

City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry & Recreation

# New Park at 55 Isaac Devins Boulevard

## Phase 2: Setting the Direction Public Meeting Summary Report

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



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## Introduction

The City has engaged community members in the Pelmo Park-Humberlea community near St. Basils-the-Great College School on the new park coming to 55 Isaac Devins Boulevard. The new park is meant to provide additional space for local families and children of all abilities to play, gather and rest.

### Phase 2: Setting the Direction

The purpose of this phase is to present and gather feedback on the preferred park design, which was created based on community insight from the online survey available in Phase 1: Exploring Options. A summary report of the online survey is available on the [project webpage](#). Feedback received in phase 2 will help set the direction for the detailed design. The following sections provide a summary of the in-person public meeting, including summaries of what the project team (or, "we") heard.

## How We Reached People

The community was informed of engagement activities through social and print media, listed below:

### Print Media

#### Community Mail Outs (Postcards)

1,114 postcards advertising the project webpage and public meeting were delivered to addresses in the neighbourhood within 500m of the site.

### Digital Media

#### Project Webpage

A webpage ([toronto.ca/55IsaacDevinsPark](https://toronto.ca/55IsaacDevinsPark)) was set up to act as a communications portal to inform the public about the new park project. The webpage hosts 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 Councillor's Office for additional distribution.

#### Social Media and Digital Ads

The City of Toronto used its Facebook and Instagram accounts to promote the in-person public meeting through paid advertisements and organic posts from April 12 to April 27, 2023.



## What We Heard – Public Meeting

On April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023, local community residents, including some neighbouring the new park at 55 Isaac Devins Blvd, participated in an in-person public meeting at St. Basil-the-Great College School. The meeting was hosted by City Staff from the Parks, Forestry and Recreation (PF&R) Division and included participation of landscape architecture design consultants from Forest & Field Landscape Architecture. Councillor Peruzza attended. We shared the preferred park design, which was informed by responses to the survey that was available from December 5 to December 19, 2022, in which over 160 local community members participated. The feedback we collected at the meeting will inform the final preferred design.

The presentation slides are available on the project webpage: [Toronto.ca/55IsaacDevinsPark](https://toronto.ca/55IsaacDevinsPark).

The summary is structured as follows:

1. Summary of Discussion
2. Feedback/Question about the Preferred Design

**Note:** The following summary is not intended to be a verbatim transcript of what was discussed during the meeting. Key points from all questions and information shared during the meeting is summarized. Additionally, this summary does not assess the merit or accuracy of participants' perspectives, nor does it indicate an endorsement of any perspectives on the part of the City of Toronto.

### 1. Summary of Discussion

Local community members participating in the meeting were satisfied with the overall design of the new park and asked questions to obtain a better understanding of future uses of the space and proposed park amenities, including surfacing materials, playground equipment and safety.

### 2. Feedback/Questions about the Preferred Design

Community members' feedback on the preferred design is summarized below. Feedback shared by participants appears first, followed by responses provided by the project team in *italics*.

- **Question about playground safety surface.** A participant asked for clarification on the playground surface material and shared their preference for rubber safety surface. A participant noted that rubber was safer than engineered wood fibre.  
*City staff and the landscape architectural consultant noted that rubber and engineered wood fibre are equally safe surfaces. Rubber is four to five times more expensive than engineered wood fibre. The project budget does not allow for rubber safety surfacing.*
- **Comment on the lack of basketball courts in the area.** Councillor Peruzza raised concerns from community members about the lack of a basketball court in the new park.  
*City Staff shared that a new basketball court will be provided outside of the future Western North York Community Centre which will be within a 5 minute walking distance from the new park. Additionally, City Staff informed meeting participants that Park*

*Operations stated that the new park is not an ideal location for a basketball net and/or court due to noise that may impact residents of adjacent homes.*

- **Question about dogs in the area and park maintenance.** A participant raised concerns about dog owners who may take over the space, and as a result the park will require better maintenance or dog waste bins to keep the new park clean. Community members noted that they would have like the park to have an off leash dog area. *City Staff noted that there will be a garbage bin and a recycling bin in the park, at the western entrance. The park is not a suitable location for off leash pets, as it is smaller than the recommended size, and very close to residents.*

## Next Steps

The feedback received in this phase of community engagement will inform priorities for the final preferred design. Once complete, the final design will be uploaded to the project webpage. To be notified about future project updates, visit the project webpage at [toronto.ca/55isaacdevinspark](https://toronto.ca/55isaacdevinspark) to sign up for e-updates.

