

City of Toronto – Parks Development & Capital Projects

Kidstown Water Park

Community Resource Group Meeting 3

Feedback Summary

Thursday October 27, 6:30 to 8:00 pm

Kaila Johnson, Senior Project Coordinator, Parks Development & Capital Projects
Jane Farrow, Public Engagement Consultant, Department of Words and Deeds



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Introduction

This document provides a summary of the third Community Resource Group meeting for the Kidstown Water Park Redesign that was held on October 27, 2022. More information on the project can be found at www.toronto.ca/KidstownRedesign

Community Resource Group (CRG) Meeting 3

The purpose of the third and final CRG group was to explore and confirm the overall design and plans for the water park. The meeting was held virtually on Zoom and facilitated by Jane Farrow from the Dept of Words & Deeds.

Following a land acknowledgement by Alex Lavasidis from the City of Toronto, an overview of the consultation process and timeline was presented. PMA Landscape Architects' Leslie Morton and Mehran Ataee went through the water park designs in more detail showing detailed renderings and plans, eliciting comments and feedback from CRG members. This summary of key points and input was circulated to the CRG members for review before being finalized and posted to the project website.

Meeting Attendees

Community Resource Group Members

Chris Lee
Simone Lewis
Neisha Mitchell, CNIB
Cate Monteiro, Kerry's Place

City Staff – PF&R

Kaila Johnson, Senior Project Coordinator, Parks Development and Capital Projects Section
Alex Lavasidis, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator

Design Team

Leslie Morton, Principal, PMA Landscape Architects
Mehran Ataee, Project Manager, PMA Landscape Architects

Facilitation Team – Dept. of Words & Deeds

Jane Farrow

Feedback Summary

Summary of Key Points

- The designs and plans were well received overall.

- Participants felt the design struck a good balance between familiar elements and new.
- Participants underlined the importance of effective lifeguard communication systems.
- The sensory play area was very well received with participants, especially those advocating for inclusive, accessible design.
- The importance of a high level of accessibility aids and accommodations in places like stairs and pathways was emphasized, as well as overall safety to prevent injuries.
- A concession stand with food offerings is important for visitors.

Detailed Feedback By Theme

Overall Impressions

CRG members praised the water park design with comments like 'I love it' and 'I'm really impressed with the design', and 'this is awesome and exciting.'

Participants added that they were happy with the retention of some elements of the previous park, like the bucket dump, but that the overall design featured many new elements. They felt the design was refreshing and exciting. They were happy to see how the park integrated different age groups and various types of play. They felt the result was accessible and safe.

Safety

Participants underlined the importance of positioning lifeguard stations so they could communicate effectively and directly with the wider team, both visually and on two-way transmitters. 'Line of sight' was mentioned as being very important for the safety team to monitor park users and remain in close communication with each other, especially when it's busy.

A further note on safety came from one participant who wanted to make sure that surfacing and building materials took into account the possibility for abrasions and injuries, and that materials like hard concrete on the surfaces were avoided where possible and that soft landings were provided at the bottom of the embankment slides.

Accessibility Considerations

Participants said they felt the sensory play areas were going to be very well received, but it was also noted that going forward with operations and programming, it would be important to make sure any music played in the area was not loud and overstimulating.

Tactile warning strips at the bottom of accessible paths and any stairs was requested.

There was a request for additional accessible parking spaces, as well as textured surfaces in loading and unloading areas to signal pathways and changes in elevation.

To improve accessibility lockers should be multi-level and if there are locking mechanisms keys are the easiest for those with visual impairments, or make sure the numbers on locks are large print and legible by touch and sight.

Softer, rubberized surfaces are helpful wherever possible to reduce the possibility of injury.

Surfacing at the edge of the pools should indicate the water edge is near, to avoid falls into the pool.

There should be a railing along the stairway up the hill and waterfall area.

Seating at communal tables, seating and picnic tables should always be accessible to those in wheel chairs and using assistive devices.

Concessions

A concession stand was noted as very important for all visitors – hot dogs in particular!

A request for 'accessible' methods of payment, such as one offered by Moneris, should be available.

Next Steps

The proposed design for Kidstown will be shared with the wider community for feedback through an online survey. Revisions will be made to the design based on CRG and community member feedback.