

City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry, and Recreation

New Park on Richmond Street East

Phase 3: Setting the Direction Online Survey Summary




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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	6		3%
the right balance	98		51%
too much open gathering space, not enough planting	89		46%





N 193

Café 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	172		86%
No, include other forms of seating (please list)	19		9%
Choose not to answer	10		5%




N 201

Are there enough places to sit?

	Count	% of responses	%
too much seating	22		11%
the right amount of seating	139		69%
not enough seating Please list what type of seating you would add more of and/or the location:	30		15%
Choose not to answer	10		5%





N 201

Are you satisfied with the accessible community stage?

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes	159		79%
No Please share what you would change:	20		10%
Choose not to answer	22		11%






N 201

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	1		17%
I am neutral	1		17%
I like the placekeeping features a little	3		50%
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	15		7%
I dislike it a little	26		13%
I am neutral	27		13%
I like it a little	76		38%
I like it a lot	57		28%

N 201

Appendix C: Qualitative Responses

Are you satisfied with the type of seating provided?

Other:

- Exclude stone seating wooden or fake wooden benches. Dogs PEE everywhere. Have an area away from seating with a pee stone for dogs. Not where people sit.
- Reduce seating and include more native plants
- beach chairs, where you can lean back.
- It looks like the cafe chairs are removable. They should be attached to the ground or they will disappear
- There should be more grass to sit on. Not all bricks and cement.
- Are people going to want to sit here to eat? Tons of (idling) vehicle traffic and will there be sunshine?
- Stone seating can be painful to sit on. Please focus more on wood.
- not adaptable enough.
- More European style
- Don't put cafe tables and chairs
- More accessible
- The community is still in transition with it's proximity to Moss park. Movable seats will go missing in no time. We'd need to focus on fixed seating at this time.
- Just make areas with grass to sit on. What is with the obsessive use of concrete and built areas in parks?! Let nature make the park a green lush plant filled park. Less human intervention please!
- There's no grass underfoot.
- Maybe you can include some cement chaise lounge seating - a good spot for people to read or relax longer in the sun.
- Suspicious of the idea that 'stone disk seating' is accessible
- Great options, but if one is short seating depth is often too deep. Front of seat hits upper calf.

Are there enough places to sit?

Other:

- The overall configuration of the. Plantings and the seating area vs gathering. And walk through areas make it feel more like a mid block connecting via a park/place. It needs a focus. The focus should not just be for events which are far and few between the regular daily use of this space. Add some whimsy!! Bring through the indigenous elements in a more interesting way. Too many urban parks try and focus on event space at the expense of community use. Introduce play - not a playground but design elements in
- more tables
- More cafe tables
- Benches
- More seating needed around the performance area
- There should be more grass to sit on. Not all bricks and cement.
- More benches overlooking greenery
- More chairs instead of steps, often I see steps get covered in peoples' garbage.
- in more open spaces
- More of all types

- Benches would be nice
- More bench's with backs
- More seats and tables for eating
- More YEAR ROUND cafe seating (it's nice enough in Dec. for people to eat lunch outside still!!!) and more benches or oval-shaped seating
- Maybe a few more benches
- Seating with backs and arms.
- a few more cafe tables spaced to discourage delivery bike traffic without disrupting pedestrian movement
- More accessible
- More benches and more cafe seating.
- need more ntegrated accessible seating.
- Add some grass to sit on - too much concrete.
- More of all types.
- Seating for family time pinics an umbrellas in the summer lots of big shady trees

Are you satisfied with the accessible community stage?

Other:

- No need at all for this structure.
- This will just sit unused. Integrate more into the design so that daily use of the space will occur.
- will there be outlets available for the speakers pictured to be plugged in?
- Water feature would be better than a stage.
- Needs to be more clear. Needs to exceed AODA.
- No
- This will never get used - there's already one at Adelaide/Jarvis that isn't used
- Nothing.
- Not useful
- I'd rather it be way more natural than it is right now. It's basically just a concrete slab that people will use as seating instead of a stage. Can you make it more of a natural stage with either plants, earth or stones to integrate more nature in?
- No tiered, no steps, open seating- no armrests
- Why do we need a stage area at all.
- The modern condo is next door and a new condo is going up to the west of the planned park. Having lived next door (in the modern), respect for people's homes being next door needs to be considered when adding space for likely "noisy" performances and events.
- As well, ground level performance space with tiered seating often blocks or excludes people who use mobility aids. Make sure to indicated accessible seating space to include
- It's a park. Why does it need a concrete stage?! Natural permeable stage is needed instead!
- I don't believe the stage is required and would prefer a multi use flat area for flexibility.
- Why must there be a stage?
- More family outings can occur with more parks
- Would prefer true greenspace! Is there a need for a stage? How often would it be used when compared to greenspace? Could there be a grassy area where temporary stages are set up as needed?

