

A photograph of a snowy park scene. In the foreground, an adult in a dark green coat is assisting a young child in a red snow suit and pink helmet who is on skis. The child is holding ski poles. In the background, other children are playing in the snow, some on sleds. There are bare trees and a building in the distance under a cloudy sky.

## St. Moritz Park Project **Community Engagement Summary Report #2**

Engagement period: September 23 - October 15, 2025



Open house event at Edna Staebler Public School in September 2025.

## INTRODUCTION

The City of Waterloo, in partnership with SHIFT Landscape Architecture, is leading the design for the redevelopment of St. Moritz Park in the Clair Hills neighbourhood. This project represents an exciting transformation that will upgrade the existing neighbourhood park into a community-level destination that will serve residents from across the western area of the city while continuing to support the daily needs of nearby families and Edna Staebler Public School. The redesign will introduce new amenities, gathering spaces, and naturalized areas that balance recreation, ecology, and community life in a welcoming and inclusive environment.

This report builds on the first Community Engagement Summary Report and provides an overview of the second phase of engagement, which took place between September 23rd and October 15th, 2025. Building on feedback from the first engagement phase, the project team developed two preliminary concept designs: **Concept 1: Tracing Roots** and **Concept 2: The Nest**. These two concepts explore different approaches to recreation, ecology, and community use within the upgraded park. These concepts were shared with the public through an open house in September 2025 and an online survey and engagement period hosted on the City's Engage Waterloo platform.

The second engagement phase received a strong community response, with a similar number of participants to the first round. Input was gathered from local residents, families, students, and community members from across Waterloo, reflecting both neighbourhood-specific perspectives and broader citywide interest in the park's future role. Feedback helped identify what people value about the existing park, as well as their priorities for new features and amenities as it evolves into a larger, community-wide space.

The overall project is being delivered through several stages: background research and inventory, concept development, final concept selection, preparation for construction, and ultimately, construction of the new St. Moritz Park. The project team is now working toward selecting a preferred concept that reflects community priorities while balancing active recreation, ecological integrity, and the park's new role within the City's park system.

This report summarizes the methods, process, and outcomes of the Phase 2 engagement period. It highlights key themes, values, and ideas shared by participants, which will guide the design of the refined concept plan for St. Moritz Park.



## METHODS

Project outreach used a variety of methods and communications. The project's visual identity - created early in the process - established a consistent 'brand' for the project. Inspired by the idea of 'more', the name More St. Moritz Park was created along with the project's visual identity. Along with the visual identity, the second phase of engagement included several engagement and outreach activities and events, described below.

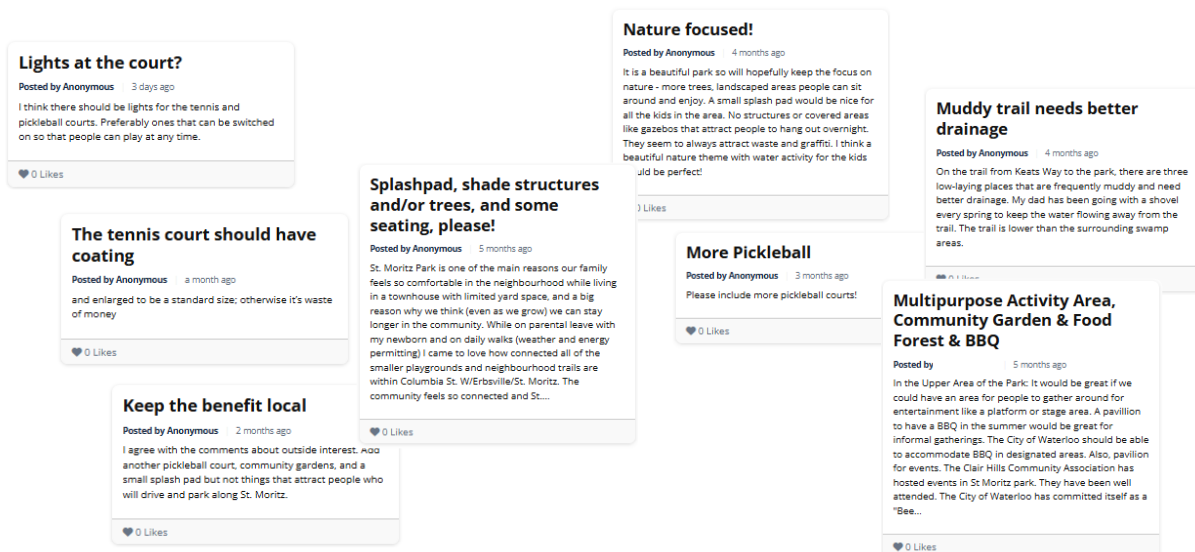
### 1. More St. Moritz Park project page

Initially launched in the spring of 2025, the [More St. Moritz Park project page](#) is hosted on 'Engage Waterloo', the City's central engagement platform. The project page served as the information hub for the project, and was updated with project announcements and new documents throughout the second phase of engagement. Input methods (such as the survey), were also hosted on the page. During the September-October engagement window, the page was promoted on the City's website, via social media platforms, and through promotional materials, directing people to review preliminary concept designs and fill out a project survey.

