City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry & Recreation

New Park at 225 Birmingham Street

Concept Design Options

Survey Summary Report

December 2021

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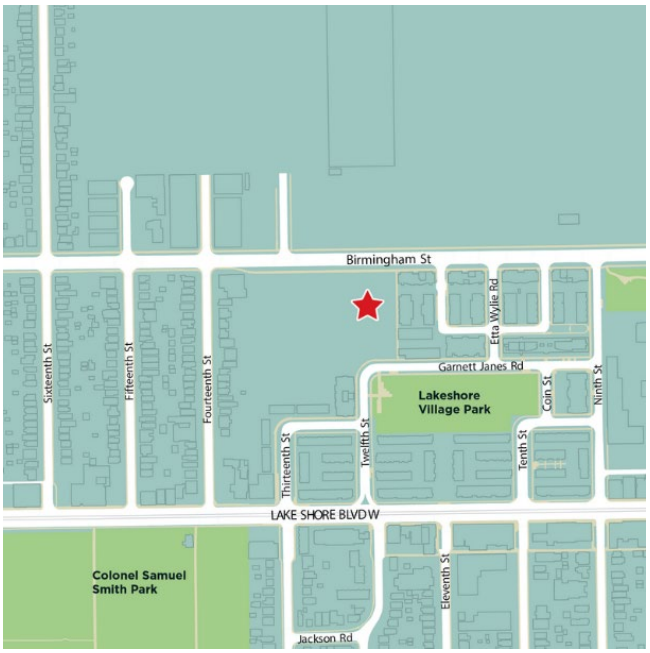
TORONTO

Contents

Project Background



As part of the residential townhouse development at 225 Birmingham Street, there will be a new 2,700m2 municipal park. The park will be located at the east side of the development site and will span from Garnett Janes Road to the south and Birmingham Street to the north. The new park will also be situated north of the existing Lakeshore Village Park.

The City is working with the developer on the design and construction of the new park, which will provide various amenities that will complement existing parks in the surrounding neighbourhood. The new park may include:

- An outdoor fitness area or playground
- Ping pong and games tables
- Seating area with shade canopy and new plantings
- Walking path

The New Park at 225 Birmingham Street project anticipated schedule is as follows:

Notification

Signage sharing information about the new park and online survey was posted near the site.

The online survey was promoted through the following channels:

- A community mail out to residents living near the park
- An eFlyer that was circulated to future residents of the new residential development
- Communications from local Councillor's office
- Facebook, Twitter and Instagram advertisements targeting area residents.
- Project webpage: www.toronto.ca/BirminghamStreetPark
- Signage placed near the new park site (currently under construction)

Online Survey – September 3 to 19, 2021

An online survey was hosted from September 3 to 19, 2021, and asked for feedback on the proposed concept design options, park features and amenities, and asked community to share their own community perspectives and priorities. Feedback from the online survey will help the design team to develop a final design for the park improvements which will be shared in December 2021 with the community and key stakeholders.

The survey received a total of **413 survey responses**, which included input from **766 individuals**.

Proposed Concept Design Options

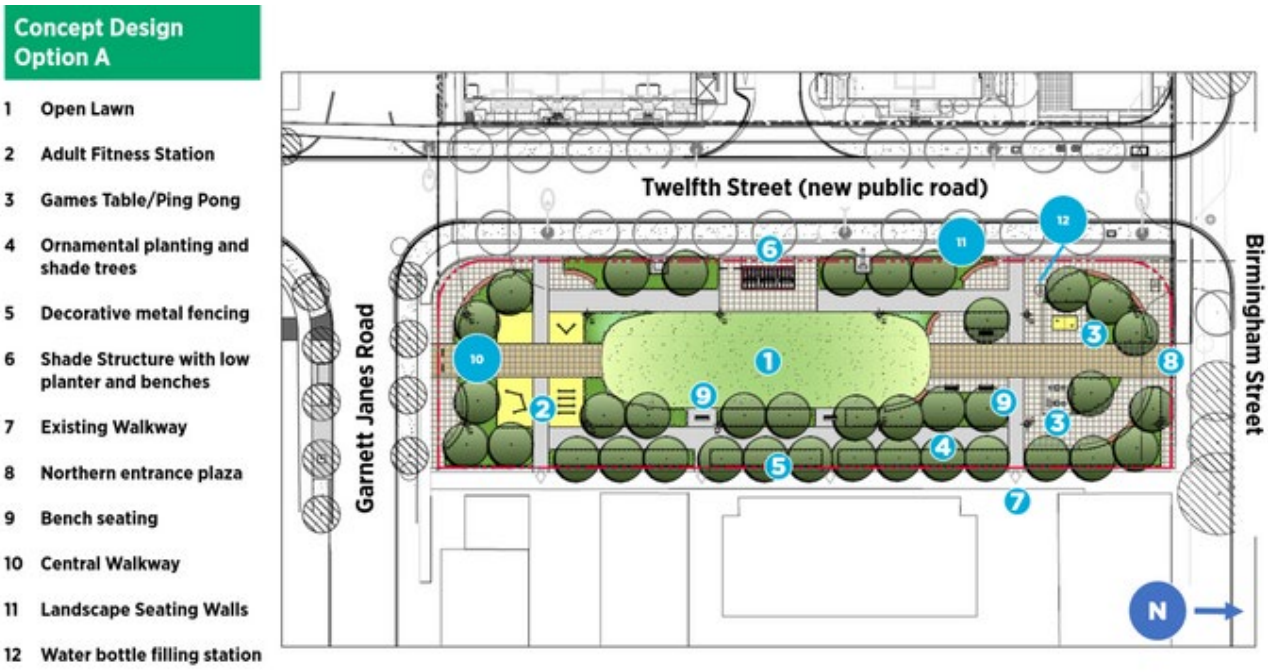
A concept design is an early phase of the design process, which broadly outlines the proposed amenities, design features and layout of a space. There are two proposed concept options for the new park on Birmingham Street.

