

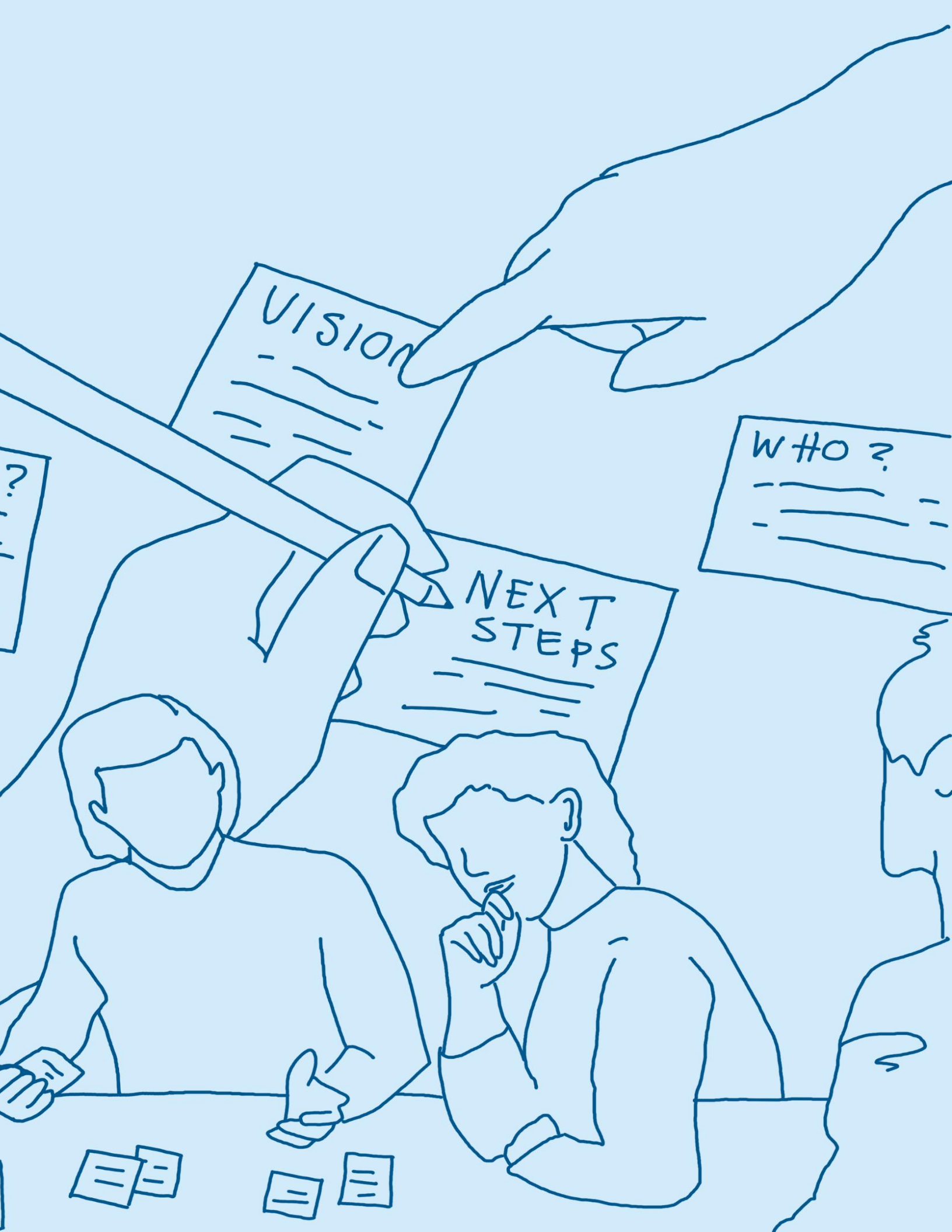
Online Thought Exchange Summary Report

New Park at 200 Sterling Rd.

Phase 1: Towards a Vision

April 2026





Contents

Online Thought Exchange Summary Report.....	0
Introduction	3
Phase 1: Towards a Vision	3
Thought Exchange	4
How We Reached People.....	4
Thought Exchange: Themes.....	4
Thought Exchange: Common Ground and Differences	5
Survey: Character.....	6
Survey: Activities	6
Survey: Features	7
Next Steps.....	9
Appendix	10
Appendix A: Character.....	10
Appendix B: Activities	11
Appendix C: Features (Other).....	14
Appendix D: Demographics	16
Appendix E: Housing Situation	17
Appendix F: Outreach.....	18

Introduction

A new 2,200 m² park (about the size of five NBA basketball courts) is coming to 200 Sterling Rd, at the corner of Sterling Road and Perth Avenue, just south of Bloor. The site is currently open to the public as a base park with grass while planning and preparations for the future park are underway.

