

City of Toronto
Wet Weather Flow Management Master Plan

CONSULTATION REPORT

Stages 3 & 4: April – December 2002
Alternative & Preferred Management Strategies

December 2002



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This Stages 3 and 4 Consultation Report has been prepared by Lura Consulting. Lura has been retained by the City of Toronto as a neutral, third party facilitator of the consultation process for the Wet Weather Flow Management Master Plan. If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact either:

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OUR GOAL

To reduce and ultimately eliminate the adverse effects of wet weather flow on the built and natural environment in a timely and sustainable manner, and to achieve a measurable improvement in ecosystem health of the watersheds.

1.1 Introduction

The Wet Weather Flow Management Master Plan (WWFMMP), the City of Toronto’s plan to reduce or eliminate the adverse impacts of stormwater and improve the health of Toronto’s watersheds, is almost complete. The Master Plan identifies new stormwater management policies, practices and control measures for Toronto, and describes how these will be implemented and funded. Once implementation of the Master Plan has begun in early 2003 Toronto will begin to experience a long list of positive outcomes for the City and all its residents and visitors. Over the first 25 years of implementation, overall benefits to the City would be substantial, including:

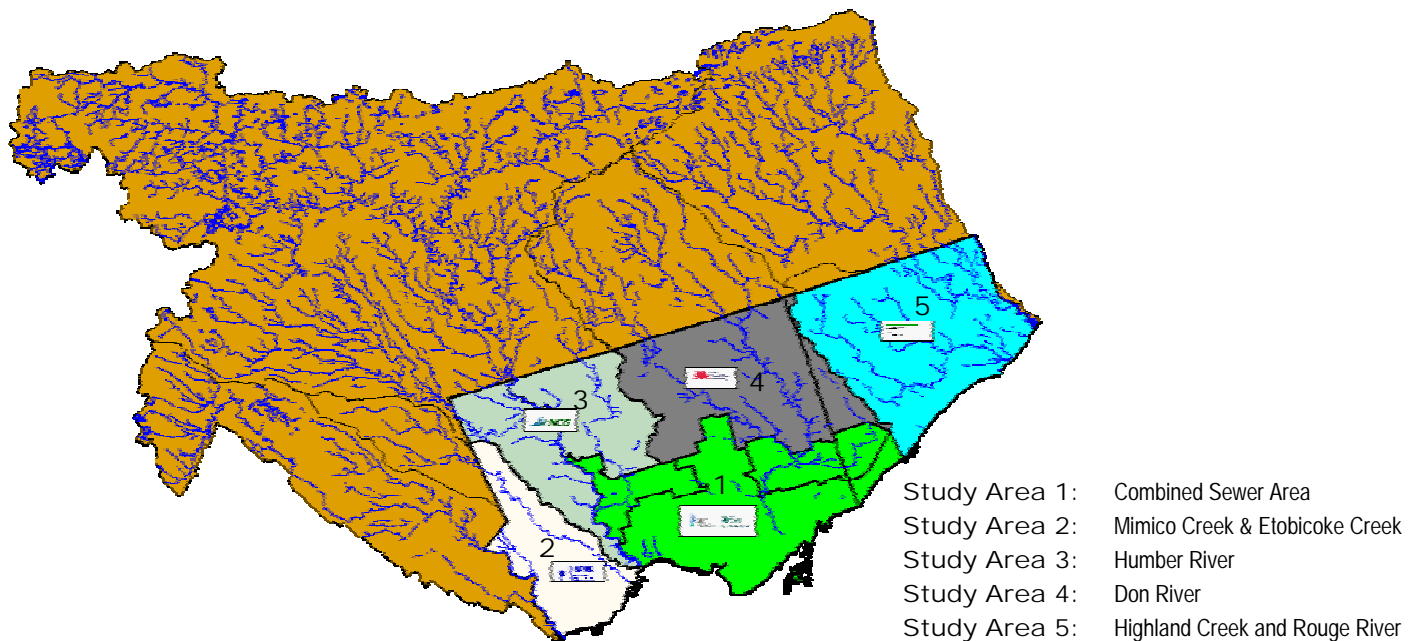
- Swimmable waterfront beaches;
- Elimination of combined sewer overflows;
- Restoration of degraded local streams and improved stream water quality;
- Restoration of aquatic habitat;
- Reduction of algae growth along the waterfront and in streams;
- Basement flooding protection; and
- Protection of the sewer infrastructure from stream erosion.

