

Downtown Parks

Summer 2020 Public Engagement:
Key Findings and Next Steps

Project Overview

The Downtown Parks Public Engagement focused on three parks (Zonta Meadows, John “Bud” Cleary, and the future park at M City). The City recognized the Downtown parks public engagement process as an opportunity to highlight the proposed/future network of greenspaces within the City Centre and seek input on the potential amenities for these parks.

Engagement Strategy

Through a neighbourhood mailing and a series of online strategies, opportunities were provided for residents to:

- Learn about the variety of parks in the Downtown
- Provide input on what type of park amenities are needed
- Share ideas on how the City can better communicate with residents about parks
- Imagine how Downtown parks could serve residents during the winter

The online engagement ran for 21 days, August 10 – August 31, 2020. Creating a 24/7 Community Meeting, residents and stakeholders had access to materials online and a brochure was mailed to their house. This allowed residents to participate when it was convenient for them. Highlights of the engagement include:

- 14,486 brochures were sent to residents in the Downtown
- 1,307 views to the website
- 547 surveys completed
- Over 1,000 individual comments captured through the online survey

List of Survey Questions

1. Which Downtown parks do you visit most?
2. Typically, during spring and summer months, how often do you visit Downtown parks?
3. When visiting parks during spring and summer, what do you typically do?
4. Do you visit parks during winter?
5. When visiting parks in the winter, what do you do?
6. If you live in a condo or an apartment, do you prefer to use your private amenity space or a City park when you go outside?
7. If you could have five things added to Zonta Meadows, John “Bud” Cleary Park or the future park at M City, what would they be?
8. What can we do to help you find more information about the City’s Downtown parks?
9. Is there anything else that you’d like to tell us about parks in Downtown Mississauga?
10. Would you like to receive news alerts about these Downtown park projects?

Key Findings

When considering Zonta Meadows, John “Bud” Cleary Park and the future park at M-City, 64% of respondents indicated that the future Park at M City would be the park they visit most.

Respondents’ most preferred spring/summer activity in existing parks

- Run, walk, hang-out in nature, or gather with friends in parks
- 64% of respondents said they visited parks several times during the week during the spring and summer

Respondents’ most preferred winter activity for existing parks

- Walking around the neighbourhood and skating at Celebration Square were the most preferred activities
- 63% of respondents visit parks during winter

Private amenity space vs. a public park

- Over 55% of respondents living in condos preferred park space over their private condo amenity space

Ranking of preferred amenities for John “Bud” Cleary, Zonta Meadows, and the future park at M City

- Trails
- Shade structures
- Natural areas
- Seating areas
- Public washrooms
- Community garden
- Open grass areas
- Picnic tables
- New children’s playground
- Spray pad

Other suggested amenities for Downtown parks

- Other suggestions for parks included more trees, natural areas, green space, places to walk dogs/amenities for dogs, and open areas for gathering with people.

Communication preference

- A centralized website with all parks and their amenities, as well as events was a preferred method of communication identified by respondents

Next Steps

The feedback gathered from the Downtown Parks Engagement in combination with recommendations from the 2019 Parks & Forestry Master Plan will inform amenities and features that will be incorporated into the park designs.

To be notified of future engagement opportunities including opportunities to see park designs, please subscribe to news alerts to be kept up to date on the project by email.