

Robertson Davies Park Improvements

Phase 1 – Design Concept Virtual Public Meeting and Survey Summary Report

March 29, 2021

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Introduction

This document provides a summary of feedback received about the proposed concept design for the Robertson Davies Park Improvements project at a virtual public meeting held on February 10, 2021, and a summary of the feedback collected through the online survey that ran from January 25 to February 26, 2021.

Project Background



Figure 1 Robertson Davies Park currently, with the new development at 281-289 Avenue Road.

Robertson Davies Park is a small park located at 275 Avenue Rd. near Macpherson Avenue in Toronto East York. The park features open green space and seating. As part of the nearby development at 281-289 Avenue Rd., the developer must provide improvements to the park.

The goal of this project is to update the park to provide a safer and more accessible experience for a range of park users. The proposed improvements may include:

- A new accessible pathway
- A water bottle filling station
- New lighting
- New planting buffers and ornamental tree planting

The project is in the design phase which will be developed through consultation with key stakeholders and the wider community. The City is coordinating the improvements and the developer is funding the project and leading their construction.

This project is unrelated to the public consultation completed by Hydro One in 2016-2017, which involved tree removal, pathway upgrades and tree plantings to the park.

Notification

To maximize the amount of feedback we received from the local community, the online survey and virtual public meeting were promoted through the following channels:

- A community mail out to residents living near the park
- An eFlyer that was circulated to future residents of the nearby 281-289 Avenue Road development
- Councillor Josh Matlow's social media and newsletter
- Project webpage: www.toronto.ca/robertsondaviespark
- Signage in the park

Virtual Public Meeting (February 10, 2021)

Agenda

- Land acknowledgement
- Introduction by Rajesh Sankat (facilitator)
- Opening remarks by Councillor Josh Matlow
- Park Project Overview
- Design Presentation – Proposed Park Improvements
- What We've Heard So Far (Overview of survey results)
- Design Feedback and Discussion
- Next steps + Adjourn

Meeting Goals

To present and gather feedback on the concept design for the proposed improvements coming to Robertson Davies Park, including upgraded lighting, an additional accessible pathway, and ornamental tree planting.

Attendees

Panelists

- Councillor Josh Matlow, Ward 12 Toronto - St. Paul's
- Rajesh Sankat, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator (City of Toronto, PFR)
- Laurel Christie, Senior Project Coordinator (City of Toronto, PF&R)
- Alex Lavasidis, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator (City of Toronto, PFR)
- Margaret Best, Supervisor (City of Toronto, PFR)
- David Pantaleo, Project Landscape Architect (Nak Design Group)
- Sibylle Von Knobloch, Project Landscape Architect (Nak Design Group)
- Laxmi Shadija, Project Landscape Architect (Nak Design Group)
- Tammy Glied, CAO/Director (Brandy Lane Homes)

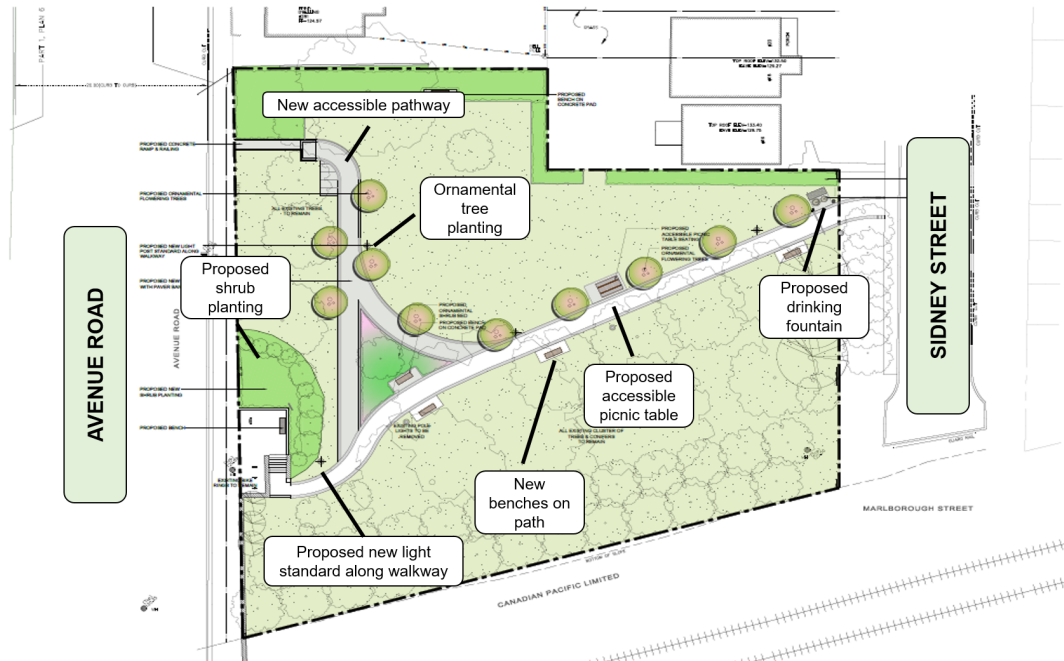
Public

- 25 community members

Presentation

The full presentation from this meeting can be downloaded at toronto.ca/RobertsonDaviesPark.

