

City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry & Recreation

# Anniversary Park Improvements

## Phase 2: Exploring Options Survey Summary Report

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## Introduction

The City has engaged the local community to develop a renewed park vision for Anniversary Park, located at the intersection of Gerrard Street East and Parliament Street, at the boundary between the historic Cabbagetown and Moss Park neighbourhoods. The objectives of the new design are to enhance the park infrastructure and amenities in order to support its current and future use, and to improve accessibility and safety.

The purpose of this phase is to present and seek feedback on two design options and their components, which will be used to develop a single preferred design option. The following sections provide a recap of the vision and design principles and a summary of survey results that heard from 342 community members. To learn more about the outcomes of other Phase 2 engagement activities including the community stakeholder workshop and the pop-ups at Yonge Street Mission and Anniversary Park, visit the project webpage: [toronto.ca/AnniversaryPark](https://toronto.ca/AnniversaryPark).

## How We Reached People

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

### Print Media

#### **Signage On-Site**

Notice boards placed at the park displayed information about the project, details about the online survey, and how to access additional information on the project webpage.

### Digital Media

#### **Project Webpage**

A webpage ([toronto.ca/AnniversaryPark](https://toronto.ca/AnniversaryPark)) was set up to act as a communications portal to inform the public about the park improvement project. The webpage hosts all up to date information regarding the project.

#### **Social Media and Digital Ads**

The City of Toronto used its Facebook and Instagram accounts to promote the online survey through paid advertisements from July 6 to July 30.



## Recap from Phase 1 – A New Vision for Anniversary Park

In Phase 1 of the community engagement process, the City worked with community members to confirm priorities, and used this feedback to develop the following Vision Statement and Design Principles that have guided the development of two design options in Phase 2.

### Vision Statement

***"Anniversary Park will be a green and calm urban oasis that supports community safety and comfort. It will be a welcoming place for people of different backgrounds, ages, and interests to meet and spend time, creating a vibrant new entrance to the Cabbagetown neighbourhood."***

### Design Principles

#### Community Safety and Belonging

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

#### Balance space for socializing and relaxation

Enhance amenity options, while balancing space for socializing and relaxation.

#### Champion resilient approaches

Enhance green spaces through plantings that provide shade and environmental benefits.

#### Integrate with neighbourhood

Improve entrances and park edges, creating a design that connects with surrounding areas and feels less isolated.

***Vision shapes the proposed improvements***

**Phase 2: Exploring Options** worked off the outcomes of Phase 1 to develop two design options for the proposed park improvements. For more information about Phase 1 engagement, visit the project webpage: [toronto.ca/AnniversaryPark](https://toronto.ca/AnniversaryPark).

## Online Survey

**342**

Respondents

**342 respondents** responded to an online survey between July 6 to July 30, 2023 providing feedback on the two design options. This feedback will inform the development of the preferred design option.

The full survey results can be found in Appendix A and B.

The survey had four main components:

**1**

### Recap of the Vision Statement and Design Principles

This section provided a recap of the vision statement and design principles that were developed based on feedback collected during Phase 1 engagement.

**2**

### Exploring the Design Options

This section allowed respondents to indicate their level of agreement or disagreement with a series of statements about the features in each design.

**3**

### Selecting a Preferred Design Option

This section allowed participants to select their preferred design. Respondents also rated the importance of the individual features.

**4**

### Understanding Who We Heard From

This section asked about who is filling out the survey, to understand who we reached and whose feedback we may be missing.



## Design Option 1



### Design Focus:

- Linear/Angular form which creates a series of intimate spaces/nooks
- Long linear benches facing different directions to provide a variety of seating areas and views
- Vertical misters water feature for visual and aural interest
- Vertical gateway feature at southeast entrance to the park
- Herringbone paving pattern to complement angular design

### Legend:

1. Long bench
2. Vertical misters water feature
3. Decorative paving
4. Tables and chairs
5. Vertical gateway feature
6. Native pollinator planting
7. Existing tree
8. Proposed tree
9. Tree in grate with soil cells
10. Column lighting
11. Water bottle filler



**For Design Option 1, the survey provided the following statements about the features and asked respondents if they strongly agree, agree, are neutral, disagree, or strongly disagree.**

The park layout provides good connections to surrounding areas

- **62% of respondents agree**
- 23% of respondents are neutral
- 16% of respondents disagree

The pathways would allow me to move easily to the places I want to travel to

- **60% of respondents agree**
- 26% of respondents are neutral
- 14% of respondents disagree

There is balance between paved surfaces and green space

- **49% of respondents agree**
- 26% of respondents are neutral
- 26% of respondents disagree

There are enough comfortable seating options and places to sit

- **59% of respondents agree**
- 25% of respondents are neutral
- 15% of respondents disagree

