

City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry & Recreation

New Park at 55 Isaac Devins Boulevard

Phase 1: Draft Design Options Survey Survey Summary Report

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Erika Richmond, Senior Project Coordinator
Eli Bawuah, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator



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Project Background

A new park is coming to 55 Isaac Devins Boulevard!

A new 2,040 m² park is coming to 55 Isaac Devins Boulevard as a result of a residential development project near Weston Road and Sheppard Avenue West, in the Pelmo Park-Humberlea neighbourhood.

This project is in the Exploring Options phase and community feedback collected during the community engagement process will help create the preferred park design.

This survey summarizes data received of the draft design options for the new park at 55 Isaac Devins Boulevard and demographic data gathered from participants.

The new park is proposed to include:

- A new playground
- Outdoor fitness equipment
- Accessible pathways
- New plants and grass

Project Timeline

The anticipated schedule for this park project is as follows:

- January – May 2023: Design development and community engagement
- Fall 2023: Construction starts
- Fall/Winter 2023: Construction complete

Online Survey

On December 5, 2022, the project team launched an online survey to collect feedback on the draft design options for the new park at 55 Isaac Devins Boulevard. Responses to the survey will help inform development of the preferred design option.

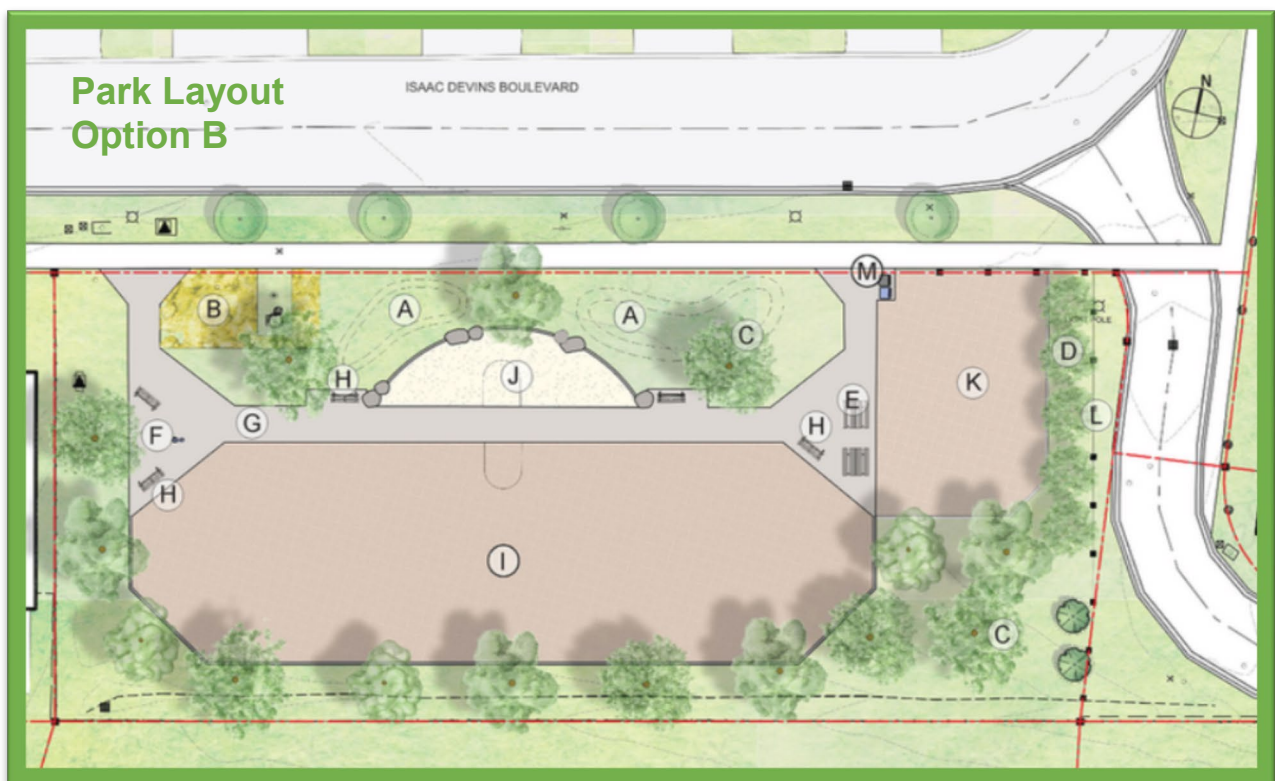
The online survey was available from December 5 to December 19, 2022. The survey received a **total of 161 responses from residents living within the immediate surrounding neighbourhood (a 500 metre catchment area was applied around the park)**, including input from participants of various ages and backgrounds, as well as families/groups who completed the survey together.

