

# **Moss Park park Improvements & John Innes Community Recreation Centre Replacement Project**

WHAT WE HEARD REPORT:  
Local Advisory Group and  
Project Champions Meeting #1

June 13, 2022



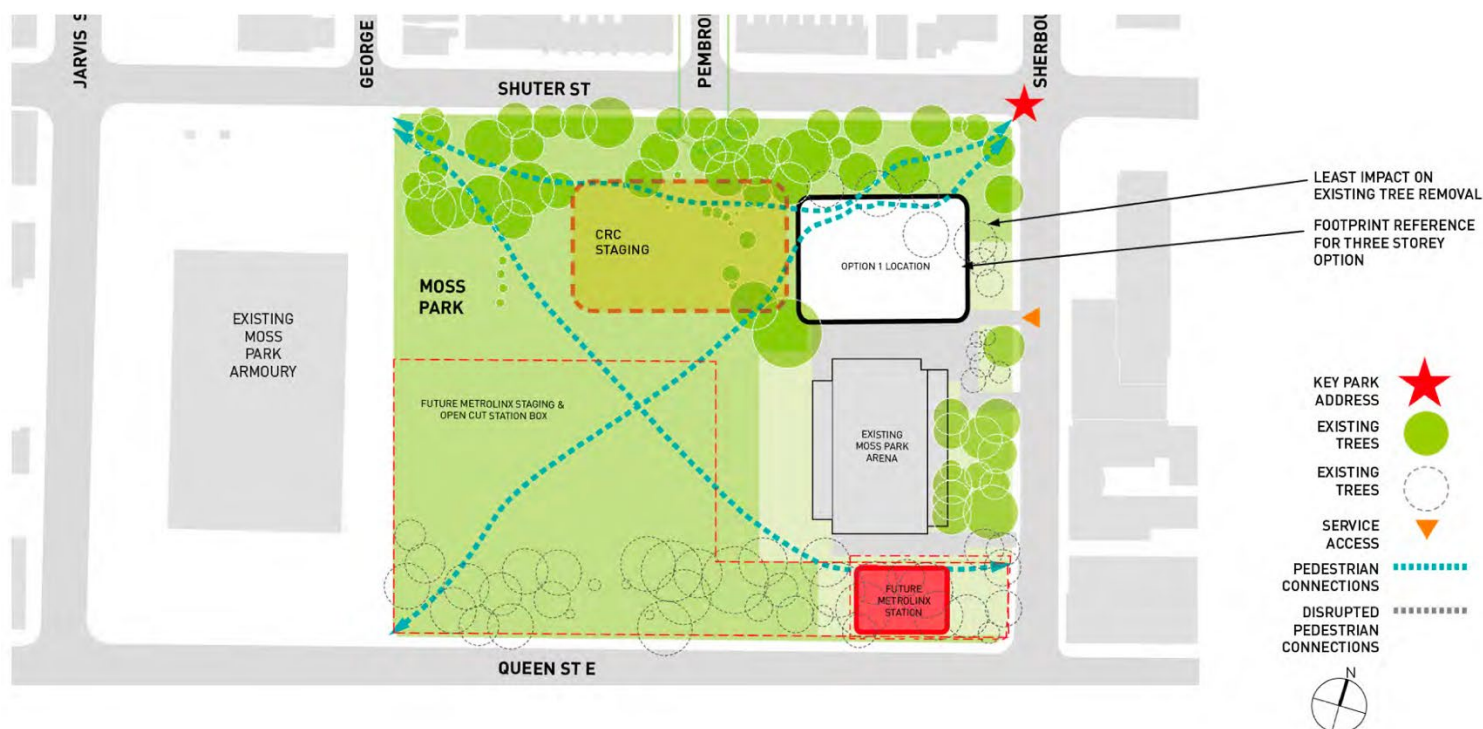
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# 1.0 Introduction

The City of Toronto is leading a redesign of Moss Park and replacement of the 70-year-old John Innes Community Centre. The goal is for these spaces to serve the current and future needs of all of the diverse Moss Park community including vulnerable and equity-deserving populations in the area, the many new community members, and support the population growth in the area.

The redesigned Park and Community Recreation Centre will serve as a gathering place for an array of people, communities, and experiences.



**FIGURE 1: Map of the proposed location of the new Community Recreation Centre in Moss Park**

## 1.1 Project Context

In 2015, the project More Moss Park aimed to redevelop the park and replace the community recreation centre with a new facility that centered LGBTQ2S+ communities and expanded the services offered. The project was a partnership between the 519 and the City of Toronto. In 2016 the project was deemed not feasible and it was determined that it would not move forward. The community and stakeholder engagement program

for More Moss Park was extensive. The scope of the current Moss Park park Improvements and John Innes Community Recreation Centre replacement project are different with the community recreation centre retaining a recreation mandate. However, the insights, knowledge and data gathered through the More Moss Park consultation and engagement laid the groundwork that this project will build on.

### 1.1.1 Project Goals

Launch a new initiative to replace the John Innes Community Recreation centre with a new CRC and make extensive improvements to the park through a consultation process that is informed by the insights of the *2015 More Moss Park* project, with the following key project goals:

1. Replace the John Innes CRC with a bigger facility that meets the standards set out in the City's Recreation Facilities Master Plan and that can better meet the community's needs.
2. Redesign the park to meet current and future needs.
3. Build on the park's long-standing role as a hub for the diverse communities and people of Moss Park.
4. Ground the project by honouring local communities and by building on the assets of the park and community and the experiences and goals of diverse park users.
5. Build on the input received from the previous *More Moss Park* community consultation process.
6. Deliver an accessible and welcome place for all members of the Moss Park and John Innes CRC community.
7. Work closely with the community throughout the project.

### 1.2.1 Engagement Goals

The following are the Moss Park Improvements & John Innes Community Recreation Centre Replacement Project's engagement goals:

1. Equity-focused, trauma-informed, and collaborative
2. Deliberative, transparent, and creative
3. Communicative and grassroots
4. Digital and 'in-person'
5. Flexible and open

### 1.3.1 About the Local Advisory Group

The Local Advisory Group (LAG) is a group of Torontonians that broadly represents the park and community recreation centre's current and future community. The Local Advisory Group provides a forum for the City to learn about and from a diversity of



experiences of the park and neighbourhood, co-create project elements and discuss ideas. The purpose of the Local Advisory Group is to:

- Convene, over the course of the project.
- Support group members so together they can provide the City of Toronto's Parks, Forestry and Recreation Project Team with a rich and balanced mix of advice that shapes the design direction for the park, community recreation centre, and arena, as the project progresses.

Group members are tasked with:

- Learn about the project's scope, goals, constraints, and progress.
- Expand their understanding of the diverse needs, values, perspectives, experiences and priorities of current and future members of the park community.
- Explore and contribute to design directions, as they are being developed by the Project Team, taking into consideration the diverse needs of current and future members of the park community.
- Learn about and advise the project team on how the project and engagement opportunities are being communicated to those who might wish to know about or shape this project.
- Hear about how advice gathered from the Group and other engagement efforts have been integrated into evolving design directions, as well as why certain advice has not been incorporated into evolving design directions.

Local Advisory Group members were selected using an adapted civic lottery model based on six relevant demographic factors when selecting from amongst volunteers:

- Age
- Gender
- Location of residence and housing situation
- Indigeneity
- Racialization
- Disability

### **1.4.1 About the Project Champions**

Project Champions conduct community-based research that provides critical links to community members not often included in formal planning processes. Project Champions are engaged in city-building and community organizing. They are well-connected with residents in the community. Project Champions receive an honorarium as a way to reduce financial barriers for participating.

The purpose of the Project Champions is to:

- Serve as “peer-to-peer” researchers and will connect community members to the project outside of public meetings and other City-led consultation events.
- Help engage and gather insights from communities who are often left out of consultation processes, including people experiencing homelessness, children and youth and immigrant and refugee communities.

- Be residents and/or organizations already engaged in issues in and near Moss Park.
- Project Champions will be compensated for their time Project Champions meetings will start in May 2022 and run until 2023.

The mandate of Project Champions is to:

- Learn about the project's goals, constraints, and progress.
- Share their understanding of the diverse needs, values, perspectives, experiences and priorities of current and future members of the park community.
- Connect community members to the project outside of public meetings and other City-led consultation events.
- Explore and contribute to design directions, as they are being developed by the Project Team, taking into consideration the diverse needs of current and future members of the park community.

## 1.2 Key Project Components

Every project component will be shaped by public input collected throughout the process. The following is a detailed list of project components, features and opportunities for which the City wants to collaborate with the local community.

### Major Park Improvements

Park improvements will include:

- **Extensive Park improvements with passive and active recreation amenities**
- **Support equity-deserving groups in park and recreations programs**
- **Integrate Indigenous place-keeping elements**

These improvements will encompass the following:

- Opportunities for park improvements, including walking, seating & gathering areas
- Opportunities for recreation and park amenities, such as playground, splash pad, walking paths, tennis, basketball, dedicated dogs off leash area etc.
- Indigenous placekeeping (to be identified with Rights Holders and local Indigenous communities)
- Opportunities for key safety features, such as sight lines & lighting
- Improve community gardens area in the park to align with initiatives to support food security and urban agriculture
- Initiatives to support ecological & social sustainability & resilience of the park

## **New Community Recreation Centre**

The new Community Recreation Centre will include:

- **Double gym**
- **2 Pools**
- **Multi-use community space**

These renovations will incorporate the following:

- Opportunities for the included program in the Community Recreation Centre (CRC), such as program interrelationships, flexibility of uses, and relationships to the park
- Community multi-purpose room(s) features and uses
- Lane pool features and uses
- Leisure/tot pool features and uses
- Rooftop features and uses
- Lobby features and uses
- Program adjacencies
- Opportunities for key safety features, such as sight lines, visibility, and views

## **Upgrades to Arena**

**Exterior Upgrades** will be made to the Arena.\

## **Note About the Ontario Line**

Metrolinx is currently building a 5.6-kilometre, 15-stop subway line that will run from Exhibition Place, through downtown Toronto, finishing at the Ontario Science Centre. A Moss Park station entrance will be located on the southeast corner of the park. The project team is working with Metrolinx to coordinate the work of both projects with the intent to benefit the local community. The three buildings on the site – Community Recreation Centre, Moss Park Arena and Moss Park Ontario Line Subway Station – are intended to have a connecting visual component.

For more information about the Ontario Line, visit the Metrolinx website at:

<https://www.metrolinx.com/en/greaterregion/projects/ontario-line.aspx>

## 1.2.1 Project Schedule

- Summer 2021 to Summer 2022 - Phase 1: SET THE STAGE
  - Introduce the project, explain the process, and lay the project groundwork.
- **\*WE ARE HERE – Summer 2022 – Phase 2: CONFIRM THE VISION, PRINCIPLES, BIG MOVES**
  - Introduce the project, revisit More Moss Park findings and explore how things have changed since 2015. Better understand evolving local issues and how the project can best support local needs. Confirm the Principles and Big Moves of the project.
- Fall 2022 to Spring 2023: Phase 3 - CONCEPT DESIGN OPTIONS
  - Use what we learn in Phase 2 to start developing ideas for park amenities and concepts for the new Community Recreation Centre. Review ideas through design options presented to the community and revise ideas based on feedback.
- Spring 2023: Phase 4 - PREFERRED CONCEPT
  - Refine the concept plans for the park and John Innes CRC based on feedback and present the preferred concept to the community. Review ideas with the community and revise plans and designs based on feedback.

