

City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry & Recreation

New Park at 77 Curlew Drive

Phase 2: Setting the Direction Survey Summary Report

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Project Background

A new park is coming to 77 Curlew Drive!

A new 570m² park is coming to 77 Curlew Drive as part of a new residential development project near Lawrence Avenue East and Victoria Park Avenue. The park design will be determined through community engagement and is proposed to include pathways, shade structure, playground, seating, and new plants.

Preferred Design

The preferred design for the new park includes:

- Pathways, including a north-south pathway that provides a connection to the park's playground, pergola, and seating areas
- A playground
- Ornamental planting beds
- Pergola (shade structure)
- Seating options, including with tables
- Three park entrances located at the north and east sides
- Trees lining the east, south, and west sides of the park and open green space
- A decorative fence around the park with sightlines into the park for safety

Project Timeline

The anticipated schedule for this park project is as follows:

- September 2022: Community engagement
- October/November 2022: Design development
- February 2023: Design development
- April 2023: Hire a construction team
- June 2023: Construction starts
- November 2023: Construction complete

How We Reached People

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

Print Media

Signage near the site

Project information was displayed on 36x48 notice boards placed near the new park site. These notice boards provided information about the project, details about the online survey, and how to access additional information on the project webpage.

Digital Media

Social Media and Digital Ads

The City of Toronto used its Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts to promote the virtual community meeting and online survey through paid advertisements and organic posts from September 28 to October 19, 2021.

Project Webpage

A webpage (toronto.ca/71CurlewPark) was set up to act as a communications portal to inform the public about the new park project. The webpage hosts all up to date information regarding the project, including links to the online survey and a sign-up button for e-updates.

Online Survey

In September 2022, the project team launched an online survey to collect feedback on the preferred design for the new park. Responses to the survey will help to refine the preferred design.

The survey was available online from September 28 to October 19, 2022. The survey received a **total of 161 responses**, which included input from 333 participants of various ages.

This section presents the survey results and a summary of the common themes of comments. A full look at the survey results can be found in Appendix A.

Online Survey Respondents

- The survey received a total of 161 **survey responses**, which included input from **333 individuals**.
- **The majority of respondents (90%) found out about the survey from social media**
- **More than half of respondents (57%) live/will live, work, or spend time within walking distance of the new park**
- **The majority of respondents (66%) have access to private outdoor space like a yard**
 - 14% of respondents only have access to public spaces like parks
 - 14% of respondents have access to semi-private/shared outdoor space
 - 6% of respondents preferred not to answer
- **A majority of respondents (64%) identified as homeowners and 24% as renters**
 - 12% of respondents identified as permanently living with parent(s) or other family member(s)

- 4% preferred not to answer
- **12% of respondents identified as a person with a disability**
 - 79% of respondents did not identify as a person with a disability
 - 19% of respondents preferred not to answer
 - 1% of respondents don't know

Proposed Design

- **75% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with the preferred design**
 - A few respondents (15%) were neutral and 7% were not satisfied
- **30% of respondents agreed there is enough seating in the preferred design**
 - Some respondents (27%) disagreed
- **39% of respondents agreed that there is enough space dedicated to open lawn areas for flexible use in the preferred design**
 - Some respondents (20%) disagreed
- **63% of respondents either agree or strongly agree with the location of the fencing in the preferred design**
- **71% of respondents either agree or strongly agree with the location of the shade structure in the preferred design**
- **76% of respondents either agree or strongly agree with the size, layout, and location of the seating areas in the preferred design**
- **78% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that there are sufficient trees and plants in the preferred design**
- **83% of respondents either agree or strongly agree with the pathway layout in the preferred design**

Playground

- **79% of respondents either agree or strongly agree with the size, layout, and location of the playground**

When asked to rank the features proposed for the playground, a majority of respondents liked:

- Swings (21%)
- Slides (19%)

- Climbing (18%)
- **53% of respondents preferred bright colours for the new playground**
- **70% of respondents preferred rubber surfacing for the new playground**

Seating

- **A majority of respondents (63%) prefer benches and more than half of respondents prefer picnic tables (54%) and seatwalls (51%)**
 - 38% prefer Muskoka chairs
 - 5% prefer podium seating
 - 3% have no preference

Safety

- **When thinking about a sense of safety for the park, 28% of respondents thought that lighting was important and visibility and sight lines (21%)**
 - 16% thought that planting beds, fencing, and/or site furnishing are important
 - 15% thought that wide pathways are important
 - 14% thought that active edge (ability to see into the park while passing by) are important
 - 7% thought that signs and wayfinding maps are important

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.

Next Steps

The feedback received from this phase of the community engagement process will help refine the Preferred Design for the new park. To be notified about upcoming consultations for the new park, please visit the project webpage at toronto.ca/71CurlewPark to sign up for e-updates.

Appendix A: Quantitative Response Summary

Select how much you agree or disagree with the following statements.

	Average	Count	% of responses
There is enough seating in this design	37%	161	
There is enough space dedicated to open lawn areas for flexible use (e.g. relaxing, playing, small gatherings/events) in this design.	31%	161	
I like the location of fencing in this design.	30%	161	
I like the location of the pergola (shade structure) in this design	24%	161	
I like the size, layout, and location of the seating area	23%	161	
New trees and planting are sufficient in this design.	23%	161	
I like the size, layout, and location of the playground	22%	161	
I like the pathway layout in this design (including entrances, connections and 'curved/angular' form)	20%	161	

■ Strongly Agree
 ■ Agree
 ■ Neutral
 ■ Disagree
 ■ Strongly Disagree
 ■ I don't know










N 161

How satisfied are you with the overall Preferred Design option?

	Count	% of responses	%
Very satisfied	27		17%
Satisfied	94		58%
Neutral	24		15%
Unsatisfied	12		7%
Very unsatisfied	3		2%
Choose not to answer	1		1%

N 161

Rank the playground features below from most important (1) to least important (8) when thinking about what you enjoy or your interests while using a playground. Please leave any options you don't like blank.




	% of responses	%
Swings		21%
Slides		19%
Climbing		18%
Balancing		10%
Quiet or sensory play		9%
Spinning		8%
Sound features (talking tubes, acoustic chimes, etc.)		7%
Sandbox		6%
Other, please specify		3%

N 161

Top results from respondents who selected *other, please specify* shared:




- Out of the project scope feedback (e.g. splash pad, dog park, skating etc.) (12)
- Not applicable to the question feedback (4)
- Accessibility (3)
- Running opportunities (2)
- Monkey/pull up bars (2)

What types of colours would you prefer for the play equipment in the new playground?

	Count	% of responses	%
Bright colours, like yellow, orange, and purple	86		53%
Earthy colours, like green, brown, and grey	64		40%
No preference	11		7%







N 161

What kind of surface do you prefer for the new playground area?

	Count	% of responses	%
Cedar chips	33		20%
Rubber (budget permitting)	113		70%
No preference	15		9%





N 161

What seating do you prefer for the new park? Select up to 3 options.

	Count	% of responses	%
Benches (fixed locations)	101		63%
Picnic tables	87		54%
Seatwalls (large stones that form a short wall that you can sit on in fixed locations)	82		51%
Muskoka chairs/Adirondack chairs (moveable individual chairs with a relaxed back and arm rests)	61		38%
Podium seating (fixed locations; no back support)	8		5%
No Preference	5		3%



N 161

Rank the park features below from most important (1) to least important (6) when thinking about your sense of safety in the park. Please leave any options you don't like blank.

	% of responses	%
Lighting		28%
Visibility and sight lines (ability to see clearly ahead and around yourself while using the space)		21%
Planting beds, fencing and/or site furnishings (to promote safe circulation and to act as buffers from adjacent roadways)		16%
Wide pathways		15%
Active edge (ability to see into the park while passing by, and out of the park while using it)		14%
Signs and wayfinding (maps)		7%

N 161

Do you have any additional thoughts or comments about the Preferred Design to share with us?

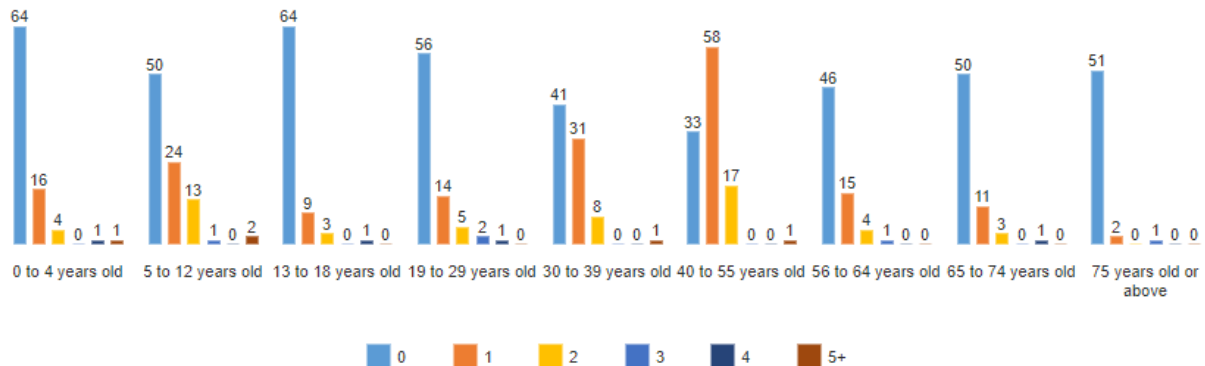
	Count	% of responses	%
No	120		75%
Yes (list)	41		25%

N 161

Visit Appendix C for a list of the thoughts and comments.

