



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Taylor Massey Creek Master Plan and Taylor Creek Park Management Plan

Date:	June 2, 2015
To:	Parks and Environment Committee
From:	General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 29 – Toronto-Danforth Ward 31 – Beaches-East York Ward 35 – Scarborough Southwest Ward 37 – Scarborough Centre Ward 40 – Scarborough-Agincourt
Reference Number:	P:\2015\Cluster A\PFR\PE04-062215-AFS#21328

SUMMARY

Taylor Creek Park is an important regional park with a complex group of stakeholder interests. This report describes the recommended process to consult stakeholders, review past studies and plans, and to identify and evaluate appropriate use through development of a Master Plan for Taylor Massey Creek. The Master Plan will guide further stakeholder consultation and study if required to formulate recommendations for improved management, ongoing public consultation and future capital investment in Taylor Creek Park.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. City Council approve the process for the development of a Master Plan for Taylor Massey Creek, as described in this report, including:
 - a. Completion in 2015 of a Status Report on existing facilities, past and current plans, and gap analysis for parks within the area of Taylor Massey Creek;

- b. Development of a Master Plan at Taylor Massey Creek sub-watershed scale to identify and evaluate uses, and coordinate future work by various Divisions and Agencies, to be initiated in 2015 and completed in 2016; and
 - c. Development of the Taylor Creek Park Management Plan to identify and study issues and concerns, assess opportunities and constraints, and identify relationships and responsibilities including a proposal for ongoing public consultation in relation to park management activities, to be initiated in 2015 and completed in 2016.
2. City Council authorize the General Manager, Parks Forestry and Recreation to develop the proposed plans, in consultation with Toronto Water, Engineering and Construction Services, Transportation Services, Solid Waste Management, Economic Development and Culture; and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

This report has no financial impact beyond what has already been approved in the current year's budget. Funding of \$60,000 has been approved by Council as part of Capital Budget project 666, Master Planning PF&R FY2015. The amount of expenditure will be determined following the initial status report and gap analysis. Additional funding, if required, will be submitted for Council consideration as part of the 2016 Capital Budget submission.

It is also anticipated that the plans will result in recommendations for capital investment (e.g. wayfinding signage) and that this will result in an operating impact, however the impact will be determined at a later date and reported back through the Operating Budget process.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of August 15, 2014, the Parks and Environment Committee, through item PE29.9, "Taylor Creek Park Master Plan," requested that the Deputy City Manager of Cluster A report to the Parks and Environment Committee by the end of the second quarter of 2015 on the feasibility and process to develop a Master Plan for Taylor Creek Park that includes: an inventory and state of good repair of existing facilities; includes community consultation; considers past and current plans; assessments and studies; coordinates the planning for future work of Toronto Water, Transportation, Parks, Forestry, Natural Environments, and the Toronto Regional Conservation Authority and other divisions and agencies; and identifies relationships and responsibilities for the implementation and maintenance of planned improvements.

Decision – PE29.9:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2014.PE29.9>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Taylor Creek Park provides for recreational use, natural habitats, sewer infrastructure, multi-use trails and other public facilities. It is part of the Taylor Massey Creek watershed, a tributary of the Don River. The request for a master plan arises from concerns about water, sewer and landfill facilities; stream bank erosion; protection of environmentally significant habitats and spread of invasive species; disrepair of bridges, pathways, picnic facilities, benches, signs, washrooms and water fountains. The jurisdiction for Taylor Massey Creek and Taylor Creek Park is divided amongst many divisions and agencies. A Master Plan will provide direction for appropriate use and protection of sensitive features and will help to coordinate interests and plan future capital investment. A management plan will build on the Master Plan to provide guidelines and direction for divisional operations to improve facilities and natural environment features within Taylor Creek Park as well as to ensure ongoing public consultation.

COMMENTS

Based on preliminary discussions with stakeholders, staff propose that the planning process be divided into three phases: Status Report, Taylor Massey Creek Master Plan and Taylor Creek Park Management Plan.

The first phase of work to be completed in 2015 would be a Status Report. This report will include an inventory and state of good repair of existing facilities, a review of past and current plans, and a gap analysis. Terms of reference for future park management within the area of Taylor Massey Creek will be developed in preparation for implementation in 2016. Funding of \$60,000 has been approved by Council as part of Capital Budget project 666, Master Planning PF&R FY2015. The amount of expenditure will be determined following the initial status report and gap analysis. If additional funding is required the 2016 Capital Project Citywide Environmental Initiatives would be used to augment the budget, pending approval of Council.

Work has already begun to form a Taylor Massey Creek Working Group, which will include City staff from Toronto Water, Transportation Services, Solid Waste Management, Engineering and Construction Services, Economic Development and Culture; and staff from the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. This working group led by Parks, Forestry and Recreation will consider past and current plans; ongoing initiatives; assessments and studies such as the Taylor Massey Creek Geomorphic Systems Master Plan. This review will inform next steps; and will help to co-ordinate communication with stakeholders and the public. Community consultation will be included in all phases of this process, with the first public meeting contemplated in fall 2015.

In phase two, a Taylor Massey Creek Master Plan will identify possible and appropriate uses for parkland within the sub-watershed. In discussions with the Taylor Massey Creek Working Group, the sub-watershed level was identified as the most appropriate scale for this study, since many of the relevant issues (flooding, ecological health, trails, etc.) are

parts of a larger system. Constraints associated with use of some areas, such as environmentally significant areas, landfills, hydro corridors and floodplains, will be identified and opportunities for future work by various Divisions and Agencies will be highlighted. Illustrations of key features will be used to help evaluate the proposed options for the Taylor Massey Creek Master Plan, in consultation with the various internal and external stakeholders.

Following the review of detailed studies in phase one and assessment of opportunities and constraints in phase two, the Taylor Creek Park Management Plan will outline and expand on ongoing management initiatives in regard to erosion, watercourse, landfills and vegetation, trails and signage. It will evaluate options and make recommendations for improving park facilities to address longstanding public concerns. Through the identification and evaluation of relationships and responsibility, a future governance structure for ongoing staff coordination and public engagement will be proposed to accompany future park planning and project implementation.

CONTACT

Beth McEwen, Manager, Urban Forest Renewal, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, Tel: 416-397-4006, E-mail: bmcewen@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Janie Romoff
General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation