



March 15, 2025

RE: Transportation Services Missing Sidewalk Installation Program

Dear Councillor Kandavel,

We recently became aware through the TO.INview (Infrastructure Viewer) map that Parkcrest Drive is scheduled for watermain replacement and road reconstruction as well as proposed new sidewalk installation. It is our understanding that one side of the street will be urbanized with a curb, while the other side will remain ditched. The sidewalk will be constructed on only one side of the street through the through the [Missing Sidewalk Installation Program](#),

We have also been advised that once the design is completed, residents will be informed about the proposed sidewalk installation. The project will then be reported to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee (IEC) and City Council for further review.

If you recall, you attended a meeting last year that was held at the request of the residents association where the City Chief Storm Water Engineer agreed that retaining ditches has significant benefits. The ditches flow to catch basins that are located periodically in the ditches. As a result, a large percentage of the water in the ditches get absorbed into the ground which is beneficial to the ground aquifer and takes care of pollution like road salt and car oil on road. And, at the Community Consultation for both the 27 & 29 Parkcrest Drive townhouse development and the 3291 Kingston Road and 2&4 Windy Ridge Drive development these same concerns were raised with the City Planning Teams.

Before this project moves further along, we ask that the City reassess and reconsider the installation of sidewalks and curbs, because:

1. With respect to storm water management, existing ditches:
 - a. serve as storm water catchment swale which reduce need for large storm pipes,
 - b. reduce storm water backup and basement flooding,
 - c. allow for snow piling area, which sidewalks would conflict with.
2. With respect to preservation of mature trees and character along Parkcrest Drive:
 - a. installation of curbs and sidewalks necessitate the removal of impeding trees and will damage nearby root systems which span large diameters,
 - b. the street would lose the country road appeal and value.
3. With respect to local street safety and the needs of residents:
 - a. pedestrians walking on street slows the traffic down; NOT sidewalks, which in fact have the opposite effect.
 - b. Residents, many aging in place, would be responsible for snow removal on sidewalk along 100 wide-foot lots.

4. Elimination of ditches and installation of sidewalk and curb goes again the City of Toronto Storm Water Management Plan & Guidelines:
 - a. EG: Quote: *Limit sidewalks to one side, or eliminate if practical, on local low traffic roads.*
 - b. City Toronto Policy & Guideline on Swales: "[Wet Weather Flow Management Guidelines](#)
 - c. Quote:

Highways/local Roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Plant trees ■ Reduce fertilizer/pesticide use ■ Previous technologies (i.e. Etobicoke exfiltration system) ■ Enhanced ditches/swales ■ Oil/grit separators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Pervious technologies (i.e. Etobicoke exfiltration system, pervious catchbasin) ■ Enhanced ditches/swales
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In addition to the technical point above, the neighbourhoods, especially south of Kingston Road, are unique because they run parallel to our treasured Scarborough Bluffs and Ravines, and so warrant closer consideration of the environmental and natural characteristics. We would like an opportunity to hear what Storm Water and Water Services and Urban Forestry has to say about our concerns, before the project proceeds and the design is completed.

Councillor, this is another example of why we need the ‘Environmental Characters Guidelines’ for our neighbourhoods. If we had guidelines in place, it would have given clear direction and understanding to what is needed to preserve the unique nature of our special neighbourhoods and Bluffs.

We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Marina Tadenc

Cliffcrest Scarborough Village SW Residents Association