

City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry & Recreation

Relic Linear Park



Phase One Pop-Up Feedback Summary Report

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Introduction

This document provides a summary of what the project team heard from the community at pop-up engagements, regarding their vision for two new parks, one at 292 Dundas St W. and one at 234 Simcoe. Both parks are part of the Relic Linear Park system.

Project Background

The Relic Linear Park network is a community-led vision that embraces the inclusion of architectural relic stones in the public realm. These parks are part of the Relic Linear Park network (formal park name TBD) and are guided by the Grange Green Plan and Relic Park Prospectus.

As part of the project, the City has issued a call to hire an Indigenous artist/designer, with the intention of bringing an integrated artwork or design element into these two spaces. Through the use of both relics and Indigenous placekeeping, the project team aims to incorporate both the recent history of our city as well as the ancestral history of the land into the project.

Pop-up

The project team hosted two on-site pop-up engagements, one at the Cecil Community Centre on September 20th and one at Grange Park on Wednesday October 5th. The goal was to provide an opportunity for community members to ask questions and share their ideas and vision for the new parks. The Cecil Community Centre facilitated the outreach to Asian-Canadian Communities. The Grange Park Pop-up was set up near the playground in order to gather insights from parents and children.

The project team set up 4 engagement boards per park, one with information about the project, including project time line, and three with specific questions about the community's wants and needs for the park. The Cecil Community Centre Pop Up was attended by approximately 20-25 people. The Grange Park Pop Up engaged approximately 50 people.

Engagement Board "Dotmocracy" Exercise:

Both Pop-Ups invited people to participate in "dotmocracy", an exercise where they could use sticky-dots to mark which features they considered most important from a list of various design features/ attributes. They were also invited to share thoughts through sticky notes, and to share their ideas directly with project team members.

Use of Relics

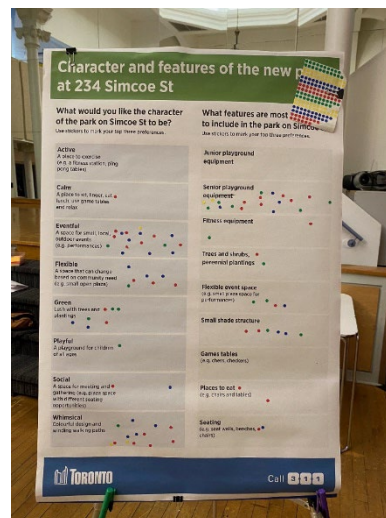
When asked how the relics should be incorporated into the park design, the majority of participants at both the Cecil and the Grange Pop-Ups said that they would like to see the relics used in both a **"Functional and Decorative way"**.

Summary for 234 Simcoe St

When asked to identify what the character of the park should be, the majority of participants at both the Cecil Pop-Up and the Grange Park Pop-Up identified **"Eventful and Whimsical"**.

Summary for 292 Dundas

When asked to identify what the character of the park should be, the majority of participants at the Cecil Pop-Up identified **"Green"** as their choice while the majority of participants at the Grange Park Pop-Up identified **"Calm"**. However the second most popular choice at both pop-ups was **"Eventful"**.



Cecil Pop-Up

234 Simcoe Street

How would you like to see the relic stones integrated into the park design?

The majority of participants would like to see the relics used in both a decorative and functional way.

	Count
In a functional way	5
In a decorative way	1
A combination of both	13

What would you like the Character of the park on Simcoe St be?

The top 2 characteristics included Eventful and Whimsical.

Character Traits	Count
Active	0
Calm	1
Eventful	17
Flexible	7
Green	7
Playful	1
Social	2
Whimsical	13

What features are most important to include in the park on Simcoe?

The Senior Playground equipment had an overwhelming majority.

Design Feature	Count
Junior Playground equipment	0
Senior Playground equipment	19
Fitness equipment	2
Trees and shrubs, perennial plantings	2
Flexible event space	4
Small shade structure	6
Game tables	0
Places to eat	2
Seating	2

292 Dundas Street W.

What would you like the Character of the park on Dundas St W be?

The top 2 characteristics included Green and Eventful.

Design Feature	Count
Calm	8
Eventful	13
Flexible	2
Green	16
Social	4
Whimsical	7

What features are most important to include in the park on Dundas St W?

The top 2 design features selected were Trees and Places to eat.

Design Feature	Important
Trees and shrubs, perennial plantings	9
Flexible event space	2
Small shade structure	2
Game tables	1
Places to eat	8
Seating	1

Engagement Board Question: Are there any stories about the site and the Grange Park neighbourhood that you would like to see represented in the design of these two new parks in the Relic Park System?

- 4 people suggested stories surrounding the history of the site. Among the suggestions there were:
 - Multicultural Stories
 - Jewish History
 - Chinese, Japanese and Nepalese History

Engagement Board Question: Do you have any other suggestions or ideas for these two new parks in the Grange Park neighbourhood, or is there any additional local knowledge we need to consider?

In total the question received 21 sticky note answers.

- The majority of the answers (5) requested **more seating** including:
 - Small Chairs
 - Accessible seating

- 3 people requested more greenery:
 - Greenspace to relax
 - Plants
 - Trees
 - Grass

- 2 people suggested more flowers
- 2 people suggested Arts and Entertainment including, stage and designated event space
- 2 people suggested winter activities, including social activities
- 1 person suggested garbage bins
- 1 person suggested drinking fountains
- 1 person suggested tennis court
- 1 person suggested shade structure
- 1 person suggested fish pond

Grange Pop-Up

234 Simcoe St

How would you like to see the relic stones integrated into the park design?

