

City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry, and Recreation

Victoria Memorial Square Park Improvements

Phase 3: Setting the Direction Online Survey Summary

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Lara Herald, Senior Project Coordinator
Daniel Fusca, Public Consultation Manager
José Ramón Martí, Public Consultation Coordinator



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Introduction

The City is improving Victoria Memorial Square to better serve nearby residents. Since April 2022, the City has been working closely with stakeholders, the nearby community, and the local Councillor's Office to understand their vision for the park and develop design options. This feedback was incorporated into a preferred design, which was presented in an online survey as a final round of community engagement. The feedback collected in this survey will help to confirm priorities and finalize the preferred design before the project moves into the detailed design phase and then construction.

This document provides a summary of what we heard through the online survey that ran from December 13, 2023, to January 7, 2024.

Project Background

Victoria Memorial Square is located at 10 Niagara Street, near Portland Street. The park is a designated heritage site and is part of the Fort York National Historic Site and the King-Spadina Heritage Conservation District. The park improvements are being developed with the involvement of the local community and stakeholders, with the goal of ensuring that park infrastructure and amenities support the park's desired uses while respecting and enhancing its unique history.

The park currently includes a monument, playground, and drinking fountain as well as several heritage features, open lawn areas, and mature trees. The park's historical significance and unique site constraints are being taken into consideration when planning the design.

Who We Heard From

843+

Participants

The online survey received **457** responses from at least **843** participants of various ages and backgrounds, including members of the same household.

Survey respondents were asked to provide demographic information. This information helps the City better understand who participated in the survey and whether particular groups in the community were overlooked during the engagement process.

A full summary of respondent demographics can be found in Appendix A.

How We Reached People

In general, the community was informed of the online survey through print and digital media.

Print Media

Signage

Project information was displayed on large notice boards placed throughout the park. These notice boards provided information about the project, details about the online survey, and how to access additional information on the project webpage.

Digital Media

Project Webpage

The webpage (toronto.ca/VictoriaMemorialSquare) provided up-to-date information about the project, details about the online survey, and a sign-up button for community members to subscribe to email updates

Flyer

An e-flyer was circulated to the local Councillor's Office for additional distribution.

Social Media Advertisements

The online survey was promoted through paid advertisements and organic posts on the Parks, Forestry, and Recreation division's [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [X](#) accounts from December 13, 2023, to January 7, 2024. The survey was also promoted through the Councillor's social media accounts.

What We Heard

The following section summarizes the key feedback collected through the online survey. This feedback will inform the final design of the park improvements. Note that percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

Key Feedback

Respondents were asked how satisfied or dissatisfied they were with the preferred design overall:

- **53%** were satisfied or very satisfied
- **8%** were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- **39%** were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied

Respondents were asked how much they agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the preferred design:

- "I like the social gathering areas along park edges with trees and chipped stone."
 - **71%** agreed or somewhat agreed
 - **20%** neither agreed nor disagreed
 - **9%** disagreed or somewhat disagreed
- "I like the amount of flowering meadow within the cemetery."
 - **73%** agreed or somewhat agreed
 - **14%** neither agreed nor disagreed
 - **13%** disagreed or somewhat disagreed

- "I like the amount of green space."
 - **69%** agreed or somewhat agreed
 - **14%** neither agreed nor disagreed
 - **17%** disagreed or somewhat disagreed
- "There are enough shade trees."
 - **70%** agreed or somewhat agreed
 - **8%** neither agreed nor disagreed
 - **22%** disagreed or somewhat disagreed
- "I like the amount and variety of seating options."
 - **66%** agreed or somewhat agreed
 - **18%** neither agreed nor disagreed
 - **16%** disagreed or somewhat disagreed
- "I like the relocated playground."
 - **44%** agreed or somewhat agreed
 - **25%** neither agreed nor disagreed
 - **31%** disagreed or somewhat disagreed
- "I like the inclusion of a dog off-leash area."
 - **50%** agreed or somewhat agreed
 - **6%** neither agreed nor disagreed
 - **45%** disagreed or somewhat disagreed

Respondents were asked how satisfied or dissatisfied they were with the large areas of a gently mounded flowering meadow within the cemetery boundary:

- **59%** were satisfied or very satisfied
- **24%** were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- **17%** were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied

Respondents were asked to prioritize the importance of the following park design elements, ranking from most important (1) to least important (4) for inclusion in the final design:

1. Additional seating outside of cemetery
2. New lighting to replace existing lighting (which is functional)
3. Seat wall around the cemetery
4. Additional seating pockets within cemetery

Respondents were asked to indicate their preferred playground equipment scenario:

1. Reuse existing play equipment
2. Combination of existing and new play equipment
3. All new play equipment

When asked if they had any additional feedback about the preferred design, respondents provided a total of **206** responses, including:

- **74** comments regarding the **off-leash area**:
 - 60 respondents were opposed to adding an off-leash area or permitting dogs in the park
 - 13 respondents suggested expanding the off-leash area
 - 6 respondents supported adding an off-leash area
 - 3 respondents suggested a turf surface

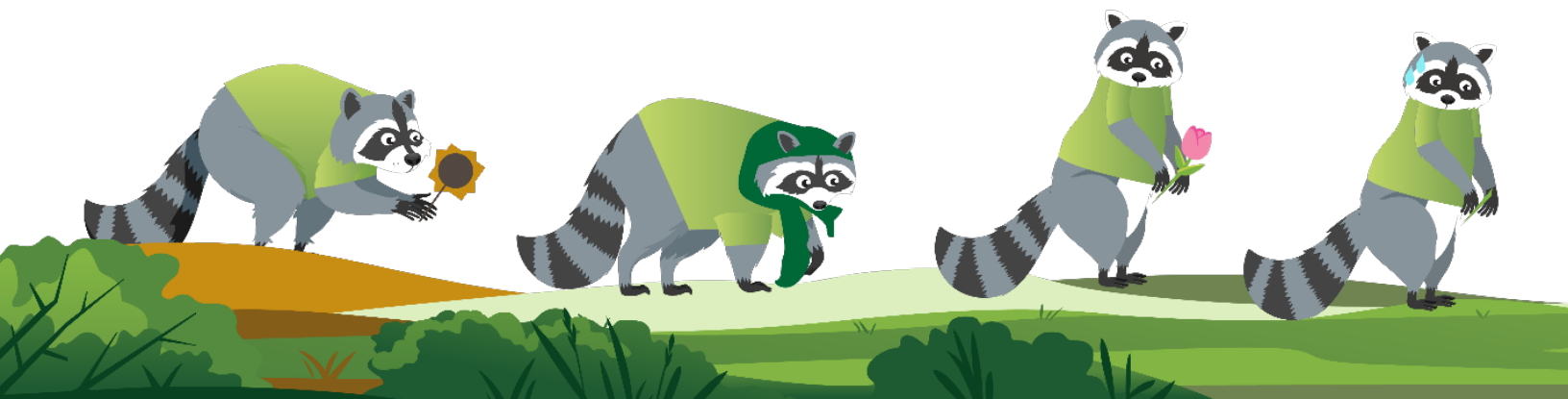
- 2 respondents were opposed to a pea gravel surface
- Other suggestions included:
 - Adding a fetch lane or creating separate areas for large and small dogs
 - Moving the off-leash area along Niagara Street
- **33** comments regarding **lawn or green space**:
 - 28 respondents suggested preserving the existing lawn or including additional green space
- **27** comments regarding **seating**:
 - 10 respondents expressed concern or opposition to block seating
 - 8 respondents suggested adding more seating, including benches, picnic tables, and Muskoka chairs
 - 2 respondents suggested adding more seating near park entrances
- **25** respondents expressed concerns about **dogs or dog owners**:
 - Dog owners disobeying park rules
 - Dogs damaging, urinating, and defecating on grass, trees, and other plants
 - Dogs running off-leash in on-leash areas
 - Dogs barking at all hours
 - The need for more dog waste receptacles throughout the park
- **21** comments regarding **trees**:
 - 9 respondents suggested adding more trees
 - 3 respondents suggested preserving mature trees
 - 2 respondents suggested planting native trees
 - A respondent suggested planting trees with different growth rates
- **21** comments regarding the **meadow**:
 - 7 respondents supported adding a meadow
 - 4 respondents were opposed to adding a meadow
 - 4 respondents expressed concern about the level of maintenance
 - 3 respondents suggested high or higher fencing to protect the meadow
 - 2 respondents expressed concerns about allergies
- **17** comments regarding the **playground**:
 - 6 respondents were opposed to relocating the playground
 - 5 respondents suggested expanding the playground or making it the same size as the off-leash area
 - 4 respondents expressed concern about noise and safety at the proposed location
 - Other suggestions included:
 - Adding play features for older kids
 - Including seating
 - Fencing in the playground
 - Making the playground smaller
- **5** comments regarding **lighting**:
 - 2 respondents suggested warm or yellow light bulbs
 - Other suggestions included:
 - Adding new lighting
 - Adding string lighting

- Adding enough lighting
- 5 respondents expressed the need for **shaded areas** throughout the park, including the playground and off-leash area
- 5 respondents suggested including **less pavement or hard surfaces**
- 4 comments regarding **plants**:
 - 2 respondents suggested planting native plants
 - Other suggestions included:
 - Adding as many flowers as possible
 - Adding plants throughout the park
- 2 respondents suggested adding **bollards** at park entrances for safety
- 2 comments regarding the **War of 1812 Memorial**:
 - A respondent supported leaving it in its current location
 - A respondent suggested relocating it
- Other suggestions included:
 - Adding a washroom
 - Adding a water feature
 - Adding fitness equipment
 - Adding an emergency call button
 - Adding more accessible waste receptacles
 - Removing the chipped stone surface

The full quantitative and qualitative results can be found in Appendices B and C, respectively.

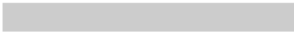




Next Steps

The feedback collected during this phase of community engagement, including the online survey, will be used to develop a detailed park design. The final design will be posted to the project webpage in spring 2024. To view the project timeline, to learn about previous design options and community engagement activities, and to sign up for email updates, visit the project webpage at toronto.ca/VictoriaMemorialSquare.









