

March 29, 2021

Special Notice #4: York Street Park (*Love Park*) Tree Removals

Background

York Street Park (*Love Park*) is a 2-acre park located at the southern foot of York Street and Queens Quay West, reclaimed as public space from its former use as the Gardiner's York-Bay-Yonge eastbound off-ramp.

Since the launch of the international design competition for York Street Park in February 2018, Waterfront Toronto and the City of Toronto have been working closely to advance design work on the park to create a lush green oasis of trees, vegetation and open green space in the heart of our central waterfront.

To achieve these outcomes, the project team has worked closely with the City of Toronto since the start of this process to meet the rigorous requirements of Urban Forestry's tree protection by-laws. The long-term health of new and existing trees has been thoughtfully considered and planned to ensure that the park is ultimately filled with a wide variety of trees and high tree canopies well into the future.

Construction of York Street Park (*Love Park*) will commence in May/June 2021 and is slated for completion in 2022.

What to expect

Waterfront Toronto is undertaking pre-construction site preparation throughout spring 2021. Starting on March 31, a total of 7 trees will be removed in order to achieve the final design for *Love Park*. This work is being undertaken by a certified arborist over a three-day period.

See **Figure 1** for detail on the 5 trees to be preserved.

Site access

Crews are expected to access the site at the southwest corner of Queens Quay West and York Street. Service trucks will be on site, but no impacts to traffic are anticipated as a result of this work. Pedestrian access will remain around the park along sidewalks along Harbour Street, York Street and Queens Quay. The pedestrian walkway between the park and the RBC building will also remain open and accessible.

Park Design & Planting Strategy

The design prioritizes the needs of the 37 new and 5 preserved trees by providing ample spacing for each. With proposed tree species spaced 12m apart, and soil volumes for each in excess of 30m³ each, new plantings are able to grow big and strong to establish a new green gateway to the waterfront. When the park is complete, there will be more than three times the number of trees currently on site.

See **Figure 2** for detail about the park's tree planting strategy.

Find out how we are increasing Love Park's tree canopy by 37 new trees, plus a wide array of other flora and fauna, through [this blog](#).

Previous Tree Maintenance

In the fall of 2020, Waterfront Toronto had arborists undertake important maintenance of the trees on site to ensure the health and longevity of the 5 mature trees retained as part of the park's final design before, during and after construction. This work included:

- **Dead Wooding:** common and important part of maintaining tree health that helps prevent the spread of rot throughout the tree.
- **Air Spading & Root Pruning:** Air spading is a safer, less invasive way for arborists to maintain root health than manual digging and avoids damaging the root system. Pruning is done in advance of construction on the site to minimize the risk of doing damage to important root systems during construction. Root pruning helps to encourage growth of new feeder roots.

Questions

For more detail about York Street Park (*Love Park*), including the history of consultation, visit our website: www.waterfrontoronto.ca.

Send your questions to info@waterfrontoronto.ca. We appreciate and thank you for your patience.

Figure 1. York Street Park (Love Park) Existing Mature Trees Retained

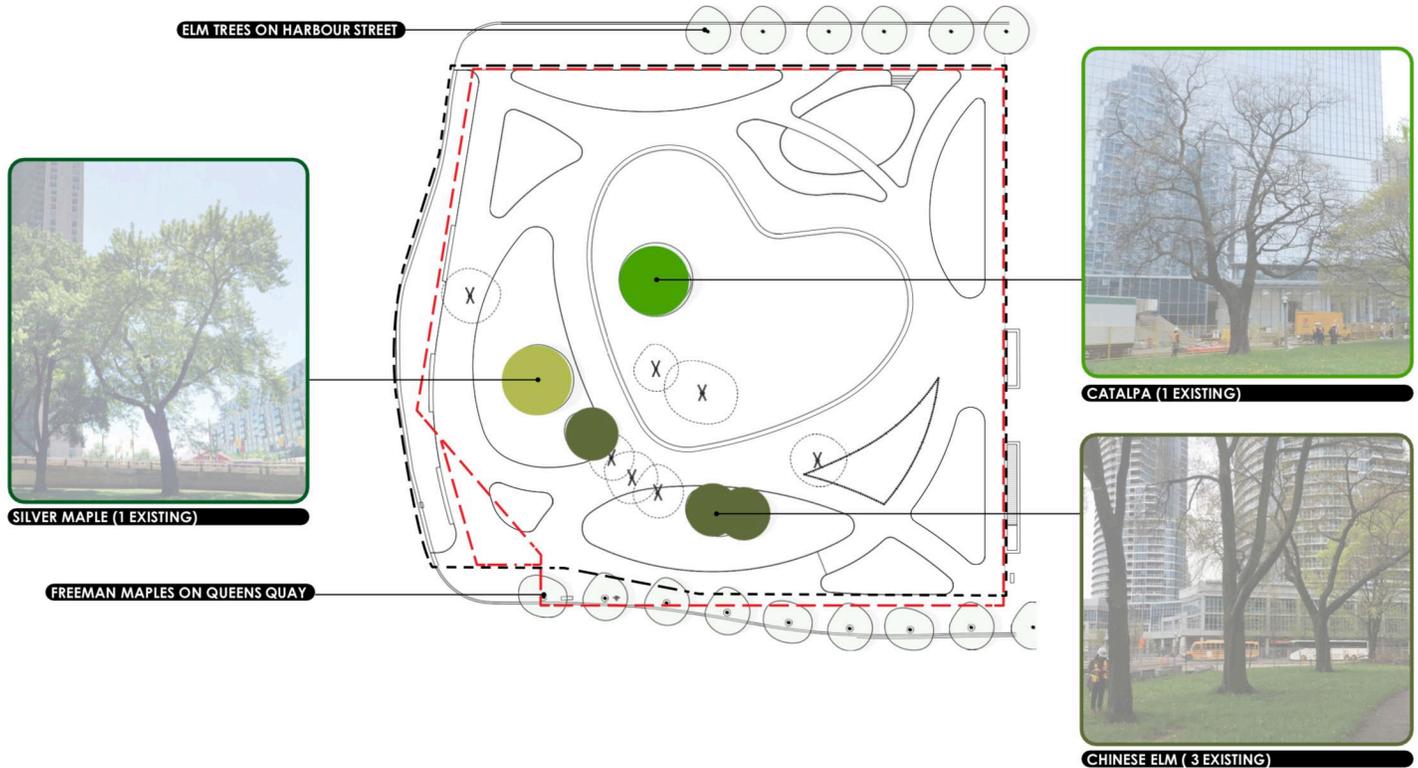


Figure 2. York Street Park (Love Park) New Tree Plantings

