

TORONTO STAFF REPORT

February 20, 2006

To: Economic Development and Parks Committee

From: Brenda Librecz, General Manger, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Subject: Sole Source Purchase Orders for Environmental Improvements with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
Various Wards

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to seek permission from City Council to enter into sole source purchase orders with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) for environmental projects.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

There are no new financial implications arising from this report as funding for the 2006 projects in the amount of \$176,000.00 including all taxes and charges, is included in the approved 2006 Capital Budget.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, be given permission to enter into sole source purchase orders totalling \$176,000.00 including all taxes and charges, for 2006 with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), in order to expedite and complete various approved environmental capital projects; and
- (2) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

Background:

City Council has approved a number of small environmental projects on parklands as part of the 2006 Capital Budget. City Council policy on sole source purchase orders recommends that each of these projects be sent to tender. Experience has shown that in the case of these small

environmental projects, which may include other funding partners, this practice may mean that many of these projects cannot be completed within the short seasonal window available for environmental work.

Comments:

Over the years, the former Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto and more recently, the amalgamated City of Toronto, have been involved with a number of environmental projects with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) where the TRCA has implemented the projects. As such, the not-for-profit TRCA has provided cost-effective and successful solutions.

The projects are environmentally-related, ranging from watercourse restoration and erosion control works to parkland naturalization, designed to increase the habitat value and enhance the sustainability of the environment. The 2006 program, including ten projects, totals \$176,000.00 and has funding from the following sources:

1. Toronto Island Sand Dunes (CPR124-36-01)
2. East Point Park (CPR124-36-01)
3. Glendon Forest Trail Rehabilitation (CPR124-36-01)
4. Humber Bay Shores East (CPR124-36-01)
5. Nordheimer Ravine (CPR124-36-01)
6. Toronto Bird Flyways Project (CPR124-36-01)
7. Don Valley Trail Management and Forest Restoration (CPR124-36-01)
8. South Marine Drive Fencing (CPR124-36-01)
9. Milne Hollow (CPR124-35-05)
10. Eglinton Flats (CPR124-36-04)

In many of these projects, the TRCA is a funding partner, either through contributions or the in-kind services of their specialized engineering and environmental staff, thereby adding value to the projects. The direct involvement of the TRCA in such projects expedites the work by obtaining the necessary approvals and enhances public involvement, where appropriate, through their outreach programs. Many of the projects take place in parklands, the majority of which are owned by the TRCA but managed by the City. As such, the TRCA has a vested interest in the successful completion of these projects. Further, as a highly skilled, not-for-profit corporation which has worked closely with the City for many years, the TRCA has proven its ability to provide cost-effective, innovative and time-sensitive solutions and management of environmental projects.

For reasons outlined above, City Council approval is sought for sole sourcing the named environmental projects in this report.

Conclusions:

The City of Toronto has a long history of working closely with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority on environmental projects. The TRCA is able to provide cost-effective management of environmental projects using their highly specialized expertise. As a not-for-

profit corporation, the TRCA has also been able to expedite the necessary approvals, facilitate community involvement, meet tight timelines and act as a funding partner in many past projects. In order to facilitate a number of small environmental projects, many of which are on TRCA lands, it is recommended that Council give authority to the use of the TRCA as a sole source provider on these environmental projects.

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List of Attachments:

Attachment 1 – 2006 Projects for TRCA Sole-Sourcing

Attachment 1. 2006 Projects for TRCA Sole-Sourcing

Project Title	Maximum TRCA Sole-Sourcing Amount	Use of Funds
Toronto Island Sand Dunes	\$15,000	Bioengineering, habitat features, trail and access improvements.
East Point Park	\$5,000	Trail rehabilitation; habitat enhancements including meadow planting; and habitat structures.
Glendon Forest Trail Rehabilitation	\$20,000	Trail improvement report; Trail rehabilitation; protection; pond and swale edge enhancements
Humber Bay Shores East	\$10,000	Fence installation, habitat enhancements
Toronto Bird Flyways Project	\$50,000	Various habitat enhancements at three project sites; trail rehabilitation; Interpretive features
Nordheimer Ravine	\$18,000	Fencing removal, installation and wetland improvements
Don Valley Trail Management and Forest Restoration	\$20,000	Trail and trailhead installation
South Marine Drive Fencing	\$6,000	Removal of an old chain link fence for reasons of safety
Milne Hollow	\$7,000	Trail rehabilitation; constructing habitat enhancement structures; reinforcing pond and swale edges.
Eglinton Flats	\$25,000	Pond restoration, interpretive features, access improvements, habitat enhancements.
TOTAL	\$176,000	