



**THE ANNEX
RESIDENTS'
ASSOCIATION**

PO Box 19057, RPO Walmer
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March 23, 2026

Toronto City Council
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario, M5H 2N2
Email: clerk@toronto.ca
Revitalization

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

Dear Councillors,

The matter before you calls for the concept design for Queen's Park North to be considered by the Infrastructure and Environment Committee at its May 6th meeting. In our view, this does not give adequate time for a forest management plan, critical to the future health of the Park, to be developed, received, and considered. We ask that the date of May 6 be deleted from paragraph 9 of 2026.EX 29.3

At its March 10th meeting, Executive Committee received an unprecedented outpouring of community submissions and deputations expressing alarm over the concept design for the revitalization included in Staff's report to the Committee.

Queen's Park North is a delicate urban forest of historical, cultural and ecological significance: a "Temple of Trees," as described by John Ralston Saul in his deputation to the Committee. Any interventions must be carefully assessed against impacts on the Park, individually and cumulatively. As the community has repeatedly expressed, that assessment can only be done with the benefit of a robust forest management plan that examines the present and future health of the Park.

Throughout the course of a lengthy "consultation," most recently on March 17th, Staff has consistently advanced a design that has substantively remained unchanged. Groundhog Day.

What has long been feared, and was confirmed at the March 17th community consultation, is that *there is no forest management plan*. Assurances were offered that yet more consultants would be retained to develop a forest management plan and that it would be forthcoming in the near future. We are concerned that this is a "check-the-box" exercise rather than a genuine assessment of impacts on the Park.

The significance of a forest management plan for concept design is reflected in the Committee's decoupling of the consideration of any design from advancing documentation regarding the donation. It referred the development of the design to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee to allow for more considered community consultation, to be informed by a forest management plan, before bringing the matter back to Council.

At its meeting on March 11th, the City's Design Review Panel expressed concerns over the busyness of the concept design. The Panel also called for a forest management plan before a revised design is submitted again.

Getting the design right is of critical importance. We feel that in this context, the May 6th date is arbitrary and premature. It would not provide an adequate opportunity to develop, receive, and consider the forest management plan, let alone evaluate the impacts of any interventions against the plan. As Councillor Fletcher stated at Executive Committee: "May, June, July, whatever allows for informed consideration."

Again, we ask that the date May 6th in paragraph 9 of the Motion before you be deleted.

Yours truly
Henry Wiercinski
Chair, Planning & Development Committee
Annex Residents' Association

