
City Council

Motion without Notice

MM49.27	ACTION			
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Support for creation of a Rouge Valley National/Federal Park - by Councillor De Baeremaeker, seconded by Councillor Moeser

** This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair. Council has added this Motion to the agenda for debate.*

Recommendations

Councillor De Baeremaeker, seconded by Councillor Moeser, recommends that:

1. City Council state that it believes the Rouge Valley watershed is of national significance and that it supports the creation of a Rouge Valley National Park or Federal Park in order to protect the extraordinary wealth contained the Toronto, York and Durham areas of the Park.
2. That the City of Toronto supports the findings of the Rouge Park Alliance Consultants report on Rouge Park Governance that includes: supporting the creation of a federal park in the Rouge, supporting the inclusion of approximately 5,000 acres of federally owned land in addition to the existing designated park lands as outlined on Figure 2.11 (Area 1, 2, and 3) in the consultants report, and supporting a formal federal role in managing the park.
3. City Council request and encourage the Government of Canada and Province of Ontario to establish a Rouge Valley National Park and commit to having a visible and welcomed presence in the largest urban centre in Canada.

Summary

The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and Rouge Park Alliance unanimously voted to recognize that the Rouge Park is of national significance and also voted unanimously to request and encourage the provincial and federal governments to support the creation of a federal park model to protect and preserve the Rouge Watershed as outlined in the Consultants Report on Rouge Park Governance. The Government of Ontario.

The Rouge Park was first announced in 1990 and comprised of approximately 4,500 acres. The Park has been expanded into York and Durham Regions and now consists of approximately 12,000 acres of publicly owned lands stretching from the shore of Lake Ontario to the Oak Ridges Moraine. The federal government is currently considering adding approximately 5,000

acres of federally owned land to the Rouge Park and protecting the Rouge Park as a federal park.

The Rouge Park has a wealth of locally, provincially and nationally rare species and is currently facing challenges posed by urban sprawl, illegal hunting and poaching, and illegal dumping of garbage and construction waste.

(Submitted to City Council on May 11 and 12, 2010 as MM49.27)