

New Park on Richmond St E

Phase 2: Exploring Design Options Indigenous Communities Engagement Summary Report

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Appendix A: Additional Feedback Through Phone/Email

Introduction

A new park is coming to Richmond St East to meet the needs of the growing community. The park design will be determined through community engagement. The design focus of this park is Indigenous Placekeeping, which will be determined through engagement specifically with Indigenous Communities.

This document provides a project and engagement process overview, followed by a summary of the feedback collected through Phase 2 consultations with Indigenous communities members.

A summary of feedback collected through Phase 2 consultations with non-Indigenous community members is available on the [project webpage](#).

Engagement Process Overview

Community Engagement Phase 1: Building a Vision

This phase of engagement took place in spring and summer 2023, in tandem with community engagement for the design of another new park in the Moss Park Neighbourhood, on King St E. In this phase of the community engagement process, community members were asked to provide feedback to help develop a draft design for each park. The project was also shared with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation for feedback.

Based on the feedback collected in Community Engagement Phase 1, a vision statement for the park design was developed to guide the project team forward.

Draft Vision Statement: The design vision for this park is an accessible, green and calm urban oasis, with the flexibility to host events and performances. The design focus in this park is Indigenous Placekeeping.

Community Engagement Phase 2: Exploring Design Options (WE ARE HERE)

This phase of engagement took place in winter and spring 2023. In this phase, the draft vision statement and draft design options for the new park on Richmond St E were presented to the local community for feedback and revisions. Engagement included an online survey, virtual community design workshop, in-person community pop-ups, outreach to urban Indigenous organizations, and outreach to Rights Holders Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

Community Engagement Phase 3: Setting the Direction

This phase of the community engagement process is planned to begin in mid-2023. In this phase, a final proposed design for the new parks will be presented to the local community for a final round of feedback and revisions.

Phase 2 Engagement Activities

Local Community Engagement

Engagement events included:

- A **Virtual Community Design Workshop** Summary with two participants
- Two **community pop-ups** with approximately 37 community members participating at:
 - John Innes Community Recreation Centre
 - Moss Park Market (260 Queen St. E.)
- An **online survey** with 394 submissions and 576 participants (*Respondents were encouraged to complete the survey together with members of their households.*)
- A meeting with the **Black Communities Advisory Group** for the Two New Parks in the Moss Park Neighbourhood
 - A summary of this meeting is available on the [project webpage](#).
- **Email feedback** from community members.

Targeted Engagement with Indigenous Communities

Engagement events with Indigenous communities members included:

- An **online survey** for communities members and organisations, with 31 participants, including representatives from 7 Indigenous-serving organizations.
- Three **community pop-ups** with approximately 50 community members participating at:
 - Native Women’s Resource Centre of Toronto
 - 2 Spirited People of the 1st Nations
 - Native Child and Family Services of Toronto
- Feedback from two **virtual meetings** with:
 - Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council Friends and Partners Sharing Circle
 - Native Child and Family Services Toronto
- **Written feedback from Rights Holders** Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation
- **Email feedback** from community members.

Project staff reached out to 14+ Indigenous-serving organisations to:

- Notify each about the project
- Ask if their organization/membership/communities would like to be involved by:
 - Completing an online survey
 - Allowing project staff to host a pop-up at their location (to engage community members about the park design)
 - To be engaged/have their membership/community be engaged in another way, as they prefer.

How We Reached People

In Phase 2, the community was informed of engagement activities as listed below:

Print Media

Posters

About 90 posters were posted on utility poles and community notice boards in the neighbourhood around the new park.

Site Signage

Large posters were placed around the site of the future park on Richmond St E.

Digital Media

Project Webpage

A [project webpage](#) was set up to act as a communications portal to inform the public about the new park project and includes a sign-up button for e-updates.

E-Updates and E-Flyer

Email updates including a digital flyer with Phase 2 community engagement opportunities were distributed to the following groups for information, and further distribution.

- The project listserv (public signup on the project webpage).
- Black Communities Advisory Group for the two new parks
- Local community organisations (identified through an online scan)
- Local schools
- The local Councillor (to circulate through their networks)
- Local Indigenous-serving organisations
- Ambe Maamowisda Employee Circle (City of Toronto Indigenous Staff Network)
- Toronto Aboriginal Support Services listserv
- City of Toronto Indigenous Affairs Office Listserv
- City of Toronto Accessibility and Inclusion Stakeholder Network
- City of Toronto Parks Forestry and Recreation Accessibility and Inclusion listserv

Social Media and Digital Ads

The City of Toronto used its Facebook and Instagram accounts to promote the virtual community meeting and online survey through paid advertisements and organic posts.

Targeted Outreach to Indigenous Communities Organizations

Virtual Outreach

As noted above, e-updates and e-flyers were distributed to local Indigenous-serving organisations and networks.

In-person Outreach

City staff visited 10 Indigenous Serving organisations to briefly speak to a staff member about the project and ask if the organization would like to be involved by completing an online survey, allow for a pop-up to be hosted at their location, or in another way as they prefer. Where locations were closed or no staff were present, a paper poster with engagement opportunities, as well as contact information for the project team was left on-site. Multiple emails had already been sent to each organization.

What We Heard

Overall Summary

The following provides a high-level summary of all of the feedback collected from Indigenous communities members in Phase 2 through the online survey, community pop-ups, meetings with community organizations and email feedback, including from Rights Holders Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Detailed summaries from each engagement event are available further below. A summary of the general community feedback from Phase 2 engagement, as well as a summary of the Black Communities Advisory Group meeting for this project are available on the [project webpage](#).

Vision Statement

The majority of respondents like the vision statement as is. Most other respondents feel the vision statement somewhat reflects what they want the new park to become.

Suggestions for improvement include:



Overall Placekeeping Features

Overall, the proposed Placekeeping features were very well received. The majority of respondents like and/or are satisfied with all of the proposed Placekeeping elements and park features. Key suggestions that apply across the park include:

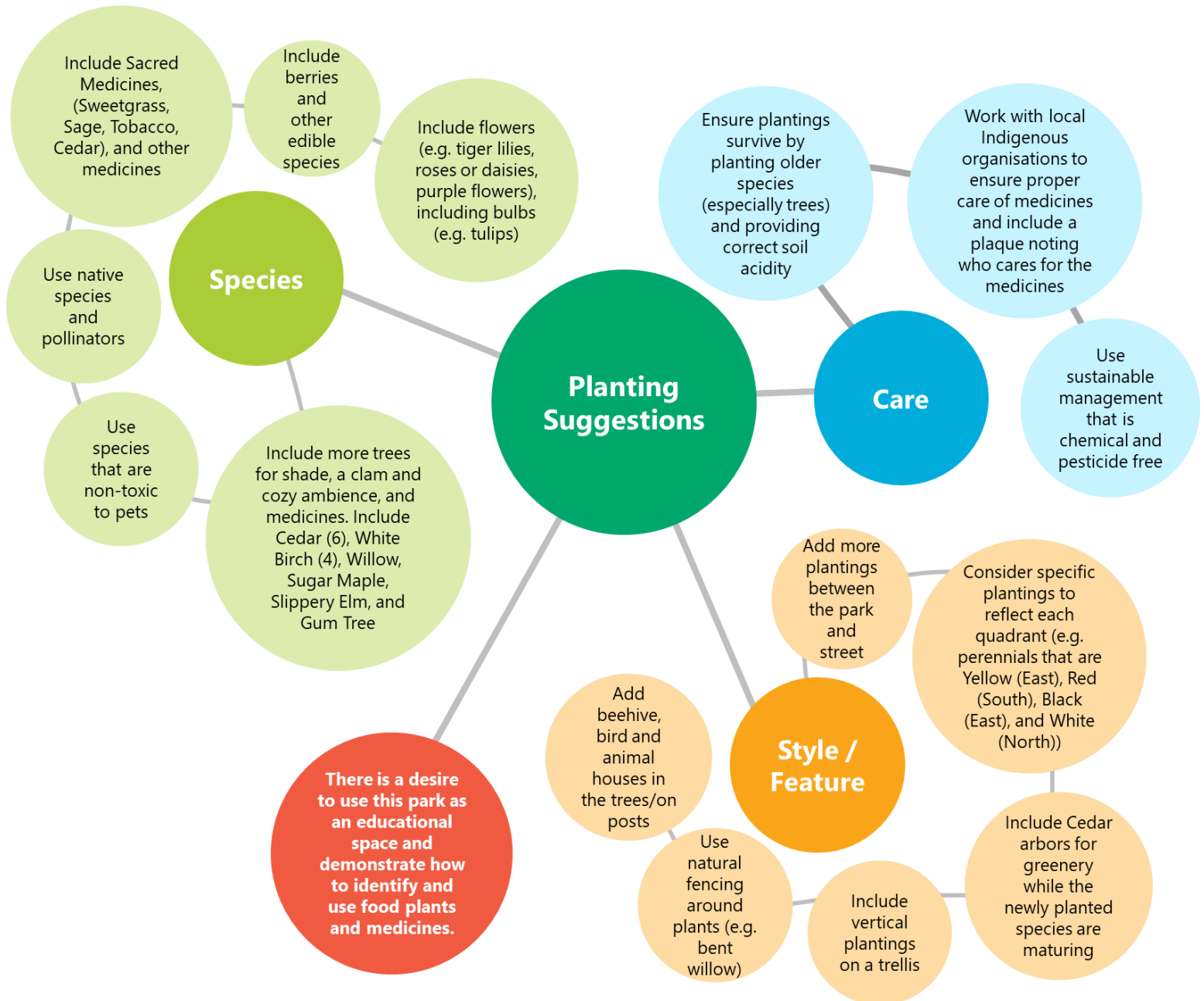


Plantings

The majority of respondents feel the proposed park layout provides the right balance between planting and open/gathering space. Those who do not think the park achieves the right balance feel there should be more greenspace and less open/gathering space.

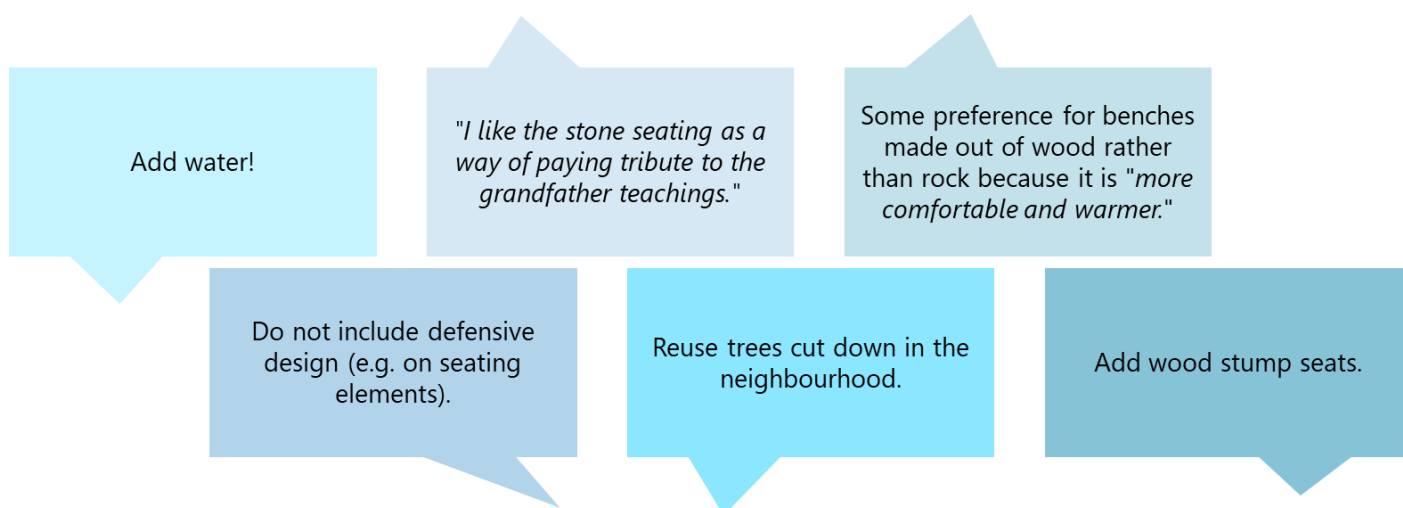
Concern that the materiality is too much concrete and hard surface.

