

City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry & Recreation

Runnymede Park Improvements

Phase 1: Park Amenities and Design Visioning Survey Survey Summary Report

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



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Introduction

This report includes a summary of the Runnymede Park CheckMarket visioning survey, which launched on March 2nd, 2023 and ended on March 17th, 2023. The survey collected data and insights from the local community to help inform design and improvement opportunities for the park. Demographic data was also gathered from survey participants.

This project in its first phase, *Exploring Design Options*, and community feedback collected during this phase will help inform development of the preferred park design. Learn more about the project and previous Phase 1 consultations by visiting the [project webpage](#).

Project Timeline

The anticipated schedule for this park project is as follows:

- Fall 2022: Hire a design team
- Winter to Fall 2023: Community engagement and design development
- Fall to Winter 2023: Detailed design
- Spring 2024: Hire a construction team
- Fall 2024: Construction starts
- Winter 2024: Construction complete

Online Survey

On March 2nd, 2023, the project team launched an online CheckMarket survey to identify park improvement options and design opportunities that are of importance to the community. The survey also asked participants to provide their vision for Runnymede Park. **Responses from this survey will help inform development of the draft design options.**

The online survey ended on March 17th, 2023. The survey received a **total of 350 responses from residents living within the immediate surrounding neighbourhood (a 500 metre catchment area was applied around the park)**, including input from participants of various ages and backgrounds, as well as families/groups who completed the survey together.

Key Feedback

The following summarizes key feedback from the online survey.

Preferred Park Amenities

Participants were provided a list of park amenities to choose their top 6 preferred options. The following were included:

1. New playground
2. Seating throughout the park
3. Improve lighting throughout the park
4. Drinking fountain/water filling station
5. Open green space
6. Shade pavilion
7. Pollinator garden (community run garden space)
8. Seating concentrated at the playground and splash pad
9. Closed circuit trike track (pathway for small bicycles and strollers)
10. Planted buffer between Gourley Crescent and the wading pool
11. Games tables (i.e. Ping pong, chess)
12. Sand box area
13. Park entrance/gateway feature
14. Paved gathering area for the community
15. Paint the metal barrier along Ryding Avenue
16. Paving at every park entrance

The top 6 selected park amenity options were a new playground (63%), seating throughout the park (55%), improved lighting throughout the park (53%), drinking fountain/water filling station (53%), open green space (48%), and a shade pavilion (38%). A complete list of survey data results for this question can be found in a following section under **Appendix A**.

Preferred Park Improvements

Participants were provided a list of major park improvement options to rank in order from 1 to 5, with 1 being the most important. The following were included:

1. New playground
2. Resurface wading pool
3. Shade pavilion
4. Resurface tennis court
5. Re-pave the volleyball court

The top selected park improvement option was a new playground (32%), followed by resurfacing the wading pool (22%), adding a new shade pavilion (19%), resurfacing the tennis courts (18%), and re-paving the volleyball court (10%). A complete list of survey data results for this question can be found in a following section under **Appendix A**.

Preferred Community-Organized Gatherings

Participants were provided a list of community-organized event opportunities that are commonly facilitated across neighbourhoods in the City to select their two preferred options. The following were included:

1. Movie screenings (i.e. Movie in the park)
2. Live music, dance or theatre
3. Celebrations (i.e. Birthday parties)
4. Temporary public art events
5. Community meals

The top selected community event of interest to participants was a movie screening in the park (57%), followed by live music (55%), celebrations in the park (35%), temporary public art events (33%), and community meals (13%). Additional information for the results of this question can be found under **Appendix A**.

Preferred Seating Option

Participants were provided five seating options and asked to rank them from 1 to 5, with 1 being the most important to them. The following seating options were included:

1. Seatwalls (armourstone or concrete)
2. Picnic tables
3. Benches
4. Table with seating and an umbrella
5. Muskoka chairs

The results reveal that 29% of participants prefer picnic tables, 23% prefer tables with an umbrella and seating, and 22% prefer benches. A complete list of survey data results for this question can be found in a following section under **Appendix A**.

Who did we hear from?

Participants were asked to provide demographic information. This helps the City better understand who participated and whether particular groups in the community were missed during the engagement process. Key demographic data is summarized below.

