



# David Crombie Park

## Revitalization Design

# Final Report

for PFR - PDCP  
February 2020

Prepared by:  
**The Planning Partnership**  
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# Executive Summary

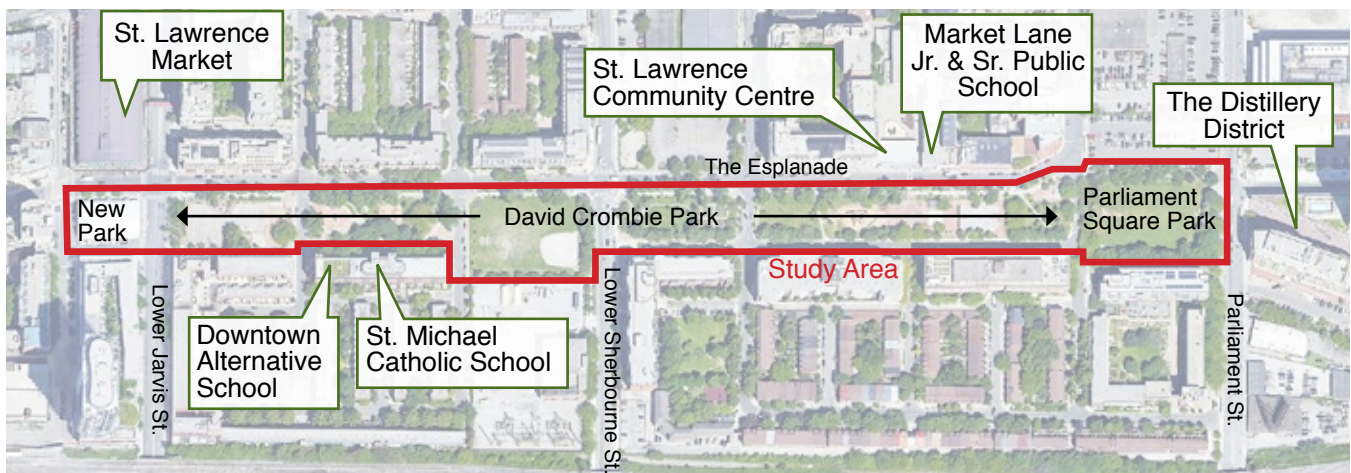
The purpose of the David Crombie Park Revitalization Design project was to develop a comprehensive conceptual design and implementation plan for improvements to the park that meet the current and future needs of the community.

This Revitalization Design includes the five blocks of David Crombie Park from Jarvis Street to Hahn Place, plus the adjacent parks at each end. These additional parks are Parliament Square Park, and the future park block south of St. Lawrence Market. This comprehensive master plan is a key component of the Old Town-St. Lawrence-Distillery park district as identified in the Downtown Parks and Public Realm Plan.

The Revitalization Design was developed through an extensive public and stakeholder consultation process over 18 months. Open meetings and conversations were held with the public and a Community Resource Group. The Community Resource Group was comprised of residents, representatives of local resident's associations including the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association, business owners including the St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood Business Improvement Area, landowners and representatives of various stakeholder groups.

Consultation with Indigenous community members, Toronto Community Housing, school boards, the St. Lawrence Market, and the St. Lawrence Community Recreation Centre, in addition to City of Toronto internal stakeholders, was also undertaken. The Revitalization Design has been well-supported.

The Revitalization Design has been prepared using a Parks Without Borders approach in collaboration with City of Toronto Transportation Services. It includes both the park and the adjacent right of ways in a comprehensive and integrated design. This includes the well-used promenade along The Esplanade and the bisecting and framing local streets around the park.



This Revitalization Design provides a framework for significant change and renewal required to address two key needs: the end of life cycle of many of the park's hard infrastructure elements; and the ongoing intensification in the area resulting in increased use.

The design concept for the park is complex and layered. The design maintains many of the great uses that exist today, but with an improved design reflecting current needs. The design takes advantage of the contiguous Parliament Square Park and the future park block south of St. Lawrence Market to reorganize some amenities and introduce major new functions such as a central plaza.

Key highlights of the design concept are as follows.

### **Green**

- strong green image for the entire park
- strong green frame for each block
- resilient and ecological plantings

### **Community**

- many spaces of different sizes can be used for community activities, events and programming
- large formal public art opportunities
- smaller opportunities for community public art

### **Indigenous Placekeeping**

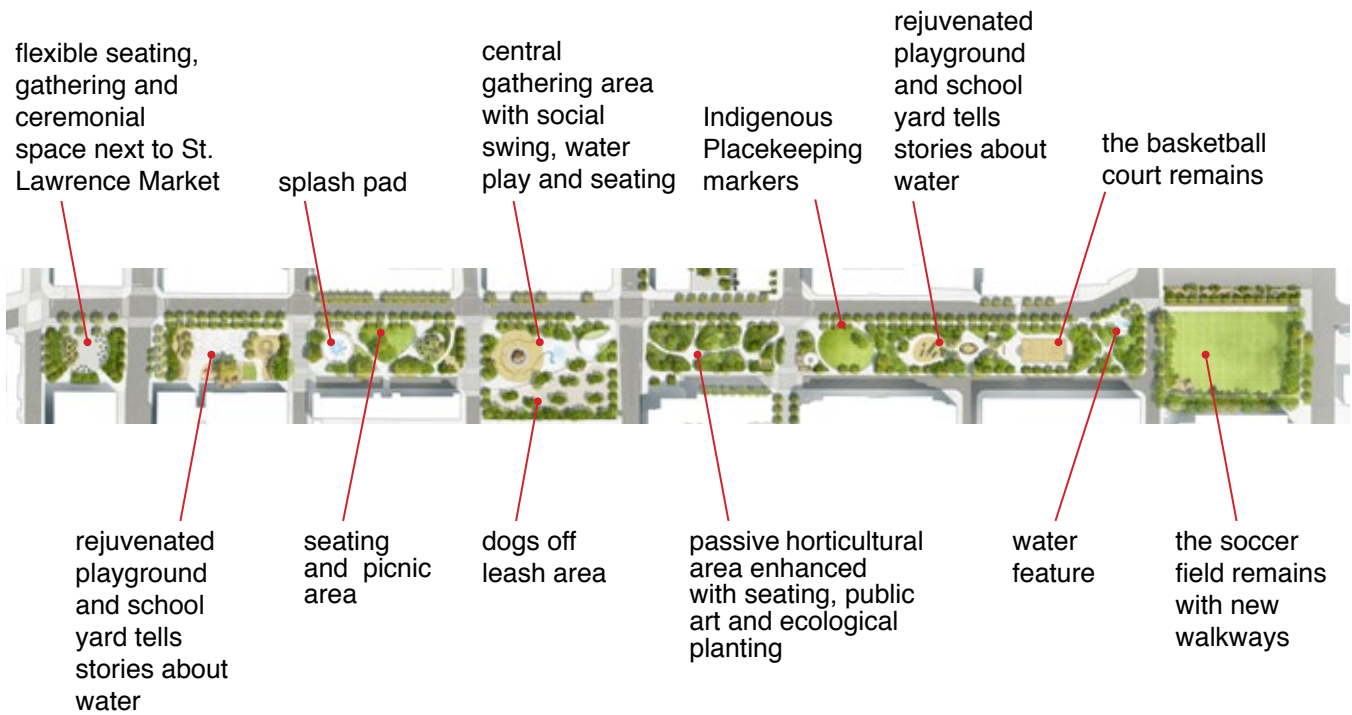
- Indigenous Placekeeping elements integrated with park design
- story telling circles and gathering spaces of different sizes
- Celestial Observatory with markers for the Four Directions of the medicine wheel
- many opportunities for cultural expression and public art

### **Variety**

- passive and active recreation areas are intermixed along the park's 800m length
- specific or dedicated amenities such as playgrounds, water features, and exercise stations are intermixed with flexible areas such as plazas and greens that can be used for many different purposes

### **New Heart**

- a key change is in the central block where the baseball diamond will be removed
- in its place will be a new central plaza with a water play feature, a social swing, seating, and space for public gathering and events
- also includes a dedicated, fenced dog off leash area



*Key amenities of the design concept, above, are further elaborated in this David Crombie Park Revitalization Design report.*



# Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	6
<b>Process</b>	10
<b>Public Engagement</b>	11
<b>Key Observations</b>	13
<b>Post-Contact History</b>	15
<b>Context</b>	16
<b>Vision</b>	19
<b>Cohesive Design Approach</b>	20
<b>Park Strategies</b>	29
<b>Block 1</b>	30
<b>Block 2</b>	32
<b>Block 3</b>	36
<b>Block 4</b>	38
<b>Block 5</b>	42
<b>Block 6</b>	46
<b>Block 7</b>	52
<b>Phasing</b>	54
<b>Implementation</b>	58
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	68



# Introduction

David Crombie Park is the beloved result of inspired community building in the 1970's that turned a declining industrial area into a thriving mixed use community known as the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood, with the park as its heart. It is named after David Crombie, a former mayor of the City of Toronto who helped oversee the creation of the precedent setting neighbourhood. Many thousands of people from all walks of life and all over the world have called St. Lawrence their home. People are passionate about their neighbourhood and their park, and have been actively engaged in maintaining the unique community spirit that defines them. Over the course of nearly 50 years, the neighbourhood has come full circle, fostering new generations who use the park on a daily basis.

The park's program is diverse, reflecting its mixed use environs. It includes school yards, and both active and passive recreational facilities. However, the context of the park has changed. The park is showing its age and history of heavy use, with many components at the end of their designed lifespan. This area of the city has experienced significant growth in population and employment, and more is planned. The Distillery District has emerged as a major destination and neighbourhood to the east. Together with the evolving St. Lawrence Market, they are anchors to the park at either end.

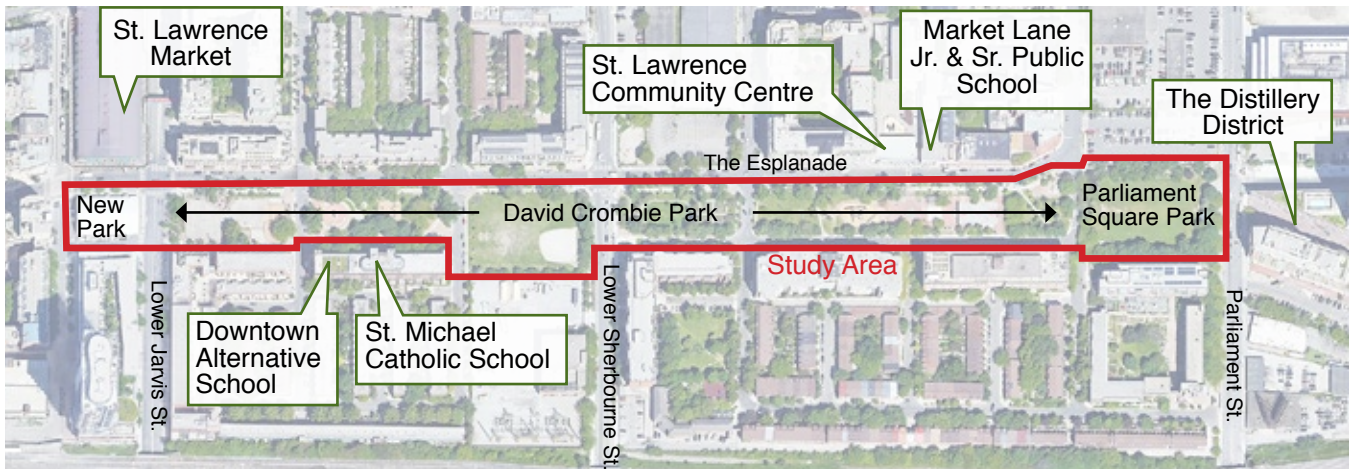
The City of Toronto has identified the park as an important amenity, and a key link in a much larger parks system stretching along the waterfront. Other parks in the downtown are experiencing a renaissance of reinvestment, innovation and re-focus on their communities including St. James Park, Berczy Park, Corktown Common and Regent Park.

To meet the needs of the community and aspirations of the city-building initiative, a major renovation of the park is needed. It is a once in a generation opportunity to reshape the role and function of the park so that it serves the needs of the evolving community.

## Study Area

This Revitalization Design includes the five blocks of David Crombie Park from Jarvis Street to Hahn Place, plus Parliament Square Park and the future park block south of St. Lawrence Market. Together, these public open spaces are 800 metres in length and over 3ha in area. This comprehensive park design is a key component of the Old Town-St. Lawrence-Distillery park district as identified in the Downtown Parks and Public Realm Plan. It is one of the largest parks in the downtown.

The revitalization design has been prepared using an integrated approach to the adjacent public realm lands with the design of the park itself. For David Crombie Park this includes the adjacent right of ways, such as the well-used promenade along The Esplanade and the bisecting and framing local streets around the park. Transportation Services at the City of Toronto was engaged during the Revitalization Design process and is supportive of the plan at a conceptual level.



## Consultant Team

The City of Toronto retained a consultant team to lead the Revitalization Design process and prepare this report:

**The Planning Partnership** - Project Lead, Landscape Architecture, Communications, Arborist

**8 80 Cities** - Public Life Study

**Earthscape** - Play Concept Design

**SCS Consulting Group** - Drainage

**DPM Energy** - Electrical and Lighting

**AEC** - Water Mechanical Systems

## Supporting Studies

The Revitalization Design was supported by studies of existing conditions in the park, as well as an extensive public consultation process. The results are summarized in separate reports and included as appendices to this report. They include:

- A review of available background information and, where possible, a visual inspection of the park's facilities and infrastructure by our technical team. This work is summarized in the **Investigations and Analysis Report** which includes:
  - Park Electrical Inventory and Capacity Report
  - Park Water Service and Features Inventory and Condition Report
  - Park Surface Drainage Report
  - Park Pavements, Furniture and Built Features Inventory and Condition Report
  - Accessibility Report
  - Arborist Report
- A study of how people use the park that includes observing and recording the way people move to and through the park, what activities they engage in while there, and intercept surveys to understand people's perceptions of the park. This work is summarized in the **David Crombie Park Public Life Study Analysis Report**
- A community consultation program that engaged a diverse stakeholder group from the surrounding neighbourhood. Consultation occurred at each step in the process and included both face to face discussions and on-line feedback. This work is summarized in the **What We Heard Reports #1, #2 and #3**.



## Purpose and Process

The purpose of the David Crombie Park Revitalization Design project was to develop a comprehensive conceptual design and implementation plan for improvements to the park that meet the current and future needs of the community.

The design evolved through consultation with residents, the public and other stakeholders. Throughout the 18 month process, open meetings and conversations were held with the public and a Community Resource Group. The Community Resource Group was comprised of residents, representatives of local resident's associations including the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association, business owners including the St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood Business Improvement Area, landowners and representatives of various stakeholder groups. Their role was to provide input the team's work in progress and assist with communicating the work in progress to the larger community.

Consultation with Indigenous community members, Toronto Community Housing, school boards, the St. Lawrence Market, and the St. Lawrence Community Recreation Centre was also undertaken.

The plan in this report represents the outcome of the process. There is a lot of support from the community for the direction of the plan. The Revitalization Design is intended to guide detailed design and implementation of the master plan.



# Process

The David Crombie Park Revitalization Plan was undertaken in four stages over the course of 18 months.



Stakeholder engagement occurred throughout Stages 1, 2 and 3. There were 12 components to the engagement, described on the following page.

# Public Engagement



**50 One on One Interviews**  
We talked with any interested member of the community about their views and priorities for the park.



**Kick Off Meeting**  
Inspirational panel discussion about the park and best practices from around the world.



**3 Workshops**  
Working meetings with the community to share ideas, get feedback, and talk about design concepts.



**4 Community Resource Group Meetings**  
Dedicated members of the community and local stakeholders shared their thoughts on the emerging issues.



**2 Indigenous Placekeeping Meetings**  
Learning how the Indigenous community views stewardship and discussing opportunities for Indigenous culture in the park.



**School Board Meetings**  
Discussions about how the schools use the park, their priorities, best practices, and emerging concepts in educational play.



**On-line Surveys**  
Community reaction and comments on the concept options and preferred plan.



**Public Life Survey**  
3 seasons study of how people arrive at the park, the activities they engage in, and personal surveys of their opinions about the park.



**Direct Communication**  
On-line and face to face discussions with people during the course of the study.



**Focus Group Meetings**  
Discussions and idea sharing with stakeholders including seniors and kids.



**Print Communications**  
Banner at the St. Lawrence Community Centre. Flyers and posters distributed around the neighbourhood.



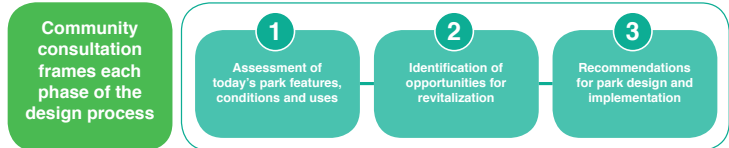
**Website & Social Media**  
A dedicated information website and tweets about the study's progress and events.

# David Crombie Park Revitalization Design

David Crombie Park Revitalization Design will engage the community to develop a refreshed vision for the park.