The majority of respondents are satisfied with the proposed tree and understory planting plan. Key planting suggestions include:



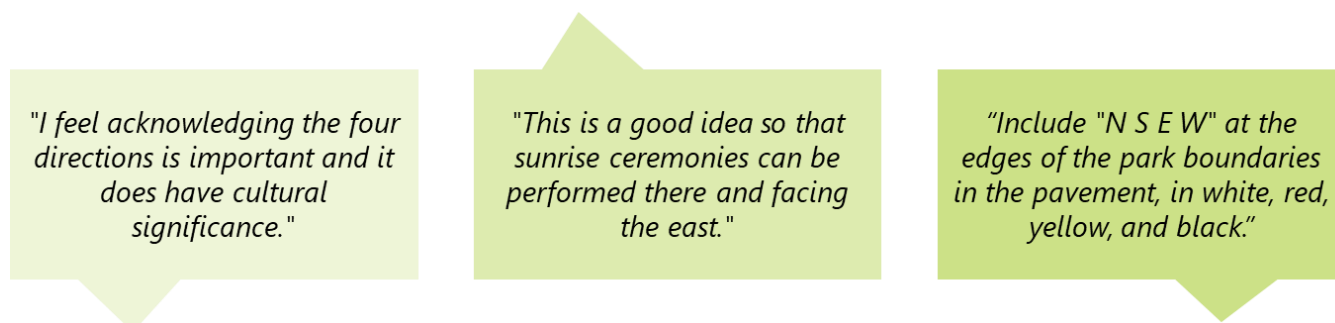
Bringing Natural Elements into the Park

Almost every respondent likes bringing natural elements into the park as a **Placekeeping feature**. Key feedback on the proposal to bring natural elements into the park includes:



Reflecting the Cardinal Directions

The majority of respondents like reflecting the cardinal directions as a **Placekeeping feature**.



Seven Grandfather Teachings

The majority of respondents like integrating the Seven Grandfather Teachings into the park as a Placekeeping feature. Key feedback about integrating the Seven Grandfather Teachings in the park includes:

Ensure it is clear which Nation(s) the teachings are from.

"I think it's very important to refer to teachings by not just their name, but from the Nation where they came from. There are variations in teachings so although the 7 Grandfathers are pretty universally acknowledged as an Indigenous values-based framework, referring to them as 'the 7 Grandfathers of the Ojibwe people' and then using Anishnawbemowin and English would be a respectful treatment."

"It should be centered in Anishnawbe ways of knowing."

"The Seven grandfather teachings are from Anishnawbe traditions and not any other tribal group, they need and should be in Anishnawbe language exclusively with some English."

"Include Michif signage along with Indigenous languages, this way all Indigenous languages are represented."

"It's an Anishnawbe and Cree teaching so in those languages. It would be nice to see some Haudenosaunee languages - they are the most at-risk."

Anishnawbemowin / Ojibwe were the top language suggested for sharing the teachings, followed by English. Other suggestions include Syllabics, Cree, Michif, Haudenosaunee languages, Indigenous languages from the surrounding area, French, and Italian.

Many respondents suggested that instead of having only one teaching in the center, since all the teachings are equal, they should all be around the outside.

"There is no hierarchy of the seven grandfather teachings, each teaching complements the other"

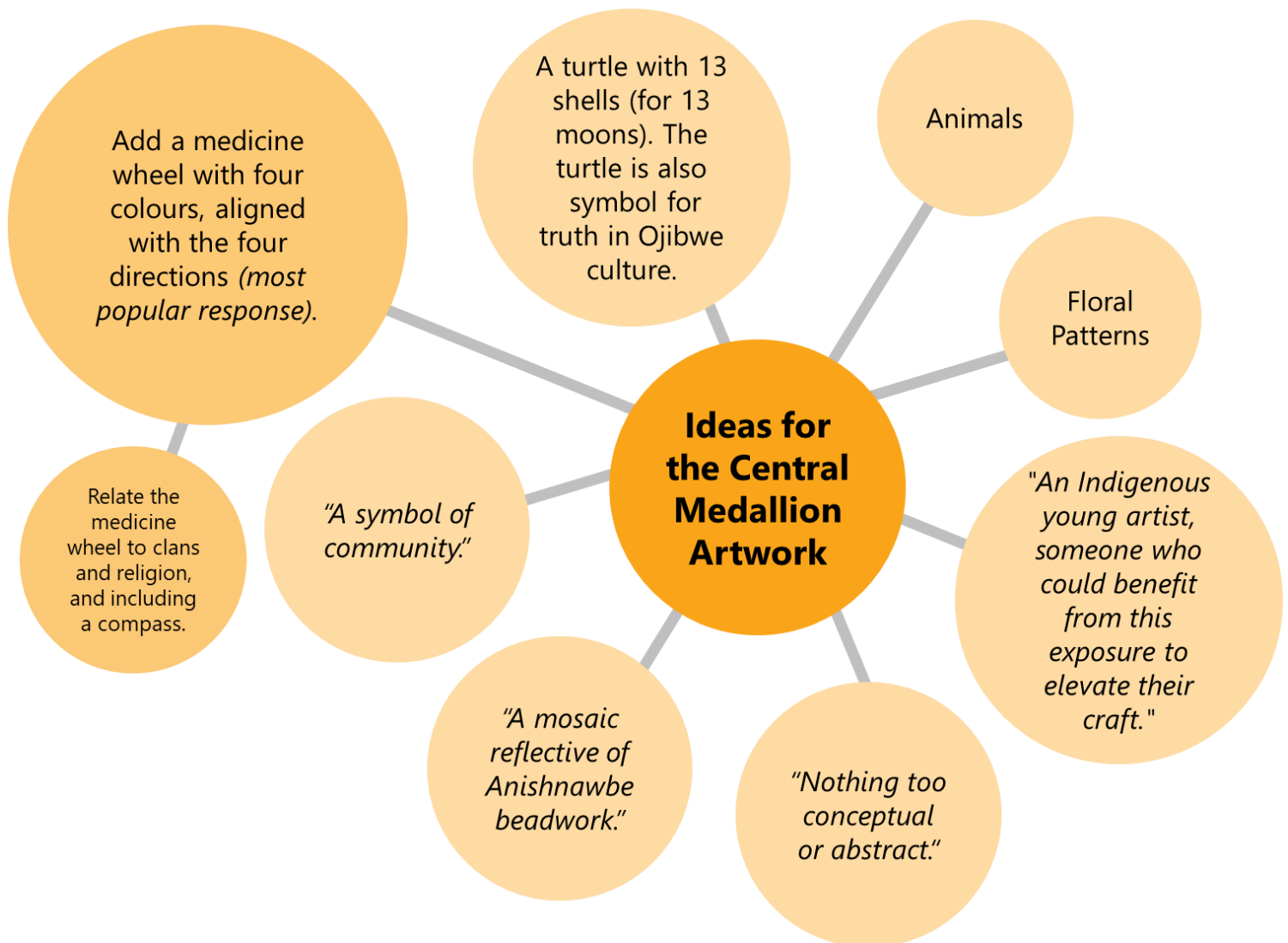
Support for signage in metal, wood/ wood burned, and resin finish.

Central Gathering and Performance Space

The majority of respondents like the inclusion of the central gathering and performance space as an Indigenous Placekeeping feature. Key suggestions for the space include:

- Operations:
 - Do not require a permit to use this space.
 - Include a mix of active/planned activations and passive/community programming.
- Keep the space open and flexible to allow community members to determine how to use the space.
- Include:
 - Electrical outlets (e.g. for performers, for artisan market or food market vendors).
 - Seating closer to the gathering area.

Some respondents provided ideas and suggestions for the central medallion artwork:



13 Moons

The majority of respondents like the inclusion of the 13 Moons as a Placekeeping feature. Key suggestions about incorporating the 13 Moons as a Placekeeping feature include:



Overall – Stories being told through Placekeeping Elements

The majority of respondents are satisfied or very satisfied with the stories that are proposed to be told through Indigenous Placekeeping in the park. Additional comments and suggestions related to Indigenous Placekeeping features include:

Include Indigenous Artwork throughout the park.

- Art on seating (e.g. engravings on wooden benches).
- Animal representation (e.g. the original clans engraved in stones).
 - *"Bringing in animals which are not usually located in cities, would help the space feel more inclusive."*
- Include a Moccasin Identifier.

Acknowledge and honour Indigenous children.

Name the park after an Indigenous hero and/or leader.

MCFN suggested connecting with Darin Wybenga for any historical significance to that area for input on park naming.

Once the park is built, have summer City of Toronto interns who First Nations, Inuit, or Métis are run a walking tour free of charge of this park.

Reach out to Indigenous Organisations for their involvement.

Include a smaller gathering space (e.g. top left corner) with seating that is sunken and angled towards the presenter, like a small wading pool.

Some respondents suggested including an area for fire keeping / ability to host a fire ceremony.

However, MCFN representatives noted that *"While fire pits are important for ceremony, they are not recommended in more public settings as ceremony is private and not for on-lookers."*

Raised Stage

The majority of respondents like the inclusion of a stage in the park. Some are concerned the stage will make the space too loud, while others feel there are already stages in nearby parks available. Representatives from NCFST are not in favour of the raised stage and prefer a layout where everyone sits on equal ground (reflecting teachings around equity). Key suggestions and comments about the raised stage include:

Provide electrical access and ample seating in closer proximity to the stage.

"We lack gathering space in this area. A stage will encourage more community events - large and small."

Take cues from the design at St James Park (on King St.).

Allow this space to function organically (without many regulations). Ensure it is accessible to the Indigenous community.

Alternative suggestion: Sink the stage into the ground, which could be safer and feel more equitable.

Alternative suggestion: Platform seating facing each other (e.g. stone seating facing each other).

Seating

The majority of respondents like the proposed tiered stone seating, wooden bench seating, and café table and chair seating area. There is support for the range of seating options that provides different ways to use the space, while bringing in natural elements. Of all the options presented, the café table and chair area was slightly more divisive, with more participants disliking this seating options than the other proposed seating types.

Key suggestions and comments about the proposed seating includes:

Ensure accessibility, especially for elders and those with mobility challenges:

- Include backrests, armrests, and seating at different heights.
- Ensure comfortable and plentiful seating for elders and others who cannot climb the stone seating.
- Do not include defensive architecture.

Make the seating more natural looking

e.g. add more wood; include fewer hard edges; no perfectly rectangular pieces of wood or slabs of granite, as these are not natural.

Ensure seating is easy to maintain and clean.