The new park's design and amenities will be shaped through community engagement.

Phase 1: Towards a Vision

In this phase, the project team collected feedback from the community and worked with the Community Working Group to develop a vision statement, guiding principles and big moves that will then guide the development of design options in Community Engagement Phase 2.

The community engagement activities in this phase include:

- an interactive thought exchange activity
- two Community Working Group meetings

This report summarizes the Thought Exchange activity.

Thought Exchange

596

Participants

Community members were invited to participate in an online Thought Exchange activity from March 23 to April 13, 2026.

How We Reached People

The community was informed about the online Thought Exchange activity through the project webpage, postcards sent via Canada Post to every household within a 1km radius of the new park, an e-flyer sent to organizations in the area, local Councillor's office communications, signage posted on the site of the new park, and social media ads that ran for the three week duration.

Thought Exchange: Themes

Participants were asked to complete the following statement: **"The new park at 200 Sterling Rd. should be a place where..."** Participants were then asked to rate the statements (or "thoughts") that others had already shared from a score of 1 star as the lowest rating (disagreement) and 5 stars as the highest rating (agreement).

596 participants contributed a total of **552 thoughts** and **13,577** ratings.

The most popular thoughts reflected the following themes, in order of popularity (all with a rating of 4 stars or higher):

1. Green, nature, plants:

- Greenery is prioritized, with lots of trees, plants, and shade to bring nature back into an area dominated by concrete and development.
- Biodiversity is supported through gardens and natural plantings that provide habitat for birds and pollinators.

2. Community, gathering, socializing:

- The community can come together for events, shared activities and local programming.
- People can come together to socialize and connect with friends, family and neighbours in a shared, free and accessible outdoor space.

3. Peaceful, relax, escape urban life:

- People can relax in a calm, quiet environment that supports rest and reflection.
- People can escape the noise and busy pace of the city and find a break from the surrounding urban environment.

4. Inclusive, accessible, welcoming:

- People of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds can access and comfortably enjoy the space.
- Everyone feels safe and welcome.

Thought Exchange: Common Ground and Differences

Common Ground

Thoughts that mentioned active recreational amenities (e.g. sport courts, skate park, etc.) were generally rated low by participants.

Thoughts that mentioned the following themes were generally rated high by participants:

- Peaceful green escape from urban life
- Plenty of trees, flowers and plantings
- Outdoor space to relax and socialize
- Accessible, communal space for all ages to gather

Differences

Off-leash area for dogs:

Thoughts that generally mentioned inclusion of dogs showed a division among participants, with some rating them high and others rating them low. However, the highest rated thought with this theme received a 3.9 star score overall but included other unrelated themes in the same thought (i.e. children, sitting and eating, green

space). The highest rated thoughts that mentioned a dog area and no other themes received a 3.2 star score overall.

Balancing passive and active uses:

Thoughts that generally mentioned quiet natural space and more active/programmed uses were both popular, showing division among participants.

Survey: Character

In the survey section of the Thought Exchange, participants were asked “**What would you most like the character of the new park at 200 Sterling Rd. to be? Select your top 3 choices.**”

The following four park character choices were the most popular among respondents:

1. **Green and sustainable:** A place lush with trees and plantings, designed to conserve resources and create animal habitat (65 per cent)
2. **Eventful:** A flexible space for small, local, outdoor events (such as community markets, performances, outdoor movie nights), that can change based on community needs (44 per cent)
3. **Peaceful:** A calm oasis with places to sit and relax (40 per cent)
4. **Social:** A place for meeting and gathering (40 per cent)

See *Appendix A* for the full list of responses.

Survey: Activities

In the survey section of the Thought Exchange, participants were asked “**What would you like to do at this park. Select all that apply.**”

The following park activity choices from the most popular to the least popular:

1. Relax in open green spaces (74 per cent)
2. Sit and/or eat (71 per cent)
3. Gather with friends and family (62 per cent)
4. Walk, exercise, and be active (48 per cent)
5. Use children’s play area / Host community events (tied, 32 per cent)
6. Play with games tables (22 per cent)
7. *Other* (20 per cent)

Of those that selected “Other,” these were the most common themes:

*Note that 40 comments represents approximately 7 per cent of all survey responses, and that some of these comments repeat choices already listed above.

