

Support Rouge National Park - Email Key Decision-makers

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada
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Hon. John Flaherty, Minister Responsible for the GTA
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Please also send (cc) your Email to:

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Sample Letter:

Dear Prime Minister, Ministers and MPs:

Thank you for supporting the creation of a Rouge National Park in the eastern Greater Toronto Area.

The federal government owns approximately 14,300 acres of land in north Markham and Pickering which are designated "Natural Heritage System" under the Provincial Greenbelt Plan. The addition of these federal lands to the existing 10,700 acre Rouge Park would create a spectacular 25,000 acre (100 km²) National Park.

I respectfully request that you empower Parks Canada to work within an open, multi-stakeholder, public process to help plan, fund and realize the unique opportunity to create a spectacular Rouge National Park.

I look forward to your favourable reply.

For Further Information Please Email:

jimrobb@frw.ca or evelyn@frw.ca or andrew@frw.ca

Why the Rouge Needs National Park Status



- 1. Better Protection:** Rouge Park needs the protection of National Park status and Parks Canada expertise. The current Rouge Park governing body (Alliance) is dominated by municipal interests which tend to favour development rather than protection.
- 2. Expertise:** Rouge Park, a Carolinian Canada site with more than 12 federal species at risk, needs the expert staff and resources of Parks Canada to protect and restore the area's rich natural and cultural heritage. Local municipalities do not have the resources to properly protect a nationally significant area.
- 3. Additional Land:** The federal government owns approximately 14,300 acres of land in north Markham and Pickering within the Rouge River and Duffins Creek watersheds. These federal lands are designated "Natural Heritage System" under the Provincial Greenbelt Plan and legislation. The addition of these federal lands to the existing 10,700 acre Rouge Park would complete the "Lake Ontario to Oak Ridges Moraine", ecological link and create an ecologically sustainable 25,000 acre (100 km²) National Park.
- 4. Funding:** Rouge Park needs a stable source of funding to protect and restore the ecological and cultural integrity of the Park, acquire land and create and maintain a proper trail system and park visitor program.
- 5. New Type of National Park?** - Since Rouge Park includes significant "Agricultural Heritage Reserves" it does not completely satisfy the existing "National Park" requirement for "ecological integrity".

Rouge National Park will:

- 1) Give millions of Canadians access by public transit or bicycle to a beautiful and biologically diverse National Park, enhancing nature appreciation and quality of life in the GTA;
- 2) Reach out to urban and multi-cultural Canadians, young and old, to nurture a vital part of our shared Canadian identity and character - our love of nature and National Parks;
- 3) Protect and restore the integrity of core habitat areas and ecological corridors and provide public trails to connect Lake Ontario and the Waterfront Trail to the Oak Ridges Moraine and Cross Canada Trail;
- 4) Protect and expand a designated area of Canada's rare Carolinian Forest Zone, the life zone with the most endangered species in Canada, but the fewest parks;
- 5) Protect and restore trout and Atlantic salmon streams, and habitat for more than a dozen designated federal species at risk, and many provincially and regionally rare species;
- 6) Protect and respect the area's rich First Nation and Pioneer heritage, two National Historic sites, and local food production.