



ROUGE PARK ALLIANCE MINUTES - MEETING #1/10 - February 5, 2010

The Rouge Park Alliance met in the Main Boardroom of the Toronto Zoo. Alan Wells, Chair, welcomed everyone and thanked Peter Evans, Toronto Zoo, for hosting the meeting. The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

PRESENT

Members:

Alan Wells, Chair
Councillor Paul Ainslie, City of Toronto
Hon. Pauline Browes, Waterfront Regeneration Trust Corp.
Hon. Michael Chong, MP, Government of Canada
Glenn De Baeremaeker, Save the Rouge Valley System Inc.
Peter Evans, Toronto Zoo
Markham Deputy Mayor Jack Heath, Region of York
Dr. Helena Jaczek, MPP, Province of Ontario
Regional Councillor Bonnie Littley, Region of Durham
Councillor Ron Moeser, City of Toronto
Councillor Jennifer O'Connell, City of Pickering
Gerri Lynn O'Connor, Toronto & Region C. A.
Councillor Erin Shapero, Town of Markham
Councillor Clyde Smith, Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville

Alternates:

Ian Buchanan, Region of York
Nestor Chornobay, Region of Durham
Brian Denney, Toronto & Region Conservation Authority
Ron Dewell, Toronto & Region Conservation Authority
Councillor Chin Lee, City of Toronto
Jim Robb, Save the Rouge Valley System Inc.
Tracey Steele, Town of Richmond Hill
Carolyn Woodland, Toronto & Region C. A.

ABSENT

Members:

Councillor David Cohen, Town of Richmond Hill

Alternates:

Wayne Arthurs, MPP, Province of Ontario
Councillor Raymond Cho, City of Toronto
Ron Dewell, Toronto & Region Conservation Authority
Mayor Wayne Emerson, Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville
Adele Freeman, Toronto & Region Conservation Authority
Mark Graham, Save the Rouge Valley System Inc.
Sue Gunton, Toronto Zoo
Councillor Logan Kanapathi, Town of Markham
Keith Laushway, Waterfront Regeneration Trust Corp.
Tom Melymuk, City of Pickering

Staff:

Bob Clay, Manager, Habitat Restoration
Barb Davies, Manager, Policy & Administration
Michelle Holmes, Manager, Visitor Experience
Doreen McCarty, Administrative Coordinator

Staff (Continued...)

Vicki MacDonald, Biologist
Maria Papoulias, Manager, Natural Heritage
Sheryl Santos, Stewardship Coordinator
Diana Smyth, Trail Coordinator

Observers:

Mike Adler, Scarborough Mirror
Cat Beattie, Public Participant

Observers (Continued...)

Tom Boudreault, City of Toronto Parks
Brian Buckles, Green Door Alliance

Observers (Continued...)

Gail Crossman, Transport Canada
Gurjeet Dhillon, City of Toronto
Jim Dillane, Toronto & Region Conservation Authority
Lilli Duoba, Town of Markham
Evan Ferrari, CPAWS Wildlands League
David Harvey, Consultant
John Hughes, Hemson Consulting
John Kay, Resident
Sheila Lathe, Resident
John Livey, Town of Markham
Marvin Macaraig, U. Of T. Dept. Of Geography
John Matheson, StrategyCorp
David McCleary, StrategyCorp
Beth McEwen, City of Toronto
Andy McKinnon, "Rouge Watch"
Brent Mersey, Markham EAC
Colin O'Neill, Friends of the Rouge Watershed
Debbie Pella Keen, Province of Ontario
Barbara Tang, Markham Resident
Reuben Tang, Markham Resident
Tupper Wheatley, Milne Park Conservation Assocn.

1B. Chair's Report - Rouge Park Governance Review Report

KEY ISSUE

Receipt and Circulation of the Governance Review Report.

MOTION:
Res. #3/10

Moved by: Pauline Browes
Seconded by: Clyde Smith

- 1. THAT the Rouge Park Governance Review Final Report, under separate cover, be received.**
- 2. THAT the recommendations of the Rouge Park Governance Review Steering Committee be received as follows:**
 - a. The Steering Committee advises the Rouge Park Alliance that the Governance Review Report, prepared by the consulting team of StrategyCorp and Hemson Consulting, is a competent and professional report on the options for governance and financing for Rouge Park**
 - b. That the Rouge Park Governance Review Final Report be forwarded to the Rouge Park Alliance for consideration**
 - c. That the Steering Committee recommends to the Alliance the Rouge Park Governance Review Final Report be circulated to the constituent member organizations of the Alliance for comments within 60 days**

AMENDMENT

Moved: Chin Lee
Seconded by: Michael Chong

That the following point (d) be added:

d. That the Rouge Park Governance Review Final Report be forwarded to the Federal and Provincial political party leaders for their information.