Proposed Concept Design



Meeting Feedback – Key Highlights

- The general sentiments from the community members present at the meeting were:
 - The proposed improvements should preserve as much green space as possible to the site.
 - That the concerns raised by community members regarding park maintenance be addressed prior to any improvements.*
 - A second phase of engagement be implemented, to provide more opportunities for community input on the final designs.
- The majority of community members present expressed support for the new accessible pathway, but to preserve greenspace, link it to the existing pathway via the proposed curve and not the straight pathway going south.
- Several community members present expressed their interest for native and pollinator-friendly plants as part of the new planting beds being considered for this project.
- Some community members present expressed concern over inadequate notification for the public meeting and online survey.
- Several community members spoke about drainage issues in other areas of the park, leading to icy pathways during the winter months.
- Some community members expressed opposition to the addition of a drinking fountain at Sidney Street.
- Some community members suggested a water feature instead of a water fountain. Attendees were informed that this fell outside of the scope for this project.

Questions of clarification:

1. What will the height of the new trees be planted?

The trees will be a few metres tall that will require low-level maintenance.

2. Why is the drinking fountain being placed near Sidney Street?

There is already a water connection from Sidney Street into the park to supply the water fountain. Moving the fountain closer to Avenue Road would require creating a new water connection, a more complicated undertaking requiring permits, more time and cost.

As part of the Hydro One improvements that took place, a provision was created for a sleeve to go under the new pathway, so the water connection infrastructure is already laid.

After some internal review, Toronto Water will no longer allow water fountains to be installed without a sanitary sewer connection. As the park does not currently have a connection to sanitary and a new connection is beyond the scope of this project, **a water fountain will not be included in the park improvements.**

*Feedback related to operational concerns will be relayed to Parks Operations Staff.

Online Survey

In February 2021, the City conducted an online survey to obtain feedback from community members to inform the improvements to Robertson Davies Park. Survey participants were given the opportunity to review the proposed concept plan and share their thoughts on the new features and design.

The survey was available to complete online from January 25 to February 26, 2021. The survey received a total of **88 survey responses**, which included input from **117 individuals**.

The feedback from the survey will help confirm the priorities for the final design of the park.

Feedback Summary

Key Highlights

- The survey received **88** survey responses, which included input from **117** individuals.
- The majority of survey respondents were in the 40 to 55 years old (figure), 56 to 64 years old, and 65 to 74 years old age category.
- The **majority of respondents were satisfied** with the proposed improvements shown in the Concept Design:
 - When asked, “How satisfied are you with the proposed improvements shown?” **62%** indicated that they were either satisfied or very satisfied. **23%** indicated they were neutral towards the proposed improvements.
- In general, survey respondents indicated that they **liked the featured improvements below**:
 - Ornamental tree planting and planting buffer **(70%)**
 - LED pole light fixtures **(58%)**
 - Accessible pathway **(54%)**
- In general, a small amount of survey respondents (N=34) indicated that they did not like the following featured improvements:
 - Water fountain and bottle filling station **(19%)**
 - New seating options like benches and picnic tables **(17%)**
 - New accessible pathway **(13%)**

- In general, many survey respondents **welcomed the new accessible pathway**, but suggested that in order to maximize greenspace it should connect to the existing pathway via the curve shown, rather than connect in the straight path going south.
- In general, survey respondents want to **preserve as much green space** as possible, and for the proposed design to reflect the calm nature and main use of the park as a pathway towards Avenue Road/Sidney Street.
- Several respondents commented that the **water fountain could be placed in alternate locations** (e.g. near Avenue Road where more pedestrian traffic came from)
- Several respondents felt that the improvements as shown were no more than **standard housekeeping updates** to the park, or otherwise indicated they were neutral towards the added features.
- Some respondents requested that **fencing bordering Avenue Road** be considered in the final design.

