

# New Park on Richmond St E

## Phase 2: Exploring Design Options Summary Report

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Alex Lavasidis, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator  
Katie Black, Project Coordinator Landscape Architect



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**Appendix A: Additional Feedback Through Phone/Email**

**Appendix B: Raw Survey Comments**

## 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.

This document provides a project and engagement process overview, followed by a summary of the feedback collected through Phase 2 community engagement, including an online survey, virtual public design workshop, and community pop-ups.

The design focus of this park is Indigenous Placekeeping, which will be determined through engagement specifically with Indigenous community members. A summary of feedback from Phase 2 engagement with Indigenous community members is summarized separately and 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 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 will start 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 full summary of this meeting is available on the [project webpage](#).
- **Email feedback** from community members.

### Targeted Engagement with Indigenous Communities

Engagement events with Indigenous community members included:

- An **online survey** for community 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/community 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. The webpage hosts all up to date information regarding the project, including 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 listserve (public signup on the project webpage)
- Black Communities Advisory Group for two new parks in the Moss Park Neighbourhood
- 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 listserve
- City of Toronto Indigenous Affairs Office Listserve
- City of Toronto Accessibility and Inclusion Stakeholder Network
- City of Toronto Parks Forestry and Recreation Accessibility and Inclusion listserve

### 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 from March 3 to April 2, 2023.

## Targeted Outreach to Indigenous Community 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 the feedback collected from community members in Phase 2 through an online survey, virtual public design workshop, community pop-ups, and email feedback. Detailed summaries from each engagement event are available further below. The design focus of this park is Indigenous Placekeeping, which will be determined through engagement specifically with Indigenous community members. A summary of feedback from Phase 2 engagement with Indigenous community members, as well as a summary of the Black Communities Advisory Group meeting for this project are available on the [project webpage](#).

### Vision Statement

***An accessible, green and calm urban oasis, with the flexibility to host events and performances. The design focus in this park will be Indigenous Placekeeping.***

**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.**

Key suggestions for improvement include:

Add a greater focus or emphasis on greenspace, over or instead of event/performance space.

Add or emphasize the following themes or ideas in the vision: creative/artistic; safe; welcoming; playful; all-season; reflective of the Black community in the area; greater emphasis on Indigenous Placekeeping, reconciliation, land back, and education; dogs in the park.

## Plantings

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

Key suggestions and comments include:



## 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 a range of seating options that provide different ways to use the space.

Key suggestions and comments about the proposed seating includes:

### Ensure seating is accessible.

Include backs, armrests, seating at different heights and sizes for different bodies, follow Universal Design Standards, ensure people with mobility devices can access tiered seating and tables.

Include gametable tops (e.g. chess).

Add additional seating including picnic tables, seatwalls around planting beds, curved wood seating, Muskoka chairs, more central seating, and more seating around stage areas.

Ensure seating is easy to maintain and clean, is well-draining, and well-secured.

### Ensure seating is comfortable.

### Provide shaded seating areas that are well-lit at night.

Include charging outlets/stations near seating.

## Lighting

The majority of respondents are satisfied with the proposed lighting and support keeping the park bright to improve safety.

Key suggestions and comments include:

### Keep it bright for safety!

But point lighting downwards and avoid light pollution that will negatively impact nearby residents and animals.

Don't allow trees to obstruct lighting.

A couple of respondents prefer basic lighting, that focuses on cost efficiency, while other respondents suggested traditional styles that reflect Old Toronto, colourful laser lighting, overhead string lighting (including on trees during winter months), in-ground lighting, bench lighting (e.g. St James Park), and up lighting on neighbouring heritage facades.

Use warm instead of cool lighting hues.

Use LEDs and make sustainable lighting choices.



## Raised Stage

The majority of respondents like the inclusion of a stage in the park.

Key concerns with the stage area include:

**Concern that the stage will not be used often, and that the space would be better used for another feature or greenspace.**

There are already outdoor stages in parks nearby (some feel these are rarely used).

Too small for many events.

Stage activities will be too noisy for nearby residents and uses (preference for a quieter, calmer space).

The nearby traffic will be too loud for performances.

Key suggestions to improve or enhance the stage include:

**Access to electrical outlets.**

**More, nearby seating.**

Weather protection, or a platform that fits a standard event tent.

Acoustic and sightline considerations.

Adding more visual interest, a backdrop, or the ability for artists to temporarily personalize the site (e.g. polls to hang a background from).

Adequate lighting and space for a band (including equipment/instruments).

## Overall Park Design

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

Key comments and suggestions include:

### Keep the park safe.

- Add gates, bollards, cameras, emergency call polls, police patrols, and/or security.
- Some respondents support defensive design and others do not.
- Prevent cyclists from cutting through the park to get to Queen St. (and remove the northern bike parking to discourage riding to this location).

Keep cost and maintenance in mind when choosing park features.

Include a dedicated spot for dog relief.

Think sustainably, including natural garden management and permeable pavers.

Add more bike features including parking, repair / pump stations, and lockers.

Include charging outlets/ stations near seating.

Add noise and sight barriers between the park and the traffic on Richmond Street.

### Keep the park clean and well-maintained.

#### Add more waste receptacles.

Move the drinking fountain closer to the sidewalk, provide fountains at multiple heights, and provide a second fountain at the other end of the park.

### Prioritize accessibility throughout the design.

Consider additional features like play feature(s), a decorative water feature, softer surfacing, a rain shelter, pergola, skateboard spots, skating rink, WIFI, spots for food/drink carts; green energy generation (solar/wind), splash pad, fitness equipment, little libraries, art, and charging stations.

## Virtual Community Design Workshop Summary

### Overview

On March 23, 2023, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., the project team held a virtual community design workshop. Two community members attended.

The workshop began with a presentation from the project team, providing a project overview, followed by questions of clarification from participants. Then, an interactive, virtual MIRO board was used to prompt conversation and collect feedback on different elements of the park design from participants.

### Questions of Clarification

**Q.** Will this be a public park maintained by the City, or will it be a Privately Owned Public Space (POPS)?

**A.** Once the park is built, ownership will be transferred from the developers to the City and this will be a standard City owned and operated park.

**Q.** How will events in this new park be safe for park users, especially in the evening or night?

**A.** Design considerations include lighting throughout the park, and visibility through the park space (no hidden nooks). The neighbouring developments are proposed to include an active main floor, with businesses that will encourage people to move through the space. The new rental residents on higher floors of the development will also have views into the park space. The goal with the new park is to make it welcoming and enticing to many community members, to keep the space active and lively, which should help improve safety in the space.

### Feedback

- **Safety:**
  - The main concern of both meeting participants was safety of future park users. Participants shared that they do not feel safe in nearby parks due to anti-social behavior, violence, and organized crime, and suggested that there should be considerations throughout the design to ensure the space is safe and welcoming. While participants did not have specific suggestions for how to alter the park design to help them feel safer, they suggested reaching out to the local police division for their feedback on the park design, from a safety perspective.
  - A participant shared that in a previous iteration of the development application, the park location was planned to front on Queen St E, but this was reconsidered due to safety concerns from community members.
- **Park Vision:** No feedback or suggested changes regarding the park vision.
- **Seating:** Participants were generally satisfied with the seating options presented. They suggested ensuring the seating reflects the intended uses of the park.
- **Stage:**
  - A participant shared that they like the idea to host events and performances in the park, but suggested there need to be other activities that take place in the park when events/performances are not occurring, to keep the park activated and safe.
  - A participant shared that if people don't feel safe in the space they won't attend events here, especially at night. They suggested that people need an every-day draw to the space, to experience the space, and to feel safe, before they will come to events here.

- **Lighting:** Participants were generally satisfied with the proposed lighting plan but suggested lighting plans ensure the space is very bright for safety purposes (e.g. like the baseball flood lights at Moss Park), and that a lot of lights are included around the stage, by seating, and throughout the park.
- **Plantings:** Participants were generally satisfied with the proposed planting plan and would like the plantings to help ensure the space feels relaxing.
- **Overall Design:**
  - Consider noise and sight barriers from the traffic on Richmond St E and associated noise, pollution, and visual pollution.
  - The design looks good conceptually, but there are concerns the space will be under or un-populated, which could make the space become unsafe. Consider adding recreational opportunities to bring more people into the space and avoid this becoming a passive space (e.g. games tables, Ping-Pong).

## Pop-Ups Summary

### Overview

**37**  
Community  
Members  
Engaged

**2**  
Pop-ups

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 both pop-ups to discuss the designs and gather feedback.

Pop-ups included:

- John Innes Community Recreation Centre: March 21, 2:30 to 7 p.m.
- Moss Park Market (260 Queen St. E.): April 1, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### Feedback

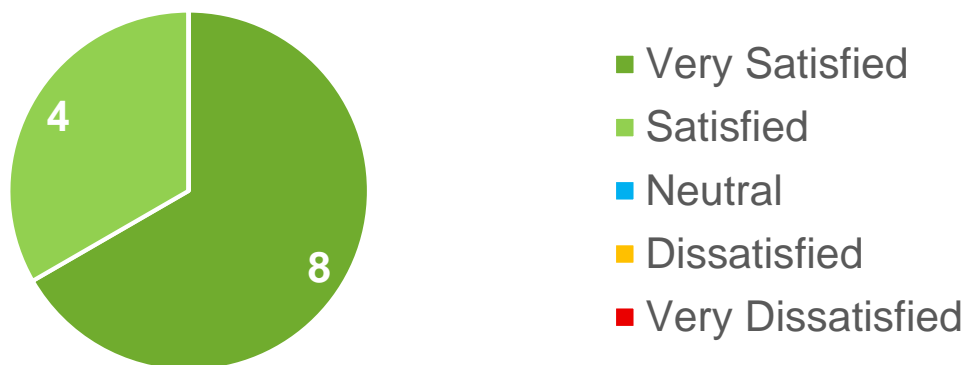
#### Park Vision

Only four respondents indicated whether the park vision statement reflects what they would like the park to become. All four respondents agree that the vision statement reflects what they want the park to become.

Community members provided the following key comments and suggestions:

- Add, "A safe park"
- Keep spaces separate for different communities (don't infringe on Sherbourne & Queen community)
- Add more focus on greenspace

#### How satisfied are you with the park design and layout?

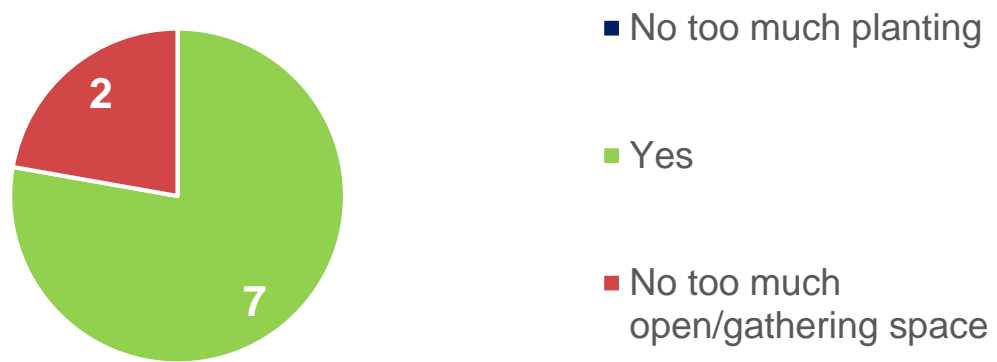


All respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the proposed park design and layout. Community members provided the following key comments and suggestions:

- Add:
  - A water feature (6)
    - For example, add a decorative water fountain or small pond
    - "Water is sacred"

- The sound of water is therapeutic and the white noise helps create a calm space
  - Public washrooms (3)
  - Splash Pad (2)
  - Interpretive signs for Indigenous Placekeeping
  - Grass
  - Swings for all ages
  - Outdoor fitness equipment
  - Skateboarding areas
  - Two little libraries
  - Art:
    - Permanent art exhibitions
    - *"Bring theme of light in and include sculpture that reflects common understandings or themes of abundance"*
- Safety Concerns: Provide clear sightlines and/or surveillance (3)
- Design Feedback:
  - Too manicured
  - Cute area

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

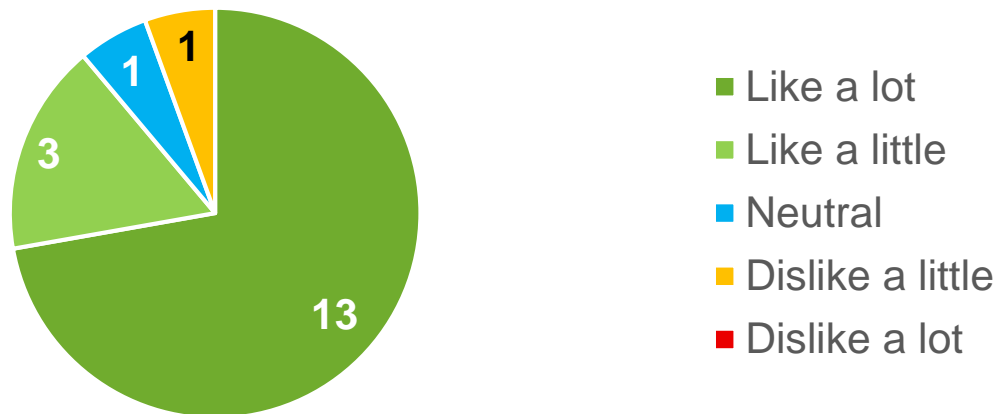


The majority of respondents thought the park layout provides the right balance between planting and open/gathering space. Community members provided the following key comments and suggestions:

- Encourage biodiversity through the planting plan (2)
- Add specific trees and plants:
  - Black cherry
  - Bridal Wreath Spirea
  - Colourful flowers
  - Creeping thyme
  - Fruit trees and food plantings
  - Hickory nut
  - Hosta
  - London pine

- Plane tree
- Magnolia
- Milkweed (along the south side planter)
- Pawpaw
- Pest-repelling plants (e.g. mosquito, bedbug repellent)
- Potentilla
- Honeybells
- Royal stand
- Sage
- Spruce
- Sweetgrass
- Sycamore
- Tulip tree
- Winter greenery/Evergreens (2)
- Ensure trees and plantings will survive
  - Plant large, more mature trees
  - Ensure correct soil blend
  - Raise plantings by 12" to prevent dog damage
- Do not include elm as they are prone to Dutch Elm disease
- Use flour and yogurt to grow moss on concrete

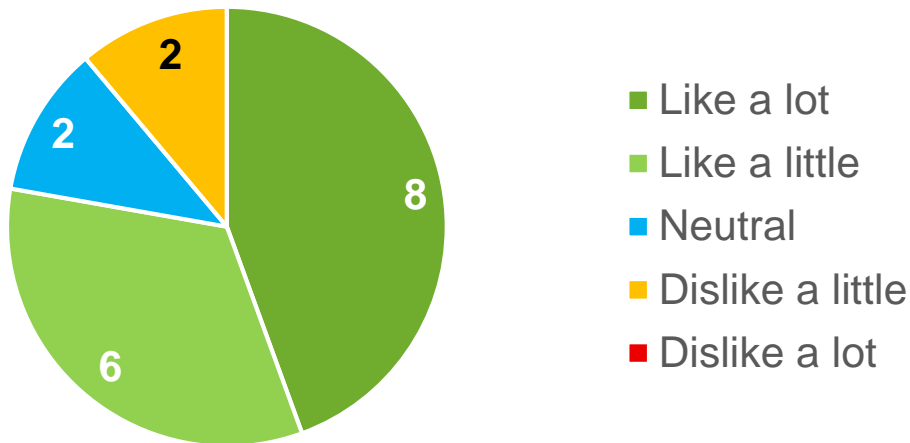
Do you like or dislike the tiered stone seating?



