



# David Crombie Park

Revitalization Design

## What We Heard #1

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September 2018



The Planning Partnership



# David Crombie Park Revitalization Design

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The David Crombie Park Revitalization Design project will develop a comprehensive conceptual design and implementation plan for improvements to the park that meet the current and future needs of the community.

The design will evolve through consultation with residents, the public and other stakeholders.

**A full day of one-on-one interviews was the first community engagement activity to take place for the project.**



David Crombie Park - Study Area

# One-on-one Interviews

On September 18, 2018 the project team conducted one-on-one interviews with Crombie Park residents, business owners, representatives of stakeholder groups and others to provide insights on how the park is used, what's working well, what's not working well, and opportunities for change.

Interviews were held at the St. Lawrence Community Recreation Centre and approximately **50** people were interviewed. In addition, four small group meetings were held, two with youth and two with seniors.

The community was informed about the one-on-one interviews in a variety of ways:

- Information was posted to the *Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation's* Facebook page and Twitter feed.
- Visited approximately **40** local businesses and spoke with park users on September 5, 2018 to notify them that the study had begun and extended invitations to participate in an interview.
- Distributed **100** postcards with information on the study to people using the park and local businesses.
- Distributed and posted **80** flyers, inviting people to participate in one-on-one interviews, at businesses, apartment buildings, bus stops, the St. Lawrence Library, the St. Lawrence Community Recreation Centre, the Downtown Alternative School, St. Michael Catholic School, and Market Lane Jr. and Sr. Public School.
- The flyer was also emailed to Community Resource Group members who distributed it to their networks including the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association, BIA, condominium owners and tenants.

Over **500** comments were recorded, providing the team with diverse, user-generated data that will help shape the David Crombie Park Revitalization Design.

This report includes a compilation of comments received during interviews, organized under:

- **What's Working Well?**
- **What Could Be Changed?**
- **What Would You Like to See?**
- **What Don't You Want to See?**



Facebook post



Twitter post



# David Crombie Park

## Revitalization Design

Share Your Thoughts!



David Crombie Park Revitalization Design will engage the community to develop a refreshed vision for the park.

The City of Toronto is leading the David Crombie Park Revitalization Project. The Planning Partnership is excited to be leading the consultation and design.

The Park is cherished by residents and we look forward to working with the community to determine the best ways to revitalize the space, the landscape, the park amenities and identify any other opportunities for improvement.

As an initial step in the Project, we are inviting residents and park users to **meet a member of the design team to talk about how you use the Park and to share your ideas for a new vision.**

20 minute, one-on-one meetings are being held:

**Tuesday, September 18, 2018**

Any time between 9:00 am - 9:00 pm

St. Lawrence Community Recreation Centre Lobby



For more information visit:  
[toronto.ca/david-crombie-park-revitalization-design](http://toronto.ca/david-crombie-park-revitalization-design)

Or call:  
311



@TorontoPFR

Please email us at [davidcrombiepark@planpart.ca](mailto:davidcrombiepark@planpart.ca) to schedule a meeting on September 18th.



David Crombie Park



Notice for One-on-one Interviews



# David Crombie Park

## Revitalization Design

Stay Connected!



Mural by Jamii, community youth, and artists  
Elisa Monreal and Julian Periquet

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David Crombie Park

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311

*What do you love about David Crombie Park?*

*How would you like to use the Park?*

[davidcrombiepark@planpart.ca](mailto:davidcrombiepark@planpart.ca)

[f](#) [t](#) @TorontoPFR



Postcard



## What's Working Well?

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### Playground

The playgrounds are well used and the swings are very popular. People will swing while waiting for the bus etc.



### Water Features

The wading pool is well used in the summer.  
The fountains attract people to sit and act as landmarks and meeting places.



### Basketball Court

The basketball court is well used and acts as the local meeting place. The mural is loved by the community and the bleachers provide a spot to sit and have lunch.



### Flexible Open Space

The park's flexible open space allows for a variety of activities to take place.

