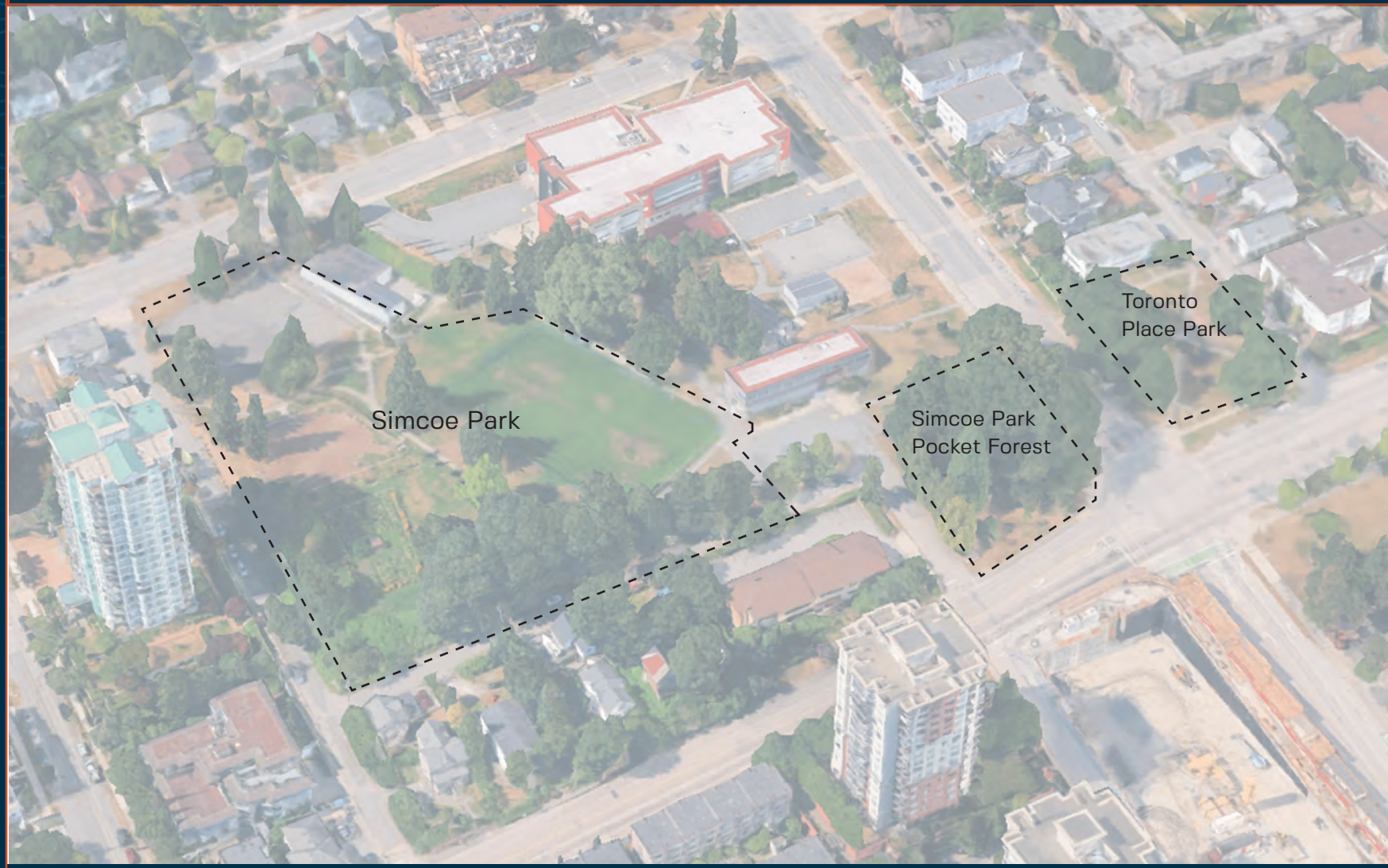
Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park Master Plan

New Westminster

July 2026



Land Acknowledgment

We recognize and respect that New Westminster is on the unceded and unsurrendered land of the Halkomelem speaking peoples. We acknowledge that colonialism has made invisible their histories and connections to the land. As a City, we are learning and building relationships with the people whose lands we are on.

Acknowledgments

With sincere thanks to City of New Westminster Council, as well as the interest holders, user groups, and members of the public who generously contributed their time, insights, and participation to shape this project..

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Introduction

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Executive Summary

The Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park Master Plan establishes a 10-year strategic roadmap to optimize, renew, and interconnect two park spaces within New Westminster's high-density Brow of the Hill and Downtown neighborhoods. Driven by a local parkland deficit well below the City's target of 1.0 hectare of active parkland per 1,000 residents, the Plan transitions away from piecemeal upgrades to accommodate an increase in daily use driven by neighborhood growth and the upcoming 2026 construction of a new 605-student urban elementary school at 800 Queens Avenue. Informed by extensive community input through Be Heard New West, the Plan balances localized desires for enhanced accessibility, family-focused amenities, and environmental preservation with broader city-wide strategic priorities.

Key recommendations include introducing a multi-generational "Active Heart" play space, redeveloping end-of-life tennis courts into flexible multi-use sport courts, upgrading the dog off-leash area, transforming Toronto Place Park into an urban agriculture and biodiversity hub, and routing the All Ages and Abilities (AAA) Active Transportation Network.

Implementation will be achieved through a sustainable funding strategy that includes municipal property taxes, reserve funds, Development Cost Charges (DCCs), and Amenity Cost Charges (ACCs), alongside senior government grants and collaborative fundraising with community organizations.

1.2 Site Overview

The City of New Westminster has developed this joint Master Plan to establish a 10-year strategic roadmap for Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park. As community and neighbourhood serving parks within high-density areas, these parks require an intentional, coordinated approach to maximize their potential in serving a diverse range of community needs.

This Plan transitions the City away from piece-meal improvements toward an interconnected park system. By planning the two parks together, the Parks & Recreation department can plan for complementary amenities, improve pedestrian and cyclist connectivity, and optimize resource allocation. The purpose of this document is to guide the department in three key areas:

- **Park Improvements** - Evaluating and improving existing features, including the sports field, tennis courts, and off-leash dog area.
- **Future Amenities** - Identifying new, creative opportunities for recreational activities and community gathering spaces.
- **Long-term Management** - Ensuring both parks remain resilient, well-maintained, and inviting as the community grows.



LEGEND

1. Off-leash dog area
2. Soccer field
3. Tennis courts
4. Community Garden
5. Passive Open Area
6. Pocket Forest
7. Public Washrooms
8. Toronto Place Park
9. Adjacent School Site
10. School Board Office

Map 1. Existing Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park

1.3 Why a Joint Master Plan?

Urban land constraints in New Westminster limit the City's ability to acquire new parkland. Consequently, the City aims to optimize the value, function, and capacity of existing park spaces. With the adoption of this document, four of the city's eight community-scale parks will have dedicated master plans in place to guide phased, strategic improvements.
Since their establishment—Toronto Place Park in the 1910s and Simcoe Park in the 1970s—infrastructure changes have occurred on an incremental, as-needed basis (such as adding toddler swings at Toronto Place or a community garden and off-leash area at Simcoe).

By planning these two sites together, the City can move away from piecemeal updates and treat them as an interconnected system. Their close proximity allows the City to design complementary amenities that support one another while actively improving pedestrian and cyclist connectivity to the broader active transportation network.

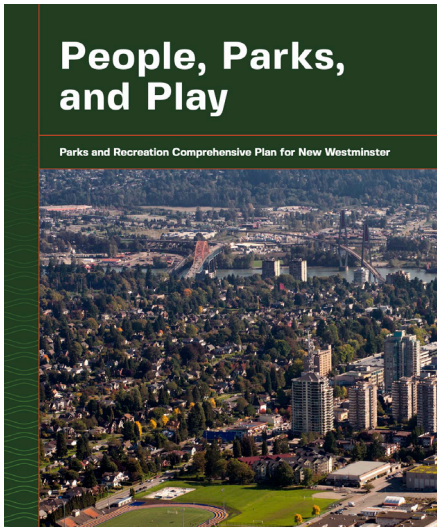
Ultimately, this Master Plan provides a clear roadmap to navigate resource allocation, balancing the management of aging infrastructure with the needs of a growing population. Specifically, it helps the Parks and Recreation Department:

- Respond to current and future social and recreational needs of the diverse community;
- Optimize space to ensure the most efficient, best use of land within each park;
- Proactively plan for population growth and shifting neighbourhood demographics; and
- Coordinate with other parks to fill service gaps, ensuring residents in Brow of the Hill and Downtown neighbourhoods have access to a complete range of park amenities.

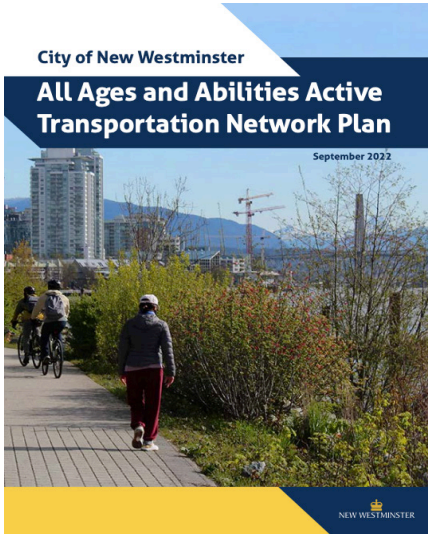
1.4 Policy Context

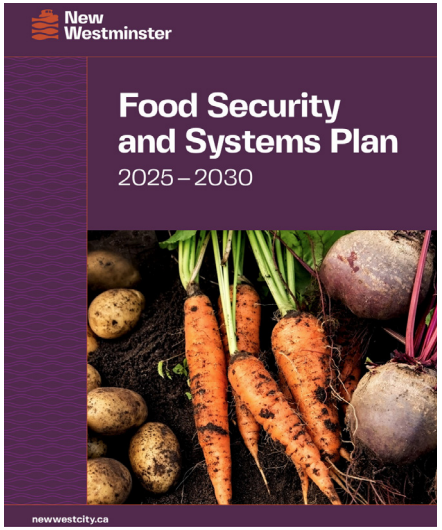
To ensure Simcoe and Toronto Place Park advance broader City goals, the Park Master Plan aligns with a comprehensive suite of city-wide strategies, initiatives, and policies:

- **The Official Community Plan (2017; updated 2023, 2026)**
- **People, Parks and Play (2026)**
- **Seven Bold Steps for Climate Action (2020)**
- **Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Plan (underway)**
- **Urban Forest Management Strategy (2016)**
- **Natural Areas and Biodiversity Strategy (2022)**
- **People, Parks and Pups Strategy (2022)**
- **All Ages + Abilities Active Transportation Network Plan (2022)**
- **Public Art Plan (2026)**
- **Public Toilet Strategy (2026)**
- **Food Security and Systems Plan**


People, Parks, and Play
Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan for New Westminster

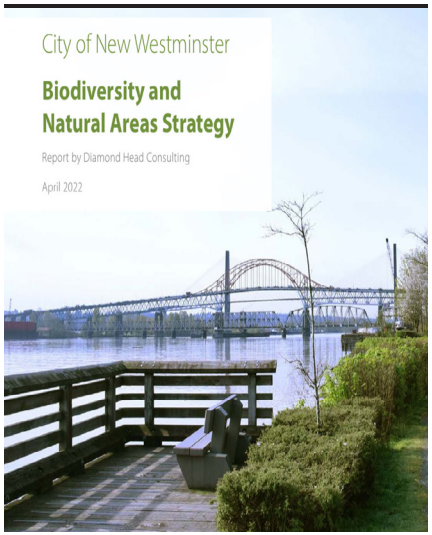

Urban Forest Management Strategy
NEW WESTMINSTER
Acknowledgements


City of New Westminster
All Ages and Abilities Active Transportation Network Plan
September 2022
NEW WESTMINSTER


New Westminster
Food Security and Systems Plan
2025–2030
newwestcity.ca



OUR CITY 2041
New Westminster
Official Community Plan
Our Community.
Our Vision.
Our Plan.
Adopted on October 2, 2017


City of New Westminster
Biodiversity and Natural Areas Strategy
Report by Diamond Head Consulting
April 2022


People Parks & Pups
NEW WESTMINSTER
A 10 year strategy for sharing parks and open spaces in New Westminster


NEWWESTCITY.CA
Public Art Plan
2026-2036

1.5 Strategic Alignment: People Parks and Play (2026)

The Master Plan is guided by People, Parks and Play (2026), the City's overarching 10-Year Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan. This strategy provides specific actions to "catch up" with current parkland deficits while preparing to "keep up" with future population growth.
Developing this document fulfills a direct goal, objective and action within People, Parks and Play:

Focus Area: Park Amenities and Facilities
Goal: Expand, renew and optimize parks and park amenities.
Objective 6.1: Advance strategic park planning and development.
Action 6.1.1: Establish a master plan for each park classified as a city or community park to guide long-term growth and investment.

The City's target supply for active parkland—spaces primarily dedicated to playgrounds, sports, and social gathering—is 1.0 hectare per 1,000 residents.

Currently, the neighborhoods served by these two parks fall significantly below this benchmark:

- West District (including Brow of the Hill): 0.59 hectares per 1,000 residents.
- Downtown Neighborhood: 0.36 hectares per 1,000 residents

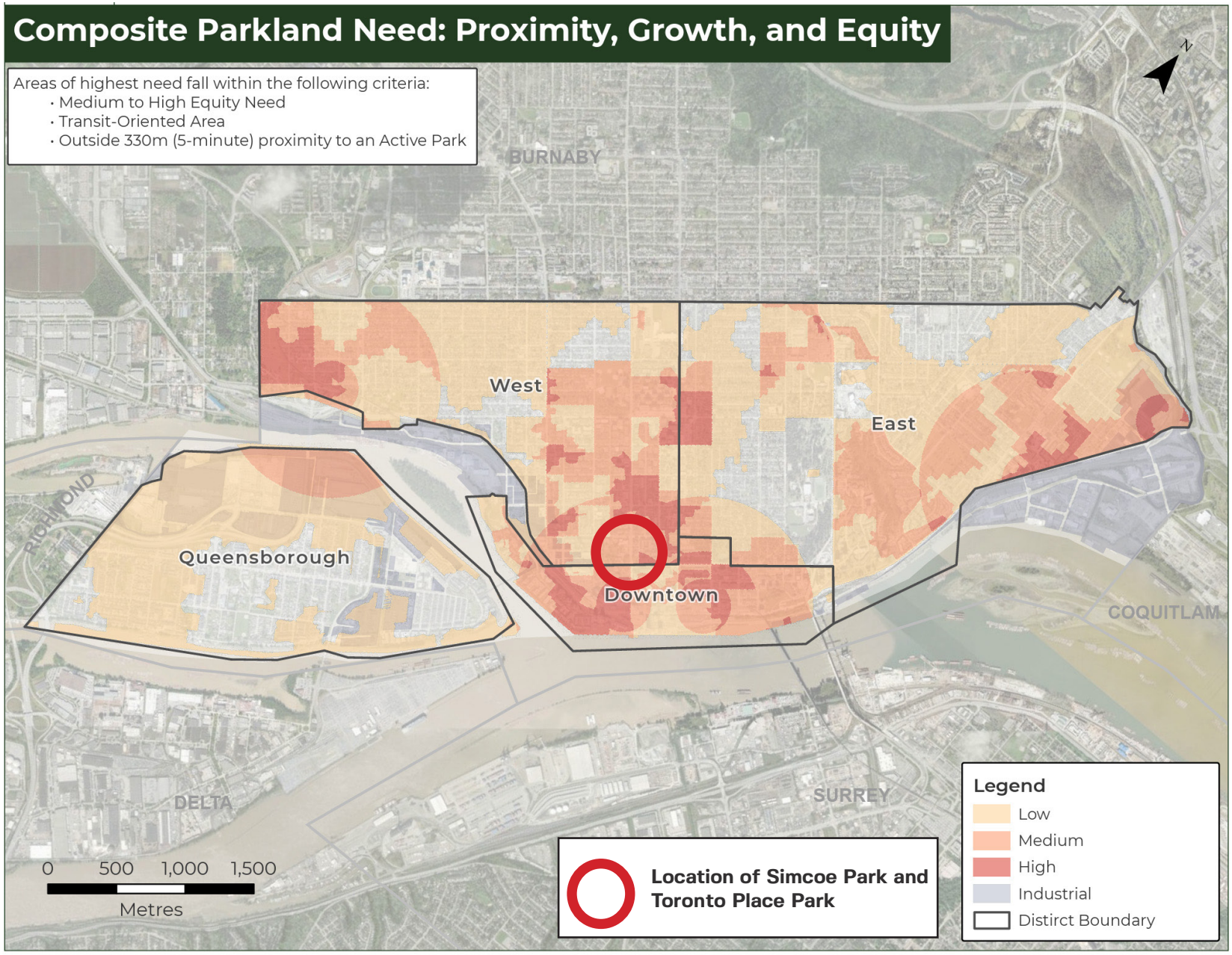
1.6 Core Lenses and Focus Areas

The three foundational lenses of People, Parks and Play—Reconciliation, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility, and Low-Carbon Resilience—are embedded directly into the final recommendations of this Master Plan.
Furthermore, the plan's specific actions directly support five of the strategy's core focus areas: Parks and Open Spaces; Connectivity; Park Amenities and Facilities; Service Excellence and Sustainability; and Collaboration and Partnerships.

1.7 Prioritizing Equity Needs

Parks are essential civic infrastructure, yet they do not serve every resident equally. An equity-first approach recognizes that vulnerable or marginalized populations rely more heavily on public parks for physical health, mental well-being, and social connection.

People, Parks and Play includes Brow of the Hill and Downtown as some of the neighbourhoods with the highest equity needs in the city. To serve these residents effectively, the Master Plan prioritizes barrier-free, universal design and introduces a diverse range of flexible, unprogrammed spaces that support multi-cultural and inter-generational community life.



Map 2. Composite Parkland Need: Proximity, Growth and Equity



Simcoe Park passive greenspace and community garden

1.8 Guiding Principles

The following guiding principles were developed by analyzing the department's strategic goals, performing a gap analysis and evaluating the unique needs of the surrounding growing neighbourhoods. Community support for these principles was confirmed through community engagement (see Appendix A – Be Heard Report). They serve as the foundation for this Master Plan:

1. **The Social Centre:** Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park will serve as a community social space in the neighbourhood, inclusive of people of all ages, abilities and identities.

2. **A Back Yard for an Evolving Neighbourhood:** The parks will provide amenities that accommodate a diversity of uses that meet the needs of residents living in a high-density housing neighbourhood.

3. **Connected to the City:** Access to and within the parks will be improved to create a seamless, safe, and universally accessible environment that connects park users to the broader city-wide transportation network.

4. **Access to Nature:** The existing trees and natural elements in the parks will be protected and enhanced, providing access to cool, comfortable spaces, and improving resilience to climate change.



The Social Centre



A Back Yard for an Evolving Neighbourhood



Connected to the City



Access to Nature

1.9 Master Plan Process

The Master Plan was developed through a five-phase process:

Phase 1: Site Inventory & Analysis – Fall 2025
The project team gathered data on the existing park features, constraints and opportunities, while evaluating the impacts of new housing developments occurring or planned for the neighbourhood. Through site visits and cross-departmental workshops, the project team gained an understanding of the following:

- Site-specific opportunities and constraints.
- Existing park features and amenities from operational and maintenance perspective;
- Routing options for the All Ages and Abilities (AAA) active transportation path through or at the perimeter of Simcoe Park.

Phase 2: Park Programming Options – Winter 2025/26
Using information form the site inventory and analysis, the project team developed preliminary draft recommendations for existing and future amenities, active transportation network alignment, and proposed park layouts.

Phase 3: Community Engagement – Spring 2026
The team engaged with the public, park users, and identified interest holders to understand how the park spaces are currently used, gather feedback on the preliminary draft recommendations and preferred features that should be considered for the future of the parks.

Phase 4: Engagement Reporting – Spring/ Summer 2026
The feedback gathered during the community engagement window was compiled into comprehensive What We Heard report, which was shared publicly on the project webpage (see Appendix A – Be Heard Report).

Phase 5: Final Report and Illustrative Master Plan - Summer 2026
The process concludes with this final report and the illustrative master plan—a conceptual drawing showing the proposed locations for future amenities, pathways, and landscaping, paired with capital project recommendations for phased implementation.

This master plan will serve as the long-term roadmap for both parks. Recommendations will be integrated into the City's financial plan and rolled out in phases over the next 10 years as funding becomes available.



1 Site Inventory and Analysis

Fall 2025

- Learning about the parks



2 Park Amenities and Circulation

Winter 2025/26

- Establishing the path route and feasible uses



3 Community Engagement

Spring 2026

- Engaging with the public and user groups



4 Engagement Reporting

Spring 2026

- Summarizing engagement results



5 Master Plan and Report

Spring/Summer 2026

- Integrate site analysis and
- community feedback into the draft Master Plan
- Present Master Plan to Council



Pop-Up Event in Simcoe Park

1.10 Park History

This section describes the Indigenous and Colonial History of Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park as well as the Brow of the Hill and Downtown Neighbourhoods that these parks serve. An understanding of the history can help City staff in planning the spaces and amenities that will best serve the community. Reflections of past populations, places, and activities can enrich the cultural aspects of parks and facilities in the city.

Indigenous History

The area now known as New Westminster is situated on the unceded and unsurrendered lands of the Halkomelem-speaking peoples, whose relationships with these lands and waters extend back since time immemorial. Halkomelem is a language family comprised of three dialects—Halq̓eméylem (Upriver), hən̓q̓əmin̓əm̓ (Downriver), and Hul̓q̓umín̓um̓ (Island)—spoken by many First Nations whose territories and connections intersect throughout this region. The City's use of the term Halkomelem is intended to respectfully acknowledge the shared linguistic heritage of these Nations while recognizing the distinct histories, cultures, and rights of each.

Long before the establishment of the City, this area was shaped by Indigenous peoples through deep cultural, social, economic, and spiritual connections to the land and water. Colonial settlement transformed the landscape and disrupted Indigenous communities, contributing to the marginalization of Indigenous knowledge, languages, cultural practices, and histories. As a result, the City's understanding of the Indigenous history of this place remains incomplete and is often limited by the perspectives preserved within colonial records and institutions.



Map 3. Historic map of New Westminster , 1892. Source: City of Vancouver Archives https://searcharchives.vancouver.ca/city-of-new-westminster-british-columbia

Location of Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park



The City recognizes that Indigenous Nations and communities continue to hold and steward knowledge, histories, teachings, and relationships that are essential to understanding this place. The City is seeking to develop and strengthen relationships with local First Nations and to learn from Indigenous perspectives about the histories, significance, and ongoing connections that shape the landscape today. In doing so, the City acknowledges that the story of this place extends far beyond its municipal history and continues to be written through the enduring presence and stewardship of Indigenous peoples. (newwestcity.ca/indigenous_reconciliation/land-acknowledgement).

Colonial History

The evolution of the Simcoe and Toronto Place Park sites occurred in context of the development of the Brow of the Hill and Downtown Neighbourhoods.

Brow of the Hill is one of New Westminster's earliest suburban neighbourhoods, envisioned as a primarily working class neighbourhood to support the industrial riverfront. Located alongside the former Chinatown (south of Agnes Street and east of Tenth Street). The neighbourhood quickly densified to house the growing workforce associated with the riverfront industries. Construction of low-rise apartment buildings began in the early 1950s and apartments quickly became the dominant dwelling type in the neighbourhood, providing less expensive, denser accommodation than the rest of New Westminster. Brow of the Hill has remained a largely working-class, diverse neighbourhood and home to recent immigrants throughout much of its history.

The Downtown Neighbourhood was established in the Fraser River flood plain and riverine marshland within the original extent of New Westminster when it was incorporated in 1860. Downtown was home to New Westminster' early commerce and industry at the riverfront and larger residential homes near Albert Crescent Park.

The neighbourhood declined as a commercial centre in the 1970s and continued to evolve when former industrial lands were redeveloped as multi-family housing and public space (e.g. Quayside, Westminster Pier Park).

The land encompassing Simcoe Park, Toronto Place Park and the adjacent School District 40 (New Westminster) property was envisioned as part of a symmetrical urban plan of major civic spaces in New Westminster when it served as the capital city of British Columbia. The former Simcoe Street- named after the first lieutenant governor of Upper Canada (Ontario)- ran diagonally across this land, establishing a prominent ceremonial connection between Queens Avenue and Royal Avenue. This mirrored the diagonal alignment of Park Row between Queen's Park and Royal Avenue, terminating at Clinton Place. Together, these two areas book-ended the current City Hall site, which was the originally-intended location for the provincial legislature before the seat of government was moved to Victoria in 1868.

In 1885, the provincial government established the Provincial Gaol (Jail), a facility notorious for public hangings within its prison yard. Toronto Place Park remained undeveloped until it was cleared 1889; it was notable for serving as a fire break and safe refuge for residents escaping the Great Fire of 1898. Following the fire, a firehall was built at the corner of Queens Avenue and Eighth Street, on the current site of the Fraser River Middle School.
By 1910, the transformation toward dedicated community parkland began when the Toronto Place Street right-of-way was formally closed and converted into a green space. Meanwhile, institutional uses on the site shifted; in 1919, the old Gaol building was repurposed as the T.J. Trapp Technical School. The school subsequently moved into a newly constructed facility on Eighth Street in 1928, where it operated until 1955.

The Province officially granted the underlying land to the City of New Westminster in 1944. In 1955, John Robson Elementary School relocated to the site, resulting in the demolition of the old Gaol building to create expansive playing field for students.



Photo of T.J. Trapp Technical School, formerly the Provincial Gaol (Jail).

Simcoe Park was formally established in 1972 following the permanent closure of the remaining section of Simcoe Street. Designed by the landscape design firm of Justice and Webb, the original park layout featured three tennis courts, junior soccer and sports fields, and a children's playground.

Over the last two decades, the site has continued to evolve alongside changing neighbourhood needs:

- **2009:** A community garden was established in Simcoe Park, operated by the New Westminster Community Garden Society.
- **2014-2016:** The John Robson school building was demolished and replaced by the Fraser River Middle School, which opened in 2016. The new school included a basketball court and play feature.
- **2016:** The New Westminster School District Office (SD #40) was built in 2016. The building includes a public washroom accessed from the park and operated by the city.
- **2019:** The dog off-leash area was constructed in Simcoe Park, replacing the former Downtown Dog Off-leash Area previously located at Agnes Street.
- **2023:** 21 trees were planted in Simcoe Park and 6 trees in Toronto Place Park as part of the Urban Reforestation and Biodiversity Enhancement Initiative (URBEI).



2009 The community garden was established



2019 The dog off-leash area was constructed



2021-23 A number of trees were planted throughout the park



Context

2.0 Context

2.1 Overview

This section outlines the baseline gathered information about Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park. It includes a detailed analysis of how current site conditions; user patterns and physical constraints inform the overall design and layout choices for both parks.

Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park are located in the Brow of the Hill neighbourhood, adjacent to Downtown New Westminster. Together, the two parks provide access to nature as well as passive and active recreation opportunities for local residents and students of Fraser River Middle School.

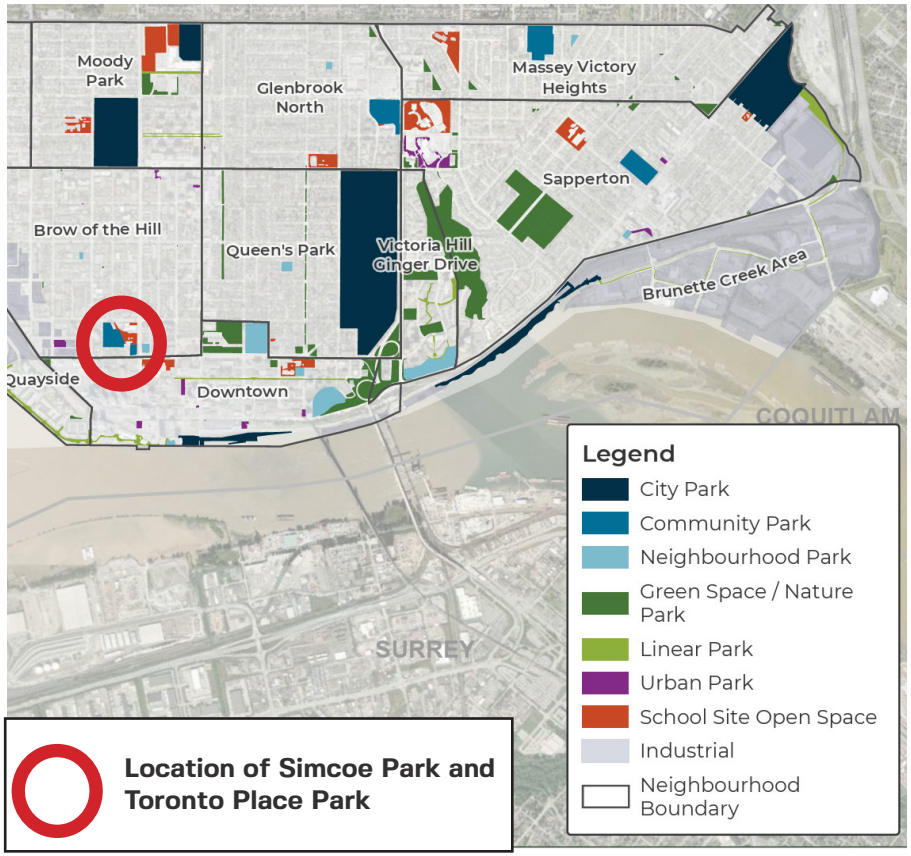
Parkland Classification

People, Parks and Play guides the development and maintenance of the City's parkland network. The plan classifies parkland based on their size, amenities and service focus, establishing distinct frameworks for Simcoe Park (Community Park) and Toronto Place Park (Neighbourhood Park).

Parkland Classification Criteria:

Community Park: Typically at least 1.0 hectare in size. They are designed to serve residents within a 10-minute walking radius (approximately 660 meters) and are ideally located within a 5-minute walk of bike routes, greenways, and/or public transit stops.

Neighbourhood Park: Preferably greater than 0.4 ha (with average size of 0.6 hectares). They serve localized resident needs within a 10-minute walking radius, with a preference for a 5-minute walk.



Map 4. Park Typologies in New Westminster

2.2 Simcoe Park

Simcoe Park measures 1.5 hectares and is classified as a Community Park. It is divided into two distinct, non-contiguous areas:

- Main Park Space (1.3 hectares): Located along McInnes Street between Queens Avenue and Ontario Street. This active area features a recreational natural grass sports field, two tennis courts, the Simcoe Community Garden, and a designated dog off-leash area.

- The Pocket Forest (0.2 hectares): A passive space situated at the west corner of Royal Avenue and Eighth Street. This independent parcel is characterized by a mature grove of specimen oak trees, walking paths, and seating.

The land separating the main park from the pocket forest is owned by School District No. 40 (SD40). The land currently accommodates the Fraser River Middle School, two portable classrooms, the School District administrative building, surface parking and basketball court and play feature. A future 605-student elementary school is scheduled to begin construction on SD40 property in late 2026.

The current layout of Simcoe Park dates back to the 1970's. The original playground and a third tennis court were removed during previous land transfers to construct the Fraser River Middle School. More recent site enhancements include the addition of the community garden in 2009, the dog off-leash area in 2019 and tree planting in 2023.



Map 5. Simcoe Park Overview

2.3 Toronto Place Park

Toronto Place Park is a Neighbourhood Park of 0.2 hectares (or 2,023 square metres) situated at the north corner of Royal Avenue and Eighth Street, directly opposite the Simcoe Park Pocket Forest, with clear views towards Downtown and the Fraser River.

While two sides of the park face high-volume arterial roads, the remaining two boundaries interface with quiet residential areas across Ash Street and along the park's northwestern pathway.



Existing Entry Signage in Toronto Place Park



Map 6. Toronto Place Park Overview

2.4 Parkland Supply

The City's parkland supply is not distributed equitably. A comparison parkland distribution between four City districts (east, west, downtown, and Queensborough) reveals that downtown and the west (west of Sixth Street) have the greatest deficiencies in active and all parkland supply. In other words, the neighbourhoods served by Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park are well below the overall city-wide active parkland supply of 1.0 ha per 1,000 residents and all parkland supply of 2.0 ha per 1,000 residents. The focus of the Master Plan, then, is to optimize the value, function, and capacity of the two parks through efficient use of space and strategic improvements to available amenities.

Map 6. illustrates the relative parkland supply by district, showing current (2024) supply and future (2034) supply based on anticipated population growth.

2.5 Neighbourhood Demographics

The information in this section relies on data from the 2021 National Census and the City of New Westminster Population and Housing Forecast 2024 – 2049 (Coriolis, 2025). While the statistical districts used by the Census and the Housing forecast vary in size, they are, nevertheless, useful to describe the high-level demographics and population trends in the neighbourhoods that are served by Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park.

The most recent demographic data available about Brow of the Hill and Downtown Neighbourhoods is from the 2021 National Census. This data indicate several demographic characteristics about these neighbourhoods:

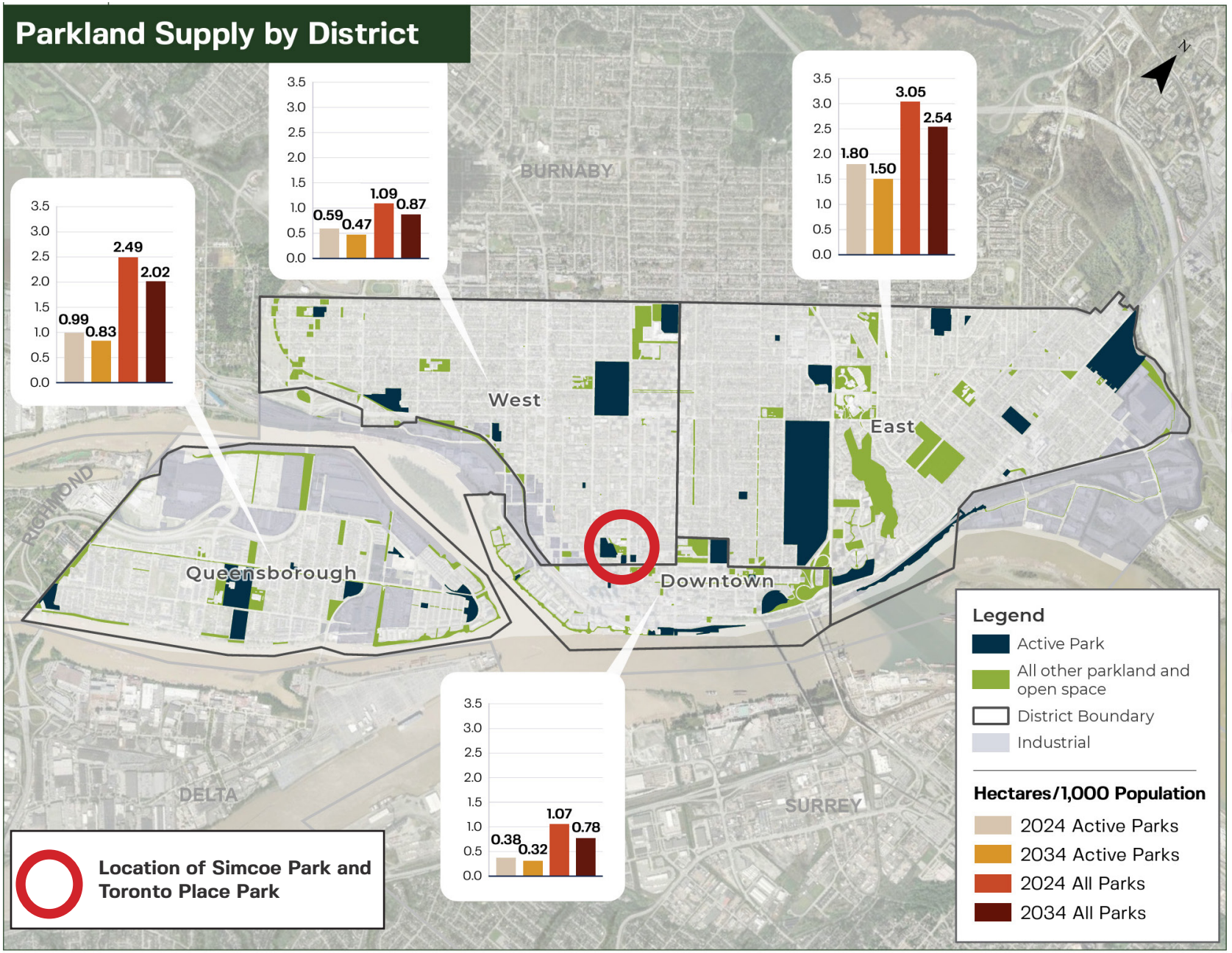
1. **High Urban Density:** The area features a significantly higher proportion of households living in multi-family dwellings compared to the New Westminster average as well as a much higher proportion of renters in Brow of the Hill (Downtown's renter rate matches that of New Westminster).

2. **High Rates of Single Person Households:** There is a pronounced concentration of residents living alone, compared with the New Westminster average.

3. **Higher Rates of Low Income Residents:** A higher rate of low income/poverty in both neighbourhoods than New Westminster as a whole.

4. **Higher Rates of Recent Immigrants:** Both neighbourhoods were home to a larger proportion of recent immigrants (immigrated within the previous 5 years) than the New Westminster average.

Combined, these factors indicate that local parks and amenities serve as essential social and recreational infrastructure, functioning as the primary 'backyards' and community gathering hubs for a dense neighbourhood.



Map 7. Parkland Supply

2.6 Growth Projections

The population of New Westminster grew by 20% over the last decade, a trajectory that may accelerate as growth is further enabled by recent provincial housing legislation, which mandates increased density near transit stations and permits small-scale, multi-unit infill housing across traditionally single-family neighborhoods.

Map 7. presents the provincially-legislated Transit-Oriented Areas and the higher density growth areas identified in the City's Official Community Plan.

New Westminster's population growth has historically exceeded that of the Metro Vancouver region. New Westminster's population grew by 20% over the last 10 years, while regional growth was 14%. Further, between 2021 and 2024, New Westminster's growth rate surged to an average annual rate of 3.8%, an extremely fast population growth.

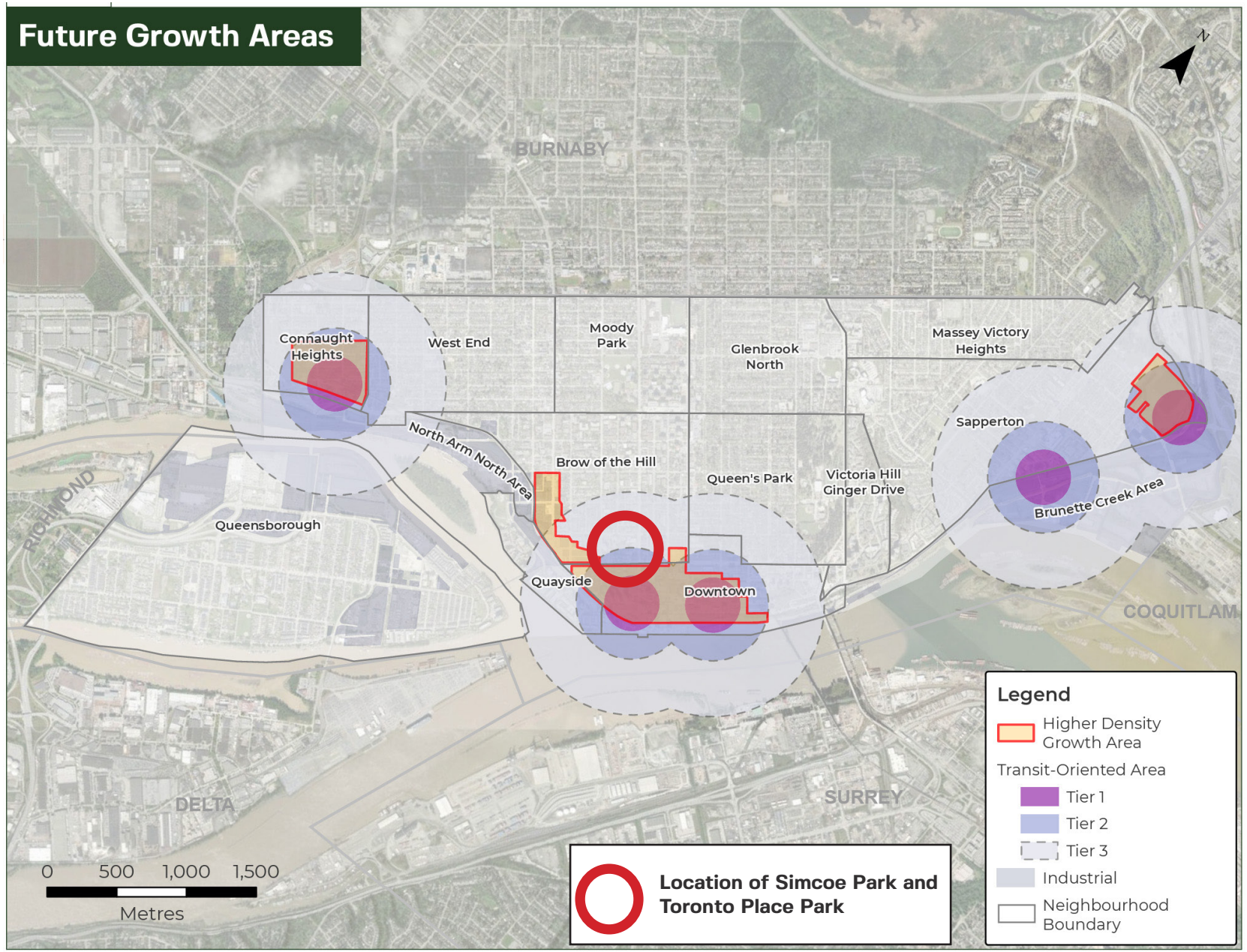
Future growth projections estimate the population in the Downtown and West districts of the City to grow.
Because both Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park sit directly within these high-growth transit corridors, the surrounding neighborhood may change. As multi-family developments expand, parks become increasingly important for recreation and social gathering. They serve as essential, collective backyards for the community, making strategic planning for their capacity critical to maintaining the city's livability.\

District	2024 Population Estimate	2034 Populaton Estimate	Percentage Growth
West (including Brow of the Hill)	30,427	38,177	25.5%
Downtown	17,232	25,598	48.5%

Source: City of New Westminster Population and Housing Forecast 2024-2049 (Coriolis, 2025)

Table 1: Population Growth Projections

The City's current growth projections see the neighbourhoods surrounding Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park growing by 25 to 49%.



Map 8. Future Growth Areas

2.7 Adjacent School District No. 40

Fraser River Middle School

Fraser River Middle School (FRMS) was constructed in 2016 on land immediately adjacent to Simcoe Park. The school currently accommodates approximately 650 students in grades 6 through 8. Because the school footprint has limited on-site outdoor recreation space, it relies on Simcoe Park for outdoor recreation, physical education and social spaces, including the park's natural grass sports field, during and after school hours.

To recover from this intensive daily use, City operations currently close the sports field over the summer months for topdressing and reseeding. While this maintenance window prepares the turf for the upcoming school year, a goal of this Master Plan is to explore design or surfacing solutions that would allow the field to remain open for community use during the summer.

Future Elementary School Expansion

To address growing enrollment, a new elementary school is scheduled for construction at 800 Queens Avenue, directly adjacent to FRMS. Construction is planned to begin in summer 2026, with project completion and occupancy expected in late summer 2028.

This facility will introduce a four-story "urban school" model to accommodate 605 students. Built atop a partially above-grade parkade to maximize a highly constrained urban site, the building features minimal street setbacks, a dedicated rooftop playground, and no on-grade outdoor space.



Map 9. Simcoe Park and Adjacent School

2.8 Collaborating with School District No. 40

People, Parks and Play (2026) emphasizes partnerships to maximize New Westminster's limited land base. Central to this is creating a Joint-Use Agreement with School District No. 40 for reciprocal use of indoor and outdoor spaces, including Simcoe Park.

Developing this framework fulfills a direct goal, objective and action within People, Parks and Play:

Focus Area: Collaboration and Partnerships

Goal: Expand community access to parks, facilities, and services through a range of partnerships that maximize resources.

Objective 9.3: Strengthen relationships with other municipalities and administrations.

Action 9.3.1: Align collaboratively with School District No. 40 on formalizing joint use agreements for outdoor spaces, indoor spaces, and shared programming.

This approach supports the new 'urban school' model, which features a smaller footprint, multi-level buildings, structured parking, rooftop playgrounds, and integrated spaces like rooftop play areas. Under a Joint-Use Agreement, the City and School District will clearly define student access to Simcoe Park, alongside community access to school facilities (i.e. gymnasium) during non-school hours.



Soccer Field in Simcoe Park

2.9 All Ages and Abilities Active Transportation

The All Ages and Abilities (AAA) Active Transportation Network Plan (ATNP), endorsed by Council in 2022, establishes a core and supporting network of connected, low-barrier routes throughout the city. This network links major destinations- including neighbourhoods, commercial areas, civic facilities, schools, parks, and interregional routes- ensuring they are safer and more comfortable for users of all ages and all abilities.

Simcoe Park and adjacent schools are key destinations along the AAA active transportation network, connecting the Downtown and the Brow of the Hill neighbourhoods to the broader city-wide network via the Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Streets Route.

This route is on Eighth Street south of Simcoe Park and on Ninth Street north of the park, with several route options adjacent to or through Simcoe Park..

To determine the best alignment, staff evaluated four potential routing options against AAA accessibility and safety standards. While each option can technically be accommodated, they each present distinct pros and cons:

- **Ontario Street and McInnes Street** – Route avoids impacts to Simcoe Park, but the existing right-of-way is too narrow to accommodate a path that meets AAA width requirements, and the steep grades do not meet accessibility guidelines.
- **Eighth Street** – Route avoids impacts to Simcoe Park, but steep grades exceed accessibility guidelines and the alignment does not provide a direct connection to the existing and future school entrance or the park amenities.
- **Existing Interior Park Path** – Steep grades and the path's straight geometry may encourage higher cycling speeds, with potential to create conflict with pedestrians and park users.
- **Perimeter Park Path**- Route meets accessibility guidelines and connects to park amenities, but requires narrowed sections to minimize impacts on existing park amenities such as the renewed sport courts and community garden, particularly near the schools.

Phasing and Routing

Since the planning for the new school expansion and the park master plan is concurrent, the City is taking a phased approach to implementing the AAA active transportation route to connect Eighth Street (at Royal Avenue) to Queen's Avenue (at Ninth Street).

As part of the Year 2 Active Transportation Network implementation in 2026, a temporary quick-build multi-use pathway will be installed along the west sidewalk of Eighth Street, from Royal Avenue to Milton Street.
This interim alignment provides an immediate active transportation link on the scheduled timeline while entirely avoiding conflicts with the upcoming school expansion and construction staging area in the tennis courts. The long-term, permanent AAA route will be designed in 2027/ 2028 and led by the Transportation team in close coordination with Park and Recreation staff and various interest groups who participated in the development of the master plan.

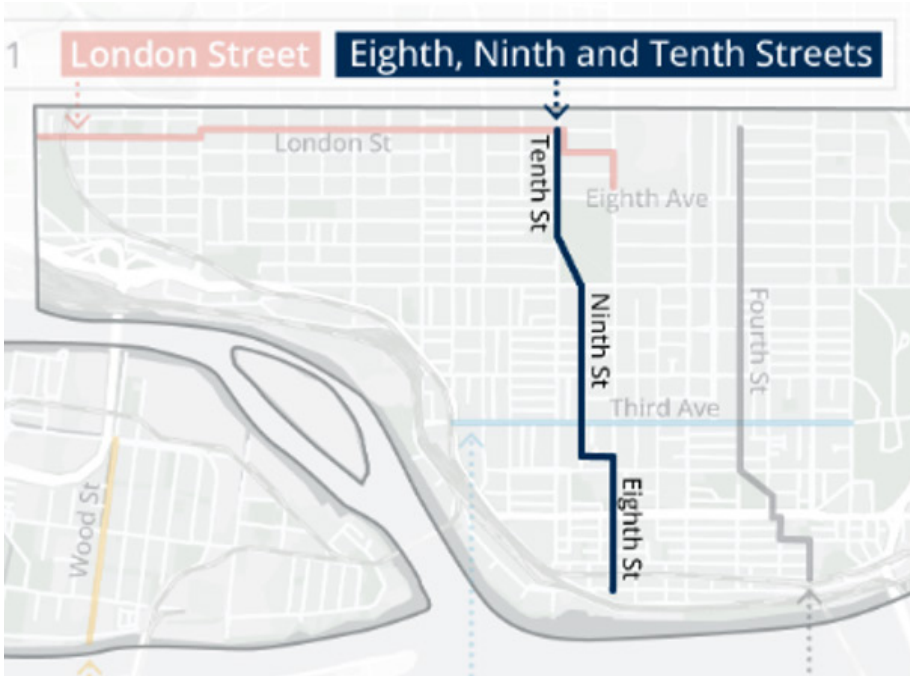
The permanent AAA active transportation route will then be constructed after the school building is complete in 2029/ 2030. Integrating the AAA active transportation route into the Master Plan fulfills a direct goal, objective and action within People, Parks and Play:

Focus Area: Connectivity

Goal: Strengthen multi-modal connections to and within the parks and recreation system.

Objective 5.1: Conduct an analysis of the parks and recreation system to identify and address connection gaps to the city-wide active transportation network.

Action 5.1.1: Prioritize safe, non-vehicular connectivity to active parks within Transit-Oriented Areas (TOAs) and dense,land-constrained neighbourhoods to ensure they can access recreational spaces easily and safely.



Map 10. Active Transportation Route



Site Analysis

3.0 Site Analysis

Comprehensive site analyses of Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park were conducted during summer and fall 2025. This process involved extensive site visits and cross-departmental workshops with staff from Parks and Recreation, Engineering and Public Works. This technical evaluation was further enriched by operational insights and localized feedback from park users during the community engagement phase. Details about the sites were learned from park users during Public Consultation.

The following sections detail the key finding of the site analyses, categorized into four themes: Circulation and entries, Topography and trees, Amenities, and Shade. Each them outlines the identified constraints and opportunities, paired with design responses to guide long-term park improvements.

3.1 Circulation and Entries

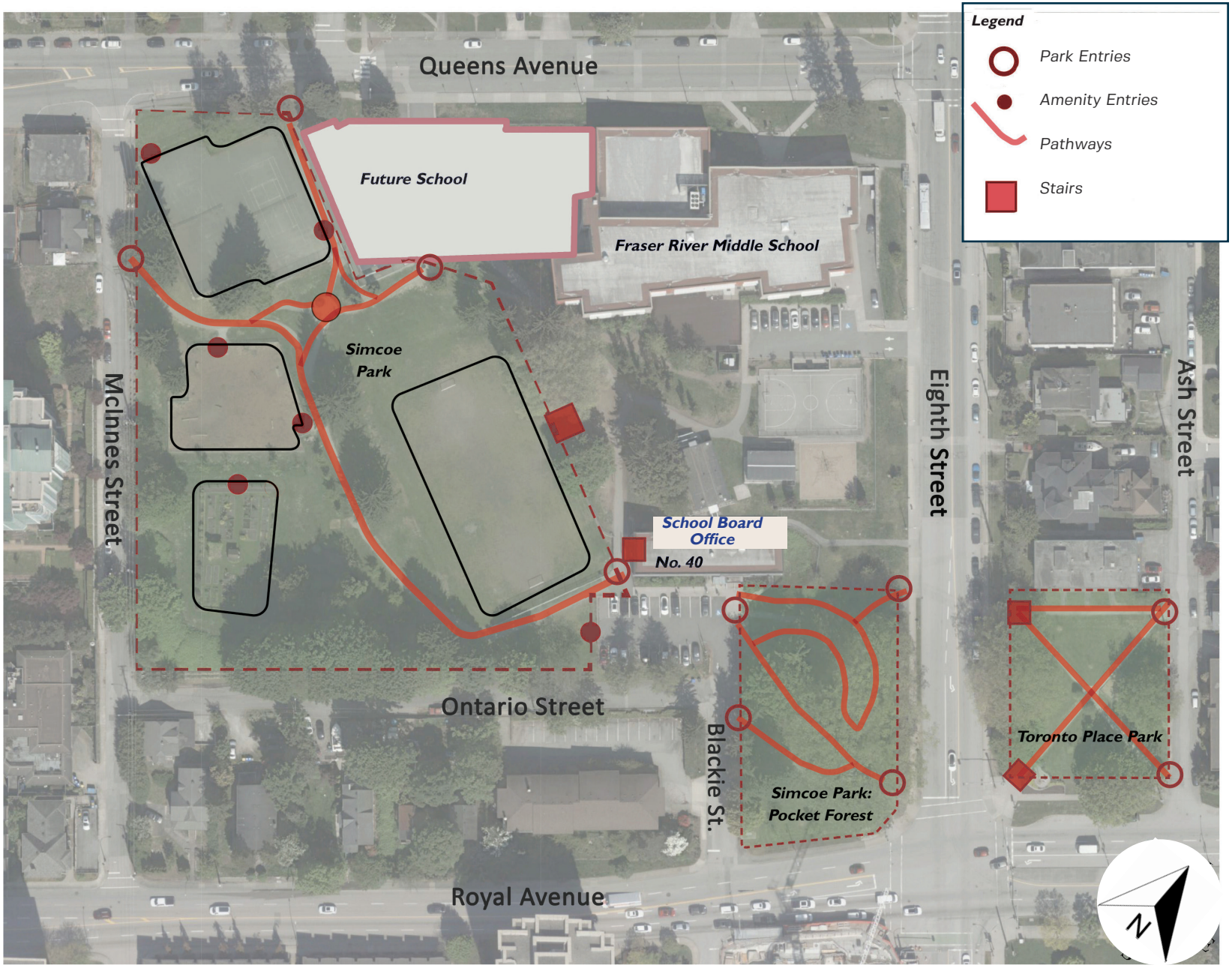
Circulation within both parks contain gaps and require improvements to enhance pedestrian comfort, safety and universal accessibility. For Simcoe Park, specifically for the larger land parcel, there is a need to establish a distinct civic presence in the neighbourhood, as the park is frequently mistaken for adjacent School District lands rather than a city-owned park space.



Existing conditions in Simcoe Park

Simcoe Park	
Site Analysis (Constraints and Opportunities)	**Proposed Design Response**
A curved feature wall with park name provides park presence from Royal Avenue, but all other park entrances are poorly defined, non-visible, and disconnected from the sidewalk. One of the primary pedestrian paths is used as a socializing gathering space by students. The School District Administration building bisects the site, separating the pocket forest from the larger Simcoe Park area. Parking for park users is limited to the surrounding streets. The School District Administration parking lot is used by staff during working hours on weekdays. Several paths require widening to bring to current standards and/or repaving to address tree root heaving	Enhance the visibility and identity of primary park entrances through unified signage or entry features. Construct new pathways and sidewalks to bridge circulation gaps between the park and city sidewalks. Provide distinct social seating nodes and plaza elements off primary pathways to accommodate student gatherings while keeping thoroughfares clear. Create a hierarchy within the circulation system to minimize conflicts between cyclists and other park users. Introduce wayfinding signage to establish circulation and wayfinding, especially through the school district-owned land. Explore opportunities with the School District to open the School District Administration parking lot to park users during non-school hours. Repave impacted path segments using root-sensitive construction methods to restore smooth, universally accessible surfaces.

Toronto Place Park	
Site Analysis (Constraints and Opportunities)	**Proposed Design Response**
A Curved retaining wall with park name provides park presence from Royal Avenue. The park functions as a neighbourhood pedestrian connection between Brow and the Hill and Downtown with two diagonal paths that connect the four park entrances. The connection from the Ash Street (north) corner to the Eighth Street/Royal Avenue (south) is most frequently used. There is no sidewalk along Ash Street. Physical accessibility is low with three of four park entrances relying on stairs. There is currently no continuous, barrier-free route allowing a wheelchair or stroller user to travel through the park; and entrances are disconnected from the perimeter sidewalks	Provide wayfinding signage to Simcoe Park from Toronto Place Park. Provide seating and landscape features of interest along the paths to enhance the experience of the park. Improve accessibility by constructing a new, barrier-free perimeter sidewalk along the Ash Street park edge in consultation with the Engineering Department. Explore regrading opportunities to eliminate stairs at entry points.



Map 11. Analysis: Current Park Circulation and Entries

3.2 Topography and Trees

Simcoe Park features a terraced layout, with retaining walls and steep slopes framing the flat plateaus where active amenities are located. In contrast, the Simcoe Park pocket forest and Toronto Place Park more closely follow the natural, steady hillside topography, though a steep embankment retains the Royal Avenue and Eighth Street edges of Toronto Place Park.

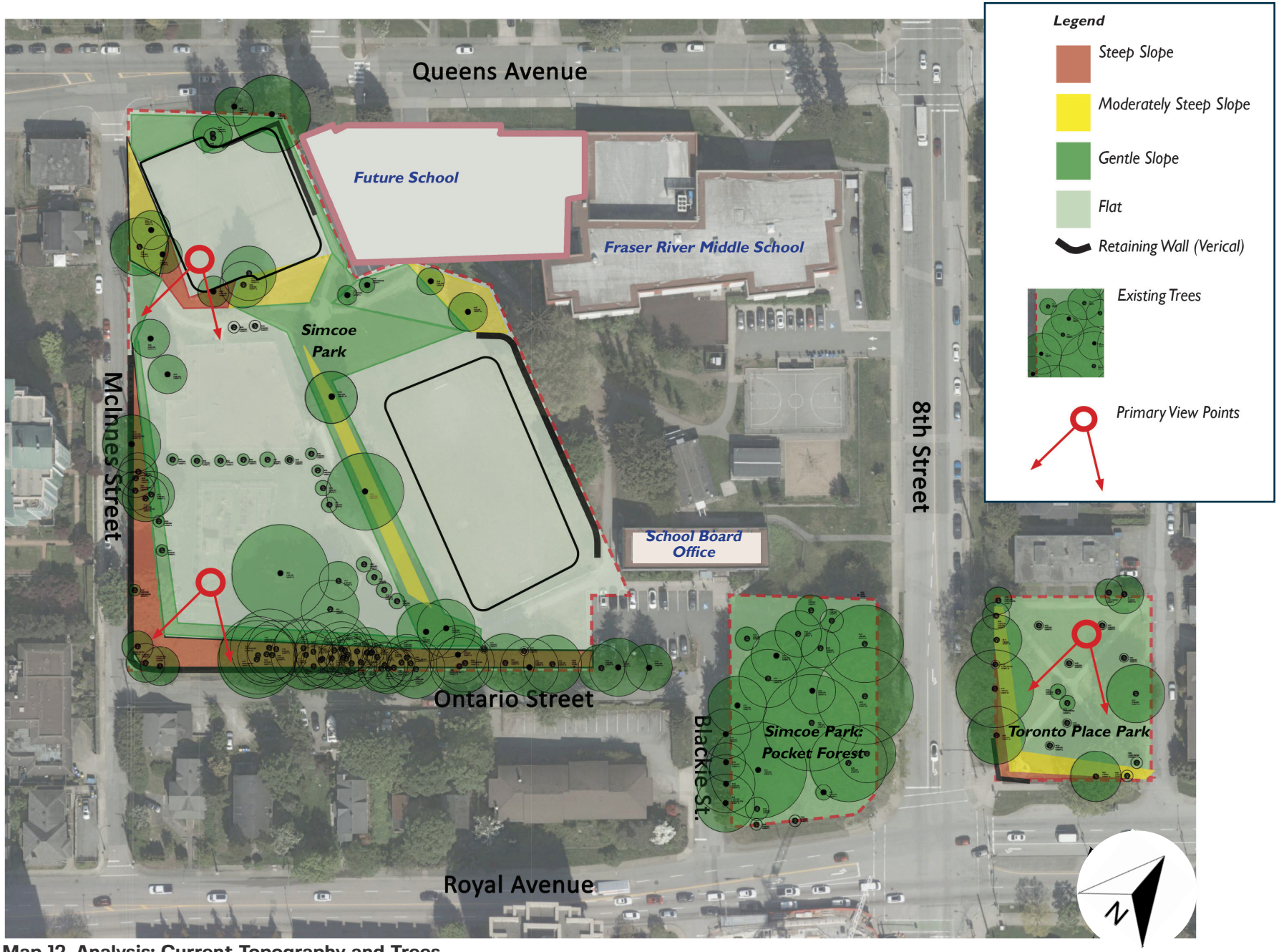
Together, these topography and tree canopy conditions present the primary opportunities and constraints for the master plan. The design must navigate these grade changes to improve accessibility, protect and leverage our existing green infrastructure services (such as urban cooling), and introduce site-specific amenities that give each space a distinct identity.