While many like the café area, some do not as they feel it interrupts the open gathering space and does not have longevity or will be easily ruined. Alternative suggestions include picnic tables and/or long harvest-style tables (good for families and community), benches, Muskoka chairs, and/or games tables.

Lighting

The majority of respondents are satisfied with the proposed lighting and support keeping the park and adjacent POPs bright (but not too bright!). Key suggestions and comments include:

Support for interpretative and interactive lighting designs.

- Project designs or words on the ground.
- Incorporate teachings about the Northern Lights.
- Include coloured, programmable LED lights that can be coordinated to music or to create a lightshow.
- Include sensory and adjustable lights.
- Include in-ground lighting in the central medallion.
- Include adjustable hanging lights.

Support for sustainable lighting.

Use LEDs, meet LEED Gold standards, and place lighting below tree branches to reduce impacts on animals living in trees.

Seek out Indigenous vendors for services or products.

Use warm rather than cold lighting hues.

Overall Park Design

The majority of respondents are satisfied or very satisfied with the draft park design.

Additional key suggestions and comments include:

- Include:
 - A discovery areas for teaching
 - A drinking fountain at each end of the park
 - A small meditation maze
 - A washroom
 - An electrical outlet for charging, connected to solar panels
 - Ash bin for butts (e.g. as part of waste bins)
 - Bikeshare
 - More bike parking
 - Place bike parking between the sidewalk and road, or at the paved park entrance so the planting areas can be larger
 - More waste bins (including recycling and compost)
 - Permeable paving
 - Sharps container
 - Shelter from rain
 - Signage to prevent dogs from peeing on park features
 - Smoking section
 - Space for kids that is dog-free
 - Sunscreen dispensers
 - Welcome signs in every direction
- Ensure accessibility
 - Ensure paving is smooth for accessibility with mobility devices
 - Do not allow amplification in the park, as this creates a challenge for people with hearing disabilities
- Ensure this park is properly maintained, which may require special treatment

Online Survey Overview

An online survey ran from March 3 to April 2. Participants could review and provide feedback on draft design options for the new park on Richmond Street East. The survey included information about the proposed draft design, including a video of a presentation by Ryan Gorrie, the project team's Indigenous Design Advisor. The video included an explanation of the draft park design and its Indigenous Placekeeping elements.

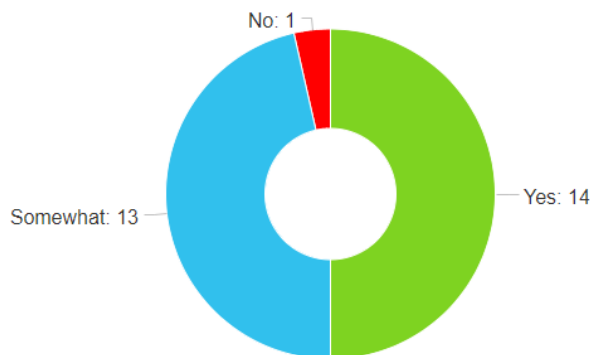
The survey branched for Indigenous communities members, to ask more detailed questions about the proposed Indigenous Placekeeping elements in the park designs. In total, 31 Indigenous communities members responded to the online survey, including representatives from seven Indigenous serving organisations. The Indigenous-serving organisations that participated in the survey include:

- Miziwe Biik
- Aboriginal Legal Services
- 2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations
- Native Child and Family Services of Toronto
- Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto
- Na-Me-Res (Native Men's Residence)
- Metis Nation of Ontario

Results:

Draft Vision Statement: The design vision for this park is an accessible, green and calm urban oasis, with the flexibility to host events and performances. The design focus in this park is Indigenous Placekeeping.

Does the park vision statement reflect what you want the new park to become?



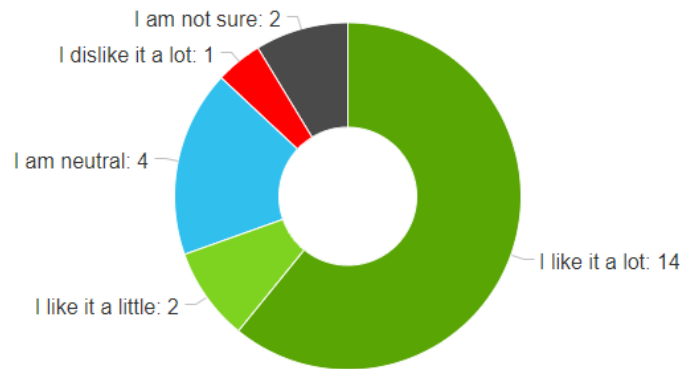
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Half of respondents like the vision statement as is. Most other respondents feel the vision statement *somewhat* reflects what they want the new park to become. One respondent does not like the current vision statement. Suggestions for improvement include:

- Add:

- A greater focus on Indigenous Placekeeping (e.g. "Indigenous Placekeeping space and movement towards reconciliation and land back")
- "welcoming"
- "land-based area"
- "dog park"
- Ability to host "cultural events and performances"
- After performances add "for all"
- Reduce the breadth of activities, as they have competing goals

Do you like or dislike reflecting the cardinal directions as a Placekeeping feature?

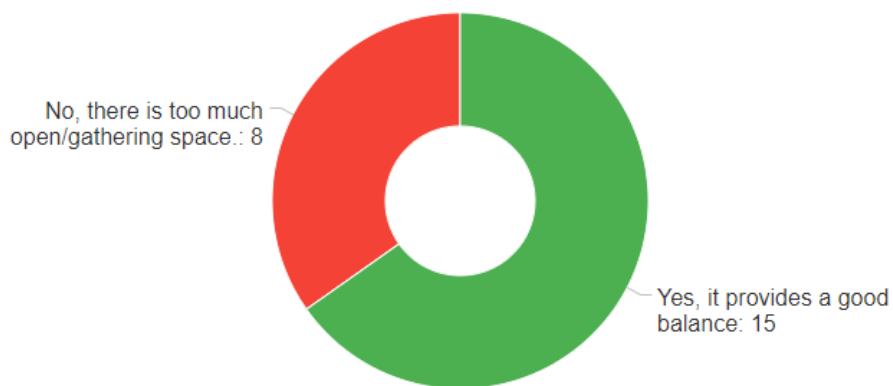


N 23

The majority of respondents like reflecting the cardinal directions as a Placekeeping feature. Key comments about reflecting the cardinal directions include:

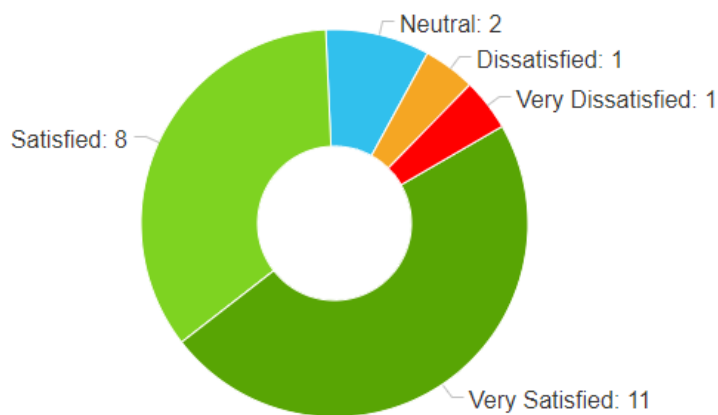
- "I feel acknowledging the four directions is important and it does have cultural significance."
- Include interpretive signage to provide teaching/history/context
- "This is a good idea so that sunrise ceremonies can be performed there and facing the east."
- "Include "N S E W" at the edges of the park boundaries in the pavement, in white, red, yellow, and black."

Does the proposed park layout provide the right balance between planting and open/gathering space?



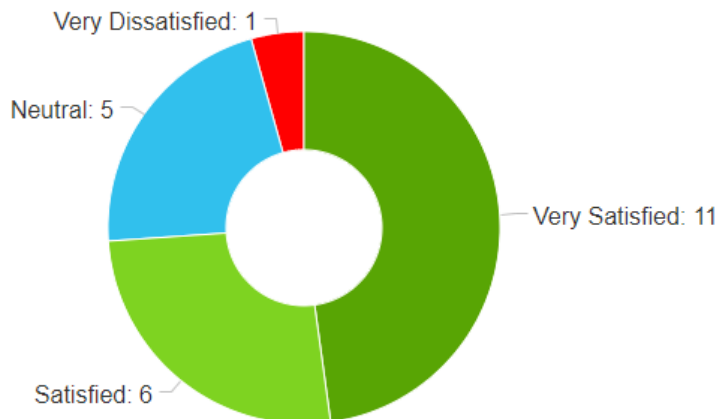
N 23

How satisfied are you with the proposed understory planting?



N 23

How satisfied are you with the proposed tree planting?

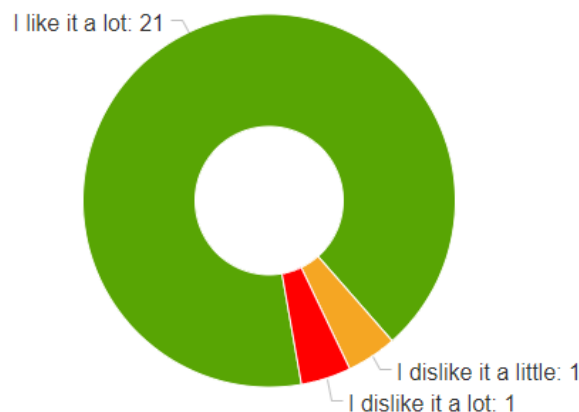


N 23

The majority of respondents are satisfied with the balance between planted areas and gathering areas, as well as the proposed tree and understory planting. Key planting suggestions include:

- Add more trees overall, including older trees, so they can thrive and survive
 - Add White Cedar trees (3)
 - Give shade and are green all year round
 - Can be harvested by community for medicine
 - Add White Birch trees
 - "It would be great if the space were more cozy, to sit under the trees and read a book."
 - "Moss Park has so few trees and many will have been cut down over the next two years."
- Add perennials:
 - Pollinators, for both butterflies and bees
 - Perennials that are Yellow (East), Red (South), Black (East) White (North)
- Add more edible species (e.g. serviceberries and others)
 - There is a desire to use this park as an educational space and demonstrate how to identify and use food plants and medicines
- Bulbs (e.g. tulips)
- Flowers (e.g. daisies or roses)
- Ensure plants are not poisonous to dogs
- Ensure soils are chosen to support planted species (concern the soil will not be acidic enough for blueberry and bunch berry)

Do you like or dislike how the design brings natural elements into the park as a Placekeeping feature?



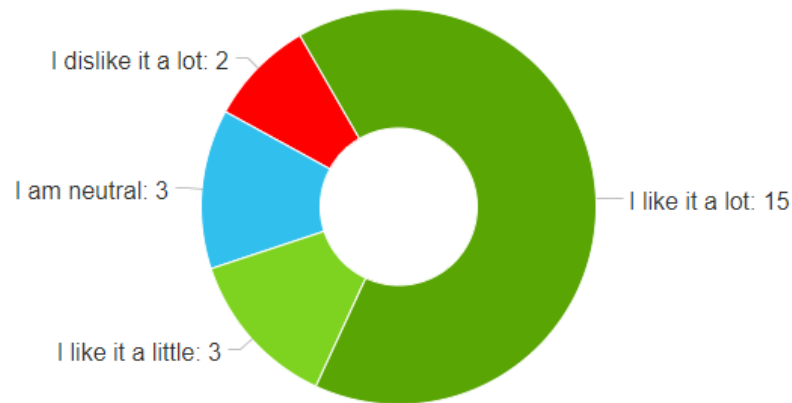
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Almost every respondent likes bringing natural elements into the park as a Placekeeping feature. Key feedback on the proposal to bring natural elements into the park includes:

- Support for the stone seating:
 - "I love the stones! They're amazing!"
 - "I like the stone seating as a way of paying tribute to the grandfather teachings."

