

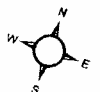
ROUGE CREEK CORRIDOR

 Rouge Creek Corridor

Ownership

 TRCA

 MARKHAM



At this point, a number of site-specific options were developed for 11 Areas of Special Consideration, where there were competing interests/opportunities. A detailed description of the enhanced themes and areas of special consideration, along with recommendations for each, can be found in Appendix C.

Following discussions with the Steering Committee refined versions of the management alternatives were presented at a facilitated Stakeholder Workshop on June 23rd, 2005. The workshop was conducted in a similar manner to the Phase 1 workshop, with previous participants (and others) invited to attend. A Public Open House/Workshop, with neutral facilitation, was held on September 22, 2005 to present and discuss the alternative management themes.

Comments from the workshop and public were assembled and compiled in report form and are summarized along with the management alternative plans and descriptions, in Appendix C.



Natural Heritage protection is a key consideration for trails development and use in Rouge Park

Phase 3: Recommended Management and Implementation Plan

Phase 3 involved the evaluation of alternative management themes developed in Phase 2 and the identification of a preferred management approach developed in consultation with the Steering Committee, stakeholders and the Rouge Park Alliance members. This identification process considered:

- an ecological strategy which focuses on the achievement of the terrestrial corridor, and other habitat/enhancement creation opportunities;
- a cultural heritage preservation strategy, including archaeological and cultural heritage landscapes;
- a recreation strategy for trails and amenity area development, and other outdoor recreation activities, as have been deemed compatible;
- a financial, economic and management strategy that considered revenue generation potential, park operations and governance issues.

Based on discussions and feedback, the preferred management approach was further developed into a plan that illustrates such features as: landscape management zones and permitted land uses, cultural heritage resources, trail routing and support areas, and other recreation areas.

The graphic plan is supported by a strategy and recommendations for:

- natural heritage resource protection and management within, and adjacent to, a defined ecological corridor that supports interior forest objectives and the protection/enhancement of biodiversity;
- preservation and management of cultural heritage resources, including recommendations for potential adaptive re-use of historic buildings, and protection/integration of existing settlement areas, cultural heritage landscapes, and archaeological sites;
- integration of nature-based, recreation and visitor opportunities that are compatible with ecological objectives and supported by existing recreation sites;
- an implementation strategy including capital costs for budget purposes and recommendations for phasing.

5.8 Summary of Natural Heritage Recommendations

Natural Heritage General

- 5.1 Prior to restoration, site-specific analyses should determine existing conditions and appropriate restoration approach. This includes an examination of surrounding habitats and species composition; soil characteristics and moisture levels; site goals and connections to other restoration areas; potential invasive species issues, and projected costs.
- 5.2 For restoration projects, seek technical and financial partnerships with volunteer organizations; Government of Canada; Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources; TRCA; York Region; Trees Ontario Foundation; Friends on the Rouge Watershed; 10,000 Trees for the Rouge; public and private corporations.
- 5.3 To conserve the local gene pool, all plant material and/or seed sources for this project should originate from Tree Seed Zone 34 (OMNR 1996), in similar soil and moisture conditions to the installation site. Establishing a seed collection program within Rouge Park would support these efforts.
- 5.4 Ensure Park signage conveys significant natural heritage values and associated protection measures.
- 5.10 To rapidly establish forest conditions, the use of conifer seedling plantations should be considered.
- 5.11 In small areas, planting activities should be conducted by volunteer or school groups to promote education and community involvement. Rouge Park should be the coordinating body.
- 5.12 In large areas, mechanical plantings should be conducted, with equipment properly prepared to reduce weed seed bank in the soil.
- 5.13 Depressions should be created in large fields prior to restoration to encourage vernal pool development. These enhance wildlife composition and breeding grounds and grant access to drinking water. Nearby plantings should include Swamp White Oak, Black Willow and shrub willows, Balsam Poplar, Tulip Tree and Sassafras.
- 5.14 Restoration efforts must be accompanied by detailed inventory and monitoring activities to better ensure long-term success for reforestation and other renewal projects (i.e. all planting and seeding activities recorded in a databases). Consider existing databases such as TRCA's.

