

New Crosstown Park South

What We Heard: Concept Designs Virtual Public Meeting and Survey Summary Report

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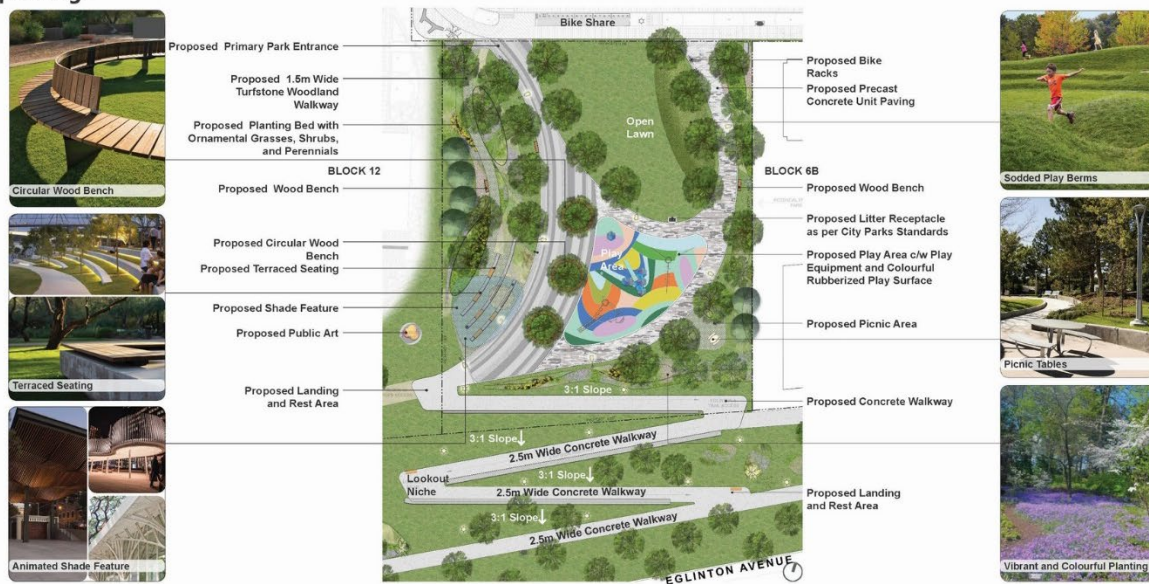
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Introduction

This document provides a summary of feedback received about the proposed concept design for the new park coming to the Crosstown Community Development project at a virtual public meeting held on February 4, 2021 and a summary of the feedback collected through the online survey that ran from February 4th to February 21, 2021.

Project Background

Concept Design



Proposed concept design.

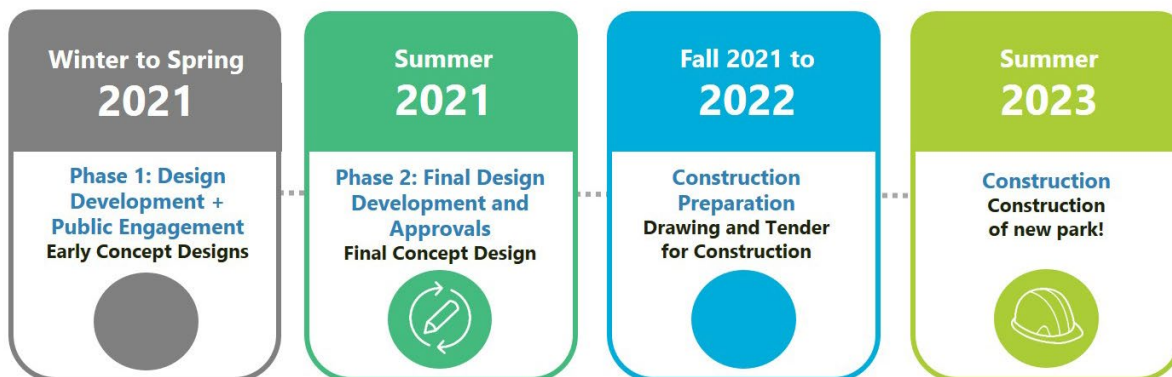
A new 3120 m² park is being designed at the northwest corner of Eglinton Avenue and Don Mills Road. This new park (Park Block 6A) is part of the new 24-hectare Crosstown-Eglinton mixed-used community development. The proposed concept design for the new park includes:

- Kid's play area
- Amphitheatre seating area
- Junior and senior kid's play area
- New plantings and planting areas
- A shade structure
- Shade trees and pollinator gardens
- Picnic area, wood bench seating, and proposed bike racks
- New accessible pathways

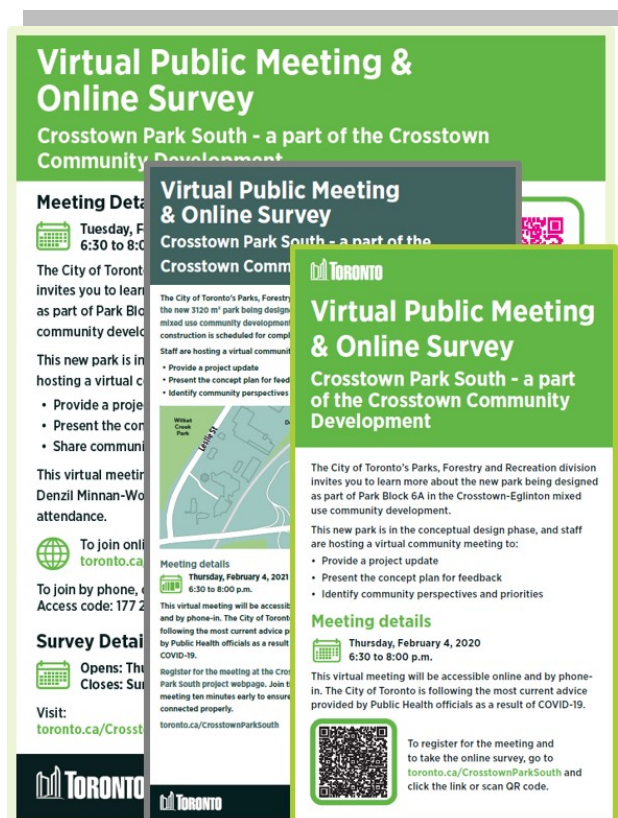
The goal of this project is to develop a new site-appropriate park that meets the needs of the community and key stakeholders. The project is in the concept design phase, which will be developed through consultation with key stakeholders and the wider community. The City is coordinating this project, and the developer is funding the project and leading the construction and delivery of the new park.

Project Schedule

The Crosstown Park South anticipated schedule is as follows:



Notification



Park signage, eFlyer, and community mail out.

The virtual public meeting and online survey were promoted through the following channels:

- A community mail out to residents living near the new park site
- An eFlyer that was circulated to future residents of the nearby residential development
- Promotions through the local Councillor's Office

- Signage near the site
- Project webpage: www.toronto.ca/CrosstownParkSouth

Virtual Public Meeting – February 4, 2021

Agenda

- Land acknowledgement
- Introduction by Rajesh Sankat (facilitator)
- Opening remarks by Councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong
- Community Engagement - Overview
- Crosstown Community Development - Overview
- Park Project Background
- Park Concept Design Presentation
- Design Feedback and Discussion
- Next Steps and Adjourn

Meeting Goals

To present and gather feedback on the concept design for the new park coming to the mixed-use Crosstown Community development, including playground and park programming elements.

Attendees

Panelists

- Councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong, Ward 16 Don Valley East
- Rajesh Sankat, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator (City of Toronto, PFR)
- Carol Martin, Senior Project Coordinator (City of Toronto, PFR)
- Alex Lavasidis, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator (City of Toronto, PFR)
- Michelle Corcoran, Senior Planner (City of Toronto, Community Planning)
- Gus Maurano, Senior Associate (The MBTW Group)
- Sanaz Markazi, Senior Associate (The MBTW Group)
- Hailey Eldershaw, Project Manager (The MBTW Group)
- Meghan Obermayer, Senior Development Associate (Diamond Corp)
- Armin Osmanovic, Project Manager (Aspen Ridge Homes)

Public

- 65 community members

The full presentation from this meeting can be viewed on the [project webpage](#).

