

October 2, 2023

Newtonbrook Creek Restoration and Infrastructure Protection Study

The City of Toronto is carrying out a study to identify sewer and watermain infrastructure within Newtonbrook Creek that is at risk of damage due to erosion impacts as a result of high flows from storms and snow melt.

This study looks at how the City’s storm sewer and watermain infrastructure can be protected within the creek using recommended solutions to help reduce or prevent future impact. This will ensure the City’s infrastructure continues to operate and service residents and businesses. The solutions will be part of a Newtonbrook Geomorphic Systems Master Plan for the creek that is implemented over a multi-year period.

The public is invited to learn more about the study, ask questions and provide feedback on potential impacts of the recommended solutions.

Study Area



The study area extends approximately 4 kilometers along the length of Newtonbrook Creek from Willowdale Avenue south of Cummer Avenue to its confluence with the Don River, west of Leslie Avenue. The study area also includes the 2 kilometers length of Blue Ridge Creek from Bayview Avenue east to its confluence with the Don River.

<p style="text-align: center;">Learn More</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">View project information on the website and provide feedback.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">toronto.ca/newtonbrook</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Meeting details - attend a site walk</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Visit the study area with the project team or drop-in to discuss the study recommendations and ask questions.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday October 18, 2023 (rain or shine)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Drop in 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Site walk begins at 9:00 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Provide Feedback</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Complete an online survey or request a printed copy. Submit comments by email, mail or phone.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Comment deadline:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Friday November 3, 2023</p>
--	--	--

Meeting point and parking at Forest Grove United Church 43 Forest Grove Drive, M2K 1Z4.

Drop-in information table will be hosted at the church 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a. m.

Please note that the trail to the creek is steep. The drop-in information table at the church is wheelchair/mobility device accessible. If you have a specific accessibility need or require other accommodation, please contact us.

Study Details

The geomorphology of a creek examines how natural and human factors have shaped its form and function over time. Erosion can affect the path a creek follows (form) and the aquatic and terrestrial habitats the stream supports (function). Erosion results in gradual changes to the form and function of the creek and creek bed. Significant changes to water levels during storms have contributed to increased erosion, which poses risks to the City’s sewer and watermain infrastructure located in or adjacent to the creek.

Impacts from erosion can be corrected and further prevented through natural channel design by reconstructing the bed and bank of a stream with natural rock and/or vegetation, which allows for a new stable path for the creek. The following alternative solutions for natural channel design were evaluated for infrastructure at risk of erosion throughout the study area:

- Alternative 1: Do nothing, no planned interventions, only ongoing monitoring
- Alternative 2: Improvements through local works less than 150 metres
- Alternative 3: Improvements to a segment of the creek greater than 150 metres

Study Recommendations

Based on a risk assessment of 72 infrastructure sites along Newtonbrook Creek, 24 sites were identified as being at high risk of damage from erosion. Following a detailed evaluation of the alternative solutions for high risk sites, the City is recommending 11 projects to stabilize the creek bed and banks of the creek through natural channel design. Seven projects are recommended for work in a segment of the creek greater than 150 metres, four projects are recommended for local works less than 150 metres.

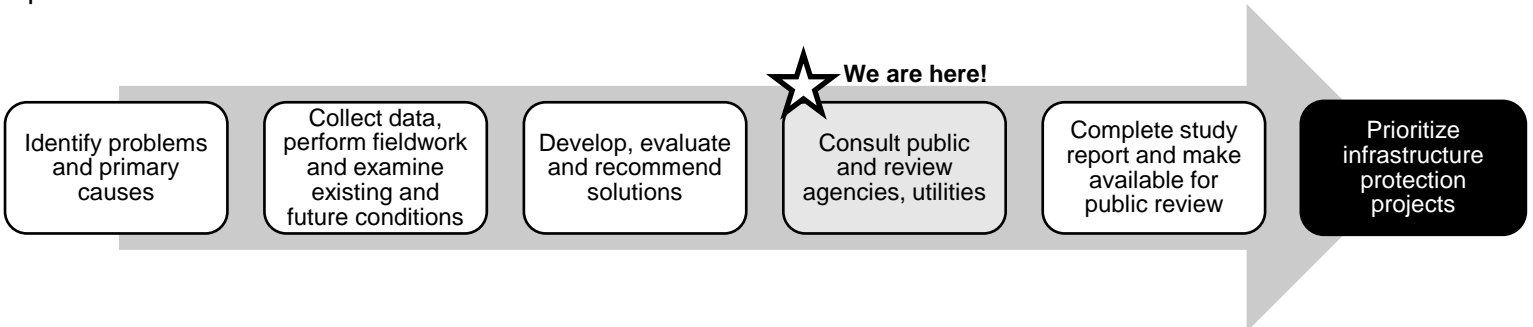
Future implementation of the recommended projects require:

- Tree removal, to be followed by habitat restoration and replanting with native trees and shrubs
- Pedestrian trail realignment to allow the stream to have a natural course and avoid future erosion

Temporary construction impacts will be communicated prior to construction.

Process

The study is following the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment study process for Master Plans, which is an approved planning process under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act and includes opportunities for public input.



Next Steps

Following public consultation, a Master Plan report will be prepared with the final study recommendations. The report will be filed with the provincial Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks for a 30-day public review period before being approved.

Once approved, the recommended solutions will be included in the City’s Stream Restoration and Erosion Control Program and implementation will be prioritized across all GSMPs City-wide.

The public will be notified prior to any construction.

More Information

Aadila Valiallah, Senior Coordinator
Public Consultation Unit
Metro Hall, 19th Floor, 55 John Street
Toronto, ON. M5V 3C6

Email: newtonbrook@toronto.ca
Tel: 416-338-2985



Information will be collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.