



Friends of Rouge Watershed - Green Party of Canada

Question 1: *If elected, will you support amendments to the Rouge National Urban Park Act and draft park management plan to support the implementation of the:*

- *Greenbelt Act and Plan (2005);*
- *Oak Ridges Moraine (ORM) Conservation Act (2001) and Plan (2002);*
- *Rouge Park Management Plan (1994) & Rouge North Management Plan (2001);*
- *Little Rouge Corridor Management Plan (2007);*
- *Rouge Park Natural Heritage Action Plan (2008); and*
- *Rouge (2007) & Duffins (2003) Watershed Plans.*

Yes. As you note in your e-mail, the Green Party of Canada was a vocal opponent of the Harper Conservatives' irresponsible approach to creating a Rouge National Park and [presented amendments to the bill in committee](#). In those amendments, we advocated that the Government be required to uphold the terms of the 2013 Memorandum of Understanding with the Province of Ontario - a key component of which was the coordinated implementation of the items listed.

Question 2: *If elected, will you support the following amended wording for section 6(1) of the Rouge National Urban Park Act as proposed in the Bill introduced by MP Rathika Sitsabaiesan?*

The Minister must, when considering any aspect of the management of the Park, give priority to the restoration and maintenance of ecological integrity through the protection and restoration of natural resources and natural processes, while also giving consideration to cultural heritage, farming and infrastructure needs.

Yes. The principle of ecological integrity is not only what is necessary for proper stewardship of the Rouge National Urban Park - it is foundational to the entire Canadian National Parks System. The concept of ecological integrity must be upheld and protected.

Question 3: *If elected, will you support amendments to the Rouge National Urban Park Act and management plan to ensure timely implementation of the Greenbelt and Rouge Park North "main ecological corridor" and Environment Canada's science-based recommendations for improving biological diversity and water quality?*

Yes. The federal government promised to 'meet or exceed' existing provincial protections. Without a commitment to science-based, ecologically sound park management practices, this commitment is an empty one.

Question 4: *If elected, will you support enlarging the National Rouge Park to 100+ km² by including existing Rouge Valley and Park lands in Scarborough and Markham, and 24 km² of additional federal lands in Pickering to shrink the Pickering Airport Zone?*

Yes.

Question 5: *If elected, will you support amending the Rouge National Urban Park Act to remove the dangerous misnomer "Urban" from the park name?*

Yes. As Elizabeth May said in a [joint press conference](#) following the passage of the flawed Conservative bill: "It gives me no pleasure to conclude the current approach fails at the expense of decades of work by local groups. The undermining of the fundamentals of our national park system, starting with the approval of oil and gas activities within Sable Island and now dropping ecological integrity from the requirements of Rouge park management, is a tragedy. Rebuilding the national park system will be a challenge for the next administration."