

Collaborating for Social Connection, Belonging, & Equity in Parks & Greenspaces

park
people
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Introduction

Parks are more than just greenspaces. They are where families, friends, and neighbours get together over meals and laughter, where children learn how to ride bikes, and where cultures, stories, and traditions are shared. Parks are where community happens.

Public areas like parks, ravines, and other greenspaces have become crucial during a growing period of isolation, inequality, and climate anxiety. They provide a space for healing, connection, and growth, in addition to a place to play, rest, and get fresh air. Parks offer a chance to reclaim space, foster a sense of community, and inspire local leadership for many groups, particularly those that are historically underrepresented in decision-making processes.

Community members are converting their local parks into vibrant hubs of connection, joy, and action; that spirit is celebrated in this report. It draws attention to the value of community-driven transformation and grassroots leadership in our common green areas.

Recent data shows that 85% of Canadians have expressed that parks benefit their mental health and 81% say parks positively impact their physical well-being, which underscores how essential these shared spaces have become in everyday lives¹.

[Learn more in our recent Canadian Cities Parks Report here](#)



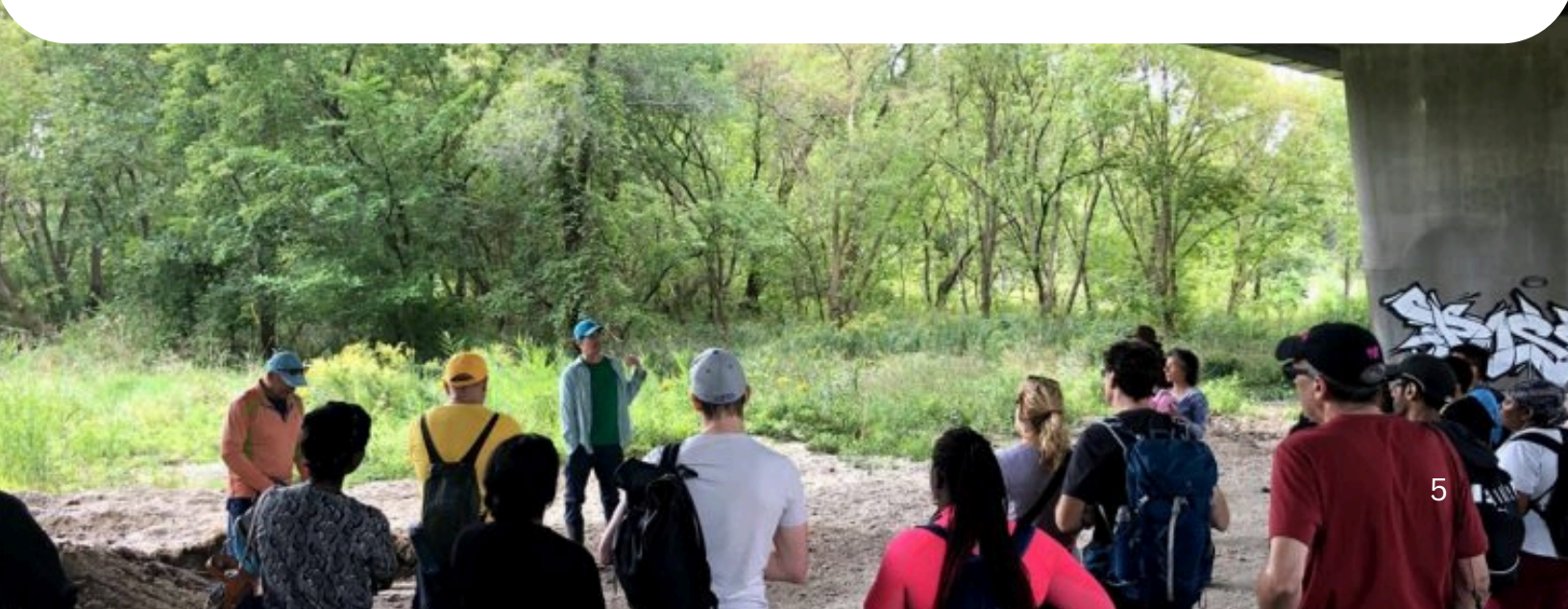
The Role of Park People & The Sparking Change Toronto Program

Recognizing the role parks play in community health and wellbeing, Park People works to support community leaders across Canada to transform their local greenspaces to build strong, healthy, and connected communities.