Overall, the public and stakeholder consultation process engaged with people over 1400 times. Members of the community were passionate and engaged. Generally, there was support for the design ideas that were developed. During the discussion of design ideas and options for the park, surveys revealed an average of 80% in favour of the concepts. For the preferred master plan, surveys revealed an average of over 90% in favour.

## Community Consultation



Come share your ideas with us and others in the neighbourhood

## Stay Connected!

For more information, and to find out how you can get involved, please visit:  
[toronto.ca/david-crombie-park-revitalization-design](http://toronto.ca/david-crombie-park-revitalization-design) Or call: 311

Share your thoughts at:

[davidcrombiepark@planpart.ca](mailto:davidcrombiepark@planpart.ca)

@TorontoPFR



  
**David Crombie Park**  
 Revitalization Design



*7-foot tall banner displayed at public events.*



# Key Observations

The Key Observations are an early inventory of issues identified by the community, City of Toronto staff and consultant team that characterize David Crombie Park and the adjacent parks, and that needed to be addressed in the Revitalization Design. Some of the observations are strong features of the parks today that should be preserved and enhanced, while others are challenges to overcome.



**The park is showing its age**  
Many features are original (40 years old) and need repair or replacement.



**A beloved park**  
The whole park is used, in a variety of ways, by people of all ages and backgrounds.



**Strong frame**  
Buildings frame the park's edges and it is divided into outdoor rooms by the streets and tree planting.



**The tree canopy is at risk**  
Many ash trees have been removed because of Emerald Ash Borer, and there are many more in the park. Other species are also in decline.



**Dogs are a big issue**  
A dedicated dog area is desired by the community, but it takes up a lot of space.



**Connects in many ways**  
It connects to the city, the neighbourhood and across park blocks.



### Playgrounds are outdated

Heavy use, poor drainage, low play value, hazards, lack of shade and poor Accessibility need to be addressed.



### Water features

Mechanical equipment for all water features is at the end of its service life.



### Seating and furnishing

The furniture lacks cohesion, is aging, and a lot of seating lacks backs or arm rests.



### Accessibility

The park needs to be brought up to date and comply with the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)*.



### Gardens

The existing gardens contribute to the beauty and vibrancy of the park, and there is a desire for more.



### Support Programming

There are great events that take place in the park, and there is a desire for more.



### Support Cycling

There is a desire for better cycling facilities in the area. Coordination with other City departments is required.



### Lighting

The perimeter of the park is well lit, but the interior of some blocks is dim and can be improved.



# Post-Contact History

Many thousands of years in the past, the land where David Crombie Park is today was alternately above and below water, depending on the fluctuating levels of Lake Ontario.

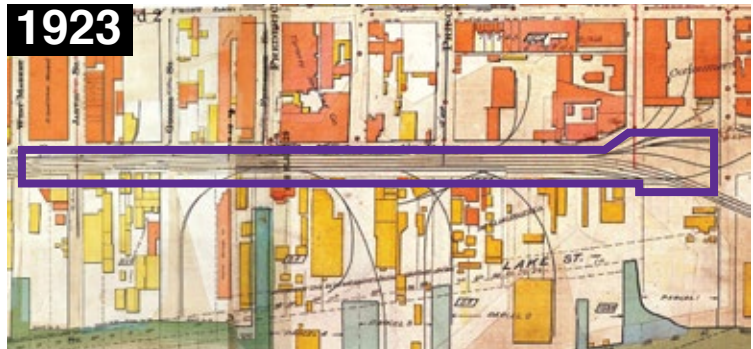
The location of modern-day David Crombie Park has been approximately superimposed on these historic maps.

In early Toronto (**1818**, top), David Crombie Park was located in the lake.

As the lake was gradually filled in (**1884**), David Crombie Park came to be at the interface of lake and land, filled with wharfs and warehouses.

Later (**1923**), David Crombie Park became land-locked and was filled with railway tracks. The surrounding area was industrial.

Today (**2017**), David Crombie Park is one of the largest parks in the downtown. It is the focal point and green spine of the St. Lawrence neighbourhood.





# Context



## Shoreline Stitch

*from: Downtown Parks and Public Realm Plan*

David Crombie Park is an important link in TO Core's Downtown Parks and Public Realm Plan that seeks to create a green linkage across the waterfront.



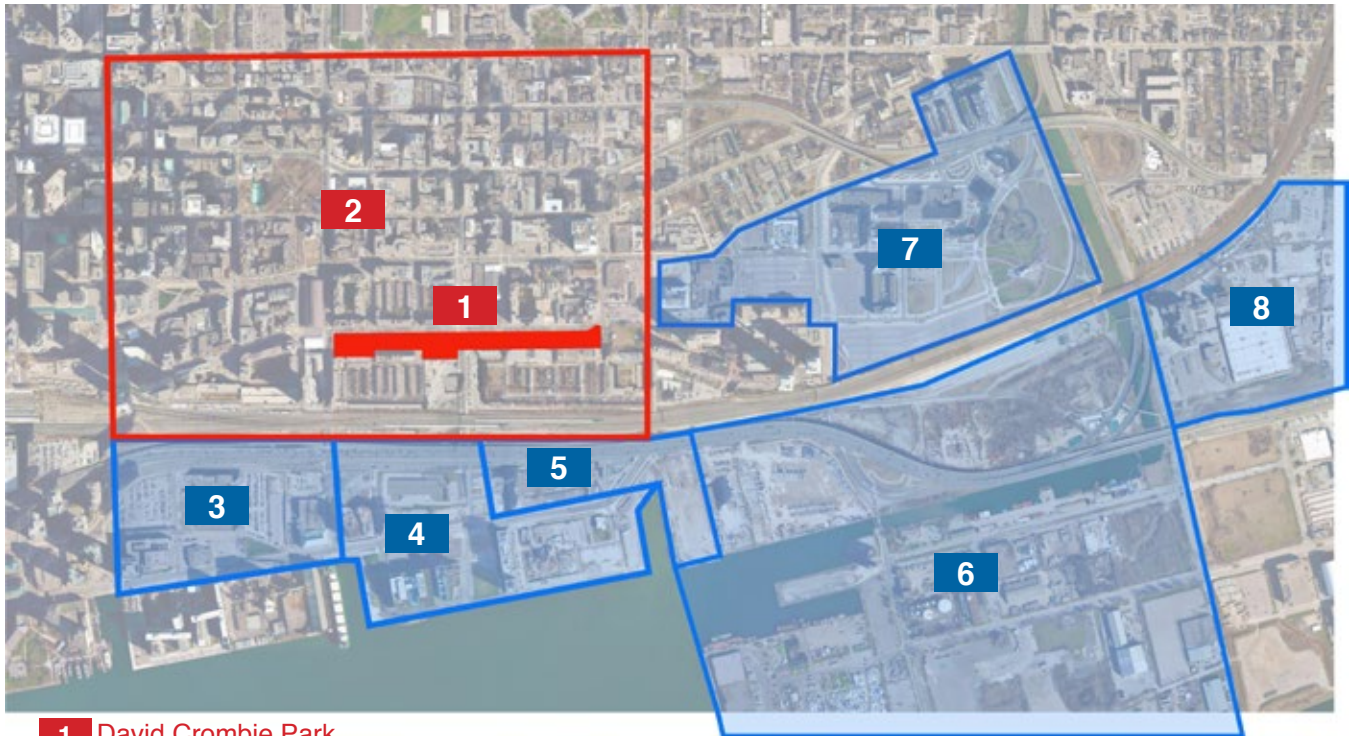


**Old Town-St. Lawrence-Distillery District Park District**

*from: Downtown Parks and Public Realm Plan*

David Crombie Park is an important node between the east-west and north-south axes of the park district.

David Crombie Park is located in an area that is experiencing significant population growth and is anticipated to grow even more.



- 1** David Crombie Park
- 2** St. Lawrence Neighbourhood

**Projected Population Estimate**

<b>1</b>	Lower Yonge Precinct	28,000 people
<b>2</b>	East Bayfront Precinct	18,200 people
<b>3</b>	Quayside	5,000 people
<b>4</b>	Lower Don Lands	27,500 people
<b>5</b>	West Don Lands	14,300 people
<b>6</b>	Unilever Precinct	50,000 people

An important goal for David Crombie Park is to maximize sustainable landscape practices to respond to climate change while ensuring a robust and practical design for maintenance and accommodating the anticipated increased use of the park.

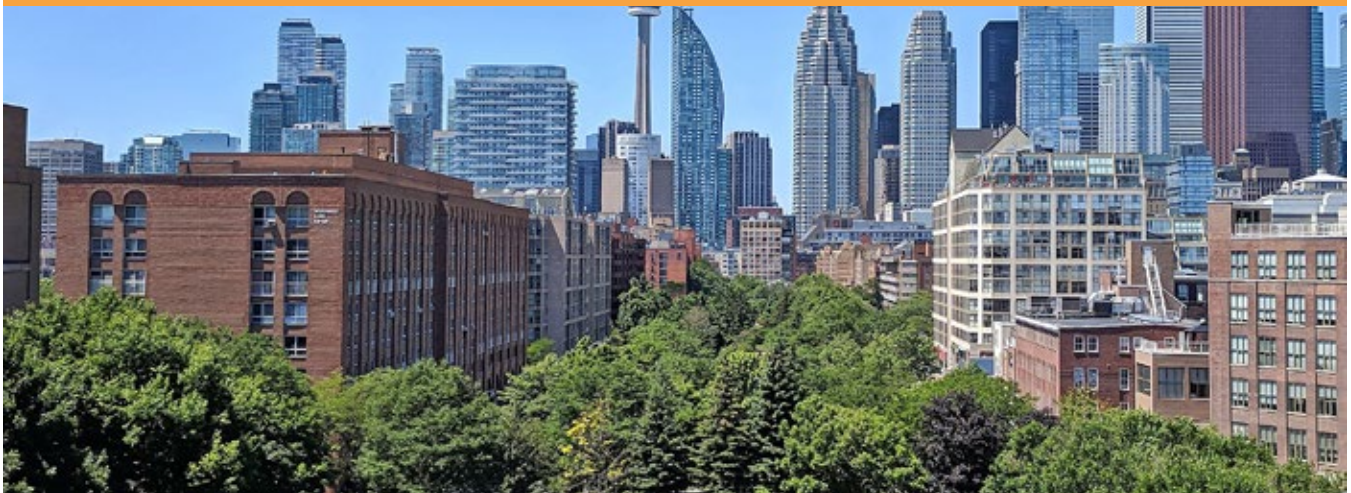
# Vision

The planning and design of the St. Lawrence neighbourhood in the 1970s created an innovative and ground breaking urban transformation that was well ahead of its time. Long an industrial area, the St. Lawrence neighbourhood was planned as a mixed use district woven into the fabric of the city. St. Lawrence is characterized by integration - of its market and assisted housing, of its streets, of its residential, commercial and institutional uses, and of its linear, central park that functions as the front porch of the neighbourhood. The St. Lawrence neighbourhood has been amazingly successful and has captured the minds and hearts of a generation of residents. It is a tremendous responsibility to undertake the revitalization of David Crombie Park and its adjacent parks.



## **The mobilizing vision revitalizes David Crombie Park to be a place that:**

- welcomes everyone
- is designed for people with all abilities from the very young to the elderly
- is imprinted with cultural and historic references that reflect the diversity of the community
- integrates Indigenous place-keeping
- is a playground for the community, a gathering space, and a place of respite and joy
- is beautiful and resilient
- meets the highest standards of sustainable design
- does justice to the remarkable legacy of David Crombie and the precedent setting neighbourhood that surrounds the park.





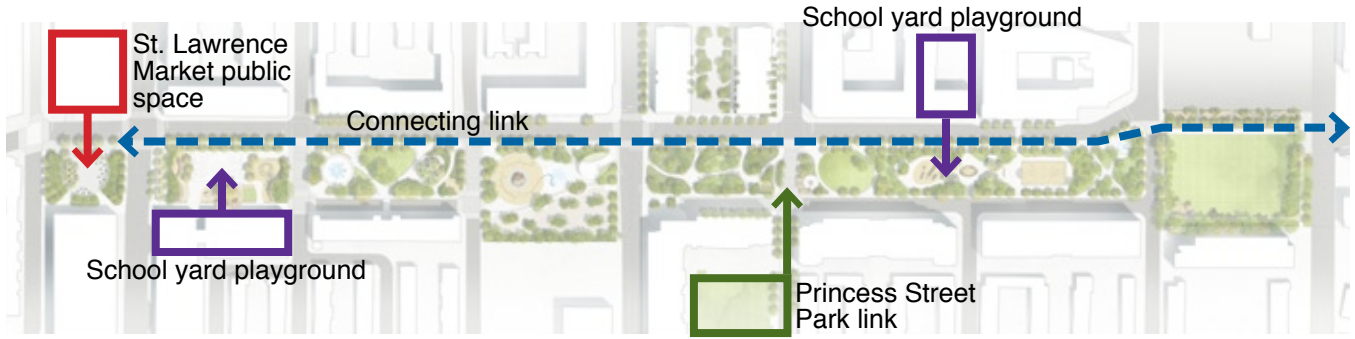
# Cohesive Design Approach

## Block Numbers

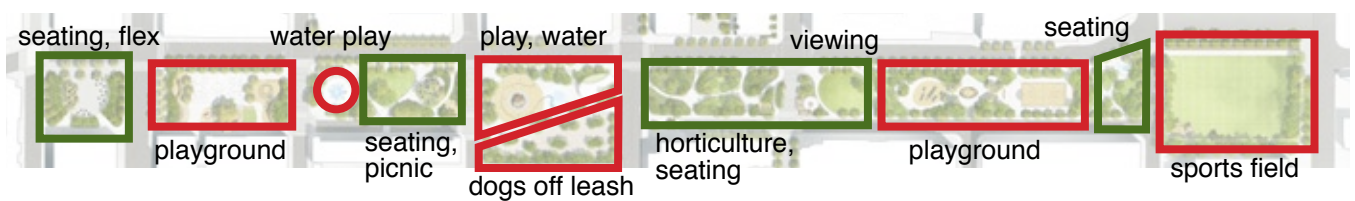


The Revitalization Design master plan is detailed on the following pages. Each block, noted by the block numbers above, is more fully explained in terms of its design intent and proposed features.

## Responds to Context



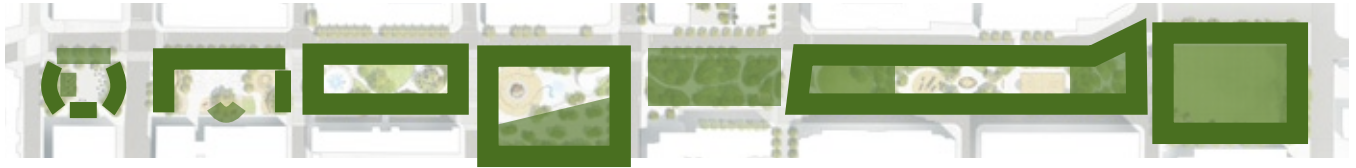
## Active and Passive Recreation



The design concept maintains the current rhythm of active and passive spaces that are intermixed along the park's length, even though some of the activities change.

## Sustainability and Resilience

### Greening and Urban Forest



The design concept ensures that each block has a green character created by a strong frame of native trees, and the use of grass and/or ecological planting beds.

### Understorey with Ecological Benefits



There are numerous planting beds with trees and enhanced planting at the ground level to enhance urban ecology by providing benefit for birds and pollinators, supporting the City of Toronto's Pollinator Protection Strategy.

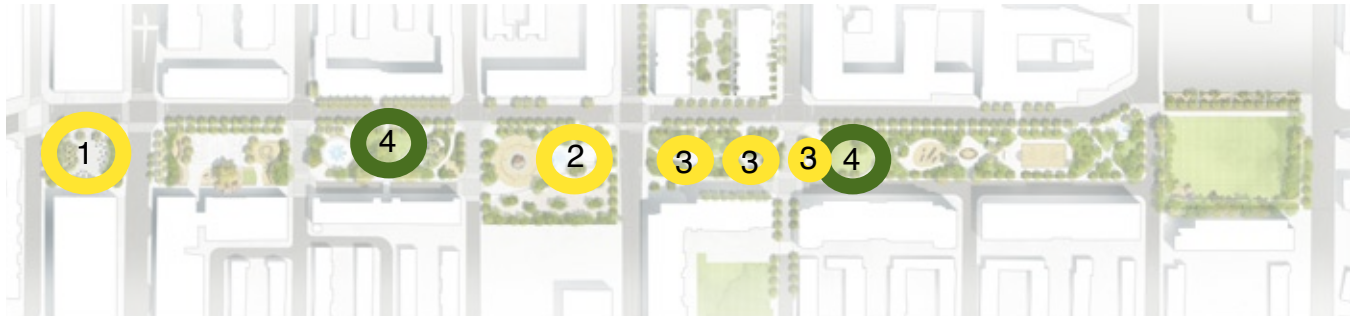
### Water Infiltration



Storm water will be managed within the park through the use of infiltration galleries, bioswales, cisterns, porous surfaces and high water retention soils.