Demographics

How many people of each age group participated in this survey?



N 151

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 your gender?

	Count	% of responses	%
Woman	109		72%
Man	29		19%
Prefer not to answer	13		9%
Trans woman	1		1%
Gender non-binary (including gender fluid, genderqueer, androgynous)	1		1%
Not listed, please describe	1		1%
Trans man	0		
Two-Spirit	0		

N 152

Sexual orientation describes a person's emotional, physical, romantic, and/or sexual attraction to other people. What best describes your sexual orientation?

	Count	% of responses	%
Heterosexual or straight	107		71%
Bisexual	3		2%
Gay	3		2%
Lesbian	2		1%
Queer	3		2%
Two-Spirit	1		1%
Don't know	1		1%
Not listed, please describe	2		1%
Prefer not to answer	29		19%

N 151

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 you? Select all that apply.

	Count	% of responses	%
White (e.g. English, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Slovakian)	78		51%
Prefer not to answer	19		13%
South Asian or Indo-Caribbean (e.g. Indian, Indo- Guyanese, Indo-Trinidadian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan)	17		11%
More than one race category or mixed race	11		7%
East Asian (e.g. Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Taiwanese)	9		6%
Arab, Middle Eastern or West Asian (e.g. Afghan, Armenian, Iranian, Lebanese, Persian, Turkish)	8		5%
Southeast Asian (e.g. Filipino, Malaysian, Singaporean, Thai, Vietnamese)	8		5%
Black (e.g. African, African-Canadian, Afro-Caribbean)	5		3%
Latin American (e.g. Brazilian, Colombian, Cuban, Mexican, Peruvian)	2		1%
Other, please describe	2		1%
First Nations (status, non-status, treaty or non-treaty), Inuit or Métis	1		1%
Jewish	0		

N 152

What language do you prefer speaking?





	Count	% of responses	%
English	138		94%
Greek	2		1%
Urdu	2		1%
Arabic	1		1%
Korean	1		1%
Spanish	1		1%
Tagalog	1		1%
Tamil	1		1%

Indigenous people from Canada identify as First Nations (status, non-status, treaty or non-treaty), Inuit, Métis, Aboriginal, Native or Indian. Do you identify as Indigenous to Canada?

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes	1		1%
No	135		90%
Prefer not to answer	14		9%






N 150

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 anyone participating in this survey identify as a person with a disability?

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes	18		12%
No	119		79%
Don't know	1		1%
Prefer not to answer	13		9%





N 151

What best describes your current housing situation?

	Count	% of responses	%
Home owner	96		64%
Renting	36		24%
Permanently living with parent(s) or other family member(s)	12		8%
Temporarily staying with others (no fixed address)	0		
Unhoused (staying outside, in a shelter, in a 24-hour respite)	0		
Prefer not to answer	6		4%
Not listed, please describe	1		1%




N 151

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	100		66%
I have access to semi-private/shared outdoor space	21		14%
I only have access to public spaces like parks (I do not have access to private or semi-private outdoor space)	21		14%
Prefer not to answer	9		6%

