

City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry & Recreation

Willowdale Park & Playground Improvements

Phase I Survey Summary Report

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Project Background

The City is planning improvements to Willowdale Park & Playground. These improvements ensure our playgrounds provide safe and accessible fun for decades to come!

[Willowdale Park & Playground](#) is located at 75 Hollywood Avenue, near Sheppard Avenue East and Doris Avenue. The children's playground is located at the centre of the park, south of Hollywood Avenue and East of Doris Avenue. The playground currently includes:

- Three swing sets with:
 - Four swings for ages two to five
 - Two swings for ages five and up
- A medium-sized play structure with:
 - A spiral slide (blue structure)
 - A straight slide (blue structure)
 - One set of stairs and one ramp to the play structure
 - Wood panels, some with windows
- A wood structure with:
 - Watermill wheel (yellow structure)
 - Wood channels with various platforms
- A junior shed play structure with:
 - One swing (red)
 - Four black tires
- Sand under all play areas
- Three benches and one picnic table

The playground will be redesigned using feedback from the community. The redesigned playground is proposed to include:

- Accessible junior and senior play equipment for ages two to thirteen. This means that people of all abilities will be able to play at this playground
- An accessible pathway to the playground
- Improvements to the current drainage issues being faced at the playground area

Survey Objectives

An online survey was available from July 23 to August 8, 2021. The survey asked respondents how they currently use the playground, what they like and dislike about the current playground, and what improvements they would like for the park and playground.

The survey received a total of **581 responses**. Some surveys submissions included feedback from multiple people (e.g. entire households). In total **1279 people participated** in the survey responses collected.

The survey feedback collected will help inform the development of the design options for the new playground.

Notification

The online survey was promoted through the following channels:

- Facebook and Instagram advertisements targeting area residents
- Promotions through the local Councillor's Office
- Project webpage: <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/planning-development/construction-new-facilities/improvements-expansion-redevelopment/willowdale-park-playground-improvements/>
- Park sign(s) on-site

Key Feedback Highlights

Willowdale Park Playground Today

- Most respondents visit Willowdale Park Playground once a week or more frequently (61%)
- Most respondents usually visit Willowdale Park Playground with family (81%). Fewer usually visit with friends (35%), alone (14%), or with pets (13%).
- Many respondents usually visit Willowdale Park Playground for up to 1 hour (34%) or up to 2 hours (29%).
- Most respondents visit Willowdale Park Playground in the afternoon (66%), though many visit in the morning (45%) and evening (44%) as well.
- The most common uses of Willowdale Park Playground are:
 - Playing on swings (64%)
 - Playing on the medium-sized wooden play structure (with 2 slides) (64%)
 - Playing on the grass (53%)
 - Playing or sitting under the shade structure (42%)
 - Playing in the sand (35%)
 - Playing with the wooden watermill wheel and wood channels (35%)
 - Playing on the small play structure (with one red swing and four tires) (34%)
 - Other (24%)
- When asked about shade in the park, most respondents (73%) said that both the playground and seating areas need more shade.

The Future of Willowdale Park Playground

- Respondents would like to do the following at and around the new Willowdale Park Playground:
 - Play on the playground (77%)
 - Relax/sit/eat on the grass around the playground (75%)
 - Spend time with others eg. Friends, family, etc. (73%)
 - Play on the grass around the playground (66%)
 - Sit (57%)
 - Eat (49%)
 - Exercise (44%)
 - Enjoy and observe plants/planting areas (40%)





