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Rouge Park Goal

To protect, restore and enhance the natural, scenic and cultural values of the Park in an ecosystem context, and to promote responsibility, understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of this heritage.

Rouge Park Vision

Rouge Park will be a special place of outstanding natural features and diverse cultural heritage in an urban-rural setting, protected and flourishing as an ecosystem in perpetuity. Human activities will exist in harmony with the natural values of the Park. The Park will be a sanctuary for nature and the human spirit.

2012 Rouge Park Grant Program *Revised July 2011*

Application Package

Since 1996, Rouge Park has provided funding to groups and organizations working in the Rouge River watershed to preserve and restore its natural and cultural heritage. These groups have provided the creativity and time to complete many worthwhile and successful projects. We welcome your ideas and proposals to help us continue building on these successes.

Priority will be given to projects that

1. Contribute directly to restoration of terrestrial habitats in Rouge Park.
2. Improve aquatic habitat in rivers, creeks and tributaries within Rouge Park and near its boundaries.
3. Undertake research that will result in recommendations that directly help staff manage native species and natural habitats in Rouge Park.

This package provides you with an outline of the information required to apply for funding. Funding is limited and will be provided to high priority projects. Once available funding has been allocated, a waiting list of projects will be developed, should additional funds become available.

Rouge Park Objectives

Natural Heritage

To protect, restore and enhance the natural ecosystem of the Park by ensuring the health and diversity of its native species, habitats, landscapes, and ecological processes.

Cultural Heritage

To identify, protect and conserve the cultural heritage features of the Park for their inherent value and depiction of the long term human use and occupancy of the area.

Land Use

To ensure protection of the ecological integrity and cultural values of the Park through innovative planning, management, and land use in the Park and its environs.

Management

To manage the Park to ensure the achievement of all park objectives and to provide for ongoing public involvement in park planning and management.

Interpretation

To promote knowledge and understanding of the natural and cultural values of the Park, their protection and management requirements, and their significance, sensitivities and interrelationships.

Recreation

To provide opportunities for appropriate recreational enjoyment consistent with all other park objectives.

(Source:

Rouge Park Management Plan, 1994:7)

Proposals that fulfill multiple objectives will be considered a high priority.

General Information for Applicants

Projects will be evaluated and prioritized on the basis of their consistency with the goal, objectives, policies and principles of the *Rouge Park Management Plan (1994)*, *Natural Heritage Actions for the 21st Century Plan (2008)* and the Natural and Cultural Heritage Programme objectives. Rouge Park Management Plans are available online at www.rougepark.com

Eligible costs:

Projects with a higher proportion of matching funds may be placed in higher priority. However, the weighting of financial factors is not as high as the weighting of environmental, cultural and social benefits anticipated by the proposed project.

Rouge Park encourages all applicants to seek partnership funding. For projects with a total cost exceeding \$20,000, Rouge Park may fund up to 50% of the total project cost. For projects under \$20,000, funding levels will be decided on a project-by-project basis.

For all projects, materials and rentals are considered priority items for Rouge Park funding, whereas administration and labour costs will be considered on a project-by-project basis.

Government and agency permanent staff time will not be eligible for Rouge Park funds.

Multi-year and multi-phase projects

All phases of a project should be identified in the application. Rouge Park funding may be specific to one phase only. Funding of future phases is not guaranteed.

Dates to remember

Application Deadline
September 30, 2011

Review Day
October 26, 2011

*Funding Review Decision
by Rouge Park Alliance*
December 9, 2011
(tentative)

Questions?
Call the Manager of
Natural Heritage at
905.713.6308

General Instructions for Applicants

Please read the instructions below carefully

All complete applications submitted will be reviewed by the Rouge Park Natural Heritage Committee, a technical advisory group designated by the Rouge Park Alliance.

All applications consistent with the following guidelines shall be considered:

1. Use the application form provided on this webpage:
http://www.rougepark.com/unique/restoration/RP_Heritage_Application_Form_12.doc
You can choose "File" from the menu, then "Save As" to download the Word Document application to your computer, and fill it out at your convenience. Then send completed application by email to heritageprojects@rougepark.com by 4:30 pm, September 30, 2011. Maximum acceptable email file size is 3 Mb.
2. Applications should be straight forward and concise to a maximum of 5 double side pages
3. Project location(s): include all of the following information – municipality, subwatershed, nearest community, nearest major intersection. Provide an aerial photo, with street names labeled, that clearly outlines the project boundaries. Proposals that do not include such a map will not be considered. (The website <http://maps.google.ca> creates free maps, choose the satellite format.)
4. The Natural Heritage Committee will review applications, identify information gaps and establish project priority. Be concise and provide a clear description of the benefits of your project, funding partners and cost estimates.
5. All applicants will be given the opportunity to address the committee during a 10 minute question and answer period on the morning of October 26, 2011. Rouge Park will contact applicants shortly after the submission deadline to make arrangements for your attendance at the committee.
6. Successful candidates will be required to sign an agreement form confirming that the applicant will comply with the *Funding Policies* and *Reporting Requirements* and any restrictions and/or conditions required by the Rouge Park Alliance.
7. Landowners/land managers, including TRCA, municipalities, private landowners, etc. will be required to give permission in writing before any project activity begins, including surveys etc. required to develop proposals.

Natural and Cultural Heritage Projects Funding Policies and Reporting Requirements

- Successful applicants agree to maintain regular communication with Rouge Park staff and to strictly adhere to the following policies, reporting requirements and deadlines. Successful applicants accept that failure to adhere to the following might result in Rouge Park's withdrawal of financial support and/or permission to access project areas.
- Notice will be sent to proponents by Rouge Park Alliance. *Early December*
- Submit a detailed work plan with phasing details prior to commencement of the project. *Deadline February 1*
- Notify Rouge Park staff of both commencement and completion dates so that site visits can be arranged. *Deadline March 1*
- No funds will be forwarded until confirmation of partnership funding has been received by Rouge Park Staff. If this policy has not been met, funding support will not be provided for the project and will be put toward the next project on the waiting list.
- If there are any financial or design changes to the originally proposed project notify Rouge Park staff immediately and only implement changes with written approval of Rouge Park staff. *Minimum 2 weeks notice required.*
- Copies of permits and approvals from other agencies (TRCA, MNR, DFO, etc.) for projects must be received by Rouge Park Staff prior to project implementation.
- All approved projects will contain a follow up maintenance and monitoring schedule plan for the first 3 years following project completion. *Deadline February 1*
- Each final report must contain a short financial statement (include copies of receipts for entire project). Large projects may be required to provide an audited financial statement.
- Pre-, during and post- project photographs and negatives must be supplied as part of the final report (where applicable). The report and photographs are to be used at the discretion of the Rouge Park Alliance, and will be considered property of the Rouge Park Alliance.
- Successful applicants must provide a draft of ALL communication pieces related to this project containing the Rouge Park / Rouge Park Alliance name three weeks prior to production and distribution. All such communication pieces and the use of the Rouge Park logo must not be distributed without prior written approval of Rouge Park staff.
- Any publicity or public information regarding the approved project will acknowledge the support of the Rouge Park Alliance. Copies/transcripts of any media coverage must be submitted as part of the final report.

- Approved project applicants must provide Rouge Park staff with proof of landowner permission to access the property and implement the project prior to commencement. Funding support will not be provided until permission has been acquired.

- Land owner letters of permission must contain the following information:
 - address of land owner
 - address of project
 - map indicating location of project (signed by the land owner)
 - brief description of the activities to take place on the project site
 - the timing of activity
 - indication of when follow-up maintenance of the site will take place and who will complete it
 - permission to hold a public event (if required)
 - permission to place a sign on site (if applicable)

- Final reports from previously funded projects must be submitted on or before December 1, 2011 to be eligible for subsequent funding. Funding for 2012 projects will not be released prior to January 1, 2012.

- 10 percent of the total funding will be withheld until the final report has been received and approved by Rouge Park staff. If Rouge Park staff require amendments to reports, all revised reports must be submitted within two weeks of notice provided by Rouge Park staff.

All projects will be reviewed and ranked for priority by the review committee and funding will be provided accordingly. A waiting list will be established for projects not approved for funding that meet Rouge Park criteria. As funds become available throughout the project year, projects from the waiting list will be considered first.