

# **THE TAYLOR MASSEY PROJECT**

## **Celebrating and Protecting Taylor Massey Creek**

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June 6, 2006

Jerry Higgins  
Project Engineer  
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Technical Services  
Works and Emergency Services  
City of Toronto  
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Ruthanne Henry  
Forestry Planner - South District  
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Urban Forestry Services  
Parks, Forestry & Recreation  
City of Toronto  
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Dear Mr Higgins and Ms Henry,

Thank you both for the site walk of the proposed alignment of the new watermain to be installed in Taylor Creek Park, from Dawes Road west to the second bridge, attended by TMP member Andrew McCammon. Andrew has de-briefed the Board, and we submit the following comments:

1. The TMP commends the City for the sensitivity of the plan in protecting as much of the natural areas and features as possible, both through the over-all alignment and the proposed use of boring rather than trenching for much of the alignment;
2. With respect to the alignment of the new pipe itself, and as expressed on the site walk, we are more interested in the “net ecological gain” of the overall plan and its restoration elements than the loss of any specific tree or the small areas of the two wetlands that the pipe may approach or go under. Rather than dwell on these small losses, we believe the plan provides for significant ecological gain through both the establishment of significant new riparian plantings (as described in item 3 below) and the removal of non-native trees (see item 4 below);

3. With respect to the proposed new riparian areas, we are greatly enthused about the prospect of trail re-alignment associated with the installation of the new watermain. The general distance of the proposed sections of new trail from the watercourse in the two major “pull-back” sections will hopefully allow for extensive riparian plantings between the trail and the Creek. These plantings will help stabilize the banks of the Creek in areas where this is greatly needed, as well as restore the natural edge of the Creek and its shading and habitat values. Please consider The TMP available to assist in community plantings following construction;
4. With respect to the removal of the non-native European Alders, we respectfully request that the City consider sending in a crew not just to cut down the Alders but to remove any of the non-native species in the construction foot-print, and perhaps beyond. As the City is aware, as detailed in the report *Restoration Priorities for Taylor Creek Park*, as submitted by Gartner Lee, non-native invasives are a significant problem in this area. While we understand the City has not yet developed a comprehensive plan for the removal of all non-natives in this area, we hope that the proposed construction project might afford an opportunity to begin the removal of non-native species in a slightly larger manner than just with the Alders;
5. With respect to watermain construction activities themselves, we know from experience that often small underground streams or just ground-water flow can present challenges to the construction activity, regardless of whether being pursued by trenching or tunneling. Should the City encounter any such flows, there might be desire to use horizontal pipes to carry the water over the watermain, in an effort to avoid it settling into the trench. Should the City encounter any such flows in Taylor Creek Park, we respectfully request that the source and direction of these flows be considered as means of either maintaining or augmenting the supply of water to the existing south-side wetlands. In other words, we request consideration of directing local groundwater south of the pipe laterally, to the south-side wetlands, rather than horizontally across the pipe alignment, unless the flow is clearly coming from the outlet of an existing wetland and is flowing toward the Creek; and,
6. We respectfully request the inclusion of interpretive signage relating to natural heritage protection in the project budget. There are several topics that an interpretive sign could address that would further public education in natural heritage, generally, but we think the best candidates for such a sign would be on the topics of the value of local wetlands and the benefit of riparian plantings. In addition, we think this proposed sign could also represent an opportunity for the City to educate the public on the use of appropriate design elements in the watermain replacement project itself: ie – why and how the City how chose to locate the watermain and the trail where they are, preserving and restoring important natural features.

In conclusion, we thank you again for the plan and the opportunity of the site walk to discuss the plan. We commend the City for the key plan elements, and will be pleased to help with restoration plantings, sign development, and sign location selection should the City wish to engage us in these efforts.

Sincerely,

*Nancy Penny*  
Acting Chair

cc Michael D'Andrea, Manager, Water and Waste Water  
Richard Ubbens, Chief Forester  
Shelley Carroll, Chair, Works Committee  
Councillor Janet Davis  
Adele Freeman and Lori Cook, TRCA  
Don Cross, Chair, The Don Watershed Regeneration Council  
John Wilson, Task Force to Bring Back the Don