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

- Don't built these too high
- Make the space softer for kids (concern they may get hurt on the stones)
- Include backs and hand rails on some of the stone seating for older community members

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:

- Include backs
- Include a table for coffee
- Concern bedbugs will transfer here

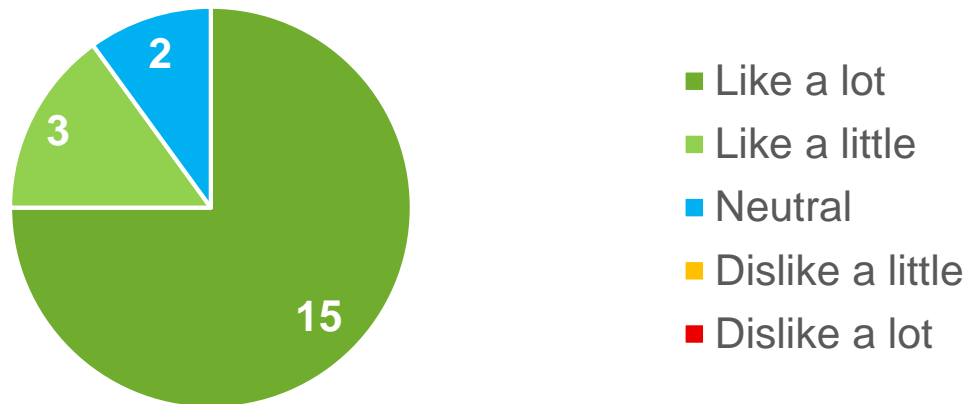
Do you like or dislike the café table and chair seating area?



All of the respondents like the café table and chair seating. Community members provided the following key comments and suggestions:

- *"I like this as a place to eat"*
- Include chess tabletops

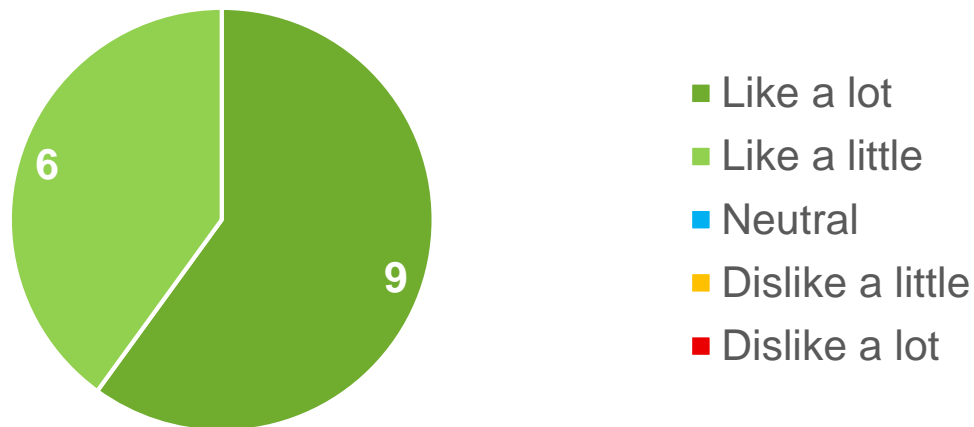
## Do you like or dislike the inclusion of a stage?



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

- Make the stage more central
- Include electrical outlets (keyed)
- Include a background behind the stage, or posts that artists can use to hang their own backgrounds
  - This can change for each performance, allows artists to temporarily make the space their own (e.g. adding their name), and would be a great background for performances and videos

## How satisfied are you with the proposed lighting?



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

- Many bright lights are preferred for safety.
- Include sustainable lighting (LEDs, lights that automatically adjust to outdoor light levels, energy saving bulbs)
- Focus lights downwards, including over seating



Though unprompted, a few respondents provided feedback on the Indigenous Placekeeping Features:

- Provide support for Indigenous-organized cultural programming and events in this space, including Indigenous markets
- Seek out Indigenous vendors for services or products (e.g. for lighting procurement)
- Recognize that this territory is also traditional to Six Nations
- Seven grandfather teachings don't apply to all Indigenous cultures and Nations
- Include mosaic art, like the [Mosaic at Sherbourne Health Centre](#)
- Include a memorial for Indigenous warriors
- Include a flame - raised up high
- Provide one dedicated planting bed for the four sacred medicines. Other beds should have woodland strawberry, ostrich fern and ginger.

## Online Survey Summary

### Overview

394

Survey  
submissions

576

Participants

An online survey ran from March 3 to April 2. Respondents were encouraged to complete the survey together with members of their households.

Respondents could review and provide feedback on draft design options for the new park on Richmond St E. 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.

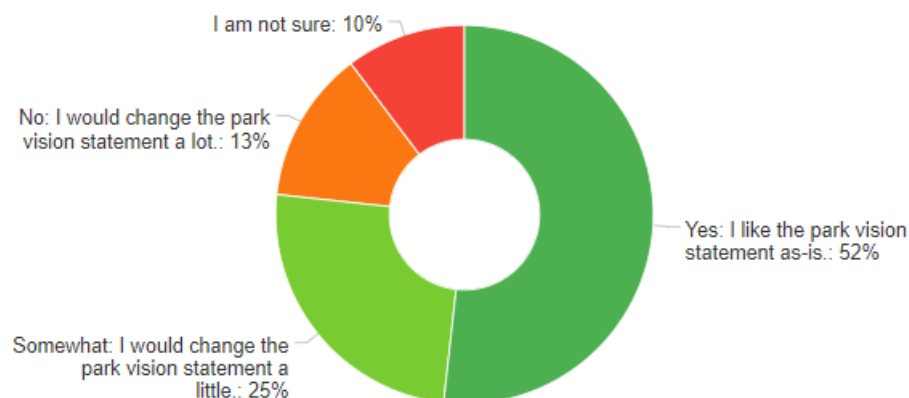
The survey branched for Indigenous community members, to ask more detailed questions about the proposed Indigenous Placekeeping elements in the park designs. In total, 31 Indigenous community members responded to the online survey, including representatives from seven Indigenous serving organisations. This survey summary includes responses from all participants. Responses to detailed questions about Indigenous Placekeeping features were only posed to Indigenous community members, and a summary of those responses can be found in the Phase 2 Indigenous Community Engagement Summary Report on the project webpage.

Detailed survey comments can be found in Appendix B.

### Feedback

***Vision Statement: An accessible, green and calm urban oasis, with the flexibility to host events and performances. The design focus in this park will be Indigenous Placekeeping.***

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



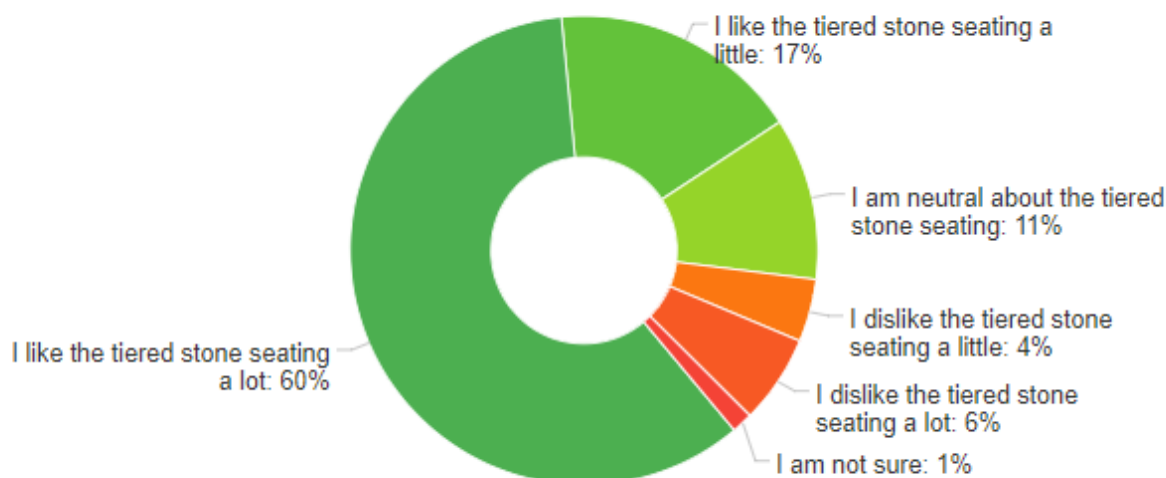
N 369

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:

- Many respondents who commented suggested adding a greater focus or emphasis on greenspace, over or instead of event/performance space.
  - Some respondents noted the vision's goals seem in opposition to one another.

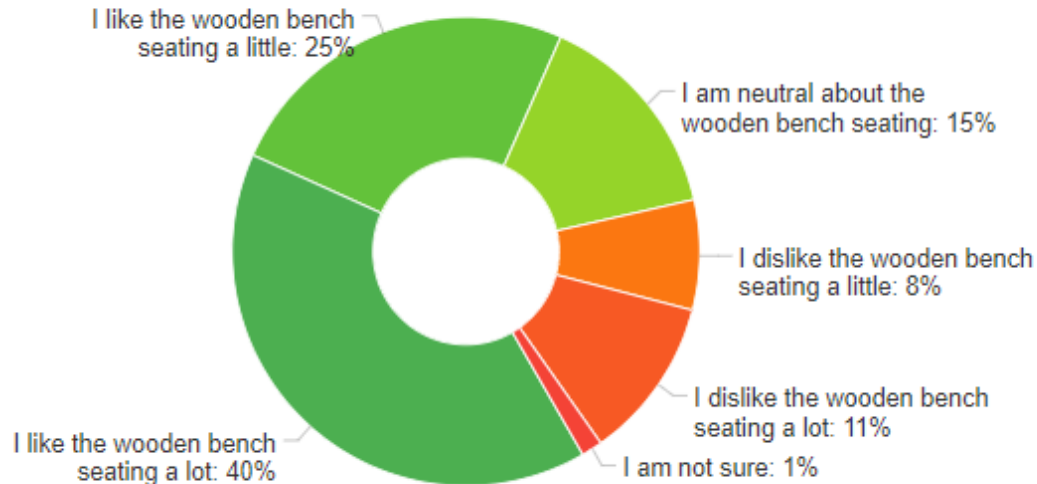
- Some respondents suggested the space is not well suited for events/performances due to its size and proximity to residential uses (noise and crowd concerns) and that nearby event spaces in parks are available and not always well used (e.g. St James Park). Others noted that they felt events/performances would take over the space.
- Some respondents suggested removing Indigenous Placekeeping from the park vision. A few respondents suggested greater emphasis on Indigenous Placekeeping, reconciliation, land back, and education on these topics. A respondent suggested naming the park after an Indigenous leader.
- Some respondents suggested addressing dogs in the vision statement (e.g. adding a dog park or "dog friendly")
- One to three respondents each suggested adding the following themes or ideas to the vision: creative/artistic; safe; welcoming; playful; all-season; reflective of the Black community in the area.
- A few respondents feel the space cannot be considered "calm" given the park's location on busy Richmond St E., and cannot be considered "green" because it does not include grass.

### Do you like or dislike the proposed tiered stone seating?



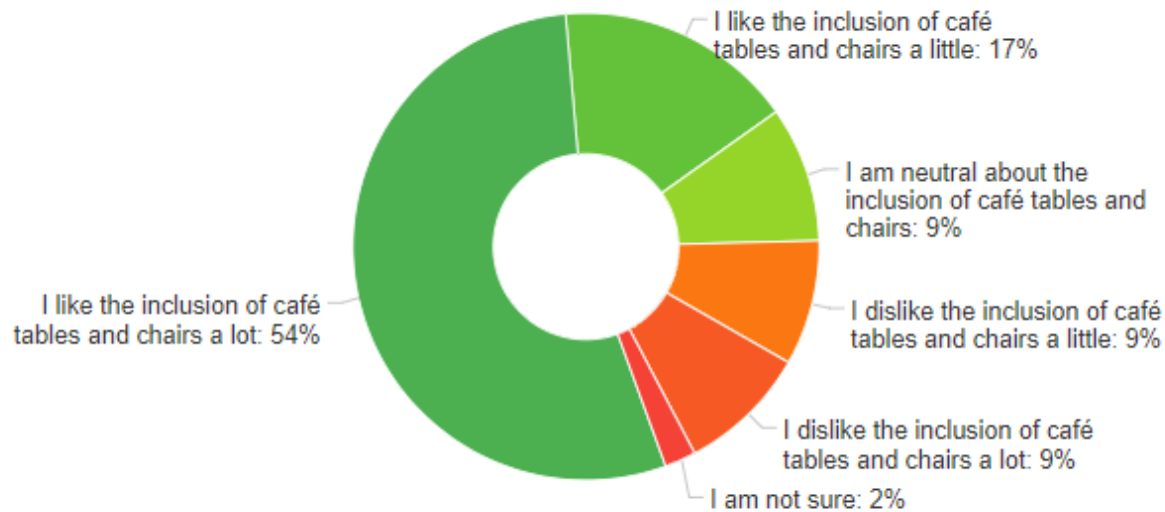
N 277

## Do you like or dislike the proposed wooden bench seating?



N 277

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



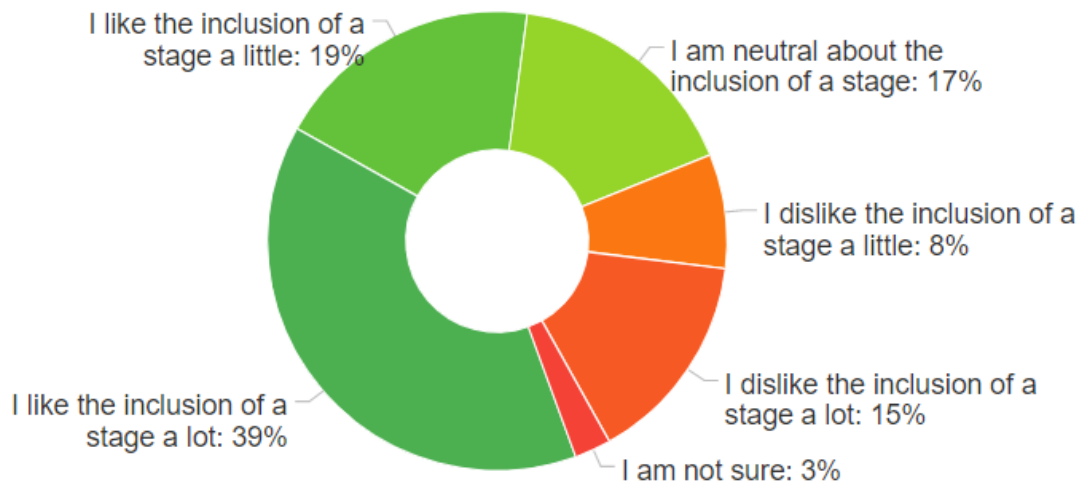
N 277

The majority of respondents like the proposed tiered stone seating, wooden bench seating, and café table and chair seating area. Community members provided the following key comments and suggestions:

- Some respondents commented on the need to ensure seating is accessible, especially for older park users:
  - Add back rests
  - Add arm rests that people can use to help themselves up
    - A few respondents noted that benches should not include a middle arm rest, which prevents people from laying down
  - Consider the needs of folks who have low vision or are blind
  - Follow universal design guidelines

- Include an option for mobility device access to a higher tier of seating (concern the tiered seating is not accessible)
- Include chairs and bench depths for various body sizes and heights
- Select materials that prioritize comfort
- Provide shade over seating areas
- Ensure seating is well-draining
- Ensure café table and chair seating is accessible
- Some respondents:
  - Are concerned that concrete seating is too uncomfortable to sit on, and overall would like for comfortable seating to be prioritized throughout the park
  - Are concerned the café tables and chairs will be vandalized or stolen.
    - Another respondent noted that where café tables and chairs are used in the neighbourhood, they are very successful at activating the park.
  - Prefer more greenspace and less seating.
- A few respondents suggest:
  - Add grass to sit on
  - Add picnic tables
  - Make the seating look more natural and more integrated into the landscape (e.g. logs, or like the rock face in Yorkville)
  - Add defensive architecture to seating to prevent people from sleeping in the park; Other respondents noted they do not want defensive architecture added to the park seating
  - Add curved wood seating
  - Choose seating that is easy to keep clean and maintain
  - Add Muskoka chairs
    - Conversely, a respondent did not want Muskoka chairs added, as they are hard to get into and out of for older park users
- A couple of respondents:
  - Suggest to add more seating in the centre of the park (e.g. around the central gathering space)
  - Suggest to add charging outlets near seating
  - Are concerned the tiered seating would block visibility and create hidden spaces (e.g. where people may be more likely to overdose, as they are not visible)
  - Are concerned the tiered stone seating is not safe for children
    - Conversely, a respondent noted they like the stone seating as a feature for children to play on and explore
  - Suggest to add more seating overall
    - Conversely, others suggested less seating or none at all
- A respondent suggests:
  - Embed lighting into or below each seating area
  - Add seat walls around each planting bed
  - Name each table after an Indigenous person who reflects each Grandfather Teaching

