

**City of Toronto**

Moss Park park Improvements and John  
Innes Community Recreation Centre  
Replacements

## **Phase 1 Integrated Report: Building a vision**

**DRAFT #1**

March 2023



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# 1.0 About the Project

## Introduction & Overview

The City of Toronto is leading a redesign of Moss Park and replacement of the 70-year-old John Innes Community Recreation Centre. The goal is for these spaces to serve the current and future needs of all of the diverse Moss Park communities, including vulnerable and equity-deserving populations in the area, and support the population growth in the area.

The redesigned Park and Community Recreation Centre will serve as a gathering place for an array of people, communities, and experiences. Through the engagement process we have heard that the project will be a success if the diversity of community members who use the Park and Community Recreation Centre today – as well as future community members – feel interested, welcome, and safe to use these amenities in the future.

Improvements and revitalization of the Park and Community Recreation Centre were first explored in 2015, and this project seeks to build from insights gleaned throughout that process.

## About this report

This document provides an overview of the Project's Phase 2: Exploring Design Options engagement activities to-date and summarizes the key insights that will inform the project and subsequent phases.

Full details on each of the project's Phase 2 engagement activities can be found in the Appendices and online on the project [website](#).

## Project Goals

Replace the John Innes Community Recreation Centre (Community Recreation Centre) with a new building and make extensive improvements to the park informed by the community through a meaningful consultation process. The project also draws from the insights collected during the 2015 More Moss Park project.

### **What will be included:**

#### **John Innes Community Recreation Centre replacement**

- A 25-metre, six-lane lap pool
- A leisure/tot pool
- Community, multi-use spaces
- Double gymnasium with a mezzanine running track
- Fitness studios
- Dance studio
- Common and administrative areas, including a large lobby
- WIFI access throughout
- Universal washrooms and change rooms
- A green roof or rooftop community access (to be determined)
- Service spaces
- Main entrance remaining on Sherbourne
- Current plan for some parking spaces between Community Recreation Centre and the arena

#### **Moss Park park improvements**

- Passive and active recreation amenities including playground, splash pad, community gardens and walking paths, with other features to be determined such as tennis, basketball, etc.
- Safety such as sight lines, lighting and animation to create more eyes on the park
- Flexible, multi-use spaces for different activities
- Consider food security and urban agriculture
- Indigenous place-keeping approach and elements
- Input from local Indigenous communities
- Enhance ecological and social sustainability and resilience of the park
- Broader connectivity to parks and public realm network

# Project Timeline

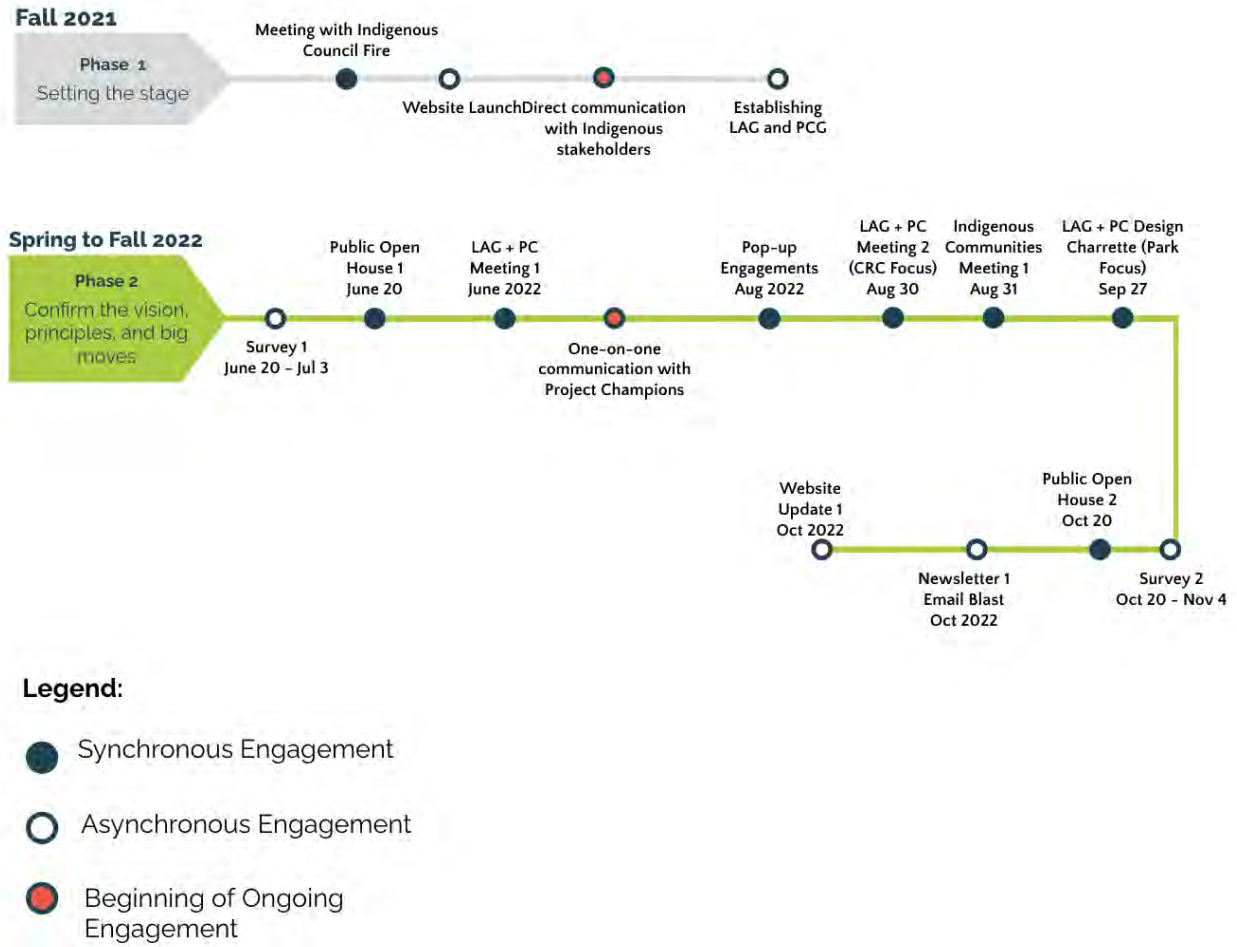


Figure 1: Timeline of engagement activities for Phase 1 and Phase 2

## Project Team

As a City of Toronto asset, the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division of the City of Toronto is overseeing this project, but working closely with the engagement and design teams with a collaborative and equity informed approach.

### **The Project Team includes:**

- City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry & Recreation Division
- SAFFY (Public and Stakeholder Engagement)
- The Planning Partnership (Landscape Architecture)
- Two Row Architect (Landscape Architecture & Indigenous Lens)
- MJMA (Community Recreation Centre Architecture & Design)

## 2.0 Engagement Overview

The goal of this Phase of engagement is to collaborate with residents and stakeholders to confirm an overall vision for the project, including Design Principles and Big Moves, which will guide the redesign of both the park and the Community Recreation Centre.

The project builds on the relevant insights collected through the More Moss Park project (2015) which had a different focus, scope and program and was deemed not feasible. The current project team recognizes that in recent history, the local community has been consulted regarding multiple projects and initiatives in the Downtown East area. For this reason, the engagement plan has been tailored to suit the local community through targeted engagement events and advisory groups made of local residents. The team has made an effort to connect with community groups, service providers and attend events hosted in the neighbourhood, as well as reduce barriers for participation. Participants in the local advisory group have also received honoraria where possible. To be clear and transparent about the project, the City is releasing periodic newsletters, and using social media, to communicate engagement opportunities and outcomes. The overall goal is to provide multiple entry points for the community and create a process that is equity-focused and iterative.



Figure 2: (Left) Photo of a project team member talking to Pop-Up attendees in front of a project information board.



Figure 3: (Left) Photo of a project information board displayed inside the John Innes Community Recreation Centre. .

## Engagement by the numbers

To date, over 300+ people, including the public, key stakeholders, park users and community members have been engaged.

### Local Advisory Group (LAG)

- 18 Members
- 1 Kick-Off Survey
- 2 Meetings

### Project Champions

- 6 Champions
- 1 Kick-Off Survey
- 2 Meetings

### Open House #1

- 30 members of the public
- Virtual meeting

### Public Survey

- 211 respondents
- Online Survey

### Indigenous Communities Meeting #1

- 13 participants
- Virtual meeting

### Youth Workshop (Ages 10-16)

- 15 youth
- In-person meeting

### Park Pop-Ups

- 45 park users and local community members
- 5 Pop-Up events over 5 days



## Engagement Demographics

Engagement seeks to include diverse perspectives representative of the community members and users of the park space and reflective of the demographics of the surrounding neighbourhoods. Though demographic data is not captured at every engagement event, here we outline known and self-identified demographic information collected during the public survey, and applications for the Local Advisory Group and Project Champions.

### Public Survey (211 Respondents)

- **Adults (30-55): 65%**
- **Older Adults (55-74): 21%**
- **Youth and Young Adults (0-29): 11%**
- **Indigenous, Black, People of Colour: 18%**
- **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, or Two Spirit: 37%**
- **English as a preferred language: 94%**

### Local Advisory Group (18 members)

*The Local Advisory Group (LAG) is a group of Torontonians that broadly represents the park and community recreation centre's current and future community: The Local Advisory Group provides a forum for the City to learn about and from a diversity of experiences of the park and neighbourhood, co-create project elements and discuss ideas.*

- **Women: 45%**
- **Adults (25-54): 61%**
- **Older Adults (55 and older): 20%**
- **Youth and Young Adults (0-24): 19%**
- **Indigenous, Black, People of Colour: 45%**

### Project Champions (6 champions)

*Project Champions are "peer-to-peer" researchers that connect community members to the project outside of public meetings and other City-led consultation events.*

- **Black: 20%**
- **Indigenous: 20%**
- **People of Colour: 20%**
- **White: 20%**
- **Age 0-19: 20%**
- **Age 19-29: 10%**
- **Age 30-39: 10%**
- **Age 40-55: 10%**
- **Age 56-64: 10%**

## 3.0 What We Learned

Key insights from the engagement to-date will inform the project and support the City project team and designers as the design of the Community Recreation Centre and park progresses. Community members will continue to be informed in subsequent phases of design.

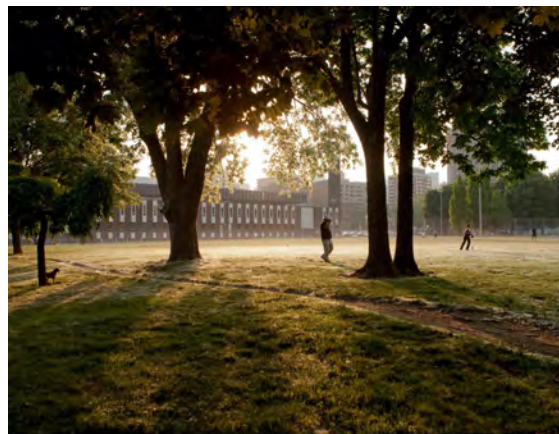
In this section we outline five (5) *Key Insights* for the Moss Park park improvements, and five (5) key insights for the John Innes Community Recreation Centre replacement. These *Key Insights* are drawn from the analysis of all consultation and engagement data gathered throughout Phase 2 activities. In the section titled **Big Moves** and **Design Principles**, we outline how the Phase 2 engagement data analysis has helped to refine and shape the project's Big Moves and Design Principles.

**For full detail about each Phase 2 engagement activity, and the specific stakeholder and public feedback collected in Phase 2, please see the Phase 2 engagement activities summaries in [Appendices](#).**

### Key Insights - Moss Park park improvements

Insight 1: The built environment and programming can increase safety. Safety has been a recurring theme throughout engagement, raised by many community members, staff and the public. Diverse communities experience and identify safety in different ways, which requires a thoughtful and considered design approach. Some groups, for example, have identified that too much surveillance could hinder their feelings of safety, particularly for racialized people or people experiencing homelessness.

Physical features such as fencing, lighting, emergency buttons have been broadly identified as tools and approaches that can help ensure safety of park users. Most participants agree that Moss Park needs to have more “eyes on the park” and be designed in a way that facilitates this outcome such as playground amenities, evening sports, dog-off leash, dedicated BBQ space, and universal games tables. Increased “eyes on the park” encourages design and programming considerations to activate space in ways that increase public presence and collective, collaborative building of safe and inclusive spaces.



*Figure 4: Photo of Moss Park*

***Insight 2: Keeping the Community Recreation Centre accessible by keeping it free of charge***

Many participants identified that there are few spaces that are free of charge in the city, in that, financial barriers impact accessibility. Accessibility has been highlighted as an important principle in the Moss Park redevelopment, and preserving this principle when it comes to financial accessibility for those from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds, including those experiencing homelessness, is important to the health of the park and Community Recreation Centre and overall success of this project. Displacement and the interruption of unhoused community daily activities has also been identified as a concern, and consideration for how to address this interruption during the construction period will be important.

***Insight 3: Honour the Indigenous history of the site***

Indigenous inclusion and representation on the site has been deemed important, with recommendations and ideas such as incorporating Indigenous art into the design. It will be important to continue to work with Indigenous communities and local indigenous residents to develop placekeeping elements in a meaningful way.

***Insight 4: Food Security is important***

Access to food is a high priority for many communities in and around Moss Park. Community gardens, food forests, diverse opportunities to grow food – and the amenities to support these activities like places to cook and eat in the park and community recreation centre – were identified as very important by people in the community.

***Insight 5: Environmental Sustainability***

Participants identified that efforts towards environmental protection, waste reduction and prioritizing green spaces in Moss Park should be increased. They also expressed that natural materials should be used to build the park and that the park should integrate technology that supports clean energy (i.e., charging stations for phones and ebikes). Many indicated that Park improvements should protect and enhance the tree canopy throughout the park and site, and there was a general appreciation for thoughtful and environmentally sustainable materials and design choices.

## **Key Insights - John Innes Community Recreation Centre Replacement**

***Insight 1 - Programming needs should reflect community needs***

The Community Recreation Centre offers a variety of spaces and specialized programming, and there is a desire to see culturally specific programming and programming that better reflects the neighbourhood's demographics. The community kitchen, youth lounge and woodshop, specifically food and art programming, were seen as key opportunities to incorporate culturally specific programming.

Participants also indicated a desire to see Indigenous-centred programming, gatherings and spaces for ceremony that are stewarded by Indigenous-led services and organizations. There was a call for improved access to popular programs at the existing centre to accommodate a larger number of users. These popular programs include: indoor badminton and soccer,

basketball, woodworking, group fitness, weight conditioning, cooking, seniors programming, aqua fitness, and lane swim

### ***Insight 2 - Improve user experience***

Engagement revealed the need to create a user-friendly online platform that allows community members to manage bookings for multi-purpose community spaces on their own. We also heard that there was a desire for programming that ran later into the evening—particularly youth programming.. Additional suggestions included hiring Indigenous staff and stewards in the park and community centre to ensure cultural competency in recreation programs and service delivery.

### ***Insight 3 - Open to all ages, genders, and abilities***

We learned that community spaces and programs should accommodate people with different mobility needs and be accessible to people of all ages and genders. Spaces such as the fitness rooms, woodshop, aquatics centre and youth lounge should have dedicated programming and times for specific demographic groups including women, 2SLGBTQ+ and people with disabilities.

### ***Insight 4 - Ensure Proper Ventilation, Public Hygiene and Safety***

Materials that prioritize and facilitate cleanliness were highlighted as a consideration. Common areas such as washrooms, change rooms and seating areas have materials that are easy to clean and maintain so that they last a long time and are safe to use. The community indicated that the design should include windows that are able to be opened to the outside to ensure cross ventilation and alternative access to air. Participants want to ensure the recreation centre has adequate reception areas and sightlines to ensure proactive and passive monitoring for the facility by staff and visitors.

### ***Insight 5 - Create Artful, Flexible, Multi-purpose spaces***

Through engagement we heard that all spaces should be flexible to accommodate a wide range of uses. For example, the youth lounge could be a computer space, co-working space or a prayer space. Participants highlighted that the design should incorporate sufficient storage space throughout the recreation centre for programs and safekeeping personal belongings such as backpacks and bikes. They also shared that they would like to see the rooftop be animated with a community garden or greenhouse that could have a link to the food programming in the community kitchen and cooking classes. There was a desire to see common areas that are cohesive and connected, and suggestions that artworks and installations could help bridge and connect these spaces. Additionally, there is a desire for a legacy space within the Community Recreation Centre to incorporate Indigenous history and art.

## **Big Moves**

The project team developed a set of thirteen (13) initial Big Moves to drive the project. These initial Big Moves were developed based on data gathered through the More Moss Park process

(2015) as well as from insights from staff and pre-engagement interviews with the local community. Through Phase 2, these initial Big Moves were put out to the community to be refined and further developed.

**BIG MOVE 1:** Maintain a large area of open parkland with frontages onto Queen and Shuter by building the new Community Recreation Centre along Sherbourne St., over the existing footprint.

**BIG MOVE 2:** Establish a strong and cohesive design language between the Community Recreation Centre and the Arena buildings as well as the public realm.

**BIG MOVE 3:** Optimize opportunities for rooftop access to the new Community Recreation Centre.

**BIG MOVE 4:** Incorporate spaces for prayer and ceremony in flexible spaces.

**BIG MOVE 5:** Ensure washroom access from the outside of the building.

**BIG MOVE 6:** *Create pedestrian connectivity to the park, arena and the Community Recreation Centre from the new Moss Park station in anticipation of a large volume of new users.*

**BIG MOVE 7:** Work with local indigenous partners and first nations to ensure that indigenous placekeeping, knowledge, ways of knowing are reflected in the process and design, park improvements and Community Recreation Centre redevelopment.

**BIG MOVE 8:** Establish a renewed urban canopy and *increase the number of trees on Queen Street to match the Shuter edge. Wood from trees removed during construction will be used in the project in various ways.*

**BIG MOVE 9:** Maintain and enhance key pedestrian pathways and access points into the park with lighting and sightlines.

**BIG MOVE 10:** Maintain and enhance existing permeable park edges and protect the existing urban canopy along Shuter Street.

**BIG MOVE 11:** Maintain the strong Sherbourne St. urban built edge and enhance the relationship between the Community Recreation Centre /Arena/Park and Metrolinx Station with improved visual and physical connectivity and accessibility.

**BIG MOVE 12:** Remove the baseball diamond to accommodate a wider range of park uses.

**BIG MOVE 13:** Add a fenced, dedicated dogs off leash area to the park to support the growing number of residents with dogs in the intensifying neighbourhood, and to protect other park amenities and park users from conflict with dogs.

## Design Principles

Like the Big Moves that describe priority actions that the City intends to take, the Project Team developed *Design Principles that serve* as guidance to steer the vision of the project. The following Design Principles were presented to stakeholders and the public throughout Phase 2 activities. There have been no required changes to the Design Principles.

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 1:** Ensure the design of the Community Recreation Centre and park supports equity, belonging and inclusion.

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 2:** Ensure the Community Recreation Centre and Park are accessible to all.

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 3:** Create a space that makes safety for all users a priority.

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 4:** Design an open, permeable, and transparent environment.

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 5:** Maximize, enhance, and improve green spaces.

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 6:** Celebrate and share information about the Indigenous history and character of Moss Park.

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 7:** Contribute to food security.

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 8:** Be sustainable and carbon neutral.

# 4.0 Next Steps

## **Current anticipated next steps:**

The project team will use what was learned in Phase 2 to start developing ideas for park amenities and concepts for the new Community Recreation Centre. The team will review ideas through design options presented to the community and revise ideas based on feedback.

## **Winter 2023**

### **Phase 2 - Exploring Design Options**

The City will present the preferred designs for both Moss Park Park and John Innes Community Recreation Centre, for further refinement through community engagement.

## **Spring 2023**

### **Phase 3 - Setting the direction**

Refine the concept plans for the Park and John Innes Community Recreation Centre based on feedback and present the preferred concept to the community. Review ideas with the community and revise plans and designs based on feedback

## **Spring 2024**

Hire a construction team for the Community Recreation Centre

## **Spring 2024 - Fall 2027**

Community Recreation Centre construction

## **Spring 2027 - Fall 2029**

Park improvement construction

These next steps are subject to change and are separate from the Metrolinx Ontario Line Moss Park station and subway line construction scheduled to happen from 2023-2030. .

The project has faced some minor delays. In the fall of 2021, the project was paused while the local ward Councillor, City staff and Metrolinx worked to resolve technical issues in relation to the construction of the new Ontario Line station.

**For more information on how to get involved and to sign up for updates visit the project [website](#) and sign up for our [newsletter](#).**

# Appendices

Links to the summary reports are included below and embedded in the following pages.

**Appendix A: Indigenous Communities Meeting** 17

[Link to Indigenous Communities meeting report #1 on project website](#)

[Link to Indigenous Communities meeting report 2 on project website](#)

**Appendix B: Local Advisory Group and Project Champion Meetings** 18

[Link to LAG/PCG Meeting #1 report on the project website](#)

[Link to LAG/PCG Meeting #2 report on the project website](#)

**Appendix C: Open House #1 and Public Survey #1 Summary Report** 19

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**Appendix F: Survey #2 Summary Report** 22

[Link to report on the project website](#)



# Appendix A: Indigenous Communities Meeting

# Moss Park Improvements & John Innes Community Recreation Centre Replacement Project

## WHAT WE HEARD REPORT: Indigenous Communities' Meeting #1

August 31, 2022



# 1.0 About this Report

This report summarizes key findings, insights and input collected from the Moss Park Improvements & John Innes Community Recreation Centre Replacement Project's first meeting held with Indigenous Communities.

## 1.1 Project Schedule

Summer 2022 - Phase 1: SET THE STAGE

Introduce the project, explain the process, and lay the project groundwork.

### **WE ARE HERE**

**Summer 2022 – Fall 2022 Phase 2: CONFIRM THE VISION, PRINCIPLES, BIG MOVES**

Introduce the project, revisit More Moss Park findings, and explore how things have changed since 2015. Better understand evolving local issues and how the project can best support local needs. Confirm the Principles and Big Moves of the project.

Fall 2022 to Spring 2023: Phase 3 - CONCEPT DESIGN OPTIONS

Use what we learn in Phase 2 to start developing ideas for park amenities and concepts for the new Community Recreation Centre. Review ideas through design options presented to the community and revise ideas based on feedback.

Spring 2023: Phase 4 - PREFERRED CONCEPT

Refine the concept plans for the park and John Innes CRC based on feedback and present the preferred concept to the community. Review ideas with the community and revise plans and designs based on feedback.

## 1.2 Indigenous Communities' Engagement Timeline

Engagement with Indigenous Communities' will include ongoing direct communication with local Indigenous organizations and individuals at each phase of the project. The following are scheduled engagement activities with the Indigenous Communities:

- **Connect with Council Fire - Spring 2021 (COMPLETE)**
- **Indigenous Communities Meeting #1 (COMPLETE)**
- Indigenous Communities Meeting #2
- Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council Meeting
- Indigenous Communities Meeting #3

## 1.3 Meeting Overview

WHEN:	August 31, 2022, at 4:00 PM to 5:45 PM
WHERE:	Virtually on Zoom
ATTENDEES:	13 Participants
PROJECT TEAM:	City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry & Recreation Division PROCESS (Public and Stakeholder Engagement) The Planning Partnership (Landscape Architecture) Two Row Architect (Landscape Architecture & Indigenous Lens) MJMA (CRC Architecture & Design)

The virtual meeting took place over Zoom, with a total of 13 participants. The meeting began with a welcome and Land Acknowledgement. The project team went over the goals for the meeting which included the following:

1. Provide an update on Moss Park Improvements & John Innes Community Recreation Centre Replacement project
2. Provide some background and context for the project
3. Present Park design work
4. Present Community Recreation Centre design work
5. Have a group discussion

The group discussion was facilitated by Trina Moyan, Indigenous Engagement Lead for the project. The discussion was open-ended so participants could comment on all aspects of the project goals and components. The discussion was guided by a general set of questions:

- How can the future Moss Park and John Innes Community Recreation Centre better serve Indigenous communities? What is important to include in the park to reflect Indigenous Placekeeping?
- What is important for the project team to consider when designing the future of these community spaces
- What features, programs or amenities in the park would help you and your community feel welcome?
- What values and approaches to the park improvements design and operation are important to you?
- Are you interested in stewardship opportunities? What would that involve?

## 2.0 What We Heard

### 2.1 Summary of Key Findings

The following section is a summary of key considerations for the future John Innes Community Recreation Centre and Moss Park improvements shared during the meeting. Overall, participants wanted to ensure ongoing involvement with the park improvements and Community Recreation Centre redevelopment. As summarized below, participants reflected on:

- **Opportunities for Indigenous Placekeeping**
- **Features, Programs or Amenities**
- **Values and Approaches**
- **Design Considerations**

#### **Opportunities for Indigenous Placekeeping**

Participants shared that there is a need for clear, open, and visible invitations to enter the new CRC and improved park. For participants, this could look like incorporating Indigenous art into the design of fencing or having seating areas for park users to listen and share. For the playground area, it was suggested to have simple Indigenous words that children can learn in hopscotch squares or along the ground or walls. They also felt that the basketball court would be a good spot for Indigenous art. Creating a legacy space within the Community Recreation Centre, in areas such as a study room was also suggested - the Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund was suggested as an organization that could facilitate this component. One participant asked about what the City's definition of Indigenous Placekeeping Included and they were directed to page 44 of the [2022-2032 Reconciliation Action Plan](#).

#### **Features, Programs, or Amenities**

When reflecting on features, programs and amenities that would make Indigenous communities feel welcome, participants shared that it would be meaningful to have spaces for ceremony and healing. Regarding stewardship, participants felt that it would be appropriate for the City to partner with Indigenous-led and Indigenous-serving organizations to support the operations of amenities and programs in the park and in the community recreation centre.

#### *Spaces for Ceremony*

Participants inquired about the possibilities to have smudging ceremonies inside the facility and on the proposed green roof. City staff referred to the presentation which showed where a proposed smudging room would be in the community centre. Staff also mentioned that there would be seasonal access to the green roof to hold smudging ceremonies as well.

While participants acknowledged that there were several sacred fire locations identified in adjacent communities, they shared that the ability to have Sacred Fires in Moss Park was important. City staff shared that a draft plan for sacred fire locations in downtown parks which is being led by the Indigenous Affairs Office (IAO) has identified Allan Gardens and Regent Park but not Moss Park for sacred fires, based on engagement with Indigenous communities. However the conversation about sacred fire locations is still open and feedback from this

meeting will be shared with IAO staff. Staff also confirmed that while the City is in the process of decolonizing permits, a permit is not currently needed for a sacred fire to be hosted. Sharing an example from Eglinton Park, one participant felt that having a medicine garden space that is gated would also be culturally responsive. They suggested that the garden be gated to discourage inappropriate conduct in the garden by members of the public.

Many participants mentioned that having a permanent sweat lodge would be important. They felt that the sweat lodge should be permanent and be kept in a secluded area such as the rooftop. Having the sweat lodge in an area that is away from high traffic areas in the park or community recreation centre could protect it from vandalism. Members of the project team noted that a sweat lodge will be included in the new Anishnawbe Health location – it is important to note that this is not a public/City run space. Participants mentioned that a sweat lodge was planned for Allan Gardens, however staff were able to confirm that a sweat lodge is not currently being planned for Allan Gardens. Furthermore, Matthew Hickey of Two Row Architects, advised that the rooftop is not suitable for a sweat lodge as sweat lodges need to be on the ground, very secure and private.

### *Programming*

Participants proposed that there be times dedicated for Indigenous-only programs such as youth fitness in the John Innes CRC fitness area. They suggested the creation of a hub or a room such as an Eshkiniigjik Naandwechigegamig (ENAGB) for Indigenous programming and gatherings. City staff that were present confirmed that programming that is currently running at the CRC will continue in the new space and that another consultation will be held closer to the end of construction to learn how local organizations would like to use the space.

### *Accessibility and Inclusion*

Participants wanted to ensure that the park was accessible to all. While there was mention of the need to accommodate different modes of transportation including wheelchairs and skateboards, participants were focused on ensuring that existing park users, specifically those who reside in the park or in nearby shelters that use the park during the day, would access the park in the future. Citing the growing number of tents in Allan Gardens in recent months, one participant asked how many people are currently residing in Moss Park. City staff confirmed that there are no encampments in the park at present. Staff explained that the park will not be designed for people to live in the park because overnight stays are not allowed by City by-laws. They also shared with participants that there will be social elements in the park design for use by all park visitors that will help as many people as possible are comfortable accessing the park. The features being considered include drinking water, misting stations during hot weather, hand-warming stations, washrooms accessible from the park, and showers as a recreation feature that can be used by everyone. Participants agreed that these elements will ensure that the park is inclusive and supports the needs of a range of park and community centre users.

## **Values and Approaches**

### *Approach to Engagement*

Participants shared that it was important to ensure that the Indigenous communities' needs are included within the plan and that this was a signifier that the Reconciliation Action Plan is being meaningfully implemented throughout this process. One participant asked about how the

Indigenous community has been engaged in the design of the recreation centre to date. It was explained by a member of the project team that we are currently in the early stages of the process.

Overall, participants felt that the future park should incorporate features and programs that are trauma-informed, culturally responsive, and practical. For participants this would include incorporating a sweat lodge which would bring healing, identifying job opportunities that are associated with the park improvement and community centre renovation, and helping to mitigate the disruption to current park users by construction. They also felt that the programs and services should be free and accessible to youth.

### *Employment Opportunities*

Regarding employment opportunities, participants felt that this could be approached by identifying opportunities throughout the duration of the project life cycle and beyond that Indigenous people can participate in. Participants described that during the construction phase, opportunities for hiring Indigenous-led contractors or establishing local hiring initiatives with hiring targets would be beneficial (such as a Community Benefits Agreement). This was described as a poverty reduction measure that could help develop sustainable careers for community members over the long term.

In the operation stage, participants shared that it would be important that the City of Toronto hire Indigenous staff and stewards in the park and community centre. It was felt that City staff often have a lack of cultural competency which makes it challenging for Indigenous people to navigate booking systems, for example. For participants, it would be easier to explain why they would like to hold cultural events such as a sacred fire to another Indigenous person. However, they felt that all City staff should be able to support Indigenous community members who need to navigate City procedures and systems.

City staff confirmed that they are working on implementing directives to increase recruitment of Indigenous people and that they are also reviewing the hiring practices for Indigenous communities. They also highlighted several initiatives that are currently underway: hiring for Parks, Forestry and Recreation Policy Development Officer (Indigenous Placekeeping Framework), Parks Program Officer (horticulture and Greenhouse Operations), and mandatory Indigenous competency training for City staff.

### *Safety Considerations*

Upon reviewing what the project team has learned in earlier stages of the Park Improvements and Community Recreation Centre consultations, participants were concerned with how safety concerns were framed around issues with people experiencing homelessness. They brought up the intersection between homelessness and Indigeneity and shared that one of the biggest challenges that Indigenous communities have in the park is navigating stigmas and stereotypes associated with Indigenous populations which make the park unsafe for them. Participants felt that there needed to be further acknowledgement that people experiencing homelessness are vulnerable. The incorporation of spaces for healing such as a sweat lodge as well as social support services including employment connections were seen as ways to support this user group.

## **Design Considerations**

### *Green Roof*

Participants liked the idea of having a green roof on the Community Recreation Centre and saw it as an essential element of the design. They also saw the opportunity to use the green roof as a training space for those interested in low carbon construction job opportunities.

### *Natural Heritage*

Participants expressed concerns about the number of trees that were removed during the Metrolinx construction project. They inquired about the potential to have a tree removal ceremony with Indigenous people. The tree removal ceremony would memorialize and respect the life of the trees that will be lost during construction. City staff shared that they would reach out to the Metrolinx Liaison to initiate a conversation about hosting a tree removal ceremony.



# **Moss Park Park Improvements & John Innes Community Recreation Centre Replacement Project**

WHAT WE HEARD REPORT:

Indigenous Communities' Meeting #2

December 12, 2022



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# 1.0 About this Report

This report summarizes key findings, insights and input collected from the Moss Park park Improvements & John Innes Community Recreation Centre Replacement Project's second meeting held with Indigenous Communities.

The primary focus of the meeting was centered around the direction for the public artwork, a component which emerged from the first Indigenous workshop. Indigenous community members provided feedback and input on the designs and considerations related to the two public art projects planned for the project. In addition to the public art component, latest updates on the Community Recreation Centre design were also shared.

## 1.1 Project Schedule

Summer 2022 - Phase 1: SET THE STAGE

Introduce the project, explain the process, and lay the project groundwork.

Summer 2022 – Fall 2022 Phase 2: CONFIRM THE VISION, PRINCIPLES, BIG MOVES

Introduce the project, revisit More Moss Park findings, and explore how things have changed since 2015. Better understand evolving local issues and how the project can best support local needs. Confirm the Principles and Big Moves of the project.

### **WE ARE HERE**

**Fall 2022 to Spring 2023: Phase 3 - CONCEPT DESIGN OPTIONS**

Use what we learn in Phase 2 to start developing ideas for park amenities and concepts for the new Community Recreation Centre. Review ideas through design options presented to the community and revise ideas based on feedback.

Spring 2023: Phase 4 - PREFERRED CONCEPT

Refine the concept plans for the park and John Innes Community Recreation Centre based on feedback and present the preferred concept to the community. Review ideas with the community and revise plans and designs based on feedback.

## 1.2 Indigenous Communities' Engagement Timeline

Engagement with Indigenous Communities will include ongoing direct communication with local Indigenous organizations and individuals at each phase of the project. The following are scheduled engagement activities with the Indigenous Communities:

- Connect with Council Fire - June 10th, 2021 (COMPLETE)
- Indigenous Communities Meeting #1 - August 31st, 2021 (COMPLETE)
- Indigenous Communities Meeting #2 - December 12, 2022 (**We Are Here**)

- Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council Meeting - Fall/Winter 2023
- Indigenous Communities Meeting #3 - Winter/Spring 2023

# 1.3 Meeting Overview

WHEN: December 12, 2022, at 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
WHERE: Virtually on WebEx  
ATTENDEES: 12 Participants  
PROJECT TEAM: City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry & Recreation Division  
PROCESS (Public and Stakeholder Engagement)  
The Planning Partnership (Landscape Architecture)  
Two Row Architect (Landscape Architecture & Indigenous Lens)  
MJMA (CRC Architecture & Design)

The virtual meeting took place over WebEx, with a total of 12 participants. The meeting began with a welcome and Land Acknowledgement. The Project Team presented an overview of the project (**see Appendix A for the presentation slide deck**), including the following:

1. project overview, background and engagement timeline to-date
2. what was heard in the previous engagements
3. update on the designs for the John Innes Community Recreation Centre Replacement project
4. Introduce the public art component of the project

## 2.0 What We Heard

### 2.1 Summary of Key Findings

A group discussion was facilitated by Trina Moyan, Indigenous Engagement Lead for the project. The discussion was open-ended with a primary focus on gathering community members' feedback on the vision for the public art component and the Community Recreation Centre design.

In the meeting we heard the importance of creating a welcoming space and areas for healing, recreation and ceremony, and an interest in the incorporation of youth mentorship, supporting local Indigenous artists and the importance of language and Placekeeping in guiding the direction of the artwork.

**Below we elaborate further on the key takeaways:**

#### **Maintaining a welcoming space**

##### *Design should be beautiful but still welcoming*

When providing feedback on the updated designs a number of participants shared that, even though the latest renderings of the Community Recreation Centre are visually appealing they wanted to ensure the building would still feel welcoming and meet the needs of Moss Park's unhoused people.

*Participants want the space to continue to support unhoused people.*

A participant expressed that there are a lot of Indigenous people that are unhoused, and asked the Project Team how the new Community Recreation Centre was going to support the unhoused Indigenous people of Moss Park.

City staff responded that there are programs currently running for unhoused people at the Community Recreation Centre, including access to showers and 1-on-1 supports. In the spring, Community Recreation Centre staff plan to bring back outdoor park activities in areas of the park that are not closed for the Metrolinx subway construction. A floor plan was shared showing the new accessible washroom locations with entry doors facing the park. The new Community Recreation Centre will include a Shelter, Support & Housing Administration office. Participants were reminded that another consultation will be held closer to the end of construction to discuss programming and space use in greater detail.

## Recommendations for the public art component

### *Investing in local artists and youth*

The City has selected an Indigenous curator to lead the public art component of the project, participants were excited about the impact the Indigenous lead public artwork will have in making the Community Centre an Indigenous space. **Participants also noted that** there are talented youth in the community and suggested including youth more intentionally in the submission process. Many participants agreed with the idea of incorporating youth mentorship and including local Indigenous artists. Specific suggestions included having one of the two artworks be youth-lead, and having a mural designed by a youth incorporated in the youth space. **City staff replied** that it is a common practice amongst professional public artists to incorporate workshops where youth and local community are engaged through and mentorship in their art plan. In regards to the nomination of local Indigenous artists, the City staff replied that there is flexibility in adjusting the nomination pool criteria.

### *Direction of the artwork*

Discussion highlighted the importance of community building, intergenerational exchange and importance of language for the art project. Participants asked how unhoused people could be included. City staff responded that the art project can provide an opportunity to engage unhoused people. Native Arts Society was suggested as a possible organization to collaborate with because they are currently connected to supporting unhoused artists local to Moss Park.

**Participants also discussed** how language and placekeeping can be incorporated in the final artwork. Ideas shared included incorporating words in Indigenous languages such as Ojibwe and Mohawk, a statue of a native activist, representation of the four directions, four colours and four medicines, and depictions of Anishinaabe history. In relation to language, one participant raised the question around the possibility of renaming or having a secondary name for John Innes Community Recreation Center itself.

**City staff shared** that the City has just approved a renaming policy and provided an overview of what a renaming process would entail. The participants were directed to the updated [The City of Toronto - Property Naming Policy](#) and assured participants that the idea of renaming the Community Recreation Centre can be discussed later in the engagement process.

## **A place for healing, recreation and ceremony**

Participants identified their preferences for the Community Recreation Centre to be focused around uses related to healing, ceremony and recreation. Participants revisited the idea of including a sweat lodge, which was discussed in the first Indigenous Communities' meeting.

City staff referred back to advice provided by Matthew Hickey from Two Row Architect, who is on the design team, and had shared with participants that a sweat lodge was not advised for the rooftop because it is based in the earth, and that it would not be suitable in the park because it requires a secure, dedicated, private space which the park cannot provide.

Participants also returned to the idea of having a designated sacred fire location within Moss Park. City staff explained that the Indigenous Affairs Office (IAO) at the City of Toronto has done extensive consultation with Indigenous communities that lead to the designation of Allan Gardens and Regent Park as sacred fire sites. While Allan Gardens and Regent Park are designated sacred fire locations, City staff reminded participants that permits are not needed for sacred fires, and assured that sacred fires can still happen at Moss Park. City staff further acknowledged that they have heard Moss Park can be a good location for sacred fires and will continue to take this idea into consideration as they begin the park design, which will be presented in the new year. Further discussion of a sacred fire will be part of the upcoming Park design process and discussed with participants in the next phase of meetings.

A number of participants also expressed interest in using the Community Recreation Centre for PowWows, smudging and ceremonies.

