

# Glossary of Terms

---

- \* Definition derived from Ministry of Natural Resources Natural Heritage Training Manual for Policy 2.3 of the Provincial Policy Statement.
- \*\* Definition derived from Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Valley and Stream Corridor Management Program 1994.

## **TERMS**

### *Additional Study Area*

Area encompassing significant natural and cultural heritage resources which extend beyond the Middle Reaches, Headwaters and Little Rouge Creek Planning Areas.

### *Alliance Partner:*

Member of the Rouge Park Alliance

### *\*\*Area of Natural and/or Scientific Interest (ANSI):*

Areas of land and/or water containing natural landscapes or features that have been identified by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) as having life science or earth science values related to protection, scientific study or education.

### *\*\*Baseflow:*

Stream flow derived from groundwater.

### *Buffer:*

Area of land adjacent a natural feature that will remain as is, or will be returned to a well vegetated, self-sustaining natural state to ensure the ecological integrity of the adjacent feature.

### *Community Interface Guidelines:*

Guidelines to direct the form of development on lands adjacent the Rouge Park North related to urban design built form, infrastructure, stormwater management, transportation, and servicing.

### *\*Corridor:*

The naturally vegetated or potential re-vegetated areas that link or border natural areas and provide ecological functions such as habitat, passage, hydrological flow, connection or buffering from adjacent impacts. They can occur across or along uplands, lowlands or slopes. Ravine, valley, river and stream corridors are further defined as landform depressions, usually with water flowing through or standing in them for some period of the year.

### *Cyclical Review and Update Process:*

Process to be undertaken on a 5 year cycle to review the status of implementation of various recommendations set out in the Rouge North Management Plan (RNMP).

### *\*Development:*

The creation of a new lot, a change of land use, or the construction of buildings and structures, requiring approval under the Planning Act; but does not include activities that create or maintain infrastructure authorized under an environmental assessment process; or works subject to the Drainage Act.

### *Draft Final Rouge North Management Plan September 1997:*

Initial draft of the Rouge North Management Plan which was circulated for comment in September of 1997 and endorsed by Municipal Councils in 1998.



*\*Ecological Function:*

Means the natural processes, products or services that living and non-living environments provide or perform within or between species, ecosystems and landscapes. These may include biological, physical and socio-economic interactions.

*\*Ecosystem*

Any area with a boundary through which the input and output of energy and materials can be measured and related to some unifying factor, and includes the living and non-living environment together with the population or community or:

Systems of plants, animals and micro-organisms, together with the non-living components of their environment, related ecological processes and humans.

*\*\*Ecosystem Approach:*

An ecosystem approach to valley and stream corridor management assumes a broad definition of the environment which includes natural, physical, social, cultural, and economic issues. This approach focuses on linkages and relationships involving air, land, water, and living organisms, including humans.

The ecosystem approach is adaptive and recognizes the dynamic nature of watersheds, watercourses and their associated landforms, including the risks associated with flooding, erosion and slope instability.

The ecosystem approach emphasizes the importance of living species and of both present and future generations. It works to restore and maintain the integrity, quality, productivity, and well being of the corridor system. It is an open process that requires public involvement.

*\*Endangered Species:*

Means any native species, as listed in the Regulations under the Endangered Species Act, that is at risk of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its Ontario range if the limiting factors are not reversed.

*Emerging Development Areas – Approved Areas:*

Areas where development is proposed and has been approved by Municipal Councils. These lands generally are located within the designated urban expansion areas of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, Richmond Hill and Markham.

*Emerging Development Areas – Future*

Land located outside of the designated urban expansion of the municipalities which may be subject to development at some time in the future.

*\*Fish:*

Means fish, shellfish, crustaceans and marine animals, at all stages of their life cycles.

*\*Fish Habitat:*

Means the spawning grounds and nursery, rearing, food supply, and migration areas on which fish depend directly or indirectly in order to carry out their life processes.