Accessible Pathway – Detailed Feedback

- **45 respondents (54%)** identified the new accessible pathway as a featured improvement they liked the most.
- **9 respondents (11%)** indicated that they not like the new accessible pathway as a featured improvement.
- In general, many survey respondents welcomed the new accessible pathway, commenting that it was a necessary and welcomed update to the park.
- Several survey respondents suggested that in order to maximize greenspace, the pathway could connect to the existing pathway via the curve shown, rather than connect in the straight path going south. This would result in a larger, more useful green area for park users.

Benches, Picnic Tables, and Seating Options - Detailed Feedback

- **34 respondents (40%)** indicated that they liked the new seating options in the proposed improvements.
- **14 respondents (17%)** indicated they did not like the new seating options in the proposed improvements.
- **Benches:** Several respondents indicated that the park could benefit from 2 or more additional picnic tables or benches. Many respondents did not feel any existing picnic benches should be removed.
 - In terms of location, suggestions included benches to be placed on the south of the main pathway rather than the Sidney Street Entrance, facing various directions and set off of the pathway to allow for more privacy for park users.
 - Some respondents suggested benches could be arranged in semi-circular patterns to encourage more conversation and community amongst park users
- **Picnic Tables:** Several respondents indicated that additional picnic tables would be welcome to encourage and create spaces where park users could socialize outdoors, talk, and share a meal.
 - Some comments indicated preferred locations for picnic tables (e.g. closer to Avenue Road on the south of the path for more access to shade).

Lighting - Detailed Feedback

- **49 respondents (58%)** indicated that they liked the new LED pole light fixtures in the proposed improvements shown.

- **4 respondents (5%)** indicated they did not like the new LED pole light fixtures in the proposed improvements shown.
- Some respondents indicated through Additional Comments that **lighting for the park – along the pathway and throughout – were an important addition to the park** and should be considered a priority for increased safety.

Water Fountain and Bottle Filling Station – Detailed Feedback

- **31 respondents (37%)** indicated that they liked the water fountain in the proposed improvements shown.
- **16 respondents (20%)** indicated they did not like the new water fountain in the proposed improvements shown.
- In general, comments referring to the water fountain suggested improvements to the **water fountain's location**.
 - Several respondents commented that the water fountain could be placed in alternate locations (e.g. near Avenue Road where more pedestrian traffic comes from).
 - One respondent suggested to have an additional water fountain by Avenue Road.
- As an alternative to a water fountain, some respondents suggested a **decorative water feature** be designed and integrated into the design.
- Some respondents indicated that a **water fountain for dogs** would also be appreciated.

City Response on Water Supply for all Toronto Parks:

- In accordance with the updated Canada Food Guide, Toronto Public Health and Parks, Forestry & Recreation have a mandate to increase access to drinking water through the provision of water bottle filling stations and fountains in all parks.
- The water service connection is provided off of Sidney Street, therefore the fountain would need to be located within that vicinity.
- After some internal review, Toronto Water will no longer allow water fountains to be installed without a sanitary sewer connection. As the park does not currently have a connection to sanitary and a new connection is beyond the scope of this project, **a water fountain will not be included in the park improvements.**

Park Maintenance – Detailed Feedback

- Many respondents indicated that there were several **existing park maintenance issues** that would need to be addressed by the City prior to these improvements moving forward. These issues included:
 - Winter maintenance of stairs from Avenue Road
 - Winter snow clearing of park pathway
 - Little to no maintenance currently of flower beds and plantings
 - Needles, sharp objects, and biohazards not being collected by Parks

Response from City Staff on Park Maintenance:

- These pathways and stairs do not currently fall within those that must be maintained under Parks Winter Maintenance Standards.
- The current and proposed planting beds have been reviewed and will be under maintenance supervision by the Parks Supervisor and Lead Hand Gardener.

- If needles are found by staff working in the Park, they will be disposed of promptly and safely. Should the public discover needles in the Park, please contact 311 with the location specifics and staff will be dispatched to dispose of them.

Tree Planting and Planting Buffer – Detailed Feedback

- **58 respondents (69%)** indicated that they liked the ornamental tree planting and planting buffer in the proposed improvements shown.
- **11 respondents (13%)** indicated they did not like ornamental tree planting and planting buffer proposed improvements shown.
- Several respondents suggested that **pollinator gardens and native tree species** would be welcome additions to the park, rather than ornamental trees
 - Response from City Staff: The trees proposed are the native Serviceberry, a medium sized tree that is great for pollinator species. There are currently two species of native perennials proposed that attract pollinators. The design will be updated with more native species.
- Some respondents indicated that **more trees be planted** than shown in the proposed concept designs, given the mature trees that had been cut down earlier as a result of Hydro One removals.
 - Response from City Staff: The area south of the pathway is already quite heavily planted with trees. New trees are being planted bordering the north side of the new pathway. Past feedback has indicated that many residents preferred to keep open lawn so the planting plan balances this feedback.
- Some respondents suggested that **low-maintenance planting beds** be incorporated into the design
- Some respondents suggested that planting beds be **pet-friendly**

