

**Congratulations and Thanks to Federal Government for  
announcing the creation of a Rouge Valley National Park**

<b>Date:</b>	June 17, 2011
<b>To:</b>	Parks and Environment Committee
<b>From:</b>	City Council
<b>Wards:</b>	All

**City Council Decision**

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City Council on June 14 and 15, 2011, referred Motion MM9.2 to the Parks and Environment Committee.

**Recommendations**

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Councillor Glen De Baeremaeker, seconded by Councillor Paul Ainslie, recommends that:

1. City Council congratulate Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his government for committing to create a National Park in the Rouge Valley area and recognizing the extraordinary ecological wealth found within the Rouge Park.
2. City Council welcome the Federal Government and Parks Canada commitment to having a visible presence within the largest urban centre in Canada.
3. City Council reconfirm its support for 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 consultant's report, and supporting a formal federal role in managing the park.
4. City Council request the Mayor to send a letter of congratulations and thanks to the Prime Minister for the Rouge Valley National Park initiative.

## Summary

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In May 2010, the City of Toronto voted unanimously that it believes the Rouge Valley watershed is of national significance and requested that the federal and provincial governments establish a Rouge Valley National Park in order to protect the extraordinary wealth contained within the Toronto, York and Durham areas of the Park.

In March 2011 the Prime Minister of Canada promised that, if elected, his party would create a near urban national park in Toronto's Rouge Valley.

In June 2011, the Federal Government's throne speech confirmed that the Federal Government would indeed create a Rouge Valley National Park in the Rouge Valley.

The Rouge Park contains an extraordinary wealth of locally, provincially and nationally rare species including 225 species of birds, 55 species of fish, 19 species of amphibians, the largest concentration of native archeological sites in the Greater Toronto Area and over 400 species of plants including rare Carolinian forests that have been identified by the World Wildlife Fund of Canada as having national importance.

(Submitted to City Council on June 14 and 15, 2011 as MM9.2)

### **Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM9.2

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2011/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-38894.pdf>

(April 3, 2009) Proposal for Rouge Valley National Park

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2011/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-38892.pdf>

### **Communications**

(June 12, 2011) E-mail from Miguel Avila (MM.New.MM9.2.1)