

City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry & Recreation

Kennedy Park- Ionview Parkland Study

Phase 2: Understand Needs, Gaps, and Opportunities

Community Pop-Ups Summary

November 2023



Contents

Overview	2
What We Heard – Key Themes	3
Appendix A: Display Boards	5
Overall Project Board	5
Engagement Boards	6

Overview

On October 1, 2023, the study team held two community pop-up events in the Kennedy Park-Ionview Parkland Study Area: one outside of Don Montgomery Community Recreation Centre and one at Jack Goodlad Park. In total, more than 65 community members shared their ideas with the project team.

The purpose of the pop-up events was to inform the community about the study's ongoing work, and to gather further ideas directly from park and facility users.

Display boards were set up featuring common themes that came out of Phase 1 engagement activities. Participants shared further feedback by writing on sticky notes and posting them under each theme that resonated with them. The project team was also available to collect feedback and answer questions.

Images of the boards can be found in **Appendix A**.



What We Heard – Key Themes

Participants' feedback around each of the themes are summarized below.

The statement on the pop-up display boards was “**I want the parks and outdoor spaces to...**”

Feel safe

- More park programming and appeal to increase park usage – more activities and people increase safety for women
- Stop alcohol use
- Ample lighting is needed in parks, as well as:
 - More lighting at entrances to ravines
 - Brighter lights
 - Lighting at playgrounds and baseball diamonds
 - Lighting in parking lots

Have ample shade

- Shade needed near splash pads and dog off-leash areas
- More shade structures are needed

Have regular upkeep

- Washrooms need to be open year-round
- Washrooms and other facilities (heating in community recreation centres, basketball rims, change rooms, etc.) need to be cleaned, upgraded and maintained better
- Paving needs to be maintained or redone in parking lots, bike trails, and basketball courts
- More garbage bins are needed to prevent overflowing
- Some parks are better maintained than others (e.g. McCowan District Park and Treverton Park are well maintained)

Have space for sports and recreation

- More ice skating trails (such as the one at McCowan District Park), skateboard parks, basketball courts and swimming pools
- More outdoor fitness areas/equipment
- More recreation activities (including yoga classes)
- Update and install more playgrounds and splash pads



Have better pedestrian access

- Better connections, such as between Eglinton Ravine and Farlinger Ravine
- Better through-access for cyclists so that cycling on busy roads is not necessary
- Parking lots are helpful for people who stop for walks and other activities

Have well maintained trails

- More general maintenance needed, including in the winter
- Parks with trails (such as at Jack Goodlad Park) are well used
- Consider safety (widen trails, add mirrors, etc.) for shared cycling/walking trails, such as tight turns and visibility
- Consider shareable bicycle repair/maintenance tools along trails
- Some bike trails (such as on the Meadowway between Kennedy and Warden Rd.) need to be repaved
- Increase convenience and safety to encourage more cycling

Have accessible pathways

- More extensive pathways

Other ideas that participants suggested included:

- More water fountains and bottle filling stations
- More picnic tables and seating in parks and other outdoor areas
- Consider adding fire pits
- More dog off-leash areas would decrease usage of other spaces for this (e.g. school yards, hydro corridor)
- Ensure the right facilities for the local community so people can access what they need; more connections with local agencies and service providers (e.g. for youth programming)
- Washrooms/change rooms need baby changing stations
- Ensure more programming and accessibility for all ages, including older adults
- Better signage so that people know these spaces (e.g. trails, park entrances, ravines) exist, especially if hidden from major routes



Appendix A: Display Boards

Overall Project Board

This board provided the project description and timeline information.

Share your vision for Kennedy Park-Ionview Parkland Study

About the Project

How can we improve parkland and outdoor spaces in the study area?

The City is studying the parks and outdoor spaces in and around the Kennedy Park and Ionview neighbourhoods to identify opportunities for improvement. These improvements could include upgrades to existing parks, new parks, and better access and connections to parks and public spaces. We want to hear from you, the local community, at every stage of the process.

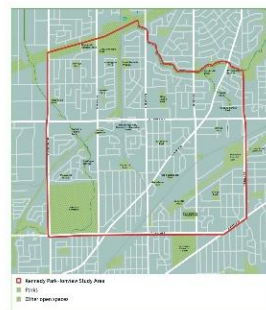
Help us design the improvements with your feedback!

Project Timeline **timeline subject to change.*



Scan the QR code to visit the project webpage, learn about what the community has said so far, and sign-up for e-updates.

toronto.ca/KennedyIonview



Engagement Boards

These two boards invited participants to share feedback about each of the themes.

We divided the community's ideas from earlier feedback into themes. Stick a dot on the ones that are important to you!
What do you think will help make these themes a reality?
Write any ideas you have on a sticky note and post them.

I want the parks and outdoor spaces to...

feel safe

have regular upkeep

have space for sports

have ample lighting

have better pedestrian access

have ample shade



We divided the community's ideas from earlier feedback into themes. Stick a dot on the ones that are important to you!
What do you think will help make these themes a reality?
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I want the parks and the outdoor spaces to...

have well maintained trails

have accessible pathways

other ideas

