

Community Engagement Report

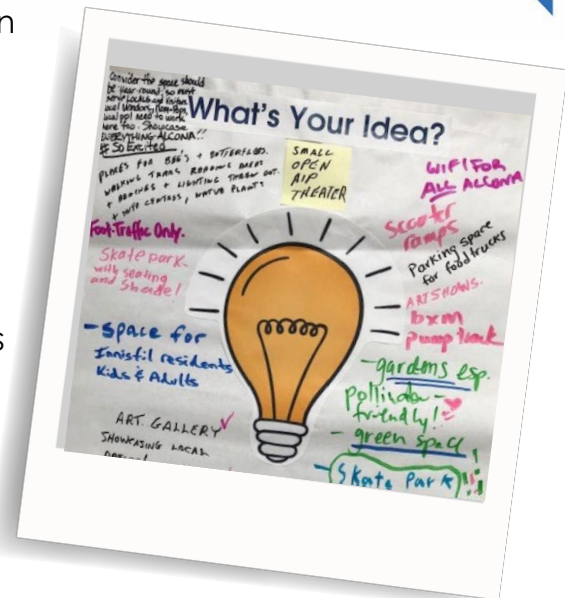
Town Square • Survey Results & Next Steps



You Spoke, We Listened.

Over the years, we've heard our residents loud and clear – you want more fun things to do, close to home. We heard that you wanted a splash pad in Alcona, a skating trail for the winter, and more unique spaces for you to socialize, gather, and enjoy. Now let's make it happen! The Town of Innisfil has a plan to create a downtown Town Square like no other. Our Town Square will be located between the Lakeshore Library Branch and Lakeside Retirement Home.

We've collected plenty of feedback from the community. We received many comments and one of the most popular themes was to create a safe space that "offers something for everyone." Residents want a multipurpose space that provides diverse activities for all ages to enjoy.



After gathering all of your feedback, we're excited to be implementing the following:

- Splash Pad
- Walking Trail
- Skating Trail
- Stage/Shelter
- Pavilion, Food, and Washrooms
- Market/Festivity Space
- Greenspace
- Terraced seating
- Play Area
- Equipment house/Zamboni Hut
- Security Cameras

Next Steps

The Town is working with PMA Landscape Architects to complete a design schematic that is in line with what we've heard from the community. Once the plan is finalized, we will go full force into making these ideas a reality. Construction is set to begin in 2019 and will be completed by late 2020. While we would love to add in everyone's favourite features at once, we will have to complete some of this project in phases. Future phasing could include the stage and play areas and will be included in the 2021 Budget Request to Council.

Engagement Overview



Get Involved Innisfil Online Engagement

- 439 Aware Visitors
- 278 Informed Visitors
- 95 Engaged Visitors



Open House

- 1 Event
- 75 Attendees



Forum Responses

- 23 Responses



Workshops

- 2 Events



3 Stakeholder Discussions

- Lakeside Retirement Residents (40)
- Innisfil ideaLAB & Library Staff (35)
- Innisfil ideaLAB & Library Board Members (9)



Dotmocracy Activity

- 596 votes cast



Innisfil residents would be most excited to see...

74
Votes



Market Space

71
Votes



**Performance and
Gathering Space**

65
Votes



Water Feature

56
Votes



Entertainment

55
Votes



Walking Trail

Dotmocracy Activity Results

We asked residents what they thought about the following features, and here's how you voted!

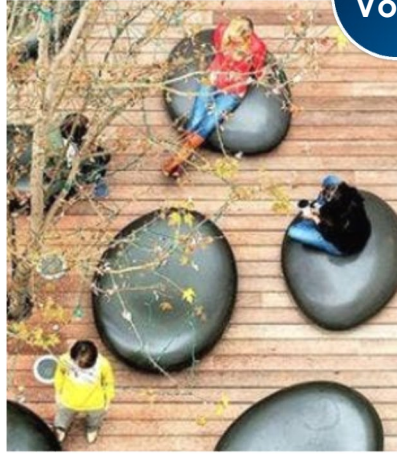
Based on the votes received and overall feedback collected, the Town has decided to include a water feature, walking & skating trail, and a multipurpose space that can be used for outdoor markets, performances, and more.

