

City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry & Recreation

# Bob Acton Park Improvements

## Playground Design Options Survey Summary Report

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## Introduction

The City engaged community residents and park users on the new playground coming to Bob Acton Park, located at 45 William Hancox Avenue, through an online survey that closed on August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023, a public meeting that took place on July 11, 2023, as well as at a pop-up that took place on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 5 to 7 p.m. The new playground is intended to add an additional space for youth to enjoy and introduce more opportunities for the local community to gather.

### Phase 2: Exploring Options

The project is currently in Phase 2 of engagement. The objective of this phase is to present and collect feedback and preferences on the draft design options for the new playground and park masterplan. There are three options for the new playground that can be found in this report under *Appendix A – Playground Images*.

The following sections provide a summary of communications with the local community and results from the online survey, including summaries of what the project team (or, "we") heard.

## How We Reached People

The community was informed of engagement activities through social and print media, listed below:

### Print Media

#### Community Mail Outs (Postcards)

9,927 postcards advertising the project webpage and online survey were delivered to addresses in the neighbourhood within 500m of the site.

### Digital Media

#### Project Webpage

A webpage ([toronto.ca/BobActonPark](https://toronto.ca/BobActonPark)) was set up to act as a communications portal to inform the public about the new park project. The webpage hosts all up to date information regarding the project, including a sign-up button for e-updates.

#### eFlyer

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



## Social Media and Digital Ads

The City of Toronto used its Facebook and Instagram accounts to promote the virtual community meeting and online survey through paid advertisements and organic posts from June 22 to August 18.

## What We Heard

### Online Survey

344

Respondents

**Over 344 people** responded to an online survey between June 22 to July 17, 2023, providing ideas and preferences to inform the park's playground design. The full results can be found in Appendix A.

### Playground Design Options

- When asked what playground design option respondents preferred, the **most preferred** design options were:
  1. Design Option C (48%)
  2. Design Option B (36%)
  3. Design Option A (8%)

### Playground Features

- When asked what features in **Design Option A** respondents liked:
  - The five **most popular** play features were:
    1. Swing set (68%)
    2. Senior play structure for ages 5 to 12 (57%)
    3. Junior play structure for ages 2 to 5 (47%)
    4. Monkey bars (42%)
    5. Miniature climbing wall (37%)
- When asked what features in **Design Option A** respondents disliked:
  - The five **least popular** features were:
    1. Spinner bowl (26%)
    2. Play panels (22%)
    3. Fireman's pole (20%)
    4. Saucer/disk swing (14%)
    5. Somersault bar (12%)
- When asked what features in **Design Option B** respondents liked:

- The five **most popular** play features were:
  1. Challenge bridge (63%)
  2. Swing set (58%)
  3. Climbing cable net (50%)
  4. Miniature climbing wall (33%)
  5. Playset hammock (32%)
- When asked what features in **Design Option B** respondents disliked:
  - The five **least popular** features were:
    1. Tic-tac-toe panel (25%)
    2. Play panels (18%)
    3. Spinner (18%)
    4. Spring rider (10%)
    5. Saucer/disc swing (10%)
- When asked what features in **Design Option C** respondents liked:
  - The five **most popular** play features were:
    1. Obstacle course (57%)
    2. Senior play structure for ages 5 to 12 (46%)
    3. Swing set (42%)
    4. Balancing beam (38%)
    5. Double slide for ages 5 to 12 (35%)
- When asked what features in **Design Option C** respondents disliked:
  - The five **least popular** features were:
    1. Play panels (21%)
    2. Spring rider (19%)
    3. Sensory play panel (14%)
    4. Saucer net climber (9%)
    5. Double toddler slide (9%)

### Playground Colour Options

- When asked what colours respondents like best, the **most popular** colours were:
  1. Earthy colours: like green, brown, and grey (50%)
  2. Bright colours: like yellow, orange, and purple (42%)
  3. No preference (8%)

### Playground Seating Options

- When asked what seating options respondents prefer, the **most popular** options were:
  1. Umbrella tables (72%)
  2. Benches (51%)

