

Community Engagement Phase 1 Summary Report

Queen's Park North Revitalization

Community Engagement Phase 1: Confirming the Vision (Phase 2A)

July – October 2025



Contents

Introduction	2
Project Background	2
About The Engagement.....	2
About This Report.....	3
Engagement Process Overview.....	4
How We Reached People	4
Overall Feedback Themes	5
Feedback Summary	7
Draft Vision.....	7
Draft Guiding Principles	10
Indigenous Engagement Feedback Summary	20
Understanding the Park Today & Opportunities for the Future.....	23
Feedback Themes Across All Engagement.....	27
Next Steps	40
Appendix 1: Park Pop-Ups.....	41
Summary of Themes	43
Themes by Numbers	49
Appendix 2: Online Survey.....	54
Sociodemographic	60

Introduction

Project Background

Queen's Park North is a historic part of Toronto's downtown. In a growing city facing social and environmental challenges, public and green spaces are as important as ever. To help sustain Queen's Park North for future generations, Toronto City Council directed the City to begin conversations to revitalize the park.

The Weston family has offered to collaborate with the City and provide an estimated \$50 million to fund enhancements to Queen's Park North, with additional support to ensure the park's long-term maintenance and programming.

In March 2025, the City was instructed by Council to conduct community and First Nations, Inuit, and Métis engagement, along with design exploration, prior to the City entering into a donation agreement to fund final design, delivery of park enhancements and ongoing operations.

About The Engagement

In July 2025, the City launched Community Engagement Phase 1. The objective of this phase was to build a shared understanding of the current state of the park, including what is working well, what needs improvement, and the key challenges and opportunities driving the need for change. The City also worked with the community to seek feedback on the draft vision statement and draft guiding principles that will guide the design process.

Engagement with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples began during this phase. The engagement focused on introducing the project and team, listening to diverse Indigenous priorities, and starting a dialogue on how to work together effectively moving forward.

The feedback collected in Community Engagement Phase 1 helps the City and the design consultants finalize the vision and the guiding principles and informs design ideas. In Community Engagement Phase 2, the final vision and guiding principles for the park revitalization will be shared. The City will also share the draft big moves and early

ideas for park programming and governance, and ask for feedback to support further refinement.

About This Report

This integrated report provides a summary of all public feedback shared during Community Engagement Phase 1 from July to October of 2025.

The report is structured to reflect key themes of feedback on:

1. The draft vision shared with participants;
2. Draft guiding principles to improve the park, as shared with participants; as well as
3. What people like most and least in the park today and opportunities for the future.

The content of this integrated report is based directly on the individual summaries of the engagement activities, reviewed by the participants in draft, finalized, and shared on the project webpage (www.toronto.ca/QueensParkNorth).

This integrated report was written by an independent facilitation team from Third Party Public Inc. retained to support the City-led engagement process for Queen's Park North Revitalization. Third Party Public is working in collaboration with Trophic Design, who are leading facilitating of Indigenous engagement.

The intent of this report is to capture the range of the perspectives shared, not to assess the merit or accuracy of any of these perspectives. The inclusion of the feedback shared in this report does not indicate an endorsement of these perspectives by the City of Toronto.

Engagement Process Overview

Over 1,700 participants were engaged through various events and activities listed below. Queen's

The goal of Community Engagement Phase 1 was to:

- Build a shared understand of the current state of the park.
- Identifying what is working well, what needs improvement, and opportunities for change.
- Refine the draft vision statement.
- Refine the guiding principles.

How We Reached People

The City used a variety of outreach methods to invite community participation in the process, including direct outreach to organizations, groups, and community leaders; emails to individuals who signed up for updates; the project website; the local Councillor's newsletter; and posters at local businesses and residential buildings around the park.

Engagement Activities:

- Online survey – July 15 to August 31, 2025 – 1,000 participants
- Pop-ups in the Park (3) – July 19, 23, 30, 2025 – 600+
- Neighbouring Institutions Working Group Meeting 1 – July 23, 2025 – 11
- Community Workshop and Open House – July 28, 2025 – 45
- Focus Group: Residents and Community Associations – August 5, 2025 – 10
- Focus Group: Heritage Groups (2) – August 7 and August September 4, 2025 – 11
- Focus Group: University Students (2) – August 26, 2025 – 30
- Focus Group – 2SLGBTQ+ (organizations) – September 5, 2025 – 8
- Indigenous Engagement: Wendat Nation – October 2, 2025 – 2
- Neighbouring Institutions Working Group Meeting 2 – October 2, 2025 – 12

- Indigenous engagement: Six Nations of the Grand River – October 20, 2025 – 5
- Indigenous Engagement: Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation – October 21, 2025 - 5
- Indigenous Engagement: Indigenous Sharing Circle – October 23, 2025 – 1

Overall Feedback Themes

The following are the key themes of feedback that emerged during Community Engagement Phase 1. These key themes highlight areas of common ground within the range of opinions shared.

Protect, celebrate, and strengthen the capacity of the park to sustain trees and nature, and maintain the park as a place of serenity.

Many participants overwhelmingly emphasized that the trees are the heart of Queen's Park North and should guide every decision related to park revitalization. Many described the park as a rare, calm refuge in the city and called for any new programming or partnerships to stay within what the treed landscape can tolerate. Many want to preserve the park's quiet, natural rhythm and protect its place of serenity.

Keep Queen's Park North a space for community and civic life.

Many participants emphasized that Queen's Park North is a community space and civic commons, and they are concerned about any moves to commercialize the park or transform its identity into a tourist attraction. Queen's Park North is the local park for many in the neighbourhood. It has long hosted public protests, neighbourhood gatherings, queer community events, and other ad hoc and informal community uses – it's important that revitalization supports the continuation of these uses. Several participants supported small-scale, community-led activities and expressed concerns about any moves to introduce larger-scale programming that draws large crowds.

Enhance how people use and experience the park with “light-touch” improvements that support comfort, accessibility, and safety.

Many participants asked for “light-touch” upgrades that avoid overbuilding and respect the ecology and current uses of the park. Accessibility and inclusion were highlighted as part of safety — ensuring appropriate lighting, barrier-free paths, benches, and year-round access for seniors, families, and others. Some suggested keeping darker areas to maintain a sense of calm and privacy, and to support wildlife.

Be inclusive when reflecting the park's historic and on-going cultural significance to different communities.

Many participants widely agreed that the park's story should go beyond its colonial past. Many called for a stronger Indigenous presence and place-keeping, as well as recognition of the park's role in 2SLGBTQIA+ history, including Toronto's first Pride Parade. Some encouraged educational and interpretive features—signage, storytelling, and native plantings—that share Indigenous, ecological, and community stories.

Make sure that any increased role for institutions in the park does not overshadow community voices or the park's role as a calm refuge for all.

Some neighbouring institutions expressed interest in closer ties to the park. On the other hand, many participants stressed that institutional interests should not overshadow community voices and that the park continues to be a refuge from the city that welcomes all. Some participants also encouraged transparent, community-based stewardship and governance to ensure long-term care and accountability.

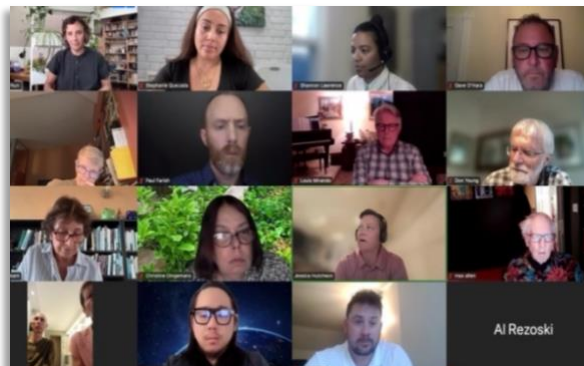
Photos from the engagement activities.



Participants at the park pop-up.



Participants at the public working session.



Virtual focus group meeting with Residents Associations



Focus group meeting with Victoria University.

Feedback Summary

This section summarizes the key themes and input from feedback gathered across all engagement activities which included: pop-ups, an online survey, focus groups, neighbourhood working group meetings and the public working session. More detailed feedback available in the individual engagement summaries posted on the project webpage.

Draft Vision

The draft vision statement was developed by the City, in collaboration with the Weston family. It is a short description of the future state that the project aims to achieve. The draft was shared during the first phase of engagement and reflects the feedback received.

Draft vision for Queen's Park North:

"An extraordinary place for people and nature throughout the seasons, that respects the existing beauty of Queen's Park and showcases excellence in design, ecological stewardship, programming and partnerships."

What's missing from the vision

- **Indigenous place-keeping and incorporating Indigenous ways of knowing and being** should be elevated to the vision, as well as being included in the guiding principles.
- Consider adding "**of respite**" so it reads "An extraordinary place **of respite** for people and nature...".
- Add a more explicit reference to recognizing and respecting the history and heritage of the park. There appears to be an implicit reference through the language of "existing beauty", but a more explicit reference would be helpful to show that heritage will be a foundational part of the process/plan. Consider adding "**and heritage**" so it reads "that respects the existing beauty **and heritage** of Queen's Park..."

- Consider a reference to day and night uses in the park that embraces both the culture during the day and the vibrancy at night.
- Connect “**stewardship**” to heritage in the vision. Heritage should not be tied to a single point in the past but should represent the evolution of the place.
- Consider adding “**openness**” so it reads “respects the existing beauty **and openness**”.
- Consider adding “**sustainability**” – it’s enshrined in City guidelines and should be reflected in this project.
- Consider adding “**limited to what the treed landscape can tolerate**” so it reads “with programming and partnerships **limited to what the treed landscape can tolerate.**”
- Consider integrating “**inviting**” into the vision – it brings warmth.
- Parks are alive with communities – think about how reflect the fact that Queen’s Park North connects to communities, **with a focus on how to have relationships with communities.**
- Consider adding “**safety**” to the vision. Making the park feel safer is very important for students.
- Consider adding language around “**art**”, specifically Indigenous art and ways of connecting people through art in the park.

Feedback on specific words in the draft vision

- Explain what is meant by “**people and nature**”. Consider expanding on these terms to ensure they are clearly defined and well understood.
- Provide additional detail / further explain what is meant by “**throughout the seasons**”. Understand this primarily relates to activating the park in the winter months. However, given that we are seeing warmer and “greyer” winters with less opportunity for activities such as skating due to climate change (e.g., there were fewer than 12 days for natural ice-skating last winter), we need to think about what it will mean to activate the park in this type of winter weather.
- “**Respects the existing beauty**” does not go far enough.
- The vision should include stronger language such as “enhance”, “promote”, or “uphold”. “Respects” is not strong enough.
- The language of “**existing beauty**” is concerning. This could be interpreted as the park will not change. There needs to be flexibility to accommodate evolving interests

and needs. Queen's Park North will always change, and that's good – it will need to meet different needs in the future.