The Sparking Change Toronto program provides microgrants, networking opportunities, and capacity support to community-led groups, particularly those from equity-deserving communities, to help activate their local parks and greenspaces. Grassroots and community groups are experts in their own communities, understanding local needs in their own parks and greenspaces and are best positioned to lead programs that reflect the values and histories of their neighbourhoods.

Park People does not determine the direction of the community park initiative but rather supports and enables community action by unlocking resources, such as funding, key relationships, institutional support, and helping remove systemic barriers. By offering low-barrier, community-led support, Sparking Change enables equity-deserving communities to reclaim public space, build social connections, and foster deeper connections with nature on their own terms.

Photo credit: Let's Hike TO.



Impact At A Glance

5,000+

People connected to their local parks and greenspaces

250

Community leaders trained to date

90%

report feeling more connected to their community

Across the Sector

80%

of cities say park budgets are insufficient to meet growing needs

52%

of residents feel they don't have voice in local park decisions

95%

of residents believe parks support their physical and mental health

Photo credit: Little Community Garden.



Photo credit here



Photo credit: Greystone Neighbourhood Group.

Learning From The Community

Why We Did This Evaluation

The evaluation aimed to understand the impact of the Sparking Change Toronto program in four key areas outlined in Park People's Theory of Change:

1

Community Health & Wellbeing

2

Social Equity

3

**Human-nature
Connectedness and
Reciprocity**

4

Ecological Integrity

This evaluation focused on how the program supports equity-deserving communities in leading and shaping parks and greenspaces, building relationships, and overcoming barriers to participation. Insights will help inform future programming, planning, and advocacy to better reflect community needs.

How We Gathered Insights

A community-engaged evaluation approach was used to explore the impact of the Sparking Change Toronto program. The evaluation included an online survey and virtual focus groups with community members, Park People staff, and City of Toronto staff to capture perspectives on outcomes like social connection, greenspace access, nature connection, and community wellbeing.

A Community Advisory Group (CAG), made up of five community members from the Sparking Change Toronto network, one City of Toronto staff, and Park People staff met over the course of this project to guide the evaluation, including reviewing questions, data, and guiding this report.

An online anonymous survey was conducted using SurveyMonkey to gather insights from community members involved in the Sparking Change Toronto program. Participants received a \$15 honorarium for completing the survey. All data were anonymized and thematically analyzed to generate key insights.

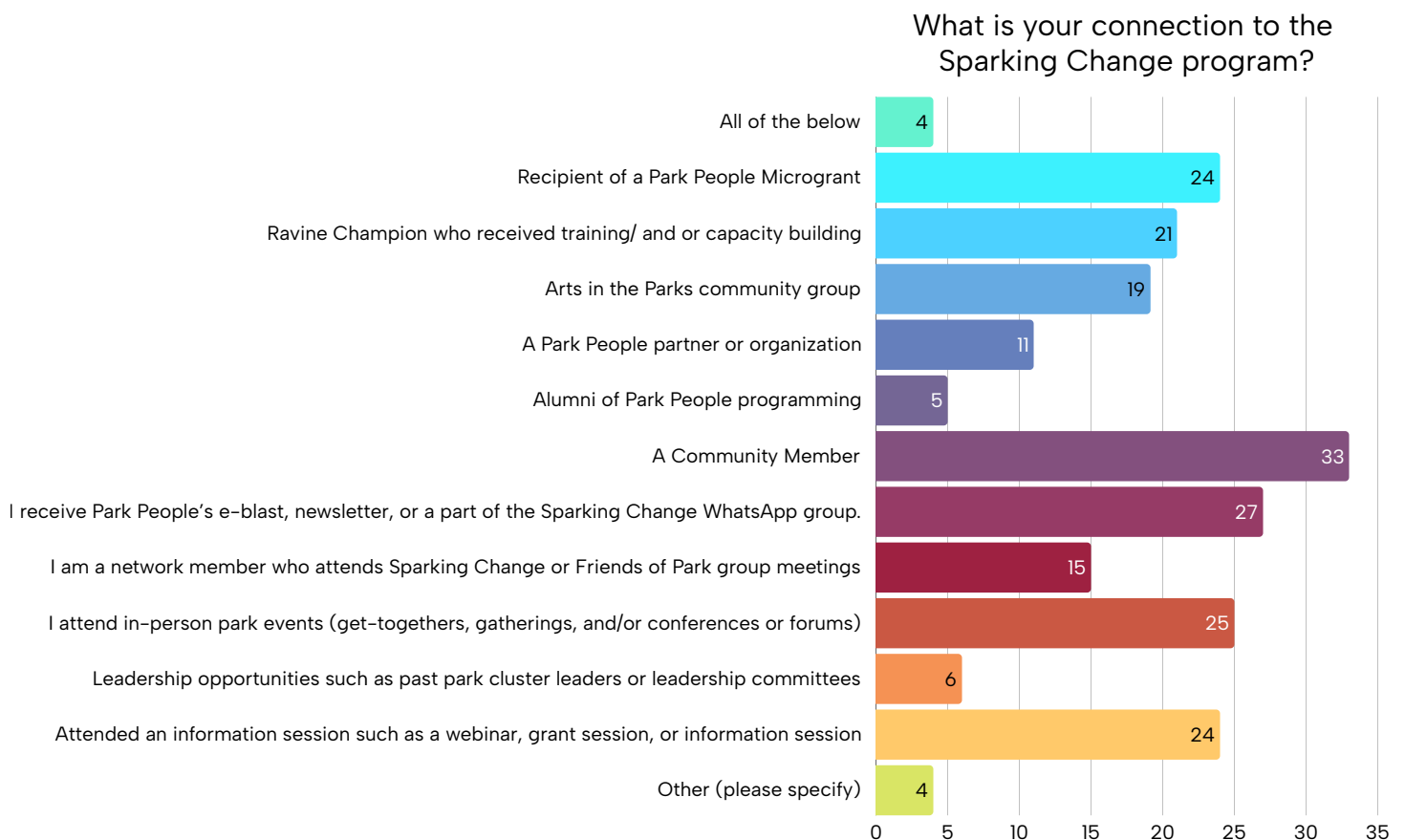
In addition, six focus groups were conducted with 11 community members, three Park People staff and three City of Toronto staff who had been directly involved in or familiar with the Sparking Change Toronto program. Two individual interviews were conducted with City of Toronto staff to accommodate schedules. Community members received a \$75 honoraria for participating in the focus groups. The survey questions and focus group guide can be found in Appendix A.



