

City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry & Recreation

Victoria Memorial Square Park



Phase 1: Building a Vision Survey Summary Report

November 2022

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Project Background

The City is improving Victoria Memorial Square!

Victoria Memorial Square is located at 10 Niagara St, near Portland Street. The park is a designated heritage site and is part of the Fort York National Historic Site and the King-Spadina Heritage Conservation District.

The park currently includes a monument, playground and drinking fountain as well as several heritage features, open lawn areas and mature trees. The park's historical significance and unique site constraints will be taken into consideration when planning the design.

The park improvements may include:

- Additional heritage interpretation elements
- New social gathering spaces
- Upgrade of existing pathways
- New site furnishings (i.e. benches, chairs, seat walls and/or picnic tables)
- Updated historical interpretive signage, including Indigenous history component, to be integrated with City's new wayfinding system
- General site improvements including upgrade to existing granite border/pathway, playground improvements, refresh of existing monuments
- New planting features and trees
- New grass
- Lighting improvements
- Potential integrated art feature

Project Timeline

- Fall 2022: Hire a design team
- Summer 2022 to Spring 2023: Community engagement and design development
- Summer 2023: Hire a construction team
- Fall 2023: Construction starts

The timeline is subject to change.

How We Reached People

In general, the community was informed of engagement activities through social and print media, listed below:

Signage near the site

Project information was displayed on 36x48 notice boards placed near the new park site. These notice boards provided information about the project, details about the online survey, and how

to access additional information on the project webpage.

Digital Media

eFlyer

A digital flyer was circulated to community groups and the local Councillor's Office for additional distribution.

Social Media and Digital Ads

The City of Toronto used its Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts to promote the virtual community meeting and online survey through paid advertisements and organic posts from September 2 to September 16, 2022.

Project Webpage

A webpage (toronto.ca/VictoriaMemorialSquare) was set up to act as a communications portal to inform the public about the new park project. The webpage hosts all up to date information regarding the project, including links to the online survey and a sign-up button for e-updates.

Online Survey

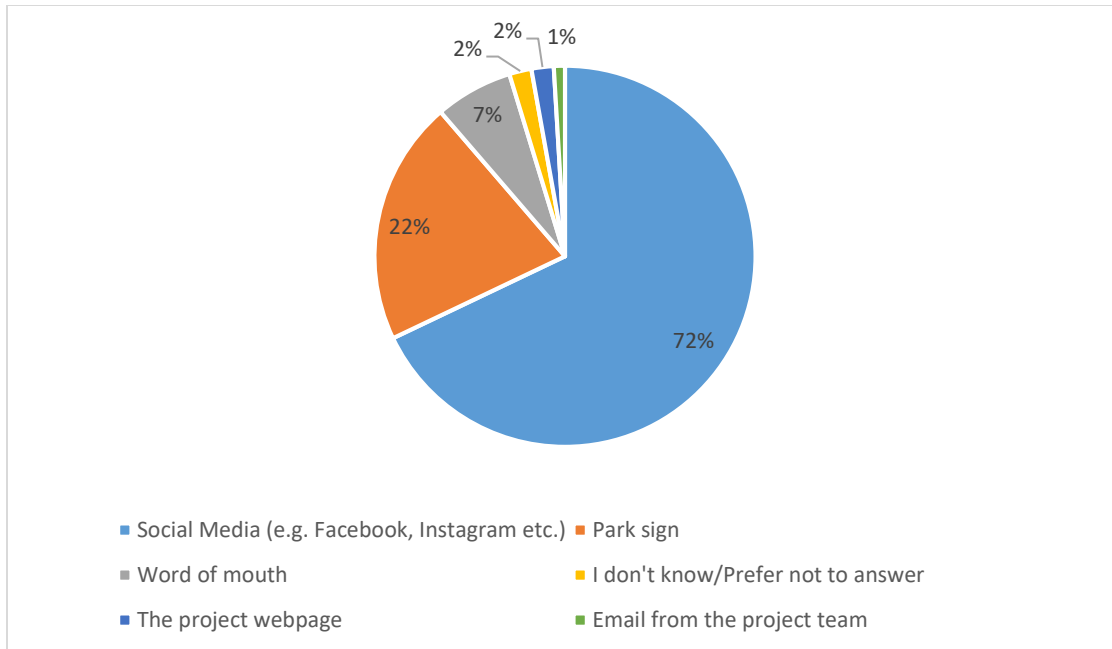
In August 2022, the project team launched an online survey to collect feedback on the proposed design for the new park. Responses to the survey will help to generate ideas, and confirm priorities for the upcoming improvements.

The online survey was available from August 30 to September 18, 2022. The survey received a **total of 753 responses**, which included input from 1,293 participants of various ages.

This section presents the survey results and a summary of the common themes of comments. A full look at the survey results can be found in Appendix A.

On Survey Respondents

- The survey received a total of **753 survey responses**, which included input from **1,293 individuals**.
 - The majority of survey participants were in the 30 to 39 years old (41%), 19 to 29 years old (23%) and 40 to 55 years old (22%).
- **The majority of respondents found out about the survey from social media (72%)**



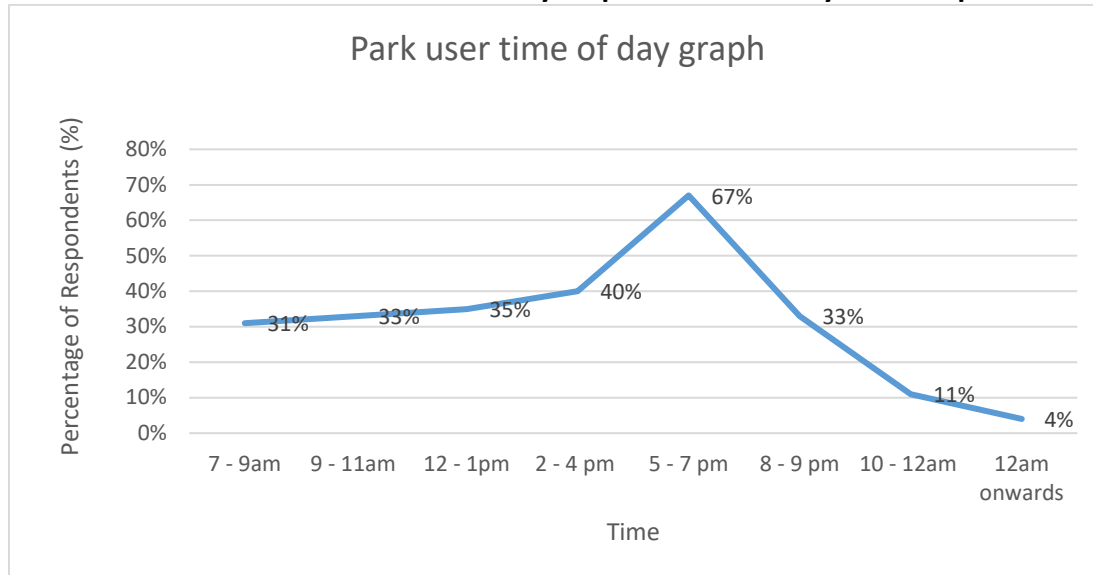
- **The majority of respondents only have access to public spaces like parks (I do not have access to private or semi-private outdoor space) (50%)**
 - 25% of respondents have access to semi-private/shared outdoor space
 - 21% of have access to private outdoor space like a yard
 - 5% of respondents preferred not to answer
- **More than half of respondents identified as homeowners (54%) and 42% as renters**
 - 4% preferred not to answer
 - 1% of respondents identified as permanently living with parent(s) or other family member(s)
- **7% of respondents identified as a person with a disability**
 - 83% of respondents did not identify as a person with a disability
 - 10% of respondents preferred not to answer

Park Visioning

- **When asked about the frequency respondents visit the Victoria Memorial Square:**
 - 50% of respondents visit 4 or more times a week
 - 22% of respondents visit 2 to 3 times a week
 - 19% of respondents visit a couple of times a month
 - 6% of respondents visit less than one a month
 - 2% of respondents visit less than once a year
 - 1% of respondents have never been to Victoria Memorial Square

- **When asked about how much time visitors spend at Victoria Memorial Square:**
 - The majority of respondents would spend a few minutes (passing by) (36%), or 10 – 20 minutes (35%)
 - 22% of respondents would spend 30 minutes – 1 hour
 - 7% would spend more than 1 hour at the park

