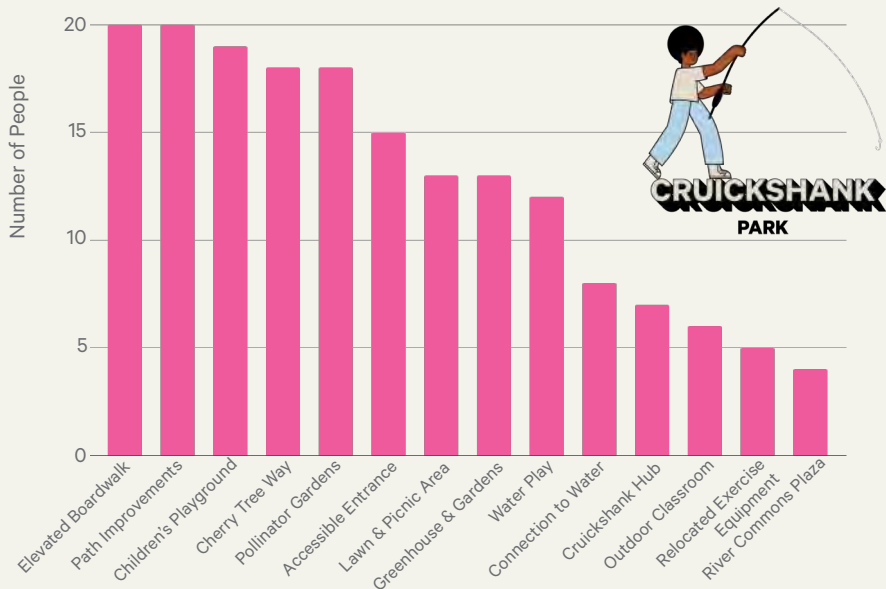


Figure 96: Top Priority Projects for Cruickshank Park

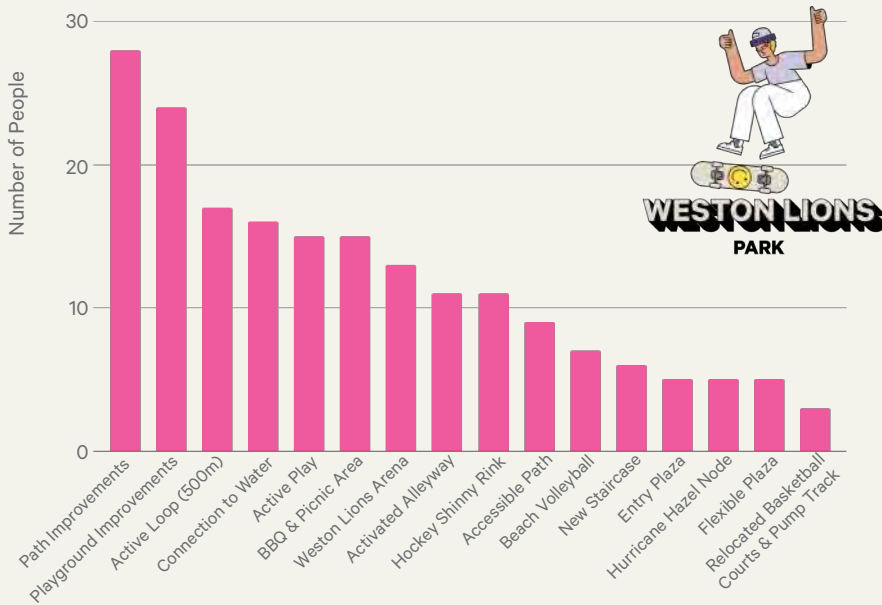


Figure 98: Top Priority Projects for Weston Lions Park

## Emerging Priorities and Themes

Feedback from the Weston Loop engagement events and focus group meetings was varied, ranging from general ideas for the park system to detailed comments on specific areas. Overall, participants emphasized the value of the parks as spaces to enjoy nature, spend time outdoors, and gather with friends and family. The main themes have been organized into key priorities, with additional park-specific feedback provided.

### Strengthen Connections to Nature and the Humber River

*“On full and new moons, people will go down to the Humber River and put fruit and offerings for prayer and in honour of lost loved ones.”*

The Humber River is sacred to the Weston community and has held significance for Indigenous peoples for thousands of years. Enhancing visual and physical connections to the river should be a priority, including safe spaces for children and areas for cultural and spiritual practices. Access improvements must respect the river’s power, acknowledging its fast current, rocky shores, and potetial for flooding. Suggested safety measures include warning signs and riverbank reinforcement.

