



Queens Park North Revitalization

Public Working Session
July 28, 2025

Land Acknowledgement

African Ancestral Acknowledgement

Online Participation using WebEx



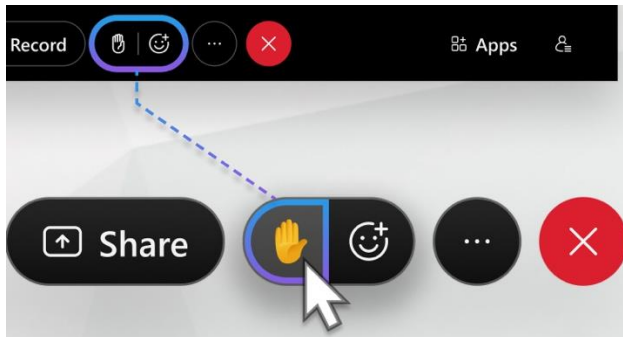
All participants have been muted for the presentation portion of this meeting.



A co-host will unmute you during the discussion periods to share your input with your discussion group.



Use the '**raise hand**' feature at the bottom of your screen to ask questions during Q&A.



Computer audio issues? Use your phone for audio by calling and enter Join by phone by calling 1-416-915-6530 and enter the meeting number below. Press *3 to ask a question. Press *6 to mute/unmute.

Meeting number (access code):

2331 724 9584

Meeting password:

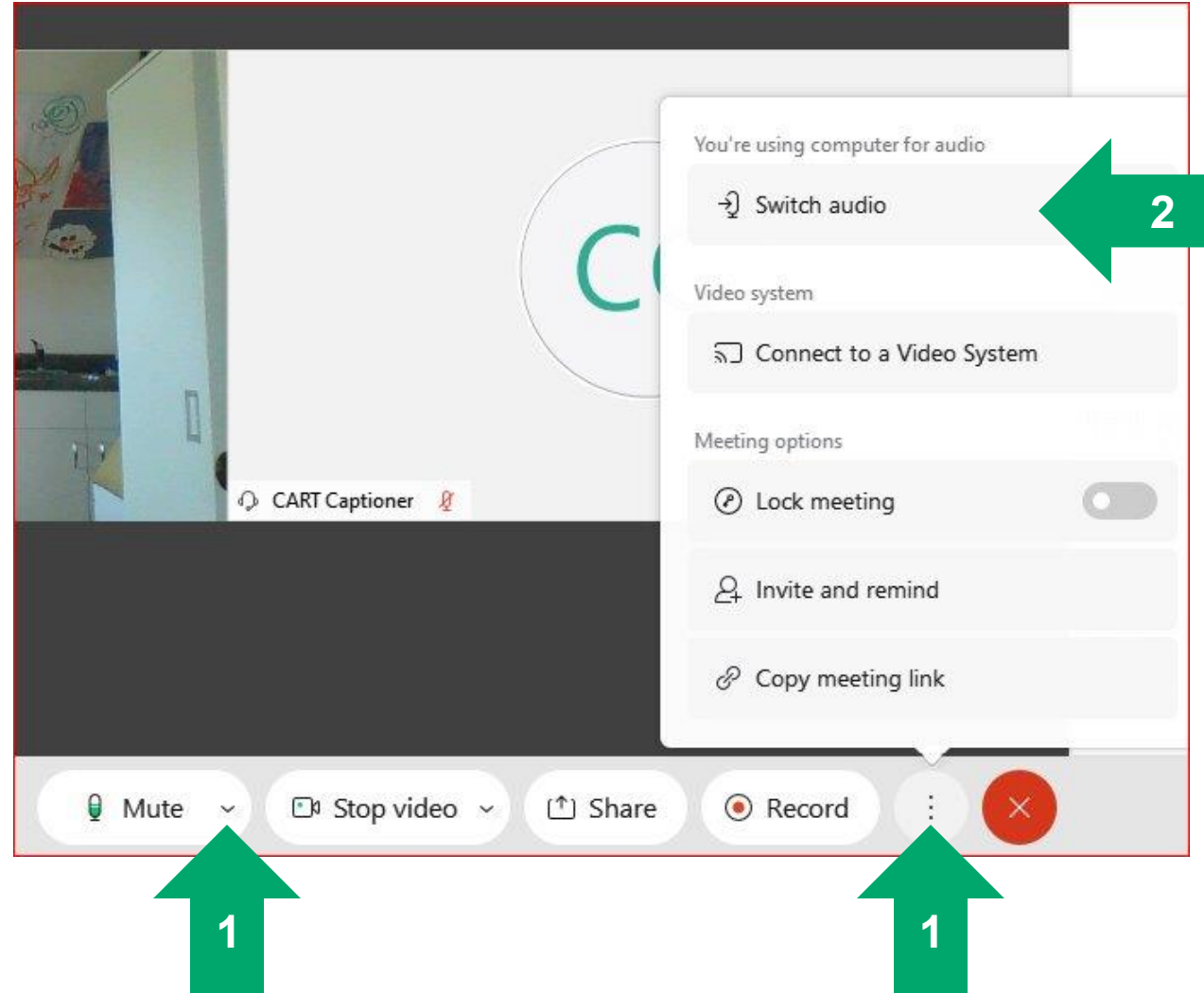
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For Closed Captioning, turn it on using the CC icon in the bottom left of your screen.

