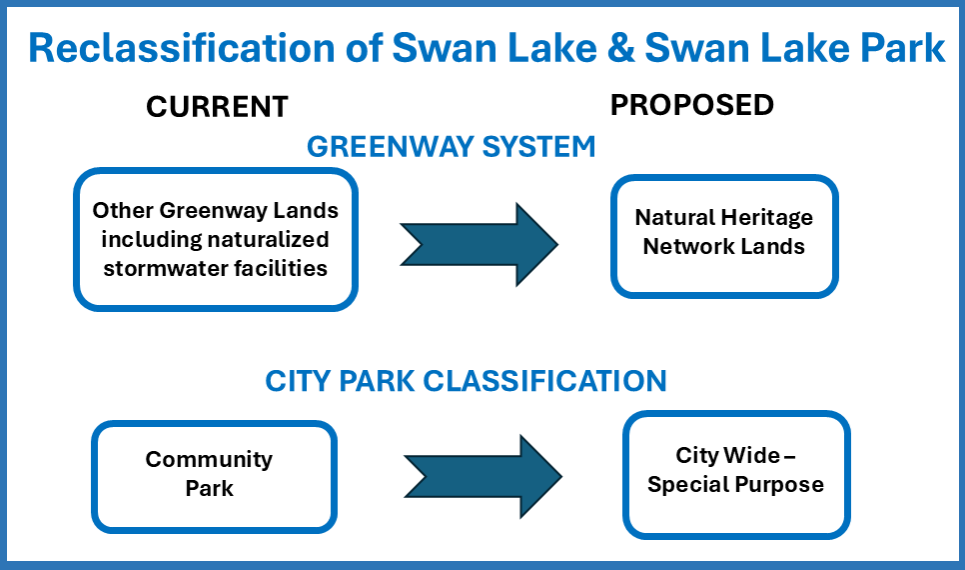
Friends of Swan Lake Park

Reclassifying Swan Lake and Swan Lake Park Under the 2025 Official Plan



June 2025

Markham's Classification System

In Markham's 2014 Official Plan there are two classification systems that impact Swan Lake Park:

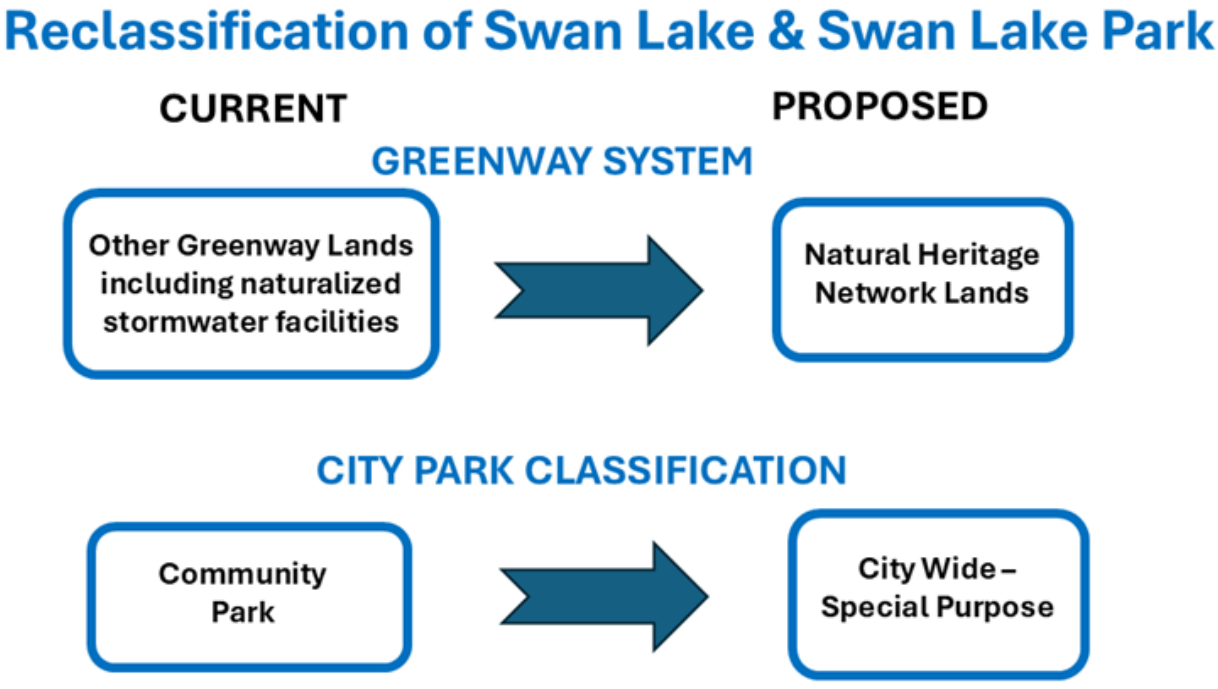
1) Swan Lake Park is classified as "Other Greenway lands including naturalized stormwater facilities" under Markham's Greenway System.
2) Swan Lake Park is classified as a Community Park under Markham's parks policy.

In 2020, Markham staff acknowledged that Swan Lake was a regulatory orphan. It is not considered part of the Rouge River watershed nor a stormwater pond, so it has been managed as a unique feature without any formal environmental standard.

Swan Lake Park is much more than and very different from any other Community Park. Swan Lake Park is one of the most biodiverse areas in Markham and serves a role beyond that of a typical Community Park. It requires investment and support related to its critical and unique function as a natural asset within Markham.

