

Update Report - Etobicoke Creek and South Mimico Creek Trails

Date: October 23, 2017

To: Etobicoke York Community Council

From: General Manager, Parks Forestry and Recreation

Wards: Ward 3 - Etobicoke-Centre, Ward 5 -Etobicoke-Lakeshore and Ward 6 - Etobicoke-Lakeshore

SUMMARY

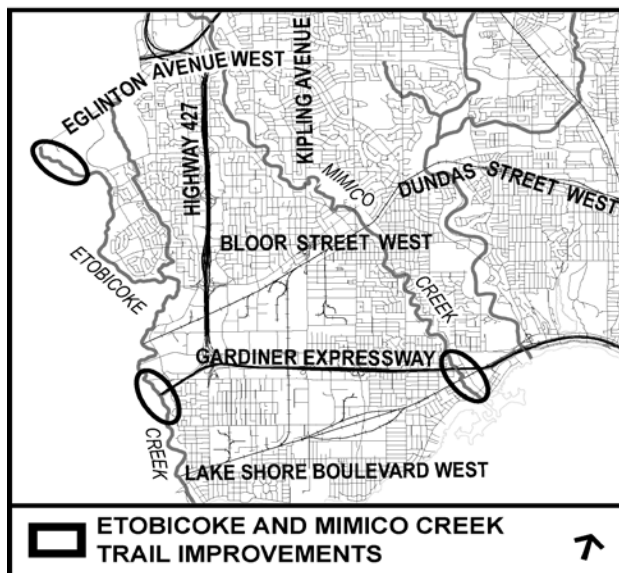
At its meeting of October 13, 2016, Etobicoke York Community Council requested a report on the actions taken to date to address the Etobicoke Creek and South Mimico Creek. This report provides the requested project updates including timing, status and funding.

The Sherway Link of the Etobicoke Creek Trail project is scheduled to begin construction in November 2017 upon receipt of a temporary encroachment permit from the Ministry of Transportation and weather permitting, be completed in spring 2018.

The North Link of the Etobicoke Creek Trail project is now under construction and on schedule to be completed in spring 2018.

Anticipated construction of the South Mimico Creek Trail project from 42 Parklawn Road to the Metrolinx overpass in 2017 is currently on hold due to emergency repair works being undertaken by Metrolinx to their rail overpass bridge abutments. Metrolinx is investigating an option to realign the creek and construct the section of trail from behind 42 Parklawn Road to The Queensway. Results of this study are still forthcoming and discussions remain ongoing.

Figure 1 - Geographic Map of Etobicoke and Mimico Creek Trail Improvements



RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager, Parks Forestry and Recreation recommends that:

1. Etobicoke York Community Council receive this report for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report.

DECISION HISTORY

City Council on November 8 and 9, 2016, adopted Item EY17.19, titled "Update on Etobicoke Creek and South Mimico Creek Trails - Information Report," and in so doing, requested the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to report on a number requests, including the completion of the portion of the South Mimico Creek Trail Link; the exploration of funding and partnership opportunities with Metrolinx and other agencies to help fund the South Mimico Trail Link and the North Etobicoke Link; the finalization of the easement required to support the construction of the North Etobicoke Link and the Sherway Link; and the status of the Queen Elizabeth Way bridge replacement work and the North Etobicoke Link.

Link to Decision Document – Item EY17.19:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2016.EY17.19>

COMMENTS

Trail improvements are planned for both the Etobicoke Creek Trail and the South Mimico Creek Trail. The following outlines the current status of each of the projects.

Etobicoke Creek Trail

The Etobicoke Creek Trail – Missing Links project includes improvements to four trail sections, two of which are in the City of Toronto:

Sherway Link (at Queen Elizabeth Way – see Attachment 1);
North Link (Eglinton Avenue West and Centennial Park – see Attachment 2);
Valleywood Link (between Caledon and Brampton); and
Kennedy Valley Link (between Brampton and Mississauga).