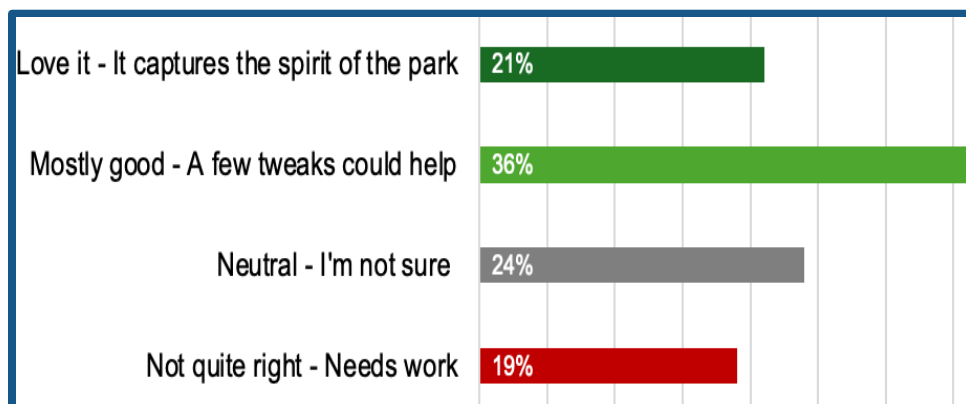
- Consider replacing “**design**” with “**natural design**”. “Design” sounds like buildings / physical structures.
- Concern that “**programming and partnerships**” introduce uncertainty about what they refer to.
 - “**Programming and partnerships**” create concern that a priority is being given to consumer capitalism.
 - Concern “**programming**” could refer to events that draw large crowds, which some said they do not want.
 - Concern “**partnerships**” is not clear as to whether this could refer to institutional, commercial, community, donor, or other partnerships, nor is it clear whether any obligations come with these partnerships.
 - Define what is meant by “**programming and partnerships**”. It sounds very business-like; the park should not be looked at like a business.

Overall feedback on the draft vision

- **Make the language more accessible and less corporate.** Use plain language in the vision to help motivate members of the public to get behind it and support it.
- **The landscape, and especially the trees, should be at the centre of the vision.** It should focus on the *enhancement, protection, and rhythm of the landscape*, and serve as the standard from which all future decisions flow – a “test” that ideas need to pass before moving forward. Programming and partnerships should be limited to what the tree landscape can tolerate, with every decision judged based on its impact on the landscape. If there is a committee that emerges to maintain the park, then they would make decisions limited by the founding principle.
- **Some said that the draft vision feels disconnected from the park's current use.** Participants raised concerns that the draft vision has the potential to overemphasize programming and commercial uses at the expense of the park's existing calm and informal character.
- **Queen's Park North is an important space for the 2SLGBTQ+ community.** Queen's Park North has been a meeting place for the queer community for more than a century. It is one of the few places where members of the queer community can be themselves without having to pay to use the space.
- **Think about how the vision could signal the purpose of the park.** Currently, it seems to lack a central purpose or focus.

- Some shared grammar suggestions, such as including Oxford commas.

The online survey asked participants about their level of support for the Draft vision Statement. A majority of participants were supportive of the draft vision. 21% said they love it, 36% said they thought it was mostly good, 24% were neutral, and 19% said it was not quite right.



Draft Guiding Principles

The draft guiding principles were also developed by the City, in collaboration with the Weston family. The guiding principles are high-level guidelines or “big and important rules” that direct the design process towards achieving the project’s vision.

Draft guiding principles for Queen’s Park North:

1. Celebrate and elevate Queen’s Park North as a distinct urban green space and signature Toronto destination.
2. Maintain Queen’s Park North as a public space and place for gathering and civic life, welcoming to all.
3. Protect and celebrate the trees.
4. Enhance the visitor experience and animate the park year-round through creative programming and improved amenities.
5. Implement ecological and sustainable practices and ensure a high standard of operations and maintenance with appropriate funding and expertise.
6. Incorporate Indigenous ways of knowing and being.
7. Strengthen relationships between public space and institutional and community partners.

8. Address outstanding priorities from the 2019 project.
9. Connect the park to existing and emerging open spaces in the area, including the University of Toronto and the University Park project.

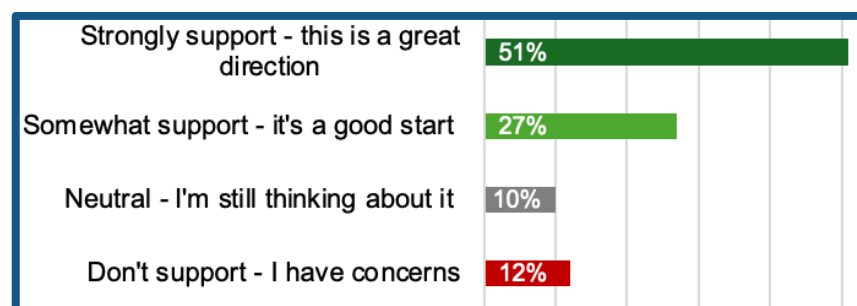
Suggestions specific to each draft guiding principles

The following feedback is organized around each of the nine draft guiding principles.

1. Celebrate and elevate Queen's Park North as a distinct urban green space and signature Toronto destination

- The language of “**signature Toronto designation**” creates concern that changes will focus more on making the park a tourist destination with non-ecological programming that could conflict with protecting the trees in the park.
- Add “**calm and treed**” and remove “and signature Toronto destination” so it reads “Celebrate and elevate Queen's Park North as a distinct calm and treed urban green space.”
- Consider replacing the term “**elevate**” with another word. “Elevate” can make people think about buildings, which should not be in the park.
- There was concern about positioning the park as a “**signature destination**”. Some participants said this would sever its local ties and risk making it feel like a space that “belongs to everyone and no one.” Instead, they wanted the park to remain a “People's Park” grounded in everyday neighbourhood use.

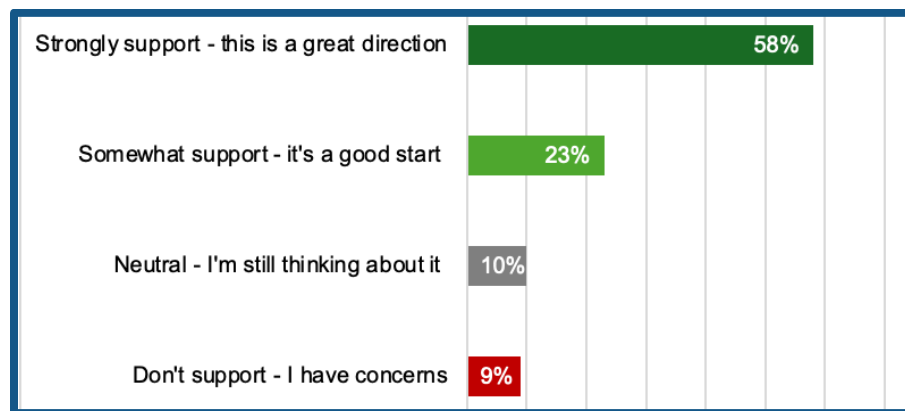
The online survey asked participants their level of support for the first draft guiding principle. A majority of the online participants said they support the first principle. 51% said they strongly support it, 27% said they somewhat support it, 10% said they were neutral, and 12% said they don't support the first draft guiding principle.



2. Maintain Queen's Park as a public space and place for gathering and civic life, welcoming to all

- Add “**natural treed**” as well as “**respite and relaxation**”, remove “gathering and civic life” so it reads “Maintain Queen’s Park as a natural treed public space and place for respite and relaxation, welcoming to all.”
- Clarify what “**public space**” means in the guiding principles. Does this mean that all uses are permitted, including legal and “illegal uses”?
- Need to think about and be able to explain how the principle “maintain Queen’s Park as a public space and place for gathering and civic life, welcoming to all” relates to people living in encampments in the park. Does “welcoming to all” include people in encampments?

The online survey asked participants their level of support for the second draft guiding principle. A majority of the online participants said they support the second principle. 58% said they strongly support it, 23% said they somewhat support it, 10% said they were neutral, and 9% said they don’t support the first draft guiding principle.



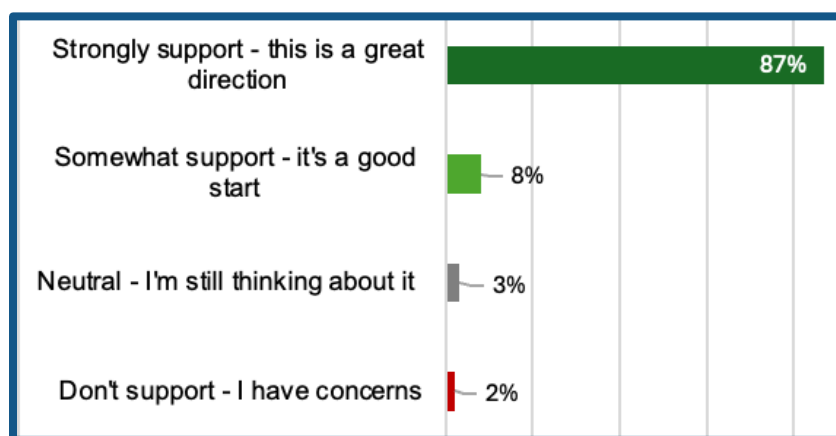
3. Protect and celebrate the trees

- Make this the first and most important guiding principle.
- Further explain what “**celebrate the trees**” means in practice.
- Expand the principle “**protect and celebrate the trees**”. If this is meant to be the primary focus of the process, then attention to the principles should reflect this priority.
- Expand the priority “protect and celebrate trees” beyond trees to include wildlife, flowers, and nature more broadly. Also, consider adding something about

education/learning about trees and nature. Explain who will be protecting and celebrating the trees.

- There's a tension between planning future uses and doing what is necessary to heal the ecology of the park. To address this, create a statement/firm guiding principle/test to assess how any decision about the future of the park would affect the trees and landscape.

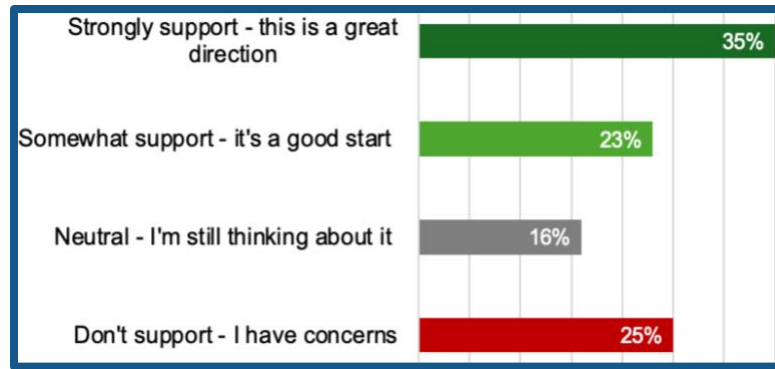
The online survey asked participants their level of support for the third draft guiding principle. A majority of the online participants said they support the third principle. 87% said they strongly support it, 8% said they somewhat support it, 3% said they were neutral, and 2% said they don't support the third draft guiding principle.



