

Date: Monday, November 27, 2023

Meeting Type: Virtual

Start time: 6:00 p.m. End Time: 8:00 p.m.

Total Participants: 51

Project Overview:

The City of Toronto has initiated a study to identify sewer and watermain infrastructure within Yellow Creek that is at risk of erosion from high flows due to 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 correct existing impacts and 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.

Meeting Objectives:

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

Meeting Overview:

The meeting was facilitated by Aadila Valiallah, Senior Coordinator of the Public Consultation Unit. Daniel McCreery, Senior Engineer, Engineering & Construction Services presented an overview of the study.

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
Study area concerns	Yellow Creek is losing 1 ft of soil each year.	
	<p>The works at Yellow Creek are prioritized as medium term (5-10 years), However, there has been quite a heavy flow of water/ storm in Yellow Creek which makes erosion worse. If this continues, and work is not done sooner, it may turn out to be more expensive to repair at a later time (5-10 years later).</p>	<p>Conditions along creeks are constantly monitored as part of an adaptive management program. The current study is a preliminary step for the recommendations and implementation of projects to follow.</p> <p>Impacts from urbanization and climate change (rainstorms and snow melt) are considered as part of the study.</p> <p>Erosion is a natural process as streams work to move water and sediment. However, excessive erosion can occur in some cases due to changes in inputs and conditions. An element of the study is to observe where the meander of the stream “wants” to flow so that we can understand the system, determine what needs to be done and prioritise work.</p>
Watercourse concerns (city-wide)	<p>Why is the City not treating the ravines issue as a storm sewerage issue? Every time that there is a storm, erosion worsens. There is a major erosion issue near Inglewood Drive.</p>	<p>We have looked at all the erosion sites. They are all documented and will be recorded as part of the environmental study report.</p> <p>Information is circulated with internal and external agencies including the Toronto Region and Conservation Authority (TRCA) to determine the best way to address the issues.</p>
Backlog in water projects	<p>What is the backlog of water projects with Toronto Water?</p> <p>Conditions getting worse each year. Urgent plans are needed.</p>	<p>The evolution for the responsibility for watercourse management has had many changes. In terms of backlog, they are beyond the current study scope.</p>

Topic	Questions & Comments	Project Team Response
	<p>What are the additional funds required to deal with issues in the ravines?</p> <p>We've got to come up with a plan that deals with the City-wide backlogs to make ravines safe, which also include the land in the ravine area.</p> <p>Councillors determine the budget allocated to Toronto Water. We need to let them know that the problem is pressing.</p>	<p>Findings from other GSMPs will be considered holistically / collectively to determine the necessary works and prioritization city-wide.</p>
City-wide coordination	<p>Who is responsible for ensuring that all the elements and agencies involved and impacted are taking a coordinated approach as opposed to working in "silos"?</p> <p>How will water projects be coordinated with trail projects? What are the timelines for integrated planning?</p>	<p>In 2014, council mandated the 'Ravine Capital Coordination Committee', which is responsible for coordinating the Ravine Strategy with Parks Forestry and Recreation (PF&R), Toronto Water (TW), Transportation Services (TS), the TRCA etc. – Any divisions and units that conduct work at or near ravines are included in the committee for addressing issues and coordinating works necessary to address watercourse/ ravine-related projects</p>
Process and timeframes	<p>Approximately how much time is needed for a medium or low priority project to be dealt with?</p>	<p>Only project 1A is prioritized as medium term, which is anticipated to be 5-10 years away from implementation.</p> <p>Low priority projects could be anytime between 10-20 years.</p>

Topic	Questions & Comments	Project Team Response
Project details	What will be done about the collapsing gabion baskets coming out of the culvert near Mount Pleasant Cemetery? What is the time frame for that work?	The TRCA is working on that area as a Municipal Class EA, the City does not have a timeline on this project, but TRCA provides regular updates on their website.
Project scope – slopes	The ravine slopes are fairly steep along Yellow Creek. The study seems to be focused on the risk of the stream bed – what about the risk of property damage of general slope slippages (I think there have been 4 over the last 10 years). How does that general risk get evaluated?	<p>The focus of the study is on watercourse erosion impacting Toronto Water infrastructure in the creek. Findings and recommendations regarding erosion will be shared with partner agencies for future planning.</p> <p>The TRCA has an erosion risk management program to address erosion on private property.</p>
	There was a landslide just north of St Clair a couple of years ago. Is that site part of your mandate for the current project scope?	It was erosion on private property higher up the slope. It is part of the Rose Park Crescent Slope Stabilization Project, which is part of TRCA's erosion risk management program.
Project scope - stairs	Is there a connection between the prioritization of the water studies and the need for attention to deterioration of the ravine entrance staircases that is due to erosion?	The study would provide the foundational piece to internal partners (PF&R), responsible for infrastructure repairs for future planning.
Project Scope - trails	I know that trail work is out of scope, but it seems to me that there is an enormous opportunity to leverage the capital equipment deployed for the stream bed (to fix the trail). In particular, the Heath Street stairs and the trail south of the St Clair bridge.	The study is part of the planning process to develop a master plan. The projects that are identified will be submitted for implementation. We cannot always address all projects identified in the short term due to City-wide priorities. The study recommendations will be shared with other agencies for future planning.

Project Team and Panelists

Engineering & Construction Services

Hazel Breton, Manager

Daniel McCreery, Senior Engineer, Project Manager

Toronto Water

Bill Snodgrass, Senior Engineer

Robert Chan, Senior Engineer

Public Consultation Unit

Aadila Valiallah, Senior Coordinator

Carol Lee, Coordinator

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Parks, Forestry & Recreation

Raymond Vendrig, Manager, Forest & Natural Area Management

Councillors

Councillor Dianne Saxe

Samara Lijiam, Councillor Matlow's office

GHD

Jeff Doucette, Project Manager