Fact Sheet: Rouge National Urban Park

Brief Description of the Partnership

Rouge National Urban Park

Parks Canada and the University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC) hosted two workshops for youth from the eastern Greater Toronto Area. The sessions provided a venue for the region’s young people to contribute their thoughts and ideas to the ongoing development of Canada’s first national urban park, to be located in the nearby Rouge river valley.

With an agreement with Parks, UTSC has taken a leading role in the transformation of the Rouge Valley into Canada’s First national Urban Park. UTSC faculty conduct research in the park, while co-op and service learning programs provide students experiential learning opportunities. UTSC has hosted workshops for the parks and for the federal government on vision for youth.

University initiatives that propose to examine the human-nature interaction in near urban places are enhanced by the proximity of the park. Rouge National Urban Park is a natural laboratory where research on the interaction between urban areas and surrounding areas can be undertaken.

The Hub Ideation and Experiential Learning Centre provides opportunities for students to apply their learning and skills to real world challenges. As a park that seeks to educate and provide opportunities to experience nature, culture and agriculture, Rouge National Urban Park is the ideal arena for new, innovative uses of technology that benefit future park visitors in real world settings.

Lead(s)

- UTSC lead/relationship manager - Kimberley Tull, Manager Community Development and Engagement
- Faculty/Staff/Student Club(s) – Gray Graham, Director, The Hub
- Partner lead – Omar McDadi, External Relations Manager, Rouge National Urban Park

Prepared by:
**Organization Background**

Parks Canada protects and presents nationally significant examples of Canada’s natural and cultural heritage. It is an agency run by Ministry of the Environment, whose mandate is to foster public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment in ways that ensures their ecological and commemorative integrity for present and future generations.

Parks Canada manages 44 National Parks and including seven National Park Reserves, four National Marine Conservational Areas, one National Landmark, and 167 National Historic Sites of Canada.

Through its management planning process for the future Rouge National Urban Park, Parks Canada will help define research priorities in the field of environmental and biological science for the TD Gift program.

**Partnership Activities**

- Youth Workshop : Rouge National Urban Park Initiative
- Youth Environmental Day

**Outcomes To Date**

- How many faculty/students involved – 50
- How many community members reached – 500 (estimated number)
- Written report(s)/proposal(s) – MOU
- Creation of an Eco Summit report each year

**Accompanying Documents**

- Formal agreement(s) - MOU
- Strategic plan

**Key Messages**

- Rouge National Park is the ideal location for recreational, learning and stewardship activities for young Canadians, providing opportunities for the students and other members of the university community to experience being healthy people in a healthy park.

Prepared by: