

Oakwood-St Clair Parks Plan

Open House
November 24, 2021



Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the land we are meeting on is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit.

Community Guidelines



Use the question feature to ask questions. Or click the hand icon, beside your name from the participants list on the right to raise your hand.



The host will unmute attendees during discussion period.



One voice at a time. If you can, be direct and ask questions to specific speakers.



Computer audio issues? Use your cell-phone for audio by clicking Audio Connection, Switch Connection, then "Call Me".



Parks are for everyone! Be respectful of other community members and staff and keep an open mind.

How to Participate: Raise your hand

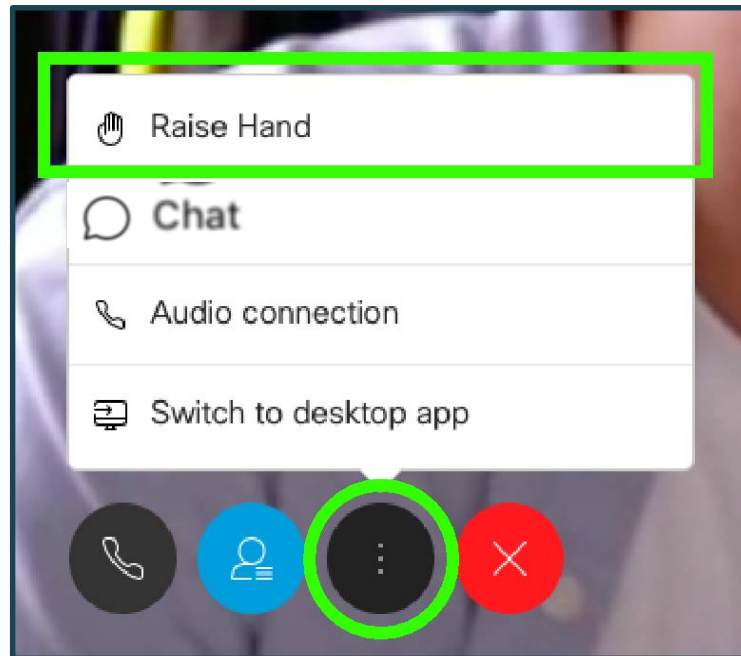
To ask a question and share feedback, you can virtually raise your hand.

IF YOU ARE
USING A
COMPUTER



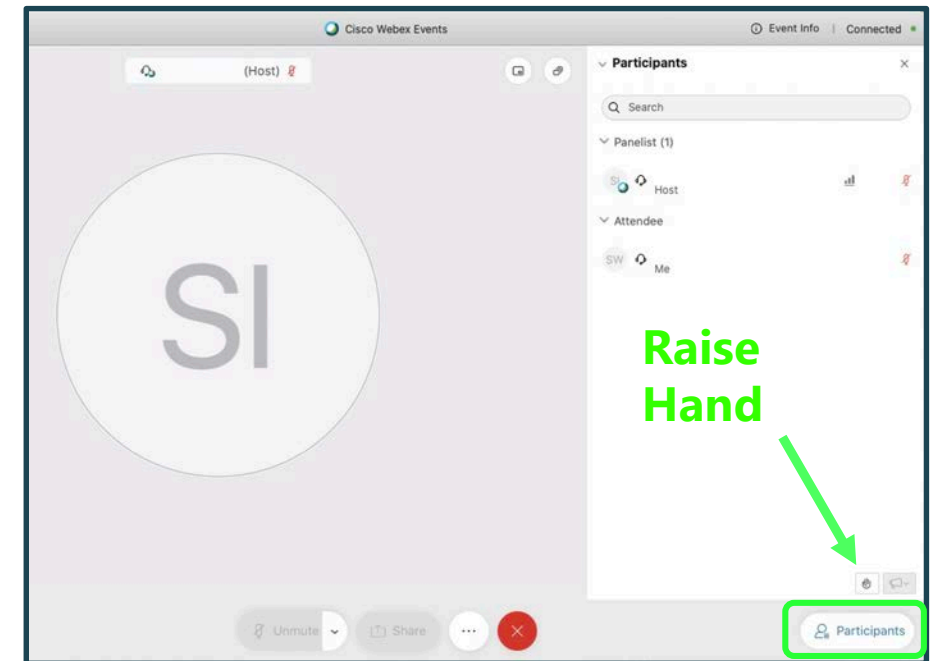
Via the internet browser

Click the "... " button at the bottom of the video window and select "Raise Hand".



Via the Webex App

Click the Participants button at the bottom of the video (the Participants panel will open to the right). Then click the "Raise Hand".



How to Participate: Raise your hand

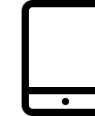
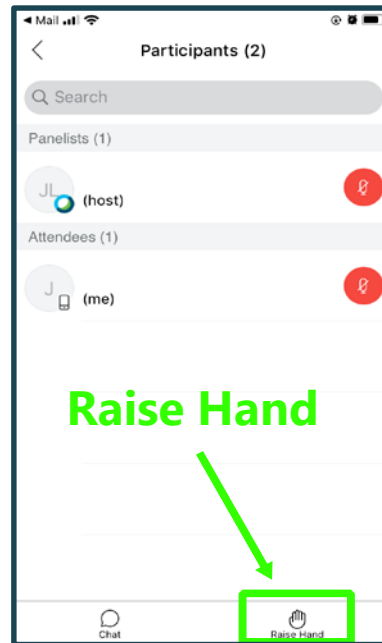
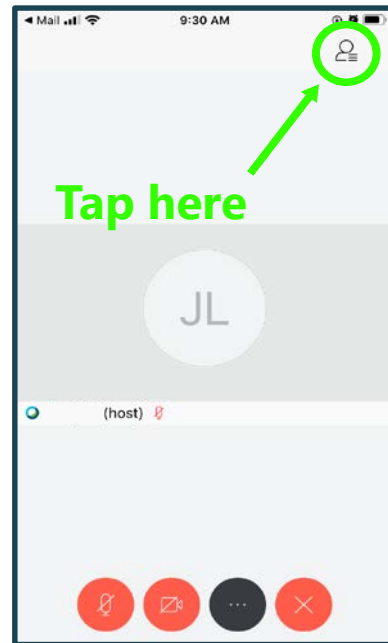
To ask a question and share feedback, you can virtually raise your hand or ask a question in the chat.

IF YOU ARE
USING A
SMARTPHONE
OR TABLET



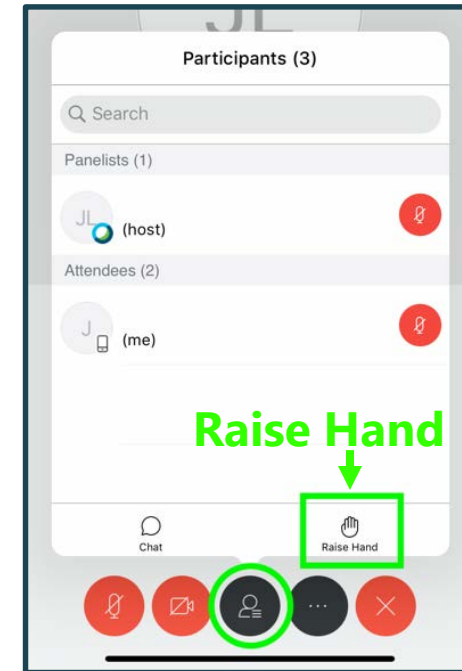
For smartphones

Click the Participants panel button at the top right corner of the screen. Then click "Raise Hand" or "Chat" at the bottom right of the screen.