Appendix A: Demographic Responses

**Did you participate in any previous engagement activities for Victoria Memorial Square?
Select all that apply.**

	Count	% of responses	%
None of the above	270		59%
July 2023 online survey	139		30%
September 2022 online survey	87		19%
March 2023 thought exchange activity	47		10%
June 2023 community workshops	29		6%






N 457

How far do you live (or will you live) from Victoria Memorial Square?

	Count	% of responses	%
Less than a 10 minute walk (less than 500 metres)	333		74%
A 10 to 30 minute walk (500 metres to 3km)	82		18%
A 30 to 60 minute walk (3 to 5km)	8		2%
More than a 1 hour walk (6 to 15km)	9		2%
A distance too far to walk (16+ km)	9		2%
Prefer not to answer	8		2%

N 449

What is the age of the person filling out this survey?

	Count	% of responses	%
0 to 4 years old	0		
5 to 12 years old	0		
13 to 18 years old	1		0%
19 to 29 years old	65		14%
30 to 39 years old	166		37%
40 to 55 years old	124		28%
56 to 64 years old	53		12%
65 to 74 years old	27		6%
75 years old or above	7		2%
Prefer not to answer	6		1%

N 449












Excluding yourself, how many people of each age group participated in this survey?

- 0 to 4 years old = 63
- 5 to 12 years old = 48
- 13 to 18 years old = 19
- 19 to 29 years old = 33
- 30 to 39 years old = 104
- 40 to 55 years old = 71
- 56 to 64 years old = 25
- 65 to 74 years old = 14
- 75 years old or above = 9

What language do you prefer speaking?




- English = 372 = 83%
- French = 17 = 4%
- Prefer not to answer = 13 = 3%
- Arabic = 7 = 2%
- Chinese - Mandarin = 6 = 1%
- Hindi = 6 = 1%
- Spanish = 6 = 1%
- Chinese - Cantonese = 5 = 1%
- Albanian = 3 = 1%
- Romanian = 3 = 1%

People often describe themselves by their race or racial background. For example, some people consider themselves "Black", "White" or "East Asian". Which race category best describes the person filling out this survey? Select all that apply.

	Count	% of responses	%
White (e.g. English, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Slovakian)	249		55%
Prefer not to answer	62		14%
East Asian (e.g. Chinese, Japanese, Korean)	39		9%
More than one race category or mixed race	31		7%
South Asian or Indo-Caribbean (e.g. Indian, Indo- Guyanese, Indo-Trinidadian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan)	30		7%
Black (e.g. African, African-Canadian, Afro-Caribbean)	26		6%
Arab, Middle Eastern or West Asian (e.g. Afghan, Armenian, Iranian, Lebanese, Persian, Turkish)	22		5%
Latin American (e.g. Brazilian, Colombian, Cuban, Mexican, Peruvian)	17		4%
Southeast Asian (e.g. Filipino, Malaysian, Singaporean, Thai, Vietnamese)	11		2%
Other, please describe	8		2%
First Nations (status, non-status, treaty or non-treaty), Inuit or Métis	1		0%





N 449

Indigenous people from Canada identify as First Nations (status, non-status, treaty or non-treaty), Inuit, Métis, Aboriginal, Native or Indian. Does the person filling out this survey identify as Indigenous to Canada?

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes	5		1%
No	398		89%
Prefer not to answer	46		10%





N 449

Disability is understood as any physical, mental, developmental, cognitive, learning, communication, sight, hearing or functional limitation that, in interaction with a barrier, hinders a person’s full and equal participation in society. A disability can be permanent, temporary or episodic, and visible or invisible. Does the person filling out this survey identify as a person with a disability?

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes	40		9%
No	357		80%
Don't know	3		1%
Prefer not to answer	49		11%








N 449

Excluding yourself, does anyone in your household identify as a person with a disability?

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes	26		6%
No	368		82%
Don't know	4		1%
Prefer not to answer	51		11%










N 449

Gender identity is the gender that people identify with or how they perceive themselves, which may be different from their birth-assigned sex. What best describes the gender of the person filling out this survey?

	Count	% of responses	%
Man	218		49%
Woman	189		42%
Prefer not to answer	40		9%
Two-Spirit	5		1%
Not listed, please describe	4		1%
Gender non-binary (including gender fluid, genderqueer, androgynous)	2		0%
Trans woman	1		0%
Trans man	0		







N 449

Sexual orientation describes a person's emotional, physical, romantic, and/or sexual attraction to other people. What best describes the sexual orientation of the person filling out this survey?

	Count	% of responses	%
Heterosexual or straight	252		56%
Prefer not to answer	101		22%
Gay	57		13%
Lesbian	16		4%
Bisexual	12		3%
Don't know	6		1%
Queer	4		1%
Two-Spirit	4		1%
Not listed, please describe	4		1%





N 449

What best describes your current housing situation?

	Count	% of responses	%
Home owner	234		52%
Renting	186		41%
Permanently living with parent(s) or other family member(s)	5		1%
Temporarily staying with others (no fixed address)	0		
Unhoused (staying outside, in a shelter, in a 24-hour respite)	1		0%
Prefer not to answer	22		5%
Not listed, please describe	1		0%

N 449

What best describes you and your household's access to outdoor space?

