



Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

Regional Watershed Alliance Agenda

May 25, 2022
6:30 P.M.

The meeting will be conducted via a video conference
Members of the public may view the livestream at the following link:
<https://video.isilive.ca/trca/live.html>

Pages

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING #1/22, HELD ON MARCH 2, 2022
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4. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF
5. PRESENTATIONS
6. CORRESPONDENCE
7. ITEMS FOR ALLIANCE ACTION

7.1. REVISED REGIONAL WATERSHED ALLIANCE MEMBERSHIP
COMPOSITION

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To propose and discuss a revised membership composition for the 2023-2025 term of the Regional Watershed Alliance (RWA).

8. ITEMS FOR ALLIANCE INFORMATION

8.1. DON RIVER MOUTH NATURALIZATION PROJECT – RESTORATION OF FISH HABITAT IN TORONTO

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To inform the Regional Watershed Alliance regarding the fish habitat restoration results of the recently completed Cherry Street Stormwater and Lake Filling Project.

8.2. THE MEADOWAY PROJECT ANNUAL UPDATE

8

Update to the Regional Watershed Alliance regarding progress on The Meadoway project.

9. NEW BUSINESS AND GOOD NEWS STORIES

10. ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING OF THE REGIONAL WATERSHED ALLIANCE #3/22, TO BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 28, 2022 AT 6:30 P.M. VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

Chandra Sharma, Director, Watershed Strategies

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Item for the Action of the Regional Watershed Alliance

TO: Chair and Members of the Regional Watershed Alliance
Wednesday, May 25, 2022 Meeting

FROM: John MacKenzie, Chief Executive Officer

RE: **REVISED REGIONAL WATERSHED ALLIANCE MEMBERSHIP COMPOSITION**

KEY ISSUE

To propose and discuss a revised membership composition for the 2023-2025 term of the Regional Watershed Alliance (RWA).

RECOMMENDATION

THAT RWA members endorse the proposed revised membership composition structure of RWA, as outlined in the Rationale section below, in advance of the proposed changes being made for the 2023-2025 term of the RWA;

THAT the proposed revised membership composition structure be brought to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) Board of Directors for approval;

AND FURTHER THAT the RWA Terms of Reference be amended accordingly, pending RWA and Board of Director approval of the revised membership composition structure.

BACKGROUND

The Regional Watershed Alliance (RWA) is an advisory committee to TRCA's Board of Directors, made up of up to 45 voting members. According to the RWA Terms of Reference, members are appointed for a 2-year period with a possibility of re-appointment. The current RWA membership categories and composition are as follows:

- TRCA Board of Directors: up to 5
- Watershed residents: up to 20
- Sector experts and organizations: up to 10
- Municipal representatives: up to 8
- Provincial representative: up to 1
- Federal representative: up to 1

The current members were re-appointed by the Board of Directors at its March 29, 2019 meeting for a term expiring at the end of 2021 (RES.#A40/19). At the October 22, 2021 Board of Directors meeting, CG-2.01-G Public Appointments Policy was approved, aligning all advisory board appointment terms with the municipal Term of Council, which will end on November 14, 2022 (RES.#A205/21). In order to align RWA membership timelines with the municipal Term of Council, at the November 19, 2021 Board of Directors meeting the Board extended RWA member terms by one (1) year to November 14, 2022 (RES.#A228/21).

RATIONALE

In advance of the new 2023-2024 term, TRCA staff believe there is an opportunity to enhance oversight, governance, and impact of the RWA by revising the current membership structure to reduce the number of members and expand member diversity.

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It is suggested that 45 voting members be reduced to 30 voting members in total. A reduced number is proposed to make the administration of the RWA, including recruitment processes, more efficient. There is also the need to align membership numbers with the current state of attendance and vacancies. RWA attendance has typically been in the range of approximately 15 to 25 members, out of 45 total member spots, in the past year or two. Currently, there are 13 vacant positions.

It is also proposed that two additional membership categories be introduced: Youth Council Representative and Indigenous Representative. Given that the TRCA Youth Council reports to the RWA, it is recommended that the Youth Council also has representation in the RWA itself. This new membership category would also ensure there is a dedicated representative from a Youth perspective. It is also recommended that an Indigenous Representative slot be added to provide explicit representation for the Indigenous communities that TRCA's jurisdiction covers.