4. Enhance the visitor experience and animate the park year-round through creative programming and improved amenities.

- Consider re-wording to remove reference to “animation” and “creative programming” and add “with limited impacts on the treed landscape” so it reads “Enhance the visitor experience of the park year-round, including improved amenities with limited impacts on the treed landscape”.

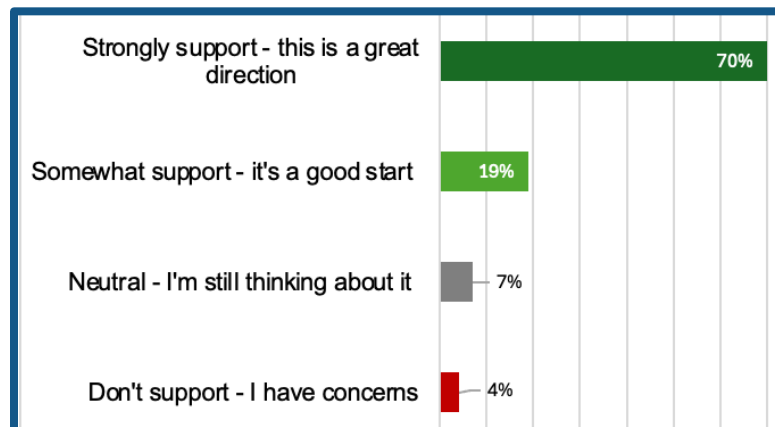
The online survey asked participants about their level of support for the fourth draft guiding principle. A majority of the online participants said they support the fourth principle. 35% said they strongly support it, 23% said they somewhat support it, 16% said they were neutral, and 25% said they don't support the fourth draft guiding principle.



5. Implement ecological and sustainable practices and ensure a high standard of operations and maintenance with appropriate funding and expertise.

- Add “ensuring forest health” so it reads “Implement ecological and sustainable practices and ensure a high standard of operations and maintenance, **ensuring forest health** with appropriate funding and expertise”.

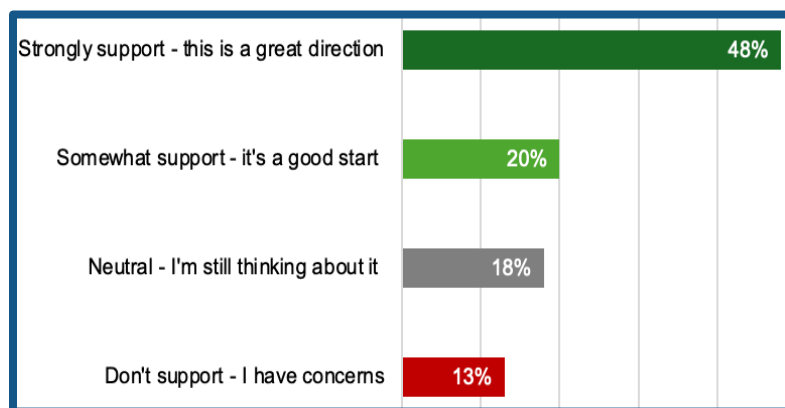
The online survey asked participants about their level of support for the fifth draft guiding principle. A majority of the online participants said they support the fifth principle. 70% said they strongly support it, 19% said they somewhat support it, 7% said they were neutral, and 4% said they don't support the fourth draft guiding principle.



6. Incorporate Indigenous ways of knowing and being

- **Strong support for incorporating Indigenous ways of knowing and being.** Participants supported mapping native species and incorporating Indigenous ways of knowing into the park's stewardship. They also expressed interest in learning more about the site's cultural and ecological history, including Taddle Creek.
- Consider adding "**placekeeping**" to this principle. Add specificity to this principle and explain which Indigenous Nations and people we are talking about.

The online survey asked participants their level of support for the sixth draft guiding principle. A majority of the online participants said they support the sixth principle. 48% said they strongly support it, 20% saying they somewhat support it, 18% said they were neutral, and 13% of the survey participants said they don't support the sixth guiding principle.

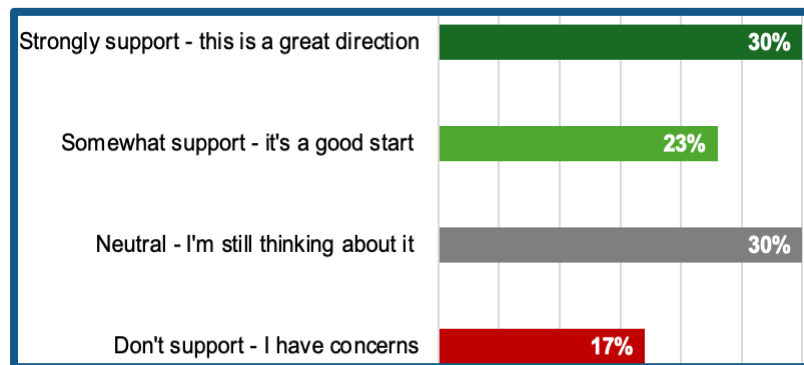


7. Strengthen relationships between public space, institutional and community partners

- Explain who / what institutional partners are. People may interpret institutional partners as corporations.
- Reference to "institutions" creates wariness, particularly due to a historical lack of trust. Consider an exclusive focus on grassroots groups.

The online survey asked about participants' level of support for the seventh draft guiding principle. A majority of the online participants said they support the seventh principle. 30% said they strongly support it, 23% saying they somewhat support it, 30% said they

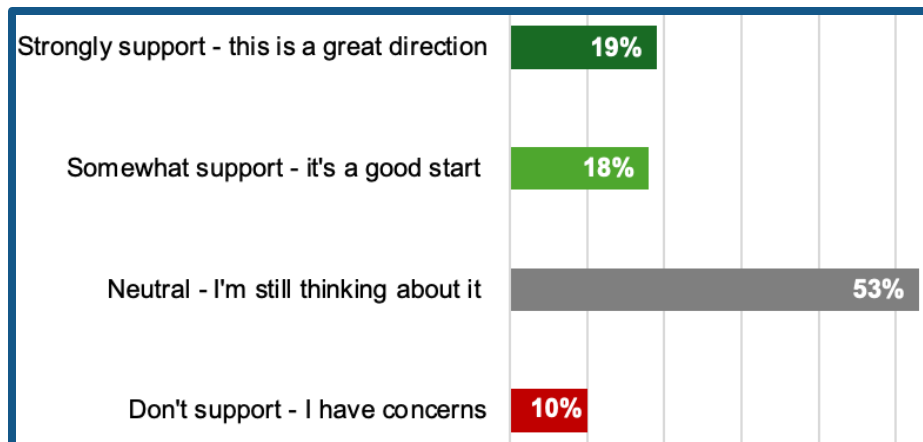
were neutral, and 17% of the survey participants said they don't support the seventh guiding principle.



8. Address outstanding priorities from the 2019 project

- The 2019 priorities are seen as a “Trojan Horse”. Because they include other considerations, including them would open up the potential for ideas that are extraneous to this initiative. Suggest removing this Guiding Principle.
- It's unclear what “address outstanding priorities from the 2019 project” means without additional information about this project and its priorities.
- It's unclear what the principle “address outstanding priorities from the 2019 project” means. What was the 2019 project, and what are the outstanding priorities?
- The principle “address outstanding priorities from the 2019 project” is unclear.
- Consider editing to read “Address outstanding priorities from the 2011 project and respect that project's goals and City policies dating back more than a decade”.

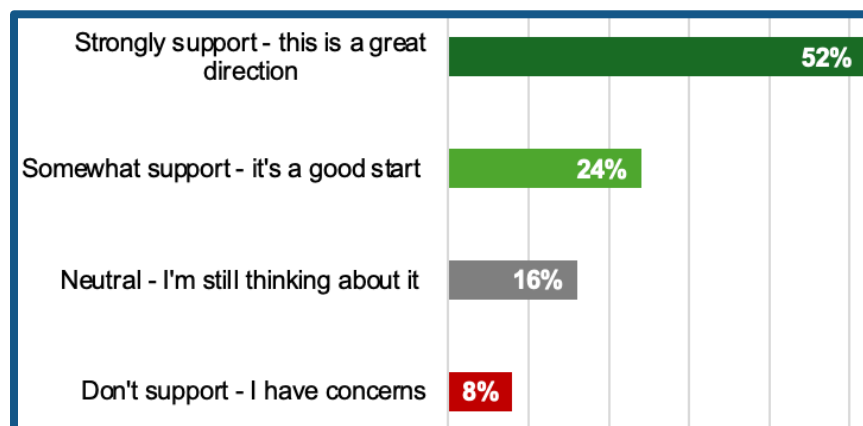
The online survey asked participants about their level of support for the eighth draft guiding principle. A majority of the online participants said they were neutral about the eighth principle. 19% said they strongly support it, 18% saying they somewhat support it, 53% said they were neutral, and 10% of the survey participants said they don't support the eighth guiding principle.



9. Connect the park to existing and emerging open spaces in the area, including the University of Toronto Park Project

- Further explain what is meant by “**connect the park to existing and emerging open spaces in the area**”. For example, does this mean using similar design elements used in the surrounding area to make the park space feel more cohesive with the surrounding area?

The online survey asked participants their level of support for the ninth draft guiding principle. A majority of the online participants said they were supportive of the ninth principle. 52% said they strongly support it, 24% saying they somewhat support it, 16% said they were neutral, and 8% of the survey participants said they don't support the ninth guiding principle.