Visitors to the project page can subscribe to updates to receive notifications and project updates. The St. Moritz Park project page reached 10,540 Engage Waterloo user accounts, with 592 clicks to the project page.

During the second round of engagement, a preliminary concept designs survey was also hosted on the Engage Waterloo. City social media posts, paid ads, and Engage news updates guided people to complete the survey and share their feedback on the preliminary designs for the park. The survey was live for a three-week period (launched the day before the open house) and received **105 responses**.

From the time the project page was initially launched (and ongoing), visitors have had the chance to publicly post ideas and comments through an 'Ideas' tool. Since the first round of engagement concluded and throughout the second, several additional comments were collected. Some of these are highlighted below.



A sample of comments posted through the online 'Ideas' tool during phase 2 of engagement.



Phase 2 social media posts for the St. Moritz Park project.

## 2. Social media

The project team worked with the City of Waterloo's Corporate Communications team to share updates about the St. Moritz Park project across social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, X (Twitter), and TikTok. A series of posts introduced the project and invited community members to the open house event, starting the week before the event. Each post included event details and a link to the St. Moritz Park project page, where people could learn more about the project and take part in the online survey once it launched.

After the open house, the City shared another post to remind residents that the survey was still open for feedback. To encourage a good community response, the survey period, which was originally planned to close after two weeks, was extended by one week. During this time, a sponsored social media campaign helped reach more residents, encouraging them to review the park concepts and share their input. Some of the social media posts used are shown above.

## 3. Phase 2 Project Open House event

On September 24 2025, a public open house was held in the gymnasium of Edna Staebler Public School, between 5 and 7:00 p.m. The event welcomed 55 attendees, along with four members of the project team from SHIFT Landscape Architecture and the City. A City staff representative from the Public Art team was also on-hand to gather focused public art input.

Information boards showcasing the two concept designs for the park were displayed at the event and staff were available to speak with attendees. Models of student park designs, completed as part of a grade 7/8 class project, were also displayed at the event. Light refreshments were available and many people took time to ask questions, fill out surveys (in person and online), and give feedback about the park design.



Attendees and staff engaging at the public open house event for St. Moritz Park.

#### 4. Additional outreach and engagement

In addition to the open house and online survey, the project team shared the project information widely. Building on the outreach from the first engagement phase, four project signs remained up throughout St. Moritz Park, providing clear info about the park process and ways to get involved. Each sign includes project details and a QR code that links directly to the online materials, allowing park users to explore the designs, offer feedback, and stay informed.

The City's Neighbourhoods Team also supported the process by connecting with local associations and community groups. Through neighbourhood newsletters, social media posts, and other outreach, these partners helped share information and encouraged participation across the surrounding area. Ward 1 and Ward 2 Councillors also played an important role, helping to promote the project and invite residents to take part.

As the project moves into the next stages of design, the team will continue to collaborate with local organizations, interest holders, and City departments to refine the concept and confirm priorities. Future engagement will focus on ensuring that the final park design reflects the community's values, objectives, and everyday uses of the space.

The following section, **Community voices: Themes & General Project Input**, summarizes the input received through engagement. All feedback received through this engagement phase was collected, reviewed, and summarized to identify key, recurring themes about the preliminary designs.

## COMMUNITY VOICES: THEMES & GENERAL PROJECT INPUT

This section summarizes the key findings from the second phase of engagement, combining input from the online survey and public open houses. All feedback submitted through the Engage Waterloo project page has been reviewed and used by the project team to shape the themes outlined below.

### Preliminary Concept Survey

As the main method of collecting input on the two preliminary concept designs for St. Moritz Park, the community was invited to take part in an online survey hosted on the Engage Waterloo project page. Residents learned about the survey through a mix of social media updates, City news posts, and the in-person open house event, which together encouraged a wide range of voices to participate and share their ideas for the park's future.

The survey built on feedback from the first engagement phase and included a mix of multiple-choice and open-ended questions designed to capture both preferences and new ideas. Participants were asked to comment on the two preliminary concept plans, identify the features they valued most, and offer feedback. Their input will directly inform the refinement of the design and guide the selection of a final concept that reflects the community's shared priorities.

In total, 122 responses were received over the three-week survey period. While not everyone responded to the optional demographic questions, the largest share of respondents were families and working-age adults between 30 and 55. The survey also included input from youth participants, who emphasized fun, active spaces, and from older residents, who highlighted comfort, safety, and maintenance. Several respondents identified as members of diverse cultural and equity-seeking communities, underscoring the importance of welcoming spaces for all.

### What We Heard: Key Themes

#### *Balance active and natural areas*

A central theme throughout the feedback was the importance of achieving a thoughtful balance between activity and nature. Many respondents appreciated the park's existing green character and expressed a desire to see trees, lawns, and natural plantings maintained as key features. Residents highlighted the value of nature for relaxation, biodiversity, and the park's overall sense of calm, especially within a diverse, active neighbourhood.

At the same time, participants expressed strong interest in creating spaces that encourage community activity, play, and gathering. Respondents described the ideal park as one that offers both lively areas for families and quiet spots for rest, reading, or reflection. The data shows that people envision St. Moritz Park as a flexible, multi-layered space that supports everything from everyday play to peaceful enjoyment without losing its natural charm.

