

City of Toronto – Parks Planning & Strategic Initiatives

Six Points Park District Plan & Two New Parks

Community Advisory Committee Meeting 2

Meeting Summary

August 14, 2023

Lara Herald, Senior Project Coordinator
Eli Bawuah, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator



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1.0 Introduction

This document summarizes the second Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting that was held virtually on Monday, August 14, 2023 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

More information about the project can be found on the [project webpage](#).

1.1 Meeting Purpose

The purpose of this meeting was to:

- Summarize what we heard to date and through CAC#1 meeting
- Review and confirm the draft guiding principles and vision statement of the draft Six Points Park District Plan
- Present site background & analysis, and preliminary program options for all four parks

1.2 Project Scope

The scope of the project is summarized below:

- **Park District Vision & Plan – WE ARE HERE**
- Concept Design for Two Parks
- Design Development & Detailed Design for Two Parks
- Procurement & Construction

1.3 Project Timeline

- Phase 1 – Pre-Engagement (Q2 – Q4 2022)
 - Pre-Engagement Survey 1
 - Pre-Engagement Survey 2
- **Phase 2 – Building a Vision: Preliminary Park District Vision and Plan and Exploring Program Options (Q3 2023) – WE ARE HERE**
 - CAC Orientation
 - TAC Meeting #1
 - **CAC Meeting #2**
 - IAC Meeting #1
 - Public Workshop #1
- Phase 3 – Part 1: Final District Plan and Exploring Design Options for Two Parks (Concept Options) (Q3 2023 – Q1 2024)
 - TAC Meeting #2
 - IAC Meeting #2
 - CAC Meeting #3
 - Public Workshop #2 & Survey
- Phase 3 – Part 2: Setting the Direction for Two Parks (Preferred Concepts) (Q3 2023 – Q1 2024)

- TAC Meeting #3
 - CAC Meeting #4
 - IAC Meeting #3
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- Phase 4 – Detailed Design & Hire a Construction Team (Q2 2024)
 - Phase 5 – Construction Starts

1.4 Community Advisory Committee

A Community Advisory Committee has been established for this project with the primary objective of guiding the design of the new Six Points Park District and District Plan to align with community needs. The first meeting of the Community Advisory Committee occurred in June 2023, conducted virtually, where members actively engaged to provide feedback and preliminary ideas regarding their vision for the Six Points Park District and District Plan.

During this meeting, a vision statement and a set of guiding principles were formulated and are accessible on the project webpage. These will serve as points of reference throughout the project phases to ensure that the design and program options for the new park district are in harmony with the needs of the community.

A comprehensive summary report for the first Community Advisory Committee Meeting #1, including the presentation materials that were shared, has been published on the project webpage.

1.5 Attendance

CAC Members Present

- Anna S
- Asli M, Councillor’s Office
- Brock F
- Claudia S
- Colette
- Farrah
- Frances M
- Gordon H
- Irene J
- Jamie P
- Jennifer D
- Julio M
- Lucy F
- Marta
- Saleha B
- See-Yin L
- Sunday
- Taneisha T, Councillor’s Office

City of Toronto Staff Present

- Lara Herald, Senior Project Coordinator
- Eli Bawuah, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator
- Rosemary McManus, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator

PLANT Architect Staff Present

- Mary Tremain, Engagement Consultant Lead
- Eric Klaver, Design Consultant Lead
- Tanya Pande, Landscape Designer

2.0 Summary

During the second Community Advisory Meeting, a majority of community members expressed satisfaction with the draft vision statement and guiding principles developed for the park district. A number of common themes regarding the planning of the Six Points Park District emerged through the conversation and participant comments.

Some participants expressed concerns about the impact of road traffic on the recently reconfigured roads in the neighborhood. These specific concerns encompassed issues such as traffic noise, pedestrian safety, and ensuring protection from traffic both within the new parks and along the routes leading to them. The primary focus of these concerns revolved around traffic safety and ensuring the parks' accessibility.

Furthermore, there were additional suggestions related to enhancing accessibility and safety, which included advocating for the separation of bike lanes from walking paths on multi-use trails, providing diverse seating options to accommodate people of all abilities, and creating smaller, quieter spaces where visitors could escape the bustling and noisy areas.

A common theme that resonated among the community members was the strong desire for more green spaces, characterized by dense planting and abundant tree shade. Additionally, community members recommended program offerings that cater to a wide range of age groups, striking a balance between active recreation, versatile multi-purpose open spaces, and areas for passive and quieter activities.

The following section includes detailed minutes on feedback received from the second Community Advisory Committee meeting. This feedback will be significant in establishing common themes that need to be addressed within the Six Points Park District Plan. It will also help guide and shape the preliminary design concepts for the Six Points Park Expansion and Dunkip Park sites, which will be ready to share in the next phase of engagement.

3.0 Meeting Minutes

3.1 Draft Guiding Principles & Vision Statement CAC Member Question or Comment & Project Team Response

- Appreciate the maximum number of activities the plan considers/proposes and diverse park spaces. Activities change over time as people go through different phases of life and there is something for everyone.
- Draft guiding principles are good but the parks are small with lots of people coming.
- Accessibility - ensure bike lanes and wheelchair paths are clearly indicated for those using walkers/ wheelchairs. Also make sure that the path is clear for those with visual disabilities.
- General safety – any discussion around lighting, any cameras, CCTV and so on? Traffic levels are atrocious and getting to these parks would be very dangerous. Safe access to the parks and making uses functional all year round would be important.
- I agree with the traffic safety comment. If traffic calming areas are not in place, that will affect accessibility.

- *That is a helpful comment. We will take that back to our Transportation team to have a conversation with them regarding the concerns about traffic safety in the neighbourhood. And, as the neighbourhood intensifies and grows, we are obviously going to be mindful of how we are designing our parks and if there is anything that can be done in the roadways to help with safety.*
- I am happy with the guiding principles.
- Draft vision statement looks good to me.
 - *We can come back to this if we have time since we don't have immediate comments.*
- The overall vision for the parks and the users will hopefully guide the selection process of the programs and how they all fit together.

3.2 General Remarks

CAC Member Question or Comment & Project Team Response

- I don't see the established principles are being applied, lots of concrete such as every single park has a skate spot – noisy activities. Concerned with the suggestions not matching the guiding principles.
 - *The idea is not to put in repeated elements in every location. The idea is to balance the activities across all the parks. What we are trying to show is not so much of a plan, but potential programs that could fit in each park so we can get your feedback.*
- I appreciate what you brought up as possibilities. How fixed are these plan designs of yours?
 - *These are not what we call plans yet. These are diagrams that show a balance between the play, gather, and nature aspects. We would like you to think about the program focus areas that we have established for each park site and whether you think the focus of any of these parks should be balanced differently.*
- Accessibility not addressed.
 - *Accessibility is one of our guiding principles, and it is an overarching theme that we have highlighted as important. Accessibility is something that we will be incorporating in all the parks and designs as the designs get developed. Seating, play equipment, and other park elements would all be accessible.*
- I found it interesting that skate parks could exist in conjunction with other spaces in terms of space constraints.
- Dogs Off Leash (OLA) areas are usually fenced and therefore reduce the amount of open space available for people.
- Incorporate uses that would attract young people - not just sitting.