The suggested membership structure, and associated details, are as follows:

- Youth Council Representatives: 2
- Indigenous Representative: 1
- Board of Director Representatives: 2
- Watershed Residents: Up to 12
 - Toronto: 2 representatives
 - Peel: 2 representatives
 - York: 2 representatives
 - Durham: 2 representatives
 - The remaining 4 spots will be flexible and can be utilized for Mono, Adjala-Tosorontio and/or additional representatives from the municipalities above.
- Sector Experts and Organizations: Up to 6
 - All representatives for this category must be located in and/or undertake work within TRCA's jurisdiction.
 - Representation will be sought from both experts/organizations with impact and/or jurisdiction that spans TRCA's jurisdiction and local/community-focused experts/organizations, with efforts made to include membership representation from across TRCA municipalities.
- Municipal Representatives: Up to 5
 - There will be a minimum of 1 representative each from Toronto, Peel and local municipalities, York and local municipalities, and Durham and local municipalities (4 total).
 - The remaining additional spot can be allocated to one of the municipalities above or to Mono/Adjala-Tosorontio
 - Municipal representatives may be Council members or staff
- Provincial Representative: 1
- Federal Representative: 1

Soliciting, vetting and selection of candidates will be done in accordance with TRCA's Public Appointment Policy. Where relevant, TRCA staff will be involved in selection of candidates and criteria will be developed in advance to guide the review process. It is intended that the Youth Council representatives would be elected from within, and by, the TRCA Youth Council Executive.

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Staff will also explore and pursue opportunities to create stronger linkages between the RWA and TRCA's other relevant committees, including the Natural Science and Education Committee and the Partners in Project Green Executive Management Committee in order to inform the work, perspectives and collaboration opportunities of all these committees.

Relationship to Building the Living City, the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan

This report supports the following strategies set forth in the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan:

Strategy 5 – Foster sustainable citizenship

Strategy 7 – Build partnerships and new business models

Strategy 8 – Gather and share the best sustainability knowledge

FINANCIAL DETAILS

Administration of the RWA will continue to be covered through applicable Operating accounts.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

If a revised RWA membership structure is adopted, the following will need to be undertaken to ensure that the RWA continue to fulfill their intended role as an advisory committee to the Board of Directors:

- The Terms of Reference would be updated to make clear attendance expectations at RWA meetings and at what point a member will be removed for non-attendance.
- The Clerk's Office would closely monitor RWA member attendance and would follow up immediately with members that have missed meetings without an adequate reason. The Clerk's Office would also enforce the revised Terms of Reference and remove RWA members that do not comply with attendance requirements. The Clerk's Office and Government and Community Relations would work together to fill RWA vacancies in a timely manner.

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Date: April 22, 2022

Item for the Information of the Regional Watershed Alliance

TO: Chair and Members of the Regional Watershed Alliance
Wednesday, May 25, 2022 Meeting

FROM: Sameer Dhalla, Director, Development and Engineering Services

RE: **DON RIVER MOUTH NATURALIZATION PROJECT – RESTORATION OF FISH HABITAT IN TORONTO**

KEY ISSUE

To inform the Regional Watershed Alliance regarding the fish habitat restoration results of the recently completed Cherry Street Stormwater and Lake Filling Project.

RECOMMENDATION

WHEREAS the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), on behalf of Waterfront Toronto, completed a two-year post-construction evaluation to determine the success of newly created fish habitat near the Keating Channel at the mouth of the Don River;

THAT the Don River Mouth Naturalization Project – Restoration of Fish Habitat in Toronto report on the Cherry Street Stormwater and Lake Filling (CSLF) project be received.

BACKGROUND

The Port Lands Flood Protection (PLFP) project follows the completion of the 2016 Don Mouth Naturalization and Port Lands Flood Protection Environmental Assessment. This project is one of the largest infrastructure projects in Toronto's history, led by Waterfront Toronto, with the support from both the City of Toronto and the TRCA. Both the federal and provincial governments, as well as the City of Toronto, have invested \$1.25B in the project that will provide regulatory storm flood protection (equivalent of Hurricane Hazel) for 290 hectares of mixed-use lands east of downtown Toronto. The project will enable urban development, recreational opportunities, and natural habitat restoration within the site, which was a former brownfield site. With the 23 sub-projects in the Port Lands, including the creation of a new 1 km long river valley and a new naturalized river mouth that will flow into Lake Ontario, the future naturalized river mouth will include the creation of 11 ha of coastal wetland, 5 ha of upland terrestrial habitat, and almost 14 ha of aquatic habitat. This PLFP project is currently in the construction stage and is scheduled for completion by the end of 2024. For more information on this project, please visit <https://portlandsto.ca/>.

RATIONALE

The Cherry Street Stormwater and Lake Filling (CSLF) project (formerly known as Essroc Quay Lake-filling project) is located on the south side of the Keating Channel (current Don River mouth), where the channel meets Toronto's Inner Harbour, and is one of the sub-projects of the larger PLFP project. Waterfront Toronto is the proponent for the CSLF project and the TRCA has completed the environmental monitoring work related on their behalf. Through lake-filling, the CSLF project created a new landmass around the former Essroc Quay. The completion of the CSLF stabilizes the Essroc Quay area shoreline under flood conditions was finalized in autumn 2019.

