

From: [Forrest Parlee](#)
To: [Executive Committee](#)
Cc: [Julie Amoroso](#); [Mark Maloney](#)
Subject: Submission from the University of Toronto re: University Park
Date: July 18, 2022 1:15:26 PM
Attachments: [University Park -- Letter of Support from the University of Toronto.pdf](#)

Dear Mayor and Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to depute last week at Executive Committee, on behalf of the University of Toronto, in support of the University Park proposal and the potential phasing of the project by focusing on the northern section first, which is adjacent to the University of Toronto. As discussed at committee, there are several projects already underway at the University that, combined with the University Park proposal, provide the opportunity to create a signature destination in downtown Toronto. These projects include the Landmark project and broader Climate Positive Campus Plan featured most prominently on our front campus, and the development of the Schwartz Reisman Innovation Centre, directly adjacent to the proposed park at University and College.

In follow up to my remarks, please find attached the letter of support I referenced from Prof. Meric Gertler, President of the University of Toronto, to the Mayor earlier this year.

Sincerely,

Forrest Parlee

Executive Director, Government Relations & Public Affairs

University of Toronto



March 31, 2022

His Worship John Tory
Mayor, City of Toronto
100 Queen St. W.
City Hall, Second floor, West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Mayor Tory:

The University of Toronto welcomes this opportunity to affirm its enthusiastic support for the **University Park initiative** championed by Evergreen, The Michael Young Family Foundation and Public Work. The core goals and values of this transformative city building project are both complementary to, and in harmony with, the University's goals to positively impact both our environment and quality of life for all.

I am pleased to announce the University's commitment to a *funding contribution of \$15 to 30 million* towards the University Park initiative, specifically targeted to the enhancement of University campus lands within the Queen's Park and University Campus precinct. The University has recently committed over *\$50 million to its historic campus landscapes* which are envisioned to become contiguous to University Park with a future rerouting of traffic on Queen's Park West, including:

- The *Landmark Project* (<https://landmark.utoronto.ca/>), the University's boldest open space project in the past 100 years. This transformation of 8.6 hectares of our historic campus core provides a greener, more walkable and accessible campus; removes surface parking and deprioritizes the car; introduces more trees, gardens and green spaces; and, focuses on placemaking with the introduction of spacious plazas, meandering pathways and inviting gathering places;
- The *Indigenous Landscape at Taddle Creek* (<https://indigenoulandscape.utoronto.ca/>), nestled within the Landmark Project, strives towards reconciliation with the historical significance of the land, with a particular focus on Indigenous spaces that integrate story-telling through language and art to allow users to gain knowledge; and,
- The *Climate Positive Campus Plan* (<https://climatepositive.utoronto.ca/>) that commits to reducing more greenhouse gas emissions than we emit, creating a net benefit for our community. The plan relies on incorporating elements beneath and within our landscapes including, the introduction of Canada's largest urban geothermal field under the Front Campus.

The University of Toronto has a long history of successfully partnering with the City of Toronto and we see University Park as another positive chapter in this relationship. We believe that the northern stretch of University Park, in concert with the network of campus landscapes, will provide an exceptional signature destination within the City. This hub will help activate the full potential of University Park by encouraging users to experience its expansive reaches from Bloor Street to Toronto's Waterfront.

I am excited by this opportunity to strengthen our partnerships and commitments to pave the way for this visionary city building project. As the momentum in favour of this important transformation in our City continues to grow, the University of Toronto is pleased to pledge its strong support for this initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Meric S. Gertler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Meric S. Gertler
President

cc.

Deputy Mayor Ana Bailao, City Councillor Ward 9 / & Chair, Planning and Housing Committee, City of Toronto

Councillor Mike Layton, City Councillor Ward 11, City of Toronto

Councillor Joe Cressy, City Councillor Ward 10, City of Toronto

Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, City Councillor Ward 13, City of Toronto

Councillor Jennifer McKelvie, City Councillor Ward 25 / & Chair, Infrastructure & Environment Committee, City of Toronto

Gregg Lintern, Chief Planner & Executive Director, City Planning, City of Toronto

Luke Robertson, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor, City of Toronto

Scott Mabury, Vice-President, Operations and Real Estate Partnerships, University of Toronto

Andrew Thomson, Chief of Government Relations, University of Toronto