



**Councillor Paul W. Ainslie**  
 City of Toronto Councillor  
 Ward 24 Scarborough-Guildwood

Chair, General Government and Licensing Committee  
 Chair, Board of Management of the Toronto Zoo  
 Email: [councillor\\_ainslie@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca)



**EX18.12.5**

Councillor Paul Ainslie Scarborough-Guildwood  
 Ward 24 Scarborough-Guildwood  
 @Ainslie\_ward24 Website: [www.paulainslie.com](http://www.paulainslie.com)

November 17, 2020

To: Mayor John Tory and Executive Committee Members  
 Janie Romoff, General Manager of Parks Forestry and Recreation  
 Regarding: EX18.12 - Manual for Stewardship in Public Ravines and Natural Areas

Please accept the following list of questions for item EX18.12, as the list of questions is extensive I am requesting tht the General Manager of Parks Forestry and Recreation provide the reply as a supplementary to City Council on November 25, 2020.

1. Separate out section 8 from the manual as this section does not address Stewardship. The section deal with a “how to” on ravine management.

Clarification is required on the term “Native Plant”, with climate change we have an abundance of plants migrating north into southern Ontario, will these plants eventual become part of our native collection?

Management of invasive plants has presented problems with some residents doing their best to dispose of them for example “dog weed plants”, and some using the weed to cover their fences creating additional spread. How will this be monitored and will the plants on the invasive shift to native in time?

2. Advise on the following:
  - a. How many stewards are projected to be needed and how will they be managed? How do you get an even distribution across the ravine network?
  - b. Each area of the City will need its own managers of stewards. Will the City commit to this layer of management?
  - c. Will the City’s Parks Department be the lead for this program or will the TRCA be responsible?
3. Advise on the communication strategy with property owners abutting the ravine lands as well as the local community associations, Friends groups and other stakeholders.
  - a. Many may not support having volunteers in the ravine areas surrounding their homes. Homeowners are accustomed to having TRCA staff addressing the area by spraying chemicals, planting in areas that may flood, on occasions some of the planting surpasses the property line and takes place on private property. As these individuals are part of an organization residents feel comfortable, having volunteer stewards is a different matter which will require advanced notice and planning if agreed by the property owners as many residents have been living in these homes for over 25 years and have been maintaining the ravine area behind their homes.
4. The manual does not include:
  - a. Description of the management that will be required for the program to succeed
  - b. Budget for program or seed funding
  - c. Budget to train Stewards
  - d. How the number of volunteers per activity will be sustained or achieved
  - e. Staff budget to find the necessary stewards and volunteers.

5. Please advise on the following:
  - a. Section 3 - Regulatory Context: do we have staff to administer the bylaws or future bylaws
  - b. Section 4 – Programs - Coordination with all community groups will be necessary and difficult. What will be put into action to ensure they stay on task with the same projects.
  - c. Section 5 – Litter Removal – this will be difficult to avoid volunteers damaging native plants. The regulations in this section require attention and clarity.
  - d. Section 5.3 – Nylon fencing may not be received well by residents for wildlife. It prohibits animals to move around and some may not like the aesthetics.
  - e. Section 7 – Training – As the turnover for volunteer Stewards is eminent a budget will be required for continuous training. Budgeting for ongoing training will be required.
  - f. Section 8 – should be removed or separated out as it does not deal with the Steward Program but with maintenance.

Sincerely,

Paul W. Ainslie  
 City of Toronto Councillor, Ward 24 Scarborough-Guildwood