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Work on the CSLF project was authorized by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), and to compensate for the lake-filling work, several offsetting measures were required, including the creation of two aquatic habitat coves. These coves are located near the existing Keating Channel, an area known to have very limited fish habitat. The new coves and the connecting shoreline between the coves used a variety of materials to provide fish habitat to the system, including anchored wood, boulders, and aquatic plants. Following two years of monitoring, the new habitat has been used by 16 native and non-invasive fish species, including Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, and Yellow Perch. This project has successfully shown that increasing habitat complexity is an important part of improving fish habitat in the Toronto Harbour.

Relationship to Building the Living City, the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan

This report supports the following strategies set forth in the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan:

Strategy 2 – Manage our regional water resources for current and future generations

Strategy 4 – Create complete communities that integrate nature and the built environment

Strategy 9 – Measure performance

Strategy 7 – Build partnerships and new business models

FINANCIAL DETAILS

TRCA completed the project under a fee-for-service delivery agreement with Waterfront Toronto for \$543,633 from 2017 to 2021.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

TRCA will continue to support our Waterfront Toronto and the City on the larger Don Mouth Naturalization and Port Lands Flood Protection project.

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Date: April 6, 2022

Item for the Information of the Regional Watershed Alliance

TO: Chair and Members of the Regional Watershed Alliance
Wednesday, May 25, 2022 Meeting

FROM: Anil Wijesooriya, Director, Restoration and Infrastructure

RE: **THE MEADOWAY PROJECT ANNUAL UPDATE**

KEY ISSUE

Update to the Regional Watershed Alliance regarding progress on The Meadoway project.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Meadoway Project Annual Update, be received.

BACKGROUND

Led by the TRCA, in partnership with the City of Toronto, and the Weston Family Foundation, The Meadoway will transform 16 kilometres of hydro corridor in Scarborough into one of the largest urban linear greenspaces in Canada. Please refer to The Meadoway Multi-use Trail Boundary Map in **Attachment 1**.

On April 11, 2018, Mayor John Tory along with the Directors of the Weston Family Foundation, and representatives from TRCA and Toronto and Region Conservation Foundation (TRCF) jointly announced the launch of The Meadoway at a ceremony in Scarborough. As part of this announcement, the Weston Family Foundation pledged up to \$25 million in support of the project, with a firm commitment of \$10 million available immediately to support Phase 1 of the project. The City of Toronto committed \$6.3 million to realize the shared vision for The Meadoway by supporting the multi-use trail infrastructure, and to support the City's ongoing operations and maintenance activities in the hydro corridor.

At Authority Meeting #7/18, held on September 28, 2018, an update on The Meadoway and recommendation to advance implementation of key priorities was approved per Resolution #A143/18, in part, as follows:

WHEREAS The W. Garfield Weston Foundation has made a \$10 million of the \$25 million pledge available immediately to TRCA to implement Phase 1 of the project; ...

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT with appropriate Board Authority approvals including purchasing approvals, authorized TRCA and LCF officials be directed to take all necessary actions regarding retaining consulting services, the hiring of contract staff including project managers, and the signing and execution of any service agreements within the limit of the confirmed approved funding agreement for Phase 1; ...

THAT updates be brought back to the Authority on an annual basis as implementation of the project proceeds.

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A budget spanning from 2018-2020 was prepared to support the following key objectives in Phase 1:

- *Education and Community Learning* - Undertaking of engagement and education programs that facilitate opportunities for the community to help implement The Meadoway and utilize this new connection between downtown Toronto and Rouge National Urban Park;
- *Public Relations and Communications* - Undertaking of communications and public relations programs that will effectively position The Meadoway as a world class opportunity for greenspace revitalization;
- *Meadow Revitalization* - Completion of an additional 40 ha of meadow habitat and the continued monitoring and maintenance of 80 ha of habitat in the Meadoway; and
- *Active Transportation and Connections* - Completion of the necessary technical analysis, planning, permitting, and design to provide for a connected 16 km active transportation network across The Meadoway along with beginning implementation to address the incomplete sections of the existing trail through the hydro corridor and required upgrades.

With funding from the original \$10M Weston Family Foundation remaining at the end of 2020, Phase 1 was expanded to 2021. A carry forward of \$3.8M into 2021 to support the implementation of the Highland Creek trail connection was approved.

In addition to the carry forward of the funding for the Highland Creek trail connection, the Weston Family Foundation approved in principle \$1.348M in bridge funding for 2021 and 2022 to allow for meadow restoration and to continue general project management while TRCA continues to seek leverage funding. Education, engagement, and communications efforts have been scaled back during this transition, while additional leverage funding is explored.

RATIONALE

This Report serves as an update for The Meadoway Project and is organized by each of the four major objective areas outlined above.