All concept design options include:

- Provide a primarily passive park experience
- Have pathways/walkways that will be fully accessible

- Have ornamental planting and shade trees
- Provide benches that are distributed along the paths throughout the park
- Provide light levels and sightlines that will conform to best practices for public safety

Concept Design Option A



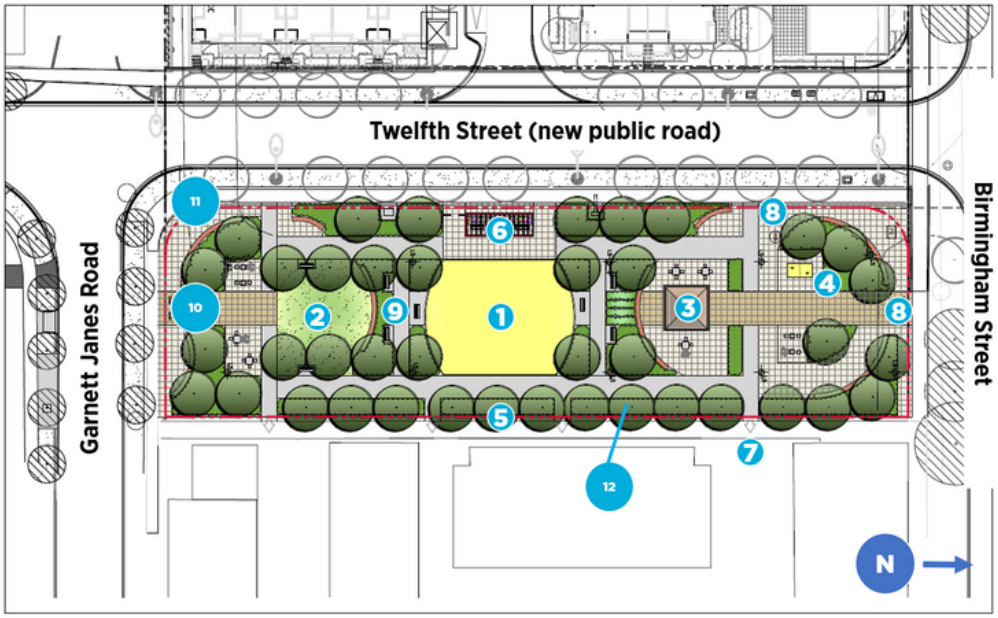
Concept Option A includes:

- An entrance plaza at the north end which will include game tables, a ping pong table, seating, planting areas and paving
- An adult fitness area at the south end of the park
- A central open lawn with benches located around the perimeter
- A central walkway that leads into a large open lawn area
- Seatwalls and bench seating throughout the park
- Pathway connections to the adjacent development to the east of the park, and to existing public sidewalks
- Decorative metal fencing separating the planting areas from the development to the east of the park
- Ornamental planting and shade trees surrounding the park

Concept Design Option B

Concept Design Option B

1 Playground
2 Open Lawn
3 Pavilion with cluster seating
4 Games tables/Ping Pong
5 Decorative metal fencing
6 Shade Structure with low planter and benches
7 Existing Walkway
8 Water bottle filling station
9 Bench seating
10 Central Walkway
11 Landscape Seating Walls
12 Ornamental planting and shade trees



