



Talfourd Creek Restoration Project

Bear Park, Aamjiwnaang
First Nation



Bear Park

Issue

- The Talfourd Creek has a very poor profile in the community because there are signs posted warning of toxic chemicals. The signs posted warn that you should not enter the Talfourd Creek.
- These signs are featured in several documentaries, videos, and pictures.
- The goal of the Talfourd Creek restoration project is to provide sediment control, fish and wildlife habitat improvements and to once again bring the creek back into the lives of the community as a vibrant, functioning, important watercourse.

Purpose

- The Talfourd Creek restoration project would allow for the waters to run more clearly and promote a healthy environment for several species including turtles, fish, birds, bats, and insects.
- The proposed area called Bear Park has undergone some major renovations in the past year. Restoring of the Talfourd Creek should be the next part of this.
- Additionally the Talfourd Creek runs throughout Aamjiwnaang Pow Wow grounds. The Pow Wow attracts many visitors from all over Ontario and the US.

Education

- Education of the creeks importance is an important component of the project
- Aamjiwnaang envisions providing an interpretive center at the grounds similar to the Dow Wetlands
 - The Daycare, KIPPS, Youth Center and other community groups could visit and learn through the education program.

What do we want to do?

- **East side (Bridge Access) major erosion**
Install a step on both sides, step will include rocks and plants. Rocks on the lower part with plants on the upper part. Resulting in erosion control, habitat improvement and beautification, improved access
- **North deepen for turbidity issue**
Deepen to increase the flow and add stones on the bottom of the creek to increase oxygenation of the water, making the water flow clearer. Resulting in less turbidity and improved habitat.
- **Aesthetics**
Remove decaying ash trees to improve aesthetics. Additionally the pipe that is draining into the creek should be covered with plants to improve its appearance
- **Education**
Install interpretive signage and host a Talfourd Creek Awareness Day

How will we get it done?

- We will be using the maintenance crew for construction. Aamjiwnaang has full equipment facilities.
- The environment department has 5 fulltime employees. The environment department operates under the Environment Committee which is overseen by the Chief and Council.
- The Environment Committee's mission is to make Aamjiwnaang a healthy, vibrant community by empowering and uniting our people in efforts to protect our land and our health.
- In the past Aamjiwnaang has completed and managed many funded projects by different organizations such as Health Canada, Ministry of the Environment, Trillium foundation.

Environmental benefits

- With the recent renovations it is expected that the area around the Talfourd Creek will be more widely used and better respected by the community members of Aamjiwaang. This project will improve the community perception about the state of the creek.
- Restoration of the Talfourd Creek and permanent protection of the streambanks will reduce erosion short and long term.
- The restored creek will lead to a significant decrease in turbidity (cloudiness) to Talfourd Creek resulting from the current lack of riparian buffers.

Environmental benefits

- The riparian buffer will also aid in filtering nutrients and other non-point source pollutants.
- In addition to water quality and aquatic habitat benefits, preserving the riparian buffer and erosion control will protect and enhance terrestrial wildlife habitat.
- Better education and awareness of the importance of this local watershed and how it contributes to the AOC issues.

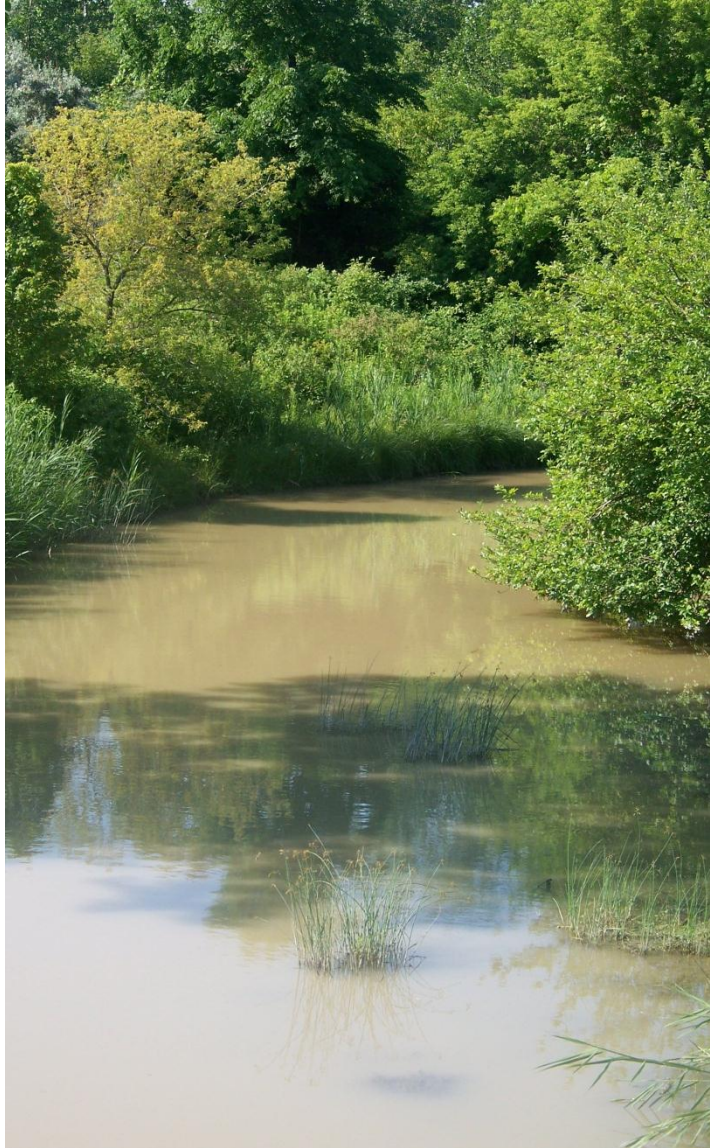
Budget

- Last October the Environment Department applied for the Ontario Community Environment Fund (pollution penalty \$\$ collected by MOE)
- Aamjiwnaang has received partial funding
 - \$73, 063.75
- Our in-kind cannot be more than 25 percent of the entire cost.

Partnerships

Ways to work together to make the project a success

- Expertise – St. Clair Conservation Authority, Ministry of the Environment, Rural Lambton Stewardship Network
- Industry partnerships
- Advice from Friends of the St. Clair for Outreach and Habitat Restoration Experience



Questions?

Do you have any concerns
with this project