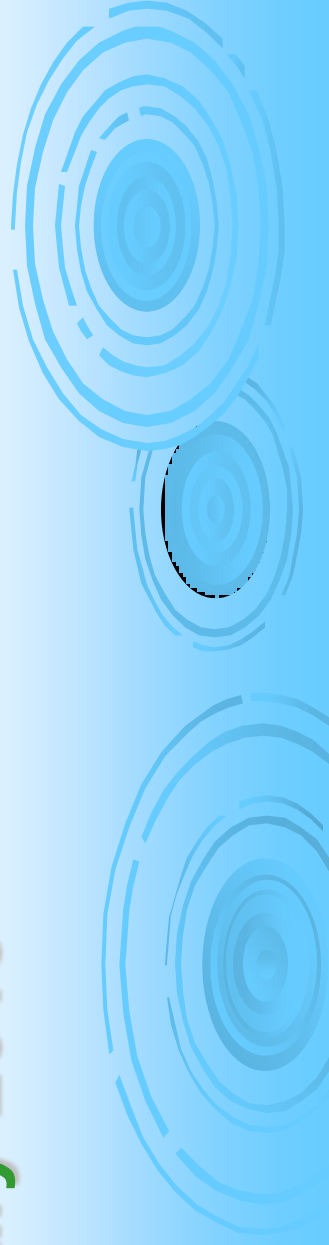




Rouge National Park Opportunities and Challenges

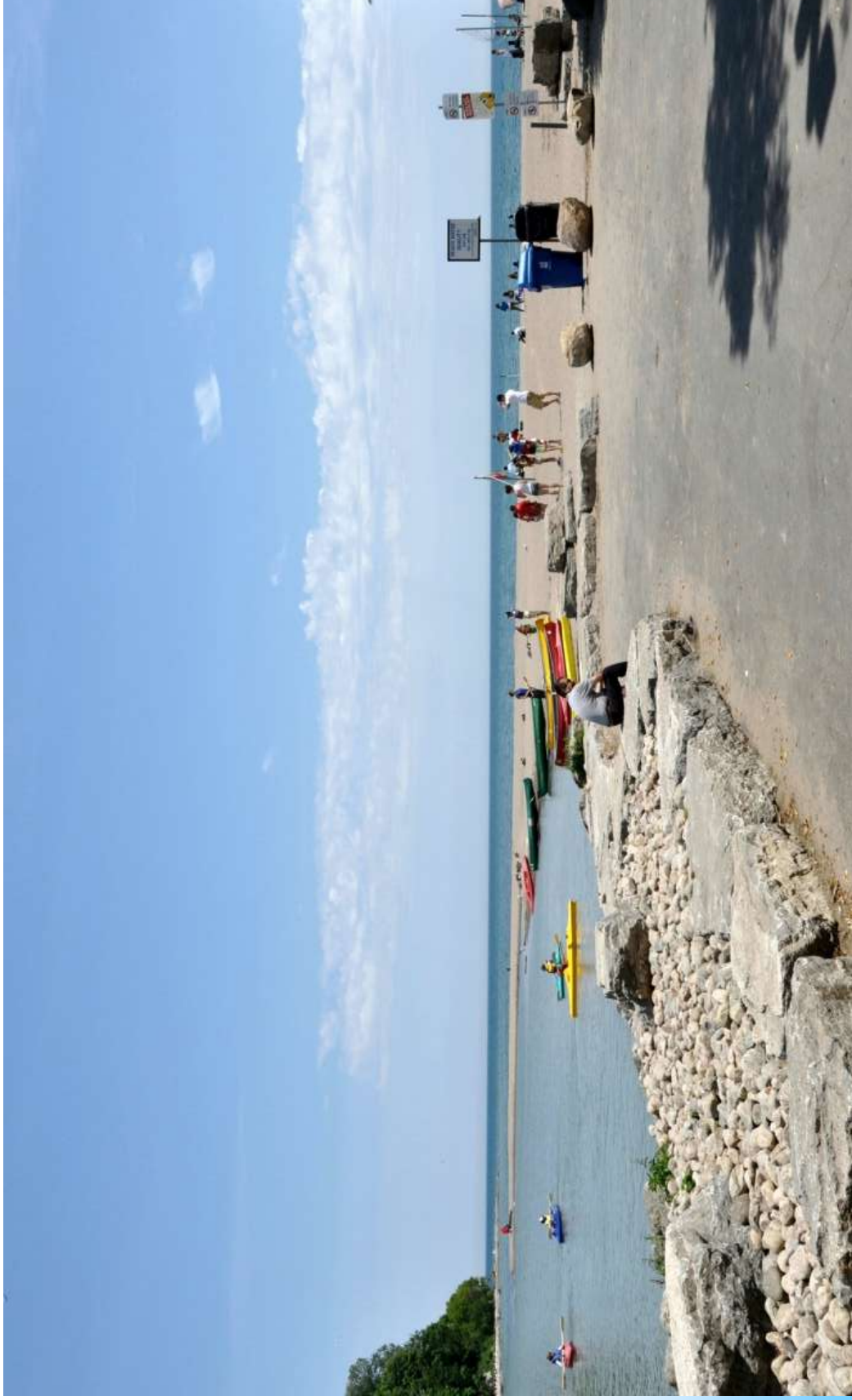
January 2013



Rouge Park Finch Meander

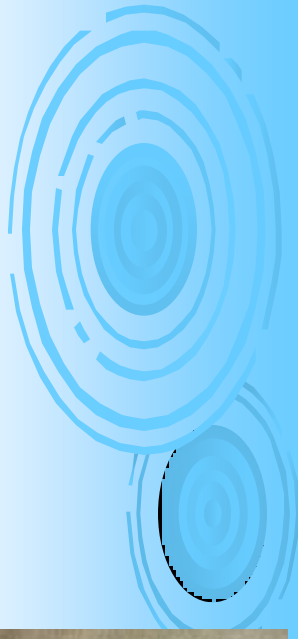
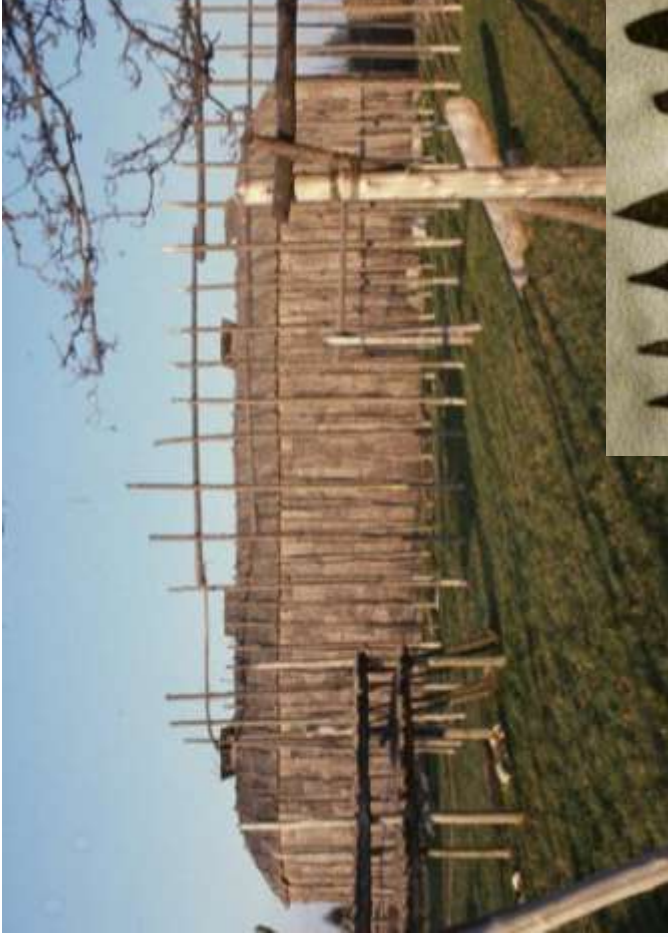


Rouge Beach at Lake Ontario Toronto GLWQA Area of Concern

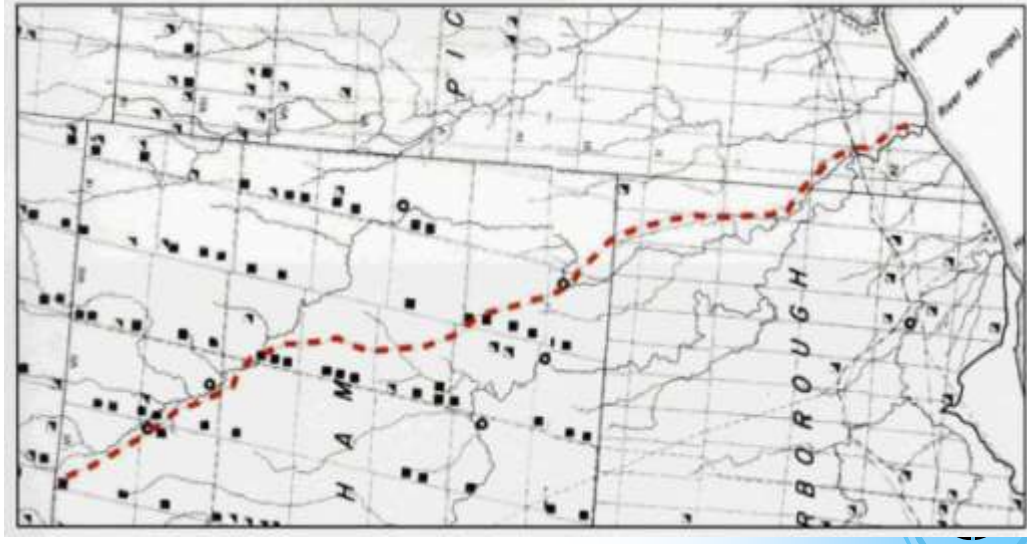


Rouge National Park