Friends of Swan Lake Park has asked the Markham Subcommittee to request a review as to whether Swan Lake and Swan Lake Park should be recognized as Natural Heritage Network Lands under the Greenway System and as a "City-wide Special Purpose Park" under Markham's Park Classification System.

1) On September 6, 2022, the Markham General Committee asked the Markham Subcommittee to undertake a review of Swan Lake and Swan Lake Park's designation under the Greenway system during the Official Plan review.
2) On June 18th, 2025, Markham Planning staff advised the Markham Subcommittee that the Official Plan review would also include the classification of Swan Lake Park under the Parks Classification System.



A) Reclassification Under Markham's Greenway System

The purpose of the Greenway System policies is to maintain and enhance as a permanent landscape an interconnected system of natural open spaces …. that will preserve areas of significant ecological value".

In the 2014 Official Plan, Markham has designated many ecologically sensitive areas as part of its Greenway System. Areas within the Greenway System are areas "that will preserve significant ecological value" and that "provide opportunities to improve biodiversity and connectivity of natural features and ecological function." Areas within the Greenway System are protected from future development. Appendix A provides a map of Markham's Greenway System at the time of the 2014 Official Plan.

The Greenway system is comprised of six categories of environmentally protected areas:

1) Greenbelt Plan lands
2) Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan area lands
3) Rouge Watershed Protection area
4) Natural Heritage Network Lands
5) Natural Heritage Network Enhancement Lands; and
6) Other Greenway Lands, including certain naturalized stormwater management facilities.

Elements of a Natural Heritage Network

The Ontario Natural Heritage Reference Manual[3] provides guidelines on the components of a Natural Heritage System. The guideline states that a Natural Heritage System is an ecologically based delineation of nature and natural function – a system of connected or to be connected green and natural areas that provide ecological functions over a longer period and enable the movement of species.

The primary requirement is for an area to be ecologically sensitive. It is not necessary for a component of a Natural Heritage Network to contain a river, stream, or major water body. For example, Regional Forests and other significant woodland areas are included. In May 2021, Markham Council suggested staff consider including hydro rights-of-way as natural heritage resources.

Many of the areas within Markham's designated Natural Heritage Network are integral components of the Oak Ridges Moraine or the Rouge River Watershed. Swan Lake is not directly connected to the Rouge River watershed, but it does contain a major water body that is habitat to several species at risk. Swan Lake Park satisfies the criteria in the Ontario guidelines to be considered in designating an area as a component of a Natural Heritage Network, making Swan Lake Park an excellent candidate for inclusion in Markham's Natural Heritage Network.

Critical Elements of Natural Heritage Network Lands

	Swan Lake Park	Swan Lake
Size	14 ha	5.5 ha
Ecologically Significant	Yes	Yes
Habitat for Species at Risk	Yes	Yes
Key Hydraulic Feature		Yes

i) Ecological Significance of Swan Lake and Swan Lake Park

Swan Lake Park is approximately 14 hectares in size. At 5.5 hectares, Swan Lake is the second largest of three major water bodies in Markham.

	Size of Park (hectares)	Size of Water Body	Bird Species	Greenway Classification	Park Classification
Milne Dam Conservation Park	123 ha	21 ha	190	Natural Heritage	Destination
Swan Lake Park	14 ha	5.5 ha	179	Other Greenway Lands	Community
Toogood Pond Park	33 ha	3.0 ha	130	Natural Heritage	???

Swan Lake Park is already recognized as an ecologically important area within the Greenway System.

In June 2025, Friends of Swan Lake Park ("FOSLP") submitted to the Markham Subcommittee a report titled "Celebrating the Biodiversity of Swan Lake Park" that documented the plant species and wildlife sighted in Swan Lake Park. The biodiversity of the park is facing stress due to the increased urbanization of the area – over 25,000 new residents are expected in the Markham Road area, less than 2 km from the park.

In a report to Council in June 2020, Markham staff confirmed that Swan Lake is not a stormwater pond. Nevertheless, Swan Lake Park is classified as "Other Greenway Lands including certain naturalized stormwater management facilities", a category used primarily for areas containing large stormwater ponds and areas which do not receive the same environmental review and focus as do Natural Heritage Network Lands.

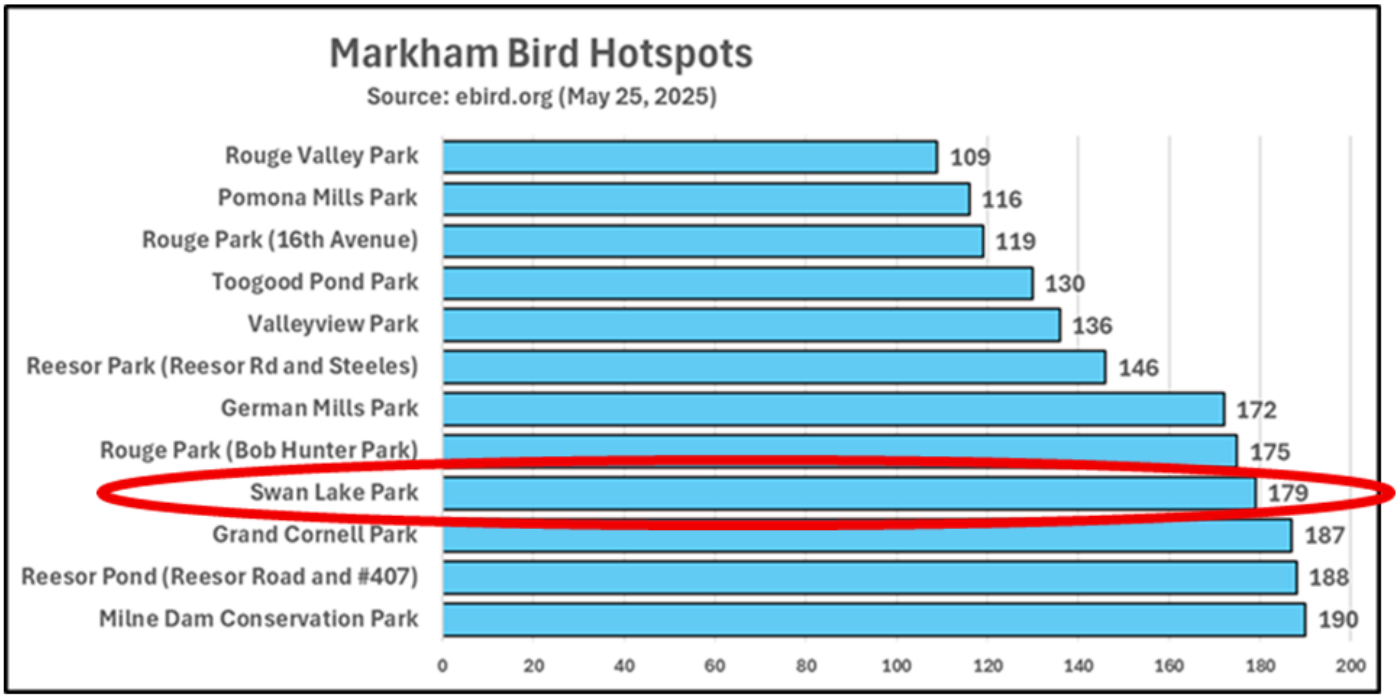
Over 65% of the parkland within Swan Lake Park constitutes woodland and naturalized areas contributing to the canopy of the Greensborough area and supporting a wide range of bird and terrestrial wildlife.

Swan Lake Park is well known by local birding enthusiasts for its wide range of diverse species.

In addition, local photographers have documented 14 mammals, 3 species of turtles, 4 amphibians (toads and frogs) as well as 2 species of snakes and 34 species of insects as listed in Appendix D of FOSLP's Biodiversity[5] report.

Ebird.org is a site supported by Cornell University and Birds Canada to support research into bird species. Of 12 Markham "Hotspots" listed on the ebird.org website, 179 different species, the fourth largest of all the Markham locations have been sighted in Swan Lake Park.

There are only a few more sightings in the much larger Milne Park (190) and only 130 sightings at the larger Toogood Pond.



One important aspect in selecting areas as part of the Natural Heritage Network is their role in supporting wildlife migratory routes. Swan Lake's role in the migratory pathway for Canada Geese and Mallards is well documented but it also provides an important resting area for many other migratory birds – 59 of the species sighted in Swan Lake Park have been identified as long-distant migratory species by Birds Canada.

Providing Nesting Support

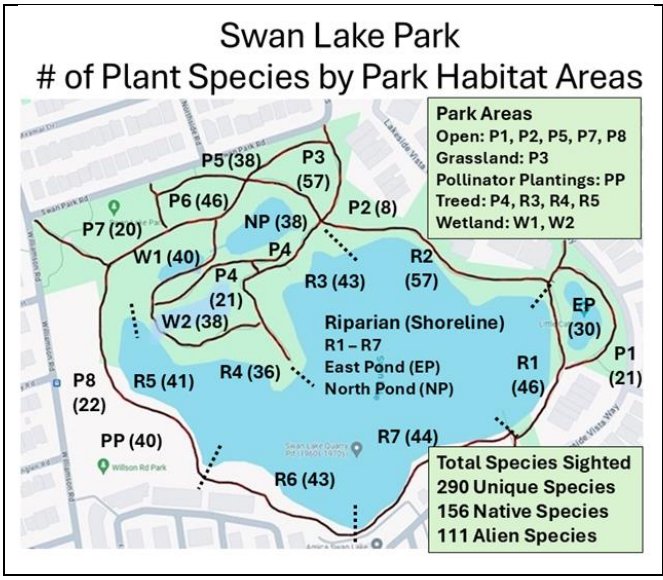
In 2024, FOSLP supported the Markham Lions Club and City of Markham staff in installing nine birdhouses throughout the park. Tree Swallows occupied five of the birdhouses in 2024.

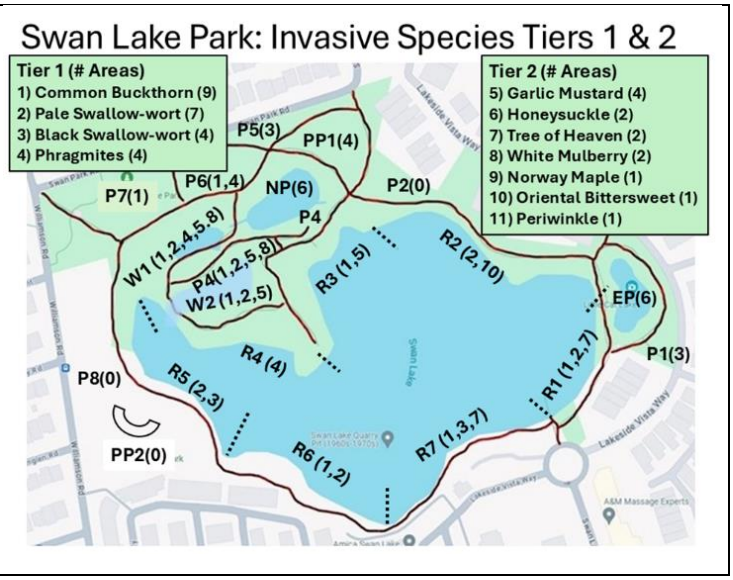
Over the past few years, wild Trumpeter Swans have visited Swan Lake. It is hoped that a pair will settle and nest within Swan Lake Park.

It is important that shoreline restoration activities planned for the next few years recognize the need to support nesting areas for the Trumpeters Swans, turtles and other species.

Plant Species in Swan Lake Park

FOSLP's Biodiversity report identified 290 different plant species including 19 rated as Invasive Species under Markham's Invasive Species Management Plan. Specific details on plant species and locations are provided in Appendix E of the Biodiversity report.





B) Species at Risk in Swan Lake and Swan Lake Park

The well documented biodiversity within Swan Lake Park needs protection and nurturing.

FOSLP's 2025 report on the Biodiversity of Swan Lake Park documents the diversity of the bird species identified in both the park and the lake.

In Swan Lake Park, 55 species or 30% of all species were categorized by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority ("TRCA") as L3, indicating species able to withstand only minor disturbance. A total of 60% of the recorded species in Swan Lake Park are at risk in the TRCA's jurisdiction with over 70% of the wetland birds and aerial insectivores rated to be at risk.

Swan Lake has been described by ecologists from the University of Toronto as a "constructed wetland". Of particular concern are the 32 Wetland Birds reported in Swan Lake Park.

The Markham Official Plan states that a "Key Natural Heritage feature includes habitat of endangered and threatened species and habitat of special concern species." As outlined in the chart below, 15 bird species sighted in Swan Lake Park are categorized as being at risk under both Federal (SARA) and Ontario (SARO) regulations and all of them are protected under the Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994.

SARA//COSEWIC/SARO Ratings of Birds Recorded in Swan Lake Park						
Common Name	**Scientific Name**	**LD Migrant**	**SARA**	**COSEWIC**	**SARO**	**TRCA**
FOREST BIRDS						
Prothonotary Warbler	Protonotaria citrea		END	END	END	L2
Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	Yes	THR	THR	SC	L4
Red-headed Woodpecker	Melanerpes erythrocephalus		END	END	END	L3
Wood Thrush	Hylocichla mustelina	Yes	THR	THR	SC	L3
Canada Warbler	Cardellina canadensis	Yes	THR	THR	SC	L2
Golden-winged Warbler	Vermivora chrysoptera	Yes	THR	THR	SC	L2
AERIAL INSECTIVORES						
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Contopus cooperi	Yes	SC	SC	SC	LV
Chimney Swift	Chaetura pe/agica	Yes	THR	THR	THR	L4
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Contopus virens	Yes	SC	SC	SC	L4
Bank Swallow	Riparia riparia	Yes	THR	THR	THR	L3
Common Nighthawk	Chordeiles minor	Yes	THR	SC	SC	L3
Eastern Whip-poor-will	Antrostomus vociferus		THR	SC	THR	L2
GRASSLAND BIRDS						
Eastern Meadowlark	Sturnella magna		THR	THR	THR	L3
Bobolink	Dolichonyx oryzivorus	Yes	THR	THR	THR	L2
WETLAND BIRDS						
Least Bittern	Ixobrychus exilis		THR	SC	THR	L2

SARA: Federal Species at Risk
COSEWIC: Committee on Status of Endangered Species in Canada
SARO: Ontario Species at Risk

SC Species of Concern
THR Threatened
END Endangered

Midland Painted Turtle

Courtesy of Kathleen Elizabeth Noel

Swan Lake Park provides habitat for other species under the Federal Species of Risk Act such as the American Bumble Bee (Bombus pensylvanicus) and the Monarch Butterfly (Danaus plexippus).

Swan Lake provides habitat to a variety of mammals, turtles and amphibians listed in the FOSLP's Biodiversity report, but three species are listed as a species of Special Concern under the Federal Species at Risk Act:

- Woodland Vole (microtus pinetorum)
- Common Snapping Turtle (Chelydra serpentina)
- Eastern Midland Painted Turtle (Chrysemys picta)

C) Key Hydraulic Features of Swan Lake

The biodiversity of Swan Lake and Swan Lake Park makes a clear case for including both as a Natural Heritage asset under Markham's Greenway System.

Swan Lake also qualifies as a Natural Heritage asset under Markham's Greenway System because it satisfies the technical criteria set out in Markham's Official Plan and in Ontario guidelines for "Key Hydraulic Features."

