

Robinson Creek and Tooley Creek Subwatershed Study

Project Summary

To support future growth and the development of Secondary Plans for the Courtice area, the Municipality initiated a Subwatershed Study for Robinson Creek and Tooley Creek. This study developed a plan that allows for sustainable development while maximizing benefits to the natural and human environments. The Subwatershed Study was completed in three phases:

- Phase 1: Subwatershed Characterization
- Phase 2: Subwatershed Management Strategies
- Phase 3: Implementation and Monitoring Plans

The Phase 2 and 3 Report is complete, with key findings summarized below. This report evaluates various management options based on environmental, social and economic criteria and presents a recommended subwatershed strategy.

Project Milestones

- Project Award: October 2017
- Existing Conditions Field Assessments: April – November 2018
- Phase 1 Report (first submission): December 2018
- PIC #1: November 13, 2019
- Phase 1 Report: November 2019
- Phase 2 Report (first submission): November 2020
- Phase 2 Report (final draft submission): November 2022
- PIC #2: February 2023

PIC Purpose

The Municipality of Clarington will hold a Public Information Centre (PIC) on February 7, 2023. This will consist of an on-line presentation starting at 6:30, followed by a question and answer period. The presentation will also be posted on the project website to allow people to review the information at a later time. Comments will be accepted until February 17, 2023.

The purpose of the PIC is to:

- Review the Subwatershed Study process;
- Present key findings from the Phase 2 and 3 report;
- Provide time for the public to discuss questions with members of the Project Team and the staff of the Municipality of Clarington and; and
- Ask for public feedback on the Phase 2 results for consideration by the project team.

Key Findings

- Flood Control:
 - Dry stormwater ponds recommended for flood control from future proposed development.
 - Future Flood Control Study recommended to further evaluate flood mitigation options.
- Water Quality:
 - Runoff from new developments needs to be treated to protect Robinson Creek and Tooley Creek. Use of Low Impact Development (LID) is recommended for treating runoff. LID facilities will prioritize infiltration, evapotranspiration and/or re-use where possible.
- Erosion:
 - Robinson Creek and Tooley Creek both need to be protected from higher erosion rates that can result from new development. By using LID facilities, runoff volumes and flow rates are reduced to protect the creeks.
- Groundwater:
 - Water currently infiltrates through the soil to help replenish groundwater. LID facilities should ensure that post-development infiltration rates equal or exceed pre-development rates.
 - If high-risk activities are present on a property, then runoff from these areas should not be infiltrated. This helps to protect groundwater. High-risk activities can include gas stations, some kinds of industrial activities, or road salt storage facilities.
- Natural Heritage:
 - Coolwater species are present in both Robinson Creek and Tooley Creek. Stormwater runoff should be kept cool to protect the habitat of these species. LID facilities will help to cool the runoff.
 - Natural heritage features were identified during Phase 1 of the study. These features are to be protected from development.