Ontario Street at Simcoe Park

Simcoe Park	
Site Analysis (Constraints and Opportunities)	**Proposed Design Response**
The Park is built into the existing slope. Terraced flat areas are separated by steeper slopes and retaining walls. The largest grade change is along McInness and Ontario Streets, an over-3-metre grade change, retained by a stone wall, that also affords views towards Downtown. Existing park trees are primarily concentrated on the perimeter slopes, which limits the footprint available for expanding active park spaces. There is also a selection of mature specimen and recently-planted trees located in the flat zone adjacent to the community garden. The pocket forest sits on a consistent, moderate slope and features a dense canopy of mature specimen trees with extensive, shallow root systems	Focus the placement of new active amenities on the existing flat plateaus. Utilize the slopes creatively by integrating terraced seating walls or nature-based hillside play features. Prioritize a condition assessment of the 3-metre retaining wall. Maintain and take advantage of this unique vantage point with views toward Downtown. Position any new amenities carefully away from critical root zones. Ensure all layout options and root-sensitive construction methods are developed in consultation with Urban Forestry division. Restrict all future interventions in the pocket forest to low-impact, passive features to protect tree health and soil stability.

Toronto Place Park	
Site Analysis (Constraints and Opportunities)	**Proposed Design Response**
The park sits on a consistent, moderate slope, bounded by a steep edge along Eighth Street and Royal Avenue. A timber wall retains the flat zone, which currently holds a small play area with two toddler swings. A row of mature trees frames the Eighth Street, Royal Avenue and Ash Street perimeters, supplemented by a few newer tree plantings in the park's interior.	Future uses compatible with sloped spaces should be explored, e.g. terraced gardens, planting, etc. Evaluate the condition of the retaining wall and toddler swings. Prioritize the protection of the perimeter canopy to maximize street-level shade and visual buffering. Any new assets to be planned in direct consultation with Urban Forestry division.



Map 12. Analysis: Current Topography and Trees

3.3 Park Amenities

Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park offer a variety of active and passive amenities, including two tennis courts (with practice wall), a sports field, a dog off-leash area, a community garden, and unprogrammed open green spaces. Additionally, two gendered public washrooms are provided via an agreement within the adjacent School District No.40 building, and Toronto Place Park features a small footprint with two toddler swings.
There is currently no children's playground in Simcoe Park. Furthermore, some of the existing amenities across both sites are aging, nearing the end of their service life, and require significant repair, optimization or full redevelopment. As part of this planning process, a key priority has been engaging the community to re-imagine future park amenities and layouts, ensuring the Parks and Recreation department optimizes the full potential of both park sites to meet community needs.



Tai chi group in Simcoe Park

Simcoe Park	
Site Analysis (Constraints and Opportunities)	**Proposed Design Response**
The existing tennis court surfacing is degraded and requires full replacement. The natural grass sports field is below regulation size, and is used intensely, with current practice to close over the summer months for turf recovery. The community garden was constructed by volunteers (operated by the NWCGS) is a highly valued amenity and maintains a significant waitlist. The garden does not have an accessible paved access path for users or for delivery of soil. The permanent AAA active transportation route has not been determined, while all four options are feasible, there are pros and cons to each. The preferred option is to not impact any existing amenities and minimize potential conflicts between cyclists and park users. The dog off-leash area services the Downtown and Brow of the Hill neighborhoods, replacing a former sloped site at 824 Agnes Street. There is currently no dedicated children's play space within Simcoe park. There is a climbing net located on adjacent School District lands.	Redevelop tennis courts into flexible, multi-sports courts. Maximize the available field footprint and explore resilient, high-traffic surfacing options suitable for reliable, year-round use by community and school. Review options for an accessible access path that can also be utilized for soil delivery, providing equitable access to this community-building amenity. Review routing options during multi-use path detailed design phase in consultation with park user groups. Minimize the multi-use path's impacts on adjacent amenities (dependent of path routing) through detailed design. Transportation division to lead this work in direct consultation with Parks division and park user groups. Retain a dog off-leash area within Simcoe Park, but adjust its location to improve fit within the park and mitigate user conflicts. Introduce a neighbourhood play space to serve local families and complement outdoor play needs of the future elementary school.

Toronto Place Park	
Site Analysis (Constraints and Opportunities)	**Proposed Design Response**
Toddler swings are the park's sole amenity, offering limited recreational value. The park is compact with sloped topography and serves as a thoroughfare for pedestrians. It is not well-suited for active recreation options.	Transition Toronto Place Park away from active toddler play, and integrate toddler play feature into the new play space in Simcoe Park. Explore alternative passive amenities such as rest nodes or community gardensthat are better suited to the site's compact, sloped context.



Map 13. Analysis: Current Park Amenities

3.4 Shade and Solar Access

Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park feature a balanced mix of open space and treed areas. Both parks contain a significant number of high-value, mature specimen trees that contribute to local urban cooling and help define space within each of the parks.

*Source: www.shademap.app

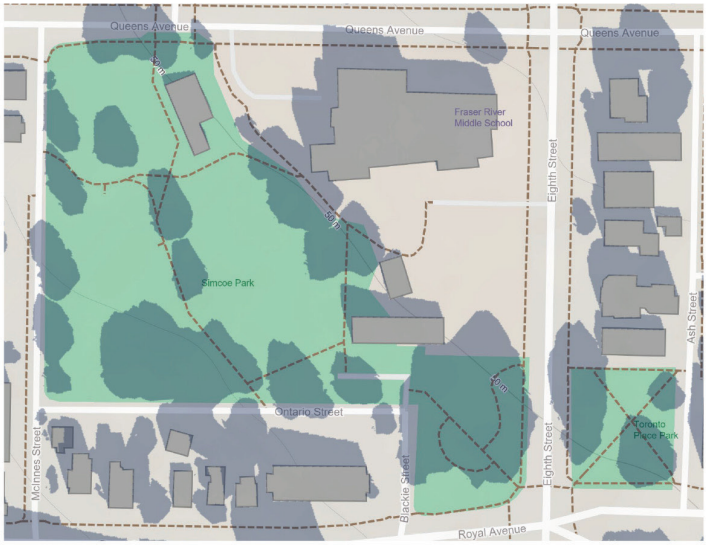


Simcoe Park	
Site Analysis (Constraints and Opportunities)	**Proposed Design Response**
Simcoe Park provides a dynamic mix of sunny and canopy-shaded areas, offering varied microclimates throughout the day. The dense canopy of the pocket forest provides weather protection year-round, forming an outdoor room	Maximize the value of existing shaded areas by establishing gathering spaces in the cool shade, equipped with benches, picnic tables or open lawn, providing comfortable places to gather during the hot summer months. Protect and maintain the pocket forest, maximizing the unique atmosphere and environmental benefits it provides

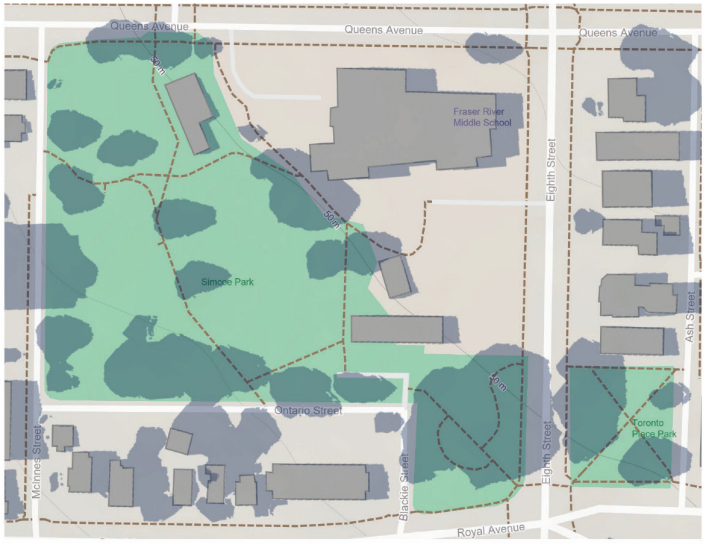
Toronto Place Park	
Site Analysis (Constraints and Opportunities)	**Proposed Design Response**
The majority of the park is exposed to sunlight throughout the day from spring through summer, shady refuges located along the edges	Leverage the high sun exposure to support biodiversity and urban food security, exploring features such as a community garden or pollinator pasture.



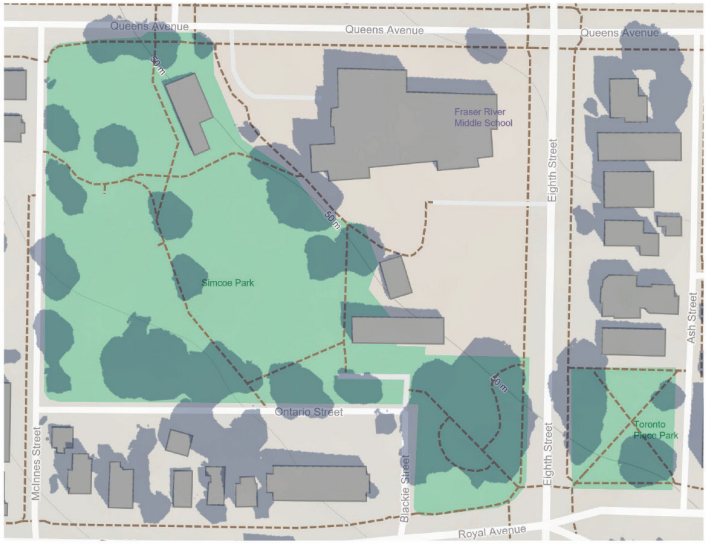
Simcoe Park passive green space below and soccer field above



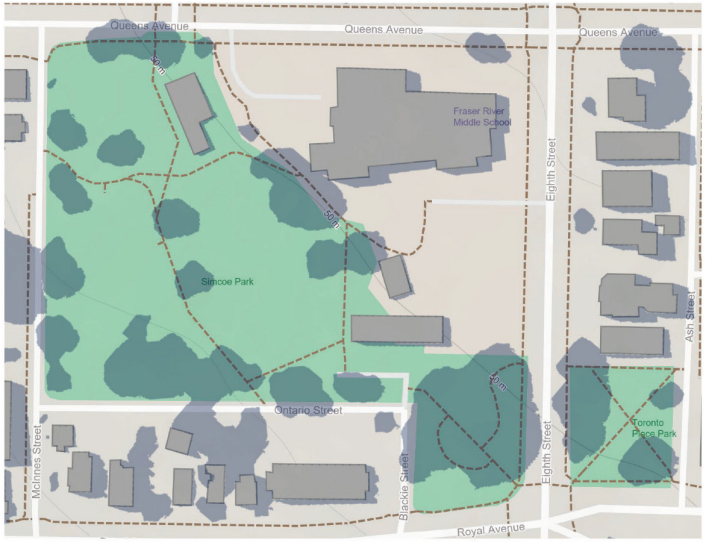
Solar Equinox (March 21)
10:00am in the morning



Solar Equinox (March 21) at
4:00pm in the afternoon



Summer Solstice (June 21) at
10:00am in the morning



Summer Solstice (June 21) at
4:00pm in the afternoon

Map 14. Analysis: Current Shade and Solar Access

Community Engagement



4.0 Community Engagement

4.1 Overview

This section summarizes the activities and key findings from public engagement events that were conducted in spring 2026. For the full engagement reporting, please refer to Appendix A: Be Heard Report - Summary of Public Engagement Results.
Community engagement with the public and user groups was undertaken to understand community needs, desired uses, and preferences for future amenities in Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park.

Specifically, community input was sought to shape the following:

1. **Validating the Guiding Principles** - Confirming that the vision for these parks aligns with community values.

2. **Identifying Park Amenity Preferences** – Guiding improvements and prioritizing additional amenities to replace those that are coming to the end of their service life.

3. **Refining Park Layout and Character** – Arranging active amenities (such as play, sports, gardening, and social areas) around the core of the park (“Active Heart”) and ensuring the park is designed to feel welcoming

4. **Informing Future Programming** – Hearing ideas on the types of programs and activities the community would like to see in these park spaces.

The engagement activities included an online survey and ideas board on Be Heard New West, the City’s online public engagement platform, as well as public pop-up-style events in Simcoe Park and təməsewtxʷ Aquatic and Community Centre and targeted meetings with interest holders and park users.

The following engagement activities were undertaken:

Event	Date
Meeting with New Westminster Community Garden Society	February 20, 2026 1:00pm - 2:24pm
Meeting with local sports organizations	March 5, 2026 6:30pm - 8:00pm
Meeting with New Westminster Community Garden Society	March 11, 2026 9:00am - 9:52am
Public Pop-Up Event at təməsewtxʷ Aquatic and Community Centre	March 25, 2026 3:00pm - 6:00pm
Public Pop-Up Event at Simcoe Park	March 28, 2026 11:00am - 1:00pm
Public Pop-up Event at təməsewtxʷ Aquatic and Community Centre	April 1, 2026 4:00pm - 7:00pm
Public Pop-up Event at Simcoe Park	April 9, 2026 3:00pm - 5:30pm
Meeting of the New Westminster Accessibility Advisory Committee	April 22, 2026 5:30pm - 7:48pm

4.2 Key Takeaways

The following main takeaways were gathered from community engagement, including local sports organizations, New Westminster Community Garden Society, and the Accessibility Advisory Committee:

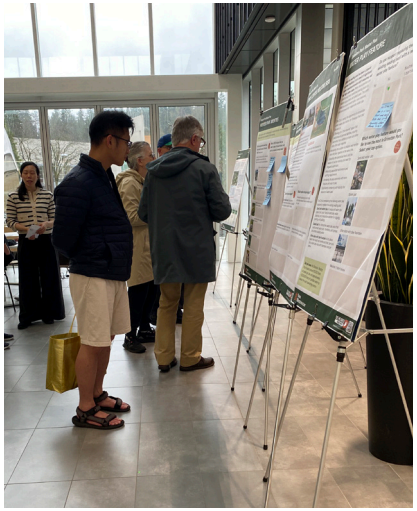
1. **Confirmed support for the proposed guiding principles**

2. **Understanding park use patterns and satisfaction with the parks:**

- Most respondents visited both parks rarely or on a yearly basis; used the park to just pass through or for mostly passive activities.
- Of the existing park features, those most valued were mature trees or treed areas, the community garden, tennis courts, and Toronto Place Park paths providing a shortcut to downtown
- Most respondents felt that both parks met their needs well enough but that there was also room for improvement.

3. **Learning about preferences between amenities and park layout options presented**

- There was a slight preference for an “Active Heart” space containing play area, splash pad and open lawn with seating, but also high level of support for options with sand play and toddler play.
- Participants had suggestions for specific features to provide shade, specific play equipment, seating, and play opportunities for different age groups
- Participants indicated preferences for amenities next to the sport court: drinking fountain, seating and picnic tables.
- Of the resilient, year-round field surfacing options (gravel, sand or artificial turf), the majority of respondents preferred artificial turf. Artificial turf was also the only choice supported by sports groups for practice or competition play. However, a number of respondents expressed concern with this surfacing.
- Majority supported a new community garden in Toronto Place Park as well as additional features such as pollinator meadow, pocket forest and seating/resting areas.
- Additionally, New Westminster Community Garden Society representatives and some participants voiced concerns related to the proposed Active Transportation, proposed along the Simcoe Park edges, and its potential impacts on the Simcoe Community Garden and passive use of the area.
- Some participants expressed disappointment at the proposed loss of one tennis court and advocated to have this use retained.
- Accessibility Advisory Committee feedback indicated the importance of accessible amenities.





Public Engagement Events



Park Master Plan

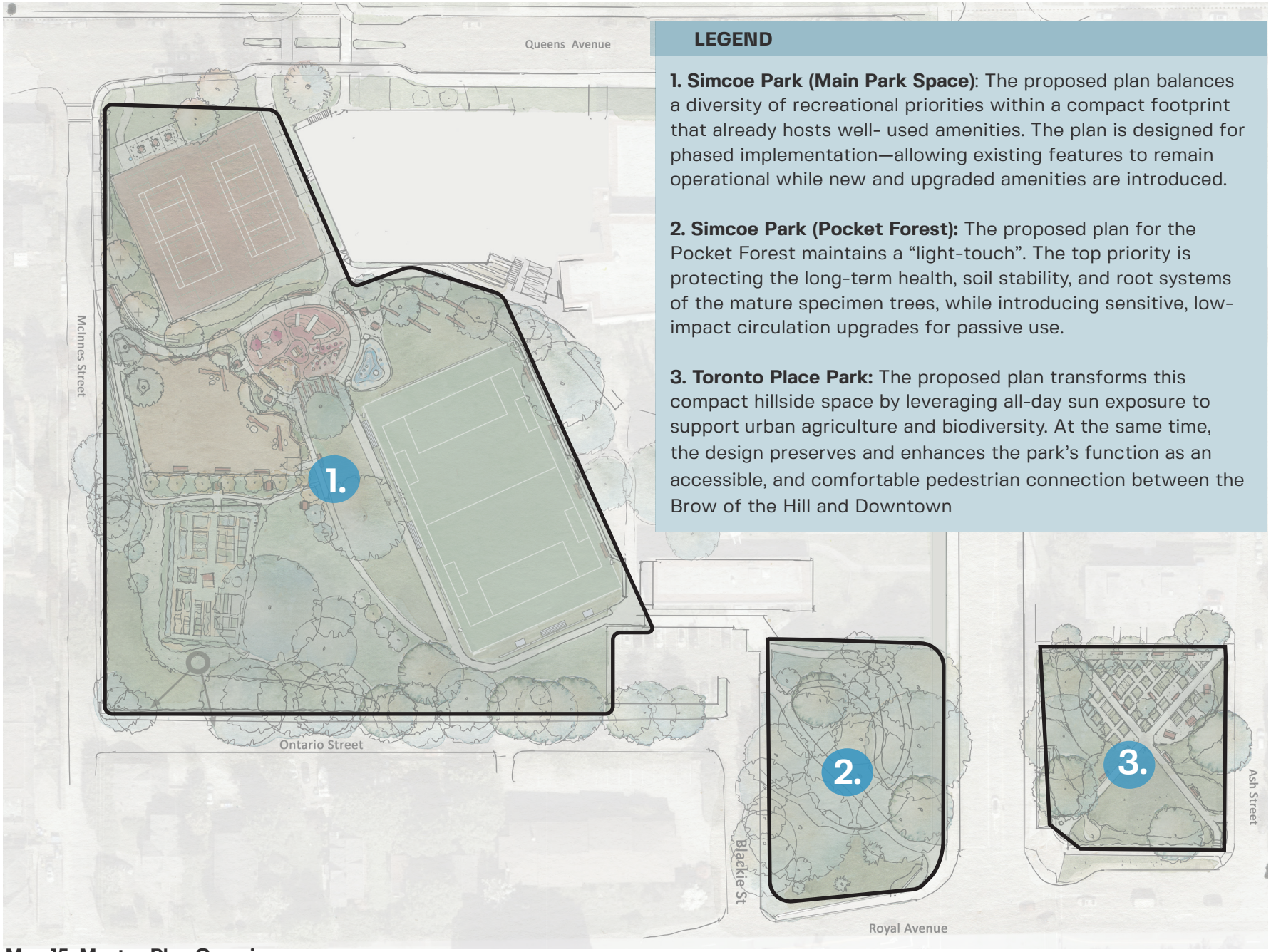
5.0 Master Plan

5.1 Overview

This section establishes the long-range vision for Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park, serving as a strategic roadmap to guide phased implementation over the next decade.

This vision synthesizes everything learned throughout the planning process, blending cross-departmental technical expertise—spanning park planning, operations, urban forestry and transportation—with city-wide strategic aspirations, departmental goals and community priorities gathered during public engagement.

To maximize the potential of these park spaces, guided by People, Parks and Play, the Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park Master Plan adopts a custom approach for each site, including a specific approach for the pocket forest within Simcoe Park:



LEGEND

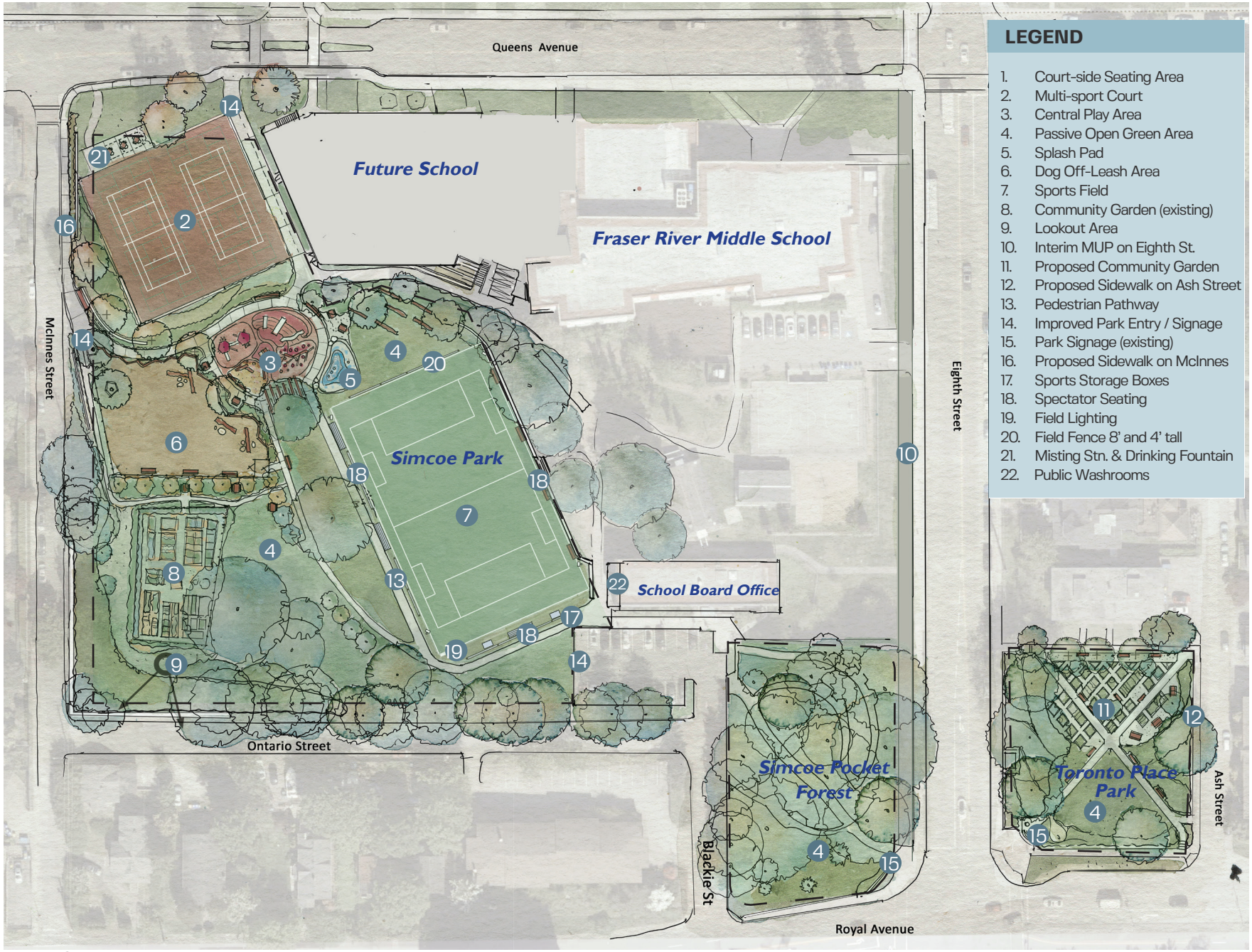
1. Simcoe Park (Main Park Space): The proposed plan balances a diversity of recreational priorities within a compact footprint that already hosts well- used amenities. The plan is designed for phased implementation—allowing existing features to remain operational while new and upgraded amenities are introduced.

2. Simcoe Park (Pocket Forest): The proposed plan for the Pocket Forest maintains a "light-touch". The top priority is protecting the long-term health, soil stability, and root systems of the mature specimen trees, while introducing sensitive, low-impact circulation upgrades for passive use.

3. Toronto Place Park: The proposed plan transforms this compact hillside space by leveraging all-day sun exposure to support urban agriculture and biodiversity. At the same time, the design preserves and enhances the park's function as an accessible, and comfortable pedestrian connection between the Brow of the Hill and Downtown

Map 15. Master Plan Overview

5.2 Illustrative Plan

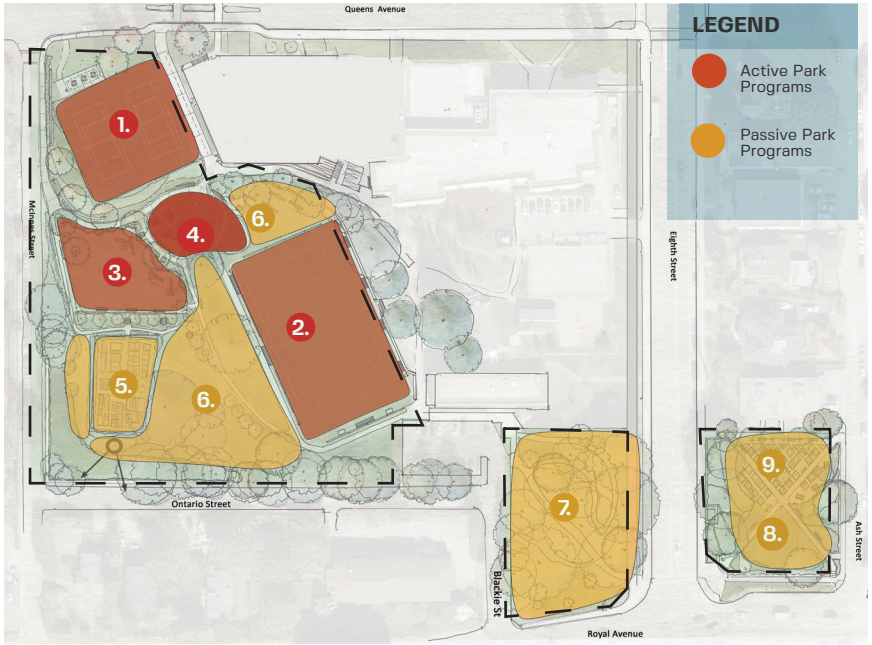


Map 16. Master Plan

5.3 Program Areas

The spatial organization of both parks balances active and passive uses while expanding overall programming capacity. All existing park uses are retained and enhanced with shifts in footprints or locations to integrate new or improved amenities.

Map 17. illustrates the program areas, and balance between active and passive use.



Map 17. Active and Passive Park Program Areas

Active Uses

1. Multi-Sport Courts: The single-use tennis courts are converted into multi-use courts lined for both two side-by-side tennis play space, and multiple pickle-ball. While the total court size remains unchanged, the overall footprint may be slightly reconfigured to accommodate a potential new multi-use path along McInnes Street.

2. Sports field: The field footprint is maximized within the available space to optimize recreational opportunities by community sports groups and meet competitive play requirements for youth soccer.

3. Dog off-leash area: Achieving “no net-loss” of functional space, the dog off-leash area will be shifted westward. This relocation allows for upgrades such as enhanced fencing, surfacing, drainage and agility or play features.

4. Active Heart This central, all ages and abilities active play area introduces a children’s play space, future play equipment and a water play feature.

Passive Uses

5. Simcoe Park Community Garden: The existing footprint and perimeter fencing/planting remains unchanged. However, access to the garden is improved by introducing a formal, universally accessible pathway connection, allowing for future accessibility upgrades to plots in the garden.

6. Simcoe Park Open Green Space: Existing passive green open space areas are maintained and enhanced with seating and picnic tables.

7. Simcoe Pocket Forest: Only targeted circulation improvements are proposed to the pocket forest, such as low-impact paving methods to mitigate impact on mature trees. Pending future decision about Active Transportation path routing, select existing paths may be widened and supplemented with lighting.

8. Toronto Place Park Open Green Space: The existing informal open space is transformed into a community garden, while preserving a pathway system and space for informal passive activities.