Overall feedback on draft guiding principles

- **Include more information and language in the guiding principles to make them stronger and enforceable.** Currently, the language is too succinct and superficial. A vision can be succinct, but the guiding principles need additional detail, such as targets to give them more teeth. For example, a principle that deals with ecological integrity should have targets that can be measured and met. This could be supported by a yearly report on the ecological health of the park, seasonal soil recovery projects, etc. All of this requires a high standard of operations and maintenance to make Queen's Park North a model multi-generational imitative.
- **It's important that the park stays connected to community and not be overtaken by institutional or donor voices.** Queen's Park North is surrounded by big institutions with a lot of power (City of Toronto, University of Toronto, and now the donation from the Weston family), and it is a place where students, people who are homeless, the queer community, and others have used as an important historical meeting place to push back against that power.
- Use words and terms that are more accessible to the general public.
- **Recognize** the importance of the park's civic role, including explicitly recognizing it as a space for protest, gathering, and civic life.
- **Safety and inclusion should be guiding principles.** Some called for principles that prioritize making the park a safe and inclusive space for all, that continues to welcome diverse communities.
- The **openness** of the park and the ability to see across the park are something special, and there's interest in seeing this maintained.
- **Accessibility** should be explicitly mentioned in the guiding principles. Toronto uses AODA and the Ontario Disability Act, and as such, should be reflected in the Queen's Park North guiding principles. Amenities like washrooms are a basic accessible feature needed for seniors and children.
- Principles are missing references to **water** and **education**.
- **Stewardship of the park should be emphasized in the guiding principles.** Some participants want to see a principle or principles that prioritize care and protection of the park through ongoing stewardship. Some participants said they supported the principle to protect and celebrate the trees and the principle of ecological and sustainable practices.
- **Find ways to weave heritage throughout all the guiding principles to show its importance in the process.** Remember that cultural heritage is not something to "check off the list" – it is living and breathing. It can help respond to the feedback in the previous project that said Queen's Park North lacks an identity.

- **Include a reference to the culture of the park, and the importance of vibrancy supported by different uses during the day and at night.** This is especially important for Queen's Park North because there are so few queer spaces left where members of 2SLGBTQIA+ communities have the freedom to be themselves.

Indigenous Engagement Feedback Summary

The City of Toronto along with Third Party Public in collaboration with Trophic Design, who are leading facilitating of Indigenous engagement began Indigenous Engagement by first meeting with First Nations Rights-holders. Meeting were held with the Wendat Nation, the Six Nations of the Grand River, and the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation to introduce the Queen's Park North Revitalization project and begin discussion about the relationship between the First Nations and the City as the project unfolds.

After meeting with the First Nations Rights-holders, an initial email was sent to individuals representing different Indigenous organizations to invite participation in an Indigenous Sharing Circle.

Feedback from the meetings with the First Nations and the sharing circle covered a range of themes and is summarized below. Detailed summaries from each meeting are available on the project webpage.

Thoughts on process, governance, and procurement

- It is important that City be clear on what feedback they are looking for from the First Nations. There are multiple consultation requests being made to the First Nations and choices to be made in terms of the level of involvement that make sense for the Queen's Park North Revitalization project. The capacity and interest of the Queen's Park North Revitalization team in supporting First Nations participation will inform decisions regarding First Nations involvement.
- Future Indigenous stewardship of the park can help incorporate Indigenous ecological knowledge and create sustainability.
- Six Nations of the Grand River suggested that the Two Row Wampum could be considered as a framework for thinking about governance. "Two streams" could include an Indigenous governance body and a non-Indigenous governance body.
- Good relationships are reciprocal. The City needs to be thinking about what opportunities are available for Indigenous communities in the revitalization of Queen's Park North, including participating in the project and in the park. For example:
 - Make space for Indigenous people through the procurement process.
 - Involve Indigenous artists in creating art in the park.

- Indigenous governance and stewardship of the park is critical to ensuring equitable use of the space without Indigenous people having their access impeded or having access dictated by other parties.
- Engage with the many Indigenous service providers in the area to understand their priorities for how Indigenous people can and want to use the park.
- Consider connecting with the Toronto Indigenous Community Advisory Board that advises the Aboriginal Labour Force Development Circle (ALFDC). Intentionally reach out to ALFDC and Miziwe Biik to discuss ways that Indigenous labour training programs can support Indigenous participation in future stages of project development.
- Kayanase is an Indigenous business that works to restore Mother Earth through native planting and ecological restoration. This is the type of Indigenous business that to connect with regarding opportunities to be involved in the revitalization of Queen's Park North.

Thoughts on overall park design

- Subtlety is important in the park. Everything should feel very natural, as if it belongs.
- There are many considerations related to the idea of fire in the park, as it has different significance for different people. Having places for reflection, opportunities to sit, as well as Indigenous symbols and designs are important.

Thoughts on ecology

- Strong support for the care being taken to support and preserve the trees in the park, including support for the strategy to address the Norway Maples in a kind way that makes something out of the process.
- Natural landscapes are messy, and this can create a tension between having a naturally healthy ecosystem in the park (e.g., leaving leaves on the ground when they fall because they serve as a natural mulch) and European ideas about ornamental gardens, lights, ongoing maintenance, etc. Ideally the park would be as natural as possible, with education as to why this approach is being used.
- Use site-appropriate native species that also have value when it comes to Indigenous crafting, sustenance, etc.
- Generally be aware of and consider possible harvesting onsite and the impacts maintenance (e.g., spraying of vegetation) may have on this.
- Think about how to manage lighting to decrease impacts on nocturnal species, reduce impacts on migratory birds.
- Look for opportunities for permeable pavers, rain gardens, etc.

Early thoughts on telling the Indigenous story

From Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation

- Consider including appropriate Anishinaabe Doodemag throughout the park so people realize this was a First Nations landscape (dodems are typically represented by an animal, bird or fish and carry specific roles and responsibilities that contribute to the social and spiritual well-being of the community. The dodems reflect general representation from various places, including from other Williams Treaty First Nations (e.g., whitefish, reindeer).
- The Eternal Council Fire Belt could be included in the park.
- Relocation of the King Edward the VII public art statue makes sense. This could include relocating the statue out of the park for use in some other way as a resource for the City of Toronto or in the province.

From Six Nations of the Grand River

- There are statues of Sir John A. Macdonald and John Graves Simcoe in Queen's Park (on the other side of the Legislative Buildings), and it's important to understand that there are other parts of the story that are important for us to tell.
- Space is needed to tell the Indigenous story. Boats crossed the ocean and treaties were signed, but people have no idea of the commitments that were made. We need to acknowledge these stories and make them accessible. There are many opportunities to consider, such as:
 - Being inspired by the Landscape of Nations Memorial in Queenston Heights Park in Niagara-on-the-Lake as a good example.
 - Statues, representations, or other design moves to create a dialogue with existing statues of Sir John A. Macdonald and John Graves Simcoe.
 - Sharing the Dish with One Spoon Wampum.
 - Sharing the Two Row Wampum, which represented a lasting treaty of peace, friendship, and mutual respect.

From the Wendat Nation

- Consider including representation in the form of educational panels located throughout the park articulating historical presence, ecological knowledge and archeological information.

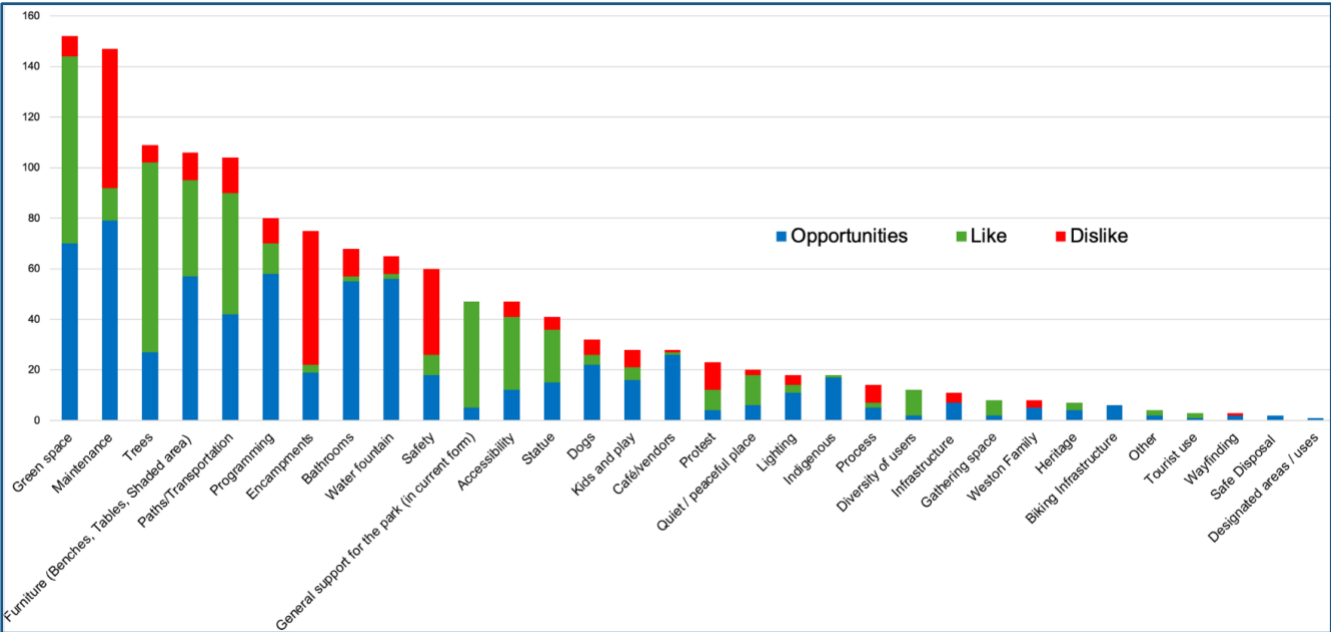
Thoughts on affordable Housing

- There is irony in seeking Indigenous feedback to inform an area called Queen's Park. An alternative future could see land given to Indigenous people so it can be used to build affordable housing

Understanding the Park Today & Opportunities for the Future

The Queen’s Park North revitalization team hosted three pop-ups in July 2025 to ask visitors about what they like, dislike and see as opportunities for improvement in the park. The chart below shows the repeated themes that were raised during the pop-up consultation (1,049 comments), including what people liked, what people did not like and the opportunities for improvement for Queen’s Park North.

Pop-up activity responses coded by themes



Pop-Up Polaroid Activity

A tent was set up in the centre of the park next to the King Edward VII horse statue. A team of 5 to 6 engagement facilitators connected with people in the park. Participants feedback were documented on post-it notes, which were then placed on a large map of the park. Polaroid cameras were also offered so participants could photograph features of the park that reflected their views. On the following three pages, you will find examples of the photos captured by pop-up participants and organized into three categories: Opportunities, Likes, and Dislikes.

Opportunities for improvement at Queen's Park North



What is liked about Queen's Park North today



What is disliked about Queen's Park North today



Feedback Themes Across All Engagement

The table below organizes the feedback on what people liked, disliked, and opportunities for the future into the theme areas that were raised repeatedly through pop-ups, the online survey, focus groups, Neighbouring Institutions Working Group, Indigenous Engagement and the public working session.

In most cases, there were a range of perspectives shared related to each theme, including feedback that supported the way Queen’s Park North is today and feedback that expressed interest in seeing changes to the park.

In addition to these two perspectives, there were also many participants who expressed a willingness and excitement for change under certain conditions. Those conditions are listed in the middle column. In some cases, the perspective was rarely mentioned (if at all), and the text “rarely mentioned” is included in *italics*.

