

# Leslie Slip Lookout Meeting #1 Summary

March 1, 2021

6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

## Project Background

In Fall 2020, the City of Toronto and CreateTO initiated a procurement process for the design of 7 Leslie Street into a park as a piece of the larger Leslie Green Portal in the Port Lands. As part of the procurement process, three qualified design professionals were invited to participate in a design competition for that site. The team selected for the design of the Leslie Slip Lookout includes Claude Cormier + Associés as the design lead for Landscape, gh3\* as Architect of the lookout structure, and Arup as the lead in engineering and construction management. The winning conceptual design proposes a new beach on the water's edge, a lookout spot, pathways and forested dunes.

## Purpose

CreateTO hosted a virtual public meeting on March 1, 2021 using the Zoom platform to present the winning conceptual design for Leslie Slip Lookout Park.

The purpose of this public meeting was to:

- Inform participants of the project and process to date;
- Show the conceptual design and preliminary directions for the site;
- Gather feedback from participants to inform design development; and,
- Answer any questions from participants on process, planning and design.

Approximately 149 participants attended this meeting.

## Meeting Details

Michelle Dagnino, LURA Consulting began the meeting by providing words of welcome and addressing housekeeping items. An initial poll was conducted asking attendees to indicate how they heard about the meeting. All poll results can be found in **Appendix A**. Jennifer Tharp, Create TO provided a Land Acknowledgement. Bob Goulais, Nbsiing Consulting then followed the land acknowledgement by speaking to the history of the Mississaugas of the Credit (Michi Saagiig).

Michelle then provided an overview of the meeting agenda and facilitated a round of project team introductions. Vic Gupta, CreateTO introduced Councillor Paula Fletcher, Ward 14. Councillor Fletcher introduced the project design competition and Claude Cormier + Associés as the winners. Councillor Fletcher also provided some high-level project context.

Jennifer then presented an overview of the site context and discussed the procurement for the design competition. Background on Council Direction for the site and the Portlands Planning Framework was also presented. Bob then provided an overview of the Indigenous Engagement objectives, approach and model for the project.

The design team then presented the conceptual design. Claude Cormier, Claude Cormier + Associés narrated a video fly-through of the site. Marc Hallé presented the design in detail. The presentation included the following topics:

- Introduction of the design team
- Overview of the site location and surrounding industrial landscape
- Preliminary design directions

Participants were also given the opportunity to participate in two additional poll questions during the presentation of the conceptual design.

Jennifer presented the next steps in the design and construction processes. Bob provided a summary of next steps for Indigenous engagement. Michelle concluded the presentation by reminding participants about how they can provide feedback on the design as the process moves forward.

## Q&A Summary

Following the presentation, meeting attendees were given the opportunity to ask questions or provide comments. The following is a non-verbatim summary of the discussion. Questions are marked with a 'Q', answers with an 'A' and comments with a 'C'.

- C:** I do not like Sugar Beach or HTO Park. I will not bike to manicured parks. Please keep the park more in-keeping with the naturalized areas of the Spit. I am not very thrilled about the design.
- C:** This park is going to be a bicycle stop-over for people going to the Spit. There needs to be a lot of bike parking. There is nowhere to park a car at the Spit, so there will be many cyclists travelling through the area.
- C:** Consider designing the gear feature as a bookable campfire site.
- Q:** I am concerned about the traffic to Tommy Thompson Park, specifically relating to wildlife areas and the bird sanctuary on the Spit. Will there be any care taken about the sanctuary during construction and afterwards?
- A:** Over the course of the few next months, as the project team develop plans for construction, we will keep in close contact with stakeholders and City to look at construction management plans and vehicular access. The traffic issue is something we will need to be mindful of.
- Q:** I am concerned about no roof on the lookout structure. Who is going to maintain it so it can be used year-round?
- A:** The Parks, Forestry and Recreation department at the City would be taking over the operations of the park. The design team will be working with the City to determine the best design by maintenance for the structure. In wintertime, they do have reduced operations. The project team will be working with the City to make sure it is maintainable in the winter months. Snow-melt options in the design may be considered.

**Q: Will there be water fountains for people and dogs?**

**A:** Yes.

**Q: Is there any way that you can mitigate pollutants from the adjacent industrial uses with the park design?**

**A:** Mitigation of pollutants is part of a bigger vision for this park design. An ecologist will be working with the project team to ensure the healthiest situation possible. The project team is also looking at identification of plant species to mitigate the effects of the industrial uses. When the Port Lands Planning Framework was developed, there was a lot of stakeholder consultation and investigation into whether a park would work in this area. Noise, air quality and odor studies were all completed as part of this process. Going forward, the project team is looking at these studies to see how pollutants can be mitigated.

**C: Everything looks great, I think this is going to be a great park.**

**Q: I would like to see the use of more reclaimed materials reflecting the industrial landscape in the design. Is it possible to incorporate this?**

**A:** We are starting to explore this as we move forward with the early stages of the design.

**Q: Are you able to include more indigenous plants and trees in the design?**

**A:** We will be looking into this as we begin looking at plantings and afforestation in more detail going forward.

**Q: Traffic on the streets in the area can be very dense. How will you deal with the traffic?**

**A:** This question was recognized, but a direct response was not provided in the meeting.

**C: Parents want to have access to a water feature, so kids can play in both water and the sand.**

**C: I think a splash pad is great idea for the park. Think about barriers along the water's edge to prevent people from falling in or swimming in the water in the ship channel. There is going to be a need for washrooms. There is a lot of wildlife that migrates from the Spit into the city. Garbage in this park is a concern, as it will attract wildlife. Having a roof on the lookout will not discourage people from using the space as refuge.**

**Q: Is there a plan to transplant mature trees?**

**A:** When a larger tree is transplanted, it can take a long time to get established. Oftentimes, planting smaller trees will result in healthier trees because of the time it takes for the larger tree to get established. The trees that are part of the main park that are planned to be planted, will be around 80mm (8cm) in diameter. For the naturalization area, we are looking at planting

smaller trees. It will likely take 5-7 years for these trees to grow enough to cast large areas of shade.

**C:** I am glad to hear that this proposal is not going to take over Tommy Thompson Park. I am concerned about future development in the area. I like that there are Indigenous values as a part of this process. I am however concerned about these values not being implemented overall during the development protocols.

**C:** The use of native trees in this park is preferable in this area.

**Q:** This patch of land will inevitably attract bird species and migratory bird species. Is there a planning framework that speaks to connecting greenspaces in these areas and allowing for migratory corridors?

**A:** There is no defined framework for decision making, relating specifically to the planting plan. The Project team will be speaking with the Toronto Region Conservation Authority as well as with Parks, Forestry and Recreation who can provide background resources for migratory birds and direction on appropriate planting species. Through the Indigenous engagement, there could be some focused discussion on planting species.

## Next Steps

The project team will continue to refine the winning design, incorporating feedback received through this meeting, the online feedback form and emails. A follow-up public meeting will be scheduled in Q2 2021 to present the refined design and gather input.

## Appendix A: Poll Results

Throughout the presentation, participants were given the opportunity to participate in three Zoom polls relating to how they heard about the meeting, activities and design features. The results of the poll are included below.

First participants were asked how they found out about the public meeting. According to Figure 1, the majority of participants heard about the meeting through email (35%), newsletter (30%) and social media (21%).

