

City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry & Recreation

Clydesdale Park Playground Improvements

Survey Summary Report

January 2021

Samar Zarifa, Senior Project Coordinator



Table of Contents

- Project Background..... 3
- Survey Objectives..... 3
- Notification 4
- Key Feedback Highlights 4
- Appendix A: Raw Response Summary 5
 - Demographics..... 8
- Appendix B: Playground Design and Equipment Options..... 11
 - Proposed Playground Layout..... 12
 - Proposed Playground Options 12
 - Playground Design A..... 13
 - Playground Design B..... 14
- Appendix C: Email Responses 15

Project Background

Clydesdale Park Playground is located at 116 Clydesdale Drive in North York, near the intersection of Kathrose Drive and Clydesdale Drive.

The playground currently includes:

- Two swing sets with:
 - Two swings for ages two to five
 - Two swings for ages five and up
- A play structure with stairs and a swirl swing (red, blue and yellow structure)
- A small see-saw (yellow)
- A junior wood play structure with:
 - A double slide (blue)
 - A junior climbing structure
 - A junior ramp climber
 - A steering wheel (blue)
 - A mini table (red)
- Sand under all play areas

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

- Accessible play equipment and an accessible pathway connection to the new playground area. This means that people of all abilities will be able to play at this playground.
- Playground equipment for ages two to twelve
- Woodchip playground surfacing

Improvements will only be made in the general playground area. This will not include any new water or lighting features, or improvements to other areas of the park.

Survey Objectives

An online survey was available from December 2, 2021 to January 7, 2022. The survey asked the community for feedback on multiple design elements.

The survey received a total of **135 responses**. Some survey submissions included feedback from multiple people (e.g. entire households). In total **490 people participated** in the survey responses collected.

The survey feedback collected will help develop a final playground design for the new playground.

Notification

The online survey was promoted through the following channels:

- Facebook and Instagram advertisements targeting area residents
- Promotions through the local Councillor's Office
- Project webpage: www.toronto.ca/ClydesdalePlayground
- On-site signage

Key Feedback Highlights

- When asked to rank their playground design preference, respondents ranked Playground Design B highest (67%) followed by Playground Design A (33%).
- Respondents shared that the five most important features to include in the new playground are:
 - The play structure for ages 2-12
 - The monkeybar play structure for ages 5-12
 - Spiral Slide
 - Belt Swings
 - Toddler Swings
- Respondents shared that the three least important features to include in the new playground are:
 - Car Spring Toy
 - Play panels
 - Bouncer
- If budget permits, the three features respondents would like more of in the improved playground are:
 - The monkeybar play structure for ages 5-12
 - Belt Swings
 - The play structure for ages 2-12
- For colour preferences for the playground
 - 64% of respondents like bright colours like yellow, orange and red
 - 39% of respondents like earthy colours like green, blue, and grey
 - 10% of respondents had no preference

Appendix A: Raw Response Summary

The following provides a summary of the raw survey responses collected. Offensive language or comments have been removed.

Respondents



Who is giving their feedback through this survey? (select all that apply)

	Count	% of responses	%
Parent/guardian/caregiver(s) of a playground user	82		61%
Playground user(s) age 6 to 12	28		21%
Playground user(s) age 5 or younger	27		20%
Community member(s) who do not use the playground	25		19%
Playground user(s) age 13 or older	15		11%

N 135

How many people in each age group participated in the survey?

Note: Multiple people could participate in a single survey. For example, multiple members of a household completing one survey, together.















- 0 to 4 years old: 66
- 5 to 12 years old: 75
- 13 to 18 years old: 23
- 19 to 29 years old: 28
- 30 to 39 years old: 68
- 40 to 55 years old: 66
- 56 to 64 years old: 16
- 65 to 74 years old: 14
- 75 years old or above: 0

Select your favourite playground design:

	% of responses	%
Playground Design B [insert image of Design B]		67%
Playground Design A [insert image of Design A]		33%

N 123

What are the 5 most important features to include in the new playground.