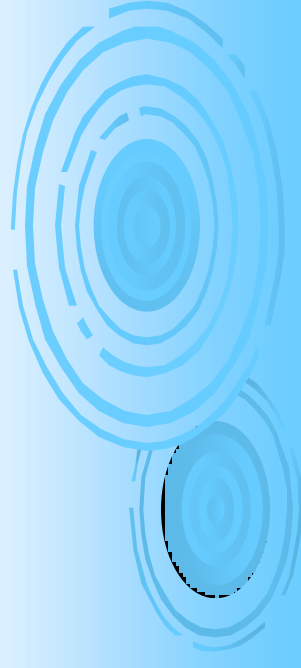
Nationally Significant First Nation Heritage



17th Century Maps



Healthy Local Rouge Foodlands

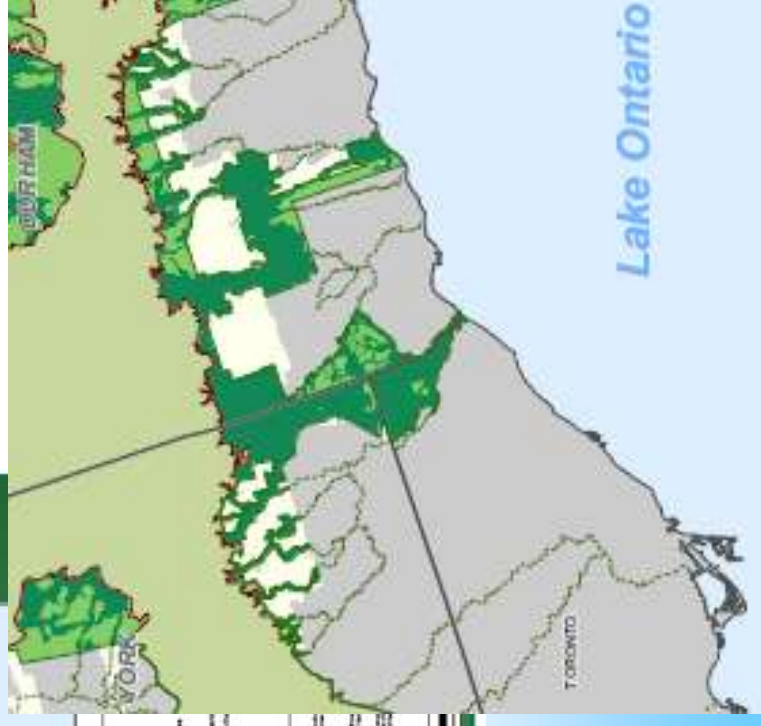


Southern Ontario Context

- S. Ontario has 1% of Canada's overall land area
- 33% of Canada's endangered species
- 34% of Canada's population
- < 1% in provincial & national parks
- 59% agriculture, 18% urban and settlements

