

Hello, friends,

The following is the email we sent today to various media outlets. If you have any sources to whom we should send this, please do let us know. It is time for protecting The Spit.

Many thanks,

Friends of the Spit

The Urban Wilderness of Tommy Thompson Park/The Spit : THREATENED

Last night, August 1st, as on Friday night July 30th, a large rave took place on The Spit/Tommy Thompson Park (TTP) after park closing hours. In addition to the large crowd, The Spit/TTP was accessed illegally by at least one truck (the metal barrier was torched off), and the large crowd partied all night. These are unauthorized illegal and destructive activities in the park, and must be ended. Not only do these parties disrupt the wildlife, they leave in their wake large amounts of human excrement and garbage which poses a health risk to responsible visitors.

Enough is enough! Time to step up!

Friends of the Spit has repeatedly notified the City of Toronto and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) (who share joint management of the park) and Ports Toronto (who lease a portion of the Spit) of these and previous damaging activities. Friends of the Spit has consistently emphasized that park enforcement, to prevent further destruction, is not simply a 9 to 5 exercise: so far, our messages, emails, and phone calls have not been effectively acted upon.

The Spit/ Tommy Thompson Park is Toronto's foremost internationally-recognized park. Annually, hundreds of thousands of Torontonians visit and appreciate the park for its wonderful urban wilderness qualities. Enforcement is needed in the evenings, particularly on weekends, to prevent all behaviour that is damaging this priceless urban wilderness: The Spit/TTP deserves attention!

Practically speaking: there are only two land/road/vehicle access points to the Spit/TTP: these must be blocked and enforcement stationed there to turn away unwanted visitors. The park must be patrolled.

The destructive actions of a few threaten the entire park habitat and wildlife and threaten the enjoyment of those who love, enjoy, and respect The Spit.

Our plea – once again - to the City, to the TRCA, and to Ports Toronto:

ACT NOW; ENFORCE NOW; before it is way too late.

Friends of the Spit

Celebrating 44 years: since 1977, Friends has been advocating for the entire Leslie Street Spit and Baselands to be a car-free Public Urban Wilderness.

Without Friends of the Spit advocacy, The Spit and Baselands would not exist as they do today: a wonderful urban wilderness, enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of visitors yearly.