3. Picnic tables (34%)
  4. No preference (4%)
- When asked if respondents had any feedback about the location or orientation of the seating around the playground area:
    - No (83%)
    - Yes (17%)

## Who did we hear from?

### Demographic information













- The majority of respondents were between the ages of **30 to 39 years old** (38%) and **40 to 55 years old** (40%)
- The majority of respondents were **women** (64%)
- 3% of respondents identified as a **person Indigenous to Canada**
- 9% of respondents identified as a **person with a disability**
- A large majority of respondents were **home owners** (80%) and 11% were **renters**
- A majority of respondents have **access to private outdoor space like a yard** (64%), 19% have access to **public spaces like parks (and no access to private or semi-private outdoor space)**, and 11% have access to **semi-private/shared outdoor space**

## Next Steps




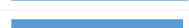









The feedback received in this phase of community engagement will inform priorities for the final preferred playground design. Once complete, the final design will be shared through an online survey. To be notified about the upcoming survey and future project updates, visit the project webpage at [toronto.ca/BobActonPark](https://toronto.ca/BobActonPark) to sign up for e-updates.

## Appendix A: Quantitative Response Summary










What features do you like in Playground Design Option A? Select up to 4 options.

	Count	% of responses	%
Swingset	233		68%
Senior play structure (ages 5 to 12)	197		57%
Junior play structure (ages 2 to 5)	162		47%
Monkey bars	143		42%
Miniature climbing wall	127		37%
Saucer/disk swing	101		29%
Somersault bar	57		17%
Spinner bowl	46		13%
Fireman's pole	42		12%
What playground feature would you prefer to see?	39		11%
Play panels	30		9%
Other (please describe):	19		6%



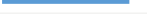









What features do you like in Playground Design Option B? Select up to 4 options.

	Count	% of responses	%
Challenge bridge	216		63%
Swingset	198		58%
Climbing cable net	172		50%
Miniature climbing wall	112		33%
Playset hammock	109		32%
Safety teeter totter	93		27%
Saucer/disk swing	83		24%
Spinner	53		15%
Tic-tac-toe panel	53		15%
Spring rider	34		10%
What playground feature would you prefer to see?	32		9%
Play panels	28		8%
Other (please describe):	17		5%



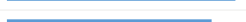












### What features do you dislike in Playground Design Option A? Select up to 4 options.

	Count	% of responses	%
Spinner bowl	88		26%
Other (please describe):	83		24%
Play panels	76		22%
Fireman's pole	70		20%
Saucer/disk swing	48		14%
Somersault bar	40		12%
Miniature climbing wall	37		11%
Monkey bars	24		7%
Swingset	15		4%

### What features do you dislike in Playground Design Option B? Select up to 4 options.














	Count	% of responses	%
Tic-tac-toe panel	87		25%
Other (please describe):	84		24%
Play panels	62		18%
Spinner	62		18%
Spring rider	35		10%
Saucer/disk swing	34		10%
Safety teeter totter	31		9%
Playset hammock	25		7%
Climbing cable net	24		7%
Miniature climbing wall	21		6%
Swingset	12		3%
Challenge bridge	10		3%

### What features do you like in Playground Design Option C? Select up to 5 options.





	Count	% of responses	%
Obstacle course	197		57%
Senior play structure (ages 5 to 12)	157		46%
Swingset	145		42%
Balancing beam	130		38%
Double slide for children ages 5 to 12	119		35%
Climbers	116		34%
Junior play structure (ages 2 to 5)	113		33%
Double toddler slide	79		23%
Saucer net climber	76		22%
Sensory play panel	51		15%
What playground feature would you prefer to see?	33		10%
Spring rider	18		5%
Play panels	16		5%
Other (please describe):	11		3%
None of the above	5		1%





**What features do you dislike in Playground Option C? Select up to 5 options.**

	Count	% of responses	%
Other (please describe):	86		25%
Play panels	71		21%
Spring rider	66		19%
Sensory play panel	48		14%
Saucer net climber	32		9%
Double toddler slide	30		9%
Balancing beam	30		9%
Junior play structure (ages 2 to 5)	29		8%
Obstacle course	21		6%
Climbers	17		5%
Swingset	15		4%
Senior play structure (ages 5 to 12)	13		4%
Double slide for children ages 5 to 12	9		3%






