



## Agenda Item IE30.16

### Interim Report for the High Park Movement Strategy

High Park is home to a collection of unusual vegetation communities, some rare in our region, some rare provincially (and given Toronto's location, rare nationally), and even globally. This isn't just a "nice to have" for Toronto, it's a national treasure to have such museum quality natural heritage in the middle of Canada's biggest city. These plant communities cover over half the park.

The High Park Natural Environment Committee has been working for the better part of the decade to persuade the City to apply its own natural heritage policies, which are acknowledged as being outstanding by those who know such things, to its own property of High Park. It is gratifying that the Movement Strategy reached so many people (6,000), and that the majority (77%) identified the conservation and enhancement of the Park's ecological integrity as a high priority. No other priority ranked so highly.

Given that the public support and the policy framework are aligned, any recommendations arising from this study should prioritize the protection of natural heritage.

Leslie Gooding

Co-Chair, High Park Natural Environment Committee