

# Black Community Advisory Group for the Two New Parks in the Moss Park Neighbourhood

Meeting 1: July 14, 2022, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

*Tech Check: 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.*

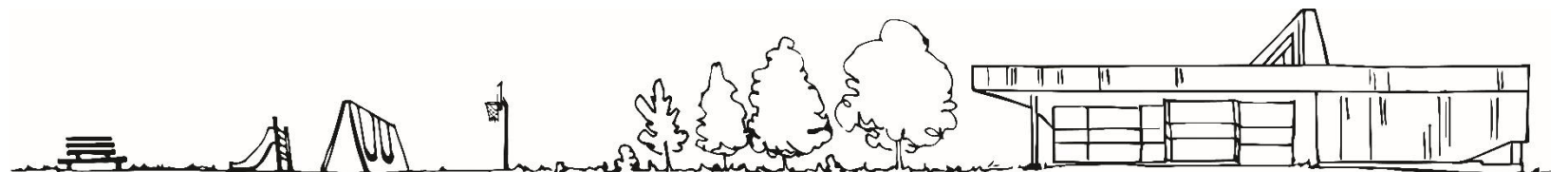


# Closed Captioning


Automatic Closed Captioning is available.

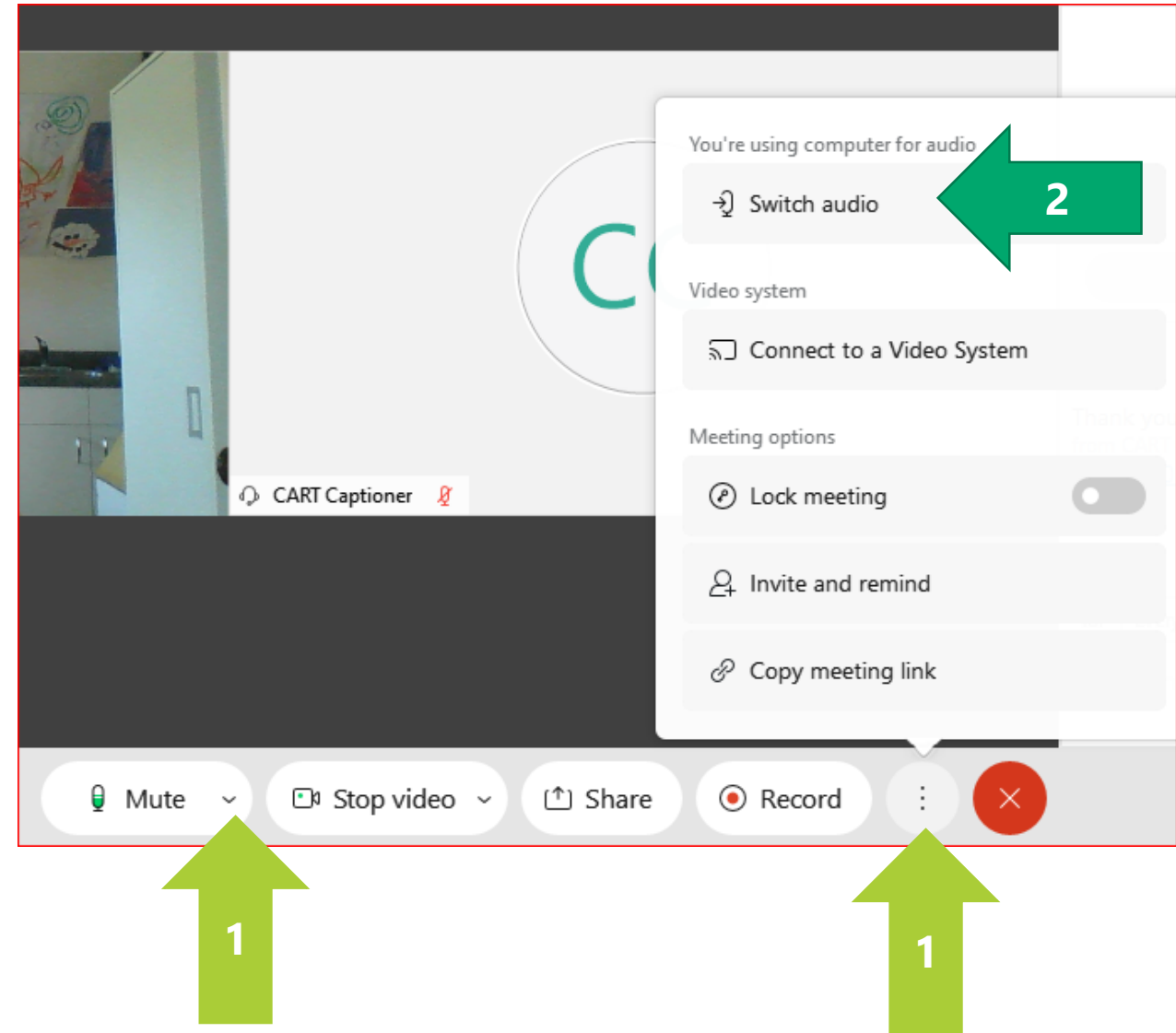


On the bottom left of your screen, click the "CC" icon to turn on closed captioning.

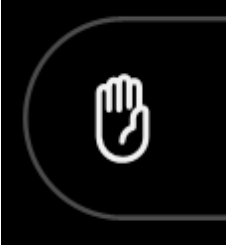


# Webex Audio Trouble?

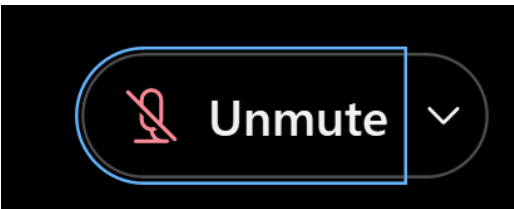
1. At the bottom of the screen, click the **More Options** button  or the **arrow beside the Mute** button.
2. Click **Switch Audio**
3. Use the **Call me at** function
  - a) Enter your phone number
  - b) Webex will call your phone



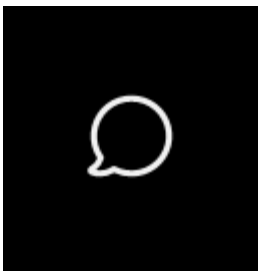
# How To Participate



1. To prevent members from talking over each other in this virtual space, please click the Raise-Hand icon to indicate that you would like to speak.



2. Once called on, please click the mute/unmute button to speak. If you are **only** connected by phone, dial \*6 to unmute.



3. Alternatively, you can participate by typing into the chat. Click the chat icon to open the chat box and send your message to "Everyone".

# Land Acknowledgement

I'd like to begin by honouring the land that I'm on. If you are not currently in Toronto, I encourage you to learn about the lands you're on.

We acknowledge the land we are meeting on is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit.



# African Ancestral Acknowledgement

The City of Toronto acknowledges all Treaty peoples – including those who came here as settlers – as migrants either in this generation or in generations past - and those of us who came here involuntarily, particularly those brought to these lands as a result of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and Slavery. We pay tribute to those ancestors of African origin and descent.



**Thank you for being here!**



# Meeting Agenda



Welcome and introduce BCAG members & the project team



Review and confirm Terms of Reference



Present a project overview



Discuss your ideas and visions for the new parks



Share next steps



Adjourn at 8:00 p.m.



# Project Team

City of  
Toronto

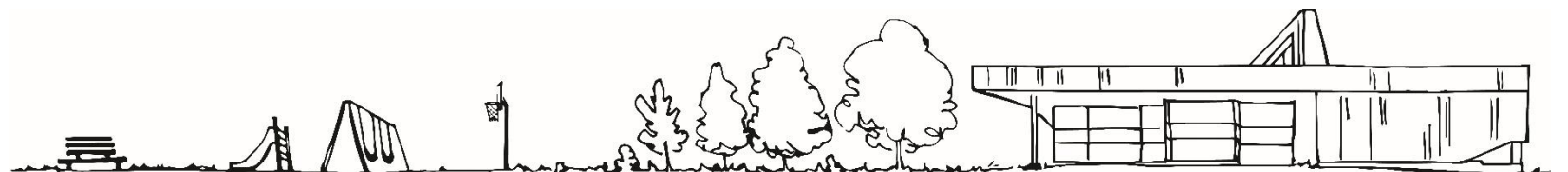
Parks,  
Forestry and  
Recreation

**Eli Bawuah** – Sr. Consultation Coordinator

**Alex Lavasidis** – Sr. Consultation Coordinator

**Katie Black** – Project Coordinator Landscape Architect

**Laurel Christie** - Sr. Project Coordinator



## Please Share:

- **Your name**
- **What interested you in joining the BCAG?**
- **What is a memorable moment you have in a Toronto Park?**
- **What is your favourite thing to do in parks, or in the Neighbourhood around the two new parks?**

# Terms of Reference

Please ask questions, raise concerns, or suggest an edit by raising your hand or using the chat feature.

# Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference (**ToR**) outline the roles and responsibilities of the Black Community Advisory Group (**BCAG**) members and staff.

These terms of reference will be reviewed during the first BCAG meeting and confirmed by members. Any changes to the ToR will be made through consultation with the Project Team and BCAG members.

**A copy of the ToR will be circulated to all BCAG members following the first meeting.**

Please ask questions, raise concerns, or suggest an edit by raising your hand or using the chat feature.

## 1. Mandate

The Black Community Advisory Group (BCAG) will act as an advisory body at key decision points during the park design process to ensure the perspective and needs of Black community members are reflected in the park design. The BCAG will review, deliberate, and discuss key project elements.

## 2. Membership

The BCAG will include up to 16 Black community members who live, work, and/or spend free time in the community around the two new parks. Effort has been made to select members who represent a range of lived experiences and perspectives.

## 3. Meetings

There will be three, 2-hour virtual BCAG meetings. Specific dates will be confirmed based on the availability of group members. The general meeting schedule is as follows:

- July 14, 2022
- September 2022
- December 2022

Dates are subject to change.

## 4. Honorarium

BCAG membership is voluntary.

BCAG members will be provided an honorarium of \$50.00 per meeting attendance.

The honorarium will be paid within the two weeks following each meeting. Staff will set a date and time for honorarium pickup within the neighbourhood around the two new parks. Alternate arrangements will be made as required.

## 5. Recommendation-Making

The BCAG is an advisory group, not a decision-making body.

The BCAG is not responsible for the decisions made by the Project Team or City Council.

As an advisory group, the BCAG will operate using a consensus-based approach, where members seek general agreement on guidance and advice to the Project Team. A consensus-based approach assumes that participants can openly discuss ideas, perspectives and viewpoints, and are willing to work together to develop common ground and minimize areas of disagreement to the best of their ability.

Differing viewpoints and opinions will be documented in the BCAG meeting notes.



## 6. Reporting

Staff will compile a written summary of each BCAG meeting and distribute this to members.

BCAG members will have one week to provide suggested edits to the draft summary, after which the summary will be finalized and published to the project webpage.

## 7. Roles

### **BCAG members will:**

- Review and agree to these Terms of Reference;
- RSVP in advance of meetings;
- Attend and actively participate in BCAG meetings;
  - If unable to attend a meeting, members may review the meeting presentation (PDF) and meeting summary and provide feedback through email within a week of receiving the documents.
- Review meeting summaries to confirm accuracy;
- Promote opportunities for wider community engagement within their networks.

## 7. Roles

### **Project Team members (City staff & Consultant team) will:**

- Identify what is open for community influence and what is not (and why);
- Strive to provide accurate, easy to understand information to BCAG members;
- Listen carefully to the advice and perspectives of BCAG members and, where feasible, incorporate advice into the project; and where not feasible, provide a clear explanation of how the feedback was considered and why it is not feasible;
- Follow-up as required to respond to any questions that could not be answered during the meeting. Follow-up responses will be included in meeting summary reports.
- Circulate, revise, and post summary reports of each BCAG meeting on the project website.

## 8. Media Contact

BCAG members may speak to the media about their **individual** perspectives about this Project. As individual BCAG members' opinions are not necessarily representative of the views of the entire BCAG, in the event that BCAG members receive media enquiries about the two new parks in Moss Park and/or the BCAG, inquiries should be referred to Daniel Fusca, Manager, Public Consultation, City of Toronto Parks Forestry and Recreation Division at [Daniel.Fusca@toronto.ca](mailto:Daniel.Fusca@toronto.ca).

## 9. Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy

Please note that all information will be used in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. With the exception of personal information, all information provided through the BCAG process will form part of the public record including the names of BCAG members.

## 10. Contact

The points of contact for all BCAG correspondence are:

### **Elijah (Eli) Bawuah**

Sr. Community Consultation Coordinator

Phone: 647-289-6559 | Email: [Elijah.Bawuah@toronto.ca](mailto:Elijah.Bawuah@toronto.ca)

### **Alex Lavasidis**

Sr. Community Consultation Coordinator

Phone: 416-318-1887 | Email: [Alex.Lavasidis@toronto.ca](mailto:Alex.Lavasidis@toronto.ca)

**Are there any remaining  
questions or concerns  
about the Terms of Reference?**

## Terms of Reference

Please confirm that you agree with the Terms of Reference by:



Typing “I agree” into the chat, **OR**



Raising your hand.

If you prefer to review the ToR following the meeting, and provide your confirmation by email, please let us know.

# Project Overview: Two New Parks in the Moss Park Neighbourhood



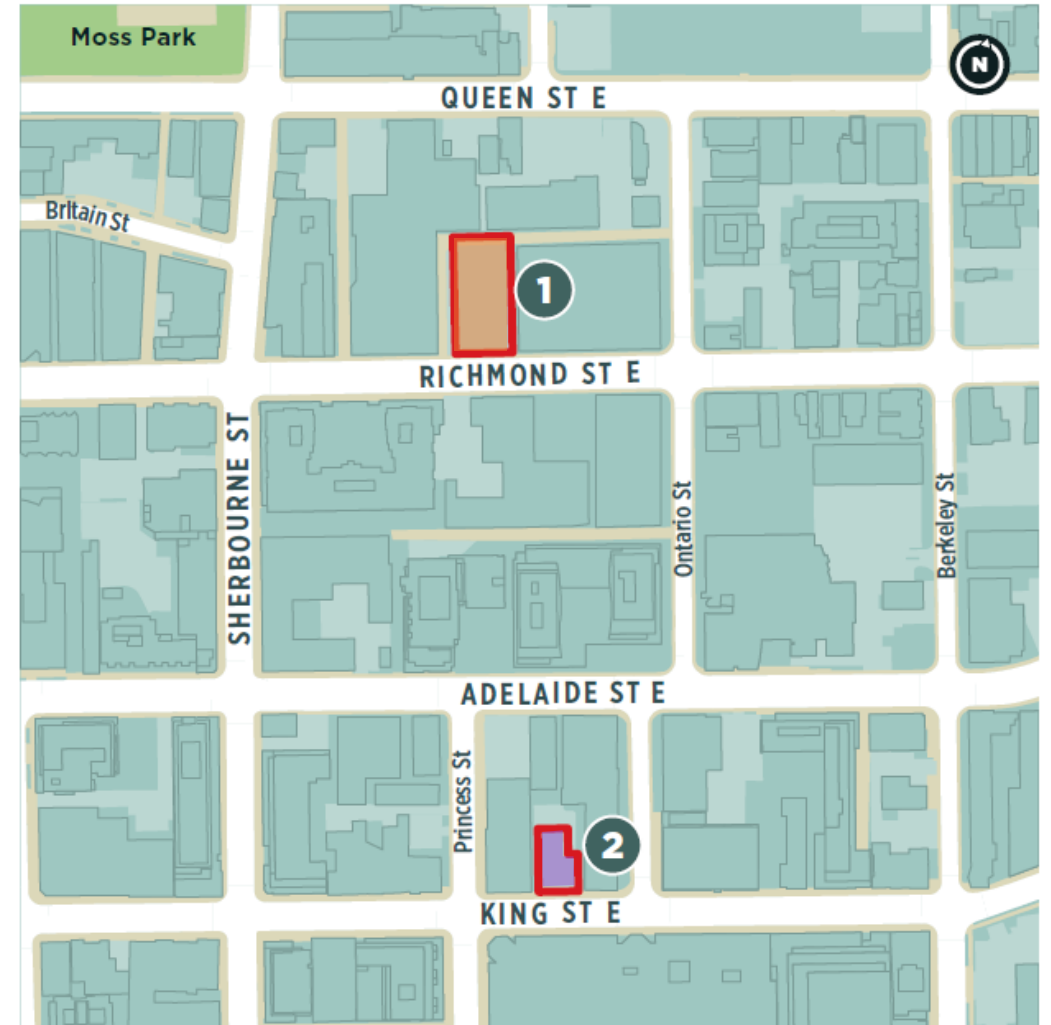
# New Parks in the Moss Park Neighbourhood


## 1. New Park on Richmond St East:

The new park on the north side of Richmond St E will be 1400m<sup>2</sup> (about the size of a hockey rink).