Virtual Meeting – Key Feedback Highlights

Discussion focused on the overall concept design and playground options, as well as questions of clarification regarding the new park site.

The general sentiments from the community members present at the meeting were:

Comments on the concept design:

- “The design is beautiful and well-thought out”
- “Great work by all parties to bring this park to the development. Kudos to everyone involved.”
- “More collaborative play elements would be appreciated (e.g. game tables, chess, etc.)”
- “Can’t wait to enjoy the new park.”

Webex Poll feedback:

- When polled on which of the Play Option participants preferred, a slight majority preferred Option 2 (41%), but there were generally positive comments towards both of the Playground Concept Options.
- When polled on which colours for the playground participants preferred, the majority of participants identified Bright and Vibrant (blue, teal and yellow) and Playful (purple, yellow and blue).

Questions of clarification

Below are questions of clarification received during the public meeting. Where possible, responses from the project team are also provided.

1. What are the proposed dimensions of the play area?

Staff Comment: The size of the play area is 625 m².

2. With the size and scope of this new park and nearby large development, how are unintended consequences related to litter/garbage and people making their own trails being handled by the design team and the City?

Staff Comment: The new park will have waste and recycle receptacles which will be serviced by Toronto Solid Waste. There will be a designated "woodland" trail along the west boundary of the park and a paved circular pathway through the park. There will also be a switchback path leading from the park down to Eglinton Ave. municipal sidewalk.

3. Can the location of the play area be located where the open lawn area is instead, to mitigate noise?

Staff Comment: The play area is tucked back from the road on the North to

provide a sense of separation and to centralize the playground within the park. Additional planting has also been added to strengthen this separation and reduce noise.

4. Will washroom facilities be available?

Staff Comment: While this park will not have a washroom facility, the new park coming at the north end of the Crosstown development will have washrooms nearby, as part of the new community centre.

Washroom facilities are typically located in parks with permitted fields or skating rinks that draw from a wider community. This park is a neighbourhood park that is intended to draw people from a 5-10 minute walk.

5. How will the park be taken care of?

Staff Comment: Developer-delivered parks are either maintained by the City's Parks Operations and Maintenance Branch, or by the land owner/condominium corporation. The new Crosstown Park South will be maintained by the City's Parks Operations and Maintenance Branch.

6. Will the playground be accessible for children of all abilities?

Staff Comment: All playground equipment is intended to be accessible for children of all ages and abilities. Rubberized play surfacing is also amenable to that.

7. Will the park completion date be tied to the new Block 12 Condos?

Staff Comment: Yes, the occupancy of the Block 12 condos will be tied to the completion of the new park in late 2023 or early 2024.

8. Will a dog off-leash area be planned in any of the other parks?

Staff Comment: While there are no plans to locate an Off-Leash Area in this park, a much larger park (12000 m²) that will be located nearby will be consulted on at a later date with community members and key stakeholders to determine park features, amenities, and park programming. OLAs are generally required to be 3000 m² per City standards.

9. Will there be a bridge that connects to E.T. Seaton Park?

Staff Comment: There is an existing tunnel under Eglinton Avenue, west of Don Mills Road. This tunnel allows for a safe pedestrian connection to E. T. Seaton Park from the north side of Eglinton Ave.

10. What will the walkway material be made of? Can it be made of wood?

Staff Comment: The design team will consider this feedback for the refined concept design. Wood will not be considered due to resilience considerations.

Online Survey – February 4 to 21, 2021

In February 2021, the City conducted an online survey to obtain feedback from community members to inform development of the new Crosstown Park South. Survey participants were given the opportunity to provide specific feedback on the proposed concept design and playground equipment options, and provide general feedback about what features and amenities they would like to see in the new park.

The survey was available to complete online from February 4 to February 21, 2021. The survey received a total of **35 survey responses**, which included input from **68 individuals**.

The feedback from the survey will generate ideas and confirm priorities for the final design of the park, which will be shared on the project webpage in Spring/Summer 2021.

