

## WEST VILLAGE PARK *(preliminary name)*

### Community Engagement Summary

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Parks has recently completed the preliminary planning and design process for West Village Park (preliminary name), a new 0.3 hectare (0.75 acre) mini-neighbourhood park in City Centre. This process included site surveys and assessments, a neighbours meeting, online CitySpeaks surveys and an open house on October 1, 2015.

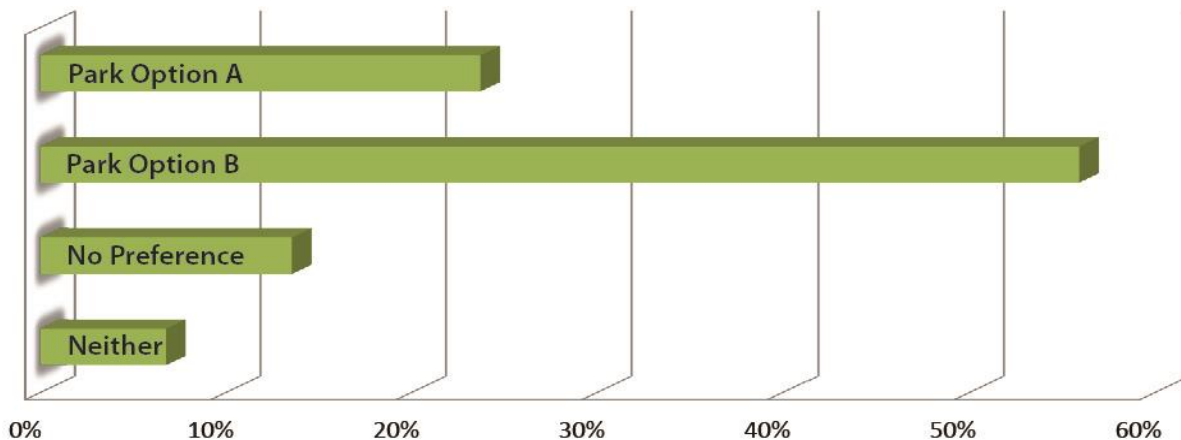
The City provided project information and updates through a dedicated project webpage, and advised residents on engagement opportunities through an on-site park sign, newspapers ads, neighbourhood mail-outs and social media. Consultation opportunities were aimed at generating ideas and gathering input from residents and potential park users.

### Key Findings

Two concept options (Park Options A & B) were presented to the public for review and comment. A total of 44 respondents completed the online CitySpeaks surveys and 15 people completed questionnaires at the October 1 open house. The following findings summarize the feedback received through this process.

### Preferred Park Option

Participants were asked to select a preferred park option and provide feedback on the specific design elements of each option. Respondents were largely in support of Option B (56%), which focused on providing passive open space and landscaping. Option A which, focused more on children’s play and formal social areas, was selected by 24% of respondents, while 21% had no preference or selected neither concept option.



Popular park amenities from both options included trees and landscaping, passive open space and lawn, tables and seating areas, and a children’s play area.

### Greenspace

We heard that the park should build on the existing natural features of the site, and that the design should focus on providing greenspace to support a peaceful and relaxation park setting. Respondents were in support of retaining trees. They also liked the idea of planting new trees and providing landscaped areas within the park.



**63%**  
of people identified with the natural features of the site and wanted trees retained in the plan

## Passive Open Space

Passive open space and lawn areas were widely supported by respondents. It was noted that the surrounding high density residential neighbourhood will generate a lot of park visitors looking for un-programmed open space to support casual activities like bocce, frisbee and picnicking. There were some concerns regarding the safety and security of open spaces, and suggestions to maintain open site lines from the adjacent roads and provide lighting within the park.

## Social Space

Areas for picnicking and socialization were supported in the plan, with a number of respondents (15%) noting a specific desire for park tables and seating areas. Equally, however, there were concerns with providing covered shelters and gathering areas that would encourage loitering and illicit activities within the park after dark.

## Children’s Play

Despite a preference for Park Option B, which did not have children’s play, several respondents (20%) specifically indicated that a refined layout should incorporate some element of children’s play. Residents felt it was important to address the needs of future children and families that will live in the surrounding neighbourhood.

## Dog’s in the Park



Some residents commented on the potential for a dog off-leash area, with residents both in favour and opposition. However, given the park’s small size, and the public’s direction to provide passive open space, landscaping and children’s play, a dog off-leash area is not compatible or suitable for this park. As such, Bylaw signage requiring dogs to be on-leash at all times will be posted. The City will explore other locations within City Centre for a dog off-leash area.

## Park Name

Respondents were provided a list of potential park names, as well as an option to write in name proposals. The most popular park name to-date (44% of respondents) is **West Village Park**, which reflects the proposed name for the neighbourhood within the City Centre Plan. Other popular names included Wellington, which was the family name of one of the original owners of the surrounding properties, and Dowling which was the original name of 103A Avenue. Other notable write in names included Central City Park, Greenall Park, Emerald Park, and Sequoia Park. Parks will continue to survey the community on park names through the detailed design process, and will select a preferred name prior to opening.



## SUMMARY

The City has completed public engagement for the design of West Village Park. The process included a range of public consultation opportunities to ensure that stakeholders and the public had meaningful opportunities to share ideas and provide feedback. Community outreach will continue through park development and once the park is open to the public.

Respondents were largely in support of a park layout that took advantage of the existing natural features of the site and provided opportunities for green space and passive use. The final park concept plan has been developed with consideration to the community feedback that was received. Amenities for children’s play and socialization have been included; while concerns of loitering and security were addressed through pathway placement, interface with the District Energy Centre and landscaping. The plan is consistent with majority public opinion and provides the amenities and function most desired by engaged residents.