- **When asked what time of the day respondent's usually visit the park:**



- **Usual method of travel to (or through) the park:**
 - Walk (98%)
 - Cycle (12%)
 - Personal Vehicle (2%)
 - Rollerblade/skate/skateboard (1%)
 - With the assistance of a mobility device (cane, scooter, stroller) (1%)
 - Personal Electric Vehicle (electric scooter, solo-wheel, electric skateboard) (1%)
- **When asked to identify the activities respondents do while visiting Victoria Memorial Square (respondents could select multiple options):**
 - Walk along the pathways (91%)
 - Spend time alone, read, rest, and enjoy the park (59%)
 - Spend time with friends and neighbours (49%)
 - Enjoy food or drinks from nearby restaurants and coffee shops (47%)
 - Walk a pet (36%)
 - Have picnics (22%)
 - Play lawn games (5%)
 - Never visited the park (1%)

- **When asked to about the importance of each of the following potential design features (respondents could select multiple options):**
 - 71% of respondents view trees as very important
 - 45% of respondents view 'shaded area' as very important
 - 44% of respondents view 'lighting' as very important
 - 35% of respondents view 'more benches' as very important
 - 39% of respondents view 'improved/expanded planting areas' as very important
 - 30% of respondents view 'improved/expanded sidewalk or pathways' as very important
 - 26% of respondents view 'lounge chairs' (e.g. Muskoka chairs, recliners) as very important
 - 26% of respondents view 'heritage interpretation features and signage' as very important
 - 15% of respondents view 'picnic tables' as very important
 - 17% of respondents view 'bistro tables and chairs' as very important
 - 14% of respondents view 'integrated art installation feature' as very important
 - 12% of respondents view 'seat wall (e.g. low wall at seat height)' as very important
 - 11% of respondents view 'bicycle parking' and 'small paved space for tables and seating' as very important.
- **When respondents were surveyed on how many know that Victoria Memorial Square is a designated heritage site and former cemetery that includes the burial sites of soldiers who fought in the War of 1812:**
 - Majority answered "Yes I was aware" (76%)
 - 24% claimed to not know

Other features

The survey provided respondents with a statement about the heritage of this site and asked if they agree, neither agree nor disagree, or disagree.

I would like to see more features that celebrate and share information about the heritage of this site (this could include signage and plaques and interpretive features integrated into site furnishings and/or paving.)

31% strongly agree

32% agree

23% neither agree nor disagree

8% disagree

6% strongly disagree

Additional comments on the park design

When asked if they had any additional comments or suggestions on the proposed design, 303 respondents provided additional feedback. Top comments and suggestions are below, with the number of respondents sharing this sentiment in parentheses.

- Add dogs off-leash area (80)
- Restrict dogs (51)
- Park maintenance (44)
- More pet designated space (water fountains for pets, separate garbage bins for pets, daily sprinkler system for the smell) (39)
- Grass maintenance (37)
- History (24)
- Add playground (19)
- More greenery (18)
- Add seating (17)
- Better lighting (11)
- More signage (10)
- More flowers and pollinators (10)
- Trees (10)
- Access to water (9)
- Arts, entertainment and games (8)
- Safety (7)
- Size (7)
- Inclusive for all (4)
- More shade (3)
- Exercise equipment (3)

Next Steps

The feedback received from this phase of community engagement will confirm priorities for the Proposed Design. To be notified about upcoming consultations for the new park, please visit the project webpage at toronto.ca/VictoriaMemorialSquare to sign up for e-updates.

Appendix A: Quantitative Response Summary

How frequently do you visit Victoria Memorial Square Park?

	Count	% of responses	%
4 or more times a week	378	<div></div>	50%
2 to 3 times a week	163	<div></div>	22%
A couple of times a month	146	<div></div>	19%
Less than once a month	44	<div></div>	6%
Less than once a year	18	<div></div>	2%
I have never been to Victoria Memorial Square Park	4	<div></div>	1%

N 753

On a typical visit, how much time do you spend at Victoria Memorial Square Park?

	Count	% of responses	%
A few minutes (passing by)	269	<div></div>	36%
10 – 20 minutes	266	<div></div>	35%
30 minutes – 1 hours	165	<div></div>	22%
1 hours +	53	<div></div>	7%

N 753

What time of the day do you usually visit the park? (select all that apply) :

	Count	% of responses	%
5 – 7 pm	507	<div></div>	67%
2 – 4 pm	300	<div></div>	40%
12 – 1 pm	265	<div></div>	35%
9 – 11 am	251	<div></div>	33%
8 – 9 pm	249	<div></div>	33%
7 – 9 am	234	<div></div>	31%
10 – 12 am	85	<div></div>	11%
12 am onwards	33	<div></div>	4%

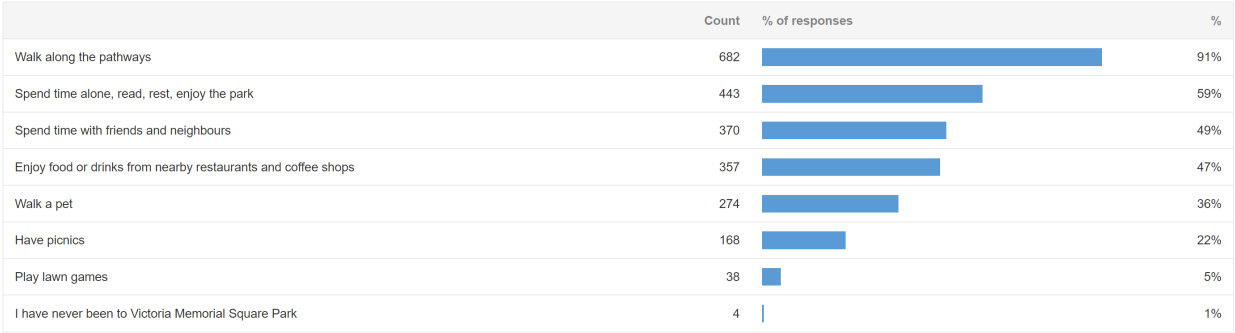
N 753

How do you usually travel to (or through) the park?

	Count	% of responses	%
Walk	740	<div></div>	98%
Cycle	94	<div></div>	12%
Personal vehicle	14	<div></div>	2%
Rollerblade/skate/skateboard	11	<div></div>	1%
With the assistance of a mobility device (cane, scooter, stroller)	7	<div></div>	1%
Personal Electric Vehicle (electric scooter, solo-wheel, electric skateboard)	5	<div></div>	1%

N 753

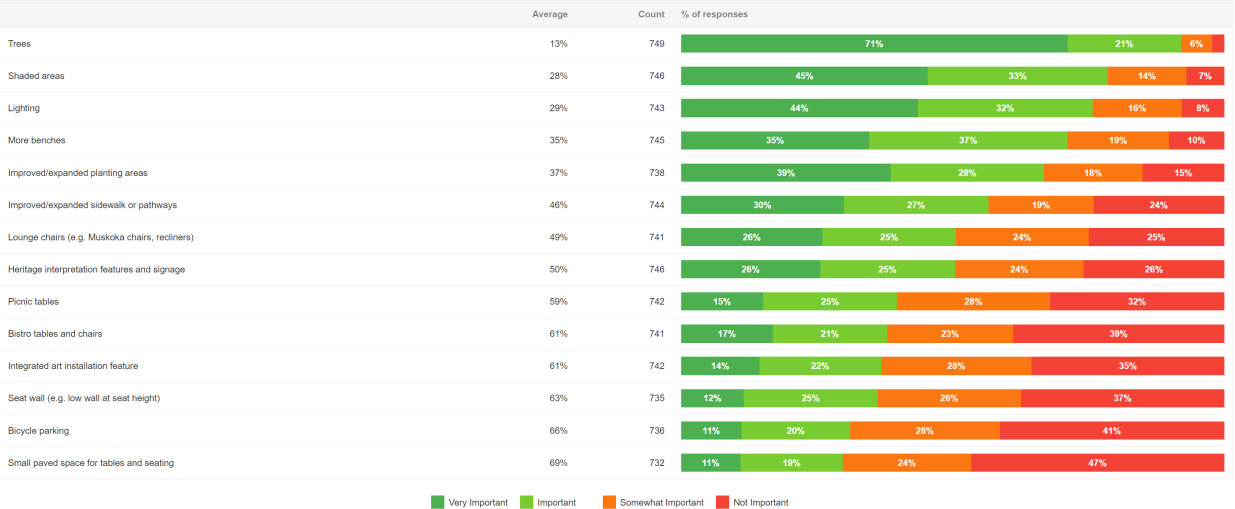
Select all of the activities that you do while visiting Victoria Memorial Square Park



N 753

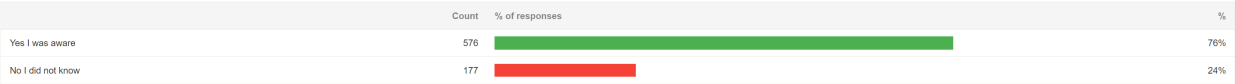
How important are each of the following potential design features to you and your household?

