

# Plan Your Parks: Kitchissippi Parks Participatory Plan



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## Summary

Plan Your Parks has cast a wide net in order to capture the imagination of park users in the ward. Through an deliberative consultation design, the ground level knowledge of park users in the ward fuelled a lively discussion on how the Cash-in-lieu of Parkland Fund could be used over the next six years. Analysis of both in-person sessions and questionnaire data has provided an assortment of ideas on how the many dimensions of parks in Kitchissippi can be maintained, improved, and made more attractive.

Along with gathering specific proposals, participants were engaged with the budgeting aspects of capital expenditure and asked how they would like to see Cash-in-lieu of Parkland allocated for different uses. Along with a conscientious towards accumulating savings, participants expressed the preference for 77% to 87% to be allocated to specific and timely improvements in existing parks. There was also a consistent call for dedicating revenue to land acquisition.

Specific ideas were gathered from all age groups, with school age participants expressing a desire for more interesting play structures and more court/field space. Fun in parks does not always require the expensive major project of a play structure. These same needs for fun and engaging spaces can be provided through landscaping, smaller equipment/objects, and thoughtful design of space.

Adult participants were fairly well informed about attractive park element for kids. Adult participants also emphasized the need for updated field houses, performance space and shade, multi-use courts, splash pads, and access to water and washrooms.

A discussion on how projects over \$80k should be implemented revealed that participants would most prefer projects either be saved for and implemented one at a time, or saved for in groups of two and implemented as required savings are accrued.

Participants of all ages called for parks that are clean and green, with accessible and safe surfaces beneath fun play equipment, functional waste management receptacles, an abundance of interactive gardens, and a variety types of trees. Complementing the natural beauty of parks with pathways, art, sculpture and fitness equipment was consistently proposed.

Due to the large amount of stakeholders engaged through this process and the broad applicability of the CILP fund, no collective consensus on specific proposals was found. Rather a number of proposals came from different parts of the ward and some received more support than others. It is the intention of this report to present the proposals in a clear and actionable fashion for the consulting Councillor to consider as a credible source of knowledge on how Kitchissippi Parks can be improved over the next six years.

## Introduction

The Plan Your Parks consultation is part of an on-going project in Ward 15 to make expenditure and decision making more collaborative and transparent. Urban development has a variety of impacts and, due to policies in place to preserve and enrich green space, some developments lead to revenue being accrued in the Cash-in-lieu of Parkland Fund (CILP fund). A majority of this revenue is under the discretion of the respective ward Councillor and allows for spending to be allocated directly to recognized needs of ward parkland and green space. In order to develop a plan on how this growing fund can be spent effectively, Councillor Jeff Leiper has invited residents of the ward to give input on how they would like to see the many parks of the Kitchissippi Ward made even better.

The goal of this consultation was to develop a six-year plan for how revenue accrued to the CILP fund could be allocated and spent in alignment with resident needs.

Proposals needed to be within the set out eligibility of the fund described below. Eligible expenses for the CILP fund include:

- Acquisition and development of land for public park purposes
- Provision of park facilities, such as play equipment, sports fields and pathways
- Provision of recreation facilities, such as field houses, indoor pools and arenas.
- Increasing the capacity of existing public parks and/or recreation facilities to accommodate more intensive public use, such as the expansion or upgrading of program spaces in community centres, indoor pools and arenas
- The non-growth component of growth-related capital projects, for Parks Development and Recreation Facilities, identified in the City's Development Charges Background Study
- Repair, renewal of fixed recreation and park assets
- Projects within prioritized forecasts or workplans of scheduled works identified as part of renewal planning and programming undertaken in accordance with the City's Comprehensive Asset Management Policy but unfunded as part of the current year's normal budget

Following this eligibility criteria, a lively and forward thinking discussion took place between park users from across the ward. In the end, six public deliberative sessions, 2 outreach sessions to the Parkdale Food Centre, 2 outreach sessions to Fisher

Park/Summit Alternative School, 70 online questionnaire responses and email contributions, and 257 school age questionnaire responses created the content for this report. Both commonplace and highly creative ideas were put forward in an effort to improve facilities, expand function, and increase usage of Kitchissippi parks.

## **Methodology**

The purpose of this project was to plan for how the Cash-in-lieu of Parkland Fund (CILP fund) could be used to make parks in the Kitchissippi Ward even better over the next six years. For the purposes of this plan, the term "better" was defined by improvements that were deemed necessary and useful by residents of the ward. In order to gather knowledge on such improvements, a series of consultative methods were used to invite input from the ground-level perspectives of people who utilize these parks. Residents were also asked about what improvements would lead to increased utilization if they did not currently frequent parks. This input was couched by the eligibility criteria of the CILP fund and feedback from the Recreation and Parks staff.

The main method for gathering ground-level knowledge from residents was three rounds of in-person deliberative sessions using Activity Based Collaborative Discussion<sup>®</sup> (ABCD). These deliberative sessions were scheduled and included child-minding in order to increase accessibility for all potential participants. An online questionnaire also allowed residents to contribute their thoughts on how parks could be improved and some residents elaborated on these thoughts by sending emails to the Councillor and the facilitator of the consultation. In order to ensure broad representation of ward residents, outreach sessions were also held at the Parkdale Food Centre and Fisher Park/Summit Alternative using a reduced version of the ABCD approach used in the main in-person sessions.

The three rounds of in-person deliberative sessions were intended to gather knowledge on three key aspects of the discussion on how parks can be improved. These three key aspects can be designated as: general specification, reflection and specification, specification and implementation. Throughout the process, proposed uses of the CILP fund were specified through both group specific and room-wide discussion.

In the general specification stage, activity sheets were used to inform, focus, and record discussion at table groups of varying size and a central board was used to record room-wide discussion on themes, parks, and ideas of interest. Participants were also invited to express their top three priorities among the ideas being discussed at their tables as well as those recorded on the central board.

