Online Survey Summary Report

Eglinton Park Revitalization – Phase 1 Implementation: Skate Spot Community Engagement Phase 3: Setting the Direction
City of Toronto – Parks and Recreation
January 2025

Tonya Crawford, Senior Project Coordinator Elijah Bawuah, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator Annie Ding, Public Consultation Coordinator







Contents

Introduction	3
Project Background	3
How We Reached People	4
Print Media	4
Digital Media	4
Who We Heard From	5
What We Heard	5
Preferred Design	6
Key Feedback	7
Additional Feedback	8
Next Steps	9
Appendix A: Quantitative Response Summary	10
Demographic Information	11
Survey Results	16
Appendix B: Qualitative Response Summary	18
Text Responses	19

Introduction

A new skate spot is coming to Eglinton Park!

In 2019, the City of Toronto completed the Eglinton Park Master Plan, which sets a long-term vision for the park. The City is currently implementing improvements to Priority Area 1, which includes the addition of a skate spot along Eglinton Avenue West. As part of the three-phase community engagement process for Phase 1 Implementation of the Master Plan, the project team conducted an online survey from August 26 to September 16, 2024, to collect feedback on the preferred design for the skate spot and provide an update on the new basketball court.

This document provides a summary of what we heard through the survey.

Project Background

The Eglinton Park Master Plan identifies four priority areas that will help guide implementation, pending current and future budget availability.

In addition to a skate spot, Priority Area 1 includes:

- North/south pathway from the North Toronto Community Centre to Roselawn Avenue
- Dogs off-leash area
- Historic themed gardens
- Improvements to the existing stairs at Oriole Parkway

A skate spot is a local skateboarding amenity that includes more than one or a collection of skateboarding features within neighbourhood parks with a maximum size of 600 m² (a bit larger than an NBA basketball court). Skate spots focus on beginner and intermediate users.

To learn more about the Eglinton Park Master Plan and revitalization, visit the project webpage at toronto.ca/EglintonPark.

How We Reached People

The community was informed of the survey through print and digital media.

Print Media

Notice boards

Large notice boards were placed near the site of the new skate spot to advertise the survey. These notice boards also displayed information about the project and how to access additional information on the project webpage.

Digital Media

Project webpage

The webpage (toronto.ca/EglintonPark) provided up-to-date information about the project, details about the engagement activities and a sign-up button for community members to subscribe to the mailing list and receive email updates.

Mailing list

An email update was sent to the project mailing list notifying subscribers of the survey, including relevant dates, links and other details.

Social media and digital advertisements

The survey was promoted through paid advertisements and organic posts on the Parks and Recreation division's Facebook, Instagram and X accounts from August 26 to September 10, 2024.

Who We Heard From

Between August 26 and September 16, 2024, an online survey collected 395 responses from 759 participants of various ages and backgrounds, including members of the same household.

Respondents were asked to describe themselves and their relationship to skateboarding. Nearly three-quarters (72%) identified as local residents who use Eglinton Park, while one-quarter (25%) identified as skateboarders who consider Eglinton Park their local park. 45% of respondents identified as either beginner or intermediate skateboarders. Over half of respondents (60%) used skate spots and skateparks, with 15% using them at least twice a week.

Respondents were also asked to provide demographic information to help the City understand who participated in the survey and to ensure that we receive feedback that reflects the local community. The majority of respondents (81%) were between the ages of 19 and 55.

In addition,

- 46% of respondents identified as men and 37% identified as women
- 14% identified as LGBTQ2S+
- 10% identified as persons with a disability
- 40% were renters, 38% were homeowners and 11% were permanently living with parent(s) or other family member(s)

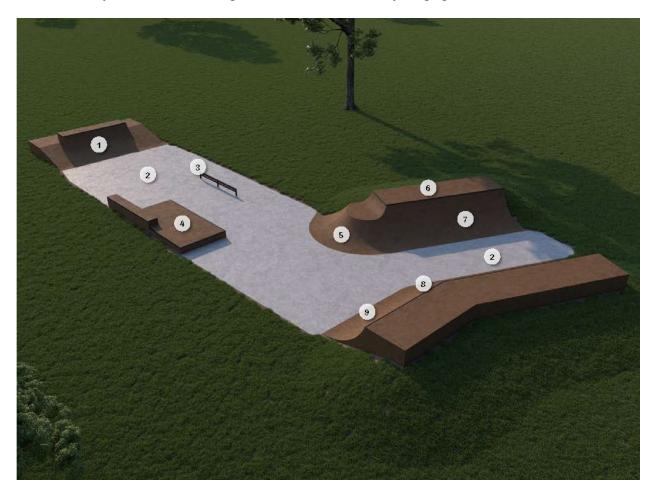
A full summary of respondent demographics can be found in Appendix A.

