



Councillor

Jaye
ROBINSON

WARD 25 • DON VALLEY WEST

July 11, 2018

To the Parks and Environment Committee Chair and Members,

Re: Sherwood Park Environmentally Significant Area

Sherwood Park is a picturesque, wooded park in the City of Toronto, with walking trails, a large playground, a dog off-leash area, wading pools and impressive nature views.

The park features environmentally significant areas that are particularly sensitive and require protection to maintain their unique environmental qualities. Environmentally significant areas primarily include natural areas that have been largely left undisturbed.

Within the environmentally significant areas, activities are limited to those that are compatible with the preservation of their natural features and ecological functions, such as managed trails and viewing areas.

Encroachment by neighbours, dumping, mountain bikers, off-leash dogs, and the creation of ad hoc paths can degrade the quality of natural areas.

Unfortunately, the dog off-leash area fences in Sherwood Park are in a poor state of repair – with more than 15 breaks throughout the fence structure, compromising ecological integrity of environmentally significant area.

Urgent repair to the dog off-leash area fences in Sherwood Park is critical to sustaining the environmentally significant area in the long-term and is an essential part of protecting biodiversity throughout the park.

It is important to balance access to, and the protection of natural areas, with recreational uses in order to maintain the significant qualities of environmentally significant areas.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That City Council direct staff to prioritize the repairs of the dog off-leash area fences in Sherwood Park by fall 2018 in order to protect biodiversity, preserve the ecological functions and maintain the park's unique environmental qualities.

Warm regards,

Jaye Robinson
City Councillor, Ward 25 – Don Valley West