

From: [Ellen Schwartzel](#)
To: [Infrastructure and Environment](#)
Subject: [External Sender] My comments for 2024.IE10.4 on January 9, 2024 Infrastructure and Environment Committee
Date: January 8, 2024 6:57:48 PM
Attachments: [habitat for species item IE10.4 Jan. 9, 2024.pdf](#)

To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments (attached as PDF) to the agenda for the January 9, 2024 Infrastructure and Environment Committee meeting on item 2024.IE10.4, Endangered Species Habitat Replacement on Public Lands

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.

Thanks, Ellen Schwartzel

Comments:



Jan. 8, 2024

To Infrastructure and Environment Committee, City of Toronto

Item – 2024 IE10.4 - Endangered Species Habitat Replacement on Public Lands

TFN supports the recommendation of Councillor Dianne Saxe: that the City of Toronto require at least two high quality replacement habitats for each existing habitat destroyed, whenever City property is used to create replacement habitat for the purposes of the provincial Endangered Species Act, 2007.

Such a “two for one” rule on habitat replacement should be part of a much more comprehensive city action plan for regional species of concern. The city committed to such an action plan five years ago, as “Action #2” of the [2019 Biodiversity Strategy](#). At a minimum, it is now time for City Council to request an update on progress towards Action #2 and numerous other commitments under the 2019 Biodiversity Strategy.

The need for action is real. Many species listed as “at risk” under federal or provincial law continue to survive within City of Toronto limits, especially along the lake shorelines and in our ravines and parklands. Some birds at risk even nest here in Toronto, including chimney swifts, common nighthawks and piping plovers. Similarly, several at risk reptiles can still be found in Toronto, including the threatened Blanding’s Turtle and several other species categorised under “special concern”, such as the snapping turtle, the northern map turtle and the milk snake.

Toronto’s species at risk are a challenge for us all. On the one hand, our vulnerable species should be a point of civic pride, since our city still can provide patches of good-quality wildlife habitat. On the other hand, our resident species at risk remind us of our long-term obligations as land stewards. We have an obligation to care for our native species on behalf of future generations, even as our city continues to grow.

TFN has been speaking up for Toronto’s urban nature for the last century. We review and comment on city policies when they impact urban nature and biodiversity.

With thanks,
Ellen Schwartzel
TFN Past President and Board Member
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