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



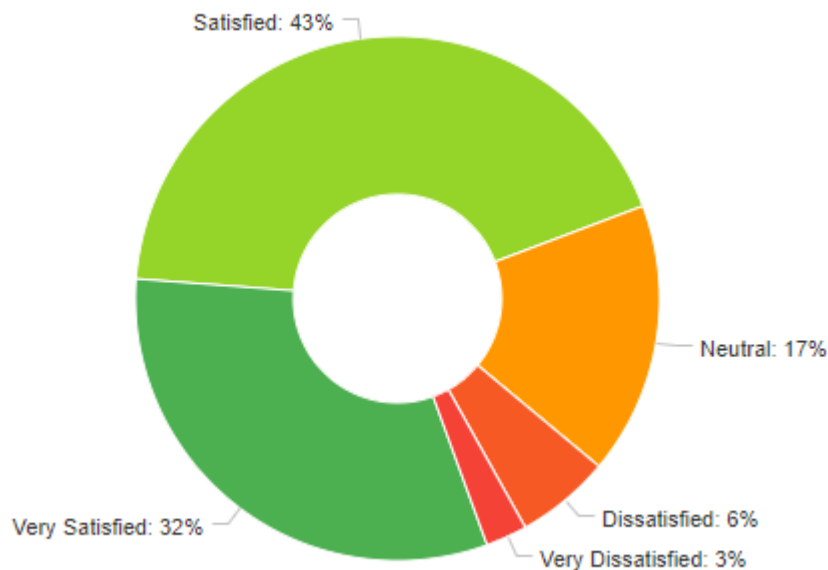
N 274

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

- Some respondents who do not want a stage included in the design explained their choice, including:
  - Concern that the stage will not be used often, and that the space would be better used for another feature or greenspace.
    - There are already outdoor stages in parks nearby, some of which are not often used.
    - *"Even when aggressively programmed you are looking at 1-2 hours per week of use, and selection behind other spaces at St James, Berczy, David Crombie parks etc. Outside of its rare use it is simply more paved office plaza / POPs space. Compare this with the cafe seating at Berczy which is often too full to find a seat, even in the late fall and early spring. This could serve as an alternative if more greenery is not feasible. I think this neighbourhood needs more opportunity for organic connection, and I believe use patterns in newly refurbished adjacent parks echo this sentiment."*
  - Stage activities will be too noisy for nearby residents and uses
    - There is a preference for a calmer, quieter space
  - The area will be too noisy for performances due to traffic on Richmond
    - A respondent suggested adding trees between the stage and road to reduce traffic noise
  - The stage and viewing space are too small for many events
  - Performances can instead take place in the central gathering space
  - Large events in this space would be unsafe due to traffic concerns on Richmond Street
- A few respondents provided technical suggestions related to setup:
  - Provide easy access to electricity outlets
    - For multiple-piece bands
    - To prevent the need for noisy generators
  - The shape/size should allow for a tent/ structure for weather protection
  - Considering the acoustics of the site

- A wall (could be low) behind the potential stage could mimic a backdrop and create a more stage-like feeling
- Sightline considerations
- Ensuring the stage has ramped access for accessibility
- Embedding lights into the stage and adequate lighting during performances
- Area for performers' equipment during a performance
- A couple of respondents suggest:
  - More seating around the stage for watching events/performances
- A respondent suggests:
  - Make the stage out of grass or recycled tires so it is softer
  - Add a pergola to create a sense of enclosure, rather than a raised stage
  - Add solar or wind power generation on-site
  - Add more visual interest to the stage area, another suggested the space be "Instagram-able"
  - Study other outdoor stage examples in Toronto parks to understand what is successful/ not successful
  - Make the stage larger so bigger events can be hosted
- Though not related to the physical design of the space, a respondent noted the need to ensure the booking system is accessible to Indigenous Community members
- A few respondents noted that the stage can be used for skateboarding when not in use for performances

## How satisfied are you with the proposed lighting?



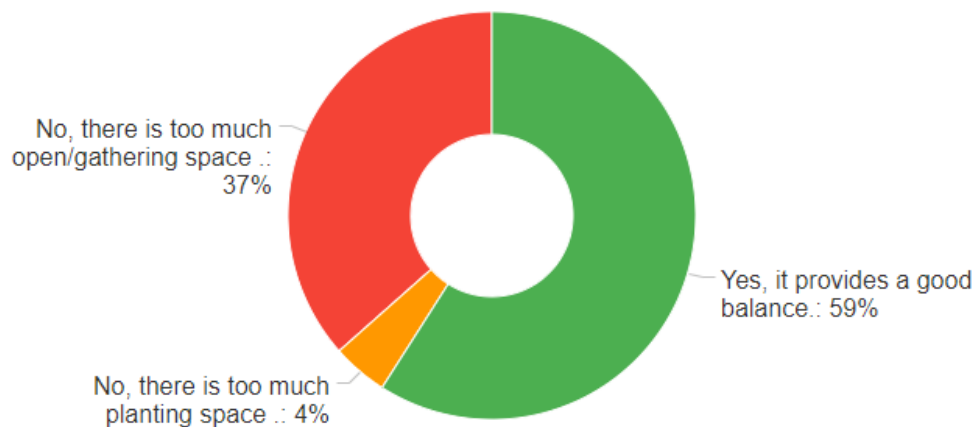
N 274

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

- Some participants suggested including more, and brighter lighting throughout the park to improve safety, especially in corners
  - A participant is concerned tall lighting may be obstructed by tree growth
- Some respondents are concerned about light pollution and noted that lighting should be directed downwards to avoid light pollution, impacts on nearby residents and animals

- A few respondents suggested including only the minimal amount of lighting required to ensure safety (e.g. dark sky compliant)
- A few respondents asked for warm lighting while others preferred daylight or cool hues
- A couple of respondents:
  - Noted that they think the firefly lights are important for park character
  - Prefer basic lighting, that focuses on cost efficiency, while other respondents suggested traditional styles that reflect Old Toronto, colourful laser lighting, overhead string lighting (including on trees during winter months), in-ground lighting, bench lighting (e.g. St James Park), and up lighting on neighbouring heritage facades
- A respondent suggested LED or other energy efficient lighting considerations (e.g. LEED Gold standards)

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



N 249

The majority of respondents think the proposed park layout provides the right balance between planting and open gathering space. Most who do not, feel there should be more greenspace and less open/gathering space. Community members provided the following key comments and suggestions:

- Some respondents noted they would like a lawn area (grass, clover etc.) in the park to increase greenspace and decrease paved surfacing
  - A respondent suggested including berms to direct pedestrian traffic and reduce paved area
  - As noted in the survey, a lawn would not survive on this site due to the high amount of foot traffic moving through the space
- Specific planting suggestions include:
  - Carolinian Forest
  - Drought resistant and shade tolerant plantings
  - Evergreens (especially for sound absorption)
  - Flowers, including spring flowers like daffodils and snowdrops
  - Grass/Clover lawn
  - Herms
  - Native species



- Bur Oak instead of Pin; Black Cherry instead of Kentucky Coffee, no False Spirea
  - Perennials
  - Plants for birds
  - Pollinators
  - Pops of colourful plantings
  - Reeds
  - Scented flowers (honeysuckle and lavender)
  - Shrubs
  - Sunflowers
  - More trees, especially for shade, including:
    - "[City Tree](#)"
    - Dawn Redwood
    - Evergreens (for winter colour and habitat)
    - Fruit trees
    - Maples
    - Ontario Cedars
    - Plant some more mature trees so the community does not have to wait too long for canopy cover.
    - Reconsider inclusion of any hardwood trees due to the enclosed nature of the site.
  - Vegetables
  - Winter shrubbery/plantings
- A respondent or two suggested:
  - Curbs or low fencing to keep dogs out of plantings
  - A non-fenced planting area (e.g. for dog relief)
  - A community garden
  - Including labels for plantings, and including that information in braille
  - Provide infrastructure and protection to help trees and plants thrive (e.g. protection from animal waste, salt, trampling, and soil compaction)
  - Include an area for natural growth (not human planted)

### Central Gathering Space

Community members provided the following key comments and suggestions when asked for any suggestions for how the central gathering and performance space can be welcoming to and well-suited for small gatherings and/or performances:

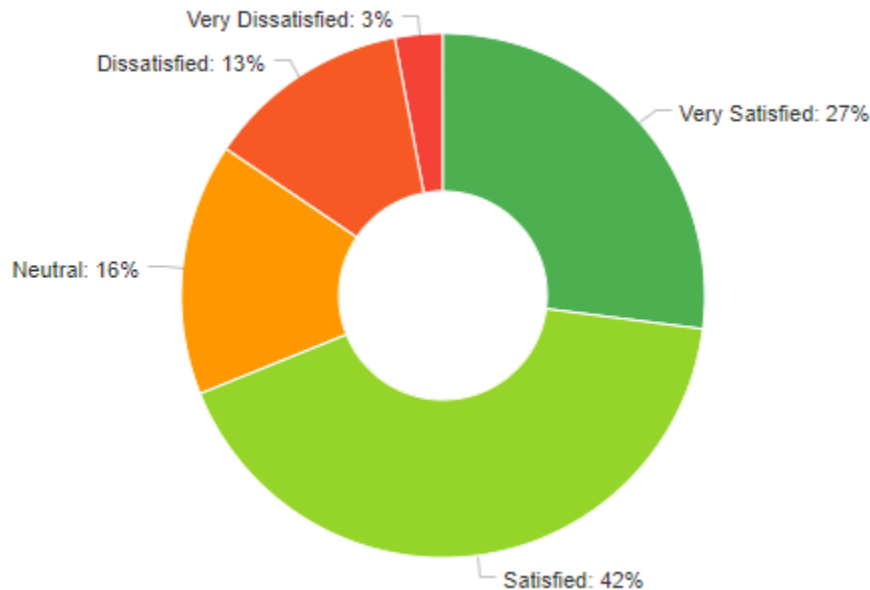
- Some respondents do not feel the park is a suitable size, location, or surface (e.g. lacking grass) for gathering and event space
- A few respondents suggest:
  - Add art (e.g. four colours of the medicine wheel, fire or water; art on the paving stones; the inclusion of more Indigenous art, including an artistic park 'centerpiece')
  - Add more seating (e.g. more wood seating for comfort; seat-walls around planting areas; benches with backrests)
- A respondent suggests:
  - Including a gazebo
  - Including more trees for shade provision
  - Provide enough space for foot traffic through the site during events

## Indigenous Placekeeping Features

Indigenous Placekeeping features will be determined through consultation with Indigenous community members. A summary of feedback collected in Phase 2 from Indigenous community members is available on the project webpage. Non-Indigenous community members provided the following key comments and suggestions about Indigenous Placekeeping features in the park design.

- Many respondents:
  - Expressed their support and appreciation for the Indigenous Placekeeping features
  - Suggest adding more greenspace and native plantings
- A few respondents suggest:
  - Add interpretive signage to explain the Indigenous Placekeeping features
    - A couple of respondents suggest the addition of games on the signage, to further teach park users about Indigenous teachings related to the park design.
    - A couple of respondents suggest including interpretive signage for all native plants with names and explanations of traditional uses.
  - Including Indigenous art (e.g. mosaic (similar to the mosaic at Sherbourne Health Centre), sculpture etc.)
- A couple of respondents suggest including more decoration on the 13 moon seating features to provide more visual representation of the associated teaching
- A respondent each suggests:
  - Ensure that park users are encouraged to see the design features in relation to current public issues and not merely as Indigenous traditions
  - More clear promotion of the east-west axis
  - Using an alternative material to concrete for the 13 moon seating (they feel concrete ages quickly and poorly)
  - Include a water feature to represent the 13 moons (ideas include a mosaic, 13 circles rising out of water, each by a different artist)
  - Do not suggest a hierarchy for the Seven Grandfather Teachings (do not choose a single teaching for a central medallion)
  - Ensuring the designs to not overlap with the Spirit Garden designs at City Hall
  - Include seating in the centre of the park, facing east and west
  - Have the space convey a sense of sacredness
  - Include a sacred fire
  - Include individuals' stories, representing the various teachings
  - Arrange for Indigenous community members to maintain the site

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



N 270

The majority of respondents are satisfied with the draft park design. Respondents provided the following additional feedback, not already included in the above summary:

- Some respondents are concerned about safety in the park:
  - Some respondents suggest using defensive design to prevent people from sleeping in the park, and preventing anti-social behavior; other respondents note that they do not want the park to include defensive design and want the park to be welcoming for all community members
  - A few respondents suggest addressing safety concerns by adding gates, cameras, emergency call polls, police patrols, and/or security
  - A couple of respondents:
    - Suggest including bollards to prevent vehicles from entering the park
    - Are concerned about drugs and needles being left in the park
- Some respondents provided suggestions and comments regarding park maintenance:
  - Keep the park well maintained (including plantings) and clean (e.g. regular power-washing)
  - Keep cost low and maintenance in mind when making design choices
    - Ensure materials used are easy to clean (e.g. graffiti)
  - Do not use pesticides, herbicides or artificial fertilizers; instead use natural pest control and soil enhancing plants (e.g. clover, companion pairings)
  - Include additional waste receptacles
  - Provide snow clearing in winter
- A few respondents provided comments and suggestions about dogs in the park:
  - Include a dedicated spot for dog relief, and clean the park of dog waste so it does not smell
    - *"There are many dogs in the area, and they will relieve themselves in this park. If a dedicated area is not provided (suggestions included an area of gravel or river rocks, a large stone, or a vegetated area), they will relieve themselves on the paving, which will become smelly, as other parts of the neighbourhood have."*

- Include an area for off-leash dogs
  - Clearly indicate that this is a dog friendly park
- A few respondents provided suggestions about the paving choices:
  - Include softer surfacing
  - Include permeable pavers
  - Include a vibrant and thoughtful paving colour scheme (not just brown)
  - Use concrete instead of brick (brick becomes an uneven tripping hazard)
- A few respondents suggest:
  - Include grass/lawn
  - Include a decorative water feature
    - [E.g. Paley Park in NYC](#)
  - Include washrooms
  - Include a playground or play feature(s) (e.g. a play feature for smaller children, an imaginative play feature, an interactive play feature, a storytelling feature)
  - Drinking fountain adjustments:
    - Move the fountain next to the sidewalk so that pedestrians walking by the park can easily see and use it
    - Consider adding a second fountain at the other end
    - Provide fountains at multiple heights for accessibility
- A couple of respondents are concerned about bikes cutting through the space:
  - *"My concern is that with a straight path through there will be cyclists and e-bikes that will use it to barrel through and not only make it dangerous, but generally take away from what the park space is looking to be. Also problematic if there are group events happening."*
  - *"I'm concerned that the park will be used by e-bike couriers as a short-cut between Richmond and Queen, making the central gathering space dangerous to actually congregate in and around in any meaningful way."*
- A couple of respondents provided suggestions about bike-related park features:
  - Include more bike parking
    - Do not include bike parking on north side of the park, in part to avoid the problem of people riding through the park to the parking
  - Include bike lockers
  - Include a bike repair stand and pump
- Additional suggestions:
  - Provide sunny spots as well as shady spots
  - Include a rain shelter
    - Include a pergola (e.g. Love Park)
  - Include skateboard-able elements
  - Include a skating rink/trail
  - Include spots for food/drink carts
  - Include WIFI
  - Include charging stations connected to solar panels
  - Include a secluded space
- A few suggestions were made about the neighbouring buildings, which are out of the park's scope, including:
  - Add mosaics to the adjacent building walls
  - Add vines and deciduous plants/green walls to the adjacent building walls (e.g. "vest pocket" parks that provide greenery even in winter)

## Black Communities Advisory Group Meeting

### Overview

the Black Communities Advisory Group (BCAG) meeting for the design of the two new parks in the Moss Park Neighbourhood that was held virtually on Thursday January 19, 2023 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Ten members of the BCAG attended. At the meeting, draft designs for the new park on Richmond St E and the new park on King St E were presented for feedback. The following provides a summary of discussion about the design options presented *for the new park on Richmond Street East*. A full meeting summary is available on the [project webpage](#).

