

Earl Bales

Bulletin

information on the Earl Bales Park Area Stormwater Management Plan

November 2004

Did you know that every time it rains or snow and ice melts, the resulting runoff makes its way into our watercourses and Lake Ontario? This is referred to as stormwater and it isn't clean. As stormwater flows along the ground, it picks up dirt, pesticides, oil, grease and a lot of other pollutants that impact the quality of our water. Uncontrolled stormwater can also cause erosion along watercourses and flooding certain areas.

The City of Toronto has developed a 25-year plan called the Water Pollution Solution (formerly known as the Wet Weather Flow Management Master Plan), to deal with stormwater and the impact it has on our watercourses and Lake Ontario. The plan has recommended Earl Bales Park as a potential site for stormwater management controls. As a result, the City is starting a detailed study to see what measures can be put in place in the drainage area to capture stormwater before it enters the storm sewer system and at the "end-of-pipe", where water flows from the storm sewer outfalls into the West Don River. This is only one of many areas across the city that will be studied.

In addition to controlling the quality and quantity of water flowing into the West Don River, the study will also look at methods to help prevent erosion along the ravines in Earl Bales Park and improving fish and wildlife habitat.

Helping to improve water quality

If you take a look along your street you should notice a catchbasin somewhere beside the curb. There are many more located along your street and others in the neighbourhood. They carry stormwater into a storm sewer, which discharges through an outfall into the West Don River. The stormwater carries with it dirt, oil, grease and a lot of other pollutants that are picked up as it travels.



There are three stormwater sewer outfalls located in the Earl Bales Park drainage area. They can be found at the following locations:

- Wallenberg outfall - located on Raoul Wallenberg Road/adjacent to Bathurst Street;
- Metro Trunk outfall - discharging directly into the West Don River valley; and
- Timberlane outfall - located behind the apartment parking lot at the entrance to Timberlane Drive.

The discharge of stormwater from the Wallenberg and Timberland outfalls has resulted in erosion and substantial risk to both Parks and Water and Wastewater infrastructure. As part of the Earl Bales Park Area Stormwater Management Plan, the City will look at possible end-of-pipe controls to improve the quality and control the quantity of water coming out of the outfalls.

You're invited...

Are you interested in what happens in the Earl Bales Park area? Are you interested in environmental issues?

Come to a public meeting and learn about some of the ways we might better manage stormwater in the Earl Bales Park area. You'll have an opportunity to learn more about the issue of stormwater pollution.

When: Tuesday, November 30, 2004
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

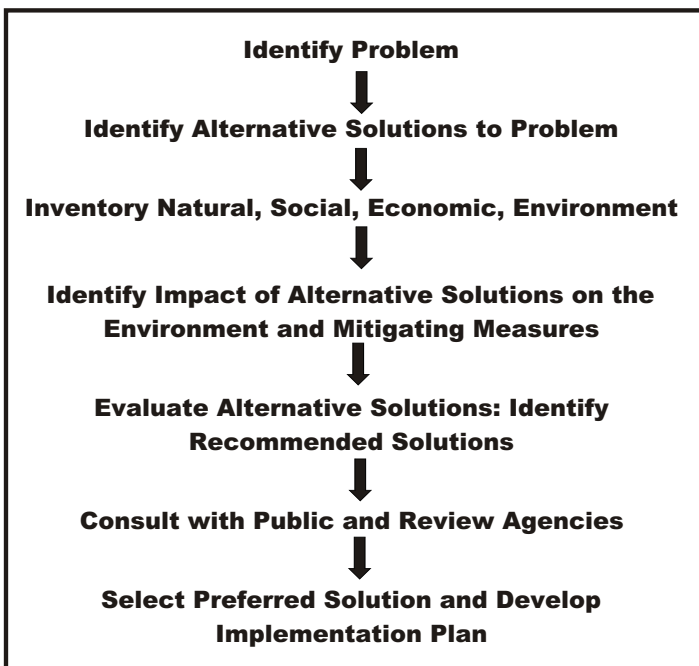
Where: Earl Bales Community Centre
4169 Bathurst Street, Toronto

Can't come, but want to get regular updates on this project? See the back of this newsletter for contact details. We want to hear from you!

Finding a solution

The Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) provides a planning process for municipal infrastructure projects to meet the requirements under in the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act, which calls for “the protection, conservation, and wise management of the environment.” Municipalities must follow the Class EA process before any approval is issued for projects benefiting or impacting the environment.

The Earl Bales Park Area Stormwater Management Study is being carried out under Schedule B of the Class EA. Here are the steps we will follow to develop a stormwater management plan.



What can be done?

There are three main ways we can manage stormwater:

- **Source control**

The source is where the wet weather flow originates, before it enters the drainage system. The control refers to methods that reduce the flow entering the pipes, such as disconnecting eavestroughs, using rainbarrels or putting in porous pavers.

- **Conveyance control**

Conveyance refers to the flow of stormwater, as it

travels in ditches and in the pipes (before it gets to the end of the pipe). The controls include measures such as “leaky” pipes that allow some of the wet weather flow to seep into the ground.

- **End-of-pipe control**

As the name indicates, this is the end of the 'pipe journey' for stormwater, just before it enters a river or the lake. Some controls include ponds, and wetlands.

In developing the Earl Bales Park Area Stormwater Management Plan, the City will take an integrated treatment approach, which is based on implementing source controls, then conveyance controls, followed by end-of-pipe controls.

What can businesses do?

Businesses can use the same measures as residents to help improve the water quality. Contact your local environmental association to learn more about addressing the issue of containment and elimination of spills.

What can residents do?

You too, can help improve river and lake water quality by improving stormwater quality. Here's how:

- disconnect your home's eavestrough downspouts from the sewer
- eliminate your use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides
- grasscycle by leaving grass clippings on your lawn to help absorb rain
- use “environmentally friendly” soaps when washing your car
- maintain your car to avoid oil leaks that make their way into the sewer
- don't dump toxic substances into the sewer
- stoop and scoop animal waste
- put in porous pavement in your driveway or patio
- plant more trees
- recycle your rain. Don't let it go down the drain. Use a rainbarrel to collect rainwater to water your garden and grass

For more information on this project, please contact:

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