

City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry and Recreation

New Park on King Street East

Phase 2: Exploring Design Options Online Survey Summary

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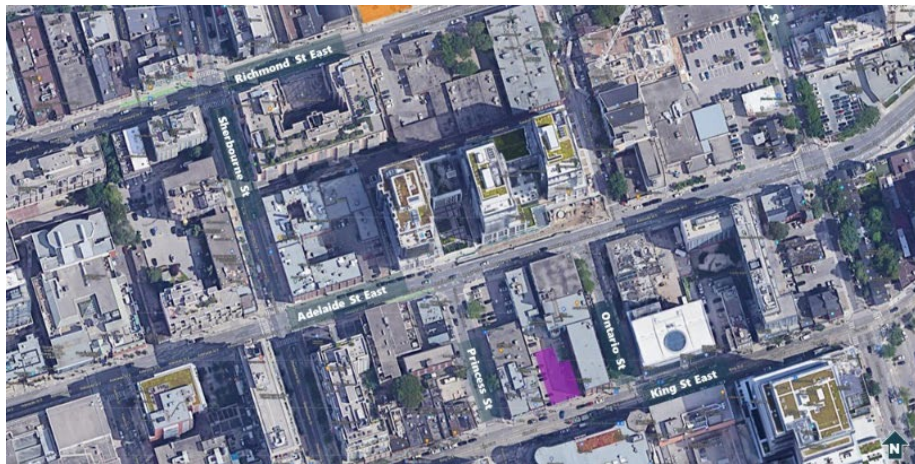
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Introduction

The City is collecting feedback on the design of two new parks, coming to King Street East and Richmond Street East. In this second phase of the community engagement process, the project team presented the draft design for the new park on King Street East to the local community for feedback and revisions. This document provides a summary of what we heard through the online survey that ran from December 18, 2023, to January 28, 2024.

The survey also collected feedback related to the new park on Richmond Street East. This feedback is presented in a separate summary that can be found on the [project webpage](#).

Project Background



**New Park
on King
470 m²**

Figure 1: The park (purple) will be 470 m² (about the size of a tennis court) and will be located on King East, on the north side of King Street, west of Ontario Street.

Design constraints for the park include:

- Large park amenities or sport features will not fit due to the park's limited size.
- A dog off-leash area will not be included due to the park's limited size.
- Real grass to walk or roll on (e.g. a lawn) will not be able to survive due to the heavy foot traffic.
- Washrooms will not be included given the size of the park and its proximity to the John Innes Community Recreation Centre, which has public washrooms.

Informed by feedback collected in earlier phases of community engagement, the vision for the new park is:

An accessible, green and calm urban oasis with spots for community members to sit, gather, and be social. The design focus in this park will be to celebrate and/or commemorate the history, presence, diversity, and future of the Black communities in the neighbourhood.

Draft Design

The draft design presented in this phase of community engagement responds to the feedback collected through previous community engagement. The points below summarize at a high level how community feedback was addressed in the draft design.



Community ask: Create a green and calm space.

Design response: Oasis-like lush greenery with large shading trees and mounded planting beds. Plantings will include native species that are selected to match the site conditions (e.g. the amount of shade, soil conditions, etc.).



Community ask: Create spots for community to sit, gather, and be social.

Design response: The central park area is left open to allow for moderately sized gatherings of up to 30 people. This configuration is reminiscent of African and Indigenous community gatherings, drum circles, and collective knowledge sharing and exchange. There are a variety of seating styles and locations included in the park, so people can choose the option that is most suitable for their needs. This includes benches with backrests (*some* of which have hand rails for accessibility), as well as tables and chairs.



Community ask: Celebrate and/or commemorate the history, presence, diversity and future of the Black communities in the neighbourhood.

Community ask: Include art

Design response: From Spring to Fall of 2023, a competition was held to hire a Black artist(s)/designer(s) to integrate artwork throughout the park and join the existing park design team. The successful artist and design team consists of Oluseye Ogunlesi, Odudu Umoessien, Ogbe David Ogbe, Chukwuebuka Stephen Idafum, Abel Omeiza, and Folusho Afun-Ogidan. Their artist statement on the work they will create for the park is included on the project webpage.



