



St. James Town West Park Redesign

Community Consultation Summary
Phase 3: Preferred Concept Design
November 2021

Prepared by



For



Executive Summary

The City of Toronto is proceeding with plans for the redesign of St. James Town West Park. The park, located between Sherbourne Street, Bleecker Street, and Howard Street is currently leased to the City of Toronto from Medallion Developments Inc. who have parking garages located beneath much of the park. As a result of Medallion's new high-rise development at the corner of Sherbourne Street and Howard Streets, and their need to undertake significant maintenance to the parking garage roof, the City has the opportunity to redesign the park to better meet the needs of the community.

Building on the feedback received through two prior phases of community consultations – which includes a community visioning survey conducted in March 2021, and consultations on two Concept Design Options presented in April and May 2021 – the City and its consultants presented a Preferred Concept Design to the public to gather feedback that will be used to shape a detailed design for the park redesign.

In response to COVID-19 public health guidelines, Parks, Forestry and Recreation held a series of public engagement events online including two community design workshops, an Indigenous Sharing Circle, a youth workshop, and an online survey. Additionally, the City partnered with the St. James Town Community Corner to provide access to print copies of the park designs and survey, and organized two 'Pop-up in the Park' in-person engagement events. The City of Toronto communicated these engagement opportunities through flyer mailouts, posters, social media, and email updates to the project subscription list. These communication efforts were supported within the community by five community ambassadors who speak Arabic, Amharic, Tamil, Tagalog, and Hindi/Urdu.

We heard the following key messages from the community about what they supported in the Preferred Concept Design. Overall, participants provided lots of positive feedback on the Preferred Concept Design. Specifically, participants supported:

- Creating **pathways that provide direct routes** through the park and make it clear that the park is a public space for all, not just for the residents of Medallion's new building.
- **Increasing lighting throughout the park** to promote a sense of safety
- **Thoughtfully integrating Indigenous placekeeping** that honours Indigenous peoples, creates a welcoming inclusive space and promotes understanding of Indigenous stories and worldview.
- Providing **furnishing (e.g. bench seating) that is accessible.**
- Inviting **play and exercise across age groups.**
- Including a **platform that provides a stage for community events.**
- **Maintaining existing trees** where possible and creating a large open lawn area.

Participants also identified opportunities to improve some elements of the Preferred Concept Design, such as:

- Ensuring that there are opportunities for recycling and garbage disposal throughout the park and specialized disposal containers for dog waste and cigarettes.

This feedback and the additional details provided in this document will help shape the detailed design for the St. James Town West Park redesign, which will be reviewed by the City before approval and construction.

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Appendix A: Survey and Community Meeting Quantitative Responses

Appendix B: Indigenous Community Sharing Meeting #3 Record

Appendix C: Youth Resource Group Meeting #3 Summary

This meeting summary report was prepared by LURA Consulting, independent facilitator and consultation specialists for the St. James Town West Park redesign. If you have any questions or comments regarding the report, please contact either:

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1 Introduction

St. James Town West Park is a 1-acre public park located between Sherbourne Street, Bleecker Street, and Howard Street. Most of the land is currently leased to the City of Toronto by Medallion Developments Inc. who owns the parking garage that lies beneath it.

Medallion will be redeveloping properties at 591-601 Sherbourne Street and repairing the parking garage roof below the park. Due to this work, most of the park will be removed, creating an opportunity to reimagine the park to better meet the needs of the local community and residents.

In April 2021, the City of Toronto conducted a second round of community consultations gather feedback on two concept plan options for St. James Town West Park. Feedback from these consultations is available online on the project webpage

[Access the St. James Town West Park Redesign Phase 2 Consultation Summary.](#)

Feedback received from the community during this phase was used to develop a Preferred Concept Design (Figure 1) which reflects elements well-received by community members. The Preferred Design was presented to the community through workshops on July 27th and 29th. Following the workshops, the City of Toronto undertook a series of community engagement events to gather further feedback.



Figure 1. Preferred Concept Design

The following summary documents the feedback received on the Preferred Concept Design through engagement events with the community held in late July and early August as part of the third and final round of community consultation.

2 What We Heard

This summary is organized by general park elements that participants supported and identified as important in the Preferred Concept Design (Figure 1) in Section 2.1. Feedback on features in the Preferred Concept Design to refine or improve is included in Section 2.2., and additional ideas that emerged from participant feedback is included in Section 2.3. Feedback documented in this section represents groups of similar comments received through the engagement process. **Appendix A** includes a detailed breakdown of the online questionnaire and community meeting responses.

This section includes feedback received from the virtual workshops, Pop-Ups in the Park, the online survey, Indigenous Community Sharing meeting (detailed record in **Appendix B**), and the Youth Resource Group Meeting (detailed summary in **Appendix C**).

This feedback will be used by the design team to refine the Preferred Concept Design into a detailed design. Where possible, feedback will be used to refine elements that are strongly supported, address areas of improvement, and incorporate additional ideas.

2.1 Supported Features in the Preferred Concept Design

Participants provided feedback on various features of the Preferred Concept Design for the St. James Town West Park redesign. The features that received the most support were:

- Pathways providing direct routes to places participants wish to travel to.
- Lighting that created a safe and welcoming space for park users.
- Indigenous placekeeping is thoughtfully and meaningfully incorporated into the overall design.
- Seating options and places to sit and enjoy the park.

There was also strong support for features that enable play, exercise, and community events at the park, and for the mix of natural elements and lawn space that is proposed.

The following sub-sections provide more feedback on the Preferred Concept Design's features, incorporating feedback received from the survey (**Appendix A**) and other written and oral comments received through the consultation process.

2.1.1 Accessible Pathways and Paved Surfaces

- Almost all questionnaire respondents (94%) strongly agreed or agreed that the proposed pathways provide direct routes to places participants wish to travel to.
- The majority of questionnaire respondents (82%) strongly agreed or agreed that the amount of paved surfaces is appropriate.
- Participants indicated that the pathways should make it clear that the park is public space so users do not feel like they are trespassing on private property.

2.1.2 Lighting

- The majority of questionnaire respondents (87%) strongly agreed or agreed that the proposed lighting options would make users feel safe in the park.
- Participants identified that the lighting layout is practical and well-integrated into the park design.
- The park should be well-lit throughout so that there are no dark patches at night and wintertime.
 - The area around the Howard and Bleecker intersection was noted as an area that is currently poorly lit and could be improved.

2.1.3 Indigenous Placekeeping

- Participants expressed appreciation for the integration of Indigenous placekeeping throughout the design. Survey respondents (87%) either strongly agreed or agreed that the Indigenous placekeeping elements were thoughtfully incorporated in the overall design of the space.
- The Indigenous placekeeping elements that most resonated with survey respondents were: Indigenous public art (24%), honouring Indigenous peoples (22%), and supporting reconciliation through partnerships and Indigenous involvement (13%).
- Participants also expressed interest in elements that feature Indigenous storytelling and interpretation, local Indigenous history, and Indigenous plants and medicines.
- Consider how to make the design of the park welcoming for Indigenous people to host community and cultural events.
- Outline how the medicine garden will be stewarded

2.1.4 Seating and Site Furnishings

- Most participants (85%) either strongly agreed or agreed that the Preferred Concept Design includes sufficient seating options and places to sit.
- Participants emphasized the importance of ensuring seating, including tables provide accessible options.
- Where possible, include seating options under shaded areas and trees.
- Some participants expressed desire for more shade beyond trees through the use of shade structures such as gazebos and overhead fabric sails.
- Consider adding seating options on Sherbourne or maintaining existing ones.

2.1.5 Play, Exercise and Community Activities in the Park

- Most respondents (78%) either strongly agreed or agreed that there are sufficient opportunities for play that meet their household's needs.
- Some participants expressed interest in integrating water into the design, such as adding water playground elements or a splashpad.
 - Staff Comment: Water play was considered, however there is not enough space beneath the surface of the park and the roof of the parking garage to accommodate the pipes required to support water play. There are fog

misters being installed at the new park at 60 Howard Street, as well as a water play area proposed for the redeveloped St. James Town Open Space behind 200 Wellesley.

- Participants identified that play structures should provide opportunities for younger and older children.
- Consider opportunities for adult fitness.
- More than half of the participants (73%) strongly agreed or agreed that there are sufficient opportunities to organize cultural and community events.
 - Participants support the inclusion of the wooden platform which can be used as a stage for cultural and community events.
 - Ensure areas with accessible sightlines of the wooden platform so that all users can have visibility of presenters and performers during events.

2.1.6 Natural Elements and Open Lawn Space

- The majority of participants (81%) strongly agreed or agreed that they would visit the proposed park to relax and enjoy nature.
- Most respondents (79%) strongly agreed or agreed that there is a sufficient amount of trees and plants included in the design, and (79%) that the amount of open lawn space meets their household's needs.
- Many participants expressed support for the inclusion of an open lawn.
- Some participants from the community meetings and pop-up engagements requested that existing trees be kept wherever possible, and to consider permaculture principles and native species for new vegetation.
- Consider half-circle seating surrounding trees that provide a shaded seating area and protect the edge of the tree.

2.1.7 Feedback from Indigenous Community Members

Indigenous community members provided feedback on the Preferred Concept Design through an Indigenous Focus Group and Indigenous Community Sharing Meeting. The key themes from this meeting are summarized as follows.

- Indigenous participants appreciated how the spirit of water is being honoured, and how Indigenous art and culture is being represented in the proposed design.
- Indigenous participants reiterated the imperative for the design team to meaningfully include ideas shared in all three meetings into the park design. Suggestion to hold a fourth and final meeting as there was low attendance at this meeting, and to share how the group's ideas have been included and valued.
 - City staff comment: Following the meeting, staff review this request, however given the project timeframe and budget, only three sessions were feasible.
- Indigenous participants suggested further design ideas including but not limited to:
 - Incorporating the [four sacred colours](#) (yellow, red, black, and white);
 - A yellow bird (representing language);

- Inclusion of Indigenous storytelling and languages through signs and interactive QR codes;
- Traffic calming on Howard Street;
- A dry riverbed rock garden;
- An orange heart honouring the spirit of the children whose lives were lost through Residential Schools;
- Soundscaping through wind chimes and water catchers; and
- Planting trees that are significant to Indigenous nations such as sugar maple, white pine and cedar.

A complete record of the Indigenous Community Sharing Meeting is included in **Appendix B**.

2.2 Areas for Improvement and Concerns

The Preferred Concept Design received the following comments and suggestions for improvement drawn from all sources of consultation:

2.2.1 Skateboard Spot

- Some participants expressed concern that the skateboard area was too small and that this would lead to encroachment in other areas of the park. Some suggested using this space for more green space or seating.
- Other participants commented that the skateboard spot would enable youth to access this activity locally. Some suggested thinking about strategies to inform youth about the new amenity.

2.2.2 Green Space

- Some participants expressed concern that too many elements are being included in a small area and that the park may feel too busy.
 - Participants emphasized that natural elements and green space should be prioritized for retention in the design.

2.2.3 Space for dogs

- Participants identified that it is unclear if there is an area where dogs can be off leash.
 - City staff comment: An off-leash area is not included in the design of this park due to park size constraints. The new Medallion development will include a dog relief area.

2.2.4 Park Maintenance and Waste

- Many participants emphasize the importance of providing recycling and garbage disposal options throughout the park so that people don't litter. It was noted that certain areas of the park don't currently have waste bins.
- Suggestions to offer waste disposal options for needles and cigarettes, and an organics bin for dog waste.

- Some participants were curious about how proposed landforms and berms would be maintained, particularly around managing drainage.

2.3 Additional Consideration and Ideas

The following additional ideas emerged from participant feedback that may be considered in the development of the detailed design.

- Opportunities for public washrooms should be available in the area.
- Consider adding structures that bring sounds into the park such as wind chimes.
- Opportunities to support and integrate local businesses into the park, for example through inviting farmers' markets.
- Opportunities for winter activation of park elements to enable activities such as ice skating.

3 How We Engaged

3.1 Communication Methods

3.1.1 Project Webpage

The City of Toronto's St. James Town West Park Redesign webpage (<http://toronto.ca/stjamestown>) acted as a communications portal to inform the public about all information regarding the project including general information, project updates, a link to the online questionnaire, and an option to subscribe for project related e-updates.

3.1.2 Printed Media

Tabloid (11"x17") posters were placed throughout the St. James Town neighbourhood at bus stops, grocery stores, and public spaces prior to the virtual community meeting to advertise the meeting and the survey.

A postcard advertising the community meeting and online survey was also mailed to addresses located within an area defined by Huntley Street to the west, Wellesley Street East to the south, Parliament Street to the east, and Rosedale Valley Road to the north, encompassing over 11,000 addresses. Copies of the postcard were made available at the front desk of the St. James Town Community Corner.