Concept Option B includes:

- An entrance plaza at the north end which will include game tables, a ping pong table, seating, planting areas and paving
- A central playground space
- A shade structure with benches that on-look the playground
- A small plaza at the south end which will include game tables, round picnic style tables, benches and planting areas
- Seatwalls and bench seating throughout the park
- Pathway connections to the adjacent development to the east of the park
- Decorative metal fencing separating the planting areas from the development to the east of the park
- Ornamental planting and shade trees surrounding the park

Online Survey - Key Feedback Highlights

On Survey Respondents

- The survey received a total of **413 survey responses**, which included input from **766 individuals**.
    - The majority of survey respondents were in the 40 to 55 (25%), 30 to 39 (22%), and 5-12 years old (14%) age categories.

- **The majority of survey respondents found out about the survey from:**
    - Social media advertisements (60%)
    - A community postcard/mail out to their home (23%)
    - Communications from the local Councillor's Office (11%)
    - Word of mouth (6%)
    - Park signage (3%)

- Email from project team (2%)
- Project webpage (1%)

- **The majority of respondents have access to private outdoor space like a yard (60%)**
  - 27% of respondents only have access to public spaces like parks.
  - 9% of respondents have access to semi-private/shared outdoor space.

- **The majority of respondents identified as homeowners (74%).**
  - 21% of respondents identified as renters.
  - 1% of respondents identified as permanently living with parent(s) or other family member(s).

- **The majority of respondents identified that they frequently visit parks in their neighbourhood (80%)**
  - 18% of respondents identified that they sometimes visit parks in their neighbourhood.
  - 2% of respondents said they rarely visit parks in their neighbourhood.

- **When asked if it was easy to get to parks in their neighbourhood, and if there were any barriers (physical or otherwise) that would make it challenging to visit, respondents said:**
  - It is easy to get to local parks (60%)
  - There is not enough park at or near parks (17%)
  - It is difficult to cross the street when visiting a park (13%)
  - It is an unsafe location to walk to their nearby park (12%)
  - There is not enough bike parking at or near the park (9%)
  - The park is located at a location that is unsafe to bike (6%)
  - There is a physical barrier on the street, pathway, or entrance to the park (6%)

Visiting the Park

- **To get to the new park (respondents could select multiple options):**
  - 83% of respondents would walk
  - 42% would bike
  - 27% would use a personal vehicle
  - 7% would use a mobility device and/or stroller
  - 4% would use public transportation
  - 1% would use other methods (e.g. scooter, rollerblading, etc.)

- **When visiting the park:**
  - The majority of respondents would visit with their partner (63%) or children (60%)
  - Less than half of respondents' would visit with their friends (40%) or alone (33%)
  - Some respondents would visit with pets (31%)

- **The most popular activities** respondents would like to partake in at the new park are relaxing (54%), enjoying or using the children's playa rea (53%), sitting and/or eating (52%), enjoying and observing the plants and planting areas (51%) and exercising (42%)
  - **Less popular activities** included sports (24%) and spending time alone (20%)

Features and Amenities in the Neighbourhood

The survey asked respondents how they would best describe what features and amenities are available in their neighbourhood. These features included:

"My neighbourhood has outdoor fitness equipment"
- Strongly Agree (1%)
- Agree (2%)
- Neutral (9%)
- Disagree (37%)
- **Strongly Disagree (43%)**

"My neighbourhood has public art"
- Strongly Agree (1%)
- Agree (23%)
- Neutral (20%)
- **Disagree (33%)**
- Strongly Disagree (19%)

"My neighbourhood has a dog's off-leash area"
- Strongly Agree (8%)
- **Agree (27%)**
- Neutral (15%)
- Disagree (13%)
- Strongly Disagree (15%)

"My neighbourhood has lots of playgrounds"
- Strongly Agree (10%)
- **Agree (39%)**
- Neutral (24%)
- Disagree (18%)
- Strongly Disagree (4%)

"My neighbourhood has open/passive green space"
- Strongly Agree (13%)
- **Agree (49%)**
- Neutral (17%)
- Disagree (15%)
- Strongly Disagree (2%)

"My neighbourhood has options for water play (e.g. wading pools, swimming pools, splash pads etc.)"
- Strongly Agree (12%)
- **Agree (50%)**
- Neutral (19%)
- Disagree (11%)
- Strongly Disagree (5%)

