

Stormwater Management Funding Study

Program: Federal Gas Tax Fund

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In 2012 and 2013, Richmond Hill used the federal Gas Tax Fund to study and implement a new sustainable funding model for stormwater management infrastructure.

Richmond Hill owns and operates stormwater infrastructure including dozens of stormwater management ponds and hundreds of kilometers of storm sewers. This infrastructure plays an important role in protecting the environment and protecting our community. As this infrastructure ages, it is important to identify what needs to be repaired and replaced. Part of this process includes planning for how this work will be done and how it will be funded.

The goal of the Stormwater Management Financing Study was to provide for the long-term protection and improvement of stormwater resources in Richmond Hill including establishing a dedicated funding source.

The study proceeded through six steps:

- 1 First**, the study looked at the regulations that govern stormwater management, including the principles of financial sustainability of water and wastewater services provided by the Province of Ontario to assist municipalities in understanding the future direction for sustainable funding of stormwater systems.
- 2 Second**, the study analyzed stormwater rate structures that had been used by other municipalities. Rate structures varied from the size of the property or estimations of how much water runoff there would be; Richmond Hill decided upon a flat rate per property based upon the primary use of the property.
- 3 Third**, the study forecast how much growth in stormwater services there would be in the future. The stormwater funding model needed to take into consideration not just what was currently built and owned by Richmond Hill, but what was still to be built as our community grows.
- 4 Fourth**, the study looked at how much it would cost from the time that infrastructure was first built to the time it needed to be replaced or reconstructed. This is known as lifecycle costing. Some of Richmond Hill's stormwater infrastructure dated back to the 1950's and overall the infrastructure had a total replacement value of over \$350 million dollars.
- 5 Fifth**, the study looked at what needed to be done over the next ten years and how Richmond Hill was funding it. This included \$41 million of major repair and rehabilitation work as well as the day-to-day operating costs to provide stormwater services, minor maintenance and administration.
- 6 Finally**, the study looked at stormwater charge calculations and resulted in a phased-in approach to stormwater contributions. By 2024, with the phase-in plan, funding for stormwater infrastructure in Richmond Hill will be fully sustainable. That means that 100% of what is needed to maintain the system now, and into the future, is provided for.

Project Highlights:

Shared federal and municipal investment in developing a sustainable funding model for stormwater infrastructure in Richmond Hill.

Anticipated results:

- Long-term protection and enhancement of stormwater resources in Richmond Hill
- Effective and efficient stormwater management construction, operations and maintenance
- Dedicated and sustainable stormwater management funding



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

PROJECT FACTS



Project Budget:	\$65 000
Federal Gas Tax Fund Contribution:	\$65 000
Completion Date:	Spring 2013

PROJECT BENEFITS

The development of a sustainable funding model for stormwater infrastructure is consistent with the objectives of the 2009 Strategic Plan, as the Town takes responsibility to manage its infrastructure for this generation and generations to come:

Municipal Leadership

By undertaking a study into sustainable funding for stormwater infrastructure, Richmond Hill is continuing to serve as a role model for environmental management. It will set an example for other municipalities and provide a financially responsible approach to maintaining important infrastructure and adapting to future challenges, like climate change.



Environmental Benefits

Stormwater infrastructure plays an important role in protecting the environment and protecting our community. Establishing a dedicated sustainable funding source will allow Richmond Hill to maintain, improve and replace this infrastructure as it is needed.



A new sustainable funding model for stormwater infrastructure will help Richmond Hill continue to serve as a role model for environmental management.



225 East Beaver Creek Road,
Richmond Hill, ON L4C 4Y5

Tel: 905 771 8800
Email: peopleplan@richmondhill.ca
Website: RichmondHill.ca

The Stormwater Management Funding Study was carried out with contributions from the federal Gas Tax Fund.