1. Spend time with dogs – 40 comments:
 - a) Designated dog area (27 comments)
 - b) Other dog-related comments, mainly walking dog (13 comments)
2. Sport or fitness (29 comments)
3. Nature and biodiversity (23 comments)
4. Skateboarding (13 comments)
5. Sitting, relaxing and social space (11 comments)
6. Infrastructure and accessibility (9 comments)
7. Community, culture, art, events (9 comments)

See *Appendix B* for the full list of responses.

Survey: Features

In the survey section of the Thought Exchange, participants were asked **“When you think about using this new park, what features do you feel are most important? Select 5 to 10 of your top choices.”**

The following list of park features is ranked in order of popularity, with #1 being the most favoured by respondents and #16 being the least favoured:

1. Trees and greenery (81 per cent)
2. Drinking fountain/water bottle filler (65 per cent)
3. Lots of seating options and places to sit (56 per cent)
4. Flexible open green space (56 per cent)
5. Shade feature and/or pavilion with seating underneath (52 per cent)
6. Public art (45 per cent)
7. Bicycle parking (36 per cent)
8. Flexible space for events or gatherings (35 per cent)
9. Play equipment for children (34 per cent)
10. Quiet reflective spaces (33 per cent)
11. Sport courts or features (28 per cent)
12. Outdoor fitness equipment (22 per cent)
13. Games tables (17 per cent)
14. Small stage for performances (15 per cent)
15. *Other* (15 per cent)

16. Educational elements, e.g. signage and/or historical interpretation (13 per cent)

Of those that selected “Other,” these were the most common themes:

*Note that 25 comments represents approximately 5 per cent of all survey responses, and that some of these comments repeat choices already listed above.

1. Dog friendly – 25 comments:
 - a) Designated dog area (20 comments)
 - b) Other dog-related comments (5 comments)
2. Nature, greenery and habitat (23 comments)
3. Sports and active recreation (20 comments)
4. Washroom (13 comments)
5. Water feature (6 comments)
6. Shade (5 comments)

See *Appendix C* for the full list of responses.

Next Steps

The Community Working Group (CWG) will work together with the project team to create a draft vision statement, guiding principles and big moves to help guide the design of the new park. These will form the final outcomes of Phase 1 of the community engagement process.

