



Weaver Park Dry Pond

Engagement Summary
December 5, 2022



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As part of the City of Saskatoon's [Flood Control Strategy](#), a dry pond is proposed for Weaver Park in the Queen Elizabeth / Avalon area to mitigate flood risk in nearby roadways and private property during major rain storms or substantial snow melt.

The purpose of this engagement was to inform nearby residents and park users of the project and associated construction impacts, and to gain feedback regarding the draft design for the Weaver Park redesign to add a dry pond in the north end of the park. SOS Trees Coalition was also contacted for their feedback due to the loss of trees that would occur during construction.

An online survey posted on the project's [Engage page](#) received 12 responses. Additionally, an in-person public information session had 8 attendees. Engagement opportunities were promoted through mailouts to the surrounding area and through communications with the Community Association.

A recorded presentation to provide information on the project was uploaded to YouTube and was viewed 327 times.

Overall, those who provided feedback supported City efforts to mitigate flooding in high risk areas and there was general support for the dry pond design.

Some more specific concerns or suggestions included:

- appreciate the use of the dry pond for tobogganing in the winter;
- suggestion that the dry pond could be larger / have a higher capacity for storm water if the 65 x 25 m field was not included in design;
- concern that the increased capacity for storm water capacity could increase degradation of the storm sewer downstream, as well as the outfall at the river;
- concern there would be an impact on property value for nearby properties;
- suggest adequate stairs and pathways to make the bottom of the dry pond accessible;
- concerns with the loss of trees / emphasize the need for replacement trees; and
- references to W.W. Ashley Park's dry pond as a positive example of how the dry ponds function as usable park space.

Detailed engagement results are provided below.

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1 Background

As part of the City of Saskatoon's [Flood Control Strategy](#), a dry pond is proposed for Weaver Park in the Queen Elizabeth / Avalon area to mitigate flood risk in nearby roadways and private property during major rain storms or substantial snow melt.

The purpose of this engagement was to inform nearby residents and park users of the project and associated construction impacts, and to gain feedback regarding the draft design for the Weaver Park redesign to add a dry pond in the north end of the park.

2 Engagement Activities

2.1 Marketing

An [Engage webpage](#) for the project was created on the City website.

Residents in the neighbourhood received a mailout including a high level description of the project, instructions on how to access the project webpage, and an invitation to participate in the on-line survey and/or in-person information session.

The Storm Water Utility Manager attended meetings with both affected Community Associations to provide information on the project.

A recorded presentation to provide information on the project was uploaded to YouTube and was viewed 327 times.

2.2 Online Survey

An online survey was posted on the Engage page and remained open for responses from August 18 through October 21, 2022. In total, there were 12 responses.

Respondents were provided background information on the Flood Control Strategy as well as information specific to flood risk near Weaver Park. Respondents were also provided renderings of the draft design for the dry pond, including a description of features, a description of park features that would not be impacted, and an estimate of the number of mature trees that would be removed during construction. Respondents were then asked the following questions:

- Please let us know any benefits or opportunities you see with the design.
- Please let us know any concerns you have with the design.
- Do you have any suggestions for us to consider regarding the design?

Due to the relatively low number of responses to each question, they are provided below verbatim rather than coded and themed.

2.2.1 Survey Results

Please let us know any benefits or opportunities you see with the design.

- Will enjoy the toboggan slopes. Good for not affecting existing large field. Great that a second small field will be created as I rarely see the North side green space in use.
- Opportunity to increase urban forest growth.
- This will be a great use of this empty park space.

- Helps with flooding and is aesthetically cool. Practical and Beautiful. Sounds good to me.
- Love the fact tobogganing would be an asset. And as long as trees are replaced.
- The slope looks steep down to the multi-purpose field. I assume there will be either stairs or a winding pathway for accessibility? This park only has one pathway that runs through it so this is an opportunity to make it more accessible with better pathways and movements.
- None.
- I am curious why an additional sports field was created over flow capacity. Is it simply that the pipes cannot convey the water and it backs up? What happens to the hydraulic grade line when the capacity is reached? Could more capacity be created for larger events by using more real estate?

Please let us know any concerns you have with the design.

- Concerned for increased flooding potential north of weaver park (willow and eastlake) with more water being directed to the area. Worried about degradation of storm sewer with added flows to north and then west down Taylor. With Ashley park and weaver passing flows to the outfall at the river, please monitor the outfall condition so it does not get undermined (erosion)!
- You should pretty please pave Eastlake to Taylor.
- I live on the park perimeter. I have been told by real-estate agents that this will negatively affect my property value, will there be a reduction in my taxes?
- I'm concerned with the removal of the many large trees to build the pond. Many families use the sand pit in the NE corner of the park and I hope that stays. I also hope we will still be able to walk from the NE corner of the park, along the east side to the playground. We are able to walk the whole way to the playground shaded by trees in that area.
- Nope.
- Just the loss of trees.
- Why playground area #2? Why not expand the pond to increase the capacity for more water. This year's flood was the worst in the 42 years we have been here. 2 years ago it was considered a 25 year flood. Thus this one must be greater. Do you think a 10 year flood is sufficient since we haven't had one? I think a larger pond is required.
- I live and suffer within the current defacto dry storm pond so will be directly affected by the performance of the Dry Storm Pond Project. I believe the frequency and magnitude of significant rainfall events will increase in coming years and having seen the June 2022 rainstorm cause the new Adelaide Park pond to be filled to or near capacity, it is obvious another storm of increased intensity would probably overwhelm it. It could have been or should have been made larger, but hindsight is 20/20. However, I hope this would not be lost on those designing subsequent storm ponds. I believe the Weaver Park storm pond (and all pending storm ponds) should be designed: a.) With storm pond efficiency and performance being the only, or at least primary, design requirement. b.) With the assumption that rainfall events are going to be larger than what we are experiencing today and therefore storm ponds will need to be larger. The inclusion of a "smaller multipurpose sports field" at Weaver Park needs to be eliminated as it would be at the expense of a more efficient and capable (larger) dry storm pond, unless of course any such field is located on the floor of the pond or in such a way as to not create any loss of pond capacity. Another tree or slightly used small sports field is of no consolation, compensation or value to people suffering repeated and substantial financial losses.

