

# New Park at Leslie and Eglinton Development

## Concept Design - Survey Summary Report

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## Introduction

This document provides a summary of the survey feedback received about the early concept designs for the new park at 1087 Leslie Street, which was collected from January 22 to February 14, 2021.

## Project Background

A new park is being designed at the north-east corner of Leslie Street and Eglinton Avenue, as part of a new mixed-use and residential development in the neighbourhood. The new park will be located at 1087 Leslie Street and City staff are gathering feedback on the early concept plans and playground equipment options for this new park, to ensure it meets the needs of the surrounding community.



*Figure 1A rendering of the new park coming to the Leslie and Eglinton Development.*

The proposed park is in the concept design phase, which broadly outlines the proposed amenities, design features and layout of a space. The proposed park will include the following elements:

- A children's playground with junior and senior play equipment
- A splash pad
- An open lawn area
- A small amphitheatre

## Survey Objectives

An online survey was conducted to gather feedback on the early concept plan and playground equipment options for the new park. Results from this survey will help inform next steps for the park design, including playground equipment and other park amenities. These final designs will be presented online in spring 2021.

The survey was available to complete online from January 22 to February 14, 2021. The survey received a total of 275 survey responses, which included input from 529 individuals.

## Notification

The online survey was promoted through the following channels:

- Councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong's newsletter and communications
- Signage near the new park site
- A community mailout
- Project webpage: [www.toronto.ca/LeslieEglintonPark](http://www.toronto.ca/LeslieEglintonPark)
- A digital eFyer sent to future residents at the new development

## Key Feedback Highlights

- The survey received a total of **275 survey responses**, which included input from **529 individuals**.
- The majority of survey respondents were in the **40-55 and 56-64 years old age categories**.
- The majority of survey respondents found out about the survey from a **direct email (e-flyer) (58%) or community flyer to their home (18%)**.

## Concept Design

- In general, the **majority of survey respondents were satisfied** with the proposed layout shown in the concept design.
  - **59%** of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the layout.
  - **13%** of respondents were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the layout.
- In general, the **majority of respondents were satisfied** with the proposed amenities and features shown in the concept design.
  - **59%** of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with amenities/features.
  - **14%** of respondents were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the amenities/features.
- When asked what was missing from the concept design, respondent suggestions included:
  - More trees to be planted for more shaded areas (10)
  - A water feature (9)
  - A dog park (6)
  - A connection to Wilket Creek and/or Don Mills Trail (6)
    - This is beyond the scope of our park project.
  - More seating/benches (5)
  - Public art (4)
  - Ping-Pong, Chess, Games (4)
  - Bike parking (3)
  - Increase the size of the play area (3)
  - Adult fitness area (3)
  - Natural skating rink for winter months (3)
  - Public washrooms (2)
  - Fencing to the park or play areas for increased safety (2)
  - Pollinator gardens (2)
  - BBQ (2)
  - Move the play area further from the road (2)

