

Dufferin Grove Park North-west Corner and Clubhouse Improvements Project

Public Meeting, Popup, and Online Feedback Form Engagement Summary June 2019

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Dufferin Grove Park North-west Corner and Clubhouse Improvements
Public Meeting and Online feedback form Engagement Summary – June 2019

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Introduction

This document provides a summary of the Dufferin Grove Park North-west Corner and Clubhouse Improvements engagement that occurred between June 5th and June 24th 2019. Engagement activities included a public meeting on June 5th, an online feedback form from June 7th to June 24th, a popup at a local high school on June 14, 2019, a popup at the Dufferin Grove Farmers' Market on June 20th, 2019, and public popups in and around Dufferin Grove Park on June 23rd, 2019.

Please note that the information summarized below does not necessarily reflect the views or direction of the City of Toronto. This is a summary of feedback provided by community members.

More information about the project can be found on the project website, here:

<https://dufferingrove-northwestrevitalization.ca/>

Public Meeting Format

The public meeting took place on June 5th, from 6:30 to 9:00 pm in the St. Helen Catholic School Gymnasium (1196 College Street). The agenda for the public meeting can be found in Appendix A.

The presentation from the public meeting can be downloaded here:

<https://dufferingrove-northwestrevitalization.ca/document/public-meeting-june-5-2019-presentation>.

The purpose of the public meeting was:

- To provide the community with an overview of the project and community engagement process to date.
- To present and gather community feedback on the preferred design strategy for the Dufferin Grove Park North-west Corner and Clubhouse Improvements.
- To present next steps.

The meeting began with an open house from 6:30 to 7:00 pm. Participants could enter at any time during the open house portion of the meeting to view project information boards at their own pace. Project team members were on hand to answer questions. At 7:00 pm opening remarks were provided LURA Consulting, who thanked participants and Councillor Bailao's office for attending the meeting. Next, DTAH presented an overview of the community engagement process so far, an overview of the project, and the preferred design strategy. A question and answer session followed the presentation. After the question and answer session, participants took part in round table discussions. Participants worked with their fellow community members to provide feedback on the following questions using sticky notes and worksheets:

- What do you like about the preferred design strategy?
- What would you change about the preferred design strategy and why?
- What would you like to see included in each of the following spaces?
 - The Clubhouse
 - The Rink
 - The Pleasure Pad
 - The Basketball Court
 - The Plaza
 - The community Garden
 - Other Space (describe)

Following the round table discussions, attendees participated in a plenary discussion. To close, the project team provided an overview of next steps and the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:40 pm.

The meeting also included a youth table with arts and crafts activities for kids, however no youth attended the public meeting.

In total, 19 people signed into the public meeting (sign-in was optional), with an estimated 15 members of the community attending the presentation.

Public Meeting Advertisement

The public meeting was advertised through the following communications channels:

- Flyers:
 - 4000 public meeting flyers were delivered to the homes and businesses surrounding Dufferin Grove Park. Apartment buildings around Dufferin Grove Park were provided with multiple public meeting flyers for their main entrance lobbies.
- E-Flyers:
 - Members of the project's Community Resource Group (a volunteer group of residents who represent a diverse range of park user group interests) were provided with E-Flyers to circulate to their community networks to raise awareness for the public meeting.
 - E-Flyers were sent to everyone who had signed up for project updates through the project website.
 - Councillor Bailão's e-newsletter included the E-Flyer and notification of the public meeting.
 - The project website advertised the public meeting and included a copy of the E-Flyer for public download.

Online Feedback Form Format

An online feedback form was live on the project website from June 5th, 2019 to June 24th, 2019. The online feedback form included the same questions that were discussed at the public meeting and at popups. A link for the presentation that was given at the Public Meeting was provided at the top of the survey. In total 30 people completed the online feedback form.

Online Feedback Form Advertisement

The online feedback form was promoted through email to the community resource group and the project email list. Recipients were encouraged to share a link to the online feedback form through their wider Dufferin Grove networks. The online feedback form was also promoted on the project website, as well as at popup booths that occurred on, and before, June 24.