### Feedback

Feedback on draft designs:

- **All BCAG participants like the inclusion of a stage.**
  - Support for the informal space (no booking required) which would provide more opportunity to create community.
- **Feedback on seating:**
  - **There is no consensus on the café-style chair and table area included in seating layout option B.**
    - Some BCAG participants like the inclusion of the café style chairs and tables:
      - Creates a good space for impromptu meetings and gathering.
      - Draws people into the space.
      - Tables are helpful for people with kids, and people reading or working in the park.
      - Seating with chair-backs are good for support (though this can be done with benches/seating elsewhere).
    - Some BCAG participants dislike the inclusion of the café style chairs and tables:
      - These chairs can be uncomfortable.
      - Concern the furniture will get too cold at night and too hot in the summer sun.
      - Concern that because the seating and tables are moveable, they may become cluttered, untidy, will need to be chained together to prevent theft, will be taken over by local retail, and may cause conflict between park users.
      - Concern that these chairs will not stay clean.
      - Concern that the chairs will result in a lot of noise (from people moving them around the park).
  - One participant suggested that the tiered stone seating must be well done, otherwise it can result in water pooling, and be uncomfortable to sit on for long periods of time.
  - Support for the moon seating features.
  - Most participants prefer seating layout option B, while some feel indifferent as the options are not different enough.
- **Support for the firefly light posts and their warm golden light.** This makes the space feel more inviting.

- **The design of this park shows holistically integrated Indigenous Placekeeping elements throughout the park design.**
  - This is a good example to reference for how to integrate Black and Indigenous cultures throughout the design of the new park on King Street, in the revisions.
- **Suggested additional design features include:**
  - Plaques to explain the meaning behind the Indigenous Placekeeping elements. These are thoughtfully designed but their meaning may be overlooked or go unnoticed if there is not a panel(s) to provide an explanation.
  - All native plant species.
  - More physically interactive features/ elements (e.g. the wave boardwalk).
  - Soft and colorful rubber flooring (e.g. Corktown commons).
  - A turtle statue that kids and others can touch, to reflect and teach about the 13 moons (E.g. the frog statues in College Park.)
  - Art and design features on the walls surrounding the park.
    - *Post-meeting note: The walls surrounding the park are private property and not within the scope of the park design.*
- Some BCAG members would have liked to see two more drastically different designs, to better understand other possibilities for the space.

Participants were asked to brainstorm "What specific ideas, themes, histories, and cultures would you like to see represented in the design of the water feature, to celebrate/commemorate the history, presence, diversity, and future of Black Communities in the neighbourhood."

Participants were provided with this question at the same time as the initial meeting invitation, to allow time to think through and brainstorm ideas before this BCAG meeting. These ideas will be used to inform the art and design revisions for the new park on King Street, and the briefing for the Black artist/designer hiring process. **These will also be used to help inform the inclusion of an interpretive plaque in the park on Richmond St E.** The following provides a summary of the ideas shared in the meeting.

- Celebrate Black cultures while also Integrating Indigenous Placekeeping. Don't separate the two in the space. There are many cohesive threads between cultures. There is power and unity in collaboration.
  - Examples of ideas/elements significant in both Black and Indigenous cultures that can be explored include:
    - The importance of Braids/ braids as a motif.
    - Weaving.
    - Beads / beading.
    - The power of women in restoring culture. Women are often carriers of cultures.
    - Embracing colours (look into whether there are specific colours to tie into both cultures).
      - Email Feedback: Include bright primary colours that speak to both Black and Indigenous cultures.
    - The connection between women and water.
    - The three sisters (in Indigenous Cultures) and the importance of various crops and foods in Black cultures.

- The ties in both cultures between crops, food, women, and carrying.
  - Consider a collaboration between Black and Indigenous communities to design the water feature.
- Highlight each of the three sub-groups of African Identity:
  - 1) Individuals brought here by force.
  - 2) People who still live on the African continent.
  - 3) Black peoples in Central and South America.
- Highlight the idea of "coming back to nature".
  - Include imagery of Black and diverse people doing activities outdoors.
  - Acknowledge and celebrate Black peoples' relationships to nature rather than a focus on symbols or statues of individuals.
- Highlight positive Black futures and Black joy.
  - Show diverse people and imagery of positive black futures rather than focusing on individual historical figures in these small parks.
    - Consider a timeline with the vibrancy of the present, future, where we are now, with a nod to the past.
- Highlight immigrants, the lives of immigrants, and the role of immigrants in this city.
  - Use bricks/ paving to include information on Black histories, and immigrant histories across various diasporas.
- Be bold, colourful, and literal with design.
  - Include faces and bold illustrations.
  - See examples provided in Appendix B.
- Reflect some of the black histories in the neighbourhood that were presented in BCAG meeting 1.
  - Examples: Mary Ann Shad, Lucille and Thornton Blackburn, the black activist groups that used to meet in St Lawrence Hall, Rosemary Sadlier, etc.
  - Provided through email:
    - Tell a story about the historic/present-day Black community. Consider a timeline or map, as "the Black community comes from so many places, but ultimately, Africa."
    - Consider something immersive, that people could engage with.
    - See examples provided in Appendix B.
- Include representation of all cultures that compromise Canadian identity.
- An example a participant likes in an existing park is the colourful [Afrophia installation](#) on King Street, just east of Church (south side).
- Suggestions on what to avoid:
  - Don't make things too contemporary, too smooth, or too sterile – this removes a sense of place.
  - Don't make things too abstract, people need to understand and learn from/about the meaning behind different features.



## 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

Those benches made of one square log - not very comfortable! I think there should be one or two benches that have backs so one could sit and read a book in comfort.

That's it - I hope the pop in yielded some comments. Thanks again!

### Email B (*and follow up*)

To planners of this proposed Parkette:

Hello,

Some comments about the proposed design and plan for this small Parkette on Richmond St. e. near Sherbourne.

The plan as it is does not suit the needs of this neighbourhood. Looks very expensive.

The NEED in this area is for simple green space with much of the area dedicated to a DOG RUN - that is MAINTAINED and SUPERVISED.

The neighbourhood, with new condo after new condo, has a HIGH DENSITY of dogs and dog owners. If you have spent time there, you will be aware of the number of dogs at 313, 323 Richmond as well as condos nearby. Where can they urinate and poop?

Please give these mutts a place to relieve themselves other than on our streets!

This is the number one need!

The amount of drug use ( needles, debris, etc.) as well as the number of homeless people looking for a place to stay, needs to be addressed before implementing a design close to what you propose - so much stuff - crowded into a small space. As it is now, this area does not feel safe. Some places nearby are not safe - eg. Britton St., the Parking stairwells across the street on Richmond)

We do not need a "stone stage" and even more pavement. Unless this Parkette is maintained and supervised, this is our tax money down the gutter.

A DOG run please - and green space. Cleaned and maintained. Simple, not expensive. Maintained so it is usable.

Please spend some time in this area, you need to understand the neighbourhood.

### ***Follow Up 1:***

My suggestion isn't so much an off leash area - it's about PROVIDING a clean, well maintained large space for dogs to relieve themselves, without it becoming a health hazard to people.

This may be a fenced in area or an area designed for this purpose. However it works best. This is facing the REALITY of the neighbourhood.

Fancy expensive designs are cute, but so out of touch with the reality of the neighbourhood. We don't need fancy lights and a stage. We need a PRACTICAL area to meet the needs of residents and their many many dogs. Way too much dog urine and poop on our sidewalks! Please. Give them somewhere to GO. Somewhere designated. And some ongoing maintenance to deal with the odours. The developers don't care about what we need, the residents do care, please listen.

**Follow Up 2:**

Thanks for your reply Katie. It's disappointing that the real needs of the community may not be addressed by your plan for this proposed park.

If you've visited the Dog Fountain, as wonderful as it is, the upper level smells so strongly of urine that it's not usable space. Toronto really needs to accommodate all these dogs if pets are permitted in high rise apartments. Our small parks need to have some sanitary, maintained space for dog relief. It's just our reality in downtown Toronto.

Dogs aren't going to wait til they get to the nearest dog park. And garbage bins, ugly as they are, need to be nearby, and maintained.

With security and policing getting so much attention right now, hopefully this can be incorporated into your plan. Ongoing safety checks will need to happen, particularly due to the heavy drug use in the neighbourhood.

No matter what the design - a park that is a public health hazard and is unsafe for public use only detracts from an already challenging neighbourhood.

**REAL NEEDS:**

1. Maintained place for dogs to pee. Pee is going to happen. A strong odour of urine makes a park unusable.
2. Regular (daily, a few times a week?) maintenance built in to the plan for this park to keep it safe, clean and usable.
3. Regular security monitored - in person, not a camera.

I realize this space is challenging; best of luck facing and addressing the real needs of the neighbourhood.

## Appendix B: Raw Survey Comments

### How would you change the park vision statement?

- Park Vision: An accessible, green, and calm urban oasis, with the flexibility to host events and performances.
- We need more green space for pets. Also this community litters non stop so plans need to be made to maintain the park long term.
- It seems a a little sparse.
- I am a little worried about the phrase ' with the flexibility to host events and performances'. Loud events could be very problematic in this neighbourhood.
- Exclude events spaces. There are many of these in the area, they are seldom used, and they make parks end up looking like parking pads.
- Think NYC pocket parks, like Paley Plaza, waterfall at the back, cafe tables, a food kiosk at the street.
- I don't like the idea of events and performances. Special events does not fit with a calm urban oasis and daily accessibility. 2. Indigenous Placekeeping seems exclusionary and not invitational to all Torontoians.
- I would prefer it to focus as much as possible on green space
- I would acknowledge Indigenous people in some way.
- No indigenous placemaking
- I don't really see how it can be green without grass. I suggest focusing on other ways to create a sense of calm such as art or water features and comfortable seating.
- Include reference to learning/understanding in addition to indigenous placekeeping as many people using the park will have limited or no prior understanding of the traditions that informed the design.
- Add grass and more trees
- I'm not sure what the relevance of 'Indigenous Placekeeping' is, or even what it means. This neighbourhood is filled with people of all backgrounds, cultures and diversities. Therefore identifying one group, such as Indigenous, should not be the focus.
- I dont think host events and performances is important to this park and the neighbourhood. I think having an area with more green space is the most important that can bring people to together in an area with very little to no safe green space
- The last sentence seems to be tokenizing Indigenous Placekeeping. There is nothing in the sentence before that would lead to the to focus of the park vision.
- We need grass not performance space
- Indigenous peacekeeping space and movement towards reconciliation of land back
- I think your visiion statement should include more support for bio-diversity in the city. There is a wonderful old song by Joni Mitchell that contains the line, 'They paved paradise. And put up a parking lot.' For this new park, you could update that line to 'They paved paradise. And put up a parkette.' It is certainly true that a parkette is better than a parking lot, but I think you can do much better than that if you include some support for bio-diversity in the city in your 'vision statement'. In addition, support for bio-diversity in the city would go much further in supporting 'Indigenous Placekeeping'. Thirty years from now when many of the species living today have gone extinct, we might look back and say, 'Why didn't THEY do something about that?' So that won't happen, I think we should be saying today, 'Why don't WE do something about that?' You do have trees in the park, but you don't have anything that would support butterflies, for example. If is a fairly sterile environment for insects and other animals.

- As a nearby resident I am concerned about the volume and/or crowds that could become an issue with such a small park hosting events or performances. I would prefer the focus to be on a green calming oasis, with a nice layout that is visually pleasing and evenly laid out, as opposed to leaving space for performances.
- The design focus on indigenous placekeeping
- Add a dog park.
- Take out event performance!!!! We don't need more space like this that is not used. We already have underutilizes space at StJamesPark and David Crombie Park
- Given the area and other green spaces I would prefer to see this used as a dog park in its entirety and have other elements put in across the street at moss park. A small park like this with nooks and any sort of seating will quickly be overrun by the local transient population.
- A park with a design focus on Indigenous Placekeeping (provide references to this that reflect what that statements means and where it comes from) An accessible urban space, provides a calm, green oasis in the urban city and provides a community space to gather and host performances.
- . . . accessible, green . . .' But no grass? Aside from planter areas, what else an be done to maximize the 'green'?
- I don't see how it can be a green oasis if fake grass is used. Also fake grass isn't environmentally friendly
- Remove events and performances
- pet dog friendly
- Real grass and trees are the solution to climate change. No concrete.
- Add a place for dogs
- More facilities for children - playground.
- Not sure why the focus of this park is on indigenous placekeeping, as opposed to the location of the parks in historic Old Town Toronto. The parks do not seem large enough to host events or performances, unless those events and performances are severely limited in size.
- Why make it specific to indigenous people? There is no indigenous people near there.
- It depends on what types of events and performances are intended.
- It needs to be green space for people to let their dogs use the bathroom. Creating a non natural hard surface area isn't helping the urban environment
- It's described as astroturf in a parking lot. Hardly a space to enjoy.
- Where is the green part of the vision? I see lots of cement blocks and only a few trees. That is not a park. That is the definition of a square.
- I would add SAFE as given this neighbourhood, safety needs to be a priority to entice people to use it. otherwise, no one will be comfortable spending time there.
- Off leash dog area given the large amount of dogs in the condos near the park. Currently, the closest one is past parliament. During the evenings and later at night when I have to walk my dogs before bed, I don't like going all the way over to the far off leash area. Having one closer would significantly improve my experience with my dogs and the community of dogs in the vicinity.
- This park will become a crack park just like all the others in the area. Another spot for homeless crackheads to gather and make unsafe for the residence of the area
- calm does not equate with events and performances I would stick with calm
- A place to relax and enjoy the greenery

- Richmond Street is like a high way...I struggle to see how a 'calm urban oasis' is achievable given the scale of the proposed park and its proximity to a such a busy arterial.
- A laser show. Fireworks and bands every night
- Perhaps 'calm' urban oasis is at odds with the flexibility to host events and performances. Although, that may depend on the events.
- The proposed design is obviously designed for functionality however there seems to be a distinct lack of creativity. There is nothing exciting about it. Plus hard surfaces, it seems concrete, is so urban.
- The flexibility to host events and performances is a question both in terms of who that would be (can anyone get up and do something), how these events will be put out to the community and how these events and performances impact the calmness of the space.
- Add washrooms. We have a chance to actually add to the public realm. Innes is often closed. When people want to use washrooms
- That it's a place for hobos to sleep and take drugs.
- An accessible, green, SAFE, and calm urban oasis.
- Green space. What is with us humans defining a park as a property of brick or concrete!! Please change the development of parks to include trees, grass, and other plants. I understand it says grass won't survive so why can't there be other strong and durable plants grown in the park. We need to learn very quickly that Toronto must MUST embrace nature and natural areas! Please I beg you make parks have more green natural plant space. Concrete and bricks along with other non porous surfaces is not a park!
- Less pavement and more green
- Benches with backs for comfortable seating. Picnic tables, one or two, which the adjacent residents might like to use.
- What ground cover will be used and how will it be in keeping with First Nations
- A green urban oasis.
- ...with the flexibility to host events and performances appropriate to the surrounding residences, schools and businesses.
- Are we going to have a ceremonial burn area in this park, as it is relevant to 'indigenous placekeeping?' If so, just put another condo in instead
- A green location with grass, play structure and garden to bring together the local community of adults and children to meet, play, explore and interact in order to strengthen neighbourhood bonds.
- Larger and would go through to Queen Street. A walled in park will provide a space for problematic activity. It will not look/feel or be safe.
- change 'flexibility to host events and performances' to 'a place for the community to gather and host events'
- Don't really understand what indigenous peacekeeping means. A nice green space with trees and a place to sit is ideal for this small space
- I would like to see a mixed-use space that allows skateboarding. Do not use interlocking bricks, they shift due to our unstable climate and become a tripping hazard as well as unpleasant to walk on.
- Remove the second sentence
- Dog park. That brings people and cuts down on vagrancy. Also forces the city to maintain it and they do a terrible job at that otherwise.