### Improve Accessibility

*“Entrances at parks are an issue, there should be more benches and rest areas during long stretches of stairs or ramps for people to take breaks and rest.”*

Participants consistently identified access challenges, including steep pathways, stairs, and limited accessible entry points. Improving access for those with mobility challenges and families with small children

was a common request. Feedback stressed the need for accessible infrastructure while balancing impacts on the fragile ravine ecosystem. Participants noted that Weston Lions offers the most programming but lacks options for people with special needs. Playgrounds should accommodate different ages and abilities, including sensory play equipment for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

### Enhance Park Linkages

*“I like riding my bike on the Humber Trail, but I hate having to come up to Weston Road to get from Cruickshank to Crawford Jones and beyond.”*

Connectivity emerged as a key focus, with strong support for strengthening links between the parks in the network. Participants supported the Mid-Humber Gap project to connect Cruickshank and Crawford-Jones Parks. Due to the valley location, the parks have limited connections to surrounding neighbourhoods, and bike lanes from Elm Street down Church Street were recommended.

### Improve Wayfinding and Signage

*“Signs that tell you how far it is to different destinations and features would help our family explore the Loop more.”*

Participants noted difficulties navigating between parks and locating access points. Improved signage, mapping, and wayfinding were seen as essential, including educational signs to highlight area history, Indigenous culture, local flora and fauna, and the Humber River.



**Figure 99:** Photos from site walk highlighting the existing weir (top); informal stone seating by the river (middle); and Cruickshank staircase (bottom)..



Address Safety Concerns

*“Increasing safety will make the parks more of a destination for people to stay and gather.”*

Participants expressed safety concerns related to poor lighting, limited visibility, and poorly maintained park infrastructure. Many noted that increased programming and activation, beyond Weston Lions Park, would improve safety. Other suggested measures included enhanced lighting, emergency blue phones, and a more regular police presence. Clear signage should communicate river hazards, and access to valley parks should be restricted during flooding. It was noted that life safety stations should also be installed along the river in case of accidents.

Maintain Cleanliness in Parks

*“Maintenance and cleanup should be an important aspect of this project.”*

Cleanliness was a major concern, with a lack of waste receptacles and infrequent waste collection contributing to a litter issue in the parks. More garbage cans and barbecue coal disposal containers are desired, as well as sewage cleanup. Many participants are members of community groups, such as Humber River Pals, who regularly organize community clean-up days. These should be supported with City resources and storage facilities for clean-up tools.



**Figure 100:** Humber Trail on northern end of Cruickshank Park [top left]; Cruickshank entrance at Conron Place [top right]; and park entrance at Crawford-Jones Park [bottom].

### Equity and Inclusion

*“The parks should be gathering points for community life”*

The parks should celebrate Weston’s diversity and be welcoming to all. Weston Lions Arena, currently only open in winter, could host multi-sport programming year-round. Picnicking is popular at Weston Lions Park, but the lack of permanent BBQ facilities forces families to bring their own, requiring a car. Improved facilities would better support group gatherings.

Many community agencies that serve newcomers and marginalized community members run programming in the parks. For example, Frontlines partners with Humber River Calling to organize park walks that help newcomers connect with Toronto’s urban wilderness. Dedicated program spaces, such as outdoor amphitheatres or classrooms, would greatly benefit these organizations.

Although the unhoused population was not directly engaged, community members highlighted that parks are important spaces for them and urged avoidance of hostile infrastructure, such as divider armrests on benches.

Other suggestions for a more socially inclusive park system include 24/7 public washrooms, year-round charging stations and power outlets, and providing more than one location for more popular types of park programming, such as having fire pits in multiple parks.

### Economic Development

*“All this development is happening, but what’s in it for the residents?”*

Participants noted that the new development in Weston largely caters to the needs of future residents, while current residents bear the negative

impacts of construction noise, displacement, and low employment rates. Although challenging to address through the Master Plan, construction will accompany future park projects, and participants suggested the City prioritize local hiring.

Creating jobs for community members, particularly youth, in park management and programming was emphasized. Entrepreneurial ventures, such as selling water in the parks, should be supported, and a future ‘Friends Of’ Group should also prioritize local job creation.

### Diverse Programming and Amenities

*“There should be more consideration for year-round activities.”*

Participants called for more year-round programming, events, and amenities that would draw people into the parks and encourage them to stay and gather. Ideas included a cafe, upgraded sports facilities, improved playgrounds, new gathering spaces, and winter activities like sledding and skating. Dog-related amenities and active programming – city-run drop-in camps, productions at Memorial Park stage, community movie nights, or seniors’ walking and movement classes – were also suggested.

