

Reviewing Potential Riverdale Park East Top of Bank Improvements in Coordination with Broadview Avenue Works

Date: April 12, 2021

To: Infrastructure and Environment Committee

From: General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Wards: Toronto-Danforth

SUMMARY

This report responds to the request from City Council at its meeting of March 10, 2021, for the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation (PFR) to report on options for improvements to the top of the bank in Riverdale Park East that could be considered with the reconstruction of Broadview Avenue.

The Lower Don Trail Master Plan Refresh Project identified 76 projects over the short and medium term, as well as others for future consideration between Corktown Common and the junction of the Don River in ET Seton Park, including in Riverdale Park East. The Master Plan Refresh included a project rendering reflecting a potential vision for top of bank improvements to Riverdale Park East - the Broadview Riverdale Promenade. Currently, top of bank improvements, including this project, are not included in PFR's 2021-2030 Capital Budget and Plan.

Other City and agency led capital projects that are advancing include a watermain replacement project on Broadview Avenue managed by Engineering and Construction Services (ECS) scheduled to begin in May 2021 and planned Toronto Transit Commission track work in 2022/2023.

As improvements to the top of bank in Riverdale Park East, such as the Broadview Riverdale Promenade project, were not included in PFR's 2021-2030 Capital Plan, the required design work and tender documents have not been developed. As such there is currently no opportunity to coordinate this project with the soon to be initiated watermain replacement project. As with most Capital projects of this scale, a consultant would need to be hired to advance the design work and tender drawings. Community engagement would also be needed as part of this process.

Staff will initiate a site investigation and inventory so that an order of magnitude costing can be developed and will provide an update through the 2022 Capital Budget process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that:

1. The Infrastructure and Environment Committee receive this report for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications as a result of the recommendation in this report.

The 2021-2030 Capital Budget and Plan for Parks, Forestry and Recreation does not currently include funding for the promenade project.

Staff will initiate a site investigation and inventory so that an order of magnitude costing can be developed and will provide an update through the 2022 Capital Budget process. The timing for all projects in the Capital Plan are dependent on available funds and the ability to proceed.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the Financial Impact section.

DECISION HISTORY

City Council at its meeting of March 10, 2021 requested that the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation review options for improvements to top of the bank in Riverdale Park East that could be considered with the reconstruction of Broadview Avenue.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2021.MM30.26>

COMMENTS

Lower Don Master Plan Refresh and Broadview Riverdale Park East Promenade

The Lower Don Trail Master Plan Refresh (updating the 2013 Lower Don Trail Master Plan), includes an update of capital projects completed and underway and identifies 76 potential future projects over the short and medium term. Potential projects are distributed throughout natural/ravine lands between Corktown Common and the junction of the Don River in ET Seton Park, including in Riverdale Park East.

The September 2019 Lower Don Trail Master Plan Refresh Public Open House included lookouts / rest areas as a class of recommended projects, and introduced the Broadview Riverdale Promenade as a potential demonstration project that would address the need for top of bank improvements in a comprehensive manner. Projects identified in the Refresh, including the Broadview Riverdale Promenade, require their

own design process and engagement process. The Refresh did not make commitments to funding or timing but can serve as a resource for identifying future capital works.

Capital Works along Broadview Avenue

Engineering and Construction Services will be managing two major projects on behalf of Toronto Water and the Toronto Transit Commission on Broadview Avenue between Gerrard Street East and Danforth Avenue. Watermain work on Broadview Avenue from Danforth Avenue to Gerrard Street East will begin in May 2021 (likely near the end of the month) and is expected to be complete by the end of the year (December 2021). TTC track work is proposed to begin in March 2022, however, the timing may be revised to better coordinate with Ontario Line work scheduled for Pape Avenue in 2022/2023.

Conclusions and Next Steps

As top of bank improvements in Riverdale Park East were not included in PFR's 2021-2030 Capital Plan, the required design work, community consultation and tender documents have not been developed. As such there is currently no opportunity to coordinate this project with the soon to be initiated Toronto Water project. As with most Capital projects of this scale, a consultant would need to be hired to advance the design work and tender drawings. Community engagement would also be needed as part of this process.

Staff will initiate an existing site investigation and inventory so that an order of magnitude costing can be developed and will provide an update through the 2022 Capital Budget process. If approved, staff will engage the community on the project and retain a consultant to undertake conceptual and detailed design work prior to tendering and constructing the improvements.

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SIGNATURE

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