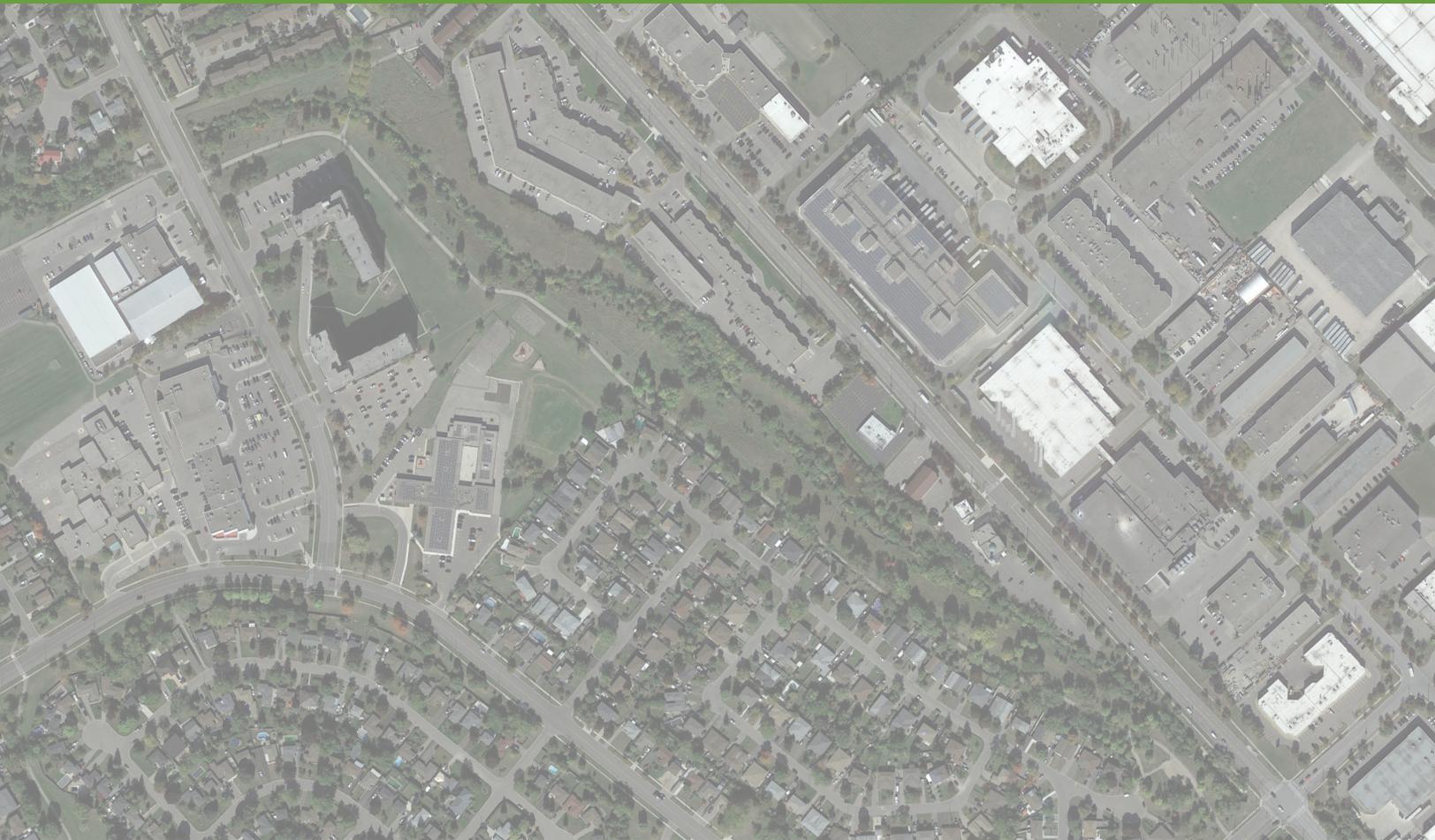


Eastbourne Park Eco Space



Eco Space Concept Plan Community Engagement Summary Report

Prepared by The Planning Partnership and Recreate Place
On Behalf of the TRCA and City of Brampton

October 27, 2023

**Sustainable Neighbourhood
Action Program**



Table Of Contents

Project Overview:

- Bramalea SNAP Background.....5
- Eastbourne Park Eco Space Project Background.....7
- Original Concept Plan.....9

Engagement Process:

- Previous Engagement.....14
- Engagement Process Overview.....14
- How We Engaged Community.....15
- How We Reduced Barriers To Participation.....18
- How We Got The Word Out.....19
- What We Heard.....20

Revised Concept Plan and Next Steps:

- Revised Eco Space Concept Plan.....27
- Precedent Images.....29
- Rendered Views.....32
- Additional Recommendations.....34

Conclusion

- Summary.....36
- Next Steps.....36

Image References

- Notes.....38

Appendix

- Appendix 1: School Engagement – In-Class Activities and Results
- Appendix 2: School Engagement – Student Survey Results
- Appendix 3: School Engagement – Teacher Survey Results
- Appendix 4: Community engagement – Community Survey Results
- Appendix 5: Community Engagement – Pop-up Event Materials and Results
- Appendix 6: Community Co-design Meeting – Materials and Results

Project Overview

- Bramalea SNAP Background
- Eastbourne Park Eco Space Project Background
- Original Concept Plan

Bramalea SNAP Background

Through the Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program (SNAP), Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) in partnership with the City of Brampton, Region of Peel, local stakeholders, community leaders, and residents, co-developed an Action Plan for the Bramalea neighbourhood sections K, E & F (see Figure 2). The Action Plan identifies recommendations for environmental improvement and resiliency of this neighbourhood. It integrates technical sustainability objectives with the community's priorities under the overarching theme of working together for a green, healthy, and welcoming Bramalea SNAP neighbourhood.

One of the six project areas of the Action Plan is "System of Eco Spaces and Green Infrastructure" which recommends creating a healthy green infrastructure system through transforming local parks and natural spaces into Eco Spaces and extending greening initiatives onto residential, commercial and institutional properties as well as roads.