3.1.3 Social Media and Digital Ads





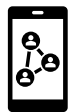
The City of Toronto used its Facebook and Twitter accounts to promote the virtual community meeting and online questionnaire from July 15, 2021 to August 22, 2021. Additional social media outreach was supported by LURA Consulting and DTAH's Twitter accounts.

3.1.4 Community Ambassadors

Five community ambassadors hired by the project team assisted with outreach for the community meeting, design workshop, and online survey. Community ambassadors connected with their community networks through phone calls, emails, texts, and other

group messaging platforms to increase awareness about the project. Community ambassadors communicated this information in English, Arabic, Amharic, Tagalog, Tamil, and Hindi/Urdu.

Table 1. Summary of Outreach Methods

Outreach Method	Outreach Activities	Reach
Project Webpage 	A dedicated webpage was developed within the City of Toronto's website to act as an integrated platform for all project related information. Through the webpage, interested people could also subscribe to receive updates and information about the project.	Reached 1266 unique views 885 engagements
Mailouts 	A flyer advertising the meeting and survey was delivered to 11,835 addresses in the neighbourhood. The flyer was also available at the front desk of the St. James Town Community Corner (200 Wellesley Street East). The virtual meeting notice was included in the local Councillor's newsletters leading up to July, 2021 virtual workshops.	Reached 11,835
Posters 	Twelve (12) 11 inch by 17 inch posters displaying information about the virtual community meeting were placed throughout St. James Town near transit stops, grocery stores, plazas, and playgrounds.	Reached 9+ ¹
Community Ambassadors 	Community ambassadors reached out to their community networks in English, Arabic, Amharic, Tagalog, Tamil, and Hindi/Urdu to raise awareness about the community meeting, design workshop, and online survey.	Reached 350
Social Media 	The virtual community meeting and online survey were promoted through the City of Toronto's Facebook and Twitter accounts with additional outreach support from DTAH and LURA.	Reached Over 13,000
Total Reached		Over 26,000

¹ This refers to the number of participants who indicated through the survey and the public meeting that they were informed about the meeting and survey through signs placed in the community. The actual number of individuals who may have seen these signs and considered "aware" of the project may be higher.

3.2 Engagement Methods

3.2.1 Community Design Workshops

The presentation slides from the workshop were made available online following the meeting for review. [Access the virtual community meeting presentation.](#) Print copies of the presentation slides were made available at the front desk at the St. James Town Community Corner.

Two design workshops were held virtually using Zoom on July 27 and 29, 2021 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The events began with a presentation from DTAH (the landscape architecture consultants), which was followed by a Question and Answer period. Participants were invited to pose their questions and comments in the meeting chat box. Questions were read out loud and answered by members of the project team. Participants were then separated into small groups led by members of the project team to gather detailed feedback on the Preferred Concept Design.

During the July 29 workshop, participants were able to choose breakout rooms based on their preferred language of participation (English, Arabic, Amharic, Tagalog, Tamil, and Hindi/Urdu). In these small groups, a community ambassador with fluency in one of the five languages provided a brief explanation of the designs then facilitated a discussion about the designs and recorded participants' feedback. At the end of the workshop, each facilitator shared back what they heard in their group to the project team in English.

3.2.2 Indigenous Sharing Meeting

An Indigenous Sharing Meeting was held virtually using Zoom on July 21, 2021 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The purpose of this meeting was to provide a dedicated opportunity to listen to First Nation, Métis and Inuit voices and perspectives, and was the second meeting of this group held as part of the St. James Town West Park Redesign engagement process.

The full record of the meeting prepared by Leah Horzempa (Sister Circle Consulting) for the St. James Town West Park Redesign project is included in **Appendix B**.

3.2.2.1 Indigenous Focus Group

Prior to the Indigenous Community Sharing Meeting, an Indigenous Focus Group was held on July 7 at 6:30 PM on Zoom with members of the Indigenous Community Sharing Circle who could attend. The purpose of this meeting was to check-in with group members prior to the full Sharing Circle to ensure dialogue between the Circle and the project team was being accurately captured. Feedback from the Indigenous Focus Group has been incorporated in this summary in Section 2.1.7.

3.2.3 Pop Ups in the Park

Two pop-ups in St. James Town West Park were held on Saturday July 31, 2021 and Wednesday August 4, 2021. Staff set-up display boards in St. James Town Park in areas of high foot traffic near Sherbourne Street, informing passersby about the park redesign and asking for feedback. The park pop-ups also included snacks and fun

outdoor activities for people to participate in and get excited about the redesign of the park. In total, over 125 people interacted with City staff at the pop-ups and 68 people provided comments on the park design.

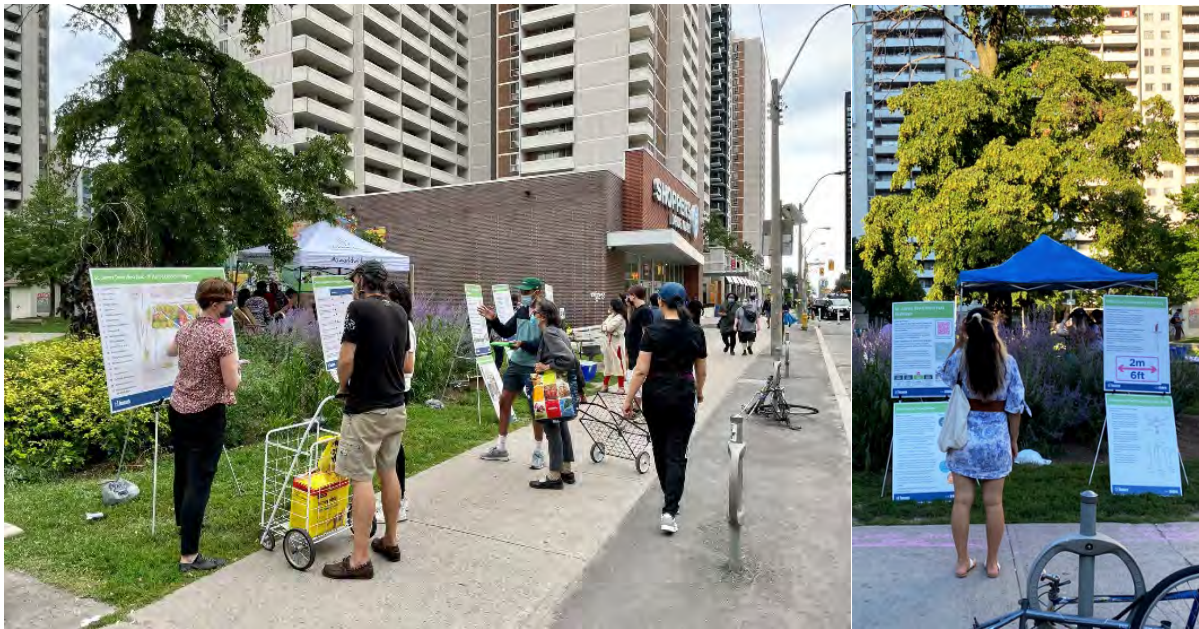


Figure 2. Pop-Up Engagement at St. James Town West Park

3.2.4 Youth Engagement

A Youth Resource Group meeting was held virtually using Zoom on Thursday, August 5th from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The purpose of this meeting was to provide a dedicated opportunity for youth to provide their input into the Preferred Concept Design, building on previous conversations about the vision for the park.

A full summary from the Youth Resource Group prepared by City staff and is available in **Appendix C**.

3.2.5 Online Survey

An online survey was made available on the City's project webpage from July 27, 2021 to August 22, 2021. The online survey presented a series of questions asking participants for their feedback on the Preferred Concept Design presented in the virtual workshops and pop-ups. The online questionnaire was accompanied by a copy of the presentation slides.





The survey was available online in English, Arabic, Simplified Chinese, Nepali, Tagalog, and Tamil. Paper copies of the survey and the presentation slides were available and advertised for pick-up at the St. James Town Community Corner at 200 Wellesley Street East. Additionally, Community Ambassadors provided assistance to individuals in completing the survey.


Questionnaire Demographics

Online survey respondents were asked to voluntarily provide demographic information about themselves to better understand who is participating and what groups in the community were missed as part of this engagement process. A full summary of the demographic information is included in Appendix A. Respondents to the survey self-identified as part of a diverse mix of backgrounds and were predominantly renters.

Compared to the North St. James Town neighbourhood profile, where the park is located, there were fewer renter households represented in the questionnaire compared to the neighbourhood population (90.9% renter households). The visible minority population of the neighbourhood was underrepresented in this questionnaire with only 44% of respondents self-identifying as South Asian, Indo-Caribbean, Southeast Asian, Black, East Asian, Latin American, Arab, Middle Eastern, or West Asian compared to the most recent census data where 67% of the neighbourhood population self-identified as a visible minority. The age distribution of questionnaire participants is close to the neighbourhood profile. Community ambassadors assisted several community members with completing the questionnaire in Tagalog.

Table 2. Summary of Engagement Methods

Engagement Method	Engagement Activities	Engagement Reach
Virtual Design Workshops 	Two virtual community design workshops were held on July 27 and 29, 2021 to present the Preferred Concept Design for the redesign of St. James Town West Park, answer questions, and gather feedback from community members on the designs.	Engaged 45
Indigenous Sharing Meeting 	A virtual Indigenous Sharing meeting was held on July 21, 2021 to present and gather feedback on the Preferred Concept Design. This meeting was led by Leah Horzempa of Sister Circle Consulting.	Engaged 5
Pop-ups in the Park 	Pop-up engagements were held on July 31 and August 4, 2021 at St. James Town West Park to present and gather feedback on the Preferred Concept Design.	Engaged Over 125
Youth Engagement 	The third Youth Resource Group meeting was held on August 5 th , 2021 to present and gather feedback on the Preferred Concept Design for the redesign of St. James Town West Park, answer questions, and gather feedback from local youth on the designs.	Engaged 4

Engagement Method	Engagement Activities	Engagement Reach
Online Survey & Email 	An online survey was developed to gather detailed feedback on participant's impressions of the Preferred Concept Design presented at the virtual workshops. The online questionnaire was available in English, Arabic, Simplified Chinese, Nepali, Tagalog, and Tamil from July 27, 2021 to August 22, 2021.	Engaged 162
Total Engaged		341

4 Next Steps

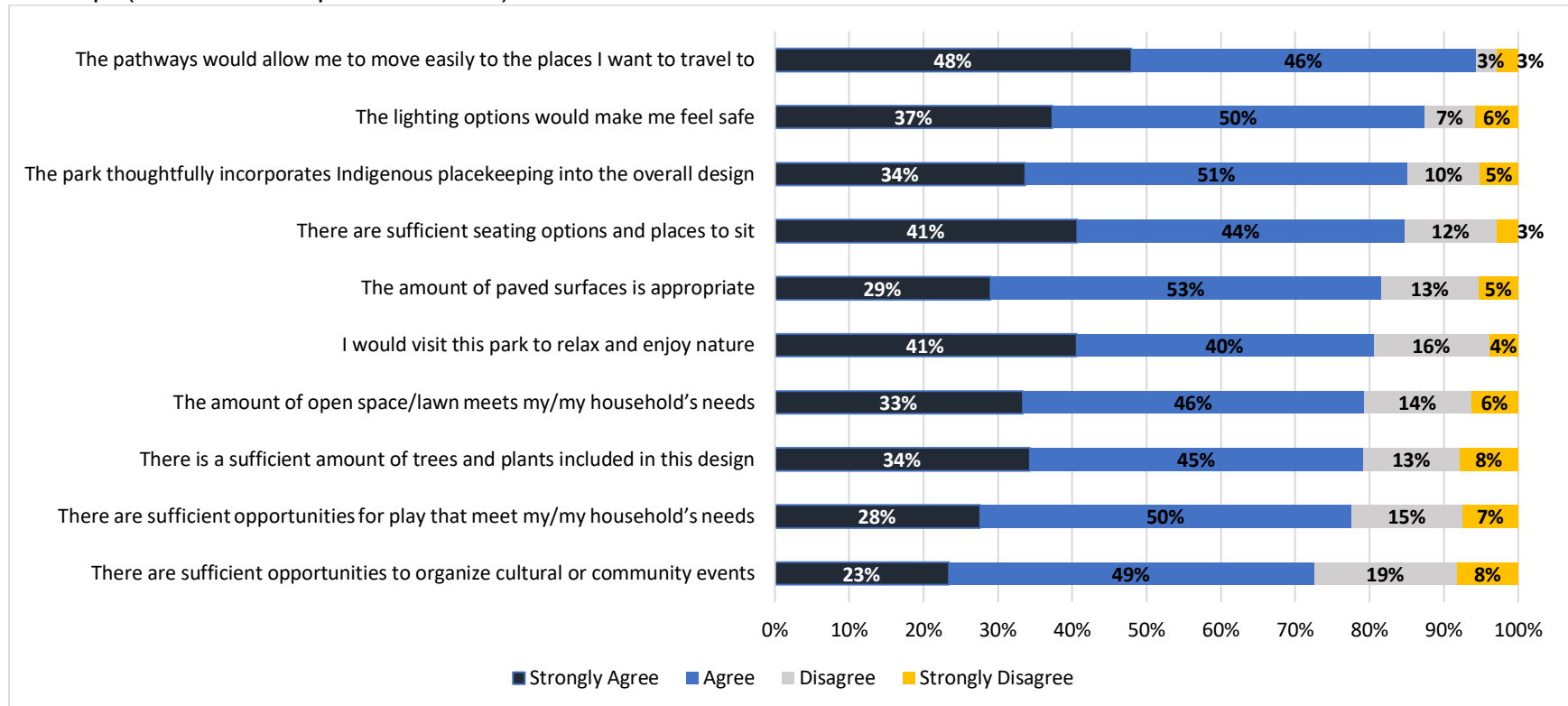
The feedback received through Phase 3 community consultations will be used to inform a detailed design for the St. James Town West Park redesign. The detailed design will further refine the concept design based on the important input from the community and will be reviewed by the City before approval and construction.

