



David Crombie Park

Revitalization Design

What We Heard #3

November 2019



Workshop Notice



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The City of Toronto holds public consultations as one way to engage residents in the life of their city. Toronto thrives on your great ideas and actions. We invite you to get involved.

David Crombie Park Revitalization Design

Public Information Workshop

The City of Toronto invites you to learn more about proposed improvements to David Crombie Park. Staff are hosting a public information workshop to:

- Present Preferred Concept Plan
- Receive public input
- Discuss next steps.



Councillor Joe Cressy, Ward 10 - Spadina-Fort York will be in attendance.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Optional: Register for this event at: david-crombie-workshop.eventbrite.com

Date: Thursday, September 26, 2019

Times: 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm OR 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Please choose a session that best suits your schedule.

Location: St. Lawrence Community Centre
230 The Esplanade, Multi-Use Room



ASL interpreters may be provided, if available. Please contact 311 in advance of this meeting if interpreter is needed.



For more information about this project: Contact Nancy Chater
by Email: nchater@toronto.ca or Phone: 416-338-5237

The Councillor for this area:

Councillor Joe Cressy

Ward 10 – Spadina-Fort York

Phone: 416- 392-4044

Email: Councillor_Cressy@toronto.ca

Information will be collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

David Crombie Park Revitalization Design

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.

This report provides a summary of the input received on the preferred concept plan. The preferred concept plan options illustrate circulation, connections, heritage, water features, treatment of school yards, indigenous place-keeping, how to accommodate dogs, active sports, opportunities for programming, pavilions and park amenities distributed through the 7 blocks of the plan.

Input was provided through two public workshops held on September 26, 2019 and an online survey.



Looking west from the Market Lane School playground



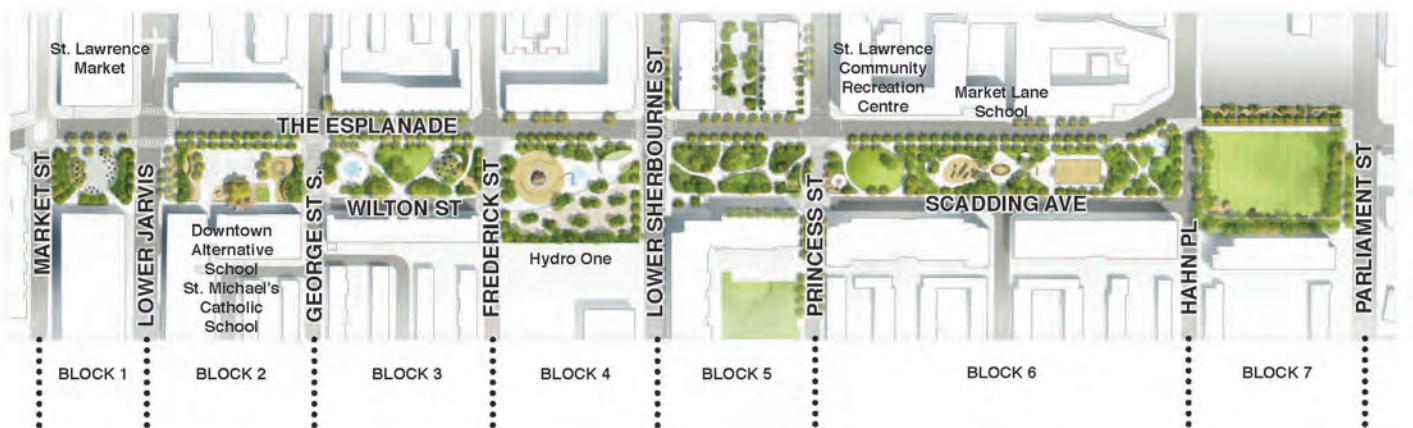
Looking north to The Esplanade west of Hahn Place



David Crombie Park - Study Area

Workshop Results

Two workshops were held on September 26, 2019 to present the preferred plan for David Crombie Park. Both workshops began with a presentation describing each of the seven blocks that make up the plan followed by table group activities where people were asked to respond “thumbs up/thumbs down” to various components in each of the seven blocks. Approximately 50 people attended each workshop with 6-8 table groups. The following is a summary of the block by block input (moving from west to east) on the preferred concept plan received at both public workshops. The number in “thumbs up/thumbs down” is a record of the response given in both workshops.