## 1.3 About this Report

This meeting summary report summarizes key meeting findings from the Moss Park Improvements & John Innes Community Recreation Centre Replacement Project's first meeting held with the Local Advisory Group and Project Champions on June 13, 2022. This report summarizes the meeting details as well as feedback and input collected from engagement activities.

### 1.3.1 Engagement Timeline

The following are other scheduled engagement activities with the Project Champions and LAG (subject to change):

- **Project Champions Meeting #1: June 13, 2022 (COMPLETED)**
- **Local Advisory Group (LAG) Meeting #1: June 13, 2022 (COMPLETED)**
- Project Champions Meeting #2: August 2022
- LAG Meeting #2: August 2022
- Project Champions Meeting #3: Fall 2022
- LAG Meeting #3: Fall 2022
- Project Champions Meeting #4: Winter 2023
- LAG Meeting #4: Winter 2023

## 2.0 Overview of LAG & Project Champions Meeting #1

The first meeting of the Local Advisory Group (LAG) and Project Champions served as an introduction to the project, and to invite feedback for the Draft Design Principles and the Big Moves. After the meeting, participants were sent a survey to collect additional input on the project's Draft Design Principles and the Big Moves. The goals of Meeting #1 were to:

- Share the project timelines and context.
- Present the park and community recreation centre design components that are open for influence.
- Share what the City has heard through consultation to-date, from 2016 to the present.
- Clarify the role of the LAG and Project Champions and how they will contribute to the future of Moss Park.
- Review the Draft Principles and Big Moves.
- Engage participants in opportunities to ask questions and provide feedback.

WHEN: June 13, 2022, at 3:00 - 5:30 p.m.

WHERE: Virtual, on Webex

ATTENDEES: **23 PARTICIPANTS**  
Eighteen (18) Local Advisory Group Members  
Five (5) Project Champions

PROJECT TEAM: **City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry & Recreation Division**  
Daniel Fusca, Manager, Public Consultation  
Pablo Muñoz, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator  
Suzanne Cooke-Wooland, Senior Project Coordinator, CP Capital Lead  
Nancy Chater, Senior Project Coordinator, CP Capital Lead

### **PROCESS (Public and Stakeholder Engagement)**

Nadia Galati, Principal and Engagement Lead  
Trina Moyan Bell, Indigenous Engagement Lead

### **The Planning Partnership (Landscape Architecture)**

David Leinster, Principal, Landscape Architecture  
Jennifer Williamson, Studio Manager, Landscape Architecture

### **Two Row Architect (Landscape Architecture & Indigenous Lens)**

Brian Porter, Principal  
Matthew Hickey, Partner

### **MJMA (CRC Architecture)**

Chris Burbidge, Principal  
Krista Clark, Project Manager  
Viktors Jaunkalns, Design Lead

## 3.0 What We Heard

This report section summarizes the input collected during Meeting #1 (June 13, 2022), as well as through the post-meeting survey. The two groups were sent separate surveys after the meeting, to provide participants an additional opportunity to comment on the project's Draft Design Principles and the Big Moves as well as clarify and collect feedback on LAG and Project Champions' roles and responsibilities. The Draft Design Principles and Big Moves are below.

During the meeting, comments and questions were verbally answered by City staff and the project team. Please see **Appendix A** for the meeting presentation and **Appendix B** for a detailed list of comments/questions asked and answered.

### Draft Design Principles

The following eight *Design Principles* serve as guidance to steer the vision of the project. At this stage (Phase 2), they're being presented to solicit feedback and confirm.

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 1:** Ensure the design of the CRC and park supports equity, belonging and inclusion.

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 2:** Ensure the CRC and Park are accessible to all.

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 3:** Create a space that makes safety for all users a priority.

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 4:** Design an open, permeable, and transparent environment.

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 5:** Maximize, enhance, and improve green spaces.

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 6:** Celebrate and share information about the Indigenous history and character of Moss Park.

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 7:** Contribute to food security.

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 8:** Be sustainable and carbon neutral.

## Big Moves

The Project team compiled thirteen *Big Moves* that describe priority actions that the City intends to take. At this stage (Phase 2), they're being presented to solicit feedback and confirm.

**BIG MOVE 1:** Maintain a large area of open parkland with frontages onto Queen and Shuter by building the new CRC along Sherbourne St., over the existing footprint.

**BIG MOVE 2:** Establish a cohesive design language between the CRC and the Arena and a strong relationship between both buildings and the future Moss Park subway station.

**BIG MOVE 3:** Optimize opportunities for rooftop access to the new CRC.

**BIG MOVE 4:** Incorporate spaces for prayer and ceremony.

**BIG MOVE 5:** Ensure washroom access from the outside of the building.

**BIG MOVE 6:** Create a new urban gateway at Queen and Sherbourne

**BIG MOVE 7:** Integrate Indigenous placekeeping throughout the park.

**BIG MOVE 8:** Establish a renewed urban canopy of trees on Queen Street to match the Shuter edge.

**BIG MOVE 9:** Maintain and enhance key pedestrian pathways and access points into the park.

**BIG MOVE 10:** Maintain and enhance existing permeable park edges and protect the existing urban canopy along Shuter Street.

**BIG MOVE 11:** Maintain the strong Sherbourne St. urban built edge and enhance the relationship between the CRC/Arena/Park and Ontario Line Station with improved visual and physical connectivity and accessibility.

**BIG MOVE 12:** Consider removing the baseball diamond to accommodate a wider range of park uses and reduce conflicts

**BIG MOVE 13:** Add a fenced, dedicated dogs off leash area to the park to support the growing number of residents with dogs in the intensifying neighbourhood, and to protect other park amenities and park users from conflict with dogs.



## 3.1 Summary of Feedback Collected in Meeting #1

The following is the top feedback and discussion points shared by both the LAG and Project Champions for detailed feedback shared by each group via a follow-up meeting survey please see **Section 3.2** and **Section 3.3**.

### **Accessible space for all**

Participants expressed strong support for *accessible space for all* as key to the future of Moss Park and the John Innes Community Recreation Centre. Participants expressed a desire for the City to support strong community advocacy through this project.

### **Indigenous Placekeeping**

Participants expressed strong support to include Indigenous placekeeping as a core project focus. Participants stressed the importance of working with Indigenous communities and local Indigenous residents to develop these elements, meaningfully.

### **Connections and Entryways**

Many participants indicated interest in relocating main entryways to the park and indicated that current entryways are uninviting. Participants expressed interest in user experience enhancements and highlighted that the Ontario Line station requires careful consideration in how it is connected to the park. This is out of scope for the project but is being noted for the purpose of providing an accurate account of the feedback received.

*“I would strongly endorse the idea of moving the main entry of the CRC to the Shuter side.”*

*“Is it possible to improve the sidewalks on Shuter and Queen leading towards Jarvis to better draw people to the park? (Enhanced lighting, wayfinding signage, wider walkways) because of the barrier the Armoury creates? You would barely know that the park was right there from Jarvis.”*

*“I reviewed some of the Ontario Line materials, and I am concerned that the proposed station (which will have just one entrance) doesn't connect with the park very well.”*

### **Safety**

Safety was expressed as a priority by many participants. There are also mixed perspectives around what safety means. For some the presence of security and/or other City related staff is a sign of comfort and for others can increase discomfort.

*“Personally, I do not want security guards or police officers stationed in parks, and I do not want to be directly monitored in a park. I want my safety to come from the attention of my fellow residents, and from the knowledge and comfort that comes with knowing my available resources in a crisis.”*

### **Food Security**

Participants shared mixed feelings on the role of the park and CRC in food security. While many people feel food security is important, there is a lack of clarity on whether it

is the role of the park and CRC to address this structural issue. Some feel it is not the most important priority for the project. Participants did express strong support for community gardens and access to food growing opportunities in the park

### **Tree Canopy**

Participants expressed sadness about the loss of the tree canopy due to the Metrolinx Ontario Line construction. Participants expressed a desire to protect and enhance the tree canopy throughout the park and site

### **Dogs Off-Leash Area**

The proposed **dogs off-leash area** drew opposing remarks with some participants seeing its value and supporting its inclusion and others concerned and not interested in having it included.

*“Creating a dedicated off leash area tends to draw people at all times of the day and helps to animate - early morning, late evening, and it will be lit as well.”*

*“Dedicated dog areas use a lot of space exclusively for dogs. The way the open area is currently being used for dogs gives use of the grass for sport groups plus for dogs.”*

*“I prefer a dedicated off leash area instead of mixed use since not everyone is comfortable.”*

## **3.2 Summary of Top Feedback Received from Local Advisory Group Survey**

Sixteen (16) Local Advisory Group members provided additional feedback in the post-meeting survey.

### **LAG Feedback on Project DESIGN PRINCIPLES**

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 1:** Ensure the design of the CRC and park supports equity, belonging and inclusion.

Participants expressed appreciation for **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 1** as they felt that it supports the continued accessibility of the park for all members of the public despite their socioeconomic status or other intersections that may create barriers to inclusion.

*“This is more encompassing than any other principle, and it is good that it comes first. We want our precious open spaces to be welcoming to all – meaning safe for all, and with enough amenities to be useful and attractive for all.”*

*“There are not many truly non-commercial public spaces in the City, where there's no financial pressure or monitoring to use the space. Preserving this principle in the Moss Park redevelopment is important to me - both in the green space and the CRC.”*

However, some participants felt that this design principle needs to be further qualified to indicate how everyone could be better supported. There was one suggestion there to be more explicit identification of the communities that would be prioritized in this Principle, and mentioned those who play sports as priority groups.

*“Too broad; “supports” is too vague.”*

*“The net should be widened to include users of the park i.e. booking space for baseball and tennis where they live, how often used, why they chose location. Also include arena as to users, needs, parking, access.”*

### **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 2:** Ensure the CRC and Park are accessible to all.

While participants felt that **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 2** was very important, there was a sense of apprehension that all people could be accommodated through the Park and CRC redevelopment.

*“As we saw firsthand during COVID - public space and green space is important for mental and physical health for all residents - especially those without private homes and backyards. This is a very important principle to me.”*

*“Accessible to “all” -- Really for “all”? Can you actually satisfy the needs of “all”?”*

### **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 3:** Create a space that makes safety for all users a priority.

In response to **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 3**, safety was considered important, but participants noted that there has to be considerations for how different community members view safety. It was shared that the other principles (**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 1 AND 2**) help to support inclusion in a general sense, emphasis was placed on how a sense of safety can be impeded by surveillance. However, it was felt that for some community members, policing might help support feelings of safety in the Park.

