MIDTOWN RAVINES GROUP

Jan 19, 2020

Councillor Gary Crawford, Chair,
and members
Budget Subcommittee for Toronto
and Etobicoke

by email to: buc@toronto.ca

RE: Need for funds for ravine remediation

Councillor Crawford, members:

We are writing on behalf of the Midtown Ravines Group, a consortium of six residents associations bordering ravines in Midtown Toronto.

We strongly support the Mayor's declaration at his press conference last Thursday that he would ask Council to fast track the staff recommendations for an increase in the 2020 Parks, Forestry, and Recreation (PFR) operating budget by $2.7 million ($660,000 for ravine cleanup and $2.05 million for invasive species management).

Toronto's ravines are deteriorating as we speak. Nature does not wait for City Council. Each major storm —and there are more of them every year, thanks to global warming— will erode more of Toronto's ravine heritage unless Council acts to provide funds for their maintenance. Invasive species that take over ravine lands, replacing native species, only grow more prolific when left to expand without control.

City Council needs to take immediate action to provide more funds for both erosion control and invasive species control. We are encouraged by the recommendations of the report on Ravine Strategy Implementation that will be before the Executive Committee this Thursday. But starting to take action only in 2021 means postponing the investments that are necessary.

We ask that you also accelerate budgetary support for the capital investments required to deal with the declining quality of infrastructure in Toronto's ravines. Erosion from streams bursting their banks will not wait. And the recreational needs provided by ravine green space get only more necessary as Toronto's population becomes more and more housed in high-rise towers.

Please don't delay another year. Add more to the budget for ravine remediation now.

Yours truly

John Bossons, Co-chair
52 Summerhill Gdns, Toronto ON M4T1B4

Tim Ross, Co-chair
84 Douglas Dr, Toronto ON M4W 2B4

The Midtown Ravines Group is an incorporated non-profit organization set up by six residents associations bordering ravines in Midtown Toronto to encourage and fund private and public work on ravine remediation.