Summary of General Comments

- Roads must incorporate bike lanes
- More grass, shrubs, trees, flowers, greenery!
- Need traffic calming on the Esplanade and all the side streets
- Heritage lighting throughout!
- Lighting within each block is needed
- Test play areas for safety and trials with parents and children at different ages so that any adjustments may be made prior to the official opening date to the public
- More garbage bins for all areas, more lighting inside park areas
- Better drainage not only in summer rain but also winter thaw/freeze
- Disappointed that all surface references to original waterfront/docks etc. have been lost
- Opportunity for interpretive signage to bring this back into public view
- Evening/overnight lighting to reinforce personal safety in a heavily treed park(s)
- Where/how might the design (i.e. one of the blocks) accommodate public events with pop-up displays of booths/tents for community, interest groups, i.e. Waste Reduction, Cycle Toronto, Old Town Toronto, etc. Current examples would be SLNA Canada Day Picnic
- Use natural materials – rock, stone, wood, water
- A great plan!
- Excellent presentation. Thank you
- Need public washrooms somewhere
- Where are the drinking fountains?
- Present this plan to TAAC Toronto, Accessibility Advisory Committee for review and comment to enhance accessibility

Block 1: Expansion of Park



Characteristics

Close Wilton Street

A plaza

Lush planting around the edges

A circular bench around the plaza

Moveable seating and tables in the middle

Flexible for community events



Summary of Comments:

- Consider “signal pavers” on Jarvis and Sherbourne
- Block access to Jarvis via The Esplanade. There are bumper to bumper cars idling in traffic from Jarvis all along the Esplanade to Berkeley every day from 4:30pm to 6:30pm. The Esplanade is far too residential to be used as a main artery to Jarvis/QEW on-ramp. (i.e. planters and no left turns)
- Exciting!
- Incorporate a plaque saying what the St. Lawrence community is, i.e. built when there was a national housing program.
- This will make life difficult for residents of Market Wharf/Green Rivers (at Market Street and the Esplanade)
- Small bridge across Jarvis (from across the market to new park) to increase safety. Very dangerous street for children
- Possibly reconfigure to allow more space for unloading trucks
- Paving stones need maintenance and decrease water drainage. Consider alternatives.
- Include a plaque or sculpture acknowledging and honouring our “Tiny Perfect Mayor”, David Crombie.
- Traffic concern re. egress from Market St parking garage
- Add trees to 2nd floor roof of St. Lawrence Market or trees added adjacent to loading docks on street level?
- This is the perfect place for a market themed “destination fountain” – like in Berczy Park. Many tourists visit this Market area. Community activities can be organized around the fountain.
- Big support for closing Wilton
- Traffic on Jarvis to Gardiner needs more policing cameras
- Potential spill-over space for farmer’s market, St. Lawrence festivals etc.
- Pedestrian bridge from south end of Market to park south of there!
- Accessibility for this too (pedestrian bridge) easier access for trolleys, wheelchairs, strollers
- Avoiding this dangerous intersection!
- Love this.
- Closing Wilton is amazing!
- Raise intersection at Market and Esplanade to a table top
- Hope that does not become ‘privatized’ public space, (patrolled by private security of St. Lawrence market and/or business/condo)
- Great to connect with St. Lawrence Market (as eating place etc.)
- Ensure has compost/recycling/garbage collection

Block 2: School/Playground



Characteristics

Playground equipment inspired by water

Multi-challenge, multi-age play clusters

Variety of active and passive spaces and sizes

Trees for shade



Summary of Comments:

- Sculptural play structure is not engaging for kids
- Earthscape is great!
- Create structures that kids engage with imaginatively
- Lighting along Esplanade
- Don't get too "new wave" with the playground equipment. Slides and swings are important.
- More shade
- Playground equipment – variety, natural materials, water theme
- Slides in playground – but not metal!
- Draw inspiration from what works at St. James and Grange Parks
- Too many hard surfaces. Would like to increase green space (both for aesthetics, safety and flood protection)
- Need zebra crossings at intersection for safety
- Large play area should have softer surface (rubberized)
- Keep stone wall
- Public art
- Well designed and protective fence
- Please keep monkey bars
- Open space to run around
- Add tic tac toe games
- Proper drainage and shared facilities
- Add rocking animals for play equipment
- Concern for traffic there and parents being able to drop off during school hours
- Seating areas here also needed for parents to sit and watch their kids play after school
- Could we remove parking on George, Frederick, etc.?
- Love pavement treatments on this N-S street. Be careful not to encourage parking on sidewalks/curbs.