*“I believe that safety is a priority, especially for young families, and is very important to animating a space. But I also believe that other principles (accessibility, equity), help to develop a safe space in their own right. Safety is important to me, but I want to be careful as to how we define “safety” - and how we consider safety interventions. I don't know if these ideas are the same across all participants in the LAG and I would like to make sure we are on the same page with what “safety” is and how to address it. Personally, I do not want security guards or police officers stationed in parks, and I do not want to be directly monitored in a park. I want my safety to come from the attention of my fellow residents, and from the knowledge and comfort that comes with knowing my available resources in a crisis.”*

*“Safety [is a ] main issue. Last week I observed youth who appeared on bikes selling drugs in the area. This is on Queen St East and the park area. As a park user, I would not feel safe, not even as an area resident-perhaps policing should be included in [the] plan??”*

The point above was further contemplated by another participant who reflected on how the park is currently used and shared ideas about various aspects of the park such as accessible entryways, lighting, public courts, dedicated dog areas. It was suggested that these aspects can

be better animated to support the safety of the park. The issues they highlighted mostly affect how families access and use the park.

*“The playground is rarely used because adults and adults with dogs are frequently in the playground. There are also steps at the south end of the playground that encourage people to congregate, which may make families feel insecure. The current late-night lighting is beneficial for safety. Late night softball games add to the feeling of safety. Tennis players add to the feeling of safety. A welcoming large space for dogs across the entire field also gives a sense of safety to others in the park because there are people occupying more spaces often.”*

#### **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 4: Design an open, permeable, and transparent environment.**

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 4** provides an opportunity to redefine how parks typically look and feel through the potential to increase the biodiversity in a public park and consider the unique ways to approach landscaping and public art. However, respondents understood that these opportunities would have to be balanced with considerations for safety.

*“I [...] want the park space to be articulated and interesting. Parks too often fall into large, uninteresting green spaces and maintained monoculture lawns. I like trees, bushes, sculptures, light fencing, murals, water features. Anything that helps to contribute to a sense of space and breaks the park away from busy adjacent streets. But I also agree that a permeable, transparent environment and clear sightlines is important to safety.”*

#### **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 5: Maximize, enhance, and improve green spaces.**

There is a desire to maintain trees and achieve goals of **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 5**. This aligns with the desire to increase biodiversity as shared in response to **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 4**.

*“The number of trees must not be reduced, after the work is complete.”*

One participant shared that the improvement should not just be associated with greenspaces but extend beyond that characteristic to ensure that as many community members as possible can enjoy the park at any time.

*“The principle is great as long as the improvements are more than visual. More people need to be using the park day and night.”*

#### **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 6: Celebrate and share information about the Indigenous history and character of Moss Park.**

For **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 6** to be meaningfully implemented, participants felt that the approach to this principle should be considered from a holistic perspective and be backed by full investment in **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 1**.

*“I appreciate the way this LAG has invested in Indigenous consultation and support this principle greatly. It would also add a sense of character and individuality in this park space, compared to other Toronto parks. I would also like to make sure that if this principle is pursued in park design, it is also pursued in equity and accessibility. Please ensure that this is not just lip service and has the support and investment to create a fully healthy, equitable space for all residents - but especially the local Indigenous population.”*

Renaming the park was also suggested to implement **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 6**.

*"I'd like to throw out the possibility of renaming Moss Park as part of the renewal process. The name originates from the original estate of William Allan in Scotland. It is, frankly, an ugly name. Perhaps a name that is more respectful of the Indigenous history of the area would be more appropriate as well as an opportunity to signal a new era for the Park."*

#### **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 7: Contribute to food security.**

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 7** was seen as a priority but not a high priority for participants. They felt that it could possibly take away from other uses in the park. It was felt that the primary function of a park should be to provide accessible outdoor space for recreational use versus a community farm.

*"I am neutral on this question, not because food security isn't important, but that adopting this as a core principle could set up a conflict maximizing the use of the outside space for other recreational purposes. It should be first and foremost a park, not a farm. If something could be done on the roof to grow food, that would be fantastic."*

*"I am not saying that the park could not be an avenue to support those in need of physical and economic access to food, but it should not be a design principle or priority for the park itself."*

Participants felt this Principle could support a wide range of park users who have different levels of access to income and food security. They also felt that having a food system in the park would help build food awareness which could be addressed through park programming. Support for this Principle was usually accompanied by alternative proposals for how to achieve food security such as a rooftop garden, or planting fruit bearing trees.

*"There are so many opportunities for growing more food in the park that can benefit the residents. The fruit trees have not been maintained to provide harvests that the community can easily access. The pruning of lower branches may make visibility better, but now the fruit is out of reach. It's a shame."*

*"I think seeing food systems in our everyday lives is important (especially for younger people). We are too separated from our food production, and the community gardens/kitchens on-site already provide a great opportunity to see seasonal cycles."*

*"I think seeing food systems in our everyday lives is important (especially for younger people). We are too separated from our food production, and the community gardens/kitchens on-site already provide a great opportunity to see seasonal cycles."*

*"Yes - this should take the form of rooftop food gardens and a community kitchen at the new rec centre."*

#### **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 8: Be sustainable and carbon neutral.**

Participants felt that **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 8** was important but should not be prioritized at the expense of other Principles or the cost and time it would take to finalize the project. They felt that this Principle should be emphasized in the CRC renovation or active transportation options more so than in Park as it was thought that the parks are already sustainable.

*"I agree with this principle, but it is not my priority. I believe a park space by nature is going to be relatively sustainable and low-carbon (if managed well). I would like to see this principle applied more to non-park spaces, like local bike paths and transit connectivity. Certainly, I would like to see this principle in the CRC."*

*"Ideally, yes. Certainly if the goal of carbon-neutrality can be achieved in a reasonable timeframe for a reasonable cost. For example, one of the troubling elements of the More Moss Park proposals was to use geothermal energy which the experts seemed to think was cost-prohibitive for the site."*

*"As long as it doesn't impact the other principles above."*

## **LAG Feedback on Project BIG MOVES**

**BIG MOVE 1:** Maintain a large area of open parkland with frontages onto Queen and Shuter by building the new CRC along Sherbourne St., over the existing footprint.

Participants agreed with **BIG MOVE 1** overall, but felt that there needed to be an assurance that programming at the CRC could be maintained throughout the duration of the construction period as they saw the programming is vital for community members. One participant referenced previous More Moss Park consultations where the City did make such a commitment.

*"Keeping the maximum park area is really important, especially as the green space at 191 Sherbourne is eliminated for more apartments."*

*"During More Moss Park, Parks & Rec pushed back hard on this approach, stating that the programs offered in the existing centre could not be lost during the construction period. From a design perspective, there is no question that putting the new centre in the footprint of the old one is the best approach. We just need to be prepared to explicitly address what will happen to the current programming during construction."*

**BIG MOVE 2:** Establish a cohesive design language between the CRC and the Arena and a strong relationship between both buildings and the future Moss Park subway station.

Participants felt that **BIG MOVE 2** created an interdependence on Metrolinx that could potentially compromise the maintenance of park infrastructure.

*"Having an integration with the Moss Park subway station creates a coupling and dependence on infrastructure that may or may not be prioritized by Metrolinx at any given time. As such segregating this infrastructure as much as possible would be beneficial to maintenance of the space. Perhaps in the future this can be revisited but for now I think it makes no sense to do so."*

**BIG MOVE 3:** Optimize opportunities for rooftop access to the new CRC.

There was support for **BIG MOVE 3** from participants. They were mostly enthusiastic about the potential for more space in the CRC. There was also a suggestion for a community garden on the rooftop as an option for how rooftop space could be programmed.

*"I support any efficient use of space - and higher-level open-air access is great. Such an experience and view is not accessible for many people. Seeing the city from "above" really can have an influence on how one perceives themselves and their environment."*



*“If this includes a community garden space that could be interesting. I look forward to learning more details.”*

#### **BIG MOVE 4: Incorporate spaces for prayer and ceremony.**

For **BIG MOVE 4**, participants felt that this Move was important as it would facilitate social cohesion, but that it would only be appropriate if the space is well utilized. In this regard, the space being accompanied with a multi-purpose space was proposed.

*“I believe community events create social cohesion and a safety network in a big way. I highly support this move. But I would also like to ensure these service/ceremony spaces are utilized efficiently, and do not sit empty most other days of the week. I would like to see flexible programming spaces.”*

#### **BIG MOVE 5: Ensure washroom access from the outside of the building.**

For **BIG MOVE 5** to be successfully implemented, strategies for safety and for the sustained maintenance of public washrooms were important to participants. They felt that the City should look to examples from Europe (i.e., self-cleaning washrooms in Paris) as well as Asia for best practices and approaches to public washrooms. Considerations for safety included providing cubicle-style, gender neutral washrooms with timed access. Participants also felt that through providing reliable access to public washroom facilities people that experience homelessness would have an option that would restore a sense of dignity for this population, a basic tenet of human rights.

*“We will need to explicitly address how security will be maintained under this scenario. Outside of the actual cubicles themselves, they need to be monitored. They need to be gender neutral with timed access.”*

*“There are tons of examples from Europe and especially Asia of how to avoid the dark, dank, smelly, unloved washrooms that characterize most park washrooms in Toronto. They need to be cleaned multiple times per day. Unfortunately, they have to be separate from the rest of the facility (i.e., they are not the same washrooms as those used inside the facility). Getting this right could be one of the key success stories of the Moss Park Rejuvenation.”*

*“Also are public bathrooms i.e., self-cleaning ones in Paris (which I visited)? There are no public bathrooms available and homeless people are using our parks and laneways as an open bathroom. We need to look at accommodating this basic human right.”*

#### **BIG MOVE 6: Create a new urban gateway at Queen and Sherbourne.**

Similar to concerns shared around **BIG MOVE 2**, participants felt that **BIG MOVE 6** fell too far into Metrolinx's scope of influence to be a priority for the Moss Park Improvements project. They characterized their engagement with Metrolinx as unresponsive to issues that were raised by community members related to the corner of Queen and Sherbourne. They felt this was an indicator that there was a lack of stewardship from Metrolinx which translates to a lack of confidence that **BIG MOVE 6** should be a priority.

*“I hesitate to support this idea because this corner is under the “control” of Metrolinx. Given their resistance to date to any suggestions from the neighbourhood about how to ensure a welcoming and safe design for this corner, it is possible the actual corner will*

*remain unwelcoming and unsafe. Perhaps there is an alternative location for an Urban Gateway to the park?”*

**BIG MOVE 7:** Integrate Indigenous placekeeping throughout the park.

The comment shared about **BIG MOVE 7** was similar to the comment about **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 6**. The approach to implementing this Move should be intentional, equitable and accessible while incorporating Indigenous history and principles of placekeeping.

*“I support this move, but I again want to ensure that this is not just lip service. To support this move fully I would like to know more about how the park and CRC space is dedicated to creating open, equitable, accessible space for the local Indigenous community.”*

**BIG MOVE 8:** Establish a renewed urban canopy of trees on Queen Street to match the Shuter edge.

With regard to **BIG MOVE 8** participants shared concerns regarding the loss of the existing mature tree canopy in the community. They hoped that these trees could be preserved in the Moss Park Improvement process as they represent biodiversity and represented the tree heritage of the community.

*“I'm devastated by the loss of the varied, healthy, and mature trees along Queen Street and cannot believe that their removal was the only option for the subway construction. Those trees add significant cooling and beauty to the park and Queen Street. They are not replaceable because they will take another 100 years to reach their current state.”*

**BIG MOVE 9:** Maintain and enhance key pedestrian pathways and access points into the park.

Participants felt that **BIG MOVE 9** should support how people access the Park and CRC today (desire pathways) and also consider how enhancements on the street can facilitate this Move.

