

Online Survey Summary Report

New Green Space at 25 Oakcrest Avenue

Community Engagement Phase 2: Setting the Direction

City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry & Recreation

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Introduction

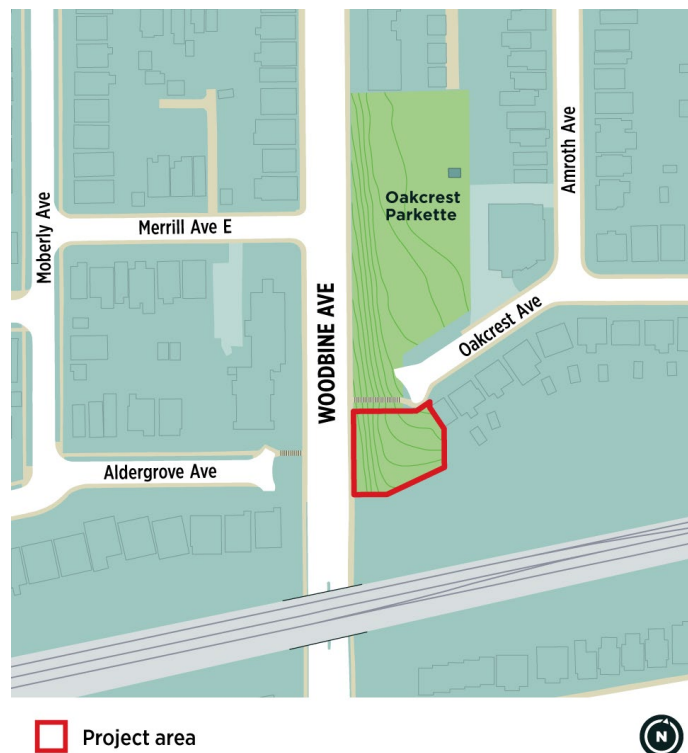
A new green space is coming to 25 Oakcrest Avenue for community members to enjoy. In Phase 2 of the community engagement process, the City of Toronto presented the community with two design options for the new green space based on the outcomes of the previous phase of engagement as well as feedback provided by the 25 Oakcrest Community Advisory Group (CAG).

The City collected community feedback on the two design options through an online survey from May 3 to 19, 2024. This document provides a summary of what we heard through the survey.

For a summary of previous engagement activities and outcomes, visit the [project webpage](#).

Background

The green space at 25 Oakcrest is located south of Oakcrest Park, and at the end of Oakcrest Avenue in the Danforth neighbourhood. The site is currently filled with trees and plantings.



To summarize insights from the CAG, the key considerations for the new green space at 25 Oakcrest include prioritizing accessibility, noise mitigation, community programming, and addressing invasive species. Additional considerations to include providing accessible walkways, addressing concerns towards the existing stairs, and tackling issues related to train and traffic noise. If possible, the project team should work towards mitigating these concerns. Additionally, measures to prevent the spread of dog strangling vine (DSV) and creating pollinator gardens are important considerations.

A full summary detailing themes from the last CAG meeting is available on the [project webpage](#).

Since the last CAG meeting, the project team has engaged in several conversations with local community members. In October 2023, the project team met with Transportation Services to explore the feasibility of introducing a switchback or accessible path through the site to improve access to Woodbine Avenue towards the southwest. The conversation resulted in the idea of assessing the site for alternative access such as a trail, given the existing desired line along the adjacent slope. The assessment concluded that adding an alternative, accessible access to Oakcrest Parkette would be a high risk, high cost, low benefit and low priority project. As such Transportation Services does not support or recommend pursuing a trail access through any of the lands adjacent to Oakcrest Parkette. The Trail Access Assessment document can be found on the [project webpage](#).

How We Reached People

In general, the community was informed of engagement activities through print and digital media.

Print Media

Notice Boards

Large notice boards were placed near the site of the new green space. These notice boards provided information about the project, the online survey, and how to access additional information on the project webpage.

Flyers

Flyers were posted throughout the community to advertise the survey.

Digital Media

Project Webpage

The webpage (toronto.ca/25OakcrestAvenue) provided up-to-date information about the project, a link to the survey, and a button to subscribe to the project mailing list to receive email updates.

Project Mailing List

An email update was sent to the mailing list to inform subscribers about the survey.

Social Media and Digital Ads

The survey promoted through paid advertisements and organic posts on the Parks, Forestry & Recreation division's [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [X](#) accounts.

Who We Heard From

The online survey received **267** submissions from at least **520** respondents of various ages and backgrounds, including members of the same household who completed the survey together.

Respondents were asked to provide demographic information to help the City better understand who participated in the survey. This data is collected in alignment with the Data for Equity Strategy and is meant to ensure that City programs and services are delivered equitably.

A full summary of respondent demographics can be found in Appendix A.

What We Heard

The following section summarizes feedback collected through the online survey.

When asked to indicate their level of agreement with the following statements about Design Option A:

- 82% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with “I like the shaded seating”
- 71% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with “I like the shade structure”

- 71% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with “The pathways would allow me to move easily to the amenities I want to access”
- 67% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with “There is a balance between paved surfaces and green space”
- 62% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with “There are enough new trees and plantings included in the design”
- 54% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with “I like the layout of the design with linear/recangular shapes”
- 52% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with “I like the fitness area”
- 49% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with “There are enough comfortable seating options and places to sit”
- 35% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with “There is enough flexible space to hold small cultural or community events”

When asked how they would improve Design Option A, 70 respondents provided written responses, including:

- 13 comments in favour of adding more seating
- 12 comments in opposition to the fitness area and 3 comments in favour of it
- 9 comments in favour of adding more trees
- 5 comments in favour of adding a dog off-leash area
- 4 comments:
 - in favour of adding more plants
 - in favour of including native species
 - in favour of providing open space
 - in opposition to the synthetic surface
- 3 comments:
 - in favour of including pollinator plants
 - in opposition to a rectilinear layout

