

Section I – Items for Board of Directors Action

TO: Chair and Members of the Executive Committee
Friday, June 11, 2021 Meeting

FROM: Michael Tolensky, Chief Financial and Operating Officer

RE: **CITY OF TORONTO**
Request from the City of Toronto for a conveyance of Toronto and Region Conservation Authority-owned Lands Required for the Community Conservation Campus, City of Toronto, Rouge River Watershed (CFN 65105)

KEY ISSUE

Receipt of a request from the City of Toronto, for a conveyance of Toronto and Region Conservation Authority-owned lands located west of Meadowvale Road and south of Old Finch Avenue, municipally known as 2000 Meadowvale Road, in the City of Toronto, required for the Community Conservation Campus, Rouge River watershed.

RECOMMENDATION

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT WHEREAS the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) is in receipt of a request from the City of Toronto for the conveyance of TRCA-owned lands located west of Meadowvale Road and south of Old Finch Avenue, municipally known as 2000 Meadowvale Road, in the City of Toronto, required for the Community Conservation Campus, Rouge River watershed;

AND WHEREAS it is in the best interest of TRCA in furthering its objectives as set out in Section 20 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* to cooperate with City of Toronto in this instance;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT a parcel of TRCA-owned land containing 3.69 hectares (9.12 acres), more or less, of land already licensed to the Toronto Zoo/City of Toronto, required for the Community Conservation Campus, being Part of Lot 6, Concession 3, designated Part 1 on draft R-Plan created by KRCMAR Surveyor Ltd. on January 12, 2021 under job number 20-050, in the City of Toronto, be conveyed to the City of Toronto;

THAT consideration be the nominal sum of \$2.00 and all legal, survey and other costs to be paid by the City of Toronto;

THAT all TRCA-owned lands licensed to the Toronto Zoo under the both 1978 and updated Tripartite Agreements be free and clear of all liens and encumbrances prior to conveyance of TRCA-owned land;

THAT as per an existing lease agreement between TRCA and the Zoo for the use of the lands north of Old Finch Avenue, the Zoo rectifies any outstanding financial commitments, including any overdue rent owed, prior to transfer of TRCA-owned land;

THAT a permit pursuant to Ontario Regulation 166/06, as amended, be obtained by City of Toronto prior to the commencement of construction, if required;

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THAT the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry be advised of this disposition for municipal infrastructure purposes, in accordance with Section 21(2) of the Conservation Authorities Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter C.27, as amended;

AND FURTHER THAT authorized TRCA officials be directed to take the necessary action to finalize the transaction, including obtaining any necessary approvals and the signing and execution of documents.

BACKGROUND

The City of Toronto has requested the conveyance of TRCA-owned lands, located west of Meadowvale Road and south of Old Finch Avenue, municipally known as 2000 Meadowvale Road, in the City of Toronto, required for the Community Conservation Campus, Rouge River watershed.

The subject TRCA-owned lands were acquired from Glen-Rouge Parks Limited, on January 31, 1968 under the P.11.A – Rouge River Flood Plain Lands.

Attachment 1 is a sketch illustrating the location of the subject lands. **Attachment 2** is an orthophoto illustrating the location of the subject lands.

RATIONALE

As part of the ongoing effort to establish a conservation precinct within the current locale of the Toronto Zoo, the City of Toronto is seeking conveyance for nominal value of specific adjacent lands owned by the TRCA identified as Part 1 on the draft R-Plan dated January 12, 2021 and attached hereto.

Once transferred to the City of Toronto, these lands will be utilized to support the establishment of the Toronto Zoo Community Conservation Campus. This exciting new municipal infrastructure project will replace and expand the current aging entrance way to the Zoo with the welcoming and vibrant array of community space programming options with a focus on supporting broad based education and leadership within the context of environmental conservation.

Building upon the partnership represented within the updated Tripartite Agreement between the City, the Zoo, and TRCA, the establishment of the Toronto Zoo Community Conservation Campus will provide additional benefits to the nearby Rouge National Urban Park as it will foster a spiritual connection with the Park and provide new partnering opportunities for the promotion and support of ecological efforts within the region. Furthermore, TRCA Education and Training staff have had ongoing discussions with the Toronto Zoo to identify opportunities for expanded TRCA programming at the Community Conservation Campus, including professional training, community learning and school-based education programs and services. The Community Conservation Campus has the potential to enable TRCA to reach a new audience of learners while continuing to further strengthen the overall partnership and strategic alignment with the Toronto Zoo.

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 4 – Create complete communities that integrate nature and the built environment

Strategy 6 – Tell the story of the Toronto region

Strategy 7 – Build partnerships and new business models

Strategy 8 – Gather and share the best sustainability knowledge

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FINANCIAL DETAILS

The City of Toronto has agreed to assume all legal, survey and other costs involved in completing this transaction.

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Date: May 11, 2021

Attachments: 2

Attachment 1: Site Plan

Attachment 2: Orthophoto