This supports the City of Brampton's Eco Park Strategy which envisions conserving and enhancing natural systems and creating a network of connected greenspaces spanning across the City of Brampton's urban landscape. The Eco Park Strategy implements an action plan and a set of seven principles that defines and guides the formation of Eco Spaces, including the City's natural heritage system, parks, green spaces and green infrastructure streetscapes. Brampton Eco Park strives to develop green and sustainable spaces within Brampton that encourages and strengthens the coexistence of people and the environment.

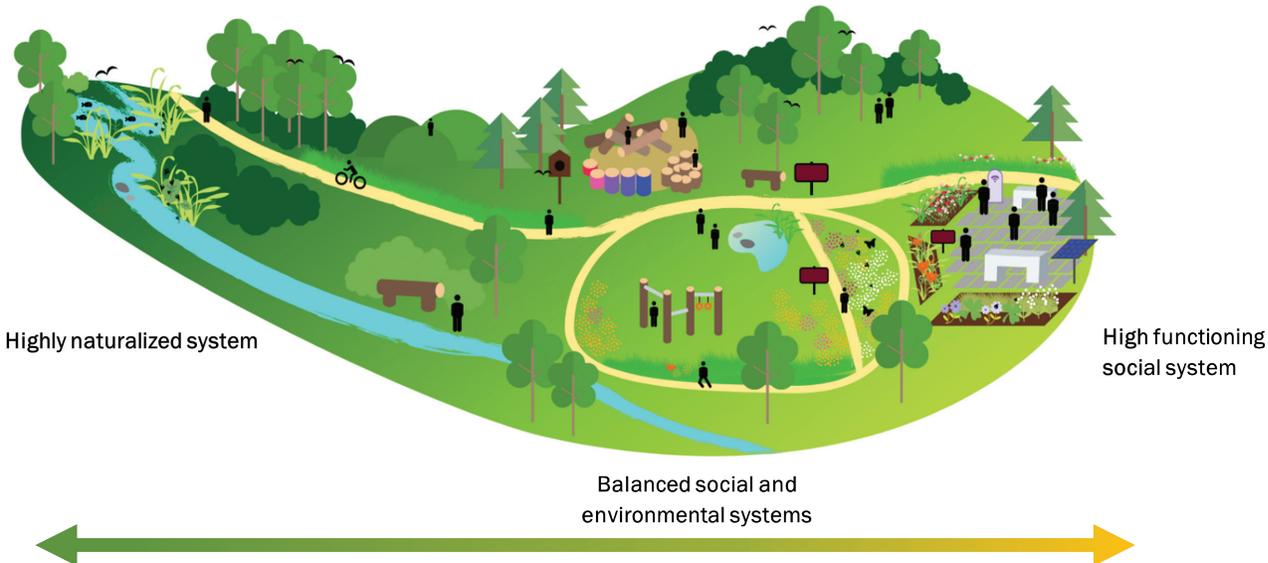
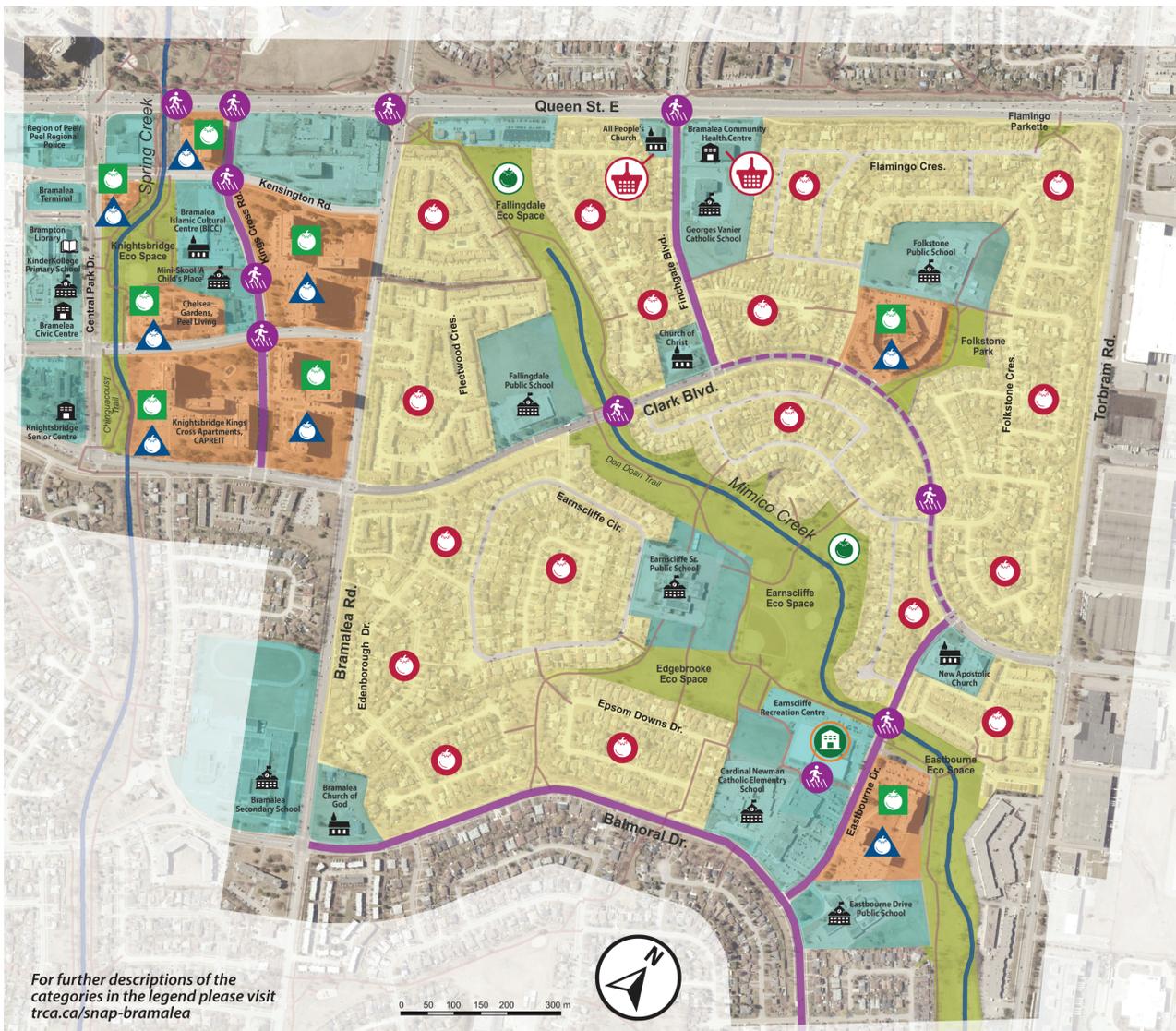


Figure 1: Ecopark Strategy Goals¹

LEGEND*

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> System of Eoparks & Green Infrastructure Home/Property Resilience & Efficiency Tower Resilience & Efficiency Institutional, Commercial Collaboration & Greening Deep Energy Retrofit | <p>Safe & Active Transportation Network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Multi-purpose Road Diet New Multi-Purpose Trail New/Enhanced Pedestrian Crossing/Connectivity | <p>Healthy Local Food System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Food Distribution Hub Balcony Garden Backyard Garden Community Garden on Private Land Community Garden on Public Land | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Course Existing Trail Library Places of Worship School Community Centre |
|--|--|---|---|



In collaboration with The City of Brampton, Region of Peel and the Healthy Communities Initiative (HCI)

* Exact locations may vary and are subject to further analysis and refinement during the implementation process.

Figure 2: Bramalea SNAP Action Plan Concept Map²

Eastbourne Park Eco Space Project Background

In 2022, the City of Brampton, in close collaboration with the TRCA, the Region of Peel and the local community, initiated the development of a concept plan for the revitalization of Eastbourne Park with the objective of creating a welcoming public space that supports a healthy natural environment, creates a sense of belonging and provides opportunities for meaningful interactions with people and nature. The concept plan builds on the efforts of the Bramalea SNAP and incorporates the principles of the City of Brampton Eco Park Strategy. The revitalization of Eastbourne Park will help to transform it into an Eco Space and build connections to the fabric of the city - both for the natural and built environments. It's truly an exciting project and one that will benefit future generations.

The Eastbourne Park Eco Space Project leverages the multiyear TRCA led channel re-naturalization project on Mimico Creek which is currently underway in Eastbourne Park. Re-naturalization of the channel involves the removal of the degraded concrete-lined channel to improve water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, stabilize the creek, mitigate local flood damage and reduce maintenance costs. As part of this work, the City of Brampton and TRCA are exploring opportunities to integrate additional Eco Park amenities to support community connections and stewardship for the park which will provide harmonious benefits for both residents and nature. This project builds on the success of a similar project at Jefferson, Jordan and Jayfield parks in Brampton.



Figure 3: Creek Channel Area Prior to Restoration - Eastbourne Park, Brampton³

In August 2022, the TRCA secured funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada's EcoAction Community Funding Program to undertake community co-design and implementation of a green infrastructure project at Eastbourne Park. This provided an opportunity to develop and facilitate a meaningful community and stakeholder engagement process towards finalization of the Concept Plan and design of the Tiny Forest, a proposed amenity at Eastbourne Park.

In February 2023, the TRCA engaged Recreate Place and The Planning Partnership to design and deliver an engagement strategy which involved working closely with children, youth, residents and the broader community to build on existing ideas for the Eco Park project at Eastbourne Park and to finalize the Eco Space concept plan for Eastbourne Park.

This report outlines the engagement process and the feedback that was received through the engagement activities, the revised concept plan as well as recommendations for implementation and maintenance.

What is a Tiny Forest?

A tiny forest is a small area densely planted with native tree and shrub species to encourage competition and faster growth. This provides habitat to birds, animals and insects. Like any planting, tiny forests require watering and weeding in the first few years, but after the initial establishment phase, this rapid growth allows the tiny forest to outcompete weeds.

Original Concept Plan

In 2022, the City of Brampton, in close collaboration with the TRCA, the Region of Peel and the local community, initiated the development of a concept plan for the revitalization of Eastbourne Park (Figure 7). The concept plan was divided into four different landscape typologies to balance the creation of new habitat and water infiltration areas with recreation space and maintenance constraints. The concept plan also incorporated several Eco Park amenities for community use. All the proposed park typologies and amenities are described below.

Mimico Creek Channel Restoration Area

The work for the channel restoration area is within the TRCA's scope and includes removal of the concrete lining the channel to allow the creek to meander through a natural floodplain and infiltrate water. The wider vegetated floodplain will be planted with native shrubs, trees and perennials and allowed to renaturalize. The sides of this new channel will be stabilized with planted rock buttresses, and features will be added to manage the speed and quantity of water, such as riffles and wetland overflow areas. This work is similar to the approach taken at Jordan, Jefferson and Jayfield parks in the City of Brampton (Figure 4).



Figure 4: Creek Channel Area After Restoration - Jefferson Park, Brampton⁴

Naturalized Areas

These are spaces with existing turf or vegetation cover that were identified on the north side of the creek to be added to the City of Brampton's existing [No Mow, Let it Grow](#) initiative. Spaces have been strategically identified where mowing could be eliminated. These spaces will be allowed to naturally transition from turf grass to naturalized shrub or meadow areas, supporting more pollinators and biologically diverse habitat areas, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing water infiltration. They will be separated from trails and adjacent property lines by mown strips of lawn to maintain sightlines (Figure 5).



Figure 5: Mown Strip of Lawn to Separate Naturalized and Recreational Areas⁵

Pollinator Habitat

These are areas for new pollinator plantings to be implemented in partnership with community groups with an interest in environmental stewardship and maintaining them. These spaces would feature native plantings that can act as host species, food species and habitat for pollinators, and were shown on the north side of the existing bridge, as well as around the proposed tiny forest and naturalized play node.



Figure 6: Pollinator Habitat - The Meadoway, Toronto⁶

Lawn

Areas of turf grass would be maintained on the south side of the creek for passive recreation.