Block 3: Waterplay/Woodland



Characteristics

Splash pad surrounded by seating

Bermed lawn areas nearby

Tables and chairs under the tree canopy

Fitness station

Meandering pathways in dappled shade through the landscape



Comments:

- Use Trekfit adult exercise equipment
- Paving extended across street is great
- Beautiful concept imagined
- Variety of heights with the landscape
- Consider car free Esplanade.
- Tables and chairs under canopy to have creative component would be interesting i.e. permanent chess tables etc.
- See if it's possible to turn splash pad into ice rink in the winter – or somewhere else
- How do we ensure safety for kids wanting to go from the splash pad to the social swing knowing they have to cross the street?
- Keep play areas together vs. spreading them across multiple blocks.
- I love the fountain and crossing my fingers that we can keep it or something similar
- Unsure if the “slow down” paving on George St. will really work since the posted signs and the tons of kids out and about don't seem to slow them down.
- Retain wading pool. This sprinkly option is not sufficient.
- Big support for splash pad
- Please keep simple swings here too
- Splash pad very nice
- Love this block. Lawn
- Water feature/splash pad button that turns on all features – not just a few like at Corktown Community. All the kids run to whichever one is turned on – crowding little kids pushed out of the way
- No street parking??

Block 4: Gathering/Dogs Off Leash



Characteristics

- Social swings appealing to all ages**
- Fun water play in the middle**
- Potential for shade canopy**
- Place for outdoor events and winter activities**
- Plenty of seating around everything**
- Dedicated dogs off leash area with landscaped islands**



Comments:

- Address drainage
- Night lighting
- Water fountains year round for dogs
- Dog zone is well resolved
- Shade canopy in dog zone?
- Consider grass lawn or wood chips for the surface please, pea gravel is not good to touch, wood chip smells
- Love the social swing idea
- Enough dog running space?
- Love the overall function and design
- Excellent design, request for lots of lighting
- Concerned re: the amount of needles, garbage and trash in the park now
- Need dog park fence
- Need hills in the dog park and blocks for people and dogs to sit on
- Should be grass for leash free dogs so they can run
- Better performance space (amphitheatre)
- Reconfigure for performance space to the west and dog park to the east
- No social swing
- Must be another gate at Hydro One and lower Sherbourne to discourage dead ends and anti social behaviour
- Condo/Apt dogs need running space – without trees. Dogs come with people – who also need shade, benches, etc.
- How much space is established for the # of dogs in the neighbourhood?
- Add a gate on south east corner of the dog park
- Include double gate to reduce risk of dogs exiting fenced area
- Reduce paving to encourage draining
- How do we ensure that noise levels are not impacted negatively by the social swings knowing that they would be available 24/7?
- We do not need 'another programmable' space. There are 4 other options
- Is this a "destination" swing? – No thanks.
- Include solid (rock)seating
- Do all trees and shrubs lose their leaves in winter?
- Need some evergreen type plantings?
- Splash pads please
- Great use of space
- Hopefully lilacs will stay
- Public washrooms? Talked about in previous workshop
- How to care for dog waste? Containers ect.? Responsibility of owners
- DOLAs are very important in this area. So many dogs!!
- No street parking??
- Concerned about use of this space in winter
- Access to dog park at far end should be more accessible from Esplanade
- Where can parents park their strollers (that's not obstructing swings)?
- Soft surface under swings?
- Gardens, public art waste of money

Block 5: Gardens & Lawns



Characteristics

Variety of outdoor rooms Surrounded by horticultural planting

Central public art feature

Lots of seating in different areas

Fitness station

Path through the gardens



Comments:

- Use Trekfit adult exercise equipment
- Prevent sleeping on benches
- Lighting along “Promenade”
- All good
- More bike parking – rings and posts both sides of the park
- Leave the community garden at the west end as is. People have put a huge amount of work into the existing garden
- Add dog relief areas north and south sides (several condos and co-ops)
- Green bins for poo bags
- Lots of activities for 4 month of the year, how about winter season – rinks, play areas to build snow forts, etc.
- In winter the kids create an ice slide on the mound – they love it!
- Consider a bike hub (SW corner); bike pump, repair station, demo and class workshops stage
- Connection to TCH building via “Tower renewal project”
- Muskoka chairs in the shade
- Lots of lights to avoid night time hooligans
- Not too much shade!
- Include Princess St Parkette in project and ensure City maintains the park
- Concern for loss of existing mature trees
- Birch stand, fir trees, circle of bushes and central tree that children adore and play in
- Impact of condo’s to the north?
- Current structure arch removed or retained?
- Good to link to Princess St. park
- Do we need 2 fitness stations? If I had to lose one, it would be this one
- No one uses fitness stations – loss of \$\$