Forests / Restoration

- 5.5 Develop Comprehensive Forest Management Plans for habitat and biodiversity for all major forest tracts within the Corridor.
- 5.6 For reforestation, large circular or square patches of interior forest habitat (located 100m from forest edge) are recommended over elongated patches.
- 5.7 Forest blocks of at least 200 ha should be established within 2 km of one another. These may be located in the southern area north of Steeles, one in the vicinity of Highway 407 and one south of Major Mackenzie.
- 5.8 For each 10 ha area replanted with conifers, 4-6 hardwood nodes/enclosures (100 m² in size) should be established. Nodes should be more intensively managed to keep out deer, rabbits and voles. Depending on site location and conditions, caliper sized hardwoods such as oak, hickories, maples and ashes may be used.
- 5.9 Some Carolinian species should be considered for planting to further identify hardwood adaptation to warming climates.
- 5.15 Increase natural cover through plantings along the stream corridor and surrounding tableland, in combination with bank stabilization to preventing erosion and sedimentation of watercourses.
- 5.16 Maintain floodplain characteristics, seepage areas and supporting natural stream morphology to protect in-stream habitat for both fish and non-fish species.
- 5.17 Upon completion, make use of Rouge Watershed Fisheries Management Plan to help guide planning and management decisions related to in-stream barriers, future recreation fishing opportunities in the LRC, and further detail on stocking, regulation, access and facilities.
- 5.18 Support strict upstream development controls; promote stewardship of both public and private lands along the river valley through available tools (i.e. stewardship agreements for agricultural lands).

Riparian Corridors

Grassland and Hedgerows

- 5.19 *In consultation with local farmers, field conditions should be examined including nutrient status and residual chemicals. Leaching may be necessary prior to restoration.*
- 5.20 *Select hedgerows for renewal, with botanist/forester identifying significant trees and shrubs to be protected. Non-native species should be removed manually, with a topical herbicide applied to cut ends. Weedy non-native herbaceous material should be cut out and new trees and shrubs planted at reasonable intervals. Staking may be required for caliper material.*
- 5.21 *To regenerate native species at relatively low cost, native acorns and other nuts (walnut, hickory etc.) should be planted along hedgerows.*
- 5.22 *Weekend closures are suggested when restoration work is undertaken along roads.*

Natural Heritage Management

- 5.23 *Non-native invasive species should be removed through such methods as tilling, the use of herbicides and mulches, and in some cases controlled burning.*
- 5.24 *Restoration projects will require a review of non-native species in the immediate vicinity, accompanied by a control and elimination plan. Control methods will be based on species type and the nature of the restoration project.*
- 5.25 *Litter and debris should be removed from the creek valley and along roads through annual clean-up days with municipal or corporate sponsors providing gloves and equipment.*
- 5.26 *Erosion due to excessive use of wheeled vehicles on sensitive slopes should be prevented through fencing, with mountain biking activities channeled to more suitable areas such as abandoned quarries, old landfill sites or other industrial areas that are not a part of the natural environment. Partners may include the Town of Markham and the City of Toronto.*
- 5.27 *Establish a Park Warden / Park Superintendent (or similar) to the Provincial Parks model to maintain continual park presence; ensure public safety and protection of natural heritage; and liaise with public.*

Park Monitoring

- 5.28 *Establish ecological monitoring programs to identify breeding and migrating species; planting and restoration success; and changes in surrounding land uses. Volunteer monitoring along hedgerows is suggested, with Rouge Park as the coordinating body.*
- 5.29 *Establish monitoring programs for trail use and other public activity to identify destruction of understorey vegetation and slopes; damage to riparian vegetation and increases in creekbank erosion; and encroachment into adjacent areas. Seek input from trail users and local residents.*
- 5.30 *It is recommended that Rouge Park staff collaborate with local monitoring efforts (e.g. Citizen Scientists, Toronto Zoo turtle monitoring program).*
- 5.31 *Establish planting and seeding inventory to evaluate the success of different methods of renewal.*