A member of the project team confirmed that with the new heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) designs, smudging ceremonies would be able to happen anywhere in the Community Recreation Centre. The project team referred to the floor plan to illustrate that the multipurpose rooms, double gym and terrace are spaces that can be used for Indigenous programming, large gatherings and ceremonies. The rooms would be available to book on a program-to-program basis, and have unique design features which connect to the outdoors.

One participant shared that they would also like to see recreational facilities such as billiards and ping pong tables. City staff responded that with the large lobby and rooftop, game tables can be incorporated both outside and inside to accommodate those activities.



# Appendix A

## Project Presentation

### Moss Park Park Improvements & John Innes Community Recreation Centre Replacement

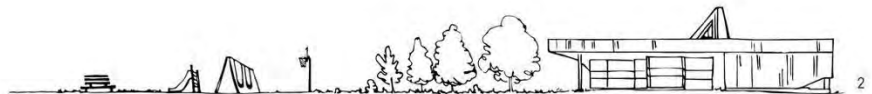
Indigenous Communities' Meeting #2

December 12, 2022  
5:00 – 7:00 PM



### Land Acknowledgement

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.



## Community Guidelines

### As a meeting participant, you agree to:

- Be an active listener and keep an open mind by valuing a diversity of views and opinions.
- Treat all participants with kindness and respect.
- Critique ideas, not individuals.
- Avoid cursing as well as language or behaviours that could otherwise be considered rude or offensive.
- Abide by the City's Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination policy by refraining from making racist, xenophobic, misogynist, homophobic, transphobic, anti-Indigenous, ableist, ageist, or other forms of discriminatory, prejudicial, exclusionary or hateful comments and questions. These will not be tolerated and may result in expulsion from the meeting and/or process.

### As City staff & process stewards, we commit to:

- Providing fair and equal access to the public engagement process to all who are interested in participating.
- Maintaining an atmosphere that is respectful of all participants and other staff members.
- Ensuring that that project outcomes and/or staff recommendations are informed by participants' concerns, interests, and desires.
- Being advocates for the integrity of the public process and ensuring it reflects as much as possible directions contained in relevant Council-approved strategies, including but not limited to the Reconciliation Action Plan, the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Action Plan, the Seniors Strategy, ChildFriendlyTO, and the Newcomer Strategy.
- Undertaking and encouraging actions by other City staff that build trust and credibility for the process among all participants.
- Providing the information participants need to meaningfully participate.



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## Tree Ceremony

Emerging directly from the conversation had during the the Indigenous Communities Meeting #1, join us as we honour the lives of these trees and set intentions for the future of these community spaces. The ceremony will be lead by Nehiyawak Elder Pauline Shirt who is greatly recognized for her commitment to the Toronto Indigenous community and for her dedication as a teacher and lecturer since the late sixties.



Location: Southern edge of Moss Park, along Queen St. E

Lead by Elder Grandma Pauline Shirt

Date: Thursday December 15, 2022

Time: 12:00PM - 1:00 PM

Location: Southern edge of Moss Park (along Queen St. E.)

Accessibility: The ceremony will take place on the grass. If you have any accommodation requests please let us know by replying all to this message.

RSVP: RSVP to Pablo at [pablo.munoz@toronto.ca](mailto:pablo.munoz@toronto.ca) or Trina at [trina@weareprocess.ca](mailto:trina@weareprocess.ca) While RSVP is not required it would help us be prepare.

The ceremony will include light refreshments, coffee and tea



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## Agenda



### PRESENTATION:

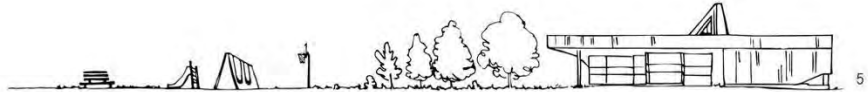
- Community Recreation Centre design updates
- Project Overview & Background
- What We Heard to date
- Public Art Competition



**Let's Talk:** *feedback on design update, what we heard, and public art competition*

thank  
you!

**Next Steps + Adjourn**



## Goals for this Meeting



1. Feedback on design presented and what is missing
2. Feedback in response to What We Heard
3. Feedback on what you wish to see reflected in the public art competition



## Project Team



**Daniel Fusca**, Manager, Public Consultation, Parks, Forestry & Recreation

**Pablo Muñoz**, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator, Parks, Forestry & Recreation

**Suzanne Cooke-Wooland**, CP Capital Lead, Parks, Forestry & Recreation

**Nancy Chater**, CP Capital Lead, Parks, Forestry & Recreation



**Nadia Galati**, Principal and Engagement Lead

**Trina Moyan**, Indigenous Engagement Lead

**Jo Delos Reyes**, Planner + Strategist



**David Leinster**, Principal, Landscape Architecture

**Jennifer Williamson**, Project Manager, Landscape Architecture



**Brian Porter**, Principal

**Matthew Hickey**, Partner



**Chris Burbidge**, Principal in Charge

**Krista Clark**, Project Manager

**Viktors Jaunkalns**, Design Lead



# John Innes Community Recreation Centre Replacement



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# BUILDING LOCATION

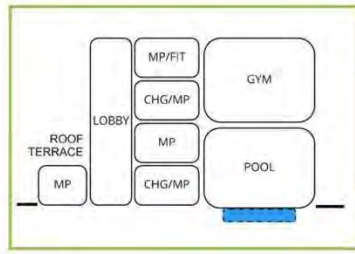
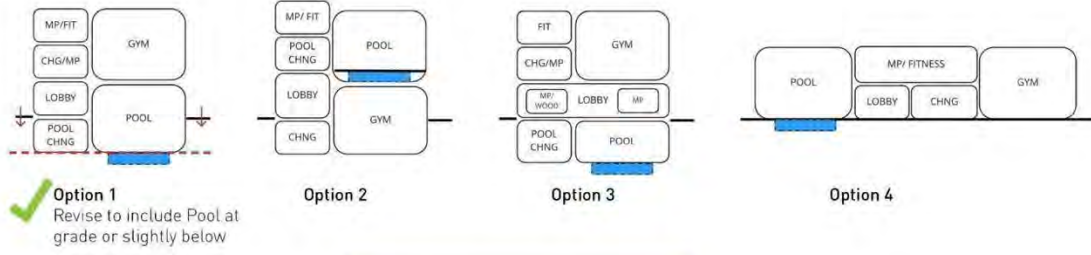


# SCHEMATIC SITE PLAN

\*THE PARK LANDSCAPE SHOWN IS CONCEPTUAL & NOT FINAL

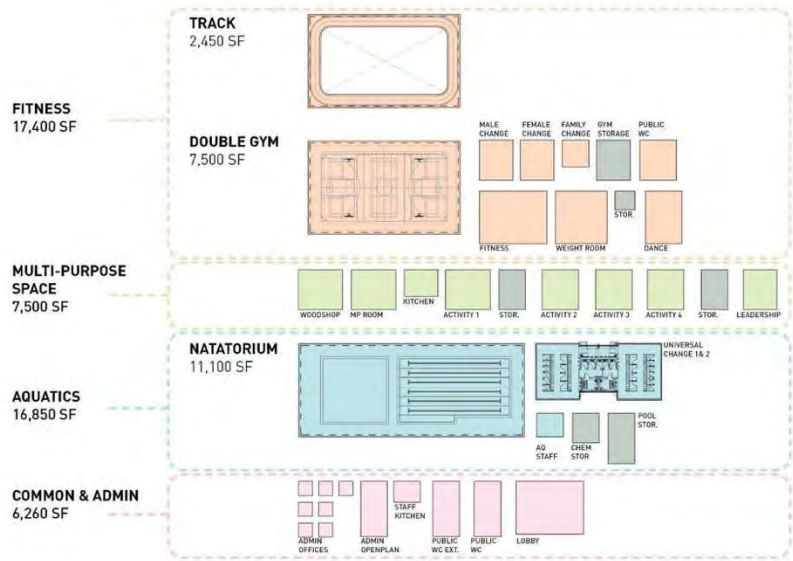


# STACKED PROGRAM



✓ **Option 1**  
 Revised Pool & Multi-Purpose at Grade

# WHAT'S INCLUDED



## FITNESS & FLEXIBLE PROGRAMMING



**WEIGHT ROOM**  
StarTech.Com Community Centre



**CARDIO AREA**  
StarTech.Com Community Centre



**OPEN GYM**  
Churchill Meadows



**MEDICINE GARDEN**  
Centre for Native Child & Family Well Being, FORREC & LDA Architectural Partners



**INDOOR GATHERING**  
Red Dress Pow Wow, Reno Nevada



**OUTDOOR CEREMONY**  
Smudge Ceremony, Takakiraha Conference, Fargo, ND

## MULTIPURPOSE ROOM PROGRAMMING



**COMMUNITY KITCHEN**  
StarTech.Com Community Centre



**DRUM CIRCLE**  
University of Manitoba



**OUTDOOR CONNECTION**  
Algonquin College Institute for Indigenous Entrepreneurship, Brook McIlroy



**SMUDGE & SHARING CIRCLE**  
Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre



**WOODSHOP**  
John F. Ross Collegiate Vocational Institute, Guelph

# SMUDGING CEREMONY - ALL SPACES



## LEVEL 1 FLOOR PLAN

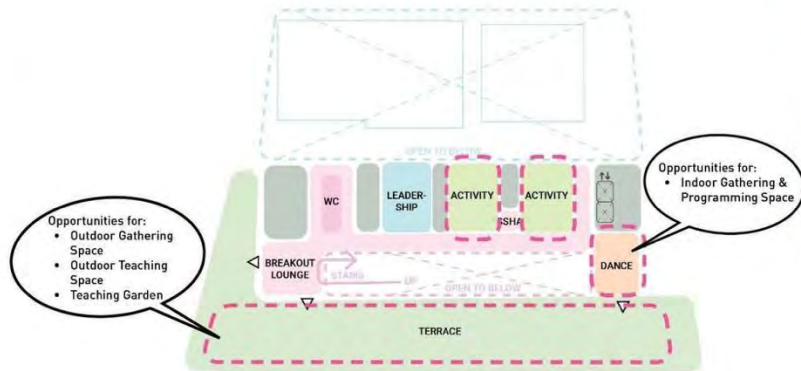
- LEGEND
- FITNESS
  - MULTI-PURPOSE
  - BACK OF HOUSE
  - AQUATICS
  - COMMON & ADMIN
  - ENTRY





# LEVEL 2 FLOOR PLAN

- LEGEND
- FITNESS
  - MULTI-PURPOSE
  - BACK OF HOUSE
  - AQUATICS
  - COMMON & ADMIN
  - ENTRY



**TEACHING SPACE**  
University of Manitoba  
Website Image  
Cultural Protocol



**TEACHING GARDEN**  
Centre for Native Child & Family Well Being  
LGA Architectural Partners

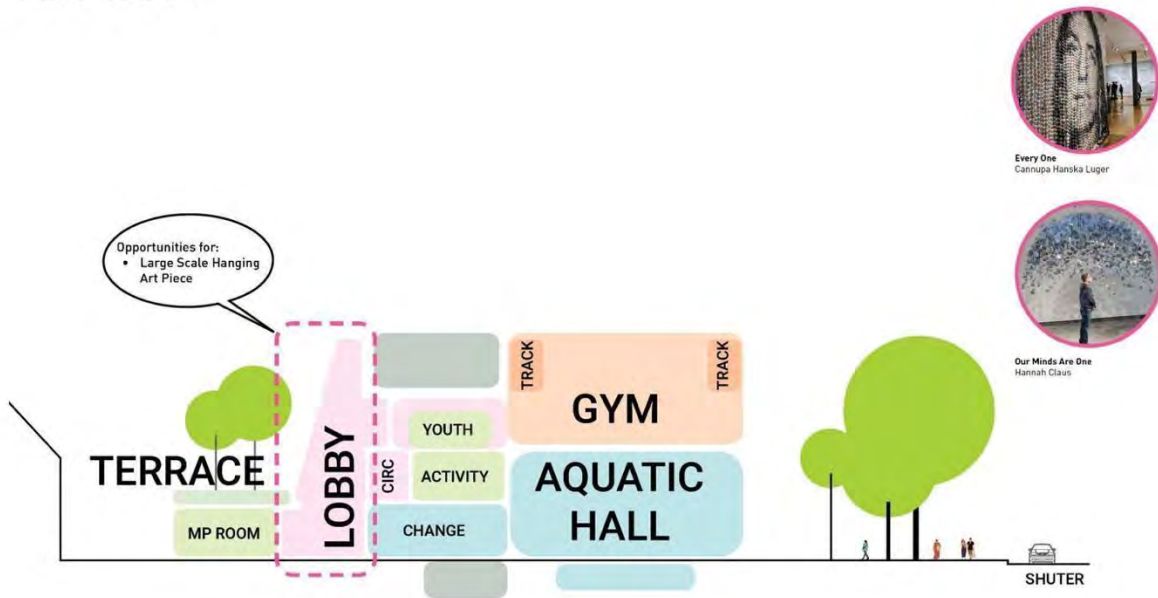
# LEVEL 3 FLOOR PLAN

- LEGEND
- FITNESS
  - MULTI-PURPOSE
  - BACK OF HOUSE
  - AQUATICS
  - COMMON & ADMIN
  - ENTRY



**INDOOR GATHERING**  
Red Dress Pow Wow, Reno Nevada  
Organizers, Dancers and the drum group  
One Heart

# SECTION



## SHERBOURNE ENTRY - VIEW SW

\*THE LANDSCAPE SHOWN IS AN ARTISTIC IMPRESSION



## SHERBOURNE ENTRY - VIEW NORTH

\*THE LANDSCAPE SHOWN IS AN ARTISTIC IMPRESSION



## SHUTER FACADE

\*THE LANDSCAPE SHOWN IS AN ARTISTIC IMPRESSION



## PARKSIDE ENTRY

\*THE LANDSCAPE SHOWN IS AN ARTISTIC IMPRESSION



# Project Background

Context and Timeline

## Why is a redesign of Moss Park and the John Innes CRC needed?

The redesign of Moss Park and the 70 year-old John Innes CRC is needed to serve the evolving needs of both the **high concentration of vulnerable and equity-deserving populations in the local area** as well as meet the needs of the many new community members and to support the area's future **population growth**.



Image description: Exterior landscape of the John Innes Community Recreation Centre

## What Will Make this Project Successful?

The Park and Community Recreation Centre will serve as a **gathering place** for an array of people, communities and experiences.

The project will be a success if the **diversity of community members** who use the Park and Community Recreation Centre today as well as future community members – feel interested, **welcome**, and **safe** to use these amenities in the future.



Image description: Moss Park sports field area

## Policies and Strategies



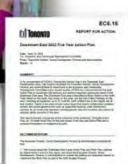
City Planning



Parks and Facilities



Social Policies



Public Health  
Overdose Prevention and Response



Commitments with Indigenous Communities



Commitments with Black, African and Caribbean Communities

## Project Timeline



**2015:** Initial reimagining of Moss Park began as a partnership between the City of Toronto, The 519 and a philanthropic partner. Engagement and feasibility study conducted.

**Report Released:** Report included engagement with 2,500 people and a feasibility study. Project deemed not feasible.

**2019:** City Council adopts the implementation strategy for the Parks & Recreation Facilities Master Plan with amendments.

The City analyzed what was done to date, and prepared to listen and gather more local ideas and experiences. The project is led and funded by the Parks, Forestry and Recreation department within the City of Toronto.

**Summer to Fall 2022:** Confirm the community's visions.

**Fall 2022 - Spring 2023:** Develop and present conceptual designs for feedback.

**Winter - Spring 2023:** Finalize designs and approvals.

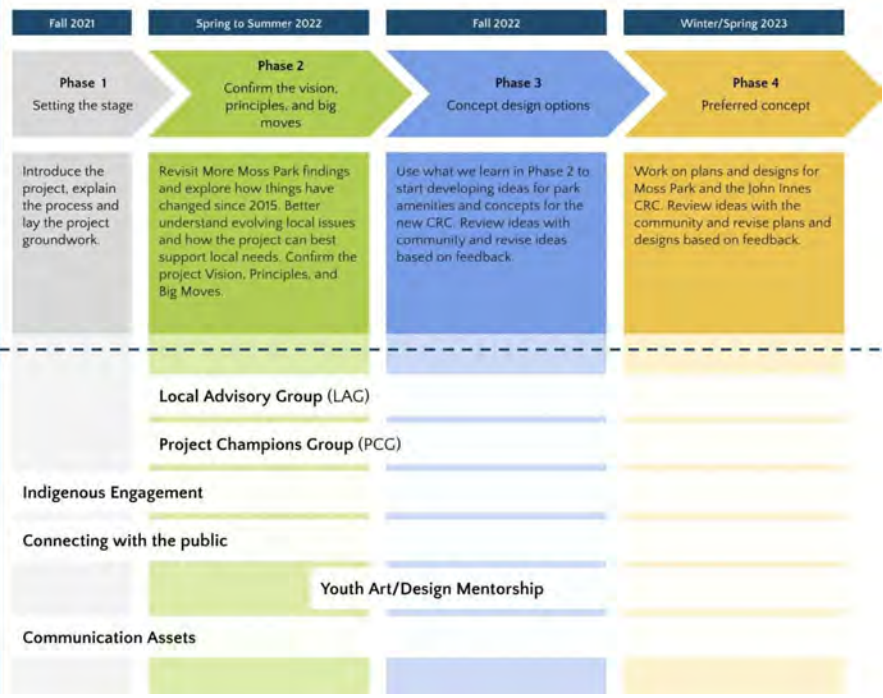
### Construction

- Spring 2024:** Procurement of construction services
- Summer 2024 to Fall 2027:** Construct community recreation centre
- Spring 2027 to Fall 2029:** Park construction

# Engagement & Communications Plan

Engagement & Communication Activities

Design will respond to what is learned through engagement



## Indigenous Engagement Process

Trina's process is grassroots, flexible, and rooted in relationship building. It will adapt as she learns more from those she speaks with. All conversations will be paid.



- Local Service Providers & TASSC**  
Trina began her work speaking to local agencies and grassroots organizations providing services to Indigenous communities. She invited these agencies to join the Local Advisory Group (LAG), the Project Champions, or the Youth Designer/Artist role. Over the course of the project, Trina will continue to build relationships and ask these agencies to connect her with Local Indigenous residents with lived experience of the Park and area. Trina will also arrange a meeting(s) with TASSC as needed.
- Local Residents and Organizations**  
Trina will connect with local Indigenous residents and facilitate one-on-one conversations about the Project.
- Treaty holders**  
While Trina's process is ongoing, City of Toronto staff will consult treaty holders.



## What is Open for Influence

### What will be included:

#### COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTRE (C.R.C.)

- A 25-metre 6 lane lap pool
- A leisure/tot pool
- Community, multi-use space
- double gymnasium with a mezzanine running track
- Fitness studios
- Dance studio
- Common & administrative areas, including a large Lobby
- WIFI access throughout
- Gender-neutral washrooms and change rooms
- A green roof or rooftop community access – to be determined
- Service spaces

#### PARK

- Passive & Active Recreation Amenities including playground, splash pad, community gardens, walking paths, other features TBD such as tennis, basketball etc.
- Safety - sight lines, lighting, animation to create more eyes on the park
- Flexible, multi-use spaces for different activities
- Consider Food security & urban agriculture
- Indigenous Place-keeping elements
- Input from local Indigenous communities
- Enhance ecological and social sustainability and resilience of the park
- Broader connectivity to parks and public realm network

### What we can collaborate on:

#### COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTRE (C.R.C.)

- Opportunities for the included program in the Community Recreation Centre, such as program interrelationships, flexibility of uses, and relationships to the park
- Community multi-purpose room(s) features and uses
- Lane pool features and uses
- Leisure/tot pool features and uses
- Rooftop features and uses
- Lobby features and uses
- Program adjacencies
- Opportunities for key safety features, such as sight lines, visibility, and views

#### PARK

- Opportunities for park improvements, including seating & gathering areas
- Opportunities for recreation amenities, such as playground, splash pad, community garden, walking paths, tennis, basketball, etc.
- Indigenous placekeeping (to be discussed with local Indigenous communities)
- Opportunities for key safety features, such as sight lines & lighting
- Selection of initiatives to support food security and urban agriculture
- Initiatives to support ecological & social sustainability & resilience of the park



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## Design Principles

1. Ensure the design of the CRC and park supports **equity, belonging and inclusion**.
2. Ensure the CRC and Park are **accessible to all**.
3. Create a space that makes **safety for all users** a priority.
4. Design an **open, permeable, and transparent** environment.
5. Maximize, enhance, and **improve green spaces**.
6. Celebrate and share information about the **Indigenous history** and character of Moss Park.
7. Contribute to **food security**.
8. Be **sustainable** and carbon neutral.





## Big Moves

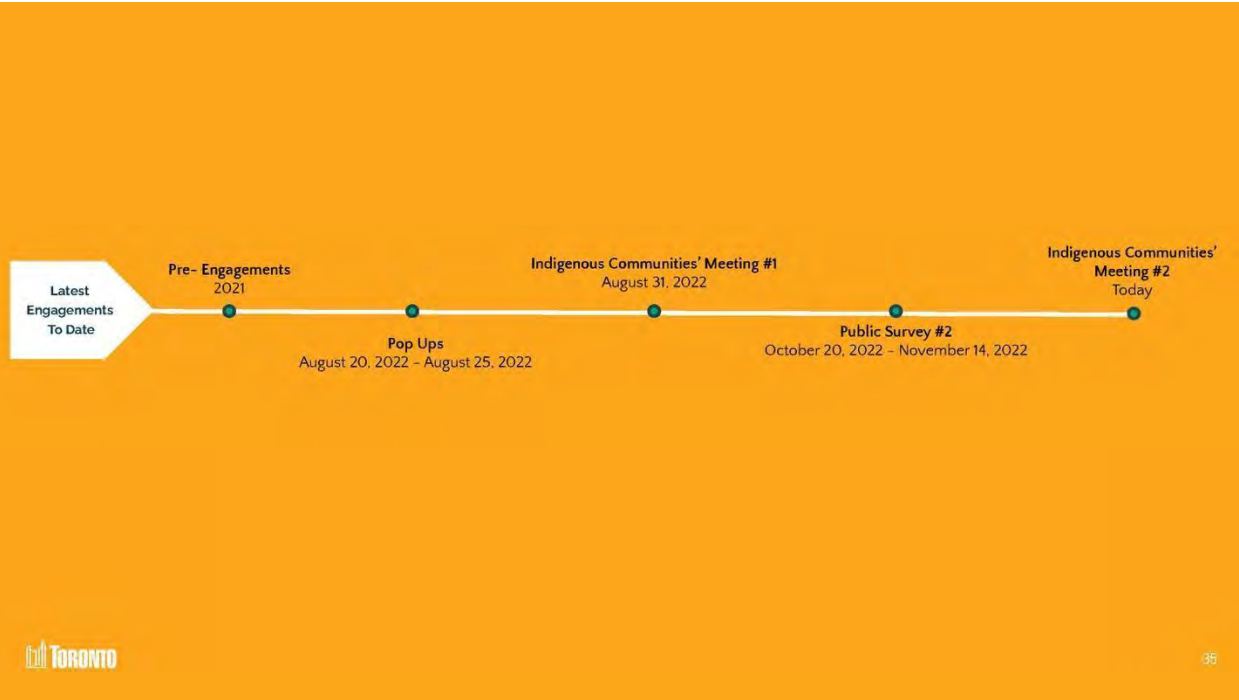
1. **Maintain a large area of open parkland with frontages onto Queen and Shuter** by building the new CRC along Sherbourne St., over the existing footprint.
2. Establish a **cohesive design language between the CRC and the Arena** and a strong relationship between both buildings and the future Moss Park **subway station**.
3. Optimize opportunities for **rooftop access** to the new CRC.
4. Incorporate spaces for **prayer and ceremony**.
5. Ensure **washroom access from the outside of the building**.
6. Create a new urban gateway at Queen and Sherbourne.
7. Integrate **Indigenous placekeeping** throughout the park.
8. Establish a **renewed urban canopy** of trees on Queen Street to match the Shuter edge.
9. **Maintain and enhance key pedestrian pathways** and access points into the park.
10. Maintain and enhance existing **permeable park edges** and protect the existing urban canopy along Shuter Street.
11. **Maintain the strong Sherbourne St. urban built edge** and enhance the relationship between the CRC/Arena/Park and Metrolinx Station with improved visual and physical connectivity and accessibility.
12. **Remove the baseball diamond** to accommodate a wider range of park uses.
13. Add a fenced, dedicated **dogs off leash area** to the park to support growing number of residents with dogs in the intensifying neighbourhood, and to protect other park amenities and park users from conflict with dogs.



## What We've Heard to Date



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## Pre- Engagement

### “ Key Insights

#### Honour the Indigenous history of the site

*MCFN history taken into account needs to be done accurately. We prefer for the history to come from us.*  
 -Mississaugas of the Credit First Nations Representative

*I'd like to throw out the possibility of renaming Moss Park as part of the renewal process. The name originates from the original estate of William Allan in Scotland... Perhaps a name that is more respectful of the Indigenous history of the area would be more appropriate as well as an opportunity to signal a new era for the Park.*  
 - LAG Member

*... [this project] presents a possible opportunity to celebrate and share information about the Indigenous history and character of Moss Park.*  
 - Public Survey Respondent

#### Honour and celebrate the creek

*It would be good to include some commemoration that that the creek was there, that we covered part of mother earth's system, that the creek was a living part of this land.*  
 -Mississaugas of the Credit First Nations Representative

#### There are vibrant Indigenous communities in our parks

*We have an indigenous encampment [at Allen Gardens] on Sunday evenings there were couples, families, drumming sessions... People are quite comfortable being with a broad spectrum of socio-economic communities. People coexists and get along together in use of green space.*  
 -Service Provider in Moss Park Neighbourhood

#### Ensure Indigenous communities can use the space

*Success can mean a lot for different people. It is ensuring that the people that already use the park are able to enjoy it and there is no huge impact on their lives. Especially for us that there is a well thought out Indigenous engagement component that values Indigenous presence, history and culture, and it is respectful of our culture and teaching.*  
 - Indigenous Organization Representative in Moss Park



## Public Survey #2

### Insights

*35% of racialized individuals and Indigenous people made up a moderate proportion of respondents*

**66%** responded that **Indigenous-led programing** is important or very important to incorporate in the **kitchen**.

**79%** responded that **cooking classes (including culturally specific and Indigenous cooking courses)** as important or very important to have in the **kitchen**.

**60%** responded that **Indigenous Medicines garden and education** as an important or very important feature and **program for the rooftop**.

**62%** ranked the importance of having **multi-purpose spaces appropriate for Indigenous ceremonies**.

**58%** responded that **Indigenous-led woodworking classes** as important or very important to have at the **wood shop**.

**59%** responded that Indigenous-led programing is an important or very important feature to have on the **rooftop**.



## What We Heard about Programming

Dedicated times for Indigenous-only programs such as youth fitness.

Creation of a hub or a room such as an Eshkiniigjik Naandwechigegamig (ENAGB) for Indigenous programming and gatherings.

Future park should incorporate features and programs that are trauma-informed, culturally responsive, and practical.

The opportunity to use the green roof as a training space for those interested in low carbon construction job opportunities.

High quality youth programming, local youth graduates as leaders, educational.

Family programming

Programing to bring people together, group activities are important for community.

Cooking lessons.

## Indigenous Communities Meeting #1

Facilitated by Trina Moyan,  
Indigenous Engagement Lead

13 participants

August 31st, 2022 via Zoom

### Discussion Questions:

- How can the future Moss Park and John Innes Community Recreation Centre better serve Indigenous communities? What is important to include in the park to reflect Indigenous Placekeeping?
- What is important for the project team to consider when designing the future of these community spaces
- What features, programs or amenities in the park would help you and your community feel welcome?
- What values and approaches to the park improvements design and operation are important to you?
- Are you interested in stewardship opportunities? What would that involve?

## Indigenous Communities Meeting #1

### Indigenous Placekeeping

- Incorporating **Indigenous art into the design** of fencing or having seating areas for park users to listen and share.

### Spaces for Ceremony

- Include a **medicine garden** space that is gated.
- possibilities to have **smudging ceremonies inside the facility**.
- A permanent sweat lodge would be important

### Accessibility and Inclusion

- Ensure the **new park is accessible to all, specifically those who reside in the park or in nearby shelters** that use the park during the day.

### Green Roof

- possibilities to have **smudging ceremonies** on the proposed green roof.

### Natural Heritage

- Memorialize and respect the life of the trees that will be lost during Metrolinx construction

# Public Art Plan

## PUBLIC ART PLAN

- The City's Percent for Public Art program requires all new major capital projects to include public art within the project budget.
- Two public art opportunities: one indoors, one outdoors.
- Entire artwork selection process will include 15 paid opportunities for Indigenous artists, advisors, and community members.



*Inukshuk* by Kellypalik Qimirpik (Toronto)

# ARTIST SELECTION PROCESS



## INDIGENOUS CONSULTANT

- IC has been selected; contract will be issued in January 2023.
- Main responsibilities:
  - Advise on themes for the artwork (including consultation and research within Indigenous communities)
  - Appoint Nomination Committee
  - Assemble Jury
  - Facilitate public and community consultation, including Indigenous conversations, around the proposed public artworks.



Star Blanket by Rebecca Baird (Toronto)



# OUTDOOR ART

- Likely a sculptural piece (3D) and will act as a landmark, meeting place, and wayfinding device within the park.



*Maanjiidowin - The Gathering by David General (Toronto)*



*Olympic Truce by Corrine Hunt (Vancouver)*



# OUTDOOR



*Thunderbird by Sinámkín by Jody Broomfield (West Vancouver)*



*Nizhoziibeau sculpture by K.C. Adams, Jamie Isaac, and Val Vint (Winnipeg)*



# INDOOR ART

- Has the potential to be affixed on predominant wall (2D), or embedded into the building structure itself (3D).



*It Takes a Community to Build the Story* by Jay Havens (Mississauga)



*Indigenous Cultural Markers* by David Thomas (Toronto)



## LET'S TALK:

- Design update
- What we heard
- Public art competition





## What's coming up...



Location: Southern edge of Moss Park, along Queen St. E.

Join us on Dec. 15th as we honour the lives of these trees and set intentions for the future of these community space.

Lead by Elder Grandma Pauline Shirt

Date: Thursday December 15, 2022

Time: 12:00PM– 1:00 PM

Location: Southern edge of Moss Park (along Queen St. E.)

Accessibility: The ceremony will take place on the grass. If you have any accommodation requests please let us know by replying all to this message.

RSVP: RSVP to Pablo at [pablo.munoz@toronto.ca](mailto:pablo.munoz@toronto.ca) or Trina at [trina@weareprocess.ca](mailto:trina@weareprocess.ca).

*\*The ceremony will include light refreshments, coffee and tea*

*\*While RSVP is not required it would help us be prepared*

## How to stay connected

Project Website [toronto.ca/mosspark](https://toronto.ca/mosspark)

Contact the project team by sending an email to:

Trina Moyan: [trina@weareprocess.ca](mailto:trina@weareprocess.ca)

Pablo Muñoz: [pablo.munoz@toronto.ca](mailto:pablo.munoz@toronto.ca)

# Thank you!

# Appendix B: Local Advisory Group and Project Champion Meetings

# Moss Park park Improvements & John Innes Community Recreation Centre Replacement Project

WHAT WE HEARD REPORT:  
Local Advisory Group and  
Project Champions Meeting #1

June 13, 2022



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# 1.0 Introduction

The City of Toronto is leading a redesign of Moss Park and replacement of the 70-year-old John Innes Community Centre. The goal is for these spaces to serve the current and future needs of all of the diverse Moss Park community including vulnerable and equity-deserving populations in the area, the many new community members, and support the population growth in the area.

The redesigned Park and Community Recreation Centre will serve as a gathering place for an array of people, communities, and experiences.



FIGURE 1: Map of the proposed location of the new Community Recreation Centre in Moss Park

## 1.1 Project Context

In 2015, the project More Moss Park aimed to redevelop the park and replace the community recreation centre with a new facility that centered LGBTQ2S+ communities and expanded the services offered. The project was a partnership between the 519 and the City of Toronto. In 2016 the project was deemed not feasible and it was determined that it would not move forward. The community and stakeholder engagement program

for More Moss Park was extensive. The scope of the current Moss Park park Improvements and John Innes Community Recreation Centre replacement project are different with the community recreation centre retaining a recreation mandate. However, the insights, knowledge and data gathered through the More Moss Park consultation and engagement laid the groundwork that this project will build on.

### 1.1.1 Project Goals

Launch a new initiative to replace the John Innes Community Recreation centre with a new CRC and make extensive improvements to the park through a consultation process that is informed by the insights of the *2015 More Moss Park* project, with the following key project goals:

1. Replace the John Innes CRC with a bigger facility that meets the standards set out in the City's Recreation Facilities Master Plan and that can better meet the community's needs.
2. Redesign the park to meet current and future needs.
3. Build on the park's long-standing role as a hub for the diverse communities and people of Moss Park.
4. Ground the project by honouring local communities and by building on the assets of the park and community and the experiences and goals of diverse park users.
5. Build on the input received from the previous *More Moss Park* community consultation process.
6. Deliver an accessible and welcome place for all members of the Moss Park and John Innes CRC community.
7. Work closely with the community throughout the project.

### 1.2.1 Engagement Goals

The following are the Moss Park Improvements & John Innes Community Recreation Centre Replacement Project's engagement goals:

1. Equity-focused, trauma-informed, and collaborative
2. Deliberative, transparent, and creative
3. Communicative and grassroots
4. Digital and 'in-person'
5. Flexible and open

### 1.3.1 About the Local Advisory Group

The Local Advisory Group (LAG) is a group of Torontonians that broadly represents the park and community recreation centre's current and future community. The Local Advisory Group provides a forum for the City to learn about and from a diversity of

experiences of the park and neighbourhood, co-create project elements and discuss ideas. The purpose of the Local Advisory Group is to:

- Convene, over the course of the project.
- Support group members so together they can provide the City of Toronto's Parks, Forestry and Recreation Project Team with a rich and balanced mix of advice that shapes the design direction for the park, community recreation centre, and arena, as the project progresses.

Group members are tasked with:

- Learn about the project's scope, goals, constraints, and progress.
- Expand their understanding of the diverse needs, values, perspectives, experiences and priorities of current and future members of the park community.
- Explore and contribute to design directions, as they are being developed by the Project Team, taking into consideration the diverse needs of current and future members of the park community.
- Learn about and advise the project team on how the project and engagement opportunities are being communicated to those who might wish to know about or shape this project.
- Hear about how advice gathered from the Group and other engagement efforts have been integrated into evolving design directions, as well as why certain advice has not been incorporated into evolving design directions.

Local Advisory Group members were selected using an adapted civic lottery model based on six relevant demographic factors when selecting from amongst volunteers:

- Age
- Gender
- Location of residence and housing situation
- Indigeneity
- Racialization
- Disability

### **1.4.1 About the Project Champions**

Project Champions conduct community-based research that provides critical links to community members not often included in formal planning processes. Project Champions are engaged in city-building and community organizing. They are well-connected with residents in the community. Project Champions receive an honorarium as a way to reduce financial barriers for participating.

The purpose of the Project Champions is to:

- Serve as "peer-to-peer" researchers and will connect community members to the project outside of public meetings and other City-led consultation events.
- Help engage and gather insights from communities who are often left out of consultation processes, including people experiencing homelessness, children and youth and immigrant and refugee communities.



- Be residents and/or organizations already engaged in issues in and near Moss Park.
- Project Champions will be compensated for their time Project Champions meetings will start in May 2022 and run until 2023.

The mandate of Project Champions is to:

- Learn about the project's goals, constraints, and progress.
- Share their understanding of the diverse needs, values, perspectives, experiences and priorities of current and future members of the park community.
- Connect community members to the project outside of public meetings and other City-led consultation events.
- Explore and contribute to design directions, as they are being developed by the Project Team, taking into consideration the diverse needs of current and future members of the park community.

## 1.2 Key Project Components

Every project component will be shaped by public input collected throughout the process. The following is a detailed list of project components, features and opportunities for which the City wants to collaborate with the local community.

### Major Park Improvements

Park improvements will include:

- **Extensive Park improvements with passive and active recreation amenities**
- **Support equity-deserving groups in park and recreations programs**
- **Integrate Indigenous place-keeping elements**

These improvements will encompass the following:

- Opportunities for park improvements, including walking, seating & gathering areas
- Opportunities for recreation and park amenities, such as playground, splash pad, walking paths, tennis, basketball, dedicated dogs off leash area etc.
- Indigenous placekeeping (to be identified with Rights Holders and local Indigenous communities)
- Opportunities for key safety features, such as sight lines & lighting
- Improve community gardens area in the park to align with initiatives to support food security and urban agriculture
- Initiatives to support ecological & social sustainability & resilience of the park

## **New Community Recreation Centre**

The new Community Recreation Centre will include:

- **Double gym**
- **2 Pools**
- **Multi-use community space**

These renovations will incorporate the following:

- Opportunities for the included program in the Community Recreation Centre (CRC), such as program interrelationships, flexibility of uses, and relationships to the park
- Community multi-purpose room(s) features and uses
- Lane pool features and uses
- Leisure/tot pool features and uses
- Rooftop features and uses
- Lobby features and uses
- Program adjacencies
- Opportunities for key safety features, such as sight lines, visibility, and views

## **Upgrades to Arena**

**Exterior Upgrades** will be made to the Arena.\

## **Note About the Ontario Line**

Metrolinx is currently building a 5.6-kilometre, 15-stop subway line that will run from Exhibition Place, through downtown Toronto, finishing at the Ontario Science Centre. A Moss Park station entrance will be located on the southeast corner of the park. The project team is working with Metrolinx to coordinate the work of both projects with the intent to benefit the local community. The three buildings on the site – Community Recreation Centre, Moss Park Arena and Moss Park Ontario Line Subway Station – are intended to have a connecting visual component.

For more information about the Ontario Line, visit the Metrolinx website at:

<https://www.metrolinx.com/en/greaterregion/projects/ontario-line.aspx>

## 1.2.1 Project Schedule

- Summer 2021 to Summer 2022 - Phase 1: SET THE STAGE
  - Introduce the project, explain the process, and lay the project groundwork.
  
- **\*WE ARE HERE – Summer 2022 – Phase 2: CONFIRM THE VISION, PRINCIPLES, BIG MOVES**
  - Introduce the project, revisit More Moss Park findings and explore how things have changed since 2015. Better understand evolving local issues and how the project can best support local needs. Confirm the Principles and Big Moves of the project.
  
- Fall 2022 to Spring 2023: Phase 3 - CONCEPT DESIGN OPTIONS
  - Use what we learn in Phase 2 to start developing ideas for park amenities and concepts for the new Community Recreation Centre. Review ideas through design options presented to the community and revise ideas based on feedback.
  
- Spring 2023: Phase 4 - PREFERRED CONCEPT
  - Refine the concept plans for the park and John Innes CRC based on feedback and present the preferred concept to the community. Review ideas with the community and revise plans and designs based on feedback.

## 1.3 About this Report

This meeting summary report summarizes key meeting findings from the Moss Park Improvements & John Innes Community Recreation Centre Replacement Project's first meeting held with the Local Advisory Group and Project Champions on June 13, 2022. This report summarizes the meeting details as well as feedback and input collected from engagement activities.

