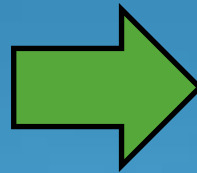




**Friends of
Swan Lake Park**

FOCUSED ON RESTORING SWAN LAKE AND SWAN LAKE PARK

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Park Refresh Program and Community Goals

Markham General Committee – Item 9.1

November 2, 2020

OVERVIEW

A. Support for Park Refresh Recommendations

Recommend support of program outlined with two changes

- 1) TRCA shoreline review (\$35k) should be undertaken in 2021, rather than delayed to 2022. Shoreline improvement impacts geese management, invasive species management and public access
- 2) Request program to address pedestrian safety and accessibility issues plus public parking at the traffic circle on Swan Lake Blvd

B. Request initiation of discussions on a “Park Improvement Program” including long term role and objectives for Swan Lake and Swan Lake Park

Markham Council

Minutes of Meeting held Tuesday, June 23, 2020

4. **That Council approve the following Swan Lake Water Quality Program:**
 - a. Continue annual water quality monitoring; and,
 - b. Continue with the annual geese control and review additional options relating to vegetation, tree planting and strobe lights with regard to geese control and report back in the fall 2020 with recommendations; and,
 - c. Undertake the sediment analysis in fall 2020 which will provide data related to the frequency and dosage of the chemical treatment and will provide direction on the service level and timing of future treatments; and,
 - d. Undertake a chemical treatment commencing in 2021 based on the results of the sediment analysis; and further,
 - e. Introduce a new fish management program in 2021.
5. **That Staff report back in 2021 with an overall water quality (with service levels) and park improvement program that will be sustainable into the future; and,**
6. **That staff report back on this matter to General Committee through the Markham Sub-Committee with the participation of the Friends of Swan Lake Park; and**

Council Minutes - Item #4 (2020)

Substantive and Critical Processes Underway

a) Three major and essential remediation initiatives are underway

- 1) Enhanced Goose Management Program launched
 - Supported by 25+ community volunteers
- 2) Sediment testing and planning for Phoslock in March 2021 underway
- 3) Park Refresh Program initiated

b) Traffic Circle safety and accessibility issues need to be addressed

Council Minutes Item #5 – Two Components (2021)

- 1) “Water Quality (with service levels) - Underway**
 - Our understanding - staff working on a Feb. presentation
 - Friends of Swan Lake Park is preparing an outline of our recommendations for consideration by Council

- 2) Park Improvement Program – Request Initiation**
 - Recommend discussion on community role of park
 - Discussions on specific goals

Community Role Impacts Program Goals

1) What Does “Natural Spaces, Wildlife Places” Mean for Swan Lake Park?

- Is Swan Lake Park a nature preserve or is public engagement encouraged?
- Are we passive or proactive in supporting wildlife?



TRCA: Restoration of Wildlife Habitat



- Terrestrial log tangles:**
Habitat for small mammals.
- Aquatic log tangles:**
Habitat for fish and other aquatic species.
- Bat box**
- Turtle nesting area:**
Turtles prefer sand and fine gravel to lay their eggs.
- Snake hibernaculum:**
Underground chamber filled with rubble and brush where snakes can overwinter.
- Basking log:**
Cold-blooded animals, such as turtles, need heat from the sun to maintain their body temperature and metabolic function.
- Grebe platform:**
A floating platform on which birds can build their nests.
- Raptor pole:**
Viewing/hunting perch for birds of prey.
- Bird box**

Swan Lake is a popular Birding site. Over 70 species recorded.

