

Re-visioning Barbara Hall Park

Project and Engagement Update
2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee

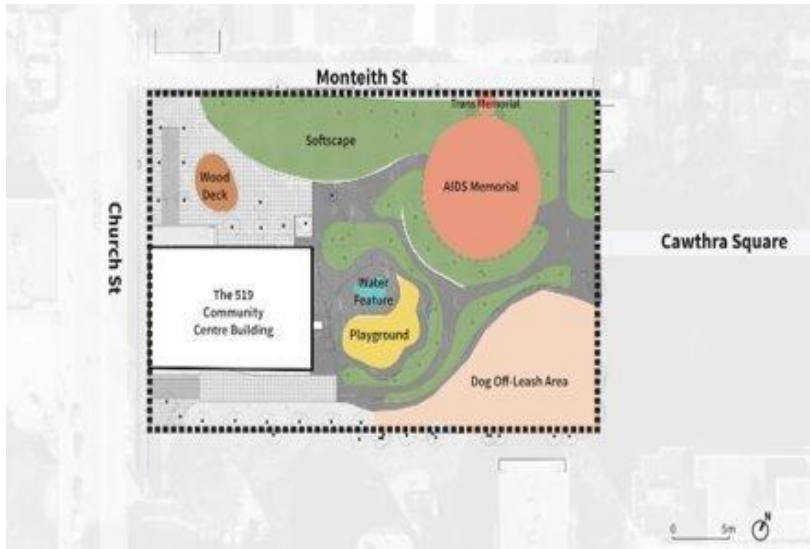
May 13, 2026



Project: Barbara Hall Park Revitalization

Location & significance

- Urban park in Church-Wellesley Village
- Key cultural space for 2SLGBTQ+ communities
- Contains AIDS Memorial, Trans Memorial, The 519, Off-Leash Area, Playground, and explores feasibility of washroom and cafe



Project purpose

- Improve park comfort, usability, accessibility, and opportunities for animation
- Balance commemoration, celebration, community use, everyday recreation