Etobicoke Creek Trail - Sherway Link

A joint initiative of the City of Toronto and Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), the Sherway Link and restoration project was initiated in 2006 with the intention of constructing a 0.7 kilometre section of trail and one new pedestrian crossing in the Etobicoke Creek Valley. This trail section will provide a safe and convenient connection under the Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW) for pedestrians and cyclists and create an important link to Lake Ontario and the Waterfront Trail. In addition to the trail alignment, this project would also incorporate a restoration component to enhance vegetation along the creek, enhance natural corridors, assist with mitigating erosion along the creek banks and prevent sedimentation from threatening aquatic species.

TRCA and Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff originally planned to begin work on the Etobicoke Creek Trail improvements at the QEW overpass in 2017.

Ministry of Transportation (MTO) staff have advised that MTO is planning major rehabilitation work on the QEW overpass in the area of the planned trail improvements, beginning in 2018. That work is expected to last four or five years, until approximately 2021, during which time there will be no access to the trail area underneath the overpass. This timing assumes no delays to the MTO rehabilitation work.

TRCA and Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff recommended that the Etobicoke Creek Trail improvements at the QEW overpass not be undertaken until after the MTO rehabilitation work is completed as any improvements made in 2017 would not be accessible from 2018 to 2021 and it is likely that the MTO rehabilitation work would damage the new trail improvements.

Following a series of meetings with MTO, TRCA and City staff, a decision was made to proceed with the trail construction in 2017 on the basis that the project is shovel ready,

funding is in place, and increased costs can be avoided by not waiting until 2021 or later.

The most recent cost estimate for the Sherway Link of the Etobicoke Creek Trail improvements is approximately \$550,000, excluding allowances and contingencies.

The Sherway Link Project is now fully funded with approval by City Council of the 2017 Parks Forestry and Recreation Capital Budget, including \$325,000 for the purposes of constructing the trail.

Project Status

TRCA staff have secured all internal preliminary approvals for the project, updated the trail detail design package and are expecting the City's Ravine Protection permit to be issued shortly.

City of Toronto and Ministry of Transportation (MTO) staff are working towards finalizing a temporary encroachment permit for construction, maintenance, and use of the trail valid from September 19, 2017 until September 19, 2022. A permanent easement agreement and supporting legal agreement will be finalized in due course prior to expiration of the temporary permit. MTO staff have stated their support of the easement and trail connection on MTO lands.

Once the encroachment permit is finalized, and weather permitting, TRCA expect to mobilize on site in November to install the pedestrian bridge and abutments and continue with trail construction into December. Installation of the paved asphalt surface, planting and site restoration will be completed in the spring of 2018.

Etobicoke Creek Trail - North Link

Transportation Services Cycling Infrastructure, in partnership with Parks, Forestry and Recreation and TRCA will also be completing the North Link of the Etobicoke Creek Trail at Centennial Park near Eglinton Avenue West. This 1.1 km trail will connect the Etobicoke Creek Trail to the north side of Eglinton Avenue West with the Mississauga and Eglinton West Trail that runs from Jane Street to Etobicoke Creek and into Mississauga.

Portions of this trail are located on Hydro One/provincial lands. These lands are currently under a lease agreement between the City of Toronto and Infrastructure Ontario.

The total cost of the project is approximately \$1.8million. This will be funded through the Transportation Services (Cycling Infrastructure) Capital budget and reserve accounts secured for Etobicoke Valley trails. Parks, Forestry and Recreation are contributing \$150,000 towards the erosion protection work along Etobicoke Creek through their City Wide Environmental Initiatives Erosion Asset Preservation Program.

Project Status

Construction commenced on site on July 21, 2017 and is now approximately 25% complete. Erosion protection along the Etobicoke Creek including construction of a vegetated rock buttress is underway and will be completed by mid-November. The overall project remains on track to be completed in spring 2018.

South Mimico Creek Trail – Status, Timing and Funding

TRCA staff are working in partnership with City staff and local developers to coordinate the design and construction of the South Mimico Creek Trail and four pedestrian bridges along Mimico Creek between the Gardiner Expressway and Lake Shore Boulevard, west of Park Lawn Road.

