



Historic Red Oak Tree Parkette at 76 Coral Gable Drive

Community Meeting
February 10, 2026

Land Acknowledgement

African Ancestral Acknowledgement



Agenda

- 1. Welcome and Introductions**
- 2. Councillor Remarks**
- 3. Project Overview**
- 4. Design Considerations and Options**
- 5. Q and A**
- 6. Next Steps**
- **Break** -----
- 7. Design Exploration and Feedback**

Councillor Remarks

5 Minutes

Meet the Project Team

City of Toronto Parks & Recreation

- **Travis Molitor**
Senior Project Coordinator
Capital Projects Design & Delivery
- **Lindsay Stephens**
Senior Public Consultation
Coordinator
Community Engagement
- **William Skura**
Senior Public Consultation
Coordinator
Lead, Indigenous
Engagement, Community
Engagement
- **Celena Chong**
Senior Public Consultation
Coordinator
Community Engagement
- **Jennifer Lafontaine**
Senior Project Manager
Indigenous Affairs Office
- **Raven King**
Student
Indigenous Affairs Office
- **Tara Coley**
Senior Project Manager
Parks Planning and Strategic
Initiatives
- **Anna Morel**
General Supervisor Parks
Operations

Your Local Councillor

- **Anthony Perruzza**

PLANT Architect Inc.

- **Lisa Rapoport**
Partner
- **Tanya Pande**
Landscape Architect Intern

Project Overview

5 Minutes



- The origins of the project
 - Community interest
 - Forests Canada's Heritage Tree Program has recognized this magnificent 250-year-old oak as a heritage tree.
- Status of work
 - Design Team, Arborist, Engineer and Contractor working on safely trimming tree and removing house.
 - House demo anticipated later this winter or early spring once the demolition permit has been issued and tree pruned.



A HERITAGE RED OAK



Michael W. Nicholas clearing leaves from the red oak on the roof of the house at 76 Coral Gable Drive. The Nicholas family were the first owners of the house and attentively cared for the tree for 35 years.
Courtesy of the Doane Family



The Coral Gable Drive red oak, June 2019. Now in its full maturity, the tree's branches span 24 metres (78 feet, 9 inches) with a circumference measured in 2006 at 5 metres (16 feet, 5 inches). It towers majestically above the houses in the neighbourhood.
Courtesy of Edith George



The red oak throughout the seasons.
Courtesy of Edith George

The large red oak (*Quercus rubra*) situated in the backyard of 76 Coral Gable Drive is more than 250 years old, making it one of the oldest in the city.

Before Europeans colonized this area, the Humber River branch of the Toronto Carrying Place trail system passed nearby. The tree was part of its delicate savannah ecosystem. This network of trails and portages was used by Indigenous peoples to travel between Lake Simcoe and Lake Ontario and to trade throughout what is now Southern Ontario and beyond.

The tree survived European settlement despite logging along the Humber River, clearance of the land for agriculture, and the development of this suburban neighbourhood in the early 1960s.

The Coral Gable Drive red oak is a remarkable specimen of its species, which is native to North America. In 2009, at the initiative of the Weston Historical Society and the Ontario Urban Forest Council, Forests Ontario recognized it as a heritage tree.

HERITAGE TORONTO 2019

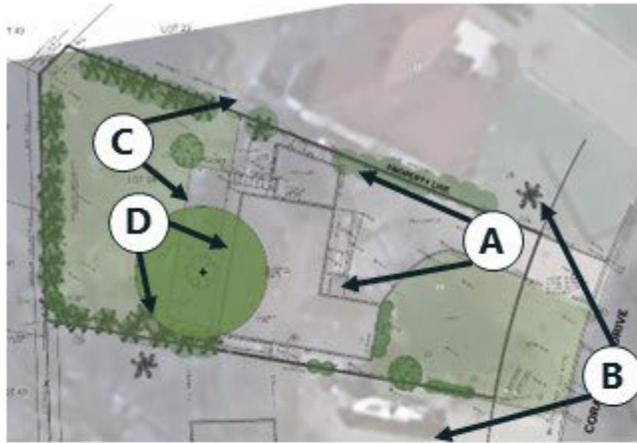
Design Considerations and Options

20 minutes

Design Considerations

- **Existing Conditions –**
 - **Site Analysis**
 - **Tree Protection Area**
- **Opportunities and Constraints –**
 - **Slope**
 - **Access**
 - **Fence**

