

St. Clair Reservoir Rehabilitation

Proposed Changes to Sir Winston Churchill Park Dogs Off-Leash Area and Tennis Courts



Public Consultation Report February 2019



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1. Introduction and Background

Beneath Sir Winston Churchill Park is one of the City's water reservoirs. Originally constructed in 1930, the St. Clair Reservoir provides storage of drinking water and fire protection for local residents. Rehabilitation work is currently taking place to improve the aging infrastructure and ensure continued, uninterrupted distribution of water for years to come.

During Phase 2 of construction (May 2017- Fall 2019), elements of Sir Winston Churchill Park will be reinstated. This will include replacement of soil and sod on top of the reservoir, reinstallation of park features such as walkways, benches, tennis courts, and playground, and construction of new stairs at the southeast and northwest corners of the reservoir, as well as from the Portal Building to the Valve House. Re-installation of the Dogs Off-leash Area is also scheduled to take place during Phase 2 of construction in 2019.

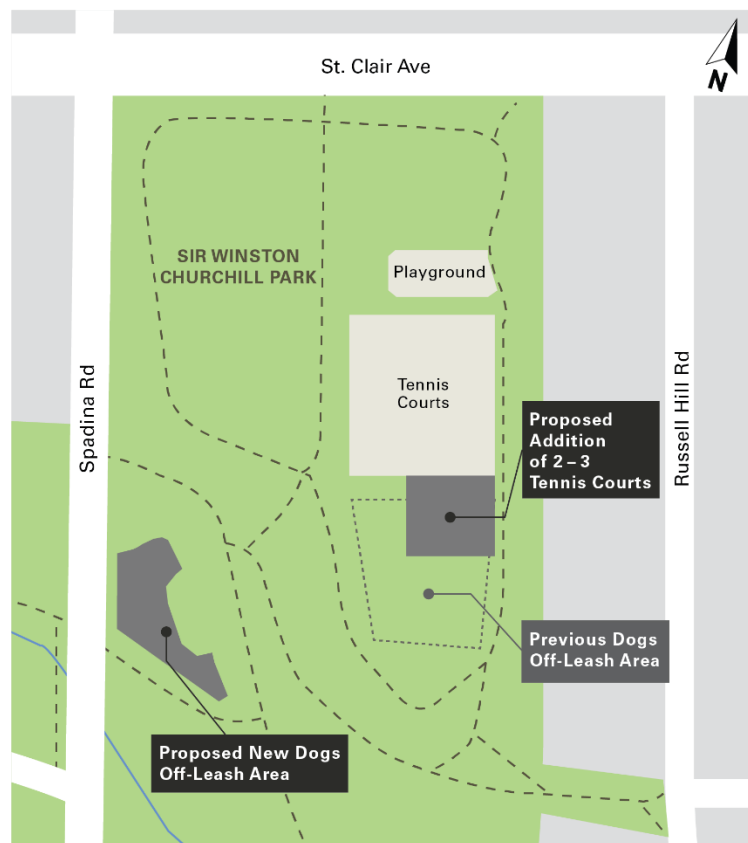
Proposed Relocation of Dogs Off-Leash Area (DOLA)

As part of the rehabilitation project, the DOLA was to be reinstated in its original location with a subsurface structure that would ensure the integrity of the reservoir's waterproofing membrane. However, in consultation with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Toronto Water has determined that the monitoring activities required to ensure the integrity of this subsurface structure are not feasible. This work would involve full removal of the off-leash area and all surface materials at regular intervals throughout the service life of the reservoir. As a result, the City is proposing a relocation of the DOLA approximately 125m to the south west (*please refer to map below*). Prior to the rehabilitation project, this was a grassed area and is located outside of any Environmentally Sensitive Areas in the park. No trees would be removed to relocate the DOLA.

Proposed Addition of Tennis Courts

Phase 2 of construction will also see the reinstatement of the 10 floodlit tennis courts that were previously in the park. The proposed relocation of the DOLA creates an opportunity to add to the existing tennis courts. The Sir Winston Churchill Park Tennis Club has expressed an interest in adding two to three (2 to 3) tennis courts to the previous set of 10 courts. The additional 2 - 3 courts would not have lights and would be intended for daylight use only. Lighting will be reinstated for the original 10 courts.

The proposed addition of tennis courts is not a factor in the decision to relocate the DOLA. Due to the nature of the reservoir rehabilitation work, this would be the only opportunity to add new tennis courts for up to 75 years (until the next major reservoir rehabilitation project).



