

New off-leash area at Parkway Forest Park

Stakeholder meeting

Meeting date: October 19, 2022, 6:00 pm

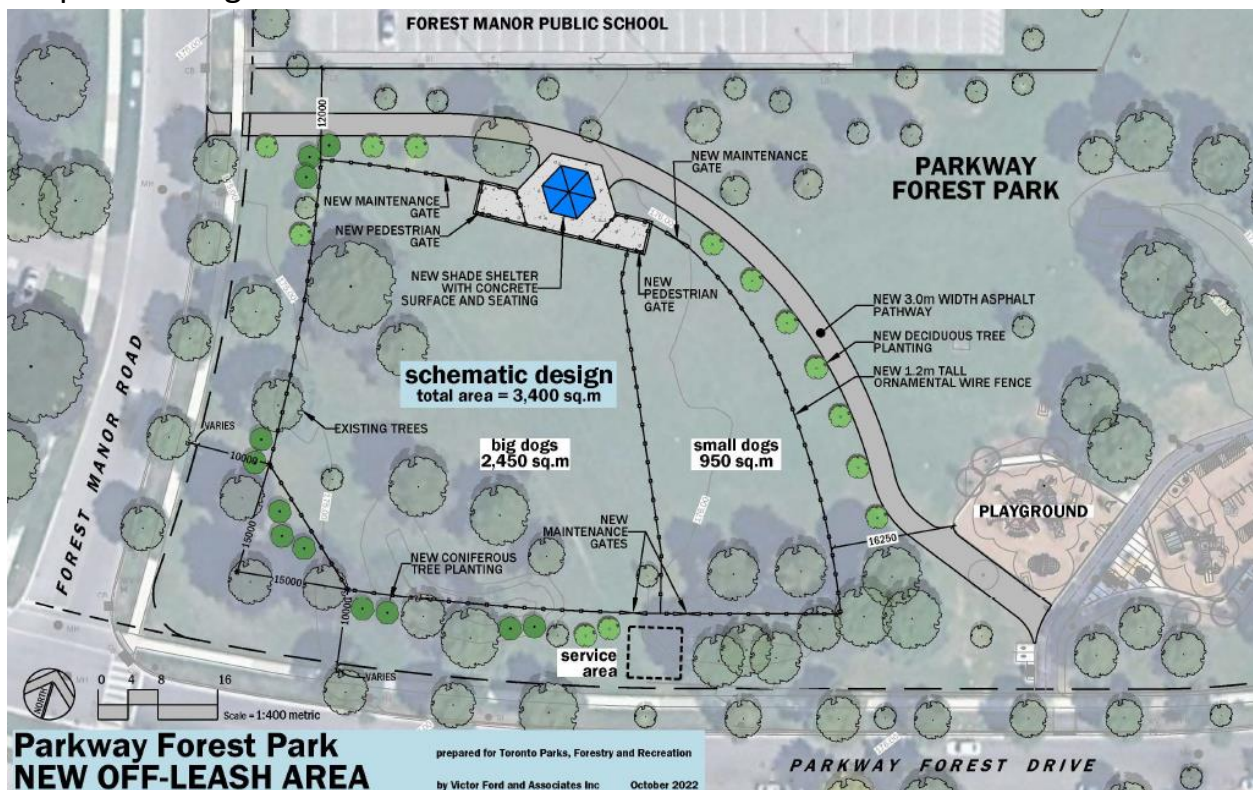
Meeting location: virtual meeting

Summary issued: October 27, 2022

Attendance

- Suzanne Hajdu
PFR, Senior Project Coordinator
suzanne.hajdu@toronto.ca
- Mustapha Khamissa
Councillor Carroll's office
mustapha.khamissa3@toronto.ca
- Jeremy Craig
Victor Ford and Associates [VFA]
- Kelly Park
Victor Ford and Associates [VFA]
- Invited stakeholders (not listed)

Proposed Design



Meeting Summary

- Suzanne and Jeremy made a presentation giving project goals and background and describing the proposed off-leash area (OLA) design and selection of elements.
- Suzanne responded to questions sent in advance of the meeting: the OLA surface will be natural grass (with irrigation), and no trees are planned to be removed for the OLA construction, though it is possible some small, recently planted trees will need to be relocated.
- The group was generally supportive of the concept plan. No significant changes were requested.
- There was a request to consider a mixed-size dog area and/or to increase the proportion of the small dog area. Jeremy explained that PFR had prepared an initial design using these general proportions, which had been followed. Based on community input this sort of change is possible if there is general agreement. No objections were raised.
- Separate bottle fillers were requested for the playground and OLA areas. This is what is currently planned.
- There was a request to include a dog bowl on the bottle filler. Parks' tech. services do not support dog bowls for cost, maintenance and hygiene reasons.
- There was a question whether the bottle filler would be installed on a hard surface to help prevent muddy conditions. Bottle filler will be installed on a hard surface.
- There was a discussion of colour palettes for the shelter and cluster seating. Suggestions included to follow the colours of the recently built playground, or the seating area near the community centre. It was decided that VFA would provide some mock-ups for consideration, based on the conversation.
- Community members requested to review mock-ups at end of meeting summary and comment with preferences.
- There was discussion about preferred materials for cluster seating (metal vs. recycled plastic timbers) and whether the metal option might heat up too much in the sun. It was clarified that the cluster seating will be located under the shelter, out of the sun, so will not be expected to heat up significantly, though it may be very cold to the touch in winter. Based on this, options will be presented with a focus on the recycled plastic timbers.
- Options with both materials are included in the mock-ups at the end. There was support for including seating around trees within the OLA, and interest expressed in the Berczy Park example that was presented.
- It was noted that the bike racks near the playground are well used, and that additional racks would be appreciated. Work to include bike racks in the final design was deferred by the design team.
- Meeting summary and mock-ups to be put together by VFA to share with attendees and others who may be interested.
- Input is requested to be submitted to Suzanne Hajdu before November 8.

Prepared by,

VICTOR FORD AND ASSOCIATES INC