Notice of Motion

MM52.13  ACTION  Ward:42

Permitting continued access for hikers at the Beare Road Landfill and adjacent Rouge Valley National Park - by Councillor Glenn De Baeremaeker, seconded by Councillor Michael Thompson

* Notice of this Motion has been given.
* This Motion is subject to referral to the Parks and Environment Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.

Recommendations
Councillor Glenn De Baeremaeker, seconded by Councillor Michael Thompson, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to ensure that hikers, and other users of the Rouge Valley National Park, continue to have access to all areas of the Beare Road Landfill site that they currently have access to.

Summary
Toronto residents have been hiking on the Bear Road Landfill site since it was formally closed some 30 years ago.

Virtually all park users in the Little Rouge River area of the park cross the 150 acre Beare Road Landfill site in some way. The main Rouge River area to the west is fenced off by the Toronto Zoo and hikers are not allowed to follow the main Rouge River through the zoo property.

The large land area of the former land fill site, the significant wetlands found on the site, the renaturalized areas and the look out at the highest "peak" in Toronto has attracted tens of thousands of hikers over the years and continues to be one of the most popular and accessible hiking spots in the Rouge National Park today. Prime Ministers, Premiers, Cabinet Ministers, and elected officials at all three levels of government – not to mention thousands of hikers and students – have all enjoyed the site and the vast vistas the site provides.

The City and the Federal Government recently decided that the Beare Road Landfill site would not formally be part of the National Park. Since then, many park users are concerned that their access to their traditional hiking trails in this area will be denied.

(Submitted to City Council on June 10 and 11, 2014 as MM52.13)
Background Information (City Council)
Member Motion MM52.13