Used for passive recreation, like reading and picnics as well as programmed events, like movies.



### Green Space

Beautiful park with lots of green space and gardens.

Functions as the outdoor living space for the whole community.

The park is well taken care of and well maintained.



### Baseball Diamond

Lots of people use the baseball diamond. It's one of few remaining baseball fields in the area. The field provides flexible open space for pick-up sports.



### Trees

The tree canopy and the tree lined promenade.



### Tourism

The park is a main route between the Distillery District and the St Lawrence Market. Its very busy on weekends.



### Seating

Lots of benches. Like the sheltered seating areas.



### Dog Park

The dog park is one of the most used spaces in the park.



## What We Heard

### Playground

- Kids love the playground
- Good playgrounds for the kids
- Like the playground
- Kids use the playground every day
- Playground is always being used
- Like the central playground, but it's old-fashioned
- The amenities for kids and community buildings helps keep the area mixed-use and active
- Like the gated off playground – feels safer for younger kids
- Downtown Alternative School has outlines on the pavement for their students
- Kids skateboard on the paved area in the corner of the park
- People use the metal bars (at the circle) for exercising and stretching

### Swings

- Park with swings is great, not in disrepair
- Swings are very popular
- People use the swings while waiting for Belissimo's
- Adults will go and swing – people waiting for the bus, people who order from Belissimo's

### Water Features

#### Fountains

- Like the display fountains, they attract people to sit
- The fountains are gathering spaces for people, and act as landmarks
- East fountain functions as a meeting place, waiting for bus etc. Need to fix the cement
- East fountain is nice, people stop. The area could be a grander bookend for the park (similar to Berczy Park's dog fountain, but not as big)
- Like the square fountain at the west (has seating but needs shade)

#### Wading Pool

- The wading pool is heavily used, don't replace it, just upgrade and fix it
- The wading pool is a good option – serves a good age range
- Good for parents to cool off too
- Like the circular bench all around it, so parents can be close to kids
- Love the wading pool area and seating around the edges
- The wading pool is great, and used well in the summer

#### Arch

- The arch is a landmark for the neighbourhood
- Archway feature is often photographed
- Could add a mural here (a continuation of the yellow Jamii mural)
- The central fountain is beautiful, fix it up

### Basketball Court

#### Court

- Keep the basketball court. Kids love it and have tournaments
- Basketball court is wonderful (just need to fix up the playing surface)
- People come from all over the city to use the court
- Love the basketball court. Should allow kids to play until 11 pm. Let kids play later and keep them busy. 10 pm noise restriction has reduced the amount of hanging out



- Market Lane School kids use the court
- The basketball court is the current meeting place
- Basketball court is the place where youth hang out and meet
- Teenagers hang out at basketball court and bond with friends
- Can use the court as a flexible space (allows for a diversity of play/sports)

### ***Mural***

- Like the mural
- Artwork in the basketball court is loved by the community

### ***Bleachers***

- People sit on the wooden bleachers all the time (take photos of the mural and the skyline) They need to be fixed
- The bleachers are a good spot to have lunch

### ***Stage***

- Kids use it for plays and shows
- Market Lane School uses it for the DJ at the 'end of year' party

## **Flexible Open Space**

- Use the whole length of the park all day
- Use the entire park
- Use the whole stretch of Crombie Park
- Like that the park is multi-use
- Like the variety in the park
- Like that the space is used by people of all ages
- Diverse range of facilities, caters to so many people
- Used by many different people – workers, people having lunch, not just people who live here
- People eat dinner, have picnics, watch movies in the park in the summer – the best park in the city
- Families doing picnics
- See a lot of residents sitting and reading
- The hill is used for tobogganing in the winter and works as an amphitheater
- Winter sledding on the hill (until they added trees)
- School in the Distillery uses the soccer field

## **Green Space**

- Quiet green space in the city (hear birds)
- Beautiful park, keep lots of greenery
- Walk out your front door to trees and parks
- Functions as the front porch or outdoor living room for the neighbourhood
- The garden with four quadrants is nice, attracts butterflies and bees
- City does a good job with the gardens
- Park is being taken care of
- Generally speaking, it's a clean park
- Best west view to downtown

## Baseball Diamond

- Keep the park, grass, and the baseball diamond
- Lots of people use the baseball diamond from May to October
- The school uses the diamond
- Businesses do pick-up baseball games
- Hope to have a junior baseball league (based out of the Recreation Centre)
- Important to keep because we lost the baseball diamond at Parliament Square to soccer
- Soft ball is used a couple times a week by kids
- Like that the ball diamond acts as a multi-use space
- Young kids play soccer in the ball diamond (kids from all schools)
- Like that it's informal for pick up sports
- Like the composting area here

## Trees

- Like the greenery, trees, and the splash pad and fountain
- Trees replanted good job keep canopy
- There is a stand of trees by the baseball diamond that kids enjoy going into
- Fabulous promenade
- Keep the trees lining the sidewalk
- Beautiful avenue of green in the middle of the city
- Lovely path when trees are full (but emerald ash borer)
- Keep all mature trees for shade
- The shaded areas are most popular

## Tourism

- Half of the people using the park are from out of town during tourism season
- Tourism is important, lots of people walk along this stretch
- This is the main route from the Distillery District to the Market
- Big tourism area, especially on weekends. Should schedule garbage pick-up for Thursdays and Fridays. This area should be immaculate for tourists
- Like the 1970s architecture

## Seating

- Like the little seating area, but it should be more separate from the school
- Like the secluded circle garden because you can sit and see many areas in the park
- Lots of benches (a few more would be good)
- The checkers tables are good for hanging out at

## Dog Park

- Dog park works just fine the way it is
- Dog area is one of most used spaces

## Wayfinding

- Like the sign that says "Crombie Park" but it needs to be cleaned up

## Mural

- Like the yellow mural along the wall in the circle garden



# What Could Be Changed?

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## School Yard

The yard has drainage issues and will fill with water. In the winter, puddles form and freeze. The maintenance hole is a tripping hazard. Concrete is visually disturbing, has reportedly caused injuries and creates excessive noise that is disruptive to near-by residents. Kids need more space to play and more shade.



## Dog Park

Dogs have overtaken the ball diamond. There is conflict between ballplayers and dog owners. There's desire for greater separation.



## Water Features

The fountain and the wading pool are old and need maintenance. They're not always working. The wading pool needs a shaded area and comfortable seating.



## Green Space

Soils are poor and the grassy areas need to be revitalized. There's too much concrete and few flat, grassy areas for lounging. Some say the hill isn't shaded and seems out of place and awkward.



## Accessibility

Pathways are narrow, uneven and there are many trip hazards. Need accessible seating, tables, and play equipment. Walkways need to be cleared in the winter.



## Seating

Need more places to sit and have lunch. The circular seating area is not well used. Seating areas are unapproachable. Tables and chairs are dirty.



## Improvements

Walkways have deteriorated and pavers are loose and cracked. Park elements are outdated and weathered and fencing is rusted. Certain areas are not welcoming and the park could be a better ambassador to the city. Need better lighting.



## Streets

Streetscapes need to be refreshed. Alleyways feel unsafe.



## Playground

The playground is old and needs to be modernized. The playground should engage a larger age-range. Could improve the playground for adult use.



## Basketball Court

The playing surface needs maintenance. The bleachers need to be replaced or fixed.



## Social Issues

Concerns with illicit activities taking place in the park and homelessness.



## Baseball Diamond

The ball diamond isn't used often. The field is too small and balls go onto the sidewalk and road. Use conflicts.