Theme	No change Consider keeping the park as it is today for the following reasons	Conditional change Consider the following changes under certain conditions or with further considerations	Change Consider the following changes
Green			
Trees	• Appreciation for the trees and openness of the park and the greenery it provides. • Leave the trees the way they are today.	• Remove some trees, only if invasive and necessary to support safety and the overall long term ecological health of the park. • Use maintenance of the health of the trees as the measure for whether any change should be introduced in the park. • Expand and protect the tree canopy while ensuring existing trees remain healthy.	• Strong support for care being taken to support and preserve the trees, including support for accelerated decline of Norway Maples • Address safety concerns about dead or low tree branches. • Consider how to strengthen the ecological health of the trees and education related to the trees. • Plant new trees and use trees strategically to create shaded trails and shaded picnic areas. • Consider trees in the park as an arboretum (especially when combined with University of Toronto trees). • Consider a plan for tree succession.

Theme	No change Consider keeping the park as it is today for the following reasons	Conditional change Consider the following changes under certain conditions or with further considerations	Change Consider the following changes
Stewardship	• <i>(Rarely mentioned)</i>	• Determine how to balance the ecological health of the trees with the other uses of the park. • There is an important opportunity for future Indigenous stewardship of the park to help incorporate Indigenous ecological knowledge and create sustainability	• Support the emphasis and focus on protecting the trees and their root zones. • Support using Indigenous knowledge within the context of tree stewardship/ecological restoration in Queen's Park North. • Support looking at invasive species and thinking about how to improve the overall ecological health of the park and identify site-specific ecological restoration strategies.
Ecological health and diversity	• Appreciation for nature in the park today.	• Introduce ecological diversity and a wider variety of plants, only if it supports the health of the trees. • Enhance the greenery with more planting, better upkeep of lawns, and creating zones for people to gather without damaging the grass.	• Ideally the park would be as natural as possible, with education as to why this approach is being used (e.g., site-appropriate native species) • Introduce a wider variety of plants into the park, pollinator gardens, including native plants, flowers, shrubs and hedges, more of an understory, etc. • Look for opportunities for permeable paving, rain gardens, etc.

Theme	No change Consider keeping the park as it is today for the following reasons	Conditional change Consider the following changes under certain conditions or with further considerations	Change Consider the following changes
Place of serenity	- Appreciation of the park as one of the rare places downtown to escape the hustle of the city and enjoy nature. - The park provides tranquility, a calm refuge from the city where many can rest, reflect, and enjoy nature.	- Open to changes in the park as long as areas for serenity, peace, and calm are maintained. - Preserve the quiet areas, limit disruptive programming, and maintain spaces that prioritize peaceful enjoyment.	Subtlety is important in the park. Everything should feel natural, as it belongs.
Taddle Creek	<i>(Rarely mentioned)</i>	Ensure any improvements first consider the impact on the health of the trees.	Find a way to recognize Taddle Creek's presence in the park.
Infrastructure			
Furniture	Appreciation for the existing furniture in the park.	Ensure any changes to furniture don't get in the way of the ecological health and recovery of the trees. Do not overbuild the park.	Strong interest in seeing existing furniture maintained and additional furniture that is durable and accessible, including more benches, picnic tables (consider grouping tables so they are not isolated from each other), moveable tables.

Theme	No change Consider keeping the park as it is today for the following reasons	Conditional change Consider the following changes under certain conditions or with further considerations	Change Consider the following changes
Washrooms	• Objection to any infrastructure in the park.	• Add more permanent bathrooms across the park, ensuring regular cleaning, and making facilities accessible year-round. • Support a washroom facility only if it is well designed and “light touch” that minimizes any impact on the health of the trees and the ecology of the park. • If the porta-potties are kept, relocate them farther away from high traffic areas.	• Add washrooms as the current porta-potties smell and are too close to the pathways.
Lighting	• Appreciation for the existing lighting that helps extend the use of the park into evening hours and provided a sense of safety. • Appreciation for the areas of darkness in the park.	• Add more consistent lighting across pathways and gathering areas, and ensure fixtures are well-maintained to improve both safety and usability. • Consider short bollards with lights along pathways so lights are not on people’s faces and maintain some areas of the park in darkness. • Only introduce more lighting if it maintains the darkness required for nature to thrive, particularly species such as bats, migrating birds, etc.	• Add additional lighting on paths and off paths.

Theme	No change Consider keeping the park as it is today for the following reasons	Conditional change Consider the following changes under certain conditions or with further considerations	Change Consider the following changes
Pathways	• Appreciate that the paths facilitate access across the park. • The existing network of pathways make it easy to walk through the park and connect different areas. • The running track allows for multiple uses.	• Ensure any improvements first consider the impact on the health of the trees.	• Improve the condition of paths with better paving or surfacing, ensuring year-round accessibility, and expanding connections to nearby destinations. • Address muddy and icy areas with poor drainage. • Consider wider pathways to reduce conflicts between pedestrians and other users, especially cyclists. • Consider resurfacing the running track with softer material for seniors and those with joint issues.
Access to the park	• Appreciate the signalized crossings.	• Ensure improved connectivity in one area doesn't negatively impact connectivity in other areas.	• Need to lengthen signalized crossing times, especially at northern end of park and northeast connection to Victoria University.
Food and beverage / Café and vendors	• Café could lead to commercialization, noise, or changes to the park's natural character. • There are other coffee shops around the areas to use instead.	• Add a small well-integrated café, farmers market or refreshment stand that supports local businesses while remaining low-impact and respectful of the park's atmosphere. • Only if it's a "light touch" and doesn't commercialize the park. • Only if doesn't negatively impact the trees or the ecology of the park.	• Yes, open to food and beverage, no conditions shared. • The idea of having a café or small food option nearby, brings convenience and vibrancy to the park.

Theme	No change Consider keeping the park as it is today for the following reasons	Conditional change Consider the following changes under certain conditions or with further considerations	Change Consider the following changes
Water fountains	Water fountains make the park more welcoming for visitors.	Ensure any improvements first consider the impact on the health of the trees.	Repair and maintain existing fountains, restore historic or unused ones, and add more drinking water access points to support visitors during hot weather.
Commercialization	Deep appreciation for lack of commercial presence in the park and would like to see that continue.	Consider commercial activity only if it is tightly controlled, light touch, and does not impact the trees or the ecology of the park.	<i>(Rarely mentioned)</i>
Accessibility	Appreciate that the park is centrally located and accessible to many in the city.	Ensure any improvements first consider the impact on the health of the trees.	- Improve path surfacing, ensuring entrances and routes are barrier-free, and maintained year-round. - Address pathway flooding issues.
Winter uses	Skating doesn't make sense because of the negative impact that the infrastructure would have on the park (i.e., cooling system, shelter for a Zamboni, etc.).	- Only consider introducing skating if it's a natural rink that supports other uses when it's not frozen (e.g., skateboarding). - Informal uses like cross-country skiing are possible.	- Consider ideas for winter activation, like skating. - Design windbreaks to make the park more comfortable in winter.
Kids and Play	- Appreciate that the park is a safe and open space for children to play. - Appreciate that there isn't a children play structure.	Ensure any improvements first consider the impact on the health of the trees.	Add child-friendly play equipment and programming so children have more options without disrupting the park's calm atmosphere.
Services & Programming			

Theme	No change Consider keeping the park as it is today for the following reasons	Conditional change Consider the following changes under certain conditions or with further considerations	Change Consider the following changes
Maintenance	• Queen's Park North is well maintained. • Garbage bins are available and functioning, which helps keep the park clean and comfortable.	• <i>(Rarely mentioned)</i>	• Strong interest in seeing significant improvements to park maintenance, including garbage pick-up, garbage collection, pathway maintenance, tree trimming, graffiti removal, etc. as well as more frequent care of trees and plants, including regular watering and trimming.
Programming	• The park hosts community and cultural activities, adding vibrancy without overwhelming its natural character. • Like current freedom in several areas of the park for ad hoc community-driven uses (e.g., meet ups, yoga, etc.).	• More small-scale, community-oriented programming that supports cultural expression while keeping the park's open and natural feel intact. • Balance community-led informal and spontaneous programming (e.g., yoga, meet-ups) with institutional programming (e.g., small music ensembles). • Consider light-touch outdoor infrastructure to support multi-use programming programmed by community and institutional users in all seasons.	• Programming will be important to giving the park vibrancy. • Interest in more programming and activities. • Consider connecting with Indigenous service providers in the area to understand their priorities for how Indigenous people can and want to use the park.
Education	• <i>(Rarely Mentioned)</i>	• Education should focus on natural heritage opportunities	• Considerable support for additional education opportunities.

Theme	No change Consider keeping the park as it is today for the following reasons	Conditional change Consider the following changes under certain conditions or with further considerations	Change Consider the following changes
Neighbouring institutions	Like that park shares cultural heritage with the University, the ROM, Gardner, and the Royal Conservatory of Music.	Ensure the institutional influence on the park doesn't overtake the role and presence of the local community (i.e., the non-institutional presence) in the park.	Institutions are interested in strengthening their connections to the park, including exploring opportunities for programming that fits within the vision for the park.
Cultural heritage			
History	There is a long and interesting cultural and natural heritage for Queen's Park North.	Ensure storytelling recognizes Treaty Rights Holders and Traditional Occupants of the territory on which the park is located.	- Cultural heritage is living and needs ongoing stewardship. - All histories, both Indigenous and colonial, are important to understand and recognize in any changes proposed to the park. - Add more statues and markers to highlight history and incorporate educational tools like QR codes to share information on British imperialism and Indigenous history. - Consider partnering with neighbouring institutions to bring history and art to the park.

Theme	No change Consider keeping the park as it is today for the following reasons	Conditional change Consider the following changes under certain conditions or with further considerations	Change Consider the following changes
Indigenous	<i>(Rarely mentioned)</i>	Consider ways to showcase both the Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultural heritage of the park.	Support for seeing a stronger Indigenous presence in the park, whether that be through native plantings, interpretive signage, art, programming, storytelling, places for fire, etc. that highlights Indigenous connections to the land.
Statue of King Edward VII on the horse	- Appreciate that the statue is a recognizable landmark and gathering point within the park. - It's an important historical and cultural feature; King Edward VII opened the park when he was Prince.	- Consider keeping the statue in the park, but in a new location and/or changing something about the statue to make it less prominent. - Consider replacing the statue with someone/something else that is not a colonial figure.	- The statue occupies the central place of the park that could be better used in other ways, such as places for tables and seating, gathering, etc. - It represents a colonial presence without also recognizing the Indigenous presence. - Lack of any other strong park identity means the horse defines the park, and it shouldn't. - The statue's prominence is inconsistent with Indigenous truth and reconciliation.

