

City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry & Recreation

# **New Parks at 10 Ordnance Street & 801 Wellington Street West**

## **Phase 2 Building A Vision: Pop-Up Summary**

June 2023



## Contents

Overview.....	2
Key Themes.....	3
<b>Gathering Spaces</b> .....	3
<b>Accessibility</b> .....	3
<b>Dogs</b> .....	3
<b>Gardens and Greenery</b> .....	3
<b>Activities</b> .....	4
<b>Transportation</b> .....	4
<b>Current Use</b> .....	4
Next Steps.....	4
<b>Appendix A – Project and Engagement Boards</b> .....	5
<b>Appendix B – Engagement Activity Responses</b> .....	7
<b>Appendix C – Sticky Note Comments</b> .....	8

## Overview

On May 14<sup>th</sup> (1pm-3pm) and May 17<sup>th</sup> (4pm-6pm) members of the project team were present at 801 Wellington Street West to conduct a series of pop-up events intended to share information and gather input on the new park spaces at 10 Ordnance Street and 801 Wellington Street West. The purpose of the in-person pop-up events was to:

- Introduce the project to the public.
- Gather a wide range of input regarding the desired character and feel of the new park spaces.
- Spread excitement about the project and direct community members to the ThoughtExchange online conversation.

During the pop-up engagements, community members were presented with four visual boards. The first board included project information and a timeline. The second board was a birds-eye view image of the area which provided context for the project and invited participants to share vital information about the area. The third and fourth boards invited community members to identify key priorities for the future of these spaces. Community members were invited to place a dot next to the amenity, feature or character which they feel is important. Community members were also invited to share ideas directly with project team members and via post-it notes.



Board three included ideas about park character including flexible, urban, natural, passive, and active. Board four included specific ideas about amenities including seating, dog off-leash areas, children's play, and gardens. Images of the boards and detailed accounts of community member dot placement and sticky note feedback can be found in **Appendices A, B and C**.

## Key Themes

Input received during the two pop-up engagements, both verbally and on post-it notes has been categorized into themes. A summary of these key themes is provided below.

### Gathering Spaces

Most community members noted that they would like to see places where they can gather, play, and connect with their friends and families. It is important that these spaces remain flexible and not overly programmed. Community members want to feel ownership of this new space and feel comfortable having a picnic, throwing a frisbee, or spending time with their friends. To make this new space comfortable for all, it was noted that communal seating, shaded areas, and picnic tables would be required. Additionally, people would like to see comfortable and welcoming seating, such as Muskoka chairs or circular benches. Many community members communicated that shade is an integral part of a usable green space. People would like to see shade come from trees, and a few community members suggested either umbrellas or a gazebo for additional shade.

### Accessibility

A common theme throughout much of what community members discussed was ensuring that the new space is accessible and welcoming for all. It was suggested this be achieved by better lighting, especially along the path in the evening hours. The addition of an emergency station would also allow more people to use the space during the evening and nighttime. Community members would like to ensure that any activities or amenities are accessible. Specific mention was made of ensuring there is accessible seating and picnic tables.

### Dogs

Dogs were discussed often by many community members, as there is a high number of dogs in the housing nearby. Many people spoke about the nearby dog off-leash area (DOLA) at Stanley Park South, noting that the proximity means there should not be another dog off-leash area in these new parks. A few dog owners commented that the existing dog off-leash area is not sufficient, but that they do not want to see the new park spaces taken by a DOLA. Many community members noted that while they do not want a DOLA in this new space, the high number of dogs that will use the space needs to be considered.

### Gardens and Greenery

The addition of gardens, greenery, flowers, and trees was one of the most spoken about potential additions to the space. Community members feel strongly about having an

abundance of trees, of different types. Specific mention was made of the importance of indigenous plants and wildflowers. Community members would like to see colourful plants and flowers planted along the pathways, as well as a pollinator garden. A few community members were in favour of a community garden to assist with local food security.

