

GRANGE PARK REVITALIZATION



PROJECT PARTNERS:

Grange Park Advisory Committee ■ Art Gallery of Ontario ■ Mr. W. Galen Weston ■ City of Toronto

DESIGN BRIEF VISION STATEMENT

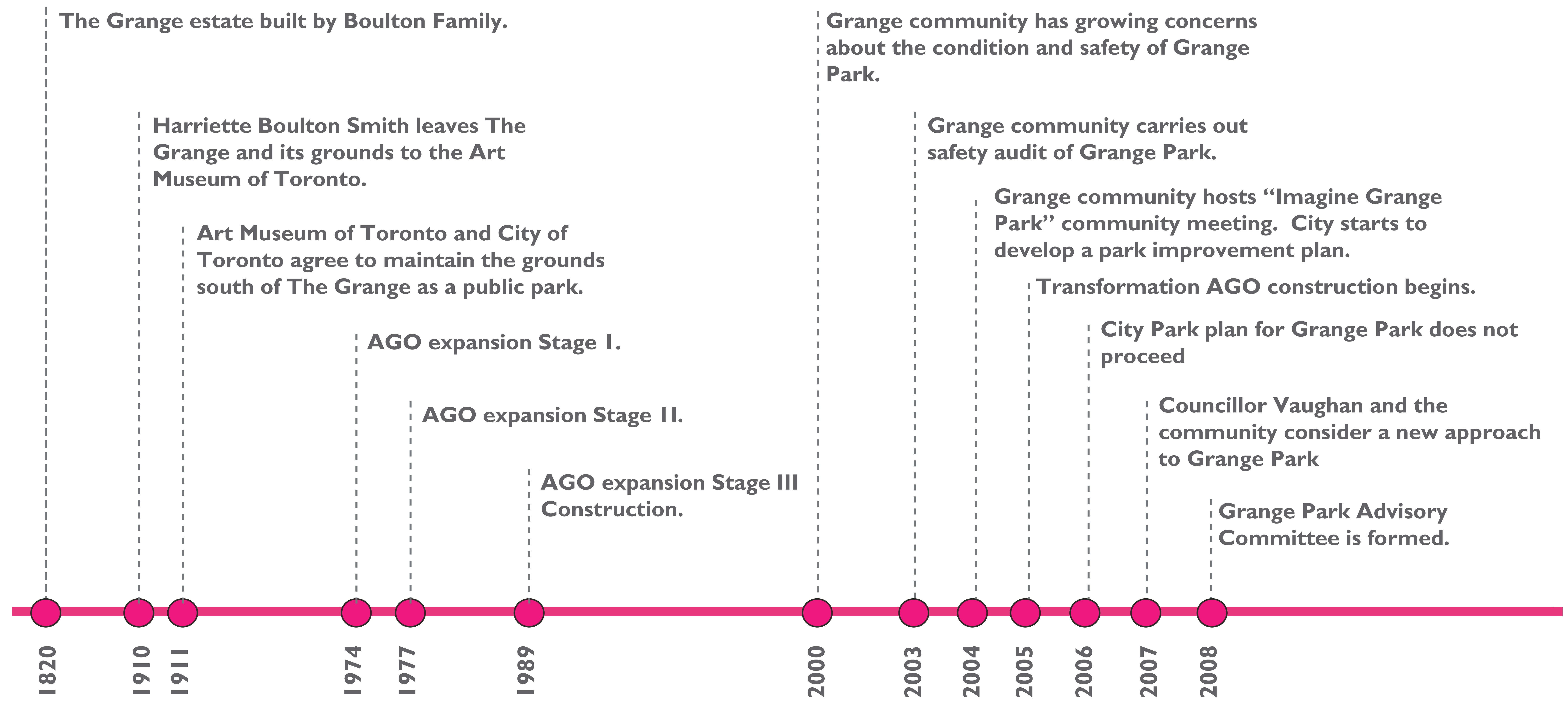
To undertake a restoration and revitalization plan that will make Grange Park green, strikingly beautiful, resilient, sustainable and accessible. To create a park that is interactive as well as a place for contemplation. To create a park that welcomes all neighbours, residents and visitors to our community by utilizing design excellence, state of the art conservation techniques and outstanding works of art.

