



Task Force to
Bring Back the Don

January 5, 2010

Councillor Paula Fletcher
City Hall
100 Queen St. West, Suite C44
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

Re.: Community Garden at 780 Dundas St. East

Dear Councillor Fletcher,

The Task Force to Bring Back the Don has noted your request through the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee to investigate the use of the site of the demolished Don Incinerator as a community garden. We understand that your request has been referred to the General Manager, Toronto Water, for appropriate action. The site is of interest to us as a location in the Don floodplain that has been partially naturalized on the ravine wall, and as a proposed location for staging a WWFMMP CSO detention project. The Task Force to Bring Back the Don is following with interest the response from the General Manager, Toronto Water.

We support the temporary use of this site as a community garden. We wish to draw attention to the following caveats:

- Planting sites on the ravine slopes should be protected;
- Prior to opening the site for gardening, soil and groundwater chemistry should be tested to ensure that there is no toxicity risk. The former use of the site for solid waste incineration creates a concern as to its suitability for urban agriculture;
- After the WWF project is completed, the site should be re-evaluated to ensure that it is put to the highest beneficial use in the long-term.

Thank you.

John Wilson, Chair

cc. Councillor Glenn De Baeremaeker, Chair, Public Works and Infrastructure
Lou Di Gironimo, General Manager, Toronto Water

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