

THE TAYLOR MASSEY PROJECT

Celebrating and Protecting Taylor Massey Creek



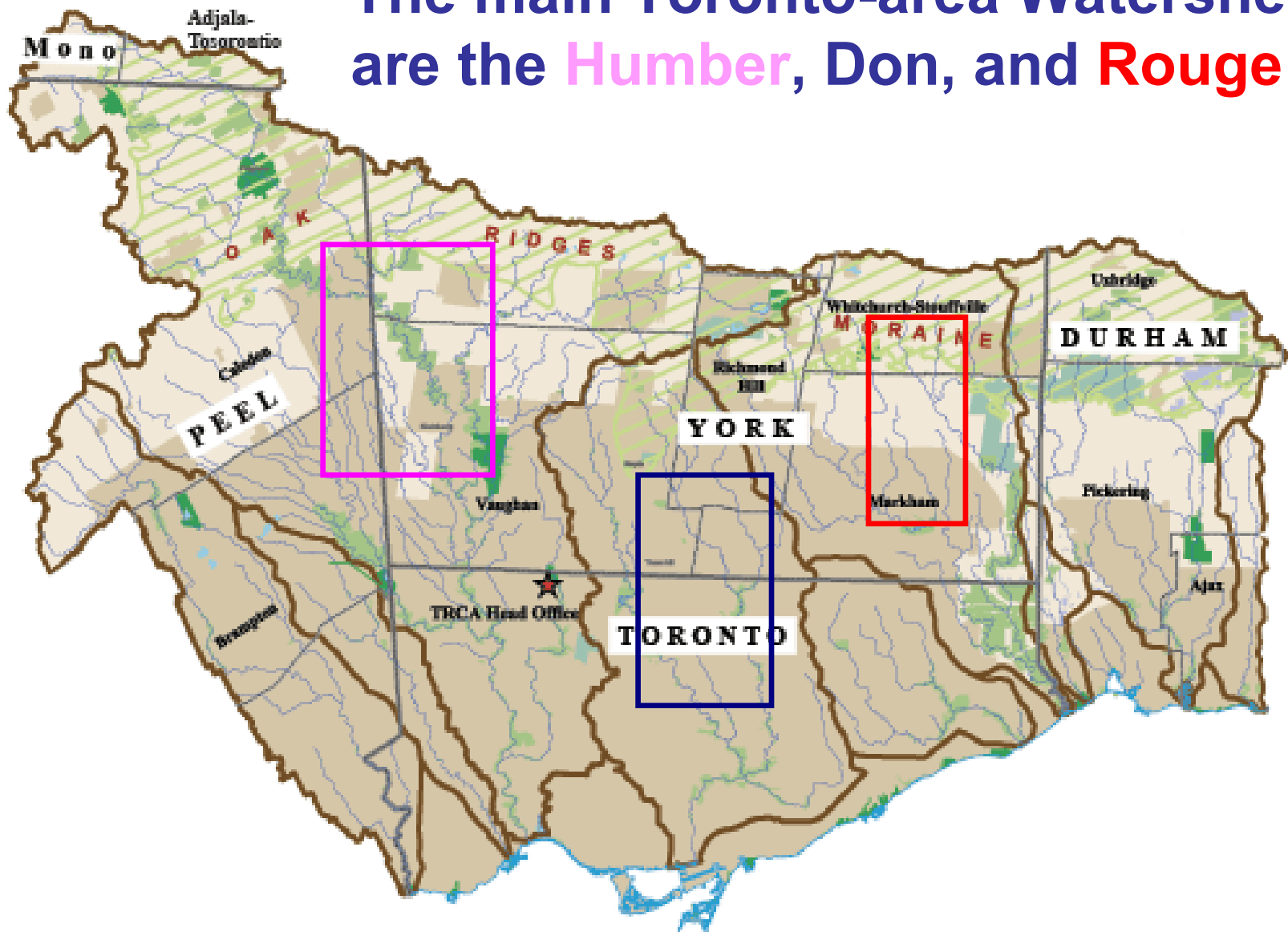
Reach by Reach:

***Regenerating Taylor Massey Creek and
Completing the Taylor Massey Trail***

Taylor Massey Creek is located completely within the City of Toronto



The main Toronto-area Watersheds are the Humber, Don, and Rouge



Taylor Massey Creek is the smallest of three main tributaries to the Don River



The Taylor Massey Watershed



Key Features

- Headwaters include flow from 16 lanes of Highway 401, the busiest stretch of highway in Canada;
- The Creek runs 16 Kms (10 miles) to the Don River, which flows to Lake Ontario
- Provides 5% of the base flow of the Don: 3,000,000 M3 or 792 516 157 US gallons



The TMP's Mission

The Taylor Massey Project seeks to engage local residents in the enjoyment, protection and restoration of the creek and its watershed.



Our approach to community-based social marketing

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Accomplishments

Over the last 6^{1/2} years, our partnerships with more than 20 groups have allowed us to:

- Stage 72 events with 4,145 participants;
- Plant 3,885 trees and shrubs*;
- Pick up more than 1,400 bags of litter;&
- Make 23 submissions to local agencies.



* Over 90% provided by the City of Toronto

So, what is Reach by Reach?

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It is our submission to a regional effort to develop a new Don River Watershed Plan.

It provides a compilation of agency data and our own observations about the Creek; and,

It offers a community-based vision for the regeneration of the sub-watershed, with specific action plans and net ecological gains.

This is what it looks like:

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Featuring **Five Five Five**, our recommendation to:

- Regenerate five priority areas;
- Over a five year period;
- At an estimated cost of \$5,000,000.00

May 31, 2009

Reach by Reach is:

THE TAYLOR MASSEY PROJECT *Celebrating and Protecting Taylor Massey Creek*



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A 50-page plan to regenerate the creek, written by volunteers who live along its banks, love the potential of its accompanying ravines, forests, and meadows, and have a vision for its future.

Contents include.....

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May 31, 2009

**A summary of
current conditions;**

**A vision for the
future; and,**

**A plan to
regenerate 5
reaches in 5 years
at a cost of
\$5,000,000.00.**

Current Conditions: Water Quality

Taylor Massey Creek contributes 5% of the flow but 80% of the pollutants to the Don, Ontario's most polluted river, under some flow conditions.

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This is due to:

- 10 combined sewers;**
- 24 abandoned municipal dumps;**
- extensive cross-connected storm and sanitary pipes; and,**
- poor corporate and lot management practices.**

As a result

The Don River has the poorest Water Quality Index of any tested watercourse in Ontario, and the 4th poorest in Canada.

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The Don River has the poorest Water Quality Index of any tested watercourse in Ontario, and the 4th poorest in Canada.

As Taylor Massey Creek contributes most of the pollutants to the Don, and only 5% of the flow, the TMP believes that the Creek may be the most polluted watercourse in Canada.

Other Key Watershed Issues:

- Flashy due to piped tributaries, an absence of natural wetlands, and just one storm-water pond - in an area with highest rate of impervious surface of any Don sub-watershed: **43%**
- The Creek has the lowest percentage area in natural heritage of any Don watershed: **12.7%**
- About 30% of the streambed is hardened, of which 600 m (650 yards) is underground;
- Most banks are in gabion baskets;
- Has a fragmented trail system.

Our Community's Vision for the Creek

- 1. By 2015, after the completion of the City of Toronto's Wet Weather Flow Master Plan and the elimination of cross connections, the Creek will meet the Provincial Water Quality Objectives for e-coli 90% of the time.**
- 2. Sporadic monitoring efforts will be transitioned to become a current, comprehensive, publicly accessible database, including spills and aquatic testing from all levels of government.**

Our Community's Vision for the Creek

3. Green infrastructure renewal will remove fish barriers, replace failing gabion baskets, and ensure extensive riparian and other valley land plantings;



Our Community's Vision for the Creek

4. Trail will connect all sections of the Creek; and,



5. Each reach will receive the analysis and resources it needs to be reclaimed, resulting in a fully regenerated sub-watershed – starting with the 5 priority regeneration sites described in next 5 slides.

