



Prepared for:
Perkins & Will

**Indigenous Engagement
for the Mount Dennis
Planning Framework**

Our Spirit is **What Sets Us Apart**



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1.0 BACKGROUND

The City of Toronto is conducting an area-based study of the Mount Dennis neighbourhood with the purpose of reviewing and updating the planning policy framework for the area. The updated policy framework will guide future change and development within Mount Dennis.

The Mount Dennis Planning Framework Study aims to create a renewed vision for the Mount Dennis neighbourhood and leverage the investment in light rail transit (LRT) to support healthy and inclusive communities, local business activity and growth, while also preserving the historical fabric and defining attributes of Mount Dennis.

Perkins & Will are the lead consultants for the Mount Dennis Planning Framework Study with the City of Toronto and retained Cambium Indigenous Professional Services (CIPS) as part of their team to undertake and lead the Indigenous engagement portion of the project.

Cambium Indigenous Professional Services is an Indigenous owned and operated, **Certified Aboriginal Business** through the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business whose team is uniquely all First Nation members. Formed in 2014, we have recruited experienced staff with expertise in all aspects of First Nation land and water management and operations. We are solutions-based, offering integrated professional services designed to provide First Nation leadership, governments, municipalities, corporations and individuals with innovative, sustainable answers to difficult First Nation, land related issues. CIPS works on projects that primarily affect Indigenous communities however many of our services don't apply to geographic boundaries and client heritage. The environment is viewed to be protected by natural laws by our team and working to ensure that the land, water and resources are protected is of paramount importance to us.

Our team does this by integrating western science evaluation techniques with traditional knowledge systems and compiling comprehensive assessments that are complete and valid to not only western scientists but to the First Nation Communities we serve. This ability makes our firm unique and we take pride in ensuring that both elements are completed with equal care and given an equal voice in our assessment of environmental issues.

Our philosophy is such that every client and every project deserve an effective, sustainable and affordable solution that fits. Many firms offer 'cookie-cutter' solutions, however, the services offered by CIPS result in unique solutions that were provided by professionals with the required level of technical expertise.



2.0 ENGAGEMENT SESSION PROCESS

There was a total of three virtual engagement sessions held, two sessions were held for the general Indigenous population in the Mount Dennis area and one session held for the youth only who reside in the area: July 13, 2021, August 17, 2021 and August 18, 2021 (Youth Only).

3.0 ENGAGEMENT SESSION SNAPSHOT

3.1 ENGAGEMENT #1

<p>July 13, 2021 – 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>CIPS Facilitator: Kerry Ann Charles, Environmental Partnerships Coordinator CIPS Admin Support: Tiffany Taylor, Engagement Coordinator/Technology Kassandra McKeown, Technical Advisor – Indigenous Projects</p>	
Perkins and Will	<p>Anna Iannucci, Urban Planning Ashita Parekh, Urban Design</p>
City of Toronto	<p>Vanessa Covello, Community Planning Rory McNeil, Community Planning Sarah Henstock, Community Planning Pourya Nazemi, Heritage Jennifer Lafontaine, Indigenous Affairs Toni Papa, Parks Beth Mcewen, Parks Forestry & Recreation</p>
Participants	<p>Elder Jacque Lavelle Hopi Martin Reta Hamlin Caitlin Laforme Wayne Copeland Wanda Taylor</p>

3.2 ENGAGEMENT #2

<p>August 17, 2021 – 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>CIPS Facilitator: Kerry Ann Charles, Environmental Partnerships Coordinator CIPS Admin Support: Tiffany Taylor, Engagement Coordinator/Technology Kassandra McKeown, Technical Advisor – Indigenous Projects Traditional Knowledge: Tammy Charles</p>	
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Perkins and Will	Anna Iannucci, Urban Planning Ashita Parekh, Urban Design Paul Kulig, Perks and Will
City of Toronto	Rory McNeil, Community Planning
Participants	Wayne Copeland Shiela Bouygoran Wanda Taylor

