



ROUGE PARK ALLIANCE MINUTES - MEETING #4/10 - JUNE 11, 2010 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Rouge Park Alliance met at the Cedar Brae Golf and Country Club, Scarborough. The Chair, Alan Wells, welcomed everyone, and thanked the Cedar Brae Golf and Country Club management and staff for hosting the meeting. He 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.
Dr. Helena Jaczek, MPP, Province of Ontario
Councillor Ron Moeser, City of Toronto
Regional Councillor Bonnie Littley, Region of Durham
Gerri Lynn O'Connor, TRCA

Alternates:

Ian Buchanan, Region of York
Councillor Raymond Cho, City of Toronto
Paul Harpley, Toronto Zoo
Councillor Chin Lee, City of Toronto
Tom Melymuk, City of Pickering
Debbie Pella Keen, Province of Ontario
Jim Robb, Save the Rouge Valley System Inc.
Carolyn Woodland, TRCA

ABSENT

Members:

Councillor David Cohen, Town of Richmond Hill
Markham Deputy Mayor Jack Heath, Region of York
Councillor Erin Shapero, Town of Markham
Councillor Jennifer O'Connell, City of Pickering
Councillor Clyde Smith, Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville
John Tracogna, Toronto Zoo

Alternates:

Nestor Chornobay, Region of Durham
Brian Denney, Toronto & Region Conservation Authority
Mayor Wayne Emmerson, 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.
Tracey Steele, Richmond Hill

Staff:

Heidi Brown, Species at Risk Technician
Barb Davies, Manager, Policy & Administration
Ron Dewell, Acting General Manager
Michelle Holmes, Manager, Visitor Experience
Vicki MacDonald, Biologist

Staff (Continued...)

Doreen McCarty, Administrative Coordinator
Maria Papoulias, Manager, Natural Heritage
Sheryl Santos, Stewardship Coordinator
Diana Smyth, Trail Coordinator
Jennifer Tang, Field Technician

Observers:

Brenda Breedon, TRCA
Bob Clay, TRCA
Colin Creasey, 10000 Trees for the Rouge
Gail Crossman, Transport Canada
Jim Dillane, TRCA
Lilli Duoba, Town of Markham

Observers (Continued...)

Hovavi Engineer & Mona Brindley, Residents
David Harvey, Consultant - GreenThink
Garry Hunter, Hunter & Associates
Lois James, Green Door Alliance
Sheila Lathe, Resident
Mark Lowe, TRCA
Nancy Lowes, City of Toronto Parks

Observers (Continued...)

Marvin Macaraig, Dept. Of Geography, U. Of T.
Gord MacPherson, TRCA
Bernadette Manning, Cedargrove Community
John Mason
Beth McEwen, City of Toronto
Andy McKinnon, Rouge Watch
Edith Montgomery, Resident
Eha Naylor, Dillon Consulting
Colin O'Neill, Friends of the Rouge Watershed
Don Prince, Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust
Lionel Purcell, Rouge Valley Foundation
Linda Sarang/Volunteers, Rouge Valley Naturalists
Patricia Short-Galle, Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust
Caroline Shultz, Ontario Nature
Lorne Smith
Ben Stacey
Volunteers, Friends of the Rouge Watershed
Volunteers, Rouge Valley Foundation
Susan Walmer, Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust
Anne Wells

ACTION

- Staff to take appropriate action and report back to the Alliance on completion of the enhancement projects.

BACKGROUND

TRCA Report:

SECTION I - ITEMS FOR AUTHORITY ACTION

RES.#A49/10 - YORK REGION SOUTHEAST COLLECTOR ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Approval of the Southeast Collector Environmental Enhancement Projects at the Bob Hunter Memorial Park, and funding agreement with York Region.

Moved by: Richard Whitehead

Seconded by: David Barrow

THAT the Southeast Collector Environmental Enhancement Projects at the Bob Hunter Memorial Park be approved;

THAT Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) staff be directed to enter into a funding agreement with the Region of York to implement the Southeast Collector Environmental Enhancement Projects at Bob Hunter Memorial Park on TRCA lands within Rouge Park;

THAT staff assist York Region with the various Environmental Assessment conditions that pertain to Bob Hunter Memorial Park;

AND FURTHER THAT staff be directed to report back to the Authority on the completion of the Southeast Collector Environmental Enhancements Projects at Bob Hunter Memorial Park.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

Since 2005, TRCA staff has been working on various aspects of the planning, approval and implementation of the York Durham Sanitary Sewer System (YDSS). One product of this working relationship is a service delivery partnership to facilitate review of the Environmental Assessment and permits of the various YDSS projects. In addition, staff has been actively assisting the regions of York and Durham with the planning and implementation of the Ecological Enhancement associated with the 16th Avenue Sewer, Southeast Collector and the expansion of the Duffins Water Pollution Control Plant.

