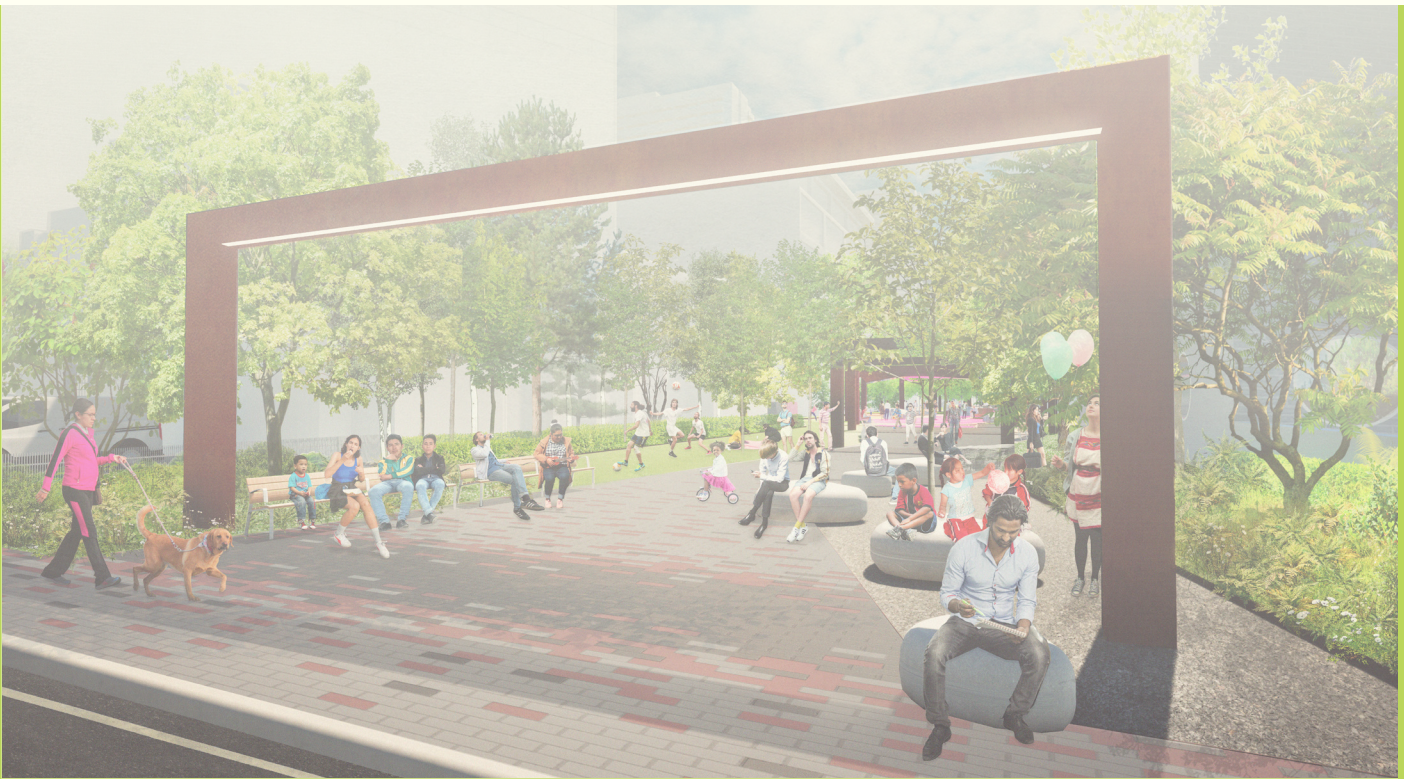


YONGE STREET LINEAR PARKS IMPROVEMENTS



WHAT WE HEARD REPORT PHASE 2: PREFERRED DESIGN CONCEPTS

January to March, 2021

Prepared by Dept of Words and Deeds and PMA Landscape Architects
for The City of Toronto



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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Toronto is proceeding with plans to improve George Hislop Park, Norman Jewison Park and Alexander Street Parkette. This work is guided by the 2017 Yonge Street Linear Park Master Plan, which established design principles through consultation with a focus on the creation of continuous accessible pathways, quality seating and site furnishings, maintaining existing trees, adding welcoming lighting and new features, and enhancing safety for all park users.

A comprehensive, multi-step engagement strategy began in September 2020 that included online public and stakeholder meetings, outreach to vulnerable communities, online surveys and email/phone briefings and correspondence. The first phase of engagement in 2020 addressed the development of Concept Plan Options for the three parks. The second phase of engagement in 2021 addressed development of the Preferred Concept Plans for the three parks. This What We Heard Report covers input and feedback gathered in phase two of public engagement, including a process overview and key findings from each event and conversation.

The key feedback themes that emerged across all sessions are:

- o Prioritizing safety for all park users in the design
- o Pedestrian pathways and access that promote good flow
- o Seating that encourages people to linger and connect
- o Trees, greening and plantings that are attractive and durable
- o Flexibility in design that encourages a variety of uses and programming
- o Lighting that promotes safety and is durable and easy to maintain
- o Public artwork that creatively reflects local LGBTQ2S+ history and intersectionality

In response to COVID-19 public health guidelines, consultations, surveys and briefings were held on-line, and over the phone and email – no in-person engagement activities were activated.

Refer to the Appendix for a list of Community Resource Group members, and project consultant team members.

A full reporting of all engagement activities and meeting summaries is available at the project website: [Toronto.ca/YongeLinearParks](https://toronto.ca/YongeLinearParks)



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2. PROJECT OVERVIEW

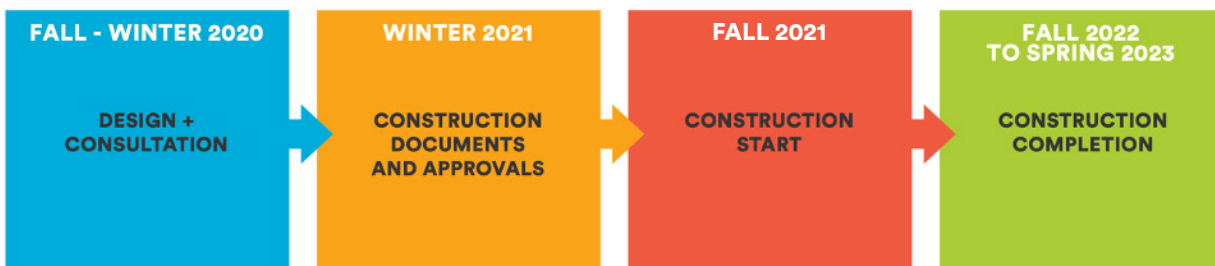
The City of Toronto is proceeding with plans to improve George Hislop Park, Norman Jewison Park and Alexander Street Parkette. This work is guided by the Yonge Street Linear Park Master Plan completed in 2017, which established design principles through consultation with a focus on the creation of continuous accessible pathways, quality seating and site furnishings, maintaining existing trees, adding welcoming lighting and new features, and enhancing safety for all park users. James Canning Gardens was included in the Master Plan and was constructed as a separate project which is now complete.

Since the completion of the 2017 Park Master Plan, the area has continued to see an abundance of high-density development, placing increased demands on all public realm spaces, including streets and local parks. The broader LGBTQ2S+ community has continued to embrace and use the parks – the linear parks in particular acting as venues for annual Pride events. Local residents and visitors use the linear parks as a pedestrian commuting route to Wellesley Station. The current pandemic has placed more pressure on parks as a safe, accessible refuge for vulnerable communities. In summary, the diversity and density of residents in the Church Wellesley neighbourhood has made the implementation of the master plan even more timely, with the intent to revitalize these parks in order to meet the current and future needs of the community.

Parks Background:

The origins of George Hislop and Norman Jewison Parks stemmed from the “cut and cover” creation of the Yonge Street subway system in the 1950’s, which runs below the parks. Along with James Canning Garden in the next block south, the three sites first acted as surface parking lots well into the 1980’s. They have since been converted into parks that provide much needed greenspace in the busy downtown core. Located a few blocks to the south, Alexander Street Parkette was developed as a community parkette on top of a parking garage for the residential building at 25 Maitland Street. While it is not part of a continuous pedestrian system with the Linear Parks, Alexander St. Parkette is part of the same open space corridor east of Yonge St. in the Church Wellesley Village neighbourhood

The Yonge Street Linear Parks project anticipated schedule is as follows:



The consultant team is led by PMA Landscape Architects, with The Dept. of Words & Deeds providing public engagement services.