Eco Park Amenities

The following proposed Eco Park amenities and enhancements were included on the original concept plan to be explored based on availability of future funding:

- New trees outside of the Channel Restoration area placed strategically to provide shade along the trail
- Log benches to provide resting spots along the trail
- A creek lookout to provide a viewing point of the creek and surrounding nature
- A play node for children with a nature inspired design and using natural materials
- A tiny forest to provide ecological benefits and education opportunities
- The revitalization of the existing playground

LEGEND

-  **Naturalized Area**
Marginal spaces that can be added to naturalization projects (i.e. No Mow Program)
-  **Mimico Creek Channel Restoration**
Mimico Creek channel restoration area, stipulated by TRCA and including removal of the concrete lining and re-naturalization of the creek and its banks.
-  **Pollinator Habitat**
Large areas for the creation of habitat, including host species, food sources, and other habitats (i.e. logs, rocks for water sources, etc.)
-  **Lawn**
Sodded areas for passive human recreation.
-  **New Tree Canopy**

Potential Eco Park Amenities

-  **Removal of Cement Pad**
-  **Log Benches**
-  **Creek Lookout**
-  **Tiny Forest/Outdoor Classroom**
This space is proposed for a tiny forest, with a centralized outdoor classroom where learning will be in and around nature.
-  **Play Node**
Proposed in a large clearing of trees, this could be an interactive "mini-park," a space where parents can sit around the perimeter, while children enjoy a natural themed play experience - To be implemented contingent on funding.
-  **Playground Revitalization**
The site for the playground update and revitalization.

Further amenities such as waste receptacles, artwork, interpretive signs, etc. will be explored based on availability of funding.

*For conceptual purposes only and based upon funding availability and construction



Scan to Learn More



Or visit
www.brampton.ca/ecopark

GRAB A POST-IT AND SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS AND COMMENTS!

Figure 7: Original Concept Plan⁷

Engagement Process

- Previous Engagement
- Engagement Process Overview
- How We Engaged Community
- How We Reduced Barriers To Participation
- How We Got The Word Out
- What We Heard

Previous Engagement

In fall 2022, the City of Brampton and TRCA co-led two (2) engagement events with the objective of informing the community about the Mimico Creek Channel Restoration work. These events were used as an opportunity to introduce the Eco Space Concept Plan to the community. An Open House event was held on October 26th, 2022 at Earnscliffe Recreation Centre and was attended by twelve (12) community members. Additionally, the team shared the Concept Plan with twelve (12) members of the Bramalea SNAP Community Co-Design Group, a multi-stakeholder group that supports planning and implementation of Bramalea SNAP initiatives.

Engagement Process Overview

In 2023, Recreate Place and The Planning Partnership (TPP) worked closely with the TRCA and the City of Brampton to develop and implement a community engagement plan to gather the community’s feedback on the concept plan. The engagement program included building relationships with the Eastbourne Drive Public School community, as the school yard backs onto Eastbourne Park, and has a direct connection to the restoration site.

This engagement process included leading workshops in the classrooms with students, conducting student and teacher surveys, as well as hosting a community pop-up event, an online public survey and two (2) stakeholder meetings. The goals of the events and activities were to provide community members with a variety of engagement opportunities to learn more and share their ideas and feedback on the project.



Figure 8: School Engagement - Spotting Hawks While Looking Over The Creek⁸

How We Engaged Community

A total of one hundred-eighteen (118) people were engaged in the events and programs between March to June, 2023.

The following list provides an overview of the engagement activities and participation:

Engagement With Students At Eastbourne Drive Public School

- Forty-two (42) students from grades 2 and 4.
- Program involved working closely with two classes to lead the following activities:
 - Guided nature explorations to connect students to the ravine park and artistic outdoor creations.
 - Stakeholder mapping to build empathy with other park users.
 - Surveys led by children with their peers and family members.
 - Looking at examples and precedent images of park features and voting on images that resonated with them (Dotmocracy).
 - Building mini Eco-Park models using natural materials and visually demonstrating and presenting what they want to see and do in their future park space.



Figure 9: School Engagement - Tiny Forest Models⁹



Figure 10: School Engagement - Sharing Ideas With The Landscape Architects From TPP¹⁰

Engagement With Teachers At Eastbourne Park Drive

- Nine (9) teachers.
- Teachers completed online surveys regarding student engagement with nature, and design considerations for the Eco Park and Tiny Forest features.
- Short interviews with classroom teachers and school administrators.

Community Pop-Up Event On April 29, 10am-1pm

- Thirty-one (31) participants.
- Although it rained for most of the morning, local community members braved the elements and came out for the event. Participants included local residents, families and staff from Eastbourne Drive Public School and other schools, Councillor Rod Power, members from the Community Co-Design team, and local “Friends of” group members.
- The program activations included:
 - Project information and community survey table
 - A display table showing the concept plan and precedent images for inspiration and prompts
 - Colouring station encouraging visitors to draw what they want to see in their park
 - Nature crafting station
 - Music circles led by artist Pete Moss with songs about nature



Figure 11: Community Pop Up - Nature Themed Music With Pete Moss¹¹

Online Survey

- Thirty-seven (37) respondents.
- Posted on the City of Brampton Eastbourne Park Channel Restoration and Eco Park Project website.
- Also available as paper copy if requested and at events.

One Online Stakeholder Meeting With The Community Co-Design Team

- Six (6) participants.
- The concept plan was presented to the Bramalea SNAP Community Co-design Group (CCG) and feedback was gathered on specific discussion questions. The CCG is a multi-stakeholder volunteer group that supports co-planning, co-design and co-implementation of projects recommended by the Bramalea SNAP. It is composed of local residents as well as representatives of local organizations.



Figure 12: Community Pop Up Event - Sharing and listening to community members¹²



Figure 13: Community Pop Up Event - Eco-Park Visions And Concept¹³

How We Reduced Barriers to Participation

The team took steps to enhance accessibility for participation in the consultation process. All surveys were made available by paper copy upon request. There were paper copies available at the pop-up activations.

We met students where they were by working closely with the teachers to work with students *during* class time, and not after school. We facilitated a variety of activities to be inclusive of students' interests and abilities. These included experiential, arts-based, low risk conversational approaches to gathering input, visual post session evaluations and debriefs, etc.