	Count	% of responses	%
I have access to private outdoor space like a yard	63		14%
I have access to semi-private/shared outdoor space	110		24%
I only have access to public spaces like parks (I do not have access to private or semi-private outdoor space)	263		59%
Prefer not to answer	13		3%

N 449

Appendix B: Quantitative Responses

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements related to the preferred design for Victoria Memorial Square:

	Average	Count	% of responses
I like the social gathering areas along park edges with trees and chipped stone	25%	457	
I like the amount of flowering meadow within the cemetery	25%	457	
I like the amount of green space	30%	457	
There are enough shade trees	30%	457	
I like the amount and variety of seating options	30%	457	
I like the relocated playground	43%	457	
I like the inclusion of a dog off-leash area	47%	457	

■ Agree
 ■ Somewhat agree
 ■ Neither agree nor disagree
 ■ Somewhat disagree
 ■ Disagree






N 457

The design includes large areas of a gently mounded flowering meadow within the cemetery boundary. This design decision was made because of concerns related to the difficulty of maintaining the existing lawn, and the need to protect the shallow graves below it. How do you feel about this feature?

	Count	% of responses	%
Very satisfied	120		26%
Satisfied	149		33%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	110		24%
Dissatisfied	44		10%
Very dissatisfied	34		7%





N 457

Overall, how do you feel about the preferred design for Victoria Memorial Square?

	Count	% of responses	%
Very satisfied	76		17%
Satisfied	166		36%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	36		8%
Dissatisfied	97		21%
Very dissatisfied	82		18%





N 457

Please prioritize the importance of the following park design elements for Victoria Memorial Square. Please rank from most important (1) to least important (5) for inclusion in the final design.

	% of responses	%
Additional seating outside of cemetery		32%
New lighting to replace existing lighting (which is functional)		30%
Seat wall around the cemetery		19%
Additional seating pockets within cemetery		19%



N 457

The existing playground equipment is in good condition and has not yet reached the end of its lifespan. Please indicate your preferred playground equipment scenario.

	Count	% of responses	%
Reuse existing play equipment	167		37%
All new play equipment	74		16%
Combination of existing and new play equipment	125		27%
I don't know/Prefer not to answer	91		20%

N 457

Do you have any additional feedback about the preferred design that you have not already shared in this survey? Please do not repeat any of the feedback provided above.

	Count	% of responses	%
No	251		55%
Yes:	206		45%

N 457

Appendix C: Qualitative Responses

Do you have any additional feedback about the preferred design that you have not already shared in this survey? Please do not repeat any of the feedback provided above.

- The off leash dog is not needed. There are several near.
- No dogs please, dog free area. Families are important also
- For dog park, please include a dedicated fetch lane so we can exercise dogs solo (who don't want to socialize/get into fights and bark but want to/need to run). Or at very least have two separate areas so smaller dogs can use area even when large aggressive dogs are in it. Without this, people will continue to let their dogs off leash outside of the DOLA while problematic owners/dogs are inside
- Prefer turn, include water station and shaded areas in off leash dog park
- There is already a dog off leash park at St-Andrew park
- Please include signs that dogs should not be off leash outside of the off-leash area. This will help to deter hygiene issues, particularly around the playground.
- Concerned about playground location .. potential noise levels
- I'm not sure this sitting cubes would be comfortable especially during the cold seasons
- This was a tough job. Thank you.
- The north seating area should have more natural ground not stone or pavement, perhaps wood chips or a clover lawn. People will want to feel natural ground not more stones and pavement. Limit as much pavement or stone grounds as we can because it will be too hot in the summer and will be uncomfortable. People want more trees more green space more nature. We do not want or need any more pavement. Thank you
- Add white string lighting (bulbs) within and on the trees around the park. This will add additional lighting for security at night and looks beautiful. There are many examples of this in other parks around the world. This additional lighting would extend its use after dark, especially in the fall and winter months when it gets dark earlier.
- the planting area could be removed to allow for a larger off-leash area. There could be more seating (the block seating does not look all that comfortable). Lack of green spaces.
- This design takes away from the charm of the park - looks too commercialized. Also, meadow will be problematic for those with allergies... please put less wildflowers so that I don't have to live on reactin...
- Do it in 2035 enough construction already!
- Thank you for removing the chipped stone from the wishbone path. This will make it more accessible.
- Include an emergency button, more than one water fountain, bilingual signs with QR codes to share the history of the park
- Make sure to avoid large gathering in the park
- I HATE the block seating, please put in curved benches like they did at Queen's Park. Why would you move the playground, save money and leave it where it is. This park is frequented by hundreds of dogs a day, there should not be medicinal plants of any kind,

be careful not to kill the dogs. I would love it if the memorial statue was moved, its placement is odd.

