

City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry & Recreation

Victoria Memorial Square Park Improvements



Phase 2: Exploring Design Options

Community Advisory Committee Meeting,
Community Workshops, and Online Survey
Summary Report

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Project Background

The City is improving Victoria Memorial Square, located at 10 Niagara Street. The park is a designated heritage site and is part of the Fort York National Historic Site and the King-Spadina Heritage Conservation District.

The park is built over the oldest settler cemetery in Toronto and currently includes a monument, playground, and drinking fountain as well as several heritage features, open lawn areas, and mature trees. The park's historical significance and unique site constraints will be taken into consideration when planning the design.

Park improvements may include:

- Additional heritage interpretation elements
- New social gathering spaces
- Upgrades to existing pathways
- New site furnishings (i.e. benches, chairs, seat walls, and/or picnic tables)
- Updated historical interpretive signage, including an Indigenous history component, to be integrated with City's new wayfinding system
- General site improvements including upgrades to the existing granite border/pathway, playground improvements, and a refresh of existing monuments
- New planting features and trees
- New grass
- Lighting improvements
- A potential integrated art feature

Project Timeline

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

The timeline is subject to change.

Community Engagement Phase 2

This phase of the community engagement process started in May 2023. In this phase, the City and its design consultant developed two draft design options for the park based on the outcomes of Phase 1. The objective of Phase 2 was to present these design options to the community for feedback, and to use this feedback to develop a preferred design for the park improvements.

Community engagement activities in this phase included:

- Community Advisory Committee Meeting

- Community Workshops
- Online Survey

To learn about the community engagement activities and outcomes from Phase 1, including the vision and design principles for the park improvements, visit the project webpage at toronto.ca/VictoriaMemorialSquare.

How We Reached People

The community was informed of the community workshops and online survey through print and digital media.

Signage near the site

Project information was displayed on large notice boards placed in the park. These notice boards provided information about the project, details about the online survey, and how to access additional information on the project webpage.

Social Media and Digital Ads

The City of Toronto used its Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts to promote the community workshops and online survey through paid advertisements and organic posts from May 29 to June 12, 2023, and from June 12 to June 26, 2023, respectively.

Digital Assets

Digital assets, including promotional images and text, were circulated to the local Councillor's Office for additional distribution.

Project Webpage

A webpage (toronto.ca/VictoriaMemorialSquare) was created to serve as a communications portal to inform the public about the park improvements project. The webpage features up-to-date information regarding the project and engagement opportunities, including links to the workshop registration page, the online survey, and a button to sign up for e-updates.

Design Options

Based on the outcomes of Phase 1 of community engagement, this section presents the draft design options for the park developed by the City and its design consultants.

Design Option 1

The design focus introduces a light-touch enhancement of the park, corner-to-corner pathway access with the existing wishbone path configuration, and includes the following features:

- New heritage interpretation themes at the corners which explore Indigenous and Colonial histories, and the King West and Wellington Place neighbourhood transformation
- The War of 1812 Memorial and Tombstone Monument is maintained in place with gathering areas close by
- The furnishings and materials of the park are themed to match the new Wellington Street vocabulary and Clarence Square, making a strong connection with the axial alignment of Wellington Place
- New lighting that matches the new Wellington Street fixtures and feature lighting lining the cemetery and highlighting the War of 1812 Memorial and tombstone monument
- New mounded flowering meadow covering the cemetery with a focus on native planting, particularly Echinacea (traditional medicinal plant) which provide a habitat for pollinators and urban wildlife. The area will be protected by low fence rails to discourage people and their pets from accessing the burial ground with the exception of the paths crossing over
- New tree canopy in the lawn/mulch areas around the cemetery to renew the declining tree canopy and to provide seasonal interest and habitat. Fixed picnic tables will be added to these spaces to provide additional seating and gathering options
- The existing playground will be maintained and enhanced with new surfacing, seating, and fencing



Site plan for Design Option 1.



Bird's eye view overlooking the park from the northeast corner.



Rendered view shows the northeast entrance to the park.



Rendered view of the cemetery area, surrounded by mounds of flowering meadow.



The majority of lighting comes from light poles.

Design Option 2

The design focus removes the southern leg of the wishbone path configuration, adds a small plaza at the corner of Wellington Street and Portland Street, and includes the following features:

- New heritage interpretation themes at the four corner entrances which explore Indigenous and Colonial histories, and the King West and Wellington Place neighbourhood transformation
- The 1812 Memorial is relocated to the new plaza at the northeast corner of Wellington Street and Portland Street providing a larger gathering space around it for ceremonies. The tombstone monument will remain in its existing location with the headstones re-mounted on the east face
- The furnishings and materials of the park partially reference the Wellington Street vocabulary but also reference the new furnishings of St. Andrew's Playground
- The existing park lighting will be enhanced and feature lighting will be added
- The cemetery is surrounded by a low stone wall elevating it 450mm above the adjacent expanded pathway. This height allows for seating around the edge of the burial ground
- The cemetery is mounded and planted with a low grass meadow to discourage access by people and their pets
- The areas around the cemetery will be resurfaced in a bound stone aggregate providing active program spaces for picnicking, seating, and gathering
- New trees in the areas surrounding the cemetery to renew the declining tree canopy to provide seasonal interest and habitat



Site plan for Design Option 2.



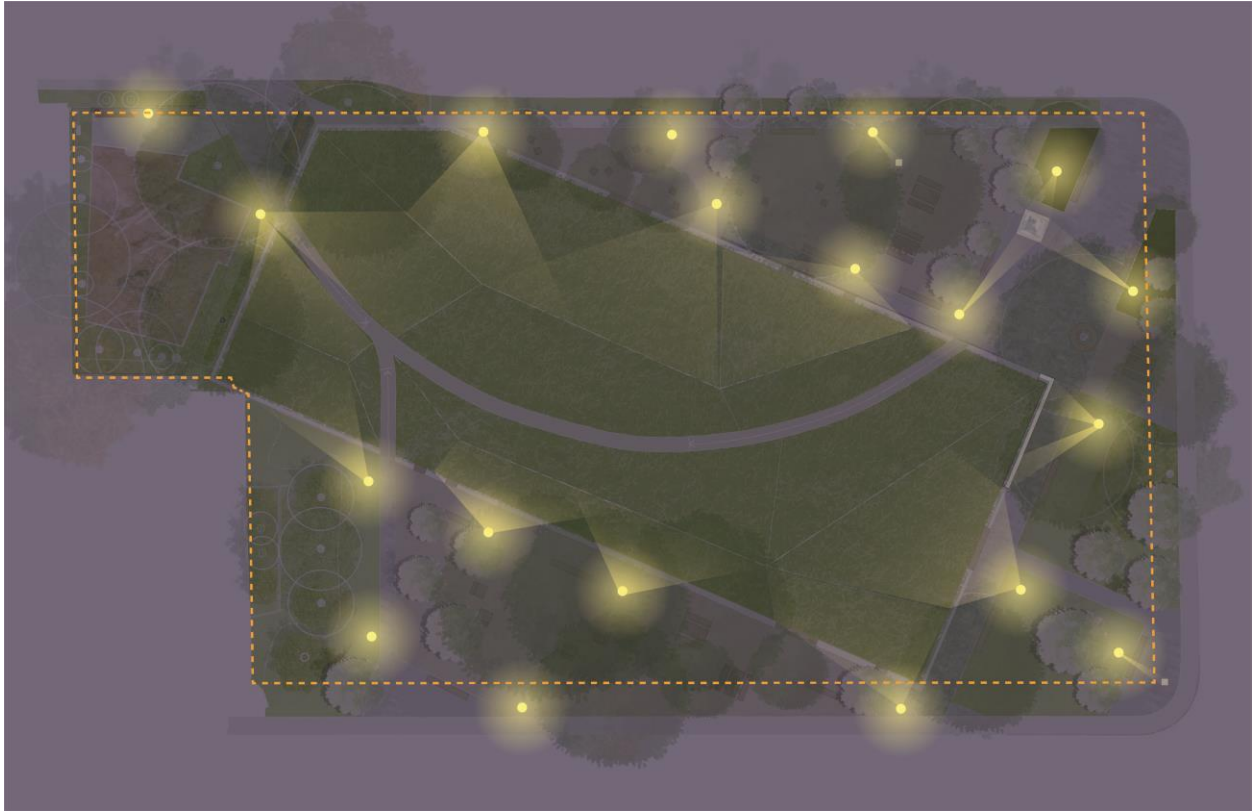
Bird's eye view overlooking the park from the northeast corner.



