

# What We Heard Report

## Waterdale Dry Pond

Feb. 20, 2024



## About the Project

The Waterdale Dry Pond was constructed in 2023 on County-owned land in the Waterdale Park subdivision. The dry pond was recommended following historic flooding in 2020. A dry pond protects the community from flooding by providing a temporary holding area for stormwater to collect during heavy downpours.

To develop the dry pond, Sturgeon County had to remove soil. Some of this soil was used for the nearby Range Road 220 construction project and the rest of the soil was used to construct the berm.

The County initially estimated the berm to be three metres high, based on the amount of soil to be removed from the dry pond area and the amount of soil to be used for the Range Road 220 construction project. Less soil was needed for the construction project, which meant more soil would be added to the berm. The existing berm height is roughly 4.5 metres.

We heard from some residents that they wanted the berm height reduced, and heard from the community that residents weren't getting the information they needed throughout the project.

## Engagement Opportunity

Sturgeon County held a public engagement session on Feb. 20, 2024, at the Redwater & District Pioneer Club. Waterdale residents were invited to attend the session via a letter mailed directly to every home.

The purpose of the engagement session was to provide information to residents about the project, answer questions from residents, and gather feedback on the berm height and landscaping design. This feedback was used to determine the final berm height and is being used to help design the landscaping.

## Who Engaged

A total of six residents from five households attended the engagement session and another individual shared feedback via email.

## What We Asked

### *Berm Height*

Sturgeon County wants to ensure the berm height is supported by most residents. It asked the following question:

- Should the berm stay at 4.5 metres high OR be lowered to 3 metres high?

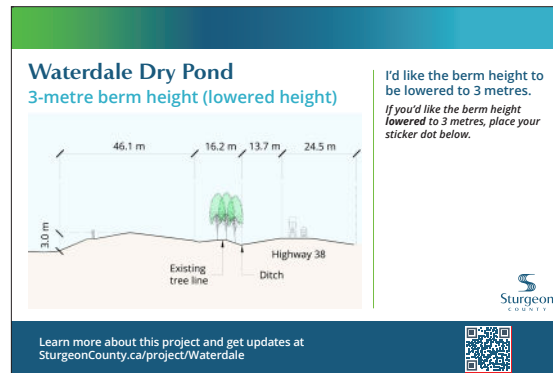
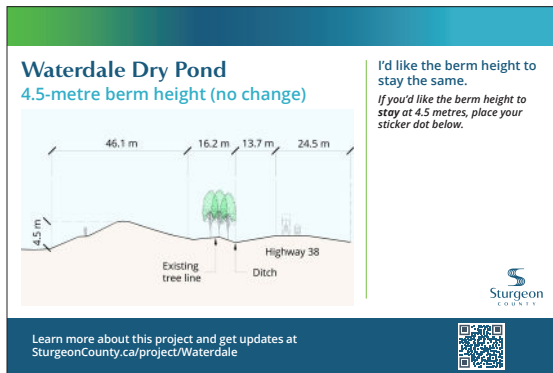
### *Landscaping*

Sturgeon County wants to ensure the ultimate landscaping of the dry pond reflects residents' needs and wants. It asked attendees the following questions:

- How do you want to use the area around the dry pond?
- What features are important to you?

## How We Asked

Sturgeon County asked attendees to indicate their preferred berm height by placing a sticker on the appropriate display board. The option with the most support would be selected.



For landscaping input, attendees were asked to write their responses to the questions about preferred uses of the area and important features on sticky notes and post them to dedicated display boards.

Attendees also had the option to provide input verbally as well as in writing via comment cards. Residents unable to attend the event were able to provide input by calling or emailing Sturgeon County.

## What We Heard

### Berm height

Sturgeon County received equal feedback in support of the existing berm height, as well as a lowered berm height. Only two stickers were placed on the display boards aimed at selecting the preferred berm height. One attendee indicated they wanted the berm height lowered to 3 metres, while the other attendee indicated they wanted the berm height to stay at 4.5 metres.

The resident who provided input by email indicated there were no concerns with the existing berm height, and a written submission at the engagement session indicated the attendee wanted the berm height to be as low as possible.

### Landscaping

We heard general support for landscaping the area to provide a more enjoyable area and a more visually appealing view.

Attendees shared that the following features are important to them:

- sitting area
- trees and shrubs
- walking paths, with connection to both roadway entrances
- area for tobogganing/sledding

## Other

Sturgeon County received input from attendees that did not align with the focus of the engagement session. As much as possible, Sturgeon County provided information and responded to questions.

The County heard from one resident who did not support the development of a dry pond. The dry pond has already been constructed in the subdivision to mitigate the impacts of flooding when there are heavy downpours. As such, the dry pond is not being reconsidered.

The County heard from one resident who asked about downstream drainage and how work would be carried out. The County committed to meeting with the attendee individually to discuss drainage and provide an overview of the County's Drainage Master Plan.

## Outcome

**The berm height will stay at the current height of 4.5 metres.** Sturgeon County received equal support for the existing berm height as well as a lowered berm height. The cost to lower the berm height was estimated at \$200,000. As a result of the minimal and balanced feedback received, and the significant costs to lower the berm height, the berm height will not be lowered.

A taller berm provides the following benefits:

- visual separation from the highway
- sound barrier from highway traffic
- increased privacy
- decreased cost

Sturgeon County is working with a landscape designer to reflect public input in the ultimate design for the area around the dry pond. This landscaping design will be shared with residents once developed.

## Keeping You Informed

For the latest information and to sign up to get project updates delivered to your inbox, visit [SturgeonCounty.ca/project/Waterdale](https://SturgeonCounty.ca/project/Waterdale)

As construction moves forward, the County will notify residents of upcoming work and any resulting impacts on the project webpage and via letters mailed to each household.



# Sturgeon

C O U N T Y

9613 100 St. | Morinville, Alberta | T8R 1L9

780-939-4321 | [SturgeonCounty.ca](http://SturgeonCounty.ca)