Our Request to the City of Toronto:

Implement the Wet Weather Flow Master Plan in an appropriate watershed management framework that:

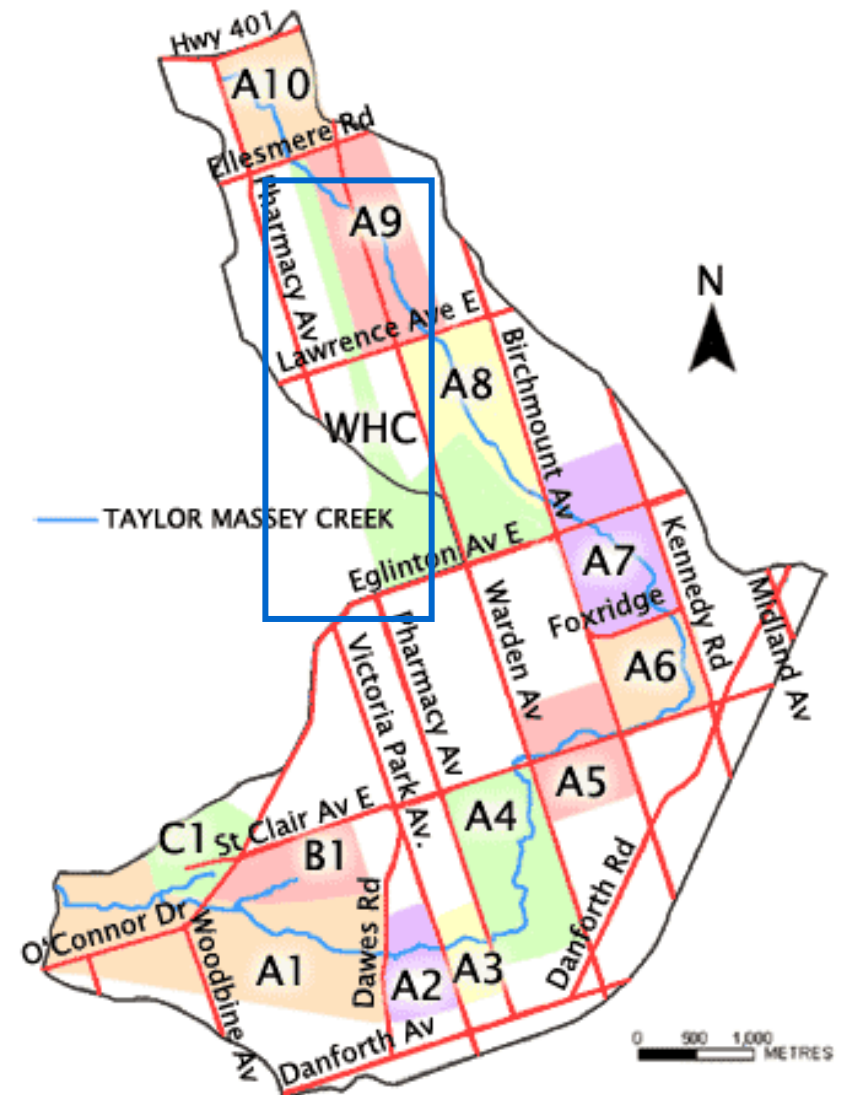
- includes targets with measurable outcomes;**
- engages the community; and**
- restores the creek to natural conditions, through our Five Five Five framework -**
 - Regenerate five priority sites;**
 - Over five years;**
 - For approximately \$5M**

Our Top Five Priorities

1. The Warden Hydro Trail

- Construct separate pedestrian and cycling paths, creating berms and swales in the Warden Hydro Corridor
- Install needed crossings; and
- Plant 10,000 trees and shrubs per year for 20 years.