- Washrooms are required in the park. Public washrooms in other places remain closed all the time for some reason.
- More greenery and lawn. A lack of grassy area will make the park hot in the summer. There needs to be consideration for shade, people to sit comfortably.
- Waste of money. We need much more greenspace
- I feel discriminated against with this focus being on indigenous placekeeping. This should be a safe space for all without any political, religious, racial or group bias.
- Due to the high number of homeless and drug abusers in the neighborhood there must be more of a focus than a quiet community gathering area especially due to the nature of these people convening / taking over public areas.
- Take out 'green'
- An accessible land-based area, with the flexibility to host cultural events and performances.
- Don't know any indigenous in Toronto - aren't there other focus groups that can also benefit?
- More evergreen trees and benches for sitting. Specifically evergreen trees for winter interest and for bird and wildlife habitat.
- Trees and something that will grow in lieu of grass. NO PUBLIC EVENTS OR PERFORMANCES.
- Please have some live vegetation and consider a water feature. Think Paley park in nyc
- This space seems too small for events and performances. It would be better to have an accessible area for the many dogs in the neighbourhood, with some areas of non-fenced grass for dogs to use on leash. There is already a brick-paved 'park' almost across the street from this location.
- Eliminate the obnoxious, repetitive, nonsensical, woke, cliched references to indigenous peoples.
- Introduction of major art installation and provision for art exhibits. More creative use of terracotta to reflect the Wesley Building More innovation and creativity with water.
- Add a 4 season component.
- Small off leash dog section
- Add more greenery, trees, grass and possibly a waterfall
- Real grass.
- More greenery, no pavement or brick walkways
- That's not a park. It's a glorified alleyway.
- The park is too small to be used for events and performances. Given we are surrounded by concrete and high rises, I would prefer the emphasis to be on creating a very lush and natural environment. A sacred gathering space with more trees and shade.
- Less about events. This tends to result in empty paved spaces - e.g. baseball diamond park in leslievile.
- The portion about hosting events and performances seems to be at odds with the portion about a calm urban oasis. The park's small size also means any events or performances would completely take over the space.
- Focus on more green space
- I would focus more on green than event space. Carolinian trees and indigenous vegetation should be maximized to create a true calm oasis. As usual with Toronto's new park space, the rendering looks mostly pavement and concrete, which is not a park! I know the space is small but please maximize the vegetation in order to actually provide relief from the hot dismal concrete/commercial surroundings. Thank you!



- from green to sustainable after performances add 'for all'
- A dog park of some sort is needed in this area, not a human park. The idea of having events and performances in this small space is silly, as the noise would be too much for people living in the area.
- An accessible, green, and calm urban oasis that respects Indigenous placekeeping and indigenous flora.
- I would add a lot more green to it but I assume it's concrete to make it accessible to all people.
- An accessible, green, and calm urban oasis.
- Identifying these three things are not tenable together under this broad umbrella
- Well, for starters, the vision statement includes that it's a « green » urban oasis, but if it won't have real grass, that is an incorrect and misleading statement. Also, Richmond Street is heavy with traffic all day long, even more so during rush hour, so this park will never feel calm. It will be used for a quick coffee by the patrons of the Tim Horton's across the street.
- Concern with setup for performances not being utilized. Would allocate more space to trees & plants to ensure most amount of green space
- Provide signage for dog owners. Provide them a place where their dogs can pee so the park is not unusable due to the stench of urine. More green ground cover please! Your idea for performances etc. is off the mark. People here need a quiet Green natural place to recharge and find some CALM. NATURE is number one. Look into something called " City Tree" this is a perfect way to at least attempt to clean city air. About time toronto stops with so many paved surfaces! At least one evergreen tree please!
- Need public bathroom.
- Can we name the park after an Indigenous hero/leader?
- Flexibility to host events, what kind of events would you host when the park isn't that big? Why not use st James park for events.
- I don't understand the emphasis on indigenous. Can't it just be a park without making a statement?
- Washrooms
- I don't believe in singling out one group. Make it a park whose design focus is simply "peacekeeping".
- This is not a park but a walkway with very few trees. Parks include large grassy areas and mature well established trees which can provide natural shade and homes to many species of wildlife. Don't call this an oasis if you mean to build a concrete throughfair.
- The park vision is good except for the part where it says "with the flexibility to host events and performances". There are at least two parks in the close proximity, which provide that. Just create nice, calm, green space for people to enjoy some quiet time.
- As part of the black advisory committee for the city of toronto for this park site, this statement has no acknowledgment/recognition of black citizens that reside in this area and will make use of the park, this vision is not inclusive yet
- I don't think it's necessary to host events and performances.
- Less focus on the ability to host events and more in making it a calm green space. There could be more green lawn and trees. It will be baking hot in the summer.
- Heavy foot traffic or not all that concrete and brickwork will achieve is to absorb and reflect more heat in the summer and cold in the winter. You could make it 80% green with a walkway through it, which would be better for the environment, then the brick and concrete design you propose. Yes an actual park full of grass will cost more to maintain,

but if you put a concrete path in a straight line people would stay on the path and be able to sit on the grass. This proposal is just bad for the environment and an absolute waste of money. Please don't use this design. Fact is there was a nice park with grass there previously. Methinks you do protest too much. And your proposed design is just a brick walkway. Not a park at all.

- Focus on accessible, green, and calm. A park this small can't be everything to everyone.
- I don't think this site is suitable as a park. For performances we have St James Park, the area behind the flatiron building. Moss Park would also be suitable for larger performances. It can't become a place of 'calming' or 'performance' because of the traffic on Richmond St.
- Way more greenery and not to call it a park as it doesn't have the main characteristics of a park (i.e lawn, public toilets, etc). Maybe instead of concrete on the ground, can put wood chips or something more natural
- I would take the Native Placekeeping part out. I recognize terrible things have happened between settlers and natives in the distant past, but that was in the DISTANT past. Why must we forever be apologizing for what some of our fore-fore-fore-fathers did?
- There needs to be grass. The last thing we need is more concrete. How lovely, a concrete park.....no thanks.
- Encourage space as a welcoming area.

### **Do you have any suggestions for how the central gathering and performance space can be welcoming to and well-suited for small gatherings and/or performances?**

- such a nice design as is
- More grass spaces would be preferred
- Taking the Berczy Park as inspiration, collaboration with an Indigenous art/community group to create a centerpiece (not necessarily a fountain) to attract people to the space.
- Benches without backrests are awful and uncomfortable for anyone to sit on for more than 2 minutes. I do not think this small park is suitable for performances. It should just be a calm and relaxing city oasis for people to sit and enjoy nature.
- none - it looks great!
- Too small for central gatherings
- ensure materials used are easy to clean (eg., graffiti)
- Annual funding managed by Native arts organisations
- Can you add a water fountain or similar feature? Can you ensure lighting so it's safe for everyone to use given proximity to Moss Park which doesn't feel safe.
- Still think this is a stretch but after looking at design Brook McIlroy has prepared they have engaged the flexibility need well so I am good with that.
- Will there be electricity hookups close by to the proposed performance spaces, or are the performances meant to be non-amplified, and more low-key? Does the tiered stone seating/stage allow for a tent or temporary structure to be erected ovetop in case weather protection is needed? Are there examples of places around the city where these kinds of structures exist and small gathering/performances already happen? What makes them successful or not successful? Based on the proposed designs, it's seems like any of the tiered seating areas could potentially be used as performance 'stages', and it's not clear if the potential stage area in purple would be a dedicated or purpose-



built structure? It's not clear what kind of performances are expected exactly: ad-hoc performance by any member of the public? Scheduled performances booked by ... who exactly? Ultimately I find the performance space concept unclear and confusing and would like more info on what the city has in mind exactly.

- To have enough space for folks to stand, bring foldable chairs, which foot traffic can also move around when an event is taking place.
- There needs to be coverage and protection from the sun. Trees are important
- This park size is too small for gatherings or performances.
- Not sure why the city feels that using paving and then naming this as a park.
- Free iPads
- Space for food/drink carts would be a good idea
- Use surfaces and build in ways that help acoustics from stage or gathering area to seating or crowd areas of space
- Just one - about having easy access to electricity - a lot of performances depend on noisy generators and that can be detrimental for music
- Too much brick and not enough greenery. Plant grass.
- Perhaps a solar or wind generation element to provide power for performances?
- I will be honest, the trees most likely will not survive as the sun light supply will be greatly impacted from the surrounding buildings. Perhaps grasses would be a better idea?
- Please have raised stone borders for seating around the green areas with the trees. There are so many office workers and residents in the neighbourhood who will want to eat lunch there and many other people who will want to sit there at different times of the day, as there is not much green space in the neighbourhood.
- This is not a welcoming design for a park . It's not attract for families and locals. It will be run over by homeless because there is no attraction for people to enjoy this park everyday. St James park has a dedicated performance structure and Grassy area around so people can sit on the grass and watch performances . Your design is more of a decorated walkway. You cannot sit on it and people don't want to stand for long periods , they bring blankets and sit on the grass with their kids.
- Looks great
- Inclusion of greenery as part of the terrace.
- No. This use seems very unlikely. Is there a performance space user nearby? What design the whole park for this likely frequent use?
- Make this a place to honour all, not a specific group.
- We need more trees, less paving and more natural grasses that absorb water
- Where is the space for public art by Toronto artists? Why so much pavement?????
- Stage (as planned) and seating
- Add a gazebo
- Please ensure the space is not friendly for tent residents. Those of us that live nearby would also like to use the space
- No.
- Small gatherings requirements are different from performance requirements. Keep it intimate and calm.
- If performances are to be supported, please consider nice acoustics and adequate sight lines
- A wall (could be low) behind the potential stage could mimic a backdrop and create a more stage-like feeling

- Less brick and concrete and more trees and vegetation please!!
- Any way to 'art up' all those paving stones? Does not evoke a calm oasis
- More grassy areas for people to sit on.
- Performance space is redundant
- Not necessary.
- More wood seating to soften the park. Love the granite tier seating.
- no I don't. I don't think it's a suitable site for this sort of thing.
- Proofer surveillance so bums don't pitch a tent in it

### Do you have any comments, suggestions, or ideas about Indigenous Placekeeping features in the park design?

- very thoughtful
- I think it would be better with much more natural vegetation and much less hard surfaces (pavement stones). it looks like 'we paved over paradise and made it a parking lot'. That's a bit of an exaggeration, but not too much.
- Please add more green spots, it feels a little light on the green ( grass, flowers etc.). For a world class city, it's lacking in architecture, design and proper green spaces/ green public spaces. Trees are good for your mental health, air quality, great for community etc. This city is just grey blocks with such little spaces for community. Wonderful to see that Indigenous groups are being consulted. We should be so proud of our Indigenous cultures and show to tourists who visit this city, to new immigrants and those born here. So much to celebrate! But add more trees and grass! green houses!
- This all looks fantastic! A great theme was chosen! I worry the construction taken so long so please keep a close eye to it so it delivers all we are seeing in this survey.
- It's an amorphous nothing. No positive statement here.
- I like the idea of the moon shapes and natural materials. Too much open area covered in brick material. It doesn't feel soothing or cozy. It feels pedestrian. I would prefer something more similar to small parks you see and experience in Manhattan.
- No, they look great!
- Appreciated the thought and details for these Indigenous Placekeeping features.
- The center of the park needs a large focal water fountain. Not an ANOTHER indigenous circle on the ground.
- The description sounds really nice but when I look at the renderings, they just look really bland and unwelcoming.
- I like that there are Indigenous Placekeeping features included throughout the park but I think many people will not know about them and the traditions that inspired the design features. It would be great if the park could include information about the meaning behind each feature, including the history or story related to it, the native language names of each feature, etc. Also, it would be helpful if the native plantings were named/labelled along with explanations of their traditional uses and some context behind the four medicines. This would allow the space to also be a place of learning in addition to being a place for gathering.
- Allow indigenous people to maintain and take care of it. That would allow a sense of responsibility and a sense of ownership rather than symbolic gestures.
- additional garbage receptacles will be needed. One at the entrance will not be adequate
- I like all of these!
- Identify trees that should be native and fruit bearing.

- Nope! This looks great & love that Indigenous iconography and beliefs are included into the design.
- Great!
- The design is thoughtful and well considered.
- Reflecting the cardinal directions: - I really like this re-orientation to the cardinal directions. I also really like the idea of using paving patterns to reinforce the concept, although it's not clear if the East-West axes will also be promoted in some way. - I do hope that the entrances to the park are made clear and welcoming, especially the less obvious entrance in the South-East corner for pedestrians walking West along Richmond St. 2. Balance of planting/open gathering space: - Based on the renderings, this space feels more like a plaza than a park. There are a lot of hard surfaces, much more so than plantings. - I'm concerned that the park will be used by e-bike couriers as a short-cut between Richmond and Queen, making the central gathering space dangerous to actually congregate in and around in any meaningful way. 3. Natural Elements: - I really like the use of natural elements such as granite and reclaimed wood, especially bedrock and granite. If granite is used as seating, it would be helpful to have it smooth on top, otherwise it holds rain water and dirt/sand which makes it difficult to sit on. 5. 13 moons: - Really interesting idea, but I don't think it will be clear to park users what is being referenced. The circular stools do not look or feel like moons, and the plantings don't resemble the moon in its various phases at all. Maybe if the stools were decorated somehow to show or resemble the various phases e.g. mosaic, stone carving etc. - The idea of moon phases is interesting because for people living in the city the moon is something we can actually see. We can't really see many stars, certainly not the constellations or the milky way, and the sunrise is over so quickly and people are generally just waking up, but the sunset and the moon are astral touchstones for city dwellers. I'd expand on this theme somewhere. Maybe it's possible to incorporate stars and the constellations. - Don't use concrete for the stools, looks dingy quickly
- Would it be possible to incorporate a sacred fire?
- More green (real) grass and more trees. Select trees that provide shade and canopy.
- Could use some activities / things for small children, otherwise this may just be a hangout spot?
- The seating areas should be designed to discourage sleeping and occupation by homeless people. This may occur by partitioning the seating areas. Homelessness is a serious problem in our neighbourhood, and we do not need parks that act as a magnet for homelessness, opioid drug users, and criminal elements.
- Love the orientation. Since there will be no public washrooms, can there be signage to direct people to the community Centre for access? What is the plan while Moss Park is being renovated?
- Wish more green space less concrete
- Indigenous art and design projects throughout the park would be a nice touch. Additionally, perhaps a weekend market for indigenous products might be a good way for our local population to learn more about the indigenous peoples of Canada.
- More seating would be great. Especially down the Center of park which enables people to sit facing E/W
- The design is of an urban plaza. This seems an appropriate use given the surrounding context but does not match the vision statement of a 'green and calm urban oasis'
- this presentation is critical in developing an understanding of the thinking and execution of the proposed park design.

- I love all this
- Cool designs. I learned a lot going through the Placekeeping designs. It is surprising though that the renderings have so much hard non porous surfaces
- I think it's great if there are plaques around to incite curiosity among whoever walks in the park - maybe a little bit of a game with arrows and a sequence and/or qr codes with audio/video for us to access content and learn more - it's all so fascinating!
- More year round greenery
- Would be nice to see at least one of the mounds devoted to green winter shrubs for a all year round planting. Plus all other mounds should consider also having all year round (deciduous) small plantings too.
- Perhaps personalize the elements by memorializing an indigenous person, or people, who represent the teachings, and telling their stories.
- I just wanted to thank those that were involved in putting their time and their wisdom into this
- As a settler I do appreciate the central theme of Indigenous Placekeeping. By profession I am a historian with a specialization in NDN treaties and Inherent Landrights in Canada. So, I believe that I've had the opportunity to educate myself on such matters since my graduate studies. But I am wondering about the general population's (incl. other educated citizens') level of understanding and active engagement with these issues. Especially since there seems to be a growing backlash against #Landback in favour of performative inconsequential #landacknowledgements. So, how do we ensure that park users are encouraged to see the design features in relation to current public issues and not merely as NDN 'traditions'?
- I don't believe this park design exhibits the values of indigenous people. This design is mostly concrete, why? How will it attract birds and bees and really be a natural oasis and habitat. What is the garden and grass? I would suggest some sort of water feature and the design should keep in mind the philosophy of Indigenous peoples to be stewards of nature and to unite communities. Your planners should see the design at StJames park and understand what brings people to that park and Sarah's locals for small events.. It is busy everyday and flourishing.
- Great to see this incorporated
- No
- It will provide plenty of sleeping areas.
- Increase the green space
- Doubt it will be used
- Like the orientation altho don't think anyone would notice. Too much paving.
- Make this a safe space for all, not just one group.
- Looks great!
- Like them a lot
- More greenery, less paved brick areas. More seating areas with shade, where people can have lunches
- I have Métis grandparents but grew up without that culture so no leave that to those who carry the vision
- Need some evergreen trees to wildlife and bird habitat.
- Yes. Start over. How about honouring the cities founders? Early settlers? Successful business leaders? Scientists? Politicians?
- Positive
- I would like more trees if possible.