## Placekeeping

### Community Gathering Spaces



**1 Large size, hard surface, e.g:**

- St. Lawrence Market and BIA events
- neighbourhood events
- City events (Luminato, Nuit Blanche)
- group events

**2 Medium size, hard surface, e.g:**

- BIA events
- neighbourhood events
- City events (Luminato, Nuit Blanche)
- group events
- performances

**3 Small size, hard surface, e.g:**

- neighbourhood events
- small gatherings, ceremonies

**4 Medium size, soft surface, e.g:**

- neighbourhood events
- gatherings, ceremonies
- movie night
- picnics

There are a variety of different sizes and scales of spaces in the design concept that are flexible to be used for community gathering, events, and programming. The spaces noted above are specifically designed for gatherings, however, almost any space in the park could be used for an event of the appropriate size and scale.

### Public Art Opportunities



**1 Art fence between the school yard and Promenade**

**2 Sculptural focal point to horticultural gardens**

**3 Celestial observatory and medicine wheel**

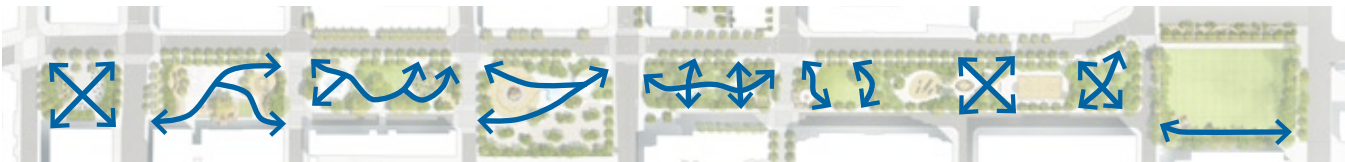
**4 Water feature**

A number of specific public art opportunities were identified (noted in red, above). These are intended for consideration in the City's formal public art program to be integrated with the tendering of the park's construction for best results. Almost any space in the park can be considered for community art, both permanent and temporary. For example, paving treatments can reference cultural heritage concepts such as the Moccasin Project, wampum belts, former railways or docks (noted in blue, above). Community art projects are an important part of David Crombie Park and some will be removed in the Revitalization Design. New opportunities for community art will provide continuity and engagement.

## Circulation

The design concept introduces the idea of a walking route(s) through the middle of the park blocks (top). This is feasible for most every block with some limitations for the school yards to enable supervision and safety. The sidewalks at the edges of the park are still important (middle), providing neighbourhood linkages. The formal Promenade along The Esplanade is a beautiful civic gesture and important tourism connection between St. Lawrence Market and the Distillery District (middle). The network of walkways provides many choices for walking loops, which are important for seniors (bottom).

### Walking routes through the Park



### Walking routes at the edges



### Walking loops



## Indigenous Placekeeping



A number of specific Indigenous placekeeping opportunities were identified (noted in red, above). These include gathering spaces and story circles at various scales for both intimate ceremonies and communal gatherings, as well as an opportunity for a celestial observatory and/or medicine wheel in conjunction with the hill. There can be many other opportunities for Indigenous culture and art (any of the Public Art Opportunities, for example) throughout the park.

## Water Theme

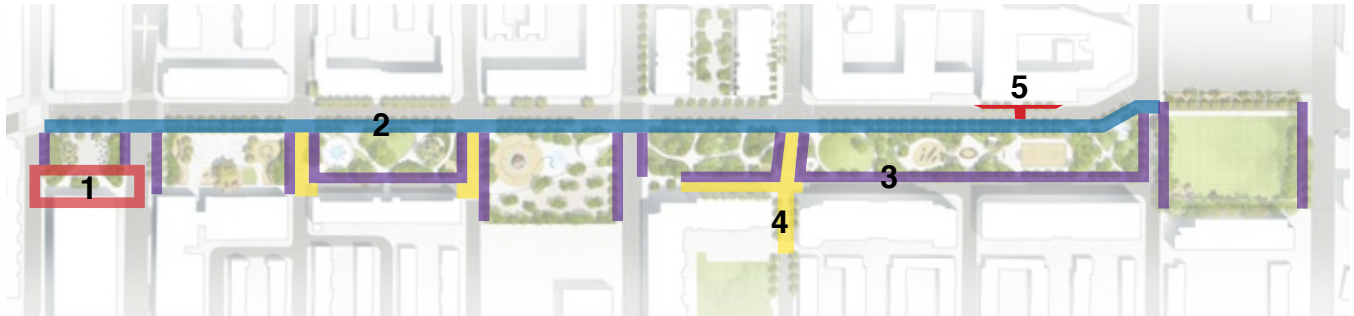


The Revitalization Design celebrates a water theme because it has an important connection with David Crombie Park. It relates to the park's historical relationship with water, the park's location being formerly in the lake, as well as the evolution of the shoreline over time through landfill, when the park's location became a bustling wharf area. The provision of the three fountains that are present today was an important design intent of the park as it was planned in the 1970's. New water elements are distributed though the park.



## Enhanced Integration of Park and Public Realm

### Park Elements within the Right of Way



**1**  
Closure of Wilton Street between Market and Jarvis to become park

**2**  
Continuous, tree-lined Promenade along The Esplanade

**3**  
Adjacent sidewalks flow seamlessly into the park

**4**  
Unit paving across roads foster better visual connections between park blocks

**5**  
Widening of the sidewalk along the north side of The Esplanade enhances the crosswalk

### Benefits of an Integrated Design Approach

A comprehensive design approach to the park and public realm design looks at parks and public spaces and the public realm that surrounds them and seeks to identify opportunities to improve the way they work together. The approach focuses primarily on three aspects of a park's design: the entrances, the edges, and the adjacent spaces. Through targeted improvements like greening, site furnishing, and decorative paving, the sidewalks and streets surrounding parks and public spaces can be woven into the fabric of the park itself. Traffic calming measures to enhance safety and connectivity are also a focus. From a process perspective an integrated approach seeks to de-silo the design considerations of Transportation Services, City Planning, and Parks, Forestry & Recreation. The approach intends for each division to collaborate in order to identify design solutions and public realm enhancements that are mutually supportive.

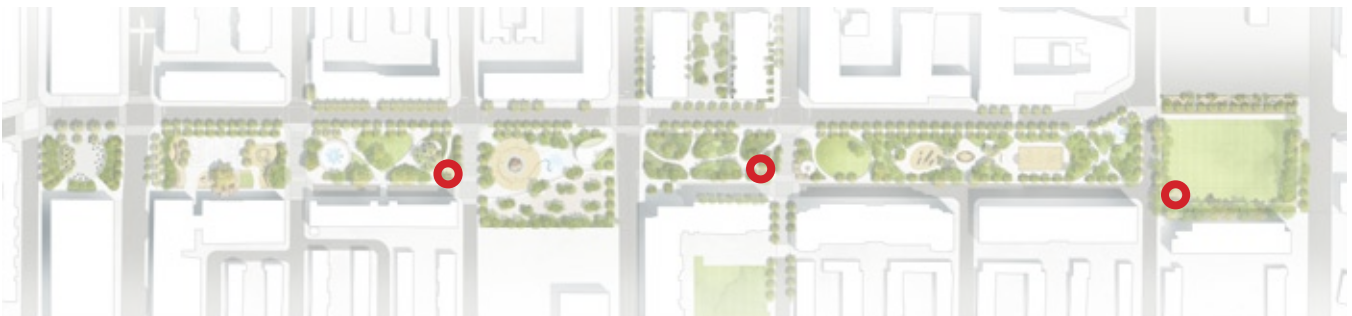
## Furnishing

### Seating



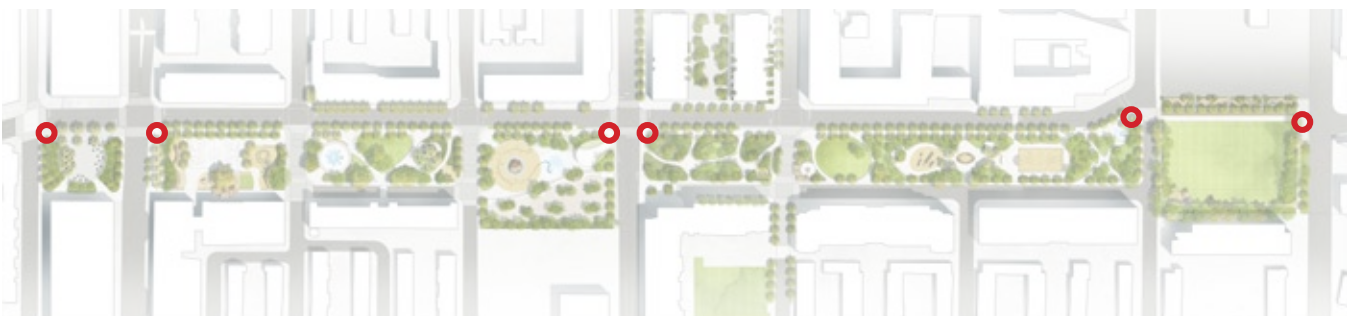
The design concept provides for a significant increase in the amount of permanent seating in the park (red lines, above). In addition, this seating will be Accessible, with backrests and armrests. There are also opportunities for moveable tables and chairs (purple areas, above).

### Fitness Circuit



Three outdoor fitness stations will provide a range of exercise equipment catering to all ages.

### Signage



Park signage with the name of David Crombie Park or Parliament Square Park should be located at key gateways and important intersections.

## Waste & Recycling



There should be at least two waste/recycling/organics bins per block, and more depending on size and use.

## Play Elements



- 1** School yard has different areas for day care, junior and senior children
- 2** Water play
- 3** Social swing and water play
- 4** Mound
- 5** School yard has areas for junior and senior children
- 6** Basketball
- 7** Water play
- 8** Soccer/ baseball field
- 9** Pop-up activities can include skateboarding

Play elements include a variety of traditional and non-traditional play elements located throughout the park. The non-traditional play elements expand the users from children to people of all ages.

## Important design drivers for David Crombie Park

### Contemporary

The boundary of David Crombie Park has always been ‘of its time’, whether as water, shoreline, railway, or park focal point for a 1970’s neighbourhood. The park is poised to be the focal point for a new generation of Torontonians and should reflect the issues and opportunities that impact it today. At the same time, the area can continue to reflect the memories of past uses expressed in the design language of the Revitalization Design.

### Resilient

Climate change and ecological threats are both global and local. The park can make positive contributions to both through resilient design promoting ecological health. This will help the park to better withstand loss of tree or plant species and more intense weather events.

### High Quality Family of Furnishings

Resiliency applies to human use of the park too. The park will likely see increased use as a result of the significant intensification in surrounding neighbourhoods. The built elements of the park, including paving systems, benches, lighting and the like, should be tough and durable.

### Innovative

The St. Lawrence Neighbourhood was designed to be innovative. The park serves in many ways that are still a model today. For such an intimate park, it packs in a multitude of recreational choices in such close proximity, and serves three schools. The park must continue to provide innovative amenities, that, while “non-standard”, are accessible and useful to a great diversity of people.

### Urban Forest

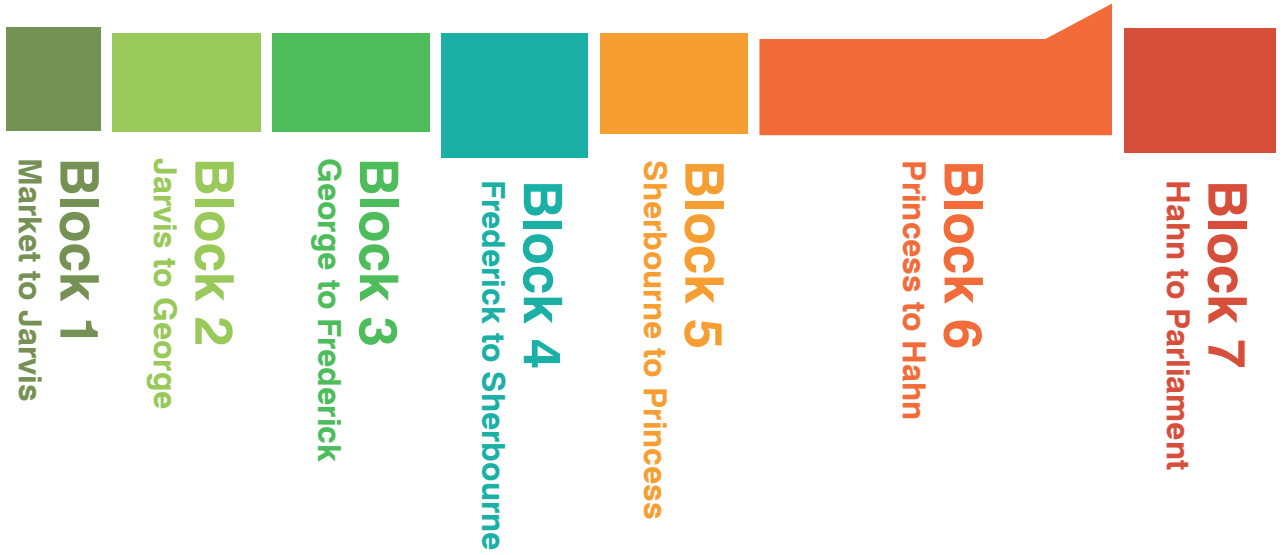
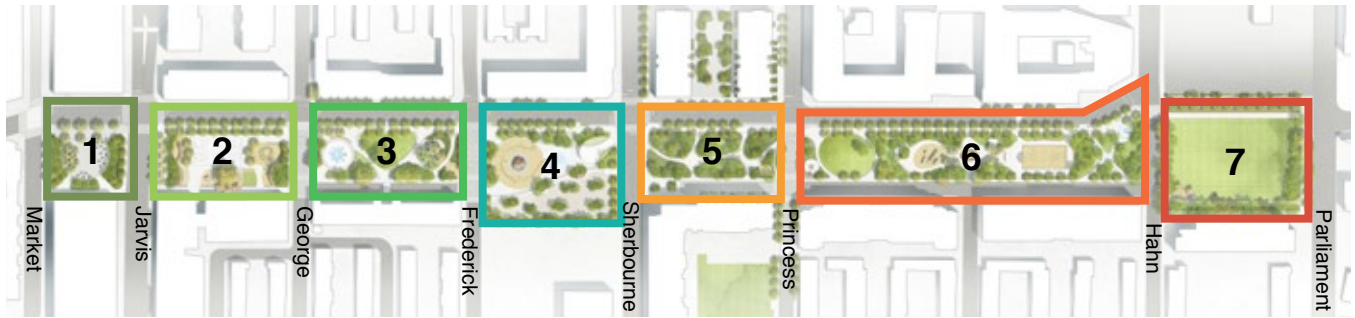
The canopy of David Crombie Park is under threat from pests and disease. A strategy for maintaining and increasing the tree cover is important for the community.

### CPTED

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles should be applied throughout the park, particularly to ensure clear sight lines to all areas within the park, and, to discourage built elements that could act as informal habitation.



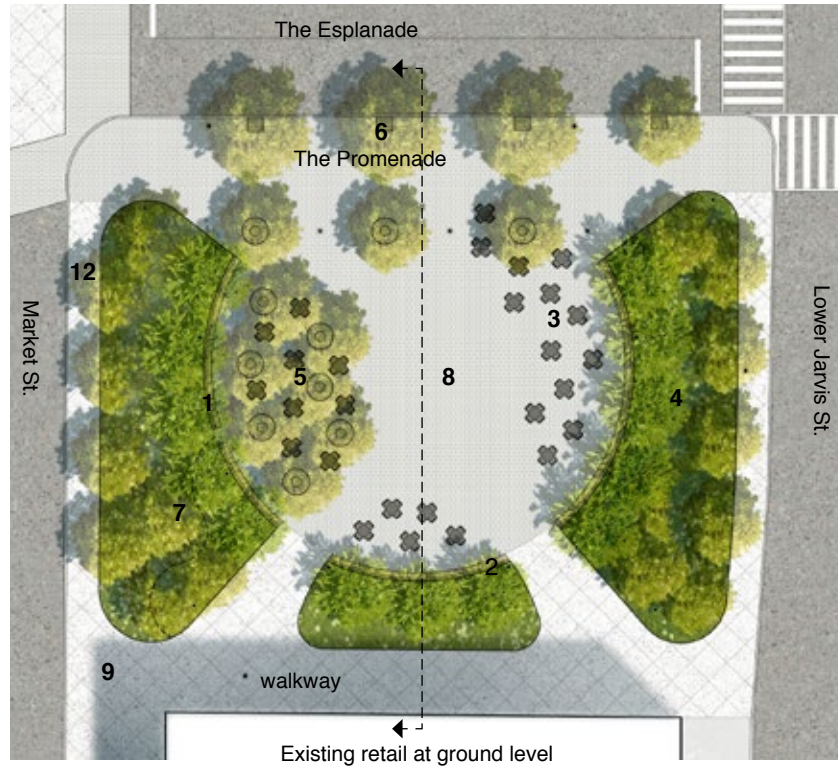
# Park Strategies



# Block 1

## Market to Jarvis

### Design Concept



### Description

- largest plaza space in the park
- framed by trees and planting, surrounded by seating
- moveable tables and chairs for day-to-day use
- provides opportunity for programming and events
- proposed closure of Wilton Street between Market Street and Lower Jarvis Street to increase the size of the park block

### Design Features



#### Furnishings

- 1 Continuous benches line the curved perimeter of the planting beds
- 2 Access to electrical power for programmed events is provided in the lighting standards on the south edge of the square



#### Planting

- 3 Moveable tables and chairs in the plaza area
- 4 Trees in planting beds define the periphery of the plaza and provide some buffer from Jarvis and Market Streets
- 5 Trees in paving extends the greening into the plaza area, and provides an option for shaded seating
- 6 Trees in paving along the Promenade align with architectural features of the St. Lawrence Market (e.g. columns)

 **Play**

7 An area of the planting beds on the west side can provide simple children’s play or activity areas under the trees (e.g. pathways, simple play structures), away from road traffic.

