

**From:** [Mcdadi, Omar \(PC\)](#)  
**To:** [Executive Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Parks Canada's Comments for 2020.EX12.1 on January 23, 2020 Executive Committee  
**Date:** January 21, 2020 12:30:25 PM

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To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the January 23, 2020 Executive Committee meeting on item 2020.EX12.1, Ravine Strategy Implementation

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

### **Parks Canada Comments on Proposed Ravine Implementation Plan**

Parks Canada congratulates the City of Toronto on the development of its proposed implementation plan to conserve the city's ravines. The City's inclusion of Rouge National Urban Park in its mapping of the ravines system recognizes the importance of the park to the network in the east part of the city. Parks Canada appreciates the opportunity to have participated on the Ravine Strategy Advisory Group from 2015 to 2017 during the development of the strategy. With the transfer of Toronto and Region Conservation Authority land in the City of Toronto sector of the Rouge National Urban Park in May 2019, Parks Canada is now able to directly manage the park's most ecologically-diverse ravines.

In accounting for Parks Canada's management of Rouge National Urban Park, the City's ravine implementation plan has recognized the park as complementary to the city's ravines. Parks Canada supports the directions of the proposed ravine implementation plan and will seek to coordinate its efforts in managing the park with those of the City. By doing so, efforts by the City and Parks Canada will generate synergies in enhancing the quality of the ravines and the visitor's experience of them. Several potential areas for coordination and cooperation exist.

One of the priority measures identified in the City's ravine implementation plan relates to invasive species management. Under the 2019 Rouge National Urban Park Management Plan operational plans—including for invasive species management—will be developed. Further, under the management plan, efforts to control invasive species will focus on the Toronto sector of the national urban park where they pose the greatest threat to native biodiversity.

Parks Canada will soon develop a draft Invasive Plant Species Management Plan that will set priorities for, guide, and coordinate the management of invasive species within the park. Once completed, this plan will help to guide future management activities and serve as a useful tool to identify potential areas for collaboration with the City.

Currently, invasive plant management activities within Rouge National Urban Park focuses on dog-strangling vine, *Phragmites*, and Japanese knotweed. One area for potential collaboration may be for the management of invasive species, such as *Phragmites* stands on roadsides and rights-of-way.

The proximity of one of the ravine implementation plan's priority areas—Highland Creek—to Rouge National Urban Park is noteworthy. The Highland Creek and Rouge Marsh coastal wetlands are within two kilometres of one another; work the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and the Toronto Zoo have undertaken has demonstrated a strong ecological connection between the two areas. Parks Canada also plans investments in visitor infrastructure in the southern end of the park near Rouge Beach, which is connected to Highland Creek via the Waterfront Trail.

Parks Canada is also excited about the prospects of the Loop Trail, which will connect with the Meadoway and eventually provide City-wide access via the Meadoway to Rouge National Urban Park in the vicinity of our planned major welcome area and visitor centre.

We would welcome the opportunity to participate on the Ecosystem Services and Partnerships, Outreach and Education working groups. An example of the benefits of such involvement would be the sharing of data relating to ecosystem services and invasive species management. For example, Parks Canada monitors 50 plots within Rouge National Urban Park; data sharing with the City relating to our respective ecological monitoring programmes would generate knowledge to inform ravine management for our respective organizations. To this end, a common reporting framework such as Open Standards would be worth considering.

Parks Canada has benefitted greatly from First Nations knowledge, cultural perspectives, and traditions in our work in Rouge National Urban Park. The City could consider the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples' representatives on working groups, as well as incorporating Indigenous experience in ecological restoration and other activities relating to its management of ravine ecosystems.

Parks Canada again congratulates the City on achieving this important milestone in its management of the city's ravines, and looks forward to further engagement with the City as the ravine implementation plan takes form on the ground.

Sincerely,

Omar McDadi  
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