The Wilson District at YZD

Northcrest

Toronto, Ontario

Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM)

Background and Context

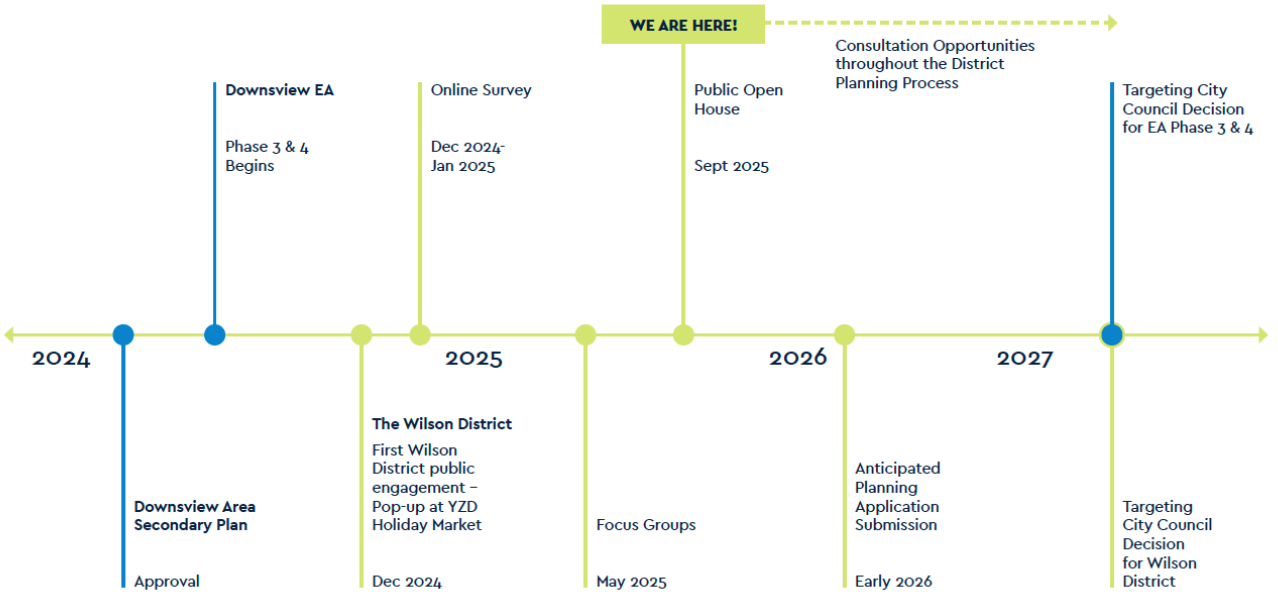
As part of our commitment to early and ongoing community engagement, Northcrest Developments hosted a public Open House to share a preliminary vision for YZD's second neighbourhood—currently referred to as the Wilson District—to gather feedback on what matters most to the community.

The Wilson District—like all neighbourhoods of YZD—will be informed by feedback from many stakeholders. Feedback from the September Open House, and other stakeholder engagements, will inform our first District Plan submission to the City. Submission is planned for early 2026 and a follow up public Town Hall will be held to outline how the vision has evolved.

What follows are the initial plans shown at the Open House on September 15, 2025.

The Wilson District and YZD

KEY MILESTONES



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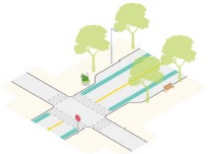
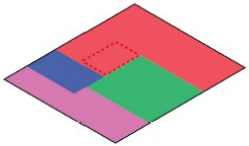
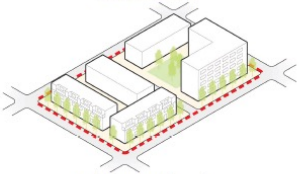
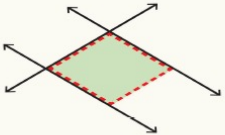
District Plan Approach

	Secondary Plan	District Planning	Detailed Design
Major Street Network	Major Street Network	Local Street Network	 Street Design
Land Use + Built Form	 Land Use	Size and Shape of Buildings, Number of Units, Uses	 Architectural Design
Open Space	Open Space Network	 Park Location, Size and Programming	Detailed Park Design

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The Wilson District Concept Plan

