

City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry & Recreation

Tom Riley Park Playground Improvements

Virtual Public Meeting Summary Report

September 29, 2020

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Introduction

Tom Riley Park is a 14.8-hectare park at Dundas Street West and Islington Avenue that follows Mimico Creek to Bloor Street West. The playground in the park will be enhanced as part of a state-of-good-repair project to upgrade the existing equipment.

The playground redesign will be developed through consultation with the community and will include:

- Large, themed playground equipment
- Redesigned, accessible pathways
- Additional seating
- A rubber-like play surface

The improvements will only include the general playground area. New water or lighting features, or improvements to the park outside of the playground area are not included in the scope of this project.

[More information about the project can be found on the project webpage at www.toronto.ca/TomRileyPlayground](http://www.toronto.ca/TomRileyPlayground)

Meeting Purpose

The goals of this virtual public meeting include providing a project overview and background on the site, introducing theme and playground equipment options, and providing an opportunity for community members to ask questions and share their feedback. At the end of the meeting, the online public survey was promoted, to encourage community members to provide more detailed feedback. The information collected at the meeting will inform the selection and refinement of the playground improvements.

Public Meeting Advertisement

The online survey was promoted through the following channels:

- Facebook and Instagram advertisements targeting area residents
- Promotions through the local Councillor's Office
- Park signage
- Project webpage: www.toronto.ca/TomRileyPlayground

Attendees

City of Toronto

Casey Morris, Senior Project Coordinator, PFR
Ariel Stagni, Construction Coordinator
Alex Lavasidis, Public Consultation Coordinator, PFR
Rajesh Sankat, Public Consultation Coordinator, PFR

Design Consultants

Jeremy Craig, Victor Ford and Associates Inc Landscape Architects
Nadia D'Agnone, Victor Ford and Associates Inc Landscape Architects
Kelly Park, Victor Ford and Associates Inc Landscape Architects

Councillor

Councillor Mark Grimes (Etobicoke-Lakeshore)

Daniel Fleming, Policy Advisor, Strategic Initiatives

Community Members

42 community members attended this meeting

Feedback Summary

Project staff presented the Curling Strategy Phase 1 Findings to the Stakeholder Reference Group. Participants provided questions and comment throughout the meeting. These questions (Q), answers (A), comments (C), and responses from staff (R) presented below. The statements are not verbatim, but rather summaries of each statement.

C. Good work on concepts.

Q. Can security cameras be considered?

A. We will raise the question with Park staff. Cameras are not usually installed in parks.
R (Councillor). There would also be privacy concerns from other community members.

Q. Can options to keep older kids and adults entertained (such as big swings) be considered?

A. Big swings will be considered.

C. Sand feature similar to that at nearby Norseman School, seems to attract wildlife who use it as a washroom please take this into account.

C. Please don't overwhelm the park with shade. Leave some sun. Strike a balance.

Q. What is TRCA?

A. Toronto Regional Conservation Authority is a regulatory body of natural areas, which has jurisdiction over this area.

Q. Instead of rubber surfacing, why not wood chips? What is the ecological impact?

A. Within TRCA jurisdiction, in particular with flooding considerations of this site, rubber surfacing is more secure than wood chips, and does not cause further problems downstream when flooding does occur.

C. Pathways have lots of activity in warmer months, but there is no snow removal in the winter. In particular access from Aberfoyle can be dangerous.

Q. Can year round access be considered, especially during the winter?

A. We will raise this question with Parks staff.

C. There is a need for safety to be a priority throughout the design.

C. Please keep in mind the older demographics/ adults in the community, and take an all ages approach.

R. As the concept develops, consideration will be brought in to create a nice space for people of all ages.

Q. Can other facilities be considered (such as skating rinks, bike and skate parks, tents, etc.)?

A. Those facilities are outside of the scope of this project. The scope of this project is informed by the Facilities Master Plan, which considers a city-wide approach to community needs and identifies new facilities needed throughout the city over the next 20 years.

Q. What seating options are being considered?

A. A wide range of options are being considered, including linear or seat-wall seating, Adirondack chairs, traditional benches, café seating with tables, and picnic benches.

Q. Lots of barbequing happens at this park – any room for BBQ pits or raised BBQ (such as High Park or TO Island)?

A. Due to this park's proximity to school, that makes it not advisable to include in this park (recent fire vandalism at local parks also suggest "no").

Q. Can lighting for security be considered?

A. Lighting is not an option given the Toronto Region Conservation Authority's rules for the space, also no electrical connections exist in this park.

Q. Can we consider dissuading rodents, possibly through adequate cleanup of receptacles/maintenance?

A. We will raise this issue with Solid Waste

Q. I am impressed by Earth Scape play structures. Thoughts on this as a possibility here?

A. That is definitely on our radar.

Q. Can solar lighting be considered here?

A. Lighting is not in the scope of this project.

Q. Has a theme been established? Tom Riley was into trains.

A. Option One presented is Toy Train themed. We are gathering feedback on themes in this round of engagement.

Next Steps

Community members can complete the online survey until October 18, available at www.toronto.ca/TomRiley Playground. All feedback gathered during this round of consultation will be used to further develop the playground design.

Contact Us

For questions or comments related to this project, please contact:

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