Community members identified an opportunity to use the park system as a platform for historical and nature-based education, connecting with local schools and youth groups. Community members expressed a desire for the Weston Loop to offer programming comparable to High Park, attracting both neighbourhood residents and visitors from across the city.



**Figure 101:** Precedent discs for participants to place their ideas on table maps at the first Community Design Charrette.



**Preserve and Celebrate History**

*“There are great opportunities to highlight the history of the area.”*

Participants wanted to ensure the parks’ history, heritage features, and cultural significance were highlighted and preserved through interpretive signage, programming, and design in collaboration with the community. Highlighting the impact of Hurricane Hazel is an important opportunity to educate the community about the area’s history and the power of the river.

**Promote Ecological Resilience**

*“Wildlife is important, animals frequent the park network and river.”*

The Loop parks and the Humber River are a sensitive ecosystem. Participants want to see the natural spaces be protected and enhanced where possible through the Master Plan. Many people enjoy birdwatching and fishing in the parks. Salmon have recently returned to the Humber, and the annual salmon run is a special occasion to appreciate nature. It is critical to improve the water quality in the Humber River to protect fish and other aquatic species. A number of folks suggested nature-based programming, biodiversity education, and wanted to see more community stewardship.

**Figure 102:** New playground in Cruickshank Park.

Park-Specific Feedback

Crawford-Jones Memorial Park

Dedicated to the local heroes of Hurricane Hazel, this park offers scenic trails lined with mature trees along the riverbank and a meadow with newly planted trees, connecting to the Humber River recreational trail. With a strong environmental focus, the park sits at a river bend, offering opportunities to engage with the water’s edge. At the trail’s northernmost point, a bridge links cyclists and pedestrians to the broader Humber Trail network, extending under the ON-401 and continuing northward to its terminus at Steeles Avenue West.

It was noted that many people in the area haven’t been to Crawford-Jones park, as access from adjacent roads is hard to find. Suggestions included improved signage, lighting (particularly around the 401 underpass), and mapping to better indicate how to access the park and continue on the trail. Participants noted a number of barriers to accessibility, including steep entrance roads, side streets, and slippery bridges. Participants noted that the lack of activity in the park makes it feel unsafe to walk alone or at night. Recommendations to increase activity in the park included more placemaking and programming such as public art, a festival of lights, and nature-related programming such as a butterfly sanctuary.



Figure 103: [Top] Crawford-Jones Memorial Park; [Bottom] Mallaby Park.

## Mallaby Park

This corner park provides an entry point to the Humber Trail, visible from main roads and just south of the railway, inviting people down to the water and the natural beauty of the surrounding area.

Participants identified a need for more lighting, better buffering from the surrounding roads, and improved maintenance to encourage people to spend more time in the park. The primary access point to the valley level of the park is a metal staircase, which was seen as a major accessibility issue. A desire for ramping or alternative pathways was expressed. Participants did note that the metal staircase has a channel along one side to facilitate transport of bikes. This is a feature that participants found useful and would like to see on other staircases in the Loop. Participants felt Mallaby Park is more of a corridor than a destination, and something is needed to draw people in, such as increased shading, more colour, public art, wayfinding, educational cues, or programming. The proximity to the heritage building adjacent to the site and the Humber River were also identified as assets that could be better integrated.

## Cruickshank Park

Cruickshank Park is a linear park with paved multi-use trails along the Humber River, featuring a playground, calisthenics equipment, and a pollinator garden. Its limited and divided programming reflects its piecemeal land ownership history. When the park land was transferred to the city in the 1920s, it was decided that, with Weston Lions Park already meeting local needs for organized sports, Cruickshank Park would be designated for picnics, walking, and group activities.

Regarding safety, participants noted the need for improved lighting, especially in the wooded area to the north along the trail. Organized programming was discussed as a way to deter illicit activity that can occur. Separation of walking and cycling paths, either through signage or ground painting, was also suggested.

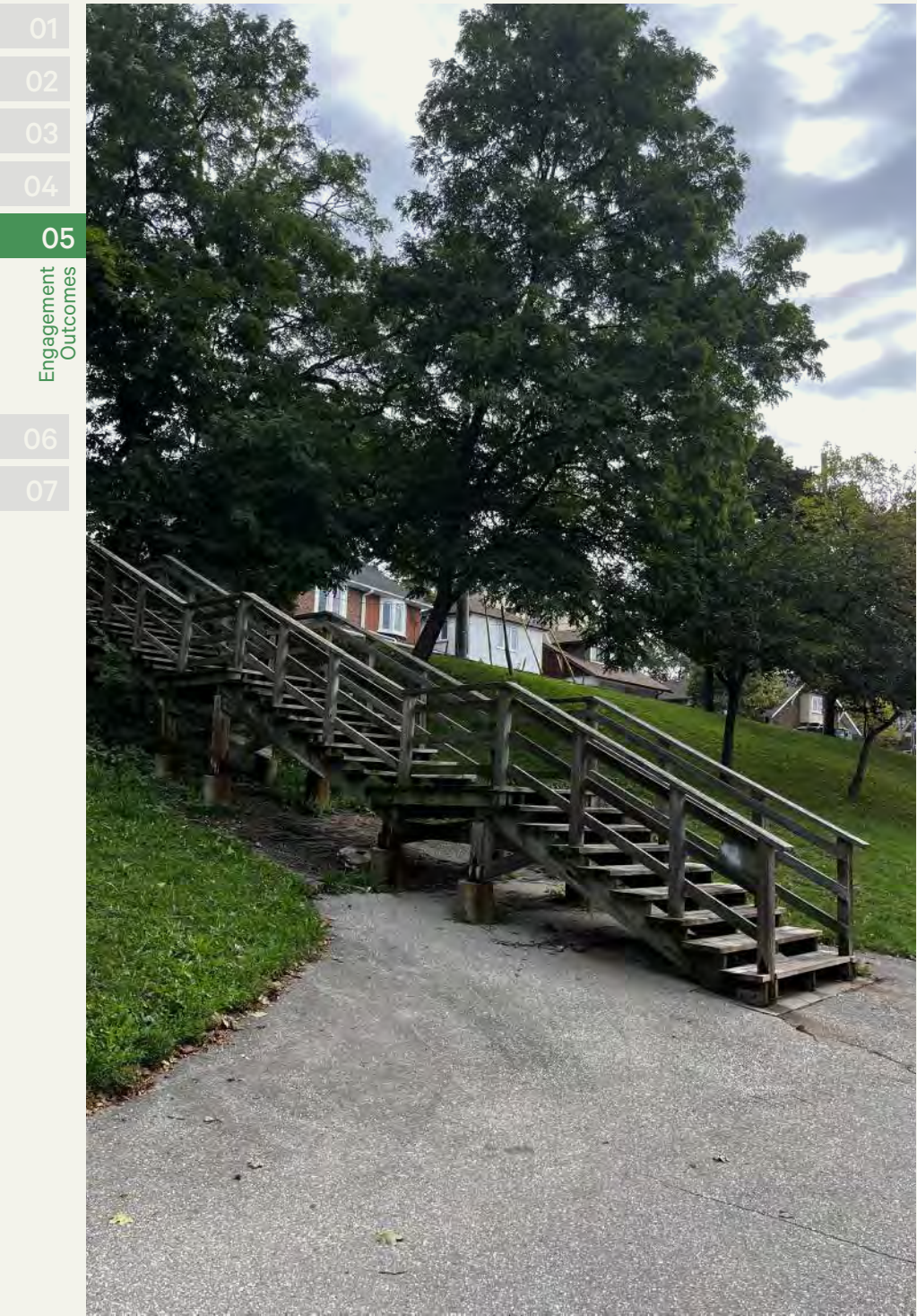
For accessibility, the wooden stairs at the Little Avenue entrance were identified as needing rehabilitation, and the steep ramp off of Weston Road and Conron Place was seen as a barrier for those with mobility constraints, families with strollers, and cyclists. Wayfinding was also an issue, with participants suggesting signage from the public square where the farmers market takes place to better connect Cruickshank and Memorial Park. Community members noted that the design of the storm outfall in Cruickshank Park created a barrier to use due to strong smells after major storm events.

Participants emphasized that the park was missing amenities like washrooms, hand washing stations, water fountains, covered areas for shade/shelter, and seating. Incorporating fire pits, a “big messy play” area for kids, a skating/cycling loop, and a fenced-in dog park were also discussed. It was suggested that fishing, which is already popular in the park, could be further supported with dedicated spaces for water access and fishing activity.

The importance of the Humber River to Cruickshank Park was emphasized as a spiritual site for many in the area; participants suggested adding spaces for cultural practices. Participants also discussed further opportunities for educational and spiritual components, such as a “discovery walk” with public art, history, and Indigenous learning, as



**Figure 104:** Cruickshank Park central programmed space and mini-loop.



well as a designated prayer space. A proposal was also received which recommended planting a cluster of cherry trees along the Humber River Trail and a cherry blossom festival to further stimulate economic growth and bring residents together for annual celebrations in the park.