When asked to indicate their level of agreement with the following statements about Design Option B:

- 78% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with “I like the shaded seating”
- 72% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with “The pathways would allow me to move easily to the amenities I want to access”
- 71% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with “There is a balance between paved surfaces and green space”
- 69% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with “I like the layout of the design with round/curvilinear shapes”
- 69% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with “I like the shade structure”
- 66% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with “There are enough new trees and plantings included in the design”

- 52% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with “There is enough flexible space to hold small cultural or community events”
- 56% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with “There are enough comfortable seating options and places to sit”
- 40% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with “I like the play area”

When asked how they would improve Design Option B, 58 respondents provided written responses, including:

- 10 comments in favour of adding more seating
- 7 comments in favour of adding play structures or equipment
- 6 comments:
 - in favour of adding more trees
 - in opposition to the play area
- 5 comments:
 - in favour of replacing the play area with the fitness area
 - in favour of including native species
 - in opposition to the synthetic surface
- 3 comments:
 - in favour of adding a dog off-leash area
 - in favour of preserving views of the railroad or skyline

When asked which of the two design options they prefer overall:

- 47% of respondents preferred option B
- 41% of respondents preferred option A

When asked if they prefer the play area or the fitness area:

- 47% of respondents preferred the fitness area
- 32% of respondents preferred the play area

When asked if they prefer a linear/angular layout (as seen in option A) or a curvilinear layout (as seen in option B):

- 59% of respondents preferred curvilinear
- 23% of respondents preferred linear/angular

When asked how important the following potential amenities were when thinking about the new green space:

- 95% of respondents indicated trees for shade were important or very important
- 84% of respondents indicated native plantings were important or very important
- 80% of respondents indicated formal seating areas (e.g. benches, tables) were important or very important

- 79% of respondents indicated pollinator gardens were important or very important
- 78% of respondents indicated lighting was important or very important
- 63% of respondents indicated a drinking fountain was important or very important
- 45% of respondents indicated space for cultural/community events (i.e. small performances, markets, gatherings, etc.) was important or very important

When asked if they had any additional comments or suggestions, 62 respondents provided written responses, including:

- 7 comments in favour of conserving the natural habitat
- 6 comments in favour of the fitness area and 5 comments opposed to it
- 5 comments:
 - in favour of adding more seating
 - in favour of adding a dog off-leash area
- 4 comments in favour of including native species
- 3 comments:
 - in favour of including pollinator plants
 - in opposition to the play area

For the complete set of quantitative and text responses, see appendices B and C, respectively.

“I think the most important thing should be the nature and what we can do to conserve it and support it, and then our personal enjoyment.”
— Survey Respondent

Next Steps

The feedback collected through this online survey, combined with feedback received from the Community Advisory Group, will help the project team evolve the design options presented in Phase 2 into a single preferred design. The preferred design will be reviewed by Park Operations, Toronto Water, and Traffic Services before it is shared with the community.

To learn more about the project and sign up for email updates, visit toronto.ca/25OakcrestAvenue.

Acknowledgements

This optional section is for acknowledging the contributions of internal and external stakeholders, Rights Holders, and community members engaged in Involve/Collaborate level projects. This template is designed to be adaptable, so once you've copied the document, feel free to modify it to better suit the specifics of your event.

City of Toronto

Parks, Forestry & Recreation

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Community Advisory Group

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Emma C.

Thanya D.

Brina M.

Sarry Z.

Dina W.

John S.

Krissia V.

Jacob M.

Andrea K.

James G.

Community Members

We appreciate all the community members who engaged with us during Phase 3 of Community Engagement for 25 Oakcrest. Your questions, insights, and feedback have been invaluable in refining our materials and enhancing the overall experience for all participants.

Appendix A: Demographic Information

What is the age of the person filling out this survey?




	Count	% of responses	%
0 to 4 years old	0		
5 to 12 years old	0		
13 to 18 years old	0		
19 to 29 years old	24	<div></div>	12%
30 to 39 years old	79	<div></div>	39%
40 to 55 years old	75	<div></div>	37%
56 to 64 years old	16	<div></div>	8%
65 to 74 years old	6	<div></div>	3%
75 years old or above	2	<div></div>	1%
Prefer not to answer	1	<div></div>	0%

N 203

Excluding yourself, how many people of each age group participated in this survey?












- 0 to 4 years old = 24
- 5 to 12 years old = 24
- 13 to 18 years old = 9
- 19 to 29 years old = 16
- 30 to 39 years old = 35
- 40 to 55 years old = 39
- 56 to 64 years old = 12
- 65 to 74 years old = 10
- 75 years old or above = 84
- Prefer not to answer = 21

Indigenous people from Canada identify as First Nations (status, non-status, treaty or non-treaty), Inuit, Métis, Aboriginal, Native or Indian. Does the person filling out this survey identify as Indigenous to Canada?

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes	8		4%
No	176		87%
Prefer not to answer	18		9%





N 202

People often describe themselves by their race or racial background. For example, some people consider themselves "Black", "White" or "East Asian". Which race category best describes the person filling out this survey?

	Count	% of responses	%
White (e.g. English, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Slovakian, Eastern European)	133		66%
Prefer not to answer	29		14%
East Asian (e.g. Chinese, Japanese, Korean)	17		8%
South Asian or Indo-Caribbean (e.g. Indian, Indo- Guyanese, Indo-Trinidadian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan)	8		4%
Latin American (e.g. Brazilian, Colombian, Cuban, Mexican, Peruvian)	6		3%
More than one race category or mixed race	5		2%
First Nations (status, non-status, treaty or non-treaty), Inuit or Métis	4		2%
Southeast Asian (e.g. Filipino, Malaysian, Singaporean, Thai, Vietnamese)	3		1%
Arab, Middle Eastern or West Asian (e.g. Afghan, Armenian, Iranian, Lebanese, Persian, Turkish)	2		1%
Black (e.g. African, African-Canadian, Afro-Caribbean)	2		1%
Other, please describe	2		1%





N 201

Disability is understood as any physical, mental, developmental, cognitive, learning, communication, sight, hearing or functional limitation that, in interaction with a barrier, hinders a person's full and equal participation in society. A disability can be permanent, temporary or episodic, and visible or invisible. Does the person filling out this survey identify as a person with a disability?