WebEx Audio Issues?

1. Click the **More Options** button at the bottom of the screen
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3. Use the **Call me at** function
 - a) Enter your phone number
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Meeting Code of Conduct

As a meeting participant, you agree to:

- Approach conversations with **curiosity** and a **willingness to learn** from others.
- Be an **active listener** and keep an **open mind** by valuing a diversity of views and opinions.
- Treat all participants with **kindness and respect**, recognizing that all voices are valuable.
- **Critique ideas**, not individuals.
- **Avoid language or behaviours** that could be considered rude, offensive, or discriminatory (e.g. cursing and derogatory terms).

To maintain a respectful and inclusive environment, offensive and discriminatory comments **are not permitted**. Participants engaging in such behaviour may be asked to leave and could be removed from the meeting.





Why We're here

The purpose of this meeting is to introduce the project team, project scope and to explore and gather your ideas on the draft vision and draft guiding principles, project opportunities and constraints.

- 1. Welcome and Introductions**
- 2. Project Overview**
- 3. Engagement Process**
- 4. Opportunity: Draft vision and draft guiding principles**
- 5. Group Workshop**
 - Vision Statement
 - Guiding Principles
- 6. Report Back**
- 7. Next Steps**

Our role today:

- Provide **clarity**.
- Create **momentum**.
- Ensure everyone feels **heard**.
- Make this a **productive** conversation.

Project Overview

Meet the Project Team - City of Toronto Parks & Recreation

City of Toronto Parks & Recreation

Paul Farish

Director
Parks Planning and Strategic Initiatives

David O'Hara

Manager
Park Design

Daniel Fusca

Manager
Community Engagement

Shannon Lawrence (Project lead)

Senior Project Manager
Parks Planning and Strategic Initiatives

Alex Deighan (Governance lead)

Manager
Client and Business Services

Your Local Councillor

Dianne Saxe

Councillor, University-Rosedale

Anne Sorrenti

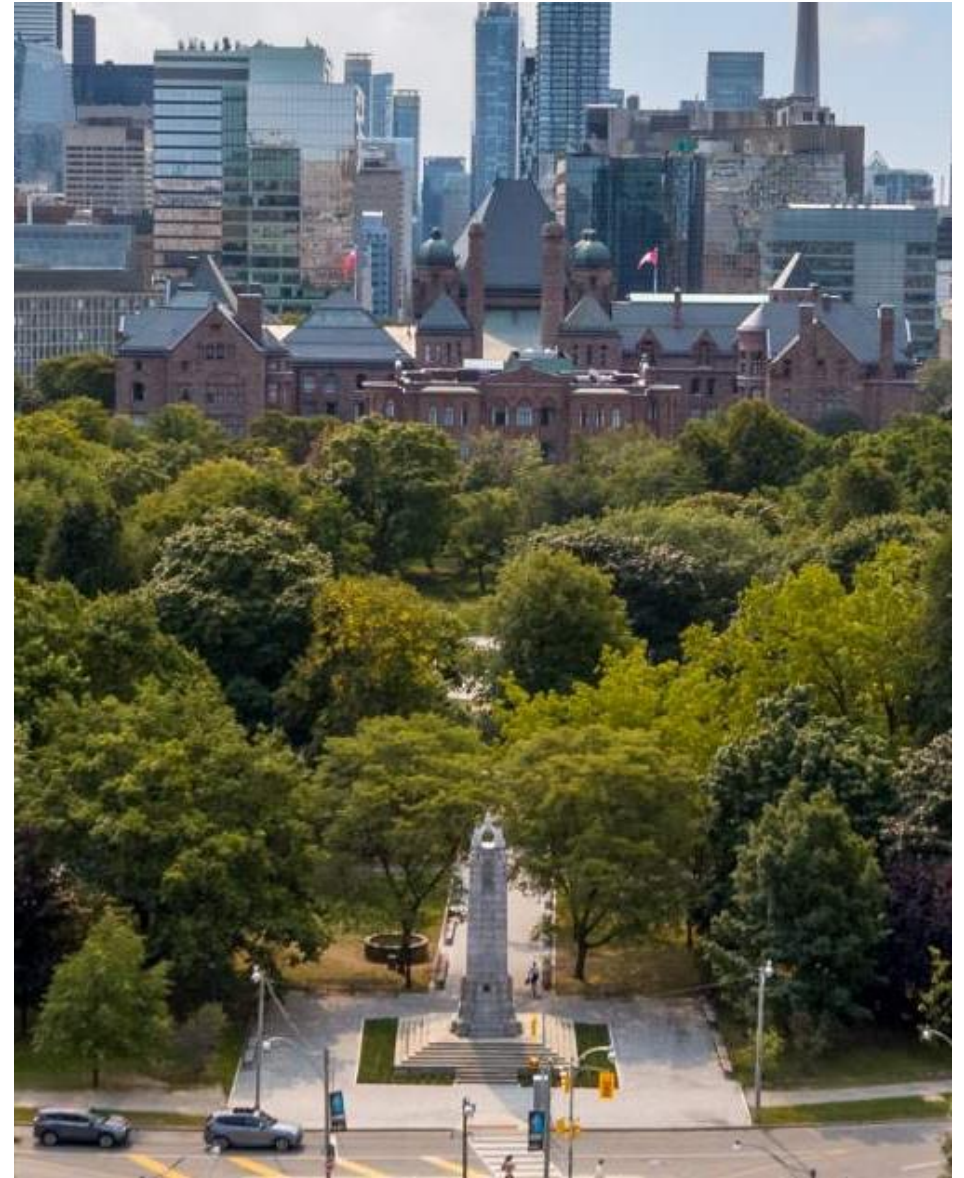
Senior Constituency Assistant

Meet the Project Team – Consultant Team

- **Third Party Public**
Public Engagement
- **Trophic Design**
Indigenous Engagement and Design
- **Janet Rosenberg & Studio**
Landscape Architecture
- **ERA**
Cultural Heritage
- **Melda Bur**
Design Consultant

Queen's Park North

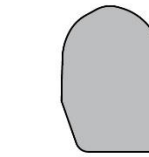
- Queen's Park North is one of the **oldest parks in Canada** and one of the largest parks in Toronto's downtown.
- The latest revitalization, completed in 2019, was unable to realize many of the design and programmatic improvements identified in the 2015 public engagement.
- Revitalization **can connect with recently improved open spaces at the University of Toronto** and support the City's broader vision for University Park and an expanding downtown park system.
- Improvements to Queens Park North align with **City's commitment to ensuring our park system is expanding and adapting** to meet the needs of a growing city and involve enhancing the natural landscape and preserving the tree canopy, as well as creating new features, experiences and programming inspired by nearby educational, cultural and civic institutions.
- The **University of Toronto owns the land. It is under a 999-year lease** to the City of Toronto. Any major changes to the park require a change to the lease agreement.



Queen's Park North

The five-hectare park is located just north of the Ontario Legislature and was officially opened in 1860 as Canada's first municipal park, named in honour of Queen Victoria.

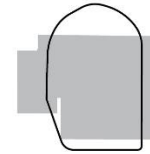
- Assets currently available in the park:
 - Tree canopy and urban green space
 - Picnic tables /benches
 - Bottle filling station
 - Walking paths
 - Recreation perimeter path
 - Public art
 - TTC entrance (Museum Station)



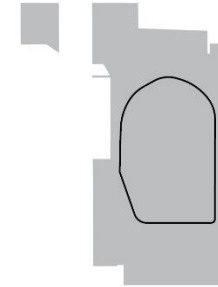
**Queen's
Park North**
13 acres



The Grange
5 acres



**Allan
Gardens**
13 acres



**Trinity
Bellwoods**
36 acres



**High
Park**
350 acres

The Park Today

Many different people use the park in many ways and identifying and understanding these uses are critical to informing revitalization plans.

The park has a longstanding function as a **civic gathering space**.

There are **many significant institutions around the park**, including the Ontario Legislature, the University of Toronto, the Royal Ontario Museum, the Royal Conservatory of Music, and the Gardiner Museum.

