

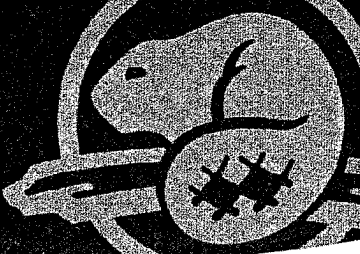




EX 38.4.1  
submission from Pam Verrette 2/3/2014

 Rouge National Urban Park Initiative  
parks.canada.gc.ca/rouge



**Rouge National Urban Park**  
February 4, 2014





 Parks Canada  Parcs Canada

**Canada**

## Canada's First National Urban Park

- In the 2011 *Speech from the Throne* and its 2012 *Budget*, the Government of Canada announced its commitment to work towards the creation of a national urban park in the Rouge Valley.
- The opportunity to establish Rouge National Urban Park builds on the efforts of all levels of government, the tradition of community involvement and Parks Canada's leadership in protection, visitor experience and education.



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## Rouge National Urban Park

Once established, the national urban park will:

- take its place as the newest member of the Parks Canada family (along with national parks, national historic sites and national marine conservation areas)
- inspire, inform, enrich and engage the urban spirit in a celebration of protected nature, culture, and agriculture
- be a window on protected areas throughout Canada



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## Vision

### *A People's Park*

Rouge National Urban Park celebrates and protects, for current and future generations, a diverse landscape in Canada's largest metropolitan area. Linking Lake Ontario with the Oak Ridges Moraine, the park offers engaging and varied experiences, inspires personal connections to its natural beauty and rich history, promotes a vibrant farming community, and encourages us to discover Canada's national treasured places.



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## Park Planning

### Stakeholder and First Nations Engagement

- More than 100 groups and thousands of individuals engaged to date
- Distinct process with First Nations to share information and begin dialogue

### Park Concept

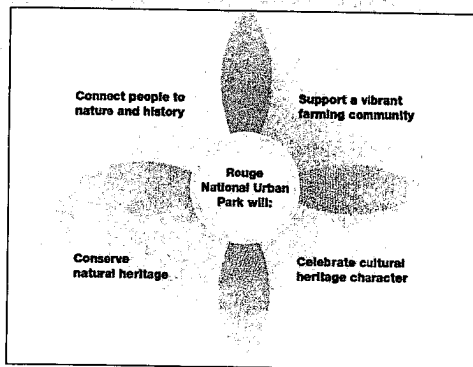
- Developed in consultation with stakeholders; released in May 2012
- Intentionally broad in scope - outlined the vision, guiding principles, goals, and approach for park establishment and management
- Public engagement program in 2012 generated nearly 10,000 comments

### Management Plan

- Primary accountability & guiding document for park management
- Establishes a long-term vision, as well key strategies & actions to realize that vision
- Sets goals and indicators to measure achievement



## An Integrated Approach



### Key Strategies

#### A New Type of Protected Area

- Recognizing the Rouge's uniqueness and urban setting

#### A Dynamic, Cohesive Rouge

- Reflecting the park's mosaic of natural, cultural and agricultural values

#### A Connected, Relevant, Rouge

- Strengthening existing connections and creating new ones

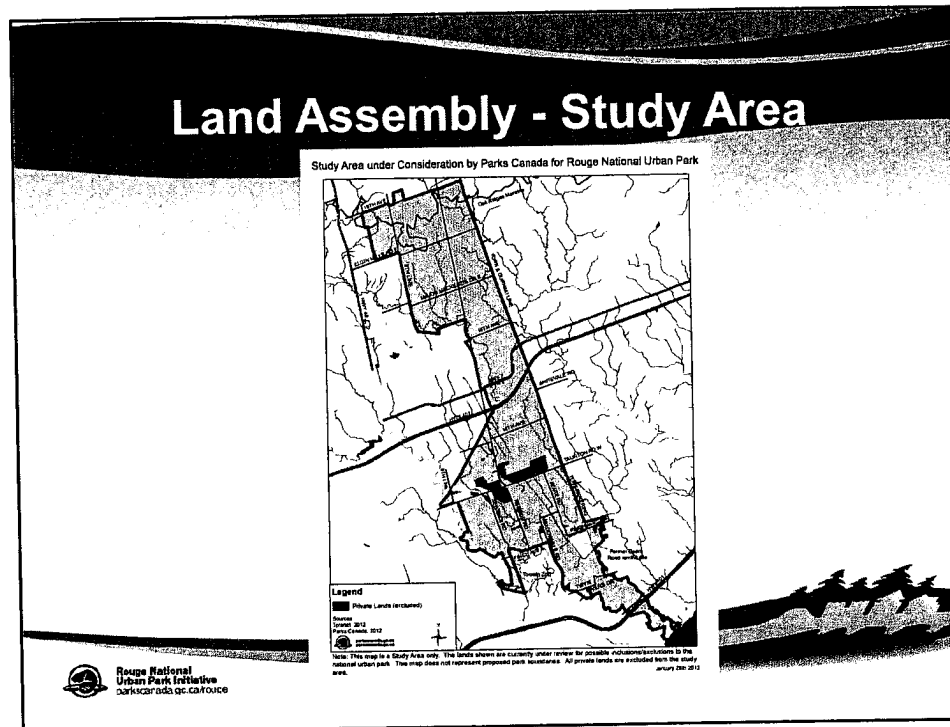
#### Success Through Collaboration

- An environment conducive to partnering and engagement

#### Enduring Spirit of the Rouge

- A solid foundation for the future





## What This Means for Toronto

- A protected area and attraction with national profile and designation in your city
- Assurance of the highest level of protection for the park's significant natural, cultural and agricultural values
- Resident access to a large protected area, which provides a strong sense of arrival and welcome and offers a connected trail network
- Enhanced opportunities for engagement, connection, conservation, volunteerism and stewardship for residents, including youth
- Significant investment by Parks Canada in resource protection, visitor experience, park facilities and programming
- Opportunities for collaboration and partnering (e.g. with the Toronto Zoo and Beare Road Park on marketing, programming and capital infrastructure)
- Future involvement in park management through seats on committees and working groups
- Party to Land Assembly Agreement

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## Next Steps

### Land Assembly

- Support landholders as they take the agreement to their respective Board and Councils
- Draft supplemental agreements
- Undertake due diligence work related to land transfer as needed (e.g. title searching, surveying, environmental assessment)

### Planning

- Continue discussions with the City, Toronto Zoo and the TRCA re lands at/near the Zoo and our future collaboration
- Continue discussions with landholders, stakeholders and First Nations during the development of the draft management plan
- Release the draft management plan to the public for input



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