"My neighbourhood has lots of trees and plants"
- Strongly Agree (17%)
- **Agree (45%)**

- Neutral (19%)
- Disagree (15%)
- Strongly Disagree (4%)

"My neighbourhood has lots of parks"

- Strongly Agree (18%)
- **Agree (49%)**
- Neutral (20%)
- Disagree (11%)
- Strongly Disagree (3%)

On the Proposed Concept Designs

- Overall, participants were generally supportive of both designs with slightly more participants leaning towards Option B. A small amount of participants also indicated they liked both options.
    - Concept Option A (32% of survey participants)
    - Concept Option B (47% of survey participants)
    - I like both options (16% of survey participants)
    - I do not like either options (6% of survey participants)

Table 1 summarizes the total agreement (All Strongly Agree and "Agree") responses for the park elements as they are represented in Option A and Option B. Full results are included in the Appendix.

Park Element and/or Feature	Agreement with elements as shown in Option A	Agreement with elements as shown in Option B
The pathways would allow me to move easily to the places I want to travel to.	**78%**	**74%**
There are enough trees and plants included in the design.	**78%**	**80%**
Central open lawn provides a space to sit and enjoy the park.	**75%**	**N/A**
The amount of open space/lawn meets my/my household's needs.	**69%**	**N/A**
There is a balance between paved surfaces and green space.	**69%**	**57%**
There are enough seating options and places to sit.	**46%**	**68%**
The ping pong table and game tables will meet my/my household's needs.	**36%**	**37%**
The adult fitness area would allow me/my household an outdoors space to exercise.	**57%**	**N/A**
The Children's Playground meets my/my household's needs.	**N/A**	**55%**

Concept Option A: Detailed Feedback

The majority of survey respondents were satisfied with the proposed layout shown in Concept Design Option A:

- 55% of respondents were Satisfied or Very Satisfied
- 25% of respondents were Neutral
- 19% of respondents were Dissatisfied or Very Dissatisfied

Respondents were able to indicate whether they *Agreed*, *Neither Agreed nor Disagreed*, or *Disagreed* on a series of statements related to the park features in Concept Design Option A.

Well-received features (50% or more of respondents agreed on the related statement) included:

- Pathways that would allow easy travel (78%)
- Amount of trees and plants in the design (78%)
- Central open lawn (75%)
- Amount of open space/lawn would meet household needs (69%)
- Balance between paved surfaces and green spaces (69%)

Features slightly less well-received included:

- Adult fitness area
  - 57% of respondents agreed it would allow them/their household an outdoors space to exercise
  - 34% were neutral
  - 8% of respondents disagreed

- Seating options and places to sit
  - 46% of respondents agreed that there were enough seating options and places to sit
  - 30% were neutral
  - 25% of respondents disagreed

- Ping pong and games tables
  - 26% of respondents agreed that the ping pong table and games tables would meet their household's needs
  - 41% were neutral
  - 22% disagreed

- When asked what respondents liked most about the proposed concept design:

  - The most popular features included:
    - Shade Trees and ornamental planting (63%)
    - Large open lawn (40%)
    - Adult Fitness Area (39%)
    - Seating walls and seating areas (36%)

  - Features less preferred by respondents included:
    - Amount and distribution of green space (30%)
    - Games tables / ping pong tables (24%)
    - Northern plaza space (9%)

Concept Option B: Detailed Feedback

- **The majority of survey respondents were satisfied with the proposed layout shown in Concept Design Option B:**
  - 57% of respondents were Satisfied or Very Satisfied

- 21% of respondents were Neutral
- 22% of respondents were Dissatisfied or Very Dissatisfied

- Respondents were able to indicate whether they *Agreed*, *Neither Agreed nor Disagreed*, or *Disagreed* on a series of statements related to the park features in Concept Design Option B. **Well-received features (50% or more of respondents agreed on the related statement) included:**
  - Amount of trees and plants in the design (80%)
  - Pathways that would allow easy travel (74%)
  - Seating options and places to sit (68%)
  - Balance between paved surfaces and green spaces (57%)
  - Children's playground (55%)

- **Features slightly less well-received included:**
  - Ping pong and games tables
    - 37% of respondents agreed that the ping pong table and games tables would meet their household's needs
    - 46% were neutral
    - 17% disagreed

- **When asked what respondents liked most about the proposed concept design:**

  - The most popular features included:
    - Shade Trees and ornamental planting (62%)
    - Children's Playground (55%)