Key Feedback

The following summarizes key feedback from the online survey, including preferred park amenity, fitness and playground options selected by survey participants.

Preferred Park Layout Option

Participants were asked to rank a total of 2 park layout options and one option includes curved shapes with connected pathways throughout the entire space, while the alternative includes more angular shapes with as well as a large programmable space. A majority of participants selected Park Layout Option B (55%), while only 40% of participants selected Option A.



Preferred Park Amenities

Participants were provided a list of park amenity options to choose their top 5 preferred equipment. The following equipment were included:

1. Playground equipment for ages 5 to 12
2. Benches
3. Fitness equipment
4. Trees
5. Playground equipment for ages 2 to 5
6. Picnic tables
7. Pathways
8. Water bottle filling station
9. Horticultural planning (i.e. plants, shrubs, trees)
10. Green lawn space
11. Sand play area

The top 5 most popular park amenity equipment were playground equipment for ages 5 to 12 (59%), closely followed by benches (55%), fitness equipment (51%), trees (50%), and playground equipment for ages 2 to 5 (44%). A complete list of survey data results for this question can be found in a following section under **Appendix A**.

Preferred Seating Option

Participants were provided three seating options and asked to select a single preference. The following seating options were included:

1. Seatwalls (large stones that form a short wall you can sit on)
2. Picnic tables
3. Benches

The results reveal that 74% of participants prefer benches (27% neutral and 18% don't prefer), while 58% prefer picnic tables (25% neutral and 18% don't prefer), closely followed by 55% for seatwalls (20% neutral and 6% don't prefer).

Playground Design Option

Participants were asked to choose their preferred playground design from a list of 3 options, which included visual examples that can be viewed under **Appendix B**. Playground Design Option C received a higher amount of votes (37%) compared to Options A (34%) and B (30%). It is important to note that the total votes received for each option were relatively close, as such the project team will seek to assess the fit of favoured playground equipment in each option for the preferred playground design option.

Preferred Playground Colours

Participants were provided three options regarding potential colour palettes to apply to the new playground (Bright colours – such as yellow, orange and purple, Earthy colours – such as green, brown, and grey, or No Preference). A majority of participants (51%) selected a preference of bright colours, such as yellow, orange and purple for the new playground. A total of 39% of participants chose earthy colours, while 11% did not have a preference.

Playground Equipment

Participants were provided a list of playground equipment options to select their top 5 preferred equipment. The following equipment were included:

1. Slides
2. Climbing structures
3. The senior play structure for ages 5 to 12
4. Monkey bars
5. The junior play structure for ages 2 to 5
6. Belt swings
7. Toddler swings
8. Stand-alone toys (i.e. rocking toys, teeter totters)
9. Group/accessible swings
10. Play panels
11. Spinner toys

The top 5 playground equipment that received the most votes were Slides (70%), Climbing structures (68%), The senior play structure for ages 5 to 12 (56%), Monkey bars (41%) and The junior play structure for ages 2 to 5 (41%). A complete list of survey data results for this question can be found in a following section under **Appendix A**.

