

APPENDIX 'A'
RPITF REVISED RECOMMENDATIONS JUNE 2009
(Approved by Council on October 27, 2009)

Part: 1 DESIGNATING AND NAMING ROUGE PARK LANDS

1.a ROUGE PARK LANDS

Recommendation #1.a.1

The RPITF recommends that the Town establish a municipal park in east Markham called "Rouge Park."

Recommendation #1.a.2

The RPITF recommends that the lands shown in Figure 3 as Rouge Park lands be included in the park: Little Rouge Creek Corridor, Bob Hunter Memorial Park, Eastern Markham, and Tompion, and that Toogood Pond Park, Milne Dam Conservation Area, and the Middle Reaches north of Major Mackenzie not be included in Rouge Park.

Recommendation #1.a.3

The RPITF recommends that the lands and properties owned by the Town of Markham known as "Cedarena," "Cedar Grove Community Park," and "Cedar Grove Community Centre" continue to be owned and managed by Markham.

Recommendation #1.a.4

The RPITF recommends that staff enter into negotiations with the Ministry of Transportation, the ORC, and the TRCA to complete the transfer of remnant parcels of land in east Markham to the Town, or to the future Rouge Park, according to the recommended boundaries.

1.b FEDERAL AIRPORT LANDS

Recommendation #1.b.1

The RPITF recommends that the Town discuss with the Federal Government integration of the federal airport lands in Markham into Rouge Park.

Recommendation #1.b.2

The RPITF recommends that the Town coordinate efforts with the Federal Government, the TRCA, and Rouge Park Alliance to implement the Green Space vision in a manner consistent with its vision and the objectives of the TRCA, Rouge Park and the Town.

1.c NAMING PROTOCOL FOR ROUGE PARK LANDS

Recommendation #1.c

The RPITF recommends that the Town engage the Rouge Park Alliance, TRCA, the Region, Province and the Federal Government to establish appropriate names for distinct areas and features within Greater Rouge Park. Such a process would recognize historic and current local contexts and include community consultation.

Part 2: PUBLIC USES AND ACTIVITIES

2.a CAMPING

Recommendation #2.a.1

The RPITF recommends that ecologically focussed camping be permitted within Rouge Park and that a small number of sites be located after criteria are established by staff and the Alliance, and that one of the sites be large enough to handle group camping.

Recommendation #2.a.2

~~*The RPITF recommends that Council provide further direction on RV camping services within Rouge Park.*~~

**Revised Recommendation # 2.a.2*

That RPITF support a small amount of RV camping in Rouge Park subject to a cost-benefit analysis

2.b DOG OFF – LEASH SITES

Recommendation #2.b

~~*The RPITF recommends that staff be directed to consult with the Rouge Park to identify potential dog off-leash areas and that such sites be developed after criteria are established by staff and the Alliance.*~~

Revised Recommendation # 2.b

The RPITF recommends that staff work with the RPA and interested community groups in securing dog off-leash areas inside Rouge Park

2.c MILNE TWO (GROUP PICNICS)

Recommendation #2.c.1

~~*The RPITF recommends that staff work with RP to identify potential locations for a large group picnic area and that implementation be considered a priority.*~~

Revised Recommendation # 2.c.1

The RPITF recommends that the Rouge Park be requested to review potential locations for a large group picnic area, in the East Markham Rouge Park lands and that implementation be considered a priority.

Recommendation #2.c.2

~~*The RPITF recommends that Rouge Park include numerous smaller picnic sites throughout the park and consideration be given to a celebration forest and an arboretum /horticultural garden area.*~~

Revised Recommendation # 2.c.2

The RPITF recommends that in light of staff concerns regarding smaller picnic sites, the Rouge Park should carefully consider the location and number of these sites proposed. Consideration should be given to a celebration forest and an arboretum/horticultural garden area.

2.d TRAILS, TRAILHEADS AND PARKING

Recommendation #2.d.1

The RPITF recommends that staff and the Alliance treat with the highest priority the preparation of a detailed Rouge Park trails and pathways plan, especially in Eastern Markham and the Little Rouge Corridor.

Recommendation #2.d.2

The RPITF recommends that, until such a trails and pathways plan is approved, that staff identify appropriate locations for trails and parking, and protect for them, on all pending site restorations in RP.