50
Votes



Skating Trail

47
Votes



Seating

44
Votes



Shade Structures

36
votes



Water Feature

34
Votes



Public Art

30
Votes



Pavilion

19
Votes



Firepits

15
Votes



Seating

Town Square Library Consultation Feedback – Monday, March 25th

1. Our Top Features we'd like so see Included	
Group 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water feature – Splash/Ice • Multi-use trail in the summer • Community lounge → seating/tables, fire, art, lights, garden • *glow in the dark lighting*
Group 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open, multi-purpose space • Play features for all • ART • Youth space, treehouse, graffiti wall
Group 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skating trail/multi-purpose trail • Interactive children's space for a wide age range (giant slide + netted climbing feature) • Community garden
Group 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multipurpose/multi-season. Ex – Ice Rink and Roller Rink • Solar panel/seating/public art/hotspot/shade • Community gathering – digital interaction (#hashtag, not just a park → unique experience) • Community garden • Play equipment – but thinking about aesthetics • Exercise equipment • Public art • Large chess, scrabble
Group 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trail/skate trail • Water/splash pad • Seating/tables/Wi-Fi • Lighting/solar/colour changing • Lazy river

2. Our Potential Issues and Concerns

Group 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Smoking• Safety/lighting → bugging seniors• Visibility• Parking, parking, parking, <u>parking!!!!</u>
Group 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recycling and waste, garbage bins available• Dog waste• Falls → Security buttons• Maintenance (heated pathways?)• How to have Wi-Fi reach that area
Group 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open gates• Lights at night• Theft and vandalism• Storage – maintenance/shed• Zamboni• Washrooms – family/gender neutral• Parking
Group 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Connecting path for Lakeside Retirement• How do people get here (parking?) – Active transportation• How to connect the Town Square to other Town locations (IBP)• How to encourage Community-led initiatives
Group 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Loss of trees/lack of shade• Tomfoolery/shenanigans• Parking• Well lit spaces• Outdoor washroom• Drinking stations

3. Our Most Exciting & Interesting Opportunity for the Library in this New Space	
Group 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New customers! • Even more of a community hub
Group 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Location • Quiet, relaxation space • Will draw more people into the Library • Connection to health/nature • Outdoor rentals – giant Jenga/etc. • Wi-Fi
Group 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs! → Easter Egg Hunt, Scavenger Hunt • Outdoor events → Seedy Saturday, Makerfest, Fresh Air Flicks
Group 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporating aesthetics into • Light on paths, include art (ex. Unique bike racks) • New collections and rentals (ex. Fishing poles, kites – activity collections) • Food truck – local vendors • Fire pits – artisan fair
Group 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programming opportunities

Additional notes/post-its:

- Nature walks
- Yoga in the park
- Mommy & me exercise
- Makerfest outside
- Movies in the park – Fresh Air Flicks
- Farmer's Markets
- Outdoor splash pad story time!
- Relaxing environment with seating
- New hangout spot for teens
- Accessible playground features
- Outdoor vending machine – sunscreen/water/hat
- Zip line + spinner swing
- Goats to cut the grass
- Ice cream hut

Other Audiences to Consider	
HackLAB/Digital MediaLAB & CMD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wonder Projects - HackLAB installation - Photography outdoors
Customer Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tours of outdoor space - Community engagement
Adult Programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nature walks - Geocaching - Bok clubs - Seedy Saturdays
Children's Events/Programs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Splash pad story time - Yoga kids
Community events:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outdoor concerts - Fresh Air flicks - Outdoor yoga - VON exercise - Community led groups
Teens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seating/Wi-Fi - Smoking station - Shade
Seniors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paved paths - Shaded seating - Outdoor games in tables - Wi-Fi
Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Splash pad - Playground (natural elements) - Skating
Families + Pets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Change stations - Seating/picnic areas - Play areas - Pet stations/bags to pick up pet waste
Accessibility Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paved walkways - Accessible seating - Accessible washrooms - No stairs/curbs

Town Square Library Board Consultation Feedback – Monday, April 15th

1. Our Top Features we'd like so see Included	
Group 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social gathering area • Active/youth • Ice pad/splash pad • Winding path (connectivity)
Group 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seating/meeting spots • Shade (i.e. Trees) • Splash pad or something to promote activity

2. Our Potential Issues and Concerns	
Group 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open gates • Access/egress • Security, lighting (neighbours) • Downward facing ^
Group 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate lighting • Washrooms • Maintenance of path, skating rink • Noise levels affecting homes and Retirement Home • Parking • Street behind → noise and lighting

Additional notes:

- Intergenerational programs → Senior story time
- Story walks
- Yoga – for all
- Hosting fairs – e.g. Seedy Saturday
- Flexible space
- Entertainment
- Different surfaces – e.g. vulcanized rubber
- Special attention to seating
- Bring programming outside
- Pollinator garden – signage
- Learning space – outdoor maker space
- Connect with local history
- Potting sheds
- Community gardens
- Connecting to water cycle
- OPP for education – in areas
- Public art – created in library
- Keeping the grade