 **Paving**

8 Unit paving in main plaza area and along the Promenade visually connects to existing paving treatment along Market Street west of St. Lawrence Market

9 Concrete paving around plaza edges

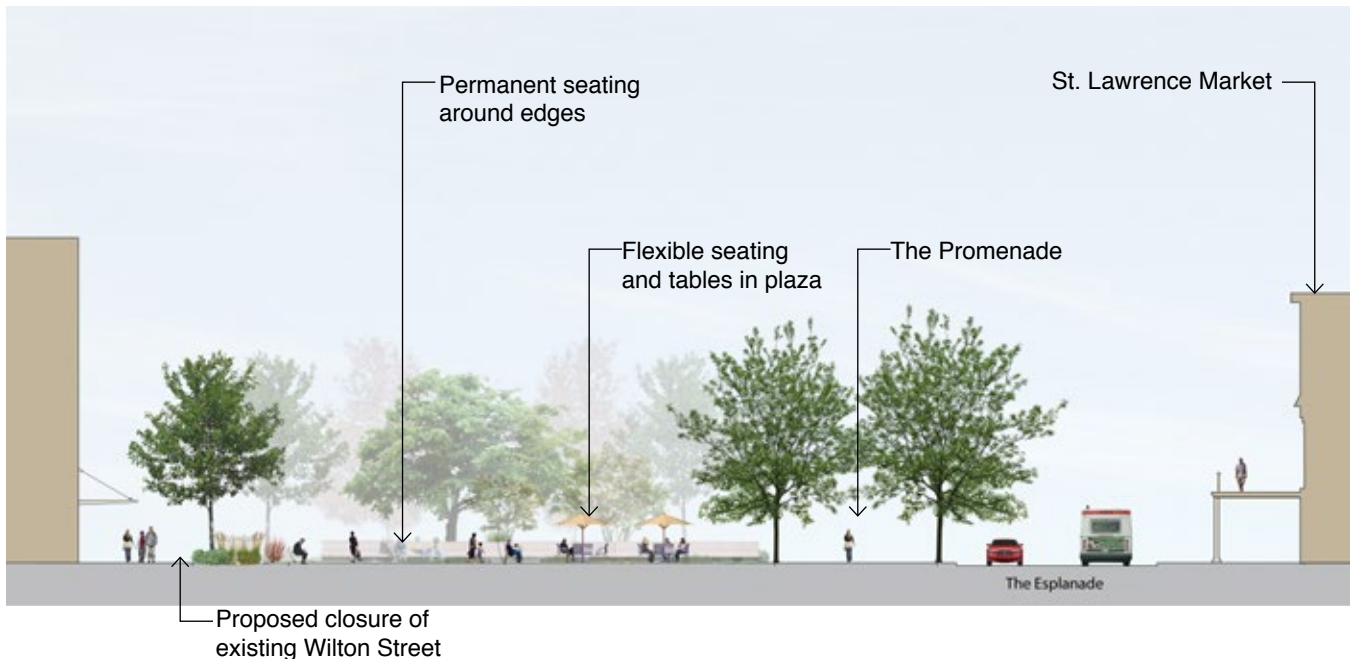


*Conceptual rendering of Block 1 in winter with a holiday festival*



*Aerial view of Block 1 showing the strong green frame surrounding a simple plaza space across from the St. Lawrence Market*

**Cross Section Looking West (conceptual)**

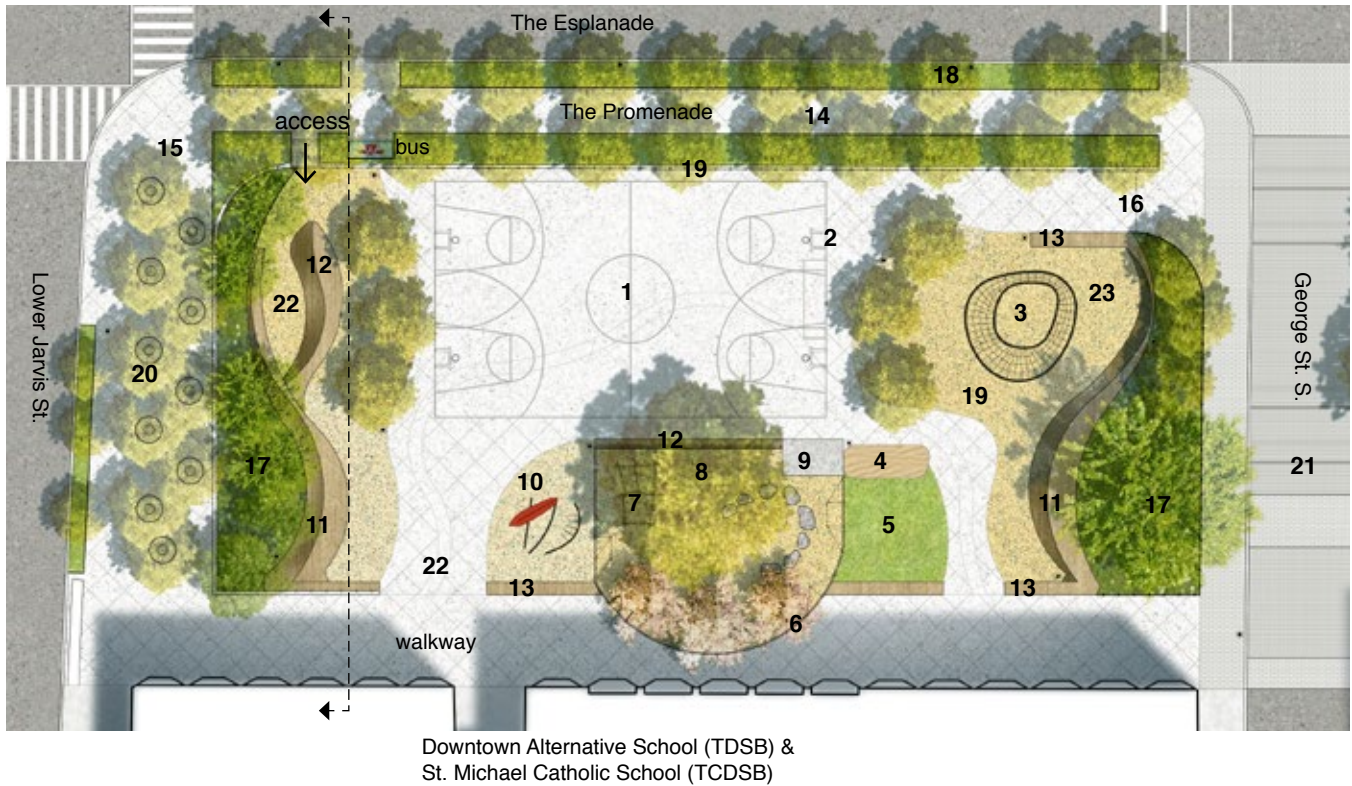


# Block 2

## Jarvis to George

### Design Concept

The Promenade will maintain the same sidewalk and boulevard dimensions (where the trees and sod are) as today.



### Description

- daytime school yard for Downtown Alternative School and St. Michael Catholic School
- playground space for the community
- trees and landscape create sub-zones catering to different age groups and activities (more active to more passive)
- playground edges are defined with planting and landscape elements, with well-defined entrances
- playground features reference a water theme, and/or natural materials
- existing stairs are removed to create level surface between schools and playground
- catch basin will be moved

### Design Features



#### Play

- 1 Flexible play area with painted sports courts and games
- 2 Basketball nets (4)
- 3 Climbing structure (includes challenges for older children)
- 4 Accessible sand play in raised, galvanized metal tub
- 5 Quieter, resilient surface area for passive play
- 6 Fenced area for child care playground
- 7 Natural materials (logs, stones, ropes) for play structures, story circle, raised galvanized metal tubs with sand
- 8 Maintain existing grade in child play area for existing tree
- 9 Low (1-1.2m high) outdoor storage container with double-sided access from day care area and playground area
- 10 Climbing structure and canoe
- 11 Wave/dune-like play structure can include climbing and seating elements



## Furnishings

- 12 Bench along retaining wall/grade change
- 13 Benches help define boundary between playground and walkway
- 14 Single benches line the Promenade
- 15 David Crombie arch (from wading pool) to be relocated as a gateway feature to the Jarvis/ Esplanade corner
- 16 A bollard and chain will be provided at this access as a security feature during school hours

## Planting

- 17 New trees and low horticultural planting along edges
- 18 New trees planted on The Esplanade
- 19 Decorative fence above retaining wall is a public art opportunity

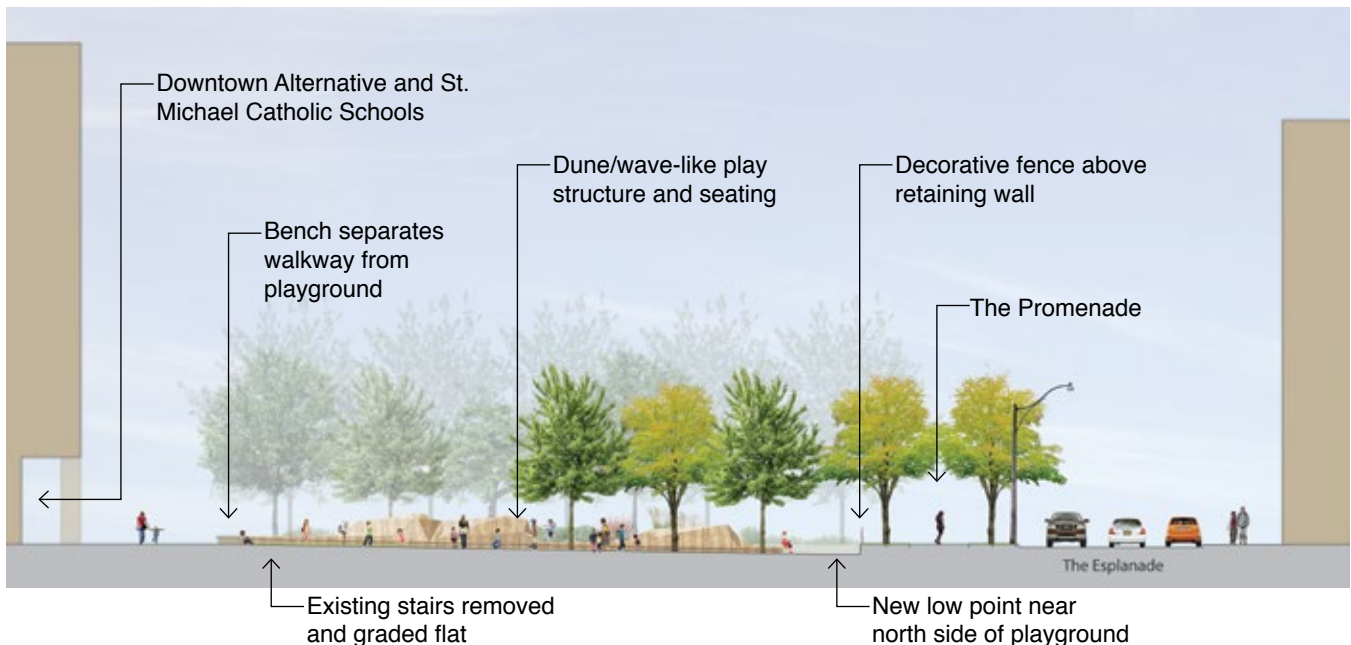


*Aerial view of Block 2 showing the strong green frame and a variety of playground spaces.*

## Paving

- 20 Maintain existing vegetation treatment along Jarvis
- 21 Decorative interlock paving extends across George to visually link to Block 3. This is a public art opportunity
- 22 Primary hard surface material is poured in place concrete for durability
- 23 Resilient surface material around play equipment. School boards preferred material is artificial turf

## Cross Section Looking West (conceptual)



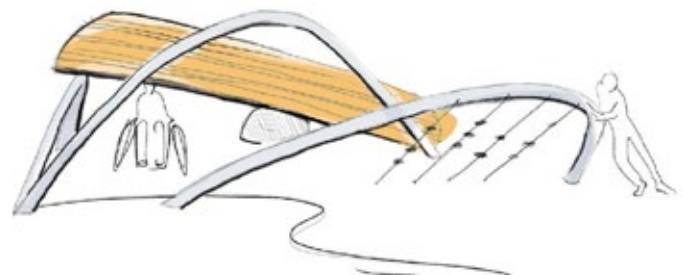
## Play Concepts

Water themed play structures include references to the former shoreline and Indigenous cultural heritage using natural materials.

*Wave/dune structure along the edges of the playground morphs into different shapes for climbing, seating and other play (11).*



*Junior age play equipment includes climbing elements and canoe. Detailing can include references to former crib structures along wharfs of historic shoreline (10).*





Large climbing structure has graduated challenges for different age groups (3) and organic shapes in keeping with the water theme.



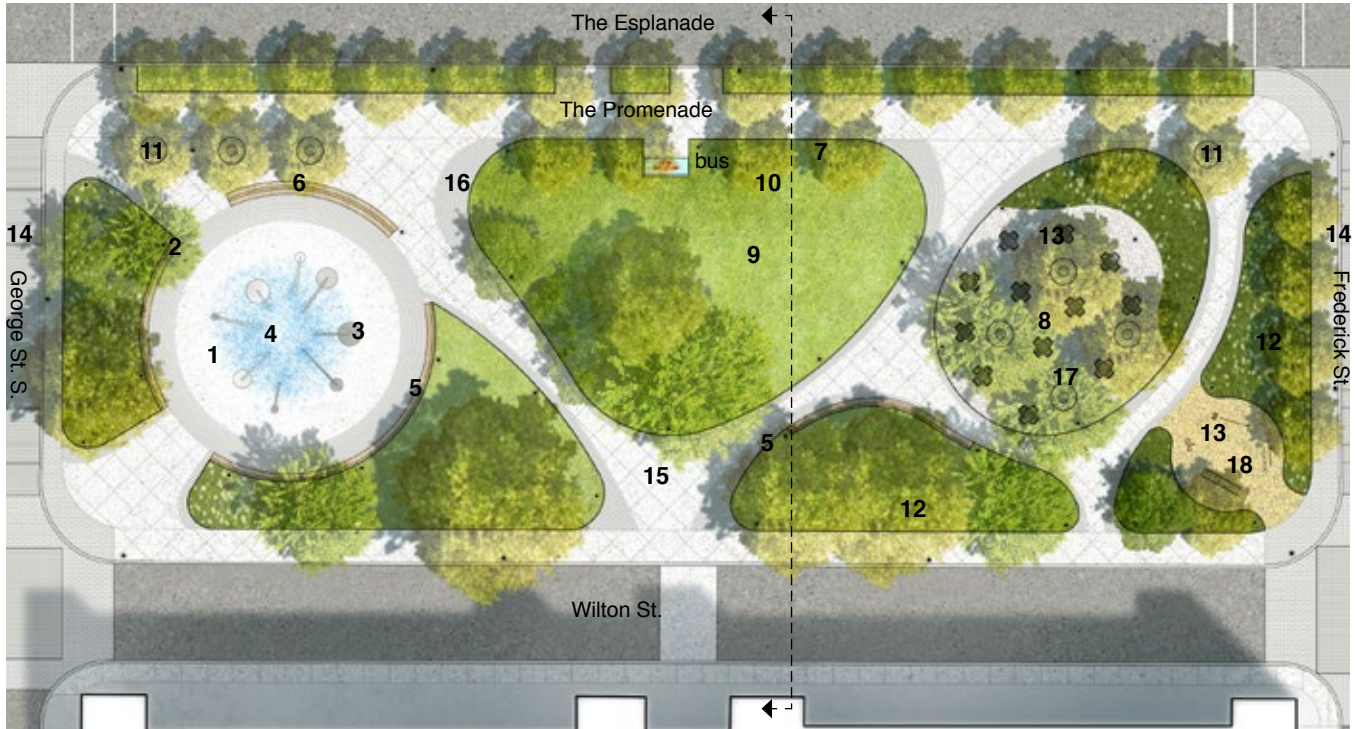
The day care area is designed for pre-school age children and incorporates natural materials and imaginative play.



# Block 3

## George to Frederick

### Design Concept



### Description

- one of the greenest blocks in the park because of existing trees in and adjacent to the park
- wading pool to be replaced by splash pad
- water play and lawn for kids, seating for all ages
- one of three stations on an all-ages fitness circuit through the park
- meandering pathways through the block connect to adjacent building entrances, street corners
- removal of the existing concrete walls around the Honeylocust grove to open up views and access

### Design Features



#### Water

- 1 Splash pad area on flat concrete surface (remove existing wading pool)
- 2 Splash pad will be controlled by push-button
- 3 Water features intended to have industrial characteristics to reference the neighbourhood's history
- 4 City potable water supply straight to sanitary drain.



#### Furnishings

- 5 Seating along edge of splash pad and along pathway
- 6 Double-sided seating faces splash pad and Promenade
- 7 Single benches line the Promenade
- 8 Tables and chairs under the existing Honeylocust trees

## Planting

- 9 Grass area adjacent to splash pad provides additional picnic and play space
- 10 A low berm along the Promenade edge
- 11 Some trees along the Promenade are in paving with soil cells
- 12 Green spaces around the edges of the block have planting beds

## Paving

- 13 Fitness equipment and exercise area
- 14 Decorative interlock paving extends across George and Frederick to visually link to adjacent blocks. This is a public art opportunity
- 15 Primary hard surface material is poured in place concrete for durability
- 16 Unit paving around the edges of the splash pad area are a decorative accent and deter skateboarding
- 17 Granular surface under the Honeylocust trees provides a walkable yet permeable surface that helps protect the shallow roots. The existing unit paving under the trees is uneven, in part due to tree roots
- 18 Resilient surface in exercise area

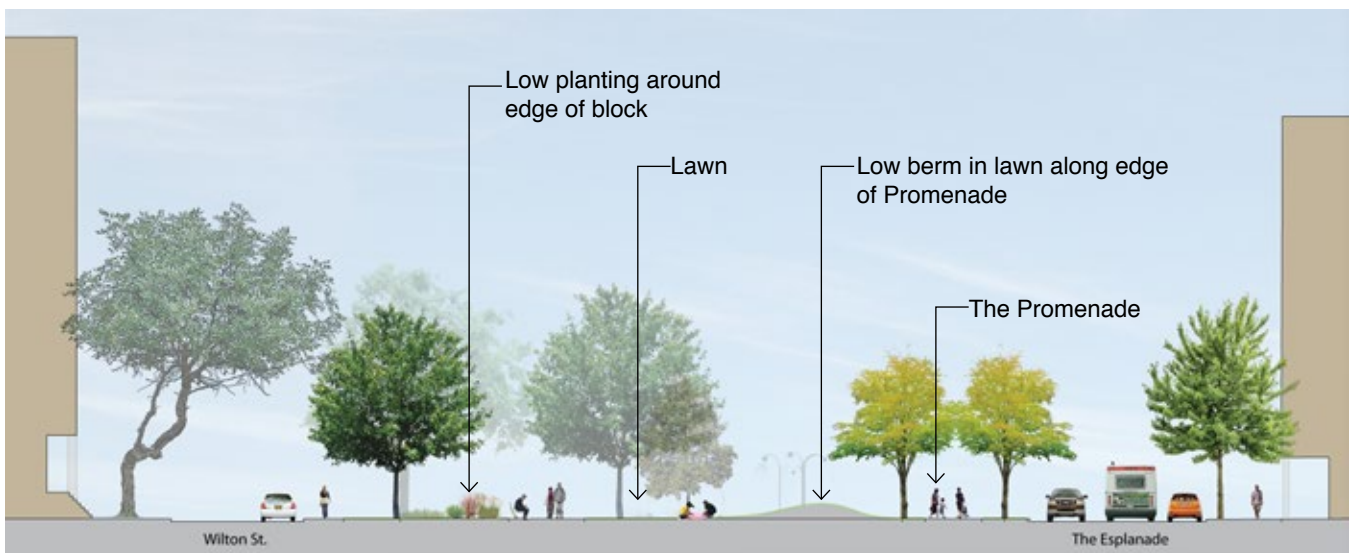


Aerial view of Block 3 showing the splash pad, lawn area and many existing trees. Unit paving extends across George Street (foreground).



Conceptual sketch of Block 3 looking from the Promenade showing the lawn adjacent to the splash pad

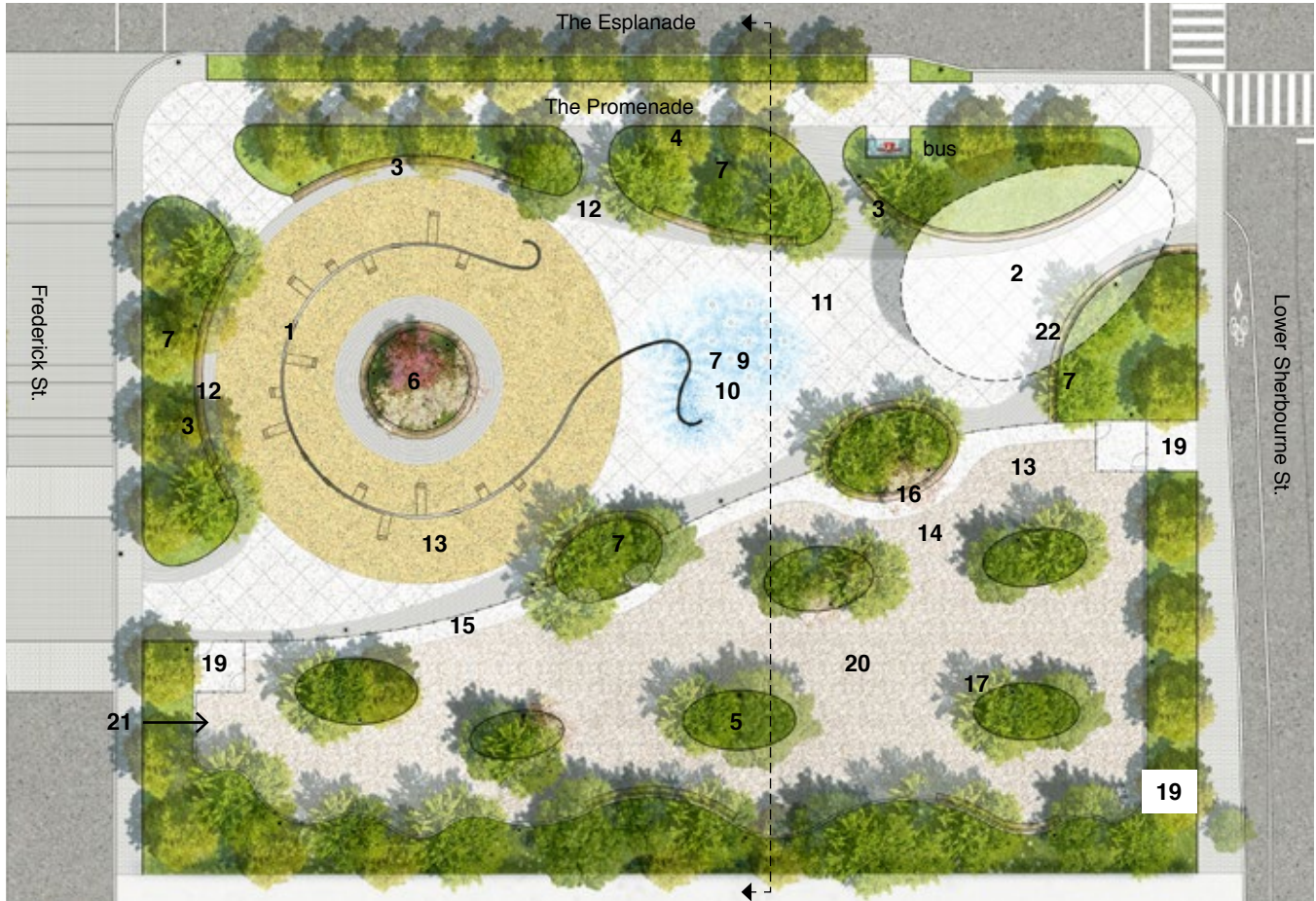
## Cross Section Looking West (conceptual)



# Block 4

## Frederick to Sherbourne

### Design Concept



### Description

- the new heart of the park includes a playful gathering space and a dedicated space for dogs
- a social swing provides swing elements for people of all ages and abilities, including Accessible options
- a water play area can include flush jets from the paving or water spray elements from an overhead structure
- the social swing, water play and surrounding seating create a fun environment for people watching
- an overhead pavilion structure provides shelter from the weather and acts as a gateway feature. A power source allows for small performances and events
- a fenced dogs off leash area includes Accessible areas, shade, three gates, seating and lighting.

### Design Features



#### Play

- 1 The social swing is a large, inward-focusing structure that permits a variety of swing types and incorporates lighting



#### Furnishings

- 2 Pavilion at Sherbourne/Esplanade can be a landmark feature, act as public art, and provide weather protection for activities and events
- 3 Continuous seating along the edges of the gathering space
- 4 Single benches line the Promenade

## Planting

- 5 Islands of planting in the dog area are fenced (to maximize tree health) and create a leafy background to the social space
- 6 Island of planting in the centre of the social swing includes seating along its edge
- 7 Heart of the park framed by sodded berms and canopy trees

## Water

- 8 Water play features will be push button
- 9 City potable water supply straight to sanitary drain.
- 10 Water supply can be shut off during summer season for community events and programming

## Paving

- 11 Primary hard surface material is poured in place concrete for durability
- 12 Unit paving around the edges are a decorative accent and deter skateboarding
- 13 Resilient surface under the social swing

## Dogs

- 14 Dog area surface to be determined in compliance with City standards
- 15 2.1m walkway within fenced area along edge of dog area connects both entrances and provides an Accessible route
- 16 Benches around a planting island within the dog area
- 17 Informal seating occurs on rocks and boulders around the edges of planting islands
- 18 A low curb along the south edge of the dog area defines a planting area for the existing trees. Benches provide seating in places along the curb
- 19 Pedestrian access to the dog area uses a standard double gate system. Entrances are located near the street edge. Three entrances ensure no dead ends and plenty of access choices.
- 20 Water is provided for irrigation (flushing) of the dog area and for a dog watering station (location to be determined)
- 21 Vehicular access to the dog area for maintenance staff is from a gate in the fence located along Frederick Street
- 22 The shape of the dog area and planting beds guide movement to the Sherbourne/Esplanade corner

## Social Swing Concept



*The swing is intended to be appealing to all ages, at all times of the day and in all seasons. A circular form allows people to see each other and interact.*



*Many types of swinging elements can be incorporated. An Accessible option should be included.*



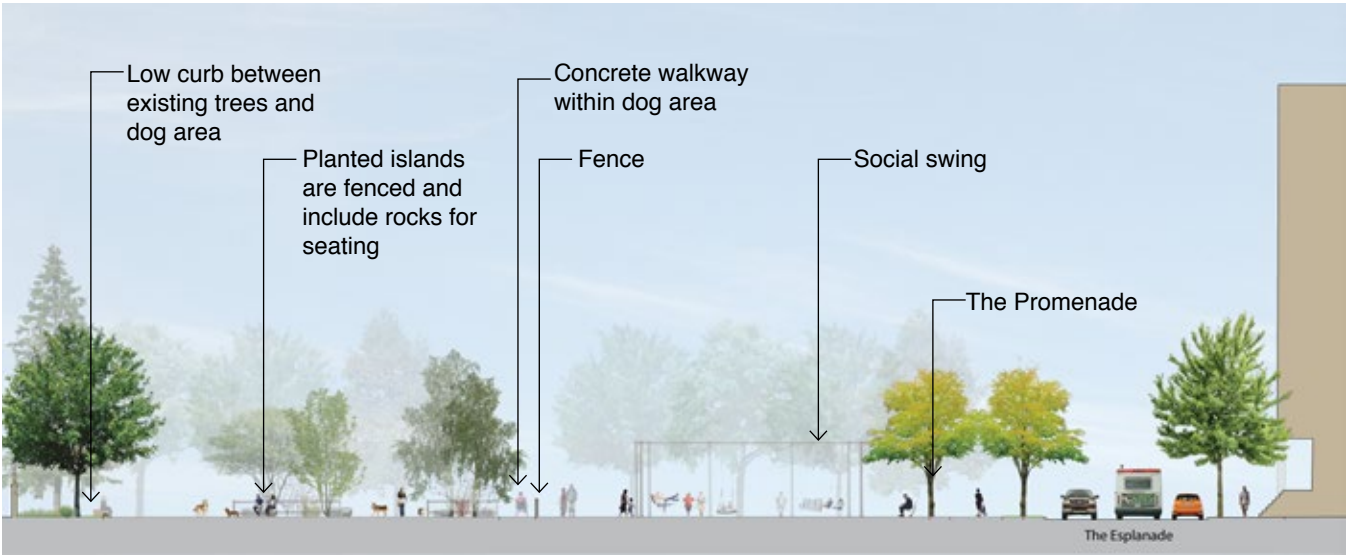
*Conceptual rendering of Block 4 showing the idea of a social swing surrounded by seating.*





Aerial view of Block 4 showing the treed dog area and the social swing and pavilion in the plaza area.

**Cross Section Looking West (conceptual)**



# Block 5

Sherbourne to Princess

## Design Concept



## Description

- focused on passive recreation and ecology, with greater emphasis on Accessibility of walkways and seating
- curving pathways lead people through the centre of the block
- pathways widen into seating areas
- public art can create a focal point
- planting emphasizes Indigenous importance, ecological benefit, and native species
- continued opportunities for community horticultural gardens
- one of three stations on a fitness circuit through the park

## Design Features



### Planting

- 1 Low berms in the planting areas create a sense of enclosure
- 2 Planting beds are most heavily focused on ecological horticulture
- 3 Small grass area in centre of block



### Furnishings

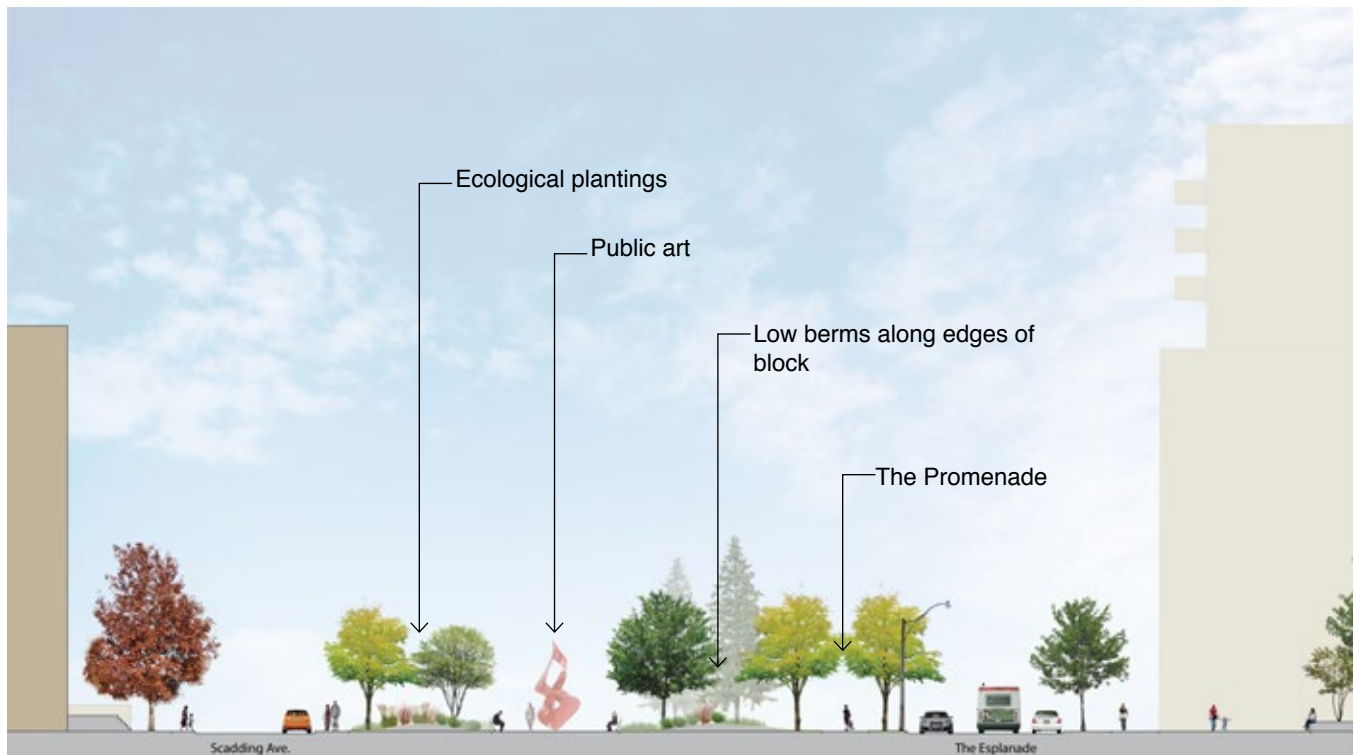
- 4 Seating along edge of walkways
- 5 Single benches line the Promenade
- 6 Fitness equipment and exercise area



### Paving

- 7 Decorative interlock paving extends across Princess to visually link to Block 6. Decorative paving extends across Scadding and south on Princess to visually connect with Princess Street Park. This is a public art opportunity
- 8 Primary hard surface material is poured in place concrete for durability
- 9 Unit paving around the edges are a decorative accent and deter skateboarding
- 10 Resilient surface in exercise area

## Cross Section Looking West (conceptual)





*Aerial view of Block 5 showing a public art opportunity in the centre of a very green landscape*

