



方卓怡 市議員 **Paula Fletcher**

City Councillor | Ward 14 Toronto-Danforth

September 12th, 2023

Toronto and East York Community Council
Toronto City Hall

Protecting and Upgrading Jimmie Simpson Playground due to Ontario Line Construction

Dear Chair and Members of Toronto and East York Community Council,

I am seeking your support today to reaffirm Council direction in TE5.46 that the City should not grant Metrolinx access agreements to Jimmie Simpson Playground unless the City has a written commitment from Metrolinx to restore and upgrade the playground and wading pool.

While Metrolinx has always promised that park impacts from the Ontario Line construction will be minimal to non-existent, the City was very recently informed that Metrolinx has requested an access agreement to construct a retaining wall in Jimmie Simpson Playground (see attached MX communication regarding park impacts).

This would involve an at least one week closure of multiple play structures, a several month reduction in space in the playground including impacting the largest play structure by closing off one side of it, and the relocation of a swing set.

Jimmie Simpson Playground is a beloved and well-used neighbourhood destination, through all seasons.

Recommendation:

1. The Toronto and East York Community Council request the Executive Director, Transit Expansion Office to report directly to the October 11, 12 and 13, 2023 meeting of City Council on the status of the access agreements for Metrolinx in Jimmie Simpson Park and request for replacement of the wading pool and playscape as requested by City Council in Item 2023.TE5.46.
2. City Council withhold the access agreement to Jimmie Simpson Park until the undertaking for the replacement of the wading pool, replacement the playscape and without the public release of the planned replacement wall has been received.

Sincerely,

Paula Fletcher
City Councillor
Ward 14, Toronto-Danforth

Attachment 1: Metrolinx authored communication regarding park impacts