

Public Open House Summary Report

Kennedy Park – Ionview Local Parkland Study

Phase 3: Prepare the Parks Plan

October 2024



Contents

- Introduction 2
- Public Open House Event Details 2
 - How We Reached People 2
 - How We Engaged People 3
 - What We Heard 3
- Next Steps..... 5
- Appendix 6
 - Appendix A: Display Boards 6
 - Appendix B: Additional Feedback on Possible Improvements for Local Parks... 11



Introduction

The City of Toronto’s Parks and Recreation Division has been undertaking a local parkland study within the Kennedy Park-Ionview area. The purpose of the study was to understand how people use and access parks and outdoor spaces and how they can be improved to better serve current and future generations. The Public Open House was the final community engagement event to help inform the Local Parks Plan for the area. The Local Parks Plan will share recommendations for new parks and future park improvements.

Public Open House Event Details

On October 24, 2024, the project team held a Public Open House from 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at The Hub – Mid-Scarborough, a community centre operated by Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities. The event was open to all community members interested in the Kennedy Park-Ionview (KPI) Local Parkland Study. The main goals of the Public Open House were to provide the community with an overview of the local parkland study process, share what we heard during community engagement, and get community feedback on draft content for the Parks Plan.

How We Reached People

The community was informed about the Public Open House through the project webpage, project email lists, an e-flyer sent to community organizations, and a social media advertisement that ran for two weeks. Staff from Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities also helped to promote the workshop through their networks and shared the event flyer with community members at The Hub.

Community members were invited to drop by the Public Open House at any time during the event’s hours. The project team also engaged with community members who were visiting programs at The Hub on the day of the event.

Approximately 100 people dropped by the Public Open House.

How We Engaged People

Participants were encouraged to look at eight display boards to learn more about the parkland study's process and the draft content for the Local Parks Plan. The information boards included an explanation of what a parkland study is and why it's needed, maps of the parkland study area and specific parks, the parkland study's timeline showing what we did and who we engaged, the vision for the study area, parks planning and design principles for the study area, improvement ideas for specific local parks, and next steps. *See Appendix A for images of the display boards.*

People were invited to share their feedback by placing dot stickers beside ideas they agree with (i.e. a dotmocracy activity) and to share thoughts on sticky notes and post them to the boards. Project team members were present to actively engaged with participants and answer questions.

What We Heard

Engagement Board: Parks Planning and Design Principles for the Area

Participants were asked to place dot stickers beside the guiding principles most important to them. Participants responded with the following:

- 5 dots: Make park facilities and amenities multi-seasonal. This could include facilities that accommodate multiple sports or making park amenities usable during all seasons. Provide enhanced winter and trail maintenance.
- 5 dots: Improve the condition of existing basketball courts.
- 4 dots: Effectively illuminate parks, trails and pathways.
- 3 dots: Install multiple rest areas with shade throughout parks. Shade can be achieved through more tree plantings or shade structures.
- 3 dots: Make parks easier to access from Eglinton Ave.
- 2 dots: Include engaging park features or signage about plants and animals. Consider educational opportunities to inspire reflection on the treaties and history of the land and peoples.
- 2 dots: Prioritize spaces for Indigenous gathering and ceremony.
- 1 dot: Incorporate interesting landscaping and more floral plantings while protecting the natural heritage areas. Support and encourage land stewardship events.
- 1 dot: Improve the park user experience through the installation of wayfinding and signage in alignment with the Parks & Trails Wayfinding Program.

Participants were also invited to share additional ideas on sticky notes and post them on the board. The following feedback was shared:

- Make parks easier to access from other major streets in addition to Eglinton Ave
- Ensure mobility during the winter for people with disabilities
- Consider heated sidewalks and covered trails for the winter
- Include pictures of parks on signage
- Consider leaving lights on at basketball courts later than 11:00 p.m. as this is too early for youth
- Ensure more green space and do not cut down trees
- Add more BBQ amenities and seating
- Include rock climbing wall features in parks
- Include cricket and pickleball facilities in parks
- Include more programming for youth and young adults
- Remove tripping hazards from park trails (e.g. uneven pavement)
- More parks and community centres needed in the area
- Have pamphlets showing locations of facilities and available features
- Appreciation for the playgrounds and play spaces for children, but fitness areas for adults are needed, too
- Have more water facilities/areas at parks