:



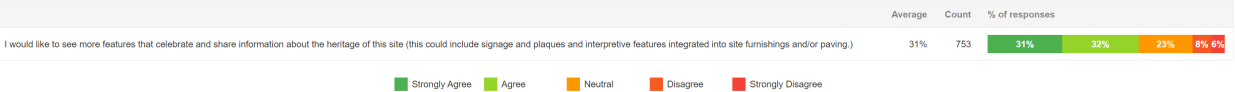
N 752

Did you know that Victoria Memorial Square Park is a designated heritage site and former cemetery that includes the burial sites of soldiers who fought in the War of 1812?



N 753

Rate the following statement:

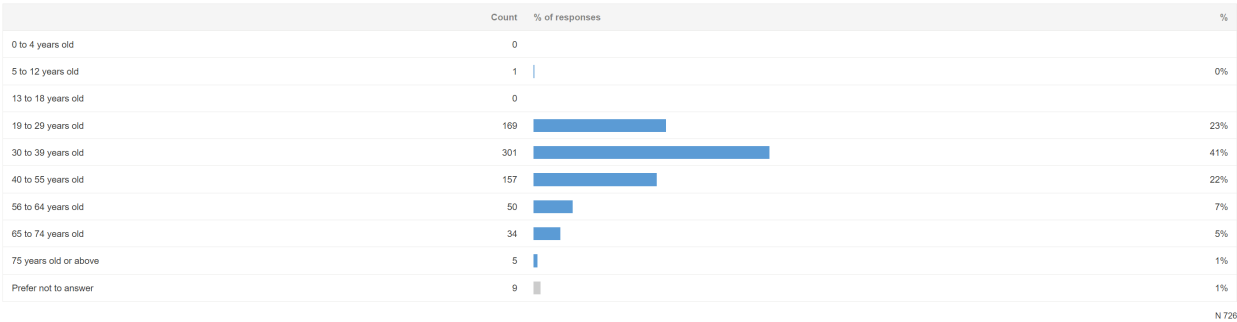


Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

N 753

Demographics

What is the age of the person filling out this survey?



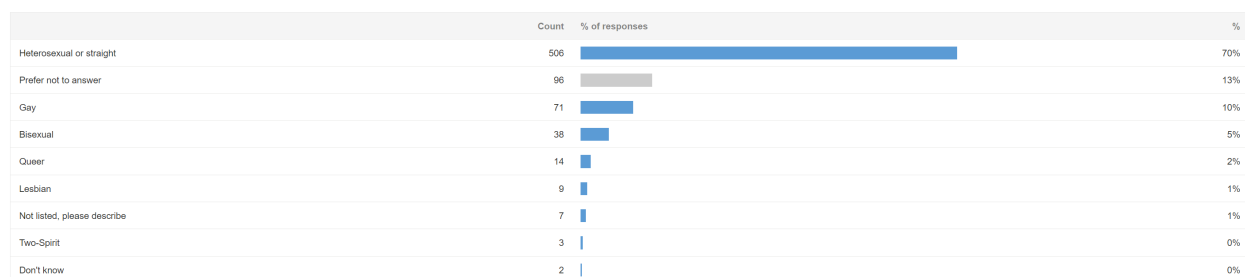
Excluding yourself, how many people of each age group participated in this survey?

- 0 to 4 years old = 71
- 5 to 12 years old = 21
- 13 to 18 years old = 15
- 19 to 29 years old = 89
- 30 to 39 years old = 180
- 40 to 55 years old = 95
- 56 to 64 years old = 31
- 65 to 74 years old = 24
- 75 years old or above = 14

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

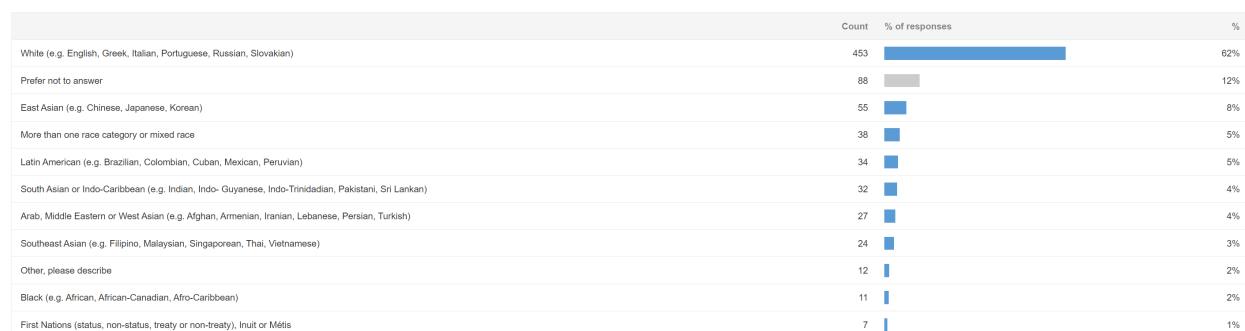


Sexual orientation describes a person's emotional, physical, romantic, and/or sexual attraction to other people. What best describes the sexual orientation of the person filling out this survey?



N 726

People often describe themselves by their race or racial background. For example, some people consider themselves "Black", "White" or "East Asian". Which race category best describes the person filling out this survey? Select all that apply.



N 726

What language do you prefer speaking?

- English = 693 responses = 95%
- French = 8 responses = 1%
- Prefer not to answer = 8 responses = 1%
- Spanish = 4 responses = 1%
- Russian = 3 responses = 0%
- Italian = 2 responses = 0%
- Portuguese = 2 responses = 0%
- Albanian = 1 response = 0%
- American Sign Language = 1 response = 0%
- Chinese-Cantonese = 1 response = 0%
- Chinese-Mandarin = 1 response = 0%
- Farsi = 1 response = 0%
- Ukrainian = 1 response = 0%

Indigenous people from Canada identify as First Nations (status, non-status, treaty or non-treaty), Inuit, Métis, Aboriginal, Native or Indian. Does the person filling out this survey identify as Indigenous to Canada?



N 726

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

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes	52		7%
No	601		83%
Don't know	1		0%
Prefer not to answer	72		10%






N 726

Excluding yourself, does anyone in your household identify as a person with a disability?

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes	41		6%
No	603		83%
Don't know	4		1%
Prefer not to answer	78		11%

N 726

What best describes your current housing situation?

	Count	% of responses	%
Home owner	389		54%
Renting	304		42%
Permanently living with parent(s) or other family member(s)	4		1%
Temporarily staying with others (no fixed address)	0		
Unhoused (staying outside, in a shelter, in a 24-hour respite)	0		
Prefer not to answer	26		4%
Not listed, please describe	3		0%

N 726


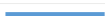






What best describes you and your household's access to outdoor space?

:

	Count	% of responses	%
I have access to private outdoor space like a yard	151		21%
I have access to semi-private/shared outdoor space	179		25%
I only have access to public spaces like parks (I do not have access to private or semi-private outdoor space)	362		50%
Prefer not to answer	34		5%

N 726

How did you find out about this survey? Select all that apply.

	Count	% of responses	%
Social Media (e.g. Facebook, Instagram etc.)	523		72%
Park sign	162		22%
Word of mouth	49		7%
I don't know/Prefer not to answer	14		2%
The project webpage	12		2%
Email from the project team	8		1%
Councillor's Office communications	3		0%
Mailer to my home	2		0%

N 726

Appendix B: Background and Proposed Design

Background



The City is improving Victoria Memorial Square Park, located at 10 Niagara St, near Portland Street. The park is a designated heritage site and is part of the Fort York National Historic Site and the King-Spadina Heritage Conservation District.

The park currently includes a monument, playground and drinking fountain as well as several heritage features, open lawn areas and mature trees. The park's historical significance and unique site constraints will be taken into consideration when planning the design. The park improvements may include:

- Additional heritage interpretation elements
- New social gathering spaces
- Potential integrated art feature
- Upgrade of existing pathways
- New site furnishings (i.e. benches, chairs, seat walls and/or picnic tables)
- General site improvements including upgrade to existing granite border/pathway, playground improvements, refresh of existing monuments
- New planting features and trees
- New grass
- Lighting improvements
- Updated historical interpretive signage, including Indigenous history component, to be integrated with City's new wayfinding system (as a separate phase of work).

Appendix C: Text Responses

Is there anything else that you would like to share with the project team regarding improvements at Victoria Memorial Square?