### 1.3.1 Engagement Timeline

The following are other scheduled engagement activities with the Project Champions and LAG (subject to change):

- **Project Champions Meeting #1: June 13, 2022 (COMPLETED)**
- **Local Advisory Group (LAG) Meeting #1: June 13, 2022 (COMPLETED)**
- Project Champions Meeting #2: August 2022
- LAG Meeting #2: August 2022
- Project Champions Meeting #3: Fall 2022
- LAG Meeting #3: Fall 2022
- Project Champions Meeting #4: Winter 2023
- LAG Meeting #4: Winter 2023

## 2.0 Overview of LAG & Project Champions Meeting #1

The first meeting of the Local Advisory Group (LAG) and Project Champions served as an introduction to the project, and to invite feedback for the Draft Design Principles and the Big Moves. After the meeting, participants were sent a survey to collect additional input on the project's Draft Design Principles and the Big Moves. The goals of Meeting #1 were to:

- Share the project timelines and context.
- Present the park and community recreation centre design components that are open for influence.
- Share what the City has heard through consultation to-date, from 2016 to the present.
- Clarify the role of the LAG and Project Champions and how they will contribute to the future of Moss Park.
- Review the Draft Principles and Big Moves.
- Engage participants in opportunities to ask questions and provide feedback.

WHEN: June 13, 2022, at 3:00 - 5:30 p.m.

WHERE: Virtual, on Webex

ATTENDEES: **23 PARTICIPANTS**  
Eighteen (18) Local Advisory Group Members  
Five (5) Project Champions

PROJECT TEAM: **City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry & Recreation Division**  
Daniel Fusca, Manager, Public Consultation  
Pablo Muñoz, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator  
Suzanne Cooke-Wooland, Senior Project Coordinator, CP Capital Lead  
Nancy Chater, Senior Project Coordinator, CP Capital Lead

### **PROCESS (Public and Stakeholder Engagement)**

Nadia Galati, Principal and Engagement Lead  
Trina Moyan Bell, Indigenous Engagement Lead

### **The Planning Partnership (Landscape Architecture)**

David Leinster, Principal, Landscape Architecture  
Jennifer Williamson, Studio Manager, Landscape Architecture

### **Two Row Architect (Landscape Architecture & Indigenous Lens)**

Brian Porter, Principal  
Matthew Hickey, Partner

### **MJMA (CRC Architecture)**

Chris Burbidge, Principal  
Krista Clark, Project Manager  
Viktors Jaunkalns, Design Lead

## 3.0 What We Heard

This report section summarizes the input collected during Meeting #1 (June 13, 2022), as well as through the post-meeting survey. The two groups were sent separate surveys after the meeting, to provide participants an additional opportunity to comment on the project's Draft Design Principles and the Big Moves as well as clarify and collect feedback on LAG and Project Champions' roles and responsibilities. The Draft Design Principles and Big Moves are below.

During the meeting, comments and questions were verbally answered by City staff and the project team. Please see **Appendix A** for the meeting presentation and **Appendix B** for a detailed list of comments/questions asked and answered.

### Draft Design Principles

The following eight *Design Principles* serve as guidance to steer the vision of the project. At this stage (Phase 2), they're being presented to solicit feedback and confirm.

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 1:** Ensure the design of the CRC and park supports equity, belonging and inclusion.

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 2:** Ensure the CRC and Park are accessible to all.

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 3:** Create a space that makes safety for all users a priority.

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 4:** Design an open, permeable, and transparent environment.

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 5:** Maximize, enhance, and improve green spaces.

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 6:** Celebrate and share information about the Indigenous history and character of Moss Park.

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 7:** Contribute to food security.

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 8:** Be sustainable and carbon neutral.

## Big Moves

The Project team compiled thirteen *Big Moves* that describe priority actions that the City intends to take. At this stage (Phase 2), they're being presented to solicit feedback and confirm.

**BIG MOVE 1:** Maintain a large area of open parkland with frontages onto Queen and Shuter by building the new CRC along Sherbourne St., over the existing footprint.

**BIG MOVE 2:** Establish a cohesive design language between the CRC and the Arena and a strong relationship between both buildings and the future Moss Park subway station.

**BIG MOVE 3:** Optimize opportunities for rooftop access to the new CRC.

**BIG MOVE 4:** Incorporate spaces for prayer and ceremony.

**BIG MOVE 5:** Ensure washroom access from the outside of the building.

**BIG MOVE 6:** Create a new urban gateway at Queen and Sherbourne

**BIG MOVE 7:** Integrate Indigenous placekeeping throughout the park.

**BIG MOVE 8:** Establish a renewed urban canopy of trees on Queen Street to match the Shuter edge.

**BIG MOVE 9:** Maintain and enhance key pedestrian pathways and access points into the park.

**BIG MOVE 10:** Maintain and enhance existing permeable park edges and protect the existing urban canopy along Shuter Street.

**BIG MOVE 11:** Maintain the strong Sherbourne St. urban built edge and enhance the relationship between the CRC/Arena/Park and Ontario Line Station with improved visual and physical connectivity and accessibility.

**BIG MOVE 12: Consider** removing the baseball diamond to accommodate a wider range of park uses and reduce conflicts

**BIG MOVE 13:** Add a fenced, dedicated dogs off leash area to the park to support the growing number of residents with dogs in the intensifying neighbourhood, and to protect other park amenities and park users from conflict with dogs.

## 3.1 Summary of Feedback Collected in Meeting #1

The following is the top feedback and discussion points shared by both the LAG and Project Champions for detailed feedback shared by each group via a follow-up meeting survey please see **Section 3.2** and **Section 3.3**.

### **Accessible space for all**

Participants expressed strong support for *accessible space for all* as key to the future of Moss Park and the John Innes Community Recreation Centre. Participants expressed a desire for the City to support strong community advocacy through this project.

### **Indigenous Placekeeping**

Participants expressed strong support to include Indigenous placekeeping as a core project focus. Participants stressed the importance of working with Indigenous communities and local Indigenous residents to develop these elements, meaningfully.

### **Connections and Entryways**

Many participants indicated interest in relocating main entryways to the park and indicated that current entryways are uninviting. Participants expressed interest in user experience enhancements and highlighted that the Ontario Line station requires careful consideration in how it is connected to the park. This is out of scope for the project but is being noted for the purpose of providing an accurate account of the feedback received.

*“I would strongly endorse the idea of moving the main entry of the CRC to the Shuter side.”*

*“Is it possible to improve the sidewalks on Shuter and Queen leading towards Jarvis to better draw people to the park? (Enhanced lighting, wayfinding signage, wider walkways) because of the barrier the Armoury creates? You would barely know that the park was right there from Jarvis.”*

*“I reviewed some of the Ontario Line materials, and I am concerned that the proposed station (which will have just one entrance) doesn't connect with the park very well.”*

### **Safety**

Safety was expressed as a priority by many participants. There are also mixed perspectives around what safety means. For some the presence of security and/or other City related staff is a sign of comfort and for others can increase discomfort.

*“Personally, I do not want security guards or police officers stationed in parks, and I do not want to be directly monitored in a park. I want my safety to come from the attention of my fellow residents, and from the knowledge and comfort that comes with knowing my available resources in a crisis.”*

### **Food Security**

Participants shared mixed feelings on the role of the park and CRC in food security. While many people feel food security is important, there is a lack of clarity on whether it



is the role of the park and CRC to address this structural issue. Some feel it is not the most important priority for the project. Participants did express strong support for community gardens and access to food growing opportunities in the park

### **Tree Canopy**

Participants expressed sadness about the loss of the tree canopy due to the Metrolinx Ontario Line construction. Participants expressed a desire to protect and enhance the tree canopy throughout the park and site

### **Dogs Off-Leash Area**

The proposed **dogs off-leash area** drew opposing remarks with some participants seeing its value and supporting its inclusion and others concerned and not interested in having it included.

*“Creating a dedicated off leash area tends to draw people at all times of the day and helps to animate - early morning, late evening, and it will be lit as well.”*

*“Dedicated dog areas use a lot of space exclusively for dogs. The way the open area is currently being used for dogs gives use of the grass for sport groups plus for dogs.”*

*“I prefer a dedicated off leash area instead of mixed use since not everyone is comfortable.”*

## **3.2 Summary of Top Feedback Received from Local Advisory Group Survey**

Sixteen (16) Local Advisory Group members provided additional feedback in the post-meeting survey.

### **LAG Feedback on Project DESIGN PRINCIPLES**

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 1:** Ensure the design of the CRC and park supports equity, belonging and inclusion.

Participants expressed appreciation for **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 1** as they felt that it supports the continued accessibility of the park for all members of the public despite their socioeconomic status or other intersections that may create barriers to inclusion.

*“This is more encompassing than any other principle, and it is good that it comes first. We want our precious open spaces to be welcoming to all – meaning safe for all, and with enough amenities to be useful and attractive for all.”*

*“There are not many truly non-commercial public spaces in the City, where there's no financial pressure or monitoring to use the space. Preserving this principle in the Moss Park redevelopment is important to me - both in the green space and the CRC.”*

However, some participants felt that this design principle needs to be further qualified to indicate how everyone could be better supported. There was one suggestion there to be more explicit identification of the communities that would be prioritized in this Principle, and mentioned those who play sports as priority groups.

*“Too broad; “supports” is too vague.”*

*“The net should be widened to include users of the park i.e. booking space for baseball and tennis where they live, how often used, why they chose location. Also include arena as to users, needs, parking, access.”*

### **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 2:** Ensure the CRC and Park are accessible to all.

While participants felt that **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 2** was very important, there was a sense of apprehension that all people could be accommodated through the Park and CRC redevelopment.

*“As we saw firsthand during COVID - public space and green space is important for mental and physical health for all residents - especially those without private homes and backyards. This is a very important principle to me.”*

*“Accessible to “all” -- Really for “all”? Can you actually satisfy the needs of “all”?”*

### **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 3:** Create a space that makes safety for all users a priority.

In response to **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 3**, safety was considered important, but participants noted that there has to be considerations for how different community members view safety. It was shared that the other principles (**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 1 AND 2**) help to support inclusion in a general sense, emphasis was placed on how a sense of safety can be impeded by surveillance. However, it was felt that for some community members, policing might help support feelings of safety in the Park.

*“I believe that safety is a priority, especially for young families, and is very important to animating a space. But I also believe that other principles (accessibility, equity), help to develop a safe space in their own right. Safety is important to me, but I want to be careful as to how we define “safety” - and how we consider safety interventions. I don't know if these ideas are the same across all participants in the LAG and I would like to make sure we are on the same page with what “safety” is and how to address it. Personally, I do not want security guards or police officers stationed in parks, and I do not want to be directly monitored in a park. I want my safety to come from the attention of my fellow residents, and from the knowledge and comfort that comes with knowing my available resources in a crisis.”*

*“Safety [is a ] main issue. Last week I observed youth who appeared on bikes selling drugs in the area. This is on Queen St East and the park area. As a park user, I would not feel safe, not even as an area resident-perhaps policing should be included in [the] plan??”*

The point above was further contemplated by another participant who reflected on how the park is currently used and shared ideas about various aspects of the park such as accessible entryways, lighting, public courts, dedicated dog areas. It was suggested that these aspects can

be better animated to support the safety of the park. The issues they highlighted mostly affect how families access and use the park.

*“The playground is rarely used because adults and adults with dogs are frequently in the playground. There are also steps at the south end of the playground that encourage people to congregate, which may make families feel insecure. The current late-night lighting is beneficial for safety. Late night softball games add to the feeling of safety. Tennis players add to the feeling of safety. A welcoming large space for dogs across the entire field also gives a sense of safety to others in the park because there are people occupying more spaces often.”*

#### **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 4: Design an open, permeable, and transparent environment.**

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 4** provides an opportunity to redefine how parks typically look and feel through the potential to increase the biodiversity in a public park and consider the unique ways to approach landscaping and public art. However, respondents understood that these opportunities would have to be balanced with considerations for safety.

*“I [...] want the park space to be articulated and interesting. Parks too often fall into large, uninteresting green spaces and maintained monoculture lawns. I like trees, bushes, sculptures, light fencing, murals, water features. Anything that helps to contribute to a sense of space and breaks the park away from busy adjacent streets. But I also agree that a permeable, transparent environment and clear sightlines is important to safety.”*

#### **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 5: Maximize, enhance, and improve green spaces.**

There is a desire to maintain trees and achieve goals of **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 5**. This aligns with the desire to increase biodiversity as shared in response to **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 4**.

*“The number of trees must not be reduced, after the work is complete.”*

One participant shared that the improvement should not just be associated with greenspaces but extend beyond that characteristic to ensure that as many community members as possible can enjoy the park at any time.

*“The principle is great as long as the improvements are more than visual. More people need to be using the park day and night.”*

#### **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 6: Celebrate and share information about the Indigenous history and character of Moss Park.**

For **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 6** to be meaningfully implemented, participants felt that the approach to this principle should be considered from a holistic perspective and be backed by full investment in **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 1**.

*“I appreciate the way this LAG has invested in Indigenous consultation and support this principle greatly. It would also add a sense of character and individuality in this park space, compared to other Toronto parks. I would also like to make sure that if this principle is pursued in park design, it is also pursued in equity and accessibility. Please ensure that this is not just lip service and has the support and investment to create a fully healthy, equitable space for all residents - but especially the local Indigenous population.”*

Renaming the park was also suggested to implement **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 6**.

*"I'd like to throw out the possibility of renaming Moss Park as part of the renewal process. The name originates from the original estate of William Allan in Scotland. It is, frankly, an ugly name. Perhaps a name that is more respectful of the Indigenous history of the area would be more appropriate as well as an opportunity to signal a new era for the Park."*

#### **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 7: Contribute to food security.**

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 7** was seen as a priority but not a high priority for participants. They felt that it could possibly take away from other uses in the park. It was felt that the primary function of a park should be to provide accessible outdoor space for recreational use versus a community farm.

*"I am neutral on this question, not because food security isn't important, but that adopting this as a core principle could set up a conflict maximizing the use of the outside space for other recreational purposes. It should be first and foremost a park, not a farm. If something could be done on the roof to grow food, that would be fantastic."*

*"I am not saying that the park could not be an avenue to support those in need of physical and economic access to food, but it should not be a design principle or priority for the park itself."*

Participants felt this Principle could support a wide range of park users who have different levels of access to income and food security. They also felt that having a food system in the park would help build food awareness which could be addressed through park programming. Support for this Principle was usually accompanied by alternative proposals for how to achieve food security such as a rooftop garden, or planting fruit bearing trees.

*"There are so many opportunities for growing more food in the park that can benefit the residents. The fruit trees have not been maintained to provide harvests that the community can easily access. The pruning of lower branches may make visibility better, but now the fruit is out of reach. It's a shame."*

*"I think seeing food systems in our everyday lives is important (especially for younger people). We are too separated from our food production, and the community gardens/kitchens on-site already provide a great opportunity to see seasonal cycles."*

*"I think seeing food systems in our everyday lives is important (especially for younger people). We are too separated from our food production, and the community gardens/kitchens on-site already provide a great opportunity to see seasonal cycles."*

*"Yes - this should take the form of rooftop food gardens and a community kitchen at the new rec centre."*

#### **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 8: Be sustainable and carbon neutral.**

Participants felt that **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 8** was important but should not be prioritized at the expense of other Principles or the cost and time it would take to finalize the project. They felt that this Principle should be emphasized in the CRC renovation or active transportation options more so than in Park as it was thought that the parks are already sustainable.

*“I agree with this principle, but it is not my priority. I believe a park space by nature is going to be relatively sustainable and low-carbon (if managed well). I would like to see this principle applied more to non-park spaces, like local bike paths and transit connectivity. Certainly, I would like to see this principle in the CRC.”*

*“Ideally, yes. Certainly if the goal of carbon-neutrality can be achieved in a reasonable timeframe for a reasonable cost. For example, one of the troubling elements of the More Moss Park proposals was to use geothermal energy which the experts seemed to think was cost-prohibitive for the site.”*

*“As long as it doesn’t impact the other principles above.”*

## **LAG Feedback on Project BIG MOVES**

**BIG MOVE 1:** Maintain a large area of open parkland with frontages onto Queen and Shuter by building the new CRC along Sherbourne St., over the existing footprint.

Participants agreed with **BIG MOVE 1** overall, but felt that there needed to be an assurance that programming at the CRC could be maintained throughout the duration of the construction period as they saw the programming is vital for community members. One participant referenced previous More Moss Park consultations where the City did make such a commitment.

*“Keeping the maximum park area is really important, especially as the green space at 191 Sherbourne is eliminated for more apartments.”*

*“During More Moss Park, Parks & Rec pushed back hard on this approach, stating that the programs offered in the existing centre could not be lost during the construction period. From a design perspective, there is no question that putting the new centre in the footprint of the old one is the best approach. We just need to be prepared to explicitly address what will happen to the current programming during construction.”*

**BIG MOVE 2:** Establish a cohesive design language between the CRC and the Arena and a strong relationship between both buildings and the future Moss Park subway station.

Participants felt that **BIG MOVE 2** created an interdependence on Metrolinx that could potentially compromise the maintenance of park infrastructure.

*“Having an integration with the Moss Park subway station creates a coupling and dependence on infrastructure that may or may not be prioritized by Metrolinx at any given time. As such segregating this infrastructure as much as possible would be beneficial to maintenance of the space. Perhaps in the future this can be revisited but for now I think it makes no sense to do so.”*

**BIG MOVE 3:** Optimize opportunities for rooftop access to the new CRC.

There was support for **BIG MOVE 3** from participants. They were mostly enthusiastic about the potential for more space in the CRC. There was also a suggestion for a community garden on the rooftop as an option for how rooftop space could be programmed.

*“I support any efficient use of space - and higher-level open-air access is great. Such an experience and view is not accessible for many people. Seeing the city from “above” really can have an influence on how one perceives themselves and their environment.”*

*“If this includes a community garden space that could be interesting. I look forward to learning more details.”*

#### **BIG MOVE 4: Incorporate spaces for prayer and ceremony.**

For **BIG MOVE 4**, participants felt that this Move was important as it would facilitate social cohesion, but that it would only be appropriate if the space is well utilized. In this regard, the space being accompanied with a multi-purpose space was proposed.

*“I believe community events create social cohesion and a safety network in a big way. I highly support this move. But I would also like to ensure these service/ceremony spaces are utilized efficiently, and do not sit empty most other days of the week. I would like to see flexible programming spaces.”*

#### **BIG MOVE 5: Ensure washroom access from the outside of the building.**

For **BIG MOVE 5** to be successfully implemented, strategies for safety and for the sustained maintenance of public washrooms were important to participants. They felt that the City should look to examples from Europe (i.e., self-cleaning washrooms in Paris) as well as Asia for best practices and approaches to public washrooms. Considerations for safety included providing cubicle-style, gender neutral washrooms with timed access. Participants also felt that through providing reliable access to public washroom facilities people that experience homelessness would have an option that would restore a sense of dignity for this population, a basic tenet of human rights.

*“We will need to explicitly address how security will be maintained under this scenario. Outside of the actual cubicles themselves, they need to be monitored. They need to be gender neutral with timed access.”*

*“There are tons of examples from Europe and especially Asia of how to avoid the dark, dank, smelly, unloved washrooms that characterize most park washrooms in Toronto. They need to be cleaned multiple times per day. Unfortunately, they have to be separate from the rest of the facility (i.e., they are not the same washrooms as those used inside the facility). Getting this right could be one of the key success stories of the Moss Park Rejuvenation.”*

*“Also are public bathrooms i.e., self-cleaning ones in Paris (which I visited)? There are no public bathrooms available and homeless people are using our parks and laneways as an open bathroom. We need to look at accommodating this basic human right.”*

#### **BIG MOVE 6: Create a new urban gateway at Queen and Sherbourne.**

Similar to concerns shared around **BIG MOVE 2**, participants felt that **BIG MOVE 6** fell too far into Metrolinx’s scope of influence to be a priority for the Moss Park Improvements project. They characterized their engagement with Metrolinx as unresponsive to issues that were raised by community members related to the corner of Queen and Sherbourne. They felt this was an indicator that there was a lack of stewardship from Metrolinx which translates to a lack of confidence that **BIG MOVE 6** should be a priority.

*“I hesitate to support this idea because this corner is under the “control” of Metrolinx. Given their resistance to date to any suggestions from the neighbourhood about how to ensure a welcoming and safe design for this corner, it is possible the actual corner will*

*remain unwelcoming and unsafe. Perhaps there is an alternative location for an Urban Gateway to the park?"*

**BIG MOVE 7: Integrate Indigenous placekeeping throughout the park.**

The comment shared about **BIG MOVE 7** was similar to the comment about **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 6**. The approach to implementing this Move should be intentional, equitable and accessible while incorporating Indigenous history and principles of placekeeping.

*"I support this move, but I again want to ensure that this is not just lip service. To support this move fully I would like to know more about how the park and CRC space is dedicated to creating open, equitable, accessible space for the local Indigenous community."*

**BIG MOVE 8: Establish a renewed urban canopy of trees on Queen Street to match the Shuter edge.**

With regard to **BIG MOVE 8** participants shared concerns regarding the loss of the existing mature tree canopy in the community. They hoped that these trees could be preserved in the Moss Park Improvement process as they represent biodiversity and represented the tree heritage of the community.

*"I'm devastated by the loss of the varied, healthy, and mature trees along Queen Street and cannot believe that their removal was the only option for the subway construction. Those trees add significant cooling and beauty to the park and Queen Street. They are not replaceable because they will take another 100 years to reach their current state."*

**BIG MOVE 9: Maintain and enhance key pedestrian pathways and access points into the park.**

Participants felt that **BIG MOVE 9** should support how people access the Park and CRC today (desire pathways) and also consider how enhancements on the street can facilitate this Move.

*"This must include enhancements to the narrow sidewalks along Queen and Shuter, especially coming from Jarvis Street, to draw people in and mitigate the barrier the armory poses."*

*"Yes there is a lot of pedestrian use and watching the desire lines will be important."*

**BIG MOVE 10: Maintain and enhance existing permeable park edges and protect the existing urban canopy along Shuter Street.**

There were minimal comments from participants on **BIG MOVE 10**. One participant reflected on the loss of trees that has been occurring in the neighborhood and felt that those trees were not being replaced quickly enough and those that have been replaced failed to grow.

*"The replacement of trees removed along Shuter in the past 5 years has been inadequate. Many trees were never replaced. Some were replaced and removed due to faulty planting. The care for the trees must be improved--plant more and protect them while they're vulnerable."*

**BIG MOVE 11:** Maintain the strong Sherbourne St. urban built edge and enhance the relationship between the CRC/Arena/Park and Ontario Line Station with improved visual and physical connectivity and accessibility.

**BIG MOVE 11** was supported by participants. They felt that there should be more consideration for the transition from the Armoury and surrounding services such as the shelter.

*“I very much look forward to the design ideas for the transition between the urban edge of the park and the main park itself. Same goes for the western edge and the transition from the Armoury.”*

*“I understand that this is the best option, but something has to be done to increase security for people who are uncomfortable with the shelter residents congregating along Sherbourne.”*

**BIG MOVE 12:** Consider removing the baseball diamond to accommodate a wider range of park uses and reduce conflicts.

There were minimal comments on **BIG MOVE 12**. One participant requested further clarification on this move.

*“I would love it just on a personal clarity level if this were not just one single long sentence that goes on forever.”*

**BIG MOVE 13:** Add a fenced, dedicated dogs off leash area to the park to support the growing number of residents with dogs in the intensifying neighbourhood, and to protect other park amenities and park users from conflict with dogs.

There were no further comments on **BIG MOVE 13**.

### 3.3 Summary of Top Feedback Received from Project Champions Survey

Three (3) Project Champions completed the post-meeting survey. Responses from the post-meeting survey demonstrated that there is strong agreement with the Draft Design Principles and Big Moves. Their responses are organized by theme below.

#### Safety

- **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 2:** Ensure the CRC and Park are accessible to all.
- **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 3:** Create a space that makes safety for all users a priority.
- **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 4:** Design an open, permeable, and transparent environment.

Project Champions felt that the safety interventions that were shared in **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 2, 3 and 4** were a reliable solution to concerns about navigating the park safely at night.

*“I really liked the proposal of adding emergency light buttons throughout the park.”*

#### Inclusion and Representation

- **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 4:** Design an open, permeable, and transparent environment.
- **BIG MOVE 7:** Integrate Indigenous placekeeping throughout the park.



One participant expressed disappointment in the project teams' approach to, and explanation of, **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 4** and **BIG MOVE 7**. They felt there should be more representation of Indigenous people on the committee as well.

*"I think the idea [of celebrating and sharing information about the Indigenous history and character of Moss Park] is amazing. However, the language used by some of the design team (specifically, the architects) was so disappointing. Only having four Indigenous people on this committee is sad. You need architects that are indigenous as well."*

Note: The landscape architecture design team includes Two -Row Architect, an Indigenous owned architecture firm based at Six Nations of Grand River.

### **Location of Community Recreation Centre**

- **BIG MOVE 1:** Maintain a large area of open parkland with frontages onto Queen and Shuter by building the new CRC along Sherbourne St., over the existing footprint.

With regard to **BIG MOVE 1**, one participant felt that the **Community Recreation Centre relocation** should be centrally located to bring more community members into the recreation facility.

*"The new building should maintain the current address but should border major intersections in order to attract more traffic."*

### **Washroom Access**

- **BIG MOVE 5:** Ensure washroom access from the outside of the building.

Members of the Project Champions group expressed concerns regarding access to washroom facilities as explored in **BIG MOVE 5** at the park. Specifically, they wanted to ensure that people experiencing homelessness would have access to the facilities and that these facilities would also incorporate considerations for harm reduction (for example hazmat boxes for safe disposal of needles).

*"This also means you need to ensure those who live in encampments have access to these bathrooms."*

*"My major issue with exterior washrooms is the lighting. The lighting should discourage drug use and have a safe sharps disposal area present."*

# Appendix A

## Project Presentation

# Moss Park Park Improvements & John Innes Community Recreation Centre Replacement



Community  
Update

June 20, 5 - 7PM

# Land Acknowledgement

We'd like to begin by honouring the land that we are on. If you are not currently in Toronto, we'd 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



# Goals for this Meeting

1. Share information about the Moss Park Improvements Project and the John Innes Community Recreation Centre Redesign Project in advance of public consultation beginning this summer.
2. Explain the project process and how the LAG will be involved.
3. Get to know one another and answer any questions you have.



**Image description:** Illustrated speech bubbles





## Presentation

- Project Overview
- Moss Park & John Innes CRC Today
- What We've Heard To Date
- What's Next: How People Will Shape the Project



## Next Steps



## Question and Answer Period

Hello!

Tell us a little about yourself and your connection to Moss Park.



# Project Overview

New Community Recreation Centre and Moss Park  
Improvements

# Key Project Components

## Major Park Improvements



Extensive park improvements with passive and active recreation amenities



Supporting equity-deserving groups in park and recreation programs



Integrate Indigenous placekeeping elements

## New Community Recreation Centre



Double gym



2 Pools



Multi-use community space

## Upgrades to Arena

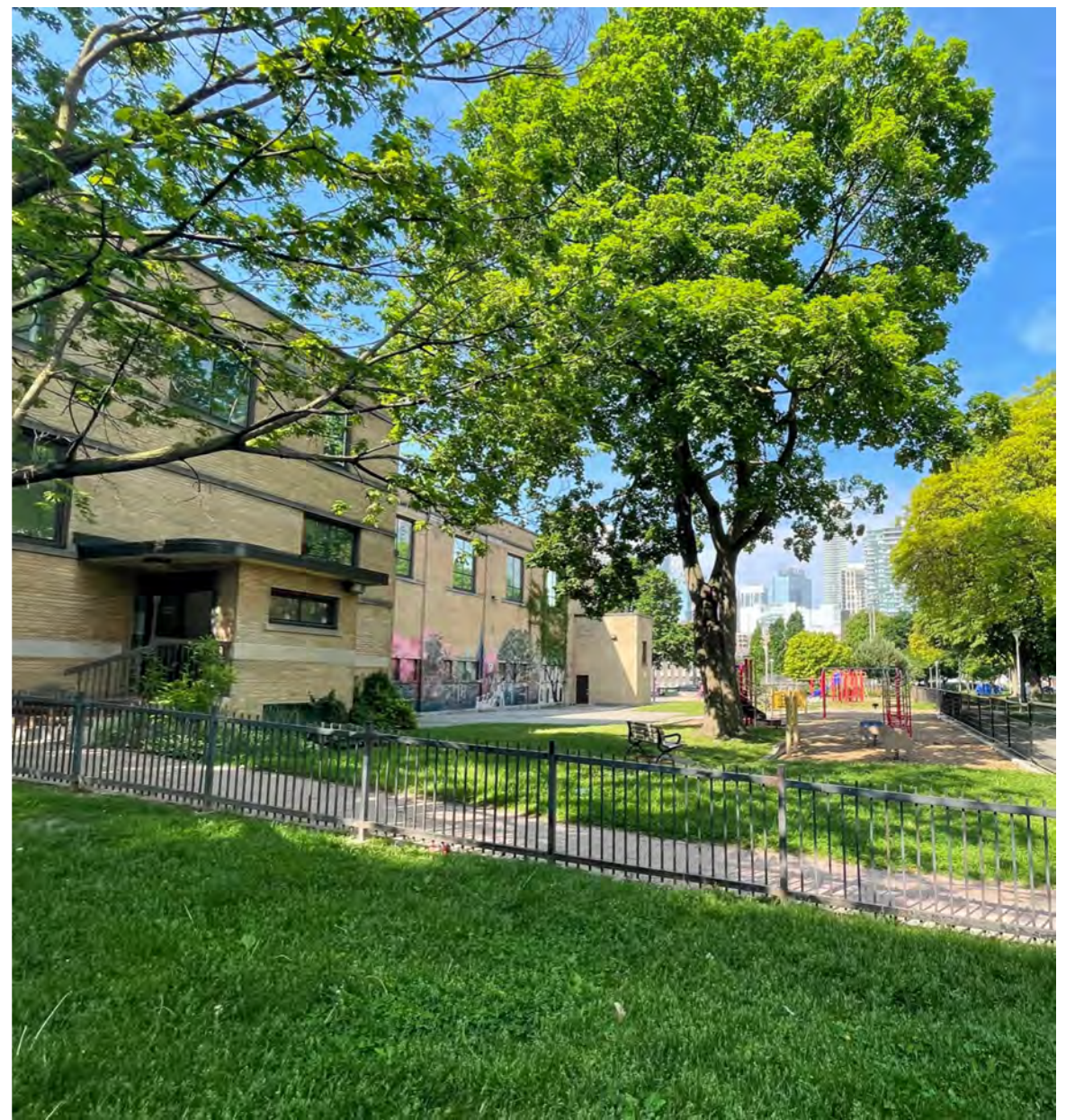


Exterior Upgrades

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:** Every project component will be shaped by the public input collected through the process.

# Why is a redesign of Moss Park and the John Innes CRC needed?

The redesign of Moss Park and the 70 year-old John Innes CRC is needed to serve the evolving needs of both the **high concentration of vulnerable and equity-deserving populations in the local area** as well as meet the needs of the many new community members and to support the area's future **population growth**.



**Image description:** Exterior landscape of the John Innes Community Recreation Centre

# Project Context

2016: More Moss Park	2021: Moss Park Improvements & John Innes CRC Redevelopment
<p><b>Who</b> Partnership between The 519 and The City of Toronto</p> <p><b>What</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Redevelop John Innes Community Recreation Centre<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Social services co-located within the building</li><li>• Proposed relocation of CRC</li><li>• Redevelop Moss Park Arena</li></ul></li><li>• Improve the park space around them</li></ul> <p><b>Goals</b> Improve facilities, programs and services, and create new buildings and spaces that are welcoming, equitable and accessible for all</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> This project only reached the feasibility study and engagement phases.</p>	<p><b>Who</b> The City of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division</p> <p><b>What</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Redevelop John Innes Community Recreation Centre<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Focus on recreation rather than social services</li><li>• New building has a smaller footprint than 2016 feasibility study design, but a larger footprint than the current building</li></ul></li><li>• Remodelling of exterior of Moss Park Arena</li><li>• Extensive improvements to Moss Park</li></ul> <p><b>Goals</b> Build on learnings from the More Moss Park process to improve facilities, programs and services, and to create new buildings and spaces that are welcoming, equitable and accessible for all</p>

# Project History

**2015: Initial reimagining of Moss Park began** as a partnership between the City of Toronto, The 519 and a philanthropic partner. Engagement and feasibility study conducted.

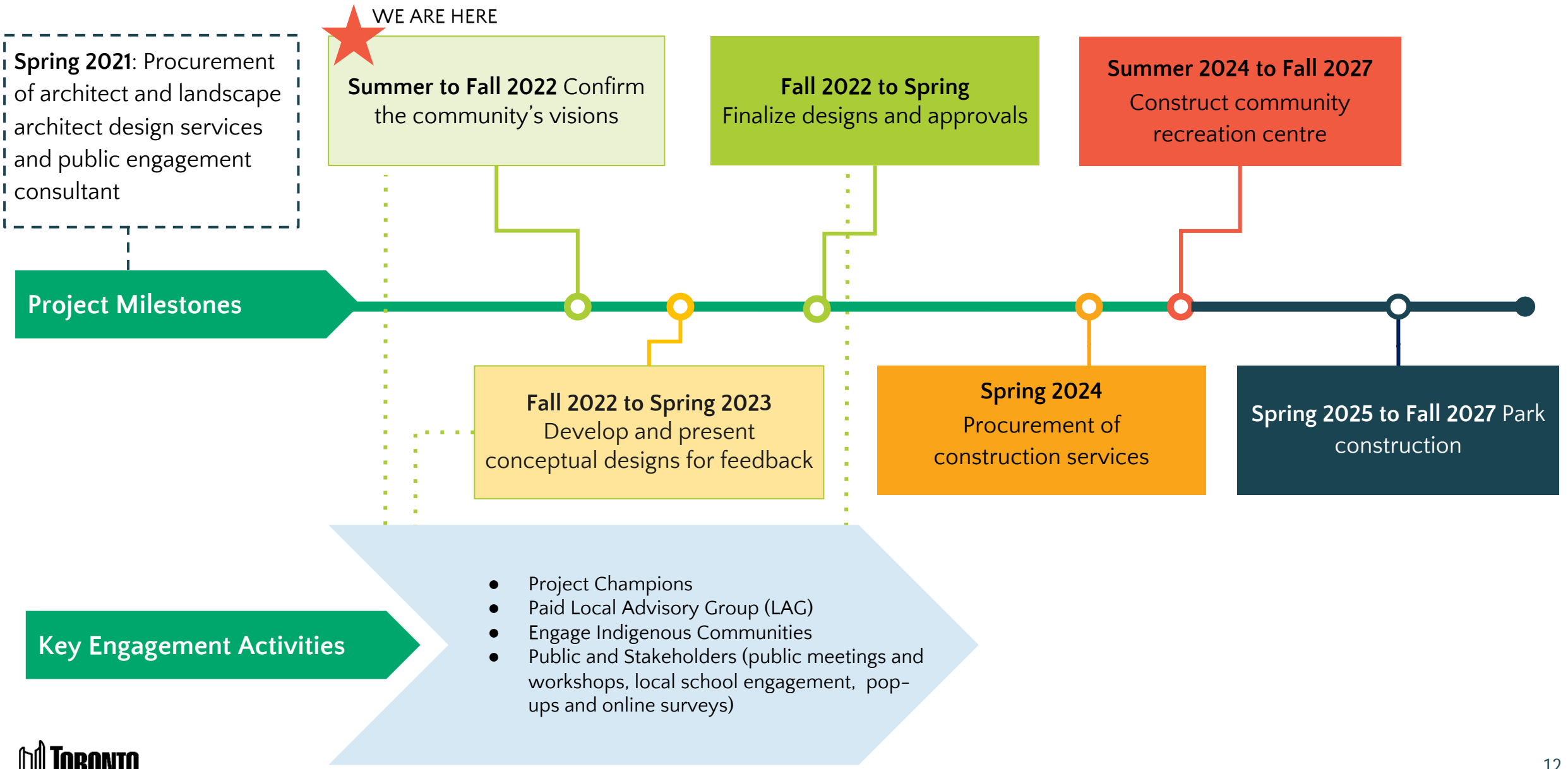
**2016: Project was deemed not feasible** in its then current form.

**WE ARE HERE**  
**TODAY:** The City is analyzing what's been done to date, and is getting ready to listen and gather more local ideas and experiences. The project is led and funded by the Parks, Forestry and Recreation department within the City of Toronto.