- 3. THAT the Chairman formally request the heads of the constituent member organizations to consider the following:**
 - a. The recommendations of the Rouge Park Governance Review Report**
 - b. The concept of a Founding Deal and elements as they relate to their specific organization**
 - c. Participation with the Alliance to engage the Federal and Provincial governments in the creation of the proposed Federal Park governance structure and creation of a joint interpretive/educational centre for Rouge Park.**
- 4. THAT the Chairman of the Rouge Park Alliance appear before the constituent member organizations to answer questions and receive comments pertaining to the Governance Review Report.**
- 5. THAT the Chairman provides briefings to the appropriate Federal and Provincial officials and elected representatives on the recommendations of the Governance Review Report and the process underway to receive input and comments from the constituent members of the Alliance.**
- 6. THAT the Chairman be authorized to undertake briefings of key stakeholders on the recommendations of the Governance Review Report and the process underway to receive input and comments.**

7. **THAT the Chairman report back to the Alliance regarding the following matters:**
 - a. **Response of the Rouge Park Alliance constituent member organizations to the Governance Review Report recommendations and any related matter**
 - b. **The results of the briefings with Federal and Provincial officials, elected representative and key stakeholders**
 - c. **Recommended Alliance Governance Model and advocacy position**
 - d. **A strategy and work program necessary to engage the Federal and Provincial Governments in the implementation.**

8. **THAT the Chair upon receipt of the responses from the member organizations (Recommendation 7) organize and host a workshop with the constituent members of the Alliance to develop a draft "Founding Deal" as recommended by the Governance Review Report.**

AMENDMENT CARRIED
MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BACKGROUND

In August 2009, the Rouge Park Alliance issued a call for proposals from qualified consultants to undertake a review, develop and recommend an appropriate governance model for the Rouge Park. In September 2009, the consultant consortium of StrategyCorp and Hemson Consulting were retained for the purposes of this study.

The purpose and objectives of the study as set out in the Terms of Reference consisted of five specific tasks summarized below:

Governance Options:

Identify, develop and evaluate potential governance models which could be implemented for the Rouge Park. The scope of this review would include existing park governance models within Canada as well as internationally and related type organizations.

Funding Strategy:

Document and assess the adequacy of existing operating and capital funding for the Park.

Park Operation, Management and Organization Structure:

Develop a management and organization structure with help from the Steering Committee to manage the Park. As part of this plan, a five-year budget forecast would be developed which would link the discussions between funding and governance.

Rouge Park Land Reconciliation:

Research/document the impact of the addition of these lands and recommend a balance of uses for the lands.

Engaging Rouge Park Alliance Membership:

Develop and implement an engagement strategy for the project. Workshops developed on the subject of governance and funding are expected to be efficient and comprehensive.

STUDY PROCESS

As the Alliance is aware, a Steering Committee consisting of senior staff representatives from each of the constituent member organizations was established to work directly with the consulting team. The overall direction and management of the study was the responsibility of the Alliance Chairman. The existing funding of the Alliance is provided through multiple sources for both operating and capital expenditures. The complexity of the existing funding framework and the need to identify future operating and capital needs required the creation of a separate Financial Working Group to work with the consulting team.

The study process consisted of four main phases as follows:

1. Data and information collection
2. Identification of the Governance Interest, Issues and Opportunities
3. Identification of Governance Principles, Concepts, Areas of Agreement and Disagreement, Evaluation Criteria and Assessment
4. Evaluation and Recommendation of a Preferred Model and Implementation Platform

The Terms of Reference provided a clear direction on the overall objectives of the review. Public administration never occurs in a vacuum; it is always embedded in the overarching political context of the time. This study and the Rouge Park are no exception. The consulting team approached this study with a keen awareness that the Park is not in need of an academic study about what "might be"; much more important, is a model that could be implemented.

Thus, in addition to the objective realities of the Park, the study process also sought to understand, as fully as possible, the subjective political dimensions of the Park, with a view to defining the key political enablers and the barriers to success.

Accordingly, the study had to change to reflect the underlying conditions.

The two greatest considerations were the presence of existing advocacy positions among Alliance members and the backdrop of the current economic downturn and its impact on the ability to secure funding from all levels of government.

The Governance Review study has provided an excellent opportunity for a broad-based dialogue between the constituent members of the Rouge Park Alliance (staff and representatives levels), its needs, limitations and opportunities. Between late August (2009) and the end of January there were 3 Steering Committee Workshops, 2 working sessions for the Finance Working Group and one Alliance Workshop. In addition, the consulting team held over 12 individual meetings with representatives (Alliance and Steering Committee) of the constituent member organizations and a large number of conference calls.

A draft of the consultant's report was presented to the Steering Committee on January 13, 2010 at which time they were asked to undertake their own internal review and provide comments by January 22, 2010. Detailed submissions were received from the MNR, Parks Canada, City of Toronto, TRCA, York Region, Durham Region and the Town of Markham. The consultants undertook a detailed review of comments (in the order of 150 individual corrections and clarifications or elaborations), which have been incorporated into the final version.

THE NEED FOR CHANGE

The work undertaken by the consulting team found, regardless of a recommended or preferred governance model, the Alliance is facing a number of serious challenges and limitations.

The overarching conclusion reached by the consultant team is that the Park and Alliance have reached a critical juncture in their evolution. Based upon the SWOT analysis, the opportunities, tensions and issues are indicative of the Alliance and entity (Park) transitioning from the conceptual stage to the reality of a functioning park and organization.

The Rouge Park was borne out of activism and a political response to a compelling concept and opportunity. Since its creation, the efforts of the Alliance have further defined and consolidated the opportunity.

This study process has confirmed that even today, the basic discussion about what the Rouge Park could or should be, remains unresolved. There is still no universal shared definition of the "Rouge Park" – even among Alliance Members.

Because of its legal limitations, the Alliance is not a true decision-making board. Rather it is an advisory body.

In practice, decisions of the Alliance (which does not have a legal status) are treated as binding decisions, and implemented. In fact, however, they are merely stakeholder advice which is then implemented by one of the parties.

