

**Friends of the Roxborough Greenbelt**

Presentation to the  
City of Greater Sudbury Council

Budget 2007  
January 30, 2007

**Friends of the Roxborough Greenbelt requests that the City of Greater Sudbury Council approve the City's acquisition of the land bordered by Kingsmount Boulevard and Riverside Drive, from Winchester Drive to Junction Creek, hereafter referred to as the *Roxborough Greenbelt*, as a public natural park, through an agreement with the private landowner, Dalron Construction Limited.**

# Establishing the Roxborough Greenbelt as a Public Natural Park

***The right choice***

for

**ENVIRONMENT**

**HEALTH**

**COMMUNITY**

**QUALITY OF LIFE**

**An *unique*  
and exciting opportunity  
for the  
City of Greater Sudbury**

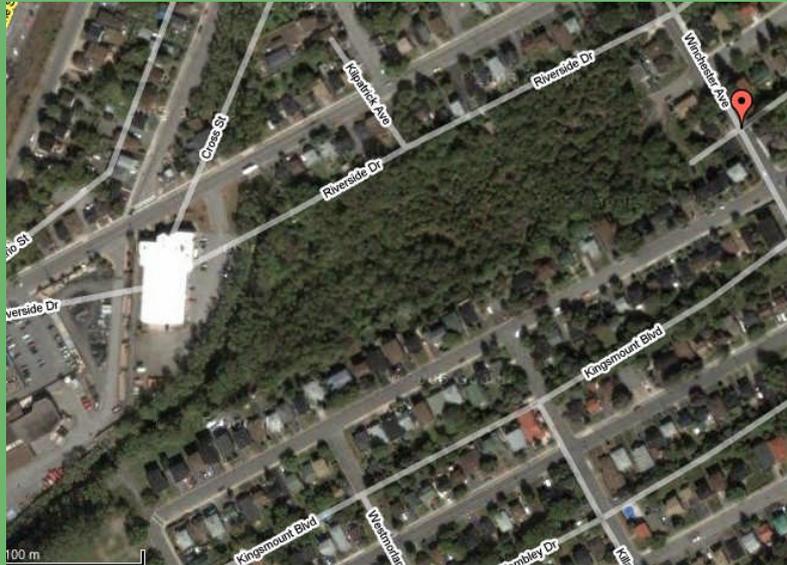
**A place of *unique*  
attributes  
and location**

**An *unique*  
partnership  
for the benefit  
of all**

Following the vision and policies in the Official Plan, the Parks, Open Space and Leisure Master Plan, the Greater Sudbury Healthy Community Strategy, and the Municipal Pedestrian Charter.

# What is the Roxborough Greenbelt?

3 hectares of transitional forest



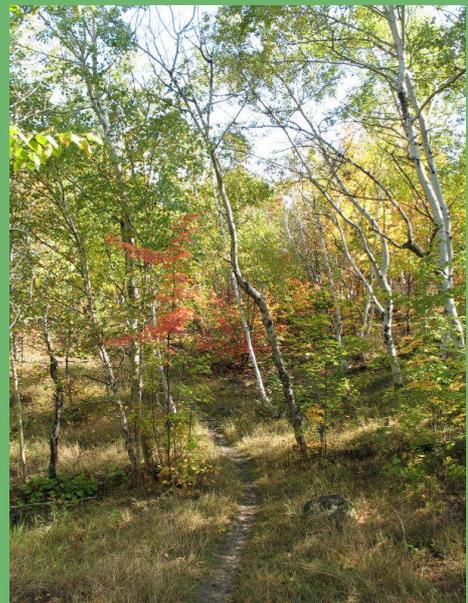
One of the last urban forests in central Sudbury



## Adjoining Junction Creek

*A 10 minute walk from downtown*

Half a kilometre of informal trails

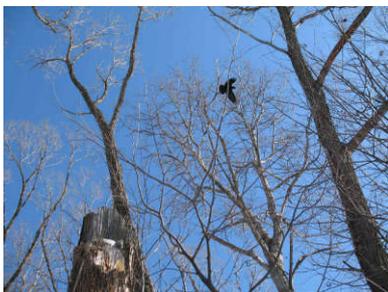


# Present role in the community

The Roxborough Greenbelt  
has served as  
an **informal neighbourhood park**  
for at least **4 generations**