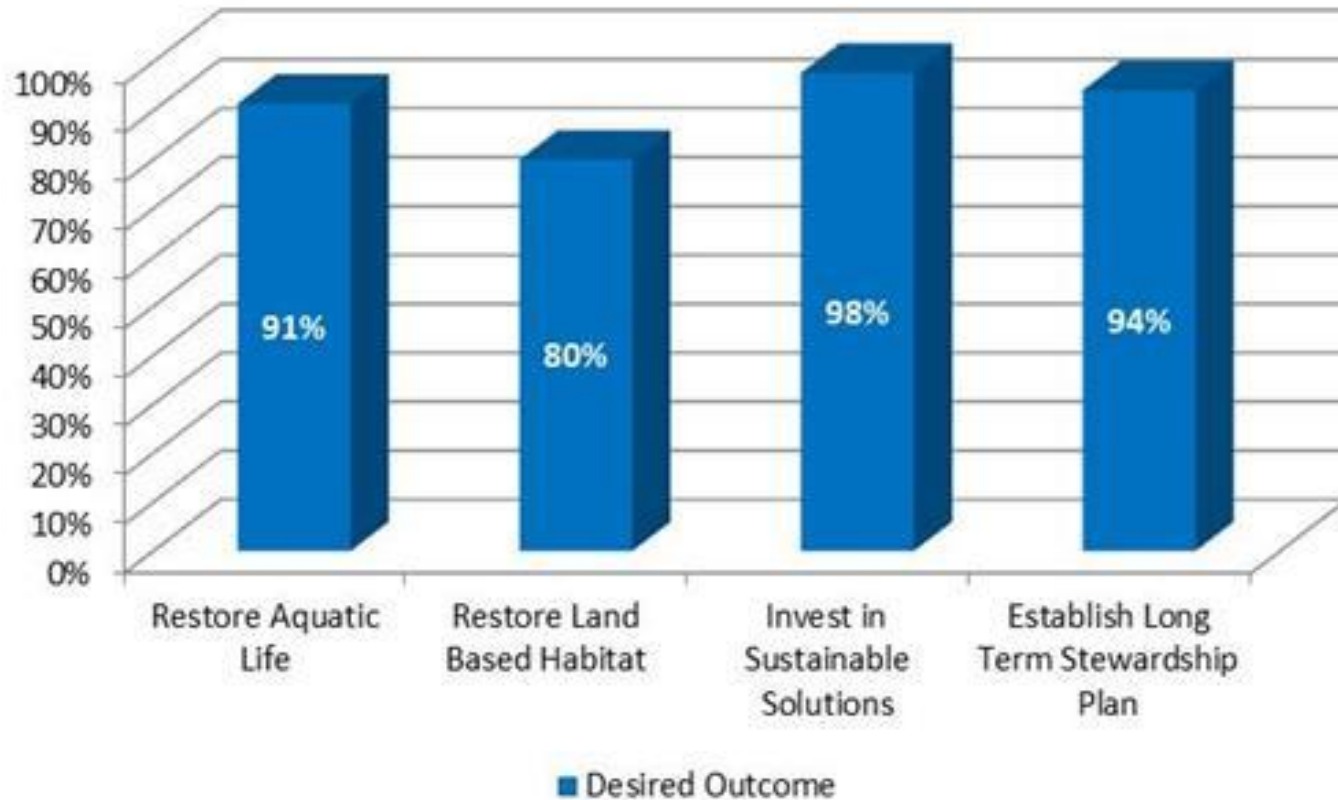
Should we install Osprey nests?

2) What are the Community Goals for Swan Lake?



- Original 1993 plan for Swan Lake included paddle sports and sports fishing.
- Should these be the community goals for Swan Lake?

Survey of Residents Supports Improvement to Aquatic and Land Based Habitat (March 2020)



Water Quality Continues to Deteriorate

September 17, 2019
Light Green Algae Bloom

October 9, 2020
Dark Solid Green



Phoslock treatment in March 2021 essential to regain control of Swan Lake!

What Are We Trying to Accomplish?

Containment?

- Address containment of bacteria
- Minimize impact of Invasive Plants
- Initiate restoration of shoreline



October 2020

Restore & Sustain?