A concept plan for the public trail link has been developed, including initial trail and bridge designs (see Attachment 3). The trail would run on the east side of the creek, from Lake Shore Boulevard West north toward the CN Rail corridor. The trail would then cross from the east to the west side over a pedestrian bridge, and then continue north of the CN Rail corridor west of the creek. This would connect the Humber Bay Shores residential area and Humber Bay Shores Park to the neighbourhood north of the CN Rail corridor, including the park at Grand Avenue and Portland Street. Based on the preliminary design, Bridge 1 would be located south of the Gardiner Expressway, near the Mystic Pointe community; Bridge 2 would cross the CN Rail corridor; and Bridge 3 would be north of Lake Shore Boulevard West, connecting west to Legion Road. A fourth potential bridge (Bridge 4) is being reviewed, which would be located immediately south of the CN Rail corridor, connecting west to Humberview Crescent and Manchester Park.

As part of a joint project, Toronto Water and Transportation Infrastructure Planning will be constructing the Bonar Storm Water Management Facility (south of the rail corridor) and Legion Road Extension (north and south of the rail corridor), both located west of the creek (see Attachment 3). Design work is scheduled for 2017 and 2018. Some of this design work must be completed before the design and location of the pedestrian bridges for the South Mimico Creek Trail can be finalized.

The only section of the South Mimico Creek Trail that has been built is located behind 2230-2246 Lake Shore Boulevard West, connecting Lake Shore Boulevard West to Legion Road. The development at 60-80 Park Lawn Road has constructed a connecting walkway, from Park Lawn Road to the future trail location immediately south of the CN Rail corridor. This publicly accessible connection on private lands will not be opened until the adjoining trail sections are completed.

Sections of the trails along the east side of the Mimico Creek have been constructed as part of the developments at 2200 Lake Shore Boulevard West, 10 Park Lawn Road, 36 Parklawn Road and 42 Parklawn Road. Through the development approvals process, TRCA has secured ownership of the lands required to build the trail along the east side of the Mimico Creek to the north of that at 36, 42 and 60-80 Park Lawn Road.

Project Status

TRCA had planned to carry out construction of the section of trail from 42 Parklawn Road to the Metrolinx rail overpass in 2017; however, this project was put on hold in late May 2017 once notification was received from Metrolinx that they were planning to conduct emergency repairs to protect their bridge abutments in this location. Included in their proposed works is to explore options of realigning the Mimico Creek channel north of the Metrolinx tracks to help prevent the creek from further scouring and eroding of their bridge abutments.

Metrolinx and TRCA met with City Officials to explore options to integrate the South Mimico Trail works into the Metrolinx bridge abutment repair project. Metrolinx was asked to extend the trail along the east side of the creek from 42 Parklawn Road north under their overpass up to The Queensway. This proposed trail option would eliminate the need for Proposed Bridge Crossings 1 and 2 currently envisioned on the South Mimico Creek Trail Concept Plan (Attachment 3).

Metrolinx have agreed to consider this option but first needed to complete some of the emergency repairs on site and engage their consultant to complete a geomorphic investigation and cost estimate to realign the channel and install the trail. TRCA review was expedited to support Metrolinx's emergency repair application. The emergency repair works have been completed as of August 19, 2017. The results of the geomorphic study have yet to be received from Metrolinx. Discussions with Metrolinx regarding channel realignment and trail work in partnership with TRCA are in progress.

CONCLUSION

The Sherway Link of the Etobicoke Creek Trail project is scheduled to begin construction in November 2017, upon receipt of a temporary encroachment permit from the Ministry of Transportation and, weather permitting, be completed in spring 2018.

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Toronto and Region Conservation Authority has been consulted and concurs with the information contained in this report.