At Authority Meeting #9/07, held on November 30, 2007, Resolution #A268/07, was approved, in part, as follows:

...THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT staff be directed to report to the Authority once the final 16th Avenue Environmental Improvements Initiative, Southeast Collector Environmental Enhancement Plan and Duffins Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) Greening and Biodiversity Plan, have been developed;...

The plan for the 16th Avenue Environmental Improvement Initiatives is still being finalized. The Duffins Water Pollution Control Plant Greening and Biodiversity Plan was approved at Authority Meeting #3/08, held on April 25, 2008, and the associated habitat enhancement work is currently under way.

A portion of the overall Southeast Collector Environmental Enhancement Plan is the implementation of various aspects of the Bob Hunter Memorial Park Plan. This implementation will focus on a five year phased

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plan that invests in natural heritage and the recreational trails components of the Bob Hunter Memorial Park. The natural heritage features include the restoration of wetlands, rehabilitation of riparian zones, establishing natural cover including meadow habitats and forests. The recreation plan includes the development of multi-use trails, a nature trail, bridge crossings, parking and interpretive signage. All of the proposed projects in phases one to three are on TRCA properties within Rouge Park while phases four and five are on lands currently held by the Province of Ontario which have been dedicated for Rouge Park purposes.

The Southeast Collector Environmental Enhancement Plan portion of the Bob Hunter Memorial Park has been developed in close cooperation with the Rouge Park, municipalities and a number of different agencies. All of the restoration works and multi-use trails are consistent with Rouge Park planning, including the Bob Hunter Memorial Park Plan, the Rouge Park Natural Heritage Action Plan, the Rouge watershed plan, as well as, municipal and provincial planning. There is a strong commitment amongst the project partners to build functional habitats, trails that will enhance the public use of the area, and engage the community in establishing the Bob Hunter Memorial Park within Rouge Park.

On March 31, 2010, the Ministry of the Environment granted approval of the overall Environmental Assessment of the Southeast Collector Project. This approval was subject to a number of conditions, including the following conditions that are specific to the Bob Hunter Memorial Park:

- specific conditions relate to the tunnel boring operation and alignment within Bob Hunter Memorial Park;
- a requirement to work with interested stakeholders including TRCA, Rouge Park Alliance, Town of Markham, and the family of Bob Hunter on any refinements to the proposed environmental plan;
- within six months of the approval, prepare for approval to the satisfaction of the Regional Director, Ministry of Environment, a Bob Hunter Memorial Park Enhancement Plan that includes details of the proposed restoration and trails, project implementation timelines, and annual compliance reports on the Bob Hunter Memorial Park Enhancement Plan; and
- ensure that the Bob Hunter Memorial Park Enhancement Plan is posted on the proponent website.

On Authority approval, staff will enter into a funding agreement with York Region to implement the Southeast Collector Environmental Enhancements at Bob Hunter Memorial Park. Prior to implementation and working closely with Rouge Park, and the Region, staff will secure all approvals and notify all parties interested with the Bob Hunter Memorial Park. Work is scheduled to commence in 2010 and end in 2014.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

The Southeast Collector Environmental Enhancements at Bob Hunter Memorial Park consist of natural heritage restoration and the recreational multi-use trail. The natural heritage projects are focused on habitat restoration including restoring wetlands, forest and riparian cover and creating meadows. The following table outlines a summary of the natural heritage and recreational components of each phase of the Southeast Collector Environmental Initiatives at Bob Hunter Memorial Park:

Phase (2010)	1	Approximately 0.9 km of 3m paved multi-use trail; 0.9 km of 1.8 m (limestone) secondary trail; 50 car parking area with paved entrance; gateway and visitor signs and kiosks; 13.7 ha of meadow areas; approx. 4.0 ha of wetlands, riparian areas
Phase (2011)	2	A total of 1.95 km of 3m (limestone) multi use trail; 2.9 km of looped hiking trail; two pedestrian bridge crossings of Little Rouge River, directional and interpretive signs; 6.6 ha of wetland and riparian areas; 11.1 ha of meadow areas
Phase (2012)	3	A total of 30.6 ha of natural forest cover; 8.5 ha of wetland and riparian

Phase (2013)	4	A total of 2.6 km of 3m paved multi use trail; 30 car parking area with paved entrance
Phase (2014)	5	A total of 3.2 km of 3m paved multi use trail; pedestrian crossing at York/Durham Line and 14 th Ave.

