

# ***Wilket Creek Geomorphic & Habitat Systems Master Plan***

## ***Creating a long-term plan for the management of Wilket Creek***

The Wilket Creek Geomorphic & Habitat Systems Master Plan is being undertaken by Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) in partnership with the City of Toronto. The aim of the project is to develop a long-term management plan for Wilket Creek that takes account of natural processes, wildlife habitat and public amenity. In particular, the project will protect infrastructure at risk of erosion, including exposed manholes, pedestrian bridges and pathways while working with natural channel processes.

### ***Why are we developing a Master Plan?***

As a result of the Aug 19th 2005 storm event, a number of elements of Toronto's infrastructure were exposed by creek erosion. Within the Wilket Creek subwatershed, particularly within Wilket Creek Park, major problems arose after the Aug 19th storm which required immediate remediation - several debris jams occurred at pedestrian bridges, and several sections of pathways were eroded. In 2008, after compiling a list of approximately thirteen sites in Edwards Gardens and Wilket Creek Park, TRCA began to repair these areas on a prioritized basis. Subsequent to completing repairs in May 2008, the June 23rd 2008 storm destroyed the repairs just completed at 2 sites (pedestrian bridges near sanitary sewer crossings of the creek), requiring their immediate temporary repair.



Geomorphology is the study of natural landforms and how they are shaped by natural processes. The Geomorphic & Habitat Systems Master Plan will develop an understanding of the processes operating within Wilket Creek, together with how they are being influenced by channel modifications, such as structures and changes to the creek itself. Based on an understanding of how the creek is behaving, we will be able to identify a long-term integrated plan to address the current erosion issues, as well as identifying opportunities for in-stream habitat improved.

### ***What will be the outcomes?***

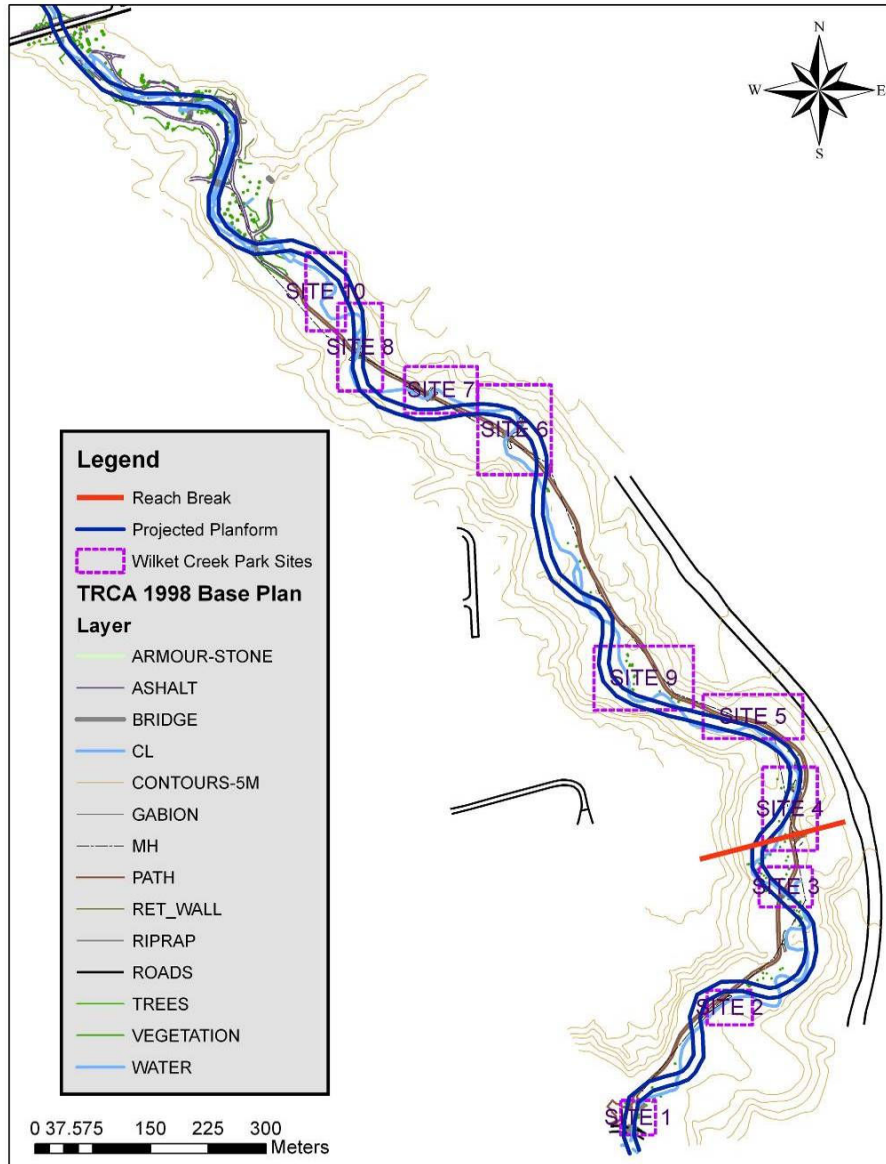
The Master Plan will identify works to be completed along the length of Wilket Creek in order to address the stability and habitat issues that are identified. We do not anticipate that works will be required throughout the whole creek but rather at selected locations, in particular within Wilket Creek Park (see overleaf). Although the works themselves will be localised, they will be planned within the context of the whole creek and with a long-term vision. Different alternative solutions will be developed and evaluated according to environmental, social and economic criteria in order to select the most appropriate solution. This will help ensure that works do not have undesirable upstream and downstream impacts and, we hope, will reduce the need for future intervention.

### ***How do the proposed Emergency Works fit in?***

As part of the investigations for the Master Plan, we have identified selected areas within Wilket Creek where the risks to infrastructure are such that, if the sites are left as they are until the Master Plan is complete, failure of infrastructure may occur. At Sites 6 and 7 (see figure overleaf) the underlying sewer has been exposed as a result of erosion of the creek bed. This area has therefore been defined as requiring Emergency Work by the City of Toronto. As such we are “fast-tracking” designs for channel works to protect the sewer. However, these designs have been developed within the context of the Master Plan, and therefore will form an integrated part of the long-term plan.

## What are we planning in Wilket Creek Park?

The map below illustrates Sites 1 to 10 within Wilket Creek Park, which have been preliminarily identified for rehabilitation works as part of the master planning process. At each of these sites infrastructure is currently at risk from creek erosion. The map also illustrates our vision for a wider, meandering river course, which has been developed based on geomorphological principles and would offer greater stability in the long-term. It is in this context that we intend to progress planning future rehabilitation works in Wilket Creek Park.



## How can you get involved?

One of the key objectives of the Master Plan is to engage with local communities and identify opportunities for improving public interaction with Wilket Creek. This Public Information Centre provides a valuable opportunity for us to discuss the Master Plan with you and we strongly encourage you to provide us with your comments via the feedback questionnaire. If you have additional comments or would like to find out more about progress on this project at any time, please contact our Project Manager using the details below – we would love to hear from you!

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