

Stormwater Master Plan Draft (Halton Hills)
(Feedback by Glen Williams Community Association (GWCA))

Glen Williams Community Association (GWCA) appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback / comments on the proposed Stormwater Master Plan for the Town of Halton Hills by AECOM.

Overall, the report is very comprehensive with sediment quality testing at various stormwater management facilities / ponds, flow and precipitation monitoring, and stormwater quality monitoring. In addition, the hydrological and hydraulic modeling of storm sewer and overland drainage systems is well documented, with 2-year through to 100-year storm events. These highlighted key areas requiring priority mitigation / corrective measures.

There were several points that we'd like to comment on regarding this report.

First - The initial overview highlighted historical drainage issues or flooding areas of concern – namely Wildwood Road and Bishop Court, in Glen Williams. However, throughout the report there was no subsequent commentary on these two flooding areas of concern. The storm sewer performance charts and maps appear to identify that these areas do not have issues. Is there something else that is creating this concern? It would be appreciated if this could be clarified.

Second – It was noted that AECOM completed bathymetric surveys on seven (7) town-owned stormwater management facilities (SWMF) / ponds. However, the charts and analysis included data only six (6). It appears that SWMF (R16) was not included? In addition, it's not clear how many stormwater management facilities (SWMF) / ponds are in the Town's asset base. This is an important asset to be considered and managed, and we believe that there should be some visibility on how many are in-place, especially when it pertains to ongoing asset management. Some of these stormwater management facilities (SWMF) / wet ponds not mentioned, are designed to overflow into natural creeks / streams that could flow into river systems (e.g. Credit). In addition, their impact on the environment and associated natural habitats of flora and fauna is significant.

Third – It is commendable to see the attention paid to sedimentation (quality and accumulation) in stormwater management facilities (SWMF) / wet ponds. However, there didn't appear to be commentary and recommendations around remediation requirements when these facilities are operationally compromised. In addition, we wondered about the requirement to regularly assess structural integrity of these sites, especially those that may be elevated, in relation to adjacent buildings and residences in the surrounding areas.

Glen Williams Community Association (GWCA) supports the Policy and Engineering Development Standards Recommendations highlighted in the report. Of special note, would be the recommendations related to street sweeping and catchbasin cleaning. We also strongly support the recommendation to develop a sediment forecasting program and bathymetric surveys for all of the Town's stormwater management facilities (SWMF) / ponds in order to develop a maintenance plan to manage these assets. As noted above, some of these facilities, by design, overflow into natural creeks / streams that could flow into river systems (e.g. Credit).

One area not addressed in the recommendations, related to stormwater management facilities (SWMF) / ponds, is the opportunity/recommendation to use aeration devices at those that are deemed wet sites. Other jurisdictions use these devices to manage the stagnation in wet pond sites, with an obvious additional benefit of reducing the potential of mosquito breeding locations. Currently, these wet ponds are regularly sprayed with pesticides to address this issue, which is not an environmentally sound approach.

One final comment, relates to the potential flooding issues associated with stormwater flows impacting the Credit River and its watershed. There appeared to be no comments or recommendations related to this potential threat, due to stormwater flow.

In closing, Glen Williams Community Association (GWCA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed Stormwater Master Plan (Halton Hills).

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