



May 21, 2021

Subject: Support for proposed unsupervised volunteer framework

Dear Councillor McKelvie (Chair) and Infrastructure and Environment Committee,

Evergreen is a not for profit organization dedicated to making cities flourish. For more than 30 years, we have been deeply connected to the ravines, with one of our first community stewardship events taking place in the Lower Don. The ravines provide a landscape that is rich in biodiversity supporting ecological benefits while acting as a refuge from the urban landscape.

In 2010, the ravines became our permanent home when we worked with the City of Toronto and TRCA to transform the abandoned Don Valley Brick Works factory into a cultural and environmental centre. In the decade since then, we have engaged thousands of visitors to the ravines through public programming including stewardship, children's programs, markets, community celebrations, and public art.

Evergreen played a critical role in supporting the advancement of the Ravine Strategy, and currently, through a Memorandum of Understanding, we are deeply committed to advancing the Loop Trail, in partnership with the City and TRCA.

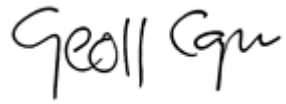
Please accept this letter of support reaffirming our commitment to the Ravine Strategy. Engagement is critical for advancing this work, as is reflected in one of the guiding principles of the Ravine Strategy.

We value the City's partnership approach to the unsupervised volunteer framework and believe it will enable greater access for a diversity of communities to engage in stewarding the ravines. The pilot program has potential to grow and scale, thereby engaging broader public participation, reaching the communities surrounding the ravines and beyond. We recognize that community plays a critical role in the protection and enhancement of Toronto's ravines, which is why we are participating along with other stakeholder organizations and partner organizations in the development of the City's unsupervised volunteer framework. It is critical that diverse voices contribute to this work and we support the City's approach, as it reflects the equity lens that is a pillar of the Ravine Strategy Implementation Plan.

Evergreen looks forward to continuing to engage in the Ravine Strategy, specifically, delivering the Loop Trail, which is a key flagship project that will increase access and connect all Torontonians to the ravine system from Rouge National Urban Park, through the Meadoway to the heart of the city. We will be participating in the development of a status update on this work, expected later this year.

Thank you for your tireless efforts in championing the Ravine Strategy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Geoff Cape". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Geoff Cape,
CEO Evergreen.