

**ASPEN GARDENS AND GREENFIELD WEST SANITARY RELIEF  
PRELIMINARY DESIGN PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION  
HELD ON FEBRUARY 18, 2015 AT VERNON BARFORD JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

Attendance > 127

Presenters:

- Max Mao, Project Manager, City of Edmonton
- Kristin St. Louis, Project Manager, AECOM

Councillor Michael Walters was in attendance.

### **Presentation**

The following is a brief summary of the topics covered in the presentation. The full presentation is available at [www.edmonton.ca/floodprevention](http://www.edmonton.ca/floodprevention) (click on Public Consultations).

- Flooding occurred in many homes following the heavy rainfall events of July 2004 and July 2012. Studies of the drainage system in Southwest Edmonton after these events recommended sewer upgrades in Aspen Gardens and Greenfield.
- Plan of action is to design and construct sanitary sewer upgrades for Aspen Gardens and Greenfield in order to increase the current level of service.
- The upgrades are being prepared by AECOM for the City of Edmonton.
- The upgrades are part of the City of Edmonton's Flood Mitigation program.
- The benefit of these improvements is a reduced likelihood of sanitary backups and basement floods, as well as less property damage.
- The project is currently in the design phase. The next steps include:
  - Pre-Construction Public Information Session in Spring 2015
  - Commencement of construction in Spring 2015
  - Completion of construction by the end of 2016

### **Comments and Feedback**

Residents expressed concern that the proposed upgrades would not have sufficient capacity to handle storm events similar to those experienced in July 2012. Drainage personnel explained that the sewer upgrades are designed for a 1:100 year rainfall event (1% chance of occurrence annually), which is larger than the July 2012 event (the July 2012 event was a 1:50 year rainfall event; 2% chance of occurrence annually). Residents were curious as to the current level of service in their neighborhoods and were informed that in some areas it is as low as 1:5 year (20% chance of occurrence annually).

Staff were asked to explain how upgrading the sanitary sewer will provide additional benefit during rainfall events. Residents were informed that, although sanitary sewers are intended to take sewage flows (for example, toilet flushing), some stormwater enters the sanitary system through "inflow and infiltration" (for example, through manhole covers or weeping tile connections). The upgrades' additional capacity will allow the sewer to carry inflow and infiltration away from the neighborhoods, thereby reducing the risk of basement flooding due to sanitary backup.

## **ASPEN GARDENS, GREENFIELD WEST SANITARY RELIEF AND WESTBROOK FORCEMAIN DIVERSION**

### **Public Information Session #1 - February 18, 2015**

---

Residents asked staff to clarify what would happen if a large rainfall event was to occur prior to construction completion. Staff explained that residents will not receive the benefit of the upgrades until construction is complete - if a large rainfall event were to occur during construction, the level of protection for local homes would be the same as what currently exists. It was also noted that we are not removing and replacing current sanitary sewers, but are adding twin pipes along the existing ones. Therefore, flood protection remains the same during construction.

Concern was expressed over the cost of the upgrades and the possibility of these costs trickling down to residents. Drainage personnel noted that funding for the project has already been collected through drainage utility rates; taxes would not be going up as a direct result of the project.

Residents had concerns over the effect of nearby areas with high population densities. They also expressed confusion over how the proposed downstream upgrades prevent flooding in upstream areas of high population density. Staff explained that the existing system was initially designed according to previous land uses, and that the proposed upgrades are designed on current land use. Staff also noted that in a sewer network, limitations in downstream areas negatively affect the entire system. By upgrading downstream sewer pipes, it positively affects all connected upstream areas, including areas of high population density.

Residents inquired about the impact of the upgrades on the wastewater treatment plant and whether there were any plans for a new Aspen Gardens pump station. Staff explained that while the flows may reach the treatment plant more quickly, the amount of wastewater sent to the treatment plant is unchanged. Long-term upgrades will be identified, prioritized and planned as part of the on-going City-wide Flood Mitigation Program. As for the new pump station, the concept had been considered at the start of the project, but based on the evaluation criteria used (including benefit, cost, constructability, risk, operation and maintenance) it had been rated lower than the currently proposed upgrades.

### **Other Comments**

- Residents asked if the project will solve odour issues in the area. This project will not help with sewer odour issues; residents are asked to report odour issues to the City by calling 311, as the City's Drainage Operations group has a separate program underway to address sewer odour.
- Residents wanted to know whether Westbrook Estates would be receiving similar upgrades and the purpose of the Derrick Golf Course storm pond. Residents were informed that sewer upgrades in Westbrook Estates are planned for 2020. The storm pond on the golf course is intended to provide additional storage and help keep stormwater off of the streets. The City is working with the golf course to achieve this.
- The following comments appeared on multiple feedback forms submitted at the end of the information session:
  - Several residents expressed concerns about surface drainage along Aspen Drive West and 121 Street, noting that overland drainage tends to pool in this area.
  - Concerns regarding the project duration and its effect on traffic in the area.
  - Concerns regarding damage to roadways during construction and its repair.
  - Concerns regarding the connection of Westbrook drainage to Aspen Gardens.

**ASPEN GARDENS, GREENFIELD WEST SANITARY RELIEF AND WESTBROOK  
FORCEMAIN DIVERSION**

**Public Information Session #1 - February 18, 2015**

---

**Updates**

Updates to residents will be provided via Canada Post or by email for those who attended and signed up for the City of Edmonton's Flood Prevention Program mailing list. Updates will also be communicated via:

- The City of Edmonton's website at [www.edmonton.ca/floodprevention](http://www.edmonton.ca/floodprevention)
- Community League website, newsletter and/or email list
- Twitter and Facebook

Additional comments or questions may be forwarded to Max Mao at [max.mao@edmonton.ca](mailto:max.mao@edmonton.ca)