

Improving Cooksville Parks Phase 2 Public Engagement

Closing the Loop Summary

Parks, Forestry & Environment

September 2026

Project Overview

As part of the Cooksville Parkland Long-Term Acquisition Project, the City of Mississauga (City) has been purchasing properties for parkland in the Cooksville area to help address the parkland deficit. Over eight hectares (20 acres) of newly acquired properties have been added to Cooksville Park and Iggy Kaneff Park, and these two expanded parks are now ready for redevelopment. The redevelopment of Cooksville Park and Iggy Kaneff Park will improve the parkland experience for residents, facilitate community connection, increase accessibility and flood resiliency and integrate and enhance the natural areas within the Cooksville Creek corridor.



Figure 1. Existing boundaries of Cooksville Park and Iggy Kaneff Park are shown in solid green, new City-owned parkland is shown in green with white hatching, Credit Valley Conservation-owned lands are shown in light blue and other parks are shown in yellow.

Phase 1 – Summary

In 2023, the City conducted Phase 1 of Public Engagement (Phase 1) through a survey to understand what features and experiences the public prioritized for the redevelopment of Cooksville Creek and Iggy Kaneff Park. 538 respondents provided feedback through the survey. The [Closing the Loop Summary for Phase 1](#) outlines the key findings from Phase 1 which have informed the preliminary conceptual park design (Concept Plan) and facilities, amenities and features (Preliminary Programming), in addition to the [Parks, Forestry and Environment 2024 Future Directions Plan](#) (Future Directions), technical analysis and capital budget. The top amenities and features in Phase 1 included trees and natural areas, multi-use trails, a public washroom, playground and winter activities such as ice skating.

Phase 2 – Strategy and Highlights

Phase 2 of Public Engagement (Phase 2) was completed in Spring 2026 from May 1st to May 31st. The City used the following engagement tactics to raise awareness, promote participation and receive feedback on the redevelopment of Cooksville Park and Iggy Kaneff Park (the Strategy):

- Project webpage;
- Online survey;
- Postcard notification to residents and businesses (18,472 postcards mailed);
- 311 Knowledge Base update;
- Social media posts on Facebook and Instagram;
- Geo-targeted ads;
- Signage in parks and public spaces (ex. Cooksville Library) in the Cooksville Area;
- City-wide eNewsletter and media advisory; and
- Two (2) drop-in public engagement sessions by Park Planning at Cooksville Library.

Key performance indicators from Phase 2 include 1,243 webpage views and 291 surveys completed.

Key Findings

Survey

The results of Phase 2 support the Concept Plan and Preliminary Programming and the previous findings of Phase 1. Key findings include:

- 66% of respondents are satisfied to very satisfied with the Concept Plan, 26% are neutral and 8% are unsatisfied to very unsatisfied.
- Similarly, 67% of respondents are satisfied to very satisfied with the Preliminary Programming, 23% are neutral and 10% are unsatisfied to very unsatisfied.
- Approximately 19% of respondents in Phase 2 participated in Phase 1. Of these respondents, approximately 76% indicate that the Concept Plan reflects the feedback they provided in Phase 1.
- 89% of respondents confirm that the Concept Plan reflects the results summarized in the Closing the Loop Summary for Phase 1.

Key demographic and usage findings from the survey include:

- 71% of respondents confirm that they reside within the L5A postal code.
- 66% of respondents plan to visit Cooksville Park and Iggy Kaneff Park between daily and once a week once the redevelopment is complete.

- 53% of respondents noted they will walk, 20% will drive, 17% will travel by bike and the remaining 10% will use other modes of travel such as transit or other micro-mobility options.
- The breakdown in age of respondents is as follows: 36-64 (53%), Over 65 (17%), 26-35 (16%), 19-25 (10%) and Under 18 (1%). 4% of respondents did not indicate their age.
- The breakdown in household composition of respondents is as follows: No children (56%), Child/Children under the age of 12 (20%), Teenager/Teenagers between 13-19 (9%), both Children and Teenagers (6%) and Other such as households with adult children (6%). 3% of respondents did not indicate their household type.

Consistent with the findings of Phase 1, facilities, amenities and features related to passive experiences including the boardwalks, woodland and wetland restoration area, trails and shade structures were the most popular selections for respondents in Phase 2 (refer to Table 1). A park pavilion with washrooms was also a popular feature which reinforces the interest received in Phase 1. The facilities, amenities and features which received more moderate levels of support relate to active and communal experiences such as the outdoor fitness area, spray pad, plaza area and the refrigerated ice skate trail.

Table 1: Overall Rankings of Favourite Facilities, Amenities and Features (from most to least popular)

Facility, Amenity or Feature	Popularity (% of Votes)
Boardwalks	67%
Woodland and Wetland Restoration Area	60%
Park Pavillion with Washrooms	53%
Primary (Multi-Use) and Secondary Use Trails	49%
Shade Structures	47%
Community Garden	46%
Ontario Garden	42%
Lookout	41%
Playground and Play Features	41%
Seating Area and Seating Nodes	41%
Picnic Area	39%
Refrigerated Ice Skate Trail	38%
Open Lawn Area	35%
Plaza Area (including food trucks)	34%
Spray Pad	33%
Fitness Area	29%

Through a review of ranked facilities, amenities and features by age group and household type, the woodland and wetland restoration area is generally the most popular element for all respondents. In

terms of age-specific preferences, respondents aged 65+ prioritized gathering and resting amenities such as park pavilions, seating areas and shade structures compared to respondents between the ages of 19 and 35 who prioritized active recreation and experiential activities such as the community garden, outdoor fitness, trails and the lookout areas. In terms of household-specific preferences, respondents with children under 12 prioritized the playgrounds, spray pad and boardwalks while respondents with no children prioritized the woodland and wetland restoration area and boardwalks.

