

NOTICE OF MOTION

Authority to Accept Donations from Midtown Ravines Group for the Vale of Avoca Improvement Project

Moved by: Councillor

Saxe
Matlow

Seconded by: Councillor

SUMMARY:

The City of Toronto and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) have initiated the Vale of Avoca Improvement Project (VoAIP), in the Yellow Creek ravine near Yonge Street and St. Clair Ave East. This project will develop a coordinated plan to mitigate erosion hazards, enhance natural features, and improve how people access, move through and experience the Vale of Avoca ravine. The ravine straddles Toronto wards University-Rosedale and Toronto-St. Paul's.

The erosion hazards present risks to municipal infrastructure, trails, access points to the ravine, and adjacent properties. Certain informal trails are in poor condition, and two staircases providing access to the ravine have been closed. Without the construction of adequate erosion control measures, the banks will continue to erode, and slope instabilities will worsen.

The proposed scope of work for this project includes site evaluation, engagement and design services to develop a coordinated ravine improvement plan that:

- stabilizes the creek, protects the long-term stable top of bank, and mitigates erosion hazards
- preserves and enhances natural features
- improves how people access, move through and experience the ravine system.

In 2026, TRCA released an RFP to procure a proponent to carry out these professional services.

The Midtown Ravine Group (MRG) is a registered charity created by ten local residents' associations, formed to raise consciousness about the state of midtown ravines, raise funds for improvements, and mobilize community participation in ravine stewardship. MRG is actively participating in stakeholder engagement with the City and TRCA.

MRG wishes to fundraise and contribute funds to the Vale of Avoca Improvement Project. Donations would be put towards projects approved by the City and TRCA project team, in consultation with MRG, with a focus on amenities that improve trail user experience in

the ravine. MRG also wishes to donate in-kind services to the project related to Invasive Species Mapping, an Ecological Land Classification Report, and a Baseline Biological Inventories Report.

The recommendations in this Motion would provide the necessary authority for the City to accept and spend the donated funds. While the final amount MRG will be able to fundraise is unknown, it is expected to be more than \$50,000. Under the City of Toronto Donation Policy, any donation from one donor exceeding \$50,000 per year requires City Council authority to accept.

This motion is urgent to allow fundraising and agreement planning to proceed in alignment with the projected Vale of Avoca Improvement Project schedule.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Councillor Saxe recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the General Manager, Parks and Recreation, to accept any cash donations from Midtown Ravines Group, a Toronto-based registered charity, that exceed the authority delegated to a Division Head under section 8.2 of the City of Toronto Donation Policy (\$50,000), and to allocate the funds to the Vale of Avoca Improvement Project for the purpose of eligible capital improvements to the ravine. Such acceptance shall otherwise accord with applicable City policy, including the City of Toronto Donation Policy and the Ravine Strategy, and shall be conditional upon the parties entering into a written agreement.
2. City Council authorize the General Manager, Parks and Recreation, to accept in-kind donations in the form of services from Midtown Ravines Group, including invasive species mapping, ecological land classification reporting, and baseline biological inventory reporting, that exceed the authority delegated to a Division Head under section 8.2 of the City of Toronto Donation Policy (\$50,000), for the purpose of supporting the Vale of Avoca Improvement Project. Such acceptance shall otherwise accord with applicable City policy, including the City of Toronto Donation Policy, and shall be conditional upon the parties entering into a written agreement.
3. City Council authorize the General Manager, Parks and Recreation, to negotiate and execute any agreements with Midtown Ravines Group necessary to give effect to Recommendations 1 and 2, on terms and conditions acceptable to the General Manager, Parks and Recreation, and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor, and in accordance with City policies applicable to capital projects, including procurement policies, the City's Fair Wage Policy, and the City's Labour Trades Contractual Obligations in the Construction Industry, if applicable.

July 29, 2026