The Yonge Street Linear Park Improvements engagement process is comprised of two phases:

Phase 1: Concept Plan Options

- o Step 1 - Setting the Groundwork
- o Step 2 - Early Concept Options

Phase 2: Preferred Concept Plan

- o Step 3 - Preferred Concept Plans
- o Step 4 - Announcement of Final Concept Plans



3. HOW WE ENGAGED

Due to COVID-19 and following the recommendations of Toronto Public Health, community engagement was conducted on a variety of online platforms (WebEx and Zoom), digitally (online surveys, email) and on the phone to ensure appropriate physical distancing requirements were met. In general the community was informed of engagement activities through social and print media, listed below:

Communication Methods

Printed Media:

Park Signage: Project information was displayed on notice boards placed on or in the Yonge Street Linear Parks. These notice boards provided information about the project, details about the online survey and joining the virtual public meeting, and how to access additional project information on the Yonge Street Linear Parks Website.



Figure 3. Photograph of posted signage about the Virtual Public Information Meeting for the project

Community Mail out (Postcards): A 5x9" flyer advertising the virtual public meeting, online survey, and project webpage was delivered to 10,400 addresses in the neighbourhood through a Canada Post neighbourhood mail campaign.





The virtual meeting notice was also included in the local Councillor's newsletter(s) leading up to the February 2021 virtual meeting.

Digital Media:

Social Media Ads: The City of Toronto used its Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts to promote the virtual public meeting, and online questionnaire from January - February 2021. Additional social media outreach was supported by PMA and DWD's Twitter and Instagram accounts. [See an example here.](#)

E-Blasts: The virtual meeting was also incorporated in the local Councillor's newsletters and CRG community networks through an accessible eFlyer.

Project Webpage: The City's website acted as a communications portal to inform the public about the Yonge Street Linear Parks. A landing page, toronto.ca/yongelinearparks, hosted all information regarding the project including general information, project updates, a link to the online survey, past consultation summaries and an option to subscribe for plan related e-updates.

Outreach Method	Outreach Activities	Reach
Project Webpage 	A dedicated webpage was developed within the City of Toronto's website to act as an integrated platform for all project related information. Through the webpage, interested people could also subscribe to receive updates and information about the project.	Reached <i>Data unavailable</i>
Community Mail Outs 	A flyer advertising the online meeting and website was delivered to 10,400 addresses in the neighbourhood. The virtual meeting notice was included in the local Councillor's newsletters leading up to the February 17, 2021, virtual meeting.	Reached ~10,400
Park Signage 	Posters displaying information about the virtual community meeting and online survey were placed in key locations near or in the Yonge Street Linear Parks.	Reached <i>5% of survey respondents found out about the survey through park signage</i>
Social Media Ads (Paid and Organic) 	The virtual community meeting and online questionnaire were promoted through the City of Toronto's Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts with additional outreach support from PMA and DWD.	Reached 42,970
Total Reached		Over 53,000

Engagement Activities

Phase 2 of the engagement process consisted of:

1) Stakeholder Engagement:

- o Community Resource Group Meeting 3
- o Integrative LGBTQ2S+ Public Art Sub-group Meeting 2

2) Public Engagement

- o Public Meeting #2
- o Online Survey #2
- o Email, phone and mail-in feedback portals

Meeting Objectives and Overviews

Phase 2 - Winter 2021: Preferred Design Concepts

Engagement Objectives for Phase 2: To present and gather feedback on the preferred design concepts for George Hislop Park, Norman Jewison Park, and Alexander Street Parkette, and the preferred design concept for the integrated LGBTQ2S+ public art piece in George Hislop Park.

1. Stakeholder Engagement

Community Resource Group Meeting #3 - February 9, 2021

Meeting Overview: A virtual meeting was held on Zoom on February 9, 2021, from 1:00pm to 3:00pm to gather feedback from Community Resource Group members on the preferred design concept for the Yonge Street Linear Parks Improvements Project. There were 18 participants including City of Toronto staff and consultant team members. Jane Farrow (Dept. of Words & Deeds) presented the meeting agenda, project objectives and timelines as well as a summary of the ongoing community outreach. Fung Lee (PMA Landscape Architects) presented the project design guidelines and summarized the feedback that was received to date. This was followed by presentations of the preferred design concepts for each of the three parks. Stanislav Jurkovic (uoai Architects) presented the preferred design for the integrated LGBTQ2S+ public art project. A group discussion followed each park presentation.

In addition to the Community Resource Group, a second discussion with the LGBTQ2S+ sub-group was convened through a virtual platform in order to enhance understanding of how the integrative public art piece in George Hislop Park was evolving.

The Integrative Public Art Sub-group – February 24, 2021

Meeting Overview: A virtual meeting was held on Zoom on February 24, 2021 to discuss the LGBTQ2S+ integrated public art component of the Yonge Street Linear Parks Improvements project. There were 20 participants at the meeting including members of



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the consultant and City staff team. The engagement objective was to hear and understand the local community advisory group's thoughts on how best to spotlight, celebrate, and explore LGBTQ2S+ themes and history through an integrated art work being developed at George Hislop Park as part of the Yonge Street Linear Park Improvements. Jane Farrow, Dept. of Words & Deeds, facilitated the meeting on behalf of the City of Toronto, and Fung Lee, PMA Landscape Architects, gave an overview of the Yonge Street Linear Park project. Stanislav Jurkovic, (uoai Architects) presented the preferred design concept for the LGBTQ2S+ integrated public art, including key feedback that was received through consultation activities. Stanislav then presented the concepts behind the design, the proposed materials and form of the piece, and how the intended user experience of the space functions as an interactive component of the artwork. A discussion followed.

2. Public Engagement

i) Virtual Public Meeting #2 - February 17, 2021

Meeting Overview: A virtual meeting was held on the Zoom platform on Wednesday, February 17th 2021; 6:30pm – 8:00pm to gather feedback from members of the public on the preferred design concepts for George Hislop Park, Norman Jewison Park, and Alexander Street Parkette. There were 72 participants including City of Toronto staff and consultant project team members. Jane Farrow, Dept. of Words & Deeds, facilitated the meeting on behalf of the City of Toronto. Jane provided an overview of the meeting agenda, introduced the project team, stakeholders, and project timeline; and provided a summary of the consultation that has taken place thus far. City Councillor (Ward 13 – Toronto-Centre) Kristyn Wong-Tam thanked participants for taking the time to attend the meeting and provide feedback. She spoke in support of the design and the improvements it will provide to the parks that will become busier in future as population grows.

Lead designer and landscape architect Fung Lee (PMA Landscape Architects) presented the guidelines and objectives for the project; the concept themes that have guided the preferred design; and summarized the feedback that has been received through the project's consultation activities. This was followed by an overview of the preferred design concepts for all three of the parks, including a review of the key design elements and the Indigenous placemaking and placekeeping concepts that have influenced the designs. The preferred design concepts for the three parks were then presented one by one, and participants were divided into four breakout groups following each presentation to discuss each park separately.

ii) Online Survey - February 18 to March 12, 2021

The online survey collected input on the preferred concept plans that were developed for the three parks. It was launched at the February 17, 2021 virtual public meeting and remained open for almost a month. There were 234 respondents.



4. WHO WE ENGAGED

In total, approximately 60 community members attended the virtual public meeting, and 234 individuals responded to the online survey.

Participants from the online survey were also asked to voluntarily provide demographic information. These demographic questions help us understand who this survey reached, and whose feedback we may be missing. If the feedback we collect from these questions shows us that we are only reaching some Torontonians and not others, we can adjust our outreach to be more inclusive.

Online Survey Participant Demographics

Participants of the online survey were asked to provide some demographic information to better understand who was participating and whether any groups in the community were missed as part of this engagement phase.

1. Age

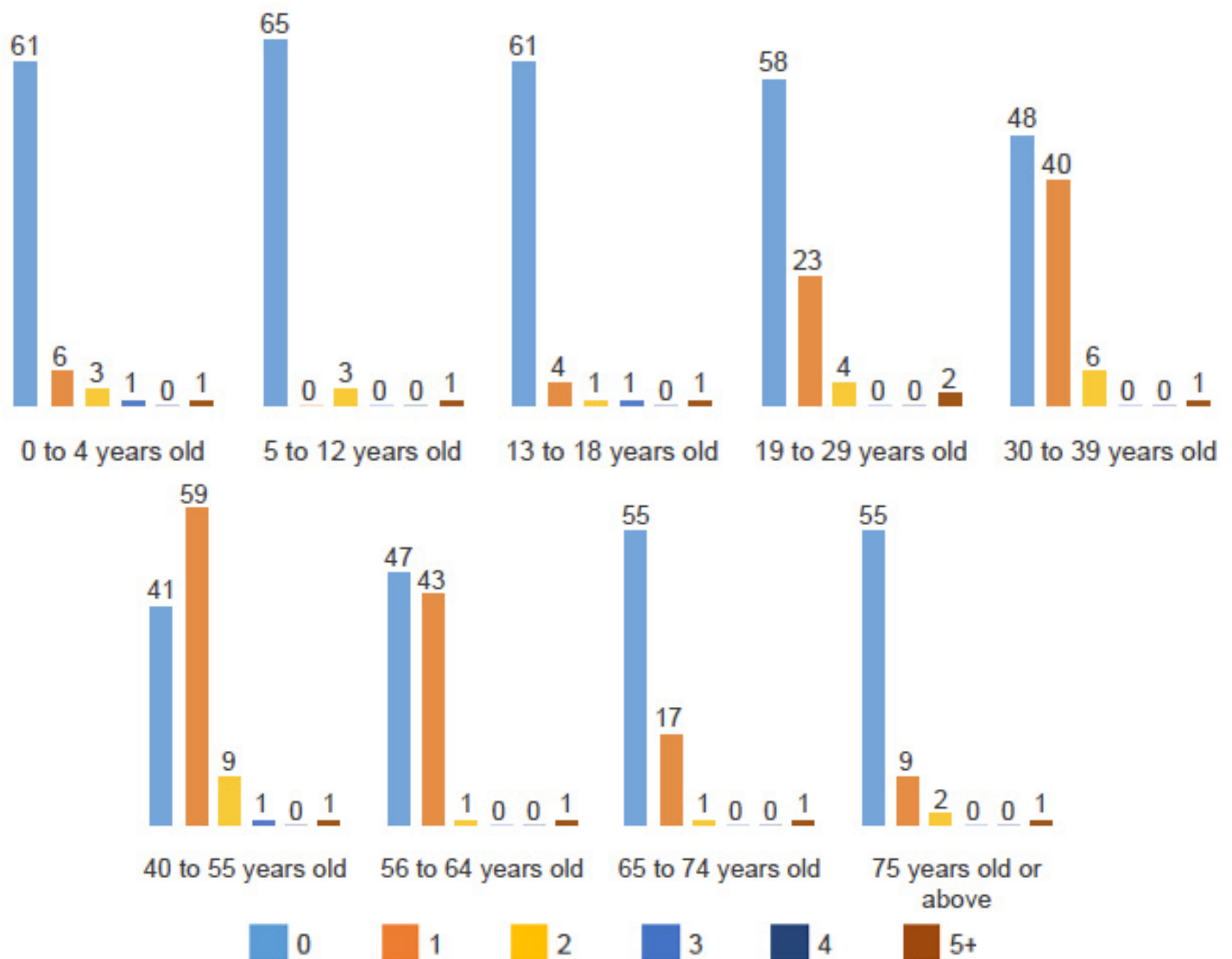


Figure 5. Number of participants per age group



2. Gender identity

64 percent of respondents self-identified as male, and 32 percent as female.

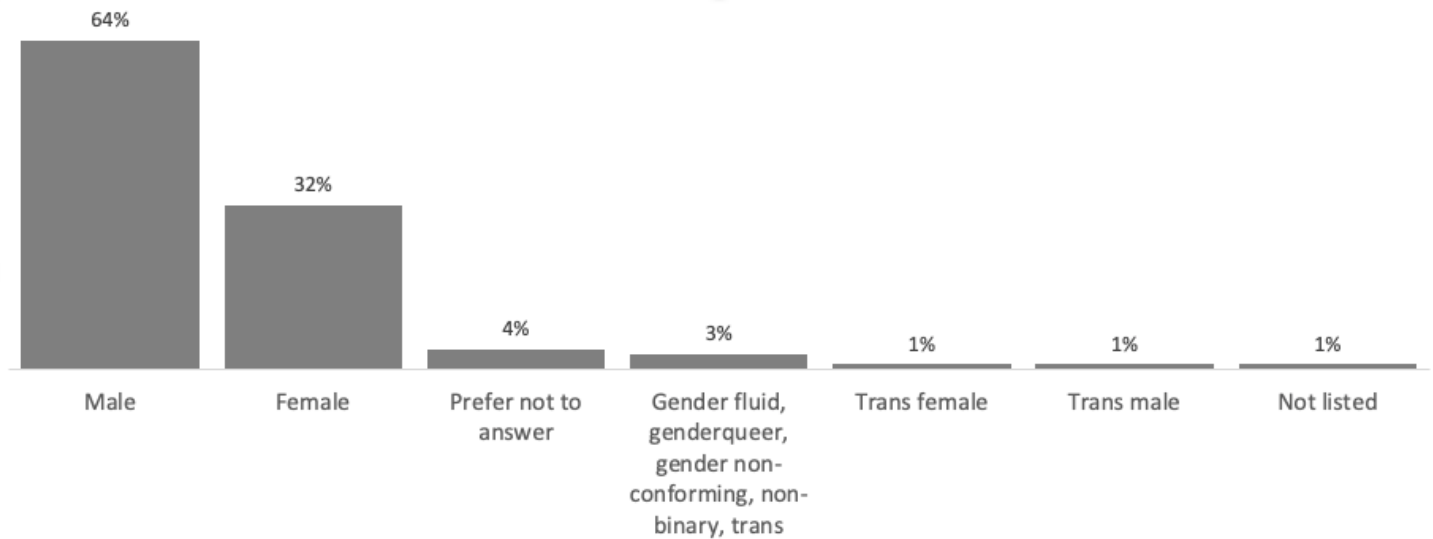


Figure 6. Percentage of participants per gender identity group

3. Racial background

Participants predominantly self-identified as white (69% of respondents).

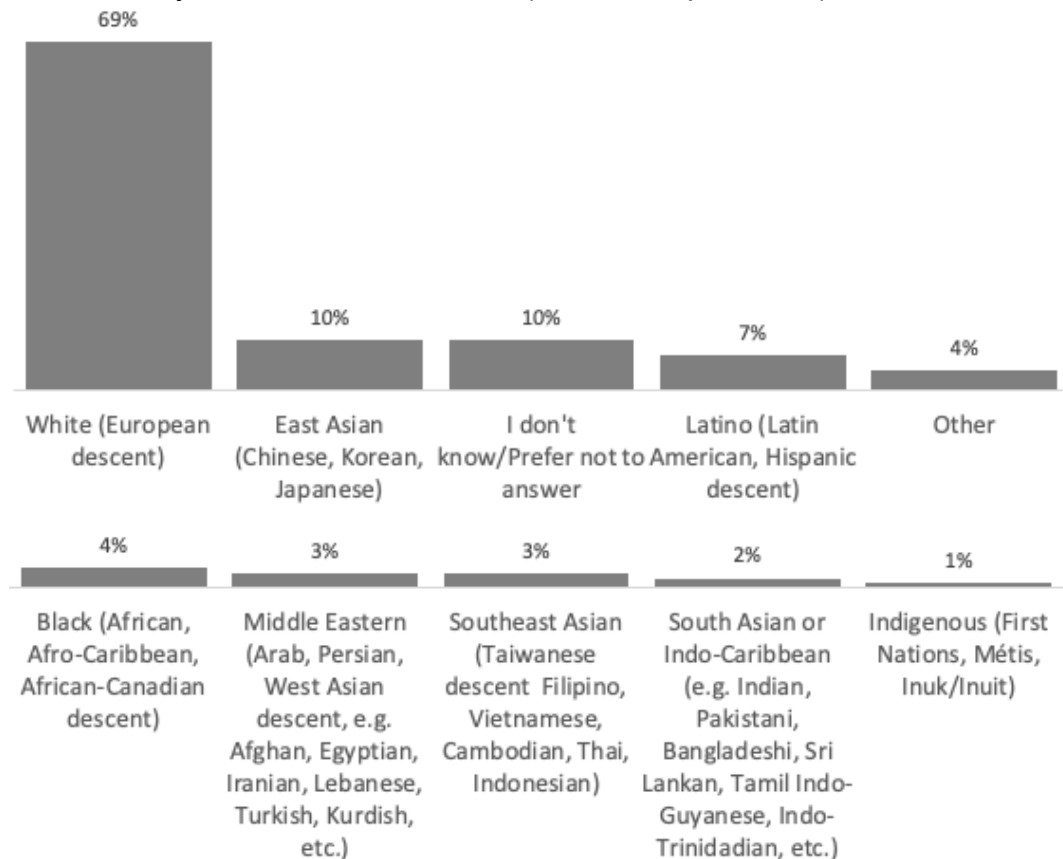


Figure 7. Percentage of participants per racial group

4. Participation by Indigenous peoples

3% of the survey participants identified as being Indigenous to Canada.

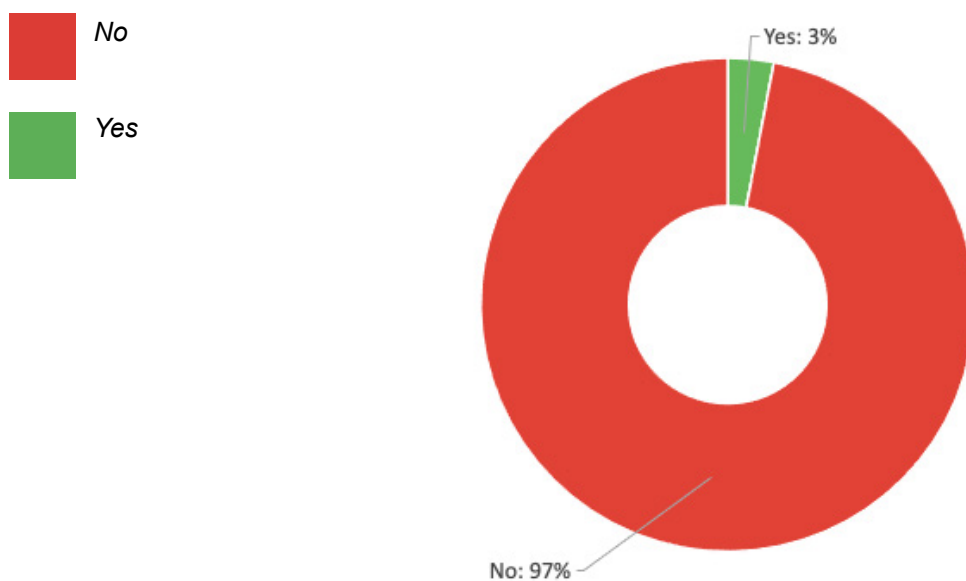


Figure 8. Percentage of participants who identified as being Indigenous to Canada

5. Participation by persons with disabilities

27% of the survey respondents identified as being persons with disabilities.

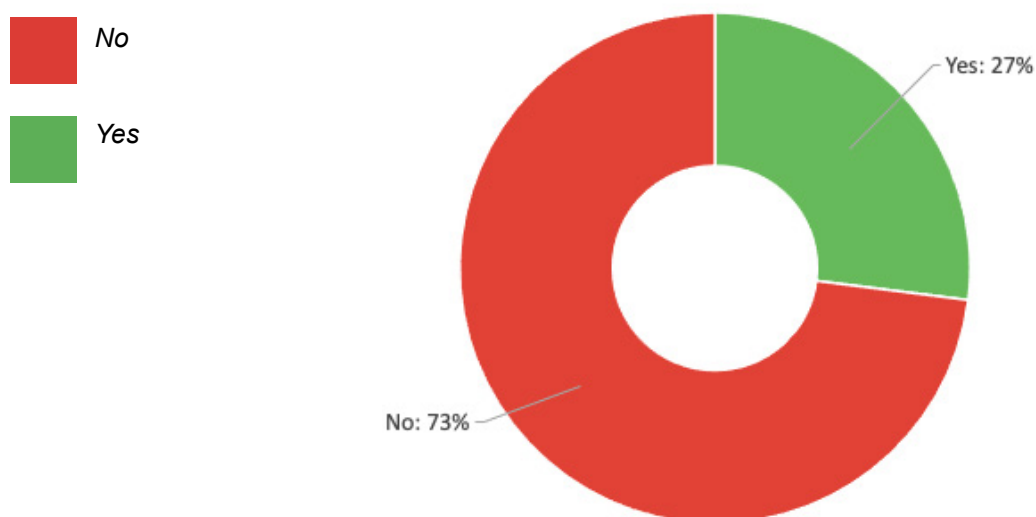


Figure 9. Percentage of participants who identified as being persons with disabilities

6. Home ownership

57% of the respondents were renters, and 39% were homeowners.

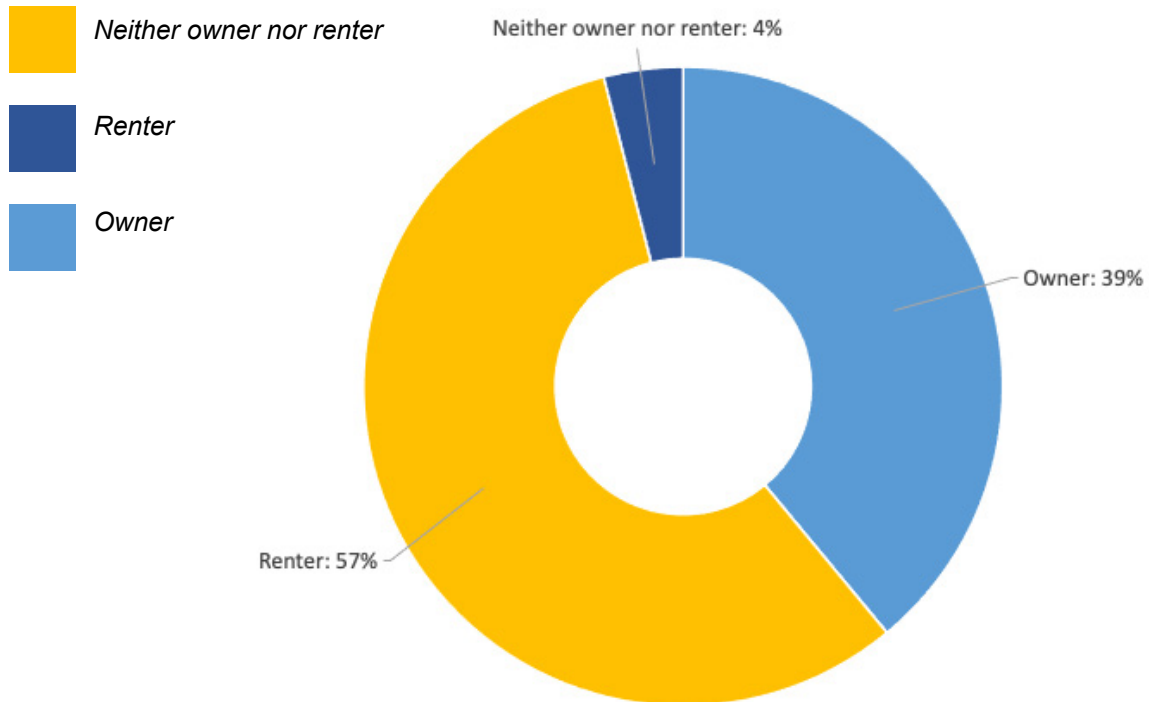


Figure 10. Percentage of renters and home owners among participants

5. WHAT WE HEARD

The key feedback themes following the engagement activities during the Phase 2 consultation process can be summarized as the following:

- Create **design continuity** between the completed park at James Canning Gardens and the new park designs for George Hislop Park and Norman Jewison Park. This could be done by pulling main design elements from James Canning Gardens through the 2 new parks to create the feeling of a continuous design language.
- Ensure the **park designs are open, inclusive, and welcome all members of the community** which they serve.
- **Provide numerous and diverse seating options.** There was feedback that it would be desirable to have more individual seating options, as well as options that did not necessarily all face the central pathway.
- Ensure that the **parks are maintained** and that they do not go into disrepair. This includes designing with **robust and resilient design elements**.
- Design **parks with safety as a priority**.
- Ensure that the parks have **larger areas of green space** than paved surfaces.

