

City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry & Recreation

# Redpath Avenue Parkette Improvements

## Phase 1: Building a Vision Feedback Summary Report

March 2023

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## Introduction

The City has engaged the Mount Pleasant West community to develop a new parkette vision and design for Redpath Avenue Parkette, located near Erskine Avenue and Redpath Avenue. The objectives of the new design are to enhance the parkette's function for everyday use, while expanding creative and fun play opportunities for children, youth, families and older adults of all abilities. The improvements are proposed to include upgrades to the pathways, playground, seating and gathering areas, drainage and other park features.

### Phase 1: Building a Vision

The purpose of this phase is to create a new community-led vision that will serve the project team as they prepare design options for the parkette. The following sections provide the draft vision and design principles for the parkette improvements, and a summary of what we heard through the online survey and classroom workshops.

## How We Reached People

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

### Print Media

#### Community Mail Outs (Postcards)

17,614 postcards advertising the project webpage, online survey were delivered to addresses in the neighbourhood within 500m of the site.

### Digital Media

#### Project Webpage

A webpage ([toronto.ca/RedpathAvenue](https://toronto.ca/RedpathAvenue)) was set up to act as a communications portal to inform the public about the new park project. The webpage hosts all up to date information regarding the project, including a sign-up button for e-updates.

#### eFlyer

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

#### Social Media and Digital Ads

The City of Toronto used its Facebook and Instagram accounts to promote the virtual community meeting and online survey through paid advertisements and organic posts from January 17 to February 5.



## What We Heard – A New Vision for Redpath Avenue Parkette

The project team created a new vision for Redpath Avenue Parkette that builds on the input, shared experiences, and learnings gathered from the Mount Pleasant West community in Phase 1 engagement. The following draft vision statement and design principles were developed for review, and in the next engagement phase, the community will be asked to share feedback so it could be updated.

### Draft Vision Statement

*"Redpath Avenue Parkette is a welcoming space for relaxation and play. It is a place that connects nature and the community, bringing together people of different backgrounds, ages, and interests to pursue fun and creative play opportunities, and to celebrate life with friends, family, and neighbours. It is the heart of a healthy, green, and connected community in midtown Toronto."*

### Design Principles

#### Welcome All People

Support community safety, comfort and accessibility for all ages and abilities as a top priority.

#### Balance Space for Relaxation and Active Play

Enhance and diversify amenity options, while balancing space for quiet relaxation and for fun play opportunities.

#### Champion Resilient Approaches

Protect, add and enhance healthy ecosystems. Add new plantings that provide shade and spatial definition.

#### Improve Entrances, Edges and Flows

Restore park edges and entrances, and create a design that flows and connects with surrounding areas, parkette amenities and natural areas.

*Vision shapes the proposed improvements*

Phase 2: Exploring Options will work off the outcomes of Phase 1 to develop two to three design options for the proposed improvements. These will be presented to the community for feedback at a later date. Stay tuned for updates!

## Online Survey

478

Respondents

**Over 478 people** responded to an online survey between January 17 to February 5, 2024, providing ideas and preferences to inform the park's vision, character, programme, seating, and playground equipment. The full results can be found in Appendix A.