Online Survey - Key Feedback Highlights

On Survey Respondents

- The survey received a total of **35 survey responses**, which included input from **68 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 **community flyer to their home (47%), an email from the project team (19%) or Other (16%) [E.g. Resident's Association, etc.]**

Concept Design – Detailed Feedback

- In general, the **majority of survey respondents were satisfied** with the proposed layout shown in the concept design.
 - **67%** of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the layout.
 - **15%** 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.
 - **66%** of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with amenities/features.
 - **12%** of respondents were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the amenities/features.
- When asked what park features shown in the proposed concept design they liked the most:
 - More than half of respondents identified **Shade Trees (58%)** and the **Shade Structure and Terraced seating (52%)**
 - Slightly more than a third of respondents identified **Planting Areas (39%)** and the **amount and distribution of green space (39%)**

- Some respondents identified the **Paved Plaza (18%)** and **Switchback Pathway (12%)**
- When asked if they had **any additional comments on the proposed concept design**, respondents suggested:
 - Adding a public washroom near the park (2 responses)
 - Ensuring that the Kid's Play Area had drainage for rain and snow (1 response)
 - Adding an Off-Leash Area for residents to exercise their pets (1 response)
 - Add a splash-pad or water play area (1 response)
 - More green space for the park (1 response)
 - Ensuring enough waste and recycling bins were part of the design to ensure the park is kept clean (1 response)
- Other comments included:
 - Noting that the location of the park was inaccessible, especially for those using a car to visit (1 response)
 - On park use, one respondent indicated that the park will be used as a thorough between Eglinton Avenue and the crosstown Neighbourhood (1 response)

Visiting the new park – Detailed Feedback

- **To get to the new park (respondents could select multiple options):**
 - 82% of respondents would walk
 - 44% of respondents would bike
 - 38% of respondents would use a personal vehicle
 - 26% of respondents would use public transportation
 - 6% of respondents would use a mobility device and/or stroller or taxi/ride share
- **When visiting the new park:**
 - More than half of respondents would visit with a spouse or partner (61%) or alone (52%)
 - Over a third would visit with children (42%) or friends (42%)
 - Less than a third would visit with pets (24%) or with family members/guests (6%)
- The **most popular activities** respondents would like to partake in at the new park are relaxing, sitting and/or eating, spending time with others, enjoying and observing plants/planting areas, spending time with others or alone
 - Other activities identified included exercising, doing yoga, and tai-chi.
- **Features most respondents feel are very important** for the new park include seating areas (e.g. benches, tables, etc.), planting and garden areas and open lawn areas

- **Features most respondents feel are important or somewhat important** for the new park include space for cultural/community events, drinking fountain, place making features, bicycle parking and kid's play area

The Proposed Playground – Detailed Feedback

- The **majority of respondents did not have a playground option preference** between Option 1 and Option 2, although there was a slightly higher preference for Option 2.
 - No preference (42%)
 - Playground Concept 2 (33%)
 - Playground Concept 1 (24%)
- **Bright and Vibrant colours (blue, teal and yellow)** were most preferred by respondents (48%)
 - Bright and Vibrant – Blue, Teal and Yellow (48%)
 - Natural – Green, Brown and Grey (19%)
 - Playful – Purple, Yellow and Blue (32%)

Next Steps

The results of this survey will be shared with the project team and local Councillor's office, and will inform the park's final concept design. This design will be available on the [project webpage](#) in summer 2021.

Appendix A: Quantitative Response Summary

Respondents



Response timeline



If you were to visit the new park Crosstown Park South, what method of transportation would you use? Please select all that apply.

	Count	% of responses	%
Walk	28		82%
Biking	15		44%
Personal vehicle	13		38%
Public transportation	9		26%
Mobility device and/or stroller	1		3%
Other, please specify	1		3%
Taxi and/or ride share	0		











N 34

If you were to visit the new Crosstown Park South, who would you go with? Please select all that apply.