- I don't want Indigenous Placekeeping as I wouldn't use it.
- I think the biggest concerns I have is over the plants/ shrubs/ vines/ trees used in the green spaces. They should all be native to the region, perennial, drought resistance with no pesticides/ herbicides or artificial fertilizers being used. Natural pest control and natural soil enhancing plants have to be used, i.e. clover, companion pairings.
- The space should convey a sense of sacredness. We have so little of that available in Toronto condo neighbourhoods. Art would be a welcome addition. Perhaps some sculpture.
- Maximize natural elements, green space
- No suggestions other than to express support and gratitude for park design that centres on Indigenous Placekeeping
- Would there be an explanation of the design principles posted on-site? Could be enjoyable to read about them and then search for the 13 moons or 7 teachings.
- really like the detail of incorporating land teaching
- More indigenous plant life would be great. Less brick walkway and pavement. Thank you!
- Please use native plants that can house and feed birds, and not just imported tall grasses that don't support local species. Seems like there could be more trees. Will there be garbage cans close by? No mention of them, but necessary.
- I think the cost should be considered and kept in mind.
- Great gestures , will include signage to explain?
- Indigenous culture is about respecting nature. The lights and concrete do not. Indigenous respect elders. Proper seating would be nice. Stone seating is not appropriate for elders. Comfortable Benches with arm rests help to seat and rise. Need security guards to keep this area safe and clean.
- I'm impressed by the thoughtfulness in the design of the park, I hope this happens as planned. My old suggestion is for more trees, the renderings of what the park looks like from within feels super sparse and almost lush. Would it be possible to add borders of greenery or tall shrubs to balance the overwhelming amount of floor space? Or can you use dual colours for the flooring? It just looks so blah and unappealing for the beautiful design that is proposed
- I am not indigenous so I should not have a say
- Move water fountain next to street sidewalk so that pedestrians walking by the park can also easily use it. Consider adding a second one at the other end. Include one or more emergency call buttons (similar to those used in parking garages). Add more garbage receptacles but select ones that conform to the parks esthetics (not the regular city receptacles). Add a few bollards to prevent vehicles from entering.
- I think it's a great idea.
- No
- It needs water features
- Love the design please make sure to make the final result identical. The plantings and gathering spots are well done.
- Make it real park, mostly grass with a straight concrete path and some normal park benches lining the path and throughout the park. Your design might just cost as much in upkeep as maintaining a lawn.
- Lovely
- no



- Nope. Don't care. My family immigrated here in the 50's. I've learned much in Canadian history class, Good and Bad. I don't need to have MORE native "teachings" crammed down my throat.
- where do people sit? where is the grass? useless space.
- no hierarchy with the seven grandfather teachings. include a water feature for the 13 moons , and mosaics in the water (13 circles rising up, 13 different artists). include pictorial representation for the 13 moons. don't overlap with city hall design/don't overexpose same concepts. See mosaic at Sherbourne Health Centre.

### Is there anything you would change or add to improve the seating options in the park?

- Add even more seating. There is too much hardscape and not enough seating considering there is no grass. The more options to sit, the more people can enjoy the park.
- Tiered seating - be mindful of creating a siteline obstruction also the amount of space consumed. Wood seating, nice, but backrests are important for many people and can't be overly deep.
- If cafe seating is added I worry it may not serve the intended purpose
- I would change the hard surfaces to natural vegetation. This would make it feel much more 'Indigenous'.
- It's not a change BUT YES add the cafe! Add that cafe! Ok there is a park in Lisbon ( I know I am comparing) but they have this beautiful gazebo cafe and chairs around it with trees falling. Yes it's in Portugal but it's stunning. And it creates community, young people are working ( employment) and just people thriving.
- Cafe seating is so well used in the few places it exists in our neighbourhood. A really good choice to activate the large amounts of pavers in the design.
- The table and chairs need to be resistant and easy to clean. Wood might not be your best option here. I would suggest we rethink the concept to incorporate something more resistant to weather and to dirt, that would clean itself naturally through rain or snow, maybe in metal?
- Benches! Accessible for seniors! Arms to help you up and down, backs to provide support! Think function!!
- Simplify!
- if chairs and tables are included they will likely be stolen
- Wood benches are esthetically pleasing and very 'nature', but not sure re comfort, and wld attract 'nappers'
- I would recommend armless chairs for the cafe table/chair set-up to be accessible for fat/plus-sized people.
- Benches need drainage and backrests.
- The wooden seating just doesn't look comfortable. Take a look at some of the seating on the High Line in NYC. It is much more welcoming
- The benches are likely to become beds for homeless people. Respectfully, that may make it uncomfortable for others
- Well integrated lighting from below / embedded
- Cafe tables and chairs should be included in the park design. Some of the renderings assume that the adjacent retail spaces will include this type of seating but that would likely be limited to their patrons and not accessible to everyone whereas if the seating is

included in the park it will be available for everyone at all times not just when the retail space allows it (assuming some of that retail space even provides seating)

- I like all of the seating options, and I know it's not likely feasible but I just wish they could be a little more natural looking, instead of excavated slabs of granite and perfectly rectangular pieces of wood, the shapes are unnatural to me. But still okay.
- Make it simple to clean and maintain.
- I think the seating cafe style is a really nice touch if these new condos that are being built will include somewhere where you might want to grab a snack or a meal and sit in the park to enjoy it.
- I worry the cafe tables and chairs will be vandalized
- Change the café area
- It's going to be filled drugs
- I would propose having backs on the benches so people can lean back for support.
- See my initial comment about bio-diversity
- This sounds lovely if you are able to move the homeless people who I am sure will be loitering in the area! This looks like it could become a squatter area
- Add something to the wooden benches to avoid them being used as beds or skateboard platforms
- Reflect on diverse body sizes for seating, and ergonomic consideration of seating needs for elders or individuals with mobility concerns.
- I'd like to have some seating that doesn't stay wet. Like traditional slats of a park bench
- Less cafe style
- Cafe seating should not be moveable, in this area they will be stolen/damaged/used for violence.
- Wooden seats need to have backs to them. What will the moon stools be made out of? Concrete eventually looks so dirty and dingy and uninviting.
- Accessible assigned tables. Also what would the ground be made of? stones often are difficult to manage with wheelchair and stroller users.
- Seating area needs back support. And lounge chairs to soak up the sun
- Stone is not comfortable to sit on and I think wood would be unattractive.
- I'd make sure the cafe table seating area can be well designed and becomes a feature of the park rather than an afterthought like in many parks where you see ugly seating that doesn't go well with the space.
- Make the seating easy to sleep on for those less fortunate. Don't do hostile architecture like benches with huge metal armrests in the middle.
- water fountain and tent sales in the summer, bicycle rack and bike share Toronto. kid structure playground?
- Lighting is essential for safety
- All seating must be designed to discourage homelessness, drug users and encampments.
- Not a lot of green in that park
- I would get rid of the cafe seating
- You can do stone seating with wooden inserts for seating and not freezing the bum.
- The design allows for hiding spots and pockets of places that may encourage some people in the neighbourhood to take shelter to do their drugs, Pass out / OD. Need to ensure the space is as safe as possible for everyone that congregates there.
- Don't allow cafe seating as it would encourage loitering

- what about grass?
- i like bentwood wood curved benches as this would echo the stone surfaces more
- Access to Toronto water for drinking and include a lower spout for dogs
- I would not put a park here
- more of those wooden benches with backrests
- Can you add some rows of seating down centre of park?
- A spinning tent
- Muskoka chairs like sugar beach
- Is there a way to have the stone tiered seating in its non-reduced form, and still bring in cafe tables & chairs? While I love the idea of the latter, I am not interested in reducing the former. Is there a way to balance that?
- The big question for me is day to day maintenance and cleaning. What authority will be assigned this vital task?
- Add power outlets near the cafe seating
- Seats with back rests please
- This is not the best idea for the area. If you live in Moss Park... you know this will turn into another hang out area for the transient.
- Seating areas should be built with porous surfaces allowing rain water to drain well but also into the ground not just into the sewers
- It should be easy to maintain and clean rather than something that will be graffitid and destroyed by the homeless and remain derelict afterwards
- Backrests for the benches. So uncomfortable when there isn't a backrest
- Seating and ground cover
- Each table could be named for one of the indigenous people representing the grandfather teachings.
- Put backs on the benches. As shown in the second wooden bench example picture.
- More grass in the park
- More seating appropriate to older and younger park users - various styles of chairs to suit large and small body types, various heights of seating, some seating with back rests,
- I think it could use more bike parking than the one rack. Also perhaps an additional garbage/recycling bin.
- Some sculptures or arts
- Raised stone borders around the green areas for seating
- Seating wit back because there are many seniors in the neighborhood that cannot sit for long periods . Stone seems uncomfortable but it looks good . Cafe tables will bring food garbage to the park, Attracting rodents .
- the seating must be suitable for everyone of all physical abilities. The proposed seating would require rock climbing or sitting on a narrow wooden bench. This is not inclusive seating. Chairs and tables only create clutter. I am very disappointed in the seating options presented
- Use granite for the proposed benches instead, wood benches look terrible after one winter.
- There should be a concession stand selling tea and coffee and the park needs to be gated at night or it will quickly be game over.
- Remove chunky stone seating and replace them with regular park benches



- Cafe sitting doesn't really make sense as there really aren't a lot of coffee shops and casual cafes in the neighbourhood. Would prefer more green space or terrace seating
- No seating. Will just attract undesirables
- Seems like a lot of seating. How many people are u expecting to sit?
- Seating options with shade
- I think there should be more shaded area over the tiered seating and the wooden benches should all have back support
- Put some evergreen trees near the seating
- Grass
- The seating will only attract the multitudes of homeless people who already monopolize public spaces in the area.
- Add more seating
- Backs.
- I am worried about the cleanliness, if stone seating is used, will there be someone to clean it if an animal pees on it?
- All wooden bench seating should have backs, and, based on design presented, the seat part looks too deep for people who are short: seat will hit backs of legs.
- Adding chairs and tables would invite theft and vandalism. All seating be a built in part of the natural architecture of the space. It is possible to include seating with texture and softness?
- Without plenty of trees and green space, no one will sit here
- Seating that looks more like part of a landscape — like the rock face in Yorkville, or wooden benches that look like logs.
- Make sure there is dappled shade for cafe seating area
- the wooden setting
- cafe tables will be vandalized or taken away. Rocks are a great way to encourage children to play and explore.
- Do not make park seating options 'homeless' proof, so people cannot lay down, be comfortable.
- Make sure there is backing to some of the chairs - whether backs on wooden benches or chairs
- Pls go for comfort over exclusion tactics
- Green space
- I love the wooden benches but I dislike the hostile design feature of the armrest which seems unnecessary and appears designed to keep in houses people from reclining. This always just looks mean to me. No one needs a metal arm rest in the middle of a bench. Thank you!
- Just make it inclusive for houseless folks (who are 30% Indigenous according to statistics)
- Make sure that there are sunny and shaded options
- I personally like tiered seating. However, it excludes people who use wheeled mobility devices. Sure everyone can sit at/near the base of these, but should everyone have the opportunity to see/experience the park from an elevated vantage point? Cafe tables are great, parks that have only benches seam like a great place to stop and eat your lunch, but I usually miss having a table.
- Keep universal design in mind. Any way to build in accessibility for blin/low vision - please do it!

- Please just have regular benches instead of the stone or wood monstrosities. They look uncomfortable and uninviting.
- Less hard edge
- stone instead of wood will last the weather much longer and more optimal usage in all weather conditions
- Comfortable accessible seating . Not those muskoka chairs that seniors cannot get out of. Our population is aging!
- Water feature
- Could we have curved wooden seating that gives visual interest like in the st Lawrence market dog fountain park?
- Benches with backs
- The wooden seating shown here is very uncomfortable. Picnic tables or Muskoka chairs would be nice.
- Make sure the stone and/or wood seating is angled enough for water to run off. Water, especially on the stone tiered seating, will absorb pollutants and when it evaporates, will leave dirt on the stones. Nobody wants to get dirty.
- Increase the amount of accessible green space for people to sit on the ground under the trees.
- As per above - seating benches only, no tables and chairs - it's a park, not a restaurant.
- Grass patches for grounding of the feet
- Just use classic park benches or tiered wooden seating.
- water feature
- More shade
- Some normal benches, and a picnic table. Elderly people don't want to sit on concrete, and the tiered seating will not be used by the elderly who will need a rest stop more than most and it really doesn't look safe for children at all. And don't call this proposed design park it is not. It is just a cement and brick walkway.
- Can there be usb plugs to charge phones by seating type #4?
- Benches should have an arm rest for ppl who have mobility challenges can use the arm rest to push themselves up (AODA)
- Remove circle seating stones
- No seating
- because the park is small, not sure how much cafe style seatings would be utilized. even more green space bench style seating could be appropriate
- add grass places to sit!
- instead of cafe seating I'd like more park benches
- Bench or seating designs that are actually comfortable to sit in.
- The name should be reflective of the population that lives there
- Could add Muskoka chairs
- more seating around central gathering space

**Please share any concerns or suggestions you have about the stage design (e.g. stage design considerations to ensure the space works for particular events/performances you may want to host in this space). You can leave this response blank if you do not have any suggestions or concerns.**

- The stage will not be used as expected. People will not randomly start performing.

- I like performances in parks but do wonder w/the immediate adjacency of residential and this being a small space if those uses can co-exist harmoniously.
- power would be needed for hosting a larger performance
- No need to have a stage. This is to be a peaceful oasis in a very busy, loud, noisy area.
- I'm worried there is not enough grass that is not fenced off, there are a lot of dogs in the area and we need to make space for them or they just go on the sidewalk.
- I think this park would be much better as a natural oasis in the city, rather than an 'event' center.
- Add more trees and shady spots. In summer the heat is direct here and shade is important. Add that cafe and hire indigenous artists / architect / graphic designers to design the interior. Make it for the community and also make it instagrammable ( yes I said it but seriously this city needs design help!)
- These spaces are almost never used, and already are accounted for in abundance in st James park, David crombie, corktown commons, sherbourne cotton etc. Community should be organic and not programmed... more space for organic connections (like cafe seating) is my strong preference.
- Great idea on the stage!
- It's a park! We want peace and quiet. Add more - much more green ground cover with some paths. Less PAVED areas please! Some EVERGREENS to quiet the sound, soften the wind, and add some greenery - winters are long and grey. Ontario cedars - think environment! Look into " City Tree" used in Europe for the environment. More innovation please - a park ! Nature, peace, comfortable seating! GREENERY. And a pee stone at the ends for dogs. They pee all over stone seating. And security patrols - I see the city has spent lots of money here. This area does not feel safe. It will need security to keep it clean and safe. Less concrete. More PARK pleas.
- I think the park is too small for this use and that it won't be used.
- This is such a strange idea. I don't know what kinds of performances are being envisioned for such a small space.
- I like the inclusion of a stage in the park IF it is going to be utilized for community events like 'music in the park' at St. James Park and Berczy Park in the Summer months. Otherwise this will serve as a place for the homeless to deface and use to gather and do drugs - which will prevent residents from wanting to go there.
- How will people know about this stage and use it - will they have to book it , will it never be used... I think the stage could just be a waste of space and energy
- There isn't any seating (whether it would be portable or not) for people to watch the entertainment
- I have noticed that the stage in other parks that I walk through regularly do not get much use.
- The park space is too small to incorporate a performance stage.
- Waste of space that could be used for trees or grass. Need natural green surfaces.
- Just ample seating for when there's an event/performance
- I would like to see the stage be designed to be accessible for wheelchair users/those who are unable to climb the large stone steps. This will enable disabled performers to use this space, promoting equity and full community participation.
- Totally not necessary
- Most city park spaces that have the stages are rarely used, and could be utilized for other usage. If there is a commitment from local business/organization to use the stage

then it is effective but if it remains a design token that ends up being wasted, might as well redesign to increase functionality.

- I'm worried that the traffic noise would make it impossible for any live performances to be heard
- Performance can happen in the centre of the moon feature
- Unnecessary, no one is going to host an event here with moss park across the street.
- St James, Berczy and The Esplanade all have performance spaces. They don't get used enough, so even they could have been more green space. A stage is just more paving, that won't get used for performance.
- Maybe adding some sort of pergola on top of the area thought of as the stage would be more interesting to create a sense of enclosure instead of a raised stage. It can also create a point of interest during winter, like they are doing at Love Park on Queens Quay
- Make it bigger so that more events are held here than elsewhere in the area
- Skateboarding is an issue with structures.
- Way to much traffic on Richmond. If you do an event that will attract lots of people, it can be dangerous due to traffic
- Have more green space
- Will it be used for kids doing skateboarding tricks?
- it would be nice if the stage was grass covered or using recycled tires to make area softer and usable for seating when stage is not being used
- Definitely have a platform that comes through the stage floor
- I'm still trying to reconcile the idea of a calm urban oasis with one that invites events/performances. While I like the stage idea, it doesn't exactly scream 'calm' to me. It tells me, I'd have to scope out what's happening there, and if I am not enjoying the hubbub to then avoid the area.
- We have examples elsewhere in the City that can provide both positive and negative guidance.
- Please be mindful of the noise level that may impact the residents in the neighbourhood, especially in the evening.
- This should be more green space. There are a lot of young families in the area and families with dogs. And very limited green space.
- If possible make the stage out of natural materials not concrete
- I am skeptical anyone would use this feature
- Can the adjacent buildings have vines and deciduous plants growing up them and provide an overall green affect and interesting vines in the winter? Similar to 'vest pocket' parks in Europe.
- I see stages in city parks, but they're almost never used.
- Stages are often added in parks yet seem to be used infrequently. Having accommodation for temporary staging seems more pragmatic.
- Does the stage design in st. James park get used? Honestly, the park is too small for a performance stage
- It should not stand out but blend in with other park elements
- include an area for performer's equipment during a performance
- Too small for a stage. A stage works in st James park because it's a large park with a good balance of greenery and concrete with a hill to sit on and watch shows in the summer. This is not the case with the proposed design
- Just a place for more tents

- Concerned that stage may become vandalised if not cared for. But a small platform for a small group performance may be nice to bring residents together outdoors.
- How likely is a performance? And if not, a stage takes up a lot of space. Could be a tree.
- We need more green and less paving
- Too small a site for large stage. Unless you invite jazz bands to play there.
- Why are there no mosaics being proposed for the adjacent building walls?
- Please make sure nobody lives there in a tent
- Downtown Toronto is noisy enough, to add more via performances doesn't make it a calm place.
- Gatherings of loud people
- Just make sure it has enough electrical outlets to easily accommodate a 4-piece band.
- These are under- utilized and steal space from trees, which are most urgently needed.
- I assume there will be electrical service available for performances. Wifi in the park would also be an asset
- Will people actually be able to perform here or will it just be a place for noise complaints? Please add electrical outlets to facilitate speaker amps etc. Will the trees help protect from vehicular noise/ will the positioning of the stage enable sound to easily reach listeners without echo and distortion?
- Seems like a small space to create an event/performance space.
- We lack gathering space in this area. A stage will encourage more community events - large and small.
- If you're looking for flexibility among performers, including electrical outlets will be important. Embedded lights would also be cool.
- Isbthere any way this spot could be green? Like grasses or plants? 'Eco grass segues' or smtg?
- As many trees as possible in between the road and the stage would be great to minimize traffic noise :)
- I liked the design at St Jamestown park down the street on King
- I just think there are already so many spaces for music in the downtown. What we need is more nature.
- If you can't make the stage fully accessible (ramped access), do not include it.
- Equity! include a ramp so people with disabilities can access the stage too
- Seems unnecessary
- Let it function organically otherwise it will come with too many regulations - who is invited?
- I really don't think it is realistic to promote that type of use at this park. As I wrote earlier, this street is very loud due to traffic. Any kind of performance will be overshadowed by cars driving and honking, making it impossible to hear.
- Electrical access would be a great inclusion. How would people book this space? How would the booking system be accessible to Indigenous community?
- Think a stage will take away from the green space
- Work on mitigating wind, include as much natural ground cover as possible. Paved areas appropriate for seniors using walkers. City Tree for the environment rather than waste money on a stage for noisy events. 1. A safe clean place. 2. Respect a natural, healing space. We do not need more noise in an already noisy area. Many don't feel safe in this area. It will need adequate security and maintenance. I wonder if you know

the population here? Drugs, homeless people, so many dogs! Main thing would be to keep this space clean, safe and usable for some calm and quiet.

- I just don't get the events that would take place at a stage this size. My opinion is that these events would be better suited for different parks with more space. With how much effort events need to set up, why limit them to a space that fits 20-30 people?
- The raised stage in the st James park area doesn't seem to be used, I think this might end up the same? If the stage is to be included, can we add some structural visual interest?
- If the stage is to be used by bands or other entertainers it will need electric receptacles.
- More important to have an outdoor meeting space for friends. Not a stage. Replace with more greenery, trees for shade.
- Not into the stage at all. The open space in the middle provides opportunity for activation. The stage should just be more rock seating or more room for bistro tables.
- So more noise pollution in one of the noisiest areas downtown is just stupid.
- Before including in design, would be interested in the projected demand / interest in hosting performances - e.g. will the stage be well used each weekend? Are we confident there is appetite for ongoing use? What about during the winter months? If we feel there is limited demand, perhaps there are opportunities to consider other park features that may be more consistently enjoyed by the community
- Skateboarders will love that, so it is in use when there aren't any performances.
- I don't think this site is suitable for performance at the current time. That may change somewhat overtime as electric vehicles become the majority. However, heavy vehicles, motorcycles, will remain gas engines for quite some time.
- It's too small of an area for for a stage to be useful.
- It will never get used....

### Do you have any additional feedback on the proposed lighting? - other

- Be mindful not to create excessive light pollution (lighting should be focused from just above eye level for a tall person down to the ground).
- NW corner could be a bit dark at night
- will need to be bright at night to discourage sleep overs
- Are security cameras being installed? I have concerns with safety of this park after dark, given the current situation of our neighborhood. Lighting might be important to prevent unwanted events such as the homeless population using the park as a bathroom.
- The lighting should be bright enough at night to (hopefully) deter people from sleeping there
- Really hard to picture what this will look & feel like from the description
- its not clear from the rendering if this lighting will be sufficient to illuminate all areas for example the north corners seem like they could be quite dark in this rendering which would be a safety concern.
- It would be cool to have one light in the center of the medallion, like a spotlight embedded
- Forget the bollard lighting. Winters will eventually damage them. Simple is cheaper.
- MORE lighting primarily light poles are needed....especially around the stage area, and in the centre of the park. Lighting at night is key to the parks safety. Additionally I would strongly recommend that cameras be installed on the pole lighting for added security and safety.



- Good bright lighting is important - I have a feeling a lot of people will use this to get from Queen to Richmond and it can be a bit scary at nighttime and it would be good to know that it has bright enough lighting to make people feel safe walking through here at night
- It'll be scary there at night
- See my initial comment about bio-diversity
- Parks need to be well lit at night! there could be options for softer lighting when there is a community event but general lighting, especially in an urban plaza should be higher than the norm
- Please start moving the shelters
- There needs to be as much lighting as possible otherwise I truly feel this will feel like an extension of Moss Park which feels very unsafe to women and Children
- The more light the better, aimed downward so as not to light up adjacent apartments.
- will there be outlets for performers to plug in for power? Possibly add lighting to the stage for additional lighting during performances.
- Proposed lighting seems OK on paper, but it can't really be assessed until installed and functioning, and then it's too late to change.
- Please just keep it warm, not cold (blue). That's all I ask.
- Less lighting to create a safe space for the unhoused and for heterosexual men engaging in cruising
- More lighting for safety. Ontario line will be close by, so increase safety
- Need way more lights to prevent crime and make it safe
- More lightening required for night.
- Uplighting along the heritage wall would highlight its unique features.
- The whole park should be lit at night, dimmer in some areas is fine but you shouldn't wonder what's around a corner.
- it would be nice to have some path upward lights (maybe motion sensor)
- More light is always better. The centre walking path could have a centre tall light post with circular bench seating around it.
- This park will become a hang out for the people in the area who do drugs. This nighttime lighting is not enough to deter that
- based on the park located between two buildings, would recommend additional lighting to prevent loitering or nefarious activities when sun is not out - especially important in winter when days are short.
- the low bollard 'firefly' lights are important to give the park character at night and essential to the overall success
- Lasers, colours, energy, excitement, wow
- While I believe lighting is good, as a woman who has been assaulted before I can tell you lighting in and of itself is not a problem. Perhaps the city can address issues of safety in more holistic terms instead of expecting this firm to solve them.
- Is it ample without replicating the interior of a building? The point is there's a level that contributes to a sense of safety. It's important that we feel safe 24 hours a day.
- More lights, sense of safety at least.
- Why so much lighting in the city?!?! Why is darkness treated as an enemy?! Please have very few lights and if there must be lights make them dim
- The lighting should be enough that it's safe to walk through this space at night, behind that please use natural hues that look like an oil lamp or candlelight rather than anything fluorescent

- More lighting coverage
- I'm afraid of the dark corners
- What the lighting in the corridor's providing entry/exit?
- Can you make lights bright until 10pm and then dim to 50%
- Personal safety is the defining feature in the success of downtown parks. Ensure the lighting is bright enough.
- All lighting should be dark sky compliant so as not to add to the city's light pollution problem.
- Warm lighting 2700k
- Some areas look quite dark at night in the diagram to me.
- My only concern/hope is that the lighting being proposed is sufficient to illuminate the park properly after dark for safety.
- Traditional style lighting that uniquely reflects the old Toronto style neighbourhood. This could serve as a unique feature that adds personality
- It's unfortunate you are including lighting that is out of your control. It should be Well Lit for safety at all times.
- There seem to be some corner areas that are not covered by lighting, can that be revisited
- More lighting poles to ensure safety. The Moss Park neighbourhood isn't necessarily safe at night and using the park as a through point to get from one side of the neighbourhood would not be safe without proper lighting.
- Should be daylight to keep out the bums
- Light should be adequate but not excessive so as not to add to light pollution
- Do not make any of the lights too bright or shining into nearby condo residents' windows please
- There is beautiful lighting at the St. James park off of Adelaide East, I think if we could get some lighting similar to their bench lights I think it would make the park feel more like an oasis
- Lights should be muted as it is better for wildlife habitats.
- Is there enough lighting for stage performances in the dark?
- Do we have concerns about light pollution?
- The more light, the better
- Whatever lighting used, light pollution must be reduced as far as possible.
- Yes please point lights down to avoid light pollution.
- Light pollution is out of control in this city. Please let us (and birds and animals) enjoy the beauty of a dark night as much as possible. I think the minimum lighting to ensure safety is ideal. Downward facing dim light posts is great. No one needs the plants lit up or lights all over the walls of the buildings. A calm oasis would have minimal lighting.  
Thank you!
- Would the low bollard lights affect the plants?
- What lighting will extend into the walkway from the north end of the park to Queen Street E?
- Light pole within the trees gets obstructed and creates a shadow from the branches of the tree
- Bad neighborhood. Avoid after dark, regardless of lighting.
- It would be nice to have some form of lighting string type ceiling
- Provide enough lighting to discourage illegal activities (e.g. drug use).



- Please do not use bright florescent lights but warmer tones instead.
- The firefly lighting is good. Increases sense of safety
- Normal effective lamps instead of artsy overpriced designs. Ypu just love to waste taxpayer's money.
- Very mindful that good lighting can make a significant difference in perceived / actual safety within the park. Would encourage consideration of additional light poles to help with this.
- More lighting needed for the back corners of the park!
- LED of course & try for Gold LEED standard. Seek out Indigenous vendors for services or products.
- Warm lighting, I beg of you, please
- I think shorter lampposts add atmosphere and soften the lighting at night. More pleasant than tall lights and spotlights.
- Mire of a question. How much is this all going to cost? Isn't Toronto \$1,000,000,000.00 in the RED?
- has to be well lit enough to be very safe.

### **Do you have any additional feedback on the proposed planting plan? - other**

- I love the 'native' theme but many of the plants are NOT native. False Spirea is native to Asia! Wrong continent. The trees include many hybrids and species not native to the GTA. Diversity is good, but there are better choices available. Bur Oak instead of Pin Black Cherry instead of Kentucky Coffee etc etc.
- Way too much cement and not enough green space. Add bird, bee and butterfly plantings
- I'm worried there is not enough grass that is not fenced off, there are a lot of dogs in the area and we need to make space for them or they just go on the sidewalk.
- I like the tress, but there should be much more natural vegetation to go with them.
- More trees and greenery doesn't have to take away from gathering space.
- Nice choices of plants. I would focus in very colourful plants if possible, so it pops since this park is among tall buildings. Please do not go too colourful in the planters and overall gardening, which can easily become tacky.
- Triple the size of the garden plantings. Park style seating. Accessible for seniors to sit on. Dogs. Pee stone at ends of park where it can be washed down otherwise the entire park will be a dog toilet.
- Move it to the sides, more open gathering space in the centre.
- More plants, greenery please
- Yes, I would like to see more green space overall. At the moment, there seems to only be small sections of grassy areas with most of the surface areas being brick
- Considering that there is no space for lawns due to size, maximizing the green space as much as possible to still allow for accessibility would be amazing!
- I just worry the park will not be maintained. I also wonder how the sun living plans will do will the trees and buildings around
- Consider permeable paving, with spaces in it for moss to grow. With all the hard paved space the park will be hot and not allow water to go down into the aquifer.
- I like the use of native plants.
- Please keep in mind that dogs need space to relieve themselves. Don't fence everything - where are they supposed to go?!

- the planting design is great and i think the addition of trees will greatly improve the neighbourhood. however, it would be useful to also have a few areas with constructed coverage if there is a rainstorm so people could have some shelter.
- I do think there is not enough green space espically grass - this is less of a park and more of a throughpass to get between the two main roads
- Please ensure that the plants aren't left to die - I have seen this happen in so many parks
- i would like to see less pavement and more growing things and or earth.
- Fruit trees are needed
- Need grass
- Including seating that is in shaded areas is very important, especially as much of the park is paved which will increase the overall temperature. I would like to see two small sections where people could sit on grass/clover and interact with and relax on the greenery in addition to the current planting space. These lawn areas could be added in spaces with the lowest foot traffic.
- See my initial comment about bio-diversity.
- You can never add 'too much' greenery!!
- Main concern is moving homeless
- Consider if any of the plants die or are ripped up by vagrant dwellers - will it be able to be replaced by the city, or left empty or refilled with something that doesn't fit the design.
- More planting, less paving.
- I'd consider adding a raised grassy mound along Richmond st to give the park a sense of enclosure and also to protect it from the street, especially in terms of traffic noise.
- Create a secluded private area for heterosexual men engaging in cruising
- Encourage monarch butterfly plants
- There will be a lot of shade cause by all the high rise condos around it. The plants need to survive with not a lot of direct sunlight
- I would like to have a picnic and the park doesn't allow for it.
- The lush the better
- not enough trees. trees planted by the city are always too frail. they don't have time to mature
- maybe some more scented foliage (lavender, honeysuckle)
- An inclusion of daffodils and snow drops that naturalize well would provide good spring colour. Additionally, other spring and summer bulbs would add colour and interest beyond the other plants.
- i love the planting plan but would be nice to a community garden option/area as well
- You could hide some of the lights in the trees
- More grass area instead of concrete/brick ground
- For me when it comes to parks, the more plants & trees the better.
- I'm assuming that the plantings will be relatively mature.
- Grass.
- Please create more natural areas. Not human planted areas but natural growth areas
- Plants with vines that grow on the walls of the adjacent buildings?! More deciduous plants!
- You should consider more grass and less brick.

