



Deputy Mayor

PAUL AINSLIE

CITY OF TORONTO - COUNCILLOR
WARD 24 SCARBOROUGH-GUILDWOOD

100 QUEEN STREET WEST, SUITE C52
COUNCILLOR_AINSLIE@TORONTO.CA
416-392-4008

150 BOROUGH DRIVE, 2ND FLOOR
COUNCILLOR_AINSLIE_CO@TORONTO.CA
416-396-7222

CHAIR, GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
CHAIR, SCARBOROUGH COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CHAIR, BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF THE TORONTO ZOO
PRESIDENT, GOOD ROADS BOARD OF DIRECTORS
NIGHT ECONOMY CHAMPION, CITY OF TORONTO

Date: May 7, 2026

To: Scarborough Community Council Members

Re: Name change of the portion of the Zoo Road

The Scarborough Community Council recommends that:

1. City Council waive Section 6 of the Street Naming Policy and approve the name "Rouge National Urban Park Road" for the renaming of a section of Zoo Road extending from Meadowvale Road and Zoo Road south intersection traffic control signals, continuing eastwards to the entrance of Rouge National Urban Park.
2. City Council request the Director, Engineering Support Services, Engineering and Construction Services, and the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture to undertake any required technical, administrative, mapping, and by-law amendments necessary to implement the street renaming by the end of 2026.
3. City Council request the General Manager, Transportation Services to install, remove and/or replace all necessary street name signage by the end of 2026.

Background

Rouge National Urban Park stands as a landscape of national significance and a defining feature of the Greater Toronto Area. As Canada's largest urban park, it welcomes hundreds of thousands of visitors annually and serves as a vital sanctuary for biodiversity and conservation education. The park reached a major milestone last year, marking a decade since the federal government's commitment to its creation, and we must now look toward the next critical phase of its development.

The park is currently undergoing a transformative expansion, with the new \$20 million Rouge National Urban Park Visitor, Learning and Community Centre scheduled for its grand opening in 2027. This facility will serve as the primary gateway for residents and tourists to experience the park's full potential, making it essential that the transportation links and arrival points are clearly established and intuitively named well in advance of the opening date.

Currently, two separate roadways share the name "Zoo Road," which creates significant navigational confusion. The eastern portion—while retaining the name—no longer leads to the Toronto Zoo and instead functions as the main access route for the national park. This duplication creates challenges for first-time visitors who find themselves misdirected and places an operational strain on local stakeholders like the ZooShare Biogas Plant, which has reported years of fielding calls from lost suppliers. Furthermore, clear and distinct road names are a prerequisite for efficient emergency response times within the park and surrounding industrial areas.

This renaming is not merely an administrative change but a unified request from every major tenant in the area, including Parks Canada (Appendix 1), the Toronto Zoo (Appendix 2), the Friends of Rouge National Urban Park (Appendix 3), the Waterfront Regeneration Trust (Appendix 4), and the ZooShare Biogas Co-operative (Appendix 5). This request meets the spirit of the policy through its unanimous institutional support and the undeniable suitability of the name “Rouge National Urban Park Road” for this specific location.

Given the impending 2027 opening and the low-cost, high-impact nature of this improvement, I am requesting to approve this renaming. It mirrors previous successful renamings, which strengthened the identity of a major City landmarks. Approval will ensure all technical mapping and signage updates are completed in time for the park's next chapter.

Sincerely,

Paul W. Ainslie
Deputy Mayor, City of Toronto, Councillor
Ward 24 Scarborough-Guildwood

Appendix 1



April 22, 2026

Deputy Mayor Paul Ainslie
Toronto City Council
Toronto, Ontario
Via Email

Dear Deputy Mayor Ainslie,

Re: Support for Renaming Zoo Road (East of Meadowvale Road)

I am writing on behalf of Parks Canada and Rouge National Urban Park to express our support for the proposed renaming of *Zoo Road, east of Meadowvale Road*, to *Rouge National Urban Park Road*.