Infrastructure Corridors

- 5.32 *To avoid further habitat fragmentation, roads should be designed and engineered in consideration of Rouge Park and its objectives. This includes retention of rural road character where possible; park-friendly design to provide for walking and cycling and signage for reduced speed limit.*
- 5.33 *Where wildlife crossings are considered, design should be based on the most up-to-date information available, and should draw upon the most effective practices in conservation biology or related disciplines (refer to current guidelines established by MTO and TRCA among others).*
- 5.34 *Where bridges and culverts are installed at roads and highways, they should be sized to provide for wildlife and human movement. Where specifically used to connect existing frog ponds to forested areas, culverts may range from 1m to 2m size based on species.*
- 5.35 *At underpasses like Reesor Road and Highway 407, provision should be made for cyclists and pedestrians. Vegetated ditches will also increase wildlife connections.*
- 5.36 *Where deemed necessary, the design of new or improved transportation corridors within the Park should be environmentally sensitive in design and incorporate means to protect and enhance the environmental functions of the area while having regard for the design requirements necessary to accommodate Transit routing and vehicles*

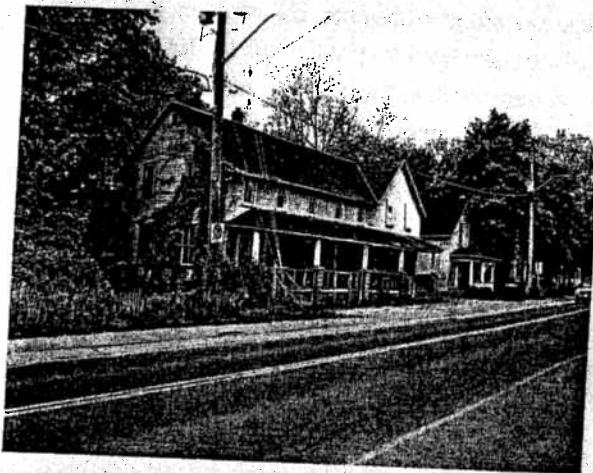
- 5.37 Management of vegetation along the CP Rail line right-of-way should be enhanced to provide increased cover and a suitable east-west linkage for wildlife, while recognizing any fire and safety standards put forward by CP Rail. Efforts to mitigate the spread of invasive species may be required along hydro corridors.
- 5.38 Consider the use of hydro and servicing corridors for pedestrian/cycle paths. Small wetlands, shrub and grassland habitats should also be created and maintained within these corridors, recognizing utility management requirements.
- 5.39 Long-term planning should coordinate utility corridors, making use of single major arteries where possible. For through connections, Highway 407 and the Markham Bypass are potential routes for east-west and north-south routes.
- 5.40 Due to significant impacts on Park ecology, buried utilities should not be located within areas of current or future ecological sensitivity. These include Nature Reserve and Restoration Zones.

Linkages

- 5.41 To ensure immigration and emigration of species, ecological connections to all adjacent habitats must be established and enhanced. These necessary linkages are illustrated on the LRC Management Plan map.
- 5.42 Through efforts such as special plantings, Bob Hunter Memorial Park should establish a visual identity and access point to the Park, with the CP Rail line allowing for terrestrial movement. The rich species composition on these lands will assist in nearby restoration efforts.
- 5.43 Connections to Petticoat and West Duffins Creek (highlighted as eastern ecological linkages on the LRC Management Plan map) should be established on lands located within the Park through survey and restoration. A staged approach should be taken for these areas, with at least 2 major fields restored per year.
- 5.44 To ensure the health of upstream tributaries, and to assess the downstream impact of land uses to the north of the LRC, a review of fertilizer and herbicide use in the Federal Greenspace lands should be undertaken.
- 5.45 Lands to the north of the Corridor should be considered for reforestation to advance the development of an ecological corridor across the Federal lands and increase overall forest cover in the Toronto region. This supports 30% forest cover targets in the Toronto and Region Area of Concern Remedial Action Plan (RAP), as well as the 34% natural cover target set out in the TRCA Terrestrial Natural Heritage System and Rouge Watershed Plan.