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes	27		13%
No	148		74%
Don't know	4		2%
Prefer not to answer	22		11%







N 201

Excluding yourself, does anyone in your household identify as a person with a disability?

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes	24		12%
No	155		77%
Don't know	2		1%
Prefer not answer	20		10%

N 201

Gender identity is the gender that people identify with or how they perceive themselves, which may be different from their birth-assigned sex. What best describes the gender of the person filling out this survey?

	Count	% of responses	%
Woman	108		54%
Man	63		31%
Trans woman	0		
Trans man	1		0%
Gender non-binary (including gender fluid, genderqueer, androgynous)	5		2%
Two-Spirit	1		0%
Not listed, please describe	0		
Prefer not to answer	23		11%

N 201

Appendix B: Quantitative Responses

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about Design Option A.

	Average	Count	% of responses
I like the shaded seating	24%	267	<div> <div>28%</div> <div>54%</div> <div>13%</div> </div>
I like the shade structure	29%	267	<div> <div>23%</div> <div>48%</div> <div>21%</div> <div>7%</div> </div>
The pathways would allow me to move easily to the amenities I want to access	30%	267	<div> <div>17%</div> <div>54%</div> <div>22%</div> <div>5%</div> </div>
There is a balance between paved surfaces and green space	33%	267	<div> <div>13%</div> <div>54%</div> <div>24%</div> <div>5%</div> </div>
I like the layout of the design with linear/rectangular shapes	37%	267	<div> <div>15%</div> <div>39%</div> <div>33%</div> <div>10%</div> </div>
There are enough new trees and plantings included in the design	37%	267	<div> <div>13%</div> <div>49%</div> <div>18%</div> <div>14%</div> <div>3%</div> </div>
I like the fitness area	39%	267	<div> <div>28%</div> <div>24%</div> <div>23%</div> <div>13%</div> <div>11%</div> </div>
There are enough comfortable seating options and places to sit	42%	267	<div> <div>10%</div> <div>39%</div> <div>27%</div> <div>19%</div> <div>1%</div> </div>
There is enough flexible space to hold small cultural or community events	46%	267	<div> <div>7%</div> <div>28%</div> <div>39%</div> <div>23%</div> </div>

Strongly Agree
Agree
Neutral
Disagree
Strongly Disagree

N 267

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about Design Option B.

	Average	Count	% of responses
I like the layout of the design with round/curvilinear shapes	26%	238	<div><div>40%</div><div>29%</div><div>22%</div><div>7%</div></div>
I like the shaded seating	26%	238	<div><div>25%</div><div>53%</div><div>16%</div><div>4%</div></div>
The pathways would allow me to move easily to the amenities I want to access	29%	238	<div><div>21%</div><div>51%</div><div>23%</div><div>4%</div></div>
There is a balance between paved surfaces and green space	30%	238	<div><div>19%</div><div>52%</div><div>21%</div><div>8%</div></div>
I like the shade structure	30%	238	<div><div>21%</div><div>48%</div><div>22%</div><div>9%</div></div>
There are enough new trees and plantings included in the design	34%	238	<div><div>19%</div><div>47%</div><div>18%</div><div>10%</div><div>6%</div></div>
There is enough flexible space to hold small cultural or community events	37%	238	<div><div>14%</div><div>38%</div><div>37%</div><div>8%</div><div>3%</div></div>
There are enough comfortable seating options and places to sit	38%	238	<div><div>16%</div><div>40%</div><div>26%</div><div>13%</div><div>5%</div></div>
I like the play area	47%	238	<div><div>19%</div><div>21%</div><div>26%</div><div>19%</div><div>15%</div></div>

Strongly Agree
Agree
Neutral
Disagree
Strongly Disagree

N 238

Of the two design options presented above, which do you prefer overall?

	Count	% of responses	%
Option A	97	<div></div>	41%
Option B	109	<div></div>	47%
I like both options equally	11	<div></div>	5%
I don't like either option	14	<div></div>	6%
I don't know or I prefer not to answer	3	<div></div>	1%

N 234

Which do you prefer overall, a linear/angular layout (as seen in Option A) or curvilinear layout (as seen in Option B)?

	Count	% of responses	%
Play Area	75	<div><div></div></div>	32%
Fitness Area	111	<div><div></div></div>	47%
I like both options equally	22	<div><div></div></div>	9%
I don't like either option	24	<div><div></div></div>	10%
I don't know or I prefer not to answer	2	<div><div></div></div>	1%

N 234

How important are each of the following potential amenities to you and your household when thinking about the new green space?

	Average	Count	% of responses
Trees for shade	13%	234	<div><div>67%</div><div>28%</div><div>5%</div></div>
Native plantings	22%	234	<div><div>57%</div><div>27%</div><div>9%</div><div>5%</div></div>
Formal seating areas (e.g. benches, tables)	26%	234	<div><div>46%</div><div>34%</div><div>16%</div><div>4%</div></div>
Pollinator gardens	26%	234	<div><div>50%</div><div>29%</div><div>12%</div><div>9%</div></div>
Lighting	30%	234	<div><div>41%</div><div>37%</div><div>15%</div><div>8%</div></div>
Drinking fountain	38%	234	<div><div>37%</div><div>26%</div><div>22%</div><div>15%</div></div>
Space for cultural/community events (i.e. small performances, markets, gatherings, etc.)	52%	234	<div><div>21%</div><div>24%</div><div>31%</div><div>24%</div></div>

Very important
Important
Somewhat important
Not important

N 234

Appendix C: Text Responses

How would you improve Design Option A? Please also share explanations as to why you may have disagreed with any of the options in the previous question.

- (1) Reforestation needed along steep slope: To mitigate the noise, eyesore, and pollution associated with the traffic on Woodbine, as well as the train crossing the bridge, the steep slope should be planted with tall, sand-loving screening trees (for example, evergreens like Eastern White Cedar 'thuja occidentalis'). This would also help stabilize the sandy soil. Burr oaks would also be welcome along the South side of the site, to protect from the noise and sight of the train. Currently the site is mostly grassy, with a sparse population of chinese elm, an easily-breakable invasive species, along with (I believe) one norway maple, and a shorter colony of native staghorn sumac. To prevent further erosion, the existing trees should mostly be retained, and complemented with a dense planting of trees to mitigate the sight, sound, and pollution associated with traffic on Woodbine. (2) Better engage with the natural slope of the site: The section drawings do not fully reflect the sloped natural condition of the site. To minimize the amount of cut and fill required, it would be wiser to take the natural slope into greater consideration, and adopt a more curved path. (3) Focus on site: appropriate programming: because of the air pollution from Woodbine ave, fitness installations would be better suited to Oakcrest Parkette, with 25 Oakcrest embracing its essence as a natural hillside of native trees (ex.eastern cedars, burr oaks, fruit trees, pollinator gardens, paths, water-source (for gardening or drinking), and seating. Synthetic paving in particular seems very out-of-place. (4) Goat Grazing as eco-friendly vegetation control + natural soil enrichment + community programming: The first stages of the project could include bringing a herd of goats onsite. This nature-based solution has been practiced very successfully in Sunnyside Park (Calgary), Riverside Park (NYC) in and to a lesser extent in Toronto's High Park. Along with combatting dog-strangling vine in an eco-friendly way, hosting a small herd of goats for several weeks or months in the lead-up to the project could also fertilize the soil, and serve as a family-friendly demonstration of nature-based eco-solutions. Within less than two hours East of the site, there appear to be several goat farms that could provide this service.
- A more open concept, featuring a prominent art piece and green space would be preferable. Toronto needs more aesthetically appealing spaces. Someone coming to the city for the first time should be impressed by how welcoming it looks. Look to places like Greenwich, Connecticut for high standards.
- A redesign of the stairs to accommodate a ramp for bicycles
- A second path to the park. One path is hard with kids and strollers
- Add a closed in park for dogs
- Allow area for dogs.
- Can't see where the shade structure is...if it's the umbrella, I think it would be nice to have 2 with tables underneath
- Could the fitness area also work for older children? Not just adults? Maybe a structure that requires hand over hand travel? A balance beam?

- Does the seating area have a view of the city skyline?
- Doesn't look like a lot of seating and pathway is quite narrow with seating blocking some.
- Dog park
- Don't change a thing.
- Don't think a fitness area will actually be used
- Fenced in dog park
- Fitness area is so important for physical and mental health. The bigger the better!
- Fitness areas are extremely under utilized! They are great in theory, but I've never seen on in use. People can work out anywhere, let this be an area where people can relax, play and connect with nature :)
- Fitness areas typically attract more men. That being said having one beside a children's play area doesn't seem appropriate.
- Having seen a few outdoor fitness areas in different cities they don't last long and aren't maintained consistently to justify installation. Based on my experience people will try them out for the first summer then not use them once they have weathered.
- I don't think the pull up/fitness area serves the kind of fitness we want in this area. Many are seniors and would be hurt by this. I would add more seating for families, allowing for birthday parties which are very popular here. I'd make the fitness area more suitable for seniors and perhaps train themed since this is unofficially called "train park"
- I don't think with the steep slopes and what is planned that there would be room for even a small cultural gathering...
- I don't like the idea of synthetic turf. I miss a raspberry hedge along the north fence that would discourage graffiti
- I like the fitness area - this is missing in the neighbourhood, there are already a lot of play structures, we need fitness ones.
- I like the fitness area and shade area. I think more rest locations would benefit this space
- I think outdoor fitness areas are under used and not a very good use of park space. More seating, ensure adequate shade
- I think there should be more trees planted in open spaces. This is across from an existing park area. Our community has just lost a lot of trees to construction of the rail line. There needs to be a balance of native smaller trees, larger deciduous, and larger coniferous trees. The slope should be planted with native, drought tolerant shrubs that are suited to slopes and erosion control. This could include more native plants suitable to pollinators.
- I'd add a hidden metal slide (that is meant for people of all ages) travels in the Center of the pollinator garden slope. Something unexpected would be nice.
- Inclusion of a splash pad instead of the fitness area. You have to go to Cassie's Park to get something interactive for kids aged 5 and above. There are a lot of young families with kids looking for outdoor activities. Recent census should indicate the growth.
- Incorporate open space as well to have an area for equipment-less exercises and/or flexibility for group fitness activities
- It does seem a little busy. The fitness area, while a nice amenity, dominates the space which may result in other uses being stifled.

- It would be ideal to add fitness equipment to Option B's layout. If that is not feasible, I would prefer Option A. My top 3 priorities is 1. Safety (ensuring people don't roll down the steep slopes), 2. Nature (ensuring we have enough trees/plants), and 3. Fitness equipment
- It would be nice to see the seating area somewhat removed from the fitness area (maybe with more basic seating options added near the fitness area instead). I would feel uncomfortable sitting that close to someone working out (and vice versa).
- Less fitness space, more seating
- Make the park accessible to city vehicle to enter to be able to unload materials, often overlooked by planners, entry point big enough and have a surface to accomodate a pick up truck, also proper water outlets to be able to water plants and trees. Also you do realize you have massive amoubts of DSV adjacent to said park that needs to be addressed first? Please also only plant Native Ontario trees (non seed shedding) and plants
- Making it dog friendly
- More accessible
- More greens
- More large growing trees, some fruit trees as well,
- More pet area
- More planting!
- More seating
- More seating
- More seating or place to lie blankets down
- More seating the better
- More shade trees particularly since Metrolinx took so many down.
- More shrubs , trees
- More trees. Seating situated closer to trees.
- more tress, less paved areas
- Most sun and bee friendly garden is the most important.
- Need for lookout? Picnic benches may be better. Shade structure at 7 looks juvenile.
- No fitness zone
- No one every uses the free gym equipment
- No one would use this fitness area. Just make it flat space to do yoga or lay a blanket for families. Also way more seating and garbages are needed.
- no play area, just bench seating, paths and gardens
- No synthetic turf. Seems incongruent with other natural elements
- Not a good use of the steep slopes.. could use more seating i love this area we often walk here and think it makes a nice spot for a picnic
- Please do not put in weird fitness equipment. Just make it open so people can use grass or soft synthetic surfaces with a mat to exercise. Also not enough seating!
- Rectilinear is harsh and not stress free. No synthetic surface. Do permeable paving. plant more native species on the slopes! Do shade structures with nicer pergolas. Consult permaculturalists and ecological landscapers
- Small cultural or community events are better suited to the full Parkette, not appropriate in such a small space. I wouldn't likely use the fitness area but I think we need

something for Adults not more for children in this area, especially with apartment building scheduled for top of Amroth. I think some small or divided park benches (designed to discourage loitering) including one in the sun would be good to add. Can you walk amongst the pollinator plantings?

- Suggest a pergola-type shade structure to provide larger shade footprint. Suggest using natural materials for shade structure (wood). Suggest more organic pathway design (less linear). Suggest more shade trees throughout area.
- The drawing could be easier to understand. I think a very small portion is accessible, which is hard to see.
- The fitness area looks great. I'm confused though about what shade is supposed to be provided for the seating area, which I don't think there is enough of, and I don't see any really effective shade covering for that.
- The more trees and shade the better.
- The seating area looks nice, but very small. The design itself isn't that large anyways though.
- The seating options are unclear from these images. There is apparently one bench and seating by the lookout but it's unclear what type of seating that would be
- There should be the maximum number of trees planted for privacy and noise protection. Also, like the exercise equipment area at other city parks (E.g. Withrow Park), information plaques/signs should be posted near the equipment to offer examples of how the equipment can be used, how to do various exercises, QR codes or links to videos demonstrating how to do these exercises.
- This is really hard to see on a mobile phone. Especially referencing the pic as I continue to scroll down to the questions. Maybe there should've been a clearer design - one image of where the seating is, for example, then a question about the seating. Etc.
- Too busy. Trying to put too much in a small space
- We absolutely need to preserve the existing trail to the rail bridge. If you don't, it will appear anyways, as people will use it as a shortcut.
- we don't need an exercise space that will be used for months of the year if at all. We don't need that many shade trees. This is a natural habitat for native plants and wildlife. We don't need paved surfaces, which will facilitate runoff.
- Where is the shade structure?

How would you improve Design Option B? Please also share explanations as to why you may have disagreed with any of the options in the previous question.

- Again, the number of trees planted should be maximized. The playground, field, and wading pool at the Oakcrest Parkette across the street already offer lots of play areas.
- Also good
- At least a second bench
- Being able to access from woodbine with a stroller is the #1 opportunity with both plans. Many young families live here and a ramp to get up to this would be a huge win. I love the play area if the floor were spongy like Norwood park. This is preferable to concrete as mom and baby groups could enjoy it with new crawlers. We need more seating for birthday parties with at least 2 more benches with chairs and it would be great to design

in the theme of a train as this is unofficially “train park” by the neighbourhood. There is an opportunity to cater to very small children by adding park activity items for newly walking/crawling babies.

- Cherry blossom tree
- Curved lines are much softer! Like! No synthetic surface. Do permeable paving. plant more native species on the slopes! Do shade structures with nicer pergolas. Use more natural materials.
- Does the seating allow views of the city skyline?
- Empty synthetic mat seems wasted. Get very hot in summer. Shade structure looks juvenile.
- equipment in the “play area” instead of just a bare space
- Feature a prominent art piece.
- Fenced in dog park
- Firstly, I repeat the remarks made earlier, as they apply to this scheme too:(1) Reforestation needed along steep slope: To mitigate the noise, eyesore, and pollution associated with the traffic on Woodbine, as well as the train crossing the bridge, the steep slope should be planted with tall, sand-loving screening trees (for example, evergreens like Eastern White Cedar 'Thuja occidentalis'). This would also help stabilize the sandy soil. Burr oaks would also be welcome along the South side of the site, to protect from the noise and sight of the train. Currently the site is mostly grassy, with a sparse population of Chinese elm, an easily-breakable invasive species, along with (I believe) one Norway maple, and a shorter colony of native staghorn sumac. To prevent further erosion, the existing trees should mostly be retained, and complemented with a dense planting of trees to mitigate the sight, sound, and pollution associated with traffic on Woodbine. (2) Better engage with the natural slope of the site: The section drawings do not fully reflect the sloped natural condition of the site. To minimize the amount of cut and fill required, it would be wiser to take the natural slope into greater consideration, and adopt a more curved path. (3) Focus on site: appropriate programming: because of the air pollution from Woodbine ave, fitness installations would be better suited to Oakcrest Parkette, with 25 Oakcrest embracing its essence as a natural hillside of native trees (ex. eastern cedars, burr oaks, fruit trees, pollinator gardens, paths, water-source (for gardening or drinking), and seating. Synthetic paving in particular seems very out-of-place. (4) Goat Grazing as eco-friendly vegetation control + natural soil enrichment + community programming: The first stages of the project could include bringing a herd of goats onsite. This nature-based solution has been practiced very successfully in Sunnyside Park (Calgary), Riverside Park (NYC) in and to a lesser extent in Toronto's High Park. Along with combatting dog-strangling vine in an eco-friendly way, hosting a small herd of goats for several weeks or months in the lead-up to the project could also fertilize the soil, and serve as a family-friendly demonstration of nature-based eco-solutions. Within less than two hours East of the site, there appear to be several goat farms that could provide this service. In addition: The trees located on the Eastern side of the site, adjacent to [REDACTED] should not be shade trees, but rather, fruit trees. As the owner and occupant of [REDACTED], I do not want shade trees nearby blocking the afternoon sun, but I would welcome low-maintenance, self-pollinating fruit trees that grow well in sandy soils, such as peach, apple (ex. honeycrisp), cherry, or serviceberry, because these would produce beautiful and fragrant blossoms in spring, won't cast