TRCA has created a process that utilizes GIS and field techniques to identify and prioritize restoration opportunities on a hydrologic basis. The GIS approach is rooted in an understanding of topography and drainage to delineate and prioritize restoration opportunities (wetland, riparian and forest) which are then verified in the field. In cooperation with Rouge Park, this technique was used as a foundation for the Rouge Park Natural Heritage Action Plan and the habitat restoration opportunities associated with the Bob Hunter Memorial Park. The habitat restoration work will fulfill our natural heritage objective for this area, provide ecologically appropriate natural cover, and restore altered hydrology. In total, there will be four hectares of wetlands, 26 hectares of riparian cover and 27 hectares of forest cover created within Bob Hunter Memorial Park.

A unique component of the plan is the establishment of 24 hectares of meadow and grassland habitat. To create this meadow feature, staff is working with the Rural Lambton Stewardship Network. The Stewardship Network is a cooperative venture between the Ministry of Natural Resources and the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority and this group is recognized as the provincial experts in grassland restoration. The meadows will establish a parkland landscape that is comprised of regionally and ecologically appropriate plant species and allows for the quick establishment of a park amenity. The meadows can either be managed for the long term or allowed natural succession to establish forest cover over time.

The multi-use recreational trails are focused on the establishment of primary trails, secondary and natural trail systems, bridge crossings, trail head areas, and parking. This extensive new trail network will provide community access in an orderly way to the environmental features of the Bob Hunter Memorial Park and Rouge Park while at the same time ensure the integrity of the parks are maintained as a natural habitat. The trail systems will be aligned and maximize the public’s enjoyment of the parks, including an educational opportunity of the parks natural features including signage and an interpretation of park history from the early First Nations to present day.

Cooperatively with Rouge Park, we have detailed a project funding agreement with the Region of York. A detailed implementation description and schedule of restoration and recreational activities has also been developed with Rouge Park, and to ensure consistency with current planning, the project will be reviewed by the other project partners including the Town of Markham. The implementation of this project will be supported by the direct guidance and assistance of Rouge Park staff.

FINANCIAL DETAILS

The Southeast Collector Environmental Enhancements at Bob Hunter Memorial Park is a substantial investment in Rouge Park of \$6.00 million. The habitat restoration components of Phase One to Phase Three are a total of \$1.20 million. The recreational components of Phase One to Phase Three are a total of \$3.60, and \$1.20 million in Phase Four and Phase Five. Funding is provided by the Region of York as a special project independent of regular TRCA funding and will be administered under account codes 117-89,117-90,117-91.

Report prepared by: Gord MacPherson, Manager, Restoration & Environmental Monitoring Projects, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
For Information contact: Gord MacPherson, 416-661-6600, extension 5246
 Email: gmacpherson@trca.on.ca

Date: April 15, 2010

2. City of Toronto Adopted Motion re: Support for Creation of a Rouge National/Federal Park

KEY ISSUE

Motion adopted by the City of Toronto Council on May 11 and 12, 2010 regarding support for the creation of a Rouge Valley National/Federal Park.

MOTION:
Res. #31/10

Moved by: Bonnie Littley
Seconded by: Glenn De Baeremaeker

THAT the Rouge Park Alliance receive the attached motion that was adopted by the City of Toronto Council on May 11 and 12, 2010 regarding support for the creation of a Rouge Valley National/Federal Park;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this motion be forwarded to the Hon. Jim Prentice, Minister of the Environment, for his information.

..... **CARRIED**

ACTION

- Staff to take appropriate action.

BACKGROUND



City Clerk's Office

Secretariat
Marilyn Toft
Council Secretariat Support
City Hall, 12th Floor, West
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

Ulli S. Warkies
City Clerk

Tel: 416-392-7032
Fax: 416-392-2880
e-mail: mtoti@toronto.ca
web: www.toronto.ca

Ref: 2010-MM49.27

May 17, 2010

Mr. Alan Wells
Chair, Rouge Park Alliance
50 Bloomington Road West
Aurora, Ontario
L4G 0L8

Dear Mr. Wells:

**Subject: City Council – Member Motion – MM49.27
Support for creation of a Rouge Valley National/Federal Park**

City Council on May 11 and 12, 2010, adopted the following:

1. City Council state that it believes the Rouge Valley watershed is of national significance and that it supports the creation of a Rouge Valley National Park or Federal Park in order to protect the extraordinary wealth contained the Toronto, York and Durham areas of the Park.
2. City Council support the findings of the Rouge Park Alliance Consultants report on Rouge Park Governance that includes: supporting the creation of a federal park in the Rouge, supporting the inclusion of approximately 5,000 acres of federally owned land in addition to the existing designated park lands as outlined on Figure 2.11 (Area 1, 2, and 3) in the consultant's report, and supporting a formal federal role in managing the park.
3. City Council request and encourage the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario to establish a Rouge Valley National Park and commit to having a visible and welcomed presence in the largest urban centre in Canada.

Yours truly,

for City Clerk

M. Toft/gc

Attachment

Sent to: Prime Minister of Canada
Premier, Province of Ontario
Chair, Rouge Park Alliance



Member Motion

City Council

Motion without Notice

MM49.27	ACTION			
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Support for creation of a Rouge Valley National/Federal Park - by Councillor De Baeremaeker, seconded by Councillor Moeser

** This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair. Council has added this Motion to the agenda for debate.*

Recommendations

Councillor De Baeremaeker, seconded by Councillor Moeser, recommends that:

1. City Council state that it believes the Rouge Valley watershed is of national significance and that it supports the creation of a Rouge Valley National Park or Federal Park in order to protect the extraordinary wealth contained the Toronto, York and Durham areas of the Park.
2. City Council support the recommendations of the Rouge Park Alliance Consultants report on Rouge Park Governance that includes: supporting the creation of a Federal Park in the Rouge, supporting the inclusion of approximately 5,000 acres of federally owned land in additional to the existing designated park lands as outlined on Maps 1, 2 and 3 in the Consultant's report, and supporting a formal federal role in managing the Park.
3. City Council request and encourage the Government of Canada and Province of Ontario to establish a Rouge Valley National Park and commit to having a visible and welcomed presence in the largest urban centre in Canada.

Summary

The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and Rouge Park Alliance unanimously voted to recognize that the Rouge Park is of national significance and also voted unanimously to request and encourage the provincial and federal governments to support the creation of a federal park model to protect and preserve the Rouge Watershed as outlined in the Consultants Report on Rouge Park Governance. The Government of Ontario.

The Rouge Park was first announced in 1990 and comprised of approximately 4,500 acres. The Park has been expanded into York and Durham Regions and now consists of approximately 12,000 acres of publicly owned lands stretching from the shore of Lake Ontario to the Oak Ridges Moraine. The federal government is currently considering adding approximately 5,000

2

acres of federally owned land to the Rouge Park and protecting the Rouge Park as a federal park.

The Rouge Park has a wealth of locally, provincially and nationally rare species and is currently facing challenges posed by urban sprawl, illegal hunting and poaching, and illegal dumping of garbage and construction waste.

(Submitted to City Council on May 11 and 12, 2010 as MM49.27)

3. Rouge Park 2009 Annual Report

KEY ISSUE

Rouge Park 2009 Annual Report including an abridged version of the unaudited financial statements.

MOTION:
Res. #32/10

Moved by: Bonnie Littley
Seconded by: Tom Melymuk

THAT the Rouge Park Alliance approve the 2009 Annual Report.

..... **CARRIED**

BACKGROUND

Our Annual Report communicates our work in a given year to our supporters and others, as well as helps us review the work we do to ensure that we are continuously improving Rouge Park and meeting Park objectives in our management plans. This report includes an abridged version of our unaudited financial statements.

After the 2009 Annual Report has been approved by the Alliance, the Report will be distributed.

Report prepared by: Ron Dewell, Acting General Manager, Rouge Park
For information contact: Ron Dewell, 905-713-7374 - email: rdewell@trca.on.ca
Date: June 2, 2010

Hon. Pauline Browes complimented Michelle Holmes and Rouge Park staff on the 2009 Annual Report and requested that it be circulated widely, to the federal, provincial governments, partner agencies and other community groups.

ACTION

- Staff to take appropriate action.

