

PH29.11 - Impact Assessment of Extended Flightpath at Billy Bishop Airport, Lenka Holubec, ProtectNatureTO

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Nancy Martins

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

Telephone: 416 - 397-4579

Fax: 416 - 392-2980

Email: phc@toronto.ca

Cc: mayor_chow@toronto.ca; councillor_perks@toronto.ca; councillor_nunziata@toronto.ca; councillor_bradford@toronto.ca; [Councillor Myers@toronto.ca](mailto:Councillor_Myers@toronto.ca); [Councillor Crisanti@toronto.ca](mailto:Councillor_Crisanti@toronto.ca); councillor_matlow@toronto.ca; john.mackenzie@trca.ca, communications@portstoronto.com; information@iaac-aeic.gc.ca; David.Stonehouse@toronto.ca; Steven.MacKinnon@parl.gc.ca; [Councillor Saxe@toronto.ca](mailto:Councillor_Saxe@toronto.ca); councillor_fletcher@toronto.ca

RE: PH29.11 - Impact Assessment of Extended Flightpath at Billy Bishop Airport

Dear Chair Councillor Perks, Vice Chair Councillor Nunziata and all Committee Members,

This is to support Councillor Matlow's recommendation and *"request for support to have staff study the prospective impact on future housing supply of expanding the flightpath at Billy Bishop Airport to accommodate jets"*

also

to strongly encourage staff study to consider potential impacts of expanding the flightpath at Billy Bishop Airport to accommodate jets to the entire range and magnitude of issues as waterfront plays a central role for Toronto from many critical perspectives past future housing supply.

[Metropolitan Waterfront Plan, February 1994](#)

- The waterfront is a unique and fragile resource. Its vulnerability is partly due its attractiveness for many uses.
- The waterfront has always played an important role in Metropolitan Toronto and is integral part of its identity.
- Proximity to Lake Ontario has strongly influenced the patterns of human use and settlement in the region. An aboriginal presence on the waterfront dates back 10,000 years.
- The waterfront has always been a key determination in the location of urban settlement because of the natural resources to sustain human life.
- Since early 90th, there was a growing awareness in the City of Toronto of having to protect remaining valuable natural areas. Too often in the past, we have considered green space as an afterthought, what was left over after development took its course.

- In the urban context, the planning priority is to ensure that we benefit from the natural system, while not unduly impairing natural processes. The state of the ecosystem's health is vitally important to Metropolitan Toronto.
- The ecosystem approach requires us to look beyond a particular site to what is happening in the next bay and in the whole watershed, and to have regard for cumulative impacts.
- A new structure in the lake at one site may destroy the beaches at another.

Yours sincerely,

Lenka Holubec, member of [ProtectNatureTO](#) and [HighParkNature](#)

Resource

[The Metropolitan Waterfront Plan \(1994\)](#)



Guiding Principles

The Waterfront Plan has been developed in accordance with principles that reflect the predominant vision expressed by the public and by the Metropolitan Waterfront Committee. The following central values emerged from the consultations during preparation of the Plan.

Accessibility: There must be full public access to the services, facilities and opportunities of the waterfront.

Sharing the Benefits: The waterfront is a public asset that belongs to all the people of Metropolitan Toronto and beyond, not just those who live or work along the shore.

Balance and Diversity: The waterfront should support a diversity of uses, with an emphasis on activities that are lake-related and that contribute to the unique character of the waterfront.

Responsible Stewardship: Individuals, organizations and governments must share the stewardship responsibility and work cooperatively to achieve a healthy, vibrant and accessible waterfront.

Objectives

The waterfront gives the urban community one of its distinctive features — a place on the lake. Among major cities across North America, Metropolitan Toronto is known for its recreational and tourist attractions and green spaces on the water. The waterfront has important natural features, and it contributes to the economic vitality of the region and the well-being of Metropolitan residents.

The objectives of the Waterfront Plan are presented below. In the chapters that follow, the policies designed to achieve these objectives are set out in detail. The objectives are presented here together to provide an overview of what should ultimately be accomplished.

The objectives of the Waterfront Plan are:

- To plan and manage the Waterfront Green Space System in a way that restores, maintains, and enhances ecosystem integrity, improves physical connections to other green spaces, and meets the recreational and leisure needs of the Metropolitan Toronto population;
- To protect and enhance inter-regional access to and through the Metropolitan Waterfront and encourage increased reliance on transit, commuter rail and marine transportation, to enhance physical and visual access between the urban community and the Metropolitan Waterfront and provide for continuous public access along the Metropolitan Waterfront for public use and enjoyment;
- To ensure a balanced use of Metropolitan Waterfront lands supporting residential, employment and recreational activities in a manner which sustains the waterfront as an accessible public resource;
- To promote a high standard of quality in the physical form of the Metropolitan Waterfront to reflect its importance to the identity and liveability of the metropolis.

[The Metropolitan Waterfront Plan \(1994\)](#)

The Plan is intended to ensure that there is a balance of uses along the waterfront, that sensitive environmental and heritage areas are protected, that green space and access to it are expanded, and that sites of importance to the region's economic vitality are maintained and improved.

For example, the transportation corridors are crucial for mobility and enterprise within the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), which includes Metropolitan Toronto and the four regional municipalities of Durham, Halton, Peel, and York, encompassing an area of over 7,060 square kilometres. The Plan directs that the demands of both local and regional access must be accommodated. It should be easier for people travelling by public transit, by bicycle, and on foot to overcome the barriers posed by expressways and railway lines. But there must still be regional vehicular access to and through the waterfront.

An ecosystem approach recognizes the dynamic and complex interactions of natural and human communities and processes.

Some natural areas need to be protected from human traffic, while other parts of the waterfront are clearly people places that provide for recreational opportunities, cultural events and commercial activity. The Plan aims to protect certain sites, particularly those significant natural resources within a defined Waterfront Environmental Impact Zone (see Chapter 5), and endeavours to reconnect the natural systems along the waterfront.

Competing demands for rare waterfront resources must be managed, and priorities identified. The policies protect and enhance public places for human activities, and encourage public and private development to fit better into the overall character of the waterfront. The result should be a social and built environment that is compatible with the natural one.

An Ecosystem Approach



An ecosystem is a network formed by the interaction of living things, including humans, with one another and with their habitat. The waterfront planning process takes an ecosystem approach that recognizes the dynamic and complex interactions of natural and human communities and processes, on a scale from the microscopic to the global. This approach to planning implies the recognition of natural boundaries, necessitating a greater degree of inter-governmental collaboration. It also requires policies that recognize a broader spectrum of issues and which take into account connections between the various components of the ecosystem.

In the urban context, the planning priority is to ensure that we benefit from the natural system while not unduly impairing natural processes. The state of the ecosystem's health is vitally important to Metropolitan Toronto. Water quality, for example, influences public health and recreational opportunities for residents. Public works facilities play an essential role in safeguarding a high quality of life.

Too often in the past, we have considered green space as an afterthought, what was left over after development took its course. We now realize that if any natural spaces are to remain, we must take a pro-active approach to saving them.



The ecosystem approach requires us to look beyond a particular site to what is happening in the next bay and in the whole watershed, and to have regard for cumulative impacts. A new structure in the lake at one site may destroy the beaches at another. Factors outside the shore area, such as upstream activities, have a major impact on the quality of the shoreline environment. All elements of the community have complex and changing relationships that require coordination and consideration.