There are enough new trees and plantings included in the design to provide a green and calm oasis to relax in

- **52% of respondents agree**
- 23% of respondents are neutral
- 26% of respondents disagree

There is enough flexible space to hold small cultural or community events

- **42% of respondents agree**
- 37% of respondents are neutral
- 21% of respondents disagree

I like the style of seating

- **44% of respondents agree**
- 32% of respondents are neutral
- 24% of respondents disagree

I like the water feature

- **60% of respondents agree**
- 19% of respondents are neutral
- 21% of respondents disagree

I like the Cabbagetown gateway feature

- **50% of respondents agree**
- 33% of respondents are neutral
- 16% of respondents disagree

### **Does Design Option 1 achieve the Vision and Design Principles?**

Respondents were asked if they think the design option achieves the vision statement and design principles for Anniversary Park. 46% of respondents responded 'yes' compared to 18% who responded 'no' and 36% who responded that they were 'unsure'.

Those who responded 'no' were asked if they had **ideas to improve Design Option 1** in order to better achieve the vision statement and design principles. The following major themes emerged in the responses with the total number of thoughts per theme shown in brackets:

- Community Safety and Comfort (5)
- Local Heritage (1)
- Neighbourhood Integration (2)
- Out of Scope (9)
- Park Activation (2)
- Park Maintenance (1)
- Public Art (1)
- Seating Styles and Options (6)
- Trees and Plantings (7)
- Pathway Connections (4)
- Water Feature (3)

Full responses by theme can be found in Appendix B. Feedback received about the Gerrard Street slip lane and washrooms will be shared with the appropriate City staff and will remain outside the scope of the park redesign and construction project.





**For Design Option 2, the survey provided the following statements about the features and asked respondents if they strongly agree, agree, are neutral, disagree, or strongly disagree.**

The park layout provides good connections to surrounding areas

- **75% of respondents agree**
- 17% of respondents are neutral
- 5% of respondents disagree

The pathways would allow me to move easily to the places I want to travel to

- **71% of respondents agree**
- 22% of respondents are neutral
- 4% of respondents disagree

There is balance between paved surfaces and green space

- **64% of respondents agree**
- 22% of respondents are neutral
- 15% of respondents disagree

There are enough comfortable seating options and places to sit

- **75% of respondents agree**
- 18% of respondents are neutral
- 4% of respondents disagree

There are enough new trees and plantings included in the design to provide a green and calm oasis to relax in

- **65% of respondents agree**
- 20% of respondents are neutral
- 16% of respondents disagree

There is enough flexible space to hold small cultural or community events

- **61% of respondents agree**
- 26% of respondents are neutral
- 13% of respondents disagree

I like the style of seating

- **76% of respondents agree**
- 13% of respondents are neutral
- 12% of respondents disagree

I like the water feature

- **65% of respondents agree**
- 20% of respondents are neutral
- 15% of respondents disagree

I like the Cabbagetown gateway feature

- **54% of respondents agree**
- 33% of respondents are neutral
- 13% of respondents disagree

### **Does Design Option 2 achieve the Vision and Design Principles?**

Respondents were asked if they think the design option achieves the vision statement and design principles for Anniversary Park. 65% of respondents responded 'yes' compared to 11% who responded 'no' and 24% who responded that they were 'unsure'.

Those who responded 'no' were asked if they had **ideas to improve Design Option 2** in order to better achieve the vision statement and design principles. The following major themes emerged in the responses with the total number of thoughts per theme shown in brackets:

- Community Safety and Comfort (4)
- General Park Design (1)
- Local Heritage (1)
- Out of Scope (10)
- Seating Styles and Options (1)

Full responses by theme can be found in Appendix B. Feedback received about the Gerrard Street slip lane and washrooms will be shared with the appropriate City staff and will remain outside the scope of the park redesign and construction project.

## Preferred Design Option

When asked to select a preferred Design Option, **Design Option 2 (66%) was the popular choice**, followed by Design Option 1 (17%). 6% of respondents liked both options equally, 9% didn't like either option, and 1% didn't know or preferred not to answer.



**Design Option 2 was the popular choice**

When asked **how satisfied respondents were with the design options**:

- 28% of respondents were very satisfied
- 48% of respondents were somewhat satisfied
- 11% of respondents were neutral
- 7% of respondents were somewhat unsatisfied
- 7% of respondents were very unsatisfied

The survey asked **how important the potential features are to respondents**. Respondents were asked to rate each feature as very important, important, somewhat important or not important.