4. Correspondence

MOTION:
Res. #33/10

Moved by: Bonnie Littley
Seconded by: Paul Ainslie

THAT the Rouge Park Alliance receive the following correspondence:

AMENDMENT B: Moved by: Glenn De Baeremaeker
Res. #34B/10 Seconded by: Ian Buchanan

THAT the Terms of Reference include:

1. **How to avoid and/or minimize damage from infrastructure and possible future growth; and**
2. **How to ensure a positive net environmental benefit from any activity that takes place in and around Rouge Park.**

AMENDMENT A **CARRIED**
AMENDMENT B **CARRIED**
MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED **CARRIED**

BACKGROUND

At the Rouge Park Alliance meeting on March 12, 2010, Alan Wells, Chair, Rouge Park Alliance, discussed the need to develop a consolidated plan for Rouge Park lands in Markham, building on and integrating the work which has been carried out separately on the Markham East Lands, the Little Rouge Corridor and Bob Hunter Memorial Park.

The Rouge Park in Markham began with the transfer of the Little Rouge Corridor lands in 2004 (708 hectares) and grew with the addition of the Bob Hunter Memorial Park lands in 2006 (197 hectares) and the Provincial announcement regarding the addition of the Markham East lands in 2007 (653 hectares). Park planning was carried out separately as the land components were added. It is now felt that it would be beneficial to carry out a consolidated plan and staff are recommending we proceed with Requests for Proposals based on the attached Terms of Reference.

Report prepared by: Ron Dewell, Acting General Manager, Rouge Park
For information contact: Ron Dewell, 905-713-7374, email: rdewell@trca.on.ca
Date: June 8, 2010
Attachment

Terms of Reference
Rouge Park North Consolidated Plan

PROJECT NAME:

Rouge Park North Consolidated Plan

PURPOSE

The purpose of this project is to develop a consolidated plan for Rouge Park lands in Markham, which include Bob Hunter Memorial Park, the Little Rouge Corridor and the Markham East Lands.

The plan will be developed under the guidance of a Steering Committee comprised of staff representation from: Rouge Park Alliance, City of Toronto, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, Regional Municipality of York, Town of Markham, Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, Regional Municipality of Durham, City of Pickering, Transport Canada, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Ontario Realty Corporation, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Toronto Zoo, Friends of the Rouge Watershed, and representatives from the agriculture community.

Rouge Park will be retaining a consulting firm to prepare a consolidated plan for Rouge Park lands north of Steeles Avenue (Markham, Regional Municipality of York).

BACKGROUND:

Rouge Park is over 47 km², encompassing a unique mosaic of river valley, creeks, forests, meadow and rural landscapes, within the Rouge River, Petticoat Creek and Duffins Creek watersheds. The Park is part of Ontario's Greenbelt, and it represents Canada's largest natural environment park in an urban setting.

Rouge Park was formally established in 1994 by the Province of Ontario, following years of citizen support for the preservation of the Rouge River valley. The initial land dedication for Rouge Park comprised extensive lands south of Steeles Avenue, in the Cities of Toronto and Pickering. In subsequent years, lands north of Steeles Avenue, including the Little Rouge Corridor, Bob Hunter Memorial Park and most recently, the Markham East Lands, were dedicated to Rouge Park by the Province. The Park is managed as a partnership, with land and funds from the Province of Ontario, the Government of Canada, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), municipal governments and other agencies. The Rouge Park Alliance, a partnership of twelve organizations and one not-for-profit group, directs the planning and management of Rouge Park.

Since its inception, Rouge Park has increased in size through land acquisition and many significant restoration projects have been implemented. Through planning there has been a strong vision on establishing a protected nature reserve stretching from Lake Ontario north to the Oak Ridges Moraine, including a continuous trail system and areas dedicated to the preservation of near-urban agriculture.

There are also numerous plans in place for lands within and surrounding Rouge Park including:

- Rouge Park Management Plan (1994)
- Rouge North Management Plan (2001)
- Bob Hunter Memorial Park Master Plan (2007)
- Little Rouge Corridor Management Plan (2007);
- Heritage Appreciation and Visitor Experience (HAVE) Plan (2008);
- Rouge Park Trail Development and Management Plan (1998, Toronto section);
- Rouge Park Trails Master Plan (in progress)
- Rouge Park East Lands Management Plan (draft).

Our member organizations have also developed plans relevant to the Park, which include:

- Ontario Greenbelt Plan (2005);
- Markham OPA 140 – Rouge North Management Area/Greenbelt (2005)
- York Region Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan;
- The Town of Markham's Pathways and Trails Master Plan;
- Central Pickering Development Plan

Rouge Park now has the need to update and consolidate its management plans for all Park lands in Markham, which include the Little Rouge Corridor, Bob Hunter Memorial Park and the Markham East Lands. This updated plan should have regard for Rouge Park plans in the adjacent lands south of Steeles Avenue, and for all other Rouge Park and partner planning documents listed above.

