

The Park Vision

"The Rouge Park will be a special place of outstanding natural features and diverse cultural heritage in an urban-rural setting, protected and flourishing as an ecosystem in perpetuity. Human activities will exist in harmony with the natural values of the park. The park will be a sanctuary for nature and the human spirit.

The primary focus of the vision centres on the protection and appreciation of the park ecosystem. The vision is based on the premise that the functioning of significant natural systems forms a vital part of the natural environment, and that their continued health is dependent on the integrity of their habitats and on the physical connections between habitats. Where appropriate, interpretation of natural, scenic, historic, archaeological and architectural values will be provided."

Rouge Park Management Plan 1994

The Goal for the Rouge Park is:

To protect, restore and enhance the natural, scenic and cultural values of the park in an ecosystem context, and to promote public responsibility, understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of this heritage.

Rouge Park Management Plan 1994

Mission of the Rouge Park HAVE Program

"Humans need connections with nature and their own history, for their physical, mental and spiritual health. The mission of the Rouge Park HAVE program is to enhance the experience of visiting the park, and living near the park, through the provision and facilitation of heritage appreciation and visitor experience services that increase the awareness, appreciation and understanding of the park's natural and cultural heritage. The HAVE program will also inspire and involve park users in stewardship of the park related resources within the greater park ecosystem."

Our Guiding Principles are:

- Inclusion of the diversity of park visitors and neighbours
- Do no harm to the environment and historical features of the park
- Focus on enabling discovery of the park's landscapes, ecology and human heritage
- Encourage and enable life-long learning
- Focus on learning for stewardship
- Through engagement, empowerment and promotion of environmental literacy of individuals and groups, enable them to make informed decisions about their behaviour in the park and in making contributions to the park's care and stewardship
- Include current issues such as climate change and urbanization

Vision of the Rouge Park HAVE Program

The vision of this program is:

"A dynamic public and schools program where local citizens visit regularly to relax, recreate, learn and contribute to the care of this wonderfully diverse park and the greater park ecosystem that supports it.

Because the park's HAVE program includes learning, caring and doing, the citizens of the GTA are better able to plan and act towards a sustainable future.