



## MEMO

**TO:** Lilli Duoba, Manager, Natural Heritage

**FROM:** Brenda Librecz, Commissioner, Community and Fire Services

**CC:** Bob Nicholson, Acting Director, Operations  
 Phoebe Fu, Director, Asset Management  
 Mary Creighton, Recreation Services  
 Moe Hosseini-Ara, Action Director, Culture  
 Peter Loukes, Environmental Services  
 Bill Snowball, Markham Fire Chief  
 Catherine Biss, Markham Public Library

**DATE:** August 1, 2014

**SUBJECT:** Rouge National Urban Park Management Plan  
 (June 2014 Draft)

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Our Commission has had the opportunity to review the draft ***Rouge Park Urban Park Management Plan*** which is a 10 year, high level plan, prepared by Parks Canada. Our comments at this time are as follow:

### **Fire and Emergency Services Department**

Please advise if there will be a Fire Services Agreement for Markham Fire and Emergency Services to provide fire service to the park.

### **Culture Department**

The Museum could become the Park's Museum of Record provided there is collaborative consultation and an agreement with the Museum early in the planning process to ensure that resources can be provided to manage the transfer and processing of the content to the Museum. Also, any space planning issues will need to be resolved well in advance.

### **Operations Department**

There are many mutual benefits which will result from a collaborative effort in developing the Park as contemplated in this Plan. The stewardship, community engagement and volunteerism benefits under this management model can be similarly harnessed to enhance the biodiversity, ecosystem function, as well as services provided within the City's parks and open spaces. In support and recognition of this approach, please amend the introduction/background of the Plan (page 2, paragraph 5) to add the bolded words, as shown below:

*"Parks Canada sees incredible potential for continuing to forge new connections - in stewardship, community engagement and volunteerism - for maintaining this federally-managed landscape. By working together with the people of the GTA, **the Province of Ontario and our municipal partners**, the beauty and health of the park will be enhanced and conserved for Canadians to celebrate and explore for generations to come".*

A formal agreement clarifying the expectations and role of the City of Markham in relation to parks and park structures will be required with input from Operations Department.

### **Asset Management**

There are existing buildings within the Rouge Park area that Asset Management currently manages/maintains (several houses and Cedar Grove Satellite Community Centre for which we have an MOU with the Community Board). The high level reference to these buildings in the Plan shows there is a possible desire to make them into public welcome areas (*page 26, Objective 2 - Welcome areas identified to include transit access, connections to trails, parking, sun/shade shelter, picnic and washroom facilities are shown for Bob Hunter Memorial Park/Cedar Grove and Locust Hill. On page 39 & 40, Transitional Objective 2 actions include using a life-cycle approach to asset investment, including adaptive reuse of heritage buildings.* The City is not in a position to enhance existing facilities in the targeted welcome areas to provide the desired level of service. It is our opinion that that it would be ideal for Parks Canada to assume operation, maintenance, repair and management or possibly total ownership of these City assets to achieve the Management Plan's welcome area objectives.

### **General**

Moving forward, what is the process and next steps for the further development and implementation of this Plan, including establishing the shared roles/responsibilities and obligations between the partners?

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this important plan. Please contact Mavis Urquhart (x7502) if you have any questions or require clarification of these comments.

Brenda Librecz,  
Commissioner, Community and Fire Services