



Mayor Tory and Members of the Executive Committee
c/o The City Clerk
By email: exec@toronto.ca

January 22, 2020

Re: EX12.1 Ravine Strategy Implementation

The Bloor Street East Neighbourhood Association (BENA) is incorporated as a not-profit Community Association whose footprint spans two wards, 11 and 13, and encompasses a portion of the Rosedale Valley Ravine. Our portion of the Rosedale Valley Ravine includes three bridges.

BENA is pleased to see the Ravine Strategy Implementation Report and the support it has received from the Federal Government. We support the Staff Recommendations other than Recommendation 2. Our request for amendments to Item 2 is as follows:

Recommendation 2. a.

- Implement the recommendation Litter Cleanup program for **2020**.
- That the **Transportation Right of Way, lands around the Bridges and under the Bridges** be included in the bi-annual Litter Cleanup which is currently the responsibility of Transportation Services.
- That the scope be expanded to **include biohazardous/toxic cleanups** as required.

Recommendation 2. b.

- Implementation of the enhanced invasive species management be advanced to **2020**.

We support the concept of a dedicated Ravine Unit within Parks, Forestry and Recreation which would co-ordinate the work recommended within the Study. We would recommend that this unit either:

- Co-ordinate the two recommended Litter Cleanups a year with Transportation Services

OR

- Transfer the current Clean Up responsibilities of Transportation Services to Parks, Forestry and Recreation and associated funding as it applies to the Ravines.

Our reasons for the request above are contained in our submission to the Budget Committee and is attached to the submission.

Further, we are pleased to see the recognition and commitment to revitalizing our current Ravine infrastructure. We have advocated for revitalization of the Rosedale Valley Road combined cycling and pedestrian pathway, opening up and maintaining access to the Ravine and creating a welcoming recreation area. We continue to advocate for this through:

- This Report
- TOCore Secondary Plan with the following supporting studies
 - Lower Don Trail Improvements
<https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/planning-development/construction-new-facilities/improvements-expansion-redevelopment/lower-don-trail/>

The Rosedale Valley is shown as an offshoot of this, however is in a lower order of priority for immediate attention

- Bloor-Yorkville City Initiated Official Plan Amendment

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.TE23.62>

Study is currently underway and includes this area in the Footprint.

- Glen Road pedestrian bridge replacement project currently underway
<https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/get-involved/public-consultations/infrastructure-projects/glen-road-bridge/>

In conclusion, we are pleased to see this all-encompassing report and ten-year strategy and hope you will consider our requests. We understand that in the context of the report they are minor amendments, although they are very important to us who live near the Ravine and bridges within the Ravine.

Respectfully submitted;

Linda Brett, President BENA

On behalf of BENA

Cc Councillors Layton and Wong-Tam

Members of the BENA Operations Committee

Attachment:

January 20, 2020

Delivered By Email
buc@toronto.ca

To: Members of the Budget Committee

The Bloor Street East Neighbourhood Association (BENA) is an incorporated Community Association whose footprint includes part of the Rosedale Valley Ravine and contains three bridges over the Ravine (Glen Road footbridge, Sherbourne and the Mount Pleasant Bridges).

Our deputation and submission requests that the Budget Committee recommend to City Council funding for the 2020 year pursuant to the Council Decision of October 2, 2017 when the Ravine Strategy was approved (Ex27.8).

Amending Motion by Councillor Wong-Tam:

1. Motion to Amend Item (Additional) moved by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam (Carried)

That:

2. City Council direct the General Manager, Solid Waste Management to coordinate with the General Manager, Transportation Services and the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to develop a regular maintenance and litter strategy for Toronto's Ravine System and to report back through the 2018 Budget Process on the budgetary requirements for such a program.

2018 Budget – Not addressed

2019 Budget – Not addressed

2020 Budget – Not addressed

2021 Recommendation coming to the Executive Committee, EX12.1 January 23. 2020:

“City Council direct that the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, request as part of the 2021 Operating Budget process, for consideration, the following:

- a) The necessary operating funds to support the creation of a dedicated Ravine Litter Cleanup program, with an estimated annual cost of \$0.657 million, including timelines for phasing in this service level increase.”

This recommendation **falls short** of the Council approved motion in 2017.