Key Respondent Demographic Data

- The survey received a total of **350 responses**.
- A majority of **survey respondents are between the ages 40 to 55 (42%), followed by 30 to 39 (35%) and 19 to 29 (10%)**
- A majority of survey respondents identified as a woman (67%), while 24% identify as a man.
- The top 5 languages survey participants prefer speaking include:
 - **English (97%)**
 - **French (2%)**
 - **Spanish (1%)**
- A total of **1% of survey participants identify as Indigenous**.
- Survey respondents were asked (optional) to provide their racial background to help the City understand who we're hearing from and identify possible perspectives that may have been missed. Data collected reveals:
 - **67% of respondents are White**
 - **5% are East Asian**
 - **5% are Latin American**
 - **5% are Jewish**
 - **5% are South Asian or Indo-Caribbean**
 - **3% are Southeast Asian**
 - **2% are Black**
 - **2% are Arab, Middle Eastern or West Asian**
 - **4% are more than one race category**
 - **1% are First Nations; and**
 - **10% prefer not to answer**
- A majority of **respondents (74%) identified as homeowners and 16% as renters**
 - 4% of respondents identified as permanently living with parent(s) or other family member(s); and
 - 4% preferred not to answer

- **Majority of respondents (72%) have access to private outdoor space like a yard**
 - 14% of respondents only have access to public spaces like parks
 - 11% of respondents have access to semi-private/shared outdoor space
 - 2% of respondents preferred not to answer

- **A total of 6% of respondents identified as a person with a disability**
 - 86% of respondents did not identify as a person with a disability
 - 6% of respondents preferred not to answer; and
 - 2% of respondents don't know

- **A total of 8% of respondents shared that they live with a person with a disability**
 - 85% of respondents share that they don't live with a person with a disability
 - 7% of respondents preferred not to answer

- **The majority of respondents (72%) found out about the survey from social media**

How We Reached People

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

Print Media

Signage near the site

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

Digital Media

eFlyer

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

Social Media and Digital Ads

The City of Toronto used its Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts to promote the virtual community meeting and online survey through paid advertisements and organic posts from March 2 to March 17, 2023.

Project Webpage

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

















Next Steps

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

Appendix A: Quantitative Response Summary

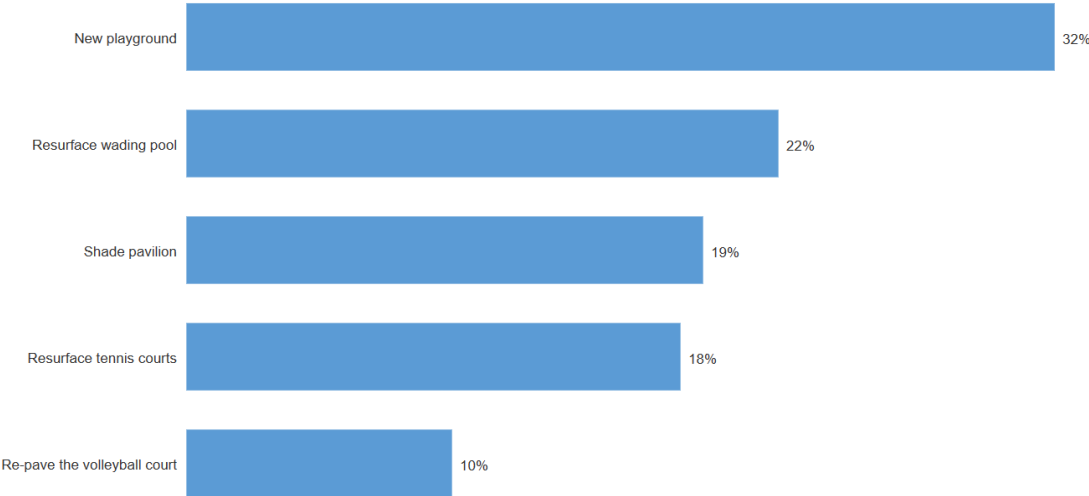
Preferred Park Amenities

Which of the following park amenity options are most important for you to see in Runnymede Park? Select up to 6 choices from the following?

	Count	% of responses	%
New playground	222		63%
Seating throughout the park	194		55%
Improve lighting throughout the park	187		53%
Drinking fountain/water filling station	186		53%
Open green space	168		48%
Shade pavilion	133		38%
Pollinator garden (community run garden space)	132		38%
Seating concentrated at the playground and splash pad	113		32%
Closed circuit trike track (pathway for small bicycles and strollers)	87		25%
Planted buffer between Gourley Crescent and the wading pool	78		22%
Games tables (i.e. Ping pong, chess)	77		22%
Sand box area	63		18%
Park entrance/gateway feature	39		11%
Paved gathering area for the community	34		10%
Paint the metal barrier along Ryding Avenue	34		10%
Paving at every park entrance	28		8%

Preferred Park Improvements

Which of the following major park improvement options are most important for you to see in Runnymede Park? Rank the following options in order from 1 to 5, with 1 being the most important.