shade in winter, and will provide food for the community and for birds. Planting fruit trees on the sunny, eastern side of the site (already relatively flat), adjacent to [REDACTED], would result in a low-maintenance form of 'community food forest', giving access to fresh, local fruit, and serving as a catalyst for community programming. Also, planting raspberries or fragrant roses beside the fence with [REDACTED] would help prevent graffiti. Meanwhile. Another consideration is that the design should not interfere or undermine people's longtime practice of travel along the existing desireline, from the top of the slope to the southwest corner at the bottom. Also, avoid planting shade trees near the top of the site (near Oakcrest), as this would block the sun and the view of the CN tower that [REDACTED] currently enjoys. As mentioned earlier, such screening trees are needed along the steep slope, where they will help mitigate the sound, sight, and smell impacts coming from Woodbine avenue, while helping retain soil, while creating habitat for birds.

- Have some structured play area
- I don't think there are enough seating options again, and the lack of playground structure is a real problem. The synthetic surface is great to have under the playground, and without a playground I'm confused about why you wouldn't just extend the grassy area and provide greater seating options under shade trees.
- I like the circular shape of this option but strongly prefer Option A because it includes fitness equipment.
- I like the design without equipment better as it's a space where people can cater the space to their own activities. I disagree with the notion of a 'play area' though because it implies the space is designated for children. As a single man in his 30's I have noticed a lack of space in the area where I'm comfortable to go to sit and read or relax because the other parks in the area, particularly the one across the street on Wildwood Crescent, are designed for children.
- I like the overall feel of this design. It flows and the pollinator planting looks larger in Option B. Again I think 'small cultural or community events' are better suited to the larger Parkette but the design of this one would make small gatherings possible. Small or divided park benches (designed to discourage loitering) could be added. Some people just like to sit and read or watch the world go by.
- I liked the structure in the previous design a bit better
- I would add a few more benches or maybe a concrete table/chair combo like the chess tables I have seen in other parks. This looks like a much more flexible space that could be used by all ages for more kinds of activities.
- If the playgrounds are staying on the north side of Oakcrest I would favour Option B. But, one addition would be to add a mud/water pit similar to what is at Gledhill Park. That way adults who are using the fitness equipment could still supervise/entertain their child within proximity.
- It needs more trees and native plants. There is already park space nearby. Please use as much space as possible to replace the hundreds of trees our community lost due to rail work. This should include native deciduous, coniferous trees.
- keep in mind to make sure a city vehicle can access this area to unload and pick up heavy items also there needs to be adequate water connection to be able to water the trees and plants otherwise they are going to die, make sure to plant native trees without

too much plant shedding and native plants, also you have a massive DSV situation adjacent to said new area that needs serious attention

- Kids love seeing trains. The plants might block this. More seating
- Linear is better use of space
- More accessible
- More play features could be added. Why not find fitness equipment that can also act as play equipment? More seating should be added. Is there fencing to block off the steep slope area?
- More seating and garbages. Option 2 is way better with synthetic flooring. The photos show a footpath from woodbine so I would reconsider this being excluded. The city should prioritize making this space truly accessible and it's disappointing that it's been ruled out. I've read the report and the decision seems overkill.
- More seating. Also this pollinator garden is a waste since the sloped area already has this coming up woodbine. I know you can't formalize the path from woodbine but consider at least making it less unsafe to climb up by foot since people will do this anyway. That last step is super steep and I worry about teenagers hurting themselves on that hop down. Also consider additional sound barriers from the track and street to make it more comfortable to sit and enjoy.
- More shaded seating.
- More trees on the woodbine slope to reduce noise and provide cleaner air
- more trees, less paved areas
- no play area, bench seating, paths and gardens, trees
- Off leash dog area
- park lighting, bins
- Perhaps a play area that also incorporates metal structures requiring climbing and balance? Or more seating/tables and cubes.
- Plant a raspberry hedge to protect the existin retaining wall (18) from the graffitists. Preserve sumac bushes along the slope bordering Woodbine. Replace the synthetic turf in the play area with woodchips. Assure that some of the new trees bear fruits and berries to attract birds and pollinators. Make provision for keeping weeds under control.
- Please refer to my previous comment.
- Preference for Option A. I don't feel like a play area is needed given that Oakcrest pro is just across from the planned parkette. There is a need for fitness equipment in the area and the integration of this in Design A will fill a big gap in the neighborhood
- Same suggestion for shade structure as Option A.
- Seating area further away from play area.
- Shade above play area.
- Should include a dog park
- Stephenson Park and Oakcrest park both have play structures already. The fitness area of design one is better for the neighbourhood. If fitness area can be added to this design, I would like the curvilinear form better
- Surprisingly ugly?
- The open play area doesn't have a function or purpose without some sort of equipment. Maybe a park for older aged kids, like an obstacle course might be entertaining

