# David Crombie Park Revitalization Design Community Workshop #1 SUMMARY

## **Date and Location**

Community Workshop #1 Thursday, November 29, 2018 3:30 pm and 6:00 pm St. Lawrence Community Recreation Centre

## **Notification of the Meetings**

- 8000 flyers distributed through mail drop
- flyers distributed to businesses, condos, apartment buildings in the area around the Park
- flyer emailed to the Community Resource Group members who distributed it to their network of contacts
- emailed to professional organizations and universities
- posted on the City's project web site
- posted through City's social media

## Introduction

The first community workshop for David Crombie Park Revitalization Design was held on November 29, 2018. The purpose of the workshop was to obtain community input on the team's observations on the Park, input on key words or phrases that should be captured in a vision statement to direct park design and to identify the biggest opportunities for change in the Park.

The Planning Partnership and 8-80 Cities made a presentation summarizing the public consultation conducted to date and the input received, key observations of the Park, summary of the technical inventory and analysis, and precedents of urban parks with selected features relevant to this project. People were asked to attend one of two workshops held at 3:30 and 6:00 pm. Approximately 50 people attended each workshop.

Following the presentation, workshop participants were invited to work in small table groups to answer three questions posed by the project team. The following is a summary of input received.

# Workshop Activity #1

Workshop participants were invited to talk with others at their small table group to discuss the Project Team's observations about the Park. The observations related to those described in the presentation by The Planning Partnership. The following is a record of the comments recorded by 12 table groups:

Project Team's Observation	Comments by Workshop Participants	
1. The Park is showing its age	<ul> <li>Assumed</li> <li>Playground structures need updating</li> <li>Outdated – modernize it but make it fit in with buildings</li> <li>It is the community park, but we need to understand this is downtown living and should be more of a destination place</li> <li>Play structure is fun at the Market Lane Park</li> <li>Need benches with a back and more grass</li> <li>Bricks are falling apart – kids are using them dangerously. Concrete is awful (at St. Mike's park)</li> <li>Water features need to be upgraded</li> <li>Brick work needs repair</li> <li>Two main areas in need of updating – west end school, icy in winter and school yards</li> <li>Need updating: fountains, paving, trees, seating, lighting, play structure</li> <li>Huge development on the Esplanade at Princess will have impact on the Park use, especially due south which is currently part of the school yard</li> <li>Yes, especially the brick areas, St. Michael's yard and Downtown Alternative School yard and the water features</li> </ul>	
2. A beloved Park	<ul> <li>Very densely populated and used by all ages</li> <li>Park is dear to children's hearts</li> <li>Keep the basketball court as is</li> <li>This needs to stay a neighbourhood park which is an important community feature</li> <li>Not an ultramodern park that doesn't fit with the style of buildings in the area</li> <li>Large green space</li> <li>Yes! Preserve it. More grass</li> <li>More official city programming</li> <li>Affirm beloved Park, by all ages, with various elevations and meeting areas and special event space</li> <li>Yes, multi-use, get rid of green bubble on park space in front of Market Lane school</li> <li>Flowers, plants, tree canopy, the experience of walking through the Park</li> </ul>	
3. Strong frame	<ul> <li>Marks a sense of community</li> <li>Like hilly areas that have a place to take a picture with the Toronto skyline in the background – maybe in the middle of the park</li> <li>Like the framed edge, but not a flat park, include some berms</li> </ul>	