## **What We Heard**

### **School Yard**

#### ***Drainage***

- Big drainage issue
- Fills up with water to knee depth (pump system is missing a piece)
- Playground becomes a lake when it rains
- Rain creates huge puddles in the school yard
- Fix the sinkholes
- Fix the sinkhole in the playground and the pipe
- Issues with ice
- Drainage needs upgrading, the freeze/thaw creates ice
- Floods and ices over
- Very icy. Water pools and then freezes (who is liable when kids hurt themselves?)
- The sunken maintenance hole is a tripping hazard
- The maintenance hole cover sticks up and is a tripping hazard
- Princess and Esplanade drains can't handle the volume during the big rains

#### ***Play-surface***

- Concern with the school play-surface at the west end
- Reported injuries
- Too much concrete
- Lots of noise from the playground because it's all concrete
- All the concrete is visually disturbing
- Needs to be resurfaced
- Concrete is hard on the feet, install a rubberized surface
- Playground is all concrete and looks intimidating
- Smooth and flatten the west playground
- Remove asphalt in front of the school

#### ***Public Use***

- Playground gets used by public, and people cut through it
- There should be a sign saying 'not for public use from 9am to 4pm'
- People park trucks and cars in school yard

#### ***Walls***

- Poor maintenance of the wall in the kindergarten area
- Remove the cement wall
- Kids lose balls over the wall

#### ***Playground***

- The play area is too small
- Need room for kids to run around
- School yard is quite bleak
- Re-do the school yards, they currently don't encourage play
- The playground is hot in the afternoon
- No trees in the middle of the playground
- There is no shade in the middle
- Need more tables and chairs in the area
- Areas all need to be better connected
- Sad place, with people smoking. Could be nicer
- Kindergarten playground has a concrete box and electrical switching equipment that should be moved



## **Dog Park**

- Dogs run all over diamond but are only supposed to be on 1/3 of it
- Dogs use the whole area
- Ball diamond is taken over by dogs
- Ball diamond is under pressure from dogs
- Pressure has grown over time
- Lost all the space to dogs
- Dogs take over and the area is like a “public dog toilet”
- People don’t follow the dog park signs
- Off-leash dog agreement needs to be renewed
- Hope that the new condo accommodates their own resident’s dog needs

## **Separation**

- Dog park should be more designated
- Need greater separation. Could have a partial or full fence
- Some people prefer dogs in Parliament Field because its more fenced in than the ball diamond
- Could have a similar fence to the low, black fence around the park
- Opposed to fences in parks, but need a line of demarcation
- Part of the appeal of the neighbourhood is that it is open and not fenced
- Put dogs somewhere else

## **Water Features**

- The splash pad is good, but it’s old
- Arch looks old and tired and needs cleaning
- The wading pool should be something more interactive to appeal to broader age-range
- Needs a bit of maintenance
- The central fountain hasn’t been running
- The arch doesn’t work
- The wading pool fountain is not always turned on
- Usually don’t see it filled with water – only from July to August
- Last year the fountain wasn’t turned on (due to flooding)
- Fountain was constantly clogged
- Fountains act as bird baths and get clogged
- Fix the bricks in the wading pool
- Concern with wading pool surface
- Because of climate (hot, snow and rain) a portion should be covered
- Provide shade from the sun
- Fountain at east is old, cracked; so is the wading pool, and needs to be refreshed
- Drinking water fountain doesn’t work

## **Green Space**

- Soils are very poor
- Grass needs revitalization
- Grass area along Parliament needs better care
- Shady area next to splash pad, but there’s no grass to put a picnic blanket on
- A lot of concrete, nowhere for people to relax
- Too much concrete
- Used green space for sunbathing (but got the berm and lost space to the playground)
- The hill seems out of place and awkward (an obstacle to walk over)
- The hill is uneven and there is no shade. It doesn’t seem to have a purpose
- The hill is not big enough to be a hill, could make it higher
- Big swaths are too open and exposed, need shade
- Very few flat spaces
- Don’t use the hill area because there is no shade