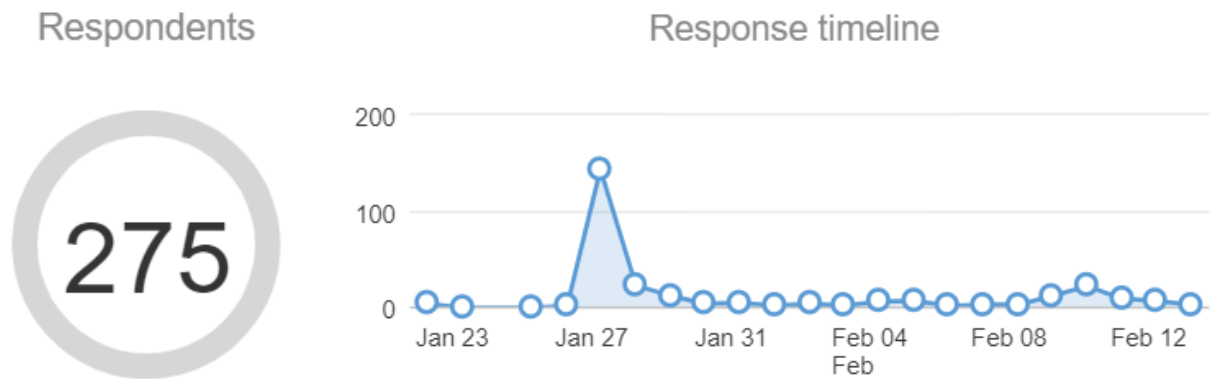
## Visiting the new park

- **To get to the new park (respondents could select multiple options):**
  - 81% of respondents would walk
  - 38% of respondents would use a personal vehicle
  - 37% would bike
  - 23% would use public transportation
  - 14% would use a mobility device and/or stroller, taxi and/or ride share, or other means (e.g. connect from the Don Mills Trail)
- **When visiting the new park:**
  - More than half of respondents would visit would visit with a spouse or partner (80%) or friends (52%)
  - Over a third would visit with children (43%), alone (40%) or with pets (26%)
  - Less than a third would visit with pets (26%) or with family members (7%)
- The **most popular activities** respondents would like to partake in at the new park are relaxing, enjoying and observing plants/planting areas, sitting and/or eating, spending time with others, spending time alone, or using the children's play area.
  - Other activities identified included Taking Photos, Connecting to other nearby paths like Wilket Creek, Community Programming, BBQs, and Reading.
- **Features most respondents feel are important or very important** for the new park include seating areas (e.g. benches, tables, etc.), planting, garden areas, open lawn areas, bicycle parking, and picnic areas.
- **Features most respondents feel are somewhat important** or not as important for the new park include drinking fountains, space for cultural/community events, a children's playground area and children's water play area.
- **The features in the concept design respondents like the most** are Trees (63%), Planting Areas (54%) and the Amount or Distribution of green space (52%).

## The Proposed Playground

- **81% of respondents** did not have any children 12 or under in their household.
- **Playground option preferences were mixed**, with roughly a third of survey respondents preferring Option 3 Hybrid (36%) and Option 2 Natural (30%)
- **Natural colours (Green, brown, and grey)** were the most preferred by survey respondents (58%).
- When asked if they had **any additional comments on the proposed playground area**, the top comments included:
  - Ensuring the playground was accessible for both children and adults with mobility issues (4 responses)
  - Respondents did not want a playground as a feature of the park (4 responses)
  - Comments related to play surface material (padded ground, rubberized, non-slip surface, gravel, etc.) [4 responses]
  - Integrating the playground and park so it is more cohesive with the surrounding community (3 responses)
  - Add swings to the playground (3 responses)
  - Make the playground size larger (3 responses)
  - Make the park and/or playground more adult-friendly (e.g. add fitness equipment, etc.) [3 Responses]
  - Other comments from responded included suggestions to make the playground more stimulating visually, add basketball nets, shaded seating areas, tree houses, etc.

## Appendix A: Quantitative Response Summary



If you were to visit the new park at 1087 Leslie Street, what method of transportation would you use? Please select all that apply.







	Count	% of responses	%
Walk	223		81%
Personal vehicle	104		38%
Biking	102		37%
Public transportation	62		23%
Mobility device and/or stroller	30		11%
Taxi and/or ride share	5		2%
Other, please specify	4		1%

N 274

Respondents who selected “other” listed:

- Connect from Don Mills Trail (1)
- Future residents at Auberge on the Park (2)

If you were to visit the new park at 1087 Leslie Street, who would you go with?  
Please select all that apply.











	Count	% of responses	%
Spouse or partner	218		80%
Friends	143		52%
Children	117		43%
Alone	109		40%
Pets	70		26%
Other, please specify	18		7%

N 274

Respondents who selected “other” listed:

- Family members (e.g. Mother, grandchildren) [16]
- Friend (1)

What would you like to do at this new park? Please select all that apply.

	Count	% of responses	%
Relax	232		85%
Enjoy and observe plants/planting areas	196		72%
Sit and/or eat	162		60%
Spend time with others	159		58%
Spend time alone	129		47%
Children play	101		37%
Walk a pet	84		31%
Sports	70		26%
Games (i.e. chess, ping pong, etc.)	52		19%
Other, please specify	14		5%

N 272

Respondents who selected “other” listed:

- Walk (5)
- Outdoor exercise equipment (1)
- BBQ (1)
- Community programming (1)
- Dog park (1)
- Ice skating (1)

How important are each of the following potential features to you and your household when thinking about the new park design?

	Average	Count	% of responses			
Seating areas (e.g. benches, tables, etc.)	19%	273	<div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> </div>			
Planting/garden area	21%	262	<div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> </div>			
Open grass/lawn area	21%	270	<div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> </div>			
Bicycle parking	52%	261	<div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> </div>			
Picnic areas	52%	267	<div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> </div>			
Drinking fountain(s)	54%	263	<div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> </div>			
Space for cultural/community events (i.e. small performances, gatherings, etc.)	56%	267	<div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> </div>			
Children's Playground	58%	267	<div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> </div>			
Children's water play	69%	266	<div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> </div>			

Very important
Important
Somewhat Important
Not Important

N 273

How satisfied are you with the proposed layout shown in the concept design?

	Count	% of responses	%
Very Satisfied	37	<div></div>	14%
Satisfied	116	<div></div>	45%
Neutral	74	<div></div>	28%
Dissatisfied	28	<div></div>	11%
Very Dissatisfied	5	<div></div>	2%

N 260



How satisfied are you with the proposed amenities and features shown in the concept design?

	Count	% of responses	%
Very Satisfied	32		12%
Satisfied	122		47%
Neutral	71		27%
Dissatisfied	30		12%
Very Dissatisfied	5		2%

N 260

What features shown in the concept design do you like the most?

	Count	% of responses	%
Trees	163		63%
Planting areas	140		54%
Amount and distribution of green space	136		52%
Circuit pathway	101		39%
Amphitheatre seating	88		34%
Children's Play Area	65		25%
Water play area	53		20%
Paved plaza	40		15%
Other, please specify	13		5%
I don't like any of the features shown.	4		2%




N 260

Which playground option do you prefer?

	Count	% of responses	%
Option 1 - Traditional	55		22%
Option 2 - Natural	76		30%
Option 3 - Hybrid	91		36%
I do not have a preference.	33		13%

N 255

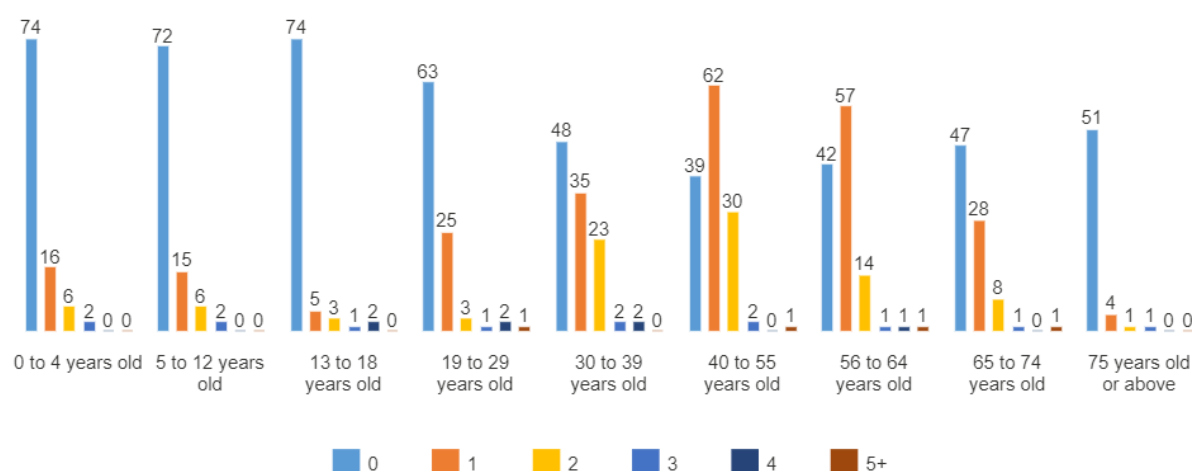
In general, what type of colours would you like to see for the children's playground?

	Count	% of responses	%
Bright and vibrant (blue, teal and yellow)	64		25%
Natural (green, brown and grey)	146		58%
Playful (purple, yellow and blue)	41		16%

N 251

## Demographics

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







N 248

Total responses per age group include:










- 34 respondents age 0 to 4 years old
- 33 respondents age 5 to 12 years old
- 22 respondents age 13 to 18 years old
- 47 respondents age 19 to 29 years old
- 95 respondents age 30 to 39 years old
- 133 respondents age 40 to 55 years old
- 97 respondents age 56 to 64 years old
- 52 respondents age 65 to 74 years old
- 9 respondents age 75 years old or above

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	143		58%
Male	118		48%
Prefer not to answer	12		5%
Not listed, please describe.	2		1%

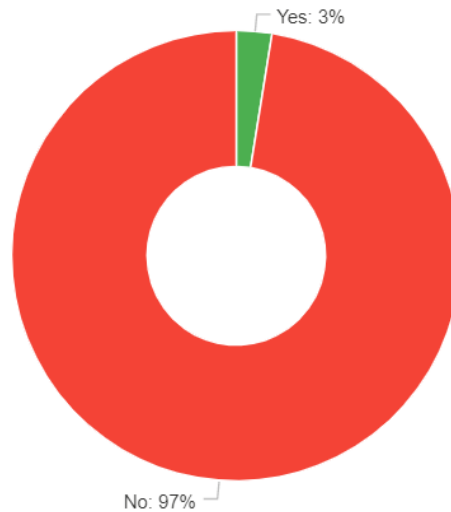
N 245

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

	Count	% of responses	%
East Asian (Chinese, Korean, Japanese)	109		45%
White (European descent)	83		34%
South Asian or Indo-Caribbean (e.g. Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan, Indo-Guyanese, Indo-Trinidadian, etc.)	24		10%
I don't know/Prefer not to answer	23		9%
Middle Eastern (Arab, Persian, West Asian descent, e.g. Afghan, Egyptian, Iranian, Lebanese, Turkish, Kurdish, etc.)	9		4%
Southeast Asian (Taiwanese descent; Filipino, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Thai, Indonesian)	5		2%
Black (African, Afro-Caribbean, African-Canadian descent)	3		1%
Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, Inuk/Inuit)	1		0%
Other, please specify	1		0%

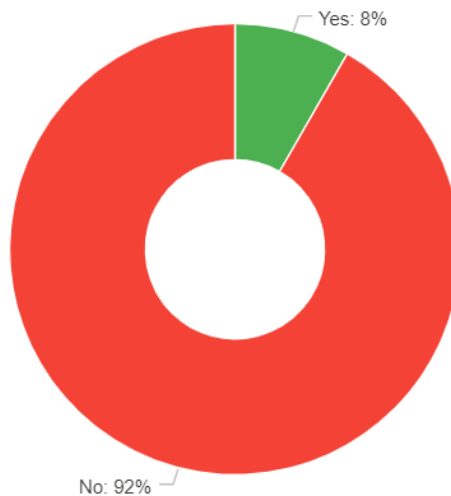
N 244

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 235

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 241

Do survey participants rent or own their home?

	Count	% of responses	%
Owner	227	<div><div></div></div>	93%
Renter	18	<div><div></div></div>	7%
Neither owner nor renter	3	<div><div></div></div>	1%

N 245

## Appendix B: Concept Design and Playground Equipment Options

This is the site plan for the new (existing) development at 1087 Leslie Street, which shows the park size and location north of Inn on the Park Drive and east of Leslie Street.



### Concept Design

A concept design is an early phase of the design process, which broadly outlines the proposed amenities, design features and layout of a space. This is the proposed concept design for the new park at 1087 Leslie Street.



The concept design includes:

- Paved plaza park entrances from the west, north-east and south corners of the park
- Buffer zone and planting areas
- Overlook from new condo site into the parkland
- Junior and senior kid's playground area located on east part of the park
- Sloped Amphitheatre seating area
- Circuit pathway around the lawn area
- Shade trees and pollinator gardens
- Centrally located open lawn with trees planted around southern perimeter
- Water play area

### Playground Equipment and Waterplay Options

The proposed concept plan includes a dedicated area for junior and senior kids play. The equipment colours shown below are for reference only.

#### Option 1: Traditional

A traditional playground contains manufactured equipment made of metal or brightly colored plastic. This playground option has 16 activities built-in that feature cut-out shapes to peek through, a winding race car track, bongos and ring-a-bells to play, geometric shape-and-fit games and a Play Table with Seats. It is scaled for developing toddlers aged 2-5, as well as older children.



