

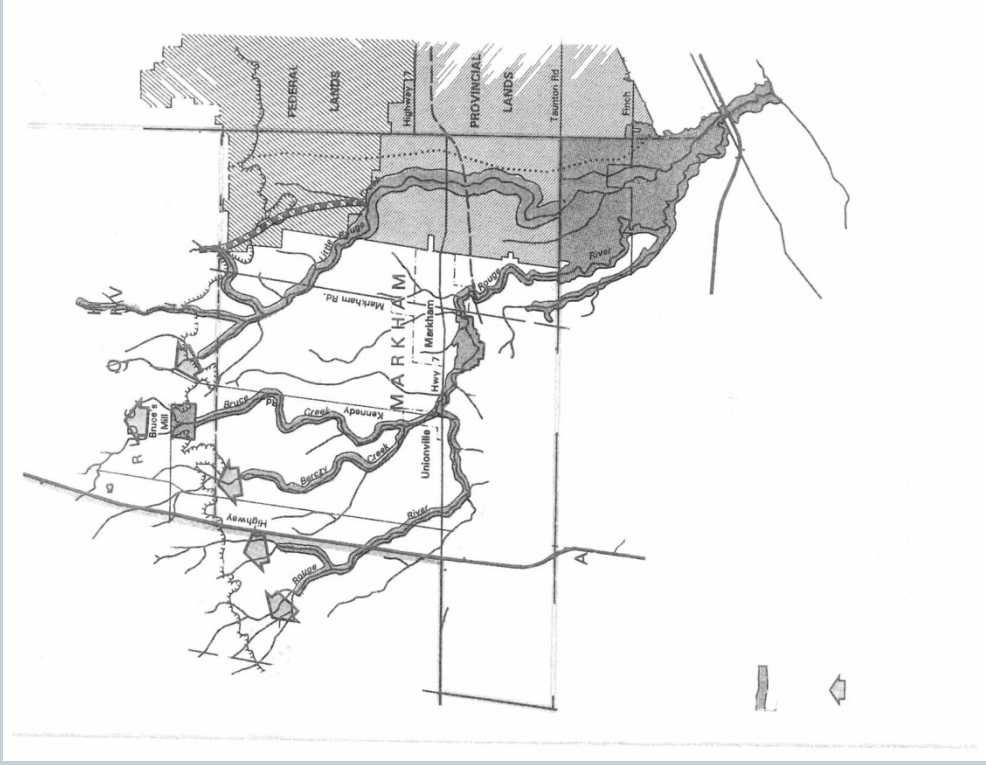


**ROUGE PARK UPDATE
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 18, 2011**

Rouge Park – Where we Started

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- Rouge Park Management Plan 1994
- Linear Park System in Markham along the main tributaries of the Rouge River
- 600 Little Rouge Creek corridor along the public lands and Federal link
- 100- 200 Little Rouge Creek corridor on private lands



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- OUGE ORTH MANAGEMENT PLAN AREA**
 OUGE PARK STU AREA
 LONG TERM CO