Rendered view shows an open plaza at the northeast entrance to the park, including the 1812 Memorial.



Rendered view of the cemetery area, surrounded by mounds of grass meadow.



The majority of lighting comes from light poles.

Design Option 2B

The design focus completely removes circulation through the cemetery, redirects all pedestrian movement around the burial grounds, and includes the following features:

- New heritage interpretation themes at the four corner entrances which explore Indigenous and Colonial histories, and the King West and Wellington Place neighbourhood transformation
- The 1812 Memorial is relocated to the new plaza at the northeast corner of Wellington Street and Portland Street providing a larger gathering space around it for ceremonies. The tombstone monument will remain in its existing location with the headstones re-mounted on the east face
- The furnishings and materials of the park partially reference the Wellington Street vocabulary but also reference the new furnishings of St. Andrew's Playground
- The existing park lighting will be enhanced and feature lighting will be added
- The entire cemetery is raised up and surrounded by a 450mm tall stone wall, allowing for seating and contemplation around the edge of the burial grounds
- The cemetery is mounded as one large mound, and planted with a flowering meadow, including indigenous medicinal plants. The large mound references an indigenous burial mound, and serves as a landmark which will change colour throughout the seasons
- The areas around the cemetery will be resurfaced in a bound stone aggregate providing active program spaces for picnicking, seating, and gathering

- New trees in the areas surrounding the cemetery to renew the declining tree canopy to provide seasonal interest and habitat



Site plan for Design Option 2B.

This design option was presented to the Community Advisory Committee and withdrawn from further consideration due to concerns that it removed all access to and circulation through the cemetery. As a result, it was excluded as a design option from the community workshops or the online survey.

Community Advisory Committee Meeting

The project team convened a virtual meeting of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) on May 18, 2023, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The purpose of this meeting was to gather input from CAC members on three draft park design options (1, 2, and 2B) prior to soliciting feedback on the design options from the broader community.

City staff presented the project timeline, engagement timeline, and key insights based on previous engagement. Design consultants presented project background, site observations, a vision statement, design principles, and draft park design options, including conceptual plans, diagrams, sections and precedents. Discussion followed to collect feedback and comments.

Who Participated

Of the 12 local residents who are Community Advisory Committee members, eight members attended the meeting and four were absent.

The following City staff were in attendance:

- Lara Herald, Senior Project Coordinator
- Daniel Fusca, Public Consultation Manager
- José Ramón Martí, Public Consultation Coordinator

Councillor Ausma Malik, her staff member, and design consultants from The Planning Partnership and Two Row Architects were also in attendance.

Key Feedback

Balance of uses:

- Balance needs of people and dogs
- Balance site's historic features (i.e. cemetery) with contemporary use as public park
- Consider activities and uses of park space and balance these with needs of community

Circulation:

- Consider how people move through site; design must reflect desire paths
- Wider pathways around perimeter

Maintenance:

- Provide waste bins in convenient locations
- Protect lawn/meadow areas; consider low fence or barrier
- Consider winter use and pathway surfaces

Dogs:

- Consider dogs in final design
- Consider adding small off-leash area or add signage to indicate dogs must be kept on-leash

Site program:

- Add more seating areas and types
- Animate peripheral areas (i.e. edges) of park
- Add hard surfaces to make this more of a square than a park
- Consider park as part of larger park network when considering park uses and program

Other comments:

- CAC members suggested that the design options be revised to address key concerns in advance of the community workshops
 - The project team advised that they would present additional information and details at the community workshops to ensure key concerns were addressed and that design revisions would be made after feedback was received from all stakeholders during this phase of engagement

Community Workshops

Following the Community Advisory Committee meeting, the project team hosted two in-person workshops at the Fort York Visitor Centre on June 12, 2023. The first session was held from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and second session from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Both sessions presented the same information and opportunities to provide feedback. The workshops were complemented by an online survey. Similar to the online survey, the purpose of the workshops was to collect community feedback on the two draft design options for the park improvements. More details about the survey feedback can be found further below in this report.

City staff presented the project timeline, engagement timeline, and key insights based on previous engagement. Design consultants presented project background, site observations, a design vision, design principles and draft design options, including conceptual plans, diagrams, sections, renderings and precedents. Small group discussions followed to collect feedback and comments.

Who Participated

In total, 11 community members participated in the afternoon session and 19 participated in the evening session.

The following City staff were in attendance:

- Lara Herald, Senior Project Coordinator
- Daniel Fusca, Public Consultation Manager
- José Ramón Martí, Public Consultation Coordinator

Design consultants from The Planning Partnership and Two Row Architects were also in attendance. Councillor Ausma Malik and her staff member attended the evening session.

Key Feedback

Afternoon Session

Use of space:

- Like the prominent “square” in Design Option 2 (x2)
 - But it might attract larger groups like the midnight runners

- Lawn area cannot be used because of dogs
- Split areas for dogs and areas for people
- Desire for more active program spaces but also more green at the same time
- Propose adding a food kiosk at northeast corner
 - Musicians already gather at that corner so it makes sense
- More support for including a wall than including no wall (x2)
 - High walls could discourage dog use
- Like the Parisian treatment (x2)
- Add diverse seating options (x2)
- Add more lighting (x2)
- Like the design and appreciate the respect shown for the cemetery
- Good mix of gathering and reflecting
- Add fences around the cemetery
- Preventing use of lawn area might be considered defensive architecture

Circulation:

- Maintain strong desire lines through park; general overall preference for existing wishbone paths
- Desire lines will continue even if connections are removed
- Add low fence to edge of path within the cemetery
- Add gate at the entrances to the cemetery

Memorial:

- Memorial feels like it is disconnected in its current location
- Disagree with moving the monument
- Support to move the monument into the plaza
 - Ties into Wellington Street better
 - Makes it more accessible
 - Moving it will respect the cemetery more and more people can appreciate it

Dogs:

- Dogs should be accommodated in the park
- There will be more dogs coming to the neighbourhood
- Adding an off-leash area (OLA) will encourage more dog use in the park beyond the OLA
- If OLA is added, south side is preferred
- If the OLA is less than 250 m² it won't be used at all
 - Proposals are too small (x2)
- Do not add an OLA
- Could the addition of an OLA be an interim solution until a larger space is made available (parking lot adjacent?)
- Some people drop their small dogs into the memorial fenced area

Mounds:

- The organic mounds don't give proper reverence to the buried. Not obvious

- enough
- Singular mounds are a nice reference to Fort York mounds as well (x2)

Planting:

- Native species only
- Could be a tallgrass prairie (look at Tall Grass Ontario group for partnership)
- If grass, people may assume it is just unmaintained and will trample it
- Like the flowers (x2)
- Add hedge between playground and parking lot (x2)
- Add raised flower beds

Additional park infrastructure:

- Park requires more maintenance
- Add public art
- Add more signage about off-leash fines
- Add dog waste bins and poop bags
- Add natural elements to play area
- Like historical interpretation elements at four corners

Other comments:

- Park name should be changed
- Make people aware it's a sacred space
- Option 1 preferred for circulation. Option 2 preferred for people activity



Participants discussing design options at afternoon workshop.