In any case, this structure should be maintained to a standard in which the property's significance is protected, enhanced and celebrated.

Both Locust Hill and Cedar Grove are being considered for designation by the Town of Markham as Heritage Conservation Districts (HCD) under Part V of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Support for the designation of HCDs in the Rouge watershed is also provided under the Rouge Watershed Plan (draft November 2006). As the surrounding area urbanizes there is also considerable pressure to undertake widening of roads through these communities, which would affect their heritage attributes and qualities.



Former Nighswander Bros. Temperance Hotel & Store

If designated, a conservation plan will be required and they will be afforded better protection from infrastructure changes. Maintaining a narrower road profile on Highway 7 and Reesor Road would be beneficial to Rouge Park, both to reduce traffic volumes and speed, and to minimize the fragmentation of the natural corridor, and for this reason designation of Cedar Grove and Locust Hill as HCDs should be supported. However, the currently proposed study area boundaries for the HCDs are extensive, and in their final identification ecological objectives for the restoration of agricultural lands surrounding the hamlets should be recognized.

6.5 Summary of Cultural Heritage Recommendations

- 6.1 Future plans for tree planting, trail development, and any other land disturbances or constructed works shall consider the results of existing and future archaeological surveys, and be reviewed by a licensed archaeologist in order to assess archaeological planning concerns.
- 6.2 If the proposed undertaking involves impacts to any lands that have not been surveyed to current standards, and which have a potential for extant archaeological remains, it is recommended that a Stage 2 archaeological survey be conducted in order to confirm the presence or absence of any as-yet undiscovered sites.
- 6.3 For future undertakings that represent an impact to known archaeological sites of demonstrable or potential significance, it is recommended that plans be implemented for Stage 2 survey, for more detailed Stage 3 assessment for preservation by avoidance. The archaeological assessment should include an independent evaluation of the significance of any archaeological sites that are determined to be subject to potential impacts.
- 6.4 Consult and collaborate with a recognized First Nations in the planning and development for interpretation of Aboriginal heritage in the Park and in the management of archaeological sites of First Nations significance.
- 6.5 Conserve and maintain designated heritage buildings and structures in their original locations.
- 6.6 Maintain / restore designated heritage buildings and structures in a manner that ensures the preservation of the significant historic architectural features and attributes identified in the Town of Markham Designation Reports for each site.
- 6.7 Support the protection and adaptive reuse of the Nighswander Bros. Temperance Hotel and Store in Locust Hill. Pending further discussion, this could be through transfer from the Ontario Realty Corporation to Rouge Park from lease or public use, or alternately (as a number of properties in Locust Hill are privately owned) through private sale with a Heritage Easement Agreement protecting the property.
- 6.8 Conserve and maintain the cultural heritage landscape (building clusters, contextual setting, pioneer family cemeteries and, as possible, the agricultural uses), associated with the Christian Reesor Homestead and Reesor Family Cemetery (9035 Reesor Road), the John

Wurtz House and Wurtz Family Cemetery (8847 Reesor Road), and the Locust Hill Schoolhouse within an Agricultural Heritage Reserve management zoning.

6.9. Conserve and maintain the cultural heritage landscape associated with the Peter Reesor Homestead (7273 14th Avenue), the Samuel Reesor Homestead (7450 Reesor Road), and the historic laneway off 14th Avenue that extends into Cedar Grove, which is also the assumed route of the historic Toronto Carrying Place trail.

6.10. Support Town of Markham initiatives to establish Heritage Conservation Districts in Cedar Grove and Locust Hill, with boundaries and guidelines for conservation that recognize and support the natural and cultural heritage objectives of Rouge Park.

6.11. Identify / use programs that can support cultural heritage conservation (e.g. Town of Markham municipal tax incentive for designated properties, Parks Canada Historical Places Initiative, etc).

6.12. Identify opportunities for and implement lease terms for uses on and within heritage properties that best support long-term conservation objectives.

