

TO: councilmeeting@toronto.ca

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June 8, 2021

To the City Clerk:

Please add the comments of the Toronto Field Naturalists (TFN) to the agenda for the June 8, 2021 City Council meeting on item 2021.MM34.19, Keeping our environment on track: requesting Metrolinx to conduct more analysis and plan for environmental stewardship in Small's Creek and Williamson Ravines - by Councillor Brad Bradford, seconded by Councillor Jennifer McKelvie.

I understand that TFN's comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

The Toronto Field Naturalists are concerned about the proposed work by Metrolinx in Toronto Ravines. City of Toronto ravines are precious pockets of wildlife and ecological beauty in our city. They are also meaningful community spaces where children learn about nature and residents can find respite.

Toronto City Council should insist that Metrolinx rethink its approach to Small's Creek and Williamson Ravines, especially the unnecessary clear-cutting of long-established native trees, to prepare for a possible fourth track on the Lakeshore East Corridor. Of course Toronto needs improved public transit to continue to build our city for future generations. But public transit projects in urban areas also need to accommodate rare, community-integrated green space — particularly as we all grapple with the worsening climate crisis.

The City of Toronto has clear and strong policies on protecting our environment and biodiversity. The City should work with Metrolinx and the Toronto Region Conservation Authority, to come to a community-informed alternative to the destruction of Small's Creek and ESA Williamson's Ravine and offer our vision for enhancing its ecological and social value for generations to come.

Thank you for considering this motion and your vote to support this motion.

Sincerely,

Ellen Schwartzel
President, Toronto Field Naturalists
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