

City Council

Motion Without Notice

MM36.31	ACTION			Ward:All
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Resolution supporting the efforts of King Township, York Region and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority to protect the headwaters of the East Humber River - by Councillor Glenn De Baeremaeker, seconded by Councillor Frances Nunziata

** This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

** This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral. This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate.*

Recommendations

Councillor Glenn De Baeremaeker, seconded by Councillor Frances Nunziata, recommends that:

1. City Council voice it's support for the efforts of King Township, York Region and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority to protect the headwaters of the East Humber Watershed.
2. City Council request the Province of Ontario to work with King Township, York Region and Toronto and Region Conservation to bring the area known as the East Humber Headwaters Park into public ownership through a land exchange or other means as deemed appropriate by the Province of Ontario.

Summary

The Township of King, York Region Council and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority have all passed resolutions supporting protection of the East Humber headwaters and are encouraging the Province of Ontario to protect these lands in public ownership through the creation of an East Humber Headwaters Park.

Protecting the headwaters of the Humber River in King Township would have a significant, positive impact on the quality of water flowing into the City of Toronto as well as minimizing flooding along the Humber River, south of Steeles Avenue.

The City of Toronto has long supported the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and 905 Municipalities such as King Township in their efforts to preserve and expand the natural heritage areas of the Greenbelt and the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan.

One of the most critical Natural Linkage areas in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation

Plan consists of lands in King running north-south from the 15th Sideroad to King Road, between Dufferin Street on the west and Bathurst Street on the east, including significant tributaries and headwaters of the East Humber River which are the source of Toronto's Humber River.

These lands currently have no areas of public parkland or public access, but present numerous opportunities for restoration and celebration of the natural heritage of the Humber River.

The owner of a large portion of these lands, constituting approximately 208 hectares at 770, 780, 798, 988 King Road, 13516 Bathurst Street and Part of 13415 Dufferin Street, Township of King, has approached the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority staff and municipal and provincial officials claiming they have partially transitioned development rights under the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act and the Planning Act, which would allow for resort-type accommodation and a golf course that would permanently eliminate the ability to bring these lands into public ownership and restore them to a natural state.

The property owner has proposed a land exchange of the majority of these lands for developable lands held by the Province of Ontario which are already designated and planned for development.

The Province of Ontario has previously worked with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority to secure and protect large land areas in the Greater Toronto Area for natural heritage preservation and restoration, including the nearby Bathurst Glen lands on the Oak Ridges Moraine.

This Motion is urgent as the decision regarding the establishment of the East Humber Headwaters Park will be discussed by Ontario Government in March as part of the provincial budget deliberations

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM36.31