Figure 14: School Engagement - Eco-Park Visions and Concepts¹⁴

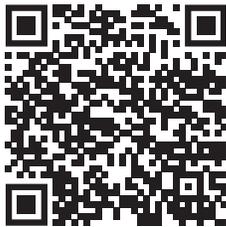
How We Got the Word Out

The survey and pop-up event were advertised on signage along the trail and in the surrounding community. Posters were shared at the school and the adjacent tower buildings. Flyers advertising the survey and the event were distributed to houses in the neighborhood. The event and survey were shared in the school newsletter which was sent to all families of students attending Eastbourne Drive Public School. The event and survey were shared on social media (Twitter, Facebook and Instagram) by both the City of Brampton and the TRCA, and shared to networks through email and e-newsletters.



Eastbourne Park Community Pop-up Event and Survey

Come out to learn more about the Eastbourne Park Eco Space project and enjoy family friendly activities. Also, share your ideas by completing a short survey.



Saturday, April 29, 2023
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. (drop-in)

Eastbourne Drive Public School
(school grounds)

To register and access survey see QR code above
or visit: [//bit.ly/3KvEHE3](https://bit.ly/3KvEHE3)

This project was undertaken with the financial support of
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de
 Environment and
Climate Change Canada Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

In collaboration with:

 **Region of Peel**
Working for you

 **BRAMPTON**

The project is part of the Bramalea Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program (SNAP) to create a green, healthy, and welcoming Bramalea.
For more information visit trca.ca/snap-bramalea.

Figure 15: Community Engagement - Promotional signage²

What We Heard

The comments collected by the survey and at in-person events showed overall support for the original Eco Space concept plan and proposed features. In particular, community members made positive comments about the planned work increasing residents' access to nature and supporting ecological restoration. The comments from the survey respondents generally reflected the park's character as a neighbourhood space primarily used by nearby residents for passive recreation such as walking (51%) and dog walking (26%). Most survey respondents and park pop-up participants indicated they lived in the neighbourhoods adjacent the park (E and D section).

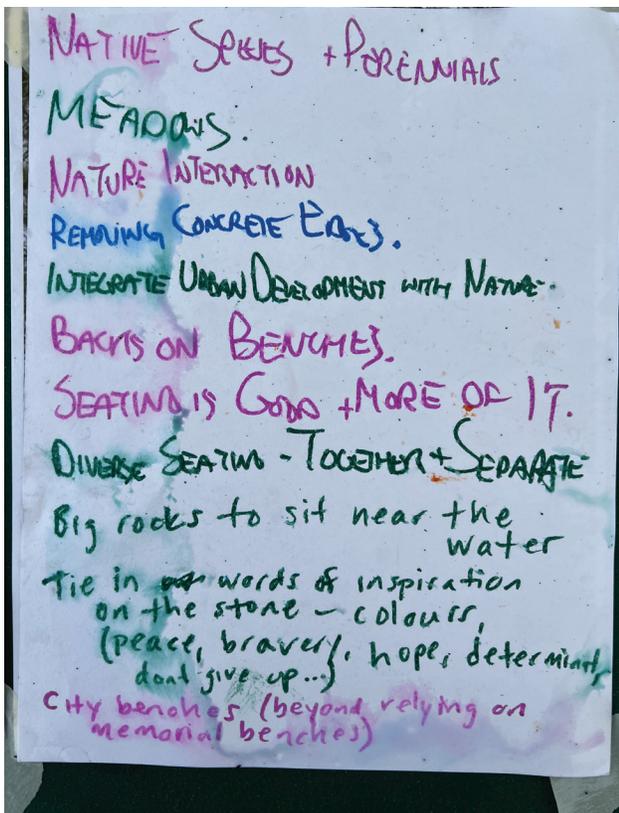


Figure 16: Community Pop Up Event - Recording Ideas From The Community (In The Rain!)¹⁶

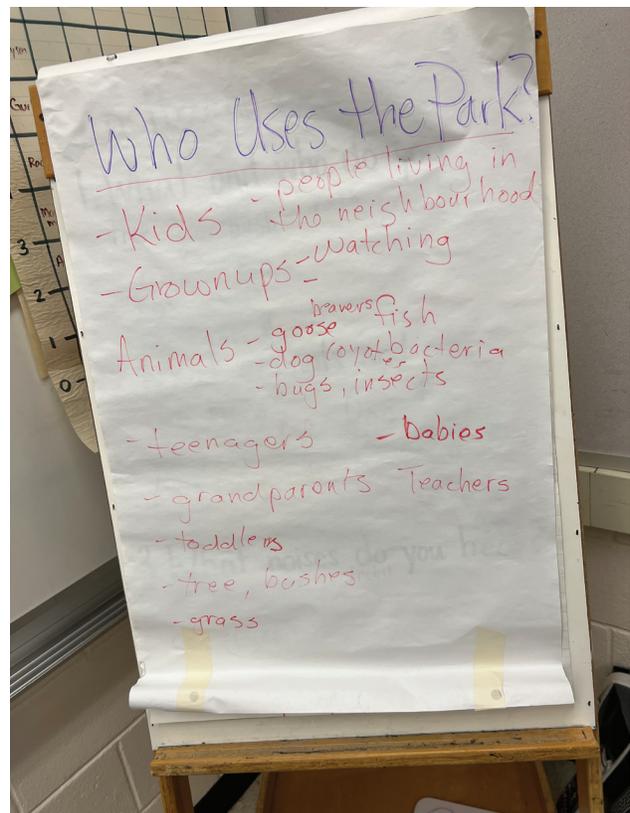


Figure 17: School Engagement - Stakeholder Mapping Activity¹⁷

Tiny Forest	<p><u>Community</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments indicated general support for the tiny forest and nature education for students. • There was interest in using the tiny forest area for other activities, such as meditation, yoga or 'green' events. • Some comments indicated an interest in a covered place to sit instead of a tiny forest. • Interest in community stewardship was mixed; only 26% of survey respondents indicated "yes" when asked if they were interested in participating in maintaining or monitoring ecological features, however, 66% indicated "maybe" or "not sure", which suggests additional outreach could catalyze interest in community stewardship. • There is an opportunity to develop a manual & orientation material for community members on maintenance and stewardship, supporting capacity building.
	<p><u>Children and Teachers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proximity to Eastbourne Drive Public School was preferred by both students and teachers to support accessibility and encourage use by classes. • Interest in keeping the tiny forest natural. However also interest in exploring opportunities to engage in the space (ie. small pathways through, signage, etc). • Interest in drawing connections to existing forested lot on school property (Eastbourne Drive Public School). • There was an interest in helping to plant and maintain the tiny forest from teachers.