The purpose of this report is to highlight the results of the consultation activities undertaken during Stages 3 and 4 of the consultation process (April – December 2002), and to document the actions taken based on the input received. It is the third in a series of summary reports intended to highlight key consultation activities completed during the planning process, and to describe how the feedback and advice received from stakeholders has shaped the Master Plan. This report builds on the Stage 2 Consultation Report (May, 2002), and the Stage 1 Consultation Report (February, 2001).

Consultation Stages and Reporting	
Stage 1: Introduction and Target Setting	} Completed, reports available
Stage 2: Options, Indicators and Evaluation Criteria	
Stage 3: Alternative Management Strategies	} Completed, summarized in this report
Stage 4: Preferred Management Strategies	

1.2 Background and Context

In recognition of the importance of approaching this work from a watershed-based perspective, the City was divided into five study areas (see map below), four of which generally followed the boundaries of the major watersheds: Etobicoke and Mimico Creeks; Humber River; Don River; and Highland Creek and Rouge River. The fifth study area included all the parts of Toronto that have combined sewers (which transport rain water and sewage in the same pipes). The Toronto waterfront was also an important aspect of the study.



Between April and December 2002, the WWFMMP Steering Committee, City staff, and the project consulting team focused their efforts on completing a number of important tasks. Much was accomplished, building a strong Master Plan for the improved management of the City's stormwater.

Stage 3 (Alternative Management Strategies) Activities

- Several distinct alternative stormwater management strategies were identified based on targets developed in Stage 2 (Options, Indicators and Evaluation Criteria) for each of the five watershed-based study areas, as well as public input.
- The alternative stormwater management strategies were modeled to estimate their effectiveness at achieving the Master Plan's goals and objectives.
- The alternative strategies were evaluated according to a comprehensive set of criteria developed in Stage 2 of the public consultation process.
- The alternative management strategies were presented to the public for review and feedback.

Stage 4 (Preferred Management Strategies) Activities

- Based on the technical evaluation and feedback from the public in Stage 3, a preferred management strategy was proposed for each study area. In the case of the CSO study area, two management strategies were proposed reflecting different levels of road sewer separation: the first, with separation necessary to eliminate basement flooding and on an opportunistic basis where soil conditions permit; the second, an aggressive approach aimed at completing road sewer separation in all areas that are still combined.
- The preferred management strategies were presented to the public for review and feedback.
- Based on input from the community, the Steering Committee and the consultants, the final WWFMMP was presented, through a staff report, to the City's Works Committee. Subsequently, the Plan was approved in principle by the City's Works Committee, Policy and Finance Committee and City Council in November 2002. Final work is now being completed on the documentation that will be submitted to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment in accordance with the requirements under the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process.
- Relationships with key stakeholders have continued through the project's consultation process, and new partnerships for the future are being explored.
- All of this information has been communicated to thousands of individuals and groups who have been interested in contributing to the WWFMMP.

Integral to each of these and many other tasks over the past nine months was the feedback and advice of watershed, environmental, community and business groups, government agencies, representatives of the neighbouring "upper watershed" municipalities, and the public at large. Members of the WWFMMP Steering Committee, through their participation at meetings of both the full Steering Committee and on various sub-committees, have also provided valuable input and direction, helping to ensure that the Master Plan benefits from contributions from a wide range of perspectives and interests. In particular, the members of the Public Consultation Sub-Committee have continually demonstrated their dedication to guiding consultation activities to ensure meaningful results are achieved.

Quotes from Workshop Participants

"Consider what we are passing on to our grandchildren."

"This plan is like planting a tree – we do the work now so that later we can sit in the shade."

Following this Introduction, the report summarizes the consultation activities that took place as well as highlights of the advice received from stakeholders and resulting actions taken in the following sections:

- Section 2.0 Consultation in Stage 3: Alternative Management Strategies;
- Section 3.0 Stage 3 Advice Received and Action Taken;
- Section 4.0 Consultation in Stage 4: Preferred Management Strategies;
- Section 5.0 Stage 4 Advice Received and Action Taken;
- Section 6.0 Looking Forward to Implementation.

