

EY31.4_Submission_Final Report HPANCH Study_City Council June 26_18_Lenka Holubec

Dear Councillors,

We can no longer pretend that Toronto sensitive natural heritage, ecosystems, wildlife habitats, the natural areas critical for birds migration, remaining biodiversity hotspots, urban wildlife and biodiversity are not being overwhelmed by the rapid pace of growth and urbanization.

From a long term vision of having sustainable city successfully meeting the biggest challenge of today - Climate Change and a Loss of Biodiversity - it would make a lot of sense to use planning decisions to rather support and protect Toronto's remaining designated natural heritage.

On June 26, the City Council will be considering - High Park Apartment Neighbourhood Area Character Study - OP Amendment No. 419 & SASP No. 551.

This decision will be critical for the High Park's capacity to continue as one of the city's most significant places of natural wonder.

The long term preservation of High Park natural heritage and the city's vision of protecting its valuable natural areas, that evolved since early nineties, depends on this consideration.

Over the past years, the Province identified Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest and asked the City the City to establish Environmentally Significant Areas, which process was completed in 2015 resulting in Amendment No. 262 to the Official Plan of the City of Toronto with respect to the Environmental Policies and Designation of Environmentally Significant Areas (approved by Province in May 2016).

Toronto is a city on one hand aspiring to become a leader in conserving urban biodiversity, on the other hand making the planning decisions that may impact critically one of the most significant city's natural heritage and biodiversity hotspot - High Park, mostly designated as ESA/ANSI (Environmentally Significant Area, Area of Natural and Scientific Interest).

Earlier this year, The City Council made a decision to request the Federal Department of Environment and Climate Change and the Federal Department of Natural Resources to consider the Toronto Islands for designation as a Bird Sanctuary, under the Migratory Birds Act.

High Park as much as The Toronto Islands and Tommy Thomson Park is part of natural areas vital for migratory birds.

Migratory Birds in the City of Toronto (Dougan & Associates, 2009):

*"Over the past 17 years the most common migrant bird groups in Toronto have been warblers, shorebirds and sparrows. **The most consistent and greatest migratory bird concentrations identified with this data are natural areas on the lakeshore. The Toronto Islands, Tommy Thompson Park and High Park together account for more than 70% of the TOC's migrant bird records for the period between 1990 and 2007. Most of the remaining concentration areas are associated with some of the***

larger natural areas within the City, mainly located along the lakeshore and within the West Don and Humber Creek ravine systems.

*“A Draft Biodiversity Strategy for Toronto aims to increase the quality and quantity of natural habitat within the City in order to support healthier, more robust biodiversity and increase access to and awareness of nature. **Once complete, the Strategy is intended to position Toronto as a leader in conserving urban biodiversity.**”*

*“The highest biodiversity in Toronto occurs within the Natural Heritage System (Map 1) Examples of relatively large tracts of high quality habitat are found in the Rouge Valley, Tommy Thompson Park, **High Park**, Toronto Islands and Lambton Park Prairie.”*
<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2018.PE28.1>

High Park was considered being one of the most significant natural heritage destinations from the onset of Ecosystem Approach concept developed in Toronto in the early nineties.

"High Park consists of approximately 162 hectares of natural landscape including woodlands, creeks and ravines in addition to variety of recreational facilities. It is one of the most significant natural areas along the Metropolitan Waterfront. Due to its size and proximity to Lake Ontario, it contains varied plant communities which provide diverse habitat for wildlife. Policies aim to strengthen the role of High Park as a valuable natural and recreational resource within Metropolitan Toronto and improve linkages to the Metropolitan Waterfront."

Metropolitan Waterfront Plan, prepared by Metropolitan Planning Department, Feb 1994
<http://trca.on.ca/trca-user-uploads/MetropolitanWaterfrontPlan.pdf>

Over next years the area across of High Park could see approx.1000 more people from already existing construction 2x25 towers near High Park subway station, 2000 more people from BWVA Study and **3000 more new residents from HPANCH Study to be considered on June 26 by the City Council.**

It is crucial that this City Council decision regarding OP Amendment No. 419 & SASP No. 551 is fully consistent with 2014 Provincial Policy Statement and the City Official Plan policies that are here to protect designated natural heritage within and outside the city boundaries for the long term.