Recommendation #2.d.3

The RPITF recommends to staff and the Alliance that they ensure that some Rouge Park attractions be located near the YRT / VIVA terminal and the Havelock GO stations, and that enough parking be available at each entry node and trailhead so that traffic is not impeded and that no parking overflow occurs in the residential areas in or near Rouge Park.

2.e OUTDOOR ACTIVITY AND CULTURAL CENTRE

Recommendation #2.e.1

The RPITF recommends that staff and the Alliance identify a location for an outdoor activity centre in Eastern Markham.

Recommendation #2.e.2

The RPITF recommends that staff and the Alliance identify a location for a park maintenance facility in Eastern Markham.

Recommendation #2.e.3

The RPITF recommends that staff and the Alliance identify a location for an outdoor cultural centre in Eastern Markham, for plays, music, nature lectures, and volunteer planting activity coordination.

2.f ROUGE PARK OFFICE AND WELCOME CENTRE

Recommendation #2.f.1

The RPITF recommends that the Alliance be advised that the Town supports the relocation of the Rouge Park offices to the park in Markham and encourages Rouge Park to commence review of their office / interpretive centre requirements with a vision of locating in or near the park.

Recommendation #2.f.2

The RPITF recommends to staff that the Town make every effort to assist Rouge Park in finding a suitable location at a reasonable cost.

Recommendation #2.f.3

The RPITF recommends to staff that the relationship between the Markham Museum and RP be formalized and that staff explore all opportunities to develop a shared experience for the visiting public.

2.g OTHER OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Recommendation #2.g.1

~~*The RPITF recommends that Council provide further direction on items one through thirty five above.*~~

Revised Recommendation # 2.g.1

The RPITF recommends that Council support a full range of active and passive recreational uses in Rouge Park in appropriate locations including in or near an outdoor facility and cultural centre. These recommended activities would include those listed as Categories 1 and 2 in the RPITF report.

Category #1 – Recommended Activities:

1. Annual Running and Bike Races (to the moraine and back on the existing road system),
2. Art Shows (short-term),
3. Chess,
4. Children's Playground,
5. Children's Summer Camps (existing use),
6. Community Gardening,
7. Croquet,
8. Crosscountry Skiing,
9. Dog-sledding,
10. Fishing,
11. Golfing (existing use),
12. Horseback Riding (existing use),
13. Horseshoes,
14. Kite Flying,
15. Mountain Biking,
16. Nature and Agriculture Lectures,
17. Organized Hiking,
18. Outdoor Bocce and Lawn Bowling,
19. **Outdoor Education Centre,**
20. Outdoor Skating (artificial and natural ice, Cedarana and elsewhere),
21. Outdoor Theatre and Concerts,

- 22. Snow-Shoeing,
- 23. Spiritual and Artistic retreats,
- 24. Swimming,
- 25. Volleyball including Beach Volleyball, and
- 26. **Water** Tubing

Category #2 – More Consideration Needed:

- 27. Kick-Sledding, and
- 28. Tobogganing

Recommendation #2.g.2

~~*The RPITF recommends that staff and the Alliance increase their efforts to enforce the ban on hunting in Rouge Park.*~~

Revised Recommendation # 2.g.2

The RPITF recommends that the Town review By-law 323-86 to ensure that bows and arrows and crossbows are specifically prohibited in the Rouge Park. In addition the Town should request greater monitoring and enforcement by MNR and the York Police to prevent hunting in Rouge Park.

Part 3: INFRASTRUCTURE

3.a RAIL, ROADS, SEWERS AND MORE

Recommendation #3.a.1

The RPITF recommends that the Town and the Alliance support the planning of necessary infrastructure improvements, such as road widenings, sewer projects, transit enhancements, etc., in a manner that provides opportunities for enhanced environmental benefits in support of the goals and objectives of Rouge Park.

Recommendation #3.a.2

To rely on the Region, the TRCA and MOE to continuously monitor groundwater regimes and stream flows to determine any necessary adjustments to municipal groundwater withdrawals for the Stouffville community to ensure sustainable stream flow in affected tributaries.

3.b SIGNAGE

Recommendation #3.b.1

The RPITF recommends that the Town support watercourse crossing signage to identify watersheds (Don, Duffins, Highland, Petticoat, and Rouge) for crossings of watercourses with official names except that, inside Rouge Park, the signs would identify the park rather than the watershed.

Recommendation #3.b.2

The RPITF recommends that the Town endorse in principle the proposal of the Don Watershed Regeneration Council for water- course crossing signage.

