



High Park Natural Environment Committee
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March 21, 2026

To: councilmeeting@toronto.ca
Cc: councillor_saxe@toronto.ca, protectourravinetoronto@gmail.com

Subject: **IE27.7 Ravine Strategy 2026 Implementation Update - Recommendation 7**

We urge the adoption of Recommendation 7 and we endorse the following words of Protect Our Ravines Initiative and Friends of Glen Stewart Ravine:

The Ravine Strategy 2026 Implementation Update report treats ravine "protection" almost entirely as ecological stewardship only, that is, restoration through invasive species management and trail investment. That work matters. But it does not address the urgent and recurring threat of development pressure at ravine edges.

The current 10 m setback only addresses safety and it is not even being applied consistently. But, to protect the complex ecological functions of an ESA, a greater level of protection (actual distance from a development to an ESA provided by a buffer zone) is needed.

Edge effects occur when the environmental conditions of an adjacent developed area penetrate the natural feature, altering its microclimate and biological composition. Scientific studies show that narrow buffers allow for the rapid spread of invasive species and the degradation of interior forest habitat. That precious habitat is what is critical to our ESA's ability to sustain rare species and play their crucial role in the natural heritage system.

Recommendation #7 is a first step towards identifying the gaps in the system that allow development that threatens the integrity of our ravines, and addressing those gaps. It will benefit ravines across the city.

Please protect our ravines and Environmentally Significant Areas for future generations. Thank you.

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The High Park Natural Environment Committee has been educating the public and advocating for the natural heritage of Toronto's High Park since 1993.