In the reflection and specification stage, feedback was given to proposals put forward from the former round and participants were requested to further specify details of these

proposals in light of this feedback. This feedback entailed notes on feasibility and existing policies, rough cost estimates, and information of life cycle funding maintenance plans, in order to encourage focused, creative, and affordable proposals. There was a room-wide discussion to raise awareness about the proposed uses of the CILP fund being discussed among table groups and also a call for questions on the feedback provided. Participants were again invited to express their top three priorities among the ideas being discussed at their table and also indicate their support for ideas being discussed at their tables using pretend cash. As a final activity, participants engaged in an exit poll that posed the question of how they would divide \$5 among the four basic uses of the CILP fund (saving for unexpected needs, land acquisition, projects under \$80k, project over \$80k). The amount of \$5 was selected in order to allow for equal allocation in all four uses along with one extra to allow for expression of priority, or a more selective allocation.

In the specification and implementation stage, participants were once again invited to view feedback on proposals made over the duration of the consultation. After viewing feedback and discussing proposed projects, participants were engaged with the matter of implementation. Through using both activity sheets and a central board, participants expressed how they would like projects to be saved for and implemented. The process was changed from table specific groups to a free-flowing park specific discussion to again invite further specification and prioritization. Finally, participants were invited to once again express how they would like to see revenue to the CILP fund be allocated to its four basic uses.

Though each stage had a designated purpose, partial overlap was arranged so as to gain multiple measures of the more technical elements of the planning process. The different stages were intended to create a gradual unfolding of the complex discussion that a participatory six-year plan for the CILP Fund called for through accessible, two hour long sessions. However, participants and new ideas were welcomed throughout all stages. By allowing for the addition of new ideas throughout the process and maintaining a consistent focus on specification and prioritization, the information gathered through this consultation presents a reliable representation of how to make these parks and park infrastructure better and more inviting to the residents of the Kitchissippi Ward.

In order to broaden the accessibility of the consultation and to ensure representation of demographics who were notably absent from the in-person sessions, consultation took place online and through outreach sessions. The online questionnaire was available on the Kitchissippi Ward website and advertised both through social media, ward newsletters, and the in-person sessions. In addition to making proposals that were not heard in the in-person sessions, responses to the questionnaire and other online contributions provided the added benefit of text contributions that can be used to quote

respondent sentiments. Outreach sessions to the Parkdale Food Centre helped to ensure representation of those with less financial means and also have a increased reliance on the presence of public infrastructure such as parks. Finally, outreach to school age children, through both a questionnaire and a reduced version of the in-person sessions, helped to illustrate with detail how the youth of the ward believe parks can be made more fun and engaging.

Through these multiple structured approaches to consulting on how parks can be improved, the wide array of ideas gathered have become the information for a plan. Due to the large amount of stakeholders engaged through this process and the broad applicability of the CILP fund, no collective consensus on specific proposals was found. Rather a number of proposals came from different parts of the ward and some received more support than others. It is the intention of this report to present this information in a clear and actionable fashion for the consulting Councillor to consider as a credible source of knowledge on how Kitchissippi parks can be improved over the next six years.

## **Parks of Interest**

Many of the ward's parks and green spaces were discussed throughout the consultation. The parks that were most frequently noted during the in-person sessions included Byron Linear, Champlain Park, Ev Tremblay Park, Fisher Park, Iona Park, Laroche Park, Lion's Park, McKellar Park, and Tilbury Park.

Proposals at the in-person sessions for Armstrong Park, Bayview Friendship Park, Churchill Seniors Recreation Centre, Clare Gardens, Fairmont Park, Hintonburg Park, Mahoney Park, Parkdale Park, Reid Park, Roy Duncan Park, Tom Brown Arena and Westboro Kiwanis were heard as well but less frequently.

Proposals for Byron Linear, Champlain Park, Ev Tremblay Park, Fairmont Park, Fisher Park, Hintonburg Park, Mahoney Park, Reid Park, and Tom Brown Arena were especially well represented in the online questionnaire responses.

The parks that received the most ideas and prioritization in the school age questionnaire were Fairmont Park, Fisher Park, Hintonburg Park, and Tilbury Park. Prioritization of ideas for Champlain Park, Clare Gardens, Reid Park, and Parkdale Park were fairly numerous but less frequent. A bias may have resulted from the catchment area of the schools that distributed the survey, but this does give some guidance on where to locate projects advocated for by the younger participants.

A quick overview of the parks in the ward would suggest that proposals for Evergreen Park, Heather Crowe Park, McCormick, Riverside Terrace Park, Sterling Carruthers Park were less represented or absent from the consultation overall. Though this

absence could be due to general satisfaction with their current level of development, this absence should be noted.

A number of parks under the purview of the National Capital Commission (NCC) were also discussed frequently including Westboro Beach and Hampton Park. Notes on these spaces may help in representing resident desires in collaborations with the NCC and have been submitted to the Councillor.



Image from Ottawa.ca Kitchissippi Ward Parks Map

## Themes of Interest

It is known that ward residents use parks in many different ways. As a way to warm up with a general idea on what themes of interest were bringing them to the Plan Your Parks consultation, participants were asked what they value about parks. This could include something they love about their current park or something that they wish there was more of in their part of the city. This question was asked in the two sessions in the first stage of the consultation. Answers included:

"Parks are a place you can sit down and have a sandwich and enjoy the sights and sounds" - Participant in Parkdale Food Centre outreach session

Multi-generational space / sports / physical activity / children / pre-teens and teen activities / play / dogs / walkability / parking / accessibility / waste management / year-round use / washrooms and water outlets / nature and conservation / an anchor for community connection / information sharing bulletins / emergency resources / community gardens / lighting and security / paths / shade / seating / passive activities / multi-purpose facilities / durable space / portable infrastructure / concession outlets / and artistic culture,

Though online respondents were not asked an identical question, it is evident that these respondents are largely interested in:

having an abundance of green space in the ward / safe and inviting places for children and teens to have fun / seating / shade / availability of sports fields and court space / designated space for dogs / waste management / splash pads / and washrooms.

The theme of land acquisition was also expressed through contributions received through both in-person and online forums.

For the most part, these themes remained consistent and how they ought to be represented in actual capital expenditure was specified through the remainder of the consultation.