Theme	No change Consider keeping the park as it is today for the following reasons	Conditional change Consider the following changes under certain conditions or with further considerations	Change Consider the following changes
Protest	- The park is a place for democratic expression and value its history as a site for public protest and gatherings. - An important part of the cultural heritage of the park involves recognizing it as a longstanding place for park to voices often not heard by those with institutional power, including 2SLGBTQ+ communities, people protesting public policies, etc.	- Maintain the park's role as a civic space for protest while ensuring balance with other uses through clear guidelines and infrastructure that can support large gatherings. - Avoid organized gatherings of thousands of people that would negatively impact trees and the ecology of the park.	- Discomfort with protests in the park. - Concern that protests bring noise, garbage, graffiti, etc.
Other			
Diversity of park users	People appreciated the diversity of visitors in the park, noting that it feels inclusive and welcoming to different communities.	<i>(Rarely mentioned)</i>	<i>(Rarely mentioned)</i>
Donation from the Weston family	Appreciate that the park is public.	There are opportunities to recognize the Weston's contribution to the park that fit within the natural ecological theme of the park, like a garden or natural area.	In times of limited public resources, welcome the private donation to help improve the park.

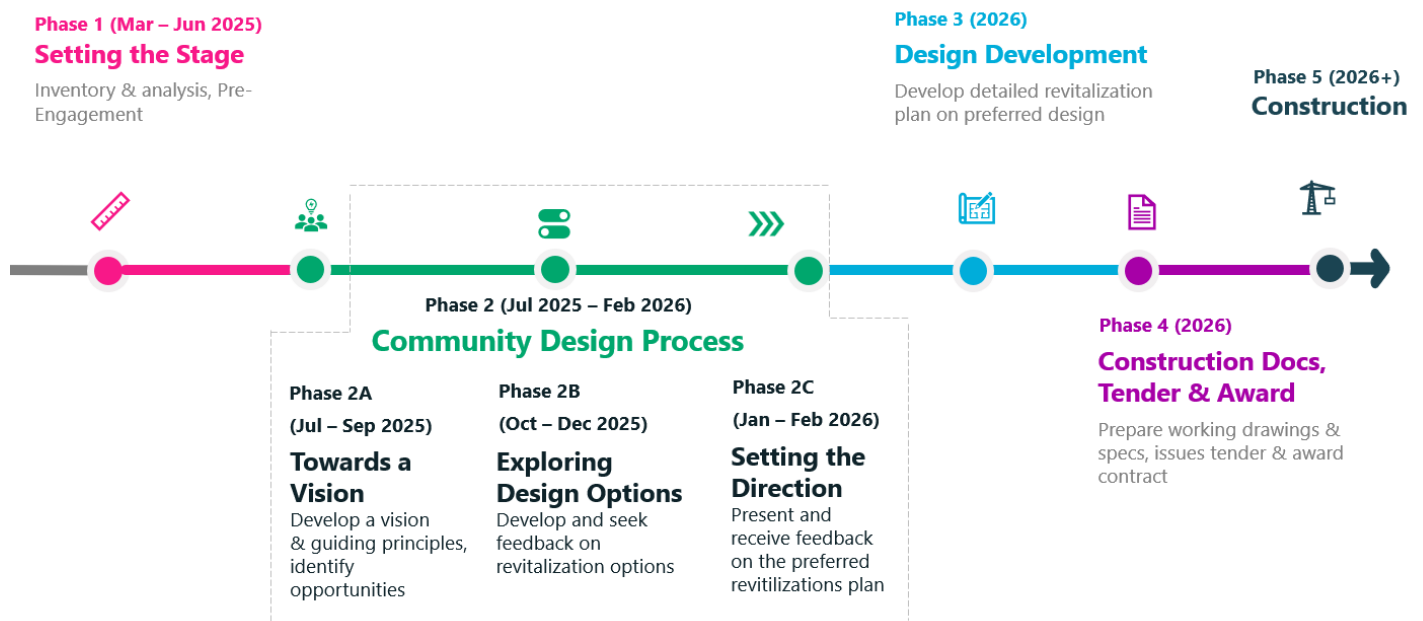
Theme	No change Consider keeping the park as it is today for the following reasons	Conditional change Consider the following changes under certain conditions or with further considerations	Change Consider the following changes
Governance and procurement	• <i>(Rarely mentioned)</i>	• If a new form of governance is being considered, ensure strong community participation in the model. • Good relationships are reciprocal, and the City needs to be thinking about what opportunities are available for Indigenous communities in the revitalization project and in the park, including a role in governance and stewardship and procurement.	• Bring more transparency to park management and involve the community more in the decision-making related to the park.
Encampments	• Important that the park remains a public space to accommodate all users, including those experiencing homelessness. • Encampments bring more “eyes on the park” at night, which contributes to a sense of safety.	• Reluctantly accept encampments while urging the City to find housing. • Offer more supportive resources outside of the park, such as cooling stations, and providing designated safe sleeping areas.	• Do not want encampments in the park. • Concerns about safety, hygiene, and the overall cleanliness of the park.

Theme	No change Consider keeping the park as it is today for the following reasons	Conditional change Consider the following changes under certain conditions or with further considerations	Change Consider the following changes
Safety	• The park feels generally safe and provides comfort during the day. • Presence of people in the park after dark increases security and safety.	• Add bollard lighting along pathways so that areas of darkness off the pathways are maintained to support ecological health and after-dark uses.	• Concerned with nighttime safety, due to poor lighting and encampments. • Extend University of Toronto's blue light safety poles into the park. • Increase lighting throughout the park. • Provide a stronger security presence to make the park feel safer during evening hours.
Dogs	• Ability to bring dogs to the park adds to social atmosphere.	• <i>(Rarely mentioned)</i>	• Create a designated dog-friendly areas, provide more waste disposal bins, and dog fountains.
University Park	• Queen's Park North has an important relationship with University Park.	• Ensure planning for Queen's Park North anticipates potential design implications if/when University Park moves forward.	• Implementation of University Park creates opportunities to strengthen the connection between Queen's Park North and the University.

Next Steps

The feedback collected in this phase of engagement is helping the City and the design consultant finalize the vision and the guiding principles and inform design ideas for the next steps of the process.

Community Engagement Phase 2 will focus on exploring design options. Informed by feedback collected during the Community Engagement Phase 1, the City will present and seek feedback on the proposed “big moves” for the park revitalization, emerging ideas for park programming, and potential models for park governance.



Appendix 1: Park Pop-Ups

The Queen's Park North revitalization team hosted three pop-ups in July 2025 to ask park visitors about what they like, dislike, and see as opportunities for improvement in the park. A group of 5-6 engagement facilitators connected with people throughout the park, with the main feedback tent in the centre of the park adjacent to the King Edward the VII horse statue. The engagement team talked to people, wrote their feedback on post-it notes that were attached to a large map of the park, and shared polaroid cameras for people to photograph features of the park that reflected their views.

Over 600 people participated, including leaders from resident and neighbourhood associations, tourists passing through, students, families, cyclists, protestors, and many others from a range of backgrounds, ages, and ethnicities.

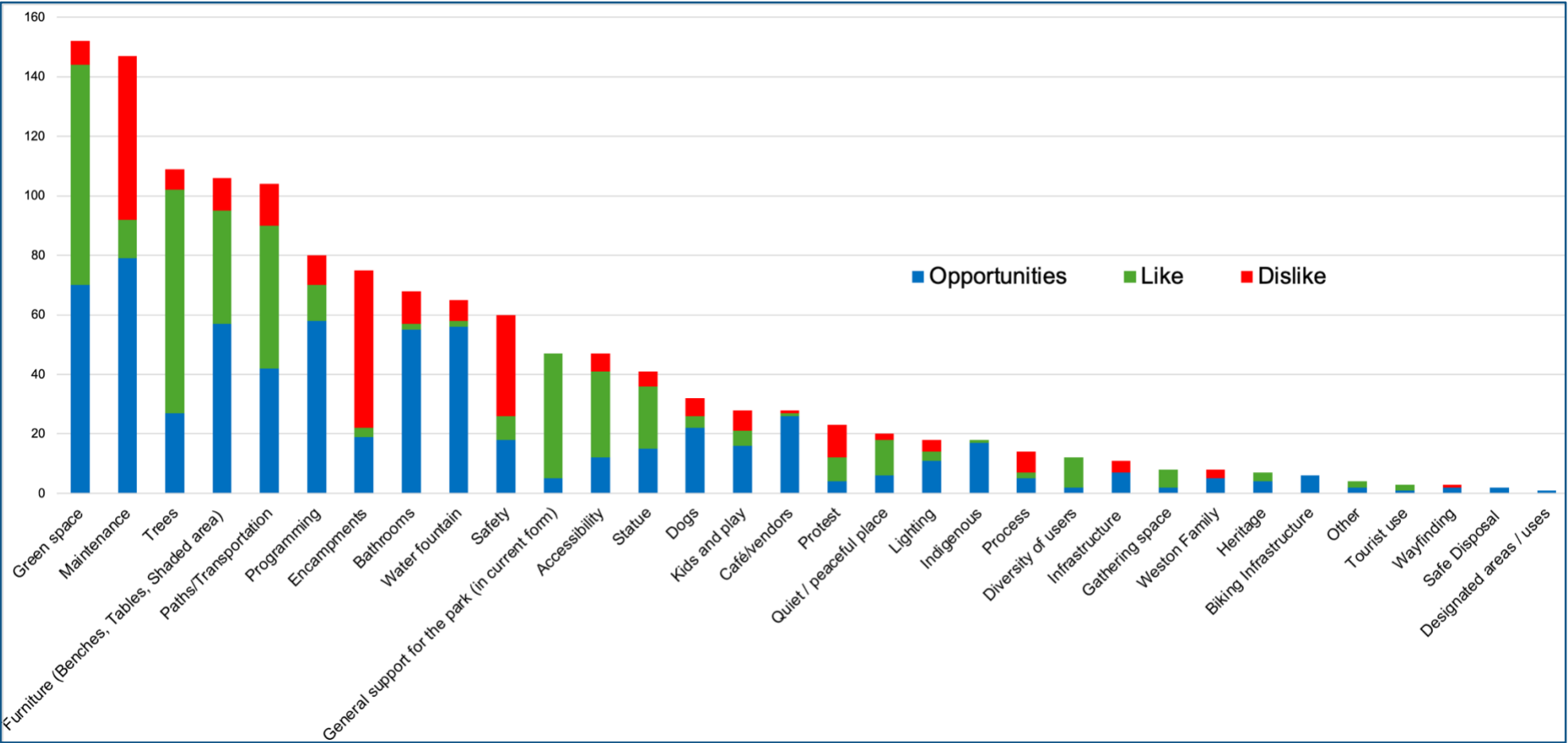
Overall, 1,049 comments were received, of which 348 were likes, 200 were dislikes, and the most comments focused on opportunities for the future (501 comments).

