

Discussion Guide 3

Revitalization of Queen's Park North
March / April 2026

A NEW FUTURE FOR QUEEN'S PARK NORTH

A plan for the revitalization of Queen's Park North is being developed in response to the offer from the Weston family to donate \$50 million to improve the park, along with additional funding for long-term maintenance and programming. **We are now in the third phase of the engagement process and excited to share the draft design.** We also have an update on the proposed operations, maintenance, programming and funding model for the revitalized park.

This Discussion Guide includes core elements of the draft design concept, all of which are subject to further engagement, testing, analysis, and refinement. More details will be presented at the March 5th Community meeting and available online after that date, along with an online survey open until April 2nd.

We're looking forward to your thoughts on any final refinements you'd like to see considered.



Connecting to feedback

Community engagement is an important part of Toronto City Council's instructions for moving forward with the revitalization of Queen's Park North. To date, there have been two rounds of engagement with public meetings, focus groups, pop-ups, and online surveys. Here's a snapshot of what we've heard – for more details, see the Integrated Summary Reports online at toronto.ca/QueensParkNorth

Feedback shared in Phase 1: Towards a Vision

July – October 2025

- Protect, celebrate, and strengthen the capacity of the park to sustain the trees.
- Keep the park a space for community and civic life.
- Enhance with a "light touch".
- Be inclusive when reflecting the park's historic and ongoing cultural significance to different communities.
- Make sure institutions don't overshadow community voices or the park's role as a refuge for all.

Feedback shared in Phase 2: Exploring Design Options

November – December 2025

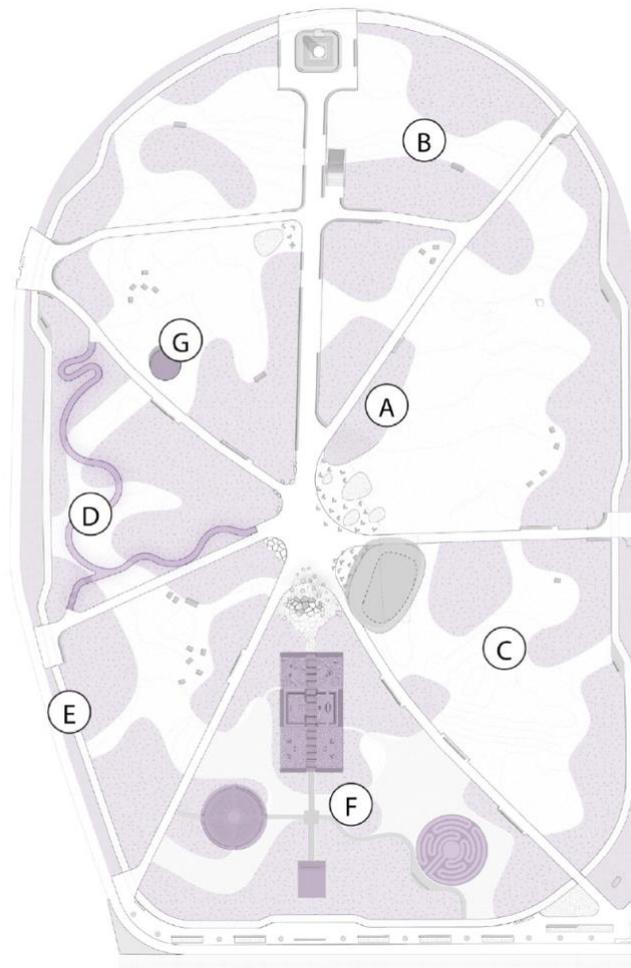
- Some people were receptive and excited by the ideas, others felt strongly that there was too much change being considered.
- Strong support for protecting the trees.
- Many expressed support for opening the centre of the park, adding permanent washroom facilities, the Council Fire, the improved running track.
- The Tree Walk captured many imaginations, but cautions were raised.
- Introducing a food and beverage offering was the most contentious idea shared.
- There's strong interest in future governance, especially the role of community voices at the table.

The plans and graphics here are included in the draft design for the park. All aspects of this design have been guided by consideration of the trees and the cultural and natural heritage of the park. Responding to public policy priorities – like washrooms and Council direction to explore food and beverage offerings in parks – has also been a key driver.

Park

The “park” refers to all areas of the park outside of the heart. The draft design concept for a revitalized Queen’s Park North includes:

- A. Restoration plantings
- B. Planting communities
- C. Experiencing the understory
- D. Tree Walk
- E. Active Loop
- F. Commemorative Garden
- G. The Workshop



Restoration Planting Concept – Year 15



Active Loop and Tree Walk



Commemorative Garden



The Workshop

Heart

The “heart” refers to the area in the centre of the park. The draft design concept for a revitalized Queen’s Park North includes:

- A. Making space for people
- B. King Edward VII Statue Recontextualization
- C. Council Fire
- D. The Grove
- E. Diverse and appropriately-scaled programming
- F. Interactive Water Feature
- G. Washroom/Café



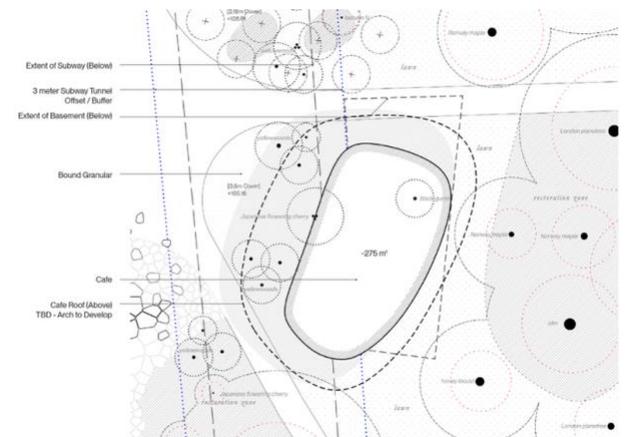
King Edward VII Statue Recontextualization



Council Fire



A view from the Grove



Washroom/Café Tree Diagram

COUNCIL DIRECTION

In March 2025, City Council provided direction to City staff in two parts:

Part 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 agreement and the staff report directed in Part 2. ***The initial donation agreement was executed and two phases of engagement were held from July through December 2025.***

Part 2

Report back to Council with a project implementation update and recommended terms of the second donation agreement to fund the final design and delivery of park enhancements and provide funding support for ongoing programming and maintenance. ***We are here (the report will be considered at the March 10th Executive Committee meeting).***

What is City Council being asked to authorize and what does it mean?

Toronto City Council is being asked to consider the recommended terms of the donation agreement and authorize City staff to:

- **Negotiate and execute the donation agreement to accept up to \$50 million** from the Weston Foundations to fund the park revitalization.
- Establish a **collaborative model for future operations, maintenance, programming, and funding**, outlined in an agreement between the City, the University of Toronto and the Donor. This model will bring together representatives from the three parties and establish formal structures to incorporate Indigenous perspectives and those of the wider community on an ongoing basis.

City Council is not being asked to approve a final design concept for Queen's Park North.

Park design is ongoing and will be subject to further community engagement beyond April. This includes further due diligence on key elements as part of detailed design to ensure that they can be constructed, operated, and maintained with a view to protecting the trees and limiting negative ecological impacts.

Updates on the design will continue to be shared on the website and through email updates. Visit toronto.ca/QueensParkNorth to sign up for updates and stay informed.

Contact:

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