## **Budgeting and Types of Expenses**

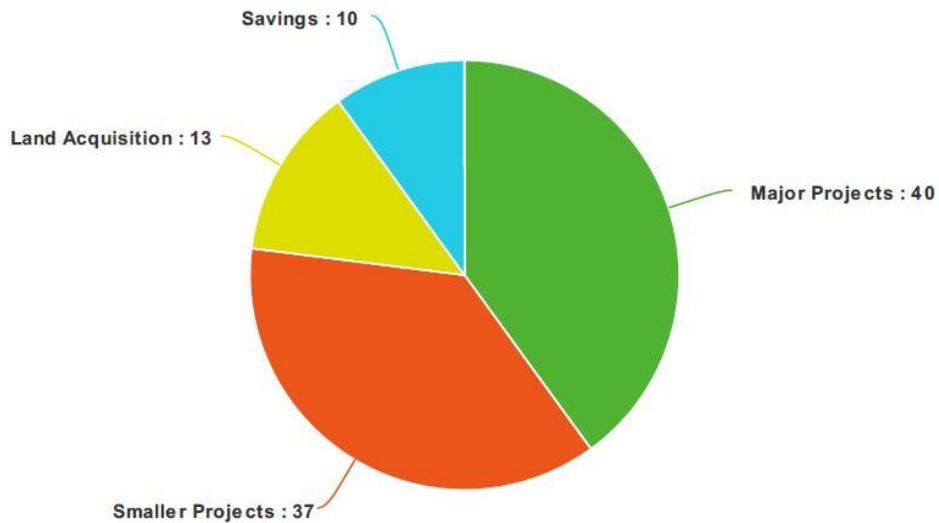
Having the Plan Your Parks consultation directly linked to the CILP fund was helpful in providing specific eligibility criteria for proposals. Within this eligibility, the CILP fund can be used to 1) save for unforeseen needs, 2) acquire land for the purposes of increasing green space, 3) finance the repair, expansion or purchase of capital assets. For the purposes of this consultation, the third use was divided into 3.1) major projects (more than \$80k) including play equipment, field houses, and 3.2) smaller projects (less than \$80k) including park benches, lamp posts, .

In order to develop a sense of what how participants would like to see revenue of the CILP fund deposited into specific envelopes, a specific activity was used to measure this preference. Participants were given five bills of pretend money as a representation of \$5 of revenue and then asked to indicate how they would like to see this \$5 amount divided among the above four uses.

The results below are from the third round of sessions:

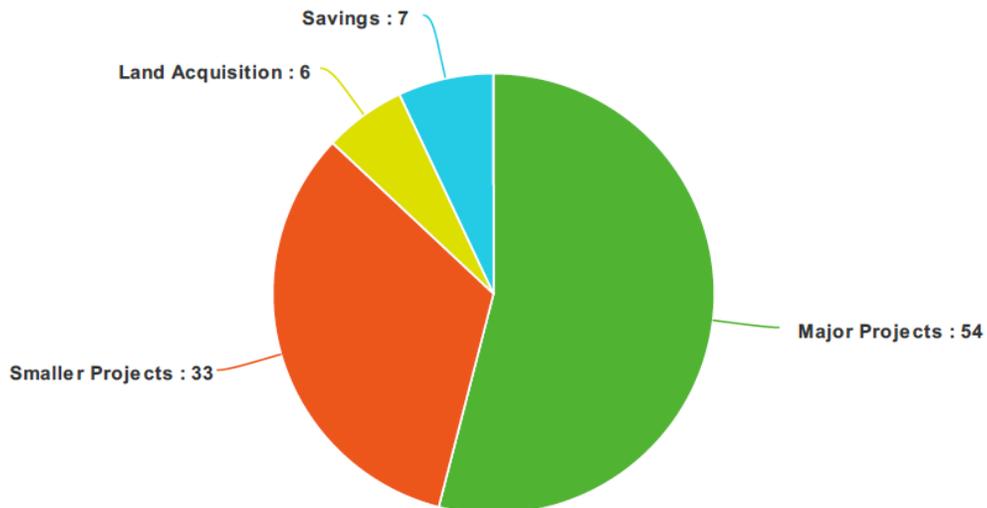
### CILP REVENUE BREAKDOWN

Round 3 Session 1



### CILP REVENUE BREAKDOWN

Round 3 Session 2



What can be noted at a glance is the preference for large amounts of revenue to be allocated to specific improvements in existing parks. The amount of revenue allocated to **major projects** varied from 40% to 54%. This result indicates a desire for timely outcomes from the consultation and a recognition of the amount of time and investment

that it will take to save for these more expensive projects. These results are consistent with the results from a similar question posed in the second round of sessions.

The amount of revenue budgeted for **smaller projects** varied from 33% to 37%. This more stable figure expresses a desire for a substantial amount of revenue to be allocated to projects that improve the overall quality of parks. These results are roughly similar to the results from the preceding round.

Both of these amounts are roughly consistent with results gained from other consultative tools. Questionnaires distributed to schools in the area revealed a preference for predominate investment in major projects (45%) and smaller projects (32%). A slight difference was found in responses gained from outreach at Parkdale Food Centre, which tended to allocate larger amounts of investment to smaller projects as oppose to major projects.

What this information also represents is a consistent desire for **land acquisition** and a responsible awareness of the need to preserve some **savings**. The amount allocated to land acquisition was the most various of the four categories of CILP expenditure, reaching as high as 38% in one in-person round. Nevertheless, this information is sufficient to express a desire to have approximately 10% of all CILP revenue to be allocated to land acquisition opportunities that may arise.

This report will continue by outlining the proposals made by participants within the three categories major projects, smaller projects, and land acquisition. Proposals are included to forward information about what projects received notable support while top rated proposals are specified as priorities.

## **Major Projects**

For the Plan Your Parks consultation, the label of major projects was attributed to any single or multi-facted project that could feasibly exceed \$80k. Though this lumped together large gazebos (estimated cost \$80k) with functioning field houses (estimated cost 1.2 million), it allowed for a separation of more expensive and construction intensive proposals from smaller projects involving installation.

### **❖ skate park**

Throughout the consultation, proposals for making spaces that are inviting for older children and teens were heard frequently. Though these proposals usually applied to play equipment (explained below), a main idea on what the ward was missing was a skate park. A skate park was consistently **prioritized**, most commonly it was a second level priority. The idea of a skate park was more likely

to be marked as a first level priority in the school age questionnaire and received the highest level of concentrated support at one of the in-person school sessions.

Different locations for the skate park were suggested, including Champlain Park, Fisher Park, Laroche Park, Hintonburg Park, Tom Brown Arena, and Westboro Beach. However, it was also expressed during the consultation that having a skate park simply "somewhere in the ward" would be sufficient. A skate park beside Tom Brown Arena was a highly supported idea in the in-person sessions as well as through the online questionnaire.