	Count	% of responses	%
The play structure for ages 2 to 12	83		72%
The monkeybar play structure for ages 5 to 12	78		68%
Spiral slide	64		56%
Belt swings	63		55%
Toddler swings	48		42%
See-saw	47		41%
Straight slide	33		29%
Accessible swing	32		28%
Double slide	30		26%
Other, please specify	19		17%
Play panels	15		13%
Swayer/rocker	10		9%
Car spring toy	6		5%
Spring toy	4		3%

N 115

Respondents who selected "Other" provided the following comments:















- What are the five most important features to include in the new playground? (select up to 5 features)
- The new playstructures at Old Sheppard and Pleasant View are for younger kids so this park should appeal to older kids. However, there is a similar monkey bar adult structure just yards away and the black roped monkeybar play structure for 5-12 year olds recently installed at Thomson Park would be so much more appropriate in this Clydesdale redesign. It's unique, cool and different from anything in our other parks. Please consider substituting it this B design if B design wins.
- Climbing wall
- Some kind of interactive piece of equipment for children and adults alike.
- ground material, i prefer the rubber one.
- Non belt swing
- Making it accessible to children with different abilities especially for wheelchairs
- Rock climber
- Monkey bars
- Rubber play surface rather than woodchips. More accessible and reduces injuries.
- Climbing structure with a bridge
- More swings
- A dog park should be nearby. The neighborhood is severely lacking this and it shows in the dogs behaviour. There should also be water foundations for drinking here as well a splash pad.
- Climbing wall, a bridge..a roller slide..actual rope climbing course ..things for OLDER kids to play
- climbing wall
- climbing wall
- Ninja gym play structure
- Keep the existing wood structure
- Climbing domes

What are the 3 least important features to include in the improved playground?

	Count	% of responses	%
Car spring toy	55		48%
Play panels	44		38%
Bouncer	33		29%
swayer/rocker	32		28%
Double slide	26		23%
Straight slide	19		17%
Group/accessible swing	18		16%
The monkeybar play structure for ages 5 to 12	14		12%
See-saw	13		11%
Belt swings	11		10%
Toddler swings	11		10%
None	10		9%
The play structure for ages 2 to 12	7		6%
Spiral slide	4		3%
Other, please specify	0		

N 115

If budget permits, what features would you like more of? Select up to 3 features.

	Count	% of responses	%
The monkeybar play structure for ages 5 to 12	64		56%
Belt swings	36		31%
The play structure for ages 2 to 12	35		30%
Spiral slide	28		24%
See-saw	26		23%
Play panels	19		17%
Bouncer	19		17%
Double slide	15		13%
Other, please specify	14		12%
Accessible swing	12		10%
Swayer/rocker	12		10%
Straight slide	9		8%
Car spring toy	9		8%
Toddler swings	5		4%




N 115

Respondents who selected "Other" provided the following comments:

- Trampoline
- as in a previous question, interactive structure for all ages
- Climbing apparatus
- Rock climbing for children
- The existing parks are suitable for younger kids so this one should be for those closer to age 12
- Climbing structures
- Splash pad
- Climbing exercise structure

- Group swing – always a hit with every age group
- Actual rope climbing structure for older kids (not just in one spot monkey bar, but more of an obstacle course); a spinner/merry go round ; bridge connecting the different play structures so older kids can play GROUNDERS
- climbing wall
- Keep the existing wood structure
- Splash feature
- Climbing things

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






	Count	% of responses	%
Bright colours, like yellow, orange, and red	64		56%
Earthy colours, like green, blue, and grey	39		34%
No preference	12		10%

N 115

Demographics









1 classroom participated in this survey in grade 3, 30 students participated overall.

Gender identity is the gender that people identify with or how they perceive themselves, which may be different from their birth-assigned sex. What best describes your gender?