- There already is a play area for young children across the street. A fitness area for teens and adults is needed in this area.
- There is already a large playground in Oakcrest Parkette and close by at Stephenson Park on the other end of Oakcrest Avenue. It is already child-friendly. It could be more adult, childfree and pet friendly. That would be more inclusive. Thank you!
- There is already a play area in the park across the road. Play area is not the best use of this space. This is a natural habitat with native plants and wildlife that should be minimally changed. Humans need to learn how to coexist with nature not cover with synthetic surfaces.
- There's no play structure?? Just empty. Any small PLAY structure possible??
- This design is more appealing as it is small so an open space works better.
- This is a better design. I don't think we need a play structure. There is already a play structure right across the street and it doesn't get that much use. Kids love to explore nature - let's have them just explore nature here.
- This layout I believe would be more beneficial and open for the community, however I would opt for the play structure in the first design in this layout instead of the no equipment option
- This seems like it could be a good gathering space but may need something more for added interest. I'm not sure it's fair to call it a play space if it's just an open space - is there anything to engage people in play?
- Too much in a small space. Simplify please.
- While an open play area may make more room for events I'm not sure I would seek out a park with a big paved open area.
- Why cant we have a fitness space here too? Not maximizing the green slopes feels like a loss
- Would prefer to have a more natural surface for the play area as opposed to something synthetic.
- YEAH BABY!! This is what I'm talking about!!! The ultimate goal should be creating a healthy ecosystem and connecting people with nature. I love the idea of creating an open ended play area!

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?

- 1. We don't need a play area or a fitness area. Let's make this just a natural area, like it is today only better. There is absolutely no need for a play area given that there is one right across the street.
- A drinking fountain and seating area is necessary for anyone using the space for a longer amount of time or passing by.
- A fenced in dog park would be nice on the street.
- Adding a crosswalk to stairs to allow people west of woodbine to access the space safely.
- Adding some technology element would be cool.... Outdoor speakers, space to project movies, fire pit, etc... these are also revenue generating and should be reserved for use if you live close to this amenity

- Almsot as important as pollinator gardens for me would be actually fruiting plantings as well. Things that would also reflect and project the more naturalized forest systems that were in place pre-industrialization. Plantings that are hardy, drought resistant and would speak to the ongoing crisis of food insecurity in the ever burgeoning city.
- Anything open and wide with bee friendly plants would be the best option.
- As mentioned above: Firstly, I repeat the remarks made earlier, as they apply to this scheme too: (1) Reforestation needed along steep slope: To mitigate the noise, eyesore, and pollution associated with the traffic on Woodbine, as well as the train crossing the bridge, the steep slope should be planted with tall, sand-loving screening trees (for example, evergreens like Eastern White Cedar 'thuja occidentalis'). This would also help stabilize the sandy soil. Burr oaks would also be welcome along the South side of the site, to protect from the noise and sight of the train. Currently the site is mostly grassy, with a sparse population of chinese elm, an easily-breakable invasive species, along with (I believe) one norway maple, and a shorter colony of native staghorn sumac. To prevent further erosion, the existing trees should mostly be retained, and complemented with a dense planting of trees to mitigate the sight, sound, and pollution associated with traffic on Woodbine. (2) Better engage with the natural slope of the site: The section drawings do not fully reflect the sloped natural condition of the site. To minimize the amount of cut and fill required, it would be wiser to take the natural slope into greater consideration, and adopt a more curved path. (3) Focus on site: appropriate programming: because of the air pollution from Woodbine ave, fitness installations would be better suited to Oakcrest Parkette, with 25 Oakcrest embracing its essence as a natural hillside of native trees (ex.eastern cedars, burr oaks, fruit trees, pollinator gardens, paths, water-source (for gardening or drinking), and seating. Synthetic paving in particular seems very out-of-place. (4) Goat Grazing as eco-friendly vegetation control + natural soil enrichment + community programming: The first stages of the project could include bringing a herd of goats onsite. This nature-based solution has been practiced very successfully in Sunnyside Park (Calgary), Riverside Park (NYC) in and to a lesser extent in Toronto's High Park. Along with combatting dog-strangling vine in an eco-friendly way, hosting a small herd of goats for several weeks or months in the lead-up to the project could also fertilize the soil, and serve as a family-friendly demonstration of nature-based eco-solutions. Within less than two hours East of the site, there appear to be several goat farms that could provide this service. In addition: The trees located on the Eastern side of the site, adjacent to [REDACTED] should not be shade trees, but rather, fruit trees. As the owner and occupant of [REDACTED], I do not want shade trees nearby blocking the afternoon sun, but I would welcome low-maintenance, self-pollinating fruit trees that grow well in sandy soils, such as peach, apple (ex. honeycrisp), cherry, or serviceberry, because these would produce beautiful and fragrant blossoms in spring, won't cast shade in winter, and will provide food for the community and for birds. Planting fruit trees on the sunny, eastern side of the site (already relatively flat), adjacent to [REDACTED], would result in a low-maintenance form of 'community food forest', giving access to fresh, local fruit, and serving as a catalyst for community programming. Also, planting raspberries or fragrant roses beside the fence with [REDACTED] [REDACTED] would help prevent graffiti. Meanwhile. Another consideration is that the design should not interfere or undermine people's longtime practice of travel along the existing desireline, from the top of the slope to the southwest corner at the bottom. Also, avoid

planting shade trees near the top of the site (near Oakcrest), as this would block the sun and the view of the CN tower that [REDACTED] currently enjoys. As mentioned earlier, such screening trees are needed along the steep slope, where they will help mitigate the sound, sight, and smell impacts coming from Woodbine avenue, while helping retain soil, while creating habitat for birds. '