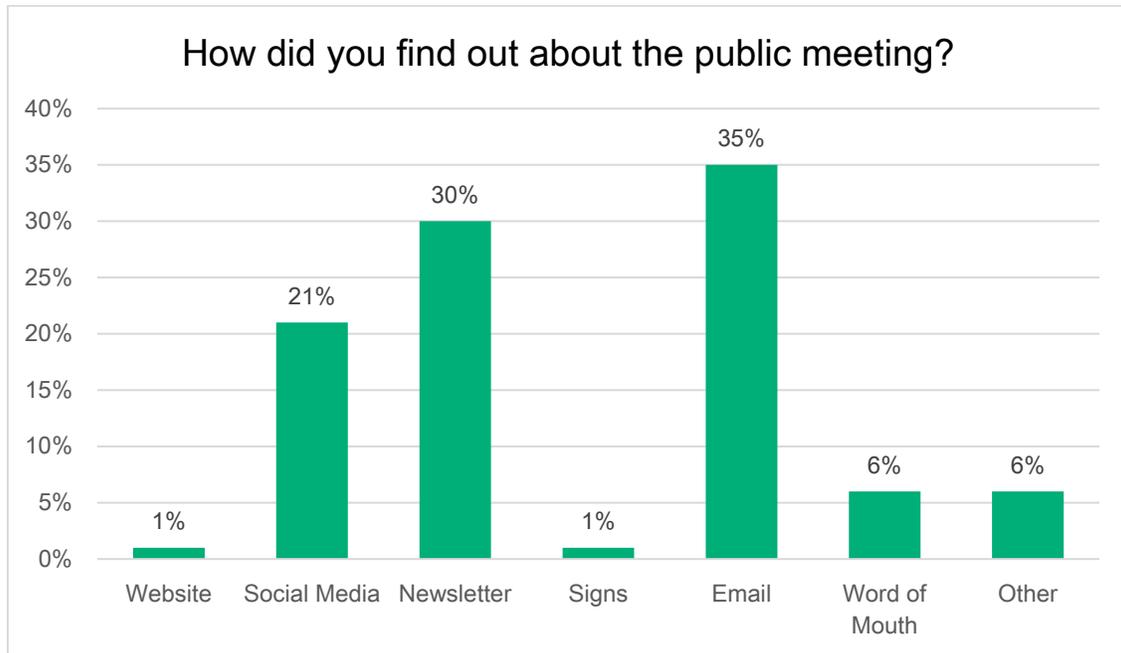


Figure 1: Results for Poll 1: How did you find out about the public meeting? n=97

Next, participants were asked to indicate what activities they could see themselves doing in the park. Participants were allowed to select multiple answers. Sitting/ Relaxing (72%) was the top choice, followed by Sunset Watching (68%) and Watching the Boats in the Ship Channel (63%).

