

# Community Advisory Committee Meeting

**70 Croatia Street Park – Phase 3: Setting the Direction**

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November 2024



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# Introduction

In Phase 3 of the community engagement process, the City and the design consultant team will share the preferred design with the community, with the goal to have a refined preferred design at the end of the phase. The community engagement activities in this phase include:

- A Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting
- An Indigenous Advisory Circle (IAC) Meeting
- An Online Survey
- An Open House

The CAC meeting for Phase 3 of the project was held on Tuesday, October 8, 2024, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, virtually on Webex. The purpose of the meeting was to receive feedback on the preferred park design and determine if participants felt the design improved based on feedback from earlier phases.

The document that follows provides a summary of the meeting.

# Meeting Summary

This section provides a more detailed overview of the feedback heard.

The meeting agenda and attendance can be found in **Appendices A and B**. The full presentation slides can be found on the [project webpage](#).

## Project Presentation

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- At the onset of the meeting, Andrey Pravosoudov, City of Toronto, provided a land acknowledgment and reviewed the agenda.
- All project team attendees participated in a round of introductions, team members stated their names, their organization, and role for the project.
- Helen Luu, City of Toronto, provided opening remarks to thank CAC members for their participation in this important process and provided contextual information around the project.
- Helen Luu, City of Toronto, explained the project timeline along with an overview of engagement activities to come in Phase 3 of community engagement.
- Cassandra MacLellan, StrategyCorp, shared a summary of the Phase 2 engagement activities and the feedback heard from the community and how it supported drafting the preferred park design.
- Yvonne Battista, STUDIO tla, then presented key Phase 2 survey findings, and presented the visuals of the preferred design.
- Yvonne Battista, STUDIO tla, walked through the park elements, and encouraged a discussion among participants.
- Helen Luu, City of Toronto, facilitated the discussion and questions from CAC members for members to share their feedback on the design.
- Helen Luu shared the next steps for the community engagement process and concluded the meeting.

## Questions of Clarification

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During the presentation, CAC members had an opportunity to ask the project team questions. Below is the list of questions received and the responses provided.

**Q: Is the rubber option for the play area surface material petroleum based?**

**A:** Yes, the rubber is petroleum based so it will hold more heat than the wood fibre option. The design for the play area surface is moving forward with the engineered wood fibre option.

**Q: Are the two play area surface material options winterized?**

**A:** The design for the play area surface is moving forward with the engineered wood fibre, which is appropriate for all seasons.

**Q: How would the play materials be impacted if used as animal relief areas?**

**A:** The pet waste can be removed with any impacted engineered wood fibre pieces and be disposed of.

**Q: Who would be in charge of maintaining the park?**

**A:** The City of Toronto. Specifically, Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division.

**Q: How wide are the walkways across the park?**

**A:** 3 to 3 ½ metres wide. The City requires a minimum of 3 metres clearance for maintenance staff to move around the park.

**Q: What are the material options for the shade structure?**

**A:** The shade structures will be made out of metal.

**Q: What are the types of seating options that will be available?**

**A:** Seating will be inclusive. There will be many different seating options, including picnic tables (13 units), curved and straight benches (143 linear metres), outdoor tables and chairs (2 units), lounge chairs (9 units), swivel chairs (6 units), and stage/seating platforms (6 units) available throughout the park.

**Q: What is the tree and plant plan proposed for the park?**

**A:** The full palette of plants and trees is not confirmed yet. STUDIO tla and Trophic Design are working together to develop the plant palette. Each tree will have the ability and space to form into a mature tree. Trees with wider canopy spread that provide more shade would be preferred over columnar trees. Planting considerations include viability in the environment, Indigenous focused approach to ecological restoration, and Indigenous plant species (e.g., medicinal plants). Other types of plants will include lawn, meadow mix, and pollinator species.

**Q: Are the public washrooms winterized?**

**A:** Yes, they will be winterized. Operating hours are still to be confirmed by the City.

**Q: Are the hard surfaces around the park permeable?**

**A:** This will be a factor considered moving forward along with accessibility, City maintenance, and storm water management requirements.

**Q: Are the shade structures ensured to provide shade, and does seating line up with the structure?**

**A:** Yes, the design team completed a high-level shade study. Detailed engineering drawings and panels will be checked to ensure they provide shade to specific seating areas. For example, picnic benches will be in the shade.

**Q: Is any seating moveable?**

**A:** To limit maintenance demand and to avoid potential security concerns, all seating is secured to the ground.

**Q: Will there be Indigenous plants in other areas of the park besides the pathway?**

**A:** Yes, this will include native pollinator species and other native species included in horticultural plant beds. The planting design is under development.