Block 6: Shared School Yard



Characteristics

- Celestial observatory and story telling circle**
- Playground equipment inspired by water**
- Multi-challenge, multi-age play clusters**
- Variety of active and passive spaces and sizes**
- Trees for shade**
- Water feature/public art focal point**
- Accessible picnic tables**

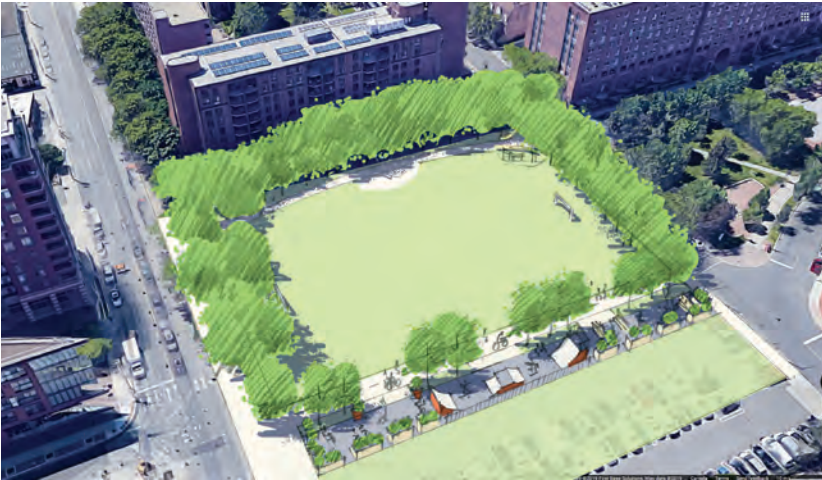


Summary of Comments:

- Keep the 3rd basketball net (can be half court). Children need it when adults are playing full court games on the court.
- Traffic calming at crossing to Market Lane Public School – align with door
- Esplanade Promenade is strong – keep all
- Replace amphitheatre seating at east end of basketball court. Well used
- Increase waste bins as always over-flowing during Christmas Market and holiday season
- Wall of foliage to absorb the sound from basketball court
- Take out the free standing basketball hoop by the circular fountain
- At basketball court: consider lighting that turns off at midnight, for example, to discourage middle-of-the-night play.
- Celestial observatory: beautiful idea. Make homage to First Nations heritage!
- Love paving option on Princess that makes it look connected to Princess Park and reduces concrete look
- Playground needs some other options
- Create conversational benches (2 benches facing each other vs. looking out the same direction)
- Big fir tree on the mound for a neighbourhood Christmas tree
- Dog relief areas north and south sides (several condos and co-ops)
- Green bins for poo bags
- Mural wall at basketball court; will it be retained or destroyed?
- Public washrooms?
- Maintain/improve underground street crossing from school to park? And/or improve street level crossing
- Water feature that works, but also has aesthetic value in winter.
- Ensure dog resistant greenery along full park (dog relief)
- Move basketball court. Can be very noisy with late night (after midnight) basketball players
- Get rid of those industrial strength street lights along Esplanade and Scadding.
- Not a big fan of the “celestial observatory” – couldn’t we do something more with the hill? – semi-circle (mini amphitheatre to sit and read, puppet shows) – similar to Dufferin St. and Queen St.
- Water fountains which are active and architecturally interesting
- Shaded lighting that does not shine up at the buildings (dark sky compliant)
- Add trees in front of St. Lawrence community centre to create a more solid canopy of trees along Esplanade
- Is the fountain going to be enhanced?
- What happens with the ‘underpass’ building? if needed for storage only it should be relocated against a boundary or it should be multi-purposed
- Is park acknowledging drainage problems?
- Water source? – using recycled water
- Developments and park will increase auto passage. Plans to address traffic use (current and future)

- Recognize there will be increased usage, consider increased maintenance
- Space beside benches for wheel chairs and strollers.
- Talk to Police 51 Division re. safety ideas – they gave useful input on St. James
- Within the kids playground concept (relating to the lake), will there be slides? This would be a great loss.
- Rink in the winter! (no activities in the winter) needs lessons, free skate rentals. (there's nowhere in the neighbourhood for kids, especially new Canadians to learn to skate)
- Could the street crossing at the Esplanade be shorter, safer.
- Will equipment be like St. James or Sackville playgrounds (well done)
- Basketball great!
- Crosswalk moved? Crosswalk probably has to be in front of school to prevent j-walking.
- Is crosswalk being moved? Needs to remain located near community centre, school entrances. dangerous if in poor location.