Community ask: Include Indigenous Placekeeping.

Design response: Terence Radford of Trophic Design is leading the design team's integration of Placekeeping in the design. In accordance with the principles of directionality, seating marks the southern and western sides of the park, while the eastern entry is open to allow circulation from the street and entry into the gathering space. The water feature is central in the park and aligns with the north. The water feature adds visual and audible layers, and seating near the water encourages visitors to engage with it. The four directions (north, south, east, west) will be inscribed in the paving in the centre of the park.

Through out the park, symbols are included that hold significance for both Black and Indigenous peoples, including water, cowrie shells, and cornrows (described in more detail in the artists' statement below). Lush plantings of native species are included through the park's organically-shaped planting beds.

The center of the space is left open to allow for moderately sized gatherings. The

space can accommodate up to 30 people in a circle. This configuration is reminiscent of Indigenous and African community gatherings, drum circles, and collective knowledge sharing and exchange.



Community ask: Ensure the park is safe.

Design response: Visibility into, out of, and through the park day and night. A clear visual and physical connection from Richmond Street, through the park, to King St as well as between Princess and Ontario Streets. Lighting throughout the park. Ambient lighting from the adjacent buildings will provide further visibility surrounding the park.



Community ask: Ensure accessibility.

Design response: Fully accessible park with wide pathways for easy navigation, and by pedestrians. Café tables and linear benches will have open sides and rest areas for people using mobility devices and strollers. Some seating will have arm rests to assist with getting in and out of seating. There are a variety of seating styles and locations included in the park, so people can choose the option that is most suitable for their needs. The drinking fountain is accessible. Large trees provide shade throughout the park.



Community Ask: Include shade

Design response: Large native trees will be planted throughout the park to provide natural shade in warm seasons.



Community Ask: Include a drinking fountain, community posting board, and waste and recycling bins

Design response: These are included in the design.

Who We Heard From

346+

Participants

The online survey received **201** responses from at least **346** 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 near the site of the new park. These notice boards provided information about the project, details about the online survey, and how to access additional information on the project webpage.

Posters

Posters replicating the larger project signage were placed on utility poles along streets and intersections near the new park.

Digital Media

Project Webpage

The webpage (toronto.ca/NewParksMossPark) 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

A digital flyer was circulated to the following for additional distribution: project listserve; the project's Black Communities Advisory Group; local schools; the City's Indigenous Affairs Office listserve and Indigenous Staff network; local, Black-serving, or Indigenous-serving groups and organisations; the City's Parks Forestry and Recreation Accessibility listserve; and the local Councillor's Office.

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 19, 2023, to January 27, 2024.



What We Heard

The community feedback collected through the online survey will inform the revisions to the design for the new park.

Key Feedback

The following is a summary of the key feedback collected through the survey.

Given the park design's focus on celebrating and/or commemorating the history, presence, diversity, and future of the Black communities in the neighbourhood, responses from the 12 participants who identified as Black have been highlighted below. Responses from the six participants who identified as Indigenous (First Nations, Inuit, Métis) have also been highlighted as the park design incorporates a variety of Indigenous Placekeeping elements. The full quantitative and qualitative results can be found in Appendices B and C, respectively.

- Overall, **73%** of the 201 respondents liked the draft design, **13%** disliked it, and **13%** neither liked nor disliked it.
 - **83%** of the 12 Black respondents liked the draft design, **8%** disliked it, and **8%** neither liked nor disliked it.
 - **33%** of the 6 Indigenous respondents liked the draft design, **50%** disliked it, and **17%** neither liked nor disliked it.
- **70%** of respondents thought the draft design had the right balance between open gathering space and plantings, **25%** thought it had too much open gathering space and not enough planting, and **2%** thought it had too much planting and not enough open gathering space.
 - **75%** of Black respondents thought the draft design had the right balance between open gathering space and plantings, and **25%** thought it had too much open gathering space and not enough planting.
 - **50%** of Indigenous respondents thought the draft design had the right balance between open gathering space and plantings, **33%** thought it had too much open gathering space and not enough planting, and **17%** thought it had too much planting and not enough open gathering space.
- **86%** of respondents were satisfied with the type of seating provided in the preferred design, and **9%** were not not satisfied.
 - **92%** of Black respondents were satisfied with the type of seating provided in the preferred design, and **8%** were not satisfied.
 - **67%** of Indigenous respondents were satisfied with the type of seating provided in the preferred design and **17%** were not not satisfied.
- **15** respondents left a comment, including:
 - A few respondents suggested adding more accessible seating, including space for mobility devices next to all seating
 - A couple of respondents suggested:
 - Adding more benches, including benches with back and arm rests
 - Adding natural or permeable seating

- Adding café tables
 - Removing stone or concrete seating because it can be uncomfortable
 - Adding grass to sit on
- Other suggestions included:
 - Adding tables with chairs
 - Adding more seating
 - Adding more wooden seating
- **71%** of respondents thought there was the right amount of seating, **17%** thought there was not enough seating, and **7%** thought there was too much seating.
 - **67%** of Black respondents thought there was the right amount of seating, **25%** thought there was not enough seating, and **8%** thought there was too much seating.
 - **67%** of Indigenous respondents thought there was the right amount of seating, and **17%** thought there was not enough seating.
- **30** respondents left a comment, including:
 - Some respondents suggested:
 - Adding more benches, including benches with back rests
 - Relocating seating to:
 - Benches facing water feature and centre of park
 - More seating along the edge of plant beds
 - Tables at the edge of the park
 - Seating near the park entrance on King Street
 - Seating that is more spread out
 - Adding more seating
 - A couple to a few respondents suggested:
 - Adding café tables
 - Adding more individual seating
 - Adding more tables
 - Adding grass to sit on
 - Other suggestions included:
 - Making seating accessible
 - Locating seating in safe areas
 - Adding more seating
 - Adding more wooden seating
 - Adding tables with chairs
 - Adding moveable chairs and tables
 - Adding a pee stone for dogs away from seating
 - Replacing stone disc seating with “City Tree” environmental seating
- **77%** of respondents were satisfied with the proposed water feature, and **16%** were not satisfied.
 - **75%** of Black respondents were satisfied with the proposed water feature, and **25%** were not satisfied.

- **50%** of Indigenous respondents were satisfied with the proposed water feature, and **33%** were not satisfied.
- **28** respondents left a comment, including:
 - A couple to a few respondents suggested:
 - A more interesting, attractive, or unconventional design
 - Adding more seating around it
 - Integrating it with the rest of the park design (e.g. more natural)
 - Replacing it with a wading pool or adding a splash area
 - Removing it
 - Moving it to a more central location
 - Other suggestions included:
 - Making it larger
 - Making it smaller
 - Taking inspiration from Ontario creek or something native to Southern Ontario
 - Adding interpretation of engraved lyric for non-African communities
 - Adding more Indigenous design elements around it
 - Replacing it with a small pond
 - Replacing it with a water fountain
 - Concern about drainage and maintenance
 - Concern about safety and children climbing on it
- Black respondents were asked how satisfied they were that the draft design accomplishes the vision of celebrating/commemorating the history, presence, diversity, and future of the Black communities in the neighbourhood:
 - **75%** were satisfied or very satisfied
 - **8%** were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
 - **16%** were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied
- Indigenous respondents were asked to provide feedback on the park design's Indigenous Placekeeping features:
 - **33%** liked the Indigenous Placekeeping features
 - **17%** neither liked nor disliked them
 - **50%** disliked them
 - A suggestion included adding more native plants.
- When asked if they had any comments or suggestions to improve accessibility, **8** respondents left a comment:
 - Ensuring and/or exceeding Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) standards, including accommodating a wide range of visible and invisible disabilities.
 - Avoiding anti-homeless architecture/defensive design
- When asked if they had any comments or suggestions to improve the preferred design, **49** respondents left a comment, including:
 - Some respondents suggested:
 - Adding grass or more green space

