

## KEY PROPOSED POLICIES

### Acquire and Expand

3.2.34

Map 21-4 (Parks and Open Space Network) shows the parks and open space network within the Secondary Plan Area and its linkage to the adjacent areas. It is comprised of the following components:

- (a) Existing parks and open spaces which will be improved over time, inclusive of expansion and maximizing the perimeter street frontage of parks to increase prominence, accessibility and visibility;
- (b) Proposed parks which have been or will be secured through the development approval process, or that are priority parks that are under consideration by the City for parks acquisition or leases;
- (c) City-owned opportunity sites that provide opportunities to create new functional parks and open spaces; and
- (d) Areas under consideration by the City as new, priority public parks. The priority park areas have been strategically identified and conceptually located to:
  - (i) complement the public realm moves; and
  - (ii) provide park space of a suitable size and configuration to provide a wide range of active and passive parks programming within or in proximity to high-growth areas and existing neighbourhoods.

3.2.38\*

Where, as part of a development, an on-site parkland dedication is determined to be not technically feasible or desirable by the City, an offsite parkland dedication that is in proximity to the development site or a site identified on Map 21-4 may be substituted for an on-site dedication prior to the consideration of cash in lieu of land.

### Connect

3.2.31\*

The planning, design and development of expanded and new parks and open spaces will be guided by the following objectives:

- (a) support a community-based planning and design process for creating interesting and engaging parks and open spaces that are safe, comfortable and accommodate people of all ages and abilities year-round;
- (b) create attractive, landscaped linear open spaces on setbacks adjacent to public streets, enhanced through the provision of wide sidewalks, trees, benches, planters and other appropriate street furniture;
- (c) provide connections between public parkland and open spaces in the Yonge-Eglinton Secondary Plan area and in adjacent areas, through the use of streets, trails, bikeways, pedestrian-friendly streetscape environments and walkways; and
- (d) develop attractive parks as focal points in the community which also provide opportunities for public art, heritage interpretation and cultural expression as well as recreational opportunities.

### Enhance Existing

3.2.45

The City will examine opportunities to enhance existing infrastructure and programming of existing parks including:

- (a) Developing or connecting walking loops and pathways for residents to complete walking circuits;
- (b) Providing additional seating for passive activities;
- (c) Installing new and renewed recreation facilities;
- (d) Providing facilities such as public washrooms and drinking water stations; and
- (e) Accommodating special events.

### Share

3.2.30\*

In order to satisfy the need for parks and open space and to improve the quantity, quality, form and distribution of parks and publicly-accessible open spaces within the Yonge-Eglinton Secondary Plan area, the City will:

- (a) secure land for new public parklands in all areas of the Secondary Plan area;
- (b) pursue opportunities arising from development to secure land for new parkland and improve existing parkland, including the parkland priority improvements identified in policies 3.2.33, 3.2.34 and 3.2.35;
- (c) preserve schoolyards and, in partnership with local school boards, pursue their greater utilization for community access through the development of shared-use open spaces and recreation facilities and as part of development;
- (d) work with public agencies and private property owners to establish partnerships and agreements to supplement the supply of City-owned parkland by securing public access to other types of open spaces, including privately owned publicly-accessible spaces that support and are integrated with the public realm moves set out in this Secondary Plan; and
- (e) encourage the consolidation, acquisition and dedication of sites in the Soudan Avenue Priority Park Area identified on Map 21-5 with the objective of creating larger, contiguous park spaces.

3.2.32

Consultation, partnerships and collaboration with Indigenous communities will be encouraged in the planning, design and development of expanded and new parks and open spaces. This may include the celebration and recognition of Indigenous culture and history, along with cultural and natural heritage, through place-making, naming, wayfinding, monuments, interpretive features, public art, partnerships and programming.

\* Council approved OPA 289 policies



## Public Realm

The public realm in Midtown is comprised of all public and private spaces to which the public has physical and visual access to, including streets, parks, open spaces, sidewalks and pedestrian connections, and the setting of buildings adjacent to these spaces. Policies in the proposed Secondary Plan promote opportunities to expand and enhance the public realm in order to support the existing and future population and provide a high quality of life for people of all ages and abilities.

The public realm in the Secondary Plan area supports a vibrant mixed use community. A primary objective of the proposed Secondary Plan is to maintain and enhance the open, green, landscaped character of the area, improve and expand the network of parks, open spaces and create a high-quality places and streetscapes to improve placemaking and connectivity in the area.



Study Area View looking east along Merton Street

## KEY PROPOSED POLICIES

### 3.2.3

Improvements to the public realm will be required on public and private lands as part of development and City-initiated projects. These improvements may include, but are not limited to:

- (a) enhancements to streetscapes;
- (b) provision of wider sidewalks and the establishment of multi-purpose promenades;
- (c) provision of mid-block pedestrian connections;
- (d) transit access points; and
- (e) the integration, extension and enhancement of existing and proposed landscaped open spaces.

### 3.2.7

Mid-block pedestrian connections will be secured as part of the development of sites located in Yonge-Eglinton Centre and within larger city blocks. Conceptual locations for mid-block connections include, but are not limited to, opportunities shown on Map 21-13.

### 3.2.15

Where on-site parkland dedication is not possible and the site is 500 metres walking distance or greater from a park, development will provide new Privately Owned Publicly Accessible Spaces (POPS) at-grade within the development to supplement and contribute to the Midtown public realm. POPS will:

- (a) be publicly accessible;
- (b) be designed for users of all ages and abilities;
- (c) be sited in highly visible locations and designed to serve the local population;
- (d) be sited and designed to be seamlessly integrated and connected into the broader public realm;
- (e) include new trees, seating and landscaping;
- (f) prioritize child-specific elements if not located within 500 metres of a playground;
- (g) include signage identifying the space as being publicly-accessible; and
- (h) address the City's Urban Design Guidelines for Privately Owned Publicly-Accessible Space.