

**DELINEATION OF THE ROUGE WATERSHED
PROTECTION AREA**
TERMS OF REFERENCE
FEBRUARY 2023



INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

The 'Rouge Watershed Protection Area' as shown on Map 4 – Greenway System of the 2014 Markham Official Plan comprises the Rouge River and its tributaries, their associated valleylands and riparian zones, key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features and woodlands associated with the corridor and the associated vegetation protection zones. The 'Rouge Watershed Protection Area' reflects the criteria established to delineate the Rouge Park boundary in the Rouge North Management Plan.

WHEN IS THIS REQUIRED?

Confirmation of the boundaries of the Rouge Watershed Protection Area may be required for development, redevelopment or site alteration that is proposed adjacent to a watercourse in the Rouge River watershed in accordance with Policy 3.1.4.1 of the 2014 Markham Official Plan. It may be required as part of the following Planning applications:

- Official Plan Amendment
- Zoning By-law Amendment
- Draft Plan of Subdivision
- Site Plan Control
- Consent Applications
- Minor Variances

WHO PREPARES THIS?

The delineation of the Rouge Watershed Protection Area is to be prepared by a qualified ecologist, biologist or environmental planner.



WHY DO WE NEED THIS?

The boundary of the Rouge Watershed Protection Area shown on Map 4 – Greenway System of the 2014 Markham Official Plan is preliminary and is required to be refined and finalized through the development approvals process. This Terms of Reference provides high-level guidance to interpret Chapter 3 of the Markham Official Plan with particular attention to Section 3.1.4, Rouge Watershed Protection Area.



STRUCTURE AND FORMAT

WHAT SHOULD BE INCLUDED?

Submission Requirements

The Rouge North Management Plan (RNMP) provides the framework for the Rouge Park, which is referred to as the 'Rouge Watershed Protection Area' in the 2014 Markham Official Plan. The RNMP contains objectives to ensure the long-term protection of Rouge River and its tributaries that flow into the Rouge National Urban Park. The Rouge North Implementation Manual provides the boundary delineation methodology for the interpretation and refinement of the Rouge Watershed Protection Area. The boundary of the Rouge Watershed Protection Area shown on Map 4 – Greenway System in the 2014 Official Plan is preliminary and will continue to be refined through the development approvals process.

Investigation/Evaluation

- The Rouge North Implementation Manual (2003) sets out the boundary delineation process for areas subject to the Rouge North Management Plan.
- Section 3.7 of the Rouge North Implementation Manual (2003) provides more detail to interpret the Rouge Watershed Protection Area Criteria in Section 3.1.4.1 of the 2014 Markham Official Plan. Field investigations (e.g., vegetation mapping, feature staking, wildlife surveys, flood/erosion hazard limits, cultural heritage resources) and GIS analysis are likely required to be completed as part of this process.
- Note the emphasis in Policy 3.1.4.3 in the 2014 Markham Official Plan that supports an ecological corridor along the Little Rouge Creek with the long term goal of achieving interior forest habitat conditions. This is consistent with Section 3.8 of the Rouge North Implementation Manual regarding a functional corridor for the Little Rouge Creek.
- Criterion 7 in Section 3.7 of the Rouge North Implementation Manual places an emphasis on species persistence and the need for natural cover enhancements to mitigate impacts of urbanization to maintain species populations.

Mapping and Analysis

- A report including maps and written analysis is required to demonstrate how each criterion of the Rouge North Implementation Manual has been delineated.

WHAT OTHER RESOURCES ARE THERE?

Directly relevant resources include:

Rouge North Management Plan

Rouge North Implementation Manual

[Rouge National Urban Park Management Plan 2019](#)

Complementary resources include:

- How Much Habitat is Enough (Environment Canada)
- Natural Heritage Reference Manual (2010)
- Significant Wildlife Habitat Guide (2000)
- Significant Wildlife Habitat Ecoregional Criteria Schedules: Ecoregion 6E
- Ecological Land Classification for Southern Ontario (1998)
- Toronto and Region Conservation Authority [Procedural Manual and Technical Guidelines](#)