

City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry & Recreation

Lucy Tot Lot Playground Improvements

Visioning Survey Summary Report

January 31, 2021

Sung Sim, Senior Project Coordinator

Alex Lavasidis, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator



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Project Background

Lucy Tot Lot is a small playground located at 2 Sneath Ave., near Victoria Park and Danforth Avenue in Scarborough. The current playground includes a climbing structure with a small slide, a separate structure with monkey bars and a park bench. The playground will be enhanced to modernize the existing equipment.

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

- New playground equipment
- New accessibility ramps
- New play surfacing
- Upgraded seating

Survey Objectives

In January 2021, the City conducted an online survey to obtain feedback from community members to inform the improvements to the Lucy Tot Lot playground. Survey participants were given the opportunity to share their vision for the new playground and provide general feedback about the project.

The survey was available to complete online from January 5 to January 31, 2021. The survey received a total of **38 survey** responses, which included input from **94** individuals.

The feedback from the survey will inform the selection and refinement of the playground improvements.

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/LucyTotLot

Feedback Summary

- Survey respondents visit Lucy Tot Lot at a range of intervals, with some visiting daily (14%), multiple times a week (13%), multiple times a month (30%), less than once a month (14%), and less than once a year (8%).
 - Some respondents had never visited Lucy Toto Lot (22%).
- Most survey respondents visit Lucy Tot Lot with their family (55%), while others visit with friends (8%), Pet(s) (5%), and alone (8%).
 - Some respondents have not been to Lucy Toto Lot, or only walk by (24%).

- Most survey respondents stay at Lucy Toto lot for under 1 hour (70%)
- Respondents noted that their most popular activities at Lucy Tot Lot are:
Note: Respondents could select multiple responses.
 - Playing at the playground (67%)
 - Relaxing in a calm space (36%)
 - Sitting (31%)
 - Walking through the park (25%)
 - Spending time with others (22%)
 - Having a picnic (17%)
 - Enjoying nature (6%)
- The elements of Lucy Tot Lot respondents most enjoy are:
Note: Respondents could select multiple responses.
 - The slide (52%)
 - Seating/benches (39%)
 - Natural/green space (33%)
 - The monkey bars (30%)
 - The climbing net (27%)
 - The pathway connections (12%)
 - Other (12%) including:
 - The location: A local park beside calm roads (6%)
 - Native plants and trees that change with the seasons (3%)
 - The infant swing (3%)
- Improvements respondents would most like at Lucy Tot Lot include:
Note: Respondents could select multiple responses.
 - New playground surfacing (82%)
 - More landscaping (66%)
 - More seating (61%)
 - Improved gathering spaces (47%)
 - Upgrades to the existing fencing surrounding the park (45%)
 - Accessibility upgrades (42%)
 - Pathway upgrades (39%)
 - Bicycle parking (21%)
 - Other (26%) including:
 - Adding trees (3%) and native plants that attract birds and butterflies (6%)
 - Adding playground equipment:
 - Swings (9%)
 - Spinning toy (3%)
 - Spring toy (3%)
 - Seesaw (3%)
 - Climbing net (3%)
 - Slide (3%)
 - Equipment for kids above 18 months old (3%)
 - General improved/updated equipment (3%)
 - Add fitness equipment (3%)
- Additional suggestions for improving Lucy Tot Lot, not included above:
Note: The number of comments received related to each suggestion are noted in brackets.
 - Post directional signage to the park from Danforth, as some community members were not aware of its existence (2)

