
Flood Control Strategy Update

Recommendation

That the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services recommend to City Council:

1. That the Storm Water Utility fund any costs not covered by the Government of Canada, up to \$5.7 million, to construct the dry storm water pond at W.W. Ashley District Park and supporting drainage infrastructure, and to relocate the existing sport field to Aden Bowman Collegiate; and
2. That the City Solicitor's Office be authorized to prepare a Joint Site Agreement with Saskatoon Public Schools for the upgrading and programming of the Aden Bowman Collegiate sport field, and that the Mayor and the City Clerk be authorized to execute the agreement under the Corporate Seal.

Topic and Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present an update on the funding application to the Government of Canada for the Flood Control Strategy and provide information on design changes that are proposed for the dry storm water pond in the W.W. Ashley District Park. A joint site agreement with Saskatoon Public Schools is proposed to move the sport field programming in W.W. Ashley District Park to Aden Bowman Collegiate to increase flexibility for the dry pond's design.

Report Highlights

1. Development of a regulation-sized soccer field at Aden Bowman Collegiate is planned rather than incorporating it with the dry storm water pond at W.W. Ashley District Park. This will provide improved recreational, safety, and aesthetic benefits for the neighbourhood.
2. Community engagement in spring 2019 will provide feedback on the design for the dry pond in W.W. Ashley District Park, with construction to begin in 2020.
3. The Government of Canada indicated that the funding decision about the \$21.6 million requested from the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund is delayed to May 31, 2019 or later.

Strategic Goal

This report supports the Strategic Goal of Quality of Life as the Flood Control Strategy will reduce the risk of flooding and related impacts, and the outlined changes for the W.W. Ashley District Park project will facilitate recreation programming and aesthetics of the park design.

Background

At its meeting December 17, 2018, City Council approved the following recommendations:

1. That the City complete an application for the Government of Canada's Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund program, which if approved, would be utilized for the Flood Control Strategy set out in this report;
2. That the City undertake a nine-year \$54.0 million Flood Control Strategy, subject to approval of Government of Canada funding, as set out in this report; and
3. That the Administration proceed with community engagement and subsequent detailed design for a dry storm water retention pond in W.W. Ashley Park to increase capacity for the 1st Street East/Dufferin Avenue area.

Report

W.W. Ashley Dry Pond

The initial conceptual design for the dry pond at W.W. Ashley District Park included restoring the existing sport field in its current location. Upon further functional design of the dry pond, it was determined that it would be advantageous to relocate the regulation-size sport field to Aden Bowman Collegiate for a variety of reasons. This first phase of development would begin in 2019, prior to work on the dry pond. A smaller sport field will be developed at the bottom of the dry pond upon completion. Project benefits include the following:

- Recreation users will have access to a district multi-purpose sport field during and after construction of the dry pond providing uninterrupted service.
- Reduced safety risks because the dry pond slopes will not need to be as steep without the requirement for a regulation-sized sport field at the bottom. This will also remove the need for a retaining wall near the paddling pool.
- Underground water storage costs will be avoided. A full capacity dry pond is expected to drain within 3.5 hours after a one hour, 1-in-10 year rain event.
- Opportunities for more public input on programming and park design which could include a youth-size soccer field and improved aesthetics.

Construction for the dry pond and supporting storm water infrastructure will begin and be completed in 2020. The sport field at W.W. Ashley District Park is expected to be available for use by 2022 or earlier.

Multi-Purpose Sport Field at Aden Bowman Collegiate

The City has had positive exploratory discussions with Saskatoon Public Schools about the construction and maintenance of a multi-purpose sport field at Aden Bowman Collegiate under a joint site agreement, subject to necessary approvals. The City of Saskatoon (City) previously entered into similar joint site agreements with Saskatoon Public Schools. Benefits to Saskatoon Public Schools and students include the following:

- An alternative regulation-size sport field for soccer will be available during construction of W.W. Ashley District Park so students will not need to be bused to an alternative location.
- A high quality regulation-size sport field will be constructed on school property, with capital and maintenance costs funded by the City.
- The City will be responsible for allocating the multi-purpose field.

- Additional parking spaces will be available for students and multi-purpose park users. Parking could be a combination of additional parking on school property and angle parking on Albert Avenue.

Attachment 1 shows a map of the proposed Aden Bowman Collegiate sport field and potential parking. Construction is expected to begin and be completed in 2019.