One of the attributes of a board of directors is that board members have a duty to act in the best interests of the organization. If a board member is in a conflict of interest between the interests of the organization, and some other organization to which he or she belongs, then it is necessary to deal with the conflict. Depending on the norms and by-laws of the board, this might require disclosure of the conflict, recusal or abstention from the decision, as may be appropriate in the case.

The Rouge Park Alliance is not a board in this sense. Alliance members are there to represent the organization that appointed them. Accordingly, it does not function as a board. It is more of a structured meeting of the Park stakeholders.

Alliance members are therefore in the ambiguous situation of trying to govern the Rouge Park in the best interests of the Rouge Park, while trying to protect the interests of the organizations they represent.

Further, the consultants have recommended, even if a new governance structure and funding relationship is not secured for the Park, the Alliance should not be left in its current state. The current Rouge Park should be replaced with an incorporated entity, capable of carrying on business in its own name, and of owning land.

The redesign should replace the current stakeholder Alliance with a Board of Directors for the Rouge Park. Board members should be mandated to:

- provide leadership to the Park
- be accountable for ensuring that the Rouge Park fulfills its mandate
- oversee the Park's management
- act honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the corporation
- exercise the care, diligence and skill that a reasonably prudent person would exercise in comparable circumstances

Attached to this report as Schedule A is the Executive Summary from the main study report.

WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY

As mentioned earlier in this report, there has been a renewed dialogue and engagement, particularly at the senior staff levels (Steering Committee) among the Alliance member organizations. This positive energy has created a sense of common purpose, opportunity and momentum to move forward with securing a new governance structure and funding model for the Rouge Park.

It is also very unique to have secured political support from a cross-section of elected representatives from all three levels of government who are championing Rouge Park. Further, both the Federal and Provincial members have indicated interest in receiving the report from the Governance Review.

Public and political interest continues to focus on environmental issues, the most recent example being the climate change conference in Copenhagen. At the same time, Canada and Ontario will continue to be a focus of international attention with the G8 and G20 conferences this June followed by the Pan American Games, which will be hosted in the GTA in 2015. Lastly, there is the reality of elections for the municipal, provincial and federal governments over the next 2 years.

The Rouge Park has always been defined as a landscape of National and Provincial significance and an opportunity to protect a unique and important natural and cultural heritage resource. There is a very real opportunity for the Alliance, working with its constituent members, to “harness” the momentum that has resulted from the Governance Review, and the emergence of the political champions and to capitalize on the public, institutional, media and political attention that will materialize over the 12-18 months.

CHAIRMAN’S RECOMMENDATIONS – MOVING FORWARD

It is important to engage the senior levels of government, the public, and media with a single voice and a very clear set of recommendations that need to be implemented to secure the opportunity that is the Rouge Park. With that in mind, the recommendations contained in this report are intended to put into motion the necessary actions to obtain support from the constituent members of the Alliance to move forward with the implementation of the consultants report.

First, and most important, a draft of the report has undergone an extensive review by members of the Steering Committee, who have concluded it has successfully identified, considered, and evaluated a full range of governance options for the Rouge Park. Second, they are recommending that the consultants report be circulated to the respective agencies/boards and ministries for formal consideration. They have further recommended that this review be completed in 60 days, having regard for the window of opportunity outlined earlier.

In keeping with the advice of the Steering Committee, it is recommended that each of the organizations be requested to address the consultant’s recommendations, the details and concept of a “founding deal”, and to work jointly with the Alliance in approaching the federal and provincial governments.

It is important to continue with the dialogue that has been initiated through the Governance Review. Therefore it is recommended that the Chairman of the Alliance appear before each of the constituent member organizations, at the time they consider the consultant’s report, to make a presentation and respond to questions. In a parallel manner, briefings should be sought with the respective Ministers and senior staff.

Lastly, it is recommended that given the importance of a "Founding Deal" to the creation of a new governance model and financing structure for the Rouge Park, a workshop be held to begin the process of developing a detailed MOU and the process for its acceptance.

Report prepared by: Alan Wells, Chair, Rouge Park Alliance
For information contact: Alan Wells, 9905-713-7426, email: awells@rougepark.com
Date: February 3, 2010

ACTION - Chair and Staff to take appropriate actions and report back to the Alliance.

2. Rouge Park Funding Program - 2010 Recommended Allocations

KEY ISSUE

The Rouge Park Natural Heritage Committee has reviewed the 2010 project submissions and made recommendations.

MOTION: **Moved by: Glenn De Baeremaeker**
Res. #4/10 **Seconded by: Bonnie Littley**

THAT the Rouge Park Alliance approve the allocation of project funding as recommended by the Rouge Park Natural Heritage Committee in Table 1;

AND THAT the Rouge Park Alliance staff be directed to release the letters of confirmation of funding to the organizations whose projects have been approved for the 2010 Natural and Cultural Heritage Funds;

AND THAT projects approved for funding at the February 5, 2010 Rouge Park Alliance meeting be eligible for release of the initial funding;

AND THAT Rouge Park Alliance staff be directed to maintain contact with organizations which are not recommended for funding to assist with improving their proposals so that they may resubmit for funding;

AND FURTHER THAT the Rouge Park Alliance funding for each project be subject to the Natural and Cultural Heritage Funding Policies and Reporting Requirements; the submission of proof of liability insurance; and any conditions as required by the Natural Heritage Committee.

AMENDMENT **Moved: Glenn De Baeremaeker**
Res. #4A/10 **Seconded by: Bonnie Littley**

THAT the Rouge Park Alliance approve projects #8 (Richmond Hill Headwaters Rehabilitation - Ontario Streams) and #10 (Wetland Restoration Workshop & Blanding Turtle Habitat Use - Toronto Zoo), (\$10,000 each), subject to the General Manager finding appropriate funding.