9. Toronto Place Park Future Community Garden (new amenity): The community garden takes advantage of the sun exposure. As the recently planted park trees mature after 20-30 years, the garden will evolve to respond to the increasing shade.



Specimen yew tree in Simcoe Park

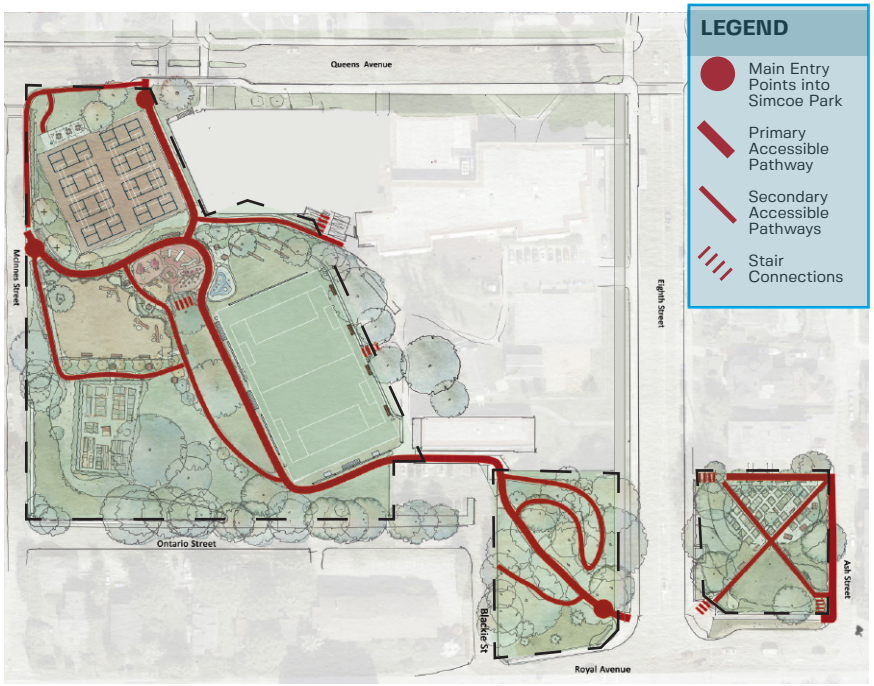
5.4 Circulation

Circulation throughout the park is enhanced with visible, formalized park entries and a continuous pedestrian network. This may include new paving, signage and welcoming seating spaces that link seamlessly to surrounding city sidewalks.

Accessibility at the entries and through the park is a priority of this updated circulation network. Despite the challenging natural topography of both parks, the proposed design aims to provide accessible routes that connect to all park amenities.

despite the overall topography of both parks. Fully accessible routes connect all park amenities. It is important to note that while this circulation network accommodates pedestrian users, it does not provide capacity to users on bikes and other active transportation who are expected to continue utilizing the park paths to access amenities, school sites and on their way to other destinations.

Section 5.5 discusses options to accommodate multi-modal circulation and integrate Simcoe Park as a destination within the city-wide Active Transportation Network Plan.



Map 18. Master Plan Circulation and Entries



Example of multi-use path in a park setting (Moody Park)

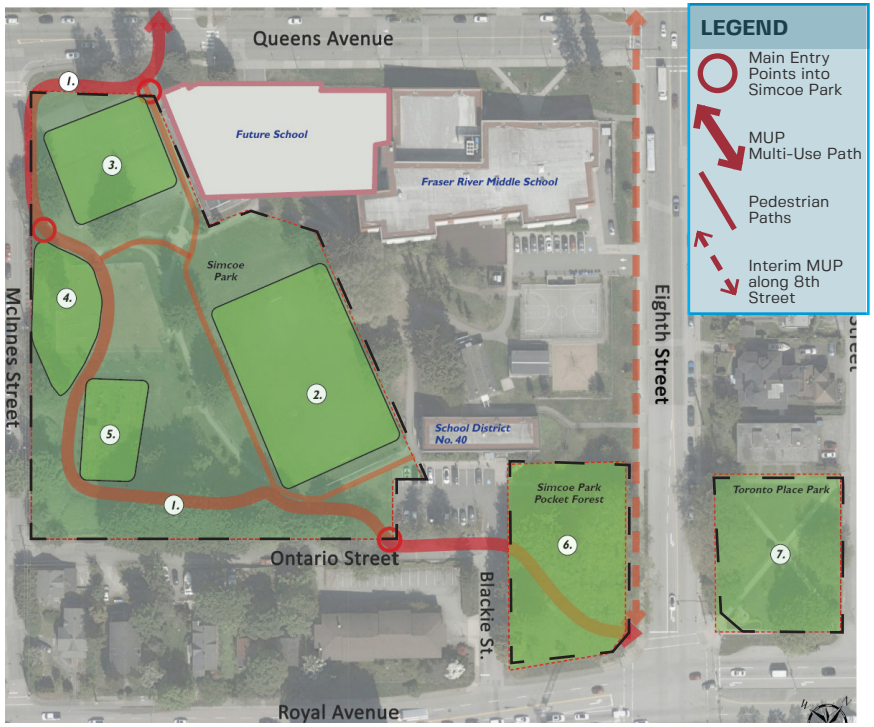
5.5 All Ages and Abilities Transportation

Routing Options

The Master Plan considers the interim and future permanent implementation of the AAA active transportation network through or adjacent to Simcoe Park. Following an in-depth technical review by the project team, Transportation staff, and mobility consultants, initial analysis recommended routing the future multi-use pathway along the perimeter edge of Simcoe Park. This alignment was identified because it successfully meets universal accessibility grade standards, connects to key amenities, and minimizes spatial conflicts between active commuters and passive park users.

This recommended edge routing was shared publicly during community engagement workshops and some participants and park users raised concerns. These centered on potential footprint impacts to the existing open green space and the Simcoe Community Garden, as well as the perceived comfort and safety of pedestrians sharing a multi-use path.

In direct response to this community feedback, a preliminary feasibility study was developed to evaluate five routing scenarios:



Recommended routing of future multi-use pathway following

Eighth Street Route (interim Alignment): This quick-build, sidewalk adjacent route provides an interim route that will remain in place until the new school opens in the Fall of 2028

Perimeter Route: This option locates the permanent mulit-use pathway along the south and west boundaries of the Simcoe Park, avoiding the central core of the Park.

Active Heart Route: This route is the most direct and runs through the centre of the “active heart” of Simcoe Park, following the alignment of the current pedestrian path

Eighth Street & Perimeter Hybrid: This option utilizes a dual-network approach to allow self-sorting, enabling faster active transportation users to bypass Simcoe Park entirely along Eighth Street while more casual users enjoy a winding path along the Park’s edges.

Eighth Street & Active Heart Hybrid: Similarly, this hybrid option allows for faster moving users to bypass Simcoe Park via Eighth Street, while accommodating more casual users to travel through the central “active heart” of the park.

Each of these five options is physically compatible with the Master Plan configuration. They can all be accommodated without reducing existing park assets, impacting the community garden footprint, or reducing the current spatial allocation for the multi-use sport courts.

The series of Maps below illustrate all five options, including their spatial impacts, benefits and technical drawbacks.

The Master Plan remains intentionally flexible to accommodate whichever of the five routing options is selected following a more detailed design study. The final multi-use path configuration will be determined in 2027/2028 to align with the Transportation division's design development phase and data gathered from the interim Eighth Street route. During that detailed design phase, the Transportation division will coordinate with the Parks Planning division and conduct further targeted engagement with park user groups and stakeholders to finalize the alignment.



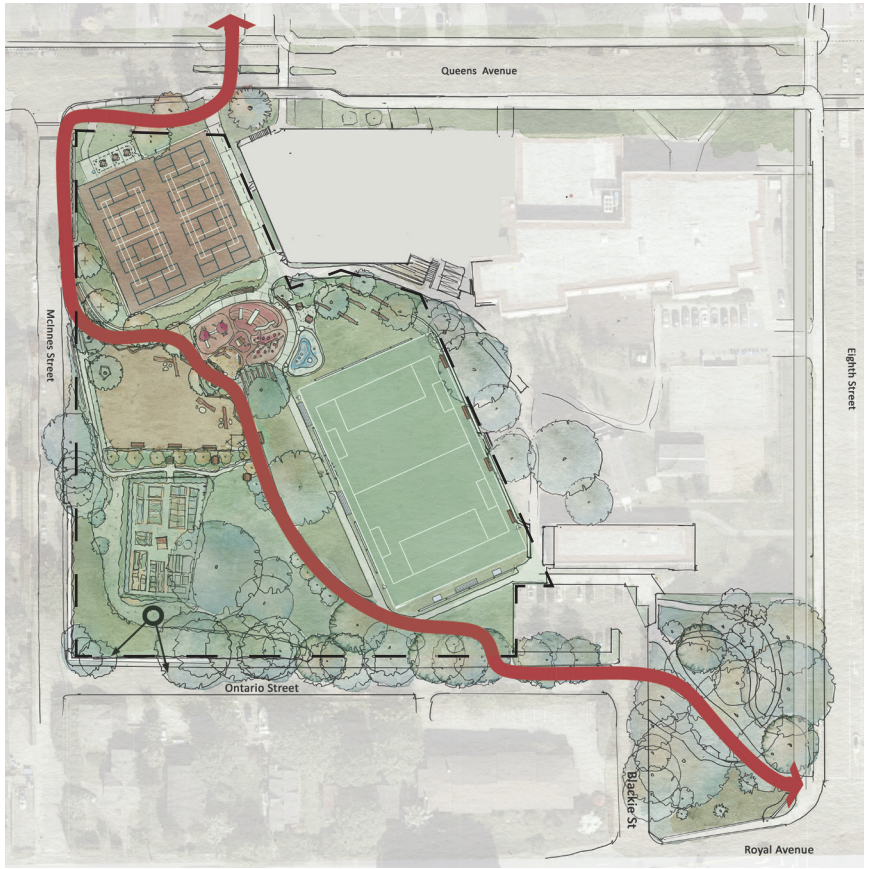
Eighth Street Route (Interim Alignment)



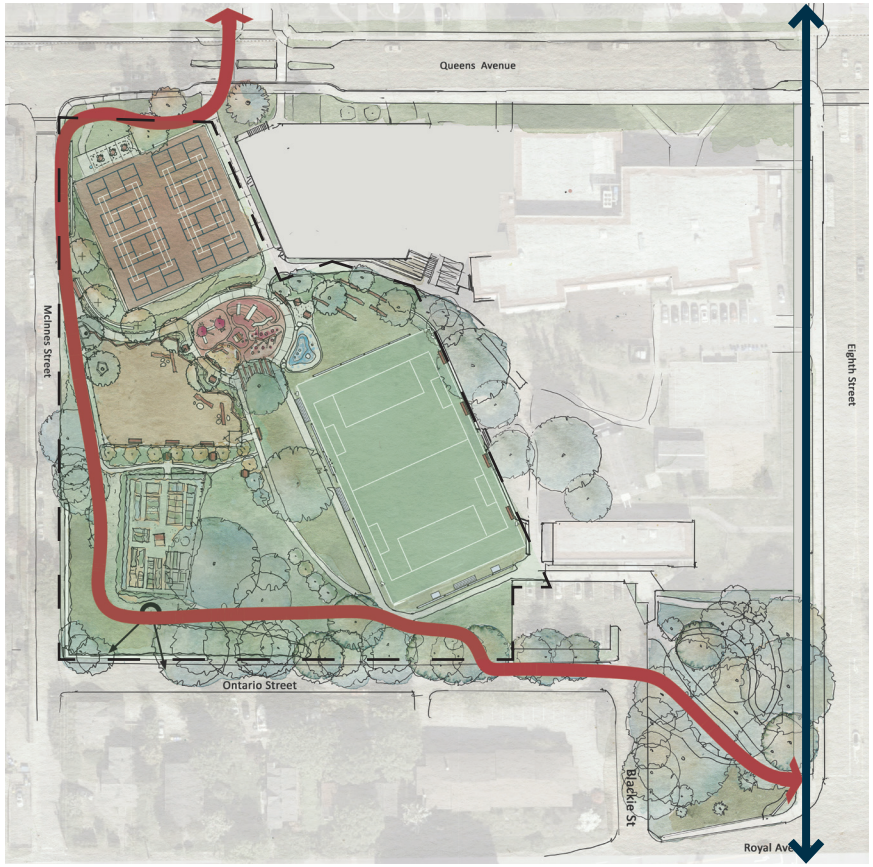
Future location of Eighth Street Route (Interim Alignment)



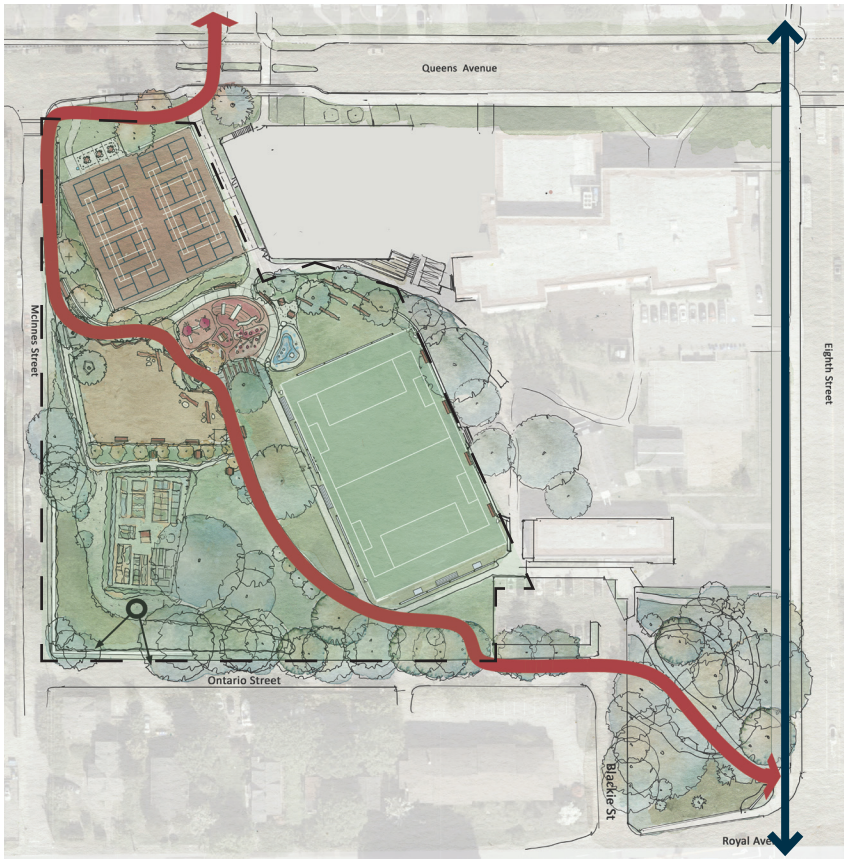
Perimeter Route



Active Heart Route



Eighth Street & Perimeter Hybrid



Eighth Street & Active Heart Hybrid

5.6 Lighting, Vehicles and Signage

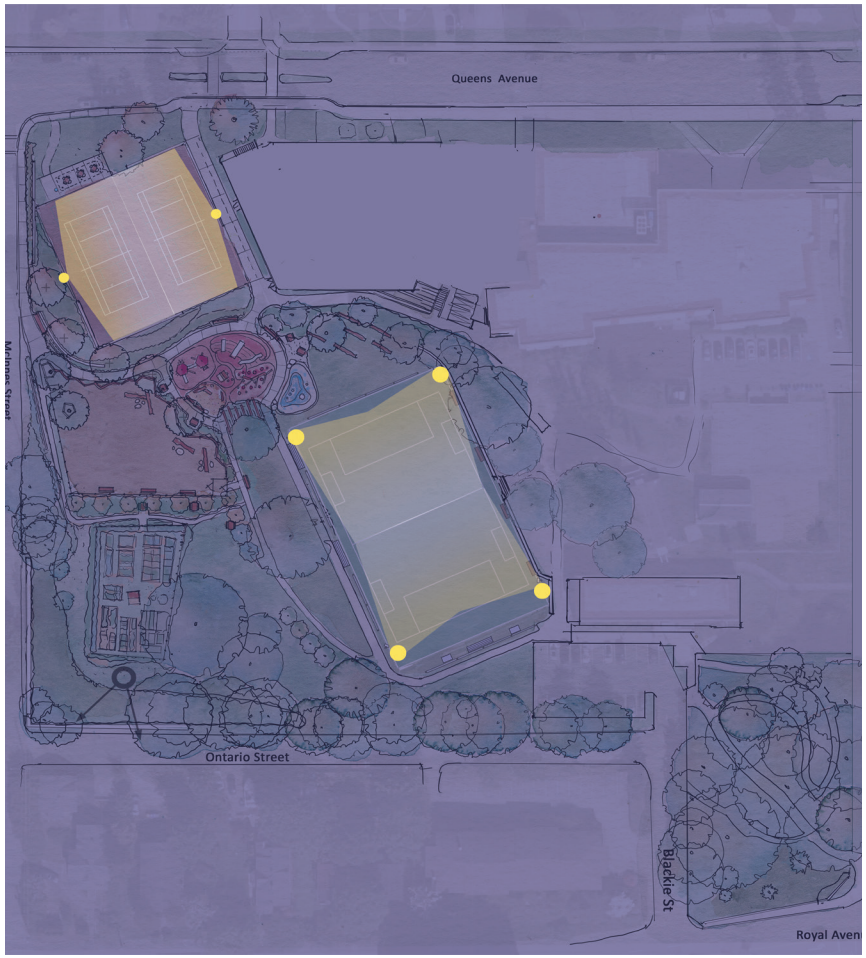
Lighting

To balance electrical service capacity, capital costs, and neighbouring residential impacts, future lighting installations within Simcoe park will be designed to meet active transportation design standards and enable extended, after-dusk recreational use. Future lighting consideration will be focused on three key areas:

1. Pedestrian & Mobility Lighting: Energy-efficient safety lighting installed along the finalized active transportation route(s).

2. Sports Field Lighting: Targeted, directional sports lighting to support scheduled year-round, evening field recreation.

3. Multi-Use Sport Court Lighting: On-demand or timed lighting to maximize evening playability for tennis and pickle-ball.



Map 19. Master Plan Lit Areas

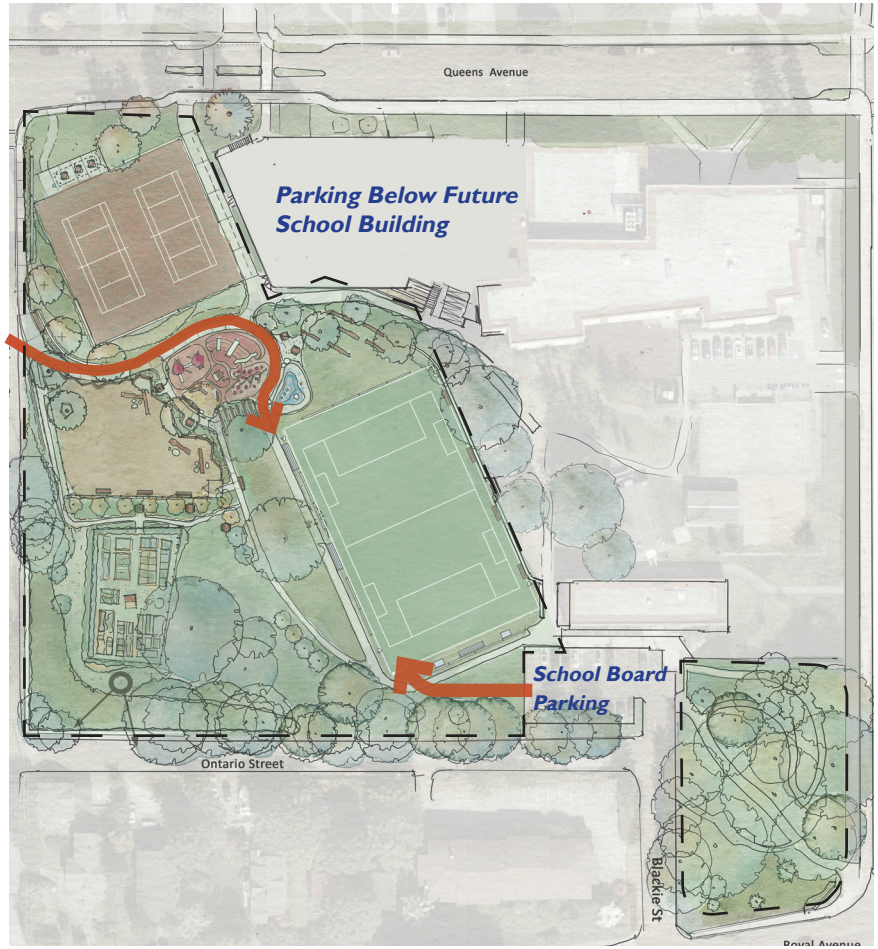
Vehicular Access and Parking

While this park is located within a walkable, bike-friendly multifamily neighborhood, we recognize that some visitor, particularly field and court users, will arrive by vehicle.
Currently, there is no dedicated parking for park users at either park site, and visitors must rely on surrounding street parking. To address this, the City and School District No. 40 will be working toward a future joint-use agreement, which may include utilizing school site parking for park users after school hours and on weekends. Additionally, to support active transportation, dedicated bicycle parking will be accommodated along the perimeter of the park.

Park maintenance vehicle access will be accommodated as shown in Map 19. Outdoor bike parking will be integrated into the park as amenities are developed.

Park Signage, Wayfinding and Commemoration

Park Signage, Wayfinding and Commemoration
Clear, plain-language signage will play a vital role in establishing a distinct identity at all primary park entry points and guiding visitors moving between Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park. Park signage may be supplemented by curated interpretive signage or public art, to celebrate and commemorate the unique natural or cultural history of both park sites.



Map 20. Master Plan: Service Vehicle Access and Parking

Recommendations & Implementation



6.0 Recommendations & Implementation

6.1 Overview

This section lists the range of capital project as well as operational and management recommendations to implement the Master Plan vision over time. The strategy balances upfront capital investments with long-term asset management considerations to ensure both parks remain resilient and high-performing to meet the growing community needs.

The Table 6: Recommendations lists all proposed recommendations, organized in four categories: Amenities, Circulation, Natural Features, and Operations and Maintenance. Each recommendation includes a project title, scope, high-level description with main considerations, anticipated timeframe, and preliminary capital cost allowance (in 2026 dollars).\

Timeframe

The recommendations include a proposed implementation time frame, to be confirmed as capital work plans are developed. Each timeframe is defines as the following ranges:

Ongoing

Short (1-3years)

Medium (4-6 years)

Long (7-10 years)

Cost Allowance

To help guide capital and operational budget allocation, a preliminary cost allowance range is defined for each recommendation. More detailed cost estimates will be developed as projects are initiated and implemented.

$= less than $100,000

$$= $100,000 to $500,000

$$$= 500,000 to $1.5M

$$$$$= over $1.5M

Alignment with People Parks and Play

Table 6 also identifies the city-wide strategic goal or objective from the People, Parks and Play Plan that it aligns with.

6.2 Funding Framework

Implementing the Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park Master Plan will rely on a number of internal and external funding sources over a 10-year horizon. The City will leverage both internal funding mechanisms and external partnership opportunities to ensure financial sustainability.

Internal Funding

Funding requests will be brought to Council for consideration as part of the Annual and Five-Year Financial Plan processes. This will consider a number of internal funding mechanisms that may include municipal property taxes, available reserve funds, Development Cost Charges (DCCs) and Amenity Cost Charges (ACCs).

External Funding

A variety of external funding sources will be explored to implement this plan, including:

- **Grant opportunities:** Some external funding is possible through provincial and federal government investment and other external grant opportunities. Potential grant opportunities will be actively pursued and potential funding sources are monitored and reported on a regular basis.
- **Community organizations:** Groups who have particular interest in some of the recommended capital projects may be effective at fundraising. These groups also often have access to grants and funding sources that are not available to municipal governments.

6.3 Recommendations

Table 6 Recommendations

No.	Recommendation	Scope	Related Strategic Goal / Objective	Description	Time-frame	Capital Cost Allowance (preliminary)
Amenities						
1	Condition Assessmnent of Walls	Assessment + Planning/ Implementation	Objective 8.1: Manage park and recreation assets	Conduct a condition assessment by a qualified Engineer of the existing retaining walls in the parks. Include: stone wall along Ontario and McInness Streets; concrete wall at the tennis courts. Exclude: walls on School District 40-owned land. Maintain, remediate or rebuild walls as indicated in the Condition Assessment.	Short	$
2	Redevelop Tennis courts	Design + Construction	Objective 2.2: Enhance capacity and resources to support community well-being and inclusion programs.	After completion of new school construction, the existing tennis courts will be redeveloped as two (2) multi-sport courts for tennis and pickleball within a modified footprint, including pickleball lines, concrete practice wall, and fencing. Also include: transition area with seating, drinking fountain and misting station. A shade structure in the transition area to be explored in consideration of cost and maintenance implications.	Medium	$$
3	Build Active Heart Play Area	Engagement, Design + Construction	Objective 2.2: Enhance capacity and resources to support community well-being and inclusion programs.	Design and implement the Active Heart with accessible play features and universal access as key principles. The Active Heart to include: - playground for 2-5 and 5-12 age range - water play for children - optional cooling opportunities (misting station) - benches, tiered landscape seating, picnic tables - shade through tree planting or a built structure	Medium	$$$
4	Relocate dog off-leash area	Engagement, Design + Construction:	Objective 2.2: Enhance capacity and resources to support community well-being and inclusion programs.	Relocate the dog off leash area with no net loss of current space. The new off-leash area to include: improved drainage and surfacing; dog amenities such as agility features and drinking fountain; high quality fencing. Refer to People, Parks and Pups.	Medium	$

No.	Recommendation	Scope	Related Strategic Goal/ Objective	Description	Time-frame	Capital Cost Allowance (preliminary)
Amenities						
5	Redevelop sports field	Engagement, Design + Construc-tion:	Objective 2.2: Enhance capacity and resources to support community well-being and inclusion programs.	Redevelop the existing sports field to maximize size (U-11 soccer minimum) and provide resilient, year-round surfacing. In consideration of operational and maintenance considerations, explore available artificial turf technologies for cost effectiveness and to meet year-round use. Include ball control fencing. Field lighting may be included in consideration of cost, impacts to neighbours, costs, available electrical capacity, and operational requirements.	Medium	$$$$
6	Washroom Upgrades	Planning + Design	Objective 2.2: Enhance capacity and resources to support community well-being and inclusion pro-grams.	Improve prominence of washrooms in the park through wayfinding and identification signage. Develop a new operations plan in coordination with the School District operations group. Engage with Rick Hansen Foundation for ac-cessibility audit to inform accessibility improve-ments.	Short	$
7	Install new community Garden	Design + Construc-tion:	Objective 2.2: Enhance capacity and resources to support community well-being and inclusion pro-grams. Objective 9.1: Strengthen existing and foster new partnerships and relationships with community groups and organizations.	Design and install a community garden in Toronto Place Park in collaboration with the New Westminster Community Garden Society. Remove existing toddler swings to accommo-date new garden location; garden beds to be terraced into the slope; universally accessible paths and garden beds; and 20-30 year succession plan to allow garden to evolve into a food forest as the existing trees in Toronto Place Park grow to maturity	Me-dium/ Long	$

No.	Recommendation	Scope	Related Strategic Goal/ Objective	Description	Time-frame	Capital Cost Allowance (preliminary)
8	Interpretive Signage	Design + Construction:	Objective 1.2: Weave Indigenous knowledge and culture throughout parks and recreation spaces and services, in partnership with First Nations and other Indigenous Peoples.	Develop interpretive signage to commemorate the history of the Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park, highlighting Indigenous stories.	Short	$
Circulation						
9	Toronto Place Park Pedestrian Circulation and Accessibility Improvements	Design + Construction:	Objective 2.1: Identify and reduce barriers to equitable access. Objective 5.3: Enhance user experience and wayfinding.	Design and install pedestrian circulation and accessibility improvements in Toronto Place Park, including: - universal access at the two Ash Street entries - provide a safe, comfortable, universally-accessible north south connection through Toronto Place park (e.g. along the street edge or in the park interior) - explore feasibility of providing universal access along the Eight Street or Royal Avenue park edgeds - repave/widen the interior path network, and - provide universal access to new amenities. Include features along the pedestrian paths: seating and viewpoints; playful features for children	Medium	$$

No.	Recommendation	Scope	Related Strategic Goal/ Objective	Description	Time-frame	Capital Cost Allowance (preliminary)
10	Simcoe Park Pedestrian Circulation and Accessibility Improvements	Design + Construtrion:	Objective 2.1: Identify and reduce barriers to equitable access. Objective 5.3: Enhance user experience and wayfinding.	Design and install new pedestrian circulation pathways to provide universal access to park amenities (sports field, washroom, Active Heart, community garden, dog off-leash area, and sport courts). Complete gaps in safe pedestrian connections to City sidewalks, e.g. along McInness Street. Include the following features along the pedestrian paths: seating; drinking fountains and/or cooling opportunitites; and formalized viewpoint with seating at the corner of Ontario Street and McInnes.	Medium	$$
11	Simcoe Park Pocket Forest Pedestrian Circulation and Accessibility Improvements	Design + Construtrion:	Objective 2.1: Identify and reduce barriers to equitable access. Objective 5.3: Enhance user experience and wayfinding.	Repave the pedestrian paths in the Simcoe Park Pocket Forest. Provide additional seating opportunities. Engage with project arborist to ensure low impact to existing mature trees. Pending cost and impact on trees, consider installing lighting.	Medium	$
12	Active Transportation Network Implementation	Design + Construtrion:	Goal 5 Connectivity: Strengthen multi-modal connections to and within the parks and recreation system. Objective 2.1: Identify and reduce barriers to equitable access.	Implement Active Transportation Network multi-use path. Routing to be determined after new school construction is completed. Include consideration to: reduce speeds; minimize impact on existing amenities; and provide lighting (pending cost and impacts).	Medium	$$$

No.	Recommendation	Scope	Related Strategic Goal/ Objective	Description	Time-frame	Capital Cost Allowance (preliminary)
13	Wayfinding Strategy and Park Signage	Design + Construction:	Objective 5.3: Enhance user experence and wayfinding	Develop a wayfinding strategy, including signage design, for Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park, to be installed as the path network is redeveloped to improve wayfinding and establish park identity at currently un-signed entrances (e.g. Queen's Ave, McInness Street, Ash Street).	Short	$
14	Parking		Objective 2.1: Identify and reduce barriers to equitable access.	Enter into formal joint use agreement with SD40 to enable use of school district parking for park users outside of school hours.	Short	-
Natural Features						
15	Retain and grow the tree canopy	Planning + Implementation	Objective 3.2: Protect and enhance natural assets and natural areas.	Through design of new amenities, retain all healthy trees and plant new trees. Provide replacement planting for any trees removed due to condition.	Ongoing	$
16	Invasive species removals	Planning, Removals + Planting	Objective 3.2: Protect and enhance natural assets and natural areas.	Remove invasive species from Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park and replace with native/non-invasive planting. Locations to include: - blackberry onthe Ontario Street embank-ment - holly in Toronto Place Park	Short	$
17	Pollinator Planting		Objective 3.2: Protect and enhance natural assets and natural areas.	Plant pollinator species to replace lawn space and stabilize steep embankments in Toronto Place Park. Retain a sufficient amount of open lawn to support informal use during summer.	Medium	$

No.	Recommendation	Scope	Related Strategic Goal/ Objective	Description	Time-frame	Capital Cost Allowance (preliminary)
Operations and Maintenance Considerations						
18	Maintenance Access Planning	Planning + Implementation	Objective 8.3: Optimize parks and recreation facility operations	As the park path network is redeveloped and new amenities are built, ensure adequate maintenance access is provided to all amenities while ensuring that the path network in Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park prioritize human-scale and pedestrian comfort. Consult Public Works and Park Operations.	Ongoing	included with amenity improvements
19	Irrigation Upgrades	Design + Implementation	Objective 3.2: Protect and enhance natural assets and natural areas.	As new amenities are designed, upgrade the irrigation system in the planted areas.	Ongoing	included with amenity improvements



Conclusion

7.0 Conclusion

The Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park Master Plan delivers a long-term plan for climate resilience, universal accessibility, and livability in New Westminster. By synthesizing technical data, urban forestry expertise, and multi-modal transportation strategies with direct community input, the plan offers a flexible roadmap tailored to the unique topography and community value of each space.

As the neighborhood populations grow and nearby schools expand, maximizing the physical and social value of these limited green spaces is a priority. Through expanded public programming, a vibrant, multi-generational “Active Heart,” and the cultivation of urban agriculture, these parks intend to serve the diverse needs of the community. Over the next decade, this phased framework will transform Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park into interconnected, inclusive spaces that support the health, well-being, and social connection of neighbors, families, students, and visitors for generations to come.





Appendices

8.0 Appendices

Appendix A: Be Heard Report - Summary of Public Engagement Results

Appendix B: Illustrative Master Plan - Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park



Appendix A
What We Heard Report

New Westminster

Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park Master Plan

What We Heard Report June 2026



beheardnewwest.ca/simcoe-toronto-place-park

Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park Master Plan

New Westminster
511 Royal Avenue
New Westminster BC V3L 1H9
604 521 3711 | info@newwestcity.ca

What We Heard Report
June 2026

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2. Engagement Process 2
3. What We Heard 6
4 About Be Heard Participants 46
5 Next Steps 50

1 Introduction

The Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park Master Plan will establish the long-term vision for design, development, and management of the two parks. It will guide the Parks and Recreation Department over the next 10+ years on park improvements, future amenities, and long-term management, ensuring that any changes are intentional, sustainable, and reflective of the community's needs.

Engaging with the public and user groups to understand community needs, desired uses, and preferences for future amenities is a key element of this process. Community input was sought to shape the following:

- **Validating the Guiding Principles** - Confirming that the vision for these parks aligns with community values.
- **Identifying Park Amenity Preferences** – Guiding improvements and prioritizing additional amenities to replace those that are coming to the end of their service life.
- **Refining Park Layout and Character** – Arranging active amenities (such as play, sports, gardening, and social areas) around the core of the park ("Active Heart") and ensuring the park is designed to feel welcoming
- **Informing Future Programming** – Hearing ideas on the types of programs and activities the community would like to see in these park spaces.

2 Engagement Process

Community engagement for the Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park Master Plan launched on Be Heard New West on March 23, 2026 and concluded on April 14, 2026. A total of 1755 people visited the Be Heard New West project page.

Additionally, direct consultation with interest-holders, including park user groups, took place from February 20, 2026 to April 22, 2026.

A full list of the community and interest-holder engagement methods and their objectives is provided in the table below.

Method	Target audience	Engagement Objectives	# of Events	Total Participants
Online Survey (Be Heard New West)	Broader public	Learn about residents' use of the parks and receive feedback on proposed changes.	-	208
Online Ideas Board (Be Heard New West)	Broader public	Receive community ideas for how to improve the parks.	-	50
Pop-ups (in-person)	Broader public	Inform about the project, work done to date, and online engagement opportunities. Learn about the use of the parks and receive feedback on proposed changes.	4	195
Interest-holder workshops (virtual and in-person meetings)	• New Westminster Community Garden Society • Sports Group Organizations	Inform and receive feedback from interest holders on potential impacts and opportunities.	4	22

	• Accessibility Advisory Committee			

The complete list of specific engagement events, in-person and online, is provided below.

Event	Date	Location	Total Participants
Meeting with New Westminster Community Garden Society	February 20, 2026 1:00 pm	Virtual (Zoom)	4
Meeting with local sports organizations	March 5, 2026 6:30pm	City Hall, 511 Royal Avenue	6
Meeting with New Westminster Community Garden Society	March 11, 2026 9:00 am	Virtual (Zoom)	3
Engagement Pop-up	March 25, 2026 3:00 – 6:00 pm	təməsewtxʷ Aquatic and Community Centre, 65 E Sixth Avenue	57
Engagement Pop-up in the park	March 28, 2026 11:00 am – 1:00 pm	Simcoe Park, 125 McInnes Street	31
Engagement Pop-up	April 1, 2026 4:00 – 7:00 pm	təməsewtxʷ Aquatic and Community Centre, 65 E Sixth Avenue	76
Engagement Pop-up in the park	April 9, 2026 3:00 – 5:30 pm	Simcoe Park, 125 McInnes Street	31
Meeting of the New Westminster Accessibility Advisory Committee	April 22, 2026 5:30 pm	City Hall, 511 Royal Avenue	22

Engagement promotion included channels such as the Be Heard newsletter, social media posts, direct emails to identified interest-holders and other methods such as local signage and notification letters. The list below identifies all promotion activities and dates.

Be Heard New West project webpage:

- Launched on March 23
- 1,755 unique visitors (individuals) as of April 14

Be Heard New West newsletter:

- March 23 (sent to 6002 subscribers)
- April 2 (sent to 6044 subscribers)
- April 13 (sent to 6108 subscribers)

Email to identified interest holders:

- Sent on March 24 and 25

Social media:

- Facebook post – March 23
- Instagram post – March 24
- Instagram/Facebook story – March 25, 27, 31, and April 6

Other communications material:

- Citypage newsletter – April 2 and April 9
- Facility monitors during the public engagement period (March 23 – April 14)
- 24" x 24" coroplast signs were installed in Simcoe Park (3 signs) and Toronto Place Park (2 signs) – March 24
- Notice letters hand-delivered to residences/businesses/organizations near Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park –March 24

"Keep as much green space as possible – natural play."







"Kids need places for free play as well as playgrounds."







"Love the active park & pedestrian-only paths within. My closest calls have been at night on the central path."

3 What We Heard

3.1 Be Heard Engagement

Community engagement on Be Heard New West launched on March 23, 2026 and closed on April 14, 2026. A total of 1755 people visited the Be Heard New West Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park Master Plan project page. A total of 208 community members participated in the online survey and 50 participated in the online ideas board.

Through engagement, the project team aimed to:

- Confirm community alignment with the proposed guiding principles;
- Understand current uses and levels of satisfaction with the two parks;
- Learn about the community's preferences for new, improved and redeveloped amenities: the new Active Heart, sport courts, and sports field.
- Gauge support for a new community garden in Toronto Place Park;
- Ask for preferences between feasible amenities to increase the use of Toronto Place Park; and
- Hear community ideas for changes to improve the two parks.

Important Note: this summary of engagement input does not reflect a representative sample of the New Westminster community. The input captured here reflects the views of those who self-selected to participate and may not be representative of the views of other community members and interest groups. Please see Section 4: About Be Heard Participants for some demographic information and representation analysis about people who participated in the engagement activities.

3.1.1 Ideas Board

A total of 65 people participated in the online ideas board through posting ideas, comments, or reactions. The ideas board received 40 unique ideas and 50 comments by the end of the engagement phase. 42 participants shared ideas to the question, "**In your opinion, what is a change that would improve Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park?"** Some topics shared through this tool included:

- active recreation amenities, including discussions about the field upgrades and preserving tennis courts,
- family-friendly amenities, including play spaces and preserving swing sets,
- environmental improvements through added and enhanced meadows, native species, pollinator gardens, and rain gardens,
- enhanced accessibility through installing more seating, accessible washrooms, ramp, etc., and
- protection and separation from traffic and the dog park area.

All ideas, as well as responses and reactions to each of the comments, are available to read here.

3.1.2 Online Survey

The online survey was available on Be Heard New West from March 23, 2026 through end of the day on April 14, 2026. A total of 208 community members participated. Questions were organized into the following sections:

1. Guiding principles for Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park Master Plan
2. Simcoe Park Today
3. Simcoe Park: Layout Options
4. Simcoe Park: Sports Court and Field
5. Toronto Place Park Today
6. Toronto Place Park Amenities

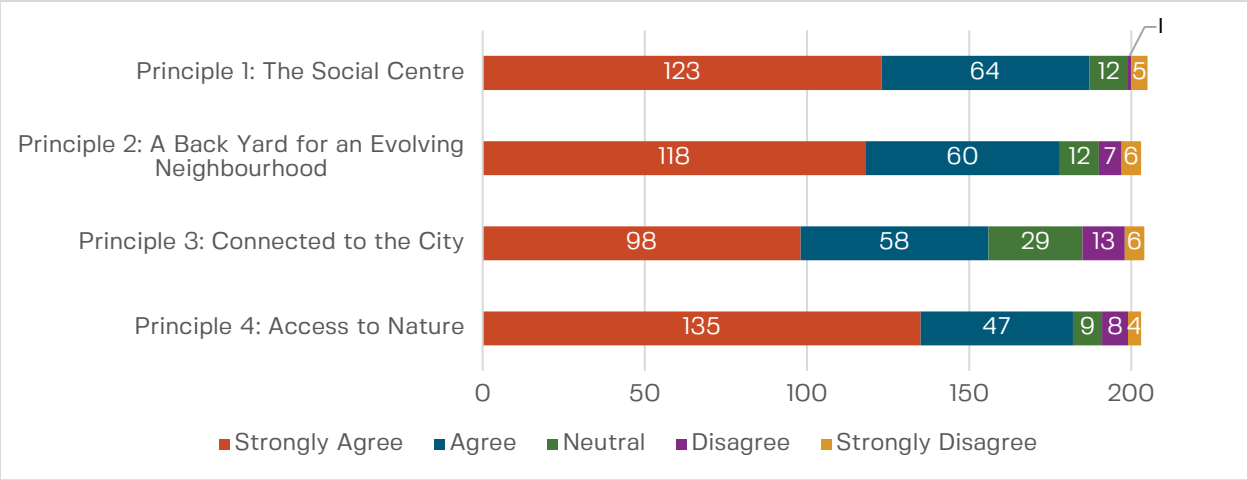
Below are the details from the online survey with the introduction text and questions, as read by participants, shown first. Each question is followed by a summary of the corresponding results.

Section 1: Guiding principles for Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park Master Plan

The following guiding principles were developed through an analysis of the City's strategic goals and an evaluation of the unique needs of this growing neighbourhood. They are proposed to serve as the foundation for the Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park Master Plan:

> **Principle 1: The Social Centre** – Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park will serve as a community social space in the neighbourhood, inclusive of people of all ages, abilities and identities.
>
> **Principle 2: A Back Yard for an Evolving Neighbourhood** – The parks will provide amenities that accommodate a diversity of uses that meet the needs of residents living in a high-density housing neighbourhood.
>
> **Principle 3: Connected to the City** – Access to and within the parks will be improved to create a seamless, safe, and universally accessible environment that connects park users to the broader city-wide transportation network.
>
> **Principle 4: Access to Nature** - The existing trees and natural elements in the parks will be protected and enhanced, providing access to cool, comfortable spaces, and improving resilience to climate change.

Q1. To what extent do you agree with each of the following principles as a guide for the Master Plan?



Principles	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neutral		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Total #
	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	
Principle 1: The Social Centre	60.0%	123	31.2%	64	5.9%	12	0.5%	1	2.4%	5	205
Principle 2: Backyard for Neighbourhood	58.1%	118	29.6%	60	5.9%	12	3.5%	7	3.0%	6	203
Principle 3: Connected to the City	48.0%	98	28.4%	58	14.2%	29	6.4%	13	2.9%	6	204
Principle 4: Access to Nature	66.5%	135	23.2%	47	4.4%	9	3.9%	8	2.0%	4	203

Q2. OPTIONAL: If you disagree or strongly disagree with any of the principles, please share why.

A total of 30 participants provided a response to this question. This question provided the opportunity to type in responses. Participants who did so generally provided answers that fit within the following theme areas:

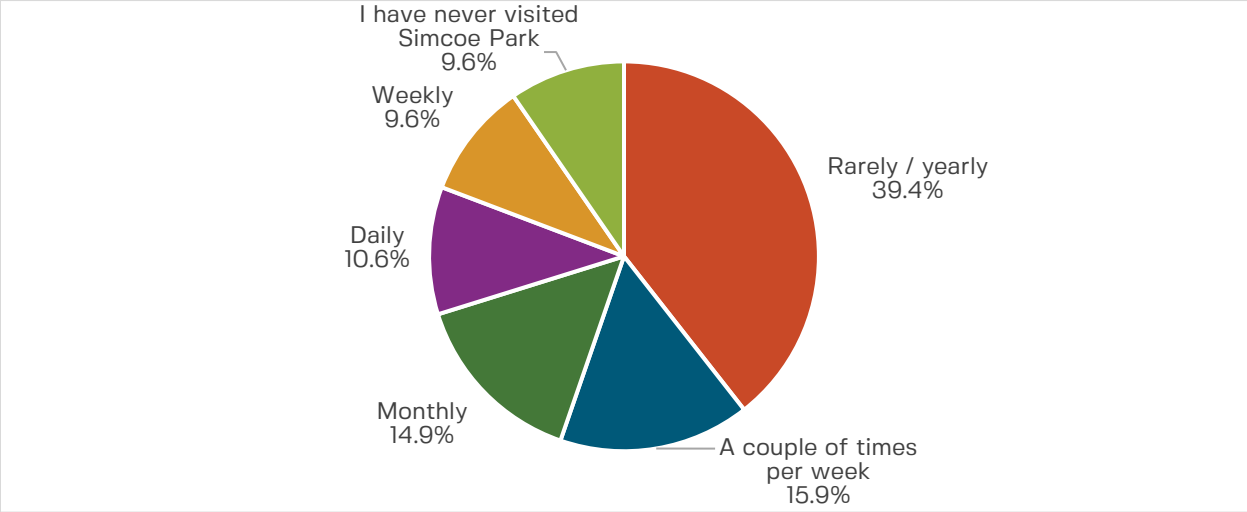
Theme	Number of Responses	Example Comment(s)
Concerns over implementation of the multi-use pathway within Simcoe Park	12	• "Please don't make these parks attractive for cyclists and e-scooter users to share a path with pedestrians." • "I don't feel that bike lanes should run through Simcoe. The space needs to prioritize the kids - middle school/elementary students as well as

		minor sport user groups/community members." • "I am concerned about encouraging an increase in traffic (people/bikes/etc.) through the park where children may be playing. I would prefer to see pedestrian and stroller/wheelchair access maintained but bikes be guided around the park." • "Removing and reducing green space to accommodate e-bikes and high speed scooters seems counter to number 4."
Financial concerns of the project	5	• "This should not be a priority for the City at this time, given cost of living for residents. Spending should be kept at a minimum." • "I think the Parks and Rec mandate is sufficient and having subservient policies, waste money and time." • "Don't waste our tax money."
The parks are too small to accommodate proposed changes	5	• "This park is too small for a 4m wide bike path that displaces existing facilities; removal of one tennis court in a part of the city with increasing population and few amenities; removal of portions of mature perimeter of garden." • "I agree with Principle 2; however, I don't think it's possible for these two small parks to provide the amenities needed for such a high density area." • "Do not put so many paths in place that would reduce actual amenities. It's a small park."
Suggestions for new considerations for the project	5	• "To accommodate to the needs of the neighbours, Have a stairs and disability ramp on bus stop going to Toronto Place. Install beautiful lights and create a beautiful garden with more trees. For Simcoe Park, add lawn bowling area and beautiful soccer field to accommodate the needs of growing population." • "Think the name change is in order, neither represent BC." • "I want to see principles of Reconciliation woven into any and all project visions, as the City has stated is a priority. You have a perfect opportunity to embed that as part of the community vision, incorporating

		ideas of respect for Nature, reciprocity, and community."
Concerns over safety	4	• "It's a very busy area of vehicle traffic with little protection for children suddenly running on to major streets." • "Please make both parks and the sidewalk up 8th feel safer at night." • "Facilitating through-traffic is just endangering pedestrians and worsening its livability."
Preference to preserve the parks as is	4	• "I'm opposed to the proposed changes to the neighborhood park. While I understand the intention to add more spaces and activities, I'm concerned that this will attract a larger number of people and ultimately change the current atmosphere of the park." • "re: A Back Yard, I don't think that every park should need to do everything. I've always seen Simcoe as a dog hotspot and tennis court, and if it's diversified too much that could get in the way of making it really good at those two things." • "Please leave Simcoe and Toronto Place Park as they are, no need to spend my tax dollars to do anything."
Other	1	• "Won't really know the answers until the changes are completed."

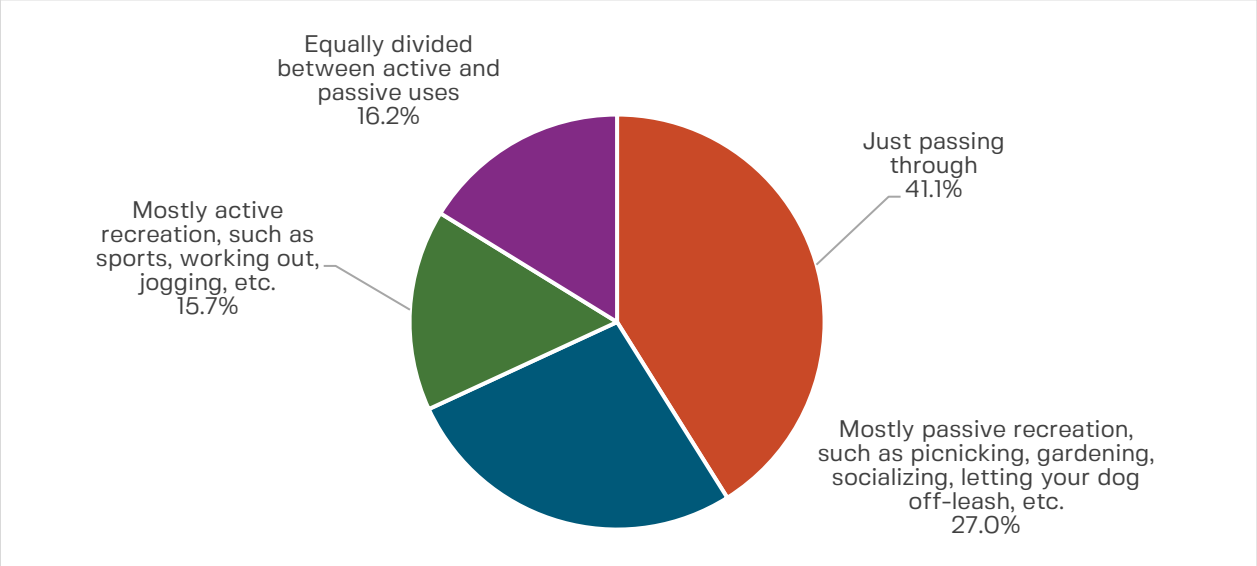
Section 2: Simcoe Park Today

Q3. How often do you or members of your household currently use Simcoe Park?



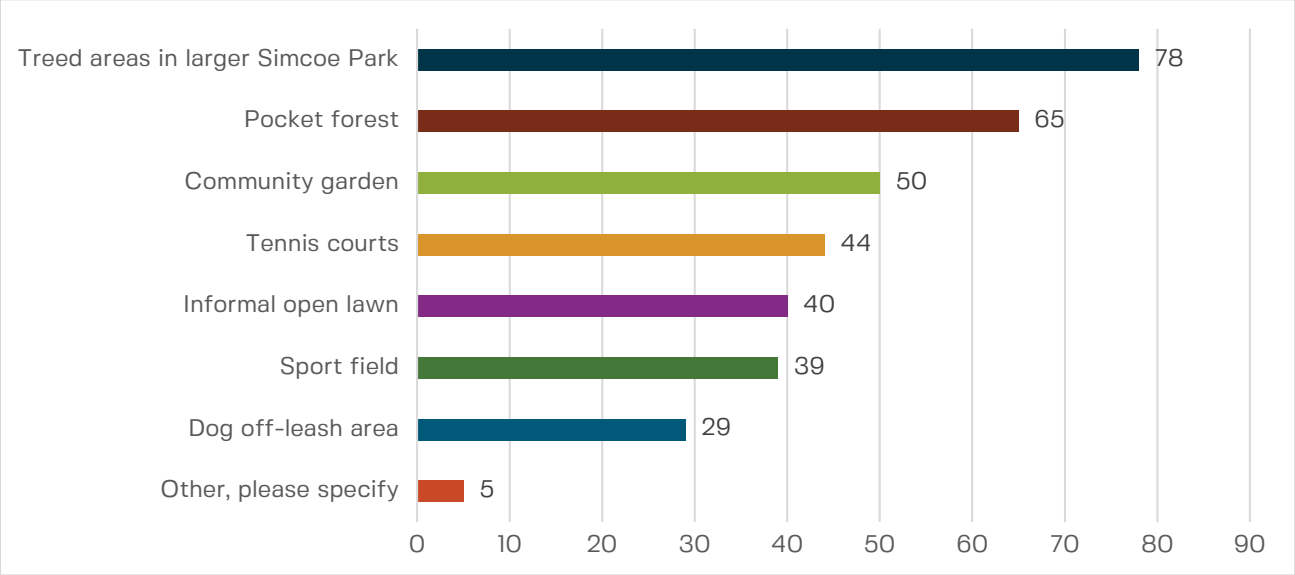
Frequency	Percentage	Count
Total Responses: 208		
Rarely / yearly	39.4%	82
A couple of times per week	15.9%	33
Monthly	14.9%	31
Daily	10.6%	22
Weekly	9.6%	20
I have never visited Simcoe Park	9.6%	20

Q4. How would you describe your current or recent use of Simcoe Park?



Usage	Percentage	Count
Total Responses: 185		
Just passing through	41.1%	76
Mostly passive recreation (picnicking, gardening, socializing, etc.)	27.0%	50
Equally divided between active and passive uses	16.2%	30
Mostly active recreation (sports, working out, jogging, etc.)	15.7%	29

Q5. What features or amenities do you value in Simcoe Park? Select up to two options.

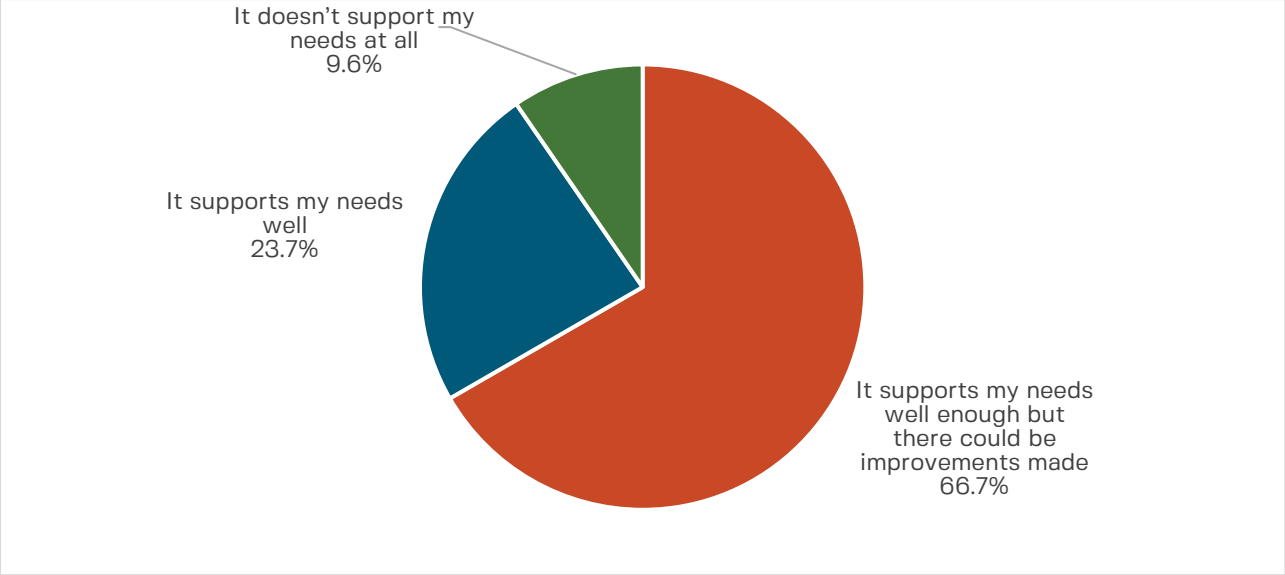


Amenity	Percentage	Count
Total Responses: 183		
Treed areas in larger Simcoe Park	42.4%	78
Pocket forest	35.3%	65
Community garden	27.2%	50
Tennis courts	23.9%	44
Informal open lawn	21.7%	40
Sport field	21.2%	39
Dog off-leash area	15.8%	29
Other, please specify	2.7%	5

A total of 5 participants responded to “Other, please specify”. Participants provided the following responses:

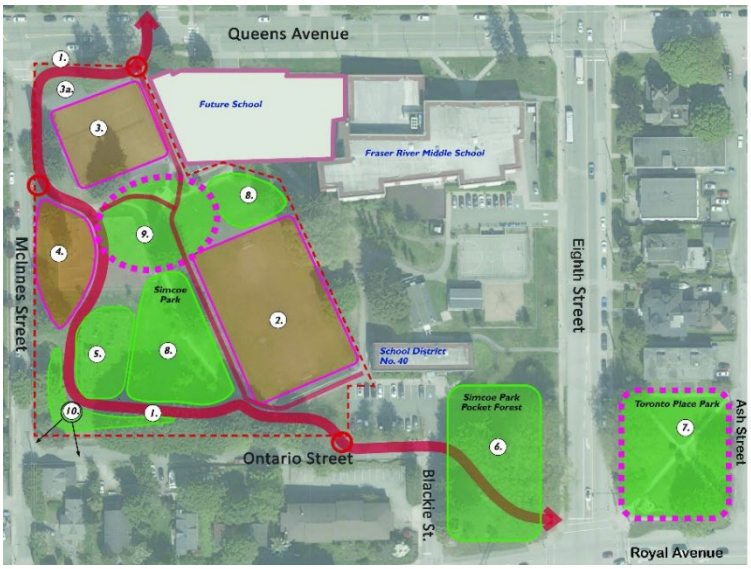
- “All of the above.”
- “First of all gardening isn't passive. It's active. I value both the garden and the rest of the greenspace in the park.”
- “Just leave the park along,.. do not spend time and my tax dollars on doing anything, allow free and easy access to open space.”
- “One of the few spaces within walking distance where you can see the night sky with less light pollution.”
- “Would like a playground for kids.”

Q6. When you think about the features and amenities at Simcoe Park, how well does the park support your needs overall?



