

To: City Manager, City of Toronto
Members of the Parks and Environment Committee

Date: July 15, 2011

RESIDENTS AGAINST CLOSING RIVERDALE FARM

As a Toronto resident who frequents Riverdale Farm, I have freely signed this petition to express my anger at KPMG's recommendation to close Riverdale Farm.

Riverdale Farm is a Toronto jewel that connects our complicated world to the simpler and serener aspects of current culture. Riverdale Farm welcomes, teaches, relaxes, entertains, soothes, and unites. Riverdale Farm is a public destination, school, museum, theatre, place of worship, gathering spot, camp, and unifier.

Though located in Cabbagetown, each year thousands of families from many parts of Toronto enjoy this unique venue in every season. It is an explicit destination of visitors to our City who enhance our local economy.

KPMG's evaluation of only the service costs excludes the Farm's immense benefits. KPMG presented neither the social return on investment nor measured the considerable impact of the Farm on the community's social cohesion and quality of life. Sadly, that is short-sighted and abjectly mis-represents the Farm's true value for money from a societal perspective.

Joining my fellow neighbours, I have signed this petition to tell you that by closing the Riverdale Farm you will destroy an historic resource and destination for thousands of Torontonians who are content that a portion of their taxes support the Riverdale Farm.

I urge the City not to support closure of Riverdale Farm.

Sincerely,

_____ (signature)

Resident of _____ (street)