The Official Plan Amendment No. 419 & Site and Area Specific Policy No. 551 must satisfy PPS 2014 requirement asking proponents of development demonstrate that there will be no negative impacts on the natural heritage, natural heritage features and ecological function due to single, multiple or successive development.

Therefore, at this point, I am urging you to consider bringing in the following 3 motions:

1. Requesting motion:

that the City Council DEFERS DECISION on Final Report - High Park Apartment Neighbourhood Area Character Study and proposed Official Plan Amendment No. 419 and Site and Area Specific Policy No. 551, until the Study, fully satisfying PPS 2014 and Natural Heritage Reference Manual - PPS 2014 Official Guideline, scheduled to take place later this summer in High Park, is conducted, completed and findings are available for all relevant City staff planning decisions.

"To conform PPS 2014 and NHRM Official Guideline, The Study must be conducted first before reaching any conclusions in respect to development."

This is a strong PPS 2014 requirement. "Regardless of the assessment undertaken, the level of detail must be sufficient to demonstrate that there will be no negative impacts on the natural features or their ecological functions." Natural Heritage Reference Manual

The Study of High Park ESA/ANSI to satisfy PPS 2014 and Natural Heritage Reference Manual (PPS 2014 Official Guideline) along NHRM 13.5 Impact Assessment Process is supposed to place this summer 2018 with TRCA involvement.

Without having results of this Study available adopting of Draft OP Amendment No. 419 & SASP No. 551 on June 26 by City Council will not be consistent with PPS 2014 requirements.

So far, there is **only Desktop Study** conducted for BWVA Study and HPANCH Study ADDENDUM but **no field Study based on scientific research to provide PPS 2014 and NHRM required information, including indirect cumulative impacts from increase user demands - "the likelihood of negative impacts occurring on the natural features or their ecological functions is definite or probable if the development proceeds under a given proposed design" - and carrying capacity of High Park's ESA/ANSI.**

Parks Plan, 2013-2017

"The use of parkland needs to be compatible with its physical capacities. Parks, Forestry and Recreation currently has little data on how many people use city parks, how parks are used, and how high levels of use impact parks. This makes it challenging to prevent issues that might arise and as a result problems are dealt with case-by-case, often once damage has already been done."

2. Requesting motion:

That the City Council requests undertaking of municipal approach to determine the Extent of Adjacent Lands in respect to High Park ANSI beyond PPS 2014 and NHRM minimum requirement of 120m.

Given the concern that surrounding development is already stressing the capacity of natural heritage in High Park, City staff undertake public consultation, investigate and report back to Council by completion of the Study to take place in High Park this summer on the need for Council, under the municipal power and obligation to protect natural heritage provided by PPS 2014 and the City Official Plan - OPA 262 - to consider increasing boundary for adjacent lands for High Park for purposes of natural heritage development impact assessment that is wider than the current 120 m minimum guideline.

PPS 2014 Adjacent lands:

...

b) for the purposes of policy 2.1.8, those lands contiguous to a specific natural heritage feature or area where it is likely that development or site alteration would have a negative impact on the feature or area. The extent of the adjacent lands may be recommended by the Province or based on municipal approaches which achieve the same objectives;

PPS 2014 Policies Represent Minimum Standards

"The policies of the Provincial Policy Statement represent minimum standards.

Within the framework of the provincial policy-led planning system, planning authorities and decision-makers may go beyond these minimum standards to address matters of importance to a specific community, unless doing so would conflict with any policy of the Provincial Policy Statement."

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/bylaws/2015/law1158.pdf> Maps 12A and 12B are included in this doc.

CITY OF TORONTO BY-LAW No. 1158-2015 To adopt Amendment No. 262 to the Official Plan of the City of Toronto with respect to the Environmental Policies and Designation of Environmentally Significant Areas

Approved by Province in May 2016

Most provincially significant wetlands and areas of natural and scientific interest that have been identified by the Province are shown on Map 12B.

"Where development is proposed adjacent to these areas, their boundaries will be more precisely determined and any negative impacts will be identified through an impact study as referred to in policy 12."

Map 12B This refers to all areas in High Park designated as ANSI

3. Requesting motion:

Recommending changes in proposed Official Plan Amendment No. 419 and Site and Area Specific Policy No. 551

That NHIS (Natural Heritage Impacts Study) as stipulated in proposed SASP fails to address indirect cumulative impacts of increase user demands on natural heritage in High Park due to increase density resulting from a proposed development – up to 3000 more new residents

Chronic overuse is difficult if not impossible to mitigate. Ecosystems to be able to provide existing and significant wildlife habitat and maintain flora, fauna and biodiversity *"The use of parkland needs to be compatible with its physical capacities"*.

Parks Plan, 2013-2017

DRAFT OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT TO THE OFFICIAL PLAN OF THE CITY OF TORONTO No.419:

...

Existing text

c) Development/redevelopment **MAY** be required to provide a Natural Heritage Impact Study (NHIS) which may include the study of, and recommended actions to address, the following:

Recommended change

c) Development/redevelopment **WILL** be required to provide a Natural Heritage Impact Study (NHIS) which may include the study of, and recommended actions to address, the following:

The Applicant shall work with staff from the appropriate City division(s) to develop suitable terms of reference prior to undertaking the NHIS to address:

-Indirect Cumulative Impacts due to proposed increase of density and resulting increase of user demands on natural heritage features and ecological function of High Park

-Carrying capacity of High Park natural heritage features to maintain ecological function and significant wildlife will be determined by a Study for each and all proposed development

The use of parkland needs to be compatible with its physical capacities. This is crucial in parks including ESA/ANSI. Each development proposal must demonstrate, whether further increase of density in the area in proximity of High Park is compatible High Park's carrying capacity. Provincial Policy Statement 2014 is asking that proponents of development demonstrate that there will be no negative impacts on the natural heritage, natural heritage features and ecological function due to single, multiple or successive development.

Any future NHIS for the individual developments within HPANCH Study Area must be consistent and fully conform to PPS 2014 and NHRM (Natural Heritage Reference Manual) –Official Provincial Policy Technical Guideline

More specific guidelines based on results of the Study to take place in summer 2018 and carrying capacity of High Park natural heritage, natural heritage features and ecological function need to be incorporated into NHIS City's guidelines requirements for HPANCH Study.

Let's learn from the past and make proactive planning decisions based on a collective wisdom and existing policies to keep Toronto's remaining natural heritage and biodiversity healthy now and for future.

Thanks,

Lenka Holubec, a member of ProtectNatureTO <https://www.protectnatureto.org/> and High Park Natural Environment Committee also participant in BWVA Study and HPANCH Study

"Since early 90th, there was a growing awareness in the City of Toronto of having to protect remaining valuable natural areas – ecosystem approach to prevent undermining and destroying of these irreplaceable assets.

"Too often in the past, we have considered green space as an afterthought, what was left over after development took its course. We now realize that if any natural spaces are to remain, we must take a

pro-active approach to saving them".

Metropolitan Waterfront Plan, prepared by Metropolitan Planning Department, Feb 1994

<http://trca.on.ca/trca-user-uploads/MetropolitanWaterfrontPlan.pdf>

Background Information:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2018.EY31.4>

Final Report - High Park Apartment Neighbourhood Area Character Study

Etobicoke York Community Council consideration on June 6, 2018

Communications (June 5, 2018) E-mail from Lenka Holubec (EY.New.EY31.4.40)

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2018/ey/comm/communicationfile-83276.pdf>

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2018.EY29.3>

Status Report - City Initiated High Park Apartment Neighbourhood Area Character Study - Apr 4 EYCC consideration

Communications (April 4, 2018) Submission from Lenka Holubec (EY.New.EY29.3.1.)