### ❖ **splash pads and pools**

A splash pad was a frequently mentioned major project. The financing of a new splash pad was consistently among top three **priorities**. Above ground and adult sized swimming pools were also mentioned but far less consistently. There were also calls for improvements to existing splash pads in Fisher Park and Hintonburg Park.

The three main proposed locations for a new splash pad were Tilbury Park, Clare Gardens, McKellar Park, and Fairmont Park. Respondents to the school age questionnaire supported these locations, in addition to the locations of Champlain Park, Hampton Park, Iona Park, and Westboro Kiwans. The location of Fairmont Park was proposed by a high number of respondents to the online questionnaire and in the in-person school session. Notable support for Clare Gardens and Tilbury Park was expressed during the in-person sessions. Tilbury Park received the most support in the second round of sessions. Once again, some respondents stated that just having more splash pads in the ward would be sufficient.

There were frequent calls for wading pool updates and repairs to be implemented and assisted with CILP funding if necessary. Additionally, participants in both the in-person and school age questionnaire occasionally proposed that one of the ward's wading pools be turned into an adult size pool with a deep end. Suggested locations for a wading pool re-design or a new adult sized pool were Champlain Park, Clare Gardens, Fisher Park, Parkdale Park, Tilbury Park, or Reid Park.



## ❖ **field house and field house repairs**

Field houses were also discussed as either being needed for parks or being in need of repair. Given the high cost and infrequent perceived need of new field houses, these proposals were very specific. Proposals were made for a new field house in Laroche Park as well as significant repairs and updates to the existing field house in Champlain Park. Interest in a Reid park field house was expressed, but this interest was only mentioned in the final stage of the consultation.

A new field house in Laroche Park was proposed throughout the consultation. As will be explained below, the financing of a field house for Laroche Park received high levels of support, frequently marked as a **top level priority**. The detailed aspects of this field house should be identified through further consultation with Laroche Park users. What Plan Your Parks did reveal was that users of Laroche Park would like to see it designed holistically with existing park assets, provide washroom/change room access, external water access, and a storage space.

Significant repairs for the Champlain Park field house were also frequently called for by both in person and online contributions. Specific improvements include repairs to ventilation to improve the poor air quality, upgrades to the washrooms, and upgrades to the change rooms north of the main field house. Participants advocating for these improvements also pointed to the poor acoustics and aesthetic of the inner space as something that should be addressed.

## ❖ **courts and winter use**

In order to invite increase use and facilitate a diverse array of physical activities year round, participants often called for improved and increased court and rink space. The range of sports advocated for included tennis, skating, basketball, pickle ball, and bike polo. Though there are many such courts in the ward, participants often mentioned how they were lacking in their part of the neighbourhood or only privately run courts were available.

A proposal that received **consistent support and prioritization** was a multi-use court for Lions Park, which could serve as a basketball court in the spring, summer and fall and an ice rink in the winter.

Another idea that received a consistent amount of **prioritization** was a multi-use court and half-court basketball court in Ev Tremblay Park in order to support Ottawa's growing bike-polo community. The dedication to this plan was based on current use of the existing basketball court and participants consistently turned out to propose a detailed plan of how the court could better support resident use.

The Ev Tremblay bike polo plan involves redesigning the existing court to provide 40x20m of space with proper drainage, installing permanent prefabricated side boards and 6 LED lights year round activated from 11pm until 6am by a push button box similar to the Sens Rink at the Overbrook Community Centre with a durable surface surrounding the court for observers. In addition to this new multi-use court, the installation of a half-court basketball court in Ev Tremblay Park would allow for simultaneous basketball and multi-use court use. Supporting bike-polo and adding a new basketball court was expressed as a **priority** by respondents to the online questionnaire who did not attend the in-person sessions as well.

Proposals to provide cover for the existing basketball court in Iona park as well as build a new one were expressed as a **top priority** in both the online questionnaire and the school age questionnaire. A tennis court was proposed for Champlain Park and Laroche Park. The Laroche Park proposal was to replace one of the baseball diamonds and repair the fencing for the remaining one. Some participants also **prioritized** more tennis courts in McKellar Park. A strong contingent of park users who enjoy pickle ball came out to the third round of sessions and advocated for modifications to local tennis courts to allow for this increasingly popular sport.

Though basketball courts, tennis courts, baseball diamonds and skating rinks were frequently proposed by respondents to the school age survey, there was not a concentrated consensus on a location for these proposals. Basketball courts were the most likely to be proposed, followed by baseball diamonds, however tennis courts were more likely to be marked as a **top priority**. Suggested locations were numerous and expressed a general need for more of such courts and spaces.

## ❖ **play equipment**

Repairs to play equipment and additions of new and exciting play structures were consistently called for throughout the consultation. The reoccurring concerns about play equipment focused on play equipment is safe and inviting to junior (2-5 years old), senior age children (6-12 years) as well as youth (13-17).

In terms of new ideas, the sidebar on the next page gives specific focus to the youth oriented outreach methods. The adult participants were sufficiently informed to know that a parkour or obstacle courses would be an attractive element in Hintonburg Park, Laroche Park or McKellar Park. A low climbing wall, natural elements like logs and boulders, and a slackline or balancing structure

were expressed as **priorities** for Ev Tremblay Park and the incorporation of more natural interactive elements and opportunity for risks was a **priority** proposal for the wards parks generally.

Installing a senior age play structure in Fisher Park and Fairmont Park was expressed as a **top priority** on the online survey. Installing a older age play structure was **prioritized** by participants in the in-person sessions looking to improve Laroche Park. Similar proposals were made for Tilbury Park, which pointed to Lansdowne Park as a local model for inviting play structures. It was also expressed that installation of a swing-set in Byron Lineary Park and Fairmont Park was desired.

Updates to existing play equipment in Byron Linear Park and Champlain Park were expressed as top **priorities** both in-person and through the online questionnaire. Similar updates were proposed for Iona Park, Mahoney Park, McKellar Park.

#### ❖ **washrooms and water**

Participants frequently called for washroom access and access to water for the purposes of drinking, gardening, and creating puddle skating rinks. Access to

### ***WHAT ARE "THE KIDS" SAYING NOW-A-DAYS?***

Though the importance of a pre-teen/teen space was noted by adult participants, youth participating through a questionnaire and an in-person session at Fisher Park/Summit Alternative, were able to give their thoughts on what these spaces need.

There is a clear interest in using both natural elements and creative structures to climb, jump, and explore. Climbing ropes, rope bridges, fire poles as well as natural environments to jump around on, including logs, climbable trees, climbing walls and boulders were called for consistently. Imaginative proposals that frequently arose were in-ground trampolines, zip-lines, obstacle course, and parkour type environments.

Using repurposed equipment, like a school bus and bathtubs, was also proposed. Some of the youth respondents, called for themed elements such as castles or spaceships to make parks more interesting.

Simply playing around with dimension was suggested by proposing bigger play structures, bigger slides, and bigger teeter totter type equipment.

Monkey bars and spider web structures were consistently proposed. Numerous proposals called for swings, with many suggesting saucer swings, or bench swings to add some exciting spin on these classic enjoyments. Also, tether ball was occasionally proposed.

There was also an expressed appreciation for grass, stone pathways, a fish pond in Westboro Kiwanis Park, and gardens.

washrooms and drinking water was something many participants at the in-person sessions, online questionnaire, youth outreach and Parkdale Food Centre outreach felt should be available in parks generally.

Fountains were proposed for in Ev Tremblay Park, Tilbury Park, Laroche Park, and the re-installment of the fountain in Parkdale Park was called for.

External water hoses for gardening and skating were called for in Champlain Park, Ev Tremblay, Laroche Park, Lions Park, and Tilbury Park.

" **Make sure the drinking fountains actually work so you don't have to run home when you're thirsty and you can **PLAY ON!!!****" - respondent to school age questionnaire in reference McCormick Park

New washroom facilities were proposed for Clare Gardens, Iona Park and Laroche Park. Some parks, such as Champlain Park and Ev Tremblay Park already have washroom facilities and some participants proposed expanded accessible hours using a timed lock during all seasons. In the case of Champlain Park and Ev Tremblay Park, expanded washroom access remained a **priority** throughout the consultation. In the cases of new instalments, when participants were informed of the cost and questionable feasibility, such proposals commonly became less prioritized. Nevertheless, washroom and water access was clearly called for within multiple forums of the consultation and city staff may be able to develop informed proposals on how to service these needs.

### ❖ **shade, structure and staging**

Naturally, the enjoyment of the sunny outdoors is best accompanied by access to shade, entertainment, and community gatherings. Participants saw gazebos and shade structures as a way to invite community as well as provide staging for musical and theatrical performances. A gazebo was the **main priority** of participants interested in improving Iona Park. Access to shade and a stage for performances was also a **priority** for users of Champlain Park and Laroche Park. A similar proposal was made for Hintonburg Park but it was not prioritized. Access to shade was called for in Ev Tremblay Park and McKellar Park.

Also within this category, respondents to the online questionnaire called for a change room for those skating in Fairmont Park as well as a snack or concession bar. A concession stand was also suggested for Ev Tremblay Park and Iona Park and in multiple parks in the Parkdale Food Centre and school age outreach sessions. Though the operation of the concession stand would come with its own

set of challenges outside the scope of the CILP fund, this idea was called for consistently and therefore merits consideration.

## ❖ **paving and resurfacing**

Though some participants like the feeling of sand between their toes, proposals for safer, more accessible, and less messy surfaces were much more frequent. Resurfacing of areas underneath and surrounding play areas were proposed for Byron Linear Park, Armstrong Park. Resurfacing under the play equipment in Armstrong Park was prioritized at the in-person sessions.

The installation of paving or crushed granite around the proposed multi-purpose court in Ev Tremblay Park would help to repair the muddy terrain that is created by spectators standing around the court currently. Improvements to the path in Fairmont at the corner near Woodstock St and Sherwood Dr was also called for. A paved parking lot for McKellar Park was proposed in order to welcome visitors who travel by car.

In order to improve the green space, participants interested in improving McCormick Park proposed that some of the current paved area be remediated and sodded. Similarly, a re-sodding of Hintonburg Park and Laroche Park was proposed by respondents to the online questionnaire

## **Implementation of Major Projects**

Participants were asked how they would like to see projects over \$80k implemented. In order to organize responses to this question, options were provided. These options included the projects being **1**:saved for and implemented one at a time, **2**:saved for and implemented in groups of two, or **3**:saved for by distributing each dollar deposited in the account for such projects into portions for each supported project and implemented as the necessary funds levels are reached.

The creativity and nuance of participants was also welcomed by providing space for their own ideas on how implementation and prioritization of expenditures could be arranged. Three alternative options were suggested including **4**:a ward-wide audit of park needs and engagement with community associations, **5**:further dividing major projects into categories based on size and importance and fund each category with a percentage, and **6**:reaching out to assess what the desires of those not attending in-person.

Ideas on how to best organize expenditure were wide ranging. Using ranked priority dots, participants in the third round of in-person sessions expressed that Option 1 was

most likely to be a preference by a small margin. Option 2 was found to be the most general priority as it ranked either first or second among all three orders of priority. The more complex Option 3 of distributing revenue for major projects into envelopes did receive general support as well but was third in line in terms of preference. The participant created Option 4 and 5 received some support but Options 1, 2, and 3 were shown to be satisfactory for most participants. Of course, these implementation strategies are not mutually exclusive and while Option 1 or 2 were supported as top preferences, consultation can be on-going in the process of planning, design, and implementation.

| #        | Implementation Plan Preferences              |                                   |   |
|----------|--|-----------------------------------|---|
|          | First Priority                               | Second Priority                   | Third Priority                          |
| 1st most | <b>Option 1</b> with 30% approval            | <b>Option 2</b> with 40% approval | <b>Option 3</b> with 50% approval votes |
| 2 most   | <b>Option 2</b> with 23% approval            | <b>Option 1</b> with 30% approval | <b>Option 2</b> with 30% approval       |
| 3 most   | <b>Option 3 and 4</b> tied with 16% approval | <b>Option 3</b> with 13% approval | <b>Option 4</b> with 13% approval       |

A central board listed all projects above \$80k that received notable levels of support throughout the consultation and members were invited to indicate how they would like to see each dollar of revenue raised for major projects allocated into envelopes using \$1 of pretend money that they could divide 10 ways. Participants were encouraged to express what portion of each dollar they feel should go to certain projects but were also able to allocate 100% of their dollar to a single project.