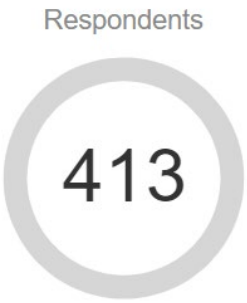
  - Features less preferred by respondents included:
    - Small shade structure with benches (38%)
    - Seating walls (30%)
    - Amount and distribution of green space (25%)
    - Games tables/ping pong tables (22%)

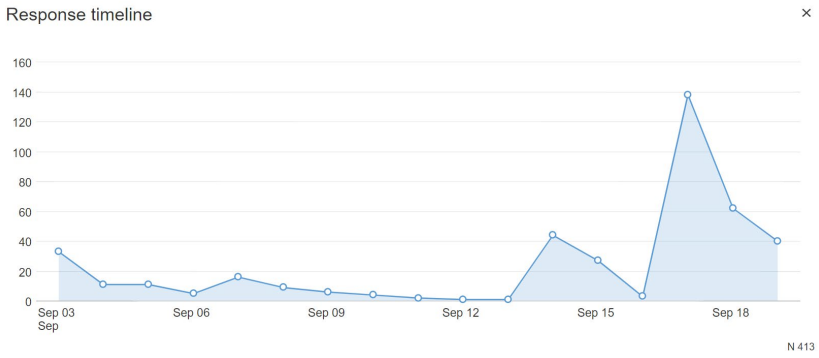
- **When asked which Playground Equipment Option was preferred:**
  - 41% of respondents preferred Playground Option 2 – Play Structure.
  - 30% of respondents preferred Playground Option 1 – Climbing Circuit.
  - 29% of respondents identified that they would not have a need for a playground in their household.

Next Steps

The results of this survey will be shared with the project team and local Councillor's office, and will inform the park's final concept design. This design will be available on the project webpage in early 2022.

Appendix A: Quantitative Response Summary





If you were to visit the new park on Birmingham, what method of transportation would you use? Please select all that apply.

	Count	% of responses	%
Walk	341		83%
Cycle	174		42%
Personal vehicle	113		27%
Mobility device and/or stroller	29		7%
Public transportation	18		4%
Other, please specify	6		1%
Taxi and/or ride share	2		0%

N 413

Other responses included:

- Swimming pool!
- Rollerblade, run
- Scooter
- Skateboard, scooter
- Skateboard
- Scooter

If you were to visit the new park on Birmingham, who would you go with? Please select all that apply.

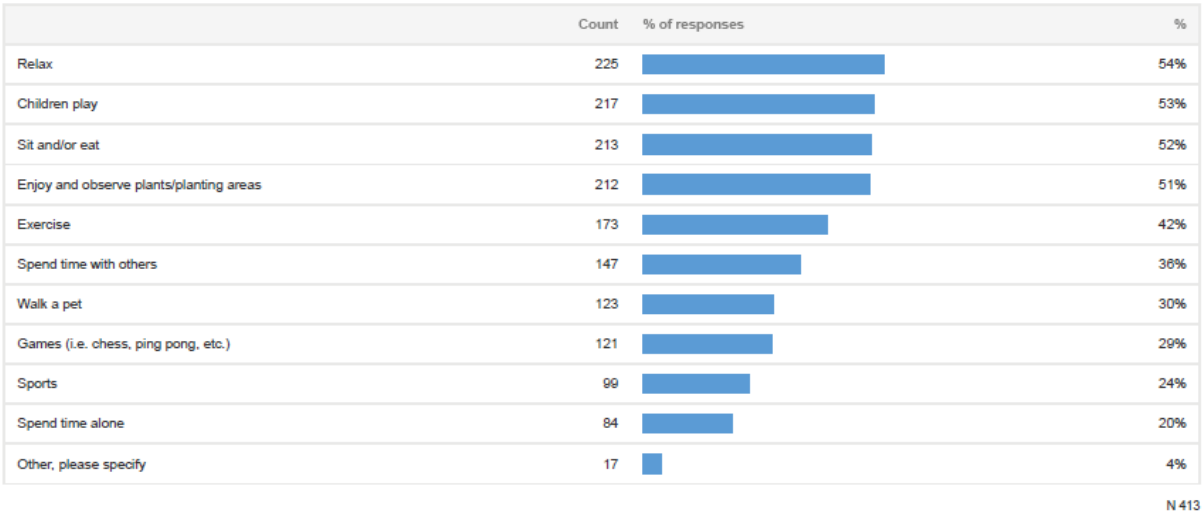
	Count	% of responses	%
Spouse or partner	259		63%
Children	247		60%
Friends	166		40%
Alone	138		33%
Pets	130		31%
Other, please specify	11		3%

N 413

Other responses included:

- Swimming friends
- Sister
- Family (4)
- Extended family
- Neighbors
- Teens
- Elderly parent
- In-laws

What would you like to do at this new park? Select up to 5.



