

Rouge National Urban Park Visitor, Learning, and Community Centre



LOCATION

Toronto, Ontario

CLIENT

Parks Canada

SIZE

10,625 SF (building area)

286,320 SF (additional site works)

PROJECT TEAM

Brian Rudy, Partner-in-Charge

Mahsa Majidian, Project Manager

Jay Zhao, Project Designer

Chris Ertsenian, QA & QC

Mary O'Malley, Parametric Designer

The new Rouge National Urban Park (RNUP) Visitor, Learning, and Community Centre, a collaboration between Moriyama Teshima Architects, Six Nations of the Grand River-based Two Row Architect and Ian Grey Studio will serve as the park's primary learning and orientation facility where visitors can learn about Rouge's natural, cultural, agricultural, and Indigenous heritage. This facility will feature a highly environmentally sustainable design, enhanced accessibility, and significant collaboration with the RNUP First Nations Advisory Circle along with community partners. The building will be net-zero carbon emissions, in alignment with the Greening Government Strategy commitment by 2050. The design features low-embodied carbon materials such as mass timber structure and shou sugi ban (charred wood) cladding.

Visitors, students, and residents can gather and learn about Rouge's incredible natural, cultural, agricultural, and Indigenous heritage, as well as Canada's network of protected areas. The design process included iterative workshops facilitated by Parks Canada with the First Nations Advisory Circle (FNAC), which includes ten indigenous communities that had or are currently in proximity to the Park, and the north shore of Lake Ontario.

The building is oriented directly on a north/south axis, with a central skylight bringing daylight into a central lobby, events, and gathering space. All the roof overhangs around the centre are tuned specifically to allow plenty of winter sun into the building but reduce higher-in-the-sky summer suns. The plan divides symmetrically into three wings that help to define three highly distinct outdoor spaces which flow out from the building.