



Call to Artists - Expressions of Interest  
Public Art Commission - Tolton Park Functional Seating  
Town of Halton Hills

**Submission Deadline: January 30, 2026**

**Anticipated Installation Date: November 2026**

**Budget: \$33,000 CAD**

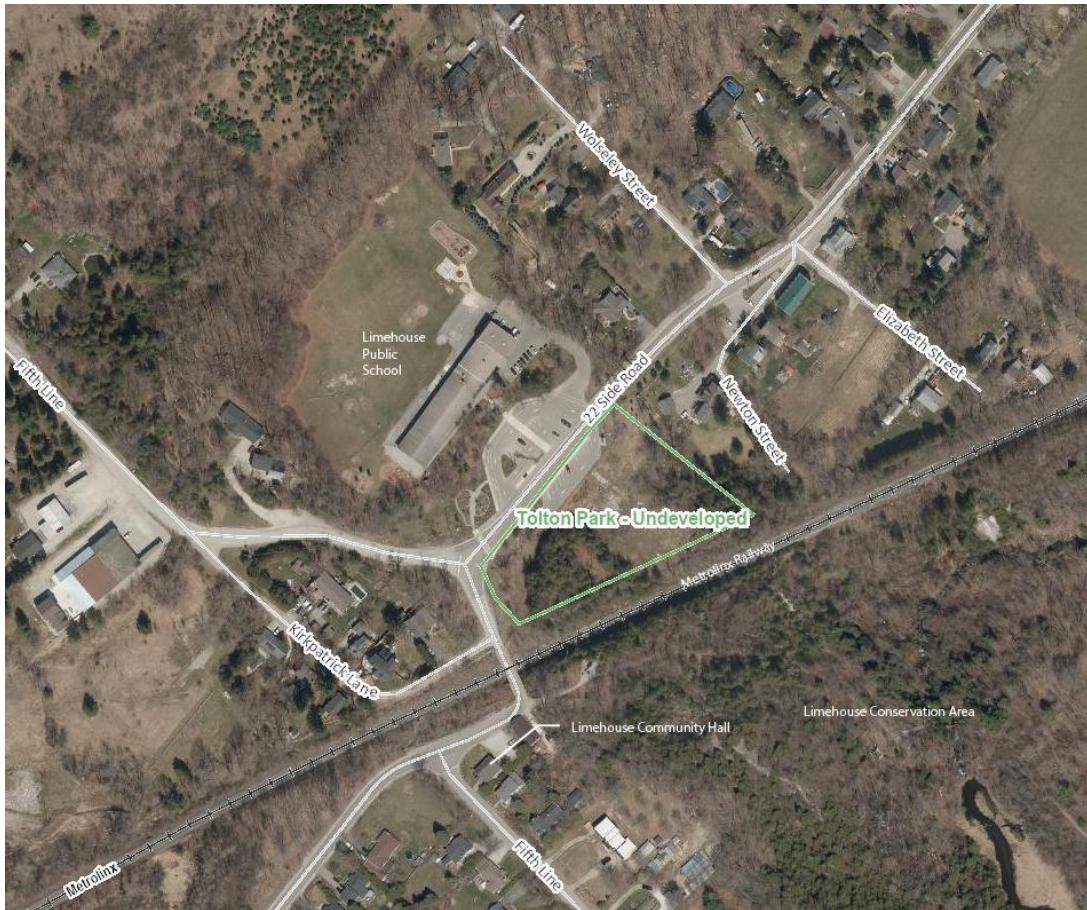


Image: Limehouse aerial view

## 1. Project Brief

The Town of Halton Hills is undertaking a process to commission a permanent public artwork for the soon to be completed Tolton Park located at 11134 22 Side Road in Limehouse, Ontario. The town invites professional artists\* to submit expressions of interest to develop **functional art seating**\*\* for the park. Citizen-identified themes for the park include a natural design aesthetic; a balance of functionality with ecological features; and responding to the historic character of the site. This competition is open to Canadian artists and/or artist-teams. While this is a national competition, local and regional artists are encouraged to apply.

Artwork proposals are not requested at this time. The creation of a functional public artwork for Tolton Park will be achieved through a two-stage competition administered by the Town of Halton Hills. In stage one, artists will be reviewed by an art adjudication panel based on artistic



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merit, past work, professional qualifications, and experience. In stage two, short-listed artists will be required to submit detailed artwork proposals that will be displayed for public feedback before being reviewed by an art adjudication panel comprised of arts professionals and community stakeholders. The final selected artist(s) will enter into a contract with the Town of Halton Hills for the artwork creation and installation stage of the project. The final artwork will be completed in fall 2026.

\*As per the Town of Halton Hills Public Art Policy (2016) an artist is: A person, who is objectively recognized as an artist, possesses training, skill, and/or experience in their artistic discipline; is active in and committed to their art practice, and has a history of public presentation.

\*\*Functional art seating blends artistic expression with practical use, creating a visually striking yet usable feature for people in an outdoor public park setting. It blurs the lines between sculptural fixture and creative design using unique materials and forms to create a one-of-a-kind feature(s) for Tolton Park.