	Count	% of responses	%
Spouse or partner	20		61%
Alone	17		52%
Children	14		42%
Friends	14		42%
Pets	8		24%
Other, please specify	2		6%










N 33

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

	Count	% of responses	%
Relax	28		82%
Sit and/or eat	24		71%
Enjoy and observe plants/planting areas	22		65%
Spend time with others	17		50%
Spend time alone	16		47%
Games (i.e. chess, ping pong, etc.)	12		35%
Children play	10		29%
Walk a pet	9		26%
Sports	8		24%
Other, please specify	3		9%

N 34






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.)	16%	34	
Planting/garden area	21%	34	
Open grass/lawn area	28%	34	
Space for cultural/community events (i.e. small performances, gatherings, etc.)	38%	34	
Drinking fountain(s)	40%	33	
Placemaking features	43%	30	
Bicycle parking	43%	33	
Kid's Play Area	44%	34	
Picnic areas	47%	32	

■ Very important
 ■ Important
 ■ Somewhat Important
 ■ Not Important






N 34

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

	Count	% of responses	%
Very Satisfied	4		12%
Satisfied	18		55%
Neutral	6		18%
Dissatisfied	3		9%
Very Dissatisfied	2		6%










N 33

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

	Count	% of responses	%
Very Satisfied	6		18%
Satisfied	16		48%
Neutral	7		21%
Dissatisfied	2		6%
Very Dissatisfied	2		6%

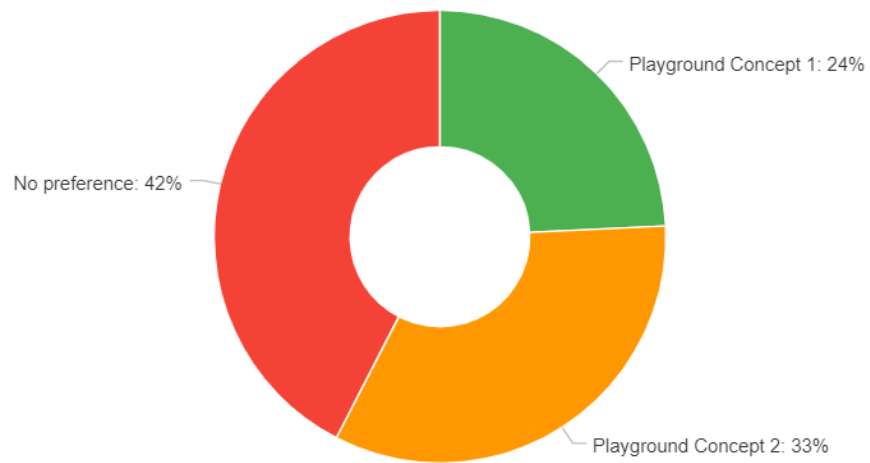
N 33

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

	Count	% of responses	%
Shade trees	19		58%
Shade structure and terraced seating	17		52%
Planting areas	13		39%
Amount and distribution of green space	13		39%
Junior and Senior Kid's Play Area	7		21%
Paved plaza	6		18%
Switchback pathway	4		12%
I don't like any of the features shown.	2		6%
Other, please specify	2		6%

N 33

Which playground option do you prefer?



N 33

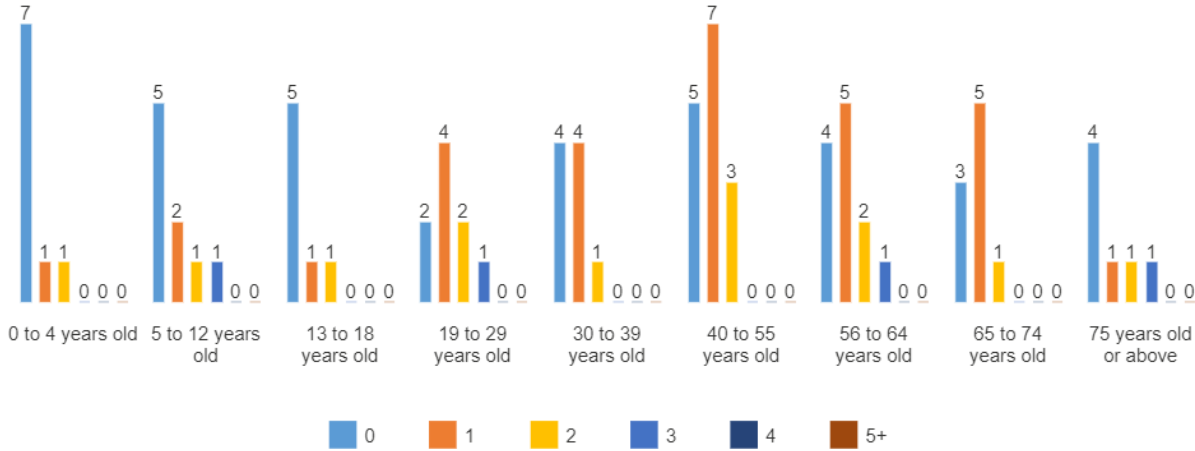
In general, what type of colours would you like to see for the children's playground?

