

City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry & Recreation

New Parks in the Six Points Neighbourhood

Phase 1B: Building a Vision Public Workshop #1 Engagement Summary

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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 realigns 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 Vision

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 1B: Building a Vision) was focused on collecting community feedback to help determine the Park District Vision and Plan to act as a framework for the future design of the four parks.

The new park district will provide open green spaces to a neighbourhood in need of additional park space, and may include new park amenities and features such as a playground, fitness area, seating, and recreational/leisure space as well as a dogs off-leash area (OLA). 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.

Once the Park District Plan has been finalized, anticipated to be in Winter 2023, the project will turn its focus onto the design of two parks: the Six Points Park Expansion and Dunkip Park. The engagement, design and construction of the remaining two parks, Etobicoke Centre Park and Linear Park, will be initiated at a later date as separate projects.

Note: the park names for Dunkip and Etobicoke Centre 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 – Fall 2023 – Community engagement and design development
- Spring 2024 – Hire a construction team
- Summer 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 (Winter 2023)
- Community Engagement Phase 3: Final Park District Plan and Designs for Two Parks (Winter 2023/2024)
- Community Engagement Phase 4: Detailed Design & Hire a Construction Team (Spring 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 to define an overall Vision for the Park District Plan and Design Principles which will guide the development of design options for Six Points Park Expansion and Dunkip Park.

Community Engagement Activities in this phase include:

- Community Advisory Committee Meeting
- Indigenous Advisory Circle Meeting
- Community Workshop

Anticipated phase outcomes include:

- A confirmed Vision Statement
- Confirmed Design Principles
- Design ideas to inform the development of design options

2.0 Public Workshop Summary

This document provides a summary of the Public Workshop that was held virtually on Wednesday, August 30th, 2023 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Public Workshop was open to all members of the public, including local residents, organizations and other stakeholders.

2.1 Public Workshop Participation

WHEN: August 30th, 2023 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm
 WHERE: Virtually on Webex
 ATTENDEES: 42
 PROJECT TEAM: City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry & Recreation Division
 PLANT Architect (Landscape Architect)
 SAFFY (Engagement Consultant)

2.2 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. Results of Phase 1A: Pre-Engagement
 - c. Feedback provided by the Community Advisory Committee and Indigenous Advisory Circle
2. Share the draft Vision Statement and Guiding Principles
3. Present the draft Park District Plan
4. Present Preliminary Program Options for each of the four parks
 - a. An interactive activity embedded into the presentation allowed participants to vote and comment on their preferred options
5. Breakout Room Activity
 - a. Participants were divided into two breakout rooms for facilitated discussion on the Vision Statement and Guiding Principles, and the Preliminary Program Options.
6. Next Steps

3.0 How We Reached People

In Phase 1B, the community was informed of engagement activities as listed below:

3.1 Print Media

Site Signage

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

3.2 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.

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 listserve (public signup on the project webpage)
- Black Communities Advisory Group for two new parks in the Moss Park Neighbourhood
- Local community organisations (identified through an online scan)
- Local schools
- Local Indigenous-serving organisations
- Ambe Maamowisda Employee Circle (City of Toronto Indigenous Staff Network)
- Toronto Aboriginal Support Services listserv
- City of Toronto Indigenous Affairs Office listserv
- City of Toronto Accessibility and Inclusion Stakeholder Network
- City of Toronto Parks Forestry and Recreation Accessibility and Inclusion listserve

Social Media and Digital Ads

The City of Toronto used its Facebook and Instagram accounts to promote the online survey through paid advertisements and organic posts from August 17 to August 30, 2023.

4.0 What We Heard

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

4.1 Key Insights

Generally participants responded positively to the introduction of new parks and green space in their neighbourhood. They confirmed that the direction of the design team would meet community needs, but raised some considerations to further inform the design process. Three interrelated key insights that have emerged from the Public Workshop are consolidated below, and additional comments are summarized in Section 4.3.

PREFERENCE FOR QUIET SPACES

Nearly all participants agreed that the neighbourhood is in need of more quiet green space. Participants expressed their desire to see a range of amenities to be included across the four parks, including a dogs off-leash area, tree and shade, and active recreation opportunities; however, there will need to be careful consideration to how these amenities are distributed within and between all four parks to ensure programmatic elements are complementary.

Participants' main concerns were centred around the impact of noise, whether from adjacent buildings, traffic and active recreation uses within the parks. Throughout conversations, they offered suggestions for mitigating these impacts, including using vegetation as a buffer and allocating certain parks for louder, active activities and other parks for quieter, passive activities to mitigate competing uses.

DESIRE FOR NATURE

Participants (who are mostly local residents) expressed that they do not wish to see much, or any, concrete included in the design of the four parks as they feel that the neighbourhood has enough concrete and will only become more developed in the future. However, despite the overwhelming desire for natural spaces, participants ranked “play,” “gather” and “nature” spaces as equally important when thinking about the four parks to be developed in the neighbourhood.

CONCERNS AROUND DEVELOPMENT (TRAFFIC, PARKING AND NOISE)

Participants expressed concern over the development and change occurring within the Six Points neighbourhood, and wished to improve their access to quiet and peaceful spaces in a natural setting. Many participants appeared to be long-term residents and are apprehensive about how their neighbourhood might change. Given the anticipated influx of new residents, residents are concerned about additional pressures placed on traffic and parking in the neighbourhood, as well as additional noise from construction and other activity.

Some participants asked how the Six Points Parks might be integrated with future developments, including whether there will be additional green space or public realm provided through development. This question should be addressed in future public engagement to ensure clarity on the interplay between development and these parks, as well as how they will serve both current and future residents.

4.2 Results from Interactive Activity

Throughout the overview presentation, the Project Team asked a series of questions on the interactive tool, Mentimeter. The results of these questions are summarized below.

Participants were first asked, “Which of the following best describes you?”

- 22 out of 23 participants (96%) selected “I live in the neighbourhood”
- 2 out of 23 participants (8%) selected “I work in the neighborhood”
- 1 out of 23 participants (4%) selected “I visit the neighbourhood for fun”
- 1 out of 23 participants (4%) selected “Other”

Participants were asked, “Which of the following elements do you consider to be MOST important when thinking about the Six Points Park District Plan?”

Respondents ranked the options (Nature, Play, Gather) variably, leading to minimal variation in results between options. The results of this ranking question are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Ranked Results for Preferences Between Play, Gather, and Nature Themes for the Six Points Parks District Plan

Response	1st place	2nd place	3rd place
Play	11	3	10
Gather	6	12	6
Nature	8	9	8



Figure 1. Display of Results for Preferences Between Play, Gather, and Nature Themes for the Six Points Parks District Plan

After being shown all potential programs and amenities to be included in the four parks, participants were asked, “Which of the following are you most excited about and why?”

Respondents spoke about the types of amenities presented in the preliminary program options for each of the four parks that they did or did not wish to see included. Many participants mentioned that they would like to see green space with trees and plants, rather than predominantly concrete spaces.

Some participants mentioned that the neighbourhood has children, so activities like skateboarding, basketball, ping pong, fitness amenities and other active recreational activities would be appreciated. Most participants welcomed the idea of a dogs off-leash area in one of the four parks.

There were 31 responses received to this question. A full list of responses is included in Appendix A.

4.3 Meeting Summary

The following section provides a summary of more detailed comments provided by participants in the public workshop, listed by category. Comments were provided verbally, in the chat, using the interactive tool (Mentimeter) and in breakout room discussions.

Parking

Although parking is not within the scope of this design process, participants expressed a desire to understand the implication of the new parks on parking availability in the neighbourhood. Residents discussed how parking is already limited in the neighbourhood, and with an influx of new residents, this will be further strained.

Generally, participants expressed that they feel parking spaces should not be a high priority in these parks, while others were concerned that visitors to the parks might occupy limited street parking spaces in the neighborhood. It was noted that the parks are not accessible to people arriving in vehicles, and that the inclusion of parking could be an important accessibility consideration (i.e., for park users with mobility issues).

Traffic

The impact of traffic on the Six Points Parks was raised in two ways. First, the traffic adjacent to the parks would cause noise that would prevent the enjoyment of the parks (discussed further below), and second, one participant mentioned that having to travel across several lanes of traffic to access some of the parks acts as a barrier to access.

Noise

Participants expressed concerns about the level of noise, especially that generated from more active park uses like basketball and skateboarding, as well as adjacent traffic. When suggested that perhaps some of the parks could be dedicated to louder, active recreation opportunities, while other parks could be dedicated to quiet, nature contemplation and passive recreation, most participants found this idea agreeable.

Two participants asked whether the parks would be accessible 24 hours a day, with concerns that overnight use might increase noise for those who live nearby. Overnight lighting in the parks was also raised as a concern.

It is worth noting that some implicit racist and ageist comments were made related to the use of basketball and skateboarding in parks, as well as some direct comments made about the presence of youth as a concern. Though segregating amenities by use (e.g., active recreation and passive recreation) is a reasonable accommodation, the design team should ensure that decisions around the inclusion of these amenities are not made based on the sentiment that the presence of basketball and skateboarding in parks encourage undesirable users and behaviours.

Indigenous Placekeeping

A few suggestions were made around the inclusion of Indigenous placenames, Indigenous languages on park signage and the addition of ceremonial spaces. Though these comments were made primarily by one Indigenous community member, other participants were in agreement.

Nature and Climate

Overall, participants expressed that, given the current composition of the neighbourhood, as well as future development, the neighborhood would benefit from more natural park spaces. In particular, participants discussed the need for shade trees and for natural areas to buffer the noise from adjacent roads, as well as concerns about recent tree plantings that did not succeed.

Natural spaces that attract wildlife like birds and bees was mentioned as important to a few participants, while one participant indicated that plenty of shade would be useful in mitigating the future impacts of the climate crisis.

Preferred Park Amenities

The park amenities participants wish to see included in the design of the four parks include:

- Ping pong
- Pickleball and tennis courts
- Fitness equipment
- Basketball court
- Baseball diamond
- Ice rink
- BMX / skate park
- Play area, including nature-based play
- Gardens (e.g., horticulture, community gardens)
- Dogs off-leash area
- Seating and picnic areas
- BBQs
- Programming for children and teenagers
- Space for passive recreation and walking

Key Considerations

- Create a series of all ages / multi-generational park spaces
- Buffer noise from traffic
- Provide plenty of shade (trees)
- Include seating and gathering spaces for social connection
- Ensure safety and accessibility for all
- Provide adequate maintenance for trees and other vegetation that is planted

Park-Specific Considerations

The majority of comments provided by participants were applied to the four parks; however, a few comments were directed towards the suitability of certain activities in specific parks.

- BBQs were requested for the Six Points Park expansion, as well as requests for this to be a quieter space given proximity to housing.
- One resident mentioned that they were not aware Six Points Park was a City-owned public space, and had assumed it was a privately-owned public space.
- Etobicoke Centre Park was identified as being a good place for outdoor fitness equipment, and the amount of traffic near this park was flagged as a concern.
- One resident did not feel that another splash pad was required, since one already exists in Six Points Park.

- One resident raised a concern that a bike share station in the Linear Park may increase conflicts with people using mobility devices such as wheelchairs, and should be provided at a subway station instead.

5.0 Next Steps

The feedback received in Phase 1B of community engagement will be used to refine the Park District Plan, Vision Statement and Guiding Principles, as well as inform the development of Design Options for the 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: Results of Mentimeter Question #3

1. Hoti culture garden
2. More nature and greenery would be great to have in the area.
3. - Sports courts - Fitness amenities - Kids parks - Ice/skating rink
4. Dog bowls at dog park
5. Dunkip park, the area just needs more green space
6. Excited about more nature and ways to buffer the traffic. Not excited about dog parks of any kind but if have to keep it far from where people live and not close to six points or where children play.
7. Definitely want an off leash area and a lot of green space. This area is a lot of high rise towers and out door space that is green is critical
8. Green space and gathering space. Space for young families with young kids. Noise is OK, we live in a large city and that is to be expected.
9. Off-leash for Six Points extension. (I don't have a dog and would be happy to see those who own pets happily using an appropriate space)
10. Walking space, quiet space for adults to relax, picnic areas for adults
11. Many children live and will live here. Daycares in the area will use these spaces for day trips. Safety is essential but need to consider hot and cool conditions in all seasons.
12. Comfortable spaces to gather with others
13. Lots of trees with seating
14. Quiet nature space
15. All age park
16. Excited about all. Lots of info to absorb. Would like to see Park 2 with most activities. Six Points ... keep fairly quiet.
17. Green space with trees
18. Active and exercise spaces. Ex.Ping pong outdoor gym
19. Not excited about any of these, almost no natural spaces, just concrete playgrounds and paved gathering spaces. We need more trees and plants in this area.
20. Gardens, seating, art, and ola's are good. Area residents are desperate for green space NOT concrete and noise. We have enough concrete and noise with all the cars and condo HVAC systems
21. Nature buffering the street noise so it doesn't feel like you're on the street
22. Simple outdoor gym (pull up bars, dip bars, etc) outdoor table tennis table
23. It would be amazing to have a community garden.
24. A modest-sized off-leash area at one of the parks would be really appreciated by all the dog owners, as there are not any of these nearby.
25. Unique landscape feature at dunkip park
26. Basketball
27. Nature that is maintained and not left to be weeds
28. Clearly no one wants a skateboard park anywhere.
29. Skate/BMX in Magenot park would make sense
30. I'm really excited to see the multigenerational spaces created that would allow persons to meet and engage, where the building of community can be encouraged. .
31. I am excited for a dog park, nature, and play areas. Play areas for all ages , skate, basketball and quiet areas

Appendix B: Potential Park Programs and Amenities

Six Points Park

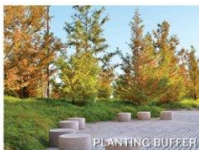
PLAY



GATHER



NATURE



Etobicoke Centre Park

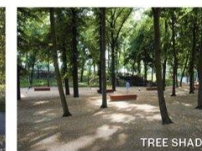
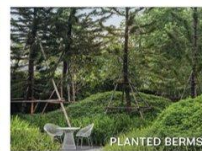
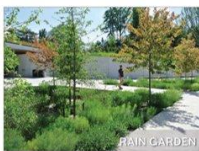
PLAY



GATHER



NATURE



Dunkip Park

PLAY



SKATE SPOT



SKATE SPOT

GATHER



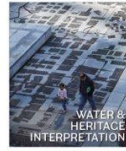
PLAZA / SHADE TREES / SEATING



FEATURE TABLE



FEATURE BENCH



WATER & HERITAGE INTERPRETATION



ART BENCHES



INTEGRATED ART WALK



SHADE STRUCTURE

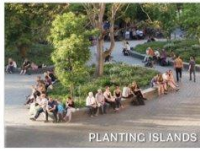
NATURE



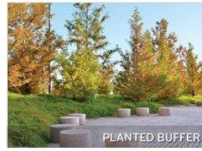
PLANTED BERMS



NATIVE FLOWER & POLLINATOR GARDEN



PLANTING ISLANDS



PLANTED BUFFER



SHADE / TREE GROVE



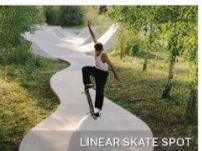
PLANTING AREAS

Linear Park

PLAY



SKATE SPOT



LINEAR SKATE SPOT



LINEAR OUTDOOR FITNESS



OUTDOOR FITNESS



SMALL DOG OFF-LEASH

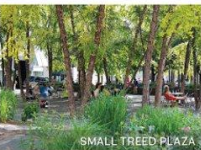


CHESS TABLES

GATHER



BIKE SHARE



SMALL TREE PLAZA



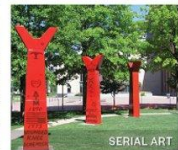
PLAZA SEATING



SEATING



ART BENCHES



SERIAL ART



COMMEMORATIVE MURAL

NATURE



PROMENADE



SHADE / TREE GROVE



SHADE TREES



PLANTING BUFFERS



PLANTING BERM