

From: [Catherine Berka](#)
To: [councilmeeting](#)
Subject: EX18.12 Manual for Stewardship in Public Ravines and Natural Areas
Date: November 24, 2020 3:25:13 PM

Mayor John Tory and Members of Council,
City Hall - 100 Queen Street West,
Toronto, Ontario,
M5H 2N2.

Attention: Ms. Marilyn Toft

Dear Mayor Toronto and Councillors:

Re: EX18.12 Manual for Stewardship in Public Ravines and Natural Areas

We are writing to ask that you support Recommendation 1 from the Executive Committee regarding EX18.12 that will go to this week's Council. Our group has worked diligently to support the motions regarding independent stewardship passed by City Council in January to produce two manuals, one for private landowners and the other for public lands. The public lands manual will allow the independent stewardship movement in our ravines and natural areas to grow in a responsible and safe manner. Recommendation 1 states:

“1. City Council direct the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to review the Manual for Stewardship in Public Ravines and Natural Areas, and after consultation with Manual authors, report back to the Executive Committee by the second quarter of 2021 on how this Manual can be implemented as the template for expanding ravine and natural areas stewardship in Toronto without City supervision.”

The draft public lands manual was created with the active participation and input from a number of natural areas stewardship groups in the city. The reason for the Motion is to encourage staff to meet with us to review the manual (we will revise where necessary) and get it in place so that we can start expanding this stewardship program this spring following training for stewardship leaders in the late winter. We do not envisage the City spending additional funds to hire additional staff or consultants to make this happen. There is urgency to this as the challenges facing the ravines are not taking time off because of COVID.

We thank you for your attention and thank you in advance for your support.

Best wishes,

Paul Scrivener, on behalf of the Independent Stewardship Initiative

