

**VMC Edgeley Pond + Park
Public Meeting #3 (out of 3)**

Wednesday, September 28, 2017, 6:00 – 8:00 pm
Expo City, Sales Office
2920 Highway 7, Vaughan

MEETING SUMMARY

On Wednesday, September 28, 2017, the City of Vaughan held the third and final public meeting for Edgeley Pond and Park at the Expo City Sales Office. About 15 people participated in the third public meeting, in addition to City staff and the consultant team.

The purpose of the meeting is to present and seek final feedback on the preferred design for Edgeley Pond and Park.

The meeting was held in an open house format. During the first 30 minutes participants looked at the boards and had a series of small one-on-one conversations with City staff and the consultant team. Following the informal panel review, members of the consultant team presented the 11 display boards and provided information about the preferred design for Edgeley Pond and Park and the next steps in the process.

This meeting summary was written by Jacky Li and Yulia Pak of Swerhun Facilitation & Decision Support. It is based on the feedback shared by participants during the meeting. It is structured to reflect the following four key areas of the discussion:

1. Feedback Highlights;
2. Questions of Clarification;
3. Summary of Feedback Received; and
4. Next Steps.

Please note that the meeting agenda is attached as Appendix A.

I. FEEDBACK HIGHLIGHTS

The following points capture the highlights of the feedback received at the meeting. They are intended to be read with the rest of the report.

- **High level of support for the preferred design.** In general, participants expressed high level of support and excitement about the proposed design of Edgeley Pond and Park.
- **Design elements that participants liked more than others.** In particular, participants liked the iconic look of the bridge, the amphitheater, the skating loop, and the dog-off-leash area.
- **Key discussion topics and areas of advice.** Participants discussed and provided advice about parking, maintenance, safety, and stormwater management.

II. QUESTIONS OF CLARIFICATION

A Q&A period in a plenary session followed the presentation. The responses from the Project Team, which consists of members of the consultant team and City staff, are noted in *italics*.

- **Does the proposed park and pond design address flooding in the area?** *Yes, overall the design reduced the flood plain in the area. The new pond will be able to hold up to 6 metres of water at the deepest point. However, to fully prevent the flooding of Jane Street, it has been determined that the Regional culvert under Highway 7 West at Jane Street needs to be improved.*
- **What is the size of the park?** *The total area of Edgeley Pond and Park is 7.5 hectares (18.5 acres): the pond is 6 hectares (14.8 acres) and the park is 1.5 hectares (3.7 acres).*
- **In the event of heavy rain, will the park walkways be submerged under the water?** *All of the upper or main walkways have been designed to be above the peak water level in a two-hour rain event. The lower valley walkways will be submerged in bigger storm events.*
- **Who is responsible for maintaining the park?** *The Edgeley Pond and Park is owned by the City of Vaughan, and as such, the City will be maintaining the park. One of the next steps is for the Project Team to develop a Park Operation and Maintenance Manual for the City.*
- **Will this park be able to accommodate the demand for green space in the fully developed Vaughan Metropolitan Centre?** *The City of Vaughan is working on developing a Parks Master Plan, which will map out city-wide park needs and identify where recreation facilities should go. The goal of the Parks Master Plan is to create an integrated parks system through a series of connected green spaces. VMC will have 20 hectares (49.4 acres) of parkland, and Edgeley Pond and Park will be the largest publicly owned green space. In addition, the parks within the VMC will be developed alongside future developments.*
- **When will you start building the park?** *We are planning to start the construction process in the second half of next year.*

III. DETAILED FEEDBACK

After the Q&A period, participants had an opportunity to look at the presentation boards, ask members of the Project Team additional questions, and share their thoughts on the preferred design. In addition to sharing their feedback verbally, participants used green dots on the display boards to identify design elements that they liked more and yellow dots to identify design elements they liked less. The points below capture comments shared by participants in their conversations with members of the Project Team, feedback from the display boards using dots and post-it notes, and written feedback submitted at the end of the meeting.