- A couple to a few respondents suggested:
 - Adding more trees, including fruit trees and mature trees
 - Removing the cowrie shell sculptures
 - Including less pavement or concrete
 - Acknowledging local history and prior uses (e.g. Design District, Ontario Design Centre)
 - Concern about dogs defecating and urinating in the park, including the plant beds
 - Adding a play area for kids
 - Including adequate lighting for safety
 - Ensuring the park is adequately maintained
 - Ensuring biodiversity
 - Concern about the park getting too hot in the summer
 - Concern about the park attracting drug users
- Other suggestions included:
 - Getting accessibility groups involved and receiving certification
 - Adding more seating
 - Adding pollinators and edible plants
 - Adding more bike parking at the park entrance
 - Adding a pet relief area
 - Adding a dog off-leash area
 - Adding a washroom
 - Making the park more kid-friendly
 - Making the park larger
 - Moving the drinking fountain closer to King Street
 - Replacing the plant beds in the southwest and northeast corners of the park with additional seating or water features
 - Concern about trash, animals, or water getting into cowrie shells
- When Black respondents were asked, “Are there any mass migrations of Black peoples to Canada you would like to see represented in the park?” (to inform the engravings into the braided pathways), responses included:
 - "Post WW2 need for cheap labour and National Act of 1948 attracted Black immigrants West Indian Domestic Scheme in 1950s/1960s"
 - "Trinidad & Tobago"
 - "Caribbean"
 - "Various Caribbean islands"
 - "Lincoln Alexander, Oscar Peterson. Louise Bennett Coverly, Jean Augustine, Rosemary Sadlier, Dudley Laws. Michalle Jean and Charles Roach."
- When Black respondents were asked, “From your experience, what are the places of origin most represented by Canada’s Black population?” (to inform the engravings into the braided pathways), responses included: Caribbean (3); Jamaica (3); East and West Africa; Barbados; Trinidad and Tobago; Haiti; South Africa; Ghana; Nigeria.
- When Black respondents were asked, “Can you tell us a little bit about your family history? For example, were you or your parents born here or did you and your family

migrate, and is your family's migration story part of a larger migration from a specific country or region of the world?" (to inform the engravings into the braided pathways), responses included:

- "Born in the Caribbean & family migrated. Father arrived first and applied for rest of family"
- "I'm not the usual immigrant. I'm from the U.S. I identify as black American. I own my own home alone with other properties."
- "(Half) of my family is from Barbados and Trinidad and came to Canada in the 70s (Montreal & Toronto)"
- "I was born in Canada my parents immigrated from Grenada and Dominica"
- "Both parents from Trinidad & Tobago. My father immigrated to Canada in the mid 90s and sponsored his children in 1999/2000."
- "We migrated here from Jamaica."
- "Born in Canada, parents are from Africa and South America"
- "My dad is from St Anne's Jamaica and came here in his 20s but I was born here in Toronto."
- "I am a first generation immigrant from Nigeria"








Next Steps

The feedback received from this phase of community engagement will be used to develop a preferred park design. To view the project timeline, to learn about the design's development and community engagement activities, and to sign up for project e-updates, visit the project webpage at toronto.ca/NewParksMossPark.



Appendix A: Respondent Demographics

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	0		
19 to 29 years old	29		17%
30 to 39 years old	51		30%
40 to 55 years old	58		34%
56 to 64 years old	15		9%
65 to 74 years old	9		5%
75 years old or above	3		2%
Prefer not to answer	7		4%

N 172












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

- 0 to 4 years old = 21
- 5 to 12 years old = 13
- 13 to 18 years old = 5
- 19 to 29 years old = 22
- 30 to 39 years old = 32
- 40 to 55 years old = 27
- 56 to 64 years old = 13
- 65 to 74 years old = 10
- 75 years old or above = 2

What language do you prefer speaking?