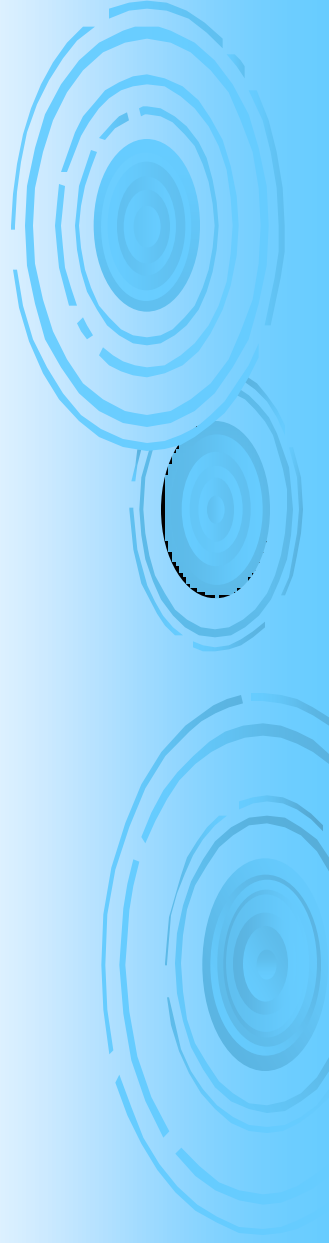


(Provincial Greenbelt Natural Heritage System Designation)



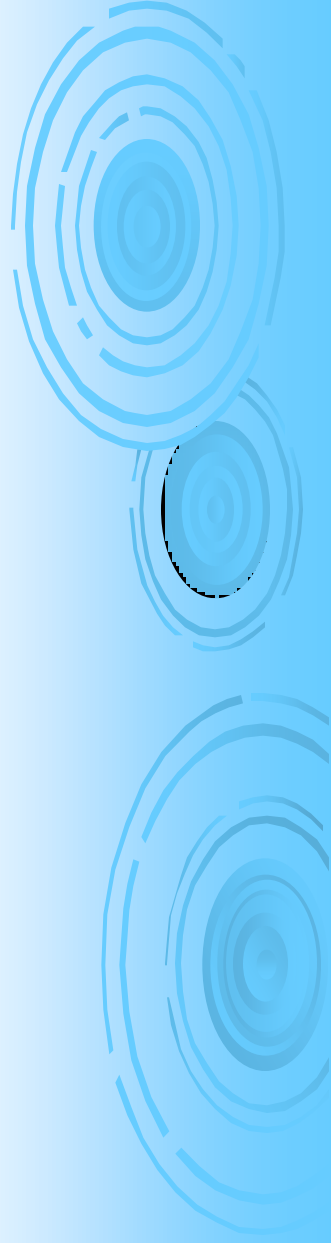
Provincial Greenbelt Plan (2005)

“This plan identifies a 600 m wide corridor for the Little Rouge River as the main ecological corridor, between Lake Ontario and the southerly boundary of Oak Ridges Moraine Area, as well as several other Rouge River tributaries, in recognition of the longstanding commitment to establishing the Rouge Park.”



Local Ecological Context

- Science based, federal and provincial reports say:
> 30% forest cover and 10% wetland cover are needed for a healthy biologically diverse watershed
(“How much Habitat is Enough”, 2004)
- Markham has 5% forest cover and 1% wetland cover
- Rouge Watershed has 13% forest cover and 2% wetland



Rouge North Management Plan (2001)

4.1.1.2 Little Rouge Creek Corridor – Special Provisions

“The overriding goal in creating the Little Rouge Creek Corridor is to establish a **viable terrestrial corridor with interior forest habitat conditions.**”

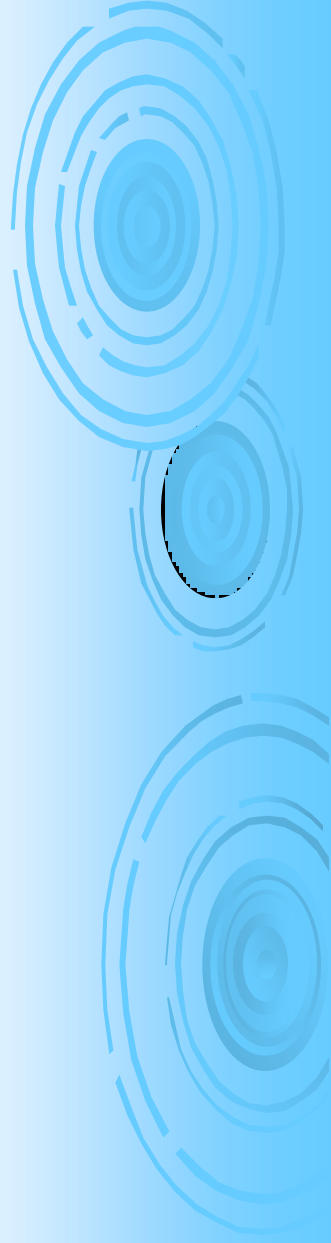
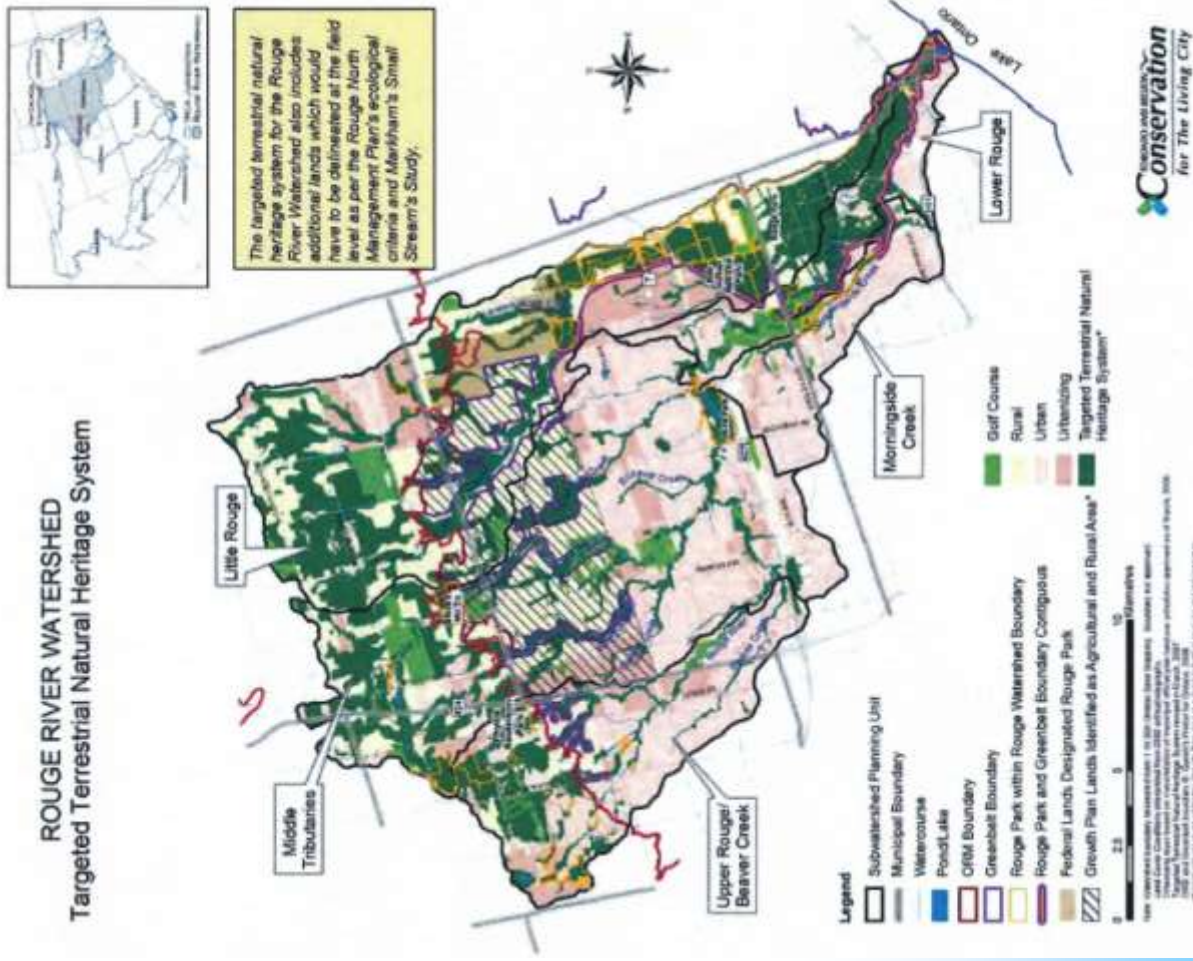


Figure 5-2: Targeted Terrestrial Natural Heritage System

ROUGE RIVER WATERSHED Targeted Terrestrial Natural Heritage System



TRCA Rouge
Watershed Plan
Targeted NHS
includes
Restoration
of Greenbelt
of Rouge Park
“Ecological
Corridor”

2008 Rouge Park “Greenbelt Ecological Corridor” Restoration Plan

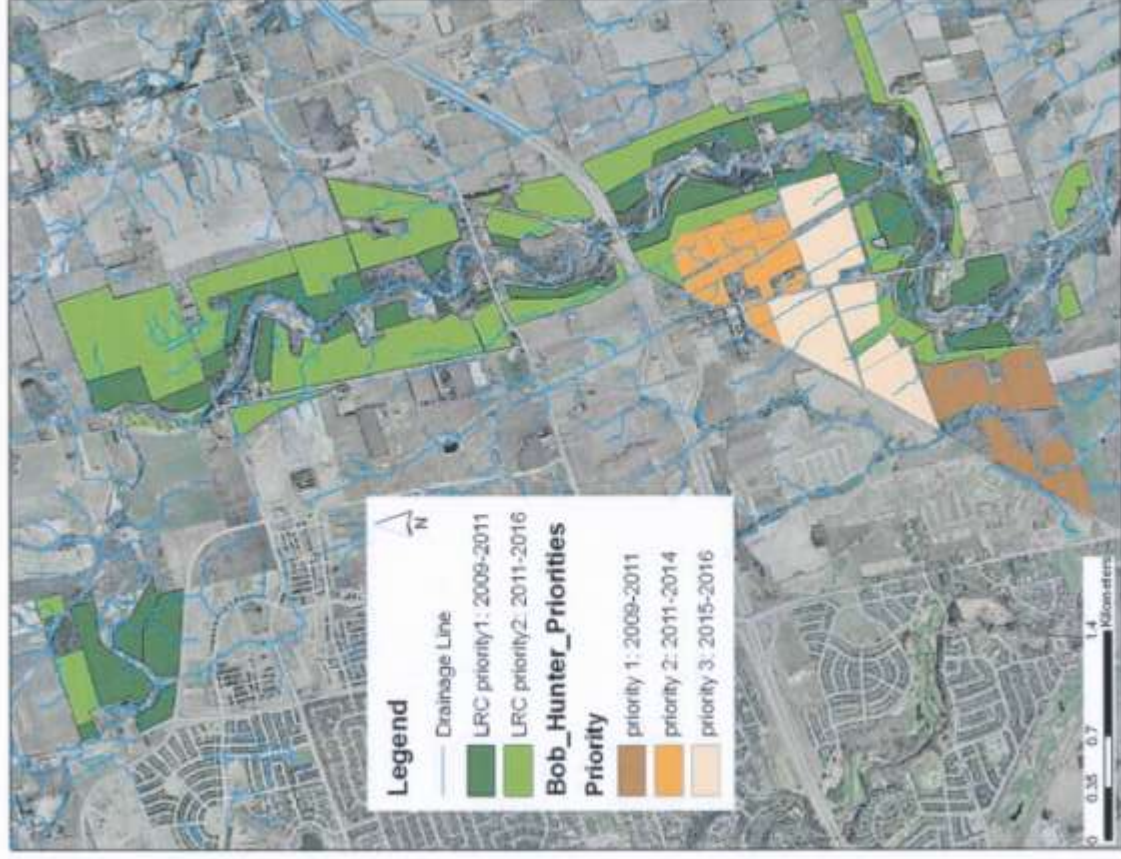
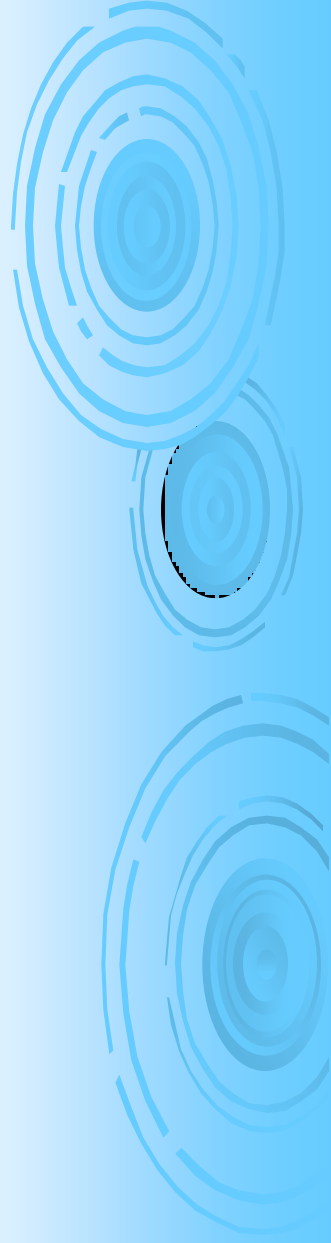