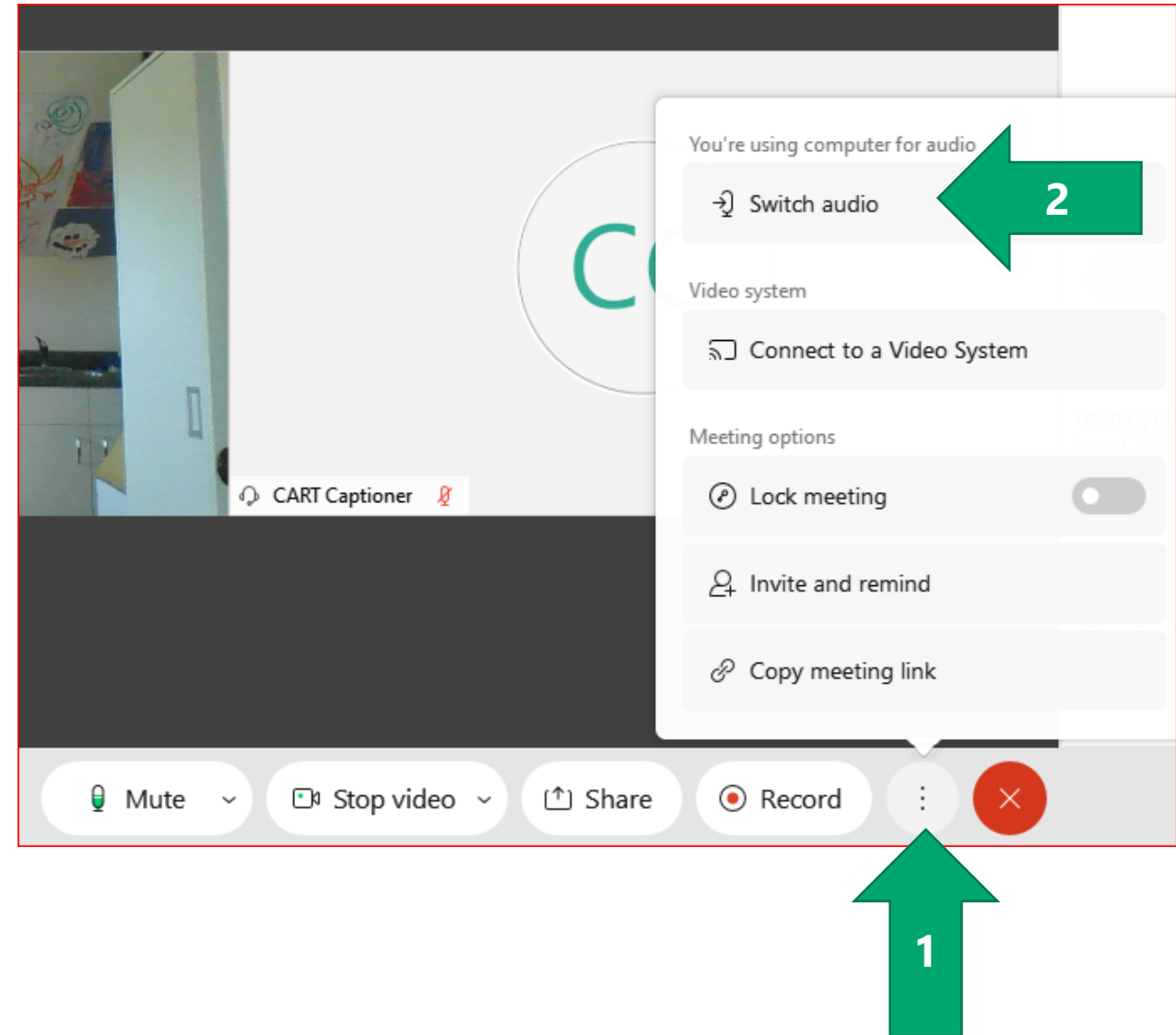
For tablets

Click the Participants panel button at the bottom of the screen. Then click the "Raise Hand" or "Chat" button at the bottom right.



Webex Audio Trouble?

1. Click the **More Options** button at the bottom of the screen 
2. Click **Switch Audio**
3. Use the **Call me at** function
 - a) Enter your phone number
 - b) Webex will call your phone (no long distance charges)



Agenda



Webex Tips, Objective & Introductions



Study Overview

Engagement Process

Findings – Key Themes

Recommendations

Implementation and Next Steps



Discussion



Adjourn

Opening Remarks

Deputy Mayor Ana Bailão

City of Toronto, Ward 9 - Davenport



Councillor Josh Matlow

City of Toronto, Ward 12 - Toronto-St. Paul's



Project Team

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Meeting Objectives



Present key findings from the study process and consultation to date that informed the development of recommendations



Share recommended actions to improve existing parks, create new parks, and improve access and connections between parks and other public spaces.

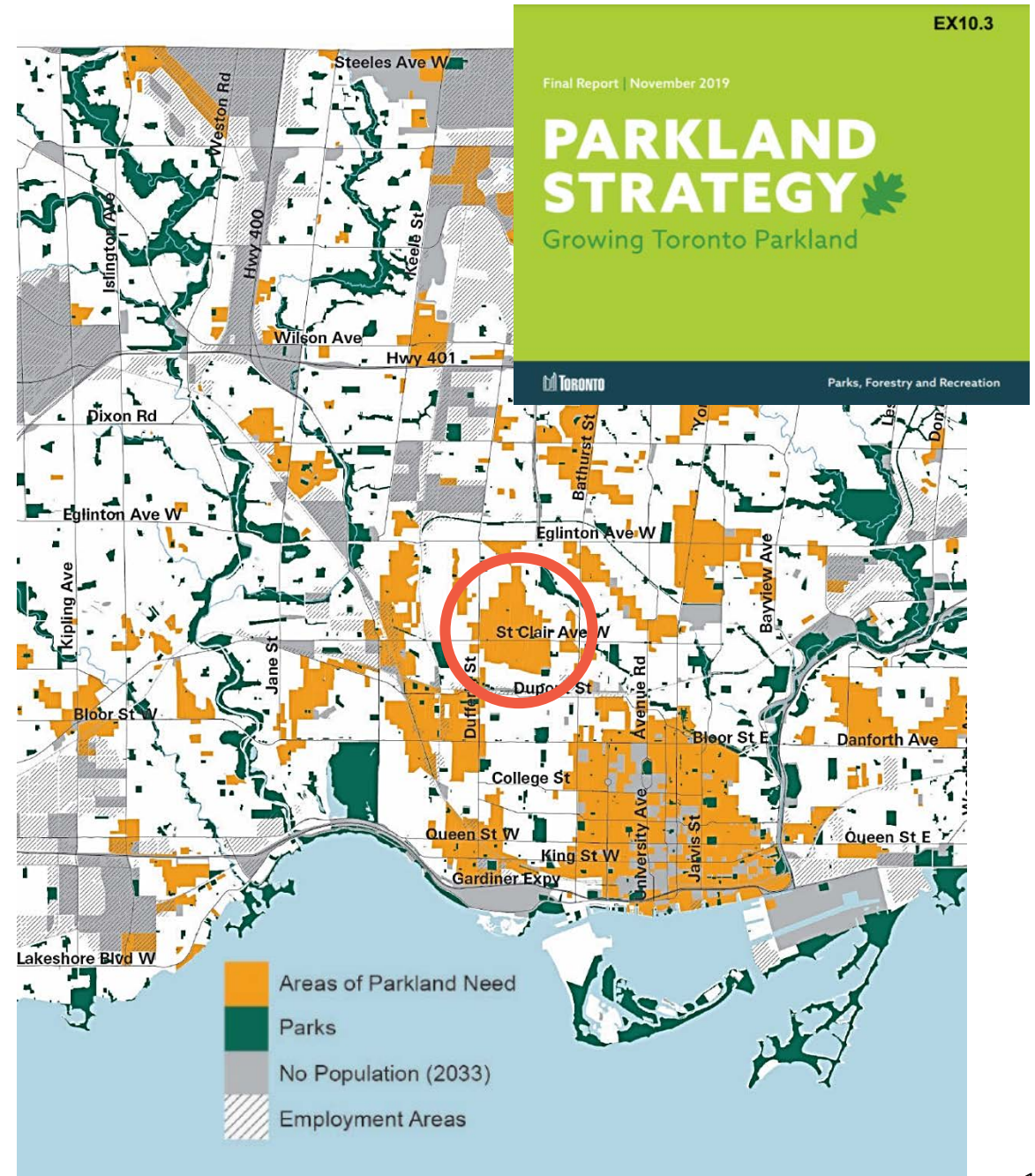


Hear your thoughts on the recommendations before finalization of the Oakwood-St. Clair Parks Plan

Study Overview

Background

- Toronto's [Parkland Strategy](#) identified an area centred on the Oakwood Avenue and St. Clair Avenue West intersection as an **"Area of Parkland Need"**.
- "Areas of Parkland Need" are high-need areas, identified based on **compounding factors** such as low park supply, low income, and high growth, where the **City will prioritize parks planning and the creation of new parks**.
- The Oakwood-St Clair area has notably **low levels of existing parkland**.
- The Oakwood-St Clair Parks Plan is one of the first of these local parks-focused plans.



Oakwood-St. Clair Parks Plan

The Plan identifies opportunities to:



Improve existing parks

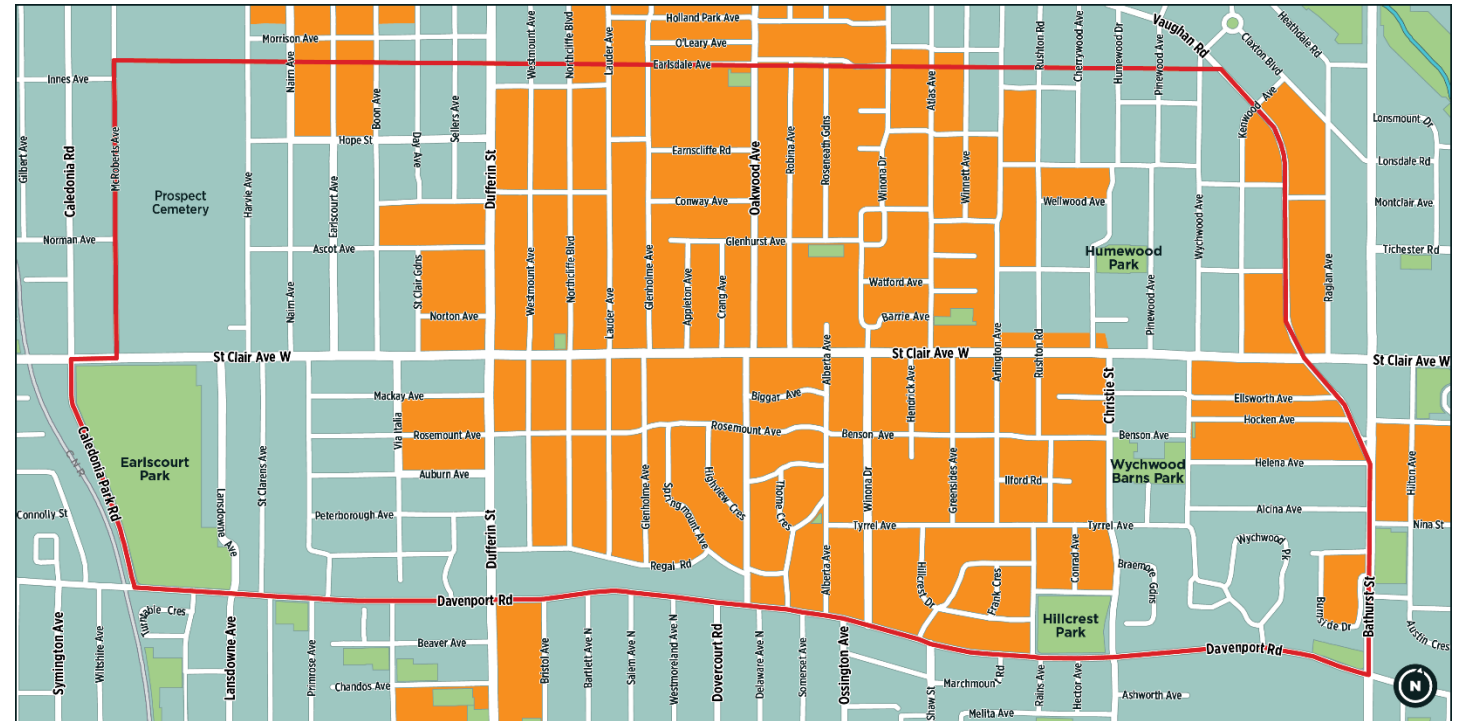
Create **new** parks



Improve **access and connections** between parks and other public spaces.



This plan will be used to inform parkland acquisition and park and open space improvement projects as well as operations **in the short term and for years to come.**



Oakwood–St Clair Parkland Study

Study area Areas of parkland need



The park system to the north is being studied as part of the concurrent Little Jamaica & the Eglinton West Neighbourhoods Study

Project Timeline



Engagement

How We Collected Feedback and Data

Community Engagement



Social Pinpoint (February 17 - March 18, 2021)



Survey (February 17 - March 18, 2021)



Classroom Talks (March 15 - March 29, 2021)



Stakeholder Workshop (April 27, 2021)



Meetings with local BIAs (October 19 – 28, 2021)

- Wychwood Heights
- Corso Italia
- Hillcrest Village
- St. Clair Gardens



Meetings with TDSB and TCDSB (March 2021)



Meeting with Corso Italia Resident's Association (April 19, 2021)

Data Sources



Parkland Strategy 2019



Parks & Recreation Facilities Master Plan



Site walks



Internal Asset Data



Tree Canopy (Urban Forestry)

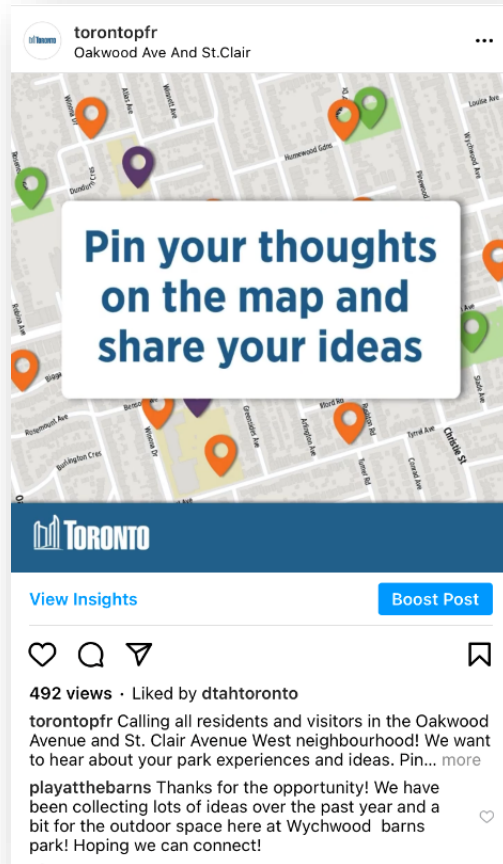


Public Health Data



StatsCan Census 2016

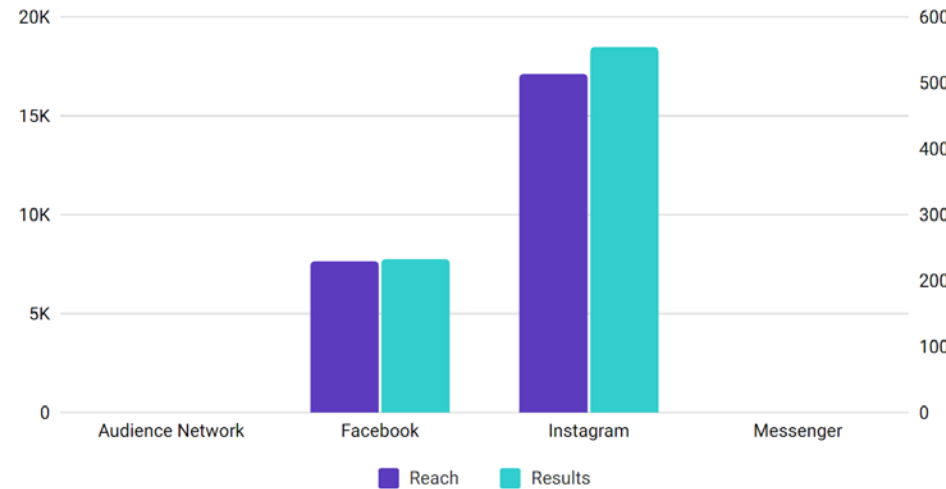
How We Promoted Web Tools



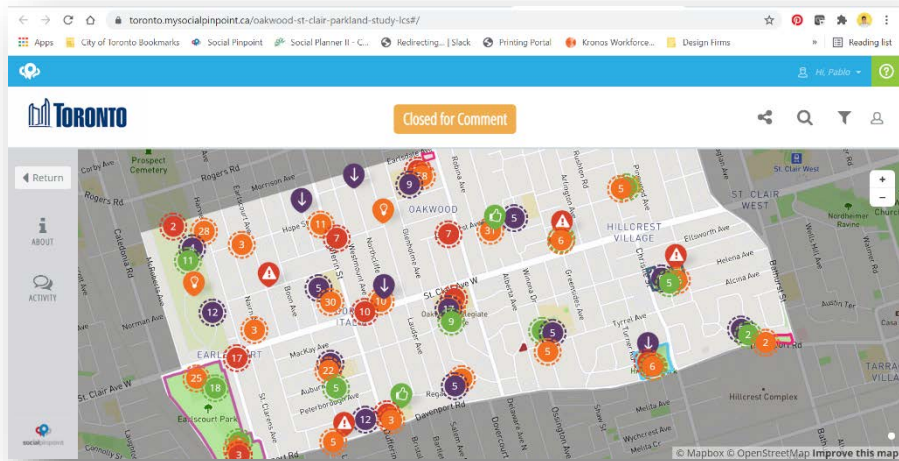
Geo-Targeted Social Media Ads

Reach: 23,463
(how many people saw the ad)

Total Link Clicks: 723

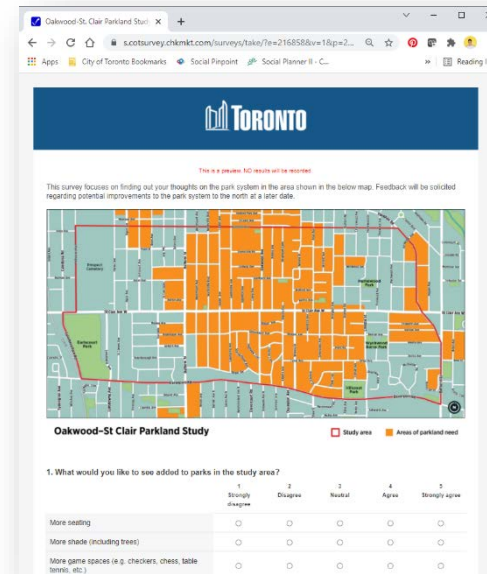


Online Engagement



Social Pinpoint

An online mapping tool was used to collect feedback, ideas and insights. The tool allowed participants to identify specific places on a map. In total, Social Pinpoint received **over 700 comments** and thousands of data points.



Survey

Survey responses were received from **1,974 people**. The survey was aimed at understanding the use of public space in the study area, barriers, and needed improvements.

Engagement Report Themes

Engagement Report

toronto.ca/OakwoodStClairStudy



Opportunities to Improve Parks and Open Spaces

Green Spaces

Recreation and Other Parks Amenities

Dog Off-Leash Areas

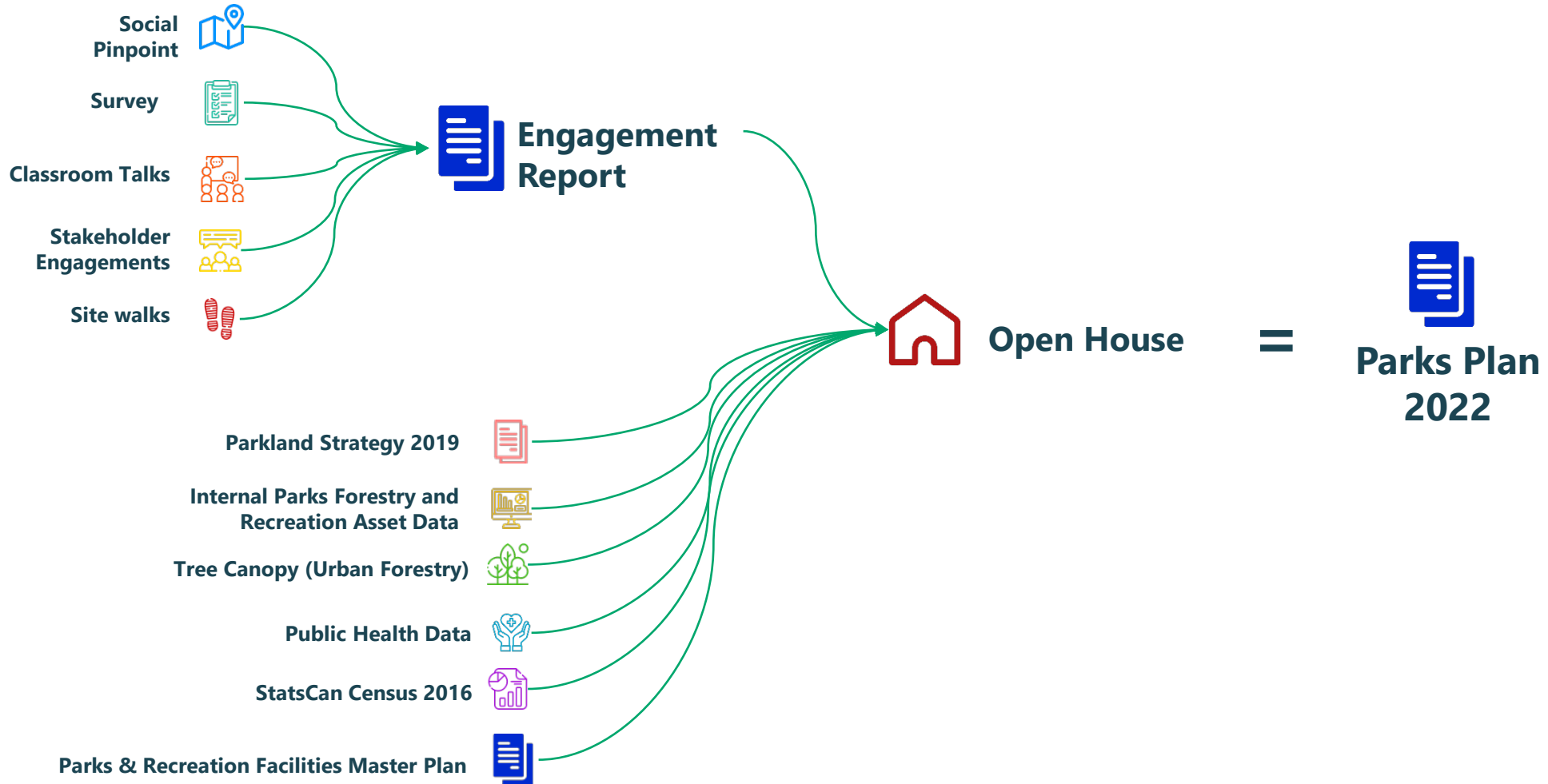
Accessible Spaces

Pedestrian-Friendly Streets

Cycling-Friendly Streets

Winter-Friendly Parks and Open Spaces

How feedback is Incorporated



Findings – Key Themes

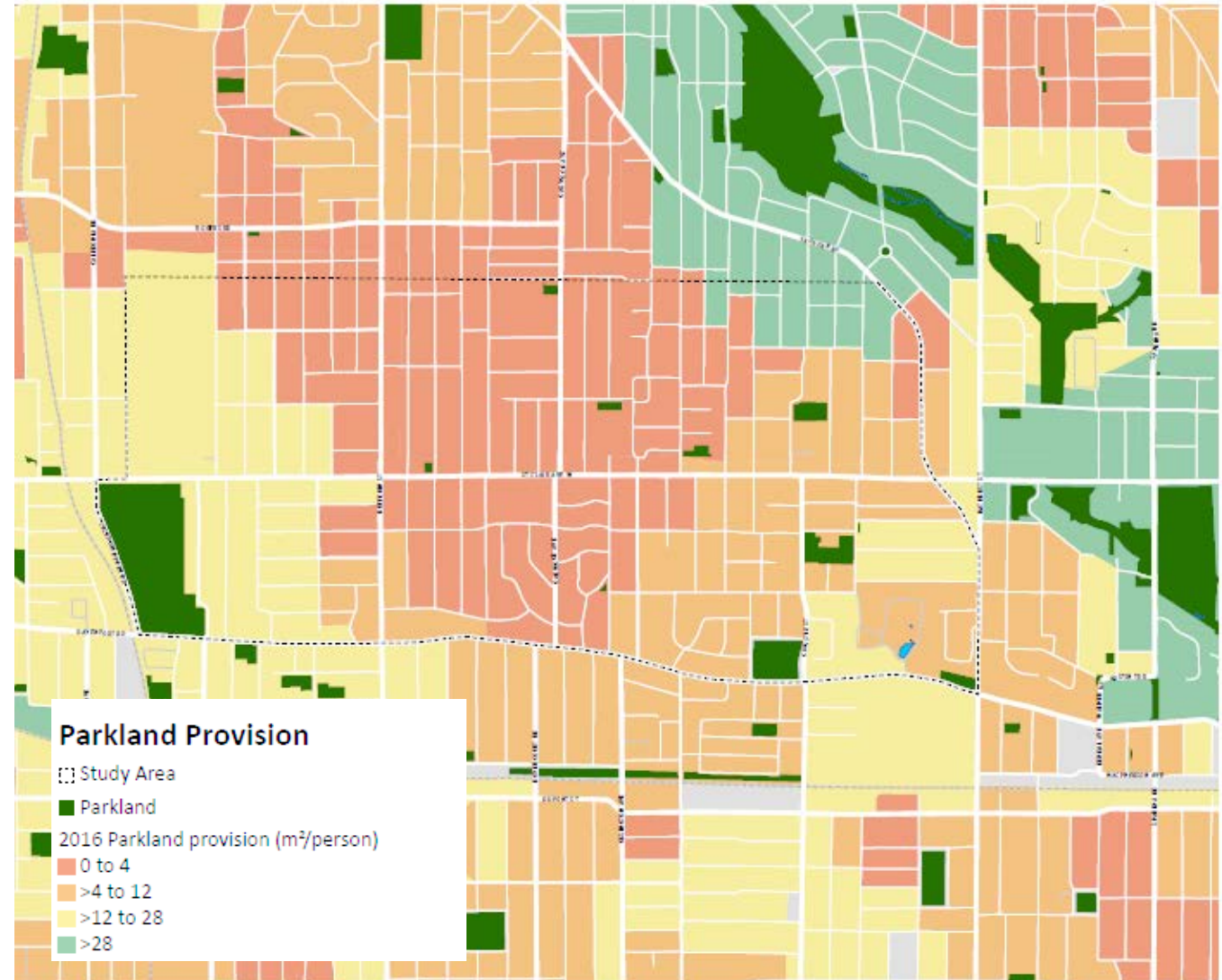
Parkland provision

There is not enough parkland serving the study area

- Local parkland provision in much of the study area is between 0 and 4 m² per person - well below the City-wide average of 28 m² of parkland per person



"We just need more greenspace in this area. Especially in the centre of the study area, where there is a real desert of community outdoor/green space."

