



**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
MEMORANDUM**

FILE NO. P26/20

**TO: MAYOR J. LEHMAN AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

**FROM: K. BRADLEY, BA, MLA, MANAGER OF PARKS PLANNING (Ext. 4825)  
K. RANKIN, RFP, MANAGER OF PARKS AND FORESTRY OPERATIONS (Ext. 4754)**

**NOTED: M. BANFIELD, RPP, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

**D. FRIARY, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS**

**A. MILLER, RPP, GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT**

**M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

**RE: FOLLOW UP TO STAFF REPORT DEV008-21: WATERFRONT ACCESS AND BEACHES - SUMMARY OF COVID IMPACTS AND ADDRESSING GROWTH - RELATED IMPACTS**

**DATE: APRIL 12, 2021**

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The purpose of this memorandum is to provide members of Council with additional information about the recommendations contained within Staff Report DEV008-21 relating to Waterfront Access and Beaches – Summary of COVID Impacts and Addressing Growth Related Impacts. Staff and Members of Council have heard from many residents in the area and this memorandum is intended to respond to and provide clarification to the most common matters raised.

**Zoning of Wilkin’s Park Does Not Allow a Beach**

The City’s Comprehensive Zoning By-law 2009-141 zones the Wilkin’s Park shoreline area and stream corridor as Environmentally Protected Lands (EP). This is because of the sensitive nature of the area. Zoning compliance is required. The EP zone permits the following uses: ecological management measures, environmental conservation, lookout points, naturalized buffer, natural restoration, trails and other similar uses where there are minimal impacts on the environmental features and functions. The other City beaches are zoned Open Space (OS), which is not as restrictive as the EP zone and permits active uses as well as playing fields, courts, parks and playgrounds and other structures.

It is the EP zoning that is requiring the City to delist Wilkins as a beach and restore Wilkin’s Park to allow it to regenerate to its natural state over time. In addition, the approved Waterfront & Marina Strategic Plan recommends that the City ensures that key natural heritage features are retained and protected along the South Shore, including the open creek systems such as Hewitt’s Creek that drain into the bay.

It is important to understand that this zoning conformity is not tied to COVID related overuse in the Summer of 2020; however, Summer 2020 did bring the zoning issue to a head.



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### **Proposed Rehabilitation Plan**

Staff have heard concerns about aspects of the proposed restoration plan, specifically with respect to the loss of sand as well as drainage/washouts. As part of the restoration work, the entire area will not be shrubbed, planted or stabilized with cobble stone and boulders. The proposed plan can accommodate retention of a partial sandy area although it will not be maintained in any way. This will give the experience of a naturalized shoreline area for passive enjoyment after the restoration work is completed in 2021.

Based on a review of the site conditions with a representative of the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA), staff have proposed an area of ecological restoration (Appendix "A") for Wilkin's Park. The restoration area shown between the post and rail fence and Hewitt's Creek will have the sand removed and the area graded to include a shallow swale to direct overland waterflow away from the creek riparian zone. The restoration area will be covered with screened topsoil, and the swale will be reinforced with a biodegradable erosion control blanket and seeded with a naturalization seed mix.

The area of ecological restoration will be seeded with a naturalization seed mix which consists of native wildflowers and grasses, specifically black eyed Susan, Indiangrass, little bluestem, New England aster, wild bergamot, Canada goldenrod, milkweed, sand dropseed, smooth blue aster and Canada wild rye. An educational sign installed on the post and rail fence will provide information on the benefits of native wildflowers to our environment. The area will be seeded in the Spring and Fall to improve stratification and germination of wildflowers.

In addition to the naturalization seed mix, the ecological restoration zone will include active planting of native trees and shrubs to create a dense rooting zone over time which will naturally stabilize the area. This will specifically help with the washouts that have been occurring. The dense rooting will bind the soil and protect against future erosion of the creek shoreline. Planting will include moisture tolerant native species such as eastern white cedar, silver maple, red osier dogwood, meadowsweet, pussy willows and ninebark. The tree and shrub planting areas will include a mulch layer to assist in plant establishment.

