

Rouge Valley National Park Proposal



National Park Now Committee

This National Park proposal submitted by:

- **The Honourable Pauline Browes**
- Former Minister of State for the Environment
- **Ron Moeser**
- Councillor Ward 44, City of Toronto
- **Glenn De Baeremaeker**
- Councillor Ward 38, City of Toronto
- **Jennifer O'Connell**
- City of Pickering, Councillor Ward 1
- **Erin Shapero**
- Town of Markham, Councillor
- **Paul Ainslie**
- Councillor Ward 43, City of Toronto
- **Raymond Cho**
- Councillor Ward 42, City of Toronto
- **Jim Robb**
- Friends of the Rouge Watershed

Origin of National Park Proposal

Private Members Bill states:

“The government should consider the advisability of entering into negotiations with the government of Ontario to establish a wilderness reserve or heritage park to protect the environmental uniqueness and importance of the Rouge River Valley system in Scarborough”

*Moved by Honourable Pauline Browes, PC Scarborough Centre
Seconded by Derek Lee, Liberal MP Scarborough Rouge River
House of Commons, January 22nd, 1990*

Passed unanimously by every MP from every party from every province in Canada.

Royal Commission states:

“ The Rouge Valley is a unique resource for the metropolitan area, the last opportunity to preserve a significant urban wilderness in the heart of the greater Toronto area. Accordingly, the royal commission recommends that the Rouge River Valley be protected as a natural heritage park. Therefore, the province should co operate immediately with the federal government in establishing such a park as outlined in the proposal of Save the Rouge Valley System group”

David Crombie, Royal Commission on the Future of Toronto's Waterfront

- “The Rouge is of national importance”

Steve Price, World Wildlife Fund

- “The ultimate test of a great people is whether they choose wisely”

John Fraser, Former Speaker Canadian House of Commons

“The Rouge River watershed is a beautiful example of the Carolinian forest that once covered all of southern Ontario. That’s why I support the creation of a National Park in the Rouge.”

Hon. Michael Chong, P.C., M.P.

What Will a Rouge National Park Protect?



Eastern Screech Owl

Green Space



401 & Kingston Road

Lou Wise



Rouge Beach & Wetland *Toronto*



North of Steeles Avenue *Markham*



Forests

- The Park is at the northern edge of the eastern deciduous forest region, also known as the **Carolinian life zone**.
- This zone is rare in Canada covering less than 1% of the country's land mass, and it provides habitat to more species than any other life zone in Canada.
- In 1984, the Rouge River valley was identified as one of 38 critical unprotected sites; fortunately the Park was created 11 years later and now protects these important habitats.



View from Glen Rouge Park
in the Fall



Forest View from Cedar Trail
in Glen Rouge Park

River Systems

Rouge River

- The Rouge River is home to a variety of wildlife.
- If you look closely, you may be able to see a river otter or one of the 55 types of fish which thrive in this river.



River Systems

Petticoat Creek



This area of the Rouge Watershed is home to over 225 species of birds and 19 species of amphibians including the snapping turtle

River Systems: Duffins Creek



Duffins Creek is a well known recreational fishing spot and is recognized for its excellent aquatic habitat. It has the strongest run of migratory rainbow trout and brown trout as well as pike!

Flora & Fauna



- The meadow areas are home to many insects, such as Monarch butterflies who migrate thousands of kilometres each year to this wonderful location.
- Interesting fungus on tree trunks grow in moist areas and wildflowers bloom in the meadows.



There are many types of frogs, snakes and other amphibians that are located in the proposed Rouge National Park, including some that are locally rare such as the Wood Frog₁₇



A variety of forest and meadow species of birds, including Eastern Screech Owls and Cardinals, can be seen flying overhead and Blue Herons, Red-shouldered Hawks and Trumpeter Swans can be spotted in the marshes.



Deer can be seen in the brush and coyotes can often be heard in the distance

Recreational Opportunities

Rouge Park offers a variety of trails for the avid hiker including:

- Glen Eagles Vista and Vista Trail allow for a hike with a scenic view
- Orchard Trail, Mast Trail and Cedar Trail wind through the forest
- Riverside Trail which takes you down to the Rouge River
- Celebration Trail which is a beautiful park memorial

Glen Rouge Campground offers an outdoor experience just steps from the city, including:

Canoeing, Fishing seasonally, cycling and a variety of other activities!



Cultural Heritage

First Nations



- The human history of Rouge goes back over 10 000 years.
- Nomadic hunters, Iroquoian women farmers, early European explorers helped to create the history of the park we see today!



