

The logo for Friends of High Park Zoo is located in the top left corner. It features a green circular background with the text "Friends of High Park" in white at the top. Below this is a large white "Z" with a small "TM" symbol. To the right of the "Z" are two white silhouettes: a tree and a speech bubble containing three dots. Below the "Z" is the text "Since 1893". The logo is surrounded by several overlapping circles in blue, orange, pink, and yellow.

Friends of High Park



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board@highparkzoo.ca

May 20, 2025

Dear City Council,

Re: GG21.9 Award of Doc4755698985 to Carla Construction and Maintenance Ltd., for Operation and Maintenance of a Passenger Transportation Shuttle Service for High Park and other Potential Parks (Ward 4)

Friends of High Park Zoo was started in 2012 to save High Park Zoo from closing. We are a charitable organization which has raised over \$1.5 million to benefit the animals and visitors at the zoo. We are working with the City of Toronto, Federal and Provincial Governments on our Master Plan with construction scheduled over the next few years.

Friends of High Park Zoo's Vision is: A vibrant High Park Zoo, which is always free, accessible and welcoming for generations to come.

To fulfill this we request that the new shuttle being proposed provides the following:

- A stop near to the east gate of the Zoo as this is where the ground is flat which allows visitors with disabilities, seniors and those with young children to have accessible access to the Zoo. The west gate near the Grenadier Restaurant has a step pathway which is not accessible to everyone.
- The shuttle runs until 7:30pm during the summer to enable people to ride back to the Bloor Street entrance once the zoo closes at 7pm.
- The shuttle runs until 5:30pm during the winter months to allow those leaving the Zoo when it closes at 5pm to get back to Bloor Street.
- The shuttle stops near the Zoo's east gate on weekends 12 months of the year when the park is closed to vehicles.

- We would like to be consulted about how this shuttle can provide free rides to our volunteers so they can access the Zoo on weekends. Since the park has been closed to vehicles on weekends, we have lost our senior volunteers. Many who came to help volunteered their time not just to be with the animals but for their own mental health. They are now unable to get to the Zoo due the topography within the park and the proximity to public transit and/or vehicle parking on local side streets.

Please take these requests into consideration when preparing the agreement for the new shuttle.

Best regards,

Friends of High Park Zoo