6.13. Establish a cultural heritage working committee to develop/implement a cultural heritage programme for Rouge Park (as identified by the Heritage Advisory Committee at the December 9, 2005 workshop), with objectives to:

- Increase awareness and profile of the significant cultural heritage resources that Rouge Park contains;
- Develop a comprehensive inventory and database of cultural heritage resources, including archaeological sites, built heritage sites and cultural heritage landscapes;
- Compile and document the history of the area through research, oral history collection and community involvement;
- Outline a conservation strategy for designated properties, including coordination of detailed building assessments, restoration needs, and funding needs;
- Coordinate with First Nations, Heritage Markham and Heritage Scarborough, and the Ministry of Culture on conservation measures and protocols;
- Identify / implement interpretation opportunities, including events, signage, and self-guided tours;
- Incorporate cultural heritage interpretation activities and signage, within the trail system (recognizing the need for archaeological sites to remain confidential);

7.5 Summary of Public Use and Recreation Recommendations

7.1 Establish a trail system comprised of the following:

- **Rouge Trail:** main north/south granular surface trail linking Rouge Park South of Steeles and potentially north to the Federal Green Space Lands for walking, cycling, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing;
- Off road, paved, multi-use **Reesor Road Trail** proximity to Reesor Road, potentially with separate bicycle and pedestrian paths or zones;
- **Low impact nature trail loops** (through non-sensitive restoration areas) for pedestrian use (walking cross-country skiing, snowshoeing);
- **Interpretive trails** (promoting cultural and natural features), interwoven into the system;
- **Lookouts / interpretive nodes** in non-sensitive areas with fishing access points;

Access points and connections to the trail should be developed in consideration of Town of Markham trails planning initiatives;

7.2 Investigate the future role of Cedar Grove Community Centre, Cedar Grove Park, Cedarena, and Locust Hill Schoolhouse, as trailheads and recreation areas, through discussions with the Town of Markham, the Cedar Grove community associations, and local residents. Undertake site master plans for the properties within the Park boundaries (Cedar Grove Park, Cedarena, and Locust Hill Schoolhouse).

7.3 Support the protection and adaptive reuse of the Nighswander Bros. Temperance Hotel and Store in Locust Hill. This may be through transfer from DRC to Rouge Park from lease or public use, or potentially private sale with a Heritage Easement Agreement protecting the property, pending further discussion.

7.4 Undertake routine trail and natural area monitoring for environmental damage, (e.g. twice yearly). Input from trail users and local residents should also be solicited.

7.5 Planning and management of incompatible park uses (i.e. mountain bikes, off road vehicles, off leash uses) must be considered, integrating measures such as such as defined trail system for channeling public use and safeguarding natural areas, access barriers, signage, promotional materials, etc.