- More planting, perhaps a small community garden, even raised or moveable planters with sunflower or herbs/tomatoes
- the space should have as much greenery and natural ground covering as possible to give an authentic park experience
- I wish more of the paved areas used permeable paving features, to allow rainfall to absorb into the ground
- Has there been a sunlight consideration with regards to tree survivability? The buildings will be masking a lot of the sun light hours that trees require to survive
- Can anything be done to soften the ground? Not much green space compared to hardscape.
- There should be grassy areas for children to run about such as a Grady hill and , even a play structure. Parents can gather with children to explore and play drawing the community in .
- would love to see some non-fenced planting areas
- It's not the design it's the maintenance and the out fails miserably at that every time!
- Planting space can be increased by 5-10%
- More planting, green spaces. Use curbs or low fencing to keep dogs out of beds.
- More flowers in the spring and summer seasons. More maples.
- Like the emphasis on native plants but the part will be very hot with so many hard surfaces.
- You need to add evergreen trees for colour in winter and habitat shelter.
- There should be at least one area with hardy plant cover that dogs can access - in the summer this neighbourhood stinks of pee from dogs peeing directly on bricks and buildings. The dog population in this area is huge and sidewalks/bricks are not suitable for dogs' bathroom needs. This dog-accessible area could have ground cover like clover rather than a lawn that needs mowing to maintain.
- More trees less concrete.
- Please don't plant saplings that take a decade to grow
- Add trees if possible please.
- As I have mentioned earlier, all plants should be native to the region, all perennial, drought resistance.
- The photographic renderings convey too much concrete and not enough tree canopy. Toronto is brutally hot in the summer and needs more shade. Will those trees provide enough?
- How to protect trees from animal waste? They die so readily from this.
- Just a small concern that the area is a bit heavy on hard surface that speaks to traffic rather than calm and lingering. But I could be wrong on this point. Overall I like the design!
- Please make sure the trees have adequate conditions to thrive! E.g enough soil and protection from salt, trampling.
- Vegetation should still allow full visibility into and through the park
- The ground surfaces should mix concrete hard surfaces with natural softer materials.
- Grass would be nice
- more trees please. it feels too corporate
- Less brick and more trees and shrubs please! Thank you
- Sharing information on the trees & plants? Include that info in Braille
- Does not feel like an oasis with so much paving stones

- should have more green space including some grass
- The Dawn redwood is great. How about a couple of Ontario Cedars too. And “ City Tree” to respect and clean the air. Please check this out.
- Added previously, would just love this space to feel more lush. Is there an option to ask the buildings to grow climbing ivy?
- This is a bad area. The greenery should be along the sides
- It needs more green less open space
- Avoid blocking out too much sunlight. Many want to enjoy the sun. Don't plant saplings. Nobody wants to wait 20 years for trees to grow to the desired size of this park's vision.
- Plants as many trees and understory plants as possible.
- More trees.
- Way to little shade and greenery
- Please use large trees not small ones that will take a decade to be anything substantial. More planting and trees would be better. Maybe replace the stage with a tree and new bed planting.
- A nice lawn on both sides of a direct concrete path so you can sit on some cool grass in the summer and maybe even have a little picn8c. This design is not environmentally friendly or people friendly at all. L99ks like a good place for a rodent and animal infestation, especially the seating
- Really love the planting spaces and diversity of species! Given how built up the urban area is around the park, would like to see more room for additional planting space if possible.
- Will there be winter greenery or budget for string lights on the trees for the darker months?
- Hopefully some more mature trees will be planted so not everything is a sapling out of the gate
- Please plant native trees to respect abd encourage our local biospheres. Expert Eric Davies can provide advice and assistance.
- I have my doubts about the viability of hardwoods in the this enclosed site as new tall buildings are built up around the site in the future.
- less space for concrete is always best
- from the plans provided it doesn't appear to have enough trees or overhead shade
- I hope all the plantings will receive sufficient water to flourish.
- More green areas with native plant species, please. Grass area?
- include carolinian forest, reeds to be more intimate.

**Please share your final suggestions or comments to help make the park design welcoming and accessible for community members:**

- Adding a small water feature in the park could improve this area greatly. Water sounds and visual can bring a sense of calm in this very busy part of downtown Toronto. The water feature at Berczy park which all people love should be an inspiration. This location is not near the Waterfront and would make this park more special and utilized considering the lack of lawn space.
- I'm worried there is not enough grass that is not fenced off, there are a lot of dogs in the area and we need to make space for them or they just go on the sidewalk.
- This doesn't look like a very 'indigenous' park to me. It looks more like a parking lot that's been dressed up with a few trees and benches. I suggest you try to redesign it as

a 'natural oasis' in the city. A good test would be, is this a good home for birds, butterflies and other wildlife. If not, I think you have failed.

- This space looks a lot like the many POPs in the area. Designed to eat a sandwich on a bench, but not a place you would linger. Given the shade conditions, the performance area is unrealistic and will fall into disuse. Even when aggressively programmed you are looking at 1-2 hours per week of use, and selection behind other spaces at St James, Berczy, David Crombie parks etc. Outside of its rare use it is simply more paved office plaza / POPs space. Compare this with the cafe seating at Berczy which is often too full to find a seat, even in the late fall and early spring. This could serve as an alternative if more greenery is not feasible. I think this neighbourhood needs more opportunity for organic connection, and I believe use patterns in newly refurbished adjacent parks echo this sentiment.
- Security has to be thought through properly. Over the past years residents have experienced an increase in attacks and unwanted situations such as drug use, tantrums, fights and bathroom use in all areas of the neighborhood. A park is a great initiative to the neighborhood but those issues need to be analyzed and their likelihood need to be mitigated through thoughtful actions to increase security. Cameras and ongoing surveillance of the area need to be considered. Cleanliness of the park is also an extremely important matter: we can't have a park full of garbage.
- Think Environment! Drainage! More all season greenery. Add CITY TREE for the environment. Find some old people to show you accessible seating - you have missed the mark here. Make the garden areas away larger! And more evergreen trees. Have security in place before you even begin this venture. This is an area of DRUG addicted people and homeless people. And DOGS - a place nearby for dog relief otherwise the park will reek of urine. Thanks for your efforts, this place needs a SAFE QUIET retreat. Trees help calm noise and wind.
- Made above.
- Whatever is decided, please spend the money and time to maintain the park. Beautiful parks matter to citizens who need and use these spaces especially if you live in towers.
- I'm very concerned that the park will just end up being a hangout for drug addicts. There is already a major problem in the neighborhood and there is a needle exchange at Queen and Sherbourne, less than a block away. I doubt I'll ever get to enjoy the space. Nice idea, but I'd probably not feel safe going there.
- a handwashing station in addition to the drinking fountain would be great as would some awnings where people could shelter if it started to rain.
- Think long term maintenance and cost. Keep it simple in landscape features. Allow for year round use and local citizens to help maintain it. The city has a track record building ambitious parks but is incapable of long term repairs and maintenance.
- Please focus on safety in the design of the park. Lighting is very important to keeping a park safe at night. Having a 'pretty' park is one thing, but making it SAFE is what matters the most. Lighting, lighting, lighting cannot be stressed enough. And cameras if possible. This is very much a transitional neighbourhood and we need to keep this in mind.
- I think there should be more green space - I understand that it's a high usage passage but I think there should be away to have more grass and green space instead of a full cobblestone park.
- I would like to see the park occupy more space on this site. It is important that it run right through to Queen's street. And given that there is so little park space in the area



and that buildings are getting so tall, the more room there is to experience space and a critical mass of trees the better.

- It would be nice to have some kind of water element like a fountain or glass wall
- See my initial comment about bio-diversity.
- The plans are lovely, however you need to clean up queen and Sherbourne and get rid of the drug and needle exchange area, and the shelters do that the area will truly renew and become a safe space
- park amenities, even small amenities for children would be great. I understand its a small park but this could be included if its made a priority.
- There should be bike parking on Richmond Street. This will help avoid people cycling through the park to lock their bikes.
- Let's try to keep this new park safe, make it visible from the street
- Don't need bike parking at the north end at the lane. Just the south end
- The renders make this feel more like a plaza and less like a park i.e. lots of hard surfaces and open spaces. It's unclear to me what events are expected to be held in this space. - I'm concerned the open, paved design will result in e-bike couriers blasting through the park, making it unsafe and uncomfortable for users. - I would love to see more space dedicated for natural plantings. - I like that railings will be placed around plantings, but am worried that people will allow their dogs to jump the fences and relieve themselves, killing the plantings and leaving feces behind.
- Don't delay the project.
- I've lived at 320 Richmond Street East for 10 years and love the idea of this park. However, it will almost certainly be used as a hangout/drug injection site for the local homeless population, especially since Moss Park will be under construction for the new Ontario Line. I'm not sure how this issue can be addressed entirely, but I think that the tiered stone seating is the best option as it is the least comfortable for long term sitting. Putting wooden benches or 'cafe tables and chairs' is not a good idea. Those tables and chairs would be gone or destroyed in a short time, I'm sure. The stone seating is not movable or breakable.
- I think the park is a good opportunity to add more green space to the area, and I understand it's also interesting and important to have a multiuse space for gatherings, a small farmers market type of thing, as well as occasional music events, but I sense the green space could be better implemented. All I see is isolated green islands that don't offer enough space for people to enjoy, say, a picnic or playing with their kids.
- Design benches so that those less fortunate can sleep on them. - Avoid hostile architecture like benches with huge metal armrests in the middle. - Create a secluded private area for the many heterosexual men in the area who engage in cruising.
- Re-iterate this is a dog friendly public park where owner and their pet can go for a walk. Neighborhood safety is a concern, how often will police present? What is the plan of action when homeless and drunks staying overnight and setting up tent occupying the park? How often is the park being inspected and removal of drugs and needle left over?
- This growth area needs to have protections built in so that families will come and it will not be graffitied like other areas close by
- The city of Toronto never has a good maintenance budget. So most parks look bad one year later. For example The pavements is dug up for some repair and never replaced properly. The city has no sense of maintaining anything properly.

- These parks are not nearly big enough to handle the massive increase in population projected for this area. It is disgraceful that low density suburban areas have significantly more park space to enjoy than residents of high density downtown condos.
- I am delighted that the park will include access to both Richmond and Queen. Since there is space for events I hope that there will be proactive plans to schedule events.
- Overall good job. The park will be a nice addition to the hood. Would like to ensure there is proper lighting throughout and it is a nice place to visit, regardless of the season. Will there be a walkway cleared in the winter months?
- where is the washroom, I may have missed that in the slides washrooms make a park welcoming and accessible
- a strip of lawn/grass on the perimeter (either side or both sides) to allow for dogs to relieve themselves as to avoid it happening in the planted areas
- Would be nice to have a bit more green space. especially grass!
- The park isn't enclosed at either the north or south ends, which adds to the convenience and safety of this space. I recommend that the renderings include this important element.
- I would like to see more bike infrastructure as the park is located on Richmond Street, which has a dedicated bike lane. For example, more bike racks, bike lockers, repair stands, and bike pumps. On winter months, please provide snow clearing.
- My concern is that with a straight path through there will be cyclists and ebikes that will use it to barrel through and not only make it dangerous, but generally take away from what the park space is looking to be. Also problematic if there are group events happening.
- There should be drinking fountains near both the north and south entrance to make it easy for those walking along the street to stop for a drink.
- Looking forward to it
- I think the community should be able to take advantage of some more green space. The amount of high rises going up is astonishing. I have been in Toronto - Moss Park for over 10 years. And the boom in concrete has been something. Why have a park where there is more of it ? ...
- Drinking fountains are so needed in the city!
- The renderings show brown pavers which look dated and uninviting, especially since it is the most prominent aesthetic element overall. Some more thought should be given to the colour scheme of the pavers. They ought to be vibrant and inviting, not dull and dead-looking.
- Please ensure that drinking fountain access includes options for pets, an option to fill bottles with a straight downpour tap, and varying levels of height for a few fountains for accessibility
- Really love the cafe tables, and the stage. Happy about the water fountain. Indigenous placemaking is great. Design is beautiful. Would love more bike parking, permeable pavement, and a bit more lighting at night so there are no dark areas.
- Too few public parks have working drinking fountains though there have been some very good designs available that allow for filling water bottles etc.
- Consideration of seniors and those with mobility issues should be considered. It's good that it is not a grass base but consider if for seating whether a railing will be required and is there enough seating for those with mobility restrictions even if they are not using a mobility device. How will the park be kept clean?

- would love to see a small space for very young children to be. I can imagine it will be hot in the summer with all the paving stones.
- Smooth concrete pathways instead of any interlocking brick. So many public spaces are ruined by the use of interlock, they are a tripping hazard and never stay level.
- It needs to be gated or it will quickly become another no go area.
- Don't waste my tax money for a bum hangout
- Less paving. More green. Perhaps low planted berms to direct ped traffic.
- Please make this to honour all, not just one (indigenous) group.
- I have seen new parks go in only to be abandoned and plants die. Maintenance of parks is most important. Money must be set aside to maintain otherwise all this is a waste of money. Because of all the hardscapes this will need to be thoroughly cleaned (powered washed) regularly.
- Although children are mentioned once this seems unwelcoming to kids. Where are the secret spaces for imaginative play? It is more of a plaza than a park. Seems like a missed opportunity.
- Looks great so far! My final thoughts would be to increase the amount of green space in the park, potentially more trees, but this should be a focus area since this neighborhood is lacking in this
- I believe it could include a small playground for children
- Plant some evergreen trees for wildlife habitat and winter colour and interest.
- Whether or not designers like to include dogs in their designs, the neighbourhood is full of dog owners that need spaces to take their dogs to relieve themselves. Including only fenced-in gardens and ignoring these needs will just encourage dog owners to let their dogs pee and poo on the bricks, making the park dirtier and smellier. The park should have at least one dog-accessible space. The seating options seem good, and our many homeless neighbours should be considered in this design as much as possible, as they need safe spaces to rest too. Large seating options that allow for lying down should be included and maintained, because the alternative is forcing homeless neighbours into unpleasant public spaces.
- Yes - less space for loitering and more natural greens space.
- Please do not build a pickleball court as it adds to the noise pollution in the area
- So many dogs in the neighbourhood. A small off leash section would be amazing
- I think this is a great design for the space. The indigenous meaning is great, and I like the design for discouraging tent living. I live nearby and I would love to be able to sit in the park with my friends. Right now there are no parks around that I feel comfortable sitting in.
- Why is seating for people using accessibility devices (#4)) placed to the back of the design? It should be integrated with the overall seating and not isolated.
- Is it possible to bring more texture and depth into the paving construct? A form of paving that has some give and softness and conveys an earth-like proprioceptive experience instead of concrete?
- More trees!
- Please make the space more park like with plants and water elements, it is not comfy. Use hills or smtg, like the naturalized parkscape that was on Parliament last summer. You can have elevation in small spaces.
- It doesn't feel like a park if it's mostly concrete
- The extensive use of pavement and the location of the park squeezed between buildings will make this unbearable in the summer and unappealing during the winter.



- Any particular interactive features ie storytelling for children?
- Too much concrete/stone flooring. Should consider incorporating grass and more plant area
- Lights in the floor walkways aren't needed. Tacky. Expand the ground covers a little more to reduce the amount of noisy paved surfaces. Drainage? Environment? Safety? Maintenance? These are concerns. More comfortable seating less rocks.
- Public bathrooms
- Don't take forever to get it completed like most other city projects.
- The proposed design includes far too much walkway space/paved surface. It needs grassy areas especially surrounding the trees.
- The aerial design seems to have more green space, but the renderings make it look like a mostly paved area.
- More trees and shade.
- Not people friendly, comfortable in any way , concrete seating is uncomfortable. Tiered seating not friendly for older people, looks like a safety hazard for kids. Looks like a good spot for a rodent or animal infestation with all those books and crannies that will eventually have openings. Again- a straight direct path through the park, lined by normal wooden benches, the rest of the park all grass with some picnic tables. This proposed design does not look inviting comfortable or children or senior friendly. And is not good for the environment.
- Provide a gravel/river rock area for dogs to relieve themselves or there will be urine stains throughout the park and along all the low seating.
- Is it possible to have a outside approved power supply? A lot of people use chargers. Support this with solar panels?
- Beautiful lighting and lots of trees are all you need. Don't overthink it. How space ends up being never goes according to 'plans'.
- The city could provide support for Indigenous organized cultural programming and events in this space.
- I am not sure what will draw people to this park. The chairs and tables will be helpful for working people at lunch time. I believe that this space should have a specific function. Like a skate board/ice skating place for kids. The high vehicle traffic will prevent it from becoming 'tranquil'...it's function should reflect that. There are other nearby spaces (Moss Park, St. James) for tranquility and wildlife.
- Keep it simple. Toronto spends money like a spoiled child. It's embarrassing to see all the spending and then to see City Council begging for MORE money from the Feds and Province. I'm glad you didn't get any.
- I'm wondering how you will keep homeless tents out of the park.
- Water feature or more open green space rather than pavers.