

Watercourses and Ponds

Who Owns the Creek Behind My House?

Ownership of a creek depends on where it runs in relation to property ownership boundaries.

A portion of a creek may belong to a property owner if it runs through private property. On private property the City may seek to obtain an easement over the land containing the creek in order to monitor the condition of the creek and implement erosion control measures as required.

The City of Mississauga owns creeks that run through City property, like parks and designated green belt areas which are built, owned and maintained by the City.

Other private agencies, such as the Ministry of Transportation, Credit Valley Conservation, GO Transit etc. may own sections of a creek so that they may manage the area according to the needs of their property.

Watercourse Monitoring

City staff regularly monitors our watercourses (rivers and streams) looking for erosion and drainage problems. When the weather is appropriate, City staff takes photos, measurements and make sketches of sections of City-owned watercourses and easements that are in potential problem areas in order to prescribe the appropriate actions needed to alleviate the issue.

Adaptive Monitoring

Maintenance projects are monitored by City staff after completion to ensure proper functionality of the new development. Performance is monitored to make sure that the new infrastructure is not having any negative effects on the watercourse further down the stream and also to prevent future problems from arising.

Stormwater Ponds

There are two types of Stormwater Ponds used in the City of Mississauga:

1. **Dry Ponds** serve the main purpose of controlling the quantity of stormwater entering local watercourses. Outside of rainy periods dry ponds resemble low-lying, marshy, creek channels and do not always have a visible, stagnant pond of water in them. During periods of heavy rain dry ponds collect stormwater from storm drainage network outlets and hold it from entering a local watercourse for anywhere from 24-48 hours to prevent flooding downstream. Depending on the site, stormwater is usually completely drained from a dry pond in 48 hours.

2. **Wet Ponds** are permanent pools of water and provide both quality and quantity control in regards to stormwater. Water quality is controlled when the fast-moving stormwater exits and outfall and meets with the stationary water of the wet pond. As the water slows down, debris and sediments can settle to the bottom of the pond.

The wet pond is designed to slowly release the stormwater over the next 24-48 hours to reduce erosion of the receiving stream and to delay the stormwater reaching the creek and causing flooding. By slowing the stormwater flow, sediment is trapped in the pond leaving the stormwater cleaner than it arrived in the pond.

What is an outfall?

An outfall is a steel or concrete structure installed at the end of an underground pipe where the pipe deposits water from the storm sewers into a river, pond or stream.

Pond safety

NEVER ENTER A STOPRMWATER POND! These ponds are not intended for recreational water use.

They are man-made ponds designed to control stormwater and water levels can drastically change at any moment without notice. Water quality in stormwater ponds may be quite poor. As the water in a stormwater pond is always flowing, the ice is usually weak and will not support safe skating. Swimming, skating, fishing, sledding, wading, drinking and all other activities are dangerous and are all prohibited in stormwater ponds.

Pond Maintenance:

Stormwater ponds are meant to accumulate sediments and pollutants over time and these materials must be removed every 10-15 years to maintain their function. City-owned storm ponds are inspected regularly and sediment removal projects are scheduled into the City's budget based on priority.

Watercourse and Pond Facts

- There are over 45 species of fish in the Credit River.
- Mississauga has 28.5 kilometres of Lake Ontario shoreline.
- There are 35 watersheds in Mississauga, with Cooksville Creek having the largest.
- The City of Mississauga currently maintains 32 wet ponds, with five more to be assumed in the near future.

- The largest wet pond in Mississauga is Lake Aquitaine with a volume of 140,000 m³. The smallest wet pond is O'Neill Court Pond, Mullet Creek with a volume of 473m³.
- The average volume of wet ponds in Mississauga is 19,000 m³.
- 17 % of urbanized areas in Mississauga receive stormwater quality treatment.
- An average drainage area that a pond controls is 157 hectares or 1,570,000m².
- Mississauga currently maintains 25 dry ponds and overland flow park facilities.