

# Valleyland Infrastructure Rehabilitation Program

Program: Federal Gas Tax Fund

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

**From 2014 to 2015, Richmond Hill used a portion of its Gas Tax funding to develop a Valleyland Infrastructure Rehabilitation Program to prioritize and plan for necessary projects related to the health of valleylands, streams and infrastructure assets within the Town's Open Space System.**

Richmond Hill contains approximately 150 km of headwater streams in the Don, Rouge and Humber River Watersheds. Urban development has caused changes in the flow and volume of stormwater entering valleylands and streams, particularly in the older parts of Town where modern stormwater management practices do not exist. Together with natural stream processes, this has caused, in places, increased erosion and sedimentation in streams, affecting valleyland slope stability and the integrity of municipal infrastructure such as sewers, trails and bridges.

To understand the extent of the changes, valleyland assessment studies were carried out and a set of evaluation criteria were applied to the findings of the studies. This yielded a total of 55 sites where some level of rehabilitation was warranted – 3 were considered urgent, 23 were considered higher risk and 29 were lower risk.

Next, a ten year capital plan was developed for these projects. The plan was integrated with the stormwater management plan and other Town projects to minimize site disturbances, costs and public disruptions and maximize opportunities by leveraging or feeding into other Town processes.

The capital plan anticipates nine projects worth approximately \$7.4 million being carried out over the next ten years, including addressing all of the urgent projects.

## Project Highlights:

**Shared federal and municipal investment in asset management planning.**

**Benefits of valleyland infrastructure rehabilitation program:**

- Proactive steps to repair problems early before they become larger and more costly to address
- Prevention of risk to infrastructure and services
- Investment in healthy valleylands and streams



## Evaluation Criteria

- Risk management/health & safety issues
- Statutory and regulatory requirements
- Cost-benefit analysis
- Operations and maintenance
- Environmental issues
- Community concerns



*Richmond Hill, where people come together to build our community.*

PROJECT FACTS



<b>Project Budget:</b>	\$120 000
<b>Federal Gas Tax Fund Contribution:</b>	\$120 000
<b>Completion Date:</b>	March 2015

PROJECT BENEFITS

**GREENING THE HILL:** *Our Community, Our Future*

The development of a Valleyland Infrastructure Rehabilitation Program is consistent with the objectives of the Strategic Plan and Environment Strategy.



**GREENING THE HILL**  
Our Community  
Our Future



**Watershed Management**

Continued growth and development means more hard surfaces, resulting in increased runoff that threatens to erode our streams, rivers, lakes and wetlands. This, in turn, can put both public and private infrastructure at risk as channels widen or deepen to expose pipes, or migrate towards roads and buildings. Maintaining the physical structure of Richmond Hill's valleylands and watercourses is vital to protecting our local watersheds from the impacts of urbanization.

**Sustainable Land Development**

Sustainable land development is important because, as Richmond Hill's population continues to grow, our natural environment will be placed under greater development pressures and stress. Sustainable land development, including green development practices, will help minimize development impacts to the natural environment while addressing the needs of a growing community.



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