Evening Session

Use of space:

- Preference shown for including a wall and plaza (x3)
 - Wall pays better tribute to cemetery
- Need seating for different group sizes as well and individuals to be by themselves (x2)
- Include fewer picnic tables
- Like the furniture at St. Andrew's playground
- Like the Parisian treatment
- Add community garden
- Add water fountain or splash pad

Circulation:

- Maintain the wishbone paths
- Maintain strong north-east connection
- North-south connection is important
- Encourage people to slow down
- Northeast corner entrance might cause potential conflict with bike lanes

Memorial:

- Moving memorial closer to tombstones better associates the colonial connection between the two

Dogs:

- There is a need for an OLA
- 95% of the park is being used for off-leash dogs
- Increased development will see an increase in the number of pets
- Cemetery is currently just mud from playing fetch with dogs
- Dogs urinating in the cemetery and on graves is disrespectful
- Excluding dogs will negatively impact community
- Design Option 2 will better combat off-leash dog use
- OLA needs to be larger than shown (x2)
- Put OLA where children's play area is and move play area into park (x2)

Planting:

- Preference for flowering meadow over grass meadow
- Counterpoint that grass provides better tribute to cemetery
- Maintenance concerns about planting and all park improvements given current state (including in winter)
- Add fragrant plantings (e.g. roses, lilac, mint) and pollinator plantings (bee colony at hotel next door)
- Add more tree planting

Additional park infrastructure:

- Need to ensure adequate bike parking around park edges and at corners

- More appropriate location for BikeShare
- More waste bins
- Improve lighting
- Bollards on Wellington Street



Participants discussing design options at evening workshop.

Online Survey

As a key activity in Phase 2 of the engagement process, the project team conducted an online survey from June 12 to July 3, 2023.

The goal of the survey was to collect community feedback on the draft design options for the park improvements which will guide the development of a preferred design in Phase 3.

The survey was taken by 523 people of various ages and backgrounds, with 283 respondents reaching the end of the survey.

This section presents a summary of the survey results.

Who Participated

- The majority of respondents were 19 to 29 years old (20%), 30 to 39 years old (40%), or 40 to 55 years old (26%)

- An equal percentage of respondents identified as a woman (48%) or a man (48%)
- 8% of respondents identified as a person living with a disability
- 17% of respondents had access to private outdoor space like a yard, 23% to semi-private/shared outdoor space, and 57% to only public spaces like parks

For a full summary of respondent demographics, including a graphic representation of the data, see Appendix A.

Key Feedback

- Overall, a majority of survey respondents preferred Design Option 1 (59%) to Design Option 2 (23%)
- A large majority of respondents were either very satisfied (27%) or somewhat satisfied (43%) with the design options presented
- When asked to indicate their level of agreement with the following statements concerning Design Option 1, a large majority of respondents agreed or strongly agreed:
 - They would visit this park to relax and enjoy nature (84%)
 - There are enough new trees and plantings included in the design (80%)
 - The pathways would allow me to move easily to the places I want to travel to (79%)
 - There is a balance between paved surfaces and green space (76%)
 - The lighting options would make me feel safe (74%)
 - They like the flowering meadow within the cemetery boundary which provides a green, contemplative space within the park (73%)
 - The amount of open space/lawn meets their own or their household's needs (63%)
 - There are enough seating options and places to sit (63%)
- A minority of respondents agreed or strongly agreed there are enough opportunities to organize small cultural or community events (39%) and an equal percentage (39%) were neutral
- When asked to rank the features they liked most and least in Design Option 1, respondents ranked the following features highest:
 - Shade trees (19%)
 - Flowering meadow (16%)
 - Pathways/circulation (11%)
 - Benches along pathways and cemetery edge (11%)
 - The amount and distribution of green space (10%)
- When asked how they felt about the proposed layout of Design Option 1, a large majority of respondents (70%) were satisfied or very satisfied:

- 24% were very satisfied
 - 46% were satisfied
 - 13% were neutral
 - 12% were dissatisfied
 - 5% were very dissatisfied
- When asked to indicate their level of agreement with the following statements concerning Design Option 2, a majority of participants agreed or strongly agreed:
 - The lighting options would make me feel safe (68%)
 - I would visit this park to relax and enjoy nature (62%)
 - There are enough new trees and plantings included in the design (56%)
 - I like the grass meadow within the cemetery boundary which provides a green, contemplative space within the park (53%)
 - There are enough seating options and places to sit (53%)
 - A minority of respondents agreed or strongly agreed:
 - The amount of open space/lawn meets my/my household's needs (49%)
 - There is a balance between paved surfaces and green space (47%)
 - There are enough opportunities to organize small cultural or community events (45%)
 - The pathways would allow me to move easily to the places I want to travel to (38%)
 - When asked to rank the features they liked most and least in Design Option 2, respondents ranked the following features highest:
 - Shade trees (14%)
 - Grass meadow (10%)
 - Benches along the cemetery edge (9%)
 - Retaining seat/wall along cemetery edge (8%)
 - Picnic tables and seating in "Parisian Treatment" area (8%)
 - Lighting (8%)
 - When asked how they felt about the proposed layout of Design Option 2, a similar percentage of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied (40%) and dissatisfied or very dissatisfied (39%):
 - 13% were very satisfied
 - 27% were satisfied
 - 21% were neutral
 - 27% were dissatisfied
 - 12% were very dissatisfied
 - When asked how important certain features are to you and your household when thinking about the new park design, a large majority of respondents indicated the following features were important or very important:
 - Trees for shade (93%)
 - Open grass areas/lawn mounds (85%)

- Formal seating areas, such as benches (73%)
- Horticultural plantings (69%)
- Contemplative spaces, such as flowering meadow, grass meadow (66%)
- When asked to rank the features of the existing park that you would like to have improved, respondents ranked the following features highest:
 - Trees and plantings (16%)
 - Seating (14%)
 - Open space/lawn (13%)
 - Lighting (10%)
 - Pathways (9%)
 - Picnic tables (9%)
- When dog owners were asked if they would use a small off-leash area were it included in the new park design, a majority of respondents (55%) said they would be likely or very likely to:
 - Very likely (40%)
 - Likely (15%)
 - Not very likely (33%)
 - Not sure (12%)

For a full summary of the survey results, including a graphic representation of these numbers, see Appendix B.

- When asked if they had any additional comments about the design options, including whether there was something missing that they would like to see in the preferred design, 124 respondents provided text responses. The most frequent comments related to:
 - Concerns about dogs, including off-leash dog walking, and their impacts on the park and its users (30)
 - The need for more open and/or useable space (24)
 - The need for more lawn and/or green space (17)
 - Support for an off-leash area (17)
 - Opposition to an off-leash area (11)

For all text responses, see Appendix C.

Key Outcomes

Key design outcomes that resulted from this phase of engagement are as follows:

- Proceed with a design that combines the most popular elements of each design option, including:
 - Flowering meadow planting over the cemetery (from Option 1)
 - Wishbone path configuration (from Option 1)

- Relocated memorial in a plaza at the northeast corner of the site (from Option 2)*
- Alternative (chipped stone) surfacing with seating under trees (from Option 2)
- Low wall around cemetery (from Option 2)
- Minimal lawn space** (from Option 2)
- Dispersed seating throughout (from Options 1 & 2)
- Themed entrances with heritage interpretation at park entrances (from Options 1 & 2)
- Additional tree planting around the perimeter of the park (from Options 1 & 2)
- In addition, the following additional elements are being explored in the preferred plan:
 - Relocated Children's Playground
 - New Dog Off-Leash Area in location of existing playground

* Budget permitting.








** While the project team understands that existing lawn space is valued by the community, staff and the design team have determined that lawns in this location pose significant challenges to both maintenance and hygiene. Therefore, grassed areas will be minimized in the preferred plan and alternative seating options will be provided.