	Count	% of responses	%
Bright and vibrant (blue, teal and yellow)	15		48%
Natural (green, brown and grey)	6		19%
Playful (purple, yellow and blue)	10		32%

N 31

Demographics

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






N 32

Total responses per age group include:









- 3 respondents age 0 to 4 years old
- 7 respondents age 5 to 12 years old
- 3 respondents age 13 to 18 years old
- 11 respondents age 19 to 29 years old
- 6 respondents age 30 to 39 years old
- 13 respondents age 40 to 55 years old
- 12 respondents age 56 to 64 years old
- 7 respondents age 65 to 74 years old
- 6 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	18		58%
Male	14		45%
Prefer not to answer	2		6%
Trans female	0		
Trans male	0		
Gender fluid, genderqueer, gender non-conforming, non-binary, trans	0		
Not listed, please describe.	0		

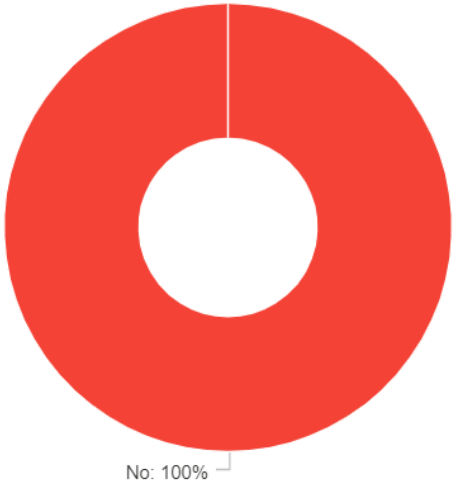
N 31

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

	Count	% of responses	%
White (European descent)	17		55%
East Asian (Chinese, Korean, Japanese)	5		16%
I don't know/Prefer not to answer	4		13%
Southeast Asian (Taiwanese descent; Filipino, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Thai, Indonesian)	3		10%
South Asian or Indo-Caribbean (e.g. Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan, Indo-Guyanese, Indo-Trinidadian, etc.)	2		6%
Other, please specify	2		6%
Latino (Latin American, Hispanic descent)	1		3%
Middle Eastern (Arab, Persian, West Asian descent, e.g. Afghan, Egyptian, Iranian, Lebanese, Turkish, Kurdish, etc.)	1		3%
Black (African, Afro-Caribbean, African-Canadian descent)	0		
Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, Inuk/Inuit)	0		

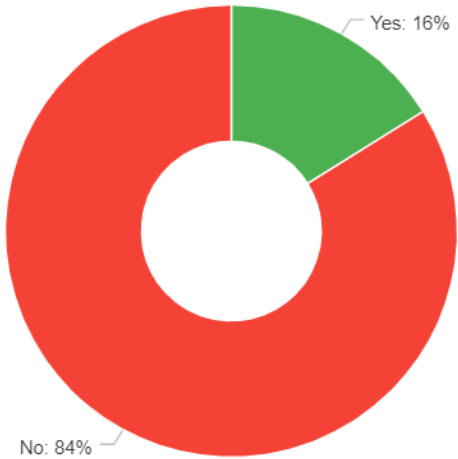
N 31

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 30

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 31

Do survey participants rent or own their home?

