

REVITALIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO'S HISTORIC CORE

A BOLD PLAN TO RENEW AND BEAUTIFY U OF T'S ST. GEORGE CAMPUS



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

BOUNDLESS

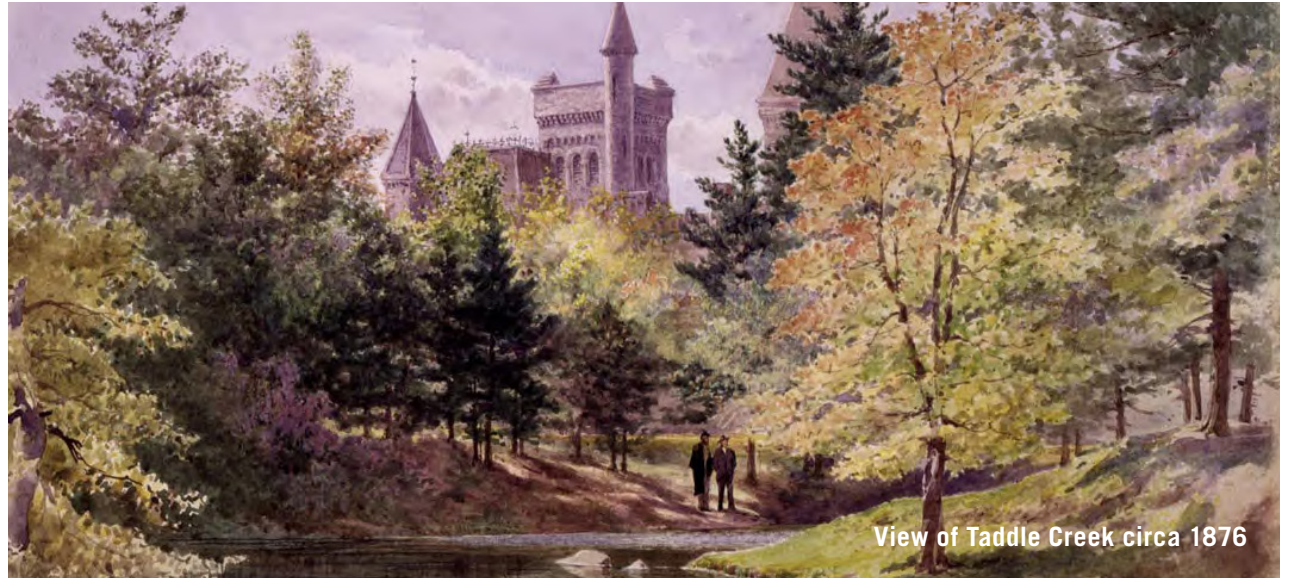


“ The Landmark Project will reimagine the historic core of the St. George campus by creating dynamic, open spaces where students, faculty and the wider community can come together in new and unexpected ways. The benefits of a beautiful and multi-use green space of this size in the heart of the city will be enjoyed by Torontonians for generations to come. ”

— Meric Gertler, President, University of Toronto



A VISIONARY CAMPUS LANDSCAPE



View of Taddle Creek circa 1876

The St. George campus, with its idyllic greens, lush trees, winding pathways and cloistered courtyards, is an oasis in the heart of Toronto and one of the country's most cherished landscapes.

From the earliest days, U of T's founders recognized the importance of green space to the University's prestige and grandeur, and smartly devised a campus landscape of handsome lawns, gardens and vistas well before the University hired its first faculty member or constructed its first building.

The historic core of the University consists of four distinct and interconnected open spaces — Front Campus, Hart House Circle, Sir Daniel Wilson Quadrangle and the Back Campus. These spaces are home to some of Canada's finest architecture, including the iconic University College, the magnificent domed rotunda of Convocation Hall and the neo-Gothic Hart House. These distinctive buildings ring

King's College Circle, the last remaining vestige of the University's first decades when it was known as King's College (1827–1850).

Walking through these open spaces evokes a strong sense of history, pride and place. They constitute a vital landscape, binding our community together by offering places of connection, gathering, ceremony, reflection and repose for thousands of students, faculty, staff, visitors and residents throughout the year.

Campuses change over time, and the St. George campus has been modernized to meet the needs of a growing academic community. The gradual introduction of new buildings and residences, as well as motorized vehicles, paved roadways and parking lots, has reduced campus green space and, in some places, obscured its original charm and splendour by cluttering sightlines and privileging cars over pedestrians.

Renewing the historic core of U of T and preserving this vital green space is a top priority for the University. Through our Landmark Project, we have set an ambitious goal to restore and amplify the natural beauty of our downtown campus and elevate the overall experience for everyone.

Our plan, based on more than a year of public consultation, greatly reduces surface parking on King's College Circle, Hart House Circle and Tower Road. An inviting network of pedestrian-friendly spaces will unify the University's heritage grounds for the first time in decades.

With the support of our community, we will revitalize our breathtaking architectural inheritance and boldly reinstate the campus core as one of the essential and most vibrant public spaces in our city and country.



