

3

OAK RIDGES CORRIDOR PARK EAST MANAGEMENT PLAN TOWN OF RICHMOND HILL

The Environmental Services Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report dated December 19, 2011, from the Commissioner of Environmental Services.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Council endorse the Oak Ridges Corridor Park East Management Plan as prepared by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and recognize that capital funding contributions are limited to funds available through the Pedestrian and Cycling Municipal Partnership Program.
2. This report be circulated by the Regional Clerk to the Town of Richmond Hill and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present a summary of the Oak Ridges Corridor Park East Management Plan as it relates to York Region interests, and seek Regional Council endorsement of the plan in principle.

3. BACKGROUND

Oak Ridges Corridor Park East consists of 175 hectares of lands in Richmond Hill

Oak Ridges Corridor Park East is owned and managed by Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and located on the Oak Ridges Moraine. With rolling topography typical of the Oak Ridges Moraine, Oak Ridges Corridor Park East lands are located in the headwater regions of the Humber River and Rouge River watersheds. These lands are rich in biodiversity, including vegetation communities which support unique wildlife. The site is part of both the Jefferson Forest, and Lake Wilcox Kettle Wetland and Uplands Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest, and is known to provide habitat for the endangered Jefferson Salamander.

In 2007 Regional Council previously endorsed the 'Oak Ridges Corridor Park Management Plan'. These Oak Ridges Corridor Park lands are west of the Oak Ridges Corridor Park East lands, which are the subject of this report (*see Attachment 1*).

Oak Ridges Corridor Park East lands include lands purchased by Toronto Region Conservation Authority in partnership with York Region and Town of Richmond Hill

Toronto Region Conservation Authority acquired Oak Ridges Corridor Park East land in individual parcels between 2001 and 2009, using funding contributions from various agencies, including York Region, Town of Richmond Hill, City of Toronto and Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation. York Region's Greening Strategy facilitates partnerships between agencies to leverage funds to acquire strategic lands to protect and enhance our green infrastructure. York Region's Greening land securement reserve contributed \$2,233,333 towards four acquisitions totalling 65 hectares (total value of \$6,750,000) to protect lands in this area (*see Attachment 1 and Table 1*)

Table 1
York Region's Greening Strategy land acquisitions in
Oak Ridges Corridor Park East

Year	Property	Size (ha)	Total Acquisition Cost	York Contribution
2001	Jefferson Forest	19	\$881,000	\$313,333 (~1/3)
2006	Bayview Oakridges Estates	10	\$1,000,000	\$250,000 (1/4)
2008	Swan Lake	20	\$3,600,000	\$1,200,000 (1/3)
2009	Klees Property	16	\$1,410,000	\$470,000 (1/3)

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority has been working with the partners to develop a management plan

The Oak Ridges Corridor Park East Management Plan was prepared with guidance from a Technical Steering Committee, Public Advisory Committee and public consultation. Committees were provided with the same terms of reference to guide them in the development of the management plan.

The Technical Steering Committee was comprised of representatives from the Town of Richmond Hill, Regional Municipality of York, Ontario Realty Corporation, Rouge Park and Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation.

The Public Advisory Committee was made up of representatives from community groups, agencies, area residents and the Town of Richmond Hill (Ward 1 Councillor). The public was informed and consulted throughout the process through newsletters, questionnaires, open houses and public meetings held for each phase of the management

planning process. Their concerns, comments and suggestions were heard and integrated into the plan wherever possible.

The Oak Ridges Corridor Park East Management Plan follows the same vision laid out in the Oak Ridges Corridor Park Management Plan.

The Oak Ridges Corridor Park will be a sanctuary for nature and an essential ecological linkage on the Oak Ridges Moraine where visitors can learn about ecosystem features and functions, wildlife and human influences, and enjoy activities that are compatible with the natural and cultural values of the park.

In addition to the vision, the committee developed a series of 'Values of Sustainability' statements in recognition of the unique features of the Oak Ridges Corridor Park East lands. A full description of the value statements can be found in *Attachment 2*.

The 5 year Management Plan contains ecological, social, and economic aspects including trail development

The plan focuses on protection, preservation and enhancement of the natural features of the study area. Natural feature management activities will be determined through regular monitoring of the health of those features for harmful impacts (such as the spread of invasive species). Toronto Region Conservation Authority will also pursue further natural heritage protection of the area through cooperative relations with adjacent landowners, and education and stewardship initiatives.

Archaeological resources (33 registered sites) will continue to be protected. Opportunities for interpretation of sites will be explored in consultation with First Nations communities.

Recommendations which contribute to the recreational interests include a 10.1 km nature-based trail network designed to connect inter-regional and local trails. The trail network will include the use of loops and trail connections, allowing trail users to meet their individual needs. Local communities will be encouraged to become involved in the management and protection of the area through the development of a stewardship committee and trail captain program.