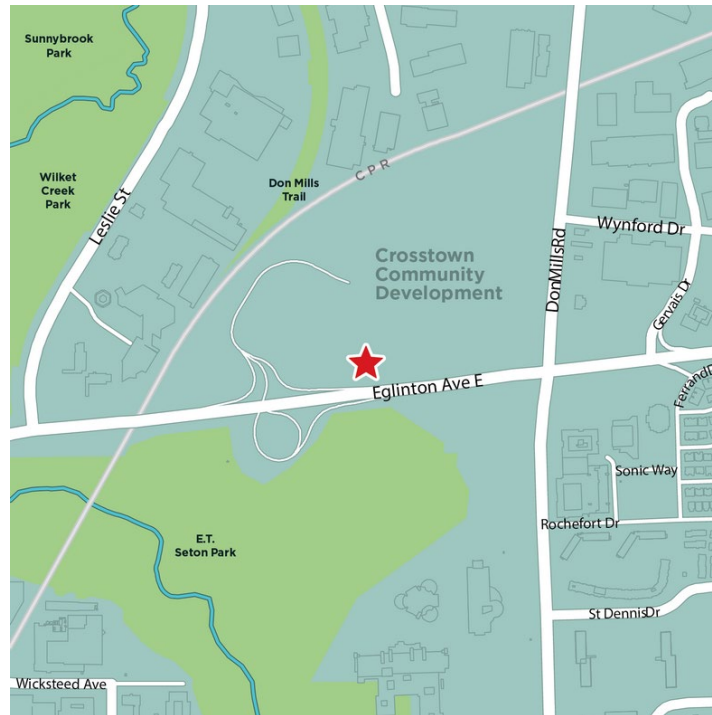
	Count	% of responses	%
Owner	27		87%
Renter	3		10%
Neither owner nor renter	1		3%

N 31

Appendix B: Vision, Concept Design and Playground Equipment

Park Vision

The new 3120 m² park (Park Block 6A) is currently under design within the Crosstown-Eglinton mixed use community development. This is an aerial overview of the surrounding community and the location of the new park.



The masterplan for the new Crosstown Community Development – the new park will be located at Park Block 6A.



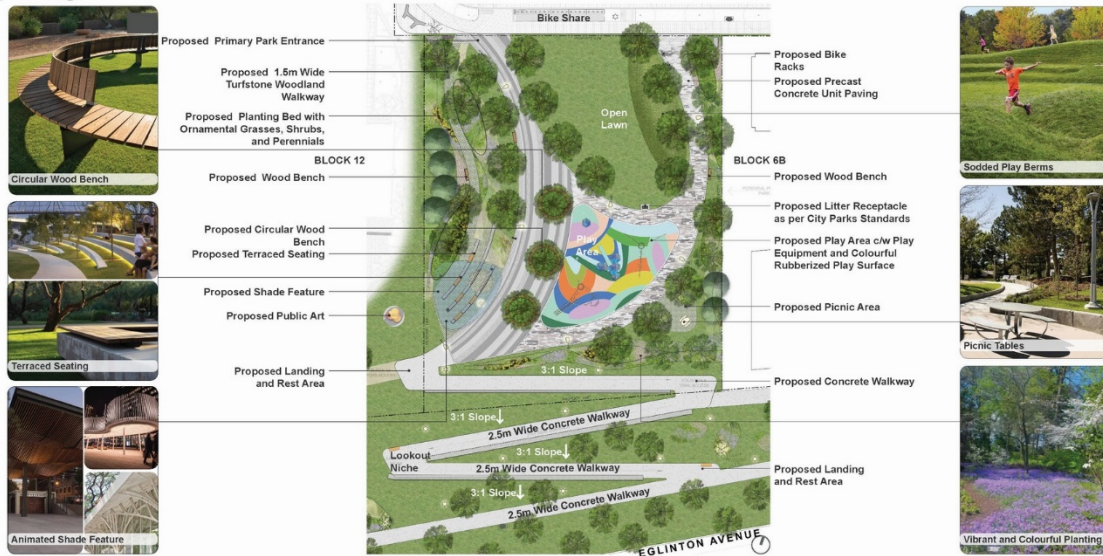
Concept Plan

This is the concept design for the new Crosstown Park South, which will include an Open Lawn, Kid's Play Area, Switchback pathway, Lookout, and more.