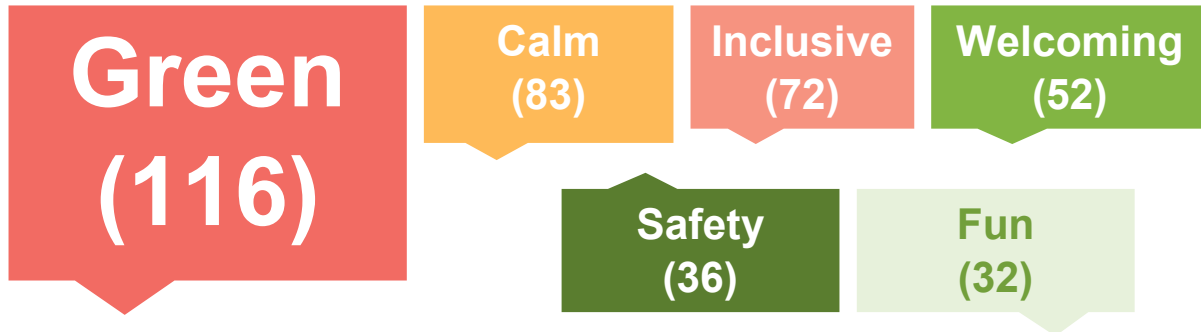
## Redpath Avenue Parkette Today

- When asked what respondents **liked** about the existing parkette:
  - Popular responses included:
    - The nature and green space (72%)
    - The pathway connections (61%)
    - The seating/benches (55%)
  - **Additional** responses included:
    - "Greenery! However sparse."
    - "The playground equipment suit a range of ages."
    - "The lack of oversight has allowed planting and harvesting of edible wild plants. This might not be allowed in a revamped park, but could be addressed by planting fruit trees."
    - "The number of garbage bins that I can use."
- When asked what respondents **disliked** about the existing parkette:
  - Popular responses included:
    - The fence(s) surrounding the area (33%)
    - The sightlines and visibility from the street (23%)
    - The picnic table (19%)
  - **Additional** responses included:
    - "Lots of concrete."
    - "Lack of seating options."
    - "Flooding of the walkway."
    - "Not enough play features."
    - "Not aesthetically pleasing."
    - "No drinking water fountain."
    - "No fenced in area for dogs."
    - "No wading pool."
- Feedback received regarding a wading pool and dog off-leash area has been noted and will be shared with the appropriate City Staff and will remain outside the scope of the **design** and **construction** project due to the spatial constraints of the site and budget considerations.

## Visioning: Redpath Avenue Parkette

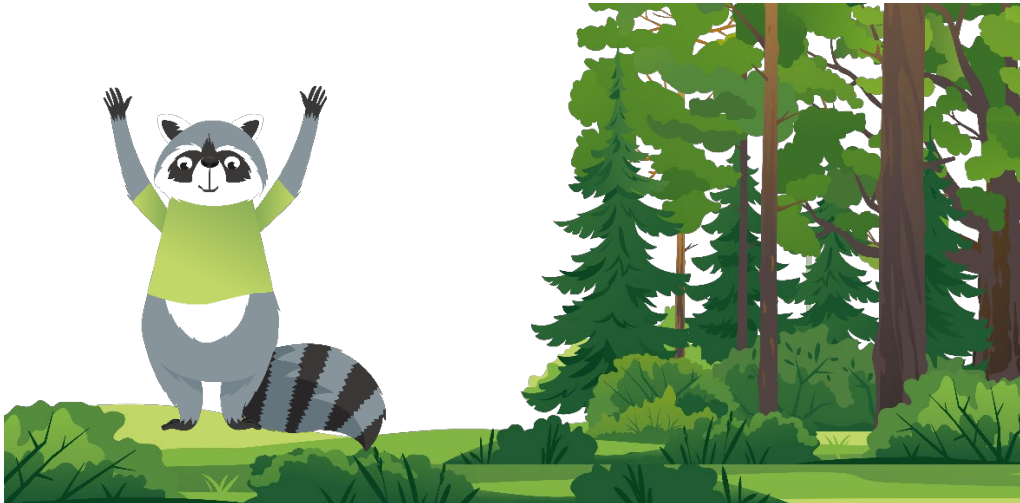
### Parkette Vision

Participants were asked to share words that reflect their **vision** for the new parkette. The words provided have been used to assemble a vision shared by community members. The following words were the most frequently used words with the total number of responses shown in brackets:



### Parkette Character

- **Parkette character** ranked as the top three choices included:
  1. **Green:** Lush with trees and plantings to connect people with nature, contributing to physical and mental wellbeing (29%)



2. **Calm:** A place to sit, linger, eat lunch and relax (24%)
3. **Social:** A space for meeting and gathering (e.g., different seating opportunities) (14%)