- Preference for benches made out of wood rather than rock because it is "more comfortable and warmer"
- Do not include defensive design
- Reuse trees cut down in the neighbourhood
- A respondents who dislikes this element said they feel it is superficial

Do you like or dislike how the design integrates the Seven Grandfather Teachings in the park as a Placekeeping feature?



N 23

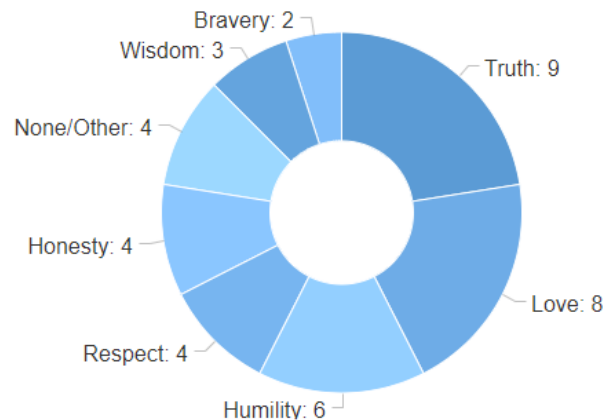
The majority of respondents like integrating the Seven Grandfather Teachings into the park as a Placekeeping feature. Suggestions for which languages the seven grandfather teachings should be shared in, include:

- Annishnawbemowin (7) / Ojibwe (6)
 - "The Seven grandfather teachings from Anishnawbe traditions and not any other tribal group, they need and should be in Anishnawbe language exclusively with some English."
 - The teachings are Ojibwe so this "leans towards an unbalanced bias of presence."
- English (5)
- Michif (1)
 - Michif signage along with Indigenous languages (so "all Indigenous languages are represented.")
- Cree (1)
- Haudenosaunee languages (1)
 - "It's an Anishnaabe and Cree teaching so in those languages. It would be nice to see some Haudenosaunee languages - they are the most at-risk."
- French (1)
- Italian (1)

Additional comments and suggestions about the Seven Grandfather Teachings include:

- "I think it's very important to refer to teachings by not just their name, but from the Nation where they came from. There are variations in teachings so although the 7 Grandfathers are pretty universally acknowledged as an Indigenous values-based framework, referring to them as 'the 7 Grandfathers of the Ojibwe people' and then using Anishnawbemowin and English would be a respectful treatment."
- "Not all Indigenous Nations use the 7 grandfather teachings. Be specific to what nation these teachings come from."
 - "It should be centered in Anishnawbe ways of knowing."
- A couple of respondents who dislike this element said they feel it is stereotypical and/or lacks meaning in this design

Which of the Seven Grandfather Teachings should be represented in the park's central medallion, which is also a gathering and performance space? Pick any you would like to see as the central medallion.

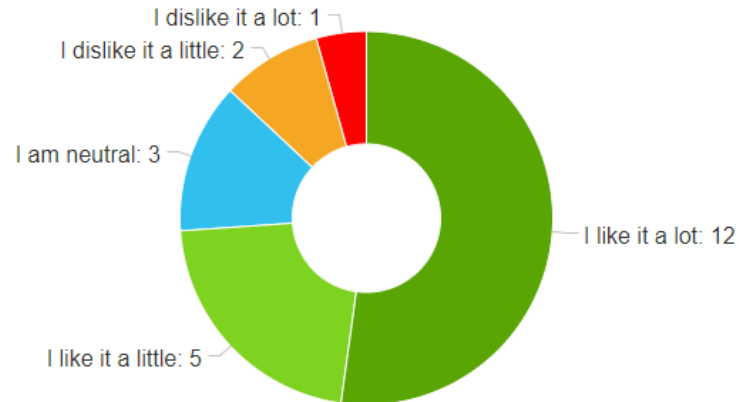


N 23

Some respondents provided explanations for their selection:

- "I really like 'Truth' in the center because non-Indigenous people need to learn/know our truth."
- "Love is the first teaching."
- "I chose Respect for the central medallion because everyone should respect and honor the space and the people within it."
- "There is no hierarchy of the seven grandfather teachings, each teaching complements the other."
- "All should be represented."

Do you like or dislike the inclusion of the central gathering and performance space?



N 23

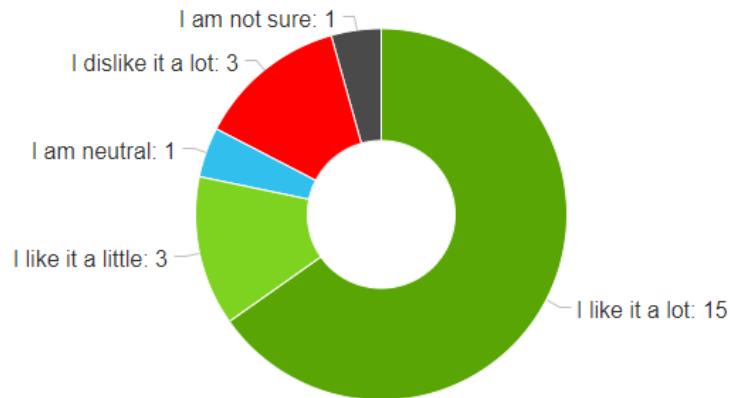
The majority of respondents like the inclusion of the central gathering and performance space. Some respondents shared suggestions for how the central gathering and performance space can be welcoming to and well-suited for Indigenous gatherings and/or performances:

- Include:
 - An area for fire keeping / ability to host a fire ceremony
 - The four colors of the Medicine Wheel
 - Electrical access (e.g. for vendors for an artisan market or food market)
- One respondent suggested programming include a mix of active/planned activations and passive/community programming
- One respondent is skeptical the space will be used and suggested replacing it with perennial plants

Some respondents provided ideas and suggestions for the central medallion artwork:

- Medicine wheel with the four colors (2)
- Floral pattern
- A mosaic reflective of Anishnawbe beadwork
- Turtle with the moons on its back
- A symbol of community
- "An Indigenous young artist, someone who could benefit from this exposure to elevate their craft."
- "Nothing too conceptual or abstract. A statute of an Indigenous fellow from the War of 1812 or any other war hero would be ideal."

Do you like or dislike the inclusion of the 13 Moons in the park design as a Placekeeping feature?

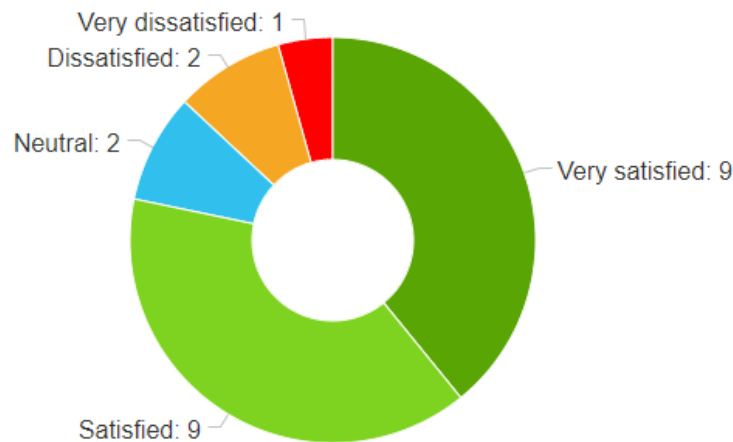


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The majority of respondents like the inclusion of the 13 Moons as a Placekeeping feature. Some respondents provided comments or suggestions about incorporating the 13 Moons as a Placekeeping feature:

- Ensure park users know and understand why this feature was included.
 - "It works if the moons are defined so they won't be appropriated by non-Indigenous folks."
- Recognize and reflect the differences in this teaching between Nations:
 - "Different Nations have different names for each moon. Would love to see the names from different Nations incorporated in some way. It's very valuable in connecting people to place and season."
 - "It's important to know what the 13 moons meant to different groups. It's important to teach this and so the names of moons from different nations should be incorporated."
- Provide more clarity and/or focus through design:
 - "I don't see the moon cycle reflected."
 - "It is unclear if the moons are seating or tables. Each moon cannot be both."
 - Focus on one philosophy, there are too many in the park
- A respondent does not like that the park incorporates religion

How satisfied are you with the stories that are being told through Indigenous Placekeeping in the park?

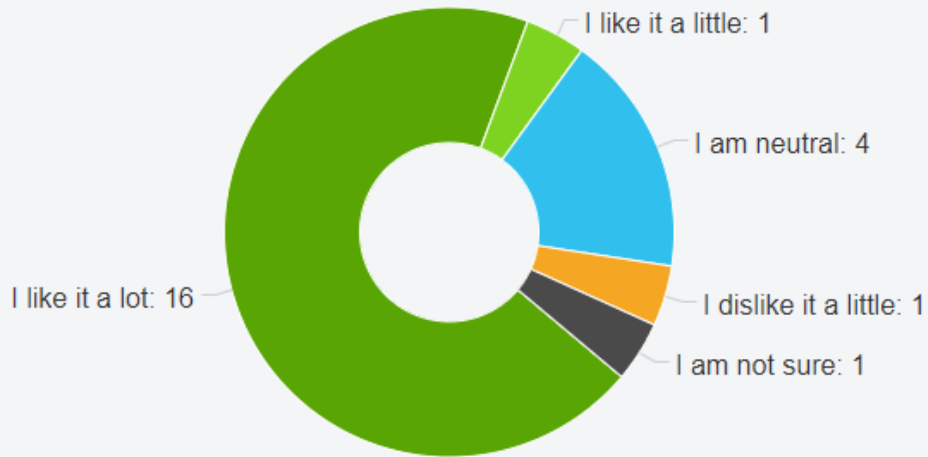


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The large majority of respondents are satisfied with the stories that are proposed to be told through Indigenous Placekeeping in the park. Additional comments and suggestions related to Indigenous Placekeeping features include:

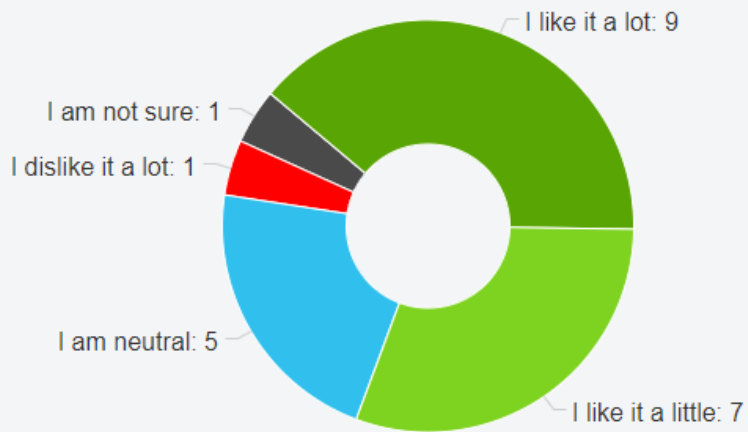
- Include signage explaining the teachings
- Include plaques by the trees and plants with names in Anishinaabemowin, English, Michif and/or French
- Acknowledge and honor Indigenous children
- Incorporate Ojibwe language into the park (the most commonly used Indigenous language in Toronto)
- Name the park after an Indigenous hero and/or leader
- Include a ceremonial fire space
- Ensure this park is properly maintained, which may require special treatment
- Have Indigenous artists submit artwork with a focus on the 4 colors, and use these as flags in the park
- Idea for once the park is built:
 - Have summer City of Toronto interns who First Nations, Inuit, or Métis are run a walking tour free of charge of this park. Reach out to Indigenous Organisations for their involvement
- Focus on native plants rather than religion
- If history is included, focus on military history where Indigenous peoples fought alongside the British or French

Do you like or dislike the proposed tiered stone seating?



