

Parks and Environment Committee

Meeting No.	15	Contact	Dela Ting, Acting Administrator
Meeting Date	Tuesday, May 13, 2008	Phone	416-397-7769
Start Time	9:30 AM	E-mail	pec@toronto.ca
Location	Committee Room 1, City Hall		

The Decision Document is for preliminary reference purposes only. Please refer to the Committee's Report to City Council or to the Minutes for the official record.

How to Read the Decision Document:

- *Recommendations of the Committee to City Council appear after the item heading*
- *Any amendments by Committee to recommendations appearing in a staff report are italicized.*
- *Other action taken by the Committee on its own authority, which does not require Council's approval, is listed in the decision document under the heading "Decision Advice and Other Information".*
- *Declarations of Interest, if any, appear at the end of an item.*

PE15.1	Presentation	Received		Ward: All
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Agencies, Boards, Commissions, Corporations and Divisions (ABCCDs) Presentations - Infrastructure

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Parks and Environment Committee received for information and with thanks, the following presentations from:

- Jodie Parmar, on behalf of Facilities and Real Estate;
- Bill Crowther, on behalf of Technical Services; and
- Sarah Gingrich and Gerry Pietschmann, on behalf of Fleet Services.

(A copy of their presentations is on file with the City Clerk's Office and is available upon request.)

Summary

Presentations from Facilities and Real Estate, Technical Services and Fleet Services.

PE15.2	ACTION	Adopted		Ward: All
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Amendments to the Ravine Protection By-law to Include Tableland Forests and Forested Portions of the Lake Iroquois Shoreline: City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 658 (Staff Presentation)

(March 17, 2008) Report from Acting Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning Division and General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Committee Recommendations

The Parks and Environment Committee recommends to City Council that:

1. The City Solicitor be authorized to amend the City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 658, Ravine Protection by deleting the Schedule A-1 Index Maps and the Schedule A-2 Data Maps and replacing them with maps showing the revised Protected Area and by-law name and by making the amendments described in the report (March 17, 2008) from the Acting Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning and General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation;
2. City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 658, Ravine Protection, be renamed “Ravine and Natural Feature Protection”;
3. The Chief Planner and Executive Director of City Planning and the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation notify the owners of properties located in the areas that are being added to the by-law, that their property is now subject to the Ravine and Natural Feature Protection By-law;
4. The Chief Planner and Executive Director of City Planning and the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation report to a future meeting of the Parks and Environment Committee on further amendments to the by-law to include additional areas which have natural heritage value and are vulnerable to degradation due to destruction of trees, changes in grade or lack of management; and
5. The City Solicitor be authorized to introduce the necessary Bills in Council to give effect thereto.

Summary

This report recommends amendments to Municipal Code Chapter 658, Ravine Protection in order to: include tableland forests and forested portions of the Lake Iroquois shoreline; delete some formerly protected areas; change the name of the by-law; make technical amendments to improve clarity and consistency; and update the offence provisions in accordance with the City of Toronto Act, 2006. This report also proposes future direction for the by-law.

The Ravine Protection by-law protects ravine features in the City of Toronto by regulating the injury or destruction of trees and alterations to grade. Ravines are important natural landforms that are part of the City’s natural heritage system. Like ravines, tableland forests and forested portions of the Lake Iroquois shoreline are important natural features in the City of Toronto that are also vulnerable to degradation resulting from destruction of trees, changes in grade or lack of management. Policies in the Official Plan recognize the importance and support the protection of these features; however, they are currently not protected under the by-law.

Tableland forests and forested portions of the Lake Iroquois Shoreline have been identified and mapped. The areas recommended for protection in this report include wooded areas which meet the mapping criteria and are within the natural heritage system shown on Map 9 of the Official Plan or designated as Parks and Open Space in the Official Plan. One ravine which meets the criteria used to define ravines in the existing by-law, but was not included in previous mapping, is also recommended for protection under the by-law. Several formerly protected areas are being taken out of the by-law because the ravine feature has been removed or significantly altered.

