

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE APRIL 8, 2002

**WOODBIDGE EXPANSION AREA OPEN SPACE
PERMISSION TO HOLD A PLANTING DAY BY A COMMUNITY GROUP**

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Community Services in consultation with the Commissioner of Planning recommends:

That the Woodbridge Expansion Open Space Community Action Site Committee be permitted to plant within the open space as part of their community stewardship activities.

Purpose

To provide permission to the Woodbridge Open Space Community Action Site (WEOS) Committee to undertake a planting day in May 2002 on city owned lands at Regional Road 27 and Rutherford Road.

Background - Analysis and Options

The Woodbridge open space lands referred to in the request were acquired by the City of Vaughan as a part of the development of the Woodbridge Expansion Area. The subject parcel is at the northeast corner of Regional Road 27 and Rutherford Road. These lands are contained within the study area for the Regional Road 27 Valley Corridor Study. Since the study is ongoing, permission to undertake the planting prior to the completion and approval of the final study is being sought.

The location of the proposed planting is well away from any residential property boundaries and is in keeping with the recommendations of the Background Study for OPA 601, the precursor to the current Study process.

The T.R.C.A. Watershed Management Advisory Board approved this site as an Action Site at the February 8, 2002 meeting, and funding and services will be provided by the T.R.C.A. for the event. City staff have consulted with the WEOS Committee and are supportive of activities of this nature to promote stewardship of the open space by the community.

Conclusion

Staff recommend that permission be granted to the WEOS Committee to undertake a planting event in the Woodbridge Expansion Area Open Space.

Attachments

1. Resolution A35/02 T.R.C.A. Watershed Management Advisory Board
2. Letter from WEOS Community Action Site Committee

Report prepared by:

Linda Laflamme, Landscape Architect, ext. 3210

Respectfully submitted,

G. Doris Haas
Commissioner of Community Services

Passed by the Authority on Feb 22/02 Resolution A35/02 **ATTACH. # 1**

TO: Chair and Members of the Watershed Management Advisory Board Meeting #1/02, February 8, 2002

FROM: Brian Denney, Director, Watershed Management Division

RE: HUMBER WATERSHED COMMUNITY ACTION SITES

KEY ISSUE

Planning and implementation of new Community Action Sites to assist in achieving the objectives set out in "Legacy: A Strategy for a Healthy Humber". Attachment 1 illustrates existing and recommended Community Action Sites.

RECOMMENDATION

THE BOARD RECOMMENDS TO THE AUTHORITY THAT the staff report on Community Action Sites in the Humber watershed, be received;

THAT staff assist with the planning and implementation of environmental management actions at the Eglinton Flats, Rexdale Park, West Humber Park, Hwy. 427/Finch Corridor, Woodbridge Expansion Area, and Seneca College Community Action Sites, subject to available funding;

AND FURTHER THAT Authority officials be authorized to execute all necessary documentation including, but not limited to, funding proposals and contribution agreements, to assist with the planning and implementation of the Community Action Sites.

BACKGROUND

The watershed management plan for the Humber River titled, "Legacy: A Strategy for a Healthy Humber", used the model of Community Action Sites to demonstrate how partners could work together to improve the health of the watershed. The model helps focus interest and resources on specific areas to achieve results.

Three Community Action Sites were profiled in Legacy. Several additional Community Action Sites have been adopted, including Claireville, Boyd North, Palgrave and Bolton. Many smaller, less complex, projects have been completed as well as part of the Humber Watershed Alliance's mandate to protect, restore and celebrate the Humber, a Canadian Heritage River, designated by the federal and provincial governments in 1989 because of its outstanding heritage and recreational resources.

To date many accomplishments have been achieved as a result of the solid partnerships that have been established at each Community Action Site. A brief summary of some of the primary accomplishments is provided below:

- Claireville - City of Brampton
 - wetland creation, trails, reforestation, community environmental awareness days

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

- Establish Community Action Site Steering Committees where they do not exist already;
- Finalize action plans for each site;
- Raise additional funds and in-kind services, from external sources, to complete the recommended tasks;
- Host special events to officially recognize the accomplishments of the Humber Watershed Alliance, sponsors, and other partners.

FINANCIAL DETAILS

- The Humber Watershed Management budget provides staff support and small sums of seed money to plan and implement various components;
- Generous donations of time are provided by Humber Watershed Alliance members, residents, interest groups, agency staff and elected representatives to plan and implement each project.
- Continue to apply for financial assistance from many external sources including the Great Lakes Sustainability Fund, EcoAction, TD Canada Trust Friends of the Environment, Trillium Foundation, and other sources that become known.

For information contact: Gary Wilkins, extension 5211
Date: January 30, 2002
Attachments: 1

ATTACH. # 2

Date: March 21st , 2002

To: G. Doris Haas
Commissioner of Committees Services
City of Vaughan

Subject: Woodbridge Expansion Open Space (WEOS) Community Action Site

Recently the TRCA approved support and recognition of our newly formed WEOS Community Action Site. Our objectives are to partner with the City of Vaughan and the TRCA to enhance the Woodbridge Expansion Area Open Space for the benefit of the residents of Vaughan, the existing wildlife and the overall environment.

The Action Site Committee is anxious to implement some of the strategies outlined in the "Legacy: A Strategy for a Healthy Humber" and in the "Living City" campaign. These identify a need for reforestation, riparian revegetation, wetland enhancement and trails. The Committee sees this as a wonderful opportunity to bring this new community together, educate the citizens about the environment, and improve this precious area.

Although we recognize that this area will be affected by an existing planning process, the Regional Road 27 Valley Corridor Study, we are requesting that we be able to undertake a Spring Planting Event on May 4th. We would like to be able to plant on the lower north slope of the valley to enhance the existing vegetation that consists of mainly Hawthorn. This would keep the activity consistent with the enhancements that are being considered in the existing planning process and also be consistent with OPA601. This area is not expected to be affected by any proposed activities, therefore this opportunity would only enhance the objectives of the City, the TRCA, and our Committee.

We are anxious to take advantage of the interest shown by the community and the TRCA is able to support this date with 250 trees. We look forward to your support of this initiative.

Sincerely,

Deborah Schulte
Executive Member of the WEOS Community Action Site Committee
76 Mira Vista Place
Woodbridge, Ont,
L4H 1K8
(905) 893-0007