

Section I – Items for Board of Directors Action

TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors
Meeting #4/19, April 26, 2019

FROM: Michael Tolensky, Chief Financial and Operating Officer

RE: **PARKS CANADA SERVICE LEVEL/FUNDING AGREEMENTS**
CFN 46156

KEY ISSUE

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) request for Board of Directors approval to enter into updated interim service level/funding agreements and a longer term Master Service Agreement with Parks Canada for Rouge National Urban Park relating to restoration, trails, land management, and management and operation of the Glen Rouge Campground. (CFN 46156)

RECOMMENDATION

THAT TRCA staff be directed to enter into a Master Service Level/funding agreements with Parks Canada for the following purposes:

- (a) restoration of the lands within the Rouge National Urban Park;**
- (b) design and construction of trails, land management and maintenance for lands within the Rouge National Urban Park;**
- (c) ongoing management and operation of the Glen Rouge campground after transfer of the lands to Parks Canada;**

AND FURTHER THAT authorized TRCA officials be directed to take whatever action may be required to implement the agreements, including the obtaining of necessary approvals and execution of any documents.

BACKGROUND

At the Authority Meeting #3/13, held on April 26, 2013, Resolution #A56/13 was adopted as follows:

THAT Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) enter into an interim management agreement with Parks Canada for the management of TRCA lands within the proposed Rouge National Urban Park;

AND FURTHER THAT the authorized TRCA officials be directed to take whatever action may be required to implement the licence agreement, including the obtaining of necessary approvals and the signing and execution of any documents.

Since 2013, TRCA has managed the existing Rouge Park in a manner consistent with the objectives and mandated responsibilities of Parks Canada. TRCA has collaborated with Parks Canada to ensure integrated delivery in its decision-making process for protection, education and visitor experience for the Rouge National Urban Park (RNUP). Parks Canada has provided funding through the 2013 interim management agreement for restoration works and asset management.

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Parks Canada has indicated that the interim management agreement model no longer works to provide funding for TRCA to undertake works on their behalf. Upon transfer of TRCA lands to Parks Canada, Parks Canada intends to seek Treasury Board Approval in 2019 for a Master Service Agreement with TRCA which is intended to encompass the holistic delivery of ongoing conservation, educational and community services. The Master Service Agreement will also include delivery of programs and operation and management of certain functions within the RNUP.

This Master Service Level Agreement will be similar to the type of Master Service Level Agreement TRCA has with the City of Toronto Parks and Forestry Division but tailored specifically to the needs of Parks Canada related to RNUP.

Treasury Board Approval is a lengthy process and may not occur until later in 2019 as there is lead time required to prepare the Treasury Board submission after lands are conveyed from TRCA to Parks Canada. While we work towards a longer term Master Service Level Agreement, Parks Canada is proposing a series of updated interim service level/funding agreements so that TRCA can continue to provide services to Parks Canada to benefit the public. These interim agreements will be for the delivery of the following services:

1. Restoration planning and implementation;
2. Trails, land management and maintenance; and
3. Ongoing management and operation of the Glen Rouge Campground.

Restoration, Trails and Land Management Agreements

Parks Canada has been developing its own conservation and restoration approach for the RNUP, as part of its strategic management for the park. TRCA has continued to work collaboratively with Parks Canada to identify conservation needs and restoration project opportunities.

Parks Canada is still in internal discussions to determine its ultimate approval process and the type of specific agreement to be utilized for restoration planning and implementation agreement(s) and trails, land management and maintenance agreement(s). TRCA has provided to Parks Canada a detailed scope of work, budgets and work plans for 2019 restoration projects and trails and land management projects.

TRCA is continuing to meet with Parks Canada to discuss the final scope of these programs and to finalize these work plans as part of the interim agreements and future Master Service Level Agreement.

Glen Rouge Campground

TRCA and the City of Toronto are the owners of lands occupied by the Glen Rouge Campground, which comprises approximately 8.7 hectares north of Highway 2 located on the banks of the Rouge River in RNUP. TRCA's lands are under management agreement with the City of Toronto.

The Glen Rouge campground consists of a total of 125 sites; 87 serviced sites, 27 un-serviced sites and 11 designated specifically for cyclists and backpackers. Support facilities include a gatehouse, fully equipped washroom facility with change rooms and showers, laundry facilities, storage garage and trailer pump-out station.

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From 1981, the City of Toronto operated the Glen Rouge Campground from approximately mid-May to mid-October, seven days a week and 24 hours per day, including holidays. The City of Toronto approached TRCA in 2010 to pursue the possibility of entering into a License Agreement with TRCA to contract out the operation of the campground to TRCA.

At the Authority Meeting #3/11, held on March 25, 2011, Resolution #A59/11 was adopted as follows:

WHEREAS Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) has received a proposal from the City of Toronto for operation of the Glen Rouge Campground and to enter into a long term Licence Agreement for the aforementioned services;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT TRCA enter into a Licence Agreement with the City of Toronto for the operation of Glen Rouge Campground;

THAT the Licence Agreement with the City of Toronto be subject to the following terms and conditions:

- i. the term of the Agreement will be 10 years with an option in favour of TRCA for a 10 year renewal;*
- ii. the Commencement Date for the Licence shall be May 1, 2011;*
- iii. the Licence Fee shall be a nominal amount of two dollars (\$2.00) for the duration of the Term;*
- iv. TRCA shall be responsible for the staffing and payment of all taxes and costs associated with operations of the Glen Rouge Campground;*
- v. any other terms and conditions deemed appropriate by TRCA staff and solicitor;*

AND FURTHER THAT authorized TRCA officials be directed to take whatever action may be required to implement the Licence Agreement, including the obtaining of necessary approvals and the signing and execution of any documents.

With the imminent transfer of a majority of TRCA owned lands including Glen Rouge Campground within the RNUP to Parks Canada, Parks Canada has requested that TRCA continue to manage and operate the Glen Rouge Campground. Parks Canada has agreed to provide additional support from their Parks Wardens to assist with management of the campground. The interim and proposed future Service Level Agreements will recognize the requested additional support for Parks Canada Park Wardens. The operation of the campground will be revenue neutral to TRCA.

Relationship to Building the Living City, the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan

This report supports the following strategies set forth in the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan:

Strategy 3 – Rethink greenspace to maximize its value

Strategy 7 – Build partnerships and new business models

Strategy 12 – Facilitate a region-wide approach to sustainability

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FINANCIAL DETAILS

Parks Canada will be responsible for all costs associated with the execution of these agreements.

The management and operation of the Glen Rouge campground by TRCA will be revenue neutral with generated revenues funding operating expenses.

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