

MEDIA RELEASE

March 3, 2015

For immediate release

Major investment from the Weston Family Parks Challenge will support the transformation of open spaces at Jane & Finch.

TORONTO, ONTARIO - The Living City Foundation, the charitable support arm of [Toronto and Region Conservation](#) (TRCA), is thrilled to be receiving a commitment of \$185,000 over two years from the Weston Family Parks Challenge to support the San Romanoway Outdoor Revitalization Project as part of The Black Creek Sustainable Neighbourhood Retrofit Action Program (SNAP).

This innovative initiative will transform lawns surrounding three apartment towers into vibrant community green space and serve as a model for similar tower communities. An orchard, vegetable gardens, and native plants and trees will increase biodiversity and connect the community to nature. In a densely populated neighbourhood, a landscape skills training program and a small market will create income opportunities for residents. The results of this public, private, and non-profit partnership demonstrate how innovative solutions can be found to revitalize community green space.

“The San Romanoway Revival Project is ground-breaking and highly replicable”, Scott Fortnum, Executive Director of The Living City Foundation said. “It could potentially inspire transformation of similar neighbourhoods in the Greater Toronto Area, many of which have limited access to public parkland and great availability of underutilized open space around high rise buildings”.

Building owners and residents alike are engaged and excited about the work that will be done. More than 4,300 residents will benefit as these 3.2 acre hectares become a sustainable model for the Jane-Finch Community.

Great parks are essential to Toronto’s health and vitality. They strengthen the community and provide environmental, economic and social benefits. With a commitment of \$5 million over three years, [The W. Garfield Weston Foundation](#) launched the Weston Family Parks Challenge to ensure the long-term sustainability of Toronto’s parks. Building on the success of the first year, the Ontario Trillium Foundation joined in 2014 with an additional commitment of \$1.125 million towards the initiative. Toronto Park People brings expertise and is administering the program. The Weston Family Parks Challenge supports projects that enhance the natural elements in parks, engage a broad range of partners and the local community, offer new solutions to manage and maintain parks, and have the potential to be replicated in other jurisdictions.



[The Living City Foundation](#) exists to connect, engage, and inspire people to donate to support TRCA's Living City Vision.

The Weston Family Parks Challenge is an initiative of The W. Garfield Weston Foundation.



An agency of the Government of Ontario.
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario.

Projects are being realized in collaboration with the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

For further information, please contact Scott Fortnum, Executive Director, The Living City Foundation, sfortnum@trca.on.ca or 416-667-6291.