University College, 1895

RECLAIMING THE CORE



The Landmark Project will recapture the original open spirit of Front Campus and King's College Circle by moving parking underground and replacing the existing asphalt and concrete road with granite pavers in shades of green, grey and deep purple that complement the slate, copper, stone and brick of the historic architecture.

A dramatic reduction in the numbers of cars and parking spaces will transform the Circle into a beautifully integrated green space, befitting the University's standing as one of the world's great universities. The space will once again serve as the thriving centre of campus, shaping and elevating the student experience.

A necklace of winding granite pathways, dotted with beautiful gardens and generous seating, will connect several new public spaces along the Circle. At the northwest curve, outside the J. Robert S. Prichard Alumni House, a plaza will welcome students and

other members of the U of T community as they arrive from the north and west areas of campus and serve as a flexible outdoor venue for alumni events. A glassed-in pavilion in the plaza area will lead to a new underground parking facility, and new seating areas will encourage casual gatherings and conversations. Meanwhile, along the southeast curve, a new pavilion and plaza leading to the Medical Sciences Building will feature a café and indoor and outdoor seating.

The project will also rejuvenate the space surrounding Convocation Hall—the ceremonial heart of campus, where generations of graduating students have assembled to receive their diplomas and begin a new chapter in their lives. Here a spectacular new plaza will signal the significance these grounds hold for thousands of students, alumni and families, and provide a much more dignified passage to King's College Circle.

Hart House Circle, Sir Daniel Wilson Quadrangle and the Back Campus will also receive significant upgrades.

New granite pathways will elevate the experience of passing through these spaces to Front Campus and King's College Circle. Hart House Circle will be reconfigured as a loop around the Observatory Building, with the current road replaced by a new pedestrian plaza.

New seating areas will create much-needed spaces for conversation, relaxation and quiet reflection. Resilient grasses, early-flowering trees and species that stay green well into the fall will be introduced, while a stately row of trees along Tower Road will frame the view south to the Soldiers' Tower. The Back Campus fields will be integrated into the landscape with the addition of terraced seating, giving spectators a comfortable place to watch sporting events.

These elements, together with many more enhancements, will transform our open spaces into much greener, more accessible and socially dynamic places.



A CAMPUS THAT STRENGTHENS COMMUNITY

University campuses are, above all, places for people. A well-designed campus, with lively and attractive open-air spaces, offers a more inspiring, innovative and exciting place to live, work and learn.

The Landmark Project will return the historic core to pedestrians and focus on the creation of community. A significant reduction in surface parking and the addition of pavilions, plazas, a café, seating areas and other multi-use spaces will introduce a much stronger social architecture to campus, with intimate places to study, meet friends or relax between classes, as well as more dynamic, open spaces for sports, concerts, screenings and larger public gatherings.

The overall experience of campus will be more comfortable and inviting, with greater opportunities for our community of alumni, faculty and students to come together with a stronger sense of connection to one another and to the University as a whole.



“ The University is doing an amazing thing by giving Front Campus back to pedestrians and cyclists, making it safer and more accessible for recreation and intramural sports, and for just sitting outside and enjoying the green space in the heart of the campus. ”

— Marco Colturi (class of 2018), Master of Landscape Architecture student



AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS

The University of Toronto has a responsibility to create environmentally sustainable spaces that support the health and well-being of our community.

The significant reduction in surface parking on King's College Circle and limits on vehicular traffic in the campus core are central features of our plan to continuously “green” our campus and reduce our environmental footprint.

With cars no longer dominating the landscape, the Landmark Project will introduce a well-planned network of pathways, and a more ecological and people-minded approach to campus landscaping. New trees, gardens and other plantings will contribute to cleaner soil, air and water, and provide vital cooling and shade during summer months. They will also improve biodiversity by attracting a greater variety of birds, insects and other animals.

The result will be a healthier and more natural environment, an oasis of calm in the heart of a thriving metropolis.





View of Hart House from proposed new pathway

A VITAL PLACE FOR THE CITY

As one of the few significant public green spaces in downtown Toronto, the historic core of U of T holds an important place in the life of the city and its residents.

Every year, the University hosts hundreds of public events, ranging from lectures and conferences to festivals, screenings, performances, weddings and other special occasions, drawing thousands of people to the St. George campus.

The Landmark Project will strengthen U of T's robust relationship with Toronto's diverse communities by offering area residents a pedestrian- and cyclist-friendly campus with inspiring, flexible and interactive gathering places.

More welcoming and accessible entry points, better wayfinding and improved lighting at night will make the campus safer and better connect the campus grounds to the surrounding neighbourhoods. Friendly and well-designed outdoor spaces will encourage people from all walks of life to come and spend time on our beautiful campus, creating more opportunities for engaging with the University—from meeting a friend for coffee or joining a few thousand friends for an event, to participating in a charity run or watching a softball game.