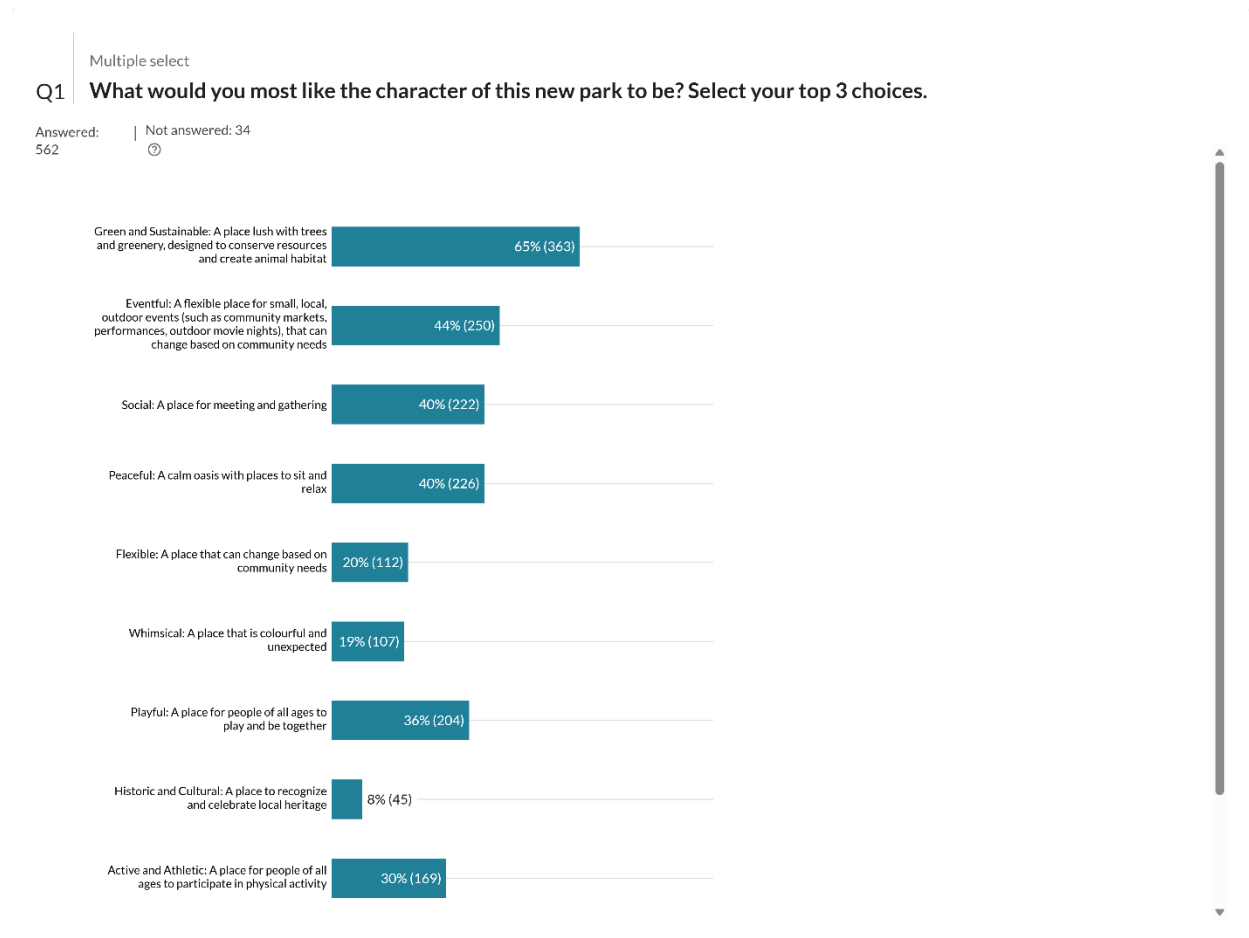
The project will then move into Phase 2 where the project team will work off the outcomes of Phase 1 to develop design options for the new park. These will be presented to the wider community for feedback.

