

April 8, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Community Support for the Revitalization of the Corktown Common Urban Prairie

On behalf of the Corktown Residents and Business Association (CRBA), I am writing to express our strong support for the revitalization of the urban prairie landscape adjacent to Corktown Common.

The CRBA represents a community that has long been invested in the stewardship, livability, and ecological health of our neighbourhood. Corktown Common is not only a cherished public space, but also a critical piece of flood protection infrastructure and community event space. This piece of Toronto is now connected to Ookwemin Minising, the new 54-acre sustainable and inclusive waterfront community, via the Lower Don Trail.

The original vision for the “west side” of the flood protection landform—a naturalized prairie ecosystem—was both purposeful and necessary. It responded to the engineering constraints with innovation and biodiversity, and is now an integral part of the Lower Don River’s revitalization and vital to the sustainability and beauty of Biidaasige Park and Ookwemin Minising. With all the construction happening in this area over the past few years, it seems maintenance and stewardship has fallen to the wayside. Consistent maintenance and stewardship is crucial to the neighbourhood and the Lower Don River’s ability to thrive.

The reason we must act now is that we have an excellent chance to repair the damage caused by invasive species and educate the next generation who is called to steward.

The Prairie Project, as proposed by the Canary District Neighbourhood Association, represents a thoughtful and community-driven effort. It aligns with the original design intent while addressing current conditions through restoration, education, and long-term stewardship.

From the CRBA’s perspective, this initiative offers multiple benefits:

- **Ecological restoration** of a degraded but highly valuable landscape
- **Strengthening of flood resilience** through proper maintenance of the landform
- **Educational opportunities** for local schools, residents, and visitors
- **Community-building through stewardship**, fostering shared responsibility and pride
- **Empowering connections**, through work within a newly established community



We recognize that successful prairie restoration requires not only initial investment but also a sustainable management plan. The integration of volunteer stewardship, alongside professional guidance, is a practical and proven model that can ensure the long-term success of this project.

Failing to act will likely result in further spread of invasive species, increased maintenance challenges, and continued loss of the ecological and educational value that this space was designed to provide, turning installed plaques about the benefits of the space into ironic commentary.

For these reasons, the CRBA strongly encourages support for the Prairie Project and the broader effort to restore and maintain the urban prairie at Corktown Common, all the way up to the Queen St viaduct. This is an opportunity to revitalize a once blooming space, and allow for people to learn from and enjoy nature, and for biodiversity to thrive.

Sincerely,

Olga Perron

President

Corktown Residents and Business Association (CRBA)