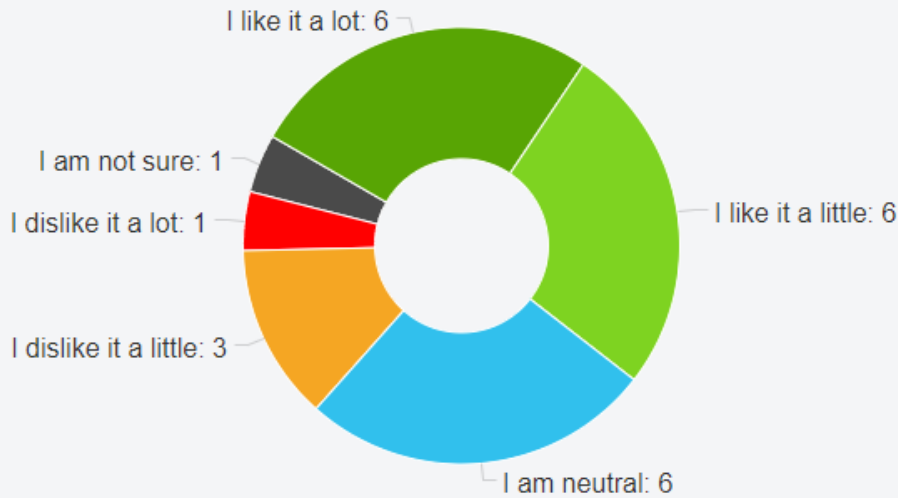
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Do you like or dislike the proposed wooden bench seating?



N 23

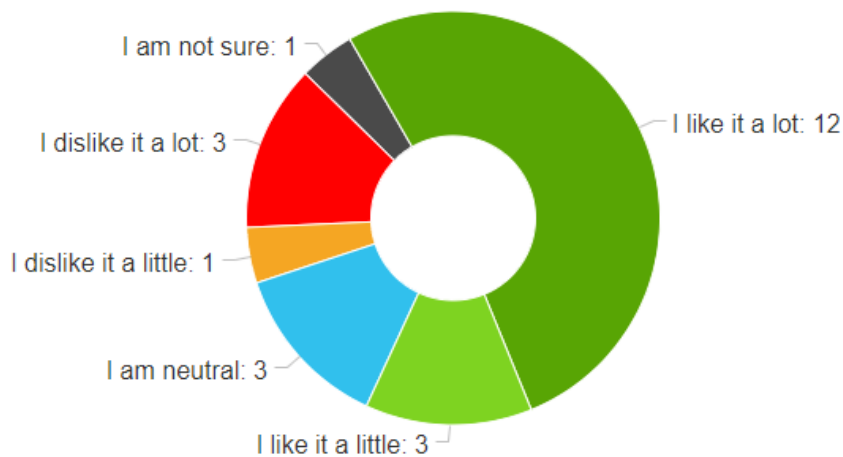
Do you like or dislike the inclusion of café tables and chairs in the park design?



Some respondents provided suggestions and comments about the proposed seating. Key feedback includes:

- Ensure accessibility:
 - Include backrests on benches
 - Include armrests so people can push themselves up
- Add:
 - Muskoka chairs
 - More benches with backrests (3)
- Do not include defensive architecture (2)
- Support for tiered stone seating, "Rocks are a great way to encourage children to play and explore."
- Ensure seating is easy to maintain and clean.
- Make the seating more natural looking (e.g. less hard edges; no perfectly rectangular pieces of wood or slabs of granite, as these are not natural)
- Concern the cafe seating will be vandalized or stolen, or "may not serve the intended purpose." (2)

Do you like or dislike the inclusion of a stage in the park design?

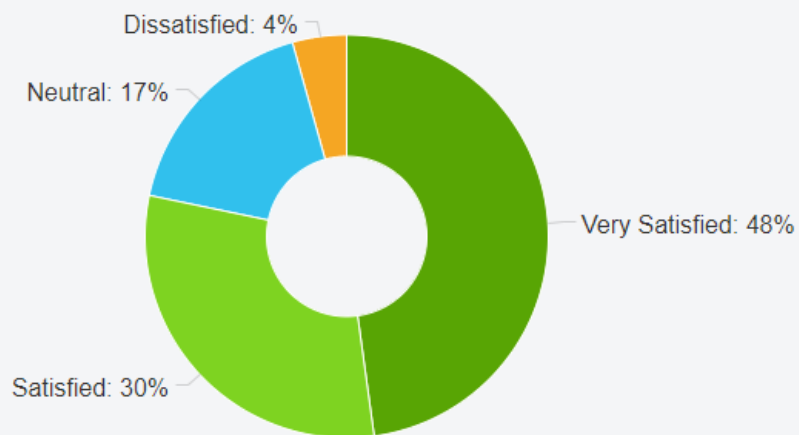


N 23

Most respondents like the inclusion of a stage in the park. Comments and suggestions about the stage include:

- Provide:
 - Electrical access (2)
 - Ample seating (2)
- Allow this space to function organically (without many regulations) and/or is accessible to Indigenous communities. (2)
- "We lack gathering space in this area. A stage will encourage more community events -large and small."
- Take cues from the design at St James Park (on King St.)
- A respondent dislikes the inclusion due to noise concerns, while another is "skeptical anyone would use this feature"

How satisfied are you with the proposed lighting?

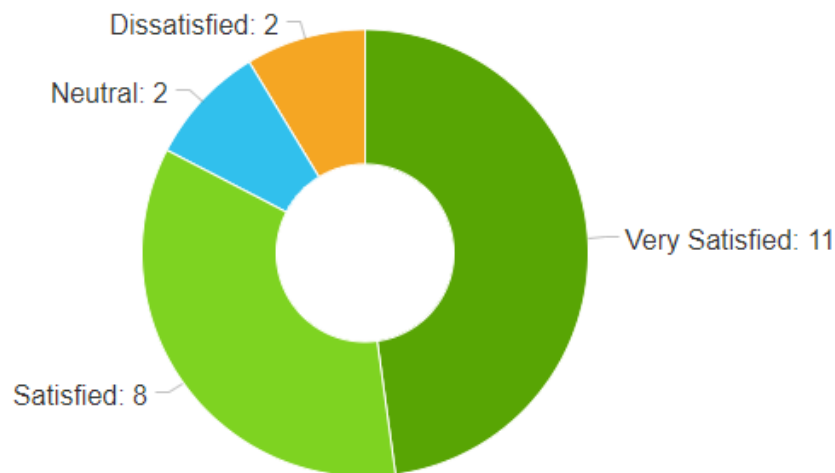


N 23

The majority of respondents are satisfied with the proposed lighting. Key suggestions and comments include:

- Make sustainable choices (e.g. use LEDs and achieve LEED Gold standards)
- Ensure the park, including corners and adjacent Privately Owned Public Spaces (POPs) are well-lit for safety
- Use warm lighting rather than cold fluorescents
- Include in-ground lighting in the central medallion (e.g. "one light in the center of the medallion")
- Seek out Indigenous vendors for services or products

Overall, how satisfied are you with the draft park design?



N 23

The majority of respondents are satisfied with the draft park design. Additional suggestions include:

- Provide an electrical outlet for charging, connected to solar panels
- Include a washroom
- Include a water element (e.g. fountain or glass wall)

Pop-Ups Overview

50
Community
Members Engaged

3
Pop-ups

City staff reached out to over 14 Indigenous Serving organisations, offering to host pop-ups for their staff, membership, or patrons. Three organisations offered to host a pop-up at their location.

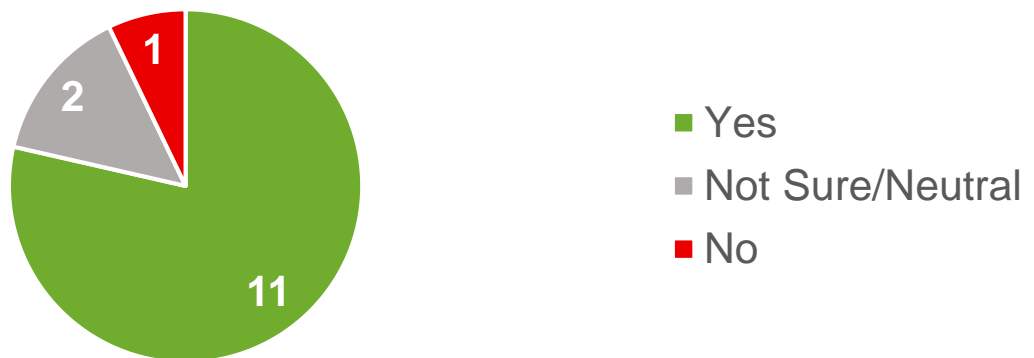
Pop-ups included large project information boards with questions to collect feedback on the proposed designs, similar to the online survey. Two staff members were present at each pop-up to discuss the designs and gather feedback. At each pop-up, refreshments and snacks were provided, and participants were given a \$10 Tim Hortons gift cards.

Pop-ups included:

- Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto: April 21, 10 a.m. to 12:00 pm
- 2 Spirited People of the 1st Nations: April 14, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.
- Native Child and Family Services of Toronto: April 13, 2 to 4 p.m.

Results

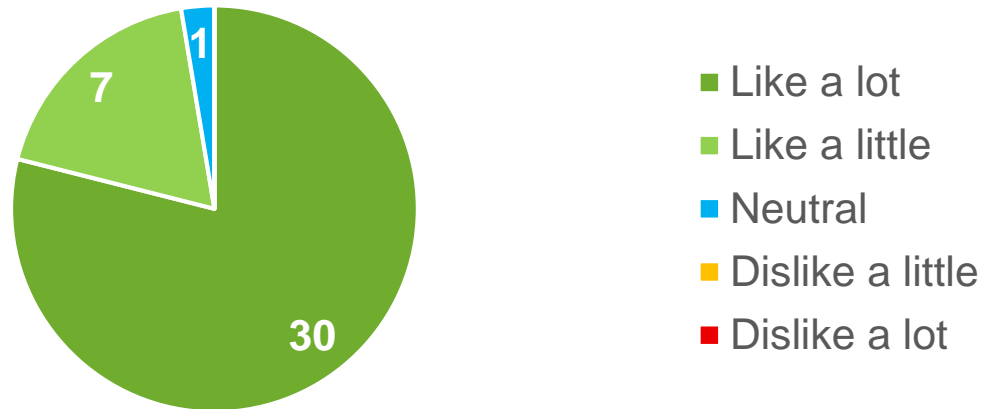
Does the park vision statement reflect what you want the park to become?