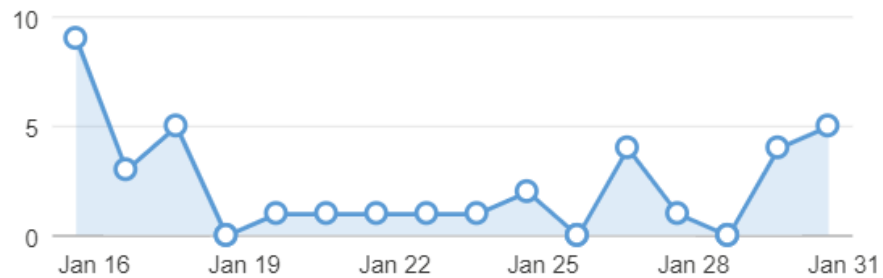
- Add other park features:
 - Add waste bins off to the side, as they are currently too central to the Lot (2)
 - Add a dog park (2)
 - Add a skating rink (1)
 - Improve lighting (1)
 - Celebrate diversity and inclusion by incorporating public art, history, and local culture into the Lot (1)
 - Include something (e.g. an art piece) that recognizes the Indigenous history of the land. There are local Indigenous organisations that could be brought into this process (1)
- Improve seating:
 - Place new seating under trees so they are shaded (1)
 - Do not use benches with hand rests in the centre as these prevent people who are experiencing homelessness from sleeping on them (1)
- Improve the overall park design:
 - Make the park accessible (3)
 - Make the park attractive for people of all ages, not just kids (2)
 - Make the space brighter (1)
- Improve the playground design:
 - Make the playground larger (1)
 - Include accessible swings (1), smooth playground surfacing (1), and ramps (1)
 - Do not use sand as playground surfacing (1), and do not include a sandbox (1) as animals will use it like a litter box
 - Include play equipment for younger children (1)
 - Add a tire swing (1)
- Create a green oasis (2)
 - Keep existing trees and garden in place (1)
 - Add food-bearing plants and trees (1)
- Additional comment include:
 - Lucy Tot Lot is often a gathering place for people who do not live in the community (2) and this noise is disturbing for those who live near the Lot (1)
 - The park has a lot of litter (1)

Appendix A: Quantitative Response Summary

Respondents



Response timeline



How often do you visit Lucy Tot Lot?

	Count	% of responses	%
Daily	5	<div></div>	14%
4 or more times a week	2	<div></div>	5%
2 to 3 times a week	3	<div></div>	8%
Once a week	4	<div></div>	11%
A couple times a month	7	<div></div>	19%
Less than once a month	5	<div></div>	14%
Less than once a year	3	<div></div>	8%
I have never been to Lucy Tot Lot	8	<div></div>	22%







N 37

Who do you visit Lucy Tot Lot with?

	Count	% of responses	%
Family	21	<div></div>	55%
Friends	3	<div></div>	8%
Pet(s)	2	<div></div>	5%
Alone	3	<div></div>	8%
I have never been to Lucy Tot Lot	8	<div></div>	21%
Other, please specify	1	<div></div>	3%








N 38

How long do you usually stay at Lucy Tot Lot?

	Count	% of responses	%
I just pass through/less than 5 minutes	5		14%
Less than 30 minutes	12		32%
Up to 1 hour	9		24%
Up to 2 hours	2		5%
More than 2 hours	1		3%
I have never been to Lucy Tot Lot	8		22%








N 37

If you visit Lucy Tot Lot, what do you and those you visit with usually do when you are there? Please select all that apply.

	Count	% of responses	%
Play at the playground	24		67%
Relax in a calm space	13		36%
Sit on a bench/seating	11		31%
Walk through the park	9		25%
Spend time with others	8		22%
Have a picnic	6		17%
Other, please specify	3		8%

N 36

What do you like about Lucy Tot Lot?

	Count	% of responses	%
The slide	17		52%
The seating/benches	13		39%
The nature/green space	11		33%
The monkey bars	10		30%
The climbing net	9		27%
The pathway connections	4		12%
Other (list)	4		12%

N 33

What improvements would you most like to see at Lucy Tot Lot? Please select all that apply.

	Count	% of responses	%
New playground surfacing	31	<div></div>	82%
More landscaping	25	<div></div>	66%
More seating	23	<div></div>	61%
Improved gathering spaces	18	<div></div>	47%
Upgrades to the existing fencing surrounding the park	17	<div></div>	45%
Accessibility upgrades	16	<div></div>	42%
Pathway upgrades	15	<div></div>	39%
Other, please specify	10	<div></div>	26%
Bicycle parking	8	<div></div>	21%

N 38

Do you have any suggestions on how Lucy Tot Lot can be more accessible and welcoming for all users?

	Count	% of responses	%
No	25	<div></div>	66%
Yes, please specify	13	<div></div>	34%

N 38

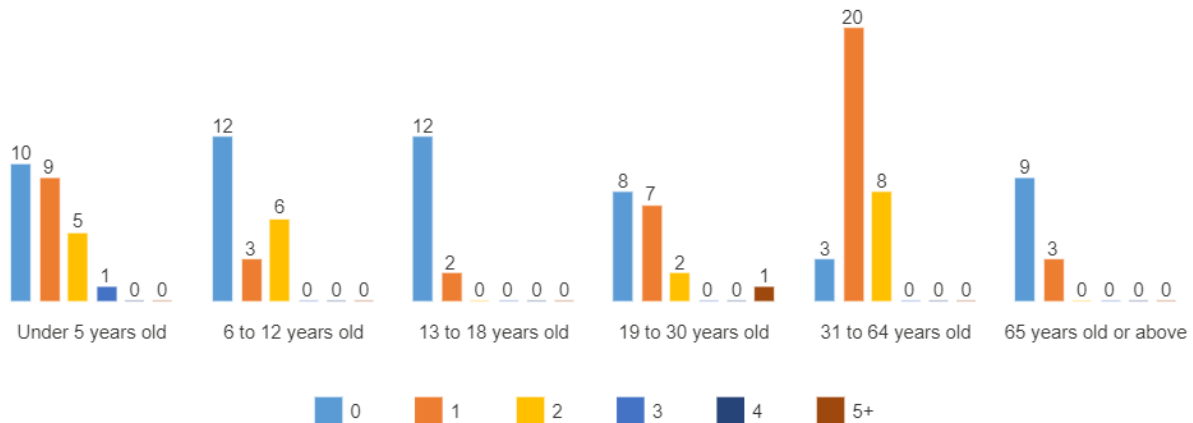
Do you have any other comments or ideas for the Lucy Tot Lot improvements?

	Count	% of responses	%
No	29	<div></div>	76%
Yes, please specify	9	<div></div>	24%

N 38

Demographics

How many people of each age group participated in this survey?



N 36

Total responses per age group include:

- 22 kids under 5
- 15 kids between the ages of 5 and 12
- 2 teens between the ages of 13 and 18
- 16 young adults between the ages of 19 and 30
- 36 adults between the ages of 31 and 64
- 3 seniors aged 65 and above

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

	Count	% of responses	%
White (European descent)	26	<div></div>	72%
I don't know/Prefer not to answer	4	<div></div>	11%
South Asian or Indo-Caribbean (e.g. Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan, Indo-Guyanese, Indo-Trinidadian, etc.)	3	<div></div>	8%
Black (African, Afro-Caribbean, African-Canadian descent)	2	<div></div>	6%
Latino (Latin American, Hispanic descent)	2	<div></div>	6%
East Asian (Chinese, Korean, Japanese)	1	<div></div>	3%
Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, Inuk/Inuit)	1	<div></div>	3%
Southeast Asian (Taiwanese descent; Filipino, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Thai, Indonesian)	1	<div></div>	3%
Other, please specify	1	<div></div>	3%

N 36

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 your gender?

	Count	% of responses	%
Female	27	<div></div>	75%
Male	7	<div></div>	19%
Prefer not to answer	2	<div></div>	6%
Not listed, please describe.	1	<div></div>	3%

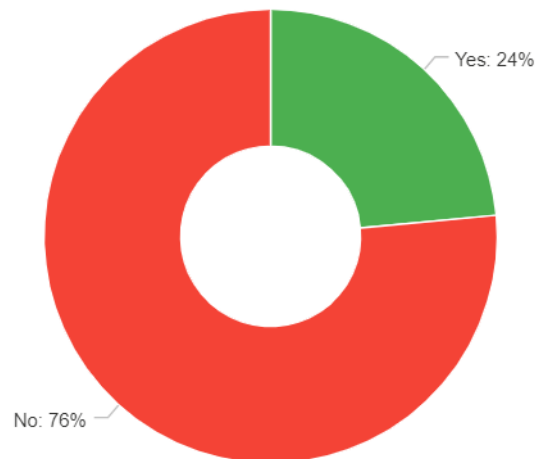
N 36

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?



