

## Item 7.1

### Items for the Action of the Regional Watershed Alliance

**TO:** Chair and Members of the Regional Watershed Alliance  
Meeting #1/20, Wednesday, March 04, 2020

**FROM:** Victoria Kramkowski, Government and Community Relations Specialist, Peel-York Watersheds, Government and Community Relations

**RE: BRAMPTON RIVERWALK URBAN DESIGN MASTER PLAN PROJECT: TRCA INTERESTS AND INVOLVEMENT**

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#### KEY ISSUE

To provide the Regional Watershed Alliance (RWA) with an update on the Brampton Riverwalk Urban Design Master Plan Project, so as to increase RWA understanding of the role and interests that Toronto and Region Conservation Authority has in this project and staff intent to continue to engage RWA membership over the course of this project.

#### RECOMMENDATION

**THAT the Regional Watershed Alliance receive this report outlining Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's interests and roles in the Brampton Riverwalk Urban Design Master Plan Project, in conjunction with the City of Brampton staff report (Item 7.2);**

**AND FURTHER THAT Toronto and Region Conservation Authority staff be directed to continue to engage the Regional Watershed Alliance at major milestones throughout the duration and implementation of the project to share information and solicit input, as needed.**

#### BACKGROUND

The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and the City of Brampton have an extensive history of partnering on mutually beneficial and relevant projects and initiatives. One notable such project includes the Brampton Riverwalk Urban Design Master Plan Project (UDMP), which is a part of broader work being undertaken to protect Brampton's Downtown from flooding, amend the current Special Policy Area (SPA) designation in place which restricts development and land use changes based on new information, and, notably, revitalize Downtown Brampton by driving a more resilient, dynamic and greener urban core that embraces Etobicoke Creek at its center.

A key precursor to the UDMP and Riverwalk implementation is the completion of the Downtown Brampton Flood Protection Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA), which is being led by TRCA in partnership with the City of Brampton. The purpose of the EA is to identify a preferred alternative for providing flood protection for Brampton's Downtown core, while considering urban design and land use opportunities for the City. This includes identifying the best option to remove, in whole or in part, the SPA in place in Downtown Brampton which currently limits development and land uses in the area. The Draft Environmental Study Report associated with the EA was open for public review from January 30, 2020 to February 28, 2020.

The UDMP is intended to build upon the EA by integrating the planned flood protection work and infrastructure with a broader vision for Brampton's Downtown that makes the area more healthy, sustainable, resilient and vibrant. A vital piece of the UDMP involves turning the

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community's focus to Etobicoke Creek and making this watercourse a key feature of Brampton's Downtown.

### **RATIONALE**

A more comprehensive overview of the purpose and process for the Brampton Riverwalk Urban Design Master Plan Project is provided in Item 7.2, provided by City of Brampton staff, Alex Taranu, in this agenda. While the UDMP is being led by the City, TRCA is, and will be, involved in this project in various capacities and welcomes the opportunity to participate in the development and implementation of Riverwalk, including involving the Regional Watershed Alliance as a multi-stakeholder body that can provide input to the process. Various components of the UDMP in which TRCA may be involved, provide input on and/or partner on include:

- Flood infrastructure detailed design, construction, operation and maintenance
- Engaging and/or innovative programming for the site;
- Land use planning
- Urban and landscape design and construction;
- Restoration and planting initiatives, including community-based planting events;
- Low impact development and green technologies;
- Neighbourhood and business sustainability initiatives and programs;
- Greenspace management;
- Aquatic and terrestrial habitat inventory and monitoring work; and,
- Grants and funding efforts involving senior levels of government

As the design and implementation processes surrounding the Riverwalk UDMP progress, TRCA will continue to look for ways in which it can support the City of Brampton in this municipally and regionally significant initiative.

### **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 7 – Build partnerships and new business models**

**Strategy 9 – Measure performance**

### **FINANCIAL DETAILS**

Currently, TRCA staff is providing input and support to the UDMP through their existing roles.

### **DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE**

Please see Item 7.2 in this agenda for the Riverwalk UDMP process. TRCA staff will be involved in this process in various capacities, based on their roles and expertise.

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