

Community Advisory Committee Meetings 1 and 2 Summary Report

Trinity Bellwoods Park Access and Circulation Study
Phase 1: Gathering Information and Identifying Issues
City of Toronto – Parks and Recreation
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Introduction

The City of Toronto is conducting a study to assess Trinity Bellwoods Park’s pathways and entrances and consider how to improve functionality, connectivity, accessibility and the overall experience of navigating the park.

Through site analysis and community and stakeholder engagement, the study will explore short-, medium- and long-term recommendations to enhance access and circulation while protecting the park’s natural environment. These recommendations will guide future pathway and entrance improvement projects.



Figure 1. Map of the project area, bounded by Dundas Street West to the north, Gore Vale Avenue to the east, Queen Street West to the south, and Crawford Street and Shaw Street to the west (Detailed description provided in Appendix A.)

About the Community Advisory Committee

As part of the community engagement process, the City's project team formed a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) to obtain local input. Members of the CAC were selected primarily through a civic lottery process. A civic lottery randomly selects individuals from specific populations to participate in an advisory or decision-making body. The process controls for demographic factors to ensure members represent the community as best as possible, with a specific focus on fair representation from equity-deserving communities.

For this lottery, the project team controlled for age, gender identity, ethnicity, Indigenous identity, disability and other key community demographics. To maintain the integrity of the process and protect applicants' privacy, names and email addresses were removed during selection.

A total of 193 people applied to the lottery and 21 were selected to participate in the CAC. In addition to community member participants selected via civic lottery, the CAC consists of four community representatives from local stakeholder groups. The committee will convene at least once during each phase of engagement.

This report provides a summary of CAC Meetings 1 and 2, which took place during Phase 1 of the engagement process.

Phase 1: Gathering Information and Identifying Issues

The purpose of this phase of engagement was to gather feedback on people's experiences with the entrances and pathways in Trinity Bellwoods Park, as well as suggestions for improvements. Feedback was collected through community engagement activities, including two Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings and an online interactive mapping activity. This input, along with findings from a public life study, stakeholder input, and a detailed site analysis of the park, will inform draft recommendations for access and circulation improvements.

The first CAC meeting took place in person on Wednesday, June 18, 2025, followed by the second in-person meeting on Thursday, July 17, 2025.

The two CAC meetings focused on the following objectives:

- Getting to know one another
-
- Clarifying the current context and constraints associated with the study
- Establishing a shared understanding of issues with circulation and access at the park
- Identifying priorities to address in the study recommendations
- Brainstorming preliminary ideas for improvements to inform recommendations

The following sections of this report summarize discussions and outcomes from the first and second CAC meetings. For more information about the study and the community engagement process, including summaries of other engagement activities, visit the project webpage at: <https://www.toronto.ca/TrinityBellwoodsStudy>.

Community Advisory Committee Meeting 1

On Wednesday, June 18, 2025, the first Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting took place at the Trinity Community Recreation Centre (155 Crawford Street) from 6 to 9 p.m.

The meeting agenda included:

- An official welcome from the Deputy Mayor and City staff
- A hands-on group icebreaker activity
- A project presentation on the study objectives and scope by City staff
- A group discussion about shared values and collaboration norms for the CAC
- A review of the CAC Terms of Reference (TOR)
- A wrap-up and outline of next steps

Meeting Highlights

The first CAC orientation meeting focused on clarifying project details, explaining the study framework and engagement process, and establishing the purpose and mandate of the CAC. Participants engaged in a hands-on icebreaker activity and discussed their shared values on how they would like to work together moving forward as a CAC throughout the engagement process.

Participants also reviewed the draft TOR document together and reached consensus on the roles and responsibilities of the CAC and the City's project team.

Icebreaker: Memory in Trinity Bellwoods Park



Figure 2. Models built by each CAC member at the first CAC meeting, representing a time when they felt a deep sense of community, belonging, creativity, or joy in Trinity Bellwoods Park.

During the icebreaker activity, CAC members participated in a group exercise using found objects. Staff provided an assortment of loose, random objects for participants to manipulate and creatively assemble.

Each member had 10 minutes to create a small structural piece on coloured cardboard paper, representing a time when they felt a deep sense of community, belonging, creativity or joy in Trinity Bellwoods Park. This hands-on activity was designed to

encourage participants to get to know one another better, while also uncovering common values that could underpin and contribute to later conversations.

A link to the full activity can be found on the Miro board (Memory in Trinity Bellwoods Park).

Common Themes

CAC members shared various themes that resonated with the group. Some shared common themes included:

- **Nature and wildlife:**
 - Squirrels
 - Butterflies
 - Birds
 - Flowers
 - Trees
 - Streams
- **Movement:**
 - Moving through the park
 - Biking
- **Active play:**
 - Fun
 - Children's toys
 - Playground
 - Swimming
 - Ice rink
 - Skating
- **Passive activities:**
 - Listening to music
 - Reading
 - Memories visiting with basket in hand
 - Enjoying food and beverages
- **Gathering and socializing:**
 - Spending time with family and friends
 - Events at the park
 - Meeting new people and neighbours
 - Visiting the farmer's market
 - Sense of community
 - Performing on a stage
 - Hanging out
 - Lifelong friends

Breakout Session: Shared Values Exercise

In this breakout session, CAC members worked in small groups to identify shared values for how they want to work together throughout this project. The goal was to reach an agreement on a common set of values that would help shape how the CAC collaborates and interacts as a group moving forward. Each CAC member began by writing down a word or short phrase that reflected a value they felt should guide the CAC engagement process.

In small groups, members discussed and selected the top three values that best represented their collective perspective, which they then shared with the larger group. The project team then organized the values, grouping ones that were similar. Each value was then reviewed by the larger group, with support measured by hand voting. The final set of values identified by the CAC was:

- **Collaboration:**
We support and build upon each other's ideas with a focus on moving forward together, not pushing alone.
- **Dynamic Ambition:**
We aim for positive change through doing things that are exciting, whether it has been done before or is totally new. We are open to big ideas that challenge old norms.
- **Empathy:**
We approach this work with care for one another, our community, and the environment. We respect and recognize that what is best for one person may not be for another.
- **Representation:**
We believe that the project should reflect the diverse needs of our community. Every voice matters and every person should feel seen and considered in the process.
- **Participation:**
We should all be given the opportunity to meaningfully participate in the process.
- **Playfulness:**
We welcome play, creativity, and imagination to open new ways of thinking and help us discover new possibilities.

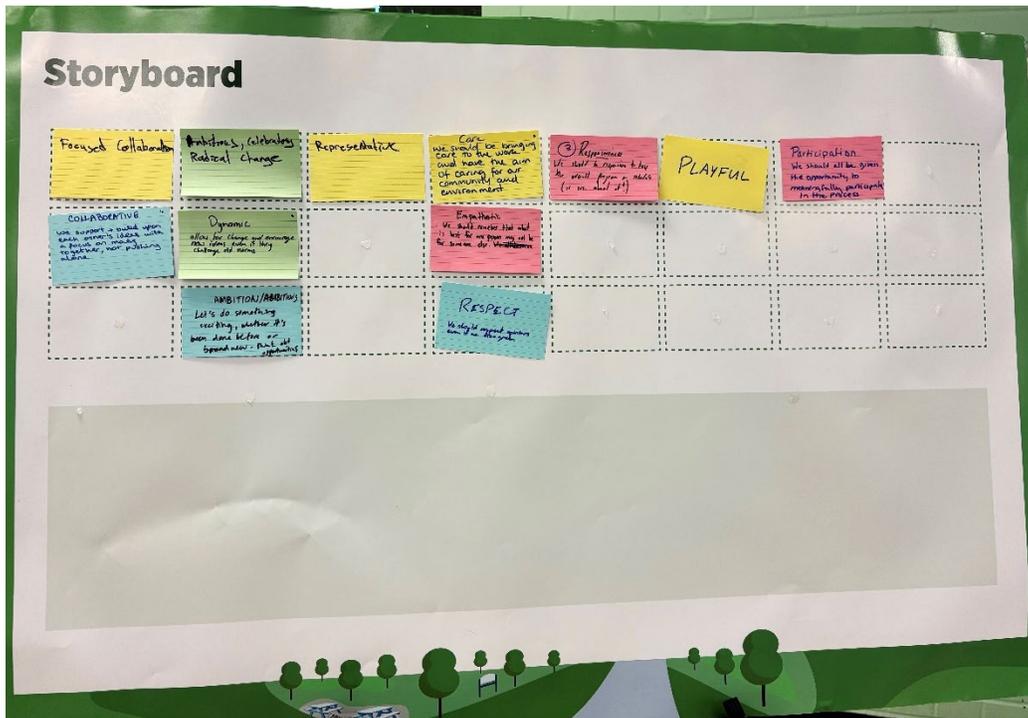


Figure 3. Storyboard with the initial draft values that CAC members wrote and selected from their small group discussions.