**Which Playground Design Option do you prefer?**

	Count	% of responses	%
Option A	26		8%
Option B	123		36%
Option C	166		48%
No preference	29		8%

**What types of colours do you like best for the new playground?**

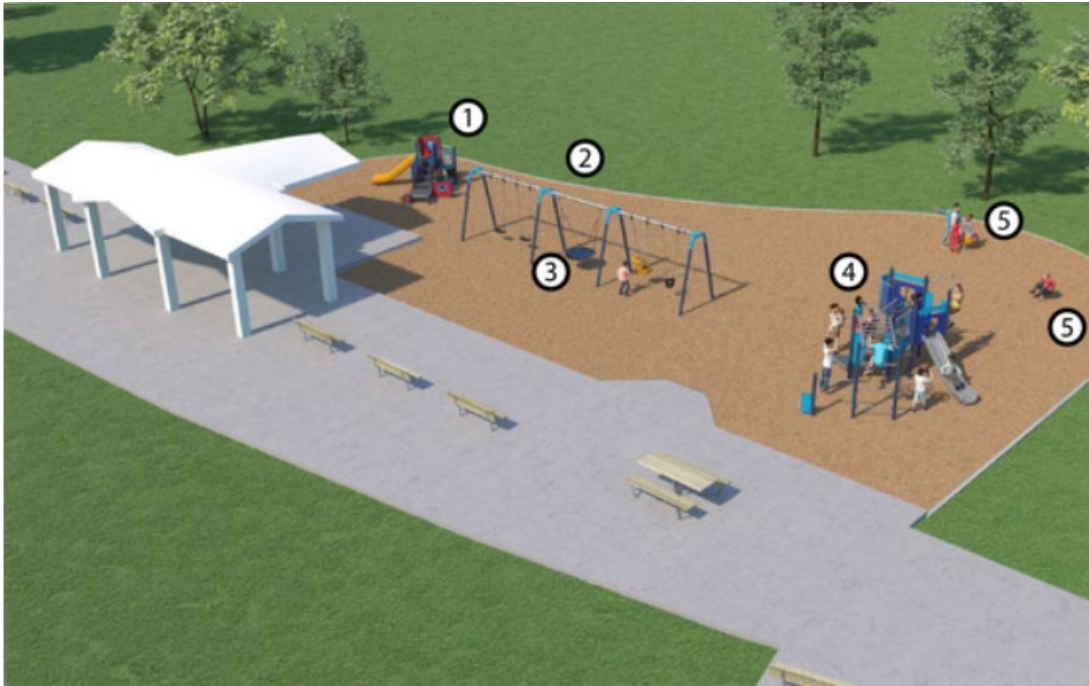
	Count	% of responses	%
Bright colours: like yellow, orange, and purple	143		42%
Earthy colours: like green, brown, and grey	173		50%
No Preference	28		8%

**Which of the seating options do you prefer? Please select up to two options.**

	Count	% of responses	%
Umbrellas tables	244		72%
Benches	174		51%
Picnic tables	117		34%
No preference	12		4%
Other (please describe):	9		3%