- Play sports (39%)
 - Enjoy and observe nearby ravine areas (34%)
 - Play table games (ie. Chess, checkers, pingpong etc) (25%)
 - Spend time alone (24%)
 - Walk a pet (20%)
- The 5 seating options respondents ranked as their favourite for the new playground are:
 1. Patio Set with Metal Umbrellas
 2. Benches under shade
 3. Picnic tables under shade
 4. Seatwalls
 5. Lounge Chairs
- The 5 features respondents ranked as their favourite for the new playground are:
 1. A large play structure with platforms, climbing features, slides, play panels, shade and more
 2. A swing set with individual swings (including an accessible swing, toddler swings, and standard belt swings)
 3. Zip-line
 4. Rock style climbing structure
 5. Monkey Bars/ Web-style climbing structure/ Fallen Logs (*3-way tie*)
- Most respondents (73%) prefer separate play structures for younger and older children over one large play structure for all ages.
- The two most popular theme suggestions for the new playground are Nature (46%) and Space (31%).
- Colour preferences for the new playground were split, as 50% of respondents preferred bright colours, and 50% preferred earthy colours.
- Respondents were asked to select what non-playground features they would like to see added to the park for teens, if additional budget was secured.
 - Overall, respondents (420 responses) preferred the addition of:
 - Exercise Equipment (70%)
 - Group seating area (50%)
 - Ping-Pong table (47%)
 - Responses that included input from teenage participants (319 responses) had the same preferences:
 - Exercise Equipment (73%)
 - Group seating area (55%)
 - Ping-Pong table (47%)
 - A few respondents (8%) provided other suggestions for park additions that would make the space more welcoming for teens. Popular responses include adding a basketball court and an off-leash dog park.
- The majority of survey respondents (74%) did not have any additional comments or suggestions. Of the 26% of survey respondents that provided additional comments and/or suggestions, top comments and suggestions include the following. The number of respondents sharing each sentiment are included in parentheses:
 - Suggested additions include:
 - An off-leash dog park (18)

- Rubberized or wood fibre playground surfacing(16)
 - Two respondents suggested avoiding rubberized surfaces (2)
- Adult exercise equipment (7)
- Shaded areas (6)
- Basketball court (5)
- Washroom facilities (5)
- Drinking water fountain (5)
 - Including improved maintenance of existing drinking fountains
- Covered seating areas (5)
- Wildflowers that attract butterflies (3)
- Volleyball court (1)
- A sandbox (1)
- Accessible seating (1)
- Fencing around grass and playground area to protect kids from bicycles and scooters passing by (1)
- Separate eating areas/garbage cans from playground to minimize bees (1)
- More trees (1)
- Sign for no smoking, drugs, noise, no feeding animals, no dog relief (1)
- Suggested improvements or updates include:
 - Improving/keeping the splash pad (13)
 - Note: The existing splash pad will not be removed.
 - Fixing cracked concrete flooring (3)
 - Improving drainage (1)
 - Removing brush near the ravine. Include only trees to improve sightlines and increase safety (1)
- Suggested features to avoid include:
 - Do not place lounge chairs (1)
 - Don't put group gathering areas, it is disruptive to kids and neighbouring residents (1)

Appendix A: Quantitative Response Summary







The number of respondents for each question below is represented by N (bottom left of each question).

What time(s) of day do you usually visit Willowdale Park Playground? Select all that apply.

	Count	% of responses	%
Afternoon	385		66%
Morning	263		45%
Evening	254		44%
I have never been to Willowdale Park Playground	20		3%









N 581

When visiting Willowdale Park Playground how long do you usually stay?

	Count	% of responses	%
I just pass through/less than 5 minutes	57		10%
Up to 30 minutes	84		14%
Up to 1 hour	200		34%
Up to 2 hours	166		29%
More than 2 hours	55		9%
I have never been to Willowdale Park Playground	19		3%






N 581

What do you usually do at Willowdale Park Playground? Select all that apply.

	Count	% of responses	%
Play on swings	374		64%
Play on the medium-sized wooden play structure (with 2 slides)	372		64%
Play on the grass	310		53%
Play or sit under the shade structure	242		42%
Play in the sand	203		35%
Play with the wooden watermill wheel and wood channels	202		35%
Play on the small play structure (with one red swing and four tires)	195		34%
Other, please specify	140		24%























N 581

Please select a statement that you agree with the most:

	Count	% of responses	%
There is enough shade over the seating and the playground areas	85		15%
The seating areas need more shade	116		20%
The playground area needs more shade	55		9%
Both the playground and the seating areas need more shade	258		44%
I don't know	67		12%

N 581

Rank the features you would most like in the new playground, with number 1 as your favourite feature. You can rank as many features as you like.