Main Findings

The evaluation revealed insights about how the Sparking Change Toronto program supported community leadership to animate parks and greenspaces, supported environmental action, and fostered a sense of belonging and wellbeing. The findings were highlighted to reveal the strengths of the program and areas for growth.

Survey Respondents: **Who We Heard From:**



Survey Respondents: A Snapshot



Photo credit: Melanin Skate Crew.

53%

Black, Indigenous,
or Person of Colour

13%

Identified as
2SLGBTQ+

20%

Identified as having
a disability

63%

Identified
as women

85%

Aged 20-59

47%

Earned between
\$25K-\$99K

10%

Earned
under \$25K

3%

Had no stable
housing



Photo credit: Little Community Garden.

70%

Were community
members

57%

Subscribed to the
newsletter, WhatsApp

53%

Attended in-person
park events

51%

Received Park
People microgrants



Photo credit: IDesign team.

Community Health & Wellbeing

Public spaces have long been linked to better health outcomes^{2,3}. However, for equity-deserving communities, access to these benefits requires meaningful engagement and support.

Many participants consistently reported that their involvement in the program improved their mental and emotional wellbeing by creating opportunities to gather in nature, build community, and lead community initiatives. In fact, nearly all survey respondents (98%) agreed that their work in parks and greenspaces supported community health and wellbeing, not just in theory, but in practice like hosting community events, or helping people feel connected to their neighbours. In a similar vein, 96% of respondents said their efforts promoted a sense of belonging, and 98% claimed that their work fostered a sense of community and connection.

For many, parks became more than just physical places, they became places where people feel grounded. Whether it was leading a community walk or resting in a quiet greenspace, participants described how these moments created space for healing and meaningful conversations about community care.



Our seniors group lit up after entering the park. Just seeing the green space brought smiles and conversations about peace, joy, and feeling good.

Community member



Ravines, community gardens, and park walks have all helped spread the word that nature is for our wellbeing—it clears the mind and lifts the spirit.

Community member

Pathways to Inclusivity: Physical & Social Access to Parks and Greenspaces

Access to parks has to do with more than just proximity; it is about who feels like they belong, are safe, and see themselves reflected in the space. Through Sparking Change Toronto, many residents were given the tools, funding, and support needed to transform parks into places that are safer, more welcoming, and easier to access for everyone.