Requests of the City Budget Committee

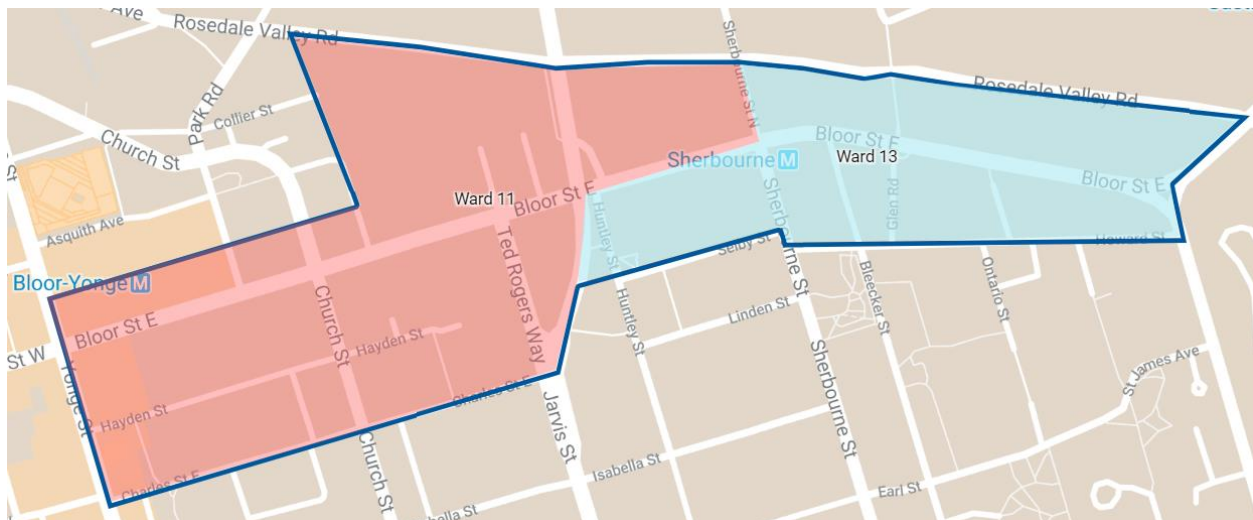
1. Advance the Funding for the dedicated Ravine Litter Cleanup program to 2020.
2. Address the October 2017 City Council Amending Motion with respect to the coordination of Solid Waste, Transportation Services and Parks, Forestry and Recreation for a regular maintenance and litter strategy in the 2020 Budget.

Reasons for the Requests

Item 1. This funding has required for years, specifically requested for 2018 and addressing it for 2021 is too late we need it **now**.

Item 2. Responsibility for cleaning up the Ravine does not rest entirely with Parks, Forestry and Recreation. Responsibility for the cleanup of the areas around and under the Bridges as well as the Transportation Right of Ways in the Ravines are the responsibility of Transportation Services.

BENA has both Bridges and a Transportation Right of Way within our footprint below and are contained in two Wards 11 and 13.



The following recent experience with the lack of such coordination is being used to demonstrate why it is needed. The issues could equally be applied to the Mount Pleasant Bridge.



Summer to December

- 311 Calls with respect to encampment
- Anticipated Fall Sweep and Cleanup – none completed
- Emails with Councillors Wong-Tam and Layton's offices – Reporting that City Staff were not moving the inhabitants as no-where to go. Supports through sleeping bags, wellness checks etc.

City Action – January 2020

- January 4 read Media reports and a “sweep of the Rosedale Valley Ravine” by Parks, Forestry and Recreation
- Email to Councillors' Offices for clarifications January 6
 - Does this include under the bridges where Transportation has responsibility?

- Extent of cleanup – inclusive of contaminated areas? If not, will they be secured?
- Plan going forward?
- When will the Sherbourne Bridge be further secured?
- Answers to above received – the sweep of removing those in the encampments includes under the Bridges. Remaining question out for answers.
- **January 6 – “Sweep” of the Rosedale Valley Ravine**
- Observations
 - Saw persons cleaning the litter in the ravine but not under the bridge and were dressed in protective outerwear
 - The area under the Sherbourne Bridge was not cleaned nor secured from the 8th though to the 12th
- **Fire on Sunday the 12 at approximately 4:30 pm**
 - Sherbourne Bridge closed to vehicular traffic
 - Cleanup under contracted to a Contaminated Waste Disposal company, commenced work on Wed the 15th. Area under the Bridge not secured until work commenced, currently unsecured
 - Bridge to have outside Engineers inspect the Bridge for structural integrity prior to reopening – pending

We have been advised that Toronto Fire has not determined a cause. Please note that myself and other residents heard what sounded like a series of gun shot which in retrospection were a series of explosions. Per the Fire Department’s Twitter account, it was difficult to find the source of the fire and it was a very hot fire.

The following are pictures of under the bridge both before after the fire taken on Monday the 13th of January by myself and shows that this area was not secured after the “Sweep”.



Prior to the Fire taken at the beginning of Dec for follow up to the City.









Final Comments:

The inaction of the City of Toronto left exposed a very vulnerable area which borders on private property. It put at risk not only lives but that of a designated Heritage Building. This Heritage Building does have some damage from the fire.

A simple process in place to coordinate this “Sweep” and Cleanup could have prevented this expensive result.

By our requests, we are asking you to follow the information put into your **“A Property Owner’s Guide to Healthy Ravines”** excerpt below:

“Be A Good Neighbour

Keep in mind that what happens on your ravine property can affect neighbours beside and below you.”

City of Toronto, you are my neighbour, and right now you are not a good neighbour.

Please address the funding and structural defects immediately.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of BENA;

Linda A Brett, President
Cc Operations Committee of BENA
Councillor Wong-Tam
Councillor Layton