

**Laurier Heights Community Meeting**  
**Held November 29, 2012 at Lynnwood Community Hall**

**Consultation Summary**

**Presenters:**

- Harry Abbink, Flood Prevention Program Manager, Drainage Services
- Barry Raynard, Manager, Municipal/Water Resources, ISL Engineering

**Presentation**

*Note: The following is a brief synopsis of the meeting's Powerpoint presentation. The full presentation is available on-line at [www.edmonton.ca/floodprevention](http://www.edmonton.ca/floodprevention) (click on Public Consultations).*

**Presentation: Flood Prevention Program – Harry Abbink**

Following introductions, Mr. Abbink provided background on the City's Flood Prevention Program, which was initiated in response to the storms that occurred in 2004. City Council committed a total of \$146 million in 2006 to complete a variety of flood prevention projects across the city, which have included upgrading existing sewers, building new sewers and installing new storm water management facilities where possible. By the end of 2014, work will be complete in 22 out of 31 (70%) affected neighbourhoods.

Mr. Abbink went over the flood prevention work that has been done to date to deal with issues in Laurier Heights. This includes work that has been completed upstream in Rio Terrace and Quesnell Heights to upgrade sanitary sewers. A storage tunnel has also been built in these neighbourhoods to prevent excessive sanitary sewage flow coming through Laurier Heights.

An assessment of the storm system in Laurier Heights, coupled with identifying what would provide the most cost-effective benefit to the most residents, led to the current recommendation to construct a dry pond.

**Presentation: Laurier Heights Dry Pond – Barry Raynard**

Mr. Raynard provided details on why the dry pond is needed at the location chosen. The intersection of 139 Street and 76 Avenue represents a low point for water flow. According to engineering analysis, water can reach a depth of .54 metres here during an extreme storm. The City standard is .035 metres. He noted that although this is not a huge difference, it can be the difference between a house flooding or not. This analysis has been corroborated by anecdotal reports of vehicles flooding at this location.

The proposed dry pond project includes a modified curb at the intersection, a short swale, the dry pond and piping to the local stormwater sewer. During a rainstorm, water would flow from the intersection to the dry pond via the swale. After the storm is over, the water would quickly drain and the pond would dry out again.

### **Benefits and Impacts**

Mr. Raynard noted the park will look different but result in a minor impact to the toboggan hill. The pond is designed to minimize impact on the hill without compromising pond function. Using before and after pictures of the site, he showed how the dry pond will create more of a bowl shape and a steeper hill. The sides of the hill will stay the same; the top 10% of the hill will change the most.

Mr. Raynard noted the trees are subject to change – some can be moved around, others may have to be taken out altogether, but there are a lot of options. Landscaping is done to minimize impact on existing trees. The City's tree removal policy is that trees are replaced with trees of equivalent or greater value. There will also be an opportunity to add amenities such as park benches. A rain garden may also be added to promote infiltration and storm water quality. Since the water would drain quickly, mosquitoes would not be a concern.

Dry ponds are constructed with safety in mind – using gentle slopes and creating a depth of less than 2 metres deep. Dry ponds only get wet during heavy rain storms. Hazard signs warning of the risks when ponds are wet will also be placed around the site.

### **Construction Schedule**

Construction is planned for next summer or fall and expected to take about two to three months. Other renewal upgrading by the City is planned for Laurier Heights in 2014. The intention is to have the dry pond done by then. The City will come back to the public to discuss construction and landscape details before construction begins.

### **Comments and Questions**

A small crowd attended the meeting. Overall, there were no major concerns with the project – just some questions about the benefit and some construction details.

While City staff noted there had been reports of flooding in the past, one resident who attended believes the intersection in question is not prone to flooding. Another resident had questions about the number of trees being replaced and what type of trees would be put in. City staff confirmed the big trees on the edge of the toboggan hill would have to be removed, but they would be replaced with trees of equivalent value.

A question also arose about where truck traffic will occur and if Laurier Drive will be used. Mr. Raynard stated at this point, it is unlikely Laurier Drive would be used. A lot of this detail will be sorted out before a pre-construction meeting is held with the public.

### **Updates**

Project updates will be available on the City's website and to anyone who wishes to receive them by mail or email. To get on the mailing list or for additional comments or questions contact Harry Abbink at 780-496-5545 or [harry.abbink@edmonton.ca](mailto:harry.abbink@edmonton.ca).