The majority of participants would like to see the relics used in both a decorative and functional way.

	Count
In a functional way	5
In a decorative way	1
A combination of both	14

What would you like the Character of the park on Simcoe St be?

The top 3 characteristics included Green, Whimsical and Eventful.

Design Feature	Count
Active	3
Calm	5
Eventful	23
Flexible	11
Green	27
Playful	11
Social	6
Whimsical	24

What features are most important to include in the park on Simcoe?

The design feature Senior Playground Equipment was the most important amongst participants.

Design Feature	Count
Junior Playground equipment	3
Senior Playground equipment	30
Fitness equipment	8
Trees and shrubs, perennial plantings	14
Flexible event space	5
Small shade structure	10
Game tables	3
Places to eat	6
Seating	11

292 Dundas St W

What would you like the Character of the park on Dundas St W be?

The top characteristic for the park included Green, followed by Calm and Eventful.

Design Feature	Count
Calm	20
Eventful	19
Flexible	4
Green	44
Social	10
Whimsical	16

What features are most important to include in the park on Dundas St W?

The most important feature was voted as “Trees and shrubs, perennial plantings”.

Design Feature	Count
Trees and shrubs, perennial plantings	27
Flexible event space	6
Small shade structure	8
Game tables	5
Places to eat	14
Seating	7

Engagement Board Question: Do you have any other suggestions or ideas for these two new parks in the Grange Park neighbourhood, or is there any additional local knowledge we need to consider?

In total the question received 34 sticky note answers.

- The majority of the answers (6) requested **more greenery** including:
 - Trees
 - Fruit trees
 - Pollinators
 - Trees for birds
 - Community gardens
 - Quiet space surrounded with greenery

- 4 people requested more arts and entertainment, and efforts to making the park accessible:
 - Including food stands
 - Public art
 - Game tables
 - Special space for vendors
 - Language diversity
 - Accessible to seniors
 - Signage for fruit trees

- 3 people suggested addition of water features. Among the answers some people suggested that it could be fountains, water feature for birds and dogs.
- 2 people suggested more signage
- 2 people suggested play equipment for adults, and addition of seesaw, Ferris wheels
- 2 people suggested better park maintenance for garbage and muddy grass
- 2 people suggested a concern for safety. Among the answers some people suggested that installing fences around playgrounds would be helpful.
- 1 person suggested a public gym
- 1 person suggested a beach volleyball park
- 1 person suggested a walkway

Appendix A: Quantitative Response Summary

Appendix B: Text Responses

Cecil Pop-Up

Are there any stories about the site and the Grange Park neighbourhood that you would like to see represented in the design of these two new parks in the Relic Park System?

- Pond will be tough to maintain and may collect a lot of debris
- Multicultural Stories
- Multicultural stories
- Jewish History of Grange Park
- The community is diverse. Include all community, Chinese, Japanese, Nepalese history
- Don't put too many benches, because they are always occupied by homeless people nearby for sleeping.

Do you have any other suggestions or ideas for these two new parks in the Grange Park neighbourhood, or is there any additional local knowledge we need to consider?

- Small Chairs, because park is small
- Seating
- I think the park system will bring lots of history and interest
- Something for children and adults
- Nature, opportunities to relax
- Downtown lacks green space and plants, we need more greenery
- Social spaces that are welcoming in the winter
- Make sure people can use the seating
- Winter is long so hard to have green space
- Tennis court and a lot of trees
- Seating is important
- Consult young people
- Seating is important to rest when you're walking
- Keep the historic buildings
- I hope there is a park in Chinatown. There can be a stage in the park where friends can show their talents.
- I hope there are not too many benches, or homeless people will sleep here which affects people's perception of the city.
- Event space is very welcomed.
- Garbage bins and drinking fountain.
- Shade structures, pool with fish in it and flowers of different colours.
- Flowers and shade structure; Perennials; More colours.

- Shade structures, flowers and grass

Grange Pop-Up

Do you have any other suggestions or ideas for these two new parks in the Grange Park neighbourhood, or is there any additional local knowledge we need to consider?

- For both parks, include food stands, public art
- Trees! Fruiting, sakura, oxygen production
- Ferris wheel, seesaw
- Fruit trees
- pollinators+ trees for birds
- Play equipment for Adults
- I like the idea of relics
- fountains are great statues
- Entertainment Park
- Walkways where people actually walk - to prevent trails being created through grass from foot traffic
- it should be like grange park
- water features for birds
- fruits, signage saying if it can be eaten
- Game tables that can be used for eating
- the miyawaki method
- A lot of condos compacted together on St Patrick / Simcoe noise travels really easily between the condos and street corridors. A quiet space with lots of green grass is preferred, instead of high traffic even space or playground.
- Picnic tables should be accessible
- no smoking signs
- a lot of people with disabilities in the neighbourhood
- garbage cans - LOTS they have to be big.
- Reading area with comfortable seats
- public gym
- language diversity, accessible
- Seating tables accessible to seniors
- dog friendly fountain
- no smoking signs
- I would like vendors to have a space in the community
- discourage skate boarders from damaging structures
- Community garden
- Have structures that are symbiotic with skaters
- High traffic areas, if they have grass - would become muddy
- beach volleyball park
- wondering what will happen to the homeless population
- fence around playground