

## **Riverwalk Area Urban Design Master Plan Online Survey #2 Summary of Feedback**

April 2021

### **Overview**

The City of Brampton hosted the second online survey about the Riverwalk Area Urban Design Master Plan (UDMP) from March 25 to April 9, 2021. This survey was intended to be part of the City of Brampton's public engagement strategy about the UDMP.

The City used Twitter, the Riverwalk project website, and the Brampton Engage website to promote the online survey. The survey was hosted on Microsoft Forms. Participants were encouraged to download and review the presentation slides from Public Information Session #2 via the Riverwalk project website before taking the survey.

Similar to Public Information Session #2, the purpose of the online survey was to seek feedback on design concepts and recommendations for the draft UDMP. See **Attachment A** for the complete list of questions in the online survey.

Between March 25 and April 9, 2021, 47 people responded to the survey. 38 of those people also signed up to receive project updates.

Feedback from the survey will be reviewed and considered by the City of Brampton and DTAH, the project's lead consultant team, to help inform design concepts and shape the UDMP.

This Summary of Feedback was written by Swerhun Inc., the third party facilitation team supporting the City of Brampton on the public consultation for the UDMP.

The intent of this summary is to capture the range of feedback shared by participants using the online survey. This summary is not intended to serve as a transcript, does not assess the merit or accuracy of any of these perspectives, and does not indicate an endorsement of any of these perspectives on the part of the City of Brampton or the project team.

### **1. Key themes**

The following key themes emerged from the feedback shared by participants on the UDMP online survey. These themes are meant to be read in concert with the more detailed summary of feedback in the following sections.

- **Support and excitement about the Riverwalk UDMP.** In general, participants said the team is on the right track. There was lots of interest to see how the concepts will play out in real life and how trails will be connected. Many participants shared positive feedback for new amenities, activities, and events coming to the Riverwalk and encouraged the team to quickly and efficiently implement the proposed plans.
- **Support for naturalizing and protecting/enhancing the health of Etobicoke Creek and Riverwalk area.** Many participants shared a strong interest to see more native plants, flowering trees, and bushes throughout the Riverwalk. A few participant said they appreciate

the effort to naturalize the area, but it is important to minimize tree removals when doing construction in the bypass channel and realigning Ken Whillans Drive.

- **There was a range of feedback about the proposed bandshell/amphitheater in Rosalea Park.** Several participants said it will be disruptive to the neighbouring seniors' residences, quiet residential neighbourhood, and YMCA. A few said it would be nice to have event spaces within walking distance in the Riverwalk, close to downtown.
- **Concerns about safety and crime in the Riverwalk area.** There were several comments that it is important to ensure trail users feel safe. There should be clear sightlines throughout the Riverwalk. There are also areas in the Riverwalk where the City should address coyotes, ticks, and fire ants.

## 2. Detailed summary of feedback

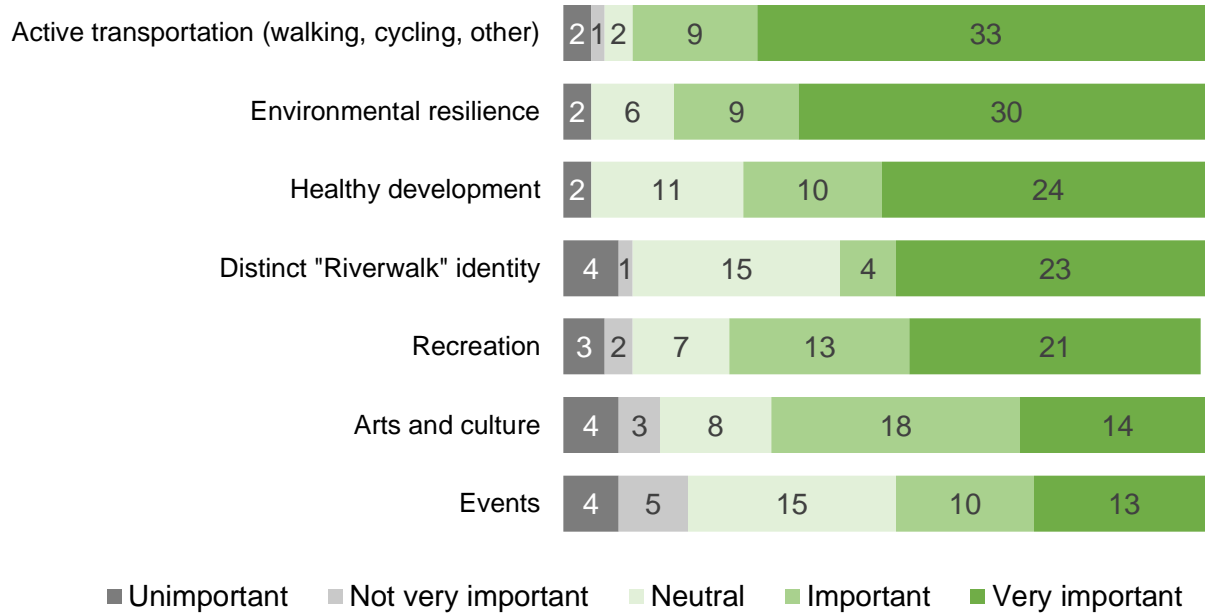
The following sections summarize the feedback shared by participants. The feedback is organized by question and the following categories:

- Feedback about the general directions and draft concepts in the Riverwalk Area
- Feedback about the Big Moves :
  - Feedback about Duggan Park (Area 1)
  - Feedback about Rosalea Park North (Area 2)
  - Feedback about Rosalea Park (Area 3)
  - Feedback about Etobicoke Creek Bypass Channel (Area 4)
  - Feedback about Centennial Park (Area 5)
- Other feedback

See **Attachment A** for the complete list of questions in the online survey.

## Feedback about the general directions and draft concepts in the Riverwalk Area

**Question 1:** Please rate how important the topics are to you in the Riverwalk (47 responses)



**Question 2:** What do you think about the general directions, ideas, and plans for the Riverwalk area? Are we on the right track? Anything missing that you would like us to consider? (35 responses)

### Overall feedback

- In general, the team is on the right track.** Several respondents said the plans look good and encouraged the team to start implementing the plans soon. The team should continue to push to achieve the highest level of design because these amenities will be used for generations. These investments could attract future private sector and post-secondary investments and could be an extreme positive for Brampton's identity. The community-oriented goals are important and a strong marketing effort is required continue the momentum of revitalization.

### Feedback about environmental resilience and sustainability

- What respondents liked:** Respondents said the health of Etobicoke Creek is paramount and they liked the strategies to improve environmental resilience and sustainability. Specifically, they liked the Eco Park concepts, the addition of green space, the naturalization of the Creek, controlled access to the water's edge to protect plants and wildlife, and the active and sustainable transportation ideas.
- Respondents' suggestions:** Respondents shared suggestions on how to enhance the environmental resilience and sustainability strategies, including: creating more side trails that connect to the main trail; adding more native plants, shrubs, bushes, community gardens, pollinator plants, and urban agriculture, and; minimizing the removal of older trees.

They also suggested recreating Etobicoke Creek's meander, creating an outdoor learning centre (where residents could learn about native plants, urban agriculture and more), and exploring legal frameworks and enforceable laws to protect water and wildlife (look to the United Nations Environment Programme for examples).

### Feedback about programming

- **What respondents liked:** Respondents said they look forward to new events and activities coming to the Riverwalk that is within walking distance. It would be important to balance events and activities with passive places that encourage lingering and relaxation as well, and to not only rely on the attractions to revitalize the Riverwalk.
- **Respondent's suggestions:** Respondents shared some suggestions for new programming in the Riverwalk including: a skate park close to the recreation centre; events and entertainment space in the sports fields south of Clarence Street; outdoor recreational swimming area in the river similar to other cities in the world. Several respondents shared specific feedback about Rosalea Park – this feedback is captured page 7 of this summary.

### Feedback about character and identity

- **Respondents' suggestions:** Respondents shared suggestions about plans for character and identity including: there should be space in the Riverwalk that tells the story of Brampton's heritage as a flower city; collaborate with the Peel Art Gallery Museum + Archives (PAMA) to help transform the Riverwalk; consider more age-friendly spaces since Brampton is quickly evolving and growing; safety is important - everyone should feel safe at night to walk comfortably in the Riverwalk; and Consider installing distinctive and iconic bridges in the Riverwalk, like the bridges in Boston. The culture, arts, heritage, and identity elements of the UDMP could be more prominent in the materials.