Figure 18: School Engagement - Tiny Forest & Outdoor Classroom Concept¹⁸

<p>Trails</p>	<p><u>Community</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest in mixed use trails for recreational activities (walking, jogging, rollerblading, cycling, etc). • The existing multi-use trail is well used for walking and dog-walking. • A few community members indicated interest in increasing the lighting along the trail towards maintaining safety in survey responses and at the community pop-up. <p><u>Children and Teachers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create trails which give a feeling of wandering through the woods. • These 'wandering paths' might run parallel to the asphalt/accessible trails for bikes, pedestrians, scooters, etc. • Interest in mixed use trails for recreational activities (walking, cycling, rollerblading, etc). • Interest in trails allowing people to 'get close to the river' and facilitating safe explorations.
<p>Eco Park Play Features</p>	<p><u>Community</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest in having natural features for children to play. • Suggestions around features that require low maintenance. <p><u>Children and Teachers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest in having features that support free, open ended, active play. Children expressed interest in wanting to climb, balance, hang from, jump from, etc. • Interest in having intimate spaces for play, which can feel similar to a tree house, fort or small shelter. • Children were drawn to a natural palette of materials (wooden, natural looking materials - ie. stumps, logs, etc). • Diversity of features to encourage a range of play, varying heights, widths, etc.

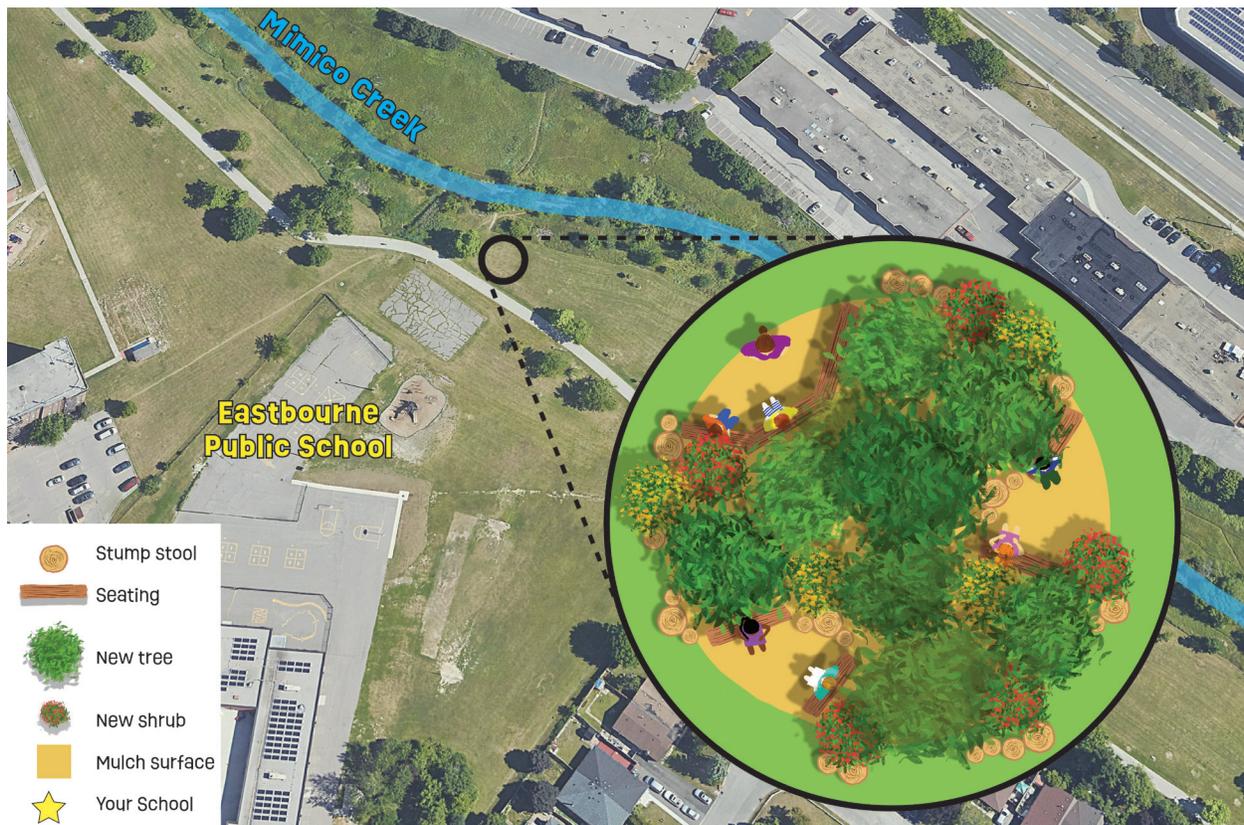


Figure 19: School Engagement - Tiny Forest & Outdoor Classroom Map¹⁹

<p>Water Connections</p>	<p><u>Community</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept of a creek lookout was well received, a place to observe the river and surrounding ecosystem. • Consider placing the proposed creek lookout close to the existing bridge where the land is relatively level. In this area, the lookout will not be isolated and will have a more scenic view to the river - rather than having it within an overgrown naturalized location where plants will block the view. <p><u>Children and Teachers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest in access to water (getting in close proximity to the water's edge), and/or an area where you can see the water.
<p>Programming Opportunities</p>	<p><u>Community</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community guided walks (nature walks, seniors walks, etc). • Consider Arts in the Parks type of programs. • Public Art - trail art, signage, installations, etc. • Explore a diversity of partnerships to help lead programs. • Explore a mixture of uses in the park to encourage all residents to participate and use the space. • Interest in community gardens and allotment gardens. • Create a pop-up library and/or seed library connected to the tiny forest. • Fitness opportunities (equipment, and signage showing the trail system and distance to each park space). • Professional Development and Skill building programming for residents, "Friends of Groups", teachers at nearby schools. Included in the training could be info on how to seek support from the City and TRCA, how to access equipment, opportunities to connect with local communities. <p><u>Children and Teachers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is opportunity to engage with Eastbourne Drive Public School to support stewardship and programming in the park. 7 out of 9 teachers responded with 'yes' and 'maybe' when asked whether they would be interested in ongoing stewardship programming in the park.