Fitness Equipment

Participants were provided a list of 6 fitness equipment options and asked to rank them from their most preferred (1) to least preferred (6). The following equipment were included:

1. Long bench
2. Parallel bars
3. Hurdles
4. Step benches
5. Push-up and pull-up bars
6. Information panels

The survey results reveal the fitness equipment ranked by participants from most preferred (1) to least preferred (6) in the following order: 1. Step benches (21%), 2. Push-up and pull-up bars (21%), 3. Long bench (18%), 4. Parallel bars (17%), 5. Hurdles (13%) and 6. Information panels (10%).

Who did we hear from?

Participants were asked to provide demographic information. This helps the City better understand who participated and whether particular groups in the community were missed during the engagement process. Key demographic data is summarized below. A complete summary and breakdown of demographic data can be found in a following section under **Appendix A**.

Key Respondent Demographic Data

- The survey received a total of **161 responses**.
- Teachers completing the survey were asked to identify themselves and provide additional information regarding their survey input. No participant identified themselves as a teacher.
- A majority of **survey respondents (60%) are a parent, guardian and/or caregiver of a playground user**. Of these respondents:
 - **17% care for a playground user(s) aged 5 years or younger**
 - **21% care for a playground user(s) aged 6-12 years**
 - **6% care for a playground user(s) aged 13 years or older;**
 - **And 37% do not use playgrounds**
- The top 5 languages survey participants prefer speaking include:
 - **English (98%)**
 - **Albanian (1%)**
 - **Portuguese (1%)**
- A total of **2% of survey participants identify as Indigenous**.
- Survey respondents were asked (optional) to provide their racial background to help the City understand who we're hearing from and identify possible perspectives that may have been missed. Data collected reveals:
 - **50% of respondents are White**
 - **11% are South East Asian**
 - **10% are Latin American**
 - **9% are South Asian or Indo-Caribbean**
 - **6% are East Asian**
 - **5% are Black**
 - **4% are Arab, Middle Eastern or West Asian**
 - **3% are more than one race category**
 - **2% are First Nations; and**

- **8% prefer not to answer**
- **A majority of respondents (82%) identified as homeowners and 8% as renters**
 - 7% of respondents identified as permanently living with parent(s) or other family member(s); and
 - 4% preferred not to answer
- **Majority of respondents (67%) have access to private outdoor space like a yard**
 - 23% of respondents only have access to public spaces like parks
 - 8% of respondents have access to semi-private/shared outdoor space
 - 3% of respondents preferred not to answer
- **A total of 6% of respondents identified as a person with a disability**
 - 82% of respondents did not identify as a person with a disability
 - 10% of respondents preferred not to answer; and
 - 2% of respondents don't know
- **A total of 7% of respondents shared that they live with a person with a disability**
 - 84% of respondents share that they don't live with a person with a disability
 - 8% of respondents preferred not to answer; and
 - 2% of respondents don't know
- **The majority of respondents (74%) found out about the survey from social media**

How We Reached People

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

Print Media

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 December 5 to December 19, 2023.

Project Webpage

A webpage (toronto.ca/55IsaacDevinsPark) 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.




Next Steps

The feedback received from this phase of community engagement will confirm priorities for the detailed design. To be notified about upcoming construction updates for the new park, please visit the project webpage at toronto.ca/55IsaacDevinsPark to sign up for e-updates.

Appendix A: Quantitative Response Summary













Park Layout Options

Which of the two park layout options do you prefer?

	Count	% of responses	%
Park Layout A	65		40%
Park Layout B	89		55%
Prefer not to answer	7		4%

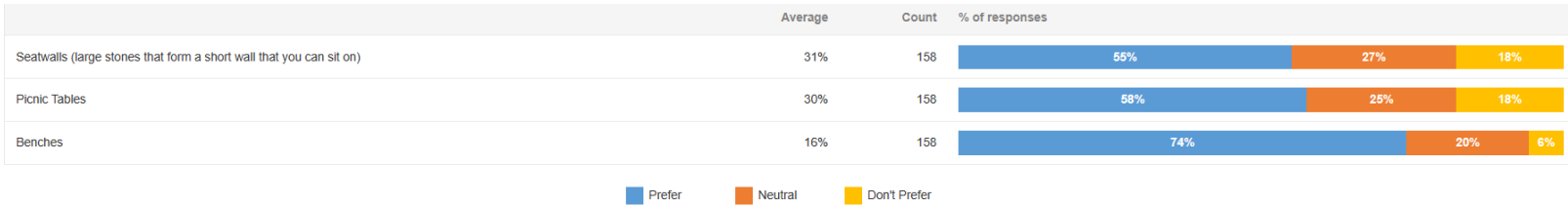
Park Amenity Options

Which of the following park amenities from the list below do you most prefer?
Select up to 5 features.