Project Team's Observation	Comments by Workshop Participants		
	<ul> <li>Maintain sunlight in park – ensure time and space so condos don't ruin the park feel</li> <li>6-8 storeys border should be maintained</li> <li>If the Park was more obvious (bordered in fences, with signs), the traffic might slow down (speeding is a real issue in the area, especially since King St pilot project has brought traffic south). Strengthen the border with more trees, nicer walkways, could match the Distillery's style</li> <li>Maintain the strong frame, more seating facing the path (like Central Park) and add more art installations</li> <li>Yes, community is connected by people</li> <li>Integration of community</li> </ul>		
4. The tree canopy is at risk	<ul> <li>Would dying trees be replaced?</li> <li>Keep it green</li> <li>Hate for the greenery to go</li> <li>Grass is important</li> <li>Evergreen?</li> <li>All season?</li> <li>Place-making/shade</li> <li>Start planting more trees that will last longer. Canopy is great-provides shade, greenery and is a nice view. Mixed tree species, looks nicer in fall and avoids tree disease effects</li> <li>Want a great canopy for the future</li> <li>Part of the Park's appeal – there could be other types of plantings</li> <li>Gardens are good</li> <li>Promenade – re-create the canopy of trees and widen the walkway. This would also help define the Park and maybe give the cars a hint to slow down too</li> <li>Automatic irrigation</li> <li>Choose resilient ultra-leafy trees</li> <li>Soil cells along the Promenade, so important – will be cheaper in the long run, bigger trees, more shade etc.</li> <li>Concerned, please continue to preserve disease resistant trees. Fewer leaf dropping varieties. Save the trees</li> <li>Extremely important to replace and replant trees</li> <li>Careful selection of type of plants</li> <li>Trees make the neighbourhood, make sure the canopy renews itself or is renewed with deciduous trees to shade/cool the street</li> <li>Need native trees, more variety, shade, with long term maintenance and care</li> <li>The Park must be a natural preserve in the density of downtown development. Trees must vary, monoculture is nice but deadly for the Ash trees</li> </ul>		
5. The dog park is a big issue	<ul> <li>Needs to be fenced on all four sides</li> <li>Designated space is very much needed</li> <li>Baseball diamond needs to be relocated</li> <li>Water feature for dogs is a need</li> <li>Don't like the idea of an exclusive dog park</li> </ul>		

Project Team's Observation	Comments by Workshop Participants		
	<ul> <li>Don't need a gigantic dog park</li> <li>Want a dog park, but not fenced in</li> <li>Like people and dogs together</li> <li>Sort of works now – multi-use</li> <li>No fence</li> <li>Dog owners love the dog park and that it's grass. Appreciate the plastic bags at the park to pick up after dog</li> <li>Is the 'sharing' an issue only in the summer?</li> <li>People don't pick up after dogs, grass is yellowed</li> <li>If it stays a dog park it should have a different material on the ground</li> <li>Fencing is needed – but fence the whole thing so it stays big</li> <li>Walkway on the southern edge – lit and free of dog poop</li> <li>Is the baseball diamond used as much as the dog park? Single use for dogs would be amazing – there is nowhere else with the size, although hourly segmentation in summer would be reasonable – keep the green grass and trees please</li> <li>Add water fountain with dog bowl, like Grange Park and poop bags so there's no excuse</li> <li>Keeping the size available for dogs is so important. Big dogs and their owners love to play ball and Frisbee</li> <li>Dog safety with fenced area and a dog run in south end of Park</li> <li>Move Baseball to Parliament St. Square</li> <li>Fence off, the baseball diamond is rarely used, better used for something like lawn bowling</li> <li>Can the site accommodate both the dog park?</li> <li>Could be addressed along the rail corridor</li> <li>Odor, not hygienic, unfair</li> <li>Dogs running towards strollers and the public</li> <li>Competition between dog use and use for school kids and other members of the public</li> <li>Official fenced dog park</li> <li>Overall flood lighting and drainage</li> <li>Maintain multi-use, but different</li> <li>Half off-leash and half seated park or running track</li> </ul>		
6. The Park connects in many ways	<ul> <li>Parliament field/Square is underused, can double as baseball field (which it was before)</li> <li>Repurpose stage area behind baseball net (e.g. movie, multifunctional, skating rink – winter use)</li> <li>The Park connects the important parts in the neighbourhood. Don't want a fenced in park</li> <li>Could the street be pedestrianized during certain times or traffic reduction – like the Market Street?</li> <li>Lack of connectivity through baseball area – pea gravel</li> <li>Please keep the walkway to St. Lawrence Market on the park</li> <li>Market Lane puddles and bricks popping out</li> </ul>		

