



Safe streets  
Healthy city  
Vibrant voice

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July 3, 2024

Infrastructure and Environment Committee (IEC)  
Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen St W  
Toronto, M5H 2N2

**Re: IE15.7 - Review of Standard Operating Procedures for Off-Road Vehicles in Parks**

Dear Chair McKelvie and Members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee,

Cycle Toronto is writing to express our enthusiastic support for making our parks safer by restricting motor vehicles unless they are performing a necessary function in relation to park maintenance. Any vehicle performing work in parks should be smaller and more environmentally sustainable vehicles, such as golf carts, cargo bikes, and other forms of micro-mobility that don't present the same dangers as large trucks pose to vulnerable road users.

**It is critical that the City's parks be comfortable, safe and accessible to people of all ages and abilities.** Torontonians deserve a network of parks and green spaces where they can access opportunities for leisure recreation activities, the quiet and calm that comes with being in green spaces, and places for social gathering. Parks are for people, not for vehicle traffic.

Like many Councillors, we have been hearing from our supporters of the increasing volume of Ford 150's, large dump trucks as well as gas powered leaf blowers diminishing their enjoyment of Toronto's parks. One of our members, upon recently returning from New York City remarked that "Central Park has no cars. If New York can preserve parks for people, why can't Toronto?"

**Cycle Toronto iterates our call for a car-free High Park.** In addition to the people who want to enjoy the park without fear of being hit by a car, the removal of vehicular traffic will benefit the survival of the vulnerable turtle species that live in High Park.

Motor vehicles cause damage to roadways, pedestrians, fields and turf, as well as the wildlife that live in our parks. Parks are for people. Please advance the work towards making High Park car-free.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alison Stewart".

Alison Stewart

Director, Advocacy and Public Policy

*Cycle Toronto is a member-supported charity that works to make Toronto a safe, healthy, and vibrant cycling city for all.*