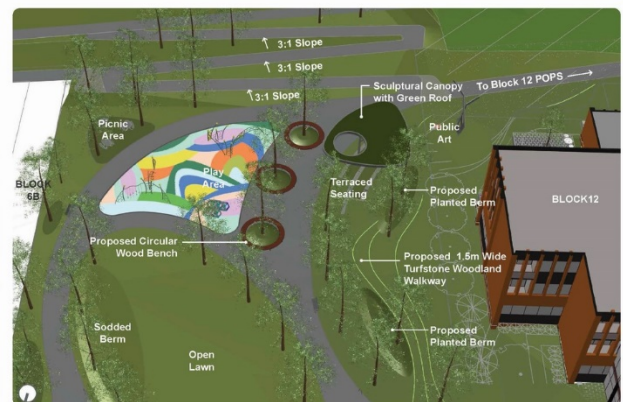
A concept design is an early phase of the design process, which broadly outlines the proposed amenities, design features and layout of a space. This is the proposed concept design for the new Crosstown Park South.

Concept | Plan

Concept Design



Axonometric View of Park Looking North West.



Axonometric View of Park Looking South Towards Eglinton Avenue.

The concept design includes:

- Paved primary park entrances from the east and west corners of the park
- Buffer zone and planting areas
- Overlook from new condo site into the parkland
- Junior and senior kid's play area located on east part of the park.
- Sloped Amphitheatre seating area
- Switchback walkway from the west corner of the park

- Proposed shade feature and terraced seating
- Shade trees (e.g. yellow and red-coloured fall species) and pollinator gardens
- Centrally located open lawn area
- Picnic area, wood bench seating, and proposed bike racks

Playground Equipment

The proposed concept plan includes a dedicated area for junior and senior kids play. Please review each of the two options, and provide your feedback.

Please note that the equipment colours have been shown for reference only. Later in the survey you will be able to comment on your colour preferences. Both options will include a colourful rubberized play surface.

Play Option 1

Play | Option 1



This option includes:

- Playcubes (ages 2-12)
- Playcubes and slide (ages 5-12)
- Modern City Saucer Swing (ages 2-5)
- IONIX Climbing Net (ages 5-12)

Play Option 2

Play | Option 2



This option includes:

- X-Frame Swing (ages 2-5)
- Mounds and Tunnel (ages 2-11)
- Modern City M Series Playground and slide (ages 5-12)
- Vistatree (ages 5-12)

Appendix C: Text Responses

If you were to visit the new park Crosstown Park South, what method of transportation would you use? Please select all that apply.

Respondents who selected "Other, please specify." (1 response)

- Seniors cannot walk this distance from Wynford Hts Cr.

If you were to visit the new Crosstown Park South, who would you go with? Please select all that apply.

Respondents who selected "Other, please specify." (2 responses)

- Guest who may be visiting
- Elderly mother inlaw

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

Respondents who selected "Other, please specify." (3 responses)

- Tai-chi, yoga ... etc.
- Off leash dog park
- Exercise walk

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

Respondents who selected "Other, please specify." (2 responses)

- Sloped amphitheater
- Community centre, pool, gym very much needed in this neighborhood

Do you have any other comments about the proposed play area or over park concept design?

- Three major problems: The location is inaccessible and adjacent to a busy thoroughfare. It would be more appropriate adjacent to block 3a and 3b. The location has no parking area. Small toddlers are often brought to the area by car. eg. check out the participation at our recently installed play area at Concorde Place on the McDonald's site. A Major deficiency is the lack of a W.C. on or adjacent to the site.
- Drainage for rain, and snow, especially around play areas. Tunnels may not be a good idea due to security concerns? Ideally most of the facilities can be accessible for all seasons, rain or snow.
- Shade trees are very important with the hot summer south exposure. The plan looks like it has just one waste/recycle receptacle location - they should be at every access point. There is some lighting shown on the plan - it would be good to see details of the proposed fixtures and the overall lighting strategy. The switchback walkway is great for mobility access and for meandering, but it would be good to have a set of stairs connecting them on the west side to provide a choice for an express connection

up/down the slope. I think there will be times when the park will be used more as a pass through between Eglinton Ave. and the Crosstown neighbourhood in general.

- Where are all of these new residents going to exercise their pets?
- Should have a water park area
- I'm hoping that these structures are periodically cleaned to maintain visual appeal and hygiene.
- The play cubes would be a mistake.
- You require bathrooms that are disability friendly as well as cubicles that allow a parent and child in them.
- Not good enough
- Regarding the overall park area, it's generally fine as proposed. However, if the amount/area of parkland could be increased that would be great. This area will have a dense population, so the more green space the better.