Presented to the Community June 1, 2009



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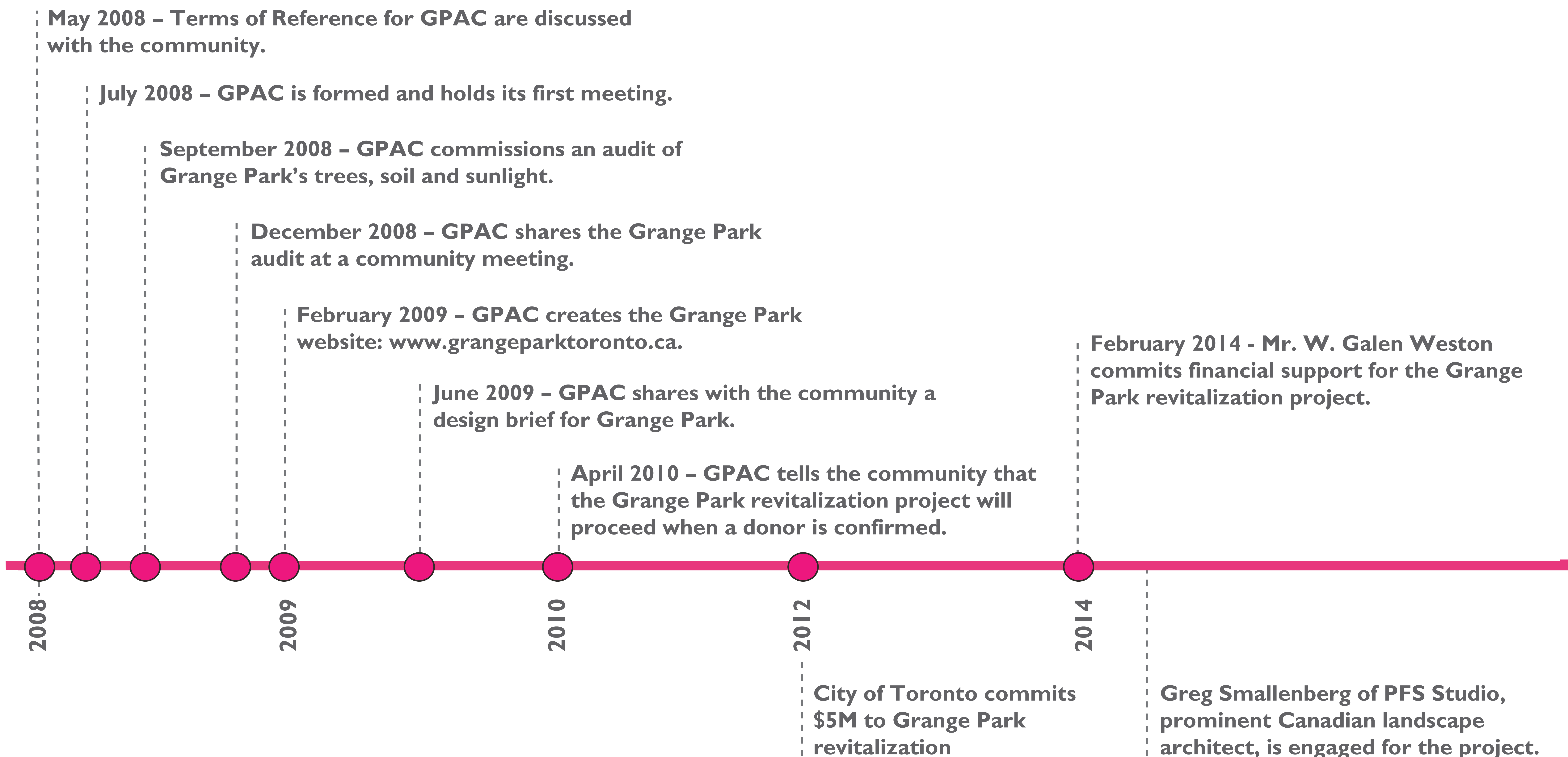
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- **The Grange Park Advisory Committee (GPAC)** was formed to advise on the restoration and revitalization of Grange Park.
- Representatives from: **AGO, Grange Community Association, OCAD University, St. George the Martyr Church, Toronto City Parks, University Settlement, social housing and two members at-large.**



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The 2009 Design Brief assesses the park's strengths and weaknesses.



