

### **Notes on Partial Pond Naturalization:**

The City of Winnipeg is not recommending a full naturalization plan as this would be very costly and take a number of years to execute.

They do have some smaller recommendations for ways that the pond and surrounding area can be modified to curb the goose problem.

#### *Email from a City representative:*

They met with staff from Parks, Naturalist Services, and Water & Waste to discuss the feasibility of conversion of this pond into a Naturalized one. They determined that the entire process would take many years, would require extensive reshaping of the existing pond and would hold up development of other desired Park developments. As such, it was determined that pond conversion may not be the best fit for this particular location.

#### To Explain:

The design of the existing pond has very specific slopes and water holding capacity volumes. Any conversion would need to maintain these critical volumes as they are designed for their storm water holding capabilities. The challenge here is the differences in grading and slopes required for a naturalized vs. typical pond. A Naturalized pond is graded in a manner such that there are variable depths that allow for different types of vegetation to thrive, whereas this pond has much less variation. Adding variable depths to this pond would mean that its overall area would need to be expanded in order to maintain that critical volume of water. Expanding the pond outward would mean having to reconfigure the pathway along its northern edge and could even potentially impact the footprint of the play area as shown in the conceptual design. This would A.) add significant cost to the project and B.) slowdown development of other items in the Park as the pond conversion would be the logical first step in redevelopment. Also, the process to initiate this project would take a number of years just to get a design completed (I would say best-case scenario possibly 3 or 4 yrs). That said, they do have another plan that could help with the Goose problem.

Naturalized ponds deter geese as their sight lines are obstructed from the tall vegetation and therefore, they will move on to other locations where their sight is not obstructed. That could be achievable here by naturalizing the existing banks to a depth of perhaps 60-70'. Starting in early summer, the area that is highlighted in the attached plan would be seeded with native species. Mowing would continue in order to allow sunlight to the seeds so they can germinate. Starting in September mowing activities would cease as the new vegetation will need time to establish. Areas along the path would be mown continuously to allow for a 2' buffer on either side. One thing to be mindful of is that it would take roughly 2-3 yrs for the vegetation to establish enough to deter the geese. This same method was implemented behind Samuel Burland School and all indications to this point show that it has been an effective goose deterrent.