

City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry & Recreation

New Parks at 10 Ordnance Street & 801 Wellington Street West

Phase 2 Building A Vision: Community Advisory Committee Meeting #2 Summary

June 2023



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Overview

The second Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting for the 'New parks at 10 Ordinance Street and 801 Wellington Street West' was held on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, from 6:00-9:00pm at the Fort York Visitor Centre. The purpose of the meeting was to:

- Build relationships among CAC members and project team.
- Introduce site context and scope.
- Develop themes to inform a vision statement for the conceptual design work.
- Collaboratively discuss design principles and 'big moves' for the parks.

Project Presentation and 'What We Heard'

At the onset of the meeting, Zoie Browne, LURA Consulting, provided a land acknowledgment. Kaly Tobe, City of Toronto, reviewed the agenda, introduced the project team and provided a brief overview of the purpose of the meeting and the project. Following the project team introductions, City Councillor Ausma Malik for Ward 10 Spadina-Fort York provided opening remarks to the group. Tanya Brown, DTAH, then presented a history of the site and site analysis and Kaly Tobe, City of Toronto, provided details about the scope of the project. Daniel Fusca, City of Toronto, and Zoie Browne, LURA Consulting, shared an overview of 'what we heard' from digital engagement (Thought Exchange) and pop-up engagement events.

The meeting agenda can be found in **Appendix A** and the meeting presentation can be found in **Appendix B**.

Questions of Clarification

A recap of questions of clarification that followed the presentations are summarized below:

Q: What in the area is Metrolinx property?

A: Metrolinx has a temporary use agreement for the eastern portion of 10 Ordinance St (approximately 30% of the park) to be used for construction and staging area until at least 2027. This area is roughly demarked on-site by orange snow fencing and the black chain-link fence. An emergency exit building (EEB) for the Ontario Line will be built beneath the park at the south east corner of the park. Metrolinx's agreement with the City also includes permanent easements above their infrastructure (EEB and subway tunnel) which may limit or restriction what the City can construct above Metrolinx's infrastructure, however no parkland is lost and the entire area will look and feel like a park. The EEB is not a subway station, rather it will only be used for egress during

emergencies, where subway users would evacuate from below park grade using the service road immediately east and north of the park at railway track level.

Q: With the understanding that public washrooms are not suitable for this site, where are the closest public washrooms?

A: There are washrooms at Stanley Park North, Fort York Visitors Centre, Coronation Park, as well as seasonal washrooms for the outdoor pool in Stanley Park South.

Q: Do the sunlight study images shared consider future developments?

A: Yes, the sunlight study images account for developments that have been proposed to the City Planning Division. The future developments at 2 Tecumseth Street and 805 Wellington Street West were not modelled here because there was no information available when diagrams were prepared, but these will be considered when the next set of drawings are completed. There is also a technical working group that meets with the project team, which does look at all developments nearby as well.

Q: The area has wildlife. How will this be considered?

A: The project team looks forward to hearing more details about wildlife this evening and will take anything we learn into account as we work through the design process.

Q: What are the design restrictions related to the soil cap?

A: The project team includes an environmental consultant who is qualified to review design drawings, advise on restrictions, and help the City work through those details. They will provide the project team with further information, which may include what trees can be planted, how the parks are excavated and constructed etc. to ensure that the health and safety of users is maintained per Ontario Ministry of Environment standards.

Q: What is the budget?

A: The project budget is approximately 5 million dollars, which includes design and construction costs for both 10 Ordnance Street and 801 Wellington Street West. The budget does not need to be allocated evenly between each park and discretion will be used as the project team works through the design process with the community, technical advisors and working group. The budget included consultant fees, design work, construction work and all materials (i.e. amenities and features) that will be built in the parks.

Vision Activity

CAC members were asked to share a word or phrase response to the question “what would you like the park to achieve?”. The feedback gathered will be used to inform the development of a vision statement for the project. A vision statement is the desired future state of the new parks and provides direction for what the future parks will look and feel like. What we heard has been sorted into the following themes:

Natural and Green

- Trees and not overly manicured.
- Fresh air, tree lined boundaries with the skyline in the horizon.
- Community garden space.
- Link between city and nature.
- Enhanced wildlife habitat and increased biodiversity.
- Stay green.
- Wildness.
- Trees and gardens.
- Clean air and biodiversity.
- Lilac garden with picnic area.

Community-Based

- Respect the unexpected.
- Serve the local community, not become a destination.
- Create a feeling of ownership.
- Be sure to listen and implement what the larger community says.
- Good people plant trees whose shade they will never sit under.
- A unique place, recognition that it is by the community and for the community.
- A place for everyone.
- Enrich what is already existing.
- Lean into what the site already offers.
- Amenities that serve the local community.
- Secure and comfortable for families.

Active

- The Play, performance, productive, provocative.
- Adventure, opportunities for play.

Passive

- Relaxation.
- Calming with skyline views.
- A calm and beautiful oasis for people to gather, visit and play.
- A postcard.