What We Heard

The objective of the survey was to collect feedback on the preferred design for the skate spot and provide an update on the new basketball court, which will be located north of the skate spot in the southwest area of Eglinton Park.

Preferred Design

The preferred design for the skate spot was developed based on feedback from an online survey conducted during Phase 2 of community engagement.



Legend:

- 1. Bank ramp with grind box
- 2. Flat ground
- 3. Round rail
- 4. Manual pad with grind box extension
- 5. Volcano
- 6. Step up
- 7. Half pipe
- 8. Quarter pipe hip
- 9. Quarter pipe

Key Feedback

The survey presented the following statements about the preferred design and asked respondents to indicate their level of agreement.

The skate spot design meets my expectations.

- 56% of respondents agree or somewhat agree
- 32% of respondents are neutral
- 12% of respondents disagree or somewhat disagree

There is at least one skate obstacle appropriate for all skill levels.

- 63% of respondents agree or somewhat agree
- 28% of respondents are neutral
- 9% of respondents disagree or somewhat disagree

The layout of the skate spot allows for a good flow between obstacles.

- 57% of respondents agree or somewhat agree
- 33% of respondents are neutral
- 9% of respondents disagree or somewhat disagree

The size of the skate spot is appropriate for the community.

- 45% of respondents agree or somewhat agree
- 28% of respondents are neutral
- 27% of respondents disagree or somewhat disagree

I feel that the skate spot will be safe for all users.

- 63% of respondents agree or somewhat agree
- 28% of respondents are neutral
- 9% of respondents disagree or somewhat disagree

A full summary of the survey results can be found in Appendix A.

Additional Feedback

The survey asked respondents if they had additional comments or suggestions about the preferred design. From the 97 responses received, the following major themes emerged, with the total number of responses per theme shown in brackets:

- Requests for skate features (35), including:
 - o Ramps (8), such as beginner- or child-friendly ramps (3) and kickers (2)
 - o Rails of various types and sizes (7), such as flat bars (3)
 - Ledges of various types and sizes (6)
 - A bowl (6)
 - A stair set (5)
 - A pump track (4)
 - A half pipe or quarter pipe (4)
- Accommodation of all skill levels (18), including:
 - o Recommendations for additional beginner-friendly features (6), such as ramps, rails and a flat area for cruising
 - Suggestions to make the design suitable for all levels (5), such as features of varying heights and a medium-sized half pipe
- Changes to the preferred design (18), including:
 - Extending the manual pad with grind box extension (5)
 - Making half pipe and quarter pipe transitions gradual and avoiding features that are too steep (4)
 - Improving flow (4)
 - Incorporating more flat area (3)
- Size of the skate spot (17), including:
 - Requests to make the skate spot larger (12)
 - Concerns about the skate spot being too small to accommodate beginner and intermediate skateboarders (3)
- Location of the skate spot (7), including safety concerns about the skate spot's proximity to the street (5)
- Additional amenities, including:
 - Seating and shade (4)
 - A flat area or skate trail for roller skaters (3)
 - Lighting (2)

A full summary of the responses can be found in Appendix B.

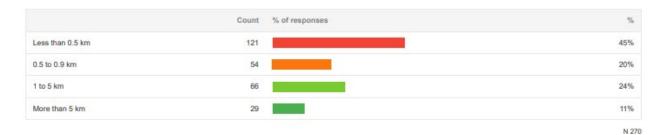
Next Steps

This survey was the final activity in Phase 3 of community engagement. The feedback collected through the survey will be used to refine the preferred design for the new skate spot. The project moves into the detailed design phase, where the design team will finalize the design by working through the technical details and drawings for the construction contractor. To be notified about future project updates, visit the project webpage at toronto.ca/EglintonPark to sign up for e-updates.

