

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM23.9	ACTION			Ward:All
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Reviewing the Feasibility of an Urban Farm in the Lower Don - by Councillor Mary Fragedakis, seconded by Councillor Frances Nunziata

** 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 Mary Fragedakis, seconded by Councillor Frances Nunziata, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation and the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning to review the feasibility of creating an urban community farm in the Lower Don lands; such review to include Official Plan policies and zoning, the potential impacts on ecological features and functions, soil quality, flood constraints and access, and be incorporated into the ongoing work of the Ravine Strategy and the Lower Don Natural Heritage Impact Study.

Summary

There is an interest in creating an urban farm similar to Black Creek Community Farm in the Lower Don on public lands east of Bayview, south of the Brick Works. The feasibility of establishing an urban farm in this area needs to be assessed, including consideration of impacts on sensitive ecological features and functions, the quality of the soil (contaminated landfill, salt storage, contaminated run off from highways, combined sewer overflow), flood constraints (area is within the flood plain) and access.

The City is currently reviewing the potential capacity of the Lower Don lands to accommodate additional public access and programming, including urban agriculture, in the Lower Don Natural Heritage Impact Study (to be complete in the fall of 2017). The Ravine Strategy (complete April 2017) will identify 8 Priority Management Areas, including the Lower Don, to assist in prioritizing investment in management, access, and ecosystem protection.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM23.9

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2016/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-98972.pdf>)