*“This must include enhancements to the narrow sidewalks along Queen and Shuter, especially coming from Jarvis Street, to draw people in and mitigate the barrier the armoury poses.”*

*“Yes there is a lot of pedestrian use and watching the desire lines will be important.”*

**BIG MOVE 10:** Maintain and enhance existing permeable park edges and protect the existing urban canopy along Shuter Street.

There were minimal comments from participants on **BIG MOVE 10**. One participant reflected on the loss of trees that has been occurring in the neighborhood and felt that those trees were not being replaced quickly enough and those that have been replaced failed to grow.

*“The replacement of trees removed along Shuter in the past 5 years has been inadequate. Many trees were never replaced. Some were replaced and removed due to faulty planting. The care for the trees must be improved--plant more and protect them while they're vulnerable.”*



**BIG MOVE 11:** Maintain the strong Sherbourne St. urban built edge and enhance the relationship between the CRC/Arena/Park and Ontario Line Station with improved visual and physical connectivity and accessibility.

**BIG MOVE 11** was supported by participants. They felt that there should be more consideration for the transition from the Armoury and surrounding services such as the shelter.

*"I very much look forward to the design ideas for the transition between the urban edge of the park and the main park itself. Same goes for the western edge and the transition from the Armoury."*

*"I understand that this is the best option, but something has to be done to increase security for people who are uncomfortable with the shelter residents congregating along Sherbourne."*

**BIG MOVE 12:** Consider removing the baseball diamond to accommodate a wider range of park uses and reduce conflicts.

There were minimal comments on **BIG MOVE 12**. One participant requested further clarification on this move.

*"I would love it just on a personal clarity level if this were not just one single long sentence that goes on forever."*

**BIG MOVE 13:** Add a fenced, dedicated dogs off leash area to the park to support the growing number of residents with dogs in the intensifying neighbourhood, and to protect other park amenities and park users from conflict with dogs.

There were no further comments on **BIG MOVE 13**.

### 3.3 Summary of Top Feedback Received from Project Champions Survey

Three (3) Project Champions completed the post-meeting survey. Responses from the post-meeting survey demonstrated that there is strong agreement with the Draft Design Principles and Big Moves. Their responses are organized by theme below.

#### Safety

- **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 2:** Ensure the CRC and Park are accessible to all.
- **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 3:** Create a space that makes safety for all users a priority.
- **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 4:** Design an open, permeable, and transparent environment.

Project Champions felt that the safety interventions that were shared in **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 2, 3 and 4** were a reliable solution to concerns about navigating the park safely at night.

*"I really liked the proposal of adding emergency light buttons throughout the park."*

#### Inclusion and Representation

- **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 4:** Design an open, permeable, and transparent environment.
- **BIG MOVE 7:** Integrate Indigenous placekeeping throughout the park.

One participant expressed disappointment in the project teams' approach to, and explanation of, **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 4** and **BIG MOVE 7**. They felt there should be more representation of Indigenous people on the committee as well.

*"I think the idea [of celebrating and sharing information about the Indigenous history and character of Moss Park] is amazing. However, the language used by some of the design team (specifically, the architects) was so disappointing. Only having four Indigenous people on this committee is sad. You need architects that are indigenous as well."*

Note: The landscape architecture design team includes Two -Row Architect, an Indigenous owned architecture firm based at Six Nations of Grand River.

### Location of Community Recreation Centre

- **BIG MOVE 1:** Maintain a large area of open parkland with frontages onto Queen and Shuter by building the new CRC along Sherbourne St., over the existing footprint.

With regard to **BIG MOVE 1**, one participant felt that the **Community Recreation Centre relocation** should be centrally located to bring more community members into the recreation facility.

*"The new building should maintain the current address but should border major intersections in order to attract more traffic."*

### Washroom Access

- **BIG MOVE 5:** Ensure washroom access from the outside of the building.

Members of the Project Champions group expressed concerns regarding access to washroom facilities as explored in **BIG MOVE 5** at the park. Specifically, they wanted to ensure that people experiencing homelessness would have access to the facilities and that these facilities would also incorporate considerations for harm reduction (for example hazmat boxes for safe disposal of needles).

*"This also means you need to ensure those who live in encampments have access to these bathrooms."*

*"My major issue with exterior washrooms is the lighting. The lighting should discourage drug use and have a safe sharps disposal area present."*

# Appendix A

## Project Presentation

# Moss Park Park Improvements & John Innes Community Recreation Centre Replacement



Community  
Update

June 20, 5 – 7PM

# Land Acknowledgement

We'd like to begin by honouring the land that we are on. If you are not currently in Toronto, we'd encourage you to learn about the lands you're on.

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.



# African Ancestral Acknowledgement



# Goals for this Meeting

1. Share information about the Moss Park Improvements Project and the John Innes Community Recreation Centre Redesign Project in advance of public consultation beginning this summer.
2. Explain the project process and how the LAG will be involved.
3. Get to know one another and answer any questions you have.



**Image description:** Illustrated speech bubbles





## Presentation

- Project Overview
- Moss Park & John Innes CRC Today
- What We've Heard To Date
- What's Next: How People Will Shape the Project



## Next Steps



## Question and Answer Period



Hello!

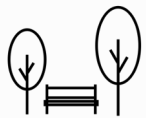
Tell us a little about yourself and your connection to Moss Park.

# Project Overview

New Community Recreation Centre and Moss Park  
Improvements

# Key Project Components

## Major Park Improvements



Extensive park improvements with passive and active recreation amenities



Supporting equity-deserving groups in park and recreation programs



Integrate Indigenous placekeeping elements

## New Community Recreation Centre



Double gym



2 Pools



Multi-use community space

## Upgrades to Arena



Exterior Upgrades

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:** Every project component will be shaped by the public input collected through the process.



# Why is a redesign of Moss Park and the John Innes CRC needed?

The redesign of Moss Park and the 70 year-old John Innes CRC is needed to serve the evolving needs of both the **high concentration of vulnerable and equity-deserving populations in the local area** as well as meet the needs of the many new community members and to support the area's future **population growth**.



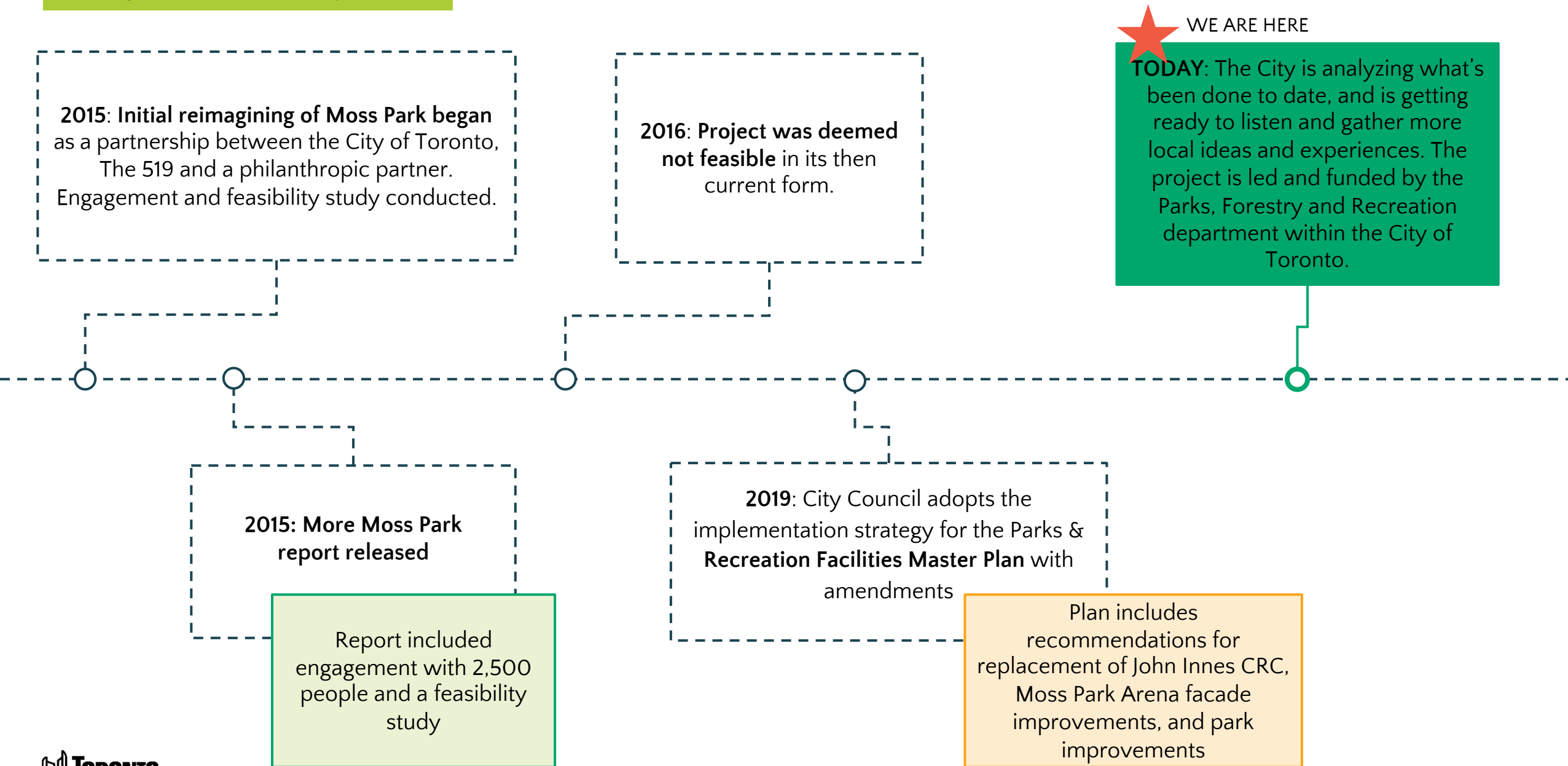
**Image description:** Exterior landscape of the John Innes Community Recreation Centre