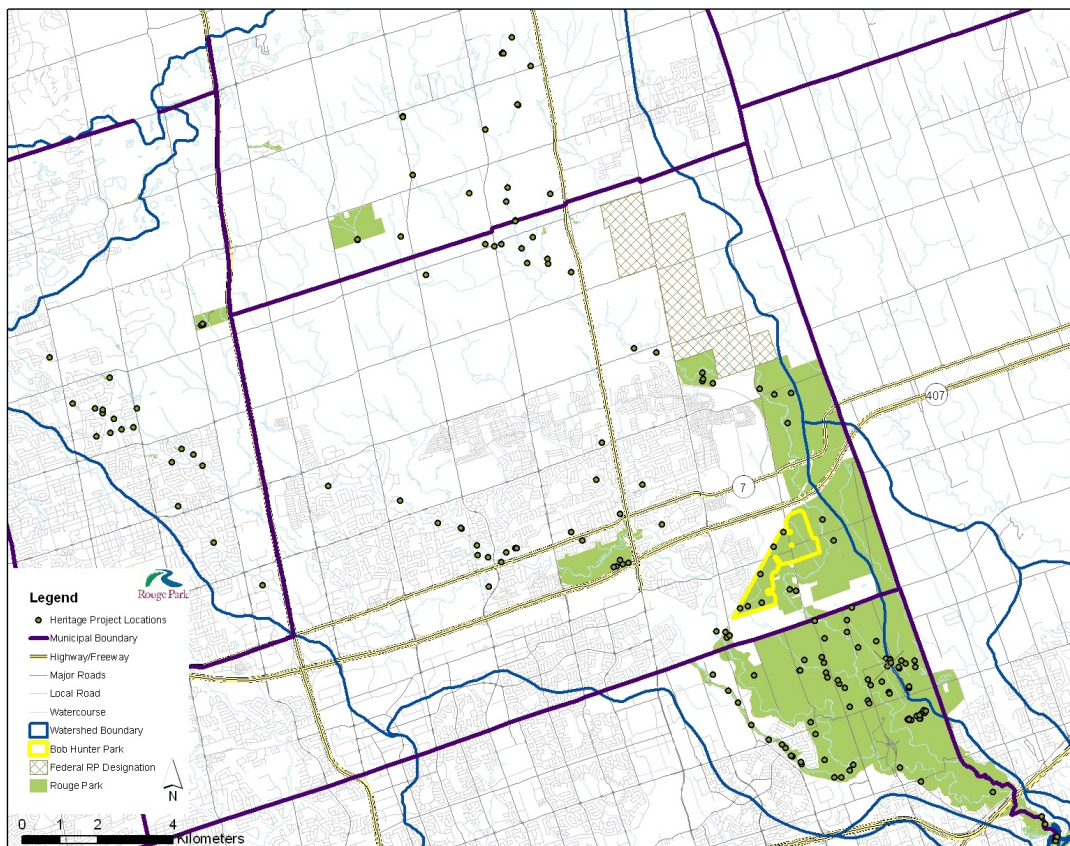
AMENDMENT CARRIED
MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED CARRIED

BACKGROUND

Historical Context – A Past to be Proud Of!!

Records from 1992-2009 show that a total of approximately 322 ha (795 ac) of upland related habitats have been restored. Early reports did not track numbers of trees planted, but, assuming a density of 1200 trees/ha the total would be approximately 386,000 trees. In addition to the area already restored, there are 237 ha remaining to be restored, meaning that 58% of the total 559 ha of restoration area has been completed. We have restored an average of 18 ha per year, with a trending increase over the last 5 years. In addition, there have been significant riparian and marsh areas restored in the Park.

Figure 1: Locations of Projects Undertaken by the Rouge Park Alliance, 1995-2009



2010 Proposals

In early October 2009, Rouge Park Alliance (RPA) staff notified potential project proponents that the Alliance would be accepting proposals for the 2010 fiscal year. In addition to direct notification of past participants, information on the Alliance website was updated. The Natural Heritage Committee asked proponents to use a standardized report form that had been previously discussed with proponents and required that the proposals be submitted by email. The deadline of November 6, 2009 was set and proponents were notified that priority would be given to projects that directly restored habitats on Rouge Park Alliance-owned property or in the Rouge or Little Rouge Rivers.

RPA staff received 10 proposals seeking a total of \$254,889.20 (see Table 1) and circulated the proposals to the Natural Heritage Committee members by email. The Alliance's Natural Heritage Committee met on December 1, 2009 to review and evaluate the proposals and recommend funding levels to the RPA. The established process for review, ranking and recommending allocations was used, as in past years. Each proponent was given 10 minutes per project to outline the proposal and an additional 5 minutes to answer questions. No individuals or agencies that made proposals were involved in ranking, evaluation or allocation decisions. Once all proponents had been heard, the Committee met in-camera to discuss the proposals and to make the recommendation to the RPA based on a budget of \$206,000.

Of the projects proposed, seven ranked high enough to be considered as priorities.¹ Subsequent to the project review meeting, conditions related to two projects changed, resulting in the need to review the recommendation flowing from the December 1, 2009 meeting. In one case, the Rouge Park Alliance Chair requested the Committee defer restoration projects north of Highway 7 for at least one year to allow continued dialogue with York Region and the Town of Markham. In the second case, technical review of the project raised concerns about safety and potential future problems and resulted in withdrawal of the project proposed for the vicinity of Glen Rouge and the Riverside Trail. The Natural Heritage Committee considered these events at their meeting on January 20, 2010.