## 2. New Park on King St East:

The new park on the north side of King St E will be 470m<sup>2</sup> (about the size of a tennis court).



 Project boundaries

The land of both new parks is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit

# New Parks in the Moss Park Neighbourhood

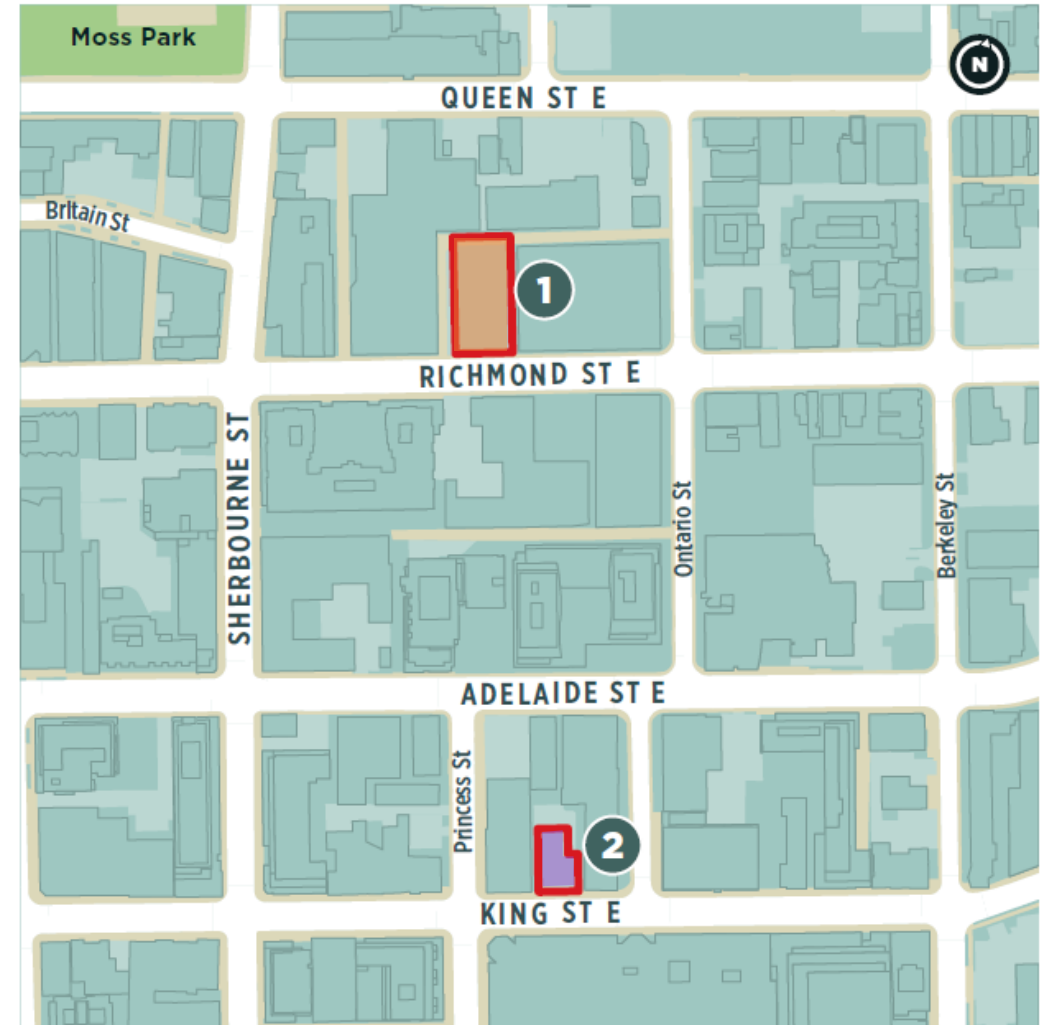
Both parks are delivered to the community as part of building development agreements, each with a separate developer and separate design team.


## 1. New Park on Richmond St East:

- Part of a development at 261 Queen St E.
- Developer: Tricon Residential
- Design Team: Claude Cormier + Associés and Indigenous Design advisor Ryan Gorrie (BrookMcIlroy Indigenous Design Studio)

## 2. New Park on King St East:

- Part of a development at 254-260 King St E.
- Developer: Fitzrovia
- Design Team: Janet Rosenberg & Studios and Indigenous Design Advisor Terence Radford (Trophic Design)



 Project boundaries

The land of both new parks is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit

# New Park on Richmond Street East



The new park on Richmond St E will be 1400m<sup>2</sup>, about the size of a hockey rink.

(note - site boundary is approximate)

## City Parks Scale Comparison:



St. James



David Crombie  
Park Baseball  
Field



New Park on  
Richmond St.  
East



Berczy Park



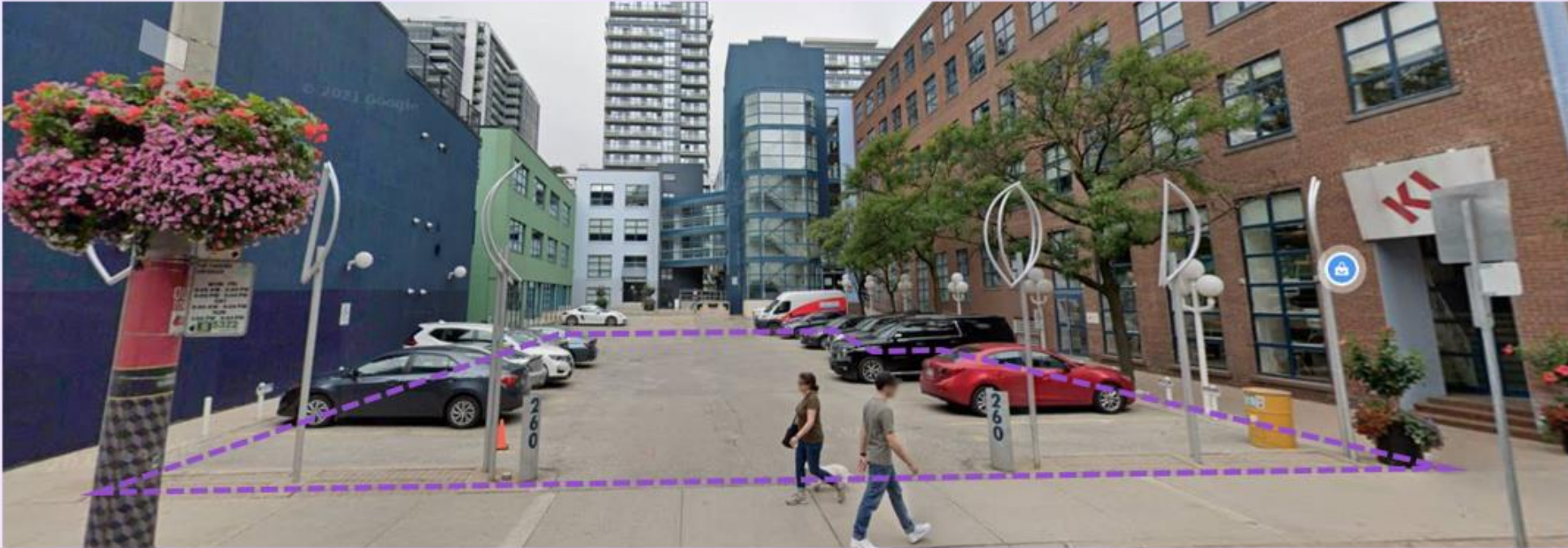
Yonge-Dundas  
Square



Moss Park



# New Park on King Street East



The new park on King St E will be 470m<sup>2</sup>, about the size of a tennis court.

