To: Infrastructure and Environment Committee

Attn: Matthew Green
Toronto City Hall 100 Queen Street West Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
Re: Item IE27.7 - Ravine Strategy 2026 Implementation Update
Infrastructure and Environment Committee, Meeting 27; February 25, 2026 - 9:30 AM

To the Infrastructure and Environment Committee,

In 2021 a pilot program was initiated between the City Environment, Climate and Forestry Division and Toronto Nature Stewards (TNS) along with assistance from U of T Daniels Forestry. The goal was to improve the ecological integrity of small patches of ravines and natural areas by removing invasive plants. Training was developed by Toronto Nature Stewards for a group of **23** volunteers who would become Lead Stewards. They, in turn, recruited stewards to conduct boots-on-the-ground ecological restoration at **8** sites.

Last year, we celebrated our fifth year of TNS community-led stewardship on **50** sites across the city, with **2,079** trained Lead Stewards and their stewards removing over **10,003** bags of invasive plants, planting **8,319** native plants, holding **3,505** events and putting in about **44,753** volunteer hours, all benefiting Toronto's Ravines and Natural Areas over this five-year period.

We are pleased to work collaboratively with the Environment, Climate and Forestry Division as part of the Program to continue improving the health and biodiversity of our natural areas. Working with the City to achieve the goals of the Ravine Strategy and Biodiversity Strategy is a priority as we move forward in 2026 and beyond. The financial support from the City will increase the effectiveness of stewardship at TNS sites and help reduce the negative impacts of invasive plants, which are a major cause of biodiversity loss and habitat degradation.

We look forward to working together on this important program.

Sincerely,

Paula Davies, TNS Ecology Circle Lead
Anna Meng, TNS Stewardship Ecologist and Learning Circle Lead
Sandy Smith, Director of the Institute of Forestry & Conservation, University of Toronto