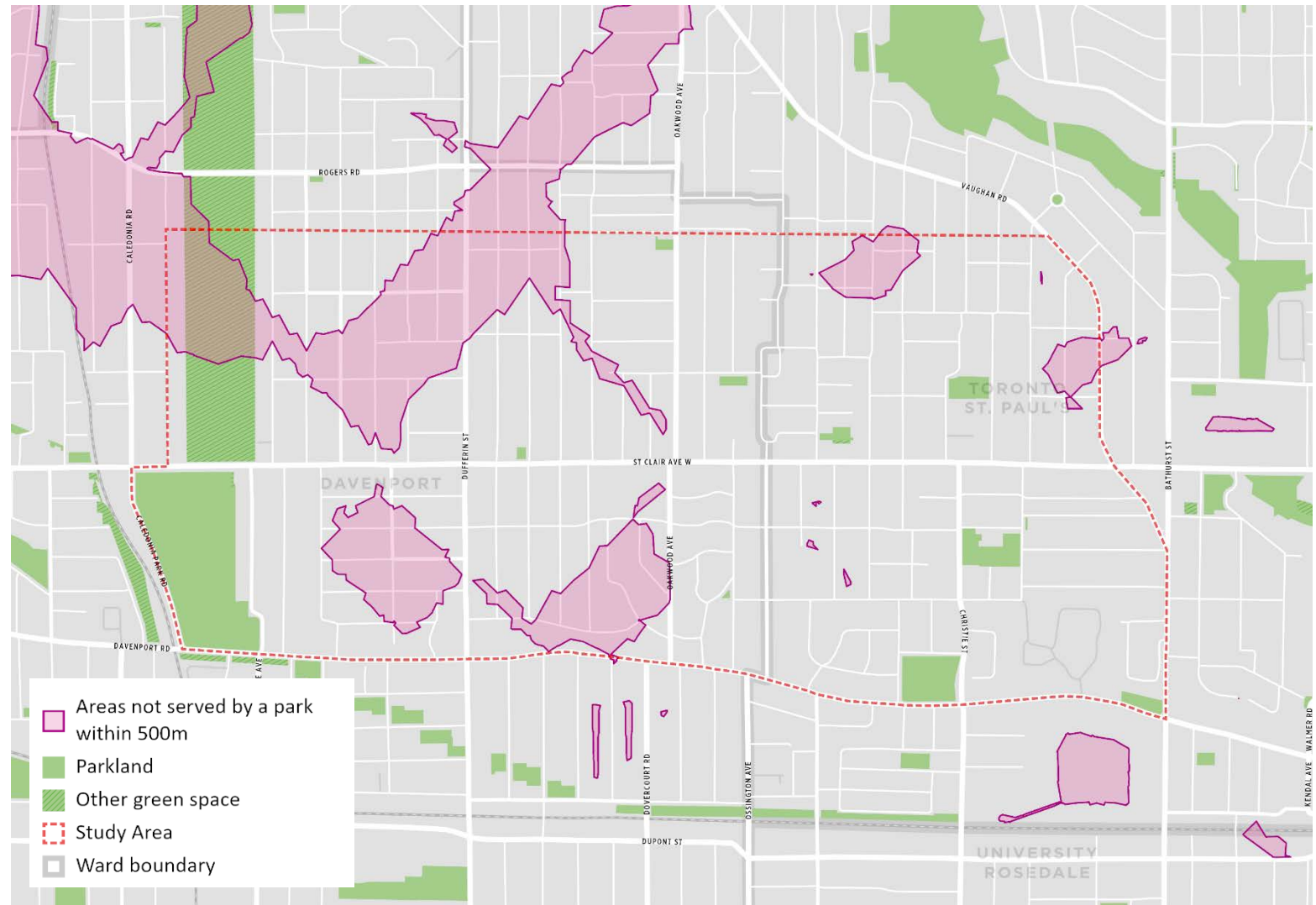


Park walkability

Some parts of the study area do not have any parks within 500 m of their house (a 5-10 minute walk)



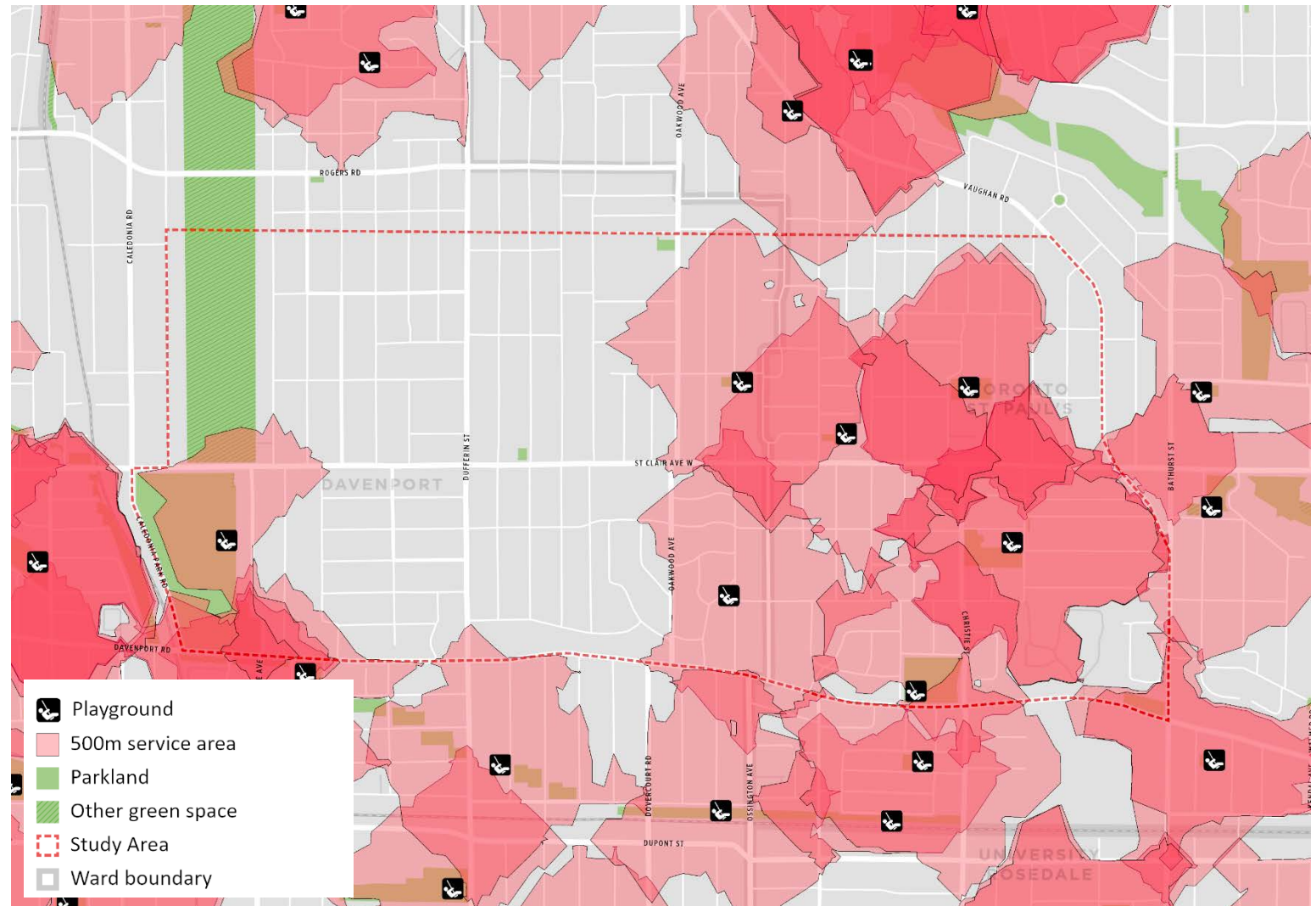
"The parks just feel FAR with 2 toddlers! A new park in the study area would be fantastic."



Recreation facilities

There are opportunities for more recreation facilities within and around the study area

- There is a playground gap west of Oakwood Ave
- A basketball court and skatepark / spot could address gaps within and north of the study area
- More thought needs to be given to the recreation needs of older children and teens



"Students skateboard in the street and schoolyards because there aren't parks nearby."

Park visibility, accessibility, amenities, and design quality

There are opportunities to improve park visibility, accessibility, selection of amenities, and design quality

- Some areas of parks are not accessible for users with mobility devices
- There is a need to improve park landscaping and design within parks and at the zone between parks and their surroundings