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2018/ey/comm/communicationfile-79338.pdf>

Addendum for HPANCH Study, Dougan&A Consulting, May, 2018

*"The potential for indirect impacts to nearby natural heritage features, such as the High Park Oak Woodland ANSI, has been a major concern of stakeholders throughout the project process. **Mitigation measures to address indirect and cumulative impacts are not detailed in this report as implementation of these measures is complex, requiring coordinated management, policy enforcement and cooperation affecting many parties.***

*Consideration of Indirect and Cumulative Impacts **The magnitude of indirect and cumulative impacts from new development in the HPAN are largely dependent on the projected population growth in the BWVA corridor, the HPAN, and their use of High Park and thus are difficult to predict.***"

Parks Plan, 2013-2017

"The use of parkland needs to be compatible with its physical capacities. Parks, Forestry and Recreation currently has little data on how many people use city parks, how parks are used, and how high levels of use impact parks. This makes it challenging to prevent issues that might arise and as a result problems are dealt with case-by-case, often once damage has already been done."

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2013/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-57282.pdf>

NHRM

Cumulative and Indirect Impacts

All reasonably expected cumulative impacts to natural heritage and hydrologic features and functions must be identified and described in detail.

Cumulative impacts refer to the combined or incremental effects of individual actions or impacts. An example would be the cumulative impact on breeding birds, of increased noise, increased predation (disturbance) by domestic pets and increased human intrusion due to residential development on land adjacent to a woodland. The cumulative effect of these individual impacts may be greater than the sum of the individual impacts. Cumulative impacts may result from the combination of different types of impacts (as in the preceding example), from the incremental effects of a series of impacts over time, or from the combined effects of neighbouring developments.

Indirect impacts could include changes to drainage or water quality, which will likely affect a natural heritage feature or its function(s).

HPANCH Study's proposed DRAFT OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT TO THE OFFICIAL PLAN OF THE CITY OF TORONTO No.419 and Site and Area Specific Policy 551:

Existing and Potential density in High Park Apartment Neighbourhood Study

Existing Density 9,385* Pop/Ha 478

*Includes population increase from 51 Quebec Ave. 2x25 storey development to be completed in mid-2019. This increase potentially could be higher than 835 Pop, rather around 1000. Present population number is based on 2016 Census information 8,500 approx.

Potential Increase from infill development stipulated along HPANCH Study is up to 30% of the existing density, including 51 Quebec population increase.

HPANCH Study WG#6, May 7, 2018

Existing Density and Potential Increase for Entire Study Area

Existing Density and Potential Increase For Entire Study Area (19.6 Ha)

	Existing (includes estimate for Grenadier Square*)	Potential (Increase from infill development)
GFA	Approx. 470,000m ²	Less than 150,000m ²
FSI	3.04	+/- 1.0
Population	9,385 *	Up to 30% approx.

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2018/ev/bgrd/backgroundfile-115346.pdf>

High Park Apartment Neighbourhood Area Character Study – Final Report

“Resulting Infill Opportunities

*Staff tested the development criteria proposed by the SASP 551 and estimate that the proposed policies could result in up to an additional 100,000 to 150,000m² of gross floor area, representing maximum a floor space index increase of approximately 1.0x the land area for the entire High Park Apartment Neighbourhood Area. **This represents an addition of approximately 30% of gross floor area, and accompanying population density spread across the entire High Park Apartment Neighbourhood.**”*

This could be translated into a potential population increase of more than 3,000 people bringing density eventually to 600 - 700 Pop/Ha levels.

For comparison, today’s downtown’s St. James Town Apartment Neighbourhood density is 766 Pop/Ha.

Based on the City's Official Plan, five urban growth centers were identified in Toronto, with a density target of 400 residents and jobs combined per hectare that each of these centers must meet by 2031.

