



City Councillor
Dianne Saxe
Ward 11, University-Rosedale

Monday, March 9, 2026

Dear colleagues,

Thank you for your support of the revitalization of Queen's Park North. This important project has been made possible by a generous donation from the Weston Family and the cooperation of the landlord, the University of Toronto. I am writing to request that you support the staff report, with some essential additions, revised from my March 3 letter.

The report recommends delegating to City staff authority to negotiate and sign the Weston donation agreement; a tripartite agreement with the donors and the University to govern the use of the donated funds; and the purchasing authority to spend the donation funds to make and maintain changes to the park.

There are several elements of particular public interest that extend beyond these recommendations:

- What changes will actually be made to the park?
- How will the potential adverse effects of the proposed changes be minimized?
- How will the proposed Advisory Board be selected and operate?

The report attaches a "Draft Concept Design" (Appendix 4) which has not yet been endorsed and on which public consultation is not yet complete. Staff propose to complete public consultation and to finalize the concept plan in April. Approval of the concept plan in April or early May will allow detailed design to proceed through spring and early summer 2026 and for implementation to begin in fall 2026.

One key issue is to assure protection of Queen's Park North's mature trees. On my motion, the Infrastructure and Environment committee has proposed that a new category of Distinctive Trees should receive special protection in locations including public parks. This proposed amendment to Municipal Code Chapter 813 will be considered at the March Council meeting, item IE27.8.

In the circumstances, I respectfully request that the staff report be amended by adding the following recommendations:

- Council direct the General Manager, Parks and Recreation to work with the University of Toronto and Donor, as part of negotiations to complete the proposed Tri-Party Agreement, to advance the following objectives:
 - Prevent adverse impacts to Distinctive Trees, to be defined (if approved by Council) in Municipal Code Chapter 813;

- Minimize impacts to trees, root systems, and the natural environment in the siting, servicing, design, and construction of any structure or assets in the park;
- Manage any food or beverage operations to minimize adverse impacts on the natural environment and the peaceful enjoyment of the park, including:
 - Prohibiting road-licensed or fossil-fuelled motor vehicles in the interior of the park for food or beverage sales, deliveries or waste collection;
 - Encouraging reusable containers, and preventing litter from disposable food or beverage containers;
 - Waste management;
 - Pest control; and
 - Appropriate limits on noise and cooking exhaust.
- Require the written consent of the General Manager, Parks and Recreation or designate, or of the future Executive Director of Queen’s Park North under the proposed Tri-Party Agreement, before a road-licensed motor vehicle or construction vehicle is permitted to enter, drive, park, or dig within the park.
- City Council direct the General Manager, Parks and Recreation, to finalize a concept plan for the revitalization of Queens Park North, in collaboration with the Donor, the University of Toronto, Urban Forestry, Heritage Planning and the local Councillor, and in consideration of the public input received and the comments of the Design Review Panel, and include the concept plan in an update report to Infrastructure and Environment Committee on May 6, 2026 before construction is tendered.
- City Council direct the General Manager, Parks and Recreation, to include in this update report to Infrastructure and Environment Committee the proposed terms of reference for the Queen’s Park North Advisory Board to be chaired by the Ward Councillor; a schedule; and a summary of other proposed advisory, engagement and communications activities in the next phase of the project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D Saxe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "D" being particularly large and stylized.

Councillor Dianne Saxe
Ward 11, University–Rosedale