

## HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF SWAN LAKE PARK

Friends of Swan Lake Park needs your guidance on the future of Swan Lake Park. Please take 5 minutes to complete our questionnaire.

Milne Dam Conservation Park and Toogood Pond Park are classified as “Destination Parks” within “Natural Heritage Lands”. As such, Markham provides more financial resources for their care than for Swan Lake Park which has a lower classification as a “Community Park” within “Other Greenway Lands”.

In June, we will be going before Council asking that Swan Lake Park be granted a status comparable to Milne Dam Conservation Park and Toogood Pond Park. We want to reflect your views on possible changes to Swan Lake Park. If you have not already completed our questionnaire, please click on the link below to answer our twelve questions that will help shape the future of Swan Lake Park.

### [Survey – Friends of Swan Lake Park](#)

#### Possible Features of Swan Lake Park as a “Destination Park”



**NATURAL HERITAGE AND DESTINATION PARK QUESTIONNAIRE - June 2025**
**Where Do You Live?**

Swan Lake Village	174	56%
Elsewhere in Markham	118	38%
Not in Markham	21	7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>100%</b>

**A) Natural Heritage Status and Expanding the Naturalized Areas**

*Natural Heritage status is given to areas that contain natural features and serve as corridors for natural migration. Most of Swan Lake Park is categorized as “Natural Spaces, Wildlife Places”, meaning no mowing or spraying and “letting nature do its thing”.*

- 1) Are you concerned about the loss of birds and biodiversity in Swan Lake Park?
- 2) Do you believe Markham should be doing more to preserve the bird and wildlife habitat in Swan Lake Park?
- 3) Would you support conversion of the open lawn areas along Williamson Road to “Natural Spaces, Wildlife Places” if it would help support the biodiversity of the park?
- 4) Would you like Markham to designate Swan Lake and Swan Lake Park as Natural Heritage areas?

**B) Destination Park Status and Possible New Amenities**

*A Destination Park is expected to serve the broader community throughout Markham and to support visitors to Markham. Swan Lake Park already attracts bird watchers from across the area but is classified as a “Community Park”.*

- 5) Are you concerned about the impact of the increased Mt. Joy population on Swan Lake Park?
- 6) Are you concerned about any increase in visitor traffic to Swan Lake Park on the wildlife?
- 7) The following new amenities have been discussed to support Swan Lake Park’s role as a Destination Park. Which ones would you support?
  - a) In 2023, the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority recommended recreational nodes to provide improved access to the lake. Do you support features such as recreational nodes to enhance shoreline access?
  - b) Another suggestion was to increase locations for viewing, fishing and extending the pathways by building a boardwalk across the lake, from the southwest to the central outcrop. Would you support building a boardwalk across the western part of the lake?
  - c) One proposal for improving oxygen levels in the lake is to circulate water through the North Channel. This could be designed to include one or two waterfalls. Would you like to see a waterfall in the park?
  - d) Markham has established Forest Therapy areas in four other parks – areas to relax and reflect with nature. Would you support the creation of a “Forest Therapy” area in the raised wooded areas in Swan Lake Park?
  - e) There is limited parking near Swan Lake Park. The original plan for Swan Lake Park included a parking lot on the south-west corner along Williamson Road. Do you support additional parking within Swan Lake Park along Williamson Road?
- 8) Would you support having Swan Lake Park declared a “Destination Park” and promoted throughout Markham and to visitors to the city?

	Percent All Responses			Percentage Decided	
	YES	NO	Don't Know	YES	NO
1) Are you concerned about the loss of birds and biodiversity in Swan Lake Park?	93%	3%	4%	97%	3%
2) Do you believe Markham should be doing more to preserve the bird and wildlife habitat in Swan Lake Park?	95%	2%	3%	98%	2%
3) Would you support conversion of the open lawn areas along Williamson Road to “Natural Spaces, Wildlife Places” if it would help support the biodiversity of the park?	86%	4%	10%	96%	4%
4) Would you like Markham to designate Swan Lake and Swan Lake Park as Natural Heritage areas?	88%	4%	8%	96%	4%
5) Are you concerned about the impact of the increased Mt. Joy population on Swan Lake Park?	72%	15%	13%	83%	17%
6) Are you concerned about any increase in visitor traffic to Swan Lake Park on the wildlife?	71%	16%	13%	82%	18%
7) The following new amenities have been discussed to support Swan Lake Park’s role as a Destination Park. Which ones would you support?					
a) In 2023, the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority recommended recreational nodes to provide improved access to the lake. Do you support features such as recreational nodes to enhance shoreline access?	54%	33%	14%	62%	38%
b) Another suggestion was to increase locations for viewing, fishing and extending the pathways by building a boardwalk across the lake, from the southwest to the central outcrop. Would you support building a boardwalk across the western part of the lake?	43%	47%	10%	48%	52%
c) One proposal for improving oxygen levels in the lake is to circulate water through the North Channel. This could be designed to include one or two waterfalls. Would you like to see a waterfall in the park?	81%	9%	11%	90%	10%
d) Markham has established Forest Therapy areas in four other parks – areas to relax and reflect with nature. Would you support the creation of a “Forest Therapy” area in the raised wooded areas in Swan Lake Park?	78%	14%	9%	85%	15%
e) There is limited parking near Swan Lake Park. The original plan for Swan Lake Park included a parking lot on the south-west corner along Williamson Road. Do you support additional parking within Swan Lake Park along Williamson Road?	45%	43%	12%	51%	49%
8) Would you support having Swan Lake Park declared a “Destination Park” and promoted throughout Markham and to visitors to the city?	54%	33%	13%	62%	38%