Breakout Session: Terms of Reference Review

In this breakout session, CAC members reviewed and discussed items outlined in the draft Terms of Reference (TOR). The TOR outline the roles and responsibilities for the project team and CAC members.

CAC members were asked to provide any feedback or suggestions on the TOR terms. They were encouraged to reflect not just on whether the proposed language works, but also if it aligns with the values identified in the shared values exercise. All members must agree to these terms to sit on the CAC.

The draft TOR was collaboratively reviewed and edited by the CAC, and an updated TOR was circulated after the meeting.

Community Advisory Committee Meeting 2

On Thursday, July 17, 2025, the second Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting took place at the West Neighbourhood House (248 Ossington Avenue) from 6 to 9 p.m. The meeting agenda included:

- A project presentation on background and site investigations by City staff and the consultant
- A summary of the online interactive mapping activity results
- A summary of the Public Life Study results
- A breakout session for a mapping activity
- A wrap-up and outline of next steps

Meeting Highlights

The second CAC meeting focused on gathering feedback on background and site analysis completed to date and considering ideas for improvements at Trinity Bellwoods Park. City staff also shared feedback from the broader community, including input gathered through an online interactive mapping activity and a public life study.

During breakout sessions, participants engaged in a hands-on mapping activity and worked in small groups to prioritize cards that reflected their collective observations related to access and circulation at Trinity Bellwoods Park. Each small group then discussed ideas for improvements. This activity helped identify what's working, what's not working and ideas for improvement, which will help guide the study and its findings.

Breakout Session: Mapping Activity

In this breakout session, the CAC was separated into smaller groups of five to six people. Each table had an identical map of Trinity Bellwoods Park, with prompts related

to the three areas of focus: what's working, what's not working and ideas for improvement.



Figure 4. CAC members identifying ideas for improvement with sticky notes on a map of Trinity Bellwoods Park (Detailed description provided in Appendix A.)

What's Working

In this breakout session, CAC members were asked to independently write down brief statements on separate colour-coded sticky notes that reflect what's working in Trinity Bellwoods Park. They were then asked to place those sticky notes on the areas of the map that correspond to that observation. They then worked in small groups to identify any overlap between their ideas and discuss and prioritize which sticky notes resonate the most with their group. Participants were also provided with pre-populated cue cards from highly rated pins in the online interactive mapping activity.

The goal was to collaboratively select sticky notes that represent their collective thoughts for what is currently working with the pathways and entrances at Trinity Bellwoods Park, and where those observations are currently taking place.

The prompt provided to inspire the exercise was:

Show us entrances, pathways or parts of the park that feel easy to use and move through. Let us know what should stay the same.

What's Not Working

After the first exercise, CAC members received an additional set of colour-coded sticky notes and pre-populated cue cards from the online interactive mapping activity. Combined with the cards from the previous activity, CAC members were asked to independently write down brief statements on new sticky notes that reflect what's not working with the pathways and entrances at Trinity Bellwoods Park. They repeated the same action from the previous exercise, placing sticky notes on the areas of the map that correspond to that observation and working in small groups to identify any overlap and prioritize which observations resonate the most with their group.

The goal was to collaboratively select sticky notes that represent their collective thoughts for what is currently not working with the pathways and entrances at Trinity Bellwoods Park, and where those observations are currently taking place.

The prompts provided to inspire the exercise were:

What problems have you noticed with entrances and paths in Trinity Bellwoods Park? Are there any areas where you notice more conflict between park users?

Ideas for Improvement

Finally, with the observations from both what's working and what's not working on their maps, CAC members were asked to identify and prioritize ideas for improvement related to access and circulation at Trinity Bellwoods Park. Each group placed their sticky notes on the areas of the map that correspond to that observation, prioritizing which interventions resonate the most with their group.

