

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – APRIL 18, 2006

THISTLE RIDGE DRIVE RAVINE

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works, in consultation with the Commissioner of Community Services recommends:

That this report BE RECEIVED for information purposes.

Economic Impact

There are no immediate budgetary impacts resulting from the adoption of this report.

Purpose

This report has been prepared in response to Council's requests respecting issues raised by the residents in the Thistle Ridge Drive neighborhood pertaining to access and clean-up and removal of dead or fallen trees within the existing Jersey Creek ravine.

Background – Analysis and Options

Item 40, Report No. 51, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on June 14, 2004, recommended:

“That the deputation of Mr. Giuseppe Piacente, 56 Thistle Ridge Drive, Woodbridge, L4L 3K4, petition dated June 7, 2004, and photographs, be received and referred to staff to address the concerns raised with respect to the ravine, in consultation with TRCA; and

That staff review the development taking place between Helen Street and Pine Valley Drive off of Highway 7, and review opportunities for development to assist with the channelization of the stream; and

That staff review opportunities to close the access point to the ravine; and

That the deputation of Ms. Maria Colaiacovo, 55 Thistle Ridge Drive, Woodbridge, L4L 3K3, be received.”

Jersey Creek Ravine

Jersey Creek is a densely forested valley corridor and it is a main tributary of the Humber River. It flows in a southwesterly direction from the Weston Road and Langstaff area to Highway 407 west of Pine Valley Drive where it joins the main branch of the Humber River.

In consultation with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, Staff have determined that the channelization of Jersey Creek is not feasible due to the densely forested valley system. Access for equipment or machinery would not be possible without major disruption to the natural environmental features and vegetation within the valley.

The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority requires that all dead or fallen trees are left undisturbed in order to preserve the natural environment. Fallen trees which obstruct the watercourse flow are removed by the City. However, tree stumps are left in place in order to minimize disruption to the remaining vegetation. The Public Works Department is responsible for the maintenance of all storm sewer outfalls to Jersey Creek located within the valley and for the general clean up of garbage and debris within the open space.

The three existing ravine access points of concern (from Tall Grass Trail, Thistle Ridge Drive and Helen Street) have been gated to restrict pedestrian access. Provisions to repair the fallen fence at the south limit of Helen Street east of Majesty Court are currently underway by Parks Operations & Forestry Staff.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to service delivery excellence as established by Vaughan Vision 2007, the recommendations of this report will assist in establishing and communicating service level standards that are affordable and sustainable.

This report is therefore consistent with the priorities previously set by Council. All necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Conclusion

The concerns raised by the residents in the Thistle Ridge Drive neighborhood pertaining to access and clean-up and removal of dead or fallen trees within the Jersey Creek ravine have been addressed by Staff.

Attachments

N/A

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Respectfully submitted,

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