Recommendation #3.b.3

The RPITF recommends that the Town, York and the TRCA / Alliance introduce “You are Entering RP” signage along the lines discussed in this report.

3.c PROTECTION OF HERITAGE BUILDINGS

Recommendation #3.c

The RPITF recommends that staff develop a heritage building preservation strategy for Greater Rouge Park using principles enunciated in this report and that they work with Public Works Canada, the TRCA, and the Alliance to create a heritage subdivision and infill lots for the protection and concentration of moved heritage buildings.

3.d RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES IN THE PARK

Recommendation #3.d.1

~~*The RPITF recommends that the draft Little Rouge Corridor and Bob Hunter Management Plans be amended to permit the privatization of residential properties under the strict conditions outlined in this report and that this approach apply to all such properties in Greater Rouge Park.*~~

Recommendation #3.d.2

~~*The RPITF recommends that staff assist all public entities holding residential properties in Greater Rouge Park to proceed, using Option #2 as a guide, to privatize the residential properties in the park.*~~

Revised Recommendation# 3.d.1

RPITF recommends that the residential lease arrangements in Greater Rouge Park be reviewed to permit privitization of dwelling units and, for the land supporting the dwelling unit, longer term land leases or other innovative approaches in order to provide greater security for tenants/owners and provide incentives for ongoing property maintenance and repairs.

3.e Agriculture in the Park

Recommendation #3.e.1

~~*The RPITF recommends that staff and the Alliance place a high priority on the preparation of an agriculture master plan for Greater Rouge Park, and that consultation with all stakeholders commence as soon as possible.*~~

Revised Recommendation # 3.e.1

The RPITF recommends that Town and Rouge Park continue to coordinate long-term agricultural protection policies for the Rouge Park which would be finalized through the Markham East Lands Study.

Recommendation #3.e.2

~~The RPITF recommends that no further plantings be permitted after those scheduled for next spring until the agriculture master plan has been completed and approved by Markham Council.~~

Revised Recommendation # 3.e.2

The RPITF recommends that the TRCA not cancel any agricultural leases on lands farmed for the last 5 years in favour of natural heritage restoration until an agricultural transition plan has been prepared and endorsed by Markham Council.

3.f REESOR ROAD PARCEL

**Recommendation #3.f*

The RPITF recommends that staff notify the Province, ORC, TRCA, York Region, and the Alliance that Markham's priority is for employment uses on the Reesor Road parcel, and that Markham would be interested in exploring ecological enhancements for the site in the context of an upscale business campus.

Part 4: GOVERNANCE

4.a PARK OPERATIONS, MANAGEMENT AND FUNDING

Recommendation #4.a.1

~~The RPITF recommends that Council initiate a Rouge Park Governance Review, to be managed and funded by Durham, Markham, Pickering, Toronto, York, the Province and the Federal Government, to review the current governance and operational structure of RP with an objective of recommending a long term governance model.~~

Revised Recommendation # 4.a.1

The RPITF recommends that the Town supports the Governance Review process and request an opportunity to make an early input into the review.

Recommendation #4.a.2

That RPITF recommends that Markham and York Region each give positive consideration to an annual Operating and Small Capital Projects Grant through an escalating process, pending a satisfactory outcome of discussions with their partners on governance, operations, and the many other matters raised in this report.

4.b MUNICIPAL/ ROUGE PARK STAFF LIAISON

Recommendation #4.b

The RPITF recommends that staff establish a municipal staff liaison committee, consisting of representatives from all municipalities and the park, to address implementation issues with a timely and consistent approach.

Part 5: TOWN ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMMES

Recommendation #5.1

~~*The RPITF recommends to Council that the five Town environmental programmes be expanded to include a specific minimum percentage for community participation activities in Rouge Park and that staff report back with detailed recommendations.*~~

Revised Recommendation # 5.1

The RPITF recommends that the Town environmental programmes which are consistent with Rouge Park objectives be expanded to include a specific minimum percentage for community participation activities in Rouge Park, and that staff report back with detailed recommendations.

Recommendation #5.2

*The RPITF recommends to Council that the Environmental Land Acquisition Fund include an allocation portion for specific Rouge Park **land acquisition** and that staff report back with detailed recommendations.*

Recommendation #5.3

The RPITF recommends to Council that staff develop an MOU to be used when Markham funds are used to purchase properties that will be held by other governments or agencies.

***That recommendation item #2.a.2 and #3.f outlined in Appendix 'A' be deferred for further discussions.**

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