	Count	% of responses	%
Relax	225		54%
Children play	217		53%
Sit and/or eat	213		52%
Enjoy and observe plants/planting areas	212		51%
Exercise	173		42%
Spend time with others	147		36%
Walk a pet	123		30%
Games (i.e. chess, ping pong, etc.)	121		29%
Sports	99		24%
Spend time alone	84		20%
Other, please specify	17		4%

N 413

Other responses included:

- Visit Off leash dog area
- Dog Off-leash Park
- Barbecue
- A tennis court would be nice
- Swimming
- Try to figure out how I can walk by but not live in the new and grotesquely overpriced homes in the neighborhood in which I've lived for 28 years, even with a 6-figure salary. Very painful and no one cares.
- Enjoy and observe birds and insects
- Birding, if possible.
- Read
- Have a pool, bike rake
- Watch the sunset. There's a good view from there.
- Swimming pool
- Teens play
- children's playground
- Consider Bryant Park, New York City where games, reading and entertainment create outdoor living in the park.
- Cool off (splash pad or pool)
- Bring children to meet and play with other children (same or near same age -- around ages 9, 10, 11)

Do you visit parks in your neighbourhood?

	Count	% of responses	%
I frequently visit parks in my neighbourhood	329		80%
I sometimes visit parks in my neighbourhood	74		18%
I rarely visit parks in my neighbourhood	8		2%
I never visit parks in my neighbourhood	2		0%
I don't visit parks at all (not just in my neighbourhood)	0		

N 413

Is it easy to get to parks in your neighbourhood? Are there any barriers (physical or otherwise) that would make it challenging to get to the new park at 225 Birmingham Street?

	Count	% of responses	%
It is easy to get to local parks	249		60%
Not enough parking at or near park	69		17%
Difficult to cross street	54		13%
Unsafe location to walk	50		12%
Not enough bike parking at or near park	38		9%
Unsafe location to bike	25		6%
Physical barrier on street, pathway, or entrance to park (e.g. absence of curb cut or damaged sidewalk)	24		6%
Other, please specify	24		6%
Steep hill(s)	15		4%

N 413

Other responses included:

- This park will be filled with [redacted]
- Lots of shootings and violence in that area, I would be concerned about the park space being abused, finding drug paraphernalia, etc.
- Unattractive
- Not enough picnic tables
- Not many nearby
- No speed bumps in area to slow down traffic.
- It will be difficult to navigate to and from this park with my tears obstructing my vision.
- Apartment building fences restrict access
- Numerous shootings in the area by the basketball park.
- None
- Distance from home
- Need a cross walk to the park or lights
- Poor quality playground. Disgusting sand pit
- That area can be known for gang activity. Should put in cameras or something.
- Only a few of the parks I can walk to so this one would be a nice alternative
- no barriers known
- there are no parks within walking distance with off leash dog areas
- Inaccessible play structures for children with mobility issues
- Gun crime in the adjacent streets
- Unfortunately, local gun violence is a deterrent to enjoyment of local parks and playgrounds.
- Easy to get to except for speeding cyclists
- A traffic/ pedestrian crossing on lakeshore at the top of Eleventh Street would help with community access to this location.

- Long distance to walk
- Children's playground(s) don't have enough for children (ages 9, 10, 11+) to do. Often in full sun so uncomfortable for children's parent/guardians.

Which best describes how you feel about the features and amenities in your neighbourhood?

	Average	Count	% of responses
My neighbourhood has outdoor fitness equipment	68%	413	9% 37% 43% 8%
My neighbourhood has public art	51%	413	23% 20% 33% 19%
My neighbourhood has a dogs off-leash area	50%	413	8% 27% 15% 21% 13% 15%
My neighbourhood has lots of playgrounds	36%	413	10% 39% 24% 18%
My neighbourhood has open/passive green space	31%	413	13% 49% 17% 15%
My neighbourhood has options for water play (e.g. wading pools, swimming pools, splash pads etc.)	31%	413	12% 50% 19% 11%
My neighbourhood has lots of trees and plants	29%	413	17% 45% 19% 15%
My neighbourhood has lots of parks	26%	413	18% 49% 20% 11%

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree I don't know

N 413

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about the elements in Concept Design Option A.