STUDY ADMINISTRATION:

The study will be managed by Rouge Park with the support of a Core Team and a Steering Committee. The Core Team will be comprised of key Rouge Park staff (primarily the Project Manager and General Manager), Chair of the Rouge Park Alliance, Chair of the Steering Committee, and representatives from the TRCA and Town of Markham.

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The Steering Committee is comprised of staff representation from: Rouge Park Alliance, City of Toronto, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, Regional Municipality of York, Town of Markham, Durham Region, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Transport Canada, Ontario Realty Corporation, City of Pickering, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, the Toronto Zoo, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Friends of the Rouge Watershed, and representatives from the agriculture community. Its role in the development of the Consolidated Plan will primarily be to provide direction and technical guidance, share information and give feedback to the Rouge Park staff and the consultants.

Members of the Steering Committee, along with other key participants from partner organizations, where appropriate, will be invited to participate in three working groups that were previously set up as part of the Markham East Lands planning process. These three groups focussed specifically on 1) agriculture, 2) natural heritage, and 3) recreation, visitor experience and cultural heritage.

Project Goal and Objectives:

To complete a consolidated plan for Rouge Park lands in Markham that will:

1. Build upon the vision, goals and strategies outlined in the Rouge Park Management Plan (1994) Rouge North Management Plan (2001) and HAVE Plan (2008), incorporate recommendations of the Rouge Park Trails Master Plan (in progress) and have regard for relevant partner documents (i.e. Ontario Greenbelt Plan and Markham OPA 140).
2. Consolidate current plans for the Little Rouge Corridor (2007), Bob Hunter Memorial Park (2007) and the Markham East Lands (draft, incomplete) in order to streamline management of these contiguous parcels of property in Markham.
3. Update plans as appropriate to incorporate new information and Rouge Park Alliance direction.
4. Incorporate the results of consultations with partners, stakeholders and the public.
5. Recommend land use zoning for park lands in Markham. This will incorporate natural heritage system delineation and restoration plans developed collaboratively by TRCA and Rouge Park staff, trail routes to be determined as part of the Rouge Park Trails Master Plan, and consideration of best agricultural areas. The zoning recommendations should be high-level and leave sufficient flexibility to develop detailed site plans as needs and opportunities arise.
6. Identify significant natural features and recommend measures to protect or enhance them.
7. Analyze and recommend areas that would be suitable for visitor facilities and/or trailheads. Highlight cultural and natural features that should form part of a future interpretive program, and recommend ways to incorporate existing built heritage structures into park functions.
8. Identify best areas for farming and recommend measures needed to sustain viable agriculture there.
9. Recommend strategies to establish the targeted natural heritage system, incorporate quality visitor experiences and maintain agriculture in designated areas.

Special Considerations

There are several topics that will require specific analysis and recommendations as part of this plan. These include:

- Consideration of one or several locations for large public use areas, as has been requested by the Town of Markham.
- Consideration of areas where dog off-leash parks may be appropriate and feasible.
- Critical infrastructure and support needed to sustain near-urban farming in areas of the Park designated for long-term agricultural use.

Study Process

Phase 1: Background Review

- Convene a start-up meeting with the Core Team to review the proposed work plan, discuss strategies and issues of concern, and agree on approach to first Steering Committee meeting.
- Review and summarize relevant information on natural, cultural and agricultural heritage in the area. (Most of this has already been compiled as part of the Little Rouge Corridor, Bob Hunter Memorial Park, and Markham East Lands management plans.)
- Review relevant planning documents, including, but not limited to, those listed in this document, and articulate how these relate to the current management plan.
- Circulate background review document to the Core Team for feedback (via the project manager) and incorporate changes as necessary.
- Hold a Steering Committee meeting to update members on the new planning initiative, review work that has been done to date, review background information and gather feedback on the planning strategy and next steps. Steering Committee members will be invited to join one or more of the three working groups (agriculture, natural heritage, recreation and culture) in order to participate in the development of management strategies in the next phase.

