

The Opportunity

Progressive cities around the world recognize that green infrastructure provides the environmental foundation that underpins the function, health and character of urban communities. With close to 8,000 hectares of public parkland, Toronto is responsible for one of North America's most significant urban green resources. A strategic and enterprising approach to the development and management of our green public realm can have a profound effect – not only on the way our city performs, physically and economically, but also the health of those who live and work here.

As our city develops and its population diversifies it is imperative that we develop a strong, sustainable and longer term vision for our parks.

How can we enhance the role of our parks and the public realm in meeting the City's overall goals of social inclusion, economic and environmental sustainability and neighbourhood revitalization? What are the strategic opportunities for a compelling **park vision** that engages all Torontonians?

The Background

The city is initiating the development of a city-wide, multi-year Parks Plan to guide decision-making in the acquisition, development, management and operation of the system of public parkland across the City. The research, consultations and initial findings from the draft Parks Renaissance Strategy and the Guiding Principles as outlined in the December 17, 2009 Staff Report will be used as the basis for the development of the Parks Plan.

The Agenda

Introductory Remarks	3-5 minutes
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Chair & Moderator: **Paula Fletcher**
Chair, Parks & Environment Committee

Panel Presentations	5-7 minutes each
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Luigi Ferrara
Director, Arts + Design, George Brown College

Jane Farrow
Executive Director, Centre for City Ecology, Jane's Walks

Adele Freeman
Director, Watershed Management, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

Uzma Shakir
Atkinson Economic Justice Fellow,
Atkinson Charitable Foundation

Claire Hopkinson
Executive Director, Toronto Arts Council

Committee + Staff Q&A's

30+ minutes

Councillor Paula Fletcher
Councillor Raymond Cho
Councillor Ron Moeser
Councillor Frances Nunziata
Councillor Karen Stintz
Councillor Michael Walker

Closing Remarks

3 – 5 minutes

Paula Fletcher

Chair, Parks & Environment Committee