**Memorial Park**

Nestled within a heritage district at Weston Road and Little Avenue, the park is shaded by mature oak and maple trees. It features Weston’s iconic riverstone wall planters, crafted by stonemason James Gilbert Gove with stone from the Humber River, symbolically linking the park to the trail network. Other historic features include a 1950 cenotaph dedicated to Canadian soldiers and a heritage plaque commemorating Weston’s founding.

The community described Memorial Park as a vibrant hub for concerts, theatre, arts and crafts shows, memorials, and holiday events, noting opportunities to expand programming. Safety concerns were relatively low, though more lighting – especially at entrances – was suggested. Accessibility improvements were a major focus, as no accessible pathways currently connect the park.

Participants noted that Memorial Park attracts unhoused residents. For some this is viewed as a safety concern, while others emphasize that parks should be inclusive spaces for all. Design and management approaches can help ensure everyone feels safe and welcome. Suggested improvements included more seating, expanding the park, creating green street connections to extend the park-like feel into the surrounding neighbourhood, a repaired riverside staircase, and incorporating accessible pathways.

**Figure 105:** Little Avenue Memorial Park entrance, bandstand, and stairs

Overall, improving the ecological connections to the Humber River was a key theme. For programming, participants saw the potential to enhance the existing band shell and add wayfinding and signage to highlight events and activities. Signage should be implemented to help visitors understand what’s nearby and how long it takes to walk to the trails along the river, as well as community information signage about various events and activities throughout the year. Ideas for integrating seasonal uses were also shared, such as skating in the winter and yoga classes in the summer. Preserving and highlighting the park’s history, such as the cenotaph and heritage oak tree, were also seen as important. In general, people want this park to serve as a community gathering space and a meeting place.

### Weston Lions

The largest and most heavily programmed of the Loop parks, Weston Lions offers diverse amenities, including two ball diamonds, a lit artificial turf sports field, four tennis courts, a skate park, basketball court, splash pad, and playground. The park also features the Weston Lions Outdoor Pool and Weston Arena, offering public swimming and ice skating for all ages.

Weston Lions Park has been a part of Weston’s park history since 1944, when the Town of Weston deeded the parklands, formerly known as Weston Fair Grounds, to the Weston Lions Club to be developed into a recreation centre for all to enjoy.

Safety in the park was a concern, with participants suggesting more lighting along the trails and between the Bellevue steps and Raymore

bridge and a note that the area around the soccer field can feel unsafe at night. The need for more wayfinding along the trails was also noted, with High Park shared as a good example. Signage additions could also include reference to ecological features in the area. Infrastructure issues highlighted by participants included the need for additional washrooms, particularly near the soccer field and playground, as well as water fountains. Suggestions for an accessible path near Weston Lions Park to replace the current metal stairs were also made. Participants noted a missing link from Hickory Tree Road into the park; currently they have to go up Weston Road to Lawrence Avenue West.

For programming, participants identified that the skate park and basketball court are well used and that there is an opportunity to upgrade/modernize the basketball court, skate park equipment, pool facilities, and arena. The community shared how important the arena has been and continues to be, many participants also expressed that it could be more usable year round as a multi-sport facility. The addition of new amenities like a dedicated off-leash dog area, water play features, a kayak launch, and winter activities like tobogganing and skating were also ideas shared by participants. Participants also highlighted the park’s rich history, including its former use for horse racing and fireworks displays.

Concerns about flooding issues and the need for better stormwater management were also raised. Participants shared that stormwater flows down from Hickory Road to the arena, which has caused flooding in the past.



Figure 106: Weston Lions Park view playground, splash pad, and arena.

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Chicago, showing a mix of urban development and greenery. In the foreground, there's a large park area with a baseball field, tennis courts, and a large building. The middle ground is filled with various high-rise apartment buildings and commercial structures. The background shows a dense urban landscape extending to the horizon under a cloudy sky. A semi-transparent blue rectangle is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the text.

# Conclusion and Next Steps

The community engagement program for the Weston Loop Master Plan provided numerous opportunities for the Project Team to speak with Weston community members about what they would like to see in the Weston Loop parks. Some of the most frequently recurring themes included:

- The need for better access into the parks and connectivity between parks;
- Concerns about park maintenance, cleanliness, and safety;
- A desire for more community gathering spaces, active play, and culturally diverse programming;
- A wish to see better stewardship of natural areas and the Humber River; and
- A desire for the community to be involved in the implementation of the Master Plan, including programming, construction, and stewardship.