**2015: More Moss Park report released**  
Report included engagement with 2,500 people and a feasibility study

**2019: City Council adopts the implementation strategy for the Parks & Recreation Facilities Master Plan with amendments**  
Plan includes recommendations for replacement of John Innes CRC, Moss Park Arena facade improvements, and park improvements

# Current Project Timeline



# Introducing the Project Team



**Daniel Fusca**, Manager,  
Public Consultation, Parks,  
Forestry & Recreation

**Pablo Muñoz**, Senior  
Public Consultation  
Coordinator, Parks,  
Forestry & Recreation

**Suzanne Cooke-Wooland**,  
CP Capital Lead, Parks,  
Forestry & Recreation

**Nancy Chater**, CP Capital  
Lead, Parks, Forestry &  
Recreation



**Nadia Galati**, Principal and  
Engagement Lead

**Emma Clayton Jones**,  
Planner and Engagement  
Coordinator

**Trina Moyan Bell**  
Indigenous Engagement  
Lead

**Dr. Alex Abramovich**  
Strategic Advisor



**David Leinster**, Principal,  
Landscape Architecture

**Jennifer Williamson**,  
Studio Manager,  
Landscape Architecture

**Mike Hudson**, Urban  
Designer



**Brian Porter**,  
Principal

**Matthew Hickey**,  
Partner



**Chris Burbidge**,  
Principal

**Robert Allen**,  
Partner

**Janice Lee**, Architect

# Key Project Goals

**Launch a new initiative that is informed by the outcomes of the 2016 More Moss Park Feasibility Study:**

1. Replace the John Innes CRC with a new, bigger facility that can better meet the community's needs
2. Make extensive park improvements to meet current and future needs of the community
3. Build on the park's long standing role as a hub for the diverse communities and people of Moss Park
4. Ground the project by honouring local communities and by building on the assets of the park and community and the experiences and goals of diverse park users





# Key Project Goals

5. Build on the input received from the previous *More Moss Park* community consultation process
6. Deliver an accessible and welcome place for all members of the Moss Park and John Innes CRC community
7. Work closely with community throughout the project



**Image description:** Main entrance of the John Innes Community Recreation Centre

# CRC

Project Components: New Community Recreation Centre

**BACKGROUND**



**DENIAL IS NOT POLICY**  
#ARCHITECTS DECLARE  
#CLIMATE ACTION NOW  
#NOT BUSINESS AS USUAL

**This isn't POLITICS  
It's SURVIVAL**  
#ARCHITECTS DECLARE  
#CLIMATE ACTION NOW  
#NOT BUSINESS AS USUAL

**DROP THE FAÇADE**  
#ARCHITECTS DECLARE  
#CLIMATE ACTION NOW  
#NOT BUSINESS AS USUAL

**THIS ISN'T POLITICS  
IT'S SURVIVAL**  
THERE IS NO PLANET B

**NOT BUSINESS AS USUAL**  
#ARCHITECTS DECLARE  
#CLIMATE ACTION NOW

**BEYOND NEUTRAL**

**WE NEED CONCRETE**  
#ARCHITECTS DECLARE  
#CLIMATE ACTION NOW  
#NOT BUSINESS AS USUAL

**DESIGN like you  
GIVE A DAMN**

**NOT BUSINESS AS USUAL**  
#ARCHITECTS DECLARE  
#CLIMATE ACTION NOW

**WE NEED A CONCRETE PLAN**

**DROP THE FAÇADE**  
#ARCHITECTS DECLARE  
#CLIMATE ACTION NOW  
#NOT BUSINESS AS USUAL

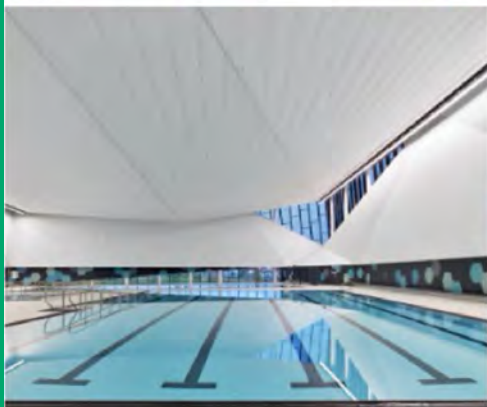
**DESIGN LIKE YOU  
GIVE A DAMN**  
#ARCHITECTS DECLARE  
#CLIMATE ACTION NOW  
#NOT BUSINESS AS USUAL

**MJMA**

# 30+ YEARS WITH BLACKWELL



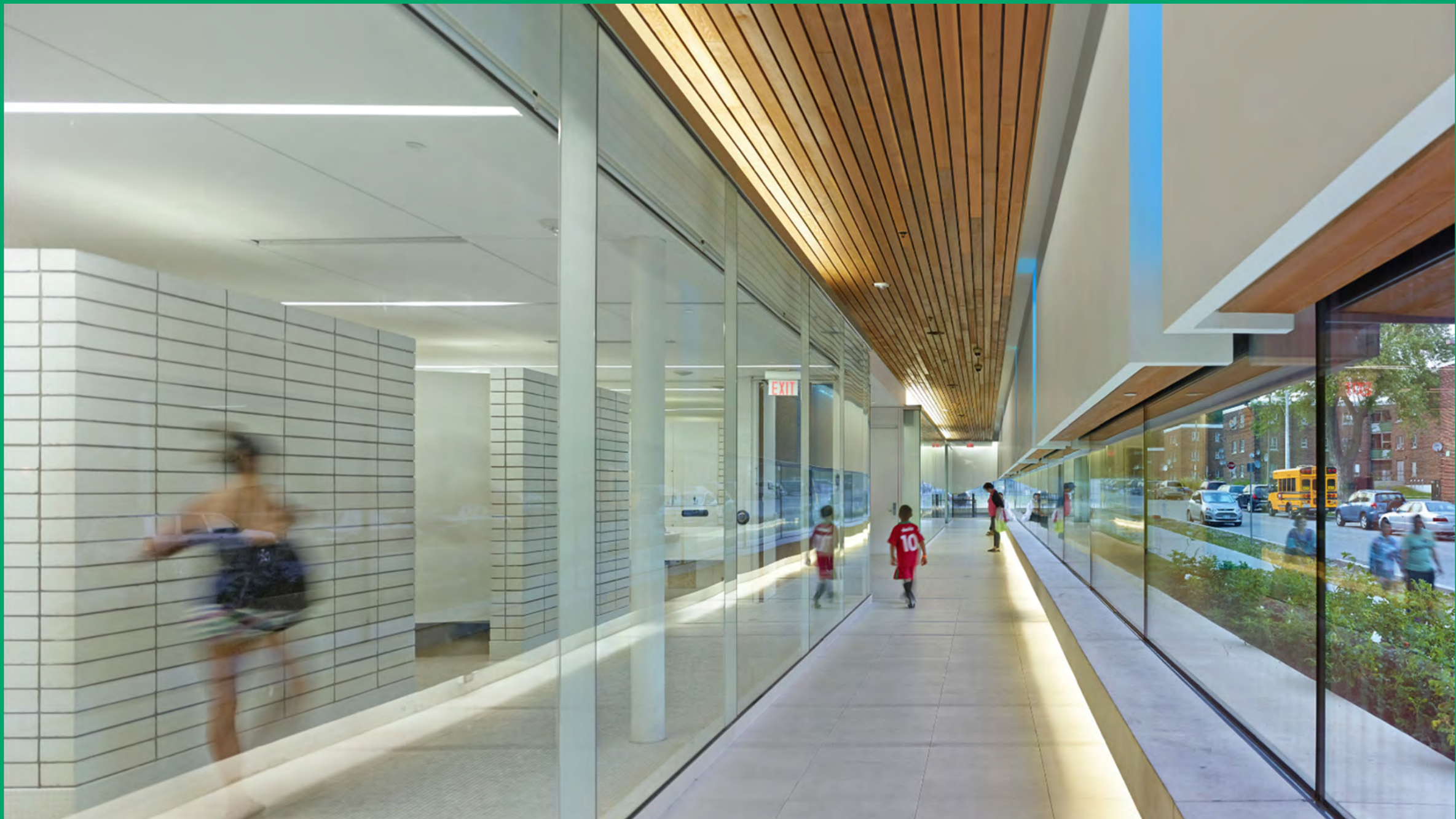
# 40+ COMMUNITY CENTRES WITH S+A

















BERNIE MORELL  
RECREATION CENTER

LEINE  
29

2

83



# Moss Park & John Innes Community Recreation Centre Today

# Moss Park Location & Context

**Moss Park** (the area in the red box) is bounded by **Sherbourne Street** on the east side, **The Armoury** on the west side, **Queen Street** to the south and **Shuter Street** to the north.



**Map description:** Context map locating Moss Park and the surrounding area.

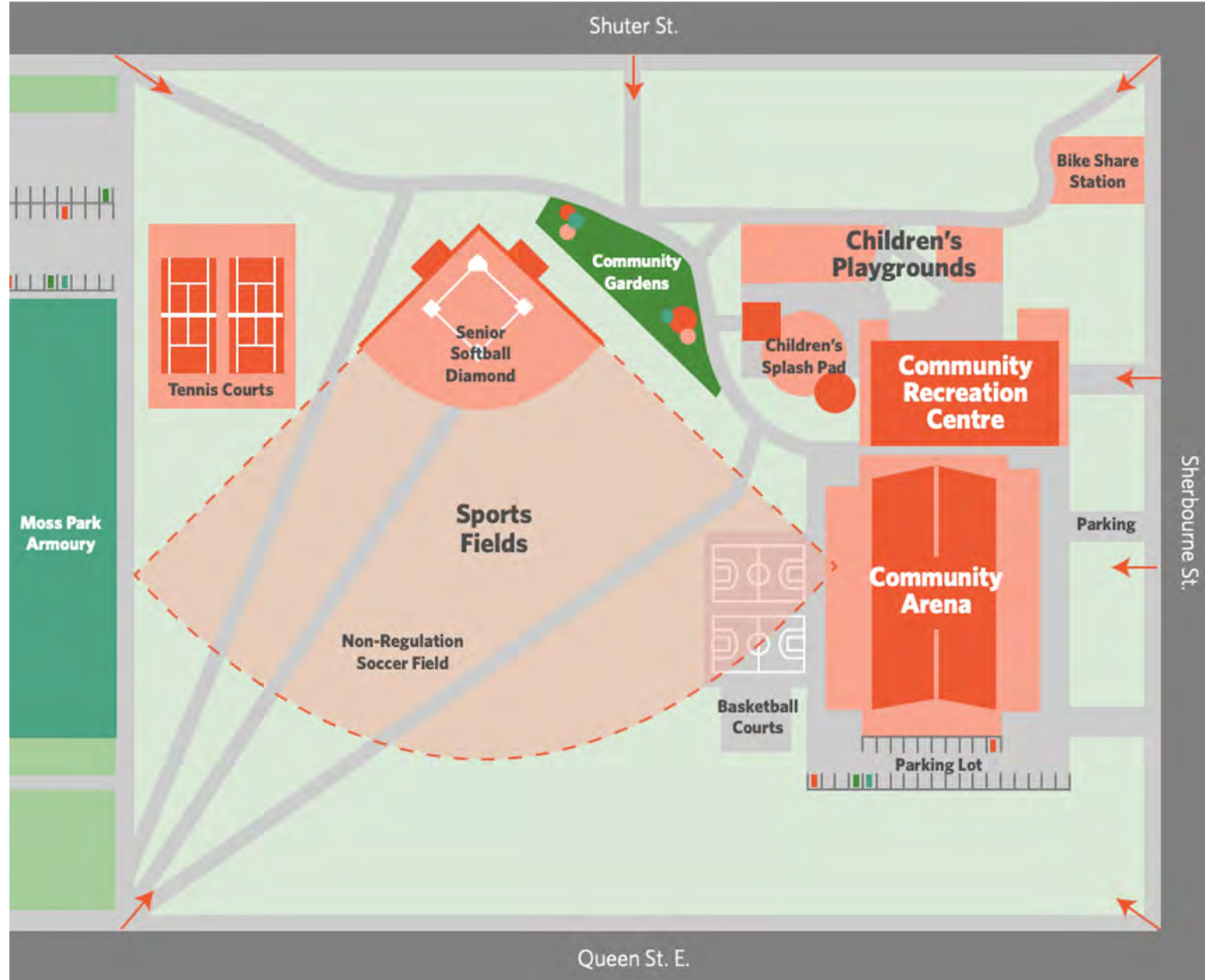
# Current Moss Park Site

Existing Public Park includes:

- Baseball diamond
- Soccer field
- Two tennis courts
- Basketball courts
- Wading pool
- Playground
- Community gardens
- Open lawn and trees

On the east side of the park is the Moss Park Arena and John Innes Community Recreation Centre.

**Map description:** Map of Moss Park that illustrates the locations of existing park amenities like the community recreation centre, the baseball diamond, the children's playground, community gardens, etc.





# Moss Park Today: Context Images



Image description: Moss Park welcome signage



Image description: Moss Park at sunset

# Moss Park Today: Context Images



**Image description:** Existing children's playground equipment

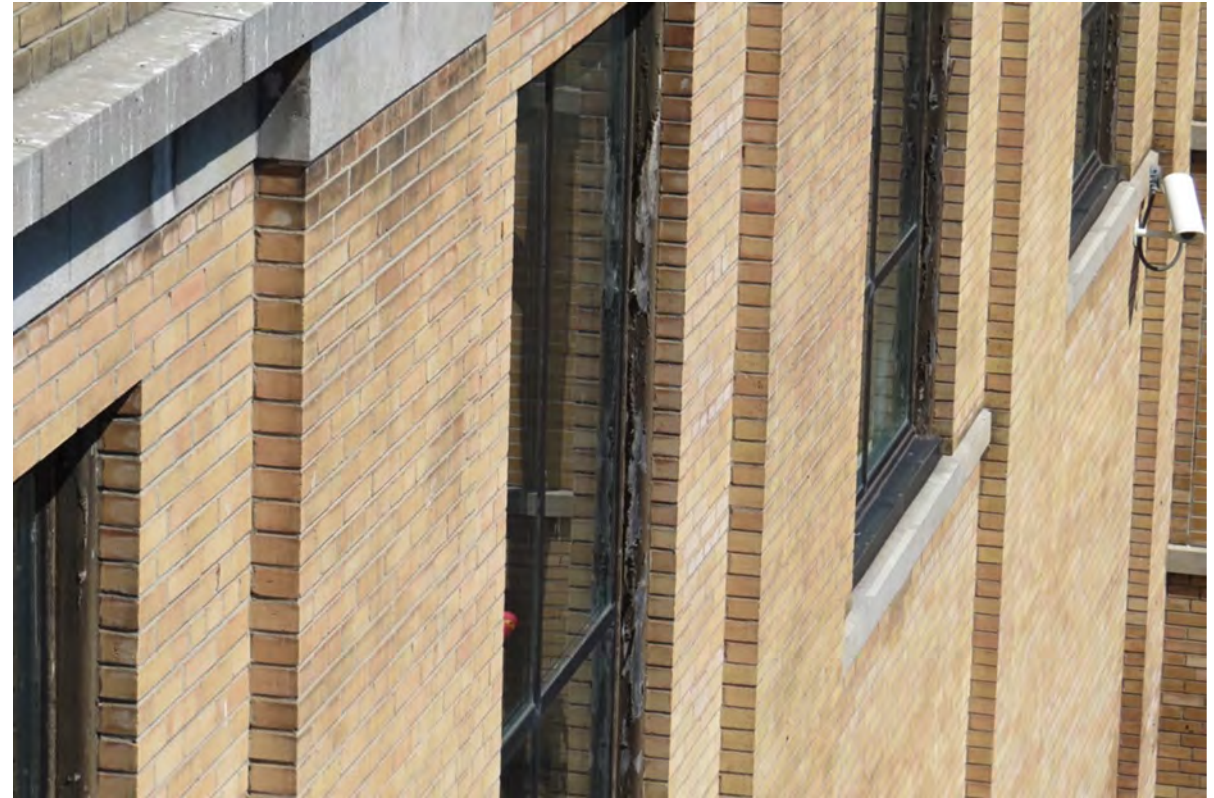


**Image description:**  
Existing Community gardens

# Moss Park Today: Context Images



**Image description:** Non-AODA compliant entryway/exit to the John Innes Community Recreation Centre



**Image description:** Deterioration of wood window frames

# Moss Park Today: Context Images



Image description: Existing kitchen facilities

# Moss Park Today: Context Images



**Image description:** Existing hand washing areas in the washroom



**Image description:** Shower facilities

# Moss Park Today: Context Images



**Image description:** Reception area of the John Innes Community Recreation Centre (view from main entrance)



**Image description:** Reception area of the John Innes Community Recreation Centre (view from hallway)

# Moss Park Today: Context Images



**Image description:** Fitness space with weight lifting equipment



**Image description:** Multi-purpose programming space

# Moss Park Today: Context Images



Image description: Workshop space

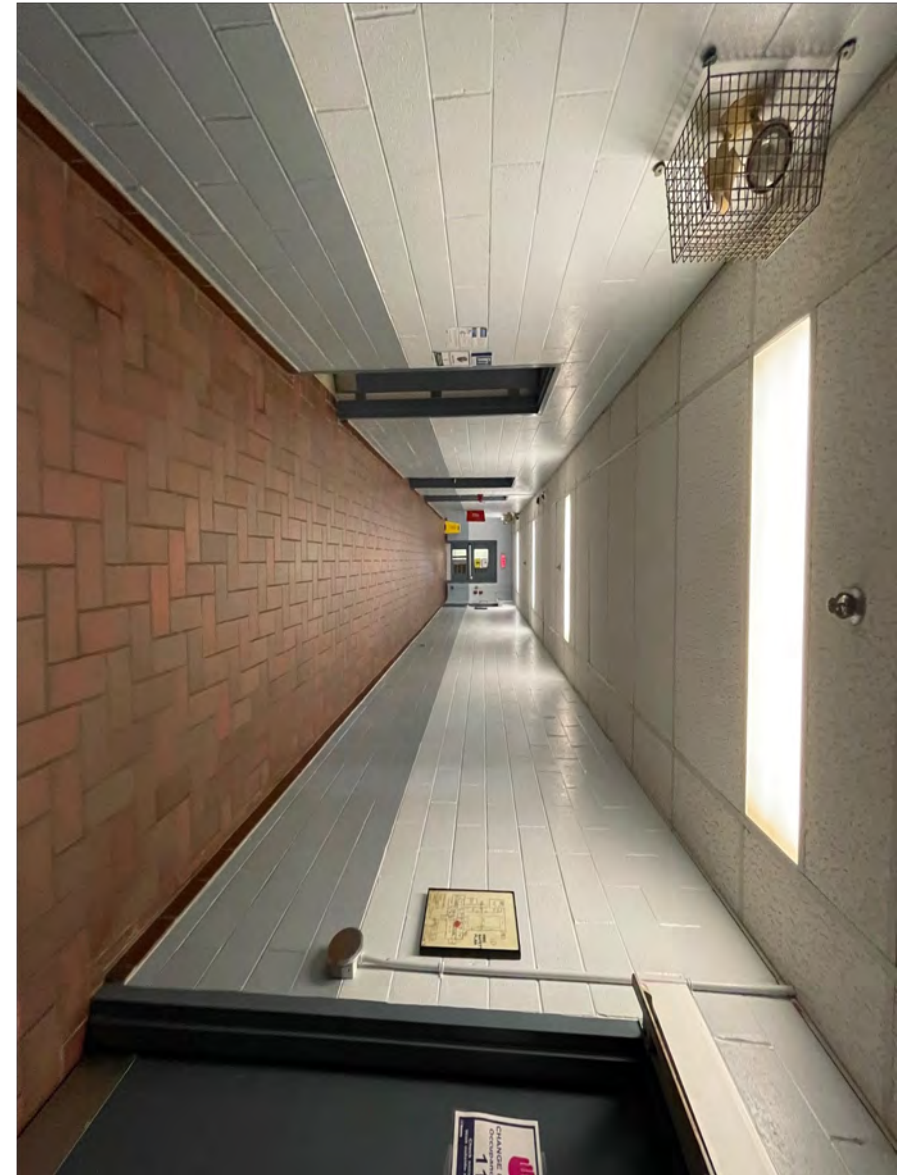


Image description: Hallway



# Moss Park Today: Context Images



**Image description:** Gymnasium at the John Innes CRC

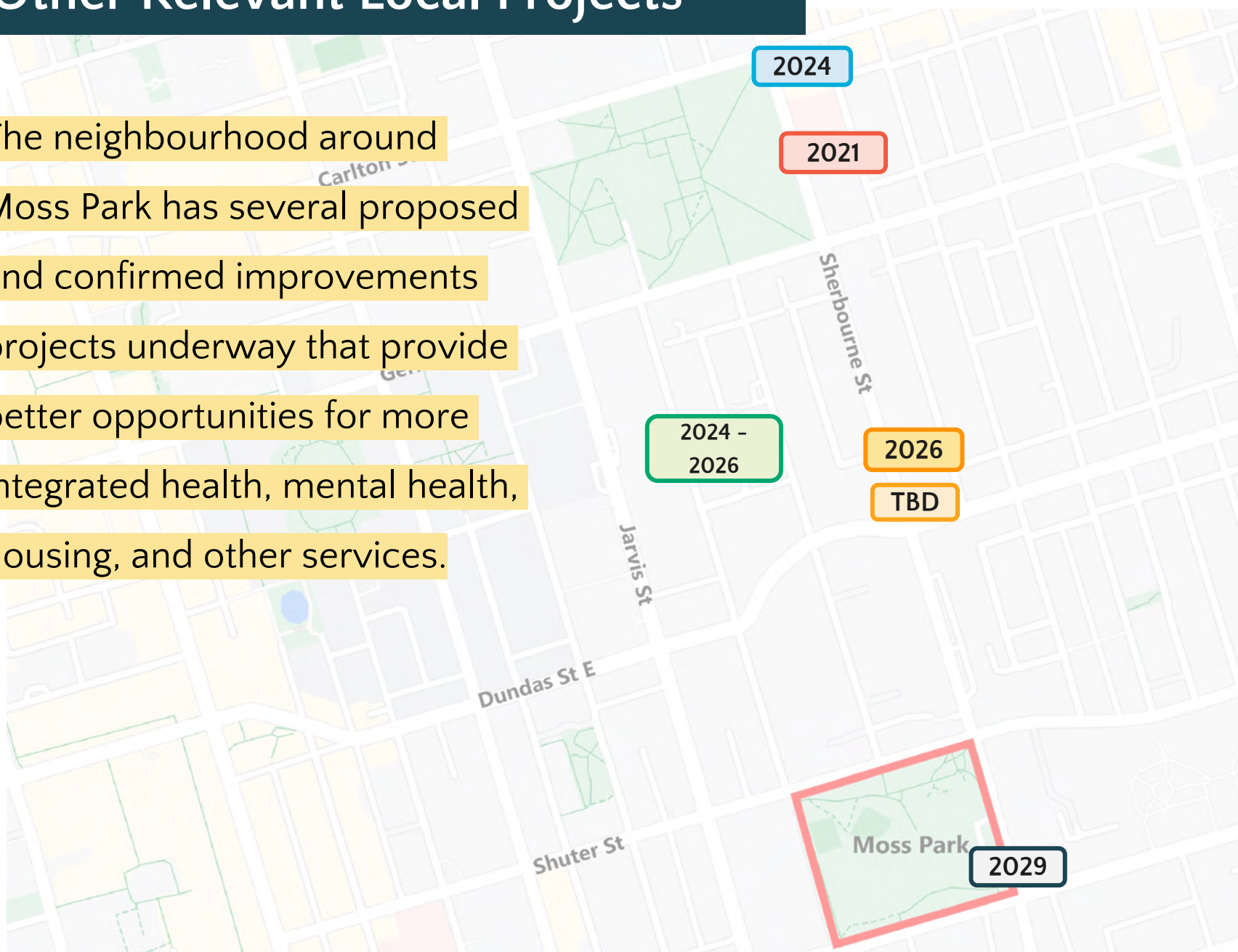
# Moss Park Today: Context Images



**Image description:** Lap pool at the John Innes Community Recreation Centre

# Other Relevant Local Projects

The neighbourhood around Moss Park has several proposed and confirmed improvements projects underway that provide better opportunities for more integrated health, mental health, housing, and other services.



**2024**  
**St Luke's United Church (353 Sherbourne)**  
Revitalization include: Affordable Rental Health and Wellness, Food Bank

**2021**  
**St Mike's Detox at Sherbourne Health (333 Sherbourne St)**  
Renovation to include withdrawal management beds

**2024 - 2026**  
**George St. Hub (339 George St)**  
New multipurpose hub for people experiencing homelessness: Shower, Laundry, Food, Lockers, Haircuts

**2026**  
**Dan Harrison TCHC Building (251 Sherbourne)**  
Supportive/Affordable Housing People with complex needs

**TBD**  
**All Saints (315 Dundas St E)**  
Housing and social supports Community mental health/wellness programs

**2029**  
**Downtown Relief Line Station (Queen & Sherbourne)**

# What We've Heard to Date

# More Moss Park - Key Findings

Overall enthusiasm about facilities and park redevelopment

Safety is a priority for everyone including that of vulnerable populations such as those experiencing homelessness

Desire for a more open and accessible park and CRC that is welcoming to everyone

Concern about disruption and displacement of services during construction

# More Moss Park - Key Findings

Desire for more flexible, multi-use spaces for different activities

Interest in how the redevelopment can balance the needs of local residents and regional users

Food security should be an important consideration and is an opportunity for community-building

Redevelopment must continue to include Indigenous people and organizations to shape the program design moving forward

## 2021: Pre-Consultation Conversations

In 2021, we have been having initial conversations with the following groups:

Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre

Garden District Residents Association

Cabbagetown Residents Association

Housing and Shelter Operators

Residents and Sports Groups

Service Providers

# 2021: Pre-Consultation Conversations - Key Takeaways

**Many important ideas have been shared. So far in 2021, some key takeaways are:**

- Maintenance of Access to programming in the community is critical
- Displacement and other impacts of construction and revitalization, especially those faced by equity-deserving community members, should be avoided as much as possible
- Current park users should feel welcome and able to use the park and Community Recreation Centre in the future
- Accessibility and dignity should be prioritized
- The engagement process needs to be proactive, actively and regularly reaching out to public and stakeholders via email and other appropriate channels
  - This includes reaching out to unhoused communities and Indigenous communities in appropriate ways
- Safety is a priority for many stakeholders, though it means different things to different people, depending on their lived experiences
- The digital programming options and social media communications that became normal during COVID-19 should be maintained



# What Will Make this Project Successful?

The Park and Community Recreation Centre will serve as a **gathering place** for an array of people, communities and experiences.

The project will be a success if the **diversity of community members** who use the Park and Community Recreation Centre today as well as future community members – feel interested, **welcome**, and **safe** to use these amenities in the future.



Image description: Moss Park sports field area

# What's Next: How People Will Shape the Project

How public and stakeholders' participation and input will shape the future of Moss Park and the John Innes CRC

# Anticipated Public Engagement Timeline

1

## SET THE STAGE Summer 2022

*Introduce the project, explain the process and lay the project groundwork.*

- Stakeholder Interviews

2

## CONFIRM THE VISION Fall 2022

*Revisit More Moss Park findings and explore how things have changed since 2015.*

*Better understand evolving local issues and how the project can best support local needs. Confirm the project Vision, Principles, and Big Moves.*

- Project Champion Meeting #1: June 11 2022
- Local Advisory Group (LAG) Meeting #1: June 13 2022
- Public Meeting: Jun 20 2022
- Indigenous Engagement: May 2022 onwards
- School Engagement: Sept/Oct 2022
- Pop-ups: Sept/Oct 2022
- Project Champions Meeting #2: Oct 2022
- LAG Meeting #2: Oct 2022

3

## EARLY DESIGN IDEAS Fall 2022 to Spring 2023

*Use what we learn in Phase 2 to start developing ideas for park amenities and concepts for the new CRC (i.e., entrance locations, etc.). Review ideas with community and revise ideas based on feedback.*

- Project Champions Meeting #3: Oct 2022
- LAG Meeting #3: Oct 2022
- Indigenous Engagement: ongoing
- School Engagement: Jan/Feb 2023
- Pop-ups: Mar/Apr 2023
- Public Open House: Apr 2023

4

## FINAL DESIGN Spring 2023

*Work on plans and designs for Moss Park and the John Innes CRC. Review ideas with the community and revise plans and designs based on feedback.*

- Project Champions Meeting #4: Mar 2023
- LAG Meeting #4: Mar 2023
- Indigenous Engagement: ongoing
- Public Open House: May 2023

### Engagement Activities

ONLINE ENGAGEMENT THROUGHOUT: Project website, online surveys, local communications campaign, project newsletters, etc.

Design will respond to what is learned through engagement

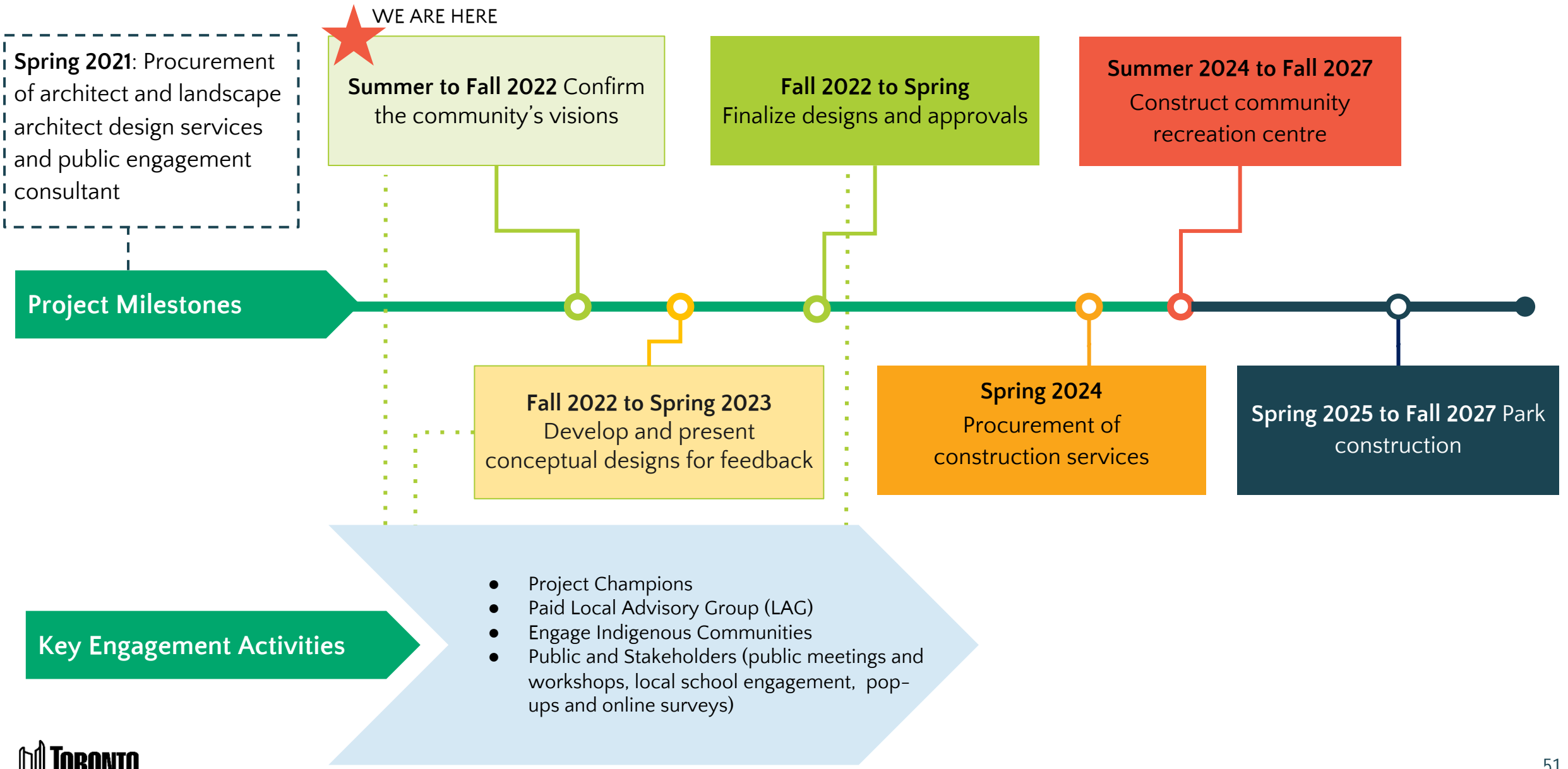
Set the Stage

Confirm the Vision

Early Design Ideas

Final Design

# Current Project Timeline



# Local Advisory Group (LAG)

<b>Who</b>	Key local stakeholders including local residents, nearby business improvement areas, local service organizations, and community organizations operating within the vicinity of the park.
<b>What</b>	Focused, deliberative discussions Project newsletters and ongoing correspondence
<b>When</b>	<p><b>PHASE 2</b> LAG Meeting #1: June 13, 2022 (3 - 5PM, VIRTUAL) (Anticipated agenda: Orientation and Team Building)</p> <p>LAG Meeting #2: June 2022 (Anticipated agenda: Vision, Mission, and Big Moves)</p> <p><b>PHASE 3</b> LAG Meeting #3: October 2022 (Anticipated agenda: Community review of concept design options)</p> <p><b>PHASE 4</b> LAG Meeting #5: March 2023 (Anticipated agenda: Design review meeting and Sense Making)</p>

# Draft Principles and Big Moves

# Draft Engagement Principles

**Building Blocks and Entry Points:** Ensure the process is iterative and collaborative.

**All our Voices:** Ensure the process incorporates the voices of all existing park and CRC user groups.

**Who, what, when, where and how:** Ensure the process is transparent and communicative.

**Meet the community where they are at:** Ensure public engagement is trauma-informed.

**Celebrate the community and share the right narrative:** Honour the Moss Park community's strengths beyond crises.

**Create Options:** Mitigate service disruption by providing community members with options to meet their needs.



# Draft Design Principles

1. Ensure the design of the CRC and park supports equity, belonging and inclusion.
2. Ensure the CRC and Park are accessible to all.
3. Create a space that leads to safety and security for all users.
4. Design an open, permeable and transparent environment.
5. Maximize, enhance and improve green spaces.
6. Celebrate and share information about the Indigenous history and character of Moss Park.
7. Contribute to food security.
8. Be sustainable and carbon-neutral.





1. Maintain a large area of open parkland with frontages onto Queen and Shuter by building the new CRC along Sherbourne St, over the existing footprint.
2. Establish a cohesive design language between the CRC and the Arena and a strong relationship between both buildings and the future Moss Park subway station.
3. Optimize opportunities for rooftop access to the new CRC.
4. Incorporate spaces for prayer and ceremony.
5. Ensure washroom access from the outside of the building.
6. Create a new urban gateway at Queen and Sherbourne.
7. Integrate Indigenous placekeeping throughout the park.
8. Establish a renewed urban canopy of trees on Queen Street to match the Shuter edge.
9. Maintain and enhance key pedestrian pathways and access points into the park.



# ACTIVITY!

Let's workshop the draft principles and big moves.

# How to stay connected

# How to stay connected

- Project Website / Sign-up for updates: <https://www.toronto.ca/mosspark>
- Contact the project team by sending an email to:
  - Daniel Fusca: [daniel.fusca@toronto.ca](mailto:daniel.fusca@toronto.ca)
  - Pablo Muñoz: [pablo.munoz@toronto.ca](mailto:pablo.munoz@toronto.ca)



# Thank you!

# Appendix B

## Questions/Comments

### Questions/Comments about the Design Principles:

PARTICIPANT QUESTION/COMMENT: DESIGN PRINCIPLES	PROJECT TEAM RESPONSE
<p>Concern about how the space will be used at night. Having passive activities in a central area at night will help make it safer.</p> <p>A definition of safety was provided by another contributor: would you take your kids there? Would you take your kids there at night? The safety issue is the biggest gap between the park as it exists today and the idealized future of the park.</p>	<p>Safety means different things to different people. Safety issues are gaps between the park as it exists today and the idealized future of the park.</p>
<p>The Parks team should figure out how many people rent and use the baseball space? Also, tennis. Tennis use is surprising and actually animates the park.</p>	<p>The project team is in contact with the Recreation team to ensure we are including their input in this process.</p> <p>Part of one of the design principles that we have is to design an open permeable and transparent environment.</p>
<p>Are you looking for a contribution from developers of the play area?</p>	
<p>Is there any way to have an emergency button in some areas that are connected to John Innes Park?</p>	
<p>The Armoury creates poor sight lines on Jarvis Street. I believe in eyes on the street and safety in numbers. With the Metrolinx station coming online and with the park being revitalized, I think there is a real opportunity to better connect the park with Jarvis Street. For example, the sidewalk along Shuter street and Jarvis is narrow- that can be made into a proper gateway. There should be some sort of anchor, some sort of public and better lighting at that corner and again on the North North sidewalk of queen at Jarvis as well. That could help draw pedestrians off Jarvis Street and into the park and create a</p>	

<b>PARTICIPANT QUESTION/COMMENT: DESIGN PRINCIPLES</b>	<b>PROJECT TEAM RESPONSE</b>
walkway to the station. This will be integrated with the redesign of the park itself.	
It sounds like a good idea to have an off-leash area but then that makes it 24/7, only available for dogs. When you have it the way it's currently being used where they use the open field more, it takes away from other uses (Frisbee).	
Making the entrance to the Moss Park TCHC building entrances need to be made more friendly by adding lights on the sidewalks.	The scope of the project will be focused on the community recreation centre and on the park. We will ensure that this message is relayed to the appropriate people.
All of the clients from the shelter sit right at the entrance of the building- maybe if it was on another street maybe it will be safer for clients who are afraid to walk into that entrance of the community recreation centre.	
With the More Moss Park consultations, the city park and recreation staff were adamant that the park was not being used at night. They said they did not have data for it but not all of the activities like tennis and basketball registration is required. When that active use is occurring the park character changes in a positive way.	
The Garden District group has been in conversation with the Department of National Defence for years. They are a difficult group of people to deal with but if there were any expectation that they relationship between Moss Park and the Armoury were to be changed or improved, we unfortunately would have some cold water to throw on that idea but also would have channels to support this idea being pursued.	
If the baseball diamonds could be kept, bleachers are inexpensive. sharps containers to have proper sharps disposal put around. So, we don't have to worry about needles in different areas. Lighting and fencing are major things that help with security. I know the city's working on new garbage bins as well, but even just having proper disposal helps clean up the look and make it more attractive to people just coming in. Those are all very inexpensive things to do.	

PARTICIPANT QUESTION/COMMENT: DESIGN PRINCIPLES	PROJECT TEAM RESPONSE
<p>I just wanted to support those values of equity and accessibility as well just because I feel like that would lead to community and activity and a comfort in the space which then would in turn lead to increased safety. So beyond direct safety interventions, kind of the inaction of equity, and accessibility could lead to that. What some of the other folks we're talking about just increase lighting and diverse programming in the space.</p>	
<p>There are a lot of drop-off food trucks and cars to feed the homeless. People give donations and things from the back of their cars and there's a lot of garbage left behind. How is that going to be managed? I think if that continues into the park project that may impede in terms of, with the metro links that people may move and go more towards where the John Innes entrances. This needs to be considered.</p>	

**Questions/Comments about the Big Moves:**

PARTICIPANT QUESTION/COMMENT: BIG MOVES	PROJECT TEAM RESPONSE
<p>Is the arena going to be in the same place it is right now? Will the footprint be the same?</p>	<p>Yes, the arena will remain as is, where it is. The footprint of the facility will be larger than the existing one because the existing facility is much smaller in gross floor area. The proposed facility is going to include a pool and once you add that program space it is going to be 72,000 square feet- almost double in size.</p>
<p>Will there be any consideration for the location of the main entrance?</p>	<p>One of the considerations for retaining it on Sherbourne street was to fortify, or maintain that connection with the new metro station. There would definitely be access from the park side. But through the community centers, there's generally a main access point and it's usually at the front of the building. Typically we have entrances at both sides of the building. The main entrance would also be associated with the address of the building.</p>
<p>How is the team thinking about integrating parking? Is parking being considered and parking for users from outside of the area.</p>	<p>The architect will be retaining a traffic engineer, and they will be providing a parking and traffic study for the entire site. We have met with the arena board</p>



PARTICIPANT QUESTION/COMMENT: BIG MOVES	PROJECT TEAM RESPONSE
	<p>and they would like to maintain the existing parking they have.</p> <p>Where it's going to be located is not has not been decided. There isn't going to be a temporary or interim location at the back of the building because when the station is being constructed, the existing arena parking is going to be required to be removed in order to accommodate the station at that intersection. Metrolinx is planning on relocating the existing arena parking to behind the arena. So it will affect the basketball court at the rear of the arena. And in regard to the parking for the CRC, the plan at the moment is to create some spaces that are in between the new facility, the CRC and the existing arena.</p> <p>Transportation services doesn't support having driveways and cars and vehicles access coming from Shuter and kind of neither do we collectively as a team because we've talked a lot about the importance of that green edge, the canopy of trees that connect to Pembroke. So, it's not desired to put a driveway through there.</p>
<p>Orienting the entrance, or at least an entrance to the park, a very obvious interest to the park that was aligned with Pembroke Street as it hits Shuter would be highly desirable from a local resident's perspective.</p>	
<p>Sherbourne Street between Shuter and Queen is not safe, if you are looking to drive traffic into the building something will need to be done to improve the perception. Many of us in this neighbourhood would avoid walking down either side of that street- pouring millions of dollars into a project with an underused entry way will be a waste.</p>	

# Moss Park Improvements & John Innes Community Recreation Centre Replacement Project

WHAT WE HEARD REPORT:  
Local Advisory Group and  
Project Champions Meeting #2

August 30, 2022



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# 1.0 About this Report

This meeting summary report summarizes key meeting findings from the Moss Park Improvements & John Innes Community Recreation Centre Replacement Project's second meeting held with the Local Advisory Group and Project Champions on August 30, 2022. This report summarizes the meeting details as well as feedback and input collected from engagement activities. To learn more about the project including past reports visit the project page [toronto.ca/MossPark](https://toronto.ca/MossPark).