## **2. Site Background:**

The Town of Halton Hills is located on the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit, as well as the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat and the Haudenosaunee peoples. Located within the Credit River watershed, the tributary of Black Creek flows through Limehouse. Prior to the arrival of European settlers, the Credit River was central to Indigenous ways of life, supporting settlements, fisheries, horticulture, transportation, and trade.

Limehouse, Ontario, is a historic hamlet within the Town of Halton Hills that traces its roots to the early 19th century. Originally called Fountain Green, it was settled around 1820 and quickly became an industrial hub thanks to its rich limestone deposits. By the mid-1800s, Limehouse was known for its lime kilns, quarrying, and mills, with the Grand Trunk Railway fueling growth and connecting the community to broader markets. The lime industry shaped the village's character, leaving behind striking remnants such as draw kilns and powder magazines, now preserved within the Limehouse Conservation Area along the Bruce Trail. Tolton Park is located within the heart of Limehouse and the property contains escarpment features, and remnants of the quarry and kiln history.

The design and construction of Tolton Park is currently being advanced. As part of the park design (shown below) potential locations for the artwork have been identified. The Town is also willing to consider alternate locations within the park in collaboration with the successful artist.

Through the public consultation process for the park design, the community expressed a very strong desire for the park to have a natural aesthetic, not urban feeling and to blend with the natural surroundings and historic character of the hamlet.

More information on the park development is available on the webpage  
<https://letstalkhaltonhills.ca/toltonpark>



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**PREFERRED CONCEPT**

**LEGEND**

- 1 Existing Parking Lot
- 2 Existing Ravine (Fenced Off)
- 3 Escarpment Feature
- 4 Open Lawn
- 5 Wood & Rope Playground Area
- 6 Rock & Wood Retaining Wall
- 7 Limestone Screening Pathway
- 8 Picnic Shelter
- 9 Fitness Area
- 10 Bruce Trail Style Trail
- 11 Snow Storage
- Bicycle Repair Station
- Information Kiosk Re-purposed for Wayfinding & Interpretive Signage
- Park Sign
- Deciduous Trees
- Potential Location for Functional Seating
- Accessible Portable Toilet
- Limestone Boulders
- Maple / Birch Forest Planting
- Pollinator Naturalization Plantings
- Poplar Successional Planting

**TOLTON PARK DEVELOPMENT**  
DESIGN - CONSULTATION - CONSTRUCTION

**PREFERRED CONCEPT - FEATURE IMAGES**

**NATURAL PLAYGROUND**

**TRAILS (BRUCE TRAIL STYLE)**

**OUTDOOR FITNESS AREA**

**PICNIC SHELTER - CEDAR ROOF & MASONRY COLUMNS WITH LOCAL STONE**

**LIMESTONE SCREENING PATHWAY**

**NATURALIZATION PLANTING**

**ESCARPMENT FEATURES AND MATURE TREES**

**INFORMATION KIOSK**

**LAWN AND PICNIC AREA**

**TOLTON PARK DEVELOPMENT**  
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### **3. Design Parameters**

While the town is not requesting final proposals at this time, the final artwork must adhere to the following design parameters:

- Be creative functional art seating suitable for permanent installation in an unsupervised outdoor public park space
- Complement citizen identified themes for the park
- Dependent on the artist(s) vision and allocated budget, the resultant commission could present as one or multiple installations situated throughout the park.
- Not pose a risk to public safety
- Be fabricated using high quality, long lasting materials that will be easy to maintain in an outdoor environment
- Minimum artwork lifespan of twenty-five (25) years.
- The artwork must be designed in a way that allows it to be securely anchored to prevent theft or vandalism
- Designs should be comfortable and safe for people to sit on and support a minimum of 600 lbs.

### **4. Compensation:**

Up to three (3) artists or artist teams will be shortlisted and paid \$2000 CAD to develop detailed proposals.

The selected commissioned artist(s) will receive \$9,000 (CAD) + HST\*. Fabrication, shipping and installation costs of up to \$20,000 may be covered by the Town and are not included in the artist fee.

\* This fee includes (but is not limited to): preparation of the final design, coordination and technical consultations including approvals or other expertise as required, preparation of any information and/or documentation, attendance at meetings and site visits, travel to the site and to meetings as required, artwork delivery, attendance at the installation of the completed artwork, and unveiling event.

### **5. Anticipated Schedule**

<b>Date*</b>	<b>Project Phase</b>
<b>December 15, 2025</b>	Launch Call for Artists (RFQ)
<b>Jan 30, 2026</b>	Deadline for Artist RFQ Submissions, by <b>9:00 AM EDT</b>
<b>February 2026</b>	Art Selection Panel meets to review proposals and choose shortlist of 3 artists
<b>March 2, 2026</b>	Shortlist applicants contacted and requested to prepare site-specific proposals
<b>March 9, 2026</b>	Information session with shortlisted applicants



