

Parks and Public Realm

Midtown Open House February 10, 2018





- Midtown's Evolution
- Starting Points for Midtown's Next Evolution
- Parks and Public Realm Plans
- Next Steps and Workshop Exercise

Midtown's Evolution





















Starting Points for Midtown's Next Evolution



Aligned Initiatives

- City-wide Parkland Strategy
- Section 42 Review (Parkland Dedication)
- Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan



Existing Parks + Open Spaces





Existing Population

Midtown's Population 2016: 66,000

City-wide Parkland Provision



Midtown's Parkland Provision



Based on walking-distances and amount of parkland availability in the area



Growth Pressures

Midtown's Population 2016: 66,000

Midtown's Potential Population 2051:

Midtown's Parkland Provision - 2032



Based on walking-distances, amount of parkland availability in the area and city-wide population estimates to 2032

Parkland Acquisition Challenges

Cash-in-lieu payment

- Parkland Dedication (Section 42 of Planning Act) – 10% of site area
- Dense, infill environment = limited vacant land
- High cost of land in high-growth areas
- Limited City-owned sites available



Bloor + Yonge

Types of Parks and Open Spaces - Size



Eglinton Park 8.6 ha



June Rowlands Park 2.65 ha



0.5-1ha



Redpath

Parkette

0.28ha



Park 0.1 ha



Consolidation of parkland and **connectivity** between parks creates an open space network with improved programming potential PLANNING A GREAT CITY, **TO**GETHER

Types of Parks and Open Spaces - Function



Active Parks





Nature Parks





Linear Parks

Midtown's Parks and Public Realm Plans

Four Objectives



1. Acquire + Expand 2. Enhance 3. Share 4. Connect



Key Proposed Policies:

- New parkland will be provided to support and be concurrent with growth.
- The City will pursue **opportunities arising from development** to secure new parkland
- **Criteria** identified to inform parkland priority improvements (e.g. located on prominent sites including sites on corners and locations which terminate street views)
- Multiple parkland dedications assembled into a larger park
 will be encouraged
- Where on-site parkland dedication is not technically feasible, a nearby **off-site dedication** may be a substitute
- Large sites adjacent to Park Street Loop to provide on site parkland adjacent to the Loop

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Recent Acquisitions



















PLANNING A GREAT CITY, **TO**GETHER



Midtown's Parkland Provision - 2032



Based on walking-distances, amount of parkland availability in the area and city-wide population estimates to 2032

Midtown's Parkland Provision – 2032 with New and Expanded Parks





Based on walking-distances, amount of parkland availability in the area and city-wide population estimates to 2032. Proposed parks are conceptually shown and based on Parks and Open Space Network Plan
2. Enhance



2. Enhance



Before

After



Key Proposed Policies:

- Existing parks will be improved over time through **expansion** and **maximizing their street frontage** to increase prominence, accessibility, and visibility
- The City will examine opportunities to enhance infrastructure and programming of existing parks including providing additional seating for passive activities, installing new and renewed recreation facilities, providing other facilities such as public washrooms and drinking water stations; and accommodating special events

Potential Parks to Enhance



Eglinton Park Master Plan

- Determine a preferred concept plan for the park, incorporating existing and proposed park amenities
- Introduce amenities that serve non-recreational needs and create new connections to and through the park
- Improve the design of the park interface to enhance wayfinding
- Be based on input from the public, stakeholders and City staff



3. Share



Key Proposed Policies:

- Support a **community-based** park planning and design process, including collaboration with **Indigenous communities**
- Preserve schoolyards and work with local school boards to pursue community access through the development of shared-use spaces and facilities
- Work with public agencies and private property owners to establish partnerships and agreements to supplement parkland (e.g. through publicly accessible privately-owned spaces - POPS)

3. Share



4. Connect

2014 Midtown in Focus Plan

Midtown in Focus: Parks, Open Space and Streetscape Plan (2014)



- 1. Eglinton Green Line
- 2. Yonge Street Squares
- 3. Park Street Loop
- 4. Greenways
- 5. Redpath Revisited

Official Plan Amendment 289





Eglinton Greenline



Public Realm - Davisville Area



Existing Davisville



Davisville Community Street – Conceptual Cross-section





Merton Street Promenade – Conceptual Cross-section



Existing Mount Pleasant Road



Existing Mount Pleasant Road



Mount Pleasant Road Arboretum – Conceptual Cross-section



Mount Pleasant Road Arboretum – Conceptual Cross-section



Mid-block Connections



Parks + Public Realm



Next Steps + Workshop



- Update parkland provision mapping for growth anticipated to 2051
- Refine and test scenarios to optimize the locations and approximate size of park spaces and improved access
- Incorporate feedback from consultation and revise/finalize Parks and Public Realm Plans
- Continue to refine Implementation tools
 - New parkland dedication rate
 - Other tools/strategies to acquire/enhance parkland

Dots

- If you think a proposed **new or expanded park** will **address gaps** and **improve** access and functionality, place a <u>green</u> dot on the park.
- If you do not agree with the new or expanded park, place a <u>red</u> dot on the park. Identify key reasons for not wanting this as a park on a sticky note.
- If you think we missed a park, place a <u>yellow</u> dot on the map for where we should locate a new park

Sticky notes

- If you have any comments on:
 - a) parks you think we should prioritize
 - b) any of the proposed new parks or expansions; or
 - c) why we should remove a proposed park;
 - d) opportunities to improve existing parks and what those may be;

e) Solutions to help stitch the parks together and further improve the public realm plan