- Incorporate activities which can be used by and be accessible to all generations. We have playgrounds and schools and as children get older it would be good to include spaces that they can use for that age group.
- Concerned about skate spots and basketball courts as they are noisy programs; adults and dogs will not go near them. These parks do not have enough space for this.
- Include golf putting green
- Golf is a bit exclusionary unfortunately - it includes a cost to access, and a golf space can't be used for anything else versus like a sports court or green space.
 - *Anything that we incorporate in the parks would be a public amenity.*
- Incorporate more green areas and balance of amenities for all ages.
- Include stage/amphitheatre area.
- General concern about safety with all the new development to start in the neighbourhood.
- Can I also ask that during any future meetings, the presentations are consolidated to allow the participants time to have discussion.
 - *We will take this into consideration moving forward with the meetings.*
- It seems like the parks are being positioned as separate entities with the roads separating the parks. Does it make a difference if we think of the 4 parks as one large park with roads running through them, and try and calm the traffic through them somehow? Take some inspiration from High Park, or maybe add crosswalks like at Yonge and Dundas to make it feel more like a community and connected. Current traffic dominates the area.
It always seems like we are accommodating traffic rather than the other way around.
 - *It is a great perspective. I like that idea of trying to think about the whole neighbourhood as a park.
The planned neighbourhood was really conceived as a dense green neighbourhood. It's hard to imagine this in its present state, but the district plan includes trees and green spaces woven between buildings and along the streets. I like the idea of a scramble intersection, especially around the Civic Centre. This is something we can bring up with Transportation.*
- Can you please make sure that for future discussions, serious thought is given to traffic levels and the number of cars etc. that are now going through this area. This is only going to get worse with all the proposed development. Without this, we sadly will be talking about accidents and injuries.
 - *There was a discussion during the planning of this neighbourhood about having on-street parking along Dundas at off-peak hours, which would make it feel much more like a neighbourhood and would also slow the traffic down. That is what we are hoping for, but again, it is not in place yet, because the neighbourhood is not yet developed.*

3.3 Park #1: Six Points Park Expansion

CAC Member Question or Comment & Project Team Response

- Suitable to be a gathering space or a soccer pitch.
It is a small & noisy park. This is a small park for an OLA which will be fenced off, removing a piece of the park for the rest of the community. I think we need a space for dogs, but I don't think this is the right location.
I don't like the concept of a skate park here as it is very noisy.
I like the green space. This park has to be a walk-to park as there is no parking. People on the north side of the street would find it hard to get across the very wide road to use the space.
You also get a fair amount of wind from the high-rise buildings.
- Everyone in my Condo building wants an OLA here. It is not a good idea to have more kids' play activities here as it is so close to the road. Kids love watching dogs, so it would be a good combination of amenities.
I am alarmed about the idea of skateboarding and a basketball court here as both these are noisy activities, especially at night, making the area prohibitive to seniors and dogs. I'm concerned about all the concrete, people are looking for green space in that small park. I don't like concrete benches.
 - *Has the community looked at the requirements, policy, and process required for establishing an OLA? One of the first steps in the policy is for a group to get together and submit a formal request.
(The commenter confirms they started the process with the former Councillor's office but got no further than this.)
The submission can be followed up with the current Councillor's office to get that ball rolling.
We are looking at potentially establishing an OLA within this park network, but we want to make it clear that there is an established process for this.*
- I think that this would be a good location for a skate park – and it could take advantage of the topography of the site. It is already a noisy area and a skate spot/park would lend itself to that environment.
Since there is a playground here already then that means children already use the area and as they get older that (skate-boarding) is a potential activity they can graduate to.
- Incorporate more green space. Six Points Development has made us lose all of our green space.
- Introducing a skate spot or a basketball court might not sit well with people at the public meeting.
 - *Skate spot and basketball court came out of our analysis of the facilities master plan which identified a skate spot and basketball court as programming gaps to be filled. We want to be able to provide amenities in a balanced way across the city, hence we are looking at these as potential programs in this district.*
- (Safety concerns:) Every weekend, there is a traffic incident at the south side of Kipling and Dundas. The traffic aggressiveness in this area is intense. People are not abiding by the traffic signs/rules.
- Like the idea of a community garden here as this is in high demand and there is always a long waitlist to get a spot at a community garden.

3.4 Park #2: Etobicoke Centre Park

CAC Member Question or Comment & Project Team Response

- This is a good place for a skate spot or basketball court, that can cater to young adults and teenagers free of cost.
 - *Inclusivity and making sure we are accommodating all ages would be central to design.*

- I like the idea of having a multi-sport court or a skatepark at this location– it would be well-used.

