

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The Rouge North Management Plan (RNMP) is the product of a five-year process of inventory, consultation, planning, design and refinement involving workshops, public meetings and consultation with over 1,500 stakeholders. The Plan was approved in principle in 2001 by the Rouge Park Alliance. Following approval of the RNMP, the Rouge Park Alliance Implementation Committee directed the preparation of this Implementation Manual to provide guidance on the delineation of the park boundary in the Rouge North area. As an implementation document to the Rouge North Management Plan, this manual is a tool to delineate the boundary of Rouge Park in accordance with the recommendations set out in the Rouge North Management Plan and implementing local official plan amendments.

The approach to the delineation of the limits of Rouge Park through the application of the boundary delineation criteria was adopted by the Rouge Park Alliance and supported by the study stakeholders because it:

- Recognizes the unique ecological characteristics of the river and stream corridors;
- Provides a means to achieve the protection, restoration and enhancement of the natural ecosystems through an understanding of features and functions;
- Ensures that important ecological features and functions will be encompassed within Rouge Park;
- Provides for the restoration and enhancement of the natural heritage system to ensure the long term ecological sustainability of Rouge Park;
- Integrates with existing planning policies;
- Achieves the vision, goal and objectives established for Rouge Park.

1.2 How to Use this Implementation Manual

The Implementation Manual provides step-by-step directions to apply the boundary delineation criteria within the areas defined in the Rouge North Management Plan as “Rouge North Study Areas” and may be further defined in local official plans. The boundary delineation criteria were developed to ensure that all Rouge Park objectives, including natural and cultural heritage objectives, land use and management objectives, and recreational and interpretive objectives will be achieved through the establishment of Rouge Park in accordance with Section 2.2 of the Rouge North Management Plan. The Implementation Manual provides definitions, descriptions of features, a description of the protocols to be applied to assess features and their functions and direction on how the park boundary delineation criteria should be applied. The Implementation Manual is to be used in conjunction with the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act and other Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), Provincial and Municipal guidelines, policies and legislation. The manual is structured to provide an explanation of each criterion, including a description of background and information requirements, requirements for consultation with the Regulatory agencies and direction to determine where the park boundary should be defined in consideration of each criterion. The Rouge North Management Plan is the parent document for this manual and should be reviewed to gain an understanding of the vision, goals, objectives and overall intent of the planning process.

1.3 Information Requirements

The application of the boundary delineation criteria will require a combination of “desk top” analysis utilizing current and accurate aerial photography and mapping as well as field inventory undertaken in accordance with generally accepted scientific methods (e.g. the TRCA protocols specific to each criterion) and consultation with the staff of various agencies including the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, Provincial Ministries, Municipalities and the Region of York, conducted through Town staff.

1.4 Application in the Town of Markham

The Rouge North Implementation Manual provides the rationale, definitions and implementation process for defining the Rouge North boundary in the Middle Reaches Policy Area and Little Rouge Creek Policy area in the Town of Markham. The Manual supports the policies in the Town of Markham Rouge North Management Plan Official Plan Amendment (No. 116) and must be read in conjunction with the Town's Official Plan.

In the event of conflict, between this document, the Rouge North Management Plan (2001) and the Town of Markham Official Plan Amendment, the policies of the Official Plan shall apply.

Council will adopt the Rouge North Implementation Manual as the implementation guideline for the boundary delineation process outlined in the Town's Official plan Amendment concurrent with the adoption of the Rouge North Management Plan Official Plan Amendment. However, the Rouge North Implementation Manual cannot be applied until the supporting Official Plan Amendment is approved by the authorized authority including settlement of any challenges to the Ontario Municipal Board.