From: Lynn Miller

To: councilmeeting

Cc: Councillor Fletcher

Subject: [External Sender] Toronto Agenda Item 2025.MM33.19

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City of Toronto Agenda Item

2025.MM33.19 - Protecting the Cottonwood Flats and the Lower Don Lands - by Councillor Paula Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Frances Nunziata https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.MM33.19

I am writing to express my support of this motion to protect Cottonwoods Flats and other natural areas from illegal raves and the damage they cause to ecosystems.

As President of the Toronto Field Naturalists and Team Leader of the Community Stewardship Program at Cottonwoods Flats, I have witnessed first-hand the aftermath of these raves. For example: vegetation crushed down to bare earth, human feces scattered in stewardship work zones, soil compacted to such an extent that nothing grows back, and resident animals driven from the area.

The easy access to the site for vehicles is a significant factor in why Cottonwoods Flats is chosen for raves. Adding more barriers so that cars and vans can't enter the parklands would be a much needed first step in preventing further damage.

Lynn Miller President, Toronto Field Naturalists