3.3 ENGAGEMENT #3

August 18, 2021 (Youth Session) – 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	
CIPS Facilitator: Kerry Ann Charles, Environmental Partnerships Coordinator	
CIPS Admin Support: Tiffany Taylor, Engagement Coordinator/Technology	
Kassandra McKeown, Technical Advisor – Indigenous Projects	
Perkins and Will	Anna Iannucci, Urban Planning Ashita Parekh, Urban Design
City of Toronto	Vanessa Covello, Community Planning
Participants	Angel Manitowabi Briar Rose Perrier Char Dezi Gordon Mcwatch Jordy Bouygoran Joviann Sandrine Louisa Burt Melanie Defredas Melanie Stevens Micheal Whiteloon Raven Squires Sebastian Lentinello Shailla Winter Tershawn Goheen Sherry Babiwash Theo Babiwash Shayna Gionette



4.0 ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

All sessions were held using Zoom and utilized Miro, a virtual white board platform where the comments provided by participants were recorded. The Miro boards for each session containing all responses to the questions developed in collaboration by the CIPS Team and the Perkins and Will Team can be viewed in **Appendix A.**

Engagement #1

Question #1 – What are your priorities to maintain and improve Mount Dennis as development takes place?
Responses: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access to ceremony place (permanent use) – need safe and accessible access as well as vehicle access for elders to Humber River lodge site;• Maintained greenspace;• Bike lanes and bike share are a great idea as it is hard to get around and access these green spaces;• Ensure the next seven generations have greenspace/gardens/land back;• Consistent funding for Indigenous counterparts;• Information signage on activities at the ceremony place – also include ‘in truth and reconciliation’;• Community gardens;• Affordable housing is always in need;• Community centre for Indigenous – Rec. Centre/Safe Spaces;• Public spaces – common for Indigenous and Non.
Question #2 – What opportunities do you see for Indigenous Artwork, Heritage Plaques and Re-naming of Streets and Parks?
Responses: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Renaming Streets – good idea;• Cultural history of land and what still happens today (not just history);• Access road should be named and signed;• Information signs on activity at ceremony place – also include ‘in truth and reconciliation’;• Anishinaabe or Seneca name for Humber River (and information on name);• NOTE – flood plain (land claim – in courts) - MCFN
Question #3 – What sites, landscapes, people or organizations represent the culture and community of Mount Dennis to you?
Responses: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medicines (semaa (tobacco), sweetgrass – add to the medicines already there);• Involving Indigenous knowledge holders with species replacement and planting (invasive species/native species/medicines);• Native food/restaurant• Urban Arts, Wigwamen, Ahnduyan, Learning Enrichment Foundation, Food Share, Library, Amik, ENAGB, EarlyOn – Native Child, Maamwiizdaa, Nishnaabe Wellness Collective Helpers of the Earth



Question #4 – What improvements would you like to see to make it easier to move around Mount Dennis?

Responses:

- Access road to lodge site/sacred space;
- Greenspace to walk on;
- Bike lanes/improve safety for biking in area;
- Create ease of corridor through greenspace that facilitate connection with greenspace;
- Invasive species management for location accessibility.

Question #5 – What is important to you for the green future of Mount Dennis?

Responses:

- Community share gardens;
- Fruit trees;
- Plants trees, more gardens, removal of invasive and replacement with native species;
- Indigenous focused farmers markets.

Question #6 – Do you have specific priorities for growth and change in any of the proposed character areas in Mount Dennis?

Responses:

- Understanding our responsibilities to the earth;
- Protection of wild space and greenspace (old growth trees);
- Conservation and preservation – growth should be with natural world and not just development;
- A space to share cross – culturally;
- Wildlife corridors for migration;
- New affordable housing units.

Question #7 – What areas are being presently used for ceremony and other cultural events in the Mount Dennis Area?

Responses:

- Humber River Lodge site;
- Coronation Park;
- In behind 2700 Eglinton Ave. (Children’s programming, ceremony);
- NOTE – Elders were dreaming of these ceremony sites.

Question #8 – What sites would you like to see become areas for ceremony and other cultural events?

Responses:

- Public space/meeting space;
- Garden space and space for community fire;
- NOTE - Need support where ceremony already takes place.



Engagement #2

Open Space Framework -

Question #1 – Does the Draft Open Space Framework address your vision for greening Mount Dennis?
Responses: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Too small
Question #2 – Is there anything missing from the Draft Open Space Framework?
Responses: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does Weston Rd. have cycling lanes? Is there flow? Contiguous not segregated green space – less cars, more people;• Community safety through patrols or safety lights;• Cycling lane – protected area;• Lights/'blue' lights (emergency lights) for dark paths.
Question #3 –What opportunities do you see for Indigenous artwork, heritage plaques, plantings and re-naming of streets or parks?
Responses: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tkaronto – example of descriptive name – same technique could be used;• Provide opportunity to gain some knowledge about local history/species/medicines (plaques)• Naming can be used as a way to show history/learn about and respect the land/• Plaques that discuss/feature local Indigenous artists – have artwork coincide with history/knowledge.