The results gained at both of the in-person sessions below express a participatory budget based on priorities and how participants would like to see the percentage of each dollar saved for major projects. Participants were able to add new projects they felt belonged in this activity.<sup>1</sup>

This envelope activity was created in order to identify how each dollar will be broken down for the purposes of Option 3. However, this information could still be useful for other approaches to saving and implementation. For the purposes of Option 1, this breakdown, along with the other notes on priority projects above, can be viewed as an expression of relative support for each project. This relative support would help determine a plan on what order projects will be saved for and implemented. For the purposes of Option 2, these breakdowns can help to select priority groups and a guide on how to allocate portions of the dollar divided among these groups. This information could also be used in on-going consultation.

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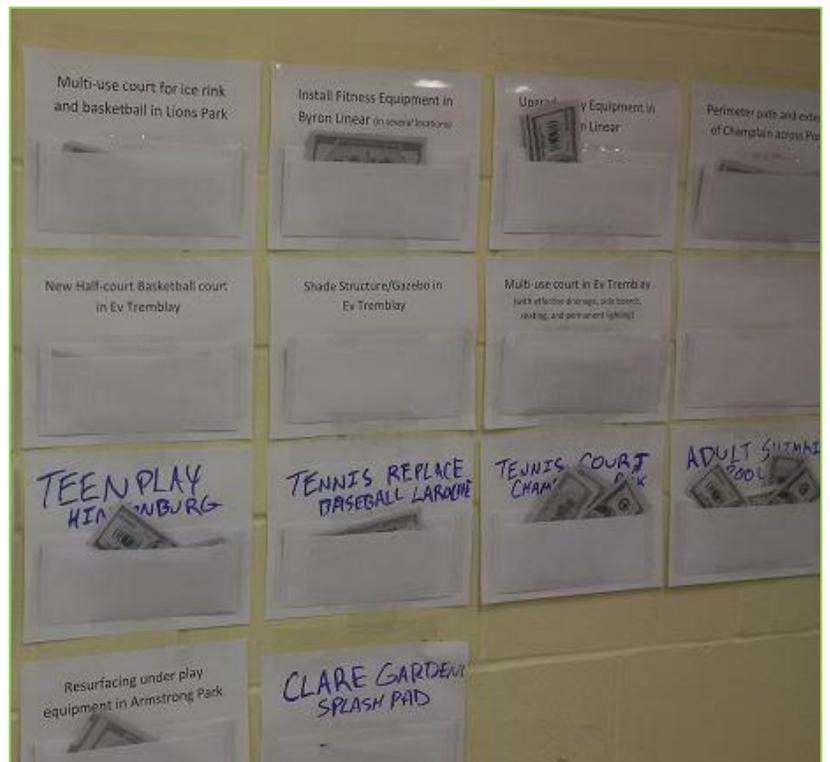
<sup>1</sup> For this reason, proposals from categories other than major projects were included. These proposals, including exercise equipment in Byron Linear Park, and expansion of Champlain park are further explained in sections below.

## Session 1

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Tennis court in Champlain Park - 4.54 cents                 | Multi-use court in Ev Tremblay - 20 cents                       |
| New half-court basketball court in Ev Tremblay Park - 3.63  | Splash Pad at Clare Gardens - 1.81 cents                        |
| Splash pad in Tilbury Park - .9 cents                       | Paved parking lot in McKellar Park - 3.63 cents.                |
| Adult swimming Pool - 7.27 cents                            | Shade structure or gazebo in Iona Park - 4.54 cents             |
| Perimeter path and extension of Champlain Park - 8.63 cents | Resurfacing under play equipment in Armstrong Park - 2.27 cents |
| Multi-use court in Lions Park - 7.27 cents                  | Install fitness equipment at Byron Linear Park - 3.63 cents     |
| Splash pad in Fairmont Park - .9 cents                      | Shade structure in McKellar Park or bigger trees - 3.18 cents   |
| Field house in Laroche Park - 5.45 cents                    | Teen zone in Hintonburg Park - 5.90 cents                       |
| Updates to field house in Champlain Park - 8.18 cents       | Tennis Court in Laroche Park - 3.63 cents                       |
| Upgrade play equipment at Byron Linear Park - 2.27 cents    |   |
| Storage area and change room in Fairmont Park - 2.27 cents  |   |

## Session 2

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Shade structure or gazebo in Iona Park - 1.82 cents         | Resurfacing under play equipment in Armstrong Park - 6.36 cents |
| Perimeter path and extension of Champlain Park - 3.64 cents | Reid Park field house - 3.64 cents                              |
| Shade structure or gazebo in Champlain Park - 6.36 cents    | Shade structure or gazebo in Ev Tremblay Park - 6.36 cents      |
| Field house in Laroche Park - 15.45 cents                   | Multi-use court in Ev Tremblay Park - 6.36 cents                |
| Pickle ball court - 27.27 cents                             | Skate park - 18.18 cents  |
| Install fitness equipment in Byron Linear Park - 4.56 cents |   |



## **Ingredients for Quality**

Though the scale and expense of major projects merits discussion, the impact made by smaller scale projects can be pivotal for residents' ability to enjoy a park. For the Plan Your Parks consultation, the label of smaller projects was attributed to eligible expenses that could feasibly be completed for less than \$80k. Though cumulative costs of proposals for exercise equipment or lighting could easily exceed \$80k, this categorization allows for a focused discussion on the small things that increase a parks overall quality and usability.

### **❖ greenery, shade, and gardening**

Many consultation participant proposals expressed a desire for the simple pleasures of foliage, greenery, trees, and bio-diversity. A need for additional trees or replacement or addition of trees was called for in Bayview Park, Byron Linear Park, Ev Tremblay Park, Fairmont Park, Hintonburg Park, McCormick Park and Westboro Kiwanis Park. Along with coniferous and deciduous trees, fruit trees that grow in Ottawa's climate were proposed for Champlain Park.

Along with beautification, big trees also provide shade and focusing on how natural shade and lighting can be arranged was a specific proposal for participants focusing on Armstrong Park, Hintonburg Park generally and along the southern wall, Laroche Park, and McKellar Park.

