



# ST. ANDREW'S PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS PUBLIC CONSULTATION SUMMARY REPORT

Prepared by LURA Consulting  
For the City of Toronto  
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This meeting summary report was prepared by LURA Consulting the independent facilitator and consultation specialists for the St. Andrew's Playground Improvements project. If you have any questions or comments regarding the report, please contact either:

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## Introduction

This document provides a brief summary of public and stakeholder engagement that occurred between September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 for St. Andrew's Playground Improvements, a park improvement and expansion project led by DTAH for the City of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation. Additional details on the meeting advertisement, agendas, and engagement methods are included in the detailed meeting summaries available on the [project website](#).

## Engagement Methods

A multi-pronged engagement approach was developed to maximize public input on the improvement of St. Andrew's Playground. Engagement activities connected with 236 people through the following methods:

- Three (3) invited stakeholder meetings held with representatives from local neighbourhood associations, business improvement areas, and the developers of the Waterworks development.
- Two (2) public meetings to present and gather feedback on the Concept Options, and the Preferred Concept Plan.
- Three (3) park pop-ups in the park to review the Concept Options.
- One (1) meeting with Indigenous community members on Indigenous Place-Making Opportunities.
- Two (2) workshops with students from ALPHA Alternative Public School and OASIS Alternative High School to provide information and gather feedback on the Concept Options.
- Two (2) online surveys to gather feedback on the Concept Options and the Preferred Concept Plan.

The date, location, time, and attendance of each engagement event is included in **Appendix A**.

# Phase 1 - Concept Options

## Play Plaza



- |   |                                     |                                     |  |                      |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| 1 Existing Tree Canopy  | 4 Sensory / Social Play Area-Senior | 9 Bench                             | 13 Central Plaza with Catenary Lighting                    | 15 Drinking Fountain |
| 2 New Planting  | 5 Junior Play Area                  | 10 Dog Off Leash Area               | 14 Indigenous Placemaking Opportunity- Storytelling Circle | 16 Bike Parking      |
| 3 Accessible Active Play Area (Climbing, Sliding, Jumping, Swinging) - Senior | 6 Accessible Water Play Area        | 11 Landform/Sculptural Form         |  |                      |
|   | 7 Wood Platform / Seating           | 12 Access to Food Hall /Richmond St |  |                      |
|   | 8 Movable Seating                   |                                     |  |                      |
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## Play Ribbon



- |   |   |                                  |  |
|---|---|----------------------------------|--|
| 1 Existing Tree Canopy  | 4 Sensory Play Area                           | 8 Raised Wood Platform / Seating | 13 Park Plaza with Catenary Lighting                       |
| 2 New Tree Planting   | 5 Social Play Area                            | 9 Movable Seating                | 14 Indigenous Placemaking Opportunity- Storytelling Circle |
| 3 Accessible Active Play (Climbing, Sliding, Jumping, Swinging) | 6 Accessible Water Play Area                  | 10 Bench                         | 15 Drinking Fountain                                       |
|   | 7 Accessible Play Ribbon Surface Path (2.1 m) | 11 Dog Off Leash Area            | 16 Bike Parking  |
|   |   | 12 Access to Food Hall           |  |
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## Stakeholder Meeting Feedback

A meeting with an invited stakeholders group including resident and business associations, and City of Toronto Parks staff was held on September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019. A separate meeting was held with the Waterworks developer as a stakeholder on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019. These stakeholders provided feedback on the Concept Options in advance of public consultation events (Figure 1 and Figure 2). The key points heard from stakeholders were:

- Concerns about the maintenance requirements associated with increased park use from the Waterworks Market Hall.
- Support for preserving as much greenery and soft surfaces as possible while inserting limited hard surfaces in high use areas such as the plazas, park entrances, and direct pathways.
- Support for maintaining sightlines across the park.
- Low interest in the inclusion of a water feature.
- Concern from resident and business associations that placing a plaza too close to the Waterworks building may give the impression that the plaza is intended as an extension of this private development (Waterworks).
- Preference for the Play Plaza's play layout for ease of play supervision.
- Design improvement suggestions to the Dog Off Leash Area pertaining to its size, location, surface material, shade, seating, water fountains, and waste disposal.
- Including additional seating and lighting to provide spaces for gathering during the day and into the evenings.

