

City Council

MM23.27	ACTION			Ward: All
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Authority to Negotiate and Enter Operation and Maintenance Agreement with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority to Realize Meadoway, by Deputy Mayor McKelvie, seconded by Councillor Paul Ainslie

** This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

** This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral. This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate.*

Recommendations

Deputy Mayor McKelvie, seconded by Councillor Paul Ainslie, recommends that:

1. City Council direct General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, in consultation with General Manager Transportation Services, and the Executive Director of Environment and Climate, and the Executive Director Corporate Real Estate Management, to negotiate and execute an operation and maintenance agreement with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority to realize the Meadoway project on terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager Parks, Forestry and Recreation and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor, and to prepare and execute any related documents on behalf of the City of Toronto, as required.
2. City Council direct General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, General Manager Transportation Services, and the Executive Director of Environment and Climate, to submit any required budget submissions to realize the Meadoway maintenance agreement to the 2026 budget process.
3. City Council direct Executive Director Corporate Real Estate Management, in consultation with General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, General Manager Transportation Services, and Executive Director Environment and Climate, to seek any required permissions from Hydro One and Ontario Infrastructure and Lands Corporation (OILC) for the implementation and maintenance of the Meadoway, and execute any related documents on the behalf of the City of Toronto, on terms satisfactory to the Executive Director Corporate Real Estate Management, and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

Summary

The Meadoway is transforming a hydro corridor in Scarborough into a vibrant 16-kilometre stretch of urban greenspace and meadowland that will become one of Canada's largest linear urban parks.

The trail provides a critical connection between downtown Toronto and Rouge National Urban Park, providing a safer and more naturalized option for users. It will bloom into a rich meadow with butterflies, birds, and wildflowers at a scale unprecedented in Toronto.

The Meadoway will link seven river systems, 15 parks, 16 kilometers of trails, 13 neighborhoods, 200 hectares of meadow, and over 1,000 species of flora and fauna. This initiative connects communities and revitalizes our city's landscape and how we navigate it.

Staff at the City continue to work alongside partners at Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and Hydro One to realize the vision of the Meadoway and require a long-term maintenance and operations agreement to guide the delivery and implementation of the project. While operational details and responsibilities need to be more clearly delineated, it is envisioned that broad responsibilities would be:

- Parks: turf maintenance and parks assets
- Forestry: tree and shrub maintenance
- Transportation: trails and trail infrastructure
- TRCA: maintenance of meadow plantings / meadow areas

All associated maintenance expenditures will be incorporated as part of 2026 Operating Budget Submission, including pursuing other alternative funding sources.

Reason for Urgency: To ensure execution of the operating agreement.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM23.27

(<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2024/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-250561.pdf>)