A new name for Municipal Code, Chapter 658, Ravine Protection, is proposed, “Ravine and Natural Feature Protection,” to reflect that it now applies to tableland forests and forested portions of the Lake Iroquois Shoreline as well as to ravines. Amendments to the by-law are also being made to accommodate the changes to the protected areas, to make technical changes to improve clarity and consistency and to update the offence provisions in accordance with the City of Toronto Act 2006.

Additional areas which are vulnerable to degradation due to destruction of trees, changes in grade or lack of management and which should be considered for future protection under the by-law are also identified.

Background Information

Staff Report

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-12607.pdf>

Maps 1 - 4

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-12659.pdf>

PE15.3	Information	Deferred		Ward: 20
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Environmental Features Considered for the HtO Design

(April 18, 2008) Report from General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Parks and Environment Committee deferred consideration of the report (April 18, 2008) from the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, to its next meeting on June 11, 2008, for discussion and debate.

Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide background and outline the environmental initiatives that were considered in the design and implementation of HtO Park.

Background Information

Staff Report

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-12599.pdf>)

PE15.4	ACTION	Referred		Ward: All
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Winter Snow Removal on Bike Lanes

(April 22, 2008) Letter from Toronto Cycling Advisory Committee

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Parks and Environment Committee requested:

1. *the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, to consult with the Chair of the Toronto Cycling Advisory Committee and the General Manager, Transportation Services, to review the feasibility of clearing snow along heavily-used bicycle trails within the park and open space system and report back to the Parks and Environment Committee on the results, including any recommendations to improve bicycle access on these trails during winter months; and*
2. *the General Manager, Transportation Services to strongly consider regularly clearing snow along the Martin Goodman Trail beginning in Winter 2008/2009 and continuously thereafter.*

Summary

Councillor A. A. Heaps, Chair, Toronto Cycling Advisory Committee, at the Toronto Cycling Advisory Committee meeting on March 17, 2008, requested Toronto Cycling Advisory Committee members to provide a listing at the next Toronto Cycling Advisory Committee meeting on April 14, 2008, of key priority bike lanes that, in their opinion, should be kept clear of snow.

The purpose of the lists from the members will be to prepare one final list and request that appropriate funding be allocated in the 2008/2009 Transportation Services Division Operating Budget, snow clearing operations, to ensure that the identified priority bike lanes are kept clear of snow during 2008/2009 snow season.

Background Information

Letter from Toronto Cycling Advisory Committee

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-12592.pdf>)

PE15.5	Information	Referred		Ward: All
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Review of Surplus Sites

(April 16, 2008) Member Motion from Councillor Ron Moeser, Scarborough East (Ward 44)

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Parks and Environment Committee:

1. referred the portion related to surplus sites in the communication (April 16, 2008) from Councillor Ron Moeser, to Deputy City Managers Sue Corke and Richard Butts, for their consideration and direction to the appropriate Committee of Council, with a request that current and future list of surplus properties be distributed to every City Councillor, that a process be developed to review surplus sites from an environmental and parks point of view, and the process be reported to Parks and Environment Committee; and
2. requested that the list of outstanding requests at the Parks and Environment Committee, since January, 2007 be available for its next meeting, on June 11, 2008.

Summary

Communication from Councillor Ron Moeser on setting up a process to review surplus sites and outstanding requests by Committee.

Background Information

Letter from Councillor Ron Moeser

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-12926.pdf>

PE15.6	Information	Received		Ward: All
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Toronto Environment Office Reports to Council Committees in 2008

(May 13, 2008) Letter from Deputy City Manager, Richard Butts

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Parks and Environment Committee received, for information, the communication (May 13, 2008) from Deputy City Manager Richard Butts, addressed to the Chair, Parks and Environment Committee, on Toronto Environment Office reports to Council Committees in 2008.

Summary

Multi-page table that records Toronto Environment Office staff reports for 2008 that are completed, scheduled for submission or planned for submission.

Background Information

Letter from Deputy City Manager, Richard Butts

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-12931.pdf>

Toronto Environment Office Table

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-12937.pdf>

Meeting Sessions

Session Date	Session Type	Start Time	End Time	Public or Closed Session
2008-05-13	Morning	10:40 AM	11:50 AM	Public