Mobility Framework –

Question #1 – Does the Draft Mobility Framework Plan address your vision for moving around Mount Dennis, and moving between Mount Dennis and the rest of the city?
Responses: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accessible for Elders and disability to access green space;• Safe points for pick up (Taxi, Uber etc.)
Question #2 – Is there anything missing from the Draft Mobility Framework Plan?
Responses: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bike Share and patio space.
Question #3 – What complete streets elements would you like to see prioritized in the transformation of Weston Rd?
Responses: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No Response



Land Use and Urban Design Framework –

Question #1 – What do you think of the built form directions for Mount Dennis? Do you agree with the strategy for gentle intensification, mid-rise development, and tall buildings?

Responses:

- Large density in a small footprint.

Question #2 – What do you think about the vision, land use, and built form ideas for the Mixed-Use Main Street along Weston Rd. and the Mixed-Use Node at the No Frills site?

Responses:

- No Response

Question #3 – What uses would you like to see in addition to residential units at the Mixed-Use Node?

Responses:

- No Response

Additional comments received from a participant:

- More mixed (Indigenous and Non) affordable housing;
- Small business hub for Indigenous entrepreneurs;
- Wheel chair accessible;
- Community centre with community gardens, kitchen, food support food bank type place for Indigenous people;
- All in one place for Indigenous teachings and ribbon skirt making, beadwork classes etc.;
- Murals for art work and space for art classes;
- Regional friendship centre for the high Indigenous population

Engagement #3 (Indigenous Youth of Mount Dennis)

Open Space -

Question #1 – What types of outdoor spaces would you like to see in Mount Dennis?

Responses:

- Splash pad, swimming pool or wave pool;
- Skate park, Mini gold, tennis court, sport park, soccer field, basketball court, baseball diamond, sports programs;
- Tipi, ceremonial space, space for sacred fire, medicine garden;
- Community garden, farmers markets;
- Bike paths, bike rentals for all ages;
- Dog park, parks, parkettes;
- BBQ pits;
- Gazebo;
- Event centres – outdoor space;
- Washrooms;
- Art murals;
- Train at High Park – Indigenize Train.

Question #2 –How do you use the ravines in Mount Dennis (e.g. for ceremony, for recreation) and what would improve the experience (e.g. better access from the bus stop, more native plantings)?

Responses:

- More access and paved paths;
- Both, there needs to be space for little ones during ceremony. There should be space for lodge;
- Water quality and improvement efforts;
- Bike, stairs and little paths;
- Cedar trees, birch bark trees, medicine;
- Berry bushes;
- Fruit trees (apple, lemon, lime etc.);
- Wild rice;
- Roses and other beautiful flowers;
- Maps.

Employment and Institutional Areas -

Question #1 – What types of jobs would you like to see in Mount Dennis?

Responses:

- Tutoring “homework clubs”;
- Employment Centres (e.g. Miziwe Biik);
- Options for mature students/upgrading;
- Dog walkers;
- Trades opportunities;
- Traditional Knowledge Keepers/Elders;
- Treatment Centres;
- Community workers that can teach youth of their Indigenous heritage;
- Community sports centres/gyms;
- Youth workers who are not connected to child welfare agencies;
- Non-profit organizations;
- Arts organizations and community;
- Entrepreneurship programs;
- Affordable gym programs

Question #2 – What types of educational spaces would you like to see in Mount Dennis?

Responses:

- See above.

Question # 3 – What would you like to see in Mount Dennis?

Responses:

- Home ownership;
- Youth Outreach Workers;
- Recreation Centre;
- Nearby grocery stores;
- Second hand stores;
- Montessori Schools;
- Dentist/Children Dentist;
- Affordable housing opportunities;
- Affordable childcare;



- A shelter for native women and children;
- Pharmacy, walk in clinic;
- Smaller local stores

Question #4 – What makes a great place to live?

Responses:

- Mental health supports;
- Designated spaces for children and youth;
- Small local stores;
- Community functions where everyone can have a safe space;
- Access to resource centres and community programs;
- Youth and Elder programs.