The Committee recommended that 6 proposals receive funding for a total of \$192,749.60 (Table 1) covering a restoration area of 29 ha. With the exception of the projects proposed by the Friends of the Rouge Watershed (FRW) and Ontario Streams (OS), the Committee recommended full funding. For the former project approximately 4 ha (9.9 ac) of the area allocated to FRW was north of Highway 7 so funding was reduced by \$15,000 to accommodate the request for deferral. The Glen Rouge project proposed by OS was withdrawn for technical reasons.

Rouge Park Alliance staff is presently working out a native grass and tree/shrub habitat restoration program for the Bob Hunter Memorial Park area involving York Region, TRCA and NGOs. The remaining balance (\$13,250.40) of the project budget (\$206,000) will be used in 2010 for that program.

¹ Under the project approval process projects that rank 200 or greater are considered priorities and are allocated funding before any projects with a rank of less than 200.

Table 1: Projects Proposed for 2010

TOTAL SCORE	RANK	PROJECT NUMBER & NAME	RECOMMEND	REQUEST
280.00	1	#1. Rouge Stream and Habitat Monitoring Project - Citizen Scientists	6,807.60 (3.5)	6,807.60
280.00	1	#2. Little Rouge Woodland Restoration and Diversification Project - RVN	30,000.00 (15.6)	30,000.00
270.00	2	#3. Riparian Forest and Meadow - 10K Trees	29,000.00 (15.0)	29,000.00
260.00	3	#4. Glen Rouge, Lower Rouge River Rehab - OS	withdrawn	12,139.60
250.00	4	#5. Restoration of RP Priority Sites 2010 - FRW	105,000.00 (54.5)	120,000.00
240.00	5	#6. Restoration, Roads and Wildlife - Toronto Zoo	10,000.00 (5.2)	10,000.00
230.00	6	#7. Little Rouge Creek Stream Rehab and Monitoring - OS	11,942.00 (6.2)	11,942.00
		TOTALS	192,749.60	219,889.20
170.00	7	#8. Richmond Hill Headwaters Rehab - OS		10,000.00
160.00	8	#9. TC lands, Little Rouge Corridor Wetland Restoration - OS		10,000.00
130.00	9	#10. Wetland Restoration Workshop & Blanding Turtle Habitat Use - Toronto Zoo		15,000.00
		TOTALS	192,749.60	254,889.20

Note that the % of total recommended allocation by project is presented in parentheses.

Figure 2: Locations of Projects Proposed and Recommended for Rouge Park in 2010

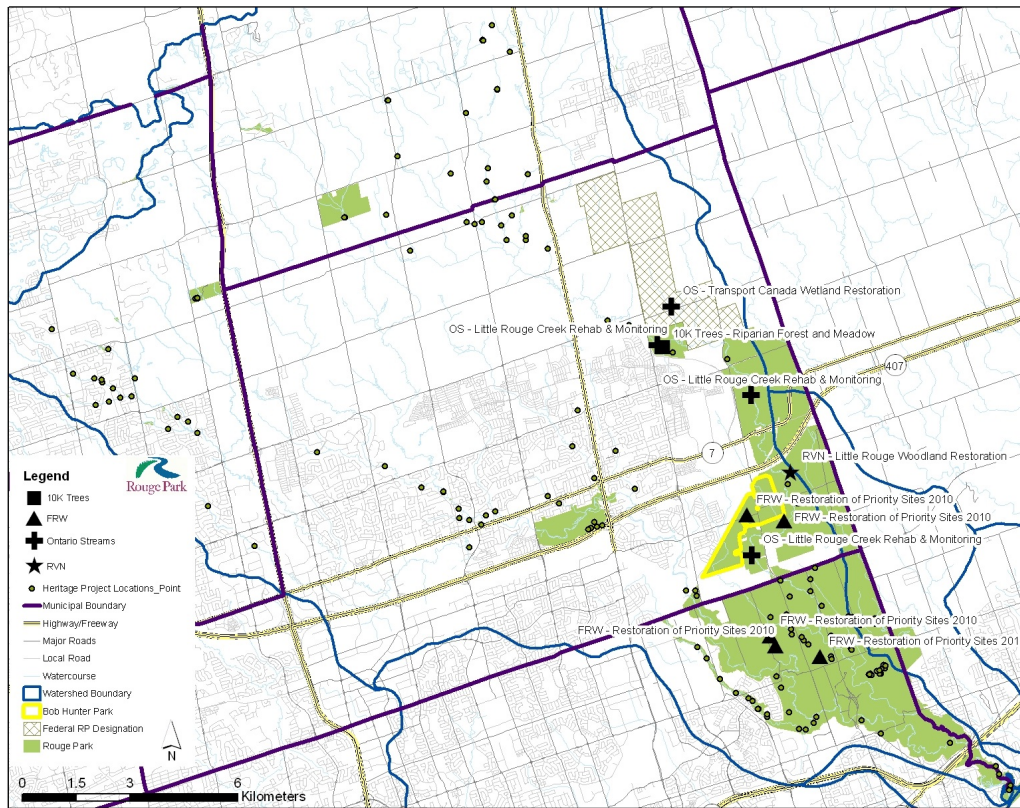


Table 2: Funding Allocated in Past 2 Years

Organization	Project	2008 K\$ (%)	2009 K\$ (%)
Rouge Valley Naturalists	Restoration	28.4 (19)	34.2 (17)
Toronto Zoo	Turtle Habitat Research	15.6 (10)	No request
Friends Rouge Watershed	Road research	No request	No request
	Restoration	40.0 (27)	105.0 (51)
	Seed harvest	5.0 (3)	
Citizen Scientists	Reesor wetland	20.0 (13)	
	Stream Monitoring	6.3 (4)	6.4 (3)
Ontario Streams	R Hill Headwaters	None	12.0 (6)
	Wetland Creation	None	
10000 Trees	Little Rouge Habitat		
	Restoration	10.0 (7)	13.6 (7)
	Restoration	25.0 (17)	32.5 (16)
Total		150.3	203.7

Note that the % of total RPA allocation by project is presented in parentheses.

Recommended Projects (in order of priority)

- 1. Rouge Stream and Habitat Monitoring – Citizen Scientists – previous cooperator (Project #1).** This project is in the 8th year of 10 years and has the same protocol and reporting as past years. The project will continue the water quality monitoring at the same 7 sites as previous years and data are made available to agencies for use. The group is composed entirely of volunteers and the Rouge Park funding provides for equipment, materials and volunteer training and some field support. Reports are provided to Rouge Park via newsletters, websites and final reports. **Recommend full requested funding of \$6,807.**

Deliverables include:

- a. Collect, analyze and store water quality, fish and benthos data for the 7 sites on the Little Rouge Creek as described in the proposal received at Rouge Park on November 6, 2009.
- b. Make data available to MNR, TRCA and ensure data are available to RP.
- c. Provide annual report summarizing data with recommendations and observations that may need action.

Conditions:

- a. Adhere to all conditions required by TRCA, Town of Markham, Region of York and MNR.
- b. Ensure that data collected are consistent with TRCA and MNR protocols.
- c. Notify Rouge Park (S. Santos) two weeks before commencing implementation activities or media contacts.

- 2. Little Rouge Woodland Restoration and Diversification Project – Rouge Valley Naturalists – previous cooperator (Project #2).** This project continues in the cooperative nature of the 2009 project and is in the priority zone within 100 m of the Little Rouge River. RVN will cooperate with TRCA, York Region, Trees Ontario and RPA to restore a suite of habitats north of 14th Avenue in the Little Rouge Corridor. RVN has proposed planting riparian areas as well upland areas in the existing agricultural field. All plantings are integrated with the Regional/TRCA plantings and are consistent with the RPA Action Plan. **Recommend full requested funding of \$30,000.**

Deliverables include:

- a. Plant a mixture of 7500 conifer and deciduous trees and shrubs on approximately 2.4 ha (6 ac.) at the 14th Avenue site according to the proposal dated November 6, 2009

Conditions:

- a. Adhere to all conditions required by TRCA, Town of Markham, Region of York and MNR.
- b. Coordinate and cooperate with York region, TRCA and RPA volunteers who will also be planting on the site.
- c. Variances from approved design require written approval from RPA.
- d. Notify Rouge Park (S. Santos) two weeks before commencing implementation activities or media contacts.
- e. Permanent signage must be approved by RPA.

- 3. Riparian Forest and Meadow - 10000 Trees for the Rouge Valley – previous cooperator (Project #3).** In 2009, 10K Trees proposed a site preparation and wetland restoration for an area of invasive introduced reed canary grass meadow in the floodplain area across the Little Rouge River from the areas they have focused on in the past few years. Site preparations have been done to minimize grass competition and 10K Trees is prepared to implement their customary project. They have been cooperating with TRCA and RPA staffs in re-design of the wetland they proposed in 2009 and that will be implemented in summer 2010. **Recommend full funding request of \$29,000.**

Deliverables include:

- a. Plant at least 6500 trees and shrubs as well as a diversified meadow mix on 2.7 ha. (6.7 ac) as outlined in the proposal dated November 6, 2009.
- b. Provide 3 years follow up maintenance and continue maintenance on previous years sites as previously agreed.

Conditions

- a. Adhere to all conditions required by TRCA, Town of Markham and Region of York.
- b. Ensure that any TRCA, Town of Markham permits, insurance, etc. are in place before putting the temporary bridge in place.
- c. Variances from approved design require written approval from RPA.
- d. Notify Rouge Park (S. Santos) two weeks before commencing implementation activities or media contacts.
- e. Permanent signage must be approved by RPA.

- 4. Restoration of Priority Rouge Park Sites 2009 - Friends of the Rouge Watershed – previous cooperator (Project #5).** FRW proposed reforestation and wetland creation projects at 6 sites including areas in the Little Rouge Corridor (2 sites), Bob Hunter Memorial Park (1 site) and Toronto (3 sites). The decision to defer restoration on agricultural areas north of Highway 7 resulted in the deferral of one LRC site and reduced the area proposed by FRW to 24 ha (60 ac). All plantings are consistent with the RPA Action Plan and are consistent with the high quality of work FRW has provided Rouge Park. FRW will work

closely with TRCA and RPA staff in the design and implementation of the wetland elements of the proposal. **Recommend providing \$105,000 which is the same level as 2009.**

In addition to the community outreach described in the proposal dated November 6, 2009, specific habitat improvement deliverables include:

- a. On the areas covering 24 ha (60 ac) outlined in the proposal plant according to the design included in the proposal:
 - i. trees and shrubs, native wildflowers, riparian areas, native tree and wildflower seed, native grass seed

Conditions:

- a. Adhere to all conditions required by TRCA, Town of Markham, Region of York and City of Toronto.
- b. Provide final species estimates for proposed plantings by site with initial invoice.
- c. Adhere completely to planting designs and species composition provided by Rouge Park and TRCA for the area along 14th Avenue in Bob Hunter Memorial Park.
- d. Variances from approved design require written approval from RPA.
- e. Notify Rouge Park (S. Santos) two weeks before commencing implementation activities or media contacts.
- f. Permanent signage must be approved by RPA.