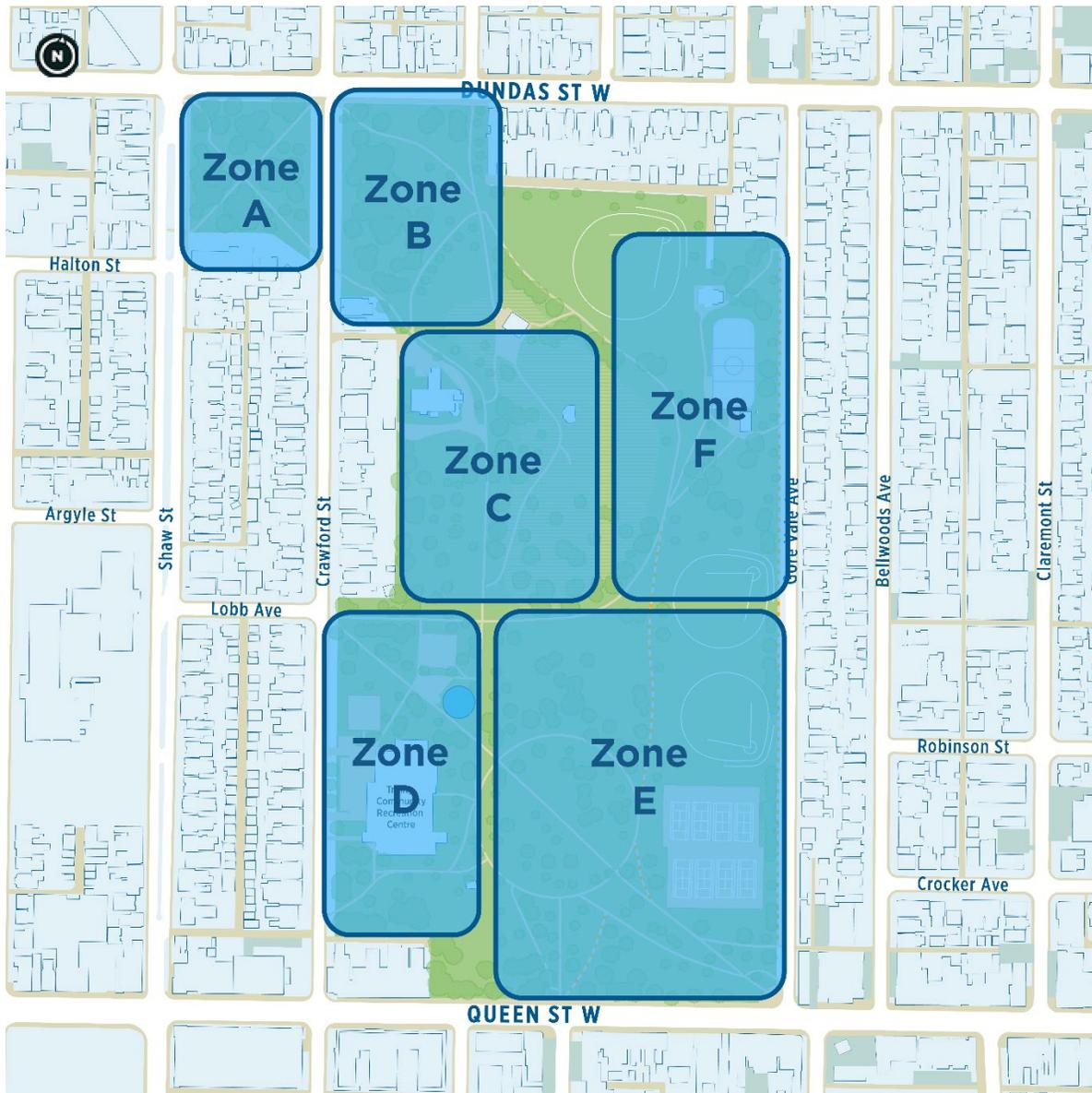
Once the observations were complete, each group presented their maps to the full CAC. After each table individually presented their findings, CAC members were asked if they agreed or had any thoughts on each map.

The prompts provided to inspire the exercise were:

Share your ideas to help people move through the park more easily—like adding new paths, removing unnecessary paths, improving signage or fixing rough areas. Are there areas where new pathways should be added or resurfaced? Are there areas where signage should be installed? What ideas do you have to mediate conflict between pedestrians, cyclists, and other pathway users?

Feedback Summary

CAC responses were organized by the project team into six zones, based on the locations where markers were placed. This summary highlights collective observations across each zone.



Zone A:

Figure 5. Map of Trinity Bellwoods Park, with the park divided into six zones. Each zone is outlined in blue.

