

City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry & Recreation

Kennedy Park-Ionview Parkland Study

Phase 2: Understand Needs, Gaps, and Opportunities

Community Workshop Summary

February 2024



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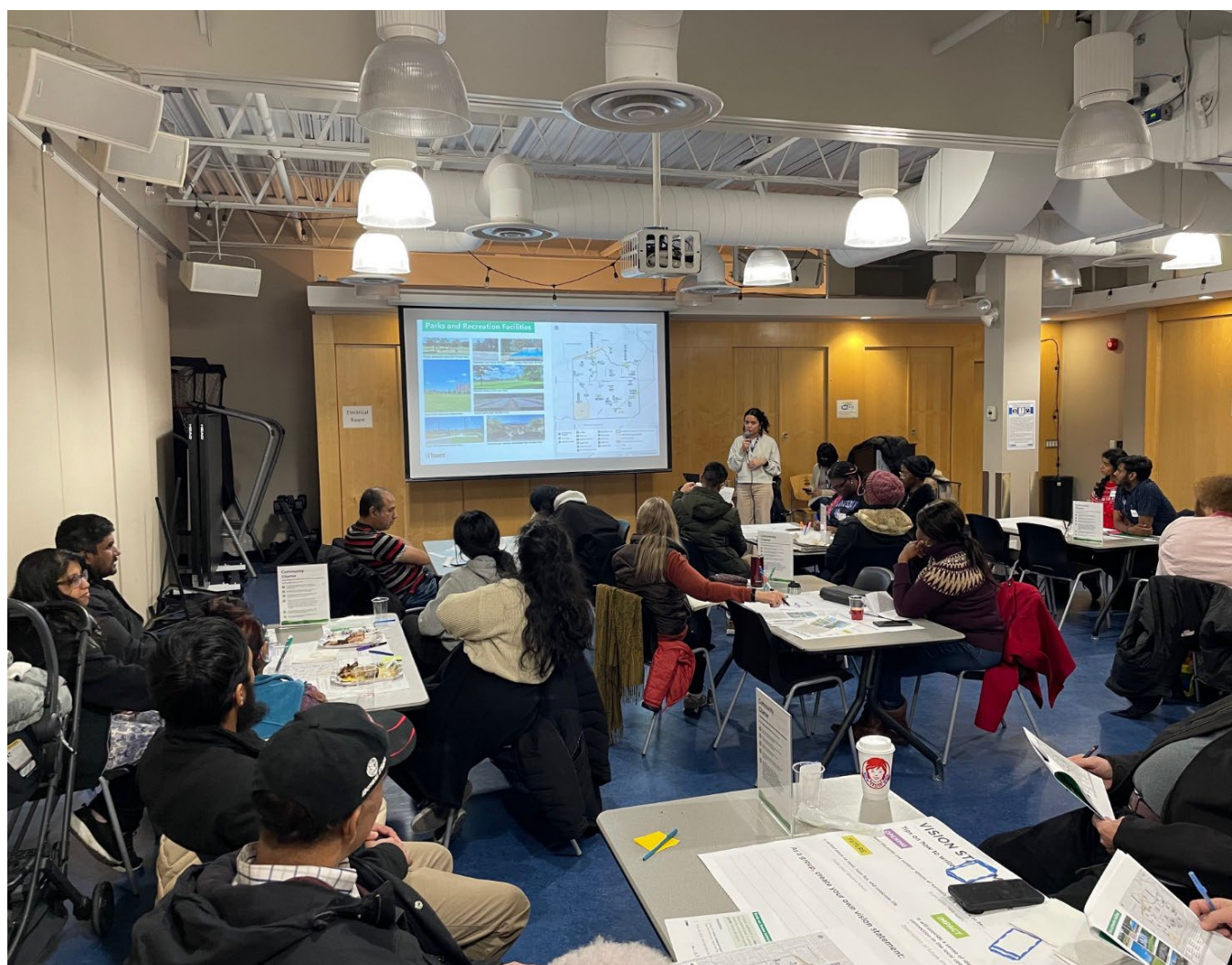
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Introduction

On December 5, 2023, the City held a community workshop from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at *The Hub – Mid-Scarborough*, a community centre operated by *Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities*. The main goals of the workshop were to provide the community with an overview of the Kennedy Park-Ionview Local Parkland Study process, collectively draft a vision statement, and get further community feedback on themes from previous public engagement. The workshop was open to all community members interested in the Kennedy Park-Ionview Parkland Study. The project team was especially interested in hearing from community members not born in Canada (i.e. those who may identify as a newcomer, immigrant or refugee), as well as members of the Black community, since these are significant demographic groups residing in the area.



How We Reached People

The community was informed about the workshop through the project webpage, project e-updates list, an e-flyer sent to community organizations, and a social media ad that ran for several days. Staff from *Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities* and *Working Women Community Centre* also helped to promote the workshop through their networks.

What We Heard

35

Participants
attended the
workshop



Display Board Activity

Participants were encouraged to share their thoughts on display boards as they waited for the workshop to begin or before leaving at the end of the workshop. This activity was optional and self-directed. Each of the boards prompted participants to answer questions on sticky notes and post them. See *Appendix A* for all of the responses.



Group Visioning Activity

After the project team presented an overview about the project and what we heard during previous community engagement, participants engaged in an activity to discuss and develop vision statements in small groups. Each group then presented their vision statements to everyone. Each vision statement was recorded and following the meeting, staff synthesized the feedback received into a collective vision statement that reflected the priorities shared by each group.

See *Appendix B* for group vision statements, and visit the [project webpage](#) to download the presentation deck.



Vision Statement Online Survey

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Respondents

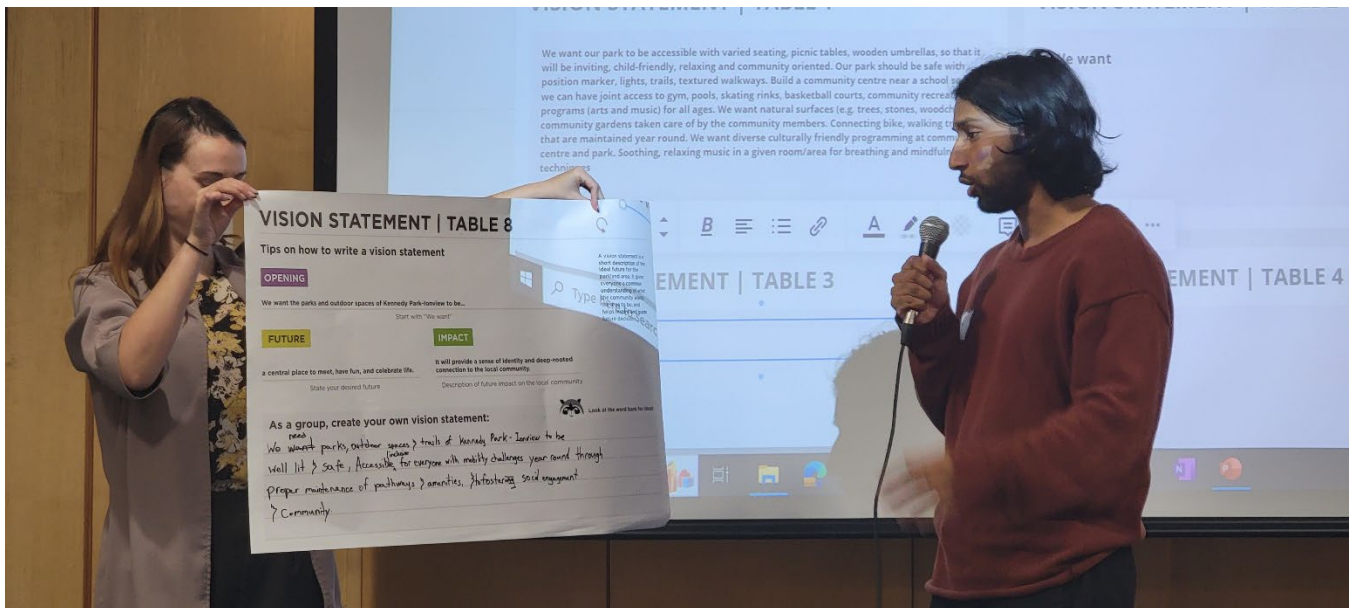
In the weeks following the workshop, the project team organized each group's vision statements into common themes which were then used to create one collective draft vision statement. Workshop attendees were invited through email to give feedback on the draft vision statement through a short online survey from January 17 – January 28, 2024. Respondents were asked to revisit each group's vision statement, examine the common themes, and then share how satisfied they were with the collective vision statement that the project team drafted.

10 respondents said they were satisfied with the collective vision statement, 2 respondents were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, and 1 respondent was dissatisfied.

See *Appendix C* for details.

Common themes:

- Accessible, inclusive, diverse
- Multi-generational
- Relaxing, peaceful
- Well maintained
- Community, social connection, belonging
- Safe
- Easy access to recreational programming, active
- Multi-use
- Natural, green space, sustainably designed, friendly to environment
- Interconnected / connecting trails and paths and transportation + community spaces
- All seasons



Collective Vision Statement

“The parks network serving the Kennedy Park-Ionview community will be safe, accessible and welcoming to diverse people of all ages and abilities. The parks network will offer clean, beautiful, and well-maintained outdoor spaces that bring people together year-round, fostering social connection and a sense of belonging for everyone. Park visitors will be able to relax and experience nature through sustainable park design and improved access to ravines. A variety of amenities, recreational facilities and programs will reflect the needs and interests of the local community, ensuring that parks are inviting and multi-use spaces. It will be easy, comfortable and convenient to travel to, from and within the park network and to other community destinations.”

Next Steps

The collective vision statement and the ideas shared on the display boards will help to inform future work, including identifying priority improvements for the local parkland network. There will also be an in-person Indigenous Sharing Circle in spring 2024 to learn more about the community’s priorities. The project team will create a report to share proposals for improvements to the local parkland network, based on what we heard during Phase 1 and Phase 2 of community engagement. This report will serve as the basis for the final Parks Plan, which will be shared with the community for feedback in an online survey and at a public open house during *Phase 3: Prepare the Parks Plan*.

Appendix A: Display Boards and Responses

How can we improve parks and outdoor spaces in the Kennedy Park-Ionview area? We divided the community's earlier feedback into themes.

Write your ideas on a sticky note for the themes that you think are important: **WHAT** do you think will help? **WHERE** does it need to happen?

I want the parks and outdoor spaces to...

feel safe

have better maintenance and upkeep

have better sports and recreation facilities (e.g. splash pads, basketball courts, fitness equipment)

have better trails and pathways

have better access for people to get there using any mode of transportation

have better ways to stay comfortable in all weather



Feel safe:

- Increase community engagement and allow people in the community to get to know each other
- 4-way stops at all parks

- More green spaces to promote good health
- Safety happens when people walk through, greet each other regularly
- Security at night and more fences for foxes and coyotes
- Catching and releasing coyotes

Have better maintenance and upkeep:

- The splash park should be on longer months and time of day
- Greystone Park needs the trails/pathways to be plowed and salted in winter
- Equipment too old
- Garbage containers, washrooms, lights, splash pads

Have better sports and recreation facilities:

- Splash pads and cooling spaces (see heat vulnerability index)
- Indoor swimming pool
- Activate the concrete ball hockey pad at Knob Hill Park
- More seating in shared areas, especially by playgrounds and splash pads

Have better trails and pathways

- Skating trails and better maintained concrete
- Better lighting on trails/pathways, with better bike network connectivity – especially on Eglinton Ave. East
- Use lighting carefully – some trails need to have dark spaces to protect what animals need and want
- Bike network to connect neighbourhoods
- Adding more smooth concrete for walkers, rollerskaters, rollerbladers, cyclists
- Lighting and better winter maintenance for 24/7 use, 365 days a year along The Meadoway

Have better access for people to get there using any mode of transportation

- Near future Eglinton Ave. East LRT stops – develop parks, trails and bike paths

Have better ways to stay comfortable in all weather

- Heated outdoor trails for winter time (smart cities technology)
- More roofs or trees for shade

What do you think is important?