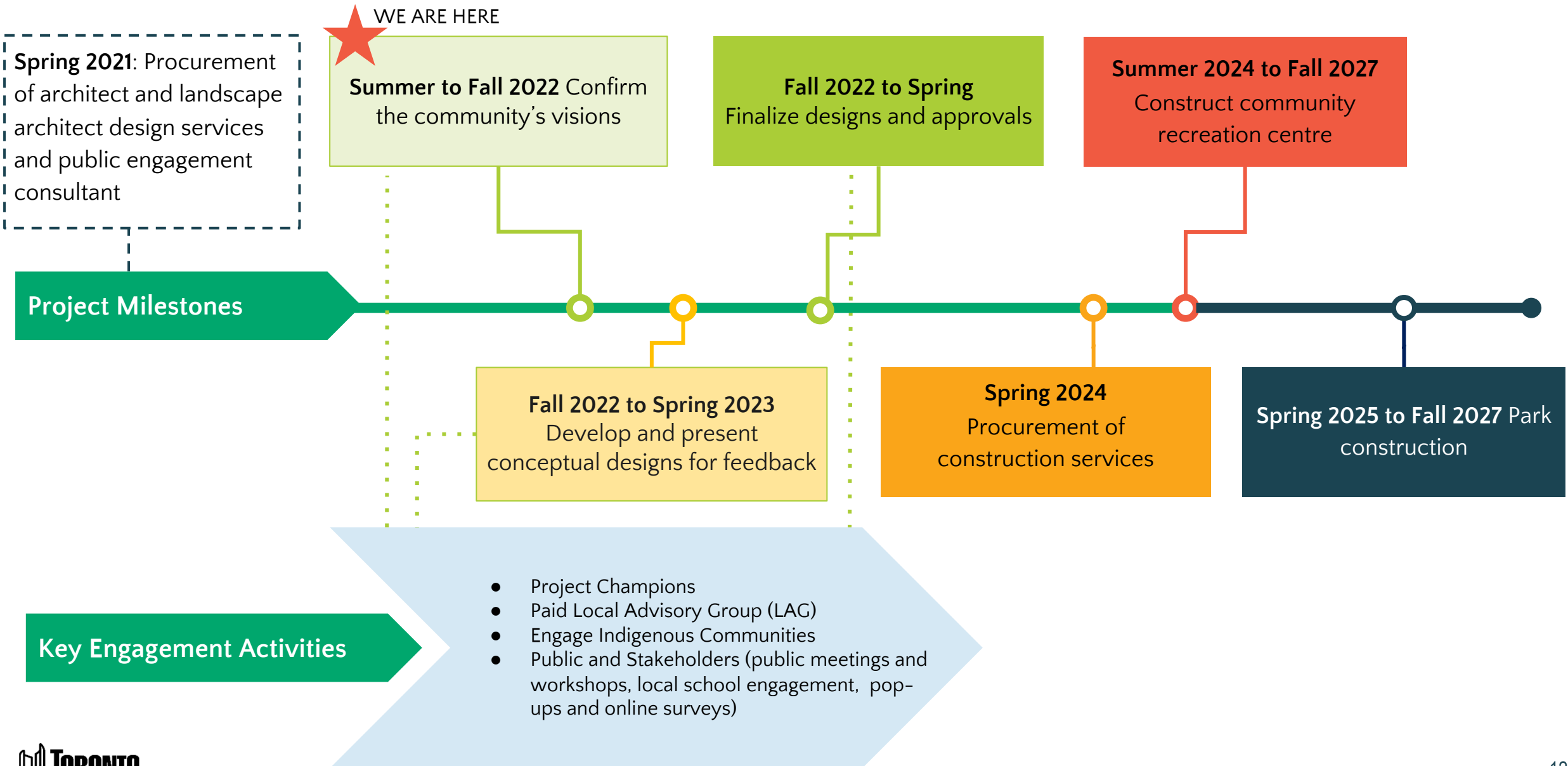
# Project Context

2016: More Moss Park	2021: Moss Park Improvements & John Innes CRC Redevelopment
<p><b>Who</b> Partnership between The 519 and The City of Toronto</p> <p><b>What</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Redevelop John Innes Community Recreation Centre<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Social services co-located within the building</li><li>• Proposed relocation of CRC</li><li>• Redevelop Moss Park Arena</li></ul></li><li>• Improve the park space around them</li></ul> <p><b>Goals</b> Improve facilities, programs and services, and create new buildings and spaces that are welcoming, equitable and accessible for all</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> This project only reached the feasibility study and engagement phases.</p>	<p><b>Who</b> The City of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division</p> <p><b>What</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Redevelop John Innes Community Recreation Centre<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Focus on recreation rather than social services</li><li>• New building has a smaller footprint than 2016 feasibility study design, but a larger footprint than the current building</li></ul></li><li>• Remodelling of exterior of Moss Park Arena</li><li>• Extensive improvements to Moss Park</li></ul> <p><b>Goals</b> Build on learnings from the More Moss Park process to improve facilities, programs and services, and to create new buildings and spaces that are welcoming, equitable and accessible for all</p>

# Project History



# Current Project Timeline



# Introducing the Project Team



**Daniel Fusca**, Manager,  
Public Consultation, Parks,  
Forestry & Recreation

**Pablo Muñoz**, Senior  
Public Consultation  
Coordinator, Parks,  
Forestry & Recreation

**Suzanne Cooke-Wooland**,  
CP Capital Lead, Parks,  
Forestry & Recreation

**Nancy Chater**, CP Capital  
Lead, Parks, Forestry &  
Recreation



**Nadia Galati**, Principal and  
Engagement Lead

**Emma Clayton Jones**,  
Planner and Engagement  
Coordinator

**Trina Moyan Bell**  
Indigenous Engagement  
Lead

**Dr. Alex Abramovich**  
Strategic Advisor



**David Leinster**, Principal,  
Landscape Architecture

**Jennifer Williamson**,  
Studio Manager,  
Landscape Architecture

**Mike Hudson**, Urban  
Designer



**Brian Porter**,  
Principal

**Matthew Hickey**,  
Partner



**Chris Burbidge**,  
Principal

**Robert Allen**,  
Partner

**Janice Lee**, Architect



# Key Project Goals

**Launch a new initiative that is informed by the outcomes of the 2016 More Moss Park Feasibility Study:**

1. Replace the John Innes CRC with a new, bigger facility that can better meet the community's needs
2. Make extensive park improvements to meet current and future needs of the community
3. Build on the park's long standing role as a hub for the diverse communities and people of Moss Park
4. Ground the project by honouring local communities and by building on the assets of the park and community and the experiences and goals of diverse park users



# Key Project Goals

5. Build on the input received from the previous *More Moss Park* community consultation process
6. Deliver an accessible and welcome place for all members of the Moss Park and John Innes CRC community
7. Work closely with community throughout the project



**Image description:** Main entrance of the John Innes Community Recreation Centre

# CRC

Project Components: New Community Recreation Centre

# Background





DENIAL IS NOT POLICY  
#ARCHITECTS DECLARE  
#CLIMATEACTIONNOW  
#NOTBUSINESSASUSUAL

DROP THE FAÇADE  
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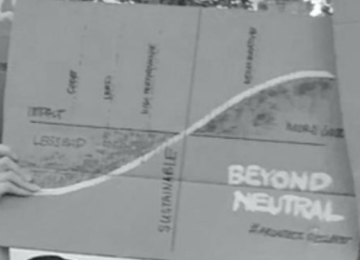
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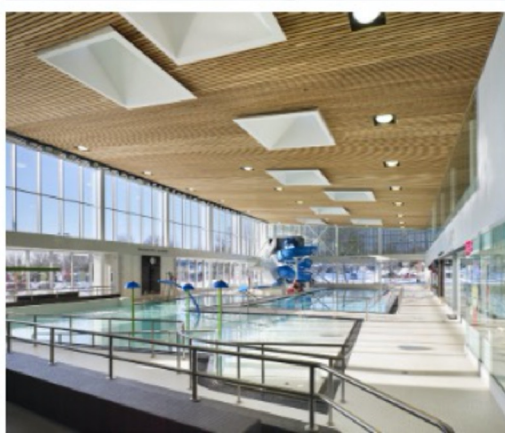
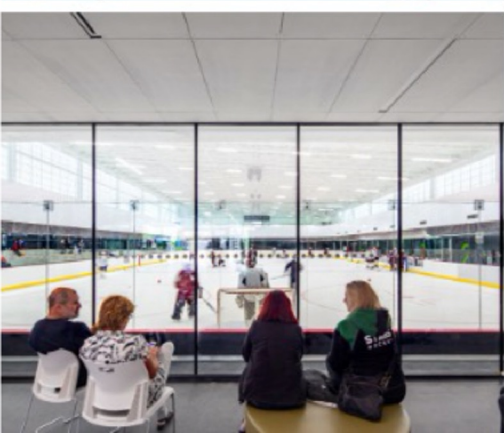
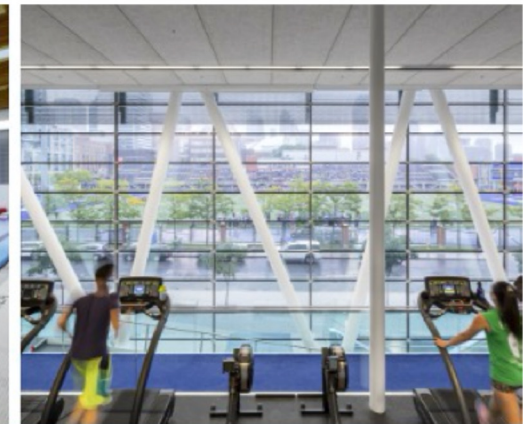
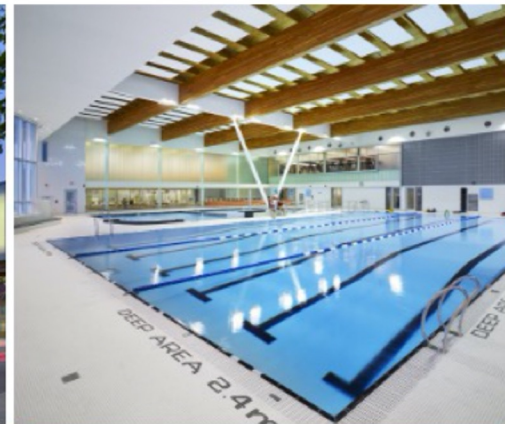
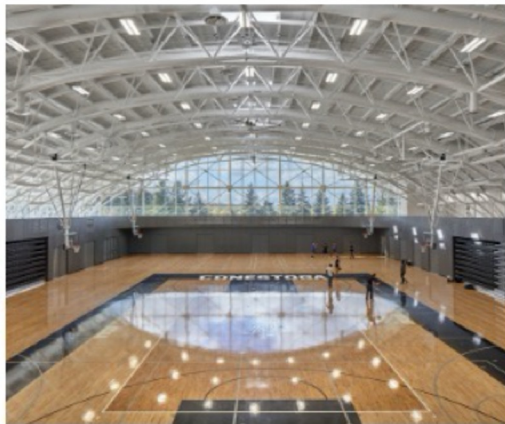
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MJMA

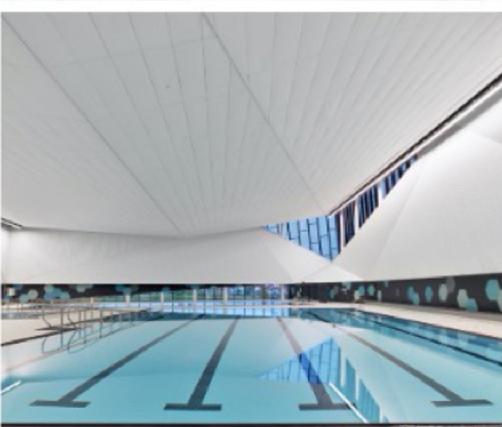
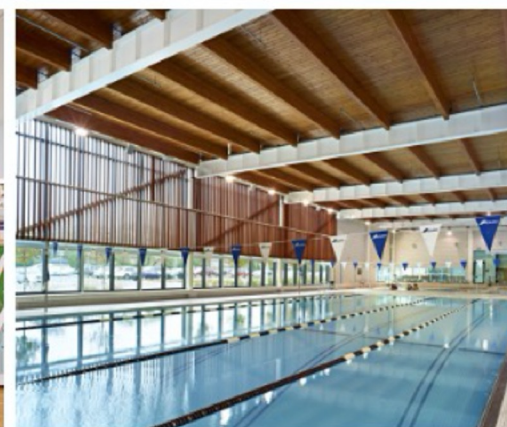


# 30+ YEARS WITH BLACKWELL





# 40+ COMMUNITY CENTRES WITH S+A































# Moss Park & John Innes Community Recreation Centre Today



# Moss Park Location & Context

**Moss Park** (the area in the red box) is bounded by **Sherbourne Street** on the east side, **The Armoury** on the west side, **Queen Street** to the south and **Shuter Street** to the north.