Please visit the project webpage to stay informed: toronto.ca/200SterlingPark

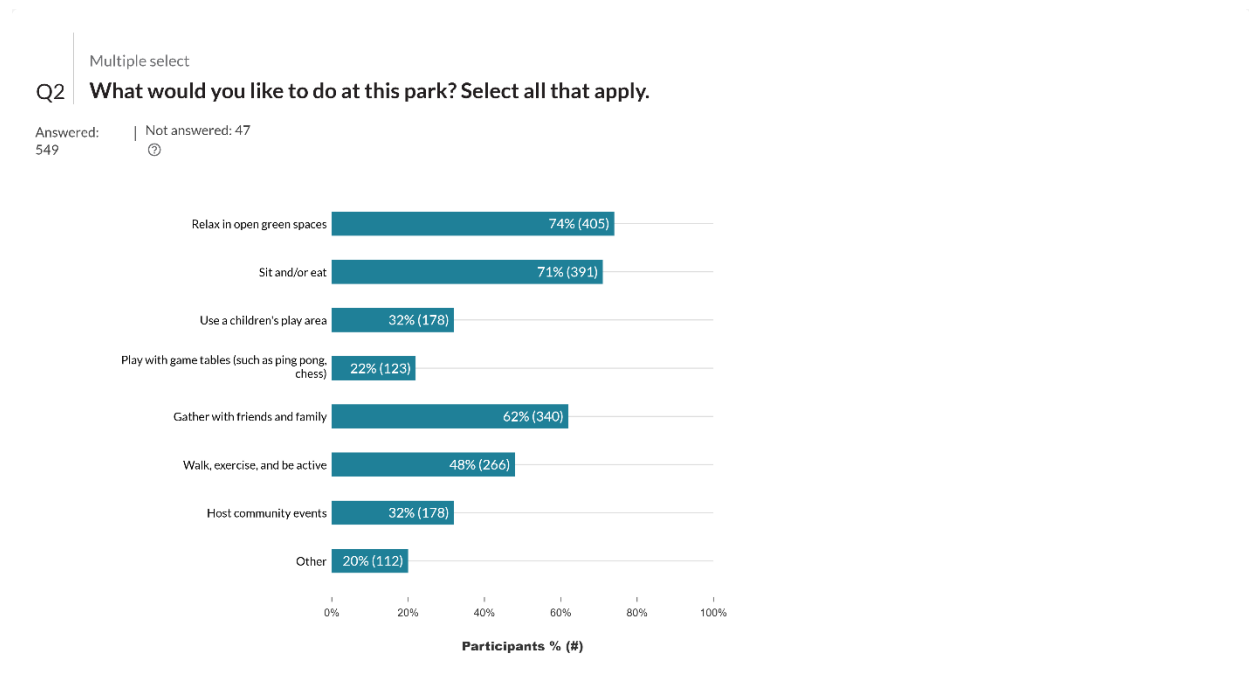
Appendix

To view all thoughts and ratings, visit the full interactive report [online](#).

Appendix A: Character



Appendix B: Activities



Complete list of “Other” comments (representing 20 per cent of responses):

- Other
- Walk my dog
- Fenced off dog park
- I would like to walk my dog on leash without fear of encountering an off-leash dog. Unfortunately, signage in other parks does not work and people continue to bring their dogs to park off-leash
- Dog area
- Enjoy naturalized/native plant areas— trees, shrubs, grasses and flowers, that create habitat for birds, insects and other wildlife, and shade and privacy, as well as grassy areas to sit or lie down
- a multi-purpose “playground” designed for athletes that incorporates seating for observers of action, art in a whimsical manner (fountain, sculpture, absurdity), and surrounding greenery for shade
- Dog Park
- Watch birds, steward native plant garden
- Toss the football
- This parkette is next to several office buildings, a place for workers to walk on lunch and relax would be great
- Play baseball
- I want a fenced in area for my dogs
- There are so few basketball courts in the community... we need one!
- Dog area
- Walk with my dog
- playground for 8 to 12 years old
- dog park
- connect with nature
- Have more accessible pathways across the park, better connecting the community

- Basketball court, no need for education signage! Put the money towards actually infrastructure for the park!
- Hang out with dog
- Dog park area would be beneficial. Many dogs in the area need space to exercise.
- exercise my dog
- Outdoor movie nights
- Attend community events
- Dog off leash park
- Dog off leash park
- Section for skateboarding. Lots of flat open space and benches of various sizes that can be skateable but also used for sitting, gathering, socializing.
- Off leash dog park
- Relax near gardens and trees
- Use as a space for activities or games that I bring with me to the park, and take with me when I leave (spike ball, kanjam, etc.)
- Sit in the shade with lots of trees.
- Swim! Or ice skate!
- splash pad or other water play
- Enjoy public art
- Let my dog play
- Be inspired
- Cultural specific seating.
- Play pickleball
- Dog park area
- Be able to have an area for dogs, alot of animals visit the space and they should still have a right to the space but maybe a smaller gated area
- Spend time with my daughter when we bike/walk in the area
- Spots courts for adults
- Play sports at drypad (bike polo) with friends and family
- Use workout equipment (a chin up bar)
- Play bike polo
- Bring my dog off leash
- dog park
- Skateboard without fear of being kicked out
- Connect with the rail path, a sort of stop midway or destination
- Off leash dog park
- Leave as is with lots of grass for people to use as they wish! There are so many parks with strict rules about how you can use it. Let us continue to use it as we have, shared for all use
- Skate park
- Fitness park!
- Play frisbee and bocce ball are my favourites right now with the wide open space
- It's fine how it is, it's already a nice park, not opposed to planting a tree or two but don't develop it please. I live right there!
- Skateboard
- Basketball hoop
- Skateboard park
- Basketball
- Bring my dog
- Spend time with pets outside
- Walk my dog
- Skateboarding
- Skateboarding street obstacle that can be sat on or interacted with by everyone. European cities have Easter egg like obstacles that are multi use. They could be a great opportunity