Playground equipment for ages 5 to 12	93		59%
Benches	87		55%
Fitness equipment	81		51%
Trees	79		50%
Playground equipment for ages 2 to 5	70		44%
Picnic tables	66		42%
Pathways	59		37%
Water bottle filling station	55		35%
Horticultural planning (i.e. plants, shrubs, trees)	47		30%
Green lawn space	46		29%
Sand play area	26		16%
Other, please specify	20		13%

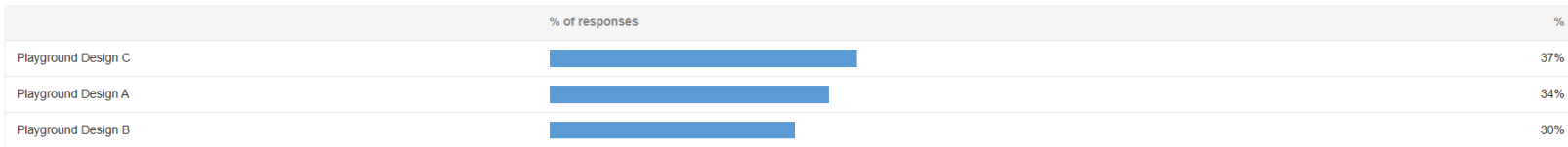
Park Seating Options

Which seating option(s) do you prefer? *The amount of seating provided is limited based on budget.



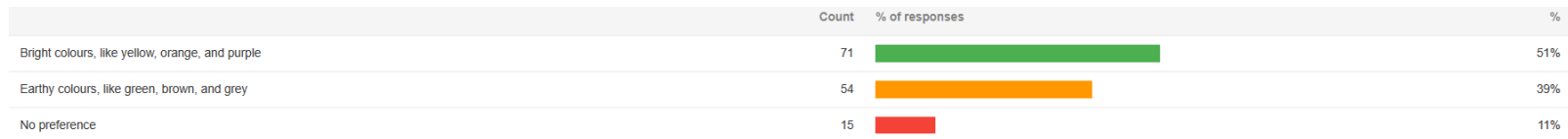
Playground Design Options

Rank the following playground design options in order from your most preferred (1) to least preferred (3).















Playground Colour Options

What types of colours would you like best for the playground?









Playground Equipment Options

Which of the following playground equipment from the list below do you most prefer? Select up to 5 features.