**Map description:** Context map locating Moss Park and the surrounding area.



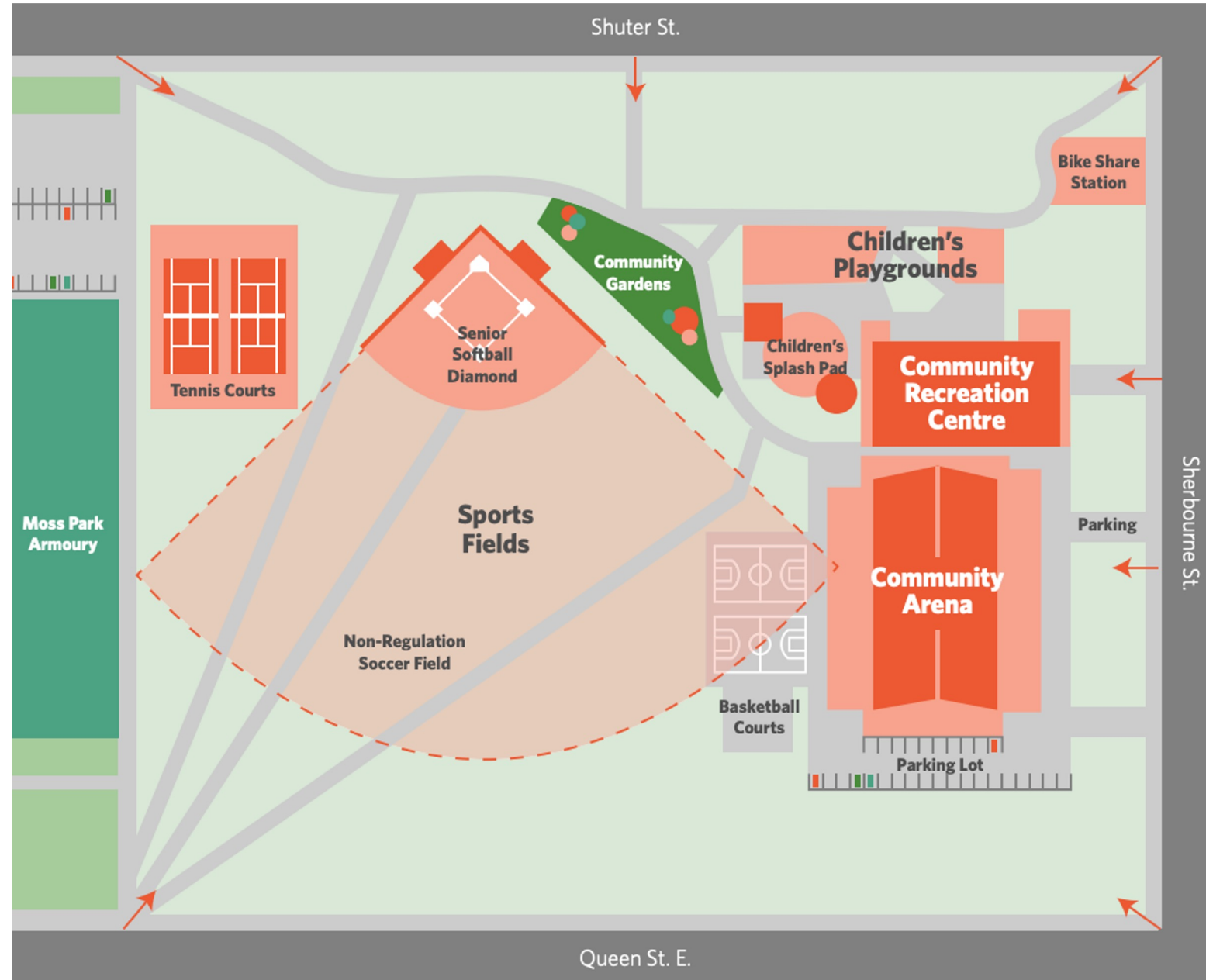
# Current Moss Park Site

Existing Public Park includes:

- Baseball diamond
- Soccer field
- Two tennis courts
- Basketball courts
- Wading pool
- Playground
- Community gardens
- Open lawn and trees

On the east side of the park is the Moss Park Arena and John Innes Community Recreation Centre.

**Map description:** Map of Moss Park that illustrates the locations of existing park amenities like the community recreation centre, the baseball diamond, the children's playground, community gardens, etc.