This portion of Zoo Road will serve as the primary access route to next *Rouge National Urban Park Visitor, Learning and Community Centre* in 2027. The continued use of the current road name for two distinct corridors creates avoidable confusion for visitors, residents, and emergency services — particularly for first-time visitors who rely on clear and intuitive navigation.

Rouge National Urban Park is Canada's largest urban park and a place of national significance, welcoming hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. This road corridor functions as the main gateway to the Park and will become even more prominent with the opening of the new *Rouge National Urban Park Visitor, Learning and Community Centre* in 2027. Aligning the road corridor name with its destination would provide visitors with a clear sense of a welcoming arrival and reinforce the Park's identity within the city and the GTA.

Canada

Renaming this road corridor is a modest, practical, and low-cost measure that would significantly improve wayfinding, enhance visitor experience, and support safe and efficient access to the Rouge National Urban Park. While directional signage plays an important role, it cannot fully mitigate the underlying challenges created by duplicate road names serving different destinations.

This proposed change is well aligned with shared objectives around accessibility, clarity, and welcoming public spaces.

We appreciate your consideration of this initiative and your continued support for Rouge National Urban Park and the surrounding communities. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any additional information.

Yours sincerely,

Mikailou Sy

Sy, Mikailou  Digitally signed by Sy,
Mikailou
Date: 2026.04.22 15:41:36
-04'00'

Field Unit Superintendent, Rouge
Parks Canada

Appendix 2



361A Old Finch Ave.
Toronto, ON M1B 5K7
www.torontozoo.com

Tel: 416-392-5900
info@torontozoo.ca

April 24, 2026

Deputy Mayor Paul Ainslie
Toronto City Council

Dear Deputy Mayor Ainslie and Members of Council,

On behalf of the staff and volunteers at your Toronto Zoo, I am writing to express our strong support for proposed renaming the eastern portion (east of Meadowvale Road ramp) of Zoo Road to Rouge National Urban Park Road.

This proposed name change appropriately reflects the important relationship between your Toronto Zoo, Rouge National Urban Park, and the broader natural area in which we are located. The Zoo is situated within the Rouge area and has long shared a close connection with the park and its conservation mission.

We believe this renaming of the eastern portion will help strengthen awareness of the area, improve wayfinding, and better align the road name with the identity of this growing destination. It also recognizes the significance of Rouge National Urban Park as a major public green space in Toronto and the surrounding region.

Your Toronto Zoo looks forward to welcoming more guests to the area and continuing to work collaboratively with Parks Canada in support of conservation, education, and protecting nature. We value the ongoing partnership that has helped shape this shared landscape, including the longstanding cooperation between the Zoo and Parks Canada

Thank you for your consideration of this motion and for your continued support of your Toronto Zoo.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dolf DeJong", written over a horizontal line.

Dolf DeJong
Chief Executive Officer
Toronto Zoo



FRIENDS OF
THE ROUGE
National Urban Park

April 20, 2026

Hon. Pauline Browes, P.C., Chair

Peter Bashaw

Hon. Michael Chong, P.C., M.P.

Hon. David Crombie, P.C., O.C., OOnt.

Glenn DeBaeremaeker

Hon. Peter Kent, P.C., M.P.

Marlaine Koehler

Keith Laushway

John Livey

Ted Matthews

Heather Moeser

Larry Noonan

Deputy Mayor Paul Ainslie
Toronto City Council
Toronto, Ontario

Via Email

Dear Paul,

Re: Zoo Road Name Change

The Friends of Rouge National Urban Park recommend that Zoo Road (east of Meadowvale Road) be renamed **Rouge National Urban Park Road**.

As the owner of this municipal road, the City of Toronto plays an important role in shaping how residents and visitors experience one of Canada's most significant natural destinations. This proposed change offers a simple, practical way to support clarity, safety, and a welcoming visitor experience.

