

March 20, 2026

Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

IE27.7 - Ravine Strategy 2026 Implementation Update

To Mayor Chow, and Toronto City Council:

As an active and outspoken member of Toronto's ravine community since 1990, I would like to offer my suggestions to improve the City's Ravine Strategy, recognizing increasing private development and public infrastructure pressures:

In light of challenges to long-established city and TRCA bylaws, regulations, and planning frameworks; City Council should direct staff to establish a framework, including legal strategies and tactics, to effectively respond to the Ontario Land Tribunal, which is already actively turning back 70+ years of environmental protections and restorations in Toronto to reward developers.

City Council should establish a working committee to engage Alto High-Speed Rail as soon as possible to proactively protect the Don Valley, and Toronto's ravine and natural spaces in general, from the construction of a new, high-speed passenger rail network. We should learn from the environmentally devastating Metrolinx experience and not allow ALTO to run roughshod over Toronto's ravines and parks with additional heavy-handed tree cutting.

**Ravine Edge Protection** is not sufficient.

The City of Toronto needs to address environmental site assessments (ESAs), and **Ravine Protection below Top of Slope**, from private development and from public infrastructure pressures.

My ravine advocacy journey began as a volunteer with the Task Force to Bring Back the Don, a councillor/citizen coalition that was extremely successful in implementing many of the strategies, trails and ecological restorations Torontonians enjoy today, until it was disbanded by Mayor Rob Ford in 2010.

I am a Lead Steward with Toronto Nature Stewards, a member of the leadership team of Lost Rivers, an active member of Toronto Field Naturalists, a founding board member of Don't Mess With the Don, founder of A Park for All, and continue to contribute to the city's Community Stewardship Program as a Tree Captain.

I am happy to support the Ravine Strategy 2026 Implementation Update, based on the achievements of the strategy to date, and plans for the future.

That said, I am encouraging the City of Toronto to do more, and to do it faster.

Thank you,

Floyd Ruskin

Ravine and Park Advocate  
Founder: A Park for All