The five growth Centres laid out in the Official Plan are Downtown Toronto (including Central Waterfront), Etobicoke Centre (Dundas West around Kipling and Islington Stations), North York Centre (Yonge Street between Sheppard and Finch), Scarborough Centre (Brimley and McCowan Avenues between the 401 and Ellesmere), and Yonge-Eglinton. Downtown is treated separately from the other four Centres, but nevertheless, each one must meet the density growth target of 400 jobs.

Considering the fact that HPANCH Study area is not being defined in OP as “Growth Centre” but Apartment Neighbourhood, existing density over 500 residents per hectare to be reached by 2019 when 51 Quebec is completed, seems already too high.

According to user ship surveys about 81% of park users come from within one mile of the park.:

“People living closer to the park tended to visit more often. Among observed park users, 43% lived within 0.25 mile, and another 21% lived between 0.25 and 0.5 mile of the park. Only 13% of park users lived more than 1 mile from the park. Of local residents, 38% living more than 1 mile away were infrequent park visitors, compared with 19% of those living less than 0.5 mile away” Distance Traveled to Visit the Park <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1805017/>

“Most park users (81%) live within one mile of the parks, and only 19 percent of park users live more than one mile from the park. This is a key finding”

https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/technical_reports/2006/RAND_TR357.pdf

To be consistent with PPS 2014 and NHRM, when making a decision on future development:

PPS 2014

2.1.8 Development and site alteration shall not be permitted on adjacent lands to the natural heritage features and areas identified in policies 2.1.4, 2.1.5, and 2.1.6 unless the ecological function of the adjacent lands has been evaluated and it has been demonstrated that there will be no negative impacts on the natural features or on their ecological functions.

Adjacent lands: means

...

b) for the purposes of policy 2.1.8, those lands contiguous to a specific natural heritage feature or area where it is likely that development or site alteration would have a negative impact on the feature or area. The extent of the adjacent lands may be recommended by the Province or based on municipal approaches which achieve the same objectives;

Negative impacts: means

a) in regard to policy 1.6.6.4 and 1.6.6.5, degradation to the quality and quantity of water, sensitive surface water features and sensitive ground water features, and their related hydrologic functions, due to single, multiple or successive development.

Negative impacts should be assessed through environmental studies including hydrogeological or water quality impact assessments, in accordance with provincial standards;

b) in regard to policy 2.2, degradation to the quality and quantity of water, sensitive surface water features and sensitive ground water features, and their related hydrologic functions, due to single, multiple or successive development or site alteration activities;

c) in regard to fish habitat, any permanent alteration to, or destruction of fish habitat, except where, in conjunction with the appropriate authorities, it has been authorized under the Fisheries Act; and

d) in regard to other natural heritage features and areas, degradation that threatens the health and integrity of the natural features or ecological functions for which an area is identified due to single, multiple or successive development or site alteration activities.

NHRM, Natural Heritage Reference Manual, The Official Guideline for PPS 2014

13.00 Addressing Impacts of Development and site Alteration

13.2 Determining Negative Impacts

To determine negative impacts on a significant natural heritage feature or area, the cumulative negative impacts from development or site alteration activities (e.g., impacts that adversely affect the stability of the feature and its ability to continue) must be considered against the integrity of the feature. The current and future ecological functions of the natural feature or area as they relate to the surrounding natural heritage system (e.g., connectivity) must be considered as well.

13.4 Determining an Appropriate Level of Assessment

Once it has been established that a planning application triggers the need for an impact assessment, the appropriate level of detail and effort required to assess the development impacts will vary, depending on the characteristics of the site and the proposed development. Determining an appropriate level of assessment for an EIS or equivalent study should be measured by factors that include the following:

...

Any field observations and investigations are scheduled to occur when the feature would be expected to be visible, if present.

In terms of the above factors, not all impact assessments have to be detailed and they may be tailored to the situation (see [section 4.4.2.1](#)).