### Activities

Many community members had suggestions about specific activities, or active amenities they would like to see in the new parks. One of the most mentioned was outdoor fitness equipment. Most community members that were engaged noted that nearby public spaces such as Trinity Bellwoods Park and Stanley Park North and South, had enough sports activities for the neighbourhood. Community members noted that they would like to keep more green space for activities such as an informal soccer field or frisbee, over the addition of more concrete sports pads. Several community members would like to see a children's playground.

### Transportation

Many community members wanted to ensure that active transportation and safe pathways were included in the future design. With the multi-use trail being such an integral part of the existing space, it was expressed that it needs to be thoughtfully integrated into the design. This is to ensure safety for both park and trail users, of all types and abilities. It was suggested by a few community members that the pathway desire line created between the Garrison Crossing bridge landing in Wellington Park and the existing staircase on Wellington Street be formalized.

### Current Use

The most popular existing park uses noted were sitting in the park and watching the skyline. It was noted that it has one of the best views and skylines in the entire city, and that the park must be designed with that in mind.

### Next Steps

In the summer months, concept design options will be proposed and presented for public input. This will include an online survey as well as a pop-up engagement.





# Appendix A – Project and Engagement Boards

## Overall Project Board

This board provided project information for community members, including timeline.

### New Parks at 10 Ordance Street & 801 Wellington Street West

#### Project Description

Two new parks have arrived to Spadina-Fort York as a result of the condominium development project at Garrison Point and the construction of the Garrison Crossing pedestrian and cycling bridges. One new 2.2 ha (5.5 acres) park is located at 10 Ordance St., near Strachan Avenue. The design for each new park, including the amenities and features, will be determined with the help of community and stakeholder feedback through the community engagement process!



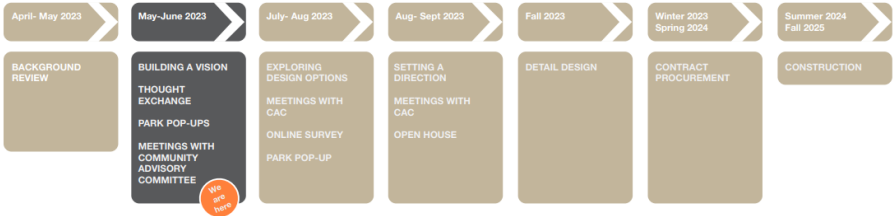
#### Get Involved

Scan the QR code with your smartphone camera to visit the project webpage, sign up for e-updates, and join the conversation online.



[toronto.ca/10OrdancePark](https://toronto.ca/10OrdancePark)

#### Project Timeline



## Project Site and Context Board

This board invited participants to share any current concerns or opportunities.

### Project Site and Context

What opportunities or issues should be considered in the vision for the new parks?



## Park Character Board

This board invited participants to place dots under which type of future park character they desire.

New Parks at 10 Ordnanace Street & 801 Wellington Street West

### Park Character

What kind of character should the parks have to best serve the community?

 Quiet / Intimate Spaces	 Programmed Spaces	 Urban / Manicured Spaces	 Active Spaces
 Open Spaces	 Flexible / Unprogrammed Spaces	 Naturalized Spaces	 Passive Spaces

Are there any other options you would like to add?

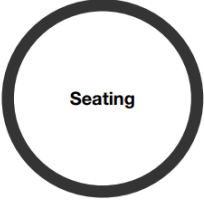

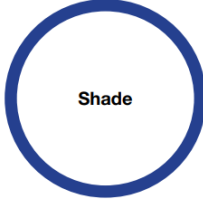

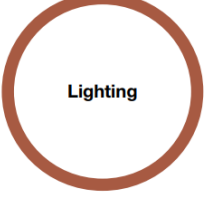


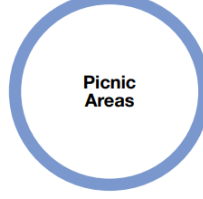
## Park Amenities and Features Board

This board invited participants to place dots under park amenity and features they prefer.

