

Summerhill Residents Association

[REDACTED], Toronto Ontario, [REDACTED]
T: [REDACTED], E: [REDACTED]

06 February 2019

VIA E-MAIL: buc@toronto.ca

Chairman Gary Crawford and Members,
City Budget Committee
City of Toronto

Re: Budget Allocation for Ravine Strategy

Dear Councillor Crawford and Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors of the *Summerhill Residents Association* (SRA) to express our support for the position expressed in the attached letter submitted to your committee by the *Midtown Ravines Group*. The SRA is a member of this group.

We are deeply concerned by the slowness with which the City is taking steps to counter the accelerating decline of the City's ravines. The Vale of Avoca ravine to the east of the Summerhill neighbourhood is an important recreational resource for the tens of thousands of citizens who live in the Yonge Street/St Clair Avenue area and beyond.

Its continued erosion — ignored by the City for decades — is a scandal.

Invasive species continue to expand, driving out native trees and undergrowth, and adding to the erosion of ravine slopes below houses on the edge of the ravine.

We urge you to provide sufficient funds for ravine remediation and also to implement the litter pick-up program approved by Council in 2017.

Yours sincerely,

Summerhill Residents Association



Debbie Briggs
President

Copies:

Councillor Mike Layton
Councillor Josh Matlow

MIDTOWN RAVINES GROUP

c/o [REDACTED], Toronto ON [REDACTED]

T: [REDACTED], E: [REDACTED]

February 5, 2019

VIA E-MAIL: buc@toronto.ca

Chairman Gary Crawford and Members,
City Budget Committee
City of Toronto

Re: Budget Allocation for Ravine Strategy

Dear Councillor Crawford and Members:

We wish to express our deep concern over the lack of funds allocated to implement the City's Ravine Strategy.

It is now sixteen months since City Council adopted a City Ravine Strategy along with an initial implementation strategy report. While we understand that a more detailed report on implementation is to come before Council later this spring, we are appalled that there is not even a provisional allocation of funds for implementation of the Ravine Strategy in the budget submission by the Parks, Forestry, and Recreation Division for 2019.

Toronto's ravines have been hailed worldwide as one of the City's important resources, but have been allowed to deteriorate for decades. Erosion and the growth of invasive species continue.

This deterioration continues to accelerate. It does not wait for City deliberations. Further delay just means further erosion of the ravines and further deterioration of their ecological integrity. We urge you to allocate funds now, so that remediation work can begin in 2019.

We urge you also to fund the litter collection program approved by City Council when the Ravine Strategy was adopted.

Yours sincerely,

MIDTOWN RAVINES GROUP

John Bossons
Convenor

The Midtown Ravines Group is a consortium of residents associations bordering the Yellow Creek and Mud Creek ravines in Midtown Toronto, the ravine component of the Beltline Trail and a major recreation resource in central Toronto. Participating associations include Deer Park Ratepayers and Residents Association, Moore Park Residents Association, North Rosedale Residents Association, South Rosedale Residents Association, and Summerhill Residents Association.