Based on the percentage of responses that identified features as either very important or important for the new park design, the ranking was:

1. Trees for shade (95%)
2. Lighting (88%)
3. Horticultural plantings (84%)
4. Drinking fountain (78%)
5. Formal seating areas (e.g., benches, tables, etc.) (75%)
6. Water feature (58%)
7. Space for cultural/community events (e.g., performances, markets, etc.) (51%)
8. Cabbagetown gateway feature (37%)

### Additional Feedback

Respondents were asked if they had **additional ideas** for creating a park design that achieves the vision statement and design principles for Anniversary Park. The following major themes emerged in the responses with the total number of thoughts per theme shown in brackets:

- Community Safety and Comfort (10)
- Gateway to Cabbagetown (2)
- General Park Design (8)
- Local Heritage (1)
- Neighbourhood Integration (7)
- Out of Scope (19)
- Park Activation (5)
- Park Maintenance (6)
- Seating Styles and Options (9)
- Trees and Plantings (14)
- Water Feature (7)

Full responses by theme can be found in Appendix B. Feedback received about the Gerrard Street slip lane and washrooms will be shared with the appropriate City staff and will remain outside the scope of the park redesign and construction project.

## Who We Heard From

Respondents were asked to provide demographic information. This helps the City better understand who participated and whether any particular groups in the community were not heard from during the engagement process.

The findings can be found in Appendix A.

## Next Steps

The feedback received from this phase of community engagement will be used to develop a single preferred design option. To be notified about upcoming engagements, visit the project webpage at [toronto.ca/AnniversaryPark](https://toronto.ca/AnniversaryPark) to sign up for e-updates.

# Appendix A - Quantitative Response Summary





## Appendix A - Quantitative Response Summary

### Design Option 1

#### Respondents



#### Response timeline



N 342

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about this design option.

	Average	Count	% of responses				
The pathways would allow me to move easily to the places I want to travel to	35%	342	15%	45%	26%	11%	1%
The park layout provides good connections to surrounding areas	36%	342	13%	49%	23%	11%	3%
There are enough comfortable seating options and places to sit	36%	342	15%	44%	25%	11%	1%
I like the water feature	38%	342	15%	45%	19%	15%	5%
I like the Cabbagetown gateway feature	39%	342	15%	35%	33%	10%	6%
There are enough new trees and plantings included in the design to provide a green and calm oasis to relax in	43%	342	10%	42%	23%	20%	5%
There is a balance between paved surfaces and green space	43%	342	13%	36%	26%	19%	7%
I like the style of seating	45%	342	8%	36%	32%	16%	8%
There is enough flexible space to hold small cultural or community events	45%	342	7%	35%	37%	15%	5%

■ Strongly Agree
 ■ Agree
 ■ Neutral
 ■ Disagree
 ■ Strongly Disagree

N 342

**Does Design Option 1 achieve the Vision Statement and Design Principles for Anniversary Park?**  
**Vision Statement** Anniversary Park will be a green and calm urban oasis that supports community safety and comfort. It will be a welcoming place for people of different backgrounds, ages, and interests to meet and spend time, creating a vibrant new entrance to the Cabbagetown neighbourhood.  
**Design Principles-** Community safety and belonging- Balance space for socializing and relaxation- Champion resilient approaches- Integrate with neighbourhood

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes	158	<div><div></div></div>	46%
Unsure	123	<div><div></div></div>	36%
No	61	<div><div></div></div>	18%

N 342

## Design Option 2

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about this design option.

	Average	Count	% of responses
There are enough comfortable seating options and places to sit	25%	314	<div><div>32%</div><div>43%</div><div>18%</div><div>1%</div></div>
I like the style of seating	26%	314	<div><div>39%</div><div>37%</div><div>13%</div><div>7%</div><div>3%</div></div>
The park layout provides good connections to surrounding areas	27%	314	<div><div>26%</div><div>49%</div><div>17%</div><div>5%</div></div>
The pathways would allow me to move easily to the places I want to travel to	28%	314	<div><div>27%</div><div>44%</div><div>22%</div><div>1%</div></div>
I like the water feature	33%	314	<div><div>24%</div><div>41%</div><div>20%</div><div>10%</div><div>5%</div></div>
There is a balance between paved surfaces and green space	33%	314	<div><div>23%</div><div>41%</div><div>22%</div><div>11%</div><div>2%</div></div>
There is enough flexible space to hold small cultural or community events	34%	314	<div><div>19%</div><div>42%</div><div>26%</div><div>9%</div><div>1%</div></div>
There are enough new trees and plantings included in the design to provide a green and calm oasis to relax in	34%	314	<div><div>20%</div><div>45%</div><div>20%</div><div>12%</div><div>1%</div></div>
I like the Cabbagetown gateway feature	35%	314	<div><div>21%</div><div>33%</div><div>33%</div><div>8%</div><div>5%</div></div>

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

N 314

**Does Design Option 2 achieve the Vision Statement and Design Principles for Anniversary Park?**  
**Vision Statement** Anniversary Park will be a green and calm urban oasis that supports community safety and comfort. It will be a welcoming place for people of different backgrounds, ages, and interests to meet and spend time, creating a vibrant new entrance to the Cabbagetown neighbourhood.  
**Design Principles-** Community safety and belonging- Balance space for socializing and relaxation- Champion resilient approaches- Integrate with neighbourhood

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes	203		65%
Unsure	76		24%
No	35		11%

N 314

## Both Design Options

Of the two design options presented above, which do you prefer overall?