Est'd Cost: \$1,850,000.00

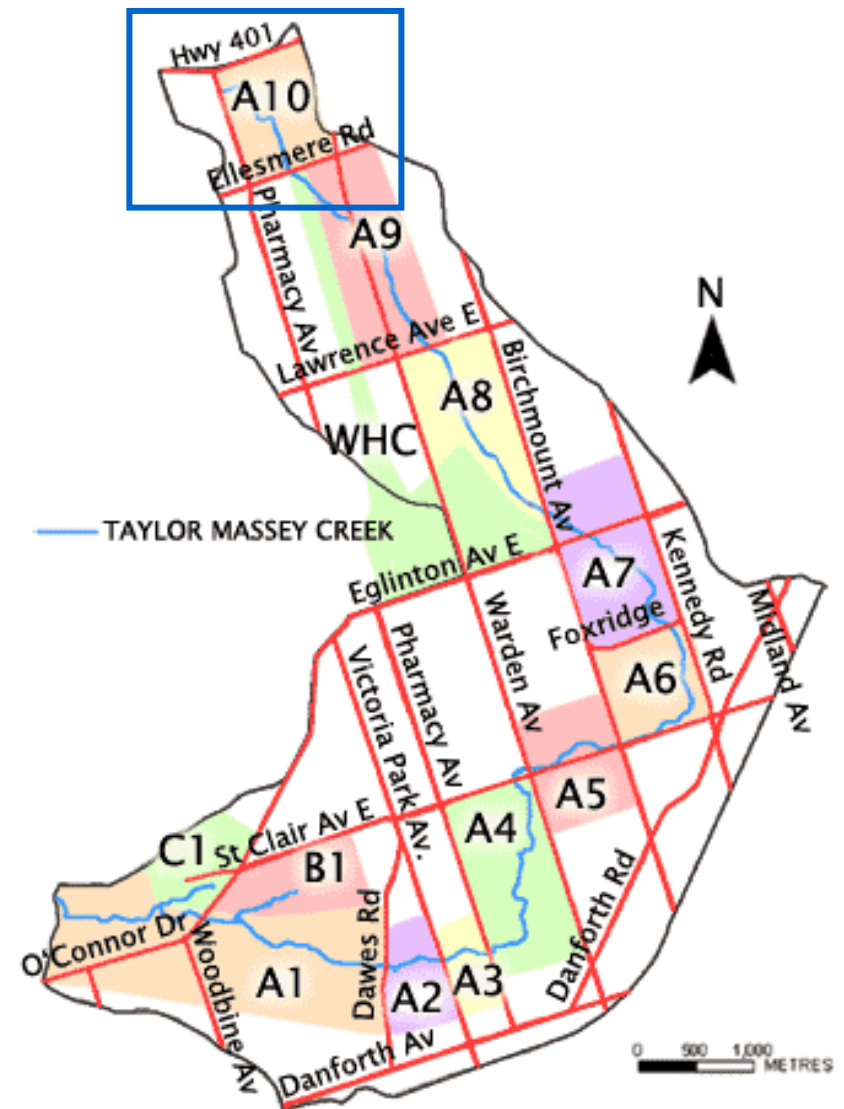


Our Top Five Priorities

2. Terraview Willowfield

- Complete Phase III from the 1994 Don Plan by replacing the concrete channel;
- Remediate an existing plunge pool & underground storm-water pond; and,
- Create a leash-free dog area and butterfly garden.

