

Proposal to close Paton Road next to Erwin Krickhahn Park for Vegetable Garden

Dear Neighbours,

We recently learned that Councillor Adam Giambrone is behind a proposal to **close the east end of Paton Road and turn it into a vegetable garden** where some individuals would be allowed plant vegetables on their own individual plots, with onsite composting. **This proposal has already been approved by Toronto and East York Community Council, and by the full City of Toronto Council. Councillor Giambrone has not given any notice to local residents about this proposal.**

Two years ago, local residents said “no” to the idea of a vegetable garden in Erwin Krickhahn Park, at a meeting attended by about 100 people. Councillor Giambrone promised residents that he would consult them about any future proposals in Erwin Krickhahn Park.

Since then, Councillor Giambrone has asked city staff to draw up plans to close the portion of Paton Road north of the park, for the purposes of turning it into a “community garden.” This is from the City of Toronto staff report dated May 27, 2009:

Transportation Services recommends that **the portion of the public highway known as Paton Road, abutting the north limit of Erwin Krickhahn Park, be permanently closed** and jurisdiction be transferred to Parks, Forestry and Recreation.

Councillor Adam Giambrone requested that the Highway be permanently closed and jurisdiction be transferred to PF&R **for the development of a community garden.**

You can read the report for yourself at:

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/te/bgrd/backgroundfile-22175.pdf>

There is also a map: <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/te/bgrd/backgroundfile-22009.pdf>

On September 15, Toronto and East York Community Council approved Councillor Giambrone’s proposal to close Paton Road. Here is a link to the minutes from the September 15th meeting:

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/te/decisions/2009-09-15-te27-dd.htm>

On September 30, City Council approved the September 15th recommendation of Toronto and East York Community Council. Here’s a link to the minutes from the council meeting:

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/cc/decisions/2009-09-30-cc40-dd.htm>

It will cost \$65,000 to tear up the road and do environmental testing of the soil. If the soil has to be cleaned up to make it safe to plant vegetables, those costs would be paid by Parks, Forestry & Recreation. Contaminated soil may also have to be stockpiled somewhere in the neighbourhood while this cleanup is going on.

We have been told by city staff that there will be an opportunity for residents to express their views about the proposed closing of the east end of Paton Road and what should be done with this land. We will try to give residents the details when we learn of them. In the meantime, please see the other side of this flyer for what you can do if you have an opinion about this proposal. Thank you for your attention.

**Sincerely,
Concerned Local Residents**

If you want to be heard on this issue you can:

1. **Tell the City that you want to be notified about the coming deputations.** Email Laurie Robertson of Traffic Planning, lroberts@toronto.ca and tell her you want to be notified about the deputations.
2. **Write, Email or call Councillor Giambrone** and let him know your views:

City Hall: 100 Queen Street West, Suite C42, Toronto, M5H 2N2

Email: councillor_giambrone@toronto.ca

Telephone: 416-392-7012

A vegetable garden is just one option for the east section of Paton Road, but it is obviously the option favoured by Councillor Giambrone. **Some other options are:**

- Leaving the road as is
- Extending the park's green space for all residents and children to enjoy – not just those who would have control of their individual garden plots