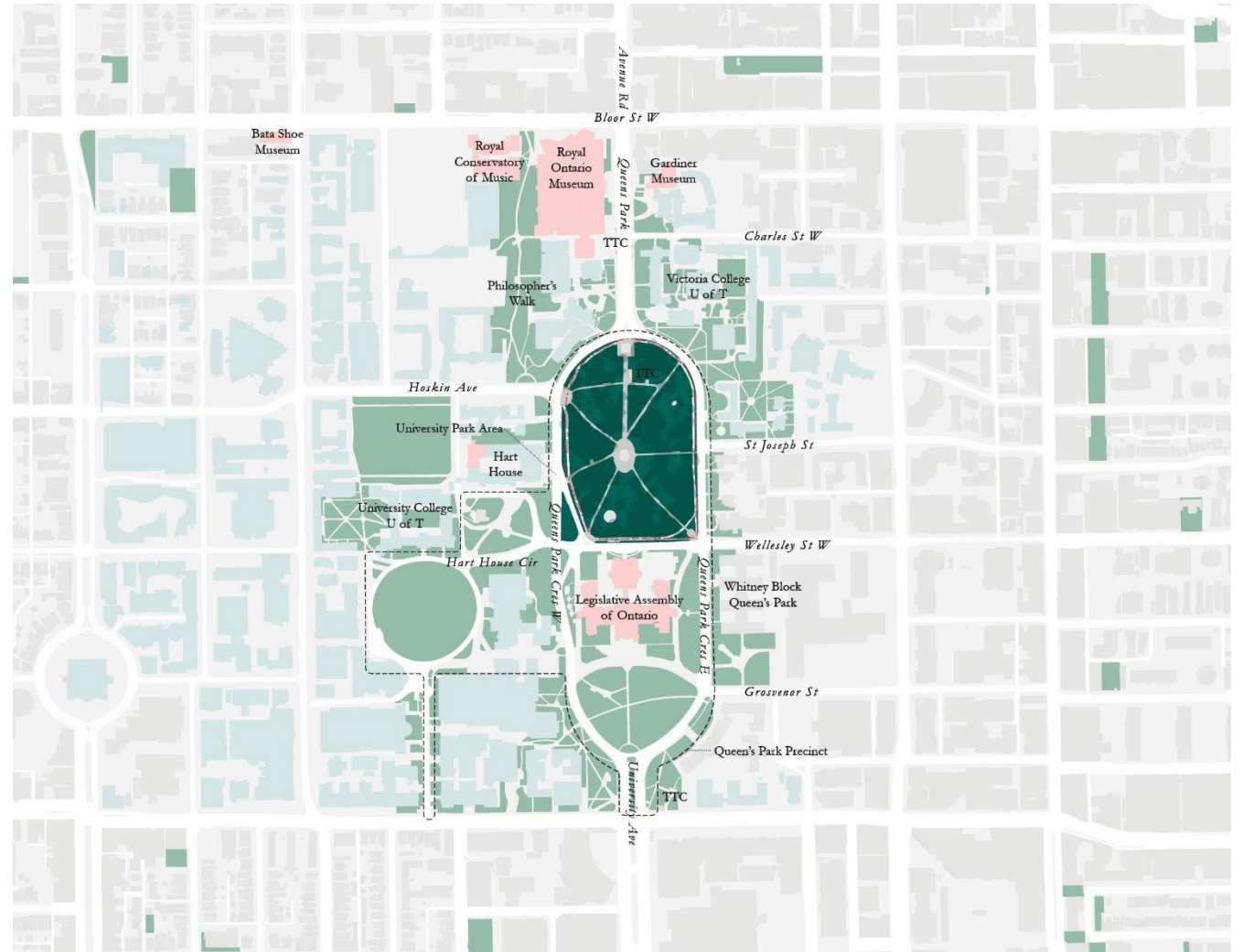


About the Project

In 2024, the City was approached by the Weston family with an offer to donate \$50 million to improve the park, plus additional funding for long-term maintenance and programming.

In response to City Council direction regarding the donation, City staff are advancing to a project comprising:

- Public engagement and visioning process starting in summer 2025
- Capital investments starting in 2026
- Long-term maintenance endowment
- Innovative operating and governance model.



Council Direction - March (2025-CC28.1)

Negotiate and sign a donation agreement with the Weston Foundations to undertake a **first phase of community engagement and preliminary design** that will inform the scope of the larger donation acceptance agreement, and the staff report directed in Part 2.

Report back to Council in Fall 2025 with project implementation update and recommend terms of phase two donation acceptance agreement to fund the final design and delivery of park enhancements and provide funding support for ongoing programming and maintenance



Donations at the City – How Does This Work?

- The **Donations to the City for Community Benefit Policy** provides City staff with a guiding framework for considering donations:
 - Donations are voluntary gifts — either cash or in-kind — made without expectation of commercial benefit.
 - Donations only advance if they are aligned to City goals and objectives.
 - Donations cannot be connected to any ongoing City approvals, permits, or contracts.
 - Maintenance funding may be required to support the long-term care of donated assets.
 - Donations become the property of the City.
 - City Council approval is required for large or complex donations (typically over \$50,000).
- Parks and Recreation regularly works to refine and deliver projects funded through donations.
- In response to this donation, City Council directed staff to undertake public consultation on potential park improvements and to negotiate a donation agreement
- The donation agreement will be brought to Council in late 2025.

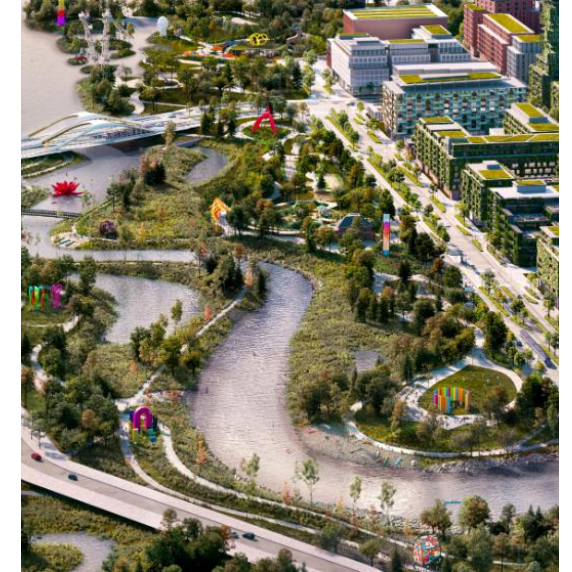
Donations at the City

Donations

- **Lassonde Art Trail** – Public Art Donation and longterm partnership to program new parkland
- **Bentway Conservancy** - Matthews Foundation Donation to Animate Under Gardiner Expressway
- **Giants of Africa and Humber College** – Firgrove Court Revitalization
- **Buckets and Borders, Dairy Farmers of Ontario, and the WNBA** – Joel Weeks Court Resurfacing
- **Jumpstart** – Accessible Playground Earl Bales Park / Confederation Park Revitalization / 2025 \$3.5M pledge for sport court revitalization
- **JaysCare Foundation** – Accessible Baseball Field at Highview Park
- **KaBoom** – Playground Builds at Various Locations
- **TD Bank** – High Park Forest School Renovation



