



# THE ANNEX RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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[theara.org](http://theara.org)

Councillor Dianne Saxe  
City of Toronto

*Delivered via email: Dianne.Saxe@toronto.ca*

March 19, 2025

Dear Councillor Saxe,

## **RE: Protecting the Indigenous Botanical Garden at Paul Martel Park**

Since 2020, Paul Richard of the Indigenous Peoples Garden Inc. has worked tirelessly on the eco-restoration of Paul Martel Park on Madison Avenue in the Annex neighbourhood. Mr. Richard and his team have made extraordinary contributions that beautify the Park.

Unfortunately, this work is often in vain, and significant sums of money go to waste. Because of its proximity to Bloor Street, one of the largest pubs in Ontario, and numerous fraternity houses, which frequently host large parties, the Park is vulnerable to abuse at night. Often, people trample the plantings and harm, even destroy, Park fixtures. All this wreckage makes restoration extremely challenging. The damage significantly diminishes the enjoyment of the Park and, of course, the willingness of our Indigenous neighbours to continue to work on the Park.

At a recent community meeting, the police openly told us their staffing is inadequate to monitor this Park properly. It is unfortunate, but we feel that putting up higher fences and gates and locking the Park at night is the only remaining viable solution.

The ARA appreciates all the work contributed to the Park and will assist in whatever way we can. Primarily, we are pleased and grateful to have this community relationship with the Indigenous community, and we wish to build upon it.

Yours sincerely,

Rita Bilerman  
Chair, Annex Residents' Association

Copy to: Paul Richard