**A place of:** beauty



quiet



inspiration



**A place to:** walk bike sled

observe



learn



discover

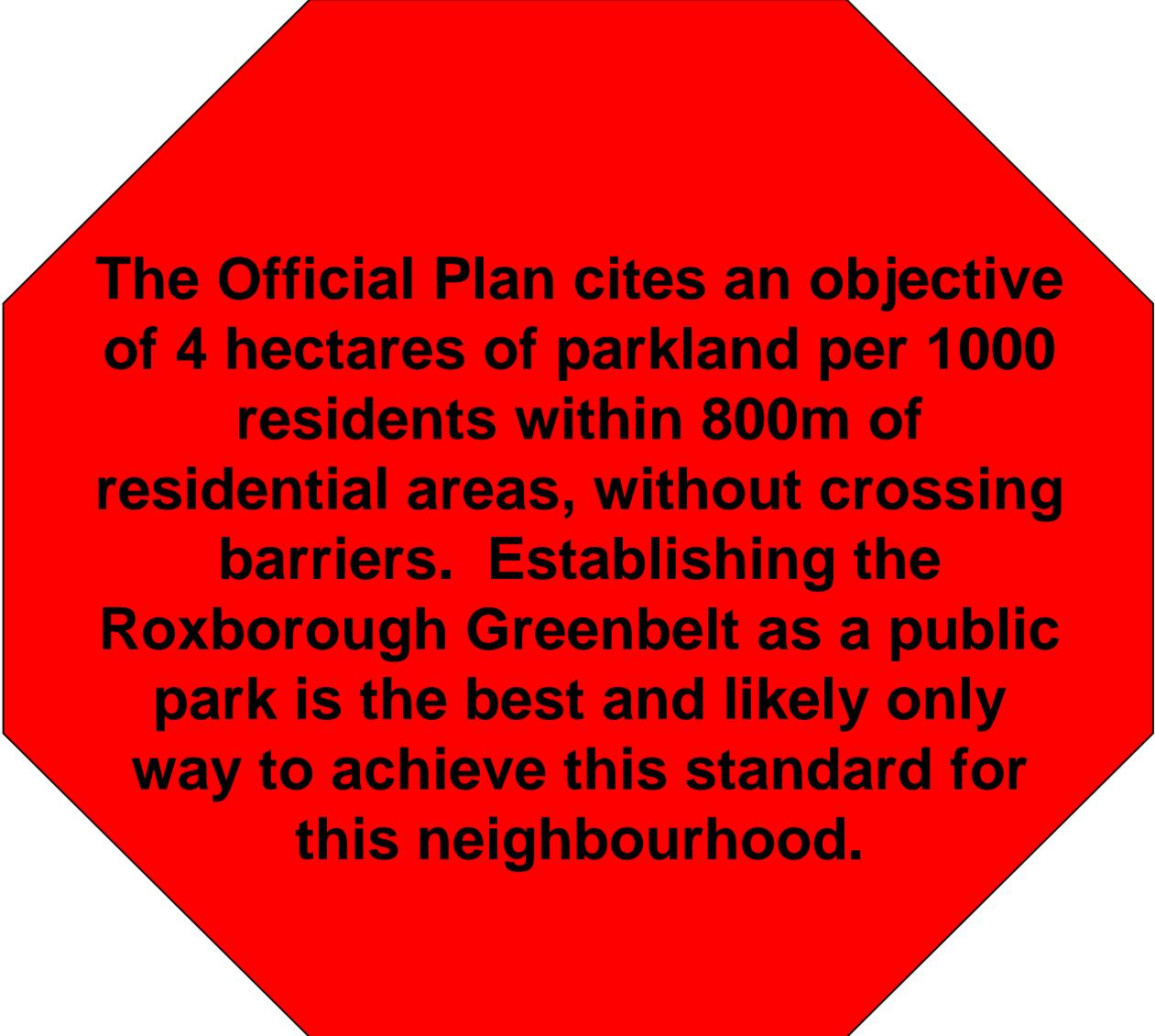


*Connect with nature*

**Year round**

*In 1983, parkland for the Kingsmount/Riverside neighbourhood was traded (to Hydro) for other land by the City of Sudbury. Since that time, the Roxborough Greenbelt has been the only area to serve the need of parkland for this neighbourhood.*

**It is the wish of the neighbourhood that the City of Greater Sudbury preserve the Roxborough Greenbelt as a natural park.**



**The Official Plan cites an objective of 4 hectares of parkland per 1000 residents within 800m of residential areas, without crossing barriers. Establishing the Roxborough Greenbelt as a public park is the best and likely only way to achieve this standard for this neighbourhood.**

*More than a neighbourhood park...*

## The Roxborough Greenbelt would be a valuable addition to Sudbury's park system.



- ➡ Adding to the Junction Creek Waterway Park
- ➡ Connecting to the Trans-Canada Trail
- ➡ Linking downtown to natural areas
- ➡ A valuable educational resource
- ➡ A walkable community connecting residential neighbourhoods and schools

*As a natural area, the Roxborough Greenbelt provides many benefits...*

## Environmental Benefits

➡ Valuable habitat for native flora and fauna



➡ Improved air and water quality

➡ Mitigating Climate Change

The Environment is a top priority for Canadians



Greater Sudbury has built a reputation of environmental stewardship.