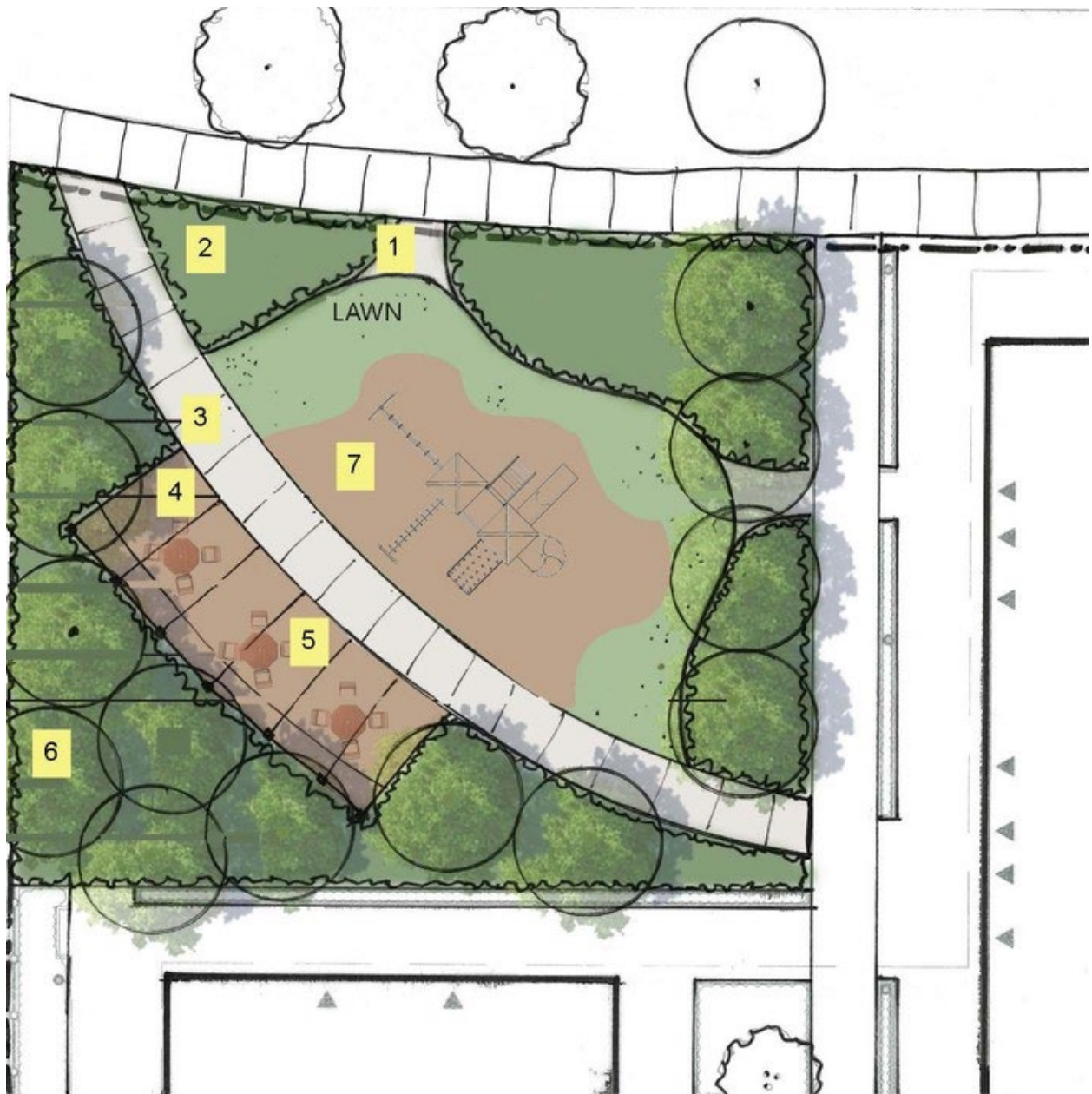
N 151

What is your relationship to 71 Curlew Park?

	Count	% of responses	%
I live/will live, work, or spend time within walking distance to the new park	87		57%
I live, work, or spend time in the Parkwoods O'Connor Hill neighbourhood	39		25%
I live, work, or spend time within the wider North York East and/or Scarborough West community	27		18%

N 153

Appendix B: Preferred Design



1. Pathways
2. Ornamental planting beds
3. Concrete walkway
4. Pergola (shade structure)
5. Seating
6. Trees
7. Playground

The Preferred Design Option also includes:

- 3 park entrances located at the north and east sides
- A north-south pathway that provides a connection to the park's playground, pergola, and seating areas
- Trees lining the east, south, and west sides of the park and open green space
- Ornamental planting beds
- Seating options, including tables

Appendix C: Text Responses

Rank the playground features below from most important (1) to least important (8) when thinking about what you enjoy or your interests while using a playground. Please leave any options you don't like blank.

Respondents who selected other, please specify.

- small wading pool
- Skating
- Water park
- Splash pad
- More green space for running and play
- Seats
- Would love to avoid monkey bars for safety
- Dog park area
- Chess/checkers table
- Disability accessible options
- Splash pad or more swings.
- Running
- A quiet space to sit and read a book is most important to Me.
- I hope this will be accessible to all persons with disability; adult exercise equipment would be nice too.
- Jumping
- Pull-up bar
- Bridges
- Water splash sprinklers
- foam (soft) type ground
- Water splash pad
- Wheel chair accessibility
- Spash pad
- Dog area
- No opinion
- Imagative play
- Monkey Bars
- Ziplines
- This Ranking question does not reflect my views
- What about older children, play structures are for the very young. What about ping pong tables, chess tables and play elements for other ages?