New Parks at 10 Ordnanace Street & 801 Wellington Street West

### Park Amenities and Features

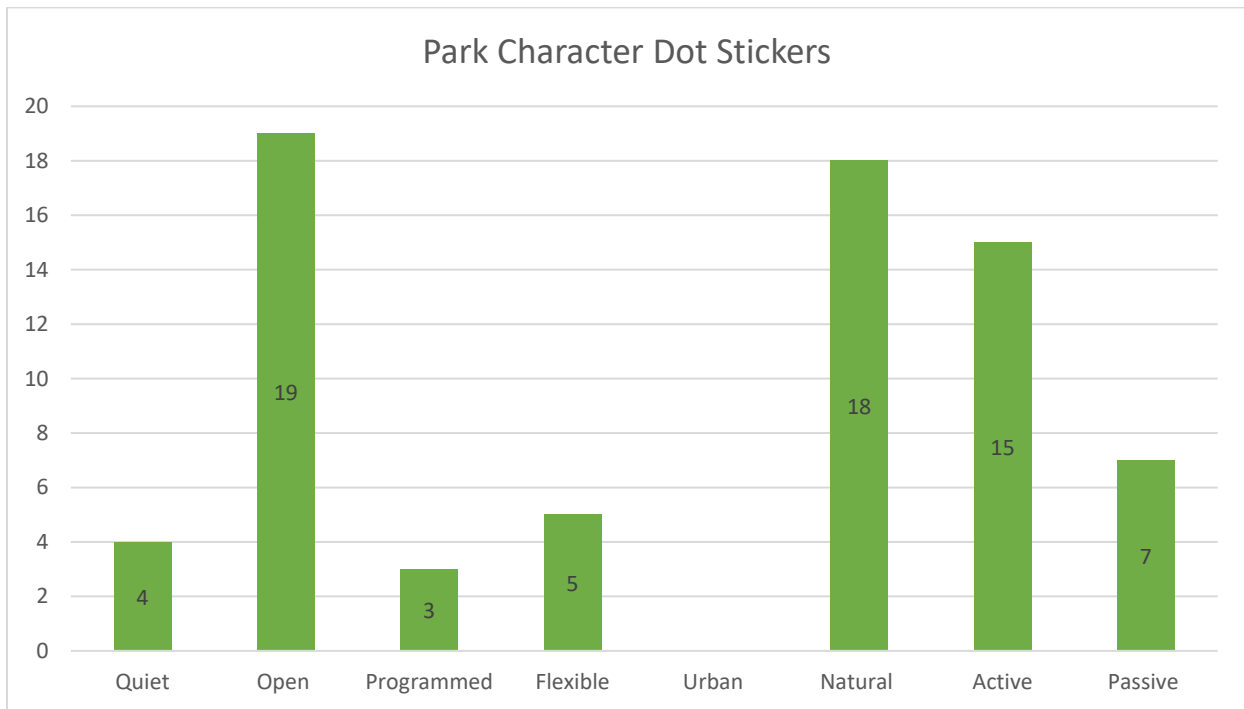
What kind of amenities / features should the parks have to best serve the community?

 Seating	 Dog off leash area	 Shade	 Children's Play
 Lighting	 Gardens / Horticulture	 Trees	 Picnic Areas