## Accessibility

### *Walkways*

- Interlocking brick is problematic for people with disabilities
- Paths are too narrow, field stone is uneven, trip hazard in front of TCHC at Sherbourne
- The stone walkway is nice but not accessible
- Sidewalks all have interlocking brick, this needs to be removed, the heave and sink is not good for mobility devices
- Promenade is great for walking, but bad for wheels
- Playground surface and paths are not accessible
- The walkway floods in front of the community centre
- The oval is not wheelchair accessible
- Winterize the walkway along the Esplanade (clear it and salt it. Route to the bus stop)
- Anti-slip materials on the concrete walkways (heated sidewalks)

### *Seating*

- The only accessible seating is at Jarvis
- The seating nook near the playground has wheelchair accessible tables but isn't shaded
- Picnic tables on the hill aren't accessible. Need them on a flatter area

## Seating

- The circular seating area is not used very much
- The secluded circle area is too secluded (homeless people here)
- Seating area just outside the playground is unapproachable
- Tables and chairs are dirty
- Remove the seating area by the school yard (not shaded)
- Need a place for kids to eat lunch (walk to the Market but the only seating is in full sun)
- Not a lot of places for adults to sit
- Not enough benches
- Don't like the bench split by the handrail (so people don't sleep on it). Could have smaller benches instead, but more of them
- Can't escape the city, not a good spot for contemplation

## Park Improvements

- Brick is falling apart
- Fix the loose bricks, and cracks
- Paved area is rotting and rusted
- Park is dated and not suited to users
- Everything is outdated
- Hodgepodge, eclectic mix and dumpy
- Entrances to the Park are run down, and not welcoming
- Fencing is rusty, repaint or replace (across from Market Lane School)
- Sinkhole near the 65 bus stop needs fixing
- The concrete arches and benches are outdated, ugly, and old
- The Park is not lovely, not a good ambassador to the City

## Streets

- Princess Street and Scadding should have a four-way-stop because people walk across diagonally and there are car accidents
- Grass along the street is scruffy, could be replaced with interlocking brick instead
- Get rid of the grass on the curb side along the promenade. This area is muddy when it rains
- Mill Street ends at Parliament, need a walkway across
- Usually no through cars, gets busy during rush hour



- Don't want the road to go through
- Don't want kids to be skateboarding on the Esplanade – too close to traffic
- The alleys near TCHC is not the safest place, sometimes there are needles
- The alley behind the school and Tim Hortons is not safe
- Streets are too small for bike lanes

## Playground

- Repair the central playground, don't replace it
- The central playground needs to be refreshed, but money is better spent elsewhere
- Pieces of the playground are removed because they're 'dangerous', but not replaced
- Don't like that they took the slide away
- The playground is old and dated and needs to be modernized
- Revamp the central playground (no curly slide – homeless people sleep in it)
- Play area is not interesting
- Lack of seating around playgrounds for supervision
- The small lip around the central playground is dangerous for small kids, they could fall off
- Park doesn't engage adults (seniors in neighbourhood stay inside without balconies)
- Something to allow adults to use the park, passively and quietly
- Demographic will change (kids will be 5-15)

## Basketball

- Basketball court needs maintenance
- Fix the basketball rim and playing surface
- Raised seating area at basketball is rotting need replacement
- Wooden seating at the end of the court needs to be replaced
- Basketball area can get very hot
- Dead grass and exposed roots between the court and the fence
- Giant puddle at the entrance to the court and at the crosswalks when it rains
- Basketball court tends to be the most littered

## Social Issues

- An issue with homelessness and drug use
- Drug trafficking has been observed in this area
- Illicit activity near the hydro yard
- Community centre closes too early
- A lot more kids need to be accommodated
- Homeless people between Scadding and Princess (no lighting, bushes)
- Parents would tell kids to avoid the area
- Maintenance staff doesn't work as hard anymore, they lounge on benches and don't bond with the kids

## Baseball Diamond

- Baseball diamond is not used
- People don't play baseball
- Baseballs go onto sidewalk and road

- Field is too small (couldn't have an adult game there)
- People don't always clean up after their dogs. Dogs like to catch the balls too
- Conflict between baseball and dog owners
- The field is dusty