The 2017 Greenbelt Plan provides the following definition of a Key Hydraulic Area:

> *Key hydrologic areas are areas which contribute to the hydrologic functions of the Water Resource System. These areas maintain ground and surface water quality and quantity by collecting, storing and filtering rainwater and overland flow, recharge aquifers and feed downstream tributaries, lakes, wetlands and discharge areas. These areas are also sensitive to contamination and feed key hydrologic features and drinking water sources.*
>
> *Key hydrologic areas include:*
> - *Significant groundwater recharge areas*
> - *Highly vulnerable aquifers; and*
> - *Significant surface water contribution areas.*

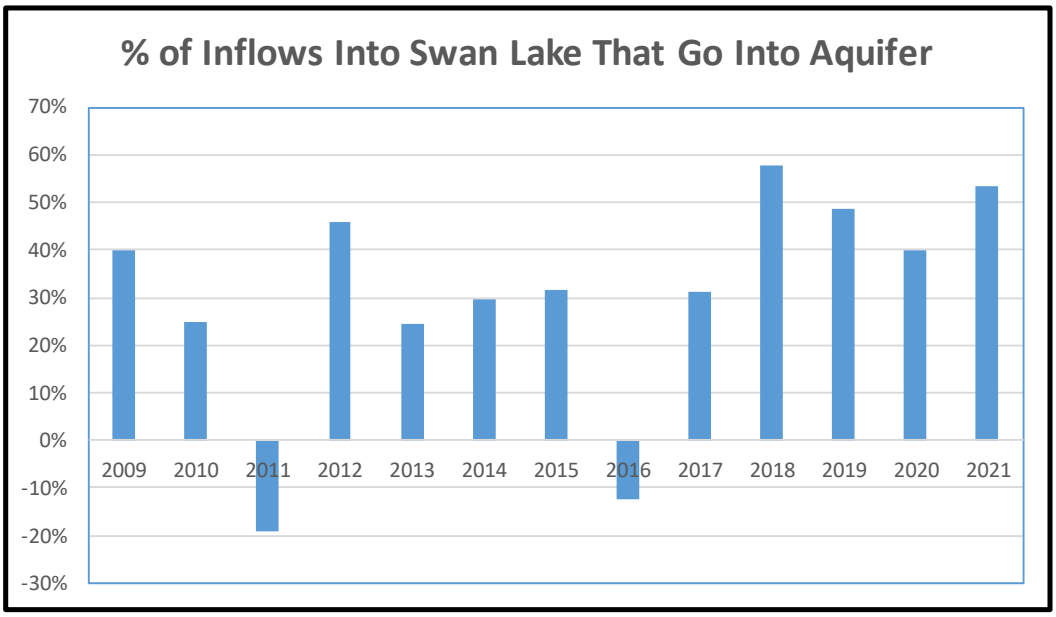
Markham's Official Plan defines a "significant local groundwater recharge area" as an area that sustains aquifer water levels, groundwater flow patterns, aquatic habitat, and key hydrologic features.

Within Natural Heritage systems, major water bodies are considered significant natural sources for recharging the aquifer.

Swan Lake, a former gravel quarry, filled naturally once dewatering operations ceased in 1972. Appendix B, provides an extract from a report[2] that summarizes the geology of Swan Lake and concludes that the "*Hydrogeological records of water wells on the site indicate static groundwater table elevations ranging between 207 and 209 m. The elevation of the water level of the lake is approximately 208 m, confirming that the lake probably originated from groundwater within the kame aquifer.*"

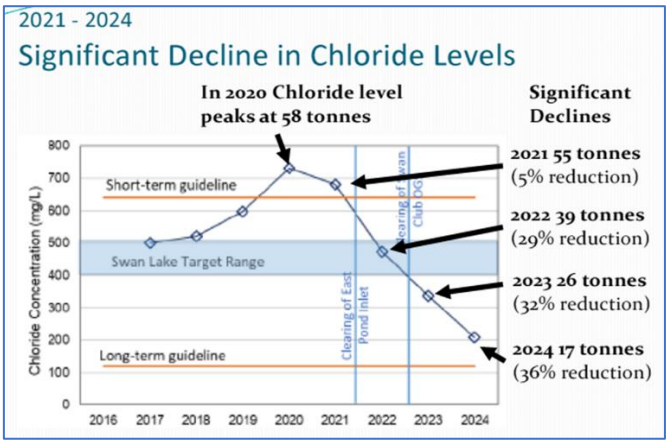
In April 2022, Markham staff released a flow analysis that indicated Swan Lake's role as a source for naturally recharging the aquifer. Over the 13-year period 2009 – 2021, it is estimated that 35% of all water flowing into Swan Lake enters the aquifer. In some years, the contribution to the aquifer has exceeded 50%.

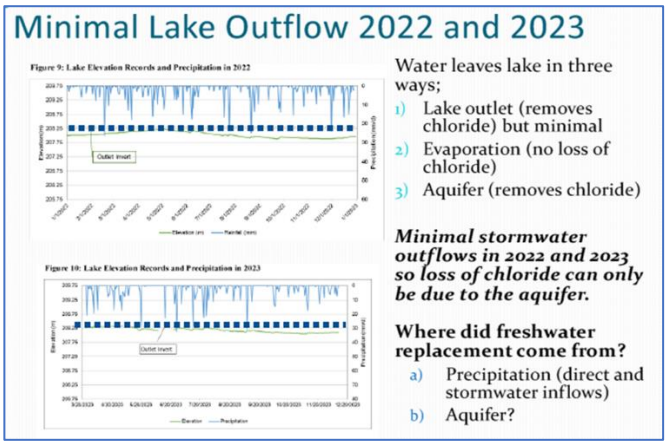
Groundwater flow in and out of the lake is estimated to range between 10 and 300 m^3/day.



