

**RE: IE3.7 - High Park Movement Strategy - Final Report (Ward 4)**

Dear Chair McKelvie and Members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee,

While we are pleased to see that City Staff from Parks, Forestry, and Recreation and Transportation Services have made a recommendation for High Park that considers the safety of vulnerable road users, **we are writing in support of a permanent Car Free High Park.**

We urge you to consider both the data and the feedback that residents have expressed in favour of keeping the park car free, every day, throughout the year. **Over 75% of residents surveyed on the initiative agree that removing cars from the park has a positive impact.** The car-free weekends demonstrated the park's full potential, and we hope you will consider committing to realizing that potential seven days out of the week, instead of just one.

While accessibility is often cited as a reason to maintain the presence of cars in the park, the recommendations from City Staff clearly outline plans for a park-wide shuttle bus that will allow residents of any ability to access the park affordably and sustainably. The park, in its current design, is not very accessible. Not only are the existing sidewalks narrow, and insufficient for the volume of people visiting the park; of the 561 parking spaces in High Park, just 22 spaces (4%) are reserved for people with disabilities. Aside from taking up 3km of valuable park land. The proposed reduction of parking outlined in the city staff report is an opportunity to improve accessibility and make the park more enjoyable to visit.

As the city works to achieve TransformTO's goals of moving more people through active modes of transportation, we believe that working towards making High Park permanently car-free is integral to encouraging people to get out of their cars and into nature. Let's follow in the footsteps of cities such as New York and make High Park a space for people and not cars.

We will continue to advocate for a fully car-free High Park alongside the coalition of groups that believe dedicating green park space to people over cars will ultimately make our city more vibrant, safe, and enjoyable. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



**Alison Stewart**  
Interim Co-Executive Director, Advocacy and Public Policy, Cycle Toronto