Figure 7. Priorities for habitat prescription implementation north of Steeles Avenue.

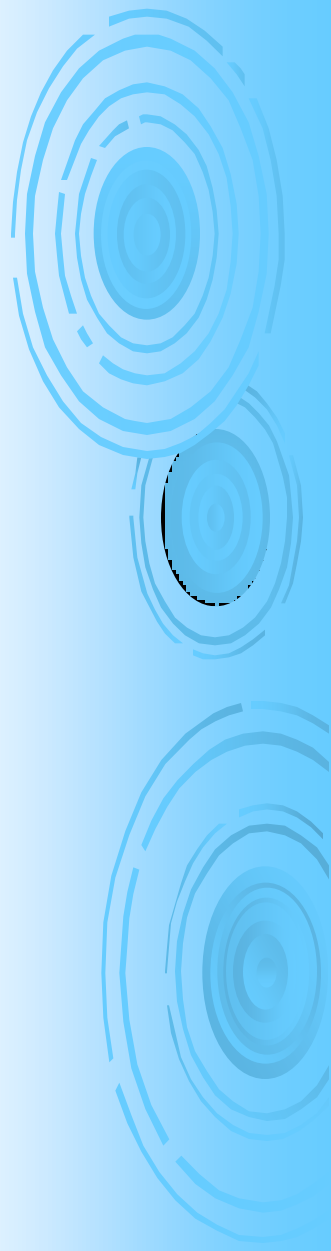
National Ecological Significance

The 100 km² public land assembly around the Rouge is the only remaining large area of public land in the nationally endangered Carolinian and mixed forest Life Zones of Canada



Rouge National Park Opportunity

- ✓ 100 km² public land assembly
- ✓ designated Greenbelt Natural Heritage System
- ✓ endangered Carolinian & mixed wood life zones
- ✓ last large area of available public land in S. Ontario
- ✓ nationally significant natural & cultural heritage



23 Federal Species at Risk in Rouge National Park Area, such as

Bashful Bulrush Butternut American Ginseng

Acadian Flycatcher Loggerhead Shrike Red-shouldered Hawk

Peregrine Falcon Chimney Swift Hooded Warbler

Common Nighthawk Red-headed Woodpecker

Stinkpot Turtle Blanding's Turtle Jefferson Salamander

Dense Blazing Star Milk snake

Monarch butterfly



Rouge Park has 800+ Plant Species (over 1/4 of Ontario's flora)



55 fish Species

including salmonids and nationally rare red
side dace



30 Mammal Species



20 Reptile & Amphibian Species

including nationally rare Blanding's Turtle & milk snake



Rouge National park

Endangered Carolinian Life Zone



Longstanding Public and All Party Support for Rouge National Park

ONTARIO / LIBERALS SEEK WAY TO SAVE FACE

THE NATION



Premier eyes Rouge Valley provincial park

Premier David Peterson is looking at saving the province's most-cherished park policy. In a diary entry, Peterson wrote that he was "looking at the Rouge Valley as a provincial park. It is a beautiful area with a lot of history and it is important to preserve it for future generations."

He said the idea is just a "pilot project" and that he is not sure if it will be a park or a "natural area."

The idea is to create a "natural area" in the Rouge Valley, which is a "natural area" and "a beautiful area with a lot of history and it is important to preserve it for future generations."

He said the idea is just a "pilot project" and that he is not sure if it will be a park or a "natural area."

Broadbent pushes for park use in Rouge



Ed Broadbent, federal leader of the New Democrats, is pushing for park use in Rouge Valley. He said that the Rouge Valley is a "natural area" and "a beautiful area with a lot of history and it is important to preserve it for future generations."

He said the idea is just a "pilot project" and that he is not sure if it will be a park or a "natural area."

The idea is to create a "natural area" in the Rouge Valley, which is a "natural area" and "a beautiful area with a lot of history and it is important to preserve it for future generations."

He said the idea is just a "pilot project" and that he is not sure if it will be a park or a "natural area."

Wednesday, April 18, 1989 52 Pages/55 Cents

Rouge must be preserved says environment minister



By STUART GREEN Staff Reporter

Environment Minister Jim Balsford says the Rouge Valley must be preserved as a provincial park. He said that the Rouge Valley is a "natural area" and "a beautiful area with a lot of history and it is important to preserve it for future generations."

He said the idea is just a "pilot project" and that he is not sure if it will be a park or a "natural area."

The idea is to create a "natural area" in the Rouge Valley, which is a "natural area" and "a beautiful area with a lot of history and it is important to preserve it for future generations."

