

Private space or public park?

As Toronto grows, adding tens of thousands of newcomers every year, more pressure is being placed on the city's public spaces - especially its parks, which are becoming the de facto backyard for residents living in densely populated neighborhoods where private outdoor sanctuaries are rare. But with limited land available and the rising value of properties, creating new public spaces has become a challenge. [...]

Cheryl Atkinson, an architect and associate professor at Ryerson University, says [...] there has also been a change in torontonians' attitude toward public space. "it's completely evident if you spend an evening at Trinity Bellwoods park how differently people use public space now than they did 25 years ago, End Quote [...] Back then, most people would typically go to the park with their family on the weekend. Today, many urban residents are actively using public spaces for daily activities - hanging out with friends, eating dinner, exercising, reading a book. The public realm has essentially become an extension of their homes.

Amanda kwan, theglobeandmail.com, 27 September 2013.