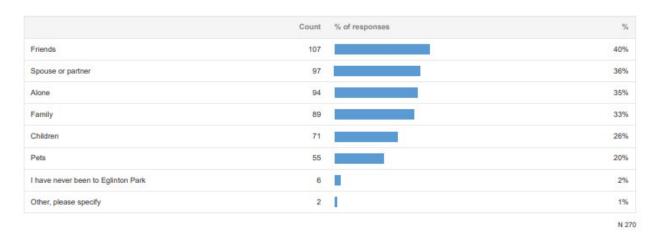
Appendix A: Quantitative Response Summary

Demographic Information

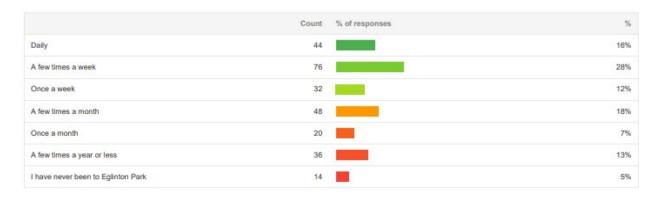
How far do you travel to get to Eglinton Park?



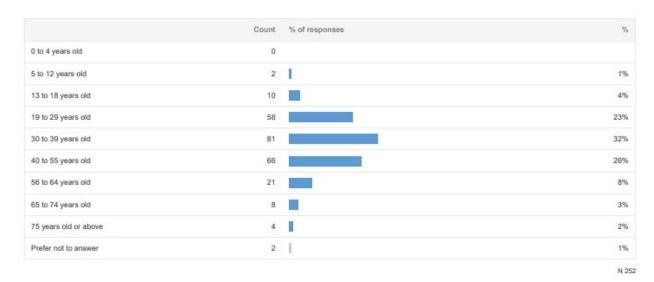
When visiting Eglinton Park, who do you go with most often? Select all that apply.



For existing assets How often do you visit Eglinton Park?



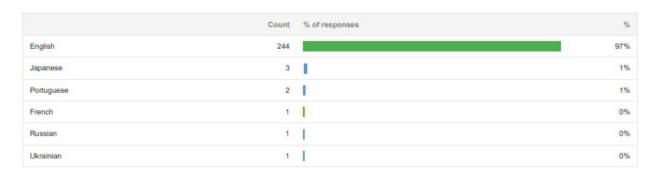
What is the age of the person filling out this survey?



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

- 0 to 4 years old = 49
- 5 to 12 years old = 55
- 13 to 18 years old = 42
- 19 to 29 years old = 54
- 30 to 39 years old = 69
- 40 to 55 years old = 66
- 56 to 64 years old = 16
- 65 to 74 years old = 9
- 75 years old or above = 4

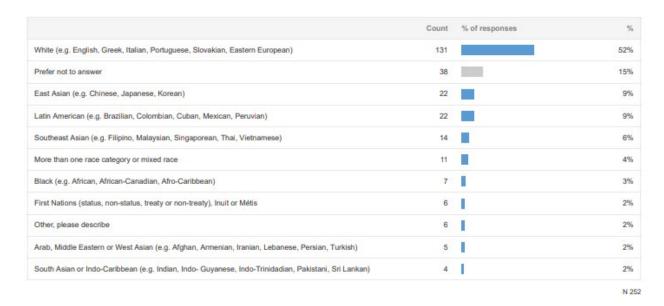
What language do you prefer speaking?



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?



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?