## 1.1 Project Schedule

Summer 2022 - Phase 1: SET THE STAGE

Introduce the project, explain the process, and lay the project groundwork.

**WE ARE HERE**

**Summer 2022 – Fall 2022 Phase 2: CONFIRM THE VISION, PRINCIPLES, BIG MOVES**

Introduce the project, revisit More Moss Park findings, and explore how things have changed since 2015. Better understand evolving local issues and how the project can best support local needs. Confirm the Principles and Big Moves of the project.

Fall 2022 to Spring 2023: Phase 3 - CONCEPT DESIGN OPTIONS

Use what we learn in Phase 2 to start developing ideas for park amenities and concepts for the new Community Recreation Centre. Review ideas through design options presented to the community and revise ideas based on feedback.

Spring 2023: Phase 4 - PREFERRED CONCEPT

Refine the concept plans for the park and John Innes CRC based on feedback and present the preferred concept to the community. Review ideas with the community and revise plans and designs based on feedback.

## 1.2 Engagement Timeline

The following are other scheduled engagement activities with the Project Champions and LAG (subject to change):

- **Project Champions Meeting #1: June 13, 2022 (COMPLETED)**
- **Local Advisory Group (LAG) Meeting #1: June 13, 2022 (COMPLETED)**
- **Project Champions Meeting #2: August 30, 2022 (COMPLETED)**
- **LAG Meeting #2: August 30, 2022 (COMPLETED)**
- Project Champions Meeting #3: Fall 2022
- LAG Meeting #3: Fall 2022

- Project Champions Meeting #4: Winter 2023
- LAG Meeting #4: Winter 2023

## 2.0 Overview of Local Advisory Group/ Project Champions Meeting #2

### Meeting Overview

The virtual meeting took place over WebEx, with a total of 19 participants from the Local Advisory Group and Project Champions. The meeting began with a general welcome, Land Acknowledgement and an African Ancestral Acknowledgement. The project team also went over code of conduct which provided an overview of the roles, responsibilities and expectations of participants and process stewards (the project team) during the meeting. The project team then went over the meeting objectives (see below). Everyone that was present, including the project team, had an opportunity to introduce themselves.

The objectives for the second Local Advisory Group (LAG) and Project Champions meeting included the following:

- 1) Update the Local Advisory Group and Project Champions about the project's design process and progress since we last met.
- 2) Share the emerging designs for the John Innes Community Recreation Centre
- 3) Gather insights, ideas, and feedback for the John Innes Community Recreation Centre.

After the project team delivered objectives 1) and 2) for the meeting, participants were invited to participate in rotating breakout sessions that were focused on specific project components for the Community Recreation Centre. These included: **Tailored Community Spaces, Aquatics, Fitness Oriented Spaces, and Common Areas and Shared Spaces.**

A general set of questions guided discussion in each breakout room. These included:

1. What activities do you like to do in these spaces?
2. Are there additional activities or programming that you wish were available in these spaces?
3. What features, technology or design elements are needed for these activities to take place?

Two project team members were in each breakout room to facilitate discussion based on these questions as well as provide more information about each project component. The project team used Miro, a whiteboard tool, to share a detailed look at the project components and to record participant responses. Each rotating breakout room was twenty minutes each and after each interval, participants could choose the next project component that they wanted to discuss.

## Meeting Details

Date:	Tuesday August 30, 2022, 5 PM - 7 PM
Location:	Virtual, Webex
Attendees:	19 Participants Thirteen (13) Local Advisory Group Members Six (6) Project Champions
Project Team:	City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry & Recreation Division PROCESS (Public and Stakeholder Engagement) The Planning Partnership (Landscape Architecture) Two Row Architect (Landscape Architecture & Indigenous Lens) MJMA (CRC Architecture & Design)

## 3.0 What We Heard

### 3.1 Summary of Key Findings

Local Advisory Group members and Project Champions wanted the future John Innes Community Recreation Centre to provide opportunities for diverse users. When reviewing the project components, they offered a range of considerations for how the Community Recreation Centre could be more inclusive for people with disabilities, families, youth, women, 2SLGBTQ+, and seniors. General considerations for each project component included the following:

#### **Culturally Specific Programming**

The community kitchen, youth lounge and woodshop, specifically food and art programming, were seen as key opportunities to incorporate culturally specific programming. Participants felt that this kind of programming should reflect the neighbourhood demographics and was also an opportunity for sharing Indigenous ways of creating as well as teachings from other cultures that are predominant in the community.

### **User-friendly Booking System**

Participants wanted to be able to easily access the booking system for community spaces like the youth room and community kitchen. They wanted to be able to self-navigate a platform that allowed them to see when community spaces were available and make bookings on their own.

### **Open to all ages, genders, and abilities**

Participants wanted community spaces and programs to be accessible to people of all ages and genders. They recognized the need to have spaces such as the fitness rooms, woodshop, aquatics centre and youth lounge to have dedicated programming to accommodate specific demographic groups such as women, 2SLGBTQ+ and people with disabilities. Participants also wanted to see that each space was wheelchair accessible and accommodated people with different mobility needs.

### **Proper Ventilation and Public Hygiene**

LAG and Project Champions wanted to ensure that common areas such as washrooms, change rooms and seating areas have materials that are easy to clean and maintain so that they last a long time and are safe to use. They were also concerned about the air quality of fitness-oriented spaces and wanted to see more ventilation in those areas. They wanted the design to include windows that are able to be opened to the outside to ensure cross ventilation and alternative access to air.

### **Flexible, Multi-purpose spaces**

Participants felt that all spaces should be flexible to accommodate a range of uses. For example, the youth lounge could be a computer space, co-working space or a prayer space. They also wanted to see more connections be built between project components. For example, they felt that the community kitchen should be connected to the large multipurpose room as well as an outdoor area.

## 3.2 Summary of Feedback on Key Project Components

### **Tailored community spaces**

Participants were asked to provide ideas for programming and design features for tailored community spaces. Tailored community spaces include Youth Space/Lounge, Wood Shop, Community Kitchen and Cooking Classes, Games, Terrace. In general,

participants felt that all community spaces should be accessible to support the inclusion of people with disabilities and support gender diversity. Including features such as handrails in each community space as well as gender neutral bathrooms throughout the community centre would help to promote these outcomes. Another criterion of accessibility for community spaces was ensuring that the booking system was user friendly. For example, participants wanted to be able to use an online system that showed when spaces were available or unavailable.

Participants' ideas for each community space included thoughts about the programs and features that each space should contain. There was support for the improvement of community centres in the neighbourhood as more condominium development in the area will lead to less public spaces. Participants also asked the project team to recognize and consider the social entrepreneurship opportunities that were possible through the kitchen and woodshop. Specific ideas for each community space are detailed in the table below.

Community Space	Participant Ideas
Youth Space/Lounge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Computer programming               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Computer literacy for seniors and youth</li> <li>○ Laptop rental opportunities</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Prayer space</li> <li>● Co-working space</li> <li>● Whiteboards and television</li> <li>● Open hours for studying and tutoring with volunteer support</li> <li>● Accessible booking system</li> <li>● Listening and sharing space               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Drag Storytime</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Woodshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Community programming ideas               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Indigenous-led art making courses</li> <li>○ Woodworker led courses</li> <li>○ Bike mechanic courses</li> <li>○ Repair cafe</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Open to all ages and genders               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Programming specific to women</li> <li>○ Programming specific to youth (youth only hours)</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Facilities management               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Proper ventilation</li> <li>○ Adequate storage</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Social enterprise opportunities for makers</li> </ul>
Community Kitchen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Kitchen amenities</li> </ul>



Community Space	Participant Ideas
and Cooking Classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lots of counter space and food preparation areas</li> <li>○ Multiple refrigerators</li> <li>○ Inclusive design for people with disabilities or mobility issues for example, shorter countertops and accessible stoves</li> <li>● Nutrition programming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Life skills</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Culturally specific <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Indigenous cooking course</li> <li>○ Accommodations for kosher and halal</li> <li>○ Demographic-focused classes and programs</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Partnerships and social enterprises <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cooking courses taught by local chefs</li> <li>○ Support local caterers with Food Handling Certification and affordable kitchen space</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Games	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Maintaining existing billiards and foosball games</li> <li>● Community building opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Partnerships with community organizations and businesses</li> <li>○ Intergenerational games</li> <li>○ Seniors games</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Terrace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Growing opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Community farm</li> <li>○ Flower garden</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Accessible booking system</li> </ul>

**Aquatics**

The aquatics centre will include a 25-metre 6 lane lap pool as well as a leisure/tot pool. Participants were asked to share their ideas regarding different features and programming for the aquatics centre. In general, participants wanted to ensure that a range of users can access the facility. Ideas about what this could look like varied. Some participants wanted to ensure all ages were able to access programming like swimming lessons while others wanted programming focused on specific demographics such as youth and women. Having swimming lanes that were dedicated to age groups was also suggested.

Regarding design features, participants wanted the aquatic centre to be well lit and have natural lighting if possible. They also wanted to see features that supported users who used wheelchairs or required mobility supports. Participants also wanted to see

connections built to the outdoors and for the aquatic centre to be integrated with an outdoor splash pad. However, participants also felt that a connection to the outdoors should be balanced with privacy features such as blinds. A slide was also suggested as a feature that children would love.

Water safety was the top priority in terms of programming. Participants felt that programming such as bronze cross or lifeguard training should be free. They noted that higher levels of swimming instructions would require more deck space.

### **Fitness Oriented Spaces**

The fitness-oriented spaces that are proposed for the community centre include the following: double gym mezzanine with running track, weight room, two fitness studios, and a dance studio. Overall, participants wanted to see that these spaces were flexible and could serve multiple purposes while also having enough safe storage such as a locker system for personal belongings. They also wanted to have safety devices such as automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and NARCAN kits (for overdose treatments) be made accessible on every floor.

#### *Double Gym*

Reflecting on the current demands in the community centre's gymnasium, participants shared that the future gym should be double the current size so that more users can access the space. Participants felt that a larger gym could also accommodate more ball sports such as volleyball or basketball.

Participants wanted to see more storage space in the gym which would coincide with seating areas. For example, having a cubby/locker storage system and benches in one area for users to change into their gym shoes was proposed by one participant. Seating areas for spectators was also proposed as well.

Participants felt that there needed to be dedicated programming for people living with disabilities to ensure that those with disabilities knew they could use the space as well. For participants, this could look like having hours dedicated to people with disabilities. This would be further accommodated by ensuring that the changing room facilities were wheelchair accessible.

#### *Weight Room*

The weight room is proposed to be a space dedicated to heavier gym equipment. Participants wanted to see more lower impact equipment be introduced to weight room such as stationary bikes or cardio equipment. It was felt that this would ensure more

older adults and seniors could make use of those types of equipment. Participants also felt that the weight room should be well ventilated and in close proximity to public showers.

### *Fitness Studios*

To ensure that the fitness studios were safer spaces, it was suggested that the fitness studio offers hours for women only and LGBTQ+ community members. Discussions about the fitness studio were mostly focused on the types of programming that could be offered in the space. The programming ideas that were suggested by participants that could operate fitness studio included the following:

- Indoor cycling/Spin Classes
- Gymnastics
- Martial Arts
- Self-defense for youth and seniors
- Boxing

Participants also wanted to see features that were easy to maintain such as fingerprint proof mirrors and seating areas with materials that are easy to clean.

### *Dance Studio*

There were minimal comments on the dance studio. Participants felt that the dance studio could host programs that were not as physically demanding as those held in the gym and fitness studio and that the dance studio could be a quiet space in the community centre. Suggestions for programs that could facilitate this included Tai Chi classes, yoga, and therapeutic stretching classes in general. Participants wanted this space to feel open and include mirrors and a view of the park.

## **Common Areas and Shared Spaces**

Common areas and shared spaces include the lobby, large community multi-purpose room, smaller community activity rooms, and community rooftop access/green roof. In general, the biggest priority for common areas and shared spaces was public hygiene and accessibility. Participants felt that there should be a reception area on each floor of the building and on opposite sides of each floor so that the space was always being monitored. They did not feel that passive surveillance of common areas was enough. They also wanted to know if the police were involved in the design process and advising on how Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) elements could be incorporated into the design. Participants also felt that there should be multiple elevators to make sure that the Community Recreation Centre is accessible to all.

### *Common areas and Lobby*

Participants felt that common areas were good opportunities to build in social spaces such as areas for eating and casual conversations. They also felt that the lobby should have a lot of seating to provide opportunities for respite and to serve as a cooling/warming centre when we are experiencing challenging climate conditions. There were also concerns raised about public hygiene in relation to seating areas and high-touch areas. Participants felt that the seating should be washable and that any handrails should be anti-bacterial.

Participants also felt that the design of common areas should be cohesive and connected. They suggested that art pieces going up the stairway for example could help to bridge upstairs and downstairs.

### *Community Rooftop Access/ Green Roof*

Participants liked the idea of having rooftop access at the Community Recreation Centre. They felt that it would add a new perspective of the community for community members. There were inquiries about year-round access to the rooftop and suggested that this kind of access be supported by sheltered space.

In general, participants wanted to see the rooftop be animated with a community garden or greenhouse that could have a link to the food programming in the community kitchen and cooking classes. This could look like having space in the garden allotted for growing Indigenous vegetable life that could supply the kitchen with fresh foods and provide community members the opportunity to learn about Indigenous vegetables and how to grow them. Opportunities for outdoor activities such as bar-b-ques and sports activities such as slack roping and a fenced in beach volleyball areas was also suggested.

Participants also inquired about the possibility of social enterprises and community partnerships to operate on the green roof. They felt that organizations such as Foodshare or Toronto Plant Life could help maintain or operate the community garden. They also wondered if there could be a snack shop or cafe on the rooftop to provide opportunities for food vendors in the community.

### *Community multipurpose room and small community activity room*

Participants wanted to know more about the capacity limitations of the multi-purpose room before they provided comments on the kinds of activities they could see taking place in there. For smaller community rooms, they liked the idea of having a study space and suggested that this area should have programming such as tutoring, adult

learning or computer skills as well as opportunities for passive use and casual studying. They felt that this space should be in a low-traffic area.

# Appendix C: Open House #1 and Public Survey #1 Summary Report

# Moss Park park Improvements & John Innes Community Recreation Centre Replacement Project

SUMMARY REPORT:

Public Meeting #1 and Online Survey

June 20, 2022



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# 1.0 Introduction

The City of Toronto is leading a redesign of Moss Park and replacement of the 70-year-old John Innes Community Centre. The goal is for these spaces to serve the current and future needs of all of the diverse Moss Park community including vulnerable and equity-deserving populations in the area, the many new community members, and support the population growth in the area.

The redesigned Park and Community Recreation Centre will serve as a gathering place for an array of people, communities, and experiences.



**FIGURE 1: Map of the proposed location of the new Community Recreation Centre in Moss Park**

## 1.1 Project Context

In 2015, the project More Moss Park aimed to redevelop the park and replace the community recreation centre with a new facility that centered LGBTQ2s+ communities and expanded the services offered. The project was a partnership between the 519 and the City of Toronto. In 2016 the project was deemed not feasible and it was determined that it would not move forward. The community and stakeholder engagement program for More Moss Park was extensive. The scope of the current Moss Park park Improvements and John Innes Community Recreation Centre replacement project are different with the community recreation centre retaining a recreation mandate. However, the insights, knowledge and data gathered through the More Moss Park consultation and engagement laid the groundwork that this project will build on.

### 1.1.1 Project Goals

Launch a new initiative to replace the John Innes Community Recreation centre with a new CRC and make extensive improvements to the park through a consultation process that is informed by the insights of the *2015 More Moss Park* project, with the following key project goals:

1. Replace the John Innes CRC with a bigger facility that meets the standards set out in the City's Recreation Facilities Master Plan and that can better meet the community's needs.
2. Redesign the park to meet current and future needs.
3. Build on the park's long-standing role as a hub for the diverse communities and people of Moss Park.
4. Ground the project by honouring local communities and by building on the assets of the park and community and the experiences and goals of diverse park users.
5. Build on the input received from the previous *More Moss Park* community consultation process.
6. Deliver an accessible and welcome place for all members of the Moss Park and John Innes CRC community.
7. Work closely with the community throughout the project.

## 1.1.2 Key Project Components

Every project component will be shaped by public input collected throughout the process. The following is a detailed list of project components, features and opportunities for which the City wants to collaborate with the local community.

### MAJOR PARK IMPROVEMENTS

- **Extensive Park improvements with passive and active recreation amenities**
- **Support equity-deserving groups in park and recreations programs**
- **Integrate Indigenous placekeeping elements**

- Opportunities for park improvements, including walking, seating & gathering areas
- Opportunities for recreation and park amenities, such as playground, splash pad, , walking paths, tennis, basketball, dedicated dogs off leash area etc.
- Indigenous placekeeping (to be identified with Rights Holders and local Indigenous communities)
- Opportunities for key safety features, such as sight lines & lighting
- Improve community gardens area in the park to align with initiatives to support food security and urban agriculture
- Initiatives to support ecological & social sustainability & resilience of the park

### NEW COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTRE

- **Double gym**
- **2 Pools**
- **Multi-use community space**

- Opportunities for the included program in the Community Recreation Centre (CRC), such as program interrelationships, flexibility of uses, and relationships to the park
- Community multi-purpose room(s) features and uses
- Lane pool features and uses
- Leisure/tot pool features and uses
- Rooftop features and uses
- Lobby features and uses
- Program adjacencies
- Opportunities for key safety features, such as sight lines, visibility, and views

### UPGRADES TO ARENA

- **Exterior Upgrades**

## **DRAFT DESIGN PRINCIPLES**

The following eight *Design Principles* serve as guidance to steer the vision of the project. At this stage (Phase 2), they're being presented to solicit feedback and confirm with the public if these are the correct and/or full list of Design Principles to consider for the project.

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 1:** Ensure the design of the CRC and park supports equity, belonging and inclusion.

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 2:** Ensure the CRC and Park are accessible to all.

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 3:** Create a space that makes safety for all users a priority.

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 4:** Design an open, permeable, and transparent environment.

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 5:** Maximize, enhance, and improve green spaces.

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 6:** Celebrate and share information about the Indigenous history and character of Moss Park.

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 7:** Contribute to food security.

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 8:** Be sustainable and carbon neutral.

## DRAFT BIG MOVES

The Project team compiled thirteen *Big Moves* that describe priority actions that the City intends to take. At this stage (Phase 2), they're being presented to solicit feedback and confirm with the public if these are the correct and/or full list of Big Moves to consider for the project.

**BIG MOVE 1:** Maintain a large area of open parkland with frontages onto Queen and Shuter by building the new CRC along Sherbourne St., over the existing footprint.

**BIG MOVE 2:** Establish a cohesive design language between the CRC and the Arena and a strong relationship between both buildings and the future Moss Park subway station.

**BIG MOVE 3:** Optimize opportunities for rooftop access to the new CRC.

**BIG MOVE 4:** Incorporate spaces for prayer and ceremony.

**BIG MOVE 5:** Ensure washroom access from the outside of the building.

**BIG MOVE 6:** Create a new urban gateway at Queen and Sherbourne.

**BIG MOVE 7:** Integrate Indigenous placekeeping throughout the park.

**BIG MOVE 8:** Establish a renewed urban canopy of trees on Queen Street to match the Shuter edge.

**BIG MOVE 9:** Maintain and enhance key pedestrian pathways and access points into the park.

**BIG MOVE 10:** Maintain and enhance existing permeable park edges and protect the existing urban canopy along Shuter Street.

**BIG MOVE 11:** Maintain the strong Sherbourne St. urban built edge and enhance the relationship between the CRC/Arena/Park and Metrolinx Station with improved visual and physical connectivity and accessibility.

**BIG MOVE 12:** Remove the baseball diamond to accommodate a wider range of park uses.

**BIG MOVE 13:** Add a fenced, dedicated dogs off leash area to the park to support the growing number of residents with dogs in the intensifying neighbourhood, and to protect other park amenities and park users from conflict with dogs.

### 1.1.3 Project Schedule

- Spring 2021: Procurement of architect and landscape architect design services and community engagement consultant
- **\*WE ARE HERE - Spring/Summer 2022: Community engagement – Building on the Vision**
- Summer/Fall 2022: Community engagement – Early Design Ideas
- Winter/Spring 2023: Community Engagement – Preferred Design
- Spring 2024: Hire a construction team
- Summer 2024 to Fall 2027: Community Recreation Centre construction
- Spring 2025 to Fall 2027: Park construction

## 1.2 About this Report

This meeting summary report, prepared by PROCESS, summarizes the key findings that emerged during the first public meeting, held on June 20, 2022, as part of the Moss Park park Improvements & John Innes Community Recreation Centre Replacement Project as well as the public survey that was live until July 3, 2022. This report summarizes the feedback and input collected from these engagement activities.

### 1.2.1 Engagement Timeline

The following is a list of upcoming public engagement activities (schedule is anticipated and subject to change as the project progresses):

- **Public Meeting #1: June 20, 2022 (COMPLETED)**
- Pop-ups throughout the park: Summer 2022 - Winter 2023
- Public Meeting #2: Fall 2022
- Public Meeting #3: Winter/Spring 2023

## 2.0 Engagement Overview

### 2.1 Engagement Objectives

The goal of this phase of engagement was to present and workshop with the public, the **draft Vision, Principles and Big Moves**, as well as the project's **engagement approach and objectives**. These drafts were developed from the data gathered through the 2016 More Moss Park process, as well as pre-engagement meetings with various stakeholders. The project team wanted to have a better understanding of evolving local issues and how the project can best support local needs.

#### 2.1.1 Engagement Approach

The engagement process was designed to reach and listen to the general public. It included the design of a public survey (hosted digitally on CheckMarket and available by phone for those who required assistance) and one open house hosted virtually on Webex.

*A total of 30 members of the public participated in the open house and 211 responded to the survey (open from June 20 - July 3, 2022).*

**Open House Structure:** During the 2.5-hour virtual public meeting, the City of Toronto, PROCESS, The Planning Partnership, Two Row Architect and MJMA Architecture and Design guided participants through a presentation about the park improvements and new Community Recreation Centre as well as a facilitated discussion to garner feedback about the presentation.

Project context including the timeline for improvements to the park, site context, planning and policy context of the park. They then provided an overview of the important considerations for the park redevelopment which included a high-level overview of the Big Moves and the replacement of the John Innes CRC. Participants also heard about the Engagement Goals including protocols for Indigenous Engagement. Participants were then placed into breakout groups to have smaller group discussions about the Draft Design Principles and Big Moves.

**Public Survey Dissemination:** The survey targeted residents of Toronto, specifically those with lived experience of the Moss Park community and those who visit the park. The survey was shared at the public meeting, social media and email correspondence to a diverse range of stakeholders that the project team has already engaged.

The Draft Principles & Big Moves for the Moss Park Park Improvements & John Innes Community Recreation Centre Replacement survey was launched via CheckMarket on June 20, 2022 and was accessible to the members of the public until July 3, 2022. The purpose of the 10-minute survey was to share information about the Draft Principles and Big Moves and to give members of the general public an opportunity to provide input on those.

## 3.0 What We Heard

The following section contains a summary of the feedback received during Pre-engagement, the Open House, Survey and via E-mail. See [Appendix B](#) for full documentation of comments and questions shared during the public meeting.

### 3.1 Key Insights

Key insights that have emerged from the Public Meeting and Public Survey are consolidated by the theme below.

#### **Strong community advocacy**

There is clearly a strong sense of community engagement and concern around how Moss Park is re-designed. Members of the public gave the impression that they would like to get more use out of Moss Park and to make it a community centerpiece.

#### **Accessible space for all**

There is overall alignment with the Draft Design Principles and creating a more accessible park for all. However, there were some competing ideas about park programming that were expressed. Some participants raised concerns over those who are experiencing homelessness and frequent Moss Park. Other community members have expressed that installing an off-leash area would limit that space exclusively for dogs and their owners and that the space could be used for other activities.

Participants also wanted to ensure that there were considerations for active transportation and wanted to ensure that mobility devices and strollers were being planned for. Integrating aspects that acknowledged those living with sensory sensitivities was also noted as a criteria for ensuring the park is accessible for all. This can include signage highlighting surprise sounds and experiences or quiet nooks in the playground and in other areas of the park.

#### **Safety**

The public voiced many concerns around the topic of safety. Whether it is concerning children, the off-leash dog area, or evening sports, Moss Park needs to be conducive to more “eyes on the park” and to be designed intentionally with safety as a top priority. Physical features such as fencing, and lighting were proposed as ways to ensure safety.

Participants also felt that there is an opportunity to meaningfully integrate the upcoming Metrolinx station into Moss Park, potentially adding foot traffic to the area and increasing the presence of people around the park.



While safety is a top priority, participants wanted to ensure that the different ways diverse communities experience safety were considered and cautioned that sometimes having too much police surveillance could hinder the feeling of safety for racialized or people experiencing homelessness.

## **Un-Housed Community**

Participants felt that people experiencing homelessness need to be a priority for this project. They were concerned about displacement and the interruption of their daily activities such as access to nearby services and resources. However, they felt there needed to be meaningful support provided to ensure that the park is accessible to all community members.

## **Programming**

Some community members expressed a desire to keep the baseball diamond. Regardless of whether the baseball diamond remains, there needs to be improved access to the booking systems for the future sports facilities. Participants also want to see various ways to engage in recreational activities be built into the park: fitness equipment, outdoor pool, a better hockey rink.

Aside from the design of the park, participants felt that there needed to be a response to the social context of the park. This would include providing seniors programming. Overall, participants felt that communal and caring spaces needed to be maintained. This would mean ensuring that the recreation centre should respond to these community needs with relevant programming, partnerships, and support.

## **Food Security**

Participants were interested in the idea of using Moss Park to increase food security. Defining food security initiatives would help the local community better understand those opportunities and to determine whether they would be fit for Moss Park.

## **Environmental Sustainability**

Members of the public were interested in increasing efforts towards environmental protection in Moss Park. They felt that natural materials should be used to build the park and that the park should integrate technology that supports modern necessities (i.e., charging stations for phones and ebikes). There was an emphasis on prioritizing greenspaces. There were concerns about garbage and overall cleanliness of the area. The next steps would be to provide concrete examples of sustainable and carbon-neutral initiatives at the new Park and Community Recreation Centre.

## **Education about local history**

Participants were interested in an opportunity to educate the public about the history of Moss Park. This includes acknowledging all parts of its history, as well as considering a name change. This presents a possible opportunity to celebrate and share information about the Indigenous history and character of Moss Park.

## 3.2 Pre-Engagement Outcomes

Prior to Phase 2, the City of Toronto conducted pre-engagement meetings with a range of stakeholders including the Council Fire, the Garden District Residents Association, Residents and Sports Groups, Housing and Shelter providers and Service Providers. Overall, stakeholders expressed enthusiasm about improvements to Moss Park and the John Innes Community Recreation Centre. Participants shared that they are interested in how the redevelopment can balance the needs of residents and regional users. Key areas of focus for participants included the following:

- Concern about disruption and displacement of services during construction
- Food security should be an important consideration and is an opportunity for community-building
- Desire for a more open and accessible park and CRC that is welcoming to everyone.
- Desire for more flexible, multi-use spaces for different activities
- Safety is a priority for everyone including that of vulnerable populations such as those experiencing homelessness
- Redevelopment must continue to include Indigenous people and organizations to shape the program design moving forward
- Current Park users should feel welcome and able to use the park and Community Recreation Centre in the future

Participants also felt that the engagement process needs to continue to be proactive. They suggested regularly reaching out to the public and stakeholders via email and other appropriate channels. This was seen as especially crucial when thinking about the most meaningful ways to reach out to unhoused communities and Indigenous communities.

## 3.3 Public Meeting #1 Summary

### 3.3.1 Public Meeting Participation

**WHEN:** June 20, 2022, at 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Virtually on Webex

**ATTENDEES:** 30 PARTICIPANTS

**PROJECT TEAM:** City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry & Recreation Division  
PROCESS (Public and Stakeholder Engagement)  
The Planning Partnership (Landscape Architecture)  
Two Row Architect (Landscape Architecture & Indigenous Lens)  
MJMA (CRC Architecture & Design)

### 3.3.2 Summary of Feedback from Public Meeting #1

#### Safety

Safety was a topic of discussion during this Open House. The Moss Park improvements need to ensure that the park is safe for local residents, children and visitors. Participants expressed concern that a passive central space will not feel as safe as a space that is programmed, especially at night. Parents in attendance reported that they currently feel uncomfortable with bringing their children to the park.

*“When the park is being used the park character changes in a positive way. Anything that can be done to increase that would be beneficial.”*

*“In terms of safety - I currently do not feel safe walking north along Sherbourne as the way in which the park is currently designed facilitates loitering along the curb. Having more green space there I feel would help. As someone walking on the sidewalk, it is an alleyway currently with no room for keeping distance.”*

*“Emergency buttons for park users.”*

*“Consider whether you would take your kids to the park and whether you would take them at night.”*

*“If the baseball diamond is kept, upgrade the bleachers and place needle disposal units.”*

Residents expressed strong interest in the **lighting and entryways into the park**. Better lighting would draw more people for activities and programming at night, which would add to their sense of safety. The entryways from adjacent streets have also been flagged as not inviting enough.

*“The entrance on Shuter St. is not safe. People avoid walking on that side of the street.”*

*“Public art, better lighting on Jarvis to draw people into the park.”*

*“Orient the entrance on Pembroke St. Enhance the connection with Allan Gardens.”*

*“Evening activities would be good for safety.”*

*“Lighting needs to be taken into consideration.”*

*“Night activities are important. Activities like tennis and baseball with lighting activate the park.”*

#### Historical Context

The local community expressed considerations regarding the **name and legacy of Moss Park**. There is a desire to acknowledge the past as well as competing ideas about the direction that this consideration should take in implementation as some participants felt it significant to rename the park while others felt that the historical context of the park be fully observed.

*“Consideration of history needs to be contextualized (including negative history).”*

*“Moss Park gets its name from an estate.”*

## Food Security and Sustainability

Some participants expressed that the improved Moss Park and CRC should contribute to **food security** and it should be environmentally-friendly, **sustainable and carbon-neutral**. They also highlighted present issues with waste management at the park that should be addressed.

*“Love [Design Principles] #7 & #8, can employment be linked to #7 (eg. urban agriculture)?”*

*“In order to contribute to food security - what does this look like, how will it be executed?”*

*“New waste bins.”*

*“Drop off food trucks stop by the park. There is a lot of garbage left behind. Can that be considered for the new park and CRC?”*

## Sports Activities

The City is giving careful consideration to the future of the baseball diamond at Moss Park. The presentation introduced the question of the baseball diamond in the park improvement plan in order to gather feedback. Further engagement will take place with permit holders and stakeholders. The issue of balancing the use of park space to allow for a broad range of active and passive recreation features was discussed in the presentation. The baseball diamond has a large footprint and conflicts with other uses, but it is important to permit holders and baseball players and is one of the few C-grade baseball diamonds in the downtown east. Previous consultations (2016) found that baseball ranked low as a priority. Participants in the Open House included baseball diamond users and a few people shared the importance of the baseball diamond to them.

*“I have worked at Good Shepherd for almost 15 years, I knew how valuable that space was for so many people.”*

*“Baseball also brings stability to the park - without it, the park is a passive space.”*

*“I do think the baseball diamond positively contributes to safety, because it is quite busy and heavily used – having groups of people actively using the park's amenities makes it more welcoming to everyone and contributes to a feeling of safety there, especially in the evenings.”*

*“I certainly hear and see the baseball games, I'm in support of keeping the baseball diamond.”*

## 3.4 Public Survey Summary

The first public survey for the Moss Park Improvements & John Innes Community Recreation Centre Replacement Project focused on the project's Draft Principles and Big Moves. Two primary methods of capturing responses related to these areas were used: agree/disagree scales, and open-ended questions. A ranked scale was also provided for participants to rank park features. Below is a review of the responses by percentages. See Appendix C for full survey question details.

### 3.4.1 Demographic Profile of Survey Respondents

The majority of survey respondents (65%) were adults between the age 30-55, followed by older adults and seniors aged 55-74 (21%). A small proportion (11%) of respondents were youth or young adults between the ages of 19-29. Racialized individuals and Indigenous people made up a small proportion of respondents (18%) while a similar percentage (22%) had a preference not to disclose their race. The majority of respondents were white (55%). 37% of respondents identifies as being Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer or Two-Spirited while the majority (48%) identified as heterosexual. The majority of respondents (94%) reported that English was their preferred language.

### 3.4.2 Survey Responses

*There were 211 survey participants. 185 (88%) completed the survey in full.*

## DESIGN PRINCIPLES

Overall, survey respondents indicated strong agreement with the proposed Design Principles. Respondents were least interested in **DESIGN PRINCIPLE 7: Contribute to food security**, as a lower than usual proportion of respondents indicated their agreement with food security as a relevant design principle.

- **91%** (192) of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed to maximize, enhance and improve green spaces
- **91%** (192) of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed to create a space that makes safety for all users a priority
- **88%** (186) of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed to ensure the community recreation Center and Park are accessible to all
- **78%** (165) of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed to design an open, permeable and transparent environment

- **73%** (155) of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed to ensure the design of the Community Recreation Center and Park supports equity, belonging and inclusion
- **73%** (155) of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed to be sustainable and carbon neutral
- **63%** (134) of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed to celebrate and share information about the Indigenous history and character of Moss Park
- **50%** (105) of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed to contribute to food security

## BIG MOVES

Survey respondents generally agreed with the Big Moves that have been proposed for the park improvements and Community Recreation Centre replacement. There was however a lack of support and a high level of neutrality regarding **BIG MOVE 4: Incorporate spaces for prayer and ceremony.**

- **88%** (176) of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed to maintain and enhance key pedestrian pathways and access points into the Park
- **83%** (166) of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed to establish a renewed urban canopy of trees on Queen Street to match the Shuter Street edge
- **83%** (166) of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed to maintain and enhance existing physically open and visually connected park edges on Shuter St. and Queen St. and protect the existing urban canopy along Shuter Street
- **79%** (157) of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed to establish a coordinated design approach between the CRC and the Arena and create a strong relationship between both buildings and the future Moss Park subway station
- **72%** (144) of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed to optimize opportunities for rooftop access to the new Community Recreation Center
- **71%** (141) of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed to maintain a large area of open parkland with a building frontage on Sherbourne
- **69%** (137) of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed to ensure washroom access from the outside of the building on the park side
- **68%** (135) of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed to maintain the strong Sherbourne Street urban built-edge and enhance the relationship between the Community Recreation Centre, Arena, Park and Metrolinx Station with improved visual and physical connectivity and accessibility.
- **64%** (128) of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed to add a fenced, dedicated dogs off leash area to park to support the growing number of residents with dogs in the intensifying neighbourhood, and to protect other park amenities and park users from conflicts with dogs.
- **63%** (126) of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed with integrating Indigenous placekeeping through celebrating and sharing information about the Indigenous history and character of the park

- **57%** (114) of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed to remove the baseball diamond to accommodate a wider range of park uses. Other active recreation amenities will be retained and renewed (tennis, basketball, playground, splash pad, community gardens, open lawn for recreation)
- **38%** (76) of survey respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed with incorporating spaces for prayer and ceremony. 40% (80) were neutral.

## FEATURES RANKED FROM MOST TO LEAST IMPORTANT

Survey respondents ranked Park Spaces as the most important feature for the Moss Park Improvements project. They ranked features that supported Walking, Sitting as second most important, followed by Playgrounds. Of moderate importance were features such as Community Gardens, Water play spaces, Dog areas, Event spaces, Ice Skating, Jogging/Running, and Tennis areas. Features that were least favoured included Basketball and Volleyball courts, Baseball and Soccer fields as well as areas for Parking.

PARK FEATURE	RANKED PERCENTAGE
Park spaces	13%
Walking	10%
Sitting	10%
Playgrounds	9%
Community gardening	7%
Water play spaces for children	7%
Dogs to play	6%
Events	6%
Ice skating	6%
Jogging & running	5%
Tennis	5%
Basketball	4%
Baseball	4%
Mini soccer	3%
Volleyball	3%
Parking	2%

## ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Survey respondents were asked to provide additional considerations for Big Moves or Design Principles. Ideas shared were related to Accessibility, the Project Timelines, Safety, the Unhoused Community, Programming of the park, Built Form considerations, Environmental Considerations, Natural Landscape, and Dog Amenities. The table below provides a breakdown of each area of consideration by theme along with specific comments related to each and the amount of times an issue or feature was mentioned.

