

North Millbourne Community Consultation on Flood Prevention Held March 17, 2005 at North Millbourne Hall

Consultation Summary

Attendance: 11

Main presenter: Paul Hoffart, Senior Engineer & Flood Prevention Project Leader for Wards 3,4 & 6, Drainage Services, City of Edmonton

Presentation

Following introductions, Mr. Hoffart reviewed the drainage engineering findings for the community and discussed options for reducing the risk of flooding in the future. He noted that the findings showed better flood prevention requires action on the part of both the City and homeowners. System improvements for North Millbourne under consideration by Drainage Services include:

- Building a dry pond and diverting surface stormwater to the pond. The water would be held there until the underground system has the capacity to drain it away.
- Upgrading and increasing the size of a number of inlets (catch basins) to improve the stormwater flow rate off the streets and into the system.
- Building a sealed, underground storage tank to relief sanitary system pressure. Sanitary water would be held there until the underground system has the capacity to drain it away. A new, short sanitary sewer pipe would connect the storage tank to the existing system.

The estimated cost of implementing these options is \$3.1 million. In addition, homeowners were asked to improve their own on-site drainage as much as possible. Options include:

- Better lot grading to ensure surface water gets away from the house.
- Repairing and maintaining good eavestroughs and downspouts.
- Having downspout extensions that channel water at least 6 feet away from the house. If an extension is not possible, to drain onto a splash pad.
- Installing and/or maintaining a backflow prevention valve.

Input from residents

There were many clarifying questions about the presented options, mainly regarding the method of diverting water to the dry pond and the total volume of water to be diverted. It was noted that there is a berm along 91 Street that lies between neighbourhood low spots and the proposed dry pond. There was some concern that low lying areas may still be flooded despite the pond and enlarged inlets.

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One individual asked if the options would prevent manhole covers from blowing off, as this has happened in the past. Another questioned the need for a sanitary storage tank as there is already one in the area.

Many people had concerns and comments regarding backflow prevention valves. These were related to their installation, maintenance, effectiveness, and how the valve functions. A couple of people with valves said they got flooded. A person without a valve said he did not.

A few individuals noted there was confusing information regarding the placement of downspouts. They were unsure of whether downspouts should be disconnected from the sanitary line (where that is the case). One homeowner suggested that disconnecting all downspouts and directing rainwater onto the surface would relieve some pressure on the sanitary sewer system.

One person asked if implementing the options would increase the community's taxes. Another suggested that in the future, street work that cuts off residential water supply should not be done until residents are finished cleaning up sewage from flooded basements.

Next Steps

Input from the community regarding system options will be incorporated into a more detailed implementation plan. This plan will be discussed with the community before being presented to City Council in the fall. Mr. Hoffart noted a number of funding options were being considered, including federal and provincial support. Implementation plan timing will depend on funding and the capacity to do the work.

Community residents will be notified of the next consultation. Additional comments or questions may be forwarded to Mr. Hoffart at 496-5537 or paul.hoffart@edmonton.ca

Other Key Contacts

Call 496-5539 to be added to the flood prevention program mailing list or to receive future updates and notices by e-mail.

Call the 24-hour drainage hotline at 496-1717 if there is a drainage or sewer problem on your property or on your street.

More information about drainage services and the flood prevention program is available at www.edmonton.ca/floodprevention