

UPDATE, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

Hello, Friends,

As the final long weekend of the summer is upon us, we wanted to update you on a number of items.

First and foremost, THANK YOU all for your vigorous responses and outreach to media, politicians, and bureaucrats in response to our media release of August 2<sup>nd</sup>, right after the damaging August long weekend.

Our collective requests for enforcement and deterrence measures at The Spit/ Tommy Thompson Park, to prevent the raves and other non-compatible activities, particularly at evenings and night-times, met with positive action from the City and TRCA. Needless to say, the habitat disruption, vehicle access, noise, and damage to The Spit had to be stopped.

The City heard, the TRCA heard, and deterrence and enforcement measures were put in place for weekend evenings and nights, and, to a very large extent, these deterrence measures were successful.

We were reassured, to quote a TRCA official, on the 20<sup>th</sup>: *“just wanted to give you the heads-up. Weekend enforcement levels will still stay high for the next series of weekends leading up until the long weekend. The city is supporting additional paid Duty Officers which will be patrolling in the evening hours”*

We have also been reassured by that same spokesperson that the deterrence measures will be in place this weekend. Many thanks to the City and the TRCA for both listening and acting to preserve our and their asset: the urban wilderness. Many thanks too to Councillor Fletcher for her efforts, her monitoring, and her weekly updates. All are appreciated!

*As always, should you encounter any damaging activities this weekend, or on subsequent ones, please do not confront the person or group, but back away and phone the Toronto Police Service non-emergency line at 416-808-2222 . As well, please email the TRCA at [ttp@trca.ca](mailto:ttp@trca.ca) and email the City at [311@toronto.ca](mailto:311@toronto.ca) , and please cc us at this email address.*

However, despite these deterrence measures, we are still advocating for better methods to prevent vehicle access, while still allowing the multi-use trails to be used as intended. In particular, we are pressing for measures at the Link trail at the southerly end of the Baselands.

Many of you have noticed the extensive graffiti, that is growing at an alarming rate, particularly on the small buildings. We have noticed it also, and have tasked the City with fulfilling their obligations to remove it. The graffiti has been reported to them, but they have been slow to attend to it, and to other maintenance items. As of yesterday, we are told that there is no cleanup date set yet !!! . (Under the terms of The Spit/TTP's Joint Management Agreement between the City and the TRCA, the City is responsible for maintenance of the buildings and graffiti removal.) We have pointed out to the City that the buildings need regular care and maintenance, or else these assets will rapidly deteriorate.

The Spit deserves the same attention as every other City park.

Finally, for those who come to the Spit from the east, by bicycle or car, be aware of the massive weekend eastbound closures and diversions of both the cycling trails along the Lakeshore, and of the roadway itself. PLAN YOUR ROUTE AHEAD, as the maps we've seen suggest trail and traffic chaos! These trail and roadway changes can be viewed at [Expressway & Lake Shore Boulevard Closures – City of Toronto](#)

All that said, now is a lovely time at The Spit: the vegetation is lush, the temperatures less exhausting, and bird and monarch migrations are well underway!

Enjoy the Spit: the best Urban Wilderness there is!

Cheers,

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.