*\*Function:*

The hydrological and biological processes, features, linkages and values related to a particular natural heritage area.

*\*Headwater Watercourse:*

The smallest watercourse (1<sup>st</sup> order) that conveys surface and/or groundwater.

*Locally Significant Area: LSA*

Area which encompasses natural heritage resources or functions which are significant within a specific geographic area as defined in the Town of Markham Natural Features Study and OPA 52.

*Meander Belt:*

As defined by the TRCA using the methodology described in Prent and Parish 1999.

*Monitoring Program:*

Component of the Natural and Cultural Heritage Program designed to gauge the ecological health of the park.

*Natural and Cultural Heritage Program:*

Program administered by a committee of the Rouge Park Alliance focused on implementing projects to restore and enhance natural and cultural heritage resources throughout the Rouge River watershed.

*Natural Heritage Program:*

Program aimed at preserving and enhancing the Rouge Park ecosystem which sets out specific management targets.

*Optional Park Corridor:*

A 600 meter link through the federally owned lands east of Highway #48 proposed in the Rouge Park Management Plan (1994).

*Park Management Zoning:*

Zones defined to direct the management of lands designated as 'Rouge Park' consisting of nature reserves, natural areas, restoration areas, agricultural reserves, managed areas and special management areas.

*Partnership Council:*

Committee of the Rouge Park Alliance enacted to oversee the implementation of the Partnership Program.

*Recognition Signage:*

Signage recognizing the contributions of participants in the Partnership and Stewardship Programs.

*Redefined Rouge North Study Area:*

Study area for the development of the Rouge North Management Plan modified from that which was set out in the RPMP 1994 to include Exhibition, Robinson and East Beaver Creeks.

*\*\*Regulatory Flood Plain:*

The Regulatory Flood Plain is the approved standard used in a particular watershed to define the limit of the flood plain for regulatory purposes pursuant to Provincial Flood Plain Planning Policy Statement. Within the Authority's jurisdiction, the Regulatory Flood Plain is based on the regional storm, Hurricane Hazel, or the 100 Year Flood whichever is greater.

*\*\*Riparian Habitat:*

Riparian habitat is an area of transition between the aquatic ecosystem and the adjacent terrestrial ecosystem. It is located immediately landward of watercourses and other waterbodies. Soils that exhibit signs of regular saturation and vegetation tolerant of periodic inundation characterize this zone. Riparian vegetation provides habitat, food and shelter and contributes to both the adjacent aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

*Riparian Vegetation:*

Vegetation community associated with or influenced by a watercourse, waterbody or groundwater.

*Rouge North Study Area:*

Study area for the development of the Rouge North Management Plan as set out in the RPMP 1994.

*Rouge Park Alliance:*

Partnership of representatives from government and non-government agencies responsible for overseeing the implementation of programs and management of the Rouge Park.

*Rouge Park Little Rouge Creek Corridor:*

Lands situated along Little Rouge Creek with a minimum width of 600 metres dedicated to the Rouge Park by the province in 1999.

*Rouge Park Management Plan (1994) (RNMP 1994)*

Management Plan for the Rouge Park south of Steeles Avenue which sets out the vision, goal and objectives for the Rouge Park and is the basis for the Rouge North Management Plan

*Rouge Park North:*

Public lands situated along or proximate to the Rouge River and tributaries which are managed as Rouge Park in the area north of Steeles Avenue.

*Rouge Park North Management Plan - Preliminary Management Plan*

Initial draft of the Rouge North Management Plan released for review in 1996.

*Rouge Park Partnership Program:*

Program aimed at involving large tract landowners including schools, corporations and individuals in the implementation of initiatives on their lands to achieve Rouge Park objectives.

*Rouge Park Stewardship Program:*

Program aimed at individual landowners aimed at achieving Rouge Park objectives on private lands.

*Rouge Park Study Area – Headwaters:*

Lands situated above the 275 elevation on the Oak Ridges Moraine within which studies will be undertaken to define the Park Boundaries based on ecological criteria.

