

August 2022

Oakwood–St. Clair Parks Plan

Appendix 2

Meetings with Business Improvement Areas

City of Toronto – Parks Development & Capital Projects

Oakwood St. Clair Parkland Study Meetings with Business Improvement Areas

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Introduction

This document provides a summary of meetings held with local Business Improvement Areas (BIAs) between October 19, 2021 and November 9, 2021, as part of the Oakwood-St. Clair Parkland Study. Meetings were held virtually with representatives from the following BIAs:

- St. Clair Gardens – October 19, 2021
- Hillcrest Village – October 21, 2021
- Corso Italia – October 25, 2021
- Wychwood Heights – October 28, 2021
- Oakwood Village – November 9, 2021

Meeting Goals

Over the last year, the City has been studying the parks and outdoor public spaces in the neighbourhoods surrounding the Oakwood Avenue-St. Clair Avenue West intersection to identify opportunities for improvement. The findings of this study will guide short and long-term improvements to the local park system, including expanding and improving existing parks, acquiring new parks and fostering more inclusive and connected parks. The goal of the open series of meetings was to:

- **Present key findings** from the study process and consultation to date that informed the development of recommendations;
- **Share recommended actions** to improve existing parks, create new parks, and improve access and connections between parks and other public spaces, with a focus on the areas adjacent to the BIA; and
- **Hear feedback from the BIA** on the emerging recommendations before finalization of the Oakwood-St. Clair Parks Plan.

Feedback Summary

Parkland and Facility Provision

- Several BIAs noted the shortage of parkland and open space in the study area.
- One BIA highlighted frustration with increasing density in study area without corresponding increase in parkland.
- One BIA noted they would like to see more opportunities for after-school play like basketball courts or a skate park.

Access to Parkland

- One BIA highlighted access issues associated with Toronto Hydro ownership of Don Panos Parkette (e.g. event permissions).
- One BIA highlighted ongoing access issues with Santa Chiara Parkette, noting it was often locked outside of school hours.

Tree Canopy

- Comments on tree canopy were mixed. One BIA highlighted the poor condition of trees on St. Clair Avenue West between Dufferin and Prospect Cemetery, and requested that the City investigate improvements. Another BIA noted they had not heard many comments about tree canopy from members.

Opportunity Sites

- The Corso Italia BIA noted they would like to see a central parkette in their area, designed to hold events like markets.
- One BIA suggested investigating the potential of 1239 St. Clair Avenue West to be purchased for parkland.
- One BIA suggested greening existing boulevard parking adjacent to 142 Westmount Avenue.
- One BIA noted safety and nuisance issues associated with Charles Brereton Park and that it could be improved and better activated with more benches, games tables, and improved lighting.

Other

- One BIA noted that using parking lots for parkland would be problematic for local businesses and they would not support removing parking in the area, even temporarily.
- One BIA noted they have heard the desire for more community garden spaces from local businesses.

Contact Us

For any questions or additional comments please contact:

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