Financial recommendations in the report include future exploration of partnership management opportunities and application for alternate funding sources. The Oak Ridges Corridor Park East is adjacent to the Oak Ridges Corridor Park. In an effort to be more efficient and effective this Plan identifies integration of the two areas by developing a combined plan for implementation, and referring to the combined areas under the common name 'Oak Ridges Corridor Conservation Reserve'.

The full list of management recommendations can be found in *Attachment 2*.

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority has asked The Regional Municipality of York and the Town of Richmond Hill to endorse this Plan

The Oak Ridges Corridor Park East Management Plan dated August 2011 prepared by Toronto Region Conservation Authority was approved in principle by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Board (September 30, 2011), and received by the Regional Municipality of York (*Attachment 3*). Town of Richmond Hill Council subsequently endorsed the plan in November.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

Oak Ridges Corridor Park East Management Plan is consistent with Regional policies and objectives

The York Region Official Plan includes a policy to increase woodland cover to a minimum of 25 per cent of the Region's total land area. Currently the Region is at 22.5 per cent woodland cover. This Policy recognizes the benefits to residents of the protection of woodlands and their biodiversity. Through implementation of the Oak Ridges Corridor Park East Management Plan, 14.5 hectares of land will be restored to a natural state, therefore contributing to an increase in woodland cover.

All 175 ha (432 acres) of land within the Oak Ridges Corridor Park East are identified as part of the Regional Greenlands System and as an Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan Core Area. Management, protection and enhancement of these lands is consistent with the Regional Greenlands System objective as stated in the Regional Official Plan (2009).

“To identify, protect and enhance the Regional Greenlands System and its functions to ensure a healthy system rich in native biodiversity.”

The Regional Official Plan also contains a policy which speaks to the importance of working with local municipalities, conservation authorities and trail organizations on initiatives that contribute to, or complement, the creation of a Regional Greenlands System trails network.

The Regional Greening Strategy provides opportunities to protect and enhance the natural environment of York Region through the empowerment of actions by our municipalities, partners, stakeholders and residents. The management recommendations of the Oak Ridges Corridor Park East Management Plan are consistent with the Regional Greening Strategy and its action areas including natural area protection, reforestation, education and stewardship.

The 10.1km of proposed trail supports the Region's Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan objectives

York Region's Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan (2008) recommends Regional and interregional scale trail networks that provide opportunities for commuting, as well as recreation. The primary spine trail that is proposed in the Oak Ridges Corridor Park East Management Plan will form a section of the interregional Oak Ridges Trail, connecting the Oak Ridges Corridor Park East to one of the major interregional nature trail systems of Ontario.

Link to Key Council-approved Plans

An indicator of success in the 2011-2015 Strategic Plan calls for an increase in non-automotive travel (transit riders, pedestrians, cyclists) with the objective to improve mobility for users on Regional transportation corridors. Implementation of this plan will provide new travel opportunities as part of an interregional trail network.

Vision 2026 supports health and wellness for York residents and values the unique natural features in the Region. This trail network provides an opportunity for healthy living as part of an interregional trail network. Added protection of these lands through natural feature management supports the Vision 2026 goal for an Enhanced Environment, Heritage and Culture and secures a green York Region.

Management of the Oak Ridges Corridor Park East in accordance with this management plan is consistent with the objectives and policies of the Regional Official Plan. The management plan protects and promotes a linked greenlands system, provides an opportunity to build on a Regional system of natural heritage trails, and provides for habitat creation and increased forest cover in the Region.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Plan outlines the existing partnership and identifies capital cost sharing with partners including York Region and Richmond Hill

The estimated cost to implement the Oak Ridges Corridor Park East Management Plan is \$1,607,000 over a five year period. \$832,000 of this amount is identified as capital costs for trail construction and trail infrastructure (parking lots, trailheads and lookouts). At this time, Toronto Region Conservation Authority is confirming local municipal funding and is seeking other contributions. The five year implementation time frame is dependant on the Toronto Region Conservation Authorities ability to raise funds.

The York Region Pedestrian and Cycling Municipal Partnership program is a funding program that exists to support the development and construction of regional scale trails. This program offers up to 50 per cent of the eligible costs for qualifying local municipal

and agency pedestrian and cycling projects that serve a regional interest. Toronto Region Conservation Authority is eligible to apply for funding (with the Town of Richmond Hill's support) to assist with the construction of the proposed spine trail in Oak Ridges Corridor Park East. The Conservation Authority application was referenced in the October 2011 Planning and Development Services report to Council on 2012 Pedestrian and Cycling projects. Staff have been working closely with Toronto Region Conservation Authority, providing guidance through the application process to ensure consistency with Regional plans.

