

City of Toronto – Parks Development & Capital Projects

Exbury Park

Playground Improvements

Online Survey

Feedback Summary

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Project Background

The City is planning improvements to the Exbury Park Playground. These improvements are part of an ongoing, city-wide program to ensure our playgrounds provide safe and accessible fun for decades to come!

Exbury Park is a 1.2-hectare park near Jane Street and Wilson Avenue that features two lit outdoor bocce courts and a children's playground.

The playground currently includes:

- A separate junior and a senior play structure with a variety of play components:
 - climbers
 - play panels
 - shade roofs
 - five types of slides
- Freestanding climbing structure
- Junior and senior swings

The City is proposing to replace the playground equipment in roughly the same location, while adding seating and an accessible ramp to the playground. All playground equipment replaced will meet accessibility standards.

The playground will be redesigned using feedback from the community. The redesigned playground is proposed to include:

- Two belt swings, two junior swings and one accessible swing
- One senior structure with:
 - Three slides
 - Four climbing options
 - One sliding pole, monkey lean-out seat and arched bridge
 - Multiple play panels
- One junior structure with:
 - One double slide
 - Three climbing options
 - One snake pole
 - One wheel panel
- One freestanding four-wheeler vehicle toy
- One freestanding snail toy
- Two freestanding play panels
- Two freestanding climber structures
- One stand-up spinner toy

The proposed layout changes will include:

- An accessible ramp to the playground.
- A new asphalt pathway from Peacham Crescent (budget permitting).
- A slightly larger playground area with a woodchip-like surface (called "Engineered Wood Fibre") under the new playground equipment. This surface improves access to play equipment for kids, youth and adults of all abilities.
- A concrete curb around playground with sections of "seatwall" around the edging, which are large boulder-like rocks that serve as additional seating.
- A small paved area for seating and stroller parking.
- To ensure the playground surface is kept dry, there will be subsurface drainage tile installed that will connect to a soak-away pit on site.

Survey Overview

An online survey was hosted from December 26, 2020 to January 24, 2021. The survey presented the proposed playground design and ask community members for any final comments or suggestions (survey available in Appendix A).

The survey received a total of **86** responses. This included feedback from 291 participants.

The survey feedback collected will be used to refine the final playground design.

Notification

The online survey was promoted through the following channels:

- Facebook and Instagram advertisements targeting area residents
- Promotions through the local Councillor's Office
- [Project webpage: www.toronto.ca/ExburyPlayground](http://www.toronto.ca/ExburyPlayground)
- On-site signage
- Emails to the project listserve

Key Feedback Highlights

- 58% of respondents had no additional feedback or comments about the design or layout of the Exbury Park Playground Improvements.
- 36 provided suggestions for improving the playground design or additional comments. Suggestions and comments included the following, with the total number of responses received for each provided in brackets:
 - Playground equipment changes:
 - Add a spiral slide (3)
 - Add soft surfacing (2) or rubber surfacing (1)
 - Add more swings (2)
 - Add a second accessible swing in a different style (e.g. a saucer-style group swing) (1)
 - Add a seesaw (2)
 - Add a glider play feature, like what currently exists (1)
 - Remove the concrete curb, as this could be a tripping hazard (1)
 - Use natural instead of bright colours (1)
 - Create one large, connected play structure instead of separating multiple structures (1)
 - Choose a more modern design (1)
 - A sandbox-like feature, but without sand (1)
 - Add the following additional features:
 - A water park or splash pad (7)
 - Lighting to improve safety (4)
 - Tennis courts (4)
 - An ice rink (3)
 - An off-leash area (3)
 - A fitness station (2)
 - More trees (1)
 - A gazebo or other shade structure (1)
 - Tables (1)
 - Picnic tables (1)

- Ping pond tables (1)
- Outdoor meeting space (1)
- A soccer field with nets (1)
- "No Parking" signs next to the park (1)
- A wading pool (1)
- Remove the bocce courts (5)
- Ensure the playground is accessible (2)
 - Budget should not impede the addition of an accessible, paved pathway to the playground (1)
 - Adjust the proposed pathway so it passes by the bocce courts and improves accessibility to that space as well (1)
- Remove the seatwalls as they may be a safety hazard if kids run across them (1)

Appendix A: Proposed Playground Design

The City of Toronto is improving the playground at Exbury Park.

