



Wednesday, December 20, 2023

Letter to IEC

Endangered species habitat replacement on public lands

Recommendations

Councillor Dianne Saxe recommends that:

City Council direct the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation, in consultation with other departments or the Toronto Region Conservation Authority, as appropriate, to require, whenever City property is used to create replacement habitat for the purposes of the Endangered Species Act, 2007, at least two high quality replacement habitats for each existing habitat destroyed.

Summary

Under the provincial Endangered Species Act, those who wish to damage or destroy the habitat of an endangered species must construct replacement habitat. Such “replacement” habitats typically have a poor success rate in supporting continued breeding success of the endangered species. The Environmental Commissioner of Ontario therefore recommended that at least two high quality replacement habitats should be constructed before permitting destruction of the original habitat.

Developers intending to destroy endangered species habitat often wish to save money by constructing their replacement habitats in parks or other City property, to avoid having to purchase replacement habitat lands. The City should not permit public property to be used for this purpose unless at least two high quality replacement habitats are constructed for each existing habitat destroyed.

Councillor Dianne Saxe

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