

From: [diane.buckell diane.buckell](#)
To: [councilmeeting](#); [Councillor McKelvie](#); [Councillor Colle8](#); [Councillor Burnside](#); [Councillor Morley](#); [Councillor Perruzza](#); [Councillor Saxe](#); [Councillor Carroll](#); [Councillor Jaye Robinson](#); [Councillor Ainslie](#); [Councillor Mantas](#); [Councillor Moise](#); [Councillor Thompson](#); [Councillor Crisanti](#); [Councillor Holyday](#); [Councillor Nunziata](#); [Councillor Pasternak](#); [Councillor Bravo](#); [Councillor Malik](#); [Councillor Matlow](#); [Councillor Fletcher](#); [Councillor Cheng](#); [Councillor Bradford](#); [Councillor Crawford](#); [Councillor Myers](#); [MayorTO](#); [BKarpoche-CO@ndp.on.ca](#)
Cc: [Donna Kovachis](#); [High Park Movement Study](#); [Janie Romoff](#); [Paul Farish](#); [Barbara Gray](#)
Subject: [External Sender] IE3.7 High Park Movement Strategy-letter can be made public
Date: May 9, 2023 4:29:56 PM

Councillors:

With the Park closed to cars on weekends.

- The Nature Centre attendance has decreased 60%
- High Park Zoo has depleted donations and visitors
- Patronage of the Café has dropped 80% on weekends
- Swimming Pool attendance is down 50%-in spite of a very hot summer in 2022
- High Park Little League and other sports lose visiting teams and organizing equipment is an issue
- Weekend Picnic Groups that require a Permit are impossible to organize
- The Dream Theatre loses evening visitors as they don't like walking home with the low park lighting
- The Childrens Garden is Provincial
- Colborne Lodge is a Museum

Many of the above venues provide revenue to the City, so that must be depleted too.

The natural environment has suffered by keeping the park closed, it incites visitors to forge additional entrances on the edge of the park forging through the undergrowth, widening natural trails and creating new ones as short cuts.

Closing High Park to cars for safety reasons does not make sense. A recent requested FOI to the City for details on accidents in High Park for the past four years(1,460 days) 2019-2022 shows:

Incidents: Car and Cyclist 8-Car and Car 6-Car and Pedestrian 0

Cyclist and pedestrian -incidents are not reported/recorded, however the Café frequently runs out of band aids and in recently many pedestrians talk of altercations with speed cyclists.

The speeding issue can be solved by re-installing the speed bumps removed for the 2015 Pam Am Games, that there has never budget funds to replace.

Why would the City provide "Disability Parking" spaces close to the entrances of malls, theatres and sports areas then lock them out of such a beautiful, restful and recreational area as High Park. A haven for the disabled, the number of disability stickers every day in the park reveals how much the park is needed. If they could find parking on the surrounding streets, maybe half a mile away, how can they get to the mythical shuttle? Yesterday mid morning , the Café parking lot had at 15-20 cars with disability stickers.

Parking in the area, already a nightmare, will not improve with the construction of nine new

towers - 30 stories, two blocks on the north side of Bloor directly across from High Park-Oakmount Road to High Park Boulevard, construction starting now.

The High Park Movement Strategy stated:

The High Park Movement Strategy will rethink the travel network serving [High Park](#) in the context of the city's growing population, changing travel patterns, and the impacts of COVID-19. The goal is to improve mobility within the park, while prioritizing safety, accessibility and the park's ecological integrity. The study will also explore interim solutions that can be delivered in the short term.

At the last viral public meeting the general discussion was on Strategy 3 ,with no talk of closure to cars. At the public meeting on April 3, the presentation introduced the Sunday closure . Staff were making notes ,and many participants expressed their disapproval of the Sunday closures. Two weeks later the Study went to the Infrastructure and Environmental Committee.

No where in the Study do Staff recommend car closures in the park.

WHEN DID THIS STUDY BECOME A BATTLE TO CLOSE THE PARK TO CARS?

Please consider keeping the Park open seven days a week until the Study's recommended improvements are in place, TTC, Shuttle, improved pavement and roads, and the elevator at High Park Subway is in operation.

Keep the Heart in High Park

This letter can be made public

Diane Buckell, 41 year resident, volunteer and supporter of High Park