- An ice rink, to replace the one lost during the Galleria redevelopment
- If possible a decorative fountain would also be so calming for reading and relaxing
- Skateboard
- Basketball courts, outdoor theatre
- Enjoy flowering plants that attract pollinators
- A paved portion would be amazing and could be multi use
- Dog park
- Dog park, pickleball courts
- Dog park
- community vegetable garden
- Walk on a designated path or board walk, and enjoy nature without trampling it
- Enjoy nature in a naturalized park. Potentially with ways to learn about nature e.g. pollinator patch
- Walk my dog
- There is a real lack of spaces in this area to just sit and read and talk. If I go and buy a quick meal I'll have to walk 15 minutes to get home to eat it. A shady place to sit would be great
- Have space for dogs to sniff and play
- bird watch
- plenty of room there for an outdoor ice rink :)
- Farmers market
- Skateboard park
- Attend community events
- enjoy nature/biodiversity
- Dog park
- Dog park area- badly needed in our neighbourhood
- Play basketball!
- walk my dog
- I would love a dedicated space in the city for bike polo
- relax in green space (not necessarily open)
- Move in a green space with trees
- Please put STANDING DESKS of some kind that are suitable to stand at and use a laptop or have a coffee. Benches are nice but do not always work for people who need to stand for health reasons.
- Designated area for pets — otherwise the dogs will destroy all of the grass
- play frisbee, let dogs loose
- A place to bring my dog
- be engulfed by nature
- A skateboard park designed by someone who actually skateboards would be amazing
- Think about how bad Toronto's parks are
- Skatepark
- Enjoy native plants
- Grow food
- Public park space to read, sit under a shades tree, have a meet up with friends after a work day
- A Skateboard park would be the coolest option. It would bring together people of all ages in a vibrant neighbourhood. A Basketball Court would also be greatly cherished
- Skate park / basketball
- keep the grass level and wheelchair accessible
- Please include a washroom. There are no washrooms along the rail path
- read, write, knit, paint
- There should be an outdoor plyometrics gym and tennis courts
- There are so many little cafes and workplaces nearby, we need a green space to eat lunch and clear our minds
- Basketball court, graffiti mural, seating

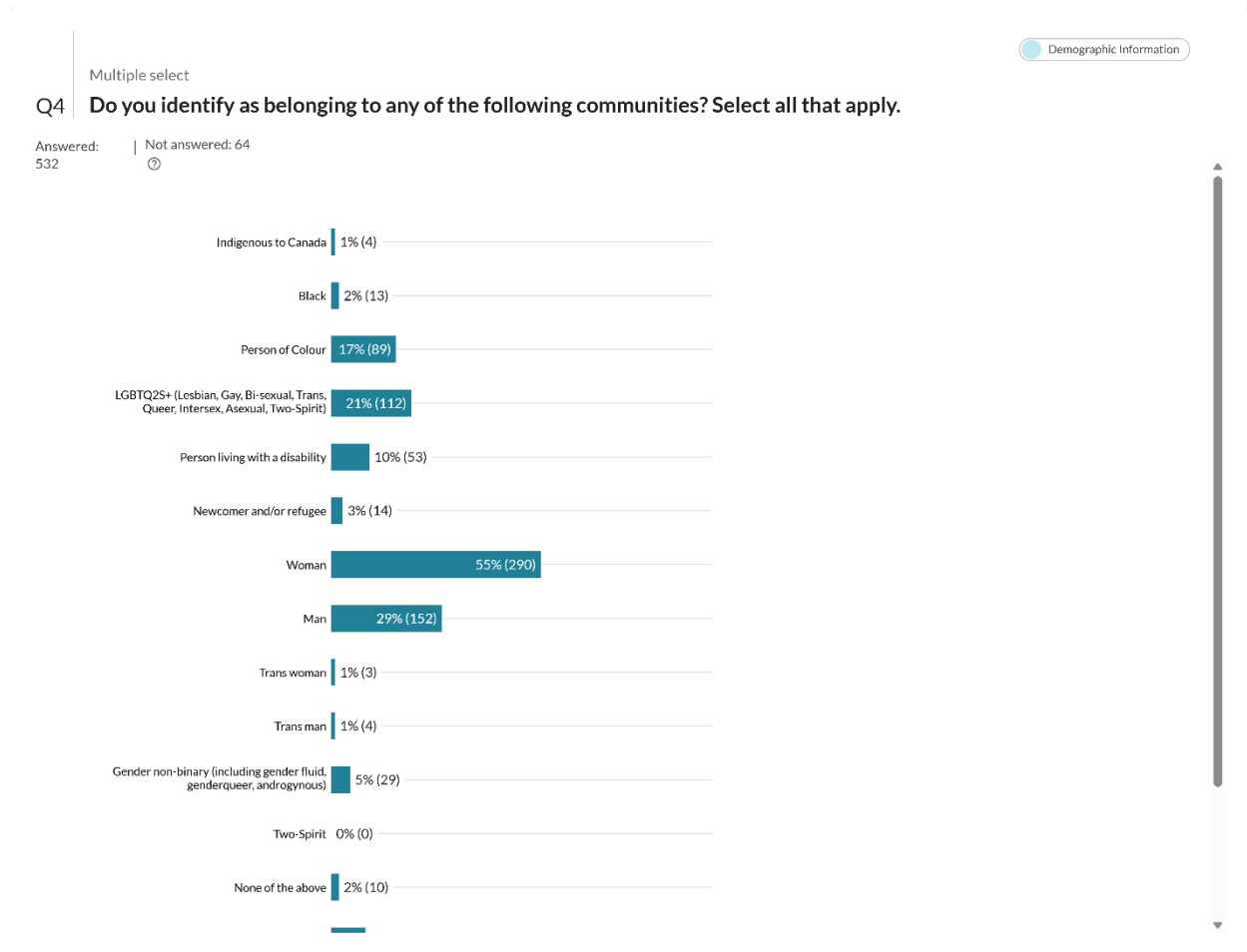
Appendix C: Features (Other)