Active Transportation and Connections

One of the key deliverables of Phase 1 was the planning and design of the multi-use trail which will run the full 16 km of The Meadoway. The conceptual alignments for the multi-use trail were evaluated through a Municipal Engineers Class Environmental Assessment (Schedule C), which received approval by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) in January of 2020. In support of the project's active transportation and connection's objective, implementation of one of the existing trail gaps at Highland Creek (Section 5) was prioritized for implementation. The Highland Creek trail gap spans 1.8 km between Ellesmere Road and Orton Park Road to the west and Neilson Road to the east. It includes a bridge crossing over the Highland Creek and a boardwalk over a wetland on the east side of the river. It also will connect with the Upper Highland Pan Am Path which is currently under construction and when complete will allow users to travel south to the Lake Ontario waterfront.

To advance the work in an expedited manner, implementation of the Section 5 trail has advanced in two phases. Phase 1 is on TRCA lands and starts at Ellesmere Road and Orton Park Road and extends east across Highland Creek. Since award of contract in February 2021, work has been underway on Phase 1 and is expected to be completed in Summer of 2022. Phase 2 works were awarded in October 2021 and are anticipated to be completed in late summer/early fall of 2022.

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A summary of deliverables completed in 2021 and 2022 to date to advance active transportation include:

Section 5 - Phase 1

- City of Toronto Tree Permits approved and received;
- Approvals to proceed with construction received by Hydro One Network Inc. (HONI) and Infrastructure Ontario (IO);
- Full execution of agreements with contractor;
- Site preparation (e.g., tree tagging and clearing, site mobilization, signage, etc.);
- Notifications to Councillor and flyer drops circulated to nearby residents;
- Shop drawings for major structures prepared by contractor and approved by engineering;
- Terraseeding of Cell 1 in Tommy Thompson Park complete, in support of the required restoration and compensation works for trail construction through Highland Creek ravine;
- Fabrication of pedestrian bridge and boardwalk with delivery tentatively scheduled for Spring 2022;
- Fabrication, delivery and installation of permanent bridge over Highland Creek;
- Fabrication of boardwalk with delivery in March and installation scheduled for late March/early April 2022;
- Construction of bridge abutments and approach ramps on either side of Highland Creek;
- Temporary bridge over the Highland Creek installed to provide access for construction of east bridge abutment and boardwalk feature;
- Installation of proposed interim erosion protection on east side of Highland Creek;
- Installation of remaining erosion and sediment control, perimeter fencing and tree protection on east side of Highland Creek;
- Excavation and installation of granular base for trail including proposed switchback from Military Trail to HONI access;
- Installation of entrance at Military trail, resting node, armoustone retaining wall, switchback, and paving of base course from Military Trail to HONI entrance;
- Completion of approximately 900 m of multi-use trail; and,
- Topsoil and seeding of disturbed areas.

Section 5 – Phase 2

- Workplan for slope stabilization investigation prepared;
- Updated detailed design approach for eastern slope prepared;
- Full design of the alternate slope segment initiated;
- HONI approval provided for additional geotechnical investigation;
- Request for Tender for construction services released and contractor selected and on-boarded;
- Successful Phase 2 contract awarded to CSL Group for construction works in the tablelands and slope;
- City of Toronto Tree Permits approved and received;
- Approvals to proceed with construction received by Hydro One Network Inc. (HONI) and Infrastructure Ontario (IO);
- Full execution of agreements with contractor;
- Notifications to Councillor and flyer drops circulated to nearby residents;
- Site preparation (e.g., tree tagging and clearing, site mobilization, signage, etc.);
- Excavation of trail in tablelands and switchback portion;
- Geotechnical work and global stability analysis for the slope segment;

Section 3

- 100% detailed design package complete;
- Draft Issue for Tender package developed and complete;
- Public and private utility locates undertaken in support of future construction activities;
- Preparation and completion of Arborist Report;
- Approvals to proceed with construction received by Hydro One Network Inc. (HONI) and Infrastructure Ontario (IO);
- Stage 2 Archaeology Assessment proposal to HONI approved, completion of Stage 2 scheduled for Summer 2022;
- Ongoing discussions with City of Toronto about the signalized at-grade crossing at Midland Ave.

Section 6

- 100% detailed design package complete;
- Draft Issue for Tender package developed and complete;
- Public and private utility locates undertaken in support of future construction activities;
- Preparation and completion of Arborist Report
- Ministry of Transportation approval given for Phase 1 trail alignment at Morningside Avenue;
- Stage 2 Archaeology Assessment proposal to HONI approved, completion of Stage 2 scheduled for Spring 2022; and,
- Approvals to proceed with construction received by Hydro One Network Inc. (HONI) and Infrastructure Ontario (IO).