Protecting the Roxborough Greenbelt will bolster this status as a Green Community, and will protect 3 decades worth of natural reclamation

*“Environmental protection and preservation is paramount to creating and maintaining a healthy community.”  
Greater Sudbury Healthy Community Strategy, p.10*

## Health Benefits

- ➡ **Direct benefits to physical and mental health**
- ➡ **Encouraging healthy living**



## Quality of Life

- ➡ **Access to natural areas is critical to Greater Sudbury’s quality of life, and a defining feature of the City’s identity and appeal.**

# **Economic Benefits**

## **Urban greenspaces:**

- ➡ **are a net asset to the municipality, including the cost of acquisition.**
- ➡ **increase surrounding property values an average of 20%**
- ➡ **Provide valuable services.**  
*The additional economic value of these services can be estimated at \$85,000 - \$100,000 a year for the Roxborough Greenbelt*
- ➡ **Contribute economically by attracting tourists, attracting and retaining professionals and businesses, and by contributing to the overall positive image of the community.**

## **The Bottom Line**

For a relatively small initial cost that soon more than pays for itself, protecting the Roxborough Greenbelt as a public natural park will provide valuable benefits to the community

For now...and into the future...

*Friends of the Roxborough Greenbelt is committed to assisting with this initial cost.*

## Funding sources organized by Friends of the Roxborough Greenbelt

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### Community Contribution

Commitment \$50 000

### Current status *(January 30, 2007)*

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Contributions by individuals and small business	<b>\$14,773.93</b>
Donations	\$2753.93
Pledges	\$12,020.00*
* \$6000 conditional on protection of entire piece	
Other Community Support	
Commitment to school or community fundraiser	\$800.00
Minimum value of art committed to spring art sale	\$1840.00
Sudbury Community Foundation Grant	up to \$5000
<hr/> Total commitments to date	<b>up to \$22,413.93</b>

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Residents are planning to establish a CAN in this area if possible- this is a probable source of additional community funding

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### Additional Contributions

Councillor Caldarelli (ward discretionary funding)      *exact figure to be confirmed*

Dalron      *amount of donation to be determined as part of final agreement*

## Outside funding

Friends of the Roxborough Greenbelt will assist in securing additional outside funding for the protection of the entire piece. Potential funding sources are listed below. This table includes sources that: (a) are confirmed to fund the acquisition of environmentally and/or recreationally important land by municipalities, (b) have funded similar projects in the past, and (c) have given a positive outlook in initial inquiries.

One small grant has already been approved.

Funding Source	Amount	Additional comments
EJLB Foundation	Amount is tailored to specific project Grants of \$5000 - \$100 000 were given for land acquisition projects in 2006	CGS must be main applicant One of the main objectives of EJLB is: 'the acquisition and preservation, throughout Canada, of natural areas of ecological significance or of importance to the urban landscape'
Hydro One	Up to \$50 000	<b>Application is in, and has passed the preliminary review stage.</b> A response is expected by March 20, 2007.
TD Friends of the Environment	up to \$5000	CGS must be main applicant
Helen McCrea Peacock Foundation	<b>\$3000</b>	<b>Application approved.</b>
HIVA Environmental Foundation	Up to \$5000	Application in. Response expected by February 28, 2007.
Ontario Wildlife Foundation	unknown	

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### Note of special consideration:

*In 1983, parkland for this neighbourhood (on Riverside and Regent) was traded for other land by the City of Sudbury. Friends of the Roxborough Greenbelt submits that the value of this trade should be included as a separate line item when considering the City's contribution towards the acquisition of the Roxborough Greenbelt as parkland.*

# Community Engagement

Many citizens have devoted their time and services towards the protection of this unique natural area.

***We ask the City of Greater Sudbury to join them in seeing this worthwhile goal come to fruition.***

Many community groups, including youth groups, have also assisted.

## ***Special thank-you to:***

- Junction Creek Stewardship Committee
- Sudbury Heart Health Coalition
- Nature-Based Adventure Tourism Program, Cambrian College
- Earthday Network
- And others...

***for their letters of support***



Dalron has shown good will in readiness to work with the City towards the City's acquisition of the entire piece.

This is a one time opportunity.  
If it is not taken now, this greenspace will be developed.

**Protecting the *entire piece* as a public natural park will show true vision and commitment to a green and healthy community, and make the most of the benefits of a significant natural park in the heart of our community.**

*Protecting the entire piece is also important in:*

- Being the only way to approach the recommended parkland allocation for the Kingsmount/Riverside neighbourhood
- Greatly facilitating community fundraising, and allowing opportunities for significant outside funding

# Establishing the Roxborough Greenbelt as a Public Natural Park

*An unique opportunity to:*

- ✦ **Establish a significant central natural park adjoining Junction Creek, and linked to downtown along the Trans Canada Trail.**
- ✦ **Provide required parkland to the Kingsmount/Riverside neighbourhood**
- ✦ **Partner with citizens and the private sector for a green and healthy community**