Project Team's Observation	Comments by Workshop Participants		
	<ul> <li>Connects foot traffic from Market to Distillery</li> <li>Concrete (DAS) puddle issues. Princess puddle issues. More connection needed between parks, especially through the dog park/baseball diamond</li> <li>Better signage to show connecting paths – wayfinding</li> <li>Fix up the Market Square</li> <li>Would be an ideal event space (at the east end of the Park) for Jamii, ampitheatre for movies and improved lighting. Would bring more foot traffic from the Distillery</li> <li>Flow of walkways connecting the spaces, add art/sculpture installations</li> <li>Yes, we need more park space, fewer buildings in our neighbourhood. Connection for residents and visitors</li> <li>Connecting St. Lawrence Market and Distillery, needs a focus</li> <li>Great experience, needs better connection to St. Lawrence</li> <li>Looking forward to the addition of the space under the St Lawrence Market tent</li> <li>Seniors buildings nearby will allow seniors to go there with walkers, rest of the Park is too far away</li> </ul>		
7. Playgrounds are outdated	<ul> <li>Play includes playgrounds, but not limited to playgrounds</li> <li>Needs to have equipment that accommodates children with special needs</li> <li>Fencing is a must</li> <li>Need to have accessible surfaces (no wood chips)</li> <li>More play equipment (swings)</li> <li>Age ranges are in separate sections – playground should have all age ranges</li> <li>Swings, place to ride skateboard and scooters</li> <li>Slow traffic down</li> <li>Yes, but still well used/loved</li> <li>Would like more. Soft surface at St. Mikes</li> <li>Adventure like Grange Park</li> <li>We don't want another Sherbourne Commons or Corktown – too much concrete</li> <li>Satisfy all ages 2-14 years with entertaining structures</li> <li>Maybe think of park blocks for different ages</li> <li>Use Regent Park example. Swings are good. I prefer no skateboard parks</li> <li>Lacks seating (between swings and water feature)</li> <li>Climbing walls (they'd even look nice in winter and could be artistically done) – they are good for all ages</li> <li>Needs to be improved</li> <li>Maintenance and repair</li> <li>Wooden playground with tires is awesome for kids</li> <li>St James Park playground is looking fun</li> <li>Need washrooms</li> <li>Splash pads</li> <li>St. Mikes and Downtown Alternative schools need new playground surfaces, softer, and better drainage, perhaps permeable surfaces</li> </ul>		

Project Team's Observation	Comments by Workshop Participants		
	<ul> <li>More swings (there are line ups in the summer)</li> <li>Limited play elements for non-school children and toddlers</li> <li>Need shade near playgrounds</li> <li>Love the wading pool for little ones</li> <li>Playgrounds that are for everyone – like the images shown by Renee Daoust at the Kick-off Event for the Park</li> </ul>		
<ol> <li>Water features need to be replaced</li> </ol>	• Playgrounds that are for everyone – like the images shown by		
9. Not enough good seating and furnishings	<ul> <li>Not enough accessible seating</li> <li>Need more benches, want curvy seats with bars (people sleeping on them)</li> <li>Picnic tables are not attractive, more modern</li> <li>Like ideas of seating across the street from café to sit in park</li> <li>Seating not comfortable, can be revamped</li> <li>Shade</li> <li>Movable seating</li> <li>Communal tables</li> <li>More benches with back rests, armrests, stepped structures</li> <li>Amphitheatre style – green</li> <li>Diversity seating and space</li> </ul>		