N 34

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?



N 34

Do survey participants rent or own their home?

	Count	% of responses	%
Owner	23	<div style="width: 68%;"></div>	68%
Renter	10	<div style="width: 29%;"></div>	29%
Neither owner nor renter	2	<div style="width: 6%;"></div>	6%

N 34

Appendix B: Lucy Tot Lot Today

Please are images of Lucy Tot Lot today.







Appendix C: Text Responses

Who do you visit Lucy Tot Lot with?

Respondents who selected "other, please specify."

- I don't visit per se, but I live across the street so I look at it all the time

If you visit Lucy Tot Lot, what do you and those you visit with usually do when you are there? Please select all that apply.

Respondents who selected "other, please specify."

- I would go there for nature/green space
- I enjoy looking at the trees (and I also use their leaves in my compost bin)

What do you like about Lucy Tot Lot?

Respondents who selected "other, please specify."

- Nice plantings, some native flowers; changing looks with the seasons.
- Infant swing
- Not close to the busy roads
- in neighbourhood

What improvements would you most like to see at Lucy Tot Lot? Please select all that apply.

Respondents who selected "other, please specify."

- More trees, area is far too bare.
- A swingset
- More native plants; bird or butterfly attractors. Please get rid of the sand, as it attracts cats who use it as a toilet.
- Swings, a spinning toy like the one at Madeline park, a spring riding toy, seesaw, climbing net like the one at Madeline park
- More Play for 18 month olds onwards
- More playground equipment should be there for kids.
- Swings and more slides please!
- Specifically interested in pollinator-friendly landscaping and native plants
- Better playground equipment
- Adult fitness equipment

Do you have any suggestions on how Lucy Tot Lot can be more accessible and welcoming for all users?

- Signage on Danforth. I had no idea it was there.
- More trees and plants. Make it more green
- Add signage for the park on danforth
- More playground space for the kids. Add a few more benches for parents to sit on. Brighten up the space to make it more welcoming.
- Swings
- It would be nice if the garbage cans weren't front and centre like they are now, as if they're the main attraction. Would like more shrubs and native flowers (the echinacea that grow there now add a lot of appeal). Please keep the seating under the trees as they protect against the hot sun in summer months.

- Dog park/dog area
- Better lighting
- Accessible swings for children with disabilities
- Not sand, currently used as cat litter.
- Please don't put in the anti-homeless type benches with the railing in the middle, I really don't like those. I would also be interested in some acknowledgement we are on Indigenous lands, perhaps an art piece. (Maybe in partnership with local Indigenous organizations - there is one just around the corner).
- accessible playground equipment, play equipment for little kids, seating around the playground
- Ramps of course. And a surface that is smooth for wheelchairs

Do you have any other comments or ideas for the Lucy Tot Lot improvements?

- It's very bare space. Make it more of an escape from the city with more trees, plants and upgraded playground.
- Tire swing
- The Lucy Tot Lot is often a gathering place for people who do not live in the community. This can make a lot of noise for what is a very quiet street. That noise is disturbing for those who live near the Tot Lot. Furthermore, there is a lot of litter from food packaging, beverage containers and cigarettes. On the other hand, I believe that public space should be used and enjoyed by the community. Incorporating public art, history and local culture is a way for the City to celebrate diversity and inclusion.
- Please leave the existing trees in place. Also I love the garden. No sandbox please - too many stray cats in the neighbourhood.
- Dog area
- Additional landscaping so the park has value to those without small children
- I would love to see a small part of the park dedicated to shared local food, such as some fruit trees and/or a herb garden. In an ideal world I would love a skating rink, but not sure it would fit. I like the idea of playground improvements for the children in our area, but to be honest there are very few on this block (I see 5 who use the playground regularly). So I think in addition to the playground it's worth thinking about the adults in the area and how they could enjoy this space.
- I think it's a great idea to improve the playgrounds in the GTA
- More plantings, to create a natural oasis, where one might like to go and read a book. Upgrading the equipment so there is more to do for adults as well as children. Upgraded garbage and recycling unit that is better integrated into the overall design. Be careful with the seating, as we tend to get a certain demographic using the park, as it is behind a liquor store.