

Bringing the Community Together: An Inclusive Park Initiative

Purpose



(AMSG, 2025)



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Location: Ashburnham Memorial Park (AMP) in Nogojiwanong, Peterborough, Ontario.

Community: East City residents' focal point.

Report Focus: Discusses different groups who might feel or be excluded due to the current infrastructure and programming in AMP.

Methodology



(Google, 2025)

Ethics Training: Completed TCPS 2 guidelines for human research.

Literature Review: Researched academic journals on park and community engagement.

Survey Analysis: Reviewed AMSG Community Engagement Survey 2024.

Field Participation: Attended garbage cleanups and AMSG committee meetings.

The Research Questions

Q1. How do people use Ashburnham Memorial Park?

Q2. What is the public & stakeholders' perception of the park?

Q3. How can the community's priorities shape future planning for the park?

Q4. How can community groups best push forward?

Research Questions

Q1

Social Interaction

Recreational Activities

Q2

Accessibility

Safety

Q3

Collaboration

Inclusivity

Q4

Communication

Outreach

Literature Themes

Groups to Include

Active People

Naturalists

Parents

Teenage Girls

People with Disabilities

People of Colour

New Canadians

Teenage Girls

- AMP's seating is limited and disconnected, creating an isolating environment.
- Teenage girls typically travel in groups and do things together (Kern, 2019). Kern further notes that there are very few public spaces for teenage girls to hang out and cities lack accessible and safe places for young girls.
- **Long-term goal:** Research from Women in Urbanism Canada (2024) reveals that teenage girls are more likely to gather in public areas with seating arranged in a semicircle, facing one another, and using multilevel platforms.

New Canadians

- A study conducted in Canada found that most park visitors are Caucasian, and ethnic minorities are underrepresented due to transportation issues, safety concerns, and lack of multilingual park signage (Salenieks, 2014).
- **Short-term goal:** AMP could use signage to promote activities that encourage inclusivity.
- As new Canadians are known to enjoy nature viewing (Salenieks, 2014), nature-based activities could be helpful in creating a welcoming setting. AMSG has used iNaturalist to identify 351 different species in the park. Signage with QR codes for the *iNaturalist* app could be installed in the park to connect with new Canadians awareness.

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