

**Lendrum Place Community Consultation  
concerning a Dry Pond next to Lendrum and Avalon Schools  
held April 12, 2007 at Lendrum Elementary School**

**Consultation Summary**

Attendance: 55

Main presenter: Russell Barth, Senior Engineer, Drainage Services Branch  
Dave Krywiak, Consulting Engineer, Stantec

**Presentation**

The consultation began with introductions and an overview of previous consultations and meetings conducted with residents and other stakeholders regarding Lendrum flood prevention.

One of the main flood prevention recommendations discussed previously with residents was construction of a dry pond on the recreation fields adjacent to Lendrum and Avalon Schools. The purpose of the April 12 consultation was to gain final community approval to proceed with the project.

Mr. Barth and Mr. Krywiak spent some time discussing key elements of the dry pond. The concept is that the water that is too much for stormwater sewers to handle would be diverted and held in the dry pond until the underground system has the capacity to drain it away. It would occupy the playing fields between the schools and the community league building. The whole area would be lowered by 1.0 metres below 113A and 114 St. The pond would be dry the vast majority of the time as it would only retain water during major rainstorms. The proposed pond has the following features:

- A new wet meadow feature would be in the centre, between the playing fields. It would be slightly lower than the rest of the dry pond and be the first and last area to have ponding water. This would be a naturalized area suitable for outdoor classroom activities.
- The existing sliding hill would be rebuilt to about the same size as the existing hill.
- A larger baseball diamond with a smaller teaching diamond would be built.
- The existing large soccer field and two small soccer fields would be rebuilt and football uprights added to the soccer goal posts on the large field.
- More trees, a new running track, outdoor amphitheatre and asphalt walking trail system would be added.
- Interpretative signage would raise awareness of the naturalized features.

The dry pond work would result in the Avalon School teacher's parking lot being reconfigured and rebuilt to provide more room. Mr. Barth emphasized that the dry pond would have a number of safety features including warning signs and a security guard on site when water is in the dry pond. Local schools and community groups would be given educational information to share with children and parents.

Mr. Krywiak indicated a few inches of ponding can be expected during a 1:5 year flood event. A few feet of ponding would occur in the case of a 1:100 year flood event. It would take about six hours for the dry pond to drain following the largest rainfall event, like the one experienced in July of 2004.

### **Input from Residents**

People at the meeting were in favour of the recommended dry pond but had a number of questions regarding its construction and the resulting amenities. Some individuals were curious as to the disposal of the excavated dirt, the impact of trucks on neighbourhood roads, coordination with LRT construction, parking and access restrictions, and fencing.

It was explained that there will be some parking and access restrictions and any roads negatively impacted by dry pond construction would be repaired. A detailed schedule and other issues like fencing and how the project will be coordinated with LRT expansion would be ironed out before construction begins.

Others were interested in knowing more about the rebuilt sliding hill, the location of trees, grass sodding and mosquitoes. The sliding hill will be 3-4 metres high, about the same as the existing hill. Trees will be planted to provide more aesthetics and be situated so tobogganers do not slide into the outdoor classroom (wet meadow) area. Tall deciduous trees will be used to keep sight lines open and decrease security concerns. Sodding will be done in a cool month to improve rooting and provide lush fields in the spring. The wet meadow will attract many species of birds. These birds are expected to keep the mosquito population under control.

There was a concern that the water table would be too near the bottom of the dry pond. The water table will be about 0.5 metres below the dry pond. Mr. Krywiak explained that the water table is not expected to fluctuate significantly and therefore is not likely to be an issue in terms of dry pond surface wetness.

There were a few questions about the pond's capacity, drainage and how it will prevent sanitary sewer flooding. Meeting participants were reminded that surface water and backup from over capacity stormwater sewers will be diverted to the pond. This will prevent pools of water forming on the street or in yards. The pond will fill on only rare occasions.

It was noted that a wetland is planned on the northwest corner of 115 Street and 51 Avenue on the University Farms property. This is to capture stormwater before it crosses the street and floods Lendrum.

Other work has been completed or is planned to reduce the risk of sanitary sewer backup in Lendrum. This involves sanitary sewer capacity upgrades, the plugging and sealing of manhole covers and installation of more backwater valves.

### **Next Steps**

In addition to the consent of residents, Drainage Services needs the approval of Edmonton Public Schools. This is expected to be provided soon. Construction is tentatively set to begin in the late fall of 2007 and will take one year. An open house will be held in Lendrum later in the summer to share more construction details with residents and discuss a more detailed timetable.

Residents can be kept informed of Lendrum flood improvement projects through updates on Drainage Services' website at [www.edmonton.ca/floodprevention](http://www.edmonton.ca/floodprevention). Additional comments or questions may be forwarded to Ken Chua, who will manage the construction phase of the Lendrum dry pond. He can be reached at 496- 5545 or at [ken.chua@edmonton.ca](mailto:ken.chua@edmonton.ca)