Rouge National Urban Park Initiative
parkscanada.gc.ca

Initiative du parc urbain national de la Rouge
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ISSUE Number 1
MARCH 2012

Rouge National Urban Park NEWSLETTER

Working together towards the establishment of Canada's first national urban park

The Government of Canada announced in the 2011 Speech from the Throne its commitment to work towards the creation of a national urban park in the Rouge Valley. The opportunity to establish Rouge Park under the stewardship of Parks Canada builds on the success of the Agency's past efforts and is well aligned with its current priority to meaningfully reach Canada's youth as well as its increasingly diverse urban population.

A national urban park is a unique concept in Canada. There are currently no comparable places, and so it will require an innovative conservation and management approach to respond to the park's unique urban context. Aligned with Parks Canada's mandate, the concept will include conservation of natural and cultural resources, opportunities for learning, a wide range of visitor experience possibilities, and the integration and promotion of sustainable agriculture.


Rouge Park

Parks Canada has been working with several key stakeholders and partners including municipal, provincial, Aboriginal, agriculture, recreation, academic, tourism, conservation, youth and several community partners to shape the key elements for a vision and concept for the implementation of Canada's first national urban park. This concept will continue to be developed and guided by consultations with a broad range of partners, stakeholders and the public.

Stay Informed

We are pleased to be building all-new web content on Parks Canada's public website, related to background information and project updates on the Rouge National Urban Park Initiative. Web content will be added regularly over the coming weeks and months, so please visit it regularly. www.parkscanada.gc.ca/

Twitter

We have created a hashtag for Twitter and will post relevant updates through our feed. #RougeNUP (#RougePUN en français

Facebook

For Facebook users, we encourage you to 'like' us so that you receive these regular updates.

Engagement Process to Date

Parks Canada puts great emphasis on building relationships and providing meaningful opportunities for consultation with the Canadian public. The national urban park establishment process has included consultations undertaken with a broad range of stakeholders, partners, youth and First Nations to date. Parks Canada will pursue public consultations beginning this summer 2012 to share the proposed national urban park concept for public input.

Visioning Workshop

This workshop, held in November 2011, brought together the varied experience and perspectives of local stakeholders as well as national and provincial organizations with expertise related to conservation, farming, tourism, recreation, youth engagement and education. As part of the early direction-setting stage in the consultation process, the workshop provided an opportunity for stakeholders to share their experience and views on a concept and vision for Rouge National Urban Park. A report has been prepared and can be viewed at http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/progs/np-pn/cnpn-cnnp/rouge/rouge1/rouge2.aspx



Visioning Workshop

Engaging with First Nations

Parks Canada has hosted information sessions in November 2011 and February 2012 with interested First Nations on the establishment of a national urban park in the Rouge Valley. These sessions are for information sharing on the proposed national urban park, while providing an opportunity to explore First Nations interests in the planning, establishment and presentation of the park. The reception has been positive with First Nations showing an interest in contributing to the process as Parks Canada moves forward with this initiative. Additional sessions are planned for March and April 2012.

Landholders Table

A Landholders Table was established in November 2011 to bring all public land holders and current Rouge Park managing authorities together to discuss and, subsequently, make a recommendation on park boundaries and land transfer processes. Although it is too early to say what the final boundary will be, Parks Canada is actively working in collaboration with these valued partners towards this end and has hosted several meetings to-date with this group.





Youth Forum
Parks Canada recognizes the value of involving youth to gain their perspective and opinions and the need to nurture their stewardship and personal connection to this park as well as the rest of Canada's treasured places.

On February 2, 2012 Parks Canada and the University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC) co-hosted a youth workshop that included 65 participants from highschool, college and university. As a first opportunity for their involvement, Parks Canada hosted youth from neighbouring Rouge Park communities and organizations, including UTSC, Centennial College, Dunbarton High School, Malvern Family Resource Centre, East Scarborough Storefront, YMCA-GTA and 4H-Ontario. A report has been prepared and can be viewed at http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/progs/np-pn/cnpn-cnnp/rouge/rouge1/atelier-workshop.aspx





Additional Engagement
To develop this new national urban park concept, Parks Canada continues to engage with various partners and stakeholders as part of the planning and establishment process. As this national urban park concept would integrate and promote sustainable agriculture, Parks Canada continues to work with the agricultural community to be inclusive of this context.

Get Involved

Summer 2012 Public Consultations – more information to come.

Did you know ….?
The Rouge Valley is within approximately 100 km of 20% of the nation's popula tion.

For more information:
To find out more or to be added to our mailing list for future newsletter updates, please contact us at rouge@pc.gc.ca