



Todmorden Mills Wildflower Preserve

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March 24, 2026

To: City of Toronto Council

Re: Comments on Item IE27.7 Ravine Strategy 2026 Implementation Update –Recommendation 7

To Mayor Chow, and Toronto City Council,

Development on the ravine edges is happening not just in one ward, but **in many wards** across the city. We are losing our natural habitats at a fast pace. The developers are increasing the scale of the developments in size, number of stories and ever nearer to the edges, all the while saying that the impacts will be negligible or balanced. Councillors, **the brakes need to be applied** if we are to have our natural areas for public use in good condition in the future!

Todmorden Mills Wildflower Preserve supports Councillor Dianne Saxe's motion, which is now Recommendation 7 in Item # IE27.7 on the Council agenda. Whatever it takes, the city must step up and begin to enforce and support the documents upon which a good foundation has been built: The Ravine Strategy and the Toronto Biodiversity Strategy.

In addition, we ask that some consultations be held with stakeholders to further develop some creative ideas and strategies for increased protection.

Who is Todmorden Mills Wildflower Preserve? Why development at the top of ravines matters to us:

We are a volunteer stewardship group which works in the natural area of Todmorden Mills Park in Ward 14. We have worked for many years removing invasive plants, planting native plants with community and youth, conducting guided walks and enhancing existing wetlands on the site. It was named Todmorden Mills Wildflower Preserve by the late Charles Sauriol, a prominent conservationist and author who was a founding member of the Preserve. It is a small location - just under 10 hectares, a part of the Don Valley. It is designated on the Official Plan on Map 12 as Environmentally Significant Area # 80. One of the reasons for this designation is that it "contributes appreciably to the healthy maintenance of a natural ecosystem beyond its boundaries, such as **...serving as a water storage or recharge area**" (O.P. Chapter 3, 3.4, 13d) and "**substantial seepage supports additional diversity and contributes to amphibian breeding areas.**" (Toronto ESA Study: Todmorden Mills, June 2012). **The groundwater seepage throughout the site is of vital importance to the ecological integrity of the site.**

At our ravine site we are very concerned about the possible impacts on the ravine of a large the proposed development on Broadview Avenue. In 2018 the development proposed was to be about **14** stories. The developer has reapplied for **26** stories in 2025. There will be many negative environmental impacts at the site, **but the worst impact from this proposed development will be that the underground parking will intersect groundwater seepage and this loss will impact the beautiful and important wetlands** at the site, perhaps reducing them to a point where they can no longer sustain the special plants, or provide the flood control holding back much stormwater during heavy rain events. In short, it will likely no longer be an Environmentally Significant Area, and the city will lose the ecosystem services that it has provided, and the beauty and peaceful ambiance that people seek when visiting.

Paula Davies, President

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