#### *Ecological planting and habitat*

There was widespread enthusiasm for native and pollinator-friendly planting across St. Moritz Park. Participants expressed interest in expanding naturalized areas with meadows, flowering plants, and a variety of tree species to provide shade, seasonal colour, and wildlife habitat. These features were seen as key to supporting biodiversity and strengthening the park's ecological role in the neighbourhood.



Many respondents also supported the idea of educational or interpretive elements that help visitors understand local ecosystems, stormwater management, or pollinator health. Several mentioned the importance of long-term maintenance to ensure plantings thrive and remain attractive. Collectively, the feedback demonstrates that residents see ecology as integral to the park's identity, something to be experienced, learned from, and celebrated. This could help nurture a relationship between people and the natural environment through exploration, curiosity, and stewardship.

### ***Connection with nature and exploration***

Many participants expressed a strong appreciation for natural features and opportunities for exploration within St. Moritz Park. Respondents highlighted that one of the park's strengths is its existing natural spaces, which create a sense of calm and connection to the landscape. People valued spaces that allow visitors to interact with nature directly, whether its listening to the birds, wandering along paths, or sensory experience with different plants.

Feedback also pointed to a desire for the park to feel immersive and discoverable, encouraging movement and curiosity rather than a single, fixed route. Participants supported the idea of meandering pathways that reveal different experiences (such as open lawns, shaded groves, and pollinator plantings), offering both physical and visual exploration. This approach was seen as a way to strengthen the park's identity as a green refuge within the neighbourhood, balancing active recreation with moments of quiet discovery.

### ***Unique and immersive water play***

Many participants expressed excitement about the inclusion of a water play feature, particularly one designed to blend with the park's natural setting. Feedback showed a clear preference for naturalized elements such as boulders, textured paving, and planted areas that integrate with the surrounding landscape. Respondents viewed this approach as a way to make the space playful while also environmentally sensitive and visually appealing.

The comments also highlighted practical considerations. Participants emphasized the need for ample shade, nearby seating, and access to washrooms, as well as the importance of locating water play features away from the closest homes to minimize noise and privacy concerns. A small number of respondents raised maintenance questions, underscoring the importance of durable materials and efficient water use. Overall, the feedback reflects strong enthusiasm for a unique, nature-inspired water play experience that complements the park's family-friendly character.

### ***Community gardens***

Feedback on the idea of a community garden was mixed, with both enthusiasm and uncertainty noted by participants. Supporters appreciated the continued potential for gardens to promote local food, social connection, and community pride. They suggested including features such as fencing, more raised beds, and accessible paths to make the garden more inclusive.

Others questioned whether a community garden was still the best fit for this park, citing concerns about space, maintenance responsibilities, or conflicts with nearby play areas. Some respondents proposed that if included, the garden should be modest in scale and located strategically. The feedback shows that there is still interest in a community garden space at the park, balanced by a desire to ensure that it complements other park functions and remains manageable over time.

### ***Comfort, Shade and Everyday Use***

Across all responses, participants emphasized the importance of comfort and accessibility as central to the park's success. People asked for more shaded seating near play areas, water features, and pathways, as well as benches and picnic tables that accommodate families and individuals. Many noted that comfortable seating can encourage longer visits and make the park welcoming for all ages.

There was also strong interest in everyday amenities that support usability, including accessible paths, drinking water, and places for quiet rest. Feedback suggests that comfort is about more than furniture; it encompasses microclimate, accessibility, and thoughtful layout. Participants note the park should be enjoyable for a brief visits as well as extended gatherings.

### ***Safety, Lighting and Circulation***

Safety, visibility, and comfort were consistently raised as important considerations for the park's redesign. Respondents emphasized that paths, play areas, and gathering spaces should be visible from multiple directions and easy to navigate, reducing hidden corners and providing clear views across the park. Many noted that good visibility helps create a sense of comfort and security for families, children, and individuals visiting the park alone, particularly during early morning or evening hours. These comments reflected a shared desire for a park that feels open and inviting throughout the day, with spaces that encourage community presence and activity.

Lighting was another common topic in the feedback. Participants supported lighting that enhances safety and usability after dusk, particularly along main pathways, entrances, and around gathering areas such as seating nodes or courts. However, there was also emphasis on ensuring that lighting design remains sensitive to surrounding homes and the park's natural character. Responses noted dark-sky compliant fixtures and appropriate lighting that provides visibility without excessive brightness or spillover.

A number of respondents also commented on access and parking, particularly in relation to school use and event periods. While most participants supported a primarily walkable and bike-friendly park, some recognized the need for a small, convenient parking area to improve accessibility for families, visitors with mobility challenges, and community events. The planned inclusion of a small parking lot within the park was viewed by many as a practical solution, provided that it remains modest in scale, well-screened with planting, and safely connected to pedestrian routes.

Several respondents also connected these access and visibility improvements to broader ideas of inclusion and neighbourhood comfort. Thoughtful design of paths, lighting, and access points was seen as important not only for security but also for ensuring that people of all ages and abilities can move comfortably through the park. Overall, participants reinforced the importance of safe, visible, and well-connected circulation that integrates pedestrian, cycling, and limited vehicle access in a way that complements the park's calm, natural setting.