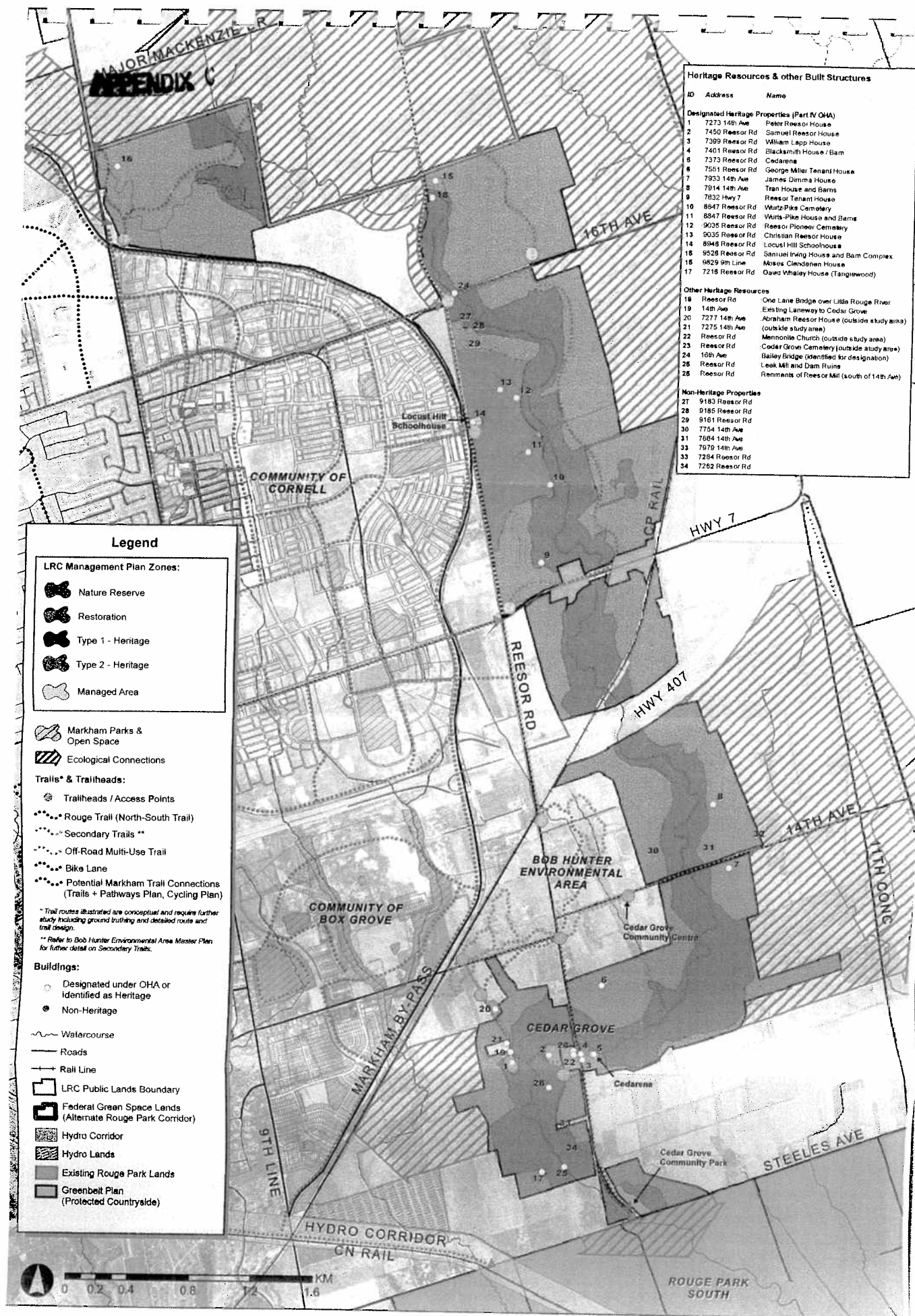
7.6 Establish a signage system that is integrated within a broader public education program for Rouge Park comprised of: Trail Identification/Information Signs; Directional Signs; Regulatory Signs; Educational and Interpretive Signs.

7.7 Consider other compatible uses within park that support park uses and objectives, confirm with applicable plans, and offer visitor opportunities, including:

- park administration / information office and/or park warden's house;
- a repository for archaeological artifacts in Rouge Park;
- an interpretive centre for Rouge Park;
- a demonstration farm to profile alternative crops or agriculture methods (could be RP / TRCA managed or a private initiative);
- tree nursery to supply native plant material to Rouge Park, which could also offer a retail component (could be RP / TRCA managed, or contracted to a private operator);
- commercial agri-business or eco-tourism initiatives within the hamlets of Cedar Grove or Locust Hill and, as permitted by the Greenbelt Plan for other farm properties;
- use of the 16th Avenue/Reesor Road 'triangle' site for a commercial agri-business. Many successful operations throughout Ontario have retail components or offer public tours;
- community events: i.e. planting days, habitat creation events, guided hikes.