Concerned about people getting on the railroad tracks, which are south of the park. Is there a trail connection parallel to the railway?
It would be great to have a pedestrian bridge between across the tracks.
Incorporate ample seating here as it's a good-sized park.
I like the idea of having a place for entertainment, like a bandshell, because of its proximity to the Civic Centre.

 - *Regarding the railway, there is already an existing natural buffer, a slope, and a wall for a portion of the park. We will be mindful of limiting the access to the railway from the park.
There would always be a safety fence to prevent people from freely crossing onto the railway tracks.
I want to clarify the notion of a bridge. It is a piece that we are looking at as a future potential piece and it would not be part of the upcoming centre park.
Regarding the trail connection, it is not part of the park property. A multi-use trail is proposed as part of the overall master plan along a strip at the park south edge.*

- Perfect spot for the multi activity programs and the stage to encourage free entertainment.

Incorporate space for neighbours to meet up, have ceremonies, and create a community.

- I like the idea of a multipurpose space which is not all lawn as I'm concerned that it might be used exclusively as a soccer field.
 - *Multi-purpose, will not necessarily be all lawn. It could be a paved/permeable surface that would allow for different types of gatherings.
It could also be a treed area with seating. It can incorporate a variety of spaces which are flexible and can accommodate different activities.
It would not accommodate a formal soccer field, but could allow for a field for different activities, including casual mini soccer areas for young children, etc.*

- Spread out the amenities proposed for this park between the 4 parks and make the parks more linked.
 - *Yes, absolutely. We are thinking of this as a network, so we want these parks to work together.*

- Incorporate a putting green because it is something that attracts all ages. It requires a small space and is cheap to maintain.
- Incorporate berms between the multi-use areas to define them.
 - *There is room between some of the areas just to break down the spaces with other features. It does depend on the programming for the park. If we have, for instance, a shade structure, then we would not need berms. But it would be nice to get some topography there, as it is a flat area.*
- User's safety and accessibility should be high priority. We don't want people from minority groups who are already feeling vulnerable, to not be able to use them.
- Ideal for the skate spot.
- Barbecues are expensive to run and maintain, and they are unsafe to incorporate into a public space.
Etobicoke Centre Park is best for incorporating a mix of activities.
- I would not like the concept of fire pits, considering the fire issues.

3.5 Park #3: Dunkip Park

CAC Member Question or Comment & Project Team Response

- Not a hospitable and safe place for Play. There are cars all around.
Maybe a floral garden, water fountain, or a woodlot.
Public art can be incorporated to mark the Civic Centre.
This area is suitable for passive use and green spaces.
- This is a small park at a weird location. It would be unsafe for play.
Great place to wait or to pass through. Incorporate programs which engage people while they wait.
- This would be a place to take a break, to pause, especially for elderly people. It needs to be more about art, celebration of history, and gardens.
Don't incorporate play here.
 - *Thinking about this park as a connector across the neighbourhood and a place that can provide people a place to pause.*
- If the existing tree has a lifespan of 15 years, plan ahead with that in mind.
 - *We will include succession planning and plan for the continuation of the tree canopy.*
- No OLA in this area.
- I would like to see this as more of a green space.
- Bring more of nature and less of play or gather.
- More green space would be wonderful.
Make it less concrete and no OLA.
- This park could have some of the chess tables or other playful site furniture.
 - *We will look at some more passive activities and furniture that could be incorporated at this park.*