Respondents who selected other, please specify

- St. Andrew's Playground is amazing since the improvements. Please try to do even better with this park. Please expand the park if possible. Make it a destination park like Grange or St. James. Improve the playground. Something like the new Rainbow Park in Vancouver. This park has the opportunity to be iconic, please think big! Maybe the art could celebrate the fashion district history too? I like large fountains, gates, vintage lamp posts, and lots of different types of seating!
- The most common uses i see at the park are people bringing their dogs and others enjoying the park. Having perimeter trees that dont shade the full park make it seem safer (especially walking through at night) and also allows you to enjoy the sun more. Playground is rarely used.
- It's increasingly become a dog toilet and off leash area. Can we have some signage and enforcement please. Thanks
- Dog park area
- Paved Space for a wheelchair or stroller by each bench
- The biggest issue that I've noticed is the amount of people who let their dogs off-leash and people who don't pick up after their dogs. I've seen numerous dogs get dangerously close to traffic because their owners allow them to run freely. Our dog has also been aggressively approached an off-leash dog on more than one occasion. I don't know if a leash-free zone is the answer or stricter enforcement of these rules. One other thing that I know probably won't be considered, but I've always wanted Toronto to have an outdoor bouldering area. This park would be a great option for it because of all the fitness enthusiasts in the area. Workout equipment would be okay too.
- Better garbage cans
- Please get rid of the dogs! They have ruined the grass and the dignity of the dead who lay there. It is shameful what the dogs have dog to it.
- Areas for the dogs! So many of us frequent to this park to socialize with our dogs. A large fenced area would be great
- Limit dogs, this park has become a dog pissing ground
- I like reading the placards about the history that are already there. More of that would be nice. Also more lighting. It's very dark after dusk
- VMS is a vitally important part of Toronto's history and heritage. The landscape restoration and interpretation that was done 10 years ago or more was excellent. I would like to see it restored to this condition and maintained at a high level with constant, regular oversight by staff (or volunteers supervises by staff). The current condition (dog-free-for-all) is a disgrace.

- A skate park
- The Indigenous heritage of the site must be included in the signage.
- The park is currently used by many for off leash dog use. The grass is gross. A designated dog zone to prevent this would be good.
- Clean seating area with garbages that aren't overflowing
- Grass maintenance!
- Essential that heritage element be preserved and expanded. It's a cemetery and its being treated like a dog park.
- Have more features for other residents in the area who are not dog owners. Right now even outside the dog park area, there are dogs running around off leash, and not much space for non dog owners to enjoy the park.
- I hope the city buys the adjacent parking lots and integrates that space into the existing park. Why no questions about the playground?
- Please, no dog park. This is a cemetery and should be respected as much.
- There should be a small dog enclosure so that everyone else can enjoy the park and make it safer for people and children.
- Please preserve the gated playground and consider families in the area. An enclosed dog area would make parents with small children feel safer. Please preserve the trees that provide much needed greenery and shade. The park is our backyard and we love it!
- Lighting is in major need of improvement. Wish the park area could be expanded and possibly include a dog off leash area. There is clear demand for more space for dogs in the park. Stretch goal but I would love to see the parking lot on the other side of the playground turned into a park. The current footprint is very small for the amount of residents.
- As someone who lives in the area and loves this park, I worry that these plans might crowd the small space and take away from it's current simple charm.
- The park is fine. Please fix other parks.
- It is basically used as a dog park, some type of amenities should be provided for pets ie a water fountain, small enclosed area
- I live in VMS and have so for 6 years . If you are going to put more table and more chairs the maintenance must match as you are one block south of bar/ entertainment district and the mornings after are disgusting with garbage / Bottles / cans and many other things not very desirable . If you make more comfort then that will just be more used at night and you should not be catering to late night after bar crowd as they are the loudest and least respectful to the park
- There needs to be a small dedicated area for dogs. The joke is Victoria Park is a dog toilet.
- The single most serious issue is the park has become a dog toilet. Dedicated areas must be provided elsewhere in the community away from residences and people who want to enjoy an unpolluted green oasis
- Needs off leash dog area.

- It's become a dog park. Need to divert people to nearby dog parks. Do not reduce green space.
- Having garbage cans as it gets very dirty as people leave their [REDACTED] everywhere. Also, the park should be closed at 10pm as people live around it.
- More garbage cans.
- The Muskoka chairs are basically dog pee targets. In the winter they are dog pee icicles. The winter maintenance is brutal. All of the shade is too close to street traffic.
- The epidemic of dogs off-leash is the worst part of the park. It could easily be a central point of activity in the neighborhood if it weren't for the dogs.
- Include indigenous histories
- Please, not another dog unleashed park.
- Off-leash area to prevent damage to the grass and allow people to enjoy the space without dogs running around
- A larger police presence in the park and the neighborhood to help prevent assaults and shootings which have become a regular occurrence
- Please include the playground in the survey. This is why we visit the park.
- Something about the dogs. Lots just run around off-leash. Need to be controlled so pedestrians aren't in fear. Not everyone loves off-leash canines.
- Keep the Union Jack flying in NE corner in good shape. It has been a disgrace for years.
- Too many dogs. They overrun the park.
- More bins for dog [REDACTED]
- No off-leash dogs
- Do not put in an off-leash area! This was a beautiful secluded park with historical importance. The respect should not be lost!!
- Year-round, the park is more than anything a spot for dogs when whether it's to run around or use as a bathroom. There should be an off-leash area to get the dogs to one area and keep the majority of the park looking good and healthy
- Prevent dogs from destroying landscape, ensure the privacy \ peace of nearby and adjoining residential buildings, provide areas for children to enjoy.
- Low fencing along walkways will prevent grass from becoming mud and prevent dogs/cyclists from trampling over grass (or what used to be grass and currently is mud). Consider dedicated dog park at northeast corner similar to what was installed at St. Andrews. Nobody from nearby to the square walks to other existing dog parks so it would seem unwise to not add dedicated dog park space here given # of dog owners and additional dog owners with projects underway within 2 mins walk to square
- This park is a gem, my favourite place in the city. Please preserve its historic quiet charm. The existing benches, the monument, the cemetery wall, the flag form a beautiful composition with the historic Wellington Pub building on the corner of Portland and Wellington. Keep the old charm of this beautiful park, keep the trees, the grass, and natural colours of the furniture. Please no "funky" colours, please no pop art or rusty sculptures. PLEASE REMOVE MUSKOKA CHAIRS that appeared here this winter without consultation, their style does not work here!. A tasteful seating wall in wood or natural stone would be great. This park is great as it is, don't fix what isn't broken.

- Why doesn't this mention the playground?
- Please add a dog run or an area for dogs to pee to stop the smell.
- Grave sites are sacred whether indigenous or not. This site should be respected and should not be a public park. Perhaps rethink all the condo spaces and add public green spaces. Respect the brave soldiers that fought in the war of 1812
- Need space for dogs. Make sure park features do not promote vagrants squatting here
- A lot of people use this park for their dog to pee in, it's not sanitary to sit on the grass. Perhaps a fenced pet area and more benches
- As long as it's not turned over to condo developers, I'm good.
- We truly need to incorporate more nature in the downtown core and this area would be a perfect opportunity. We know that trees help to clean the air and regular overall temperature and so I think this is the most obvious choice. However, other options (bushes, wildflowers for bees & butterflies, etc.) should be considered as well.
- No squatters
- Are you gonna accommodate the dogs with an unleashed area or just let them unleash their dogs like they already do now?
- No.
- With so many people and dogs living nearby and using this park daily, I hope that this space will continue to be used primarily as a park rather than as an historic site. It would be good if the statue, the grave markers & the historical interpretation signs could all be removed. They are irrelevant (and a bit tone-deaf) and of zero interest to park users. If the City thinks they are important, move them to Fort York. The sign recently posted is absurd - dogs running off-leash is not disrespectful to the dead. And anyway, who is more important - people & their dogs living in Toronto today or people who died in a colonial war >200 years ago? Also, will a dog dig up someone's skeleton? What about the squirrels when they bury nuts? It would be good if the park didn't emphasize irrelevant colonial history and better reflected the diversity of people living in Toronto today.
- Leave it as a green open space.
- Any pet focus initiatives
- more places to sit would be very good
- It is good as is, except the lawn has to be taken care of better. A small area may be allocated for dogs to be off leash.
- Make the park into an off-leash park
- There are always too many off leash dogs running around the grass; they totally have taken over the park !
- i think you should convert the parking lot into more parkland. plant more trees (weeping willows!). also i think putting a small dog park and workout area in part of the area that is a parking lot now would really make the park great.

- Restrict dogs to a small area with wood chips, as their urine is burning all the vegetation and smells terrible.
- So many people walk through and use this park it looks terrible right now and the seating is awful!! it needs a designated area for dogs as well. Many people walk through with their dogs and there's a lot of dog faeces that gets left behind as a result. it would be amazing to see this area actually cater to the neighbourhood and be a place that people can spend more than two minutes in while they are walking through. It could be a meeting point for the neighbourhood.
- This is one of the few areas that we can walk into and sit on lawn around the neighbourhood. Please don't make any more statues or concrete things blocking or reducing the walkways or the green area that we can freely enjoy. These areas must be increased and accommodated around King West area rather than restructuring. I wonder why there is a new project; it is good as much currently.
- To Not turn the space into a playground I look over the park from my balcony and love the serenity it brings! Love watching the dogs walking through and just a nice peaceful oasis in the city! Don't want to lose that!
- Please improve to space for all the young children who use it. The playground is a mess and dogs overrun the park and kids cannot play on the grass. My daughter has been pushed to the ground by dogs that run and jump on her many times. Dogs do not wear leashes.
- Any changes should respect the graves and memorials.
- Imposing fines for leaving dog poop, too much in the area in general, not just the park.
- This park has been turned into an unofficial, off leash dog park. I go to the playground just next to the square and am shocked by the amount of dogs running around, off leash throughout the park. It is no longer a place of enjoyment for people to just relax and have a picnic. It's full of poop, dangerous dogs (some have tried biting passersby's). Perhaps install a small, fenced in area just for dogs alone because, let's face it - the people in the area will continue to use the square as a toilet
- The Muskoka chairs cheapen the site. Add more metal benches like in Coronation Park and Queens Park. Add irrigation to keep the grass healthy.
- Take down the union jack
- In my opinion, no improvements needed. The park is already amazing, just improve a bit the situation with grass and please don't waste taxpayers' money. Please avoid a construction mess during summertime
- The park is a great spot for people in the neighbourhood to walk their dogs, have a picnic, and play on the grass. It's a really special communal atmosphere that makes it my favourite park in the city. While I think that some upgrades would be lovely, I hope that it doesn't get too built up/over designed. Open grass space is so rare downtown.
- The park is already good enough. It's cosy, green and lovely. I live nearby and love going there after dinner. Last thing I want is to see this nice place being turned into another construction nightmare. Leave this park alone. Stop wasting taxpayers' money and better give them to homeless people!

- Refurbishing the oft used children's playground!
- Create a better buffer or transition zone at the west edge of the site where there is currently temporary fencing to protect the landscaping of 20 Niagara. Possibly a low seat wall with taller landscaping behind. Provide adequate garbage and recycling receptacles. Use plants that are drought resistant, bee and butterfly attracting flowers and plants, and grass alternatives that require less maintenance. Replace the strip of grass between the sidewalk and street with more attractive, less maintenance landscaping (like wild flowers) and hard scraping to better define the park. Explain why some of the walkways abruptly end (looks unfinished) through plaques and educational signage.
- Better housekeeping during winter. Paths stay frozen for weeks.
- Please do something to curb the pets digging up the lawn, we also need to protect the sapling trees from pet urination.
- There are many dogs living in the neighbourhood and Victoria Memorial Square serves as the closest green space for many residents (with pets). The new design should keep in mind the use of the park by dogs. Perhaps vegetation should be selected with that in mind (at the present, the grass is completely destroyed due to over use by pets).
- More garbage and recycling receptacles.
- please put actual grass in park (currently feels like neglected weeds and dirt patches). More garbage, designated areas for dogs to play, ideally off leash area bc reality is that this park is home base for all the residents pups. if not a full off leash area, can you make a secure fetch lane or something? my dog stays on leash and does not dig so not a nuisance dog as eluded to in signage, we just want to be able to enjoy the park. in summer it's overrun with picnics, nowhere to take dogs for walk. please check the old trees that have huge limbs that break off during winter storms.
- better grass areas with more large scale (sport) and also intimate areas for reading/lounging/eating. Less pooping on the lawn from dogs :
- Dog off leash is dangerous in this park and no measures have helped this. The playground is vital and also needs a renovation. The wood chips and lack of gardens is making this park dirty. People cannot enjoy this park. Children cannot enjoy this park. This park is now for dogs
- Off leash dog area
- In the past few years it has become an official off leash dog park. Would be nice to curb that with signage.
- Fun design in the park. Have some grass hills/bumps to seat on. Have wild vegetation that supports bee, insects and birds. not all lawn grass. Plant flowers within the lawn I don't have specific Garden beds. Don't hurt the mature trees.
- Trees with cherry blossoms. Table tennis . Better tree maintenance and inspection. One branch fell and missed us by just feet. Another tree fell, stump left. Grass is all weed. Graffiti removal. Garbage bins not attractive and too close to chairs for smell. Flag pole damaged.

- Right now it's an over run unleashed dog area with poop everywhere. How do we control this. Maybe turn the playground into a fenced dog area? More signs and enforcement about off leach dogs
- restrict the number of dogs that are in the park
- Dedicated dog area
- Na
- Given that it is a heritage site no dogs should be allowed in there. No one deserves that their grave be covered in dog feces. The dog owners in this city are so irresponsible and disrespectful that unless more strict rules and higher fines are not implemented these heritage sites will continue to be disrespected, not to mention that fact that no one is safe to walk through that park without stepping in poop.
- The park is being overrun with dogs (mostly off leash) ruining the grass and enjoyment. This park is TOO SMALL to have it utilized as a dog park. Most times I don't follow the concrete path and walk on the grass I get dog [REDACTED] on my shoes...
- You must include in your planning the unique community of dog owners who access and use the park for their dogs' bathroom needs as well as exercise. You put in new trees and plantings, but if you do not think about how to protect them from pet urine and feces, then you haven't done your job. Also this park will continue to be used by greater and greater number of people, with or without dogs due to all of the housing and office going up in the area. How does such a small park handle this increased use? How do you maintain the heritage aspect? How do you respect walkers, bikers, frisbee throwers and picnic folk, not to mention toddlers and the occasional homeless soul?
- Get rid of the dogs , you can't sit on the grass because of all the excrement and ironed left behind , it smells when the park is wet and it's hot outside .
- Can we just put a dog park in - and not let all the dogs run all over peeing and pooping everywhere
- It is a gem. The historical components are extremely important. It has also become a dog park and I can't see that changing. Therefore more receptacles are necessary. Perhaps have a picnic type space (no cement please!) where dogs are not allowed that could be enjoyed casually for that lunch or coffee. Please try to avoid too-sterile a space. Green and trees are what makes our city beautiful and parks a peaceful place to be for all those in condo living who require exactly that.
- I am fortunate to live looking out unto the park. I have already reported this reference no. 01548073d but jsy to emphasize my concern with the infestation in the three mature trees at the (East) of the park in front of 20 Niagara .
- Look at Paris parks as your example. Fenced in with gates. No animals. Clean, feces-free green grass area to spread a blanket. Replacing the grass as you suggest above if futile. Go and sit on a bench for an hour and see for yourself. Redesigning this park from your desk at city hall is not the way to do it. I've lived here since 1988 and have seen this poor

park go through all the condo influx. In our hood we call this park [REDACTED] Park. Sad especially since there is so little green left around us. Please do it right.

- More plants, perhaps increased pollinator spaces?
- The fence around the memorial statue should come down because the grass inside the fence doesn't get cut very often
- It is disappointing that nothing here speaks to the playground and how children spend time here. For many residents, this is the nearest park.
- The park seems over run by dog owners who have turned the park into a defacto off leash space. This should be addressed. I have also more than once witnessed a dog being allowed to relieve themselves on the heritage tombstones
- Small Water Fountain...with natural flora...ie...native species from 1800's era.
- grass is dusty due to odd leash dogs
- N/a
- Too much dog poop. Should have a designated dog area
- The nearby park at Brandt and Adelaide went from not useable to very nice and used by lots of people in the community, great job! I'd love to see more parks like that built in the neighborhood.
- Upgraded kids playground
- Put in an enclosed dog walk area. The amount of dogs makes the whole park unvisitable at times.
- Too many dogs!
- We need a dog park area here. It can be small (near the playground). The reality is that most people use the entire park as off-leash. Please redo this park similarly to St. Andrews Playground. Also, I thought the plan was to make it bigger by eliminating street parking on Wellington?
- Maintain grass and landscape as best as possible. More seating space to make bringing food more appealing. Maximize the park foot pr
- Make sure any changes made are with accessibility in mind. I would suggest speaking with members of different groups to get a better sense of what they need as an accessible park. Includes those who are visually impaired, in a wheelchair, etc. Also good to know what seniors require to feel safe when using the park like handrails to grab onto. Lastly, service dogs require water so areas to drink for them as well would be great
- Off leash dog area
- do not build a condo - the city is being ruined
- Dog owners are treating this park as a de facto leash-free park, letting their dogs urinate and dedicate all over the green space. This makes it very unpleasant to enjoy the shared space (eg to lounge, stop for a coffee, etc). Please take into consideration design choices that would deter dog owners from turning the improve park into their own leash free dog park, such as putting up very obvious signs that this is NOT a leash-free area

