

## City Council

### Motion without Notice

MM47.111	ACTION			Ward: 10
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### Protecting and Promoting biodiversity on Toronto Island - by Councillor Joe Mihevc, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton

*\* This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

*\* This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral. This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate.*

### Recommendations

Councillor Joe Mihevc, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the General Manager, Parks Forestry and Recreation, in consultation with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, local residents, and relevant stakeholders that advocate for the protection of biodiversity to consider ways and means to maximize the protection and promotion of the natural biodiversity found on Toronto Island and the feasibility of incorporating the biodiversity principles outlined by the Island Biodiversity Group within the Toronto Island Park Master Plan, Environmentally Sensitive Areas Management Plans and area specific Maintenance Plans and to provide recommendations and updates within the ongoing Toronto Island Park Master Plan through the engagement process which includes advisory groups, the Indigenous communities and the public.

### Summary

Toronto Island is one of the busiest and most loved green spaces in our City. Generations of Torontonians have enjoyed this treasured park and 1.5 million people a year visit it.

While only 12 percent of Toronto Island remains in a natural state today, that small area represents one of the most remarkable biodiversity hotspots along the north shore of Lake Ontario and is home to species at risk such as Piping Plovers. The Island also features unique landforms, unusual vegetation communities and productive aquatic habitats. The sand dune plant communities, for example, are found nowhere else along the western shore of Lake Ontario.

The recently published “Proposed Biodiversity Principles for Toronto Islands” by the Island Biodiversity Working Group (February 2022) calls for the protection and promotion of biodiversity on Toronto Island and inclusion of Biodiversity Principles within the Toronto Island Park Master Plan, Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) Management Plans, and area specific Maintenance Plans.

[Microsoft Word - Biodiversity of Toronto Islands Feb 25, 2022.docx \(torontofieldnaturalists.org\)](#)

This Motion is urgent as the Toronto Island Park Master Plan is being completed in 2022.

## **Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM47.111