



# **Etobicoke Creek Watershed Plan Engagement Summary 1**

July 2020 – June 2021

## Summary

Engagement is an important part of the watershed planning process. Since the development of watershed plans is a multi-year initiative, regularly engagement with landowners, residents, and stakeholders is vital to the successful development and eventual implementation of a watershed plan.

The development of the Etobicoke Creek Watershed Plan was initiated in 2020 by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) in partnership with a Steering Committee consisting of staff from the City of Toronto, Region of Peel, City of Mississauga, City of Brampton, Town of Caledon, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, and Greater Toronto Airport Authority.

The objectives for engagement throughout this watershed planning process are:

- To build partnerships with key stakeholders and landowners within the watershed to maximize opportunities to improve watershed conditions through strategic resource-sharing.
- To build community awareness on the importance of watersheds and identify opportunities for improved community stewardship of the Etobicoke Creek Watershed.
- Achieve broad based endorsement of watershed plan goals, objectives, and management actions to increase the likelihood of effective implementation.

Regular project updates will be posted on the project website, through social media, and through notifications to project email subscribers and other stakeholders.

This engagement summary report provides an overview of engagement activities conducted between July 2020 and June 2021.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Engagement To Date .....	1
Engagement Survey .....	1
Table 1: Engagement Activities.....	1
Table 2: Reasons for Preferred Vision Statement.....	2
Table 3: Top Three Issues of Concern.....	4
Table 4: Other Issues of Concern.....	5
Table 5: Other Things to Consider as Part of Watershed Plan .....	6
Figure 1: Words for Potential Vision Statement.....	4
Figure 2: Top Issues of Concern by Percentage.....	5

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## ENGAGEMENT TO DATE

The main engagement activity to date on the development of the Etobicoke Creek Watershed Plan was a survey in the fall of 2020 on issues of concern and potential watershed visions discussed further in the next section. The table below outlines other activities that have taken place:

TABLE 1: ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Engagement Activity	Date
Steering Committee meeting	June 15, 2021
Email correspondence with resident – trail connections	June 3, 2021
Subscriber List – 77 individuals added	May 12, 2021
Email correspondence with resident – spills and pollution	May 12, 2021
Presentation to Michael Power / St. Joseph High School	April 21, 2021
Steering Committee meeting	November 18, 2020
Email correspondence with resident – balance between ecology and recreation	October 22, 2020
Phone discussion with golf course on potential restoration opportunities	October 7, 2020
Engagement survey (50 responses). As of October 7, 14 shares on Facebook and 11 retweets/10 likes on Twitter.	September 24 – October 19, 2020
Steering Committee meeting	July 8, 2020

## ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

On September 24, 2020, a survey asking for input on issues of concern and possible vision statements for the Etobicoke Creek watershed went live. The survey was distributed to Indigenous groups, relevant Councillors and TRCA Board members, and watershed stakeholders. Notifications were also posted on TRCA’s social media. The survey closed on October 19.

A total of 50 responses were received.

Below are the results of this survey:

**Question 1a:**

Below are possible vision statements for the Etobicoke Creek Watershed Plan. Please review the statements and choose one as your favourite vision statement. Note: this does not imply that any of these statements will be the final vision statement. This question is about getting an idea of which themes are most important.

- a. Etobicoke Creek is a healthy and sustainable watershed that is connected to and valued by the communities within it. [12 preferences]
- b. The Etobicoke Creek watershed supports a more natural water balance, and habitats for plants and animals now and into the future. [12 preferences]
- c. **The Etobicoke Creek watershed is protected and restored to sustain healthy ecosystems and human communities. [26 preferences = 52%]**

**Question 1b:**

Why did you choose that statement as your favourite? Only results for the most preferred option (C) are shown.

TABLE 2: REASONS FOR PREFERRED VISION STATEMENT

Responses to Question 1b (only the results for the most preferred statement are shown)		
the words restoration indicates improvements to existing waters shed. This is critical. Protection must occur. Ecosystem is plants and animals.	Ecosystems: the whole group of flora and fauna, not just plants and animals, which could be anything or not much.  The first statement focuses on people, but the third, "ecosystem" statement focuses on everything else, which is under threat, as well as people.	It is about protection and restoration: it sounds like the vision is about changing the situation of the watershed improving it, protecting it while the other statements are descriptive, not mentioning action.
The Etobicoke creek watershed isn't that perfect but its definitely better than it used to be.	The watershed has a very practical purpose which sustains the urban landscape including its communities. It needs to be maintained. However, I would like the statement to contain the phrase "valued by the communities". Unfortunately I could not pick both.	Inclusive for flora,fauna and humans.
The words protected and restored suggest actions that	I manage 86 acres of property along the Etobicoke Creek. I	As much as I would like to conserve the watershed

Responses to Question 1b (only the results for the most preferred statement are shown)		
must be taken to ensure ecosystem and human community health.	understand the impact of daily changes to the Etobicoke Creek.	primarily as natural habitat for plants and animals, the reality is that it's located in a heavily human populated area. If you don't plan for both ecosystem protection AND human use, there will be conflicts.
The others were too wordy, and filled with nebulous terms	I choose this one because, though it may be protected, I'm not sure it is healthy and I think this is something to work towards.	It is not currently healthy - so the third vision statement includes restoration. It needs protection - to restore and maintain healthy ecosystems including humans.
Because I would like to see more recreational fishing opportunities in this particular watershed.	It strikes a balance between the human and nature aspects of the watershed, and how it is interlinked.	Because it acknowledges the interconnectedness of human and "natural" environments, both of which are readily apparent in the entirety of the Etobicoke Creek watershed. It recognizes the importance of maintaining healthy ecosystems and the important role of communities in watershed management. It also recognizes the importance of ecosystem services.
We have to protect our watersheds.	more active	I would like to see native plants and animals thrive and shared/enjoyed by humans.
I like the idea of the watershed being first protected (so no more harm can be done) and then restored. Finally, the concept that it is done in a manner that includes both the natural and human communities will be a balance that needs to be struck in order for people to buy into the vision.	Implies the need to restore i.e. remove concrete waterways and naturalization.	This seems to be the most important although the others are but from a 'healthy' creek perspective as well as a healthy community this seems to take precedence. with this factor how can the others be attained.

**Question 2:**

From the words below, select up to five that should be a vital part of any vision statement (assume Etobicoke Creek watershed would be part of an eventual vision statement).