	Count	% of responses	%
Woman	74		69%
Man	25		23%
Prefer not to answer	9		8%
Two-Spirit	1		1%
Gender non-binary (including gender fluid, genderqueer, androgynous)	1		1%
Trans woman	0		
Trans man	0		
Not listed, please describe.	0		

N 108

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

	Count	% of responses	%
Heterosexual or straight	82		77%
Prefer not to answer	15		14%
Bisexual	4		4%
Not listed, please describe	2		2%
Gay	1		1%
Lesbian	1		1%
Two-Spirit	1		1%
Don't know	1		1%
Queer	0		

N 107

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

	Count	% of responses	%
White (e.g. English, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Slovakian)	50		47%
East Asian (e.g. Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Taiwanese)	23		21%
Prefer not to answer	14		13%
Arab, Middle Eastern or West Asian (e.g. Afghan, Armenian, Iranian, Lebanese, Persian, Turkish)	6		6%
Southeast Asian (e.g. Filipino, Malaysian, Singaporean, Thai, Vietnamese)	6		6%
Black (e.g. African, African-Canadian, Afro-Caribbean)	5		5%
More than one race category or mixed race	5		5%
Latin American (e.g. Brazilian, Colombian, Cuban, Mexican, Peruvian)	2		2%
South Asian or Indo-Caribbean (e.g. Indian, Indo- Guyanese, Indo-Trinidadian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan)	1		1%
First Nations (status, non-status, treaty or non-treaty), Inuit or Métis	0		
Other, please describe	0		



N 107

What language do you prefer speaking?

	Count	% of responses	%
English	95		90%
Chinese - Mandarin	4		4%
French	3		3%
Chinese - Cantonese	1		1%
Italian	1		1%
Tagalog	1		1%
Albanian	0		
American Sign Language	0		
Amharic	0		
Arabic	0		
Armenian	0		
Assyrian Neo-Aramaic	0		
Bengali	0		
Chinese - Other Dialects	0		
Farsi	0		
Greek	0		
Gujarati	0		
Hindi	0		
Hungarian	0		
Indigenous - Cree	0		





N 105

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?

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes	0		
No	97		92%
Prefer not to answer	9		8%






N 106

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?

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes	10		9%
No	89		83%
Don't know	1		1%
Prefer not to answer	7		7%





N 107

What best describes your current housing situation?

	Count	% of responses	%
Home owner	78		73%
Renting	10		9%
Permanently living with parent(s) or other family member(s)	12		11%
Temporarily staying with others (no fixed address)	0		
Unhoused (staying outside, in a shelter, in a 24-hour respite)	0		
Prefer not to answer	5		5%
Not listed, please describe	2		2%

N 107

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

	Count	% of responses	%
I have access to private outdoor space like a yard	82		77%
I have access to semi-private/shared outdoor space	8		8%
I only have access to public spaces like parks (I do not have access to private or semi-private outdoor space)	12		11%
Prefer not to answer	4		4%

N 106

Appendix B: Playground Design and Equipment Options

Proposed Playground Layout



The proposed layout for the new playground includes:

- Woodchip surfacing (called "Engineered Cedar Fibre")
- A concrete border around the playground
- An concrete accessible ramp with armourstone seat wall
- New play equipment
- A new asphalt paved connection to the playground
- Benches for seating
- New Tree planting

Proposed Playground Options

There are two playground designs to choose from below. Both designs:

- Are accessible. This means people of different abilities can play and have fun at the new playground
- Have about the same number of play features like swings, slides, etc.
- Cost the same amount

The colours in each image are for reference only. You can let us know what types of colours you like best at the end of the survey.

Playground Design A



Design A includes:

- A swingset with:

- Two belt swing seats
- One toddler swing seat
- One accessible swing seat
- One play structure for ages 2 to 12 with:
 - One double slide
 - One spiral slide
 - Three play panels
 - Three climbing options
- One car spring toy
- One play panel
- One solo spin toy

Playground Design B



Design B includes:

- A swingset with:
 - Two belt swing seats
 - One toddler swing seat
 - One accessible swing seat
- One overhead climbing structure for ages 5 to 12
- One play structure for ages 2 to 12 with:
 - One straight slide
 - One wave slide
 - One foot climber
 - One climbing frame
 - One set of stairs
- One see-saw
- One spring toy for ages 2-5
- One swaying rocker for ages 2-12

Appendix C: Email Responses

This appendix includes email responses received while the survey was open.