# Moss Park Today: Context Images



Image description: Moss Park welcome signage



Image description: Moss Park at sunset



# Moss Park Today: Context Images



Image description: Existing children's playground equipment



Image description:  
Existing Community gardens



# Moss Park Today: Context Images



**Image description:** Non-AODA compliant entryway/exit to the John Innes Community Recreation Centre



**Image description:** Deterioration of wood window frames



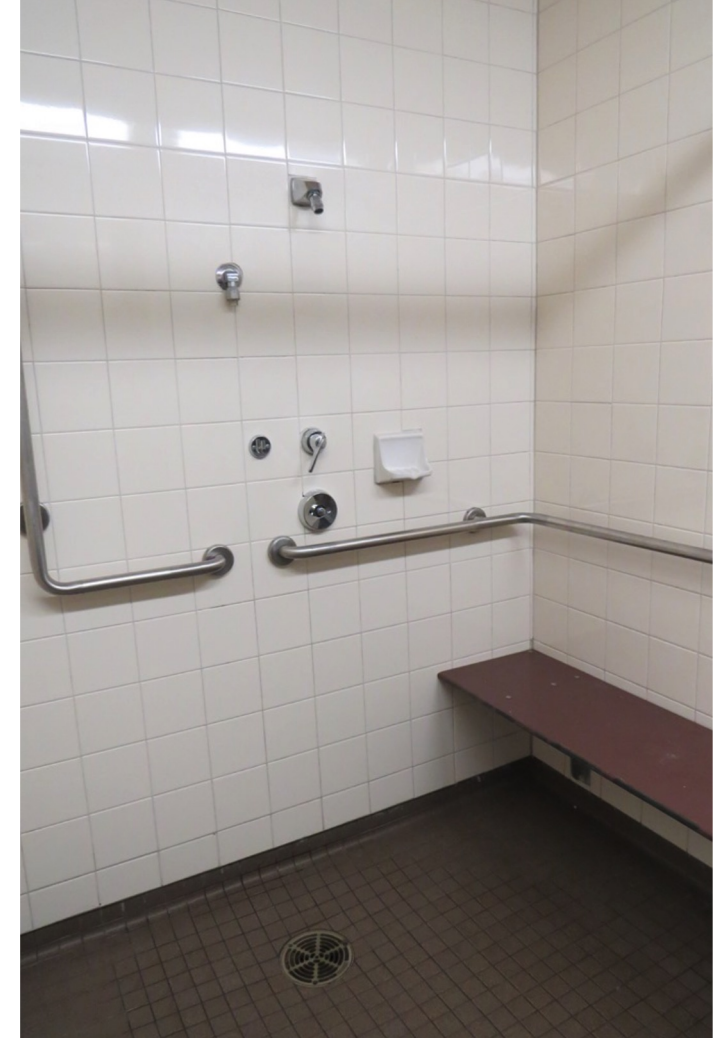
# Moss Park Today: Context Images



# Moss Park Today: Context Images



**Image description:** Existing hand washing areas in the washroom



**Image description:** Shower facilities



# Moss Park Today: Context Images



**Image description:** Reception area of the John Innes Community Recreation Centre (view from main entrance)



**Image description:** Reception area of the John Innes Community Recreation Centre (view from hallway)



# Moss Park Today: Context Images



**Image description:** Fitness space with weight lifting equipment



**Image description:** Multi-purpose programming space



# Moss Park Today: Context Images



Image description: Workshop space

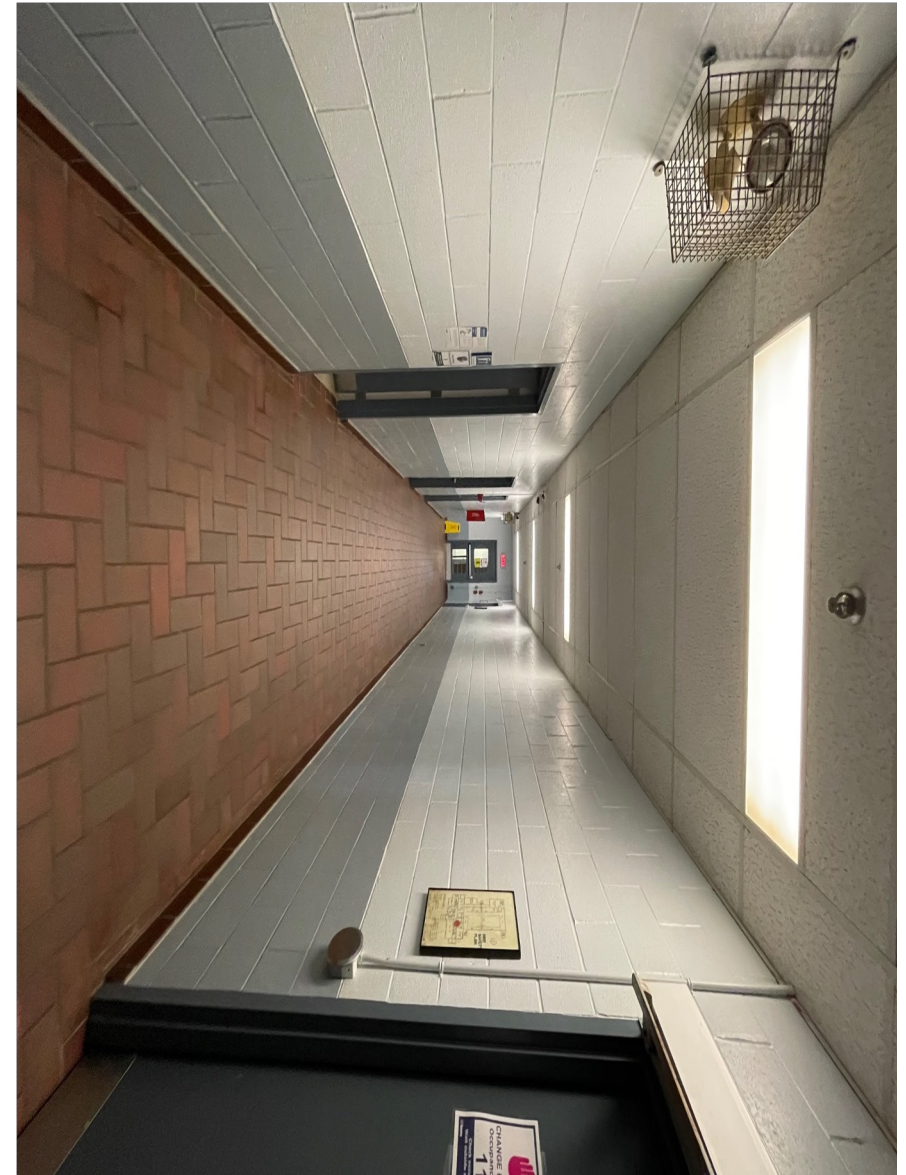


Image description: Hallway



# Moss Park Today: Context Images



Image description: Gymnasium at the John Innes CRC



# Moss Park Today: Context Images

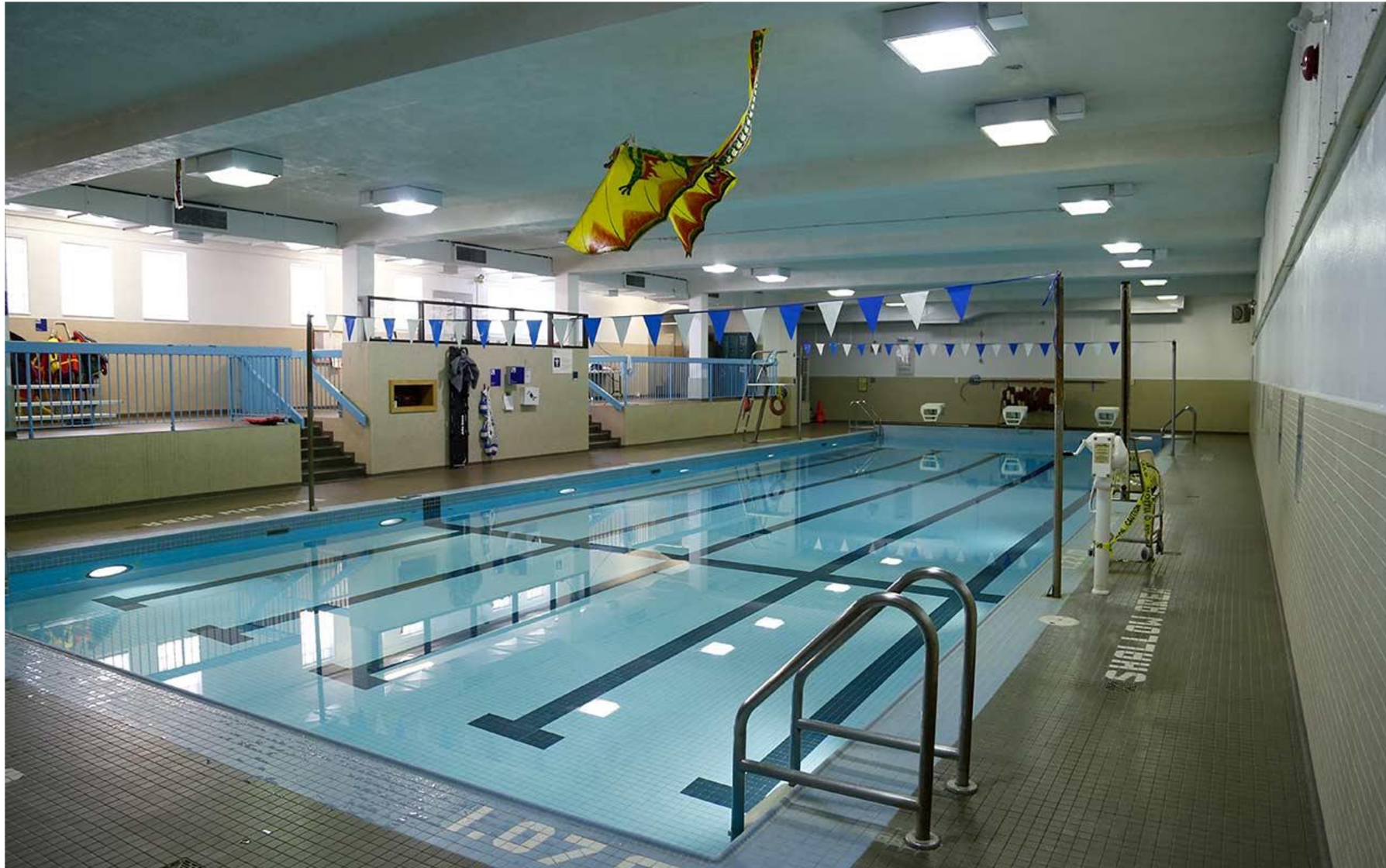


Image description: Lap pool at the John Innes Community Recreation Centre

# Other Relevant Local Projects

The neighbourhood around Moss Park has several proposed and confirmed improvements projects underway that provide better opportunities for more integrated health, mental health, housing, and other services.

2024

2021

2024 -  
2026

2026

TBD

2029

2024

**St Luke's United Church (353 Sherbourne)**  
Revitalization include: Affordable Rental  
Health and Wellness, Food Bank

2021

**St Mike's Detox at Sherbourne Health  
(333 Sherbourne St)**  
Renovation to include withdrawal  
management beds

2024 - 2026

**George St. Hub (339 George St)**  
New multipurpose hub for people experiencing  
homelessness: Shower, Laundry, Food, Lockers,  
Haircuts

2026

**Dan Harrison TCHC Building  
(251 Sherbourne)**  
Supportive/Affordable Housing People with  
complex needs

TBD

**All Saints (315 Dundas St E)**  
Housing and social supports Community mental  
health/wellness programs

2029

**Downtown Relief Line Station  
(Queen & Sherbourne)**

# What We've Heard to Date

# More Moss Park - Key Findings

Overall enthusiasm about facilities and park redevelopment

Safety is a priority for everyone including that of vulnerable populations such as those experiencing homelessness

Desire for a more open and accessible park and CRC that is welcoming to everyone

Concern about disruption and displacement of services during construction



# More Moss Park – Key Findings

Desire for more flexible, multi-use spaces for different activities

Interest in how the redevelopment can balance the needs of local residents and regional users

Food security should be an important consideration and is an opportunity for community-building

Redevelopment must continue to include Indigenous people and organizations to shape the program design moving forward

## 2021: Pre-Consultation Conversations

In 2021, we have been having initial conversations with the following groups:

Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre

Garden District Residents Association

Cabbagetown Residents Association

Housing and Shelter Operators

Residents and Sports Groups

Service Providers

# 2021: Pre-Consultation Conversations – Key Takeaways

**Many important ideas have been shared. So far in 2021, some key takeaways are:**

- Maintenance of Access to programming in the community is critical
- Displacement and other impacts of construction and revitalization, especially those faced by equity-deserving community members, should be avoided as much as possible
- Current park users should feel welcome and able to use the park and Community Recreation Centre in the future
- Accessibility and dignity should be prioritized
- The engagement process needs to be proactive, actively and regularly reaching out to public and stakeholders via email and other appropriate channels
  - This includes reaching out to unhoused communities and Indigenous communities in appropriate ways
- Safety is a priority for many stakeholders, though it means different things to different people, depending on their lived experiences
- The digital programming options and social media communications that became normal during COVID-19 should be maintained



# What Will Make this Project Successful?

The Park and Community Recreation Centre will serve as a **gathering place** for an array of people, communities and experiences.

The project will be a success if the **diversity of community members** who use the Park and Community Recreation Centre today as well as future community members – feel interested, **welcome**, and **safe** to use these amenities in the future.



**Image description:** Moss Park sports field area

# What's Next: How People Will Shape the Project

How public and stakeholders' participation and input will shape the future of Moss Park and the John Innes CRC

# Anticipated Public Engagement Timeline

1

## SET THE STAGE Summer 2022

*Introduce the project, explain the process and lay the project groundwork.*

### Engagement Activities

- Stakeholder Interviews

2

## CONFIRM THE VISION Fall 2022

*Revisit More Moss Park findings and explore how things have changed since 2015.*

*Better understand evolving local issues and how the project can best support local needs. Confirm the project Vision, Principles, and Big Moves.*

- Project Champion Meeting #1: June 11 2022
- Local Advisory Group (LAG) Meeting #1: June 13 2022
- Public Meeting: Jun 20 2022
- Indigenous Engagement: May 2022 onwards
- School Engagement: Sept/Oct 2022
- Pop-ups: Sept/Oct 2022
- Project Champions Meeting #2: Oct 2022
- LAG Meeting #2: Oct 2022

3

## EARLY DESIGN IDEAS Fall 2022 to Spring 2023

*Use what we learn in Phase 2 to start developing ideas for park amenities and concepts for the new CRC (i.e., entrance locations, etc.). Review ideas with community and revise ideas based on feedback.*

- Project Champions Meeting #3: Oct 2022
- LAG Meeting #3: Oct 2022
- Indigenous Engagement: ongoing
- School Engagement: Jan/Feb 2023
- Pop-ups: Mar/Apr 2023
- Public Open House: Apr 2023

4

## FINAL DESIGN Spring 2023

*Work on plans and designs for Moss Park and the John Innes CRC. Review ideas with the community and revise plans and designs based on feedback.*

- Project Champions Meeting #4: Mar 2023
- LAG Meeting #4: Mar 2023
- Indigenous Engagement: ongoing
- Public Open House: May 2023

**ONLINE ENGAGEMENT THROUGHOUT:** Project website, online surveys, local communications campaign, project newsletters, etc.