He said the idea is just a "pilot project" and that he is not sure if it will be a park or a "natural area."

Metro Liberals want national park

By LISA CORRELLA Staff Reporter

Metro Liberals want to create a national park in the Rouge Valley. They said that the Rouge Valley is a "natural area" and "a beautiful area with a lot of history and it is important to preserve it for future generations."

They said the idea is just a "pilot project" and that they are not sure if it will be a park or a "natural area."

The idea is to create a "national park" in the Rouge Valley, which is a "natural area" and "a beautiful area with a lot of history and it is important to preserve it for future generations."

They said the idea is just a "pilot project" and that they are not sure if it will be a park or a "national park."

INSIGHT

NATURE

Rouge will be largest urban park in the world

VALLEY from IMI

"That is our gift to future generations." Canada's largest city lacks the curb appeal of, say, the Rocky Mountains or Gros Morne's whole corridors. But the Big Sande offers two valuable assets that have prompted the federal government to invest perhaps as much as \$200 million over the next few years: Rouge Park and a mammoth metropolis from which to recruit new nature lovers.

The east-end valley, which straddles the Toronto-Pickering border, is expected to be the world's largest urban park at 6,000 hectares, 15 times larger than Central Park in New York City. At its widest, it's 4 kilometres across.

The 28-kilometre ribbon of forest, wetlands, wildlife and a few waterbodies connects Lake Ontario to the Oak Ridges Moraine and is within an hour's drive of 7 million residents — many of whom aren't visiting national parks.

Since 2006-2007, attendance at all Parks Canada's wildlife, marine and historic attractions has fallen 7 per cent. At Ontario and Quebec sites, the drop is 12 per cent.

Parks Canada spokesperson Catherine Greider describes the Rouge as a "gateway to connect the entire network" of wilderness, marine and historic attractions.

"The big, big element to us is it's an accessible opportunity for close to 20 per cent of Canada's population," says Greider, who adds that park entries will likely

stakeholders that include municipalities and the province.

Wells says studies show there's "probably a need for about \$40 (million) or \$50 million of capital costs to build the trails, facilities and maintain the park" over the next decade to upgrade it to Parks Canada standards. De Boermaeker says an additional \$50 million is needed to acquire certain land parcels, some of them privately owned.

That money will come, assure park supporters such as former Toronto mayor David Crombie, who marvel that the green space has remained intact long enough to earn permanent federal financial and legislative protections.

Plundered by 19th-century shipbuilders, trampled by collars, flooded by a killer hurricane, threatened by subdivisions, criss-crossed by highways, pipelines, hydro lines and roads, the Rouge, somehow, has survived.

THE THICK REDDISH clay on the river banks tinted the water rushing southward to the region's great deep lake. And so early French explorers traversing the glacier-carved valley dubbed the wide channel the Rouge River.

The Rouge includes the region's best remaining coastal wetlands, swatches of rare ancient Carolinian forest, bobolinks, Blanding turtles and other species at risk, a 30-metre cliff, two national historic sites, working farmland, the Toronto Zoo, campgrounds and millennia of aboriginal history and culture.



Rouge Park, shown in photos taken this month and, right, in May, features rare Carolinian forest, such as risk species as bobolinks and Blanding turtles, the Toronto Zoo and millennia of aboriginal history and culture.



Toronto's waterfront, which Crombie led. Research and recommendations from Crombie's 1999 report ultimately enabled a united political, environmental and community push over 25 years to permanently protect the Rouge and, ultimately link it to the Oak Ridges Moraine.

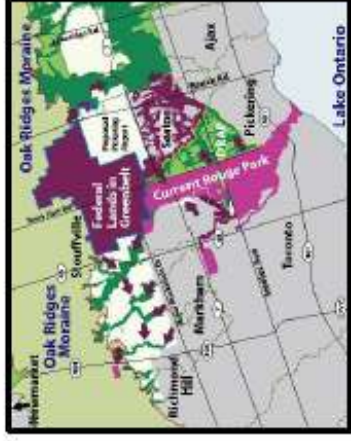
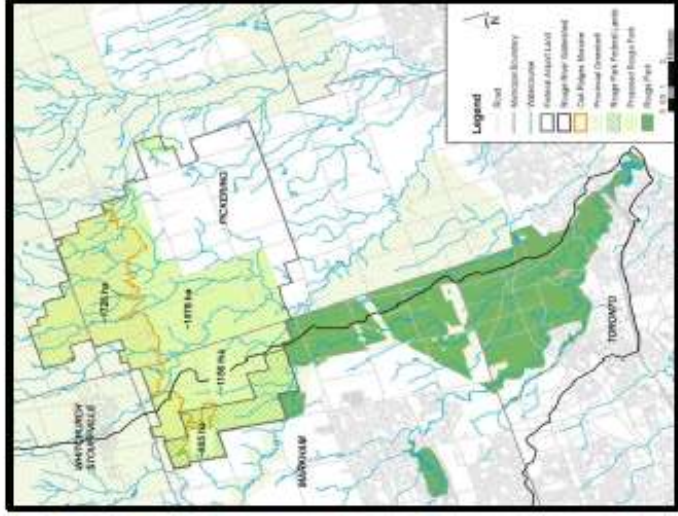
"The rule of nature and the law of physics and the law of life is that everything is