Popup Booth Format

Four "popup" booths were held in the community to engage with and collect input from a broader range of community members than attended the public meeting. Each popup booth included six project information boards—three introducing the project and history of the park, one showing the preferred design strategy, as well as two feedback boards which contained the same questions asked in the online survey and at the June 5th public meeting. Two project team members spent 1.5 to 4.5 hours at each popup, leading participants through the project boards, answering questions about the project, and encouraging and recording feedback from participants. Project team members also handed out project cards to participants and passerby's which encouraged people to fill in the online feedback form by June 24th and provided a link to the project webpage. The popups occurred as follows:

| Date | Location | Time | Number of People Engaged (approximate) |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Wednesday June 14 | St. Mary's Catholic High School | 11:15am to 12:45pm** | 60 |
| Thursday June 20 | Dufferin Grove Farmer's Market | 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm | 37 |
| Sunday June 23 | Dufferin Grove Park (Gladstone Path) | 11:30pm to 1:30 pm | 52 |
| Sunday June 23 | SW Corner of Dufferin and Bloor | 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm | 12 |

**Note: The popup at St. Mary's was structured around students' lunch break and was therefore less than 2 hours.

Popup Booth Advertisement

The popup booths were promoted through email to the community resource group and the project email list, and on the project website.

Questions and Answers

The following section presents questions posed by members of the community at the public meeting. Responses from the project team are provided.

Questions from the Public Meeting Question and Answer Period

The following questions were asked during an open format question and answer period during the public meeting.

1) Is there a difference in the construction time depending on which way the rinks are oriented?

There is no significant, anticipated time difference for how long it will take to construct any of the options.

2) Will trees be cut down along Gladstone Path?

The trees will be protected as much as possible, but some of the trees may be impacted.

Follow Up Note: The project team is currently awaiting a finalized arborist report for the project site. Once the project team have the arborist report, they will review the findings, including the health of the existing trees, and revise the design to find a balance between preserving the existing healthy canopy, adding more trees to the overall space, and providing long-term community benefits through the overall North-west Corner and Clubhouse improvements. A refined design integrating the findings of the arborist report and the continued feedback from stakeholders will be presented at the next public meeting.

3) Will traffic from the hockey or bike polo players cross the top of the pleasure pad?

Based on CRG member feedback, the man-gate to the hockey rink presumed to be used by players has been moved to the bottom of the pleasure pad. This allows for hockey players to either skate through the pleasure pad or walk (on rubber pads) to get to the hockey rink, without needing to cross through the same area as where the Zamboni enters and exits the pleasure pad (which is at the North end of the rink). This will help separate the Zamboni from pedestrians.

4) What is the distance people on skates will travel to get to the rink?

There is not currently an exact number, the project team will follow up with what that distance is. Travelling from the changeroom to the rink is further in the preferred design strategy than Option One.

Follow Up Note: The exterior distance between the team bench and the Clubhouse is currently 32m. In the preferred design strategy this distance is 45m (an additional 13 metres).

5) Is the interior design complete for the preferred design strategy? It looks like an operating room and is not homey.

The interior design is not complete. Currently the space is awaiting feedback from the public, which is why the renderings show almost bare rooms.

6) Are three mature trees going to be cut down?

Yes, some of the trees will be impacted, although we are working on limiting the impacts on existing trees as much as possible.

Follow Up Note: The project team is currently awaiting a finalized arborist report for the project site. Once the project team have the arborist report, they will review the findings, including the health of the existing trees, and revise the design to find a balance between preserving the existing healthy canopy, adding more trees to the overall space, and providing long-term community benefits through the overall North-west Corner and Clubhouse improvements. A refined design integrating the findings of the arborist report and the continued feedback from stakeholders will be presented at the next public meeting.

7) Will the cherry trees be preserved?

The cherry tree within the community garden is not impacted by changes proposed in the landscape. The intention around the two newly-planted cherry trees adjacent to the existing Pleasure Pad is that they will be relocated as part of the project (as indicated in the CRG presentation from May). The arborist report will tell us the health of these existing trees.

8) To what extent is the park going to be monetized?

The community space will not become private space. Right now, the community kitchens are used for food programs that are open to the public. Food is also sold to the public at the Clubhouse. After the redevelopment this programming will stay the same.

9) Can small business owners use the multipurpose space?

Currently there is a lot of programming in the Clubhouse, and as such, it is quite full. With time, it may be open to other users. For now, interested residents can put an application in to client services. It is unavailable for permanent use, but for one-time use may be possible.

9) Why do the cherry trees need to be moved?

The trees are currently between the garden and the hockey rink. They are needed to be moved and are young enough to survive the move.

10) Can we design around the trees like was done at the Davenport Community Center?

For every tree impacted multiple trees will be planted to increase the net number of trees. The project is awaiting an arborist report on the trees and how to best protect them, while still completing the project.

11) Why is the City planning to rent space out to business?

The City is not planning on opening the space as a place for small businesses. The space is open to individuals, including individual children, or individual business owners to use for short-term use (e.g. for an event).

12) Why do the designs not reflect accessibility?

Accessibility has been improved in the park by adding accessible paths and indoor space in the Clubhouse.

Ensuring greater accessibility through design has been a major focus of this project and the project team have discussed accessibility needs at past public meetings as well as at Community Resource Group (CRG) meetings.

Feedback Summary

The following provides a summary of feedback provided by community members from the public meeting, popup booths, and online feedback form. This section is organized by engagement question and by feedback themes.

1) What do you like about the preferred design strategy?

Participants shared the following things they liked about the preferred design strategy:

Overall Design

- The visual flow and orientation of park features.
- Better sightlines of the entire park for staff.
- Flexible design that allows for varied use of spaces.
- More efficient use of space.
- Reflects community input and considers all park user groups; feels like a good compromise between users.
- Appears to be able to accommodate growth and is future looking.
- Limited impact on the park at large.
- Like the concrete apron for the market.
- The new design makes the front of the Clubhouse more accessible and the plaza more inviting.

Pathways and Accessibility

- The east-west corridor, with improved paths from the Dufferin St. Entrance.
- Overall improved pathway accessibility (e.g. gentler slopes).

Plaza Space

- The larger, more porous, and accessible plaza.
 - Presents more opportunity for the market and other, similar uses.
 - Provides a larger market space.

Natural Environment

- Provides a strategy to replace impacted trees that results in the addition of more overall, including young trees.
- Maintains greenspace, including mature trees.
- Placement of trees between the pleasure pad and the rink.

Rinks

- Rink orientation is more suitable for sports and recreation and will improve ice quality.
- Rinks are accessible to the Clubhouse.
- Improved and updated rink facilities (overall) that will be more sustainable long-term.
- The pleasure pad provides a separate space for skaters, apart from the hockey players.
- The skating loop.
- Addresses Zamboni safety issues, with a better location for the Zamboni garage in relation to the rinks.

Clubhouse

- Retaining but enhancing the existing Clubhouse (instead of a rebuild/teardown).
- More natural lighting and large windows make the space more inviting.
- Improved kitchen.
- Better internal flow for people moving through the Clubhouse.
- A single, expanded community space.

Other

- Maintenance of firepits.
- Reconstruction of the basketball court and the addition of more nets.
- Larger apron on the west side of the Clubhouse.
- Maintenance of Community Gardens.

- Shed is moved, which improves the park entrance (from the Gladstone Path).
- Garage space (for park staff/workers).

2) What would you change about the preferred design strategy and why?

Participants shared what they would change about the preferred design strategy:

Overall Design

- Maintain the original east-west orientation of the rink to:
 - Not impact the basketball court.
 - Allow for better flow between spaces – north-south alignment creates a barrier to access along Gladstone path.
 - Protect mature trees.
- Include timber structures to soften overall appearance.
- Provide more group seating throughout the project area to provide students with more places to hang out with friends.

Pathways and Accessibility

- Ensure every aspect of the design is AODA compliant, including handicap parking on the street north of the Clubhouse.
- Provide more room around the basketball court, as a path immediately next to the court might not be safe for those passing by.

Plaza Space

- Include more covered seating in the plaza (e.g. umbrellas, retractable awnings, natural shade).
- Create a closer relationship between Clubhouse and plaza using landscaping and structures (e.g. a pergola) to bridge this connection.

Natural Environment

- Do not reduce greenspace for the creation of the plaza space.
- Include rain gardens and bioswales to make Dufferin Grove an example of City-led green infrastructure.