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 - less concrete, more green space. Please be the first to install a “ City Tree” environmental feature. Perfect location for this and GOOD for this environment. Ask your councillor to check it out and our Mayor. I can't leave the survey to find the link. Please do this in this park make Toronto a healthy place to live.

and performances, make sure you speak to [REDACTED] they do the most performances and events in this neighbourhood/area.

- Water feature should be added.
- More greenery or a small water feature would make it more interesting to spend time in this space when an event isn't going on
- Higher more decorative railings around flowerbeds
- Please try to keep the ground flat and smooth so that it's easier to skate through. I also imagine the bumpiness of the tile would be relevant to those in mobility devices, but I am not disabled so I would maybe ask that community.
- Is the lack of grass a tactic to avoid unhoused folks from setting up camp? It seems that way.
- Don't bother with the Community Posting Board. These are unnecessary, under-utilized and just end up being an eyesore after awhile.
- There was mentioned that jamii a local organization should have more influence than everyone else in the design process, I disagree jamii does not own and pay property taxes nor do they represent the community and their opinion should be only that.
- This would be awesome as a roller skate park (surface). Could be the site of special skating events and one of the only areas in the city that can accommodate this activity.
- More green space and pet refuge area. This neighbourhood has no pet refuge areas and pet waste is all over the sidewalks
- A water feature would be great as additional source for kids even if it is just a sprinkler (similar to the one on the Jarvis/Adelaide kids playground)
- This is an adult area with many supportive services and is needed for the community to enjoy a public space. I work and live in the area and it's inclusive of many. Too many splash pads and dog parks and not enough basic quiet in many new parks. Adults need quiet and seating especially elders.
- There's nothing for kids here and so much concrete. Hardly a park
- Where is the safety for 2SLGBTQ+ community engaged upon? No description on canvassing or covering this topic, or addressing these ongoing issues.
- Three important things: 1- make sure the design won't accommodate 'tent cities' 2- native perennial plants that are pollinators are better than grass 3- a place for people to walk through but also hang out with kids
- To predict and design max plantation and trees
- I don't know what kinds of plants are intended for the space, but there should be fruit trees, vegetables and edible plants incorporated as well as plants for pollinators.
- Not enough flowers or water element
- Needs more green space - park should be grass and plants. Why does the city keep hiring incompetent planners.
- What evidence is there that there will be too much foot traffic to have real grass? I live at Adelaide and Ontario with a view of the future park and it is rare to see anyone walking in the area. There is no natural grass anywhere in the neighbourhood so I hope this can change. If not, I'd like to see turf or more plants/greenery as there isn't much in the area.
- Some kids play area or splash pad would encourage family to go there.
- You will have to prevent loitering, drug use, and encampments in any new park. Instead of spending money on new parks why not clean up Sherbourne and Shuter or Allen Gardens first. Just a suggestion.
- Downtown needs more natural spaces. Bring in more native plants and trees
- No dogs unless it is a seeing eye dog.
- In the design, please consider also safety for individuals walking through at night - all areas are visible from the street to avoid anyone hiding behind seating or plants and everything is well lit at night. Thanks!

- Too much brick and concrete. We need more greenery
- This is a highly residential area with lots of dogs. You can ignore the fact that dogs will do their business here, but the likely outcome is that they will. Please integrate some sort of space for them to go to or mechanisms for the smell to not be putrid (like dirt/grass patches or something)
- There should be more grass, as long as it's regularly maintained
- Think it would be nice to include more greenery/plants/trees as there is no grass. Would be nice to have a water feature potentially? Would be nice to have a water fountain that also has a dog water fountain and a water bottle filler.
- Increasing the size of the planting area should be considered. The area where the park is going is a green space desert and having larger planting areas will be beneficial. It would be exceptional to focus on one or multiple planting areas with plants that bees and butterflies like. Native when possible. Thank you.
- More greenery / green space. More lighting. We are desperate for greenery in this area. And lighting, especially at night, can activate a space and make it feel more safe. Think rainbow lighting of Barbara Hall Park in Church Wellesley Village, or lighting in Distillery.
- How will pigeons and bird feeding be deterred
- Get certified accessibility.
- Add areas with grass. It feels cold and unnatural because all the ground is brick or concrete. The only plants are in planters separated from where people sit and stand. The little nature that's included feels closed off.
- and surrounded by hi-rise buildings.....Possibly take out some trees.
- I disagree whole heartedly with the original constraint that 'Real grass to walk or roll on (e.g. a lawn) will not be able to survive due to the heavy foot traffic.' This is not a high traffic area, and it will be another 15 years before it ever gets close. Even with all of the new high rises in the area, it's not a huge walking community yet. All I want from a park is a place in this city that isn't paved or bricked, where I can put my feet in real grass and feel grounded with the earth for 5 minutes. Adding even one small grassed mound or hill in place of one of the flower sections, even if there's a tree on it, would allow both that connection with the earth still, plus an additional place for people to sit (excluding mobility constrained), without removing any space from the already planned accessible areas. I just don't think we need another bricked space. We need a place to connect to nature.
- I realize this is addressed above, but it would be nice to actually have space that could be used for toddlers and young children to play given the number of families living in the surrounding condos/apartments and the lack of other safe options for young children close by (Moss Park playground frequently has dead mice in the playground, needles, and lots of other hazards). Some grass - even artificial - where a mother and children could lay out a blanket and play would be nice or a small play area in one of the corners or sides of the park. Considering making this a "no dogs area" would be nice as there is already a lot of feces and urine on the building (where I live) next door and surrounding sidewalks. There will only be more of this in the park on all the concrete and more litter. Please ensure garbage receptacles at BOTH ends of the park to mitigate this.
- Moss Park is one of Toronto's oldest neighbourhoods. It deserves to be celebrated. A large part of its early history was devoted to the city's commercial and industrial expansion. In fact, some of the remnants of this era is being incorporated into the development of which this new park will connect to. I urge the City of Toronto to honour this neighbourhood's past by naming the park something that will reflect Moss Park's long forgotten history. Please consider.
- Designated pet peeing/ pooping spaces
- Please please please modernize those ugly huge park signs. The design is dated. They're too big and imposing. And they do nothing for the overall aesthetic of the space.
- Less concrete more grass and trees to cool down in shade. Without green we just have a hot uncomfortable mess. Way to fight climate change is grow trees not concrete.