This option includes:

- Winding Race Car Track
- Play Table with seats (ages 2-5)
- Playground with slides and lookout (ages 2-5)
- The Crab Trap Climbing Area (ages 5-12)
- Topsy Turvy Spinner (ages 5-12)

### Option 2: Natural

A natural playground is a play environment that consists of elements and textures from nature, such as tree logs, tree stumps, boulders, plants, drainage paths, among others instead of a traditional steel playground structure that includes slides and climbers. Natural playgrounds provide a wide range of play experiences.





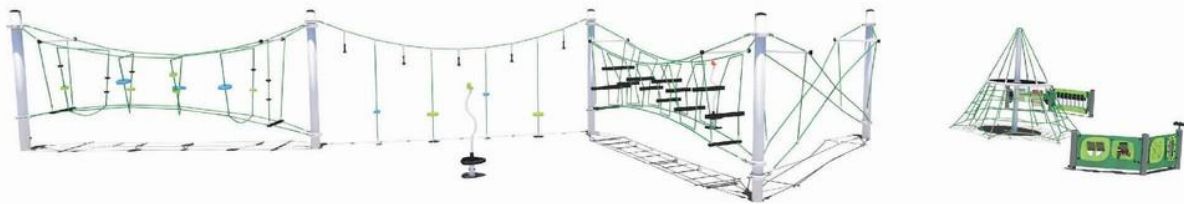
This option includes:

- Playground Structure with Junior Tower (A\ages 2-5) - includes double slide, accessible transfer bench, rung ladder, and climbing wall
- Log Jam climbing structure (ages 5-12) that can accommodate 25+ users
- Log Pile (ages 5-12) with net for climbing across

### Option 3: Hybrid

Hybrids would be a mix of both traditional and Natural philosophies. Equipment may provide a similar play experience as found in a traditional playground, but may be made out of natural materials.





This option includes:

- Crossed ladder (ages 5-12) climbing structure with asymmetric steps and metal bars
- Spica 1 (ages 6-12) triangle structure with rotation point
- Crumb Net Bouncy Climber (ages 2-5)
- Emotions Play Panel and Music Play Panel (ages 2-5) - responsive play textures that combine rhythm, sound and tones

### Waterplay Option 1: Traditional



- This design has some vertical elements placed strategically as a center piece sculpture which acts as artwork in the winter months and high-level water fun in the summer months.
- The simple elegant bends are nature inspired blades of grass.
- They are surrounded by a variety of different ground sprays for the smallest of users to the older users and can be adjusted to be as low as 8" up to as high as 8'.
- Children are intrigued by the design of water and can lean on it with their hands and redirect the water to understand how water flows.

### Waterplay Option 2: Natural



- Inspired by the smooth pebbles of a shoreline, these large stones provide a calm space for kids to rest, relax and explore gentle water effects.



- The stone have different spray designs and are surrounded by ample opportunity for cooling off with many different ground sprays that have various elevations of spray.
- The large centre volcano allow for social interaction and laughter and can be made to be higher or lower as desired.
- The stones have been placed in a wave formation with opportunities on each side of the wave.

### Waterplay Option 3: Hybrid



- Through a variety of whimsical above deck and ground level water features, children can interact with streams of water.
- The spray pad has areas that will cater to a variety of users including features designed for toddlers, families and others for more active teens.

## Appendix C: Text Responses

Is there anything missing from the proposed concept design?