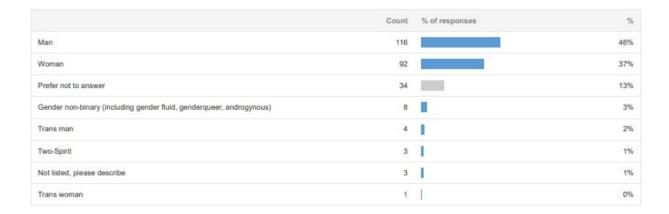
Disability is understood as any physical, mental, developmental, cognitive, learning, communication, sight, hearing or functional limitation that, in interaction with a barrier, hinders a person's full and equal participation in society. A disability can be permanent, temporary or episodic, and visible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



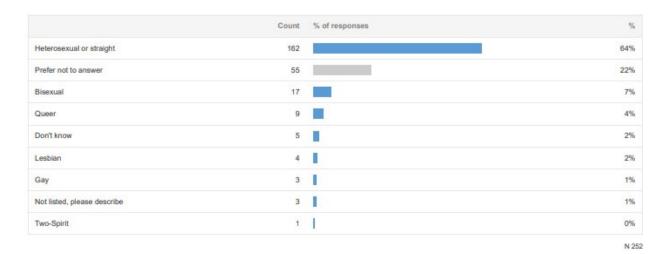
Excluding yourself, does anyone in your household identify as a person with a disability?



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?



Sexual orientation describes a person's emotional, physical, romantic, and/or sexual attraction to other people. What best describes the sexual orientation of the person filling out this survey?



What best describes your current housing situation?



What best describes you and your household's access to outdoor space? Select all that apply.



Survey Results



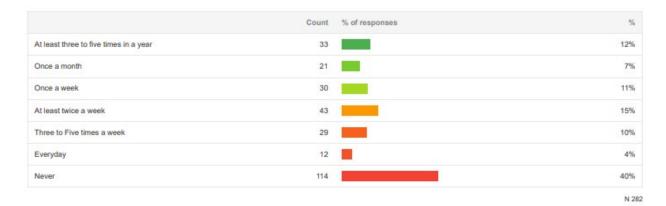
What best describes you? Select all that apply.



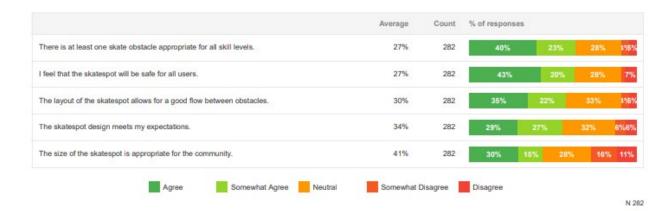
What best describes your relationship to skateboarding?



How often do you use skate spots and skateparks?



Please share your feedback on the preferred skate spot design by selecting how much you agree or disagree with the following statements:



Will you or someone you know use this skate spot?



Appendix B: Qualitative Response Summary

Text Responses

What best describes you? Select all that apply.

- I am a member of a local community group, association, or organization. If so, which organization? (10 responses)
 - North Toronto Arena
 - toronto skateboard committee
 - Oriole Park Association
 - Horizon Legacy
 - EPRA
 - Lytton park residents association
 - NTBA, NTHA
 - Toronto Skateboarding Committee
 - Bmx community
 - Christie ossington Neighbourhood network

- Other (19 responses)

- My family member is a skateboarder and would like to have a local place near the residence
- I'm an avid rollerskater but have to travel on the subway at least 40 minutes to find a smooth surface to rollerskate on. I'm really hoping that this skate part will provide enough space for a smooth surface for people that aren't just park skaters or skateboarders. Thank you
- I'm a park rollerskater I rollerskate in skateparks
- I am a rollerblader from Torontos east end
- Interested resident who would like a premium skate a park installed
- I have lived near the park for 50 years.
- Dog owner in need of off-leash area
- I am a quad skater and eglinton park will be the closest skate area to me
- I'm a roller skater but Eglinton park is not my local park
- I work in the area and use the park. I also skateboard.
- I'm a rollerskater but Eglinton park is not my local park
- Rollerskater who would go to eglington park for the skatepark
- Resident on Eastbourne Ave
- Skateboarder who lives close to the park
- Child likes skateboarding /scootering

- Senior who finds the park is expected to meet everything for a very densely populated area and does so poorly.
- I am a dog owner
- My son is a skateboarder and Eglinton Park is our local park.
- I am a skateboarder who works for the City of Toronto

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions about the preferred skate spot design? (97 responses)