5. Restoration, Roads and Wildlife – Ontario Road Ecology Group - Toronto Zoo. New proponent (Project #6). The Ontario Road Ecology Group has proposed a multi-year project designed to evaluate numbers and types of wildlife that are killed by motor vehicles at selected sites in Rouge Park. While the study will provide information related to potential road design, the purpose for the study in Rouge Park is to provide information about design and placement of habitat provided by RPA's habitat restoration program. The study will look to see whether there are any relationships between the spatial distribution or mix of restoration habitats and wildlife mortality caused by motor vehicles. If there are, restoration staff will be able to design habitat restoration to minimize collisions. **Recommend full requested funding of \$10,000.**

6. Little Rouge Creek Stream Rehab and Monitoring – Ontario Streams – previous cooperator (Project #7). This project proposes to continue the stream-side and in-stream habitat restoration that Ontario Streams performed in sections of Little Rouge Creek near 16th Avenue and just north of Steeles Avenue. The project will provide valuable information about in-stream habitats that Park staff currently do not have as well as provide restoration and improvement of fish habitat in the stream. The proposed work is consistent with the RPA Action Plan and Rouge Watershed Plan and RP staff has assurances from the MNR that actions will be consistent with the pending fisheries management plan. **Recommend full funding request of \$11,942.**

Deliverables include:

- a. Little Rouge Creek
 - i. Debris clearing and in-stream rehabilitation along 500 m of Little Rouge Creek near Ninth Line and Donald Cousens Parkway
 - ii. Riparian shrub planting along 500 m of both sides of the Little Rouge Creek near Ninth Line and Donald Cousens Parkway
 - iii. Riparian planting along 400 m of Little Rouge Creek just south of 16th Avenue
 - iv. Planting of 1000 native shrubs
 - v. Placement of up to 5 structures in the streams
 - vi. Monitor stream temperature and benthos

- Vii. Mapping of habitats in a 400 m reach of stream just south of 16th Avenue and a 2 km long reach of stream just north of Steeles Avenue

Conditions:

- a. Consult with TRCA fluvio-geomorphologist (R. Ness) for final design of in-stream structures to ensure no increased erosion or flooding.
- b. Consult with TRCA aquatic staff (C. Tu) for final design.
- c. Submit final design to RP for approval before 2010 implementation.
- d. Adhere to all conditions required by TRCA, Town of Markham. Ensure appropriate approvals from MNR and DFO.
- e. Variances from approved design require written approval from RPA.
- f. Notify Rouge Park (S. Santos) two weeks before commencing implementation activities or media contacts.
- g. Permanent signage must be approved by RPA.

Projects Withdrawn by Proponent or Not Recommended

- A. Glen Rouge, Lower Rouge River Rehab – Ontario Streams (Project #4).** This project was proposed to remove trees and other debris that have redirected flows that were causing erosion and threatening the Riverside Trail. At the time the proposal was submitted, it appeared that the tree removal would be a simple operation; however, subsequent discussions suggested that there may be significant risk of downstream erosion. OS in consultation with RPA and TRCA staffs decided to withdraw and postpone the project until a clearer understanding of potential up- and down-stream impacts can be developed.
- B. Richmond Hill Headwaters Rehab – Ontario Streams (Project #8).** This project had been supported in past years and, while the work being proposed is appropriate and environmentally sound, the project is not on lands owned directly by RPA.
- C. TC lands, Little Rouge Corridor Wetland Restoration – Ontario Streams (Project #9).** This project proposed re-engineering of a small stream that had previously been channelized and straightened to allow drainage for farming. There was considerable concern that the design of the re-stored stream would result in significant erosion especially during storm events.
- D. Wetland Restoration Workshop & Blanding Turtle Habitat Use - Toronto Zoo (Project #10).** This proposal involved a workshop for landowners interested in creating turtle habitats and additional research habitat use by Blandings and Map turtles. The committee felt that other projects were higher priority.

Report Prepared by: Bob Clay, Manager, Habitat Restoration, Rouge Park
For information contact: Bob Clay, 905.713.6022 - email: bob_clay@rougepark.com
Date: January 27, 2010

ACTION

- Staff to take appropriate action.

3. Rouge Park Natural Heritage Committee Meeting Minutes - November 17, 2009

KEY ISSUE

Present the actions, recommendations and outcomes of the Rouge Park Natural Heritage Committee meeting held on November 17, 2009.

MOTION: Moved by: Pauline Browes
Res. #5/10 Seconded by: Bonnie Littley

THAT the Rouge Park Alliance receive the minutes of the November 17, 2009 Rouge Park Natural Heritage Committee meeting.

..... **CARRIED**

4. Rouge Park Alliance Meeting Schedule for 2010/2011

KEY ISSUE

Rouge Park Alliance Meeting Schedule for 2010/2011.