This past fall, we presented a new playground layout and three playground designs to the community. We collected your feedback and preferences through an online survey. This survey presents the proposed design and layout of the playground improvements and ask you for any final comments or suggestions.

Proposed Changes to the Layout of Exbury Park

The following images showcase the proposed layout changes to Exbury Park.



CONTEXT MAP



1 ENGINEERED WOOD FIBRE PLAY SURFACING



2 ARMOURSTONE SEATWALL

The proposed layout changes will include:

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- A concrete curb around playground with sections of "seatwall" around the edging, which are large boulder-like rocks that serve as additional seating.
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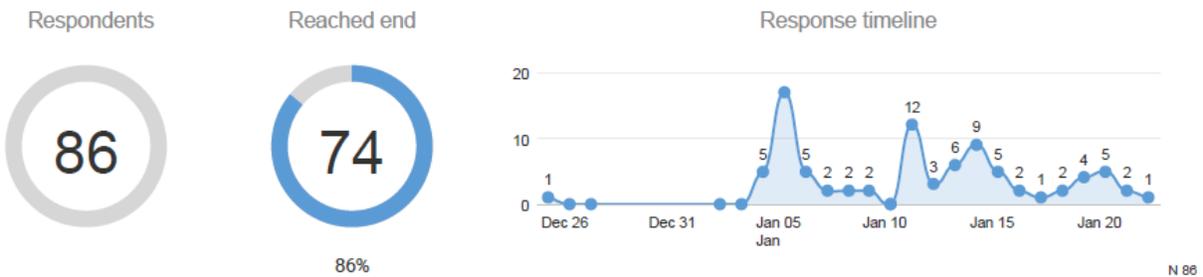
Proposed Playground Design



The new playground will include:

- Two belt swings, two junior swings and one accessible swing
- One senior structure with:
 - three slides
 - four climbing options
 - one sliding pole, monkey lean-out seat and arched bridge
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- Two freestanding play panels
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Appendix B: Quantitative Responses



In total there were 291 survey participants (multiple participants could fill out a survey together).

- 57 survey participants were 5 years old or younger
- 60 survey participants were 6 to 12 years old
- 25 survey participants were 13 to 18 years old
- 35 survey participants were 19 to 30 years old
- 107 survey participants were 31 to 64 years old
- 7 survey participants were 65 years old, or older

Please select the racial backgrounds that people who completed this survey identify with. Select all that apply.

	Count	% of responses	%
White (European descent)	41		55%
Latino (Latin American, Hispanic descent)	14		19%
I don't know/Prefer not to answer	9		12%
Black (African, Afro-Caribbean, African-Canadian descent)	6		8%
Other, please specify	5		7%
Middle Eastern (Arab, Persian, West Asian descent, e.g. Afghan, Egyptian, Iranian, Lebanese, Turkish, Kurdish, etc.)	2		3%
Southeast Asian (Taiwanese descent; Filipino, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Thai, Indonesian)	2		3%
Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, Inuk/Inuit)	1		1%
South Asian or Indo-Caribbean (e.g. Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan, Indo-Guyanese, Indo-Trinidadian, etc.)	1		1%

N 74

Gender identity is the gender that people identify with or how they perceive themselves, which may be different from their birth-assigned sex. Gender identity is linked to a sense of self, the sense of being a woman, man, both, neither or anywhere along the gender spectrum (non-binary). What best describes the gender of survey participants? (select all that apply)

	Count	% of responses	%
Female	54		73%
Male	35		47%
Prefer not to answer	8		11%
Trans female	1		1%
Trans male	1		1%
Not listed, please describe	1		1%

N 74

Indigenous people residing in Canada are those who self-identify as First Nations (status, non-status, treaty or non-treaty), Inuit, Métis, Aboriginal, Native or Indian. Does anyone participating in this survey identify as Indigenous to Canada?

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes	5		7%
No	65		93%

N 70

Disabilities, both visible and invisible, include physical, hearing, seeing, developmental, learning or mental health conditions, chronic illness and addictions. Disabilities may be from birth, caused by injury or accident, developed over time, or result from the combination of a person's condition and barriers in society. Does anyone participating in this survey identify as a person with a disability?

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes	9		13%
No	62		87%

N 71

Do survey participants rent or own their home?

	Count	% of responses	%
Owner	43		60%
Renter	27		38%
Neither owner nor renter	3		4%

N 72

How did you find out about this survey?