Town of Richmond Hill has endorsed the plan and identified approximately 50 per cent of the estimated cost for design and construction of the Oak Ridges Corridor Park East trail system in their 10 year capital plan (\$360,000 for Primary Trail Construction in 2013 and \$60,000 for Secondary Trail Construction in 2015). Funding would be contingent upon the Toronto Region Conservation Authorities ability to raise the remaining required funds (i.e., another \$420,000).

Previous funding for the operational management of the Oak Ridges Corridor Park East lands has been part of the existing York Region Toronto Region Conservation Authority annual budget allocation. Projected operational costs were not identified in the management plan. Any future funding expectations associated with operational management of these lands will be identified and requested in subsequent annual budget processes.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The Oak Ridges Corridor Park East is a significant ecological and recreational amenity for the Town of Richmond Hill and residents of York Region.

The Town of Richmond Hill has provided input to the development of the Oak Ridges Corridor Park East Management Plan through staff representation on the Technical Steering Committee. In November the Town of Richmond Hill endorsed the Management Plan and identify approximately \$420,000 for trail design and construction in their 10 year capital plan (subject to matching funding being found by Toronto Region Conservation Authority).

7. CONCLUSION

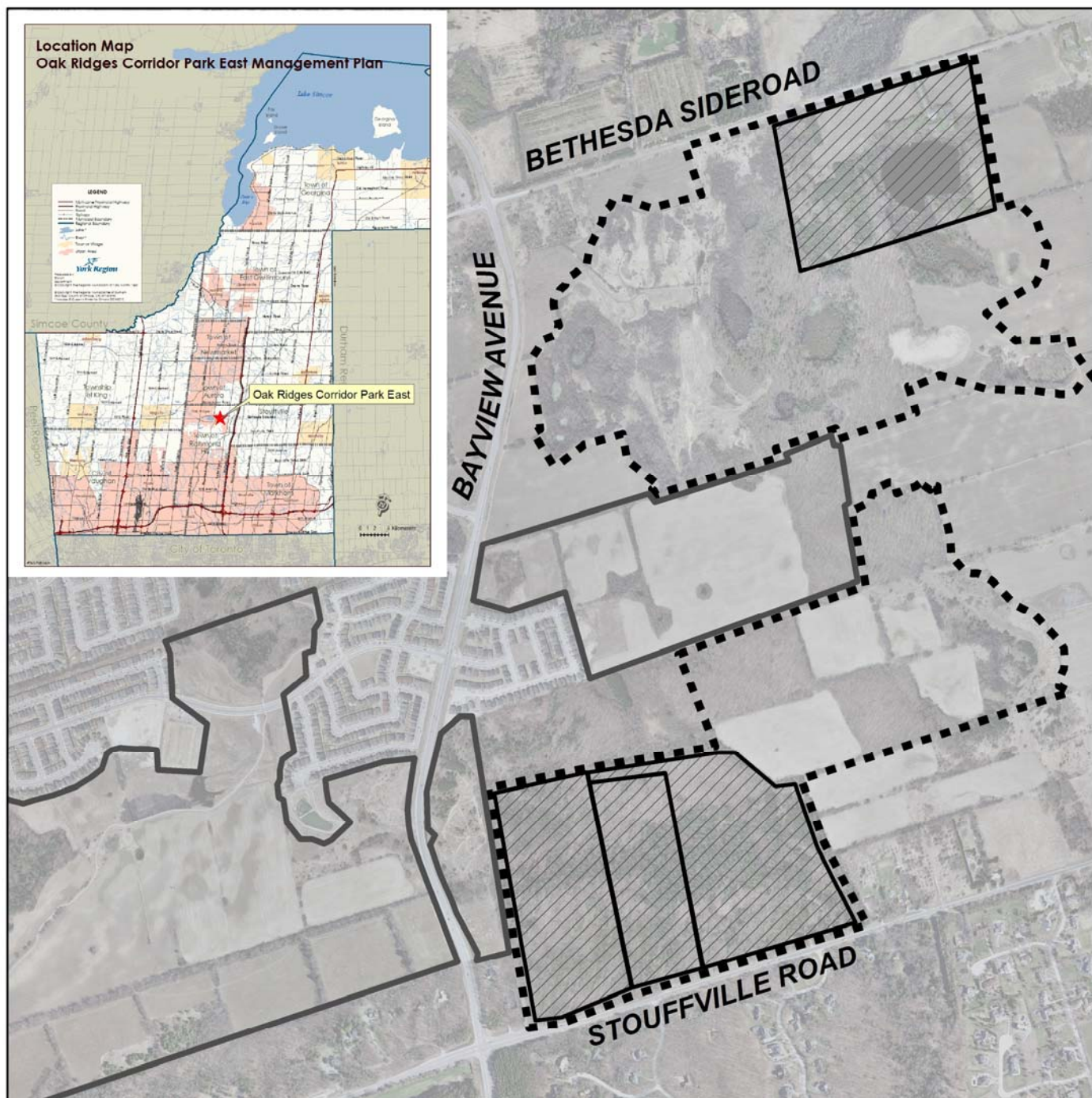
Endorsement of the Oak Ridges Corridor Park East Management Plan is consistent with Regional objectives and policies as articulated in the York Region Official Plan, Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan and Greening Strategy. Funding contributions will be sought through non-government grants, the local municipality, York Region Pedestrian and Cycling Municipal Partnership program and Toronto Region Conservation Authorities annual budget request.