MOTION: Moved by: Paul Ainslie
Res. #6/10 Seconded by: Clyde Smith

THAT the Rouge Park Alliance approve the following meeting dates for 2010/2011:

- Friday, March 12, 2010 Main Boardroom, Toronto Zoo, 361A Old Finch Ave., Scarborough
- Friday, April 16, 2010 Committee Room 1, 1st Floor, 225 East Beaver Creek Rd., Richmond Hill
- *Friday, June 11, 2010 Cedar Brae Golf & Country Club, 6431 Steeles Ave. East, Scarborough
- Friday, September 24, 2010 Main Boardroom, Toronto Zoo, 361A Old Finch Ave., Scarborough
- Friday, November 5, 2010 Main Boardroom, Toronto Zoo, 361A Old Finch Ave., Scarborough
- Friday, December 10, 2010 Main Boardroom, Toronto Zoo, 361A Old Finch Ave., Scarborough
- Friday, February 4, 2011 Main Boardroom, Toronto Zoo, 361A Old Finch Ave., Scarborough

NOTE:

It was discussed that the scheduled April 16, 2010 meeting was too early to accommodate for the 60-day response to the Governance Review Report. It was requested that another time or a date in May be scheduled. It is not possible to schedule a meeting date in May, but the April 16th meeting could be rescheduled to April 23, 2010. Also, because of the Municipal Election on October 25, 2010, it was decided to not schedule meetings on November 5, and December 10, 2010.

AMENDMENT Moved: Gerri Lynn O'Connor
Res. #6A/10 Seconded by: Pauline Browes

THAT the April 16, 2010 meeting date be rescheduled and that the November 5, and December 10, 2010 meetings be removed from the schedule.

AMENDED MAIN MOTION READS AS FOLLOWS:

THAT the Rouge Park Alliance receive the following meeting dates for 2010/11:

- Friday, March 12, 2010 Main Boardroom, Toronto Zoo, 361A Old Finch Ave., Scarborough
- Friday, April 23, 2010 Committee Room 2, 1st Floor, 225 East Beaver Creek Rd., Richmond Hill
- *Friday, June 11, 2010 Cedar Brae Golf & Country Club, 6431 Steeles Ave. East, Scarborough
- Friday, September 24, 2010 Main Boardroom, Toronto Zoo, 361A Old Finch Ave., Scarborough
- Friday, February 4, 2011 Main Boardroom, Toronto Zoo, 361A Old Finch Ave., Scarborough

AMENDMENT **CARRIED**
MAIN MOTION TO RECEIVE AND AS AMENDED **CARRIED**

DETAILS

Rouge Park Alliance meetings will commence at 9:00 a.m., at the locations indicated beside each date.

* **On June 11, 2010**, at 9:00 a.m., there will be a brief regular Rouge Park Alliance meeting at the Cedar Brae Golf and Country Club, 6431 Steeles Avenue East, Scarborough. Immediately following (at approximately 10:15 a.m.) the Rouge Park Alliance Annual General Meeting will commence.

Report prepared by: Alan Wells, Chair, Rouge Park Alliance
For information contact: Alan Wells, 905-713-7426; email: awells@rougepark.com
Date: January 25, 2010

5. Correspondence

MOTION: Moved by: **Clyde Smith**
Res. #7/10 Seconded by: **Helena Jaczek**

THAT the Rouge Park Alliance receive the following correspondence:

1. Letter dated November 25, 2009 to Alan Wells, Chair, Rouge Park Alliance, from Denis Kelly, Regional Clerk, Region of York, re: Transportation Master Plan Update Final Report.
2. Letter dated December 1, 2009 to Alan Wells, Chair, Rouge Park Alliance, from Bryan Tuckey, Commissioner of Planning & Development Services, Region of York, re: 14th Avenue Issue - Transportation Master Plan Update.
3. Letter dated December 1, 2009 to Lewis Yeager, General Manager, Rouge Park, from Martin W. Scott, McCormick Rankin Corporation, re: Transportation Improvements in the Donald Cousens Parkway/ Morningside Avenue Link Corridor Amendment to the Environmental Assessment.
4. Copy of Letter dated December 2, 2009 to The Regional Municipality of York, Planning and Development Services Dept., from Jim Robb, Rouge Duffins Greenspace Coalition Volunteer and General Manager, Friends of the Rouge Watershed, re: York Official Plan Amendment: Planning for Tomorrow, Submission to York Region Planning Committee.
5. Letter dated December 7, 2009 to Alan Wells, Chair, Rouge Park Alliance, from Kathy Stranks, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, re: Greenlands Acquisition Project for 2006-2010 - Flood Plan and Conservation Component, Rouge River Watershed Purchase of Land - Canadian National Railway Co.
6. Copy of Letter dated December 16, 2009 to Rosemary and Jonathan Oliver, Pickering, from Minister Jim Watson, Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing, re: Rouge Park Issues (National Park and Enforcement).
7. E-mail dated January 20, 2010 to Alan Wells, Chair, Rouge Park Alliance, from Cat Beattie, re: Andy McKinnon - Rouge Park Issues.
8. Letter dated January 26, 2010 to Alan Wells, Chair, and Members of the Rouge Park Alliance, from Tupper Wheatley, Milne Park Conservation Association, re: Markham Rouge Park Implementation Task Force Report.
9. E-mail dated January 26, 2010 to Alan Wells, Rouge Park Alliance, from Wayne Owen, re: Rouge Park.

..... **CARRIED**

ACTION

- Correspondence 5.7.1 - Councillor Jennifer O’Connell would like to receive protocol on deputations to the Alliance.
- Correspondence 5.8.1 and 5.9.1 - Hon. Pauline Browes would like to refer these correspondence to the “Founding Deal”, and forwarded to Markham Council.