Finally, it is important to note that the intent of this summary report is not to repeat detailed information available in other formats (meeting minutes, workshop reports, email correspondence, etc.). Additional detail on consultation results is available in individual meeting records and reports, available on request from William To at the City of Toronto – please see contact information provided on the inside cover of this report, as well as the complete list of meeting report titles and minutes in Appendix A.

2.0 CONSULTATION IN STAGE 3: ALTERNATIVE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

2.1 Purpose

The overall purpose of the Stage 3 consultation program was to seek community and stakeholder input on:

1. A short list of alternative stormwater management strategies;
2. The approach and criteria for choosing the preferred strategy; and
3. Actions and initiatives in each study area and across the City as a whole that should take priority during implementation of the Master Plan.

The following five alternative management strategies, developed for each study area, were designed to achieve different levels of improvement in different ways and provided the foundation for consultations in Stage 3:

1. **Status quo:** maintain existing conditions – no further deterioration as the City and “upper watershed” municipalities continue to develop and intensify.
2. **Opportunistic Best Management Practices:** Features “green” end-of-pipe facilities (e.g., stormwater ponds) where opportunities exist and includes a mix of voluntary source controls and limited conveyance measures.
3. **Moderate Targets – End-of-Pipe Oriented:** Emphasizes aggressive end-of-pipe facilities, along with a mix of voluntary source controls and limited conveyance measures.
4. **Moderate Targets – Source Control Oriented:** Emphasizes measures to manage rainwater and snowmelt where it falls (at source), along with a mix of enhanced conveyance measures and “green” end-of-pipe facilities where opportunities exist.
5. **Significant Targets:** Includes a mix of enhanced or aggressive measures of all types – source control, conveyance and end-of-pipe.

These five strategies were presented for public feedback during Stage 3, along with the proposed strategy evaluation approach and criteria for choosing the preferred strategy.

Evaluation of Alternative Management Strategies

A quantitative scoring system was developed to rate and compare each strategy using the evaluation criteria. The evaluation scores, along with the public input on the alternative strategies, resulted in the development of preferred strategies. The next stage of public consultations then involved presenting the results of this evaluation and seeking further feedback on the preferred strategy.

2.2 Consultation Activities in Stage 3

The consultation program in Stage 3 involved the following key activities:

- i. A series of five study area workshops on Alternative Management Strategies, July 2002;
- ii. Meetings with community and watershed-based groups; and
- iii. E-consultation through the City's website.

Alternative Management Strategies Workshops. Over 50 individuals participated in the Stage 3 Alternative Management Strategies Workshops across the five study areas, including interested residents and representatives from 14 local community and watershed groups. In addition, 28 members of the WWFMMP Steering Committee, City of Toronto staff, and project consulting teams also participated in the workshops. Discussion at the workshops focused on: (i) the pros and cons of, as well as any clear favourites among, the various strategies based on the completed technical evaluation; (ii) identifying any options missing from the list and hybrid options that should be considered; (iii) feedback on the approach and criteria for choosing the preferred strategy; and (iv) high priority actions or initiatives in the study area or City-wide to improve stormwater management.

Outreach to Community and Watershed Groups. Special efforts were made to engage community and watershed groups in dialogue about the progress of the WWFMMP. The City's Project Manager Michael D'Andrea made presentations to watershed groups such as the Don Mills Kiwanis Club and the Implementation, Compliance and Monitoring Committee (ICMC) of the Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant Environmental Assessment project. In addition, the participation of watershed groups was specifically sought through liaison with the Toronto Region Conservation Authority and invitations to the ten workshops in Stages 3 and 4.

E-Consultation. In addition to participating in the consultation activities listed above, stakeholders, including the public, had an opportunity to get involved through the City of Toronto's WWFMMP website (www.city.toronto.on.ca/wes/techservices/involved/wws/wwfmmp), which the City used to announce consultation activities and post reports. The site also included a link to the WWFMMP Virtual Workshop, which encouraged visitors to provide their feedback and advice or ask questions to which City staff would respond.