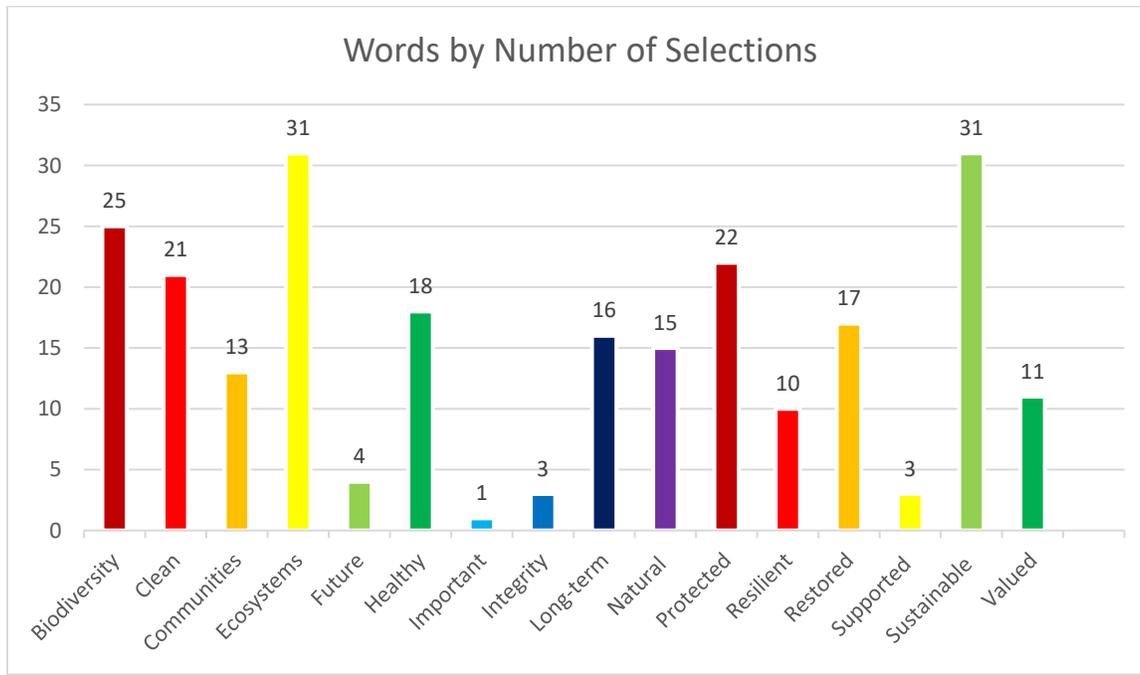


FIGURE 1: WORDS FOR POTENTIAL VISION STATEMENT

**Question 3:**

Please select the top three issues of concern with the health of the Etobicoke Creek watershed from your perspective (rank from one to three).

TABLE 3: TOP THREE ISSUES OF CONCERN

Issue	# of 1 <sup>st</sup> Concern Selections	# of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Concern Selections	# of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Concern Selections
Water Quality	8	14	10
Flooding	2	8	7
Erosion	4	4	6
Urbanization	12	8	9
Climate Change	10	2	5
Natural Cover	4	4	3
Fish and other aquatic species	5	3	3

Issue	# of 1 <sup>st</sup> Concern Selections	# of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Concern Selections	# of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Concern Selections
Barriers to fish movement	4	5	6
<b>Totals</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>49</b>

Note: the totals for each column of selection do not necessarily add up to 50 since the survey format did not force people to select a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> choice. So, some respondents selected more than one 1<sup>st</sup> choice, only a 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> choice, or other variations. 33 of the survey respondents (66%) selected a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> choice.