- Please budget for regularly removing any harmful graffiti and garbage that might be left at this site once it opens. I like the location of the Skate Spot right along Eglinton, and I am strongly opposed to having any Skate Spot in the central areas of the Park. A Christie-Pits-like skateboarding area design is not a good idea. Please ensure that this Skate Spot is designed such that there will not be any significant risk of skateboarders 'losing control' of their skateboards in the direction of the busy Eglinton Avenue sidewalk which is frequented by a variety of sidewalk users.
- Make it even bigger
- Bowl or mini bowl
- The preferred design has good flow but it seems less diverse in obstacles compared to the skatepark on Neilson road. A medium or small staircase and more ledges/street elements would be good additions if possible. Given the density of the surrounding area, it would also benefit from being on the larger end of the 600 m2 maximum to prevent crowding.
- Remove step up it's oddly placed and ramp is too steep so not useful. I would replace the step up with some form of hip which could make the park flow a touch better. Also including some form of small stair set with down rail and down ledge like Nielsen Park location for intermediate level skaters. The total square footage should be extended to match the outer edge of obstacle 6 that would make more sense and that's even where the stair and down rail & ledge could be placed and obstacle 1 extended to use as a roll in ramp for speed.
- I would make it a little bit bigger. A lot of the midtown skaters have to go downtown or east like Vanderhoof. I'm so excited for this pls complete for next season! Thank you
- I'm concerned it may be somewhat too small to accommodate beginner and intermediate users
- It will be too small and will not have a place for both intermediate and beginners if a beginner was skating and an intermediate or a pro came, the beginning would leave the park because the space would not be enough for all skilled levels.

- It would be nice to have a straight unobstructed flat surface. Maybe a narrow strip on one of the sides for beginners to learn cruising without being in the way of experienced skateboarders doing tricks.
- Please make a larger flat section. Skate spots are useful for roller skating as well. But it requires a larger flat surface
- If possible, connect the half pipe at the grass section to make a flow in and out of the transition. Some shade to rest or a bench on grass for rest while not skating
- Bigger
- Maybe put a square rail instead of round to give beginners a better chance of locking on to the grinds
- Please provide space for people that rollerskate. Not just park skating at the skate spot but a little bit of space for people that do traditional or regular rollerskating/ rollerblading. We just need a flat surface at least 10- 25ft at this point I would take anything. There is a group of rollerskaters in the area but we have to travel at least 30 minutes on the subway.
- Often skate spots use quarter pipes that are too steep, leading to low usage as it's too difficult to ride for beginners or intermediates. Please make the quarter pipe transition more gradual.
- Would love to see some better options for small kids, there aren't skateparks in Toronto that allow them to learn. Maybe more kid-friendly ramps?
- Include a bowl!!
- Who asked for a skate spot?
- I work for Horizon Legacy a Toronto builder. We currently work with curved concrete and hope to bid on this project. (Notable developments: Yonge and Eg. Centre, Atrium on Bay) etc.
- It is not large enough to accommodate beginners to experts. There needs to be a 3-stair obstacle and a bowl. The current flow will be terrible.
- No!! Loud and attracts a bad crowd. No skateboarding in Toronto parks ever
- A greater variety of rails and ledges would be better
- Will be overcrowded but there's nothing you can do
- I think the skatespot is in the correct place.
- A beginner rail would be nice. Something with at least one side that you could ride up onto.
- Make it bigger and put lights for nighttime skating
- We need a bowl
- A simple ramp would be nice for beginners
- If I understand it correctly, #7 is a half pipe- meaning, the two quarter pipes facing each other are designed to be directly parallel and can be used as if they're a half pipe. I hope this is true! It's hard to tell with height information, but it would make the park more accessible to park roller skaters, too, in addition to skateboarders. Will there be coping on the edges of the half pipe and quarter

pipe? I hope so! And please use standard sized coping - not some weird smaller or larger size. Overall I just wish the spot was bigger, but this is way better than the current lack of skate spots and parks in midtown. Also please make the manual pad low to the ground. Like the low one currently at Dufferin Grove. That would be accessible to beginners, not the taller box style.

- Make the manual pad long and not too high
- Try to be less rectangular. The half pipe is great, but keep the transition mellow and 3 foot, no higher than 3 1/2 feet. Way more fun for more people.
- There should be a quarter pipe or something to pump on on the sides of the park. It's currently a flat rail into a diagonal quarter. Some more flow would be nice
- As long as my kids can still play soccer on the field great! I would love for a designated area for dogs as owners seem to let their dogs do anything and terrorize kids playing soccer
- Small quarter pipes and mini ramps between 3 and 6 feet high are the best amenities for all to get the most use of.
- Toronto needs a pump track. It would be quite simple to build around the skatepark. It's a fantastic obstacle for all ages, provides strength and stamina training. Please consider this option, it would make this spot unique.
- Mini half pipes have gotten very popular at many of the new spots and they don't take up much space. Please consider a mini half pipe
- Do a pyramid half instead of a volcano and add a concert curb on the edge next to the rail. We can wax it.
- A flat rail would be a great addition
- I wish for a more extensive skate park, but ok
- Given the size of the community park the skate location could be enlarged. Using a professional consultation firm to provide a few hours of advise would likely be helpful in the long run
- I think the grind box extension on the manual pad should be extended so that it can be skated backside and frontside. I also think the step up and the volcano are not as useful as the other obstacles.
- Is it possible to make seating areas surrounding the park
- I think it could be bigger and with more of a bowl aspect for skating better lines. The park could be bigger as it will have a large user population. My current closest parks are Ashbridges and Ellesmere which are an hour commute on the TTC. I would use this skate spot a lot!
- Would prefer more greenspace and benches.
- It seems like an unattractive face to the park. There is a lovely tree-covered hill there now. I don't like the idea of replacing it with concrete.
- Depending on height of 'halfpipe' should add in another halfpipe that is roughly 2'H x 8'W x 16' L off to the side as its own independent structure would be beneficial for beginner vert skaters. Depending on distance move rail closer to

ledge, add single kicker ramp 2'W x 4'L x 1.5' H for practicing street tricks. Maybe from the halfpipe add some stairs and a low handrail with a pad of pavement for landing on the side closest to the street, on the other side just add pavement for landing just a straight drop off of the halfpipe to ground. Please at least make the manual pad at least a minimum of 10feet long. No artsy fartsy junk, never gets used at any skatepark #ever. Please study and understand dimensions of obstacles that will be built. If its too steep it will barely get used and just become a waste of space and money.

- Would change the side of the quarter pipe facing the manny pad into another bank, but leave the rest
- It would be lovely to have a water fountain or some water body(pond) styled landscaping to sit and de-stress.
- I wish there was a ramp in the middle, so beginners have an obstacle when crossing the park lengthwise
- Roller skaters (quad skates) need smooth pavement to roll on. Please consider adding a figure 8 or a ring around the obstacles for guad skaters to practice out of harm's way
- Park looks good for the size allowed. I would add a shorter square bar rail around the flat area (if space allows). Fun obstacle for all skill levels
- Adding Stair obstacle similar to Neilson park and Smithfield park
- When will this project be done?
- The current design will not be appropriate for new to skateboarding or beginners. Based on my experience, the City should consider adding at least one ramp that is longer in length. See Stanley Greene Skatepark near Keele for reference.
- I think the redesign of the park is a waste of time and money and completely unnecessary. The skate board part is the least of my concerns. Leave the nice open spaces as is for families and people to play and picnic as they wish. And giving the dogs such a small area to be off leash is a recipe for disaster. They do great with the big open space (and I am not a dog owner).
- Would love a pump track to surround the skate park for more options
- It would be nice if there was an area around the perimeter or similar to allow for skating in a circle while waiting, similar to the small loop at college Park.
- Looks good
- It's lacking anything fun or unique. Nelson has a good design that should be followed.
- This is simply checking off a box to have a skate spot. Its not efficient nor usable for all skaters. Its also beside the road which is insanely dangerous. The city can do much better
- Extend the 'grind box extension' so it is longer than the manny pad for grinds over the pad. It's the least you can do for using my photos of other skateparks.
- Thank you for incorporating a mini ramp into the design.