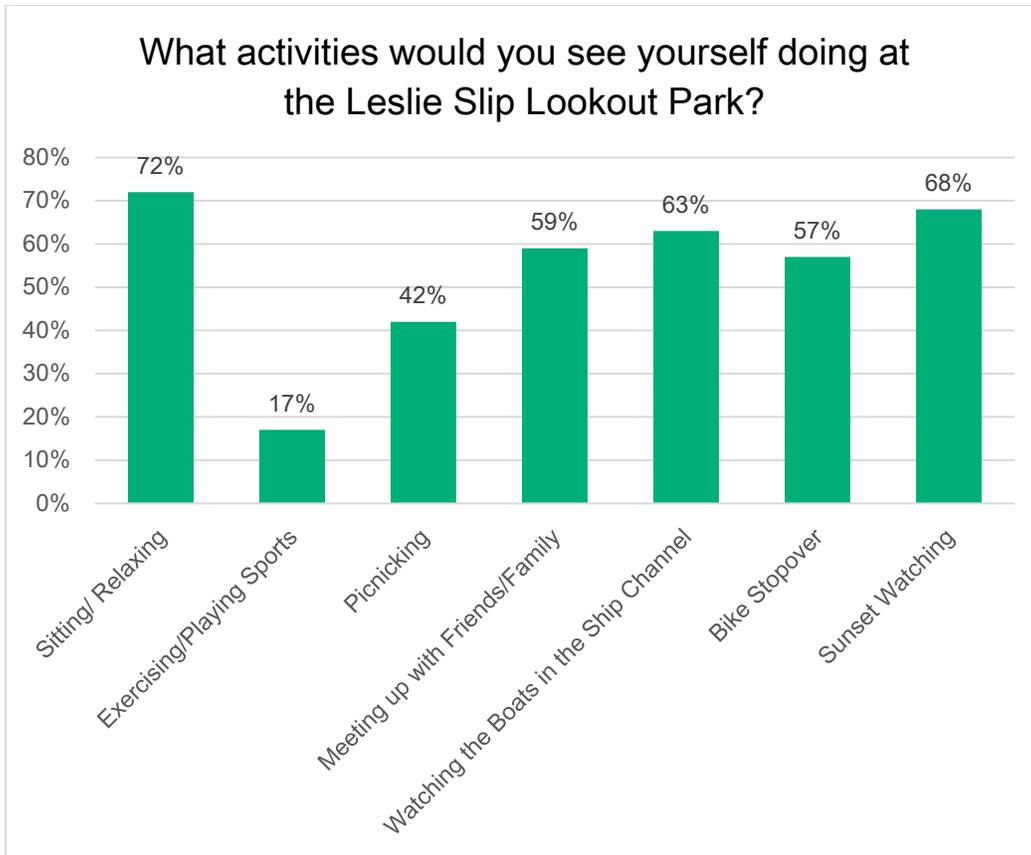


Figure 2: Results for Poll 2: *What activities would you see yourself doing at the Leslie Slip Lookout Park?*, n=92

Finally, participants were asked to indicate which design feature they were most excited about. All of the above (32%) was the top choice, followed by Views of the Ship Channel (27%) and The Forested Dunes (20%).

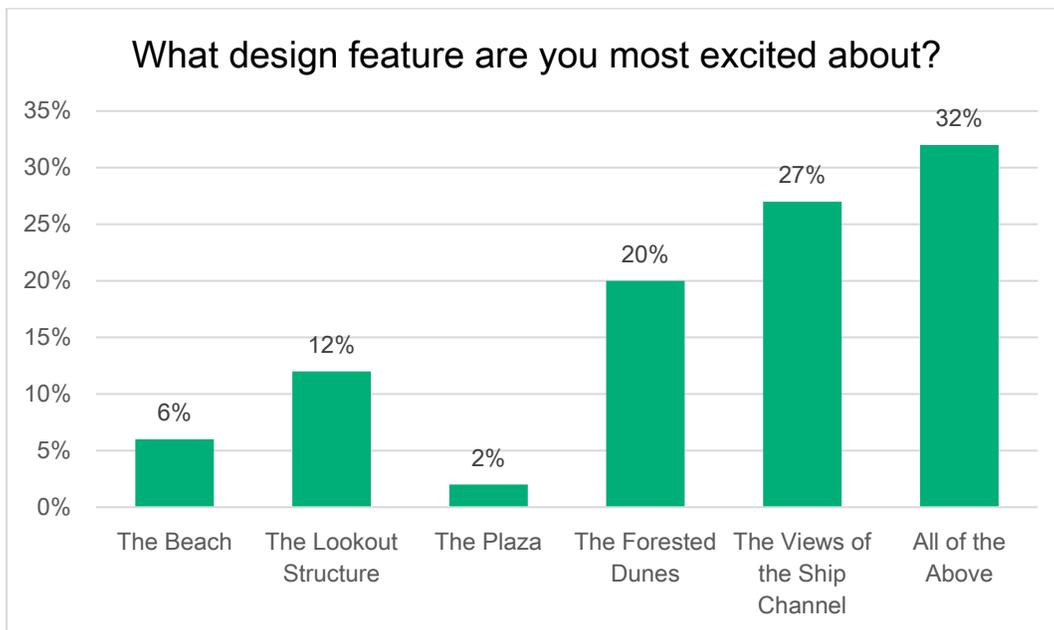


Figure 3: Results for Poll 3: *What design feature are you most excited about?*, n=99