

From: alanbaker@sympatico.ca
To: [Executive Committee](#)
Subject: [External Sender] EX 29.3 Update on Weston Foundation for Queen's Park North Revitalization
Date: March 9, 2026 1:28:42 PM



Email: exc@toronto.ca

March 8, 2026

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

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.

If staff recommendations are accepted as written, as of council at the end of this month, the staff will have complete authority to enter contracts, to approve a plan, to hire without tender, and City Council and the public will have nothing to say in the matter.

We urge that the recommendations presently before the Executive Committee should not be approved. The report should be deferred.

We urge the Executive Committee to:

1. Request that City Council direct the General Manager of Parks and Recreation to bring forward a revised draft concept plan to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee for consideration only after the program has been fully assessed and after satisfactory consultation with the community.
2. Request that City Council direct the General Manager of Parks and Recreation to continue through design development to finalize the design with community input through public engagement and bring the final design to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee for approval prior to implementation.

While we believe that many of the concern's outlined in Councillor Saxe's letter of March 3rd have merit,

we feel that they do not go far enough in protecting and enhancing Queen's Park North.

The proposed program elements must be re-examined and fully assessed prior to finalizing the design and advancing contract drawings and construction details. 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.

The community has continually voiced these concerns through the consultation process, and yet the concept has not changed. This culminated in a meeting held on March 5th, where not one person who spoke, of the 45 attendees and 30 virtual participants, approved of the concept plan being presented. Notwithstanding continuing objections, the concept design and extensive construction program remains in place. It appears that the program is set in stone and the community consultation process has been disingenuous with a predetermined outcome.

Once again, we urge the Executive Committee to defer this report.

Yours truly,

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

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