(note - site boundary is approximate)

## City Parks Scale Comparison:



James Canning Gardens



Barbara Hall Park



New Park on King St. West



Joel Weeks Park



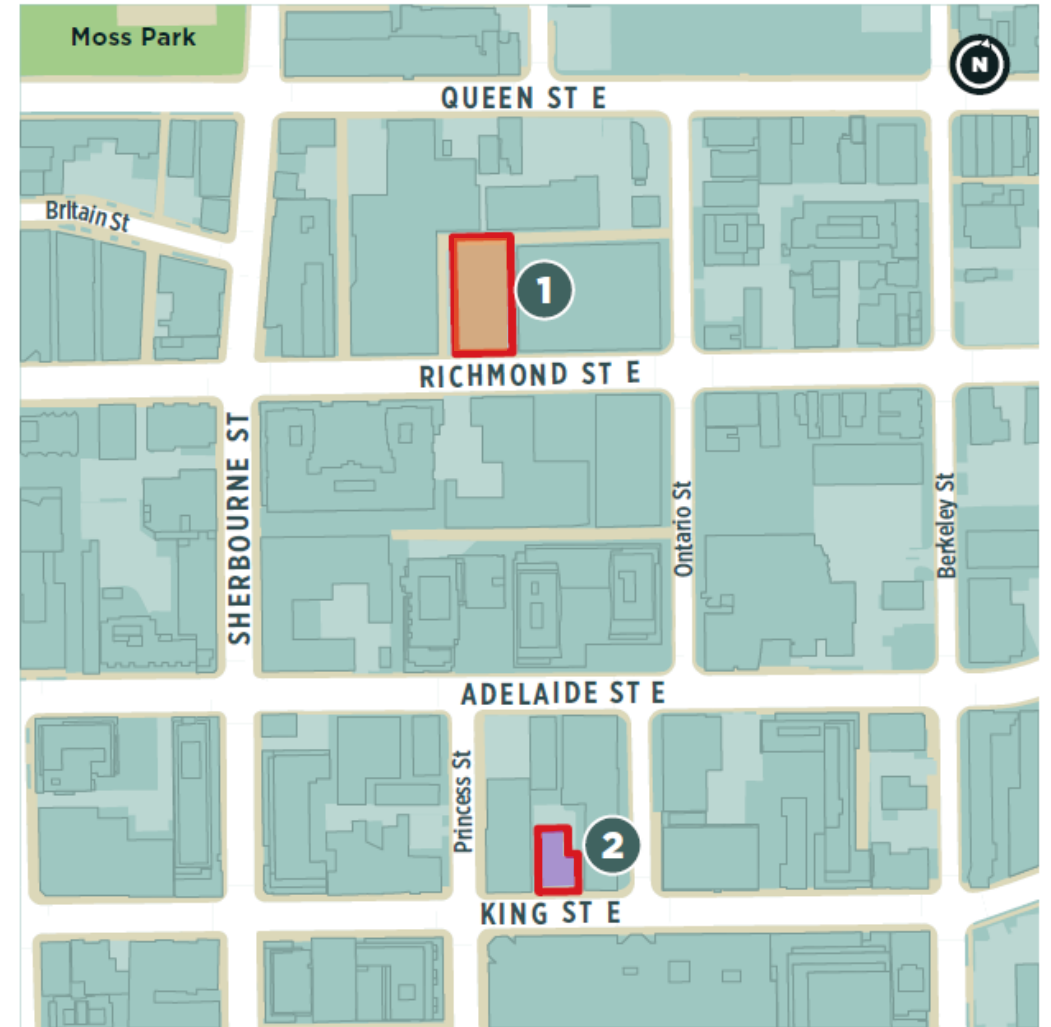
Sackville Playground



Toronto Sculpture Gardens

# Design Considerations

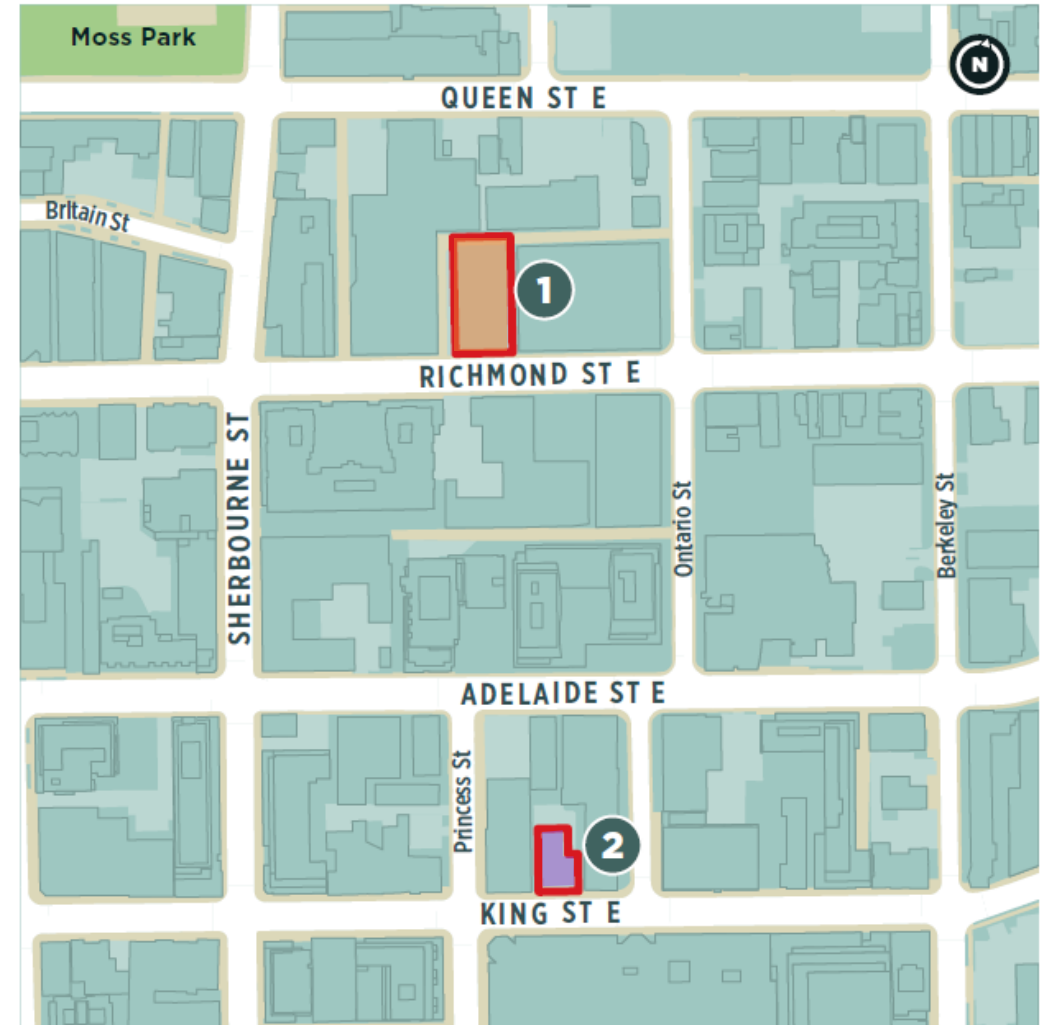
- Both parks are small and will experience heavy foot traffic. This creates design constraints:
  - Large park amenities or sport features will not fit in these parks.
  - A dog off-leash area will not be included due to the parks' limited size.
  - Real grass will not be able to survive in these parks due to the heavy foot traffic.