A detailed assessment is appropriate, however, in cases in which:

- **the potential impacts of a proposal are unknown and a precautionary approach is needed;**
- **impacts on natural heritage features are likely to occur;**
- **appropriate impact mitigation techniques may not be readily available;**
- **the significance level of the natural heritage feature is high;**
- **the planning stage for the proposed development is advanced;**
- **the proposal may lead to multiple or successive development or site alteration activities; and**
- **the potential development would result in the elimination of a significant natural heritage feature.**

In situations in which comprehensive planning studies or natural heritage systems have been completed with site level information, the need for a detailed assessment may be reduced, and a more focused assessment may provide an adequate evaluation of potential impacts.

Regardless of the assessment undertaken, the level of detail must be sufficient to demonstrate that there will be no negative impacts on the natural features or their ecological functions.

13.5 Impact Assessment Process

Sufficient information on a proposed development or land use change, the natural features present and their associated ecological functions is required to allow decision makers to understand the potential impacts of the proposed development or land use change. An impact assessment does not ensure that development proposals will be approved; it is simply one piece of information required to make possible informed planning decisions that are consistent with the PPS.

An impact assessment is more than a description of constraints on a property.

It is an evaluation that must anticipate the implications of changes in land use and the interaction of these changes with the features and functions of an area. This requires a thorough inventory of abiotic conditions, flora and fauna; documentation of vegetation; analysis of the interrelationships among the biotic and abiotic elements of a site (i.e., its ecology); and determination of the effect the proposed changes will have on the existing conditions. Most importantly, an EIS or equivalent study must determine whether the likelihood of negative impacts (as defined by the PPS) occurring on the natural features or their ecological functions is definite or probable if the development proceeds under a given proposed design.

Decision makers need this information to determine the need for modifications to proposed plans, buffers and other mitigation strategies and to fairly evaluate the cost of a land use change. Ultimately, impact assessment information is required to achieve decisions that are consistent with the PPS.

13.5.2.9 Identifying Whether Residual Impacts Are “Negative Impacts” as Defined by the PPS

Impacts should be mitigated to the extent possible, as noted in the section above. Land use changes, however, will almost always result in some impacts that cannot be mitigated. While this does not necessarily mean that the proposed undertaking should be denied, the significant natural heritage features and areas the PPS identifies must be protected from negative impacts. The EIS should clearly identify residual impacts and include discussion of their significance, severity and longevity. The impact assessment should conclude with a statement indicating whether the proposed development will have any negative impacts on the natural heritage features or on the ecological functions for which an area is identified, thus enabling planning authorities to weigh the positive and negative aspects of a proposal and make an informed planning decision.

13.5.6 Planning Authority Decision

In making its decision about a proposed development, the planning authority would consider the results of the assessment review, along with other relevant PPS policy (see section 2.3). The planning authority's decision can be contingent on the revision of the development proposal and/or the attachment of conditions.

For example, approval may be contingent on the implementation of specific mitigation and/or monitoring measures. Alternatively, approval may be granted only after extensive revisions of the proposal.

As part of the decision-making process, a planning authority may:

- **approve the development application;**
- **require revision of the proposed development to avoid impacts that the planning authority deems unacceptable;**
- **impose conditions of approval, where empowered under the Planning Act, to address certain already identified issues in more detail or to address new issues raised during the assessment process; or**
- **refuse the application.**

In situations in which mitigation measures cannot prevent negative impacts on the natural features or on the ecological functions for which the area is identified, an application should be refused

The City planning decisions must conform to PPS 2014:

"... The City of Toronto participated in the review and update of the PPS which includes new policies that address climate change, the promotion of green energy and conservation as well as policies

pertaining to green infrastructure. City Council's planning decisions are required to be consistent with the PPS."

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.PG7.2>

The City Official Plan Amendment OP262 (Environmental Policies)

Excerpts:

Chapter 4:

"The natural heritage system is important to the City, both within and beyond our boundaries, and needs to be protected for the long term. It is made up of areas where protecting, restoring and enhancing the natural features and functions should have high priority in our city-building decisions. We must be careful to assess the impacts of new development in areas near the natural heritage system."

Land Use Designations

"Land use designations are a key implementation tool for protecting the City's natural environment by directing growth away from the City's protected natural areas most of which are contained within lands designated as Parks and Open Space Areas."