A LSRCA permit will need to be issued prior to any restoration work commencing. Staff will pursue the permit and confirm timing of active work once the permit is in hand. Pending Council's approval of the approach outlined in the staff report and memo, the area will be fenced off so that the intentions with respect to use of this area in 2021 are clear. The area will not be open for use in 2021.

### **Educational Signage**

At several locations along the proposed post and rail fence, educational signage will be posted advising residents and users of the park of the benefits of wildflowers and a healthy riparian zone (vegetated area along creek and waterbodies). The posting will also provide information about the coldwater creek, its sensitivities and how the riparian zone protects the sensitive aquatic life within the creek. Signs noting "No Admittance, Ecological Restoration Area" will also be posted to keep visitors from trampling the vegetation and hindering the restoration works.



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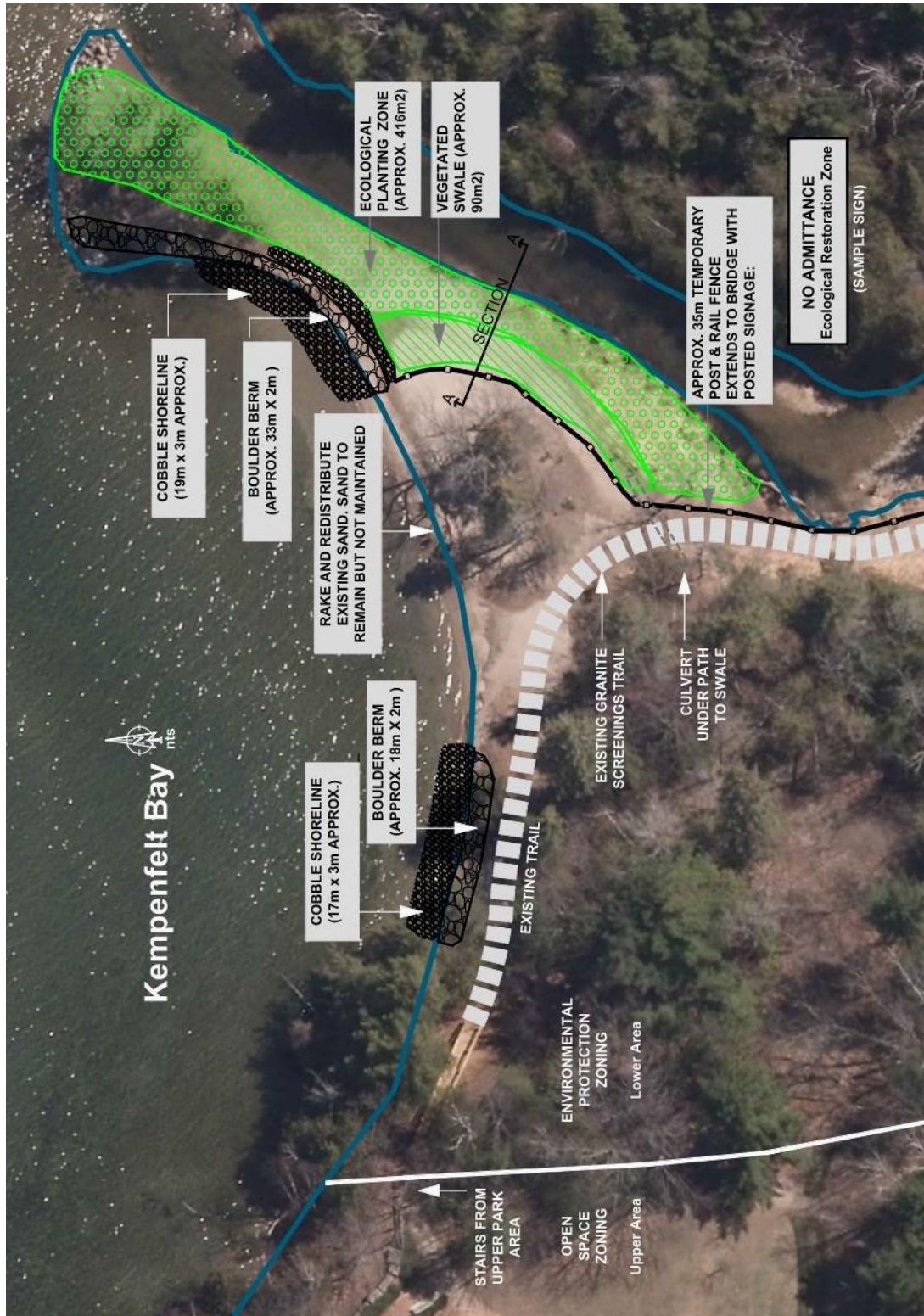
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### **Stormwater Management in the Area**