Summary of Preferred Design Concepts

For Step 3 of the Yonge Street Linear Parks design process, one design concept was presented for each of the three parks. Each of these concepts was a refined version of the concepts that were previously presented to the public, and was based on the feedback provided in the Step 2 consultation stage. These revised concepts prioritized the design principles and features below:

- **Improved safety** – through opening sightlines, additional access points to the parks, integrating daily activation opportunities
- **Variety of seating options.**
- **Improved connections to the neighbourhood** - creating inviting community entry plazas at the street edges, and opening up previously closed-off access points.
- Providing amenities for dogs in the neighbourhood – both **a dog relief area, as well as a re-imagining of the existing ‘Barney’s Fountain’.**



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- **Providing a play area** for the children in the community
- **Integrated LGBTQ2S+ public art** at George Hislop Park. This art should reference the local communities' histories, stories, and identities.
- **Protecting and retaining as many healthy existing trees** in the park as possible.
- Integration of an Indigenous approach to natural systems by introducing **bio-swales for drainage** that tell the story of the sites' history with water.

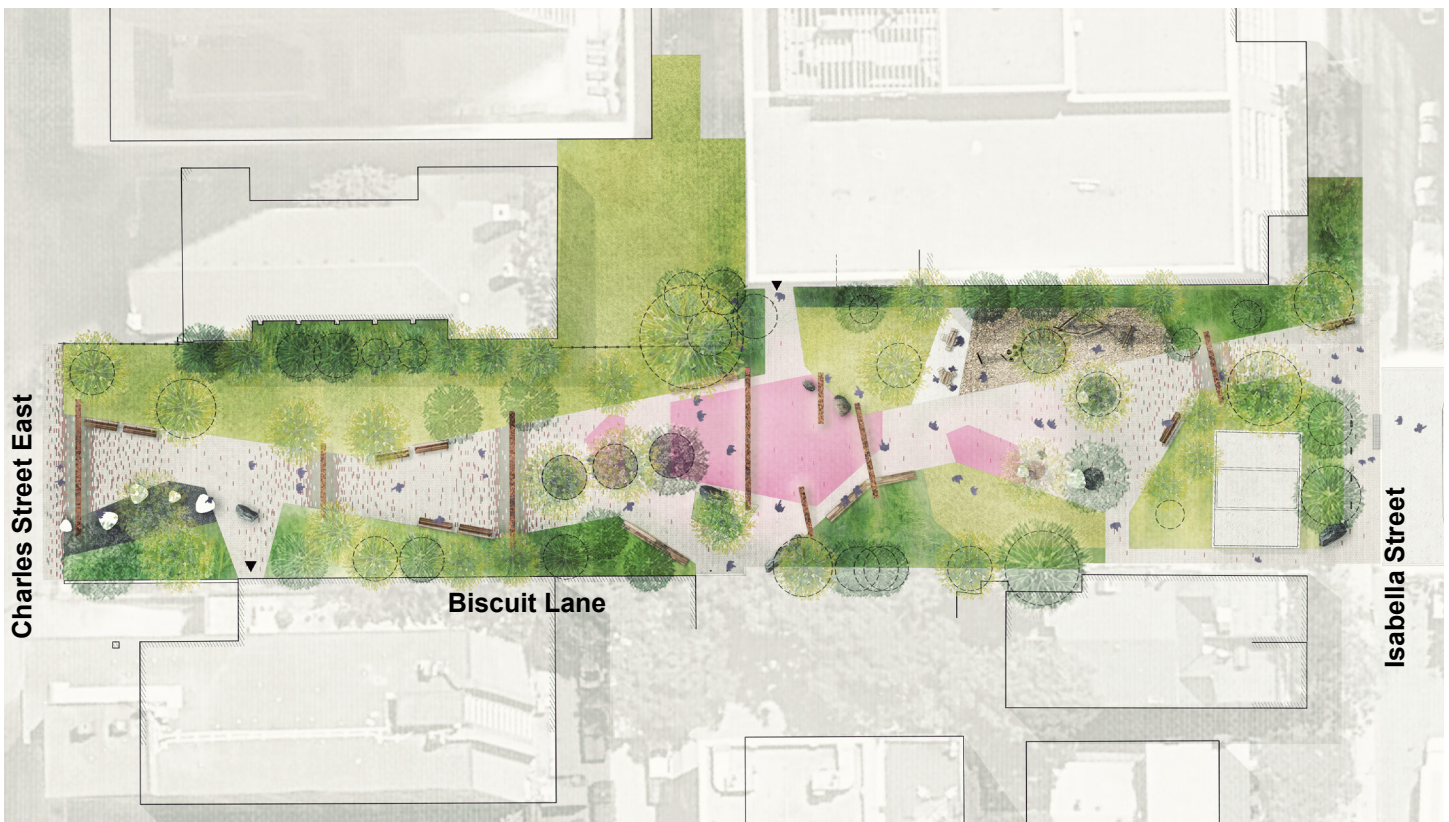


Figure 11. The plan above shows the preferred design concept for: George Hislop Park.
 Please note: North direction is to the left.
 For more information, see [the presentation from the Virtual Public Meeting #2](#)



Figure 12. The plan above shows the preferred design concept for: Norman Jewison Park.

Please note: North direction is to the left.

For more information, see [the presentation from the Virtual Public Meeting #2](#)

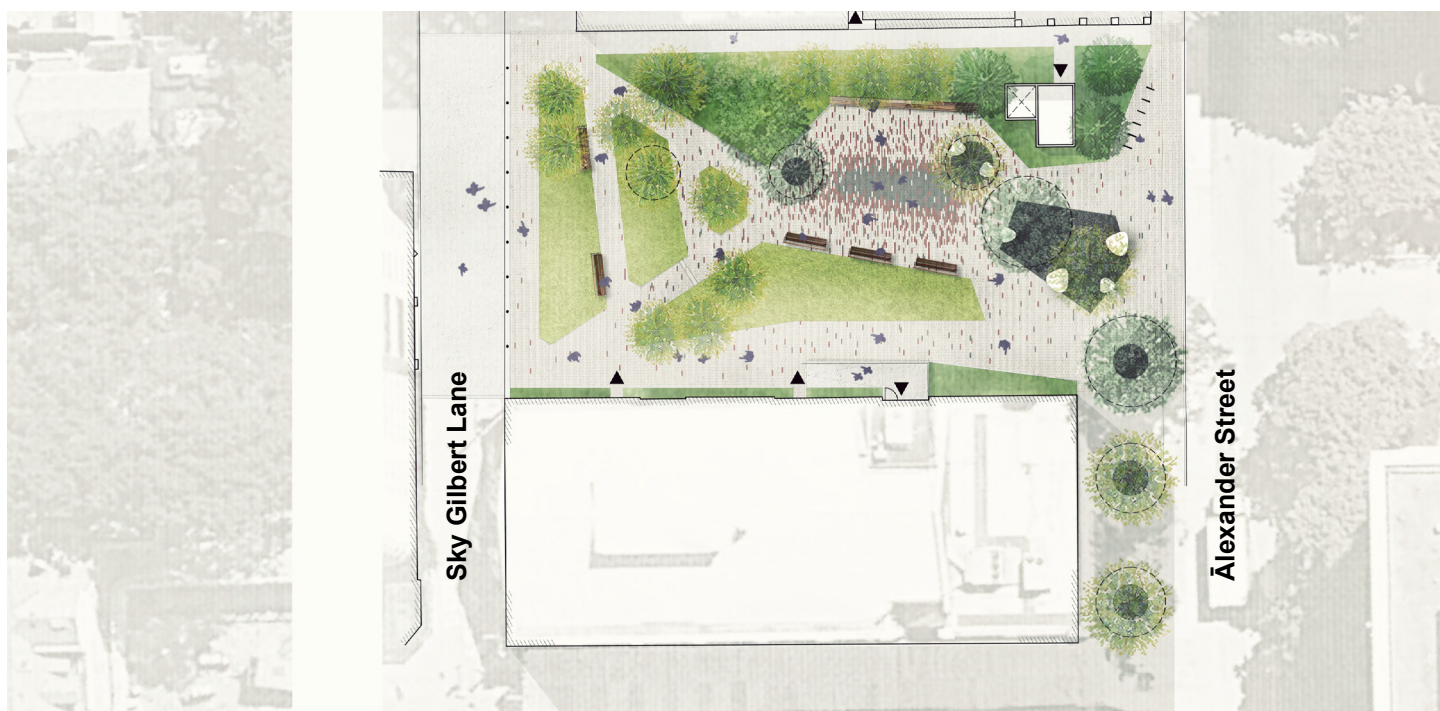


Figure 13. The plan above show the preferred design concept for: 1- Alexander Street Parkette.

Please note: North direction is to the left.

For more information, see [the presentation from the Virtual Public Meeting #2](#)

Summary of Preferred Design Concepts

For Step 2 of the public consultation process, the design team proposed two concepts: Concept 1 'Flow', and Concept 2 'Nodes'. The approach for Step 2 of the design process was to work with the two concepts based on positive reception by the public. It was interpreted that the 'Nodes' concept was slightly more favoured by the public; the design team went back to further refine this concept, drawing on particular community feedback to further develop the design proposals. It was through this process that the design team arrived at the Step 3 preferred park design concepts shown above (Figures 11-13).

The design response to the feedback was to approach the park design with a priority of daily use and animation, to design for the broadest spectrum of users, and with flexibility for programming. The parks designs will include active entry plazas at the street, and laneway edges of the parks would become valuable occupiable spaces in their own right. Additional new or renewed public access to the central areas of the park would be investigated to provide additional options for entering and exiting the park. Landscape features would be placed and designed such to maintain a consistent 'window' of sightline so that, as much as feasible, someone standing from one end of the park could look across to the other end without obstruction. These specific design goals – on top of enhanced functional lighting – would inherently create more passive surveillance ('eyes in the park') and an enhanced feeling of safety. All of the park concepts were re-examined to see where they could feasibly increase soft landscape in the parks, and re-examined to create even more variety in types and location of seating areas.

The proposal for George Hislop Park and Norman Jewison Park continue to feature a strong central 'spine', which acts as the primary circulation route from the North – from Charles Street East all the way south toward Gloucester street. It is from this central spine that 'Nodes' of programmatic space branch out – starting with the 'community plaza' at the north side of George Hislop Park, moving into the central 'Dance' area which features the Integrated LGBTQ2S+ public art and plaza. Continuing south, the next node contains the play area with adjacent seating areas for parental surveillance, including comfortable picnic tables for park users.



Figure 14. Entry from Charles Street into George Hislop Park

The northern end of Norman Jewison Park, similar to George Hislop Park, features a welcoming and generous community plaza at the northern end of the park. The central lawn at the centre of the park is one of the primary spaces in the Norman Jewison concept. There is a dry swale bed feature flowing along the western length of the central spine. This swale intends to reference the historic Moss Creek Park which previously ran through the site as a means to narrate the story of an original ecology and ravine system.



Figure 15 and 16. Above: Norman Jewison Park, looking southward toward the central lawn, feature bench, and interpretive bioswale. Below: Entry from Gloucester Street into Norman Jewison Park, looking north toward the dog relief area and Barney's Fountain.

Alexander Street Parkette, much like the other two parks, features an active frontage at both the northern and southern edges of the park. The park centres around a central plaza where events can be held, where friends can meet, and/or where individuals can find some outdoor retreat. The existing site grade change at Alexander Street Parkette was accommodated through a number of accessible sloped pathways as well as a few small steps in some locations. The adjacent Buddies in Bad Times Theatre will continue to share the western edge of the park as their main entrance and the park has been designed to accommodate this access, while providing constant public access as well.



Figure 17 and 18. Above: Alexander Street Parkette, looking south from the Garden Walk towards the Community Plaza. Below: The Community Plaza at Alexander Street Parkette, looking north toward the Garden Walk.

What We Heard - Key Points at each consultation event

i) Stakeholder Engagement

Community Resource Group Meeting #3 - February 9, 2021

Key Points

1. The lighting and openness of the park designs is attractive and creates a feeling of safety.
2. There is a good balance of seating for groups and for individuals.
3. More plantings including trees and pollinator gardens are a priority and opportunities to reduce the pavement should be considered where possible.
4. The designs for all 3 of the parks should consider use by dog owners and should be mindfully designed to minimize damage to plantings and provide accessible areas for dogs and their owners.
5. A flexible, open plaza design that can accommodate events in George Hislop Park is preferred.
6. Some existing gate access points from the private property on the east side of Norman Jewison Park do not lead to pathways and should be closed or removed.
7. Access to Norman Jewison Park from the Toronto Parking Authority parking lot is a priority and consideration should be given to converting the parking lot to park space in future.
8. The integration of the laneways in George Hislop Park and Alexander Street Parkette are a high priority.
9. A re-interpretation of the commemorative water fountain/pet drinking fountain is a welcome addition to Norman Jewison Park, but the proposed design and location should be refined to address tripping hazards and other issues.
10. The integrated LGBTQ2S+ public art is creative, attractive and engaging.



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The Integrative LGBTQ2S+ Public Art Sub-group Meeting #2- February 17, 2021

Key Points

- 1. Beautiful Design**
There was a general sense among participants that the integrated LGBTQ2S+ artwork is beautiful, thoughtful and did a good job of metaphorically representing the queer community.
- 2. Queer History**
Participants felt that the artwork needed to include some elements that spoke to the specific history of the place and LGBTQ2S+ communities, to acknowledge and celebrate the Toronto queer community specifically and ground the piece in this particular neighbourhood.
- 3. Understandable Design**
Participants appreciated the metaphorical representations in the design but felt that the artwork might be difficult for park users to interpret, and wondered if it could encourage interaction and behaviour that might later be restricted.
- 4. Colour**
Participants commented favourably on the choice of colour (pink) in the artwork and lighting for its representational potential and visual effect.
- 5. Reflective Surfaces**
Participants were in favour of the use of reflective surfaces as a way to include park users within the artwork, to 'see themselves reflected' and some felt that more reflective surfaces should be added.

ii) Public Engagement

Virtual Public Meeting #2 – February 12, 2021

Key Points

- 1. Attractive and welcoming design**
There was a general sense among participants that the park designs were attractive, welcoming, felt safe, and that the integrated LGBTQ2S+ artwork is appealing and will help to animate George Hislop Park.



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2. **Safety**
Participants were supportive of the open design and increased lighting and recognized that the design - along with community support and increased activity in the parks over time - has the potential to help improve safety.
3. **Plantings and hardscaping balance**
Participants were in favour of creating paved areas for pedestrian traffic in order to avoid muddy paths and gathering areas but also expressed hopes for a larger proportion of grassy or planted areas.
4. **Maintenance and Cleanliness**
Keeping the parks tidy and well maintained were seen by many participants as important for both safety and enjoyment of the parks.
5. **Dog Relief Areas**
Designated space and facilities to manage dog waste was a priority for many participants.
6. **Neighbouring Properties**
Participants voiced support for improving fences and other visible boundaries at the edges of the parks.
7. **Accessibility and Permeability**
Ensuring that the parks are accessible to community members of all abilities and prioritizing proposed connections along lane ways or other properties were identified by participants as key components to a welcoming design.

iii) Online Survey - February 17 to March 15, 2021

The online survey collected input from 234 respondents on the park designs summarized above and presented at the February 17, 2021, online public meeting.

Key Points

- Still too much paving proportional to softscape/planting
- Crucial that the park is maintained and 'kept clean'
- Ensure that the parks are safe – lighting is essential
- Ensure all seating is for the public, provide a variety of options and avoid defensive design
- A more substantial water feature would be nice to drown out the city noise

Detailed results from the online survey are summarized below.

1. Dog Relief Areas

Respondents were asked if they would welcome the addition of another dog relief area. 40% of respondents said yes. 35% of respondents said no, and 25% said that they were indifferent to the addition of another dog relief area.




