

Help for Homeowners

Public Education

Drainage Services sponsors a number of public education activities to raise the level of awareness and knowledge among residents of proper drainage in and around the home. This includes television and print advertising, displays at home shows, and free, interactive educational workshops.

Call **780-496-5662** if your neighbourhood is interested in hosting a workshop on sump pumps, backwater valves, lot grading, or all three!

Home Flood Prevention Check-up

More than 1700 single family homes and multi-family units took advantage of a Home Flood Prevention Check-up in 2007. This free service is available again in 2008. It helps homeowners better understand what they can do on their own properties to reduce the risk of flooding.

The check-up involves a drainage system assessment inside and outside the home. Each homeowner or multifamily building owner receives on-the-spot advice, written recommendations and reference material. Check-up drainage specialists are available weekdays, weeknights or Saturdays. Call **780-944-7777** for more information or to schedule a visit.

Backwater Valve Subsidy Program

For homes built prior to 1989, Drainage Services popular Backwater Valve Subsidy Program is available again in 2008. The subsidy is substantial but some conditions must be met to qualify. Approval is required before installation. For more information and an application form, call **780-496-5662**

Drainage Services recommends backwater valves be installed in homes that have a history of sewer backup or are in an area that is susceptible to flooding. New standards required all new homes built after 1989 in Edmonton to have a backwater valve.



Homeowner's Guide to Flood Prevention



This booklet tells you everything you need to know about keeping your home safe from flooding. It's 28 pages crammed full of information, photos and diagrams about upgrading, repairing and maintaining your home's drainage system.

The booklet has practical drainage tips and projects you can do yourself. And it's free. Call **780-944-7777** to get your copy.

floodproof

Flood Prevention Program

This bulletin provides an update of flood prevention activities. Call the Customer Service Centre at **780-496-5541** or go on-line to www.edmonton.ca/floodprevention for more information.

Flood Prevention Update

It has been more than a year since City Council approved \$146 million dollars for flood prevention improvements. Since then, dozens of sanitary and stormwater sewer projects have been started in neighbourhoods across the city. This bulletin summarizes what is happening with many of the neighbourhood projects.

Some of the flood prevention projects have already been completed and are working to help keep streets and homes free from flooding. Several thousand Edmontonians have taken advantage of Drainage Services' Home Flood Prevention Check-up or workshops and have made positive changes to their home's drainage system. This mutual commitment by the City and residents to make changes is key to preventing severe flooding in the future.

The majority of the system improvements are large and complex, such as dry ponds, and will take years to complete. Others will not begin until 2012 or later. Major problem areas are being addressed first to ensure severe flood risk is minimized.

Neighbourhood system improvements are being worked on simultaneously to hasten the work. Availability of manpower and equipment are factors in how fast the work can be done. A number of projects are being coordinated with the City of Edmonton's Neighbourhood Renewal Program to save money and minimize the length of time residents are inconvenienced.

Projects on the Go

Aldergrove:

Concept design is now complete for construction of a large dry pond and recreation area adjacent to the Aldergrove Community Hall and Aldergrove School. Discussions are underway with the Edmonton Public School board regarding land to be used for the pond. The function of the large dry pond is to provide a temporary holding facility for stormwater for major storm events. Stormwater will be diverted from low lying areas in Aldergrove, Belmead, LaPerle, Summerlea and Thorncliff to the pond and held there until the underground system has the capacity to carry it away.

Bearspaw:

Three concept reports on a lake upgrade, a Bearspaw neighbourhood system improvement, and improvements to six neighbourhoods north of Bearspaw between 111 Street and Calgary Trail South (Empire Park, Rideau Park, Duggan, Steinhauer, Ermineskin and Keheewin) are finished. A sewer upgrade at 11 Avenue and 109 Street is a first priority. Detailed design for the Bearspaw improvements is underway.

Belgravia:

Construction of the stormwater trunk from 114 Street to the North Saskatchewan River is approximately one – third completed. A new outfall east of the Whitemud Equine Centre is under construction to accommodate the output of this stormwater pipe.

continued on next page

Elmwood:

Construction is underway on a new stormwater sewer line along 159 Street by 80 Avenue to Whitemud Drive. This will relieve pressure on the current system, capture more surface water and divert the flow south to the Quesnell Storm Trunk that runs under Whitemud Drive.

Lendrum:

Two flood relief projects are underway in Lendrum. The bulk of the excavation is finished for the dry pond between the Lendrum and Avalon schools. Landscaping is scheduled to start this spring/summer with project completion expected by September, just in time for the start of the school year.

