

APPENDIX 6. Table reports

Table 1 – Nicole Swerhun

Uses by wildlife

- Has to be terrestrial and aquatic function
- Passage for deer to lake/connection to hinterland (Oak Ridges Moraine and beyond)
- Place for bird flight, stepping stone for wildlife
- Sanctuary (although some disagreement about this, some participants said there are more appropriate places for a sanctuary)
- Habitat use by wildlife – the infrastructure can itself be habitat, if you make it right
- Maximize diversity, maximize number of plants, number of species
- Attract indicator species (turtles, frogs, fish, migratory birds, wood ducks, etc.)
- Use design to create the function you want. Size is not a surrogate for quality (lots of examples where small pieces of habitat work – e.g. Spadina Quay). Also, vertical relief can be extremely effective at effectively separating wildlife from people
- Interesting fact – reason birds come to Toronto is the magnetic properties of the rock under Toronto. Another interesting fact – one of the most important “downing” areas for birds in Toronto is Coronation Park because of the connected canopy cover
- Need some marshes elevated so they don’t get damaged by flooding
NO MAJOR DISAGREEMENT ON ANY OF THIS

Uses by people

- A place to integrate with biodiversity (enables integration of people and ecology) – “What kind of uses by wildlife would I like to take my kids to go see?”
- Enhance human interaction with neat stuff
- Series of habitats and places that provide different experiences – marsh, woodland
- Relief from sun, access, viewing points
- Trails that don’t destroy the wildlife corridor function
- Bike trails separate from pedestrian trails – some feel it’s critical that these trails go right through the middle of the greenway
- The primary functions of the Greenway should be habitat/naturalization related, and active recreation (if there at all) should be secondary. The main top-of-mind human uses were related to the Greenway’s wildlife habitat values (being in a natural setting, watching wildlife, etc.)
NO MAJOR DISAGREEMENT ON ANY OF THIS

Playing fields

- Some feel playing fields are NOT consistent with a greenway. They are especially not appropriate in the southern part of the Port Lands. Suggestion was made to split the Port Lands into 3 core areas: Cherry (tourist corridor), Don Greenway (green space), Carlaw/Leslie (can put playing fields here, along with green industry)
- Others feel it’s important not to exclude one use for another (TRCA uses “A, B, C” **A**biotic, **B**iotic, and **C**ultural when planning conservation areas), and therefore playing fields could be considered. Reference was made to the importance of cultural component of green spaces, as well as the huge demand for recreational outlets in Toronto and the importance of having sports fields close to where people live (e.g. thousands of people that are drawn to Sunnybrook Park and others because of the sports fields, picnic areas, etc.). Also flat areas of a flood plain lend themselves to use by sports fields

- Answer may lie in focusing on criteria which would make people “most able to live with” playing fields in the greenway. Advice on what to consider when making a decision re: playing fields included: need buffer between people and wildlife. Use design to accomplish this; push playing fields to the edge (don't locate in the core of the greenway); nuisance wildlife – use design to minimize impact of geese (e.g. use smaller fields, don't put them side-by-side, line with high trees that impede their flight path); need fences/controls for dogs (strong on leash policy)

Table 2 – Anneliese Grieve

Uses by wildlife

- Create large masses of natural habitat (MVVA concept didn't do this)
- Connected environments
- Animals need habitat they can live and pass through safely.

Uses by people

- Tension between human and natural habitat.
- Important role of human access to achieve environmental stewardship.
- Sustainability for active recreation – maintenance is more expensive than for passive recreation.
- Green character is important.
- Create balance of experiences between people and appreciation of nature.
- Discourage inappropriate uses.
- Continuation of uses existing in the lower Don Valley
- Importance of year round uses.
- Playing fields – if have to be located in greenway they should become a buffer. Not put in middle of greenway as the dominant use.

Table 3 - Tanya Bevington

Uses by wildlife

- Allow for movement for existing species.
- Don't want to create a barrier but embrace the Greenway
- Greenway should be functioning part of a web of inter-connected spaces (Tommy Thompson Park, Lake Ontario Park, small neighbourhood parks, Don Valley Parks)
- Tommy Thompson Park has incredible species diversity already. Greenway shouldn't duplicate this, but provide important connections.
- Reduce high level predators.
- Food source for wildlife – want species to come.
- Allow for safe movement of species.