What's Working

- I like the criss-cross of this section of the park (great for running)
- City bike dock is very useful

- the path reno done in 2023 (I think) made a huge difference for safety and accessibility. Wider, smoother, safer for all.

What's Not Working

- Doesn't receive garbage service
- Pinched corner entrance – make longer landing zone
- Benches not far enough from path
- Crosswalk on Crawford Street – better car signage needed
- Choke point, not enough room for cyclists + pedestrians
- Shaw/Dundas SE entrance - Not working well how it pinches the flow for pedestrians/cyclists entering/leaving the park and wheelchair patrons from (John Gibson) House that frequent the farmers market. The sidewalk is narrow at this entire intersection.

Ideas for Improvement

- Close Crawford Street off to cars! Plz
- Make all the roads around here 'woonerfs'
- Add plug-in for farmer's market if utilities will need to be relocating for path widening
- move water station so that the path doesn't need to be crossed
- Need raised crosswalk across Crawford Street. Priority given to park users not cars.
- Widen path. Remove or add more concrete blocks in area.
- more spacious landing pad, maintain some sort of sitting bench like what's there - people rest there (shady in summer).
- Crossing path on Crawford: 100% needs yield signage and raised brightly painted crosswalk. At the least painted crosswalk design. The curb cutaway is not even painted nor in line with where the direction of traffic flows from one point to the other across the street.
- Set back of the benches from path. The widening of reno took the asphalt/concrete right up to them so for anyone sitting there is in closer proximity to the traffic flow now. When it gets busy its dicey from pedestrians and the mounted cyclists.

Zone B:

What's Working

- Wide entrance at Dundas

- Chill gathering area for shade seekers
- Nice benches
- Good entrance at Dundas Street, not pinched
- Intersection at Dundas Street (across from Montrose) is working
- I love this path (diagonal path from Crawford Street to intersection north of dog bowl)
- Dundas (across from Montrose) is best entrance. Wide. Paved. Crosswalk.
- I use this desire line (from laneway houses) and love it

What's Not Working

- Residents are forced to use Crawford Street in winter
- Path to laneway
- Muddy + unsafe

Ideas for Improvement

- Restore the Garrison Creek
- Snow plow this area
- Repave immediately
- Widen entire path (northwest of dog bowl)
- Raised sidewalk/crosswalk on path along south side of zone towards Crawford Street
- Porta potty maintenance uses the pathways – adding proper washroom could remove that conflict
- A new shorter Emergency Entrance off Crawford St. be created when the chopped-up path to the north side of the Gibson House parking lot is reconstructed. The current emergency route to Gibson House is very long and has emergency vehicle accessibility issues especially in winter

Zone C:

What's Working

- Dogs seem to enjoy this area
- Good trees – don't cut away
- Multi-use path

What's Not Working

- Has this washroom every been open?
- Why is there a huge paved area here?
- Off-leash area creating conflict with path
- Fast moving cyclists
- Path between John Gibson House and Dog Bowl – confusing + congested
- This curved path area (between John Gibson house and dog bowl) is dangerous
- Narrow path (between John Gibson House and Dog Bowl) leads to pedestrian and cyclist conflict
- Gravel path – purpose?
- Stairs are not very safe (rails, slippery)
- Not enough directional signage for amenities

Ideas for Improvement

- Sidewalk so that pedestrians know it's for them
- Path signage that says SLOW + SHARE
- Café + sandwich bar (where current abandoned washroom is)
- More benches + water fountains in the dog bowl
- Light the pathway south of the dog bowl better, with better wayfinding
- Widen pathways, limit use by trucks
- Pathway on the northeastern side of the dog bowl needs a fence to keep balls from going down the dog bowl hill
- Clear signage on pathway between John Gibson House and dog bowl

Zone D:

What's Working

- Crawford + Lobb entrance
- Community area (near community recreation centre) working
- Lobb works
- Love this path (path north of play area)
- This area is ok (SW corner)
- Nice paving (east of rec centre)
- Path entrance from Lobb Street is important
- Access to community centre is good
- Love this parking lot when I go to trinity recreation centre
- Southwest entrance is good, easy access to rec centre for cars, bikes (city bike dock) + pedestrians

What's Not Working

- These courts seem to be dominated by the same group
- Emergency route – not used or clear
- Bikes and kids conflict
- Bike/pedestrian conflict area at intersection east of play area and south of dog bowl
- Choke point (Lobb and Crawford entrance)
- Path intersection (south of play area, northeast of rec centre, west of trinity circle) is a choke point w/ conflict between cyclists, kids, dogs