Project Team's Observation	Comments by Workshop Participants		
	<ul> <li>More seating areas</li> <li>Area across from Bellissimo has dip and drainage issues</li> <li>Tables for groups needed</li> <li>Playgrounds need seats for parents</li> <li>More communal spaces, dining areas for families</li> <li>Make a park south of the Market with lots of seating</li> <li>Conversation seating where people can sit and talk to each other</li> <li>Not enough to accommodate all users</li> <li>Consider skating rink or trail as a winter use of water feature</li> </ul>		
10. Not meeting accessibility standards	<ul> <li>Remove interlocking along all sidewalks and corners</li> <li>Clear path of travel in entire Park</li> <li>So important to be AODA compliant</li> <li>The entire park should be integrated for all</li> <li>Concrete pad next to seating for accessibility</li> <li>More programming for diverse age groups</li> <li>Speak to appropriate residents and users</li> <li>True, stonework is nice, hard for wheelchairs, try to find a way to make it work – stone/brick is part of the character</li> <li>Could community help to maintain-co-op or community investment</li> <li>Widen the walkway - more convenient for wheelchairs</li> <li>Need something to differentiate the Gardiner and Lakeshore from the Park because drivers come north, the area they see first looks industrial, and then they are right by the Park. The cars don't always realize and slowing down and driving carefully isn't top of mind</li> <li>Paving versus bricks and add more lighting</li> <li>Major upgrades required – add more flexible furniture</li> <li>Must meet AODA requirements, now there's uneven surfaces</li> <li>Change sidewalk corners so that there is no longer puddles or ice</li> </ul>		
11. More gardens	<ul> <li>Specifically community gardens</li> <li>Accessible garden beds need to be available</li> <li>Maybe if the river theme (history) was incorporated into paths and or gardens</li> <li>Maintaining gardens and seating</li> <li>Keep what we have, more opportunities</li> <li>Yes! More flowers. More awareness on the community gardens. Use materials that are non-slip and don't chip (bricks)</li> <li>How to get involved in community gardens</li> <li>Yes</li> <li>Add lilacs and open park space for neighbourhood</li> <li>Think Bentway</li> <li>More use of the space underneath the Gardiner</li> <li>A very important beautiful area where seasonal garden upkeep is key (area east of Lower Sherbourne)</li> <li>Area at eastern edge of the Park – a garden with an updated water feature</li> <li>Flowers and communal vegetable garden, more trees and green space</li> </ul>		

Project Team's Observation	Comments by Workshop Participants		
	<ul> <li>Volunteer network to help support and maintain with schools, seniors included</li> <li>Herb garden, flexible garden types</li> <li>Christmas tree on top of hill at corner of Princess and The Esplanade</li> </ul>		
12. Better infrastructure to support programming	<ul> <li>Public washrooms are much needed</li> <li>Designate a special event area (current baseball field since it's underused) used as a secondary dog park where some special events are being held</li> <li>Remove parking above ground (Princess/The Esplanade)</li> <li>Green structure next to Stage – serves no purpose, eye sore</li> <li>Cafes to fill empty spaces</li> <li>Enhance stage, electricity, wash up for picnics</li> <li>Include the street in the Park – woonerf – Dutch shared street</li> <li>Fix mud holes. Fix bricks. Open space for programming. Parliament Square for movies – it's huge</li> <li>Maintain the materials that are used</li> <li>Lighting, staging areas, gazebo in St. James Park</li> <li>A stage, not just giant like Corktown Commons</li> <li>More sports programming similar to Parliament Sq. Park</li> <li>Lawn Bowling</li> <li>Bocce</li> <li>Outdoor exercise stations</li> <li>A hill for amphitheatre-style seating (movies) would improve this space (area east of Princess Street)</li> <li>Power and lighting throughout</li> <li>Area east of Jarvis – more obvious that this is a multi-use space (some are deterred after school hours – they don't feel welcome in evenings)</li> <li>Unstructured open spaces, like the open grass sports field is good, because it is not overly contrived with designated activity spots</li> <li>Multifunctional event space, community amphitheatre, evening programs for youth with outside vendors</li> <li>Flexible infrastructure to support programming in all seasons</li> <li>Move nights, dance, theatre, gathering space</li> <li>Better drainage at all parks to improve grounds</li> <li>Link library to programming like Bryant Park in New York</li> </ul>		
13. More infrastructure in the area to support biking	<ul> <li>Support skateboarding too</li> <li>Would prefer to keep biking out of the area (walking village)</li> <li>Safe street to ride bikes</li> <li>Redesign the pedestrian safety in lieu of the cars packed on the street cutting through the neighbourhood</li> <li>Bike lock-ups and lanes on the Esplanade</li> <li>Stop turns on Jarvis to Gardiner</li> <li>Esplanade is good</li> <li>Sherbourne is great formal bike lane – keep it</li> <li>Only if you add more policing on them</li> <li>Crosswalk style lights at intersections to slow traffic</li> </ul>		

