

Discussion Guide 2

Revitalization of Queen's Park North
November / December 2025



WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE EMERGING IDEAS FOR QUEEN'S PARK NORTH?

Queen's Park North is a historic and culturally significant public green space located north of the Ontario Legislative Building. In late 2024, the City of Toronto was approached by the Weston family with an offer to donate \$50 million to improve the park, along with additional funding for long-term maintenance and programming. In response, City Council instructed City staff to explore opportunities related to design, park amenities, Indigenous placekeeping, park programming, maintenance, and governance and to engage the public, First Nations, Inuit, and Metis in the process.

We are now in the second phase of the engagement process. In this phase, we are sharing the emerging design and animation ideas and collaborative governance opportunities for the park. Influenced by the engagement process, background studies and research, these ideas reflect the shared vision of the donors, City staff, and their design consultants.

We're looking forward to your thoughts! The feedback deadline for this phase of engagement is Sunday, December 14, 2025.

What's inside

This Discussion Guide provides an overview of the design team's emerging thinking and potential ideas for Queen's Park North, including:

- *What we heard in the first phase of engagement*
- *Vision and Guiding Principles*
- *Draft Big Moves*
- *Timeline, engagement, and other resources*

Much more available:



toronto.ca/QueensParkNorth



The draft vision and guiding principles shared during the first round of engagement have been updated by the design team in collaboration with City staff and the donors, drawing on the public feedback received.

VISION

The vision statement is a concise description of the future state that the project aims to achieve. The Vision for Queen's Park North is:

An extraordinary place for people and nature throughout the seasons, that respects the existing trees and heritage of Queen's Park North, fosters a welcoming environment, and showcases excellence in design, ecological stewardship, education, animation and collaborative governance.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Guiding principles are overarching guidelines or rules that direct the design process towards achieving a project's vision. For Queen's Park North, they are:

1. *Protect and enhance the trees.*
2. *Enhance the visitor experience and animate the park year-round through improved amenities and modest programming*
3. *Incorporate Indigenous ways of knowing and being*
4. *Implement ecological and sustainable practices that restore the land, support plants and animal life, and enhance and expand ecological health and biodiversity.*
5. *Maintain Queen's Park as a public space and a place for both respite and civic life, welcoming to all.*
6. *Strengthen relationships between public space and institutional and community partners.*

FEEDBACK HIGHLIGHTS

Our engagement process kicked off in July 2025 and we've heard from 1700+ people through the summer and into the early fall. This included asking people what they liked most and least about the park today, what they see as opportunities for the future, and sharing and seeking feedback on the draft Vision and draft Guiding Principles for the revitalized park.

Overall, five core themes emerged from that feedback:

- Participants said they want to protect, celebrate, and strengthen the capacity of the park to sustain trees and nature, and maintain the park as a place of serenity
- There's a strong interest in keeping Queen's Park North a space for community and civic life
- Many suggested opportunities for enhancing how people use and experience the park, with a focus on "light-touch" improvements that support comfort, accessibility, and safety.
- Be inclusive when reflecting the park's historic and on-going cultural significance to different communities, with a focus on First Nations and Indigenous communities and 2SLGBTQIA+ communities.
- Ensure that any increased role for institutions in the park does not overshadow community voices or the park's role as a calm refuge for all

An integrated report capturing all feedback received during the first phase of engagement is available on the City's website, along with summaries from individual meetings.

DRAFT BIG MOVES

Big Moves identify specific actions that flow from the Vision and Guiding Principles, helping to make them a reality. The Draft Big Moves for Queen's Park North have been developed by the design team in collaboration with City staff and the donors, and include:



Implement enhanced tree maintenance practices and provide information on the trees and urban ecology, incorporating Indigenous ecological knowledge and practices



Build a treewalk beneath the canopy to foster education and play, and to help reduce compaction and impact on understory planting



Integrate complementary understory plantings and more ecologically productive layers of landscape to increase biodiversity and reduce carbon intensive maintenance practices



Animate the heart and open up a central space for people by moving the King Edward statue within the park grounds



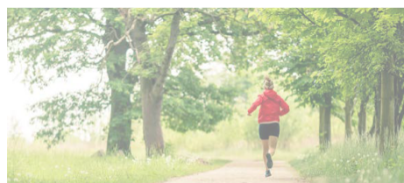
Provide features and spaces to **support ceremony and celebrate Indigenous ways of knowing** and being and the Indigenous presence on these lands



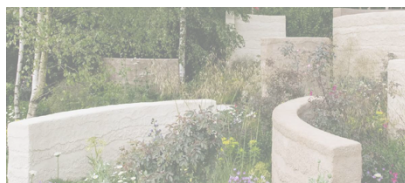
Add centrally located food and washroom building(s) to provide new amenities



Introduce a water feature within the park to create opportunities for interaction and seasonal interest



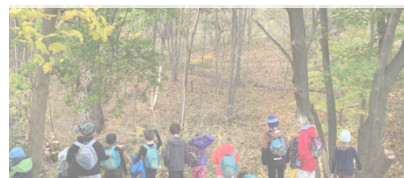
Enhance the park's edge with plantings and an improved running track