WWFMMP Steering Committee and the Public Consultation Sub-Committee. The WWFMMP Steering Committee and its Public Consultation Sub-Committee are core contributors to the public consultation program. Working together with City staff and the project consulting team, Steering Committee members provided ongoing advice and insight that guided the design and delivery of the consultation program. While the feedback of Steering Committee members is extensively documented in its meeting records, this Consultation report for Stages 3 and 4 highlights some of the key themes arising from consultation discussions – both during meetings of the Public Consultation Sub-Committee and the Steering Committee as a whole.

3.0 STAGE 3 ADVICE RECEIVED AND ACTION TAKEN

The consultations throughout the planning process confirmed that one key strength of the final WWFMMP is the many ways in which it has been shaped by the experience, expertise, and opinions of a diverse group of individuals and organizations. The engagement of stakeholders has also been an important step towards establishing longer-term partnerships and building support for the implementation of the Master Plan to begin in 2003.

This section highlights their advice from the Stage 3 consultations, along with the commitments made and actions taken by the City and Steering Committee in response to that advice. Again it is important to note that the Steering Committee and Public Consultation Sub-Committee were instrumental in refining and interpreting community and stakeholder advice, and in identifying opportunities to build that advice into the planning process. Along the way, they also shared their thoughts and observations on a number of the same topics as other stakeholders. Highlights of their feedback are included in this section as well.

3.1 ADVICE ON ALTERNATIVE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Advice. Most participants at the Alternative Management Strategies workshops supported Strategy 5, designed to achieve the highest level of improvements, telling the City to “reach for the top” and “aim high.” There was some support for the strategies designed to meet moderate targets, because they generally had the greatest improvements-to-cost ratio. There was very little support for the opportunistic strategy or the strategy designed to meet “status quo” targets.

—————> **Action.** As a result of stakeholder input during Stage 3, City staff directed their consultants to develop preferred strategies for the subsequent round of consultations based on Strategy 5, to aim to achieve the significant targets and highest level of improvements. These preferred strategies were presented to the public for final feedback in Stage 4, and were subsequently submitted to the Works Committee along with recommended changes made to the Master Plan based on public input.

Quotes from Workshop Participants

“We should adopt the best strategy – cost does not matter when water is the most important resource we have.”

“The entire approach of grouping options together into strategies and evaluating them in those groupings is so complex that I wonder if an entirely different approach might be more effective.”

“It seems to me that we should start with Strategy 2, have Strategy 5 as our goal, and the only question is if we go through Strategy 3 or 4 on our way.”

3.2 ADVICE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIES

Advice. Participants provided the City with considerable advice on how to best proceed with implementation, captured by the following points:

- The City should take the lead and set an example on their own properties.
- Implement high priority projects first; these are the most cost-effective projects (“biggest bang for the buck”) as well as those that are important for their own reasons even if they are not the most cost-effective.
- Target a specific neighbourhood to use as a pilot project for full implementation of the preferred Strategy.
- Select initial projects based on degree of local support, probability of success, opportunity to minimize costs and potential to address knowledge gaps and demonstrate new concepts.

Action. City staff and consultants developed the 25-year Implementation Plan to provide the greatest return on investment in terms of environmental improvement while addressing human health and safety and infrastructure protection concerns at the same time. In addition, the goals and objectives of the WWFMMP are reflected in the City’s new Stormwater Policy, designed to help the City set a good example for both residents, the business community and the “upper watershed” municipalities. The City has also been actively pursuing and supporting various possible pilot projects with potential partners from the industrial, commercial, institutional and development sectors throughout the planning process.

Advice. Throughout every step of the planning process, participants have urged the City to work closely with “upper watershed” municipalities to coordinate efforts in stormwater management, with the eventual goal of reducing the pollution in Toronto’s watercourses that comes from upstream sources.

Action. The “upper watershed” municipalities have been important stakeholders throughout the planning process. A key result of ongoing dialogue between City staff and outlying municipalities is the formation of an Inter-regional Stormwater Working Group that will enable all watershed municipalities to work together to address common wet weather management goals.

Advice. Knowing that successful implementation of the Master Plan requires more than just good planning, politically astute members of the public have recommended that the City also work to build political support for implementation.