There were responses that also expressed interest in incorporating a looped walking or running path within the park to support daily exercise, accessibility, and school programming. This feature was seen as an opportunity to improve circulation while providing a safe, continuous route for walking, jogging, and informal fitness. Participants noted that a defined loop would help connect key spaces throughout the park and could be designed to accommodate users of all ages and mobility levels.



### ***Courts and sport facilities***

Interest in sport courts and active recreation facilities was strong, with participants highlighting both the popularity of pickleball and tennis and the possible value of basketball for multi-generational use. Several respondents suggested that two courts would help meet community demand, while others noted that one flexible, multi-use court is enough and would be more space-efficient.

Concerns about potential noise, lighting, and proximity to nearby homes were also common. Residents recommended the use of natural buffers such as berms, trees, and low fencing to minimize impacts while maintaining visibility for safety. The responses indicate a strong appreciation for active recreation opportunities paired with an understanding that thoughtful siting and design will be key to integrating these amenities into the park's residential setting.

The open field adjacent to Edna Staebler Public School was one of the most frequently mentioned and valued features in the survey responses. Participants emphasized that the field is heavily used by students during the school day and by the broader community for informal sports, games, and outdoor events.

A number of respondents also noted enthusiasm for winter recreation, particularly the inclusion of a floodable lawn or skating area. This feature was seen as a way to support year-round activity and create opportunities for community gathering in the colder months. Residents appreciated the potential for the space to shift seasonally, functioning as open lawn or play area in summer and transforming into a skating surface in winter. Maintaining this flexible, multi-use field was viewed as essential for both school use and broader neighbourhood enjoyment throughout the year.

### ***Space for youth and teens***

The need for dedicated spaces for youth and teens emerged as a clear theme across the data. Participants recognized that older children and teens often have limited options in local parks and appreciated the potential for St. Moritz Park to provide inclusive, age-appropriate amenities. Suggestions included half-court basketball, small climbing or bouldering features, or casual gathering areas with seating.

Many respondents viewed these spaces as opportunities to foster positive social interaction and active recreation. Some also expressed concerns about noise or unsupervised use after hours, emphasizing the importance of visibility, good lighting, and thoughtful placement within the park. Overall, the feedback shows strong support for youth-oriented spaces that are welcoming, well-designed, and part of a broader mix of community uses.

### ***Neighbourhood character and concerns about change***

While most participants were enthusiastic about park improvements, a smaller number of respondents (particularly those who live directly beside or near St. Moritz Park) shared concerns about the scale and intensity of proposed upgrades. These comments often reflected a desire to maintain the park's existing peaceful atmosphere, open views, and sense of privacy for adjacent homes. Some residents expressed caution about potential increases in noise, lighting, and traffic, especially if new amenities attract visitors from beyond the immediate neighbourhood.

A few participants preferred only minimal changes, focusing instead on tree planting, maintenance, and pathway renewal rather than the addition of new activity areas. This feedback highlights the importance of ensuring that design changes remain sensitive to the surrounding residential context while improving the park for broader community use.

## Public Art in St. Moritz Park

Through the redevelopment of St. Moritz Park, public art is an important opportunity to strengthen the park's sense of identity and character. During engagement, participants provided input into what the public art could be, responding through the online survey and during the open house event. The responses highlighted a desire for art that is integrated into the landscape, with many respondents expressed interest in functional art, such as sculptural seating, artist-designed interactive features, or paving and light elements that encourage exploration and creativity. This approach was viewed as a way to make the park memorable while blending seamlessly with its natural and social spaces.

Several themes emerged around the role and content of public art. Respondents noted opportunities to reflect local ecology, heritage, and the unique identity of the Clair Hills neighbourhood within Waterloo's broader park system. Many participants supported art that tells shared stories or captures everyday experiences, connecting to both the park's setting and the people who use it. These comments reflected a community interest in ensuring public art contributes meaningfully to education, reflection, and belonging.

Overall, participants viewed public art as a means to celebrate place and community, supporting the park as a space that feels distinctive yet familiar. Art that evokes natural materials, invites touch and movement, and reinforces the park's themes of connection, ecology, and discovery strongly supported. The feedback suggests that design should consider artist collaboration early in the process to ensure that art, landscape, and public experience are developed as an integrated whole.



Table and activity to collect public art input at the St. Moritz Park engagement event.

## CONCEPT-SPECIFIC INPUT

The survey for this phase of engagement gathered community input on the two preliminary concept designs for St. Moritz Park, asking participants to share their thoughts on how each addressed topics such as recreation, ecology, comfort, and community use. Questions explored overall preferences, specific likes and dislikes, and reactions to individual features. The following summaries highlight the reactions to each concept design.



### Landscape renderings and plan illustration of Concept 1: Tracing Roots

### Response to Concept 1: Tracing Roots

**Through the survey, 24% of respondents preferred Concept 1: Tracing Roots.** 14% of respondents also indicated that they wanted to see a combination of both concepts.

