

City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry & Recreation

# Pop-Up Summary Report

New Park at 70 Croatia Street

Phase 2: Exploring Design Options

June 2024





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# Introduction

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A new 3,580 m<sup>2</sup> (about the size of a baseball field) park is coming to 70 Croatia Street as a result of a broader residential development project at Bloor Street West and Dufferin Street. The park will be bordered by a residential development to the north, a new public street to the west, and a new private street to the east.

For more information about the project, including summaries of previous engagement activities and outcomes, visit the [project webpage](#).

## In-Person Pop-Up Event Overview

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The in-person pop-up event took place on Friday, June 7, 2024, at Bloor Collegiate Institute, which is temporarily located on the third floor of Central Technical School while the new school building next to the new park is under construction. During the pop-up, the project team presented and collected feedback on two design concepts for the new park at 70 Croatia Street.

84

Participants

The pop-up ran during the students' lunch hour. Two in-classroom engagement activities were conducted after the lunch hour with students in a grade 9 geography class and a grade 11 geography class, where members of the project team gave brief presentations and invited students to interact with the pop-up boards. A total of 84 people participated in the pop-up, approximately 8 of whom were teachers or staff. The vast majority of participants were students.

Three boards were used throughout the event to display information about the project, share the design concepts and introduce the pop-up activity. On the last board, participants placed dot stickers to indicate their preference for one of the two design concepts and their top three park features out of six suggestions. Space was also provided at the bottom of the board for participants to share additional ideas for the new park on sticky notes. Images of the pop-up boards can be found in **Appendix A**.

# How We Reached People

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The community was informed of the in-person pop-up event through announcements made to staff and students at the school.

## What We Heard

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The following section summarizes feedback received during the in-person pop-up event.

When asked which of the two design concepts' **look and feel** they preferred:

- 52 participants (62%) preferred Concept 1 – Braid Park: Water + Reeds
- 32 participants (38%) preferred Concept 2 – Moon Park: Cycles + Stories

When asked what **key park features** they would like to see:

- 55 participants liked “Gathering focus: emphasis on social seating”
- 51 participants liked “Fitness equipment”
- 45 participants liked “Pollinator gardens”
- 38 participants liked “Quiet focus: emphasis on resting”
- 17 participants liked “Historic focus: emphasis on Indigenous Placekeeping”
- 11 participants liked “Skate dot”

When asked what **ideas** they had for the new park, participants provided the following written responses on sticky notes, which are arranged by theme.

Green space and gardens:

- A little mini open green space which can be used for meetings, frisbee, resting, etc.
- Community food garden

Play structures:

- Monkey bars
- Swing sets and slides

Plantings:

- Lots of native plants: less lawns
- Fruit trees

#### Bike amenities:

- Bike locks
- Bike racks

#### Study areas:

- Study tables
- Enclosed study booths (gazebos)

#### Sports facilities:

- Half a basketball court
- Large open spaces for sports

#### Other responses included:

- Fitness equipment for the elderly
- Informative signs about plants/animals around the park or historical explanations of the land
- Green sound cover from south very important (due to presence of mall)
- Maybe a theatre
- Fountain
- What does this have that Dufferin Grove doesn't
- Water park/water area

## Next Steps

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The feedback collected from participants at this pop-up event will be used to further develop the two design options for the forthcoming Phase 2 online survey, which will be presented to the general public. The City of Toronto will then share the preferred design option with community members for further feedback during Phase 3.

To be informed of upcoming engagement events for the new park, visit the project webpage at [toronto.ca/70CroatiaStreet](https://toronto.ca/70CroatiaStreet).

# Appendix A – Pop-Up Boards

## Project Board

This board provided information about the project, including a map of the site, a project timeline and a QR code linking to the project webpage.

### New Park coming to 70 Croatia Street!

Help us design a park for everyone to enjoy!

#### About the Project

A new 3,580m<sup>2</sup> park, about the size of a baseball field is coming to 70 Croatia St. as a result of a broader residential development project at Bloor Street West and Dufferin Street.

#### Get Involved

The park will be designed in collaboration with the community, using online surveys, pop-up events, workshops, and in consultation with the Community Advisory Committee and Indigenous Advisory Circle.

Stay informed of future opportunities to participate in the process by signing up for e-updates on the project webpage:


[www.toronto.ca/70croatiastreet](http://www.toronto.ca/70croatiastreet)

#### Project Timeline\*


We are here!

Winter 2023-2024	Spring-Summer 2024	Fall 2024	Winter 2024-Summer 2025	Fall 2025-Winter 2026
Community Engagement: Towards a Vision	Community Engagement: Exploring Design Options	Community Engagement: Setting the Direction	Detailed design	Construction


\*The timeline is subject to change



70 Croatia St - Park Area



Scan with your smartphone camera to access the project webpage.



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## Design Concepts Board

This board presented two design concepts for the new park, including legends identifying key park features.





## Engagement Board

This board invited participants to share feedback about the design concepts in response to three questions:

- “Between the two concepts, what look and feel do you prefer? Put your sticker on the one you like best! (pick 1)”
- “What key park features would you like to see? Put your sticker on the ones you like! (pick top 3)”
- “Did we miss anything? What are your ideas for the new park?”

Below is the completed board at the conclusion of the pop-up. Please note that the colour of sticker has no meaning.

