

City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry & Recreation

70 Croatia Street Park

Phase 1: Towards a Vision

Online Visioning Workshop
Summary Report

February 2024



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Introduction

The City of Toronto is engaging the community to develop the vision for the new 3,580 m² park (about the size of a baseball field) coming to 70 Croatia Street.

This new park is a result of a broader residential development project at Bloor Street West and Dufferin Street. The park will be located on Croatia Street and will be bordered by a residential development to the north, a new public street to the west, and a new private street to the east.

How We Reached People

Community Mail Outs (Postcards)

6,100 postcards advertising the project webpage, online conversation, community popups, and how to join the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) and Indigenous Advisory Circle (IAC) were delivered to all addresses in the neighbourhood within 500 meters of the park site. The postcard included specific dates and locations of engagement activities:



Digital Flyer

A digital flyer was circulated to community groups and the local Councillor's Office for additional distribution.

Social Media and Digital Ads

The City of Toronto used its Facebook and Instagram accounts to promote the engagement activities through paid advertisements and organic posts for two weeks.

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Attendees

On December 4, 2023, project staff engaged **8 people** from the Bloor Dufferin community in an Online Visioning Workshop. The workshop provided an opportunity for community members to provide their feedback on the new park's look and feel, vision, and character.

In the session, two interactive polls were presented to the group, the first poll presented three options for the look and feel of the park, and the second poll presented eight options for the new park's characters. Smaller breakout rooms were then organized to discuss key visioning words and draft visioning statement options for the new park.

The Visioning Workshop's presentation slides can be found on the [project webpage](#).

Polling Feedback

- The top responses for the new park's **look and feel** included:
 - Soft and natural (36%)
 - Mix of Soft and Natural and Urban Plaza (36%)
- The top responses for the park's **character** voted by the group included:
 - Green and sustainable (74%)
 - Eventful (36%)
 - Peaceful (36%)
 - Playful (27%)
 - Flexible (18%)
 - Social (18%)

Breakout Room Feedback

- Responses for the new park's **visioning statement** included:
 - Community meeting space with inclusive seating options

- A green and sustainable oasis away from the busy Bloor and Dufferin corner
- Peaceful space where people are encouraged to relax
- An event space (e.g., food sharing events and farmers markets)
- Exercise areas and equipment available
- Other topics discussed with the group:
 - How the park's design will compare to the existing parks in the surrounding area
 - Plant and tree options for the new park, and if there will be food growing and sharing opportunities
 - Accommodating the needs of the dense population in the area, and the busy Bloor Dufferin intersection near the park

Questions of Clarification

During the session, community members had an opportunity to ask the project team questions.

Q: Will this park be opening before the Bloor Dufferin development is complete?

A: It aligns with our intended construction completion dates at this point so they should be within the same year or even closer timing wise.

Q: Will the presentation be available after the meeting?

A: Yes, all presentations and summary reports will be shared on the project webpage

Q: What will be happening at the community hub at Kent Public School?

A: For the community hub, community groups selected through the City of Toronto will be occupying the space and providing service. At this time, it has not been confirmed if the community hub will tie with the new parks design.

Q: Is the space large enough to accommodate the density of the population in that area? Will food sharing work? Is an apple tree even feasible?

A: There may be opportunities for food bearing plants, but depends on the species, and Parks Forestry & Recreation's ability to maintain what is planted.