To be notified of updates on the detailed design and next stages for the St. James Town West Park redesign, please sign up for email updates at toronto.ca/stjamestown

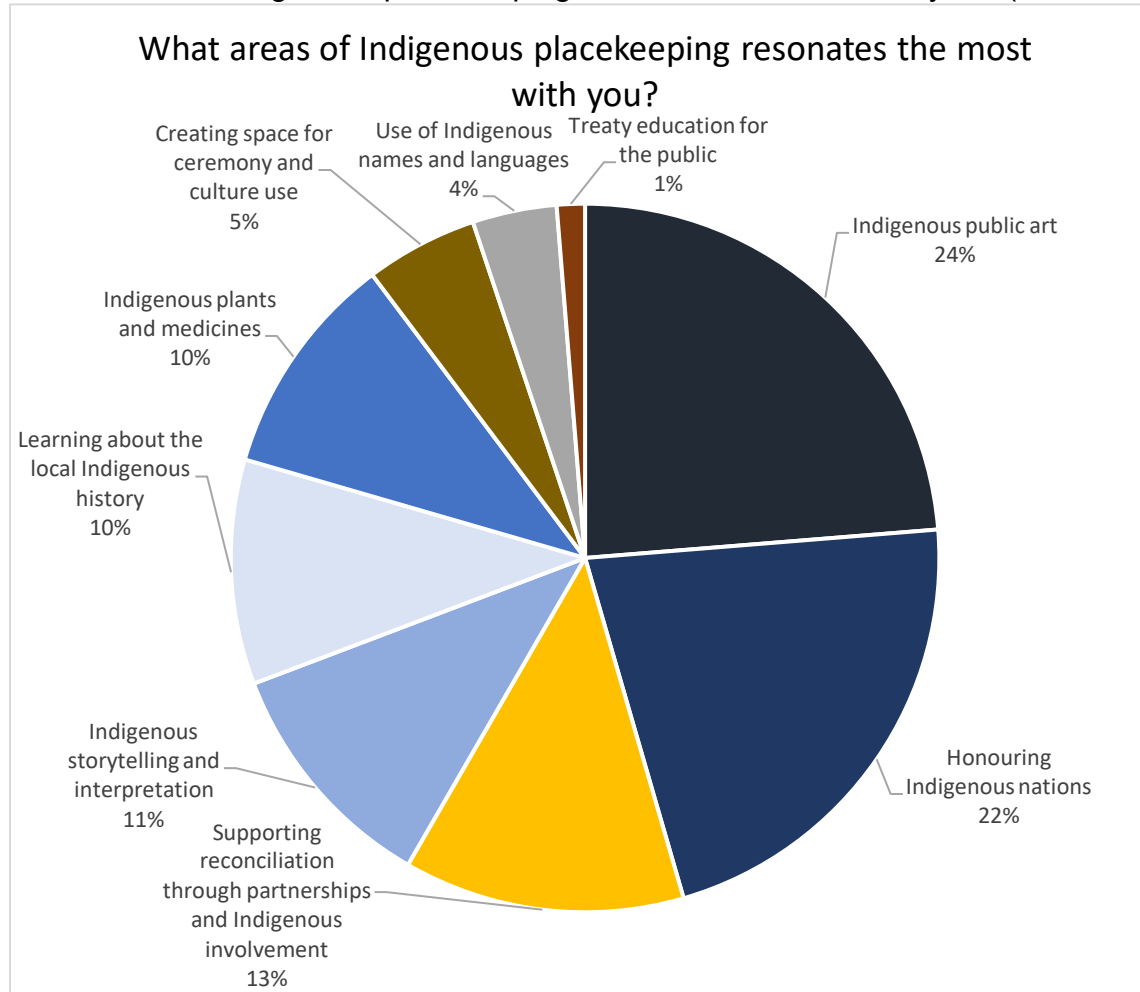
Appendix A

Survey and Community Meeting Quantitative Responses

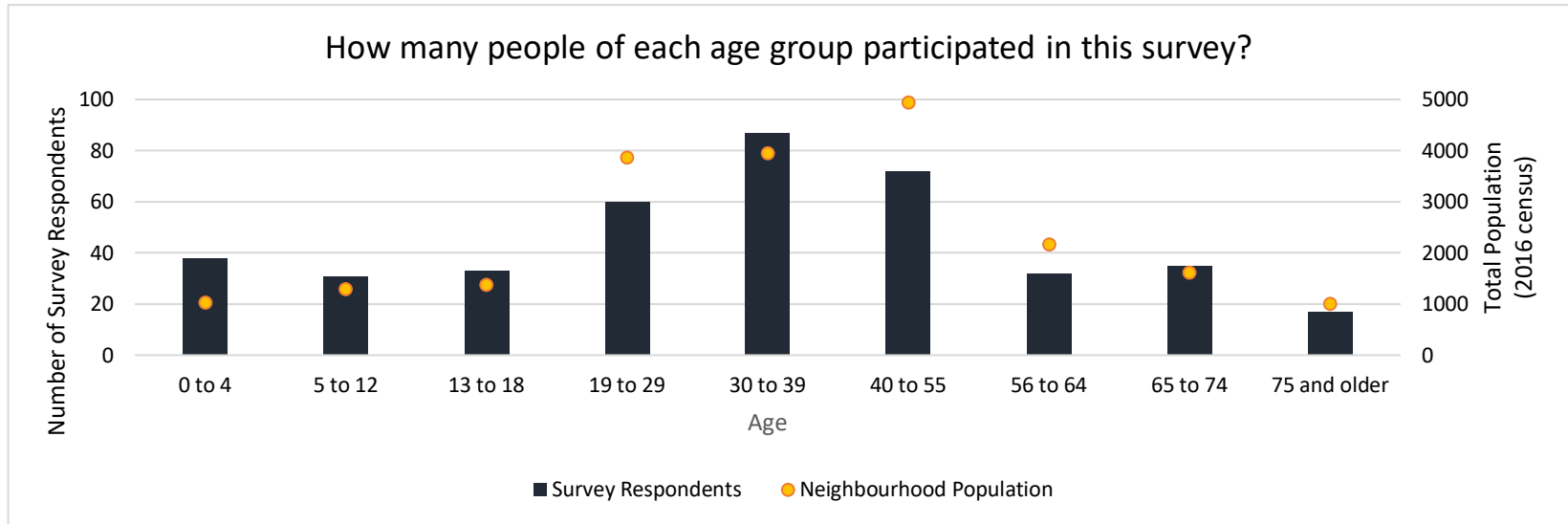
1. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about the elements in the Preferred Concept (Number of respondents: 162).



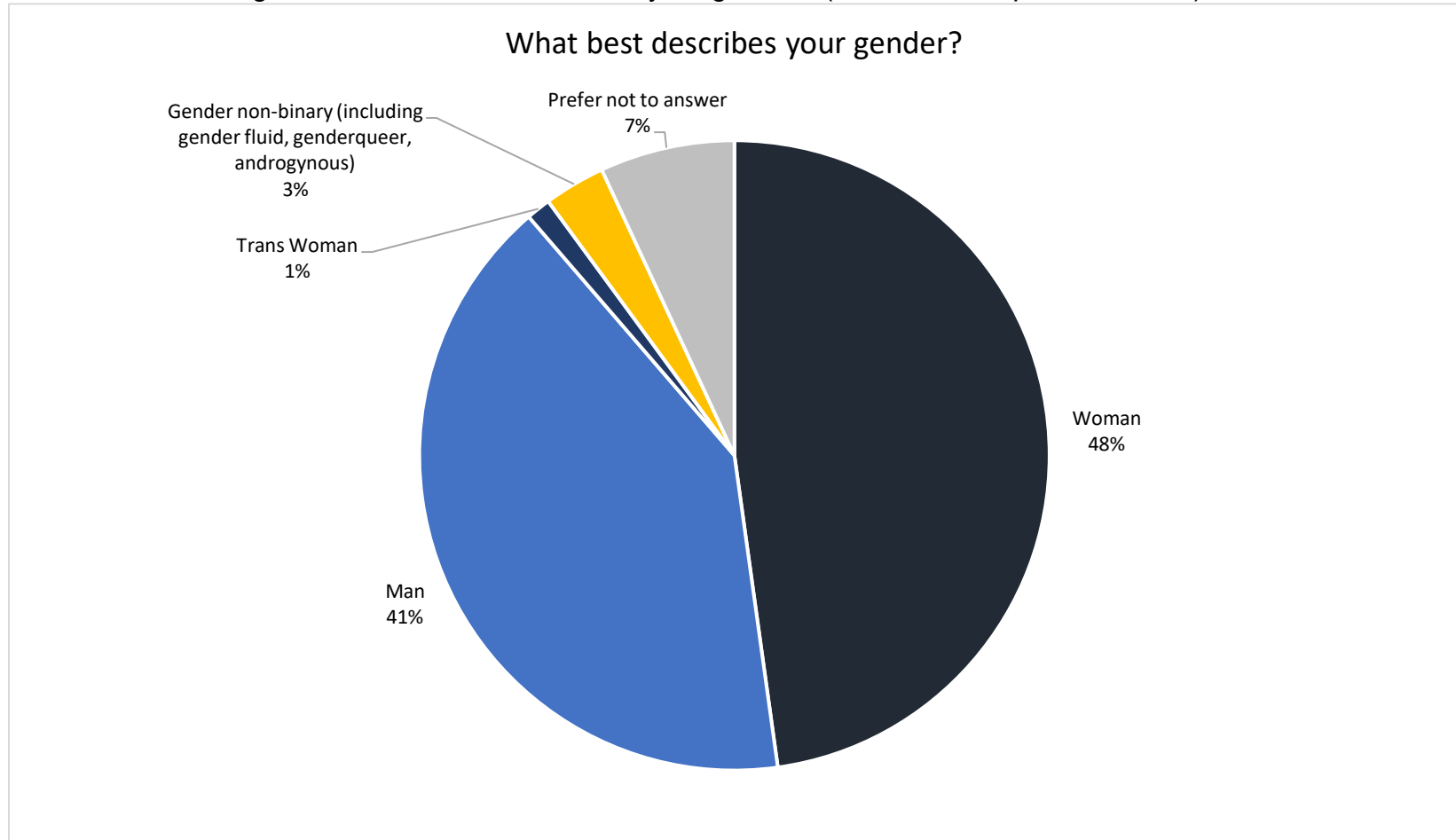
2. What areas of Indigenous placekeeping resonates the most with you? (Number of respondents: 162).