Block 7: Parliament Square Park



Characteristics

- Wider, multi-use pathway on north
- New pathway on south
- Green frame for soccer field
- Linkage to proposed future park with pilot projects



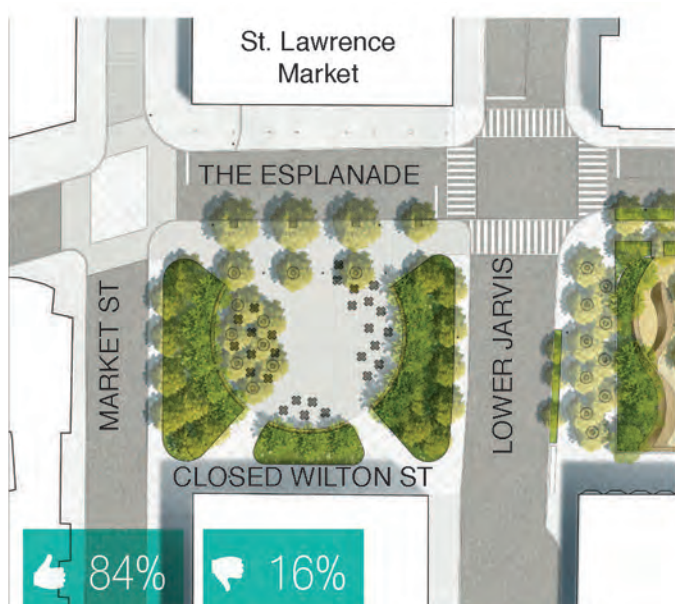
Summary of Comments:

- Fix sidewalk travel to Jarvis
- Like the 2nd path on the south side
- Concerned about taking away parking. Already limited options and will push to already burdened street parking
- Too much concrete! (everywhere)
- I like the multi-use pathway
- Separation of bikes and pedestrians is very good
- Why no skating rink? :(
- Garbage bins
- Retain both baseball and soccer uses!
- Move seating off multi-use pathway
- Sounds good overall
- Concerned re. noise and traffic
- City need to step up (majorly) with maintenance of plantings, shrubs, grass (parks and rec)
- How does this address current/future congestion (car and pedestrian)? Especially during Christmas.
- Widen sidewalks throughout the entire promenade areas.
- Active baseball diamond
- Water fountain needed on south west corner
- Evergreen trees
- Medical and safety resources? Informational emergency station
- Parking re. Saturday and Sunday market?
- Dedicated bike lanes surrounding park and cycle stands?
- Generally – I like it!
- Who will approach org./people for artworks or programs?
- Recognize and accommodate homeless people (as is not done at site of Market)
- Is there opportunity for this to be other sports too? i.e. rugby training
- Need good transit and bike lanes to connect this to downtown
- Need connection from Esplanade to Mill St. for bicycles
- Soccer field is great
- How to safely get from the bike path onto Esplanade
- Love the dedicated bike lane!
- Permanent goal posts or removable?

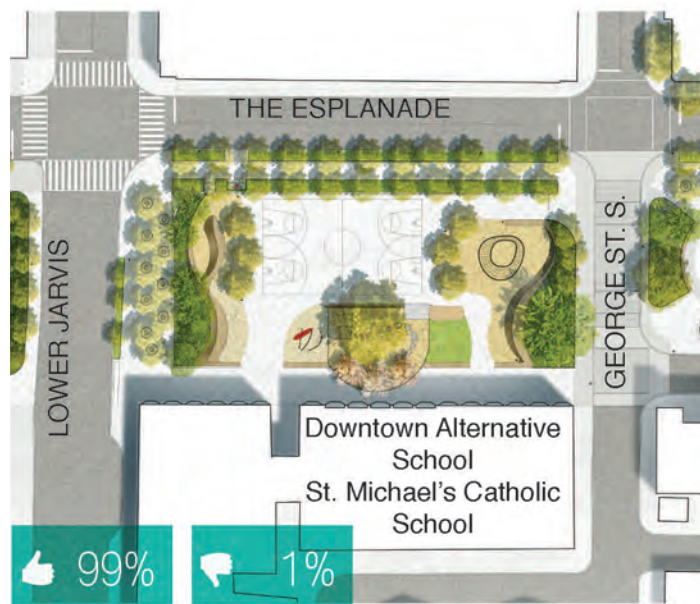
Online Survey

An online survey using the Metroquest platform was made available to the public between October 9, 2019 and October 25, 2019. The seven blocks of the preferred plan were posted with an opportunity to respond “thumbs up/thumbs down” to the variables in each of the block options. A total of 72 people responded. The following is a record of the results of the survey.