 Project boundaries

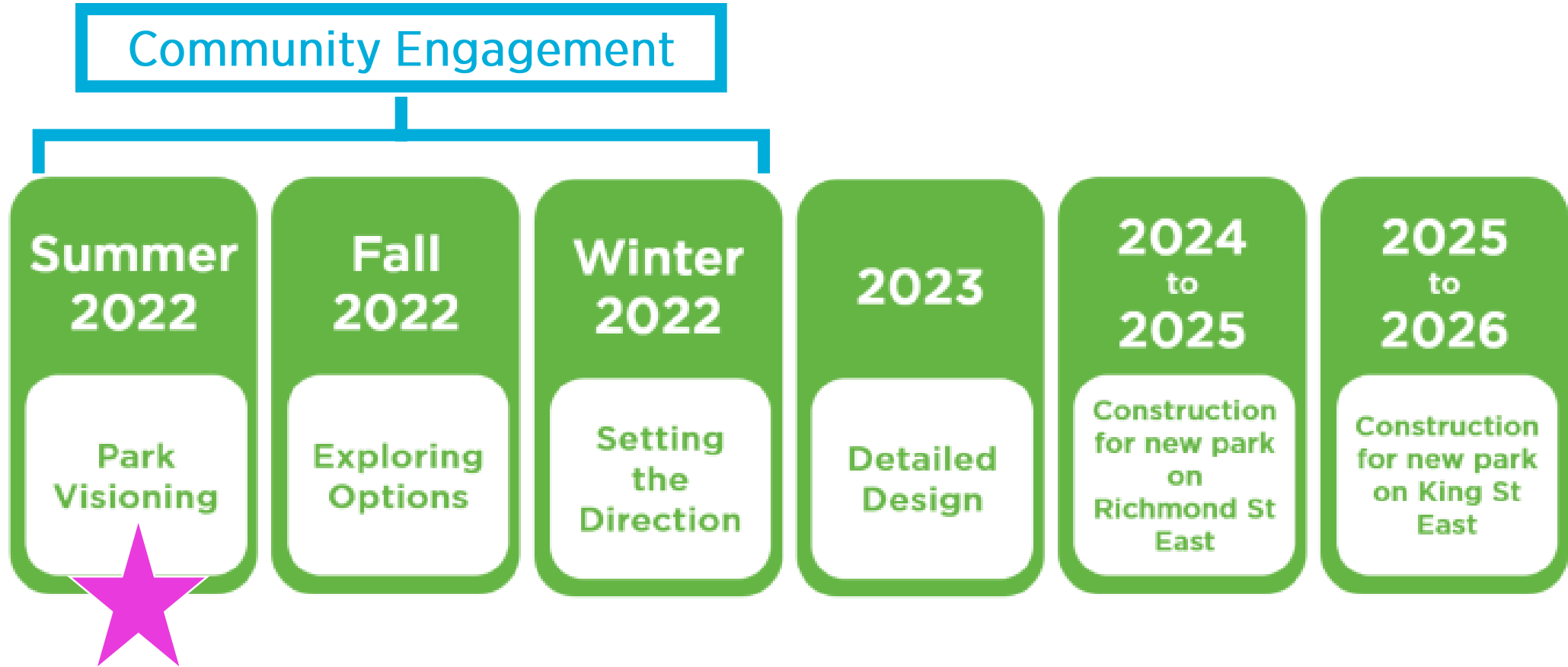
# Indigenous Placekeeping

- Indigenous Placekeeping will be part of both parks.
- Indigenous Design Advisors have been hired for each park:
  - Indigenous Design Advisor for the **new park on Richmond St E:**  
Ryan Gorrie  
*BrookMcIlroy Indigenous Design Studio*
  - Indigenous Design Advisor for **the new park on King St E:**  
Terence Radford  
*Trophic Design*



 Project boundaries

# Project Timelines



# Community Engagement Schedule

**Pre-Engagement with Indigenous Rights Holders and Organisations**

Presented to Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council (TASSC) and contacted Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN). Based on this pre-engagement, Indigenous Design Advisors were hired to join the design teams for each park.

**Phase 1: Visioning** ★  
**June-July 2022**

**Goal:** Gather community input to understand the community's vision for the new parks.

**Phase 2: Exploring Options**  
**September 2022**

**Goal:** Present and gather feedback on 2-3 design options for each park, to be further refined based on community feedback.

**Phase 3: Setting the direction**  
**December 2022**

**Goal:** Present and gather feedback on a final proposed design for each park.

**Detailed Design & Construction Updates**


Once detailed design is complete, publicize the final plan.



## Phase 1: Visioning June-July 2022

**Goal:** Gather community input to understand the community's vision for the new parks.

### Engagement Tools:

- **Black Community Advisory Group Meeting 1** ← 
- **Online Survey**
  - ~450 respondents
- **Youth workshops**
  - Two workshops with ~15 youth each.
- **Community Popups**
  - Two locations on June 21 with ~120 participants
- **Indigenous Engagement**
  - Email outreach to local Indigenous-serving organisations, providing options for a phone interview, online survey, or community popup.
  - Presented to the City of Toronto's Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Council (AAAC)
  - Currently receiving feedback from the Mississaugas of the Credit

# Community Engagement Schedule

## Phase 2: Exploring Options September 2022

**Goal:** Present and gather feedback on 2-3 design options for each park, to be further refined based on community feedback.

### Engagement Tools:

- Online Survey
- Youth workshop
- Popups
- Black Community Advisory Group Meeting 2
- Indigenous Engagement
  - MCFN
  - Local Organisations
  - TASSC

## Phase 3: Setting the direction December 2022

**Goal:** Present and gather feedback on a final proposed design for each park.

### Engagement Tools:

- Online Survey
- Youth Workshop
- Popups
- Black Community Advisory Group Meeting 3
- Indigenous Engagement
  - MCFN
  - Local Organisations
  - TASSC

## Detailed Design & Construction Updates

Once detailed design is complete, publicize the final plan.

### Tools:

- Signage
- Social media
- Webpage

**Before we discuss the community  
around the two new parks,  
are there any questions of clarification  
on what has been presented so far?**

# The Community Around the Two New Parks

# Demographic Profile\* ~1km Around the New Parks

## Population and Household Overview

- 34,000 residents in 19,000 households
- More renters (65%) than home owners (35%)
- Most live in apartments/condos (93%)
- High daytime population (46,000), with many workers commuting into the neighbourhood
- Most are in single-person households (55%), which is higher than the average neighbourhood (33%)

## Demographics

- More millennials (25-45) than average
  - Fewer youth (<20 years old) than average
  - Fewer seniors (>70 years old) than average
- Higher percentage of lower-income households (31%) than the average neighbourhood (24%)
- More residents speak English at home (77%) than the average neighbourhood (65%)
- About half of residents are racialized (52%), about the City average
  - More residents are Indigenous (1.7%) compared to the average neighbourhood (0.9%)
  - More residents are Black (17%) compared to the average neighbourhood (10%)