	Average	Count	% of responses
The pathways would allow me to move easily to the places I want to travel to	12%	322	78% 20%
There are enough trees and plants included in the design	16%	322	78% 13% 9%
Central open lawn provides a space to sit and enjoy the park	16%	322	75% 17% 8%
The amount of open space/lawn meets my/my household's needs	19%	322	69% 24% 7%
There is a balance between paved surfaces and green space	21%	322	69% 21% 11%
The adult fitness area would allow me/my household an outdoors space to exercise	25%	322	57% 34% 8%
There are enough seating options and places to sit	39%	322	46% 30% 25%
The ping pong table and game tables will meet my/my household's needs	43%	322	36% 41% 22%

Agree Neither Agree nor Disagree Disagree

N 322

How do you feel about the proposed layout shown in Concept Design Option A?

	Count	% of responses	%
Very Satisfied	37		11%
Satisfied	141		44%
Neutral	82		25%
Dissatisfied	49		15%
Very Dissatisfied	13		4%

N 322

What features shown in Option A do you like the most? Please select your top three.

	Count	% of responses	%
Shade trees and ornamental planting	202		63%
Large open lawn	130		40%
Adult fitness area	125		39%
Seating wallsSeating areas	117		36%
Amount and distribution of green space	98		30%
Games tables/ping pong tables	76		24%
Northern plaza space	29		9%

N 322

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about the elements in Concept Design Option B.

	Average	Count	% of responses
There are enough trees and plants included in the design	13%	322	80% 14% 6%
The pathways would allow me to move easily to the places I want to travel to	15%	322	74% 21% 5%
There are enough seating options and places to sit	22%	322	68% 20% 12%
The Children's Playground meets my/my household's needs	31%	322	55% 29% 16%
There is a balance between paved surfaces and green space	31%	322	57% 24% 19%
The ping pong table and game tables will meet my/my household's needs	40%	322	37% 46% 17%

Agree Neither Agree nor Disagree Disagree

N 322

How do you feel about the proposed layout shown in Option B?

	Count	% of responses	%
Very Satisfied	73		23%
Satisfied	111		34%
Neutral	67		21%
Dissatisfied	56		17%
Very Dissatisfied	15		5%

N 322

Which of these equipment options do you prefer?

	Count	% of responses	%
Playground Equipment Option 1 - Climbing Circuit	97		30%
Playground Equipment Option 2 - Play Structure	131		41%
My household would not have a need for a playground.	94		29%

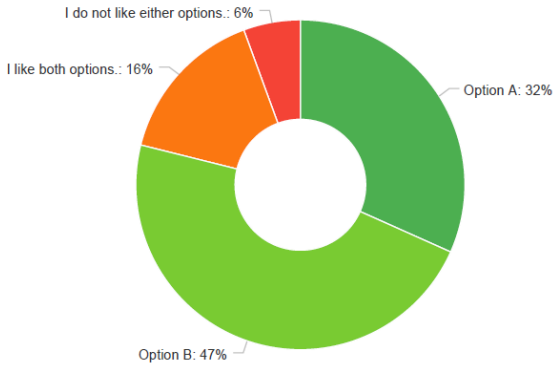
N 322

What features shown in Option B do you like the most? Please select your top three.

	Count	% of responses	%
Shade trees and ornamental planting	199		62%
Children's Playground	178		55%
Small shade structure with benches	121		38%
Seating walls	97		30%
Amount and distribution of green space	81		25%
Games tables/ping pong tables	71		22%

N 322

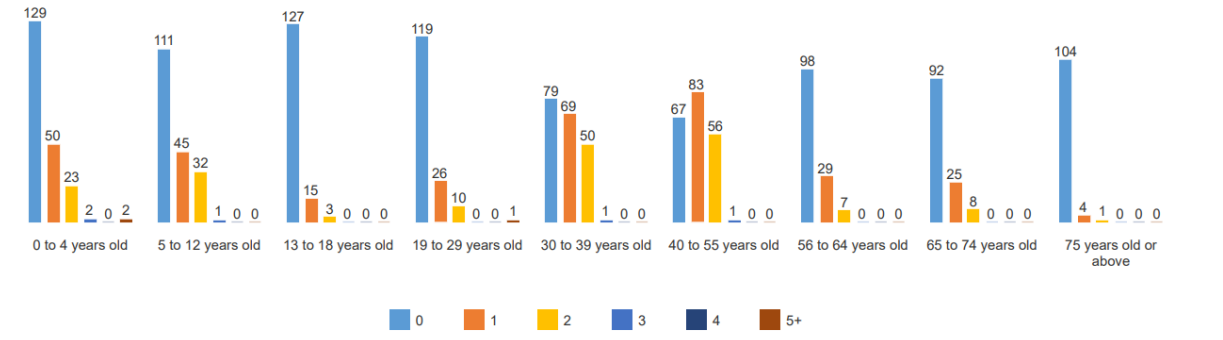
Which Concept Design option do you prefer?