Balanced

- Hybrid and multi-functional.
- Not overly designed.
- Comfortable, multi-functional space where you can find quiet, or enjoy play.
- Needs proper infrastructure, systems which enable a diversity of uses and users including lighting, power, drainage, and seating.

Connected

- A pathway for travellers and an oasis for dwellers.
- Creative, cultural, connected.
- North and south connectivity to the lake.
- Pathways and security for the condos.



Design Principles and Big Moves Activity

CAC members spent the remainder of the meeting sharing input on four main themes of the new parks design. The four elements were: connectivity, programming, unique features, and ecology. Individuals had time to discuss each element and share their ideas on sticky notes and chart paper in small group discussions. The project team aided each discussion with prompt questions and documenting feedback shared. CAC members were asked to consider design principles (recommendations to guide the project and design process) and big moves (priority actions). A summary of each discussion is provided below, organized by each element.

Connectivity:

Within each park, between the parks, and to the broader community and city

Principles

- Create new pathways and access into the park, including at the 'Privately Owned Public Spaces (POPS)' walkway, as well as the new walkway connection to Strachan Avenue (along the railway corridor).

- Create a pathway 'promenade' around the perimeter of the east peninsula at Ordnance Park.
- Take advantage of the site topography to create an amphitheater area for events and views at Ordnance Park.
- Preserve and enhance existing viewpoints in Ordnance Park – at the top of the slope as well as the east tip of the peninsula.
- Create new connections from Garrison Crossing Bridge to the future east-west multi-use path at Fort York and along the rail corridor / 2 Tecumseth development.
- Keep Ordnance Park passive and put active uses in Wellington Park.
- Add signage and wayfinding for different destinations in the area.
- Consider traffic calming elements along Wellington Street.
- Improve the crossing at Wellington Street – consider a tabletop intersection or a stop sign where the multi-use path crosses the road.
- Improve connectivity along Wellington by creating widened / enhanced steps at north-east corner of the park – consider removing steps (if possible) and flattening the slopes.
- Improve pathway lighting and lighting in blind spots (Wellington north-east corner and Ordnance cul-de-sac).
- Create a vehicular buffer to keep cars off the park at Ordnance cul-de-sac.
- Improve the Private/public interface at Ordnance condos – provide a buffer or designated area for noisy programs.
- Separate pedestrians and bikes along main pathways.

Big Moves

- Formalize informal pathways.
- Establish a hierarchy of circulation, wide main pathways for through traffic and secondary pathways for a quieter experience.
- Create nodes / moments for people to stop, congregate and resting areas off main pathways.
- Create connectivity through consistency of materials between the two parks.
- Improve connectivity along Wellington by making the whole park frontage accessible rather than just one spot.
- Use integrated art along pathways as a means of wayfinding and story telling through the parks.
- Inclusive design. Accessibility for most vulnerable users results in benefits for all users.

- Create ceremonial entrance at Wellington Street.
- Create a marker or special moment along the main pathway to distinguish these parks from the others along the route.

Programming:

Quiet and active spaces/uses

Principles

- Less is more. These parks don't need to be over programmed, lots of amenities nearby.
- Emphasis on passive parks.
- Each park could serve a different purpose, ex. one active (Wellington) and one passive (Ordnance)
- Eastern portion of Ordnance could be more active but ensure it's still flexible.
- If sports were added to Wellington there is a concern about safety given proximity to street.
- Maintain and enhance views, predominately to and from Ordnance, with opportunities to sit and enjoy views from park.
- Maintain and enhance sky watching opportunities.
- Space for art programming, could be permanent or temporary.
- Education opportunities for kids.
- Some agree with welcoming dogs, others don't.
- Additional off-leash area (OLA) isn't necessary in these parks because Stanley South OLA is across the street.
- Park design/program near Ordnance condos should deter dogs gathering.

Big Moves

- Natural water feature ex. waterfall or pond.
- Vertical gardens.
- Large rocks and trees intertwined like Trillium Park.
- Community garden space.
- Pollinator gardens for kids (education opportunities).
- Mini forest, adventure playground, with wooden logs that can double as seating.
- Children's play space in Ordnance.
- Children's playground is needed, Stanley Park North playground is very busy.
- Use art for play (ex. Grange Henry Moore sculpture), art could nod to site's industrial past.

- Use existing slope on east portion of Ordnance to sit and enjoy views (ex. amphitheatre).
- Promenade around edge of Ordnance (will also help with future construction access for Metrolinx agreement area).
- No dedicated sports field.
- Outdoor fitness equipment, low maintenance and not equipment that breaks easily/needs repair.
- Reading and quiet space on existing berm in Wellington.
- Don't need another off-leash area.
- If new OLA built, use eastern portion of Ordnance.
- Movie nights in Ordnance.
- Opportunities for vendors or Sunday market in Wellington.
- Accessible parking.