**Q: Is the path protected in the winter (e.g. heating, salt requirements)?**

**A:** There will be no heating, but there will be a salt maintenance requirement. The City will confirm more details.

**Q: Will there be internet in the park with TTC and TDSB in the area/connected?**

**A:** The Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division is not currently equipped with the capabilities for providing public internet or Wi-Fi.

**Q: How will lighting be considered in the park?**

**A:** Yes, there will be light studies conducted. The City will confirm more details with Toronto Lighting Standards.

**Q: Will there be regulated/standard City recycling and garbage cans in the park or will there be a more designed version?**

**A:** These bins typically remain standard for maintenance purposes. The City will review if different options can be pursued.

**Q: Will there be bike parking in and around the park?**

**A:** Bike parking/racks has not yet been considered within the park, however, there will be bike parking as a part of the broader Bloor & Dufferin development project.

**Q: Is it still an option to have fruit trees in the park?**

**A:** Although not a typical public park tree, fruit trees are being considered by the City and will require further internal discussions.

## Feedback Summary

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Feedback for the preferred park design was generally positive. CAC members commended the project team for listening and incorporating the community's varied feedback from engagement activities.

Members expressed their satisfaction with design elements, including:

- Various seating options.
- Green spaces.
- Unique design elements and features (e.g., fitness equipment, shade and play structures).

CAC members' other feedback and suggestions included:

- Environmentally and noise-friendly materials for park structures (e.g., play structure, play area surface material).
- Various native species incorporated in the park's plant plan.
- Functional shade structures that provide shade near seating areas.
- Maintaining a non-hostile park design (e.g., seating options for sitting and lying down).
- Creating a safe 24-hour park with lighting.

Upon conclusion of the agenda items, Helen Luu, City of Toronto, thanked all members for their participation and time. It was noted that participants are welcome to submit additional questions and feedback via email.

## Next Steps

The project team will refine the preferred design using the community feedback received at the Phase 3 CAC and IAC meetings. The next engagement activity will be an online survey in November 2024 for the wider community to provide feedback on the next iteration of the preferred design.

**To learn more about the project, visit the [project webpage](#).**



# Appendix A – Agenda

## 70 Croatia Street Park

### CAC Meeting

Date: October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Time: 6:00PM – 8:00PM

Location: Virtual (Webex)

Time	Agenda Item
6:00pm	Welcome and introductions
6:10pm	Presented an overview of the project process and context
6:20pm	Reviewed community feedback received in Phase 1 and 2 community engagement activities
6:30pm	Discussed preferred design for the park
7:00pm	Answered questions from CAC members
8:00pm	Shared next steps and adjourn

## Appendix B – Attendance

**Individual CAC Members:** 10/18 present

**Project Team Attendance:**

- City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry and Recreation
  - Helen Luu – Senior Public Consultation Coordinator
  - Andrey Pravosoudov – Project Coordinator Landscape Architect
- STUDIO tla
  - Yvonne Battista – Principal, Landscape Architect
  - Lok Tim Chan – Project Manager
- Trophic Design
  - James Miller – Indigenous Project Specialist
  - Agata Mrozowski – Landscape Designer
- StrategyCorp Inc.
  - Cassandra MacLellan – Engagement Consultant
- Hazelview Investments
  - Chloé Valcin-Wright – Associate, Planning & Real Estate Development

# Acknowledgements

## City of Toronto

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### **Parks, Forestry & Recreation**

Helen Luu – Senior Public Consultation Coordinator

William Skura – Senior Public Consultation Coordinator (Indigenous)

Andrey Pravosoudov – Project Coordinator Landscape Architect

## Consulting Team

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### **Engagement Specialist: StrategyCorp**

Cassandra MacLellan – Engagement Consultant

## Design Team

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### **Landscape Architect: STUDIO tla**

Yvonne Battista – Principal, Landscape Architect

Lok Tim Chan – Project Manager

### **Indigenous Design Advisor: Trophic Design**

Terence Radford – Principal, Landscape Architect

James Miller – Indigenous Project Specialist

Agata Mrozowski – Landscape Designer

**Developer: Hazelview Investments**

Chloé Valcin-Wright – Associate, Planning & Real Estate Development

## **Community Members**

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We appreciate all the community members who engaged with us during the CAC Meeting. Your questions, insights, and feedback have been invaluable in refining our materials and enhancing the overall experience for all participants.