STRENGTHS

- Grange Park has a natural beauty with mature trees.
- It welcomes many different communities.
- It provides green space for people living in apartments and condominiums.
- The park's history is linked to the growth of Toronto.
- The local community is committed to the well-being of the park.
- Unprecedented alliance of local residents, AGO, City Hall and neighbouring institutions.



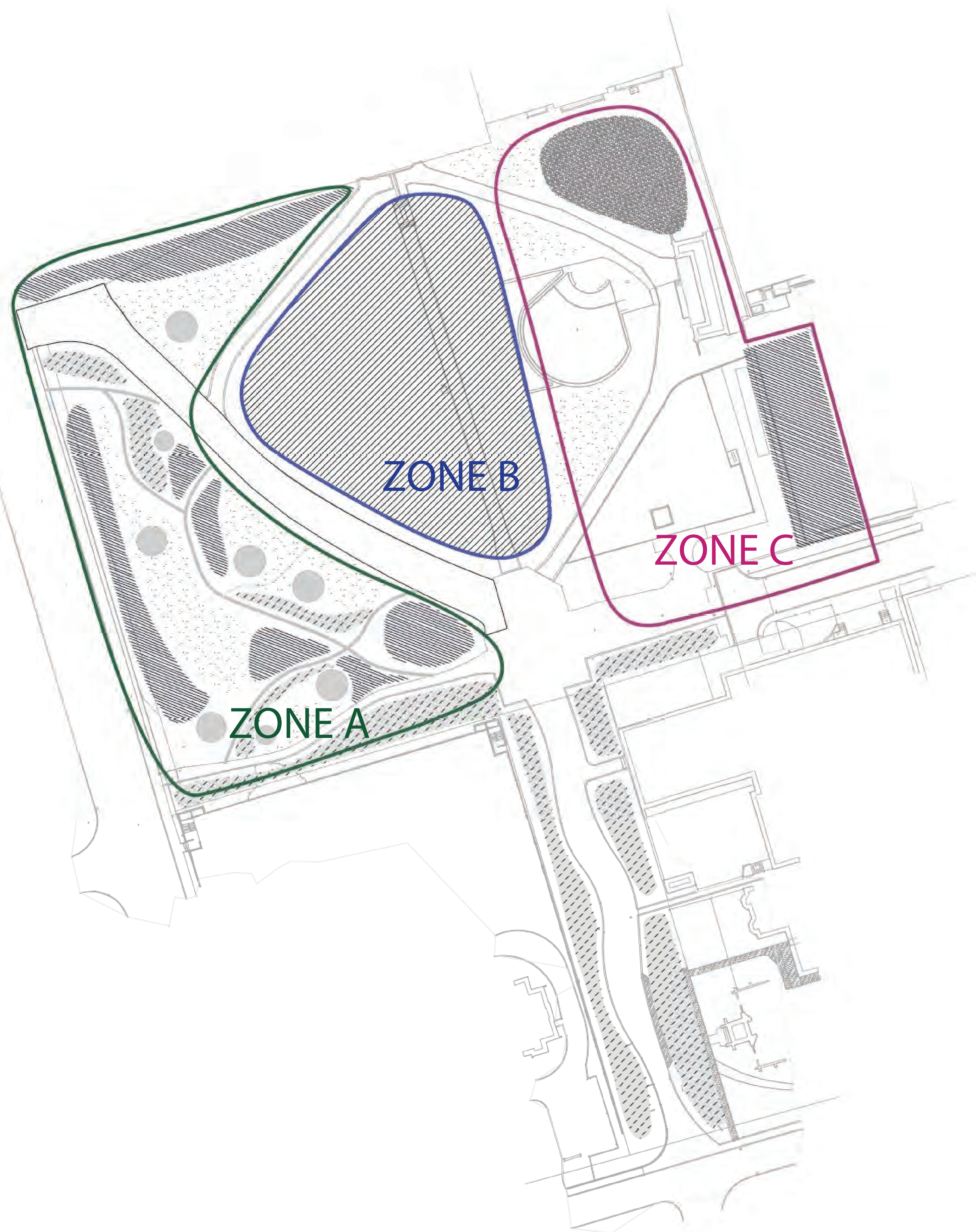
WEAKNESSES

- Trees have been neglected. Many are at the end of their life span and should be replaced. Some present a safety hazard.
- The compacted soil jeopardizes the roots of trees, grass and plants.
- Some pathways are deteriorating – some are unpaved.
- The park furniture is sparse and in disrepair.
- The playground equipment is aging.
- The park has inadequate lighting at night.

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The Design Brief identifies three main activity zones that should be enhanced in the new design.



ZONE A: “Quiet and Shady”

- Planting beds
- Secondary and tertiary paths
- Sitting, reading, and picnicking.

ZONE B: “Great Lawn”

- Strong recreational use
- Social interaction
- Sunlit gathering space

ZONE C: “Play”

- Several zones accommodating various ages
- Secure
- Adjacent to water play elements

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The 2009 Design Brief sets the principles for the current design concept.

GOAL #1:

Enhance existing zones of activity

Proposed:

- More seating, plantings and “quiet moment” areas in Zone A
- Larger great lawn in Zone B
- Larger play area in Zone C

GOAL #2:

Protect the health of the natural environment – trees, grass, vegetation

Proposed:

- New irrigation system
- New tree strategy
- More sunlight through opened tree canopy
- Better soil

GOAL #3:

Accommodate active program of recreational activities

Proposed:

- Proposed play area accommodates all ages
- Enhanced water feature

GOAL #4:

Welcoming and accessible

Proposed:

- Clean and safe washrooms
- New pathways
- Enhanced seating

GOAL #5:

Open the edges of the park to be more welcoming

Proposed:

- Grange Park extends to Butterfield Park
- Beverley Street fence modified – more pathways into the park