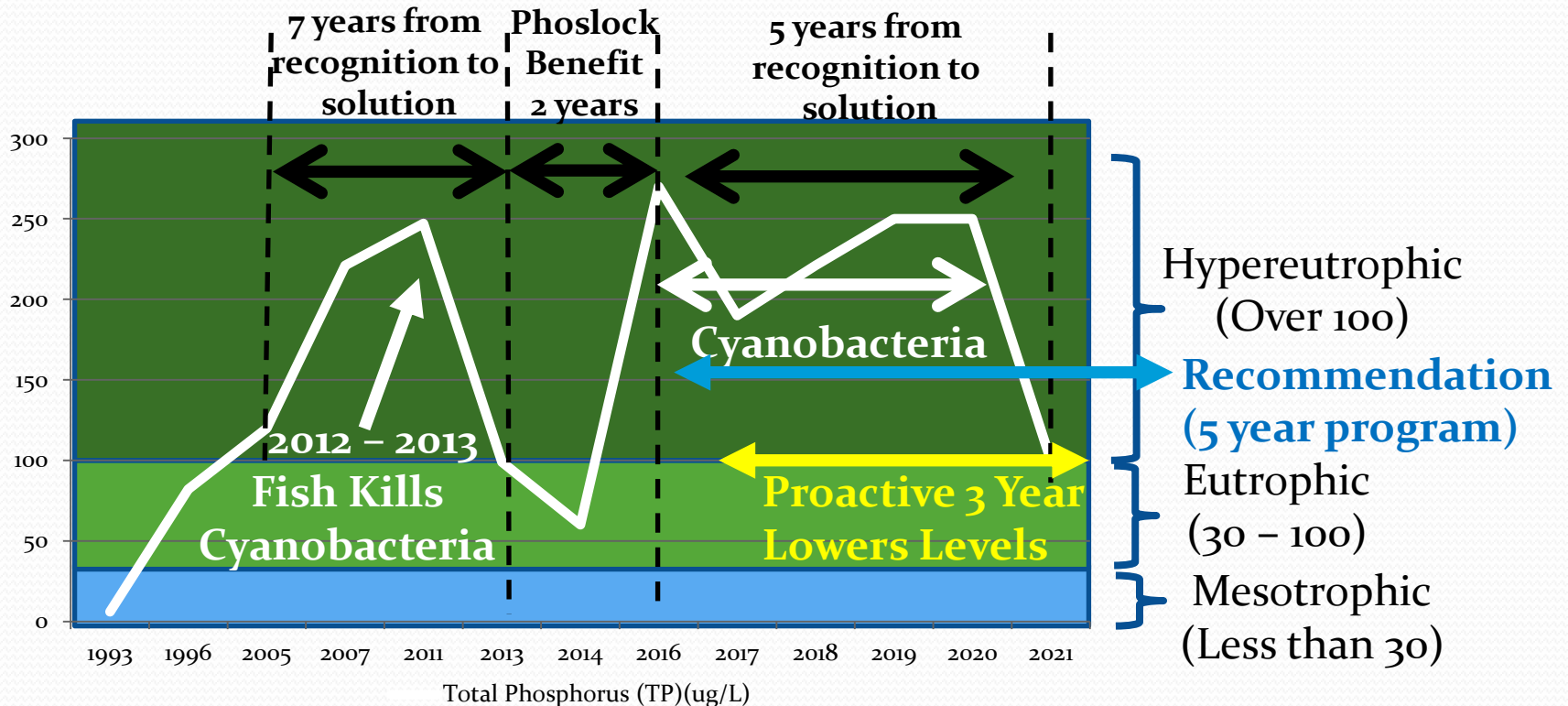
- Water quality, fish, water based plants
- Wildlife habit, community access



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Need discussion on community role and objectives