Iroquoian longhouse &
Archaic arrowhead

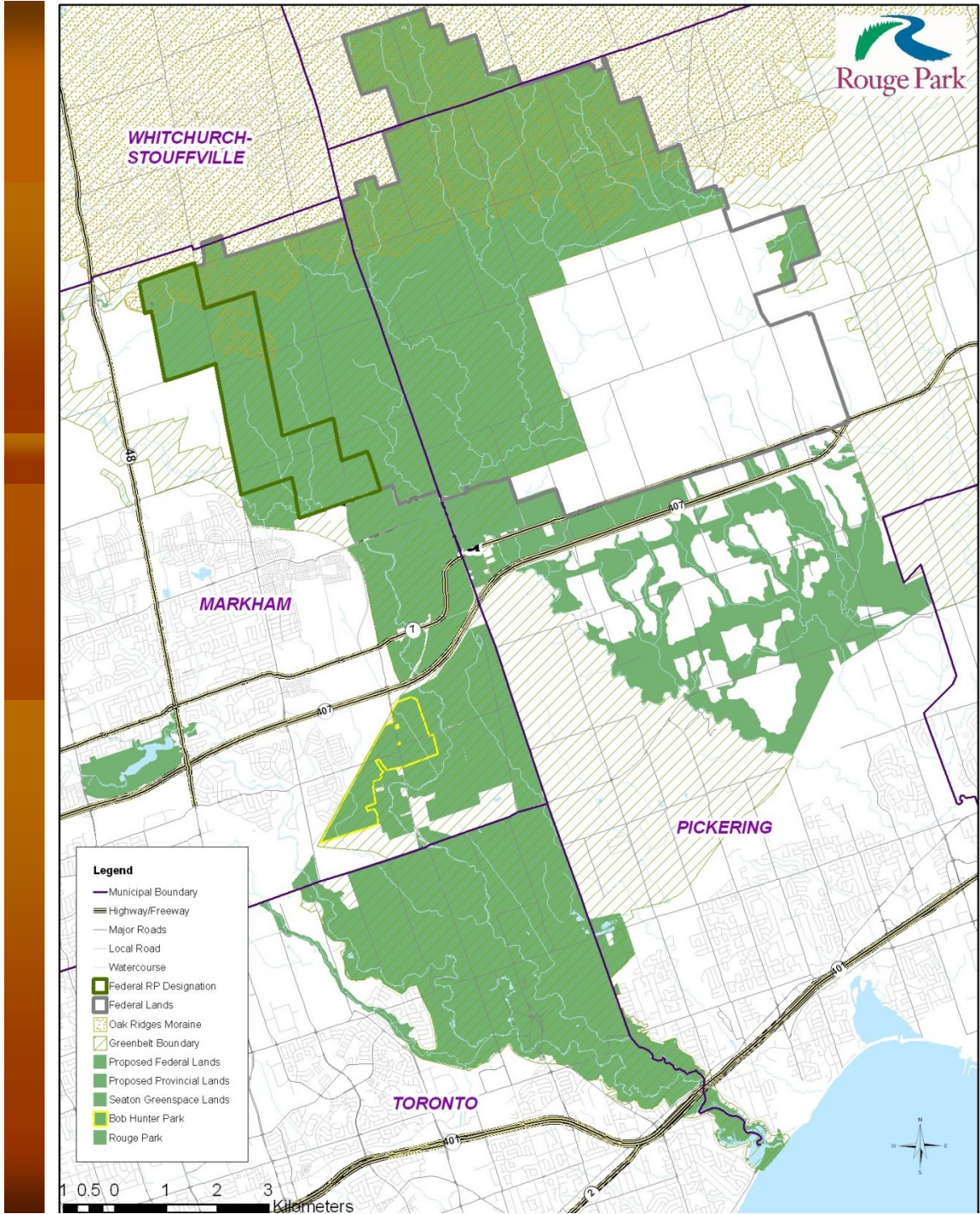
Agriculture



Proposed National Park Size

Existing Lands Donated by Province:	12 000 acres
Proposed Additional Provincial Lands:	7 500 acres
Proposed Additional Federal Lands:	14 000 acres
Proposed Future Land Acquisitions:	6 500 acres

TOTAL size of National Park : 40 000 acres



Proposed Rouge Valley National Park

Vision and Goal of Rouge National Park

Our Vision

Rouge Park will be a special place of outstanding natural features and diverse cultural heritage in an urban-rural setting, protected and flourishing as an ecosystem in perpetuity. Human activities will exist in harmony with the natural values of the park. The park will be a sanctuary for nature and the human spirit.

(Section 2.1 Rouge Park Management Plan, 1994)

Our Goal

To protect, restore and enhance the natural, scenic and cultural values of the park in an ecosystem context, and to promote public responsibility, understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of this heritage.