	Count	% of responses	%
Option 1	53		17%
Option 2	201		66%
I like both options equally	19		6%
I don't like either option	28		9%
I don't know or I prefer not to answer	4		1%

N 305






How important are each of the following potential features to you and your household when thinking about the new park design?

	Average	Count	% of responses
Trees for shade	9%	305	
Lighting	19%	305	
Horticultural plantings	22%	305	
Drinking fountain	29%	305	
Formal seating areas (e.g. benches, tables)	32%	305	
Water feature	43%	305	
Space for cultural/community events (i.e. small performances, markets, gatherings, etc.)	50%	305	
Cabbagetown gateway feature	60%	305	

Very important Important Somewhat important Not important

N 305








### Overall, how satisfied are you with the design options for Anniversary Park?

	Count	% of responses	%
Very satisfied	86		28%
Somewhat satisfied	145		48%
Neutral	33		11%
Somewhat unsatisfied	21		7%
Very unsatisfied	20		7%

N 305









## Demographics

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

	Count	% of responses	%
0 to 4 years old	0		
5 to 12 years old	0		
13 to 18 years old	0		
19 to 29 years old	52		18%
30 to 39 years old	98		33%
40 to 55 years old	74		25%
56 to 64 years old	46		16%
65 to 74 years old	18		6%
75 years old or above	2		1%
Prefer not to answer	6		2%










N 296

**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	%
Man	156		53%
Woman	98		33%
Prefer not to answer	29		10%
Gender non-binary (including gender fluid, genderqueer, androgynous)	14		5%
Two-Spirit	3		1%
Trans woman	1		0%
Trans man	1		0%
Not listed, please describe	1		0%












N 296

**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	118		40%
Gay	88		30%
Prefer not to answer	45		15%
Bisexual	22		7%
Queer	16		5%
Lesbian	7		2%
Don't know	6		2%
Not listed, please describe	5		2%
Two-Spirit	3		1%




N 296

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)	192		65%
Prefer not to answer	41		14%
More than one race category or mixed race	16		5%
Latin American (e.g. Brazilian, Colombian, Cuban, Mexican, Peruvian)	15		5%
Arab, Middle Eastern or West Asian (e.g. Afghan, Armenian, Iranian, Lebanese, Persian, Turkish)	12		4%
East Asian (e.g. Chinese, Japanese, Korean)	12		4%
Other, please describe	10		3%
Southeast Asian (e.g. Filipino, Malaysian, Singaporean, Thai, Vietnamese)	9		3%
South Asian or Indo-Caribbean (e.g. Indian, Indo- Guyanese, Indo-Trinidadian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan)	5		2%
First Nations (status, non-status, treaty or non-treaty), Inuit or Métis	3		1%
Black (e.g. African, African-Canadian, Afro-Caribbean)	2		1%





N 296

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	8		3%
No	264		89%
Prefer not to answer	24		8%






N 296

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	40		14%
No	221		75%
Don't know	2		1%
Prefer not to answer	33		11%

N 296

### What best describes your current housing situation?

	Count	% of responses	%
Home owner	142		48%
Renting	120		41%
Permanently living with parent(s) or other family member(s)	15		5%
Temporarily staying with others (no fixed address)	0		
Unhoused (staying outside, in a shelter, in a 24-hour respite)	0		
Prefer not to answer	17		6%
Not listed, please describe	2		1%

N 296

### 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	105		35%
I have access to semi-private/shared outdoor space	80		27%
I only have access to public spaces like parks (I do not have access to private or semi-private outdoor space)	96		32%
Prefer not to answer	15		5%

N 296








### What best describes your relationship to Anniversary Park?

	Count	% of responses	%
I am a resident living nearby (within a 5-minute walk or roll)	140		47%
I am not a resident, but I work in the area (within a 5-minute walk or roll)	21		7%
I am a member of the wider community	119		40%
Other:	16		5%

N 296



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

	Count	% of responses	%
Social Media (e.g. Facebook, Instagram etc.)	280		88%
Park sign	14		5%
Email from the project team	11		4%
Word of mouth	10		3%
I don't know/Prefer not to answer	5		2%
Councillor's Office communications	4		1%
The project webpage	1		0%
Mailer to my home	0		

