



Cahill Park Redesign – Flood Control Strategy

Engagement Summary



1. Background

On June 25, 2025, City Council approved City Administration to proceed with designing and constructing a dry pond in Cahill Park to mitigate flooding in the area. A dry storm pond, or dry pond, is a storage area that temporarily holds rainwater during intense rain events.

The purpose of this engagement was to inform nearby residents of the project and associated construction impacts, and to gain feedback regarding the draft design for the Cahill Park Redesign that would include a dry storm pond and other infrastructure improvements from the intersection of 21st Street West and Avenue W South to the dry pond in Cahill Park.

The Dry Storm Pond will provide approximately 3,700 m³ of storm water storage. This will reduce the flood risk of up to 10 buildings near the intersection of 21st Street West and Avenue W South. Instead of storm water ponding on the street and entering nearby basements, the storm water will be transported to the Cahill Park Dry Pond, mitigating flooding in this area.

The existing ball diamond located in Cahill Park will be removed as part of this project. Alternative recreational uses (such as a multi-purpose field) within the park will be explored during the detailed design phase of the project, with feedback from residents and stakeholders being considered in the final design.

The existing playground area will remain in place and unchanged as a result of this project.

In addition, a Crime Prevention through Environmental Design review is being completed to identify areas of the park design that can minimize crime while still being accessible to the community.

1.1 City Project Team

- Jankit Patel, Stormwater Utility Manager, Saskatoon Water
- Aaron Omelan, Infrastructure Engineer, Saskatoon Water
- Amanda Lindgren, Public Engagement Consultant
- Jeanelle Desjarlais, Indigenous Public Engagement Consultant
- Paige UnRuh, Marketing Consultant

2. Summary of Engagement Activities

The objective of this engagement was to **involve** the local impacted residents about the proposed Cahill Park Redesign. Specific engagement goals included:

- Provide the community with an opportunity to view the upgrade proposals and interact with the project team.
- Indicate project timelines, how the process may impact stakeholders and partners.
- Develop and maintain positive relationships with the community and stakeholder groups.
- Follow the City of Saskatoon's Public Engagement Principles.

Engagement activities for Cahill Park Redesign project included an Engage webpage that hosted project information and updates, and an in-person public open house event. Flyers were delivered to residents living in the Meadowgreen and Pleasant Hill neighbourhoods with information about the open house event held on October 9, 2025, to learn more about the project.

2.1 Community Association

Early on, the Project team engaged with the Meadowgreen and Pleasant Hill Community Associations in April and May 2025. The meeting with the Meadowgreen Community Association was attended by approximately 20 people, while the meeting with the Pleasant Hill Community Association was attended by approximately 10 people. At the meetings, the project concept was presented by the Project Team.

2.2 Online Survey

For the online survey, an overall project description along with the description of the dry pond and renderings were provided for the residents to share their views on any benefits or opportunities, concerns they saw with the design. They were also encouraged to provide suggestions regarding the design. The survey was open for responses for approximately a month and a half from mid-September to late October 2025.

The online survey resulted in six responses, three of which contained no comments.

2.3 Online Presentation

An online presentation explaining the project, was uploaded to YouTube on September 15, 2025, and received 98 views. An information flyer was also mailed out to residents informing them of the online presentation.

2.4 Public Information Session

There were 10 attendees to the public information session held at WP Bate Elementary School Community Room on October 9, 2025. Information boards displayed the current and future design of Cahill Park and communicated the benefits and processes of the project. It was an evening come-and-go session for residents to review and ask questions to the project team.

2.5 Email and Phone Correspondence

The project's Engage webpage includes contact information for site visitors to send comments or ask questions directly with the project team.

2.6 Marketing

Engagement opportunities were promoted through mailouts to the surrounding area and through communications with the Community Association.

An Engage page for the project was posted on the City's website. The page included project information including a recorded presentation, links and promotions for engagement activities, project timeline, and contact information for the project team.

3. Summary of Feedback

The overall feedback received during the engagement activities helped the Project Team understand the concerns of the residents.

Some of the questions and concerns raised during the Community Association engagement were as follows:

- How will the new design impact grading of Cahill Park?
- General concerns regarding the social issues in the park
 - Residents were concerned about the potential for increased encampment at the bottom of the dry pond
 - Residents were concerned about sight lines, specifically with kids playing at the bottom of the dry pond, and the dry pond filling up during the storm events
- General questions regarding past Flood Control Strategy projects at W.W. Ashley Park, Churchill Park, and Weaver Park
- General question regarding Dry Pond vs Underground Storage
 - City's response - increased cost compared to dry pond, though ability to mitigate flooding would be only minimally better than if a dry pond was installed
- General question regarding mitigating flood at Confederation Drive/Laurier Drive
- General question related to the ball diamond, some concerns, but overall support for removing the ball diamond
- General question related to flood insurance. Does the project allow residents to qualify for flood insurance?
- Request to relocate the play structure and remove the existing bench. Residents have concerns about playground structure location in southwest corner of park, as it has poor sightlines from the street. They would prefer it would be located somewhere along 21st St. Another resident voiced support that benches be included in the design, though hoped it would have better sightlines.
- General question related to the budget, funding stream and mill rates
- Concern about existing sightlines into the park and playground area from Avenue Y. Belief that this contributes to illegitimate use (i.e. drug/alcohol activity) near playground area.
- Concern about tree removals – project concept plan initially included planned remove a large spruce tree on the west side of the park
- Will the pond slopes allow for tobogganing in the winter?
- Questions about past Flood Control Strategy projects, and how dry ponds function
- Questions if the ponds are designed to help during spring melt
- Question about how the budget will be funded

From the online survey:

- Can mowers safely access the sides and bottom of the drain pond area?

4. How Feedback Was Used

- Project will be addressing sightline concerns by regrading (i.e. significantly reducing) the existing "hill" on the west side of the park, and through tree pruning to improve sightlines. Benches will also be relocated near playground to a more visible location. Pathway lighting will also be installed along the east-west pathway to encourage legitimate use of the park space in the evening hours, and overall increase safety in the park.

- Note: community initially requested that we move the playground to another location in the park, though this was not recommended by the project team due to good condition of existing structure (relocating would likely require replacement of the playground).
- The project concept plan initially included planned to remove a large spruce tree on the west side of the park. The project team adjusted design to “save” this tree to include it as part of the final design.
- The side slopes would be suitable for use as a toboggan area (as past dry pond locations with similar slopes used for this purpose).
- With conversion of ball diamond to multi-purpose field, there is potential for additional programming opportunities to bring more legitimate use to park

5. Limitations

This engagement was focused on the residents in and surrounding Cahill Park. Low levels of feedback with the online survey and in-person engagement session may contribute to low levels of interest and/or knowledge of the project. Alternatively, meetings with the Community Associations may have provided enough opportunity for residents to learn about the project and provide their feedback, indicating a level of support from the nearby community.

6. Next Steps

Feedback received will be considered in the redesign of Cahill Park. Construction of the storm pond is expected to begin in early 2026.