Feedback for Tracing Roots reflected strong appreciation for the concept's natural, park-like character and the way it integrates open space, planting, and ecological features across the site. Many respondents felt this design retained more of the park's existing trees and green feel, creating a tranquil and relaxed atmosphere that fits well within the residential setting. Participants frequently mentioned that the layout of Tracing Roots felt calm and connected to the park's landscape, with spaces that encourage quiet enjoyment, nature appreciation, and informal use. This emphasis on natural features resonated with residents who value the park's existing serenity and view it as a green retreat within the neighbourhood.

Several participants also noted that the open field and naturalized planting zones were key strengths of this concept. The field's placement and continuity were seen as beneficial for school and community use, supporting activities such as soccer, informal play, and outdoor learning. Respondents liked how this concept visually maintained the park's sense of openness, with less concentration of built or paved elements. The naturalized planting areas and potential for pollinator habitat were viewed as environmentally responsible and educational, aligning with the community's interest in sustainability.



Despite these positive notes, many participants felt that Tracing Roots could be too passive overall, lacking enough spaces for gathering, play, or social activity. Comments suggested that while the concept offered a strong ecological foundation, it might not provide the same level of animation or family use as the other concept. Some respondents wanted to see more diversity in programming, including places for shade, seating, and flexible recreation. A few noted that certain features, such as the community garden or play area, seemed less integrated into the overall layout or placed too far from central gathering points.

The floodable lawn for winter ice was seen as a unique and well-liked element. People appreciated the idea of a space that could serve as a community skating area in winter and a multipurpose field in summer, providing opportunities for year-round recreation. The walking loop path around the lower area was also well-liked.

Overall, people appreciated Tracing Roots for its ecological sensitivity, open space, and calm identity, but participants expressed a desire to combine these attributes with more social and active elements. The general consensus was that the refined design should build upon this concept's natural character while introducing more opportunities for community interaction and activity.



Landscape renderings and plan illustration of Concept 2: The Nest

## Response to Concept 2: The Nest

**60% of people who completed the survey selected Concept 2: The Nest as their preferred concept.** In addition, 14% of people would like to see “a combination of both concepts.”

The Nest concept received an enthusiastic response for its active, inclusive, and community-oriented layout. Many participants described this design as engaging and vibrant, offering a clear structure that brings together key amenities such as play, water, gathering, and event spaces into a central hub. Respondents appreciated how this layout could encourage interaction among different age groups, making the park a destination for both everyday visits and special community events. The mix of shade structures, seating areas, and multi-use spaces was viewed as highly functional and appealing to families.

The proposed naturalized water play feature was among the most positively discussed elements of The Nest (similar to Concept 1). Participants liked that the design treated water play as both recreational and natural in character, with opportunities to blend hardscape and softscape materials. Many commented that this feature would give St. Moritz Park a unique identity within Waterloo's park system. The adjacent plaza and pavilion space were also well-received, with respondents highlighting their potential for community gatherings, casual socializing, and seasonal events.

In addition to its active programming, participants noted that The Nest appeared to include thoughtful circulation and a sense of central organization. The hub ("nest") arrangement, with paths radiating outward from the main activity area, was seen as intuitive and accessible. However, some respondents felt that this centralization might concentrate too much activity in one area, raising concerns about noise, lighting, and potential crowding, particularly for homes that back onto the park. These participants emphasized the importance of maintaining quiet, shaded areas and natural buffers to balance the active core.

Overall, The Nest was viewed as a strong vision for St. Moritz Park that encourages community connection and year-round use. Participants saw it as a strong representation of what a community-level park could be - active, welcoming, and inclusive - while noting the importance of careful design refinement to preserve comfort, natural character, and compatibility with the surrounding neighbourhood.



**Some of the natural spaces that people love in St. Moritz Park.**



## **Direction for the St. Moritz Park Refined Concept**

Feedback from the community demonstrates a strong desire for a park that balances activity, nature, and comfort, building on some of what people already love about the park. Respondents envision St. Moritz Park as a place that supports everyday neighbourhood life while welcoming a broader city audience through its new community-level amenities. The refined design should maintain the park's natural feel and openness while introducing clear, accessible spaces for recreation, play, and gathering. Participants consistently highlighted that the success of the project will depend on its ability to blend these qualities into a cohesive and flexible layout.

The engagement results show that people value variety and balance, and spaces that offer both quiet relaxation and opportunities for social activity. The community wants the park to feel safe, inclusive, and comfortable for users of all ages, with naturalized landscapes, shade, and ecological planting reinforcing the sense of place. At the same time, participants supported the addition of new features such as water play, sport courts, and youth-oriented spaces, provided these are thoughtfully integrated and respect the park's existing trees, field, and residential edges.

The refined concept should unify the ecological sensitivity of Tracing Roots with the organization of The Nest. The community's input points to a park design that is accessible, environmentally responsible, and flexible enough to evolve over time. By combining natural systems with active recreation, the refined concept can strengthen St. Moritz Park's role as a welcoming destination for both the neighbourhood and the wider city.

**The following is a list of the key design considerations and preferences that came out of the engagement:**

### **Balance of active and quiet zones**

Balance active and passive spaces, locating play and court areas toward the interior and preserving shaded, naturalized edges that provide quieter experiences.

### **Central pavilion and gathering area**

A pavilion or shade structure as part of a main hub to support gatherings, community events, and supervision of nearby features.