A desire for gardens and community gardens was frequently expressed by participants. Specific locations proposed for interactive gardens were Champlain Park and Roy Duncan Park. An expansion of the existing garden in Iona Park was also proposed.

### **❖ arts and sculpture and beautification**

Complementing the natural beauty of parks with art and sculpture was consistently proposed for in certain parks. Proposals for artwork and sculpture, help to give parks identity and make space more engaging. There was some support for statues and sculpture in the school age questionnaire in Fairmont Park and participants at the in-person sessions proposed artwork for Laroche Park.

The most consistent push for art and sculpture came from those seeking to improve Byron Linear Park. Such proposals were made at the in-person sessions and through the online questionnaire.

### ❖ **lighting and security**

The installation of additional or modified lights for the purposes of energy efficiency and evening use was also called for to improve multiple parks in the in-person sessions and the online questionnaire. Lighting in parks was prioritized by respondents in the Parkdale Food Centre outreach sessions.

In the case of Laroche Park, participants called for lights to be softened or re-located so that their light does not impact nearby homes. In the case of Ev Tremblay Park and Fairmont Park, participants proposed that permanent court lighting be operated by a time limited push button to save energy.

Participants interested in making parks more safe and conducive to evening use proposed better lighting at the Fisher Park Holland Ave entrance, lighting on the path of Byron Linear Park from Churchill Ave and Holland Ave, and creation of a lit path in McKellar Path from Windermere Ave to Wavell Ave. Better lighting in Armstrong Park

## ***KITCHISSIPPI PARKS: THE NEXT GENERATION***

Though Plan Your Parks sets out a vision for the next six years of CILP Fund expenditure, investment in local parks symbolizes a dedication to much longer term vision. Plan Your Parks featured a focus on getting the perspective of children and youth because they are possibly the residents who are going to make the most use of these parks over the years to come. It is feasible that though these participants represent the youth perspective of today, they will be the adult perspective of tomorrow looking for a restful place to walk or an exciting place to take their family.

Though there was less of a consensus on *where* improvements are necessary, these younger participants are able to provide a special perspective.

Younger participants exhibited characteristic creativity as well as notable civic responsibility. Top priorities expressed through the school age survey included:

- ❖ big play structures and swings for all ages
- ❖ gardens, greenery, and trees for climbing and shade
- ❖ waste management, cleanliness and safety
- ❖ clean washrooms
- ❖ soccer goalposts and fields
- ❖ splash pads, deep pools, and water slides
- ❖ water fountains or a place to get lemonade or snacks
- ❖ basketball and baseball

These priorities should be considered for the parks that were a priority to younger respondents shown in Parks of Interest and used to audit parks in neighbourhoods with growing families.

was also proposed. In feedback, participants were informed about the Park Pathway Lighting Policy, which specifies that investing in pathway lighting in parks should be avoided if there is a well lit street nearby. Proposals for pathway lighting were less prioritized after receiving this feedback. Better lighting in Armstrong Park continued to be **prioritized** in the in-person sessions. Respondents to the online questionnaire called for better lighting in Tom Brown Arena and Laroche Park.

### ❖ **fun for growing children and community**

Fun in parks does not always require the expensive, major project of a play structure. These same needs for fun and engaging spaces can be provided through landscaping, smaller equipment/objects, and thoughtful design of space.

Many respondents to the school age outreach and questionnaire stated that they wanted places to explore and play hide and seek. At the in-person sessions, a large berm in McKellar Park, which could serve as a sledding hill in the winter and an amphitheatre seating area in the summer and fall, was proposed as a **priority**.

Ping pong tables were called for in the school age questionnaire. Along with the minor expense required to accommodate pickle ball, this infrastructure would provide for a diverse range of park uses and a unique identity to the parks of Kitchissippi Ward.

Smaller elements of the above mentioned play equipment in major projects could be purchased while larger play equipment is being saved for. Once again, the adult participants were sufficiently informed to know that a parkour course would be an attractive element and Hintonburg Park, Laroche Park and McKellar Park. Rougher elements like railroad ties and boulders were proposed for Ev Tremblay Park as well. The incorporation of more natural interactive elements and opportunity for risks was a **priority** proposal for the ward's parks in general.

The importance of having a teen space in Hintonburg Park was strongly expressed during the in-person sessions and this space may not be sufficiently created with the instalment of play equipment. Rather, it may be a space that teens and growing children feel they are able to own that will invite them to congregate and use parks more frequently. Providing open wifi connections was frequently proposed and this is definitely something that would provide for the desires of youth looking to stay connect but also get outdoors.

## ❖ **fields, pathways, and fitness**

Along with the enjoyment is greenery and natural elements, many participants made proposals based on their enjoyment of multi-use fields and walk-ways. These elements help to increase spaces for fitness, physical activity and strolling enjoyment of green space. These simple additions can be complemented with the addition of outdoor exercise fixtures to allow for varying levels of physical activity.

Space for soccer and football was a frequent proposal in the school age questionnaire and outreach sessions. Suggested locations included Champlain Park, Fairmont Park, Fisher Park, Hintonburg Park and Tilbury Park. Kids frequently proposed that nets be added to soccer goals. Improvement of the fields and goal posts in Laroche Park, McKellar Park, Tom Brown Arena and Iona Park and increased field space in Hintonburg Park were called for by adult participants.

Participants called for crushed granite pathways that connect the play equipment in Ev Tremblay Park. A pathway from Windermere Ave and Wavell Ave in McKellar was also proposed. A pathway with distance markers of for jogging, stroller walking, and wheelchairs around the perimeter of the park was proposed for Laroche Park, Iona Park, Mahoney Park, and was a **priority** for those looking to improve Champlain Park. Participants looking to improve Byron Linear park highlighted the need to ensure proper drainage and widening the path at Golden Ave to allow for shared use walkers, wheelers, and cyclists. Paths were proposed as **priorities** by respondents to the school age questionnaire as well. Respondents to the school age questionnaire frequently called for increased bike paths.

Complementing pathways with dispersed outdoor exercise equipment fixtures was a **priority** proposal for Byron Linear Park and Champlain Park. Fitness equipment was also proposed for Westboro Kiwanis Park.