→ Action. The City has been and continues to work with City Councillors to support their potential role as advocates of the WWFMMP with their constituencies. In addition, the Steering Committee was chaired by Councillor Irene Jones, the City's first Water Advocate, who is invaluable in her role as a supporter of the Wet Weather Flow Management Master Plan.

3.3 ADVICE ON SOURCE CONTROLS

Advice.

- The criteria used to evaluate the alternative management strategies should favour prevention and source control.
- Implement bylaws to make source controls mandatory.
- Focus on prevention measures.



Action. When City staff directed the technical consultants to develop preferred strategies for the subsequent round of consultations based on achieving the highest level of improvements, part of those preferred strategies was an “enhanced” level of source control implementation, including 75% roof leader (“downspout”) disconnection across the City. Initially, it is thought that achieving this aggressive level of source controls would likely require a combination of incentives, penalties and bylaws. In addition, City staff recommended to the Works Committee and Council that there be a particular focus on source controls within combined sewer service areas over the first 10 years of implementation. They advised that the rate of uptake and corresponding improvements in sewer flow reductions from the source control program will be monitored, and the success of those programs in achieving the Plan’s targets will be reviewed annually.

Quotes from Workshop Participants

“The City should make signs for residents that say “My eavestroughs are watering my lawn.”

“When constructing wet ponds, consider the health and safety concerns related to the West Nile Virus.”

“Rainbarrels are impractical and difficult to use, and disconnected downspouts will cause basement flooding.”

“Public buildings, schools, libraries, parks, etc. should have permeable pavement.”

3.4 ADVICE ON PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Advice.

- Optimize Plan implementation by including effective public education and outreach.
- Educate and engage the public in behaviour change actions.
- Educate the public using social marketing techniques.



Action. As a result of hearing this message many times from members of the public and the Steering Committee and Public Consultation Sub-Committee, a *Public Education and Outreach Strategy* was developed as a key component of the Master Plan. In addition to traditional marketing techniques, the PE&O Strategy promotes using the methods and practices of Community-Based Social Marketing. The PE&O Plan makes the following recommendations:

1. Adopt an umbrella approach to stormwater PE&O.
2. Enhance partnerships with business, community groups and environmental organizations.
3. Segment and target audiences.
4. Develop simple 'how-to' instructions and clear problem statements.
5. Implement City-wide, with supplementing initiatives at the watershed, ward & neighbourhood levels.
6. Monitor and evaluate programs and progress.

Quotes from Workshop Participants

“Education, education, education.”

“I appreciate that the Plan recognizes the importance of public education and community involvement.”

“Educate the public not to use pesticides, road salt or drain their pools into the system.”

Related thoughts from the Steering Committee and the Public Consultation Sub-Committee

Engaging public and corporate support will help build political support for the WWFMMP.

4.0 CONSULTATION IN STAGE 4: PREFERRED MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

4.1 Purpose

The overall purpose of the Stage 4 consultation program was to seek community and stakeholder input on:

1. The preferred City-wide and study area strategies;
2. The 25-year Implementation Plan and financing options; and
3. The willingness of individuals and community groups to get involved with implementation.

Strategy 5 was the preferred management strategy developed for all of the study areas and provided the basis for Stage 4 consultations. The preferred strategy was designed to achieve significant targets through the implementation of enhanced levels of source, conveyance and end-of-pipe control measures that strive towards significant environmental improvements, such as achieving Provincial Water Quality Objectives. In the case of the CSO study area, two variations of Strategy 5 (5a and 5b) were presented, wherein 5a reflected an opportunistic approach to road sewer separation (where soil conditions permit the implementation of stormwater infiltration systems) and 5b included an aggressive approach (complete road sewer separation).

For the purposes of the Stage 4 consultations, an integrated City-wide plan was also developed – building on the study area preferred strategies – along with a 25-year implementation plan and financing options. Both the City-wide plan and study area strategies provided the focus for consultation.

4.2 Consultation Activities in Stage 4

The consultation program in Stage 4 involved the following key activities:

- iv. A series of five study area workshops on Preferred Management Strategies, October 2002;
- v. Meetings with community and watershed-based groups; and
- vi. E-consultation through the City's website.