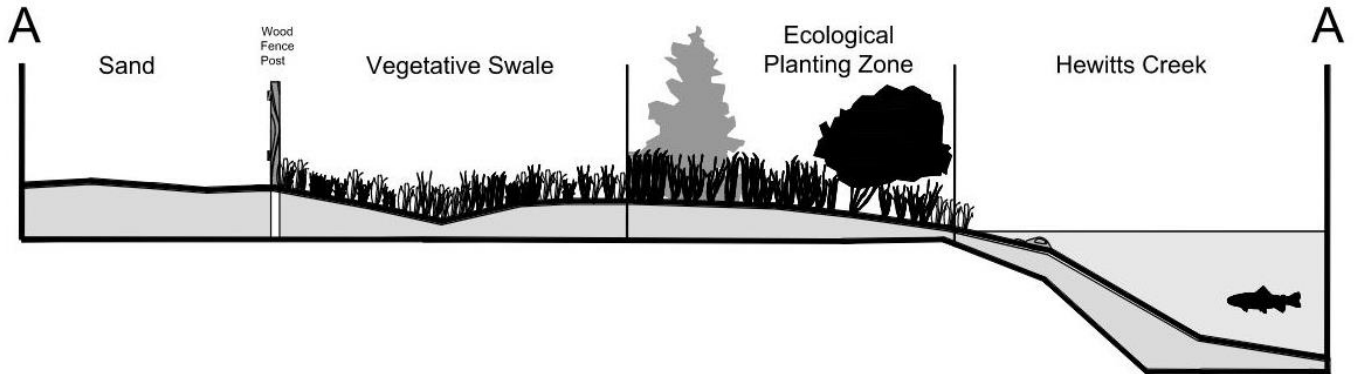
Two stormwater ponds (HW04 and HW06) are contributing flows to the section of Hewitt's Creek. These stormwater ponds are operating as designed at a low capacity and Bathymetric surveys were conducted for both ponds in Summer 2019. The ponds are inspected every year and no issues were observed in 2020. They are not due for any routine maintenance for several years. Cleanout is usually not required until few years after that. Staff will prioritize these two ponds in the 2021 SWMF Inspection program which will likely start in early May. Staff are confident that the restoration work that includes creating a dense rooting zone will help to naturally stabilize the area and help to reduce washouts. Staff will monitor the area and can respond reasonably quickly to any drainage and flow matters that may arise this season and will continue to investigate ways to mitigate erosion in the area.

For more information, please contact Kevin Bradley, Manager of Parks Planning at 705-739-4220 ext. 4825 or by email at [kevin.bradley@barrie.ca](mailto:kevin.bradley@barrie.ca) or Kevin Rankin, Manager of Parks and Forestry Operations at 705-739-4220 ext. 4754 or by email at [kevin.rankin@barrie.ca](mailto:kevin.rankin@barrie.ca).

APPENDIX "A"



SECTION AA



Example of Boulder Berm in Eroded areas of Shoreline:

