

City of Toronto – Parks Planning & Strategic Initiatives

# Six Points Park District Plan & Two New Parks

## Community Advisory Committee Meeting 3

DRAFT Meeting Summary

October 18, 2023

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# 1. Introduction

This document summarizes the third Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting that was held virtually on Wednesday, October 18, 2023 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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

## 1.1 Meeting Purpose

The purpose of this meeting was to:

- Summarize what we heard to date and through CAC#1 and CAC#2 meetings
- Review and confirm the draft Six Points Park District Plan
- Present preliminary concept design options for the two parks at Six Points Park Expansion and Dunkip.

## 1.2 Project Scope

The scope of the project is summarized below:

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

## 1.3 Project Timeline

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

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

#### **1.4 Community Advisory Committee**

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

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

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

#### **1.5 Attendance**

##### **CAC Members Present**

- Anna S
- Brock F
- Colette
- Diandra S
- Frances M
- Irene J
- Jamie P
- Jennifer D
- Julio M
- Katiana
- Leigh L
- Lucy F
- Marta
- Quinn G
- Ron R
- See-Yin L
- Sunday A
- Vedang A
- Vish

##### **City of Toronto Staff Present**

- Lara Herald, Senior Project Coordinator
- Eli Bawuah, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator
- Amber M
- Asli M, Councillor’s Office
- Mohamed O, Councillor’s Office

##### **PLANT Architect Staff Present**

- Mary Tremain, Engagement Consultant Lead
- Eric Klaver, Landscape Design Consultant Lead
- Zeynep Benk, Landscape Architect, Project Manager
- Tanya Pande, Landscape Designer

## 2. Summary

During the third Community Advisory Meeting, numerous community members expressed similar views regarding the Draft Park District Plan and associated programs, as well as the concept designs for the two new parks, Six Points Expansion and Dunkip. The majority of participants were satisfied with the overall distribution of programs and green spaces across the four parks within the park district. However, opinions were divided on the two distinct concept options for Six Points Park Expansion. Some participants preferred Option 1, which includes the OLA, while others favored Option 2, known as the Green Oasis.

Several participants proposed a potential reduction in the number of programs at Etobicoke Centre Park. In the case of Dunkip Park, a few participants voiced critiques on including skateboarding in both concept design options, citing concerns about noise and the shared use of the space with skateboarders. Conversely, other members supported a balanced integration of skateboarding with general park uses.

Regarding Linear Park, concerns were raised about the bike share station and traffic safety, as well as the possibility that the park could be shadowed for a significant portion of the day due to planned future development. Additionally, there was an expressed desire for at least one park to serve as a quieter green space, with Linear Park suggested as a potential candidate.

Looking ahead, we intend to present the draft designs, as well as a revised Draft Park District Plan to the general public during the second Public Workshop, and conduct a survey to gather additional feedback from the wider public.

Following an analysis of the feedback received at the end of Community Engagement Phase 2 (current phase), the City and the design team will proceed with finalizing the Park District Plan and selecting one concept design for each of the two parks at Six Points Expansion and Dunkip Park.

## 3. Meeting Minutes

### 3.1. Draft Park District Plan CAC Member Question / Comment & Project Team Response

- 3.1.1. The activities and the spaces have 90% been located properly. I think it is wonderful.
- 3.1.2. Thank you for the opportunity and I appreciate all the work that you have done.
- 3.1.3. I think there is a good balance between the recreational space and the green space.
- 3.1.4. I want to make sure everything is accessible as much as possible.
  - *Accessibility is definitely considered. We heard about not only the importance of following AODA and City of Toronto Accessibility Design Guidelines, but also aiming for RHFAC certification, applying for the Canadian Tire Jumpstart, Inclusive Place Basis Program, and consulting with other special groups on accessibility recommendations. So, we are well aware and we have the desire to do everything in the most accessible fashion possible.*
- 3.1.5. We need a water play park in the area that has public parking nearby. I have

been living here for eleven years and I did not notice the water play facility at Six Points Park until a couple of years ago because it is down Dundas Street West and there is no parking there. You would have to walk and if you are on the north side of Dundas, it is fourteen lanes wide. It is very hard for parents and kids to cross. We have asked the residents' association a number of times for a larger water play facility in the area – this could potentially go in the Pinnacle development or in the Silverhill Park.

- *We believe there will be an underground parking at Etobicoke Civic Centre. The City will confirm if it is free parking.*

3.1.6. Parking at the Civic Centre is not practical, especially with the children, because you have to cross both Dundas Street and Kipling Avenue and it is not a friendly environment. Those of us who live west of Kipling Avenue have very limited amenities and facilities, and Tom Riley park is not within walking distance. I think maybe the new Civic Centre should have the water play.