Existing Conditions – Site Analysis 1



B – View West from Coral Gable Drive



A – View West towards the Brick Driveway and Car Shelter



C – View East towards the Concrete Steps and Car Shelter



D – View Southeast towards the Red Oak Shelter

Existing Conditions – Site Analysis 2



LEGEND

1. SITE ENTRANCE
2. LAWN
3. EXISTING HOUSE
4. BRICK DRIVEWAY
5. CAR SHELTER
6. CONCRETE STAIRS
7. SLOPED ROCK AREA
8. EXISTING TREES / SHRUBS
9. DRAINAGE BASINS (CATCH BASIN & GRAVEL STRIP)
10. BROKEN BRICK PATIO
11. SECTION OF WALL TO BE MAINTAINED
12. FENCE

Existing Conditions – Tree Protection Area

LEGEND

1. Minimum tree protection zone/no approach zone. Soil cannot be disturbed or compacted by excavation, equipment, or storage.
2. Probably root spread beyond protection zone. Indicates areas where soil disturbance can still stress or damage the tree.



Tree Protection Area

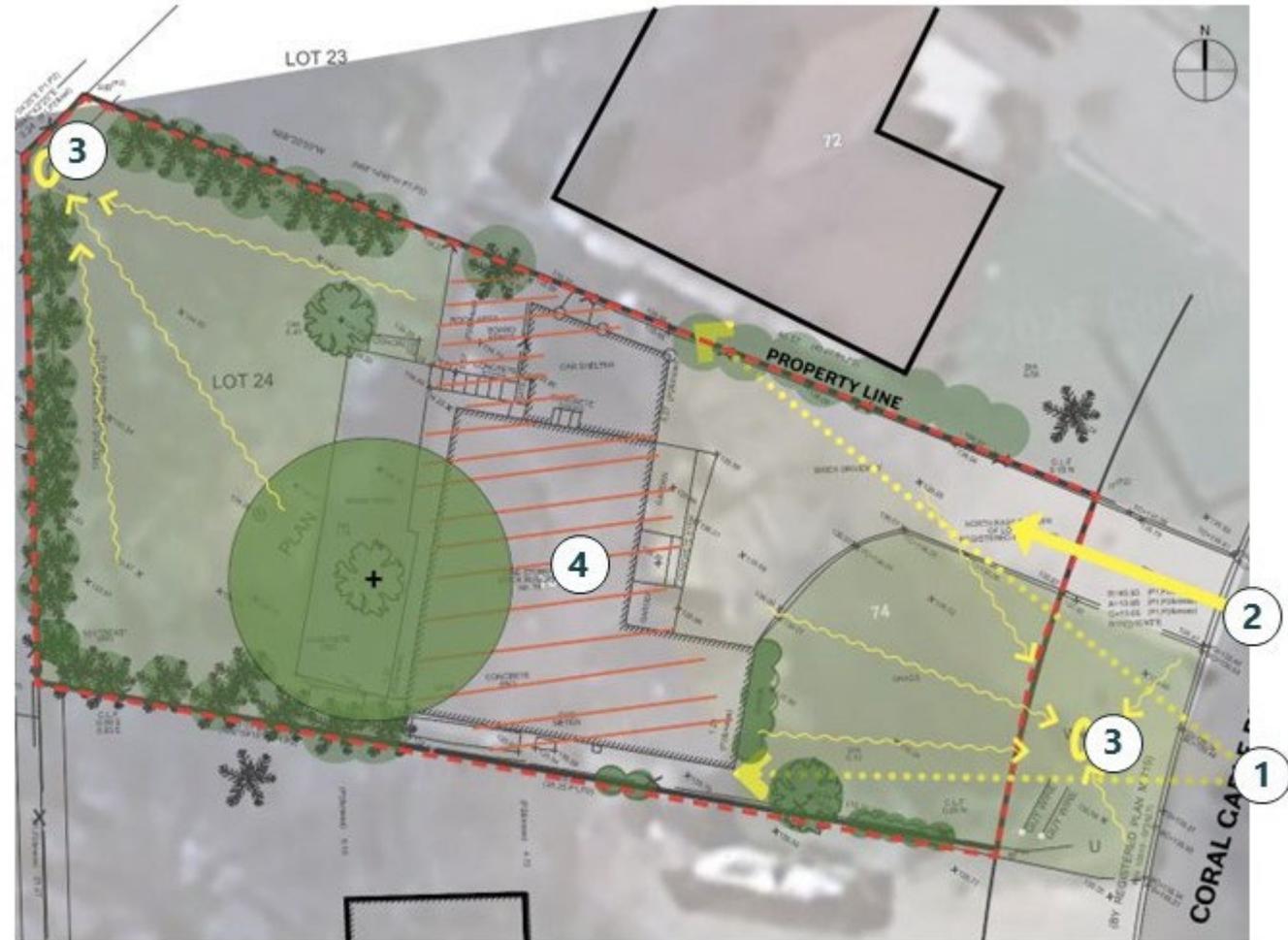
Opportunities and Constraints – Slope 1