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<b>March 31, 2026</b>	Shortlist applicant proposals due
<b>April 6, 2026</b>	Shortlist proposals shared for public comment on Town's "Let's Talk" page
<b>May 4, 2026</b>	Art Selection Panel meets to review shortlist proposals and select final artist
<b>May 11</b>	Successful artist notified and contracts finalized
<b>June 15, 2026</b>	Approval of comprehensive renderings or digital prototypes/ concepts
<b>July 27, 2026</b>	Artist's approval of fabrication plan (if using a 3 <sup>rd</sup> party fabricator)
<b>November 2026</b>	Installation of artwork

\*Schedule is subject to change

## 6. Submission Requirements

Professional artists/artist teams are invited to respond by submitting a **single PDF document**. This PDF document must be labelled with the name of the artist (Last Name, First Name). Each PDF document must include the following:

- a. **Submission Form:** Please complete the Submission Form [online](#). You will then be emailed a link with instructions on how to upload your PDF application file.
- b. **Letter of Interest:** 1 page maximum. Describe your interest in this project, potential approach, experience in the field. **While proposals are not accepted at this stage of the competition, we encourage artists to speak to the artwork themes in this letter and their general approach to the site.** It is requested that applicants proactively disclose whether they have used AI in the development of this statement to protect fairness and transparency for all applicants.
- c. **Artist Statement:** 1 page maximum.
- d. **Curriculum Vitae (CV):** Detail professional experience as an artist, past public art experience, and other information relevant to this RFI. If applying as a team, provide one CV per team member.
- e. **Artistic Support Material:** Maximum of ten (10) images of past work. For each image, title, date, location, commissioning agent (if applicable), budget, dimensions, medium/materials should be provided. If applying as a team, please only submit a total of ten (10) images. **It is recommended examples of past work demonstrate artistic excellence, are relevant to the project objectives and evidence ability and readiness to scale work into a public commission.**



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f. **References:** Names and contact information (current email and phone number) for two (2) references (preferably from recent public art projects) with their role and affiliation listed. **Reference letters are not required at this stage of the competition.**

\*If applying as a team, please list team members and submit required credentials for each. Please also only provide the contact information for the designated contact person.

## 7. Selection Process

Proposals will be reviewed by an independent Art Adjudication Panel comprised of art professionals and community stakeholders. The panel will receive technical input and advice from appropriate Town staff. This will be achieved through a two-stage competition. In stage one, artists will be reviewed by an art adjudication panel based on artistic merit, past work, professional qualifications, and experience. In stage two, short-listed artists will be required to submit detailed artwork proposals that will be displayed for public feedback before being reviewed by a second art adjudication panel. The Art Adjudication Panel will recommend one artist or artist team for the award of the commission to the Town's Public Art Advisory Board for approval.

The Art Adjudication Panel will assess proposals on a 25-point scale using the following criteria:

Criteria	Point Value
Artistic excellence: including quality of work, originality, and artistic vision	10 points
Approach and Interest: including a strong understanding of the project and demonstrated interest in the specific opportunity.	8 points
Qualifications and professional experience of the artist(s): ability to meet the technical requirements as specified in the call and execute a project of this scale within the budget, timeline and criteria developed.	4 points
Collaboration: perceived ability to collaborate with project managers and key stakeholders	3 points

Should further clarification be required by the Art Adjudication Panel, artists may be asked to attend a virtual meeting or phone call interview with the panel. The Town will not provide any additional compensation to artists attending the interview.

The Town reserves the right to select and retain the highest ranked artist deemed most appropriate for the project at its sole discretion.



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## **8. Additional Information**

### **Original Work**

The artist must guarantee that the artwork design is original and does not violate the copyright of any other person.

### **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Declaration**

Artists that utilize artificial intelligence technologies are permitted to apply if it is conceptually relevant to their practice. The use of AI generated images at this stage of the submission process is discouraged. Artists are required to disclose AI usage and have the option to provide a brief description of how their AI usage is relevant to this project call. Disclosure may be shared with art selection panel members.

### **Reserved Rights of the Town of Halton Hills**

Proponents shall bear all costs and expenses incurred by them relating to any aspect of their participation in this Request for Interest, including all costs and expenses related to preparation of proposals and any subsequent negotiations with the Town.

The Town, at its sole discretion, may request clarifications or request additional information, as deemed necessary to evaluate the submissions. The Town retains the sole discretion to determine whether a submission is responsive and if the prospective Artist or Artist Team can perform the Work. The Town reserves the right to not proceed with awarding a contract.

### **Publication of Competition Information**

The Town shall have exclusive right to issue all public announcements regarding the competition. This includes but is not limited to social media. Artists will be informed when they may communicate their participation in this project.

### **Copyright and Ownership of Images**

The artist retains copyright of their work. The Town of Halton Hills reserves the right to use images of the selected work for promotions and marketing purposes. The artist agrees that the Town may display the artwork as images in future as desired. Any future display of the artwork in part or as a whole would be in accordance with their original intended use.

### **Additional Information or Questions Regarding This Opportunity**

Please refer to the Town of Halton Hills [Public Art Master Plan](#) for additional details about public art in Halton Hills.

For questions, or applicants requiring additional support regarding this Artist Call, please contact: [publicart@haltonhills.ca](mailto:publicart@haltonhills.ca)