## Trees

- Erosion on Scadding, when it rains dirt erodes and tree roots are exposed
- Muddy along Parliament due to erosion, needs a ground-cover
- Mud slides onto sidewalk
- Promenade is not shady enough
- Need to replace the ash trees (use trees like at Sugar Beach, with sufficient soil volume)

## Lighting

- Installed horrible bright lights to make it safer, but they're too bright
- Need better lighting
- Need better lighting – ground LED lighting or around the wall along the perimeter
- Need lighting under the Sherbourne Street bridge

## Trash

- Shop owners should take responsibility for sidewalks (garbage)
- Receptacles for cigarette butts, to discourage people from littering
- Need more garbage and recycling receptacles. Too few given the number of people who use the park, they're always full



# What Would You Like to See?

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## Playground

Make the playground unique and visually interesting. Include various types of play equipment including more swings and climbing structures. Include activities for all ages.



## School Yard

Need a creative barrier around the school yard that doesn't fence it in completely.



## Dog Park

Have a barrier to prevent dogs from running onto the street. Would like to have an official enclosed, off-leash area. Maintain flexibility between the dog park and the ball diamond. Consider an off-site location.



## Seating

Include more seating and tables. Need picnic benches close to the market and a seating area for kids to have lunch. Need comfortable and accessible seating that is shaded. Need more accessible seating.



## Green Space

Need more grassy areas, trees and gardens. Use less concrete and use permeable surfaces.



## Flexible Open Space

Have a multi-use park, with different events and activities. Need lots of space for community groups.



## Water Features

Refresh the water fountains and include more seating near them. Create a splash pad and additional water play activities.



## Streets

Increase traffic calming measures. Pedestrians should be the priority. Improve the pedestrian realm and widen the sidewalks. Create safe bike routes.



## Baseball Diamond

Could surround the ball diamond with a fence to make it a real diamond. Need a new backstop and home plate.



## Signage

Better wayfinding to the Distillery District and the Market. Include educational signage about the area's history.



## Trees

Need more shade and more trees to replace the ones lost along the promenade.



## Accessibility

Needs to have accessible seating and playground equipment.

## What We Heard

### Playground

- The playground needs to be more modern and engaging
- Create something interesting
- Would like another playground at the other end of the Park (for younger kids)
- Create separate play areas for younger and older kids. Add more seating for caregivers, especially on the shady side
- Visual separation from where kids are playing, but not a gate

### *Playground Elements*

- Rock climbing wall, with squishy surface
- Climbing wall
- 'Spider web' for climbing
- Need more long slides
- More slides and more bridges
- Would like more 'spinny' rides
- Something that spins around
- Add swings, monkey bars, spinny ride, tetherball, and badminton
- More swings
- Good to have different sizes of swings for different ages
- Something like St James Park's playground with carrots and asparagus
- Play sculpture animals (iconic Canadian animals like bears and geese)
- Pretend space ships
- Pretend sail and pirate ships
- Smaller monkey bars
- Should replace the tetherball
- Could put tetherball near the wading fountain or with a shaded shelter
- Should have play stuff for adults too
- Play garden
- Natural materials rather than plastic and metal, use logs
- Add a two-ended basketball court

### *Precedents*

- Corktown Common
- Grange Park
- Ryerson University playground
- St. James Park
- South Park Blocks, Oregon

### *School Yard*

- Need playgrounds for the three schools
- School yard should not be fenced-in completely – only the Kindergarden area should be
- It's currently possible for kids to run into traffic
- Don't want a hard fence or wall, but a creative barrier, along the entire Jarvis stretch and halfway along the Esplanade
- Creative thinking to discourage passage (like Alphabet City, NYC)
- Need barrier free access on the Jarvis Street side (e.g. switchback wheelchair ramps – might be a barrier to moving out to traffic)
- Area residents move through this space when school not in session
- More organic flow from play structures to play areas
- There is some gardening by the school groups in the planters beside the school yard – could add a trellis for vines
- Skateboarders want smoother surface (away from traffic)