8.5 Summary of Economic and Financial Recommendations

- 8.1 To implement the Management Plan, it will be necessary to leverage political, corporate and community support to raise new or additional funds to achieve the recommendations outlined in the Management Plan.
- 8.2 Determine appropriate roles and responsibilities for the operation of the Park and establish a 'fair share' contribution to each of the partners commensurate with the benefits that are derived from the park (economic, environmental, watershed, recreation). Establish multi-party agreements for funding the capital requirements of the plan. The rate of capital contributions should reflect the benefit that accrues to the partner.
- 8.3 Formalize an agreement between the Rouge Park partners, for the operations of the park north of Steeles Avenue (i.e. by-law enforcement, maintenance and trash removal). The roles and responsibilities of each partner and the commitment of staff and capital should be prepared on an annual basis. Additionally, a 5-year forecast should be created for longer-term capital planning purposes.
- 8.4 Rouge Park and TRCA (and the Town of Markham for its properties) should review options for, and jointly consider how to optimize the revenues from the property portfolio. These potentially include:
 - execution of longer-term leases;
 - retaining the services of an independent property management firm with the necessary scale of operation to assume the day-to-day management of the properties, through a public tender process;
 - exploring commercial (or other non-residential) leases opportunities, where feasible, that reflect the principles and objectives of Rouge Park, and support Park visitation. These would need to be evaluated on a case by case basis, as opportunities are identified.
- 8.5 Consider the establishment of an endowment fund to finance ongoing operational costs.
- 8.6 Focus on expanding sponsorship programs that build on current efforts to bring in community and corporate partners.
- 8.7 Consider a wide range of park user fees to generate revenues including: parking fees, concessions, trail membership fees, facility rental permits and film permits.
- 8.8 Identify and make use of all available funding and grant programs for ecological restoration projects and for restoration and conservation of heritage properties (e.g. Municipal Heritage Property Tax Incentive Program and Heritage Fund, Parks Canada Commercial Heritage Property Incentive Fund, and as applicable, funding programs for non-profit organizations from Environment Canada and the Trillium Foundation).
- 8.9 Implement a funding campaign geared toward corporate donations, sponsorship, signage and stewardship recognition. Donations and pledges from private individuals should be made, as intended, through the Rouge Park website.
- 8.10 Pursue financial contribution to recreation facilities from federal, provincial and municipal sources because the indirect economic benefits from trails and associated facilities accrue to all three levels of government.





APPENDIX D

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MARKHAM

**EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON Nov 29, 2005
REPORT NO. 39 - DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE**

(5) LITTLE ROUGE CREEK MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE (10.3)

Report

Council consented to a division of the question.

That the staff report entitled "Update on the Little Rouge Creek Corridor Management Plan", dated November 22, 2005, be received;

And that the Rouge Park Alliance identify locations and opportunities within the public corridor lands for appropriate uses and activities to support a long-term financially sustainable source of revenue to support capital park infrastructure construction costs and ongoing management costs;

And that the Rouge Park Alliance prepare a phased financial strategy including public and private sector funding opportunities, and based on a fair share funding model including the participation of all Rouge Park Alliance partners;

And that the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and Rouge Park Alliance support the regional public use function of the Rouge Park - Little Rouge Creek corridor in Markham and provide specific locations or locational criteria for a broad spectrum of low intensity recreation, cultural and interpretive uses to help support the regional park system;

And that the publicly-owned Little Rouge Creek corridor be clearly demarcated with management recommendations applicable only to the lands identified as Rouge Park through the public conveyance, and that private lands be identified separately from the public lands as part of the Little Rouge Creek corridor;

And that Council endorse the additional specific recommendations attached as Appendix 'B', as amended;

CARRIED

And that the staff report and amended Appendix 'B' recommendations, be submitted to the Rouge Park Alliance and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority as input into the Little Rouge Creek Management Plan planning process.

CARRIED

(See following recorded vote) (10:3)

(See following motion to defer which was lost)

Appendix 'B'**Specific Recommendations for the Little Rouge Creek Management Approach**