The plan proposes restoration of 14.5 hectares of open space on the Oak Ridges Moraine and construction of 10.1 km of trails. Council endorsement of this Plan will further demonstrate York Region's commitment to protecting and restoring a healthy natural heritage system and a linked system of trails for current and future generations.

For more information on this report, please contact Ian Buchanan, Manager of Natural Heritage and Forestry at 905-830-4444 Ext. 5204 or Laura McDowell, Director of Promotion and Protection at Ext. 5077.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The three attachments referred to in this clause are attached to this report.)



Oak Ridges Corridor Park East Management Plan, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, August 2011. Summaries from sections 2.3 & 5.

Section 2.3 Vision and Values (pages 14 & 15)

Values for Sustainability

Ecological: Recognize that protected natural heritage is essential to the health and future of the watershed and must be protected and enhanced so it can be used and enjoyed by future generations.

Cultural: Value and protect linkages to the history and past uses of an area and use their lessons to help guide present and future actions.

Social: Foster development and engagement of community members as a key to building a stewardship ethic. Recognize and value people's connections to land and provide recreation and experiential learning that is compatible with the natural and cultural values of the land.

Economic: Encourage long-term economic vitality through strategic planning and partnership development.

Section 5 Management Recommendations (pages 33 – 45)

Management recommendations to be undertaken within the next five (5) years:

Ecological

- Conduct regular inventory and monitoring of flora, fauna and overall condition of both the aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.
- Protect groundwater resources including seepage and recharge zones.
- Monitor and manage invasive species.
- Protect species of concern and enhance habitat opportunities for these species.
- Restore habitat through wetland creation, habitat enhancements and reforestation.
- Resolve longstanding sediment control issue in the southwest corner of the property.
- Pursuit of a contiguous block of natural heritage protection through cooperative relations with private landowners adjacent to the site and consideration of all the land securement tools available including education and stewardship.

Cultural & Social

- Protect and conserve archaeological sites and explore opportunities to interpret these sites.
- Conduct regular property inventory and audit surveys to identify encroachments, unauthorized activities and safety concerns.
- Establish a stewardship committee and trail captain program to engage local residents in the care of the property.
- Maintain the fields south of Bethesda Sideroad for active agriculture or similar use (e.g. community gardens).
- Ensure continual monitoring and management of unauthorized uses occurring on the property in order to prevent environmental damage, protect public health and safety, and reduce maintenance costs.

- Continue to work with York Regional police and Richmond Hill by-law staff to address unauthorized use on the site.
- Trails
 - Establish a formal trail system that will protect the natural system while providing nature-based recreation opportunities.
 - Connect the Oak Ridges Corridor Park East trail system to other trails systems, including inter-regional trails (such as the Oak Ridges Trail) and local trails.
 - Create a continuous network of trails through the use of loops and trail connections, allowing trail users to adapt the system to their individual needs.

Economic

- Explore opportunities to partner on project implementation with the Town of Richmond Hill, the Regional Municipality of York, local community groups and other interested stakeholders.
- Apply for funding to the Regional Municipality of York's Pedestrian and Cycling Municipal Partnership Program to fund the cost of trail plan implementation.

Integration

- Develop a combined overarching integration plan for Oak Ridges Corridor Park East and Oak Ridges Corridor Park implementation projects.
- Rename Oak Ridges Corridor Park East and Oak Ridges Corridor Park under a single overarching name, "Oak Ridges Corridor Conservation Reserve".
- Develop an integrated plan for implementation projects proposed for the former Oak Ridges Corridor Park and Oak Ridges Corridor Park East.
- Establish one stewardship committee for the entire complex.