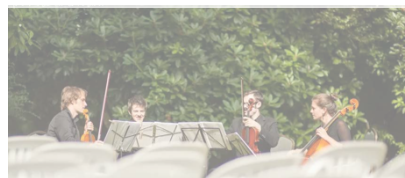
Improve entrances and connections into the park, including the subway station



Ensure a variety of **accessible and welcoming seating options**



Provide opportunities and spaces for learning about regeneration, climate change adaptation, and habitat restoration



Provide flexible infrastructure for small events and winter animation



Integrate a **commemorative garden** as a place for exploration, contemplation, and enjoyment for all



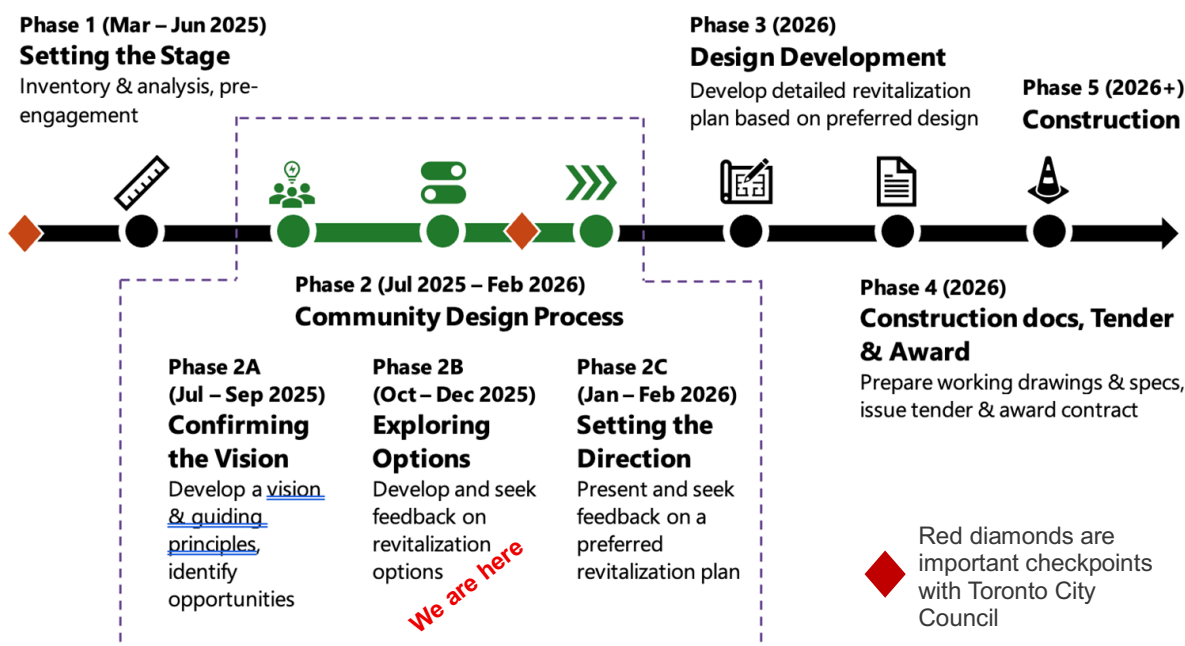
Add a kiosk at park gateway and shelter structure for community and cultural programming



We want to know what you think about these draft Big Moves – take the survey, talk to the team, send us an email or give us a call!

PROCESS UPDATE

The Queen's Park North Revitalization project is following the City's Park and Recreation Facility Design Development Process, which ensures a transparent, iterative, and collaborative approach to designing public spaces.



What do you think?

We want to hear what you think about the emerging ideas, including the draft big moves.

- **Overall, how supportive are you of where the design is going?**
- **Are there any big moves you really like?**
- **Are there any big moves that are concerning to you?**
- **Do you have any suggestions on how we could address your concerns (or any other feedback)?**

The second phase of engagement activities includes an online survey, focus groups, pop-ups, and continued discussion with First Nations, Indigenous voices, and the Neighbouring Institutions Working Group.

Checkout the website for more details and sign up for updates. All feedback received by Sunday, December 14, 2025 will be summarized and shared in January 2026.

INFO SHEETS

To help frame the direction of the emerging ideas and respond to feedback we heard through engagement to date, we have prepared a series of Info Sheets now posted online – **check them out on the project website!**



www.toronto.ca/QueensParkNorth

Contact

City of Toronto Parks & Recreation
Shannon Lawrence
shannon.lawrence@toronto.ca
(416) 395-6141

About the revitalization planning team: City staff from Parks & Recreation, the Strategic Partnerships office, and other City divisions are working closely with the Weston family to advance the project. The project team also includes specialized support from consultants including Janet Rosenberg & Studio (park design), Trophic Design (Indigenous lens to design and engagement), ERA Architects Inc. (heritage), and Bespoke Collective (communications). Third Party Public Inc. supports the City-led engagement process.