	% of responses	%
A large play structure with platforms, climbing features, slides, play panels, shade, and more		13%
A swing set with individual swings (including an accessible swing, toddler swings, and standard belt swings)		8%
Zip-line		7%
Rock-style climbing structure		6%
Monkey bars		6%
Web-style climbing structure		6%
Fallen logs		5%
Expression swing		5%
Spiral slide		5%
A group swing		5%
Metal style climbing structure		4%
Double slide		4%
Playground musical instruments		4%
Straight slide		4%
Custom-themed climber (that would match the playground theme- we will ask you about a theme later in the survey)		3%
Standing see-saw		3%
Games table (e.g. checkers, chess)		3%
Sandbox		3%
Spinner toy		2%
Play panels		2%
Sensory table		2%
Other, please specify		1%






N 420

Which do you prefer?

	Count	% of responses	%
Separate play structures for younger children and older children	308		73%
One large play structure for all ages	65		15%
No preference	49		12%















N 420

What theme would you prefer for the playground?

	Count	% of responses	%
Nature theme	193		46%
Castle theme	47		11%
Space theme	131		31%
Pirate ship theme	35		8%
Circus theme	14		3%










N 420

What would you like to do at and around the new Willowdale Park Playground? Select all that apply.

	Count	% of responses	%
Play on the playground	325		77%
Relax/sit/eat on the grass around the playground	316		75%
Spend time with others (e.g. friends, family, etc.)	305		73%
Play on the grass around the playground	277		68%
Sit	238		57%
Eat	205		49%
Exercise	183		44%
Enjoy and observe plants/planting areas	168		40%
Play sports	162		39%
Enjoy and observe nearby ravine areas	141		34%
Play table games (i.e. chess, checkers, ping pong, etc.)	103		25%
Spend time alone	102		24%
Walk a pet	85		20%
Other, please specify	30		7%

N 420

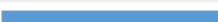

Rank the seating options in order from your favourite (1) to your least favourite (9) for around the playground.

	% of responses	%
Patio set with metal umbrellas		17%
Benches under shade		16%
Picnic tables under shade		14%
Seatwalls (large stones that form a short wall, that you can also sit on)		11%
Lounge chairs		10%
Picnic tables in the sun		9%
Group seating		9%
Benches in the sun		8%
Outdoor classroom seating		6%

N 420





What types of colours do you like best for the new playground?

What types of colours do you like best for the new playground?

	Count	% of responses	%
Bright colours like yellow, orange, and purple	212		50%
Earthy colours like green, brown, and grey	208		50%

N 420

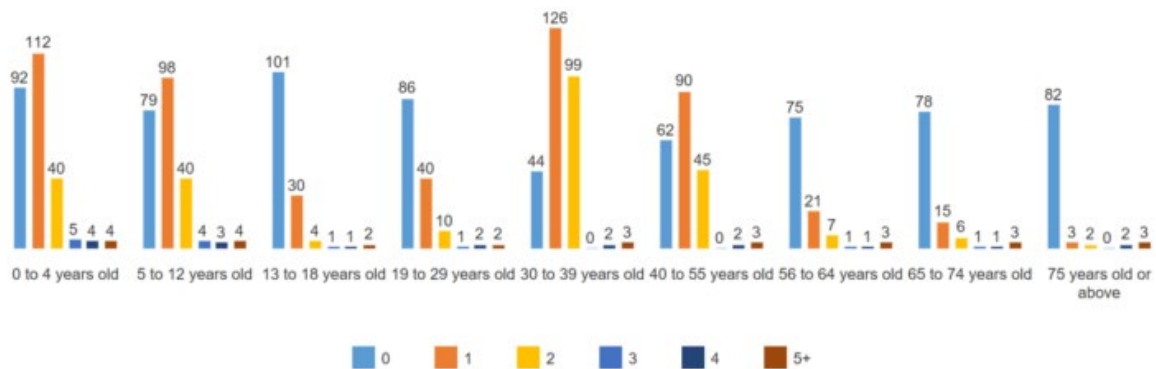
Depending on the project budget, it may be possible to improve the area around the playground to add features for teens (13 years old and up). What would make this area more welcoming for teens, if the budget becomes available? If you have teens in your household, please complete this question with them. Select all that apply.

	Count	% of responses	%
Exercise equipment	294		70%
Group seating area	229		55%
Ping-pong table	197		47%
Other, please specify	32		8%

N 420

Demographics

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







N 411

Total responses per age group include:









- 243 respondents age 0 to 4 years old
- 222 respondents age 5 to 12 years old
- 55 respondents age 13 to 18 years old
- 81 respondents age 19 to 29 years old
- 347 respondents age 30 to 39 years old
- 203 respondents age 40 to 55 years old
- 49 respondents age 56 to 64 years old
- 49 respondents age 65 to 74 years old
- 30 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. What best describes your gender?

