

Statement of Intent

Towards Cooperation and Collaboration in the Establishment of a National Urban Park in the Rouge Valley

1. Purpose

1.1. The purpose of this *Statement of Intent* is to express commitment by the Participants to work together towards a recommendation on the park boundaries and to take the necessary steps that would be required to establish Rouge National Urban Park, subject to the approvals process specific to each participant.

2. Participants

- Government of Canada (represented by the Parks Canada Agency)
- Province of Ontario (represented by the Ministry of Infrastructure)
- City of Toronto
- Town of Markham
- City of Pickering
- The Regional Municipality of York
- The Regional Municipality of Durham
- Toronto Region Conservation Authority

2.1. The Participants reached a shared understanding and wish to express their mutual commitment and intentions as presented in the following document.

3. Background

3.1. The federal, provincial and municipal governments involved and the Toronto Region Conservation Authority have supported Rouge Park and the Rouge Park Alliance since its inception in 1994 and have provided financial resources, in recognition of the important resources associated with the Rouge Valley, its unique ecosystem, its rich historic and cultural significance and the significant benefits it provides to the vitalities of communities and their residents.

3.2. The Rouge Park Alliance is a voluntary partnership of various levels of government and agencies whose mandate is to oversee and coordinate the implementation of the Rouge Park Management Plans and be an advocate for the protection, enhancement, and restoration of the Rouge River watershed.

3.3. In 2010, the Rouge Park Alliance recommended the Rouge Park be granted federal designation to contribute to better management of the park lands and resources and provide enhanced, accessible visitor experiences and learning opportunities to the more than seven million residents of the Greater Toronto Area, visitors to the region, as well as all Canadians. In 2010, each of the member organizations of the Rouge Park Alliance endorsed the recommendation to seek federal designation for Rouge Park.

- 3.4. The June 2011 Speech from the Throne set the direction for the Government of Canada to work with the provincial and municipal governments, Aboriginal partners, and community stakeholders towards establishing a national urban park in the Rouge Valley.
- 3.5. In January 2012, The Province of Ontario has expressed its desire to effect an orderly transition of the operations, administration and management of Rouge Park in recognition of the effort to establish Rouge National Urban Park.
- 3.6. Rouge Park is located in an urban setting and requires flexibility to be responsive and provide latitude to accommodate the relationship to adjacent urban land uses and population and infrastructure requirements.
- 3.7. Participants share an interest in advancing a Rouge National Urban Park and are committed to working together and with Aboriginal partners, and community stakeholders through a consultative and collaborative process to establish Rouge National Urban Park under the stewardship of Parks Canada.

4. Scope of Cooperation

- 4.1. Participants agree to work cooperatively to address issues of mutual interest, as outlined below, and other related matters that may emerge through the park establishment process:
 - Identification of lands recommended to be included in or excluded from Rouge National Urban Park;
 - Rouge National Urban Park Concept;
 - Recommend processes and conditions of any land transfer to Parks Canada subject to obtaining all necessary approvals;
 - Public communications;
 - Transition measures as identified further in section 6;
 - Relationship to adjacent land uses (including the Toronto Zoo and Beare Road Landfill) and agricultural uses;
 - Roles and recognition of the Participants under the new governance model; and
 - Infrastructure and its future management.

5. Preliminary park concept

- 5.1. A national urban park is a new concept, which requires an innovative conservation and management approach that is reflective of its near-urban context and provides the flexibility to manage a working landscape. This concept will be developed and guided by consultations with a broad range of partners and stakeholders, including the Participants.
- 5.2. Aligned with Parks Canada's mandate, the national urban park concept will include conservation of natural and cultural heritage resources, opportunities for reaching and increasing appreciation amongst an urban population, a wide range of visitor experience possibilities and the integration and promotion of sustainable agriculture.
- 5.3. Boundaries will be defined based on an agreement with the Participants. To guide the work and facilitate identification of considerations and issues by the Participants, Parks Canada has presented a map of the Study Area (*Annex1*) that is under consideration for a potential national urban park.

6. Establishment Process

- 6.1. A Landholders Table was created in Fall 2011 by Park Canada to bring the Participants together to come to an agreement on park boundaries (lands to be included or excluded) and the strategies and processes for the transfer of lands to Parks Canada subject to obtaining the necessary approvals by each Participant.
- 6.2. In parallel to this process, Parks Canada is also engaging a broad group of partners and stakeholders, which includes the Participants, to consult on the vision and concept for the park. Agreements that will come out of the Landholders table will be shared for input as part of a broader public consultation process on the establishment of Rouge National Urban Park.
- 6.3. The Landholders Table will develop an approach to coordinate various due diligence processes and the Crown's duty of consultations, if any, and accommodation, if appropriate.
- 6.4. Transition measures will be developed to allow for interim governance of the park during the establishment process and until a permanent governance structure is created and the lands have been duly transferred to the managing authority. Interim Management Guidelines will also be developed to guide management until a Governing Framework is adopted. Roles of Participants as part of the transition process as well as part of the permanent governance model for the national urban park will be determined.

7. Timing

- 7.1. Participants intend to work towards a land transfer agreement following presentation by the Federal Government of a national urban park concept and confirmation of funding and proposed boundaries, to the satisfaction of the parties to the agreement.
- 7.2. Participants will work towards a target land transfer agreement in place by Fall 2012.