Rinks

- Include rubber walkways for skaters with supports (e.g. railing or other). The detailed design should illustrate how this feature is included to respect the design of the plaza so it doesn't feel like an afterthought (e.g. don't just throw down black mats).
- Reduce the distance between the changeroom and the rinks, as the current distance is far for inexperienced skaters and those with balance challenges.
- Remove trees and greenspace between the hockey rink and pleasure pad. This greenspace is hazard for inexperienced skaters and will gather litter.
- Concern around delineation of the pleasure pad and who gets to use it.
- Create a barrier around the pleasure pad to ensure loose pucks and skateboards do not hit people in the plaza area (e.g. a 3ft high plexiglass wall).
- Ensure the hockey rink is not too far from mechanical room (e.g. that would cause a problem with maintenance for the mechanical system).

Clubhouse

- Relocate skate rental to the rink side, closer to the washrooms.
- Separate gendered washrooms.
- Create a larger clubhouse to provide more program and activity space and accommodate growth in the neighbourhood.
- Move the community room to the south end of the building.

Other

- Maintain the space during winter to remove snow from paths and other paved areas.
- Add multiple water fountains outside, in the plaza, beside the basketball court and beside the hockey rink.

- Add outdoor exercise equipment for older adults, between the Gladstone spine and the hockey rink.
- Add art to the park in the form of murals to building walls and potentially on the rink surface.
- Maintain the snow dump area as a space for kids to play (e.g. provide additional space for it, do not truck it away or try to melt it on-site).
- Concern regarding conflict between market and two rink areas.

3) What would you like to see included in each of the following spaces?

Participants shared what they would like to see in each of the following spaces:

Clubhouse

Overall

- More washrooms.
- Bulletin boards.
- Art Displays.
- Community art.
- Green roof.
- Flexibility of use.
- Flow between spaces (within and outside of the clubhouse).
- A safe layout.

Accessible Design

- Low sinks for smaller visitors.
- 24hr/365 access to washrooms through exterior doors.

Seating

- Flexible seating.

Lighting

- Big windows facing the rink.
- Lots of natural lighting.

Storage

- Lockers.
- Lockup cupboards for things like art supplies and kids' toys.

Seasonal Use

- Woodstove/hearth/fireplace inside (e.g. as a warming area in the winter for skating).
- Large room that can be divided for the market.
- Room for skaters to change in the Clubhouse.
- Thoughtfulness around how the inside of the Clubhouse can have a positive qualitative experience.

Food/Kitchen

- Full wraparound windows on all sides.
- Programmable kitchen.
- Snack bar with healthy food.

Rink

Overall

- On-site skate sharpening.

Shelter and Lighting

- Evergreen trees or levered solar panels around the full rink for winter shade.

Storage

- Outdoor space for coats, bags, drinks so they are not scattered across the plaza.

Pleasure Pad

Overall

- Fence around the pleasure pad to protect from stray pucks and provide support for skaters (minimal but not a chain link fence).
- Planters against the rink so skateboarders can grind on it.
- Curved corner of the pleasure pad on the south end.
- Ability to combine with hockey rink.
- Adequate lighting.
- Better drainage.

Seating

- Benches.

Storage

- A place for the skateboard park items in the winter.

Basketball Court

Overall

- Basketball availability and storage.
- Room for stray balls.
- More nets.
- Clarification on whether the basketball court will be the same size as it is now.
 - *Follow Up Note: The basketball court will remain the same size.*
- Smaller baskets on the side for kids to play
- Use of radiant heat from rink's mechanical wasted energy to heat the basketball surface to prolong its use.

Seating

- Benches.

Shelter and Lighting

- Use trees to provide shade during hot summer days, impacting how much the spaces can be used.
- Improve lighting so games/activities can continue later in the evening.

Plaza

Overall

- Extend the concrete apron on west side to accommodate farmers market.
- Space for cars to come in for market, so vendors can unload/load.
- Heated and permeable surface for the plaza (e.g. investigate the possibility of a heat exchange system that works with the rink cooling/refrigeration).
- Skate friendly surface.
- Plaza technology and speakers that are compatible for performances and events.
- Public art.
- Fire pit.

Accessibility

- Movable furniture to allow for and accommodate more users (e.g. strollers).
 - Ensure that wheelchairs can easily be included in the communal seating areas.