- **Overall, participants said that they were excited about the new park and liked the preferred park design.** Some participants said the park would enhance their retirement experience in the area, as they bought condo apartments nearby to “age in place”. Others said they were excited to see a park as they bought properties as an investment for themselves or for their children. There were also a few participants who were thinking of moving into the area and were happy to see a beautiful park being planned there.
- **The design elements participants liked more include: the iconic look of the bridge, the amphitheater, the skating loop, and the dog-off-leash area.** Many participants said that they loved the look of the bridge and marked it with green dots; some participants said that it was iconic. Several participants marked the amphitheater with green dots and said they envisioned beautiful weddings and great events taking place at the amphitheater; other participants added that the amphitheater is a great place for people to site and laze about. Several participants said that they liked the skating loop and a few participants wondered if the ice rink would be better. Some participants said they had dogs, so they favoured a dog-off leash area, which in their opinion, would increase a dog population and positively impact the community.
- **Ensure that the park is safe for all users at different times of the day.** A few participants expressed concern over safety in the park in the evening and suggested installing cameras or putting a fence around the park. Another participant highlighted that the park will be surrounded by tall residential buildings and there will always be “eyes on the street”, which should keep the park safe. In general participants liked the idea of a good lighting system.
- **Ensure that the park provides sufficient parking and does not result in congestion and overcrowding of the area.** A few participants urged the City to give consideration to all the possible negative impacts on the local residents and ensure these impacts are mitigated.
- **Consider making the pond deeper.** One participant suggested creating a reservoir that is 5 - 6 ft deeper than the proposed pond. A deeper reservoir would help store more stormwater and reduce the flooding along Jane Street. Additionally, a deeper body of water would improve habitat for fish. A participant expressed concern that in the summer the water levels in the pond might be significantly reduced, which would heat up the pond and the fish might not be able to survive. Finally, the participant requested to see a technical drawing of the stormwater management improvements and asked to provide information about the volume of water the pond holds presently and the volume of water the pond will hold after the improvements.

The Project Team thanked the participant for the comment and clarified that preventing the flooding on Jane Street cannot be achieved by an increased water storage alone. At this point, it requires a hydraulic function as well. Technical models show that an excavation of the pond will not produce a significant reduction of the stormwater spillover.

- **Ensure the water in the channel going through the park is running.** It would help with mosquitos and prevent the smell of stale water.
- **Other suggestions included:**
 - Consider labelling adult exercise equipment with “easy”, “medium”, or “hard”.
 - Consider marking the distance along the pathways for runners.

IV. NEXT STEPS

Yulia Pak, an independent facilitator, reminded participants to submit their written feedback within a week of the meeting. Jennifer Cappola-Logullo thanked attendees for their participation and input. She told participants that the next steps for the Project Team is to complete 60% of the design by the end of this year and 90% of the detailed design in the first quarter of the next year. The project is expected to go out for the construction tender in the second quarter of 2018.

Appendix A. Meeting Agenda and Worksheet

VMC Edgeley Pond + Park Final Public Meeting (3 out of 3)

Thursday, September 28, 2017
Expo City Sales Office, 2920 Highway 7 West
Entrance off Maplecrete Road
6:00 – 8:00 pm

PROPOSED AGENDA

The purpose of the meeting is to present and seek final feedback on the preferred design for Edgeley Pond and Park.

6:00 pm **Open House**

6:30 **Introductions & Agenda Review**
Yulia Pak, Swerhun Facilitation

6:35 **Overview of the Preferred Design**
James Roche, DTAH & Abe Khademi, WSP

- What we've heard
- Stormwater functionality
- Park development and phasing
- Next Steps

Questions of Clarification

7:05 **Group Discussion**

1. What are your thoughts on the preferred design for Edgeley Pond and Park?
2. Are there any design elements that you like more than others / less than others?
Why?

Do you have any advice/information for the City and consultant team to consider in moving forward with the development of the detailed design?

7:30 **Open House Continues**

8:00 pm **Adjourn**

DURING THE OPEN HOUSE

- Use **green dots** on the boards to indicate design elements that you like more than the others.
- Use **yellow dots** on the boards to indicate design elements that you like less than the others.
- Use **post-it notes** to tell us why.

If you have more comments, suggestions and/or advice you would like to share with the project team, please e-mail them to Yulia Pak at ypak@swerhun.com. **The deadline to submit written feedback is Thursday, October 5, 2017.**

WORKSHEET

1. What are your thoughts on the preferred design for Edgeley Pond and Park?

2. Are there any design elements that you like more than others / less than others? Why?

	Design Elements	Why?
Design elements you like more than the others (green dot)		
Design elements you like less than the others (yellow dot)		

3. Do you have any advice/information for the City and consultant team to consider in moving forward with the development of the detailed design?