

# Thorncrest Village Neighbourhood Improvements Common Questions

## What improvements will be happening in Thorncrest Village?

Over the next few years, the City will be undertaking a number of improvement projects in Thorncrest Village. The proposed scope of work is as follows:

- Local road resurfacing
- Basement flooding protection work
- Implementation of Green Streets Infrastructure in the neighbourhood

## When will this work start? What is the estimated project schedule?

This work will take place over the next several years. The earliest work will start in Summer 2018.

<b>Basement Flooding</b>	2018 - 2020
<b>Local Road Resurfacing</b>	Fall 2018 - Spring 2019
<b>Green Streets Infrastructure Implementation</b>	Construction to be coordinated with Local Road works (2019)

## Which local roads will be resurfaced?

- Thornbury Crescent
- Thorncrest Road
- The Wynd
- Sir Williams Lane
- Pheasant Lane

**Note:** If there any specific considerations to share with the City about your property, such as a: specific drainage issue; are there landscaping, built features, irrigation systems or retaining walls, please provide your name, address and phone number to Khatija Sahib, [Khatija.Sahib@toronto.ca](mailto:Khatija.Sahib@toronto.ca), 416-392-2962.

## Will you inform us about local road resurfacing work in advance?

Advanced notice about road work or restrictions will be communicated to stakeholders, the residents association, the surrounding community and other road user groups. Efforts will be made to manage traffic in the area for the safety of workers, road users and residents.

## Will the centre island at Sir Williams Lane be remediated?

The island in the centre of Sir Williams Lane will be remediated when the Basement Flooding Upgrades are complete. The work to the centre island was delayed so that improvements would coincide with the completion of the Basement Flooding Protection Program and Local Road works.

## What are Green Streets?

A Green Street is a road or street that incorporates green infrastructure. Green Infrastructure includes natural and human-made elements: trees, native plants, and low impact development (LID) stormwater technologies, such as bioswales, rain gardens and bioretention cells.

## Why do we need Green Streets?

Toronto has approximately 5,600 km of streets – almost a quarter of Toronto’s total land area is covered by streets. *Traditional streets* are designed to direct stormwater into storm sewer systems (gutters, drains and pipes). *Green Streets* are designed to capture rainwater at its source, where it falls, providing water for plants and trees to grow. At the same time, Green Infrastructure act as a natural filter to clean stormwater before it makes its way into local waterways.

## What are the benefits of Green Streets?

Benefits of Green Streets include:

- Improved air quality
- Increased tree canopy and shade
- Improved management of stormwater quality and flow
- Increased biodiversity and habitats for animals
- Enhanced public realm aesthetics

Green Streets contribute to building climate change resilience, support environmental sustainability and an improved quality of life in the city. They also support the Official Plan policies and the environmental objectives of the Toronto Green Standard, the Wet Weather Flow Master Plan and other City strategic initiatives including Complete Streets Guidelines, and ResilientTO.

### **What are the next steps for developing a plan for Green Infrastructure?**

*Spring 2018:*

The City will hire Consultants to identify and propose the most suitable sites for Green Infrastructure in order to maximize the treatment of storm water

Consultants will review road and right-of-way conditions to determine the suitable type of Green Infrastructures for the observed conditions

*Fall 2018:*

Residents will be re-engaged to provide feedback once this information is available

*2019:*

Construction and implementation of Green Infrastructure after the completion of basement flooding protection program and in conjunction with local road works

### **What are the types of Green Infrastructure is being considered for Thorncrest Village?**

The roads in Thorncrest Village have the appropriate conditions for the installation of Green Infrastructure. Rain gardens, bioswales and bioretention cells are being considered for implementation in the right-of-way, the centre median or on roadway's islands.

#### **Rain Gardens:**



#### **Features:**

- Shallow depression that has loose soil that collects stormwater that runs off your property
- Prevents the storm water from entering the storm drain system and, eventually, waterways
- Several species of grasses and flowering plants can be selected for planting based on their suitability with local planting conditions

#### **Benefits:**

- Less water enters the storm sewer system
- Provides habitat for pollinators and birds

#### **Bioswales:**



#### **Features:**

- Bioswales slow and filter stormwater to prevent it from entering the drain system
- They can either be planted with grasses, or finished with more elaborate combinations of plant and aggregate materials

#### **Benefits:**

- Designed to manage runoff from a larger impervious area, such as a roadway or parking lot

#### **Bioretention Cells:**



#### **Features:**

- The construction profile generally consists of the following:
  - Vegetation/plant layers
  - Mulch layer
  - Gravel storage layer
  - Underdrain

#### **Benefits:**

- Provides temporary storage, filtration and infiltration of stormwater
- Provides habitat for pollinators and birds

## What other cities have green infrastructure programs?

Over 11 North American Cities with Green Infrastructure Programs including:

- New York City
- Seattle
- Philadelphia
- Washington
- Chicago
- Vancouver

## Who will maintain the new green infrastructure?

All specialized maintenance of Green Infrastructure in the right-of-way will be the responsibility of the City or its designated contractor.

With the exception of specialized infrastructure, it is the property owner's responsibility to maintain and ensure their property is in a state of good repair. If the Green Infrastructure feature is located in the boulevard abutting a residential property, it is the property owner's responsibility to maintain the boulevard as per Chapter 743 of the municipal code, Use of Streets and Sidewalks (Article V, Maintaining Boulevards). With respect to Green Infrastructure, maintenance activities of residents will include, for example, the removal of trash, weeding and cutting back overgrown vegetation.

Homeowners will be provided an informational guide indicating their responsibilities and who to contact for maintenance needs.

## Where has Toronto implemented similar infrastructure?

A number of Green Infrastructure demonstration projects have been completed at various sites in the City and a number more are in planning stages.

- The Queensway Sustainable Sidewalk – The first application of the use of a tree planting technology (Soil Cells) to treat and improve stormwater road run-off while supporting the growth of healthy trees;
- South Station Street – An urban and sub-urban bio-swale was constructed on opposite sides of the road to provide a visual demonstration of context sensitive Green Streets design; and,
- Fairford Parkette – A welcoming public destination for the local community with the functionality of a bio-retention facility to absorb and clean water to demonstrate that form and function can co-exist.

## Will there be sidewalks added?

There will not be sidewalks added or removed.

## Will this be the only consultation?

This will not be the only consultation for the Green Streets work.

## How can I get involved?

There are multiple ways to stay informed and get involved with the work happening in Thorncrest Village.

- **Project mailing list:** This will provide general updates about the project. Please email [Khatija.Sahib@toronto.ca](mailto:Khatija.Sahib@toronto.ca), or call 416-392-2962 to be added to the list.
- **Volunteer:** If you are a home owner in the project area interested in learning more about the Green Infrastructure technologies being implemented, please email [Khatija.Sahib@toronto.ca](mailto:Khatija.Sahib@toronto.ca), or call 416-392-2962
- **Attend an event:** Next event TBA

## NEED MORE INFORMATION?

If you have questions about the upcoming work or the consultation on Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018, please contact us.

<b>Contact</b>	Khatija Sahib, Public Consultation Coordinator, 416-392-2962 <a href="mailto:Khatija.Sahib@toronto.ca">Khatija.Sahib@toronto.ca</a>
<b>TTY Hearing Impaired Service</b>	416-338-0889 (7 Days a week, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, closed holidays)
<b>General inquiries</b>	311