Target Completion Date: July 2010

Phase 2: Development of Strategies

- Hold a second Core Team meeting to review information collected to date and confirm strategy for moving forward.
- Based on findings of the background review and consultations with the Steering Committee and Core Team, draft a set of management strategies, including schematic mapping, for Rouge Park lands north of Steeles Avenue, considering:
 1. Compatibility with other Rouge Park and partner plans.
 2. Natural heritage features/systems, protection to be afforded to them, and restoration required to fulfill natural heritage objectives (incorporate restoration/natural heritage system analysis to be completed by TRCA/Rouge Park staff)
 3. Future trail alignments (to be determined by the Rouge Park Trails Master Plan, currently in progress).
 4. Appropriate visitor use areas (interpretive nodes, trailheads, etc.).
 5. Interpretive themes and key stories to be incorporated into future visitor experience initiatives.
 6. Opportunities for use of existing buildings and structures.
 7. Maintaining viable agriculture on lands best suited for farming, and ensuring that agriculture carried out in the Park is innovative, sustainable and ecologically compatible.
 8. Opportunities to engage First Nations, particularly in interpretation of the historic Carrying Place trail.
 9. Opportunities to engage local communities, particularly the hamlets of Locust Hill and Cedar Grove, the local Mennonite Community, and the local farm community.
- Hold meetings of the Agriculture, Natural Heritage and Recreation/Culture working groups to review draft mapping and strategies, and make modifications as necessary.
- Hold a third Core Team meeting to review draft mapping and strategies, make changes as necessary, and prepare for presentations to the Rouge Park Alliance and residents.
- Make a presentation to the Rouge Park Alliance to present draft mapping and strategies, collect feedback, and obtain Rouge Park Alliance endorsement before public meetings.
- Convene two separate meetings for residents in the hamlets of Locust Hill and Cedar Grove, to present an overview of the management planning process, schematic park mapping, and a summary of management strategies. Collect comments and circulate to the Core Team (via the project manager) for discussion.

Target Completion Date: November 2010

Phase 3: Management Plan

- Draft a recommended management plan for Rouge Park lands in Markham.
- Circulate the draft management plan to the Core Team (via the project manager) and plan a fourth Core Team meeting, allowing for an appropriate review period. Modify the plan as necessary following direction from the Core Team.
- Hold meetings of the agriculture, natural heritage and recreation/culture working groups to review the draft management plan, and make modifications as necessary.
- Circulate the draft management plan to the Steering Committee (via the project manager) and plan a second Steering Committee meeting, allowing for an appropriate review period. Incorporate modifications as necessary, following consultations with the Core Team.
- Hold a fifth Core Team meeting to agree upon final draft management plan to be presented to the Rouge Park Alliance.
- Present the final draft management plan to the Rouge Park Alliance.
- Once approved by the Rouge Park Alliance, submit final management plan, along with all associated mapping (including digital copies and GIS layers) to the Rouge Park project manager.

Target Completion Date: February 2011

AVAILABLE INFORMATION:

The following documents will be available to the successful consultant:

DRAFT Rouge Park East Lands Management Plan
2008 Rouge Park Heritage Appreciation and Visitor Experience Plan
2008 Rouge Park Natural Heritage Action Plan
2001 Rouge North Management Plan
1998 Rouge Park Trail Development and Management Plan
1994 Rouge Park Management Plan
2008 Rouge Park Visitor Guide
2007 Little Rouge Creek Corridor Management Plan
2008 Bob Hunter Memorial Park Management Plan
2009 Markham Town Wide Pathways and Trails Master Plan
2006 Central Pickering Development Plan
2005 Ontario Greenbelt Plan
2005 Markham OPA 140 – Rouge North Management Area/Greenbelt
Existing Rouge Park and area trail maps and others.

DELIVERABLES:

Phase 1 Report – Background review

Phase 2 Report – Draft strategies and mapping

Phase 3 Report – Final management plan

DELIVERABLE FORMATS:

Reports/updates: 25 hard copies, PDF for email

Maps: CAD/GIS files, PDF for email

Other deliverable items and formats to be determined

SCHEDULE:

The targeted completion date is eight to ten (8-10) months from the date of consultant selection and project initiation. A detailed work plan will be required and will include schedules, tasks and dates for deliverables. The consultant will provide a start date for commencement of work for approval.

BUDGET:

The consultant will propose a budget for this study, subject to approval by the Rouge Park. Submissions should be organized by study components and by each professional staff and provide detailed cost breakdowns. Alternative approaches are also invited based on the consultant’s knowledge and experience with projects of a similar nature.

CONSULTANT EXPERTISE:

- Natural System Planning
- Environmental Planning
- Regional and Local Trail Planning
- Public Participation and Facilitation
- GIS/Mapping

6. Briefing Note - Restoration Areas Available in Rouge Park for 2010 and 2011

KEY ISSUE

For information Purposes - Briefing Note: Restoration Areas Available in Rouge Park for 2010 and 2011.

