

City of Toronto – Parks Development & Capital Projects

# Moss Park Park Improvements and John Innes Community Recreation Centre Replacement

## Local Advisory Group (LAG)

### Meeting Summary

June 13, 2023



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# Introduction

On June 13, 2023, the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division (PF&R) at the City of Toronto hosted the final Local Advisory Group meeting for the Moss Park park improvements and John Innes Community Recreation Centre replacement. Nine Local Advisory Group and Project Champions attended the meeting, as well as project team members from the City of Toronto Parks Forestry and Recreation and consultants The Planning Partnership, Two Row Architects, and MJMA Architects.

## Meeting Goals

The purpose of the meeting was to present and seek feedback on the proposed final building and landscape design for the Moss Park Improvements/ John Innes CRC Replacement. The meeting agenda is attached to this summary as Appendix A.

## Overview

Participants reviewed and discussed the proposed park and CRC designs in small groups, and shared notes on what they liked, and what they would like to see updated in the designs. The discussion prompts included:

1. What are your thoughts on the proposed final building and park design?
2. How well does the proposed final design reflect community feedback?  
Is there anything missing?
3. Do you have any advice as we prepare to present the preferred designs to the broader community?
4. Do you have any other feedback or advice for the project team?

This summary includes the outcome of these small group discussions. It was written by The Planning Partnership, who are part of the project team designing the new Moss Park park improvements. This summary is not intended to be a verbatim transcript; rather it summarizes key points of discussion shared by participants during the meeting.

# Summary of Discussion

The following is a summary of questions, answers, and suggestions shared at the meeting. Responses from the project team (where provided) are noted in *italics*.

## A. John Innes CRC Replacement

### What participants said they liked

- **The electromagnetic glass for privacy**
- **The dance room**

### What participants said was missing

- **More fun play toys in swimming pool.** Consider adding more play value to the indoor pool.
- **A sauna or hot tub.**

### Suggestions to consider

- **Self-cleaning outdoor washrooms.**
- **Timed alarm for the outdoor washrooms.** Consider including a timed alarm with motion sensor that goes off if there has not been any movement in the washroom for a period of time. This could potentially help to prevent overdoses.
- **Special treatment for design and staffing of the outdoor washrooms.** The way typical outdoor washrooms are designed and maintained likely will not work in Moss Park. There need to be special considerations in design and staffing.
- **Supervision for the outdoor washrooms.** Consider new ways to staff the facility and keep the washrooms monitored, to keep people safe. Also consider security at this location 24/7.
- **Consider making the leisure pool deeper.**
- **Edible plant material for the rooftop.** Consider using the rooftop to grow foods that can be used in the kitchen programming.
- **Activating the rooftop more.** Keep the space as active as possible.
- **Extending the women's only programming.** Ensure that, in addition to providing privacy for the pool and changeroom, other spaces can also be made private (e.g. fitness or multipurpose spaces).
- **Changing the dance room the "dance and music room".** And consider adding music programming to the space (including a piano, drum kit, hand drums, and storage space).
- **Ensure the dance room is sound proof.**
- **Ensure inviting entryway from the park.** Most people will end up entering from the park side. Please ensure this entrance to the building is very inviting and noticeable.
- **Designated indoor study spaces.** Consider adding flexible workspaces for all ages wherever possible.

## B. Moss Park Park Improvements

### What participants said they liked

- **The park design theme “The Creek”**

### What participants said was missing

- **Signage.** Consider adding signage to explain the park’s connection to the buried Moss Park Creek, bike parking within the park, community garden rules and gardening.
- **Outdoor hand washing station.** Consider adding a pedal activated hand washing station between the children’s play area and the community garden.

### Suggestions to consider

- **Designated age-appropriate play areas.** Consider including designated areas for younger and older children in the playground and splashpad.
- **Wider path along the Armoury.** Consider making the path along the west edge of the park wider, since many people are using it every day. (Some participants thought that this path will be less necessary with the additional paths that are being provided within the new park design).
- **Provide measures to slow down cyclists.** Consider creating moments at the park entrances to prevent cyclists from rushing through the park. Encourage cycling around the park rather than through the park.
- **Tree planting to prevent glare at tennis courts.** Consider planting larger trees to shade the tennis courts and prevent people from getting sun in their eyes while playing.

### Other

- **Two project champions showed interest in the stewardship that will be required for the food forest.**

# Next Steps

## Community Engagement

In this phase, the preferred design for the new centre and park will be presented to the community for a final round of feedback and revisions:

- Online survey: June 27 to July 17 2023
- Community pop-ups: June 2023
- Public meeting: June 29 , 2023, 1:30-3:30 p.m. OR 6 - 8 p.m. at John Innes CRC
- Project Champions will promote engagement events and gather feedback from their community networks in this final phase of community engagement.
- Engagement with Indigenous Communities: Summer to Fall 2023

## LAG Wrap-Up

This is the final LAG meeting. Should they be required, future project update meetings will be arranged on an as-needed basis. Members can continue to reach out to the project team with feedback, questions, or concerns directly through email. Ongoing construction e-updates for major work will be communicated through e-updates every 1-3 months, or as frequently as required. LAG members and Project Champions will receive all ongoing construction updates, along with any other community members who have signed up for e-updates through the project webpage.

# Contact Us

For questions or comments related to this project, please contact:

### **Suzanne Cooke-Wooland**

Senior Project Coordinator, Community Recreation Centre

Telephone: 416-395-6773

Email: [Suzanne.Cooke-Wooland@toronto.ca](mailto:Suzanne.Cooke-Wooland@toronto.ca)

### **Nancy Chater**

Project Manager, Park

Telephone: 416-338-5237

Email: [Nancy.Chater@toronto.ca](mailto:Nancy.Chater@toronto.ca)

### **Alex Lavasidis**

Senior Public Consultation Coordinator

Telephone: 416-318-1887

Email: [Alex.lavasidis@toronto.ca](mailto:Alex.lavasidis@toronto.ca)

# Appendix A – Meeting Agenda

Moss Park Improvements John Innes CRC Replacement  
Setting the Direction



## **FINAL LAG MEETING**

Tuesday June 13 from 4 – 6 p.m.

Regent Park Community Centre, 402 Shuter St. Second Floor.

**Meeting purpose:** To present and seek feedback on the proposed final building and landscape design for the Moss Park Improvements/ John Innes CRC Replacement

## **AGENDA**

**4:00 p.m. Welcome and Introductions**

**4:10 Presentation:**

- **Updated Project Schedule**
- **What we Heard**
- **John Innes CRC Preferred Design**
- **Moss Park park Preferred Design**
- **Next Steps (LAG wrap-up and broader community engagement)**

**5:05 Questions of Clarification**

**5:20 Discussion**

- **Feedback on the preferred designs**
- **Suggestions for improving the presentation for broader community engagement**

**5:55 Next steps review and adjourn by 6:00 p.m.**