Many participants described the program as a turning point: a chance to reclaim parks as shared spaces of community care. The program supported both social and physical access, helping equity-deserving communities take ownership of their greenspaces, challenge systemic barriers, and foster a sense of belonging.

78%

of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed that Sparking Change helped them take action to make parks and greenspaces safer for everyone.

89%

said the program helped make parks more welcoming.

89%

said they took action to improve physical accessibility.

89%

agreed that social access, the ability to feel safe, included, and visible in parks has improved in recent years.

Results & Impact from the Sparking Change Toronto Evaluation



Action to Promote Health & Wellbeing

87% either strongly agreed or agreed that "Sparking Change has **helped me/our group take action to promote community health and wellbeing** (i.e., in relation to people)"



Sense of Belonging to Community

80% responded "Yes" to the statement: "Through Sparking Change, I feel a **sense of belonging to my community.**"



Sense of Community and Social Connection

98% of respondents said "Yes" to the statement: "My work/our group's work in parks and greenspaces promotes a **sense of community and social connection**"



Sense of Belonging to Where I Live

84% responded "Yes" to the statement: "Through Sparking Change, I feel a **sense of belonging to where I live and my neighbourhood.**"

What Community Members Said:



Through Sparking Change, we brought youth into the ravine for the first time. They listened for birds, walked quietly, and felt calm. It shifted how they saw that space."

— Community Member Survey Respondent



For many, the Sparking Change Toronto Program went beyond physical improvements. It changed how people see themselves within them and sent a clear message:

You belong here.



Many greenspaces are far from equitable. This includes ravines, which are often surrounded by wealthy landowners... The Sparking Change grant gave us an opportunity to give these young people a different perspective — that they can enjoy a ravine walk, no matter what their background is.

— Community Member Survey Respondent



We have witnessed firsthand the positive impacts that well-maintained parks and greenspaces have on the health and wellbeing of our neighborhood's residents. Through Sparking Change, we have worked to ensure that outdoor spaces are more inclusive and accessible.

— Community Member Survey Respondent

Social Equity

Across survey responses and focus groups, it was clear that equity isn't an afterthought in the Sparking Change Toronto program – it is a key value. For many community members, Sparking Change Toronto is more than just a program; it is an opportunity to rethink how communities engage with public spaces.

A majority of the survey respondents (77%) reported that they or their group are actively working on decolonization in parks, as defined by the City of Toronto⁴. This includes challenging colonial legacies, racial exclusion, and the ways the structures shape who feels seen, safe, and supported in parks. Similarly, 84% said they are engaged in anti-racism and equity work related in greenspace.

Equity isn't a checkbox—it's a *shift* in power.



Through Sparking Change, we brought youth into the ravine for the first time. They listened for birds, walked quietly, and felt calm. It shifted how they saw that space."

— Community Member Survey Respondent

Many participants emphasized the importance of centering programs in cultural understanding, accessible language, and directly involving equity-deserving communities.



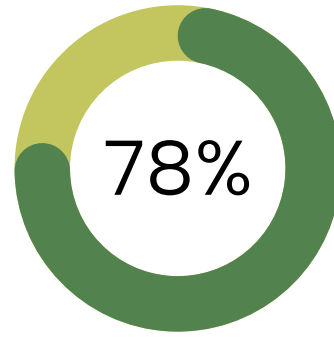
My vision includes communication with various diasporas in their own language... I invite local equity-deserving groups to take part via meditations, story sharing, and group music improvisation.

— Community Member Survey Respondent

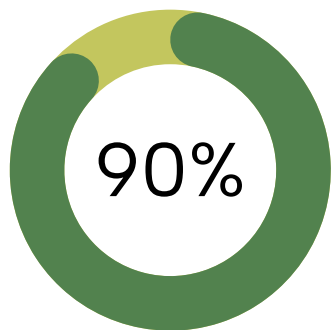
Results & Impact



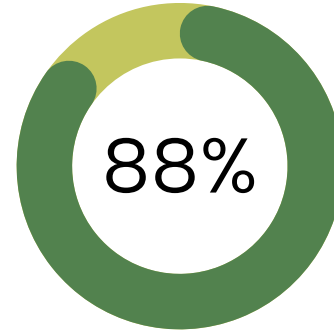
98% responded “Yes” to the statement: “My work/our group’s work in parks and green spaces **supports community health and wellbeing.**”



38% strongly agreed and **40%** agreed that “Sparkling Change has helped me/our group **take action to make parks and greenspaces safer for everyone.**”



40% strongly agreed and **50%** agreed that “Sparkling Change has helped me/our group **take action to help the environment** (i.e., in relation to biodiversity, conservation, climate resilience etc.)”