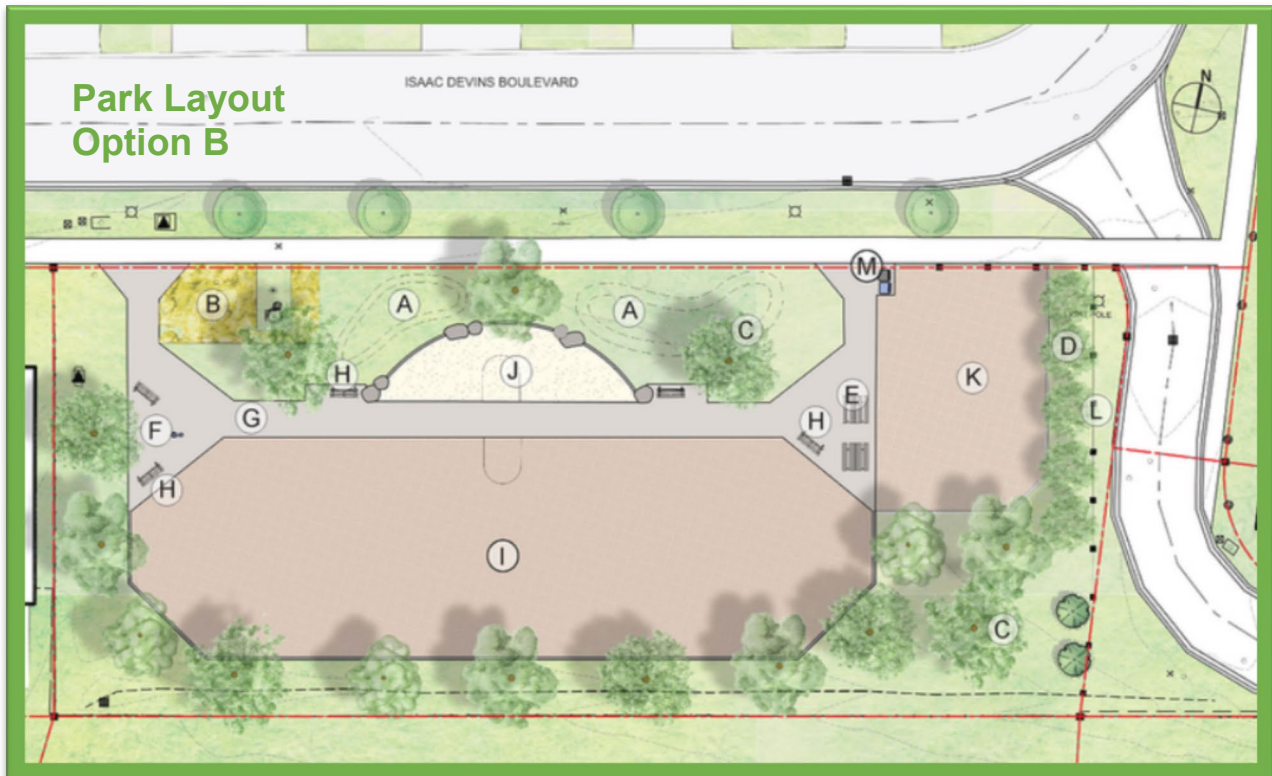
	Count	% of responses	%
Slides	98		70%
Climbing structures	95		68%
The senior play structure for ages 5 to 12	79		56%
Monkey bars	58		41%
The junior play structure for ages 2 to 5	57		41%
Belt swings	55		39%
Toddler swings	48		34%
Stand-alone toys (i.e. rocking toys, teeter totters)	48		34%
Group/accessible swings	41		29%
Play panels	23		16%
Spinner toys	17		12%
Other, please specify	6		4%

Fitness Equipment Options

Rank the following fitness equipment options in order from your most preferred (1) to least preferred (6).