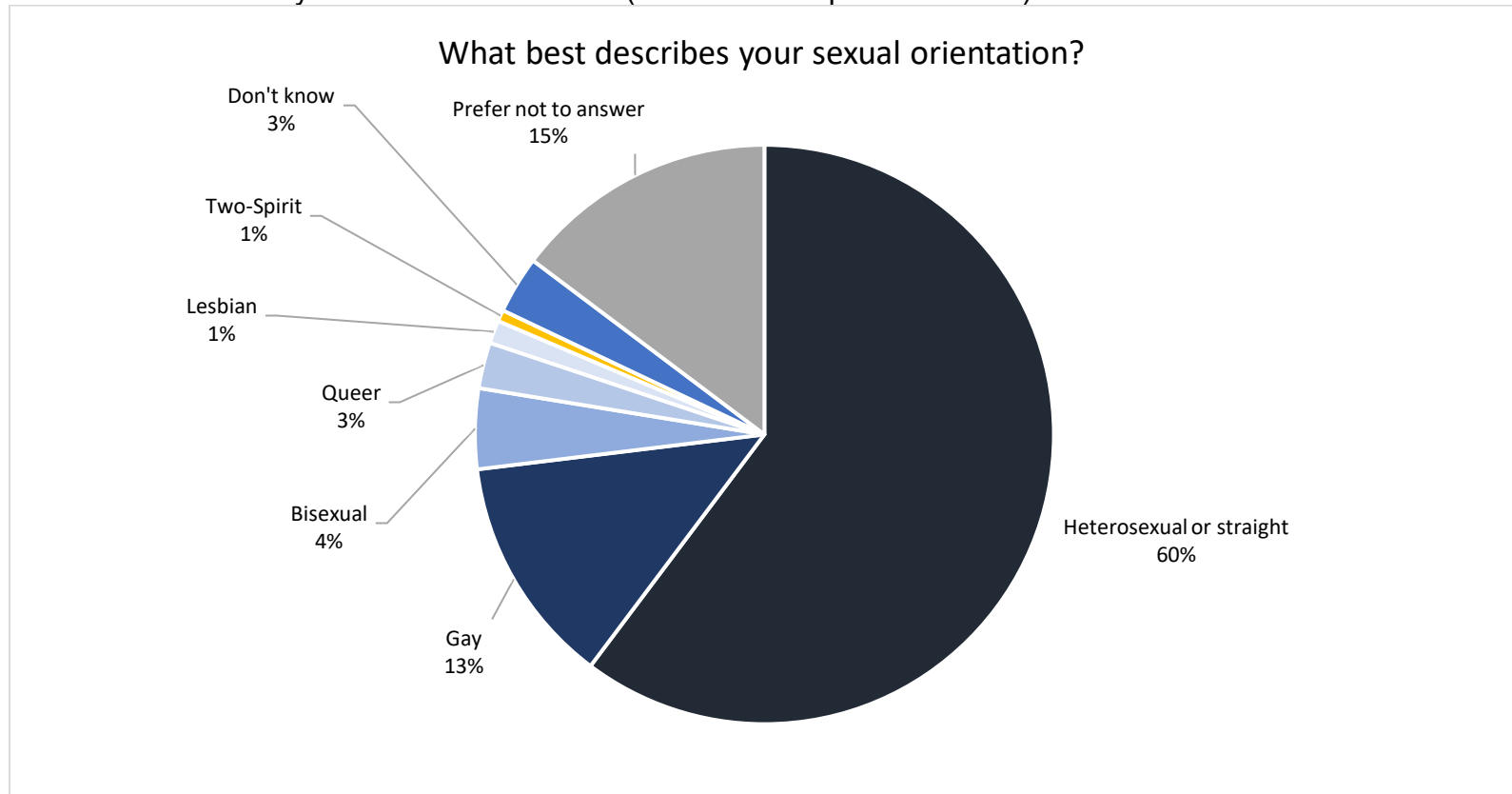
3. How many people of each age group participated in this survey? (Number of respondents: 162).



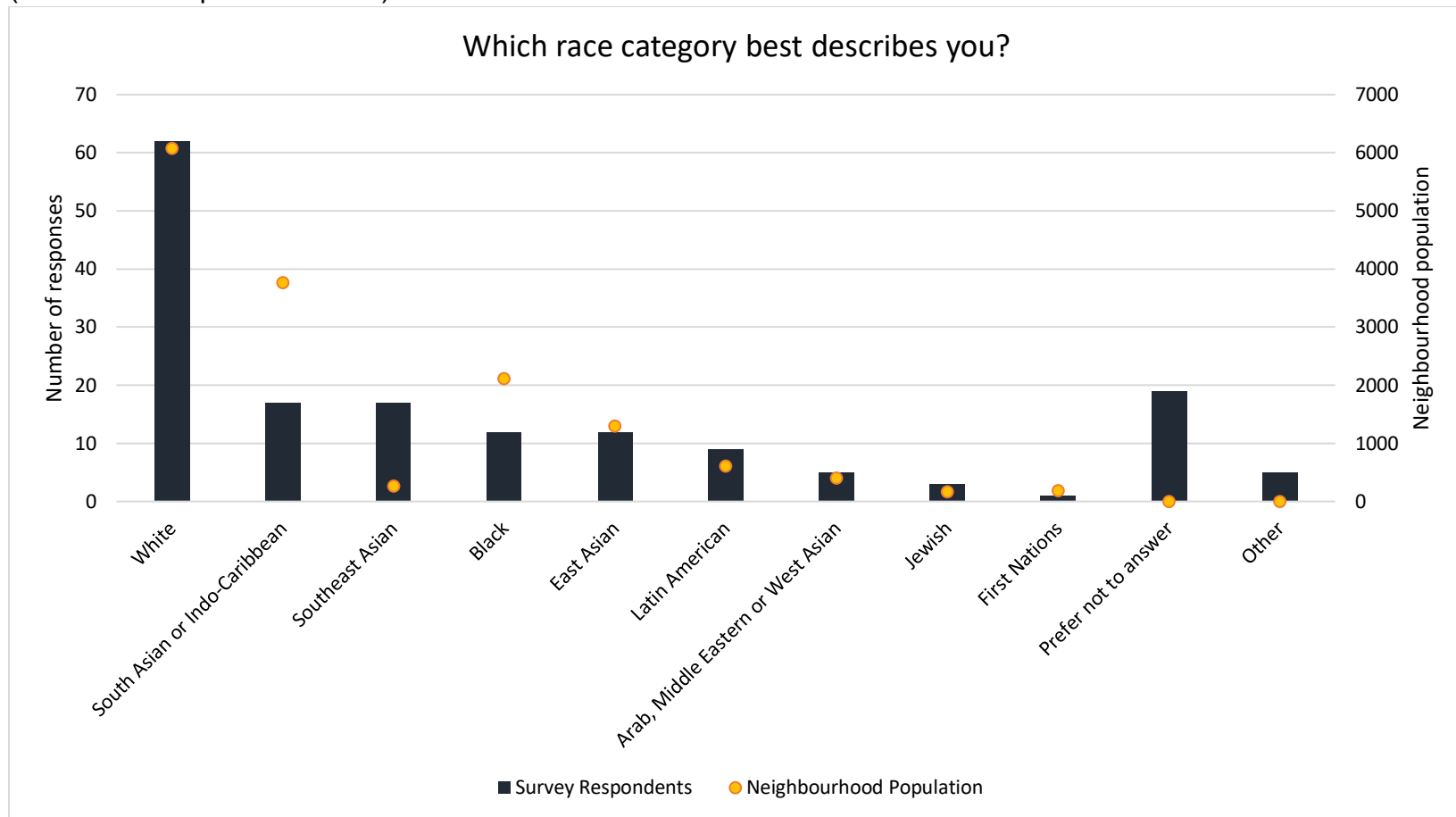
4. Gender identity is the gender that people identify with or how they perceive themselves, which may be different from their birth-assigned sex. What best describes your gender? (Number of respondents: 162).



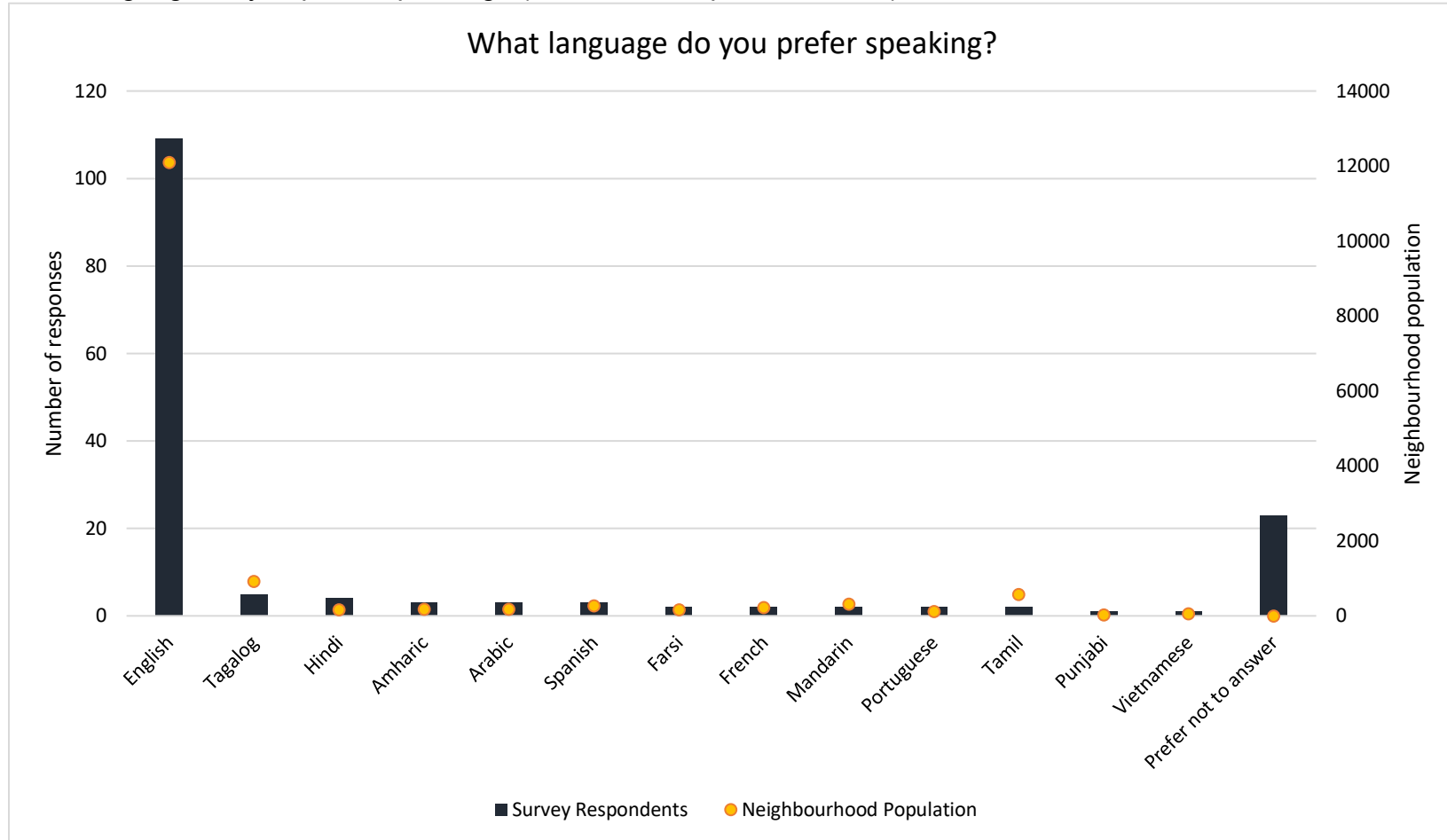
5. Sexual orientation describes a person's emotional, physical, romantic, and/or sexual attraction to other people. What best describes your sexual orientation? (Number of respondents: 162).



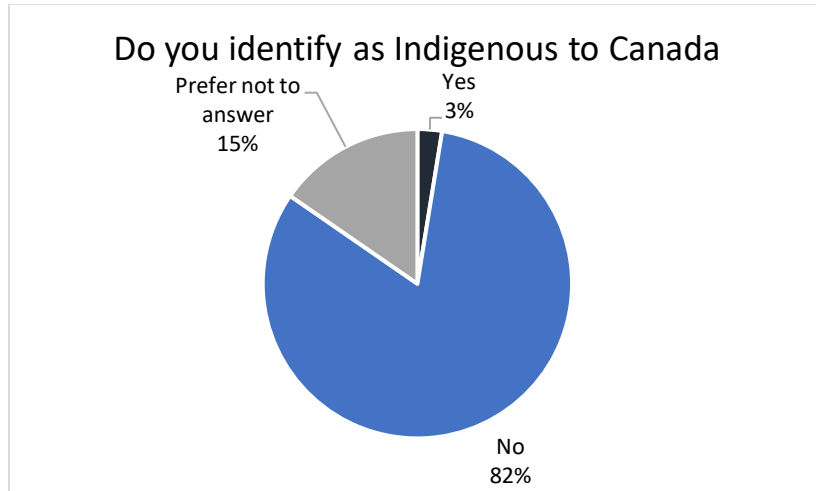
6. People often describe themselves by their race or racial background. For example, some people consider themselves “Black”, “White” or “East Asian”. Which race category best describes you? Select all that apply. (Number of respondents: 162).