- Shade structure
- No i don't think so!
- enclosed dog park
- I can't tell if this is on there: would like to see lots of seating for older people and people meeting up with others.
- The play area for children should not be beside where the cars are going through even if there's a buffer it should be on the North side of the park. It's much safer and kids can play and the parents can have ease of mind that they're not going to hit by a car.
- Please get more taller trees
- No
- Dog park would be lovely.
- I prefer minimal or no children's play area to minimise risk and ensure quiet and safety place to live. Also winter times and infrastructure will need long term maintenance. More trees and planting is preferred, not only look bright and Greenery and can increase good insulation and consider energy save facilities.
- To add a water pond and putting some sitting benches for relaxation and/or reading purpose
- Waterplay is too close to the road, safety issues. Layout planning to have children play area further away from cars. I think it is missing some type sun shade area, even though trees will be planted, but a canopy for full shade will be nice for seniors and children.
- Shady areas
- Bike parking, yoga area, dog waste station, cheese stations, love the water section for kids, a nice centre piece of the park would be nice, for example plantings/flower arrangement at the centre
- Ideas: Flower wall or flower arch, hanging twinkle lights, and using unique design, eco-friendly materials for seating areas/tables for meetings, picnics, and reading alone The area should create a nice ambience during the night/day time.
- Where are the benches? Specifically around the kids playground and water area. The parents need somewhere to sit while the kids play.
- A small pond with water plants surrounding it
- benches are probably too small to be drawn on this concept design but it will be nice to know where people could rest and enjoy the scenery
- Fencing to ensure children do not run onto the driveway would be welcome
- Most of the condos in the area has a swimming pool. So it's a waste of area to put up a water play area. Also, it can only be used for 3 months in a year. It's best to make the children play area bigger, than ADD an adult workout area, like monkey bar, climbing role, etc (there is a good example in the southeast corner of Yonge/Lawrence -- an outdoor area for adult to stretch. And the amphitheatre is also having a low use rate. Condos have board meeting rooms and the Sunnybrook Park has a large arena. I doubt people would like to sit in the open at night, when most of the meeting took place
- Fountain and more seating area in the middle open space maybe.
- Winter skating rink should be considered to maximize the full year use of the park.
- If pets are allowed, there should be a separate off-leash area so that dogs are not running around all over the park.

- The green space takes up lot of space and needs maintenance. It will turn into weed field overtime - guarantee. It is also of no use at all, too hot to walk on in the summer and too cold in the winter. Should turn it into theme gardens for more pleasant and interesting walks.
- The park is too close to the residents in the Tridel buildings. Performances and entertainments should be discouraged and the amphitheatre should be removed.
- In my opinion, open space in the center is too big. Make portion of the open space into planting space and make the planned planting area into a small dog park will be nice.
- Should have a dog park
- I would like to see plantings in more than just that small space around the benches. I am assuming that there will be plantings all around the green space. Season flowers bring so much joy, to city dwellers.
- seating around Play and Waterplay
- Pond to encourage birds/ducks
- I would like you to put sculptures in the center of the grass. Also, please include speakers in the park for music. Finally, please include all different colour laser lights that can be projected into the sky during nighttime.
- It would be nicer if some artistic components included.
- A pond with water fountain
- Not sure where the trees would be based on the layout but everyone loves lots of trees! It would be great to have big trees to sit under and provide natural shade, aesthetics and functionality.
- Water fountain in the summer to add sound of water to the natural beauty
- I don't think water play is necessary and would add unnecessarily as a maintenance expense.
- 1. Are there any sort of sun-cover? Trees, Umbrellas, Gazebos in conjunction with the seating area? 2. A large percentage of the park is dedicated to children's activities (Play, water play) - My suggestion is to remove the water play and add additional seating so there is seating on both the west and east side of the park. - Are there enough young children in this neighbourhood to warrant a playground? 3. Are there any proposed art/sculpture installations?
- There is no indication of how grade changes are being manage due stairs/ramps/retention walls. Also no indication of separation of traffic from park
- A small outdoor coffee shop, a shaded gazebo ,tables with benches around the park
- Benches
- More shaded areas for cover. That will be a bright area hot area in the sun with no shaded area. Consider a sunken area that has tiered spaces for overlooking and relaxing onto the open grounds
- Gathering area
- More play space. Could you create two or three different play spaces in addition to the water play? Look at how David Hamilton Park in Richmond Hill was developed. It's amazing! <https://www.richmondhill.ca/en/things-to-do/david-hamilton-park-and-ed-sackfield-arena.aspx>
- Hopefully there is enough green space for people to casually throw a Frisbee around etc. (not talking about full soccer or Frisbee games but having enough space for 2-3 people to casually throw a disc to each other at reasonable distances
- Fencing to keep children safe from running into the driveway
- fenced dog park area

