

Indigenous Advisory Circle Meeting #3 Summary Report

New Parks in the Six Points Neighbourhood
Phase 3B: Setting the Direction
April 2024

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KIPLING AVE

Prennan Ave

Renown Rd

DUNDAS ST W

DUNDAS ST W

Jerry Howerth Dr

**3780 Bloor St W
(Dunkip Park)
2,210 m²**

BLOOR ST W

**Future site of
Etobicoke Civic Centre**

Beamish Dr

**Linear Park
2,708 m²**

DUNDAS ST W

DUNDAS ST W

**Etobicoke City Centre Park
5,500 m²**

**Six Points
Park Expansion
1,600 m²**

Six Points
Park

Viking Ln

KIPLING AVE

Blindagen Trl

Adobigok Pathway

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Introduction

This document provides a summary of the third Indigenous Advisory Circle (IAC) meeting that took place with regards to the New Parks in the Six Points Neighbourhood project. The meeting was held virtually on Thursday, February 29, 2024, from 6 to 7 p.m.

Visit toronto.ca/SixPointsParks for more information about the project, including summaries of previous IAC meetings.

Purpose

The purpose of this meeting was to:

- Provide project updates
- Present the final park district plan
- Present and collect feedback on the preferred concept options for Six Points Park Expansion and Dunkip Park
- Respond to questions from IAC members

Attendance

Project Team

The following project team members were present:

- Eli Bawuah, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator, City of Toronto
- William Skura, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator (Indigenous), City of Toronto
- Lara Herald, Senior Project Coordinator, City of Toronto
- Melissa Ense, Parks Program Officer, City of Toronto
- Mary Tremain, Engagement Consultant Lead, Partner PLANT Architect
- Eric Klaver, Design Consultant Lead, Partner PLANT Architect
- Tanya Pande, Landscape Designer
- Zeynep Benk, Landscape Architect

Indigenous Advisory Committee

Two (2) IAC members attended the meeting.

Presentation

The project team presented:

- An overview of the site context, project timeline, and design process
- The final vision statement and guiding principles
- A summary of feedback collected throughout the community engagement process, including the two previous IAC meetings
- The final park district plan, including individual plans for each of the four (4) neighbourhood parks
- Preferred concept options for Six Points Park Expansion and Dunkip Park, including plans, renderings, and precedents images for each

The presentation was followed by a discussion and question period.

What We Heard

This section provides a summary of the discussion and question period, including key feedback provided by IAC members, organized by topic.

Dogs

- Belief that the off-leash area (OLA) will be well-received.
- Support for adding a dog bowl to the drinking fountain.

Balance of Uses

- Satisfaction with balance between green space and OLA – “has good mix of space for people and their dogs”.
- “Has a great community feel!”.

Indigenous Cultural Garden

- Excitement for including native Indigenous plants.
- Desire for community stewardship of the garden, even if the program cannot be implemented immediately.
 - *Project team: Community must approach the City if they would like to maintain the garden. A dedicated group of at least five (5) community members would need to volunteer and agree to adhere to maintenance plan and time commitment.*
- Possibility of Indigenous-inspired gardens maintained by park staff.

- Interest in community planting some plants and the City planting other plants.
- Could garden be planted by the City and evolve into a community-led garden?
 - *Project team: A community-led garden would require a dedicated group with an agreed upon framework. A demonstration garden designed in consultation with Indigenous community would not require a dedicated group.*
 - *A demonstration garden is different than a harvesting/sacred medicine garden. It wouldn't use four sacred medicines, but would include other medicinal/traditional plants.*
 - *A demonstration garden could serve an educational role. The City can consult with Indigenous plant experts and include interpretive signage that speaks to historical usage of plants.*
- Is “Indigenous pollinator garden” going on the garden’s sign?
 - *Details for the garden sign have yet to be finalized. Further updates will be posted to the project webpage.*
- Suggestion to name the garden “Indigenous Cultural Garden” and to include this name on the concept plan.
- “First Nations garden” rather than native plants.

Slip Lane

- Clarification sought regarding the park district plan and slip lane.
 - *Project team: Not currently funded. Would require funding to move forward, but project team not actively pursuing it.*

Next Steps

- IAC members can email any additional ideas, comments, or suggestions to William.Skura@toronto.ca.
- IAC members who are interested in being involved in the Indigenous Cultural Garden can contact the project team (see contact info below).
- The design teams will consider feedback from this IAC meeting and other community engagement events to finalize a preferred concept plan.
- The finalized preferred concept plans will be posted on the project website.

Contact Us

For questions or comments related to this project, please contact:

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