

Site Seeing

New park to bridge King W. condo projects

MICHAEL B. DAVIE
STAFF REPORTER

Condo developers are normally best known for contributing concrete — not greenery — to the urban mix.

But Toronto-based developer Candere-Stoneridge Equity Group Inc. has announced plans for a city block-sized public park.

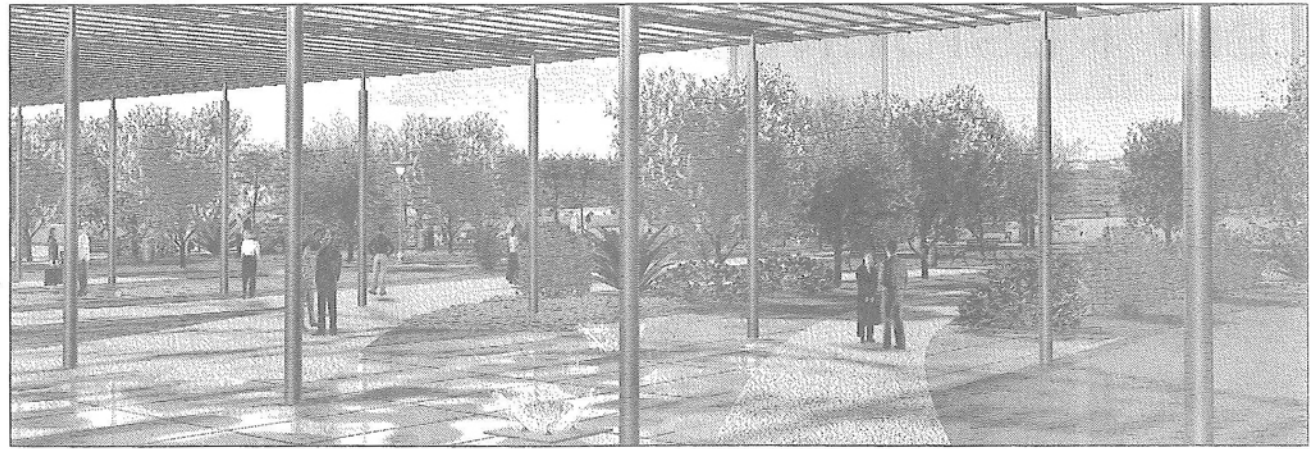
Marketing director Riz Dhanji notes the new park is to be located between two of the company's latest condominium projects: Massey Harris Lofts and DNA: Downtown's Next Address, both on King St. W. in Toronto.

Known as Massey Harris Park, the green space is to be on the south side of King W. between Shaw St. and Strachan Ave., at the foot of Crawford St.

The site for the park was given to the city in exchange for development rights for the two condo projects.

"The Massey Harris Park will be the core of our \$100 million investment in this section of King West," says Dhanji.

"DNA will be a model of modern condominium architecture and the Massey Harris Lofts are a historical landmark," he adds. "We felt an obligation



An artist's rendering shows Massey Harris Park, the green space to be created between Massey Harris Lofts and DNA.

to create a bridge between the two developments and a bridge between King West's proud history and its dynamic future."

Toronto-based architects Brown and Storey are designing the park in collaboration with Rob Wright of Daedalus Design. The park is to feature a combination of light and shade, pavement

and grass in a peaceful setting.

Project architect James Brown says the urban oasis will invite reflection by those who visit it.

"It will become a gathering spot of young and old, a way to get from one place to another, and it will be defined by a series of small self-contained areas perfect for reading, intimate chats or

leisurely reflection," he says.

"One of its most dramatic elements will be a large central trellis which will provide shelter and serve as a focal point for activities, both impromptu and organized," he adds.

The City of Toronto is awarding construction contracts for the new park, which is expected to open in July.