- Drinking fountains
- A lot of dogs gather here, they should have a fenced off area. They're constantly running and peeing/pooing so it's hard to sit on the ground
- Please make sure it keeps its natural vibe with grass and trees, please do not create a large paved over area.
- Dogs have taken over the park. In fact, I would hear dog owners refer to the park as a 'dog park'. I have, therefore, never enjoyed walking through the park because of this.
- Make a section of the park into a dog park to protect the grass in other areas of the park
- This is a lovely park that has been taken over by off leash dogs - there needs to be a fenced in area (similar to canoe landing) where dog owners can take their pets. I'm a dog lover but the amount of dog urine and feces in the park is out of control. Not to mention dogs running around off leash. A fenced in dog area would at least encourage some level of common courtesy (we hope) as there have been far too many incidents in the past few years.
- More information on Elizabeth and John Simcoe and their daughter buried at the cemetery, as well as First Nations information and acknowledgement. Also, the use of native trees surrounded by native shrub plantings around their bases (to prevent their damage from dog urination)
- Somehow this park has managed to deter homeless from camping and setting up here. I hope that any future furniture installations do not suddenly change this for the neighbourhood.
- Adequate garbage and recycling etc
- There are tons of dogs at the park, it's built a community of dog parents. A fenced area for dogs would be extremely helpful in keeping the park clean and prevent dogs off leash from running up to people. Would also allow non-dog owners to enjoy the park peacefully
- Please put the garbages back
- The biggest issue with the square (I live across the street) is dogs off-leash. It's not an off-leash park but some people don't seem to care. I saw a dog run after a ball into the street and into a car. I feel badly for the law-abiding dog owners who have their dogs on leashes when others don't. I don't know what the project team can do unless there is a way to put an off-leash park very nearby.
- The park smells very offensive due to the number of dogs in the neighbourhood. I don't object to dogs at all but this park is too small for dogs to be running at large and using it for relieving themselves. A special fenced area must be designed for dogs to maintain the health of the grass, plants, atmosphere. Owners already have options at Clarence Square, Stanley Park and St Andrew's dog play areas- all near by.,
- Space for dogs
- Improved garbage facilities as cans can become overflowing at times. Maybe a designated dog park

- Pets are out of control here - the grass is dead and too gross to use from it
 - This is a massive destination for dogs - please consider increased waste options for dog poop and places to pee.
 - With people visiting site would be great to have washrooms.
 - Would love more places to eat (picnic tables etc.). So many good take out spots but no where to eat. I really appreciate the wonderful kids park. Hate the dogs running around and could use a fenced off dog run.
-
- I have read the workshop findings and as a member of the local community with a pet, I feel concerned at the many negative comments around dogs being in the park. One of the selling points of this area is the open space to walk your dog, and play a small bit of fetch in a little group. There is a fantastic community of dog owners in this area who will be here for the long term. It feels at the moment that feedback is anti-dog, and you risk alienating a core demographic in the area
 - Hopefully lots of garbage cans considering what selfish people live in Toronto who throw their trash everywhere!!! Also segment the pets to one area as many let their dogs off leash when they shouldn't - and the pigeons need to be culled they are out of control at this park!
 - Would be nice to fly the Canadian flag instead of the overly prominent Union flag of the UK. Also vehicle parking around the perimeter needs to be expanded and improved ahead of new buildings coming up in the area!
 - Maybe an offleash dog area? Or more signage stating that it is NOT an off leash park. Our little dog gets bowled over on a regular basis by rambunctious offleash dogs
 - It will be good to have playground
 - Remove Norway maple trees and do a planting of native trees in an ordered traditional style to match the historic British roots and war of 1812
 - Make the "heritage"...the original "installation" the star.
 - Dog park
 - I believe to encourage everyone to enjoy the park equally, I would look into a fenced off leash dog park area. This way all the dog owners will have a designated place to go and will not be viewed as disrespectful to the rest of the memorial
 - I would love to see a community garden and as a parent the history of this site could be a fun and educational experience for my child. I had no idea the history till this survey.
 - Given that there are designated dog parks in other nearby locations (Stanley Park, St. Andrew's Playground Park, Clarence Square) it would be nice to designate this park for people, families, individuals living in all condos around Victoria Memorial Square park who do not have access to outdoor space. It is important for humans to be able to enjoy the park, sit on the grass, etc. without worrying about dog waste, dogs off leash, etc.
 - Whole thing constantly is a large dog poop area, any way to centralize the poop would be great.

- Keep it dog friendly, so keep mostly landscaped areas so dogs can play as this park is a favorite for most dog walkers
- How to ensure it doesn't become an off leash dog park. How to upkeep the grass/landscaping when so many pets use it. Would like to see some flowers and other landscaping
- St. Andrews park on Brant is a perfect model for improvements to Victoria memorial
- Fenced area for dogs
- There need to be more garbage cans at this park. They were recently removed for some reason but they are so desperately needed with more frequent pick ups. From the vet clinic around the corner we know how many dogs in this area have intestinal parasites, largely due to the high concentration of dogs in such little green space. I would never spend any time in that park and am hesitant even walking through the grass knowing how many parasites are likely picked up there. More seating would only make things worse. Garbage cans with regular pick up where owners can easily throw out dog poop would be the very least that should be done.
- Please forgive the bluntness but this park is a hotbed for disease. There is an extremely close link to the amount of dogs with giardia in the area and this park. It is known to quite a lot of people as 'Giardia Park'. It's a shame as I know that it's not the park's fault and that it very clearly not a dog park but due to the high number of residents in the area with pets and the city's lack of policing the park and the long absence of dog poop bins/regular bin changes (which I feel has only improved this year). This park is a health hazard. While the strain is mostly just spread through dogs/pets some strains can infect humans and I always get so worried when I see parents with young children spending time on the grass. I would recommend before decorative changes are made, some sort of testing is done on the ground there or a survey of how much faeces contamination is done and more is done to police it not being a dog park and residents in the area are educated in how gross/dangerous it is to let your dogs fecal matter just sit there or run around in other pets fecal matter causing contamination.
- Tennis courts!
- I love this park! The only thing I don't like about it right now is that some of the walkways are too narrow to walk in to get to benches, and there's not enough seating. I'm glad it's being improved and would love an indigenous perspective on the location in addition to the current history there
- Would like to see the park expanded to provide more green space
- It would be great to extend the park or extend the childrens area of the park
- Dog park or if not, a designated dog relief area so that they don't go everywhere?
- Give the dog a designated area and their owners because all the grass is ruined by them.
- This park already went through a pretty significant redesign not too long ago. It lost some of it's original character in my opinion and it lost many beautiful trees. A second renovation seems unnecessary as the park is very well used by many people including us locals. If there is money available, it possibly could be utilized to address other areas in the City.

- So many dogs and they will ruin the grass for peeing all over it. Also make sure there are sufficient garbage bins for waste disposal.
- This need a small dog designated park area. The grass gets ruined purely by dogs I'm not against dogs in this park I love dogs. But it needs an area that's got wood chips so dogs don't run on the grass and ruin the growth. That is all that this park needs. That's it.
- Replace ALL the trees that were removed in the last 20 years. I mean what we're you thinking.
- Have a designated dog space at the back of the park close to the playground
- It would be nice if a small part of the park was a designated dog park so separate the dogs from the people lounging in the grass. Unfortunately a lot of people let their dogs off leash and socialize with other owners and don't pay attention to their dogs potty breaks. If there was a designated area that would likely help a lot and keep the peace in the park!
- There are so many dogs that use this park, especially because Hounds of York is across the street. There is only going to be more dogs with the completion of the nearby condos in the area. This park desperately need a proper off-leash dog area.
- Victoria Memorial Square is my favorite park in the area and as a person living in downtown Toronto, there is an overall lack of green space. I'm sure you're aware but maintain this park and the green space in the area is important as to me as a resident. I also strongly believe that we don't do enough to maintain and preserve Toronto's history. Most people I've talked to in the park were unaware that the park was a burial ground. Lastly, if we're looking at park improvements like benches or chairs, it'd be great if we ensured these features don't attract the homeless (e.g. for sleeping). I know they are humans and need shelter however, many homeless individuals in the park make it an unpredictable place to walk through at night.
- Don't change it too much it's a beautiful park

- This is one of very few parks in a neighbourhood of dog friendly apartments. I don't personally own a dog myself, but it would be nice to keep this in mind when designing new features (maybe a dog poo bin, dog permitted areas, etc). In the summer time, this park is especially busy with friends/families having picnics and getting food from nearby restaurants (which is awesome!) but there are NO picnic benches or tables. That would be a fabulous addition to the park! I love the historic nature of the park, I wish it was more celebrated. I love the fenced childrens area, it is always busy with kids + their guardians. I think this could be larger to accommodate the children in the neighbourhood, along with more seating inside of it for guardians.
- Dedicated pet area. It's a park where a log of people take their dogs and nobody wants them peeing anywhere and everywhere in a small park
- Fenced dog area so I'm not sitting on pee soaked grass
- Native trees and pollinator gardens. More bylaw officers out to stop off leash dogs and encourage people to stoop and scoop
- The more hostile architecture, the better. Homeless and drug addicts / dangerous individuals must be discouraged from sleeping or using in this square.
- Plenty of socialization at the park. But we need attractive and comfortable places to sit and meet with friends. Grass doesn't always work. Perhaps a beautiful seating area surrounding by a planted flower bed?
- Dog area
- Add an off leash dog area or run.
- If space permits, maybe a small off-leash dog area of some sorts.
- Dog park would be nice and public water fountain. Better solutions during winter and spring cause it turns super icy like a rink or a giant puddle