Project Team's Observation	Comments by Workshop Participants			
	<ul> <li>What can be done about increased car traffic?</li> <li>No room on streets for a bike lane</li> <li>Probably not necessary on a secondary road to have bike lanes</li> <li>Not through the Park</li> <li>Bike lanes</li> <li>Bike hub, bike repair and lessons, winter riding, safety, etc.</li> </ul>			
14. Lighting needs to be improved	<ul> <li>Agreed</li> <li>Consider light intrusion in homes</li> <li>Lighting is bad – too dark – like old style lighting but modernize old style</li> <li>To improve sense of place</li> <li>The middle of the park needs more lighting. Maintain the light poles. Use heritage lamps, not street lamps</li> <li>Be careful to avoid light pollution into neighbouring buildings</li> <li>Focus downward, not up to sky</li> <li>Especially in dark season – help to bring people out</li> <li>Better market bus stop and more lighting, nicer waiting areas</li> <li>Improve lighting in the middle of the Park</li> <li>Take out acorn lighting and replace with heritage lighting – the acorn lighting is too high and blinding</li> <li>Lighting in interior spaces, not just along the street, need low level pathway lighting</li> <li>Especially at St. Michaels School</li> <li>Safe, low, down lighting is required</li> <li>Overall better and tasteful lighting for safety in park areas</li> </ul>			
<ul> <li>PLUS Participatory public art that is community driven</li> <li>PLUS traffic has gotten worse since King St. Transit corridor started between 4:30 and 7:00 pm as people try to get to the Gardiner</li> <li>Esplanade safety has decreased due to traffic</li> <li>PLUS no seasonal function</li> </ul>				

# Workshop Activity #2

Workshop participants were invited to talk with others at their table group to discuss words or phrases that should be captured in an overarching vision statement for David Crombie Park Revitalization Design. The following are the words or phrases recorded by the 12 table groups organized under themes.

Access	Green	Aesthetic	Neighbourhood	Use
Access • Connectivity • Permeable • Accessible	<ul> <li>Green</li> <li>Green space</li> <li>Soft</li> <li>Less concrete</li> <li>More grass</li> <li>Environmental ly responsible</li> <li>Tree canopy</li> <li>Keep it green</li> <li>Urban forest</li> <li>Flowers</li> <li>Open space, not cluttered</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Aesthetic</li> <li>Appealing</li> <li>Spectacular</li> <li>Timeless</li> <li>Ageless</li> <li>Landmark of Toronto</li> <li>Update</li> <li>Quiet and peaceful</li> <li>Safe and fun</li> <li>Beautiful</li> <li>Respectful place</li> <li>Don't reinvent</li> <li>Honour heritage and original design</li> <li>Neighbourhoo d is a landmark</li> <li>Blend with surrounding architecture</li> <li>Common language</li> <li>Sections of the Park speaking to each other , but more cohesive park</li> <li>Big draw, centre piece, landmark</li> <li>Past and present</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Neighbourhood</li> <li>Community ownership</li> <li>Inclusive</li> <li>This is our backyard</li> <li>Open space</li> <li>Community unifier</li> <li>Heart of the community</li> <li>Celebrates diversity</li> <li>Extension of our home</li> <li>Neighbourhoo d front yard</li> <li>welcoming</li> <li>Neighbourhoo d living room</li> <li>Safe haven</li> <li>Inclusion</li> <li>Keep history behind the area intact</li> <li>Healthy neighbourhoo d</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Flexibility</li> <li>Space for possibilities</li> <li>Multi-functional</li> <li>Diversified</li> <li>Gathering place</li> <li>Intersectionalit y</li> <li>Versatile</li> <li>Inclusive for any social/economi c situation People/pets</li> <li>Active and passive activity</li> <li>Cultural centre</li> <li>Kid friendly</li> <li>Friendly for all schools to use</li> <li>For the neighbourhood residents first</li> <li>Multi- generational</li> <li>Multi-purpose</li> <li>Open to programming</li> <li>Open to place and spontaneity</li> <li>Interactive water feature</li> <li>Run around and play</li> <li>Community meeting place</li> <li>Fun with the grass</li> </ul>

