

City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry & Recreation

# **New Parks at 10 Ordnance Street & 801 Wellington Street West**

## **Phase 3b: Setting the Direction Community Advisory Committee Meeting #4 Summary**

February 2024



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## Overview

The fourth Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting for the 'New parks at 10 Ordnance Street and 801 Wellington Street West' project was held on Thursday, February 22, 2024, from 6:00-8:00pm at the Fort York Visitor Centre. The purpose of the meeting was to:

- Review what we've heard and how it impacted design direction.
- Present the preferred concept for Ordnance and Wellington Parks.
- Discuss and gather feedback about the preferred concept in advance of the upcoming Public Open House.

## Project Presentation

At the onset of the meeting, Zoie Browne, LURA Consulting, provided a land acknowledgment and reviewed the purpose of the meeting and agenda. Deputy Mayor/Councillor Ausma Malik for Ward 10 Spadina-Fort York provided opening remarks including the importance of including space for a washroom and community garden in the park design. Erika Richmond, City of Toronto, re-introduced the project team and provided a brief project update including Indigenous engagement process, site survey and coordination with Metrolinx, public art coordination and feasibility studies for a community garden and washroom pavilion. Zoie Browne, LURA Consulting, shared an overview of 'what we heard' from 'Phase 3a: Design Options. Tanya Brown, DTAH, then presented the refined vision, design principles and preferred design concept which were all informed by community engagement.

The meeting agenda can be found in **Appendix A** and list of participants can be found in **Appendix B**. The meeting presentation can be found on the [project webpage](#).

## Questions of Clarification

Following the presentation and updates about the project, CAC members had an opportunity to ask the project team questions. The questions and responses are summarized below:

**Q: Why is the washroom so close to other washrooms?**

A: There are a number of washrooms in the vicinity and Stanley Park washroom is the closest; however, none of them are winterized and therefore unavailable year-round.

**Q: Will Indigenous renaming of the park be considered?**

A: Naming and placekeeping were part of the recent Indigenous Advisory Circle (IAC) discussion, and there will be a follow-up circle discussion with the IAC in March.

**Q: How do we get updates about the plans for Strachan House and the community garden, including getting a plot?**

A: Please connect with Deputy Mayor/Councillor Malik's office for more information.

**Q: Is the beaver art installation climbable?**

A: They will be made of reclaimed wood gathered by an Indigenous craftsman in Mississauga. They are about 6ft tall and 8ft long. They are sturdy and could be climbed on but would not be considered play equipment. The wood will be treated for weather and fire protection.

**Q: What will happen with the City of Toronto Public Works yard driveway, east of Wellington Park after construction?**

A: This area is intended to be future parkland dedication, as part of the new development at 2 Tecumseth Street.

## Refined Vision, Guiding Principles and Preferred Design Concept Discussion

A vision statement is a short description of the ideal future park or facility. It gives everyone a common understanding of the project's overall goals and helps inspire and guide future decisions. Guiding principles are high-level directions that reflect the community's most important values and ideas for how the park should look and feel. They help guide how the park should be designed so that the vision can be achieved.

CAC members were presented with an overview of feedback that the project team heard, as well as the refined vision statement, guiding principles and preferred design concept. The CAC members then spent the remainder of the meeting providing feedback.

CAC members were asked to consider:

- What could be changed?
- Is anything unclear?
- Is anything missing?
- Do you have any advice about planning for the Public Open House?

### Refined Vision Statement

The project team presented the following refined vision statement:

*"Ordnance and Wellington parks will provide a unique urban oasis with spectacular views of the City skyline, and new enhanced*

*connections to the adjacent community and broader open space network.*

*Together the parks will provide a balance between green, ecological design; restful open spaces; and the creation of a dynamic, playful public realm."*

## Refined Guiding Principles

The project team presented the following refined guiding principles:

1. Establish a **Distinct Identity** for the Parks
2. Protect and Enhance **Key Views**
3. Strengthen Site **Topography and Landform**
4. Improve **Connections** in the Parks and to the Community
5. Enhance **Site Ecology**
6. Create **Safe and Inclusive** Parks for All Ages and All Abilities
7. Contribute to Public Health through **Sustainable and Resilient** Design
8. Reflect the **Natural and Cultural Heritage** of the Site.

## 'CAC Members' Feedback

The feedback received during the discussion and after the meeting is outlined below.

### Distinct Identity

- Some participants expressed that the flexibility of design is great and the balance of design is excellent.
- Balance within the park identity and vision were discussed as important elements. Most participants were very pleased with the design direction while some participants expressed that more consideration of balance between quiet and active elements should be considered.
- One participant expressed the need for Wellington Park to include more active and social elements such as soccer nets as well as more 'play' for adults.
- One participant suggested that the location of the children's play area be swapped with picnic area in Ordnance Park.

