

# Friends of the Spit

P.O. Box 51518  
2140A Queen Street East  
Toronto ON M4E 3V7  
info@friendsofthespit.ca  
www.friendsofthespit.ca



BY E-MAIL

30 April 2021

Mayor Tory, Councillors,  
City of Toronto

Re: **EC21.14: Sustainable and Green Infrastructure Initiative for the Film Industry - Proposed Power Drop Pilot Project at Popular Filming Locations in Toronto**

Dear Mayor Tory and Councillors,

As an all-volunteer advocacy group for the Leslie Street Spit / Tommy Thompson Park since 1977 (when it was known simply as The Leslie Spit), and as a 1200+ member organization advocating since then for the security of the car-free public urban wilderness of The Spit/TTP, we wish to share our concerns regarding the EC21.14 Proposed Power Drop Pilot Project:

## **Committee Recommendations**

*The Economic and Community Development Committee recommends that:*

*1. City Council direct the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, in collaboration with the General Manager, Transportation Services and the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, to develop a business and operational case for a pilot project to install power drops at popular filming locations for consideration as part of the 2022 Budget process or before, wherever possible.*

As you are well aware, the recent large-scale commercial filming events at the Spit/Tommy Thompson Park elicited a massive critical reaction from park users and other members of the public who were shocked that commercial filming was taking place in a public urban wilderness, on lands designated as ESA (Environmentally Significant Areas). The gist of this extensive criticism was that commercial filming is an incompatible use for The Spit/TTP, and should be banned from The Spit/TTP.

For this pilot project, we request that the Mayor and Council give clear and unambiguous direction to the General Managers of Economic Development and Culture, Transportation Services, and Parks, Forestry and Recreation that any and all ESA's and lands adjacent to ESA's be removed from consideration for the Power Drop Pilot Project locations.

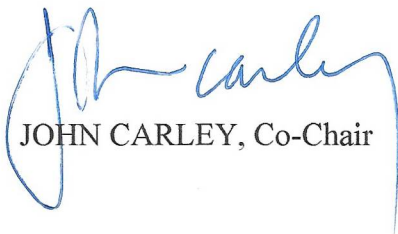
From our perspective, we ask that, specifically, the entire Leslie Street Spit, Tommy Thompson Park, and the Baselands be removed from consideration, as these lands are all designated as ESA (Environmentally Significant Areas).

Council's direction to remove ESA's and adjacent lands from consideration would be consistent with **OPA 262, BY-LAW No. -2015, Section 3.4 Natural Environment, Policy 13 , as amended:**

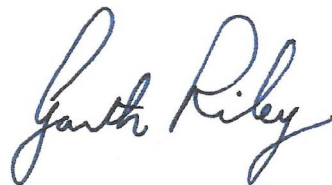
**"Development or site alteration, with the exception of trails, where appropriate, and conservation, flood and erosion control projects, is not permitted on lands within the natural heritage system that exhibit any of these characteristics. Activities will be limited to those that are compatible with the preservation of the natural features and ecological functions attributed to the areas....."**

Thank you in advance for your actions to expressly protect our City's ESA's from damaging filming activities and ancillary uses.

Yours sincerely,



JOHN CARLEY, Co-Chair



GARTH RILEY, Co-Chair

Celebrating 44 years: since 1977, Friends has been advocating for the entire Leslie Street Spit and Baselands to be a car-free Public Urban Wilderness.

Without Friends of the Spit advocacy, The Spit and Baselands would not exist as they do today: a wonderful urban wilderness, enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of visitors yearly.

cc TRCA  
Ports Toronto  
Other interested parties