

From: [Catherine Berka](#)
To: [councilmeeting](#)
Subject: Toronto Agenda Item 2020.EX17.1
Date: October 26, 2020 9:10:00 PM

City of Toronto Agenda Item

2020.EX17.1 - Towards Recovery and Building a Renewed Toronto

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2020.EX17.1>

Re: PH17.9 Development Pipeline 2020 - Planning and Housing AND EX17.1 Towards Recovery and Building a Renewed Toronto

Despite repeated pronouncements, policies, strategies, bylaws and acknowledgements regarding our natural areas, it is remarkable that these two reports contain no mention of natural heritage, natural areas, ESAs or ravines.

In fact, there are more mentions of “parking” than “parks” in both of these documents.

PH17.9 and EX17.1 appear to be reversals of protection policies under the guise of Covid-19 recovery and economic growth.

As a City Council, caretakers of Toronto’s natural heritage, and *unanimous* supporters of Ravine Strategy Implementation and Biodiversity, you must reconcile your notions of intensification and economic growth with the fact that Torontonians need natural spaces and that these spaces need protection, both legislatively and operationally. Covid has clearly shown us that nature is what keeps us resilient, sane, and physically and mentally healthy. One cannot move forward on these fronts without explicit acknowledgement of the importance of these spaces and the commitment to protect them. As our elected officials, we urge you to consider the critical nature of Toronto’s green space in your deliberations regarding PH17.9 and EX17.1.

Thank you.

Catherine Berka

Member of:

South Rosedale Residents Association

Toronto Ravine Revitalization Science

Seeds to Saplings

Midtown Ravines Group

Protect Nature Toronto