## Dog Park

- Need more space (there will be more dogs with the four towers going up across the street)
- Need better lighting in the dog area
- Need a fountain in the dog park. So dogs don't go in the wading pool
- The park space should be used for more than just dogs

### ***Fenced-in Dog Park***

- Need a big, fenced in dog park
- Like to have an official, off-leash area
- Need a fenced-in area
- Want a fenced-in off-leash area – dogs are running out to the road
- Would like a bit of fencing to prevent dogs from running into the street
- Proper fence and definition would create two functions
- Dog park fenced-off on the west side of diamond – keep dogs away from the ballpark
- In need of an off-leash, dog run area
- Need an enclosed area. Could use the stretch along the hydro yard wall for a dog run
- Need off-leash area large enough to throw a ball
- Incorporate a fence along the Esplanade for dogs and kids
- Fenced-off multi-use field, but not necessarily a dedicated dog area
- Nice to have no barrier between dogs and baseball – allows flexibility

### ***Off-site Dog Park***

- Could have an off-leash, unfenced area in addition to an off-site dog run (don't like enclosed off-leash areas because they turn into mud-bowls)
- Look at turning the strip of land along the railway into a dog park
- Use the strip of land along the rail tracks as a dog run

## Seating

- Need more inviting seating
- Seating throughout the park and a better arrangement of benches
- Lots of comfortable places to sit
- Beautiful, comfortable benches
- Muskoka chairs
- Benches in between trees, facing the garden not the road
- Add seating at the east end of the Park near the fountain
- Sometimes sit and watch the dogs, new benches would be good
- Lots of manicured areas to sit
- Concrete seat wall is okay (a little cold in spring), would like a wooden bench
- Backs and arms on benches so people can help themselves get up – aging population

### ***Shade***

- More seating and more shade
- Need shaded areas (trees, pergola, or structure)
- Need more seating under the trees – get out of the apartments when it's too hot

### ***Tables***

- Need more seating and tables
- Picnic tables
- Picnic benches close to the market
- Seating area for kids at lunch (dual purpose)
- Improve the seating and lunch areas in the school playground



## ***Precedents***

- Like the comfortable benches at Sugar Beach
- Like the temporary, moveable chairs on King Street

## **Green Space**

- Important to have grassy areas with no concrete
- Need more greenery (grass and trees instead of concrete)
- Don't cement over everything, keep permeable surfaces
- Enhance the existing green space
- People sunbathe, would be nice to have a little privacy
- Maintain an area for soccer
- Parliament Square needs new soccer nets
- Consider ways to mitigate stormwater

## ***Gardens***

- Would like Indigenous gardens that are educational, with native and medicinal plants
- Flowers should be native species, to attract butterflies and birds
- Replace the flower beds with perennials
- Sensory garden, will attract people
- More flower beds and plants
- All new plants need to be maintained, watered
- Community vegetable garden
- Musical gardens
- Add community gardens near the tree that kids climb
- Prefer grass and trees, there are enough gardens/flower beds

## **Flexible Open-Space**

- Let's have a multi-use park, like Grange Park
- In small areas you must have multiple uses
- Main square like Berczy Park

## ***Sports***

- Space for sports
- Skating rink
- Add a skating rink if possible (where the flower gardens are)

## ***Events***

- A movie screen
- Make it easier to show movies
- Music in the park
- Music, theatre, gallery
- Have different events and activities here and access for other community groups (plays)
- Need lots of space for community groups, e.g. for Jamii (Nuit Blanche)
- Temporary space that is newly designed every year, space for community artists
- Could add some public art like on Front Street in the Canary District

## Water Features

- Water features should be integrated
- Refresh the water fountains
- Could have a mosaic along the vertical surfaces around fountain (community project)
- LED lighting for night interest
- Not enough seating around the fountain at the east end

### ***New Water Features***

- Add a splash pad
- Put in a splash pad
- Could have a splash pad like the one on Font Street, that is lit up at night
- Fountain like at Sugar Beach
- Need something like Berczy parks water fountain, kids love it, and interact with it
- Water element that goes along the Esplanade, down Sherbourne, to Sherbourne Common
- Boat races down the Esplanade

