

Public Participation

How I Can Get Involved

Share your feedback with us live at the open house!

Public feedback and a series of studies, assessments, mapping and stakeholder consultations have all helped to identify trail route options and road crossings. The current in-person Open House is being held for citizens to once again have a say:

- Review work completed to date
- Learn about the refined trail route, designs and proposed trail treatments
- Hear the proposed phasing for implementation
- Ask questions and provide feedback on the proposed trail alignment

The feedback received during this open house will be included within the final feasibility study document to inform further investigation and more detailed trail design.

Other Ways to Comment

For people unable to attend, a video presentation and study materials will be posted to the web page. There will be an opportunity to provide feedback and submit comments directly to the team until Thursday, July 21.

Please visit: vaughan.ca/BartleySmithTrail
or Scan the QR code!



What We've Heard to Date

Community Engagement for the Bartley Smith Trail Feasibility Study is a vital component of the success of the study as it moves into the next phases. Based on the strong response rate and the support from both internal and external stakeholders for the types of recommendations that are emerging through the study, it is clear that the community has a strong interest in seeing this study succeed.

Overall, participants of the February 2022 Virtual Public Open House demonstrated clear support for the trail itself as it would increase recreation and healthy, active lifestyles, but they would prefer that the Project Team adjusts the proposed alignment and consider the concerns brought forward.

Concerns Raised

Bridge Crossing

Many residents were concerned about the proposed bridge crossing at Mountcharles Crescent. In addition to event participation, members of the street collectively organized and express their concerns. With that said, some residents emphasized their agreement with the proposed location of the bridge crossing at Mount Charles Crescent.

Security

Several participants noted concerns over security with the addition of the trail near their backyards. Specifically, participants are worried that the trail will lead to increased break-ins, crime, and other activities with additional people traveling through the area. Many participants emphasized a need to plan for these concerns and consider design elements like lighting, cameras, and appropriate buffers between the trail and backyards (i.e, buffers that would provide privacy but still enhance safety by maintaining a line of sight to the trail). Considerations should be made for patrolling the trail and general response to concerns over crime.

Privacy

A number of participants highlighted that the trail is very close to their backyards along the east side of the creek. Participants asked the Project Team to consider moving the trail closer to the creek or proposing a new trail alignment along the west side of the creek to provide more room between the trail and resident's properties. Moving the trail further away from backyards would help residents maintain privacy and allow them to continue enjoying their backyards, reduce unnecessary shade over their backyards, and reduce other security/safety concerns.

Protect Nature

Participants are concerned that the trail will negatively impact the natural heritage and wildlife in the area. Residents noted that the implementation and construction of the trail will disturb existing plants and animals and undo the progress that has led to what the ravine looks like today. Many of the residents who value the natural area still voiced that there is a strong preference to place the trail further within the natural area to provide a better buffer to houses and most felt the potential negative impacts were not of concern. Desire for new plantings along rear residential lots greatly differed. While some preferred a thick wooded buffer, others requested open views with minimal planting and even requested a desire for manicured turf.

Litter

Several participants emphasized that the City and TRCA will need to implement a plan for maintaining the trail in terms of picking up litter and other problems that may arise with increased users.

Actions Taken

In response to comments received at the February 2022 Virtual Public Open House the City and WSP revisited and actioned the following items:

- Increase to the distance between the trail and residential properties by up to 20m, moving the trail closer to the creek where possible.
- Added a boardwalk trail in one section to address concerns over flooding and erosion, while maximizing the buffer in a constrained space.
- Removed the bridge crossing at Mountcharles Cres., and indicated that it could be revisited for future re-evaluation if the need/desire is expressed by trail users in future.
- Removed the bride crossing over the pond (north of Major MacKenzie Drive) due to flood impact and pond maintenance concerns.