	Count	% of responses	%
Yes, I would welcome the addition of another dog relief area.	83		40%
No, I do not want a dog relief area in Alexander Street Parkette.	71		35%
I have no preference.	51		25%

Figure 19. From online survey: Preference for the addition of a new dog relief area

2. Preferred Design Concept for George Hislop Park

Respondents were asked about their level of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with various design elements in the preferred design concept for George Hislop Park.

- 86% of participants feel that the proposal has a good variety of types of seating and places to sit both alone and in small groups.
- 84% of participants feel that the proposal's design of walkways and additional access points from the laneways, seating locations and types, clear sightlines, and lighting helps the park feel welcoming and safe for all users.
- 78% of participants feel that the size and layout of the paved paths enhance the park experience by providing both direct routes and multiple ways to move fluidly through the park.
- 79% of participants feel that the park proposal, including the Central Plaza, is flexible enough to accommodate small organized events but is also functional and designed appropriately for daily use.
- 81% of participants feel that they are satisfied with the location and size of the proposed playground area.
- 72% of participants feel that they are satisfied with the proportion of lawn areas vs. planting beds.
- 67% of participants feel that they are satisfied with the amount of paving and green space in George Hislop Park.

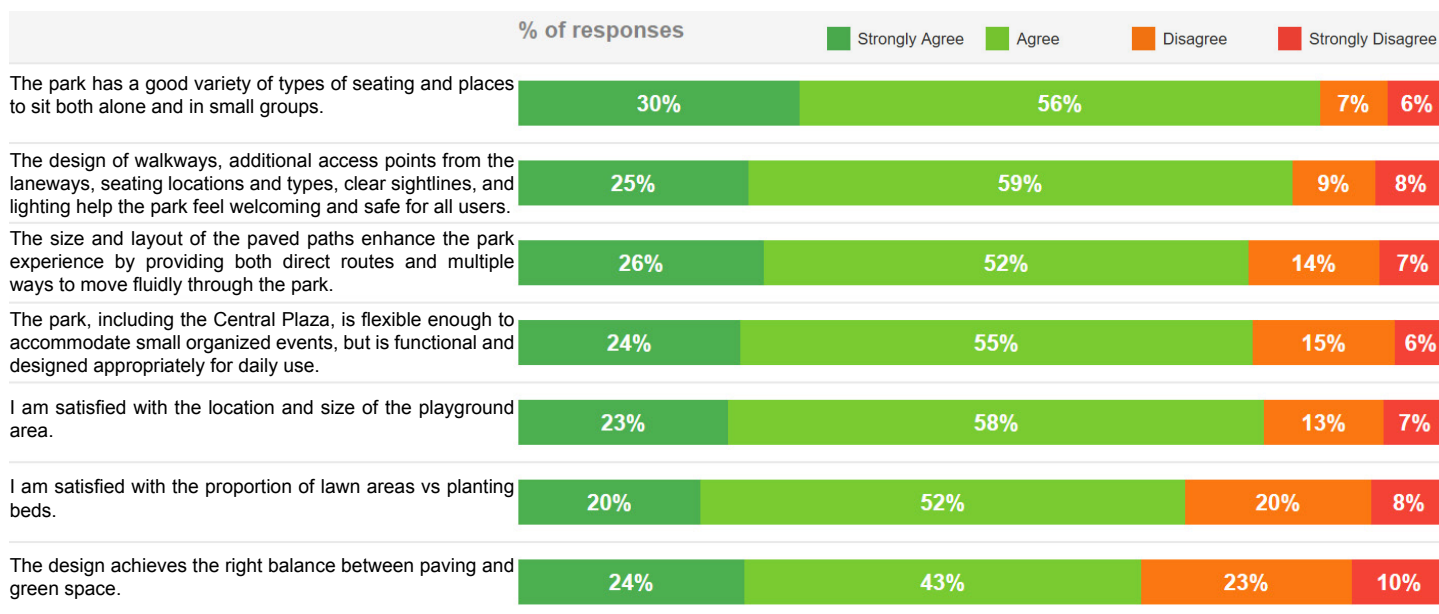


Figure 20. From online survey: Levels of satisfaction with different elements of the preferred design concept for George Hislop Park.

2.1 Public Art Component in George Hislop Park

Respondents were asked to provide comments about the integrated LGBTQ2S+ art component in the park. Select comments, organized by categories, are below:

Maintenance:

Ensure that the art piece can be maintained regularly.
Ensure that the art piece can be kept clean.

Appearance:

The LGBTQ2S+ piece is too industrial.
The LGBTQ2S+ piece looks great!
The LGBTQ2S+ piece looks fun and vibrant.
Would love to see more colourful flowers.
That's such a good idea.
The arches look apocalyptic.
Please do not use Corten for the beams.
The LGBTQ2S+ piece draws you in.
The LGBTQ2S+ piece is too built-up.
I really like the colour in the Dance.

Inclusion and functionality:

The LGBTQ2S+ piece is not closely enough tied to the community history.
Ensure that the piece is inclusive and diverse.

Would love to see adult exercise areas in the park. It would be a functional activity in the park.

Would like to have more information within the park (QR codes, etchings etc) sharing the LGBTQ2S+ local histories.

3. Preferred Design Concept for Norman Jewison Park

Respondents were asked about their level of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with various design elements in the preferred design concept for Norman Jewison Park.

- 82% of participants feel that the proposal has a good variety of types of seating and places to sit both alone and in small groups.
- 82% of participants feel that the proposal's design of walkways and additional access points from the Green P Parking lot, seating locations and types, clear sightlines, and lighting helps the park feel welcoming and safe for all users.
- 75% of participants feel that the size and layout of the paved paths enhance the park experience by providing both direct routes and multiple ways to move fluidly through the park.
- 75% of participants feel that the park proposal is flexible enough to accommodate small organized events, but is also functional and designed appropriately for daily use.
- 74% of participants feel that they are satisfied with the location and size of the proposed unfenced Dog Relief Area and water fountain near the Gloucester Street Entry plaza.
- 67% of participants feel that they are satisfied with the proportion of lawn areas vs. planting beds.
- 59% of participants feel that they are satisfied with the amount of paving and green space in Norman Jewison Park.

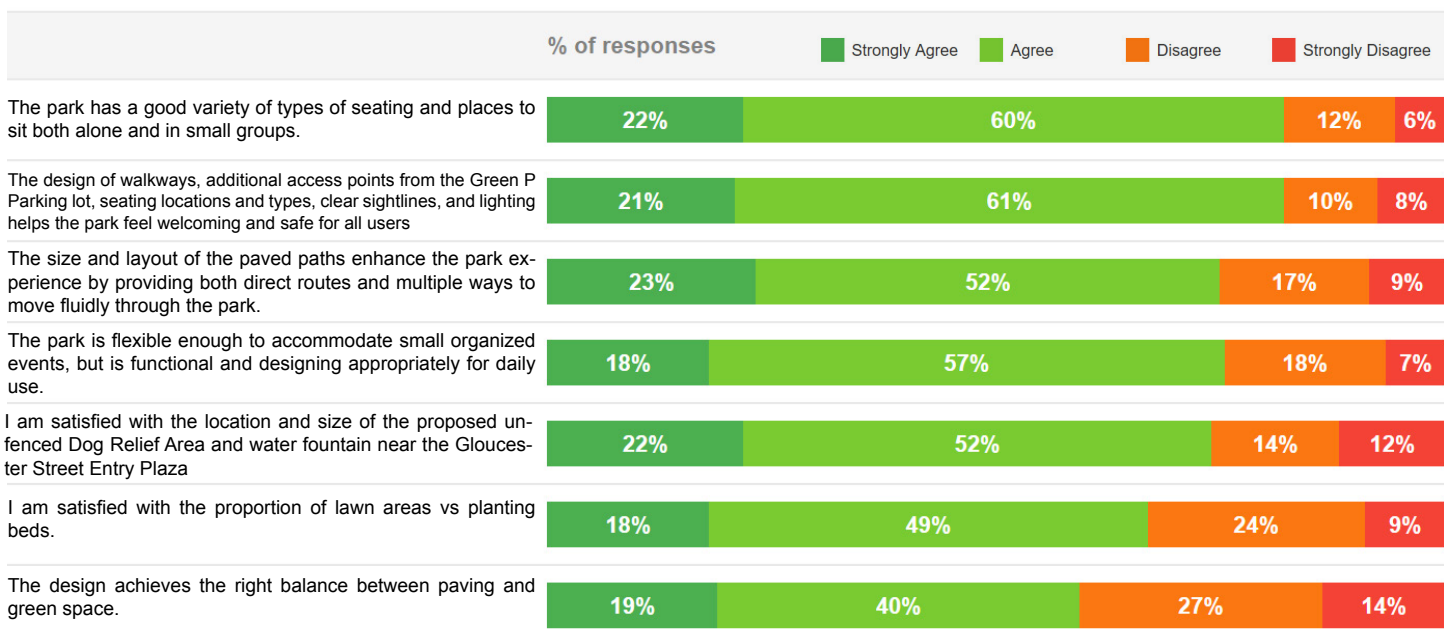


Figure 21. From online survey: Levels of satisfaction with different elements of the preferred design concept for Norman Jewison Park.

