

Our ravines need your help!



Dear Neighbour,

In our community, we all enjoy the benefits of the ravines. This unique urban forest is home to abundant wildlife and an oasis for citizens in North America's fourth largest city. However, after years of inattention, our ravines are in crisis and we need your help in overcoming specific challenges.

The last several decades have witnessed uncontrolled growth of invasive species which undermine natural regeneration, and threaten biodiversity and ravine health. With no natural predators, invasive species grow exponentially while wildlife struggles against diminishing food sources and habitat. The University of Toronto's Faculty of Forestry has studied this problem extensively and has concluded that if left unmanaged, the ravines will soon reach a tipping point, become "green deserts" devoid of native fauna and flora, overwhelmed by monocultures of dominant invasives.¹

Armed with this information, a Steering Committee of five Residents' Associations and academic professionals from U of T's Faculty of Forestry has lobbied City Hall with early success: four separate motions supporting ravine restoration have been passed in the last 18 months. We have also successfully lobbied the City to commence remedial work in the Yellow Creek ravine (Vale of Avoca) between Moore Park and Rosedale to the east and Summerhill and Deer Park to the west.

We now propose a Pilot Project in our community to determine how best to remove the invasive species, Japanese Knotweed, from the City's ravines and how to regenerate our native species on the massive scale that is required to restore ravine health and improve Toronto's tree canopy. Solutions must be both sustainable long term and cost-effective.

This much-needed work will require \$200,000, of which \$28,000 has been raised already. Please help us meet our goal by donating to the Faculty of Forestry, as per instructions on the reverse. U of T will issue tax receipts to donors, and will provide regular updates and a full report at the conclusion of this Pilot Project at torontoravines.org.

Your help is urgently needed. Please donate to restore our urban forests.

Sincerely,

Deborah Briggs
President,
Summerhill RA

Don Hogarth
President,
S. Rosedale RA

Chris Lowry
President,
Moore Park RA

John Plumadore
President,
Deer Park RG

Lewis Reford
President,
N. Rosedale RA

¹ A. Dong. (2015). Ecological Integrity in the Park Drive Ravine: 1977 to 2015. Retrieved from https://torontoravinesdotorg.files.wordpress.com/2016/04/anqi-dong_ecological-integrity-in-the-park-drive-ravine_1977-to-2015.pdf

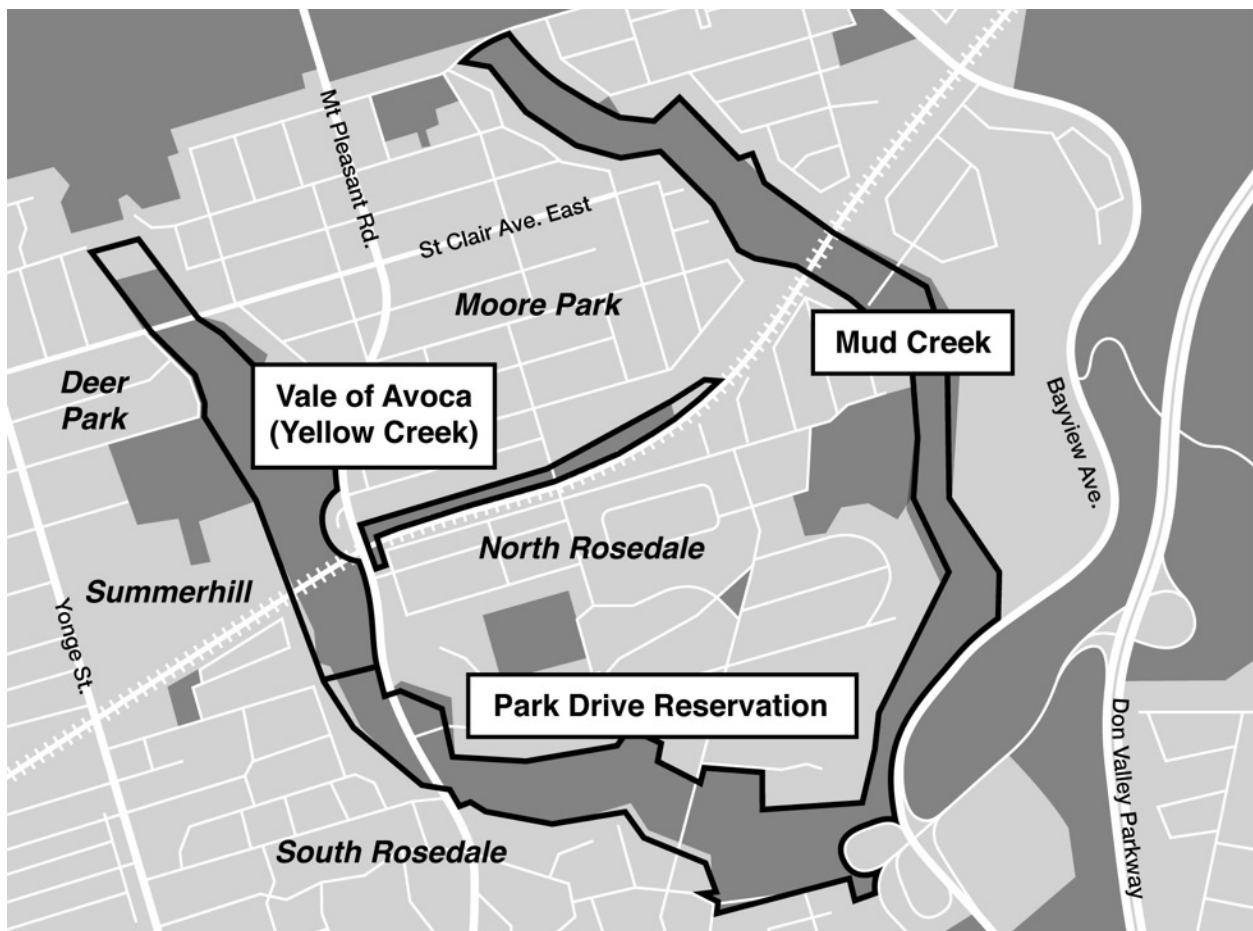
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Notation should specify support for: "Urban Forest Research - Smith Lab"

ATTN: Dean's Office
Faculty of Forestry
University of Toronto
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Toronto, ON M5S 3B3

Tax receipts will be issued. Please provide name and address or email address.



To join our mailing list and receive information on eradication events, ravine and nature walks or to volunteer, please email us at rosedaleRavines@gmail.com