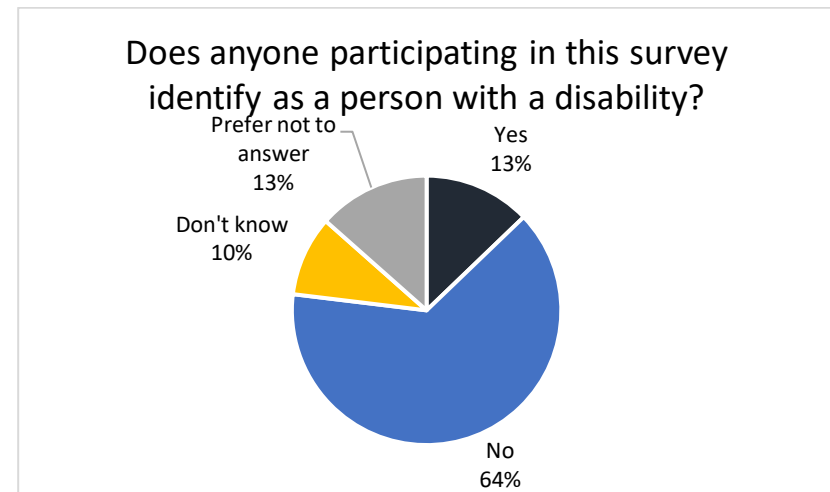
7. What language do you prefer speaking? (Number of respondents: 162).



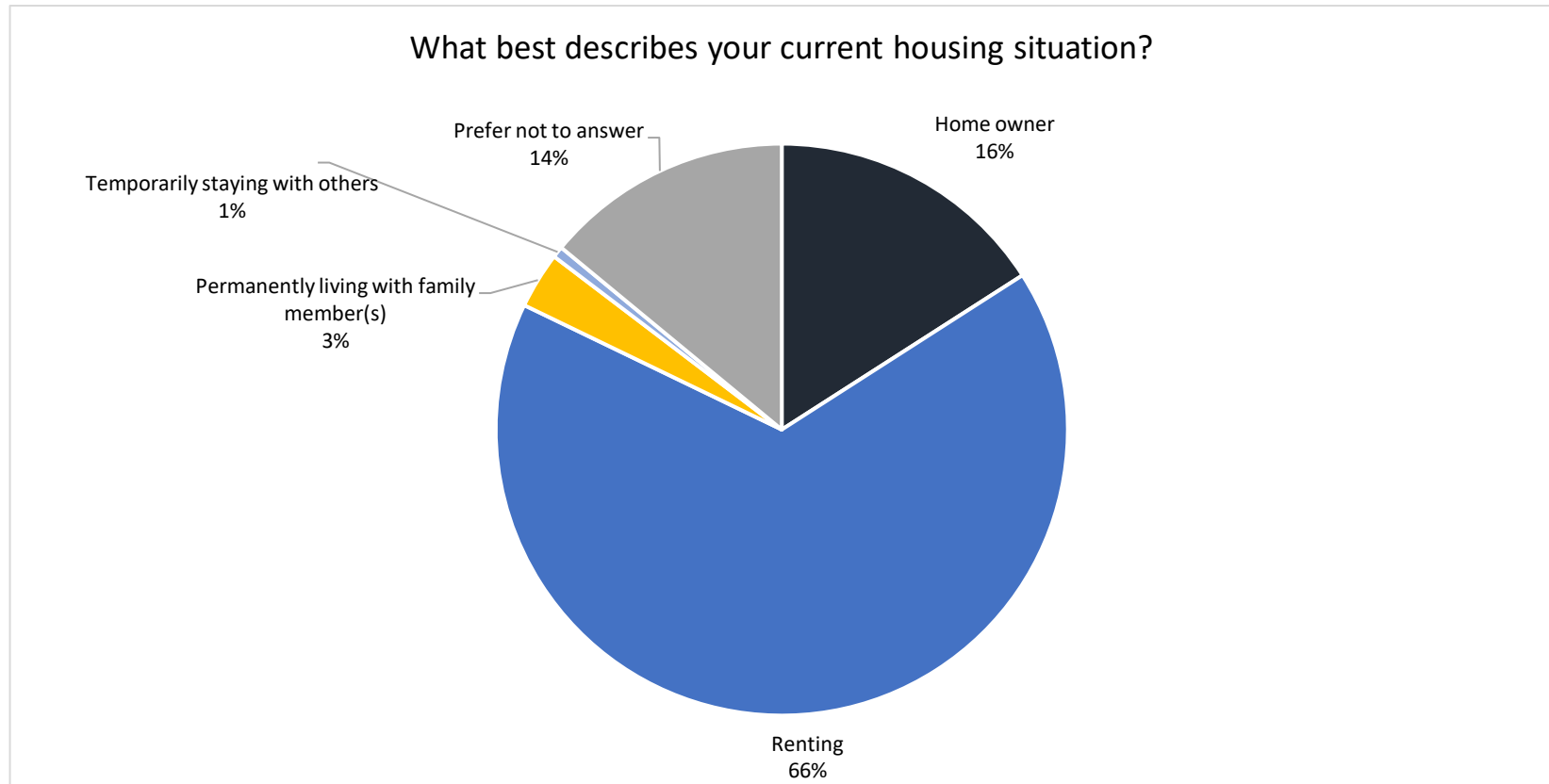
8. Indigenous people from Canada identify as First Nations (status, non-status, treaty or non-treaty), Inuit, Métis, Aboriginal, Native or Indian. Do you identify as Indigenous to Canada? (Number of respondents: 162).



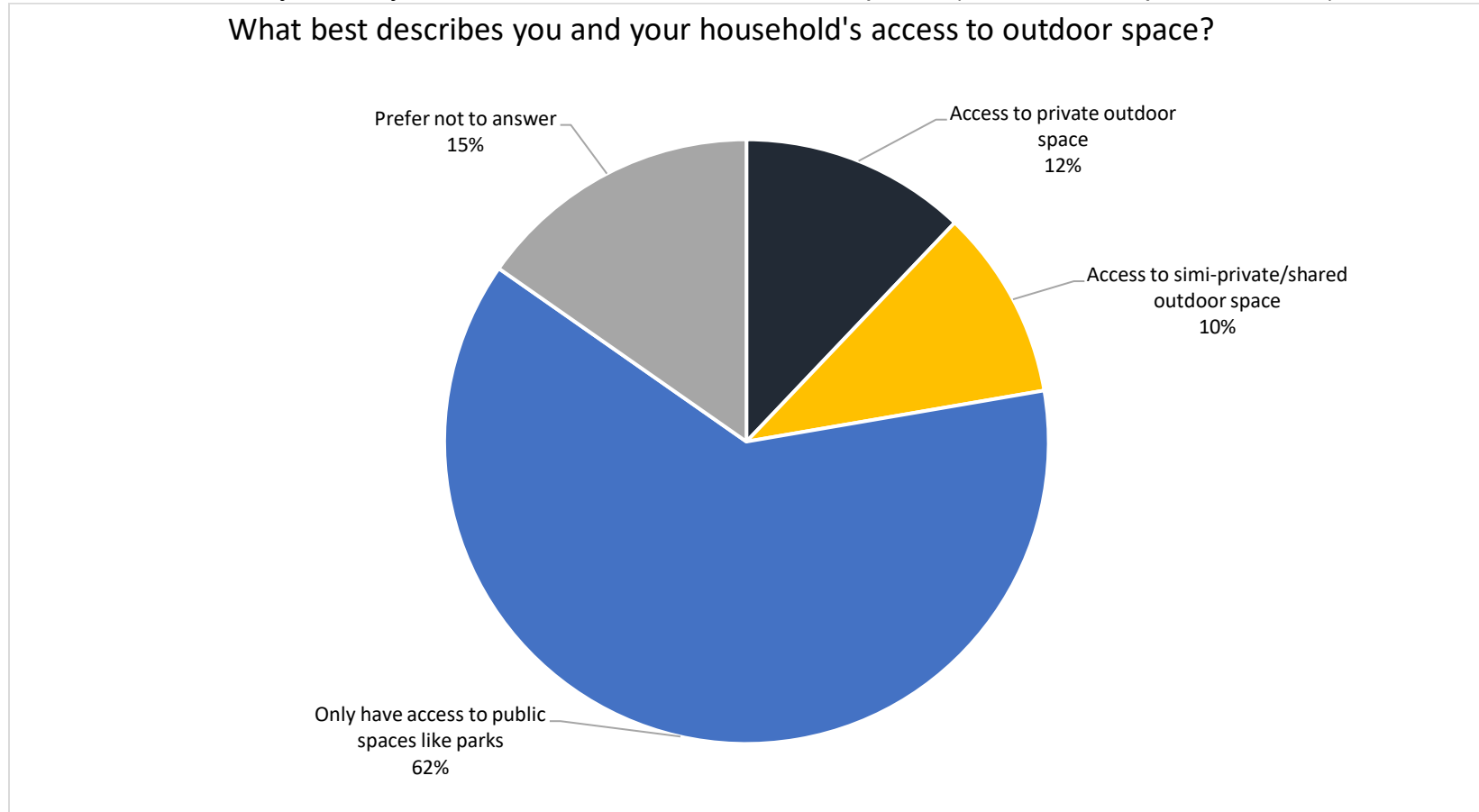
9. Disability is understood as any physical, mental developmental, cognitive, learning, communication, sight, hearing or functional limitation that, in interaction with a barrier, hinders a person's full and equal participation in society. A disability can be permanent, temporary or episodic, and visible or invisible. Does anyone participating in this survey identify as a person with a disability? (Number of respondents: 162).



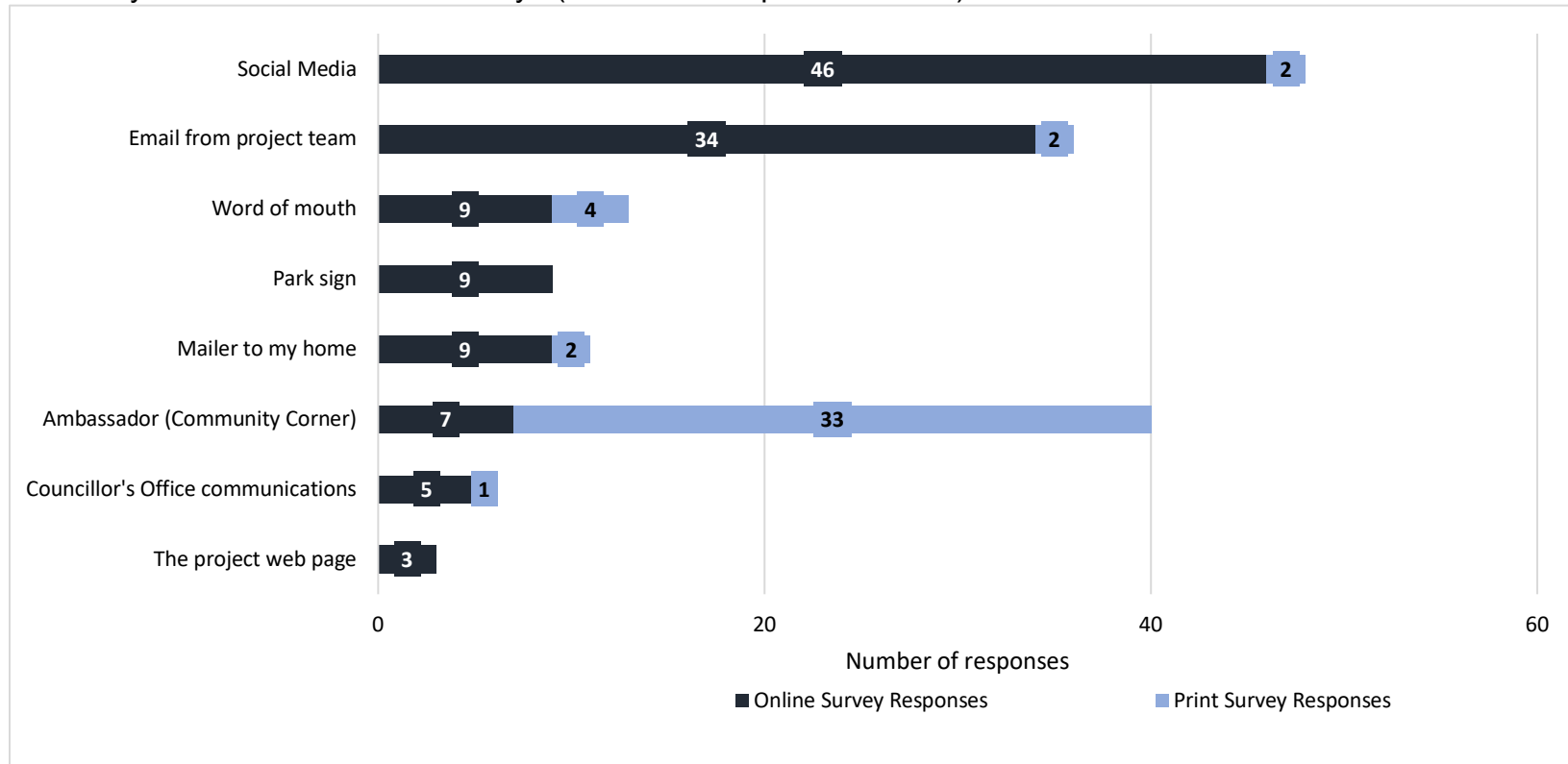
10. What best describes your current housing situation? (Number of respondents: 162).