#3959725



November 21, 2011

Sent via email
Barbara.Davies@york.ca

Ms. Barb Davies
Regional Greening Coordinator
Transportation Services
York Region
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1

Dear Ms. Davies:

At Authority Meeting #8/11, of Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), held on September 30, 2011, Resolution #A180/11 in regard to Oak Ridges Corridor Park East Management Plan was approved as follows:

THAT the draft Oak Ridges Corridor Park East Management Plan dated August 2011 be approved in principle;

THAT the draft Plan be circulated to the Town of Richmond Hill and the Regional Municipality of York requesting endorsement of the Plan;

THAT following circulation, staff report to the Authority to confirm approval of the final Plan;

THAT the lands referred to as "Oak Ridges Corridor Park East" and "Oak Ridges Corridor Park" respectively, be renamed and collectively referred to as the "Oak Ridges Corridor Conservation Reserve";

THAT Province of Ontario approval of the use of the name "Oak Ridges Corridor Conservation Reserve" for the provincial lands under management agreement be requested;

AND FURTHER THAT the relevant stakeholders associated with the Oak Ridges Corridor Park and Corridor Park East lands be advised of Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's (TRCA) decision to use the name "Oak Ridges Corridor Conservation Reserve".

As per the above Resolution, TRCA is requesting endorsement of the Plan by York Region. Enclosed for your information and any action deemed necessary is the report as presented to the Authority. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the undersigned at 416-661-6600 extension 5264 (kstranks@trca.on.ca) or Steve Joudrey at extension 5573 (sjoudrey@trca.on.ca).

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kathy Stranks'.

Kathy Stranks
Manager, Chair and CAO's Office

cc. Steve Joudrey, Project Manager, Conservation Lands, TRCA

/Encl.

Item AUTH7.1

TO: Chair and Members of the Authority
Meeting #8/11, September 30, 2011

FROM: James W. Dillane, Director, Finance and Business Services

RE: **OAK RIDGES CORRIDOR PARK EAST MANAGEMENT PLAN**

KEY ISSUE

Approval in principle of the Oak Ridges Corridor Park East Management Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the draft Oak Ridges Corridor Park East Management Plan dated August 2011 be approved in principle;

THAT the draft Plan be circulated to the Town of Richmond Hill and the Regional Municipality of York requesting endorsement of the Plan;

THAT following circulation, staff report to the Authority to confirm approval of the final Plan;

THAT the lands referred to as "Oak Ridges Corridor Park East" and "Oak Ridges Corridor Park" respectively, be renamed and collectively referred to as the "Oak Ridges Corridor Conservation Reserve";

THAT Province of Ontario approval of the use of the name "Oak Ridges Corridor Conservation Reserve" for the provincial lands under management agreement be requested;

AND FURTHER THAT the relevant stakeholders associated with the Oak Ridges Corridor Park and Corridor Park East lands be advised of Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's (TRCA) decision to use the name "Oak Ridges Corridor Conservation Reserve".

BACKGROUND

Oak Ridges Corridor Park East (ORCPE), is a 175 hectare (432 acre) parcel of land owned by TRCA and located on the Oak Ridges Moraine.

The ORCPE property straddles the boundary between the Humber River and Rouge River watersheds. It is located in the Town of Richmond Hill, in the Regional Municipality of York. Its boundaries are Bethesda Sideroad to the north and Stouffville Road to the south and it is located between Bayview Avenue and Leslie Street to the west and east, respectively. The property was acquired in pieces between 2001 and 2009.

At Authority Meeting #3/07, held on April 27, 2007, the process to create a management plan for Oak Ridges Corridor Park East (formerly known as the Jefferson's Forest Management Tract) was approved via Resolution #A100/07 as follows:

THAT staff be directed to establish an advisory committee, which would include members of the Humber Watershed Alliance, Rouge Park Alliance, interested community groups, business representatives, community residents, agency staff, municipal staff and area councillors, to assist with the development of the Jefferson's Forest Management Plan and to facilitate the opportunity for public input;

AND FURTHER THAT the management plan be brought to the Authority for approval once completed.

RATIONALE

The Oak Ridges Moraine is one of Ontario's most significant landforms, stretching 160 km and providing clean, safe drinking water to over a quarter of a million people. It also provides an essential natural corridor for hundreds of plant and wildlife species that call the Oak Ridges Moraine home. As part of its strategy to protect these environmentally sensitive lands, the Province of Ontario reached an agreement in the early part of this decade to create the Oak Ridges Corridor Park, a 428 hectare nature sanctuary that stretches from Bathurst Street to Bayview Avenue and includes a 5 km spine trail.

The Oak Ridges Corridor Park is enhanced by over 175 hectares of greenspace owned by TRCA to the east of Bayview Avenue. Referred to as the Oak Ridges Corridor Park East lands (ORCPE), these lands were acquired by TRCA between 2001 and 2009. ORCPE is dominated by forests and wetlands, and consists of many unique and sensitive natural areas. Within the site are over 80 vegetation communities, 471 plant species and 81 wildlife species.