- *We believe there is a water feature being proposed at the Civic Centre – water jets that are interactive for people of all ages. There is also water play at Michael Power Park, just east along Dundas Street West.*

3.1.7. Michael Power Park is too far away to walk with toddlers. We need something west of Kipling Avenue.

- *We can certainly share this information with Parks, our planners, and the Councillor's office to point out that there is a desire and a need in the community. We know that there is one at Six Points Park and nearby at Michael Power Park, and also that a water element is being incorporated at the Civic Centre plaza, so we do want to be sure that we are striking a balance with other programs. But we do hear what you are saying, and we understand it is challenging crossing the road. Thank you for that.*

3.1.8. I agree with the concerns about children crossing the streets. Perhaps areas that are child-focused could be closer to where there will be parking.

3.1.9. We certainly need a skate park, splash pad, places for parents and kids to spend time in a safe surrounding. We need to avoid any noise issues coming from skateboarding.

3.1.10. Crossing fourteen lanes is too much for disabled.

3.1.11. Do any of the parks have BBQ areas?

- *We have a firepit area that we are talking about including at Etobicoke Centre Park. This could be a BBQ area also. We do not have it in Six Points Park Expansion or Dunkip Park.*

### **3.1.12. Park #1: Six Points Park Expansion (SPPE) CAC Member Question / Comment & Project Team Response**

3.1.12.1. I have some concerns about Option 2. The park is currently dominated by a splash pad and it is very inaccessible to people with no kids. Option 1 would be great because it is more inclusive. It will bring people into that space. Including more fitness and more activity is not safe at that intersection. People are looking for a space to hang out and just put a blanket down, which is what I have been hearing: I want to see grass, I want to see off-leash. That is why I am going to be strongly advocating for

the off-leash area not only because there are probably more dogs than there are children in these buildings but also this park was identified by the planners as more of a neighbourhood park.

- *We are going to be looking at the two options for SPPE and Dunkip Park in more detail later in this presentation. So, that might answer some of your questions and address some of your concerns. Thank you.*

3.1.12.2. Do we have census info on the number of children versus dogs? With a school being added to the area it seems the number of children will go up quite a bit.

- *At the beginning of our projects, we always complete a census data analysis of the catchment area that applies to the project site. In this case, we applied a 3-kilometer catchment area around the district. We do have data on the number of children in the area and the ages. The census data that we collect does not provide the number of pets, however, we will make sure to collect this information in the upcoming public survey.*
- *There will be questions we can include in the upcoming survey next month, so we have the opportunity to collect additional data besides the data we already have. People can confirm if they are pet owners or not as part of it.*

3.1.12.3. Do we know if an OLA is still being included in new developments?

- *We know that down the street to the west, at 5415 Dundas Street West, there are going to be two parks and one of them will be an OLA. It is a development that is in process, and it is probably going to be at least five years before it will open.*

3.1.12.4. We cannot wait for five years for an OLA that is down the road on Dundas Street West. Dog owners have told me that no one from these five towers will go there.

3.1.12.5. I like Option 2. It extends the existing park and fits nicely.

3.1.12.6. I think there is a good balance between recreational and horticultural spaces. Though, I think you may be trying to put too much into Option 1 (SPPE). I do not think that anything else could fit there if there is an off-leash area.

- *We will take a look at that in more detail when we discuss the preliminary concepts for that park. But you are right, the dog off-leash area does take up a significant space.*

3.1.12.7. We have ping pong in Option 2. We should put the recreational activities in the Etobicoke Centre Park. I do agree with a previous comment that maybe we are trying to fit too many activities. Other than that, all the art, the Indigenous planting, and the pollinator gardens is fantastic.

### **3.1.13. Park #2: Etobicoke Centre Park (EC Park) CAC Member Question / Comment & Project Team Response**

3.1.13.1. I see a lot of potential program options at EC Park. I would rather propose

fewer options but in a better way, than trying to fit them all.

- *That is a great point. The list looks long but some of the activities are overlapping. The washrooms can be incorporated with a shade structure, Indigenous pollinator garden and Indigenous interpretive signage could be together and that could also incorporate the medicine wheel. So, there are some things that can cross over.*

3.1.13.2. Maybe we are trying to do too much on these four little parks. Maybe the amenities and the facilities have to be phased in over time to see how the new community reacts and uses the space. It is very hard to plan for a community that is not really there yet.

