

What is the program intended to do?

The main purpose of the program is to remove Common carp and Eurasian watermilfoil from the Coves. These non-native species are damaging the aquatic ecosystem by adversely affecting water quality and native species. This program will begin with the lowering of the East Pond water level to facilitate the physical removal of carp and watermilfoil.

Why can't the carp be removed through fishing?

Other similar carp management projects have found that the only way to effectively reduce carp populations is to lower water levels and use nets or electro-fishing methods to capture them.

What will happen to the other fish and wildlife in the ponds?

Sufficient water will remain in the pond to protect native fish and other wildlife. The lowering will be timed to avoid the breeding seasons of any native species.

Do we need a natural predator for carp?

There already are natural predators of young carp in the East Pond such as Yellow perch, Green sunfish and Pumpkinseeds. The native fish populations will grow in the absence of large Common carp.

What will feed the herons if carp are removed?

Blue herons are carnivores that feed on small fish, insects, crayfish, snakes, salamanders, frogs, small birds, mice, mollusks, crustaceans, and small squirrels. In the absence of carp, the Blue herons will still have plenty to feed on.

How will the water be removed from the East Pond?

The water will be pumped to the South Pond through hoses across Cove Road. Access through this road will not be impeded because the pump hose will be protected from car tires by ramps.

Will the pumps be noisy?

The pumps will be noisy in the immediate vicinity for a period of 5-7 days but all possible action will be taken to limit the noise.

Will this added water cause flooding or impact the shoreline?

Water will be drained into the Edward Street Stormwater Outfall which is designed to handle high levels of flow. Structures have been installed in the water and along the shoreline that minimize potential erosion from flowing water. Pumping will be slow enough to allow for rising water in the South Pond to flow to the West Pond and exit the Coves system through the flapgate into the Thames River.

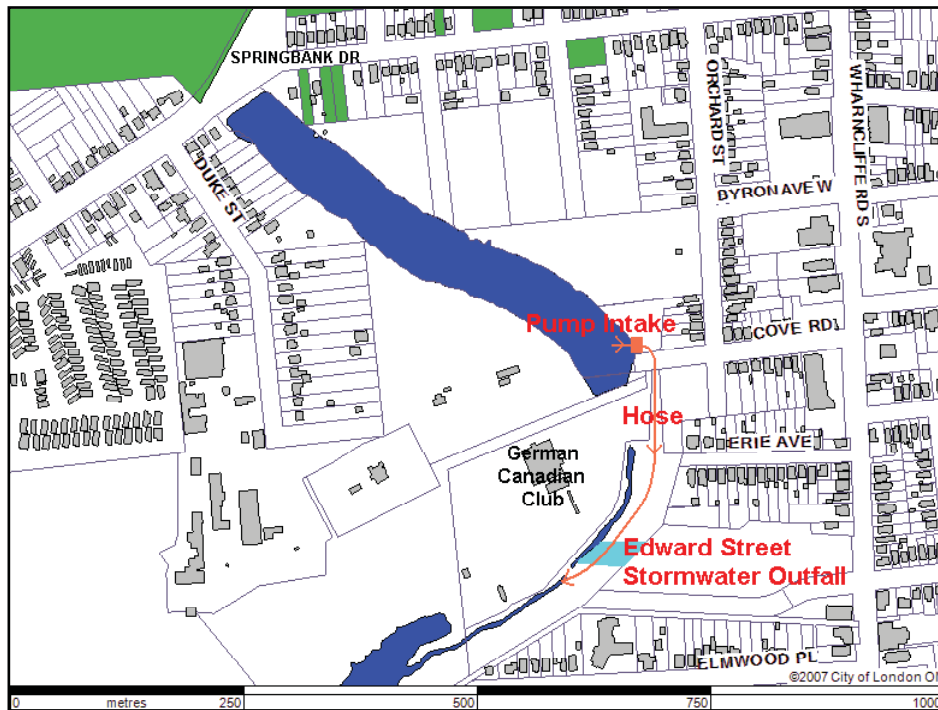
How will the pond refill?

The pond will refill naturally with precipitation and stormwater over approximately 2 months.

How often and what tests are being done for water quality?

The city has been doing regular water testing for various parameters in the West Pond for over 25 years. In preparation for this project, more intensive testing has been done over the last year throughout all of the ponds.

Project Map



Contact Information

Mary-Pat Mathers: 519-640-5397 or mpmathers@thecoves.ca

Jaclyn Goodwillie: 519-640-5397 or jgoodwillie@thecoves.ca

111 Elmwood Avenue E, London, ON, N6C 1J4

www.thecoves.ca

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