Thousands gather for the annual CIBC Run for the Cure



“ In the end, higher education is about social and intellectual exchange. These revitalized spaces will ensure that students get the most out of their time at U of T and make our diverse communities feel even more welcome on campus. ”

— Donald C. Ainslie, Principal, University College



“ We’re taking iconic spaces with great bones and returning them to their former glory. But it’s not a restoration; U of T and Toronto are very different places than when these spaces were built. Today, the St. George campus is the most significant green space in the core of our city. ”

— Shirley Blumberg (BArch 1976), Lead Architect, KPMB





Front Campus (left) is the symbolic heart of the St. George campus. Reducing surface parking and installing a necklace of granite pathways and more than 20 new gardens will make the space more intimate and pedestrian-friendly. The area will be beautified with new plantings and the turf will be refurbished to withstand the varied year-round uses of this much-loved green space.

Removing asphalt and introducing a large granite plaza with seating areas will complement the classical architecture of **Convocation Hall** (below). In addition to hosting graduation ceremonies, the plaza outside Convocation Hall will serve as a venue for a wide assortment of University and public events throughout the year.





A plaza in front of the **J. Robert S. Prichard Alumni House** will welcome students and other members of the U of T community as they arrive from the north and west areas of campus and serve as a flexible outdoor venue for alumni events. The current entry terrace will be replaced by a plaza with paths leading to King's College Circle. An enclosed pavilion will lead to a new underground parking facility and additional seating will encourage casual gatherings and conversations.

An inviting **necklace of granite pathways** (below) and gardens will ring the perimeter of King's College Circle. Benches will be situated to offer views of the grounds and historic architecture. New trees and plantings will provide shade and define a variety of distinct spaces for studying, relaxing and socializing. Textured paving surfaces will significantly improve the area's safety and accessibility.



The **Medical Sciences district** will be transformed with the addition of many new amenities and enhancements. Gardens and green spaces will make the area more serene and inviting. Gently sloping paths and terraced seat walls will replace the stairs leading from King's College Circle to the Medical Sciences Building, creating a universally accessible entranceway as well as a generous open space for approach and arrival. The heart of the plaza will be the site of the new south pavilion, a meeting place with a café and indoor and outdoor seating.





Medical Sciences Building courtyard



Medical Sciences Building plaza and pavilion



Accessible entranceway from Queen's Park Crescent



Aerial view of Hart House Circle

The revitalized **Hart House** landscape will be organized around a series of interconnected paths that lead to an expanded seating terrace, as well as new seating areas and gardens that will accommodate events and encourage quieter moments of conversation, study and reflection. Hart House Circle will be reconfigured as a loop around the Observatory Building. Access for vehicles, including shuttle buses, will be maintained. Front Campus and Hart House Green will be joined together as a continuous open space, with a new pedestrian plaza at the intersection of the two spaces. A significant reduction in the number of vehicles, ample green space and a canopy of mature trees will create an oasis of a kind rarely found on a downtown campus.



Front of Hart House



A new plaza outside the **Soldiers' Tower** and **Hart House** (left) will be designed as a space that can accommodate many types of gatherings and events—from an informal lunch in a beautiful outdoor space to the annual Remembrance Day ceremony that attracts hundreds of participants.

To create a more powerful and explicit connection to the campus core, a pathway of granite pavers will extend south through the iconic Soldiers' Tower. A row of trees will line the west side of **Tower Road** (below) and signal the transition from the Back Campus fields to the historic building façades. Benches and lightposts will also elevate the pedestrian experience along this important corridor.



Terraced seating along the **Back Campus** fields will provide a comfortable place to watch sporting events, as well as a more accessible and socially dynamic destination for the U of T community and the wider public.



Hoskin Avenue (below left) will gain new prominence as a campus threshold. Additional plantings and removal of the existing iron fence will open up views of the Back Campus fields, University College and the Soldiers' Tower.

The character of **Sir Daniel Wilson Quadrangle** (below right) will be preserved and enhanced with the addition of greenery, lighting and benches. Granite pavers will replace concrete on the walkway connecting Hoskin Avenue to Front Campus through the quadrangle.



REVITALIZING ST. GEORGE CAMPUS FOR A NEW CENTURY

This is an extraordinary moment in the history of the University of Toronto. As we approach the University's 200th anniversary in 2027, we have an opportunity to restore one of our country's most iconic and beloved landscapes, elevating the experience of new generations of students, alumni and visitors at our downtown campus.

Our plans will preserve the St. George campus's historic past, but will also transform the area into a more modern and livable space that serves the needs of a diverse and dynamic urban community.

The Landmark Project has generated a tremendous outpouring of interest and enthusiasm from students, faculty, staff and alumni, as well as local residents and neighbourhood groups.

The University has set a \$20-million fundraising goal to help bring our vision for the St. George campus to fruition. The project will be one of the signature legacies of the University's Boundless campaign, and will provide many unique and compelling opportunities for donors to support new plazas, pavilions, gardens, trees, benches, granite pavers and other important features.

With your philanthropic support, the historic core of the St. George campus will be restored as a showcase and point of pride for the University of Toronto community. Once completed, these revitalized and reimagined spaces will have a profound effect on our students, our faculty, our staff and our city that will be appreciated and felt for decades to come.

“ As a student, I had this ritual where when I returned to U of T each fall, I'd lie in the middle of King's College Circle. It was an incredible feeling of being in the most unique space in the city. There's nothing like it. ”

— Bruce Kuwabara (BArch 1972), Architect, KPMB

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