11. What best describes you and your household's access to outdoor space? (Number of respondents: 162).



12. How did you find out about this survey? (Number of respondents: 162).



Appendix B

Indigenous Community Sharing Meeting #3

Record

The following summary was prepared by prepared by Leah Horzempa, Sister Circle Consulting.

Participants

- Chi Taakwe Peggy Pitawanakwat
- Maaigan Kwe
- Jeremie Caribou
- Waabshkaa-mkwa
- Shirley Debassige – TYRMC President

City of Toronto Staff

- Laurel Christie, Senior Landscape Architect, Project Coordinator
- Rajesh Sankat, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator
- Emily Wright, Indigenous Youth Research Associate, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration

Consultants

- Alexander Furneaux, LURA Consulting
- Elnaz Sanati, Landscape Architect, DTAH
- Rebecca Baird, Artist
- Leah Horzempa, Sister Circle Consulting
- Olivia Horzempa, Sister Circle Consulting

Discussion Record

Leah welcomed participants as they joined the call and informed the group that they were stepping in for Bob Goulais as he was temporarily unavailable due to an unforeseen illness. She explained that Bob would be updated on everything that was said once he recovered.

Leah introduced themselves and shared that they were speaking from the southern shores of Georgian Bay, on Anishinaabeg and Wendat land. They explained that they typically play a behind-the-scenes role as the notetaker, but tonight would be stepping in to facilitate. Leah requested that participants “humbly accept them into this role and guide them as needed.” Leah explained that Olivia had stepped in to take the notes this evening and is very committed to capturing everyone’s contributions accurately and as closely as possible.

Leah explained that to their knowledge, this was the final Indigenous engagement session, and that Laurel would provide insights into next steps and how participants could continue to be involved at the end of the session. Leah passed it over to Peggy for a grounding invocation.

Peggy offered words of invocation and thanksgiving on behalf of the participants.

Waabshkaa-mkwa asked if they could add to Peggy's words, to acknowledge "the violence [towards] people who are evicted from Lamport Stadium, and shame on the City. I don't think they need to [undertake] that much **violence to evict people from a park**... my heart goes out to those people who stood up for those unhoused people, and I just pray that speedy, happy healing recovery for those who were attacked. Peggy and Leah said chi-miigwetch to Waabshkaa-mkwa for this addition.

Leah then turned to Laurel who said, "... I'd like to welcome everyone on behalf of the project team. It's great to have some of you back, and some new faces... This is the third and final round of engagement, [which] we are starting off tonight. We hope through the refined design we present here tonight you feel like you've been heard and can see evidence of the ideas that have been discussed previously. We look forward to hearing any further feedback you may have to ensure that park design can improve even further. Miigwetch." Laurel then provided a land acknowledgement on behalf of the city.

Leah covered "some general housekeeping items" including the purpose of gathering the gathering to "continue this ongoing dialogue about placekeeping for the St. James Town West Park." Leah shared that there are "quite a few objectives of this meeting tonight. One of course, as Laurel mentioned it to give you [the participants] an update on the design of the park, 2) to share with you how the city and the design team are making use of all of the ideas and input you've already so graciously and generously shared, and we will also... 3) answer any questions you may have... and 4) engage in another dialogue and listen to all of the ideas that you have to improve the park. Specifically... Bob is wanting to know what elements of the design appeal to you, speak to you, what seems to be working well? And then at the same time, what elements of the design need adjustment, what's needing to be revised or shifted or changed?"

Leah invited everyone to introduce themselves, starting with the city staff and moving onto the participants.

Over the chat, Waabshkaa-mkwa requested "...a record of all the minutes - retroactively. Miigwech."

Leah asked the participants to decide whether they wanted to hold questions until the end of the presentation or ask them throughout. The majority of the participants were either indifferent or preferred questions after the presentation was complete. Leah reminded folks how to use the chat and raise-hand features on Zoom.

During their introduction, Waabshkaa-mkwa said “for the record there isn’t a lot of community here... since you’re proposing that this be the last [meeting]... In Anishinaabe culture, sacred numbers are seven and four... get another community meeting and have a fourth and final meeting. I think it would be a good idea to have one more final meeting, the **fourth meeting**. I think it’s very important to have one more meeting.” Leah thanked Waabshkaa-mkwa for the suggestion and confirmed that the record would reflect his suggestion.

Leah then invited Elnaz to begin the **presentation**:

Elnaz showed a map of the park location, bound by Howard St., Bleeker St., and Sherbourne St. by a Medallion development, “and the park is going through this redesign exercise as part of the redevelopment of this condo.”

Alex then discussed the design and consultation process for the park redesign using a flow chart. Alex said “this is the third round of engagement that we are doing on the park design. We have had two so far earlier this year, which included online questionnaires, meetings of this group, meetings with a youth resource group... community design workshops, and some meetings in schools... [We are] doing a lot of those methods of reaching out to community going forward in this upcoming round... Tonight is our Indigenous sharing meeting. We have two [upcoming] workshops planned [that you’re invited to attend] ... and two park pop-ups [to follow] and an online questionnaire. And this is all happening in advance of a detailed design and contract which will happen later this year towards early next year, with the hope of tendering the construction of the park in 2023.”

Alex then summarized the engagement work that was a part of this round of engagement and shared a visual to give “a sense of how many people we spoke with, [through] lots of engagement at public meetings and through the online survey and interactions with social media to get the word out. The City is also working with some community ambassadors who are residents who speak various different languages that are common of the very diverse populations that live in St. James Town. They are helping to get the word out through their networks as well as help people [for whom] English is not their first language to... understand the designs and get their feedback as well.”

Alex then provided a summary of the “key messages that we heard from the last round of engagement,” including:

- “Striking a balance between those paved and green spaces to meet community needs especially in a very dense neighborhood of the city;”
- “Greenspace is really valuable and important to be able to connect with nature and increasing [the] amount of trees and vegetation;”
- “Providing a variety of seating opportunities so that people can sit by themselves [or] groups;”

- “Improving lighting in the park so that people can spend time in the space after dark and feel safe;”
- “Introducing colour through the park through furniture and plantings;”
- “Seamlessly integrating Indigenous placekeeping into the overall design rather than standalone... having it be meaningfully woven [throughout] the park;”
- “[Prioritizing] the paths that people travel most often;” and
- “Play structures for children.”

Alex then shared that “in the survey people responded positively to the designs.... can see how many people agreed with the way the design elements were articulated... and can see that overall people really liked the green refuge idea. That was the design that had lots of green and open spaces... Also found that the way in which a lot of the individual design elements were shown... in option 2 [were] preferred slightly more than how they were articulated... so what you’ll see this evening is a blend of option 1 and 2.”

Elnaz then shared the “preferred design option... integrat[ing] elements of option 1 & 2 that were presented to you previously.” Elnaz said, “the planting scheme comes from green refuge option, it’s about creating a green buffer around the edges of the park. And the pathways come from option 2 which put more emphasis on the diagonal paths, the most travelled pathways throughout the park.”

Starting from the corner of Bleeker and Howard, “as you enter the site” you will find:

- “Tile art [#16 on the map] ... this is the area that is... the only section that is off slab [of the parking garage] ... so there is an opportunity to save existing trees but also there is the soil volume [needed] to plant more trees. So, planting a lot of trees in this area. There is seating on both sides of the pathway. The configuration... is something we’re working [on] with Rebecca in [the] detailed design, and the red hawk sculpture is also located in this corner;”
- “The playground, which is now a more organized playground with play structures, has lots of seating options for parents and caregivers;”
- “A medicine garden [#6] ... we will be looking into partnership to maintain and oversee the medicine garden;”
- “Another tile art as you reach the centre of the park;”
- “The big open lawn... that was presented in the green refuge is now located off the most travelled pathway, so the grass will not get trampled on, and it will lead to the neighbourhood plaza on Bleeker St. This will be the place that you will meet your friend in the park, and there is also a small stage that can be used as seating on a normal day and for small events [such as a] performance and people can sit on the lawn;”
- “Around the lawn there is seating... lots of seating;”
- “The area closer to the Sherbourne edge, is another plaza with a different configuration of seating... close to the condominium... but also closer to the

subway station. It is a place for both the passerby and neighbours to sit and relax and this is also a location that is off [the] slab so there is also an opportunity to plant a lot of trees... [to make it] a more comfortable space;"

- "#10 is the place where you can skateboard. It is something we've heard from the youth in the community. So, it is not a skateboarding park but [has] elements you can skateboard on;"
- "#5 is a landform with seating on both [edges] that would create a little bit of buffer and also a landmark as you enter the park from Sherbourne St.;" and
- "The blue that you see throughout the park is pavement art that Rebecca will speak about."

Rebecca then said:

- "I was trying to listen to the idea of the importance of water, also the importance of the spirit hawk – asaamaa, tobacco... We can colour the pavement so it looks like water flowing through and can even work on the design of the playground... thinking of more circles. Even that playground [can] have more flowing area. This is #14... that's where we were thinking of putting the spirit hawk... with the teachings of the hawk, tobacco and the moon, and then it's on a birch tree... so there are many things that can involve teachings, like the canoe, and the importance of birch bark as a medicine..."
- "On Bleeker street, we talked about the red hawk, and I thought about the medicines again. I'm thinking of maybe having this hawk in the nest to talk about the next generations. There would be poles to talk about the four directions, the four medicines... with details [that have] beautiful designs that relate to the directions or any stories that are really important... those can be engraved. These are all just ideas that are still evolving and so I'm really looking forward to what you think, and I've got a copper... the nest will be made out of copper. We just have to figure out that the water can go through, there's lot of things to work out with the city in terms of safety..."
- "I thought we could have the turtle to talk about Turtle Island teachings. We meant to have in the centre... but we are still working out to work this tile because there's snow removal... and so having these big snow shovels, we have to think about something we can use to have this imagery throughout the park... And then that's the circular that Elnaz meant on the three different areas, but we could put four... we just have to work out where those would go. But these are just some initial ideas."
- "You can see how the flowing of the pavement would look... and the kind of colours you can get in cement these days."
- "And we were thinking of benches to tell stories. There is beadwork on this one... you can see there's a feather, the wampum belt, plants... the tricky thing that we are still trying to work out is that we can't really paint on these slats as some might be taken off... it just happens throughout time. So, then we'd always have to continue to replace [them]... so thinking of another idea where possibly it could

be made out of cement and put images in there... and that would be much easier... someone might graffiti it, and then they'll come in with a really heavy power washer and that could take the paint off. So just trying to work out these ideas... I also thought of bench in the corner of Bleeker and Howard, a circular bench... because that's on real ground and there's some big trees and possibly a little fire pit where people could have ceremonies. There's some big trees in behind but I don't ever think there would be enough wood in that fire pit to cause sparks to go up..." and

- "There's a medicine garden and we're still thinking about the Grandfather garden too.'

Elnaz then spoke to the design renderings:

- "These are the existing large trees on site that I mentioned;"
- "Playground structures are natural wood, and there is a lot of seating opportunity, and we will be working with Rebecca in developing a playground pattern for the surface that actually works with the theme of water in the park."
- "This is a night view from the corner of the urban plaza at Sherbourne. Previously we had catenary lights. We know that lighting is really important in the park and the idea of having catenary lights was to add that extra ambient light... but we heard from the community that there is a huge pigeon problem... and may not be the best option. So, we also spoke to Rebecca and we think some kind of projection lighting... something that can add that extra lighting but also an opportunity to have different patterns and something... that animates the ground floor."
- "This is a winter view looking towards the neighbourhood plaza at Bleeker St. and you can see the benches all around the open lawn... there is an opportunity for all sorts of winter activities to happen inside the open lawn... it doesn't have to get plowed."
- "In terms of tree planting, we will be looking at planting native trees that are urban tolerant... with graceful mature form, and lots of seasonal interest... for understories, medicinal plants [with many] colours and textures and seasonality. Landforms... some for tree planting, but also open lawns for people to gather...;"
- "Playground elements... natural play equipment suitable for junior and senior play, and all play structures will be multipurpose... also inclusive so all kids can access... Looking for a swing, always fun, natural joy, balance and coordination and spatial awareness. Something that kids would love, the spinner plate [for] hand-eye coordination and motor skills [for] the smaller kids... And obstacle courses for older children which are climbing... and improves rhythm and movement. Another... is a theatre and music school which encourages creative play... The play surface [is] made of rubber, so it has the highest degree of accessibility, and easy to clean and maintain and provides opportunity to integrate a fun themed graphic into the surface."
- "Unit pavers, we will be looking at modular unit pavers that are thicker so there is a high resistance to freeze/thaw cycles;"

- “There’s a lot of seating... in different configurations... with armrests and back. We know there is a huge senior community... so comfort is very important.”
- “Skateboard[ing]... a few precedents of what a wooden skateboard element could look like... something where kids... or if you want to learn to skateboard this would be a good place to start;” and
- “Lighting, here are some precedents and ideas for projection lighting, so you can have different patterns and themes project onto the ground surface.”

