

Date: Friday, August 18, 2023

Event Type: In-Person

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

Location: Site walk in German Mills Creek

Total Participants: 45

Project Overview:

The City of Toronto has initiated a study to identify sewer and watermain infrastructure within German Mills Creek that is at risk of erosion from high flows due to storms and snow melt.

This study looks at how the City's 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 Geomorphic Systems Master Plan (GSMP) for the creek that is implemented over a multi-year period.

Event Objectives:

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

Event Overview:

The meeting was hosted by the Public Consultation Unit facilitated by Aadila Valiallah, Senior Coordinator of the Public Consultation Unit. Devin Coone, Senior Project Manager, Engineering & Construction Services presented an overview of the study and led the group on a walk to view 2 Toronto Water infrastructure sites at risk of erosion. Participants were able to ask questions and interact with several members of City staff from Engineering and Construction Services as well as Toronto Water. Additional staff from the Public Consultation Unit provided facilitation support and record keeping.

Questions & Comments

The following questions and answers were provided during the meeting. All questions have been categorized by topic.

Topic	Questions & Comments	Project Team Response
Project details	Will the pedestrian bridge be moved? How will the bridge be realigned?	The bridge may need to be adjusted to accommodate erosion of the creek. Once we determine the best design to protect the creek and the maintenance hole at Site #1, we will determine if changes need to be made to the bridge.
	Will the bend at project #1 be realigned? (#1 - #3)	There may be some realignment to be determined during detailed design.
	Isn't the concrete at Site #2 secure enough to protect the maintenance hole?	If no action is taken, the maintenance hole could fail during a severe weather event. The soil around the maintenance hole is at risk of erosion, which offers support for the concrete structure.
	Will the erosion on the trail be fixed?	The focus of the work is erosion of the creek which is a risk for water infrastructure in or alongside the creek.
	What is the design approach for the improvements? Will it be "hard engineering" (i.e., retaining walls), or "soft engineering"?	Improvements will work with the flow of the creek. Hard engineering is tough to maintain.
	Request for a photo montage/ computer generated images of how the creek and trail will look post-construction.	
	How will the project impact erosion on private property?	Project work will not have a direct impact on private property.
Design options	What is the extent (if any) of creek realignment?	There will be minimal creek realignment.
	What is the consequence of 'do nothing'?	Trees falling into the creek from erosion, maintenance support structure fails, concrete breaks, the sewer breaks, sewage enters the stream.

Topic	Questions & Comments	Project Team Response
	What would happen if the “do nothing” alternative was taken at site #2. What would be the implications and/or impacts to the exposed manhole?	There will be no improvements and the risks to infrastructure could get worse.
Concerns with the current environment	Concern about erosion spreading into private properties.	For erosion on private property, connect with the Toronto Region Conservation Authority.
	Creek water is getting more murky and there is an increase in mosquitos.	
Construction concerns - natural habitat	Concern for the impacts of construction on wildlife and natural habitat during construction.	
	Concern that the tree canopy will be lost with the removal of mature trees during construction. Reference made to Duncan Creek experience.	
	Replanting / revegetation often takes a long time after construction, will there be any mitigation measures for providing shading along the trail during in the interim?	
	Tree removal was performed during the Duncan Creek Restoration construction period and the trail was left with no canopy post-construction.	The trees are growing and wildlife is returning to the meadow.
Construction concerns - Trail closure	Will the trail be closed during construction/	There will likely be closures, we will know the full extent once detailed design is complete.
	Concern for length of time the trail is closed. The trail is important to residents/ cyclists in the area, they cannot afford to lose the trail for a long period of time. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents and cyclists were blocked off without notice near Sheppard/ 401 and Leslie. Duncan Creek was closed for 2-3 years 	We will know more about trail closures leading up to construction once the final design is complete. Notice will be provided to the community leading up to construction.
	Request for temporary/ alternative trails during restoration/ construction, so that it will not take away nature enjoyment for residents.	

Topic	Questions & Comments	Project Team Response
	Request that a clear timeline for trail closures be provided to residents.	
Comments on future landscaping	Request for more information about the variety of trees that will be planted Labelling of trees would be appreciated	
	Preference for native trees to be planted post-construction.	Native species will be planted. For every tree removed three native trees will replace it.
Project Communication	Will residents be notified when constructions begin?	Notices will be circulated to the community leading up to detailed design and prior to construction.
	When will we know about the impacts of construction?	During the detailed design phase we will know the specific approach for each project and the impacts. This phase should take place in the next 2 years.

Project Team and Panelists

Devin Coone, Senior Project Manager, Design and Construction, ECS
 Daniel McCreery, Senior Engineer, Design and Construction, ECS
 Keyra Kam, Design and Construction, ECS
 Bill Snodgrass, Senior Engineer, Infrastructure and Planning, Toronto Water
 Aadila Valiallah, Senior Coordinator, Public Consultation Unit
 Katelynn Northam, Senior Coordinator, Public Consultation Unit
 Daniela Castellanos Forero, Coordinator, Public Consultation Unit
 Carol Lee, Coordinator, Public Consultation Unit

Councillor(s)

Councillor Shelley Carroll, Ward 17—Don Valley North