

City Council**Notice of Motion**

MM48.12	ACTION			Ward:All
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Providing Authority for Staff to Take the Next Steps in the process to designate Public Lands along the Humber and Don River Valleys and the Etobicoke Creek as part of the Greenbelt - by Councillor Glenn De Baeremaeker, seconded by Councillor Maria Augimeri

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Planning and Growth Management Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Glenn De Baeremaeker, seconded by Councillor Maria Augimeri, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning in conjunction with the appropriate City staff to begin the process of making an application to the Province for Urban River Valley designation for public lands in the Humber and Don River Valleys and Etobicoke Creek. Specifically, City staff shall:
 - a. initiate coordination with other public landowners to identify lands suitable for Urban River Valley designation;
 - b. develop a cost estimation for the Urban River Valley designation;
 - c. work with the Province of Ontario to agree on the scope and extent of public consultation required before proceeding;
 - d. work with the Province of Ontario on ways in which the Greenbelt Plan can be improved to better assist municipalities with Urban River Valley-designated lands in necessary restoration and stewardship actions; and
 - e. report back to the Planning and Growth Management Committee by May 2014 with a plan and cost estimates to expand the Provincial Greenbelt by designating selected public lands as Urban River Valley, as outlined in Provincial legislation.

Summary

To help celebrate the 9th anniversary of the Greenbelt, this Motion would provide Council authority to continue the process of designating publicly owned lands along the Humber and

Don River Valleys and the Etobicoke Creek as part of the Greenbelt.

In February 2010, City Council adopted motions supporting, in principle, adding the Don and Humber River Valleys to the Greenbelt and calling on City staff to work with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, and report back to the Planning and Growth Management Committee about how to proceed (PE28.1).

An April 13, 2011 staff report noted that there was no existing mechanism for Toronto to add these lands to the Greenbelt; and City Council requested “the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to revise the Provincial Greenbelt Plan policies, as part of the 10 year review of Greenbelt Plan policy that will take place in 2015, in order to clarify how they should apply to external river valley connections and the role that municipalities can play in protecting these important connections between the Greenbelt and Lake Ontario.” (PG3.1)

In January 2013, the Province amended the Greenbelt Plan through regulation and put in place a mechanism called the Urban River Valleys (URV) designation that allows publicly owned urban river valleys to be added to the Greenbelt by way of municipal request.

The City of Mississauga also supported, in principle, growing the Greenbelt into URV lands, including URV lands on the west side of the Etobicoke Creek, and carried out an extensive feasibility study that was completed in November 2013.

A January 2014 staff report from the City of Mississauga on growing the greenbelt into URVs in Mississauga determined that “[t]he benefits for designation include raising awareness of the role of the urban river valleys in supporting connection to a larger, regional natural heritage system; reinforcing land securement undertakings; and creating restoration, educational and stewardship opportunities. Expanding the Greenbelt locally would raise the profile of these valley lands through their inclusion in a Provincial plan that has a strong symbolic value and is expected to provide widespread positive recognition and support.”

The same staff report also noted that “[s]taff support pursuing designation of suitable public lands along the Credit River and Etobicoke Creek as URV lands for the reasons outlined in the Feasibility Analysis, and recommend beginning preliminary work required (including costing), to pursue application for such designation through the Region.”

On February 12, 2014, the City of Mississauga City Council considered the following staff recommendation: “That the Commissioner of Community Services be directed to submit a Corporate Report prior to the Summer 2014 Council recess, outlining a plan and cost estimates to expand the Provincial Greenbelt by designating selected public lands as Urban River Valley, as outlined in the Legislation.”

(Submitted to City Council on February 19 and 20, 2014 as MM48.12)

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM48.12