N 298

# Appendix B - Open Response Summary



## Appendix B - Open Response Summary

**Question:** How would you improve Design Option 1 to better achieve the Vision Statement and Design Principles?

### Responses by theme:

- Community Safety and Comfort (5)
  - Remove all tables and individual chairs, and have more bench style seating that is equipped with anti-sleeping design elements so it doesn't become a hangout place for homeless people, but a place for the public to visit and enjoy.
  - My biggest concern with this park is that it becomes a hang out for anti-social behaviour with individuals shouting abuse at those who pass.
  - No long bench – cuts off escape route, need better lighting than what a columnar fixture will afford
  - The design will end up looking like the current park within weeks. It needs to be fenced and gated at night otherwise it will become another place for rough sleeping and people will stay away.
  - Current park does not feel safe and closed in design could be taken over easily by one group
- Local Heritage (1)
  - Doesn't integrate w/heritage feeling. This is a 'Victorian' neighbourhood. Concrete should be non-existent in favour of a 19thC red brick and/or cobble stone. Fountain should convey a cast-iron or concrete vibe w/decorative flourist consistent w/the period. This design is disrespectfully off-point.
- Neighbourhood Integration (2)
  - Seems too enclosed
  - The Gerrard Street slip to the north is no doubt not within scope and part of the Gerrard Street street improvement plan, but to me this space should be either given over to the park, or at most, be absorbed into the park, delineated by rolled concrete curbs at the Parliament and Gerard Street interfaces, and the same paving stones be extended over to the sidewalk. Hopefully this is just intended for emergency or maintenance use plus bikes/pedestrians and all vehicular traffic be directed to the main intersection. As both a driver and biker, I think this would be safer and virtually as convenient. The lack of integration of the street improvements and the road improvements would be disappointing - one just needs to look at similar parks/street improvements in Montreal to see what potential

- Park Activation (2)
  - A concession stand selling tea and coffee would attract people
  - It's missing amenities for young adults and teenagers. Perhaps some bars for exercise would really help bring different demographics. It's too small of a space to really hold events, so focus should be as a neighbourhood pocket park and not trying to do everything.
- Park Maintenance (1)
  - Keep the old fountain and promise to maintain it.
- Public Art (1)
  - Public art should be integral to the space, not just applied on top.
- Seating Styles and Options (6)
  - Not enough seating
- Trees and Plantings (7)
  - Put trees along the southwest edge, with lots of soil in order to create sun protection from the southwest and make (in combination with the other trees on the north and east edges) a very shaded park. I would not focus on polinator plantings. As much as this is a great initiative which I support, this location has the least chance of attracting insects and bees. I'd focus on shielding the traffic and on plants that will thrive once the tree canopy is established. I would simplify the angular forms to maximize the hard surfaced plaza and possibly be more curvilinear, responding but not mimicking the Gerrard street curve. There is one tree not labelled (so not sure if it is existing or new) in the NE area of the proposed plaza - move all trees to the perimeter to strengthen the geometry of the triangle and maximize the plaza. I'd then move the water feature to that location, so that most of the seating faces it. There was no mention of the storm water retention approach - is the water collected onsite used to water the trees?
- Pathway Connections (4)
  - Cut a path through the planting area in the south to establish a connection with the library and forget the fencing for the planting. The current design creates a forbidding closing line along Gerrard St, some connection from the SW corner to the NE corner should be provided.
  - Layout interrupts flow of traffic
  - No connection from the laneway on the library side to walk north or Parliament. A lot of residents on Seaton, Ontario and Berkeley can walk through the park to get to Parliament and Riverdale park.

- I would make sure that the pathways through the park are direct to parliament st and gerrard sts
- Water Feature (3)
  - The in-ground water feature will get clogged with debris
  - Water structure not needed. Layout interrupts flow of traffic
  - Keep the old fountain and promise to maintain it

**Question:** How would you improve Design Option 2 to better achieve the Vision Statement and Design Principles?

**Responses by theme:**

- Community Safety and Comfort (4)
  - This area is overrun by homeless people. No matter what design changes you make, this area will not be safe for the general public. Remove all seating options and put in plants for pollinators. There is too much traffic in this area and sketchy people for this park to be usable. Turn it into a sanctuary for nature
  - People will live on those benches this will not be a community safe space
  - Again, this space needs to be designed to deter homeless people and drug addicts from sleeping and gathering in the area. I can imagine all these efforts would be destroyed within weeks of opening the new design, which is a waste of taxpayers' money..
  - This one provides more seating which I feel will create an even unsafe space
- General Park Design (1)
  - Design that is organic to its organic but also modern
- Local Heritage (1)
  - Same problems as design one, just less bad. Far too contemporary. Toronto doesn't have a lot of heritage areas, its not Boston, Chicago or NYC. It needs to celebrate those few it has w/designs that speak to the period architecture and landscapes. This is not Victorian in any way. Complete re-think, send it to a design competition if this is what the in-house team can generate.
- Out of Scope (10)
  - change Gerrard slip into cul-de-sac increase park space and improve connection to neighbourhood
  - Bathroom
  - Gerrard street north of the park should be pedestrianized at all times. There is absolutely no reason to allow cars to go through. Further, the area should incorporated into the businesses on that side of Gerrard. Put tables on it, open it to bars and cafes so people can use it at all times.