Do you have any additional thoughts or comments about the Preferred Design to share with us?

- There should 2 parts to the playground, 1 for younger children, and another for the older ones.
- It would be nice to have a drinking fountain
- This is great as we need something in the area. It would be nice to have space to sit on benches and also open grass
- The actual area to run around is limited. Mays the shrubs smaller to give more space to run around. A splash pad would be great as there isn't one in the area
- Will there still be residence accommodation
- Make sure there are trash recycling bins in two locations on either end of park. Especially if you put in picnic tables that attracts people with food and garbage.
- The climbing structures in the playground that I like are little steps up to platforms (where kids can look out and pretend play) but not slippery metal rings and tubing that they can easily fall off or knock a tooth out.
- Great design. Shame the space isnt bigger
- It needs a bathroom
- As being a part of the neighborhood for over 20 years, we need to make sure that the airy does its part in ensuring that it will remain maintained. Laneways and other parts of the neighborhood are left overgrown and unmaintained. I have called the city numerous times and still nothing. It would be lovely to see these new parks, but we need to continue to maintain the keep up on the ones we already have
- Basketball net
- The seating should not be separated from the playground by a path. The path should be outside the sitting and play area for the safety of children playing.
- Seems like there isn't any space for just free play like kicking around a soccer ball.
- Dog play area
- a crosswalk should be installed nearby for kids who may visit from the building/houses across the street. The design should also incorporate historic roots of the site, either Indigenous or the farmland and orchards that used to be there.
- Accessibility
- Please put in a crosswalk with a button - it's hard to cross the street!
- This area needs a good playground. There are garden beds along the power corridor.
- Assuming this park will be located between condos/townhomes. If that's still the case, it should be visible to the street to ensure better safety for those using it and for those who live in the area. I'm concerned about the way it is being surrounded by trees and how all of the seating is wedged into the tree line. As a local, I wouldn't use a park like this if the trees are too dense and low to access or see the street. I'd also assume it will become a walkway for residents, so lighting is important.
- please make sure the whole area is visible, do not plant large bushes and trees around pathway so it is safe to use

- Consider the shade and how the sun moves across the playground and sitting area throughout the day. If parks is too sunny for too long, it will be used less.
- Change in typography should be an option for structures. A hill provides running, jumping and rolling opportunities. Also a place to play or lay when rest of ground is wet.
- Tall shade trees should be encouraged as well as indigenous plants
- Communication board for people with disabilities
- Scattered picnic tables for a better sense of privacy for families
- More benches required in addition to cluster tables. Pergola would be more useful on the north side of the park facing south, and is a bit redundant on the south side under trees.
- Lots of seating around the play ground and not in one spot. Depending where the child is, I as a parent should be able to sit and watch from a clear sight line and not have to search through the play ground. Do not put a lot of bushes surrounding the playground bc it welcomes wildlife and possible danger to the safety of individuals. It is also important to include a rubber bottom so kids in wheelchair have access to some Tactile/sensory components of the playground. This can make it easy for strollers.
- consider seating in areas under trees for shade.
- The community needs a splash pad
- All city parks should be planting 90 percent native plants. Minimal watering after first year, no fertilizing, few weeds once established, long roots help divert rain water to reduce flooding, lowers summer air temp significantly and helps with climate change. Feeds birds through ths winter, feeds bee, butterfly, moth, insect population in summer/fall and thereby helps with pollination.
- Pool, or splash pad
- Please provide additional seating or walls close to playground /climbing structure. This allows for monitoring at a closer proximity to child when can play without assistance
- Benches are preferred to individual seating which tends to promote unwanted loitering not for the purposes of enjoying the park. also, the pergola should be placed in a way to ensure maximum shade against the hottest time of the day. Lastly, wood chips retain moisture in the winter so when other parks have thawed, the ground of the playground will still be frozen with the use of wood chips.
- I would be very concerned about the speed of traffic on this road, as well as poor visibility when crossing to/from the park as it is near a curve of the road. Will there be a crosswalk or stop signs installed?
- Design seems to focus on the idea that people should be passing through in a very controlled manner, rather than treating the park as a destination.
- Yeah, a park on the street. What about a crosswalk to get to the other side?
- No connection to Victoria Terrace Mall is a failure
- It looks like the playground is beside the road. Makes more sense to have seating area when children are clamer beside the road and the playground where they'll be running and high enfers further from the road.

- Dog park
- For the number of units being built on curlew, this is so small. It needs to be much larger and there is no mention that the trees and plants are nativd.
- Believe you missed an opportunity for older children play / not every park needs a large playstructure, there are other options