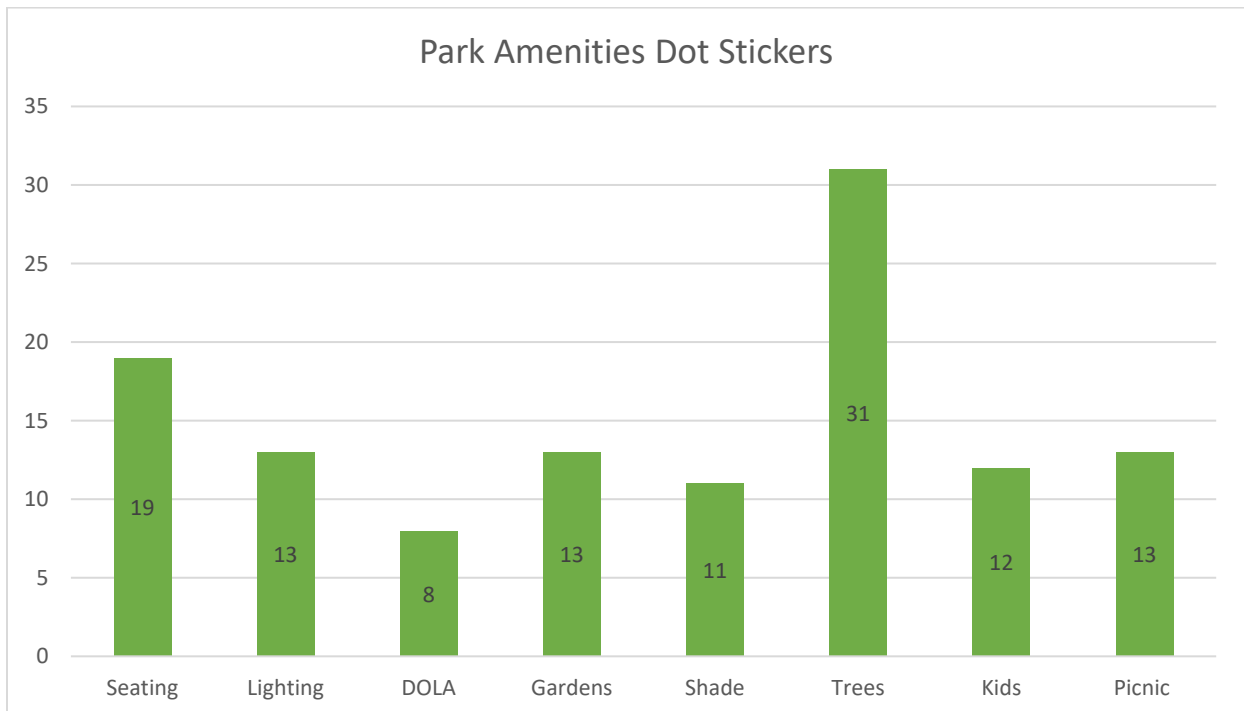
Are there any other options you would like to add?

## Appendix B – Engagement Activity Responses

The chart below shows the number of dots placed under each park character theme.



The chart below shows the number of dot stickers placed under each park amenity.





## Appendix C – Sticky Note Comments

The comments received on sticky notes during pop-up engagements are listed below and organized by engagement board and theme.

### Park Character Board

#### Open

- Extra wide paths so different users can share the road.
- Keep it a green open space.
- Optimize sun and openness.
- Leave Wellington as open space.
- Terrace berms near wellington and MUT east side to pathway.

#### Programmed

- Would like to see space for live music.
- Balance between active and passive.
- Would like to see social events like concerts.
- Would like to have social events and concerts but considering noise levels for residents in the area.
- Have activities like the ones at Trillium Park like Yoga (not too loud and disruptive but still social).
- Wood fire oven and fire pits.
- BBQ's
- There is enough programming at the Bentway nearby.

#### Flexible

- Do not over program.
- Would like a balance of both passive and interactive.

#### Urban

- Better maintenance, mowed grass.
- Create more structural components to add character to the park but keep it open.
- Capitalize on the beautiful view of the Toronto skyline at Ordnance. There can be something set up there to attract tourists.

### **Natural**

- Indigenous spaces, plants.
- Natural pathways.
- Keep the naturalized space.
- Keep all the grass open for soccer.

### **Active**

- Outdoor games and exercise machine.
- There are already playgrounds and sports facilities in the area, and they are under used.
- Outdoor fitness equipment.
- Outdoor fitness equipment.
- There is a rumour in the neighbourhood that there is an Olympic pool planned for the park.
- There can be a splash pad but nothing bigger than that.
- More biking provisions (cycling lanes, bicycle parking, community bikes).
- Soccer field.
- Tennis court.
- Pickleball court.
- Volleyball court.
- Climbing wall.
- Pickle ball court.
- Hammocks.
- Outdoor exercise equipment
- Second sports activities.
- Tennis court.
- Skating rink.

### **Passive**

- Would like the space to be passive, tranquil, great views.

### **Quiet**

- No comments.

### **Other**

- Café? Eating/drinking to stop and rest from a ride.
- Separate biking and walking MUT or make the current one wider.
- Access (bike) the Exhibition GO- trail and bike lanes at Strachan Avenue.