Even though the Master Plan process concludes in late 2025 with a presentation of the Plan to City Council, this is not the last opportunity for community members to be involved. Additional consultation will occur as individual projects within the Loop are brought forward by the Parks and Recreation Department. We hope that the Friends of the Weston Loop can represent community interests as they work collaboratively with the City to implement the Master Plan over time.

A sincere thank you to everyone who filled out a survey, attended an engagement event, or participated in a focus group. We look forward to seeing how the Weston community will collaborate with City Staff and local developers to create a world-class park network in the Weston Loop.



**Figure 107:** Highlights from interacting with the community at engagement events.

An aerial photograph of a suburban neighborhood. A river flows through the center of the image, surrounded by dense green trees. To the right of the river is a residential area with many houses. To the left is a golf course with several sand traps. In the background, there are commercial buildings and a highway with a roundabout.

# Engagement Materials

# Engagement Materials A



Member Motion

City Council

Notice of Motion

|        |        |  |  |         |
|--------|--------|--|--|---------|
| MM20.2 | ACTION |  |  | Ward: 5 |
|--------|--------|--|--|---------|

Weston Charrette - by Councillor Frances Nunziata, seconded by Councillor Paula Fletcher

\* Notice of this Motion has been given.

\* This Motion is subject to referral to the Economic and Community Development Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.

Recommendations

Councillor Frances Nunziata, seconded by Councillor Paula Fletcher, recommends that:

1. City Council request the General Manager, Parks Forestry and Recreation, in consultation with the Executive Director, Development Review and the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, to participate in the community-led design exercise for the parks system near Weston Village and advise on eligible projects for consideration through future budget processes.

2. City Council request the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, to receive the final recommendations from the community-led design exercise and consider opportunities to address design recommendations through future budget processes.

Summary

Weston is experiencing exponential growth, with more residents moving into tall buildings. Both the local community and developers are interested in investing in parks around the area to support this increase in population. Parks, Forestry, and Recreation has projects in the 2024-2033 Capital Budget and Plan that have not yet undergone detailed design and could be informed by community-led engagement activities. Currently, a developer, along with Weston Park Baptist Church and a consultant team, proposes to lead a community engagement exercise and design a charrette. This will involve the Weston Residents' Association, Weston Lions Arena/Pool management team and other local community members in defining priorities and making recommendations for Parks, Forestry and Recreation. The exercise will include meetings with the Indigenous Community, including Treaty Holders and Urban Indigenous populations, to incorporate Indigenous Place keeping opportunities in the design recommendations.

This motion seeks authority for Parks, Forestry and Recreation, Development and Growth Services, and Economic Development and Culture to participate in the community-led design exercise for the parks system near Weston Village and to consider opportunities to address design recommendations through future budget processes.

Background Information (City Council)

Figure 108: Member Motion MM20.2

# Engagement Materials B




## Community Survey

The Weston Loop will build on the identity of the much-loved park network in Weston, knitting the parks together with novel connections and destinations, through a 4-km multi-use trail. This community-led plan will breathe new life into the 74-acres of green spaces, enhancing their appeal and accessibility for families and residents of all ages.

1. Are you a resident of Weston?

Yes / No

2. How old are you?

Under 12      12-18      19-30      30-50      Over 50

3. How often do you visit the Weston Loop parks?

|                     | Every day                | At least once a week     | At least once a month    | Once or twice a year     | Never                    |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Crawford-Jones Park | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Memorial Park       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mallaby Park        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cruikshank Park     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Weston Lions Park   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

4. What attracts you to the Weston Loop parks? (Choose all that apply)

☐ Playgrounds  
☐ Playing with my kids  
☐ Bike rides  
☐ Going for walks  
☐ Walking the dog  
☐ Getting out into nature

☐ Fishing  
☐ Playing in sports leagues  
☐ Playing pickup sports  
☐ Meeting friends and family  
☐ Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_




5. How do you usually get to the Weston Loop parks?

☐ Walk  
☐ Bike  
☐ Drive
 

☐ Transit  
☐ Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

6. How do you find getting around and navigating the Weston Loop parks?

☐ I don't have any issues getting around  
☐ I have some trouble getting around  
☐ I find it difficult to get around

7. Please tell us how you feel about the following elements in the Weston Loop parks:

|                                  | Great!                   | OK<br>(Needs some improvement) | Poor<br>(Needs a lot of improvement) | Meh<br>(No strong opinion) |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Park signage and wayfinding      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| Pathways and connections         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| Lighting                         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| Seating and gathering areas      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| Physical accessibility (AODA)    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| Amenities for youth and families | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| Amenities for seniors            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>   |

8. Is there anything else you would like us to know about the Weston Loop parks?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_




6. Are you aware of all the natural and physical historical elements found along the Humber River, in-between and in the parks?