Preferred Management Strategies Workshops. Over 160 individuals participated in the Stage 4 Preferred Management Strategies Workshops across the five study areas, including interested residents and representatives from 33 local community and watershed groups. In addition, 40 members of the WWFMMP Steering Committee, City of Toronto staff, and project consulting teams also participated in the workshops. Discussion at the workshops focused on: (i) the positive aspects of the preferred strategies and 25-year plan; (ii) suggestions to change or enhance the preferred

strategies; (iii) feedback on potential funding mechanisms for the Master Plan; and (iv) individual's and group's willingness to get involved with implementation.

Other consultation activities, such as outreach to community and watershed groups, e-consultation and discussions with the WWFMMP Steering Committee and Public Consultation Sub-Committee also took place in Stage 4, as previously described in Section 2.2.

Quotes from Workshop Participants

"I like the fact that the City is taking the initiative, showing awareness for the issues and developing a plan."

"There is too much complex information for me to be able to provide meaningful feedback."

5.0 STAGE 4 ADVICE RECEIVED AND ACTION TAKEN

This section highlights stakeholder advice given during Stage 4 consultations, along with the commitments made and actions taken by the City and Steering Committee in response to that advice.

5.1 ADVICE ON PREFERRED MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Advice. Most participants at the Preferred Strategies workshops supported the direction and approach of the proposed preferred strategy, focusing on the benefits of: (i) taking initiative, showing awareness, and having a plan in place; (ii) tangible 5-year plans; (iii) the recognition of the importance of public education and community involvement; (iv) stream and habitat restoration, improving water quality and recreational opportunities; and (v) inclusion of the “upper watershed” municipalities. At the CSO study area workshop, where two strategies (5a and 5b) were presented, participants supported: (i) the aggressive approach; (ii) the concept of collective responsibility; (iii) the objectives; and (iv) the requirements/standards for new developments to manage stormwater on site.

Action. City staff included this important feedback in their staff reports that were presented to and approved by the Works Committee and City Council. These reports also indicated the changes and enhancements to the Plan and strategies based on input from the consultation process.

Participants at the preferred strategies workshops also proposed a number of changes to the Master Plan and study area strategies, particularly concerning road sewer separation (study area 1), implementation, waterfront issues, source controls, public education and outreach, and financing.

5.2 ADVICE ON ROAD SEWER SEPARATION IN THE CSO STUDY AREA

Advice. Comments from consultation participants and active dialogue amongst members of the Steering Committee has made it apparent that there is no clear agreement on separation of the remaining combined sewers in the CSO study area. Some believe strongly that complete road sewer separation is a vital component of any attempt to better manage stormwater in the City. Others are adamant that an opportunistic level of road sewer separation, i.e. that which is necessary to eliminate basement flooding and that which is possible given soil conditions, is sufficient, and that the additional benefits of completing separation would be negligible while the costs would be high. Still others recognize the validity of both claims, and suggest that the option of completing road sewer separation in the CSO study area should undergo further analysis and discussion.

→ Action. In recognition of the importance of this issue, two sewer separation strategies, one opportunistic and the other aggressive, were fully developed and presented at the CSO workshop for public consideration. City staff also recommended that road sewer separation be reviewed and assessed in more detail at the next stage of the Class Environmental Assessment process in those cases where an end-of-pipe facility is proposed in a combined sewer service area that abuts a separated sewer service area. The option of separating road drainage from the combined sewer service area and routing it to the adjacent separated storm sewer area for an equivalent level of treatment as would be provided by the originally proposed end-of-pipe facility, will be reviewed and assessed in more detail.

Quotes from Workshop Participants

“Sewer separation in dense urban or commercial/industrial areas may be too costly and disruptive; it may be better to treat the sanitary sewage and stormwater together.”

Related thoughts from the Steering Committee and the Public Consultation Sub-Committee

Priority should be given to eliminating combined sewers and implementing road sewer separation.

It is not cost effective to separate the remaining CSOs with road sewers, especially given that we know that stormwater and combined sewage are basically similar in terms of levels of pollutants.

Put in two pipes at the street level during infrastructure renewal in the CSO study area, even if they must currently be connected downstream – to leave the option of road sewer separation open for the future.

5.3 ADVICE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIES

Advice. The Plan should be flexible, recognizing that different strategies and combinations of options will be required in each study area and subwatershed, and able to incorporate emerging technologies.