## Streets

- Increased traffic calming
- Pedestrians and cyclists should be the priority
- Sidewalks could be wider along the Esplanade, create a wider promenade
- Sidewalks are not wide enough on either side, it would be nice to have more space
- Needs better separation from traffic on Jarvis
- Make the street from Princess to Berkley pedestrian only (like Sparks Street in Ottawa)
- Mornings are chaos because of school drop off
- Both are two way streets, could it be one way in each direction?
- Would like to see a true esplanade – green space for people (heart of the community), after dinner walks
- Use Sherbourne Street as a connection to the waterfront

## Baseball Area

- Need a long bench in the shade for baseball players
- Would like a division at the ball diamond to separate the dog park (maybe with seating)
- Baseball needs a new backstop and home plate
- Could surround the ball diamond with a fence to make it a real diamond
- Off-leash dog owners use it all the time and don't adhere to the rules - deters baseball playing
- Could make Parliament Square the baseball field and the diamond into the dog park
- Kids use the south part of the diamond as a pathway (formalize it)

## Signage

- Need more way finding signage
- Wayfinding should be integrated into the park
- Signs to Distillery District and to the market
- Signage at Berkeley and Esplanade to direct people to the Distillery District
- People are often looking for the Distillery District. Need a beautiful sign at the east end of the park and maybe sign in the middle
- Recognize the history of the area (former lake front, rail yards)
- Recognize the multiple cultures and multiple destinations in this area
- Increase the awareness of the park

## Trees

- Trees are missing round the ball diamond area
- Need more shade
- Need more large trees to bring shade
- Would be nice to have a quiet treed area (quieter, more romantic)
- Trees should enclose the promenade and park
- Plant trees on the Esplanade (existing trees are small and don't provide much shade)
- Need more trees to replace the ones lost along the promenade

## Accessibility

- Needs to have equipment for kids with disabilities
- Accessible benches with backs and arms (close to the playground)
- Picnic tables with extended arms
- Space needs to be mobility device friendly
- Looking for serious changes (could have wheelchair basketball)
- Ensure playgrounds are accessible (have Braille)

## Cycling

- Bike repair/rental facility in the park (painted shipping container). Want to take kids along bike lanes on Sherbourne and Lakeshore. Promote safe cycling
- More bike parking around the St Lawrence Market
- Need a separate bike path with the new library at Parliament Square
- Safe bike route through the park, include bike parking at school grounds

## Other

- Hope for a similar upgrade as Berczy Park
- Smoking area in the park. It's a huge problem with no smoking allowed in the condos
- The Park needs to be beautified and simplified
- Request higher fees from film companies anticipating the park improvements and beautification
- Retain concrete planting bed and walls as part of the visual history

## Princess Street Park

- Used by the neighbourhood, day care is located there
- This area could be fixed up, could improve the dirt path that bisects it
- There was interest in having community gardens at one time

## Lighting

- Solar lights
- Lighting for safety

## Biodiversity

- Bats go up and down the Esplanade around 8-9 pm. Sibbald Point has a bat condo – support the bats here
- Promote wildlife awareness for kids e.g. bird feeders, butterfly gardens



# What Don't You Want to See?

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## What We Heard

### Baseball Area / Dog Park

- Hope there's no fencing put up
- Don't want a fence put up in the park – impedes baseball
- Don't take away quiet spaces in front of 15 Scadding and don't overdevelop the ball diamond area

### Playground

- Don't do what happened at Sherbourne Common, the play equipment is boring (too safe, not fun, unused)
- Modern futuristic playground at Sherbourne Common is not nice, nothing to play with, kids want more features
- Don't want a new, metal playground
- Bad idea to have dedicated skateboard facilities here. People would complain

### Other

- Park is not big enough for patios
- Don't remove everything and start fresh, keep the connection to the park's history
- Don't turn it into another Canary District