



HURON
SUSSEX
RESIDENTS
ORGANIZATION

March 18, 2024

To the Mayor and Councillors,

The Huron-Sussex Residents' Organization (HSRO) requests your support for Item 2024.MM16.17: a motion by Councillor Saxe requesting the approval of Section 37 funds to rebuild the playground that was located in the Huron-Washington Parkette.

Originally developed by the City of Toronto in the 1960's, at the request of neighbourhood residents on lots left vacant due to the demolition of houses, the Huron-Washington Parkette and its playground rapidly became a community hub for people of all ages living in Huron-Sussex and surrounding neighbourhoods. It is also used by the three child care centres within a short walk of the parkette.

The parkette is located at the north-west corner of Huron St and Washington Ave. The closest playgrounds other than the one that was located in the parkette are across two major arteries: Spadina Ave. to the west and Bloor St. to the north.

In 2019, we lost the parkette temporarily due to the construction of a major addition to University of Toronto School, a private school located at the north end of Huron-Sussex. Prior to construction, the neighbourhood was promised that the parkette and playground would be replaced when the UTS addition was complete. UTS moved into its new quarters in the fall of 2022 and the community is eagerly waiting for our new playground.

Council previously approved an allocation of \$556,273. for a new playground. Due to necessary changes in design and an increase in construction costs, Council is being asked to approve \$400,000. in additional funding. We urge you to support the motion so that we will, once again, have a playground.

Sincerely,
Julie Mathien

Julie Mathien, Huron-Sussex Residents' Organization