

October 30, 2008

Nathan Phillips Square Revitalization Project

The City launched a successful international design competition in 2006-07 to revitalize Nathan Phillips Square (NPS). The winning design team will provide architectural and related design services for the project. Schematic design work for all components of the project is now complete.

Construction of the rooftop garden on the City Hall podium roof will start in early 2009 for opening in late 2009—in time for the City's 175th anniversary. Construction of the other elements of the project will take place in subsequent phases over approximately 3½ years and will be scheduled to minimize disruption for users of NPS. The revitalized NPS is targeted for completion in 2012.

1. Improvements to Revitalize Nathan Phillips Square

The revitalized Nathan Phillips Square will include:

- a versatile new stage structure with an elegant roof canopy, wide stairs leading to the elevated walkway and performance support space connected below grade;
- a new public pavilion at the southwest corner of the Square, with rink support facilities, a food concession, public washrooms and a generous roof terrace overlooking the Square;
- a two-level restaurant in the southwest portion of NPS, with outdoor seasonal patio and terrace dining and access to the adjacent overhead walkway and public roof terrace;
- a new glass pavilion at Queen and Bay streets with a visitor/tourist information centre, bicycle rental and elevator access to the overhead walkway;
- redesigned landscaping along the edges of the Square and the west side, with an increased number of trees, mixed tree species and innovative soil planting;
- a wide variety of sustainable design achievements linked to Toronto's Green Development Standard such as: a soil regeneration strategy; improved tree planting conditions and increased biomass and number of trees; facilities for cyclists and promotion of cycling; improved pedestrian environment; controlling light pollution; energy efficient design; renewable energy features, opportunities for public education; attention to the on-site microclimate; and sourcing of local materials;
- a larger and enhanced Peace Garden at a new location in the western landscaped area of the Square;
- creation of a new green roof on the City Hall podium roof with extensive landscaped gardens, a courtyard framing the Council Chamber, and a café at the prow;
- extending paving from the Square to the newly landscaped Queen Street forecourt;
- a relocated and redesigned PATH pedestrian walkway connection in the underground garage leading from/to City Hall;
- upgrading the overhead walkways with wood decking, seating, glass balustrades, light wells and improved access; and
- a seasonal disappearing water fountain feature in the centre of the Square.

2. Project Funding

- City Council has approved capital funding totalling \$22.2 million toward the \$42.7 million project cost.
- It is proposed that \$21.106 million required for the project be funded from corporate reserve funds.

3. Internal and External Stakeholder Consultations

- Numerous internal and external stakeholder consultations to provide input on the requirements and detailed design for NPS are almost completed.
- Adjacent property owners are being consulted regarding issues such as PATH connections, overhead walkway changes, laneway relocation and construction scheduling.
- Consultations with event organizers and users of NPS will be held to coordinate construction activities on NPS in order to minimize impacts on activities and events.

4. Nathan Phillips Square Revitalization Public Advisory Group (NPSRPAG)

- NPSRPAG, with assistance from the City Manager's Office, is reviewing options and best practices for governance, programming and financing of NPS in order to recommend an appropriate governance structure to ensure the proper management and long-term sustainability of the Square.

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