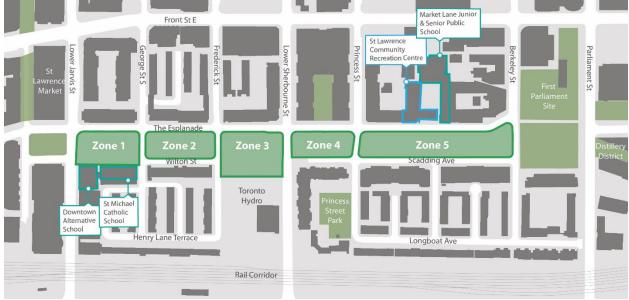
In addition, some table groups crafted complete vision statements:

- To create and enhance a park space with great trees, gardens, upgraded playground
- A contribution of the local nature with an eye to future, possible other community uses
- A local park with potential
- Recognizing always the varied populations, student, mom and babies seniors, Muslim, cultural practices

- Recognizing varied uses, movie night, sports, public art, community gardening
- Incorporate community knowledge and lived experience
- Neighbourhood for residents that welcomes everyone and invites them into their 'living room'
- There are 11 sections to the Park, each is unique. Instead of a single vision statement, have 11. Diversity X11.

## Workshop Activity #3

In the third table group activity, workshop participants were asked to identify their top three changes that should be made to the Park. The following is a summary of all suggestions:



### Zone 1

- Shouldn't be all pavement, it's dangerous
- Looks temporary
- The scale is right, but need more seating
- Surface problems
- Major improvement and enhancement required. Very urgent
- Too much concrete and not enough animation
- This is an area of concern
- Should be a functional space
- Make this area more green and address the puddles
- Drainage issues
- Need a better play-set, make the area more like a park and less like a parking lot
- Update the parking lot
- Icy in the winter
- More obvious that this is a multi-use space (some are deterred during after school and don't feel welcome in the evening
- Have a garden with an updated water feature

## Zone 2

- Tired looking
- Need to modernize this area
- Need to accommodate a greater age-range
- More pedestrian surfacing
- Add a water component
- Upgrade wading pool to a splash pad
- Include a public washroom
- Need better lighting along The Esplanade
- Update the swing set. More options for kids
- Update the wading pool area but keep the arch way

### Zone 3

- Need this area for human-use, for schools, daycares and the public
- Have a low maintenance, amphitheatre here for Jamii events and other performances
- Lawn bowling club
- Dog park
- Dog park, set back from the sidewalk, to insulate from the street
- Add a water feature for dogs
- Grass
- Better lighting
- Fencing is needed, but fence the whole area so that it isn't broken up, think this would be the least invasive way to do this
- Have a walkway on the southern edge
- Is the baseball diamond used as much as the dog park? Single use for dogs would be amazing (there is nowhere else with this size). Although, hourly segmentation would be reasonable

### Zone 4

- Quiet space with better seating
- Princess Street Park is underused, make it the dog park
- Residents in the new condos will need more outdoor space, this is currently just gardens
- Future development will impact the park
- More sunlight, new building will loom over and will be overwhelming
- Integrate the building will the neighbourhood
- A very important, beautiful area

### Zone 5

- Street life and street level cafes
- Landscaping and trees
- Seating in the park
- Looks tired
- Need a tall focal point
- Add a water component
- Delegate area by the fountain as mature (adult) seating space
- Include pubic washrooms
- Area to the west is ideal for a basketball court, artificial turf, two playground structures (for ages 0-4 and 5 and up)
- Include walkways going west to east to define space
- Area by the fountain is underutilized, add more seating
- Kid friendly

- The fountain should have a higher water spout
- Stitch bleachers better into the larger park
- More seating
- Community gardens in the corners
- Area near the basketball court would be an ideal event space for Jamii events, and an amphitheatre for movies. Improve lighting. Would bring more foot traffic from the Distillery District
- Need a garden with an updated water feature
- A hill for amphitheatre style seating would improve this space

## **Parliament Square**

Not included in the scope of work for David Crombie Park.

- Wider pathway at Parliament Square Park
- Move the baseball diamond here and add fixed stadium seating

### Park Extension

- Extend the park to the area south of the market building
- Add this as an addition to the park
- Make it green, peaceful and multi-use
- Make this a park

### **Graphic Facilitation**

The Planning Partnership led a graphic facilitation session with children from the neighbourhood. The sketches were prepared by The Planning Partnership during the session to illustrate their suggestions.

