



## **Proposed Redesign of Trinity Bellwoods Playground: Summary of Community Feedback**

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The Friends of Trinity Bellwoods Park Playground Committee organized three Community Consultations to give people who live in the area as well as users of the playground the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed playground renovation plans.

The primary opportunity for community consultation was at the FTB Community Meeting held Tuesday June 12. As many families were unable to attend, it was felt that some outreach needed to happen in order to give the actual users of the playground the opportunity to review the proposed plans. As such, on Friday June 15 and Saturday June 16, the proposed plans were circulated around the playground and both children and parents were asked to give their input. Lastly, some children enrolled in the CARE program (after school childcare for children aged 6-12) provided their enthusiastic feedback. The following is a summary of their concerns and suggestions.

### **Relocation of Playground Equipment**

At the Community Meeting, concerns were raised regarding the relocation of the senior swings to the area west of the upper playground area. The primary concern was in relation to the misuse of the swings at night as a hangout for teenagers and adults and a fear that if the swings move so too would the individuals loitering on them. A handful of residents feared that this would generate noise closer to their homes. There was a lengthy discussion about whether individuals loitering on the swings would move to the new location or whether they would continue to hangout in the current location next to and hidden by the Rec Center. Suggested solutions were:

- City investigate if there are any other locations to relocate the senior swing, and if so, place the baby swings in the area west of the upper playground.
- Include fencing and landscaping options in the new playground area west of upper playground to deter loitering and provide sound barrier for homes bordering the playground as part of long-term plan for the playground.
- Place picnic tables next to the Rec center so individuals have incentive to remain at their current location

Other concerns were raised such as the fact that some playground equipment would be lost especially the baby swings. We were told by many members of the community that space was of utmost importance and that equipment was second - people want to make sure we get the “bones” of the playground right and that it is conducive to free play.

### **New Senior Play Structure**

Some members of the community expressed a preference for the use of natural materials for the play structure rather than plastic and steel. It was noted that wood is better suited for play in the both the heat of summer and cold of winter as it does not become scorching hot nor cold and slippery like metal. Others in the community would like to see equipment that

is unique and not seen in other Toronto parks. The play structures depicted in the proposal were described as “cookie-cutter” playgrounds and “ikea-ish: everyone has it and all playgrounds look the same”. Some other concerns included shade, landscaping, and repairs to the wading pool. Suggestions:

- Could city look into carrier of wood playground equipment , such as Henderson or Big Toys and provide design plans for the community to review.
- Similarly, could they provide an alternate design plan incorporating equipment which has not been widely used in the past, such as Landscape Structure “Evos” system or Kompan products
- Explore shade options as part of long-term plan/design for this lower playground as no existing shade cover.
- Work with community to include landscaping as part of long-term plan for playground.

### Specific Equipment Requests

The children we spoke with were very specific about what they wanted in the playground. All their comments were very concrete and usually included the word “cool”. Here is what excited them and they are hoping for:

Fast slide	Tunnel slide
Climing wall	“spider-man” web climber
High tower	Triple rings which rotate
Disk bridge	Rope bridge
Tunnels	“no baby stuff”