Figure 20: Community Pop Up Event - Dotmocracy to Gather Feedback²⁰

<p>Seating + Gathering Spaces</p>	<p><u>Community</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest in both natural log seating (flat seats) as well as accessible seating (with backrest and armrests). • A gathering space for picnics (picnic benches or grassed space for blankets) • A few respondents expressed interest in covered/shaded gathering spaces (gazebo) <p><u>Children and Teachers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers and children both expressed interest in using the seating for programming during school hours, as well as after school hours for families. • Seating for large groups (ie. school groups) in a circular formation. • Seating for small gatherings (ie. 1-4 people). Interest in seating in a circular formation with a combination of stumps, logs, benches and boulders/stones. • Location of seating dispersed amongst the forested areas as well accessible from the trail. • Consider using the benches to delineate boundaries (more as visual aids than actual physical boundaries)
<p>Signage</p>	<p><u>Community</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest in both wayfinding/directional and interpretive signage. • Interpretive signage to share info on local flora and fauna, and history. • Directional signage to include distance to places. • Interest in ‘animal crossing’ signs to prevent collisions with animals on the path. <p><u>Children and Teachers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretive signage to explain the local flora and fauna, and history of the area.
<p>Naturalization Efforts (tree planting, types of plants, etc)</p>	<p><u>Community</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In person and survey-based feedback was strongly supportive of naturalization efforts. • Native plants are preferred. • Suggestions from the survey included planting native tree species as well as including fruit bearing trees to create an edible landscape. 43% of respondents thought more trees were needed in Eastbourne Park. <p><u>Children and Teachers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for teachers and school children (and broader community) to help with initial plantings.
<p>Management Plan</p>	<p><u>Community</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An opportunity to engage the community in helping to manage invasive species. • Integrate community stewardship opportunities into existing TRCA/City of Brampton management approaches. • Signage to inform the community that the area is naturalized, explain no mow areas, and highlight environmental benefits. Include a QR code linking to the City of Brampton website with further information. • Consider locating the pollinator habitat on relatively level areas (areas that do not have steep slopes making mowing a challenge), and areas that are accessible to watering trucks or hose bibs to allow for maintenance during establishment. • Scope the size of new naturalized areas to the community stewardship resources that are identified and engaged. <p><u>Children and Teachers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest in participating in both short term and long-term stewardship opportunities with students.



Figure 21: School Engagement - Existing Trail²¹



Figure 22: School Engagement - Sketch of Proposed Naturalized Trail²²

Revised Concept Plan and Next Steps

- Revised EcoSpace Concept Plan
- Precedent Images
- Rendered Views
- Additional Recommendations

Revised EcoSpace Concept Plan

In response to the feedback and ideas shared throughout the community engagement activities, and upon consultation with relevant City of Brampton, Region of Peel and TRCA staff, a revised concept plan has been created. The concept plan aims to incorporate as many feasible ideas and needs identified by the community as possible. Some issues voiced during consultation such as tick and coyote presence or excessive litter were outside of scope of this project but can be addressed via other initiatives.

The revisions include:

- Location of the Tiny Forest and a gathering space (suitable for school groups)
- Eco Park Amenities (Diverse seating options, a river lookout, a pedestrian foot bridge).
- Adjustment to location of areas for naturalization (mow zones, no-mow zones, etc) to make maintenance easier.
- Clearer representation of existing trees on site and proposed trees.
- Integration of the Mimico Creek Channel Restoration design.