<http://www1.toronto.ca/planning/chapters1-5.pdf#page=57>

The City Official Plan

3.4 THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

"The impacts of growth on the natural environment must be anticipated and assessed if we are to have a healthy environment.

Our natural heritage features and functions require special attention. They are an evolving mosaic of natural habitats that supports the variety of nature in the City. The City's significant natural heritage features and functions are shown as the natural heritage system on Map 9. The natural heritage system is made up of areas where protecting, restoring and enhancing the natural features and functions should have high priority in our city-building decisions.

We must be careful to assess the impacts of new development in areas near the natural heritage system. The size of this adjacent impact zone will vary across the City, depending on the local characteristics of the natural heritage system and adjacent areas.

The natural heritage system shown on Map 9 is an evolving natural system that may grow beyond these boundaries.

Protecting Toronto's natural environment and urban forest should not be compromised by growth, insensitivity to the needs of the environment, or neglect. To this end, proposals for new development may need to be accompanied by a study assessing their impact on the natural environment. We must also be ready to seize opportunities to restore, enhance and extend the natural heritage system through new developments or partnerships with other agencies and institutions."

A Draft Biodiversity Strategy for Toronto

“The highest biodiversity in Toronto occurs within the Natural Heritage System (Map 1) which includes the city’s significant natural heritage features and functions including habitats such as forest, wetlands, meadows, beaches and bluffs that provide shelter, food sources, and breeding areas for hundreds of species of plants and animals. The natural heritage system also supports the city’s 86 ESAs which are primarily located within valleys, ravines and along the waterfront – areas which also function as important migration corridors through the city and beyond our boundaries. Habitat size is important. Relatively large areas of natural habitat are particularly important because they contain, or have the potential to contain, high quality habitats such as interior forest which are fundamental to preserving and enhancing native biodiversity such as Carolinian forest species. Examples of relatively large tracts of high quality habitat are found in the Rouge Valley, Tommy Thompson Park, High Park, Toronto Islands and Lambton Park Prairie.”

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2018.PE28.1>

A Draft Biodiversity Strategy for Toronto This item will be considered by Parks and Environment Committee on July 12, 2018

Canada’s Conservation Vision: A REPORT OF THE NATIONAL ADVISORY PANEL March 23, 2018

The two great environmental challenges of our time—biodiversity loss and climate change—are interconnected, and they require urgent action.

The escalating global loss of biodiversity due to destruction of habitats and impacts of climate change threatens the viability of Earth’s ecosystems and thereby the ecosystem services that support all life.

Canada has the opportunity to take a strong, global leadership role in the protection of biodiversity. Canada demonstrated global leadership in regard to the 2016 Paris Climate Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Now it is time for Canada to address the loss of biodiversity by putting an equal effort into nature conservation.

List of recommendations

We recommend that all governments in Canada adopt a shared conservation vision...
Canada’s Conservation Vision

