



To: Infrastructure and Environment Committee
Re: IE27.6, Review of City of Toronto Golf Courses

January 7, 2022

Dear Committee members,

Walk Toronto has previously written to strongly support reconsideration of how City-owned golf courses are used, in order to remove obstacles to Toronto's trail network and enable wider access to these green spaces, while still maintaining access to affordable golf facilities (<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2020/cc/comm/communicationfile-121230.pdf>).

Walk Toronto thus strongly supports the proposals put forward by staff for reconfiguring Dentonia Park golf course. Making it a 9-hole course instead of 18 holes and turning part of this green space into a public park creates the opportunity to meet the goals Walk Toronto has set out. We trust that the public parkland would be used to extend the Taylor-Massey Creek trail and connect it to the Warden Woods trail.

However, Walk Toronto is disappointed that similar strategies are not being proposed for the Don Valley and Tam O'Shanter golf courses, which also interrupt multi-use trails. The Don Valley golf course, in particular, is located near areas of intense development and rapidly increasing density, whose populations need access to green spaces. Another advantage of the Don Mills golf course is that, as with Dentonia Park, it is situated in close proximity to subway stations.

While vague statements about improving public access are appealing, they are likely to end up being ineffectual without strong and specific direction like that laid out for Dentonia Park golf course.

We encourage the Infrastructure and Environment Committee to request City of Toronto staff to investigate stronger and more specific strategies for reconfiguring the Don Valley and Tam O'Shanter golf courses to remove the interruptions to the trail network they create and enable permanent public access across these spaces as part of the trail network.

Thank you,

Dylan Reid
On behalf of Walk Toronto