- More trees and vegetation!
- Improved the paved walkways is very important. Replacing the grass and improving maintenance of the grass is very import
- More flowers, plants, trees, and better grass
- More light at night and a lot of people let there dogs off leash which isn't always the best thing. I would suggest a small off leash dog area
- This park is a very needed space for dogs to play as well as peeing and pooing. Without this space, dogs would have only streets to do their business. Grass isn't a good idea - need ground cover that better absorbs pee and less likely to die than grass.
- Current Muskoka chairs look tacky and do not fit with the city heritage space (ie bold colours more fit for a cottage) rather than classic or natural modern which would better capture the essence of the neighborhood. There seems to be no design theme or elements that elevate the space. Also, the park is being used as a giant dog pee park which is disrespectful. More Trees may help break up the space from being used as a dog runway. Gentle accent lighting at night would make it more aesthetic and easier to navigate
- A lot of us in the area use it to walk our pets. I hope the changes are pet friendly.
- More garbage/recycling cans! Low lying seating could lead to skateboarders damaging it.
- A water feature or splash pad
- I noticed in the report that many residents noted off-leash dogs. I walk my dog (always on leash) in this area, and there are indeed some off leash dogs which can be an issues for on-leash dogs. However, I am a strong believer that urban planning should echo the existing needs of the community. I wonder why the city is not proposing a small off-

leash area or at least dog-friendly amenities like dog-water fountains and maintenance of grassy areas for dogs to play. For example, the area next to the children's play ground could be a small fenced-in dog park for small dogs. Lastly, more garbage and recycling is needed- this would prevent littering.

- Please consider a fenced off leash dog area
- Have a fenced in area for dogs, not children. The park stinks of dog urine and feces. It is useless to plant new grass due to the amount of dog owners that let their dogs do their business in the park.
- I think the park is already really nice, I don't know why it needs to be changed?
- Introducing a dedicated off leash space for dogs. Having more frequent lawn upkeep (primarily mowing) to reduce wasps, and allow people to enjoy the park more. Many times the lawn becomes over grown, picnic and group gatherings go down heavily then.
- Adding pet friendly area/leash free
- A gated dog park area
- It's pathetic that the city is already upgrading this park after you just redid it 5 years ago. Shame on you for pandering to influential park neighbours like [REDACTED] So many other parks need investment across the city. Shame on you.
- Dog park
- Enclosed area for dogs. Offleash dogs are a HUGE problem in that park.
- Bike share
- More signage regarding use of pets and prohibiting feeding live animals

- Please emphasize that it is a military cemetery.
- I don't think the park needs improving....why are we spending money to change a park that is completely fine and have the park be unusable for over a year (which will likely be longer as everything is always delayed).
- No need to reinvent the wheel. St James park is a great example and should be replicated: fountain, lighting, benches, fences delineating protected spaces, variety in programming, mounds, landscaping/gardens, community space and pavilion, dog park.
- Far too many dogs off leash in the park and using the space as a bathroom spot. Would be nice if the animals were more contained to a space to people could use the park without worrying about off leash pets or stepping in dog [REDACTED].
- Would like to see focus on the heritage elements and more plantings, but ensure that it retains a traditional feel if there are improvements (similar to the gardens/fountain in st. James park
- Restricted space to dogs so that not everywhere is used as a bathroom
- I of them tell people about the buried soldiers below the park and most are not aware. Better signage to detail the national heritage site should be included. Also, this park has some of the heaviest dogs off-leash use I've seen in any park. Can a small off/lease enclose be added in?
- Too many dogs
- Farmers markets
- Needs more shade
- Peastone gravel to deal with all the dogs that will pee and pop inevitably all over this park
- The park is really dated and isn't good for a bit older kids. There is no fenced dog park, so it makes some games outside the gated playground harder to play.
- More garbage cans, better lighting along path
- Get rid of the homeless encampment and have more lighting. I'm continuously harassed by homeless men and have witnessed people defecating and urinating in public. Need park monitors and paid washrooms
- The dog is essentially a washroom for dogs. Dogs are constantly offleash. Need fenced off areas for either or people.
- Please do NOT include a dog park in these renovations. Dogs and their owners should go to Spadina's dog park. They are taking over shared space, dogs are off-leash and poop is not being scooped. Gross.
- Enclosed dog park area. More upkeep of grass and tree

- Don't mess up the message
- Don't shut down the park while you are doing improvements - it is outrageous how many condo's and new buildings are going up - including the Well yet not 1 - not a single new park is being created - where are people especially families going to go? Surely the pandemic showed us the dire need for more outside spaces in downtown Toronto - I am shocked The Well was allowed to go up with no new outside spaces being mandated - the Rail Deck Park is a necessity - such a shame they were allowed to build the Well that now blocks off the view of the CN Tower for everyone in KingWest and Liberty Village - can Wellington Street from Spadina to Portland be a park Boulevard? We are desperate for more parks in this area.
- Better lawn care during muddy seasons
- I would like to see tributes to and information regarding the important (and historically unrecognized) contributions indigenous peoples had in defending the British territories against the invading American forces. If money is going to go into educating and celebrating the areas history, it is imperative that funding goes to celebrating indigenous history and contributions.
- More gardens in the park would be lovely, the lighting also needs to be adjusted. Living in the nearby building (55 Stewart) and having a balcony directly facing the park, lighting that illuminates the park and doesn't shine into the condo buildings would be much appreciated. Also a more natural looking playground like the one the city just renovated at St. Andrew's park would add to the areas appearance (avoiding sound making play pieces of course). Thanks
- Addition of a fenced in dog park
- I would be saddened to see a decrease in green space. This area provides a small but beautiful natural/green space in an area surrounded by pavement. People bring their dogs here to enjoy the greenery. Would love to see the green footprint is not decreased, and would LOVE to see the addition of native pollinator plants added to support the local ecosystem. Also, if you are going to put emphasis on knowledge and history sharing, would be nice to learn about any indigenous significance or history this space has as well.

- Need to create better places for pet waste and safe spaces for people who don't like pets. Many animals are off leash here and they often leave their waste all over
- This is an important park for dog owners in the area. People walk their dog unleashed here because the nearby facilities are not good. If leash laws are better enforced here, there also need to be improvements nearby. You could start with removing the pea gravel from the park at Spadina and Niagara. You could also make more parks off leash during off peak hours and season, like woodbine beach.
- Don't let them build that huge building on the south west side it will block all the sun. We need this park, there aren't enough in the area.
- It needs a dog park or a new, daily sprinkler system! The dog piss from surrounding building just melts all the grass, it smells awful too. There needs to be a real dog park or a sprinkler system to wash the piss away daily. No sapling will survive hundreds of dog pissing on it everyday! And traffic calming. So many driver SPEED down Wellington, Portland, and Niagara. We need real traffic calming to truly improve the park or else it'll be too dangerous and someone will get injured or killed with traffic whizzing past.
- So many dogs in the area so a dog fountain would be nice
- Definitely more trees and shrubs/greenery.
- Fix holes in grass
- It's already a small park so please do not pave over any of the grass. That would be a detriment.
- An expansion of the park would be nice. A gated area for dogs. New grass.
- There needs to be a strict dog on the leash policy, or not dogs at all. Between the dog excrement, the running dogs (right beside a children's park), it is often an unpleasant place to be. People drive in from other city areas to come and take their dogs off the leash every day in this park. And there is never any proper enforcement present. It is dangerous for kids, and makes the park very dirty and aesthetically unpleasant.
- It would be impressive to see the heritage theme incorporated into any playground improvements
- Some low walls or plantings to better define the park space. At present, it is too much just a way to get somewhere else. A recognition of the heavy use by people and their pets, especially the doggy daycare just across from the park, and how best to accommodate this primary use.

