

June 6, 2026

On behalf of University Health Network (UHN), I am pleased to express our support for the proposed revitalization of Queen's Park North. As Canada's largest academic health sciences centre, UHN serves a uniquely complex patient population drawn from across Ontario and our country. Many of our patients and families travel significant distances for highly specialized care, often remaining in Toronto for extended periods. For these individuals and their caregivers, access to safe, welcoming, and restorative outdoor spaces is not a luxury, it is an essential complement to the care we provide within our hospitals.

Queen's Park North sits at the heart of this experience. It is already a valued space for patients, families, staff, and learners seeking moments of respite in what can be an otherwise intense clinical environment. The proposed revitalization meaningfully enhances this role by strengthening access to nature, improving safety and accessibility, and creating a wider range of spaces for quiet reflection, informal connection, and restoration.

The value of such spaces is well established. A substantial body of research demonstrates that access to green space is associated with improved mental health, reduced stress, enhanced recovery experiences for patients, and measurable benefits in cognitive and emotional well-being. In health care environments, exposure to nature has also been linked to reduced burnout and improved resilience among health care workers.

For UHN's staff, physicians and learners, who work in high-acuity settings and face constant cognitive and emotional demands, the ability to step into a nearby natural environment, even briefly, can have a meaningful impact on well-being, focus, and sustained performance. Integrating high-quality public green space into the fabric of a health care district is a practical, evidence-informed way to support those who deliver care, as well as those who receive it. Importantly, the proposed plan respects the character of Queen's Park North while elevating its function as an inclusive, accessible, and welcoming civic space.

This is a rare, once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in a public space that directly supports the health and well-being of the people who rely on it every day. We commend the City of Toronto and the Weston family for their leadership in advancing this vision and for recognizing the profound connection between great public spaces and healthy communities.

Sincerely,



Kyla Kumar

Vice President, Communications & Brand Strategy
University Health Network