Write your ideas on a sticky note and post them.

New parks should be created
(In which areas?)

Existing parks should be made
bigger (Which parks?)

There should be new park
amenities and/or facilities
(What and where?)

There should be improvements
to existing park amenities and/or
facilities (What and where?)

Other ideas



New parks should be created (in which areas?)

- Petting zoos
- Art installation
- Cooling areas and picnic areas
- Spaces for a community garden
- Different height equipment; jungle gym; trails
- A butterfly garden along the CN line (Kennedy-Birchmount south of Eglinton)

- At Miniot's hydro corridor
- Along the (old) rail lines
- Have a calisthenic area
- Accessible for all abilities
- Rails and trails
- Overlay data from the Background Report, namely Areas of Parkland Need (Fig.1), Walkability Gaps (Fig.2) and Heat Vulnerability Index (Fig.8): we seem to see a correlation between inaccessibility to green space and high(er) heat vulnerability – in the face of climate change and global warming.
- Redevelopment of TTC RT corridor into natural linear park
- Redevelopment of lands on Eglinton Ave. East between Midland and Falmouth Ave. into mixed use space for community gathering, leisure, and art installations
- Redevelopment of Scarborough Junction to include green space access from St. Clair and Kennedy roads.

Existing parks should be made bigger (which parks?)

- Expand: Corvette Park – would be cool to expand with the space at the old Midland school (SCAS/Bond Academy?)
- Complete streets and green spaces: an interconnected network of parks, ravines, transit and community spaces
- Expand McCowan District Park with more natural spaces (think: High Park)
- Connect Farlinger to Eglinton Ravine; and then that, in safe ways, connected to path behind No Frills up to Jack Goodlad (now all fragmented)
- Use the corridor beside Jack Goodlad to be an oasis of trees and real park
- More accessible for all abilities

There should be new park amenities and/or facilities (what and where?)

- Corvette/Ionview: more benches to sit and picnic tables to spend time with friends and family
- Knob Hill Park needs lighting along the trails
- Water fountains at our Scarborough parks
- Washrooms
- Art spaces
- Where children can partake
- Lighted areas
- Security patrol
- More meeting places to foster social connection (e.g. concerts, movies in the park)
- Corvette Park: have BBQ spots/pits; events, e.g. community BBQ, music events (I know it is a challenge with residential areas); for future, prevent land grabs for condo

construction; more benches and tables; having a few more trees for shade in summer would be nice

- All/most parks: picnic shades; more visibility/knowledge of parks and their facilities; water fountains/refill stations

There should be improvements to existing park amenities and/or facilities (what and where?)

- Add lockers, new change rooms in Knob Hill Park pool
- Gazebos with music
- Indoor gardens to enjoy in winter
- Spots to gather (e.g. Kennedy Park) beyond baseball league games
- Kennedy Park – washroom access
- Varied pathways with steps, trails, textures/surfaces
- Ionview Park: lights around/better lighting once it gets dark; do like how lively the park is
- Treverton Park: hard to know if it even exists? - been living in the area my whole life and just discovered its existence this summer
- Relook at the rebuild south of Eglinton on Kennedy to make the hydro corridor continuous with the little, tiny park place designed

Other ideas

- There should be some urgent cleaning of garbage
- Trees
- Seating with shelter for rain
- More nice, luxurious and expensive looking good accommodation
- Increase/maintain tree canopy in Scarborough
- Green spaces must include the planting of native trees and wildflowers – with water sources for pollinators
- Build a community centre attached to a school and skating rink with recreational programming
- Pay attention to trees and natural (carbon absorbing, heat absorbing) materials are prioritized
- Add skating rinks
- Build a community centre attached to a school
- Community programming
- Water quality of Taylor Massey needs to be addressed (shore up banks, etc.)
- Off-leash areas are needed so that people don't let their dogs loose in school yards
- Safe access to Farlinger Ravine – must walk through some unsafe looking spaces to reach it;
- Knob Hill Park: more lighting for safety