- Please include a pump track! The city needs more of them it is An excellent way to build skills and keep fit.
- Area near rail needs to be wider with a kicker box to the right of it
- If including a small skate pool is possible that would be sick!
- Love the design.
- Love that there's a half pipe structure!
- Need a long ledge and a slappy curb. More flat ground as well.
- I'd say make the half pipe not too big. A medium size for beginners and advanced, that way more people can use it. As for flow you want to think about entrance into the obstacles. Lots of times with skateparks that have a wide space like this or lake Wilcox a lot people get scared to make the initiative. You want the skatepark to be used by many at one time. Make 1 dif heights for the boxes. Also consider that people who rollerskate and rollerblade are big users of the park. For the coping don't make it stick too far out because sometimes that hinders the trick
- Most dogs don't love skateboards, so I don't understand the logic of building the skateboard beside a sidewalk. I'm also curious to understand how much traffic this will get? There are no skateboarders in the area. Is this a field of dreams scenario?
- I thought there would've been more rails and ledges, an A frame with a rail even
- the park is too narrow, allows for only 1 or 2 skaters to use at a time, not spacious or spread out enough
- It's really important that the surface of the skate pad is made of good quality concrete that won't crumble overtime. This is most important on the flat of the halfpipe — having a concrete bottom instead of a wooden flat that is connected to the ramp risks that the half pipe isn't level, or that the flat becomes rough and impossible to catch speed on.
- Skate spots typically attract graffiti. It's nice there's going to be a place for skateboarding but it's not the aesthetic I want to see front and centre in the neighbourhood. Maybe better located by the children's playground, so the colourful graffiti/active area is in one area. There are already SO many basketball courts in the area at all the schools, and in the temporary Castlefield park. If you walk by, the only pickleball court in the area there is always in use and basketball courts empty. Seniors and all ages play pickleball. There's high demand and no courts. Nothing in this park for seniors. I would rather see pickleball than basketball added to this park.
- Id love to see the park expanded, instead of it being an L shape, concrete that space behind the box and put another quarterpipe on the back of it, extend the ledge and make the platform on top a little bigger, add some kind of box with a small rail on it, and maybe another ledge on the far outside. So basically theres two ledge features on the outsides and two rail features on the insides. With

- quarterpipes on one side and a long bank on the other. Thanks. Oh and i know i answered that i skate but i scooter.
- This community wants green space NOT more concrete
- make different level drop ins for beginners intermediate and expert
- An area to sit with a bit of shade similar to Smithfield Park, near Mount Olive Dr and Dorward Dr
- More stuff for dogs.
- The park is huge. Why cram this into such a small space? Make it bigger.
- Looks too big
- I say no to this skate park
- Given size of community it should be bigger with more obstacles and a bowl to accommodate users at all skill levels
- Adding more facilities does not solve the problem that the park is trying to meet too many expectations
- Don't want it. Too noisy for local residents.
- It all depends how popular it is with Kids who like to scooter. remember this will be used by everyone so make appropriate space for both kids who scooter and people who like to skateboard or there will be problems. Also try to make sure there are appropriate obstacles for beginners.
- I'd love more pump tracks like the skate park near Ashbridges Bay
- Most people ride "regular" which is left foot forward. The current design doesnt have ample takeoff space to use the box/manual pad well. It seems too short a distance between feature 1&4. The rest looks great, just make sure the ground is decent! Very appreciative of this proposal and the efforts being taken. Skateboarding brings good people together. So much of who i am today is because of Toronto skateboarding.
- The location within the park is terrible. Who's idea was it to put it directly beside a high-traffic 50kmph road?! Also skating is NOISY, there's 2 apartment buildings directly across the street from the proposed location. Put the skate spot in the CENTER of the park, away from roads and housing. Ridiculous.
- I would rather a pickleball court
- Lighting at night
- less transition and more street features. also add a second outledge on the manny pad so people can do frontside and backside tricks.
- Don't build it. More green space.
- I'm concerned about fecal contamination, mainly from dogs. This is already a problem at Eglinton Park, at other public parks, and at other skatespots my children and I have visited in Toronto and elsewhere. While we can take precautions against falls and collisions, it is nearly impossible to avoid accidentally coming in contact with feces that dogs have left throughout the park.

- I don't see anything in these plans to mitigate, or preferably prevent, fecal contamination at this new skatespot.
- The fact that it is so close to eglinton ave is concerning. Proximity to traffic may pose danger
- Making a plan to work with muralists to uplift artists in the Neighbourhood and discourage unsanctioned graffiti
- I look forward to skating here