Additional Feedback

- Some respondents inquired as to whether the existing Ginkgo trees along Avenue Road would be removed with the proposed improvements:
 - Response from City Staff: The existing Ginkgo trees are intended to remain.
- Some respondents suggested additional features like an Off-Leash Area for pets, and a playground be added to the design.
 - Response from City Staff: These improvements are out of scope for this project.
- Some respondents suggested a decorative park feature commemorating Robertson Davies (e.g. a bust). This is outside of scope for this project, and there is already a commemorative plaque in the park dedicated to this figure.

Next Steps

Based on the feedback received from community members, residents and stakeholders, and in consideration of the functional and design constraints of the existing park, a preferred concept design for these improvements will be developed. This design will be presented to the community for final feedback in Spring 2021.

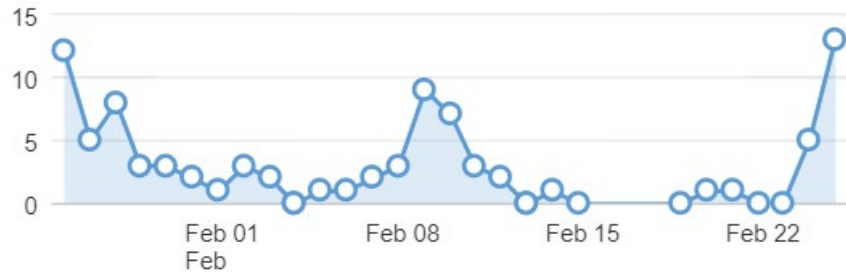
To sign up for updates on this project, visit toronto.ca/RobertsonDaviesPark.

Appendix A: Quantitative Response Summary

Respondents



Response timeline



How satisfied are you with the proposed improvements shown in the Concept Design?

	Count	% of responses	%
Very Satisfied	13	<div></div>	16%
Satisfied	38	<div></div>	46%
Neutral	19	<div></div>	23%
Dissatisfied	11	<div></div>	13%
Very Dissatisfied	2	<div></div>	2%

N 83

What featured improvements in the Concept Design do you like the most?
Please select all that apply.

	Count	% of responses	%
Ornamental tree planting and planting buffer	58	<div></div>	69%
New LED pole light fixtures	49	<div></div>	58%
New accessible pathway	45	<div></div>	54%
New seating options (benches and picnic table)	34	<div></div>	40%
Water fountain and bottle filling station	31	<div></div>	37%
I like all of the featured improvements shown.	15	<div></div>	18%

N 84

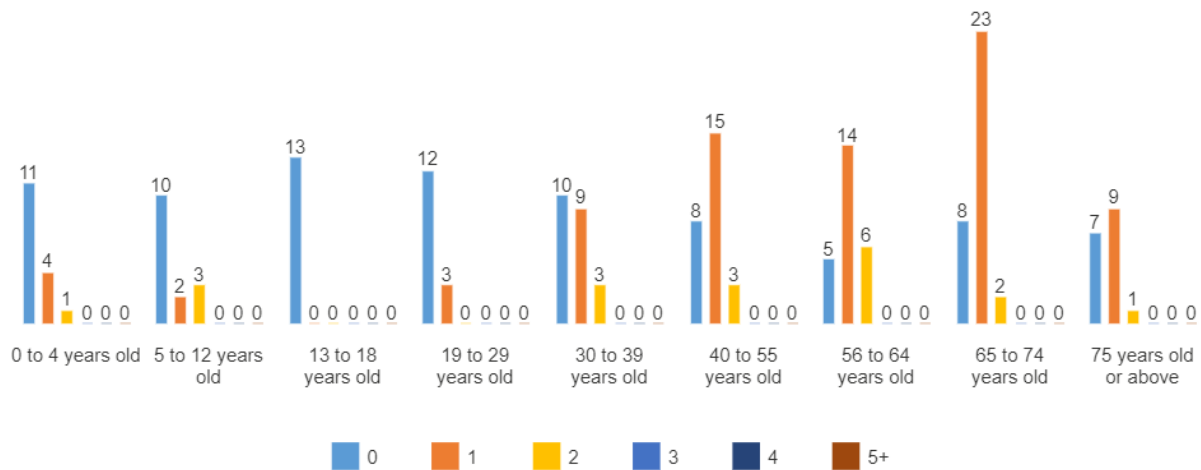
Are there featured improvements in the Concept Design that you do not like?
Please select all that apply.