*Rouge Park Study Area – Little Rouge Creek:*

Lands situated within a setback of 400m of Little Rouge Creek, on both sides of the creek within which studies will be undertaken to define the park boundary based on ecological criteria.

*Rouge Park Study Areas – Middle Reaches:*

Lands situated within 130 metres of the stable top of bank of the watercourse in the area identified as Middle Reaches within which studies will be undertaken to define the park boundary based on ecological criteria.

*Rouge Park Trails Association:*

Organization created to establish and manage trails in partnership with private landowners.

*Seepage Zone:*

Area where groundwater discharge is evident or where conditions are indicative of shallow groundwater.

*\*Significant*

*Means In regard to wetlands and areas of natural and scientific interest, an area identified as provincially significant by the Ministry of Natural Resources using evaluation procedures established by the Province, as amended from time to time.*

In regard to other features and areas in Provincial Policy 2.3, ecologically important in terms of features, functions, representation or amount and contributing to the quality and diversity of an identifiable geographic area or natural heritage system. Criteria for determining significance may be recommended by the Province, but municipal approaches that achieve the same objective may also be used.

*Special Management Zone:*

Park management zone designation which requires that detailed management plans be developed for a specific area within a defined process.

*Threatened Species:*

Means any native species that is at risk of becoming endangered through all or a significant portion of its Ontario range if the limiting factors are not reversed.

*\*Top of Valley Bank:*

The physical top of valley bank is that point where there is a break in slope or grade which distinguishes the valley corridor landform from its surrounding landscape. The top of valley bank is determined and delineated through site investigations.

*Tributary – See Watercourse:*

*\*\*Valley and Stream Corridor*

Valley and Stream Corridors are the natural resources associated with river systems characterized by their landform, features and functions. Valley and stream corridors are distinguished from other physiographic features or resources by their connectivity to the river system as a whole. Valley corridors, which are well defined, are distinguished from stream corridors, which are ill-defined, by the presence of a distinct landform. Valley corridors may or may not have a defined watercourse. Stream corridors will typically have a defined watercourse channel, except at the upper limit of the corridor where the headwater stream is characterized by surface flow and/or high water tables originating from springs and seepage areas.

*\*Valleylands:*

Means a natural area that occurs in a valley or other landform depression that has water flowing through or standing for some period of the year.

*\*Vulnerable Species:*

Any indigenous species of flora or fauna that is represented in Ontario by small but relatively stable populations, and/or that occurs sporadically, or in a very restricted area of Ontario, or at the fringe of its range; vulnerable species as defined by MNR and COSSARO.

*\*\*Watercourse:*

A watercourse is flowing water, though not necessarily continuous, within a defined channel and with a bed or banks and usually discharges itself into some other watercourse or body of water.

*\*Wetland Types:*

The individual wetland ecosystems, that have specific characteristics, and are commonly called marshes, swamps, bogs and fens.

*\*Wetlands:*

Means lands that are seasonally or permanently covered by shallow water, as well as lands where the water table is close to or at the surface. In either case, the presence of abundant water has caused the formation of hydric soils and has favoured the dominance of either hydrophytic plants or water tolerant plants. The four major types of wetlands are swamps, marshes, bogs and fens. Periodically soaked or wet lands being used for agricultural purposes which no longer exhibit wetland characteristics are not considered to be wetlands for the purposes of this definition.

*\*Wildlife Habitat:*

Means areas where plants, animals and other organisms live, and find adequate amounts and arrangements of food, water, shelter and space needed to sustain their populations. Specific wildlife habitat of concern may include areas where species concentrate at a vulnerable point in their annual or life cycle; and areas which are important to migratory or non-migratory species.

*\*Woodlands*

Mean treed areas that provide environmental and economic benefits such as erosion prevention, water retention, provision of habitat, recreation and the sustainable harvest of woodland products. Woodlands include treed areas.