	Count	% of responses	%
Woman	310		76%
Man	96		23%
Prefer not to answer	21		5%
Gender non-binary (including gender fluid, genderqueer, androgynous)	4		1%
Trans woman	0		
Trans man	0		
Two-Spirit	0		
Not listed, please describe	0		












N 409

Sexual orientation describes a person's emotional, physical, romantic, and/or sexual attraction to other people. What best describes your sexual orientation?

	Count	% of responses	%
Heterosexual or straight	320		80%
Prefer not to answer	52		13%
Bisexual	16		4%
Not listed, please describe	5		1%
Lesbian	4		1%
Don't know	4		1%
Queer	3		1%
Gay	2		1%
Two-Spirit	0		



















N 400

People often describe themselves by their race or racial background. For example, some people consider themselves "Black", "White" or "East Asian". Which race category best describes you? Select all that apply.

	Count	% of responses	%
White (e.g. English, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Slovakian)	129		32%
East Asian (e.g. Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Taiwanese)	125		31%
Prefer not to answer	47		12%
Arab, Middle Eastern or West Asian (e.g. Afghan, Armenian, Iranian, Lebanese, Persian, Turkish)	33		8%
South Asian or Indo-Caribbean (e.g. Indian, Indo- Guyanese, Indo-Trinidadian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan)	29		7%
Latin American (e.g. Brazilian, Colombian, Cuban, Mexican, Peruvian)	23		6%
Jewish	13		3%
Southeast Asian (e.g. Filipino, Malaysian, Singaporean, Thai, Vietnamese)	13		3%
Other, please describe	10		2%
Black (e.g. African, African-Canadian, Afro-Caribbean)	6		1%
First Nations (status, non-status, treaty or non-treaty), Inuit or Métis	1		0%

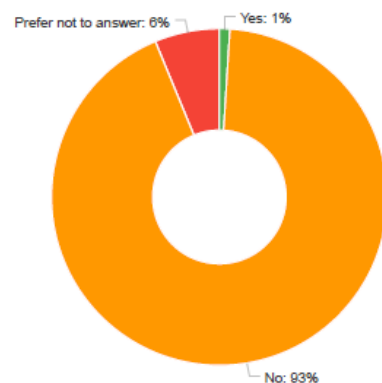
N 406

What language do you prefer speaking?

	Count	% of responses	%
English	345		80%
Chinese - Cantonese	8		2%
Russian	7		2%
Not listed, please describe	6		2%
Chinese - Mandarin	5		1%
Korean	5		1%
Farsi	4		1%
Prefer not to answer	3		1%
Arabic	2		1%
French	2		1%
Portuguese	2		1%
Spanish	2		1%
Tamil	2		1%
Albanian	1		0%
Bengali	1		0%
Gujarati	1		0%
Serbian	1		0%
Tagalog	1		0%
Ukrainian	1		0%
Urdu	1		0%

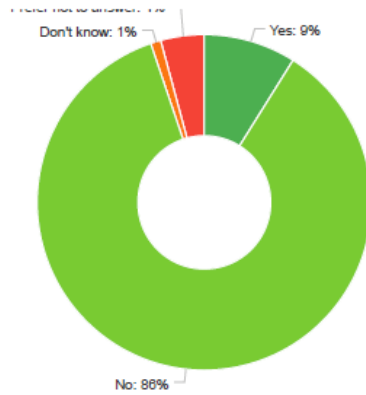
N 400

Indigenous people from Canada identify as First Nations (status, non-status, treaty or non-treaty), Inuit, Métis, Aboriginal, Native or Indian. Do you identify as Indigenous to Canada?



N 401

Disability is understood as any physical, mental, developmental, cognitive, learning, communication, sight, hearing or functional limitation that, in interaction with a barrier, hinders a person's full and equal participation in society. A disability can be permanent, temporary or episodic, and visible or invisible. Does anyone participating in this survey identify as a person with a disability?



N 404

What best describes your current housing situation?