- Mature trees for shade, artistic water fountain, items that make it amenable to sit quietly and enjoy a coffee. Too much open space, the grass will die in the sun and get overly trampled, I would like quiet park. All that open space will become a disaster like the canoe landing park... I live beside that park and it's a disgrace. The concept I prefer is the park on Front Street with the dog theme. It's quiet with mature trees benches etc.
- A couple of things that do not show - will this park area be lower than the driveway will it be fenced in? Just thinking of the safety factor given the children's play areas are next to the driveway. I personally, would love to see an adult circuit training area (push-up/pull up bars etc) but perhaps more importantly, I would love to see a wild flower area - to encourage bee pollinators since we are so close to the greenbelt.
- Larger play area for kids
- Washroom
- This is south facing and somewhat enclosed space. The grass/ open space in the centre will be vulnerable to desiccation and there appears to be no shade except at the perimeter. I think there should be more trees and not all the same trees to allow some shaded play space etc.
- Every park in the city of Toronto needs to have not only a name/location but a landmark with unforgettable iconic piece of art work.
- No
- Would like larger children's play area and no water play/splash pad
- No
- I would like to have community garden space for local residents
- Fitness area with pull-up bars, etc.
- I'd like something similar in design to the dog park on Front Street. Very inviting and novel I dislike the park at fort York and Spadina Open area is uninviting and boring
- More trees in the central green space would be nice
- Is the barbecue area located at another place?
- Make it so the community can build a NIR in the winter. Have the water System set up so it's turnkey once cold weather comes.
- dog park
- If possible, it would be nice to have a Covered Gazebo with potentially 8 - 10 tables that overlooks the open space. This will allow people to sit in a shaded area on a hot sunny day and enjoy the beauty of the park.
- My wife and I use our bicycles a lot and we are personally interested in how/to what extent the proposed park would be accessible by bicycle (including generally from where to where).
- Please include shade around the play area and water play area ... the children need to be able to get out of the sun
- Please ensure there are bike locks to secure bicycles safely. I am curious to know what material will be used for safety under the playground structures. Sand and woodchips would make the water play area very messy. I hope the intention is to use a rubberized, non-slip surface. Please minimize the paved areas and maximize the green space, trees and planting areas.
- Playground structure.
- BBQ area
- The area should be more integrated into neighbour paths. The DM trail could be extended to meet this new park.

- Some parks now have concrete ping pong tables, or chess tables, which are really great for older people getting together and younger crowds more introverted. a great concept and nice to have if possible
- More seating. Perhaps tables for checkers or chess.
- \* Needs to be a connection to the 'Leaside Spur' paved pathway that runs parallel to Leslie Street but currently dead-ends just north of this property.
- A safe way to connect north to the don mills trail, west to Wilket Creek and south to Seaton trails.
- **YOU NEED TO JOIN THE DON MILLS TRAIL TO THE SITE**
- Toilets, parking, drinking fountain.
- Yes, what's missing is transparency because this project is a waste of taxpayer money. It is a ridiculous concept to spend all this effort on a very, very, very small piece of land that the very wealthy developer 'gave' to the city. Next to this massive condo development is an awesome, REAL, actual park that requires significant investment to maintain. And it is under-maintained and requires more investment. For example, the Torontonians (aka taxpayers) living in that condo development will likely be more interested in going into Sunnybrook park for recreation, but at this time, they must juggle cars as there is no pedestrian walkway into the park, only a roadway. If the city was to invest in anything, invest in pedestrian access to keep people safe. Let the condo owners maintain that park as they are the only people who will ever get any benefit out of it.
- Add moss
- Add decorative water feature such as a waterfall please.
- OK well a couple of things. The survey closes on the 14th, terrible that I just got the card today Feb 11? Is the rail trail the ends going to connect to the park? It should not finish as a dead end to 'no where'
- Bo
- Parking! Or is this a design for a population that isn't even there yet
- Concerned it create garbage if for picking etc. who will maintain this area?
- Is there a way to create a safe and secure connection between this new park and the existing major park on the other side of Leslie St (i.e. Wilket Creek) to avoid an increased frequency of jaywalking? For example, a walking tunnel or bridge?
- Drinking water fountain/station
- There needs to be a ramp access.
- Fixed outdoor ping pong table!
- Any plans for food vendors to be on site? I assume public washroom facilities will also be included in the plans? Any plans to have the space be multi season use? Perhaps the centre grass area can be transformed to a skating rink in the winter?
- Water park doesn't make sense
- I would appreciate water incorporated into design but not necessarily only as a kids play area - water feature, pond...
- There is no information about the location of buildings.
- More trees and flower beds