

City of Toronto – Parks Development & Capital Projects

New Park at 261 Nairn Ave.

Virtual Open House

Meeting Summary

March 2022

Prepared By:

Lar Herald, Senior Project Coordinator – Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division

Pablo Muñoz, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator - Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division



Contents

- Introduction 2
- Meeting Goals 2
- Meeting Promotion 2
- Feedback Summary 2
 - Questions and Answers 2
- Next Steps 4
- Contact Us 4

Introduction

This document provides a summary of the **New Park at 261 Nairn Ave. Open House** that was held on February 22nd, 2022.

The meeting was attended by approximately 25 community members.

The presentation shared at this meeting and more information about the project can be found on the project webpage at www.toronto.ca/261Nairn

Meeting Goals

Since September of 2021, the City has been working with the local community to develop a design for the site at 261 Nairn Ave. which was recently converted into parkland. At this meeting, the project team presented the outcome of the engagement process conducted to date and the Preferred Concept.

Meeting Promotion

The meeting was promoted through:

- Paid social media advertisement on Facebook and Instagram geo-targeting the study area.
- Project webpage updates.
- Deputy Mayor Ana Bailao's office.

Feedback Summary

The meeting started with opening remarks by Deputy Mayor, Ana Bailao. Project staff then presented the engagement process and project timeline, followed by a Q&A session. A copy of the presentation is available on [the project webpage](#).

Questions (Q), answers (A). This is not a verbatim transcript.

Questions and Answers

Q: Can the surface of the play area can be reconsidered? The mulch is less than ideal for small kids.

A: Rubber surfacing is extremely costly. It is not in the budget. We are proposing a cedar weave. It is still a wood product, slightly different than mulch. The product has a finer grain and knits together to create a dense mat-style surface that is still moveable. The City has started introducing this to new playgrounds and parks and it seems to work quite well.

Q: What is the budget for the project?

A: \$430,000. This includes construction budget as well as soft costs related to permits, any survey work that has been done, any geotechnical investigations as well as our design consulting fees.

Q: What is the cost of a water fountain? Currently there is no public water in the neighbourhood. The closest is Earls Court, and the Charles Caccia Park. Otherwise, nothing along Rogers. There

is also no shade, not sure when the trees will reach maturity. I would like to suggest that the water fountain be prioritized.

A: Currently the water fountain is provisional. The fountain requires a connection to the sanitary sewer; this connection can be quite costly if we have to do work in the roadway. This process will also involve permits through Toronto Water. Feasibility of the fountain will require further investigation.

Q: Who signs off on this?

A: This project is council approved, with budget in place. The General Manager of PRF has also directed us to move the project forward. When we tender the project, management reviews the tender and award.

Q: Last meeting I was told we couldn't include adult fitness equipment because of a technicality (can't include small adult fitness by the children's playground). I would be good to prioritise providing some adult fitness equipment. Even just a simple piece.

A: Children's play was identified as the priority through the engagement process for the project and through the Parkland Study. There is not enough space for adult fitness equipment. We usually don't add a single pullup bar in a place dedicated to children's play.

Q: Is there a fringe of grass alongside the outside of the fence where you could walk your dog and clean up afterwards?

A: There will be a strip of sod about 1.2-1.5 m wide. That is a place where your pet could relieve themselves and be picked up afterwards.

Q: In the last consultation there was a plant buffer along Rogers Road. I don't see it anymore, has that been taken out? I thought it was a good idea. Good to dampen sound and give the park a better atmosphere.

A: Yes that was in the previous concept plan. There were 2 concepts, one with a fence and one with a plant buffer. Based on overall feedback, there is a stronger desire for a 1.2 m high fence along Rogers Road to provide a stronger physical buffer for safety. We were also able to push the fence further north to Roger's Road so there is more useable greenspace. We will give further consideration to including a planted buffer along the north edge.

Q: Good to expand the greenspace for picnic area. What is the fence like in terms of blocking the view or the sounds from the road? Maybe put in grasses as a planting buffer between the fence and the benches.

A: That is something we can look into.

Q: Are the benches absolutely necessary?

A: Through the engagement process we heard that seating is a priority for the community. The benches that are currently onsite are being repurposed, we are reorienting them towards the road/sidewalk. We are repurposing the 4th bench and placing that in the park. We are integrating more seating into the park space as well.

Q: Thank you, looks like the project is moving along. My comment is about the adjacent properties, this neighbourhood doesn't have enough parkland or enough of a tree canopy. The neighbourhood already has a high heat score. I really support expanding the park if possible.

A: (Response from the Deputy Mayor) the City is making all efforts to make that possible. The City has to buy within market value, and our real estate and parks team are working to make that happen.

Q: Wondering about the choice of playground style. It seems to me that the one selected is most prone to being vandalised (graffiti). Has the ability for the surfaces to be cleaned been taken into consideration? There is a lot of spray paint all over walls and garages in the area and could be a concern for the play structures.

A: Vandalism and graffiti can happen on any type of playground. The wood playground chosen for the park would have a seal on top to allow graffiti to be washed off or pieces could potentially be replaced.

Q: Could we have more than one swing per age group?

A: The proposed design includes 1 accessible swing, 1 toddler swing and one regular swing. We are very limited by the size of the park and there are also budget constraints. In our last design we only had 2 seats and realised it was important to add a third seat. We can try to see if we can fit in another swing, but even adding a third was a challenging based on space availability and budget.

Q: Will this park be lit?

A: Lighting has not been included in the park design because there is ample street lighting. We typically don't light our parks unless it is a pathway leading to a key public destination (e.g. library, transit).

Next Steps

Construction is expected to start in the summer of 2022.

Contact Us

For any questions or additional comments please contact:

Lara Herald
Senior Project Coordinator
Telephone: 416-394-5723
Email: Lara.Herald@toronto.ca