(Section 2.2 Rouge Park Management Plan, 1994)

Management Model

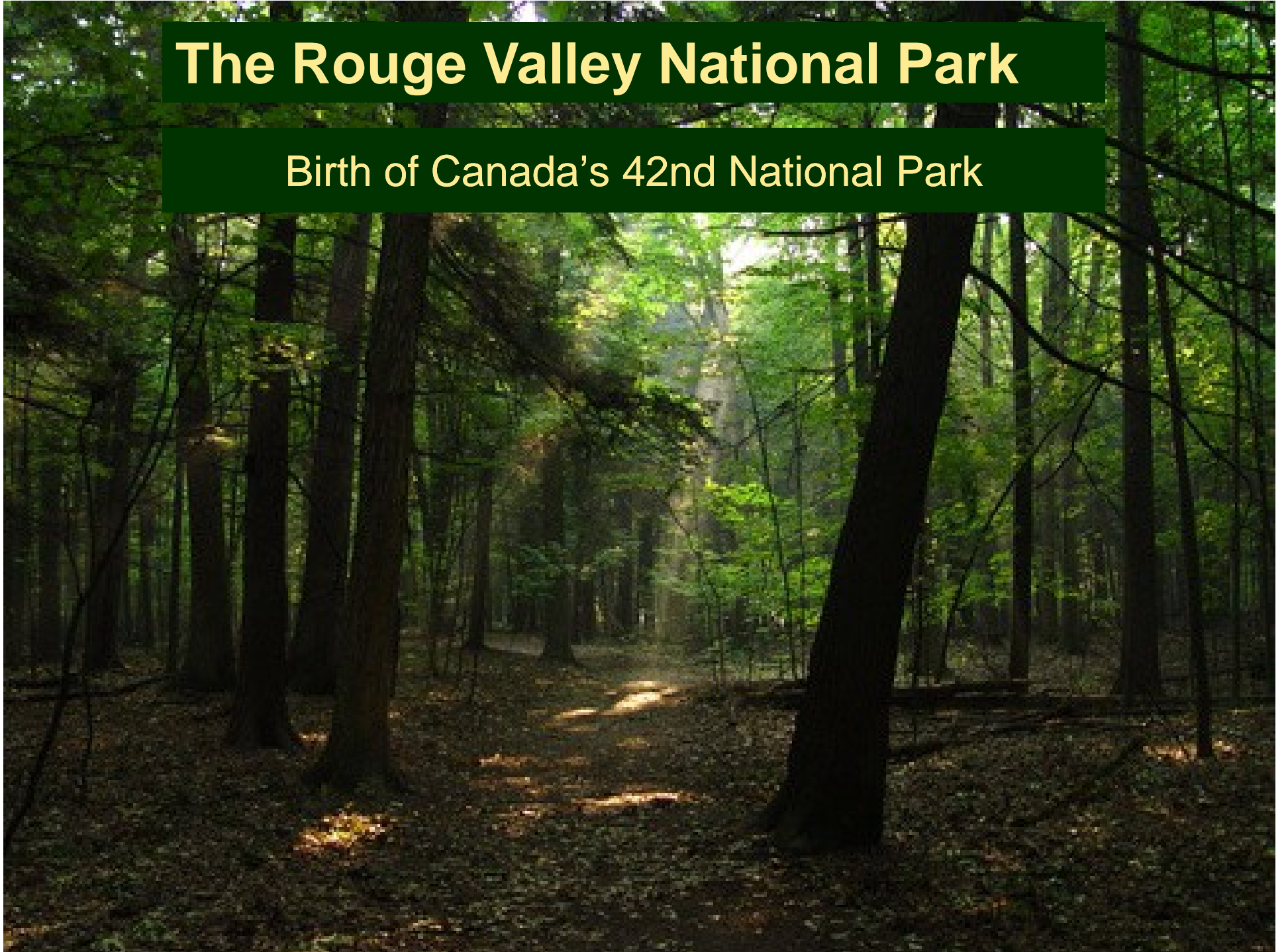
- Rouge Park Alliance will remain as an advisory body
- Day to day enforcement and operations of the park will be completed by Parks Canada and supported by municipal forestry, parks and enforcement staff.

Future Accomplishments

1. Interpretive Centre for Rouge Park and National Park System
2. Larger area of intact forests and natural areas
3. Improvement of water quality in all rivers
4. Creation of new wetlands to buffer climate change and reduce flooding
5. Protection of nationally rare species such as the red-Shouldered Hawk, Jefferson Salamander and Trumpeter Swans
6. Expansion of Carolinian Canada Zone
7. Restoration of heritage homes and local food production
8. Creation of a lake to moraine to trans-Canada trail system

The Rouge Valley National Park

Birth of Canada's 42nd National Park



**MOTION:
Res. #21/09**

**Moved by: Gerri Lynn O'Connor
Seconded by: Michael Chong**

THAT the Rouge Park Alliance believes that the Rouge Park is of national significance and therefore that the Organization and Finance Review Steering Committee currently reviewing the governance and financing models for Rouge Park be directed to include a model for a National Park for the Rouge Park;

And FURTHER THAT given the long-term success of the Rouge Park will require a substantial commitment of land and financial resources to develop and operate the Park, that the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario immediately commence a dialogue about their mutual long-term commitments.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Further Information:

Visit our website: www.rougenationalparknow.com

Contact one of our supporters:

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Welcome to Canada's 42nd National Park !

