

City of Toronto – Parks Development & Capital Projects

Davisville Community & Aquatic Centre

Phase 1 Youth Workshops Feedback Summary

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Suzanne Cooke-Wooland, Senior Project Coordinator
Alex Lavasidis, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator



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Project Background

The City is planning to build a new aquatic and multi-use community centre on the Davisville Junior Public School site, located east of the intersection of Yonge Street and Davisville Avenue. The facility will include two indoor swimming pools and several multi-purpose rooms to serve various community needs.

The Davisville Community & Aquatic Centre (CAC) will be a welcoming space where residents of all ages and abilities can come together and participate in a wide range of programming.

The new three-storey Davisville CAC will be accessible, and target net-zero energy building design. It is planned to include:

- A 25-metre lane pool
- A leisure/tot pool
- Two floors of community, multi-use space
- A small lobby
- WIFI access throughout
- Gender-neutral washrooms and change rooms
- A green roof or rooftop community access – to be determined
- Storage and staff office space

The Davisville CAC will share facilities with the Davisville Junior Public School next door (currently under construction). The City will have access to the school's double gymnasium and underground parking garage when the Community and Aquatic Centre is open to support City recreation programming.

Youth Workshop Overview

Youth will be an important user group at the new community recreation centre. To ensure the centre is designed to be welcoming for local youth, the project team held an online youth workshop with 18 grade 11 and 12 students from Northern Secondary school on April 1, 2021.

The workshop lasted approximately 1 hour and was hosted online using Google Jamboards, an interactive online platform that allows participants to vote, leave notes and questions throughout the workshop.

Davisville Senior Public School, Spectrum Alternative, and North Toronto Collegiate were invited to participate in youth workshops as well, but classrooms were either unavailable over the month-long engagement window, or did not respond to the invitation and reminders. Schools will be re-invited to take part during the second round of engagement.

Summary of Feedback – Overall

The number of students who supported each suggestion/comment are included in parentheses ().

Creating a Welcoming Youth Space

When asked what public or shared spaces students most enjoyed spending time in/felt comfortable in, they listed parks (Sunnybrook and Sherwood Park), public gardens, their school field, and ice rinks.

Students favourite qualities in public spaces they like to spend time in include:

- Lots of natural light and good lighting overall
- Nature
- Large, open spaces
- Spaces they feel safe
- Quiet spaces

Features that students felt would make them want to spend time at and feel welcome in the new Centre include:

- Large windows and lots of natural light
- Informal gathering spaces
- Open spaces
- Plants and nature
- Comfortable temperatures (not too cold)

Qualities or features that should be avoided in the new centre, that make students feel unwelcome in a space include:

- Crowded spaces
- Overly sterile spaces (no life)
- Dysfunctional or wasted spaces (e.g. form over function design)

Reasons students shared for not visiting their local recreation centre more often (pre-COVID) include:

- Distance from their home
- Felt overly-sterile
- Programs at odd hours

Centre Features and Activities

Roof:

- Preferences for rooftop features include:
 - Tables and seating (8)
 - Shade structures (6)
 - Planters (5)
 - A track with exercise stations (4)
 - Gathering/event space (2)
- Additional suggestions for rooftop activities include:
 - A café (1)
 - Movie nights (1)
 - Board game drop-ins (1)

Multi-Purpose Room:

- Activity preferences for the multi-purpose room include:
 - Pop-up clinics (6)
 - Tech programs (5)
 - Cross-Fit (5)
 - Lounging/Open space (4)
 - Youth programs (4)
 - Cooking programs (4)
 - Multi-Sensory Activities (3)
 - Dance (3)
 - Multi-media programs (3)
 - Aerobic/Pilates (3)
 - Art (2)
 - Martial arts (2)
 - Ping pong tables (2)
 - Low impact stretching (2)
 - Leadership Courses (2)
 - Music (practice or teaching) (2)
 - Community Permits/Events (2)
 - Drama(1)
 - Fitness/dance studio (1)
 - Preschool programs (1)
 - Senior programs (1)
 - Play time for young children (1)

Pools:

- Leisure pool activity preferences include :
 - Water jets (7)
 - Spray Toys (4)
 - Bucket (2)
 - Rope swing (2)
 - Slide (2)

- A lily-pad bridge (2)
- Monkey bars (1)
- Most students (all teens) liked the idea of using the leisure pool features.
- Most students liked the idea of a climbing wall in the lane pool.
- Pool activity preferences include:
 - Lane swimming (14)
 - Women's only swim time (8)
 - Sports training (8)
 - Leisure swim (8)
 - Swimming lessons (6)
 - Aqua sports (5)
 - Competitive swimming (4)
 - Recreational family swim time (4)
 - Leadership courses (4)
 - Seniors only times (4)
 - Swim teams (3)
 - Aquafit (2)
 - Parent/tot aquafit (2)
 - All-Inclusive swims (1)
 - Community permitting (e.g. birthday parties) (1)

Lobby:

- Lobby preference include:
 - Bottle filling station (8)
 - Community art displays (8)
 - Murals (5)
 - Community notice board (5)
 - Vending machines (3)
 - Foosball table (3)
 - Charging station (2)
 - Seating/benches (2)