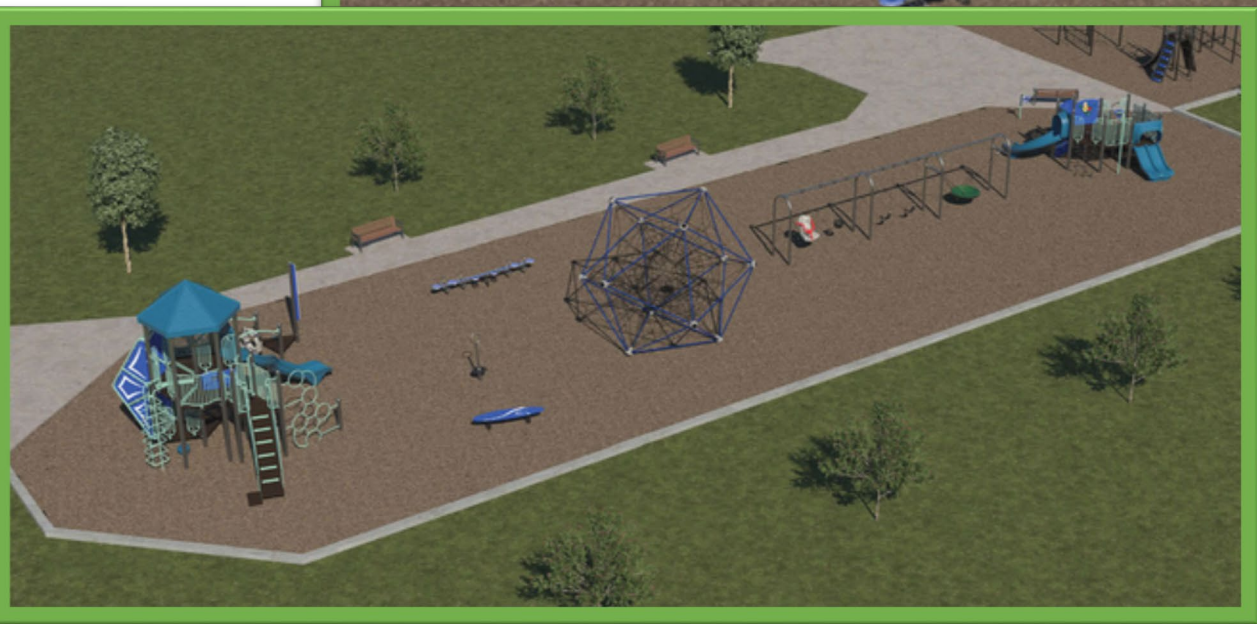
	% of responses	%
Step benches		21%
Push-up and pull-up bars		21%
Long bench		18%
Parallel bars		17%
Hurdles		13%
Information panels		10%

Appendix B: Survey Images





Playground
Option A





Playground
Option B





Playground
Option C



**Fitness
Equipment
Layout Option**



Appendix C: Text Responses

This section will include answers to open-ended questions provided by survey participants.

Survey participants were asked, "**Which of the following park amenities from the list below do you most prefer? Select up to 5 features. - Other, please specify**". A complete summarized coded list of all responses received is included below (a complete list of all individual responses received will follow):

- A total of 9 responses are in favour of a dog park/pet space
- A total of 3 responses share a preference for rubber flooring
- A total of 3 responses are in favour of a basketball court/hoops
- A total of 2 responses emphasized the need for shade in the park
- Multiple areas received a single response emphasizing the need for the following:
 - Water park
 - Monkey bars

A complete list of all individual responses is included below:

- *Dog park*
- *Enclosed off-leash area*
- *Fenced in dog park area as our community has a lot of dog owners who visit and utilize this green area*
- *Dog off-leash area*
- *Dog park*
- *Rubberized playground instead of wood chips*
- *dog park*
- *Basketball court*
- *Shade*
- *Dog park*
- *Shade*
- *Basketball court*
- *Water park*
- *Rubberized pad in play area instead of wood chips or sand.*
- *Lots of kids play basketball in the area, it would be nice to have a basketball court instead of a playground as there's two in the neighborhood already*
- *Rubberized instead of wood chips or sand*
- *Dog area*
- *Basketball hoop*
- *Dog park*
- *Monkey bars*

Survey participants were asked, "**Which of the following playground equipment from the list below do you most prefer? Select up to 5 features. - Other, please specify**". A complete summarized coded list of all responses received is included below (a complete list of all individual responses received will follow):

- A few single responses were only received for this question from participants, which focus on the following:
 - A preference for the climber in Option C
 - A preference for a dog park
 - A preference for a basketball net; and
 - A preference for a rock wall/climbing structure

A complete list of all individual responses is included below:

- *The climber in concept c - it is very cool!! haven't seen one like that*
- *Dog park*
- *Basketball net*
- *Rock wall, climbing structures*

Survey participants were asked, "**Do you have any additional feedback that you haven't already shared about the park design, including how to make the new park more welcoming to all?**". A total of 70% survey participants responded "no" and 30% responded "yes". A complete summarized coded list of all responses received is included below (a complete list of all individual responses received will follow):

