

From: [Anne Fleming](#)
To: [Executive Committee](#)
Subject: [External Sender] Comments on the proposals to redevelop Queen's Park North -- For March 10 EC meeting -- Item EX29.3
Date: March 9, 2026 4:08:20 PM

Please make the following letter available to members of Executive Committee before tomorrow's meeting. I also give consent for it to be posted on the meeting webpage.

Dear Executive Committee members:

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed plans for Queen's Park North. As Toronto's tree canopy continues to shrink and climate concerns grow, it is imperative to tend to the health of our remaining trees, particularly ones like those at QP, which pre-date the city of Toronto. The recent natural remediation at QPN has vastly improved the tree system both above and below ground, creating a vibrant oasis in a hard grey city, albeit one that is still stressed by a traffic circle and subway system.

This oasis is now threatened with unnecessary built additions that, while perhaps aesthetic, do not reflect the needs of a modern city. Botanists and forest experts everywhere are waking up to the fact that trees are not simply nice things to have, they are part of a larger ecosystem, much of which goes unseen under our feet. For the current QPN plans to resemble a structured garden is shocking for 2026; the trees of QPN may be Victorian, but our mindset about them does not need to be. It should also go without saying that the proposed "canopy" walk will unduly stress the fragile root system, undermining the very nature it seeks to celebrate while providing little in the way of education.

The other system the city must consider is that of collaborating and consulting with its residents in a respectful way, which does not simply seek to rubber stamp plans that are presented as a fait accompli. The current plan has been pushed through with very little opportunity for real and meaningful input. What is the rush? Once mature trees are gone, there is no replacing them - we need to get this right the first time, which means sending the consultations back to the drawing board.

We need to start from first principles, which should be to maintain and enhance the living environment and its supportive systems. We need to work together to ensure a lasting green legacy for future generations. The generous \$50-million donation from the Weston Foundation is an incredible gift with an incredible opportunity. However, **I urge you to send any landscape enhancement and infrastructure design back to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee, so the community can provide meaningful input in service of responsible decision-making.**

Thank you for your attention.

Anne Fleming