- No dog off leash park. Barking noise all night is disrespectful for area residents
- There are too many dogs and poop, people need comfortable relaxing space that isn't dog-centric. Owners won't behave if off leash is allowed.
- love the design. pls consider using bollards along niagara street side for safety of people accessing park and playground. currently trucks and cars drive and park on side walk so bollards on the curb/sidewalk closest to street would offer protection. also, I miss the relocation of the statue to the grand entrance at East side of park.
- No dog off leash park
- Dogs should not be allowed in the park at all.
- MORE GREEN SPACE. IT'S A PARK. THE ONLY PARK IN THE AREA.
- No off leash area. Public space should not be reserve to dog owners only.
- Off leash area mean dogs barking days and night. Families first, no dogs.
- Please work to incorporate architectural elements to reduce off-leash dogs in leash required zones.
- St Andrew off leash park is just a step stone, why changing kids playground for dogs.
- TREES BUSHES more LUSH more DENSE there's too much open space under the sun the flowers a beautiful so keep all of those but noooobody is staying for long directly under the sun trow a couple more trees in there make it dense make it lushhhh
- Cubic block seat are totally useless and they will pee spot for dogs. Normal seats like in the Love park are more useful
- Already off leash park at Clarence square and St-Andrew park.
- Expand the children's playground and add more structures. Too many off leash dog areas in the neighbourhood already.
- more surveillance
- The area for offleash dogs will only accomodate small dogs, depending on how many people there are. I would rather no offleash area.
- More green cover ideally with tree installation so it can be utilised in the summer months
- More trees tonprvide shade ariund seating areas, more wood seating. Similar to Love Park
- Not another dogs off leash park please
- A water drinking fountain would be a good addition particularly in the summer.
- Please ensure you plant native flowers, grasses, plants, and trees. I think black oaks/a black oak savannah biome with goldenrod, rudbeckia, Echinacea, and woodland sunflowers would be an excellent choice. I think you should also consider creating habitat for insects like logs/wood with holes drilled in them, some rocks, and a water source for birds and small animals.
- I like the meadow. The massive, impermeable concrete slab in the north east corner is highly undesirable from an aesthetic and environmental perspective. Perhaps a raised bed w/more meadow and a seating bench surrounding would help green this area.
- No dogs park, there's already to much of them. Dogs owners don't respect any regulations in this city.

- Seating in cemetery has no back support- why? Any new trees we do not want 'stick' trees plant new large caliper trees
- How is the flowering meadow less work than the lawn? There is NO raildeck park and there have been an influx of thousands of new residents in the area with all the condos and NO Green space. Please provide more green space and trees for tax payers.
- Bo dogs park. Dogs are barking all night long, respect the neighborhood residents at sleep.
- I use the park to walk all of the time, I'd love to see that as a possibility. I also know so many people use the park in the summer to read, have picnics, lay out, play on the grass. I really hope the grass stays because it makes the community better!
- Winter conditions of the meadow
- More trees
- More trees and nature-based solutions to stormwater management
- Get rid of the flowering meadow, the parkette is already small enough and it would be nicer to be able to access a lawn area instead.
- Not good idea the black block seats. More classical seating would be preferable
- Less pavement and more green/foilage.
- Please make sure the flower meadow has enough fencing and high enough fencing to protect it.
- I hate that chipped surface. I don't think it should go into any parks. They had it at Lisgar Park and it had to be replaced because the dogs peed on it and it stunk for miles!
- I feel there is too much pavement in the new proposal. As gardener retired from the city we used to maintain Victoria Memorial Park in the 1980ws to present
- people going sw to ne are going to be unhappy about walking around the playground. Expec new desire paths to be created.
- It's a cemetery and a war memorial. It's sacred space. It isn't socialization space. Dogs are a problem. Enforcement has been a problem. Putting a contained dog park is fine so long as enforcement of the cemetery grounds is enforced.
- There's already a huge off leash park just a few minutes walking at Clarence Square.
- Don't see the need for a complete redesign
- This is the only usable green space this area has where people can actually touch grass, lie down under a tree, and have dogs run around. If you transform it into this "don't touch me" flower garden, constraining people to a path made of tarmac, you'll be exacerbating a problem this city already has with lack of usable public green spaces. I'm skeptical on how mantaining flowers can be lesss costly than patchy wild grass... but if that the case then please consider using a different breed of grass. Please!
- Less hard surfaces, more meadow or natural environment.
- The shade in the summertime in the current playground is great and provides lots of protection for the children. In the new location there aren't as many mature trees and is very code to the street.
- Off leash dog park needs to be larger
- A large number of people like to picnic and gather in the summer, there doesn't look to be enough grassy areas.
- More accessible garbage cans, unique solutions for cigarette butts