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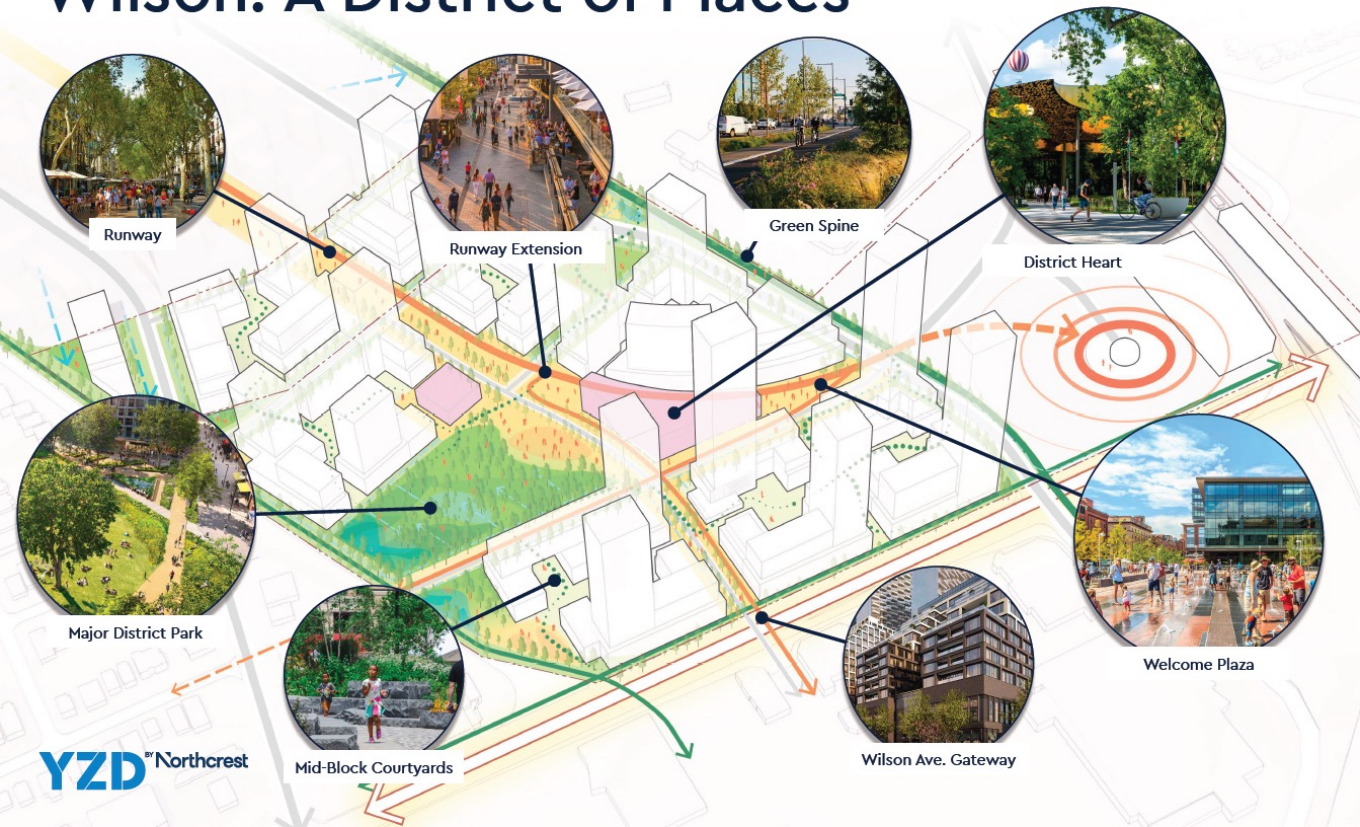
Wilson: A District of Places



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Emerging Vision for The Wilson District

Fostering wonder

corner every around

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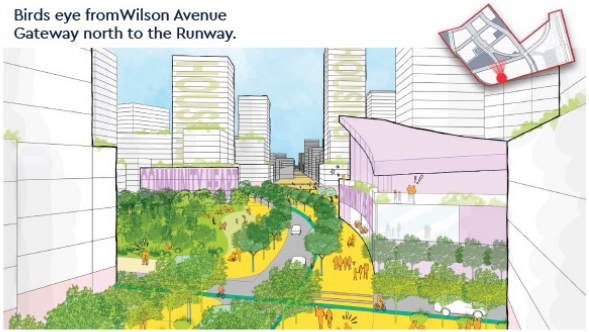
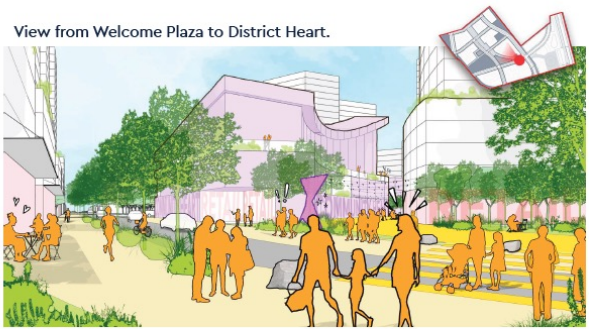
Wilson: A District of Places

Birds eye fromWilson Avenue
Gateway north to the Runway.