Engagement Board: Possible Improvements for Local Parks

Multiple park improvement ideas were shown on the board and participants were asked to place dot stickers beside their top three most preferred park improvements. Most of the dots were generally placed beside the park name and represented agreement to the overall park improvement ideas for the entire park. Participants responded with the following:

- 6 dots: Knob Hill Park (overall)
- 4 dots: Glen Ravine Park (overall)
- 2 dots: McCowan District Park (overall)
- 1 dot: McCowan District Park - add a basketball court
- 2 dots: Tara Ave. at Lord Roberts Woods (overall)
- 2 dots: Don Montgomery Community Recreation Centre (overall)
- 1 dot: Horton Park (overall)
- 1 dot: Hydro Corridors (overall)

There were no dots placed for Ionview Park, Maidavale Park, Treverton Park, Kitchener Park, Eglinton Ravine Park and Farlinger Ravine Park.

The location of the Public Open House (The Hub) may have played a role in influencing which park improvements were most selected by participants since the KPI Local Parkland Study Area is a relatively large and is a part of the city where walkability may be a challenge. The parks with the most dots (Knob Hill Park and Glen Ravine Park) are located close to The Hub, while McCowan District Park is a large and well-known park. Aside from Kitchener Park, the parks with no dots are located furthest away from The Hub. In addition, some participants expressed verbally that they did not know about or are not familiar with some of the parks named on the display boards.

For feedback that was shared on sticky notes, please see Appendix B.

Next Steps

The feedback shared on the display boards will help to inform the final Local Parks Plan for the Kennedy Park-Ionview area. The Local Parks Plan will share recommendations for new parks and future park improvements, which will inform future parks planning. The Local Parks Plan will be available for download on the project webpage in 2025.

We appreciate all the community members who engaged with us during the Public Open House. Your questions, insights, and feedback have been invaluable and will help us to further refine the Local Parks Plan.

To learn more about the project, visit toronto.ca/kennedyionview.

Appendix

Appendix A: Display Boards

Kennedy Park-Ionview Welcome

What is a 'Parkland Study' and why is it needed?

The Kennedy Park-Ionview neighbourhood is a "Parkland Priority Area". We are looking at how parks in the area can be improved. Improvements could include upgrades to existing parks, new parks, and better access to parks. The findings of this study will inform the future of park planning in the neighbourhood.

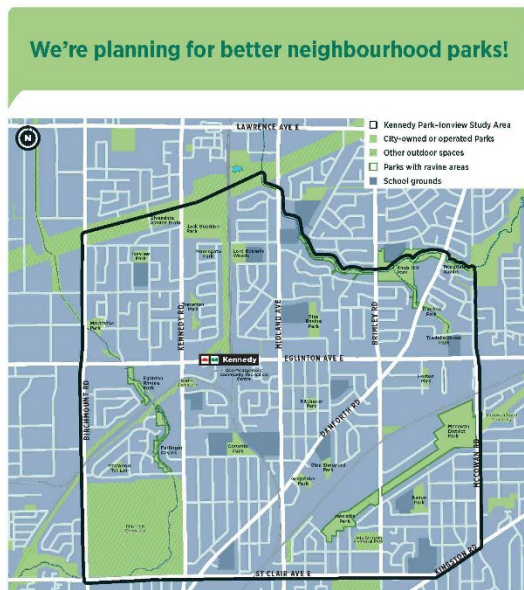
What happens next?

We will publish a Local Parks Plan that will share what we learned through research and community engagement. It will include recommendations for new parks and future park improvements.

Look at our display boards to see what we learned from the community and how we think parks in the neighbourhood can improve. Then share what you think and tell us if we got it right!



Scan the QR code with your smartphone camera to visit the project webpage toronto.ca/kennedyionview and learn more about the project and previous engagement outcomes.



Kennedy Park-Ionview Parkland Study Timeline

How did we get here?



Who did we engage?