- A total of 11 responses are in favour of a dog park/pet space
- A total of 9 responses are in favour of more shaded areas using trees or alternative shade structures/options
- A total of 4 responses are in favour of diverse seating options, including shaded seating
- A total of 3 responses are in favour of more garbage bins to keep the surrounding area clean
- A total of 3 responses are requesting for privacy considerations to be included in the design for homes facing the new park
- A total of 2 responses are in favour of rubber flooring
- Multiple areas received a single response emphasizing the need for the following:
 - An accessible park space for those of all abilities and ages
 - A park space that has ease of access to the neighbouring school field
 - A hand washing station
 - A splash pad or water feature for the warmer months

A complete list of responses from all individuals who responded "Yes" is included below:

- *Add a component for dogs like a fenced in dog park*
- *More garbage bins, including a green bin for animal waste. An additional water fill station located at the opposite end of the park. Is the ice rink still going to be there for winter activities?*

- *More seating*
- *What about making it a dog park?*
- *Please try to incorporate an area for a dog park as we do have a large community of dog owners here and frequent this space with them. There are already 2 other playgrounds so I think your design should focus less on a playground area and more on a community friendly area with a dog park incorporated*
- *Should have enough seating for parents to watch children*
- *There is already 2 kids play grounds in the area. Make a dog park instead*
- *Privacy/trees for homes bordering the park please*
- *It needs to be easy to access. It needs to be good for all children.*
- *Dog park small fenced area. More garbage cans*
- *As a resident who lives directly across the upcoming park, i would very much prefer that trees are planted by the front of the fitness area to provide privacy to my home which would be facing the fitness park area.*
- *Shaded areas*
- *There's a high school adjacent to the park - don't make the park too comfy for people as they'll most likely use it as a hang out spot!*
- *Lots of SHADE*
- *Maybe a skate trail path for the winter*
- *Include parts with trees and open space (sun). sand for toddlers.*
- *More trees! The neighborhood doesn't provide much shade in the summer months*
- *Can we have splash pad? It will be nice for summer.*
- *Incorporate a basketball net. The other part near Mary chapmen has an ice rink and soccer area so would be nice to get a basketball net*
- *Access to the neighboring school*
- *Would like to see a soft ground surface (ie. Rubber) rather than gravel or concrete*
- *More trees to help cover the view of the train tracks*
- *Indigenous plants, park speaker ppl can connect too, monthly events*
- *Walking/roller blading path for adults*
- *I would like to see an adult friendly play area too such as a bocce court. And proper lighting at night would be nice.*
- *It is lacking a dog area, there two nearby playgrounds for kids, one at 300 meters (Isaac Fevins and McCartney street) and the second one (Joseph Bannon Park) 500 meters. This area has been used for dogs since the subdivision was built and the community doesn't have a dog park nearby.*
- *A little area for dogs!*
- *There is already two similar parks in the neighborhood, a dog park or basketball court, tennis court, pickle ball court or something different would add more variety*
- *Hand wash station*
- *I see more trees planned for than the main park in the neighbourhood which is good, but please consider locating the benches nearby trees. Also please consider locating trees that would provide shade from afternoon sun and evening*

summer sun coming from the west. Therefore, locate trees slightly west of benches for example, to provide the users with shade from the hot summer evening sun.

- *Rubberized play area*
- *Planting bigger trees that have shade in the summer time as parents are always burnt sitting at the park. Prefer soft ground, no mulch as kids throw it at other kids. Any if budget friendly a mini trampoline. And on site first aid kit. Chose A because i like the idea of separate play area for small and big kids...as big can be aggressive sometimes. Thank you*
- *Make a dog park area 🐾*
- *A covered area where people can sit and get out of the sun*
- *Sufficient seating, tree/shade coverage and garbage bins*
- *It would be nice to have a seating area that is covered for sun protection. The other parks in the area lack this feature.*
- *Basketball hoop*
- *Dog friendly area*
- *Area for dogs*
- *This is awesome. Thank you!*
- *I came to this via an Instagram ad, I think that's a pretty cool way to promote the park*