- As there is no seating outside the play area in the main parkette, important to have it here. I would hope lighting would be appropriate and would not try turning night into day. Spring flowers be they native or non-native would be nice to have.
- As you can see, I have a conflict I prefer the Curved design but I also like the Fitness area. If you can combine both that would be wonderful!
- Did g friendly area
- Dog park
- Don't waste tax dollars on this. I lived a stones throw from this park for 17 years and rarely even drove by it. Lack of accessibilty from Woodbine combined eith the low density housing on the surrounding streets thst are accesdible will mean low usage. No one will want to program a concert next to a railwsy tracks. I recommend spaces like this be turned into mini forests. Google Miyawaki.
- Drinking Fountain would be great provided it is well maintained, and that the fountain has a height level to also accommodate pets
- Extra benches
- Feature a prominent art piece or sculpture.
- Fitness area is key for the neighbourhood. The surrounding parks have play structures, and ample room for cultural events etc, this shouldn't be added to the new oakcrest parkette
- Go pollinators!!!!!!
- I like the shape better in B but the fitness area better in A
- I teach martial arts here, would be nice to have a shelter so I could teach here if it rains
- I think the most important thing should be the nature and what we can do to conserve it and support it, and then our personal enjoyment
- I think we need more creative seating. I don't think there's enough.
- I would love this to be dog friendly. Also a bbq area.
- I would use the linear format because it appears to create a bigger useable space but I would not put in the exercise equipment because that isn't usable by all ages. The open space is much more flexible and will likely get used a lot more.
- If you can still remain the wading pool would be nice !
- IF you do fitness instead of play area (which would be the worst choice) at least tailor to seniors rather than young people. This is not Venice beach, we do not need pull up bars.
- Instead of focusing on a particular function (fitness or play) the space could be used as a relax and gather as the community sees fit. The focus on the natural environment is excellent, but with the open grass area it might be prudent to restrict access to dogs to prevent mess and ensure that people want to use the grassy area. There is a dog park across the street and from living in the area I know people are not good at cleaning up after their dogs. The pollinator garden is a great idea, but I would suggest a walking path through the area instead of raised beds to create a promenade where people could walk

and get away from the busier area. A few benches could make that area a nice oasis in nature.

- It is important to remember that the location of this parkette is somewhat hidden. Avoid placing features that will encourage late night gatherings and safety concerns.
- It was not easy to understand the maps. I voted neutral on things I didn't see on the map.
- It's such a small space. I think both designs make use of what limited function. But I really like a walkway down to Woodbine.
- Let the children see the trains.
- Lighting is incompatible with a pollinator garden. Fruit bearing trees support pollinators.
- Like curvilinear style and larger garden but think space should be used for equipment or intentional use, not open synthetic surface.
- Literally no one would use a fitness area with weird outdoor equipment for muscle heads. Open play areas for kids to kick a ball around or seniors to do yoga makes much more sense. Also please add more seating and garbages for community events. This is not enough as-is.
- Love the fitness area, really needed for our neighbourhood!
- More accessible designs
- More trees, please!
- My ideal for this spot is exactly as it is but with native species and more trees, so the closer to that the design can get, the better.
- Need a place for small dog area.
- No
- No play area, please!
- Off leash dog area
- Overall, a good design for a small space. Good job for the city to use space currently fenced off for more recreational/park space. Continue saying no to suggestions this should be used for urban agriculture. Also, adding fruit trees or berry bushes would attract wasps/hornets making the space unusable for anyone who is allergic to stings (such as my one child) so that needs to be considered. That would limit who uses this small space to a minority of people who would use it as opposed to the entire neighborhood. Now let's just get it built!
- Please add more seating areas
- please consult with city worker that deal with this park, not sure why these designs are never passed through to the gardeners who actual have to deal with these neighbourhoods. Must have water access to water plants and space for city vehicles to enter
- Please see my comment on the previous section. If the fitness area is the option chosen, guardians need something closer to have their children occupied with. The park at Oakcrest is too far from the guardian. Consider a water/mud area like that available at Gledhill Park.
- Putting lighting in will add to the light pollution which will disrupt the natural habitat for birds and wildlife. this is a natural habitat for wildlife and native plants and you want to pave it over and turn it into a public space that is not needed. You should be spending

the city dollars on some thing other than putting in synthetic surfaces and gym equipment.

- Really really really need a fenced in dog park, the short hours for off leash play are insufficient. Fencing a section of Oakcrest or Stephenson parks would be amazing!
Thanks
- Seating shouldn't just be for parents to watch kids. A lot of people don't have kids these days.
- Since there is a playground directly across the road I think a fitness area is a brilliant idea, especially since a lot of folks use the stairs as part of their workouts.
- Some kid friendly equipment would be preferable
- Space for gathering is important if people can be encouraged to use it
- thank you for asking
- The community needs this space to be a safe and clean place for adults to hangout and come together. Right now it's full of old clothing, needles, and garbage. The most important piece of the space is lighting, it needs to be very well lit or it will become a dangerous place for the community. Love the designs, but we also need to consider what we don't want it to be come. Thanks for sharing this survey out.
- There are a ton of kids in the neighbourhood, and folks also like these stairs for fitness, I think we can blend the two uses better. Doesn't have to be one or the other.
- There is a large park across the street with play area. A fitness area here would add value and not duplicate.
- there is a much larger park on the danforth for markets, why waste the space here that it intended for locals to play and tree/plants. I would include a local veggie garden option for people to plant food.
- There's a park across the street for sports and gatherings. This green space should be cultivated as such.
- There's another park very close to this area with a play area, and water hole but barely any seating. We need More benches to read books outside !
- This area does not need a fitness space, a small playground or updated one is better a natural garden with trees and native plants is better no space for dogs there's a dog park across the street - seating area is important
- This park is unofficially called "train park" in the neighbourhood and many young families and babies go here for the wading pool at oakcrest. I'd encourage the use of soft/spongy flooring used at Norwood park as it is much better for mom groups and new crawlers/walking babies. There is no other park in the area that suits very young kids- most are for age 4+. No one will ever use pull ups- this is not Venice beach. The area are elderly people who use the stairs and want open space to do tai chi and 20-30something parents with babies.
- This plan seems to ignore the underused space and potential of # 30 Oakcrest . # 25 needs planting and native plantings and a 'pollinator garden' that most people expect will conflict with trees