- English = 166 = 97%
- French = 4 = 2%
- Chinese - Mandarin = 1 = 1%
- Italian = 1 = 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, Russian, Slovakian)	91		53%
More than one race category or mixed race	17		10%
Prefer not to answer	17		10%
East Asian (e.g. Chinese, Japanese, Korean)	15		9%
South Asian or Indo-Caribbean (e.g. Indian, Indo- Guyanese, Indo-Trinidadian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan)	13		8%
Black (e.g. African, African-Canadian, Afro-Caribbean)	12		7%
Latin American (e.g. Brazilian, Colombian, Cuban, Mexican, Peruvian)	10		6%
Arab, Middle Eastern or West Asian (e.g. Afghan, Armenian, Iranian, Lebanese, Persian, Turkish)	8		5%
First Nations (status, non-status, treaty or non-treaty), Inuit or Métis	5		3%
Southeast Asian (e.g. Filipino, Malaysian, Singaporean, Thai, Vietnamese)	5		3%
Other, please describe	4		2%




N 172

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	6		3%
No	152		88%
Prefer not to answer	14		8%





N 172

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	25		15%
No	132		77%
Don't know	0		
Prefer not to answer	15		9%








N 172

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

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes	17		10%
No	140		81%
Don't know	1		1%
Prefer not to answer	14		8%










N 172

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	%
Woman	87		51%
Man	63		37%
Prefer not to answer	14		8%
Gender non-binary (including gender fluid, genderqueer, androgynous)	5		3%
Two-Spirit	4		2%
Trans woman	2		1%
Not listed, please describe	1		1%
Trans man	0		







N 172

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	99		58%
Gay	29		17%
Prefer not to answer	22		13%
Queer	12		7%
Bisexual	10		6%
Lesbian	5		3%
Two-Spirit	2		1%
Don't know	1		1%
Not listed, please describe	1		1%

N 172

What best describes your current housing situation?

	Count	% of responses	%
Home owner	100		58%
Renting	56		33%
Permanently living with parent(s) or other family member(s)	4		2%
Temporarily staying with others (no fixed address)	0		
Unhoused (staying outside, in a shelter, in a 24-hour respite)	2		1%
Prefer not to answer	9		5%
Not listed, please describe	1		1%

N 172





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	30		17%
I have access to semi-private/shared outdoor space	49		28%
I only have access to public spaces like parks (I do not have access to private or semi-private outdoor space)	86		50%
Prefer not to answer	7		4%

N 172




Appendix B: Quantitative Responses

Is this the right balance between open gathering space and plantings?

	Count	% of responses	%
too much planting, not enough open gathering space	4		2%
the right balance	122		70%
too much open gathering space, not enough planting	44		25%
Choose not to answer	5		3%





N 175

Tables (with spots for people using mobility devices and strollers) and chairs (with backs and arm rests), tiered stone seating, wooden benches (with backs and arm rests), and stone disk seating are provided in the park. This wide variety of seating types and areas creates a more accessible park, as people can choose to use the seating type they prefer. Are you satisfied with the type of seating provided?

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes	150		86%
No, include other forms of seating (please list)	15		9%
Choose not to answer	10		6%




N 175

Are there enough places to sit?

	Count	% of responses	%
too much seating	12		7%
the right amount of seating	124		71%
not enough seating Please list what type of seating you would add more of and/or the location:	30		17%
Choose not to answer	9		5%






N 175

The water feature will flow, like the example images below. The shape of the water feature is inspired by the calabash, a West African object used for storing water. "Water no get enemy" will be engraved on the brim of the water vessel. This well known lyric by Fela Kuti. Are you satisfied with the proposed water feature?

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes	135		77%
No (Please list what you would change)	28		16%
Choose not to answer	12		7%

N 175

If you identify as Black, how satisfied are you that the park design accomplishes the vision of celebrating/commemorating the history, presence, diversity, and future of the Black communities in the neighbourhood?

	Count	% of responses	%
Very dissatisfied	1		8%
Not satisfied	1		8%
Neutral	1		8%
Satisfied	4		33%
Very satisfied	5		42%
I do not identify as Black	0		

N 12

If you identify as First Nations (status, non-status, treaty or non-treaty), Inuit or Métis, how satisfied are you with the proposed Indigenous Placekeeping features in the park design?