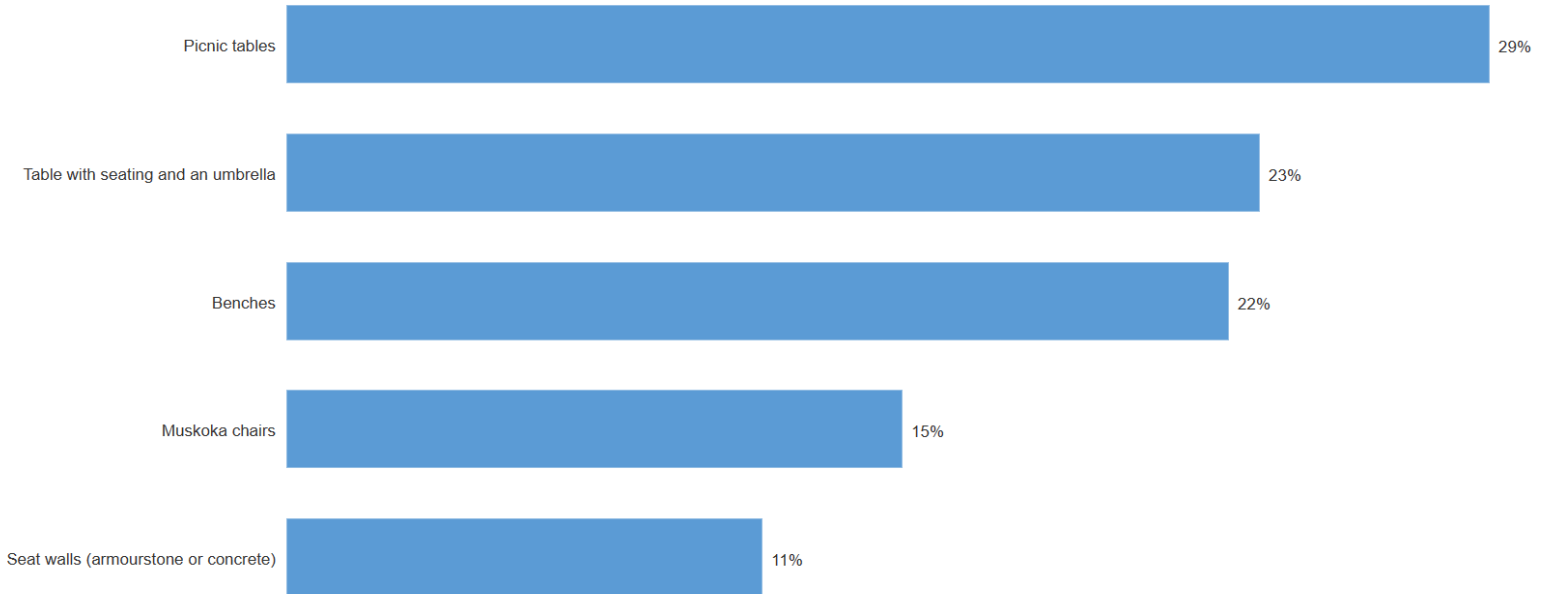
Preferred Park Community-Organized Gathering

What type of local events and community-organized gatherings are you interested in participating in at Runnymede Park? Select your top 2 choices.

	Count	% of responses	%
Movie screenings (i.e. movie in the park)	199		57%
Live music, dance or theatre	193		55%
Celebrations (i.e. birthday parties)	122		35%
Temporary public art events	117		33%
Community meals	46		13%

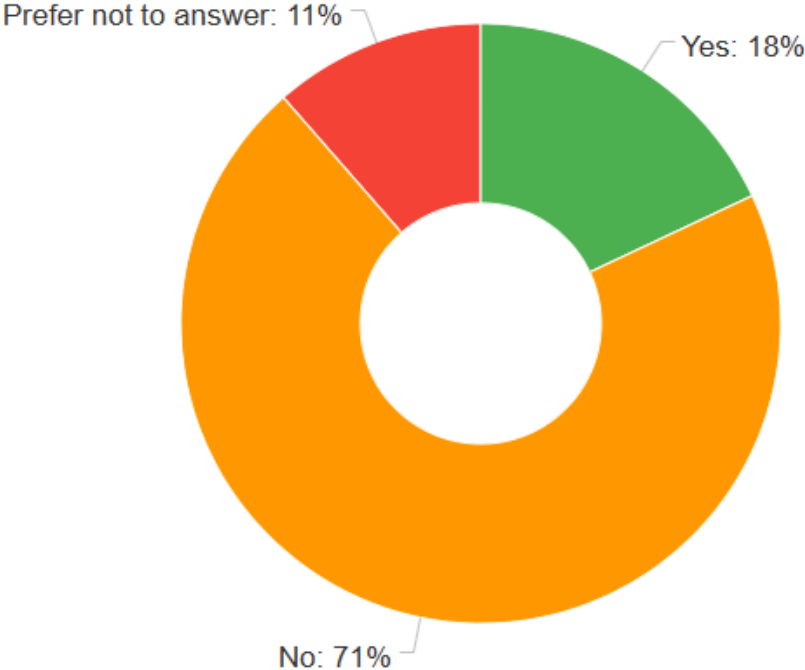
Playground Seating Options

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



Participation in previous 2306 St.Clair Avenue West Community Engagement

Did you participate in any of the various community engagement activities conducted for the 2306 St. Clair Avenue west Neighbourhood Improvements project? These community engagement activities helped to determine allocation priorities for the Section 37 funds from an adjacent mixed-use development at 2306 St. Clair Ave. W.



Appendix B: Survey Images

