



Possibility grows here.

# EX12.1.12

Greenbelt Foundation

661 Yonge Street, Suite 500  
Toronto, ON M4Y 1Z9

(416) 960-0001

[www.greenbelt.ca](http://www.greenbelt.ca)

21 January 2020

City of Toronto Executive Committee  
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Executive Committee Members:

**Re: EX12.1 Ravine Strategy Implementation**

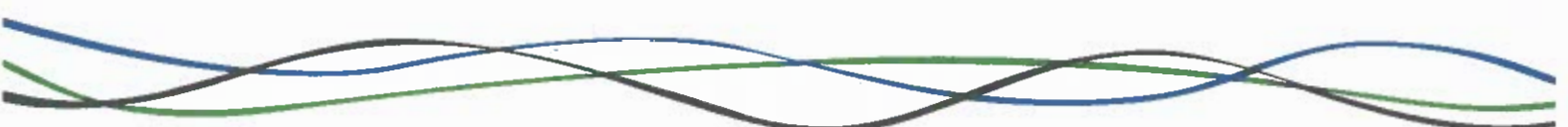
The Greenbelt Foundation strongly supports the Toronto Ravine Strategy, as an important investment in the health of our ravines and urban river valleys. The Foundation would welcome the opportunity to participate in the Ravine Campaign Leadership Table and 'InTO the Ravines' micro-grant program to contribute our expertise about the role Toronto ravines play as part of the broader watershed.

Ontario's Greenbelt protects urban river valleys across the Greater Golden Horseshoe, including prominent Toronto ravines, the Don, Humber, and Rouge valleys. These valleys protect drinking water for 9 million Ontarians as it travels from the headwaters in the Oak Ridges Moraine and Niagara Escarpment, through Canada's most developed region, into the Great Lakes.

The inclusion of these twenty-one river valleys in the Greenbelt Plan in 2017 was an important recognition of the vital role they play in providing clean drinking water, flood protection, and other ecosystem services to Ontarians.

As a funder and partner of municipalities, community organizations, and natural asset-development initiatives, the Greenbelt Foundation continually engages Ontarians in valuing, stewarding, and enhancing their ravine systems. We are pleased that your report notes some of our work, including acknowledgment of our Greenbelt River Valley Connector program, which, as referenced, "enhances public access to green space and improves the health and well-being of residents."

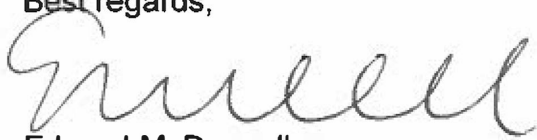
The Foundation also works closely with organizations like Municipal Natural Assets Initiative, Ducks Unlimited Canada, and Conservation Authorities, to support Greenbelt-area municipalities in assigning dollar value to the ecosystem services natural assets provide. In other words, assets like ravines can be budgeted for in asset management programs, as cost-effective complements to other forms of green infrastructure and traditional grey infrastructure, with additional benefits such as biodiversity protection.



Municipalities like Oshawa, Peel Region, Oakville, and Burlington are increasingly recognizing the services their natural assets provide to residents. We would like to see this approach considered regarding urban river valleys all across the Greenbelt, and would look forward to working with you to identify possible initiatives in Toronto's ravines.

We welcome an opportunity to meet and discuss ways for the Greenbelt Foundation to contribute to the goals of the Ravine Strategy and its implementation. We look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ed McDonnell', written in a cursive style.

Edward McDonnell  
Chief Executive Officer