THEME	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS
<b>Accessibility</b>	Accessibility (strollers, mobility devices, sensory sensitivities, etc.) (1)
<b>Timeline &amp; Logistics</b>	7 years is too long (1) Concerns of the engagement being dominated by a vocal minority (1)
<b>Safety</b>	Emphasis on safety being a priority (9) Make lighting (2) Security cameras Police patrol (2) Do not increase police presence (1) Gates/fencing (2) Hours of operation (2) Grounds staff (1)
<b>Un-Housed Community</b>	Do not displace the homeless population (2) Displace the homeless population (1) Homeless support (1) Designated space for “illegal activities” (1) Concerns regarding people experiencing homelessness and addiction (1) Concerns about the shelter on Sherbourne in terms of safety (1) Support of shelters (1)
<b>Programming</b>	Do not change anything (1) Keeping paths and the park clean long-term (1) Indigenous consultation for usage of the park (2) Make safe spaces for people needing the basics for survival (1) More seniors programming (social, educational, physical fitness). (1) Safe injection site (2) Manage the drug use in a way that is the least impactful for non users (1) Bookable sport field (1) No religion (1) Inclusivity (1) Mental health support (1)



THEME	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS
<b>Built Form</b>	Skatepark (1) Maintenance of community care/community sharing spaces (1) Dedicated, welcoming park entrances (1) A community market (1) - small vendor stalls. Outdoor Pool (1) Fitness equipment for both youth/ adults and seniors (2) Indestructible benches (1) A better hockey rink, (1) Spread out concentration of shelters (1). Charging stations (phones, wheelchairs, mobility devices, ebikes etc. (1) Interactive sculptures over traditional playgrounds (1) Bathrooms (potentially with showers) (2) Catering kitchen (1) Multi purposing of gymnasium (i.e. education, entertainment, sport) (1) No Parking (1)
<b>Environmental Considerations</b>	Vertical gardening, (1) Solar energy, (2) Water bottle refill stations (1) Use of local materials (1) Increase energy efficiency and sustainability (1)
<b>Natural Landscape</b>	The addition of trees, plants, and low maintenance fruits (i.e. berries) (3) Dirt paths (do not pave them) (2) Prioritize greenspace (1)
<b>Dog Amenities</b>	Large dog park (1) No dedicated off leash area (1) Dedicated off leash are (1)

# Appendix A

## Project Presentation

# Moss Park Park Improvements & John Innes Community Recreation Centre Replacement

Open House

June 20, 2022

5:30 – 8:00 PM

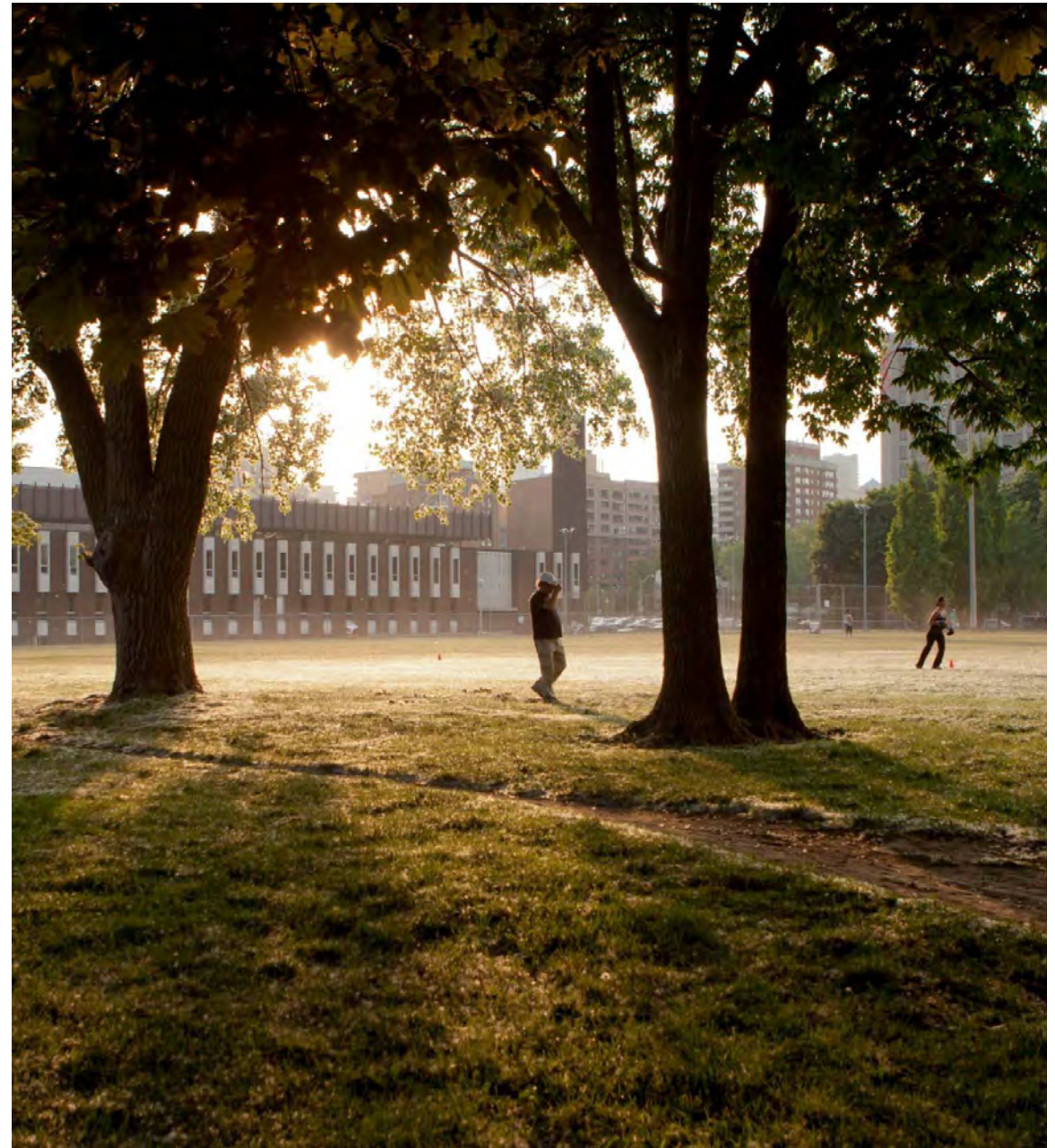


# Land Acknowledgement

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.

# Goals for this Meeting

- Provide an update on **Moss Park park Improvements & John Innes Community Recreation Centre Replacement** project
- Provide some background and context for the project
- Present draft principles and big moves



# Agenda



Introductions



Project Background

Park Improvements

Community Recreation Centre Redesign

Engagement and what we have heard to date

*(Questions of clarification)*



Draft Principles and Big Moves

thank  
you!

Next Steps + Adjourn

# Project Team



**Daniel Fusca**, Manager, Public Consultation, Parks, Forestry & Recreation

**Pablo Muñoz**, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator, Parks, Forestry & Recreation

**Suzanne Cooke-Wooland**, CP Capital Lead, Parks, Forestry & Recreation

**Nancy Chater**, CP Capital Lead, Parks, Forestry & Recreation



**Nadia Galati**, Principal and Engagement Lead

**Trina Moyan Bell**  
Indigenous Engagement Lead

**Dr. Alex Abramovich**  
Strategic Advisor



**David Leinster**, Principal, Landscape Architecture

**Jennifer Williamson**,  
Project Manager,  
Landscape Architecture



**Brian Porter**, Principal

**Matthew Hickey**,  
Partner



**Chris Burbidge**,  
Principal in Charge

**Krista Clark**,  
Project Manager,

**Viktors Jaunkalns**,  
Design Lead,

# Project Background

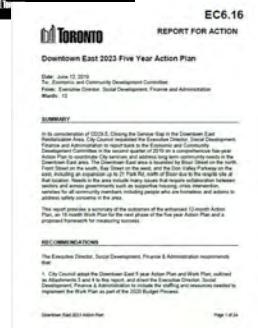
Timeline and Context



# Policies and Strategies



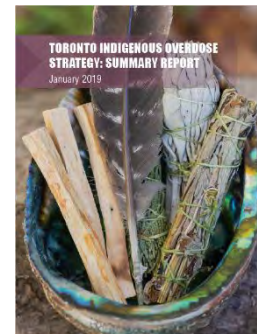
City Planning



Social Policies



Public Health  
Overdose Prevention and  
Response



Commitments  
with Indigenous  
Communities



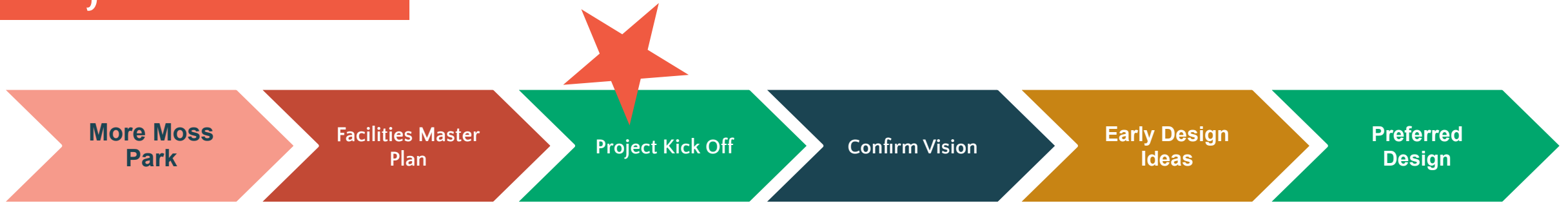
Commitments with  
Black, African and  
Caribbean  
Communities



Parks and Facilities



# Project Timeline



**2015: Initial reimagining of Moss Park began** as a partnership between the City of Toronto, The 519 and a philanthropic partner. Engagement and feasibility study conducted.

## Report Released

Report included engagement with 2,500 people and a feasibility study. **Project deemed not feasible.**

**2019: City Council** adopts the implementation strategy for the Parks & **Recreation Facilities Master Plan** with amendments

**TODAY:** The City is analyzing what's been done to date, and is getting ready to listen and gather more local ideas and experiences. The project is led and funded by the Parks, Forestry and Recreation department within the City of Toronto.

**Summer to Fall 2022**  
Confirm the community's visions

**Fall 2022 - Spring 2023**  
Develop and present conceptual designs for feedback

**Winter - Spring 2023**  
Finalize designs and approvals

## Construction

- Spring 2024**  
Procurement of construction services
- Summer 2024 to Fall 2027**  
Construct community recreation centre
- Spring 2027 to Fall 2029**  
Park construction

# Project Context

## 2016: More Moss Park

### Who

Partnership between The 519 and The City of Toronto

### What

- Redevelop John Innes Community Recreation Centre
  - Social services co-located within the building
  - Proposed relocation of C.R.C.
  - Redevelop Moss Park Arena
- Improve the park space around them

### Goals

Improve facilities, programs and services, and create new buildings and spaces that are welcoming, equitable and accessible for all.

**NOTE:** This project only reached the feasibility study and engagement phases.

## 2021: Moss Park Improvements & John Innes C.R.C. Redevelopment

### Who

The City of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division

### What

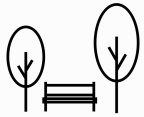
- Redevelop John Innes Community Recreation Centre
  - Focus on recreation rather than social services
  - New building has a smaller footprint than 2016 feasibility study design, but a larger footprint than the current building
- Remodelling of exterior of Moss Park Arena
- Extensive improvements to Moss Park

### Goals

Build on learnings from the More Moss Park process to improve facilities, programs and services, and to create new buildings and spaces that are welcoming, equitable and accessible for all.

# Key Project Components

## Major Park Improvements



Extensive park improvements with passive and active recreation amenities



Supporting equity-deserving groups in park and recreation programs



Integrate Indigenous placekeeping elements

## New Community Recreation Centre



Double gym



2 Pools



Multi-use community space

## Upgrades to Arena



Exterior Upgrades

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:** Every project component will be shaped by the public input collected through the process.

# What is Open for Influence

## What will be included:

### COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTRE (C.R.C.)

- A 25-metre 6 lane lap pool
- A leisure/tot pool
- Community, multi-use space
- double gymnasium with a mezzanine running track
- Fitness studios
- Dance studio
- Common & administrative areas, including a large Lobby
- WIFI access throughout
- Gender-neutral washrooms and change rooms
- A green roof or rooftop community access – to be determined
- Service spaces

### PARK

- Passive & Active Recreation Amenities including playground, splash pad, community gardens, walking paths, other features TBD such as tennis, basketball etc.
- Safety – sight lines, lighting, animation to create more eyes on the park
- Flexible, multi-use spaces for different activities
- Consider Food security & urban agriculture
- Indigenous Place-keeping elements
- Input from local Indigenous communities
- Enhance ecological and social sustainability and resilience of the park
- Broader connectivity to parks and public realm network

## What we can collaborate on:

### COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTRE (C.R.C.)

- Opportunities for the included program in the Community Recreation Centre, such as program interrelationships, flexibility of uses, and relationships to the park
- Community multi-purpose room(s) features and uses
- Lane pool features and uses
- Leisure/tot pool features and uses
- Rooftop features and uses
- Lobby features and uses
- Program adjacencies
- Opportunities for key safety features, such as sight lines, visibility, and views

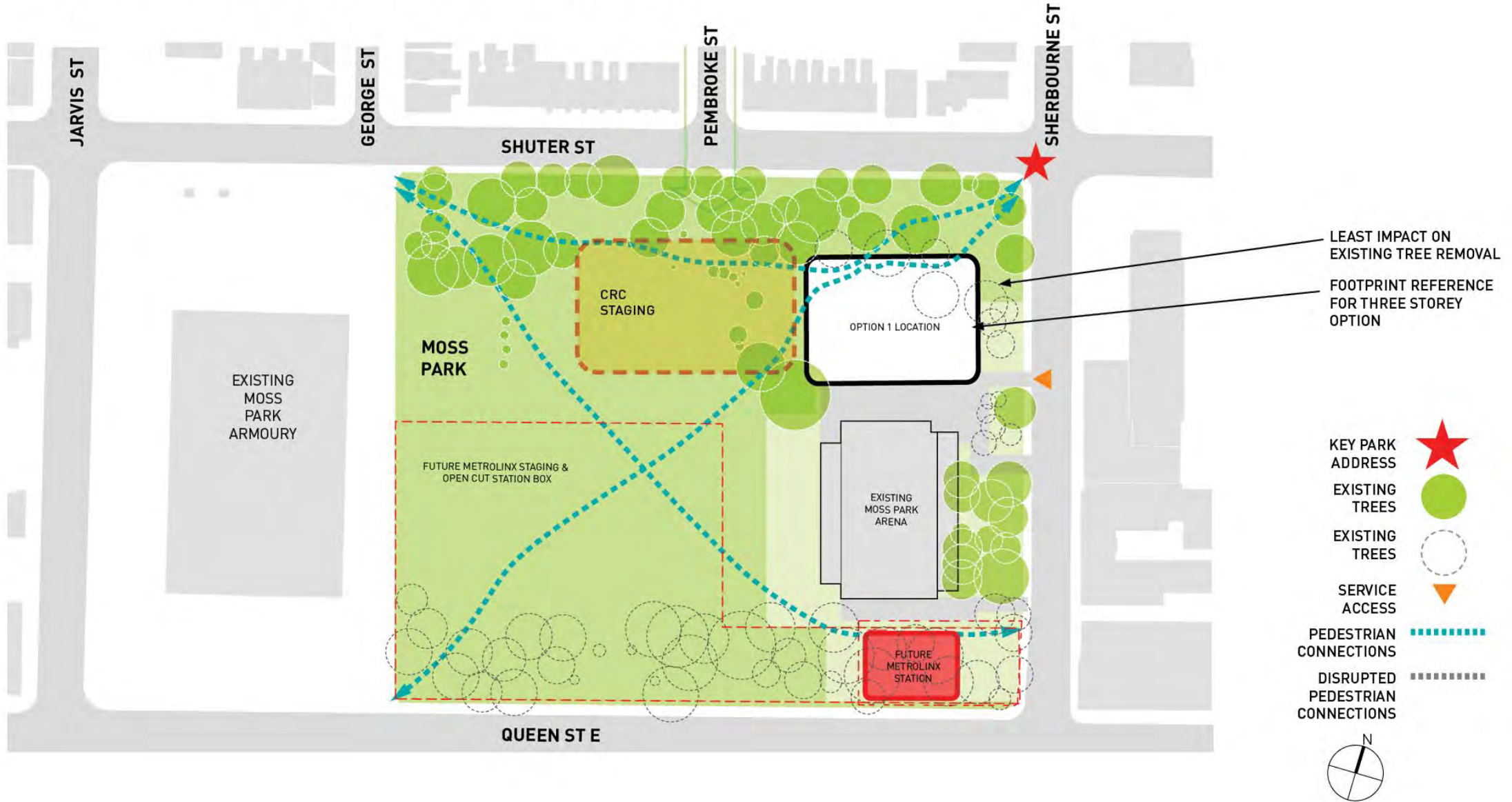
### PARK

- Opportunities for park improvements, including seating & gathering areas
- Opportunities for recreation amenities, such as playground, splash pad, community garden, walking paths, tennis, basketball, etc.
- Indigenous placekeeping (to be discussed with local Indigenous communities)
- Opportunities for key safety features, such as sight lines & lighting
- Selection of initiatives to support food security and urban agriculture
- Initiatives to support ecological & social sustainability & resilience of the park

# Moss Park park improvements

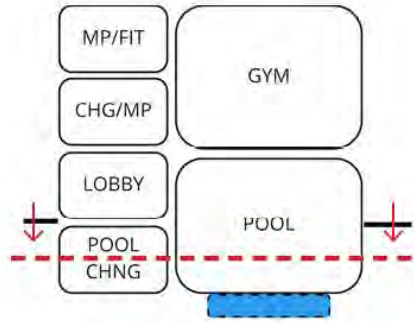
# John Innes Community Recreation Centre Replacement

# BUILDING LOCATION

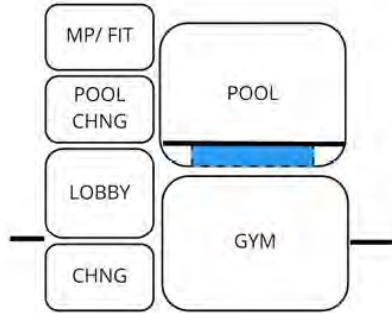




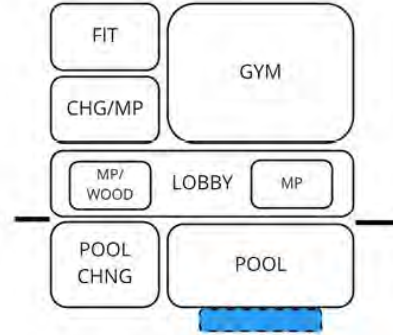
# STACKED PROGRAM



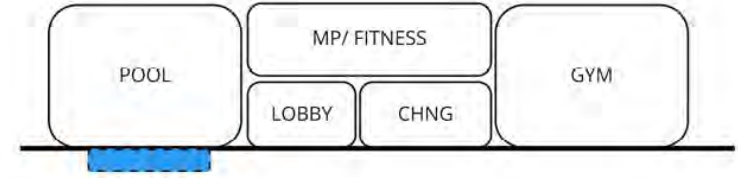
✓ **Option 1**  
Revise to include Pool at grade or slightly below



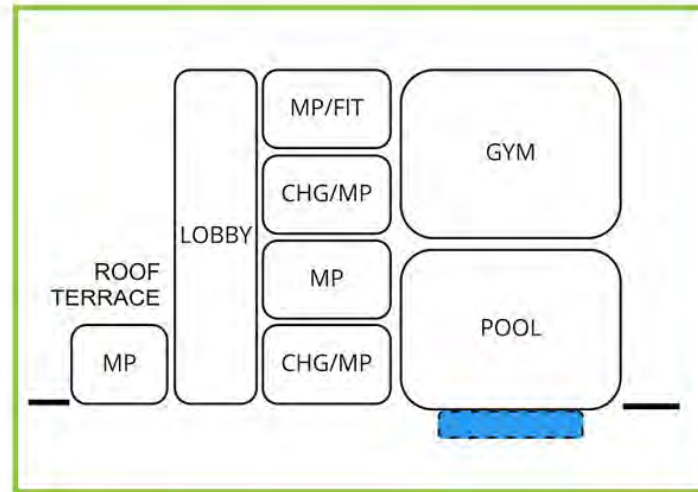
**Option 2**



**Option 3**



**Option 4**



✓ **Option 1**  
Revised  
Pool & Multi-Purpose at Grade



*A BUILDING PAVILION WITHIN A PARK*



**ANIMATING THE PUBLIC REALM**



**PASSIVE SAFETY THROUGH DESIGN**



**A PROMINENT STREET PRESENCE**



**THE JOY OF WATER PLAY**

# AQUATICS



ABOVE GROUND LEVEL  
LOCATION



✓ GROUND  
LEVEL



BELOW GROUND LEVEL  
LOCATION

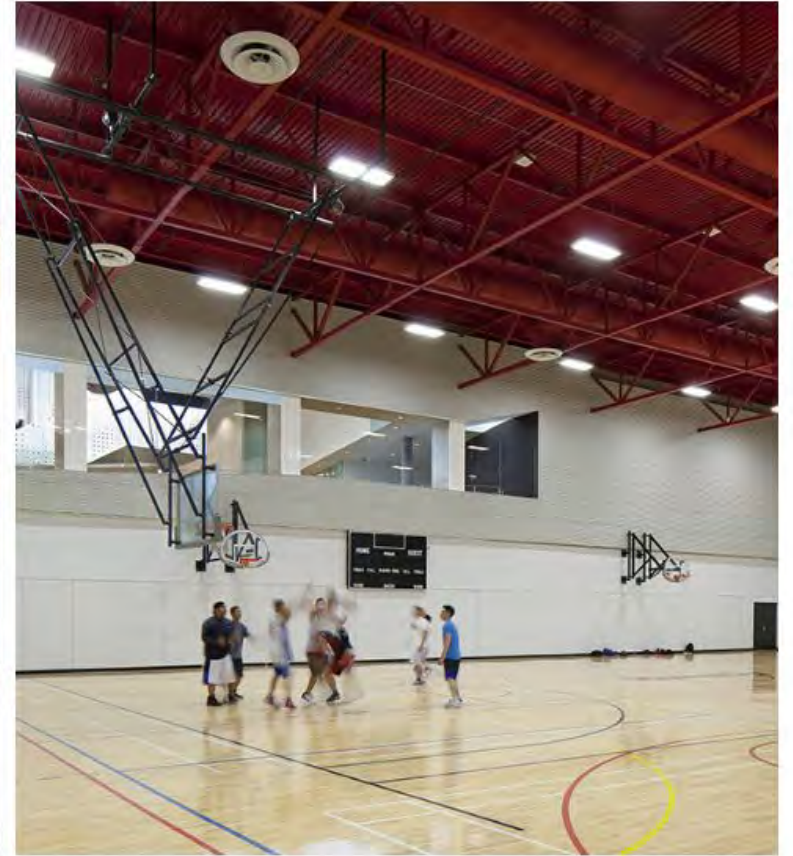
# GYMNASIUM



✓ ABOVE GROUND LEVEL  
LOCATION



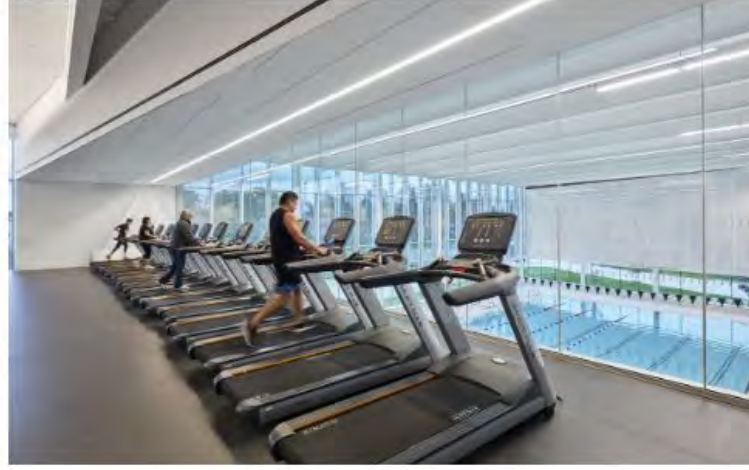
GROUND  
LEVEL



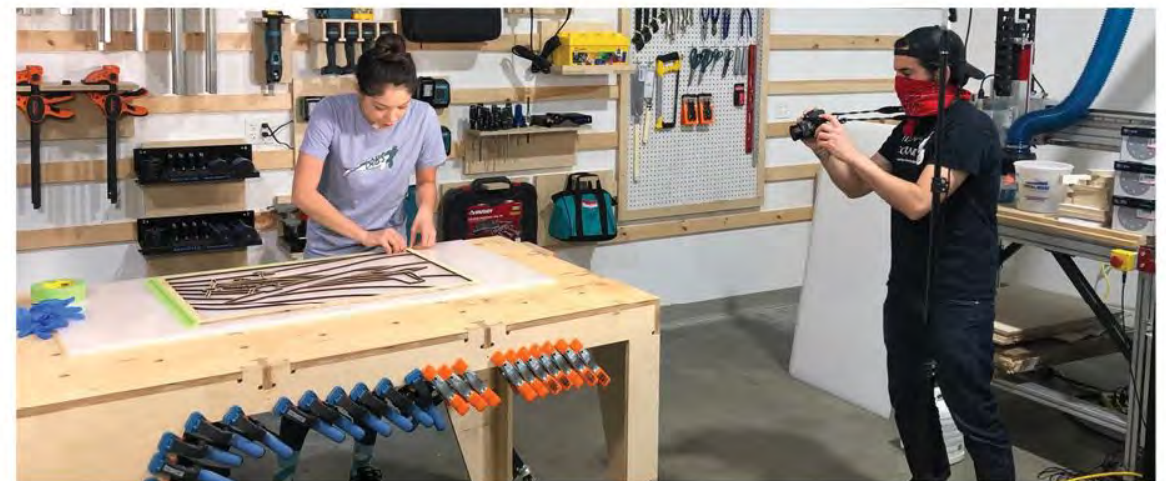
BELOW GROUND LEVEL  
LOCATION



# GYM & FITNESS PROGRAMMING



# MULTIPURPOSE ROOM PROGRAMMING



# What We've Heard to Date

# Key Insights So Far

- Overall **enthusiasm** about facilities and park redevelopment.
- Interest in how the redevelopment can balance the needs of **local residents and regional users**.
- Concern about **disruption and displacement** of services during construction.
- **Food security** should be an important consideration and is an opportunity for community-building.
- Desire for a **more open and accessible** park and C.R.C. that is welcoming to everyone.
- Desire for more **flexible, multi-use spaces** for different activities.
- **Safety is a priority for everyone** including that of vulnerable populations such as those experiencing homelessness.
- Redevelopment must continue to include **Indigenous people and organizations** to shape the program design moving forward.
- **Current park users** should **feel welcome** and able to use the park and Community Recreation Centre in the future.
- **The engagement process needs to be proactive**, actively and regularly reaching out to public and stakeholders via email and other appropriate channels.
  - This includes reaching out to unhoused communities and Indigenous communities in appropriate ways.



# What Will Make this Project Successful?

The Park and Community Recreation Centre will serve as a **gathering place** for an array of people, communities and experiences.

The project will be a success if the **diversity of community members** who use the Park and Community Recreation Centre today as well as future community members – feel interested, **welcome**, and **safe** to use these amenities in the future.

# How People Will Shape the Project

How public, rights holders and stakeholders' participation and input will shape the future of Moss Park and the John Innes C.R.C.

# Engagement Goals

1. Equity-focused, trauma-informed, and collaborative
2. Deliberative, transparent and creative
3. Communicative and grassroots
4. Digital and 'in-person'
5. Flexible and Open

# Anticipated Public Engagement Timeline

## 1 SET THE STAGE

2021 to Summer 2022

Introduce the project, explain the process and lay the project groundwork.

### Engagement Activities

- Stakeholder Interviews

## 2 CONFIRM THE VISION

Summer 2022

Revisit More Moss Park findings and explore how things have changed since 2015. Better understand evolving local issues and how the project can best support local needs. Confirm the project Vision, Principles, and Big Moves.

- Indigenous Engagement: May 2022 onwards
- Project Champion Meeting #1: June 13 2022
- Local Advisory Group (L.A.G.) Meeting #1: June 13 2022
- Public Meeting: June 20 2022
- L.A.G. Meeting #2: Aug. 2022
- Project Champions Meeting #2: Aug. 2022
- School Engagement: Sept./Oct. 2022
- Pop-ups: Sept./Oct. 2022

## 3 EARLY DESIGN IDEAS

Fall 2022 to Spring 2023

Use what we learn in Phase 2 to start developing ideas for park amenities and concepts for the new C.R.C. (i.e., entrance locations, etc.). Review ideas with community and revise ideas based on feedback.

- Project Champions Meeting #3: Oct. 2022
- LAG Meeting #3: Oct. 2022
- Indigenous Engagement: ongoing
- School Engagement: Jan./Feb. 2023
- Pop-ups: March/April 2023
- Public Open House: April 2023

## 4 FINAL DESIGN

Spring 2023

Work on plans and designs for Moss Park and the John Innes C.R.C.. Review ideas with the community and revise plans and designs based on feedback.

- Project Champions Meeting #4: March 2023
- LAG Meeting #4: March 2023
- Indigenous Engagement: ongoing
- Public Open House: May 2023

ONLINE ENGAGEMENT THROUGHOUT: Project website, online surveys, local communications campaign, project newsletters, etc.

Design will respond to what is learned through engagement

Set the Stage

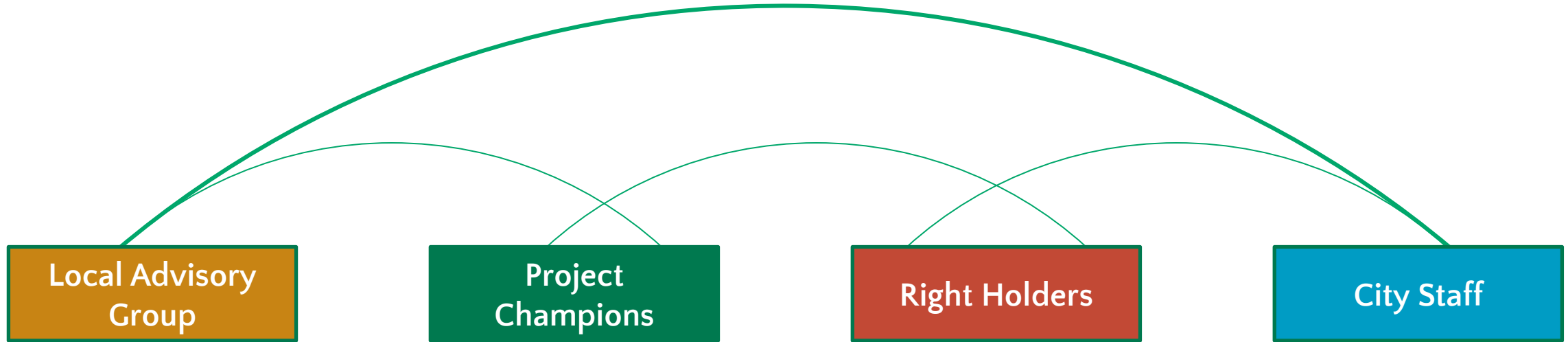
Confirm the Vision

Early Design Ideas

Final Design



## Moss Park Community



Local stakeholders including residents, members of nearby businesses, service providers, community groups and organizations operating within the vicinity of the park.

Champions are community leaders that will help us connect with communities who are often not included in formal planning processes for example, people experiencing homelessness, communities for whom English is not their first language, single parents and/or youth.

The project team will share project updates and consult with local right holders at every phase of the project.

City staff will advise the project, ensure that the ideas explored are feasible, as well as ensure that the project aligns with broader initiatives and strategies.

# Local Advisory Group

## Join the Project Team! (Applications Close May 20<sup>th</sup>)

### Join the Local Advisory Group - Honoraria Available

The project team is looking for ten to twenty community members, including residents, small business owners, service providers and community groups to advise the project and share their expertise about their neighborhood. Members will be selected through a modified civic lottery to ensure the team is representative of the community.

### Become a Project Champion - Paid Opportunity

Eight to ten community leaders, with strong relationships to Moss Park, will be selected to join the project as Champions. The champions will help engage and gather insights from communities who are often left out of consultation processes, including people experiencing homelessness, children and youth and immigrant and refugee communities.

### Take part in a Design Mentorship - Honoraria Provided

Take part in a youth-led design project! 1 to 3 youth (13 - 18) community members will work with a youth artist on the project team to help develop an art or design component of the project. Youth Designers/Artists don't need to have professional experience, but should have a passion for art or design!

## Apply before May 20th, 2022

To submit your application for any of these opportunities scan the QR code or visit:

[toronto.ca/Moss Park](https://toronto.ca/MossPark)



## Contact

For more information about the project or applications, or if you require accessibility accommodations in order to participate, please contact:

**Pablo Muñoz**  
Senior Public Consultation Coordinator  
437.220.5975 | [pablo.munoz@toronto.ca](mailto:pablo.munoz@toronto.ca)



**9,700+**  
invitations sent within  
1 km of site



**29,000**  
# of people within 1 mile of  
site who saw a social  
media ad



**58**  
Volunteers from the  
community



**17**  
People selected

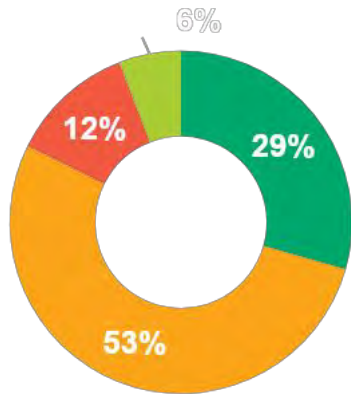


Call **311**

## RESIDENT MEMBERS (17)

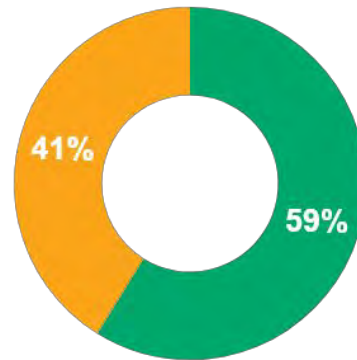
### Gender Identity

■ Male ■ Female ■ Non-Binary/Trans ■ 2 Spirit



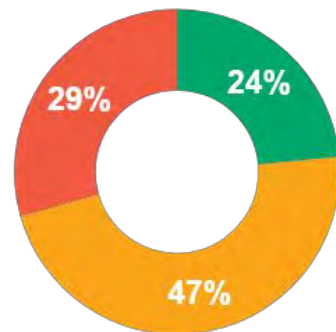
### Racial Identity

■ Person of colour ■ White



### Age Ranges

■ 19-29 ■ 30-55 ■ 56+



## ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED

- Garden District Residents Association
- Sojourn House
- Building Roots
- Metrolinx Community Liaison Committee
- Walk Toronto

...and more organizations to be added soon.

# Project Champions

- Project Champions are paid community leaders with strong relationships with Moss Park. The team of champions will help engage and consult park and community recreation centre users and gather their insights for the project.
- The goal of the champions is to connect with communities who are often not included in formal planning processes for example, people experiencing homelessness, communities for whom English is not their first language, single parents and/or youth.
- Currently there are 4 Project Champions, with more to be added in the coming weeks.

# Indigenous Engagement

Trina's engagement process is grassroots, flexible, and rooted in relationship building. It will adapt as she learns more from those she speaks with. All conversations will be paid.

## Local Service Providers & TASSC

Trina will start by speaking to local agencies and grassroots organizations providing services to Indigenous communities.

She will invite these agencies to join the Local Advisory Group (LAG), the Project Champions, or the Youth Designer / Artist role.

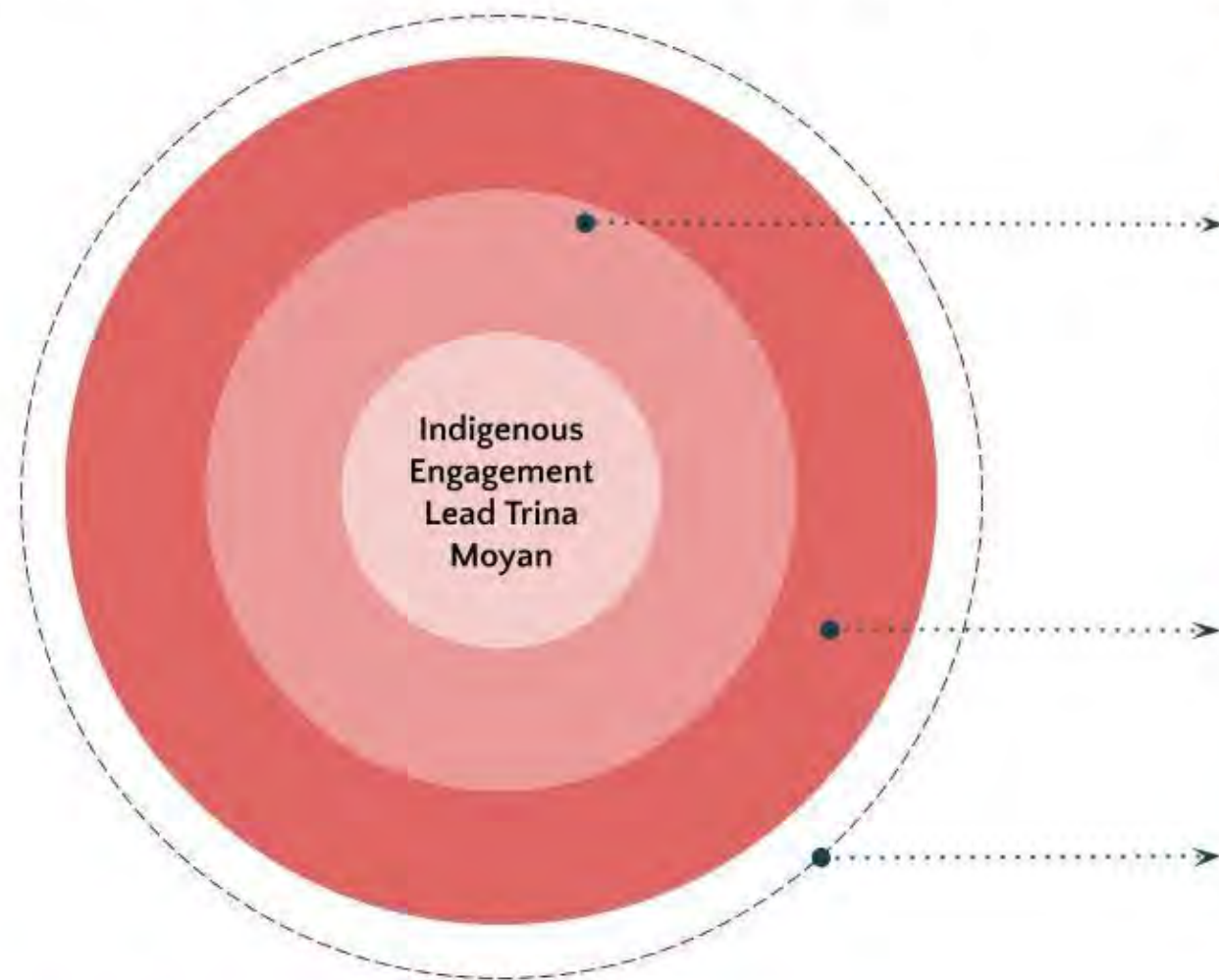
She will build relationships and ask these agencies to connect her with Local Indigenous residents with lived experience of the Park and area.

## Local Residents

Trina will spend time in the Park and area, connecting with local Indigenous residents and facilitating one-on-one conversations about the Project.

## Treaty holders

While Trina's process is ongoing, City of Toronto staff will consult treaty holders.



Design will respond to what is learned through engagement with Indigenous communities

Set the Stage

Confirm the Vision

Early Design Ideas

Final Design

# Questions?

# Draft Principles and Big Moves (breakout rooms)

# Draft Design Principles

1. Ensure the design of the C.R.C. and park supports equity, belonging and inclusion.
2. Ensure the C.R.C. and Park are accessible to all.
3. Create a space that makes safety for all users a priority.
4. Design an open, permeable and transparent environment.
5. Maximize, enhance and improve green spaces.
6. Celebrate and share information about the Indigenous history and character of Moss Park.
7. Contribute to food security.
8. Be sustainable and carbon-neutral.





# Preliminary Big Moves

1. **Maintain** a large area of open parkland with **frontages onto Queen and Shuter** by building the new C.R.C. along Sherbourne St, over the existing footprint.
2. **Establish a cohesive design language** between the C.R.C. and the Arena and a strong relationship between both buildings and the future Moss Park subway station.
3. Optimize opportunities **for rooftop access** to the new C.R.C.
4. Incorporate spaces for **prayer and ceremony**.
5. Ensure **washroom access from the outside** of the building.
6. Create a new **urban gateway** at Queen and Sherbourne.
7. Integrate **Indigenous placekeeping** throughout the park.
8. Establish a **renewed urban canopy of trees** on Queen Street to match the Shuter edge.
9. Maintain and enhance key **pedestrian pathways** and access points into the park.
10. **Maintain and enhance** existing permeable **park edges** and protect the existing urban canopy along Shuter Street.
11. **Maintain the strong Sherbourne St. urban built-edge** and enhance the relationship between the C.R.C./Arena/Park and Metrolinx Station with improved visual and physical connectivity and accessibility.
12. Remove the **baseball diamond** to accommodate a wider range of park uses.
13. **Add a fenced, dedicated dogs off leash area** to park to support growing number of residents with dogs in the intensifying neighbourhood, and to protect other park amenities and park users from conflicts with dogs.

