

[The following information was taken from the minutes of the Sept. 24, 2014 meeting of the High Park Resource Group]

Stormwater Management Pond Clean Out and Maintenance

A number of stormwater management ponds (SWMP) in the City of Toronto are nearing or have reached their maximum sediment capacity, which reduces their capability to hold and treat stormwater and thereby protect the surrounding areas from localized flooding and improve downstream water quality. SWMPs require regular maintenance and sediment removal in order to operate effectively.

In Spring 2013, Toronto Water approached the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) to seek opportunities for TRCA to assist with the management of their SWMPs and discuss opportunities to assist the City of Toronto with the assessment, maintenance and potential retro-fit of SWMPs within the City of Toronto. The City identified 7 priority ponds and the TRCA prepared maintenance and clean-out plans with preliminary costing and project work flow details to address seven priority ponds.

Under last year's pilot project, three SWMPs in Scarborough were cleaned out by the TRCA. TRCA managed the clean-outs and were responsible for all permits, approvals, fish and wildlife requirements contractor administration, site mobilization, sediment and erosion control, clean-out, sediment haulage and disposal and site restoration.

Key Point(s):

This note is in regard to three SWMPs in High Park, specifically, Wendigo Pond, Upper & Lower Spring Creek Ponds [known as Howard & Ridout Ponds], and Lower Duck Pond. Wendigo Pond is located along the west side of the park and falls within the Humber River Watershed. Wendigo Creek feeds Wendigo Pond, which drains into Grenadier Pond, which then drains into Lake Ontario.

The Spring Creek Ponds and Lower Duck Pond are located on the east side of the park and are connected via Spring Creek. The Spring Creek Ponds are located upstream of Lower Duck Pond, and the Lower Duck Pond drains into Lake Ontario.

Action Plan:

The High Park SWMP clean-outs have a tentative schedule of the following:

Pond Name	Tentative start date	Tentative end date
Wendigo *	September 2014	May 2015
Upper and Lower Spring Creek *	September 2014	May 2015
Lower Duck	Deferred to 2015	

*Dewatering will occur in the fall, clean-outs will occur over the winter and restoration will occur in the early spring.

Contact for further information: Monday Iyamu, Toronto Water @ 416- 338-5990

Additional Information as of December 8, 2014

[Obtained by the High Park Natural Environment Committee in correspondence with Rob Gillis, Manager, Toronto Water, District Operations, Program Maintenance]

1. Who is actually carrying out the work? Toronto Water has partnered with the TRCA, and TRCA is managing the project and the site. TRCA will be on site overseeing the operations at all times.

2. How will the work affect the wildlife in the area, e.g. birds, turtles, raccoons, foxes, coyotes? What measures will be taken to minimize the impact on wildlife?

The TRCA has planned this work to occur in the fall and winter to have the least impact to wildlife and vegetation. It will be conducted as quickly as possible and the TRCA is well experienced in restoration and habitat enhancement. The work will be complete prior to the Christmas Break (weather permitting). If there any outstanding restoration work ie. new planting, that will be carried out by the spring of 2015.

3. How will each site be accessed?

The access to Wendigo pond is from Ellis Park Road on the south end of the pond. Spring Creek Pond will be accessed by Park Side where the current maintenance access road exists.

4. How will the dredging be done and where will the dredged material be spread to dry?

The dredging will be done by a long reach excavator to minimize the construction foot print, and minimize the disturbance to the area. All dredged material will be trucked away from the site to a licensed disposal facility. *[NOTE: The material will not be dried first on site at the playground area as previously proposed.- NEC]*

5. What is meant by "slight disruption" and what restoration work will be carried out?

The immediate area surrounding the pond will not be accessible during this project to ensure public safety. Fencing will be placed as required. Any disturbance will be within the immediate vicinities of the ponds where small over hanging vegetation and branches will be pruned to allow safe access. Once all work is complete the site will be restored to a functional condition.

6. Are the staff in Forestry and Natural Environment who manage the natural areas of High Park being kept informed of this work and any restoration plans?

Yes, Parks staff have been continuously involved in the planning and delivery of this maintenance work and we will continue to work closely with Parks on future projects. *[NOTE: It is not clear whether any Forestry staff (e.g. the district ravine planner) were involved in any way. – NEC]*

7. Is the work being carried out in compliance with the protected status of High Park's natural areas (e.g. avoiding introduction of soils from outside the park, sourcing of plant material)? **Yes. No new soil materials are being introduced.**

Site visit

NEC members participated in a site visit on December 9 with TRCA and Toronto Water representatives. The work at Wendigo Pond is expected to start winding down by December 19, at which time the dredging equipment will be moved to Howard and Ridout Ponds.