	Count	% of responses	%
Home owner	243		60%
Renting	124		30%
Permanently living with parent(s) or other family member(s)	14		3%
Temporarily staying with others (no fixed address)	0		
Unhoused (staying outside, in a shelter, in a 24-hour respite)	0		
Prefer not to answer	25		6%
Not listed, please describe	2		0%








N 408

What best describes you and your household's access to outdoor space?

	Count	% of responses	%
I have access to private outdoor space like a yard	101		25%
I have access to semi-private/shared outdoor space	83		20%
I only have access to public spaces like parks (I do not have access to private or semi-private outdoor space)	203		50%
Prefer not to answer	19		5%

N 408

How did you find out about this survey?

	Count	% of responses	%
Social Media	324		80%
Word of mouth	43		11%
Councillor's Office communications	27		7%
Park sign	23		6%
Other, please specify	8		2%
Email from project team	3		1%
The project web page	2		0%
Mailer to my home	0		

N 407

Appendix B: Text Responses

5. What do you usually do at Willowdale Park Playground?

Respondents who selected "Other, please specify." (39 responses)

- Splash pad
- Splash pad
- Play on the splash pad
- Work
- Splash pad
- Splash pad (summer), sledding (winter)
- Just walk past. We don't want shade, everyone needs Vitamin D from the sun
- Play in splash pad and sit at tables close to splash pad
- Picnic
- Splash pad
- Splash pad
- I haven't been
- Splashpad only, dislike sand in playground area
- Splashpad
- Too many off leash dogs
- I have never been there
- Sit on a bench with my friend, we're seniors
- I have passed by the park but never stayed and did activities
- Splashpad
- Walk through, or rest sitting on one of the rocks and people watch, love seeing all the families enjoying time together
- Walk by
- Sit in the shade on the grass
- Sit under the trees and have a picnic
- Just passing through
- Just pass by
- Exercies
- Waterpark
- Biking around
- I use it to exercise, sit and read, generally relax and get out of the house
- Walk my dog
- Walk my dog
- Walk my dog
- Use the park benches to sit, walk through the grassy area with my dog
- Play with my dog nearby
- Waterpark
- Splashpad
- Sit and study on the picnic benches nearby
- Waterplay

7. Rank the features you would most like in the new playground with number 1 as your favourite feature. You can rank as many features as you like.

Respondents who selected "Other, please specify." (27 responses)

- Enlarge splashpad
- It's already very nice the way it is, no need to get anything new
- Basketball hoop

- Trampoline
- Outdoor exercise machines (for kids)
- More signage regarding off-leash dogs
- Swings with seats large enough for adults. Also fitness apparatus for adults (similar to the park at Edithvale Community Centre a games table large enough to play mahjong.
- Seniors and Adult Exercise Playground. I have more details below.
- Ping Pong table
- Off leash dog area
- Jump on a trampoline, build something in a sand pit
- Exercise equipment
- Butterfly or Pollinator Garden
- shaded walkpath
- expand the splashpad
- Tunnels
- An off-leash dog park
- Dog park
- This money/space should go to a dog park! There is no offleash in the area. This would benefit owners and families as it would prevent dogs from interacting with kids
- An off leash dog park would be great in this area as there are none in the nearby vicinity and there are sooo many dog owners in the area.
- OFF LEASH DOG PARK PLEASE
- Off leash area for dogs
- Off-leash Dog Area the neighbourhood is in need of one of these
- Splash features, features for pets and owners to interact with
- Remove sand and put rubber ground
- old fashion teeter totter & sponge platform in play area

10. What would you like to do at and around the new Willowdale Park Playground?
(select all that apply)

Respondents who selected "Other, please specify." (21 responses)

- Sand play
- Splash pad
- Just walk past
- Play basketball
- Barbecues
- Splash pad
- Enjoy the space without off leash dogs
- Meditate
- Jump
- Butterfly pollinator garden and more trees. Birdwatch
- Ice rink
- Splashpad
- Play with my dog off leash. Like in an off leash dog park perhaps...
- Dog park!
- Play fetch with dogs off leash
- Play with dog
- fenced area for leash free dog park
- Exercise equipmet for adults would be excellent
- Enjoy some time in the sun
- Like the splash pad with the playground

- water park

13. Depending on the project budget it may be possible to improve the area around the playground to add features for teens (13 years old and up). What would make this area more welcoming for teens, if the budget becomes available? If you have teens in your household, please complete this question with them. (select all that apply)