## Appendix B: Playground Options

### Playground Option A

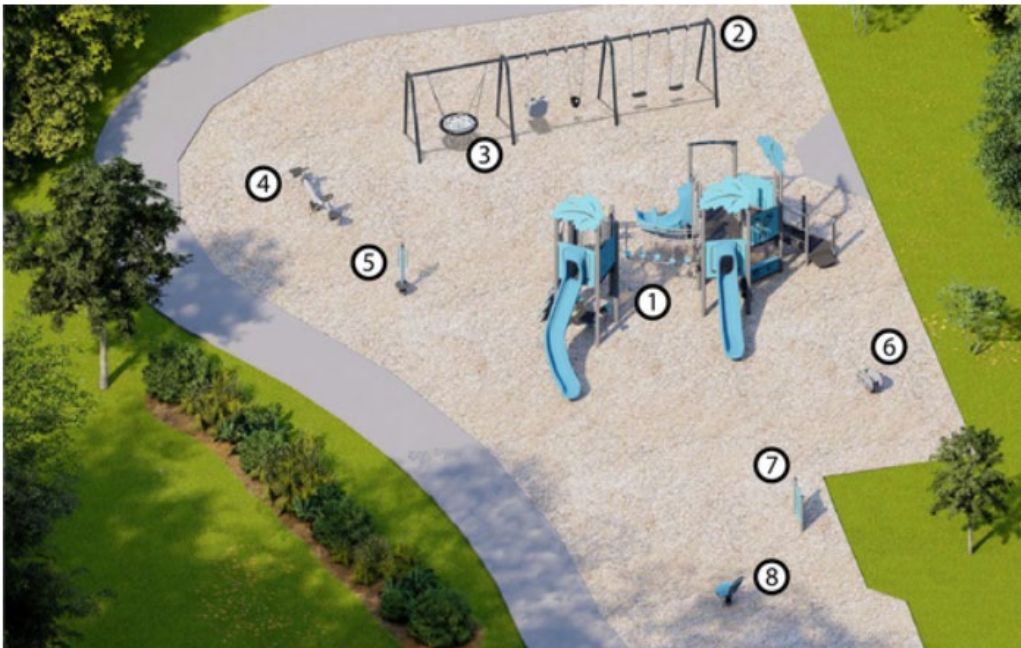


*Aerial view of Playground Design Option A, looking northwest.*

Option A includes the following features:

1. Junior play structure (ages 2 to 5) with:
  - Play panels
  - A slide
  - A mini climbing wall
2. A swing set with:
  - Two belt swings
  - Disk swing (number 3 in the image above - can be used by groups and individuals)
  - A toddler bucket seat
  - An inclusive chair swing
4. Senior play structure (ages 5 to 12) with:
  - Monkey bars
  - Somersault bars
  - Two slides
  - Fireman's pole
  - A play panel
5. Two Spinner bowls (a play feature for younger children that allows for balance and imaginative play. Children can lean or sit on the seat which will rotate, challenging and helping to build balancing skills)

## Playground Option B



*Aerial view of Playground Option B, looking southwest*

Playground Design Option B includes the following features:

1. Junior play structure (ages 2 to 12) with:
  - Play panels
  - Play phone
  - A playset hammock
  - Three slides
  - Honeycomb climber
  - Miniature climbing wall
  - Climbing cable net
  - A challenge bridge
2. A swing set with:
  - Two belt swings
  - A toddler bucket seat
  - An inclusive chair swing
  - Disk swing (3 on the image above - can be used by groups and individuals)
4. Safety teeter totter (a modern version of the traditional teeter totter which is mounted on rubber to ensure the ends touch more gently to the ground)
5. Spinner (for children of all ages that allows for balance and imaginative play. People can lean on the pole, which will begin to rotate. This challenges and helps to build balancing skills)

6. Spring rider (a play feature geared towards toddlers that includes an animal shaped flat seat and footrest. People can sit on the seat, which will begin to move back and forth)
7. Tic-tac-toe play panel
8. Rotating chair (for children of all ages that includes a chair with a slanted back that creates rotary movement on a vertical axis)

### Playground Option C



*Aerial view of Playground Design Option C, looking northeast.*

Playground Design Option C includes the following features:

1. Junior play structure (ages 2 to 5) with:
  - Climbers
  - Double toddler slide
  - Play panels
2. Swing set with:
  - Two belt swings
  - Toddler bucket seat
  - AODA-compliant chair swing
3. Obstacle course with
  - AODA-compliant trapeze beam
  - A balancing beam
  - Monkey bar sets
4. Senior play structure (ages 5 to 12) with:
  - Double wave slides
  - A single curved slide
  - Climbers
  - Saucer net climber (7 on the image above)
  - A play panel

5. Sensory play panel (a play feature that includes fun imaginative puzzle games for people to challenge themselves with. The play panel is accessible to people using wheelchairs or other mobility devices)
6. Spring rider (a play feature geared towards toddlers that includes a car shaped seat and footrest. People can sit on the seat, which will begin to move back and forth)
8. Balancing beam (a play feature that includes a chair with a slanted back that creates rotary movement on a vertical axis)