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March 24, 2026

To: Toronto City Council
Re: EXE29.3

Dear Councillors:

I am writing as a resident who lives near Queen's Park North to express my concerns about plans being pursued by the Parks Department that are detrimental to the current community use of this precious green space.

Queen's Park North is surrounded by some of the most densely populated areas of the city. The park provides space – both physical and spiritual. The importance of the park to residents is highlighted by the strong attendance at three community consultations and the comments submitted to the city.

Community members were virtually unanimous in their opposition to the key components of the plan – a cafe and elevated tree walk in particular – that are both unnecessary and that would negatively impact on the spaciousness of the park.

Another concern is impact on the magnificent trees that define this space. No forest management study has been presented to the community, yet these additions to the park are being pursued as if they are a fait accompli. One wonders whether residents attended a performative exercise rather than a genuine community consultation, since the passionate concerns expressed appeared to have had no impact on the plan.

The conversation about the future of Queen's Park North has been precipitated by a generous donation of \$50 million from the Weston Foundation, a welcome gesture for a cash-strapped city. It would be a shame if this wonderful act of philanthropy were used to make the park less than what it is now.

It is imperative that city staff take the time to get this project right. Some mistakes can only be made once, in particular those that negatively impact the vulnerable trees in Queen's Park North.

Please direct city staff to slow down, ensure that a complete forest management plan is carried out and that community concerns are taken into account.

Sincerely,

Glenn Wheeler