



Oakwood Avenue & Vaughan Road Parkette

August 2026

Project Overview

Along with planned road work in 2028, including upgrading of the current westbound bikeway on Vaughan Road, the City of Toronto has an opportunity to redesign the current traffic island as a parkette at Oakwood Avenue and Vaughan Road, to improve safety and enhance public space.

What We Did

A variety of methods were used to notify people of the opportunity to provide feedback on the design of the parkette:

- Project web page toronto.ca/vaughanwychwood
- E-notification to project subscribers (65 contacts)
- Email to interest groups including resident associations, community groups, organizations, institutions and elected officials (51 contacts)
- Street signage posted near the intersection of Oakwood Avenue and Vaughan Road

Comments on the project were received through an online survey, from June 26-July 13, 2026, with 108 responses.

What We Heard

Safety and Maintenance

Some participants were concerned about safety and an increase in loitering in the area following the changes. There were also concerns about maintaining cleanliness of the parkette in the long-term.

Greenery and Design

Participants expressed a desire for more shade, seating and greenery. There was also a desire for less branding on the new structures, and a preference for colours instead of rust-like texture. Participants were divided on where to relocate the existing palm tree sculpture during construction. The majority noted that it held little significance to them, but some requested it to be incorporated back into the new parkette, flagging the need for better reference to help the public understand the significance of the palm tree in the new parkette design.

Traffic

Some participants expressed concern about an increase in traffic in the area with the removal of the north bound right-turn lane, and that traffic would be diverted onto Jesmond Avenue.

Survey Results

The survey was available online and in print format and included background information on the project. The questions included multi-choice or multi-select responses and open ended comment boxes. Participation in the survey was anonymous. Responses received to each question are presented in this section.

Question - The new parkette would add more open space for events and gatherings and multi-purpose seating. How do you see the new parkette being used?

There were 29 respondents to this question. Comments included:

- Could be used a gathering space for local community, and as a place to eat and socialize
- Concern about safety issues as it may attract loiterers
- Concern that heavy, noisy traffic surrounding the parkette would hinder gatherings and make it unsafe for children
- Desire for more greenery and shade retention

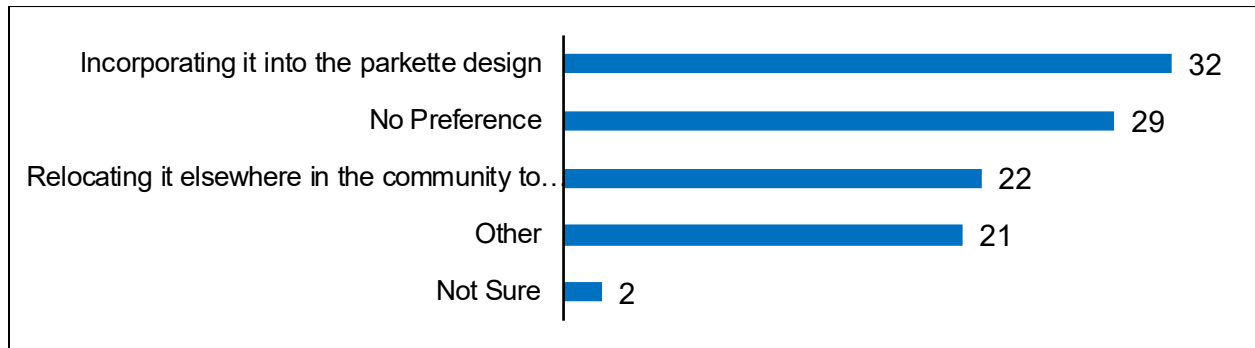
Question - As part of the plaza design there is an opportunity to install branding that represents the community and the Oakwood Village BIA, along with lighting. Do you have any comments about the example shown below?

There were 50 respondents to this question. Comments included:

- Preference for more greenery, trees and shade instead of concrete
- Mixed support for the design, with several respondents concerned about the unattractive, rust-coloured structures used in the rendering
- Overall desire for less branding in the parkette
- Desire to incorporate reference to community diversity and Caribbean/Black roots
- Desire for more lighting due to safety concerns at night and to improve design/visibility

Question - Originally constructed in 2010 through the City's Clean and Beautiful City program in response to a nearby violent incident, the palm tree represents strong roots and unity in the community.

During construction of the parkette it would need to be removed and then returned once the project is complete. In your opinion, how should the palm tree be returned after construction?



There were 106 respondents to this question, with 32 preferring to incorporate it into the parkette design, 29 did not have a preference, and 22 preferring to relocate it elsewhere in the community to avoid storage during construction. 21 respondents selected “Other,” noting mixed desires to remove it entirely, relocate it elsewhere, or return it to the parkette following construction.

Question - Please tell us about the importance of the palm tree in your community.

There were 48 respondents to this question. Comments included:

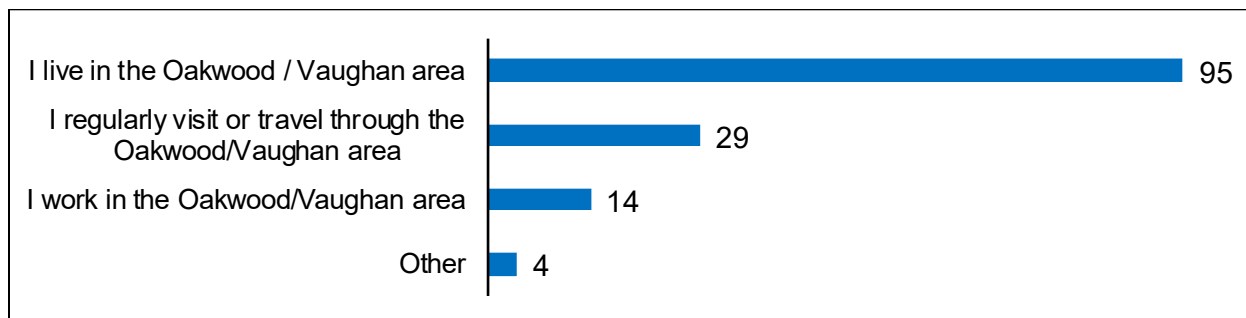
- Most respondents indicated that the palm tree held little to no significance for them
- Several respondents were unaware of the history of the palm tree
- Several people noted they would prefer something more attractive and vibrant
- Some people noted it was a significant monument to the community and cultural roots

Question - Please share any additional comments or suggestions about the Oakwood Avenue and Vaughan Road Parkette Redesign.

There were 67 respondents to this question. Comments included:

- Many requests for more greenery, seating and shade
- Desire for more people-friendly design with less branding
- Suggestions to include more community aspects, such as Caribbean aspects
- Concern about increased congestion due to traffic diversion
- Concern about the perceived cost of the project

Question - Which of the following describes your relationship to the area? Select all that apply.



There were 104 respondents to this question, with 95 indicating they live in the Oakwood/Vaughan area, 29 indicating they regularly visit or travel through the Oakwood/Vaughan area, and 14 indicating they work in the Oakwood/Vaughan area.