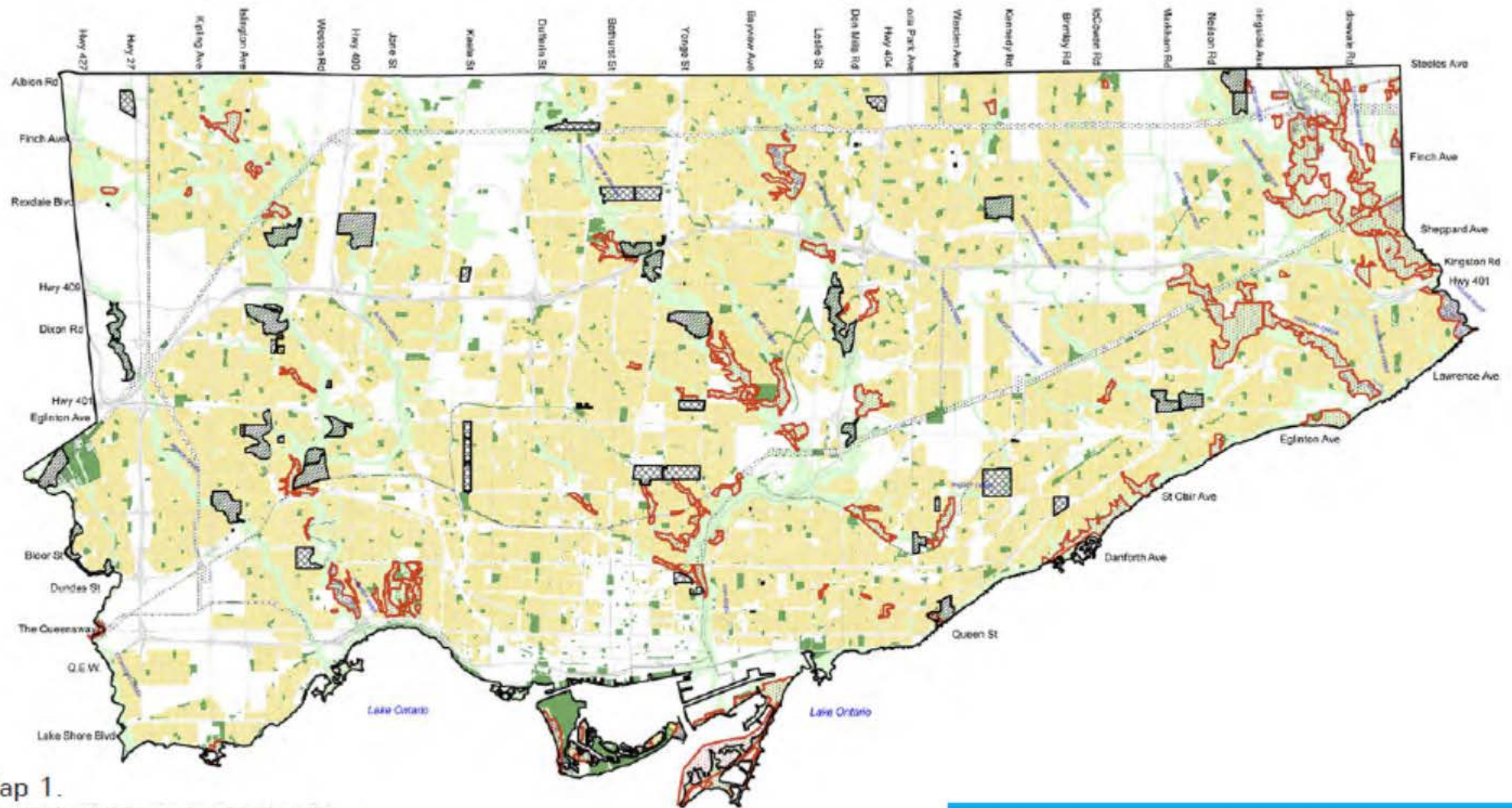
Recommendation 1

We recommend that all governments in Canada adopt a shared conservation vision that

- recognizes Canada’s globally significant natural values, and also our cultural values that align with conserving Nature;
- embraces Indigenous world views that acknowledge we are one species among many that share the Earth with the rest of life;
- achieves our collective conservation goals within a framework of reconciliation and the creation of ethical space;
- affirms that a core strategy for conserving biological diversity is an

interconnected network of protected areas and OECMs, integrated into the wider landscape; and

- **supports Canada in becoming a global leader in living harmoniously with Nature.**
-



Map 1.
Potential Habitat Supporting Biodiversity

- | | |
|---|---|
|  Natural Heritage System |  Provincially Significant Wetlands |
|  Utility Corridors |  ESAs |
|  Neighbourhoods | |
|  Parks & Open Spaces | |
|  Golf Courses | |
|  Cemeteries | |

 TORONTO City Planning

Not to Scale



About 11,000 ha or 17% of our land area (64,100 ha) is in the ravine/natural heritage system. A total of 2,698 ha or about 4% of the city's land area is identified as environmentally significant (equivalent to 19 High Parks).