### Active and sustainable transportation

- **What respondents liked:** Respondents said they liked the plans to improve active transportation routes and to be mindful about future rapid transit connections and options.
- **Respondents' suggestions:** Respondents also shared several other suggestions to improve active and sustainable transportation in the Riverwalk including: a continuous north-south cycling trail for commuting, recreation, and tourism; separate cycling and pedestrian paths because some parts of the Etobicoke Creek Trail are narrow; signage along cycling trails about safety (i.e. using bells, lights, and signals); clear wayfinding signage, including during construction phases; keep the Riverwalk trails accessible during construction; more bike share facilities, and ensure that bike share locations are marked on maps.

### Other feedback:

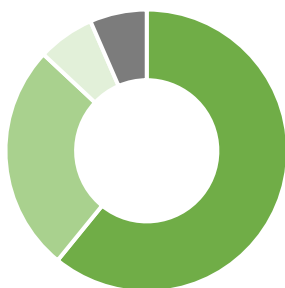
- **Feedback about implementation:**
  - There are coyotes living in this area, particularly the Central Public School field, woodlots, and Centennial Park. Coyotes make it unsafe for people exercising, playing, and especially walking their dogs.

- Consider the resources for maintenance of new amenities and features. It is important that new amenities, boardwalks, and community gardens are properly maintained to protect the City's investment in the area.
- It is also important that the future Scott Street bridge works well with the UDMP, and future construction does not impact the newly repaired bridge. The City should also consider restoring vehicle access on the Scott Street bridge.
- **Feedback about the Riverwalk UDMP project scope:** Consider doing more engagement with local residents in the Riverwalk area. The Riverwalk project should also include Meadowland Park to Charles Watson Park. It would take a more than a single grand project to regenerate Downtown Brampton. The City needs to provide attractions for people to want to come live, work, and play. Consider leaving the Riverwalk area as is.

## Feedback about the Big Moves

### Duggan Park (Area 1)

**Question 3:** How much do you support these recommendations? (46 responses)



- Strongly support, 28 responses (61%)
- Somewhat support, 12 responses (26%)
- Neutral, 3 responses (7%)
- Little support, 0 responses (0%)
- Do not support, 3 responses (7%)

**Question 4:** Do you have any other suggestions for the team to consider in Duggan Park?

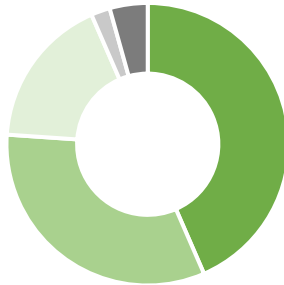
Respondents said:

- **With the right mix of events, uses and features, Duggan Park could become the jewel of the Riverwalk crown.** Duggan Park could be a suitable space for a variety of events and activities due to its size, location, and access to parking and emergency services. Landscaping and public art can be an attraction. Consider planting more native plants, decorative trees, and bushes here. There could also be more community gardens. It will be important to find an appropriate place to relocate the baseball fields.
- **Clean up the meadow to remove fire ants and ticks.** The park has warning signs up for fire ants and ticks, which aren't conducive for children playing in a nature playground. If the City will remove trees from the meadow, consider using air-spade technology to safely relocate mature trees to other areas of the Riverwalk.
- **Improve active transportation paths in Duggan Park,** such as improving the cycling connection/experience under Vodden Street; repairing or widening the bridge over the creek; or a pedestrian tunnel under the creek.

- **Make it feel safer.** It is important to maintain unobstructed sightlines in the trails here. Currently there are dense bushes and trees which may make women and children feel unsafe using the trails.