Next Steps

The City's design consultant will develop a preferred design option for the park based on all of the inputs gathered through public engagement to date, including feedback provided through the Community Advisory Committee meeting, the community workshops, and the online survey. In the next phase of public engagement, the preferred design option will be brought forward to the community to be refined into a final design.

Appendix A: Survey Respondent 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	3		1%
19 to 29 years old	57		20%
30 to 39 years old	114		40%
40 to 55 years old	74		26%
56 to 64 years old	17		6%
65 to 74 years old	15		5%
75 years old or above	0		
Prefer not to answer	3		1%

N 283

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










- 0 to 4 years old = 29
- 5 to 12 years old = 26
- 13 to 18 years old = 9
- 19 to 29 years old = 36
- 30 to 39 years old = 69
- 40 to 55 years old = 41
- 56 to 64 years old = 6
- 65 to 74 years old = 18
- 75 years old or above = 5

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	136		48%
Woman	135		48%
Prefer not to answer	16		6%
Gender non-binary (including gender fluid, genderqueer, androgynous)	4		1%
Trans woman	2		1%
Trans man	1		0%
Two-Spirit	1		0%
Not listed, please describe	1		0%












N 283

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	184		65%
Gay	36		13%
Prefer not to answer	35		12%
Bisexual	17		6%
Lesbian	8		3%
Queer	8		3%
Don't know	3		1%
Two-Spirit	1		0%
Not listed, please describe	1		0%









N 283

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)	174		61%
Prefer not to answer	34		12%
East Asian (e.g. Chinese, Japanese, Korean)	24		8%
More than one race category or mixed race	19		7%
South Asian or Indo-Caribbean (e.g. Indian, Indo-Guyanese, Indo-Trinidadian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan)	16		6%
Latin American (e.g. Brazilian, Colombian, Cuban, Mexican, Peruvian)	12		4%
Black (e.g. African, African-Canadian, Afro-Caribbean)	11		4%
Arab, Middle Eastern or West Asian (e.g. Afghan, Armenian, Iranian, Lebanese, Persian, Turkish)	10		4%
Southeast Asian (e.g. Filipino, Malaysian, Singaporean, Thai, Vietnamese)	7		2%
First Nations (status, non-status, treaty or non-treaty), Inuit or Métis	5		2%
Other, please describe	5		2%

N 283

What language do you prefer speaking?





	Count	% of responses	%
English	263		93%
French	9		3%
Prefer not to answer	3		1%
Russian	3		1%
Spanish	2		1%
Chinese - Cantonese	1		0%
Farsi	1		0%
Indigenous - Oji-Cree	1		0%

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	4		1%
No	257		91%
Prefer not to answer	22		8%





N 283

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	22		8%
No	236		83%
Don't know	4		1%
Prefer not to answer	21		7%






N 283

Excluding yourself, does anyone in your household identify as a person with a disability?

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes	17		6%
No	239		84%
Don't know	2		1%
Prefer not to answer	25		9%





N 283

What best describes your current housing situation?

	Count	% of responses	%
Home owner	163		58%
Renting	105		37%
Permanently living with parent(s) or other family member(s)	5		2%
Temporarily staying with others (no fixed address)	0		
Unhoused (staying outside, in a shelter, in a 24-hour respite)	0		
Prefer not to answer	9		3%
Not listed, please describe	1		0%

N 283









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	47		17%
I have access to semi-private/shared outdoor space	66		23%
I only have access to public spaces like parks (I do not have access to private or semi-private outdoor space)	161		57%
Prefer not to answer	9		3%

N 283







Appendix B: Quantitative Survey Responses

How often do you visit Victoria Memorial Square Park?

	Count	% of responses	%
Daily	237		45%
A few times a week	129		25%
Once a week	52		10%
A few times a month	47		9%
Once a month	14		3%
Several times a year	30		6%
Once a year	10		2%
I have never been to Victoria Memorial Square	4		1%







N 523

When visiting Victoria Memorial Square Park, who do you go with most often? Select all that apply.

	Count	% of responses	%
Spouse or partner	282		54%
Alone	275		53%
Pets	162		31%
Friends	155		30%
Children	74		14%
Other:	9		2%





N 523

When visiting Victoria Memorial Square Park, what mode of travel do you use most often? Select all that apply.

	Count	% of responses	%
Walk	507		97%
Bicycle	79		15%
Public transportation	16		3%
Car	12		2%
Mobility device	3		1%
Other:	1		0%

N 523

What best describes your relationship to Victoria Memorial Park?

	Count	% of responses	%
I am a resident living nearby (within a 5-minute walk or roll)	433		83%
I am not a resident, but I work in the area (within a 5-minute walk or roll)	23		4%
I am a member of the wider community	57		11%
Other:	10		2%

N 523










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

	Average	Count	% of responses			
I would visit this park to relax and enjoy nature	22%	283	39%	45%	9%	3%
There are enough new trees and plantings included in the design	23%	283	36%	44%	11%	8%
The pathways would allow me to move easily to the places I want to travel to	26%	283	29%	50%	13%	3%
There is a balance between paved surfaces and green space	28%	283	23%	53%	16%	3%
The lighting options would make me feel safe	28%	283	26%	48%	16%	7%
I like the flowering meadow within the cemetery boundary which provides a green, contemplative space within the park	28%	283	36%	37%	10%	11%
The amount of open space/lawn meets my/my household's needs	36%	283	21%	42%	17%	12%
There are enough seating options and places to sit	36%	283	19%	44%	14%	19%
There are enough opportunities to organize small cultural or community events	44%	283	12%	27%	39%	17%

Strongly Agree
 Agree
 Neutral
 Disagree
 Strongly Disagree






N 283

Please rank the following features in Design Option 1 from most to least liked, with 1 representing your favourite feature and 8 representing your least favourite.

	% of responses	%
Shade trees		19%
Flowering meadow		16%
Pathways/circulation		11%
Benches along pathways and cemetery edge		11%
Amount and distribution of green space		10%
Picnic tables in lawn area		9%
Heritage features (i.e. interpretation signage at entrances)		8%
Lighting		8%
Paved entrances		7%

N 283

How do you feel about the proposed layout shown in Design Option 1?

	Count	% of responses	%
Very satisfied	68		24%
Satisfied	129		46%
Neutral	38		13%
Dissatisfied	35		12%
Very dissatisfied	13		5%

N 283














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

	Average	Count	% of responses			
The lighting options would make me feel safe	29%	283	27%	41%	21%	8%
I would visit this park to relax and enjoy nature	34%	283	20%	42%	22%	10%
There are enough new trees and plantings included in the design	38%	283	15%	41%	24%	17%
I like the grass meadow within the cemetery boundary which provides a green, contemplative space within the park	40%	283	18%	35%	25%	14%
There are enough seating options and places to sit	40%	283	16%	37%	21%	20%
There are enough opportunities to organize small cultural or community events	41%	283	14%	31%	40%	10%
The amount of open space/lawn meets my/my household's needs	44%	283	13%	36%	24%	17%
There is a balance between paved surfaces and green space	45%	283	12%	35%	23%	22%
The pathways would allow me to move easily to the places I want to travel to	50%	283	13%	25%	27%	17%

Strongly Agree
 Agree
 Neutral
 Disagree
 Strongly Disagree






N 283

Please rank the following features in Design Option 2 from most to least liked, with 1 representing your favourite feature and 13 representing your least favourite.

	% of responses	%
Shade trees		14%
Grass meadow		10%
Benches along cemetery edge		9%
Retaining/seat wall along cemetery edge		8%
Picnic tables and seating in "Parisian Treatment" area (i.e. granite screening paving)		8%
Lighting		8%
Wide promenade around cemetery edge		7%
Enlarged plaza at northeast corner		7%
Amount and distribution of green space		6%
Pathways/circulation		6%
Relocated War of 1812 memorial		6%
Heritage features (i.e. interpretation signage at entrances)		6%
Paved entrances		5%






N 283

How do you feel about the proposed layout shown in Design Option 2?

	Count	% of responses	%
Very satisfied	37		13%
Satisfied	76		27%
Neutral	59		21%
Dissatisfied	76		27%
Very dissatisfied	35		12%

N 283

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

	Count	% of responses	%
Option 1	167		59%
Option 2	64		23%
I like both options equally	19		7%
I don't like either option	32		11%
I don't know or I prefer not to answer	1		0%

N 283






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	13%	283	<div> <div>68%</div> <div>25%</div> <div>5%</div> </div>
Open grass areas/lawn mounds	21%	283	<div> <div>57%</div> <div>28%</div> <div>12%</div> </div>
Formal seating areas (e.g. benches)	31%	283	<div> <div>39%</div> <div>34%</div> <div>22%</div> <div>5%</div> </div>
Horticultural plantings	35%	283	<div> <div>37%</div> <div>32%</div> <div>23%</div> <div>9%</div> </div>
Contemplative spaces (i.e. flowering meadow, grass meadow)	35%	283	<div> <div>44%</div> <div>22%</div> <div>18%</div> <div>15%</div> </div>
Drinking fountain	48%	283	<div> <div>26%</div> <div>24%</div> <div>29%</div> <div>20%</div> </div>
Children's play area	51%	283	<div> <div>31%</div> <div>17%</div> <div>18%</div> <div>33%</div> </div>
Bicycle parking	59%	283	<div> <div>17%</div> <div>22%</div> <div>27%</div> <div>34%</div> </div>
Space for cultural/community events (i.e. small performances, gatherings, etc.)	69%	283	<div> <div>11%</div> <div>14%</div> <div>33%</div> <div>42%</div> </div>

Very important
Important
Somewhat important
Not important












N 283

Overall, how satisfied are you with the design options for Victoria Memorial Square?

	Count	% of responses	%
Very satisfied	75		27%
Somewhat satisfied	121		43%
Neutral	30		11%
Somewhat unsatisfied	31		11%
Very unsatisfied	26		9%





N 283

Rank the features of the existing Victoria Memorial Square that you would like to have improved, with 1 representing the feature you would like to see improved the most. Rank only the features that you would like improved in the park and leave the others blank.

	% of responses	%
Trees and plantings		16%
Seating		14%
Open space/lawn		13%
Lighting		10%
Pathways		9%
Picnic tables		9%
Heritage features (i.e. memorials)		7%
Playground		7%
Drinking fountain		6%
Historical signage		5%
Other, please specify		4%

N 283

If you have a dog and a small off-leash area were included in the new park design, how likely would you be to use it? If you do not have a dog, please skip this question.

	Count	% of responses	%
Very likely	69		40%
Likely	26		15%
Not very likely	57		33%
Not sure	20		12%

N 172

Appendix C: Qualitative Survey Responses

Rank the features of the existing Victoria Memorial Square that you would like to have improved, with 1 representing the feature you would like to see improved the most. Rank only the features that you would like improved in the park and leave the others blank. - Other, please specify:

- lots of open green space
- Outdoor gym
- There is no recognition of the volume of dogs visiting this park. There should be designated space/spaces for dogs.
- People in the neighbourhood lead an active lifestyle and exercise and workout in the park all the time. The current designs do not address this.
- N/A
- The cemetery needs to be protected from the dogs but allow for people to sit on the grass and have picnic blankets and add more Muskoka chairs
- Kiosk for community postings.
- Stuff
- No inclusive design options for dog owners! Not even an option presented in this public forum
- Use natural obstacles (trees plantings, corner pathways, picnic tables) for dogs off leash and educate dog owners not to leave dogs poop on memorial grounds please! No or less open space lawn bc the dog owners will use it as dog off leash running field
- Line trimming grass next to chipstone path is a hazard, and chips in the grass remain - bad idea.
- Please consider that the meadows will likely end up like Cityplace - Rick infested weed hills rather than flowering meadows
- Offleash dog park area with artificial turf.
- if you do a meadow be able to lay on it and occupy the limit park space
- Areas to keep dogs out — thank you!
- No dogs allowed
- Remove the grave markers, existing historical interpretation signage and monument. None are relevant.
- Dedicated space for dog exercise (narrow fetch run)
- Off lead dog area
- respect for cemetery - restrict use over top
- Dog park so owners don't let dogs off leash. More garbage receptacles for trash & dog poop
- Bollards to restrict bikes/scooters/e-bikes travelling at high speeds in park
- The walkway in option 2 would be better with the wishbone design. My concern is the diagonal pathway/traffic from Niagara to Portland.
- Off leash dog area
- Clear boundaries for off leash dogs
- We need an off leash area for dogs
- Garbage can

- Preventing dogs peeing/pooing everywhere
- N
- Less space for tents
- More garbage cans
- No playground, replace with dog offleash, this is more of a young professional neighborhood, cityplace is more for families
- Let's be honest, most people come to this park with their dogs. While I understand that it's important to close off areas for people for sanitary/peace reasons you can't just not cater for 90% of the people who go there daily
- General maintenance, addition of trees/flowers that smell nice
- Quality green space that is accessible to both people (for summer picnics and athletic activities) and pets - green space has no purpose if it's just for looking!
- Dog free, need room safe and clean space for families
- Natural barriers so we don't have to see the streets and car traffic
- More flowering/colourful/horticultural plantings less space for dogs to ruin
- Enclosed dog area
- More trees, fewer off leash dogs ruining the space — probably need a dog run or they'll ruin everything ... move playground to centre, dogs off to side
- nothing, just keep the park the way it is, nobody needs this renovations taking it out of use for years and wasting money
- More monuments
- Children's play area
- Areas that discourage off-leash dogs
- Paved walkway for mobility issues
- No dogs, to enjoy a quiet and clean space
- Safe play and walk with kids
- Off leash dogs NEED to be enforced by bylaw enforcement otherwise I can't see any plantings / grasses surviving
- Dog park
- The park is perfect as it is.
- N/a - the park doesn't need improvements
- Miniputt 🏏
- Dog area - a lot of pets frequent this park
- No dogs, need space to enjoy with my son.
- Na
- Flowers
- Charging stations and wifi
- Links to neighborhood
- Make it dog free. There is dog poo all over that park that it makes it unusable to walk through
- No dogs pooping and peeing, no dogs off leash and barking. Families need room.
- Stop wasting money and leave a great space alone, it's fine as it is!
- The park is currently used primarily by people with dogs. There is no design for this and needs to be. The lawn is a disaster and is torn up because of the dogs so any design should accommodate this and operate year round (not just in spring/summer).
- A dog off leash space
- No off leash area
- Dog areas where pets and do their business and run off leash

Do you have any additional comments about the design options (i.e. is there something missing from the design options that you would like to see in the final preferred option)?