## Parkette Features

- **Parkette features** ranked as the top three choices included:
  1. Enjoying and observing trees or planting areas (25%)
  2. Relaxing on grass or in seating area (18%)
  3. Taking my children to play and explore (14%)
- Less popular responses included:
  4. Eating at a table or picnic area (13%)
  5. Walking a pet (12%)
  6. Exercise (7%)
  7. Playing games (e.g., chess, ping-pong, mancala) (6%)
  8. Enjoying public art and/or reading educational signage (5%)

## Seating Options

- **Seating types** ranked as the top three choices included:
  1. Benches (26%)
  2. Seatwalls (23%)
  3. Picnic tables (16%)
- Less popular responses included:
  4. Café-style tables with umbrellas and chairs (12%)
  5. Unique, architectural, or artistic seating (11%)
  6. Lounge chairs (individual chairs with relaxed backs) (9%)
  7. Moveable tables and chairs (4%)

## Visioning: Playground Improvements

### Playground Theme

- The most preferred **playground theme** included:
  1. Natural (a theme that includes earthy tones and natural materials such as wood, rocks, and plants) (46%)



2. Geometric (a theme where the play equipment and features are in unique and irregular shapes) (20%)
3. No preference (19%)
4. Traditional (a theme that includes standard shapes and bright primary colours) (15%)



## Playground Equipment

- **Playground equipment** ranked as the top five choices included:

1. Climbing structures (17%)



2. The senior play structure for ages 2 to 12 (13%)
3. The junior play structure for ages 2 to 5 (9%)
4. Group / accessible swing (9%)
5. Spiral slide (9%)

- Less popular responses included:

- Belt swings (8%)
- Toddler swings (8%)
- Sensory toys (6%)
- Double slide (5%)
- Straight slide (4%)
- Play panels (4%)
- Stand-alone spinner toys (3%)

## Who did we hear from?

Participants were asked to provide demographic information. This helps the City better understand who participated and whether particular groups in the community were missed during the engagement process. A summary of the demographic findings can be found in Appendix A.

## Classroom Workshops

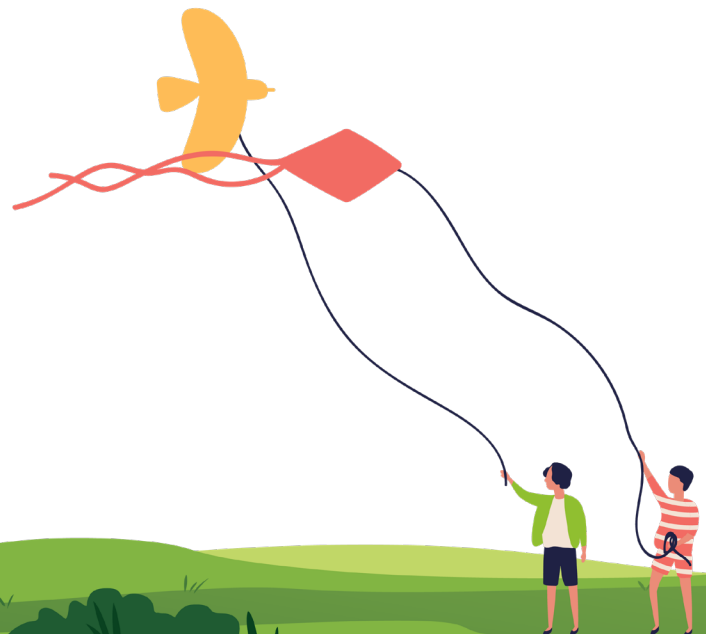
80

Engaged  
Students

In February 2023, project staff engaged **over 80 students** in grades three, four, and eight at John Fisher Junior Public School and St. Monica Catholic School. The classroom workshops provided an opportunity for students to complete a group design activity and show us how they want the parkette to change in the future.

