

From: [Julia Howell](#)
To: [Infrastructure and Environment](#)
Subject: My comments for 2022.IE30.9 on May 25, 2022 Infrastructure and Environment Committee
Date: Tuesday, May 24, 2022 5:55:59 PM

To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the May 25, 2022 Infrastructure and Environment Committee meeting on item 2022.IE30.9, Ravine Strategy Implementation Update

I understand that my 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.

Comments:

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I am writing to express our enthusiasm to pursue a collaboration with the City of Toronto on the Ravine Strategy.

Toronto Foundation has long been a friend and partner to the City and we see this work as a logical extension of that goodwill and progress together. The ravines are a key public asset, a unique part of our natural infrastructure that impacts broadly on many aspects of quality of life in the city. The opportunities for recreation and social capital, the physical and mental health benefits, and the role the ravines play in mitigating the effects of climate change are just some of the reasons why we are keen to contribute to this work.

There is a growing appetite in the philanthropic community to support holistic efforts to centre the natural environment in ways that serve both planet and people. The recent [Canadian Philanthropy Commitment on Climate Change](#), to which Toronto Foundation is a signatory, reflects this emerging interest.

What's more, our Foundation's focus on advancing a more equitable city aligns well with the future of the ravines. We believe that a rich, healthy network of parks and other forms of public space are fundamental to the wellbeing of the city writ large, and core to this is accessibility. The ravines traverse the entire city and yet the quality of access, sense of place, and diversity of ecosystems varies from section to section. We share the City's vision for a connected and optimized green corridor that welcomes all and can help steward the next generation of environmental advocates too.

We applaud the City's foresight in engaging KCI Philanthropy in phase one and encourage this level of thoughtful planning throughout the process. We are optimistic that donors will be drawn to a Ravine Campaign that is bold, actionable and transparent and that provides multiple opportunities for engagement and long-term stewardship.

Thank you.

Julia Howell
Chief Program Officer
Toronto Foundation