### **Open field spaces**

Some open field spaces for flexible school and community use, with clear sightlines.

### **Diverse park ecology**

More pollinator-friendly and native planting across the park to enhance biodiversity, create shade, and visually connect active and quiet areas using resilient, low-maintenance species.

### **Nature connection and exploration**

Encourage exploration and discovery through meandering paths, varied planting, and natural textures that invite interaction, strengthen ecological connection, and create a sense of immersion in nature.

### **Unique water play area**

An accessible water play space that integrates natural elements near the centre of the park.

### **Skating space**

Space for winter skating that is flexible and still serves a purpose in all seasons.



**Integrated youth and teen spaces**

Inclusive, youth-focused areas such as a basketball or a social seating node that encourage positive activity near main pathways and community gathering spaces.

**Shade and seating options**

Offer a mix of shaded seating options throughout the park, including near play areas, along pathways, and in quieter zones, supported by trees and shade structures.

**Safety and visibility**

Clear circulation through the park, maintaining open sightlines between key spaces, supported by context-sensitive lighting that enhances safety while respecting adjacent homes and natural character.

**Sustainable and accessible design**

Sustainable features such as rain gardens and naturalized planting, while ensuring all areas, play spaces, and amenities are barrier-free and support some degree of year-round use.

**Welcoming entrances and cohesive materials**

Connected access points from surrounding streets and the school, with clear sightlines, coordinated materials, and planting that create safe, inviting transitions and a unified park identity that fits with the community.

**Public Art and Interpretation**

Functional public art and interpretive elements that celebrate local ecology. Ideas included creative seating, paving, or 'play' installations.

**Additional community insights about the project**

Beyond feedback on specific design features, participants provided broader reflections on the park's role within the community and its future development. Many respondents described St. Moritz Park as a well-used and valued neighbourhood space that supports a range of everyday activities such as informal play, walking, and social interaction. Feedback indicated that residents view the park as an important public space that contributes to the overall quality of life in the Clair Hills area and beyond, as well as connections to Edna Staebler Public School.

Survey comments reflected general support for the City's efforts to invest in the park's renewal and to involve the community in the design process. Participants noted that the proposed upgrades represent an opportunity to strengthen the park's role as a community-level destination while improving amenities for local users. Respondents encouraged design solutions that increase comfort, accessibility, and ecological value, while maintaining the park's open character and compatibility with nearby residential areas.

A recurring theme across the feedback was the importance of balance to ensure that the new park supports both active recreation and quieter, natural areas. Participants emphasized that the design should accommodate year-round activity without losing the park's existing green character. Overall, the feedback reflects a community desire for a park that remains welcoming, inclusive, and connected to the everyday life of the surrounding neighbourhood.

## **ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK & OUT OF SCOPE COMMENTS COLLECTED THROUGH THE SURVEY**

In reviewing survey feedback, comments were received that extend beyond the scope or intent of the current park redevelopment project. Similar to the first round of engagement, these notes have been documented for context and may help inform future City planning initiatives.

### **Dog Park**

A small number of participants again suggested adding an off-leash dog park within St. Moritz Park. This idea was also raised in the first phase of engagement. Given the park's limited size, adjacency to homes, and the recent opening of the Copper Street Dog Park on the west side of St. Moritz Avenue, an off-leash area will not be considered as part of this project.

### **Swimming Pool**

Several respondents requested a full public pool or large water-play complex. While the refined concept includes a water-play feature, a swimming pool or large-scale aquatic facility is outside the project's scope and not suitable for this neighbourhood park context.

### **External Lighting and Street Upgrades**

Some feedback related to street lighting, on-street parking capacity, or traffic calming around the park. These matters fall under broader municipal infrastructure programs rather than the park's design scope. The comments have been shared with City staff for consideration in future reviews.

### **Facility Additions Beyond a Community Park Scale**

A small number of suggestions were made for amenities such as a skate park, community centre, or washroom building with year-round facilities. These features exceed the scale and budget of this park redevelopment but will be retained for reference in future citywide recreation planning.

## SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS

### Summary: how feedback is shaping the park

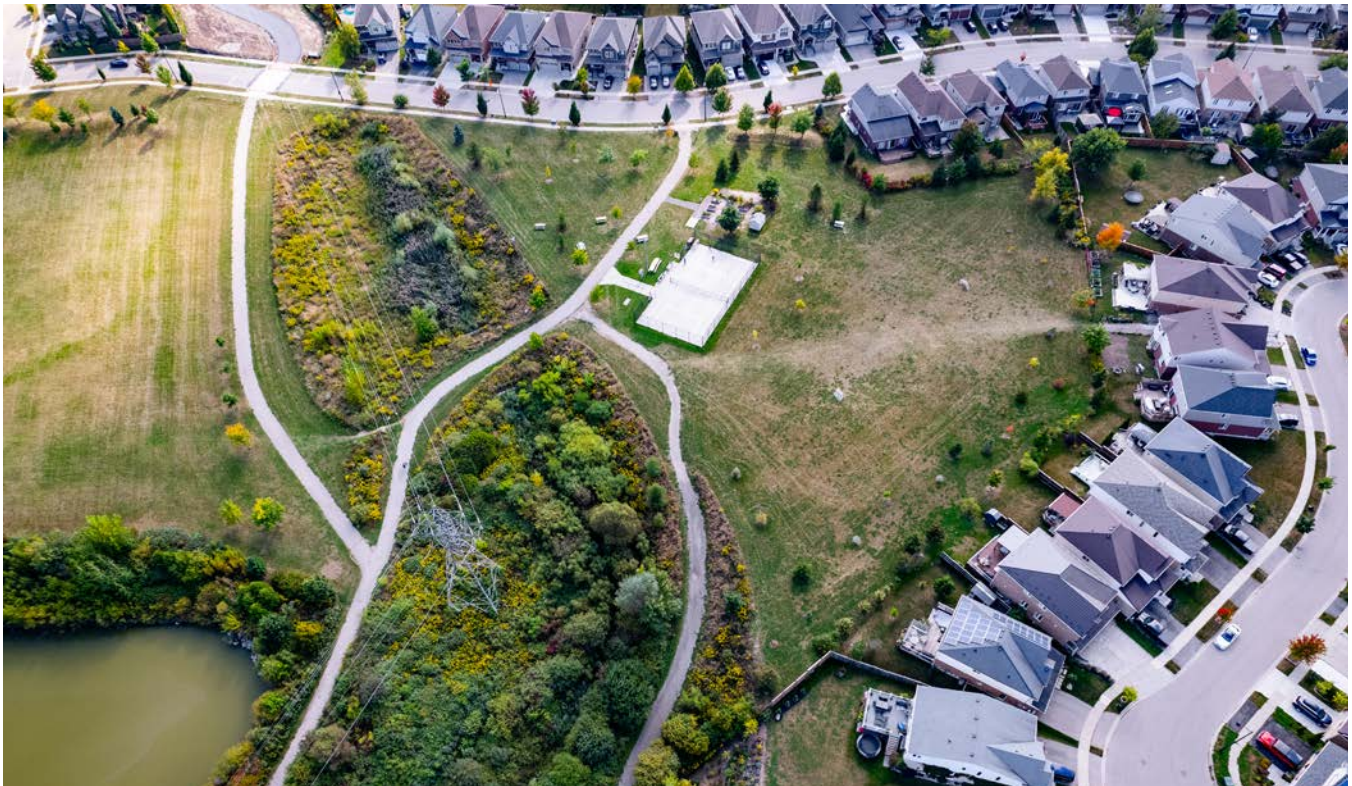
Building on the first phase of engagement, feedback collected through this second phase has provided the project team with a clearer understanding of community priorities and values for St. Moritz Park. The input received through the open house, online survey, and other outreach activities has helped highlight what aspects of the preliminary concepts could work best for the future park and the community it supports.

This feedback will guide the development of a refined concept plan. Insights from this phase will inform the layout, material choices, features, and program elements of the refined design, ensuring that the final park plan reflects a balanced approach that supports play, gathering, nature, and accessibility.

### Ongoing Engagement and What's Next

The next step in the project is to prepare and share a refined concept design that incorporates the community's feedback and addresses technical input from City staff and consultants. This updated plan will be shared with the public.

Once the preferred concept is determined, the project will move into the detailed design phase, then prepared into a construction-ready package. Updates will continue to be shared through the Engage Waterloo project page, on-site signage, and future community touchpoints.



A view of St. Moritz Park looking west to St. Moritz Avenue, from above the park.



## **APPENDIX A: ST. MORITZ PARK PROJECT**

### **Open House Information Boards**

Images of the information boards presented at the April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025 public open house event are included on the following pages.

## More St. Moritz Park

## Concept 1: Tracing Roots

## About 'Tracing Roots'

The Tracing Roots concept reimagines St. Moritz Park as a living landscape that restores and celebrates its natural character while strengthening community connections. Ecological health is central, with meadows, no-mow zones, native planting, and visible low-impact systems that manage water on-site and support pollinators and wildlife. These features build on the park's existing identity while expanding "wild" spaces that invite discovery, exploration, and learning about local ecology. A branching path network, inspired by root systems, links neighbourhood streets, the nearby school, and new amenities. Main routes connect to key destinations like the play area and splash pad, while secondary paths lead to smaller gathering spots nestled within the landscape.

