

City of Toronto – Parks Development & Capital Projects

# New Parks in the Moss Park Neighbourhood Phase 1 Popups Summary

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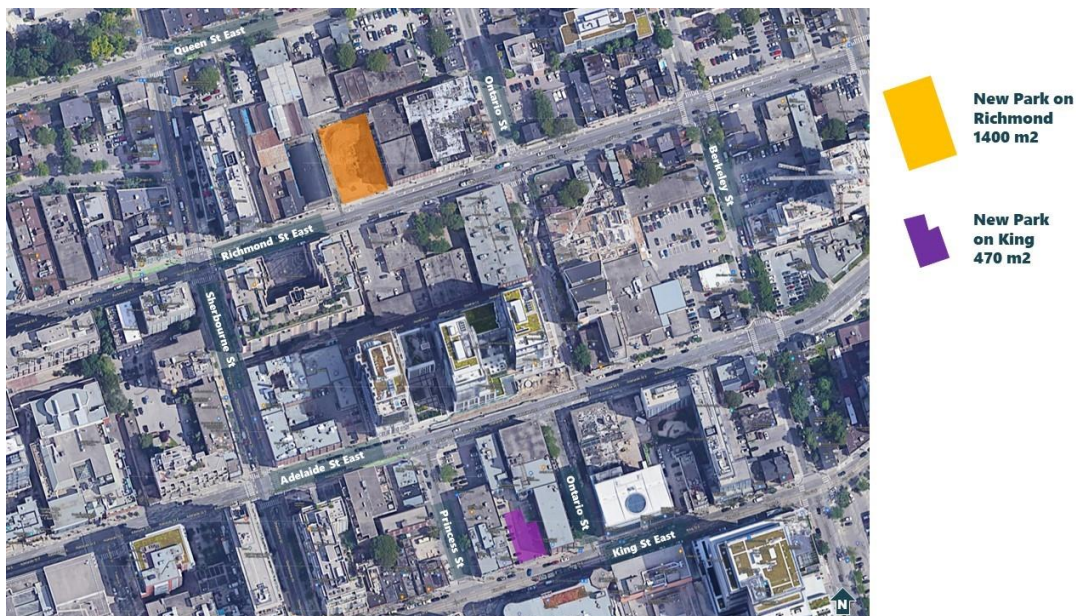
# Project Background

Two new parks are coming to the Moss Park Neighbourhood as part of mixed-use development projects:

- New Park on Richmond Street East: this park will be 1400 m<sup>2</sup> (about the size of a hockey rink), and will be located on the north side of Richmond Street East, west of Ontario Street. This park is being built as part of a development agreement at 261 Queen St. E.
- New Park on King Street East: this park will be 470 m<sup>2</sup> (about the size of a tennis court), and will be located on the north side of King Street East, west of Ontario Street. This park is being built as part of a development agreement at 254-260 King St. E.

Site Considerations include:

- Indigenous Placekeeping (an approach to design that focuses on Indigenous histories and futures while connecting ecological, historical and cultural relationships to a place) will be incorporated into the design of both parks.
- A dog off-leash area will not be included due to the parks' limited size.
- Both are small urban parks and cannot fit large sport features.
- Drinking fountains are planned to be included in both parks.



## Popup Overview

Popups are set up in public spaces near the new parks to solicit feedback from community members as they pass by. These events are meant to engage with community members who might not otherwise participate in the park design process (e.g. through online surveys). Popups include informational and interactive boards, which staff use to briefly inform participants about the project before collecting their feedback to inform the park design. The popup boards and questions mirror the phase 1 online survey.

There were popups held in two locations in the neighbourhood around the two new parks on Tuesday June 21, 2022:

- 262 King St East (11:00 to 2 p.m.): This is the location of the future park on King St E.
- Across from 260 Queen St E (3 p.m. to 6 p.m.): This was located beside a TTC stop, one street north of the future park on Richmond St E.

In total, there were approximately 120 participants across both popup locations.

## Key Feedback Highlights

- Many participants shared that their priority for the new parks' character is that they be green (lush with trees and plantings) and calm (a place to sit, linger, and relax).
- Secondary priorities for both parks' character are that they be social and eventful spaces (places for meeting, gathering, and hosting small, local, outdoor events like markets, performances, and movie nights). Flexible event space was seen by many as an appropriate addition to either park. A participant suggested providing a flexible awning over event or gathering space to provide protection from sun and rain.
- The most important features for both parks are trees and plantings (including pollinators and low-maintenance plantings), seating & places to eat (a wide range of options), and shade.
- Active and playful features like playground equipment and fitness equipment, were viewed as more appropriate for the larger new park on Richmond St E.
- Games tables were a low priority for many participants, and were viewed by some as appropriate for both parks, which others viewed them as more appropriate for the larger new park on Richmond St E.
- The most popular participant-generated suggestions for both parks include washrooms, water features, and waste bins.
- The most popular suggestions for ensuring the park feels safe was lighting. Many participants also felt that ensuring visibility through the park and providing buffers between the park and road were important safety features. Fewer participants felt that providing wide pathways was important for park safety.

## Additional Participant-Generated Suggestions

- A additional suggestion for both parks include:
  - Drinking fountains
  - Creating a dog-friendly space with a dog drinking fountain, dog waste bins and waste bag dispensers.
- Additional suggestions for the New Park on Richmond St E include:
  - Splash pad
  - More amenities for kids, including unique play features that are wood or rope based
  - Public art
  - Basketball
- Additional suggestions for the New Park on King St E include:
  - Swings
  - A large creative or whimsical element, like the fountain in Berczy Park
  - Playground games like Tic Tac Toe
  - Indigenous Art
  - Space-themed Art
- Additional suggestions for improving safety for park users include:
  - Safe needle disposal bin
  - Cameras
  - Full park accessibility
  - Wayfinding signs
  - Containment of children's play spaces (so they can't run into the street)

## Appendix A: Raw Popup Data

### New Park on Richmond St East

What would you like the character of the New Park on Richmond St East to be? *Choose up to 3 options.*

- Calm: A place to sit, linger, and relax (26)
- Green: Lush with trees and plantings (25)
- Social: A space for meeting and gathering (22)
- Eventful: A space for small, local, outdoor events (e.g. community markets or performances) (16)
- Active: A place to exercise (13)
- Flexible: A space that can change based on community need (11)
- Historic: A place to recognize & celebrate local heritage, including Indigenous Placekeeping (9)
- Playful: A place for people of all ages to play and be together (8)
- Whimsical: Colourful and unexpected (7)
- None of the above (0)

What features are most important to include in the New Park on Richmond St East? *Choose up to 3 options.*

- Trees and Plantings (27)
- Seating (27)
- Places to Eat (23)
- Shade Structure (13)
- Playground Equipment (13)
- Fitness Equipment (13)
- Flexible Event Space (e.g. markets & performances) (12)
- Games Tables (e.g. ping pong, chess, mancala) (10)

Do you have any other suggestions or ideas for the New Park on Richmond St E, or is there any local knowledge we need to consider?

- Washrooms + **5 dots**
- Water feature! + **6 dots**
- Lots of waste bins + **5 dots**
- Public Events + **1 dot**
- Dog waste dispensers by waste bin (e.g. Chicago) + **1 dot**
- Splash Pad
- Pollinator Plants
- Movie Nights
- Water Feature (Sounds!)
- Unique Play Features! Rope based or wood (e.g. Portugal)
- More amenities for kids
- Picking up needles here
- Lots of Seating & Options
- Splash Pad!
- Public Art
- Basketball
- Flexible awning (for sun & rain) over event space or gathering space

- Dog friendly (allowed)

## New Park on King St East

What would you like the character of the New Park on King St East to be? Choose up to 3 options.

- Green: Lush with trees and plantings (25)
- Calm: A place to sit, linger, and relax (23)
- Social: A space for meeting and gathering (18)
- Eventful: A space for small, local, outdoor events (e.g. community markets or performances) (18)
- Whimsical: Colourful and unexpected (11)
- Historic: A place to recognize & celebrate local heritage, including Indigenous Placekeeping (11)
- Flexible: A space that can change based on community need (10)
- Active: A place to exercise (7)
- Playful: A place for people of all ages to play and be together (6)
- None of the above (0)

What features are most important to include in the New Park on King St East? *Choose up to 3 options.*

- Trees and Plantings (33)
- Seating (25)
- Places to Eat (25)
- Shade Structure (18)
- Flexible Event Space (e.g. markets & performances) (11)
- Playground Equipment (7)
- Games Tables (e.g. ping pong, chess, mancala) (7)
- Fitness Equipment (6)

Do you have any other suggestions or ideas for the New Park on King St E, or is there any local knowledge we need to consider?

- Washrooms **+ 6 dots**
- Water feature! **+ 5 dots**
- Waste Bins **+ 5 dots**
- Dog waste dispensers by waste bin (e.g. Chicago) **+ 1 dot**
- More amenities for kids
- Low-maintenance plantings that can be maintained
- Pollinator Plants
- Swings
- Something creative/whimsical like Berczy
- Playground -> Games! -> Tic Tac Toe
- Indigenous art
- Flexible awning (for sun & rain) over event space or gathering space
- Drinking Fountain
- Space – visual arts
- Dog friendly (allowed)
- Dog Drinking Fountain

### The Best Feature for Each Park

	Good for either park	Not good for either park	Only good for the new park on Richmond St E	Only good for the new park on King St E
Playground Equipment	13	1	22	3
Fitness Equipment	13	6	18	1
Trees and plantings	38	0	0	1
Flexible event space	23	4	9	1
Shade Structure	30	3	3	1
Games Tables (e.g. Chess, ping pong, mancala)	13	6	12	5
Places to eat (e.g. picnic table or table and chairs)	29	3	1	3
Seating	35	0	0	2

### Safety

- Lighting (31)
- Visibility through the park (20)
- Buffers between park & road (19)
- Wide pathways (8)

### Other ideas to improve park safety for all park users:

- Cameras + 1 dot
- Accessibility + 1 dot
- Wayfinding
- Contain any play space for kids (so they don't run into street)
- Buffers (for street also good for sound)
- Safe for kids