	Count	% of responses	%
Water fountain and bottle filling station	16	<div></div>	47%
New seating options (benches and picnic table)	14	<div></div>	41%
Ornamental tree planting and planting buffer	11	<div></div>	32%
New accessible pathway	9	<div></div>	26%
I don't like any of the featured improvements shown.	5	<div></div>	15%
New LED pole light fixtures	4	<div></div>	12%

N 34

Demographics

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







N 82

Total responses per age group include:






- 6 respondents age 0 to 4 years old
- 8 respondents age 5 to 12 years old
- 0 respondents age 13 to 18 years old
- 3 respondents age 19 to 29 years old
- 15 respondents age 30 to 39 years old
- 21 respondents age 40 to 55 years old
- 26 respondents age 56 to 64 years old
- 27 respondents age 65 to 74 years old
- 11 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	44		54%
Male	41		51%
Prefer not to answer	2		2%
Not listed, please describe.	1		1%
Trans female	0		
Trans male	0		
Gender fluid, genderqueer, gender non-conforming, non-binary, trans	0		

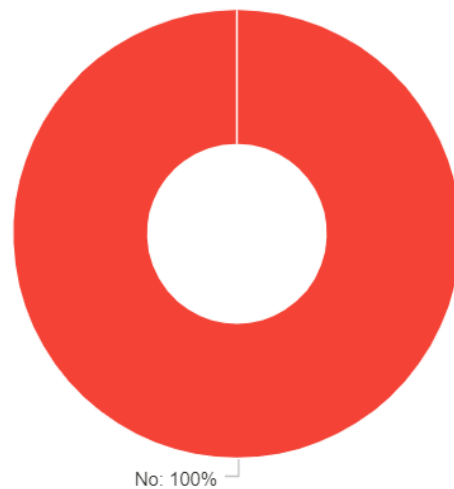
N 81

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

	Count	% of responses	%
White (European descent)	60		77%
I don't know/Prefer not to answer	12		15%
Middle Eastern (Arab, Persian, West Asian descent, e.g. Afghan, Egyptian, Iranian, Lebanese, Turkish, Kurdish, etc.)	5		6%
East Asian (Chinese, Korean, Japanese)	2		3%
South Asian or Indo-Caribbean (e.g. Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan, Indo-Guyanese, Indo-Trinidadian, etc.)	2		3%
Black (African, Afro-Caribbean, African-Canadian descent)	0		
Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, Inuk/Inuit)	0		
Latino (Latin American, Hispanic descent)	0		
Southeast Asian (Taiwanese descent; Filipino, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Thai, Indonesian)	0		
Other, please specify	0		

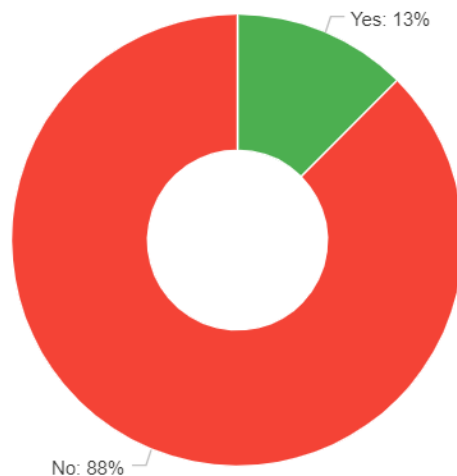
N 78

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 78

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 80

Do survey participants rent or own their home?

	Count	% of responses	%
Owner	72	<div></div>	89%
Renter	9	<div></div>	11%
Neither owner nor renter	0		

N 81

Appendix B: Concept Design

Improvements are coming to this park, as part of the new residential development at 281-289 Avenue Road. Please review the proposed concept design below, and provide your feedback.



The proposed concept design includes:

- A new accessible pathway from Avenue Road, allowing those with limited mobility (strollers, scooters, etc.) with easier access to the park. Currently, access from Avenue Road is only possible via stairs.
- Updated matching light fixtures and updated electrical infrastructure.
- Water fountain including a bottle filling station.
- New ornamental tree planting along the new pathway.
- New planting at the Avenue Road entrances, as well as a planting buffer between the private residential properties to the north.
- New benches and one new accessible picnic table.

Appendix C: Text Responses

Do you have any comments about the proposed improvements, or any suggestions?