Section 7 (undertaken with financial support from Parks Canada)

- Design works complete for trail improvements along Zoo Road, as well as an enhanced trail connection between the hydro corridor and Meadowvale via Old Kirkhams Road;
- 100% detailed design packages completed for all three sites;
- Stage 2 Archaeology Assessment proposal to HONI approved;
- Preparation and completion of Arborist Report; and,
- Conceptual designs prepared, reviewed, and approved by Parks Canada and City of Toronto.

The Meadoway Entry Park – Collaboration with Garden Club of Toronto

In April of 2019, TRCA was approached by members of The Garden Club of Toronto (the Club) regarding an opportunity to develop a naturalized garden park within The Meadoway. Meetings were held throughout 2019 to provide an overview of The Meadoway project to the Club, which included a detailed review of opportunities as constraints within hydro corridors. In January of 2020, TRCA staff presented The Meadoway at the Clubs Annual General Meeting and the proposal to move forward with the design of a naturalized garden park was approved unanimously.

Since that time, TRCA has worked closely with the Club in the planning and design of The Meadoway Entry Park proposed west of Pharmacy Avenue. Key activities in 2021 included:

- Four Advisory Group meetings held in 2021, comprised of TRCA, City of Toronto, and Hydro One staff, during which technical feedback and overall direction was provided to guide the preliminary conceptual design;

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- Over ten dedicated meetings with Garden Club members and consultant teams, providing formal review, design and technical assistance, and overall coordination support;
- Formal review and feedback provided by TRCA on conceptual and 30% designs;
- Meeting held with Garden Club on potential long-term TRCA led community engagement, education, and stewardship models;
- Assisted in the running of the first virtual public consultation on the park; and
- Participated on two calls with the Deputy Mayors Office.

TRCA will continue to work with the Club and the City of Toronto to advance this work in 2022.

Education and Community Learning

The Meadoway Schools Program and Community Outreach focuses on engaging local residents in stewardship of The Meadoway through learning about greenspace and conducting invasive plant species and garbage removal on the site. As the restoration work expands within The Meadoway, so does the outreach. Previously focusing on schools near sections of The Meadoway between McCowan Road and Scarborough Golf Club Road, TRCA is expanding outreach to schools in newly restored sections outside of those initial boundaries, while also maintaining relationships with schools and groups worked with in the past.

Funding was secured in 2021 from the Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk (Environment and Climate Change Canada) to support a variety of education and community learning activities in The Meadoway. The total grant was \$75,000; \$18,000 of which went to The Meadoway's Restoration team, and \$57,000 was utilized by the Education team. The grant addressed threats to the Monarch butterfly through adaptive management of invasive species in The Meadoway and community outreach using workshops to create awareness.

In 2021, over 2,000 community members were engaged through programs and events in The Meadoway. This included eleven in-person school field trips and three virtual field trips. In collaboration with Scarborough Museum and Toronto Ravine Days, six community events were hosted at Thompson Memorial Park.

In collaboration with the Special Education department of West Hill Collegiate Institute, a Toronto District School Board high school near The Meadoway, a custom environmental program is being developed focusing on The Meadoway. A successful funding application for \$6,000 has been received by the school to support this initiative, including involvement of TRCA's education team. Program delivery with Special Education classes is scheduled in spring 2022. The multi-phase program involves students growing native plants from seed, a school-yard planting event once the plants mature, and a visit to The Meadoway for an interactive field trip to transplant the remaining native plants and learn about urban biodiversity.

The Meadoway Schools Program was also recently successful in securing \$11,977 from TD Friends of the Environment to support 2022 in-class efforts across the corridor.

Communications

Social Media and Digital Content

The Meadoway has three active social media channels including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. In 2021, social media presence was pulled back to reflect implementation priorities however key project updates continue to be featured.

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Social media content generally includes educational information on native species found in The Meadowway, project updates and milestones, restoration techniques, and sharing resources and messaging of environmental significant days (e.g., Earth hour, Pollinator week, etc.). The Meadowway social media channels also engage in tagging other like-minded organizations to boost the reach of The Meadowway brand.

Meadowway in the News

The Meadowway has been featured in several digital publications in 2021 and 2022. The following are some key articles and announcements:

- A Toronto.com article titled “Where do we go from here? #RealScarborough’s future is in your hands.” This article encouraged social media users to use the hashtag #RealScaarborough and share what Scarborough is to them in order to change the narrative of the city and shine positive light on it. In their article, The Meadowy was mentioned as a ‘beauty’ of the city.
- A blogTO article titled “This is how Toronto’s massive 16 km linear park will look when it’s finished.” It provided an update on the project status and progression including the commencement of construction at Highland Creek and restoration advancements.
- A NOW Magazine article titled “Pandemic Walk: Scarborough hydro Corridor.” It was written from a trail user perspective walking the Scarborough Centre Butterfly Trail.
- A NOW Magazine article titled “Top 20 walks in Toronto”. The Meadoway was mentioned as one of the top 20 walks in Toronto.
- A City of Toronto announcement declaring their first Active TO weekend planned and mentioned The Meadoway as a potential route for users.
- A City of Toronto announcement stating their financial investment into the Toronto Ravine Strategy where The Meadoway would be a key partnership advancing in the Planning and Activation of 2021.
- A Toronto Star article about the lack of an adequate cycling network in Scarborough. The article highlights The Meadoway as “one bright spot” for cycle infrastructure.
- A Park People article about The Meadoway, in support of Park People’s 10-year anniversary, to be published in December 2021.
- A Streets of Toronto article about linear parks in Toronto and highlights The Meadoway.
- An Urbanized article showcasing The Meadoway’s renderings.

Presentations

The Meadowway team often receives requests from stakeholders to present on work being undertaken. To date, the following presentations were made in 2021 and 2022, to date:

- Evergreen City Builders Program, January 2021
- Ontario Invasive Plant Council Conference – The Meadoway, Invasive Species Management January 2021
- Columbia Business School – Highland Network, February 2021
- Forest Ontario Conference – Forest and Grassland Restoration, February 2021
- Ryerson University – Planning and Design Graduate Course, March 2021
- Forest Ontario Webinar-Invasive Species in Meadow Restoration, March 2021
- University of Ottawa – Community based environmental stewardship projects, June 2021
- Ryerson University – Ecological Design Lab, June 2021
- York Region – York South Greenway Knowledge Transfer, July 2021
- Parks People 10 Year Anniversary – Meadoway Showcase, September 2021

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- North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC) Pollinator Electric Power Award accepted at their annual conference and subsequent invite to present in their Power-in-Pollinators Initiative group meeting, October 2021
- Ryerson University – Undergraduate Planning Course on The City's Physical Urban Form, November 2021
- Scarborough Community Renewal Organization, November 2021
- University of Toronto – Managing Urban Natures Course, February 2022
- Councillor Paul Ainslie, Scarborough-Guildwood Town Hall, March 2022
- Councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong project update, March 2022

Newsletter

For 2021 six newsletters were released via a subscriber list, and four newsletters are planned for 2022 release. Newsletter content varies from month-to-month but generally incorporates project updates including restoration and construction updates, project milestones, TRCA/The Meadoway educational resources, wildlife information, and a fun fact at the end to keep subscribers engaged.

All past newsletters are available on the project website, where users can sign-up and subscribe.

Website

In 2022, The Meadoway website will undergo several updates to ensure relevant material is posted. This includes:

- Regular construction updates of Section 5 Highland Creek;
- List of awards and published articles to date;
- Uploading monitoring reports and restoration manual; and,
- Updating education resources, project photos, and ensuring quality assurance/control of the website.

The project website had some added features since January 2021 including Facebook Live E-Learning Videos. In 2020, 17 Facebook Live E-Learning videos were virtually held for the At Home with Nature Campaign for general audiences interested in all things Meadoway. In 2021, several of these videos were added to The Meadoway website with closed captions, to reach a larger audience.

In 2020, an Environics analysis was conducted for The Meadoway project study area. Through this analysis it was determined that the most visible minorities along The Meadoway footprint were Filipino and Chinese communities. To have project information more accessible to local communities the 'Project History' and 'Visualization Toolkit' webpages were translated to Tagalog and Simplified Chinese in March 2021.

Visualization Toolkit

The Visualization Toolkit continues to be the most popular resource and webpage on The Meadoway's website with the highest number of pageviews. The renderings have not only been pushed on The Meadoway's digital platforms and reports but have been features in public articles.

The Toolkit also continues to be recognized for its vision and design elements. In April 2021, The Meadoway received the "Design Award" in the "Merit" category by AIA Canada Society which is the Canadian Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. In September 2021, The Meadoway received the Toronto Urban Design Award under the category of "Visions and Master Plans" for

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redefining our understanding of public and recreational open space by transforming 16 kilometres of underutilized hydro corridor and creating new amenities and trails, in spaces once considered off limits.

The award details can be found on the following websites:

- 2021 Design Award: <https://aiacanadasociety.org/design-awards/>
- 2021 Visions and Master Plans Award: <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/awards-tributes/awards/toronto-urban-design-awards/>

High Line Network

In April of 2020, The Meadoway was accepted into the prestigious High Line Network. It has been very beneficial to be a part of a Network with like-minded projects and individuals sharing information. Bi-weekly calls are scheduled with the Network which feature guest speakers on a variety of topics. TRCA presented their meadow restoration program to the Network as part of the June 10th, 2021, meeting. The team was also part of a practitioner's cohort in July 2021 focused on environmental restoration.