However, this site is under pressure. The population of Richmond Hill is projected to increase from approximately 170,000 in 2006 to over 240,000 by 2031. Rising urban populations will place increased pressure on the lands in a variety of ways, including increasing demand for access and recreation. Pending development to the east and west has the potential to impact the hydrology and natural systems of the site. These potential impacts underscore the need for careful planning, responsible management, and above all, restoration of the disturbed lands.

This management plan lays out a series of management recommendations and actions that seek to protect the natural heritage system while also providing for enjoyable nature-based recreation opportunities for the local community and residents of Richmond Hill.

Plan Process and Consultation

Past experience has shown that residents and community groups have grown more concerned with the impact of land use change on the remaining natural landscapes within the Greater Toronto Area. At the same time, user groups, businesses and municipalities have expressed a growing interest in a variety of uses for public lands, including nature-based recreation, ecological restoration and community stewardship. The provision of public uses on TRCA-owned land must consider economic factors and the recreational needs of the community, while ensuring the natural landscape is protected and properly stewarded.

The objective of the management planning process is to develop a plan for the ORCPE property that protects its natural environment while exploring its potential for nature-based recreation. The management plan will guide future development and management of the area.

The planning process was undertaken in three phases, as outlined below. Phase one included the establishment of technical and advisory committees and the development of the site securement and protection plan. Phase two included project start-up and the completion of the background report. Phase three included the development of the management plan document, including property management zones, identification of existing habitat restoration priorities and development of a trail plan.

Phase One

- establish technical committee;
- develop site securement and protection plan.

Phase Two

- natural and cultural heritage inventories of the property;
- establish technical steering and public advisory committees and host meetings;
- develop values and management principles that will guide management plan process;
- complete management plan background report;
- establish and circulate a study newsletter;
- host public meetings to review material.

Phase Three

- develop management zones;
- review habitat restoration plans;
- develop trail plan;
- develop management recommendations that integrate watershed management recommendations;
- host advisory committee meetings;
- circulate a study newsletter update;
- host public meetings to review draft material;
- finalize all materials;
- obtain partners and TRCA board endorsement and/or approval of the plan.

For the ORCPE Management Plan, TRCA established two committees: a Technical Steering Committee and a Public Advisory Committee. The Technical Steering Committee was comprised of representatives from the Town of Richmond Hill, the Regional Municipality of York, the Ontario Realty Corporation, Rouge Park and the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation.

The Public Advisory Committee was made up of representatives from community groups, agencies, local stakeholders, and area residents and landowners. The committees were provided with a terms of reference document that was used to guide the contributions of the two committees throughout the development of the management plan. TRCA staff prepared the management plan with guidance from the steering and advisory committees as well as input from a public consultation process.

Vision and Management Principles

It is important that the vision and values for the ORCPE lands be integrated with those of TRCA, the Humber River and Rouge River watersheds, and the management plan for the adjacent Oak Ridges Corridor Park. The visions, goals and objectives of the following plans and strategies were reviewed and incorporated as part of the process for developing the ORCPE management plan;

- The Living City vision and objectives;
- TRCA's Terrestrial Natural Heritage System Strategy;
- Humber River Watershed Plan: Pathways to a Healthy Humber (2008);
- Rouge River Watershed Plan: Towards a Healthy and Sustainable Future (2007);
- Oak Ridges Corridor Park Management Plan (2006).

Vision and Values

During the management planning process for the Oak Ridges Corridor Park, a vision, goals and objectives were developed through an extensive consultation process. Given the intent to integrate the management of the two properties, it is logical that the management planning framework for the two documents be closely aligned.

However, it is also essential to note that the ORCPE lands contain important natural heritage features that are unique to those lands. Additionally, the management plan framework should recognize that the ORCPE lands are currently surrounded by a predominantly agricultural matrix that is slated to be developed to medium density residential communities that will include approximately 2,020 residential units.

Through consultation with the various committees, it was determined that the ORCPE Management Plan would follow the vision laid out in the Oak Ridges Corridor Park Management Plan, which reads as follows:

The Oak Ridges Corridor Park will be a sanctuary for nature and an essential ecological linkage on the Oak Ridges Moraine where visitors can learn about ecosystem features and functions, wildlife and human influences, and enjoy activities that are compatible with the natural and cultural values of the park.

Given the importance of recognizing the unique features of the ORCPE lands, the committees felt it was worthwhile to develop a series of value statements for the ORCPE Management Plan. These are titled the "Values for Sustainability", and are as follows:

- *Ecological* - Recognize that protected natural heritage is essential to the health and future of the watershed and must be protected and enhanced so it can be used and enjoyed by future generations.
- *Cultural* - Value and protect linkages to the history and past uses of an area and use their lessons to help guide present and future actions.
- *Social* - Foster development and engagement of community members as a key to building a stewardship ethic. Recognize and value people's connections to land and provide recreation and experiential learning that is compatible with the natural and cultural values of the land.
- *Economic* - Encourage long-term economic vitality through strategic planning and partnership development.