### Rosalea Park North/Central Public School Fields (Area 2)

**Question 5:** How much do you support these recommendations? (46 responses)



- Strongly support, 20 responses (43%)
- Somewhat support, 15 responses (33%)
- Neutral, 8 responses (17%)
- Little support, 1 response (2%)
- Do not support, 2 responses (4%)

**Question 6:** Do you have any other suggestions for the team to consider in Rosalea Park North?

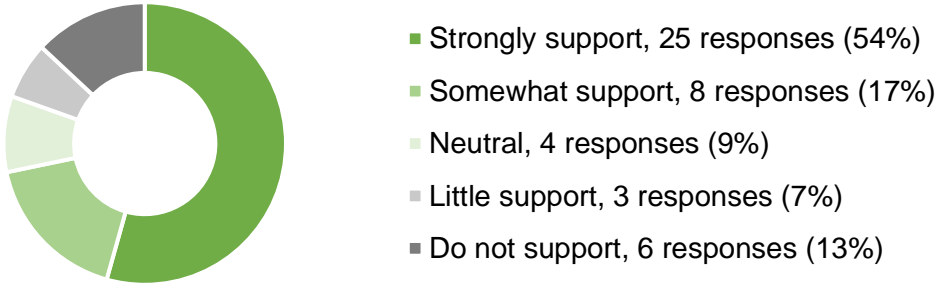
Respondents said:

- **The area could be spectacular, revitalized, and inviting with more native plants, flowering trees, bushes, and community gardens.** A wildflower meadow of native species that support pollinators would be ideal. Other trees and plants could include: flowering crabapple trees, forsythia, and lilacs in spring; black walnut and native maple trees turning crimson and yellow in autumn. Consider lining Ken Whillans Drive with trees and other plantings. Be mindful of introducing new tall grassy meadows. There is a potential for increasing tick infestations, and the likelihood of tick-borne diseases.
- **Feedback about Ken Whillans Drive:** Consider shifting Ken Whillans Drive further west to increase distance between the road and the creek and allow for more signature landscaping and a more pleasant pedestrian experience. Considering installing speed bumps along Ken Whillans Drive to deter drivers speeding. Consider connecting Alexander Street and Ellen Street to Ken Whillans Drive. Consider leaving Ken Whillans Drive as is.
- **Signage and outdoor learning opportunities could support ecological education.** For example, there could be plaques that describe the role of bees and butterflies. These interpretative features could help us appreciate the important of protecting nature and develop young stewards of the environment.
- **Ensure that there are clear sightlines throughout the trails.** The signature landscapes in the Riverwalk should be designed so that they do not obscure sightlines from the road and paths. More visibility in the forested areas could deter public drinking and drug use.
- **Ensure that efforts are made to protect the mature woodlot in the area.** Minimize tree removals in the area. Replant trees within the Riverwalk, if possible.

- **Consider artistic installations**, such as a sculpture garden - the team could look at examples like Stoney Creek’s Battlefield House Museum & Park and Queenston Heights’ Native Memorial; and unique platforms at each lookout in the Riverwalk.
- **Focus on heritage**, such as designing of park to complement the heritage buildings in the area and enhancing the Dale Estate historic plaque.
- **Ensure that the rocky cascade in the bypass channel is not a barrier to fish movement up and downstream.**
- **Improve the current Central Public School playing fields and clean the and litter in the Etobicoke Creek Trail.**

**Rosalea Park (Area 3)**

**Question 7:** How much do you support these recommendations? (46 responses)



**Question 8:** Do you have any other suggestions for the team to consider in Rosalea Park? (24 responses)

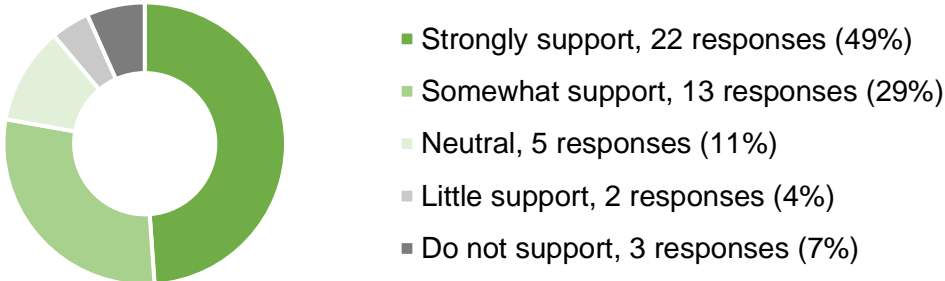
Respondents said:

- **Feedback about the proposed amphitheater in Rosalea Park:**
  - **Some shared concerns about a proposed amphitheater in Rosalea Park.** This amphitheater will be disruptive to nearby the seniors’ residences, historic and quiet residential streets, and YMCA because of the bright lights and loud music. There are already event spaces at Gage Park and Garden Square nearby. If there are events here, what would happen to the other venues in the area? Consider placing a playground here instead of a bandshell.
  - **Some shared suggestions and support about the amphitheater.** It’s great to have walkable pathways that connect to an events space. It would be great if the event space provided year-round programming, not just in the summer. Consider providing a mix of permanent and mobile seating so that various events could occur at once. It would be important that the event space is able to accommodate a wide range of programs.
- **Consider more plantings.** There could an arboretum with native trees and shrubs in Rosalea Park. Consider planting a rose garden or providing urban agriculture here to honour the heritage of “Flowertown” and Dale Estate.

- **Feedback about design elements:** consider a bridge with side viewing platforms and historic-style streetlights at Church Street; and avoid using concrete in the designs.
- **Consider how the area will be maintained in the future.** There should be year-round maintenance and events and adequate space for relaxing, sitting, and walking. Ensure that paths are wide enough so that City maintenance vehicles do not damage the paths when they drive over them.
- **Consider launching Brampton’s own theatre festival based out of the Rose Theatre.** People are drawn to Niagara-on-the-Lake because of its combination of destinations, theatres, shopping, and restaurants.
- **Clarify how pedestrians and cyclists will travel through the bypass channel trails in the materials.**
- **Consider not extending Ken Whillans Drive through the park.**

**Etobicoke Creek Bypass Channel (Area 4)**

**Question 9:** How much do you support these recommendations? (45 responses)



**Question 10:** Do you have any other suggestions for the team to consider in Etobicoke Creek Bypass Channel? (20 responses)

Respondents said:

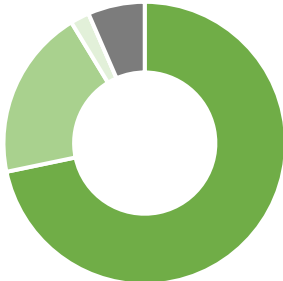
- **Add more natural features.** Minimize the use of concrete in the designs. Consider providing more tree coverage to hide the concrete channeled creek area. Plant more flowering trees, bushes and native plants. It is encouraging to see attempts to naturalize the channel - a naturalized channel is more attractive than a concrete one. Minimize the removal of mature trees. Consider minimal trail lighting to promote plant and wildlife health.
- **Suggestions for additional features in the Etobicoke Creek Bypass Channel include:** educational plaques that explain the purpose of the bypass channel and other ecological functions; a mixed vehicle and pedestrian bridge at John street; and painted bike lanes on the trails; and an iconic bridge on Queen Street. Bridges are beautiful and can be destinations themselves.
- **Other suggestions for activities in the area could include:** boat rides, gondolas, and family attractions year round in the Riverwalk.



- **Clarify how the trail is connected in the Bypass Channel area.** Will the Etobicoke Creek Trail continue under the Queen Street bridge? How will the street level boardwalks connect to the trail? Will people be allowed to access the channel?
- **Ensure that new features and amenities are easy to maintain.** It is important that the City has a good plan to maintain the complex tiered riverbanks in the renderings.
- **Concern about the design of a concrete bypass channel in the Downtown Brampton Floor Protection (DBFP) Environmental Assessment (EA).** In the engagements during the EA, community members were told that concrete side slopes were required to help flow flood water through the channel, the illustrations show more naturalized edges, which we were told was unacceptable for flood mitigation.
- **Clarify the status of the Scott Street bridge.** Residents on Scott Street would like to know how the temporary steel Scott Street bridge fits into the UDMP, if there will be any conflicts in the construction schedule, and whether vehicle access will be restored on the bridge when rebuilt.
- **Minimize/prevent any negative impacts on houses on Scott Street.** Some shared concerns about expropriation, having trails pass behind their property, and light pollution from streetlights and trail lights. The City could also consider improving drainage at the Scott Street Senior Apartments.