N 322

Demographics

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



N 316

Total responses per age group include:

- 112 respondents age 0 to 4 years old
- 115 respondents age 5 to 12 years old
- 21 respondents age 13 to 18 years old
- 51 respondents age 19 to 29 years old
- 172 respondents age 30 to 39 years old
- 198 respondents age 40 to 55 years old
- 43 respondents age 56 to 64 years old
- 41 respondents age 65 to 74 years old
- 6 respondents age 75 years old or above

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

	Count	% of responses	%
Woman	211		67%
Man	91		29%
Prefer not to answer	21		7%
Not listed, please describe	2		1%
Trans woman	1		0%
Trans man	1		0%
Gender non-binary (including gender fluid, genderqueer, androgynous)	1		0%
Two-Spirit	1		0%

N 316

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	247		78%
Prefer not to answer	42		13%
Lesbian	13		4%
Bisexual	9		3%
Not listed, please describe	5		2%
Gay	3		1%
Queer	3		1%
Two-Spirit	1		0%
Don't know	1		0%

N 315

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.

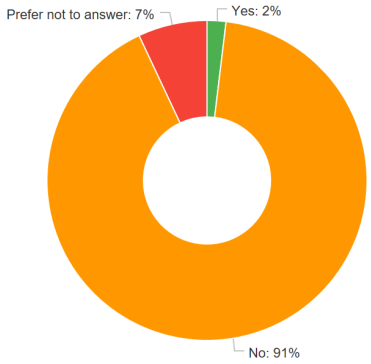
	Count	% of responses	%
White (e.g. English, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Slovakian)	218		69%
Prefer not to answer	35		11%
East Asian (e.g. Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Taiwanese)	17		5%
More than one race category or mixed race	14		4%
Black (e.g. African, African-Canadian, Afro-Caribbean)	12		4%
South Asian or Indo-Caribbean (e.g. Indian, Indo- Guyanese, Indo-Trinidadian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan)	9		3%
Southeast Asian (e.g. Filipino, Malaysian, Singaporean, Thai, Vietnamese)	9		3%
Latin American (e.g. Brazilian, Colombian, Cuban, Mexican, Peruvian)	7		2%
Other, please describe	7		2%
Jewish	6		2%
Arab, Middle Eastern or West Asian (e.g. Afghan, Armenian, Iranian, Lebanese, Persian, Turkish)	5		2%
First Nations (status, non-status, treaty or non-treaty), Inuit or Métis	4		1%

N 316

What language do you prefer speaking?

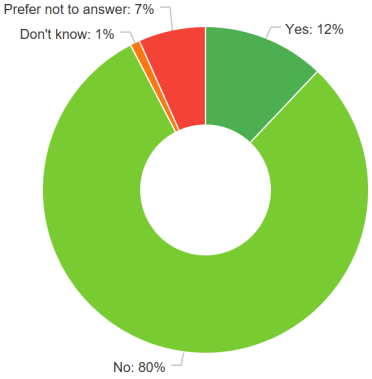
N 310

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



N 315

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



N 315

What best describes your current housing situation?

	Count	% of responses	%
Home owner	235		74%
Renting	68		21%
Permanently living with parent(s) or other family member(s)	4		1%
Temporarily staying with others (no fixed address)	0		
Unhoused (staying outside, in a shelter, in a 24-hour respite)	1		0%
Prefer not to answer	8		3%
Not listed, please describe	1		0%

N 317

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	189		60%
I have access to semi-private/shared outdoor space	30		9%
I only have access to public spaces like parks (I do not have access to private or semi-private outdoor space)	87		27%
Prefer not to answer	11		3%

N 317

What best describes your relationship to the new park at 225 Birmingham?

	Count	% of responses	%
I am a resident living nearby.	268		84%
I am a future resident at the nearby residential townhouse development.	3		1%
I am a member of the wider community.	45		14%
Other, please specify	2		1%

N 318

How did you find out about this survey?

	Count	% of responses	%
Social Media	191		60%
Mailer to my home	74		23%
Councillor's Office communications	34		11%
Word of mouth	19		6%
Other, please specify	10		3%
Park sign	9		3%
Email from project team	6		2%
The project web page	4		1%
I don't know/Prefer not to answer	3		1%

N 317