- I would like a wrought-iron fence around the perimeter and I think a decorative fountain should be considered as long as you're adding plumbing for a water fountain.
- The steps and railing system entering from Avenue are of poor quality and should be enhanced. Approach to planting beds should be more inspired with naturalized planting beds that are beautiful and low maintenance.
- The current set of stairs off Avenue Road are a significant danger during the cold months of the year. These need to be remade such that water does not collect on the steps, and there are supports made for individuals to hold onto as they climb the stairs. Making a whole new pathway takes up green space. Also accommodating skateboarders would be welcome, as many local kids have nowhere to skate.
- There are 3 existing benches which look quite new and certainly don't need replacing. The picnic benches could be better located and on a permanent base. This is a tiny park which is used mainly as a pass through rather than a destination. A few dog owners do take their dogs there to play but it's only a 5 minute walk to a large off-leash dog park to the south.
- As a regular user of this park I welcome these improvements. I would love to see some outdoor fitness equipment, such as found in Greenfield Park (<https://www.toronto.ca/explore-enjoy/recreation/fitness-programs/>). Also, possibly planting a row of trees on the north side so that park users have some relative privacy from those on balconies at the Davies.
- Very pleased with the updates
- Currently there are two picnic tables at Robertson Davies Park. Reducing the number of picnic tables at this park to one is not an improvement. A lot of dog owners and their dogs visit this park. Two important features are the garbage and recycling receptacles, which I don't currently see on the concept design. It would also be beneficial if the water fountain and bottle filling station included a water foundation for dogs. In the concept design, the water fountain and bottle filling station is located right at the entrance to the park from Sidney Street. This entrance is fairly narrow. It would be better if the water fountain and filling station was moved in slightly or on the other side of the pathway to allow more space for people to use it without blocking the path.
- Plant as many trees as you can. Any fence/barrier you could install along Avenue Rd would be great for children and dogs.
- Need to ensure winter snow clearing of paths. More picnic tables. Exercise equipment area for workouts in the park. Bicycle tools (like they have in Australia).
- I would like the water fountain to provide a water fountain for dogs too. I would like designated off-leash times for dogs in the park. Perhaps benches in a semicircular pattern/varied seating from traditional benches to encourage conversation other than at a picnic table.
- I can only see in the design one water fountain by Sydney street, maybe have one as well by Avenue road.
- Avenue Rd. has six lanes of traffic there. There are some beautiful trees there now, but it would be nice if there was more of a substantial buffer of larger trees in between the road and the park to help reduce noise and make it a more inviting place to spend time.

Due to the high volume and speed of cars, some sort of physical barrier like a fence or concrete accents would make it feel safer to sit in the park as well.

- Why haven't you included any play features?
- The survey first three questions tend to force the response to either negative or positive in of themselves there is little to be dissatisfied with the proposed improvements all of which are modest. Of more concern is whether the location and areas proposed actually improve the park. It is also apparent that there is no stated objective or focus other than to 'improve the park. Therefore this survey asks respondents to judge a design without a scope or terms of reference for evaluation. This is disappointing that there was no stated agreed upon objective which to put forward an opinion on satisfaction. Therefore the survey is largely ineffectual and dismissive of real input. Accessible pathway is a good idea and much needed. In the winter the stairs are not maintained nor is the pathway for that matter. The proposed landscaping is minimal and doesn't sufficiently address the opportunity. Specifically the buffering from the new apartment building is insufficient. Why would there not be more consideration to naturalized vegetation in this area as well as the area between Avenue road and the new location of the accessible pathway. Drought tolerant native vegetation may be more worthy than 'ornamental' trees. The park has full southern exposure and in the late summer similar to that of 2020 trees are under stress due to lack of water. Why does the single family home on Sydney street have a private entrance to the park. The fact that there is an existing opening in the fence doesn't seem sufficient to provide a guaranteed access. There is no gate on the opening at this time. The southwest corner of the park was [REDACTED] during the summer of 2020 including the erection of a make shift tent. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] There is lots of opportunity if Staff would take the time and effort to understand how the Park functions.

- benches and tables should be set off the path, for privacy for both walkers and sitters, and, of course, because of what we've learned from COVID Also, there could be a piece of public art honouring literature and its authors, including Davies -- surrounded by a comfortable reading/sitting area.
- Too much of the park will be now taken up by pathway. Also, the park becomes almost a private park for the new Davies Condo. That being said, I would prefer keeping the new pathway but then shutting down/eliminating the staircase and portion of pathway so that more grassland can be established/maintained.
- The picnic tables currently in the park are used by either homeless people - who leave their garbage behind - or drug users. The benches are fine the picnic tables are not worthwhile.
- Needs signage to remind dog owners to keep pets on leash, to pick up after them and directions to Ramsden Dog Park, less than 1/2 km away.
- I am in favour of an accessible pathway. I think it should connect to the existing pathway via the curve shown. There is no need at all for the straight path going due south. That is just more pavement in a green space. I am in favour of a drinking fountain. It should be nearer the new proposed benches, not right at the Sidney St entrance. I do not think the park would be enhanced by more benches. The park is used mostly as a pleasant thoroughfare between Sidney St and Avenue Road. What would improve it immensely is if the path and steps were cleared by the city in the winter.
- Extended pathway reduces the amount of green lawn area. Access is already available from Sydney St. If a ramp is needed it could be constructed adjacent to the existing stairway.

