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Oct 24, 2023

**Toronto City Hall  
Infrastructure and Environment Committee  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2**

**RE: 2023.IE7.8 -Connected Communities: Advancing Year-Round Trails Between Earl Bales Park and York Mills Station**

Dear Chair McKelvie and Infrastructure and Environment Committee Members,

**I am writing on behalf of Park People in support of the motion *Connected Communities: Advancing Year-Round Trails Between Earl Bales Park and York Mills Station*.** Toronto's ravines are vital spaces for our communities and for too many people these spaces remain inaccessible. This has needlessly disconnected neighbourhoods, reduced opportunities for children and families to easily and affordably access recreation opportunities, and pushed more pedestrian and bike traffic onto busy roadways. Advancing a year-round trail connection in this section of our ravine system would be transformative in several important ways.

Through our work at Park People, we know that parks, greenspaces, ravines and connection projects like this trail can deliver outsized impacts on our health, economy, ecology, and social belonging.

Connecting communities to nature and each other and to larger park spaces, especially in an area surrounded by higher speed roadways, is vital to the health and wellbeing of communities in Ward 18 and surrounding wards.

We are optimistic that this initiative can be advanced quickly and look forward to collaborating with local Councillors, community members and other stakeholder groups to determine what the best possible trail alignment could be.

Sincerely,

Wesley Reibeling