88% responded “Yes” to the statement “Sparkling Change is **increasing access to nature-based programming** for equity-deserving communities.”

Survey Respondents: A Snapshot



Photo credit: Friends of Regent Park.



Park People is really uniquely positioned to bring groups together in a way that the City is unable to do.

– City of Toronto staff



We know that Park People reaches members of the community that we may not be reaching, we're continually impressed with especially the equity lens that Park People puts on the work.

– City of Toronto staff



Photo credit: Flemington Community Support Services.



It is organic and cannot be forced onto community without knowing first where they are at. It's important to understand these elements to create safe and welcoming spaces for all.

–Community member



Photo credit: Dominos in the Park, Romel Brown.

Structural Challenges & Barriers

Barrier Identified	Summary	Quotes
Limited Opportunities for Accessible, Sustainable, and Equitable Funding	Sparkling Change Toronto provides access to funds to do necessary, important work but there is a desire and need for more sustainable funding by community members.	• <i>"One of the strengths is through Sparkling Change, smaller community groups can access some much necessary funds to organize their programs that aligns with their own organizational goals and targets."</i> –Community member • <i>"(Park People's) micro grants is a pretty low barrier grant program whereby you don't need to be an incorporated, not for profit or registered charity to apply. So it segments out some of those more established organizations who are very deserving of funding, absolutely, (but) there needs to be (funding) carve(d) out for even smaller grassroots groups to access resources. And I think it's really the extent to which the money can flow directly from a source to an end user."</i> – City of Toronto staff
Limited Staff Capacity Hindering Community Support	Park People Staff noted that limited capacity is a barrier to provide ongoing and meaningful support to community members.	• <i>"Having like three staff, plus the manager, is kind of not enough for the amount of programming that we [do]... Arts in the Parks, Into the Ravine, Sparkling Change and all the offshoots."</i> – Park People Staff • <i>"I think, like, ultimately, the administrative work for us and for the groups...can hinder the impact."</i> – Park People Staff

Structural Challenges & Barriers

Barrier Identified	Summary	Quotes
Competitive Funding Environment Hindering Collaboration	Community members acknowledged the need for collaboration but the inherently competitive funding environment makes it difficult to do so.	• <i>"If some group has more expertise in a certain area, then they can share those resources...We need to work in our community, putting first the idea that we are here for the greater good, not just focusing on 'we own this grant, we are better than all other groups.'"</i> – Community member • <i>"Usually what we see is that since we are all competitors of each other, sometimes for the same fund... it can be really hard for people to get over those competitive notions."</i> – Community member
Inaccessible Granting Opportunities	Community members and City staff noted that complex grant applications are a barrier, especially for newer groups with little or no experience.	• <i>"Some people who have really great ideas (that) they could implement (but) they don't know how to write grants."</i> – Community member • <i>"There are plenty of funding opportunities out there in the City, and I think that it's... a matter of joining forces with those different funding opportunities as much as possible, so that we don't have, again, like the usual suspects, gobbling up all of those opportunities."</i> –City of Toronto Staff • <i>"There needs to be carve-outs for smaller grassroots groups to access resources."</i> – City of Toronto Staff



Photo credit: Friends of Regent Park.

More on What We Heard

Barriers & Challenges

While the Sparking Change Toronto program has had a significant positive impact, several barriers were identified through surveys and focus groups. These barriers influenced both participation in greenspace programming and broader efforts toward inclusion, equity, and sustainability

Limited Access to Sustainable & Equitable Funding

- While microgrants made a significant difference for many grassroots initiatives, many participants expressed the need for longer-term funding to sustain their work and deepen community engagement.
- Some city staff also reflected on challenges in the funding landscape, noting that more established organizations may have easier access to resources, while smaller or grassroot groups often encounter more barriers.
- Some community members highlighted that the lack of compensation for community organizers made it difficult to retain volunteers, particularly young people, which impacted their engagement overtime.



Any recommendations as to how the grant is? Do more! Because only out of 90 applicants, only seven of us got it, and I would say I felt privileged, but also, you know, I wanted to make the best use of it.

– Community member



While Park People provides essential support through Sparking Change Toronto, the program itself operates within funding limitations. The growing demand and limited resources across the sector often stretch what's possible, making long-term sustainability a shared challenge for community groups, non-profit organizations, and funders.

