

Engagement Summary



Cumberland Park Redesign – Flood Control Strategy

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1. Project Background

As part of the City of Saskatoon's [Flood Control Strategy](#), storm water infrastructure improvements are proposed for Cumberland Park to mitigate the flood risk for a 1-in-10-year storm at the intersection of Cumberland Avenue and Main Street. Improvements include a storm water dry pond and supporting infrastructure. These improvements will be constructed in Cumberland Park.

The dry storm pond will provide approximately 12,000 m³ of storm water storage, potentially reducing flooding for up to 35 properties around the intersection of Cumberland Avenue and Main Street during large storm events.

Along with construction of a dry storm pond in Cumberland Park, new storm sewer infrastructure will be installed on Cumberland Avenue South connecting the intersection of Cumberland Avenue South and Main Street to the northeast end of Cumberland Park.

The small multi-purpose field that is currently located in Cumberland Park would be impacted by the project. A 70 metre by 40 metre recreation field is proposed to be constructed in the project. The proposed field is to be located on the pond floor of the new dry pond, allowing recreation to be restored in the park once construction is complete.

Since the projects impacts a busy area of the City, it was important for the City's project team to educate local residents about the project and hear the residents' views on the proposed project. This report provides a summary of the engagement activities undertaken to meet these goals.

2. Summary of Engagement Activities

The objective of the engagement events was to **involve** the residents who may be impacted by the proposed Cumberland Park redesign. Specific engagement goals included:

- Provide the community with an opportunity to view the upgrade proposals and interact with the project team.
- Educate residents regarding project timelines and how the process may impact them.
- Develop and maintain positive relationships with the community.

Engagement activities for Cumberland Park Upgrade project included an [Engage webpage](#) that hosted project information and updates, a survey, and an in-person public open house event. Flyers were delivered to residents living near Cumberland Park with information about the public information session.

2.1 Community Associations

In March and April 2024, the Project team engaged with the Varsity View/Grosvenor Park Community Association and the Holliston Community Association. The meeting with the Varsity View/Grosvenor Park Community Association were attended by approximately 40 people, while the meeting with the Holliston Community Association were attended by approximately 10 people. At the meetings the project concept was presented by the Project Team.

2.2 Online Survey

For the online survey, an overall project description (including specifications on the dry pond) and renderings were provided for the residents to share their views on any benefits or opportunities, concerns they saw with the design. The online survey was open for feedback from August 16, 2024,

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until September 20, 2024, but resulted in zero responses. More information on the survey is provided in Section 4.

2.3 Online Presentation

An online presentation explaining the project, was uploaded to YouTube on August 16, 2024, and as of the end of October 2024 has been viewed 161 times. The video includes the renderings, information on how the dry storm pond will function and an explanation on the various stages of construction. An information flyer was also mailed out to the residents informing them of the online presentation.

2.4 Public Information Session

There were four attendees at the public information session held at Brunskill Elementary School on September 11, 2024.

While none of the attendees were directly impacted by the construction or experienced basement flooding, two of the attendees were appreciative of the information provided. Some in attendance signed up for email updates related to progress of the project.

2.5 Email and Phone Correspondence

The project's Engage webpage included contact information for site visitors to send comments or ask questions directly with the project team.

There were two emails received, one from the resident owning two properties on Main Street and another from a resident in Haultain. One resident was concerned about removal of trees as part of the project. The resident was reassured by City staff that only 3 trees were planned to be removed at the south end of the park without impacting any trees that back residential properties at the north end of the park.

The other query focussed on the six rear garages that are used daily in the vicinity of the proposed project site. The concern was if the park construction would completely close the alley throughout the construction phase of the Flood Control Strategy project. The projects team reassured that the project did not include any construction in the alley. While Cumberland Avenue South between Main Street and the park would be closed for a period during construction from May to September 2025 to install a new storm pipe under the road (which would cause the east alley access of the 1400 block of Main Street to be closed) the west access would be planned to remain open during construction.

2.6 Marketing

Engagement opportunities were promoted through mailouts to south half of Varsity View, all of Grosvenor Park, and the northern parts of Haultain and Holliston as well as through communications with the Community Associations of Varsity View/Grosvenor and Holliston.

An Engage page for the project was posted on the City's website. The page included project information including a recorded presentation, links and promotions for engagement activities, project timeline, and contact information for the project team.

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3. Summary of Feedback

The overall feedback received during the engagement activities helped the Project Team understand the concerns of the residents. The residents were aware and appreciated the Flood Control Strategy project in which a dry pond was constructed in W.W. Ashley Park in 2022. This dry pond had helped mitigate flooding in the adjacent area through taking in storm water during a large rainstorm event such as the event that occurred in June 2022.

Some of the questions and concerns raised during the process of engagement during the Community Association meeting were as follows:

- The time it takes for a pond to drain in the event of a major storm, based on other projects already completed.
- If any of the storm sewers on Main Street (aside from the new one on Cumberland Avenue) is going to be improved?
- How does this project fit in with the City's plans to make 8th Street a corridor?
- Some design related questions focused on:
 - Need to modify underground infrastructure as part of construction.
 - Ensure that elevations of the catch basin are correct to collect water. This was highlighted because it was noticed that when there is a heavy rain the sewer grate on the corner of Cumberland Avenue and Main Street often seems dry despite the water around the median.
 - What is the depth of the pond in Cumberland Park?
 - If the pond will be fitted with a lift station or work on gravity drainage?
 - If the ground is level, how does the pond form and water drain into the pond?
 - Level of rainstorm the pond will be designed to alleviate, whether it is for 10 years or 25 years.
- Attendees also asked the project team to share the cost of each of those projects and the number of residents expected to benefit from both projects. They wanted to know if the funding for the project was in place and committed by the City.
- Some of the attendees who live on Main Street highlighted undesirable activity in the park, and wanted to know if there would be an interdisciplinary approach. They were concerned that an excavation and depression in the park would attract more undesirable activity.
- In addition, it was also highlighted that the park has been a valuable soccer field - this should be a consideration in the design.

Some residents also shared some feedback about the University of Saskatchewan Dry Pond project due to the proximity to their neighbourhood, as they had some questions about the need for a pond at the University land. It was also noted that there is continual repair of damaged existing storm infrastructure in the area, particularly on 14th Street.

4. Limitations

The engagement events were focused on the residents in and surrounding Cumberland Park. Having an in-person option may have limited participation due to residents who may not have been comfortable or available to attend the event. The online survey resulted in zero responses. However, the lack of information from the survey does not adversely impact the project, since the community residents had provided sufficient feedback during the Community Association meetings, and the online presentation of the project concept was viewed several times.

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5. Next Steps

Public feedback received will be considered in the redesign of Cumberland Park.