### Key Feedback

- Popular park features suggested by students in grade eight include:
  - Lots of seating including benches, picnic tables, and lounge seating
  - Lots of trees and pollinator-friendly planting areas
  - A nature/animal theme playground that includes swings, an embankment slide and a climbing structure
  - Colourful rubber landscapes
  - Open space or grassy areas
- Other popular park feature suggestions by older grade eight students included a drinking fountain/bottle filler and lighting.
- Popular park features suggested by students in grades three and four include:
  - A playground with slide, swings, climbing structures, group spinners and large whimsical themed play structures/playhouses.
  - A splash pad with a water tunnel, a mushroom spray fountain, and colourful light-up fountains.
- Other popular park feature suggestions by younger students included greenery, string lighting, decorative fountains, sculptural group seating, trampolines, monkey bars, animal homes and games tables.

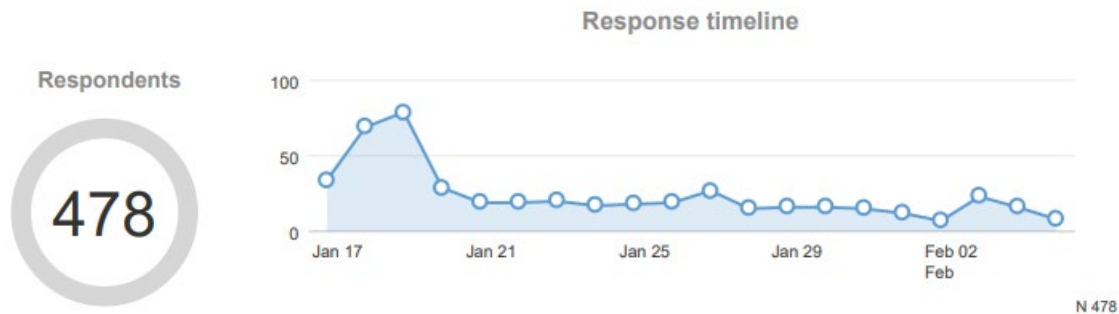


## Next Steps

The feedback received from this phase of community engagement will confirm priorities for the design options. To be notified about upcoming engagements for the new park, visit the project webpage at [toronto.ca/RedpathParkette](https://toronto.ca/RedpathParkette) to sign up for e-updates.



## Appendix A: Quantitative Response Summary



### Survey

**What do you like about the existing Redpath Avenue Parkette? Select all that apply.**

	Count	% of responses	%
The nature and green space	342		72%
The pathway connections	293		61%
The seating/benches	265		55%
The sightlines and visibility from the street	156		33%
The picnic tables	120		25%
Other:	58		12%
The fence(s) surrounding the area	54		11%







N 478

**What do you dislike about the existing Redpath Avenue Parkette? Select all that apply.**

	Count	% of responses	%
Other:	168		35%
The fence(s) surrounding the area	158		33%
The sightlines and visibility from the street	111		23%
The picnic tables	90		19%
The seating/benches	80		17%
The nature and green space	48		10%
The pathway connections	45		9%









N 478

**What would you like the character of the new Redpath Avenue Parkette to be? Rank your top 3 choices from the following options, with 1 being the most important.**

	% of responses	%
Green: Lush with trees and plantings to connect people with nature, contributing to physical and mental wellbeing		29%
Calm: A place to sit, linger, eat lunch and relax		24%
Social: A space for meeting and gathering (e.g., different seating opportunities)		14%
Active: A place to exercise and play (e.g., a fitness station, ping-pong tables)		12%
Sustainable: Design that conserves resources and increases plant and animal habitat		11%
Whimsical: Colourful design and winding walking paths		8%
Historic: A place to recognize and celebrate local heritage, including Indigenous Placekeeping		2%








N 478

**What activities do you see yourself doing in the new Redpath Avenue Parkette? Rank your top 3 choices from the following options, with 1 being the most important.**

	% of responses	%
Enjoying and observing trees or planting areas		25%
Relaxing on grass or in seating area		18%
Taking my children to play and explore		14%
Eating at a table or picnic area		13%
Walking a pet		12%
Exercising		7%
Playing games (e.g. chess, ping-pong, mancala)		6%
Enjoying public art and/or reading educational signage		5%





N 478

What seating options are most important to include in the new Redpath Avenue Parkette? Rank your top 3 choices from the following options, with 1 being the most important.