Need for more Park People Staff Capacity and Resourcing

- While funding supports community programming, some staff pointed to a gap in funding the labour that makes this work possible such as coordination, outreach, administration, and staffing. These efforts are essential to sustain the program but are often overlooked in traditional funding structures. Some staff shared that limited capacity makes it difficult to provide support to different community groups.

A Competitive Funding Environment Hinders Collaboration

- Although community members acknowledged the value of collaboration, many spoke about how the competitive nature of funding created silos rather than shared efforts.



Photo credit: Friends of Regent Park
| IDesign team.

- The current landscape unintentionally creates divisions between groups, even when their work is complementary, making it difficult to co-create or co-learn.

”

There needs to be carve-outs for smaller grassroots groups to access resources.

– City of Toronto Staff

”

Usually what we see is that since we are all competitors... it can be really hard for people to get over those competitive notions.

– Community Member

Inaccessible Granting Opportunities

- While granting opportunities exist, community members and City staff noted that complex application processes often exclude newer groups. These groups lack the capacity and support to navigate complex requirements, making funding inaccessible and reinforcing existing inequities.

”

We are somewhat uncertain of how to go about applying for, what grant \$\$ to apply for regarding our project.

– Community Member



Photo credit: IPSG X Thorncliffe Youth
– 2023 | Little community garden.



Photo credit: Melanin Skate Crew.

Complex Tensions & Realities

In addition to the more immediate barriers noted above, there are deeper structural and systemic tensions that have influenced the delivery and impact of the Sparking Change Toronto program. These complexities are often beyond the control of individual actors or organizations but nonetheless play a significant role in shaping what is possible within the current context of community-led greenspace engagement in Toronto.

Permit Processes

One of the most frequently cited barriers across focus groups and surveys was the process of obtaining permits to hold events in public parks. Participants described the process as time-consuming, complex, and inconsistent, especially for smaller grassroots groups or first-time organizers unfamiliar with the system.



It was 2–3 months for a permit for a small event. By the time it came through, the season was over.

– Community member

The requirement to fill out multiple applications, engage with different departments, and sometimes pay fees using their limited grant funding placed additional strain on them. Some noted that each year, more steps are added to the process, making it increasingly difficult even for seasoned park groups. As a result, some groups chose to abandon the formal process altogether or move forward without permits.



We never got the permit and went ahead anyway—because the process was the problem, not the event.

– Community member

Recent Milestone: Park Permits

A recent milestone in improving park access is the partnership between Park people and the City of Toronto to introduce the No-Fee Community Activations Booking Option.

This initiative was developed in response to longstanding challenges community groups face when booking park spaces. By working closely with City staff and local residents, the partnership led to a more inclusive permitting process—removing booking fees, reducing insurance requirements, and streamlining approvals to better support community-led events.

[Find out more here](#)

Photo credit Mayor Olivia Chow announcing the No-Fee Community Activations Booking Option at the Toronto Park Summit in June 2025 | Park People.



Recommendations For Future Programming & Policies

Insights from community members, Park People staff, and City of Toronto staff highlight the ways the Sparking Change program can grow and improve. The following recommendations outline practical actions to make the program more equitable and sustainable.

Peer Support and Networking

- Create regular opportunities for peer learning, such as community luncheons, workshops, or informal meetings to exchange ideas, experiences, and lessons learned.
- Facilitate relationship-building opportunities between grantees and other grassroots to encourage collaboration.
- Develop a centralized platform for sharing resources, events, templates, and community success stories.



I would like a group similar to what I was doing...which is peer support... You have some people who have, like, only operational nonprofits. You've got the mid level people, which I would say we seem to be at. And then you've got the very beginner people who really are just learning the nuts and bolts of, you know, okay, I should put up Facebook posts. How do I make a Facebook post?

– Community Member



Photo credit: Toronto Park Summit, Park People.

Amplify Community

- Highlight the leadership community and the work they're doing through Sparking Change communication channels (social media etc).
- Offer storytelling support to help groups showcase their work and increase visibility.
- Encourage community members to lead presentations or panels at public events or forums.



I would have loved to have seen more of how we went to ... the Sparking Change conference... they did a little blurb where they did a video... to allow us to speak about our projects... documentation like that helps us get broadcast and put together our own learnings... a great way to increase our impact and bring that back in showcases in our community, so that we're not doing that ourselves.

– Community Member



Photo credit: Toronto Park Summit, Park People.

