



MISSISSAUGA

Future Park at Grand Highland Public Engagement – Phase 1

Closing the Loop Summary

November 2025

**PARKS, FORESTRY
& ENVIRONMENT**

Project Overview

The property (Lands) formerly used as the Grand Highland Golf Course (Grand Highland) was acquired by the City of Mississauga (City) for parkland (Future Park) in 2022. The purpose of this public engagement is to understand the facilities, amenities and features of interest and the prioritization of experiences by City residents for the Future Park (Public Engagement).



Figure 1. Aerial excerpt of the Lands in the Hurontario Neighbourhood located in proximity to the future Hazel McCallion Light Rail Transit (LRT) Line.

The Future Park at Grand Highland has significance to Indigenous Communities as the Lands are in proximity to the former Antrex Indigenous Village. Through consultation with the Indigenous Communities separate from this Public Engagement, the Future Park will integrate commemorative elements to provide a respectful and correct interpretation of the Antrex Indigenous Village as directed by City of Mississauga Council Resolution No. 0038-2022 in a strong step towards Reconciliation. The City consulted with the Indigenous Communities prior to the launch of this Public Engagement and will continue to consult with the Indigenous Communities for the duration of the project. Feedback received through consultation with Indigenous Communities and this Public Engagement will inform the programming and the conceptual design of the Future Park at Grand Highland.

Public Engagement – Phase 1 Strategy and Highlights

Phase 1 of the Public Engagement was completed in Q2 2025 from May 30th to July 8th. The City used the following engagement tactics to raise awareness, promote participation and receive feedback on the Future Park at Grand Highland (the Strategy):

- [Project webpage](#)
- Online survey
- Rack card notification to area residents and businesses (5,111 rack cards)
- City-wide advertising including eBlast to ActiveNet customers living in L4Z postal area and digital screen promotions within surrounding City-owned facilities such as Frank McKechnie Community Centre
- 311 Knowledge Base update
- Social media posts on Facebook and Instagram
- Geo-targeted ads
- Signs in proximity to the Lands at Grand Highland and displays on 17 digital screens in surrounding apartment buildings (3)
- Notifications and/or meetings with groups of interest including but not limited to School Boards and City Sections
- City-wide eNewsletter
- Media advisory
- Three (3) drop-in public engagement sessions by Park Planning at Frank McKechnie Community Centre
- One (1) in-person project presentation by Park Planning at Burnhamthorpe Community Centre to the Community Centre Older Adult Committee
- Receipt of public deputations at Planning and Development Committee regarding the City-initiated Official Plan Amendment for the Lands¹

Key performance indicators from Phase 1 of the Public Engagement include 2,249 visits to the project webpage, 986 surveys completed and over 600 individual comments submitted through the survey. Overall, the Strategy for Phase 1 of the Public Engagement was effective as demonstrated by the positive participation and engagement indicators.

Key Findings

Survey

The majority of respondents (76%) are from the L4Z postal area generally bounded by Hurontario Street, Burnhamthorpe Road East, Cawthra Road/Highway 403 and Highway 401. Based on the Public Engagement feedback, the Future Park at Grand Highland is

¹ The Statutory Public Meeting at Planning and Development Committee was held on July 28, 2025 for the City-initiated Official Plan Amendment to re-designate the Lands from Private Open Space to Public Open Space.

anticipated to be a popular park for four-season usage. 70% of respondents indicated that they plan to visit the Future Park between daily to once a week. 79% of respondents indicated that they plan to visit the Future Park during the winter including 27% that plan to visit at least once a week. The 21% of respondents that do not plan to visit in the winter cited adverse weather conditions as a deterrent such as snow, ice and cold temperatures. The most popular existing parks visited by respondents, led by two destination parks, include McKechnie Woods (72%), Iceland Arena and Sports Park (49%), Barondale Green (40%), Sandalwood Park (35%), Red Brush Park (29%) and Eastgate Park (24%).

Table 1. Prioritization of Experiences

Experiences	Very Important (% of Total Responses)	Important (% of Total Responses)	Not Important (% of Total Responses)
Active experiences such as playgrounds, outdoor fitness and disc golf	47%	31%	22%
Passive experiences such as multi-use trails, open grass areas and community gardens	75%	20%	5%
Communal spaces such as gathering areas, seating areas and picnic areas	38%	32%	30%

In terms of programming and design, the majority of respondents identified passive experiences such as multi-use trails as the most important experience for the Future Park (refer to Table 1). Active experiences such as playgrounds and communal spaces such as gathering areas were also viewed as important to very important but with a lesser consensus among respondents.

The preliminary program provided in the survey for respondents to select their top five facilities, amenities and features included bicycle racks, a community garden, disc golf, informal gathering areas, a leash-free zone, multi-use trails, natural areas, open grass areas, outdoor fitness, picnic areas, a playground, seating areas and trees (Preliminary Program). Consistent with the prioritization of experiences in Table 1, the top five ranked options from the Preliminary Program primarily relate to passive experiences such as multi-use trails, seating areas and the natural environment while the bottom five ranked options primarily relate to active and communal experiences such as disc golf, bicycle racks and informal gathering areas (refer to Table 2). Options included in the preliminary program that were neither top or bottom five selections include outdoor fitness (39%), a community garden (38%) and open grass areas (38%).