Swan Lake has a high level of chloride arising from 6 stormwater sources that direct over 3 tonnes of chloride into the lake each year. During the past four years there has been a significant decline in the levels in the lake. One factor is the clearance of a blockage in one of the stormwater pipes that, due to a blockage, resulted in a significant flow bypassing one of the adjacent stormwater ponds.

There are no surface level outflows from Swan Lake other than a regulated outlet to the stormwater system. The removal of the blockage explains the reduction in inflows into the lake but not the reduction of chloride already in the lake. The drop in chloride levels was significant even during 2022 and 2023 when the lake level was below the lake outlet for most of the summer, suggesting that the loss of chloride was likely through groundwater.





Swan Lake should be designated as a “significant local groundwater recharge area” within Markham’s Natural Heritage Network.

B) Reclassification as a City-wide Park

Swan Lake Park is classified as a "Community Park" under Markham's 2014 Official Plan.

Section 4.0 of the Markham's Official Plan outlines the classification system which includes Destination Parks, City-wide Parks, Community Parks, Neighbourhood Parks and Open Space Lands.

Some distinguishing features of the different classifications:

A) Destination Parks are large, unique parks which attract residents from across Markham and the Region. They include conservation areas and lands associated with the Rouge Park. Milne Dam Conservation Park is classified as a Destination Park.

B) City-wide Parks (generally more than 12 ha.)

a) Provide programs and facilities for the entire city beyond those found in community or neighbourhood parks and include outdoor swimming pools, sports tournament parks, and structures such as stadium seating and parking.

b) ***May also include special purpose parks that are generally designed to preserve natural heritage features and cultural heritage resources.***

C) Community Parks (generally more than 6 ha.)

- Typically include water play, playgrounds, skate parks, basketball and tennis courts
- Serves park users within a 10-minute walk

D) Neighbourhood Parks (generally up to 6 ha.)
Parks of various sizes for active and passive recreational needs and are designed to serve users within a 5-minute walk (approximately 400 metres)

E) Open Space Lands are areas not suitable for City Parks programs but provide benefits and includes elements of the Natural Heritage Network lands such as utility corridors or stormwater management facilities.

The primary challenge is to enhance and preserve the biodiversity of Swan Lake Park while serving the needs of an expanding community.

The Mt. Joy redevelopment plan projects over 25,000 new residents in the area. The developers already highlight Swan Lake Park as one of core features of the community.

Improvements to Swan Lake Park will serve both existing and future residents plus many others throughout Markham.

At the July 29, 2024, meeting of the Markham Subcommittee FOSLP submitted a request for various shoreline enhancements supported by over 84% of the respondents to a 2024 questionnaire on shoreline enhancements (See Appendix C). Markham Parks staff rejected the proposal "due to cost and with consideration for city-wide equity" with other parks. There are, however, no other Community Parks with a lake as the dominant feature.

Markham staff noted that the allocation of additional funds for enhancements in Swan Lake Park should be discussed with the economic development/tourism departments.

Preserving the Biodiversity of Swan Lake Park

In May 2025, FOSLP initiated a questionnaire asking area residents their views on the classification of Swan Lake Park as "Natural Heritage Lands" and as a "Destination Park" and the possibility of future enhancements to the park to support additional visitors to the park.

The initial questions related to the importance of Swan Lake Park as a naturalized area and its reclassification as a Natural Heritage asset. Over 93% of the 313 respondents are concerned about the possible loss of the biodiversity and believe Markham should be doing more to preserve the wildlife habitat in Swan Lake Park. 88% would like to see Swan Lake and Swan Lake Park designated as Natural Heritage areas.

	Percent All Responses			Percentage Decided	
A) Natural Heritage Status and Expanding the Naturalized Areas	**YES**	**NO**	**Don't Know**	**YES**	**NO**
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?	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%