Capacity Building and Support

- Offer more workshops on areas such as grant writing, advocacy training, budgeting, and community engagement.
- Provide simple guides to help groups apply for grants, organize events, and navigate city processes (e.g. permits, insurance, city hall access).
- Facilitate peer-to-peer mentorship across different levels of experience to help leverage each other's strengths. This could include asset mapping within the network to highlight existing skills and resources, enabling groups to support one another rather than relying solely on external organizations.

”

Some people who have really great ideas (that) they could implement (but) they don't know how to write grants.

– Community Member



Photo credit: Informative group | Toronto Park Summit, Park People.

Community Priorities & Emerging Ideas



Better Equipped Park Spaces

Community members identified the need for more accessible amenities. These include Wifi access, religious corners, food availability, drinking water, washrooms, shelters, and green bins.



More Flexible Funding

Within the competitive funding environment, community members were suggesting ways to be more creative with limited availability. Examples included offering different levels of grant funding based on project size to better match community needs.



Building a Movement

Community members wanted City staff, councillors, and other interested parties to show up and show support by attending events and build relationships.



Support for outreach and engagement

Community members shared that beyond funding, they need support with attracting participants to events and keeping people engaged over time.



Learn more about the tools we used in our Health, Wellbeing, and Equity Toolkit

Photo credit: Toronto Park Summit, Park People.



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Appendix A: Survey Questions

Q1. What is your connection to the Sparking Change program?
Q2. How engaged are you in the Sparking Change program?
Q3. How useful to your work is the Sparking Change program?
Q4. Which of the following resources/supports through the Sparking Change program have been valuable to your work in parks and greenspaces? (Select all that apply)
Q5. Sparking Change has helped me/our group take action to promote community health and wellbeing (i.e., in relation to people)
Q6. Sparking Change has helped me/our group take action to make parks and greenspaces more physically accessible
Q7. Sparking Change has helped me/our group take action to make parks and greenspaces more welcoming for everyone
Q8. Sparking Change has helped me/our group take action to make parks and greenspaces safer for everyone
Q9. Sparking Change has helped me/our group take action to help the environment (i.e., in relation to biodiversity, conservation, climate resilience)
Q10. Through Sparking Change, I met new people and expanded my park and community networks
Q11. Through Sparking Change, I met new people and expanded my personal networks (e.g. I made friends and connections that I maintain)
Q12. Through Sparking Change, I feel that I am more capable of making positive change in my local community

Q13. Through Sparking Change, I feel a sense of belonging to my community
Q14. Through Sparking Change, I feel a sense of belonging to where I live and my neighbourhood
Q15. My work/our group's work in parks and greenspaces supports community health and wellbeing
Q16. My work/our group's work in parks and greenspaces promotes a sense of community and social connection
Q17. My work/our group's work in parks and greenspaces promotes a sense of belonging for people
Q18. I feel that I can offer input into issues that affect my local parks and greenspaces (e.g., into decision-making processes)
Q19. Decision-makers are engaging more with communities around parks and greenspaces (e.g. decision-makers meet more with communities)
Q20. How would you describe your relationship with your municipal parks department, park supervisor or city staff? Select one.
Q21. Is there anything you would like to add about your work and engagement with Sparking Change and/or Park People on the topic of health and wellbeing in parks and greenspaces?
Q22. Sparking Change is increasing access to parks and greenspaces for equity-deserving communities
Q23. Sparking Change is increasing access to nature-based programming for equity-deserving communities
Q24. Generally, there has been an increase in social access to parks and greenspaces in recent years (i.e., equity-deserving groups feel they can safely and inclusively use, access and navigate parks and greenspaces)

Q25. I am / my group is working on decolonization in parks and greenspaces. Note: Decolonization is the process of removing colonial elements from ways of thinking and the systems and structures within which we live and work, including but not limited to imperialism, white supremacy, patriarchy, paternalism and human centrism (City of Toronto definition). This could include land-based activities.

Q26. I am/ my group is working on anti-racism and equity in parks and greenspaces. Note: Anti-Racism is the practice of identifying, challenging, preventing, eliminating and changing the values, structures, policies, programs, practices and behaviours that perpetuate racism. Equity is about working toward fair outcomes by giving people what they need instead of treating everyone the same both historically and currently. It requires addressing these barriers through researching, implementing, and advocating for equity-based park policies/programs that affect systems change.