Mixed Use Areas -

Question #1 – What makes a good high density/tall buildings neighbourhood?

Responses:

- Green buildings – include trees, patio, terrace;
- Multicultural – art and world food stores;
- Multi-use buildings (commercial and residential);
- Have underground parking and underground delivery platforms, and underground pathways;
- Stores are added to the bottom of condos – they should include Indigenous owned businesses/stores;
- Designated space for Indigenous owned businesses;
- Designated places/spaces for youth to go.

Question #2 – What sorts of services, stores and community spaces would you like to see on Weston Rd. and on the No Frills site?

Responses:

- On the No Frills site, they should add affordable housing for the big area that they have;
- Adult education centres;
- Food banks for families;
- For services some kind of support or education on fixing/building credit – financial literacy;
- Small Ontario Works office or Indigenous Services Office.

Weston Main Street –

Question #1 – What do you think is important to include on Weston Rd.?

Responses:

- More safer crosswalks;
- Parkettes and patios;
- Bike lanes, bigger sidewalks not just for patios, safer for young children;
- Safety

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

During the engagement sessions there were common suggestions and input provided. Below we highlight the common statements and encourage inclusion in the Planning Framework:

5.1 SAFETY

A safe neighbourhood is a must which would include:

- Increased bike lanes;
- More crosswalks;
- Bigger sidewalks for children safety;
- Underground parking, delivery platforms and pathways;
- Safe 'pick up' points (Taxi, Uber, etc.);
- Safe and accessible foot access as well as vehicle access for Elders and those with disabilities to existing and permanent ceremony places;
- Ceremony space safe for children to attend;
- Lights/'blue' lights (same as existing emergency lights located in the City) for dark paths.

5.2 GREEN SPACE

Green space which would encompass:

- Maintain existing green space;
- Creating corridors;
- Protection of wild space and greenspace (old growth trees);
- Involving Indigenous knowledge holders with species replacement and planting;
- Ensure the next seven generations have greenspace/gardens/land back;
- Safe space and permanent space for outdoor ceremony, gatherings and structures;
- Traditional medicine gardens;
- Community share gardens;
- Greenspace to walk on; and
- Invasive species management.

5.3 SIGNAGE

It is recommended signage be posted for:

- Ceremony and gathering space (existing and new);
- Cultural history of land and what still happens today (not only history);
- Information on activities at the ceremony place – also include ‘in truth and reconciliation’;
- Naming can be used as a way to show history/learn about and respect the land.

5.4 SERVICES

Additional services specifically for Indigenous peoples:

- Affordable housing;
- Community/Recreation Centre;
- Small business hub for Indigenous entrepreneurs (low cost rental space);
- Regional friendship centre for the high Indigenous population;
- Employment Centre (e.g. Miziwe Biik);
- A shelter for native women and children;
- Mental health supports;
- Designated spaces for children and youth;
- Youth and Elder programs.

The strong common themes heard in the engagement sessions are the desire to having dedicated, accessible Indigenous ceremony space that includes public information signage for sites, communal gardens for food share and traditional medicine, indoor and outdoor recreation space for multi use and the community to be a safe community for all.

6.0 CLOSING

The CIPS Team would like to reiterate the importance of taking the time and ensuring the commitment to continuing engagement with the Indigenous population and engagement take place at the beginning of the project process. This would relieve an individual of being thought of as a check box for completing a project or feeling they are an afterthought. We emphasise the importance of making a meaningful effort in incorporating what was heard from the participants into designs and planning.



Appendix A
Engagement Session - Miro Boards



Perkins&Will



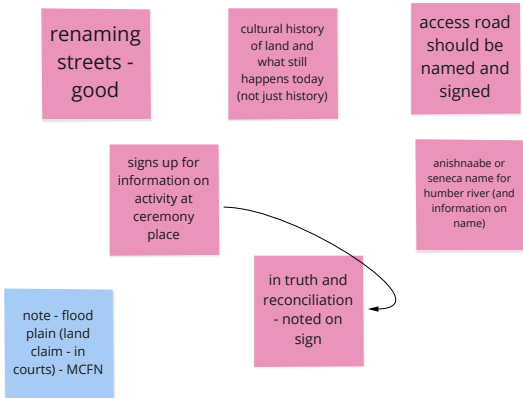
**Picture Mount Dennis
Indigenous Engagement
Session #1
July 13, 2021
5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

www.indigenousservices.com

What are your priorities to maintain and improve Mount Dennis as development takes place?