Meadow Restoration Manual

The Meadoway is considered a 'blueprint for revitalization' of utility corridors. TRCA receives many requests for information on meadow restoration techniques for a variety implementers and academics. Staff have established themselves as experts in this field, with the knowledge gained on The Meadoway. To share this knowledge more broadly, the restoration team compiled a comprehensive Meadow Restoration Manual which was written as a 'how to guide' from lessons learned in The Meadoway. The first draft has been professionally edited and is currently being laid out graphically with an anticipated completion of mid-2022.

Meadow Revitalization

Amazing progress continued with meadow restoration and adaptive management across the corridor in 2021. Due to license agreement delays, restoration was postponed for Section 5 of The Meadoway and the team focused attention on adaptive management and monitoring. From invasive species management to buffer mowing, and site preparation and maintenance, The Meadoway continues to transform into productive meadow habitat with the support and dedication from field staff. TRCA monitoring teams were also very busy in the corridor this year completing multiple bird and butterfly transects and flora plots.

Restoration work was acknowledged by the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC) at their annual international conference (October 2021) focused on collaborative conservation. NAPPC's mission is to promote the health of pollinators in Canada, the U.S., and Mexico. In 2021, TRCA was awarded the Pollinator Electric Power Award. This initiative recognizes electric power projects who are leading the field in pollinator-friendly initiatives.

The following is a summary of 2021 work undertaken by section:

Section 1 – 18 ha (12.5 ha of established meadow)

- Collection and disposal of debris and garbage from the meadow areas
- Maintenance mow and infill seeding
- Multiple buffer mows and trimming around meadow/fence line
- Continuous invasive species management
- Native species overseeding/enhancement

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Section 2 – 29 ha (20.6 ha of established meadow)

- Collection and disposal of debris and garbage from the meadow areas
- Seeding of nurse crop including species and density trials
- Multiple buffer mows and trimming around meadow/fence line
- Continuous invasive species management
- Native species overseeding/enhancement
- Milkweed seeding as deterrent for Dog Strangling Vine encroachment study
- Terrestrial monitoring bird and butterfly transects
- Maintenance mows to reduce non-native species
- University of Toronto research on bees
- University of Toronto research on hydrologic response to restore native meadows
- City of Toronto shrub node plantings

Section 4 – 41 ha (25.3 ha of established meadow)

- Collection and disposal of debris and garbage from the meadow areas
- Spring/fall maintenance mow on specific areas and infill seeding
- Biomass removal study (different mowing/soil disturbance techniques to reduce thatch buildup)
- Adaptive management for invasive species
- Native species overseeding/enhancement
- Terrestrial monitoring of flora plots, bird and butterfly transects
- University of Toronto research on bees: discussion and planning
- University of Toronto research on hydrologic response to restore native meadows
- City of Toronto shrub node invasive species management

Section 7 – 19 ha (9.1 ha of established meadow)

- Collection and disposal of debris and garbage from the meadow areas
- Adaptive management for invasive species
- Maintenance mows and infill seeding
- Native species overseeding in past invasive species locations
- Terrestrial monitoring planning of flora plots, bird and butterfly transects
- University of Toronto research on bees
- University of Toronto research on hydrologic response to restore native meadows

Monitoring and Research

The 2021 monitoring report was completed for the fifth year. Meadow birds were monitored throughout the spring, summer, and fall season. There were 12 monitoring stations in total through the 16km stretch of The Meadoway. Counts were conducted between 05:00 and 10:00 hours and at approximately the same time of day on subsequent visits from year to year. Counts were only conducted in good weather conditions (no rain, light winds). All birds seen or heard within a 100 m radius circle and during a 10-minute time period were recorded. Early maintenance mowing in The Meadoway (i.e., before the return of migrant songbirds) has resulted in excellent nesting habitat for Savannah Sparrows, a ground-nesting bird that makes the most of such shorter turf opportunities early in the season. All bird monitoring data was included in the year-end report to compare previous year bird results.

TRCA's terrestrial monitoring team completed 29, 20m x 20m monitoring plots, 42, 1mx1m monitoring plots throughout the spring, summer, and fall monitoring times. All terrestrial monitoring data was included in the 2021 year-end report to compare previous year bird results.

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21 Butterfly transects were completed throughout spring, summer and fall 2021. All terrestrial monitoring data was included in the 2021 year-end report to compare previous year bird results.

Academic research continues to be undertaken in the corridor. In 2021 TRCA worked closely with two projects undertaken through the University of Toronto:

- Dr. Jennifer Drake and Ke Qin - The Meadoway Performance Assessment Project: A Systematic Review of Evaluation Methods for Ecosystem Services Provided by Urban Greenspace
- Dr. Scott McIvor and Sisley Irwin - Effects of plant mix, restoration year, and management regime of urban meadows on plant-pollinator network size, structure, and diversity.