Complete list of “Other” comments (representing 15 per cent of responses):

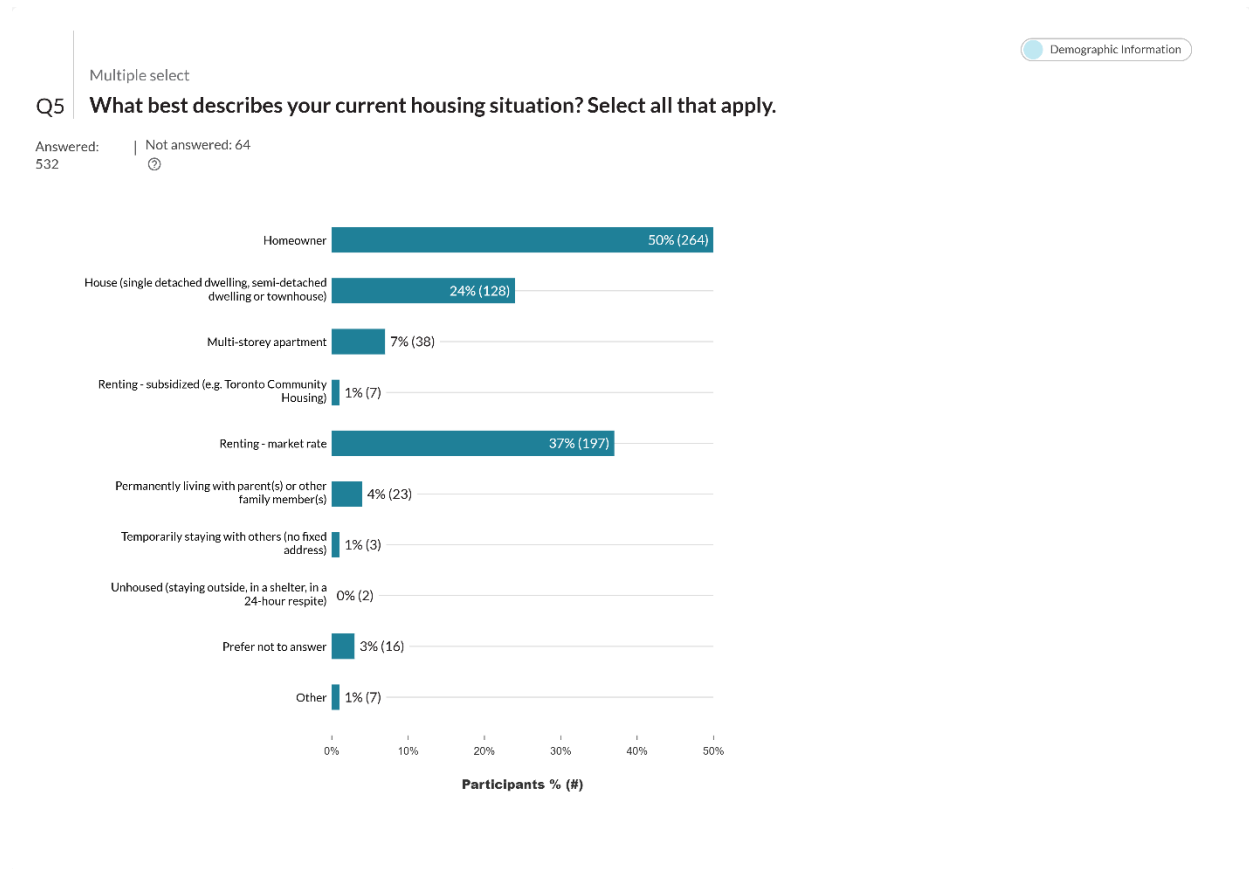
- Off-leash area
- Fenced off dog park, City Bike station
- Water feature
- Tennis Court
- greenery could be food trees. there was a mulberry tree in the park that was cut down and it would be nice to have another one. another good food tree could be service berries.
- if we can't put an enclosed dog park here so off leash dogs can't roam freely, i would like this park to be a place that does not encourage off leash dogs, by design.
- Limited shade/rain shelter, not large: focus on greenery, native plants, and trees.
- Don't rule out a place for skateboarders. They bring a ton of culture and would actually use this space. People love to watch skaters and outdoor plays could even perform if there was a small stage
- Wildlife refuge area (10 years ago when this was all open and the Railpath trail was wider there were killdeer each spring, cottontail rabbits try to live there too
- Tons of shade... this area is a huge heat island and trees are badly needed.
- Public washroom
- Public washrooms - I'm surprised this is not an option to select.
- Green space as an extension of the railpath - and preservation of the natural habitat that is present in this area - bats, rabbits, butterflies, birds, hawks. And big trees for shade, not pavilion
- Fenced in dog area
- Off leash dog area
- trees natural shelter
- local dense plant cover
- Dog Friendly
- Get a graffiti mural so that other people doing tag art does not run it the new park. When the city hires real graffiti artists the other street taggers respect the space!
- Dog park area
- Washrooms
- Dog off leash park
- Dog off leash park
- Skateboarding space with multi-use sitting and gathering.
- Swings
- Washroom
- garbage and compost to manage waste from the farmers market across the street
- splash pad or other water play
- Minimal intervention, lots of wildflower pollination and habitat space
- Dog park
- Community garden
- Tennis Courts
- Public washroom
- Enclosed area for dogs
- sport court that allows bicycles on it to play bike polo
- Native + drought resistant gardens. Development in the area has demolished so much habitat and greenery. We need more nature.
- native plants!!!!
- Pool