- I think the second option should have some small areas for plant diversity (e.g., planter boxes). They could provide an area for artistic murals. Both options also need careful treatment of the fencing around the playground by the parking lot so you're not forced to look at the parking lot.
- More new trees and planting, I like the plaza at the NE corner, Improve the playground, keep the wishbone path so you can walk NE to SW, flowering meadow is OK...definitely better than a grass meadow, it just feels like the park is missing the 'wow' factor...the modest improvements are appreciated but both design options are dull and uninspiring. Maybe increase the budget?
- Splash pad
- Outdoor gym
- I cross the park twice a day from the northeast corner to the southwest corner, as does most of the foot traffic I see walking through the park. Please don't take out the diagonal path that stops this from being a possible route!
- Shocking lack of disregard for one of the main uses of the park - people walking their dogs.
- Lighting along the path through the centre of the park is important
- Workout equipment, training area
- In both options, the amount of accessible (ie useable) greenspace is drastically reduced. I love the idea of more grasses and flowers, but the park is FULL of people sitting on the grass in large groups during the warmer months. Making the cemetery area 'off limits' makes 2/3 of the park for show only. With such a large community surrounding the park, this is an odd choice. Also, I understand that a main concern is the amount of off-leash dogs, but again reducing the amount of usable park space and creating a barely foot tall barrier between the usable space and the cemetery will absolutely not keep off leash dogs out. I'm also concerned about the chip stone pathways (option one) which would be difficult for people with strollers and wheelchairs/other accessibility tools to navigate. In option two, two of the heavily used entrances to the park are also eliminated. I'm not seeing how either design helps with the off-leash dog issue, or address the high use of the park by current and future residents.
- In option 2 there is no way to cross the park from south-east to north-west. Option 2 has too many 90° angles. I HATE almost all of option 2
- My wife and I live at 38 in Niagara Street. We refer to the park as puppy P pad. Because it is essentially a giant dog toilet. The grass is disgusting.
- I like the Adirondack style chairs that are there now
- The cemetery needs to be protected from dogs defecating and urinating inside the cemetery as well as digging up the lawn and potentially getting into a grave. Additionally the lawn should be new grass in the lawn and people should be able to lay in the grass or picnic blankets. What if another pandemic or lockdown happens? We cannot loose that space for flowers or meadow. Freshly manicured and cut grass would be preferable. There should be no picnic tables because those get dirty! More seating such as benches and Muskoka chairs should be added. Trees and flowers can be added to the areas outside the cemetery but not in it as it should still be accessible for people to use the space respectfully. The grave stones face west, we have heavy winds that come in from

that direction. This causes premature erosion of the remaining grave stones. They should be protected from the elements with a glass or plastic cover to protect from wind, snow and rain. Please do not allow dogs to further disrespect this nationally historic site.

- This park needs an off leash dog space. Every dog is off leash already. Total nightmare.
- Keep the paths. Keep the war memorial in situ. South portion keep open with picnic tables. Put a kiosk for community postings on the north east corner entrance and allow for ice cream stands etc.
- Keep the existing pathways. I walk everywhere and I like walking through the park and not on the grass
- Putting in an off-leash park is a bad idea. I know many dog owners in the area, myself included, would not use it and it just takes space away that could be used for better purposes.
- This park needs consideration for the dog community. There is tremendous community benefit with the dogs from both an interpersonal and mental health perspective.
- No dog off leash area please.
- While grass is hard to maintain, as well as trees being damaged by animal urine, perhaps seating all around the base of the trees and a grass alternative that thrives in the shade should be considered (moss, lichen, dandelions etc.) The area is paved enough! And there are several ways to walk around the tiny footprint of the park space. So if pathways over the cemetery have to be sacrificed to honour those laid to rest here, people will make other arrangements/get used to walking on sidewalks instead of through the wishbone pathways. Discourage off leash dogs at all costs.
- No dogs in park. We need a park for people only.
- Make sure there are garbage cans. They were all removed
- Open green space for dogs is great. Regular maintenance is necessary above any design changes.
- If the fences are as low as shown in the renderings, no one will respect the boundaries and people and dogs will access the area. I like the idea of having some areas without access (plantings/grass) but the fence needs to be as high as what is currently around the memorial.
- It would be nice to have a self-guided walk with signs that are geared to local history - offering the public an opportunity for contemplation amidst the hustle and bustle of daily life! (Connecting the site more clearly with Fort York perhaps? :)
- I need to park a truck and trailer, Option 2 ok. Tree canopy so thick it kills grass, leaves bare soil. More trees? sharp edges of geometric mound will get scalped by mowers. Not enough gardening staff to pull weeds that will grow in the flowery meadow. Like the two entrance gardens. Option 2 path to SW is silly. People cut through the park. Check out desire lines, then build a brick path.
- Washrooms
- Over designed and highly specialized spaces. Not required simply improve the canopy and add some benches. All the designs reduce the usable space for an area with limited greenspace..
- Second one is best except the pathway. The diagonal pathway from north east to southwest is a must.
- No dogs park please
- Please consider the meadows and grassy areas. I would hate for the park to end up like Cityplace's hills where the only thing growing are weeds and invasive plants
- Most of the feedback from the first round of consultations focused on creating distinct dog and human spaces. I'm not really sure what these designs do to address this (grass is great, unless it's covered in poop) - people also love relaxing in the muskoka chairs,

so it would be great to see relaxing and reading spaces incorporated. I'm not sure these designs are very responsive to how people are actually using the park (which imo is to walk through as a commute, dog walking, and chilling in the sun). Please move the monument though, it's in such a bad location and takes up half the useable space of the park.

- No off leash park please. Need a place for human relation, not pets
- I think the meadow areas will soon be destroyed by dogs and people walking on them. I don't like the removal of the southwest path as it is a major contributor to foot traffic from the southwest and will take away enjoyment for many. I think this should wait until the City has purchased the parking lot on the west side of the playground and do one complete plan. A motion has passed council to do so. Why is this process underway before that aspect is known? A waste of time and money IMO.
- The dog park is crucial in the design. You would have people using the grassy meadow for their dog's business fence or no fence. Flowers in design 1 would also be destroyed and i have no faith the city would upkeep the flowers. You are trying to take the dogs out of the park, when many people can't walk to St. Andrews dog park, or over to Spadina dog park. Canoe landing dog park is overused and crowded.
- We need more offleash dog parks in the area. The only good option for small dogs is Adelaide and Portland which gets overpopulated during peak times
- I would like both design if you were able to walk on the meadow/garden space then I would love the design. Both designs make the 70% of the limited park space that you are not allow to walk on. that is silly. it is such a small park already. You do not need a dog park here. There are already three in the area. Do a meadow you can walk on.
- No unleashes and barking dogs.
- Islamic style water feature fountain. Similar to what are found in Andalusia Spain
- i think i see small fencing around green areas. this is an absolute must. thank you for including. traveling in europe right now and see them everywhere. the grass is green. an absolute must. please no picnic tables. absolutely no picnic tables.
- There are so few parks to sit in the area I do not want to navigate dog [REDACTED] as I constantly do when I'm in the park. Look at Paris parks please!!!
- Victoria memorial square is unique for its open, bright, sunny, green space in the middle of the city. There are countless other parks filled with trees, including Clarence Square one block away. Do not ruin this park by adding pavement and removing its amazing lawn. If it were up to me, I would preserve its best features, it's beautiful open green space, and just add additional seating and signage around it. Trees bring shade, but also darkness and make it harder to maintain.
- The proposed designs reduce the amount of useful public space, in a very dense neighbourhood. The designs and the design principles do not reflect the needs of the most frequent users of the park: dogs and their owners and people who relax on the park benches and on the grass. The City should have spent more effort understanding the needs of the community. This park is already well used. The only changes needed are to add lighting, plant new trees, cut the lawn more often and remove the irrelevant and tone deaf monument and historical interpretation signage.
- The dog issue is massive for this park and I'm concerned you do this work and the dogs trash it. The playground needs to be incorporated. It is a hub for this area and needs updating.
- Both options make the space above the cemetery unusable for park goers to sit on the grass. Given the dense population, a lawn that can be used/sat on/walked on with dogs on leash is the optimal solution. I also live on the north border of the park and want to ensure the lighting isn't too bright or directed into the condo units. I am a responsible

dog owner who visits the park 4 times a day throughout the entire year. Acknowledging that the heaviest most consistent users of the park are dog owners (and that we are not all owners who leave dog poop on the ground or let dogs off leash), is an important reality to consider in these designs. Please consider having wood chip dog run lanes so I have somewhere safe to exercise my dog (I don't want him off leash, but he also just wants to run and fetch a ball as a solo activity, not in the company of other dogs in a larger off leash social park). I would be very disappointed with the current design options as it seems to be taking away useable space from the community.