## ❖ **seating and social infrastructure**

Along with the enjoyment of walking, park users helped to identify where more seating is necessary. Many ideas on how to improve and support the social atmosphere of parks were put forward, including games tables, barbecues, and social seating arrangements. When possible, participants made it clear that seating arrangements and barbecues should be integrated with access to shade and cover. Seating and barbecue infrastructure was expressed as a **priority** to many participants in the Parkdale Food Centre outreach sessions.

Additional benches, picnic tables and bench improvements were called for in Byron Linear Park, Hintonburg Park, Iona Park, McKellar Park, Parkdale Park, and Tilbury Park. These additions and improvements were proposed to be a balanced assortment of standard park benches, accessible park benches, and accessible picnic tables. Participants seeking to improve seating in Byron Linear Park proposed that benches be positioned at a ninety-degree angle from each other to allow for social or individuated seating of park users.

Games tables were proposed as a **priority** for those seeking to improve Byron Linear Park and Iona Park. Barbecue infrastructure was proposed for Champlain Park, Laroche Park and Bayview Park. Also, to allow for prolonged park visits, extended accessible hours to existing washroom facilities such as those in Champlain Park and Ev Tremblay Park through modification to the entry and locking mechanism was proposed.

### ❖ **pets and designated space**

Designated space for pets, typically dogs, helps to create balance for those seeking a free roaming space for their best friends and those seeking to stay separated from animals. This subject arose frequently in both the online questionnaire and the school age questionnaire and outreach session.

Fenced in dog-runs were called for by adults in Fairmont Park, Laroche Park, Tom Brown Arena. Participants in the school age questionnaire proposed designated dog areas in Champlain Park, Fisher Park, Hintonburg Park, and Tilbury Park. There was also a clear call for increasing dogs-off leash areas and signage to designate these areas was proposed.

Additionally, in order to increase the safe nature of play equipment areas, fencing around children's play equipment was called for. Fencing around the play structure was expressed as a **priority** in Laroche Park.



### ❖ **waste management and safety**

Proposals for improving waste and recycling management was called for. Though this includes a operational expense aspect, current receptacles and placement could be reviewed in light of these proposals. Also, a few safety hazards that could be addressed using the CILP fund were identified during Plan Your Parks.

Improvements to waste management and the number of receptacles was proposed for Ev Tremblay, Laroche Park, Iona Park, Fisher Park. It was reported that Iona Park waste and recycling receptacles were not accessible during the winter and conscientious park users would like these receptacles to be accessible year-round.

Other safety concerns include a bucket swing that children can fall out of in Fisher Park, a jagged tripping hazard that is near the sandbox in Parkdale Park, and precarious step stools in McKellar Park.

### ❖ **bike racks**

Participants at the in-person sessions as well as respondents to surveys proposed bike racks at certain location as a way to improve parks. In order to encourage and support cycling to parks, bike racks were proposed for Champlain Park, Ev Tremblay Park, Iona Park, Laroche Park, McKellar Park, and Tilbury Park.

### ❖ **signage**

In some cases, participants felt that parks could be improved with signage. Such cases included more prominent signage for Fisher Park on Holland Ave and better traffic control signage at the entrance of Mahoney Park.

## **Land Acquisition**

With a love of parks being spread over the ward even more abundantly than parkland, some participants proposed that the CILP fund be used to purchase and create new parks. These proposals were numerous and came with a number of desired purposes. These land acquisition proposals were consistently prioritized by some participants up to the final round of in-person sessions.

A **prioritized** area for creating new park land was in the Wellington Village Area between Island Park Dr., Holland Ave., Wellington St. and Scott St. Another **prioritized** area was at the corner of Sherwood Dr. and Bayswater Pl. in order to compensate for

the loss of Queen Juliana Park. The extension of Champlain Park across Pontiac was also consistently proposed and supported by in-person participants.

Other suggested areas include the Dominion Station area, Churchill Ave and Workman Ave, the east end of Hickory Street, Tunney's Pasture. Focusing on the long-term process of ensuring that Ruskin Park is properly maintained and used was also **prioritized** by in-person participants.

The proposed theme of a new park in the Wellington Village was to provide for a place for resting and interacting. Benches, picnic tables, gardens and games tables would provide a place for socializing outdoors. Another proposal emphasized the need to have a designated bike safety and skills training area. Also, a development north of Richmond Rd. could be used to offset a shortage in children's play areas and play equipment in this area. Finally, a new park in Tunney's Pasture was proposed as a place that could help increase, public tennis court, or a large pool. A new location at 250 Lanark, along with many of these proposals, was proposed as a way to increase sports field space.

## **Concluding Recommendation**

The information compiled above sets out the participatory plan put together by the hundreds of residents taking part in Plan Your Parks. A sense of prioritization was gathered in order to identify more pressing needs or desires but all proposed projects are useful in understanding the community vision on how Kitchissippi parks can be the best they can be.

Priority projects in each section of this report should be looked into in terms of feasibility and cost in order to develop a schedule for savings and implementation. A decision should be made on how revenue will be divided among the uses of the CILP fund in response to the participant proposal in Budgeting and Types of Expenses and saving should be begin for top rated projects.

Given that participants supported saving for projects one at a time or in top rated groups of two, the top rated major projects, major projects proposed for Armstrong Park, Byron Linear Park, Champlain Park, Ev Tremblay Park, Fairmont Park, Fisher Park, Iona Park, Laroche Park, Lions Park, McKellar Park, and Tilbury Park should be assessed by the Councillor in conjunction with other awareness of the importance of these projects. Other proposals should also be assessed and added to the six year schedule for the use of the CILP fund.

Smaller projects should be scheduled in a similar way and staff should be requested to begin making assessments of how these needs can be provided for over the next six

years. The details of these plans including, but not limited to, the placement of waste receptacles and positioning of accessible and social seating should be noted in order to follow through with the interest in participatory planning of these simpler but nevertheless necessary details.

Land acquisition is something that was called for consistently and different parts of the ward were suggested. Though the ability to purchase and develop land is contingent on a number of factors, this desire among residents should be noted and a on-going project of assessing the locations suggested or similar locations should be mandated.

Most of all, this information, along with on-going consultation, should provide an active guidance to CILP fund expenditure over the next six years in order to give acknowledgement to the mindful work of participants in bringing their views to the Plan Your Parks consultation.