	Count	% of responses	%
I dislike the placekeeping features a lot	1		17%
I dislike the placekeeping features a little	2		33%
I am neutral	1		17%
I like the placekeeping features a little	2		33%
I like the placekeeping features a lot	0		
I do not identify as First Nations (status, non-status, treaty or non-treaty), Inuit or Métis	0		

N 6

Overall, how satisfied are you with the preferred park design?

	Count	% of responses	%
I dislike it a lot	9		5%
I dislike it a little	14		8%
I am neutral	23		13%
I like it a little	55		31%
I like it a lot	74		42%

N 175

Appendix C: Qualitative Responses

Are you satisfied with the type of seating provided?

Other:

- Aging population and disabled need benches with armrests and backs.
- something more natural
- Cafe tables
- Tables with chairs
- Not enough seating
- Cafe tables would be practical here as well - the curved seating by the bushes would be quite impractical to those with allergies or from a safety perspective - I would not sit there as I wouldn't want to have the bushes to my back
- Wood seating is more comfortable. Avoid stone seating.
- More accessible options needed.
- More benches
- we need grass to sit on
- Accessible
- Stone or concrete seating is too hot in summer and too cold to sit in late fall and early spring.
- There should be nothing for homeless yo sleep
- More integrated accessible seating/room for mobility aids by all forms of seating
- Natural and permeable surfaces and things to sit on

Are there enough places to sit?

Other:

- Substitute CITY TREE environmental seating instead of those stone disks. Dogs will have them covered in PEE. Have a pee stone for dogs away from seating. Parrot and Maintenance needed in this park!
- sitting next to the water feature would be nice, think love park
- Benching within the curvature of some of the plantings
- Cafe tables
- Add some seating to areas 13 & 14. A short bench or circular seating.
- More seating, places to sit and hang out, or have lunch on a bench (but not tacky picnic tables)
- More benches and tables with chairs.
- Would add a few more
- More benches with backs in place of the areas where the bushes are at the back and cafe tables
- In secure and safe areas.
- More seating along the edges of the plant beds. And more tables to sit at.
- I don't see many seats
- More tables

- More benches
- I think they're could be a bit more seating
- There's lots is seating, but nobody will use it fully because it's next to each other. Strangers don't like to sit next to each other. Should be less seating spread out to form smaller social groups.
- More benches and seating areas
- we need grass to sit on
- More seating around the edge of trees and plant beds, benches perhaps, and a few tables at the edge of the park
- Benches with backrest facing water and middle
- Accessible
- Many students will enjoy the park at lunch time. Need more cafe tables and chairs like berczy park.
- More benches and perhaps some cafe seating.
- I classify grassy areas as 'seating' - picnic style like St. James or Cork town Commons. It would be nicer to see more grassy patches that can also double as gathering space
- More individual seating if and/or where possible.
- Benches
- More seating of all types.
- More seat with table in other area of park
- There should be chairs and small tables that can be moved

Are you satisfied with the proposed water feature?

Other:

- I would prefer an Ontario creek or something native to Southern Ontario.
- as mentioned before, would like it to have more room to sit
- i mean to say yes, but wondering how it would fare during the winter - would it be emptied? freeze over?
- [REDACTED]
- If this is why it's going to look like, it better be safe to kids to climb on, because guaranteed, my kids would climb on that.
- It would be great if it could be larger & centralized
- A runoff from the fountain space for kids to splash in the summer
- Eliminate the water feature. The city won't maintain it and it will be dry in under 5 years.
- Yes but it seems like it should be a more central feature instead of the conch shells and seating should be designed around it
- Not sure what the water feature adds. But if one is required, a fountain is better
- Should be less conventional. The story and inspiration is interested, would like to hear more about it.
- I would make a shallow pond that has fish in it and a bridge
- Shape and engraving.
- Prefer something that reclaims the space for the natural environment rather than something that reads as a architectural element.
- Make it a wading pool

