



**East Don Trail
Environmental Assessment**

**Public Meeting #2
September 12, 2013**

Public Consultation Report

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1 Introduction

On September 12, 2013 the City of Toronto (the City) and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) hosted Public Meeting #2 to gather feedback on the draft evaluation criteria, alternatives trail alignments, and preliminary evaluation of the alternative trail alignments. Residents and interested individuals were invited to view display panels and talk with members of the Project Team. In addition, two presentations were made during the meeting to provide an overview of the trail route options; each was followed by a Question and Answer period. Participants were also encouraged to fill out comment forms.

Overall, the event was well attended (70 participants signed in) and solicited a range of feedback about the project.

Following the event, the display panels were made available on the project web page: www.toronto.ca/involved/projects/eastdontrail

2 Communications Received

Feedback and communications were collected and documented for this summary report during the public meeting and the two (2) week period following the event (ending on September 27, 2013). The summary below includes information received from the following sources:

- Conversation topics between City, TRCA and consultant staff and Open House participants
- Question and answer sessions
- Comment forms received
- Email and phone correspondence

All submissions have been acknowledged and documented.

All communications received from the public during the EA process are made part of the public record and shared with the project team on an ongoing basis.

3 Key Comments and Ideas Expressed

Below is a summary of comments received by stakeholders through various communications leading up to, during and after the September 12th public meeting. Points have been amalgamated, summarized, and organized by topic.

Overall

Feedback was generally positive at the public meeting, on comment sheets and through correspondence following the event. While the majority of public responses support the alternative trail alignments being considered and the evaluation criteria, there is also some opposition and concern regarding potential impacts on the natural environment and private property. The information below is a summary of the feedback received and is presented by theme, not ranking.

Evaluation Criteria

1. Overwhelming agreement with the evaluation criteria being used to assess the alternative trail alignments for the East Don Trail Study.
2. Additional criteria suggested include:
 - a. public safety objectives related to crime prevention
 - b. higher weighting for Flemingdon Park Golf Club and the social impacts of potential cessation of golf course for the trail
 - c. show the numerical values and weighting given for each criteria

Preliminary Evaluation of Trail Alignments

The study area for the East Don Trail Class EA has been divided into three (3) geographic Areas (Areas 1, 2 and 3). These Areas were presented on the comment forms to better demonstrate the different trail options being considered in the East Don valley lands. Area 1 (north section) runs between Lawrence Ave. and Eglinton Ave., Area 2 (centre section) runs between Eglinton Ave. and Pavane Linkway/Northline Rd., and Area 3 (south section) runs between Pavane Linkway/Northline Rd. and the Lower Don and Taylor Massey Creek trails.

3. Majority of respondents agreed with the evaluation as presented for each of the three (3) areas.
4. Comments for Area 1, included:
 - a. Consider impact of routes on valley system including paving options
 - b. Concern about impacts of Forest Trail A on the natural environment
 - c. Request to stay on the east bank of the river
5. Comments for Area 2, included:
 - d. Expropriation of the golf course is a concern (River Walk Alignments)
 - e. Integrate the golf course and trail uses
 - f. Expansion of park land for families is a benefit

- g. Fencing for rail trail alignments is a potential issue for wildlife
 - h. Social cost of riverwalk is high
 - i. Stay within the valley and do not consider road alignments
 - j. River Walk Alignment is most appealing
6. Comments for Area 3, included:
- k. Access Route C (connects to Lower Don and Taylor Massey Creek) is a lot of extra travel

Access/Connections

- 7. Support for community connections to trail
- 8. Public access to the trails should include appropriate infrastructure (e.g. bike and car parking, lighting, garbage receptacles, etc.)

Accessibility

- 9. Accessibility for all users should be expressed more clearly

Community & Recreation

- 10. Many agree that increased recreational opportunity for users of the proposed trail is a benefit
- 11. Support for increased usage and enjoyment of the area
- 12. Proposed trail will fill a gap in the existing multi-use trail network
- 13. Ongoing concerns about how different users of the trail will respect each other (i.e. trail etiquette)
- 14. Provide parking lots for users
- 15. Concern for the impact on current users of the valley (walkers and hikers) as a result of the a multi-use trail in forested areas

Environmental Impacts/Aesthetics

- 16. Concern about impacts to the natural area including:
 - a. Impacts of the trail on wildlife (primarily deer)
 - b. Loss of natural feeling in the valley
 - c. Replacement of existing natural trails with a multi-use trail in the Anewen Park Area
- 17. Preserve the forest in Area 1 and do not put a paved trail here

Flemingdon Golf Course

- 18. Both support and opposition to the Alternative Trail Alignments in Area 2 (River Walk) which would require acquisition of the golf course
- 19. Consider shared use with the golf course for a trail alignment through this area
- 20. Concern about the social cost of ceasing operation of the golf course

21. Golf course acquisition and conversion to parklands is seen as benefit for families and larger number of people overall

Safety

22. Concerns regarding the existing parking lot along Access route A (connecting with the Lower Don Trails) due to the interaction between various users including cars, pedestrians, cyclists, etc.

Trail Design

23. Consider alternative trail surfaces like permeable pavement
24. Consider green infrastructure (i.e. storm water management, less heat stress)
25. Concern about how the trail will be designed and maintained to deal with the following issues:
 - d. storm water management
 - e. flooding and washout of bridges
26. Switchback bridges are difficult for cyclists
27. Keep bikes away from existing walking trails
28. Accessibility is an important consideration in the trail design and is under represented in the display materials

Other Trail Alignments

29. A majority of respondents felt there were no alignment options missing
30. Realign holes and run trail inside golf course in Area 2
31. Consider the east side of rail line in Area 2

Maintenance

32. Concern about dogs and increased garbage on future trail

4 Key Questions Raised

Key questions raised after each of the two presentations at the public meeting, included:

- Why are there no trail options along the east side of the railway tracks in Area 2 to avoid the Flemington Park Golf Course or to show shared use with the golf course?
- What are the impacts on existing wildlife from the trail and any potential fencing required?
- How will the trail cross the railway tracks and what will this crossing look like (e.g., signaling, bridges)?
- How much does this project cost and where is the funding coming from?
- What is the timeline for this project?
- If the City chooses to build a trail through the golf course, they will have to expropriate private property. Are other properties identified for expropriation?

For a complete account of this session, please see the attached Appendix.

5 Going Forward – How Key Comments will be addressed

This list above provides a summary of what was heard during the open house and in comment sheets submitted during the comment period. These key comments will be addressed through a variety of means including: Frequently Asked Questions that will be posted on the project website and provided at upcoming public meetings, and ongoing correspondence with City and TRCA staff.

To stay informed about the East Don Trail Project, please visit the project website at:

www.toronto.ca/involved/projects/eastdontrail

6 Appendix – Meeting Minutes for PIC #2