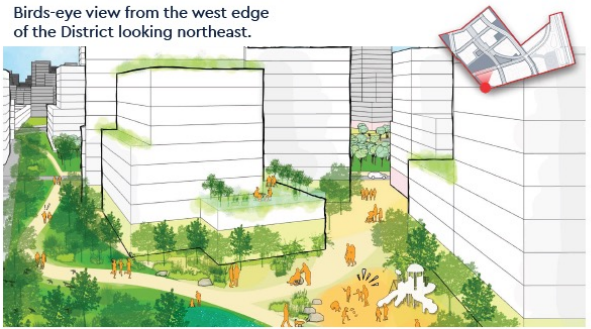


View from Major Park to District Heart.

View from Welcome Plaza to District Heart.



Birds-eye view from the west edge
of the District looking northeast.



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The Wilson District
Major Park

The largest park within the Wilson District will be a minimum of 1.2 hectares (~3 acres), which is equivalent to almost three football fields. This park will be complemented by additional local parks and open spaces throughout the District.

Elephant Park*
London, UK

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* The Major Park will be inspired by other major park and open spaces around the world, including the one shown here.

The Wilson District

Runway + Runway Extension

The former Runway will be transformed into a 2km pedestrian corridor, connecting the YZD districts from the north to the south of the site. The Wilson District will include the first section of the reimagined Runway, and a Runway extension that connects pedestrians through the District, linking the Runway to the Major Park, the District Heart, the Arrival Plaza and the TTC station.

La Rambla*
Barcelona, Spain

The Wharf*
Washington, D.C.

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* The design of the Runway and Runway Extension will draw inspiration from similar pedestrian spaces around the world.

The Wilson District
District Heart

The Wilson District will feature a landmark building and cultural destination, creating an 'Arc' experience from The Runway to Wilson Station. Its prominent central location could serve cultural or institutional uses, such as a children's discovery centre, a cultural centre or a range of other uses that aim to draw residents and visitors into the Wilson District and the wider YZD districts.

House of Music Hungary*
Budapest, Hungary

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* The District Heart will be designed taking inspiration from other landmark and cultural destinations around the world

Major Park

How important would the following programming, activity, or feature be for the future Major Park in Wilson District? Add a sticker to where you would rank each programming, activity, or feature in terms of importance.

Water Activities
(e.g. splash pads)

Food Retail
(e.g. ice cream shop or snack stand)

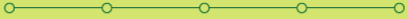
An Attraction/Unique Landmark
(e.g. water fountain)

Outdoor Sports & Fitness Facilities
(e.g. baseball, soccer, and tennis facilities)

Food-related Amenities
(e.g. BBQ pits, picnic areas, pizza ovens)

Playgrounds/Play-spaces
(for different age groups and abilities)

Naturalized Spaces
(e.g. nature trails)



Winter Activities
(e.g. ice skating)

Dog Park

Major Park

How important would the following programming, activity, or feature be for the future Major Park in Wilson District? Add a sticker to where you would rank each programming, activity, or feature in terms of importance.

Seating

Amenities
(e.g. washroom, drinking fountains)

Shade

Safety Features
(e.g. lighting, signage)

What other programming, activity, or feature should be considered for the Major Park?

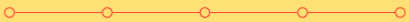
Runway + Runway Extension

How important would the following short-term programming, activity, or feature be for the pedestrianized Runway + Runway Extension? Add a sticker to where you would rank each programming, activity, or feature in terms of importance.

Pop-Up Markets
(e.g. holiday market, food market)

Street Performances
(e.g. busking)

Rest Areas
(e.g. seating/space for relaxation, gathering, people-watching)



Plantings & Nature

Shade

Quality Design Elements
(e.g. lighting, art, bike parking, and paving)

Do you have any additional thoughts, feedback, or ideas for the Runway & Runway Extension?

Mobility

How did you get here today?

Add a sticker to where you came from and how you got here.

Walking

Cycling

Bus

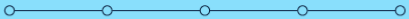
Driving

Other

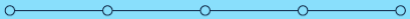
Mobility

Based on your understanding of the Wilson District, how important would the following ways of moving within the Wilson District be? Add a sticker to where you would rank each mode of transit in terms of importance to access everyday spaces (e.g. grocery store, work, home, etc.).

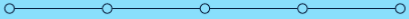
Walking



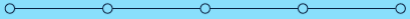
Bus



Cycling

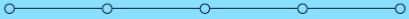


Driving

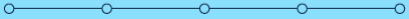


Accessibility Features Supporting Mobility

(e.g. universal design, raised crosswalks, and wide pathways)



Other Future Mobility



Are there any additional considerations for moving around the Wilson District?