1. That the north-south trail be identified as a multi-use trail for pedestrian, cycling and cross country skiing containing loops and access to the watercourse and a direct connections to the Cornell open space system approximately half way between Highway 7 and 16th Avenue and Box Grove.
2. That the Little Rouge Creek Management Plan address the opportunities or issues related to equestrian trails associated with horse farm operations and motorized trails.
3. That the Little Rouge Creek Management Plan, include trail construction guidelines, which address environmentally appropriate construction materials, signage and wheelchair accessibility, in accordance with Provincial standards.
4. That the final trail system recommendations be provided to the TRCA and Rouge Park Alliance from the existing Bicycle Path Study and future Town Wide Pathway & Trail Master Plan study to ensure seamless integration and consideration of Town-owned, TRCA and other public trail systems.
5. That the Little Rouge Creek Management Plan identify specific locations and general size of picnic areas, including one site for large groups located in close proximity to a trail head to adequately accommodate access and parking.
6. That the Little Rouge Creek Management Plan identify a specific site to support specialized, educational/cultural small scale camping.
7. That the Little Rouge Creek Management Plan identify opportunities for community gardens in the agricultural use areas.
8. That the Little Rouge Creek Management Plan not preclude dog leash-free areas being located in the outer edge of the corridor lands, in an area of minimal environmental impact and consistent with any future guidelines for the management of dog leash-free areas.
9. That the Town of Markham support the recommendation for a tree nursery location **subject to sustainable agricultural practices** in the Little Rouge Creek corridor.
10. That the Rouge Park Alliance consider the development of a Rouge Park Interpretive Centre facility large enough to generate revenue from school and speciality groups and provide a significant focal point and legacy for the Rouge Park.
11. That long-term lease options should be considered for all **heritage** buildings.
12. That examination of Locust Hill and Cedar Grove as future heritage conservation districts should be supported and pursued.

Little Rouge Corridor Management Plan Operations Comments September 12, 2007

Our comments of May 12, 2006 identified that the size of this corridor in Markham is 1,432 ha in total, Town owns 117 ha (289 ac) TRCA 1,315 (3,249 ac). This is not indicated in the new plan, and it should be made clear as to how much land this plan is addressing.

Environment First

The principle of "Environment First" (Executive Summary page 3) is a worthy focus, but the resources to provide this is critical for sustainability.

Operating Costs

The Case Studies of Operating Costs for Large Natural Environment Parks shows the Rouge Park be maintained for \$210 per hectare funded and \$132 per hectare in-kind services in comparison to \$600 (Point Pelee) up to \$7,500 (Fish Creek Provincial Park, Calgary) as indicated on page 8-3. Considering the Little Rouge plan is planned to be a leading edge environmental park, it is not likely much can be implemented, much less the bare minimum of monitoring and garbage pick up.

Lack of Major Revenue Source

In comparison, the City of Toronto provides \$500,000 in-kind for their portion of the Rouge Park operations, but this utilizes their campground revenue, campground staffing and maintenance facility which is adjacent to the Rouge River. The proposed Little Rouge Management Plan does not allow for a campground, therefore, no ability to do the same.

It is identified that small scale camping (7-13) is an incompatible use, which is an incredible loss in terms of immersing and educating people in the being close to nature for longer periods similar to provincial parks as well as the potential revenue source.

Trailheads at Existing Facilities

Existing board run community centres (i.e. Cedar Grove Community Centre and Cedar Grove Park) are suggested as trailheads and that they be used for visitor parking, washroom, and interpretive areas. These sites are small to begin with, and have limited parking. It is unlikely that these facilities could accommodate this type of expanded use. Consultation with Recreation, Asset Management and the community boards that run them would give a better idea whether this is acceptable and feasible.

Trailheads with adequate parking should be considered on Rouge Park lands where it is expected that people will congregate to enter the park, i.e. on Don Cousens Parkway, at the 10,000 Trees planting site, east of 9th Line and other potential locations.

No Works Yard and No Maintenance Staff Identified

The Executive Summary page 7 indicates that there be a Park Warden and Park Superintendent to ensure public safety, protection and liaise with the public. There is no

pathway (which would aid in monitoring and maintenance) should be developed as part of the management process.

Pathways

The plan indicates that pathways would be 2.4m wide and granular, no impervious surfaces– not wide enough for two way traffic, maintenance vehicles without causing rutting, and should allow for other surfaces especially where wash outs can occur.

No Dog Leash Free Areas

The plan (7-13) indicates that a dog leash free area is not a compatible use, however, people are already using the 10,000 Trees site as a leash free area, and have not been picking up after their dogs. Ignoring this issue means that people will continue to bring their dogs to run at large, which contributes to the fecal count and disturbs wildlife.