Q27. I understand how equity issues for different people (e.g., for people living with disabilities, queer and trans communities, newcomers etc.) relate to parks and greenspaces

Q28. Is there anything you would like to add about your work and engagement with Sparking Change and/or Park People on the topic of equity, decolonization, and anti-racism in parks and greenspaces?

Q29. Do you have additional comments about your work and engagement with Sparking Change and/or Park People on the topic of the environment in parks and greenspaces?

Q30. Do you have any additional comments about Park People's Sparking Change program you would like to share at this time?

Q31. What is your primary residential postal code? (at least first 3 digits)

Q32. I identify as an Indigenous, Black or racialized person

Q33. I feel supported by Park People's programming and tools

Q34. Do you identify as Indigenous to Canada? Indigenous people residing in Canada include those who self-identify as First Nations (status, non-status, treaty or non-treaty), Inuit, Métis.

Q35. How would you describe your race or racial identity? (Please provide your answer in your own words and/or check all that apply)
Q36. How long have you been living in Canada?
Q37. With which gender identities do you most identify? (please check all that apply)
Q38. 2SLGBTQ+ is an umbrella term for persons who identify, for example, as lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, trans, two-spirit, genderqueer, questioning, or who otherwise express gender or sexual diversity. Do you identify as 2SLGBTQ+?
Q39. Persons with disabilities are those who have a long-term or recurring physical, mental, sensory, or learning condition(s) and whose everyday activities are limited or impacted because of this condition(s). This includes episodic, invisible, and chronic conditions. Based on this definition, are you a person living with a disability?
Q40. What is your age range?
Q41. What is your current family status?
Q42. Please indicate your highest level of education
Q43. What is your current employment status:
Q44. What is your current living situation?
Q45. What is the size of your household? (Please select one answer) "Household" includes yourself, spouse/partners, children, and any other dependents. Please do not count roommates.
Q46. What was your total household income last year, approximately?

Appendix A: Focus Group Guide

CONNECT & SUPPORT

1. What are some of the strengths of the Park People Sparking Change program?

PROBES/PROMPTS:

How does the Sparking Change program respond to your needs and challenges in parks?

Are there any examples of positive impacts, either planned or unplanned?

What are some ways you have been more connected to others working in parks?

2. How has the Sparking Change program supported you in meeting your goals?

PROBES/PROMPTS:

Does anyone have a story of a time where the Park People Sparking Change program helped you or your group achieve your goals?

In what ways has the Sparking Change program helped with increasing your knowledge or skills or actions related to parks?

3. What are some of the ways that the Sparking Change Program could be improved?

PROBES/PROMPTS:

Are there any examples or instances of where an alternative approach could have helped have a better outcome or experience?

Any ideas or suggestions related to activities, event support?

Any ideas or suggestions related to funding, mechanisms etc.?

INSPIRE & INFLUENCE

Park People works to provide tools and information on the equitable creation, access, stewardship, community engagement, and funding of parks. In this context,

4. How has the Sparking Change program helped you think about advocacy in parks, if at all? Any stories or examples?

PROBES/PROMPTS:

How do you feel about your ability to influence change and be part of decision-making in parks?

Can you give an example of a time when you felt like you had agency to influence decisions around parks and greenspaces? An example of a time when power was shared with community?

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

5. What are some of the impacts of the Sparking Change program on community health and wellbeing? This includes physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing and social wellbeing.

PROBES/PROMPTS:

How has the Sparking Change program supported community members to improve their health and wellbeing through parks?

How are people in your neighbourhood connected to their parks and greenspaces?

How might your activities/events/group have contributed to a sense of connection or belonging?

DECOLONIZATION, ANTI-RACISM & EQUITY

6. Moving onto a discussion on equity, let's start with a broad question, what does equity in parks mean to you?

PROBES/PROMPTS:

One of the terms that is used is equity-deserving communities. What might you like to share about what an equity-deserving community means to you and your group?

7. What does decolonization in parks and greenspaces mean to you? What activities have you done or are thinking about doing related to decolonization and anti-racism?

PROBES/PROMPTS:

How does your group integrate or centre decolonization in programming?

HUMAN-NATURE CONNECTEDNESS / ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

8. What are the ways the Sparking Change program has supported you or your group's involvement in stewardship, conservation and environmental issues?

PROBES/PROMPTS:

Any examples or stories?

How does your group integrate or centre environmental issues (e.g., climate resilience, biodiversity, stewardship etc.) in programming?

Is there anything else anyone would like to add to this conversation before we end?



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