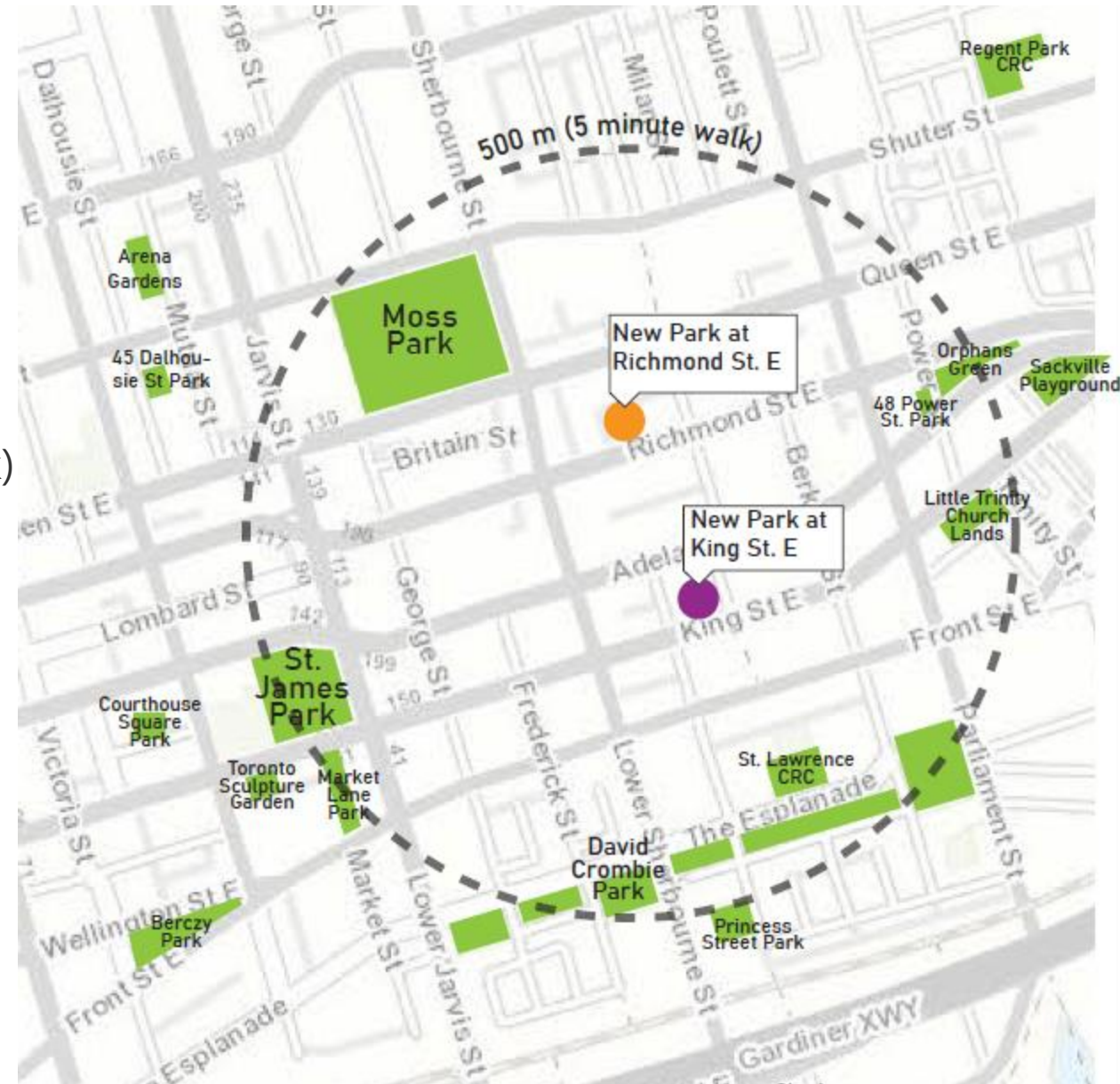
\* Includes census data which is self-identified



# Nearby Park Amenities

## Park amenities within a ~5 minute walk:

- **Baseball diamond** (Moss Park; David Crombie Park)
- **Basketball courts** (Moss Park; David Crombie Park)
- **Community gardens** (Moss Park)
- **Dogs off leash area** (Orphan's Green Park; David Crombie Park)
- **Fountain** (St. James Park; David Crombie Park)
- **Gardens/Horticultural beds** (David Crombie Park; New Park 48 Power St; Market Lane Park; St. James Park)
- **Gazebo** (St. James Park)
- **Mural Art** (David Crombie Park)
- **Open lawn and trees** (Moss Park)
- **Playground** (Moss Park; David Crombie Park; Little Trinity Church Lands)
- **Reflexology footpath** (New Park 48 Power St)
- **Sculpture** (New Park 48 Power St)
- **Soccer** (Parliament Square Park)
- **Splash Pad** (St. James Park)
- **Tennis courts** (Moss Park)
- **Wading pool** (David Crombie Park; Moss Park)



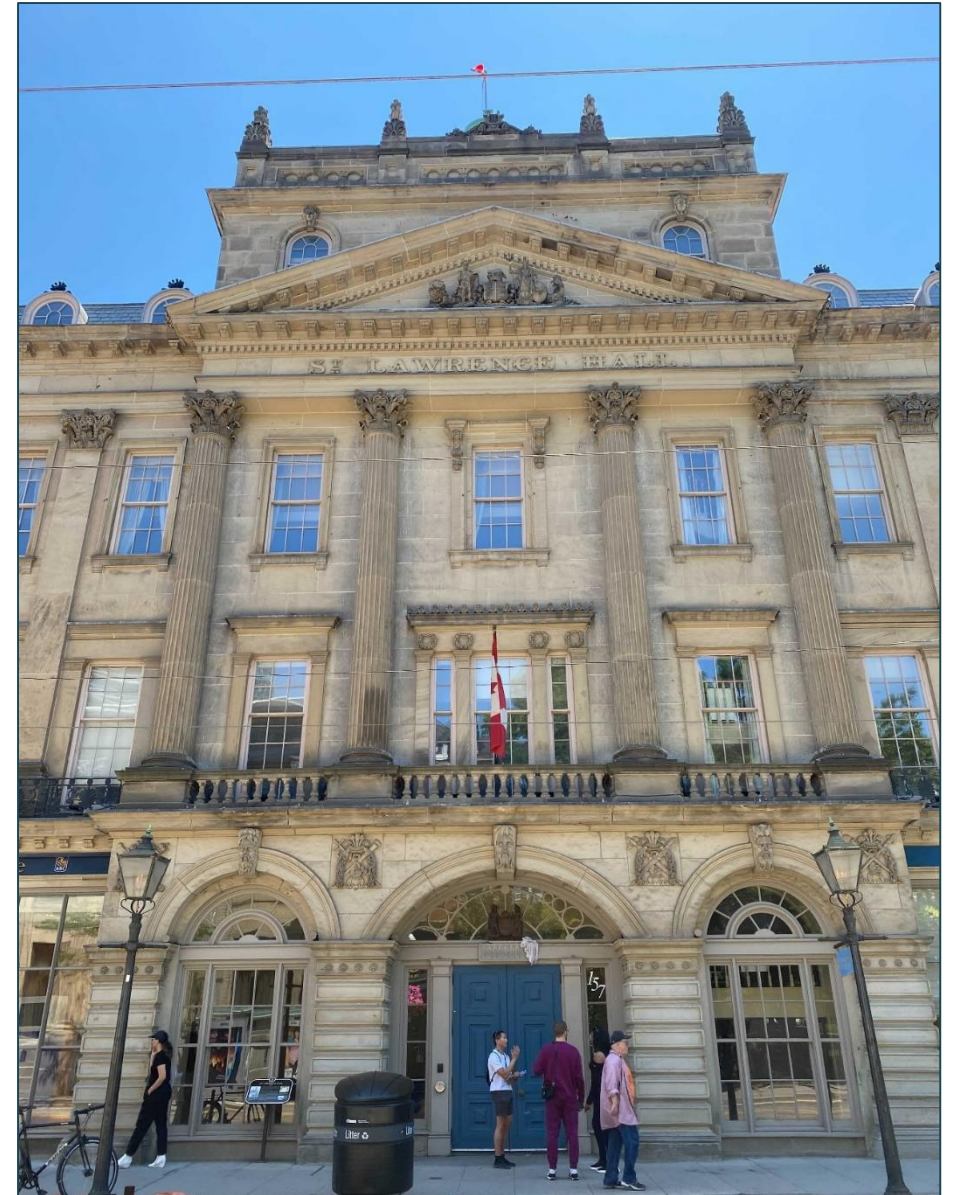


# Black Connections in the Neighbourhood: Highlighting Important Historical Locations, People and Stories

## Abolitionist Meeting Spaces: St. Lawrence Hall

Reflecting Toronto's reputation as a hub for abolitionist activities, the first North American Convention of Coloured Freemen held outside the US occurred at St. Lawrence Hall (King St East and Jarvis) in September 1851.

Hundreds of abolitionists from Canada, the United States and Britain met for three days to discuss ending slavery in the United States, and how to assist Black refugees in Canada.