Response	Percentage	Count
Total Responses: 156		
It supports my needs well enough but there could be improvements made	66.7%	104
It supports my needs well	23.7%	37
It doesn’t support my needs at all	9.6%	15

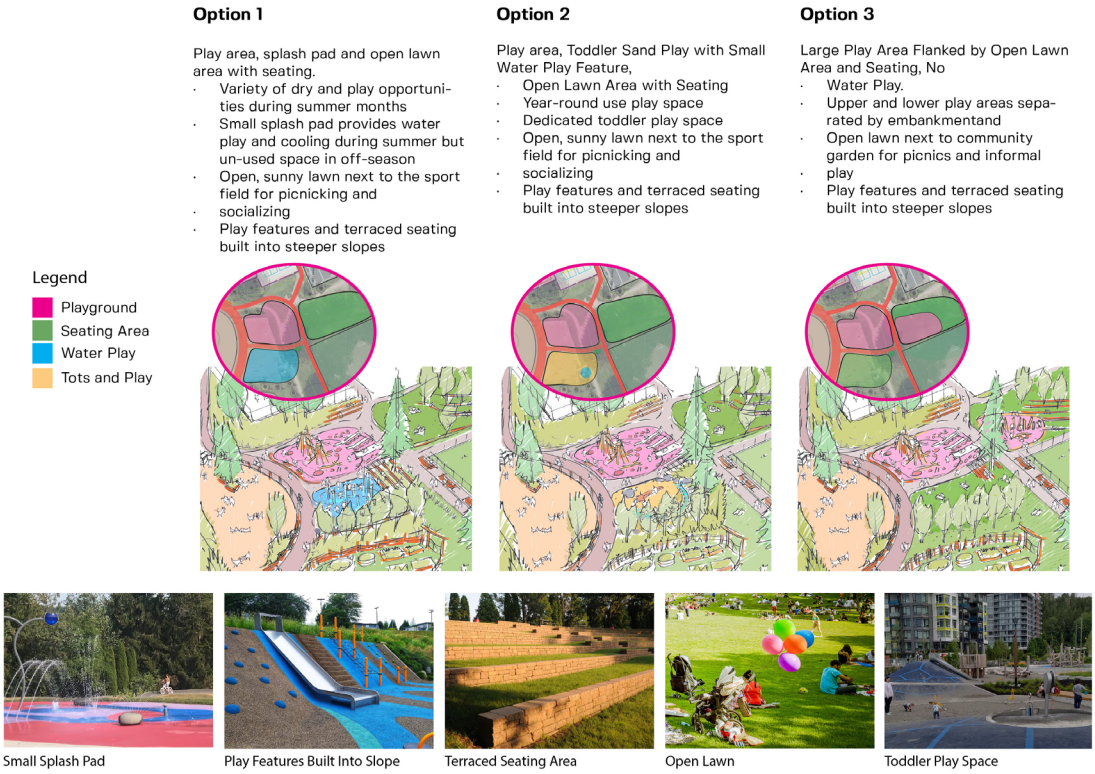
Section 3: Simcoe Park: Layout Options



1. Active Transportation Network Multi-use Pathway
2. Sports Field
3. Multi-Sport Court
3a. Sport Court Transition Area
4. Dog Off-leash Area
5. Community Garden
6. Pocket Forest
7. Toronto Place Park
8. Passive Open Green Area
9. Active Heart
10. Viewpoint

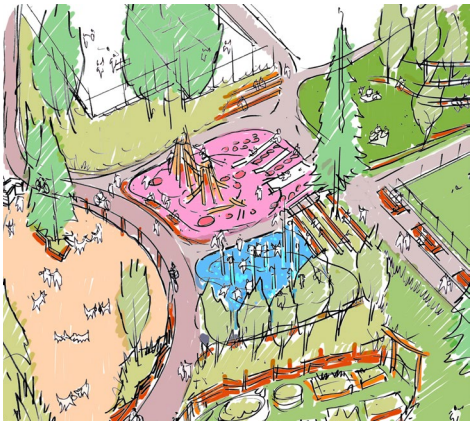
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This plan shows the proposed park layout. Options for specific amenities that we want your feedback on are outlined below.



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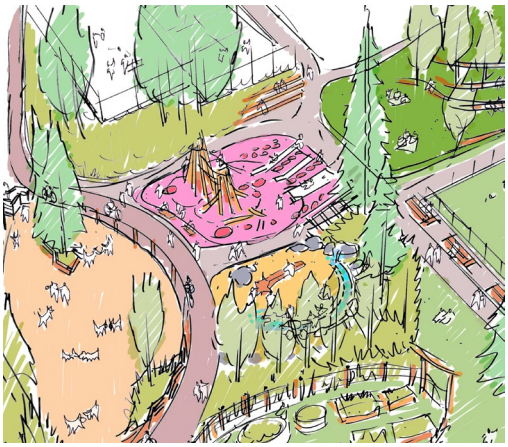
The Master Plan proposes that a central active play and social space be added to Simcoe Park, called the "Active Heart." Three conceptual options have been developed for the Active Heart:





Option 1: Play area, splash pad and open lawn area with seating

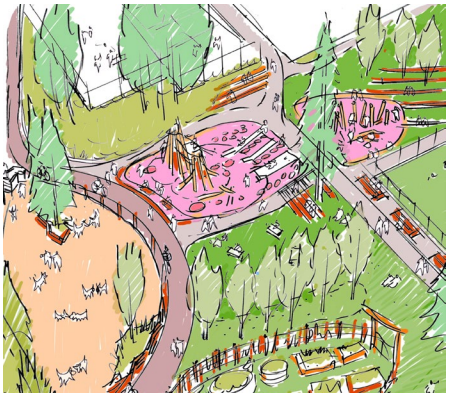
- Variety of dry and play opportunities during the summer months
- Small splash pad provides water play and cooling during summer, but unused space in the off-season
- Open, sunny lawn next to the sport field for picnicking and socializing Play features and terraced seating are built into steeper slopes





Option 2: Play area, toddler sand play with small water play feature, open lawn area with seating

- Year-round use of play space dedicated toddler play space
- Open, sunny lawn next to the sport field for picnicking and socializing Play features and terraced seating built into steeper slopes



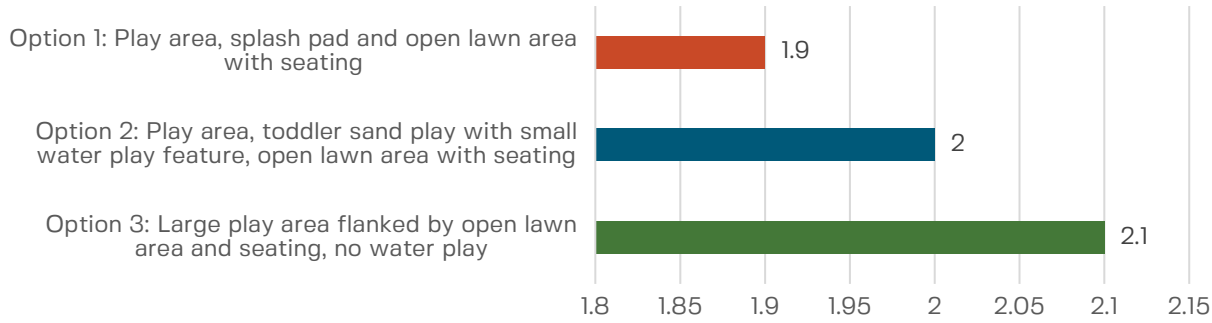


Option 3: Large play area flanked by open lawn area and seating, no water play

- Upper and lower play areas separated by embankment and
- Open lawn next to community garden for picnics and informal play. Play features and terraced seating are built into steeper slopes

Q7. Considering the tradeoffs and features of each option presented, which of the following do you prefer the most?

Please rank the three design concepts from most preferred (1) to least preferred (3).



Preferred Design Concept	Ranking Average (1 = most preferred)	Overall rank
Total Responses: 196		
Option 1: Play area, splash pad and open lawn area with seating	1.9	1
Option 2: Play area, toddler sand play with small water play feature, open lawn area with seating	2	2
Option 3: Large play area flanked by open lawn area and seating, no water play	2.1	3

Q8. OPTIONAL: Please share a bit more about why you selected your highest ranked option.

This question received a total of 130 responses. Below are the themes and examples of the responses provided. The results are grouped based on the participants' highest ranked option from the previous question. In some cases, one person's response may have included multiple themes.

Option 1: Play area, splash pad and open lawn area with seating

45 participants selected "Option 1" as their top ranked option in the previous question. The following themes and general comments emerged from the responses of the 45 participants who selected "Option 1".

Theme Area	Number of Responses	Example Comment(s)
Water play	26	• "Kids absolutely love water play and I'm ok with it being unused in the winter. Second option is ok too, but having the full splash pad is preferable to smaller one." • "I think kids can still use the open space of the water play area creatively in the winter." • "Water play would be a destination for families in the summer." • "I don't have kids but I like the splash pad options because adults can use them too." • "Water play area is important especially since the area at Pier Park hasn't been replaced." • "I think as summers become hotter, having a proper sized water feature will become more popular and impactful."
Cooling features	15	• "The weather has been increasingly hot during the summer. It's of the outmost importance to have a place nearby for the children to cool off. " • "Cooling areas for people in apartments will become increasingly important in the years ahead." • "It's really hot in the neighbourhood in the summer and there are no nearby cooling stations." • "I think if there is a way to build in some shade that would welcome, too."

		• “Having good options to play outside when the weather is nice and to cool down are key.”
Multi-age use and family friendly	13	• "Something for the senior." • "Access to multi age play spaces are important." • "As New West grows, young families will require more space for their children to play. Condo buildings do not allow for this options. Parents will require a park they can walk to that is close to their homes." • "Good for families and kids."
Greenspace and natural areas	6	• "Keeping more greenspace is important." • "As long as this option protects the pocket forest I believe this will best serve the local needs." • “I also think it's important to protect areas to rest and relax in the park because it's used a lot in the summer for that."
Opposition to sand play	5	• "Sand play is a terrible idea. It gets everywhere and will make the water play feature filthy." • "I don't like sand, and there is sand at Boomer Park already." • "The sand idea shounds like a bad idea who knows what could be left in the sand so I don't think it's safe."
Other	3	• "Seating is needed." • "I don't feel there's adequate room available for a truly inclusive play areas AND water play features." • "Don’t care. Just keep the dog park."

Option 2: Play area, toddler sand play with small water play feature, open lawn area with seating

36 participants selected “Option 2” as their highest ranked option in the previous question. The following themes and general comments emerged from the responses of the 36 participants who selected “Option 2”.

Theme Area	Number of Responses	Example Comment(s)
Toddler play space	16	• "There are not enough toddler play areas in New West." • "It provides a space for everyone especially younger families in New West with toddlers." • "I have 2 kids under 5, there are few toddlers geared park areas around." • "We [...] have always struggled to find somewhere to bring our young child to play outside, without having to drive. Simcoe doesn't offer much for kids this young, so we appreciate these options!" • “As a parent with no car, it will be easy if there is child park near me.”
Year-round use	13	• "Water play areas are used mostly 1/3 of the year during the summer months and not at all during the rest of the year, too much wasted space for a small park like that." • "The space would be more accessible year round and serve more needs." • "I think a small water play feature is a better use of space (less unused space in the long offseason)." • "Year round play area is what is most needed in our parks."
Smaller water play feature	7	• "Kids need some water play area but it won't be used year round so shouldn't take up a large space." • "I like that it has more water-play features, but being less dedicated to water makes the space better for all-weather use." • "More places for kids to play in the water in the warm months is a great way to increase usage of the park (and reduce demand on other water feature parks)."
Serves a wider range of children	6	• "In general prioritizing a play area for older and younger kids is a priority as currently long walks are required to access any playground in the Brow of the Hill area." • "It conforms with the slope and grade that the park sits upon while creating attractive and inviting play spaces for a wide range of children."

		• "I like the idea of having a playground and toddler play next to each other."
Other	5	• “It's a good mix of both extremes." • "I have concerns about a water park near the school and the damage it may endure in the off months." • “Option 2 preferred depending on budget.”

Option 3: Large play area flanked by open lawn area and seating, no water play

44 participants selected “Option 3” as their highest ranked option in the previous question. The following themes and general comments emerged from the responses of the 44 participants who selected “Option 3”.

Theme Area	Number of Responses	Example Comment(s)
Water play is too costly and inefficient	21	• "Water play is too seasonal for a space that needs maximum efficiency considering the size of the student population." • "Water features tend to break down more frequently, there's only about 10 - 12 weeks where they can be used." • "I think it's important that we don't have water play to conserve water usage and maximize year-round utility." • "Water play areas are expensive to maintain and unused in the winter." • "Moody Park is not that far away and cost of adding small and likely underused water park not worth the tax dollar spend." • “I do not think that a water play feature will see year round use, while the other options would maximize usage regardless of season.”
Keeps greenspace	13	• "Please keep the greenest option with the least modifications to natural surfaces." • "Would like to keep as much greenery as possible." • "Balanced with green space (for picnicking)." • "Keeping it green is essential."

Serves a wider range of ages	8	• "I would like to see all areas of the park be suitable for people of all ages to use." • "I want more general use areas that are accessible to all ages." • "Greater benefit to more people."
Covered seating and picnic areas	5	• "Some covered seating would be nice for use in winter." • "Like lots of seating and picnic areas (some covered)." • "Would love all-season seating and social places with a covered area (because it rains here a lot)."
Playground	5	• "Playground is most needed amenity for families. […] Willing to do to Queen's Park for water play, but need a play ground within walking distance." • "Having an actual playground feels more versatile than water play." • "I don't think we need a water play area, would rather see more focus on playground and sports amenities."
Other	5	• "To create a big space for sports field." • "Sandy areas are gross, cold and nearly always wet. Wild animals dig and poop in it, and it'll cost the time of a parks worker to thoroughly clean it each day." • "More pickleball courts would be nice."

Five participants responded to this question without ranking their preferred options in Question 7. Participants provided the following comments:

- "Please keep the park as natural as possible. The suggested options look more like a playground than open grass, trees, and gardens."
- "It is actually really hared to see the differences. Larger more detailed images of each are needed to properly assess what this would look like."
- "I'm not sure why any comprehensive changes are needed. There's a playground at the school. A water park? Really? Aren't we supposed to be conserving water?"
- "I didn't choose any option as this is really just an illusion of choice. The reality is that the garden is going to have parts of it destroyed. The dog park is going to be cut in half or even less. And…valuable greenspace is being taken away."
- "Don't over spend."

Q9. OPTIONAL: Are there any other features you would like to see in the "Active Heart" area of the park?

While we cannot implement all features due to resource constraints, some ideas that are feasible might be considered for future planning.

This question received a total of 86 responses. Below are the themes and examples of the responses provided. In some cases, one person's response may have included multiple themes.

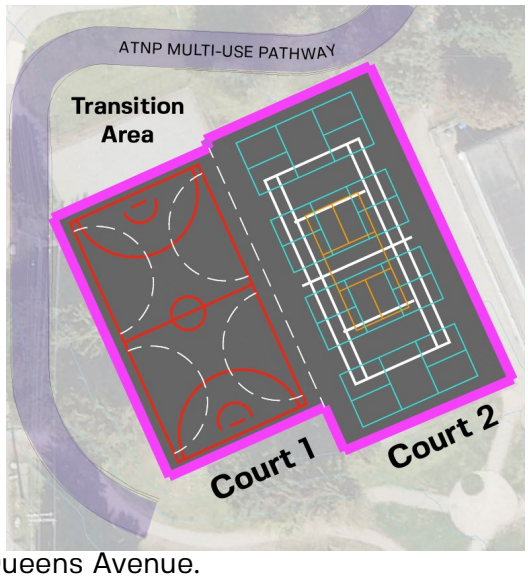
Theme	Number of Responses	Examples Comment(s)
Covered areas and shade	15	• "Preserve as much shade as possible and avoid materials that will absorb and retain heat." • "Maintain some areas of shade around the playground." • "As many shade trees as possible." • "A covered area, since it can get pretty rainy here." • "Something to provide shaded areas."
Playground features	14	• "Swings or monkey bars, or a rope climb/zipline feature would be nice." • "A nice inclusive playground." • "Games on the ground such as hopscotch, four square." • "Playboxes that the city refurbishes from time to time."
Additional seating	14	• "Benches for seniors to sit and watch the children." • "I would appreciate seeing some lounge or hammock features similar to those at Pier Park." • "The terraced seating is awesome!!" • "Variety of open seating such as continuous retaining walls, picnic tables, benches."
Features for different age groups	14	• "Somewhere flat for children to bike. Very hard to learn to bike with the hills and cars." • "Exercise area for seniors or general public." • "Diverse risky play opportunities for kids 0-12." • "More benches for adults."
Water features and cooling and hydration stations	10	• "Water fountain for drinking." • "Water avail all year round for dogs and people."

		• "Misting station." • "Water features at Sapperton Park are simple and effective."
Public washrooms	8	• "Washrooms that are locked at night." • "Improved washrooms." • "More public washrooms."
Tables for picnics and tabletop activities	7	• "Tables for picnics, and playing games. Ping pong table." • "Covered picnic tables." • "Ping pong or tabletop activity (chess, backgammon, etc)."
Sports field and courts	7	• "Covered lacrosse or ball hockey boxes would help alleviate the need for play space." • "More pickleball courts will be nice." • "Will there be tennis courts or some paved place to learn how to ride a bike?"
Dog area features	6	• "Fenced in Off leash area for friendly dogs." • "I'd LOVE to see clear signs for dog owners to keep their dogs off leash inside dog off leash area." • "A stationary water bowl for dogs."
Fitness areas and equipment	5	• "Some space for seniors to do morning exercise would be nice." • "Adult/teen exercise equipment." • "A physical fitness circuit that is accessible to all ages. Foreshore park is a good example."
Lighting	4	• "Put overhead lights at night for sports field." • "Lighting at night for commuting by foot! Include better lighting along 8th. Make it feel safer!" • "At least one (light pollution aware/wise) street light would make a huge difference to eves/nights."
Other	15	• "The garden is already the active heart of the park." • "Non toxic materials (see recent studies about astroturf)." • "Interactive and durable art (thinking of the piece that was installed on Front street by Old Crow)."

		• "Area for live performances or small outdoor movies." • "Anything that prevents park users from accidentally wandering onto the bike lanes."

Section 4: Simcoe Park: Sports Court and Field

With a growing population and limited space for multiple amenities, the tennis courts will be redeveloped at their current location into an accessible multi-use sports court to accommodate a variety of sports. The area will be reduced to accommodate the Active Transportation Network multi-use pathway, opening up space for a transition area

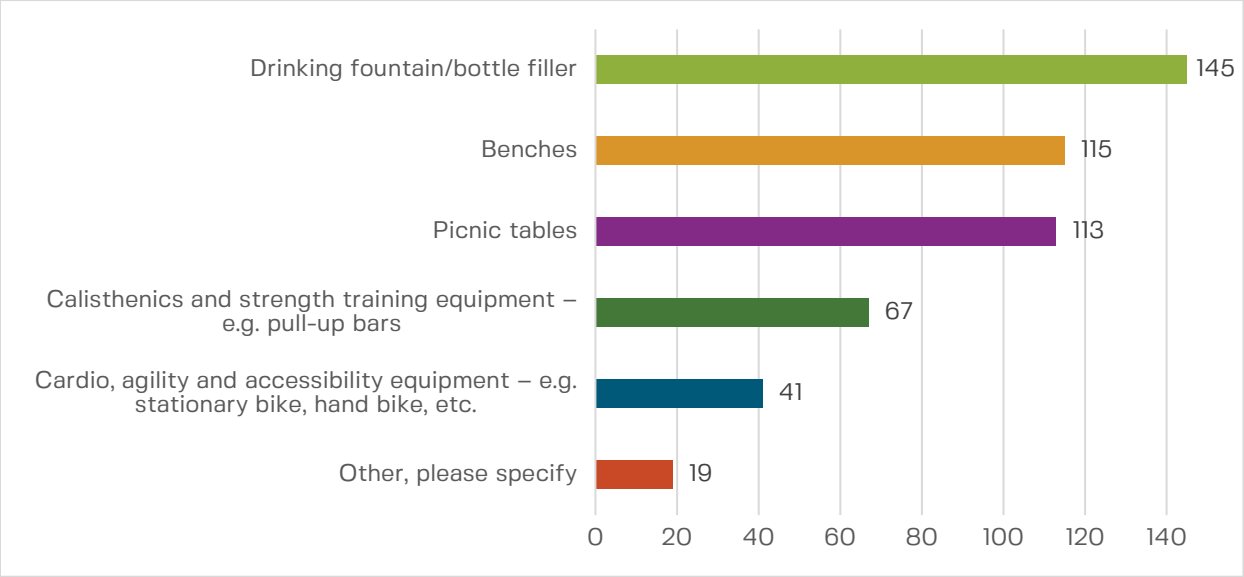


between the courts and Queens Avenue.

The future multi-sport courts will include the following:

- Court 1: 1 tennis/pickleball court and 4 pickleball courts (overlaid)
- Court 2: 1 basketball full-court with additional practice nets and 1 non-regulation size ball hockey court (overlaid)

Q10. Are there any other amenities you would like us to consider in the area between the sports court and the multi-use pathway? Please select up to three options.



Amenity	Percentage	Count
Total Responses: 500 responses from 201 participants		
Drinking fountain/bottle filler	72.1%	145
Benches	57.2%	115
Picnic tables	56.2%	113
Calisthenics and strength training equipment – e.g. pull-up bars	33.3%	67
Cardio, agility and accessibility equipment – e.g. stationary bike, hand bike, etc.	20.4%	41
Other, please specify	9.5%	19

A total of 19 participants responded to “Other, please specify”. Below are the themes and examples of the responses provided. In some cases, one person’s response may have included multiple themes.

Theme	Number of Responses	Example Comment(s)
Sport courts and boxes	7	• "Practice/single'dual-player walls for tennis/pickleball/handball." • "Covered Lacrosse box - this could be used for most of the other sports described too but we have nothing like this in the city." • "Volleyball court, hammocks.” • "2 full tennis/pickleball courts."
Non-court or box sports and activities	6	• "Disc golf hole or two would make for an interesting alternative structure for play."

		• "Children and seniors like mini golfing. Any consideration to have [...] a couple small putting lanes?" • "Bike/skateboard practice area." • "Concrete ping-pong table."
Public washrooms	3	• "Washrooms." • "Public toilets." • "Bathrooms."
Opposition and concerns over park changes	3	• "No one goes there... Don't waste the tax money." • "I'm worried this plan will diminish the natural beauty of Simcoe Park." • "The path should not go through Simcoe Park. It should remain outside the park."

Sport Field

The current grass soccer field is below regulation size and is closed every summer for repairs from heavy use. Due to its size and required maintenance, this field remains underutilized for much of the year. As the neighbourhood grows, the need for sports fields is expected to increase. The Master Plan proposes increasing the field size to Canada Soccer U11 or U12 regulation size (64m x 42m) to allow for more use.

Additionally, a resilient surface is required to keep the field open and in use year-round. A year-round resilient field surface could be:

- Gravel field
- Compacted sand field (e.g. former Canada Games Pool field)
- Artificial turf field (e.g. Queen's Park East Field)



1. Gravel field

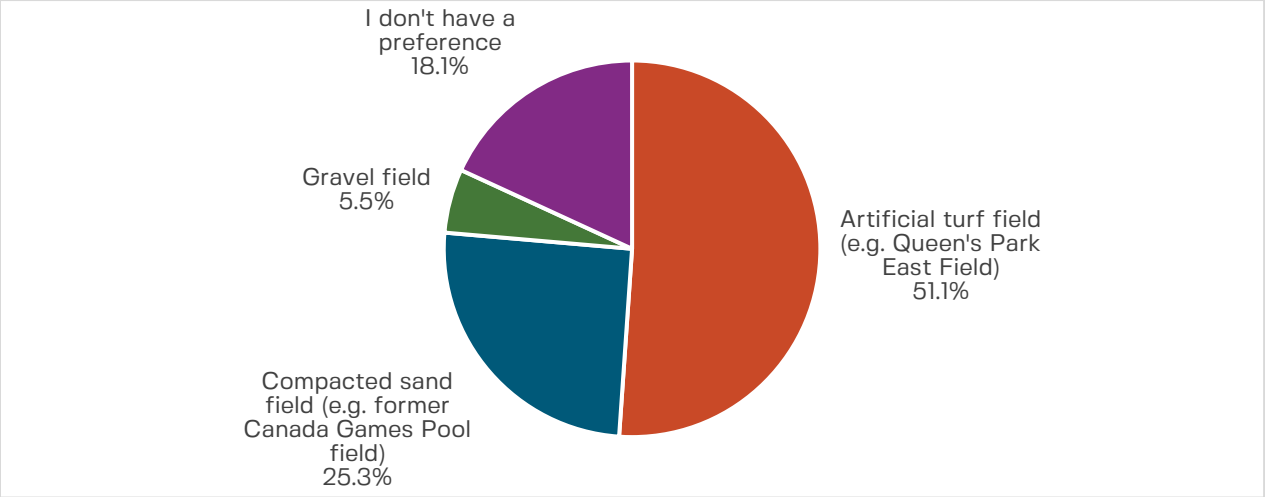


2. Compacted sand field (e.g. former Canada Games Pool field)



3. Artificial turf field (e.g. Queen's Park East Field)

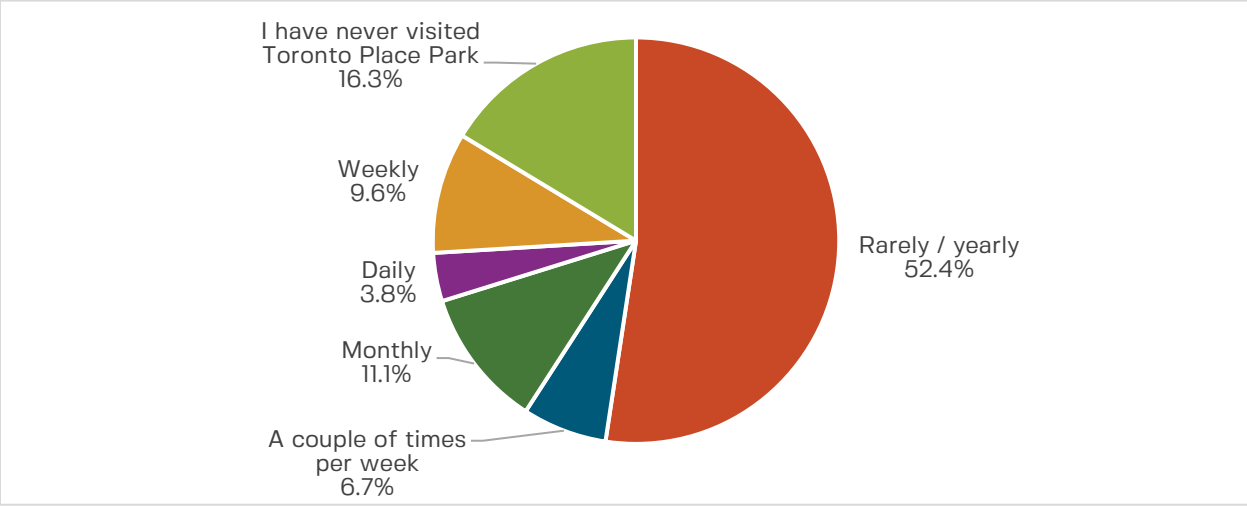
Q11. Which of the resilient field surfaces do you prefer?



Surface Option	Percentage	Count
Total Responses: 182		
Artificial turf field (e.g. Queen's Park East Field)	51.1%	93
Compacted sand field (e.g. former Canada Games Pool field)	25.3%	46
Gravel field	5.5%	10
I don't have a preference	18.1%	33

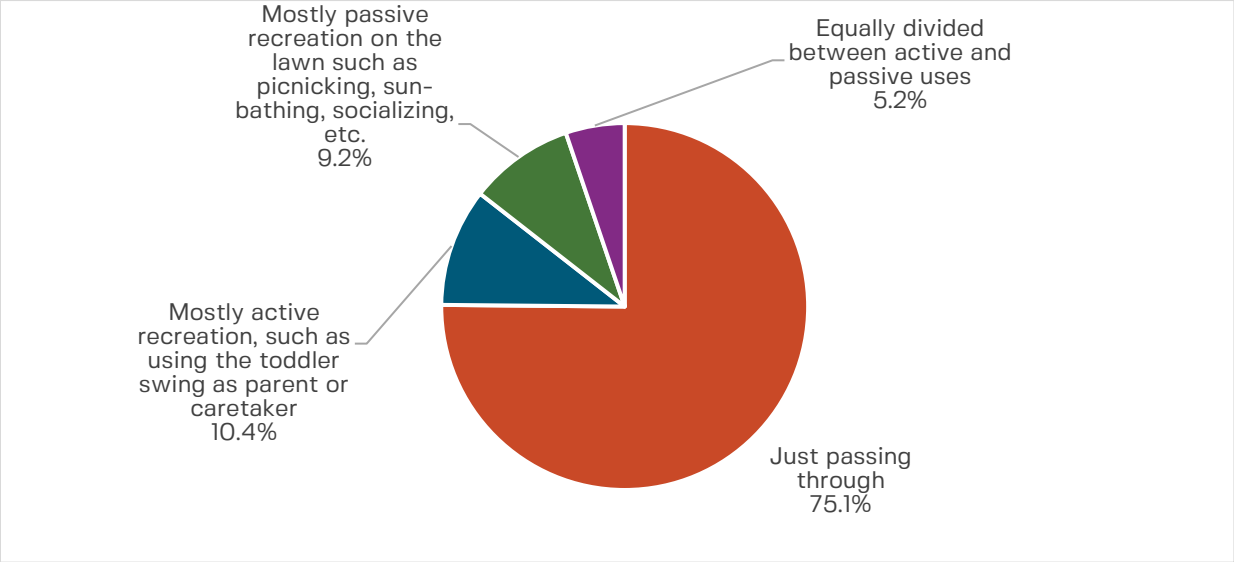
Section 5: Toronto Place Park Today

Q12. How often do you or members of your household currently visit Toronto Place Park?