Ideas for Improvement

- Water pooling (at pathway intersection east of the play area)
- SLOW DOWN + SHARED signage and painted on path
- Signs saying mixed use, stay to the right to allow passing with painting on paths
- Could there be designated bike lanes / paths

Zone E:

What's Working

- This path (south of dog bowl) is okay and often not overcrowded
- This seems to be a natural gathering area
- Tennis courts are well-used
- Queen area south gate is open
- Direct diagonal path location (through Trinity Circle)
- South entrance is great
- Natural path along eastern edge of park
- South gated entrance is great for pedestrians (only)
- Short traffic lights on crosswalk (Queen across from Strachan) keep pedestrian traffic moving
- We like cobblestones

What's Not Working

- This desired path poses multiple issues (east of Trinity Circle, between tennis courts to the south and the dog bowl to the north)
- Baseball fields take up too much space
- Trinity Circle/South entrance path becomes convoluted for cyclists
- Part of south gate is closed

- Do we need this path (desire line path from south gate towards tennis courts)
- Overcrowded on busy days
- Very muddy after rain
- Trinity Circle path too thin for mixed traffic
- Trinity Circle corners get flooded
- Terrible edges
- Steep and muddy entrance at southeast entrance
- Southernmost baseball diamond no longer used – should be greenspace
- Bike/pedestrian conflict zone (path intersection north of south gated entrance)
- Side doors (in gated entrance) are always locked!
- Where do cyclists go from south gated entrance onto Queen?
- Southeastern ramp/exit of park sends bike into traffic
- Unpaved desire line (between tennis courts and dog bowl) is scary to bike on. Uneven. Not safe. Tree roots. Washes out.
- What is the purpose of the circle path
- Bottleneck at south gated entrance
- Cobblestones create concerns for accessibility
- Diagonal path (from southeast entrance to trinity circle) washes out due to flooding
- No crosswalk at southeast entrance + bad accessibility
- Flooding began when the curbs were removed from the Trinity Circle. During rain events and snow melt-offs, the curbs kept all the water on the road and channeled the water through the main gate at Strachan onto Queen St. After the curbs were removed the water flows onto the grass and pools in low laying areas.

Ideas for Improvement

- Paths for people and paths for water
- Widen path
- Improve path from southeast entrance for stroller access
- Ban motorized vehicles in park
- Open the side doors (of the gated entrance) for greater access with pedestrians + cyclists
- Pedestrian dedication for path along cherry blossom trees
- Fewer, more efficient paths
- Greater area of bevel (ramp) needed for sidewalk at southeast entrance
- More bevel area (ramp) at southeast entrance
- Better signage against off-leash dogs in eastern green space open area
- Add path to garden (in southwest portion of zone)
- Add maps and landmark names

- Improve crossing to Queen Street
- More lighting at tennis court
- Pave or add boardwalk on top of desire line trail (located east of Trinity Circle, between tennis courts and dog bowl)
- Change path in and around Trinity Circle to green space
- Please add a paved path (on unpaved desire line between tennis courts and dog bowl)
- Remove benches (north of south gated entrance) and make a big path. It's our main entrance + needs to be more accessible
- Add crosswalk at southeast entrance, remove steps, make ramp more accessible

Zone F:

What's Working

- Large gathering area for sunseekers
- Northeast corner is nice and calm
- Gore Vale Ave is functional for bikers
- This laneway (near laneway houses) saves me as a load-in for softball

What's Not Working

- I'm afraid of over-paving. Better signage.
- Path south of ice rink is unused and too many triangles
- No lighting / spooky at women's side of the washrooms! Dangerous?
- Curved path (east of dog bowl and west of north ball diamond) is dangerous
- Poor visibility + accessibility of the skydome (name of baseball diamond)
- No pathway on eastern border of park on Gore Vale Ave. Not accessible.
- Not clear which way you go to exit park

Ideas for Improvement

- Can be congested – maybe add signage to guide people
- Path surface doesn't allow skates on from dressing room
- Path on eastern border of park should be paved
- Please wayfind to the park better (softball)
- Add paved/gravel sidewalk on eastern border of park on Gore Vale Ave
- Add directional signs at pathway intersections

Building on What We Heard

Feedback from the CAC in this phase consistently emphasized the importance of:

- Enhancing **pathways and entrances** to improve accessibility, safety and comfort for pedestrians, cyclists, wheelchair users and families with strollers—through widening, better surfacing, lighting and clearer wayfinding.
- Creating **safer crossings and edges** at Crawford Street, Queen Street and other pinch points, with raised or painted crosswalks, improved signage and redesigned landings that prioritize park users over cars.
- Providing **more seating, shade, and resting areas** that are set back sufficiently from heavy circulation routes, so that resting and gathering can happen without conflict with cyclists or pedestrians.
- **Reducing conflicts between users**, especially at path intersections and shared-use spaces, through design solutions such as clearer markings, mixed-use signage and, if feasible, separated circulation routes.
- Protecting and enhancing the **natural character of the park**, including trees, shaded areas and open green space, while addressing flooding, mud and drainage through more resilient path and landscape design.
- Improving **safety and comfort after dark** with better pathway lighting, clearer sightlines and more accessible entrances for evening and year-round use.
- Expanding **wayfinding and signage** to help people navigate to and through the park, with clear directions to amenities, entrances and neighbourhood connections.

Next Steps

To conclude Phase 1: Gathering Information and Identifying Issues, the feedback gathered through the Community Advisory Committee, Public Life Study, online interactive mapping activity, and Parks and Recreation Community Disability Steering Committee will be shared in a Feedback Summary Report and will inform the recommendations of the Trinity Bellwoods Park Access and Circulation Study.

The project will then move into Phase 2: Exploring Recommendations. In this next phase of the engagement process, the project team aims to:

- Share draft recommendations for park access and circulation improvements with the community, Community Advisory Committee and stakeholders for feedback.

Community input, along with technical and feasibility considerations, will help refine the recommendations, which will be shared in Phase 3 of the engagement process in the final report.

To learn more about the project, visit: <https://www.toronto.ca/TrinityBellwoodsStudy>.

Appendix A: Meeting Attendance

20 CAC members attended the first meeting, and 20 attended the second meeting. The following project team members and City staff attended one or both meetings:

- City of Toronto, Parks and Recreation
 - Rachel Weston – Senior Project Coordinator
 - Ainee Shanta – Program Manager
 - Joshua Bowman – Senior Public Consultation Coordinator
 - Annie Ding – Public Consultation Coordinator
 - Stella Zhou – Public Consultation Coordinator
 - Kim Behrouzian – Supervisor, Community Engagement
 - Vivian Goulas – Supervisor, Community Engagement
 - Heather MacKay – Parks Supervisor
- WSP
 - Benjamin Vander Veen – Senior Landscape Architect
 - Elise Ralston – Landscape Designer

Representatives from the following community organizations attended both meetings:

- Friends of Trinity Bellwoods Park
- LOFT Community Services – John Gibson House
- Toronto Downtown Fastpitch League
- Trinity Bellwoods Farmers' Market

Five CAC members were absent from the first meeting, and five were absent from the second meeting.

We appreciate all the community members who engaged with us during CAC Meetings 1 and 2. Your questions, insights and feedback have been invaluable in refining our materials and enhancing the overall experience for all participants.

Appendix B: Detailed Figure Descriptions

Figure 1: Map of study area – long description

The map shows Trinity Bellwoods Park and the surrounding street grid. The study area is bounded by Dundas Street West to the north, Gore Vale Avenue to the east, Queen Street West to the south, and Crawford Street and Shaw Street to the west. The park occupies the interior of this boundary, with multiple entrances connecting to each bordering street.

Figure 4: CAC mapping activity photo – long description

A photo of Community Advisory Committee members gathered around a large printed map of Trinity Bellwoods Park. Participants are pointing to locations and placing colour-coded sticky notes on the map to identify what is working, what is not working, and ideas for improvement related to park access and circulation.

Figure 5: Six-zone park map – long description

The map divides Trinity Bellwoods Park into six outlined zones labelled A through F. The park is bordered by Dundas Street West (north), Queen Street West (south), Shaw Street (west), and Gore Vale Avenue (east). Zone A and Zone B are in the northwest portion of the park near Dundas Street West and Crawford Street. Zone C covers the central-north area commonly referred to as the dog bowl. Zone D is located near the community recreation centre area. Zone E is in the south portion near the Queen Street West entrance and Trinity Circle. Zone F is in the northeast portion near recreational facilities such as baseball diamonds and the ice rink.