Map of Proposed Changes to Sir Winston Churchill Park



Satellite view of proposed changes to Sir Winston Churchill Park

2. Public Consultation

Public consultation on the project consisted of a number of outreach, engagement, and consultation activities to involve stakeholders and community members including:

- Communications with the Councillors offices including meetings, emails and phone calls
- A public drop-in event in the project area
- An in-person and online feedback form
- Email correspondence with stakeholders and interested residents
- Targeted emails to the project stakeholder list
- Information sharing with key stakeholders, including the Sir Winston Churchill Park Association, the Sir Winston Churchill Park Dog Owners Association, the Sir Winston Churchill Park Tennis Club, along with neighbourhood schools, ratepayer groups, Business Improvement Areas and other stakeholders.
- Updates to the project website
- 10,000 mailout notices to the project area (notice attached as Appendix A).

3. Public Drop-In Event

A public drop in event was held on the evening of December 11, 2018 at the Timothy Eaton Memorial Church on St. Clair Avenue West. Over 70 individuals signed in at the event, and 46 feedback forms were completed in person at the event. Additional questions and comments were recorded on comment tracking forms completed by staff at the event.



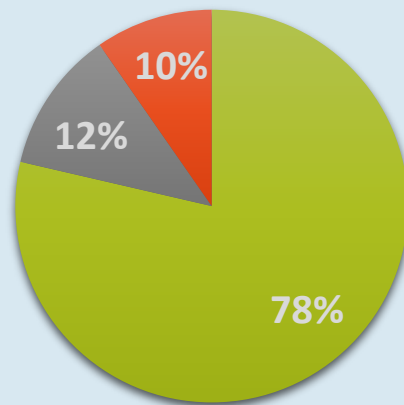
Public drop-in event held at Timothy Eaton Memorial Church on December 11, 2018

4. Feedback from Drop-In Event and Online Feedback Form

A feedback form was available at the Public Drop-In event on December 11, 2018, and on the project website from December 11, 2018 to January 4, 2019. A total of 444 responses were received.

Based on the feedback forms completed at the event and online, **approximately 78% of respondents support the relocation of the off-leash area, and 70% of respondents support the addition of tennis courts.** Of note, the largest number of responses to the feedback form were from park users, area residents, DOLA users, tennis club members, and people who frequent the Nordheimer Ravine. Further information is available in the graphs and tables on the following pages.

Question 1: Please identify your position on the relocation of the DOLA



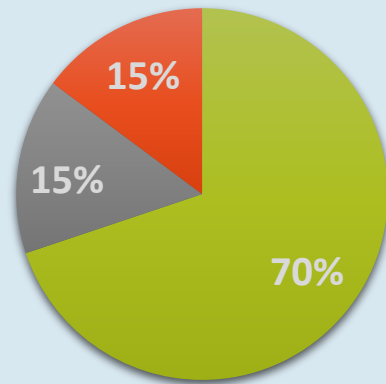
- Option A: I support the relocation of the DOLA to the new proposed area
- Option B: I support the removal of the DOLA from the park
- Option C: I don't know/ I have no opinion on this

HOW PARTICULAR GROUPS ANSWERED QUESTION 1

User Category*	No. Of Responses	Q1: DOLA		
		Support	Do Not Support	Don't Know
I utilize Sir Winston Churchill Park	240	83%	10%	6%
I live near Sir Winston Churchill Park	233	81%	12%	7%
I am a member of the Sir Winston Churchill Park Tennis Club	165	80%	11%	9%
I visit the Nordheimer Ravine	146	83%	12%	5%
I utilize the Sir Winston Churchill Park DOLA	132	94%	2%	5%
I work near Sir Winston Churchill Park	38	83%	6%	11%
Other	36	74%	9%	17%
I represent a residents' group	14	46%	31%	23%
I represent a non-profit, charity, or community organization	13	64%	18%	18%
None of the above	9	33%	33%	22%
I represent a business near Sir Winston Churchill Park	8	88%	12%	0%

*Note: respondents were able to select more than one user category.

Question 2: Please identify your position on the addition of tennis courts



- Option A: I support the addition of 2 to 3 tennis courts to the proposed area
- Option B: I do not support the addition of tennis courts to the area
- Option C: I don't know/ I have no opinion on this

HOW PARTICULAR GROUPS ANSWERED QUESTION 2

User Category*	No. Of Responses	Q2: TENNIS COURTS		
		Support	Do Not Support	Don't Know
I utilize Sir Winston Churchill Park	240	77%	15%	8%
I live near Sir Winston Churchill Park	233	81%	14%	5%
I am a member of the Sir Winston Churchill Park Tennis Club	165	99%	1%	0%
I visit the Nordheimer Ravine	146	69%	19%	11%
I utilize the Sir Winston Churchill Park DOLA	132	54%	25%	22%
I work near Sir Winston Churchill Park	38	65%	19%	16%
Other	36	72%	8%	19%
I represent a residents' group	14	36%	49%	21%
I represent a non-profit, charity, or community organization	13	42%	42%	17%
None of the above	9	22%	33%	44%
I represent a business near Sir Winston Churchill Park	8	75%	25%	0%

*Note: respondents were able to select more than one user category.