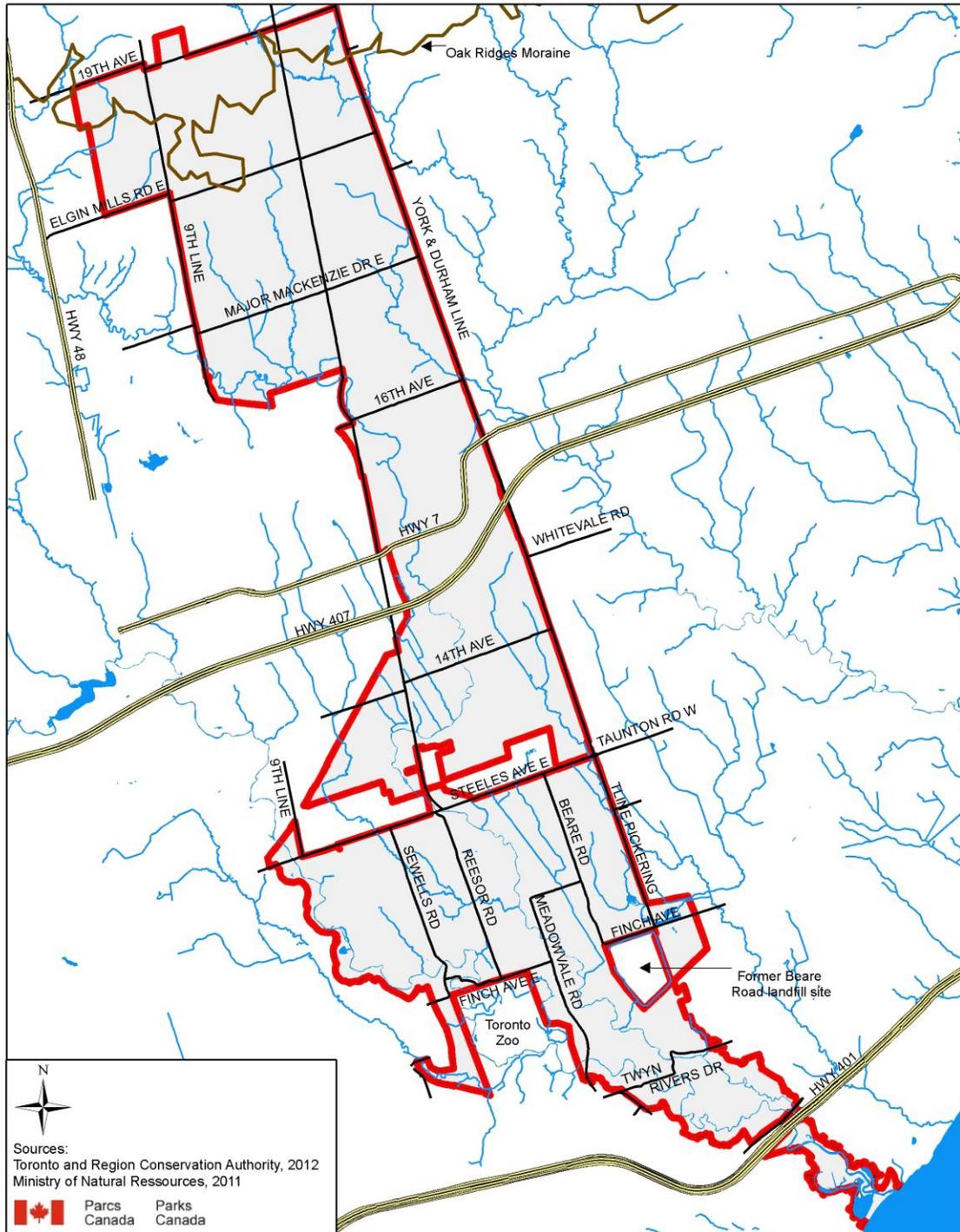
8. Legal Effect

This *Statement of Intent* is an expression of the mutual intentions of the Participants and is not legally binding on them.

9. Appendices

1. Map of the Study Area under consideration by Parks Canada
2. Members of the Landholders Table

Annex 1 - Study Area under consideration by Parks Canada



Note: This map is a Study Area only. The lands shown are currently under review for possible inclusions/exclusions to the national urban park. This map does not represent proposed park boundaries. All private lands are excluded from the study area.

Annex 2

Members of the Landholders Table

Organization	Representative	Title
Parks Canada	Andrew Campbell (Chair)	VP External Relations and Visitor Experience
Parks Canada	Catherine Grenier	Dir. Rouge National Urban Park Initiative
Parks Canada	Dianne Pralow (Secretary)	Sr. Realty Advisor
Province of Ontario (Ministry of Infrastructure)	Bruce Singbush	Director, Real Estate Policy
Province of Ontario (Ministry of Infrastructure)	Victoria Vidal-Ribas	Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Real Estate Asset Management Division
Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA)	Brian Denney	Chief Administrative Officer
City of Toronto	John Livey	Deputy City Manager
City of Pickering	Thomas Melymuk	Director, Office of Sustainability
Town of Markham	Andy Taylor	Chief Administrative Officer
Region of York	Bruce McGregor	Chief Administrative Officer
Region of Durham	Nester Chornobay	Dir. Strategic Planning
Rouge Park Alliance	Alan Wells	Chair