- water fountain should be near Avenue Road where people need it more the extra has a triangle of concrete - eliminate the north-south running part of that triangle (if you think, you'll see that no one needs the extra option that part of the triangle provides). No need for extra seating and the current benches have an obnoxious central armrest that prevents resting on the benches. Do not over do the new tree planting.
- Does the picnic table need to be directly adjacent to the pathway - is that because of accessibility? Also, can the gingko trees along Avenue can be preserved?
- 1. Low fencing bordering Avenue road. 2. water fountain shouldn't be hidden corner 3. no traditional 3 seat "park benches" use long raised or curved elevated platform benches (no arms)
- More trees/plants. After Hydro One broke a promise to the neighbourhood and cut down over 24 mature trees, the park looks barren, and their pitiful 'mea culpa' replacement trees are immature, small and not nearly enough to compensate for the damage they did. And as always, no one was held accountable. IMO the park needs more planting and less concrete - please consider a 'screen' of trees/bushes to help hide the railway on the south side of the lot.
- important to keep the park open and visible for safety reasons - park's footprint is smaller so breaking it up with the propose walk way will limit the way it can be used as there will be people criss-crossing - Concerned that triangular garden will not be maintained and collect garbage - recommend more trees around perimeter and along the fences on the park's north end (16 and 18 Sidney street) - instead of a full accessible ramp and walkway, could there be a ramp system incorporated at the stairs connecting to Avenue (as opposed to a whole new walkway)?
- I think the new accessible walkway path on the north side of the park is a good idea. I don't get why it needs to intersect with the existing path at two points though. If the western section of the path that joins to the existing path were not to be there - it would result in a larger, more useful green area
- It would be nice to see the wrought iron fence continue to the north of the stairway which would provide a good buffer from the busy traffic on Avenue Road for children and dogs
- I agree with my wife (who also submitted a survey) that an extension and completion of the wrought iron fence on the Avenue Road side of the park would provide safety to animals and small children. As well, balls that leave the park could result in a dangerous distraction to drivers speeding up Avenue Road. It would be great if the walkway, and particularly the stairs to Avenue Road, could be kept clear of snow and ice in the winter
- More benches facing various directions – handy to increase/decrease effects of the sun on bench sitters at various times of the day. Currently, too many dogs are off-leash – need more signs prohibiting this. Designated play area for small children – many parents/nannies come to this park with little ones.
- Ornamental tree planting: please use trees native to Ontario, grown in Ontario tree nurseries.
- I look at the plan and anticipate that people entering from the north-west corner will cut across the grass if they are going toward Sydney Street. Is that going to create unsightly areas where the grass is worn away and compact soil around tree roots? I would like to see other path options added. When you say 'ornamental' trees, am I correct that the trees will be native species? Are they going to ultimately provide shade along the walkway? (I have a certain mental picture for 'ornamental trees' as non-native and small-ish trees, which I would not support.)
- The small triangular strip of grass with a path on 3 sides looks awkward