# Black Connections in the Neighbourhood: Highlighting Important Historical Locations, People and Stories

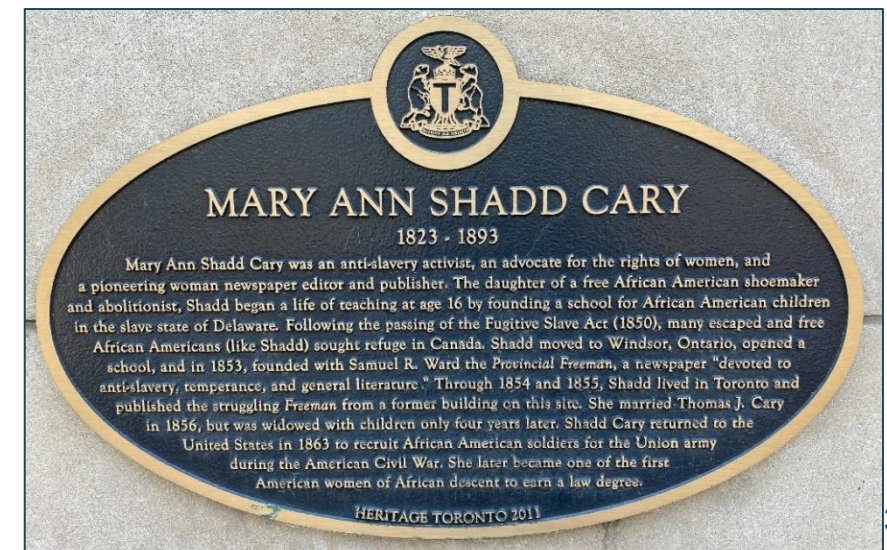
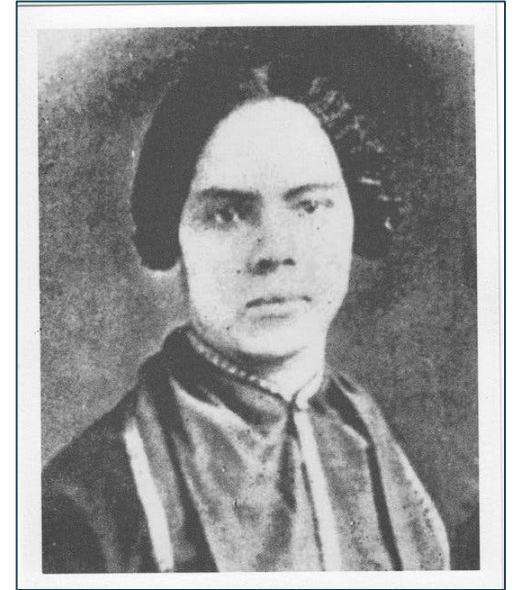
## Abolitionist, Teacher, and Newspaper Editor: Mary Ann Shadd Cary

Mary Ann Shadd Cary was the first Black woman in North America to publish a newspaper.<sup>1</sup> Shadd was born in Delaware in the United States to free and abolitionist parents, with her home serving as a stop on the Underground Railroad.<sup>2</sup> Shadd began a life of teaching at just 16.<sup>3</sup> After the Fugitive Slave Act, she escaped to Canada. Upon arriving in Canada in 1851, Shadd created an integrated school for Black refugees in Windsor, and attended the North American Convention of Coloured Freemen held at St. Lawrence Hall.<sup>4</sup>

Shadd went on to publish the weekly newspaper, the *Provincial Freeman* in Windsor (1853–1854), Toronto (1854–1855) and Chatham (1855–1857).<sup>4</sup> The *Provincial Freeman* was an abolitionist paper that promoted Black political discourse, social reform and African-American emigration to British North America, and the rights of women.<sup>1,5</sup> In Toronto, the paper was published at 143 King St East (King and Jarvis).<sup>3</sup>

Shadd did not list her name as an editor or author in the paper, hiding that the paper was edited and written by a woman.<sup>4</sup>

Top: Mary Ann Shadd Cary  
Library and Archives Canada, C-029977



Bottom: A Heritage Toronto Plaque commemorating Mary Ann Shadd Cary  
Located at 143 King St East



# Black Connections in the Neighbourhood: Highlighting Important Historical Locations, People and Stories

## Black Leaders and Entrepreneurs: The Blackburn Family

Prior to the construction of Inglenook Community School, 54 Eastern Ave was home to the Blackburn Family.<sup>6</sup> Thornton and Lucy Blackburn had escaped slavery in Kentucky in 1834 through the Underground Railroad.<sup>6,7</sup> After being declared “fugitive slaves” and captured in Detroit, they were freed by an abolitionist mob, settling in Toronto.<sup>6</sup>

Once in Toronto, the governor of Michigan demanded they be extradited to the US. The Blackburns would not be extradited. The case became precedence for Canada’s extradition laws and solidified Canada as an end to the Underground Railroad.<sup>8</sup>

Thornton initially worked as a waiter in Osgoode Hall, eventually saving enough to start Upper Canada’s first taxicab business.<sup>6</sup> He nicknamed his one-horse, four-person cab “the City” , which was painted yellow with red trim (the eventual colour scheme of the TTC)<sup>8</sup>. The Blackburns were very successful, paving the way for other taxi cab entrepreneurs to follow.<sup>6</sup> The family used their wealth to fund community buildings and newly-arrived freedom seekers.<sup>8</sup>

Both Thornton and Lucie Blackburn participated in abolitionist activities, and in 1851 attended the Convention of Coloured Freemen, held in St. Lawrence Hall.<sup>8</sup>

Right:  
Thornton Blackburn's horse-drawn cab (centre)  
on King St, Looking west from Jarvis in the mid-  
19th-century.  
Painting by John Gillespie  
(Canadian Department, Royal Ontario Museum)



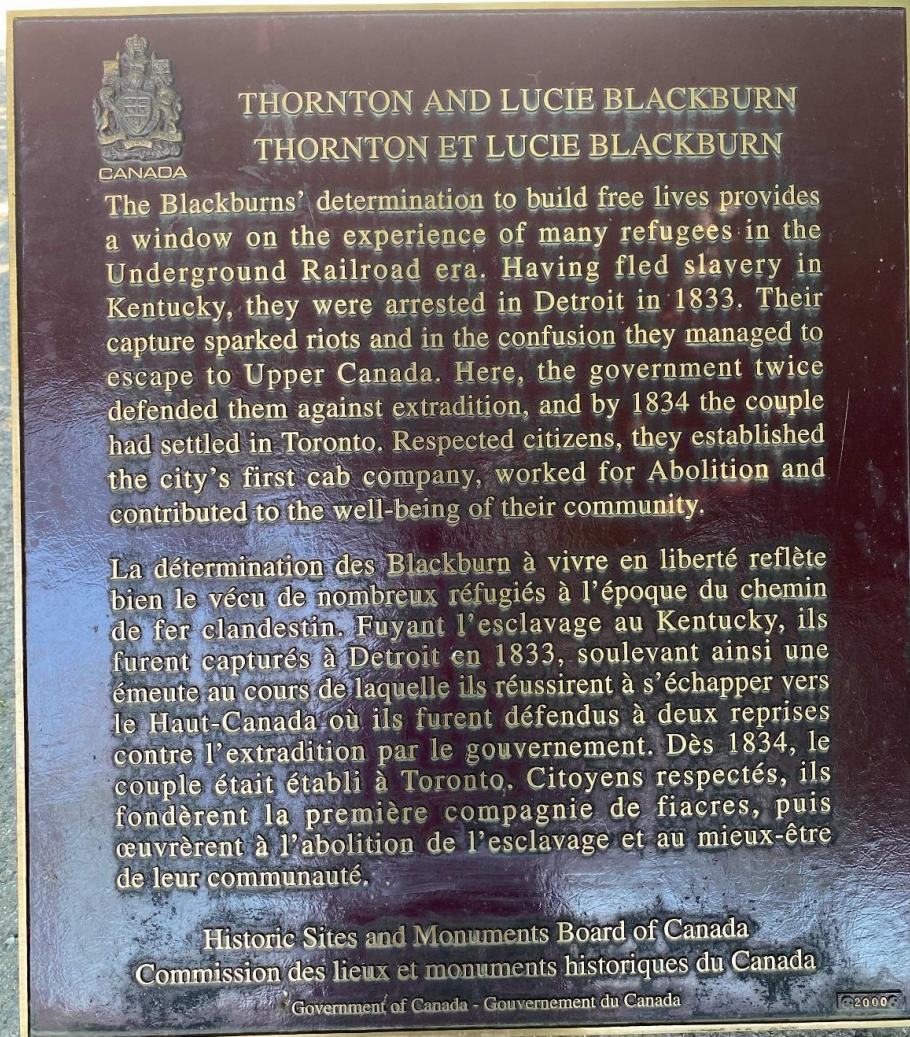
# Historical Black Connections in the Neighbourhood

Right:  
Artwork depicting  
Thornton Blackburn's  
"The City" cab, outside  
of the Inglenook  
Community School.





