

City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry & Recreation

New Parks in the Six Points Neighbourhood

Phase 3: Public Meeting #3 Engagement Summary

March 2024

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Project Background

Four new parks are coming to the Six Points neighbourhood. These new parks are a result of the Six Points Interchange Reconfiguration project which realigned several roads, including Kipling Avenue, Bloor Street West and Dundas Street West. The road reconfiguration has created four new park sites and several new development areas.

The new parks will include Etobicoke Centre Park (5,500 m²), Dunkip Park (2,210 m²), and an expansion of existing Six Points Park (1,600 m²). A fourth new park referred to as Linear Park (2,708 m²) will be converted into parkland in the future. The parks will surround the new Etobicoke Civic Centre and Civic Plaza, which is a separate project that is not within the scope of this project.

1.2 Park District Plan and Two Park Concepts

The new parks coming to the Six Points neighbourhood will form a new park district that will benefit existing and future residents of the community.

This phase of engagement (Phase 3, Part 2: Setting the Direction for Two Parks) was focused on:

- Sharing the Final Park District Plan
- Collecting community feedback on the preferred design concepts for Dunkip Park and Six Points Park Expansion

The new park district plan provides a balance of open green spaces and new park amenities and features. The new parks will allow for multifunctional uses by all age groups and will be designed for community members to relax and enjoy upon their visit.

The proposed design concepts for Dunkip Park and Six Points Park Expansion emerged through public and community consultation. The engagement, design and construction of the remaining two parks, Etobicoke City Centre Park and Linear Park, will be initiated at a later date as separate projects.

Note: the park names for Dunkip and Six Points Expansion are not final. The official park names will be determined through the process outlined in the City's updated Property Naming Policy.

1.3 Project Timeline

The anticipated schedule for this park project is as follows:

- Summer/Fall 2022 – Community Engagement Phase 1A Pre-Engagement
- Winter 2023 – Hire a design team
- Spring 2023 – Winter 2024 – Community engagement and design development
- Fall 2024 – Hire a construction team
- Late Fall 2024 – Construction starts

The timeline is subject to change.

1.4 Engagement Process Overview

- Community Engagement Phase 1: Pre-Engagement (Spring-Fall 2022)
- Community Engagement Phase 2: Park District Vision and Plan and Program Options (Spring 2023)
- Community Engagement Phase 3: Final Park District Plan and Designs for Two Parks (Spring 2023/Winter 2024)

1.5 Phase Engagement Activities

During this phase of the community engagement process, the City is working with residents and stakeholders throughout Fall 2023/Winter 2024 to establish a final Park District Plan and explore design options for Six Points Park Expansion and Dunkip Park.

Community Engagement Activities in part 2 of Phase 3 include:

- Community Advisory Committee Meeting #4
- Indigenous Advisory Circle Meeting #3
- Public Meeting #3

2.0 How We Reached People

In this phase, the community was informed of engagement activities as listed below:

2.1 Print Media

Site Signage

Large posters were placed at each of the future park sites.

2.2 Digital Media

Project Webpage

The [project webpage](#) was updated to inform the public about the project and how to get involved. The webpage hosts all up-to-date information regarding the project, including a sign-up button for e-updates.

Flyers

Hardcopy flyers were distributed to local condos and select residences.

E-Updates and E-Flyer

Email updates including a digital flyer with community engagement opportunities were distributed to the following groups for information and further distribution.

- The local Councillor (to circulate through their newsletter)
- The project listserv (public signup on the project webpage)
- Local community organizations (identified through an online scan)

Social Media and Digital Ads

The City of Toronto used its Facebook and Instagram accounts to promote the public meeting through paid advertisements and organic posts from February 27, 2024.

3.0 Public Meeting Summary

A Public Meeting was held virtually on March 7, 2024 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Public Meeting was open to all members of the public, including local residents, organizations and other stakeholders. Feedback from the Public Meeting is summarized in Section 4.0.

3.1 Public Workshop Participation

WHEN: March 7, 2024 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm
 WHERE: Virtually on Webex
 ATTENDEES: 56
 PROJECT TEAM: City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry & Recreation Division
 PLANT Architect (Landscape Architect)
 SAFFY (Engagement Consultant)

3.2 Meeting Purpose

The purpose of this meeting was to:

1. Present an overview of the new parks that are planned for the Six Points Neighbourhood, including:
 - a. Site context and history
 - b. Project vision statement and guiding principles
 - c. Feedback provided by the Community Advisory Committee, Indigenous Advisory Circle and Public Survey
2. Present the final Park District Plan
3. Present preferred design options for:
 - a. Six Points Expansion Park
 - b. Dunkip Park
4. Answer questions and hear feedback from community members
5. Next Steps

4.0 What We Heard

4.1 Public Meeting Summary & Key Takeaways

The following section contains a summary of the feedback received during the Public Meeting.

Generally, participants responded positively to the Final Park District Plan as well as the proposed designs for Six Points Expansion Park and Dunkip Park. Many participants indicating they were local residents who had previously participated in engagement activities for this project expressed appreciation for the consultation process. The following themes emerged from participants' questions and comments. A table of questions and comments can be found in **Appendix A**.

Accessibility & Safety

Participants expressed a desire to ensure that all parks were accessible to a diversity of users. They shared a desire to see paths wide enough for wheelchair users and/or strollers to pass one another, accessible seating and benches with backrests for senior users, and accessible signage. Some questioned safety from passing vehicles and busy roads, while others requested adequate lighting that provided both safety while reducing light pollution.

OLA

The majority of participants who attended the public meeting were happy with the proposed inclusion of a small OLA in the Six Points Expansion Park, citing the need in the area that will only increase as the area changes. Some questioned the necessity of more than one entrance, suggesting that with reduced entrances, more play space for dogs could be achieved.

Final District Park Plan

Community members expressed support and appreciation for the balance of amenities across all of the parks in the district plan. Connectivity to the surrounding area was emphasized as important, with considerations for pedestrians, bicycles and vehicular movement as the area becomes increasingly busy. Participants had many questions and ideas for Etobicoke City Centre Park, sharing an eagerness to see the proposed amenities for children and young families come to life. Some participants expressed a desire for more play areas for young kids throughout the district.

Six Points Park Expansion

The majority of participants expressed approval for the proposed concept design for Six Points Park Expansion, with excitement about the OLA and park features. However, many expressed a strong desire to see funds directed towards improving and enhancing the existing Six Points Park, highlighting the abundance of dead and dying trees. Some shared their frustration, having previously raised these ongoing challenges with the City and/or their Councillor, feeling as though their requests were not being considered. Some questioned if the funds being

allocated to the park expansion would be better directed to improving the existing park or wished to see a balance between the expansion and improving the existing park.

Dunkip Park

Overall, participants were pleased with the proposed design for Dunkip Park, citing an appreciation for the increased green space and connections to the surrounding area. Some were pleased to see the inclusion of a designated skate spot area, though others expressed concerns over noise and users who might stay past park hours. Participants were told the skateboard area would only accommodate up to approximately four skateboard users at one time, and this seemed to satisfy concerns. (Note: The skate spot area can accommodate 5 to 8 people at one time.) We heard a desire to increase the horticultural planting areas and an appreciation for the proposed quieter/less active spaces that would balance out the park.

Additional Thoughts

We heard additional ideas and requests from participants which included:

- The inclusion of accessible signage in French, English and braille
- Interpretive signage in Indigenous languages
- Interactive art installations and artworks, potentially with music makers or creative elements that would appeal to young children
- Orienting benches towards the Indigenous Cultural Garden areas
- Adequate garbage and recycling bins to maintain clean park spaces for the community
- New park names that better capture and reflect the local area
 - Note: Meeting participants were advised of the City's updated park Naming Policy. More information can be found at the link: [Property Naming – City of Toronto](#)

5.0 Next Steps

The feedback received will be used to refine the design development for Six Points Park Expansion and Dunkip Park.

To be notified about upcoming engagements for the new park, visit the [project webpage](#) to sign up for e-updates.

Appendix A

The following table includes comments and questions shared by meeting participants in the chat, or out loud, and the responses provided by the project team at the meeting.

*Questions from participants are indicated with a **Q**, and comments are indicated with a **C**. Responses from the Project Team follow and are indicated with an **R**.*

Q - Accessibility should be certified to ensure best practices to meet AODA as recommended by the province. Seating should be on pedestal or cement blocks, and seats with no handrails, with all seats on pathways for access, and all tables allowing wheelchairs. Trails and paths should be wide enough for two people using wheelchairs or pushing baby strollers to pass.

Will all paths/walkways be cleared of snow in winter?

R - The primary pathway in the park measures 3.1 meters wide, exceeding the necessary width for two wheelchairs to pass comfortably. All benches will be situated on paved surfaces with adjacent areas designated for wheelchair accessibility, complete with backrests and armrests. Tables will also be designed to accommodate wheelchairs, allowing them to pull up. While some benches, like the platform bench, may lack backrests, the majority of seating will prioritize accessibility, aligning with Toronto's accessibility guidelines and undergoing review by an internal accessibility committee. Pathway maintenance, particularly snow clearance in winter, will be coordinated with Parks Operations, focusing on routes leading to community centers, schools, and transit stops to ensure accessibility standards are consistently met.

Q - Will you be replacing all the tiny, sad, and dead trees at the north side of Six Points Park adjacent to Dundas? The other trees in the area are doing much better.

R - The project's focus is on developing the new park area, with complementary additions to enhance the existing landscape. Regarding trees along the north edge, maintenance and replacement of these trees falls under the responsibility of the Urban Forestry team. Similarly, maintenance concerns regarding shrubs and horticulture within the park will be addressed by relevant departments. Feedback on tree conditions in and adjacent to the current Six Points Park is noted, with assurances that relevant departments will be informed. While some of the trees of concern may not fall directly under Parks, Forestry and Recreation's jurisdiction, failing trees may be assessed and removed, if necessary, with replacements considered.

Q - Will the trees, shrubs in the existing park be attended to with the extension? A number of trees are dead, and the rose shrubs are full of weeds! Would it not have been better to address the existing park with the expansion to provide more of what the public wanted. Perhaps an even bigger OLA.

R – [see response above]

Q - I appreciate your comment and I wish that I could believe it but the decade-long history shows a complete lack of concern or attention from city Councilors. Many of us have raised the issues many times - the flow of water is away from Dundas while the pollution from idling cars at the stoplight is killing these thirsty trees. It's currently designed to kill trees and no attention was paid.

R – [see response above]

Q - The problem is that all these new trees being promised are likely to be just as unhealthy a year after planting unless someone pays attention. It's not the only issue (or the most important) but it's highly visible and it's a disgrace.

R – [see response above]

Q - Will the existing splash pad remain?

R - There are no plans to alter the existing splash pad and it will remain. We are not planning for any new splash pads within this park district.

Q - What is the plan for lighting? Please keep down the light pollution, though we do need lights for safety.

R - The next phases of the design is when we get into technical issues including lighting. We will be evaluating the existing light levels in the parks based on other light that's coming from, for instance, the streets around. At this stage, we imagine we'll have pole lighting within the park that is favourable for maintenance and will efficiently light the area without excess light pollution.

Q - What does "skateable features" mean?

R - Skateable features include park elements, like benches, that can double as a feature for skateboarders.

We no longer have any skateable features in the recommended design option for these two parks. We're making a designated area for skateboarding.

Q - How will you prevent people from using the skatepark during off hours and creating much noise?

City bylaws indicate that access to parks is restricted from 12:01 a.m. to 5:30 a.m. (Note: in the meeting, closing time provided was 11 p.m. - correct hours have been provided above). Obviously we don't have a mechanism to close or lock up parks, but the expectation is that people are abiding by these rules.

We've carefully considered park elements including the placement of the skateboard area for visibility and to align with existing noise. Highly visible areas also encourage park users not to loiter late.

Q - Will signs be French, English and have braille?

R – We'll consult with our internal signage lead to see what the current standards are. Currently, not all park signs include bilingual languages or braille.

Q – I attended Doug Holyday's Bloor bike lane community meeting. There was very strong opposition to the Bloor bike lanes as designed and executed up to Aberfoyle Crescent. The City indicated that the expansion to Six Points was already approved and will be implemented this year. How are the parks incorporating these bike lanes as it wasn't clear if the trails and paths would connect?

R - The Park District Plan considers the planned bike lanes as designed and we acknowledge the importance of making safe connections. A multi-use trail, which can accommodate bikes, has been proposed for Linear Park. The District Plan also incorporates a bike share station in the Etobicoke City Centre Park. (Note: this response was not provided in the meeting, but it is recorded here in writing.)

Q – I'm really pleased to see the connection between the park and the retail area in Islington village. That's fantastic. As it undergoes renewal. I was trying to understand the location of skateboard park, as it seems it is located in a quiet area.

R – The decision to locate the skate spot to the southeast corner of the park was influenced by its proximity to existing residential homes situated north and west of the park. The skateboard area is small, accommodating up to four skate features, and it is expected that approximately five to eight individuals would be using the skate spot at any one time. Despite the enlargement of the skate spot since the previous presentation, it remains a relatively modest area. Measures such as (low) berming will be implemented to mitigate noise for park users near Kipling Avenue, where noise levels are notably high. This berming, along with additional plant buffering, aims to minimize disturbance from the adjacent busy street.

Q- There has been an increase in vehicle accidents in Toronto. What safety measures will there be to prevent vehicles from accidentally (or deliberately) entering Six Points Park?

R - We can take a look at any entrances that will be accessible to vehicles and potentially include bollards or barriers.

Q - If you closed the Dundas Street West slip lane that runs behind the park, it's (the above safety measures) really not necessary.

R- During the meeting, the project team stated that engagement for the closure of the Dundas Slip Lane was being studied. This information was incorrect. There is currently no project planned for the closure of the Dundas Street West Slip Lane near Dunkip Park. Potential closure of the slip lane is subject to further analysis and reporting by Transportation Services staff and would be a separate project.

Q - Why are these the park names?

R - The naming process for parks and public spaces is subject to the City's official naming process and I have dropped a link to that in the chat as well, if folks want to check it out. But what this entails is, members of the public like yourselves are able to bring forth commemorative names if you have ideas for these new park assets. The project team has no jurisdiction over park names – these are temporary names for reference only.

Q - Will there be Indigenous interpretive signage?

R - Signage hasn't been made official in this park and there is ongoing engagement with Indigenous community members. We'll consider this idea with those groups.

Q - Are there any public washrooms?

R - There are no public washrooms in the two parks that are the focus of today's meeting. Etobicoke City Center Park will have a shade structure that includes a washroom and this park will be the focus of a future project.

Q - I feel there is a lack of amenities that cater to young children. What features of amenities are for children?

R - There will be a playground in the Etobicoke City Centre Park. This will complement the existing playground and splash pad in Six Points Park.

Each park in this district serves a different function, and in other parks and subsequent phases of work, you'll see more features and amenities that serve children and families.

Q - Will there be some sort of amphitheatre for different events?

R - There is no amphitheatre included in this current phase of work. The Etobicoke City Centre Park will include a shade structure, which may have elements of an amphitheatre incorporated. We'll revisit this in future phases of work.

C - Thank you for preparing this great plan for our community. I'm a local musician looking forward to hosting community song circles. Love all of the green space. We need it!

C - I like the idea of the flexible spaces as opposed to specific programmes for kids as kids will not be the only ones using the parks.

C - I would love to see an element that allows enrichment for children, like outdoor music makers and art.

C - You were talking about play spaces for children and certainly there's a lot of interest in that if you look at growing up raising children in vertical communities, we know we're going to face a lot of intensification which is wonderful. I'm thinking about interactive art. You mentioned there may be a budget for art, play sculptures are fantastic. And they sort of hit both objectives. And that might be something to think about. For children who can climb on things and enjoy

that. Something in the art world might be wonderful. There's lots of examples of that in Toronto already.

R - This is a wonderful idea. If budget allows, we can explore additional elements like public and interactive art.

Q - What are the next steps? What is the project timeline?

R - The next phase focuses on detailed design where we finalize the plans and work on contract documents. We anticipate beginning construction late fall of this year on Dunkip Park and Six Points Expansion, and that would carry into next year. This timeline is subject to change.

Q - Will there be enough garbage and recycling bins?

R - We'll consult with our waste management team in the next phase, to ensure that there are bins located within the new parks.

C - The firepit risks becoming a BBQ for local condo dwellers.

R - We understand this risk. This will be a part of further conversations and engagement when we work specifically on Etobicoke City Centre Park, which is where the firepit has been proposed.

Q - Do we really need double gates in the OLA? I feel they are taking away from dog play space.

R - The double gates offer an extra layer of safety, with a vestibule for dogs coming and going. We can take a look at reducing the number of entrances.

Q - Was ping pong removed from the previous designs?

R - Yes, in previous iterations of the Six Point Expansion Park, we had proposed ping pong. However, we heard a desire for fewer features and amenities and more open and flexible green space. Based on this feedback we have removed the ping pong table.

Q - What is a specimen tree?

R - When we say specimen tree, we mean something that is bigger than the standard tree that really stands apart, offers good shade from a large canopy, and acts as a central element and gathering feature.

Q - I would like to see evergreen trees in this park to offer greenery year-round.

R - As we move into detailed design, we'll work on the planting palette, deciding what kinds of trees and shrubs should be included. We'll take this advice into consideration.

Q - I wondered if as a project team you knew what amenities would be in the ECC plaza that might complement the parks?

R - We have considered what is happening at the Etobicoke Civic Center. There is a project webpage which includes additional information. We know that there will be a plaza with gardens, landscaping elements with a water feature, a sacred fire vessel, bike share, and a cafe terrace.