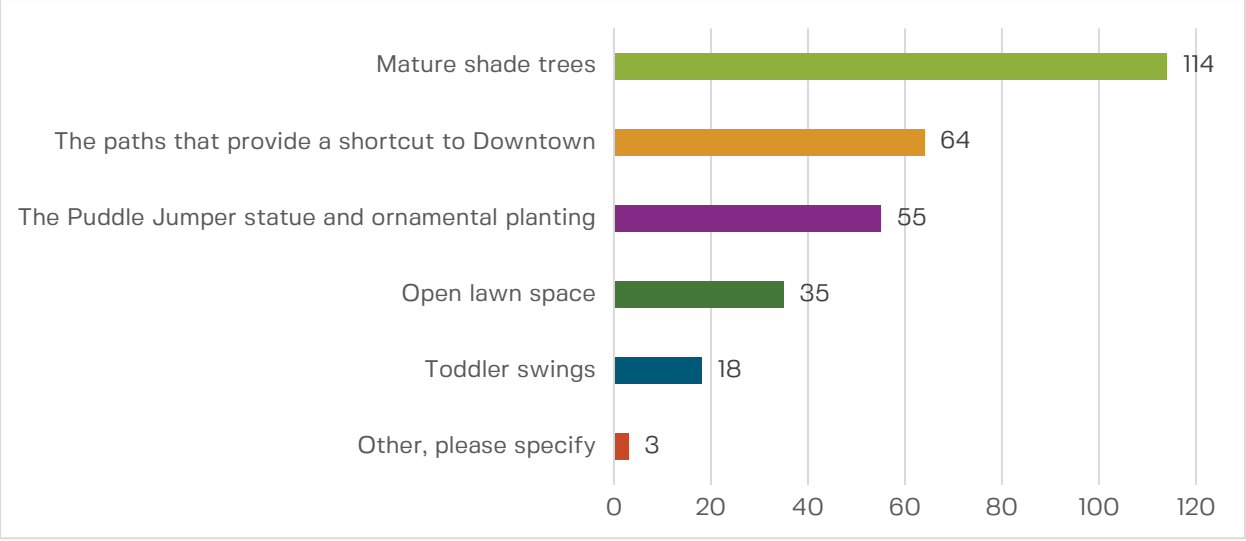
Frequency	Percentage	Count
Total Responses: 208		
Rarely / yearly	52.4%	109
I have never visited Toronto Place Park	16.3%	34
Monthly	11.1%	23
Weekly	9.6%	20
A couple of times per week	6.7%	14
Daily	3.8%	8

Q13. How would you describe your current or recent use of Toronto Place Park?



Usage	Percentage	Count
Total Responses: 173		
Just passing through	75.1%	130
Mostly active recreation, such as using the toddler swing as parent or caretaker	10.4%	18
Mostly passive recreation on the lawn such as picnicking, sun-bathing, socializing, etc.	9.2%	16
Equally divided between active and passive uses	5.2%	9

Q14. What features or amenities do you value in Toronto Place Park? Select up to two options.

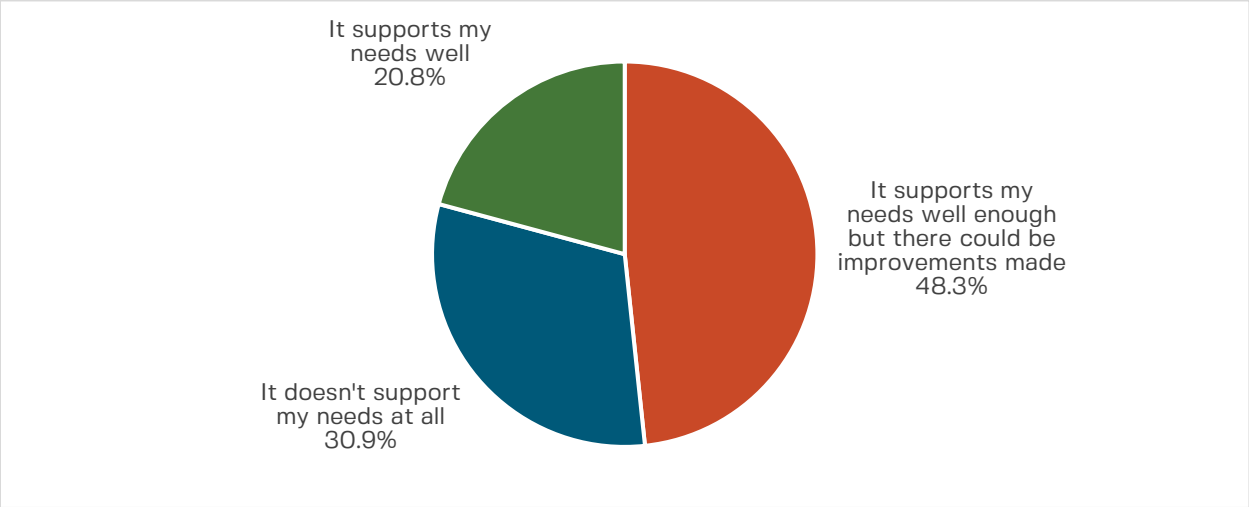


Amenity	Percentage	Count
Total Respondents: 168		
Mature shade trees	39.4%	114
The paths that provide a shortcut to Downtown	22.1%	64
The Puddle Jumper statue and ornamental planting	19.0%	55
Open lawn space	12.1%	35
Toddler swings	6.2%	18
Other, please specify	1.0%	3

A total of three participants responded to “Other, please specify”. Participants provided the following responses:

- “Neighbourhood viewpoint to watch fireworks in the harbour.”
- “None of it is of current value to our family.”
- “This park is not worth visiting.”

Q15. When you think about the features and amenities at Toronto Place Park, how well does the park support your needs overall?



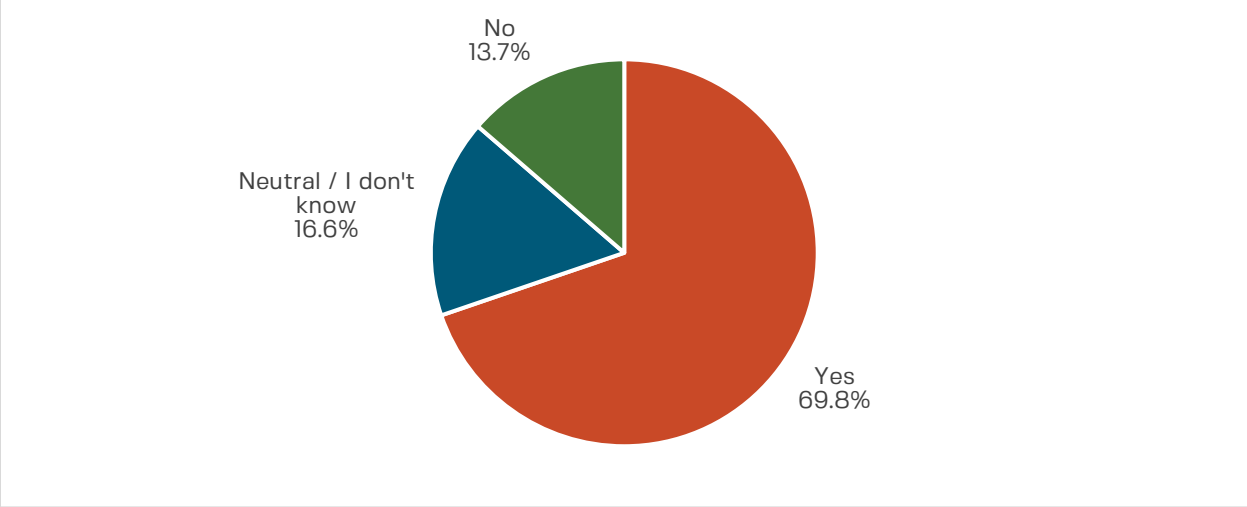
Response	Percentage	Count
Total Responses: 149		
It supports my needs well enough but there could be improvements made	48.3%	72
It doesn't support my needs at all	30.9%	46
It supports my needs well	20.8%	31

Section 6: Toronto Place Park Amenities

Toronto Place Park is currently underutilized, primarily due to its slope and proximity to traffic. The Master Plan will propose removing or relocating the swings in the park. Additionally, it will suggest features and amenities that could enhance the use of this space, better serving the neighbourhood.

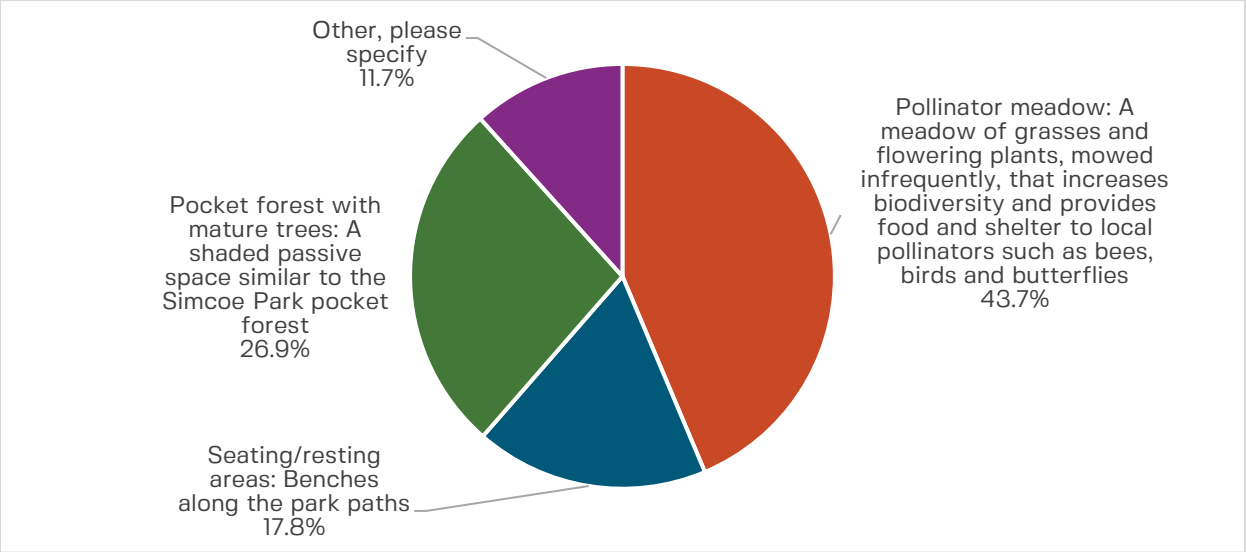
The existing, healthy trees in the park will be protected, which makes it difficult to create new flat areas required for many typical park amenities. A new community garden is one of the amenities possible within the constraints. It would take advantage of the consistent sun exposure and help meet the existing demand for community garden space in this dense area of the City.

Q16. Would you support adding a community garden at Toronto Place Park?



Response	Percentage	Count
Total Responses: 205		
Yes	69.8%	143
Neutral / I don't know	16.6%	34
No	13.7%	28

Q17. What other amenities do you think we should consider in Toronto Place Park? Select your top option.



Amenity	Percentage	Count
Total Responses: 197		
Pollinator meadow: A meadow of grasses and flowering plants, mowed infrequently, that increases biodiversity and provides food and shelter to local pollinators such as bees, birds and butterflies	43.7%	86
Seating/resting areas: Benches along the park paths	17.8%	53
Pocket forest with mature trees: A shaded passive space similar to the Simcoe Park pocket forest	26.9%	35
Other, please specify	11.7%	23

A total of 23 participants responded to “Other, please specify”. Below are the themes and examples of the responses provided. In some cases, one person’s response may have included multiple themes.

Theme	Number of Responses	Example Comment(s)
Play areas and features	5	• "This should be the toddler play area or large playground instead of Simcoe." • "Some form of active use beyond just the swings. Maybe work out related or play related." • "More small, easy, and weather-resistant spaces for kids to safely play!!"
Buffers that provide separation from busy adjacent roads	4	• "My main issue is the proximity to the load and busy Royal and 8th roads. Some way to reduce noise pollution,

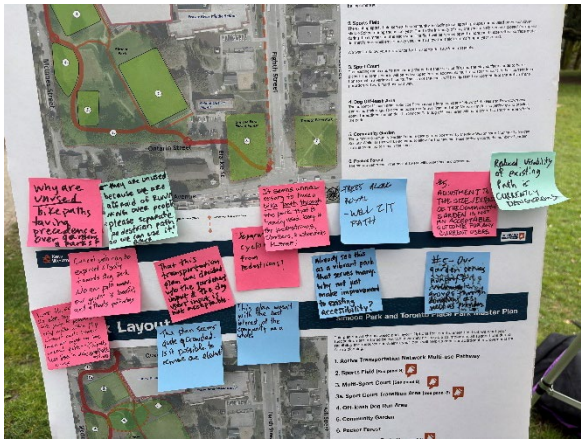
		and maybe a way to make the park feel a bit more separated from the road would be nice, while keeping it accessible and easy to traverse through." • "It needs benches and plantings that provide a sense of separation from Royal." • "A tree layer that cuts off some of the street noise on the Queens side."
Dog park	4	• "This is where the dog park should be. Simcoe should not have a dog park." • "Dog park; yes it is close to a busy street but so is the one at Moody." • "Dog park or community garden. It is totally underused as it is now."
Seating areas	4	• "Tables for residents to sit and enjoy playing games, or eating out." • "Seating/resting areas facing the harbour (fireworks)." • "Pocket forest with seating areas to escape the summer heat downtown."
Other	7	• "Toronto Place Park should offer different amenities to those available at Simcoe. What about installing a series of platforms that can display art created by local artists on a rotating basis for all or part of the year?" • "Public washrooms. There's literally nowhere to take your kids to the washroom." • "Manicured areas for pollinators."

3.2 In-Person Engagement

3.2.1 Pop-Up Engagements

To ensure a comprehensive understanding of community needs, the project team conducted a series of in-person "pop-up" engagement events held at təməsewtxʷ Aquatic and Community Centre and in Simcoe Park. These four sessions were designed to meet residents where they are and provide a low-barrier opportunity for the public to share feedback, ask questions, and engage directly with the planning team.





The pop-up schedule was designed to maximize reach of a variety of participants:

- **Active Park Users:** By hosting two sessions in Simcoe Park on both a weekend morning (March 28) and a weekday afternoon (April 9), the events captured weekend recreational users, and residents who may be associated with the school and dog owners during the post school/work transition time.
- **General Public:** Hosting two sessions at the təməsewtxʷ Aquatic and Community Centre during the late afternoon and early evening was intended specifically to engage a wider cross section of the public that may not typically currently visit the two parks.

Across all four pop-up events, 195 participants engaged with the pop-up activities.

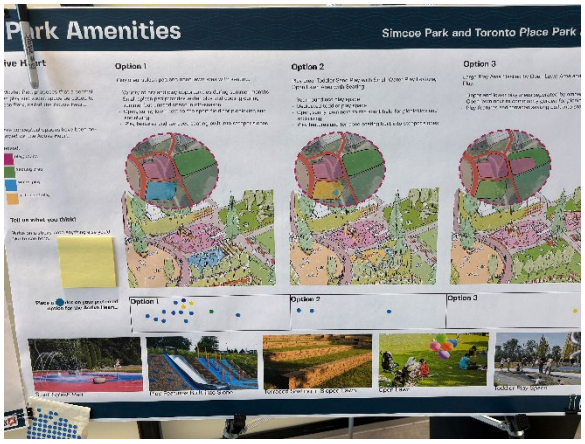
See Section 2: Engagement Process for the detailed pop-up schedule.

The in-person events were designed to mirror the structure of the online survey, ensuring a consistent data set across all platforms. Staff engaged directly with the community at the public pop-ups, answering questions and hearing their concerns and stories/knowledge about Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park. Feedback was provided in the following formats:

- Answering multiple choice questions with sticker-dots on specific park preferences,
- Writing ideas and thoughts on sticky notes, and
- Providing verbal feedback directly to staff.

The following sections outline the specific questions posed and the consolidated results gathered from these sessions.





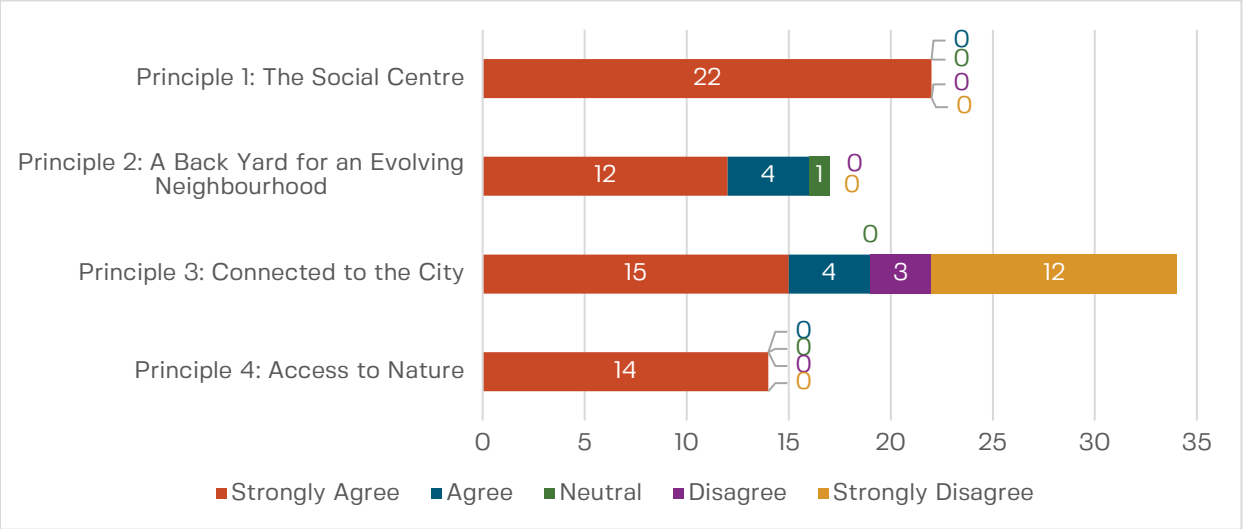
Click here to view a copy of the engagement boards.

Below are the details of the pop-up questions and combined responses from all four pop-up events.

Guiding Principles for Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park Master Plan

The following guiding principles were developed through an analysis of the City's strategic goals and an evaluation of the unique needs of this growing neighbourhood. They will serve as the foundation for the Master Plan.

Q1. To what extent do you agree with each of the following principles as a guide for the Master Plan?



Guiding Principle	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

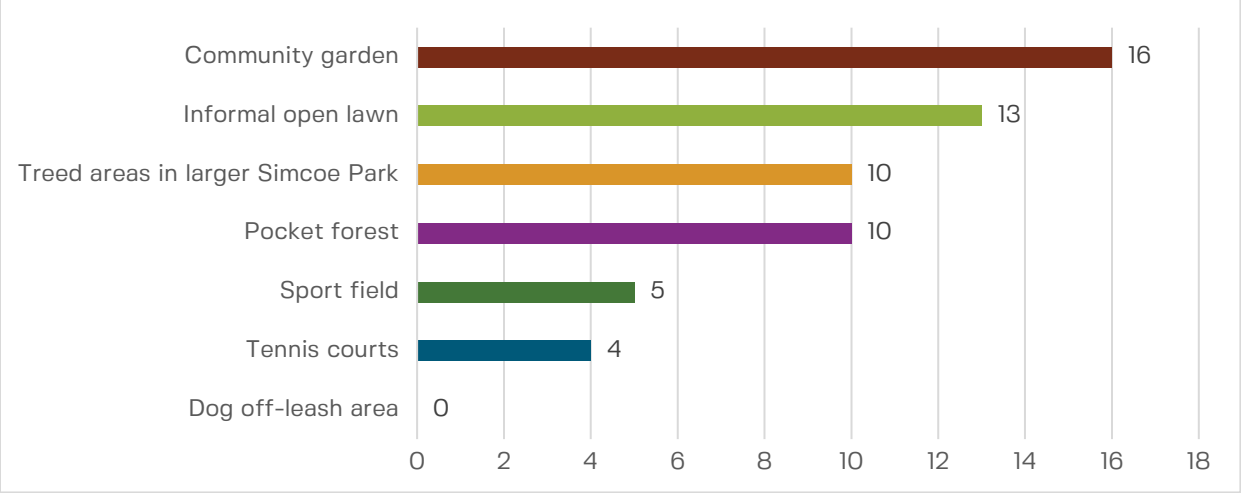
	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	%	#	%
Principle 1: The Social Centre	100.0%	22	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0
Principle 2: A Back Yard for an Evolving Neighbourhood	66.7%	12	26.7%	4	6.7%	1	0.0%	0	0.0%	0
Principle 3: Connected to the City	27.8%	15	16.7%	4	0.0%	0	11.1%	3	44.4%	12
Principle 4: Access to Nature	76.2%	14	0.0%	0	9.5%	0	0.0%	0	14.3%	0

Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park Today

Give us your input!

Use sticky notes to tell us about Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park. Post the notes anywhere on this board, or directly below if answering these question[s].

Q2. What features or amenities do you value in Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park?



Amenity	Percentage	Count
Total Responses: 58		
Community garden	27.6%	16
Informal open lawn	22.4%	13
Treed areas in larger Simcoe Park	17.2%	10
Pocket forest	17.2%	10
Sport field	8.6%	5
Tennis courts	6.9%	4
Dog off-leash area	0.0%	0

Q3. What change or changes do you think would improve Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park?

This question received a total of 42 responses. Below are the themes and examples of the responses provided. In some cases, one person's response may have included multiple themes.

Theme	Number of Responses	Examples Comment(s)
Suggestions for active amenities	15	• "Sport box for all [year]round play." • "Play boxes strategically placed." • "Field that is open year-round." • "Use of new lanes should be studied to make they are being used enough."
Improve safety of the parks	9	• "Make it fenced in so children can play safely (Toronto Place Park) and remove slope." • "It's hard to walk up Eighth (steep and shady dark). Too dark walking through pocket forest and up to Queens (feels dangerous) Need lighting." • "I walk thru daily & its very dark at night. Just 1-2 would make a difference." • "CONCERNS ABOUT E-SCOOTERS AND SAFETY."
Suggestions and concerns for dog off-leash area	9	• "Don't make the dog park smaller! Don't put tree trimmings in the dog park; this is not good for them." • "Have bigger rules signs in the dog park." • "Shade in the dog park is very important especially in summer. Rely on 2 trees now; need more."

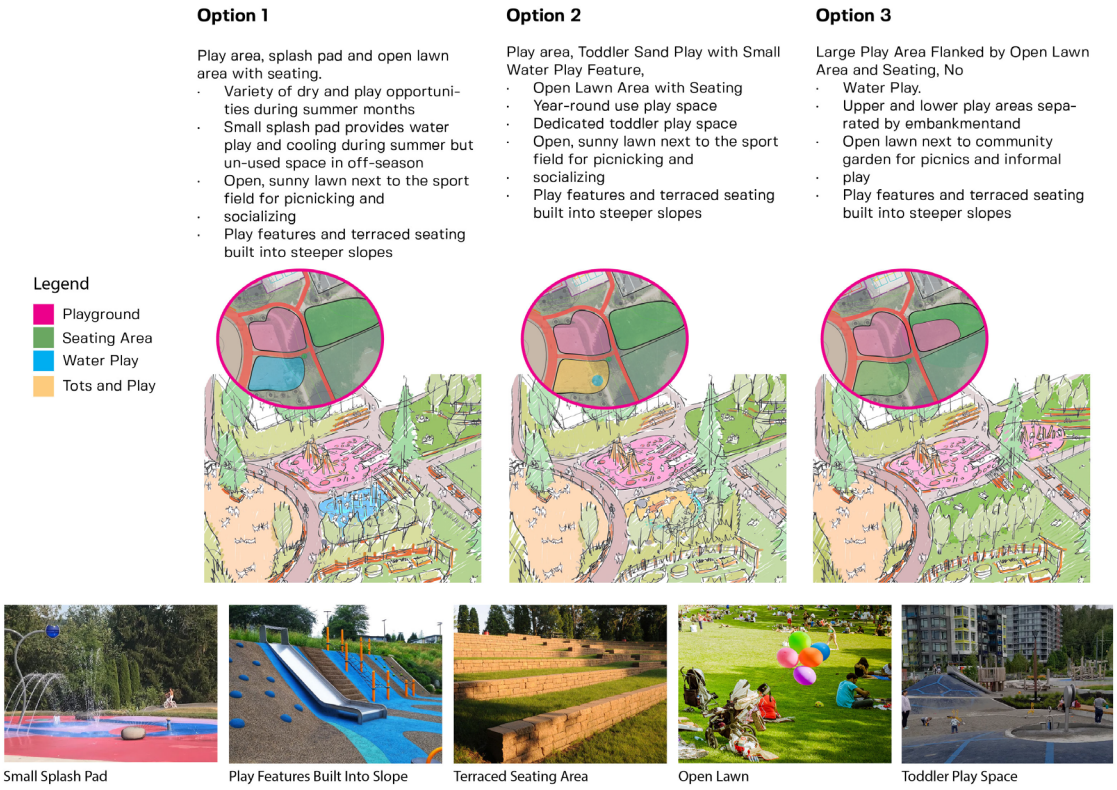
		• "There's tension between dog owners and other users in this park."
Additional and improved play spaces	6	• "Kids need places for free play as well as playgrounds." • "Playground like Bridal Park [for] big kids & elementary." • "Play structure for kids."
Retain and add more vegetation and green spaces	5	• "Provide more nature." • "Significant paving of greenspace does not improve access to nature in the park - loss of trees?? Not well identified." • "Fruit trees, cherry trees, berry bush, [...]"
Other	8	• "NONE! This park is perfect the way it is and is perfectly functional the way it is, and if anything disturb members of the community garden!" • "It's difficult to come here by car (difficult to park)." • "Consider purchasing more land next to Simcoe for more park space (fitting in too much in small space)."

Park Amenities

Active Heart

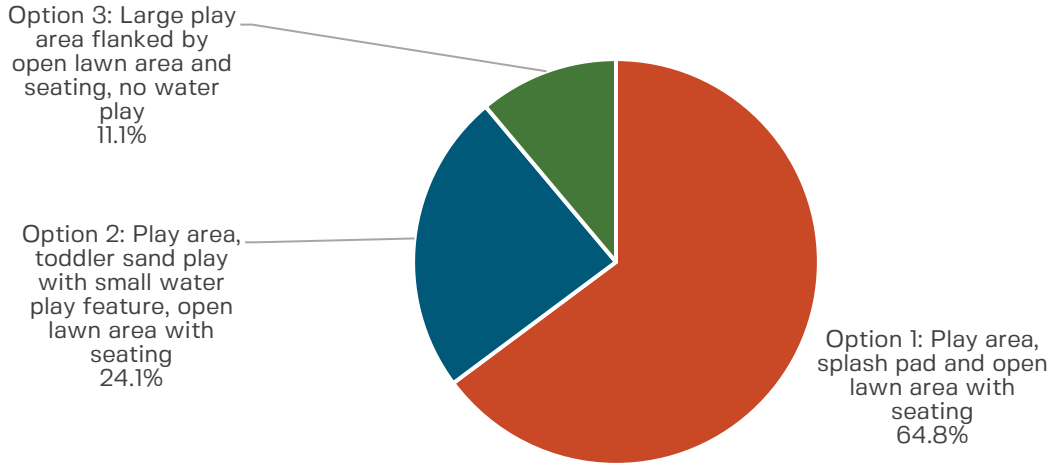
The Master Plan proposes that a central active play and social space be added to Simcoe Park, called the Active Heart.

Three conceptual options have been developed for the Active Heart.



Click here to expand image.

Q4. Place a red dot on your preferred option for the Active Heart.



Preferred Design Concept	Percentage	Count
Total Responses: 54		
Option 1: Play area, splash pad and open lawn area with seating	64.8%	35

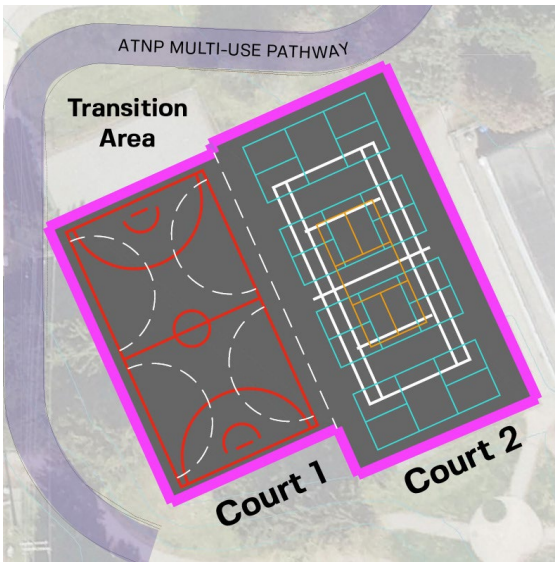
Option 2: Play area, toddler sand play with small water play feature, open lawn area with seating	24.1%	13
Option 3: Large play area flanked by open lawn area and seating, no water play	11.1%	6

Q5. Write on a sticky note anything else you'd like to see here.

This prompt received a total of 11 responses. Some responses included the following comments:

- "Visual communication board for kids. Kamloops Riverside Park has one to support inclusion."
- "Tennis should have removable nets (kids keep climbing on them)."
- "Keep as much green space AS POSSIBLE – NATURAL PLAY."
- "Flexibility of space."

