



方卓怡 市議員 **Paula FLETCHER**

Councillor Toronto-Danforth Ward 30

Tuesday, October 6, 2009

Parks and Environment Committee

Possible Greenbelt Designation for Humber and Don River Valleys

Dear Parks and Environment Committee,

The Humber and Don River Valleys run through the heart of Toronto as treasured greenways and natural spaces. The City has recognized the important role of these natural heritage areas through the creation of interconnected City parks and TRCA protected areas throughout these river valleys, truly making Toronto a “City within a Park”.

In recognition of the significance of these river valleys and the 5th anniversary of Ontario’s Greenbelt in February 2010 there is a proposal that the Greenbelt be expanded to include both the Humber and Don River Valleys. The Toronto Environmental Alliance, Environmental Defence, and the Ontario Greenbelt Alliance are requesting that the City consider asking the provincial government to designate these river valleys as part of the Greenbelt.

Greenbelt designation for the Humber and Don River valleys seems consistent with our Official Plan objectives and policies, particularly protecting natural linkages between the natural heritage system and other green spaces. It would certainly build on the protections we have already put in place to encourage an eco-system wide approach to these important greenways. Further, it would create an official link with our surrounding green spaces and farmlands that provide food, water, and clean air to our City.

I would like to request the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation, in consultation with the Chief Planner, to report back to the Committee at the January meeting on the feasibility and implications of having the Humber and Don River valleys designated as part of Ontario’s Greenbelt, including the benefits of designation, any financial implications to the City, and the steps for the City to make a request for Greenbelt designation.

Sincerely,

Paula Fletcher
City Councillor, Ward 30