- No dogs park. St-Andrews park is such big mess, dogs are barking loudly day and night. No respect for neighbourhood at night.
- Please add more muskoka chairs or equally comfortable seats (not those horrible block seats). It's usually hard to find an open chair because everyone wants to sit on them!
- There is no need for an off leash dog area. There are two off leash dog parks within walking distance at clearance square and Brant street. This cemetery and park and memorial should not be a place for dogs. They have already defaced the cemetery enough. The dogs and their owners should can go elsewhere
- I like the concept of seating pockets within cemetery, I don't like the block seats design.
- Assign an are for dogs. If they are outside of the assigned area they need to be on leash. Fine the pet owners who violates the non-dog area to avoid ruining the flower and grass areas
- Less dog areas, dog owners dont respect the rules anyway
- You're ruining this park. I can't believe you are YET AGAIN designing what was just revitalized a few years ago. The Ken Greenberg influence on parks Department is sick.
- No dogs park.
- Put more British flags and statues NOW
- Supremely inefficient use of green space. 'Flowering Meadows' turn the very limited green space in the area to useless space promoting weeds and ticks. A simple stroll through the existing park and one would discover the dog/capita ratio is through the roof. Having a miniature dog park is an extreme waste of space, especially with a competent playground already in the space. This design is a blunder of epic proportions but very on brand for the city.
- The off leash dog park needs to be a generous size to hold all of the dogs at that play in Vic park, concerned it will be too small or only suited for small dog breeds.
- No dog off leash area
- My only concern is the lack of exercise/workout space. The community in this neighbourhood leads an active lifestyle. People exercise in the park, bring their own equipment, meet up with friends to work out together. Taking away their green space and missing the opportunity to include some kind of basic workout equipment is disappointing.
- While the concept is appreciated, the playground space is far too small for a dog off-leash area, especially for the amount of dogs that frequent this park.
- I would like to see more drastic change. Move the statue to create the plaza area.
- Would like a larger off-leash area
- Need more seating
- Can we have a no dogs zone in this city.
- Please protect the existing mature trees from dog urinating on them. It is killing the trees. Solutions could be to have benches built around them. They need to be protected. It is also unsafe. I was witness to a tree failing in the dog run in Stanley park.
Thank you
- More green space is needed. I understand lawn maintenance isn't easy but it's necessary.

- Don't get rid of the lawn or free space for sitting. As someone who loves right next to the park, if you look at how it's actually used it's a picnic space for people daily. Don't wreck this you will anger many.
- This design makes the off leash dog area bigger than the playground. The playground is heavily used in our area and continues to be an afterthought to this design
- Please use turf in the off leash dog park.
- Unfortunately, will need a higher fence to protect mounded natural areas from dogs and their owners.
- Not in favor of moving playground.
- Absolutely no flowering meadow. If they can't even manage the current park, how are they going to manage flowering meadow and more trees? Plus pollen during the blooming season will get all neighbours sick, and the flowering meadow will look dead 9 months of a year.
- For most of the year the flowering beds will be dead flowers and be an eyesore. I like to see open green grass. Please do not move the playground - at the moment it is perfectly placed to be accessible but to not take over the big, beautiful GREEN grass park that we have now. I love the brick path that is wide.
- Strict enforcement of dogs taking over the park to [REDACTED]/piss
- Not too much flowers or similar unless in places you don't want people to enjoy. We need space to stand, sit, etc., not to see flowers. 2) The dog park is too small. The reason dog owners go there is so their dogs can really get a good run in and stretch their legs. A small dog park won't change that - people will still let their dogs run in the main part of the park unless the dog park is big enough.
- The park should be well lit at night. This may help to deter unhoused setting up camp and vandalism.
- Many dogs in the 1000's of units that surround the park are rescue dogs. We are proud of our community of people who choose to adopt these dogs. Off leash-areas are unsafe and stressful for rescue dogs. As the park is now, rescue dogs and nervous purebreds can stay on a leash away from other dogs. We do not have back yards so the park is the only green space for us to have grass & for our dogs to walk & go to the washroom + the wildflower beds that replace grass will be full of dead plants 50% of the year
- I would prefer finding a way to maintain the existing high percentage of lawn space rather than paving it over or limiting access.
- Will the new playground be fenced in? I'm concerned with the playground being moved. Right now, the community leaves toys in the playground area for children to play with and there is a good sense of community. I think the new playground needs a fence for safety. I would recommend new playground equipment that is cool and reflects the Fashion District (like the playgrounds at St James or Grange Park). Hopefully the existing equipment could be re-used elsewhere. I think adding the dog park is a great idea.
- The playground looks smaller than the Dog off leash area? Shouldn't the playground reflect our priorities?
- The new location of the playground is worrisome because many car drivers speed along Niagara and the new location makes it vulnerable to cars jumping the curb.

- No dog park. We have 3 others within a 5 min walk. Give priority to people not dogs
- Square seats on the walk path are not functional, replace with benches or multi sitting better for elderly
- please make sure that dog owners cant run their dogs anywhere else off leash except for the dedicated area.
- I originally had concerns about the lack of seating in the cemetery quadrant. This has been addressed by the scalloped regions you added. I know the use of the meadow is contentious with regard to maintenance, yet I would like to try it out. Can we residents form a volunteer group to do weeding each Spring and Summer????
- You will likely need higher fencing to protect the meadow / graves.
- These changes are being proposed because of the extensive number of dogs in the park. Maintenance and hygiene issues are due to the abundance of dog urine and defecation. Dogs should not be allowed in any parks at all so that we can maintain green space. There are dedicated dog run areas in Clarence Square and St. Andrews Playground. Dogs should only be allowed in those fenced off dog run areas and prohibited from other areas of a park, regardless of whether they are on a leash.
- Peoples first, not dogs. No more dogs off leash or dogs friendly park
- Our preference would be to keep the play ground where it is and introduce the dog off leash along Niagara Street under the existing trees. The noise and dmell will be a nuisance for the immediate apartments above.
- Make sure there are enough lights. I gets really dark at night.
- As much seating as possible and as much trees and flowers as possible
- Do not want off-leash dog park. Will be noisy and disruptive
- The low fence barrier around the meadow should match the barrier on the ROW in front of the Well designed by Claude Cormier.
- Please keep grass
- The off leash dog area appears to be taking precedent over the playground from a space perspective. This is somewhat disappointing that the children will be losing space to accommodate dogs.
- I'm afraid that the proliferation of dogs in the park will make any improvements and beautification a colossal waste of time and money. I've lived across Victoria Memorial Square for over 20 years and I have seen it deteriorate as more and more dogs are introduced into the area. I can guarantee that a beautiful flowering meadow will be utterly destroyed within two weeks of planting. This may sound harsh but it is the reality of the situation down here.
- Getting rid of all the grass is a huge loss. A cement and interlock park is significantly less refreshing than a grass park.
- The mowed lawn is a nice element to the current park, and allows dogs space to run. I am concerned that the dog park will not allow for that.
- No dogs off leash park please
- Please ensure the playground has ample shade. It's a playground intended for children under 5, therefore shade, gating, and seating for child care workers are critical
- Dog park is too small. Plz do not put seating next to trash! No fake grass. Plants/tree in and out of larger dog park