Seating

- Large communal seating areas.
- Comfortable flexible seating.
- Inward facing furniture (community building) and areas for large families.
- Muskoka chairs and colourful furniture.

Shelter and Lighting

- Shaded seating areas.
- Skate-friendly surface.

Community Garden

Overall

- Space for groups and families.
- Maintain the existing gardens.
- Larger gardens.
- More gardens (throughout the site).
- Preserve fruit trees.
- Compost bins and rain barrels.
- Remove weeds and invasive species.
- More linkages between green spaces rather than patches.

Accessibility

- Raised beds for accessibility for children and people with different mobility needs.

Seating

- Seating and socializing areas.

Other Spaces

Gladstone Path

- Line with fruit trees.
- Create a mixed movement space (current cyclist and pedestrian conflict).

Accessibility

- Make a designated spot for wheel trans drop off (potentially off Gladstone Ave).
- Reduce grade changes around the basketball court.

Natural Environment

- More greenspace.
- Keep old growth trees.
- Address issues with drainage and street crossing at Dufferin.

Cycling Infrastructure

- More bike parking.

Food

- Provide space for food trucks and vendors.
- Keep dinner and pizza oven programming open during renovation.

Dan's Tables

- Spread out and add more tables.

Arts

- Create arts friendly spaces (e.g. rooms for meetings and readings).

4) Do you have any additional comments?

Participants shared the other comments they had about the project:

Construction Process

- Concern over loss of access during construction. Consider a phased approach to maintain access to existing spaces as much as possible.
- The construction and design process should include a community building project (e.g. a community mosaic or other items created by community members).
- Create a plan to accommodate the farmers market through construction.
- Reuse and reduce waste as much as possible.

Detailed Design Phase

- Demonstrate in the detailed design, the uses of various spaces, such as the market layout, space functions, etc.

Change Stemming from Improvements

- Concern around non-scheduled access to the rink once it is modified.
 - Do not displace informal shinny players for registered leagues.

Rest of the Park

- Address challenges in other areas of the park (e.g. remodel the fieldhouse washrooms and create a year-round soccer field).
- Build tennis courts.
- Add a pool.
- Add a dog park in another area of the park.

Environment

- Do not relocate cherry trees too close to hard surfaces or fire pits.

Other

- Experiment with allowing farmers or small businesses to sell their wares from the Clubhouse whenever they like.

Appendix A – Public Meeting Agenda

Dufferin Grove Park North-west Corner and Clubhouse Park Improvements Public Meeting

June 5, 2019

6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

St. Helen Catholic School (Gymnasium), 1196 College Street

AGENDA

Meeting Purpose:

- To provide the community with an overview of the project and community engagement process to date.
- To present and gather community feedback on the preferred design strategy for the Dufferin Grove Park North-west Corner and Clubhouse Improvements.
- To present next steps.

Note: A youth engagement activity will run at a marked table throughout the meeting.

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| 6:30 pm | Open House (Drop-In from 6:30 to 7:00) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View project information boards. | | |
| 7:00 pm | Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview of the community engagement process so far. • An overview of the project, and preferred design strategy. | | |
| 7:30 pm | Question and Answer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions of clarification about the presentation and the project. | | |
| 7:50 pm | Round Table Discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you like about the preferred design strategy? • What would you change about the preferred design strategy and why? • What would you like to see included in each of the following spaces? (e.g. additional basketball nets around the basketball court) <table border="0" style="margin-left: 20px; width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Clubhouse ○ The Rink ○ The Pleasure Pad </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Basketball Court ○ The Plaza ○ The Community Garden ○ Other Space (describe) </td> </tr> </table> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Clubhouse ○ The Rink ○ The Pleasure Pad | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Basketball Court ○ The Plaza ○ The Community Garden ○ Other Space (describe) |
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| 8:20 pm | Plenary Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlights of each table discussion. • Open, full-room discussion. | | |
| 8:50 pm | Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project team will provide a summary of next steps. | | |
| 9:00 pm | Adjourn | | |

Please note: A copy of the presentation slides will be available online on June 6.

An online feedback form will be hosted online for 2 weeks, starting on June 6.

A summary of the workshop will be available online once it is complete.

For a link to the presentation, online feedback form, and for more information, please visit:

<https://dufferingrove-northwestrevitalization.ca/>