CONTACT

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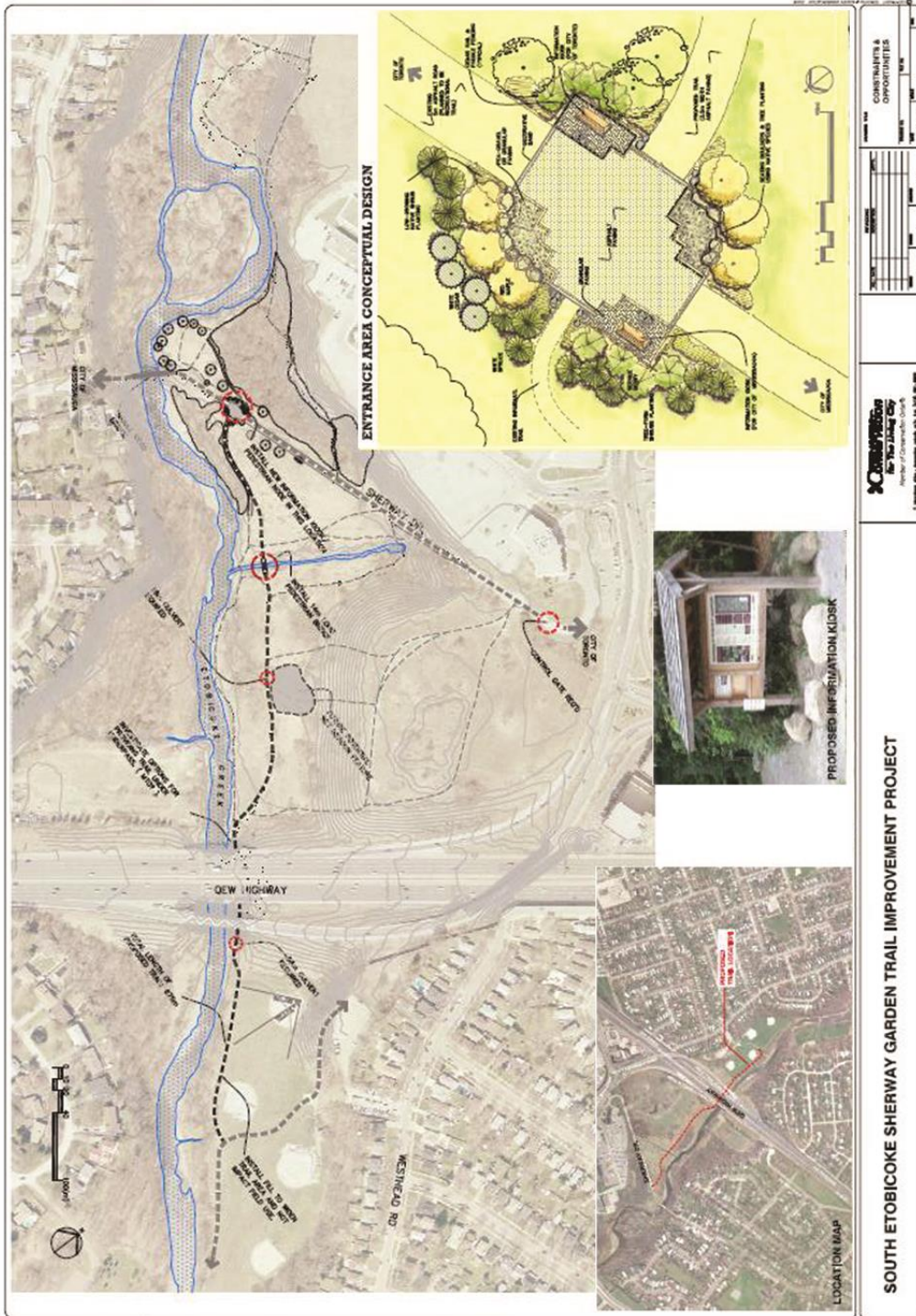
SIGNATURE

