

## City Council

### Notice of Motion

MM9.16	ACTION			Ward:28
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**Request to accept donated funds from Weston Family Parks Challenge (W. Garfield Weston Foundation) for the Franklin the Turtle's Habitat Pond Revitalization Project at Franklin Children's Garden on Toronto Island Park - by Councillor Pam McConnell, seconded by Councillor Gary Crawford**

*\* Notice of this Motion has been given.*

*\* This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

### Recommendations

Councillor Pam McConnell, seconded by Councillor Gary Crawford, recommends that:

1. City Council accept the donation of \$515,000 from the W. Garfield Weston Foundation and authorize expenditure of the donated funds to undertake revitalization of the wetland area within the Franklin Children's Garden.
2. City Council authorize the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to enter into an agreement with W. Garfield Weston Foundation in compliance with the Donations to the City of Toronto for Community Benefits Policy to spend the donated funds for the Turtle Pond Revitalization Project on terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation, and in a form and content satisfactory to the City Solicitor.
3. City Council amend the 2015 Parks, Forestry and Recreation Capital Budget to increase the project cost for the "Weston Family Donations" (CPR117-44-87) project from \$400,000 to \$515,000, funded from the W. Garfield Weston Foundation donation, and with a cash flow of \$115,000 in 2016.

### Summary

As part of the 2015 Parks, Forestry and Recreation Capital Budget, City Council approved the project titled "Weston Family Donations" with a total project cost and cash flow of \$400,000. The project was set up to accept and spend potential funds received through the Weston Family Parks Challenge.

Through a partnership with Earth Rangers Canada, the City of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division was recently approved for a \$515,000 donation through the Weston Family Parks Challenge to revitalize the wetland habitat and outdoor education components of the

Franklin Children's Garden. In order for Parks, Forestry and Recreation to receive the donation, an amendment to the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Capital Budget is required to add the supplemental funding of \$115,000 from the Weston Family Parks Challenge to the Weston Family Donations project.

In addition to the Weston Family Parks Challenge donation, the City of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division has committed capital funding through the 2016 Capital Budget submission.

Over the last decade, Franklin Children's Garden has been a destination for residents and visitors from the Greater Toronto Area and beyond who travel to Toronto Island Park each year. The garden is free and accessible and is considered a jewel within Toronto's park system. One of the highlights of Franklin Children's Garden is the Turtle Pond. The initial vision of the Turtle Pond feature was to create a primary attraction for visitors to experience a natural wetland ecosystem complemented with engaging educational programming. The goal was to maintain and protect this unique environment so it would continue to function and flourish for the long term and would provide exceptional ecological programming for children and youth. Not all of the original vision was realized due to budget constraints at the time of construction and functionality issues with water supply and retention that have made it difficult to maintain wildlife habitat for the educational opportunities that the pond was primarily intended to serve.

Further, the Weston Family Parks Challenge has awarded \$150,000 to Earth Rangers Canada to develop new environmental education programming in the revitalized space. The revitalization of the Turtle Pond creates an opportunity for children to work together and learn how their actions and participation can make a difference in the world. This project focuses on rejuvenating and maintaining the ecological integrity of the Turtle Pond by creating a sustainable bio-diverse habitat and facilitating a human connection to nature through self-exploration and structured programs.

Through the Weston Family Parks Challenge, Parks, Forestry and Recreation is now on a path to realize the original vision through the Franklin the Turtle's Habitat Pond Revitalization Project.

### **Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM9.16