Online Consultation Comments

- Fire pits could be really cool. As well as an outdoor entertainment area.
- According to DSR-133-17 - Alcona Parklands Acquisition, dated August 9, 2017, and according to the Active Innisfil "Parks & Recreation" Master Plan, Recommendation #37 of the master plan states in part: "Construct two new splash pads to serve the communities of Alcona and Lefroy...".Is there now a change of direction from 2017 decision?
- I would really love to see a decent dining spot.
- Sprinkle pad!
- Make the space multi-purpose to accommodate long and short term vendors such as; the farmers market, artisan vendors, ice cream / Lemonade type shops and themed travelling road shows on different days of the week or month. It would bring business to the local area. Some shade and seating would be important to be inclusive and we would need some sort of parking. It would bring beach goers up into the retail sector of the town during the summer and we could have some sort of winter fest in January.
- The town square design should speak to the history of Innisfil. Tranquil music in the background and an area where you can sit under shaded canopies. It has to be dog friendly for a dog cooling area, bike rack Wi-Fi hookup and a place to recharge phones, outdoor fireplaces and calming water fountains outdoor cafe and a band shell for performances. There could be vendor carts playgrounds and comfortable seating. To be successful, a square needs to be easy to get to. The best squares are always easily accessible by foot: Surrounding streets are narrow; crosswalks are well marked; lights are timed for pedestrians, not vehicles; traffic moves slowly; and transit stops are located nearby. A square surrounded by lanes of fast-moving traffic will be cut off from pedestrians and deprived of its most essential element: people. The library doors open right onto the square; people sit outside and read on the steps; maybe the children's reading room has an outdoor space right on the square, or even a bookstore and cafe. An active, welcoming outer square is essential to the well-being of

the inner square. Lastly and most important it has to be well maintained by the city.

→ I support this idea, maybe add a few more vendors or shops around the outer perimeter to bring the people to the area to shop or as a meeting space for coffee.

→ Would be great to have bike/walking paths connecting the new Town Square with the beach as well as a path network throughout Alcona, so there are routes to these amenities from the different neighborhoods.

- Hockey skate rink/ball hockey, & Skateboard Park.

→ Agree

- A BMX, scooter, skateboard park would be amazing. We desperately need something for the older kids that's walking distance.

- This is a modification suggestion which would compliment a pavilion, performance center, market or seating... Build renewable energy generation and vegetation in the design.

- Whatever is built there, I hope they have given thought to security and surveillance at the Square as it would be a target for vandals and misuse no doubt.

- Why do we need a splash pad when we have a beautiful beach? Or put the splash pad in the park close to the beach not in the middle of downtown.

→ IMHO, our resident toddlers and kids would never be able to enjoy a splash pad on the weekends built in Innisfil Beach Park. It would be overrun by visitors from the GTA as happens at the beach on most weekends.

- I think a new Town square would be perfect and should include, playground, splash pad, hockey / skating rink, skateboard / scooter park (Vaughan has some nice ones that blend into the overall park design, take a look there). Multi use pavilion that can be used for entertainment. shade, market, etc. thanks

→ I have concerns about a skate board park or hockey rink as they often end up with graffiti all over them!

→ Graffiti is a separate issue that is not brought on by having hockey rink or skateboard parks, for example we recently saw regular playgrounds in our neighborhood vandalized with graffiti. You can also flip it around and welcome graffiti as an art installation as

part of a skateboard park, allowing control over the content.

- I agree, graffiti is an art form, I just prefer not to see it on the main strip of Alcona.
- I'm not saying it is the spot for it but a skateboard park / hockey rink does not increase the chance of vandalism more than any other structure would.
- A tranquil walking trail with lots of trees, lots of benches to sit and relax, water drinking fountains, cafe to meet friends and gather, a family oriented restaurant and a shaded sitting area just to relax would be ideal.
- What about something for the kids like trees with zip lining and obstacle courses with cushion? Games that children and teens can play that are fun and interactive. Like outdoor laser tag or strategic games that allow them to think and learn while getting exercise.
- A seating area in the European style. The most valuable asset is not pods, walking trails or entertainment, it is people. Somewhere to congregate with no organized activities for the most part, although it could include all the activity ideas I've heard about. A square could include trees for shade, a water feature and free rides to the beach in the summer, don't forget some food amenities, and loosen up any restrictions on local restaurants to participate. And a skating rink, fire pit, rides from local ice hut owners onto the lake, and hot chocolate in the winter. It's all about people and food!

Town Square Lakeside Retirement Consultation – Wednesday, May 8th

Lakeside Retirement Comments	
Thoughts & Ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Horseshoe pit• Lawn bowling• BBQ pits/family picnics• Lighting and safety• Playground for grandchildren• Singsong circle outside• Soft background music• Picnic tables• Putting green• Similar to Newmarket's town square• Gazebo• Ice cream bar• Refreshment stand• Bird bath (water feature)• Lions hall Farmer's Market• Accessibility – wide path• Signage/quiet zone
Questions & Concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safety• Keep the mature trees• Noise• Skate park noise• Fencing/gate• Supervision