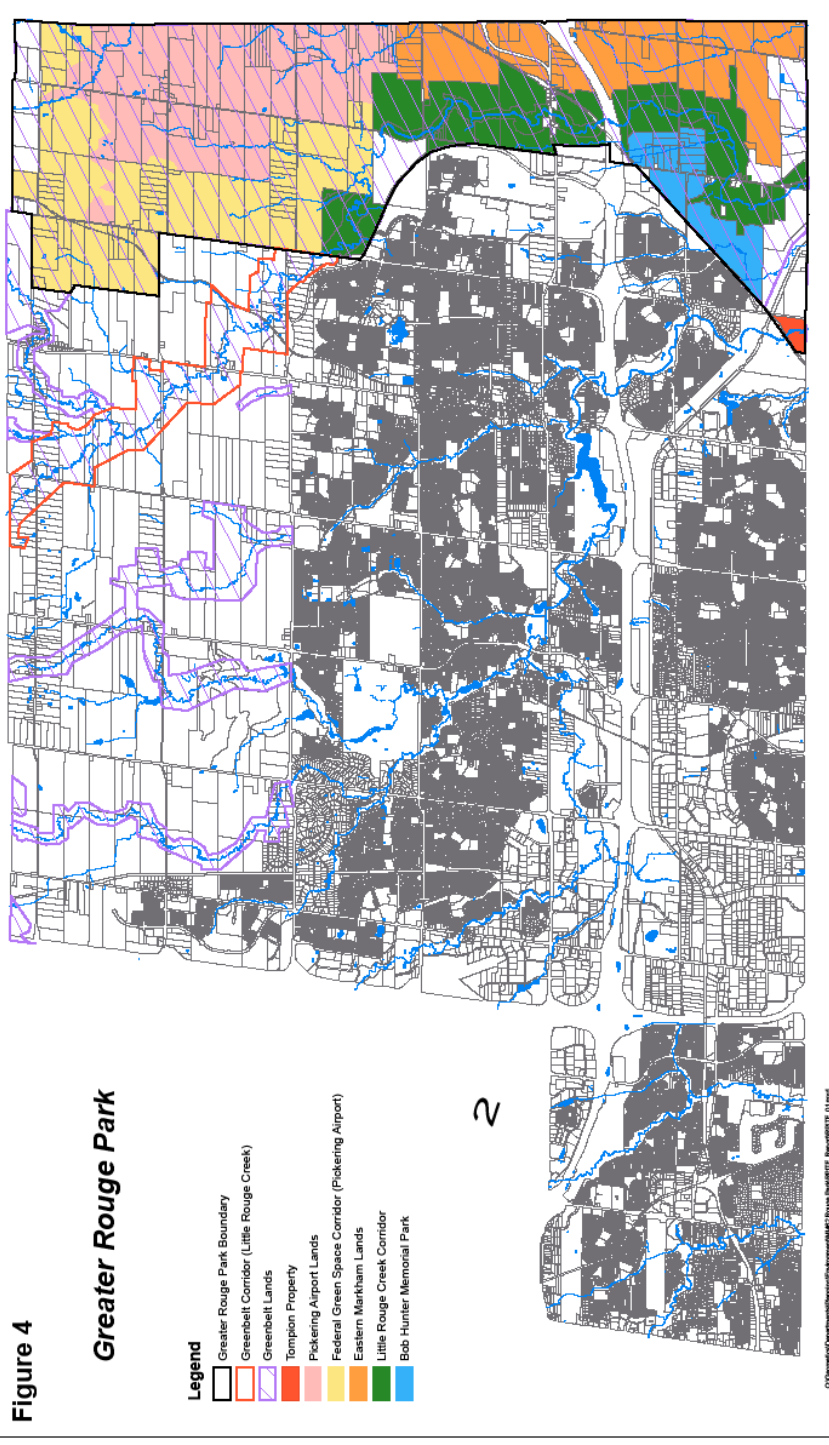
LEG.

 - 1 Little Rouge Creek Study Area
 - 2 Little Rouge Creek Study Area
 - 3 Little Rouge Creek Study Area
 - 4 Forest Block
 - 5 Additional Planting Area
 - 6 Rouge Park North
 - 7 Future Rouge Park North
 - 8 Rouge River Watershed Boundary
 - 9 Watercourses/Tributaries
 - 10 Municipal Boundary
 - 11 275 Meters Above Sea Level Contour
 - 12 Proposed Mainstem Bypass
 - 13 Relocated At-Risk Roadway Corridor
 - 14 Proposed Highway 7 Right-of-Way
 - 15 Agricultural Reserve (to be defined)
 - 16 Brucella MBI Conservation Area

Map features include: Little Rouge Creek, Little Rouge Creek Study Area, Forest Block, Additional Planting Area, Rouge Park North, Future Rouge Park North, Rouge River Watershed Boundary, Watercourses/Tributaries, Municipal Boundary, 275 Meters Above Sea Level Contour, Proposed Mainstem Bypass, Relocated At-Risk Roadway Corridor, Proposed Highway 7 Right-of-Way, Agricultural Reserve (to be defined), Brucella MBI Conservation Area, Little Rouge Creek, Toogood Pond, Walden Pond, Paramount Park, Mainstem Centre, Mainstem Park.

Rouge Park Markham 2010

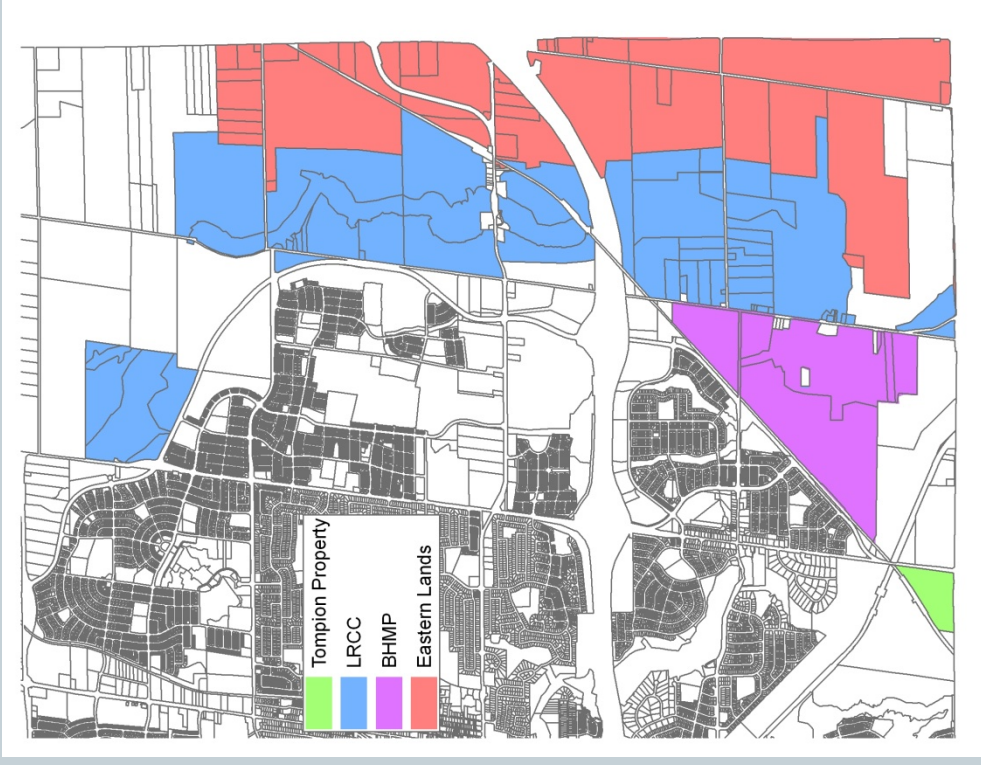
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Geography of Rouge Park in East Markham

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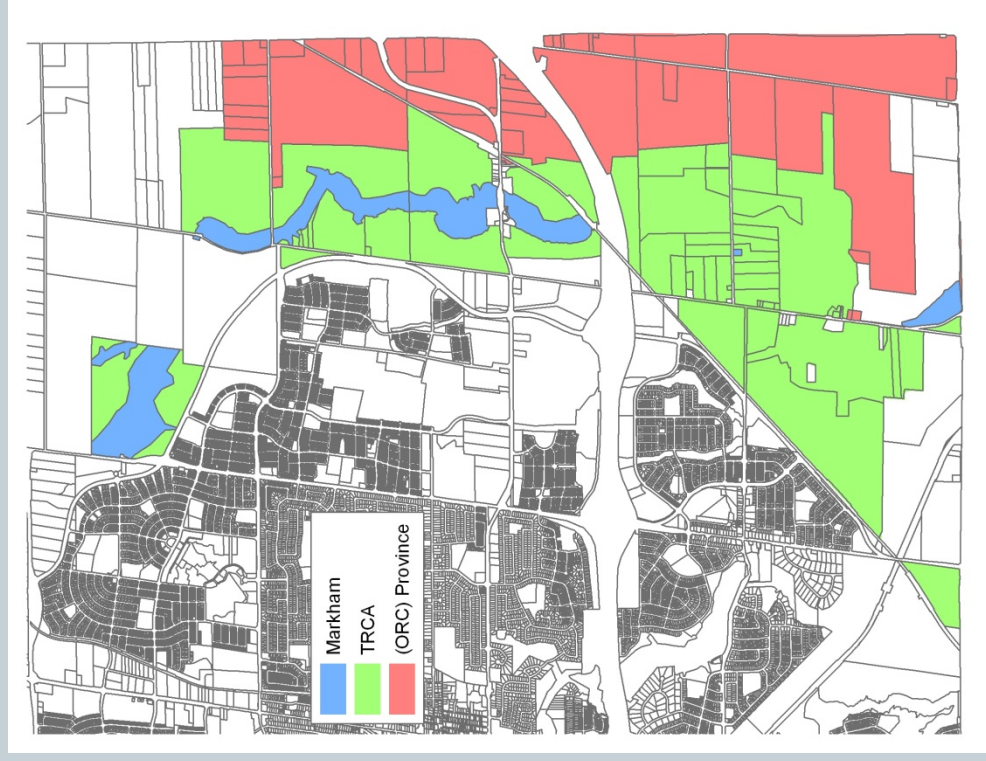
- 2002 Tompion purchase
- 2004 LRCC (1999)
- 2007 BHMP (2005)
- 2011 Eastern Lands (2011)



Size/Ownership of Rouge Park in East Markham

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- 16 ha Tompion lands
- 701 ha LRCC
- 198 ha BHMP
- 623 ha Eastern Lands
- 1538 ha
- 814 ha TRCA
- 630 ha ORC (Province)
- 126 ha Markham



Rouge Park Planning Documents

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- Rouge Park Management Plan (1994)
- Rouge Park Interpretive Plan (2000)
- Rouge North Management Plan (2001)
- Little Rouge Creek Management Plan (2007)
- Bob Hunter Memorial Park Plan (2007)
- HAVE Plan (2008)
- Rouge Park Action (Restoration) Plan (2008)
- Trails Master Plan (Underway)