- Ensure trees are pruned so there is views into the base of the pond when it is being used for recreation or public use.
- Removal of old established trees, destruction of established green space.
- It would be nice to know what the flood levels and pond levels look like in a 1:25 year event. Recent events (2017 and 2022) have both exceeded 1:10 year events. What does that look like?

Do you have any suggestions for us to consider regarding the design?

- Hopefully there will be ability to climb back up toboggan slope. Would be nice if there was at least one set of stairs to access the bottom. Thanks for all your hard work folks!
- Good work!
- 1. Please ensure there is access to the street from the pond area in the northeast and northwest corners. 2. Please provide a way to get from area 5 to area 2 and to area 1 near the east-west center of the park. 3. Is it possible to plant trees in the dry pond area? If so, I think that would be a nice use of space.
- Keep as many large trees as possible. People bring chairs and have coffee or read a book on a blanket under the large trees. While the park is being redone, please add shade sails to the playground (and all city playgrounds!). Shade for playgrounds is lacking. Please add more benches in shady areas around the playground.
- Nope.
- Why playground area #2? Why not expand the pond to increase the capacity for more water. This year's flood was the worst in the 42 years we have been here. 2 years ago it was considered a 25 year flood. Thus this one must be greater. Do you think a 10 year flood is sufficient since we haven't had one? I think a larger pond is required.
- Paved pathways or stairs. Incorporate the same design of WW Ashley.
- Simply don't proceed as Ashley and Churchill ponds should be more than adequate to prevent flooding in the area.
- Showing residents what the flood levels will look like on their properties during 1:10 and 1:25 year events so that they can prepare or repair their land. Most homes here cannot be insured for flood damage anymore and without the models illustrating these changes, they don't know what they still have to do. Flooding will still occur.

2.3 In-Person Public Information Session

An in-person public information session was held at John Lake School (2606 Broadway Avenue) in the evening of October 18, 2022.

The purpose of this session was to give residents near Weaver Park an opportunity to ask questions and provide comment to City staff regarding the Flood Control Strategy, the proposed Weaver Park redesign, and construction impacts. In total, there were 8 attendees.

Topics of discussion at this public information session included:

- Supportive Comments
 - Flooding has been a concern in the past / excited for flood mitigation.
 - Excited about the redesign of Weaver Park.
- Concerns/Questions
 - Concerned that new storm sewer size is not adequate to mitigate flooding.

- Questions about how pond will function – what will happen once the pond is full?
- Question about timelines of road closures during construction, including how long access to property would be restricted.
- Availability of the park during construction, specifically the playground area.
- Questions about the design of rear lanes that are planned to be repaved; are existing grading and building elevations being considered?
- Concerns about existing roadway drainage on Cascade Street.
- Concern that the City will not follow through with completing the project.
- One person was against the 25 by 65 m field on the north half of the park; indicated that more flood storage could be provided without this field.
- During the June 20 rain event, flooded property owners said they received poor communication from customer care / recommended sensitivity training.
- Question about impact of new storm pond and outlet pipe for impacted properties on Willow Street.
- Concern that the regrading of the pond area will impact sightlines at intersection of Hilliard St E and Eastlake Ave
- Other Suggestions
 - While we are paving the 2 rear lanes, one person suggested putting in soil cells to add storm water storage to the back alleys.
 - Storm manhole lids on Cascade Street between William and Dufferin were blown off due to surcharging condition, causing safety concerns. Can we fasten them on to prevent this in the future?
 - Two people asked if the City would consider changing the storm sewer system in the area so it drains towards a different river outfall than Taylor Street.

3 How Feedback was Used

Feedback received was incorporated into the design and construction in the following ways.

- Removed trees will be replaced. This is in accordance with City Council Policy for Trees on Public Property (C09-011).
- Most existing trees located along the perimeter of the park will be maintained.
- The playground area will remain open throughout construction in the park.
- Grass pathways with gradual slopes on the west, northeast, and southeast ends of the pond will allow citizens to safely descend to and ascend from the pond.
- Drainage improvements will be completed in the alleys along Dufferin Avenue, but not through the upcoming project. City staff have found that regrading and paving the alleys would not significantly reduce flooding experienced at private properties during rainfall events. As a result, the City will look into other options to improve alley drainage.
- The roadway design of Cascade Street will be reviewed, with drainage deficiencies being corrected in upcoming repaving work.
- The storm pond will not worsen the risk of flooding in areas north of Weaver Park, as the pond will not drain until there is sufficient capacity in the storm system. In fact, the pond will indirectly mitigate flooding in these areas by reducing the volume of water that would instead be in the existing storm sewer system.