- engraved saying is not clear - interpretation is needed for non-African communities
- Calabash is used in most Caribbean countries too.
- No water feature. They are never cleaned and not maintained by the city well
- Approach around it. More native design.
- The water should not fall into mesh ground bec the leaves can clog the drain causing a mess and flood. This design requires too much maintenance.
- Its ugly.
- Ugly. It looks like a [REDACTED]
- seems blah, not wow.
- Why honour west Africa all over the city (yd square renaming?!) there are other areas of Africa and the rest of the world to be inspired by
- Just doesn't look very good very boring water feature. Maybe a fountain or a more natural looking small pond would look better, anything but this.
- Does not look / feel well integrated with the rest of the design and flow of space.
- Per image looks too big for spacing.
- please put seating around this feature

If you identify as First Nations (status, non-status, treaty or non-treaty), Inuit or Métis, please share any feedback or suggestions you have about the proposed Indigenous Placekeeping features in the park design.

- [REDACTED]
- More natives plants.
- [REDACTED]

The park design will meet all Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) standards. If you have any comments or suggestions to improve the accessibility of this space based on the draft design, please provide them here.

- City Tree. Please be the first to use them here. Benches with arms and backs! The park needs to be clean, safe and sanitary! Patrols twice a day at least.
- The
- Need to meet and exceed AODA.
- Current anti-homeless architecture is inaccessible to housed community members - not large enough, too slanted etc. Kindly avoid anti-homeless architecture. Thank you.
- Try as best to accommodate a wide range of disabilities visible and invisible.
- Get certified accessibility.
- Her the same designers who did the dog park next to the flat iron
- Green space. people have disabilities and need to get around but everyone all of us need more plants and natural areas in Toronto!

If you have any other comments or suggestions for improving the preferred park design that you have not already shared, please provide them here. You may leave this response blank.

- Again look at the “ City Tree” used in Europe for the environment! Please use them here. Dogs. What about the dog pee and poop? Sometimes their urine and the smell makes seating impossible. Maintenance and enforcement should be number one. Those gold sculpture thing could be eliminated in favour of environmental seating and maintenance . They will be used as pee stones. More green ground cover please!
- I like the enlarged planting beds. I would like to see older trees planted (not saplings) and a care plan in place for them.
- In the 1970s, we paved over paradise and made it a parking lot. In the 2020s, we're digging up the ugly asphalt and replacing it with more aesthetic paving stones. How long do you think it will take to get back to paradise? When I think of Indigenous people, I think of stewards of the land -- preserving the environment and biodiversity. These parks fall far short of preserving the environment and biodiversity.
- reduce concrete use, replace with natural materials
- Seems like it might get too hot in summer and some more trees would be nice.
- Pet relief areas are essential in this area with dense condos and limited green space. Designated areas for dogs to relieve themselves is necessary, or else park fixtures will simply get covered in pet waste.
- Please ensure there is ongoing funds to maintain this park - so many places are reared and then after a few years due to lack of maintenance the plants and trees die and the space is choked with weeds and graffits
- Stop wasting our money! [REDACTED]
- Please consider including additional bike parking at the entrance of the park
- It should not take 5 years to design and build a tennis court size park
- There is absolutely no grass. All the paths are interlocked. A park should have space to picnic and lay in the grass. Some space to play in.
- This space was the “Ontario Design Centre” the building was home to many arts organizations and creative companies. Some of that should be reflected in the design [REDACTED]
- The cowrie shells are ugly
- I love this design and I am so glad this area is getting some green space. Thank you!
- This is a GREAT design. Why can't the Richmond Park be more similar to this? Wow.
- Looks absolutely beautiful. My only concern is that the brick looks very bumpy and difficult to go over on wheels.
- The shell medallions are extremely ugly and take away from the serenity of the park. Their proportions are also too large for the area, and only serve to visually block the views and flow is impeded as well.
- I think the park looks really nice. Only question is why is it built to not celebrate the history of the area?... such as the poor Irish fleeing harsh conditions in their homeland. Otherwise does it need to celebrate any specific culture? Why not make it just a beautiful space without any symbolism to any race or religions.