In addition, the following goals exist for the management and use of all TRCA and partner-owned lands, and will guide the management planning process for the ORCPE lands:

- To conserve, protect and manage Authority lands in consultation with the public in a manner that values, respects and enhances the natural, cultural and heritage resources; and,
- To encourage uses that are compatible with healthy watersheds, respectful of the unique character of the lands and sustainable in environmental, physical and economic terms.

Management Recommendations

Management recommendations provide actions to achieve the vision and values. The key management recommendations include the following:

Ecological

- Conduct regular inventory and monitoring of flora, fauna and overall condition of both the aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.
- Protect groundwater resources including seepage and recharge zones.
- Monitor and manage invasive species.
- Protect species of concern and enhance habitat opportunities for these species.
- Restore habitat through wetland creation, habitat enhancements and reforestation.
- Resolve longstanding sediment control issue in the southwest corner of the property.

Cultural

- Protect and conserve archaeological sites and explore opportunities to interpret these sites.

Social

- Establish a formal trail system that will protect the natural system while providing nature-based recreation opportunities.
- Conduct regular property inventory and audit surveys to identify encroachments, unauthorized activities and safety concerns.
- Establish a stewardship committee and trail captain program to engage local residents in the care of the property.
- Maintain the fields south of Bethesda Sideroad for active agriculture or similar use (e.g. community gardens).

Integration

- Rename Oak Ridges Corridor Park East and Oak Ridges Corridor Park under a single overarching name, "Oak Ridges Corridor Conservation Reserve".
- Develop an integrated plan for implementation projects proposed for the former Oak Ridges Corridor Park and Oak Ridges Corridor Park East.
- Establish one stewardship committee for entire complex.

Recent Initiatives

Since 2010, TRCA has invested roughly \$152,000 into priority projects at ORCPE that include site securement (fencing and gates), informal trail closures, dumping clean-up, restoration of forest habitat, wetland construction and community newsletter distribution. These projects have helped to secure the property from unauthorized and harmful uses, and have helped to lay the groundwork for implementation of the ORCPE Management Plan.

Copies of the complete Oak Ridges Corridor Park East Management Plan will be made available at the Authority meeting.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

The successful implementation of the management plan for the ORCPE will require the efforts of TRCA and its partners.

TRCA will take the following actions:

- TRCA staff to publish and distribute the Draft Oak Ridges Corridor Park East Management Plan to relevant stakeholders and seek necessary consultation.
- For the provincial lands under management agreement with the Province, TRCA requires approval of the Province to use the name "Oak Ridges Corridor Conservation Reserve".
- TRCA to request that the Town of Richmond Hill and the Regional Municipality of York include the management plan in their respective jurisdiction's planning and land use policies and practices for the area.
- TRCA staff to extend the existing trail management agreement with the Oak Ridges Trail Association to include the spine trail through ORCPE.
- TRCA staff to establish a stewardship committee with appropriate representation from stakeholder groups to assist with the implementation of the management plan.

FINANCIAL DETAILS

The total cost to implement the Oak Ridges Corridor Park East Management Plan is estimated at \$1,607,000 over five years. A summarized implementation budget for the management plan is shown on Table 1 (attached). These are preliminary estimates subject to discussion with the potential funding partners and refinement of project requirements. The five year time frame may also need to change. This estimated cost considers work recommended only for the ORCPE lands and does not include the Oak Ridges Corridor Park lands. An existing management plan was created for Oak Ridges Corridor Park in 2006. This 2006 plan has its own dedicated implementation budget, and TRCA is currently working to complete the implementation of this plan.

Staff will be approaching the Town of Richmond Hill, the Regional Municipality of York, local community groups and other interested stakeholders to share in the cost of Plan implementation over the next five years.