→ Action. The Plan includes different options and stormwater management measures for each study area and subwatershed, based on the unique characteristics and needs of each area. In addition, the built-in 5-year review periods will allow the plan to be adjusted in response to monitoring data, as well as providing an opportunity to consider new technologies as they become available.

Advice. Implementation of the Plan should be accelerated, including source controls, conveyance controls, end-of-pipe controls, stream restoration and operation and maintenance practices, in order to benefit from improvements to the rivers and Lake more quickly.

→ Action. Some of the larger facilities and installations that have been proposed will be subject to their own Environmental Assessment processes; as a result, significant time will be needed to manage the requirements regarding preliminary design, detailed design, public consultation and final agency approvals. In addition to the time required is the level of spending that is considered feasible over the first 25 years of implementation. As a result of these two factors, the implementation plan reflects the most aggressive schedule possible while still being attainable and appropriate.

Quotes from Workshop Participants

“Wet ponds and other aboveground end-of-pipe solution should not decrease the limited amount of open green space available for recreation in South Etobicoke.”

“The new institutions that will be needed as implementation progresses must be accountable and transparent.”

“The improvements to water quality and recreational opportunities, and the stream and habitat restoration are important components of this work.”

“Place an immediate moratorium on the replacement of ditches with sewers in Etobicoke, and start replacing curbs with more ditches.”

Related thoughts from the Steering Committee
and the Public Consultation Sub-Committee

We should aim for the highest targets to achieve what we can and set a good example for the “upper watershed” municipalities.

It is very important that open lines of communication be established and maintained with grassroots watershed groups.

5.4 ADVICE ON WATERFRONT ISSUES

Advice. Concerns were raised that the deflector arm proposed for the mouth of the Humber River, intended to protect the City's beaches from particulate matter and other contaminants in the Humber River's discharge, would simply redirect the problem while also destroying aquatic habitat and disrupting important sediment transport processes along the shoreline of Lake Ontario.

→ Action. The deflector arm will be subject to an Environmental Assessment, during which the proposal will be fully studied and developed along with several alternatives, in conjunction with numerous opportunities for the public to have input into the decision process. An initial assessment suggests that, if properly designed, the deflector arm could be integrated as a multifunctional shoreline feature, providing fish habitat below water, recreational amenities above water while improving water quality along the City's Western Beaches. Nevertheless, staff have recommended that, if approved, the construction of the deflector arm be delayed for five years in order to allow for more time for the review of this issue.

Advice. Some participants suggested that because of their extensive use for sailing, canoeing and other body contact recreational uses, Ashbridges Bay and Coatsworth Cut should receive the same level of protection and clean-up priority as beaches.

→ Action. City staff have modified the 25-year Implementation Plan to bring forward the construction of a stormwater treatment facility at Ashbridges Bay/Coatsworth Cut in the 2003 - 2007 time period to address this issue. City Council have adopted this motion, adapting it to make it a priority action in the first five years of implementation.

Quotes from Workshop Participants

"Risks to human health as a result of bacteria in the water can be greatly reduced even if the PWQO for *E. coli* is not achieved."

"The Plan only addresses stormwater, even though there are other sources of pollution in the Lake. I am concerned that we might spend all this money and still have closed beaches."

"Include a date by which time Toronto will be de-listed as an Area of Concern."

5.5 ADVICE ON FINANCING PLANS

Advice. Participants at the Preferred Strategies workshops strongly supported the use of water and sewer surcharges and did not support the use of property taxes as mechanisms for funding Plan implementation. Most participants also supported user charges and some suggested providing financial incentives to encourage property owners to increase their lot permeability. Other suggestions included the use of development charges, more aggressively seeking funding from senior levels of government and the private sector and not charging sales tax on environmentally-friendly products.

→ Action. City staff have highlighted this important feedback. The City's Chief Financial Officer and Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services will be jointly making a recommendation early in 2003 on a funding mechanism for Plan implementation over the next 25 years to the Works Committee and Policy and Finance Committee in early 2003.

Quotes from Workshop Participants

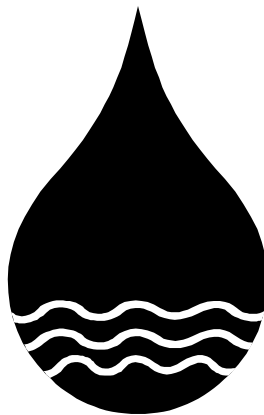
"Spend the money now so we can save later."

