

Parks and Environment Committee

Meeting No. 15
Meeting Date Tuesday, May 13, 2008
Start Time 9:30 AM
Location Committee Room 1, City Hall

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PE15.2 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 (Ward: All)	1

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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

City Council Decision

City Council on May 26 and 27, 2008, adopted the following motions:

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.
5. The City Solicitor be authorized to introduce the necessary Bills in Council to give effect thereto.

(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 (Committee)

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>

Submitted Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Councillor Paula Fletcher, Chair, Parks and Environment Committee