- Both options are lacking in open space lawn areas which is one of the main advantages of the space currently.
- There MUST be an area to bring dogs in this area, without it you are alienating 80% of the local population in this area. Covering the space with wild flowers and grass ruins it for all- no one can sit and have picnics or play other games. There are never enough seats when it is busy. So many flowers and grasses would be difficult for allergy sufferers like myself and would also need a lot of maintenance in winter.
- While the north-east plaza is critical, the south west corner has become a very busy area with the 1000+ units in the new Minto residential towers across the street. Please consider traffic at south west corner and avoid green space for dog relief (first patch of grass for many). That corner smells like urine and i feel bad for residents of 20 niagara.
- There should be water filling stations not just a water fountain. The playground needs shade around benches.
- Please improve lighting with modern LED lighting to improve safety. Also please do not have diagonal path shortcut in park - use pathways for leisure/contemplation. Fast bikes and scooters are a risk to pedestrian safety. Widen sidewalks on perimeter of park to facilitate larger volumes and modes of travel.
- Ban Dogs. Human need their own space with families and friends.
- One of the best parts of the existing Victoria Memorial Square is that there is a lot of grass area where we can picnic with blankets and sit on the grass. I see much limited options to do that in both of these designs. Option one with the flowering Meadow is very beautiful but please add more area where people can put down blankets to sit on the grass. Thank you!!
- City has done poor job of regenerating grass at northwest & southwest entrances- Clty does not cordon areas of new sod long enough so new sod jsut gets trampled and killed. This has happened 2X in the past 4 yers. This is a complete waste of money. There is no grass in the park, most lawn areas are just weeds or dirt.
- Removing the diagonal pathways will create muddy desire paths to cross the park.
- Dog free.
- Better garbage and recycling maintenance
- I have a young child so would love to see the playground updated, it is very well used by communit. The rest of the park is used by many dog walkers. While I most prefer the meadow mound option I think it will be quickly destroyed by dogs and their owners. So have a large separated off leach area could improve the likelihood that the meadows do not get destroyed
- While I do have a dog and enjoy dog parks, this park is quite small and I would hate to see green space taken up by a dog park. There are three other parks within a 10 minute walk that include dog parks. This little green haven is so important to our community and it's already so busy on the weekends. I'd love to see the design continue to prioritize flexibility and maximizing use for everyone. Lovely designs!
- Please do something about the amount of off leash dogs in the park. It is very difficult to enjoy as there are always tens of off leash dogs there.

- Ensure animals must be leashed while using park
- Please plant some cherry blossom trees
- We need an off leash dog area
- I'd avoid having a lot of tables, it can provoke a lot litter and parties.
- Improved drainage around pathways and sidewalks. Wider sidewalk / pathway through the middle of the park to allow people to stop and chat, but also walk through.
- Any improvements to prevent people from treating the entire park like a dog park
- Too much green space in both option, I would prefer more European park style like Berczy Park in Toronto with trees for shade and mostly paved space
- Open short grass area
- Need to relaxe, no dogs running around and barking
- Don't like the long grass, more areas with flowers and less meadows
- Most green space possible and plantings like flowers, is most important to me.
- Both options block off most of the park for humans and dogs? The whole point of the park is being able to sit in the grass, round around, sunbathe. Both designs reduce space for this and will force this to be a 'walk through ' space. Both designs WILL NOT discourage dogs from running through the grass, the flowers will be trampled and the wild grass filled with dog poo.
- No dogs, need a secure place
- Really dislike the designs because they take away usable green space for gathering and mingling to install unusable meadows.
- Enforcement of pet by laws. No need for a dog park here.
- I am very excited about this renovation. As a newcomer and someone who supports decolonization and reconciliation I find it odd to walk outside and see a British flag in the middle of a Toronto downtown park. I understand that this is an old cemetery but also times are changing, and old cemeteries have been turned into parks before. I would also not picnic in the current park because I know how much dog feces there are, especially in the winter it's prevalent. Unfortunately you can't just block off access to dogs and you have to count for who actually live in your neighbourhood. And not everyone can or wants to take their dogs to an off-leash dog park either. So promoting more responsible dog ownership and also ensuring that the park continues to be a place where on-leash dogs and people can go.
- Maintenance, maintenance, maintenance. Both ideas look great but we know the City won't maintain the park to standard needed.
- I appreciate both of the proposals put forward. I think trying to make the space be something for everyone is not the right approach so I'd like for this park to do less but do it well.
- 1. The existing diagonal paths must be preserved, the are high traffic areas for residents of 50 Portland going to Farm Boy/Bathurst and from 39 Niagara to King/Portland area. 2. As a female living at 50 Portland, I feel safe walking through the park even late at night due to the fact the area is flat and highly visible - no high hedges or high meadow along the paths, I can see that nobody is hiding there. People walking dogs also helps me feel safe. Please make sure the area remains safe for women walking home through the park at night. 3. In general I would like option 1 if it had fewer picnic tables and making sure the ability to see through the park at night (personal safety) was preserved . 4. I propose to add trees that have a nice scent in summer, like jasmine, linden tree, lilac or similar. Currently this park doesn't smell of any flowers.
- Both of these designs leave nearly NO space for kids to play catch with their parents, to people to play with their dogs, for people to picnic in the summer, or lay out in the sun. The designers have completely misunderstood what the park is used for. It's not a

walking path, it's an outdoor living space for the condos surrounding it, and neither of these designs take that into consideration at all. It's extremely sad and makes me want to move out of the area.

- Consider potential desire lines. The modification to the paths you proposed will be annoying as [REDACTED] for people trying to walk through the park
- We like the current pathway routes. They are very handy to get too and from any corner of the park- which residents need- do not chance the cross-cross pathways!
- Less concrete/paving, more colourful greenery. Something to prevent people from having their dogs urinate/defecate all over, entrances from all sides, large/unique water feature would make a huge difference. Preserve graves so people aren't stepping over them.
- Fencing around park and around green spaces
- Please do not include an off leash area in this small park. There is a large off leash park 2 blocks away. Small children cannot enjoy the grassy areas of this park as there are too many dogs not on leashes.
- Making the park more aesthetically pleasing is important. Better trees and green space to make it feel like a park is important
- A grass area to walk dogs that is not an off leash area (which many dog owners do not feel safe using) is important
- I think making an off lead dog areas is essential (and I don't have a dog) the reality is, if you put grass the dogs will pee regardless and many building in the area have paid the price, they do a lot of work on landscaping the dogs pee and it kills the plants and grass. Take into consideration that they will pee regardless if you have signed that say not to
- Less paving, more green space
- This park is used for people to sit in and for dog owners. This is the most major uses of this park. Anything to preserve and enhance these will be welcome. Dogs often play off leash and as there is a lot of green space this is well accommodated.
- this is a small park. too many people use it as a dog park. Increase off-leash enforcement because there are already two dog-parks nearby.
- No dogs, enforcer city bylaws
- The current park is fine except for the dogs run amok, the poorly maintained grass, and the poor maintenance of the playground area (incl fence). Fix the grass and playground fence, add a small dog run, and enforce the bylaws and it will be fine as is. The pathways in option 2 are ridiculous - you MUST have a pathway from each corner direct to the middle or else the plantings will just get trampled. The hills in the cemetery are not needed and reduce useful space. Keep it simple add a small dog run
- A small off leash area isn't large enough for the number of dogs in the area so people are still likely to have them off leash in the park
- Small off leash dog park would be great.
- Make sure that dogs owners wish respect the others users of the park
- My biggest concern with the park as it is now is that it is almost always at least one off leash dog running around. Rough play / running in non-off leash areas destroys plants, and the amount of urine could kill saplings. Dogs that are not monitored are able to dig as well. Dogs are invasive species whether we like to acknowledge it or not and nature finds them stressful. My honest opinion is that without rampant enforcement from by-law officers, this park will never reach its potential. There is a dog space across the street at Stackt and it hasn't reduced the number of off-leash dogs in Vic Memorial park, so I don't see why an off-leash dog park here would do any better.
- Will the pathway on the west edge of the park be retained? It is an important circulation and without it people will just walk through the grass anyway.

