

# Q & A

## Earl Bales Park Area Stormwater Management Plan

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The Earl Bales Park Area Stormwater Management Plan is looking at ways to manage stormwater runoff in the Earl Bales drainage area, improve water quality in the West Don River, and reduce erosion of stream banks in the ravines in Earl Bales Park.

In the planning process, five options for addressing these issues have been identified:

Option 1 – Placement of a stormwater pond in the parkland and valley + ravine stabilization

Option 2 – Placement of a stormwater pond in the ravine and valley + ravine stabilization

Option 3 – Placement of an oversized stormwater pond in the ravine and a stormwater pond in the valley + ravine stabilization

Option 4 – Diversion of stormwater into the former trunk sewer, placement of a stormwater pond in the valley + ravine stabilization

Option 5 – Do nothing

At a past public consultation event, participants raised several questions about the study. These questions, and their answers, are outlined below.

**Q1. Are stormwater ponds proven to work at treating water?**

A1. Stormwater ponds are a common method for managing and treating stormwater. There are over 700 such ponds presently located throughout the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).

**Q2. Is the option of underground storage of stormwater being explored?**

A2. Underground storage for stormwater is an option that was examined as part of the City's Water Pollution Solution. However, since construction costs are much higher, underground tanks are primarily used in areas where sanitary and storm sewers are combined, and where opportunities for source controls, conveyance control measures and surface ponds are limited.

**Q3. Can the depth of the ponds be altered?**

A3. The depths of the ponds depends mainly on the depth of the sewers that lead into the ponds and the ground elevation in the area. In Earl Bales Park, ponds in the parkland area would need to be very deep, whereas ponds in the valley or ravines, where the sewer inlets are not so deep, would be much shallower.

**Q4. Does a stormwater pond need to be dredged annually?**

A4. Stormwater carries sediments, dirt and debris that settle to the bottom of a stormwater pond. As a result, stormwater ponds must be dredged occasionally to ensure that the appropriate storage volume is maintained. Current practice incorporates an area called a "sediment forebay" into the design. This area traps most of the sediment and may need to be cleaned every few years. However, the main pool would need to be dredged only every 15 to 20 years.

**Q5. Is it possible to reduce the stormwater flowing from the lands surrounding the Downsview Airport?**

A5. The plans for redevelopment of the Downsview Lands include stormwater management to reduce the stormwater outflows and to treat the runoff to improve its quality. The lands developed for Costco, etc. include stormwater quantity control but not quality control. Instead, funds were provided to the City for stormwater treatment. This is because it was deemed more effective to contribute to a subwatershed solution rather than treat the local runoff and discharge it into a storm sewer, which contains untreated runoff, and which would then need to be treated again.

**Q6. If the selected option is the one that uses an old trunk sewer to carry the stormwater, would the sewer be able to carry all the water resulting from a heavy storm?**

A6. Yes. Based on the effects of a 100-year storm (a storm of the intensity that is expected to occur only once in 100 years), the pipe would provide the necessary capacity to carry the expected stormwater flows.

**Q7. In Option 4, can land south of Wallenburg Rd be used to create a stormwater pond?**

A7. If we did this, we would be diverting treated flow into the trunk sewer and mixing it with untreated runoff. This would negate the benefit of the treatment, and the flow would have to be treated again.

**Q8. What if additional space for the valley pond is not attained as part of Option 4? How much extra volume is needed beyond the proposed valley pond?**

A8. Without additional space, the stormwater entering the valley pond would not receive quite the preferred level of treatment before being discharged into the Don River. Therefore, an additional smaller pond, of about 1 to 1.5 hectares, would need to be constructed.

**Q9. Can the option of creating a stormwater pond in the valley be positioned in the golf course property?**

A9. This would require a modification of the golf course layout. However, we will consult the Parks Department on this possibility.

**Q10. Would the ponds connect in such a way to allow for the flow of fish?**

A10. Typical outlets from ponds would not allow for fish passage. However, fish are often found in stormwater ponds and, in this case, fish populations would be encouraged to help control mosquito larvae.

**Q11. How can I get involved and receive information about this project?**

A11. Public input and comments are invited and will be considered in the planning of this project. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

If you wish to be placed on the project mailing list, please contact:

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