

MIDTOWN RAVINES GROUP

A consortium of six residents' associations in Midtown Toronto
[ABC, Deer Park, Moore Park, North and South Rosedale, Summerhill]

September 8, 2019

Councillor James Pasternak, Chair,
and Members,
Infrastructure and Environment Committee,
City Council, City of Toronto

via email: iec@toronto.ca

RE: IE 7.8 - Biodiversity strategy

Dear Councillor Pasternak, Members,

I am writing on behalf of the Midtown Ravines Group to express our support for the staff recommendations. The Biodiversity report that is before you sets out strong arguments for the adoption of a strategy aimed at enhancing the ecological integrity of Toronto's ravines. We applaud its recommendations and urge that they be supported.

At the same time, we wish to express our concern about the lack of committed funding for implementation of the report's recommendations. Without funds dedicated to its implementation, the Biodiversity Strategy will be mere words. In this connection, we are alarmed by the statement in the submission from the Chief Planner and General Manager, Parks Forestry and Recreation, that the report has no financial implications. Without a financial commitment to undertake the work required to make the Biodiversity Strategy effective, the Strategy will be nothing more than yet another set of uplifting but empty goals.

We look forward to the forthcoming report on implementation of the parallel Ravines Strategy that we understand will be coming to a future meeting of this committee. We urge you to ensure that report includes a clear commitment to fund an action plan that implements the goals of the Ravine and Biodiversity strategies. Almost two years of inaction have passed since Council adopted the Ravine Strategy at its meeting of October 2017. We have been waiting a long time for funding of an action plan that will implement the Ravine Strategy's recommendations.

Sincerely,



John Bossons
Convenor