- Dunkip Park is great for an art installation.
 - *Good park for passive programs, that could incorporate some art elements and installations.*
- Sitting or meeting park.
- Incorporate more trees other than maple trees.
 - *Yes, we will work closely with our Urban Forestry team to identify appropriate trees for the area. We really need to be mindful of planting trees that are going to survive in hardy urban conditions and do well in our changing climate. Part of the context plan we created for this area included a palette of mixed appropriate trees for the area, so we will be drawing on that.*
- Need more cooking areas and BBQ. If not suitable for this park, please incorporate it elsewhere.
- Consider a pickleball court. It's the fastest growing sport. There are tons of people waiting for the bus and benches would be ideal. Michael Power Park is saturated and having some green space here would be ideal.
 - *We are exploring pickle ball combined with tennis as a potential amenity in the multi-sport court but not in this park.*
- Dunkip Park is not suitable for a skate spot or OLA.
- Should be a quieter landscaped sitting area with floral gardens and art.

3.6 Park #4: Linear Park

CAC Member Question or Comment & Project Team Response

- Linear Park may be extended through the Six Point Plaza application. They've been going through a bylaw application for a new park as part of the application. New parks might be considered together as it creates an opportunity for more amenities. Look at planning report that was approved a few weeks ago.
 - *We will look into it. It would be great to expand the space.*
- Skate spaces should be limited. There are no parking lots in the area except the church lot.

3.7 Next Steps

- *Please feel free to reach out for any other comments on the e-mail provided. The DRAFT version of the meeting's summary will be shared with the CAC members. The FINAL version of the meeting's summary will be posted on the project website. We will be taking your feedback and will be presenting the "Draft District Plan and Preliminary Park Programming Options" at the Public Meeting on 30th August 2023.*

The Project Team will be getting into the concept design for Park#1 and Park#3 after the public meeting.

4.0 Appendix

4.1 Draft Guiding Principles

4.1.1 Multi-Generational & Multi-Cultural

- Create park spaces that are intergenerational and inclusive.
- Provide a balance of programming and amenities across the park network that cater to the existing and upcoming neighborhood and people of all demographics.
- Reflect and celebrate the neighborhood's unique character and explore interventions that pay homage to the area's heritage and evolution over time.

4.1.2 Diverse Park Spaces

- Create spaces that accommodate different scales, with different configurations and amenities to accommodate active, passive, and flexible recreation opportunities.
- Incorporate large and small gathering spaces, intimate spaces, and peripheral spaces.

4.1.3 Community

- Create a diversity of park types and community spaces with strong distinctive characteristics appropriate for each parks' unique location within this emerging neighbourhood.
- Incorporate placekeeping elements that recognize and reconnect to the origins of the land and the narratives that honour Indigenous belonging and Indigenous place.
- Ensure the four parks are well-connected to each other and to other green spaces nearby.
- Create a strong network of parks that work together as a whole.

4.1.4 Accessibility, Comfort & Safety

- Prioritize parks that are accessible and comfortable for people of all ages, abilities, and impairment.
- Provide park spaces that feel safe for all people, are well-lit, and well-maintained.
- Provide safe and easy connections to parks that consider existing and planned circulation routes, patterns, and desire lines.
- Buffer park edges that are adjacent to busy roads to improve safety and comfort, enhance park spaces, and mitigate noise from rail and roads.

4.1.5 Integrate Ecology

- Incorporate planting zones that support biodiversity, stormwater management, air pollution, and heat island mitigation.
- Align with Indigenous values by using sustainable practices, native plants, and involving communities in long-term stewardship.
- Introduce trees and planting to provide plenty of shade and to benefit the psychological well-being of individuals.

4.2 Draft Vision Statement

4.2.1 Draft Vision Statement

The Six Points Park District will serve as an inclusive green haven, capturing the community's essence as a place that honours local heritage, embraces cultural experiences, and fosters collective aspirations for the future. This new park district will be the result of thoughtful collaboration with local community members and careful application of accessibility design standards, and will provide comfortable safe spaces for the community to gather and connect. By incorporating sustainable design and Indigenous placekeeping and placemaking, the Six Points Park District will blossom into a network of vibrant green spaces where diverse groups of all ages can convene, enjoy the outdoors, forge connections, and flourish year-round.



PLANT ARCHITECT INC.

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