

**Millbourne Flood Mitigation Public Meeting
November 19, 2015 at North Millbourne Community Hall**

Attendance: 45 (approximate), including Ward 11 Councillor Mike Nickel.

Presenters: Diane Wirtz, City of Edmonton Project Manager, Tweddle Place Sewer Improvements
Darwin Smith, City of Edmonton Project Manager, & Kristin St. Louis, AECOM Dry Pond
Design Consultant, Malcolm Tweddle and Edith Rogers Dry Ponds and Sewer Improvements

*Note: both Powerpoint presentations are available at
edmonton.ca/residential_neighbourhoods/flooding-prevention/flood-proofing-public-consultations*

PRESENTATIONS

Tweddle Place Sewer Improvements

Ms. Wirtz provided updates on Tweddle Place flood mitigation work. Highlights include:

- 60% of sewer upgrades planned along 89 Street, between 42A Avenue and an easement 180 metres to the south, are complete. The rest will be finished in the spring of 2016.
- 2016 will see the start of the 91 Street dry pond expansion. The project will take two years.
- Some of the stormwater flow will be channeled to the 91 Street dry pond via underground pipes and surface swales on two residential properties. The homeowners have agreed to sell. Some generic planning about how those lots will be transformed has been done for community feedback but full details won't be shared, including exact location, until the City takes possession of the properties in the spring of 2016. Additional engagement on these changes will take place at that time.
- Other 2016 work will include a storm sewer upgrade and in-line sanitary storage pipe construction along 89 Street from north of 43 Avenue and along 44 Avenue, ending at 85 Street.

Living Wall

Ms. Wirtz shared interim evaluation results of the living wall demonstration project. A noise study showed it performs as well or better than the existing berm as a noise barrier. A large majority of the 186 people who responded to the on-line survey say they liked it as a sound and visual barrier, found it appealing and would prefer it to alternatives like wood, steel or concrete. Breaks in the wall every 100 metres, to allow access to the other side, were preferred as access points. The City will make a final decision this winter on the living wall as a permanent replacement for the berm. A final report for the demonstration project will be posted to the City's website by early January 2016.

Malcolm Tweddle and Edith Rogers Dry Ponds and Sewer Improvements

Mr. Smith reviewed the work proposed for the northeast portion of Millbourne. When complete, it will reduce street ponding and mitigate flooding for a total of 425 homes in Michaels Park, Lee Ridge, Tweddle Place and Richfield. The work involves constructing two dry ponds on the grounds of Malcolm Tweddle and Edith Rogers schools plus 3,000 metres of mainly storm sewer improvements. Most of the sewer improvement work would occur along portions of 66 Street, 38 Avenue and Millbourne Road.

The dry ponds configuration will not allow all existing sports fields at the schools (three baseball, five soccer and four tennis courts) to be put back after construction. Ms. St. Louis reviewed the recommended options for sports field replacement.

- Option 1: One baseball diamond, one soccer field, four tennis courts
- Option 2: One baseball diamond, two soccer fields, two tennis courts
- Option 3: One baseball diamond, two soccer fields, no tennis courts (this allows the south cell dry pond to be further away from Edith Rogers school).

School dry ponds construction would be done first, and is planned for the fall of 2016 or 2017. Start time will depend on finalizing funding and planning details. In addition to input at this meeting, Mr. Smith noted Drainage Services is seeking input from school officials, school parents and sports groups who will be impacted by the dry pond work.

Comments and Feedback

Following the presentations, participants were invited to provide feedback on those projects of interest to them at conversation stations set up around the hall, and to fill out a feedback survey.

Tweddle Place Sewer Improvements

Generally, those in attendance had few comments to offer. Questions focused on construction work timing or design details, such as whether trees at the north end of the 91 Street dry pond would have to be removed as part of the expansion. (A 2016 construction schedule will be available in early May). A few people noted they preferred naturalization of the dry pond, but had questions about practical aspects such as control of dandelions, the type of trees and vegetation to be used, maintenance, etc.

The 10 people who responded to the meeting feedback survey preferred a living wall type privacy screen on both sides of the drainage routes lots. People slightly favoured construction of a shared use pathway on the lots.

Living Wall

Attendees shared few concerns about the installation of the wall but were interested in knowing more details, such as what measures would be taken to ensure safety, control insects and plant disease, maintenance that would be done between the wall and private property, and other issues. Those who filled out the meeting survey were split on what distance would be appropriate for breaks in the wall, with an equal number of people favouring 50, 75 or 100 metres. A significant majority of survey respondents supported allowing the wall to grow naturally.

Malcolm Tweddle and Edith Rogers Dry Ponds and Sewer Improvements

Those who commented about this project were generally happy with the alignment of the proposed sewer work, which was changed from the original plan to create less disruption for residents. A few questioned the flood analysis, noting the map showed some high areas were prone to flooding. A couple of people expressed concern that the dry ponds may increase flooding to downstream residents.

A couple of people suggested other options for removing water, like pumps, be considered for low lying areas like 66 Street. It was also offered that more catch basins were needed in cul-de-sacs. Other comments centred on construction issues like maintenance of pathways, possible tunnelling delays caused by sand layers, naturalization of the dry pond slopes, and other details.

Those who filled out the meeting survey had split opinions on preferred dry pond sports field amenities. There was a slight preference for Option 2 (one baseball diamond, two soccer fields, two tennis courts). Respondents placed the most importance on soccer fields, followed in order of importance by baseball diamonds, a toboggan hill, basketball court, tennis court or pickleball court. Regarding the school dry ponds, most concerns were about traffic during construction, followed by construction noise and dust, and the change in sports fields.

Updates/Contacts

Updates to residents are provided via direct mail or email for those on the stakeholder list. Community presentations and meeting summaries are posted on the City of Edmonton website. To join the mailing list or for additional information, contact:

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