Sanitary sewer construction is underway along 113A Street and 60 Avenue and along 114 Street and 53 Avenue. This will add sewer capacity to Lendrum and surrounding neighbourhoods.

Lynnwood:

Changes to the Lynnwood Ravine are now complete. This was done to improve the ravine's ability to handle larger volumes of stormwater. The size of the outlet drain was increased in order for it to drain more quickly. Minor landscaping is expected to be done by summer.

Construction on two projects along 152 Street will start this year and be completed in 2009. One project is a new stormwater sewer running from 84 Avenue to the Lynnwood Ravine. The other is a new sanitary sewer running from 79A Avenue to 87 Avenue.

Malmo:

Construction has started on upgrading Malmo's existing sanitary sewer to increase capacity and relieve pressure on the local system. A new sanitary sewer is being constructed along 51 Avenue from 116 Street to 122 Street. Upgrades to local sewers south of 51 Avenue are expected to start in this spring or summer.

Talks are still going on with the University of Alberta regarding land lease and other permissions needed to build a proposed stormwater collection pond on the University of Alberta's farm. Once constructed, this pond would capture surface water that would otherwise flow into Malmo.

Menisa:

Catch basin improvements in eight locations in this neighbourhood have been completed.

Mill Woods Double Barrel Project:

The detailed design of a new storm water tunnel is underway for Mill Woods. Construction work is expected to begin in late 2008 or early 2009.

Parkallen/McKernan:

Designs are now complete for a new sanitary sewer line that will run from 65 Avenue along 111 Street to 61 Avenue. This new sewer will divert sewage from Parkallen and will benefit residents in both neighbourhoods. Construction is being coordinated with neighbourhood renewal and is scheduled to start in Parkallen in 2009.



Pleasantview:

A new combined sewer along 51 Avenue from 105 Street to Allard Way is finished. It will divert sewer flow away from Pleasantview. A storm sewer relined has also been completed. Design for a project that will separate sanitary flows from stormwater at 109 Street, north of 51 Avenue is underway.

Rio Terrace/Quesnell Heights:

Design work is expected to be completed soon on changes that will improve sewer capacity and relieve system pressure in both neighbourhoods. Sewer improvements will focus construction along Rio Terrace Drive from 76 to 78 Avenues. New stormwater outlets leading from Quesnell Heights are in the preliminary design phase.

Satoo:

Installation of a super pipe to relieve system pressure is finished. Some work remains however before it can be used. It should be functional by summer. The purpose of the super pipe is to hold excess sanitary water until the underground system has the capacity to drain it away.

A surge pond at 9 Avenue and 91 Street is finished as is a new storm sewer east of 89 Street at 10 Avenue. A minor bit of landscaping at the pond is still left to be done and will be finished this spring.

Tweddle Place:

Pre-construction work for the Tweddle Place dry pond east of 91 Street along Whitemud Drive to Millwoods Road is finished. This work involved the relocation of trees and multi-use trails, swales and catch basins. Construction of this elongated stormwater management pond will begin this year. When completed, the pond will divert stormwater flow off streets and into the pond.

Project Life Cycle

There are several stages of investigation and engineering that occur before flood prevention improvements can be completed in neighbourhoods.

Problem/Solution Identification

This work is completed for the 43 at-risk neighbourhoods. Studies and community consultation between August 2004 and the fall of 2006 established a Flood Prevention Program that will see construction work in priority neighbourhoods between 2007 and 2017. This program was approved by City Council in December 2006.

Concept Development and Design

Options are considered and studied to determine what would be the best approach for implementing the solution. The design is developed to the point where there is stakeholder support and confidence it will get regulatory approval. This stage has been completed in most neighbourhoods.

Preliminary and Detailed Design

Drawings are made that will direct private contractors or City crews as to the work to be done. The detailed design phase produces the final drawings, specifications and estimates for final approval. This stage has been completed in most neighbourhoods.

Construction

This is the most active time from the public's point of view. Work crews go into the neighbourhood, barricades go up, and streets, boulevards or parkland may be excavated for repair or construction work. Noise and traffic increases for a time. On all projects, city and contractor contact names and numbers are given to residents to address any construction phase concerns.

Commissioning

After the project work is done, the improvements are tested to make sure they operate as called for in the design. Drainage Operations then takes over to regularly inspect and maintain the new or reconstructed pipes, dry ponds and other infrastructure.