- Real natural not over constructed planter green space. Please stop with these gross generic planter based areas covered with concrete that the city labels parks. It's disgusting and insults the needs of all the people of Toronto!
- When it comes to new parks I'm always a fan of more greenery and natural eco-friendly materials being used such as wood for benches and tables. Overall very satisfied with the design so far.
- Please ensure there's lots of lighting. This is a high-crime neighbourhood, and people need to feel safe.
- With 2 new parks arriving in our neighborhood, it's a real shame no dog park is provided. If both parks are too small, then one should have been for dogs. This neighborhood is lacking in fenced in dog parks.
- Very impressive layout that has worked to incorporate the ideas brought forward from many of diverse backgrounds.
- Where is the grass? Too much concrete. Concrete will reflect the heat and hurt the planet.
- Considering the neighbourhood, you'll probably want some place for the disposal of used needles
- Would love for there to be more greenery in the park, and have an area for dogs to pee.
- Understanding the existing constraints for grass space. But reality is that dog owners will have their pets relieve themselves with or without the space. It'd be good to have some small space to to at least let them relieve themselves without being on the main walking space.
- Wish there were more naturalized areas / places for mature trees to grow and planting to thrive.
- I feel there should be some grass. There is a lot of pavement for an area densely populated with dogs and young children. It will smell in the summer time and there is already such limited green space in this area.
- Water bottle refill station or combo drinking fountain/bottle refill station.

If you are a member of Black communities in the neighbourhood, do you have any suggestions for the topic of the plaque at the front of the park that will celebrate local Black communities? You may leave this response blank.

- Why celebrate this? Why are you trying to spark division!! Enough!
- Celebrating Black families or modern day Black artists
- Highlight local black heros/figures who have made change and impacted east downtown.
- Housing and homeless-serving Black leaders
- Insriptions of names of Canadian (ACB) African Caribbean and Blacks on walls.
- The park should be color blind. Treat everyone equally. Don't do identity politics on my tax money

Content warning: The following comments reference unhoused communities, street involved people, or drug use which some may find offensive.

- Stop [REDACTED] and homeless from using the park.
- Make sure it doesn't become a place for [REDACTED] to loaf
- Please take into account that this neighbourhood has a fairly high homeless population. Any seating will be used/occupied by said population, rendering seating unusable for other people. Please consider options to reduce odds of park becoming another encampment.
- No hidden green spaces. Noting that will not attract homeless and drug addicts. Don't make a park for the homeless or drug addicts.

- Ensure that there is lots of lighting so that it deters [REDACTED] & drug addicts. Bench should be designed so not to allow people to sleep on it.
- There are a lot of homeless people in this neighbourhood and we fear that this park will become a hangout for them.
- More tables - make the park so the homeless won't take it over
- Any seating will be used by [REDACTED] and other homeless people to do drive
- Still feels there's a lot of paving and brick and no grassy areas for seating or expand plant features. I live in the area and it's just going to be overrun by unhoused and addicts if lots of open paved spaces and benches and areas for drug use. More greenery always appreciated in downtown core and needed.
- Too much homeless in the area for that kind of seating
- It's going to be used for homeless people to sleep. This park will be riddled with needles
- Still not clear how you will keep this park from being other large spot for drug use and informal bathroom for the homeless communities. All our streets already have needles and urine smell, I don't see how the design of this park is addressing these concerns.