The engagement team organized the feedback into 32 theme areas and ordered those themes by the amount of feedback each received. With a handful of exceptions, all themes included likes, dislikes, and opportunities for the future. The top 10 things people most commented on were:

1. Green space
2. Maintenance
3. Trees
4. Furniture (benches, tables, shaded areas)
5. Paths/Transportation
6. Programming
7. Encampments
8. Bathrooms
9. Water fountain
10. Safety

The following section summarizes the themes of feedback received during all three pop ups with graphs, charts and a qualitative summary.

Themes



Summary of Themes

Green space

- **Likes:** Openness of the park and the greenery it provides, describing it as a place to relax and enjoy nature.
- **Dislikes:** Green space can feel underutilized or poorly maintained, with patches of worn grass and areas that appear neglected.
- **Opportunities:** Enhance the greenery with more planting, better upkeep of lawns, and creating zones for people to gather without damaging the grass.

Maintenance

- **Likes:** Garbage bins are available and functioning, which helps keep the park clean and comfortable.
- **Dislikes:** Maintenance is inconsistent, with dead branches, poor signage, and litter not being addressed. The lack of upkeep made the park feel neglected.
- **Opportunities:** More frequent care of trees and plants, including regular watering and trimming. Expanding garbage collection and ensuring quick responses to issues like broken fountains or damaged grass.

Trees

- **Likes:** The presence of large, mature trees creates shade and a calming, natural atmosphere. Trees were preserved rather than removed, giving the park a sense of continuity and character.
- **Dislikes:** Safety concerns about dead or low branches.
- **Opportunities:** There is an opportunity to expand and protect the tree canopy while ensuring existing trees remain healthy. Plant new trees and use trees strategically to create shaded trails and shaded picnic areas.

Furniture (benches, tables and shaded area)

- **Likes:** Availability of benches and picnic tables, with shaded areas providing comfort and usability.
- **Dislikes:** Some benches are fragile or uncomfortable, and broken. Metal benches were described as less comfortable.
- **Opportunities:** Add more benches and picnic tables, especially in shaded areas, and ensure furniture is durable, clean, and accessible for seniors.

Paths

- **Likes:** The existing network of pathways, which make it easy to walk through the park and connect different areas. The running track allows for multiple uses.

- **Dislikes:** Some paths are uneven, muddy, or poorly maintained, especially during winter, making them difficult to use in bad weather.
- **Opportunities:** Improve the condition of paths with better paving or surfacing, ensuring year-round accessibility, and expanding connections to nearby destinations. Consider resurfacing the running path to be softer to run on for people's joints.

Programming

- **Likes:** The park hosts community and cultural activities, adding vibrancy without overwhelming its natural character.
- **Dislikes:** Too much programming or large events could disrupt the tranquility of the park. Noise and crowding were noted as drawbacks when activities are not balanced.
- **Opportunities:** Suggestions included creating more small-scale, community-oriented programming that supports cultural expression while keeping the park's open and natural feel intact.

Encampments

- **Likes:** Encampments bring more "eyes on the park" at night, which contributes to a sense of safety.
- **Dislikes:** Concerns about hygiene, safety, and the overall cleanliness of the park.
- **Opportunities:** Offer more supportive resources outside of the park, such as cooling stations, and providing designated safe sleeping areas.

Bathrooms

- **Likes:** When bathrooms are available and functional, making the park more accessible for families and longer visits.
- **Dislikes:** Bathrooms are poorly maintained, dirty, and there aren't enough.
- **Opportunities:** Add more permanent bathrooms across the park, ensuring regular cleaning, and making facilities accessible year-round.

Water Fountain

- **Likes:** Water fountains make the park more welcoming for visitors.
- **Dislikes:** The water fountains are not maintained or operating. Not enough drinking water fountains.
- **Opportunities:** Repair and maintain existing fountains, restore historic or unused ones, and add more drinking water access points to support visitors during hot weather.

Safety

- **Likes:** The park feels generally safe and provides comfort during the day.
- **Dislikes:** Concerned with nighttime safety, due to poor lighting and encampments.
- **Opportunities:** Add more lighting, increase visibility across the park, and provide a stronger security presence to make the park feel safer during evening hours.

General support for the park

- **Likes:** Appreciation for the park in its current form, especially its open green space, trees, and tranquil environment. Pride and support for maintaining the park as it is.
- **Opportunities:** Preserve the existing natural feel while making small improvements, such as better maintenance, seating, and accessibility features.

Accessibility

- **Likes:** Centrally located and accessible to many in the city.
- **Dislikes:** Accessibility is inconsistent, with pathways that are uneven, muddy, or not suitable for wheelchairs and strollers.
- **Opportunities:** Improve path surfacing, ensuring entrances and routes are barrier-free, and maintained year-round.

Statue

- **Likes:** The statue is a recognizable landmark and gathering point within the park. It's an important historical and cultural feature.
- **Dislikes:** Do not like the historical significance of the statue and should be replaced.
- **Opportunities:** Improve landscaping around the statue, maintain lighting and signage, and replace the statue with someone/something else that is not a colonial figure.

Dogs

- **Likes:** Ability to bring dogs to the park which adds to social atmosphere.
- **Dislikes:** Some areas are unclean due to dog waste, and some off-leash dogs cause conflicts with other users.
- **Opportunities:** Create a designated dog-friendly areas, provide more waste disposal bins, and dog fountains.

Kids and play

- **Likes:** The park is a safe and open space for children to play. Like that there isn't a children play structure.
- **Dislikes:** Limited formal play structures or designated areas for children. playgrounds.

- **Opportunities:** Add child-friendly play equipment and programming so children have more options without disrupting the park's calm atmosphere.

Café/vendors

- **Likes:** The idea of having a café or small food option nearby, brings convenience and vibrancy to the park.
- **Dislikes:** Café could lead to commercialization, noise, or changes to the park's natural character. There are other coffee shops around the areas to use instead.
- **Opportunities:** Add a small well-integrated café, farmers market or refreshment stand that supports local businesses while remaining low-impact and respectful of the park's atmosphere.

Protest

- **Likes:** The park is a place for democratic expression and value its history as a site for public protest and gatherings.
- **Dislikes:** Protests could disrupt the everyday use of the park, creating noise, congestion, or safety concerns.
- **Opportunities:** Maintain the park's role as a civic space for protest while ensuring balance with other uses through clear guidelines and infrastructure that can support large gatherings.

Quiet/peaceful place

- **Likes:** Many valued the park's tranquility, describing it as a calm refuge from the city where they could rest, reflect, and enjoy nature.
- **Dislikes:** Noise from events, traffic, or nearby activities sometimes undermines the quiet character of the park.
- **Opportunities:** Preserve the quiet areas, limit disruptive programming, and maintain spaces that prioritize peaceful enjoyment.

Lighting

- **Likes:** Lighting helps extend the use of the park into evening hours and provided a sense of safety.
- **Dislikes:** Lighting is inadequate, with some areas poorly lit or unmaintained, especially at night.
- **Opportunities:** Add more consistent lighting across pathways and gathering areas, and ensure fixtures are well-maintained to improve both safety and usability.

Indigenous

- **Likes:** The recognition of Indigenous presence and history connected to the park.

- **Opportunities:** Add stronger recognition of Indigenous history and culture through interpretive signage, art, or programming that highlights Indigenous connections to the land.

Process

- **Likes:** Appreciate the engagement process and having their feedback included.
- **Dislikes:** Concerns about a lack of transparency, and that decision-making is unclear.
- **Opportunities:** Provide clearer communication about how feedback is used, ongoing updates as changes are made, and ensure there is inclusive engagement processes that represent diverse voices.

Diversity of users

- **Likes:** People appreciated the diversity of visitors in the park, noting that it feels inclusive and welcoming to different communities.

Infrastructure

- **Dislikes:** Additional infrastructure could lead to overbuilding in the park.
- **Opportunities:** Add BBQ spots, avoid cell phone towers to limit radiation, and design windbreaks to make the park more comfortable in winter.

Gathering space

- **Likes:** The park functions as a community gathering space and is regularly used by groups and visitors.

Weston Family

- **Dislikes:** Worried about transparency in the Weston Family's involvement, individual influence, and the timing of certain processes.
- **Opportunities:** Add a fountain feature dedicated to the Weston Family, more engagement with the Weston Foundation, and consider channeling donations toward shelters or housing initiatives to reduce reliance on the park for encampments.

Heritage

- **Likes:** The heritage and historical buildings around the park.
- **Opportunities:** Add more statues and markers to highlight history and incorporate educational tools like QR codes to share information on British imperialism and Indigenous history. Consider partnering with neighbouring institutions to bring history and art to the park.

Biking infrastructure

- **Opportunities:** Improve the biking connections and infrastructure by adding bike parking.

Other

- **Likes:** There aren't a lot of ants in the park. The current Canada flags displayed around the park.
- **Opportunities:** Define what "public space" means and what the public could expect from a public park.

Tourist use

- **Likes:** Tourists highly use and appreciate this park.
- **Dislikes:** The park should not be framed primarily as a tourist destination; it could overshadow its role as a local community space.

Wayfinding

- **Dislikes:** Large highway-style signage is too big and out of scale for a park environment.
- **Opportunities:** Provide a clear map of the surrounding area to help visitors navigate without overwhelming the park's natural character.

Safe disposal

- **Opportunities:** Install safe disposal areas for needles to improve cleanliness and safety in the park.

Designated areas/uses

- **Opportunities:** Set aside specific areas for certain activities (like smoking) to reduce conflict, while still keeping much of the park open and flexible.

Themes by Numbers

Theme	Opportunities	Like	Dislike	Total
Green space	70	74	8	152
Maintenance	79	13	55	147
Trees	27	75	7	109
Furniture (Benches, Tables, Shaded area)	57	38	11	106
Paths/Transportation	42	48	14	104
Programming	58	12	10	80
Encampments	19	3	53	75
Bathrooms	55	2	11	68
Water fountain	56	2	7	65
Safety	18	8	34	60
General support for the park (in current form)	5	42	0	47
Accessibility	12	29	6	47
Statue	15	21	5	41
Dogs	22	4	6	32
Kids and play	16	5	7	28
Café/vendors	26	1	1	28
Protest	4	8	11	23
Quiet / peaceful place	6	12	2	20
Lighting	11	3	4	18
Indigenous	17	1	0	18
Process	5	2	7	14
Diversity of users	2	10	0	12
Infrastructure	7	0	4	11
Gathering space	2	6	0	8
Weston Family	5	0	3	8
Heritage	4	3	0	7
Biking Infrastructure	6	0	0	6
Other	2	2	0	4
Tourist use	1	2	0	3
Wayfinding	2	0	1	3

Theme	Opportunities	Like	Dislike	Total
Safe Disposal	2	0	0	2
Designated areas / uses	1	0	0	1

Images of polaroid

The engagement team shared polaroid cameras for people to photograph features of the park that reflected their views, including what they liked, disliked, and saw as opportunities for improvements in Queen's Park North.

