

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - FEBRUARY 7, 2005

RESOLUTION **BILL 135 – THE GREENBELT ACT**

Recommendation

Regional Councillor Linda D. Jackson recommends:

THAT Council adopt a resolution to support the inclusion of Boyd Conservation Area (Boyd Park) in the Greenbelt Plan and Bill 135 and,

THAT the Province of Ontario, the Provincial Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Hon. John Gerretsen), MPP Mario Racco, MPP Greg Sorbara, the Provincial Opposition Critic of Municipal Affairs (MPP Tim Hudac), the TRCA, the Region of York and all other municipalities affected by Bill 135 be advised of this resolution immediately.

Purpose

To ensure the soundness of the Greenbelt Plan and its enabling legislation, the Greenbelt Act.

Background - Analysis and Options

Whereas, this council recognizes the intent by the Province of Ontario to ensure long-term protection of significant agricultural, ecological and heritage resources in the Greater Golden Horseshoe, and

Whereas, it appears that justification for significant portions of the Greenbelt may be questionable from an ecological, economic, agricultural or land use planning perspective, and

Whereas, still other areas of both heritage and ecological significance were left out of the proposed Greenbelt Plan entirely, and

Whereas, Boyd Conservation Area is owned by Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, who have supported the inclusion of Boyd in their submission to the Province of Ontario, and

Whereas, the Humber River, which runs through Boyd Conservation Area, was designated as a Canadian Heritage River by the Government of Canada in 1999, and

Whereas, portions of Boyd Conservation Area have been designated as Areas of Natural Scientific Interest (ANSI), and

Whereas, the conservation, planning and scientific communities believe that Boyd Conservation Area is a significant and irreplaceable environmental resource, and

Whereas, Boyd Conservation Area attracts approximately 75,000 visitors annually and is part of a larger recreation and education system known as the East Humber Valley Complex (inclusive of the Kortright Centre for Conservation, the McMichael Gallery, the William Granger Greenway and the Earth Rangers Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre).

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council through the Vaughan Vision 2007 insofar as it fiscally and environmentally places Vaughan residents FIRST.

Conclusion

It is recommended that the City of Vaughan supports the inclusion the Boyd Conservation Area in the Greenbelt Plan and Bill 135.

Attachments

None

Report prepared by:

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Respectfully submitted,

Linda D. Jackson
Local and Regional Councillor