Community Objectives and Water Quality Goals



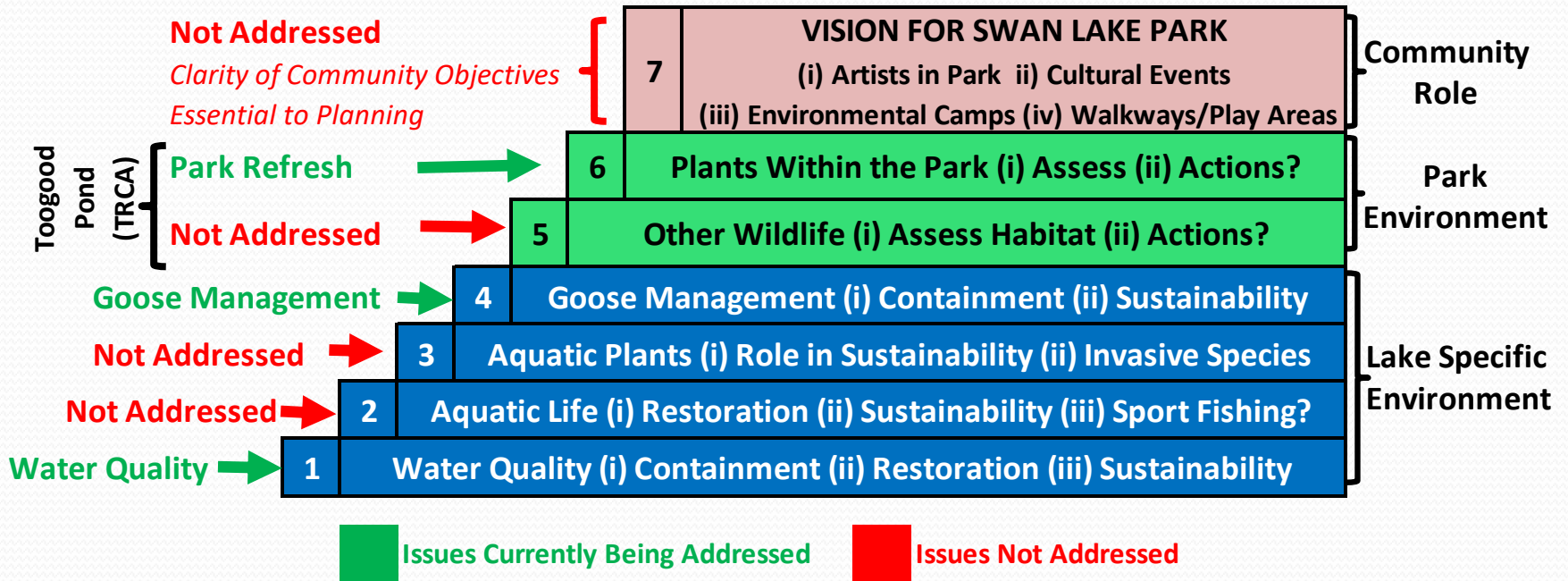
- Staff proposal objectives to target 150 – will minimize cyanobacteria risk but not adequate to support healthy aquatic environment
- **If community goal is a healthy aquatic environment and public access to water sports, it will require lower levels of phosphorus and improved water access**

Park Improvement Program

Define Goals – Address Missing Elements

- Clarity on community role will determine whether our objectives are containment or restoration and whether we should be addressing the missing elements

Current Initiatives to Address Issues in Swan Lake Park (Nov. 2, 2020)



Initiate “Park Improvement” Discussions (2021)

- 1) Initiate a Council level discussion on the community role and goals for Swan Lake and Swan Lake Park relative to the original objectives
- 2) Identify areas where community objectives will impact goals for operational programs such as:
 - a) Water quality goals
 - b) Lake access for fishing
 - c) Lake access for water based sports
 - d) Habitat restoration objectives
- 3) **Outcome: Policy of Containment or Restoration?**
 - a) A Council approved policy for Swan Lake and Swan Lake Park
 - b) Identification of programs required to fulfill these objectives



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Thank You For Your Support!