



MISSISSAUGA

# Gulleden Park

## Engagement Summary

November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**PARKS, FORESTRY  
& ENVIRONMENT**

# Summary of Community Engagement for the Redevelopment of Gulleden Park

The City of Mississauga is planning the redevelopment of Gulleden Park (1500 Gulleden Drive). The park is 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. 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, and two lit pickleball/tennis courts.



## Purpose of Engagement

- To inform nearby residents and park users of the planned redevelopment of Gulleden Park and provide them ways to communicate with project staff
- To identify what type of park experiences and amenities residents would like to see at the park
- To validate proposed park programming (facilities and amenities)
- To gauge support for design concepts

Engagement was completed in two phases. The first phase gathered information on park programming (facilities and amenities). The second phase gathered feedback on design concepts.

## Summary of Engagement Tactics

### **FIRST PHASE**

#### **1. Project Webpage**

A [project webpage](#) containing detailed project information was posted at the beginning of the engagement process and it continues to be active.

## 2. Public engagement survey:

Through an online engagement survey, opportunities were provided for residents to:

- Provide input on what type of amenities are needed
- Share which parks they visit and how often
- Share their contact information for project updates and future opportunities for engagement.

### Technical Survey Information

- The Survey was active for 40 days, from March 10 – April 19, 2021.
- A total of 23,300 brochures and surveys were mailed out to all Ward 3 residents
- The brochure directed residents to on-line project information and to the on-line survey
- The project webpage received 2,401 views and a total of 558 surveys were completed

### Summary of Survey Results

Park Usage
<b>In the summer:</b> 49% of respondents visited parks daily and 36% visited weekly. The top 3 most common activities were: <i>walking or running in parks or on trails</i> (79%), <i>hanging out in nature</i> (38%), <i>playing at the playground or skateboarding/bike riding</i> were nearly tied (33% and 34% respectively). <i>Playing softball and cooling off at the spray pad</i> were the least reported activities.
<b>In the winter:</b> 22% visited daily while 43% visited weekly. 11% reported <i>other</i> , which in most cases meant they didn't visit parks at all. Park usage in the winter was lower than in the summer. <i>Walking through parks</i> remained the top most reported activity at 75%, followed by ice skating (65%) and tobogganing (37%).

Most Preferred Park Type
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>55% preferred an active/sporty park</b> 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</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>19% preferred a calm/natural park</b> Most requested amenities for this category were for more natural areas and seating</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>17% preferred a family/social park</b> Most requested amenities for this category were for a playground, spray pad, picnic tables and shade structure. Written comments for more playgrounds were received</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>9% selected the "other" category</b> A combination of these park types</li></ul>

Most Requested Amenity
• <b>58%</b> requested a refrigerated ice rink
• <b>37%</b> requested more natural areas
• <b>30%</b> want more seating areas.
• Spray pads, playgrounds, and a walking loop were nearly tied in terms of interest at around <b>25%</b> .

Note: Regarding the refrigerated ice rink, 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.

A detailed list of survey questions, as well as a review and analysis of survey demographics and the [survey results](#) is available online.

### **3. Virtual targeted public meeting on October 19, 2021.**

Nearby residents were invited to learn about the survey results and share their views on preliminary recommendations for the park’s redevelopment. 964 meeting notifications were mailed to residents living within approximately 120 metres of the park. Four residents attended, including a representative from the Dixie/Bloor Neighbourhood Centre. Attendees were supportive of the survey results and for moving onto the design phase of the project. Notes from this targeted meeting are available [here](#).

## **SECOND PHASE**

### **4. Preliminary Programming Recommendations**

A set of preliminary programming recommendations was assembled based on our park planning process (with input from Future Directions and identified area needs) as well as input received during the first phase of public engagement. These [recommendations](#) were posted online.

### **5. Additional virtual public meeting on June 15, 2022.**

The meeting included a presentation on the redevelopment concepts and question and answer period with residents. The meeting was targeted for nearby residents.

964 meeting notifications were mailed to residents living within approximately 120 metres of the park. Additionally, an email blast was sent to residents who are signed up to receive project notifications via email. Stakeholders such as the Dixie Bloor Community Centre, Applewood Hills & Heights Residents' Association and local sports clubs were invited to participate. Nine residents attended. The goal of the meeting was to share the preliminary design concepts with the public. A small number of attendees provided comments in support of the covered rink. Other attendees indicated that they were supportive of other proposed additions to the park, including the spray pad and walking trail.

## **6. Onsite park user survey was conducted between July 21 and July 23, 2022 at the Park**

Building on the previous public engagement activities, the onsite user survey was a way to have a firsthand observation of park usage and to gather park user feedback on their preferred amenities and the proposed concepts. The survey allowed for input directly from residents using the park.

A total of 50 park users of all ages participated in the onsite survey and responded to a series of survey questions based on a [poster with three design concepts](#) shown to survey participants.

When reviewing the concepts, participants indicated that their most important park amenities were:

- spray pad was most important to 28 participants (**56%**)
- multi-use court/basketball was most important to 26 participants (**52%**)
- passive open space was most important to 15 participants (**30%**)
- outdoor refrigerated ice feature was most important to 14 participants (**28%**)
- playground was most important to 13 participants (26%)

Of the 14 respondents that indicated that their most important amenity was the outdoor refrigerated ice feature, four respondents (8% of all respondents) expressed interest in a covered rink.

When reviewing the concepts, participants indicated their preferred concept was:

- Concept #3 - preferred by **44%** of survey participants
- Concept #2 - preferred by **40%** of survey participants
- Concept #1 - preferred by **16%** of survey participants

## **7. Information posted at the Burhamthorpe Library**

A poster with information on the project redevelopment, the proposed amenities and the preliminary design concepts was displayed for a week at the Burhamthorpe Library (Aug 17<sup>th</sup> through August 24<sup>th</sup>). Library visitors were invited to provide comments on the proposed concepts via email. Although no emails were received, library staff report that many library visitors reviewed the panel.

## **8. Meetings with stakeholders**

In addition to the public engagement, the City also reached out the following stakeholders:

- Our Place Peel – City briefly introduced the project to Our Place Peel and they are supportive of the park redevelopment. Additional information on the three park concepts was sent to Our Place and no additional comments were received.
- Peel District School Board– A meeting with PDSB was held on September 9<sup>th</sup> to review the concepts. A concern raised by the Board was proximity of the connecting path between Burhamthorpe Community Centre and the park, to Glenhaven Sr. Public

School. It was suggested that some other kind of property delineation may be required. The Board was overall supportive of the park redevelopment.

- Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board – A meeting was held on September 20<sup>th</sup> to review the concepts. The Board was supportive of the park redevelopment.