1. Good day,

We have some suggestions to make after reviewing the 2 proposals in the public survey. We're local residents living near the Clydesdale Park with kids in the higher range of 2-12 age group. Unfortunately both current proposals will de-motivate the kids and shut them out of the playground.

Our suggestions are going back to the drawing board to plan 2 structures; one for younger and another for older, active kids. Other suggestions to implement are zip-line and over-grip structures to connect multiple structural pieces together. Kids would love to see some elements of American Ninja Warriors. Now that's a fun and exciting playground for the ages!

The recent updates in Old Sheppard Park, which turned an all-age friendly playground into toddler friendly only and my kids were truly sad to see the transformation. The Clydesdale Park

proposals are also trending the same way. In fact, aside from new colours and concrete border, the current play structures are already an improvement, so let's just save the money if the city can't do it well! These structures won't keep kids over Grade 3 interested, let along a 12 year old.

Also, if anyone has surveyed the area you can see a very similar playground at Brian PS, just 200 metres away. Please I encourage you to make the transformation fun for all kids so this is where they live and located next to a tennis club! Do not leave the suggestions to the contractor, because they would prefer to build smaller structures and lots of landscaping and concrete borders.

Sincerely yours,

--

We are all very excited about the new park going into the Clydesdale Park and we've been encouraging residents to participate in your survey. I just wanted to share with you some feedback a few shared with me after they submitted the survey but said they did not include their comments in the process.

1. Many wondered why the small structure in the south end of the park couldn't just remain there while you build the new one in the north section. Certainly the spring ride and see-saw need to be removed but the little hut with slide seems perfectly fine so why remove it?

2. The last playscape that was installed at Old Sheppard had a concrete curb very close to a spring ride. Some parents were tripping backwards over it because their kids needed to be held and as they removed them from the ride their step backwards was hitting the curb. We inquired and it is within guidelines but please don't have any concrete curbs in the Clydesdale Park for structures where parents may need to squeeze in beside their kids. There was also concern with a child pushing another off and them hitting their head. Just mentioning this in case you can influence this design component.

3. Final comment is actually my personal comment that I did put in the survey. If in fact Version B is chosen, I'm wondering if another monkeybar version might be considered as an alternative. All around our community we have these common monkey bar structures. I can think of 3 off the top of my head, and although they were designed primarily to be used by adults they are used by kids alike. Meanwhile, I've seen some unique and really cool climbing structures for 5-12 years olds at the new Thomson Park in Scarborough and one across the road from that park in a smaller park. Would it be possible to substitute the standard common monkeybar in the current design with something like the one in the image below? It would be unique to the neighbourhood and add some excitement as kids tour through the various playscapes in the community



Thanks for considering my comments.

Hi,

I happened to walk my dog into Clydesdale Park today and just wanted to show you the existing “monkey bars” I was talking about beside the designated spot for the new bars. You might already know but thought I’d snap while I was there.



1. And, I couldn't help but show you the cute existing structure that's been there for decades. I know you said its reached the end of its lifespan but you know there are lots of old wood barns that are over 100 years old still standing and functioning. There are parts of the structure (circled in yellow) that might not be 100% that could be removed but I looked underneath the little house and the supporting beams all look sound and straight and it really is the cutest thing for little kids. Even my dog loves using it.



2. I'm just trying to pull on your heartstrings a little lol. Just in case there is a way to salvage that playhouse part rather than scrap it as what good is that nice park bench that's sitting across from it now if not to sit and enjoy watching a kid play in there. Ok, my sales pitch is over now and I'll leave it in your hands!!



Take care and stay well

Regards