



Chris Murray, MCIP RPP
City Manager

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VIA EMAIL

February 24, 2020

John MacKenzie
Chief Executive Officer
Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
101 Exchange Avenue
Vaughan, ON L4K 5R6

Dear Mr. MacKenzie,

Re: Request to delay transfer from TRCA to Parks Canada of land containing City access road

I am writing first to extend my appreciation to you and your staff for your continued collaboration on the significant research and planning undertaken with our partners to support the establishment of the Rouge Urban National Park (RNUP). The City of Toronto's long-established partnership with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) has facilitated the considerable work required for the RNUP and will continue to support our shared conservation vision in the RNUP and in TRCA lands across Toronto.

A priority in establishing the RNUP is updating the 1978 Tripartite Agreement among the City, the Board of Management of the Toronto Zoo (Zoo Board) and TRCA that, among other things, defines the Zoo boundaries and authorizes the Zoo's use of TRCA-owned lands that fall within those boundaries. Our staff continue to work closely with your team and the Zoo Board to finalize these negotiations, which once complete will allow the City to convey those lands it committed to transfer to Parks Canada for inclusion in the RNUP¹. Updating the Tripartite Agreement will also release TRCA from its covenant to withhold transfer to Parks Canada of some remaining land parcels near the Toronto Zoo until the Tripartite Agreement can be finalized, as set out in the 2014 agreement titled TRCA Owned Land in the Vicinity of the Zoo.

Recently, the City, the Zoo and Parks Canada have identified the need for further consideration of how the location of the proposed RNUP Visitor Centre may impact current and future interests of all parties along the access road that runs east-west from Meadowvale Road to the CNR tracks.

¹ City of Toronto Council decision (EX38.4) February 19, 2014 outlines the conditions of land transfer:
<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2014.EX38.4>

The access road was built by the City in approximately 1965 to service the former Beare Landfill (now Beare Park) pursuant to an easement registered as instrument number TB443326. While the City continues to maintain the road, it is now also used by members of the public and numerous entities for a variety of purposes, including connecting to RNUP trails, monitoring stormwater ponds, endangered species breeding and release, habitat protection programs and utility maintenance. Moreover, the number of users is expected to rise once Beare Park is opened, the RNUP Visitor Centre is built and the interdependent trail system becomes better known to the public.

The land upon which the access road is built is owned by TRCA and is due to be transferred to Parks Canada upon finalization of the Tripartite Agreement.

In our view, consideration of the role of access road in the RNUP is critical but should not unnecessarily delay the execution of the Tripartite Agreement and related City and TRCA land transfers. **We therefore request your agreement to, following execution of the Tripartite Agreement, withhold the transfer of those lands legally described as Part of Lots 3-4, Concession 3 Scarborough and Part of Road Allowance Between Lots 2 and 3, Concession 3 Scarborough as Closed by TB7160, designated as Parts 1 and 2 on 64R10129 and being part of Pin 06054-2378(LT) to Parks Canada until such time as all parties have given full consideration of the interests and shared opportunities for the use of the access road.** Discussions are underway among the parties and we anticipate they can be concluded to the satisfaction of all parties by the end of 2020.

Thank you for your consideration and continued partnership.

Sincerely,



Chris Murray
City Manager

- c. Omar McDadi, Acting Field Superintendent, Rouge National Urban Park
Dolf De Jong, Chief Executive Officer, Toronto Zoo