Firgrove Park Basketball Revitalization
Giants of Africa and Humber College



Artist rendering of Lassonde Art Trail (Ookwemin Minising,) Lassonde Family

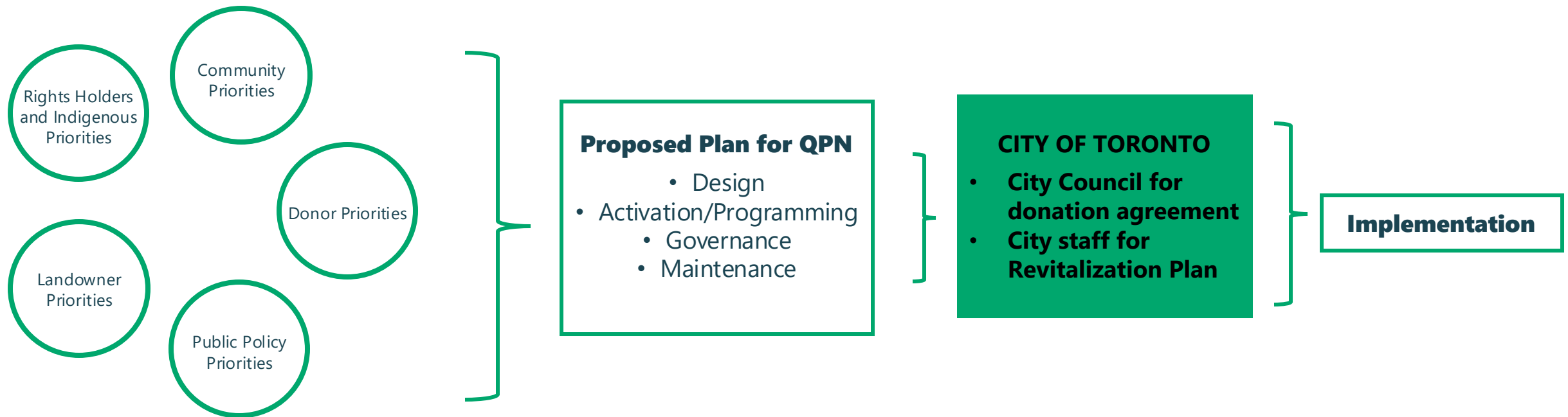


Accessible Playground (Earl Bales Park) - Canadian Tire Jumpstart



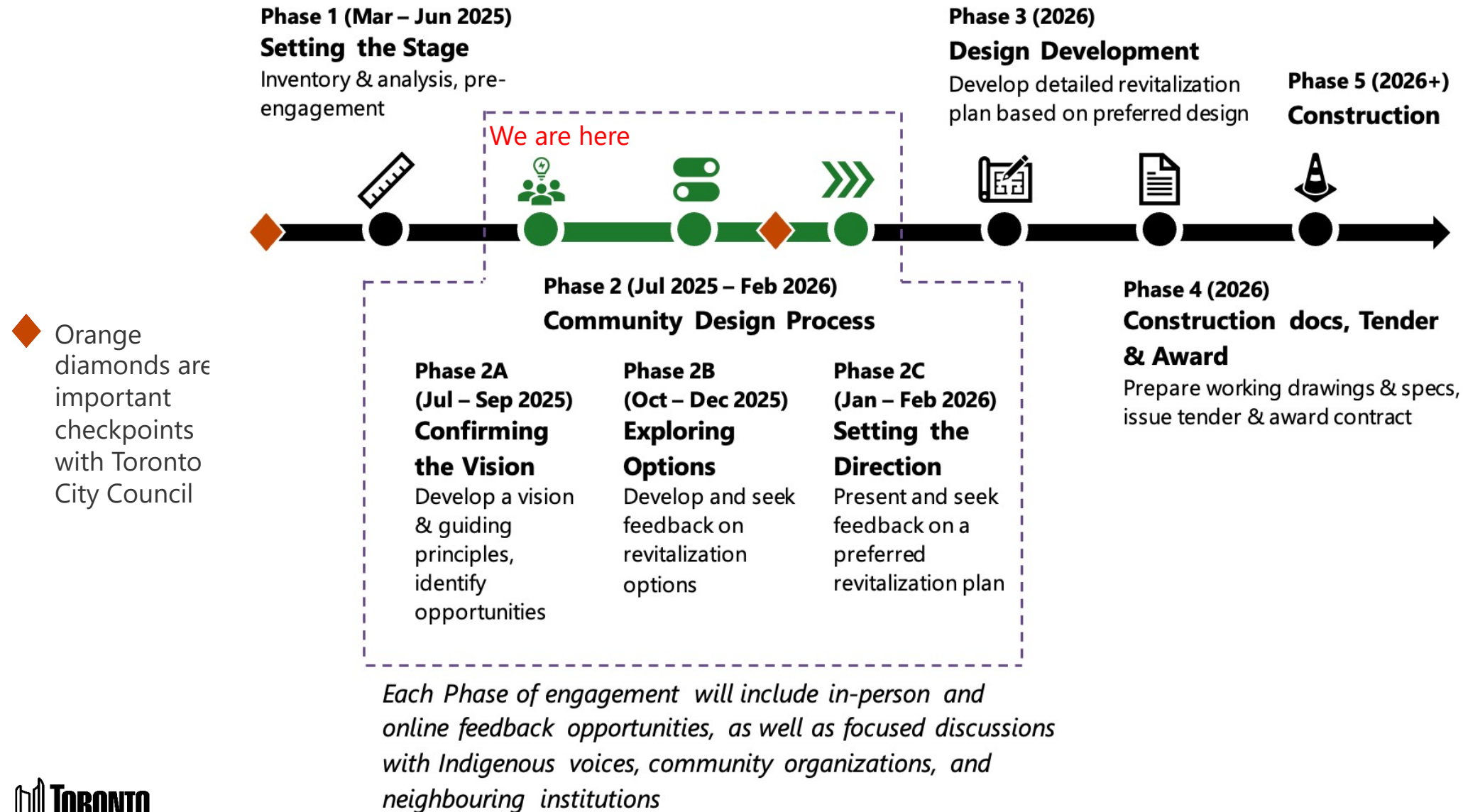
Don Mount Court Revitalization
Buckets and Borders, WNBA,
Dairy Farmers of Ontario