- *It is a very good point. We are trying to anticipate some things that would be welcoming in any park district and we are trying to find a balance across that. We have heard this from a couple people today that perhaps we are trying to do too much here and we can take another look at that.*
- *We are going to be developing the EC Park concept as a separate project. So, we are taking what we learn from this process and developing the District Plan so we will be able to get into a full design process for that park in the future. There will be further opportunities to refine and design it.*

3.1.13.3. Can the children's playground use the same equipment and set up as Earl Bales Park? If we are going to have a children's area, it has to be fully accessible. The equipment there is the Jumpstart and it is very accessible.

- *We cannot speak to that park specifically, but we can certainly look at it as a precedent. And we agree that the children's playground must absolutely be accessible.*

3.1.13.4. Can the baseball or courts be set up like Roy Halladay field? It is an accessible field.

- *We do not know that precedent, but we can take a look at it. We will certainly be looking at accessible materials and making any of our sports courts accessible. But I just want to clarify that we do not have space for baseball. So, the multi-sport court would not include baseball as a program.*

### **3.1.14. Park #3: Dunkip Park**

#### **CAC Member Question / Comment & Project Team Response**

3.1.14.1. Having a skate spot at Dunkip Park makes sense because skateboarding is a very noisy activity and there is not a lot of housing close by.

3.1.14.2. There are townhomes to the north of Dunkip Park and single-family homes on Kipling Avenue. I think those residents will object to having a skate spot at Dunkip Park because of the noise. I also would not want to see the kids spill out on to the sidewalk and Kipling Avenue – it is a sensitive location. I think those residents, should provide their input just to avoid any problems. I think you should put the skate spot into the parking lot of the TTC – it is all



concrete anyway and no one is going to complain about the noise.

- *Thanks very much. We will be looking at the plans of this park in more detail in the second part of the presentation. So, when we look at the second option, you will see what kind of scale we were talking about in terms of the skate spot.*

3.1.14.3. Do you know if any of those residents (North of Dunkip Park) were able to join the last meeting that was open to the public?

- *We would not know exactly where people live, but the meeting was advertised to the community north of this district. We also will have a survey that will go out next month and that will be distributed to people who live north of this district, so they will have an opportunity to provide their feedback.*

3.1.14.4. Congratulations on creating this amazing plan that we can discuss now. I love every part of the design. I agree with some of the committee members about the safety of the kids playing in the skate park.

3.1.14.5. I also agree that Dunkip square is more suitable for dog off leash area. For children we should have something nicer buffered with more greenery.

### **3.1.15. Park #4: Linear Park**

#### **CAC Member Question / Comment & Project Team Response**

3.1.15.1. I have safety concerns about having a bike share station at Linear Park because it is close to a major intersection.

3.1.15.2. I want to make sure that there is a quiet and calm area, without noisy activities, for people to just sit down and relax, like a jungle per se, where you have a lot more plants and people can go there to read a book. I am sure across the community there will be a lot of people like me who would want to do that. Other park locations are noisy and would not allow for quiet activities.

3.1.15.3. Linear Park is going to be in shadow for a good chunk of the day, as a new high-rise building is going to be built.

3.1.15.4. Liberty Developers will be providing open space and parkland. I just wonder what the connectivity is going to be between the Six Points Liberty Development and the Linear Park. There is nothing worse than being in a cold space, so any shadow impacts that will come from the new development need to be considered as part of the park district plan. The old Dundas Street alignment runs through it and the amenities proposed in Linear Park could be coordinated with their plan.

- *I think you are talking about the next block over. It has five towers and a small park as part of that development, and a new road that runs through it. The property of that development is not touching the Linear Park property. We would also need to get clarification on what is proposed there and whether the old Dundas Street alignment section of the development is going to be a public property, or a privately owned public space.*