Opportunity to Improve Public Space



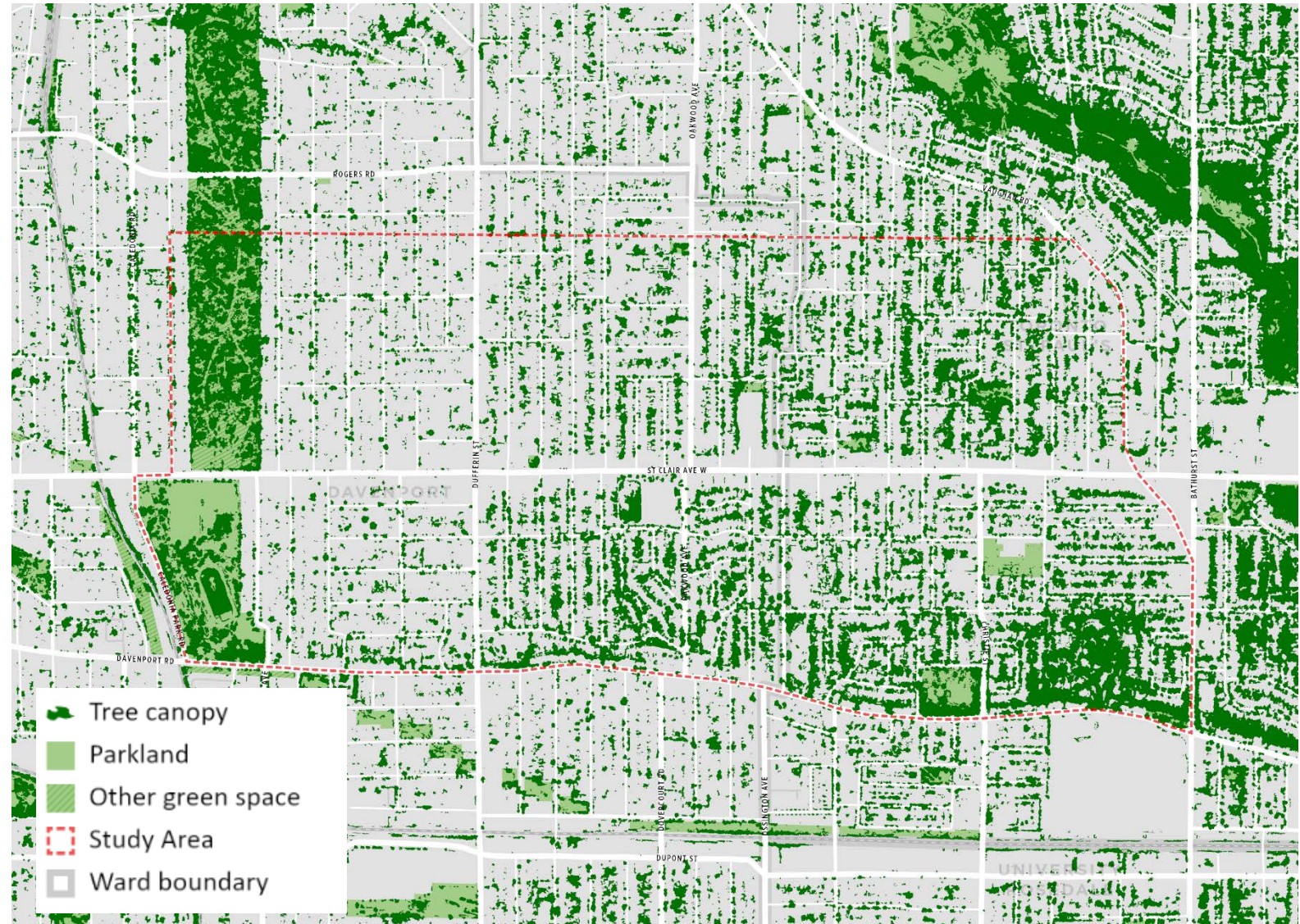
69% of survey respondents would like to see **more community gardens**

66% of survey respondents would like to see **more improved landscaping**

Tree canopy

There is lower tree canopy coverage and higher heat vulnerability in the western portion of the study area.

- Canopy in the study area as a whole is 28%, on par with the City-wide average, however it decreases between Dufferin Street and Prospect Cemetery

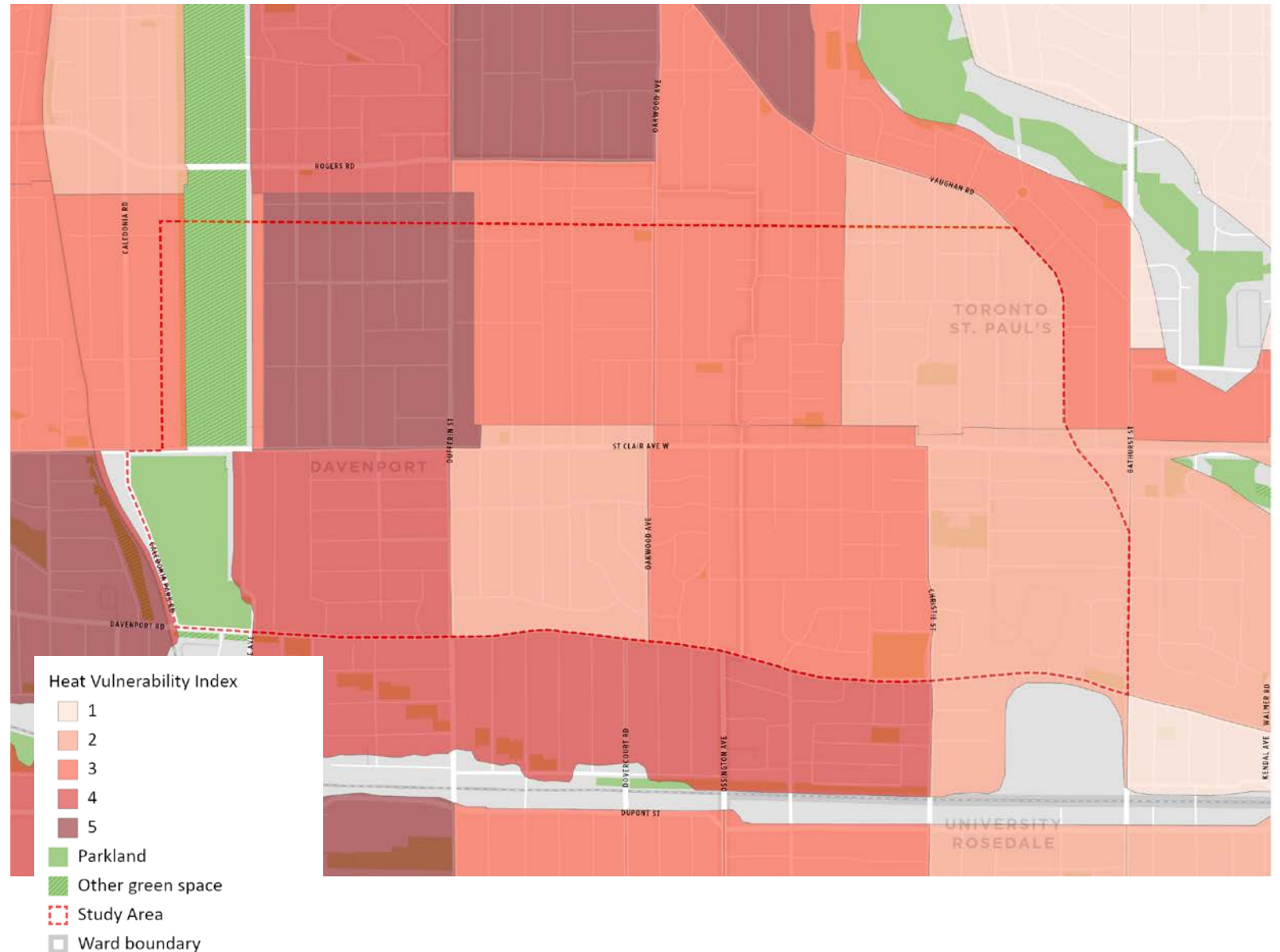


Tree canopy

- Lower levels of tree canopy likely contribute to a higher heat vulnerability index score



86% of survey respondents would like to see **more shade**, including trees, within the study area.