Priorities Informing QPN Plan



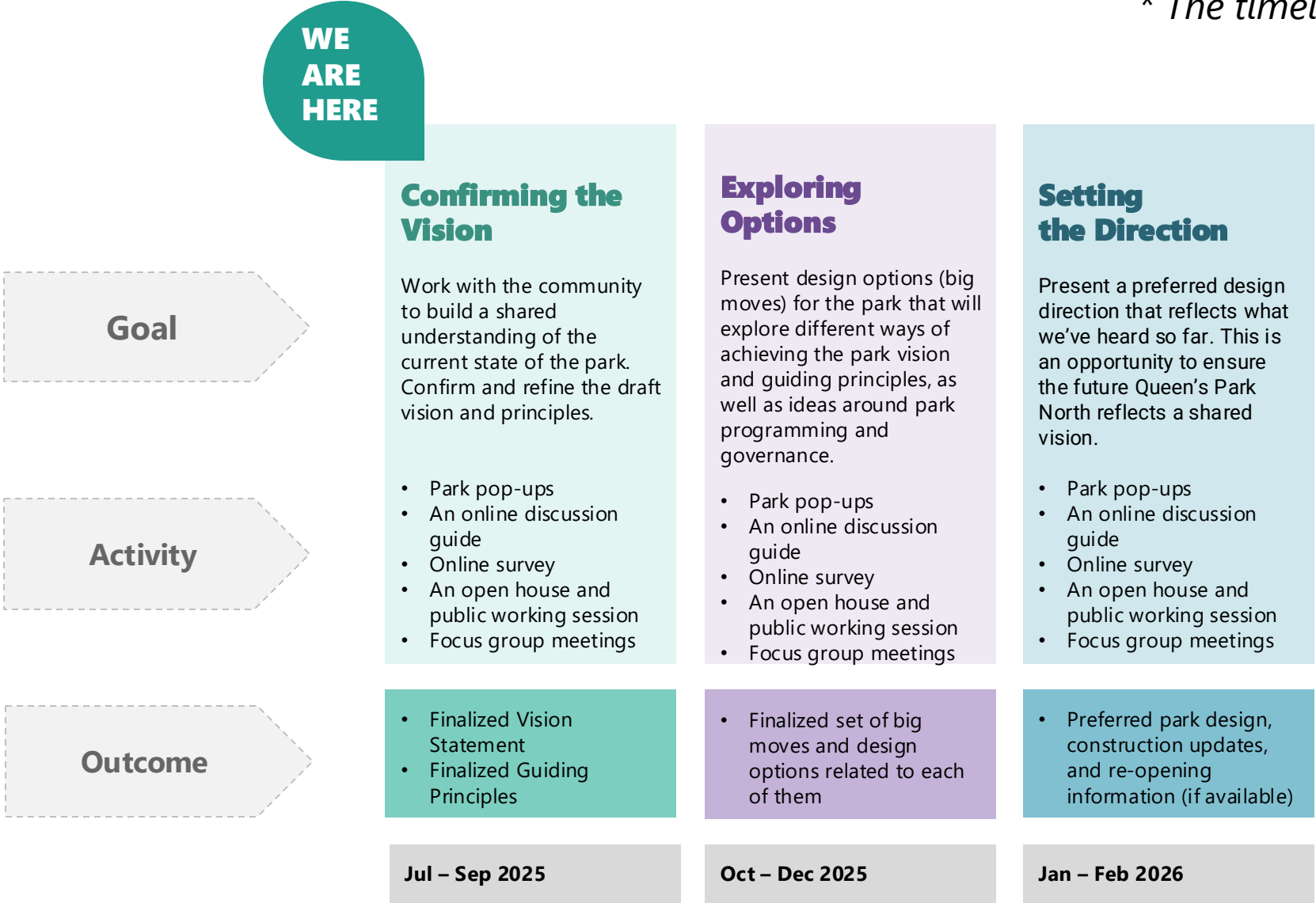
Engagement Process

Project Timeline



Community Engagement Plan

** The timeline is subject to change.*



Pre-engagement What We Heard:

Leaders of resident and neighbourhood associations have strong interest and deep knowledge and care for the park.

Park needs to be well maintained – what's there now, and any changes coming.

Prioritize preservation of trees.

Strong interest in transparent, meaningful public process.

Neighbouring institutions are interested in exploring opportunities to expand activities in the park.

Opportunities

Draft Vision: Co-developed between City and Donor

An extraordinary place for people and nature throughout the seasons, that respects the existing beauty of Queen's Park and showcases excellence in design, ecological stewardship, programming and partnerships.

Inspiration



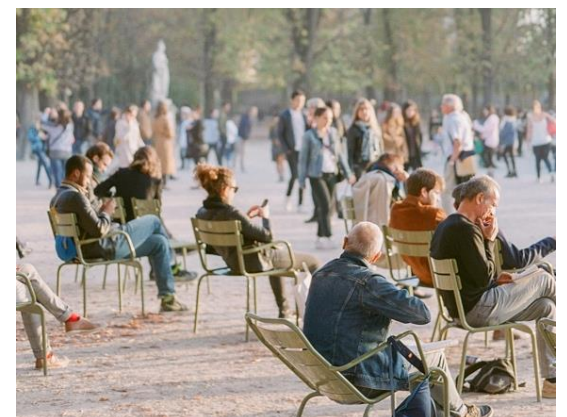
Nature School, Evergreen Brickworks, Toronto, On.



Toronto Music Garden, Toronto On.



Opera Park, Copenhagen



Jardin des Tuileries, Paris



New York Botanical Garden, NYC



Franklin Children's Garden, Toronto, On.



Sherbourne Common splash pad, Toronto, On.



Vondelpark, Amsterdam

Draft Principles



Celebrate and elevate Queen's Park North as a **distinct urban green space** and signature Toronto destination



Maintain Queen's Park as a **public space** and place for gathering and civic life, **welcoming** to all



Protect and celebrate **the trees**



Enhance the visitor experience and animate the park **year-round** through creative programming and improved amenities



Implement ecological and sustainable practices and ensure a **high standard of operations and maintenance** with appropriate funding and expertise

Draft Principles



Incorporate **Indigenous ways of knowing and being**



Strengthen relationships between public space and **institutional and community partners**



Address **outstanding priorities** from the 2019 project



Connect the park to existing and emerging open spaces in the area, including the University of Toronto and the University Park project

Emerging Opportunities

- Protect, enhance and expand tree canopy
- Washrooms
- Food and beverage
- Improved lighting
- Benches and moveable furniture
- Programmable space
- Upgrade walking paths and pedestrian crossings
- Signage: wayfinding and interpretive
- Improved plantings and ecology
- Gardens
- Winter activation
- Environmental and horticultural education
- Enhanced maintenance activities
- New operating and governance model

Opportunities



Rejuvenated rock garden Royal Botanical Gardens, Burlington, On.



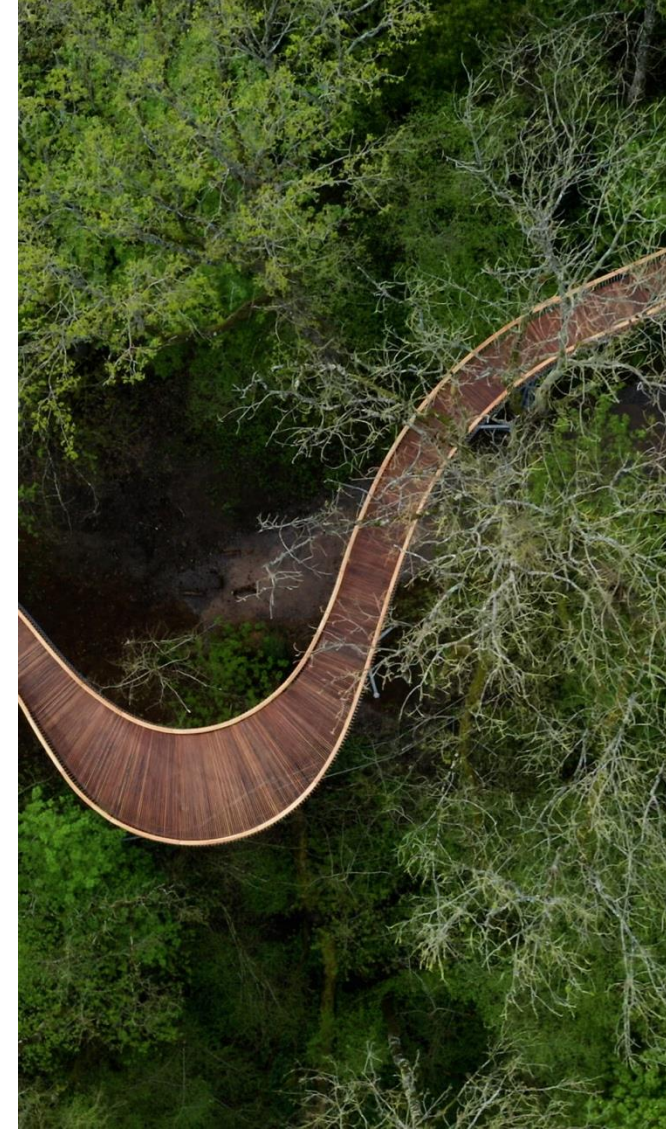
Grange Park revitalization, Toronto, On.



Tommy Thompson Park Washroom Pavilion, Toronto On.



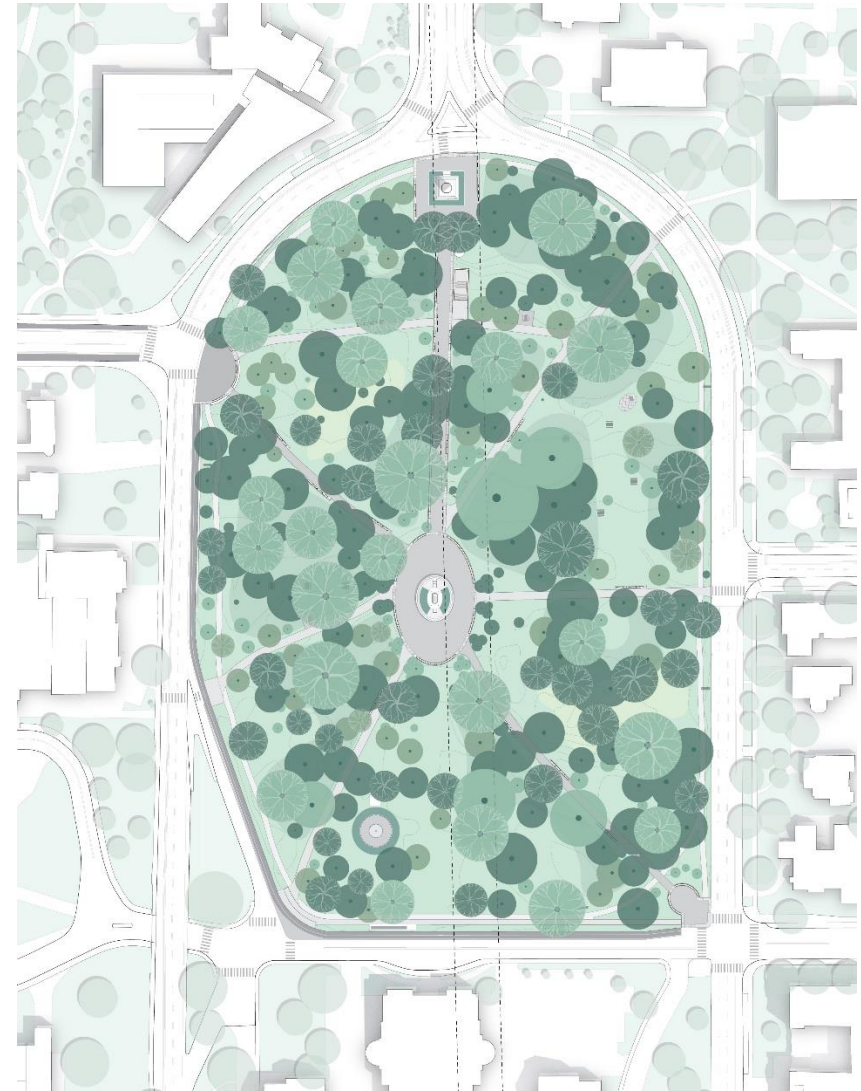
Albert Memorial kiosk Kensington Gardens, London UK



The Viper at the Newt, Somerset UK

Park Constraints

- Tree canopy and root zone
- TTC entrance and below ground infrastructure
- Public art, statues and monuments
- Adjacent roads and traffic, intersections and crosswalks



Questions

Working Session

Workshop Instructions

- Thinking about the current state of the park and how it is currently used, tell us:
 - **What do you like about Queen's Park North today?**
 - **What don't you like, and why?**
 - **Which opportunities for the future would you like to see considered?**

Your answers will help the City develop plans for revitalizing Queen's Park North. The City will work to protect things people like and work to change the things people don't like.

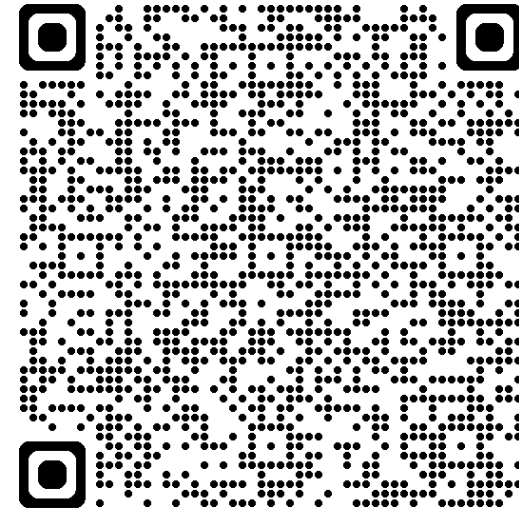
Report Back

Next Steps

Next Steps

**Visit the project website to
take the survey & sign up
for updates!**

Survey available now until August 31st



<https://www.toronto.ca/QueensParkNorth>

Next Steps

Engagement

Phase 2A – Jul – Sep 2025

- Survey closes August 31st
- Park pop-up # 3 - July 30, 2025
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Phase 2B – Oct – Dec 2025

- Website update October 14
- Public working session November 4

Phase 2C – Jan – Feb 2026

- Website update January 26
- Public working session February 10

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So, how did we do? Scan the QR code and take a quick survey to share feedback on today's event:

Thank You