- Washroom facilities
- Space for pets / animals
- Fenced area for dogs
- Cherry blossom trees, but also lots of native trees and plants, such as redbud.
- Gazebos and pergolas. An enchanted garden where community arts and culture programming can happen.
- pollinator garden with community stewardship
- Shade feature: trees
- Skatepark
- Skating/walking trail
- Dog park area
- An ice rink, to replace the one lost during the Galleria redevelopment
- Bike polo court
- Shared dry pad for mixed activities like bike polo, roller skating, etc
- Water feature like a well designed Fountain to sit near
- dog area
- Dog friendly
- Washrooms and a snack shack
- Modern public washroom
- Off leash dog park
- Just leave it! It's a great space for people to use how they wish!
- Washroom
- Dog park, pickleball courts
- Please put STANDING DESKS of some kind that are suitable to stand at and use a laptop or have a coffee. Benches are nice but do not always work for people who need to stand for health reasons.
i would like there to be no benches or children's play area. that reduces the amount of free space.
i would like there to be garbage bins and a sign that says to clean up after one's pet.
- Some benches
- Allotment garden, plants to attract birds and bees
- Dog park
- community vegetable garden
- A designated walking path to prevent people from trampling the native plants.
- Bench seating for enjoying nature
- An area for dogs
- Running track with a multi use space on the inside
- All season washrooms
- This is a quiet peaceful block, it is highly preferred to maintain this (outside of occasional events). Loud large scale events aren't suitable
- Skatepark. We barely have any downtown.
- Trees and greenery as most of the surrounding area is hardscape with no greenery or trees.
- Fruit/nut shrubs and trees
- Tennis courts. Not pickleball, which will violate Toronto's noise bylaw (Chapter 591) after 7pm.
- No Pickleball please
- Skateboard Park/Basketball Court
- A multi-faith prayer space that is protected from the elements and wildlife, and accessible to all.
- Washroom
- fewer meandering walking paths, more uninterrupted green space
- Doggie poop bag dispenser
- Welcoming to bird life
- Tennis courts and plyometrics gym

Appendix D: Demographics



Appendix E: Housing Situation



Appendix F: Outreach

Multiple select
Q6 How did you find out about this survey? Select all that apply.

Answered: 532 | Not answered: 64
①

