Soper Creek Subwatershed Study

Project Summary

To support future growth and the development of Secondary Plans for the Bowmanville area, the Municipality initiated a Subwatershed Study for the Main and East branches of Soper Creek. This study will develop a plan that allows for sustainable development while maximizing benefits to the natural and human environments. The Subwatershed Study will be completed in three phases:

Phase 1: Subwatershed Existing Conditions
Phase 2: Subwatershed Management Strategies
Phase 3: Implementation and Monitoring Plans

The Phase 1 Existing Conditions Report is complete, with key findings summarized below. The development of the Phase 2 Subwatershed Management Strategies will begin shortly. Phase 2 will evaluate various management options based on environmental, social and economic criteria. A recommended subwatershed strategy will be developed and presented to the public.

PIC Purpose

The Municipality of Clarington will hold a Public Information Centre (PIC) on December 6, 2022. This will consist of an on-line presentation starting at 6:30, followed by a question and answer period. The presentation will also be posted on the project website to allow people to review the information at a later time. Comments will be accepted until December 23, 2022.

The purpose of the PIC is to:

- Introduce the public to the study;
- Review the Subwatershed Study process;
- Present key findings from the Phase 1 characterization investigations;
- Provide time for the public to discuss questions with the staff of the Municipality of Clarington and members of the Project Team;
- Ask for public feedback on the Phase 1 results; and
- Ask for public input into considerations for Phase 2 investigations.

Key Findings

- The study identified 26 erosion sites and developed in-stream restoration opportunities. These opportunities will reduce erosion hazards and/or restore stream functions.
- Natural heritage constraints and opportunities were assessed through background data and field investigations. Natural heritage features meeting the criteria for the Municipality's Natural Heritage System were identified. These features include: wetlands greater than 0.5 ha; significant woodlands; fish habitat and riparian corridors; and valleylands. A Species at Risk (SAR) screening and significant wildlife habitat assessment were also completed. The results of these assessments will form the foundation for future site-specific studies such as Environmental Impact Studies and land use plans.

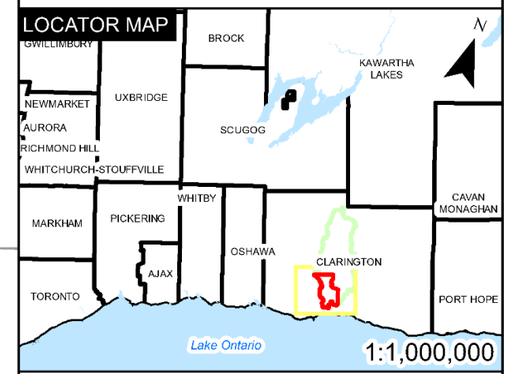
- There are important interactions between groundwater and surface water, including Soper Creek. It is therefore critical to maintain infiltration in the study area, especially in the Soper Springs Secondary Plan area.
- Headwater Drainage Features (HDFs; i.e., small, surface water features that can provide important supporting functions to larger watercourses) were identified and management recommendations were applied for features meeting the required criteria.
- Constraints to development were identified, including:
    - High constraints where development is generally not allowable (e.g., Regulatory floodline, meander belt, significant woodlands, wetlands, etc.)
    - Moderate constraints where some development may occur following further study to confirm status and address additional requirements (e.g., SAR habitat, certain categories of HDFs, etc.); and
    - Low constraints where development is not restricted under policy, but where features are present which could be incorporated into site-level plans as parks, etc. (e.g., wetlands smaller than 0.5 ha, non-significant woodlands, etc.)

Clarington

Legend

- Watercourse
- Road Centreline
- Bowmanville Newcastle Urban Boundary
- Natural Heritage System
- Municipal Boundary
- Study Area
- Soper Subwatershed Boundary

LOCATOR MAP



Figure

Study Area

Date: February 2020
Projection: NAD83_UTM_Zone_17N
Data Source: Municipality of Clarington, CLOCA

0 400 800 1,600
Metres

N

Aquafor Beech Limited

Concession 4 RD
Middle RD
Regional 57 RD
Green RD
Maple Grove RD
Liberty ST N
Scugog ST
Mearns AVE
Concession 3 RD
Providence RD
Bragg RD
Lambs RD
Concession ST E
King ST W
King ST E
Liberty ST S
Baseline RD
Baseline RD W
Baseline RD E
401 HWY
2 HWY
Waverley RD
Bennett RD