

Governance, Organization and Finance Review of the Rouge Park Alliance

Presentation to General Committee

April 12, 2010

Background

- **September 2009 the Rouge Park Alliance retained consultants to undertake Governance, Organization and Finance Review (GOFR)**
- **October 2009 Council endorsed revised recommendations from the Town's Rouge Park Implementation Task Force (RPITF)**
- **RPITF recommendations supported the Governance Review process**

Consultant's Recommendations

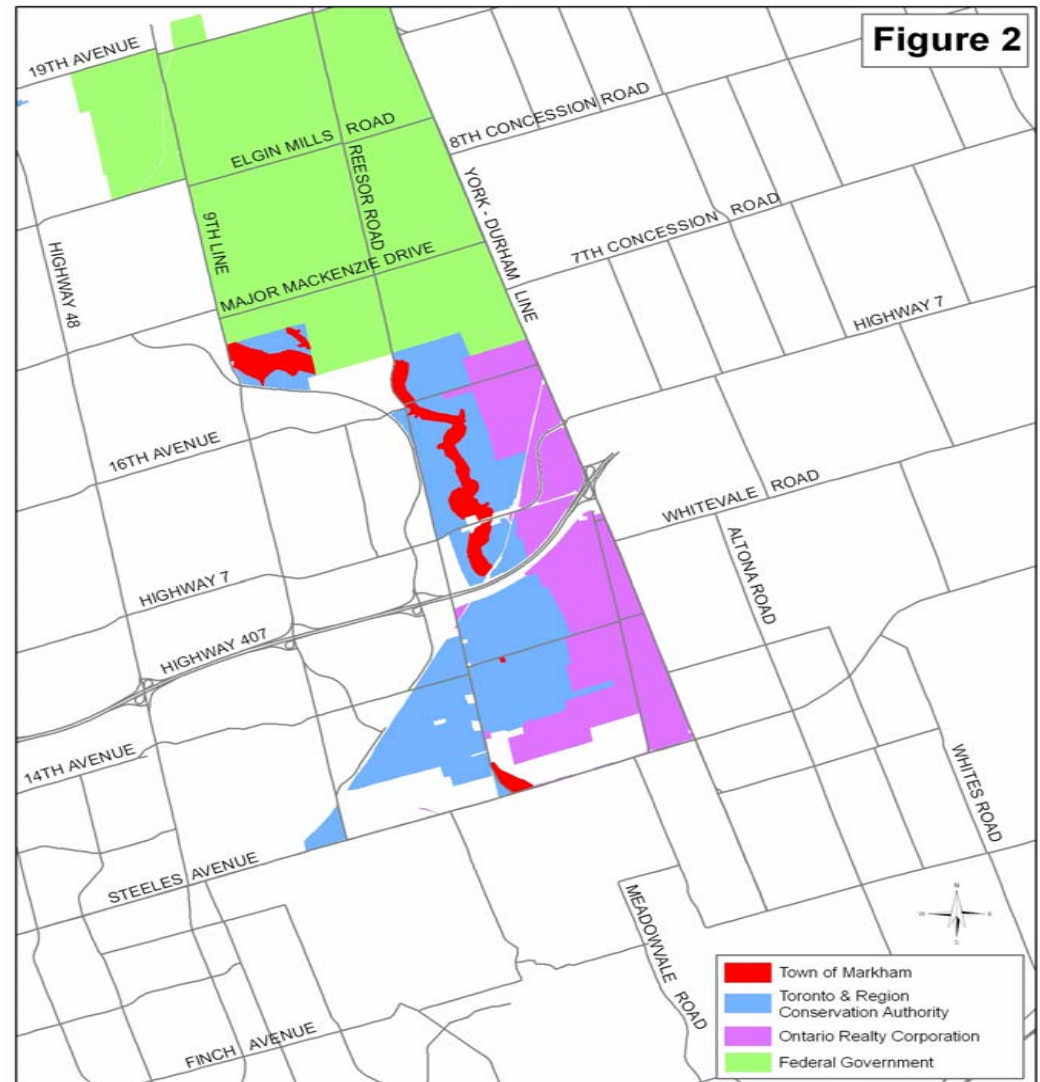
- **Seek RPA members support for a National Park.**
- **Address the Requirements of a Founding Deal.**
- **Address the Opportunity to create a shared Interpretive Centre.**
- **RPA to prepare a public & stakeholder communication & branding strategy.**
- **Absence of Founding deal by Dec 30, 2010 – Seek Government of Ontario support to reconstitute RPA to address current governance weaknesses.**

Markham Supports a National Park

- Create a formal park system based upon ecological principles
- A single funder of the Park (Parks Canada)
- No funding commitment from the Town
- There would be one operator of the Park and the requisite enabling legislation to govern the Park's operation and management

Land Ownership in Rouge Park

- Markham, TRCA, ORC & Federal Government



Founding Deal

- **Founding Deal would have to be agreed on by the members of Alliance**
- **Founding Deal would address:**
 - Funding
 - Boundaries and Land Commitments
 - Vision
 - Role of the Park
 - Governance and Transitional Arrangements
- **Outstanding Rouge Park Implementation Task Force issues will be resolved to the Town's satisfaction as precursor to finalizing Founding Deal**
- **If no progress on Founding Deal by Dec. 2010 its recommended that RPA initiate a request to be reconstituted as a not-for-profit agency**

RPITF Revised Recommendations

- **Discussions ongoing between Town staff and the Alliance regarding:**
 - Comprehensive Trails Planning
 - Large Group Picnic Area
 - Signage
 - Agriculture
 - Natural Heritage Restoration
 - Leases
- **Rouge Park Alliance response on September 15, 2009 to RPITF recommendations for the most part are generally supportive.**
- **On March 12, 2010 the Rouge Park Alliance endorsed the “Rouge Park Land Lease Framework” report and “New Agriculture Objectives, Policy and Guiding Principles” report.**
- **The Town will continue to work with Alliance to bring the RPITF revised recommendations to a satisfactory conclusion.**

Recommendations

- **That Council 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 conditions as set out in this report;**
- **And that staff continue to monitor and participate in future discussions regarding a new Founding Deal or any alternative interim and long term Rouge Park arrangements and that staff report back to Committee/Council on progress of the Founding Deal negotiations;**
- **And that applicable Rouge Park Implementation Task Force (RPITF) recommendations be integral to all discussion of a new Founding Deal;**
- **And that this staff report be forwarded to the Rouge Park Alliance;**