

From: [Arthur Vanek](#)
To: [Infrastructure and Environment](#)
Cc: arthurwvanek@gmail.com
Subject: [External Sender] My comments for 2025.IE22.15 on June 11, 2025 Infrastructure and Environment Committee
Date: June 8, 2025 2:56:13 PM
Attachments: [Drainage of Catchment Basins into Hight Park.pdf](#)

To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the June 11, 2025 Infrastructure and Environment Committee meeting on item 2025.IE22.15, Minimizing Salt Pollution that Poison Rivers and Streams

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

I am writing as a representative of the High Park Natural Environment Committee in support of Councillor Saxe's recommendations toward mitigating the ill environmental effects of road salt used to prevent/melt ice on roads, sidewalks and parking lots. This issue is especially important for the health of the protected ecosystem of High Park. More than half of the Park is designated as an "ESA (Environmentally Significant Area)" and an "ANSI (Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest)". Furthermore, Grenadier Pond has been designated a "Provincially Significant Wetland".

Attached is a map outlining how catchment basins drain from the surrounding neighbourhoods into High Park without specific treatment to remove road salt:

- 1) The area marked "Spring Creek", a large swath of residential area north and northeast of High Park has its entire catch basin drainage flow into Howard and Rideout Ponds at the NE corner of the Park and then into Spring Creek which eventually flows via Duck Pond at the SE corner of High Park into Lake Ontario.
- 2) The area marked "Wendigo Creek + Grenadier Pond" drains another residential neighbourhood in its entirety into Wendigo Pond at the NW corner of the Park, and from there directly into Grenadier Pond and eventually into Lake Ontario.
- 3) The area marked "VM" is a smaller residential neighbourhood that drains via the Valleymede "treatment facility" (no value for road salt) directly into the north end of Grenadier Pond.
- 4) The area marked "Catfish Pond" drains a residential neighbourhood directly into Catfish Pond which is not strictly speaking part of High Park but adjacent.

On top of the massive amounts of road salt dissolved in the effluent from these catch basins, road salt continues to be the prime treatment on the roads, sidewalks and parking lots within the Park. I have determined that all the catch basins within the Park drain untreated into Spring Creek or the various Ponds of the Park.

Clearly, any initiative that could mitigate the massive amounts of road salt ending up in Spring Creek, the various ponds of High Park (including Grenadier Pond) and eventually into Lake Ontario would represent a positive step in improving the natural environments of these areas.

Arthur Vanek
High Park Natural Environment Committee

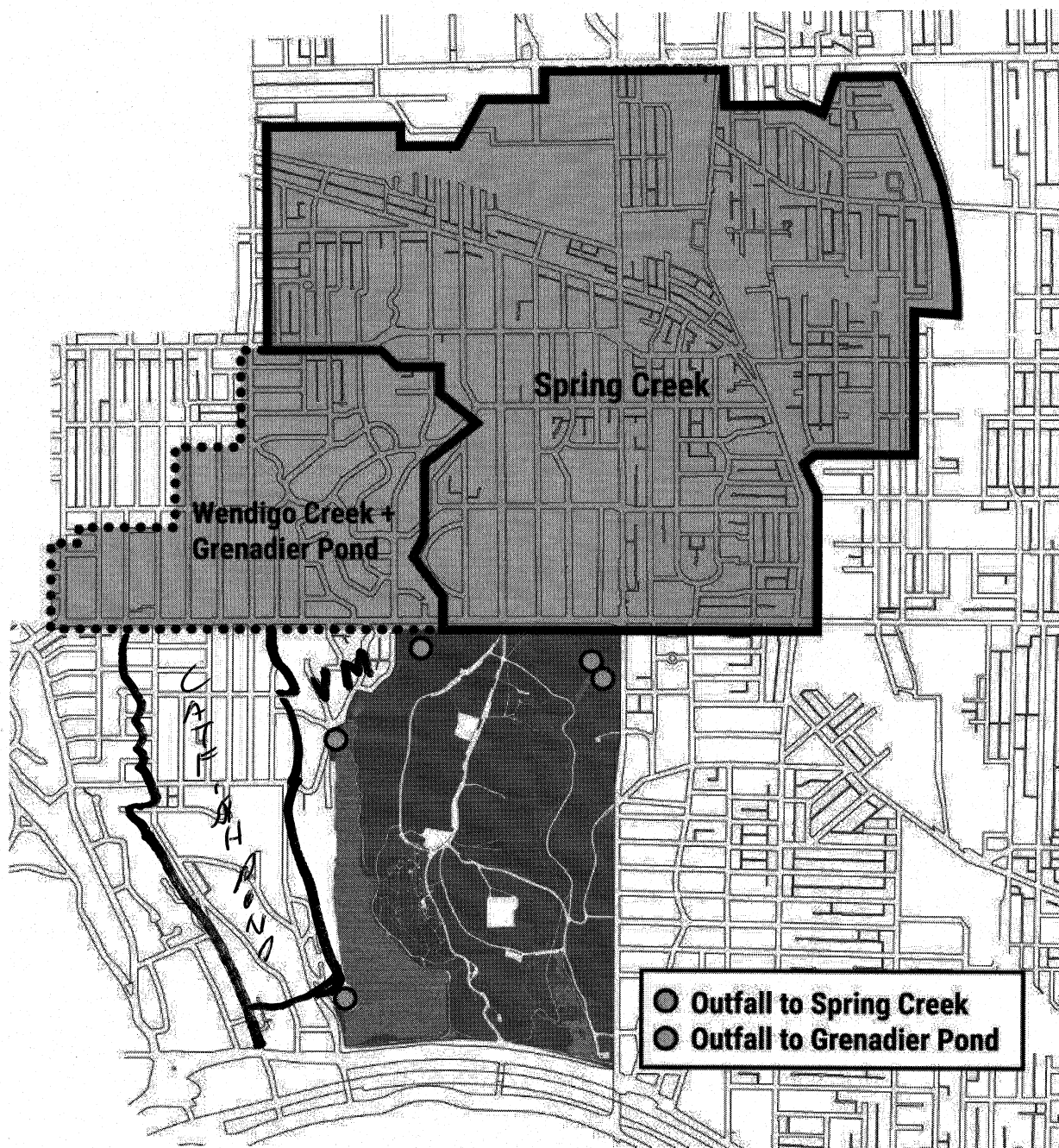


Figure 2 Catchments North of Bloor St Flowing to Surface Water Features of High Park