- Please don't waste more of our taxpayer dollars on window dressing. Please use ALL AVAILABLE FUNDS to restore Allen Gardens back to the wonderful clean and happy park that it was before the pandemic. It is shameful how the City and the new Mayor are just pretending that there is nothing wrong. Drug addicts are now familiar fixtures in neighbourhoods that didn't have them before. Packages are stolen off front steps in broad daylight. Citizens are harassed and chased when walking through the park, cars and back doors are constantly being tested to see if the doors are open so the drug addicts and drunkards can come in and steal prized possessions. Where is the common sense at City Hall? Why are you focusing on this tiny little park when there is a REAL ISSUE AT ALLEN GARDENS THAT NEEDS YOUR ATTENTION!!!
- Same fundamental problem as option 1. Slip roads have no place in cities. The improved park would remain a glorified traffic island. To truly realize the vision of community safety and comfort, the slip road should be closed, increasing safety of the community accessing the park, and significantly increasing its size. This would also allow space to greatly improved cyclist safety, by allowing for an extension of the Gerrard bike lane all the way to Parliament (where they should meet a future MUT along Regent Park's north edge), instead of the dangerous disappearing lanes that exist beside the park today.
- Better uses for the money.
- Same comment as before. The Gerrard Slip should be removed as part of the redesign. Its sole purpose is to provide a shortcut for cars turning off parliament onto gerrard to go west. Those cars could easily just turn onto Gerrard street. Not removing this represents the triumph of seconds of convenience for automobiles over the creation of a safe, viable, quieter and less car surrounded public place.
- Gerrard street slip should be closed to all motorized traffic and not paved.
- Ensure seating does not prevent sleeping. Include washroom facilities.
- Seating Styles and Options (1)
  - Ensure seating does not prevent sleeping.

**Question:** Do you have any additional comments or suggestions on how to better align the design options with the Vision Statement and Design Principles?

**Responses by theme:**

- Community Safety and Comfort (10)
  - I am quite familiar with the park as I walk by it several times daily. The park is currently a homeless hang-out where they sleep, drink beers and do drugs. It is not a place where I feel safe and belong. This issue will

- need to be addressed in order for the larger community to want to spend any time there.
- current Toronto is having a housing/mental illness crisis of disenfranchised persons hanging out in parks like this and this won't change with any level of restructuring, unless the government at every level begins some drastic steps to address the issues being faced!
  - In both I'd be concerned about those with addiction and mental health issues would sleep on benches. But maybe the City will just let them pitch tents there like in Allen Gardens - who knows?
  - I'm concerned about the park being a gathering space for illicit activities and a male-dominated space as it is now
  - This area will still be overrun by homeless people.
  - Current state this is an extremely uninviting parkette filled with addicts. I walk by here and always feel uncomfortable and unsafe.
  - Need to prioritize the community safety, lets not create any blind spots.
  - Safety call button/intercom
  - I am just concerned that it will become a rundown place for the unhoused to hang out. Design the benches to prevent sleeping and skateboarding on them. A well-lit space will increase safety. Trees are important. Make a gravel area to absorb water for plants. Thank you.
  - I think either design is an improvement and there are pros and cons with both but I am not confident this won't just become another encampment or hangout like most of our green spaces. This is a very small space but constantly occupied with people who are intoxicated and/or screaming at those passing by.
  - Gateway to Cabbagetown (2)
    - A gateway to canbage town is a nice idea but it's necessary.
    - I strongly believe the gateway feature should be at the Gerrard/Parliament intersection, not at the slip lane - that location feels non-descript and easily missed.
  - General Park Design (8)
    - I would reconsider the paving of any kind for either Design Option (1 or 2) as it seems to go slightly against the design principles of a 'green, urban oasis'. I would want to see less paving in these areas.
    - You all did a great job with these designs. I'm impressed and happy with what I see!
    - The more simple the better! minimum concrete and minimum lighting - no need for concrete design features or overlit spaces.
    - Option two is the way to go!



