

Appendix 'E'
Summary of RPITF Recommendations, Staff Position and Comments and Revised Recommendations

RPITF Recommendations	Staff Position on the RPITF Recommendations	Additional Comments and Revised Recommendations
#1.a.1 Town establish a Municipal Park in East Markham	#1.a.1 A partnership approach to share ongoing capital and operating costs. This would be dependent on a governance review process	#1.a.1 RPA Governance Review underway. RPA passed a resolution requesting the Governance Review consider a Rouge National Park.
#1.a.2 That Little Rouge Creek Corridor, Bob Hunter Memorial Park, Eastern Markham and Tompion be in Rouge Park and that Toogood Pond Park, Milne Dam Conservation Area and the Middle Reaches North of Major Mackenzie not be included in Rouge Park	#1.a.2 Staff support the existing publicly owned lands in eastern Markham being recognized as 'Rouge Park' lands (governance and funding model to be determined as per discussion under recommendation 1.a.1 above). Staff can also support and work towards implementing the RPITF recommendation that the Middle Reaches lands not form part of the formal Rouge Park, but rather fall under a municipal management model.	
#1.a.3 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	#1.a.3 Town staff supports the recommendation and suggests that the current arrangements pertaining to Cedar Grove Community Park and Cedar Grove Community Centre be allowed to remain in place. Town staff should initiate negotiations with TRCA to explore the possible conveyance of the Cedarena lands to the Town	
#1.a.4 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.a.4 Town staff supports the recommendation, and will continue discussions with MTO, ORC and TRCA.	

#1.b.1 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	#1.b.1 Town staff support engaging Transport Canada in discussions regarding the long-term future of the Federal lands should these lands not be needed for airport purposes.	# 1.b.1
# 1.b.2 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.b.2 Town staff supports a process to engage the Federal Government and seek opportunities to implement the Green Space corridor in a manner consistent with the Rouge Park vision.	
# 1.c 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.	# 1.c Town staff supports this 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.	#2.a.1 Town staff supports this recommendation in principle but suggests the development and management of a camping facility would best be resourced by the TRCA or the private sector with operating or lease revenues going to the Rouge Park.	
#2.a.2 That Council provide further direction on RV camping services within Rouge Park.	#2.a.2 Town staff is more supportive of tent camping (recommendation 2.a.1 above) than RV camping. However, if the TRCA or a private proponent were to bring forward a proposal for RV camping, a cost benefit analysis could be considered.	# 2.a.2 <i>That RPITF support a small amount of RV camping in Rouge Park subject to a cost-benefit analysis.</i>

<p># 2.b 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.</p>	<p># 2.b Town staff supports this recommendation.</p>	<p>#2.b The RPA passed a resolution May 1, 2009 “That RPA staff work with local municipal staff to identify potential off-leash areas within and in close proximity to Rouge Park and report back to the Alliance.”</p> <p><i>The RPITF recommends that staff work with the RPA and interested community groups in securing dog off-leash areas inside Rouge Park</i></p>
<p># 2.c.1 That staff work with RP to identify potential locations for a large group picnic area and that implementation be considered a priority.</p> <p># 2.c.2 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</p>	<p>#2.c.1 & #2.c.2 Town staff fully supports the recommendation for larger, regulated group picnic areas, but would discourage smaller picnic areas be considered due to difficulties to maintain and monitor. The recommendation with respect to a celebration forest and an arboretum/horticultural area is also supported. TRCA or private sector development and management of these facilities should be explored along with revenue generators such as parking meters and seasonal passes.</p>	<p>#2.c.1 <i>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.</i></p> <p># 2.c.2 <i>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.</i></p>
<p>#2.d.1 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.</p> <p>#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.</p>	<p># 2.d.1 & # 2.d.2 Town staff support these recommendations.</p>	<p># 2.d.1 The SE Collector Ecological Enhancement Fund has earmarked some funds to be used towards trail development in Eastern Markham.</p>
<p>#2.d.3 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</p>	<p>#2.d.3 Town staff support this recommendation.</p>	

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.		
<p>#2.e.1 That staff and the Alliance identify a location for an outdoor activity centre in Eastern Markham.</p> <p>#2.e.3 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.</p>	#2.e.1 & #2.e.3 Town staff supports this recommendation as it represents an opportunity to generate revenue and create a wholly accessible Rouge Park for diverse public interests.	
# 2.e.2 That staff and the Alliance identify a location for a park maintenance facility in Eastern Markham.	# 2.e.2 Town staff supports this recommendation	
<p>#2.f.1 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.</p> <p>#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</p>	# 2.f.1 & # 2.f.2 Town staff support these recommendations and are available to assist in whatever way appropriate in the relocation of the park offices, if adopted.	
#2.f.3 The RPITF recommends to staff that the relationship between the Markham Museum and RP be formalized and that staff	#2.f.3 Town staff supports this recommendation.	

