

APPENDIX 'B'



**ROUGE PARK IMPLEMENTATION
TASK FORCE**

Chair, Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
Mayor Frank Scarpitti
Councillor Logan Kanapathi
Councillor Erin Shapero
Councillor John Webster

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

November 25, 2008

**ROUGE PARK:
A PARK IN PROGRESS**

Part 1: DESIGNATING AND NAMING

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 RP, according to the recommended boundaries.

1.b FEDERAL AIRPORT LANDS IN MARKHAM

Recommendation #1.b.1

The RPITF recommends that the Federal Airport lands in Markham should be integrated into RP and that staff enter into discussions with the Federal Government on the matter as soon as possible.

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 A NAMING PROTOCOL

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.

2.b DOG OFF-LEASH SITES

Recommendation #2.b

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

2.c 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.

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.

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 RP 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 RP 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 RP.

2.e AN OUTDOOR ACTIVITY AND CULTURE 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 THE 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 RP offices to the park in Markham and encourages RP 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 RP 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

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. Canoeing,
4. Chess,
5. Children's Playground,
6. Children's Summer Camps (existing use),
7. Community Gardening,
8. Croquet,
9. Crosscountry Skiing,
10. Dog-sledding,
11. Fishing,
12. Golfing (existing use),
13. Horseback Riding (existing use),
14. Horseshoes,
15. Kite Flying,
16. Mountain Biking,
17. Nature and Agriculture Lectures,
18. Organized Hiking,
19. Outdoor Bocce and Lawn Bowling,
20. Outdoor Skating (artificial and natural ice, Cedar arena and elsewhere),
21. Outdoor Theatre and Concerts,
22. Snow-Shoeing,
23. Spiritual and Artistic retreats,
24. Swimming,
25. Volleyball including Beach Volleyball, and
26. Tubing.

Category #2 – More Consideration Needed:

27. Kick-Sledding, and
28. Tobogganing

Category #3 – Ancillary Activities to be Located just outside RP:

29. ATVing,
30. Archery Range,
31. BMX Biking,
32. Go-Karting,
33. Skateboarding,
34. Snowmobiling, and

35. Target Shooting.

Recommendation #2.g.1

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

Recommendation #2.g.2

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

Part 3: INFRASTRUCTURE

3.a RAILS, ROADS, SEWERS, and MORE

Recommendation #3.a

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.

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 RP, the signs would identify the park rather than the watershed.

Recommendation #3.b.2

The RPITF recommends that the Town endorse in principal 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 RP 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 RP to proceed, using Option #2 as a guide, to privatize the residential properties in the park.

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.

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.

3.f THE 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.

Recommendation #4.a.2

The RPITF recommends that Council include \$150,000 in its 2009 budget as a Rouge Park Operating and Small Capital Projects Grant to be held for Council release pending the satisfactory results of the governance and operating review under #4.a.1.

Recommendation #4.a.3

The RPITF recommends that York include \$150,000 in its 2009 budget as a Rouge Park Operating and Small Capital Projects Grant to be held for Regional Council release pending the satisfactory results of the governance and operating review under #4.a.1.

Recommendation #4.a.4

The RPITF recommends that Markham and York Region each give positive consideration to a target of an annual Operating and Small Capital Projects Grant to Rouge Park of \$1,000,000, through a seven year 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, the TRCA, and RP to address implementation issues in 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.

Recommendation #5.2

The RPITF recommends to Council that the Environmental Land Acquisition Fund include an allocation portion for specific Rouge Park projects 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.

Part 6: MATTERS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

Several matters need further discussion by Council:

Approval of the Two Management Plans.

Town Bylaws.

- Advertising Signage
- Animal Control
- Dumping
- Fires
- Tree Preservation

Entrance Fees.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

A Target Date.