4. Preferred Design Concept for Alexander Street Parkette

Respondents were asked about their level of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with various design elements in the preferred design concept for Alexander Street Parkette.

- 79% of participants feel that the central plaza feels like a welcoming space for day-to-day activities or for community events.
- 79% of participants feel that the design of the park (including walk ways, and seating, and sightlines to laneways) help the park to feel welcoming and safe for all users.
- 77% of participants feel that the size and layout of the paved paths enhance the park experience by providing both fluid circulation and direct routes through the park.
- 75% of participants feel that the proposal has a good variety of seating types and places to sit both alone and in groups.
- 72% of participants feel that the proposal has a good proportion of lawn areas vs. planting beds.
- 65% of participants feel that the proposal achieves the right balance between paving and green space.

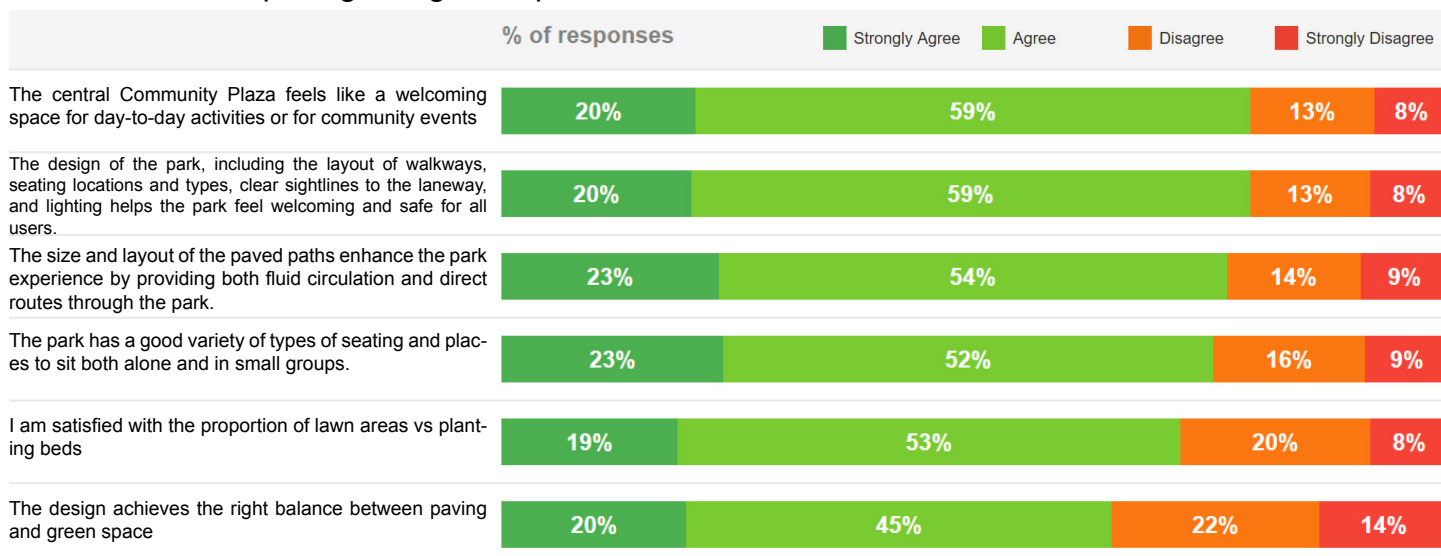


Figure 22. From online survey: Levels of satisfaction with different elements of the preferred design concept for Alexander Street Parkette.

5. General feedback on the preferred design concepts for George Hislop Park, Norman Jewison Park, and Alexander Street Parkette

Respondents were asked if they had any general comments about the preferred design concepts for all three parks. Select comments, organized by categories, are below:

Safety:

Currently I feel very unsafe in the parks with all the encampments. Please make them as safe as possible.

Would just like to have a safe area to walk my dog.



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Park identity:

The parks should promote more of a destination, rather than a place to be walked through.

Alexander street parkette could allow for a 'speaker's corner' podium, like that which stood outside City Hall.

Make sure that the parks are inclusive (including for our homeless population).

Balancing green space to paving:

There is still too much paved areas, the city is already far too paved and we need to allow for as much green space as possible.

More planting and less paving should be good for the air quality and provide a more natural feel to the spaces.

It would be ideal to have less paved areas to increase green proportion. A greater number of narrower, paved pathways is better than a central, fat strip of paved pathway in the middle. More interesting.

More green space and areas for children would service the community better.

This area needs more green not more pavement!

More flower beds/less concrete.

Too much paved/bricked areas.

Maintenance:

These parks are always in ill repair.

Amenities:

Add public washrooms.

Would be nice to have a water feature or a small pond.

There should be a small dog fenced park (ideally with wood chips) to enable dogs to spend their energy.

*I don't see any bike paths through the parks.**

Let's put adult exercise areas into the parks.

A fountain would be nice too!

*City park paths allow cyclists but they must travel at pedestrian speed. The paths in these parks not part of the City's cycling infrastructure and are not intended as cycle tracks.

Additional / Email Feedback

One senior male who lives in nearby apartment buildings off Church St wrote to say that he would like to make sure the parks have lots of seating because he uses them a lot while making trips nearby to run errands or shop. He also said he feels the parks need more security as he does not always feel safe there.

Another resident of the apartment buildings nearby wrote to say he does not use the Alexander St Parkette because it is 'too small, messy, smells and has too many dogs'. He also thought that adding brighter lights at night would make it feel safer.



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6. NEXT STEPS

The feedback received during this second phase of stakeholder and public engagement will be used to inform the development of final concept plans. These plans will be shared with the public and stakeholders through publication on the project website.

Consult the project website for further details and updates: toronto.ca/YongeLinearParks



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7. APPENDIX

Project Website address

Detailed Feedback Meeting Summaries for all public and consultation engagement activities are available here: toronto.ca/YongeLinearParks

Community Resource Group Members

Alejandra Andarve, The Sanctuary
Allan Beattie, The Sanctuary
Kim Behrouzian, Friends of The Linear Parks
Daniel Carter, Buddies in Bad Times Theatre
Jodi Cassidy, CAN-Alliance
Shawn Dawdlin, Buddies in Bad Times Theatre
Juliana de Marco, Children's Aid Society
Antoine Elhashem, Inspire
Mo Fayaz, Children's Aid Society
Christopher Hudspeth, Church Wellesley Village BIA
Nikolas Koschancy, Friends of the Linear Parks
Connie Langille, Church Wellesley Neighbourhood Association
Emily Martyn, Downtown East Action Plan
Bobby MacPherson, Pride Toronto
Stephanie McCracken, Church Wellesley Village BIA
Amber Moyle, Pride Toronto
Robert Packham, Church Wellesley Neighbourhood Association
George Sovatzis, Anndore House
Curran Stikuts, 519 Church
Paul Farrelly, Church Wellesley Neighbourhood Association
Reagan Swanson, Arquives



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Esther Afriat – PFR, General Supervisor, Ward 13

Heidi Weidelich – PFR, Park Supervisor

Paul Brown – PFR, Technical Services

Thomas Bertram – PFR, Supervisor, Tech Services

Tom Feeney – PFR, Technical services

Fred Weinhold - Tech services, electrical

Loi To – PFR, Parks Ambassador program

Catherine Dean – Economic Development & Culture

Survey Summary:

The summary of survey results will be available at: toronto.ca/YongeLinearParks



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