- Difficult to do but addressing coyote presence or safety for (not harming coyotes) at McCowan District Park
- Workout circuits (for engagement with the space)
- Flora and fauna facts for nature lovers and kids (elementary schools)
- Clean water for ravine areas (some smell putrid at times)
- Summer camps
- Signs acknowledging Indigenous lands (as respect)
- Garbage receptacles
- Occasional festivals, markets, art exhibitions
- Q: how to ensure space isn't overcrowded (other than for community events)?
- Maybe firepits for winter in larger parks (if City bylaws permit them)
- Community garden
- Ping pong table, chess/checker surface tables
- There is a former KFC, abandoned with graffiti on Eglinton Ave. south of Glen Ravine Park – should be turned into a community centre with a pool



Appendix B: Group Vision Statements

Group 1:

We want our parks to be accessible with varied seating, picnic tables, wooden umbrellas so that it will be inviting, child friendly, relaxing and community oriented. Our parks should be safe with position marker, lights, trails, textured walkways. Build a community centre near a school so that we can have joint access to gym, pools, skating rinks, basketball courts, community recreational/arts/music programs for all ages. We want natural surfaces (e.g. trees, stones, woodchips), community garden (e.g. vegetables, flowers, butterflies) taken care of by community members. Connecting bike, walking trails that are maintained year-round. We want a diverse, culturally friendly programming at community centres and parks. Soothing, relaxing music in a given practice room and area for breathing and mindfulness techniques.

Group 2:

We want parks and outdoor spaces in Kennedy-Park Lonview to be beautiful, safe and well maintained. They should foster social connection with inclusive programming with possible collaboration with community organizations.

Group 3:

In Kennedy-Lonview, we deserve an interconnected network of multi-use, sustainably designed and universally accessible green spaces to ravines, transit and community spaces, and that contribute to the sense of belonging for people, animals, birds, and trees. The primary function of this network fosters peaceful co-existence with the natural world and neighbours.

Group 4:

Active:

- cricket, soccer, badminton, ping pong (fitness/sports)
- splash pads
- walkable trails
- built-in fitness equipment (like at Thompson Park)
- off-leash area for dogs (must be on-leash elsewhere)

Community:

- events (space for gatherings)
- character/creativity (murals, art – from local Scarborough and Kennedy-Ionview artists!)
- picnic – BBQ, shade
- fun/lively
- diverse
- honour Indigenous
- multi-generational

Physical Space:

- bright lights
- safety
- clean, well maintained
- accessible
- greenery/nature – beautiful (flowers, cherry blossoms, birch)
- adequate and clean washrooms/changerooms
- parking spots (adequate space and number of parking spots_
- warming stations in winter
- modern look with modern technology/equipment
- free Wi-Fi
- more benches
- calm/relaxing spaces

Group 5:

We want a green space that is accessible for physically challenged and special needs individuals, a fun space that will bring out a reflection of the people in the community. The future of this will bring out diversity in different pockets of Kennedy-Ionview. We want a safe, clean, well lit, easy access to move around, well maintained equipment and grounds that will have multi-use for community meeting places. Of the many impacts it will bring to the parkland, it will bring a sense of belonging to the Torontonians of Kennedy-Ionview area.





Group 6:

We need parks, outdoor spaces and trails of Kennedy-Park Ionview to be well lit and safe, accessible/inclusive for everyone with mobility challenges year round through proper maintenance of pathways and amenities, and to foster social engagement and community.

Appendix C: Vision Statement Online Survey

Question 1:

How satisfied are you with this vision statement?

	Count	% of responses	%
Very satisfied	4		31%
Satisfied	6		46%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	2		15%
Dissatisfied	1		8%
Very dissatisfied	0		

N 13

Question 2 (optional):

How can this vision statement be improved? (You can skip this question if you have no further feedback)

- Build a community centre attached to Anson Park Public School, with a pool, double gym and rooms for art and other activities that the community needs. Have a variety of programming there to reach a variety of age groups, both young and old. Have ice rinks behind schools and in the Kennedy-ionview areas. Make murals to beautify the area, and make it welcoming to the culturally diverse community with special monthly events in the park spaces and community centre.