- 690+ people engaged
- 150+ people engaged via in-person events
- 6 different engagement events
- 4 different ways we did outreach
 - Signage at parks in the area
 - Direct communications
 - Social media
 - Flyers and postcards
- 14+ organizations we reached out to
 - Access Alliance
 - Tropicana Community Org
 - TUSBI Community Health Centre
 - SDA Scarborough Southwest Cluster
 - MID-Scarborough Hub
 - Victoria Park Hub
 - Don Montgomery Community Recreation Centre
 - Gabriel Dumont Non-profit
 - Homeless Mobility Network
 - Crosby Strigjan
 - Métis Nation of Ontario / Toronto York Region Métis Council
 - Indigenous Affairs Office (City of Toronto)
 - Ambe Haa-mowos-baa (City of Toronto)



Kennedy Park-Ionview Parks Plan Overview

These are the 3 main parts of the Local Parks Plan.

1. Vision for parks in the area

- The parks network serving the Kennedy Park-Ionview community will be safe, accessible and welcoming to diverse people of all ages and abilities.
- The parks network will offer clean, beautiful, and well-maintained outdoor spaces that bring people together year-round, fostering social connection and a sense of belonging for everyone.
- Park visitors will be able to relax and experience nature through sustainable park design and improved access to ravines.
- A variety of amenities, recreational facilities and programs will reflect the needs and interests of the local community, ensuring that parks are inviting and multi-use spaces.
- It will be easy, comfortable and convenient to travel to, from and within the park network and to other community destinations.

2. Parks planning and design principles for the area

- Make parks easier to access from Eglinton Ave E.
- Improve the park user experience through the installation of wayfinding and signage in alignment with the Parks & Trails Wayfinding Program.
- Include engaging park features or signage about plants and animals. Consider educational opportunities to inspire members of the public to reflect on the treaties and history of the land and peoples.
- Incorporate interesting landscaping and more floral plantings while protecting the natural heritage areas. Support and encourage land stewardship events.
- Prioritize spaces for Indigenous gathering and ceremony.
- Make park facilities and amenities multi-seasonal. This could include facilities that accommodate multiple sports or making park amenities usable during all seasons. Provide enhanced winter and trail maintenance.
- Improve the condition of existing basketball courts.
- Install multiple rest areas with shade throughout parks. Shade can be achieved through more tree plantings or shade structures.
- Effectively illuminate parks, trails and pathways.

3. Possible improvements for local parks



Kennedy Park-Ionview Parks Planning and Design Principles for the Area

Based on what we heard, these are the guiding principles when planning and designing parks in the area.

Place a dot on the principle that is most important to you.



Make parks easier to access from Eglinton Ave E.



Improve the park user experience through the installation of wayfinding and signage in alignment with the Parks & Trails Wayfinding Program.



Include engaging park features or signage about plants and animals. Consider educational opportunities to inspire reflection on the treaties and history of the land and peoples.



Incorporate interesting landscaping and more floral plantings while protecting the natural heritage areas. Support and encourage land stewardship events.



Prioritize spaces for Indigenous gathering and ceremony.



Make park facilities and amenities multi-seasonal. This could include facilities that accommodate multiple sports or making park amenities usable during all seasons. Provide enhanced winter and trail maintenance.



Improve the condition of existing basketball courts.



Install multiple rest areas with shade throughout parks. Shade can be achieved through more tree plantings or shade structures.



Effectively illuminate parks, trails and pathways.



Write other ideas for guiding principles that you think we are missing on a sticky note and post it here.



Kennedy Park-Ionview Possible Improvements for Local Parks

These are some of the ways the community said we can improve local parks and outdoor spaces.



Map ID	Park	Improvement Type
1	Jack Goodled Park	Key park improvement
2	Corvette Park	Key park improvement
3	Jeanette Park	Key park improvement
4	Danforth Rd and Gordonridge Pl Parks Network	Key park improvement
5	Ionview Park	Improve
6	Maidavale Park	Expand, Connect
7	Treverton Park	Connect, Improve
8	Tara Ave at Lord Robert Woods Park	Expand
9	Hydro Corridors	Connect
10	Glen Ravine Park	Connect
11	Kitchener Park	Connect
12	Knob Hill Park	Improve
13	Horton Park	Expand
14	Don Montgomery Community Recreation Centre	Expand
15	Eglinton Ravine Park and Farlinger Ravine Parks	Connect, Improve
16	McCowan District Park	Connect, Improve



Kennedy Park-Ionview Possible Improvements for Local Parks

Cost Breakdown

- 1 Less than \$100,000
- 1+ \$100,000 to \$500,000
- 1++ Over \$500,000

If you had to choose your top 3 park improvements, what would they be?

<p>Ionview Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1+ Add more lighting. 1+ Install a basketball court. 1+ Add more interesting park landscape. 	<p>Maidavale Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1++ Expanded this park if the area surrounding the park were developed. 1+ Create a pathway to Eglinton Ave E through the ravine this park if the area surrounding the park were to be redeveloped. 	<p>Treverton Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1+ Remove the fence so that visitors have more access points into the park. 1+ Add a fenced off-leash area. 1+ Remove or refit the baseball diamond for another purpose. 	<p>Tara Ave at Lord Roberts Woods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1+ Activate the blank wall and the end of Tara Ave with public art or recreational features (adjacent to Hoogate bridge). 	<p>Hydro Corridors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1++ Work with and support the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) on trail building and meadow restoration work. Place trail connections into Jack Goodlad Park and other parks where possible. 	<p>Glen Ravine Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1++ If the surrounding area and properties south of the park are redeveloped, ensure there is a clear connection to Eglinton Ave E so that members of the public can easily get to the park.
<p>Kitchener Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1++ If the surrounding area and properties north of the park are redeveloped, ensure there is a clear connection to Eglinton Ave E, so that members of the public can easily get to the park. 	<p>Knob Hill Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1+ Improve trail entrance conditions along Danforth Rd by making the path entrances more visible through signage and through the regular upkeep of the pathway. 1+ Protect and enhance the natural areas, for example through signage or improved pathways to make it clear which areas park users should walk in. 1+ Rehabilitate the basketball courts and ball hockey area. 1++ If the pool ever undergoes a replacement, make it deeper. 	<p>Horton Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1++ Expand Horton Park should the surrounding area and properties be developed - include a clear way to get into the park and/or park frontage along Eglinton Ave E. 	<p>Don Montgomery Community Recreation Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1+ Improve access to green space near the building to support outdoor recreation. 1++ Add more green space if there is future redevelopment of the community recreation centre. 	<p>Eglinton Ravine Park and Farlinger Ravine Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1++ Create a pathway from Chelwood Rd through to Eglinton Ave E, including a bridge over Taylor Hossy Creek. 1++ Connect the two ravine parks through the railway and hydrom corridor. 1+ Improve the entrance points into the ravine via Rossby Rd and the railway to make the ravine easier to access. 1+ Protect and preserve this natural heritage area by encouraging tree stewardship, including more native plantings, and supporting animal habitats within the park. 1+ Add a walking trail by the creek. 	<p>McCowan District Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1+ Add more entrances into the park and improve access to the multi-use path. 1+ Add lighting along the trails and path. 1+ Add a basketball court.



Kennedy Park-Ionview Possible Improvements for Local Parks

We learned that these are some of the community's most popular parks, but they can be improved.

Jack Goodlad Park

These are some of the ways the park can be improved...



- Off-leash area
- Outdoor fitness area
- Tennis court
- Seating with shade provided by trees or shade structures

Did we miss anything?



Clubhouse (also known as the Jack Goodlad Park Community Centre)

Corvette Park

These are some of the ways the park can be improved...



- Interesting landscaping such as trees and garden areas
- Seating options such as benches, bleachers, and picnic tables with shade

Did we miss anything?



Washrooms



Kennedy Park-IONview

Possible Improvements for Local Parks

We learned that these are some of the community's most popular parks, but they can be improved.

Jeanette Park

These are some of the ways the park can be improved...



- Extend the parks trail experience by connecting the Jeanette and McCowan district park pathways together with a crossing over Birmley Rd.
- Protect and enhance the natural areas within and around the park

Natural area between Jeanette Park and Birmley Rd. (looking north)

Did we miss anything?



The Danforth Rd and Gordonridge PI Parks Network

These are some of the ways the park can be improved...



- Create a seamless and pleasant connection between Danforth Rd, Greystone Park, G-ridge Park, and Glen Sheppard Park

G-ridge Park (on TCHC Property)



Glen Sheppard Park

Did we miss anything?