Respondents who selected "Other, please specify." (21 responses)

- Something that they can play together.
- Chess
- Wifi, projector screen
- Basketball hoop
- Basketball hoop
- Basketball net
- Skateboarding area
- Basketball court, badminton court/net, bike run/course, obstacle/parkour course, low ropes style course (with no need for harnesses)
- Hammocks/lounge area with free Wi-Fi access to play games together
- Ice rink
- Basketball court or nets, please. My kids would be so happy!!
- An off leash dog park
- An off-leash dog park
- Dog park
- Dog park
- An area where teens and adults can play with their dogs off leash
- basketball net

Do you have any other suggestions for how we can make the playground more welcoming and fun for all users?

- If you are going to create space for teenagers please don't set up group seating gathering areas.
- Teenagers often like to gather and smoke or drink alcohol and do drugs in the park.
- This is undesirable because I live very close by and also very disruptive to younger children.
- Please don't put in the rubber surfaces like was done in other parks. It's toxic and it smells and radiates heat.
- Depending on what the choose theme is a water pump would be hopeful especially if there's a water wheel/mill still there.
- I hope you'll replace the sand with rubber matting or wood chips. Sand makes such a mess, especially next to the splash pad. But I hope you'll also include a sandbox since so many kids like playing in sand. The small feature with the windmill and water channels would have been fantastic if there had been a source of water. I've never really understand the point of having it without water. Though my daughter can spend hours putting dirt and rocks into the windmill and watching them fall down.
- Including play structures of different sizes in separate areas for both older and you gr children. It is dangerous for everyone when older kids are running around and toddlers are wandering in the same space.
- Add a bathroom facility please. Accessibility like earl bales. Soft surface in case of falls.
- If the playground structure does not have sand base then it will be perfect. Maybe a small area can be sand area.
- A water fountain for drinking/filling bottles
- Expand water feature

- Use foam ground instead of sand.
- This is a great park for young children and I hope it stays that way.
- Separate eating areas/garbage cans from playground to minimize bees!
- Wifi
- Better splash pad
- Good bike / scooter paths. As much shade and parent / caregiver seating as possible.
- keep sand or soft bottom, not wood chips (splinters when you fall)
- Remove brush from ravine. Trees only. I've talked with a number of people and they feel uneasy about it.
- Sign for no smoking, drugs, noise like speakers No feeding animals, pigeons No dog poop sign
Wildflowers that attract butterflies
- Add washrooms
- Please fix the cracked concrete flooring. It makes biking across it very bumpy.
- Update and augment the splash pad. Add washrooms to the area too as families can spend many hours there and there aren't any public or easily accessible facilities close by.
- The community needs a basketball hoop as there are very little in the area. Another nice addition would be to have public grills for barbecues
- Basketball hoop
- Remove the sand and replace with other soft rubber like floor instead.
- BATHROOMS
- Get rid of sand and put rubber texture-like floor instead. Put sandbox or sand table separate
- Please put in anything else but sand. The county asphalt or wood chips would be amazing.
- Please add a cool splash pad!
- Please keep the splash pad
- Redo the pavement to make it less bumpy and accessible, accessible seating
- All of the ideas here sound fantastic.
- Larger play area to accommodate the population density (many condos within walking distance), consider multiple large play structures (similar to Bayview Village park playground)
- Park for all age groups. For everyone - washroom, water fountain, hand wash sink, garbage can. For children - Play scape with slides, sand box, splash pad, swings etc. For parents and adults - Seating in the shade and sun. Teens - sports equipment, hang out area.
- More trees.
- Splash pad is a huge hit!
- Water park and splash pads are great. Do not use sand in the playground area as flooring as it gets into shoes and sandals
- Please fix the water fountain. Add a dog park
- A big splash park, bigger than the current one. We don't like sand at all, woodchips or rubber would be preferred Working Water fountains everywhere and bottle refillers A basketball court like what are the older kids gonna do without one A splash pool
- More signage to reduce off leash dogs. Keeps dogs and everyone safe.
- Please do not use the rubber ground surface used in other parks, those sends off bad smells especially in the summer. Something of wood or sand would be better and healthier for the kids.
- Replace the sand with another material
- No
- Clean up and naturalize the adjacent drainage area
- Can you expand this exercise to Glendora and Shepperd East parks as well? Because if only one park get this upgrade then it will become overcrowded.
- Grass area to play freesbie, badminton etc
- Exercise apparatus for adults, swings for adults, table large enough for playing mahjong, summer outdoor fitness classes with an instructor.
- Please remove the sand. Kids use it to hurt each other and throw it in each other kids eyes and on the slides! It's mean. The sand always contains garbage and it's unhygienic. Parents always comment on the disgusting Band-Aids in the sand, glass, cigarette butts in the sand, food, cups, straws. It's just so filthy. The sand encourages people to leave their garbage on the ground because it's always - always dirty. Never seen it clean in 10 years. A separate play structure for big kids and small kids is the only thing that makes sense. The small kids get pushed and shoved all the time. Older kids only have 2 (two) swings. Constant fighting for the older kids to get a swing and

