



## YORK REGION

### FLOOD AND EROSION INFRASTRUCTURE – WATERFRONT

# Toporowski Flood Mitigation and Stream Project



## OVERVIEW

Residents near Toporowski Creek are concerned about flooding issues and invasive species after a 2021 water main break drained into the creek. Invasive species, snow, and ice caused sediment deposition and build-up, reducing flow through the creek resulting in rising water levels to flow onto private properties.

Residences in the study area are close to, or within the Regional storm limit, and it is predicted that impervious surfaces and runoff from the new development upstream will run through Toporowski Creek, further threatening residents.

Consultants have been retained to perform a fluvial geomorphological assessment and develop designs for a solution. The assessment noted heavy invasive vegetation throughout the reach, causing sedimentation with the watercourse and valley reach. This project will re-establish the stream to improve conveyance and reduce flooding. It will also manage invasive species, which is needed to ensure unrestricted flow so that sedimentation and flooding does not re-occur.

## OBJECTIVES

- Reduce flood risk to homeowners and infrastructure
- Management of invasive species
- Aquatic and terrestrial habitat enhancements

## BENEFITING STAKEHOLDERS

- Residents in at-risk communities
- Private land, properties, and infrastructure
- Governments: City of Richmond Hill, Region of York, Province of Ontario, Government of Canada

## EXPECTED IMPACT

- Reduce property damage and increase property value
- Ensure public safety
- Restore ecological function to the stream

## BUDGET & FUNDING

**Estimated Total Cost (\$000's): \$2.6M**

- Phase 1: Initial phragmites treatments, planning & design
- Phase 2: Natural channel implementation, follow up phragmites treatments
- Phase 3: Riparian plantings, follow up phragmites treatments

### Possible Funding Sources:

- TRCA, City of Richmond Hill, Grants

## OWNERSHIP

TRCA and the City of Richmond Hill



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#### KEY PRIORITIES AND ACTIVITIES TO DATE

**Stream  
Restoration**  
High Priority



Restore 500m of stream to improve conveyance and reduce flooding.

**Valleyland  
Restoration**  
High Priority



Restore valleylands including wetland creation.

**Invasive Species  
Management**  
High Priority



Invasive species management is needed to ensure unrestricted flow so that sedimentation and flooding does not re-occur.

#### Works Completed

Public Information Session held October 2024 provided members of the public with information regarding proposed work and gained feedback.

Concept Evaluation Report completed January 2025 with drafted design alternatives based on fluvial geomorphology assessment and hydraulic analysis.

#### RISKS IF UNFUNDED

**Social:** Residential communities are at an increased risk of flooding due to invasive vegetation growth, sedimentation, and pressures from upstream development.

**Financial / Economic:** Localized emergency repairs tied to flooding will be costly as access is limited and will be more disruptive and expensive over the long term rather than restoring the full reach and improving site resiliency.

**Deferred Action Risk:** Trends of further phragmites encroachment and sedimentation will occur. Flow impediment will result in increased flooding, negatively impacting private properties and adjacent infrastructure.



#### KEY DATES

• **Possible Start:** Fall 2025  
(Initial Phragmites Treatment)

• **Duration:** 11 months

#### CONTACT INFORMATION:

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