	% of responses	%
Benches		26%
Seatwalls		23%
Picnic tables		16%
Café-style tables with umbrellas and chairs		12%
Unique, architectural, or artistic seating		11%
Lounge chairs (individual chairs with relaxed back)		9%
Moveable tables and chairs		4%














N 478

What would you like the theme of the new playground to be?

	Count	% of responses	%
Traditional (a theme that includes standard shapes and bright primary colours)	71		15%
Geometric (a theme where the play equipment and features are in unique and irregular shapes)	96		20%
Natural (a theme that includes earthy tones and natural materials such as wood, rocks, and plants)	219		46%
No preference	92		19%

N 478

What types of playground equipment are most important to include in the new playground? Rank your top 5 choices from the following options, with 1 being the most important.

	% of responses	%
Climbing structures		17%
The senior play structure for ages 2 to 12		13%
The junior play structure for ages 2 to 5		9%
Group / accessible swing		9%
Spiral slide		9%
Belt swings		8%
Toddler swings		8%
Sensory toys		6%
Double slide		5%
Straight slide		4%
Play panels		4%
Stand-alone spinner toys		3%
Other:		3%

N 478

## Demographics

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

	Count	% of responses	%
0 to 4 years old	2		0%
5 to 12 years old	1		0%
13 to 18 years old	12		3%
19 to 29 years old	66		14%
30 to 39 years old	153		33%
40 to 55 years old	125		27%
56 to 64 years old	43		9%
65 to 74 years old	32		7%
75 years old or above	17		4%
Prefer not to answer	18		4%

N 469

**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?**

	Count	% of responses	%
Woman	293		62%
Man	134		29%
Prefer not to answer	39		8%
Not listed, please describe	6		1%
Gender non-binary (including gender fluid, genderqueer, androgynous)	3		1%
Two-Spirit	3		1%
Trans woman	0		
Trans man	0		

N 469

**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?**

	Count	% of responses	%
Heterosexual or straight	336		72%
Prefer not to answer	71		15%
Bisexual	24		5%
Gay	14		3%
Not listed, please describe	8		2%
Lesbian	6		1%
Queer	6		1%
Don't know	4		1%
Two-Spirit	0		

N 469

**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.**

	Count	% of responses	%
White (e.g. English, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Slovakian)	267		57%
Prefer not to answer	64		14%
East Asian (e.g. Chinese, Japanese, Korean)	42		9%
Latin American (e.g. Brazilian, Colombian, Cuban, Mexican, Peruvian)	36		8%
Arab, Middle Eastern or West Asian (e.g. Afghan, Armenian, Iranian, Lebanese, Persian, Turkish)	18		4%
South Asian or Indo-Caribbean (e.g. Indian, Indo- Guyanese, Indo-Trinidadian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan)	18		4%
More than one race category or mixed race	17		4%
Other, please describe	12		3%
Black (e.g. African, African-Canadian, Afro-Caribbean)	9		2%
First Nations (status, non-status, treaty or non-treaty), Inuit or Métis	8		2%
Southeast Asian (e.g. Filipino, Malaysian, Singaporean, Thai, Vietnamese)	8		2%

N 469





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

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes	14		3%
No	412		88%
Prefer not to answer	43		9%

N 469







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

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes	55		12%
No	357		76%
Don't know	7		1%
Prefer not to answer	50		11%






N 469

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

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes	37		8%
No	385		82%
Don't know	5		1%
Prefer not to answer	42		9%


N 469

**What best describes your current housing situation?**

	Count	% of responses	%
Home owner	175		37%
Renting	252		54%
Permanently living with parent(s) or other family member(s)	15		3%
Temporarily staying with others (no fixed address)	0		
Unhoused (staying outside, in a shelter, in a 24-hour respite)	0		
Prefer not to answer	25		5%
Not listed, please describe	2		0%