- I like #2 better. My concern is sufficient lighting to make it inviting to everyone. Currently the space is only used by certain groups and I don't feel particularly welcome or safe to take my child there to see the fountain or to just hang out. Anything you do will be an improvement.
- I think Option 2 has the most potential. I'd push the serpentine element more - integrate the pole lighting, water bottle filler into the serpentine element and leave the rest of the park simple, maximized as a plaza.
- Remove the south most tree in Design 2 to allow a wide accessible sidewalk to walk up Parliament, and through park for people who are waking east-west on the north side of Gerrard. If you must add a sound barrier from Gerrard St, at least make it see through so the views of the park spill onto the street.
- Movement of people through it, allows many to use and enjoy it. It should not be a lounge for people to monopolize with a prolonged sit in. Seating should be minimal, and benches only, not to make it picnic park, with litter left behind. As a transient doace, it should offer an information column, featuring a map od todays Cabbagetown, Wellesley to Shuter, Sherbourne to the Don River, with streets and lanes named for orientation and navigation. Arguably, this is or as near to as a public space can be, the geographic centre of Todays Cabbagetown and it should be noted as such. On the column with the map, there should be QR codes to allow people with phones to scan a code for information such as self directed walking tours, local history, emergency resources, etc. Keeping a fluid standard on parkette use, a transient space affording a short rest and refreshed will serve all in the best of ways and leave the space less stressed and hosting wildlife conservation in a densely built area.
- Local Heritage (1)
  - Victorian first. So formal, cobblestone/red brick, formal-style fountain, traditional benches w/cast-iron-style handrails, maybe some iron-style bistro tables.
- Neighbourhood Integration (7)
  - This is an incredible opportunity to take some space away from cars and turn this park from a weird dangerous island into a protected park directly connected to stores.
  - Both of these option cut Gerrard St off from the parkette. Diagonal travel from the SW to the NE corner should be accommodated. The current proposal creates a wall along the bike lane there.
  - The park would then integrate with the neighbourhood and not be a concrete island (traffic on all sides is what inhibits use and makes it a concrete traffic island).

- Sightlines will be very important.
- This park is currently an island in a concrete river, neither of the proposed designs seems keen on fixing that. I appreciate the idea of turning the slip lane into a shared street but it really should be removed all together to better connect the park to the surrounding environment. None of the design principles are being met if people have to cross a lane of traffic to access this park, even if there is some traffic calming implemented.
- As someone who travels through here all the time, the gerrard slip has always felt totally unnecessary. I am hopeful that it could be removed, to make this not a tiny island of green amidst a sea of concrete. No matter how great the design, it's still surrounded by an overkill of roads.
- Would be great to connect the park to the residential strip on the gerrard slip (similar physical pavement throughout) to also force drivers to slow down when driving down the slip
- Out of Scope (19)
  - Where the heck the bathroom? Any new park in the city should have one.
  - The park should be expanded to remove the Gerrard St Slip, with the corner of the park at Gerrard and Parliament trimmed back to allow vehicle turning. Maintaining the slip is a waste of public space and creates the park as an island, prioritizing vehicle space over space for people. The slip is an example of a 'nothing street' - ie, a small street that provides little purpose from a transportation standpoint but occupies a great amount of public space. It should be removed and the park better integrated into the sidewalk and public realm instead of being an Island
  - Where are the public bathrooms?
  - I would like to speak with someone about this.
  - Close the gerrard slip to traffic
  - There is no need to have the street north of the park to be open for cars. It should be closed off and pedestrianized.
  - Traffic noise impedes park enjoyment potential; green planting will not minimize this enough. Suggest closing Gerard slip permanently to prioritize cyclists/peds as per overarching City policy directions. Suggest to select water feature that PFR can commit to maintaining.
  - GET RID OF THE GERRARD STREET SLIP FOR CHRIST'S SAKE, NO ONE WANTS CARS THROUGH A PARK! LEAVE THE SPACE OPEN FOR SEATING AND PATIO SPACE FOR THE RESTAURANT AT THE CORNER INSTEAD OF PRIORITIZING MOVING SUBURBANITES THROUGH THE DOWNTOWN CORE FOR ONCE!
  - Not even a park.

