

City of Toronto – Parks Development & Capital Projects

# New Park at 150 Harrison Park

## Public Meeting

### Meeting Summary

November 12, 2020

Kaly Manson, Senior Project Coordinator  
Daniel Fusca, Manager of Public Consultation  
Alex Lavasidis, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator



# Contents

- Introduction ..... 2
- Panelists ..... 2
- Meeting Purpose ..... 2
- Public Meeting Advertisement ..... 2
- Feedback Summary ..... 3
- Next Steps ..... 4
- Contact Us ..... 4

## Introduction

This document provides a summary of the New Park at 150 Harrison Street Virtual Public Meeting that was held on November 12, 2020, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

[More information about the project can be found on the project webpage.](#)

## Panelists

### City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry, and Recreation

Kaly Manson, Senior Project Coordinator, Acting  
Daniel Fusca, Manager of Public Consultation  
Alex Lavasidis, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator

### Ward Councillor's Office

Deputy Mayor Ana Bailão, Councillor of Ward 9 Davenport  
Emily Summers, Constituency Assistant for Office of Deputy Mayor

### Attendees

6 Community Members

## Meeting Purpose

The purpose of this meeting was to present and gather community feedback on a concept design for the new park at 150 Harrison Street.

## Public Meeting Advertisement

- Project webpage
- Notice signage posted on-site
- Social media promotions
- Flyer drop to nearby residents
- Email notification to local community groups
- Notification through Councillor's communication channels (including newsletter)

## Feedback Summary

Staff introduced the project to the community, presenting the project background and the proposed concept design for the new park at 150 Harrison Street ([for the full presentation, please visit the project webpage](#)). Following the presentation, participants asked the project team questions and shared their feedback. These questions (Q), answers (A), comments (C), and responses from staff (R) are presented below. The statements are not verbatim, but rather summaries of each statement.

Q: Can you provide further details about the privacy fence proposed along the north edge of the park that will separate the park and the affordable housing development?

A: The fence height is proposed at 1.8 metres and fence material is proposed to be wood board.

*Post meeting note: The privacy fence proposed for the north edge of the park is within the affordable housing development's scope of work, and will be installed when the development is constructed.*

C: I am concerned about safety of the proposed sand play area, specifically the risk of hidden needles.

R: The proposed sand play area is very small, but City staff have noted concern for further consideration.

Q: Was a gated dog off-leash area considered and if not, can it be?

A: Staff are uncertain if this use was already considered for this site. However due to its small size, this site would not be appropriate for an off-leash area based on the City's policies and guidelines.

*Post meeting note: City staff are aware of residents' interest in a dog off-leash area and it was an amenity considered during development of the proposed concept plan, but this amenity cannot be accommodated at this location because there is not enough space.*

C: I prefer naturalized play, instead of the bright playground equipment proposed.

Northumberland Playground near Bloor St West and Ossington Ave is a good example of naturalized play.

R: City staff have noted this for further consideration.

C: City staff removed the benches in Lakeview Avenue Parkette located on Dundas St West due to complaints of loitering, drinking and evening noise. I am concerned that the same issues will occur with seating proposed at 150 Harrison St.

R: City staff present during the public meeting were not aware of this issue and will follow-up with City Park Operations Staff to learn more. City staff have noted concern for further consideration.

Q: Is lighting proposed in the new park? I am concerned about safety and a lack of lighting.

A: Lighting is not proposed in the new park. The proposed park is small and would benefit from existing street lighting along Harrison St and Dovercourt Rd. The park may also benefit from exterior lighting at the new affordable housing development next to the park. City staff will consider this further during detailed design. Consideration will also be given to ensure the site is not over lit, causing disruption to neighbouring residential homes.

Q: What are park cleaning practices during the COVID-19 pandemic and what were they before?

A: City staff are not aware of any cleaning and sanitizing of amenities in parks in response to COVID-19 and believe there would not be enough resources to do so. Cleaning and wiping down playground equipment, for example, is not a normal part of Park Operations staff

responsibilities. Examples of standard cleaning maintenance for parks include emptying park garbage bins and addressing vandalism.

C: We are interested in a community garden in the new park (two participants made this comment). An interesting example is the tiered planting garden at the Old Orchard School.

R: City staff advised that in order to install a community garden in a City park, a community garden group must be formed and be accountable for the garden upkeep. [A webpage link was provided with more information about applying for a community garden.](#) City staff have noted interest in a community garden for further consideration.

## Next Steps

The community will have until Friday, November 20, 2020 to provide additional feedback through the online survey, available at the project webpage. Once the survey has closed, City staff will summarize and analyze the feedback. Results will be posted to the project webpage.

The feedback gathered during the meeting, through emails received following the meeting, and through the online survey will be used to refine the new park's design. The refined design will be shared on the project webpage.

## Contact Us

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

Kaly Manson  
Senior Project Coordinator  
City of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation  
kaly.manson@toronto.ca