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www.rougepark.com  
*Wild in the City!*

Mavis Urquhart,  
Manager of Environmental Leadership for Community Services  
City of Markham,  
101 Town Centre Blvd., Markham, ON, L3R 9W3

July 13, 2012

Dear Ms. Urquhart,

**Re: City of Markham's Financial Support Toward Implementing Rouge Park Projects**

As Rouge Park continues to grow new habitats, offer exciting visitor experiences, and protect important green spaces, the partnerships we form throughout the process prove to be an integral part of the Park. As such, the partnership with the City of Markham has been very valuable to us, from assisting us with habitat restoration, to the development of many of our planning documents, including the Heritage Appreciation and Visitor Experience Plan. Most recently we have been working to complete a master plan for our park trails, and we hope that the City of Markham will help us reach the full potential of our trail system.

Rouge Park is over 40 km<sup>2</sup>, encompassing a unique mosaic of river valley, creeks, forests, meadow and rural landscapes, within the Rouge River, Petticoat Creek and Duffins Creek watersheds in the Greenbelt, and represents Canada's largest natural environment park in an urban setting. The Park offers a range of enhanced visitor experiences, from exploring rustic hiking trails to participating in exciting wildlife monitoring programs. We are now in a position where striking the balance between habitat restoration and visitor experience is more crucial than ever in order to ensure that Rouge Park is able to meet its full potential as Canada's largest urban wilderness park.

Rouge Park is proud to be part of the Greenbelt and offers a natural sanctuary to millions of people in and around the GTA. With such close proximity to the Box Grove, Cedar Grove and Cornell communities in Markham, the Park provides a nearby wilderness retreat for thousands of people who will embrace their own nature and history discoveries. We offer visitors the opportunity to hike along trails that were once ancient logging routes, see active farms, and become actively involved in the restoration and enhancement of this valuable green space in the Protected Countryside.

The Rouge Park Alliance appreciates the continuous support we receive from the City of Markham through an annual grant of \$25,000. Additionally Markham provides Rouge Park with ongoing leadership as Deputy Mayor Heath and Councilor Logan Kanapathi are members of our Board of Directors. Further to this, Markham staff has actively contributed to our Natural Heritage Committee, and Trail Advisory Committees. All of this support has helped us restore, protect and enhance Rouge Park for generations to come.

The continued support that Markham provides Rouge Park, through both financial allocations and strong leadership, helps the park protect and restore important habitats, celebrate its agricultural heritage, and offer rewarding visitor experiences. We thank the City of Markham for the strong partnership support that has been provided to Rouge Park over the years and into 2012.

Included in the following report you will find reports on Rouge Park efforts in Markham for your consideration. If you require any further information or detail, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,

Mike Bender  
General Manager, Rouge Park