

June 8, 2026

iec@toronto.ca

Mr. Matthew Green
Infrastructure and Environment Committee
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

To the members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee:

Re: IE30.8 Queen's Park North Donation - Concept Plan Update Report

While we await the release of the staff report, we developed the following table that summarizes our understanding of the existing and proposed design concept elements in Queen's Park North. Sketches have been included as available, but the lack of details is concerning.

The proposal:




A Strong Voice for A Strong Community

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Element	Existing	Change	Concern
Heart of the park			
New: Council Fire 	King Edward VII equestrian statue	Council Fire capturing a central role for the Indigenous	No change in hard surface. No dimensioned drawings, but obvious it makes no change to the central walkway. To be stored underground when not in use
Adjacent structures			
New: Café/Restaurant: 40 seat capacity with basement; exterior seating	Trees soft surface	Hard surface, basement	Cannot be evaluated without drawings. Size impacts; uncertain feasibility; construction damage; servicing; waste removal; activation; adding a building to the forest glade; hindering security sightlines
New: Seating area above cross path	Trees soft surface	Hard surface; squiggle sketch only provided	Required transplanted of trees may have been cancelled. Without dimensioned drawings it is difficult to be certain whether it remains
New: Washroom building	Trees soft surface	Hard surface. Separate from the restaurant; Location TBA.	No dimensioned drawings. Unsure of size. Desirable to have washrooms. Plans, designs, concepts TBA

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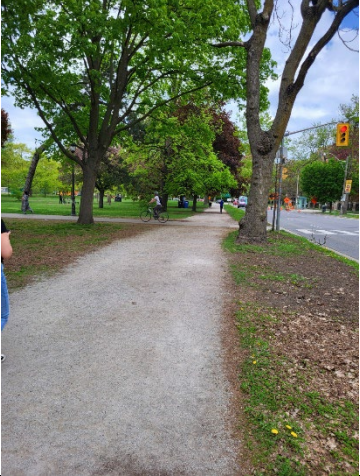



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Element	Existing	Change	Concern
<p>New: Tree Walk through western quadrant</p> 	<p>Large trees</p>	<p>Tree Walk/Learning Forest: 3 m boardwalk with protected understory planting; may now be lowered to 2 m. Drawings unavailable.</p>	<p>Route through trees adjusted and length shortened. F No dimensioned drawings provided; No heritage analysis nor review of impact on the forested oasis.</p>
<p>New: Workshop</p>	<p>Soft surface</p>	<p>Space for programming</p>	<p>Plans, designs, concepts TBA</p>
<p>New: Kiosk</p>	<p>Soft surface</p>	<p>Food stall</p>	<p>Plans, designs, concepts TBA</p>
Southern section of the park			
<p>New: Commemorative Gardens</p> 	<p>Fountain to the west. Glades at south and on the east. Shady respite with open patches.</p>	<p>Commemorative Gardens Dimensioned drawings (Jan/26) withheld until FOI. Plan illustrates: large central gardens, labyrinth, Reflecting pool.</p>	<p>Glades in the south would now be removed and formal English garden installed; compressed pebbles will limit root zones; stone labyrinth will be ground heat source.</p>
<p>New: Additional cross park pathway to running from fountain, below ceremonial gardens, past labyrinth</p>	<p>Soft surface lawn and trees</p>	<p>Hard surface walk</p>	<p>Loss of soft surface which is now a place for casual resting</p>
<p>New: Interactive water feature</p> 	<p>Presently soft landscaping extends to the statue of the horse</p>	<p>Various pedestals and water fountains</p>	<p>Increasing hard surface</p>

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Element	Existing	Change	Concern
Encircling the park			
<p>Jogging Path</p> 	<p>Updated 2019</p>	<p>Active loop</p> 	<p>Root and tree impacts of concern re: construction impact. Assessment impossible without drawings and knowing size and location.</p>
<p>New: Wellesley border upgrades</p>			
Public art and distinctive features			
<p>Al Purdy Statue</p> 	<p>Installed 2008</p>	<p>Unknown</p>	<p>Location and treatment TBA</p>
<p>Great White Oak Bench</p> 	<p>Installed 2024 by BCCA</p>	<p>Unknown</p>	<p>Location and treatment TBA</p>

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Element	Existing	Change	Concern
<p>King Edward VII equestrian statue</p> 	<p>Statue unveiled in India 1911 by King George V. Installed 1969 as a gift from Lt. Gov. Hal Jackman.</p>	<p>Relocate to south east Wellesley entrance, pending heritage impact assessment (HIA) and Statement of Significance</p>	<p>Heritage analysis not complete, specific location details not available.</p>
<p>48th Highlanders Regimental Memorial</p> 	<p>Installed 1923</p>	<p>New low surround wall</p>	<p>Plans provided and assessed. Within footprint no objection</p>
<p>New: Public Art Plan</p> 	<p>Soft surface</p>	<p>Temporary and permanent art installations</p>	<p>Details unknown.</p>
<p>Benches</p> 	<p>Benches</p>	<p>To be replaced with new benches and moveable seating added</p>	<p>Plans, designs, concepts TBA</p>
<p>Lighting</p>	<p>Lighting</p>	<p>To be replaced and upgraded to LED with enhanced coverage</p>	<p>Plans, designs, concepts TBA</p>

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Since opening as Canada's first municipal park in 1860, Queen's Park North has been a destination for Toronto residents to gather, listen to music, advocate for causes and enjoy some quiet respite in a greenspace. The generosity of the Weston's gift of \$50+ million is a unique opportunity to cement the position of Queen's Park North as a special park in Toronto, one that can serve as inspiration for public parks internationally. As an example, the J. Austin Floyd modernist fountain become non-operational around 2015 as the City could not afford the structural repairs required. With the donation, restoration of the beloved fountain becomes a possibility.

Residents and neighbours of Bay Cloverhill repeatedly tell us that they want to protect the more than 350 precious trees, some of which are red and white oaks over 350 years old. Any elements or buildings that are constructed must respect the preservation of the soil and tree root systems. The proposed understory plantings that are part of the design concept are an important measure towards that goal. Construction related to the planned restaurant and washrooms in the centre of the park raise concerns as to damage caused by excavation and underground utility servicing installation, as well as ongoing deliveries and pick up of waste materials when it is in operation. A possible solution is to locate these buildings at the south end of the park, adjacent to Wellesley Street West.

The hiring of an Executive Director and enhanced maintenance is a welcome method to improve the daily operations. Programming must not overwhelm the park. It is our belief that the number of elements must be minimized in order to ensure that the park is not overloaded with features and crowds, causing potential damage.

Queen's Park North is a special park, unlike any other in Toronto. We hope that the community's desires are respected and that it will remain 'the people's park'.

For the last 30 years, the Bay Cloverhill Community Association has advocated for a great urban neighbourhood by working closely with residents and stakeholders. Our vision is of a green, clean and safe community recognized for its exceptional quality of life. We represent over 20,000 residents in the Yonge/College/Queen's Park/Charles neighbourhood in Ward 13 Toronto Centre and Ward 11 University Rosedale.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bay Cloverhill Community Association Executive

Christine Dingemans, President

Cathy Carnevali, Secretary

Marilyn Tait-McClellan, Treasurer

Kathryn Holden, Ex-Officio

cc: Councillor Dianne Saxe, Ward 11 University Rosedale

Councillor Saxe@toronto.ca

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