



West Humber River Restoration and Infrastructure Protection Study

Date: Wednesday, March 19, 2025

Meeting Type: Virtual

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

Project Overview:

The City of Toronto is carrying out a study to identify City water and sewer infrastructure within the West Humber River that is at risk of damage as a result of erosion caused by high flows from storms and snow melt.

The study identifies solutions to stabilize the riverbed and banks where infrastructure is at risk to ensure the City's water and sewer infrastructure can continue to operate and service residents and businesses. The solutions will be part of a West Humber River Geomorphic Systems Master Plan (GSMP) that is implemented over a multi-year period.

Meeting Objectives:

Share information about the West Humber River Study process and recommendations, receive feedback and respond to questions.

Meeting Overview:

Questions & Comments

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

	Question/Comment	Project Team Response
Questions of clarity	• What are the precise project locations and what do the colours on the map represent? • When will implementation begin? • Are the sewer lines under the river bed?	• Project locations in the map are colour coded to reflect a general order of priority. Projects are prioritized across the city (among all water course studies). – Red is high priority, implementation in 2 – 5 years – Orange is medium priority implementation in 5 – 10 years – Green is low priority 10+ years • Sewer lines were originally constructed under the river, but the river has eroded the riverbed material and they are now exposed in some areas.

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Study focus	• What does the study address? • Could other locations along the river also expect erosion in the future?	• This study looks at the condition of water infrastructure (sanitary sewers, watermains, storm sewer outfalls) within the river, with the aim to protect infrastructure that is in, or alongside, the creek from the risk of damage from erosion. • The study looks at conditions of the river (past, present, future) in relation to the infrastructure with consideration for resiliency, climate change and long-term solutions. • Erosion along other sections of the river that do not impact water infrastructure are outside the scope of this study.
Study details	• Is the alignment of the river in the area of Project #9 shifting? • Questions were asked about water flow details – How high does the river go? – What are the climate change impacts? – Will there be more flooding? • Are there other areas of erosion?	• Where the channel is slowly moving closer to the infrastructure, the recommended solution will provide protection between the sewer and the channel, stopping the movement of the river towards the sewer, and sometimes redirecting the river back towards the historical location.. • The Claireville Reservoir upstream controls the water flows within Humber River, and is managed by the Toronto Region Conservation Area.. • There are layers of responsibility to care and manage erosion. – Toronto and Region Conservation Authority https://trca.ca/ looks at erosion along riverbanks within the City, the webpage has a flood line mapping tool and flood risk areas online – Parks & Recreation is responsible for trails and parks – Transportation Services is responsible for bridges • This study focusses on Toronto Water infrastructure. There could be erosion along other sections of the river that do not impact infrastructure. • Erosion is not a bad thing and is a natural occurring process. Stream function requires erosion to provide sediment. Concerns arise when there is excessive erosion that exceeds the natural sediment balance.

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Concern for impacts on wildlife	• What impacts will the recommended projects have on trees and tree loss? • How is the selection of native species for replanting determined? • How will wildlife, fish and birds be protected during construction? • Some participants commented that there is no longer wildlife in the area and environmental impacts have been seen over the past 20-30 years	• Tree removal is minimised as much as possible during project detailed design. In developing detailed design, impacts and construction access are considered. • Details on tree removal estimates will only be available after the detailed design is complete. • Tree and vegetation restoration plans for project sites are made with inputs from arborists, and with the Urban Forestry department at the City. A mix of compatible native species are selected for various conditions sun / shade, close to the river / farther away. • Some wildlife protection measures and controls include: – Restricted time periods for tree removals to avoid nesting periods for birds and bats. Nesting periods are July 15 to March 15 – Fish rescues prior to construction. The watercourse is blocked and fish are collected and transported away from the construction site.
Concern for impacts on trails	• Will existing trails be impacted / altered by the recommended projects? • What are the anticipated trail closures?	• Temporary trail closures can be expected, but efforts will be made to minimise trail closures such as: – Work in / through areas where trails are not impacted – Use or provide temporary trails • Trail impacts and closures will be determined during detailed design and restored after work is completed. • Pre-construction notices will be circulated with details of trail closures, realignments, and temporarily trails. • No trails will be removed or added as part of this project (trails are the responsibility of the City's Parks & Recreation division).
Additional questions and concerns	• Does the approval process for new development projects and future buildings consider the impacts of flooding?	• New development applications are coordinated and reviewed by the City's Planning Department, which is responsible for coordinating and ensuring compliance with regulations (from other

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	• Can new planting areas be suggested?	levels of government such as Department of Fisheries and Oceans https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/.) • The local councillor's office can assist with requests for more information on development applications. • Work in the water channels require a variety of government and agency permits to proceed. • Community planting areas and garden plots are arranged through the City's Environment, Climate & Forestry division, or connect with 311.
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Total Participants:19

Project Team and Panelists:

Engineering and Construction Services:

Devin Coone, Project Manager, Senior Engineer, Infrastructure & Development Services

Hazel Breton, Manager Design & Construction, Infrastructure & Development Services

Montrose Environmental:

Mariëtte Pushkar, Principal Fluvial Geomorphologist

Julia Howett, Fluvial Geomorphology Specialist

Toronto Water:

Robert Chan, Senior Engineer, Infrastructure & Development Services

Nazneen Mushtaq, Project Manager, Infrastructure & Development Services

Public Consultation Unit:

Aadila Valiallah, Senior Coordinator Public Consultation Unit

Stephanie Gris-Bringas, Program Manager, Public Consultation Unit

Emily Cameron, Coordinator, Public Consultation Unit

Office of Councillor Vincent Crisanti, Etobicoke North:

Amanda Da Costa, Executive Assistant To Councillor