Public and/or Stakeholder Involvement

The Flood Control Strategy has been developed with community engagement over the past several years in the form of surveys and in-person consultations.

Saskatoon Water has been working collaboratively with other divisions, particularly Recreation & Community Development, which has been instrumental in building a partnership with Saskatoon Public Schools for the project. Representatives of Saskatoon Public Schools view this proposal positively for Aden Bowman Collegiate students.

An open house is planned at the J.S. Wood Library in late spring 2019 to describe the changes to W.W. Ashley District Park and to seek feedback on design options related to the landscaping and potential passive recreational opportunities. Input will also be sought on potential angle parking on Albert Avenue.

Communication Plan

Close communication with Saskatoon Public School representatives will be maintained throughout the planning and construction stages. The project and open house will be promoted through flyers distributed to residents in the Haultain, Buena Vista, and Queen Elizabeth neighbourhoods, and through local Community Associations and Aden Bowman Collegiate, along with other communication channels. Flood Control Strategy e-mail update subscribers will also be kept informed. Construction notices will be distributed to affected residents prior to construction.

Options to the Recommendations:

1. The advancement of the project could be postponed until a shared funding source is confirmed with the Federal Government. The advantage to delaying the project would be to eliminate the risk that the City would need to fund all of the project costs. However, if a decision to proceed is delayed, construction will likely not begin until at least 2020, thereby, extending the risk of flooding an additional year. Storm Water Utility funding is available to complete the project over the next two years if the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund application is not approved.
2. The project could be completed as originally communicated without relocating the district regulation-size sport field to nearby Aden Bowman Collegiate. The main advantage to this option would be that no additional park maintenance charges for the City would be required. The disadvantages include the loss of a year or more of programmable sport field space, safety and graffiti risks associated with a retaining wall, limited options for dry pond design aesthetics,

and increased potential for opposition from W.W. Ashley District Park users about the changes.

Environmental Implications

The Flood Control Strategy supports adaptation measures to mitigate flood damage associated with longer term potential climate change impacts including risk of more frequent and intense rainfall events. Some greenhouse gas emissions are expected from construction-related activities; however, the overall impact on greenhouse gas emissions has not yet been quantified.

Financial Implications

The incremental annual operating costs are expected to be \$16,000 for maintaining the sport field at Aden Bowman Collegiate and the W.W. Ashley District Park including irrigating both parks. The cost will be included in future Parks' annual budgets.

The total cost for the 1st Street/Dufferin Avenue flood prone area was previously estimated at \$5.7 million, with \$2.3 million (40%) requested from the Government of Canada's Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund. The new design will not require the cost of \$1.2 million for a full layer of underground water storage, so the estimated capital cost, which includes approximately \$800,000 to transfer the district sport field to Aden Bowman Collegiate, is not expected to exceed the previously estimated amount.

If the Government of Canada does not approve the application for the Flood Control Strategy, the Storm Water Utility has funding in Capital Project 1619: TU-Storm Sewer Trunk Capacity Programs up to \$5.7 million for construction in 2019 and 2020 to mitigate flooding for the first flood prone area. If the cost to transfer the district sport field to Aden Bowman Collegiate is not eligible for Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund funding, the same Capital Project will fund these costs.

If the funding application to the Government of Canada is not approved for the Flood Control Strategy, the Storm Water Utility will investigate other funding options, and return with a report in late 2019 for funding options for the other flood prone areas.

Safety/Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

The CPTED Committee reviewed the concept plan for the new Aden Bowman Collegiate sport field and provided recommendations which will be incorporated in design discussions with Saskatoon Public Schools. CPTED will review the design for the dry pond in W.W. Ashley District Park prior to finalization.

Other Considerations/Implications

There are no policy or privacy considerations or implications.

Due Date for Follow-up and/or Project Completion

The Aden Bowman Collegiate sport field construction is expected to be complete by the end of September 2019, and to be operational in 2020. Consultations to get feedback

about W.W. Ashley District Park are expected to take place in early June 2019 with construction taking place in 2020.

Public Notice

Public Notice pursuant to Section 3 of Policy No. C01-021, Public Notice Policy, is not required.

Attachment

1. Proposed Multi-Purpose Sport Field at Aden Bowman Collegiate

Report Approval

Written by: Angela Schmidt, Storm Water Utility Manager, Saskatoon Water

Reviewed by: Reid Corbett, Director of Saskatoon Water

Approved by: Trevor Bell, Acting General Manager, Utilities & Environment Department

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