Elnaz ended the presentation and passed it back to Leah.

Leah said “I think that’s everything that the team wanted to share... [and asked participants] what do you like? What do you think could be refined or improved? And of course, is this reflective of what you have been saying as you’ve been attending these meetings and giving feedback. Is this starting to represent your vision?” Leah opened it to the participants, at which point Shirley introduced herself and said, “the presentation looked great. I like the paintings and the flowers on the benches and walkways. It looks like it is turning out to be a nice park.”

Emily then asked, “this question was for Rebecca... regarding any consultation for your art pieces... have you proposed any of these ideas to the Mississaugas of the Credit? And if so, what kind of feedback have you received?” Rebecca said, “I was hoping Jai and Val would be at this meeting... they haven’t seen these drawings. I was really looking forward to their opinions.” Emily replied, “I recently had a meeting with someone from the Mississaugas and one of the feedback that I had received from them was that a lot of Indigenous artists that are being commissioned in the city right now to do the work are only doing generalized artwork to not really encompass the true history or nature of the Mississaugas or any reflection of their heritage or history specifically so I was just curious to see if that was an opportunity that you had yet.” Rebecca said, “of course and I know the Mississaugas of the Credit, I’ve been working with them since about 2000. I did a mural with Phil Cote, and I’ve done lots of projects with them over the years... it is unfortunate that Jai and [Val] weren’t here tonight.” Leah said, “we’ll have to get you reconnected to them!”

Maaigan Kwe said, “I actually really, really love the design and the sculpture idea, it is looking to be what we all were discussing. Maybe with the **benches**, if they are going to be that arch shape, the colour **changing lights could make it look like fire**... like the ones that are in Yorkville. I’m not sure if you’ve seen those along Bloor St. but they actually change colours, about three different colours. Or maybe you could make it four for the **four sacred colours** somehow? ... But everything else I’m in, I really, really love it.”

Waabshkaa-mkwa said, “...I really don’t know where to start. Can I say, I like the conversation we had last meeting. And the last meeting we had was about **circles** and everything [so] I don’t see any of that discussion represented on this particular preferred design area... the design hasn’t changed from what was said last time... I took it upon

myself to take the comments that we had last meeting... talked about #1 on this particular design that I have, you'll see my representation of a turtle instead, and there was talk about having the circle in that area instead of those straight lines... and the outside of that turtle is actually a **racetrack** or a place where people can skate, bike, little kids can drive their bike, people can do their skateboarding... I'm going to add some pictures to show you what that could look like... mentioned this park in our last meeting to see what the potential is..." Waabshkaa-mkwa shared an image of what this idea could look like, showing people on skates and bikes with a mound in the centre, and said "I call this Turtle Island, Cycle of Life... It's just great to sit in that park and watch the community come out and enjoy that space." Waabshkaa-mkwa shared another image, and said "...what's interesting about the people that are here is it is all people of colour... not a lot of [non-indigenous] people in the park, it was all basically people in that neighbourhood... it was fun, peaceful... So again, about our conversation, I believe this is what we talked about at our last meeting... you'll see the **turtle was the basic shape**... at the outside of that turtle, I think it's called #12, that's the linear benches that could be painted in the **four colours**... all those four benches come out to represent the turtle's legs and you'll see the turtle's head at the top there... If you see the park now the parents are running after those kids... if it was a circle they could bike around and I think it would be a lot safer and a lot more community oriented... this is what the ideas were that we put forward at our last meeting and again I don't those in this preferred design, I don't see any changes at all. And you'll notice my particular drawings I put community design options... this is what our Indigenous community had said... I don't believe, speaking for myself, **I never got a copy of that online survey** so I couldn't contribute to [the statistics] you put forward just now... I bet you... the other Anishinaabe people that were involved in these meetings, one and two... their comments weren't recorded in that survey... so how true and accurate are those comments in terms of community input? Maybe there is some other community inputs, but our community input isn't there... any input we put forward hasn't been adopted in the drawings yet. One of the other things that I put forward... some plantings, I was suggesting the **cedar trees, the jack pine, the birch trees, the red willow, the saskatoon berries, and the gooseberries**... what I'm proposing is we add that into #6 on the drawing. It's in the same place, only thing I'm adding is '**medicine and language arts garden**.' So, we can take our language and put it into the plantings that are there... One other suggestion I'm putting forward is in that medicine and language arts garden we could have [the language bird] represented.... I've heard people talking about the four colours, you have the red tail hawk, the white hawk, and here you have the **yellow bird, the language bird**. I think it would be a fantastic addition to that medicine and language arts garden, I think it would be a great opportunity. #3 I think would be cool... you see in the pictures where people were skating... in the centre we could have some kind of mound so they could sit back and watch people and their children skating and enjoying and going around the park. #5 is my terrible effort at drawing... a **dry riverbed rock garden** for the ancestors.... I use the word mound... but a fill or form, with a nice dry rock garden with plantings... a place

you can sit... on some bigger rocks. You can see my X's there also... those X's are actually #13 on the scale there... this is [a] picture of what they used at College Park... it is lit at the top, so the birds can land on it, and it's got LED lighting on the bottom. I do like your image lighting idea also, but there are only seven standards in that parks... and [I] think it's adequately lit... think this is a good option..." Waabshkaa-Mkwa continued to say, "I'm just thankful that I'm allowed to bring my ideas forward and allowed to bring them forward in a way that represents the last discussion that we had when there was more Anishinaabe community... and they're not here today unfortunately. One of the members I go back to is the one from the Métis Nation who talked about not having a skateboard park... but I think there's an option to have skateboard[ing] there [and College Park] has done this well... and it's an amazing thing to sit and watch. The urban plaza I left the same... and then #9... in our last discussion we talked a lot about the children... those 751 [children]... we talked about honouring those kids, [and] because of the climate breakdown that's occurring now, [and] how much heat there is, [and] how much [better] it would be to fit in the theme of water [by] actually put[ting] water in that playground area for those kids... Some of the water ideas... put in a place where you don't have issues with water... so the children's park area is at the corner of Howard and Bleeker... that whole corner designated a child's area. I think if we really want to talk about the child's spirit, we need to honour them... not give them a small little piece or sliver of land... make it a bigger place for them to enjoy... You'll see my crude teepee structure... talked about making an **educational activity playground**... something that was really looked favourably upon in our last meeting and in our talk from our last Elder who gave the prayer to put an **orange heart** in that area as well... you'll see my crude drawings of the water towers... you'll see the orange heart... my crude totem pole... my teepee, and my crude wigwam that kids could climb on... Those are the ideas that were presented in our last meeting, and I don't see those represented in the drawings that were put forward here today. One of the other things I want to go forward on... is right across from that children's area at Bleeker and Howard..." Waabshkaa-mkwa shared an image of "#10, [which] is actually a **road safety barrier**... we have this on Church, Gloucester and Yonge, they have a really high-tech kids park in between two great big, huge condos. So, what they've done is they've protruded out into that street to make it safer... and made two lanes into one..." Waabshkaa-mkwa shared another image, "see they expanded the highway into the road, and instead of two lanes there's one lane... [which] slows down the traffic. Because I live, work and play in this area... the traffic coming from the towers that are going up... one across the street... and one at Parliament and Bloor, so all that traffic is going to come along that one way street Howard... there are road bumps there but they speed and you're going to get kids coming from across the street... from the other side of Howard... there's going to be twice as many kids, and [they] are going to want to play there. So, we need to think about \ getting those kids safely across... outside the safety barrier there is bike areas as well... You've seen my suggestions for the **water spray**... and my suggestions for the benches that go all around the turtle there... took that skateboard area and made that a landmass... because that's what it is now and there's

some great plantings there... I included the white hawk structure, #14 down at the entrance, and the red tail hawk down at the opposite corner, #15... The tile artwork is the same way... the pavement artwork... [and] on the benches is the same... You'll see the two garage exits, #19... and I attached lighting to both... and the drinking fountains also there... Again, the planting options... the **cedar, jack pine, the birch, the silver birch... the red willows, the saskatoon berries...** talk about medicines... the **gooseberries** are great. A place to find those sacred medicines, the **tobacco, the cedar, the sage, the sweetgrass...** I thought I took the ideas that we mentioned in our last meeting, which there was a good representation of First Nations people there, Anishinaabe people, the last suggestion we put forward was **Mno Mshkiki Park**, good medicine park... So where are all those ideas in the drawings in what was presented today? I'd really like to be able to be one of the community members who has the opportunity to include my voice in the online survey... and I believe that the other people who were involved in the meetings also haven't had that opportunity. So, I hope you hear what I'm saying in a good way, in a way that honours the previous voices of the last two meetings, in a way that honours the designs that have been put forward in the previous... in a way that honours all of the people in the meeting right now... I'd like the opportunity **to email this preferred consideration** to Bob, to the design team, to Rebecca. I'd like it included in the minutes... I would just like my voice represented because this is actually the second time, I'm saying this... this is the second time I'm putting on the table that we took the time out of our busy days to put our ideas and suggestions forward and this is the second time they're not represented in the drawings... I know I'm supposed to start off with what appeals to me, this is what appeals to me because it represents what was said in meeting 1 and meeting 2 by the Anishinaabe community. I'm just waiting to have those suggestions incorporated into a preferred design option. I would really like to say, I'm holding my Ancestors in my hand right now, I really believe we need a **fourth meeting...** [and] **more Anishinaabe community members** here because I don't want to be the one putting my X on the design, like what happened in the treaties... and then that's what we're stuck with. I would like the opportunity given, the respect given to our community, that a fourth meeting be called, that these design suggestions be incorporated into the preferred design option. Not all the ideas, but some of them. Make us feel that our time is worthy, that we were valued in this process... I mentioned a comment last time about not feeling equal... in the last meeting, and Bob talked about hierarchy... why I said was because we the community members are the experts... you come to us for our voice... [and] ideas, we are the experts here... please listen. Thank you so much, I'm sorry for taking up so much time. I'm hoping you can hear my words in a good way. I hope the team can hear my suggestions... not only my suggestions, but the suggestions [from] the last two focus groups in a good way. I hope you take these suggestions and incorporate them in the preferred design options."

Leah thanked Waabshkaa-mkwa and celebrated all the beautiful ideas brought forward, and invited Peggy (who was now on video) or the design team to respond or reply to any of the suggestions and questions raised. Peggy said "if any of the design members

want to give a response, I'm prepared to wait until they have an opportunity to give some input and if they want to speak to something particular in the work that they did in creating those designs and the meaning... and purpose... that would be helpful for me too. I'd appreciate that... and then I can chime back in." Leah thanked Peggy and said, "we've got lots of concepts and design ideas that have been raised... that circle around the turtle with the track with the mound in the centre, we've got the medicine language garden and how that's going to be incorporated in a good way... looking at the incorporation of the language bird and maybe that colour yellow, that road safety barrier, honouring the children. Does anyone want to chime in on some of these important ideas?"

Elnaz said, "lots of great ideas. A couple of things that I was thinking that would be good to communicate, I think the planting scheme is very interesting, we haven't really selected any plants at this point... We will be hoping to work with a reputable Indigenous horticulturalist to select the planting species... that are native, and urban tolerant, that can take the salt... Another thing was water... we have looked at including water in the design. In the beginning we looked at having a water feature... or possibly [something] similar to the jets that you showed us in a picture [for] the playground... unfortunately. there is not a lot of room... the park is on top of a slab and any water feature would require a mechanical room that would take up a lot of space, so in the little area that we have it's not a lot of room to plant trees and have [that]. We know that there is going to be a park on Howard St. that is only a playground for kids that is going to have the water element... a water feature and misters for children, so I think that would provide that opportunity of water play, which we know is very important... Unfortunately, the park is very small, but a great idea... and that's where the idea of represent[ing] water... the pavement art... please do forward your plan and we will look at it again with the rest of the team." Leah encouraged the design team to put their emails into the chat to receive the drawings and images from Waabshkaa-mkwa.

Leah also asked the team if the online survey was still available for participants to fill out. Alex said, "I'm very sorry we missed the communication there on sharing that survey with the group, but there is going to be a survey that will open around the workshops that are happening next week, and that will be available for three weeks... I can send the link to Bob to make sure it gets to everyone who has attended the meeting tonight as well as anyone who has been invited in the past."