# Historical Black Connections in the Neighbourhood



Right:  
Plaques  
commemorating the  
Blackburns on the  
grounds of the  
Inglenook Community  
School



## Thornton and Lucie Blackburn



# Archival Photos: Youth at Play in the Neighbourhood



City of Toronto Archives, Series 1465, File 733, Item 5



City of Toronto Archives, Series 1465, File 734, Item 6

These photos from the City of Toronto archives show neighbourhood youth at play in nearby David Crombie Park, which is still a popular place for play today. The two new parks in Moss Park will provide new public space, and potentially new places for play.

Left: Photo of Children Playing in David Crombie Park ca. 1979 and 1984 | City of Toronto Archives Series 1465, File 733, Item 5

Top: Photo of Children Playing at the David Crombie Park Playground ca. 1979 and 1985 | City of Toronto Archives Series 1465, File 734, Item 6



# The Community Around the Parks Today

- 17% of the residents who live within ~1 km around the two new parks are Black. This is significantly higher than the average Toronto community, in which about 10% of residents are Black.
- The Moss Park and surrounding neighbourhoods have diverse Black, African and Caribbean communities, with many vibrant community, businesses and religious spaces.



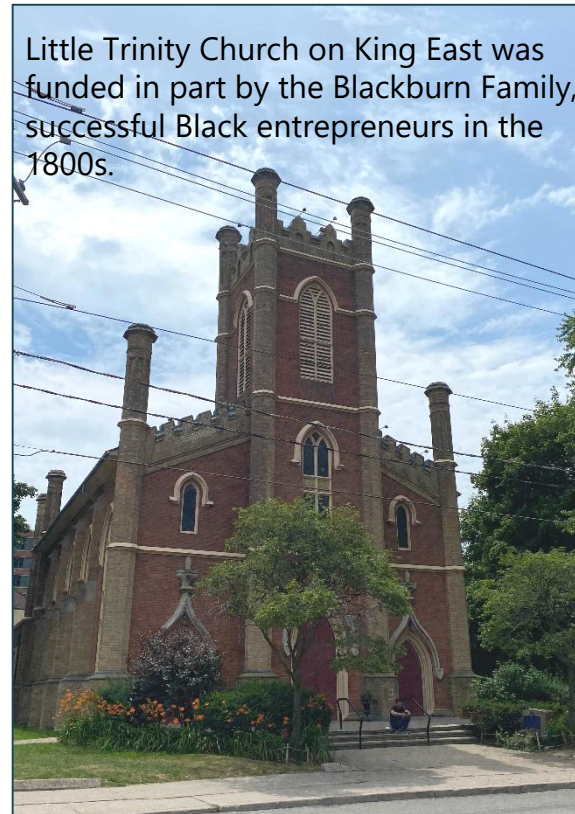
Masjid Omar Bin Al-Khatab on Parliament



Hair Salon & Beauty Supply store on Dundas East



Lucy Grocery & Meat Store on Queen East



Little Trinity Church on King East was funded in part by the Blackburn Family, successful Black entrepreneurs in the 1800s.



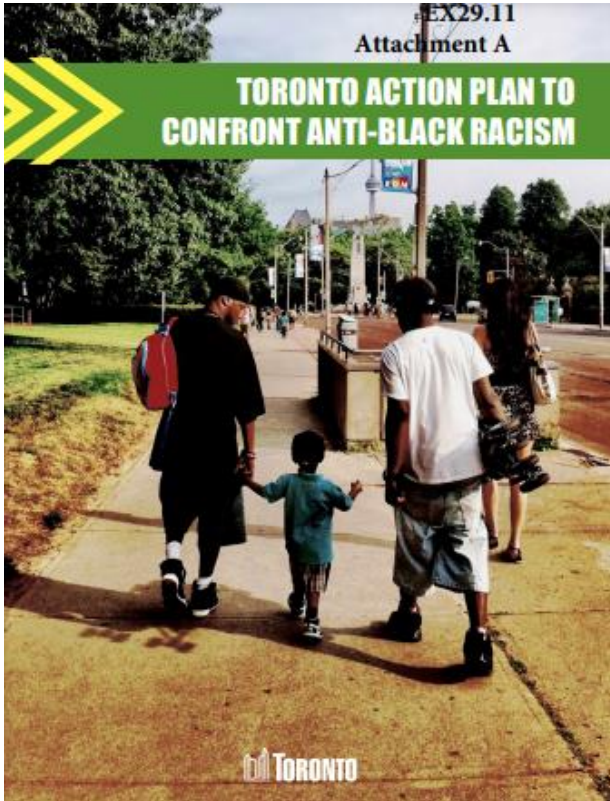
Umi's Kitchen: Halal Caribbean food on Dundas East



Enat Buna Ethiopian Fusion Café on Queen East



# Confronting Anti-Black Racism



As the City grows and changes, Black communities continue to be integral to all that Toronto is.

Through the [Toronto Action Plan to Confront Anti-Black Racism](#), the City is working to help ensure that City services, spaces and policies are fully inclusive and accessible to Black Torontonians.

# Confronting Anti-Black Racism: Placemaking

One priority for the Action Plan to Confront Anti-Black Racism this year is **Recognition and Placemaking**.

*"...prioritize recognizing reimagining and re-investing in neighbourhoods and public spaces to create safe and accessible public and virtual spaces for diverse Black communities. Celebrate and preserve Black culture, assets and heritage to strengthen Black representation and leadership in local decision making, and to foster deeper connections between Black families, children, residents and the places where they live."*

This Black Community Advisory Group will help the project team design two new parks that are safe, accessible and welcoming to the Black community. Parks are important public and community spaces for fun and joy, relaxation, community connection, events, recognition, reflection, and more. Together, we can design a welcoming new community space that will be enjoyed by Torontonians for generations to come.

# Discussion



# Discussion Questions

1. What are your priorities for the new parks?
2. What features would encourage you to spend time in these new parks? **OR**  
What would help make you feel welcome in the new parks?
3. What are features that should be avoided? **OR**  
What would make you feel unwelcome in the new parks?
4. Are there specific features you want in the new park on  
Richmond St East **OR** on King St East?

# Next Steps

# Next Steps

- Members can send additional ideas, comments, or suggestions to [Alex.Lavasidis@toronto.ca](mailto:Alex.Lavasidis@toronto.ca)
- Honourarium will be available for pickup on Thursday July 21 from 4 – 7 p.m. at Rooster House Coffee at King St E and Ontario St
  - You will receive an email with instructions for pickup. Alternate arrangements will be made as required.
- Staff will compile a written summary of the meeting and distribute to members for review.
  - Members will have one week to provide suggested edits to the draft summary, after which the summary will be finalized and published to the project webpage.
- The design teams will consider feedback from the BCAG meeting and other community engagement events to create draft designs for each new park.
  - The draft designs will be presented to the community in the fall for feedback and revision.
- The second BCAG meeting is planned to take place in late September 2022.
  - You will receive an email in September to confirm a meeting date and time.

**Thank you &  
see you in the Fall!**

# Appendix and References

# References

1. City of Toronto. "Luminary: Mary Ann Shadd". City of Toronto. Accessed June 2022. <https://www.toronto.ca/explore-enjoy/history-art-culture/museums/luminary-mary-ann-shadd/>.
2. Brooklyn Museum. "Mary Ann Shadd Cary". Brooklyn Museum. Accessed June 2022. [https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/eascfa/dinner\\_party/heritage\\_floor/mary\\_ann\\_shad\\_cary](https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/eascfa/dinner_party/heritage_floor/mary_ann_shad_cary)
3. Heritage Toronto Plaque. "Mary Ann Shadd Cary". Heritage Toronto. Erected in 2011.
4. Eli Yarhi and Clayton Ma. "Mary Ann Shadd". The Canadian Encyclopedia. Updated October 14, 2022. Accessed June 2022. <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/mary-ann-shadd>
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