- More historic commemoration and preservation of military history.
- playground is too large for the number of children It is not necessary
- It is a graveyard. The dignity of the graves must take precedence over all other uses. It is disgusting that it is currently used as a toilet for dogs. There are other parks nearby for dogs. Dogs should be banned completely from this park. I love dogs but they do not belong in a cemetery.
- why is there only 1 table. so many people live and work in this area. and want a really nice place to sit and eat or play games....
- More picnic tables
- need for bollards at entries/exits given dangerous high speed e-scooters and e-bikes, lighting temperature should be warm (yellow) and not cool like today (bright white), monument should be re-built (quality of finish, increased height, better signage) and ideally relocated to main entrance plaza, love the meadows in the cemetery and increased seating - so much more appropriate and respectful, please treat integration of 20 Niagara corner/frontage carefully given high amount of dog pee from adjacent Minto
- well done - such an improvement! love the meadows - no more off-leash dog runs
- Very concerned dog owners will not respect the garden/lawn areas and prohibit dogs from entering and defecating. VMS is currently regarded a dog toilet and changing that mindset will be difficult. Strict limits/signage/enforcement on dog owners is absolutely needed.
- Better social seating, such as metal picnic tables. Benches are for 1 or 2 people only and only face the same direction. Those blocks have no back so are very uncomfortable for anyone but children. Also way, way too many flowers in that mock up image (unless they are solely over graves), the more useable space the better..
- It looks like every other park, there's nothing unique about it.
- A mixture of bench and block seats where block seats are located
- The decimation of lawn space is a terrible call. The park is used by lots of people most of which have dogs. The separate *TINY* off leash area isn't enough, and the meadows are given excessive area compared to useable lawn space. The current plans don't feel like they're enough for the neighborhood it supports and the meadow areas are going to become a mess in a couple of years regardless.
- Given the large amount of dogs in the area, there is not enough space designed for dogs in the design
- No dogs barking and peeing.
- Please add a dedicated dog poo garbage can inside AND outside the off-leash area. I walk thru this park multiple times per week and dog poo on my shoes is a big concern.
- 2. Please plant as many trees as you can. With global warming, we will need them.
- No dogs parks. The St-Andrew dogs park is too noisy with no consideration for neighborhoods.
- Increase off leash dog space
- Despite the need for maintenance, the lawns were the most used parts of the park. Significantly reducing this space makes the park a much less attractive option for people looking to spend their afternoons there. While the design 'looks' nice it is considerably less functional. Additionally, the seating blocks look uncomfortable and

unfriendly. The park would be better served with more picnic tables if you're going to be removing all the lawn area that was used by larger groups of people.

- Tree protection measures to preserve health of existing mature trees and new plantings
- We do not need an off leash park here. Less dogs here is better.
- Taking away SO much of the active use area and replacing it with a planted meadow (i.e. passive use garden) is unfortunate. This garden will require high maintenance. The City has shown in parks around the city that is is incapable of sustaining such high maintenance. The result will be a disaster soon after the renovations are complete. How is this fiscally responsible?.
- Please add more seating and green space but I do like your plan. Also you need more trash cans.
- Thank goodness for specific area for dogs! Instead of the current overrun situation
- No dogs area
- Will miss the open grass but understand the trade offs. Overall very good looking design!
- Covid taught us that grassy areas are important for people to gather together, sit, picnic, do yoga, etc. WHY ARE YOU REMOVING ALL THELAWN???????
- Can you create a dog free area. Human are also important.
- Pleaseeee more green space and benches!!
- I used the QR code posted on the placard in the NW corner and I received an error message. I found the correct link using google. This should be checked in case of any issue. 2. I appreciate the overall thought and attentiveness put into this with due deference to the War of 1812 and Indigenous history.
- This area could use a public bathroom. Most european parks have a self cleaning, solar powered one. Has this been considered? NO to off leash dog areas. We need green spaces for humans more than dogs.
- Not enough lawn space.
- The park has no focal point/ standalone feature or centre piece that will drive visitors beyond neighbouring residents walking their dogs.
- You are underestimating the amount of people who have dogs in this area. Let alone the new well condos and more condos coming. It's a dog hot spot. The city has already limited greatly the amount of places for dogs to either play or go to the bathroom. There's no patches of grass on any street other than Wellington. Hence why the park is always full of dogs. The proposed off leash dog area is hilariously small. I've seen the park filled to the brim with small children & there's more dogs than kids here
- Park is fine just the way it is. New design takes away all our green space which is challenging enough to find in our neighborhood. Spend tax payers money on more priority issues such as mental health and the homeless crisis.
- I like the design of the walkways in the park, espically the Portland and Wellington intersection, where the sound side sidewalk of Wellington connects to the walkways. I walk through here frequently and that connection is key to avoiding desirepaths.
- Plant trees that feed aves. Since you made it illegal to feed bird seed to the birds provide a food source before you kill off all the birds and buy plastic bird replicas from China.