Table 2. Ranking of Facilities, Amenities and Features Identified in Preliminary Program

Top 5 (% of Total Responses)		Bottom 5 (% of Total Responses)	
Multi-Use Trails	71%	Disc Golf	11%
Trees	68%	Leash Free Zone	13%

Top 5 (% of Total Responses)		Bottom 5 (% of Total Responses)	
Natural Areas	52%	Informal Gathering Areas	18%
Seating Areas	46%	Bicycle Racks	19%
Playground	41%	Picnic Areas	34%

The total rankings in Table 2 do not reflect age-specific preferences however, the rankings are generally consistent across age groups. For example, multi-use trails, natural areas, seating areas and trees are unanimously or primarily ranked in the top five among age groups. Playgrounds are ranked in the top five among the youth age group (under 18) and age groups between 25 to 35 and 36 to 64. In terms of observed age-specific preferences, bicycle racks are only ranked in the top five by the youth age group (under 18) and community gardens are only ranked in the top five among the age group between 19 to 25.

Select respondents also requested other facilities, amenities and features not identified in the Preliminary Program. The most frequently mentioned options were winter-based activities, outdoor aquatic facilities, recognition of Indigenous Communities, a public washroom, covered areas and other active recreational facilities such as tennis, pickleball and basketball courts. Miscellaneous elements requested by respondents include the prioritization of safety and compatibility with adjacent residential homes, new vehicular and pedestrian access points and sufficient waste management and maintenance.

In-Person Feedback

Formal in-person meetings and informal drop-in sessions were completed with internal and external groups to collect supplementary feedback as identified in the Public Engagement – Phase 1 Strategy and Key Highlights. The in-person feedback was generally consistent with the key findings of the survey and includes:

- Prioritization of passive experiences including trails, open grass areas and the natural environment.
- Incorporation of enhanced structures and features for the proposed playground including elements of sand play, thematic design, additional swings, accessible elements and climbing structures.
- Provisioning of infrastructure and amenities to accommodate gatherings including the allocation of a hardscaped area, power supply, vehicular parking, a public washroom, access to water and a loading area.
- Creation of new vehicular and/or pedestrian access points to the Future Park with an emphasis on proximity to Frank McKechnie Community Centre and McKechnie Woods.
- Requests for various additional facilities, amenities and features including access to food, Wi-Fi availability, ice skating and educational elements such as interpretive features and informational signage regarding Indigenous Communities and the natural environment.

Recommendations

Passive experiences such as multi-use trails, trees and open grass areas will be prioritized as the primary focus for the programming and design for the Future Park at Grand Highland. Active experiences including an emphasis on the Future Park's playground and communal experiences including a dedicated hardscaped area for gatherings will be reviewed and incorporated as the secondary focus through strategic design and location to mitigate potential impacts with park users and adjacent residential homes.

The Preliminary Program is recommended to proceed based on the results of Phase 1 of the Public Engagement, the City's strategic goals and the Parks, Forestry and Environment 2024 Future Directions Plan (Future Directions) with the exception of the neighbourhood leash free zone. Demand has not been demonstrated through public engagement and existing and planned leash free zones can currently assist in meeting the provisioning strategy for the Hurontario Neighbourhood.

Consideration will be given to the incorporation of requested winter-related facilities such as ice skating and tobogganing, a spray pad, and supportive amenities and features such as public washrooms and covered areas for gatherings. Sports-related facilities are not recommended to proceed given this type of programming is provided at existing destination and community parks in the Hurontario Neighbourhood and adjacent Character Areas including Iceland Arena and Sports Park and McKechnie Woods and the prioritization of the passive experience.

Lastly, Parks, Forestry and Environment will evaluate and address requests and feedback regarding safety, access, waste management and maintenance and commemoration for Indigenous Communities. Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles will be applied to ensure the Future Park is designed to be a safe environment. The feasibility of providing additional pedestrian access to the Future Park will be assessed and maintenance and waste management of the Future Park will align with the applicable service level. Feedback received through the Public Engagement has also reinforced the importance of incorporating commemoration for Indigenous Communities. This principle will continue to serve as a cornerstone for the Future Park at Grand Highland.

Next Steps

The feedback collected through Phase 1 of Public Engagement will inform the programming and conceptual design for the Future Park at Grand Highland subject to the review of feasibility, Future Directions and capital budget. Consultation with Indigenous Communities is ongoing separate from this Public Engagement and will be reported on by the City's Indigenous Relations, Heritage and Museums Section at the completion of the project. The City has consulted with Indigenous Communities prior to the launch of Phase 1 of Public Engagement and will continue to consult with the Indigenous Communities for the duration of the project including prior to Phase 2 of Public Engagement. Phase 2 of

Public Engagement will launch once a conceptual park design has been developed with timing currently anticipated for 2026.