- Path to Wellington.
- Wellington crosswalk has accessibility issues, south edge lip from street to sidewalk.
- Traffic and noise are concerns.
- Traffic safest on Wellington
- Make it better for cyclists.
- Separate lanes for bikes/pedestrians ex: Waterloo Park turtle vs hare.
- Would like to see local artists paint noise barriers, barriers from industrial views.
- Should ask the opinion on 18–40-year-olds.
- Currently enjoy the views, like watching the trains, open vista.
- Design: Do not make it tacky. More cultural. Use sustainable materials.
- Foot rinsing station.
- Be mindful of different weather conditions (e.g., pedestrian lanes and walking paths in the winter).
- Ensure that there is still access to the park during construction.
- Safety as there are coyotes in the area.
- Design the space so it can be used all year.
- Formalize wellington cow path.
- Water fountains.
- The path is very busy, park will need to be designed with that in mind.
- Ordnance views are fantastic and need to be kept.
- More unique experiences, novelty in the urban setting.
- Best views.
- Don't need a washroom.
- Would like a washroom.
- Food truck.
- Needs to be designed with safety of the large path in mind.
- Accessible for everyone
- Needs to have accessible seating, especially picnic benches.

## Park Amenities Board

### Seating

- More seating for privacy like picnic tables
- Swings like hammocks that can be set up in between trees.
- Clean places to sit.

- We need picnic tables, so we are not just sitting on the grass.
- More benches for people to sit on.
- More seating like benches, picnic tables or chairs you can lie down on like Muskoka chairs.
- More seating like those relaxing Muskoka chairs.
- More benches and picnic tables.
- More places to sit.
- Seating under the sun but also under trees/shade.
- A lot of people walk in this area, it would be nice if there were places to sit and take a break.
- Seating on the east edge of Wellington.
- Would like shaded seats.
- Would like seating space.
- Sculpted and comfortable seating.
- Chairs for reading.
- Seating for families.

### **Lighting**

- It is not safe at night.
- Improve lighting in the area for people passing through.
- More lighting for safety. Can also install those emergency stations where you can call for help if needed.
- Lighting is important for safety.
- Really need lighting along the path.

### **Dog Off-Leash Area**

- Big and small dog space.
- More dog amenities for the area like another off-leash park or a dog bowl like in Trinity Bellwoods.
- More off-leash dog areas - there are a lot of dogs in the area and there are not enough dog areas.
- More amenities for dogs.
- Want it to be dog friendly but we don't need more dog only spaces.
- No more dog parks, Stanley is close by.
- Open space for dogs.
- Must be designed so that the place is maintained, even with so many dogs using it.
- Focus on people not dogs.

- Dogs can have a negative impact on plants.

### **Gardens**

- Pollinator gardens.
- Native Ontario flowers
- Community garden.
- We need colorful plants and flowers.
- Would like to see wildflowers planted along the slopes.
- Colourful plants and flowers.
- Plant things that will last and do not require a lot of maintenance.
- More community gardens for food security.
- Greenhouse.
- Would like to see wildflowers planted, define edges of the park.
- Not the place to be overly naturalized, too many people.

### **Shade**

- A structure that provides shade like a gazebo would be cool.
- Install umbrellas so people are not crowded under shaded areas on sunny days.
- More shade would be nice.
- Install a gazebo or shaded infrastructure that can accommodate different weather conditions.
- More shade and shelters.
- More shade in general.
- We need shade and shade over seating areas.

### **Trees**

- Trees and greenery
- More trees in the area.
- More trees.
- Plant more flowers and trees and overall improve landscaping in the area.
- More trees!
- We need more trees.
- More trees!
- Fruit trees like in Regent Park.
- Trees lining the path.
- A lot more trees.
- Would like to see a variety of trees with large canopy.

**Kids**

- Swings.
- Climbing wall.
- Slides and swings, traditional play opportunities.
- Different ages of kids play.
- Naturalized playground.
- Fenced in kids' playground.
- A place for kids to watch the trains and learn about them.

**Picnic**

- Open space for picnics.
- Need washroom.
- Need garbage cans.
- More garbage facilities.
- More toilets like the ones in Trillium Park.
- Picnic areas with seating, trees, and shade.