

From: [Floyd Ruskin](#)  
To: [Executive Committee](#)  
Subject: EX34.3  
Date: July 11, 2022 2:43:04 PM

---

July 11 2022

*Re: EX34.3 Growth Funding Tools - Alternative Parkland Dedication Rate - Interim Report*

To Members of the Executive Committee:

As a Toronto centered conservation/environment group focused on activating the power of Toronto parks and ravines, **A Park for All** is writing in support of a density-responsive parkland dedication rate as recommended by City staff.

We want to thank City staff for their work on this new approach, which will help Toronto ensure our parks meet population demands and contribute to a more equitable city.

Toronto's park system plays an essential role in supporting a healthy, equitable, competitive and livable city, and helps to make communities more resilient to contemporary challenges, from climate change to COVID-19.

By 2031, the City of Toronto estimates that the downtown core alone will have 500,000 more residents. In addition to a growing population, we are also seeing increased park use across the city. The pandemic-related surge in city park use shows no signs of declining, with 76% of Canadian municipalities reporting in a recent survey that park use had increased in 2021 over 2020.

I would like to remind this committee that we already have a world renown system of parks and greenspace in our ravines. With the addition of the Loop Trail joining communities to our ravines and each other, we have the means to get people out and about in parks and nature.

**Protection** is the number one guiding principle of the **Ravine Strategy** and as with the planned **Don Valley Layover and Service** facility we will find ourselves failing this key component if strong action opposing Metrolinx is not taken immediately.

While it great to bring more parks into the downtown core, we must remember that the Don Valley is **the** greenspace in the downtown core and we must guard against losing our existing parkland from the ill conceived plan for a diesel railyard.

This reintroduction of industrial operations into accessible ravine parkland, will also set back the continuing efforts of 70 years of conservation activity to rehabilitate polluted brownfields.

Thank you  
Floyd Ruskin  
Director, Outreach and Community Engagement  
A Park for All

