

## Gulleden Park Redevelopment: Survey Key Findings

The City of Mississauga is redeveloping Gulleden Park, a 5.3 acre (2.14 hectare) park located within the Applewood neighbourhood of Ward 3. Burnhamthorpe Community Centre is located to the north of the park. Saint Sofia and Glenhaven Sr. Public Schools are east of the park and residential neighbourhoods are located to the south and west. Current park amenities include an unlit softball diamond, two soccer fields, two lit pickleball/tennis courts and a playground.



Due to COVID-19, the City has postponed in-person public engagement activities based on public health recommendations and the need for physical distancing. Two public engagement activities have been undertaken; an Online Engagement Survey and a Virtual Targeted Public Meeting.

### **Online Engagement Survey**

A brochure was prepared and distributed to Ward 3 households in March 2021. The brochure informed residents of the online survey and where to access it. Some surveys were completed by residents in other parts of the city.

The survey was active for 40 days, from March 10 – April 19, 2021.

During that time, the following engagement interactions took place:

- 23,300 brochures and surveys were mailed out to all Ward 3 residents
- 2,401 views to the project webpages
- 558 surveys completed

Through the brochure and online engagement survey, opportunities were provided for residents to:

- Learn about the project
- Share which area parks they visit and how often
- Provide input on what type of park experiences they envisioned and what type of amenities residents would want to have in Gulleden Park
- Share their contact information for project updates and future opportunities for engagement

## **Brochure & Online Engagement Survey Summary**

### **Survey Questions:**

- *Please share your thoughts about the community parks in your area. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?*
- *Which of the following parks in your community do you or members of your family visit most often?*
- *How often do you or members of your family visit these parks during the summer?*
- *During spring and summer months, what type(s) of park activities have you or members of your family done most often?*
- *How often do you or members of your family visit these parks during the winter?*
- *Which of the following outdoor activities do you or members of your family take part in during the winter?*
- *What type of experience would you or members of your family like to have at Gulleden Park?*
- *What park amenities would you or members of your family like the City to consider for the redevelopment of Gulleden Park?*
- *What are the first three characters of your home postal code, e.g. L5A?*
- *(Optional) How long have you lived in Mississauga?*
- *(Optional) My age is...*
- *(Optional) I have... (# of children)*
- *Would you like to be added to our mailing list to be notified of project updates related to the Gulleden Park Redevelopment Project?*

### **Key Findings:**

In total, 558 surveys were received. The following summarizes the results:

#### Demographics

- 54% of respondents were between the ages of 36-65.
- Respondents aged 19-25, 26-35 and over 65 were almost equally distributed, at between 11-16% in each category.
- 56% have children. There is nearly equal distribution in the number of children across all age groups.
- 38% indicated that they do not have children.
- An additional 22% have children over 19 years old, or have grandchildren/nephews/nieces.
- 77% declared they live in the same or adjacent postal codes to the park.
- 60% have lived in the city for over 20 years.

## Thoughts about Community Parks in the Area

- 91% are familiar with their neighborhood parks.
- 96% agree that parks improve their quality of life and 92% say that they play an important role in building their community.
- 32% are satisfied with parks in their community. 28% were not satisfied. 40% of respondents were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.
- Applewood Hills Park and Trail, Gulleden Park and Jaycee Park were the top 3 most visited parks.

## Summer Usage

- In the summer, 49% visited parks daily and 36% visited weekly.
- The top 3 most common activities were:
  - Walking or running in parks or on trails (79%).
  - Hanging out in nature (38%).
  - Playing at the playground or skateboarding/bike riding were nearly tied (33% and 34% respectively).
- Playing softball and cooling off at the spray pad were the least reported activities.

## Winter Usage

- In the winter, 22% visited daily while 43% visited weekly. 11% reported “other”, which in most cases meant they didn’t visit parks at all. Park usage in the winter was lower than in the summer.
- Walking through parks remained the top most reported activity at 75%, followed by ice skating (65%) and tobogganing (37%).

## Most Requested Amenities at Gulleden Park

- The most requested amenity was an outdoor refrigerated ice rink (58%). While it was not explicitly listed as an option, 8% of all respondents identified in the “others” category that the ice rink should be roofed. This additional feedback regarding a roofed rink may have been influenced by instructions originating from an online petition for a covered rink.
- 37% of respondents requested more natural areas.
- 30% want more seating areas.
- Spray pads, playgrounds, and a walking loop were nearly tied in terms of interest at around 25%.
- Softball, soccer and skateboarding amenities attracted the least interest.

## Types of Experiences Residents Want at Gulleden Park

- 55% preferred an active/sporty park. Based on related survey responses, most residents want increased drop-in active uses as opposed to organized sports. The most requested active uses are an ice rink, walking loop and outdoor fitness. Amenities like tennis, basketball, and biking were also popular.
- 19% preferred a calm/natural park. Based on related survey responses, the most requested amenities for this category were for more natural areas and seating.
- 17% preferred a family/social park. Based on related survey responses, the most requested amenities for this category were for a playground, spray pad, picnic tables and shade structure. Written comments for more playgrounds were received.
- 9% selected the “other” category, which generally means that respondents want a combination of these park types.

### **Additional Survey Comments:**

#### Playgrounds:

- Consider natural playgrounds that are more adventurous for younger and older children.
- Play area is overcrowded (in COVID context).

#### Outdoor Rink:

- Request for roofed outdoor rink to be rebuilt on same site.
- Request for a non-roofed rink.
- Support for providing a new rink.
- Support for the removal of the rink since the community is aging and would be better served with other facilities like the new pool.

#### Inclusion:

- Planning for all abilities, young and old.
- Exercise equipment for Older Adults, similar to Cherry Hill Park.