- [REDACTED]
- I think the plant beds on the north side (near spots 5 and 9 on the map) will end up being used as dog pee pads. (Despite several dog areas in very close proximity of this park dog owners regularly show disregard for public spaces) I think it may be better utilized by adding another water element or another seating place.
- Again absolutely nothing for kids here.
- Please add fruit trees, plants for pollinators and edible plants.
- More green space - needs to be 75% trees, grass and plants
- Again this park is lacking some kids play area
- Please have it look as close to the mock-ups as possible!!! It looks really good, I'm impressed.
- Please think about biodiversity of native plants and more natural looking elements. Stop trying to blend in with the condos and instead give a sense of nature in the city
- Dogs poop in these places. Please incorporate that into your designs.
- I think that despite the community centre at the recreation centre there should be public washrooms here as well
- How to deter pigeons and bird feeding
- Choices given do not meet AODA. Get accessibility groups involved. Get certification.
- Replace some of the brick and concrete-covered ground with grass so that it feels more natural and green. Especially in the winter, this will just look like another cold, unwelcoming, urban area with brick/concrete.
- The cowrie shells look like they have an opening that would allow for people to put garbage in, small animals could get trapped and for standing water to collect. This seems to be a large design flaw.
- I like the separate areas create a sense that you could be out amongst the community, even if you're together. Feels approachable. Water feature is great, but had no idea about the lyric inspiring the engraving.
- Get same designers who did the dog park. [REDACTED]
- Please include more grass to make it more like a park
- I like that the paving seems to match the nearby new Richmond park design, which gives the neighbourhood a common aesthetic language.
- More trees and grass , less heat absorbing concrete and Brick. Remember climate change we feel in this city. Make a change to cool it off.
- More natural green space. Stop with the planters and make more of the surfaces permeable!
- The bronze shells sitting in the middle of the park are an eyesore easily my least favourite part of the park.
- Please make sure there's adequate lighting. It's a dangerous area of the city.
- With 2 new parks arriving in the neighbourhood it's shameful that one of them isn't a fenced in dog park. It would be used more than a regular park. We are severely under serviced as dog owners
- The park incorporates many meaningful features of importance to the black community while creating an artistic and comfortable space.
- Where is the grass? How about a play area for children?

- [REDACTED]
- It would be good to have water fountain closer to entrance on King Street without having to go all the way in to park. Not sure how much lighting there will be but hoping there will be more than one lamp post.
- It is very small. This should be three times the size.
- I think there is too much pavement. Would like to see some grass and more green space.
- I am worried it will get too hot in the summer!
- More trees and greenery always welcome as well more to acknowledge and celebrate it's location in the historic Design District.

Are there any mass migrations of Black peoples to Canada you would like to see represented in the park?

- Various Caribbean islands
- Trinidad & Tobago
- Carribean
- Post WW2 need for cheap labour and National Act of 1948 attracted Black immigrants West Indian Domestic Scheme in 1950s/1960s
- Lincoln Alexander, Oscar Peterson, Louise Bennett Coverly, Jean Augustine, Rosemary Sadlier, Dudley Laws, Michalle Jean and Charles Roach.
- No

From your experience, what are the places of origin most represented by Canada's Black population?

- Caribbean
- Caribbean.
- Jamaica
- Caribbean - historically East Africa - contemporary history West Africa - current history
- Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago Haiti, South Africa.
- Ghana
- I don't understand the question.
- Nigeria and Jamaica

Can you tell us a little bit about your family history? For example, were you or your parents born here or did you and your family migrate, and is your family's migration story part of a larger migration from a specific country or region of the world?

- Born in the Carribean & family migrated. Father arrived first and applied for rest of family
- I'm not the usual immigrant. I'm from the U.S. I identify as black American. I own my own home alone with other properties.
- (Half) of my family is from Barbados and Trinidad and came to Canada in the 70s (Montreal & Toronto)

- I was born in Canada my parents immigrated from Grenada and Dominica
- Both parents from Trinidad & Tobago. My father immigrated to Canada in the mid 90s and sponsored his children in 1999/2000.
- We migrated here from Jamaica.
- Born in Canada, parents are from Africa and South America
- My dad is from St Anne's Jamaica and came here in his 20s but I was born here in Toronto.
- I am a first generation immigrant from Nigeria