explore all opportunities to develop a shared experience for the visiting public		
#2.g.1 That Council provide further direction on items one through thirty five (see RPITF Report).	# 2.g.1 Town staff supports this recommendation. (Individual uses to be the subject of further discussion with Council and Rouge Park partners).	#2.g.1 <i>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.</i>
#2.g.2 That staff and the Alliance increase their efforts to enforce the ban on hunting in Rouge Park.	# 2.g.2 Town staff supports this recommendation	#2.g.2 <i>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.</i>
#3.a 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.a Town staff supports this recommendation.	# 3.a.1 The Region of York has indicated an interest in having continuous monitoring of groundwater and have proposed an additional recommendation below # 3.a.1 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.1 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. #3.b.2 That the Town endorse in principle the proposal of the Don Watershed Regeneration Council for water- course crossing signage. #3.b.3 That the Town, York and the TRCA / Alliance introduce	# 3.b.1, #3.b.2 & #3.b.3 Town staff supports the recommendations	#3.b Council had endorsed the Signage proposal #3.b when it was presented on November 25, 2008.

<p>“You are Entering RP” signage along the lines discussed in this report.</p>		
<p>#3.c 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.</p>	<p># 3.c Town staff supports the recommendations, but think there may be constraints posed by the Provincial Greenbelt Plan relative to land severances.</p>	
<p>#3.d.1 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.</p> <p>#3.d.2 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.</p>	<p># 3.d.1 & 3.d.2 Staff would suggest an alternative approach based on selling the structure and offering a land lease of up to 99 years.</p>	<p>#3.d.1 & 3.d.2 <i>RPITF recommends that the residential lease arrangements in Greater Rouge Park be reviewed to permit privatization 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 tenant/owners and provide incentives for ongoing property maintenance and repairs.</i></p>

<p>in its 2010 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.</p> <p>#4.a.4 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.</p>	<p>allocation would demonstrate the Town's ongoing commitment to the Rouge Park, and could be used for capital projects or studies (such as input to the governance review), subject to prior authorization on any expenditures by Markham Council.</p>	
<p># 4.b 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.</p>	<p># 4.b Staff supports this recommendation</p>	
<p>#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.</p>	<p># 5.1 Staff supports this recommendation.</p>	<p>#5.1 <i>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.</i></p>

<p>#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.</p>	<p># 3.e.1 Town staff supports the recommendation. The Town should initiate discussions with the Rouge Alliance to coordinate the respective agricultural studies currently underway.</p>	<p>#3.e.1 Both Markham and RP have been consulting with the farm community on agricultural issues.</p> <p><i>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.</i></p>
<p>#3.e.2 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.</p>	<p># 3.e.2 Town staff support this recommendation. The Town should initiate discussions with the Rouge Alliance to coordinate agricultural studies and planting programs.</p>	<p>#3.e.2 The RPA has instructed RP staff to meet with all the farmers likely to be affected by future restoration activities and to develop a plan to accommodate their operations.</p> <p><i>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.</i></p>
<p>#4.a.1 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.</p>	<p># 4.a.1 Town staff support the recommendation for a Rouge Park governance review. The nature and scope of such a review can be discussed further with Council once comments are received back from circulation of the RPITF report to public agencies. We also note that the Rouge Park Alliance has already started a review process which will require a Town's appointee to the Steering Committee as well as funding support.</p>	<p>#4.a.1 The Chair of the RPA has established a Finance and Organization Review committee comprising representatives from partners including the Town of Markham.</p> <p><i>The RPITF recommends that the Town supports the Governance Review process and request an opportunity to make an early input into the review.</i></p>
<p>#4.a.2 That Council set aside \$150,000 in its 2010 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.</p> <p>#4.a.3 That York set aside \$150,000</p>	<p># 4.a.2, # 4.a.3 & # 4.a.4 Town staff support the recommendation that any additional resources to the Rouge Park should await the outcome of the Rouge Park governance review. However, as an interim measure, the town's 2009 Capital Budget could include an allocation in the order of \$150,000, as discussed by the Budget Sub-committee on January 9, 2009. Such an</p>	

<p>#5.2</p> <p>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.</p>	<p># 5.2</p> <p>Rouge Park properties are already identified on the Town's list of priority sites for acquisition, and should be given ongoing consideration as opportunities arise. Town staff would not recommend a separate allocation for Rouge Park properties at this time, but the potential need for such could be considered following the review of governance and funding options.</p>	
<p>#5.3</p> <p>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.</p>	<p># 5.3</p> <p>Town staff supports this recommendation.</p>	

Comments in Bold type represent a change to the original recommendation

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