OPPORTUNITIES

1. New prominent view of the tree from the street.
2. Existing entrance should be maintained for least disruption to existing topography and drainage.
3. The site naturally drains toward the existing low points.

CONSTRAINTS

4. Significant grade change, path must be regraded for accessibility.
Existing drainage patterns cannot be heavily altered; stormwater must be managed within existing measures.



Slope

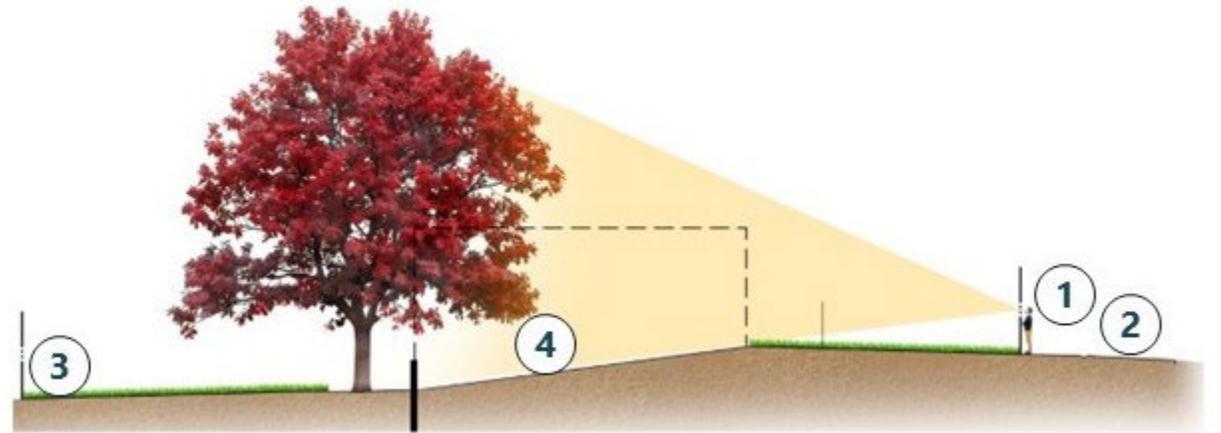
Opportunities and Constraints – Slope 2

OPPORTUNITIES

1. New prominent view of the tree from the street.
2. Existing entrance should be maintained for least disruption to existing topography and drainage.
3. The site naturally drains toward the existing low points.

CONSTRAINTS

4. Significant grade change, path must be regraded for accessibility.
Existing drainage patterns cannot be heavily altered; stormwater must be managed within existing measures.