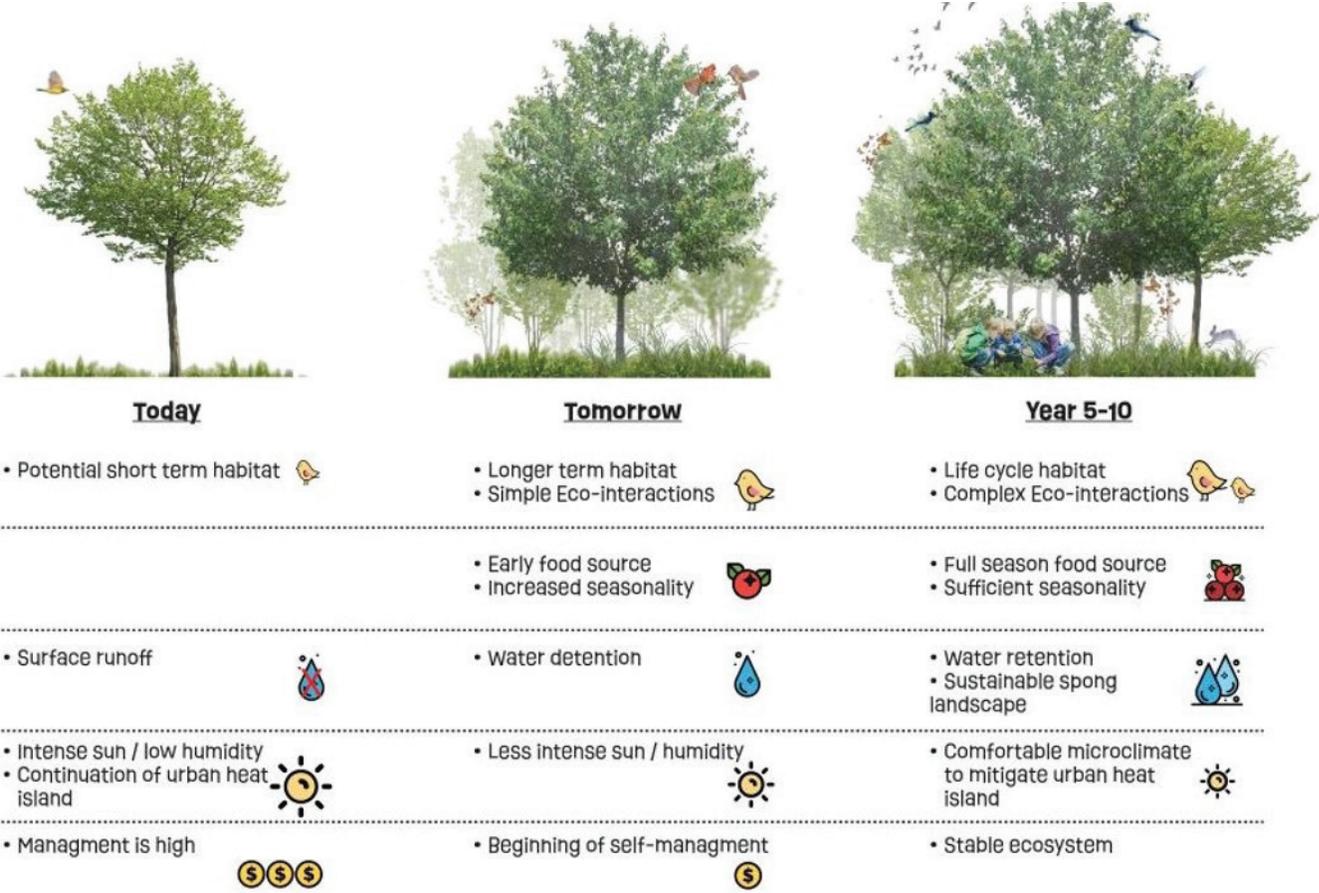


Figure 23: School Engagement - Conceptual Successional Naturalization²³

Eastbourne Park Eco Space Concept Plan

For conceptual purposes only. Implementation will be based upon funding availability, feasibility studies and development of detailed planting plans and designs. The exact location of proposed features will be confirmed as part of implementation planning.

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Figure 24: Revised EcoSpace Concept Plan ²⁴

Precedent Images

The following images depict examples of park features and activities that the community is interested in seeing or engaging in within Eastbourne Park. The selected examples may be suitable for the scale of Eastbourne Park, and could be considered during the next steps of the park revitalization. Implementation of these amenities and programs will be explored based on availability of future funding.



Figure 25: Accessibility For All Abilities²⁵



Figure 26: Local Native Plants For Pollinators²⁶



Figure 27: Safety And Seating Considerations At Tiny Forest/Outdoor Classroom Amenities²⁷



Figure 28: Wood Art: Bird Chainsaw Carving²⁸



Figure 29: Park Activities: Picnicking²⁹



Figure 30: Bridge Precedent³⁰



Figure 31: Play Node³¹



Figure 32: No Mow Zone³²



Figure 33: Self-Directed Fitness Signage³³



Figure 34: Ecological Information Signage³⁴



Figure 35: Painted Asphalt Art³⁵



Figure 36: Park Activities; Walking and Biking³⁶



Figure 37: Park Activities; Meditation³⁷



Figure 38: Park Activities; Birdwatching³⁸



Figure 39: Park Activities; Community Stewardship³⁹



Figure 40: Park Activities; Outdoor Learning⁴⁰

Rendered Views

Conceptual rendered views were prepared to illustrate the potential character of the components of the Eco Space Concept Plan.

Figure 41 shows the proposed native pollinator gardens surrounding the proposed Tiny Forest and Outdoor Classroom features. Both the Tiny Forest and pollinator spaces would be maintained through community partnerships and stewardship efforts. They will have the potential to increase the habitat value of Eastbourne Park, and provide educational opportunities around ecological restoration in the community.

Figure 42 depicts the trail along the finished Mimico Creek Channel Restoration area, as well as the contrast between the proposed naturalized areas, pollinator habitat and mown areas.

Introducing these landscape typologies to Eastbourne Park will have the potential to create a fantastic Eco Park for the community, however, like any new landscapes, they will be vulnerable to invasive species, weed pressure, and drought stress during the establishment phase. Their long-term success will be dependent on the strength of the community partnerships that are established prior to implementation.

The community consultation survey completed as part of this project scope found that 27% of respondents were interested in being part of stewardship activities in the park, and 63% were potentially interested (answered “maybe” or “not sure” when asked about their interest). This indicates that community interest in these park features currently exists, and additional community members could be inspired to be involved with the right catalyzation.

Additionally, teachers at Eastbourne Drive expressed interest in participating in stewardship and maintenance programming with their students.



Figure 41: Conceptual Rendering - Tiny Forest⁴¹



Figure 42: Conceptual Rendering - Naturalized Creek and Trail⁴²

Additional Recommendations

Based on community and stakeholder feedback, this section offers recommendations for successful implementation of the Eco Space Concept Plan as well as for ongoing management and community engagement.

Implementation and Management

- Develop a maintenance plan in collaboration with the City of Brampton, TRCA and Bramalea SNAP community to identify short-term and long-term approaches to ensure the longevity of the Eco Space amenities. This should be in place prior to the installation of new plantings and include watering and weeding during the establishment period. The maintenance plan should identify roles and responsibilities, as well as clear objectives and definitions of success.
- Partnerships to support the City of Brampton in managing invasive species and nuisance plants in naturalized areas.
- Continue to engage the local community and stakeholders throughout implementation of the concept plan to ensure a collaborative process and foster opportunities for community leadership roles in stewardship of the park.

Community Engagement and Programming

- Maintain ongoing inclusive communication between City of Brampton/TRCA and the local community, community groups, surrounding schools and environmental groups regarding the project.
- Provide engagement opportunities for the community and stakeholders to support implementation and stewardship. Ensure there are always contingency plans in place for volunteer activities.

Conclusion

- Summary
- Next Steps

Summary

TPP and Recreate Place found strong support for the draft concept plan and proposed improvements including the creek naturalization, naturalized and proposed pollinator areas, benches, natural play spaces and Tiny Forest, as well as the creek lookout. However, the long-term maintenance and stewardship of new naturalized spaces may require further investigation and on-going community support.

This Community Engagement Report and updated Revised Eco Space Concept Plan has been prepared to provide to the City of Brampton and the Toronto Region Conservation Authority with the required community feedback to proceed to the detailed design phase for the Eastbourne Park Eco Space Project.

Next Steps

- Complete Mimico Creek channel restoration work.
- Complete design and construction of funded works.
- Fundraising for implementation of unfunded works.
- Community engagement and partnership building with community members throughout implementation and to support stewardship of pollinator habitat and the Tiny Forest.



Figure 43: School Engagement - Ravine Walk And Students Participating In A Stakeholder Mapping Activity⁴³

Image References

- Notes

Notes

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