constant lineups. Thanks for your hard work. Trees are broken and damaged b/c older kids are longing to climb something and there are no structures appropriate for them. Monkey bars ideal for them. No to Lounge chairs. If people want to sleep they can go home. Let people sit up straight when they are at a playground and watch their children.

- I came to this survey to advocate for an ADULT Fitness Playground. Like the parks found here: <https://www.toronto.ca/explore-enjoy/recreation/fitness/outdoor-fitness-equipment/> Please also consider safe and accessible exercise options for seniors. Also, learning from the lessons of COVID pandemic, a large covered space would also be a good idea. Protected from rain, snow, and sun, groups can lead outdoor exercises in dance, tai-chi, yoga, etc.
- Have more parking so people can come
- A playground with a rubberized area would be a very nice touch to the playground with a separate sand area. Also, for safety reasons, it would be nice to put a separate bike path away from the main sidewalk (that divides the grass field and playground) as so many kids run back and forth from the grass to the playground and risk getting hit.
- More covered seating. The coverings behind lansing church are nice. Having soft mats near the playstructures but still have the option for sand nearby. Some water features for young kids in a separate area.
- More seating, from my observations climbing is the favourite with the kids, they love the splash pad—they will have jackets on and still be playing in the water, the gazebo is well used!
- Lots of swing as I go to parks every day. Kids that have out grown the play structures love swings and monkey bars
- A separate pet area, as it gets very busy with dogs running around all over the park
- Spread out the areas so people are spaced apart and can enjoy different parts without crowding. More shade for sure and strict control of off-leash dogs. More options for older kids would be welcome since they also need to be outside but are too old for playground equipment. Maybe a bike run would be fun (something that has some hills etc).
- Fence around grass and playground area to protect kids from bicycles and scooters passing by.
- Remove the sand under the structures pls!
- Ensure there is proper drainage. There are large areas that get completely flooded after a rainfall and turn to ice in the winter.
- The more exercise equipment the better for teens/adults.
- Possible to add fencing for a small off-leash area for dogs?
- It would be great to add a dog park!
- Off leash dog area
- Exercise station like in Edithvale Park.
- More seating/eating areas than current park has. I always wonder why there are so few picnic tables at the local parks. Us condo dwellers like to take our kids to the park and have lunch there.
- Accessible doors and washrooms with two stalls in each given how busy Willowdale is year round, add a water filling station to replace the water fountain, make a steeper, wider hill or space for tobogganing, a natural rink for winter on one half of the green space, leaving room for snowforts and snow people building. Ask community to get involved with decorating the trees/lights at holiday or seasonal times (December) of the year, spring/fall clean up of the park, organize a Woofstock event for Dog Owners, etc.
- Future proof for climate change: more trees, more shade, butterfly pollinator garden, misters/fountain for cooling
- Please make park accessible.
- Lots of shade, Splash pad area would also be great for the warmer months
- Buttery or garden pollinator. Levelling out the large grass area to enable people to use it for sports and reduce the hazard of tripping or rolling your ankles.
- shaded walkpath
- Badminton nets
- Adult gym equipment, workout station
- Wheelchair accessible Treasure hunt (“hide” symbols throughout the structure and post a legend of “treasure” to find around the pirate ship like key, diamond, etc.)
- Outdoor ice rink skating pad