**Thank you!**

# Appendix B

## June 20, 2022 - Public Meeting Questions and Comments

### Design Principles

PARTICIPANT QUESTION/COMMENT	PROJECT TEAM RESPONSE
<p>With all these upgrades to the site, are there any conversations to protect the existing TCHC and low-income housing supply in the area from displacement and land uplift?</p>	
<p>How will equitable access to the new pool be guaranteed? Will the issue of overcrowding from visitors outside the neighbourhood, such as experienced at the Pam McConnell pool in Regent Park, occur here?</p>	
<p>A lot of folks in the community have been patiently waiting for improvements. My question is more with regards to access for local residents.</p> <p>Residents need these spaces for primary uses, especially TCHC residents. In Regent Park we learned from that experience. Is there a commitment for access to local residents to use the park?</p> <p>Also, what is the commitment for local employment? We've always looked at a community benefits approach to employment. Specifically, a percentage of local hires?</p>	<p>It's always a conversation about local access versus folks from outside the local neighbourhood .</p> <p>Our policies do allow folks from all communities to use all community centres and programming. We do have specific programs for local access including swimming. That being said, we see that 70% of programming comes from the local community.</p> <p>We want people to come to us locally, but folks have to come through our hiring program. Local hiring is not something we can guarantee. Generally, we do like folks to work locally.</p> <p>There are opportunities, as you've seen, for hyperlocal access to our recreation spaces. We love to target youth. It all depends on who applies to these programs and if they have interest.</p> <p>We also have a program for youth called Building Skills Through Recreation.</p>

PARTICIPANT QUESTION/COMMENT	PROJECT TEAM RESPONSE
<p>Thanks for the detailed presentation. The most important aspect of the project, I think, is that the park and centre should have facilities and programs that address important needs of the community (we need to design the center, programs and park in a way that is tailored for the community).</p>	
<p>In the beginning you mentioned a priority was to ensure access and safety for vulnerable populations such as those facing homelessness. Why is there no statement supporting this in the Draft Design Principles?</p>	
<p>“Contribute to food security” - what does this look like, how will it be executed?</p>	
<p>How will you ensure there are no encampments so residents and children can use the park and it's not overtaken by tents?</p>	
<p>Love #7 &amp; #8, can employment be linked to #7 (eg. urban agriculture)?</p>	
<p>How will Principle 1 Be achieved?</p>	
<p>If the City is unwilling to change zoning, and there is no consideration for affordable housing, how do you plan to achieve then Principle 1? If there is no consideration for providing housing to keep low-income residents in the area? There are already significant changes in terms of demographics and supply of affordable housing.</p>	
<p>About accessing spaces, consider how we access spaces in Moss Park - challenges with forms/form questions.</p>	<p>About accessing spaces, consider how we access spaces in Moss Park - challenges with forms/form questions.</p>

## Big Moves

PARTICIPANT QUESTION/COMMENT	PROJECT TEAM RESPONSE
<p>I am hoping there will not be buildings at the four corners.</p> <p>In some ways dog areas are excluded from the park.</p> <p>Main concerns are fences in parks, and desire lines.</p>	<p>We are thinking of those four corners as access points. People do approach a park like this from its corners - they are critical in terms of gateway moments.</p> <p>In terms of off-leash dog area, we are looking at smaller City of Toronto standard.</p>
<p>Hello! I'm wondering about the plan for the baseball diamond. I have been playing organized recreational league softball at Moss Park for many years on Sundays. Having a group of people there to play makes the space feel safe, and it is one of very few baseball diamonds that are downtown and accessible easily by transit (there is always a waitlist at both Moss Park and Riverdale every year). Would there be plans to build another baseball diamond downtown to replace this one if it is removed? We would consider that a real loss.</p>	
<p>I too would like to express concern with the potential loss of the baseball/softball diamonds.</p>	
<p>With regards to the Big Move to keep the CRC along Sherbourne Street. Why could it not be considered to relocate on the west side next to the Armoury and open up the green space from Queen to Shuter along Sherbourne?</p>	
<p>In terms of safety - I currently do not feel safe walking north along Sherbourne, as the way in which the park is currently designed facilitates loitering along the curb. Having more green space there I feel would help. As someone walking on the sidewalk, it is an alleyway currently with no room for keeping distance.</p>	
<p>Do think the baseball diamond positively contributes to safety, because it is quite busy and heavily used – having groups of people actively using the park's amenities makes it more welcoming to everyone and contributes to a feeling of safety there, especially in the evenings.</p>	
<p>Any support from the city to have baseball or tee-ball taught to kids using this diamond? Currently, the city does not have any programs at this site.</p>	

PARTICIPANT QUESTION/COMMENT	PROJECT TEAM RESPONSE
<p>I think that removing the baseball diamond would be a big loss – there are waiting lists at all of the downtown diamonds that are easily accessible by transit every year. The vast majority of the diamonds in the city are closer to the 401 and tricky to access without a private car. It currently brings people into the park and contributes to an environment of welcoming, active recreation.</p>	
<p>I don't know why people are not up in arms about the removal of the Queen Street trees. I know this is not within the jurisdiction of the Moss Park committee, but why can't we collectively stand up for the trees?</p>	<p>If it makes a difference to folks, the City and former Councillor Wong-Tam tried very hard to advocate for those trees along Queen Street.</p>
<p>Disheartened that there will not be a baseball diamond - we have fun there. Permits are impossible to find, hard to find space at baseball diamonds. It's the best we have, even though it's not regulation. The diamond activates the park, I would argue it keeps it safe (ie: lights and activation). I think we (the baseball players) brought a lot of stability to a chaotic park -and when it's not in use, it's a passive flexible space, a lawn, soccer, picnic - having a park of this size that can accommodate all those activities at the same time and be super flexible. I think Moss Park is a unique opportunity to maintain this opportunity to maintain THIS game. Advocating to create access for this game - not just people in the suburbs.</p>	<p>Appreciate the sentiment and it's not set in stone yet. Comments will go back to the project team.</p> <p>We are considering the best use for the most people most days of the year. Your input is important and it's hard to measure. According to the 2016 survey top priorities, baseball did come out low on the priority list at that time, many members said people passed through and interrupted. There was a desire for open and flexible lawn space, and it's not set in stone.</p>
<p>I have worked at Good Shepherd for almost 15 years, I knew how valuable that space was for so many people. There was a homeless baseball league, and now I hear/see the baseball games. People enjoying themselves, everyone seems to get along very well so I am in support of keeping the baseball diamond. I walk through the park everyday and I don't feel the baseball diamond getting in my way.</p>	<p>We appreciate your opinion and observation.</p>

## Miscellaneous Comments & Questions

PARTICIPANT QUESTION/COMMENT	PROJECT TEAM RESPONSE
When will I be able to use the community centre again?	We are aiming for 2027. In the meantime, there are other local community centres you can use for resources, programming and activities.
I hope to see a skateboard park and daycare space included!	Thank you for your comment/idea.
Building affordable homes in connection/on top of the community centre (at N/E corner) would be an excellent way to maximize use of city land.	<p>Parkland is not designated for housing. It is not to build affordable housing in designated parkland.</p> <p>The City's Official Plan and Zoning Bylaw does not permit residential development in parks.</p>
What about on top of the Metrolinx subway station box?	
Why not redevelop the TCHC assets, then?	This project is happening in the context of a collection of initiatives in the Downtown Eastside, many of which are designed to address housing.
Was there any connection / partnerships made with TCHC in this redevelopment?	Yes, we are in touch with colleagues in TCHC. The project team is in conversation with them about the project.
Have you looked into the George St Revitalization? I've read through the plan. Not really peace of mind when the plan is to reduce shelter capacity of one of Toronto's oldest and largest homeless shelters.	
About the basketball court - I'm a user, and it's widely used by a diverse group.	Thank you for your comment.

# Appendix D: Pop-Up Summary Report



# **Moss Park Improvements & John Innes Community Recreation Centre Replacement Project**

SUMMARY REPORT:  
Phase 2 Pop-up Engagements

August 20 - 25, 2022



# 1.0 About this Report

This report summarizes key findings from Pop Ups at Moss Park, the John Innes Community Recreation Centre and the Moss Park Coalition meeting conducted between August 20, 2022 and August 25, 2022. It includes summaries of key comments and input heard during the engagement activities.

## 1.1 Project Schedule

### Summer 2022 - Phase 1: SET THE STAGE

Introduce the project, explain the process, and lay the project groundwork.

### Summer 2022 – Fall 2022 Phase 2: CONFIRM THE VISION, PRINCIPLES, BIG MOVES **WE ARE HERE**

Introduce the project, revisit More Moss Park findings, and explore how things have changed since 2015. Better understand evolving local issues and how the project can best support local needs. Confirm the Principles and Big Moves of the project.

### Fall 2022 to Spring 2023: Phase 3 - CONCEPT DESIGN OPTIONS

Use what we learn in Phase 2 to start developing ideas for park amenities and concepts for the new Community Recreation Centre. Review ideas through design options presented to the community and revise ideas based on feedback.

### Spring 2023: Phase 4 - PREFERRED CONCEPT

Refine the concept plans for the park and John Innes Community Recreation Centre based on feedback and present the preferred concept to the community. Review ideas with the community and revise plans and designs based on feedback.

## 1.2 Engagement Timeline

The following are other scheduled engagement activities with the public (subject to change):

### COMPLETED

- Local Advisory Group (LAG) and Project Champions Meeting #1: June 13, 2022
- Public Meeting: June 20, 2022

- Public Survey #1: June 20 - July 3, 2022
- **Summer Pop-ups: August 22 - August 25, 2022**
- Local Advisory Group (LAG) and Project Champions Meeting #2: August 30, 2022
- Indigenous Communities' Meeting #1: August 31, 2022
- Public Meeting #2: October 20, 2022
- Public Survey #2: October 20 - November 14, 2022

## ONGOING

- Pop-ups throughout the park: Summer 2022 - Winter 2023
- Indigenous Communities' Meeting #2: December 12, 2022
- Public Meeting #3: Winter/Spring 2023
- Local Advisory Group (LAG) and Project Champions Meeting #3: Winter/Spring 2023
- Youth City-Building and Design Mentorship: Winter/Spring 2023
- Public Survey #3: Winter 2023
- Park Open House: February 15, 2022

## 2.0 Overview of Activity

### 2.1 Moss Park Coalition Pop up

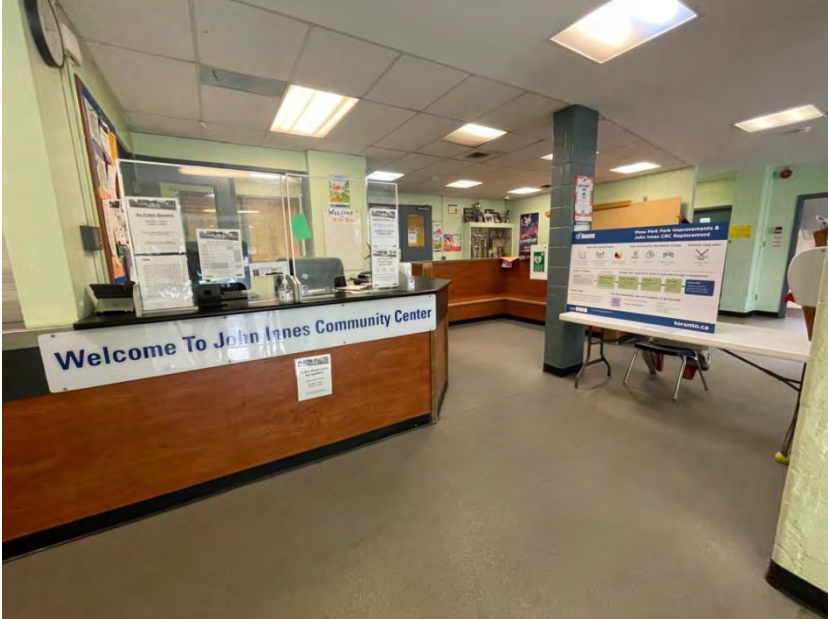


On Saturday August 20th the engagement team conducted a pop-up engagement at the Moss Park Coalition meeting. This took place at the Moss Park Market site on Queen West one block east of the park. The team installed an engagement board outlining the project at a high level and engaged community members attending the event. The primary goal was to understand how community members currently use the Park and

Community Recreation Centre, as well as changes, programming and features that they would like to have included in the future of these community spaces.

### 2.2 Pop Ups at John Innes Community Recreation Centre and Moss Park

During the week of August 22, the project's engagement team conducted pop up engagements at the John Innes Community Recreation Centre. Pop up engagements are interactive and informal consultations in which organizers 'pop-up' a table, booth, activity, etc., and they are timed to coincide with other activities taking place at a strategic location. An informational sign board was stationed near the reception desk and team members moved around the Community Recreation Centre and park talking with community members about the project. The same questions were asked of the people we engaged: 1) What ways do you use the Park and Community Recreation Centre currently? 2) What changes or programming would you like to see in the improvement and redevelopment? And 3) What technologies or features would support those activities?



## 3.0 What We Heard

### **Community Recreation Centre and Moss Park Feedback from Folks Experiencing Houselessness**

An important stakeholder group we engaged were folks who were street involved or currently experiencing housing insecurity. This group represented at least 20% of participants. They expressed the need for washroom and shower facilities that were lockable, secure and discretely accessible from the ground level and from outside of the building. We also heard that water fountains and benches were necessary comforts.

Respondents who were street-involved or experiencing houselessness make use of John Innes Community Recreation Centre facilities and Moss Park in various ways. They play basketball, soccer and handball, exercise in the weight room, swim, listen to music, watch baseball games, and enjoy laying in the open field of Moss Park. The trees provide shade, fresh air and a connection to nature that they appreciate.

Folks who are experiencing housing instability reported concerns about theft, violence and discrimination. They want to use the Community Recreation Centre facilities and the park without being judged for their appearance. They added that better lighting and a safe space to sleep at night may alleviate some of these concerns.

Other suggestions for improvement include better grass, better benches and installing benches under the shade of trees. Housing-insecure folks are in support of an off-leash dog area to keep the grass clean. In terms of programming, they would like access to basketball courts, high quality programs for local youth, a games room, a badminton facility and music spaces.

### **Community Recreation Centre Current Uses**

The people that we engaged indicated a range of ways they like using the John Innes Community Recreation Centre facilities. Most regular patrons we spoke with were users of the pool or the fitness and weight rooms. Others came to play basketball, badminton, or soccer. Many children attended the day camps and youth indicated they like coming to hang out with their friends in the youth lounge. The woodshop was identified as

valuable to some community members. Others valued being able to come and use the washroom and shower facilities. Community members also indicated that they attended yoga classes, community meetings, voted at the facility, and/or used the community kitchen.

**Improving the Well-used Pool Facilities**

Many Community Recreation Centre users identified the pool as an important amenity. Folks living in the area value being able to swim for free close by, and said that it is an important part of their regular exercise routine. People commented on the need to improve the pool’s accessibility, make it a fun space, run programs tailored to different groups, and have a system in place to keep it from getting overcrowded.

What users value about the existing facilities	Desired improvements and programming
It’s not overcrowded It’s quiet compared to newly developed pools Registration controls the number of swimmers	Cleanliness of pool
It’s free, financially accessible	Improving the security of the change rooms and lockers
Dedicated lane swim times	Programming: swimming lessons for groups and adults, people with disabilities, aquafit, evening swimming, women’s time
Lanes are wide compared to lanes at pools like Regent Park	Features: sauna, hot tub, deep end, large shallow end for seniors and kids
	Accessibility for people with disabilities, seniors and kids

**Cleanliness and Comfort of Showers and Change Rooms**

Community members want private stalls in the showers and change rooms, so that they can undress fully. Feeling comfortable and safe showering without a bathing suit was important to people for hygiene and comfort. A number of the people we engaged with said they were not comfortable with the universal setting and used the Pam McConnell Aquatic Centre facilities as an example of what not to do.

Some people we spoke with also wanted privacy while changing, suggesting separation of some kind, either by gender, closed stalls, or spatial divisions. The discomfort experience was associated either with changing in an open space or seeing people that made them uncomfortable changing. This was a comment made in relation to both adults and kids.

Another repeated concern was around the cleanliness and security of these facilities. A number of pool users said they don't leave their belongings in the change rooms because of security concerns, opting to take them to the pool deck instead. Confidence in the lockers was cited as the issue. Additionally, many people talked about cleanliness as a key barrier to pool, shower, and change room use.

### **Balancing Shower and Washroom Needs of Different Patrons**

Several people we engaged with had lived experience with housing insecurity and commented on the need for safe, lockable, unmonitored shower and washroom facilities, especially for women. They said they want to wash with dignity and be able to access the facilities without having to come through the building.

Users with greater housing security who spoke about the issue recognized the importance of shower access for people with insecure housing, but desired some form of separation—scheduling, space, or otherwise—as well as regular cleaning, to mitigate concerns.

### **Suggested Additions for the Community Recreation Centre**

Theme	Suggestions
Lounge, hangout and workspaces	Dedicate games space: foosball, pool/billiards, chess, ping pong
	WIFI throughout the building

Theme	Suggestions
	Computers / tablets: available for public use, computer lab with related programming
	Workspace, reading, quiet zone
	Youth drop in space: increase in size, couches, TVs, consoles
Space for Staff	Staff lounge with couches
Music and art	Music room: somewhere to play music, musical instruments
	Arts and crafts room with a big sink and sewing machine(s)
Movement based activity	Yoga: expand the programming, appropriate dedicated space, wood flooring, quiet
	Dance studio: larger space with more availability
	Inline skating
	Rock climbing wall
	Indoor playground - designed by the science centre
	Updated fitness equipment
General programming considerations	High quality youth programming, local youth graduates as leaders, educational
General programming considerations	Programming for adults and seniors, not just for kids
	Programing to bring people together, group activities are important for community
	Family programming
	Ongoing opportunities to volunteer with local youth / children
	Knowledgeable instructors
Kitchen	Cooking lessons, features needed to support that
	Community kitchen is opportunity to build community
Exterior	Rooftop garden – many people are excited about this
	Mural or graffiti wall
	Parking / drop off area - important for parents with kids
	Integration between Community Recreation Centre and park



Theme	Suggestions
	Needs and inviting entrance

**Building Awareness of Programming**

Quite a few people we spoke with expressed a desire for features and/or programming that already exist at the Community Recreation Centre. This points to an opportunity for improved communication with the community. Examples included people asking for a woodworking studio, indoor badminton infrastructure, and showers.

**Park Improvements Mentioned**

People we spoke with indicated a range of improvements they would like to see in the park. These included: requests for better swings, seesaw, bigger slides, outdoor skating, and climbing structures; upgrades to the splash pad and outdoor courts; formalizing pathways crossing the field and beside the tennis courts; adding an off-leash dog area; creating zones for smaller as well as larger children. Some people also spoke about wanting more seating in the park. The lack of seating currently deters all park users.

**The Pros and Cons of Baseball**

Some people view the baseball diamond as taking up too much space, that could serve park users in other ways. However, for others, it is a valuable part of the park that contributes to their sense of safety. For the folks that would like to see it kept, baseball is seen as a way to bring healthy life to the park.

**Reaffirming Need for Accessibility**

We spoke with some community members with disabilities, one in a wheelchair, that said they don't use the Community Recreation Centre currently because of poor accessibility. These people talked about the need for improved wheelchair and scooter access, including street access, considering the size of elevators, as well as the accessibility of specific facilities such as the pool. They also expressed a keen interest in programming specifically created for people with disabilities.

## Reaffirming Need for Safety

Many of the people we spoke with don't feel safe visiting the park or Community Recreation Centre. For some, this means opting to go to community centers farther away instead. Visibility is a key part of safety for a number of people, both sightlines as well as visibility at night. Others talked about current ground cover materials and planting and the risk of needles. The stairs and lawn out front were another point of concern for some people we spoke with. They indicated these spaces supported behaviour that can be intimidating, such as congregation of large groups and open drug dealing. Other people spoke about the desire for more privacy and separation of the outdoor courts. One individual wanted to see the park fenced and locked at night. Despite concerns, in general the people that we spoke with understood the complexity of the issue and wanted to know how the park and Community Recreation Centre designs might be able to support people experiencing homelessness and those with addiction issues.

## Disrupting Community

In addition to those excited about the redevelopment, some people we spoke with voiced concern about the disruption the park improvement and new Community Recreation Centre construction will cause. Some were worried street life would deteriorate further, while others were upset about how the disruption to recreation programs would be mitigated during the construction periods.

There are local residents who fear the redeveloped Community Recreation Centre will cater to condos instead of serving the community. There is some distrust of the City, partially stemming from residual anger about the involvement of an "anonymous private donor" to the [More Moss Park](#) project that began in 2015. Local residents, apprehensive about the revitalization, didn't seem to understand the reasons for the redevelopment.

## 4.0 Who We Engaged

Number of participants engaged: 45

The pop-up engagements were designed as a way to connect with people we may not be reaching through other channels such as online surveys, ensuring engagement with a broad range of community members and facility users.

As these engagements were informal, candid conversations, we did not ask official demographic questions, but ensured we spoke with a diverse cross section of people ranging in age, race/ethnicity, gender identity and housing status.

# Appendix E: Open House #2 Summary Report

# Moss Park park Improvements & John Innes Community Recreation Centre Replacement Project

## SUMMARY REPORT: Public Meeting #2

October 20, 2022



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# 1.0 Introduction

The City of Toronto is leading a redesign of Moss Park and replacement of the 70-year-old John Innes Community Centre. The goal is for these spaces to serve the current and future needs of all of the diverse Moss Park community including vulnerable and equity-deserving populations in the area, the many new community members, and support the population growth in the area.

The redesigned Park and Community Recreation Centre will serve as a gathering place for an array of people, communities, and experiences.



FIGURE 1: Map of the proposed location of the new Community Recreation Centre in Moss Park

## 1.1 Project Context

In 2015, the project *More Moss Park* aimed to redevelop the park and replace the community recreation centre with a new facility that centered LGBTQ2s+ communities and expanded the services offered. The project was a partnership between the 519 and the City of Toronto. In 2016 the project was deemed not feasible and it was determined that it would not move forward. The community and stakeholder engagement program for More Moss Park was extensive. The scope of the current *Moss Park Park* Improvements and John Innes Community Recreation Centre replacement project are different with the community recreation centre retaining a recreation mandate. However, the insights, knowledge and data gathered through the *More Moss Park* consultation and engagement laid the groundwork that this project will build on.

### 1.1.1 Project Goals

Launch a new initiative to replace the John Innes Community Recreation centre with a new Community Recreation Centre and make extensive improvements to the park through a consultation process that is informed by the insights of the *2015 More Moss Park* project, with the following key project goals:

1. Replace the John Innes Community Recreation Centre with a bigger facility that meets the standards set out in the City's Recreation Facilities Master Plan and that can better meet the community's needs.
2. Redesign the park to meet current and future needs.
3. Build on the park's long-standing role as a hub for the diverse communities and people of Moss Park.
4. Ground the project by honouring local communities and by building on the assets of the park and community and the experiences and goals of diverse park users.
5. Build on the input received from the previous *More Moss Park* community consultation process.
6. Deliver an accessible and welcome place for all members of the Moss Park and John Innes Community Recreation Centre community.
7. Work closely with the community throughout the project.



## 1.1.2 Key Project Components

Every project component will be shaped by public input collected throughout the process. The following is a detailed list of project components, features and opportunities for which the City wants to collaborate with the local community.

### Major Park Improvements

- Extensive Park improvements with passive and active recreation amenities
- Support equity-deserving groups in park and recreations programs
- Integrate Indigenous placekeeping elements
  - Opportunities for park improvements, including walking, seating & gathering areas
  - Opportunities for recreation and park amenities, such as playground, splash pad, walking paths, tennis, basketball, dedicated dogs off leash area etc.
  - Indigenous placekeeping (to be identified with Rights Holders and local Indigenous communities)
  - Opportunities for key safety features, such as sight lines & lighting
  - Improve community gardens area in the park to align with initiatives to support food security and urban agriculture
  - Initiatives to support ecological & social sustainability & resilience of the park

### New Community Recreation Centre

- Double gym
- 2 Pools
- Multi-use community space
  - Opportunities for the included program in the Community Recreation Centre, such as program interrelationships, flexibility of uses, and relationships to the park
  - Community multi-purpose room(s) features and uses
  - Lane pool features and uses
  - Leisure/tot pool features and uses
  - Rooftop features and uses
  - Lobby features and uses
  - Program adjacencies
  - Opportunities for key safety features, such as sight lines, visibility, and views

## Upgrades to Arena

- Exterior Upgrades

### CONFIRMED Design Principles

The following eight *Design Principles* serve as guidance to steer the vision of the project. They have been workshopped with public input and confirmed with the public throughout this Phase of the project.

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 1:** Ensure the design of the Community Recreation Centre and park supports equity, belonging and inclusion.

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 2:** Ensure the Community Recreation Centre and Park are accessible to all.

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 3:** Create a space that makes safety for all users a priority.

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 4:** Design an open, permeable, and transparent environment.

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 5:** Maximize, enhance, and improve green spaces.

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 6:** Celebrate and share information about the Indigenous history and character of Moss Park.

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 7:** Contribute to food security.

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE 8:** Be sustainable and carbon neutral.

## CONFIRMED Big Moves

The Project team compiled thirteen *Big Moves* that describe priority actions that the City intends to take. They have been workshopped with public input and confirmed with the public throughout this Phase of the project.

**BIG MOVE 1:** Maintain a large area of open parkland with frontages onto Queen and Shuter by building the new Community Recreation Centre along Sherbourne St., over the existing footprint.

**BIG MOVE 2:** Establish a strong and cohesive design language between the Community Recreation Centre and the Arena buildings as well as the public realm.

**BIG MOVE 3:** Optimize opportunities for rooftop access to the new Community Recreation Centre.

**BIG MOVE 4:** Incorporate spaces for prayer and ceremony in flexible spaces.

**BIG MOVE 5:** Ensure washroom access from the outside of the building.

**BIG MOVE 6:** Create pedestrian connectivity to the park, arena and the Community Recreation Centre from the new Moss Park station in anticipation of a large volume of new users.

**BIG MOVE 7:** Work with local indigenous partners and first nations to ensure that indigenous placekeeping, knowledge, ways of knowing are reflected in the process and design, park improvements and Community Recreation Centre redevelopment.

**BIG MOVE 8:** Establish a renewed urban canopy of trees on Queen to match the Shuter edge. Wood from trees removed during construction will be used in the project in various ways.

**BIG MOVE 9:** Maintain and enhance key pedestrian pathways and access points into the park with lighting and sightlines.

**BIG MOVE 10:** Maintain and enhance existing permeable park edges and protect the existing urban canopy along Shuter.

**BIG MOVE 11:** Maintain the strong Sherbourne urban built edge and enhance the relationship between the Community Recreation Centre/Arena/Park and Metrolinx Station with improved visual and physical connectivity and accessibility.

**BIG MOVE 12:** Remove the baseball diamond to accommodate a wider range of park uses.

**BIG MOVE 13:** Add a fenced, dedicated dogs off-leash area to the park to support the growing number of residents with dogs in the intensifying neighbourhood, and to protect other park amenities and park users from conflicts with dogs.

### 1.1.3 Project Schedule

- Spring 2021: Procurement of architect and landscape architect design services and community engagement consultant
- Spring/Summer 2022: Community engagement – Building on the Vision
- **Summer/Fall 2022: Community engagement – Early Design Ideas [\\*WE ARE HERE](#)**
- Winter/Spring 2023: Community Engagement – Preferred Design
- Spring 2024: Hire a construction team
- Summer 2024 to Fall 2027: Community Recreation Centre construction
- Spring 2025 to Fall 2027: Park construction

## 1.2 About this Report

This meeting summary report, prepared by PROCESS, summarizes the key findings that emerged during the second public meeting, held on October 20, 2022, as part of the Moss Park Park Improvements & John Innes Community Recreation Centre Replacement Project. This report summarizes the feedback and input collected from these engagement activities.

### 1.2.1 Engagement Timeline

The following is a list of upcoming public engagement activities (schedule is anticipated and subject to change as the project progresses):

#### **Completed:**

- Public Meeting #1: June 20, 2022

- Pop-ups throughout the park: Summer 2022
- Public Meeting #2: October 20, 2022

**Upcoming:**

- Public Meeting #3 - 2023

## 2.0 Engagement Overview

### 2.1 Engagement Objectives

The goal of this phase of engagement was to present early design ideas to the public. This includes the design of the aquatic facilities, the multi-purpose rooms and fitness-oriented spaces. Members of the public were also given an update on the pop-up engagement activities that were conducted over the summer. The project team wanted to have a better understanding of evolving local issues and how the project can best support local needs.

#### 2.1.1 Engagement Approach

The engagement process was designed to reach and listen to the general public. The open house was hosted virtually on Webex.

*A total of 30 members of the public participated in the open house.*

**Open House Structure:** During the 2.5-hour virtual public meeting, the City of Toronto, PROCESS, The Planning Partnership, Two Row Architect and MJMA Architecture and Design guided participants through a presentation about the park improvements and new Community Recreation Centre as well as a facilitated discussion to garner feedback about the presentation.

Project context including the timeline for improvements to the park, site context, planning and policy context of the park. They then provided an overview of the important considerations for the park redevelopment which included a high-level overview of the Big Moves and the replacement of the John Innes Community Recreation Centre. Participants also heard about the Engagement Goals including protocols for Indigenous Engagement. Participants were then placed into breakout groups to have smaller group discussions about the Draft Design Principles and Big Moves.

## 3.0 What We Heard

The following section contains a summary of the feedback received during Public Meeting #2. See [Appendix A](#) and [Appendix B](#) for full documentation of comments and questions shared during the open house.

### 3.1 Key Insights

Key insights that have emerged from the Public Meeting are consolidated by the themes below.

#### **Strong Community Advocacy**

Members of the public shared that the new park and Community Recreation Centre should be representative of the surrounding community. Participants recognize that Moss Park and the John Innes Community Centre are currently significant community assets for those experiencing homelessness. There is a particular interest in how the redesigned Community Recreation Centre and park can be of service to those who experience homelessness.

The project team responded by sharing that service providers and individuals with lived experience have also been consulted in this process. Based on what they have heard through those consultations, outdoor access to washrooms and showers will be considered for the Community Recreation Centre. They further informed the community that the Community Recreation Centre will include a Housing and Supportive Services office, and will continue to engage with service providers and those with lived experience throughout the project.

#### **Safety Concerns and Questions**

Several members of the public brought up safety concerns. Some mentioned concerns regarding the amount of glass in the design and the potential for it breaking. Others mentioned sightlines and lighting, while others asked if there would be safety measures in the park after the recreation centre is closed.

The project team acknowledged the concerns raised by community members and emphasized that their primary objective is to create a safe public space. They stated that the design aims to minimize 'blind' corners to enhance safety. With regards to the use of glass, the team clarified that they are striving to achieve a balance between solid surfaces at the ground level to ensure privacy in swimming areas, and more glazing on higher levels. The team also reassured members that they have never experienced any

damage to property (eg. broken glass) in similar civic spaces, suggesting that such damage is less likely to occur in these types of facilities.





## Programming

At the open house, accessible programming emerged as a popular topic of discussion. Members of the public wanted to confirm that the Community Recreation Centre will remain free of charge. In response, the project team reassured community members that the centre would indeed remain free.

The design team further elaborated that they would prioritize flexibility in the room designs, intending for the spaces to be multi-functional and able to address a wide range of community needs. This will include incorporating program rooms of varying sizes and designing for the broadest possible programming use.

The multi-purpose rooms' flexible design provided reassurance to the public that the Community Recreation Centre will be adaptable to the diverse and evolving needs of the community.

## 3.2 Pre-Engagement Outcomes

The City of Toronto engaged in multiple forms of public consultation before the open house, including a survey, a previous meeting, and ongoing engagement with the local Indigenous community and the project's Local Advisory and Project Champions. The input gathered from stakeholders indicated broad support for the proposed improvements to Moss Park and the John Innes Community Recreation Centre.

Some of the key areas of focus that emerged from these consultations include:

- An opportunity to educate the public about the pre-colonial history of Moss Park.
- Various ways to engage in recreational activities in the park, such as fitness equipment and a better hockey rink.
- The importance of active transportation and accommodating mobility devices and strollers in the planning process.
- Moss Park should prioritize an “eyes on the park” approach as a top concern by designing the park to encourage increased visibility and feelings of safety. However, excessive police surveillance could potentially diminish feelings of safety for racialized communities or those experiencing homelessness.
- People experiencing homelessness need to be a priority for this project.
- Programming needs to respond to the social context of the park. This would include providing programs for seniors.

- The idea of using Moss Park to increase food security.
- Sustainable and carbon-neutral initiatives at the new Park and Community Recreation Centre.
- Widely publicize the engagement process by incorporating more in-person promotion of community engagement events.
- Community members revealed a strong sense of advocacy among local residents who expressed a desire to be involved and consulted.

## 3.3 Public Meeting #2 Summary

### 3.3.1 Public Meeting Participation

WHEN: October 20, 2022, at 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

WHERE: Virtually on Webex

ATTENDEES: 30 participants

PROJECT TEAM: City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry & Recreation Division  
 PROCESS (Public and Stakeholder Engagement)  
 The Planning Partnership (Landscape Architecture)  
 Two Row Architect (Landscape Architecture & Indigenous Lens)  
 MJMA (Community Recreation Centre Architecture & Design)

### 3.3.2 Summary of Feedback from Public Meeting #2

#### Safety

Safety is a continued topic of discussion during this Open House. The Moss Park improvements need to ensure that the park is safe for local residents, children and visitors. Participants wanted to learn more about the safety and security measures that will be implemented in the Community Recreation Centre and in the park.

*“What sort of security features are being considered, like sightlines and lighting, in and outside of the facility?”*

*“You're talking about a lot of glass in windows. One of the realities post-COVID is, there's broken windows all over the city. It's actually quite alarming. I can see it*

*being a target for broken windows. I'm not sure if 'eyes on the street' is warranted or needed in the building."*

## **Multi-purpose Rooms**

There was a lot of discussion around the multi-purpose rooms and their functions. Participants were curious about how these flexible spaces can serve the wider Moss Park community and whether they can be used free of charge.

*"Will there be opportunities for using sewing machines /sewing classes & social enterprise opportunities in general?"*

*"The meeting rooms are heavily used - these multi-purpose rooms look all the same size - any thought to vary the size to accommodate different size groups?"*

*"Will this building provide open programming for study spaces?"*

## **Park Design**

Community members raised concerns about the removal and replanting of trees in Moss Park, which is necessary to accommodate the design of the new Community Recreation Centre and the Metrolinx Station. There were also questions about parking and accessing the Community Recreation Centre by car.

*"Will new trees be planted to replace the ones that have / will be removed?"*

*"I'm shocked that 56 trees will be removed along Queen Street. When you talk about how beautiful it is to see trees, there won't be any to see."*

# Appendix A

## Design of the Community Recreation Centre and Facilities

PARTICIPANT QUESTION/COMMENT	PROJECT TEAM RESPONSE
I echo the emphasis on green space how important it is to the community; what opportunities have been explored to effectively use concrete footprint in place - (i.e. hockey rink use)? Combining spaces to maximize building footprint use and maintain green/ park space? What is the long-term plan for the ice rink since it is at the end of its life?	The ice rink is well used and well run and the Board wants to use it as long as possible. Arena Board is currently leasing space - facility will be up and running with a state of good repair program for the next 10 years but not sure what the long-term plans are.
No need for 10' deep end unless you're doing SCUBA certifications.	We're not ruling out SCUBA certifications but some depth allows for some diving.
Is the pool going to be free of charge like the actual one?	Yes, and all aquatic programming will continue to be free.
Where will the elevators be located?	(Pointed out on diagram.) Right next to the lobby/entrance and up to every floor and accessible.
What is a therapy bench?	A hydrotherapy bench – is a comfy bench. It will be in the leisure pool which is a warmer pool.
Therapy benches are good for stretching.	
Will there be opportunities for using sewing machines /sewing classes & social enterprise opportunities in general?	Yes, there are lots of opportunities and the City is open to working with staff to find the right activities the community wants to see. Programming is aimed to meet community needs. So if there is a need, we're happy to look into it—sewing, cooking, birthday parties. It is a free centre and we're happy to entertain ideas and work to make that happen.

PARTICIPANT QUESTION/COMMENT	PROJECT TEAM RESPONSE
	Design team trying to design as rooms with as much flexibility as possible. The rooms are intended to be multi-functional to address community needs.
Regent Park Aquatic Centre allows the multi-purpose rooms to be rented out for children's birthday parties - would love to see that at the Moss Park community centre.	Yes. It is a free centre. The City has discussed (and will continue to) the opportunities with the team. The City is open to all permits and all social events - birthdays, community kitchen events, community garden events, etc.
The meeting rooms are heavily used - these multi-purpose rooms look all the same size - any thought to vary the size to accommodate different size groups?	Yes, we're looking at a variety of program rooms of a variety of sizes, and designing for the widest possible programming use. The woodshop is a special purpose room (i.e. sawdust extraction) - that's specific to that one room but the rest are designed being thought of flexibility. Rooms that can move and adjust with dividers, and a community kitchen that can serve as an indoor and outdoor space which will be the largest of the program rooms.
Have you spoken to Regent Park Community Recreation Centre management about how difficult it is to manage and how much they dislike the two entrances (with a reception in the "rear") that are similar to what is getting proposed here?	We certainly understand the comment. The goal is always to try to make the safest public space - complete visibility, welcoming lobby where we can see both entrances, entrances to washrooms (indoor and outdoor) - trying to make sure there aren't any 'blind' corners where you can't see people. It makes for a more open and democratic feel in the lobby. Because it is such a short footprint the sightlines are good and clear visible lines.
What sort of security features are being considered, like sightlines and lighting, in and outside of the facility?	The City has a security division so there will be cameras at entrances but not in the pool/gym areas but in strategic public spaces like lobbies and entrances. The configuration between the existing arena and Community Recreation Centre will have a service courtyard in line with the existing wall so there aren't any hidden lines. There is as much openness to the park and building as possible, for more eyes on the street.
You're talking about a lot of glass in windows. One of the realities post-COVID is, there's	Inner city projects with the same concerns but the public participation and ownership

PARTICIPANT QUESTION/COMMENT	PROJECT TEAM RESPONSE
broken windows all over the city. It's actually quite alarming. I can see it being a target for broken windows. I'm not sure if "eyes on the street" is warranted or needed in the building.	is a high priority of people and we've seen protection of these spaces and less damage with these kinds of civic spaces and properties. We understand that but in our experience we're seeing good results with public ownership.
Broken windows - if they use some other materials for those places, metal not just glass maybe we will not see too much broken glass.	Thank you for the suggestion of other materials - use a variety of materials. It is a great suggestion. We are looking at a balance of solid surfaces at ground level and glass. Need to balance privacy during swimming and other events. As we go up in levels we want more glazing.
Visibility is only relevant when the centre is open. The problems occur after hours. How will that be addressed?	There will be improved lighting at night and day. It will be attractive for pedestrians and have nice even light throughout the park. There will be new circulation paths and programs (i.e. Dogs off-leash area). People using the space regularly is a natural way to limit behaviours the City does not want in the park (i.e. potential spaces for violence).
Libraries benefit the community, any plans to include one or something similar?	
FYI there are 3 libraries within 15 minutes walking distance from the park.	
Brand new library being built where the current south market is located - in front of Shoppers on Jarvis / Esplanade.	Thank you for your comments regarding libraries! They have been noted.
What other buildings are surrounded by shelters?	
How tall will the building be?	20 meters or so. The team is in concept design so have yet to go into structural spans, but looking at about 4-4.5 m/floor; overall 18-20 m to the roof, about 60 feet overall/4 storeys.
Will the gym have a climbing wall - similar to the ones at MLS Launchpad?	Waiting for the survey, this will help us understand how many people want a particular feature. We're still considering the best configuration for participation.
Is the MLSE climbing facility a trackwall that doesn't need a spotter?	

