



# Newtonbrook Creek Restoration & Water Infrastructure Protection

## Public Event

**Date:** Wednesday, October 18, 2023

**Meeting Type:** Drop-in and Site walk

**Start time:** 9:00 a.m. **End Time:** 11:00 a.m.

## Meeting Objectives:

- Inform the public of the Study and present preferred solutions for the Newton Brook Creek Geomorphic Systems Master Plan
- Visit 3 high risk infrastructure sites on site walk
- Provide information to members of the public who participate in the walk and drop-in
- Encourage and facilitate feedback during the event and via the survey

## Meeting Overview:

The meeting was facilitated by Aadila Valiallah, Public Consultation Unit. Devin Coone, the Project Manager, Engineering and Construction Services and Bill Snodgrass, Senior Engineer, Toronto Water presented information and responded to questions from the public.

There were approximately 32 participants, several people attended without signing in.

## Questions & Comments

The following questions and answers were provided during the meeting. Questions have been grouped according to general themes.

\*Items for follow-up

Theme	Comment	Response
Questions about recommended projects	Are we raising the walls of the creek?	Yes
	Will the depth of the creek be increased?	In some sections, yes.

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	If the creek will be deeper will it also be more narrow?	We try to maintain the creek width and the floodplain connection.
	Will the trail be raised post construction with a berm to prevent flooding of the trails?	No. From a water management perspective a (managed) flood is not bad as it reconnects the flood plain, which is beneficial for the (semi-aquatic) species
	Will there be handrails/ guard rails installed next to the restored armour stone banks?	Handrails/ guard rails will only be installed if the trail is within 2 meters from the restored armour stone banks.
	Will the trail remain a dirt trail? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of the things we appreciate about this trail is that it is a dirt trail and feels more natural.</li> <li>• We prefer the dirt trail.</li> <li>• Hope to retain the current natural/ gravel path upon completion of restoration works.</li> <li>• We would rather not upgrade to paved paths</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The City will reinstate the trail to its current “as is” condition. There are no plans for Engineering or Toronto water to upgrade the trail into a paved trail.</li> <li>• However, PR&amp;R may have other plans for trail upgrades.</li> <li>• With reference to Duncan creek where there were tree removals, it has been 3 years and the vegetation is coming back. Just as important is that the animals are coming back</li> </ul>
Comment and concerns about the natural environment and habitat	The trail along the creek is at present is covered with natural foliage – will there be vegetation disruption during construction?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a chance that how the creek meanders may shift as part of the restoration works (which will disturb the present foliage).</li> <li>• Trees that are in the way, which in many cases are non-native species, will be removed and replanted with native species after construction is complete.</li> </ul> <p>With reference to restoration works done at Duncan Creek 3 years ago, the approximate level and rate of revegetation will be similar.</p>
	Reference to Duncan Creek <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are concerns about the creek looking like Duncan Creek with significant canopy loss that will take decades to re-establish.</li> <li>• Duncan Creek looks overly engineered</li> </ul>	

Theme	Comment	Response
	<p>The Nature Stewards would like to be involved in the project and to play a role in monitoring impacts during construction and restorations (post-construction)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stewards would like to support the replanting during restoration. (Stewardship area is west of Forrest Grove)</li> <li>Stewards would like details on where projects are located so they do not concentrate efforts removing invasive species where project work will be carried out (and the areas cleared).</li> </ul>	*Follow-up with ravine nature stewards.
	<p>What will be done with the trees that are removed? There is a request to relocate logs to the forest area where they can be habitats for moss and insects</p>	
	There was mention of a turtle nest protection group down stream (by the tennis courts). Gary from the Nature Stewards may know more information.	*Project team to get more information on turtle habitats.
Construction Concerns	<p>What impacts will there be to the trail during construction? Will we lose access to the walking path?</p>	<p>Heavy equipment will be required for the restoration and reconstruction works. Mitigation measures for minimizing impacts to trail will be explored during the detailed design stage. Sections of the trail will be closed during construction.</p>
	There is concern about trail closures, and the length of time access will be limited	Details will be known during the design phase. We will try to limit disturbances to the trail and keep the trail as open as possible.
	What will the access route for construction be? Please minimise footprint of damage	This will be determined during detailed design.
	There is a willow tree that is currently next to priority project #1, there is a concern that it will fall if its root system is disturbed during construction.	