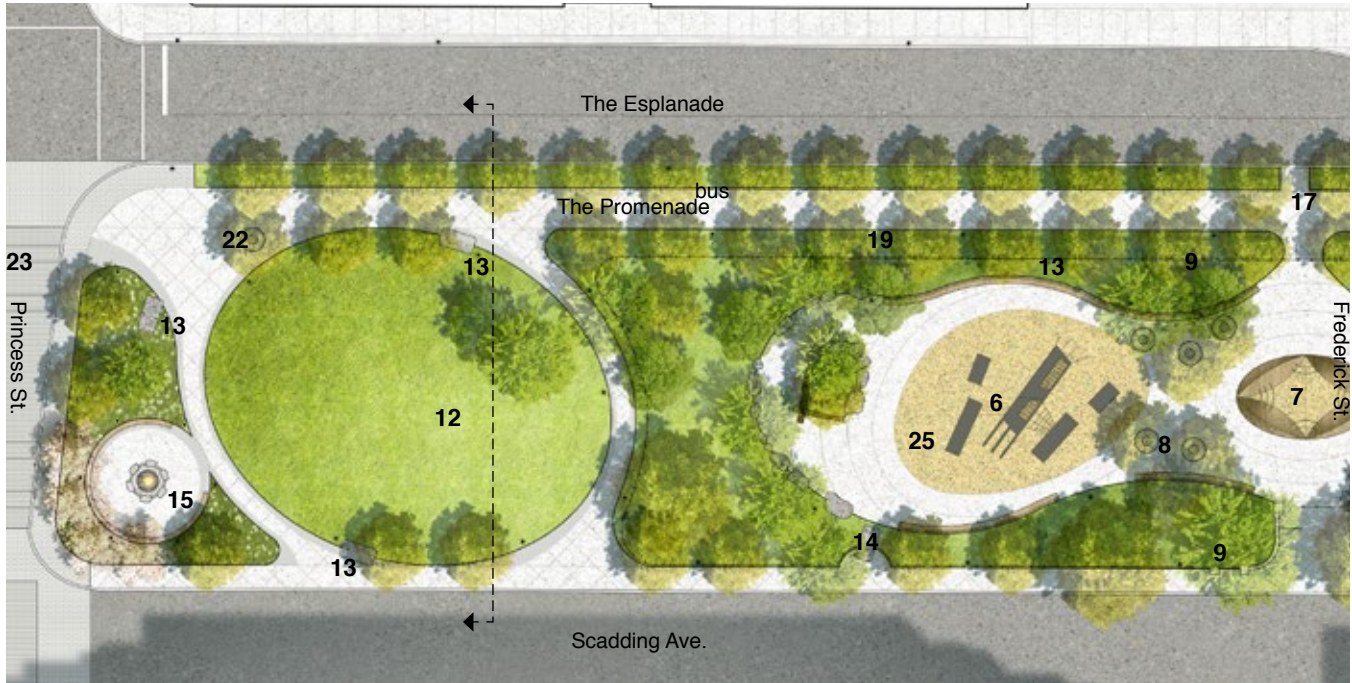


*Conceptual rendering of Block 5 showing curving pathways lined by seating in front of lush ecological planting with public art focal point*

# Block 6

## Princess to Hahn

### Design Concept (West)



### Description

- daytime school yard for Market Lane Public School
- playground space for the community
- trees and landscape create sub-zones catering to different age groups and activities (more active to more passive)
- playground edges are defined with planting and landscape elements, with well-defined entrances
- playground features reference a water theme, and/or natural materials
- celestial observatory and Indigenous public art potential
- story circle for Indigenous place keeping
- Accessible picnic tables under the trees
- small water play area in association with decorative fountain, also with public art potential

### Design Features

#### Water

- 1 Decorative fountain terminates the view along the Promenade (similar location to today). Opportunity for public art with a landmark presence in four seasons
- 2 Water play will be controlled by push-button
- 3 Water play feature intended to be flush water jets/misters
- 4 City potable water supply straight to sanitary drain.

#### Play

- 5 Existing basketball court, surface, wall and stage maintained
- 6 Climbing structure (includes challenges for older children)
- 7 Climbing structure or flexible open play area
- 8 New trees (some in soil cells) define sub-zones within the playground
- 9 Maintain a low perimeter fence (with gates) in similar location to today

## Design Concept (East)



### Elements

- 10 Existing tunnel under The Esplanade to be closed
- 11 Explore potential for existing glass pavilion to be restored for lockable outdoor storage. If not feasible, provide for storage in a similar location
- 12 Enhance the existing mound to be taller and wider
- 13 Large stones at the cardinal points - stone colour to match the Four Directions of the Medicine Wheel. Potential Indigenous public art and celestial observatory
- 14 The east stone location straddles the school yard boundary for potential educational benefit
- 15 Story circle for Indigenous place keeping

### Furnishings

- 16 Seating in semi-circle facing the stage. The central seating element is double-sided, facing both directions
- 17 Seating along edge of water play and along pathway
- 18 Seating along the edges of the playground, basketball court

- 19 Single benches line the Promenade

- 20 Two or three-step retaining wall/seating element replaces existing wood terraces

- 21 Accessible picnic tables with concrete pads adjacent to walkways

### Planting

- 22 Some trees along the Promenade are in paving with soil cells

### Paving

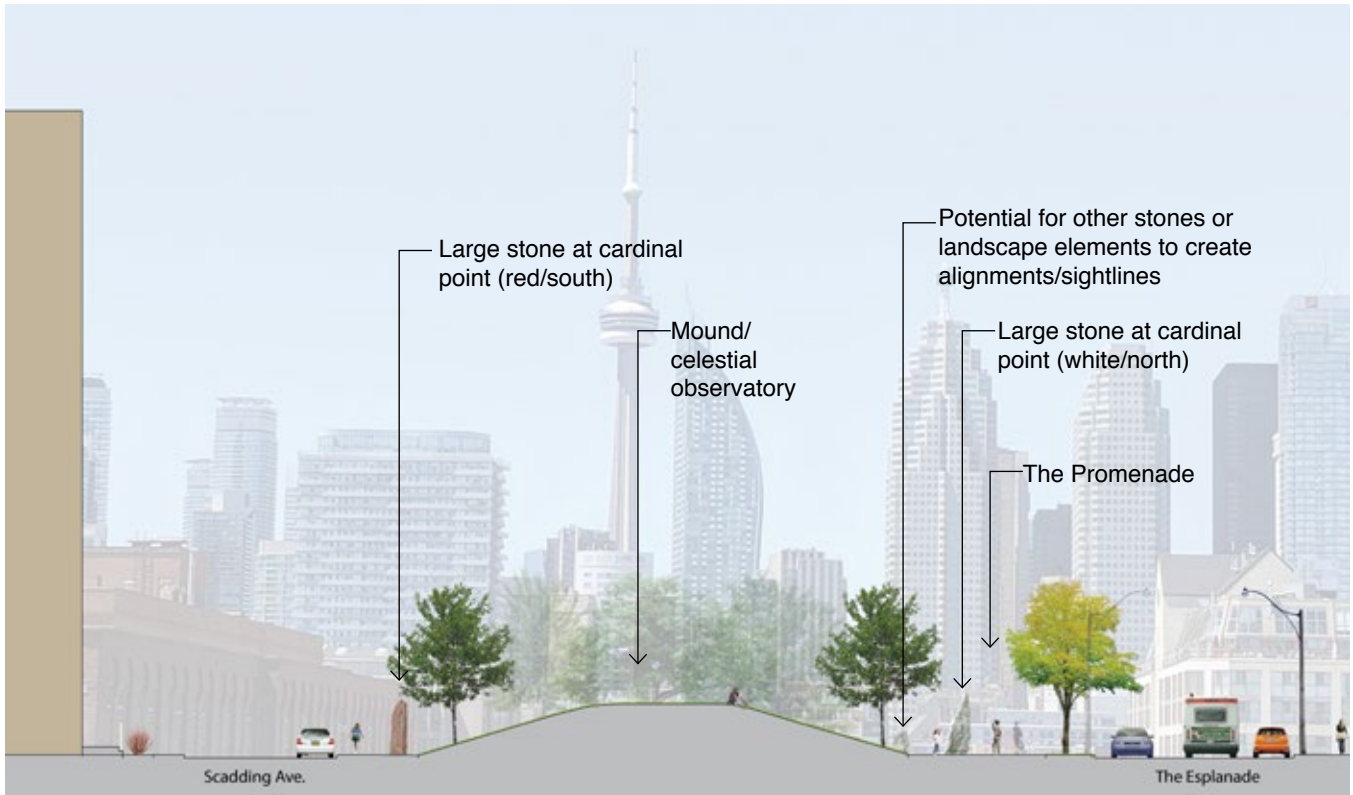
- 23 Decorative interlock paving extends across Princess to visually link to Block 5. This is a public art opportunity

- 24 Primary hard surface material is poured in place concrete for durability

- 25 Resilient surface material around play equipment. School boards preferred material is artificial turf

- 26 Widen sidewalk along north side of The Esplanade where the crosswalk is located and plant trees in soil cells, narrow the road way but still accommodate the TTC bus route

## Cross Section Looking West (conceptual)



*Aerial view of Block 6 showing the water fountain/play area, school yard, and celestial observatory*





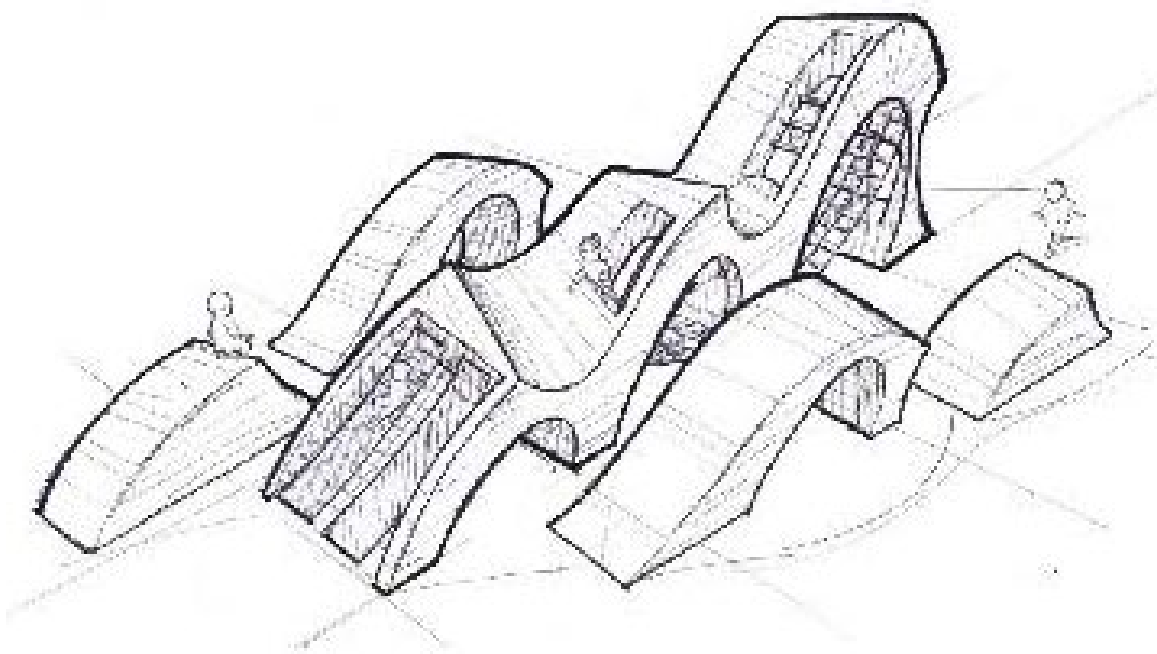
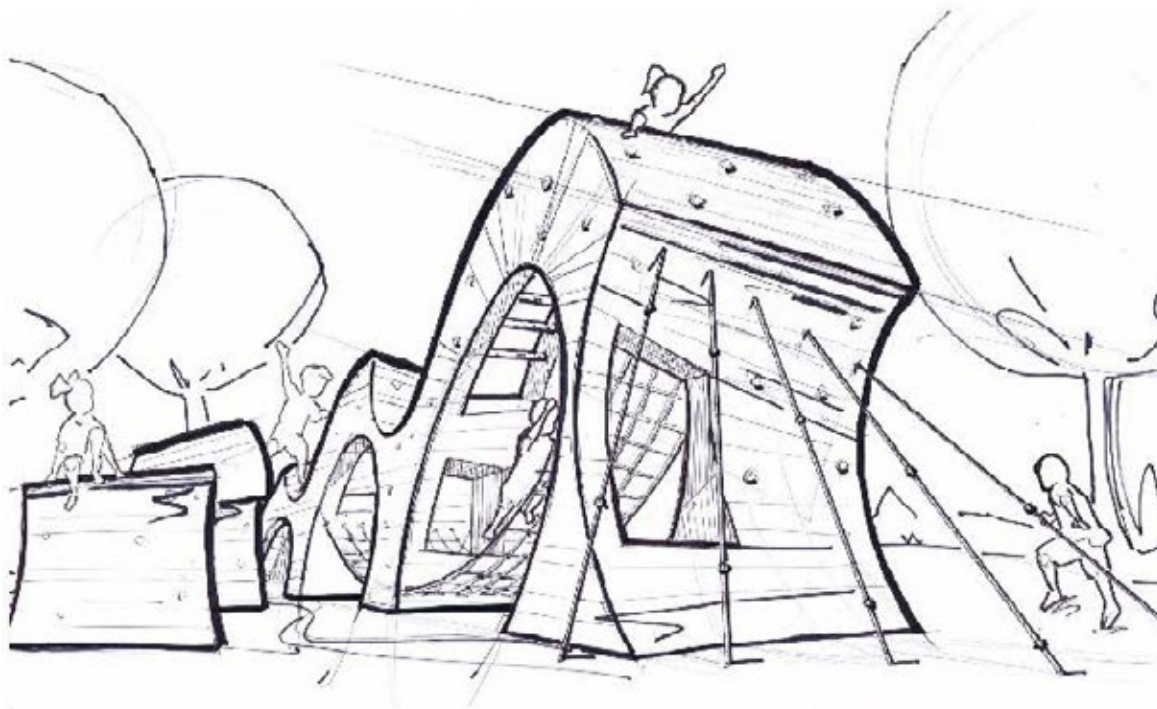
*Conceptual rendering of Block 6 showing the seating along the Promenade beside the basketball court, terminating in the view of the fountain.*



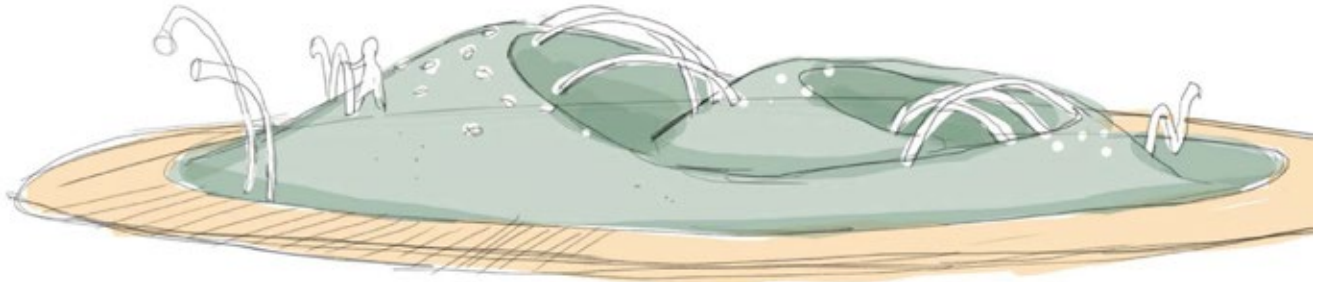
*Conceptual sketch of Block 6 (looking from Parliament Square Park) showing the small water play area and fountain surrounded by seating*

## Play Concepts

Water themed play structures include references to the former shoreline through water and dune-like shapes.



