
City Council

Motion without Notice

MM14.28	ACTION			Ward:17
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Nairn Park restoration and measures to address flooding concerns - by Councillor Cesar Palacio, seconded by Councillor Glenn De Baeremaeker

- * This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*
- * This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral.*
- * This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate.*

Recommendations

Councillor Cesar Palacio, seconded by Councillor Glenn De Baeremaeker, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the General Manager, Toronto Water to take steps to ensure that:
 - a. catch basins on Roseneath Gardens, Glenhurst Avenue and neighboring side streets be maintained in a clean condition at all times;
 - b. the sewer systems be flushed and maintained in a clean condition and roads swept and flushed to prevent accumulation of construction and leaf debris that could block catch basins;
 - c. sewage holding tanks be inspected frequently and cleaned as necessary and cleaning equipment and crews to be on standby when significant rainstorms are forecast;
 - d. residents be encouraged to install back flow protection valves and sump pumps and be informed of subsidies available under the Basement Flooding Protection Subsidy Program;
 - e. applications filed under the City's Basement Flooding Protection Subsidy Program by those in Study Area 3 with a history of basement flooding be processed as a priority to help guard against further basement flooding; and
 - f. due consideration be given to installing additional catch basins to alleviate basement flooding hardships dealt with by the local neighbourhood.
2. City Council direct that, following the installation of the underground holding water tank in Nairn Park, listed as Project #3-04 on Table 1 Basement Flooding Protection

Program - Project List 2012-2016 as referenced in Briefing Note 1 dated November 10, 2011, the General Manager, Toronto Water, in conjunction with the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation and the local Ward Councillor, meet to ensure that the local Park is restored, including existing amenities like walking paths, trees, lights and the existing playground.

Summary

Roseneath Gardens, Glenhurst Avenue and the neighbouring side streets have experienced chronic flooding for the last several years and people have grown extremely frustrated and concerned with the constant loss and damages. The situation has become so severe that many homeowners can no longer get insurance companies to offer them basement flooding coverage.

The problem has been further compounded by the lack of catch basins on Roseneath gardens and poor maintenance of the few catch basins that do exist. I have had many communications and on-site visits with staff to discuss the lack of a consistent maintenance program including, frequent cleaning of sewers and catch basins and increased flushing of drains and holding tanks.

The purpose of my recommendations below are to permanently guard against further basement flooding hardships dealt with by the local neighbourhood.

With respect to recommendation number two, the proposed installation of an underground holding tank in Nairn Park to deal with the flooding will create a major disruption in this part of the City that is already the most deficient in parkland. Many residents have voiced concerns that the park be restored after the work is completed as this is a well used park visited mainly by young mothers with children and seniors. With this in mind, I have worked closely with the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation and have reached an agreement to restore Nairn park, after installation of the water holding tank and that existing park amenities that are removed or damaged by the project be fully repaired or replaced as part of the holding tank project.

Due to this community's unfortunate experience with the St. Clair right of way and in the spirit of making sure that things are done properly and on time, I believe that this motion will go a long way to ease the community's apprehension and frustration.

(Submitted to City Council on November 29 and 30, 2011 as MM14.28)