PARTICIPANT QUESTION/COMMENT	PROJECT TEAM RESPONSE
It's a trackwall. You may want to visit the MLSE Launchpad as it's at Jarvis and Dundas and could give you some good feedback on what works or doesn't for the community.	Thanks for the suggestion around the climbing wall!
Will this building provide open programming for study spaces? How will people access the building via car? Plans for underground parking? Shuter, Sherbourne and Queen are mostly single lane both ways with not much room to extend traffic lanes. How will this be planned out given the restriction of roadways?	The team knows that study spaces are in high demand. The team is looking to see how the public circulatory system, hallways/stairs could be enlarged so we understand how the floorplate of the building includes study space uses. As much as possible we are going to try to do this.
(In response to the last answer from panelists about TTC connected nature of site) Have you transported hockey gear on the TTC?	



# Appendix B

## Miscellaneous Comments & Questions

PARTICIPANT QUESTION/COMMENT	PROJECT TEAM RESPONSE
Will the presentation be available later?	Yes, we will be drafting a meeting summary which will include a copy of the presentation.
When will the slides be available to the public?	In the coming weeks. You will find all information posted to the <a href="#">project website</a> .
I originally got interested in this project because of the larger Park programming. I was very interested in having a baseball swing there. At the time I attended, there was a discussion that evolved around the community to provide affordable housing. I think this is a wasted opportunity to provide much needed affordable housing, subsidized housing for regular waystation stations. This is exactly what the provincial planning documents adviser, should be done around the significant public investment in improving transit in the City. I would just really encourage this group to press building up or on top.	We'd like to clarify that the recommendation is to use the land for affordable housing. The space is designated for park land, important for the community.
Just to follow up on the previous comment - the response that the Official Plan designation is Park should not foreclose the opportunity for an OPA to permit residential uses on top of the community centre. The current programming looks great, but 4-stories on City-owned land is a tremendous lost opportunity. The City should be using its powers to amend the OP, build residential on top, and build subsidized housing. I would appreciate speaking to the representative from Planning who is consulting on this project.	Thank you for the follow up and addition to your comment. We'll be sure that they're noted and shared with the full project team and City.
There was a thought early on (6+ years ago) that this could be a home for gay/lesbian sports leagues. None of these spaces are big enough for league play. Has this idea been abandoned?	Originally <i>More Moss Park</i> was a partnership between the City and a donor. The project at the time was deemed not feasible. The City is using some of the learnings from that project as a basis, but it is now solely a City of Toronto PFR project. Once the Community Recreation Centre is officially built the PFR team will

PARTICIPANT QUESTION/COMMENT	PROJECT TEAM RESPONSE
	do another round of consultation to determine programming.
A substantial part of the population around the center is unhoused/homeless persons. How will this center cater to them? Their needs for sociality and facilities?	Hearing from service providers and those with lived experience - there is a need for access to washrooms and shower facilities from the outside. We're continuing to engage with service providers and those with lived experience throughout the project. Within the Community Recreation Centre, there is a space dedicated for Housing and Supportive Services.
I'm trying to understand exactly the footprint of the plan and how many trees are going to be affected.	The Arborist has done a full report of the site. Some trees have been designated a 'weed tree' (i.e., Norfolk Maple) that will be removed from Sherbourne. On Shuter side the majority of mature trees will remain, there will be some removals. The comprehensive arborist report contains an analysis of current conditions of trees and what has to be removed for various reasons. The grade in front of the Community Recreation Centre is being lowered and the current grading is so high (berm) - the grade in grade requires removal. That being said, the team is trying to keep as many trees as possible. Metrolinx is removing all trees along Queen St. E. to construct the Ontario Line.
I'm shocked that 56 trees will be removed along Queen Street. When you talk about how beautiful it is to see trees, there won't be any to see.	We try to maintain as many trees as possible. We hear you. Yes, some trees need to be removed to accommodate the new Community Recreation Centre because the new program requires a larger footprint. The architects are trying to make the footprint compact to preserve a large, open contiguous park space - as well as limit the number of tree removals.
Will new trees be planted to replace the ones that have / will be removed?	Yes, not all first planting new trees will be the same size - we will plant a variety of species and sizes. It will be an overall win for the community long-term. We acknowledge the removal in the short term-but believe the long-term will be better for all.

PARTICIPANT QUESTION/COMMENT	PROJECT TEAM RESPONSE
<p>Well, with all due respect, I have been living on Twitter for the last 10 years and I've seen what happens with replanted trees. Not one of them survives. Replanting is being done poorly.</p>	<p>We hear you, there is pain when we remove trees. They are not 'junk' trees. It is not the arborist on their own. They are just collecting the health and type of tree data for the City. The City feels that with a very robust replanting strategy - which the City will have - we will have a strong urban forest along Queen and will illustrate this in the park design plan in the early new year (January 2023).</p>
<p>Parents that use the playground feel very unsafe when the playground is far from the street.</p>	<p>There is no official plan for the park yet. The final locations are still being determined but PFR wants kids facilities as close to the building as possible but are not yet at determining the exact size and location just yet.</p>
<p>The city is one of the biggest landowners in the Moss Park/Sherbourne Corridor. TCHC owns several high-rise towers including many low-rise buildings and townhouses. The majority of these sites are prime for development for which further density can be added. I don't think the community centre is a lost opportunity considering there is so much more the city can (and should) focus on in the area.</p>	
<p>That's a fair point. I'm sure those other sites offer opportunities as well, but overall the City's opportunities are still very limited to build new affordable units. We need everything the City can build.</p>	
<p>Greenspace is a priority. Minimizing concrete in downtown.</p>	<p>Are you suggesting the community centre be above the arena?</p>
<p>How many panelists live in the area and have spent a few hours on Saturday/Sunday afternoons in front of John Innes? The question regarding if the panelists were from the area or if they had spent weekend afternoons at John Innes was to see if they understood the community and the area dynamics and how their proposals fit the neighbourhood. The fear is they are "plopping" a generic Community Recreation Centre into the neighbourhood without knowing how it would actually suit the area.</p>	<p>We really want to hear from folks living in the community through Local Advisory Group, Project Champions, Pop-ups in the area, Youth Workshops, Indigenous Communities Workshop and public meetings like tonight to make sure we collect information ongoing/throughout the project.</p>

PARTICIPANT QUESTION/COMMENT	PROJECT TEAM RESPONSE
Perhaps going forward you can incorporate some slides with bullet points from those community partner feedback.	We did have a few slides around the community engagement and everything we have heard to date at the beginning of the presentation. All that information will be posted on the project website as well.
Please advertise community engagement sessions better around the neighbourhood I live blocks from the park and have not seen any info in or around my building.	

# Appendix F: Survey #2 Summary Report

# **Moss Park Park Improvements & John Innes Community Recreation Centre Replacement Project**

**SUMMARY REPORT:**

**Survey #2 - CRC Design Feedback**

**December 5, 2022**

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# 1.0 Introduction

Moss Park park improvement and the replacement of the 70-year-old John Innes Community Recreation Center will serve the evolving needs of the diverse community. This includes supporting vulnerable and equity-deserving populations in the local area and growing numbers of community residents by offering improved park amenities and recreational facilities.

The new and bigger facilities of the Community Recreation Centre and the park improvements will serve local communities by building on the assets of the park and community, in response to the needs of the diverse array of community members who enjoy the park and recreation amenities today.

This report builds on reports previously published, such as those for past surveys, open houses and advisory group meetings, all of which can be found on the project webpage.



**FIGURE 1: Map of the location of the new Community Recreation Centre in Moss Park**



## 1.1 Project Context

In 2015, an initial reimagining of Moss Park began as a partnership between the City of Toronto, The 519, and a philanthropic partner. The project, titled *More Moss Park*, aimed to redevelop the park and replace the community recreation centre with a new facility that centered 2SLGBTQ+ communities and expanded the services offered. After a community and stakeholder engagement program and feasibility study, culminating in the *More Moss Park Report* in 2016, the project was deemed not feasible.

In 2019, City Council adopted the implementation strategy for the Parks & Recreation Facilities Master Plan with amendments. The plan made recommendations for the replacement of the John Innes Community Recreation Centre, facade improvements for the Moss Park Arena, as well as park improvements.

While the scope of the current Moss Park park improvements and John Innes Community Recreation Centre replacement project is now focused on park and recreation facilities for the community; the insights, knowledge and data gathered through the *More Moss Park* consultation and engagement laid valuable groundwork for this project.

### 1.1.1 Project Goals

Launch a new initiative to replace the John Innes Community Recreation Centre with a new Community Recreation Centre and make extensive improvements to the park through a consultation process that is informed by the insights of the *2015 More Moss Park* project, with the following key project goals:

1. Replace the John Innes CRC with a bigger facility that meets the standards set out in the City's Recreation Facilities Master Plan and that can better meet the community's needs.
2. Redesign the park to meet current and future needs.
3. Build on the park's long-standing role as a hub for the diverse communities and people of Moss Park.
4. Ground the project by honouring local communities and by building on the assets of the park and community and the experiences and goals of diverse park users.
5. Build on the input received from the previous *More Moss Park* community consultation process.
6. Deliver an accessible and welcoming place for all members of the Moss Park and John Innes CRC community.
7. Work closely with the community throughout the project.

### 1.1.2 Project Schedule

- Spring 2021: Procurement of architect and landscape architect design services and community engagement consultant
- Spring/Summer 2022: Community engagement – Building on the Vision
- **\*WE ARE HERE - Summer/Fall 2022: Community engagement – Early Design Ideas**
- Winter/Spring 2023: Community Engagement – Preferred Design
- Spring 2024: Hire a construction team
- Summer 2024 to Fall 2027: Community Recreation Centre construction
- Spring 2025 to Fall 2027: Park construction

## 1.2 About this Report

This survey summary report, prepared by PROCESS, summarizes the key findings that emerged through the Survey #2 CRC Design Feedback, as part of the Moss Park Improvements & John Innes Community Recreation Centre Replacement Project.

### 1.2.1 Engagement Timeline

The following is a list of upcoming public engagement activities (schedule is anticipated and subject to change as the project progresses):

#### COMPLETED

- Local Advisory Group (LAG) and Project Champions Meeting #1: June 13, 2022
- Public Meeting: June 20, 2022
- Public Survey #1: June 20 - July 3, 2022
- Summer Pop-ups: August 22 - August 25, 2022
- Local Advisory Group (LAG) and Project Champions Meeting #2: August 30, 2022
- Indigenous Communities' Meeting #1: August 31, 2022
- Public Meeting #2: October 20, 2022
- Public Survey #2: October 20 - November 14, 2022

#### ONGOING

- Pop-ups throughout the park: Summer 2022 - Winter 2023
- Indigenous Communities' Meeting #2: December 12, 2022
- Public Meeting #3: Winter/Spring 2023
- Local Advisory Group (LAG) and Project Champions Meeting #3: Winter/Spring 2023
- Youth City-Building and Design Mentorship: Winter/Spring 2023
- Public Survey #3: Winter 2023
- Park Open House: February 15, 2022

# 2.0 Engagement Overview

## 2.1 Engagement Objectives

The goal of this phase of engagement was to present the public with the proposed features, amenities and programming, which were developed from the data gathered throughout consultation that took place with the community earlier in 2022. The results of this survey will be combined with information received through other consultation activities to continue to inform future planning and design decisions for Moss Park improvements and the replacement of John Innes Community Recreation Centre.

### 2.1.1 Engagement Approach

This phase of the engagement process was designed to reach and listen to the general public. It included a public survey (hosted digitally on CheckMarket and available by phone for those who required assistance).

A total of **410** members of the public responded to the survey (open from October 20 - November 14, 2022).

**Public Survey Dissemination: Survey #2 CRC Design Feedback** targeted residents of Toronto and those who visit the community recreation centre. The survey link was shared at the public meeting, on social media and through email correspondence to a diverse range of stakeholders that the project team has already engaged.

**Survey #2 CRC Design Feedback** was available online for three weeks (Oct 20 to November 14, 2022) following a public meeting that presented schematic design of the Community Recreation Centre.. The purpose of the 10-minute survey was to share information about early design ideas, developed using feedback from earlier consultation with the community, and to give members of the general public an opportunity to provide input on proposed features, amenities and programming.

## 3.0 What We Heard

The following section contains a summary of the feedback received through the second public survey. See [Appendix A](#) for a full list of questions included in the public survey. [Appendix C](#) provides a summary of open-ended responses received.

### 3.1 Key Insights

Key insights that have emerged from the Public Survey are consolidated by the theme below.

#### **Keep It Simple**

Respondents expressed a preference for high-quality and simple amenities, features and programming, rather than more extravagant or specialized options. Within the aquatic facilities, elements like obstacle courses, waterfalls, and spray features ranked quite low in terms of importance for the new facility, whereas accessibility, natural lighting, and easy to clean materials were ranked higher.

#### **Accommodation, Not Segregation**

A recurring theme throughout the survey involved tension between providing dedicated time slots for specific user groups (i.e., women, seniors, people with disabilities) and a hesitancy to segregate these user groups from using facilities together. While some respondents suggested that dedicated time slots would improve comfort and access to recreation spaces and amenities, others suggested that this practice limits integration across cultures, genders and other differences.

Similarly, when asked about preferences around the multi-purpose rooms and common areas, many respondents indicated that they did not wish to see prayer rooms incorporated into the facility. Multi-purpose space appropriate for meditation or quiet activities was slightly more preferred, but still ranked quite low in terms of importance.

#### **Safety and Security**

Safety and security is a top priority for many survey respondents, and was highlighted as important in many of the Community Recreation Centre's spaces. This included ensuring change rooms, the pool deck and other community spaces are well-staffed (e.g., supervised, maintained, cleaned frequently) or concerns around how needs of the existing unhoused population can be balanced with needs of families and others who wish to use the space.

#### **Unhoused Community**

Respondents suggested that certain amenities and programs should support people experiencing homelessness and the social service agencies that provide them with meals or housing. This sentiment was most commonly expressed around the kitchen space (i.e., community meals for unhoused residents, programs that are accessible to unhoused residents).

Some respondents expressed stronger concerns around safety related to unhoused community members, drug use and mental health issues, with a preference to displace residents beyond

the Moss Park community; however, this was not the dominant narrative and most respondents prefer to provide a higher level of support to the unhoused community to ensure all user groups are able to access the new facility.

### **Clarify Priorities**

Throughout the survey, some respondents' comments indicated a need to clarify and communicate priorities within the new Community Recreation Centre. For example, some respondents were unsure why a wood shop was included in the preliminary design and how this decision was made.

Similarly, a couple of respondents indicated that they were concerned that the rooftop would not be used year-round (i.e., only during summer months) and, as a result, less funding and attention should be directed toward this space.

### **Flexible Pool Space**

Respondents expressed a strong demand for flexible aquatic facilities that can accommodate a variety of programming options. Design elements like a retractable pool floor were commonly referenced, to allow for sports like water polo to be played in the new facility.

## 3.2 Public Survey #2 Summary

The second public survey for the Moss Park Park Improvements & John Innes Community Recreation Centre Replacement Project focused on the project's early ideas for features, amenities and programming. Two primary methods of capturing responses related to these areas were used: likert scales and open-ended questions. Below is a review of the responses by percentages. See [Appendix A](#) for full survey questions.

### 3.2.1 Demographic Profile of Survey Respondents

The majority of survey respondents (67%) were adults between the ages of 30-55, followed by older adults and seniors aged 56-74 (19%). A small proportion (11%) of respondents were youth or young adults between the ages of 19-29. Racialized individuals and Indigenous people made up 35% while 7% had a preference not to disclose their race. The majority of respondents were white (66%). 48% of respondents identified as being Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer or Two-Spirited and 47% identified as heterosexual. The majority of respondents (96%) reported that English was their preferred language.

### 3.2.2 Survey Responses

*There were 410 survey participants. 327 (80%) completed the survey in full.*

#### DESIGN SATISFACTION

Overall, survey respondents indicated that they were generally satisfied with the design of facilities.

- **\*82%** (318) of respondents were either “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with the preliminary design of the aquatic facilities.
- **95%** (304) of respondents were either “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with the preliminary design of the multi-purpose and tailored spaces.
- **96%** (287) of respondents were either “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with the preliminary design of the fitness-oriented spaces.

*\*Nearly 20% of respondents made reference to deep pools, pools with retractable/moveable flooring and/or water polo. This suggests an overrepresentation of water polo enthusiasts, likely contributing to lower levels of satisfaction with the preliminary aquatic facility design. See page 11 for details of this feedback.*

#### *Design Satisfaction Segmentation*

#### **Respondents who self-identify as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous\* or person of colour):**

- 82% satisfied with aquatic facilities design
- 95% satisfied with multi-purpose and tailored spaces design
- 96% satisfied with fitness-oriented space design

*\*Indigenous community members were significantly underrepresented in the survey with only 6 responses received and, as a result, there is not enough data to analyze design satisfaction from this demographic group alone.*

**Respondents who self-identify as women:**

- 88% satisfied with aquatic facilities design
- 97% satisfied with multi-purpose and tailored spaces design
- 96% satisfied with fitness-oriented space design

**Respondents who self-identify as men:**

- 66% satisfied with aquatic facilities design
- 82% satisfied with multi-purpose and tailored spaces design
- 84% satisfied with fitness-oriented space design

**Respondents who self-identify as trans, gender non-binary or Two-Spirit:**

- 65% satisfied with aquatic facilities design
- 88% satisfied with multi-purpose and tailored spaces design
- 88% satisfied with fitness-oriented space design

**Respondents who self-identify as part of the 2SLGBTQ+ community:**

- 72% satisfied with aquatic facilities design
- 93% satisfied with multi-purpose and tailored spaces design
- 96% satisfied with fitness-oriented space design

**Respondents ages 65+:**

- 89% satisfied with aquatic facilities design
- 90% satisfied with multi-purpose and tailored spaces design
- 95% satisfied with fitness-oriented space design

**Respondents ages 19-29:**

- 76% satisfied with aquatic facilities design
- 97% satisfied with multi-purpose and tailored spaces design
- 100% satisfied with fitness-oriented space design

## **AQUATIC PROGRAMMING FEATURES**

**Ranked importance of aquatic programming features** (*percent who indicated that the programming feature was either important or very important*):

- 94% - Materials used in the changerooms that are easy to clean
- 88% - More secure lockers in change rooms
- 84% - Mobility support / support for wheelchair and scooter users
- 80% - Good natural lighting
- 79% - Windows to let in natural light
- 78% - Privacy in the change rooms and showers
- 64% - Small wallet lockers on the pool deck
- 59% - Leisure pool amenities large entry steps
- 57% - Deep end for diving
- 55% - Flexible privacy features from the outdoors (e.g. blinds)
- 49% - Leisure pool amenities hydrotherapy bench
- 47% - Flexible privacy features from interior public space (e.g. blinds)



- 46% - Large shallow end
- 26% - Leisure pool water features water umbrella feature
- 24% - Leisure pool water features waterfall/laminar flow feature
- 24% - Lap pool features climbing wall
- 24% - Integration with the outdoor splash pad
- 23% - Leisure pool water features rooster tail spray features
- 17% - Lap pool features inflatable obstacle course

**Ranked importance of aquatic programs that are important to consider in the design of the new facility** (*percent who indicated that the program was important to consider*):

- 64% - All-inclusive swim
- 60% - Adult swimming lessons
- 60% - Programming dedicated to people with disabilities
- 59% - Children's swimming lessons
- 59% - Aqua fit classes
- 58% - Women specific times
- 54% - Training programs (e.g., bronze cross or lifeguarding)
- 54% - Parent-child programs
- 51% - Youth swimming lessons
- 46% - Youth specific times

Additional feedback was provided on other elements that should be considered in the design of aquatic facilities, specifically divided into commentary on the lane pool, leisure pool, programming, change rooms, deck areas and other spaces, as well as space to allow for feedback that did not fit into these five categories.

### **Lane and Leisure Pools**

For the lane pool, comments favoured the inclusion of a deep water pool or retractable pool floor that allows for multi-purpose uses, with water polo (and related design preferences) being identified in nearly 20% of responses (81). Respondents who mentioned a preference for a deep water pool or retractable pool floor state that there is only one pool in Toronto that meets their needs (University of Toronto Athletic Centre) and they have difficulty accessing this facility (e.g., it is often booked for other programs). Other suggestions received included having additional lanes (4), wider lanes (4) and designated lanes for different swimming speeds (2). The leisure pool received similar comments around adding a retractable pool floor (8) and references to water polo (4), as well as accessibility design considerations including easy entry for people with disabilities (3) and specifically the inclusion of a lift or ramp (2).

### **Programming**

Programming suggestions included references to water polo (7), allowing community groups or clubs to book the pool (4), a range of time slots for swimming (3), adult-only (3) and seniors-only (3) programs and time slots, and a preference to limit dedicated time slots (3).

### **Change Rooms**

Although the survey did not provide a specific option to comment on change room design, many respondents made comments about their preferences throughout the survey. In the change rooms, respondents suggested that they would prefer to have an option to use gendered

change rooms (8), while others would prefer to have the option to use a universal change room (5). Respondents would like to prioritize cleanliness (4), include family change rooms (4) and additional bathroom stalls (3), as well as have accessibility and safety considerations be a top priority (3).

### **Deck Area**

Similarly, respondents wish to have ample seating and benches (5) and dedicated places to leave personal items (4) in the deck area. They also wish to see these spaces well-staffed (e.g., supervised and cleaned) and accessibility considerations prioritized.

### **Other comments**

Comments in the “other” section reiterated comments heard around having a deep pool (13) and retractable pool floor (9). The inclusion of a hot tub or sauna was mentioned (7), alongside a preference for safety considerations and a longer pool (2) than currently planned.

## **MULTI-PURPOSE AND TAILORED COMMUNITY SPACES**

**Ranked importance of multi-purpose/tailored community spaces** (*percent who indicated that the space was either important or very important*):

- 78% - Rooftop terrace/garden space
- 78% - Youth space
- 72% - Community kitchen
- 66% - Large multipurpose room with storage (approx 2,000 ft<sup>2</sup>)
- 65% - Three smaller multipurpose rooms (distributed across several floors)
- 44% - Woodshop

**Ranked importance of wood shop features, activities and programming** (*percent who indicated that the feature, activity or programming was either important or very important*):

- 72% - Children and youth programming
- 69% - A repair café
- 58% - Indigenous-led woodworking classes

Respondents identified that adult woodworking classes (6), skill building or career training (4) and the possibility of a tool lending library (3) would be important programming considerations.

**Ranked importance of kitchen features, activities and programming** (*percent who indicated that the feature, activity or programming was either important or very important*):

- 87% - User-friendly online booking
- 86% - Accessibility for people living with disabilities or mobility issues
- 79% - Cooking classes (including culturally specific and Indigenous cooking courses)
- 77% - Nutrition programming
- 76% - Community building opportunities
- 74% - Senior and intergenerational programming
- 74% - Large refrigerators
- 72% - Local partnerships
- 66% - Indigenous-led programming
- \*social entrepreneurship opportunities

Respondents provided comments on programming and other considerations that they felt were important to include in the kitchen, such as open kitchen time slots for community members to make and share meals (3), youth-centred cooking classes (2), cleanliness (2), training on food systems and gardening (2), programs/kitchen space to be accessible to unhoused residents (2), and community services/meals to be accessible to unhoused residents (2).

*\*An error in the survey led to multiple responses being allowed for the “social entrepreneurship opportunities” option, where the total number of responses in this line exceeded the number of survey responses received. Social entrepreneurship opportunities, however, were ranked as important or very important more often than not, suggesting that this programming option is at least somewhat favoured for the kitchen space.*

**Ranked importance of multi-purpose rooms and common areas features, activities and programming** (percent who indicated that the feature, activity or programming was either important or very important):

- 82% - Space for community meeting
- 74% - Programming for families with young children
- 73% - Expandable or dividable rooms
- 65% - Space for adult learning
- 64% - Child and family oriented games and features
- 62% - Multi-purpose space appropriate for Indigenous ceremonies
- 56% - Computers
- 53% - Multi-purpose space for studying
- 49% - Multi-purpose space appropriate for meditation/quiet activities
- 33% - Multi-purpose space appropriate for prayer

When asked about the importance of features, activities and programming, respondents considered spaces for studying, meditation, prayer and ceremony less important than spaces for community and family programming and amenities. One open-ended comment suggested that libraries already exist to provide space for quieter use, and instead the Community Recreation Centre should be geared towards recreational uses. Other comments received indicated the importance of 2SLGBTQ+ programming (2) in multi-purpose spaces and common areas.

**Ranked importance of rooftop features, activities and programming** (percent who indicated that the feature, activity or programming was either important or very important):

- 87% - Shade / shelter
- 74% - Diverse seating options
- 74% - Food growing opportunities (e.g., community farm, green house and/or flower garden)
- 73% - Community building opportunities
- 65% - Local partnerships for programming
- 60% - Indigenous Medicines garden and education
- 59% - Indigenous-led programming
- 54% - Social entrepreneurship opportunities
- 47% - Fitness equipment and outdoor fitness
- 40% - Inflatable movie screen for outdoor movies

In general, survey respondents prefer features and amenities that allow them to enjoy an outdoor environment within the Community Recreation Centre, but did not suggest that this

space should be highly programmed. Preferences included the inclusion of natural elements (shading with trees [1], native plants [1], edible gardens [1] and beekeeping [1]), as well as 2SLGBTQ+ programming (2). Concerns were mentioned around the rooftop use being seasonal, and as a result, suggesting that less funding and attention should be directed toward this space (2).

### **Additional Commentary on Multi-Purpose and Tailored Community Spaces**

Additional feedback was provided on other elements that should be considered in the design of multi-purpose and tailored community spaces, specifically divided into commentary on the multi-purpose rooms and common areas, wood shop, kitchen, youth space, and rooftop.

This feedback often mirrored comments received from the open-ended comments in the questions around preferences for features, activities and programming. In the multi-purpose rooms and common areas, respondents reiterated their preference not to have prayer rooms included in the design (5), as well as liking to see space for service agencies to support local communities (3), and to have comfortable and flexible rooms (3).

Feedback around the woodshop included an uncertainty around the need for a woodshop to be included in the design (3) and a suggestion to broaden this space to include other arts-based activities (e.g., painting) (2).

The kitchen received few additional comments, but those added mentioned that the space would be great for seniors (1) and should provide nutrition programming for seniors and lower income residents (1). Similarly, the youth space received few comments, but those received identified the need for supervision (1) and the importance of consulting youth on this design element (1).

Finally, the rooftop received additional comments on respondents' concerns about the space not being usable in the winter season (2), a preference to keep the space simple (i.e., spend money in the park instead) (2), a desire for green space (2) and for shaded areas (2).

## **FITNESS ORIENTED SPACES**

**Ranked importance of double gym and running track features, activities and programming** (*percent who indicated that the feature, activity or programming was either important or very important*):

- 87% - Storage for people's bags and outdoor shoes
- 82% - Spaces to sit and stretch along the track
- 81% - Dedicated programming for people living with disabilities or mobility challenges
- 69% - Ability to divide the gym
- 67% - Height adjustable basketball nets
- 62% - Volleyball
- 52% - Indoor soccer
- 52% - Opportunities to book for non-sport activities that require a large space
- 50% - Badminton
- 49% - Seating for spectators
- 43% - Pickleball

Respondents' preferences were centred less around the types of sports and activities that could be played and more around ensuring that the space accommodates a range of uses and user groups. Additional comments highlighted the importance of 2SLGBTQ+ programming (2), air purification and circulation (2) and ensuring safety is considered along the running track (e.g., no sharp corners, safe surfaces, etc.) (2).

**Ranked importance of weight room features, activities and programming** (*percent who indicated that the feature, activity or programming was either important or very important*):

- 97% - Well ventilated
- 83% - Updated machines and weights
- 83% - Low-impact exercise equipment (e.g., stationary bikes, ellipticals, treadmills, etc.).
- 64% - Dedicated time for women
- 57% - Dedicated time for 2SLGBTQ+ community members
- 54% - Dedicated time for youth

Dedicated time slots in the weight room were ranked as less important than having a well-ventilated space with high-quality and up-to-date equipment. Comments were divided between a preference to limit dedicated time slots (3) and a suggestion to include dedicated time slots for seniors (2), people with disabilities (1) and people who are newer to using the equipment (1).

**Ranked importance of fitness and dance studios features, activities and programming** (*percent who indicated that the feature, activity or programming was either important or very important*):

- 86% - Surfaces and seating that are easy to clean
- 79% - Dedicated time and programming for seniors
- 78% - Tai Chi, Yoga and therapeutic stretching classes
- 76% - Low impact workouts
- 73% - Dance classes and programming
- 71% - Self defense (e.g., for women, youth, 2SLGBTQ+ communities, etc.)
- 64% - Dedicated time and programming for women
- 57% - Dedicated time and programming for 2SLGBTQ+ community members
- 55% - Views of the park
- 50% - Martial arts
- 47% - Gymnastics
- 45% - Fingerprint-proof mirrors
- 40% - Boxing

Respondents were more in favour of dedicated time and programming for seniors within the fitness and dance studios, while less in favour of dedicated time and programming for women and 2SLGBTQ+ community members. Preferred programming options also support seniors' use of these spaces with Tai Chi, Yoga and therapeutic stretching classes (78%) and low-impact workouts (76%) ranking slightly higher than dance classes and programming (73%) and much higher than martial arts (50%), gymnastics (47%) and boxing (40%). Additional comments on these spaces were limited but included preference to limit dedicated time slots (1), classes for people with disabilities (1) and cultural dance classes (1).

# APPENDIX A

## Survey Questions

1. How satisfied are you with the preliminary design of the aquatic facilities?
2. Which of the following aquatic programming features do you consider important for the new facility?
3. Which of these programs do you think would be important to consider in the design of the new facility? Select all that apply.
4. Is there anything else you think should be considered in the design of aquatic facilities?
5. Please share additional ideas and feedback using the text box space below
6. How satisfied are you with the preliminary design of the multi-purpose and tailored spaces?
7. Which of the following multi purpose/tailored community spaces do you consider most important?
8. Which of the following features, activities and programming do you consider important for the WOODSHOP
9. Which of the following features, activities and programming do you consider important for the WOODSHOP - Other
10. Which of the following features, activities and programming do you consider important for the KITCHEN
11. Which of the following features, activities and programming do you consider important for the KITCHEN - Other
12. Which of the following features, activities and programming do you consider important for MULTIPURPOSE ROOMS AND COMMON AREAS
13. Which of the following features, activities and programming do you consider important for MULTIPURPOSE ROOMS AND COMMON AREAS - Other
14. Which of the following features, activities and programming do you consider important for the ROOFTOP
15. Which of the following features, activities and programming do you consider important for the ROOFTOP - Other
16. Would you like to provide additional comments on the multi-purpose and tailored community spaces?
17. Please share additional ideas and feedback using the text box space below
18. Please share additional ideas and feedback using the text box space below
19. How satisfied are you with the preliminary design of the fitness oriented spaces?
20. Which of the following features, activities and programming do you consider important for the DOUBLE GYM AND RUNNING TRACK
21. Which of the following features, activities and programming do you consider important for the DOUBLE GYM AND RUNNING TRACK - Other
22. Which of the following features, activities and programming do you consider important for the WEIGHT ROOM
23. Which of the following features, activities and programming do you consider important for the WEIGHT ROOM - Other
24. Which of the following features, activities and programming do you consider important for the FITNESS AND DANCE STUDIOS
25. Which of the following features, activities and programming do you consider important for the FITNESS AND DANCE STUDIOS - Other

26. Would you like to provide additional comments on the fitness oriented spaces?
27. Please share additional ideas and feedback about the fitness oriented spaces using the text box space below.
28. Please share additional ideas and feedback about the fitness oriented spaces using the text box space below.
29. What is the age of the person filling out this survey?
30. Excluding yourself, How many people of each age group participated in this survey?
31. 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?
32. 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? - Not listed, please describe
33. 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?
34. 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? - Not listed, please describe
35. 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.
36. 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. - Other, please describe
37. What language do you prefer speaking?
38. What language do you prefer speaking? - Not listed, please describe
39. What best describes your current housing situation?
40. What best describes your current housing situation? - Not listed, please describe
41. What best describes you and your household's access to outdoor space?
42. Please provide the first three characters of your postal code (e.g. M5H)
43. How did you find out about this survey? Select all that apply.

# APPENDIX B

## Key Project Components

Each project component will be shaped by public input collected throughout the engagement project. The following is a detailed list of project components, features and opportunities for which the City wants to collaborate with the local community.

### Major Park Improvements

- 1. Extensive Park improvements with passive and active recreation amenities**
  - 2. Support equity-deserving groups in park and recreations programs**
  - 3. Integrate Indigenous placekeeping elements**
- Opportunities for park improvements, including walking, seating & gathering areas
  - Opportunities for recreation and park amenities, such as playground, splash pad, walking paths, tennis, basketball, dedicated dogs off leash area etc.
  - Indigenous placekeeping (to be identified with Rights Holders and local Indigenous communities)
  - Opportunities for key safety features, such as sight lines & lighting
  - Improve community gardens area in the park to align with initiatives to support food security and urban agriculture
  - Initiatives to support ecological & social sustainability & resilience of the park

### New Community Recreation Centre

- 1. Double gymnasium with a mezzanine running track**
  - 2. Lap pool and leisure pool**
  - 3. Fitness and dance studios**
  - 4. Multi-use community space including a teaching kitchen**
  - 5. Weights and conditioning room**
  - 6. Woodshop**
  - 7. Youth lounge**
- Opportunities for the included program in the Community Recreation Centre, such as program interrelationships, flexibility of uses, and relationships to the park
  - Community multi-purpose room(s) features and uses
  - Lane pool features and uses
  - Leisure/tot pool features and uses
  - Rooftop features and uses
  - Lobby features and uses
  - Program adjacencies
  - Opportunities for key safety features, such as sight lines, visibility, and views

### Upgrades to Arena

- 1. Exterior Upgrades**



# APPENDIX C

## Open-Ended Comments Log\*

\*As per the City's Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination policy, xenophobic, misogynist, homophobic, transphobic, anti-Indigenous, ableist, ageist or other forms of discriminatory, prejudicial, exclusionary or hateful comments or questions have been removed in this document.

### Aquatic Facilities

Lane Pool	Leisure Pool	Programming	Change rooms	Deck area and other spaces	Other
Different entries: ladder, steps, and/or ramp		More *adult only* programs/pool times			
	Please include a wide ramp	Opportunities for childrens, youth and adults	Please consider the need for more changerooms/pods that a stroller or mobility device. It's very hard to change with a baby in a universal change room!	Please for bag like cubby's would be great	Please don't make the tile white! Your other families look filthy.
		Lots of kids swim lessons	Safety		Cleanliness.
					A whirlpool or hot tub would be a nice addition to the space
			Extra		

Lane Pool	Leisure Pool	Programming	Change rooms	Deck area and other spaces	Other
			washrooms and private shower stalls and paper towel or biodegradable wipes to clean for participants		
		Sauna		Consider adding sitting / rest areas	Add a sauna and other water therapies
					Seniors
			family change rooms, assistance for those who need it.	attractive resting places with plants or art on the theme of water, culture around public bathing or similar	allowing non-western swimwear (burkini)
					Diving board
					The location of the main pool needs to provide identity and safety for the corner of Shutter and Sherbourne.
Ability to divide into appropriate sized lanes (i.e. Scadding court center lane is much too small for safe lap swimming and		Appropriate times should be considered (i.e. the only pool in the area with an early morning swim time of	Change rooms should offer privacy but since they are universal it is also important to have good sight lines and	Space on deck to safely put a bag or belongings so they are not tripping hazards	

Lane Pool	Leisure Pool	Programming	Change rooms	Deck area and other spaces	Other
the outer two lanes are too wide so pool space is wasted and less people can safely use the pool for lap swimming		6:30 am is St. Lawrence Rec Center - would be nice to have early morning swim times at another facility or on the weekends (most pools are not available until noon or later on the wkds)	easy entry/exit points for safety. Regent park has a pretty good layout although it would be nice if there was bit more privacy from the main pool sight lines to the shower area		
		Trans and 2SLGBTQ-safe access			
		Set times			
					Add sauna or steam room
					Accessible washrooms nearby
			Keep change rooms clean (Regent Park is dirty)	Make sure showers are maintained and operable	
		Please add some dedicated 60+ Seniors' pool time (60+)		Like the pool side wallet lockers	Windows that open. A/C in centres are notoriously unreliable long term, often being unfixable for years (St Lawrence, Main Square, for example)

## Multi-Purpose Rooms

Multi-purpose rooms and common areas	Wood Shop	Kitchen	Youth Space	Rooftop
Trans & 2SLGBTQ programming	Trans & 2SLGBTQ programming	Trans & 2SLGBTQ programming	Trans & 2SLGBTQ programming	Trans & 2SLGBTQ programming
				Shady and sunny areas. Possibly have refreshments available.
community use of spaces, spaces that are publicly available for community groups and organizations				
need to consider different needs of the two major user groups: homeless people families with children.				
Art and music projects, all ages.	Painting as well as wood work.	Program to share cultural dishes that are affordable and yummy.	Art and music programs	Growing food and beautiful smelling plants. Bee hives

<b>Multi-purpose rooms and common areas</b>	<b>Wood Shop</b>	<b>Kitchen</b>	<b>Youth Space</b>	<b>Rooftop</b>
safe injection site	safety features		diversity training space	
	Great idea	Great idea. Indigenous cooking classes are great as one of many cuisines to choose from without giving it primacy.		Sunbathing furniture would be great

**Fitness oriented spaces**

<b>Double gym</b>	<b>Mezzanine Running Track</b>	<b>Fitness/Dance Studio</b>	<b>Weight room</b>	<b>Change rooms</b>
A covered intercom that calls connects participants to main office	A direct phone line that calls connects participants to main office	A direct phone line that calls connects participants to main office	A direct phone line that calls connects participants to main office	A covered intercom that calls connects participants to main office

Double gym	Mezzanine Running Track	Fitness/Dance Studio	Weight room	Change rooms
		<p>Should be mirrored on two sides to account for class size and direction.</p> <p>Windows should open to provide ventilation.</p> <p>Include space for weight rack, mats and steps. Allot extra space for coats and boots. Allow for class privacy - frosted windows and doors.</p>		
		No need for a dedicated dance studio		
		great to have zumba and qigong classes too		
	We need more tennis courts			