	Count	% of responses	%
Social Media (E.g. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter)	38		51%
Email Update	15		20%
Park Sign	9		12%
Word of mouth	8		11%
Councillor's Office communications	5		7%
Project webpage	2		3%
Other, please specify	1		1%

N 74

Appendix C: Text Responses

Do you have any final feedback or comments about the design or layout of the Exbury Park Playground improvements?

Respondents who selected "Yes, my feedback is." (36 total responses)

- How is this accessible and inclusive? Can the design be more modern?
- Perfect
- I like the design, however the wood chip flooring prove a problem for kids with disabilities. As well items left by unsavory characters (needles and drug paraphernalia are easier to hid in wood chips), to be a rubber surface would prove a better solution.
- Is it possible to propose a splash pad and or wading pool in the space. The park has a large grounds area to fulfill this and i find that the area lacks splash pads and or wading pools.
- Is it possible to get some sort of gazebo for shade? Especially on sunny days..
- we really need a water park here, I am a mother of 3 kids and they love water park specially now with this situation of covid19. The water Belmar park it is not safe to the kids, the street it is very close to the street
- Make one slide twisted. Have a teeter totter.
- It looks fine but since it's such a big lot why not include tennis court
- It does look great--I am just wondering if there is an opportunity to add just one more accessible swing? There are different types for different needs. Consider the one in this photo: <https://www.reminetwork.com/articles/canadian-children-need-more-accessible-play-spaces/> Thank you :)
- Dont like the idea of a concrete curb around playground area.
- A fitness area along with the soft foam-like flooring (like at Downsview Park) instead of the messy wood fibre surfacing. An outdoor ice rink like the one at Joseph Bannon Park in the new Weston and Sheppard Area since the bocce courts are no longer used. MORE and BETTER lighting in the evening hours.
- More swings
- So much unused space in Exbury park. Bocce court virtually unused has now become "unofficial" dog park. Funding shouldn't be an issue regarding a paved pathway for accessibility purposes
- I prefer when structures are more connected (connect the freestanding structures with similar age larger play structures) allowing for "floor is lava" play. Also the colour is repulsive, why playgrounds are always in bright colours instead of matching the nature around them? Plus I'd figure you could see your brightly dressed kids better in a more suddle coloured surroundings.
- No possible workout area?
- A soccer field with soccer nets would be great for the kids and the community
- I love this playground! My four children grew up on Exbury playground. It was their favourite play space when they were young. Now as I am looking at new plan how playground will look like after the construction work is done, I feel excited for those kids who will be playing there. I , myself would want to play there! Thank you to the designers and our Mayor for making this amazing play spot for our children! Loving it already ❤️
- Playground looks great but i recommend moving the path over to the bacci courts for better accessibility

- Bring a seesaw for kids and adults! The adults want to have fun too
- Keep the glide structure
- I would like a gated area to be included for a small dog park
- Is there a possibility for a small splash pad? Otherwise great!
- Playground seems fine, but the existing court needs to go.. all it is used for is a playground for dogs to run around and crap everywhere. Replace it with a tennis court and a skating area for the winter season or a splash . We have lots of space, Utilize the area.
- If possible: add or modify for a picnic table and a twisted or tube slide
- Is there any funding for lighting to deter graffiti and crime in park ? Also, the rock wall for seating looks like a safety hazard. Kids will run along wall and injure themselves.
- A splash pad
- More “soft spots” for children, meaning if they fall or something soft around the bottom of the slides.
- It would be great to include an area with tables, there are elderly people that use to play cards. It could also be great maybe a pin pong table and a punctual area where people can gather for public meetings/activities
- I don't see splash pad. It looks the same to me.
- Is there going to be an enclosed off leash area for people who have pets? Also, can no parking signs be installed. With a new playground, the concerns i have are people parking on Peacham and Sherman. Also, what will the lighting situation consist of? LED? How many poles are going up? Will the lights be on a timer? If so, between what times? What will be made of the bocce court? Can't that area be used for a small dog enclosure?
- Add a play space like a sandbox but using a safer product than sand
- Tennis courts instead of the old and unused “bocce courts” as well as more lighting. The project SHOULD include lighting features since it's a SATETY feature.
- There should be more trees planted. A spiral slide could be added and also another set of swings
- Water Park would be a good addition
- Incorporate an small dog off-leash area
- Why cant we add some sort of sports facility. No tennis courts or outdoor hockey rink anywhere in the neighbourhood.