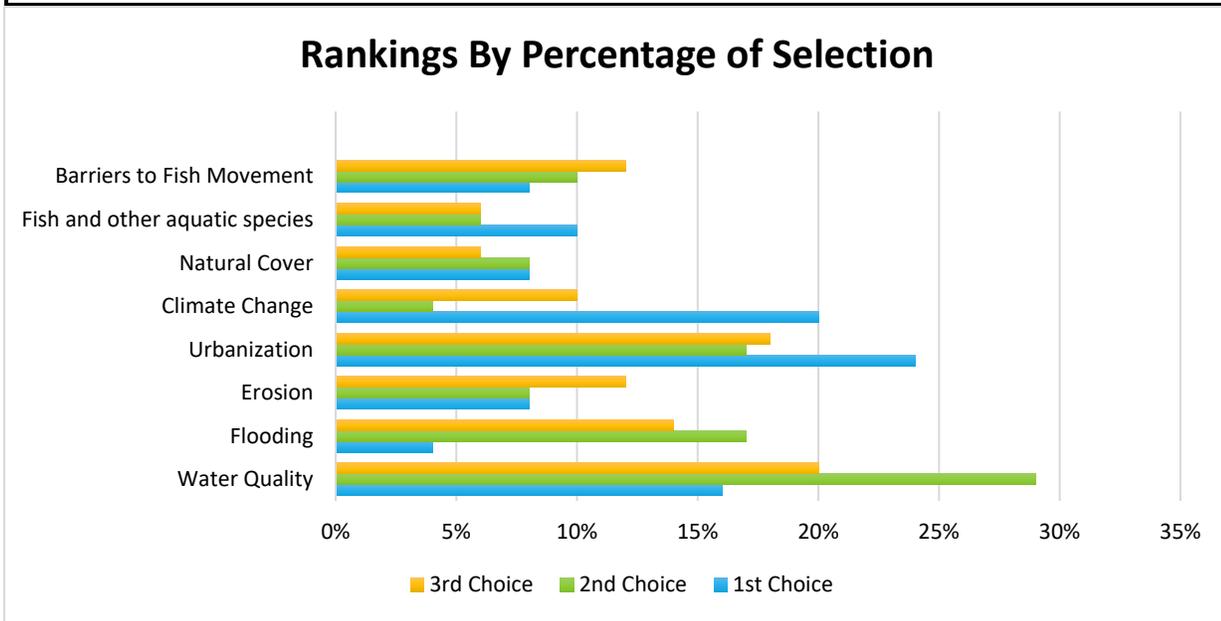


FIGURE 2: TOP ISSUES OF CONCERN BY PERCENTAGE

**Question 4:**

Are there other issues of concern, not listed in the previous question, that are important? Please identify.

**27 responses were received to this question.**

TABLE 4: OTHER ISSUES OF CONCERN

Issue	Count (# of responses)
Invasive Species	6 / 27 = 22%
Pollution (road salt, litter)	6 / 27 = 22%
General comments that all issues are critical and connected	4 / 27 = 15%
Construction standards (e.g silting due to residential construction at Sandalwood and Conestoga).	3 / 27 = 11%

Issue	Count (# of responses)
Concrete channels	2 / 27 = 7%
Highlight our work with MCFN. Could set a precedence for co-governance of watershed planning here and it should not be a wasted opportunity.	1 / 27 = 4%
Access	1 / 27 = 4%
More recreational fishing opportunities	1 / 27 = 4%
Safety (some areas have “bad reps”)	1 / 27 = 4%
Lake water quality and swimming	1 / 27 = 4%
Restoration need at near Ponytrail to Mill Road (dirty and low volumes)	1 / 27 = 4%
Investigation and enforcement of spills (i.e. when creek turned red)	1 / 27 = 4%
Change in water speed and depth in a short period of time can be scary (lived on creek for 17+ years)	1 / 27 = 4%

**Question 5:**

Is there anything else you would like considered as we initiate this watershed development process? Please identify.

**28 responses were received to this question.**

**TABLE 5: OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER AS PART OF WATERSHED PLAN**

Other Things to Consider:	Count (# of responses)
Open creek to fishing and stock native fish and others (chinook, coho, brown and rainbow trout)	5 / 28 = 18%
Natural heritage features must be protected and restored / increased naturalization	4 / 28 = 14%
Sustainable trail management (rather than unsanctioned – keep people and pets out of sensitive areas). Mississauga Mountain Biking Association recently formed to work with city and CVC.	4 / 28 = 14%
Don’t change the off-leash dog park area (off-leash park south of Dundas in Mississauga)	4 / 28 = 14%
Community stewardship is needed (monitoring, clean-ups, etc.)	1 / 28 = 4%
Spill mitigation plans are needed (identify vectors for contaminants)	1 / 28 = 4%
Identify bylaws (or lack of) causing pollution issues	1 / 28 = 4%

Other Things to Consider:	Count (# of responses)
Indigenous co-governance and First Nation interests	1 / 28 = 4%
Plan needs to outline cost and timeline for actions to maintain current levels of watershed health and outline consequences of failure	1 / 28 = 4%
More enforcement/monitoring of construction activities (i.e. compliance with silt fencing)	1 / 28 = 4%
Annual maintenance standards for creek banks needed	1 / 28 = 4%
Public education on watershed health and plans	1 / 28 = 4%
Overcome ownership and management consistency issues by municipalities (border between Toronto and Mississauga)	1 / 28 = 4%

