

Our Common Grounds

Incorporating Indigenous place-making in
Toronto's parks and public realm

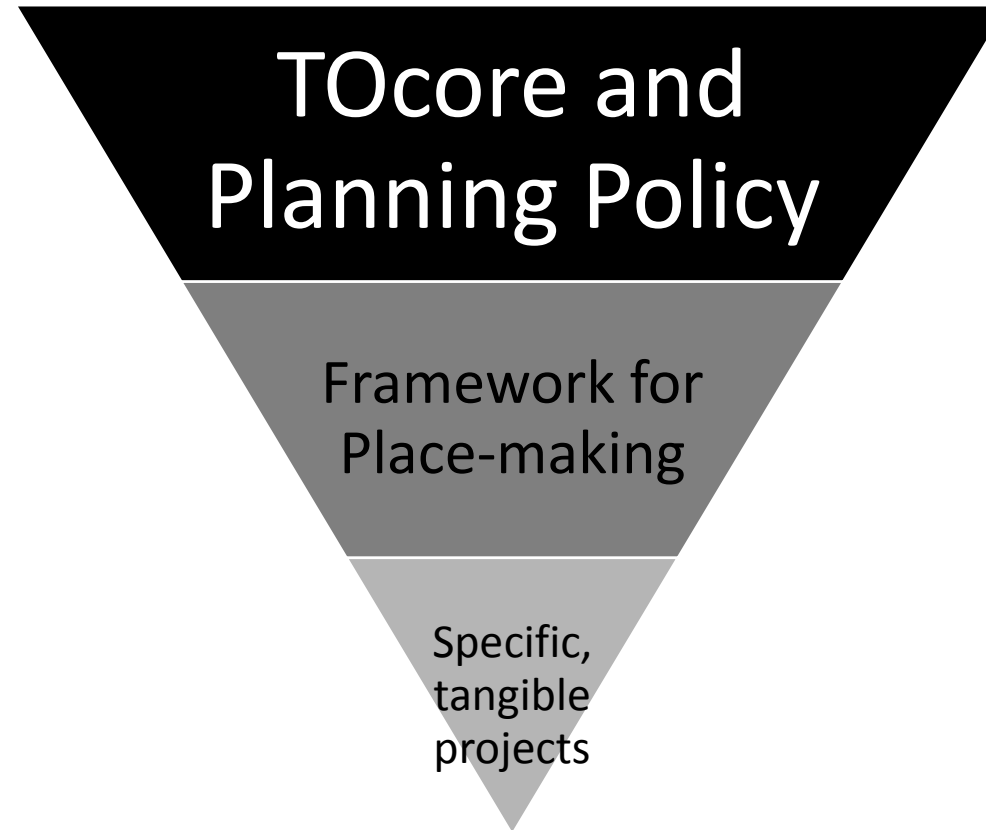
➤ Our Common Grounds

Incorporating Indigenous place-making in Toronto's parks and public realm

- Set the context for the conversation
- Update from TOcore on policy recommendations and Parks and Public Realm Plan
- Highlight path forward for a place-making framework
- Share potential projects and initiatives for 2018
- Outline next steps and timeline
- Discussion and feedback

➤ Our Common Grounds

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➤ Toward a place-making framework

- Calls to Action and Statement of Commitment
- Consultation on TOcore, Parkland Strategy and other initiatives
- Various one-off programs, places and initiatives
- Previous park naming proposals

➤ TOcore: Planning Downtown

TOcore and
Planning Policy

Framework
for Place-
making

Specific,
tangible
projects

- A blueprint for the heart of Toronto over 25 years
- A response to rapid intensification
- Provides direction on the scale & location of future growth
- Links growth to infrastructure provision: creation of complete communities
- Accompanied by a Downtown Parks & Public Realm Plan:
 - improvements
 - acquisition priorities
 - connections
- 3 rounds of public engagement to date

➤ TOcore: what we heard

- Everything is connected: think 7 generations into the future
- Importance of the relationship of Indigenous communities with the land and water
- Celebrate Indigenous culture and history in public spaces
- Space for ceremony and customary use: to restore identity and social structures
- Restore pre-settlement landscapes (ravines, islands, etc.)
- Engagement and partnerships: involvement of Indigenous youth
- Implement the IRSS Legacy project
- Keep Downtown inclusive: affordable housing, community services

➤ TOcore: the proposed plan

- Vision: recognizes this land as traditional territory and home to diverse Indigenous peoples
- Shared history should guide future planning & investment
- Indigenous culture & history to be celebrated in parks
- Partnership with Indigenous communities in design/dvpmnt and programming
- A focus on placemaking, naming, wayfinding, art, interpretive features
- ‘Core Circle’: linking and restoring natural features encircling Downtown

➤ A framework for place-making

TOcore and
Planning Policy

Framework
for Place-
making

Specific,
tangible
projects

- Motion from Councillor McMahon to develop framework
- Size and scope of capital programs, diversity of projects
- Shifting from checklists and structure to discussion and engagement
- Evolving, developing framework

➤ A framework for place-making

TCore and
Planning Policy

Framework
for Place-
making

Specific,
tangible
projects

- Focus on ravine and watercourse projects
- Semi-annual gathering of AAC, Indigenous stakeholders, public realm staff, project leads
- Cross-divisional engagement and participation to ensure coordination
- Annual review of upcoming capital projects for prioritization
- Ongoing engagement and discussion

➤ Opportunity: Sacred Fires

- No established protocol for responding to or managing sacred fires
- No parks designed to support the needs of sacred fires
- Frustrations and challenges stemming from this uncertainty
- **Work with TPS to develop a protocol for sacred fires in Toronto's parks**
- **Identify locations in the four directions for sacred fires**

➤ Opportunity: Toronto Island Park

TOcore and
Planning Policy

Framework
for Place-
making

Specific
Project

- Largest park in downtown Toronto
- Visible destination for tourists and residents
- Undergoing planning around ferry replacement, flood and storm mitigation and a management plan
- **Integrate meaningful Indigenous engagement into management planning exercise**
- **Plan for Indigenous place-making opportunities in projects emerging from management plan**

➤ Opportunity: Lower Don Parklands

TCore and
Planning Policy

Framework
for Place-
making

Specific
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- Development of a “super park” by connecting all the Lower Don Parklands
- Ongoing art program and events in the parklands
- Need to name the parklands and to invest in place-making and improvements
- **Investigate naming the parklands the Wonscotonach Parklands**
- **Continued focus on Indigenous place-making in art program, new spaces**

➤ Next Steps

- Seeking input on proposed **TOcore policies**: Nov 2017-Jan 2018
- **TOcore public open house**: December 2nd, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m., YWCA, 87 Elm St.
- Broader **consultation** with individual organizations as requested.
- **Stakeholder group** meeting - January 2018
- Report to Parks and Environment Committee on **Place-making Framework** – January 2018
- **TOcore** online survey: www.toronto.ca/tocore
- Consultation on **Lower Don Parklands** naming – Spring 2018
- **TOcore** Recommendations Report: April 5, 2018 PGM Committee
- Establish protocol for **sacred fires** by Spring 2018
- First **Indigenous place-making gathering** in Spring 2018
- **Toronto Island Park** management planning – 2018/2019

➤ Feedback and Discussion

- TOcore Policies and Next Steps
- Place-making Framework
 - Focus on ravines and watercourses
 - Semi-annual gathering
 - Annual review of projects and evolving process
- Immediate Opportunities
 - Sacred fires – locations and protocol
 - Lower Don Parklands – naming and place-making “Wonscotonach Parklands”
 - Toronto Island Park management plan