Respondents that were not satisfied with the Concept Plan and Preliminary Programming cited specific or general concerns related to programming and design. For example, respondents referenced the absence of select facilities including a leash-free zone, BMX/skateboard facility, sports courts such as basketball and ball hockey courts and an additional spray pad. There were also concerns regarding safety, large gatherings and compatibility with adjacent residential homes. Responses to address identified concerns are provided in the next section.

Common and unique, miscellaneous comments were also provided as additional feedback for the City's review and consideration. Examples include:

- Support for additional trees, pollinator gardens, wetlands and restoration features.
- Importance of accessible trail and playground design.
- Introduction of additional play elements such as table games.
- The need for flexible, unprogrammed space to accommodate community events and gatherings.
- Improvements to Cooksville Creek to mitigate the risk of flooding.
- Prioritization of park safety, lighting and crime prevention including an emphasis on proposed shaded and picnic areas such as parkland in the Paisley Boulevard area.
- Satisfactory waste management and maintenance of Cooksville Park and Iggy Kaneff Park.
- Safe and connected trails, including north of Cooksville Park through options such as an underpass, overpass or a signalized crosswalk at Dundas Street.
- Concerns from adjacent landowners regarding the adjacent residential homes' compatibility with Cooksville Park and Iggy Kaneff Park and mitigation of potential impacts related to privacy, noise, security and appropriate buffers.
- Requests for ongoing communication regarding phasing, timing, construction impacts and project updates.
- Requests for other facilities, amenities and features including a leash-free zone, additional park trail lighting, a bike pump track/skateboard facility, additional washrooms, additional open grass areas, a basketball court and additional playgrounds.

In-Person and Online Feedback

Two drop-in public engagement sessions were held at Cooksville Public Library on Thursday, May 7th and Tuesday, May 26th from 6:00-8:00 pm. Approximately 66 attendees engaged with Park Planning to provide feedback on the Concept Plan and Preliminary Programming. Feedback included concerns

with the safety of park users, waste management and the absence of adequate seating currently in Cooksville and Iggy Kaneff Parks. Overall, feedback was positive with specific support from participants for the proposed picnic areas, seating, shade elements and public washrooms.

Recommendations and Next Steps

The Concept Plan and the Preliminary Programming are recommended to proceed to detailed design and technical review with potential revisions such as re-alignment of select facilities, amenities and features including trails to explore where feasible. The results of Phase 2 continue to indicate support for natural and passive facilities, amenities and features including natural areas, trails and boardwalks in addition to supportive amenities such as washrooms and shade structures. The Concept Plan for Cooksville Park and Iggy Kaneff prioritize a passive, natural experience for residents to experience Cooksville Creek and its natural heritage while integrating select nodes for community connection, flexible programming and active recreation which complement the experience.

Amenities that received moderate support, such as the refrigerated skating trail, spray pad and plaza area, are still recommended to proceed as they facilitate year-round programming, were popular selections in Phase 1 and align with Future Directions' provisioning strategies, objectives and recommendations.

Miscellaneous design, programming and operational elements including safety through Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), waste management and maintenance will be incorporated into the final design, programming and operations for Cooksville and Iggy Kaneff Parks. Incorporation of these elements such as park trail lighting and road crossings will provide a safe and enjoyable experience for park users at Cooksville Park and Iggy Kaneff Park and trail users along Cooksville Creek.

Parks, Forestry and Environment's responses to common concerns flagged through Phase 2 are listed below:

- Compatibility with adjacent residential homes will be implemented through various design, programming and operational tactics. Tactics include appropriate setbacks and alignment of park trails and facilities from adjacent residential homes in accordance with the Zoning By-law and City standards to mitigate noise and oversight impacts, application of the Parks By-law including hours of operations and ongoing monitoring of potential concerns, including the picnic areas and shade structures proposed in various locations of Cooksville Park.
- Active recreational uses, such as basketball and pickleball courts were not incorporated into the Concept Plan due to space and site constraints, the emphasis on passive experiences and natural areas including Cooksville Creek, and/or the provisioning strategies for these facilities are already met in nearby parks. Parks, Forestry and Environment will continue to monitor demand and re-evaluate the feasibility of these amenities in future redevelopment phases for Cooksville Park and Iggy Kaneff Park or surrounding parks.
- Similarly, a leash-free zone was not incorporated into the Concept Plan due to space constraints and the emphasis on passive experiences and natural areas including Cooksville Creek. Parks, Forestry and Environment will continue to monitor demand for a leash-free zone

in Ward 7 and re-evaluate the feasibility of this amenity in future redevelopment phases for Cooksville Park.

- Parks, Forestry and Environment recognize the public interest in protecting and restoring naturalized areas. It is important to note that the design of Cooksville Park and Iggy Kaneff Park has prioritized flood resiliency and enhancement of natural areas within the Cooksville Creek corridor while proposing nature-based experiences where appropriate.

The feedback collected through Phase 2 will assist in informing the final park design for Cooksville Park and Iggy Kaneff Park, subject to detailed review of feasibility, Future Directions and capital budget.