- This proposed design does not invite people to sit, chat, retreat to enjoy parkland. It feels like the bare minimum. What about a fountain/water feature designed by an artist as a focal point, with seating around it? Something sculptural. Like the dog fountain across from St. Lawrence or the metal sculptures in Yorkville.
- Is there an opportunity to plant butterfly friendly vegetation?
- Rather boring.
- We need native Canadian plants and trees. Please do not plant ornamental trees.
- Would just like to add that I hope the plantings will be comprised of mostly native species, in particular ones that support pollinators and birds.
- Do the two access points on the west side of the park need to be connected?
Connecting stairs to a ramp doesn't seem vitally important as most traffic through the park is along the east/west direction and adds a lot more pavement to the park when north/south foot traffic on the west end can use the Avenue Rd. sidewalks. Just a thought to maximize green in the green space. Looks great otherwise!
- When the condo went up after years of negotiations, the agreement was that we would be involved in the park redo. TO come to us with a plan of what you think out community wants it totally unacceptable. We have had years of fighting Hydro when they cut down 31 trees, years of fighting the Condo and what we would agree too. We are not going to accept Parks & Rec to come in and change our park to their own specifications without knowing the neighbourhood. In fact this park is closest to Sidney Street and we are the ones that have to deal with all of it. The other streets have parks close(r) to them. We have had decades of no one maintaining the flower bed and you want to add more? There has been decades of 3 times a week calls about 'needles' everywhere and no one came to pick them up. Not sure why the idea of taking out existing lamppost that just went up a couple of years ago instead of just adding to them makes any financial sense.
- Don't forget Robertson Davies. Maybe a bust of him?
- prefer picnic table to be closer to Avenue road, on south side of path closer to railway side with access to shade
- No incremental plantings or beds should be added as this park's maintenance has been neglected for years. Adding more maintenance is a mistake. Incremental sidewalks are an unnecessary expense. Spend the money on modifying the existing Avenue Road park entrance so that entrance becomes accessible. Incremental sidewalks reduce the green space and are unnecessary. The plantings need to be specifically articulated in the design plan. Currently the plans are too vague which can lead to misunderstandings. There are existing city trees, not shown on the plan, that are a safety hazard (ill, dropping wood etc) which need to be addressed as part of this renovation. Working group is required as these plans are vague and do not consider longer term implications. Many other consideration exist- too many to type here.
- Please include more picnic tables. Covid has shown us that we need more spaces to meet and socialize outdoors. Benches are ok but picnic tables allow people to sit across from each other and talk or share a meal.
- Why is everyone's time being wasted on consulting on something that is so modest and insignificant. Nothing wrong with a bit of clean-up but the reality is that this is not a park but a bit of residual space that not even the development industry found attractive to acquire. None of the proposed improvements are offensive, only irrelevant. To make a 'park' out of this scrap of land a lot more needs to be done including an idea, not a sprinkler of a few bushes, benches and light poles.s
- Ok with benches but picnic table not necessary

- the maintenance of the existing garden bed has been non existent in the past. We need a commitment from the city to maintain any plantings going forward. Also snow needs to be cleared from the path in the winter and stairs to Avenue Rd shovelled as they are a hazard in uncleared snow. Forget the water fountain. Not needed.
- More benches and pick nick tables would be helpful.
- The park could benefit from two more picnic tables or benches south of the main pathway. The tree (and chain link fence) buffer along the south edge should also be fully replaced after Hydro mistakenly removed existing trees.
- My daughter is disabled and attends Cottingham school so we walk through this park every day. I am thrilled to see you are putting in the accessible pathway. I would ask that it could be salted in winter as it is currently terrifying to walk the path with her (although she insists on taking it), she has great trouble with balance and a spasticated walk so balancing on ice is extremely difficult.
- Lights are the important addition.
- I am unable to make the drawing large enough in order to see how much lighting there is. I hope that there are lights along the path so that it is safe for people when it is dark out. As well, the current path is not always maintained during the winter. I hope that the new one will be.
- From the design it looks as though the existing gingco trees have been replaced by new trees. Is this so ? It would be a real shame to lose these trees which are well established, have beautiful fall colour & are long lived
- I don't like the location of the garbage and recycling bins. I believe they should be located at the south end of the park on avenue road step entrance. They will not detract from the Davies Building there with the sounds of garbage pick up, the smells (especially dog poop bags), the eyesore of it at the side of a new luxury estetically pleasing enhancement to the area and streetscape, and for me in particular my entrance to the park from the Davies building attracting bees and wasps to which I am very allergic. I suggest that garbage receptacles not be too close to the pathway at all. I also would prefer not having a picnic table as I believe it invites people to leave garbage with no one to take care of it. I like the idea benches at once which people can not lie down to sleep on. I would prefer no fountain but if there is one I would appreciate it being a colour that blends into the landscape such as a dark green. I find the bright blue obtrusive to the serenity of the proposed new ornamental plantings and garden beds. That goes for any other bright blue fixtures being considered. I would prefer a colour in alignment with surroundings for anything being added. I would like a small water feature to attract birds and butterflies and take care of their water needs instead of the fountain and perhaps other considerations. I would like you to investigate the safety of lily plants for animals as I know they are toxic and lethal to cats and I'm not sure about two dogs and other animals which may visit the park. I like the idea of the fence being extended on the one hand from an ornamental perspective but I would like safety considered...ability to leave the park quickly if necessary, being followed, animal off leash, etc. If there is not a sign so far, I would like a sign that says no dog is permitted off leash. And that not cleaning up after your dog's movements will result in a fine.
- The improvements are remarkably marginal. Not much has changed at all. Do we really need a community process to make these simple changes? Finding someone opposed to them will be tough to do, but they are the equivalent of housekeeping.