### Key Views

- The concept of the swings was supported.
- Concern was raised about the swings potentially blocking key views, and changes to the spacing and design of the swings should consider any obstructions to the east views.

- Participants expressed the importance of darkness to enhance views at night.
- Photo opportunity spots for park users to post on social media was suggested, such as what they have at the new Love Park.

### Topography and Landform

- Some participants liked the open spaces and indicated that they can make you 'feel free', particularly coming into the park away from the condominium towers. Including more trees could take away from that feeling.
- Some participants were concerned with too much open space and suggested more shrubs, trees, picnic tables and elements for sociability be included.

### Connections

- There was interest in the materials that will be used for paths and trails.
- Suggestion to ensure visual representation of paths and trails are more clearly identified, particularly if a path is raised and where there are overlaps of paths with different materials.
- Participants expressed the need for well lit paths.
- Participants wanted to confirm that the current BikeShare location would be maintained.

### Site Ecology

- Participants like the balance of meadows and like the way the berm is used in the design.
- Space held for a community garden was generally supported; however, a few participants indicated that the garden should not be in the park.
- Water sources should be brought to the south of the park.
- Concerns about the viability of trees in Wellington Park were raised due to past irrigation issues.
- Participants discussed Chestnut trees that previously thrived in the community but noted that these types of trees are no longer feasible.

### Safe and Inclusive

- Participants noted the importance of families and groups of people being able to enjoy the park.
- Concerns were raised about safety for children due to the possibility of dogs using the children's play area. It was suggested to include a fence around the play area.
- Concerns were raised about safety with a climbable art installation.

### Sustainable and Resilient

- Maintenance is a major priority, particularly for dog hygiene and garbage.
- Interest in water fountains, fill-up stations and dog fountains with a design beyond City standards.

### Natural and Cultural Heritage

- Participants were excited about the beaver art installation and suggested that more beavers be added around the park.
- Participants were interested in opportunities to learn about Indigenous culture in the park, and cited Trillium Park as a good example.
- Opportunities to include the Moccasin Identifier initiative was discussed.

### Questions and General Comments

- City should aim to improve Indigenous engagement processes and ensure engagement is included in early phases of all projects.
- Changing the name of the park as an act of Indigenous Reconciliation should be considered.
- There is interest in the next steps and timeline for construction. Suggestion for a staggered construction schedule and aligning the completion ahead of summer months were noted.

## Next Steps

Feedback from CAC members during this meeting will be used to refine the preferred design and other materials that will be shared at the in-person Public Open House happening on March 27, 2024, at Fort York Visitor Centre. An online survey will also be launched for those unable to attend the Public Open House.

This was the last CAC meeting for the current project scope. Construction for the park is anticipated to begin in 2025. CAC members are encouraged to sign up for ongoing project updates, including construction notices, through the [project webpage](#).

## Appendix A – Agenda

### **New Parks at 10 Ordnance Street and 801 Wellington Street West Community Advisory Committee Meeting #4**

#### **Agenda**

Date: February 22, 2024

Time: 6:00pm-8:00pm

Location: Fort York Visitor Centre

<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>
6:00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome</li> <li>• Land Acknowledgement</li> <li>• Agenda Overview</li> <li>• Deputy Mayor/City Councillor Ausma Malik (Ward 10) Remarks</li> </ul>
6:10pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Erika Richmond, City of Toronto, Remarks</li> <li>• Project Updates               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Project Timeline</li> <li>○ Indigenous Engagement Process</li> <li>○ Site Survey and Metrolinx Coordination</li> <li>○ Public Art Coordination</li> <li>○ Feasibility Studies (Washroom Pavilion and Community Garden)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
6:20pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Questions of Clarification</li> </ul>
6:25pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'What We Heard' Overview</li> <li>• Refined Vision, Design Principles and Preferred Design Concept Presentation</li> </ul>
7:00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion</li> </ul>
7:55pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wrap Up and Next Steps</li> </ul>
8:00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjourn</li> </ul>



## Appendix B – Attendance

**Individual members:** 8/16 present

**Organizational Members:** 4/8 present

- Garrison Point Condominium Board (30, 50 Ordnance)
- Fort York Neighbourhood
- Niagara Neighbourhood Now Community
- Garrison Flats Community Garden

**Project Team:**

- Erika Richmond, Project Officer, Parks, Forestry & Recreation Division
- Helen Luu, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator, Parks, Forestry & Recreation Division
- James Roche – Partner, Design Lead, DTAH
- Tanya Brown – Project Manager, Landscape Architect, DTAH
- Andrew Liang – Landscape Designer, DTAH
- Zoie Browne – Engagement Lead and Facilitator, LURA Consulting

**Guests:**

- Catherine Machado, Public Art Division
- Kim Tomczak, Artist
- Lisa Steele, Artist