Kennedy Park-IONview

Next Steps

We will publish a Local Parks Plan that will share recommendations for new parks and future park improvements.

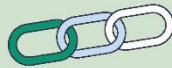
What will the Local Parks Plan be used for? It will help guide...



The creation of new parks

New parkland or the expansion of existing parks in Kennedy-Park IONview can happen in 3 different ways:

- Building a new park on land that is provided to the City by a developer or buying land with money provided to the City by the developer
- Buying land from an owner who would like to sell their property.
- Turning other existing City property into a park.



Collaboration across the City

The Local Parks Plan will be used to guide conversations when City divisions work together to improve our parks and streets. It will also provide input on studies and plans done by other divisions (e.g. City Planning, Transportation Services), City agencies (e.g. CreateTO, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA)), and City corporations (e.g. Toronto Community Housing Corporation).



The scope and cost of future park projects

When it is time to create a new park or make park improvements, the Local Parks Plan will be the starting point for what the parks project should include in its design. The extent of the improvements will determine the cost and budget needed to make it happen.



Preparation of the Parks, Forestry, and Recreation (PFR) Budget

PFR's budget will be used to deliver many of the recommended park improvements. The development of the PFR Budget happens every year and park projects in this area may be granted funding in the coming years.



Appendix B: Additional Feedback on Possible Improvements for Local Parks

The following ideas were written on sticky notes that were posted under specific parks, while some were posted generally on other display boards and are feedback pertaining to the entire KPI Local Parkland Study Area.

Ionview Park:

- Need improvements to soccer posts, nets need to be updated
- Consider an off-leash area for dogs

Maidavale Park:

- Need signage about coyote presence

Knob Hill Park:

- School basketball court needs to be improved
- Make pool deeper and longer
- New pool with proper changerooms
- Pool season could be longer as weather is getting warmer
- Add more pedestrian crossings on Brimley Rd.
- Add trail path from Citadel Dr to Brimley Rd.
- Improve change room
- Add more seating options
- Add more shaded areas
- Have the pool lined
- Swings needed
- Uncover the creek in the long term
- The trail is popular for hanging out

Horton Park:

- Needs to be cleaned as many people use the park

Tara Ave. at Lord Roberts Woods

- Tara Ave. space is a safety buffer from the rail corridor

Don Montgomery Community Recreation Centre:

- Close to transit, great location for community gathering
- Make a new community hub here
- Add public space here
- Friendly to seniors
- Close to TTC/Kennedy

Eglinton Ravine Park and Farlinger Ravine Park:

- Parks around the ravine are not walkable or connected

McCowan District Park:

- Add seating along the trail for art, painting activities
- Add outdoor fitness area to park

Glen Ravine Park:

- Include paved trails
- Need benches in park
- Fix broken slide and add swings to playground
- Improving walkability from Glen Ravine Park to Kitchener Park

Hydro Corridors:

- Preserve trees along rail corridor

Jack Goodlad Park:

- Replace dying trees
- Longer hours for lighting (into the evening) and at other parks in the area
- Off-leash areas for dogs of all sizes are needed in this neighbourhood

Corvette Park:

- If cricket is added, ensure lighting is available
- Include signage for Corvette Park on Merrian Rd.
- Improve play area at school: slide structure and make it friendly for younger kids

- Splash pad is moldy due to being in the shade, put playground on the shaded side and splash pad in the sunny area
- Improve rail crossing and make it safe
- More seating is needed
- Add more bleachers
- Natural barrier of bushes is not adequate to block loud noise of trains

The Danforth Rd. and Gordonridge Pl. Parks Network:

- Challenges getting permits for community events (e.g. bouncy castle)
- Add water fountains

Other general feedback:

- More washrooms are need and they need to be cleaned often
- Add more skating rinks
- Need more washrooms and drinking fountains
- Better maintenance and upgrades to facilities are needed
- Need more benches, not stones
- Add more seating on park trails
- Add/extend trails
- Add a new community centre to the area
- Include outdoor fitness equipment in other parks in this area
- Add more seating and picnic areas
- Gates/barrier fence in play areas to stop children from going to main road
- More bike trails and exercise stations in parks
- Basketball courts attract youth to a park
- More playgrounds, water parks, washrooms, skate parks, soccer fields, and baseball diamonds