

City of Toronto – Parks Development & Capital Projects

Tom Riley Park Playground Improvements Public Meeting 2

Meeting Summary

November 24, 2020

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Alex Lavasidis, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator



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Introduction

This document provides a summary of the Tom Riley Park Playground Improvements Virtual Public Meeting that was held on Tuesday November 4, 2020, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

More information about the project can be found on the project webpage at www.toronto.ca/tomrileyplayground

Meeting Purpose

The purpose of this meeting was to present a project update, including results from the second round of community consultation and the final design theme for the playground, and to gather additional feedback to inform the development of a final design for the new playground.

Public Meeting Advertisement

This meeting was promoted through:

- Postcard mail-outs to the surrounding community
- Paid social media advertisements
- Email updated through the project listserve
- E-notification through the Councillor's office
- Project webpage updates
- Park signage

Participants

Members of the Public

37 Members of the public attended this meeting

City Staff – Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Casey Morris, Senior Project Coordinator

Ariel Stagni, Construction Coordinator

Alex Lavasidis, Public Consultation Coordinator

Rajesh Sankat, Public Consultation Coordinator

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's Office

Daniel Fleming, Policy Advisor, Strategic Initiatives

Feedback Summary

Following the project team's presentation, members of the community provided their feedback through both discussion and polling responses. This feedback is summarised below:

Polling Results

Poll Question 1 – What style of landmark playground structure do you prefer?

- A) Log Jam Climber: 19 votes
- B) Custom Themed Wooden Climber: 17 votes

Poll Question 2 – If a custom themed wooden climber is built, which theme would you prefer?

- A) Salmon: 4 votes
- B) Beaver: 21 votes
- C) Mallard Duck: 9 votes

Discussion Summary

Paraphrased questions (Q), comments (C), and responses from staff (R) are presented below.

C. This looks fantastic! My kids are hoping for 1 or 2 more play or climbing structures than what has been shown.

Q. What is in the Senior Play Area? :

R. Smaller features will be located closer to path, this is the junior play area. The landmark feature will be located in the centre of the playground. South of this, the senior play area will include more conventional or spinning elements. These will be located away from smaller play elements. Swings will be located in top left corner of the playground, as a big open area is required to accommodate a their required safety zone.

Q. Can a Dogs Off Leash Area (DOLA) be considered?

R. A DOLA is outside of scope of this playground project.

Q. Since this park is close to a high school, can thought be given to a teen/adult fitness area?

R. That is outside of scope of this playground project. This project is considered a Playground Enhancement. We'd need to find alternate source of funding if a fitness area was added.

C. Add monkey bars (6 year old commenter)

Q. Can accessibility ramps be considered in other parts of the park?

R. Accessible ramps in other areas of the park are out of the scope of this project

C. Add Monkey bars/ climbers/ obstacles (3 year old and 5 year old commenter)

C. A DOLA would not work this close to kids playing.

C. Please include baby swings and kid swings.

Q. Will there be a splash pad or water feature?

R. That is outside the scope of this project.

C. The log jam style presents many more movement possibilities, and seems less inhibitive.

Q. When is construction scheduled to begin? Will this affect park availability next summer?
R. The consultant develop the design through winter. Procurement can take time. Anticipated construction is summer 2021, to wrap in winter. We expect 4 months for construction.

C. Four month seems long. There are really limited options around for playgrounds, and we have lots of users who live nearby.

Q. Will there be other park closures?

R. No other closures are expected. We are exploring construction access from the TTC parking lot.

C. My kids love monkey bars.

Q. Is there a safety risk of having the sand play area too close to the pathway which has lots of cyclists in the summer? Will there be a physical barrier?

R. We are looking at edging around the playground to keep sand in. The path around the playground will be accessible but will be an offshoot of the main path, so people will be unlikely to travel right beside the playground unless that is their destination.

C. Really love the climbing rocks - kids will love it!

Next Steps

An online Participants will have until December 6 to provide feedback through the online survey, available at [the project webpage](#).

A meeting summary will be posted to the webpage.

Based on feedback provided at this meeting and through the online survey, the design team will develop a final design for the Community's review in early 2021.

Contact Us

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

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