Design will respond to what is learned through engagement

Set the Stage

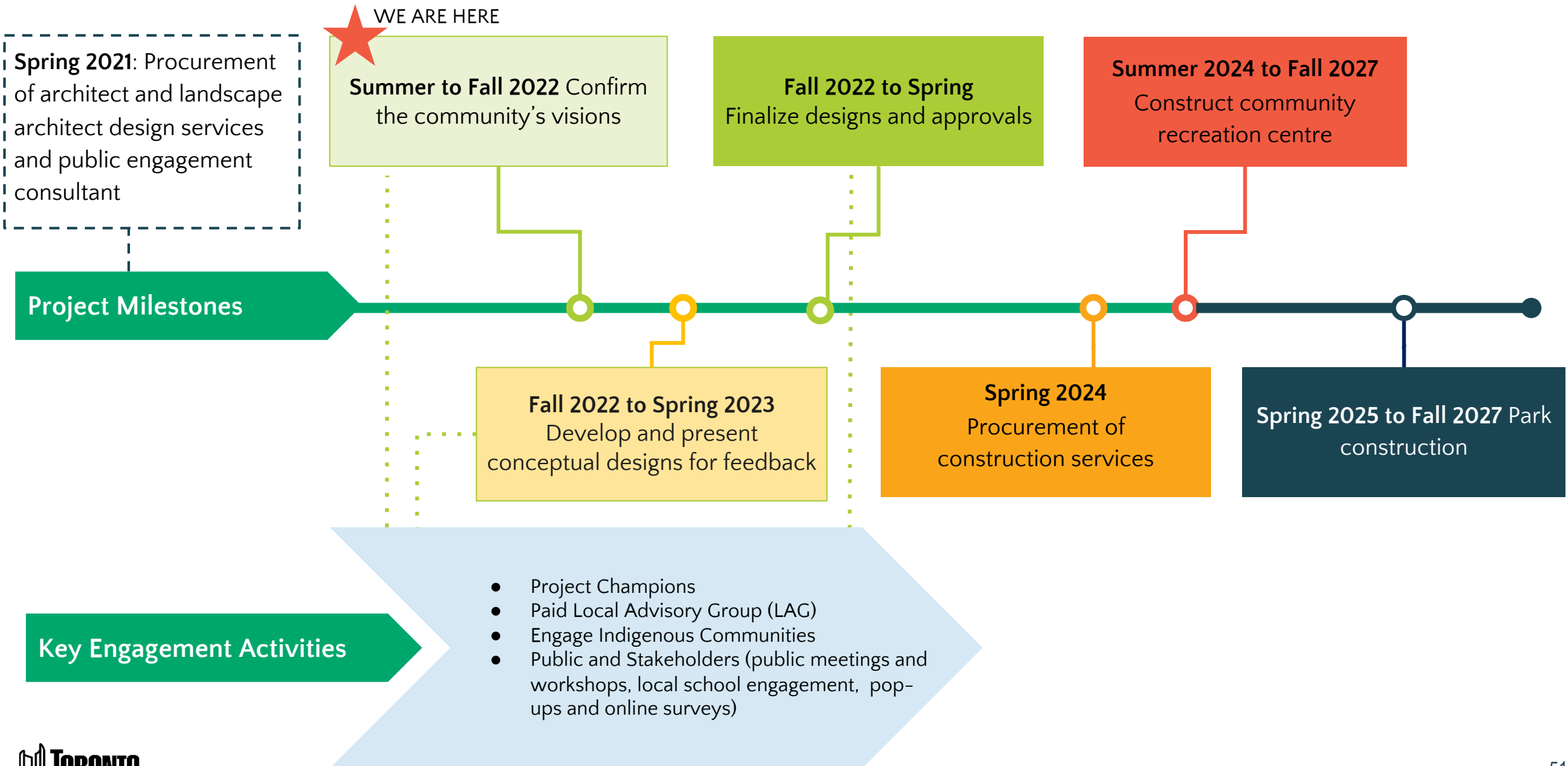
Confirm the Vision

Early Design Ideas

Final Design



# Current Project Timeline



# Local Advisory Group (LAG)

Who	Key local stakeholders including local residents, nearby business improvement areas, local service organizations, and community organizations operating within the vicinity of the park.
What	Focused, deliberative discussions Project newsletters and ongoing correspondence
When	<p>PHASE 2</p> <p>LAG Meeting #1: June 13, 2022 (3 – 5PM, VIRTUAL) (Anticipated agenda: Orientation and Team Building)</p> <p>LAG Meeting #2: June 2022 (Anticipated agenda: Vision, Mission, and Big Moves)</p> <p>PHASE 3</p> <p>LAG Meeting #3: October 2022 (Anticipated agenda: Community review of concept design options)</p> <p>PHASE 4</p> <p>LAG Meeting #5: March 2023 (Anticipated agenda: Design review meeting and Sense Making)</p>

# Draft Principles and Big Moves



# Draft Engagement Principles

**Building Blocks and Entry Points:** Ensure the process is iterative and collaborative.

**All our Voices:** Ensure the process incorporates the voices of all existing park and CRC user groups.

**Who, what, when, where and how:** Ensure the process is transparent and communicative.

**Meet the community where they are at:** Ensure public engagement is trauma-informed.

**Celebrate the community and share the right narrative:** Honour the Moss Park community's strengths beyond crises.

**Create Options:** Mitigate service disruption by providing community members with options to meet their needs.



# Draft Design Principles

1. Ensure the design of the CRC and park supports equity, belonging and inclusion.
2. Ensure the CRC and Park are accessible to all.
3. Create a space that leads to safety and security for all users.
4. Design an open, permeable and transparent environment.
5. Maximize, enhance and improve green spaces.
6. Celebrate and share information about the Indigenous history and character of Moss Park.
7. Contribute to food security.
8. Be sustainable and carbon-neutral.



# Draft Big Moves

1. Maintain a large area of open parkland with frontages onto Queen and Shuter by building the new CRC along Sherbourne St, over the existing footprint.
2. Establish a cohesive design language between the CRC and the Arena and a strong relationship between both buildings and the future Moss Park subway station.
3. Optimize opportunities for rooftop access to the new CRC.
4. Incorporate spaces for prayer and ceremony.
5. Ensure washroom access from the outside of the building.
6. Create a new urban gateway at Queen and Sherbourne.
7. Integrate Indigenous placekeeping throughout the park.
8. Establish a renewed urban canopy of trees on Queen Street to match the Shuter edge.
9. Maintain and enhance key pedestrian pathways and access points into the park.





# ACTIVITY!

Let's workshop the draft principles and big moves.

# How to stay connected

# How to stay connected

- Project Website / Sign-up for updates: <https://www.toronto.ca/mosspark>
- Contact the project team by sending an email to:
  - Daniel Fusca: [daniel.fusca@toronto.ca](mailto:daniel.fusca@toronto.ca)
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# Thank you!

# Appendix B

## Questions/Comments

### Questions/Comments about the Design Principles:

PARTICIPANT QUESTION/COMMENT: DESIGN PRINCIPLES	PROJECT TEAM RESPONSE
<p>Concern about how the space will be used at night. Having passive activities in a central area at night will help make it safer.</p> <p>A definition of safety was provided by another contributor: would you take your kids there? Would you take your kids there at night? The safety issue is the biggest gap between the park as it exists today and the idealized future of the park.</p>	<p>Safety means different things to different people. Safety issues are gaps between the park as it exists today and the idealized future of the park.</p>
<p>The Parks team should figure out how many people rent and use the baseball space? Also, tennis. Tennis use is surprising and actually animates the park.</p>	<p>The project team is in contact with the Recreation team to ensure we are including their input in this process.</p> <p>Part of one of the design principles that we have is to design an open permeable and transparent environment.</p>
<p>Are you looking for a contribution from developers of the play area?</p>	
<p>Is there any way to have an emergency button in some areas that are connected to John Innes Park?</p>	
<p>The Armoury creates poor sight lines on Jarvis Street. I believe in eyes on the street and safety in numbers. With the Metrolinx station coming online and with the park being revitalized, I think there is a real opportunity to better connect the park with Jarvis Street. For example, the sidewalk along Shuter street and Jarvis is narrow- that can be made into a proper gateway. There should be some sort of anchor, some sort of public and better lighting at that corner and again on the North North sidewalk of queen at Jarvis as well. That could help draw pedestrians off Jarvis Street and into the park and create a</p>	

PARTICIPANT QUESTION/COMMENT: DESIGN PRINCIPLES	PROJECT TEAM RESPONSE
walkway to the station. This will be integrated with the redesign of the park itself.	
It sounds like a good idea to have an off-leash area but then that makes it 24/7, only available for dogs. When you have it the way it's currently being used where they use the open field more, it takes away from other uses (Frisbee).	
Making the entrance to the Moss Park TCHC building entrances need to be made more friendly by adding lights on the sidewalks.	The scope of the project will be focused on the community recreation centre and on the park. We will ensure that this message is relayed to the appropriate people.
All of the clients from the shelter sit right at the entrance of the building- maybe if it was on another street maybe it will be safer for clients who are afraid to walk into that entrance of the community recreation centre.	
With the More Moss Park consultations, the city park and recreation staff were adamant that the park was not being used at night. They said they did not have data for it but not all of the activities like tennis and basketball registration is required. When that active use is occurring the park character changes in a positive way.	
The Garden District group has been in conversation with the Department of National Defence for years. They are a difficult group of people to deal with but if there were any expectation that they relationship between Moss Park and the Armoury were to be changed or improved, we unfortunately would have some cold water to throw on that idea but also would have channels to support this idea being pursued.	
If the baseball diamonds could be kept, bleachers are inexpensive. sharps containers to have proper sharps disposal put around. So, we don't have to worry about needles in different areas. Lighting and fencing are major things that help with security. I know the city's working on new garbage bins as well, but even just having proper disposal helps clean up the look and make it more attractive to people just coming in. Those are all very inexpensive things to do.	



<b>PARTICIPANT QUESTION/COMMENT: DESIGN PRINCIPLES</b>	<b>PROJECT TEAM RESPONSE</b>
I just wanted to support those values of equity and accessibility as well just because I feel like that would lead to community and activity and a comfort in the space which then would in turn lead to increased safety. So beyond direct safety interventions, kind of the inaction of equity, and accessibility could lead to that. What some of the other folks we're talking about just increase lighting and diverse programming in the space.	
There are a lot of drop-off food trucks and cars to feed the homeless. People give donations and things from the back of their cars and there's a lot of garbage left behind. How is that going to be managed? I think if that continues into the park project that may impede in terms of, with the metro links that people may move and go more towards where the John Innes entrances. This needs to be considered.	

### Questions/Comments about the Big Moves:

<b>PARTICIPANT QUESTION/COMMENT: BIG MOVES</b>	<b>PROJECT TEAM RESPONSE</b>
Is the arena going to be in the same place it is right now? Will the footprint be the same?	Yes, the arena will remain as is, where it is. The footprint of the facility will be larger than the existing one because the existing facility is much smaller in gross floor area. The proposed facility is going to include a pool and once you add that program space it is going to be 72,000 square feet- almost double in size.
Will there be any consideration for the location of the main entrance?	One of the considerations for retaining it on Sherbourne street was to fortify, or maintain that connection with the new metro station. There would definitely be access from the park side. But through the community centers, there's generally a main access point and it's usually at the front of the building. Typically we have entrances at both sides of the building. The main entrance would also be associated with the address of the building.
How is the team thinking about integrating parking? Is parking being considered and parking for users from outside of the area.	The architect will be retaining a traffic engineer, and they will be providing a parking and traffic study for the entire site. We have met with the arena board

PARTICIPANT QUESTION/COMMENT: BIG MOVES	PROJECT TEAM RESPONSE
	<p>and they would like to maintain the existing parking they have.</p> <p>Where it's going to be located is not has not been decided. There isn't going to be a temporary or interim location at the back of the building because when the station is being constructed, the existing arena parking is going to be required to be removed in order to accommodate the station at that intersection. Metrolinx is planning on relocating the existing arena parking to behind the arena. So it will affect the basketball court at the rear of the arena. And in regard to the parking for the CRC, the plan at the moment is to create some spaces that are in between the new facility, the CRC and the existing arena.</p> <p>Transportation services doesn't support having driveways and cars and vehicles access coming from Shuter and kind of neither do we collectively as a team because we've talked a lot about the importance of that green edge, the canopy of trees that connect to Pembroke. So, it's not desired to put a driveway through there.</p>
<p>Orienting the entrance, or at least an entrance to the park, a very obvious interest to the park that was aligned with Pembroke Street as it hits Shuter would be highly desirable from a local resident's perspective.</p>	
<p>Sherbourne Street between Shuter and Queen is not safe, if you are looking to drive traffic into the building something will need to be done to improve the perception. Many of us in this neighbourhood would avoid walking down either side of that street- pouring millions of dollars into a project with an underused entry way will be a waste.</p>	