Multi-Sport Courts

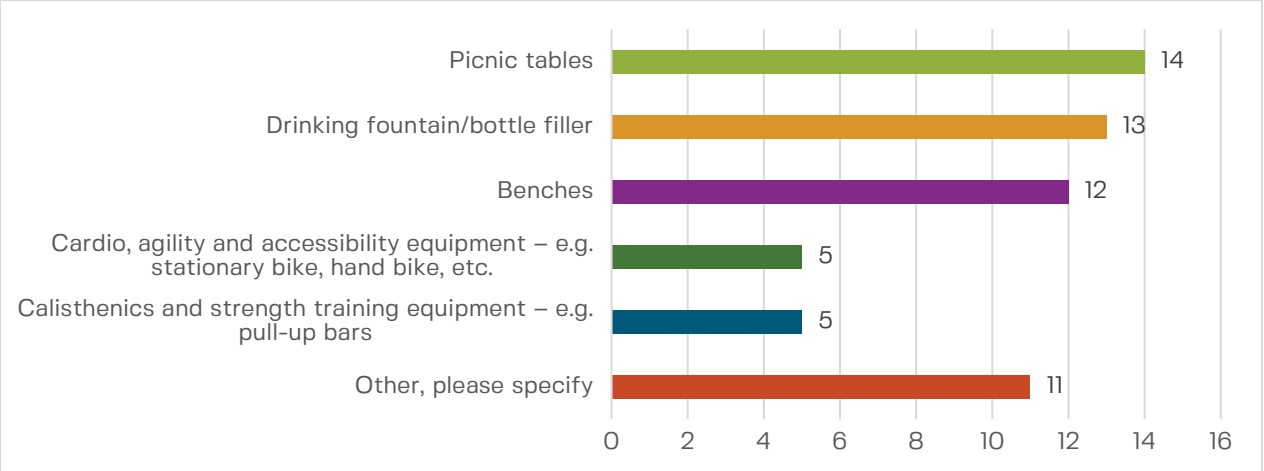


With a growing population and limited space for multiple amenities, the tennis courts will be redeveloped at their current location into an accessible multi-use sports court to accommodate a variety of sports.

The area will be reduced to accommodate the Active Transportation Network multi-use pathway, opening up space for a transition area between the courts and Queens Avenue. The future multi-sport courts will include the following:

- **Court 1:** 1 tennis/pickleball court and 4 pickleball courts (overlaid)
- **Court 2:** 1 basketball full-court with additional practice nets and 1 non-regulation size ball hockey court (overlaid)

Q6. Are there any other amenities you would like us to consider in the area between the sports court and the multi-use pathway? Use a dot to select up to 3 options.



Amenity	Percentage	Count
Total Responses: 60		
Picnic tables	23.3%	14
Drinking fountain/bottle filler	21.7%	13
Benches	20.0%	12
Cardio, agility and accessibility equipment – e.g. stationary bike, hand bike, etc.	8.3%	5
Calisthenics and strength training equipment – e.g. pull-up bars	8.3%	5
Other, please specify	18.3%	11

There was a total of two sticky note responses to “Other, please specify”. These comments mentioned the consideration of a volleyball court and concerns about noise from basketball.

Sports Field

The current grass soccer field is below regulation size and is closed every summer for repairs from heavy use.

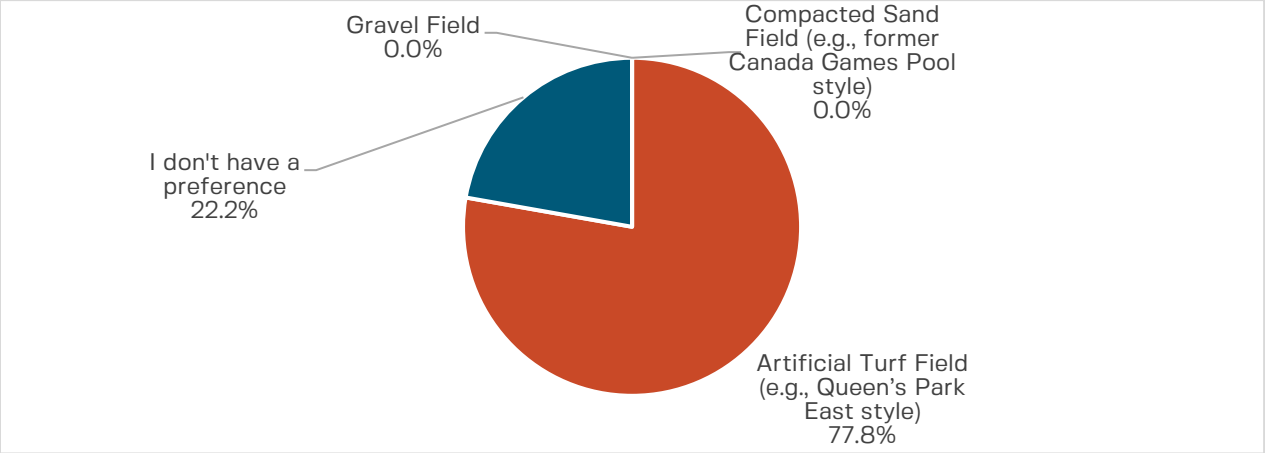
Due to its size and required maintenance, this field remains underutilized at many times of the year. As the neighbourhood grows, the need for sports fields is expected to increase. The Master Plan project proposes increasing the field size to Canada Soccer U11 or U12 regulation size (64m x 42m) to allow for more use.

Additionally, a resilient surface is required to keep the field open and in use year-round. A year-round resilient field surface could be:



- Gravel field
- Compacted sand field (e.g. former Canada Games Pool field)
- Artificial turf field (e.g. Queen's Park East Field)

Q7. Place a dot next to your preferred option for the resilient field option.



Surface Option	Percentage	Count
Total Responses: 27		
Artificial Turf Field (e.g., Queen's Park East style)	77.8%	21
I don't have a preference	22.2%	6
Compacted Sand Field (e.g., former Canada Games Pool style)	0.0%	0
Gravel Field	0.0%	0

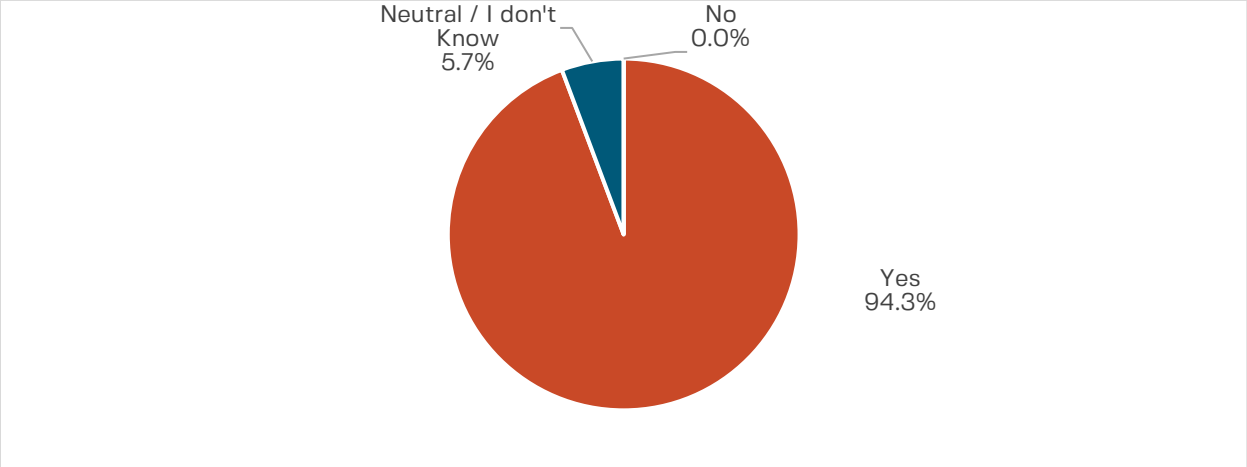
Toronto Place Park

Toronto Place Park is currently underutilized, primarily due to its slope and proximity to traffic.
The Master Plan will propose the removal or relocation of the swings in the park. Additionally, it will suggest features and amenities that could enhance the use of this space, better serving the neighbourhood.

The existing, healthy trees in the park will be protected, which makes it difficult to create new flat areas required for many typical park amenities. A new community garden is one of the amenities possible within the constraints. It would take advantage of the consistent sun exposure and help meet the existing demand for community garden space in this dense area of the City.

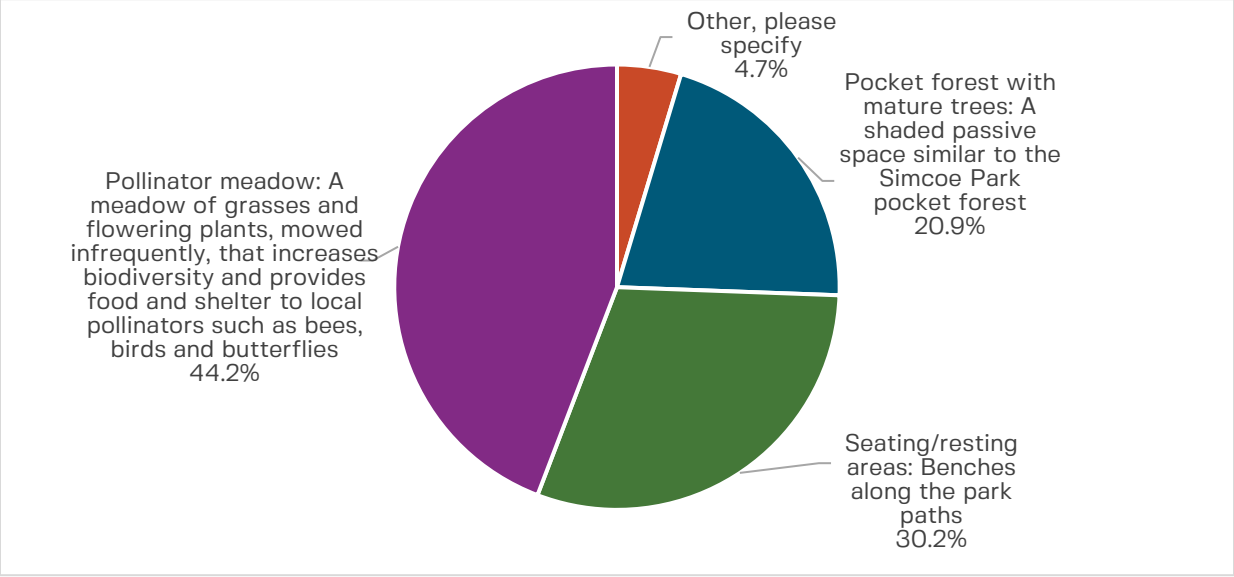


Q8. Would you support adding a community garden to Toronto Place Park? Place a dot for either “yes” or “no” or neutral.



Response	Percentage	Count
Total Responses: 35		
Yes	94.3%	33
Neutral/Don’t Know	5.7%	2
No	0.0%	0

Q9. What other amenities do you think we should consider in Toronto Place Park? Select your top option with a dot below.



Amenity	Percentage	Count
Total Responses: 43		
Pollinator meadow: A meadow of grasses and flowering plants, mowed infrequently, that increases biodiversity and provides food and shelter to local pollinators such as bees, birds and butterflies	44.2%	19
Seating/resting areas: Benches along the park paths	30.2%	13
Pocket forest with mature trees: A shaded passive space similar to the Simcoe Park pocket forest	20.9%	9
Other, please specify	4.7%	2

There was a total of 12 sticky note responses to “Other, please specify”. Five responses mentioned their leaving the park, including the community garden, as is. Other comments mentioned the consideration of moving the dog off-leash area to Toronto Place Park; implementing a sound berm along Royal Avenue, seating, shaded plant areas, pickleball; and making accessible, raised garden beds for people with physical disabilities.

General Feedback

General feedback was also collected across the pop-up’s informational board panels #2, #5, #6 and #8. This feedback has been summarized below:

- Concerns about safety and underutilization of multi-use pathways within the park.
- Desire to separate bike path from pedestrian-only paths.
- Comments expressing the value of the community garden for community and pollinator species.
- Comments describing the current use and active users of the parks.
- Suggestions to improve accessibility, directional signage, and visibility within the parks.
- Preference of using real grass and natural materials, opposed to an artificial turf.









3.2.2 Interest Holder Group Meetings

Three meetings were held with key interest-holder/park user groups to inform them of potential impacts and opportunities of the proposed changes and to gather feedback from their specific perspectives. The groups were identified based on the following criteria:

- Current or likely future organized park user groups
- Existing users currently occupying space and operating park amenities (community garden)
- Individuals who have difficulty or are unable to access specific park amenities as they currently exist.

See Section 2: Engagement Process for the detailed meeting schedule. Discussion and feedback from the meetings have been summarized below.

New Westminster Community Garden Society (operator of the Simcoe Community Garden located in Simcoe Park)

- Concern regarding potential changes to Simcoe Community Garden and the current layout of the community garden, including the option to expand the garden for a zero net-loss of gardening space.
- Unsupportive of the proposed multi-use path proposed next to the garden, or of any change to the lawn space next to the garden. Perception of the path as a freeway-like fast cycling corridor that would take away from the informal, passive, and social uses that occur next to the garden.
- Open to collaborating on some future improvements to the garden (such as a new shed anduniversally accessible garden plots), but not interested in others (seating inside the garden).

Sports Group Organizations

- Supportive of a year-round sports field surface for younger competition players and as a recreational space (e.g. soccer, lacrosse).
- Desire to include field lighting to enable year-round field use.

- Identified detailed court play requirements (e.g. asphalt/concrete is appropriate for recreational ball hockey, but not competitive sports; preferred layouts for pickleball identified, etc.).

Accessibility Advisory Committee

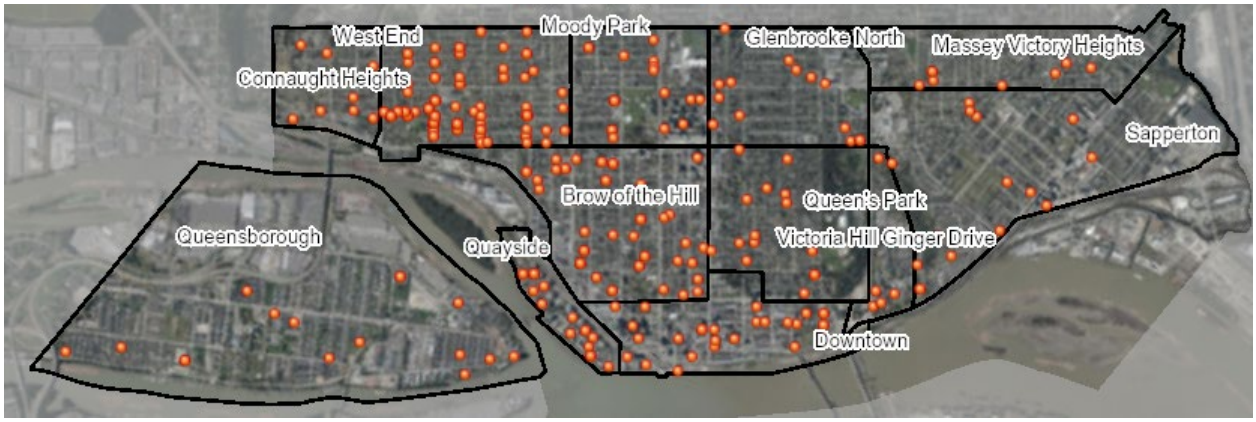
- Identified reservations and universal design considerations regarding the multi-use path.
- Emphasized universal accessibility as a key consideration for circulation/access as well as use of park features, especially children's play.
- Provided suggestions for additional features (e.g. defibrillator, emergency call box, etc.).
- Identified importance of commemorating the history of Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park before they became parks (i.e. former penitentiary, trade school, etc.).

4 About Be Heard Participants

In total, we received 214 responses to the online survey and ideas board hosted on Be Heard New West. When participants register to Be Heard, they provide personal demographic information, such as postal code, year of birth, connections to New Westminster, and other optional details. The data in this section represents demographic data from both the survey and the ideas board.

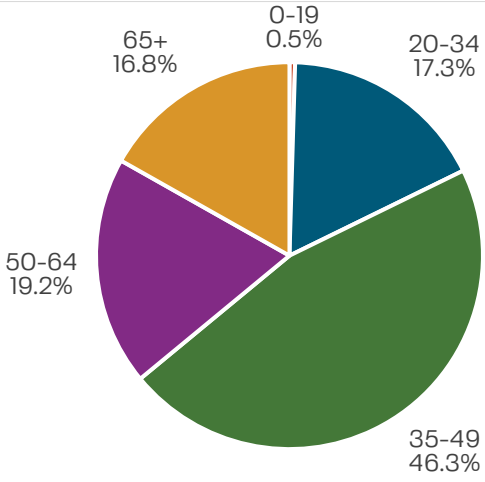
This section also compares demographic data of the Be Heard participants with the Census 2021 data. Results considered comparable are measured within +/- 5% of the Census. Over-represented and under-represented are calculated by a difference that is greater than 5%.

Neighbourhood Representation



Neighbourhood	Percentage	Count
Total Responses: 214		
Brow of the Hill	41.1%	88
Downtown	19.6%	42
Queen's Park	7.0%	15
Sapperton	6.1%	13
Quayside	5.6%	12
Massey Victory Heights	3.7%	8
Glenbrooke North	3.7%	8
Queensborough	3.3%	7
Moody Park	3.3%	7
West End	2.3%	5
Victoria Hill Ginger Drive	1.4%	3
Connaught Heights	0.9%	2
Outside New Westminster	1.9%	4

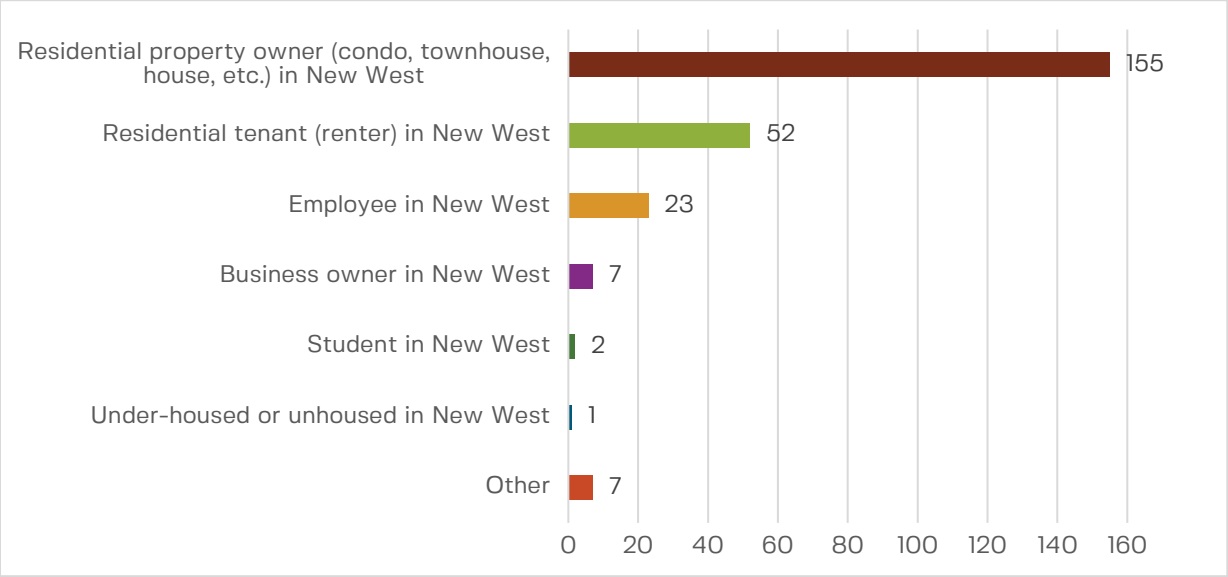
Participant Ages



Age Group	Count	Participant Percentage	Comparability to 2021 Census
Total Responses: 214			
0-19	1	0.5%	Under-represented
20-34	37	17.3%	Under-represented
35-49	99	46.3%	Over-represented
50-64	41	19.2%	Comparable

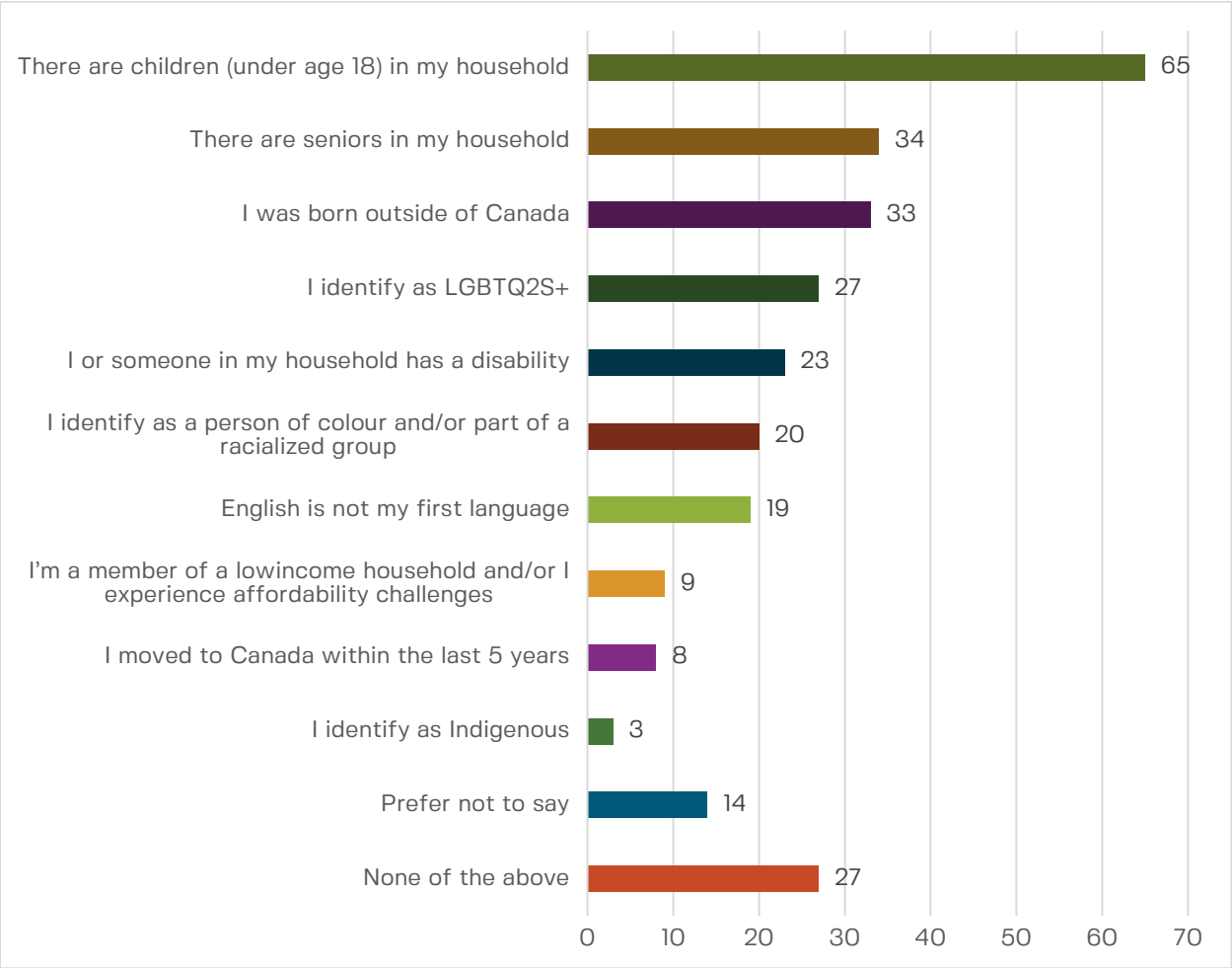
65+	36	16.8%	Comparable

Connections to the City



Connection	Count	Participant Percentage	Comparability to 2021 Census
Total Responses: 214			
Residential property owner (condo, townhouse, house, etc.) in New West	155	72.4%	Over-represented
Residential tenant (renter) in New West	52	24.3%	Under-represented
Employee in New West	23	10.7%	N/A
Business owner in New West	7	3.3%	N/A
Student in New West	2	0.9%	N/A
Under-housed or unhoused in New West	1	0.5%	N/A
Other	7	3.3%	N/A

Additional Demographic Information



Response	Count	Participant Percentage	Comparability to 2021 Census
Total Responses: 186			
There are children (under age 18) in my household	65	34.9%	Over-represented
There are seniors in my household	34	18.3%	N/A
I was born outside of Canada	33	17.7%	Under-represented
I identify as LGBTQ2S+	27	14.5%	N/A
I or someone in my household has a disability	23	12.4%	Comparable
I identify as a person of colour and/or part of a racialized group	20	10.8%	Under-represented
English is not my first language	19	10.2%	N/A

I'm a member of a low-income household and/or I experience affordability challenges	9	4.8%	N/A
I moved to Canada within the last 5 years	8	4.3%	Comparable
I identify as Indigenous	3	1.6%	Comparable
Prefer not to say	14	7.5%	N/A
None of the above	27	14.5%	N/A

5 Next Steps

Thank you to all participants for sharing their ideas and experiences with our project team! The input from this engagement helps staff to understand the community's current use and satisfaction with the parks as well as preferences for how the parks could evolve in the future.

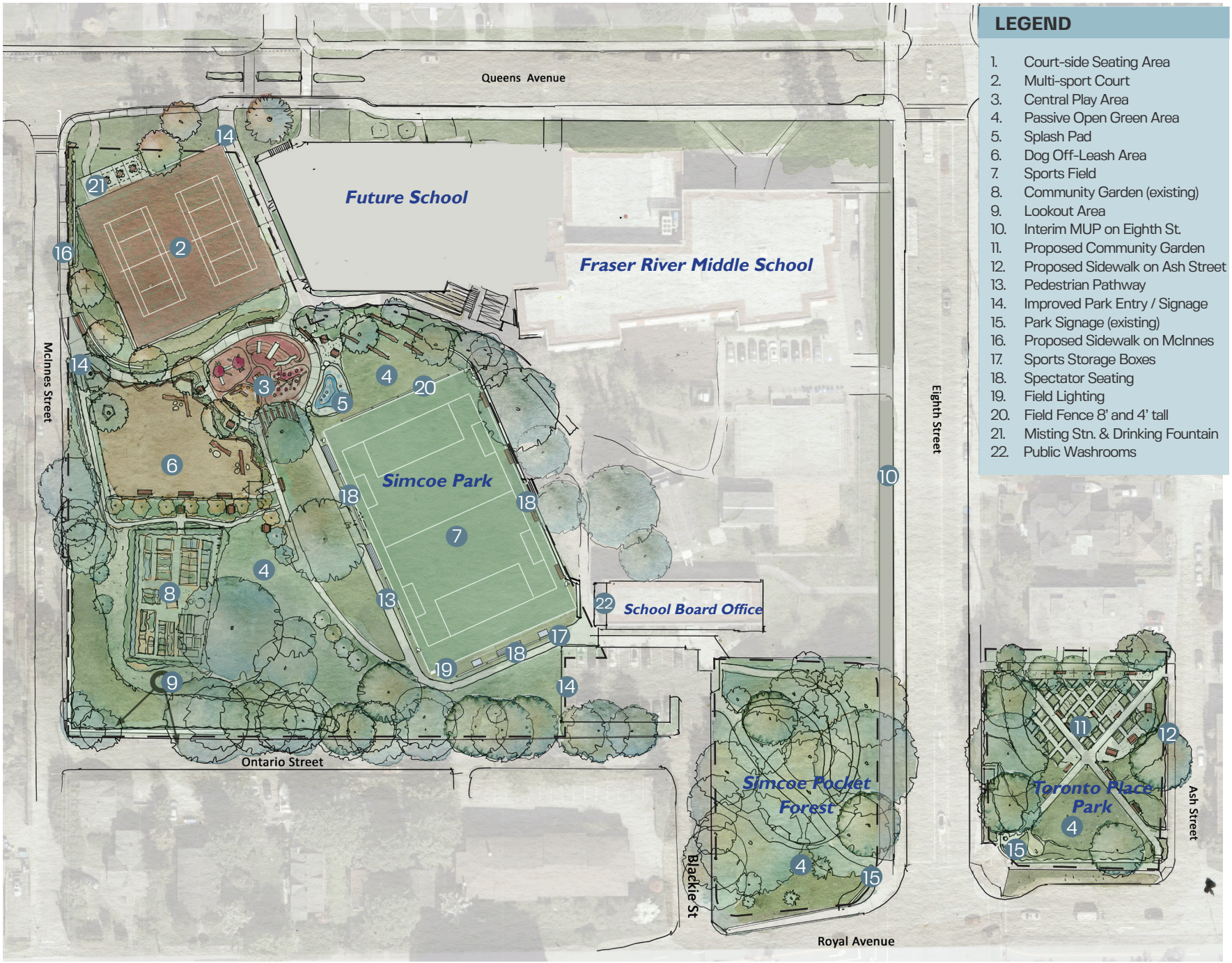
The themes and preferences that emerged from community engagement, as well as technical site analysis conducted by City staff, will help shape the Master Plan. Specifically, based on engagement results, the project team will

- Refine Design Options - Adjust the layout and features of Simcoe and Toronto Place Parks based on community preferences and priorities.
- Finalize the Recommendations - Ensure the final plan reflects the values and needs of the community.

The Master Plan will be presented to Council for endorsement in summer 2026. Community members who are interested in the Simcoe Park and Toronto Place Park Master Plan and would like to keep informed of the project, are invited to follow the project's progress through the Be Heard New West project page.



Appendix B
Illustrative Master Plan


Queens Avenue
Future School
Fraser River Middle School
McInnes Street
Eighth Street
Simcoe Park
School Board Office
Ontario Street
Simcoe Pocket Forest
Blackie St
Royal Avenue
Toronto Place Park
Ash Street
LEGEND
1. Court-side Seating Area
2. Multi-sport Court
3. Central Play Area
4. Passive Open Green Area
5. Splash Pad
6. Dog Off-Leash Area
7. Sports Field
8. Community Garden (existing)
9. Lookout Area
10. Interim MUP on Eighth St.
11. Proposed Community Garden
12. Proposed Sidewalk on Ash Street
13. Pedestrian Pathway
14. Improved Park Entry / Signage
15. Park Signage (existing)
16. Proposed Sidewalk on McInnes
17. Sports Storage Boxes
18. Spectator Seating
19. Field Lighting
20. Field Fence 8' and 4' tall
21. Misting Stn. & Drinking Fountain
22. Public Washrooms