Unique Features:

Things that could define the park, installations, cultural and natural heritage

Principles

- Wellington space as more active use.
- Incorporate wayfinding to enhance connectivity.
- Enhance the network of connectivity of existing parks.
- Would like to see a high level of accessibility.
- Leverage the site's natural features to educate the public.
- Enhance and maximize the sites natural features.
- Acknowledge Indigenous history.
- Tell the unique story of the site, connect the past and present.
- Restrict vehicle access through the park.
- Consider views from the park, and within the park.
- All season's activity and space.
- Consider the density.

Big Moves

- Weekend night market.
- Seating in the two parks that are architecturally and visually interesting.
- Pollinator species, meadows.
- Unique lighting.
- Tell the story of the railway.
- Giant background garden oasis, giant sundial of natural materials.
- Bird baths and feeders.

- Highlight and enhance connections to the lake.
- Enhance skyline views.
- Enhanced wildlife corridor along east edge of Wellington Park.
- Opportunities for people to learn about the site's ecology.
- Indigenous place keeping.
- Multi-sensory experiences, smells.
- Use public art to tell the story of the site.
- Naming opportunities: Tecumseh.
- Consider how maintenance will be kept and garbage collected.
- Gateway and connection to the rest of the corridor.
- Save the salt dome.
- Natural gardens with water feature.

Ecology:

Plants, trees, and greenery

Principles

- Utilize the existing slopes as more wild, naturalized areas.
- Use the berms as natural barriers.
- Embrace the wandering nature of the path.
- Use ordnance as a quieter space.
- Plant more sensitive plants in areas that are not heavily used, so they are not damaged.
- Look at sun and wind conditions for planting locations.
- Meadow habitat, utilize the slope, education for kids about the plants.
- Want to be able to use it year-round.
- Pollinator gardens with educational signage
- Indigenous place keeping and education about plants and flowers.
- Very windy at the top of Ordnance, will impact what can survive.
- Use tree groves in Wellington to deter off leash dogs.
- Addition of pathways to keep meadow space protected.
- Don't want it overly manicured, protect the views.

Big Moves

- Would like to see bird habitat built.
- Vertical trellis, consider using the Metrolinx retaining walls for vines.
- Would like an orchard.
- Introduce service berries, and lilacs.

- Add tree groves ex: Carolina Forest.
- Community garden space, in Ordnance.
- Create a viewing area with gardens in Ordnance.
- Use trees as a noise barrier to condos nearby.
- Need trees that will provide shade.
- Need resilient grass on Wellington area.
- Put in coyote education. Lots of animals use the corridor, northern shrike, foxes.
- Southern area of Ordnance should be used as more naturalized space, build barrier to rail.
- Cyprus trees in front of Ordnance condos to act as natural barrier.

Next Steps

Upon conclusion of the activities, Zoie Browne, LURA Consulting, thanked all members for their insight and thoughtful input. It was noted that CAC members are welcome to submit additional feedback until Friday, June 16th via email to esummers@lura.ca.

Summaries of the digital engagement (Thought Exchange) and pop-up engagement, as well as a fulsome Phase Two 'What We Heard' engagement summary will be provided to CAC members and the public for consideration in the coming weeks.

The next CAC meeting will be held on **August 2nd, 2023**.

Appendix A – Agenda

New Parks at 10 Ordinance Street and 801 Wellington Street West Community Advisory Committee Meeting #2

Agenda

Date: June 13, 2023

Time: 6:00pm-9:00pm

Location: Fort York Visitor Centre

Time	Agenda Item
6:00pm	• Welcome • Land Acknowledgement • Councillor Malik Remarks
6:10pm	• Project team introductions • Presentation (history, site conditions, scope) • Questions of clarification
6:40pm	• Vision activity and membership introduction
7:10pm	• Design Principles and Big Moves Activity
8:45pm	• Wrap Up Conversation
9:00pm	• Adjourn

Appendix B – Attendance

Individual members: 14/16 present

Organizational Members: 7/8 present

- South Stanley Dog Owner's Group
- Precinct Advisory Committee of the Friends of Fort York
- Garrison Point Condominium Board (30, 50 Ordnance)
- The Bentway Conservancy
- Fort York Neighbourhood
- Niagara Neighbourhood Now (NNNow)
- CityPlace Fort York BIA
- Garrison Flats Community Garden

Project Team:

- Kaly Tobe, Senior Project Coordinator, Parks, Forestry & Recreation Division
- Erika Richmond, Project Officer, Parks, Forestry & Recreation Division
- Daniel Fusca, Manager of Public Consultation, Parks, Forestry & Recreation Division
- James Roche – Partner, Design Lead, DTAH
- Tanya Brown – Project Manager, Landscape Architect, DTAH
- Elnaz Sanati – Associate, Landscape Architect DTAH
- Andrew Liang – Landscape Designer, DTAH
- Zoie Browne – Engagement Lead and Facilitator, LURA Consulting
- Emily Summers – Community Engagement Specialist, LURA Consulting

Appendix C – Presentation