MOTION:

Res. #35/10

Moved by: Bonnie Littley

Seconded by: Paul Ainslie

THAT the Rouge Park Alliance receive the Briefing Note.

..... **CARRIED**

BACKGROUND

Attached Briefing Note:

BRIEFING NOTE

Restoration Areas Available in Rouge Park for 2010 and 2011

This briefing is intended to summarize areas that are available for planting by community groups in 2010 and 2011, based on current park plans approved by the Rouge Park Alliance and notice that was provided to tenants in 2009.

In 2010, 58.5 ha of habitat in Rouge Park will be restored with the help of community groups and the TRCA. These restoration initiatives will include a diversity of habitat types including wetlands, native grass meadows, riparian areas and forests. Much of the work has been and will continue to be accomplished by volunteers who provide invaluable assistance. Furthermore, staff is planning for the implementation of 69 ha of diverse habitat restoration in 2011, including arrangements for work in Bob Hunter Memorial Park. Areas available for planting in 2010 and 2011 are summarized in Table 1.

In addition to the Rouge Park lands currently designated for restoration, additional areas may soon become available on the recently acquired Runnymede property and at the Beare Road landfill. Park staff are beginning the process of consulting with partners and developing plans for these additional areas.

MINUTES of Meeting #4/10, June 11, 2010

As well, a consolidated management plan for Rouge Park lands in Markham is expected to be completed in 2011. This management plan, to be followed by a revised restoration Action Plan, will designate additional restoration areas in the Little Rouge Corridor, Bob Hunter Memorial Park and Markham East Lands.

Table 1: Estimated areas of habitat restoration available in 2010 and 2011.

Planning area	2010 (ha)	2011 (ha)
Toronto (South of Steeles Avenue)	16.5	4
Little Rouge Corridor	13	20
Bob Hunter Memorial Park (community groups)	2	15
Bob Hunter Memorial Park (TRCA – will include some planting components by community groups)	27	30
Total	58.5	69

Report prepared by: Ron Dewell, Acting General Manager, Rouge Park

For information contact: Ron Dewell, 905-713-7374, email: rdewell@trca.on.ca

Date: June 9, 2010

7. New Business

Hon. Pauline Browes wanted to know when the Beare Road Landfill site was going to be opened for public use.

Ron Dewell said that the City of Toronto was thinking of turning the site over to the City's Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division, and asking Rouge Park to take a lead role in the development of a master plan for the site.

Glenn De Baeremaeker said the City is moving forward with the development of a master plan for the end use of the site. This plan is envisioned to be a multi-year plan. There is also consideration of whether interim activities should be carried out.

TERMINATION

ON MOTION, the Rouge Park Alliance Meeting #4/10 terminated at 10:05 a.m. on June 11, 2010, and the Annual General Meeting commenced immediately after.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Immediately after the Rouge Park Alliance meeting, the Annual General Meeting commenced. Alan Wells, Chair, welcomed everyone and again thanked the Cedar Brae Golf and Country Club personnel for hosting the meeting.

Maria Papoulias introduced the first presenter, Caroline Shultz, Executive Director, Ontario Nature.

Caroline Shultz spoke about the importance of Rouge Park as a reservoir of biodiversity in the Greater Toronto Area and endorsed the "Rouge National Park" campaign.

Mark Lowe and Gord MacPherson, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, and Maria Papoulias, Rouge Park, presented updates on the Bob Hunter Memorial Park area.

Alan Wells, Chair, Rouge Park Alliance, presented the Annual Report. He described Rouge Park as a partnership park, and talked about its significant accomplishments during 2009, together with our partners and volunteers. In his remarks, he said: "This past year is one we can be proud of. However, the job is far from complete - we are building a legacy by pursuing our dream of becoming Canada's first near-urban National Park. Exciting things to come - we hope you will join us on this journey."

Each year, Rouge Park recognizes individuals and groups who have made outstanding contributions towards the goal and objectives of Rouge Park.

The 2010 Rouge Park Award winners were Hon. Tom McMillan and 10,000 Trees for the Rouge Valley.

The Hon. Pauline Browes said that Mr. McMillan was called away on a family emergency. The Hon. Michael Chong accepted the award on behalf of the Hon. Tom McMillan.

Colin Creasey accepted the award on behalf of 10,000 Trees for the Rouge Valley.

Paul Harpley, the artist of the paintings that were awarded, talked about the background of the paintings.

Alan Wells
Chair, Rouge Park Alliance

Ron Dewell
Acting General Manager, Rouge Park