Est'd Cost: \$750,000.00

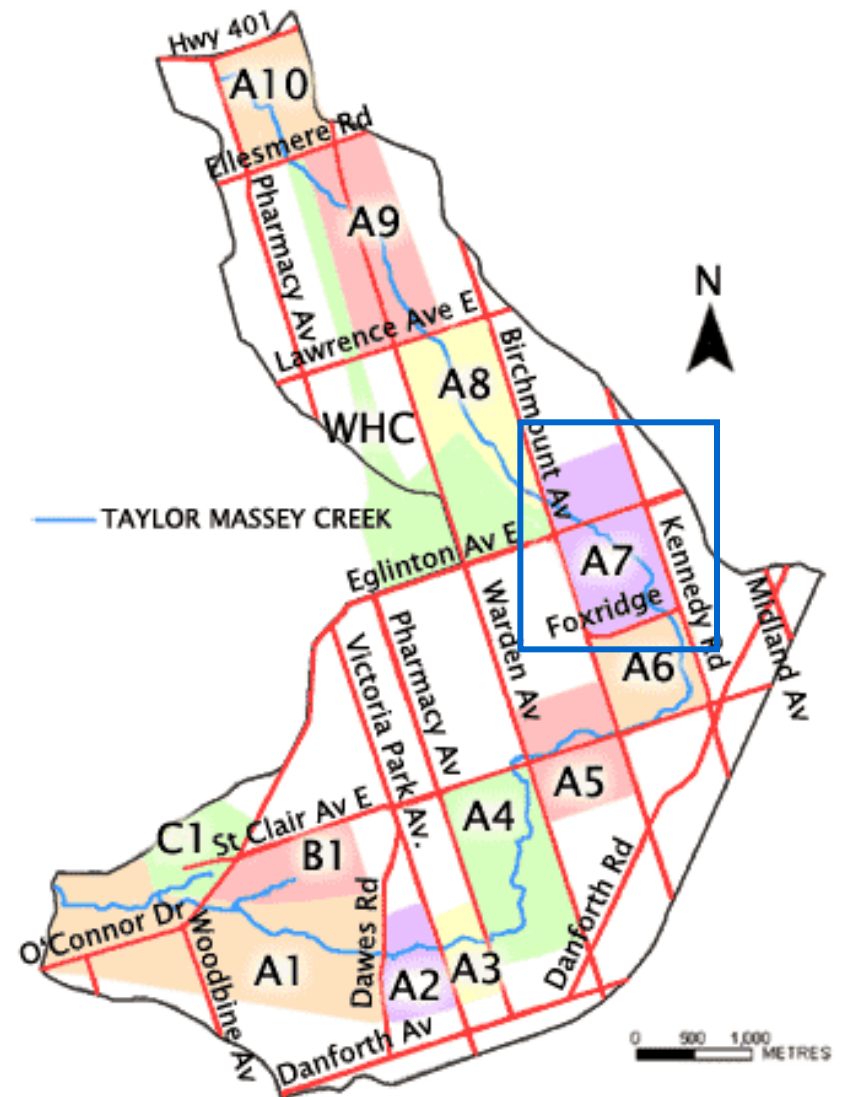


Our Top Five Priorities

3. The Eglinton Reach

- Repair eroded banks;
- Install two creek bridges and one passage around railroad tracks; and
- Regenerate a significantly disturbed flood plain.

