



MISSISSAUGA

Future Park at Grand Highland Public Engagement – Phase 2

Closing the Loop Summary

May 2026

**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 in 2022 (Future Park). The purpose of this public engagement (Public Engagement) is to receive feedback on the conceptual design for the Future Park (Concept Plan) following Phase 1 of Public Engagement (Phase 2).



Figure 1. Concept Plan for the Future Park.

The Future Park at Grand Highland has significance to the First Nations and Indigenous Communities (FNIC) as the Lands are in proximity to the former Antrex Indigenous Village. Through consultation with the FNIC separate from this Public Engagement, the Future Park will integrate commemorative elements to provide a respectful and correct interpretation of the Village as directed by City of Mississauga Council Resolution No. 0038-2022 in a strong step towards Reconciliation. The City consulted with the FNIC prior to the launch of Phase 2 and will continue to consult with the FNIC for the duration of the project. Feedback received through consultation with the FNIC and Phase 2 will help inform the final design of the Future Park at Grand Highland.

Phase 1 – Summary

In Summer 2025, the City conducted Phase 1 of Public Engagement (Phase 1) through a survey to understand what features and activities the public is interested in for the Future Park and more than 950 surveys were completed. The Closing the Loop Summary for

Phase 1 outlines the key public engagement findings which have informed the Concept Plan in addition to consultation with the FNIC, the Parks, Forestry and Environment 2024 Future Directions Plan (Future Directions) and technical analysis. Passive experiences and associated elements such as multi-use trails, trees, natural areas and open grass areas were prioritized by respondents.

Phase 2 – Strategy and Highlights

Phase 2 was completed in Winter 2026 from February 9th to March 15th. The City used the following engagement tactics to raise awareness, promote participation and receive feedback on the Future Park at Grand Highland (the Strategy):

- Online survey (575 responses received)
- Rack card notification to area residents and businesses (5,111 rack cards mailed)
- City-wide advertising including eBlast to ActiveNet customers living in L4Z postal area and digital 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
- Notifications and/or meetings with groups of interest including but not limited to School Boards and City Sections
- City-wide eNewsletter and media advisory
- Three (3) drop-in public engagement sessions by Park Planning at Frank McKechnie Community Centre with over 120 participants engaged
- One (1) in-person project presentation by Park Planning at Burnhamthorpe Community Centre to the Community Centre Older Adult Committee
- One (1) in-person project presentation by Park Planning at Frank McKechnie Community Centre to the Youth Advisory Committee

Key performance indicators from Phase 2 include 4,080 visits to the project webpage, 575 surveys completed and 250+ individual comments submitted. Overall, the Strategy was successful in raising awareness of Phase 2 of Public Engagement.

Key Findings

Survey

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

- Approximately 65% of respondents are satisfied to very satisfied and 20% of respondents are neutral with the Concept Plan and the proposed facilities, amenities, and features for the Future Park
- Approximately 76% of select respondents indicated that the Concept Plan reflects the feedback they provided in Phase 1 and 84% noted the Concept Plan reflects the results summarized by the City in the Closing the Loop Summary for Phase 1¹
- The majority of respondents (74%) are from the L4Z postal area generally bounded by Hurontario Street, Burnhamthorpe Road East, Cawthra Road/Highway 403 and Highway 401
- 72% of respondents indicated that they plan to visit the Future Park between daily to once a week
- 64% of respondents noted they will walk to the park, 25% will drive to the park, 7% will bike to the park, 1% will travel by bus, and the remaining 3% will use other modes of travel such as micromobility options

Consistent with the findings of Phase 1, features related to passive experiences such as multi-use trails, trees and natural areas continue to be the most popular for respondents (refer to Table 1). These passive features were also consistently ranked as favourites across age groups. Facilities, features and amenities which received more moderate levels of support not included in Table 1 are outdoor fitness (36%), spray pad (34%), open lawn areas (34%), gathering areas (32%), bicycle parking (26%) and disc golf (20%).

Table 1. Top 10 Ranking of Favourite Facilities, Amenities and Features

| Top 10 Favourites (% of Total Responses) | |
|--|-----|
| Multi-Use Trails | 73% |
| Trees | 66% |
| Natural Areas | 61% |
| Washroom Facilities | 56% |
| Seating Areas (Park Benches / Bench Fitness and Gathering Tables with Shade Umbrellas) | 47% |
| Community Garden | 43% |
| Shade Structure | 41% |
| Natural Skating Area Opportunity | 40% |
| Look-Out Plaza | 40% |
| Picnic Area, Playground & Sand Play | 39% |

Notable age- and household-specific favourites of facilities, amenities and features include:

- Age Under 18 Group – Playground and picnic areas
- Age 19-25 Group - Look-out plaza, seating areas and natural skating area opportunity
- Age 26-35 Group – Seating areas and community garden

¹ Percentages are calculated based on the number of respondents that completed the select questions. Not all respondents (575) completed these questions.