Theme	Comment	Response
Process / Prioritization and timing	How do we get to implementation?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Master Plan</li> <li>2. Detailed design</li> <li>3. Permitting</li> <li>4. Construction</li> </ol>
	Questions about project details <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How will projects be prioritized?</li> <li>• When will projects be implemented?</li> <li>• How long will it take?</li> <li>• Will all projects be done at the same time or according to their respective at-risk levels?</li> <li>• Will there be continuous construction on a year-over-year basis?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This will be determined in the next 1 – 2 years following the completions of several studies throughout the City</li> <li>• The projects and works will be prioritized across the City with other City projects.</li> <li>• Works to be carried out are seasonal and carried out in sections along the creek.</li> <li>• Projects will be stretched out over a number of years</li> </ul>
	What happens if the damage from erosion acts faster than the City's prioritized projects?	Emergency work will be carried out, ahead of the queue.
	Is the emergency works budget separate from capital works budget?	Emergency works is paid for by the water rate.
Questions on technical details	What happens if the sewer breaks?	The break would be treated as an emergency spill and emergency work to contain the spill and fix the problem will be done by the City and Province. A rebuild will follow after the initial response. There have only been 3 emergencies in in my lifetime (SIC - Bill Snodgrass)
	What is the diameter of the sewage pipe?	The diameter of the sewage pipe is 750cm
	What are guardrails?	The guardrails provide protection where the armour stone is.
	When there is the smell of sewage is it overflow going into the creek?	No, the smell is coming from the maintenance hole.

Theme	Comment	Response
	What if the trail is damaged?	We return the trail to the condition as it is.
	How will you access the project sites? Some areas have more invasive species than others. Can access be through those areas?	This will be determined during detailed design.
	Will the creek continue to flood?	The design will accommodate increased water flow.
	More information on improvements is needed: What are channel treatments? What is erosion control?	Additional information can be found in the Understanding Streams section of the study webpage.
Study Scope – several questions were asked that are outside of the study scope, or that may be addressed during later stages of design and implementation	There are tags on the trees. What are they for?	Tags are a documentation and count of the trees. For every tree that is removed, we will plant 3. *Identify who did the tree tagging
	Will there be an opportunity to improve (other ) infrastructure in the creek.	The focus of the study and improvement is Toronto Water infrastructure.
	Concern for log jams and concrete rubble, as it is dangerous and an eyesore. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will log jams be addressed?</li> <li>Will concrete rubble be removed (where old armour stone has fallen)?</li> </ul>	In the locations where we work, we will clean up the area. Any debris that currently sits in the creek bed will be removed (including the concrete blocks and fallen tree trunks)
	Will beds and banks that have been eroded be restored?	Depending on the degree of erosion and the location of at-risk water infrastructure. Creek beds would likely be raised at sewer crossings. Realignment of the creek may be required to protect the infrastructure. Recommendations have been identified for each project site.
	There is a sewer line that runs through private property on Burbank with open grates. Is the City aware of it?	--

## Project Team

Ward Councillors	Councillor Shelly Carroll, Ward 17 Don Valley North
	Councillor Lily Cheng, Ward 18 Willowdale
ECS	Devin Coone, Senior Project Manager, Design and Construction, ECS
	Hazel Bretton Manager, Stormwater Management Infrastructure
	Niloufar Mohajerani, Senior Engineer, Design and Construction, ECS
	Keyra Kam, Design and Construction, ECS
	Chunying Zao
Consultant: Aquafor Beech	Rob Amos
	Jacob Ursulak
	Chad Cota
Toronto Water	Bill Snodgrass, Senior Engineer, Infrastructure and Planning, Toronto Water
	Robert Chan, Senior Engineer
PCU	Aadila Valiallah, Senior Coordinator, Public Consultation Unit
	Carol Lee, Coordinator, Public Consultation Unit)
	Daniela Castellanos Forero, Coordinator, Public Consultation Unit
	Carol Tsang, Senior Coordinator, Public Consultation Unit
	Stephanie Gris-Bringas, Supervisor, Public Consultation Unit
Parks, Forestry & Recreation	Supervisor, North District
Toronto Region Conservation Authority	Daniel Dyce, Erosion Risk Management