Janie Romoff
General Manager Parks Forestry and Recreation

ATTACHMENTS

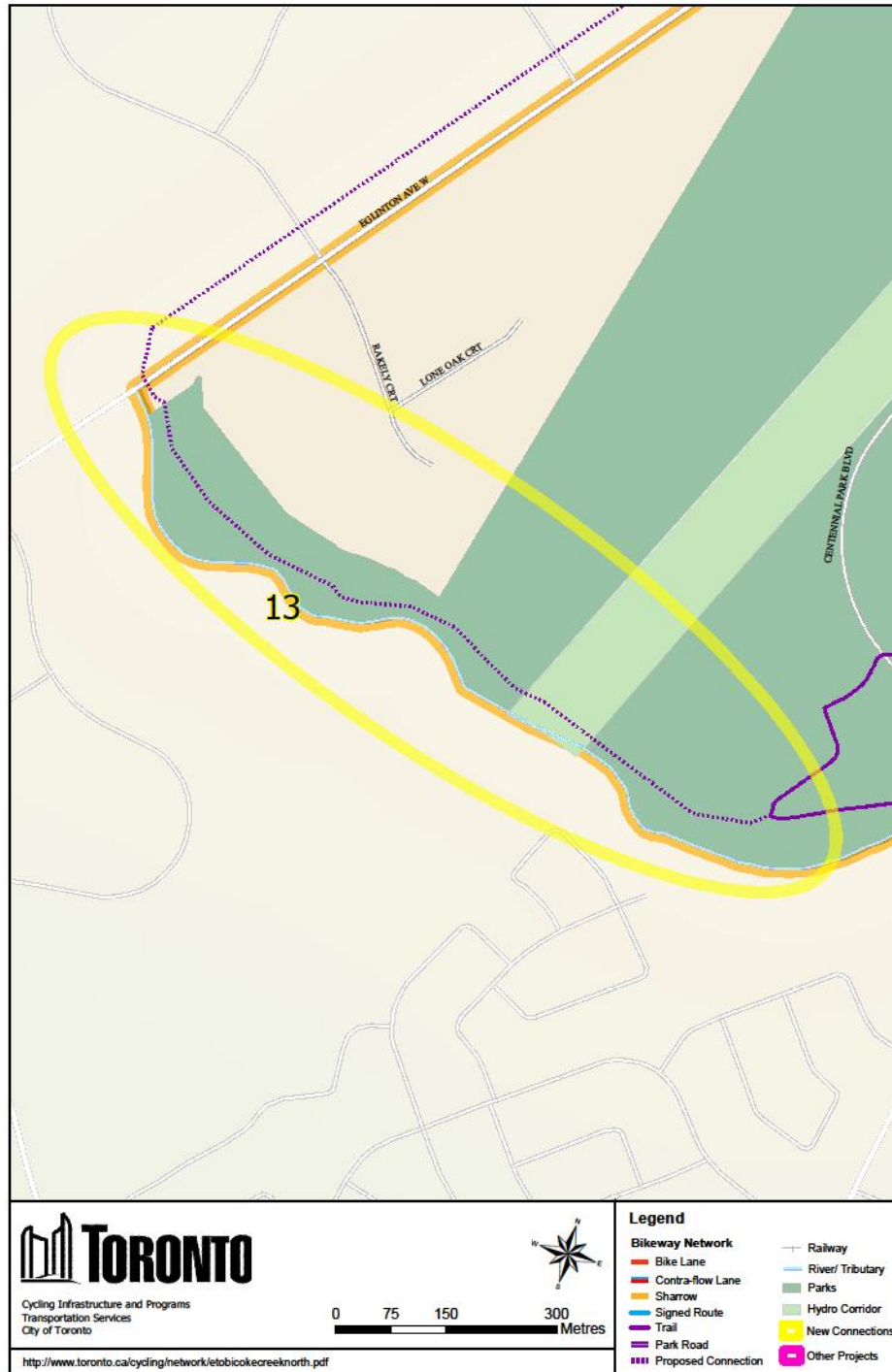
Attachment 1 - Map of Sherway Link of Etobicoke Creek Trail Improvements
Attachment 2 - Map of North Link of Etobicoke Creek Trail Improvements
Attachment 3 - Map of South Mimico Creek Trail Improvements

Attachment 1: Map of Sherway Link of Etobicoke Creek Trail Improvements



Attachment 2: Map of North Link of Etobicoke Creek Trail Improvements

City of Toronto Bikeway Trails - New Connections
Etobicoke Creek North



Attachment 3: Map of South Mimico Creek Trail Improvements