*The main play feature includes a variety of shapes, heights, and climbing apparatus including ropes, mesh, ladders and holds. This provides interest for a variety of ages.*



*The secondary play feature includes a terrain challenge that incorporates climbing and hanging bars, holds and auditory play.*



### **Key design attributes for playground structures:**

- visually accessible from all directions
- no hiding spots
- provides Accessible areas
- incorporates opportunities for different kinds of play (imaginative, tactile, musical, etc.)
- caters to a wide range of users, ages and abilities, including providing graduated challenges
- incorporates natural and cultural themes related to water

# Block 7

Hahn to Parliament

## Design Concept



### Description

- maintain the existing soccer and baseball facilities
- this block will change the least; subtle changes to improve accessibility
- widened pedestrian and cycling route along the north side of the park, with separated zones for each
- new walkway along the south side
- opportunity for a temporary, pop-up park in the parking lot to the north, which is part of First Parliament site and a future park
- one of three stations on an all-ages fitness circuit through the park

### Design Features

#### Elements

- 1 Pop-up park should provide a variety of passive and active amenities including seating and greenery
- 2 Some amenities should be geared to youth (e.g. skate park)
- 3 Fitness equipment and exercise area

## Planting

- 4 Maintain as much grass as possible
- 5 Where needed, new trees reinforce the park's edges

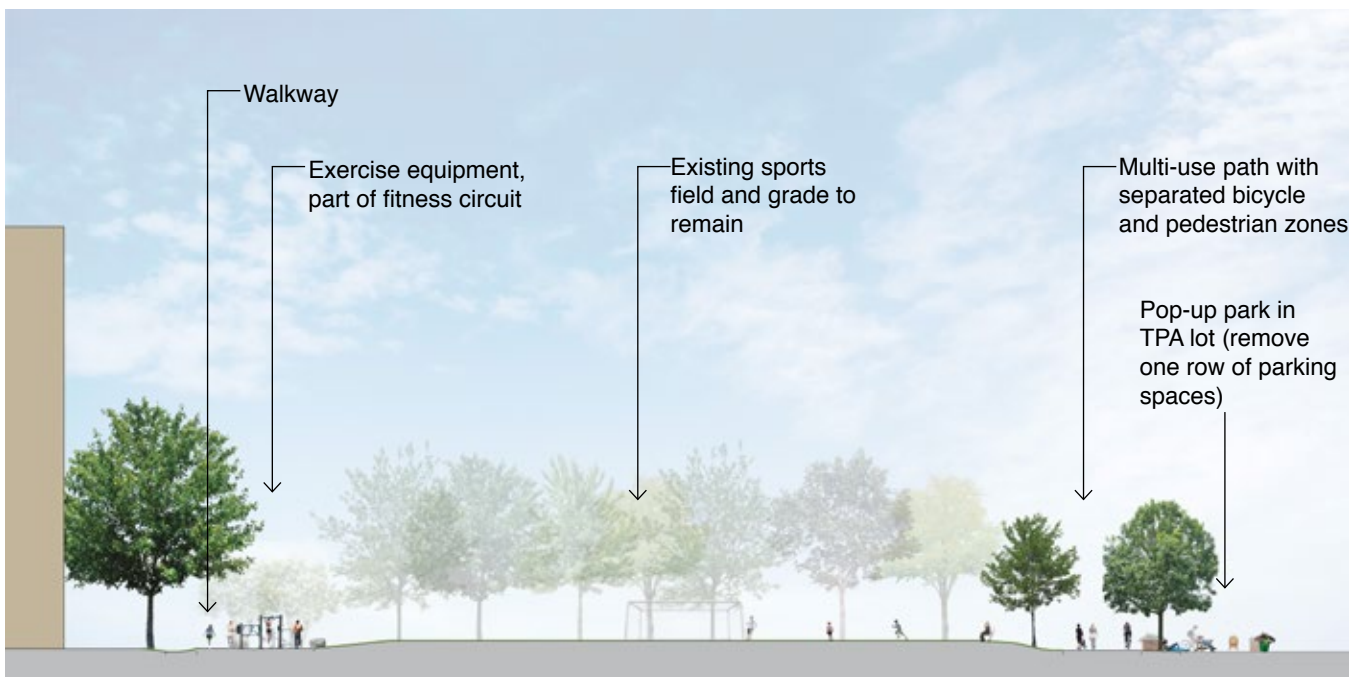
## Paving

- 6 Concrete walkways
- 7 Provide paved links between trees to future park area to north
- 8 Resilient surface in exercise area



*Aerial view of Block 7 showing the sports field surrounded by trees, and the pop-up park in the foreground*

## Cross Section Looking West (conceptual)





# Phasing

## Phasing Goals

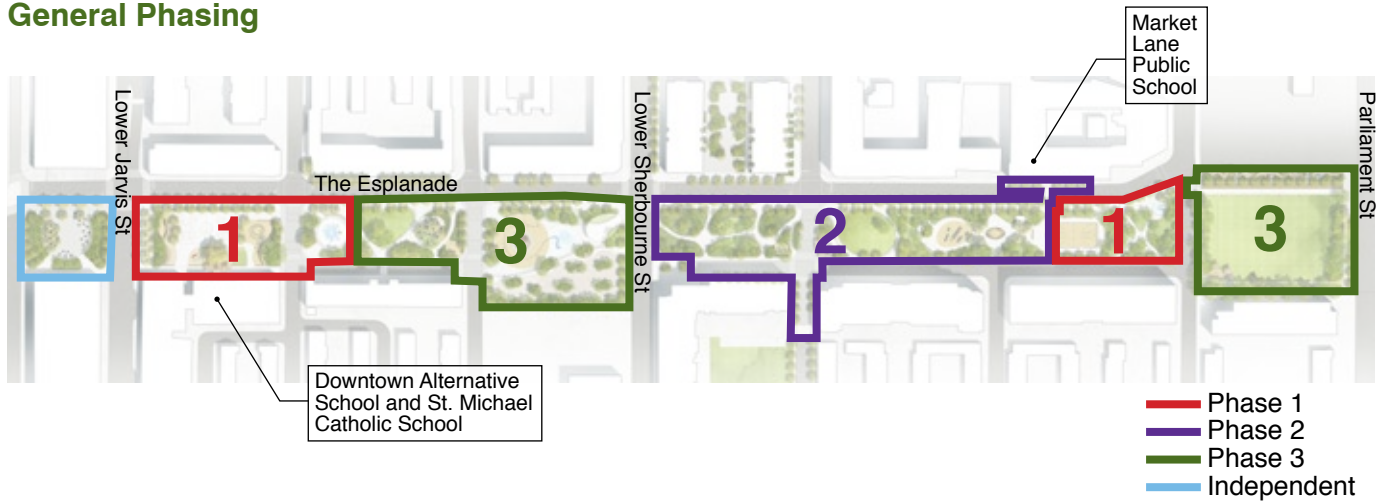
The design team for the implementation of the master plan will need to coordinate closely with the contractor to ensure that phasing goals can be met. The contractor will need to have access to adequate staging areas (potentially the roads themselves where they are part of phases), and be able to move equipment, materials and personnel efficiently from one area to another. Key objectives of the phasing plan are:

- Complete the construction as quickly as possible.
- Keep some areas of the park open to the public while other areas are under construction.
- School yards are top priority for phasing. Minimize the time the schools do not have access to the school yards.
- Provide temporary school yards on other blocks when the existing school yards are under construction. Provide fencing around the temporary yards, if needed. Fencing may be temporary (no footings). Provide safe access from the temporary school yards to school building entrance(s).
- Avoid closing both school yards (Block 2 and part of Block 6) in the same construction season.
- Avoid closing both sports fields (Blocks 4 and 7) in the same construction season.
- Maintain alternative vehicular routes to surrounding streets and properties.
- Maintain pedestrian lighting on the promenade.

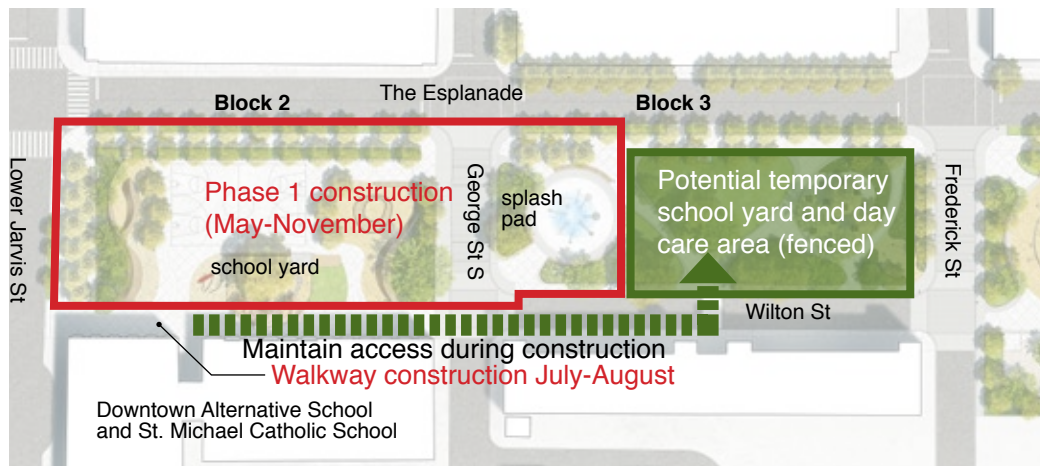
Block 1 (south of the St. Lawrence Market) is treated as an independent block, to be phased once the North St. Lawrence Market Development is complete and the tent is no longer needed.

## Three Phases

### General Phasing

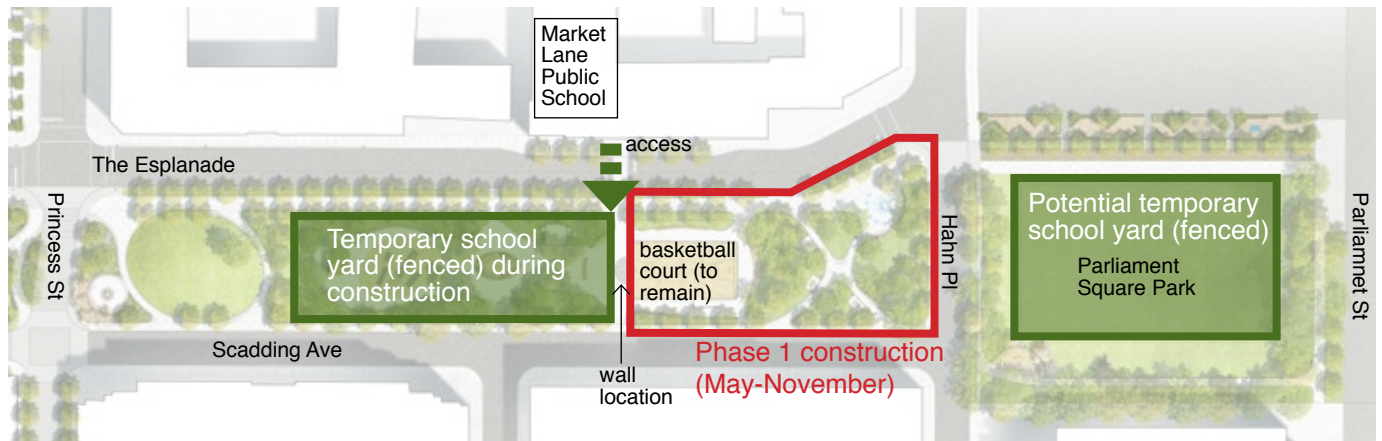


### Downtown Alternative School and St. Michael Catholic School Yard Phasing

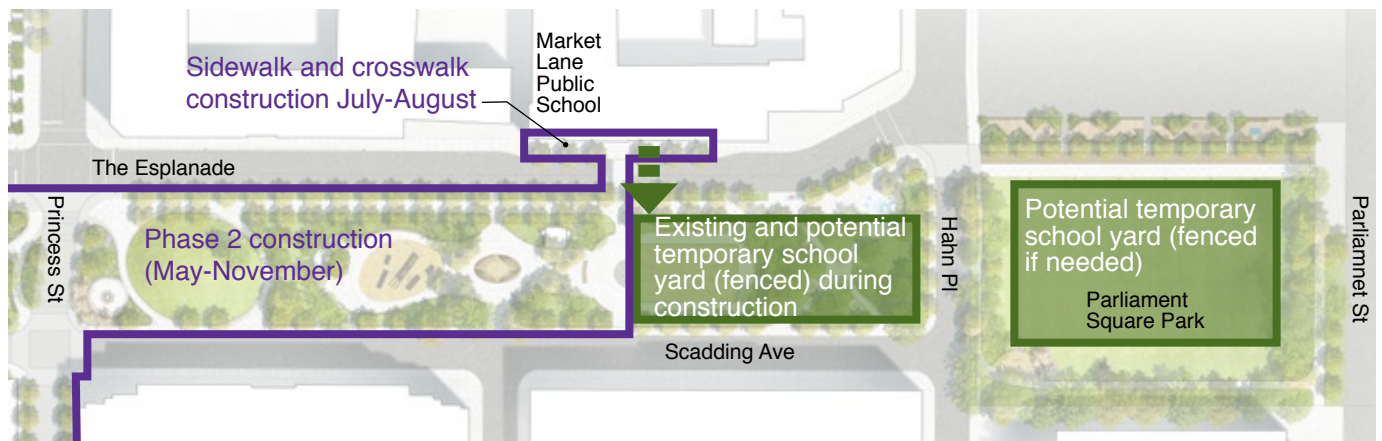


**Phase 1 Construction:** The school yard (the north portion of Block 2), the walkway (along the south edge of Block 2 adjacent to the building), and the new splash pad (the west portion of Block 3) are constructed in Phase 1. Construction of the of the walkway between the school building and the yard should be timed to occur over the summer when school is out, in order to provide children with safe access to the temporary school yard during the school year while the main school yard is under construction.

## Market Lane Public School Yard Phasing



**Phase 1 Construction:** Everything east of the existing wall along the basketball court, up to Hahn Place, is constructed in Phase 1. Children can use the remainder of the existing playground to the west of the basketball court and Parliament Square Park.



**Phase 2 Construction:** Everything west of the existing wall along the basketball court is constructed in Phase 2. Children can use the basketball court, as well as the park space to the east (adjacent to Hahn Place) and Parliament Square Park. Construction of the sidewalk on the north side of The Esplanade is timed to occur over the summer when school is out.



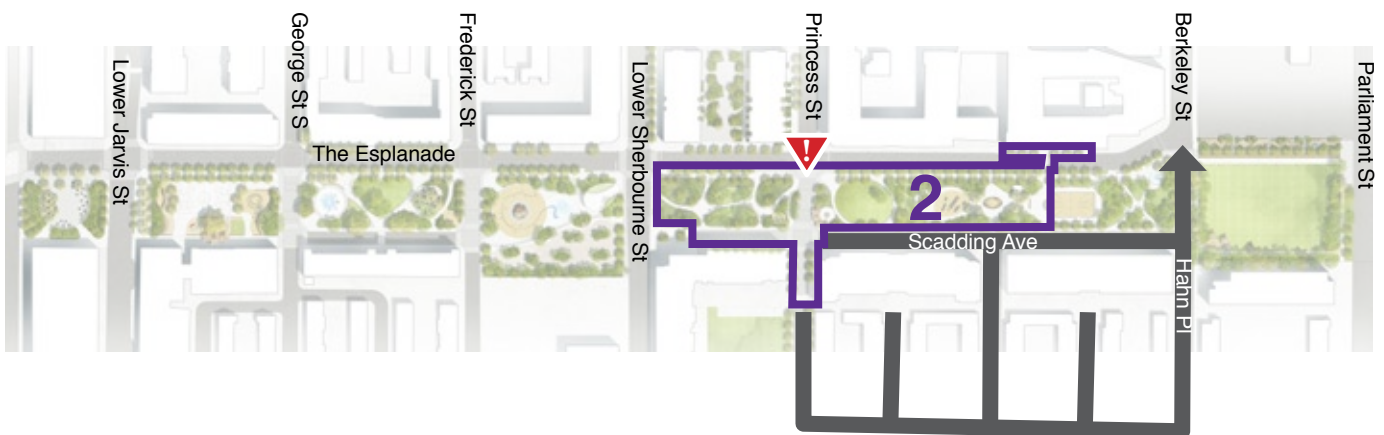
## Potential Vehicular Access Routes

▼ road closed for construction

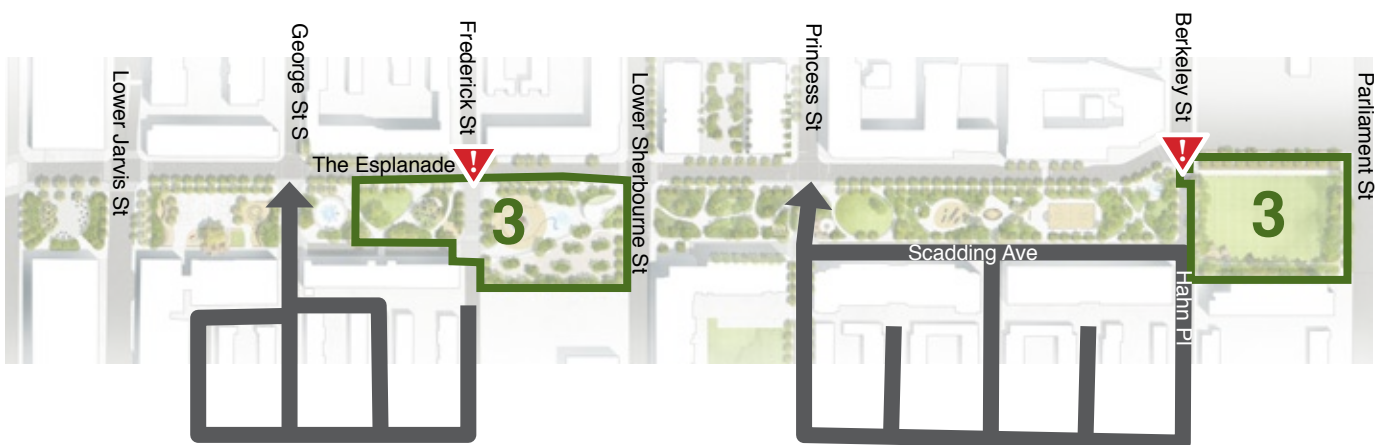
➔ alternate vehicular access route



**Phase 1:** George Street South will need to be closed for construction. Frederick Street can provide access to the south.



**Phase 2:** Princess Street and part of Scadding Avenue would need to be closed for construction. Hahn Place can provide access to the south.



**Phase 3:** Frederick Street and a small section of Hahn Place would need to be closed for construction. Princess Street can provide access to the south.



# Implementation

## Contractor Selection

### Prequalification

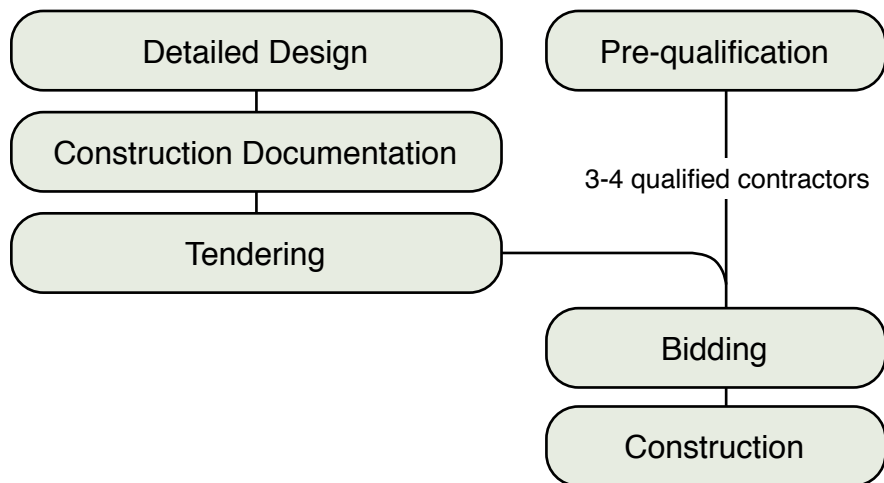
Prequalification of contractors should be done to ensure:

- Capacity of the contractor to undertake a phased project of this scale
- Demonstrated commitment of resources
- Experience working in a highly urban environment
- Experience with projects of similar scope and including similar park elements (water play features, playgrounds, ecological planting, hard surfaces, interlock paving in the right of way, etc.)

The prequalification process should be administered at the same time as detailed design work is being undertaken by the design consultant team to save time.

### Selection

It is recommended that the entire park be constructed by one contractor. This will ensure continuity of design and construction sequencing across all seven blocks, and help to generate efficiencies of scale that can keep costs lower.



## Detailed Design

### Consultant Team

Led by Landscape Architect and to include:

- Electrical engineering and lighting
- Water/mechanical engineering
- Structural engineering
- Civil engineering
- Cost consultant
- Play ground design
- CSA Specialist
- Geotechnical and hydrogeological engineering
- Architect
- Irrigation

### Public Art

There are a number of specific public art opportunities identified by this Revitalization Design, including, an art fence along Block 2 school yard, a sculptural piece in Block 5 gardens, an Indigenous Celestial observatory in Block 6 on the hill, and a fountain/water feature in Block 6 as a visual focal point for the Promenade. There are further opportunities for art treatments in the decorative paving within the park and right of ways. In addition, other creative opportunities should be considered.

It is recommended that one or more public art opportunities be integrated at the detailed design stage and implemented with the construction of the park. Options for achieving this could include the requirement for a team to include public artists, or to propose a selection process for an artist(s). The City may also have a process depending on the administering department.

### Dog Relief Area

The design process for the dog relief area should be undertaken in consultation with a local neighbourhood DOLA group – the group will need to be formed if it doesn't exist – and the City's DOLA department.

### School Boards

The detailed design process for the school yards should be undertaken in consultation with the relevant school boards: the Toronto District School Board (Downtown Alternative School) and Toronto Catholic District School Board (St Michael Catholic School) for Block 2, and the Toronto District School Board (Market Lane Public School) for part of Block 6. Explore potential temporary playground and access route locations.

### **Archaeology**

The Stage 1 archaeological report identifies that archaeological remains associated with cribbing and similar structures is typically found at an elevation between 75-76m above sea level. Any excavation and footings should avoid penetrating to this level, and where necessary, be redesigned with alternative footings to avoid disturbance of archaeological remains.

### **Storm Sewers**

It is recommended that the existing sewers be video inspected to confirm their condition.

### **Water Service**

The entire park should be irrigated to allow new planting to establish (new planting is phased over many years).

Currently Block 2 is not provided with a water service or an irrigation system so new connections will need to be established. Blocks 3 to 7 are currently provided with one turf valve placed in pit for the manual irrigation system. If required, additional locations can be provided. Water connections in Block 1 are unknown.

In Block 3, the existing services for the wading pool should accommodate conversion to the splash pad. State of repair of the existing pumping equipment will need to be determined.

Block 4 has adequate water supply but no storm drain connection. A new sump reservoir and 100mm storm connection to the street will be required to accommodate the new water play feature. Piping in the existing MTCE pit will need to be altered, to accommodate the new water features, as will some modification to the distribution headers. A new control cabinet/power supply will be required. This system can also service the dog relief area which requires irrigation and flushing.

During detailed design, hydrant tests and/or water modeling for the municipal watermain is likely required in order to confirm the flow and pressure required for the water features.

In Block 6 the existing services should accommodate the new water features. State of repair of the existing pumping equipment/filter will need to be determined. Piping in the existing MTCE pit may need to be altered to accommodate the new water features. Depending on the water requirements of the new fountain, the existing 50mm water supply off Hahn Place may need to be upgraded.

Currently Blocks 3 and 6 (east and west) have with drinking fountains. Additional fountains can be provided, with new piping and some modifications to the distribution headers in MTCE pits.

## **Drainage and Stormwater Management**

### **Park Wide Strategies**

Overland flow route shall be provided for any low points of the site with ponding not exceeding 0.30m.

Low Impact Development (LID) measures such as permeable pavers and/or infiltration galleries can be utilized to reduce stormwater runoff, however, detailed geotechnical and hydrogeological reports are required to assess the existing soil and ground water conditions for feasibility. Any below grade infiltration features shall be located a minimum 5.0m away from any structural foundations as per Ontario Building Code requirement. Any infiltration measures proposed during detailed design will require regular ongoing maintenance in order to maintain long-term performance.

Design permeable paving to meet AODA standards.

As a further stormwater management technique, manufactured soil blends with very specific textures and structures that, combined with appropriate grading, provide infiltration areas which will detain stormwater.

### **Block 1**

The overall stormwater runoff from Block 1 will be reduced as a result of the increased landscape area, therefore, stormwater runoff will be reduced compared to the existing condition.

### **Block 2**

The existing daytime school yard is proposed to be raised to eliminate the existing stairs to create a level surface between the school and the playground. During detailed grading design, the existing catch basins shall be relocated to new low points accordingly and reconnect to the existing sewer. According to the proposed master plan, the pump station is not affected.

The overall stormwater runoff from Block 2 will be reduced as the result of the increased landscape area. Therefore, stormwater runoff will be reduced compared to the existing condition.

### **Block 3**

The overall stormwater runoff from Block 3 will increase due to the modest increase in overall impervious surfaces (walkways). On-site stormwater management features such as underground storage chambers can be utilized to control storm runoff to match existing conditions.

It is recommended that the water feature drains to the storm sewer instead of sanitary to avoid discharging stormwater into the municipal sanitary sewer system.

New catchbasins shall be installed at all low points.

#### Block 4

The overall stormwater runoff from Block 4 will increase due to the increase in overall impervious surfaces. On-site stormwater management features such as underground storage chambers can be utilized to control stormwater runoff to match existing conditions.

New catchbasins shall be installed at all low points.

A new drain and mechanical equipment will be required for the new water play area.

#### Block 5

The overall imperviousness of Block 5 will remain relatively unchanged and therefore on-site stormwater management is not anticipated. New catchbasins shall be installed at all low points.

#### Block 6

The overall imperviousness of Block 6 will increase due to the modest increase in overall impervious surfaces. On-site stormwater management features such as underground storage chambers can be utilized to control storm runoff to match existing conditions.

It is recommended that the water features drain to the storm sewer instead of sanitary to avoid discharging storm water into the municipal sanitary sewer system.

The existing mound located in the west part of Block 6 is proposed to be enhanced to be taller and wider. Based on preliminary investigations, the modification of the existing mound is feasible and will not negatively affect the drainage pattern of the overall site.

During detailed grading design, the existing catchbasins shall be relocated to new low points accordingly and reconnected to the existing sewer.

#### Block 7

The overall stormwater runoff from Block 7 will very slightly increase due to the new walkway. Bioswales and/or infiltration galleries can be utilized to balance the increase in stormwater runoff.

### **Electrical and Lighting**

Electrical panels for each block are required to avoid crossing municipal roads with cables. All will be a metered load center cabinet with locking bar and legs (as per City of Toronto standard) with 200A main breaker, circuit breakers sized to suit, 6-20A GFI receptacles, irrigation and splash pad controllers (where appropriate), hydro meter socket and photocontrol. This will enable events and programming to be considered in every block with easy access to power.

The power for decorative luminaries on street light Hydro poles along the Promenade is generally feasible. Drawings need to be submitted to and approved by Toronto Hydro.

Preliminary review of the proposed luminary locations are generally feasible, however, some locations do not pass photometric calculations based on current assumptions. At the detailed design stage, a comprehensive photometric calculation will need to include the proposed luminaire specifications to determine if minimum illuminance requirements are met. Locations and quantities of light features, and their illuminance requirements, can be changed.

## **Risks**

### **Delays**

Any work within the right of way requires a permit from the City's transportation division which can take up to one year to process. Examples of work within the right of ways adjacent to David Crombie Park include:

- Enhancement of the Promenade along The Esplanade
- Changes to sidewalks and plantings within the right of way
- Interlock paving across the driving surface and sidewalks
- Closure of Wilton Street
- Narrowing of The Esplanade lane widths at the pedestrian crossing at Market Lane School to widen the north sidewalk and provide street trees

Toronto water and Toronto Hydro permits may also take up to one year to process.

City staff should discuss this master plan with Hydro One to scope out any issues.

### **Historical Land Use and Environmental Issues**

There are records of environmental soil testing for Parliament Square Park dated to approximately 1990. Parliament Square Park is a capped landfill site. Work in the park should avoid disturbance to the landfill.

The pop-up park immediately north of Parliament Square Park, on the First Parliament site, and currently a Toronto Parking Authority lot, is contaminated. The pop-up design should avoid excavation and retain the existing asphalt layer as a barrier.

No reports are available for David Crombie Park. Further information is needed on how environmental issues were addressed when the park was built.

Findings of contamination and/or unearthing archaeological remains could result in delays.

## Further Information and Studies

City of Toronto internal discussions:

- Confirm requirements for roadway improvements and changes with Transportation Services
- Confirm budgets for construction for PF&R and Transportation Services
- Determine requirements for studies and processes related to infrastructure (water, electrical)

### Required studies:

Prior to the retention of a consultant team and contractor:

- Conduct Geotechnical and Hydrogeological studies to ascertain soil and groundwater conditions for all blocks, and, make preliminary recommendations based on the Revitalization Plan
- These studies should determine if there are any contamination concerns given the area's industrial history, and, make recommendations for next steps

### Potentially required studies:

#### Water

- Toronto water may require a neighbourhood audit of available capacity of water supply and/or stormwater capacity and strategies for mitigation

#### Management Plan

The revitalization plan for David Crombie Park is a significant investment in the public realm and somewhat unprecedented in the City of Toronto. To keep the park functioning well and looking good for the next generation, management practices beyond typical city standards will be required. A management plan should be prepared to document:

- Maintenance routines at a higher frequency and standard for litter removal, waste pick up, sweeping/washing, horticultural services, water play features, dog off leash area care, and other park elements
- Inspection schedules by week, month and year for park infrastructure including lighting, electrical, water (play features and irrigation), play equipment, exercise equipment, signage, paving, seating, planting beds, sod areas and other park elements
- A long term urban forest management strategy for removal, replanting, pruning and soil management
- A plan for repair and replacement of infrastructure
- Community group participation in maintenance, community garden beds, dog off leash area, programming or fundraising
- City procedures for event permitting, access to power and water, filming, and public use policies



### Shared Use Agreements with School Boards

Current shared use agreements do not apply to both school yards, and there is uncertainty in roles and responsibilities. New shared use agreements should be developed that clearly set out the Boards' right of access and use, and timing. Maintenance responsibilities should be defined for routine procedures (winter plowing, turf care, equipment and paving repair) and unexpected events (vandalism, acts of nature).

### Soils Strategy

- based on repeated past experience where new planting soil was imported with poor results, prefer to work with the existing soil in situ and enhance it
- test existing soils, understand its chemical and biological condition
- create an soil amendment strategy
- this has greater potential to create healthy soil profile for trees and plants

### Greening Strategy

The trees of David Crombie Park must be considered comprehensively and respectfully. The Ashes, terminally affected by the Emerald Ash Borer, will be removed as they become hazardous (which many now have) and not before. Almost all Norway Maples are affected by girdling roots which will severely limit future healthy development. Removing all Ash and all Norway Maples at once should not be the approach of this project during its implementation phase, and rather a thoughtful, and phased approach to tree removals and plantings should be undertaken, that is not necessarily on the same timeline as the rest of the project.

However, this project should capitalize on the budget it will be allocated, to address as much of the planting as possible to ensure that this critically important work does not diminish in importance or priority. This project provides an incredible opportunity to implement an urban forest that can not only achieve, but exceed canopy cover targets. And more importantly, this project can significantly reduce the percentage of invasive species on this site, while promoting plant communities that have significantly more ecological potential toward ideas of bioamplification and habitat creation.

The plantings associated with this project will promote a strategy of landscape resilience that is not only cognizant of species diversity, but also genera diversity, and equally importantly diversity at the Family level. Furthermore, there will be a planting palette that capitalizes comprehensively on the growing season and flowering schedules, ensuring a pollen and nectar source throughout the growing season and a more aesthetically pleasing landscape for people as well.

### Block 1

#### **Concept**

- Light shade canopy trees surround the public space
- Seasonal perennial gardens with food related theme provide the understory species

#### **Tree Species**

Honeylocust, Black Locust

### Block 2

#### **Concept**

- Heavy shade in the school yard
- Sterile plants or low-fragrance plants to reduce stinging pollinators
- Canopy trees to preserve valuable open play space at ground level

#### **Tree Species**

Common Hackberry, DED American Elm, Black Maple, Amur Maackia

#### **Shrub Species**

Amur Corktree, Yellowwood, Three-Flower Maple, Eastern Redbud

### Block 3

#### **Concept**

- Persistent flowering cycle to maximize blooming through the growing season
- Vibrant and diverse colour palette
- Provide a pollinator garden and food sources for urban wildlife (e.g. birds)

#### **Tree Species**

Hawthorn, Tamarack, Tuliptree, Basswood

#### **Shrub Species**

Black Chokeberry, Nannyberry, Flowering Dogwood, Bottlebrush Buckeye

### Block 4

#### **Concept**

- Pedestrian scale planting; smaller in scale than other blocks
- Massed plantings to define play areas
- Low fencing to contain planted areas and restrict active play

#### **Tree Species**

Tatarian Maple, River Birch, Blue Beech, Pagoda Dogwood

#### **Shrub Species**

Oakleaf Hydrangea, Grey Birch, Red Osier Dogwood

## Block 5

### **Concept**

- Trees with historical, cultural and food source significance to Indigenous groups

### **Tree Species**

Red Oak, Black Oak, Bitternut Hickory, Shagbark Hickory

### **Shrub Species**

Witch Hazel, Silky Dogwood, Downy Serviceberry, Ninebark

## Block 6

### **Concept**

- Heavy shade in the school yard
- Sterile plants or low-fragrance plants to reduce stinging pollinators
- Canopy trees to preserve valuable open play space at ground level
- Trees with historical, cultural and food source significance to Indigenous groups

### **Tree Species**

Common Hackberry, DED American Elm, Black Maple, Amur Maackia, Red Oak, Black Oak, Bitternut Hickory, Shagbark Hickory

### **Shrub Species**

Amur Corktree, Yellowwood, Three-Flower Maple, Eastern Redbud

## Block 7

### **Concept**

- Framing the field with formal monoculture
- High scaffold branch
- Tough, hardwood trees

### **Tree Species**

Kentucky Coffeetree, Red Oak, Sugar Maple, Black Walnut

### **Shrub Species**

N/A



# Acknowledgements

## Internal Stakeholders

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Peter White - PFR  
Edward Lewis - PFR  
Paul Brown - PFR  
Heidi Weidlich - PFR  
Tom Feeney - PFR  
Dan Macleod - PFR  
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## Community Resource Group

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Barry Thomas - Toronto Community Housing  
Rhonda Ross - St. Lawrence Community Centre Advisory Council  
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Fabrizio Macieri - TCDSB  
Lela Pacitti - TCDSB  
Aileen Leadbeater - TDSB  
Karen Bianna - Evergreen

## Indigenous Engagement

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Matthew Hickey - Two Row Architect  
Philip Cote - Artist  
Jane Harrison - Anishnawbe Health Toronto  
Daniela Cano - Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto  
Pamela Hart - Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto



# David Crombie Park

## Revitalization Design

Prepared by:  
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Earthscape  
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AEC