Est'd Cost: \$675,000.00

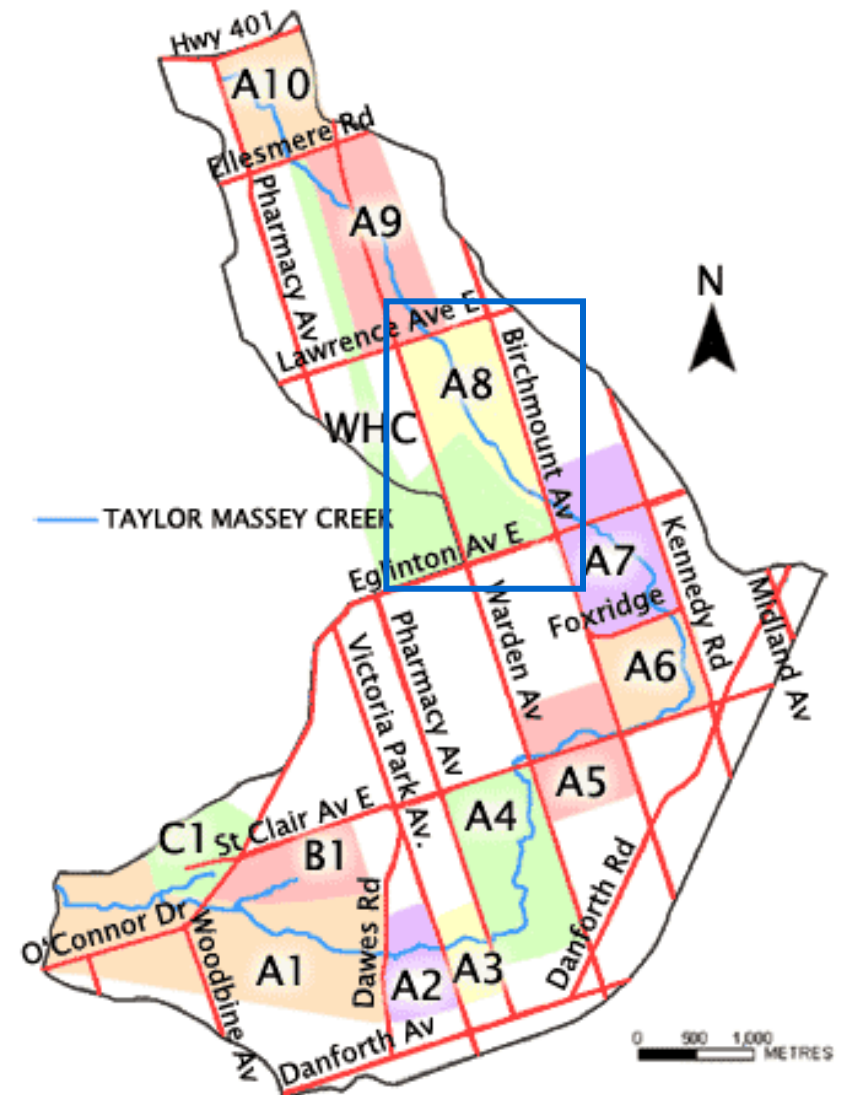


Our Top Five Priorities

4. The Underwriters Reach

- Remediate perched culverts;
- Install needed oil and grit separators;
- Formalize trail; and
- Establish corporate community stewardship program – local companies are interested.

Est'd Cost: \$300,000.00



Our Top Five Priorities

5. Warden Woods

- Designate Warden Woods Park an Environmentally Significant Area;
- Establish Friends of Warden Woods - multiple partners are interested; and
- Develop and implement park regeneration plan.

Est'd Cost: \$700,000.00



Estimated Budgetary Envelopes

Warden Hydro Corridor Trail:	\$ 1,850,000.00
Terraview Willowfield:	\$ 750,000.00
The Eglinton Reach:	\$ 675,000.00
The Underwriters' Reach:	\$ 300,000.00
Warden Woods:	\$ <u>700,000.00</u>
Total	\$ 4,275,000.00
Approximate value for Future construction:	\$ 5,000,000.00

Net Ecological Gains

- **Neighbourhoods would be connected by the Taylor Massey Trail;**
- **Warden Woods designated an ESA;**
- **4 reaches would be reclaimed;**
- **2 sustainable community stewardship groups created; and,**
- **Plantings would add 1% to the forest cover of the sub-watershed**

Action Plan

Engage the City of Toronto and other local agencies to discuss implementing our vision for restore Taylor Massey Creek as a treasured natural resources through our Five Five Five framework:

- Regenerate five priority areas;**
- Over a five year period;**
- For approximately \$5,000,000.00.**

THANK YOU



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