- I have the unique perspective of overlooking the park and view activity throughout the day. What is so discouraging is the lack of respect by many dog owners. Dogs are allowed to run off leash, urinate on park benches and most offensively on the interpretative historic grave markers. In the wet Spring months, owners throw balls to exercise their large dog and tear up the ground leaving swaths of bare patches where the grass has been destroyed. I have for 20 years worked as a volunteer gardener in the VMS Community Garden and it has become a losing battle against dog owners who troll the area daily. I think the only solution is a designated dog off leash area that is strictly enforced, the parking lot behind 20 Niagara would be the ideal location. My preference would be to see VMS made off limits to dogs. Is there another burial ground in Canada where dogs are permitted to run free without control? Can you imagine if this was happening on recently disclosed Residential School burial grounds ... people would be outraged!
 - Possibly a water fountain for the many dogs who have to depend on their owners to bring or fill at the one water fountain!!
 - Like it or not the square is a defacto dog park, there's no easy location redirect these pets too so whatever is done in the park that has to be taken into account.
 - The park just north by waterworks has brought together the community for multi use, it would be great to create spaces along those lines.
 - Expand park into the parking lots to make larger. Dog park and workout area added would be good. Maybe a feature/signature art piece too
 - Please check the health of the trees and help and put better lightning it is too dark at night
-
- Place making for all ages and accessibility, creating a safe environment, and incorporating lots of nature for mental well-being of those who see and visit the park :)
 - This is a de facto dog park that not only takes away from peoples' enjoyment of the park but is also completely inappropriate (disrespectful) of the soldiers buried therein.
 - Specified dog site so there's not poop everywhere
 - The grass in the park is terrible and so many people bring their dogs that it would be nice to have a designated dog space. I think the existing heritage structures are creepy and intrusive based on where they are in the park. There are also a lot of pigeons during the day and some shady characters at night - I don't feel safe walking through it when it's dark because there is hardly any lighting at all. I also don't see many people using the playground so I'm not sure how much it's worth keeping.
 - Benches are always very dirty
 - N
 - Potable drinking water with low option for dogs would be helpful
 - The water fountain is terrible quality and hard to use, would suggest replacing it with a global tap fountain which could also be integrated with their app to help residents find water refill stations near them

- Parks need to feature green spaces where things grow. The picnic tables could be good to include some that can be used with assistive devices. The muskoka chairs are nice but they are antisocial. How can you sit and talk with a friend or maybe a family? It would be good to have some of the adult exercise things. I would love a few of those
- Keep as much green space as possible. Please do not replace the lawns with more concrete
- An indigenous history component should be added
- The playground area is good but really need an update and a good clean of the floor.also the plants there are not taken care off, kids usually loses thing because there is a lot of greenery and trash that's not clean or cut. Also at the entrance of the playground there is a tree but beneath the square that holds this tree has dirt and when it rains it is really messy.the door and lock could be upgraded as well. Thanks
- Yes. Please expand the cemetery to its original dimensions. This needs to be a place for reflection and memory. So enough with the art installation and flower beds and give proper respect to the heritage of the site.respect
- Lord Simcoes baby daughter is buried there, and that area was vastly important to the settlement and development of York. Some sort of plaque discussing that would be great
- The grass/lawn needs better and more frequent maintenance. At the moment there are large dirt patches and most of the lawn is actually weeds, not even grass/turf. They recently transplanted some new grass in certain areas but it's all already dead. I did not see any maintenance or care provided by the city for these new patches except for the fences at the beginning which were more of an obstruction. As simple as grass is, it does need a lot of care especially for this busy small park.
- Better grass
- Flowers would be a lovely addition to the park as would picnic tables which would be more comfortable than sitting on the grass since so many dogs use the park as their toilet!
- People will always bring their pets, much of the time unleashed (seems to be biggest reason for visiting park). Suggest a corner of park set aside for a fenced dog park
- Cut grass more often
- This needs to be a place for humans first, please don't add a dog park! We barely have enough green space for humans, don't take it away and give to dogs
- Water stations for dogs, people, water bottles. Better trash can design, more obvious, larger and better design for them.
- Please find a way to include some kind of dog run here. I love this park, and understand dog owners using the park for sure, but without a designated area, the entire park becomes a place to pee and poo for these dogs and it means even though I live right nearby I will never sit on the grass. It smells like dog urine and feces. But unless dog owners have a reasonable alternative, this will continue.
- It is a gorgeous piece of heaven in the middle of downtown! Thank you for preserving it and working on improvements. I look forward to seeing the results and any new features!

- Having extra benches along the main pathways that cross in the middle would be great. Also, adding trees or another source of shade over those additional benches would be good because it gets very hot along the main path during the summer and elderly people or people with a disability might have trouble reaching a shaded seat. Having some art in the square would be really nice! Maybe also adding some interactive features that could provide entertainment would be nice but I'm not sure what...
- Inadequate street parking. Why is bordering parking illegal and ticket trap. Turn at Portland/Wellington is dangerous for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers; stop sign and turning lane are not obvious. Nightrunners swarm the park daily (usually twice) sometimes in the hundreds. Park benches are too far apart. Groups cannot share. Consider the benches in Central Park, Queen's Park and Rittenhouse Square which line the pathway on either side. Park is used as a dog run currently. No issue with that. Should remain accessible to residents with dogs of which there are hundreds in the area.
- Enforce the leash laws for dogs
- Designated dog park area, the reason I don't have "picnics" or sit in the grass is because it's brown from all the dogs using it as a massive toilet.
- Most people who visit the park are dog owners. Extra consideration for that should be considered.
- Dog park, outdoor movie theatre, QR code with historical video, running water doggy drink bowl, water fountain, chinup bar, outdoor workout equipment, outdoor musical instruments
- Is this wasted effort if the city again allows homeless people to take over and ruin this park like so many others - Allan Gardens, Grange Park, Bellwoods, just to name a few?!?
- off leash dog park bc the neighbourhoods are getting densely populated and many people let their dogs off leash in this park
- Better grass. It always sees soggy. Also maybe pet garbage bins?
- I've seen this in other major cities, NYC, Lisbon, London but would the city consider having a little outdoor cafe in the park? Summer, Spring even fall and winter
- This park has become the unofficial dog park of the area. The problem is that the grass gets ruined with all this dog walking activity, which comes with dogs urinating on the grass, or just poop marks in random areas. The grass cannot keep up with the wear and tear of the dogs and dog owners activities, and also making it not pleasant for other park visitors to sit in the grass, and the smell of dog urine is always present, so it's not a park that promote people to sit or want to stay to visit for long. Plus there is the expensive monuments, which probably suffer from random dogs urinating on the stones. There needs to be a better plan to accommodate both no. dog walkers and dog walkers, and dog owners need to have better awareness of what they leave behind after their visit to this park.
- Put signages to deter offleashing of dogs - and discourage dog owners from congregating as that'll create a more lopsided experience for the park goers especially when it's dominated by dog activities (scary when a 100lb dog runs all around and towards you — and it's not very pleasant to have to be cautious with poop and pee

whenever I decide to lay a picnic blanket down to enjoy the greenery) overall: It's a nice, quiet and inviting park and we do like that feel - especially when other park goers come in with their friends and family with foods from the nearby local businesses around (this makes it feel very homely)

- Please consider a dog off leash area! This park is sometimes overrun with dogs and unofficially is a dog park, might as well make it official.
- We're so lucky to have this park!
- I'd like to see more features that not only pay homage to the heritage of the site but to the Indigenous communities this land belongs to. I also would like to see the British flag removed because as someone who comes from a country where my family was negatively impacted directly by colonialism and British imperial power, it's problematic to see visual reminders of a country that enslaved family members and had them work on plantations in the Caribbean.
- Dog park and better playground
- The park badly needs perimeter fences (see-thru iron or see-over). The park needs better delineation. Best practice in large dense cities. See London, for example. Defines park/relaxing space from the rest of the city. Also focusses pedestrian movement to paths (to ensure remaining green areas not over-trampled)
- No mention of kids and family. The playground is falling apart and the park is overrun by dogs. Can we make this a place where families with young kids can enjoy?
- Details of hospitalization and injuries in York during the War of 1812.
- Please do not plant grass again. You do that every year and it dies because park overrun with dogs. Find a different solution. Also drainage an issue in some spots. While at it, how about some speed bumps on Niagara.
- The garage should be cleared more frequently. It would be good to have a separate and more enclosed container for the dog droppings from general garage.
- The most important addition that's not listed would be a fenced in area for dogs. They destroy the grass every year, owners don't keep them on leash, and they use the park as a toilet. I feel that would truly level up the park!
- Regular Sodding/improving grass/lawn. Definitely more trees. Dog free Park. Expand the playground, add more children's play installations. Fix the fence for the playground. Buy the parking lot next to the playground and expand the park. Make it bigger.
- In my opinion, the most important objective for any improvements should be to maintain this park as a Heritage Site and specifically for the purposes of why it actually is a Heritage Site.
- No
- more garbages, more greenery like plants or flowers would be nice:) fountain for the birds? road improvement on niagara because cars drive too fast
- Because this park is close to the club district - from Wednesday to Sunday all the chairs and benches are where people smoke up before and after the club or have makeout or sex sessions in the dark lighting. This was not the case, before all the extra chairs were added. We need an offleash dog area, so many dogs in the part with irresponsible

owners that always have their dog off leash even with with the signage. Digging and crapping (and not picking up) all over this historical site

- Improved Water fountain with dog-level bowl like the other ones in the city, a small off-leash dog section
- Please do not include any of this [REDACTED]. Thank you.