- Fence removed separating AGO from Grange Park
- AGO door to the Weston Family Learning Centre open to Grange Park.



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The current preliminary concept was designed as a result of considering the site issues and goals established in the Design Brief.





THE GROVE (west side of park)

- Small, informal lawn areas for small group gathering and picnicking.
- Ribbons of custom benches under partial shade.
- Small seating areas along Beverley Street for people to meet and relax.



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PLAY AREA (east side of park)

- Series of play spaces to serve various age groups.
- Various types of seating provide maximum viewing opportunities for caregivers watching children.



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View into park from Beverley Street



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View from park toward Beverley Street

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An Arborist report prepared in 2008 started the process of assessing the health of the existing trees. A new assessment is under way to develop a tree strategy.



CURRENT STATUS:

- Some of the trees are in poor health and decline.
- The western portion of the site is underutilized given the poor condition of the grass and the darkness of the canopy.

OPPORTUNITY:

- Create a tree strategy to preserve Grange Park for future generations.
- Provide areas for people to better occupy the space under the canopy by bringing more light through an opened canopy.

PROPOSED TREE STRATEGY:

- Increase number of trees in Grange Park.
- Plant new trees to replace removed ones.
- Replace trees that are dying, diseased or in poor condition as identified by the project Arborist.
- Introduce new varieties of trees to comply with the City of Toronto Forestry's recommendations to increase some resilience against future diseases and pests.
- Through the select removal of trees, bring more light into the west side of the park to improve the grass.
- Consult Arborist and prune trees to create more views into the park.
- Install irrigation system.
- Improve soil quality.