## **3.2. Six Points Park Expansion Preliminary Concept Options CAC Member Question / Comment & Project Team Response**

- 3.2.1. I am a dog owner, so my first instinct was to support the OLA for this park, the design elements are great. However, after seeing Option 2, I am more drawn towards that concept, because it seems to benefit the community at large more by providing a lot of different uses and functions, like the large picnic tables for gathering. I do know that there are a lot of seniors in the area, and I believe they would appreciate the social gathering spaces. I do not know if the table tennis and outdoor fitness fit right in here, but the idea of a “green oasis” is something that is quite lacking in this neighbourhood – to be immersed in nature, to have contemplative spaces to sit and be quiet and calm, and to socialize with your neighbours. So, I really do like Option 2.
- 3.2.2. I have a small comment about the curvilinear seating that is shown in Option 1. A lot of the comments we have heard so far are about adults not feeling comfortable being close to the splash pad. So, having that view towards the existing splash pad might not be appropriate. I wonder if it may be better to flip it or add seating that looks towards the dog park, because some people do like dogs, but they do not feel comfortable approaching dogs. So, as opposed to looking into a lawn area where kids tend to congregate, it might be better to be facing the dog park.
- 3.2.3. We do not really care where the OLA goes, as long as there is one. However, everybody in my neighbourhood wants it to be in the SPPE. I agree with the comment above that the seating should be facing the OLA, rather than the playground. I think it needs to be slightly more interactive with a safety feature built in at the OLA. The kids should be able to look at the dogs and there will be seniors sitting there with their tiny dogs.
- *The intention with the curved bench was to have buffer planting behind it and have the bench facing towards the playground. There is potential for a bit more planting buffer in front of that bench as well.*
- 3.2.4. I do not think it is bad if Option 2 is preferred by the people in the area, because it does have a lot of green space. I do not know if we need the outdoor fitness.
- 3.2.5. Will there be different OLAs for different sizes of dogs?
- *We do have some examples of it in the city. It might be difficult to achieve in this particular instance, given the size restrictions and because the smaller the OLAs get, the less functional they are in terms of accommodating dogs and giving them the activity they need. So, we would have to look at that further and see if that is possible here.*

## **3.3. Dunkip Park Preliminary Concepts CAC Member Question / Comment & Project Team Response**

- 3.3.1. I like the idea of the succession tree in Option 2 – after the existing tree reaches its end of life, that space could become another gathering space / community area.
- *Exactly, we have two gathering trees in the plan. But when the existing tree reaches the end of its life, it will still be an area that is surrounded by trees with benches on two sides, and it can still be maintained as a gathering area.*

- 3.3.2. It would be nice to eliminate the Dundas West section of road north of Dunkip Park. You could go up Kipling Avenue from Bloor Street West. You could put a big green berm in that strip and you would have room for the skate spot that would be more appropriately buffered.
- *We do have our Transportation Services staff on our internal stakeholder committee group, and we have flagged this (elimination of the Dundas slip lane) as a potential change in the future. However, it would not be part of this park development project. It would be something that could potentially happen in the future through additional studies and planning. There is definitely an opportunity there and we recognize the potential. Because it is in the right of way, Transportation Services would have to take the lead on that and do their proper investigation and studies to understand what is required.*
- 3.3.3. I look onto that strip of Dundas West from where I am and it is still heavily used, especially during rush hour.
- 3.3.4. I would like to thank the design team for such well thought-out options. I truly appreciate the succession tree idea in Option 2, as well as the tree grove areas and berming to provide sound buffering from the noisy edges of the road. I am not a skater, but I want to say that having the skate spot in this area seems like a gesture that we are pushing the skaters into an isolated area. I wonder if there is an opportunity to integrate them more to the rest of the park, while respecting the noise issue and concerns that have been brought up. Maybe the skate spot could be integrated as part of the seating as was seen in Option 1, closer towards Bloor Street where there is more of a buffer from the road, however, we need to find a balance of providing the opportunity to skate, but also respecting other people's use of the park as well.
- 3.3.5. I am concerned about sharing the seating that would have a dual purpose – skating and sitting. Conflicts could arise.
- *This is an issue wherever there is furniture that is skateable either by design or by not making it skate proof. There are some restrictions in this plan, such as the trees. Trees would deter skaters from taking over the whole space.*
  - *There are additional benches that would be not skateable. So, there would be a separation if somebody wanted to find a space that was not being used for skateboarding.*
- 3.3.6. I am concerned about skateboarding and disabled sharing the same area.
- 3.3.7. For Option 2, I feel it is very forward thinking to put the secondary tree in now and not wait until the existing tree dies.
- 3.3.8. There is a lot of planting around the skate spot in Option 2. I do not see how people are going to gather there if there is skateboarding at the same time. I think the skateboarding activity has to go somewhere, but it makes a lot of that green space seating area prohibitive. People in the neighbourhood are horrified by the possibility of having a skate spot and they would not want to go near it because it is noisy and disruptive. I do not know how much benefit there would be to having buffer trees around it.
- 3.3.9. Could a skate park be located within the new school property in the future? I know the school may be many years away but it could be a good location if there is an opportunity to partner with the school board to include a skateboarding facility there.

### **3.4. Next Steps**

- 3.4.1. Thank you for the great discussion. You have reinforced some of the things we have heard earlier and helped us on the right track in terms of the more detailed concept designs.
- 3.4.2. We will be taking your comments and feedback as a team and summarizing that in a report that we will be sharing on the project webpage along with an AODA version of this presentation. We will also email these to this group.



PLANT ARCHITECT INC.

Prepared by PLANT Architect Inc. - October 18, 2023