More than 300 Polaroid photos were taken during the three pop-up sessions. A selection of these photos is shown below, grouped into opportunities, likes, and dislikes for Queen's Park North.

Opportunities for improvement at Queen's Park North



What is liked about Queen's Park North today



What is disliked about Queen's Park North today



Appendix 2: Online Survey

From July 15 to August 31, 2025, an online survey received 1,100 responses. The survey collected feedback on what the community loves about Queen's Park North, what could be improved, and what opportunities should be explored. The input helped evolve the vision and guiding principles and design options for the park.

What do you love most about Queen's Park North? Select up to 3 features from the list below.

	Count	% of responses	%
The shady trees and lush greenery	1.0k		94%
The sense of peace and quiet in the middle of the city	776		71%
The historical and cultural features (e.g. monuments, statues)	337		31%
The open spaces that allow for relaxation or play	318		29%
The ability to walk, gather, or meet up with friends	270		25%
The running track for exercise and active recreation	179		16%
The opportunity to participate in civic gatherings or demonstrations	160		15%

N 1.1k

Which physical improvements from the list below do you think would make Queen's Park better? Rank your priorities in order from highest to lowest, with 1 being the highest priority.

	% of responses	%
Even more greenery and natural features		21%
More places to sit and relax		16%
Spaces that are cleaner and better maintained		15%
New accessible washrooms		12%
Greater buffer space between the park and adjacent roads		10%
Improved pathways and signage		9%
Other, please specify:		6%
More events and activities		5%
New food and beverage options		5%

N 1.1k

Which of the programming opportunities from the list below do you think we should explore for the future? Rank in order from your highest priority to your lowest, with 1 being the highest priority.

	% of responses	%
Nature or sustainability programming		26%
Music, theatre, and educational programming		19%
Art		19%
Winter activities		19%
Other, please specify:		9%
Other interactive elements		8%

N 1.1k

How much does traffic near the park affect your experience of it?

	Count	% of responses	%
Not at all	225		21%
A little	283		26%
Somewhat	316		29%
A lot	252		23%
I'm not sure	13		1%

N 1.1k

How supportive are you of this draft vision for Queen's Park North?

	Count	% of responses	%
Love it – it captures the spirit of the park	222		21%
Mostly good – a few tweaks could help	387		36%
Neutral – I'm not sure	257		24%
Not quite right – needs work	208		19%

N 1.1k

Guiding Principle One: Celebrate and elevate Queen's Park North as a distinct urban green space and signature Toronto destination. How supportive are you of this proposed guiding principle for Queen's Park North?

	Count	% of responses	%
Strongly support – this is a great direction	531		51%
Somewhat support – it's a good start	276		27%
Neutral – I'm still thinking about it	109		10%
Don't support – I have concerns	123		12%

N 1k

Guiding Principle two: Maintain Queen’s Park as a public space and place for gathering and civic life, welcoming to all. How supportive are you of this proposed guiding principle for Queen’s Park North?

	Count	% of responses	%
Strongly support – this is a great	599		58%
Somewhat support – it’s a good start	239		23%
Neutral – I’m still thinking about it	104		10%
Don’t support – I have concerns	97		9%

N 1k

Guiding Principle three: Protect and celebrate the trees. How supportive are you of this proposed guiding principle for Queen’s Park North?

	Count	% of responses	%
Strongly support – this is a great	907		87%
Somewhat support – it’s a good start	87		8%
Neutral – I’m still thinking about it	23		2%
Don’t support – I have concerns	22		2%

N 1k

Guiding Principle four: Enhance the visitor experience year-round with creative programming and improved amenities. How supportive are you of this proposed guiding principle for Queen’s Park North?

	Count	% of responses	%
Strongly support – this is a great	366		35%
Somewhat support – it’s a good start	243		23%
Neutral – I’m still thinking about it	170		16%
Don’t support – I have concerns	260		25%

N 1k

Guiding Principle five: Implement ecological and sustainable practices, with proper funding and care. How supportive are you of this proposed guiding principle for Queen’s Park North?

	Count	% of responses	%
Strongly support – this is a great	725		70%
Somewhat support – it’s a good start	198		19%
Neutral – I’m still thinking about it	71		7%
Don’t support – I have concerns	45		4%

N 1k

Guiding Principle six: Incorporate Indigenous ways of knowing and being. How supportive are you of this proposed guiding principle for Queen’s Park North?

	Count	% of responses	%
Strongly support – this is a great	502		48%
Somewhat support – it’s a good start	211		20%
Neutral – I’m still thinking about it	186		18%
Don’t support – I have concerns	140		13%

N 1k

Guiding Principle seven: Strengthen partnerships with institutions and the community. How supportive are you of this proposed guiding principle for Queen’s Park North?

	Count	% of responses	%
Strongly support – this is a great	316		30%
Somewhat support – it’s a good start	240		23%
Neutral – I’m still thinking about it	311		30%
Don’t support – I have concerns	172		17%

N 1k

Guiding Principle eight: Address outstanding priorities from the 2019 project. How supportive are you of this proposed guiding principle for Queen's Park North?

	Count	% of responses	%
Strongly support – this is a great	193		19%
Somewhat support – it's a good start	188		18%
Neutral – I'm still thinking about it	551		53%
Don't support – I have concerns	107		10%

N 1k

Guiding Principle nine: Connect the park to nearby open spaces, including U of T and the University Park project. How supportive are you of this proposed guiding principle for Queen's Park North?

	Count	% of responses	%
Strongly support – this is a great	536		52%
Somewhat support – it's a good start	253		24%
Neutral – I'm still thinking about it	162		16%
Don't support – I have concerns	88		8%

N 1k

How far do you travel to get to Queen's Park North?

	Count	% of responses	%
0 to 0.5 km	213		21%
0.5 to 1 km	177		17%
1 to 5 km	414		40%
More than 5 km	203		20%
Prefer not to answer	28		3%

N 1k

When visiting Queen's Park North, who do you go with most often? Select all that apply.

	Count	% of responses	%
Alone	707		68%
Friends	387		37%
Spouse or partner	352		34%
Family	168		16%
Pets	110		11%
Children	85		8%
Other, please specify	43		4%
I have never been to Queen's Park North	2		0%

N 1k

How often do you visit Queen's Park North?

	Count	% of responses	%
Daily	90		9%
A few times a week	223		22%
Once a week	99		10%
A few times a month	188		18%
Once a month	124		12%
A few times a year or less	308		30%
I have never been to Queen's Park North	3		0%

N 1k

Sociodemographic

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

	Count	% of responses	%
0 to 4 years old	1		0%
5 to 12 years old	0		
13 to 18 years old	3		0%
19 to 29 years old	157		15%
30 to 39 years old	278		27%
40 to 55 years old	248		24%
56 to 64 years old	133		13%
65 to 74 years old	97		9%
75 years old or above	55		5%
Prefer not to answer	50		5%

N 1k

What language do you prefer speaking?

- English = 982
- French = 17
- Prefer not to answer = 5
- Chinese – Mandarin = 4
- Russian = 3
- Chinese – Cantonese = 2
- Spanish = 2
- Not listed, please describe = 2
- Albanian = 1
- Indigenous – Ojibway = 1
- Italian = 1
- Turkish = 1
- Ukrainian = 1

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	26		3%
No	902		88%
Prefer not to answer	94		9%

N 1k

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)	650		64%
Prefer not to answer	156		15%
East Asian (e.g. Chinese, Japanese, Korean)	67		7%
South Asian or Indo-Caribbean (e.g. Indian, Indo- Guyanese, Indo-Trinidadian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan)	45		4%
More than one race category or mixed race	42		4%
Southeast Asian (e.g. Filipino, Malaysian, Singaporean, Thai, Vietnamese)	28		3%
Other, please describe	25		2%
Latin American (e.g. Brazilian, Colombian, Cuban, Mexican, Peruvian)	24		2%
First Nations (status, non-status, treaty or non-treaty), Inuit or Métis	18		2%
Arab, Middle Eastern or West Asian (e.g. Afghan, Armenian, Iranian, Lebanese, Persian, Turkish)	16		2%
Black (e.g. African, African-Canadian, Afro-Caribbean)	16		2%

N 1k

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	185		18%
No	679		66%
Don't know	13		1%
Prefer not to answer	145		14%

N 1k

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

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes	127		12%
No	741		73%
Don't know	10		1%
Prefer not to answer	144		14%

N 1k

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	457		45%
Man	344		34%
Prefer not to answer	159		16%
Gender non-binary (including gender fluid, genderqueer, androgynous)	47		5%
Not listed, please describe	17		2%
Trans man	10		1%
Two-Spirit	7		1%
Trans woman	6		1%

N 1k

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?

	Count	% of responses	%
Heterosexual or straight	472		46%
Prefer not to answer	215		21%
Gay	159		16%
Queer	73		7%
Bisexual	71		7%
Not listed, please describe	29		3%
Lesbian	26		3%
Don't know	16		2%
Two-Spirit	8		1%

N 1k

What best describes your current housing situation?

	Count	% of responses	%
Home owner	492		48%
Renting	400		39%
Permanently living with parent(s) or other family member(s)	34		3%
Temporarily staying with others (no fixed address)	2		0%
Unhoused (staying outside, in a shelter, in a 24-hour respite)	0		
Prefer not to answer	86		8%
Not listed, please describe	8		1%

N 1k

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

	Count	% of responses	%
I have access to private outdoor space like a yard	346		34%
I have access to private outdoor space like a balcony	308		30%
I only have access to public spaces like parks (I do not have access to private or semi-private outdoor space)	222		22%
I have access to semi-private/shared outdoor space	213		21%
Prefer not to answer	60		6%

N 1k

What was your total household income before taxes last year? Your best estimate is fine. Please select one only.

	Count	% of responses	%
0 - \$29,999	54		5%
\$30,000-\$49,999	52		5%
\$50,000-\$69,999	61		6%
\$70,000-\$99,999	151		15%
\$100,000-149,999	164		16%
\$150,000 or more	275		27%
Don't know	10		1%
Prefer not to answer	255		25%

N 1k

How did you find out about this survey? Select all that apply.

	Count	% of responses	%
Ad or post from a City of Toronto social media account	663		65%
Word of mouth (including non-City of Toronto social media account)	135		13%
Councillor's Office communications	59		6%
I don't know/Prefer not to answer	54		5%
The project webpage	51		5%
Park sign	50		5%
Email from the project team	31		3%
Project flyer	14		1%
Poster in the neighbourhood	7		1%

N 1k