



EX10.3.2

Park People

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Re: EX10.3 Parkland Strategy

To Members of the Executive Committee:

As a Toronto-based national charity focused on activating the power of parks, Park People is writing in support of approval of the Parkland Strategy.

We want to thank City staff for their work on the Parkland Strategy, which sets Toronto on a well-thought out course to ensure our parks meet population demands and contribute to a more equitable city.

We were pleased to take part in engagement efforts for the Parkland Strategy, including attending advisory committee workshops. We also led a series of four signature park walks in 2017 in partnership with Parks, Forestry, and Recreation and City Planning, highlighting four of the city's signature parks in each district and the importance of proactive parks planning. Finally, we were happy to take part in a TOparks talk hosted by the City and streamed online to speak about the importance of planning parks as a network of public spaces.

The Parkland Strategy provides a much-needed update to the Local Parkland Assessment Cells model the City has been using to identify priority parkland areas since 2001, which was based on 1996 census data. The new prioritization model is more sophisticated, using walking distance, population density, and park area to identify areas in need of investment.

Specifically, we wanted to highlight the importance in the Parkland Strategy of:

- Better integrating the planning and design of streets and parks to ensure we are maximizing the potential of the public realm and creating a cohesive network of public spaces.
- Developing neighbourhood-level parks plans to ensure we are taking a network-focused parks planning approach at the local level rather than designing individual parks in isolation.
- Promoting an equity-focused investment strategy using the priority areas identified through the Parkland Strategy, including indicators such as percentage of low income residents.
- Measuring success through the metrics laid out in the Parkland Strategy, including amount of money invested in Neighbourhood Improvement Areas and amount of park space per person.

Again, we commend City staff and the consultant team led by 02 Planning + Design on the excellent work contained in the Parkland Strategy. As with all great plans, the effort now turns to implementation and supporting the funding necessary to realize its potential. We're excited to now put this plan into action to make a more equitable, connected, and green city!

Sincerely

Dave Harvey
Executive Director, Park People