N 469

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

	Count	% of responses	%
I have access to private outdoor space like a yard	102		22%
I have access to semi-private/shared outdoor space	93		20%
I only have access to public spaces like parks (I do not have access to private or semi-private outdoor space)	252		54%
Prefer not to answer	22		5%

N 469

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

	Count	% of responses	%
Social Media (e.g. Facebook, Instagram etc.)	234		50%
Mailer to my home	191		41%
Word of mouth	23		5%
I don't know/Prefer not to answer	17		4%
Email from the project team	11		2%
Park sign	11		2%
Councillor's Office communications	9		2%
The project webpage	0		

N 469

## Appendix B: Text Responses

**Question:** What words reflect your vision for the new Redpath Avenue Parkette?

**Responses:**

- Inclusive, child
- Calm
- Happy
- Peaceful, green
- Multiple uses
- Safe, inclusive
- Connect w/nature
- Green space
- Fun for all ages
- Relaxing
- Natural
- Natura
- Dog friendly
- Restorative
- Welcoming for all
- Meeting place
- For the people
- All ages
- Easy going
- Fun
- Inspirational
- Inviting, green
- Playful
- Welcoming, safe
- Welcoming
- Greenspace
- Pleasant
- Peaceful
- Oasis
- Green
- Sustainable
- Recreational
- Vibrant
- Inclusive
- Green escape
- Age friendly
- Joyful place
- Protected from n

- Nature, wellness
- Welcoming, fun
- Safe, joyful
- Relaxing
- Kids having fun
- Social
- Clean lush green
- Sociable
- Colourful fun inv
- Welcoming, safe
- Family & friends
- Including
- Green
- A vibrant place
- Accessible
- Natural
- City nature
- Colourful
- Sustainable
- Community
- Usable
- Resplendent & mod
- Natural
- Green space safe
- Sustainable
- Neighbourly
- Welcoming
- Family oriented
- Beautiful
- Calm
- Inclusive, calm
- Clean
- More greenery
- For use by all
- Colourful
- A place for kids
- Opportunity
- Calm
- Green, quiet
- Sit, relax
- Tranquility
- Peaceful, colourful
- Pretty

- All ages, lush
- Open space,
- Inclusive age 0+
- Family enjoyable
- Welcoming
- Wheelchair access
- Green, open
- Relaxing
- Inviting, explore
- Stimulating
- Inclusive
- Accessible, safe
- Welcoming for all
- Green space
- Colourful
- Safe play space
- Inclusive backyard
- Accessible
- Comforting
- Relaxing, nature
- Green, welcoming
- Colourful, peace
- Calm clean space
- Safe
- Protect green
- Children's fun
- Nature
- Family and relax
- Calm and welcoming
- Nature colourful
- Calm
- Kid friendly
- Community
- Community
- Calm
- Safe, secure, op
- Spaces for dogs
- Active
- Greenery
- Inclusive
- Welcoming animal
- Openness
- Dog park

- To hang out
- Wellness
- Pet friendly
- Welcoming
- Colourful, safe
- A place for birds
- Clean, calming
- Warm, welcoming
- No hard drugs
- Green colourful
- Greenery, active
- Dog friendly
- Inclusive
- Peaceful, beautiful
- Holistic approach
- ?
- Inclusive
- Adventure
- OUTDOOR ICERINK
- Mid-day getaway
- Beautiful
- Green haven
- Safe, playful
- Fun
- Natural, Welcome
- Fun, Interactive
- Open. Vibrant.
- Welcoming
- Relaxed
- Safe
- Community
- Inclusive
- Lush
- Peaceful
- Community hub
- Young & old
- Social living ac
- Green oasis
- Meeting place
- Gathering place
- Welcoming
- Fun
- Well-maintained