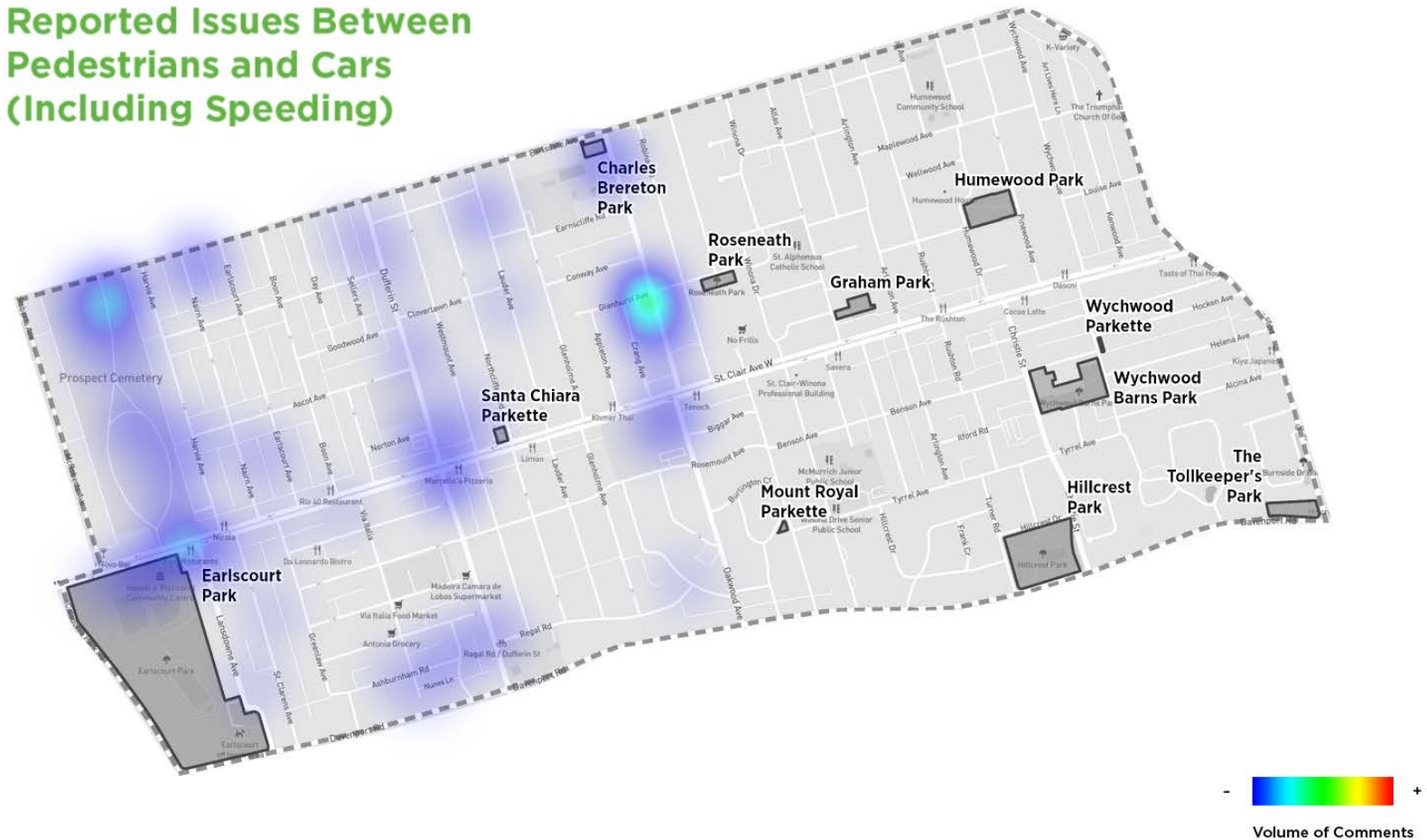


Street network

Some streets and laneways could be re-imagined to enhance the public realm.

Some engagement participants do not feel comfortable and safe while walking or cycling in the area.

Reported Issues Between Pedestrians and Cars (Including Speeding)

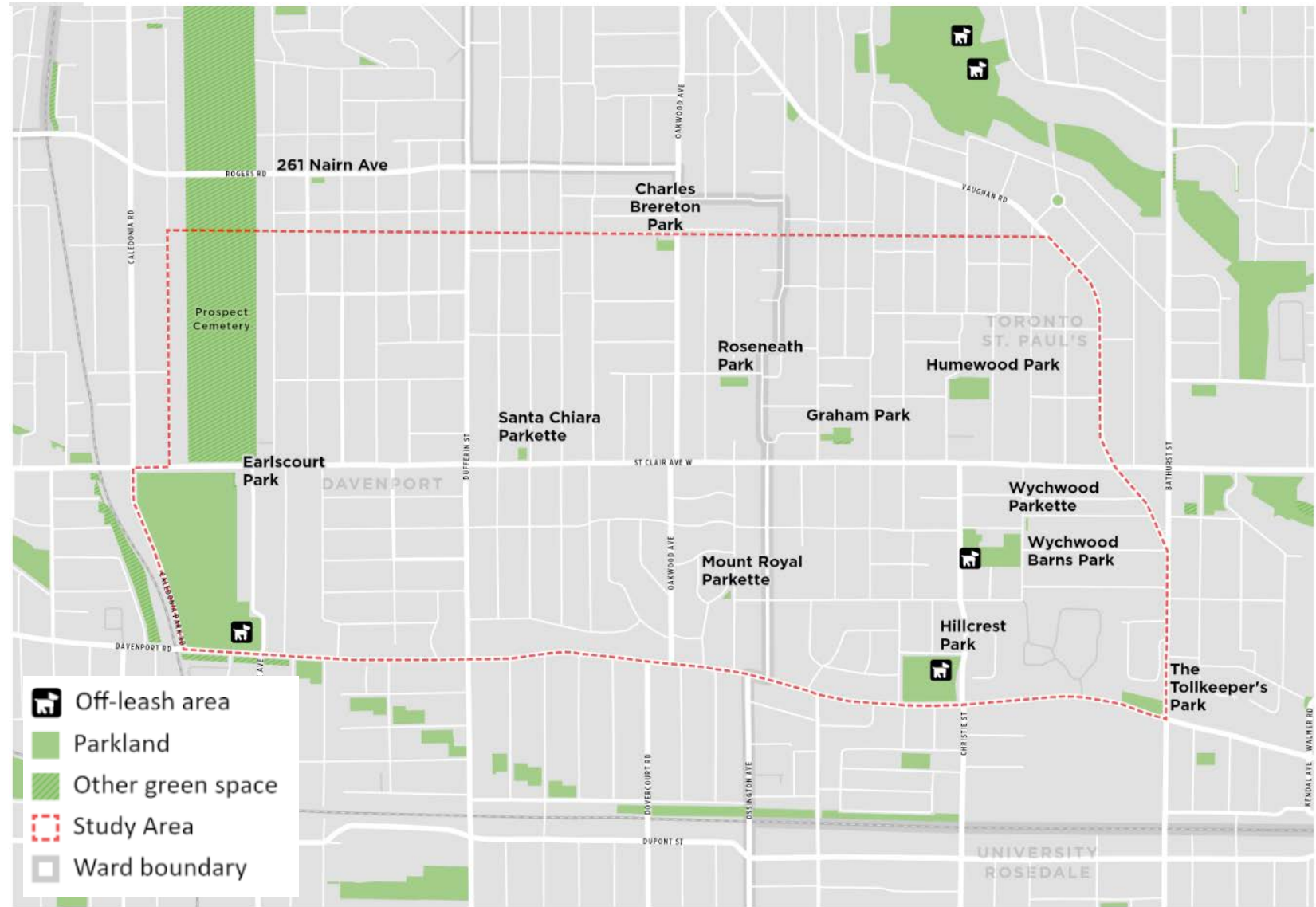


"Public Realm improvement can take place in a number of ways ... the planting of street trees in areas with the least shade, widening sidewalks and improving pedestrian connections along key north/south streets..."

Spaces for dogs

There is a need to consider provision and design of spaces for off-leash dogs.

- Some engagement participants noted concerns with the condition and design of existing dog parks
- Engagement also highlighted concerns over access to dog parks and the use of spaces not designated as off-leash areas, including schoolyards



Schoolyards

There are opportunities to improve schoolyards by making them more accessible and useable for students and the broader community.

- Schoolyards play a significant role in the area's open space network, but are not always accessible and could use improvements

Outdoor Space I use (Non-Parks)



Oakwood Collegiate Institute



Rawlinson School

Questions

General Questions?



Draft Recommendations and Implementation

Section Outline

 13 minutes

1. Expand existing parks
2. Introduce new parks
3. Introduce new outdoor recreation facilities
4. Enhance existing parks and outdoor recreation facilities

Questions, Comments, Suggestions?

 13 minutes

5. Plant more trees
6. Improve spaces for dogs

Questions, Comments, Suggestions?

 13 minutes

7. Work with our civic partners to improve the public realm
8. Work with school boards and Councillors to enhance schoolyards

Implementation

Questions, Comments, Suggestions?

1 - Expand existing parks

Initiatives:

- **Pursue expansions of the following parks**, noted in order of priority:
 - Roseneath Park
 - Charles Brereton Park
 - The new park at 261 Nairn Avenue
 - Graham Park
 - Mount Royal Parkette

Process

- The creation of new and expanded parkland is an incremental process.
- PFR encourages landowners who are interested in selling their lands to consider selling to the City.



Roseneath Park



Charles Brereton Park

2 – Introduce new parks

Initiatives:

- **Investigate repurposing some of the study area's 7 City-owned parking lots**, or portions thereof, as parks. Candidates for further investigation include:
 - 7 Norton Ave
 - 141 Greenlaw Ave
 - 64 St. Clair Ave W
 - 11 Kenwood Ave
- **Pursue other opportunities to acquire new parkland** within or close to the study area through either:
 - Lot purchases and/or
 - Parkland dedications from (re)development