What opportunities do you see for Indigenous Artwork, Heritage Plaques and Re-naming of Streets and Parks?



What sites, landscapes, people or organizations represent the culture and community of Mount Dennis to you?

Dennis to you?

medicines
(semaa,
sweetgrass...ot
her medicines
already there)

involving Indigenous
knowledge holders
with species
replacement and
planting (invasive
species/native
species/medicines)

native
food/restaurant

Urban Arts,
Wigwamen,
Ahnduyan, Learning
Enrichment
Foundation,
FoodShare, Library

Nishnaabe
wellness
collective

Amik
(organization)

Maamwiizdaa

ENAGB

EarlyOn
- Native
Child

Helpers
of the
Earth

What improvements would you like to see to make it easier to move around Mount Dennis?

bike lanes/improve safety for biking in area

greenspace to walk on

access road to lodge site/sacred space

create ease of corridor through greenspace that facilitate connection with greenspace

invasive species management for location accessibility

employ Indigenous "earth workers" such as guardian program (potential for summer students)

What is important to you for the green future of Mount Dennis?

community
share
gardens

fruit
trees

plant trees, more
gardens, removal
of invasive and
replacement with
native species

Indigenous
focused
farmers
market

Do you have specific priorities for growth and change in any of the proposed character areas in Mount Dennis?

understanding
our
responsibilities
to the earth

protection of
wild space and
greenspace
(old growth
trees)

conservation and
preservation -
growth should be
with natural world
and not just
development

a space to
share
cross-
culturally

wildlife
corridors
for
migration

new
affordable
housing
units

What areas are being presently used for ceremony and other cultural events in the Mount Dennis Area?

humber
river
lodge site

in behind 2700
eglinton avenue
(childrens
programming,
ceremony)

Coronation
Park

Elders were
dreaming of
these
ceremony sites

What sites would you like to see become areas for ceremony and other cultural events?

public
space/meeting
space

garden space
and space for
community
fire

need support
where
ceremony
already takes
place



Perkins&Will



**Picture Mount Dennis
Indigenous Engagement
Session #2**

August 17, 2021

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

www.indigenusaware.com

Open Space Framework: Questions

Does the Draft Open Space Framework address your vision for greening Mount Dennis?

too
small

Is there anything missing from the Draft Open Space Framework?

does weston road
have cycling lanes?
is there flow?
Contiguous not
segregated green
space - less cars,
more people.

community
safety through
patrols or
safety lights

cycling lane
- protected
area

lights/'blue'
lights
(emergency
lights) for dark
paths

What opportunities do you see for Indigenous artwork, heritage plaques, plantings and re-naming of streets or parks?

Tkaronto -
example of
descriptive name -
same technique
could be used

provide opportunity
to gain some
knowledge about
local
history/species/med
icines (plaques)

naming can be
used as a way to
show
history/learn
about and respect
the land

plaques that
discuss/feature local
Indigenous artists -
have artwork
coincide with
history/knowledge

Mobility Framework: Questions

Does the Draft Mobility Framework Plan address your vision for moving around Mount Dennis, and moving between Mount Dennis and the rest of the city?



Is there anything missing from the Draft Mobility Framework Plan?

bike share,
patio
space

What complete streets elements would you like to see prioritized in the transformation of Weston Road?

Land Use and Urban Design Framework: Questions

What do you think of the built form directions for Mount Dennis? Do you agree with the strategy for gentle intensification, mid-rise development, and tall buildings?

large
density in a
small
footprint

What do you think about the vision, land use, and built form ideas for the Mixed-Use Main Street along Weston Road and the Mixed-Use Node at the No Frills site?

What uses would you like to see in addition to residential units at the Mixed-Use Node?