Uses by people

- People – variety of modes.
- Spillway - don't sterilize the land.
- Look at passive recreation.
- Any playing fields should provide local recreation opportunities
- Active recreation facilities – 600% deficiency in this part of the city
- Local playing fields can accommodate stormwater storage (people don't use the fields when it's “raining cats and dogs”)

- Greenway should accommodate large numbers of people – there will be high density neighbourhoods
- Include drinking fountains and washrooms
- Passive and active
- Create “wow” places
- Don’t over-program it

Environmental functions

- Connect other elements of the urban green infrastructure
- Exciting opportunities
- Abate noise and dust
- Environment - managing storm water
- Dark place – don’t light sports fields
- Apply “audobon for parks” principles
- A web of connected features

Table 4 – Elaine Baxter-Trahair

Uses by wildlife

- Opportunity for animals and fish habitat as well as people
- Migrating more than residential wildlife
- Staging for migratory birds
- Self sustaining
- Terrestrial and aquatic diversity

Uses by people

- People – look at edge of greenway and the opportunities there
- Passive recreation and cycling and pathways
- Healthy communities
- Thought be given for educational purposes
- Should include some amenities – green benches
- Lighting in some areas
- Destination nodes
- Sense of being in wilderness and out of the city

Environmental functions

- Environment – floodway is high priority
- Use a resilient design, allow habitats to evolve
- Low maintenance
- Naturally sustainable balances in natural habitat so that one species does not crowd out others
- Provide shade
- Limit dust and noise
- Dark place – recreation places in daylight only
- Organic and rectangular

Table 5 - Michael Van Valkenburgh

Uses by wildlife

- Philosophically the group felt the greenway should be primarily for wildlife
- Go back to the original - it is about nature and enjoy four-legged creatures and butterflies. No skate boards – unless they're for fish!
- Needs to be planned and legislated with a permanent way to ensure protection long term

Uses by people

- If there is circulation in greenway it is for people (not vehicles)
- Grading from edges – most wild in middle and most accessible areas at the edges
- The portion of the greenway in the Lower Don is only a small part of the overall greenway from the Don River to the Lake
- The greenway should feel like a ravine – separate from the city – although it won't have a regular stream in the middle
- No picnicking
- Vandalism is reduced if people feel empathy with the place
- Recognition of playfields; need to think about where fields will go
- Meditative space where one can feel “mind-less in a green way”

Environmental functions

- Essentially a place to experience the water and lake - greenway is conduit
- Less lighting it interrupts bugs
- Inspiring for a place that is quiet
- Don't be ashamed of an idea of beauty

Table 6 – Ken Greenberg

Uses by wildlife

- Incredibly diverse group and difficult to summarize
- Wildlife – saw potential for migratory and conveyance habitats and residential habitats for smaller creatures
- Fisheries opportunities
- Mid point in Steve's pyramid
- Small mammals and insects that don't require large areas
- Green spaces part of a web and not an isolated entity
- Great piece of “protected” wilderness in the city

Uses by people

- All ways for people to engage with nature
- Skiing, biking organized sports
- Human species part of natural order
- Integration and non exclusivity
- How can it make contribution to healthy lifestyles?
- “A golf course without golf”
- Demonstration as an example of river mouth
- Educational
- Space where people can feel they are not imposed by city
- Strolling in the evening

Environmental functions

- Environmental issues – greenway
- Working with nature
- Conveyance of storm water
- Low maintenance
- Low energy use
- Other functions: neighbourhoods expressing ideas
- Adjacent development should be off-grid with energy use based on renewables
- Emissions and effluents of better quality than the receiving air, water and soil
- The development should improve our city's environment from any further degradation
- A new model of local, decentralized sustainability
- Broaden the senses of quality of natural space, rather than ranking high med low
- If you start with natural place you can fit in and not compromise integrity of natural space
- Some active recreation would fit, some would not, depending on the requirements for quality of natural space
- Everyone felt reasonably comfortable with this paradigm

Table 7 – Gwen McIntosh

Uses by wildlife

- Wildlife corridor highest priority
- Residential wildlife habitat including mammals high priority
- Bird migration medium priority

Uses by people

- Co-existence with industry high priority
- Primarily passive uses
- Locally based active recreation medium priority
- Regional sport facility low priority, if at all
- Interpretive opportunities medium priority
- Trail – walking and bikes
- Balance the active/passive
- Balance the people/wildlife

Environmental functions

- Soft bank at Ship Channel
- Stormwater retention and quality control

What kind of place should the greenway be?

- Floodway with shrubs and trees
- Localized areas for recreation