## Play Ribbon



FIGURE 1. CONCEPTUAL DESIGN: PLAY RIBBON

## Play Plaza



FIGURE 2. CONCEPTUAL DESIGN: PLAY PLAZA

## Public Meeting 1, Park Pop-Ups, and Online Feedback

The public meeting, park pop-ups (Figure 3), and online feedback were designed to gather feedback from park users on the two Conceptual Designs. Public feedback reiterated much of the feedback provided by the stakeholder group. Building on the feedback of the stakeholder group, in Phase 1, members of the public highlighted the following:

- The importance of clear pathways and entry points that consider where people are going to walk while achieving a balance of hard and soft surfaces.
- Interest in the creativity of the Play Ribbon concept but hesitancy about its practicality given that it spreads play out across a larger area complicating supervision.
- The importance of maintaining some sunny areas in the park when developing the planting strategy.
- Vegetation should be native and used to frame or buffer spaces to organize the site.
- Emphasis on natural play and play for all ages.
- Concerns about the size, location, and design elements of the Dog Off Leash Area.
- Incorporate lighting to illuminate the plaza, Dog Off Leash Area, and play areas in the evenings.
- Incorporate a variety of seating options including opportunities for social seating.
- Including new signs to help orient people on the site and reference the site's historic significance.

For detailed feedback from this workshop, please consult the [Public Engagement Summary #1 \(600 KB\)](#).



FIGURE 3. PARK POP-UPS IN ST. ANDREW'S PLAYGROUND

## Indigenous Place-Making Opportunities Meeting

A meeting to advance the City of Toronto's initiative to consult with Indigenous community members on Indigenous place-keeping and place-making opportunities in City parks was held on October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019. This meeting was intended to be the start of an ongoing conversation with Indigenous community members on the park design. Participants in this workshop highlighted the following:

- The importance of cultural connections to the land and the life it supports including trees and other vegetation, and people;
- Opportunities for traditional ceremonies and cultural knowledge exchange supported by spaces such as a fire pit, a storytelling circle, and a medicine wheel garden with space for the sacred medicines;
- The need for meaningful relationships between the City of Toronto and Indigenous Peoples (including but not limited to knowledge keepers, artists, and entrepreneurs) that extend beyond the consultation of this project.

For detailed feedback from this workshop, please consult the [Indigenous Place-Making Opportunities Workshop \(300 KB\)](#).

## School Children and Youth Engagement Feedback

Engagement sessions with school children and youth were organized to hear directly from these park users about play and how they use St. Andrew's Playground. In their feedback (Figure 4), children and youth discussed the following:

- The desire for play that supports a full range of movement such as running, climbing, swinging, and sliding
- Many were interested in learning about nature through the park landscape, connections to Indigenous Peoples, and histories of Toronto;
- Many felt it is important that there is enough space for kids to play together in groups with some students questioning why the Dog Off Leash Area is larger than the area designated for play; and
- The need for more seating in the park that can accommodate groups socializing together.

For detailed feedback from this workshop, please consult the [Children and Youth Workshops Summary \(3.91 MB\)](#).