**Centennial Park (Area 5)**

**Question 11:** How much do you support these recommendations? (46 responses)



- Strongly support, 33 responses (72%)
- Somewhat support, 9 responses (20%)
- Neutral, 1 response (2%)
- Little support, 0 responses (0%)
- Do not support, 3 responses (7%)

**Question 12:** Do you have any other suggestions for the team to consider in Centennial Park? (17 responses)

Respondents said:

- **Enhance and increase natural features in the area.** Healthy wetlands, woodlands, meadows, and arboretum is essential for human health. Plant more native species. Consider planting cherry blossoms here, these trees are a destination for people. It is also important to consider that expanding the meadow in Centennial Park will likely increase the risk of ticks and Lyme Disease.
- **Improve the existing amenities in Centennial Park.** The parking lot should be expanded because it is well used and often full. This parking lot should also be open during the winter

for trail users. Consider expanding the tennis courts and playground. There is a high demand for the tennis courts. Consider allowing year-round use of the tennis courts. The playground is also well used, it would be beneficial to expand this as well. Consider maintaining some space for soccer.

- **Improve the trails behind the Legion and Mary Street.** Consider cleaning up the thickets, forested areas, and underbrush along this path up to the bypass channel.
- **Improve the pedestrian and cycling crossing across the rail corridor.** Consider using the informal pathway under the railway bridge.
- **Incorporate art into infrastructure.** New infrastructure could include showstopping designs that are different than other places in the city.
- **Suggestions for other amenities and features include:** picnic tables, a pavilion, public restrooms, an outdoor recreational swimming area, and emergency exits along the proposed boardwalks.
- **Consider improving cycling connections at the south end of Centennial Park.** This could include widening the Clarence Street bridge to accommodate cyclists, or a new bridge connecting Beatty Avenue to the trail.

## Other Feedback

**Question 13:** Do you have any other feedback that you would like to see the team consider for the UDMP to ensure a vibrant and sustainable Riverwalk? (20 responses)

Respondents said:

### Feedback about amenities and features

- **Consider planting more flowering trees, native plants, and bushes throughout the Riverwalk.** It would be great to have more community gardens and urban agriculture too. Promote biodiversity. It is also important to balance natural spaces with appropriate spaces for recreation and activities.
- **Other suggested activities and features include:** a camping area for beginner campers and families who aren't familiar with camping in the wild; an outdoor recreation swimming area; and creative lighting solutions that do not flood the area with light pollution.

### Feedback about implementation:

- **Marketing and promotion about the Riverwalk is important.** Suggested options include: social media campaigns, encouraging school field trips to the Riverwalk, and leveraging local partnerships to get this project and the Riverwalk area in the public's eye.
- **Accelerate the implementation of this plan.** It is also important to ensure that the amenities in the UDMP are included in future budgets. Source vendors with proven track record of completing construction quickly/on time to avoid disruption.

- **Ensure that the trails are accessible to all and safe to use during construction phases.**

#### **Feedback about the engagement process:**

- **Consider doing more engagement and communication with the immediate residents and local community.** Engage neighbouring schools, local businesses, PAMA, libraries, medical facilities and others about enjoying nature.
- **Consider hosting a third Public Information Session.** The next public meeting about Riverwalk should show highly detailed plans and designs to the community and how public feedback was considered. The City should allow for more Q & A time, since there were participants who didn't get a chance to speak during the Public Information Session.
- **The materials should speak more about how this project will be transformative to the city and how it will attract people downtown.**

#### **Other feedback about the Riverwalk UDMP project scope**

- **A few respondents said:** the Riverwalk should also include trails south of Clarence Street to Steeles Avenue; consider more train service to bring people to the Riverwalk area; leave the Riverwalk area and parks as is; and there should be nice walking trails throughout Brampton, not just in the Riverwalk.

### **3. Next steps**

The feedback submitted through this survey will be reviewed and considered by the City of Brampton and DTAH, the lead consultant team for the Riverwalk project, to help inform design concepts and shape the Riverwalk UDMP.

