



**Federation of
South Toronto
RESIDENTS'
ASSOCIATIONS**

11 July 2022

Executive Committee, City Council
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
exc@toronto.ca

RE: EX34.4 Priority Downtown Parks and Public Realm Opportunities

Preserving Osgoode Hall

Dear Mayor Tory and Executive Committee Members, "

The Federation of South Toronto Residents Associations (FoSTRA) is a federation that currently represents 25 residents' associations (RAs) in the five downtown wards – Wards 4, 9, 10, 11 and 13 – and, through these RAs, thousands of Toronto's citizens.

First and foremost, FoSTRA fully supports and recommends implementation of these opportunities for " parkland and the public realm in downtown Toronto *as quickly as possible*. The explosion of downtown " development has resulted in a dearth of parkland and public spaces in the City's core; a fact painfully " revealed during the COVID pandemic.

Second, FoSTRA would like to emphasize the importance of "incremental" implementation of all three parks, but especially for University Park – due to Metrolinx's plans for the Ontario Line and the station at " University and Queen. "

Currently, Metrolinx is negotiating the expropriation of 20% of the gardens of Osgoode Hall, in order to " stage and build the main entrance to their Osgoode Station. If allowed to proceed, 12 mature trees, " shady lawns and historic pathways will be destroyed. After construction, it will be impossible to replace " the trees or reconstruct this precious environment. "

All Toronto residents should be concerned about Metrolinx's plans to compromise one of Canada's most important historic sites and the removal of rare parkland in the centre of the city. That plans are proceeding for University Park is encouraging but, until those plans are realized, the Osgoode Hall and Campbell House gardens remain under threat.



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Alternatives to Metrolinx's plans exist. One of the report's proposed next steps, in particular, encourages us:

- " "Capital Project Coordination Strategy: continued coordination with adjacent public and private capital projects in order to protect and support future opportunities for transformation. This will include coordination on the design and construction of the Ontario Line's Osgoode Station ... "

One alternative that must be fully explored is locating the main station entrance in a proposed Osgoode Hall Plaza, a first step in the implementation of University Park.

The City must seize this opportunity presented by the construction of the Ontario Line to begin implementation of these new greenspaces and, in the process, save Osgoode Hall for future generations.

Sincerely,

Rick Green
FoSTRA Chair and Co-chair, Advocacy & Activism Committee

Don Young
Co-chair, Advocacy & Activism Committee, Representative to Osgoode Hall Team



FoSTRA

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