5. Comments Received via Email

A number of email submissions were also received. Email submissions are reviewed by project staff, saved into the project file, and taken into consideration in the decision making process.

6. Key Themes from Comments Received via Feedback Forms and Email

Off-Leash Area:

- Support for the proposed new DOLA location
- Critical of the proposed pea gravel surface in DOLA
- Critical of the smaller size of proposed DOLA (as compared to previous DOLA)
- Critical of the proposed location of new DOLA:
 - Too close to ravine and environmentally significant areas
 - Not accessible to those with mobility issues
- Concerns regarding safety/aggressive dogs

Tennis Courts:

- Support for the proposed tennis courts
- Critical of lack of other options for proposed tennis court area
- Support for addition of Pickleball lines on tennis courts
- Critical of proposed use of public park space for tennis courts
- Critical of lighting on existing tennis courts
- Critical of lack of lighting on proposed new tennis courts
- Concerns regarding potential impact on parking in the area

7. Next steps

City staff are reviewing feedback and will be making final recommendations on the proposed changes. This information will be posted to the project website and emailed to the stakeholder list when it is available.



Public Drop-In Event

November 20, 2018

Proposed Changes to Dogs-Off Leash Area & Tennis Courts Sir Winston Churchill Park

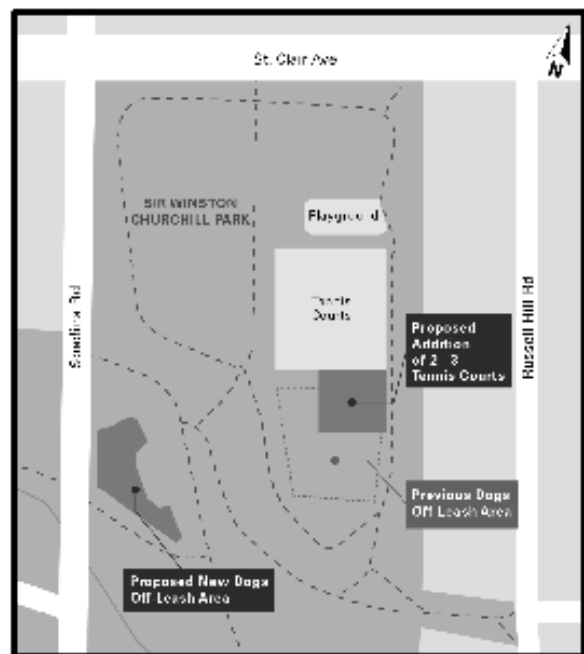
Changes are proposed to the Dogs Off-Leash Area (DOLA) and tennis courts at Sir Winston Churchill Park. As part of the St. Clair Reservoir Rehabilitation Project, plans were in place to reinstate the DOLA in its original location and to re-install a subsurface structure that would ensure the integrity of the reservoir's waterproofing membrane. However, in consultation with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Toronto Water has determined that the monitoring activities required to ensure the integrity of this subsurface structure are not feasible. This work would involve full removal of the off-leash area and all surface materials at regular intervals throughout the service life of the reservoir.

In recognizing the importance of an off-leash area to the community, the City has reviewed potential sites within the park and in nearby areas, and the only suitable option for relocation is to another area of the park (please refer to map). The proposed relocation of the DOLA also creates an opportunity to add to the existing tennis courts in the park.

Public Drop-In Event

At this public drop-in event, attendees will have an opportunity to:

- Learn about the status of the reservoir rehabilitation and park restoration
- View the draft concept plans and designs for the proposed off-leash area and tennis courts
- Ask questions and speak to City of Toronto staff
- Provide feedback on the proposed changes



Date: Tuesday, December 11, 2018

Time: 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Location: Timothy Eaton Memorial Church, 230 St. Clair Avenue W.
Flora McCrea Auditorium (Room 109)



www.toronto.ca/stclairreservoir

Background

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Proposed Relocation of Dogs Off-Leash Area

In order to adhere to the requirements of Ontario's Safe Drinking Water Act, the City has determined that the Dogs Off-Leash Area (DOLA) cannot be replaced in the original location atop the reservoir, as regular inspection of the reservoir structure would require regular removal of the DOLA for inspection. As a result, the City is proposing a relocation of the DOLA approximately 125m to the south west (*please refer to map on reverse*). Prior to the rehabilitation project, this was a grassed area and is located outside of any Environmentally Sensitive Areas in the park. No trees would be removed to relocate the DOLA.

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For those unable to attend the public drop-in event, project materials (including the feedback form) will be posted to the project website on the day of the event.

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Visit the St. Clair Reservoir Rehabilitation project website for updates and information

www.toronto.ca/stclairreservoir