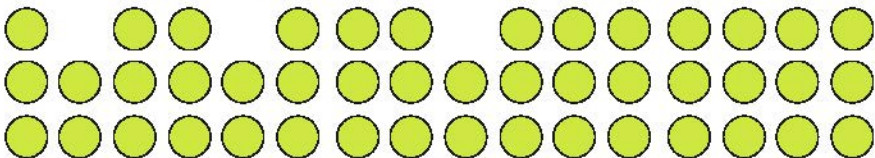
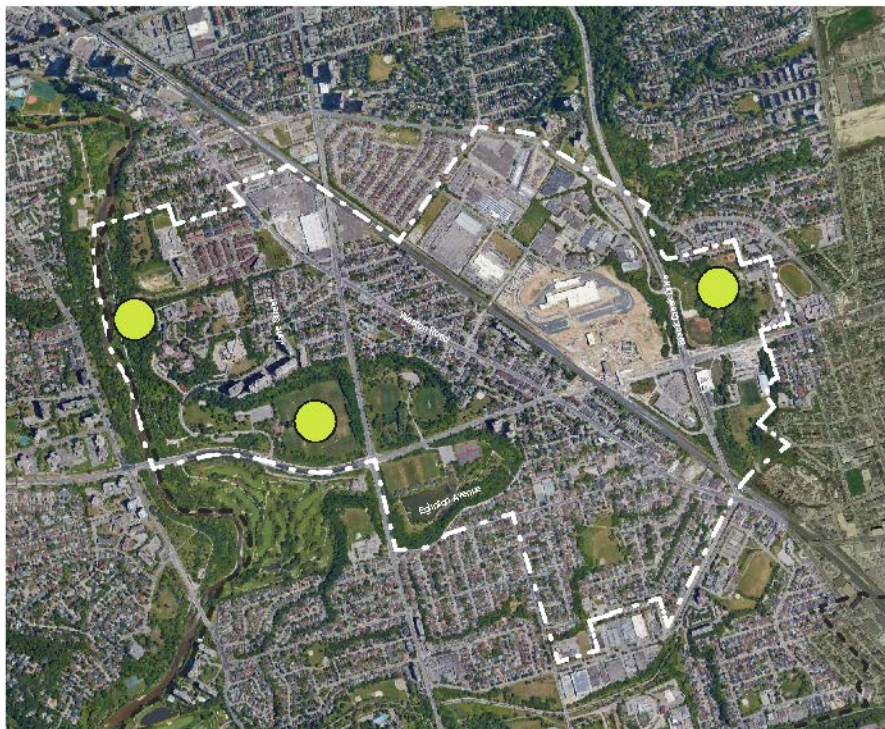
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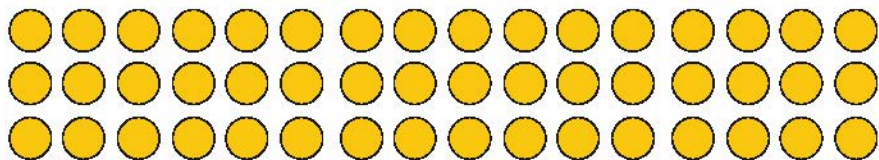
**Picture Mount Dennis
Indigenous Youth Engagement
August 18, 2021
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

www.indigenouseaware.com

Discussion Question:



Discussion Question:

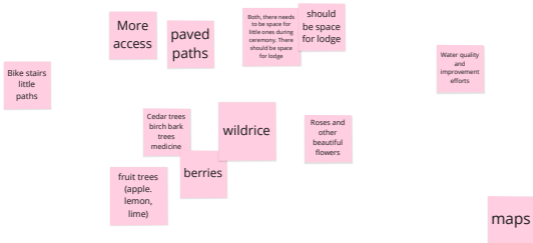


Open Space

What types of outdoor spaces would you like to see in Mount Dennis?



How do you use the ravines in Mount Dennis (e.g. for ceremony, for recreation) and what would improve the experience (e.g. better access from the bus stop, more native plantings)?



Employment and Institutional Areas

What types of jobs would you like to see in Mount Dennis?



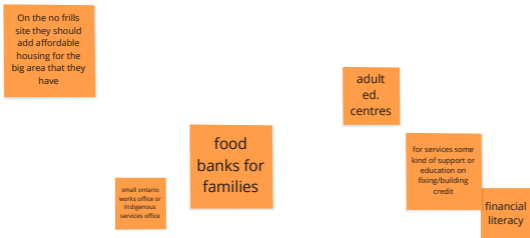
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Mixed Use Areas

What makes a good high density/tall buildings neighbourhood?



What sorts of services, stores and community spaces would you like to see on Weston Rd. and on the No Frills site?



Weston Main Street

What do you think is important to include on Weston Rd.?

More safer
crosswalks

parkettes
and
patios

Bike lanes bigger
sidewalks not just
for patios more
safer for young
Children

safety



what would you like to see in Mount Dennis?



what makes a great place to live?