Council Direction on Rouge Park Matters

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1. Funding (Annual Grant, Trails Study, Management Plan Study)
2. Support for Management Plans
3. Rouge Park Implementation Task Force
4. Governance

Town Funding for Rouge Park

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- \$25,000 annual grant (Rouge Park grant provided since 2003)
- \$50,000 Rouge Park Trails Study
- \$50,000 Consolidated Rouge Park Management Plan (not yet commenced)
- Trees for Tomorrow and MESF grants for tree plantings in the Rouge (ongoing)

Support for Management Plans

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- **March 4, 2008**
- Bob Hunter Memorial Park and Little Rouge Creek Management Plans were received in principle as broad based planning guidelines
- Rouge Park Implementation Task Force established as part of the Council's support to review leisure opportunities and other recreational opportunities in the Rouge Park
- Rouge Park North Consolidated Management Plan process has not yet commenced (update Bob Hunter and Little Rouge Plans and include Eastern Markham lands)

Rouge Park Implementation Task Force

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- **December 16, 2008, February 24, 2009, October 27, 2009**
- Rouge Park Implementation Task Force recommendations were prepared by the RPITF in December 2008
- In October 2009, Council endorsed the Task Force recommendations as direction for further discussion and negotiation with the Rouge Park
- Handout identifies the recommendations and actions undertaken to date

RPITF Recommendations (October 27, 2009)

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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.*

RPITF Recommendations

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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.*

RPITF Recommendations

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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 (Deferred)

- *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 work with the RPA and interested community groups in securing dog off-leash areas inside Rouge Park

RPITF Recommendations

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2.c MILNE TWO (GROUP PICNICS)

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 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.*

RPITF Recommendations

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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.*

RPITF Recommendations

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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.*

RPITF Recommendations

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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*

RPITF Recommendations

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2.g OTHER OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

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:

- Annual Running and Bike Races (to the moraine and back on the existing road system),, Art Shows (short-term), Chess, Children’s Playground, Children’s Summer Camps (existing use), Community Gardening, Croquet, Crosscountry Skiing,, Dog-sledding, Fishing, Golfing (existing use), Horseback Riding (existing use), Horseshoes, Kite Flying, Mountain Biking, Nature and Agriculture Lectures, Organized Hiking, Outdoor Bocce and Lawn Bowling, Outdoor Education Centre, Outdoor Skating (artificial and natural ice, Cedarena and elsewhere), Outdoor Theatre and Concerts, Snow-Shoeing, Spiritual and Artistic retreats, Swimming, Volleyball including Beach Volleyball, and Water Tubing

Category #2 – More Consideration Needed:

- Kick-Sledding, and Tobogganing

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.*

RPITF Recommendations

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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.*

RPITF Recommendations

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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

- *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 tenants/owners and provide incentives for ongoing property maintenance and repairs.*

RPITF Recommendations

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3.e AGRICULTURE IN THE PARK

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 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 (deferred)

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.

RPITF Recommendations

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4.a PARK OPERATIONS, MANAGEMENT AND FUNDING

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.*

RPITF Recommendations

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5 TOWN ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMMES

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.**

April 13, 2010 Council Resolution

- support in principle the recommendations of the Governance, Organization and Finance Review for the future management of the Rouge Park as a National Park, subject to satisfactory agreement upon a new Founding Deal
- Staff monitor and participate in discussions and report back to Council on negotiations
- Applicable RPITF recommendations be integral to the discussions
- Review has now commenced by Parks Canada

Considerations for Markham

- Boundaries of the Rouge National Park in Markham
- Land use activities and facilities in the Rouge National Park
- Funding
- Conveyance of Markham owned lands
- Role of Markham in National Park process

Town of Markham Representation

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- **Rouge Park Alliance** - Councillor Kanapathi and Councillor Campbell (Deputy Mayor Jack Heath is representative for Region of York)
- **Rouge Park Policy and Administrative Committee** (Deputy Mayor Jack Heath for Region of York)
- **Natural Heritage Committee** – staff
- **Rouge Park Agricultural Working Group** – staff
- **Rouge Park Trails Committee** – staff
- **Finance Committee** – no Markham representation

Go Forward Suggestions

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1. Appoint additional alternative representatives to the Rouge Park Alliance to ensure Markham representation on key Rouge Park issues when representatives Kanapathi and Campbell are unavailable. (Jim Baird, Lilli Duoba)
2. Appoint senior staff representatives to Parks Canada Rouge National Park negotiations to assist Markham's Rouge Park Alliance representatives. (Andy Taylor, Jim Baird)
3. Consult with Rouge Park, TRCA and ORC and report back to Committee on re-naming of Tompion lands (Ninth Line and Steeles) and Eastern Markham lands.

Questions and Comments

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