- It doesn't matter if you include an off-leash area or not, dog owners will run their dogs all over the park as they do now.
- No off-leash area. Even enclosed.
- More lounge seating like St Andrew's Park. Expecting similar or better design quality.
- There is already a dog park in St-Andrew park. Let's keep VMS quiet and peaceful nights.
- The low walls may turn the cemetery into a makeshift dog park [like Canoe Landing Turf after school hours]. Can we walk through the meadow area? That was kind of unclear.
- No dogs in the park, even in enclosed areas
- Seating within and outside of cemetery boundary should rather be focused near park entrances and plaza and each seat should be minimum width for 2 people to sit on.
- Please retain the actual Victoria memorial, do not rename or replace it. Victoria was a very important figure in the history of Canada and especially the Treaty relationship with Ontario's Indigenous peoples (and those of us across Canada).
- Dog park means noise all night with barking dogs. Respect neighbours
- The flower meadow beds look amazing. Please make sure there's lots of trees and avoid cutting any full grown trees - they take decades to replace!
- No dog park. Make a bigger playground. Our kids are our future, not dogs
- No dog off-leash area, the dog owners do not respect them anyway
- The cemetery as a war graves cemetery must be respected above all other concerns
- Dogs will be off-leash in the park itself, as they are now. Please ticket dog owners for misusing the shared space.
- No dogs
- Please make provision to have regular security to avoid homeless encampment
- A close examination of how the space is currently used will reveal that this new design takes away from the community. I really don't understand the obsession with limiting this open greenspace and rendering it unusable.
- Please ensure that homeless people don't gentrify the park, otherwise what's the point.
- There should be some open green spaces for picnics or yoga-it is a well used park by residents (including me!)
- Off-leash parks are a menace to pedestrians and small dogs. There is no city monitoring and fines for people who treat the surrounding area as off-leash. I prefer keep the playground. If you do off-leash it has to be fenced, a camera to monitor the area and fines dispensed for people having their dogs off-leash outside the designated area.
- Can we have a place with no dogs. No dogs off-leash area, humans are important too.
- Please make it less grey than the rest of the city. Please use warm light bulbs in the lights. Plant more trees than you think you'll need because many will die. Also a combo of slow growth '(oak, beech) and faster growing (maple, linden).
- The Dog Park area, you don't specify any details on that. I can only hope that you've listened to the very loud majority and not gone with pea gravel.
- Glad to see the off-leash area.
- New lighting and more fencing to protect green
- Much better design. The existing open space is highly problematic. Love all the additional seating and meadows.

- Please stop fast e-bikes cutting across park
- Not enough greenspace. Understand the impediments, but that is needed in this area.
- Less seating within cemetery. More seating at entrances to enhance them as gathering/ event spaces like a piazza, more European
- The addition of an 'off-leash' dog area is a horrible concept. This is a cemetery that deserves respect. There are many other places dog owners can take their dogs.
- The playground should be relocated to a shaded area and not so close to the street
- Plant more trees
- There is already too many off-leash parks.
- No dogs off-leash area, it's too noisy and dirty.
- Very thankful this park is being revitalized. Green space is critical. Trees and shade are particularly important during the hotter weather months.
- There is not enough dogs off-leash parks in the city. Dogs don't pay taxes, I do.
- Flowering meadow will be unsustainable as I have little confidence that the City will maintain it.
- No dogs off-leash area. Dog owners will not respect it anyway or respect other neighbours.
- No dogs bathroom. Dogs off-leash areas are very dirty.
- Off-leash dog park not required. There is already enough in the neighborhood. I think it is a waste of money and labour to move the playground.
- Please provide some turf or variation in landscaping in the dog park (as opposed to gravel in the dog park at Clarence square)
- No dogs at all
- No dog off-leash area
- The current playground is geared towards very small children (under 2). It would be nice to have more variety for kids a bit older. The playground at the Grange is a good example of a good variety for a playground.
- Believe playground should remain in its current location and with that, forgo the off-leash area as it's unlikely to be used by owners of large dogs, which is the issue.
- More young trees would be nice
- So appreciate the addition of the off-leash area for dogs. I would recommend widening the path through the centre of the park. The little areas off the path will hopefully help, but people cutting through the park really dislike if you're stopped to visit on the path. As it looks like the flowers will be very close to the edge of the path.
- No Dog off-leash area.
- Please ensure that *all* newly planted trees, as well as all plants intended for the meadow, are native to the Carolinian Zone, which the Toronto region belongs to. For references on which trees and plants to use, please refer to Tallgrass Ontario or the North American Native Plant Society.