TORONTO STAR GRAPHIC

100 Km² Potential Rouge National Park (left and centre) vs. 60 km² current Study Area (map on right)

Support Your Rouge National Park



Adding Federal Lands

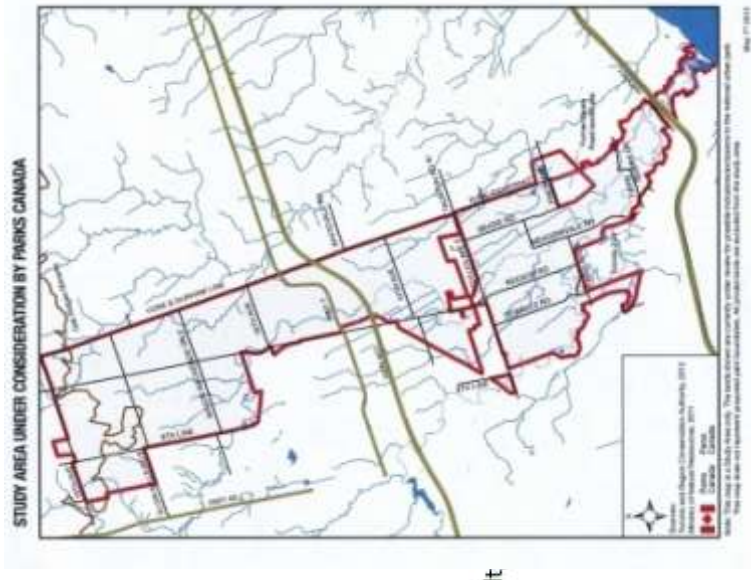
(outside proposed Airport Area and within Provincial Greenbelt

$$805 + 1156 + 1978 + 1726 = 5665 \text{ hectares} = 56.65 \text{ km}^2$$

56.65 km² federal land + 43 km² existing Rouge Park
will create a

100 km² Rouge National Park

www.rougenationalparkfriends.com



3051+ ha Federal Green Space Preserve Announced by Transport Minister in 2001/02 Linking Rouge and Duffins Watersheds with ORM

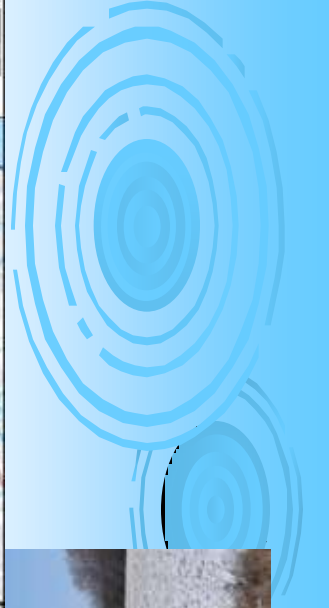
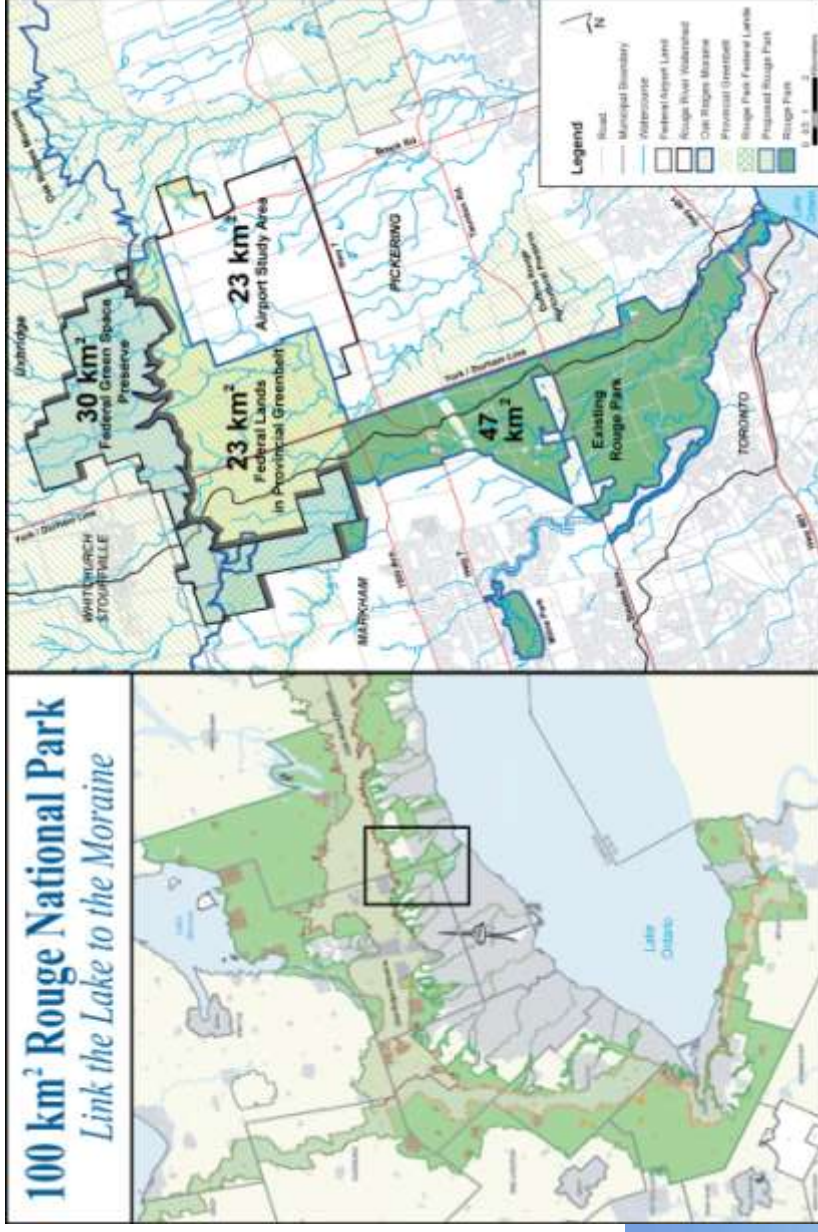


Unfortunately, most of this federal “Green Space Preserve” is not included in the current Rouge National Park Study area



A 100 km² Rouge National Park Study Area is possible by including Federal Greenbelt lands in Pickering

Stouffville extends to the Townline Road (below photo) – the federal “Green Space Preserve” lands in Pickering (east of Townline Rd below) are needed to complete the Lake to Moraine “Rouge National Park” Link



Adopt Existing Rouge Park Vision

- The approved 1994 and 2011 Rouge Park Management Plan Vision states:

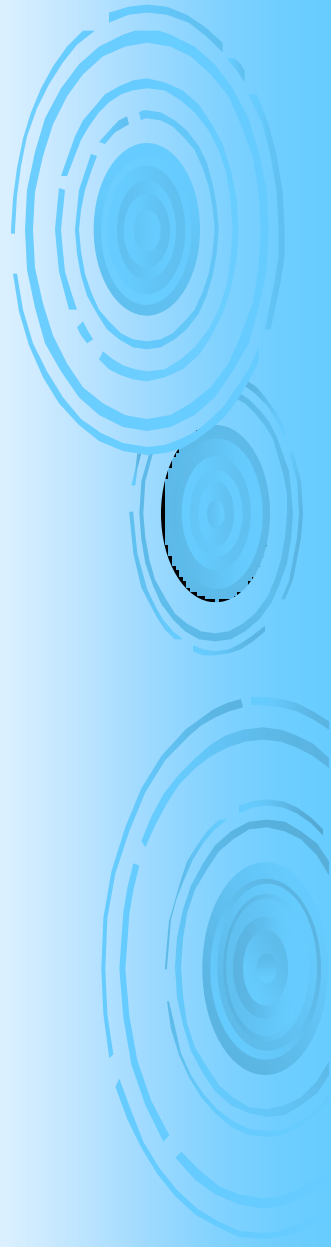
The Rouge Park will be a special place of outstanding natural features and diverse cultural heritage in an urban-rural setting, protected and flourishing as an ecosystem in perpetuity. Human activities will exist in harmony with the natural values of the park. The park will be a sanctuary for nature and the human spirit. The primary focus of the vision centres on the protection and appreciation of the park ecosystem.

- **Recommendation:** This existing, long-standing Rouge Park vision captures the public, agency and stakeholder comments received in multi-year planning processes over the last 22 years. This excellent vision should be adopted within the concept, legislation and strategic plan for Rouge National Park.



Park Purpose and Priority

- **Recommendation:** The Rouge National Park concept, legislation and strategic plan should give priority to the protection and restoration of a large mixed woodland plain and Carolinian forest system which protects and restores biological diversity, ecological health, water quality and stream flow and links Lake Ontario to the Oak Ridges Moraine with natural environment parklands, public trails and healthy local food production plots.



Rouge National Park

“Wild in the City”

- Rouge National Park is a nationally significant ecological area which should not, in our view, be mislabelled as an “Urban Park” or “People Park” as currently proposed in the draft park concept.
- **Recommendation:** “Rouge National Park” is the most appropriate name, along with the long-standing motto “Wild in the City”. This title reflects the park’s nationally important habitat and natural environment, its near-urban setting and its “national” standard of management by Parks Canada to ensure the “protection and appreciation of the park ecosystem” .

We respectfully ask the Minister of Environment Peter Kent and Prime Minister Stephen Harper to:

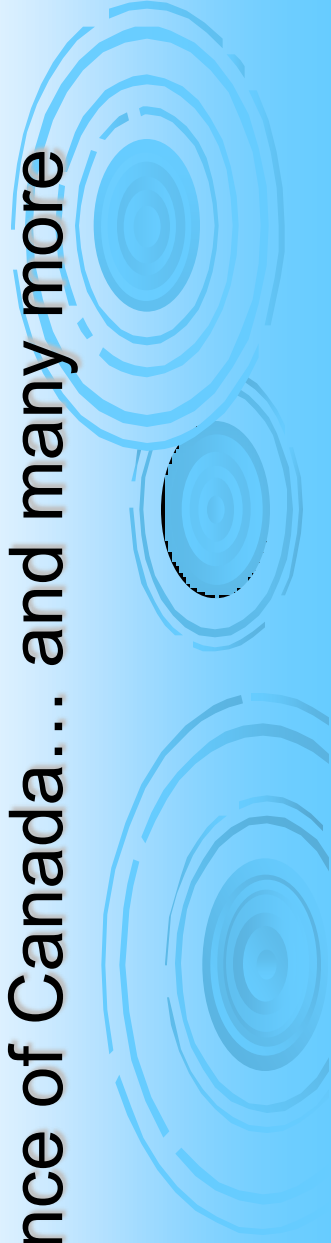
1. Create a 100 km² Rouge National Park Study Area
2. Respect, strengthen and implement the Provincial Greenbelt Plan, Rouge Park Plans, Rouge Watershed Plans and the Rouge Natural Heritage Action Plan;
3. Give priority to the protection and restoration of the Little Rouge ecological corridor to link L. Ontario to the Oak Ridges Moraine with Carolinian & mixed wood forests;



Other NGOs supporting FRW

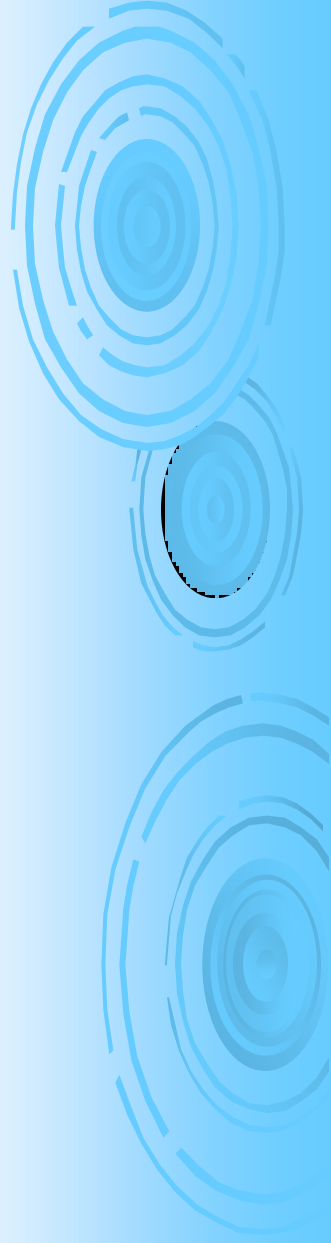
Position

- Ontario Nature
- World Wildlife Fund
- Canadian Environmental Law Association
- Great Lakes United
- Environmental Defence
- York Region Environmental Alliance
- Conservation Council of Ontario
- Animal Alliance of Canada... and many more



2010 Quote from Hon. Tom McMillan Canada's Minister of the Environment (1985-1988)

“ I view "The Rouge" as one of the most important things we did as a government, not only in the natural heritage field but in our whole public policy agenda. Now, the work to protect the Rouge, and to make its splendours accessible both to Canadians and to all humanity, must find its logical completion through full national park status for this incomparable place. **Nothing less will do justice to the natural heritage values so important to our national identity.**”



Additional Information

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