

EX12.1.15

Who we are

Midtown Ravines Group

a consortium of six RAs in Midtown Toronto



Why we are here

- to support the staff recommendations
- to support accelerating the increase in PFR operating funds to 2020
- to support an increased capital budget
- to recommend other initiatives that would speed up ravine remediation

Why funding is needed

- to clean litter
- to expand what PFR can do to control the growth of invasives
- to support more citizen involvement in ravine stewardship program
- to combat erosion and invest in park infrastructure

Urgency

- we are losing our ravines to erosion



Urgency

- invasive species are rampant



Why MORE funding is needed

- to expand capital spending to include more than the first ten priority areas
- to expand what PFR can do to control the growth of invasives
- to support more citizen involvement in ravine stewardship programs

Citizens can help!

- contribute labour, time, expertise



Impediments to citizen help

- excessive concerns about City liability
- lack of effective protocols for citizen work on public land
- insufficient staff to supervise and inform citizen work
- lack of City certification standards to enable citizen expertise to be used

Why PRIVATE funding is needed

- to expand what the City can do
- we need private support for park assets in the ravines
- but we also need private funding that can lever what PFR's operating budget can do
- we need private-public partnerships to bring ravine land-owners into invasive species control

Utilize subsidy programs

- Other govt levels provide subsidies for stewardship
- Let's use them!
- No cost to City, other than cost of publicizing availability

Ontario Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP) Guide

Updated January 2012



Conservation
Land Tax
Incentive Program



Impediments to private funding

- we applaud the Round Table initiative
- but this is primarily oriented to funding park assets
- private funding can also contribute to non-capital funding — invasives control, education, private landowner initiatives
- Need protocols for work on public lands

Recommendations, requests

1. Support proposed funding increase, operating increase in 2020, capital funding in 2021
2. Request staff report on additional funds required to meet acceptable standard of invasives control in all Toronto ravines
3. Request staff to report on potential training and certification programs to utilize citizen expertise.

Requests (continued)

4. Request staff to report on workable private-public operating partnerships
5. Amend recommendation 8 in staff report to require reporting on progress once each Council term.
6. Request that first progress report include estimated cost of expanding capital program to include next ten priority areas

Thank you!

And special thanks to City staff, for their excellent work in preparing this report.