The majority of respondents agreed that the park vision statement reflects what they want the park to become. Community members provided the following key comments and suggestions:

- Add:
 - Places or playspace for kids
 - Places for seniors
 - Security/safety
 - Softer surfacing (e.g. rubber)
 - A swimming pool

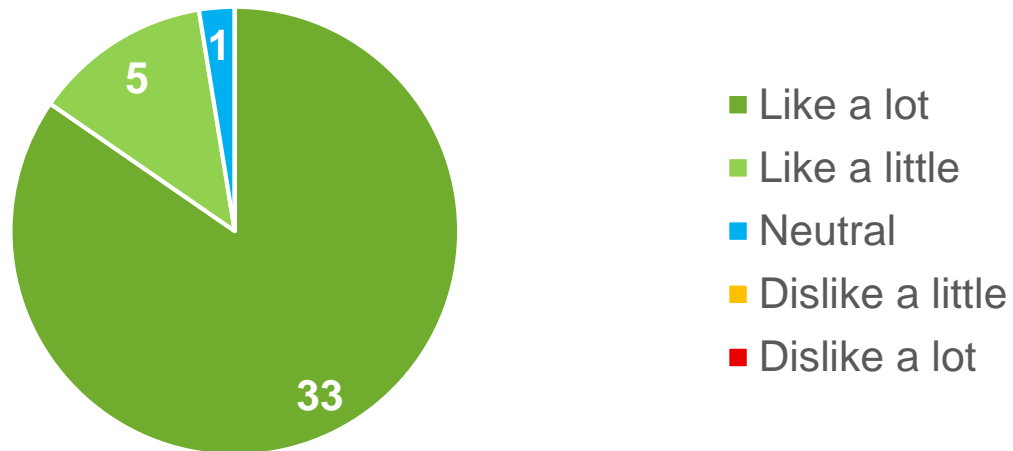
Do you like or dislike reflecting the cardinal directions as a Placekeeping feature?



Almost every respondent liked the cardinal directions as a Placekeeping feature. Community members provided the following key comments and suggestions:

- Add interpretive signage

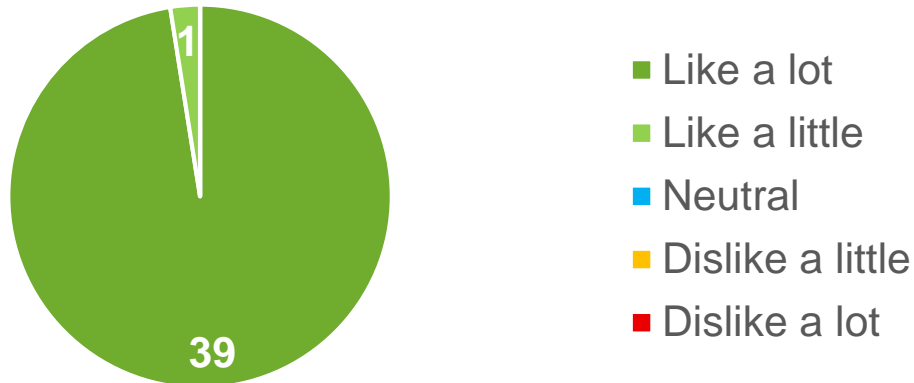
Do you like or dislike how the design brings natural elements into the park as a Placekeeping feature?



Almost every respondent liked bringing natural elements into the park as a Placekeeping feature. Community members provided the following key comments and suggestions:

- Add water (e.g. running on rocks) (9)
- Add wood stump seats

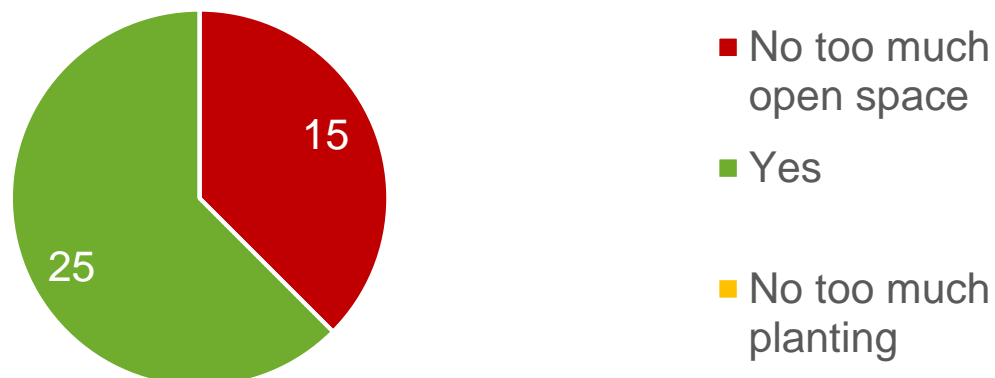
Do you like or dislike the inclusion of the 13 Moons as a Placekeeping feature?



Every respondent liked the 13 Moons element as a Placekeeping feature. Community members provided the following key comments and suggestions:

- Include Interpretive signage (6)
- Add more design to the seats to reflect the teachings (5). Ideas include:
 - Top is engraved/painted to show each moon phase
 - Engravings/paintings on the outside of each moon can provide a teaching about each moon
 - Top of seats to match top of the central medallion
- Add wood seats to the top of the moons for comfort
- Make the seats spin
- Different Nations have different teachings, so it will be hard to make everyone happy

Does the park layout provide the right balance between planting and open/gathering space?



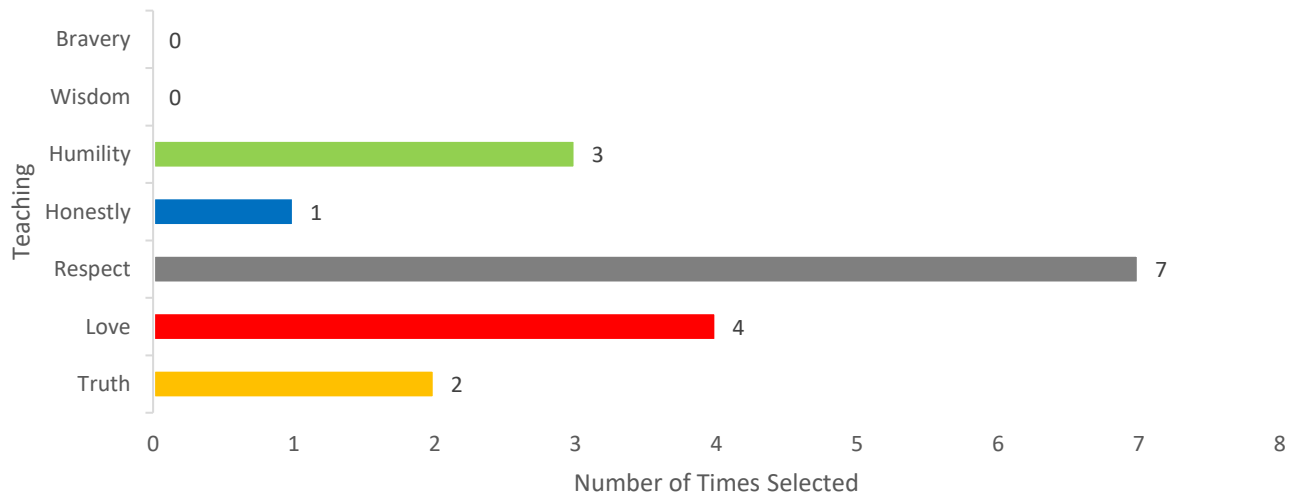
Most respondents think the park layout provides the right balance between planting and open/gathering space. Community members provided the following key comments and suggestions:

- Add specific trees and/or plants:
 - Native species
 - Sweetgrass(4)
 - Birch (2)
 - Cedar (2)
 - Gum tree
 - Slippery elm
 - Sage
 - Sugar maple
 - Tobacco
 - Tiger lilies (butterfly plants)
 - Willow
 - Purple flowers
 - Medicines, including the four medicines (3)
 - Berries
 - One respondent did not want edible plantings as they felt it would make a mess and lead to more animal droppings in the park.
- Planting style and features:
 - Add plantings that create a more woody feeling.
 - Create and install Cedar arbors in the park to bring in greenery while the newly planted species are maturing.
 - Add vertical plantings on a trellis
 - Include interpretive signs for all the plantings
 - One respondent suggested adding beehive posts (very high) while another did not want "too many" bees in the park.
 - Add bird and animal houses in the trees.
 - Add a barrier of plantings between the road and street (5 ft. tall so not blocking too much southern sun)
- Work with local Indigenous Organisations to ensure proper care of medicines
- Use sustainable maintenance and garden management:
 - Do not use pesticides/chemicals
 - Do not cut away in fall because food for animals”

Do you like or dislike how the design integrates the Seven Grandfather Teachings in the park as a Placekeeping feature?



Which of the Seven Grandfather Teachings should be represented in the park's central medallion? (Pick any)



Many respondents suggested that instead of having only one teaching in the center, since all the teachings are equal, they should all be around the outside (14).

Additional suggestions for the center medallion include:

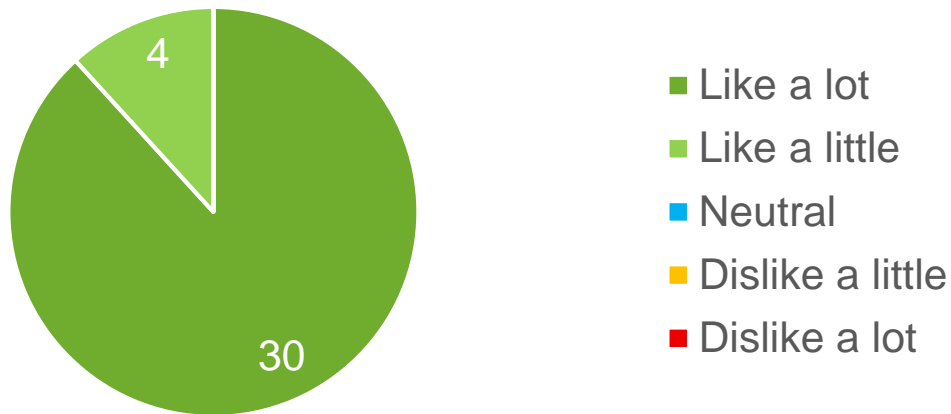
- All the teachings in the center
- Add a medicine wheel with four colours, aligned with the four directions (9)
 - Relate this to clans and religion
- A symbol for truth is a turtle for Ojibwe culture. Put turtle in center of park with 13 shells (for 13 moons)
- Animals

- Love, because with love comes all else.

Suggestions for languages and signage include:

- Syllabics, Anishinabemowin, English
- Support for signage in:
 - Metal
 - Wood/wood burned
 - Resin finish

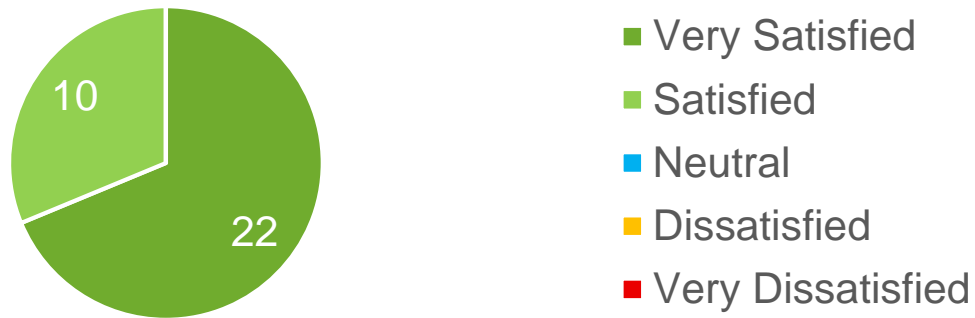
Do you like or dislike the inclusion of the central gathering and performance space?



All participants who responded to this question liked the inclusion of the central gathering and performance space. Community members provided the following key comments and suggestions:

- Add:
 - A fire pit
 - Smaller gathering spaces (e.g. top left corner) with seating that is sunken and angled towards the presenter, like a small wading pool.
- Operations:
 - Do not require a permit to use this space
- Support for the location (central downtown)
- Make this more spaced out

Overall, how satisfied are you with the stories being told through Indigenous Placekeeping in the park?



All participants who responded to this question were satisfied with the stories being told through Indigenous Placekeeping in the park. Community members provided the following key comments and suggestions:

- Add Haudenosaunee teachings too
- Add Dish with One Spoon teachings
- Include visuals of animals that relate to the teachings

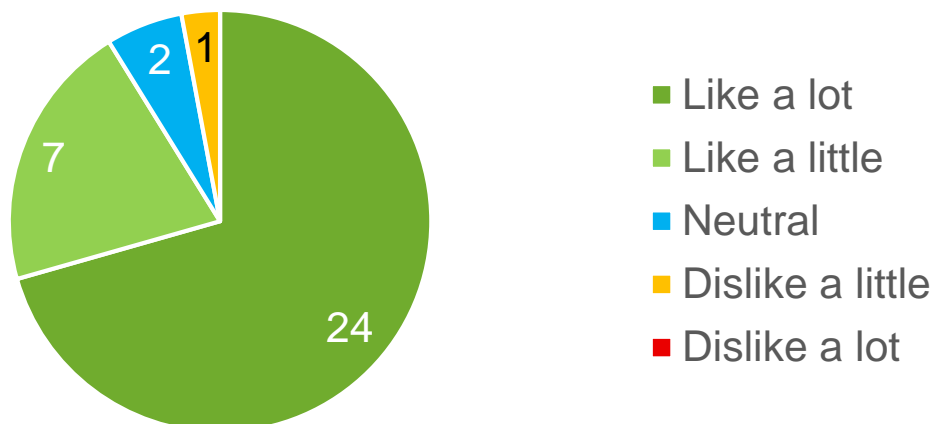
Do you like or dislike the tiered stone seating?



The majority respondents like the tiered stone seating. Community members provided the following key comments and suggestions:

- Ensure there is enough seating in this area that is accessible and comfortable for elders and others who cannot climb
- Concern for the safety of children running on this feature

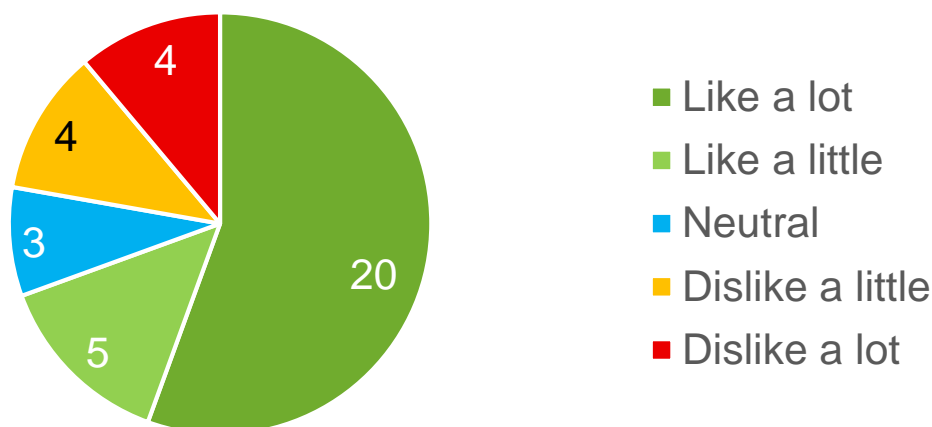
Do you like or dislike the wooden bench seating?



The majority of respondents like the wooden bench seating. Community members provided the following key comments and suggestions:

- Ensure the height is accessible for the elderly and backrests are provided (2)
- Do not include defensive architecture
- Support for wood seating because it is comfortable
- Ensure these are well maintained

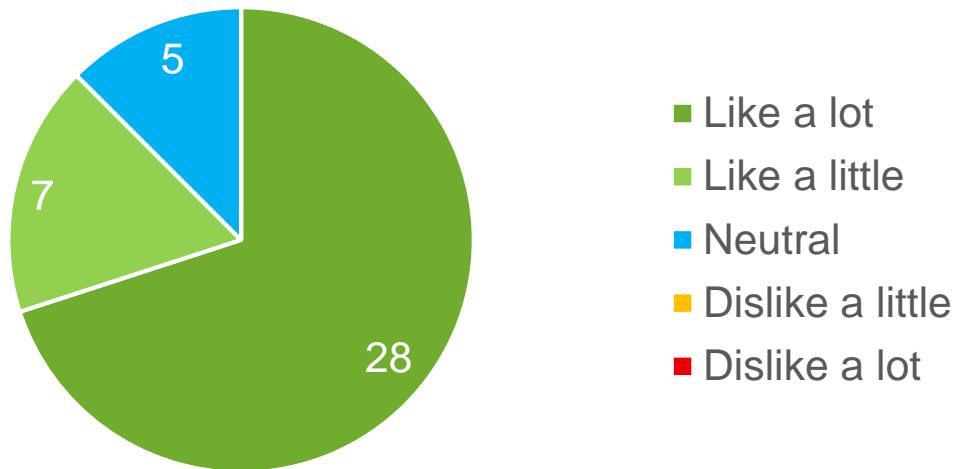
Do you like or dislike the cafe table and chair seating?



The majority of respondents like the cafe table and chair seating, though about a third dislike this seating area. Community members provided the following key comments and suggestions:

- Some do not support the space because:
 - It interrupts the open gathering space
 - It looks like it will be easily ruined
 - It makes the space feel too closed-in
- Alternative suggestions included:
 - Concrete semi-circle benches
 - Wooden tables
 - Game tabletops
- A respondent who liked the feature suggested it be included at both ends of the park

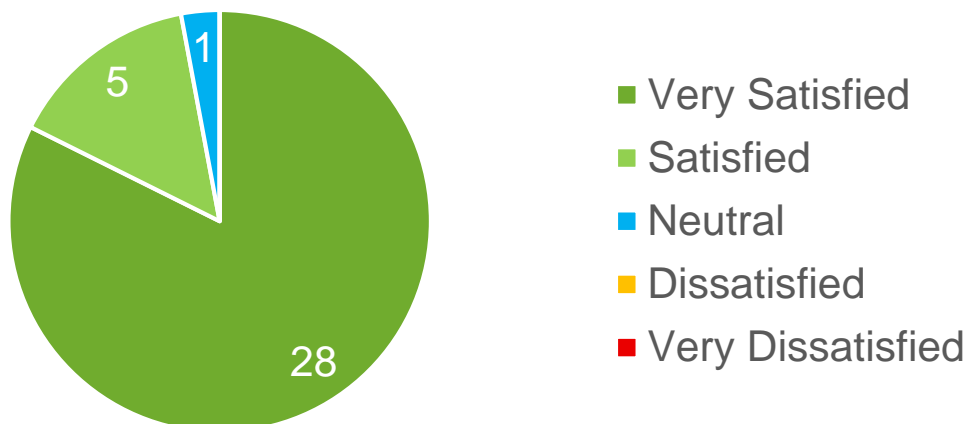
Do you like or dislike the inclusion of a stage?



The majority of respondents like the inclusion of a stage. Community members provided the following key comments and suggestions:

- The stage is too far from the seating
- There are already stages nearby at Berczy Park and St James Park, so this does not seem needed

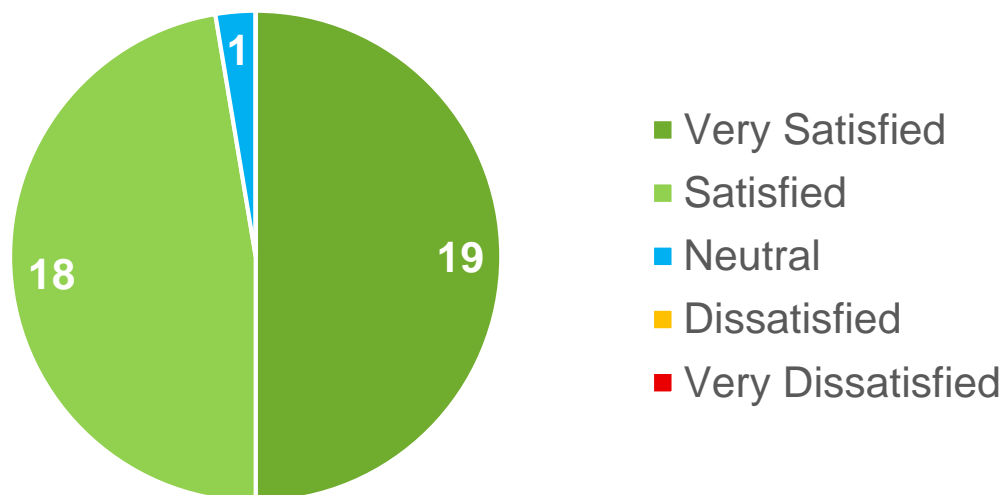
How satisfied are you with the proposed lighting?



The majority of respondents are satisfied with the proposed lighting plan. Community members provided the following key comments and suggestions:

- Keep it bright for safety (3), but not *too* bright (2)
- Use lighting to project designs or words on the ground
- Place lighting below tree branches, as this is better for birds for live in the trees
- Teachings can also incorporate the Northern Lights
- Include coloured, programmable LED lights that can be coordinated to music or to create a lightshow
- Include sensory lights

Overall, how satisfied are you with the park design and layout?



Almost every respondent was satisfied with the overall park design and layout. Community members provided the following key comments and suggestions:

- Add:
 - A water feature (7)
 - “Slow-flowing natural water feature”
 - Outlets and/or charging stations (3)
 - Discovery areas for teaching
 - Signage:
 - Interpretive panels
 - "No dog pee"
 - Bike features:
 - More bike parking
 - Bikeshare
 - Art:
 - Add more throughout
 - Community art on seating
 - Connect with Native Arts Society
 - Small meditation maze
 - Sacred fire site
 - Space for kids that is dog-free
 - More waste bins (including recycling and compost)
 - Seating closer to gathering areas
 - Sunscreen dispensers
 - Sharps container
 - Smoking section
 - Ash bin for butts (e.g. as part of waste bins)
 - Shelter from rain
- Adjust:
 - Ensure paving is smooth for accessibility with mobility devices
 - Bike parking:
 - Too close to the stage. Place bike parking between the sidewalk and road so the planting area can be larger (or at paved park entrance)
 - Include a drinking fountain at each end of the park
- Comments about use:
 - Do not allow amplification in the park, as this creates a challenge for people with hearing disabilities

Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council Discussion

Overview

On March 16, 2023, members of the project team presented draft park designs to the Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council. The project team provided a 15 minute presentation on the park including park context, what we heard in community engagement phase 1 (focused on feedback from Indigenous communities members), the draft design for the new park, park naming opportunities, and an overview of the engagement events and opportunities in this second phase of community consultation on the park design. Following the presentation, TASSC members asked questions about the project, and provided feedback on the design and engagement process.