Report prepared by: Steve Joudrey, extension 5573

Emails: sjoudrey@trca.on.ca

For Information contact: Mike Bender, extension 5287

Emails: mbender@trca.on.ca

Date: August 31, 2011

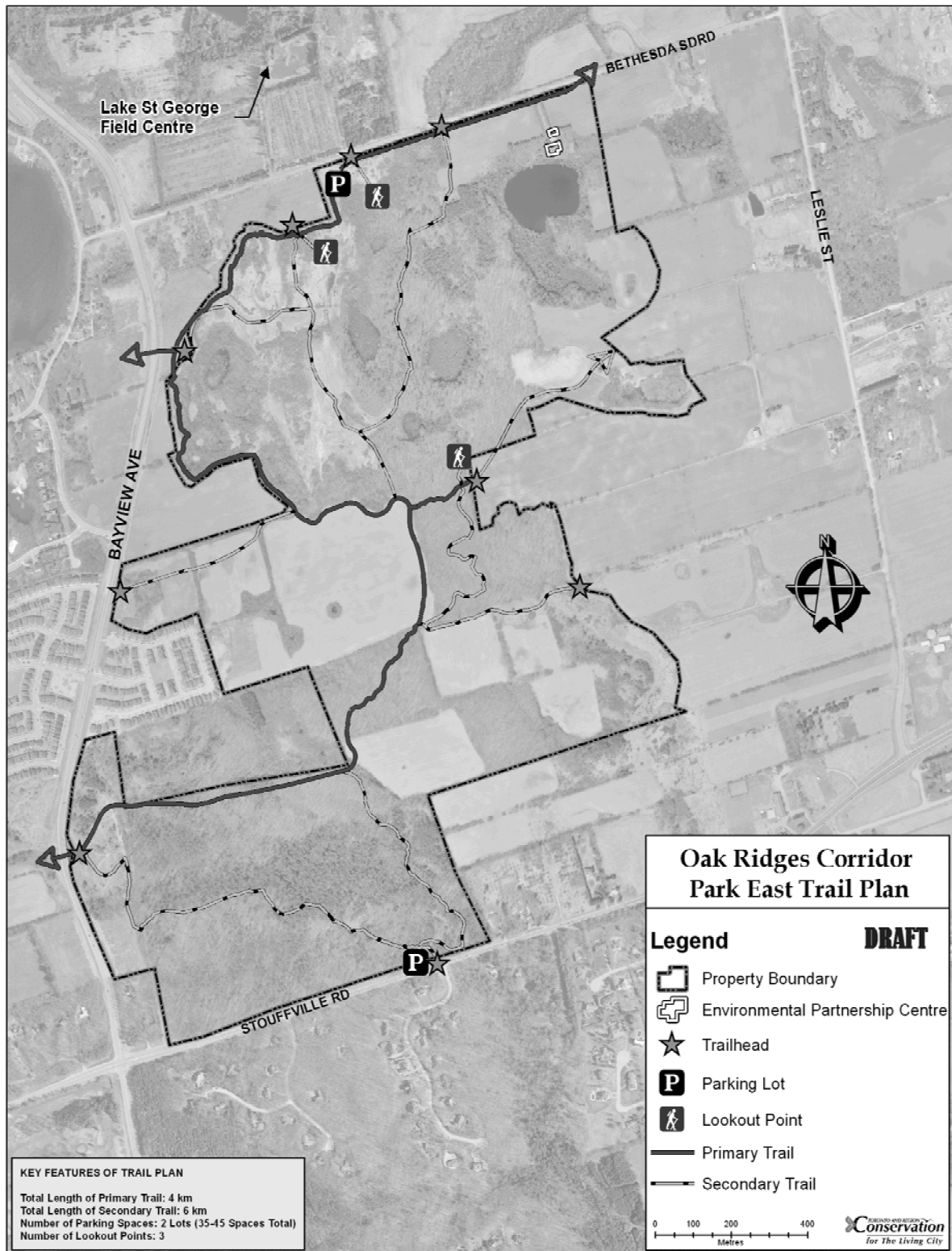
Attachments: 3

Attachment 1

Oak Ridges Corridor Park East Implementation Budget

Project Category	Item	Anticipated Cost
ECOLOGICAL		
Natural Heritage	Forest inventory, Erosion mitigation strategy, Aquatic survey, Invasive species management and monitoring, Sandbarren maintenance	\$ 161,500.00
Restoration	Erosion site remediation, Habitat implementation, Wetland creation, Reforestation, Planting maintenance	\$ 173,500.00
CULTURAL		
Archaeology	Archaeological surveys and reports	\$ 25,000.00
SOCIAL		
Trail Development	Primary trail construction, Secondary trail construction, Property line surveys, Parking lot construction, Trailhead construction, Lookouts	\$ 832,000.00
Trail Management	Decomission informal trails, Hazard removal, Trail rerouting	\$ 27,000.00
Trail Signage	Trailhead, Wayfinding, Post markers, Regulatory, Interpretive	\$ 29,000.00
Site Securement	Property auditing, Fencing, Access gates, Encroachment removal, Homeowner information package, Property identification signage	\$ 74,500.00
Community Outreach and Engagement	Stewardship committee, Trail captain program, Community newsletter, Trail map and guide	\$ 58,500.00
Environmental Partnership Centre	Necessary structural repairs/ upgrades to Swan Lake Property structures - Septic system replacement	\$ 80,000.00
	Contingency (10%)	\$ 146,000.00
	TOTAL	\$ 1,607,000.00

Attachment 2



Attachment 3

