



The voice
of our
community

EX27.8.7

Deer Park Residents Group

September 25, 2017

Dear Mayor Tory and Members of the Executive Committee,

We welcome the recommendations of the City of Toronto's Ravine Strategy (Executive Committee item [2017.EX27.8](#)). But just as importantly, we urge the city to find a funding strategy for this worthwhile strategy.

Toronto's ravines are a vital resource for our city, providing green space, active transportation corridors (including important connections between neighbourhoods), recreational space, a refuge for wildlife, and cleaning our air and water. As our city urbanizes, ravines become increasingly under strain by our growing population. However our ravines are going in the wrong direction, with decades of neglect leading to reduced accessibility, washed out trails, invasive species, erosion and general decay of infrastructure.

In our midtown neighbourhood, population has grown steadily in multi-unit apartments. For many of us, our ravines are our only backyards: we walk, run, bike, roll and ride through them. But in the Vale of Avoca, the major ravine within our neighbourhood, severe erosion and winter storms have repeatedly damaged trails and bridges through the ravines. We could well lose access to our ravine entirely.

Today the City of Toronto's backlog of unfunded capital projects stands at over [\\$33 billion](#). Many of these projects are vital for a growing city - initiatives like transit, housing, and basic state-of-good-repairs infrastructure work. Merely adding the Ravine Strategy to the bottom of this unfunded pile is simply unacceptable.

The longer the strategy is left unfunded, the higher the cost of major repairs. We are experiencing more frequent devastating storms; our ravines bear the brunt of the destruction, with severe erosion destroying riverbanks, washing out bridges, and threatening infrastructure like roads and water works. The longer we delay repairs, the more costly the repairs will be.

John Plumadore

John Plumadore
President,
Deer Park Residents Group