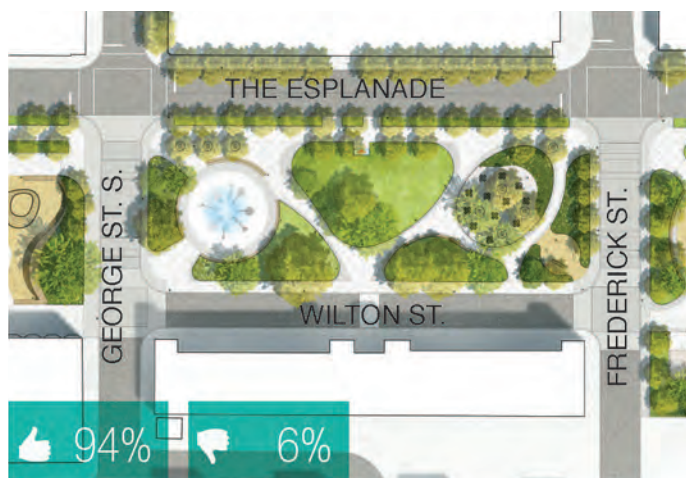
Block 1: Expansion of Park



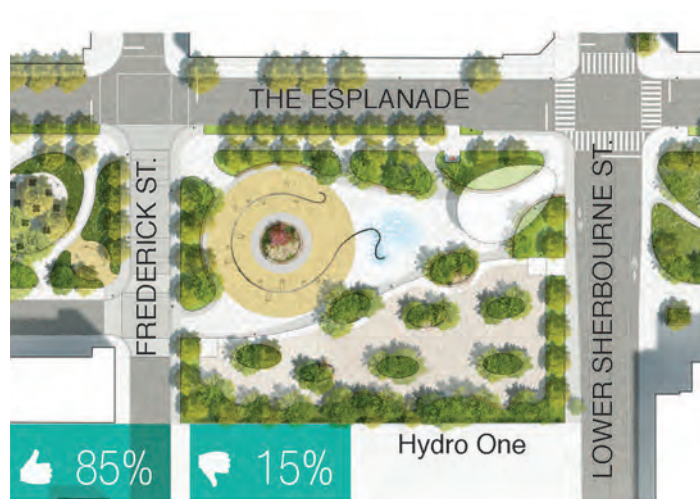
Block 2: School/Playground



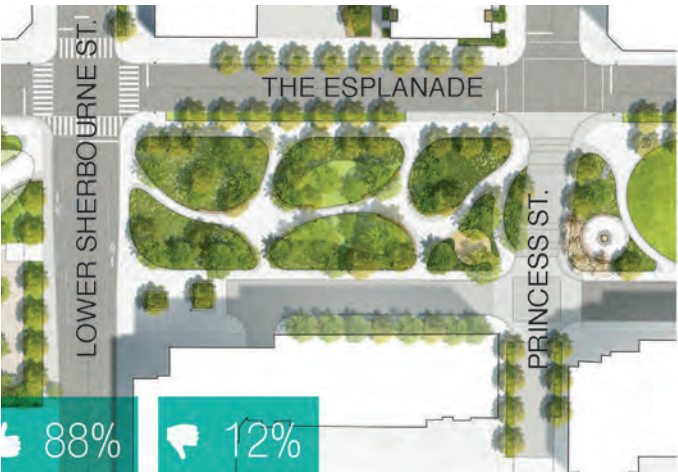
Block 3: Water Play/Woodland



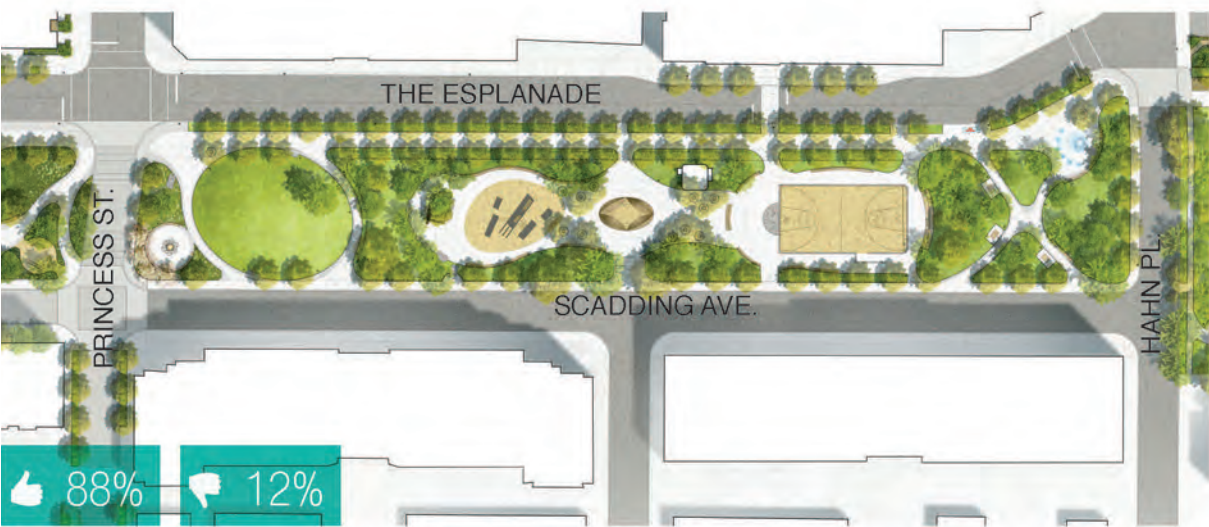
Block 4: Gathering/Dogs Off Leash



Block 5: Gardens & Lawns



Block 6: Shared School Yard



Block 7: Parliament Square Park



Appendix A: Recorded Notes

The following is a record of the comments that were recorded from the on-line Metroquest Survey.

BLOCK 1 EXPANSION OF THE PARK

- Do not close Wilton St. Traffic is terrible in the evenings and closing Wilton will make it much worse. It is already dangerous for pedestrians to cross as is.
- I like the park but not closing down Wilton St.
- There needs to be serious consideration of traffic issues on market/esplanade/Wilton that will absolutely worsen if Wilton is closed. There is always a major traffic jam during rush hour due to the green P exit on Market st. It can take 30 minutes for residents to exit Market Wharf and get onto the highway at these times.
- It would be nicer to have more dense trees for more shade. Sound reduction should be considered with the St Lawrence Market and crowds or people using the park in the later hours. Wilton to be closed is good as there's a lot of drivers rushing through the intersection trying to get into the Green P during weekdays.
- Too much traffic if you close that street. Like the park idea without street closure
- I'm concerned what the closure of Wilton street will do to traffic which is already terrible. It currently takes 15 minutes to exit our garage at 1 market st and get onto Jarvis any time we leave at rush hour.
- Don't really need the children's play area in this block, as there are multiple play area/activities for children in the other blocks further East in front of the school. A water feature would be nice. I like the idea of closing Wilton street.
- Closing off Wilton street will further exaggerate the traffic nightmares in our area.
- Agree that closing Wilton makes a lot of sense from a pedestrian perspective. However, the amount of traffic that is generated by commuters leaving the parking garage at the end of Market street might be made worse with this option.
- Include bike parking and public washrooms
- The closing of Wilton Street is greatly appreciated
- Revisit bridge link to SLM terrace level?

BLOCK 2 SCHOOL/PLAYGROUND

- The playground should have slides etc for children.
- It's crucial to have fun and engaging play areas for the kids who live downtown. Even though my wife and I aren't having children, we still support this plan as the right direction for the neighborhood. This is a huge improvement over what is there currently!
- Entrance from Lower Jarvis and The Esplanade needs to be open.
- The small seating area facing George St S @ the school is popular, do not eliminate all street-facing seating.
- Drainage should be addressed
- For all sections along the Esplanade: The Esplanade street should be redesigned to encourage safer driving and higher importance for pedestrians especially since half of the park users are north of The Esplanade. Currently the street is becoming increasingly dangerous with impatient drivers using it as an alternative route to get to the Gardiner.

BLOCK 3 WATER PLAY/WOODLAND

- Like idea of adult fitness stations. And meandering paths.
- No more swings? They get used more than anything on the street.
- Disappointed that ALL of the physical references to historical rail, quay and waterfront locations have been eliminated. This information adds historical value and visitor interest.
- Wonderful. I'm desperately trying to get back into shape, so I'll think I would actually use that adult fitness area.
- The splash pad is very popular but I understand why it is a problem. Too bad. Make sure water drinking fountain is retained and repaired.
- Yes but please make sure there's a drinking water fountain that works! The one that's currently installed hasn't worked for two years.
- Traffic calming should extend to The Esplanade.
- No adult fitness center beside the splashpad.

BLOCK 4 GATHERING/DOGS OFF LEASH

- I love the swings
- Love the off leash area
- I cant tell if this off leash is fenced and the material used? Gravel is not ideal for dogs and a fenced off leash is more inclusive and safer.
- Would be nice to have an area that can be converted into a skating rink in the winter.
- Mostly agree, but the neighbourhood will miss the ball field.
- Strongly agree!
- Where is the off leash dog park??? Don't like the Allan Gardens example - too barren, ground covering is dirty and dusty, no water source, no seating. Generally - not nice nor welcoming.
- Again, disappointed that ALL of the physical references to historical rail, quay and waterfront locations have been eliminated. This information adds historical value and visitor interest.
- I'd like to see more park benches and places to sit.
- I'm not a "dog person", but I've observed that dogs are a huge part of the social scene in this neighborhood in particular, so I'm happy to see space set aside for something that is so important to a lot of my neighbors. Also, the swing park looks like so much fun. So unique and wonderful! This is a great block plan. Yes please!
- Not sure about the social swing - too big?
- Though I like dogs I am not sure this whole park is good for dog off-leash areas but
- A lot of loud activities in one location. shaded entry - mix of additional Tree Canopy & other materials. not enough grass - natural surface. don't want a "theme" park here.
- Finally! A dog park nearby!
- Space for baseball should be preserved in Parliament park.
- Dog park should definitely be fenced off, PLEASE!
- Very important to have dog park separated.
- Intersection at Sherbourne needs to be redesigned to prioritize pedestrians. It is becoming as dangerous as the Jarvis intersection and will become worse as the area develops.
- I would want to see the actual design for the swing element.

- No grass needed presumably - it does not wear well.
- The dog area should be fenced in

BLOCK 5 GARDENS & LAWNS

- Lots of seating areas.
- Include some areas of/for community garden(s).
- I don't see any specific use for this area, except as a walking path. Suggest we put a small park in here for the kids at the Scadding Ave condos. Or create an inner courtyard with lots of seating and a central water feature (so it can be a community gathering spot).
- The current gardens are definitely very dated (and one of the four flower beds never seems to get enough sun), so I'm excited about this new layout.
- Not clear where the Adult fitness station is.
- Hope you retain the raised planting bed along Lower Sherbourne.
- No lawn all garden.
- Opportunity for woonerf on Scadding Ave.
- Please keep the tall spruce trees as I love the look of the typical northern cottage Canadian look.
- Public art? Please avoid brutalist pieces like the ugly twisted girders in the Corktown Common.

BLOCK 6 SHARED SCHOOL YARD

- More opportunities for seniors equipment in playgrounds.
- Consider what water features (in this and other blocks) will look like in winter, when the water is off. Aim to create an equally interesting feature in all four seasons.
- The tree plantings are nice and the park structure works well, and the basketball court. But the areas in between, and the 'hill' do not add much to the space. We need to add more features and park benches and nice places to sit. Corktown Common is a good model to emulate.
- This block is quite literally my front yard and thus very important to me. While there isn't a lot here for me personally, it is without a doubt the correct plan for what the neighborhood needs here. I am very happy to see the preservation of the

basketball court, which is such an important part of community and a much needed update to the playground. As for myself, I'm very much looking forward to the new water feature and improved walkways.

- Add street 'stuff' on PRINCESS to try to bring Princess Street Park 'closer' to Crombie. They should be thought of as one park (Room/Block #8!).
- Traffic calming is needed on The Esplanade - let's try to extend the feeling of the park northwards to the school and community centre.
- Please retain as many trees as possible. Need EFFICIENT water fountain - present one ugly concrete and always needing repair. Trees, trees and more trees please.

- Very important to have WIDE pedestrian link through to Parliament with SEPARATE bike path as this route is becoming increasingly busy. Must avoid accidents. Many tourists use this access.
- There should be a baseball field as well. Maybe a turf field for multiple uses.
- Add fence or make surrounding woods more flourish. Avoid balls go outside or traffic problem.

BLOCK 7 PARLIAMENT SQUARE PARK

- Should coordinate programming with the master plan for the first parliament site immediately north of the site.
- Blah
- Anticipating First Parliament site direction, create (or allow for) historical "shoreline" water feature along north edge.
- I use that north walkway a lot, so I'm happy that it's being widened. If it's true that a skate park is being considered for the "pop up" park to the north, that would be cool. I once worked on a documentary about skateboarders, so I recognize the need to give them a nice place to skate.
- Pathway to the north needs dedicated separation between pedestrian and bicycle use.
- Improve (widen) shared path at north of park (maybe taking some space from First parliament site. That project is LOOKING at suggesting that The Esplanade be brought through to Parliament Street and closing Berkeley. This is 'interesting' and COULD work for everyone but will involve some re-thought on PS Park. The "View Corridor" looking east on The Esplanade with fountain at its apex should be retained and enhanced.
- No sports field. so much wasted monoculture space. How about woodland permaculture hub that drives the whole areas water systems?
- Preserve the potential for multi sports use - including a baseball diamond.