Feedback

- Include washrooms or porta potties.
 - If porta potties, paint them to blend into the park.
 - The John Innes CRC is far to go for a mother and child, or someone elderly. A washroom in the park would help it be more well-used.
- Ensure adjacent uses (e.g. main floor tenants opening onto the park) are aware of the design of the park (the Indigenous significance of the design) as well as the intended uses (for gathering, for events). The adjacent uses should not be in conflict.
- Ensure there are electrical outlets so a sound system can be hooked up in the park when needed.
- Ensure good lighting throughout the park for safety.
- Include drinking fountain with bowl for dogs (many in the area that will come through).
- Include interpretive signage by each tree and plant that educates people on the species and lists the names in Ojibwe and Mohawk as well as English.
- Ryan suggested that what happens at the center of the park (the medallion design) would make sense to connect to the name.
- Ensure there is enough shade for the space to be comfortable in the summer time.

Engagement Suggestions:

- Follow up with Indigenous communities to talk just about the naming opportunity and new process.
- Council Fire and Wigwamen both have elder councils. See if we can engage with these bodies.
- Walk over to Indigenous Serving organisations and talk to them. Ask them about hosting a pop-up and putting up posters in their buildings (e.g. by lunch programs/high visibility areas).
 - Connect with Andrea Chrisjohn at Council Fire for postering and a pop-up.
 - Connect with Wigwamen, OAHAS, and others near the park.

Questions:

- What is the process for including public art/artists?
 - This has not been determined yet. This project is not included in the Percentage for Public Art program so art in the park would likely be coordinated through the existing design team.
- Will the park be a wind tunnel because of neighbouring developments?

- Developers are required to complete a report about wind impacts on the ground from their development proposal. The report and development passed the City's requirements around wind impacts, so wind should not be a problem in the park.

Native Child and Family Services Toronto Virtual Meetings

Overview

Project Staff, including Indigenous design advisor Ryan Gorrie, held two virtual meetings with Native Child and Family Services Toronto (NCFST) staff and leaders.

The first virtual meeting took place on March 31, 2023 with Cultural Programs Supervisor, Terri Jaffe. The second virtual meeting took place on April 13, 2023, with 5 NCFST staff and community members, including elders and knowledge keepers.

The project team presented an overview of the proposed designs and asked for feedback, with a focus on Placekeeping features.

Overall, participants felt the draft designs are developing well. Detailed feedback provided in both meetings is summarized below:

Feedback

Encouraged for the site:

- **Vision:**
 - Some support for the vision as-is
 - Some suggested adding water, and animal representation (see below).
- **Overall Placekeeping Features**
 - Step away from things that are pan-Indigenous and acknowledge where the teaching is from. Acknowledge for example the Elder that shared that information.
 - Include interpretive signage to explain features, their meaning/teaching, and the Nation(s) they are connected to.
 - Designer Ryan Gorrie shared ideas in discussion:
 - The meaning behind elements can be explained in the park as well as online through links.
 - There is opportunity to have the park plan on a sign, maybe as part of the message board, to explain the elements.
- **Water elements**
 - Water is an important element in culture. There is strong support for a water feature on the site.
 - Ideas:
 - Flowing over rocks or a fountain.
 - Can be a representation of water if no physical water is possible for the site. For example, coloured bricks along the space to represent water, or along the rocks.
 - Critical connection between 13 moons and water that can be made here.
- **Ceremony before Construction:** Hold a ceremony to break land/ start construction of the park, to ask for permission. This leads to a better feeling park, when things are done right, through ceremony.
- **Art:**
 - Animal representation (e.g. the original clans, maybe engraved in stones. Bringing in animals which are not usually located in cities, would help the space feel more inclusive.)
- **Reflecting the cardinal Directions**
 - Support for this feature.

- Include interpretive signage to explain.
- **Bringing natural elements into the space**
 - Support for this feature.
- **13 Moons**
 - There is a critical connection between 13 moons and water that can be made here.
 - Acknowledge the specific Nations teachings come from
 - Support for the calendar year being present in the space
 - Consider naming the moons, but keep in mind there are variations between Nations. Could include an interpretive element to explain that there are different teachings.
 - May make sense to focus on MCFN's teachings since we are on their treaty lands.
 - Include interpretive Signage: "Good artistic concept, but need to share the teachings with people who don't know why we are doing this."
- **Plantings:**
 - Add Cedar.
 - Consider specific plantings to reflect each quadrant.
 - Impressive planting plan for a small park!
 - If planting medicines, include a plaque to let people know they are being cared for. Our community thinks about who is taking care of the medicines.
 - Tell people that the park is going to take care of us more than we are going to take care of the park.
 - Include natural fencing around plants (e.g. bent willow).
- **Grandfather Teachings**
 - Inscribe in languages from the surrounding area.
 - Center medallion ideas:
 - Centre as a medicine wheel.
 - Love in the center; if you can't get to this teaching you can't get to the rest!
- **Central gathering and performance space**
 - Support for this feature.
 - Keep central space as open as possible to allow community members to determine how to use the space.
 - Central Medallion could be the four directions with a compass. Doesn't need to go into a deep teaching, but still highlights the directions of the park.
- **Lighting**
 - Brighter is better.
 - Include hanging lights that are adjustable to suit particular needs.
 - Ensure good lighting in the POPS (a suggestion from harm reduction workers in the area). There are concerns around gender-based violence and substance use that could lead to people coming to harm if they are unwell but unseen.
- **Seating**
 - Support for the range of options which provides different ways to use the space, while bringing in natural elements.
 - Support for the natural looking elements, as well as the café tables and chairs.
 - Include picnic tables and/or long harvest-style tables, which are good for families and community.
 - Ensure seating is accessible for people with mobility challenges, and elders.
- **Welcome signs** in every direction.

Not encouraged for the site:

- Raised Stage:
 - Make this less raised, to show equality; teachings tell us that we should all sit equally
 - Sink the stage into the ground, which could be safer and feel more equitable
 - Could be platform seating where you are facing each other (e.g. stone seating facing each other), not necessarily a stage.

Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Email Feedback

Overview

Rights Holders Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation confirmed that they would like to review draft designs for the park and provide feedback. The project team provided a PDF overview and a short explanatory recording of the proposed designs, focused on Indigenous Placekeeping features. Feedback was provided through email and is summarized below:

Feedback

Overall, MCFN felt the draft design is good and incorporates Indigenous Placekeeping.

Encouraged for the site:

- **Water elements.**
- **Paving suggestions:**
 - Permeable Paving.
 - Pavers could have a visual water element in the design/placement.
- **Art:**
 - The wooden bench could be an opportunity for engraved Indigenous art and storytelling.
 - Support for an interpretative and interactive lighting design in-ground.
 - Would like to see more Indigenous art opportunities throughout.
 - Include a [Moccasin Identifier](#). The goal for the Moccasin Identifier Project is have it included in parks across Toronto, so it has presence and can be used as an education piece.
- **Less Hardscape:**
 - Concern that the materiality is too much concrete and hard surface.
 - Naturalize the seating area with wood.
- **13 Moons**
 - Like the incorporation of the moon cycles.
 - Depending on the materiality, could engrave the names of the moons in Anishinaabemowin and incorporate an education piece.
- **Plantings:** Really like the consideration for the variety of native tree species (and appropriate plantings from the following slide), as well as the tree canopies that will be provided.
- **Flexibility:** Choose a layout with seating that can be more flexible (e.g. seating can be cleared for events). The Tiered stone seating seems less flexible.
- **Naming:** Chat with Darin Wybenga for any historical significance to that area for input on park naming.

Not encouraged for the site:

- **Fire Pits:** While fire pits are important for ceremony, they are not recommended in more public settings as ceremony is private and not for on-lookers.
- **Medicine Wheel:** The medicine wheel is not recommended as it does not reflect MCFN culture as it originated from the West and often reflects a rather pan-Indigenous approach.

Next Steps

The feedback received in Phase 2 of community engagement will be used to refine the proposed park design. A proposed final design will be presented to the community for review and feedback later in 2023. To be notified about upcoming engagements for the new park, visit the [project webpage](#) to sign up for e-updates.



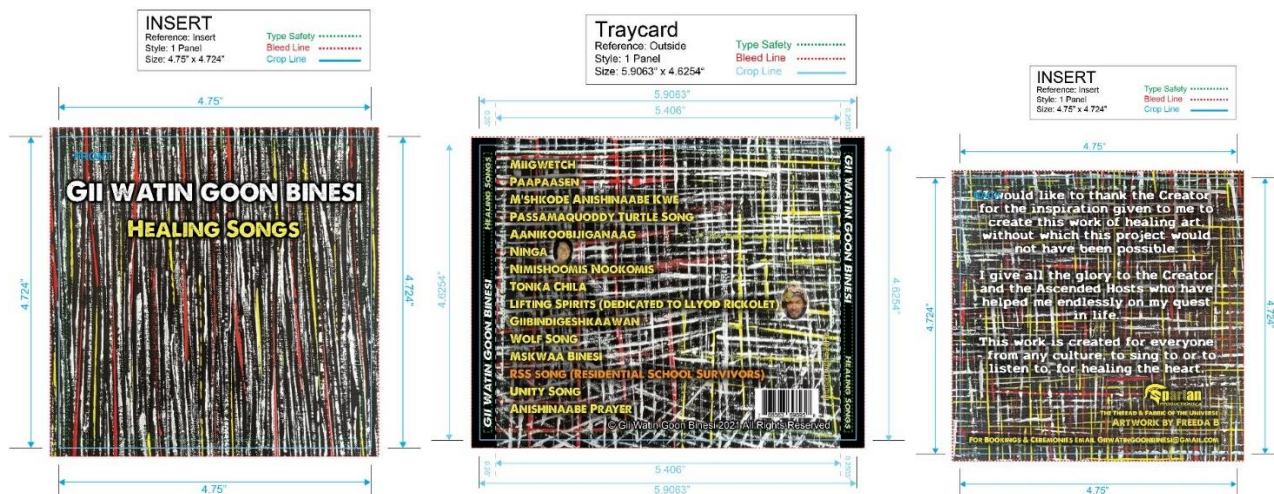
Appendix A: Additional Feedback Through Phone/Email

Email A

A community member who participated at the pop-up at 2 Spirits of the First Nations called a project staff member to provide additional feedback:

1. Pavers should be four colours of the medicine wheel. Interspersed lines of shiny tile
2. Add waterfall, a bee hive, and the four elements
 - where you have the stage should be a fire pit
 - big huge rock near the road
3. Two walls – can one wall be a plant wall? Work with the building owners. Mural wall on the other wall
4. There should be a thunderbird in the circle in the center of the park.

The community member noted that they are an artist and expressed interest in collaborating, providing a few images of their artwork (below)



Email B

From a representative from Miziwe Biik Aboriginal Employment and Training:

This park will be almost directly south of MB. Alex, this is fabulous, this is wonderful!

I did the online survey and shared my thoughts on the design. The design is great. I am so happy that the City of Toronto is planning an Indigenous park. The only additions I wanted to highlight are: an honouring of residential school students or another group of Indigenous people to raise awareness and keep the issues in the public eye. Also, incorporating some Indigenous language, the predominant one in Toronto being Ojibway, along with Mohawk and Cree, or syllabics. This forces people to learn an Ojibway word, AHNEEN or Sago (hello in Mohawk) or some other written narrative, a poem or something. Great work!

Email C

From a Project Manager for the Indigenous Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship:

(Follow up on survey completion) My survey included suggesting a water element be in the park; either a fountain or glass wall – if that helps. Let me know if there's anything else you'd like from me. Miigwetch.