



Email: councilmeeting@toronto.ca

March 23, 2026

Re: 2026. EX 29.3 Update on Weston Foundation for Queen's Park North

Dear Councillors,

The Greater Yorkville Residents' Association is comprised of 53 condominium and select rental buildings, home to well over 10,000 residents in the Greater Yorkville area, which abuts the Queen's Park Precinct in immediate proximity to Queen's Park North. We are also a member of the Friends of Queen's Park North.

First, we want to express our gratitude to the Weston Foundation for their very generous philanthropic pledge to revitalize Queen's Park North. This donation represents a significant and welcome opportunity to secure the future of one of Toronto's most cherished public spaces. It is a profound historical, cultural, ecologically significant area with old growth forest and mature tree canopy and is an historic public asset with its own distinctive sense of place and character, which must be respected.

Unfortunately, the current draft Concept Plan does not achieve this and is NOT supported by the community. It contains far too much program which would be harmful to Queen's Park North.

By the time this plan is implemented, Queen's Park North as we know it, a place of forest, nature, respite, will have disappeared.

The proposed program elements must be re-examined and fully assessed within the framework of a forest management plan and heritage statement of significance prior to finalizing the design, advancing contract drawings or construction details. We understood these to be directives by the Executive Committee. The forest management plan was one of the two conditions cited by the City's Design Review Panel.

The community has continually voiced concerns regarding irreparable damage that will occur to old growth trees, mature tree canopy, and heritage resources. A Forest Management Plan must be put in place and Heritage Impact Assessment and Statement of Significance completed BEFORE the program is finalized and before contract drawings proceed.

At a recent meeting with resident associations, no consideration was given to these directions and it appears that the seemingly artificial deadline of May 6/2026 is set in stone for no apparent reason.

We urge the Executive Committee to extend the deadline beyond May 6th to allow for work to be completed on the forest management plan, statement of significance and full and complete community consultation.

Why the rush?

Yours truly,

Alan Baker Paul Bedford
President Director Community Planning
GYRA – Greater Yorkville Residents' Association

