

City of Toronto – Parks Development & Capital Projects

Earlscourt Park Splash Pad Project



Online Public Consultation Meeting - Question and Answer Summary

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Lara Herald, Senior Project Coordinator

Pablo Muñoz, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator

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Public Meeting Goal

The goal of this meeting was to present the project, gather feedback and ideas, present preliminary findings from a visioning survey and answer questions from the community.

Agenda

- Words by Councillor Ana Bailão + Introduction
- Project info
- What we've heard
- Presentation
- Questions
- Comments
- Next Steps

A full video of the meeting and presentation can be found on the project's website toronto.ca/Earlscourt

In attendance

- Lara Herald – Senior Project Coordinator
- Ana Bailão – Councillor Davenport
- Lori Philp – Design Consultant
- Pablo Muñoz – Senior Public Consultation Coordinator

Question Summary

Questions were answered by Lara Herald and Lori Philp. Some questions and answers have been paraphrased. Full recording of the meeting can be found at toronto.ca/Earlscourt

Question: Some of the splash pads I've seen have Muskoka chairs and people love that, could that be a consideration as well?

Answer: We can take a look at that. We would have to consider space, and being able to accommodate them, but I don't see why we couldn't include those as part of the seating program.

Question: I would like to better understand the rationale for separating the splash pad by age groups.

Answer Lori: We are finding it comes up a lot in the feedback for this project, as well as past splash pad projects that we have done. Splash pads are used a lot by younger children and toddlers, up to age 5. We do the same thing with playgrounds so that the younger children aren't intimidated by the older kids in the same area.

Answer Lara: These are not two separate zones in different locations. They are separated spatially with some elements and features. It would be within the same footprint of one splash pad but the toddler-zone, for smaller kids, would have gentler features scaled appropriately for smaller kids and therefore allow for them to congregate in their own area within the larger

splash pad. The rest of the splash pad would have some larger features that are appropriate for older children.

Question: Are Muskoka chairs and umbrellas, like in Lansdowne and Bloor, being considered?

Answer Lara: We'll certainly look at Muskoka chairs and whether or not there are umbrellas that are properly matched and suitable, and that it is something that parks would also be in agreement with.

Question: This park was described as a jewel at the start of the start of the call. Is it not worthy of an increase in footprint in order to draw visitors from further afield?

Answer Lara: Given the other amenities surrounding the current wading pool, it would be a challenge to increase the size of the splash pad significantly. We have a washroom/utility building to the west of the splash pad, and a playground to the east. This is where the splash pad would have to be because of all the servicing that is already connected to it. There is not a huge amount of opportunity given the other amenities and the existing circulation, to increase the size. We also have to be mindful of the budget available for the project. Those would be the reasons why we would be restricted in size for the splash pad.

Answer Councillor Bailão: We are also having a new splash pad installed at the Davenport Village Park, between Davenport and Dupont - construction has started as well. We're always looking for other opportunities for more park space in the neighbourhood. We just got land on Rogers Rd. and every development opportunity we are always looking for more greenspace for the neighbourhood.