- The park is currently used by people to drink and do drugs and as a result almost nobody from the neighborhood goes there. These issues need to be addressed. Also, I would think it makes sense to completely remove the Gerrard Slip lane and let the park absorb that entire area. With the development of the final stage of Regent Park, there are going to be a lot of people living in close proximity to this park and why not make it bigger at the slight inconvenience of the few drivers who use that lane?
- That section of Gerard's should be converted to be part of the park. No one drives there anyway
- As someone who travels through here all the time, the gerrard slip has always felt totally unnecessary. I am hopeful that it could be removed, to make this not a tiny island of green amidst a sea of concrete. No matter how great the design, it's still surrounded by an overkill of roads.
- Remove the secondary road that's taking up half the site. Have the smallest idea of vision, Jesus.
- Gerrard Street slip is unnecessary and should be absorbed by the park.
- I chose 'disagree' for many of the questions because the Gerard St. slip eats up space that could be made into more parkland. All the proposed changes are diminished because the park will still be an island surround by roads and cars. It is a huge missed opportunity to not pedestrianize that space, as the slip lane provides minimal utility to the community, including drivers. Better to use this valuable space to expand the park and have more space for events, seating, and greenery.
- Washroom.
- It's hard to think about this lovely little park & safety issues when Allen Gardens is such a terrifying mess. Where's the concern for safe community oases there?
- Is the Gerard Street slip being closed to traffic?
- Close down Gerard st slip and incorporate it fully into the park please
- Park Activation (5)
  - The ideal plan should have a strong schedule of community events that encourage people to congregate here and even a few food trucks if that makes sense!
  - I hope the design will ensure space for community events so that more people in the community will make use of it.
  - Please add tables with chess design
  - It's not a site for a farmers market or cultural event. It's too small.
  - That small area is realistically not going to be used for community events.
- Park Maintenance (6)

- Also - what's the commitment to keeping it clean, functioning, trees watered, gardens watered and plants tended to? This risks being another poorly executed space if it is neglected by Toronto PFR.
- Please add cigarette pole tubes
- The drinking fountains always have homeless washing and dogs drinking out of them, making them unusable.
- Have plenty of garbage cans.
- The designs look nice in the rendering but they don't exclude the high likelihood that it will just be taken over by the homeless. Whoever designed this needs to think of ways that the design makes it pleasant for law abiding folks not addicts.
- The space is often used by folks with no place else to go looking for shade. This often balloons into people drinking late into the night. I know some community members avoid the park because of this. I don't think there is an ethical way to discourage the type of gathering that happens there currently especially as it will just spill into residential alleyways, as it already does. However, the park stinks, partly because of the sewage exhaust pipe, but also because people urinate in the park. Is there any way to consider a public washroom to reduce public urination?
- Seating Styles and Options (9)
  - More tables with chairs so the space can be more social and functional
  - The idea of large seating and big trees is nice; but I believe this will become a place to sleep for some. I don't think this area is the right place for large straight seating.
  - I think including chairs and tables in Option 2 as in Option 1 would be good. In both I'd be concerned about those with addiction and mental health issues would sleep on benches. But maybe the City will just let them pitch tents there like in Allen Gardens - who knows?
  - Need a balance of seating to trees and plantings; the curvilinear bench is beautiful, but would only invite as a sleeping place, so maybe something more utilitarian; fixed tables and chairs are helpful; this area can be a heat sinkhole, so would prefer more trees and plantings;
  - Have separate seating area options.
  - There should be long bench seating instead of tables.
  - The tables in Design 1 are ugly and not accessible. Don't use them to block the path, no one wants to eat their meal next next to traffic. Provide seating next to Parliament to invite people waiting for bus to sit and rest. Work with TS for an extra wide accessible crosswalk across Gerrard.
  - I prefer option 2 mainly because more of the seating appears to benefit from tree cover/shading, which is important in the summer.

- Design the benches to prevent sleeping and skateboarding on them.
- Trees and Plantings (14)
  - Native pollinator garden in 2nd design is great.
  - Maximum trees and native plants.
  - The idea of large seating and big trees is nice; but I believe this will become a place to sleep for some.
  - Hopefully there is budget to plant healthy, large caliper trees with large soil pockets and irrigation.
  - Replace the park with pollinator plants
  - Make sure there is enough shade cover
  - Need a balance of seating to trees and plantings
  - Remove the south most tree in Design 2 to allow a wide accessible sidewalk to walk up Parliament, and through park for people who are waking east-west on the north side of Gerrard
  - How is this in any way “resilient”?
  - More trees and plantings.
  - It is important to include native species in the planting beds. Encouraging pollinators is a good idea. Trees are important. Make a gravel area to absorb water for plants. Thank you.
  - I think a major pruning of the trees in this park need to be done , you can’t see people in there unless your right at park .
  - The amount of pavement which surrounds this park makes it feel extremely hot and desolate in the summer time. The more green, the better!
  - This space is a “small island parkette” and should first function as a green space with features that include an abundance of indigenous plantings.
- Water Feature (7)
  - I like a misting water feature and fountain. Thank you!
  - The water features are both a little odd. A waterfall/running-water style of feature which creates water noise and is visually eye catching from afar would be nice.
  - The concrete water feature might look sterile and bare.
  - I am not sure if the vertical water fountains will be a good idea but its better than the deep one that is currently there
  - Can you put water bottle fillers that have a really high taps so dogs and people dirty heads cannot go into them please??!? I am so thirsty on bike rides but I cant bring my self to use these germ traps after what ive seen people do to them.
  - I like option 1 except for the water feature. I think the water feature from design 2 will be better and more engaging for children in the community.