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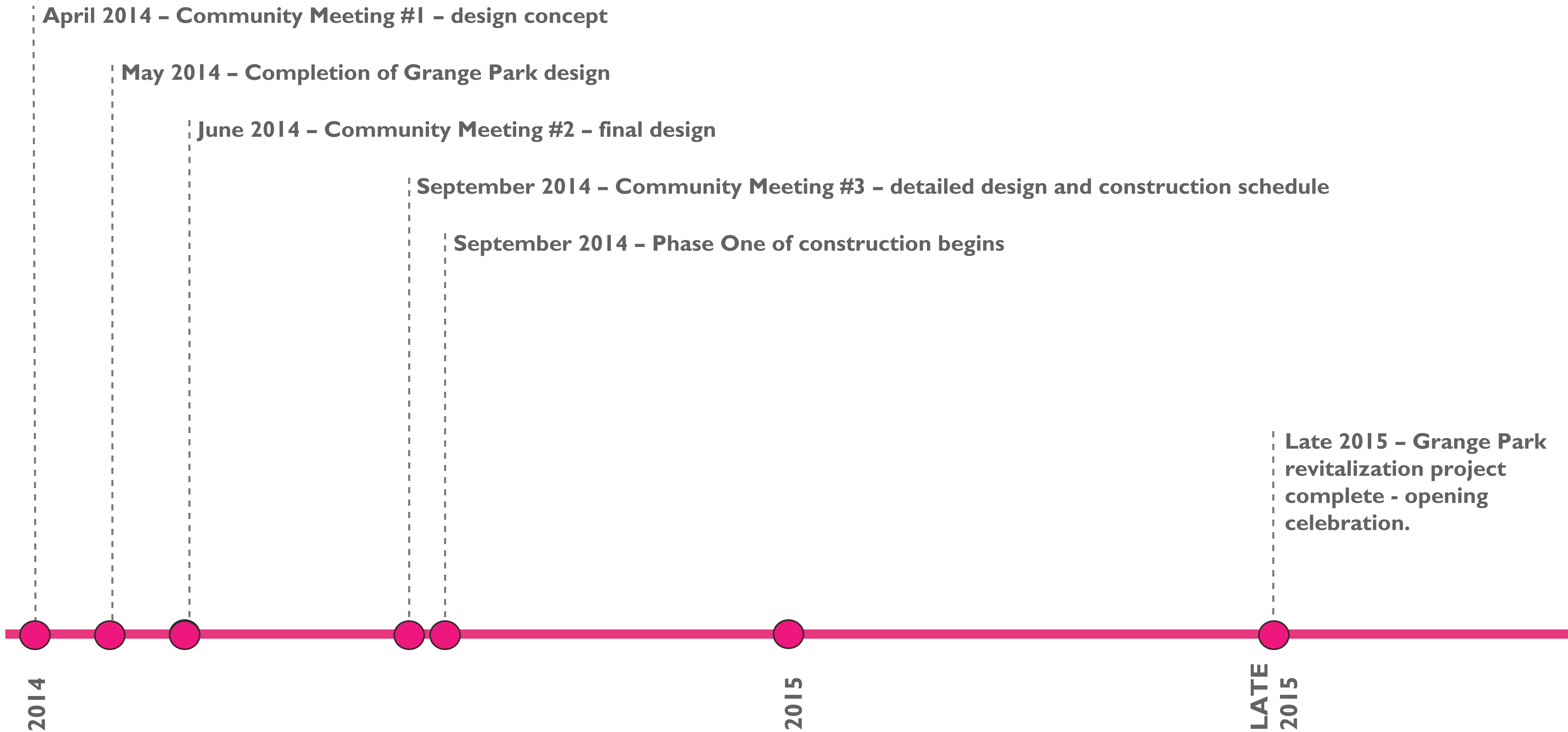
FOR DISCUSSION AT NEXT MEETING

- Playground equipment
- Water Features
- Site furniture
- Lighting
- Pathway materials
- Construction phases



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HOW TO CONTACT US

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In Person: Please drop off comment card at the AGO's main entrance.

For more information on **PFS Studio**, please visit: www.pfs.bc.ca



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