



MISSISSAUGA

Cooksville Park Community Garden

Survey Summary

March 2021

**PARKS, FORESTRY
& ENVIRONMENT**

Cooksville Park Community Garden

Public Engagement: Key Findings and Next Steps

The Cooksville Park Community Garden public engagement focused on understanding resident's interests in the proposed community garden, and what additional amenities they would like to see prioritized to enhance it. Through a neighbourhood mailing, Webex Virtual Event, and online/mail out survey, residents were asked to:

- Provide input on what type of amenities could serve the proposed community garden.
- Participate in a Webex Virtual Event to learn more about the community garden program.
- Provide feedback on the proposed Cooksville Park community garden.

The Webex Virtual Event was held on Feb 9, 2021 and the online survey ran for 21 days, January 20 – February 09, 2021. Residents had access to the online survey. A brochure with the survey was mailed to residents living close to the park (see distribution map in appendix). This allowed residents to participate when it was convenient for them.

Highlights of the engagement include:

- 1,485 brochures were sent to residents close to Cooksville Park
- 220 views to the project website
- 90 surveys completed
- 57% of respondents were between 36-64 years and 36% were over 65 years of age
- The majority of respondents did not have children at home (53 respondents)
- 58% of respondents had lived in the area for 20+ years
- 12 people registered and attended the Webex Virtual Event

Survey Questions:

- Typically, how often do you visit parks in your community?
- What are your favourite features of your local parks?
- How familiar are you with the City's community garden program?
- How interested are you in community gardens?
- Standard items for community gardens include tool shed, rain barrels, basic gardening tools, access to water, soil, compost and fencing around the garden. The City is considering adding a feature to the community garden. Please select your top preference.
- Is there anything else that you would like the City to consider for the proposed community garden?
- First three digits of your postal code?
- How long have you lived in Mississauga?
- My age is?
- Do you have children?

Key Findings:

- How often did respondents visit their local area parks
 - 37% identified that they visit the parks several times a week
- Most preferred amenities in the local area parks
 - Trails (68)
 - Natural Areas (66)
 - Trees (41)
- Familiarity with the City's Community Garden Program?
 - 52% were unfamiliar
 - 37% were somewhat familiar
- Interest in Community Gardens
 - 48% were somewhat interested
 - 40% were very interested
 - Overall, 88% of respondents are interested in community gardens
- Additional features for the Community Garden in order of popularity
 - **Pollinator Garden (41)**
 - **Bench (38)**
 - **Umbrella Table (26)**
 - Community information board (25)
 - Picnic Tables (21)
 - Community Mural on the future tool shed (10)
 - Other (4)
- Other Comments
 - Weather and community information board, a workbench for demonstrations, drinking water access, garbage and recycling bins, children's garden, the park is busy during the summer with kids – make sure there are strong gates and locks so people don't vandalize the garden, rotate who can have an individual plot annually, bike parking, and washroom.

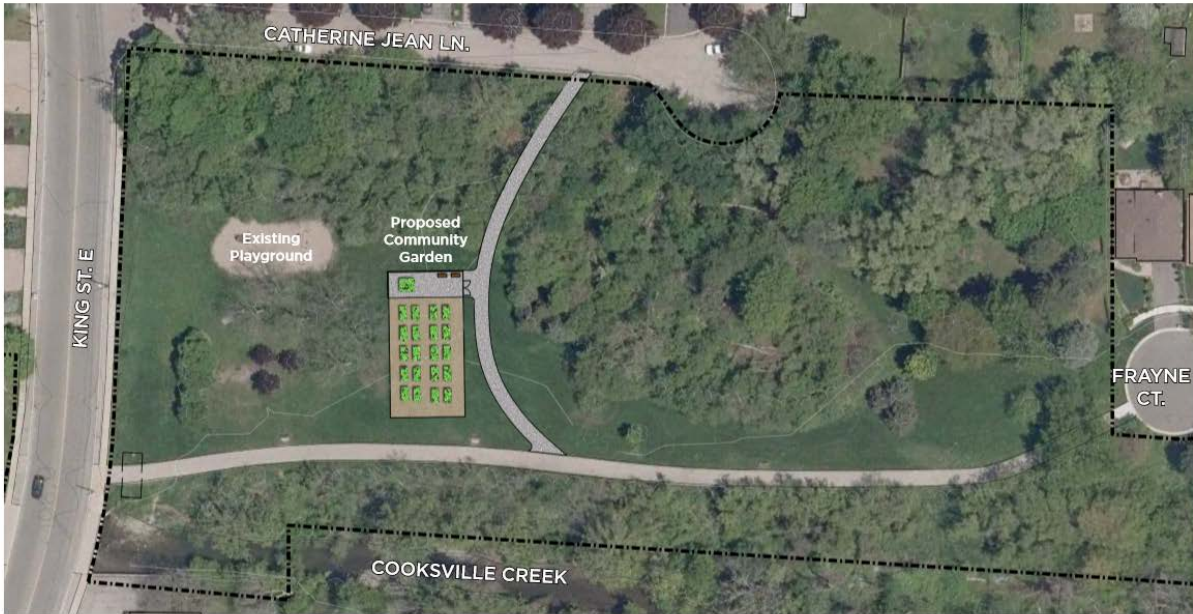
Next Steps

The feedback gathered will inform the future amenities at the Cooksville Park Community Garden. The Cooksville Park Community Garden is scheduled to be open to the public in the summer, 2021.

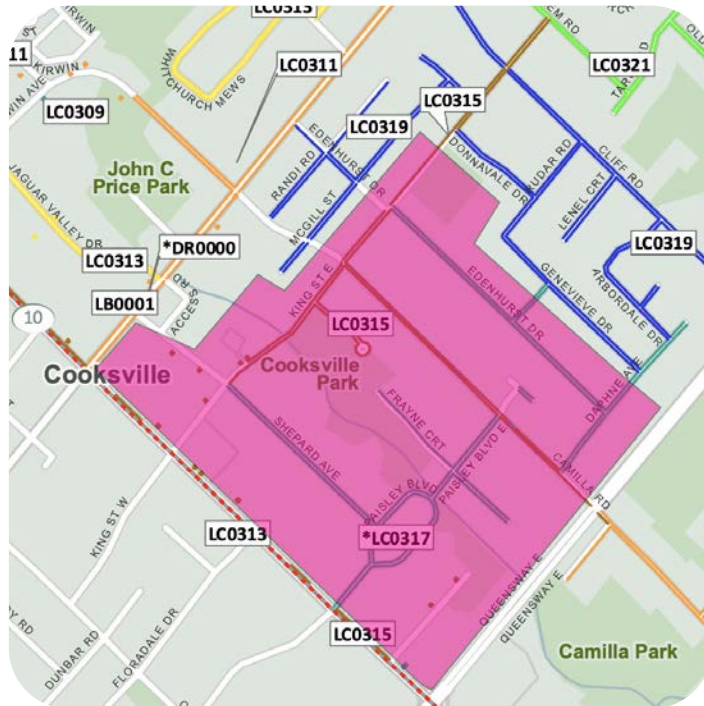
To request an individual garden plot or participate in the community garden program please contact Ecosource at (<https://ecosource.ca/community-gardens/>) or email info@ecosource.ca.

Appendix

P-071 Cooksville Park Community Garden Concept Plan



Preliminary concept of proposed community garden is subject to change.



Mail out distribution area