"\$1.5 billion over 25 years is cheap – about \$20 per household per year."

"A \$30/year per household increase in water bills is a reasonable amount to achieve the goals."

"The provincial and federal governments should help fund this – they helped create the problem."

"I am concerned about the amount of money we are being asked to put into this plan when it will not even achieve the Provincial Water Quality Objectives."



6.0 LOOKING FORWARD TO IMPLEMENTATION

The Wet Weather Flow Management Master Plan is following a four-step process. Building on the results of Steps 1 and 2 of the planning process, nearing completion with the Plan soon to be submitted to the MOE with notice of completion, the City is now ready to begin Step 3, implementation:

- **Step 1** focused on collecting data on environmental conditions and developing a vision, goal and objectives.
- **Step 2** culminated in December 2002 with the development of the Wet Weather Flow Management Strategy for the City, including preferred strategies for the entire City, a 25-year Implementation Plan, a monitoring plan, a new stormwater policy and funding mechanisms.
- **Step 3**, scheduled to begin in spring 2003, will focus on implementation of the Master Plan.
- **Step 4**, monitoring the Plan's effectiveness and updating it as appropriate, will take place concurrently with Step 3.



We are almost here

As in each of the stages so far, communications and consultation activities will be critical components of implementation activities. In addition to the Public Education and Outreach component of the WWFMMP implementation, which will involve a wide array of both communications and public involvement activities, many of the individual projects will be subject to their own Environmental Assessment processes, and community involvement will be integral to those projects just as it was throughout the planning stages. Additional information about consultation activities that will take place as part of implementation will be available once the detailed planning for those individual projects gets underway – likely beginning in spring 2003.

Parting Quotes from Workshop Participants

“The only barriers to achieving the significant targets are cost, time and political leadership – these are huge barriers, but a lot can be done from the ground up.”

“The 25-year timeline with 5-year review periods makes the Plan tangible and easy to track progress.”

“The plan is strategic, pragmatic and realistic, considering, for example, both at-source downspout disconnections and end-of-pipe CSO holding tanks.”

“I would be willing to organize volunteer committees, one for each activity such as downspout disconnections, to talk and distribute flyers to residents, business owners and apartment building managers.”

Final thoughts from the Steering Committee

It has been amazing to see how much people care, and the level of passion and expertise they have brought to the development of the Plan.

I like this Plan. It started off with objectives and focused on them. I like the way targets were set. There was lots of study and analysis. We will learn a lot over the next few years, especially [once we] get down to implementing the Plan.

I am not comfortable with the proposed Strategy for the CSO study area.; I am not convinced the Plan will be implemented. I am not convinced the Plan will take us anywhere.

I, on behalf of my organization, commit to working to implement the highest possible standard lot-level source protection and those methods that build the protection of our watersheds into the conveyance and end-of-pipe systems.

Canada and the rest of North America will be watching us. I want to see the Plan accomplished.

I believe the work we have done here is not only essential, but it is only the first step... We have the beginning of a challenge; developing the Plan will seem like child's play compared to the challenge of actually accomplishing it.

Stage 3 and 4 Reports and Minutes

Workshops on Alternative Management Strategies

- Public Workshops on Alternative Management Strategies, July 2002

Workshops on Preferred Management Strategies

- Public Workshops on Preferred Management Strategies, November 2002

Public Education and Outreach

- Stormwater Pollution Prevention: Public Education and Outreach Strategy

Staff Reports to Works Committee

- On the Preferred Strategy and 25 Year Implementation Plan for the City of Toronto Wet Weather Flow management Master Plan
- On the Preferred Strategy and 25 Year Implementation Plan for the City of Toronto Wet Weather Flow management Master Plan – Supplementary Report

WWFMMP Steering Committee and the Public Consultation Sub-Committee

Meetings for both the Steering Committee and Public Consultation Sub-Committee were held approximately monthly throughout Stages 3 and 4. Copies of minutes from each of these meetings are available upon request.

Technical Study Area Reports

- Technical consultants' individual detailed study area reports.