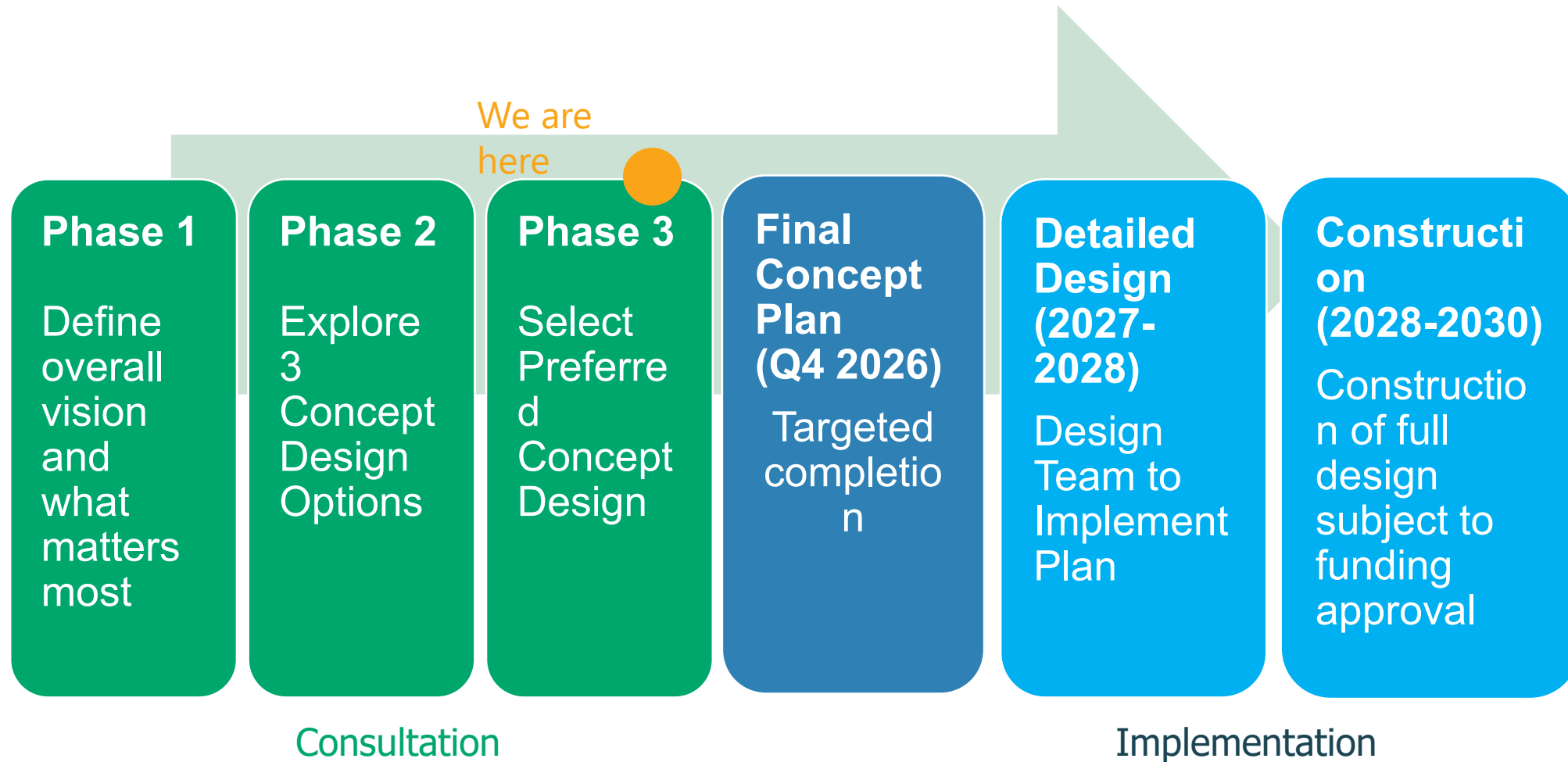
Guiding approach

- Community-informed planning process
- Designed to reflect diverse and equity-deserving communities
- Recognized as both a civic space and place of refuge and commemoration

Funding

- Funding source be confirmed based on cost estimate of final conceptual design

Project: Timelines



Engagement Approach

Engagement Reach

- 2,100+ participants
- 20+ local organizations
- 4 surveys of the broader public
- 5 workshops, 2 thought exchanges
- 16 stakeholder interviews + open house
- Ongoing stakeholder & community meetings

Engagement Method - 3 Step approach:

1. Develop vision and themes for park
2. Assess 3 possible design directions
3. Select ultimate design direction (current step)

Targeted Outreach

- HIV/AIDS and Trans+ communities
- Vulnerable or street-involved park users
- Local residents
- Business community
- Broader 2SLGBTQ+ community
- Off Leash Area users

Governance & Collaboration

- Community Advisory Committee guiding process

Local Organizations or Groups Engaged

- The 519
- Church Wellesley Neighbourhood Association
- Church-Wellesley Village BIA
- Trans Women's Association
- Progress Place
- Progress Place resident representative
- Rainbow Seniors Program representative
- ArQuives
- Nearby residents
- Barbara Hall Park Dog Park Association
- Gerstein Crisis Centre
- Circle of Cedar Singers
- AIDS Memorial Advocate
- Pride Toronto Board/Kiki Ballroom Alliance
- Patrick Fahn (Architect of AIDS Memorial)
- The Teresa Group
- HIV-Positive Youth Peer Engagement (ACT Toronto / HYPE)
- BIPOC Harm Reduction Program, Asian Community AIDS Services
- Echoes Proposal

Engagement Outcomes

Key Themes Shaping Preferred Design

- **Four primary priorities identified:**
 - Improve comfort and safety
 - Enhance accessibility
 - Increase park animation and activity
 - Balance commemoration and celebration



How feedback translated into design

- **Accessibility & circulation**
 - Wider, step-free, clearly connected pathways
- **Animation & gathering**
 - Pride Plaza + flexible multi-use lawn
 - Increased seating and event space
- **Memorial spaces**
 - Preserve and enhance AIDS & Trans Memorials
 - Improved accessibility, lighting, and storytelling
- **Inclusive amenities**
 - Upgraded playground & off leash area
 - Consideration of café and washrooms (mixed feedback)
- **Safety and comfort approach**
 - Improved lighting, visibility, and activation

Next Steps

Complete Phase 3 Engagement & Finalize Concept Plan

- Continue and wrap-up engagement:
 - Tailored engagement with Trans Youth Communities
 - HIV/AIDS community engagement to collect feedback on heritage interpretation, AIDS Memorial stewardship
- Presentation of final preferred plan with Community Advisory Committee
- Finalize Preferred Concept Plan with cost estimate
- Publish final plan on project website

Thank you.