Our Common Grounds

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

• 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/dvpmt 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

• 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

- 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

- 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

• 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