- Usable, safe
- Welcoming
- A serene, green
- Connected
- Green, calm inviting
- Hygienic
- Green, artistic
- Natural oasis
- Welcoming
- Lots of trees
- Gather
- Park for All
- Add bocci court
- Refreshing
- Tree nature path
- Inclusive
- Green, peaceful
- Oasis, calm escape
- Green
- Green space
- Fresh air
- Fresh
- Park
- Adults only
- Fun
- Calm peaceful
- Calm retreat
- Engaging inviting
- Green
- Variety of use
- Calm soft green
- Green space
- Green space
- Na
- Friendly
- Bright
- Energy, playful
- Fun safe community
- Engaging
- Green
- Calm, oasis
- Colourful
- Supportive

- Welcoming
- Inclusive, beautiful
- Green
- Clean, inclusive
- Relaxing
- Welcoming for all
- Relaxing calm
- Nature
- Welcoming
- Child friendly
- Attractive, fun
- Smiles, playful
- A place to be
- Active, welcoming
- Colourfu
- Not a condo
- Full of people
- Active inclusive
- Quiet
- Social Active
- Gathering
- Green paths
- Welcome to all
- Green space
- Local inviting
- Calm, beauty
- Oasis, green
- Imaginative
- Natural
- Animals, nature
- Safe playing
- Green
- Cozy
- Colourful, welcome
- Clean, serene calm
- Quiet
- Flexible
- Green
- Pleasant
- Equipment, safe
- Calm, relaxing
- Practical
- Lush and calming



- Inclusive
- Parent friendly
- X
- Inclusive, colour
- Dogs
- Vibrant
- Calm oasis, useful
- Welcoming, green
- Sharing
- Comfortable
- Needed
- Fun!
- Calm Green
- Safe for all
- Green
- Green, dog space
- Pet friendly
- Green community
- Green
- Playful
- Calm, family
- Safe
- Energizing
- Community
- All ages
- Accessible
- Gathering space
- Open, safe
- Welcoming
- Child friendly
- Less playground
- Colourful Play
- Inclusive
- Energy, active
- Green, calm, safe
- Comfortable
- Spacious
- Activities
- Community
- Safe
- Fun, green, dogs
- Green
- Resting point

- All are welcome
- Calming, peace
- Park for kids
- Peaceful, green
- Safe, calm
- Family friendly
- Playful, inviting
- Sustainable
- Beauty, peaceful
- Lush, relaxing
- Community, green
- Welcoming
- Park
- Green island
- Kid friendly
- Inviting oasis
- Spacious safe
- Paths
- Kids. Playful
- Beautiful
- Lush and green
- Green, relaxing
- Nature, fun
- A place for all
- Reprive
- Sustainable
- A green oasis
- Nature, community
- Inviting
- Colourful
- A futuristic
- Calm and restful
- Green
- Playful
- Lush, safer
- Space for kids
- Green space shady
- Inclusive. SAFE
- Green, connected
- Nature community
- Relaxing for all
- Green, for kids
- Fewer dogs

- Welcoming
- Inclusive access
- Kids playground
- Dog-poop free
- Quiet
- Kid friendly
- Playful for all
- Inclusive
- A neighbourhood
- Clean, inclusive
- Green space
- Fun, connected
- A needed local
- Calm, peaceful
- Inclusive
- Colourful and green
- Welcoming, bee-f
- Welcoming, oasis
- Green
- Relaxing
- More nature
- Pop of green
- Restful, green
- Calm, relaxing
- Relaxing
- Bio-diverse
- Peace, clean
- Dogs
- Relaxing, kid
- NO MORE BUILDING
- Inclusive of all
- Child friendly
- Safe, green
- Welcoming
- Green and playground
- Open and green
- Welcome pets
- Community gather
- Accessible
- Peaceful
- Modern design
- Inclusive
- Safe

- Green
- Memorable
- Peaceful
- Welcoming
- In colour
- Kid-friendly
- Oasis
- Summer shade
- Sustainable
- Welcoming for all
- Beautiful. Safe
- Welcoming
- Inclusive, cheer
- Clean
- Welcoming, green
- Peaceful, quiet