- Age 36-65 Group – Seating areas
- Age 65+ Group – Seating areas
- Unknown Age Group – Picnic areas and community garden
- Households with Children 12 and Under – Spray pad

Respondents that were not satisfied with the Concept Plan and the proposed facilities, amenities and features cited specific or general concerns related to the Future Park’s programming and design. For example, select respondents were not satisfied with the absence of active recreational uses such as sports courts and fields and a leash free zone. There were also concerns regarding the Future Park’s potential conflicts with adjacent residential homes, vehicular traffic and the Woodtrail Court trail connection. Lastly, there was a request for a greater emphasis on naturalization. Responses to address identified concerns are provided in the next section.

Miscellaneous and/or unique comments were also provided as additional feedback for the City’s review and consideration. Examples include:

- Access to food and drink such as supply of drinking water, food and drink services and barbeque areas
- Accessible design and elements
- Additional connection points such as a Bristol Road East connection
- Location and design of the washroom facility
- Protection and relocation of wildlife
- A dedicated, covered area for all-year use
- Unique facilities, amenities and features such as a petting zoo, a mountain biking facility and a refrigerated skating facility
- Operational requests related to waste management, maintenance of naturalized areas including native plantings and removal of invasive species and interest in all-year programming
- Significance of the FNIC at the Future Park

In-Person Feedback

Formal in-person meetings and informal drop-in sessions were completed with residents and external groups to collect supplementary feedback as identified in the Phase 2 Strategy and Highlights. The in-person feedback was generally consistent with the key findings of the survey in terms of overall support for the Concept Plan and the proposed facilities, amenities and features. Comments and requests included active recreational uses, parking, areas for flexible programming such as yoga, a leash free zone, prioritization for safety and compatibility with adjacent residential homes, specialized gardens and wayfinding and signage for park users.

Recommendations and Next Steps

The Concept Plan and the proposed programming (facilities, amenities and features) are recommended to proceed to detailed design and technical review as the results of Phase 2 continue to indicate strong support for passive experiences including multi-use trails, trees and natural areas in addition to supportive amenities such as seating areas and a washroom facility. While select facilities, amenities and features such as bicycle racks and disc golf received more moderate levels of support compared to some of the most popular features, these elements are still recommended to proceed in select locations as they support the City's strategic goals including the promotion of active transportation and align with the provisioning strategies of Future Directions. The Concept Plan prioritizes a passive, natural experience with trails and supportive amenities while integrating select nodes for community connection, flexible programming and active recreation which complement the experience.

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 the Future Park. Incorporation of these elements will provide a safe and enjoyable experience for park users. Opportunities for programming and activation of the Future Park including mobile food trucks will also be explored subject to future review.

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

- Active recreational uses such as tennis/pickleball and basketball courts and soccer fields were not incorporated into the Concept Plan for reasons including Parks, Forestry and Environment's provisioning strategies for these facilities are already met with existing community and destination parks such as McKechnie Woods and Iceland Arena and Sports Park, the emphasis on passive experiences for the Future Park and site-specific conditions
- Parks, Forestry, and Environment will continue to monitor demand and evaluate the need for a neighbourhood leash-free zone in Ward 5. The existing leash free zone at Iceland Arena and Sports Park is located within 2 kilometers of the Future Park and the majority of the Hurontario Neighbourhood which currently assists in meeting the provisioning strategy for access
- Compatibility with adjacent residential homes will be implemented through various design, programming and operational tactics. Tactics include appropriate setbacks of park trails and facilities from adjacent residential homes to mitigate noise and oversight impacts, picnic bookings limited to small groups, application of the Parks By-law including hours of operation and enhanced buffers of naturalized areas along the perimeter of the Future Park
- Parks, Forestry and Environment recognize the public interest in naturalized areas. It is important to note that a significant portion of the Future Park is already

allocated for this purpose in comparison to areas allocated for passive experiences such as trails and open grass and active experiences such as the playground, spray pad and disc golf

Commemoration for Indigenous Communities will continue to be a cornerstone principle for the Future Park at Grand Highland. Consultation with the FNIC is ongoing separate from this Public Engagement and will be reported on by the City's Indigenous Relations, Heritage and Culture Planning Section at the completion of the project.