Opportunities and Constraints - Access

CONSTRAINTS

1. Heritage tree root protection zone limits grading, excavation, and paving.

OPPORTUNITIES

2. Tree-focused layout
Tree creates a central anchor in the landscape.
Seating area can frame the tree's canopy.
Path to journey up to the tree
Interpretive features
Seating outside the tree protection zone.
3. Opportunity to introduce gateway paving and seating.
4. Low-impact paving strategies outside tree protection zone.



Access

Opportunities and Constraints - Fence

CONSTRAINTS

1. Height of neighbour's fence.
2. South and west neighbour fences will remain visible through any new fencing.
3. New fence construction must avoid damaging the existing cedars; if that's not feasible, new enclosure planting will be required.

OPPORTUNITIES

4. Opportunity to introduce a consistent new fence that defines the perimeter.



A – View north towards neighbour's fence; chain-link fence on City side



B – View west towards neighbour's fence; chain-link fence on City side



C – View south towards neighbour's fence; chain-link fence on City side



D – View southwest towards neighbour's fences; chain-link fence on City side.

Options

- **Design Option 1 – Embracing the Tree**
- **Design Option 2 – Honouring the Tree**
- **Design Option 3 – Following the Roots**

Design Option 1 – Embracing the Tree Precedent



PRECEDENT IMAGE

Design Option 1 – Embracing the Tree

- Heritage tree as the central anchor and defining landmark.
- Tree-Level Arrival Moment.
- Path embraces the tree and reinforces its focal role.
- Gathering spaces outside the Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) along most of the canopy edge.
- Low-Impact, Nature-Led Design working with existing topography and root zones.



Embracing the Tree

Design Option 2 – Honouring the Tree Precedent



PRECEDENT IMAGE

Design Option 2 – Honouring the Tree

- Heritage Tree as a Sacred Core like a sculpture to gaze at.
- Seating Arcs honour distance without intruding into the Tree Protection Zone (TPZ).
- The path leads visitors toward the tree but holds back at a respectful distance.
- Preservation-Driven, Minimizing disturbance while maximizing presence.
- Natural Habitat Emphasis— Surrounding planting reinforces the feeling of the tree standing within its natural woodland setting.



Honouring the Tree

Design Option 3 – Following the Roots Precedent



PRECEDENT IMAGE

Design Option 3 – Following the Roots

- Heritage tree is recognized as a presence above and below ground.
- Paths and planting radiate like roots – expressing the tree's influence across the site.
- Encourages multiple personal journeys and experiences.
- Framed viewpoints at the end of each path create intentional moments of arrival.
- Tree as site anchor.
- Preservation-Driven, Minimizing disturbance while maximizing presence.



Following the roots

Q AND A

20 minutes

As you consider the proposed options, please think about...

Where would you most like to have seating in the new parkette...

- On the street edge? Around the tree? Spread around the site?

What type of relationship would you like to have to the tree in the new parkette...

- Being close to it? Viewing it from a respectful distance? Experiencing it as a personal journey?

What interests you most about the Heritage Oak Tree?

Is there something you would like to be able to do near the tree that wasn't shown in the options?

Is there anything else you would like to share with the project team as we move towards a preferred design?

Next Steps

Engagement Next Steps

- **Winter 2026:** Feedback from this meeting and the broader survey will be analyzed and reported to the project team and to the community using the project web page.
- **Spring 2026:** The project team will create one preferred design utilizing this feedback. This will be shared on the project web site and to the listserv.

Project Next Steps

- **Winter 2026:** Community engagement, City Council approval of demolition permit and house demolition.
- **Spring 2026:** Detailed design.
- **Summer 2026:** Hire a construction team.
- **Fall 2026:** Construction of parkette.

FEEDBACK SESSION

45 minutes

Feedback session

- Please review the designs on the display boards
- Feel free to talk to the team and ask questions
- Feedback on the designs can be provided on the survey at the project web page **Toronto.ca/76CoralGable**



- Paper and paper copies of the survey are also available.

Lindsay Stephens

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Thank You!



Take the survey to share feedback on the options and today's event:

<https://ca.mar.medallia.com/CoralGableOptionsSurvey>