- Open lawn space for people to bring picnics or enjoy the sunshine. People gather in this park with friends, we don't need meadows that don't allow people to toss a football around or run around with their kids.
- Please leave the park alone. It's perfect as is.
- nope nopity dopity
- Outdoor musical xylophone like in Parry sound, Ontario
- I don't have a dog - could not remove answer
- Better crosswalks on all corners of the park for families and signage to keep cars from speeding
- I have a 4 year old son, off leash dogs days and nights are dangerous
- Drinking fountain should have a dog option
- It's a nice sunny Sunday afternoon and there's dogs every where running and barking. Not a chance to relax and enjoy the park.
- I like everything about option 2 other than the meadow. Meadows are annoying and itchy and won't look as good. I think some space should for sure be left as grass — the grass is so commonly used and liked by all. Rather than meadow I would go with the flower option from design 1. It is much prettier
- None
- I think a wall border/sitting slab protecting the cemetery border would be a great idea for both designs not only to protect the historic site but also to protect the new plant life that will be introduced. Perhaps some kind of wall/fencing for the walkways through the meadows as well only because i believe the plant life on the edges of the walkways will deteriorate because dog owners will most definitely allow their dogs to urinate and defecate in them. I'm a dog owner who doesn't allow this but i witness it everyday unless some kind of fencing is involved. An example that made a difference is the planting plots outside of the Chica restaurant on Portland.
- fence around perimeter to enclose the park
- Don't take away open grass area for the sake of making it look pretty. We don't have enough seating areas already.
- Make this a dog free park. This is a historical site. People are not responsible enough to clean up after their pets. Every day I walk here and see dog poo all over that park. It makes it unusable to walk through and enjoy. I constantly have to look at the ground to avoid stepping in it. I was just there 10 minutes ago and saw more. Please make it dog free or have cleaners come throughout the day. It's disgusting.
- By eliminating grass space you're eliminating space for children to play in the snow and make snow men, for groups to do outdoor fitness classes, for people to have enough space to have picnics and lay on the grass. We need more open spaces where people can lounge NOT LESS SPACE
- Please don't replace the useable green space with flower beds or grasses. The mounds are a great idea and will provide great shape and texture to the landscape, but our community is constantly using the grass - for animals, to play games, to lay out, etc. Another great thing about this park is the wishbone pattern and the constant diversity that weaves through the park as a result. Please keep all winding paths.
- I strongly dislike that the paved paths will be replaced with chipped stone. The design is not shy about being hostile to dogs and dog owners. My dog cannot even walk on chipped stone, so this design purposefully excludes me and my family. And how about people with disabilities, will this exclude them as well because they don't want to roll over bumpy chipped stones? Do they not have the right to enjoy this flowery display as well? The design constrains us to using the paths because of a barrier and the meadows being inaccessible. I like that the current design is open and lets us walk anywhere

without restriction. There are thousands of new condos being built and you are making the usable area much smaller. The park is already crowded, but there will be now less area to use. I also dislike that there will be less entry points. I often take a detour to go through that park when going out because it is enjoyable, but the removal of entry points will mean that I have to go around the park instead of through the park, which is much less enjoyable. I would like to add that this survey contains loaded questions and is clearly designed to get a specific answer. This is the definition of a loaded question: 'I like the grass meadow within the cemetery boundary which provides a green, contemplative space within the park'. In conclusion, I think there should be another round of design because these two proposals are too similar and are inadequate for the people living in this area.

- Eliminating pathways is going to create unplanned footpaths
- currently and both schemes there is no accommodation for dogs which are the biggest users currently of the park (and are destroying the park--this needs to be dealt with in an isolated way).. picnic tables are ugly but there needs to be more designed seating options. diagonal pathway should be maintained so that the corners are linked. lighting is better in option 1 with seating around the rectilinear insertion. moving statue, paved entrances, 'parisian treatment' better in option 2. retaining wall also good. need some garden areas (flowering plants, trees) more than just grass. need other types of well-designed seating such as those in the waterworks park nearby which is great.
- More green space, less pavement. There's enough pavement in this city already. Reduce the space around the main heritage block. There's enough seating.
- Any space to a off leash would be great
- No off leash area in this park at all
- There should 100% be an off leash park for dogs. Just like the st. Andrew's one. It will allow for separation between people that do not own dogs and dog owners. It will allow people to enjoy the green space without stepping/laying in dog doo doo. An off leash would be great along with a fenced area where dogs can go to the washroom. This has been a huge complaint from multiple parties and I think this would be the best thing to create a cohesive environment for all
- We need to understand that the main problem is overuse through dog owners and a lack of maintenance m. Please address where dog users can run their dogs in designated areas. Otherwise they will run dogs in the meadows or on the mounts. Both designs ignore the problem, hence I am a little bit disappointed. Please know I am a dog owner but I never use our park. I always walk and run at the waterfront but observe how Victoria Memorial Square is overused. Too much trash, lack of maintenance, destroyed grass lawn in the winter, and so on. This is a park used by hundreds of people daily if no thousands. Please see good example of the Grange or Waterworks.
- I do not have a dog, but I recognize that many of my neighbours do, and creating a small off-leash area would likely reduce the number of off-leash dogs elsewhere in the park.

Appendix D: Additional Resident Submissions

Correspondence submitted by a member of the Wellington Place Neighbourhood Association:

1. I haven't been directly involved in this discussion before now, but I notice that the option of relocating the central monument seems to still be on the table.

In May, 2006, Phase I of a major restoration of Victoria Memorial Square was begun (I sat on the City's steering committee on the project). It was our intention, after the surviving gravestones had been removed from their concrete setting around the base of the monument, to relocate the fence to its original, smaller, configuration. This work began but immediately uncovered human bones around the stone pillars of the fence. Work was stopped, an archaeologist called in, and subsequently the Province's Cemetery Registrar (I think that was the title) issued a no-excavation order. The fence was not moved. I can only assume that the order remains in place.

2. One other thing caught my attention: the suggestion that the gravestones might be turned around to face east. I'm curious about the logic behind this. It memory serves, the orientation of the stones was on the recommendation of the conservator who felt that facing west would give them the most sunlight and help in their preservation.

Correspondence submitted by a member of the Community Advisory Committee and Wellington Place Neighbourhood Association:

1. We are hearing many comments about the need to balance & call attention to the area of the cemetery with the need for park space for people in our neighbourhood to use. We have so little public space that to dedicate 70% or so of the park to non-usable space should really be something to consider carefully. Plus the reality that a large planted area will not be adequately maintained.

"Wow, I'm a little stunned. Both options take the cemetery site out of public use, or at least discourage entering it." (This from a preservation person.)

2. Moving forward we would like to emphasize a few points about the design objectives.

The impetus for the re-design of VMS was based on 2 key issues observable in the park:

- The dog challenge (i.e. How will dogs and their effect on the park surfaces & planting be accommodated given the lack of enforcement we have seen over many years?)
- The state of City maintenance of public parks (i.e., How will large areas of "planting/meadow" or grass be maintained? They might look good in a rendering but the reality is less positive given maintenance program of the City.)

These issues were mentioned several times at the CAC meeting as critical. We realize that no changes to the design options were made between the CAC meeting and the public presentation to reflect these comments.

For the redesign of VMS to meet the community's objectives and the investment by the City the dog and maintenance issues must be addressed *realistically* in the next iteration of the park design development.

Just want to keep those issues front and centre.

3. [Photo of dog off-leash area in Love Park]

A creative solution to the dog problem - a dog "parkette".

Surely there is enough space in VMS for such a solution especially if the entire cemetery not a no-go zone.

Combined with landscape features (planting, paving, topography) that prevent long dog runs (unlike present condition) it would send the message *visually & from a use POV* that VMS is NOT off an leash park.