Currently, two separate roads share the name Zoo Road, even though one no longer leads to the Toronto Zoo and instead serves as the primary access route to the Park. This duplication creates unnecessary confusion—particularly for first-time visitors and tourists who rely on clear, intuitive navigation.

This road is the main entrance to Rouge National Urban Park and will serve as the access point to the new \$20 million Visitor Centre opening in 2027. Renaming it to reflect its destination would provide a clear and confident sense of arrival.

Rouge National Urban Park is a nationally significant landscape and a defining feature of the Greater Toronto Area. Clear access and strong identity are essential to realizing its full potential.

This is a modest but meaningful step that would complement the City's ongoing contributions to the Rouge and enhance the visitor experience.

Your consideration of this request is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Hon. Pauline Browes P.C.
Chair, Friends of the RNUP
647-284-5426
browes@rogers.com

10 GUILDWOOD PARKWAY, STE. 627
TORONTO ONTARIO M1E 5B5
EMAIL: PAULINEBROWES@ROGERS.COM



Waterfront
Regeneration Trust

PROTECT
CONNECT
CELEBRATE

April 20, 2026

Deputy Mayor Paul Ainslie,
City of Toronto,
Toronto, ON

Via Email

Dear Mr. Ainslie,

Road Name Change

We are writing to express our strong support for the proposed renaming of Zoo Road to **Rouge National Urban Park Road**—a name that better reflects its function as a principal access route to Rouge National Urban Park.

This change is a practical measure that will improve navigation and reduce confusion for visitors. Currently, two separate roads share the name Zoo Road, even though one no longer provides access to the Toronto Zoo and instead serves as a key route into the Park. This overlap can be misleading, particularly for those unfamiliar with the area.

Rouge National Urban Park is an exceptional place of national importance and a cornerstone of the Greater Toronto Area's natural and recreational landscape. Its main points of entry should be easy to identify and clearly connected to the destination they serve. Aligning the road name with the Park would strengthen orientation and support a more seamless arrival experience.

While both roads continue to serve important functions, their current naming does not distinguish their roles. Directional signage can assist at key intersections, but it cannot fully address the underlying confusion created by duplicate names.

Renaming this road is a straightforward and low-cost improvement that will enhance access and contribute to a more intuitive and positive experience for visitors.

For these reasons, we wholeheartedly support this initiative from the Friends of the Rouge National Urban Park and encourage its timely implementation.

Sincerely,

Marlaime Koehler
Executive Director
Waterfront Regeneration Trust

Waterfront Regeneration Trust
A registered charity regenerating Ontario's Great Lakes since 1999
4195 Dundas Street West, Ste 327 Toronto, ON M8X 1Y4
416-943-8080 www.WaterfrontTrail.org



April 23, 2026

Deputy Mayor Paul Ainslie
Toronto City Council
Toronto, Ontario

Re: Zoo Road Name Change

Dear Mr. Ainslie,

The ZooShare Biogas Co-operative would like to express strong support for the proposed renaming of Zoo Road to Rouge National Urban Park Road.

As the owner of the ZooShare Biogas Plant, which is located just south of Zoo Road - the Zoo Road that is east of Meadowvale Road - the change in name would alleviate confusion for our visitors, suppliers, and service providers. After years of fielding calls from people trying to find the Biogas Plant, we believe that the proposed road name change will benefit everyone who travels to the area.

The Rouge National Urban Park is a jewel in the heart of the GTA. Once the construction of the Rouge National Urban Park Visitors Centre is complete, the area will undoubtedly experience more traffic so it essential that the transportation links that guide visitors to the site be clear and easy to identify. Renaming the access road to the Rouge National Urban Park Visitors Centre will create a simple and clear travel experience for all users.

This is an easy, elegant solution to what has traditionally been a very confusing and challenging situation. We strongly support this initiative and encourage the City to expedite this proposal.

Sincerely,

Rob Grand
General Manager
ZooShare Biogas Co-operative Inc

ZooShare Biogas Co-operative 170 The Donway West, Suite 153 Toronto, ON M3C 2E8

Appendix 6

