

Please add my comments to the agenda for the February 11, 2025 City Council meeting  
Item 2025.MPB27.1, 2025 Operating and Capital Budgets

For Consideration on February 11th, 2025

Dear City Council,

There are many Agencies, Boards and Corporations that have jurisdiction over the many aspects of changes in this city. Services which provide for our residents parks, real estate development, transportation, community services and many others. Our neighbourhood will see drastic changes in the future like we have never seen before. Developments proposed will add 10,000+ new units to 10,000 already existing in our small area. We are a small community west of St.Clair Ave and Caledonia in one of the few designated Neighbourhood Improvement Areas in our great city.

St.Clair gardens has an overabundance of greenspace, as proven in the \$1,821,000 off-site land acquisition for "1500 St.Clair Ave West" under the Parks, Forestry and Recreation budget outline. Green space would not be required on this development (in St.Clair Gardens) as the area already has an abundance of green space. This is why the search for off-site green space was recommended for lands East of Prospect Cemetery in the neighbouring Corso Italia Neighbourhood.

In lieu of this, once again we call to your attention the loss of our Neighbourhood's only overnight-permit neighbourhood parking lot, 37 spaces at 31 Blackthorn Ave. We are once again calling to your attention the continuous efforts of our community to have our voices heard. To remind you that our BIPOC Church Cornerstone Baptist, was in discussions to take over licensing and management of the parking lot. A non-city-owned parking lot.

We are once again calling to your attention the loss of 8 parking spaces on Prescott Ave from St.Clair businesses that were expropriated to the Toronto Parking Authority, an Agency of the City of Toronto who is the sole shareholder.

Once again, we are questioning why our amenity of 50 years was changed overnight into a park, why the TPA stole parking to compensate and did so without planning and approval, without any chance for community feedback.

Why and how did the demolition of our parking amenity slip by the notice of the many departments responsible for real estate, land development and demolition, leases and licences, City Council? How was \$100,000 "previously approved" for a park that did not go through the proper channels to be created in the first place? A "park" that has only existed since the Toronto Parking Authority demolished and changed the historic land use in the last month-and-a-half of 2024?

When questioned, the reason given was: "this area is identified as having a lack of green space." by our Councillor. When questioned, Toronto Parking Authority said it was no longer economically feasible. When questioned, City Planning Development, Committee of Adjustments, 311, Toronto Building and Permits had NO idea it had even happened. There had been no application to change the land use.

The Toronto Parking Authority has identified that it would rather enter into Parking Management Agreements, like the one that it allegedly has at 20 Prescott Ave, the abutting lot it stole spaces for, with PFR.

Parks, Forestry and Recreation require \$1 billion in State of Good Repair work. Repairs that are desperately needed in our existing neighbourhood parks. Benches that give us splinters, invasive weeds, garbage overflowing and being dumped, pooling water with mosquito larvae in the summer and overall neglect.

We request you “Complete reviews of the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan and Parkland Strategy, with due consideration for SOGR.... and the needs of equity-deserving Communities.” Immediately.

We request that the proposed \$360,000 outlined in the PFR budget for “Prescott Parkette Improvements” be allocated instead for giving us our parking lot back. Do not allow \$360,000 for “Prescott Parkette Improvement” when our community had NO say in its creation and NO say in the demolition of our off-street parking amenities. Amenities that the City doesn’t even own as they are under a Hydro corridor.

We will remind you that this neighbourhood has been identified as a bottleneck for congestion, and yet the City is still adding more on-street parking to add to congestion, while taking away the solution to the problem.

And yet, how will our CafeTo businesses set up their streetside restaurants, bring in shoppers and diners from across the GTA if the one place they had to provide off-street parking has been demolished? They had no say in the matter either and the economic interests of our struggling businesses had no consideration. Residents had NO say. Churchgoers had NO say. Businesses had NO say.

We already have EarlsCourt Park, S.A.D.R.A Park (named after the old Ratepayers Association), Don Panos Parkette (named after the old B.I.A president), Wadsworth Park, Connolly rail connection upcoming and the huge swathe of Prospect Cemetery. We weren’t asked if we wanted a new park, and yet with no notice, meetings or opportunity for Community feedback we were given one anyway.

So, in conclusion, return to us our parking amenity that you took away, make it beautiful and incorporate green elements, bring back our off-street Carshare, business parking, right-of-way access and actually support the equity-deserving communities you say that you support. Make right the wrong that your agencies and divisions did, correct the oversight that allowed them to take it away, and give us our desperately needed amenity back.

Thank you for your consideration once again in this matter.

Sincerely,  
Ruth Williams, President  
St.Clair Gardens Residents Association.  
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