

July 2, 2024

To the Members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee

RE: Toronto Island Park Master Plan -item IE15-2

I would like to add my voice to the thoughtful and well-expressed letters submitted by [Tony Farebrother on behalf of the Stewardship Committee of the Toronto Island Community](#), [Ellen Schwarzel on behalf of Toronto Field Naturalists](#), and [Diana Turchin on behalf of Bird Friendly City Toronto](#). While I have not invested the amount of time and energy that these dedicated people have in the Master Plan process, I am well aware of the concerns that they express, particularly from my experience as a volunteer and advocate for nature in High Park over the last thirty years. Powerful words that acknowledge the importance of natural heritage can be reassuring, but what really matters are the actions that get implemented over time. All too often natural heritage is chipped away and allowed to suffer in order to achieve other laudable goals.

In a site as precious as Toronto Islands, it is critical to “put nature first”. Thank you for having the courage and vision to make this happen.

Karen Yukich

Co-Chair, High Park Natural Environment Committee