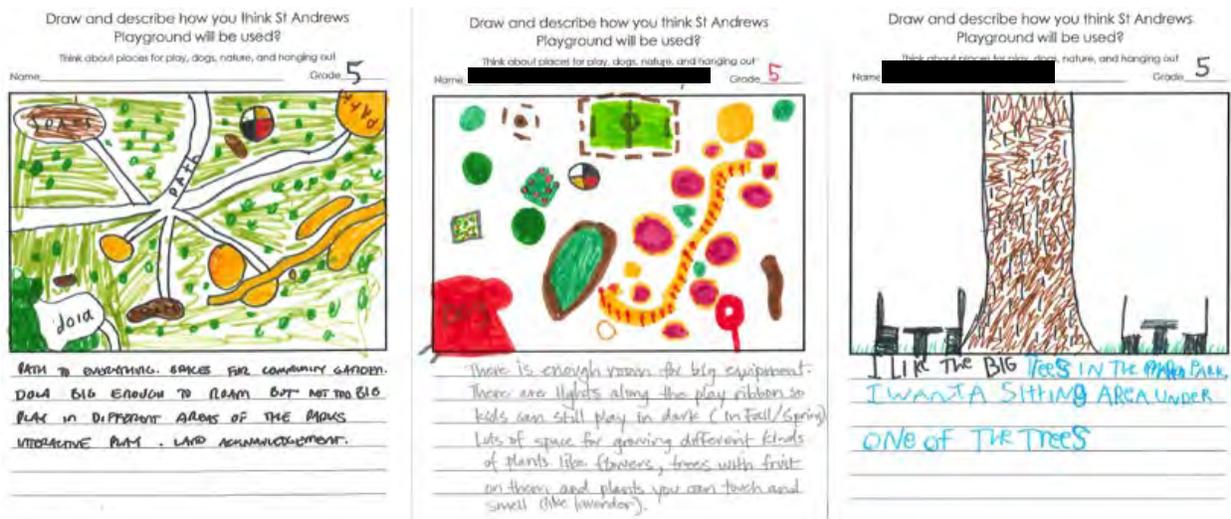


FIGURE 4. ARTISTIC REPRESENTATIONS OF CHILDREN'S VISIONS FOR ST. ANDREW'S PLAYGROUND

# Phase 2 – Preferred Concept Plan

## Play Plaza



- |                        |                           |                                      |  |
|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1 Existing Tree Canopy | 4 Dog Off Leash Area      | 9 Landform/Sculptural Form           | 13 Drinking Fountain for People and Dogs |
| 2 New Planting         | 5 Wood Platform / Seating | 10 Access to Food Hall / Richmond St | 14 Central Plaza                         |
| 3 Play                 | 6 Cluster Seating         | 11 Storytelling Circle and Fire      | 15 Bike Parking                          |
|                        | 7 Communal Picnic Tables  | 12 Medicine Garden                   | 16 Light Standard ( TYP)                 |
|                        | 8 Bench   Linear Seat     |                                      | 17 Catenary Light                        |

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## The Emerging Concept Plan

The Preferred Concept Plan incorporates changes based on feedback from Phase 1, including but not limited to the following:

- Increasing the set-back on the Dog Off Leash Area from Adelaide Street West.
- Shifting one of the gates to the Dog Off Leash Area to face the interior of the park.
- Reconfiguring the pathways on the Maud Street side of the park.
- Reconfiguring the location of seating walls and platform seating, and including additional seating options such as fixed benches in the plaza.
- Removal of the water feature.
- Including of a fire pit, storytelling circle, and medicine wheel garden to support Indigenous placemaking and facilitate local Indigenous programming.



FIGURE 5. PLAY PLAZA DESIGN FROM THE CONCEPTUAL DESIGN PHASE (LEFT) AND PREFERRED CONCEPT PLAN (RIGHT)

## Play Plaza



FIGURE 6. PREFERRED CONCEPT PLAN: MODIFIED PLAY PLAZA

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FIGURE 7. RENDERINGS OF THE PREFERRED CONCEPT PLAN

## Stakeholder Meeting Feedback

A second invited stakeholder group meeting was held on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 to present the Preferred Concept Plan for feedback. Stakeholders provided feedback on the design including:

- Many appreciated the proposed planting locations but suggested that coniferous trees be added to provide shelter in winter months from the wind, and colour in the park.
- A few stakeholders advocated that the play area should be more elaborate, playful, and dynamic to honour the park's historic namesake.
- Participants were appreciative that their feedback had been heard and reflected in revisions to the Dog Off Leash Area, adding further feedback on the design related to the surface material, the location of gates, and maintenance.
- Participants were supportive of the variety of seating options, adding that there should be more bench seating, and seating in and near the Dog Off Leash Area.
- Participants discussed the implementation of additional lighting options and lockable power outlets for potential permitted community events.
- Consideration for the inclusion of public art within the park, and on the façade of the Waterworks building to animate the park.

## Public Meeting 2 and Online Feedback

The second public meeting and online feedback gathered feedback on the Preferred Concept Plan (Figure 8). Public feedback reiterated much of the feedback provided by the Stakeholder Advisory Group. In Phase 2, members of the public highlighted the following:

- Participants were supportive of the play design overall, but asked for the inclusion of slides and swings.
- Several participants were encouraged by the changes to the Dog Off Leash Area, continuing to offer feedback on the design with suggested refinements associated with dog safety and user comfort.
- Small changes were suggested to incorporate ground-level vegetation to organize the site and buffer areas such as the Dog Off Leash Area from the road.
- New concerns emerged about the use of the park paths as short-cuts for cyclists, presenting a potential hazard.
- Participants suggested that improvements to the plaza should incorporate visible reference to the site's unique heritage.

For detailed feedback from this workshop, please consult the [Public Engagement Summary #2 \(352 MB\)](#).

