

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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## **Stormwater Management Master plan – Margaret Greene Park**

Thank you for sharing your questions and concerns about the possible stormwater management facility proposed for Margaret Greene Park. As we move ahead with this project, there will be additional opportunities for engagement. In the meantime, we hope this information is helpful.

### **1. What is the Stormwater Management Master Plan?**

The Stormwater Management Master Plan (SWM MP) is a City-wide study that looks to ensure stormwater is sustainably managed in a way that helps protect Guelph's water supply and the environment over the long term. The Master Plan looks at how the City is currently managing stormwater and guides how we will continue to do so through to 2051. It addresses issues we face today like flood control, maintaining the quality of our local rivers, lakes and streams and our drinking water supply (groundwater), and the overall environment.

### **2. Why is there a stormwater facility proposed in Margaret Greene Park?**

The SWM MP assessed the health of each subwatershed in the Guelph. The stormwater in the neighbourhood around Margaret Greene Park drains to the Willow West Drain subwatershed, which has a poor subwatershed health score. This means there is poor water quality, and poor habitat for plants, birds, fish, amphibians, and other animals living in or near the water. The SWM MP looked at different locations in Guelph for where new stormwater treatment facilities could be built to improve the water quality in that area.

Margaret Greene Park was one of those proposed locations because there may be enough space in the park with un-programmed recreational use that would allow the City to treat the water and improve the water quality before it discharges into the Willow West Drain. Because there is potential, the master plan directs us to look more closely in the future (2030+) to determine if the park can be used in a way that maintains parkland user benefits and improves stormwater.

We know park land is important, so that will be a key consideration in the future. One goal is to improve that subwatershed, including the water and land natural environment, for the benefit of everyone now and in the future, while also balancing other City and community goals.

### **3. Doesn't stormwater go to the Water Resource Recover Centre to get treated?**

Stormwater is not treated at the Water Resource Recovery Centre. It discharges either directly to a stream or river, or through a stormwater management facility to a stream or river. In any given sub-catchment area there are limited treatment locations before the stormwater reaches the natural environment. The preference is to use publicly owned land before purchasing additional property.

#### **4. Why is a surface facility proposed in Margaret Greene Park instead of a subsurface facility?**

Surface facilities are generally preferred to subsurface facilities for several reasons such as: ecological benefits (such as increased wildlife presence in the area and downstream river), aesthetics, ease of maintenance, and lower construction and maintenance costs. The master plan recommends we build a surface stormwater management pond. If however, during the preliminary and detailed design we find that a surface facility isn't desirable for technical or community benefit reasons, we will consider a subsurface facility instead, subject to Council budget approvals.

We won't know for sure which type of facility will be built until after we complete the initial design and have completed community consultation and field investigations that we undertake at the commencement of capital projects of this impact.

#### **5. Will it be safe?**

The City takes public safety very seriously. We will ensure that best practice and required safety features are incorporated in the stormwater management facility.

#### **6. Will it impact existing park amenities?**

The proposed location at Margaret Greene Park was chosen because it is far enough away to avoid impacting the existing soccer fields, playground, baseball diamonds, and future splash pad. The surface facility can be designed as an additional feature in the un-programmed section of the park and could include features such as benches, landscaping, plantings, and connecting trails.

#### **7. When will Council approve this recommendation?**

City staff will present recommendations from the SWM MP to Council on April 4, 2023, which includes the proposed locations for new stormwater management facilities. If Council approves the SWM MP, they will be approving next steps, which is for staff to look further into the details of the proposed opportunities to improve water quality. It does not mean the location of the facilities are finalized. The actual design and construction budget will be presented to Council as part of the multi-year capital budget which will be open for public consultation.

#### **8. When will the facility be built?**

Once the SWM MP is approved, staff will work to determine the most appropriate time to do this work balanced against all other City priorities. Currently, we don't expect the work to start before 2030.

## **9. Was there any community engagement completed on this part of the project?**

On November 29, 2022, the City hosted a hybrid public open house for the SWM MP to present the findings of the study including this proposed facility in Margaret Greene Park. The material was available for review and comment on the City's Have Your Say engagement page until December 20, 2022. As the SWM MP is a City-wide study, engagement has been at a broad level, with the intention that future phases of each project identified will also include community engagement.

## **10. Will there be more community engagement before it is built?**

Absolutely. We will notify the community before we begin the preliminary field investigations. Then, once we have gathered background technical information on all the options, we will engage the community who live near and use the park to hear their ideas and preferences for the type of facility and restoration plans. We will also let the nearby community know when construction will begin, how long it will take, and other progress updates.

## **11. What about the splash pad?**

We have initiated the splash pad project for Margaret Greene Park. Engagement and more detail will be shared as things progress. Stormwater management elements will defer to park assets (such as the splash pad) during detailed design.

### **Resources:**

[Have Your Say engagement page](#)

[Stormwater Management Master Plan](#)

[Subwatershed Health Analysis Technical Memo](#) UPDATED LINK -> [Appendix C -](#)

[Subwatershed Health Analysis](#)

[New End of Pipe Facilities Technical Memo](#) UPDATED LINK -> [Appendix I - New EOP SWMF Opportunities](#)

For more information, please contact:

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