

City of Toronto – Parks Development & Capital Projects

Exbury Park Playground Improvements Public Meeting

Meeting Summary

January 20, 2021

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Introduction

This document provides a summary of the Exbury Park Playground Improvements Virtual Public Meeting that was held on Wednesday January 20, 2021, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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

Meeting Purpose

The purpose of this meeting was to present a project update, including results from fall 2020 online survey and the proposed playground design, and to gather feedback to inform and final refinements to the proposed playground design.

Public Meeting Advertisement

This meeting was promoted through:

- Paid social media advertisements
- Email updates through the project listserve
- E-notification through the Councillor's office
- Project webpage updates
- Park signage

Participants

Members of the Public

11 Members of the public attended this meeting

City Staff – Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Joe Ferrara, Senior Project Coordinator

Danielle Charlton, Project Coordinator Landscape Architect

Alex Lavasidis, Public Consultation Coordinator

Councillor's Office

Councillor James Pasternak, York Centre Councillor

Aytakin Mohammadi, Chief of Staff

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: How did you find out about this meeting?

Social Media: 3

Project Team Email: 3

Councillor Email: 1

Park Sign: 1

Other: 1

Discussion Summary

Paraphrased questions (Q), comments (C), and responses from staff (RS) and the Councillor (RC) are presented below.

Q. Can fitness equipment be incorporated into the park?

RS. This is outside of scope of this project but could potentially be accommodated through other funding sources, as a separate project.

C. The Bocce Court is occasionally used and should be better maintained.

RS. This feedback is noted. Currently the Bocce Courts are outside of the scope of this playground improvement project.

Q. Can a dog park be added to the park?

RC. There are strict requirements for the installation of a dog park (based on the size of a park, proximity to residential homes, and other factors). It is unlikely a dog park would be placed in this location.

RC. The Councillor noted his willingness to meet on-site with residents to discuss the park's maintenance and other potential park upgrades and additions.

Q. What are the accessible features of this new playground?

RS. Many elements on the new playground are considered accessible. This includes a transfer station on the proposed playground equipment, an accessible swing, and a number of ground-level play opportunities. There are more accessible play opportunities in the proposed playground design than are required through provincial guidelines and standards (AODA). The new accessible pathways proposed are subject to additional funding. The additional funding for pathways will likely be obtained, though it is not guaranteed at this time.

Q. Can one of the slides become a spiral slide?

RS. We will look into this as a possibility. It will depend on the options for the slide output area, which must be safe for slide users.

Q. Can the surface of the playground be made of cork?

RS. We have not heard of cork being used for playground surfacing before, but you may be referring to rubber surfacing, which is sometimes used in playgrounds in the City. Rubber surfacing is not more or less safe than other surfaces for playgrounds. It would be prohibitively expensive in this case and therefore is not feasible for this project. For a comparative example, in some cases rubber surfacing can cost as much as all of the playground equipment in a new park.

Q. Can there be a covered/shaded seating area?

RS. This is outside of scope of this project but could potentially be accommodated through other funding sources, as a separate project. We will look into the possibility of securing additional funds for this purpose.

Q. Why is there already temporary fencing up in the park if construction is still months away?

RS. That fencing is not related to this playground project. It is unclear what that fencing would be for but could potentially be part of utility works in the neighbourhood.

Next Steps

Participants will have until January 24 to provide any additional feedback through the online survey, available at [the project webpage](#).

Summary of this meeting will be posted to the project webpage.

Based on feedback provided at this meeting and through the online survey, the design team will refine the playground design, with construction set to begin in summer 2021.

Contact Us

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

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