New research topics will continue to be explored in 2022 working with academic groups to continue to expand knowledge and best management practices for meadow restoration.

Relationship to Building the Living City, the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan

This report supports the following strategies set forth in the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan:

Strategy 3 – Rethink greenspace to maximize its value

Strategy 4 – Create complete communities that integrate nature and the built environment

Strategy 8 – Gather and share the best sustainability knowledge

FINANCIAL DETAILS

Based on deliverable refinements, a revised budget of \$38.175M for 2018 – 2025 has been estimated for the overall project. \$10M was secured from the Weston Family Foundation for Phase 1, with an additional \$15M pledged which was contingent on TRCA raising matching funding making the gap in funding currently \$13.175M.

\$3.8M for the Highland Creek Trail connection was allocated as part of the original \$10M grant from the Weston Family Foundation. In addition to this, \$1.348M in bridge funding for 2021 to continue to advance meadow restoration and overall project management/coordination. This brings the total approved grant from the Weston Family Foundation for The Meadoway project to 11.348M.

TRCA and the City of Toronto have been successful in securing additional leverage funds for the project. To date \$2.744M has been leveraged from the following sources:

- \$800K – City of Toronto – confirmed reallocation from the Menno-Reesor Restoration Project to contribute to The Meadoway Highland Creek Trail implementation in 2021;
- \$50K – City of Toronto Ravine Invasive Species Funds in support of adaptive management of the meadow;
- \$50K – City of Toronto Shrub Node maintenance funding;
- \$175K – City of Toronto through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) – confirmed Wayfinding for existing completed trail in 2021;
- \$150K - TRCA through Rouge National Urban Park - confirmed for trail upgrades and contribution to meadow restoration in the area abutting the Park for 2021/2022;
- \$40K – TRCA through Grassland Stewardship Initiative grant to support meadow restoration;
- \$1.348M – TRCA through the Conservation Ontario Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund Initiative (Federal) to support meadow restoration in 2022 – 2024;

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- \$22K – TRCA through the 2021 Canada Summer Jobs supporting meadow restoration field staff;
- \$24K – TRCA through the Project Learning Tree in support of meadow restoration;
- \$75K – TRCA through the Habitat Stewardship Program (Federal) supporting meadow restoration, stewardship and education; and
- 10K – Toronto and Region Conservation Foundation through the Alan and Patricia Koval Foundation.

In addition to the above confirmed funding, the City of Toronto has recognized The Meadoway as a priority for the Natural Infrastructure Fund (Federal) and TRCA has made a recent submission to the Active Transportation Fund (Federal). Both these funds could help support the advancement of the multi-use trail connection in two other areas of the corridor where gaps remain.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

The following summary outlines the remaining work to be undertaken in 2022, organized by key objective areas.

Active Transportation and Connections

- Complete construction of Section 5 Phase 1 and Phase 2, thereby finishing all of Section 5 works;
- Continue to collaborate with the Garden Club of Toronto for the planning and design of the Entry Park;
- Begin implementation of multi-use trail for Section 3 and 6 (Phase 1) (pending securement of Natural Infrastructure Fund allocations);
- Continue to seek additional funding for implementation of the trail through programs like the Federal Active Transportation Fund;
- Undertake Stage 2 archaeological assessments for Section 3 and 6;
- Placing centre lines along the paved multi-use trail and Meadoway logos at trail head locations in Sections 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7 pending Active Transportation Fund;
- Installing park furniture at rest areas, trail heads, and gateways in Sections 3, 5, and 6 pending Active Transportation Fund;
- Undertake wayfinding signage throughout The Meadoway; and,
- Section 7 road improvements including zebra and sharrow line painting at Zoo Road.

Education and Community Learning

- Continue to seek grant opportunities to undertake Meadoway specific program delivery.

Communications

- Continue to speak at conferences, webinars, guided walks, etc. furthering information sharing on The Meadoway;
- Complete graphic layout of the Meadow Restoration Manual and explore publication opportunities;
- Reinvigorate discussions with academic institutes to hold a Meadoway research forum (explored with University of Toronto Scarborough Campus prior to COVID-19); and
- Update the website to include a section highlighting awards achieved to date.

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Meadow Revitalization

- Begin site prep in spring/summer 2022 for Section 5;
- If licence agreement for Section 3 is complete by April/May 2022, begin site prep;
- Continue adaptive management including invasive species efforts in Sections 1, 2, 4 and 7;
- Monitoring to continue across the 16 km; and,
- Research best management practices for meadow restoration in areas of:
 - Water management
 - Climate change
 - Biodiversity
 - Herbicide alternatives/invasives management.

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Attachments: 1

Attachment 1: The Meadoway Multi-use Trail Boundary Map