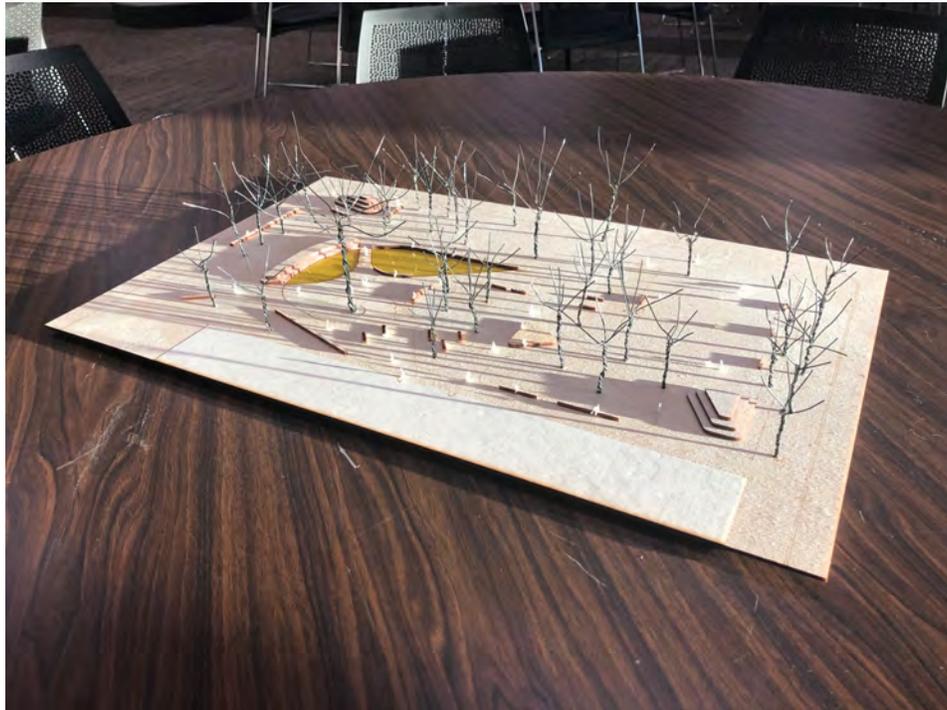


FIGURE 8. A SCALE MODEL OF THE PREFERRED CONCEPT PLAN WAS CREATED BY DTAH FOR PUBLIC MEETING #2

## Next Steps

The project team will review feedback from the public, as well as external and internal stakeholders as inputs into detailed design development of the park. The anticipated schedule for the park improvements is to prepare construction documents for tender in early 2020, and undertake construction from approximately May 2020 to November 2020, weather permitting and subject to change. The construction schedule will be confirmed once a contract is in place, and updates will be provided on the City's [project webpage](#).

## Appendix A – Engagement Summary Chart

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	Date	Engagement Type	Location	Time	Number of People Engaged ( <i>approximate</i> )
Phase 1 Conceptual Design Options	Thursday September 12	Invited Stakeholder Meeting	Metro Hall	2:00pm to 3:30pm	9
	Monday September 16	Invited Stakeholder Meeting	DTAH Office	11:30am to 1:30pm	3
	Wednesday September 18	Public Meeting	Metro Hall	6:30pm to 8:00pm	18
	Tuesday September 24	Children's / School Engagement	ALPHA Alternative Public Space	10:45am to 11:30am	20
	Thursday September 26	Park Pop-Up	St. Andrew's Playground	11:30am to 1:30pm	31
	Thursday September 26	Children's/ School Engagement	OASIS Alternative High School	1:30pm to 2:15pm	9
	Monday September 30	Park Pop-Up	St. Andrew's Playground	11:30am to 1:30pm	32
	Wednesday October 2	Park Pop-Up	St. Andrew's Playground	4:30pm to 6:30pm	55
	Friday October 4	Online Survey	Online Survey Feedback	N/A	18
	Wednesday October 9	Indigenous Place-Making Opportunities	Parkdale Queen West Community Health Centre	9:00am to 10:30am	4
Phase 2 Preferred Concept Plan	Monday October 22	Invited Stakeholder Meeting	Metro Hall	10:00am to 12:00pm	5
	Thursday October 24	Public Meeting	Metro Hall	6:00pm to 8:00pm	30
	Friday November 8	Online Survey	Online Survey Feedback	N/A	2
TOTAL					236