Parking lot conversion

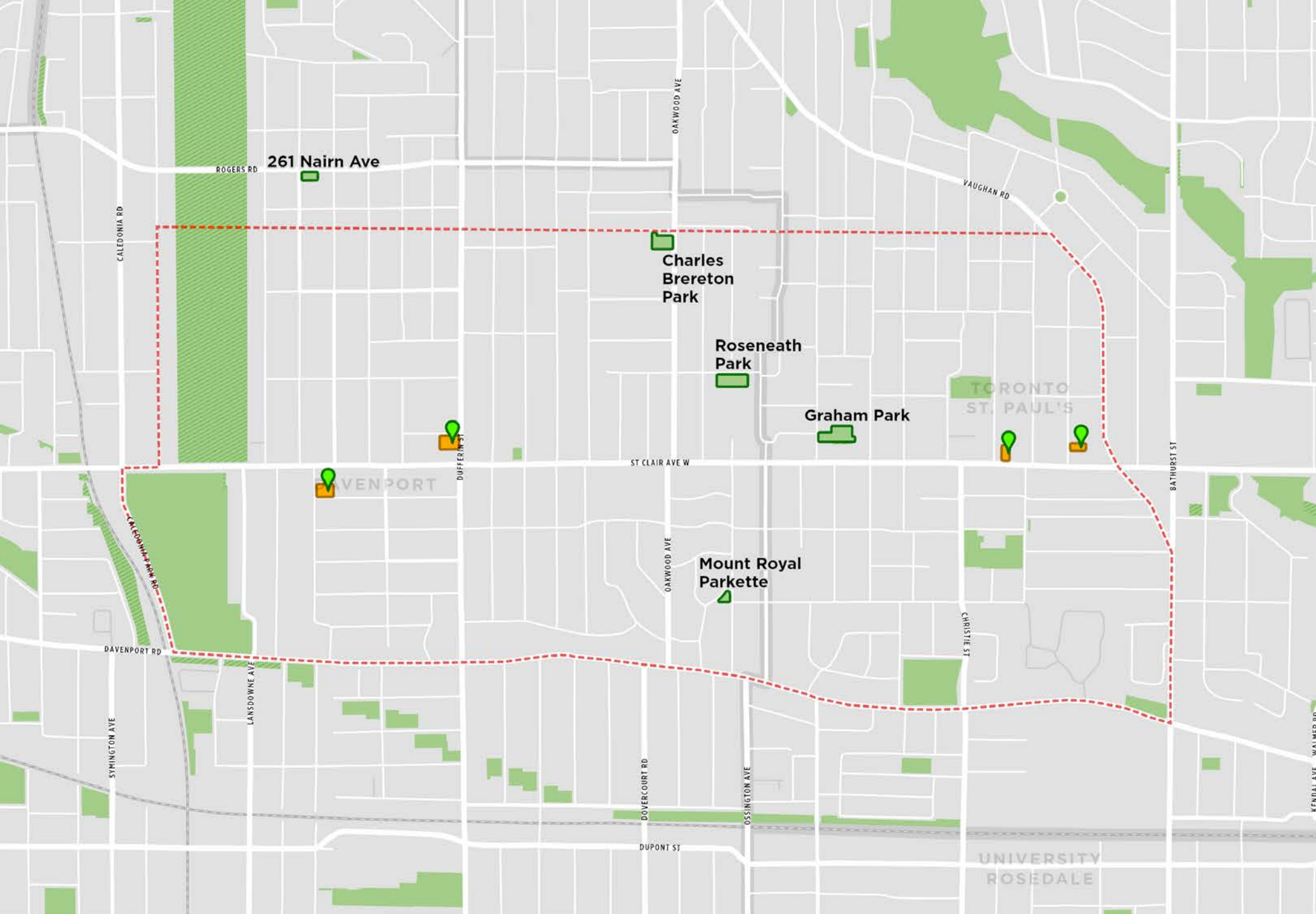
- Conversion of any of the area's City-owned parking lots is subject to ongoing investigation with the Toronto Parking Authority and CreateTO, as part of the City's parking portfolio review.
- PFR has proactively indicated interest in the above lots.



7 Norton Ave



141 Greenlaw Ave



-  Candidates for park expansion
-  Potential parking lot conversion opportunities
-  Parkland
-  Other green space
-  Study Area
-  Ward boundary



3 - Introduce new outdoor recreation facilities

Initiatives:

- Pending community consultation, **introduce a new playground at the new park at 261 Nairn Ave**
- **Consider additional playgrounds** as part of any new or expanded park **west of Oakwood Avenue**
- **Investigate potential for smaller-scale play features** in parks throughout the study area
- **Investigate delivering additional playgrounds** with Community Access Agreements **on school sites** west of Oakwood Avenue

Join the virtual public meeting on November 30, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. to review the concept designs for the new park and share your feedback!

Designing spaces for play

- New and enhanced playgrounds and play spots in the area will be designed considering the needs of older kids and tweens
- Small-scale play opportunities could include naturalized features like boulders



261 Nairn Ave

3 - Introduce new outdoor recreation facilities

Initiatives:

- **Introduce a new basketball court** within or north of the study area
- **Introduce a new skatepark / skate spot / skate dots** within or north of the study area
- **Investigate opportunities for outdoor fitness equipment** in the south-east quadrant of the study area

Fairbank Memorial Park has been identified as a good candidate for a skatepark pending further investigation and community engagement.

Ramsden Park Skate Dot



West Lodge Park Skate Spot (<600m2)

4 - Enhance existing parks and outdoor recreation facilities

Initiatives:

- **Improve Charles Brereton Park**
- Work with community to **enhance aspects of Wychwood Barns Park (playground and art component)** and accelerate the project
- Investigate **wayfinding and other improvements to Graham Park**
- **Implement improvements to the Earlscourt Park pathway network**
- Investigate further **improving Earlscourt park's interface with surrounding streets**

Park improvements in the works

- **261 Nairn Park** – Park design and naming (construction in 2022)
- **Graham Park** – Accessible picnic tables, benches, ping pong table (in delivery)
- **Earlscourt Park**
 - New splashpad (in delivery)
 - St. Clair Ave frontage improvements, including an undulating curb with benches and permeable pavers (2021-2022)
 - Improved pathways – a concept has been developed and more details will be available soon
- **Wychwood Barns Park** – Playground enhancement (2023-2024 – subject to budget approval)
- **Roseneath Park** – Playground enhancement (2029-2029)

4 - Enhance existing parks and outdoor recreation facilities

Initiatives:

- Investigate opportunities to **deliver amenities and enhancements identified by the community in parks across the study area**, including:
 - Indigenous Placemaking and Placekeeping elements
 - More accessible seating
 - More opportunities for community gardening
 - More pollinator gardens
 - More medicine gardens
 - Winter-focused amenities (e.g. enhanced lighting, fire pits, etc.)
 - Game spaces (e.g. table tennis)
 - More art (e.g. murals and spaces for art programming)
- Consider opportunities for improvements to park landscaping alongside all capital projects



Questions, Comments, Suggestions?

5 - Plant more trees

Initiatives:

- **Plant more trees in existing parks**, including:
 - The new park at 261 Nairn Avenue
 - Earls court Park
 - Wychwood Barns Park
- Work with homeowners and community orgs to **increase tree provision on private property** in the west of the study area by promoting:
 - The Residential Street Tree Planting Program
 - Urban Forestry Grants and Incentives (e.g. LEAF Backyard Tree Planting Program, Neighbourhood Tree Giveaway Program)
- Work with Transportation Services to **identify opportunities for tree planting on streets** in the west of the study area
- Work with school boards to **plant trees on school sites** in the west of the study area



Planned Activities 2021-2022

- 300+ street tree plantings
- Tree planting at Earls court Park, Humewood Park and Wychwood Barns

6 – Improve spaces for dogs

Initiatives:

- **Explore improvements to the 4 existing Dog Off-Leash Areas (DOLAs)** within or close to the study area
- **Work with the development industry to ensure that developments along St Clair Ave provide pet amenities and spaces** to reduce pressures on parks.
- **Consider opportunities for future DOLAs as part of new and expanded parks**, where appropriate

Geary Avenue Parkette Expansion

- The Geary Avenue Parkette expansion (complete in late 2022) will include a new DOLA
- This new DOLA means improved access and choice for dog-owners in the southern portion of the study area



Questions, Comments, Suggestions?

7 – Work with our civic partners to improve the public realm

Initiatives:

- Collaborate with Transportation Services to expand public space and **improve the public realm on streets adjacent to parks** where feasible
- **Consider public realm improvements as part of planned Transportation Services capital projects** (e.g. road reconstruction) within the study area
- Collaborate with local Business Improvement Areas to **investigate the feasibility of making public realm improvements to under-used areas of the right of way**, where feasible



Public Realm Improvements

- Public realm improvements could include elements such as street trees, narrowing of the road through curb bumpouts, benches, enhanced paving treatments, etc.

8 - Work with school boards and Councillors to enhance schoolyards

Initiatives:

- **Investigate delivering improvements to school grounds**, with community access agreements, including:
 - Completing the Oakwood Collegiate Master Plan
 - Loretto College Improvements
- **Advocate for community access** outside of school hours where it is currently restricted
- **Share community concerns regarding off-leash dogs** at school sites



Rawlinson Community School Outdoor Area Revitalization Project

- Partially funded with Section 37 funds and includes a community access agreement
- Phase 1 (2020) included new play equipment, reconfiguration of the multi-purpose field, etc.
- Phase 2 (2022) includes additional play equipment upgrades and seating

Implementation



Planned park improvements underway or in PFR's 10-year Capital Budget and Plan (e.g. new Nairn park, Earlscourt Park, planned playground enhancements)



Further funding earmarked for additional park improvements in this area in the current 10-year Capital Plan to follow the conclusion of this study



New parks and expansion opportunities secured through development (on-site and off-site dedication) and City-initiated acquisitions



Alignment of planned parks and transportation projects to maximize public space outcomes



Dissemination of ideas and collaboration with Parks operations staff, City agencies (e.g. TPA) and external partners (e.g. school boards)

Each park-specific project will be subject to project-specific engagement processes

Questions, Comments, Suggestions?

Next Steps and Contact



November 2021 – January 2022: Finalize Parks Plan

Winter 2022: Release final Parks Plan on project webpage

Spring 2022-onwards: Implementation and shift to project-specific engagement



Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff will continue to be accessible for your comments on the Oakwood-St. Clair Parks system

Project website: toronto.ca/OakwoodStClairStudy

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Please provide any feedback on the draft recommendations by December 8, 2021.