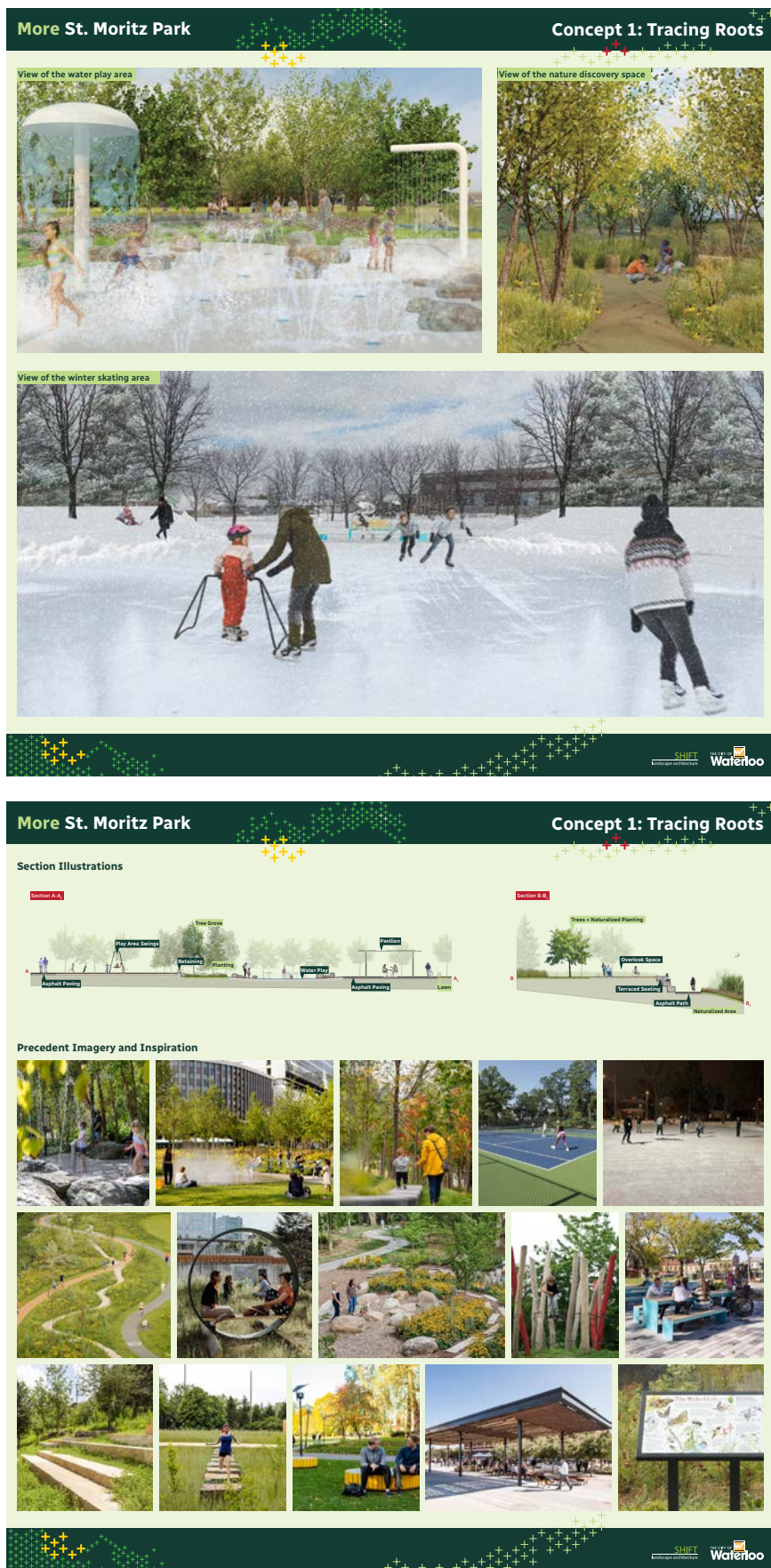
The park is shaped by the hydro corridor into two distinct areas. The upper area includes a new play zone, natural water play, community garden, pavilion and washroom building, along with quieter spaces for rest and reflection. The lower area, adjacent to the school, is more active, with a multi-sport court, soccer field, pavilion, and flexible lawn that hosts community events and doubles as a skating surface in winter. Seating areas and teen-focused spaces are integrated along pathways, providing places for socializing, gathering, and relaxation within the larger park framework.

Throughout the park, spaces are intended to support interactions where butterflies pollinate native species, neighbours greet each other on paths, and students race through on their way to school. Materials like stone and wood give the park a natural, tactile feel, while even the parking areas are designed to support planting and manage water. Together, these elements create a resilient and welcoming park that feels both connected to nature and rooted in community life.



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## More St. Moritz Park

## Concept 2: The Nest

## About 'The Nest'

The Nest concept imagines St. Moritz Park as the neighbourhood's place to meet - an energetic, welcoming space where community life is the focus. Designed to foster connection, it offers spaces, amenities, and a natural setting for everyday encounters, celebrations, and park activities. Landscapes support wildlife alongside areas that invite creativity, play, and social exchange. The park becomes a place to belong - comfortable, dynamic, and alive.

The central space, 'The Nest,' is in the upper park north of the hydro corridor. Encircled by native planting and shade trees, it includes a playground, splash pad, community garden, washroom, and tree grove seating. At its heart, a pavilion anchors the space with a flexible plaza for casual gatherings and larger neighbourhood events. Extending outward like petals, secondary spaces offer varied experiences, with some lively and sensory-rich, others quiet and restorative. These unfold through pathways, planting, and seating, allowing visitors to gather, pause, or explore. Planting and berms buffer active areas from nearby residences, balancing openness and comfort.

The lower park area emphasizes active recreation, with a multi-sport court, half-court basketball, and a pavilion supporting programming and events. Along the edges, naturalized planting, meadows, and outdoor classroom spaces create opportunities for learning and ecological connection. Street-facing edges and the school connection invite interaction, while backyard edges are screened for privacy. Across the site, natural materials - including stone, gravel, and wood - combine with sculptural features and diverse planting to frame experiences, offer shade, and build resilience. Together, these layers establish an inviting park, anchored by the Nest as a unique community destination.



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