Peggy said, "there are quite a few things that have been discussed over the past few meetings, and I think they come from a place where people are consider[ing] the best outcome for a very minimal space area. I think the ideas are just tremendous and well thought out. People have put their heart into conveying what they really believe could be created for the best interest of the people that will access the space for personal wellbeing, for prayer, for building community... for all those areas of wellness we want to achieve in the space. I appreciate the enthusiasm and commitment that has come forward from everyone. It has been really great to be part of this process, as I

mentioned in the last meeting, it's been rare for us as Indigenous people within urban areas... when I'm downtown or meeting with students all over the city, I'm **looking for a place to spend [time] with students** and I can see that this is going to be one of them... a place [to] sit and visit and talk about things they need to process to help them through it, and if they have children to be able to have a place where they can enjoy the space as well and honour who they are as a child. I know there are challenges with design and limitations for space and I think that's been conveyed by designers as well... I understand that, so looking for alternatives I think is a good consideration... in the design concepts finding a way to honour that **spirit of water**, that spirit of life is so important. At the last meeting I also mentioned the **orange heart**, because that has been something that has been taken throughout Turtle Island, to honour the spirit of the children and bring that recognition forward because I think there's that obligation that we all have to ensure that that history and awareness and understanding is done in a respectful way. So that people have an opportunity to ask questions and become familiar and aware that this is part of who we are as citizens in this beautiful country that we have. And Turtle Island has always opened that friendship, peace, and prosperity, kindness for all, and I think this is what we're hoping that this space will provide as well. I think there are so many considerations to make, and I know time is of the essence as well and resources are challenging, and I have to commend Rebecca for the work she's put into this. There's so much beauty and consideration that has unfolded in that that is reflected in these design pieces, so I'm really grateful that's there. There hasn't been a lot of consultation in the past... for development and for work that has been done, so I'm very appreciative that these are put forward... and I'm looking forward to being in that space... I also mentioned in the last meeting if there was an opportunity to look at the **language** in a meaningful way... and the things that bind us to this territory and that of course is the **treaty process**, that's what opens up the opportunity, not just between nations within our Indigenous confederacies, but also opening that opportunity for immigrants and the first people who came to the territory as well to also share. I think that's really important to reflect in the space too... I think the other thing I've been thinking about... in a very limited space I've seen some designers come up with visual imagery that will pick up a certain sound, it might be a wind chime structure that brings in the **sound of water**... or certain ways that the water is captured in a rain storm, or in a subtle rain... different catchers that make different sounds, like birds singing... because of the limited space there are some things we can't create but maybe those are alternatives that could be considered..." Leah thanked Peggy and asked Jeremie if they had anything to add.

Jeremie asked, "what type of trees are the pre-existing ones?" Elnaz said, "... the largest tree is ash, but I think we have a selection of trees, unfortunately I think there are five that we will save... I don't remember [the others]." Jeremie said, "I also just wanted to know... I'm hearing a lot of language... and I've been advocating too for **language [regarding] placemaking**... [regarding] bridging cultures and creating awareness that Indigenous Peoples were here prior to colonization, with numerous vibrant cultures... hundreds, maybe even thousands of vibrant cultures. Anyways, I

think it would be good to add in some **maple trees** and some **cedar trees** and maybe some **white pine trees**, because all those trees have some significant cultural aspects to various Indigenous nations, Indigenous to this region, such as the white pine that has a cultural connection to the Haudenosaunee, and same thing with the Anishinaabe have a connection to the sugar maple tree because they have a Creation story about making maple syrup. And [regarding] language, maybe we could create some sort of **barcode** that's embedded within various parts of the park that adds in language to the park... identifying trees, plants and [their] benefits, and cultural roots to whichever nation it belongs to... really it belongs to everybody because we shared our resources within regions. Anyways, I think a barcode would be excellent in terms of adding a **learning and interactive element** to it and to create awareness about Indigenous Peoples because we're really... outsiders within our own landscapes... we are strangers and tolerated as guests. Even that Métis, new reconciliation minister person in Manitoba, he said like last week that residential schools were meant for good, which was insane... it's **important to create awareness** about Indigenous culture, identity, and our collective histories that have been formulated within these regions for thousands and thousands of years. I heard the treaty part too and the dish with one spoon. **Wampum belts** maybe could add on a learning interactive aspect to it as well, because wampum belts used to be common knowledge, east of the Mississippi... wampum belts ha[ve] philosophical elements to it, such as the string that connects each bead, each bead represents each nation, [and] which have encrypted codified laws which govern nation to nation relationships and regions, prior to and during the establishment of what is now 'Canada' but because of residential schools, that knowledge is nearly lost, [nearly but not totally] thanks to a lot of people that resisted it... that's the process that we're doing right now. Indigenous placemaking is a part of reclaiming our identity and rights. And I like that name... that's the thing about Eurocentric and Indigenous place naming... eurocentrism names it after people, which is a form of idolization which basically goes against their own cultural values, whereas Indigenous Peoples name it after the character of the landscape, even our own names are actually our character and our relationship with the landscape. So, **naming the park an Indigenous name** would be essential to bridge cultures. And also, if the app, I don't know how much funding is available, but anyways the barcode maybe they could **learn how to say 'hi'** in Anishinaabemowin or in Haudenosaunee. And that **history too**... maybe could add in some history too as well within the barcode... John Johnston from First Story has some articles that I could share with the team... that's about all I can think of." Leah thanked Jeremie and said "hearing loud and clear that this **education** is important, this is such an opportunity to bridge cultures, and bridge nations, and build communities in a more respectful way and I really want to honour that this is really an opportunity for the city to amplify Indigenous voices and presence in the spaces that we are in. Chi miigwetch."

Over the chat, Alex shared details for upcoming opportunities to further share: "The City of Toronto will be hosting public workshops on July 27 and 29 from 5:30pm to 7:00pm on Zoom, pop-up engagement events in St. James Town West Park on July 31 in the afternoon and on August 4 in the evening. An online survey asking for feedback on the

preferred concept design will be available on the City's website from July 27 to August 13. LURA will forward the survey link to Bob when it is live to be shared with everyone here today as well as everyone who is not able to be here today. To learn more about the project and upcoming engagement, please visit the City's website project website Leah shared above."

Over the chat, Jeremie said, "Oh yeah, I forgot about **honouring the buried rivers**" to which Leah replied "Miigwetch Jeremie - we will capture this important idea to honour the rivers."

Waabshkaa-mkwa said "I just wanted to chime in with my last picture of the white hawk... the parks I quoted on Gloucester and College Park are very small spaces, and they were very innovative with the space they had, they included the water, they included that turtle, they included the biking path and the arena path all the way around... very small spaces but they used their innovativeness with design to incorporate all those ideas into that place. And my last comment has to do with water... where I'm proposing the water there is no underground structure there, it's all natural ground, so there is opportunity to put the pipes in or put a small structure in for the valves or whatever you need to do. But where there's a will there's a way. Again, I'd like to challenge the designers and the city to hear what we're saying as Anishinaabe community because these ideas have been put forward in two previous meetings and this is the third meeting... so I challenge [you] to hear our voices and incorporate some of our suggestions and design."

Over the chat, Jeremie shared resources they previously mentioned:

- <https://grasac.artsci.utoronto.ca/?p=136>
- http://spacing.ca/magazine/2020/winter/https://indigenouslandstewardshipto.files.wordpress.com/2019/09/the_indigenous_environmental_history_of.pdf
- <https://www.conservationhalton.ca/park-details?park=crawford-lake>

Over the chat, Leah replied, "Miigwetch for these resources Jeremie. We will append these to the discussion record," and Jeremie said, "No worries."

Leah turned it over to Laurel for closing remarks. Laurel said, "in terms of the Howard St. traffic calming, that's a great idea. And actually, in the St. James Town Connects Report, the planning framework for the neighbourhood, there is some proposals for the whole street to be traffic calmed." Over the chat, Alex said, "This is the St. James Town Connects report: <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/planning-development/planning-studies-initiatives/st-jamestown-study/>" Laurel continued, "I don't know if there is funding for that at the moment, but it is certainly planned at some point... I'll have to look into the site plans further for the development across the street, I'm not sure if as part of that development they had something particular proposed... In terms of naming, I'm really loving these ideas... we're on hold for park naming at the moment, as you may know because of the Dundas St. renaming, all city assets are on

hold for naming at the moment. So, we are certainly listening and we'll take that back, it's just something that is on pause... perhaps by the time it's constructed, we'll have better guidance and be able to consult and consider those names as part of a renaming concept. Some updates as well about some other feedback that we heard in the past, in terms of tree removals... there was some suggestion... to reuse the wood. So, we are looking into groups such as Native Child and Family Services might want to use that as firewood, so we are going to be looking into that. Some great news, this morning we actually met with Ojibikaan... [we are] unsure at this point if they're on board yet, but it is a positive first step. If not, we can look at other groups who may be interested... some pieces we are working on may not be visible yet, but we are hearing you... In terms of next steps, we will be having the public workshops next week which you are certainly invited to. We will be having pop-ups on the 31st as well as the evening of the 4th. There is the public survey that will be launching as well.... I hear your request for the fourth meeting, let me just take that back and we can discuss that further. We certainly want to hear you and see if that makes sense and if we are able to do that. Let me get back to you on that, I can't commit to that for sure but will investigate further."

Over the chat, Waabshkaa-mkwa asked Laurel, "Is the Ward Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam going to be involved?" Laurel said, "she had attended our last public meeting and gave opening remarks and stayed for most of the meeting. [For] the public workshop next week, she is away on vacation, but her office staff will be in attendance."

Leah highlighted the dates and links that Alex put into the chat about the "remaining public engagement events that will be happening" and said "to my knowledge, it is Bob's practice to send invitations to anyone who has participated in any capacity within the engagement process, so I would anticipate if Bob is well, he will be forwarding these for you so that you can also attend..."

Waabshkaa-mkwa said, "there is also going to be a park redesigned at the foot of Glen Road which Kristyn Wong-Tam is involved in... and I'm involved with also so we're going through the same design discussions, and I guess the first part of including the Anishinaabe point of view is the tree removal, we'll be honouring the life force of those trees before they're removed and doing an acknowledgement of Mother Earth before the construction begins... that's also on the table."

Peggy said, "I will offer closing blessings asking those Grandmothers, Grandfathers, and Guardians I invited in to guide us... they can return to those places with thanksgiving from us... acknowledging all of those recommendations and input received... acknowledging our prayers for some of the important things that are happening, including the recent protests happening in the City... including prayers for the children... and for Bob's recovery as well." Peggy provided this closing prayer in Anishinaabemowin.

Appendix C

Youth Resource Group Meeting #3 Summary

The following summary was prepared by the City of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation Public Consultation team.

St. James Town West Park Redesign

Youth Resource Group Meeting 3 – Preferred Concept Design

August 5, 2021 – 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Overview

A virtual workshop was held on Zoom on Thursday, August 5th, 2021 from 4 to 5:00pm to gather feedback on the Preferred Concept Option for the redesign of St. James Town West Park. Feedback was collected through a short discussion.

There were 5 participants, including City of Toronto staff present. The following is a summary of the discussion that took place.

Attendees

City of Toronto

Rajesh Sankat, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator, PFR

YRG Members


- Meraei El Nahal, University of Toronto (Daniels's Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design)
- Alejandro Rojas-Perez, University of Toronto (Daniels's Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design)
- Yanique Stirlin, St. James Town Community Ambassadors
- Kaaviya Vasanthakumar, Wellesley Youth Council

Agenda

- Introductions and Welcome
- Project Background
- Preferred Design Option
- Group Discussion
- Next steps and adjourn

Feedback highlights



Design Discussion 

Does the preferred concept design accurately represent your vision for the future of St. James Town West Park?

Why or why not?

What elements of the concept do you like?

What elements of the concept could be refined or improved?

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Feedback on the Preferred Plan was generally positive from YRG members in attendance, most of whom thought the design reflected their past feedback and also integrated both concept design options shown in Phase 2 of consultation.

In particular, well-liked features and elements included:

- The comprehensive inclusion of Indigenous Placekeeping design and programming elements throughout the park – one YRG member commented that the additions did not feel tokenistic and instead felt captured throughout the park design
- A balance of paving/hard surface to green space
- An appreciation for renderings that took place in daytime/nighttime, as well during the winter season. Renderings for this phase of engagement helped to paint a better and more accurate picture of what the park would look like throughout the year, and also helped to illustrate the lighting.
- The size of the wooden platform to be used for community events and pop-up programming was thought to be appropriate for the size of the park

Comments and suggestions on the Preferred Concept included:

- Questions on if youth in the area would be able to participate in the stewardship of the Medicine Garden, and how that outreach would happen
- Some members inquired if community members would be able to participate in the park's beautification (e.g. murals, painting on benches) etc. post-construction
- Some members inquired if a slightly larger skateboard spot could be accommodated
- Some members inquired on electrical hook-ups in the park, to be used for community programming
- Adding natural seating options to the lawn (e.g. Natural Grass chairs)