☐ Yes  
☐ No

7. Are you able to access all areas of the Weston Loop parks that you would like to?

☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Not sure

8. If you answered no, please tell us where you would like to visit but are currently unable to:

9. What would you like to see more of in the parks?




10. Please share any ideas you think we should consider in our strategy!

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## Community Survey #2

*\*Note: this survey was hosted online via google forms and has been reformatted for inclusion in this report.*

We're reimagining the park system in Weston and want to hear from you! The **Weston Loop Master Plan** focuses on five parks in Weston:

- Weston Lions Park
- Little Avenue Memorial Park
- Cruickshank Park
- Mallaby Park
- Crawford-Jones Park

This survey will help us understand what matters most to you in these parks, whether that's nature, play, accessibility, events, or something else entirely!

**SECTION 1: About You**

1. Do you spend time in the following parks? Check all that apply:

☐ Crawford-Jones Park

☐ Mallaby Park

☐ Cruickshank Park

☐ Little Avenue Memorial Park

☐ Weston Lions Park

☐ I don't currently spend time in these parks.

2. How often do you visit the parks? Mark only one:

☐ Daily

☐ Weekly

☐ Monthly

☐ A few times a year

☐ I don't currently visit these parks.

3. What are your main reasons for visiting these parks? Check all that apply:

☐ Walking / jogging

☐ Playing with kids

☐ Nature observation

☐ Dog walking

☐ Sports or fitness.

☐ Relaxation or reading

☐ Socializing

☐ Attending events

☐ I don't currently use these parks.

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4. What is your postal code? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What is your age range? Mark only one:

☐ Under 18

☐ 18-24

☐ 25-34

☐ 35-44

☐ 45-54

☐ 55-64

☐ 65+

☐ Prefer not to say

6. What do you enjoy most about the park(s) today? \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION 2: Future Vision**

**Weston Lions Park Draft Proposed Design**  
*(graphic link included on online survey)*

7. Based on the Weston Lions Park illustration above, what should be the top three (3) priority projects? Check all that apply:

☐ Entry Plaza

☐ Hockey Shiny Rink & Bleachers

☐ New Staircase

☐ Path Improvements

☐ Beach Volleyball

☐ Playground & Splash Pad Improvements

☐ BBQ & Picnic Area

☐ Flexible Plaza

☐ Weston Lions Arena

☐ Activated Alleyway

☐ Accessible Path & Bleachers

☐ Active Loop (500m)

☐ Connection to Water

☐ Active Play

☐ Relocated Basketball Courts (2) & Pump Track

☐ Hurricane Hazel Node

8. What activities are you most excited about in this illustration? \_\_\_\_\_

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9. Is there something else you would like to be able to do at Weston Lions Park? \_\_\_\_\_

10. Do you have any other feedback on the proposed design for Weston Lions Park? \_\_\_\_\_

**Cruickshank Park Draft Proposed Design**  
*(graphic link included on online survey)*

11. Based on the Cruickshank Park illustration above, what should be the top three (3) priority projects? Check all that apply:

☐ Accessible Entrance & Gateway

☐ Elevated Boardwalk

☐ Path Improvements

☐ Greenhouse & Allotment Gardens

☐ Cruickshank Park Hub

☐ River Commons Plaza

☐ Cherry Tree Way

☐ Water Play & Sculptural Fountain

☐ Expanded Pollinator Gardens

☐ Lawn & Picnic Area

☐ Outdoor Classroom

☐ Children's Playground & Gardens

☐ Connection to Water

☐ Relocated Exercise Equipment

12. What activities are you most excited about in this illustration? \_\_\_\_\_

13. Is there something else you would like to be able to do at Cruickshank Park? \_\_\_\_\_

14. Do you have any other feedback on the proposed design for Cruickshank Park? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Little Avenue Memorial Park Draft Proposed Design**  
*(graphic link included on online survey)*

15. Based on the Little Avenue Memorial Park illustration above, what should be the top three (3) priority projects? Check all that apply:

☐ Accessible Entrances

☐ Memorial Markers

☐ Path Improvements

☐ Maple Seating Feature

☐ Improved Stairs

☐ Expanded Humberstone Planting

☐ Bandshell Seating

☐ Accessible Switchback Path

☐ Wetland Habitat Improvement

16. What activities are you most excited about in this illustration? \_\_\_\_\_

17. Is there something else you would like to be able to do at Little Avenue Memorial Park? \_\_\_\_\_

18. Do you have any other feedback on the proposed design for Little Avenue Memorial Park? \_\_\_\_\_

**Mallaby Park Draft Proposed Design**  
*(graphic link included on online survey)*

19. Based on the Mallaby Park illustration above, what should be the top three (3) priority projects? Check all that apply:

☐ Accessible Entrance

☐ Entry Plaza

☐ Humber Stone Bench

☐ Path Improvements

☐ Adobe Brick Path

☐ Public Art & Lighting Feature

☐ Northwind Parkette Monument Relocation

☐ Weston Loop Gateway

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22. Do you have any other feedback on the proposed design for Mallaby Park? \_\_\_\_\_

**Crawford Jones Park Draft Proposed Design**  
*(graphic link included on online survey)*

23. Based on the Crawford Jones Park illustration above, what should be the top three (3) priority projects? Check all that apply:

☐ Public Art

☐ Birch Grove & Storytelling Circle

☐ Water Access Point

☐ Entry Plaza

☐ Fire Pits

☐ Great Lawn & Picnic Area

☐ Butterfly Meadow

☐ Bird Sanctuary

☐ Path Improvements

☐ Nature Play & Woodland Scramble

☐ Crawford-Jones Park Hub

☐ Accessible Entrance

☐ Future Mid-Humber Gap Trail (By Others)

24. What activities are you most excited about in this illustration? \_\_\_\_\_

25. Is there something else you would like to be able to do at Crawford Jones Park? \_\_\_\_\_

26. Do you have any other feedback on the proposed design for Crawford Jones Park? \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION 3: Wrap-Up**

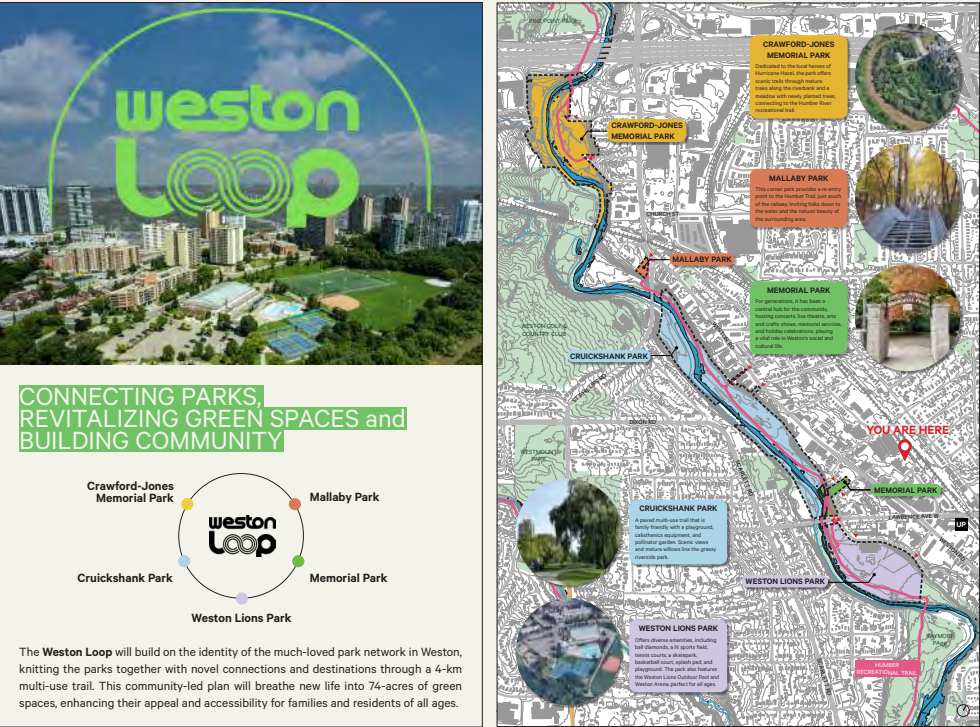
27. Do you have any other comments or feedback you'd like to share? \_\_\_\_\_

28. If you'd like to receive updates about this project, please enter your email below: \_\_\_\_\_

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Figure 110: Survey #2 questionnaire to gather community feedback.

# Engagement Materials C



**Figure 111:** [Left] Feedback easel and table map used as interactive materials at the Farmers' Market; [right] Easels presented to the community at the Farmer's Market (easels 1-3) and Community Design Charrette (easels 1-6).