## Attachment A: List of Questions in the Online Survey

### Page1: Draft concepts in the Riverwalk Area

**Question 1:** The draft UDMP will include recommendations for the following topics across the Riverwalk area:

- Programming for all (e.g. recreation, events, and education).
- Active and sustainable transportation (e.g. pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, and improvements to transit).
- Environmental resilience, sustainability and public health (e.g. adapting to Climate Change, flood and stormwater management, and recommendations for healthy development).
- Character and Identity (e.g. arts, culture, heritage, and creating a distinct "identity" for Riverwalk).

Please rate how important the topics are to you in the Riverwalk: (scale from very important, important, neutral, not very important, unimportant)

- Recreation
- Active transportation (walking, cycling, other)
- Environmental resilience
- Healthy development
- Events
- Arts and culture
- Distinct "Riverwalk" identity

**Question 2:** The general directions, ideas, and plans for the Riverwalk area are to:

- Apply the Eco Park concepts, such as environmental integration, ecological design, etc.
- Improve/promote access, walkability, cycling, and transit in and around the Riverwalk.
- Create a variety of open spaces for Downtown.
- Improve/provide new programming, events, and flexible spaces for all users.
- Create attractions for people and development.
- Enhance culture, arts, heritage, character, and identity.

What do you think about the general directions, ideas, and plans for the Riverwalk area? Are we on the right track? Anything missing that you would like us to consider?



**Question 3: Duggan Park (Area 1)**

The "Big Moves" recommended for Duggan Park in the draft UDMP include:

- Enhance and increase natural features (woodlot, wetland, riparian edge, etc).
- New boardwalks and woodland trails.
- Improve access to the water's edge.
- New nature-based playground.
- Increase flexible space by relocating existing baseball fields, reconfiguring dogs-off leash area within 10+ years.

How much do you support these recommendations?

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Neutral
- Little support
- Do not support

**Question 4:** Do you have any other suggestions for the team to consider in Duggan Park?

**Question 5: Rosalea Park North (Area 2)**

The "Big Moves" recommended for Rosalea Park North in the draft UDMP include:



- Realign and reconfigure Ken Whillans Drive into a “complete street.”
- Regrade the space on the west side of the creek to create a new meadow landscape.
- Improve the Central Public School fields, facilities, and connections with adjacent community.
- Create a rocky cascade feature at the mouth of the bypass channel.

How much do you support these recommendations?

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Neutral
- Little support
- Do not support

**Question 6:** Do you have any other suggestions for the team to consider in Rosalea Park North?

**Question 7:** Rosalea Park (Area 3)

The “Big Moves” recommended for Rosalea Park in the draft UDMP include:

- Extend Downtown public open space and events spaces.
- Create grassed amphitheater, water features, and seasonal programming.
- New urban plaza and event space.
- Ken Whillans Drive as a new, flexible street.
- New connection to the Etobicoke Creek.

How much do you support these recommendations?

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Neutral
- Little support
- Do not support

**Question 8:** Do you have any other suggestions for the team to consider in Rosalea Park?

**Question 9:** Etobicoke Creek Bypass Channel (Area 4)

The “Big Moves” recommended for the Etobicoke Creek Bypass Channel in the draft UDMP include:

- Rehabilitate the Etobicoke Creek bypass channel to provide a better urban and ecological amenity.
- Reconnect the Etobicoke Creek Recreational Trail.
- New pedestrian and cycling bridge at John Street.
- New public space and transit stop at Queen Street and Centre Street.

How much do you support these recommendations?

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Neutral
- Little support
- Do not support

**Question 10:** Do you have any other suggestions for the team to consider in Etobicoke Creek Bypass Channel?

**Question 11:** Centennial Park (Area 5)

The “Big Moves” recommended for Centennial Park in the draft UDMP include:

- Enhance and increase natural features (wetland, woodland, arboretum, etc).
- Improve access & new crossings.
- New signature landscape entrances to the park and Riverwalk Site.
- Improved access to Wellington & James Streets.
- New/improved pedestrian & cycling bridges.

How much do you support these recommendations?

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Neutral
- Little support
- Do not support

**Question 12:** Do you have any other suggestions for the team to consider in Centennial Park?

### **Page 3: Other Feedback and Contact Information**

**Question 13:** Do you have any other feedback that you would like to see the team consider for the UDMP to ensure a vibrant and sustainable Riverwalk?

**Question 14:** Would you like to receive project updates about the Riverwalk area? *Fill out contact form*