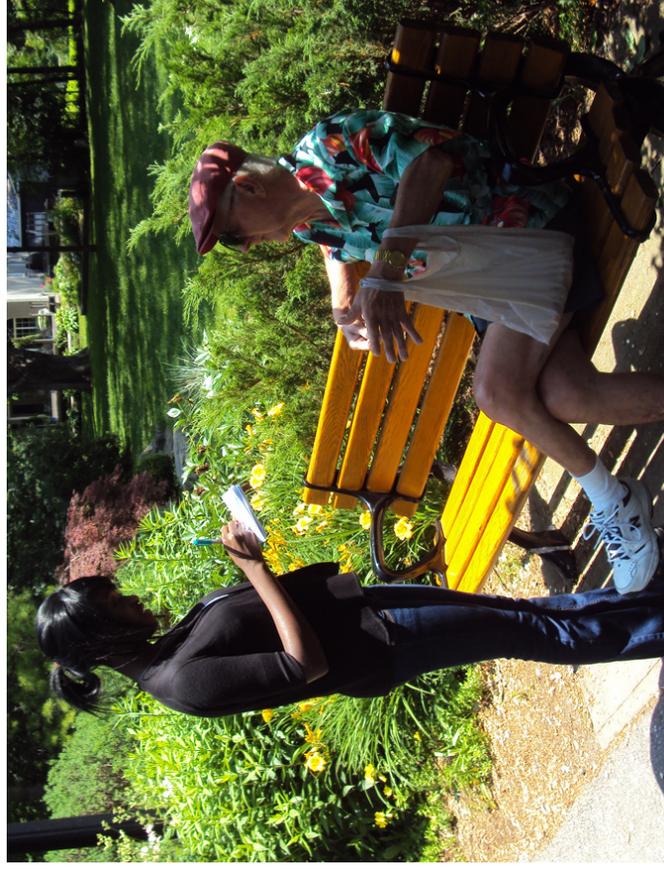




## African Canadian Youth Workshop (Book2): Victoria Park

DodoLab



### Introduction

As part of a youth workshop organized by the African Canadian Association of Waterloo Region and the Healthy Communities Research Network, groups of youth investigated various public spaces in the centre of Kitchener. Working collaboratively, the groups documented these locations through photography, video, audio recording, drawing and writing. From these investigations, podcasts and videos are being produced in addition to a series of ebooks. Youth recorded both their own ideas and also engaged in interviewing people they encountered at various locations. The goal of the workshop (a pilot project) was to get African Canadian youth (and particularly newcomers) to become participants in the city, to explore and share their ideas and to initiate dialogue with the wider community. The workshop was designed and facilitated by DodoLab as part of an ongoing programming of youth public engagement projects.

This publication includes a selection of images and ideas related to the exploration of Victoria Park. Podcasts and video interviews conducted by the participants will be available at [www.dodolab.ca](http://www.dodolab.ca).



*I like the people and how they walk and talk together all around the park. I don't like when people smoke at the park and around younger people. To improve the park, we would have to get more people going to it, and in order to do that, we could have more activities at the park on a regular basis. -Abdi Abdi*

**- James**

*What I like about the park: I like the smell, the trees, the tents (for the multi-cultural festival) and I like all the people there. What I didn't like was the weather and all the people who were smoking in there. What I would change in the park: more washrooms, more trees, more shade.*

**- Chantal**

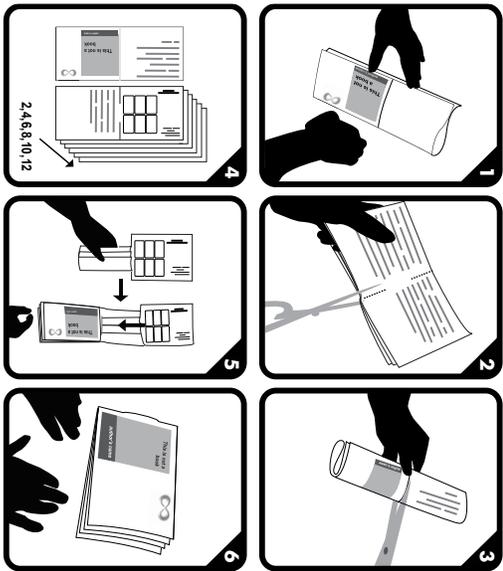
*I enjoy going to Victoria Park because I like the nature (fish and swans swimming in ponds), the historical status and the Reception Centre is a nice place to meet new people. I think the park could use more entertainment and music, therefore more people would come. It needs more cleaning (pond smells), more safety and a place for smokers as others don't like the smell of cigarettes.*



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One of a series of three ebooks created by participants in the African Canadian Youth Leadership Project June 25, 26 & 28, 2010, in Kitchener Ontario. The youth workshop was developed by Dodolab in collaboration with The African Canadian Association of Waterloo Region and the Healthy Communities Research Network.

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*I like the water, the flowers, the grass, and how the people walk. Talk and socialize around the park. I dislike the fact that people try to make the park a dangerous place to be by smoking, drinking, bad behaviour, littering, dealing drugs and more. These things are wrong for the young people to experience and being around. Victoria Park is a beautiful environment for people to go to after a long day of work to relax and just feel the lovely and beautiful sunrise and the breezy touch of nature, with the great scent of the flowers. The park is in need of more people, especially kids. The park might attract more people to go to if there could be more activities that would make it fun for people and events every once in a while. Since young people like sports, maybe it would be a great idea to build a basketball court and adding more sports activities. Strong restrictions and police inspections around the park would make things better and make people feel safer. - Vamba*