- Lights that turns on in the evening/night . Running track on the perimeter of the field .
- Less grass to avoid dogs poo around the playground and no sand for the same reason and to protect the water park.
- Basketball court/nets and a ping pong table would be great. Separate equipment for younger and older kids.
- Change the sand to wood chips, it's less dirty for parents. Make the floor areas the soft and rubbery materials, so it's safer for if/when kids fall. Take a look at the David Hamilton Park in Richmond Hill for a good example of how to make a nice park/playground.
- Avoid grass and large sand areas is used as poo disposal.
- Expand the splash pad with more features, like the one on Hendon Ave.
- Small kiosk that sells snacks
- Having an off leash dog park would benefit so many community members. There are already many, many playgrounds in the area and unfortunately no dog parks within a reasonable walking distance. There are literally hundreds of dogs and dog owners living in condo buildings surrounding this area that don't have access to backyards or dog parks to provide proper exercise and socialization for their pets. Having a fenced in off leash dog park would not only benefit those dog owners, but would also benefit other community members as they would not have to worry about dogs off leash in other greenspaces or children's play areas. I know for a fact that you have dog owners and non-owners filing complaints to your office regarding this issue all the time. I can't fathom how you can rationalize spending thousands of dollars to replace perfectly good playground equipment but can't find money in your budget to put up a simple fence that so many of your constituents are asking for.
- There are already various playground structures at parks all around the Willowdale area. But what we are missing is an off-leash dog park. The closest off-leash dog parks are Willowdale Off-leash Dog park at Finch and Bayview - nearly 4km away from Willowdale Park. The other off-leash dog park options include Earl Bales dog park (3km away), and Yonge and York Mills dog park (2.9 km away). These are unacceptable distances for dog owners to have to travel in order for them to have an acceptable off-leash dog area. The area is filled with dog owners who live in condos and do not have access to a backyard space or other outdoor space where their dogs can run off-leash. This must be a priority. Another playground structure is not what we need.
- We have a lot of playgrounds in the neighbourhood and community. It would be great to have a designated closed and off leash dog park for all the dogs in the area
- PLEASE consider a fenced off leash dog park. There is no where for dog owners right now, and both dog owners and families complain. This would allow dogs to be contained to one area so parents can have their kids play with the existing structures, while dog owners have a space for their dogs
- Many dog owners in the area have talked about how great it would be to have an official dog park area in the neighbourhood since the closest ones are not within walking distance. There are already lots of dog owners that use the park already on a daily basis.
- Please have an offleash dog park. The neighborhood is full of dogs and as for other non dog owners, i think they would appreciate the dogs kept in a certain area when running around freely
- Renew the sandddd! 😊
- The Willowdale area is already filled with SO many playgrounds. What the area really needs is an all-ages, PET-FRIENDLY outdoor recreational area. An off-leash enclosure is vitally important to many in the community as we don't have one that is reasonably within walking distance. The park should also include space for other activities like ping pong, exercise equipment, more tennis and/or basketball courts, and comfortable lounging areas in both sunny and shady spots. More trees/plants would be a huge plus.
- Off-leash enclosed dog park. There is no easily accessible/walking distance dog park in the area.
- We want swings and slides more and then extra play things other than a swings....
- Custom more natural look. Similar to what is there now or something like the grange park. Not prefabbed like other playgrounds.
- Ensure that play areas do NOT incl sand or wood chips. Use rubber tiles wherever possible
- More splash pad
- More trees & flowers never hurts
- Put some splash pad
- fenced area for dogs to be off leash
- Please provide a designated pet area as currently pets are peeing all over the grass where families are having picnics
- A mini garden area with seating

- You can also add stepping stones for younger children and small areas on the ground for teens to relax on.
- It would be great to have features that pets can interact safely without interference from children and parents.
- Splash pad, or some type of mister for people to cool off-like the ones at wonderland
- Ban dogs. Always finding dog poo in the grass. Put up more signs about dog poo or have more monitoring of dog owners
- Play structure should have the sun tent so little kids don't get too hot playing in the sun
- Public washrooms
- You should include make a pet friendly enclosure (off leash) in the open grass field
- separate it so it will be safer for younger kids. Sometimes the older kids get on the playground and make it difficult for the younger kids. Expand it so there are more options for play area for different type of kids. Also please keep the water play area.