Community Working Group Meeting 3 Summary Report

New Park at 200 Sterling Rd.

Phase 2: Exploring Design Options

September 2026

TORONTO


VISION
WHY?
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NEXT STEPS

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CWG Meeting 3

On Wednesday, August 26, 2026 from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., the third Community Working Group (CWG) meeting took place on the site of the new park at 200 Sterling Rd., as well as at Family Service Toronto's Sterling Rd. office.

The agenda included:

- Sensory site tour
- Review of CWG group process and Community Engagement Phase 1 outcomes
- Presentation about design scope and considerations
- Presentation showing precedent images to inspire design ideas
- Breakout sessions: Design workshop
- Wrap up & next steps

Meeting Highlights

The purpose of the third CWG meeting was to allow CWG members to:

- Experience through the senses how physical layout, environmental factors and emotional responses shift across the park site to help inspire and inform park design ideas.
- Develop preliminary design ideas for the new park based on the vision, guiding principles and big moves from Community Engagement Phase 1.

A guided walk through the new park site was conducted, followed by a sensory site tour activity. During breakout sessions, members worked in small groups to workshop ideas for the new park design. These preliminary design ideas will be used by the design consultant to create design options. These will be presented to the wider community for feedback during this phase of community engagement.

Guided Walk and Sensory Site Tour

After giving a land acknowledgement, the City's project lead guided CWG members on a 5-minute walk to highlight key site features, such as entrances, surrounding context, views, noise, shadow and wind patterns, utilities, slopes, subjective perceptions and constraints. The purpose was to ground the group, and to open their awareness and senses.

CWG members then wandered through the site individually and explored up to three focus areas of their choosing, using the prompts provided in their sensory notebooks. The focus was on understanding sensory, emotional and physical responses to the space, rather than generating design solutions or evaluating site conditions in detail. Members spent 15-minutes exploring how these sensory experiences might inform their design ideas for the new park, and recorded impressions and responses in their sensory notebooks.

The group then moved to the meeting room and briefly shared insights about their experiences and reflections. The sensory site tour grounded members in the site context in an experiential way, which helped to prepare everyone for the design workshop that followed.



Breakout Session: Design Workshop

After presentations by the City project team and the design consultant (LANDinc), CWG members participated in collectively workshopping high-level ideas for the new park in small groups.

Each table was provided with a base map of the park site, tracing paper, pens, markers, sticky notes, cut-out shapes (to show scale of possible park features), precedent images and 3D printouts (to use as props and inspiration). Members of the LANDinc team led the design process at each table, and City staff supported with facilitation and notetaking.

CWG members were prompted to explore possible park programming and big design ideas that could create a meaningful and welcoming place for the community.

Other prompts included:

- What should the park feel like?
- What activities, spaces and amenities should it include?

- How could these ideas come together on the site?
- Is there a central idea or theme that could guide the park?



Breakout Session: Report Back

At the end of 90 minutes, each small group shared their designs with the larger group. City staff led a brief discussion about common themes across all or most group designs, which included:

- prioritizing the single existing tree located in the middle of the site; consider adding seating underneath or around it
- creating active vs. passive zones of activity that take into consideration existing sensory features of the area
- safety from traffic and noise, such as with natural planted buffers
- quiet, reflective space by the fence next to the neighbouring houses on the north side; natural tree/planting as privacy buffers for these residents; deter graffiti on the fence with climbing plants

- active space such as a small children’s play area on the side where traffic and train sounds are most audible
- preference for non-traditional play features
- flexible gathering space in the south, southwest or southeast side
- ensuring community safety by using measures like adequate sight lines
- creative, interactive, multifunctional features / furnishings for play, shade, seating, etc.
- consider desire lines where pedestrians tend to travel through the site when creating pathways
- lots of trees and natural landscaping without hindering sight lines and safety
- preference for look and feel of the park to be natural, organic, sustainable, whimsical, multi-use
- entry points inviting people into the park

During the meeting and breakout session, there was discussion and disagreement about whether to include an off-leash area for dogs. There was more consensus around including pet-friendly features if not an off-leash area.

The following page shows the visual representations of the high-level design ideas created by each group after 90 minutes of brainstorming together.


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PERTH AVENUE
PERTH AVENUE
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Next Steps

Phase 2: Exploring Design Options

The design consultant will work off the outcomes of this meeting to create three design options. These will be presented to the community for feedback, which will be used to develop a preferred design for the new park.

The anticipated outcome of Community Engagement Phase 2 is the selection of a preferred design, which will then be shared for a final round of community feedback during Community Engagement Phase 3.

To learn more about the project, visit toronto.ca/200SterlingPark.



Meeting Attendance

17 CWG members attended the meeting.

The CWG includes representatives from the following local organizations:

- Junction Triangle Community Action Network
- Museum of Contemporary Art Toronto (MoCA)
- Gallery 1888
- BGC Dovercourt Club
- South Junction Triangle Grows

The following City of Toronto staff attended the meeting:

- Danielle Charlton – Senior Project Coordinator (Project Lead)
- Helen Luu – Senior Public Consultation Coordinator (Engagement Lead)
- Stella Zhou – Public Consultation Coordinator (Engagement Support)
- Lindsay Stephens – Senior Public Consultation Coordinator
- Kim Behrouzian – Program Manager

The following LANDinc staff attended the meeting:

- Chris Bohme – Senior Landscape Architect
- Tarea Heshka – Project Manager
- Ghadir Ghamrawi – Urban Designer / Facilitator
- Kobi Logendrarajah – Landscape Designer / Facilitator
- Charmaine Moulds – Executive Assistant / Marketing