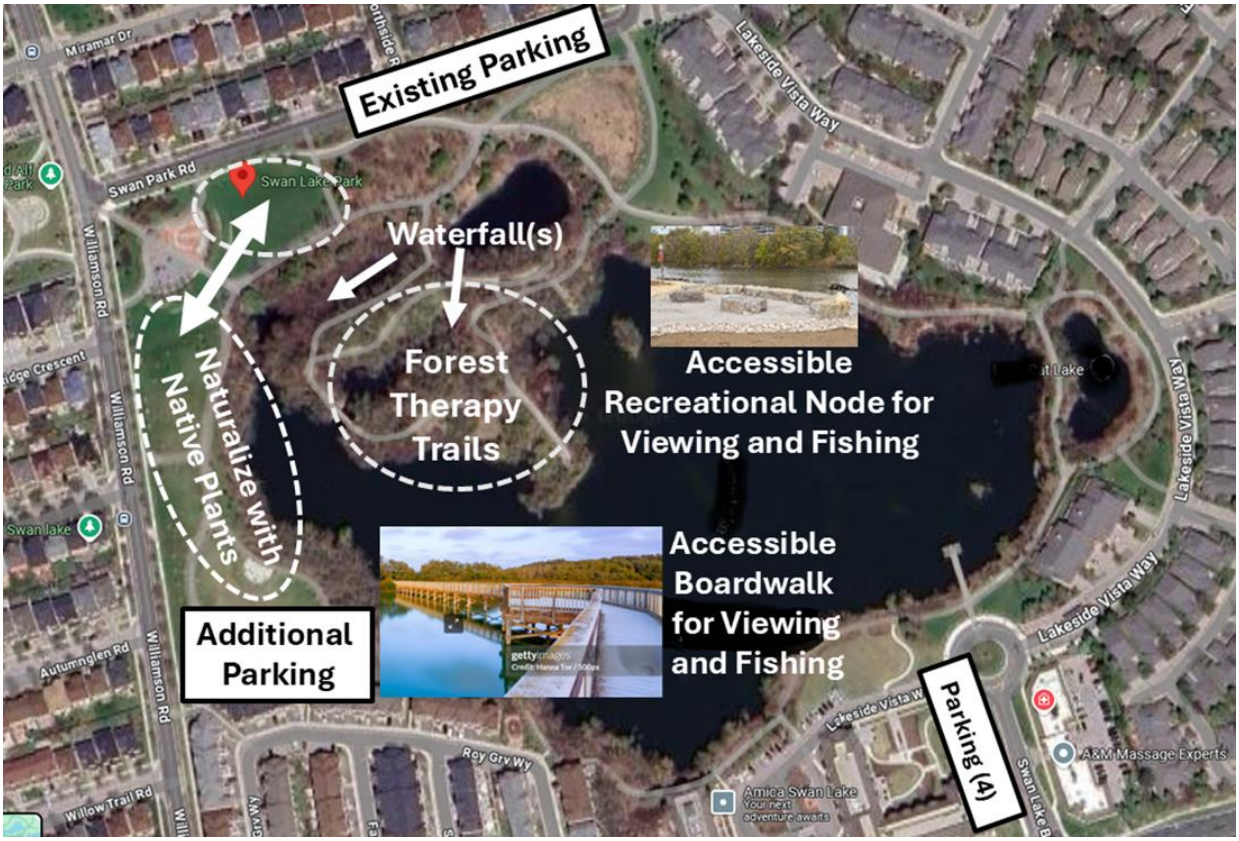
86% of the respondents would support naturalization of the open parkland areas along Williamson Road if it would help support the biodiversity of the park.

Over 71% of the respondents were concerned about the impact on the park wildlife of an increase in visitors to the park from the expanded Mt. Joy development.

				Percentage Decided	
B) Destination Park Status and Possible New Amenities	**YES**	**NO**	**Don't Know**	**YES**	**NO**
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?	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%

The questionnaire outlined the nature of possible enhancements that could be considered if Swan Lake Park were to become a Destination Park.

Possible Features of Swan Lake Park as a "Destination Park"



	YES	NO	Don't Know	Percentage Decided YES	Percentage Decided NO
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%

There was strong support for features that were consistent with the naturalized theme of the park, features such as waterfalls (81%) and a Forest Therapy area (78%) and with 54% support for recreational nodes.

There was less support (43%) for facilities such as a boardwalk across the lake or the loss of naturalized areas to additional parking (45%).

Preserving the Biodiversity of Swan Lake and Swan Lake Park

The community response underscores the significance and priority of sustaining the biodiversity of Swan Lake and Swan Lake Park.

The park is too small and lacks the facilities necessary to support the broader role of a Destination Park and any large infusion of visitors would undermine the core objective of preserving the biodiversity. Only 54% would support reclassifying the park as a Destination Park.

	YES	NO	Don't Know	Percentage Decided YES	Percentage Decided NO
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%

Nevertheless, Swan Lake Park does attract attention beyond the immediate community. It is already a recognized birding destination, and this role will continue if efforts to preserve the biodiversity are successful.

Swan Lake Park is much more and very different from any other Community Park. Friends of Swan Lake Park recommends that Markham undertake the following actions to preserve the biodiversity of Swan Lake and Swan Lake Park:

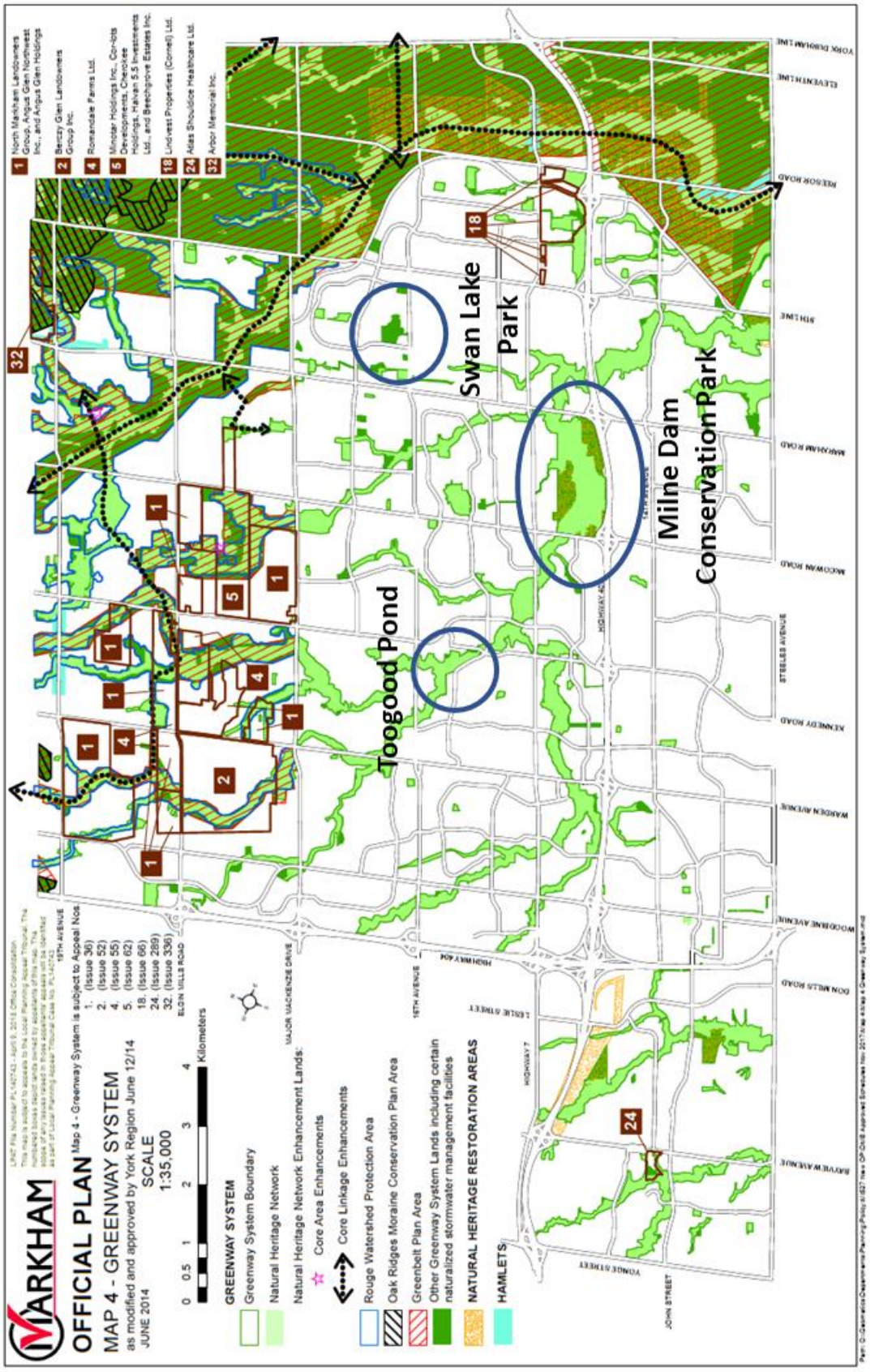
1) That Swan Lake Park be reclassified as a City-wide Special Purpose Park with the goal of developing a plan to sustain and enhance the existing biodiversity of Swan Lake and Swan Lake Park as detailed in the Biodiversity report.
2) That both Swan Lake and Swan Lake Park be designated as Natural Heritage Assets
3) That the western portion of Swan Lake Park along Willaimson Road be naturalized using native plants.
4) That Markham engage environmental consultants to develop recommendations for a program to stabilize and enhance the habitat for all wildlife species.
5) That Markham continue to support additional nesting sites in the park for other species, including the installation of an osprey nest.
6) That shoreline rehabilitation plans support nesting areas for the Trumpeter Swans, turtles and other aquatic life.
7) That Markham accelerate the aquatic habitat program during the next phase of the water quality program.
8) That Markham support accessible human interaction in the park by approving shoreline enhancements such as recreational nodes and others features such as Forest Therapy trails.

References

1) Swan Lake Community Environmental Management Study, December 1993, Cosburn Patterson Wardman Limited
2) Geo-Environmental Investigations and Proposed Site Cleanup Work Plan, Peto MacCallum Consulting, November 1993
3) Natural Heritage Reference Manual, Ontario, 2005
4) Designating Swan Lake as a Significant Component of Markham's Natural Heritage Network Lands, Friends of Swan Lake Park, June 2022
5) Preserving the Biodiversity of Swan Lake Park, Friends of Swan Lake Park, June 2025
6) Markham's 2014 Official Plan, City of Markham

Detailed listing of bird and plant species in Swan Lake Park available on request from friends@friendsofswanlakepark

Appendix A: Markham's Greenway System



Appendix B: Geology of Swan Lake

The following section is extracted from a report by Peto MacCallum Ltd.,[2]

2.1.1 Site Settings and Land Use History

The site is located within a broad physiographic region known as the Peel Plain, a level-to-undulating tract of clay soils. Its principal physiographic feature is the Markham-Pickering till plain, a bevelled, partly drumlinized and fluted plain. The Pleistocene geology of the area has been shaped by glacial activity. The native soils consist of a sandy to clay bouldery till locally underlain by sand and gravel deposits. Historically, these deposits have been extracted as a source of road base granular out of the Groves gravel pit which formerly operated on the site.

Locally, the physiography of the site has been altered by relatively large volumes of fill materials stockpiled around the lake. Geodetic ground surface elevations range between approximately 205 and 221 m over the site.

Surface drainage in the area generally occurs through the Little Rouge Creek tributaries of the Rouge River which flow southeastwards. However, there are no obvious surface drainage outlets from the lake. Surface flows are generally directed southwestwards and away from the site. ***Hydrogeological records of water wells on the site indicate static groundwater table elevations ranging between 207 and 209 m. The elevation of the water level of the lake is approximately 208 m, confirming that the lake probably originated from groundwater within the kame aquifer.*** An analysis of static water level elevations indicates that the regional groundwater flow is directed southwestwards or southwards with an average hydraulic gradient of about 1%. ***[Emphasis added]***

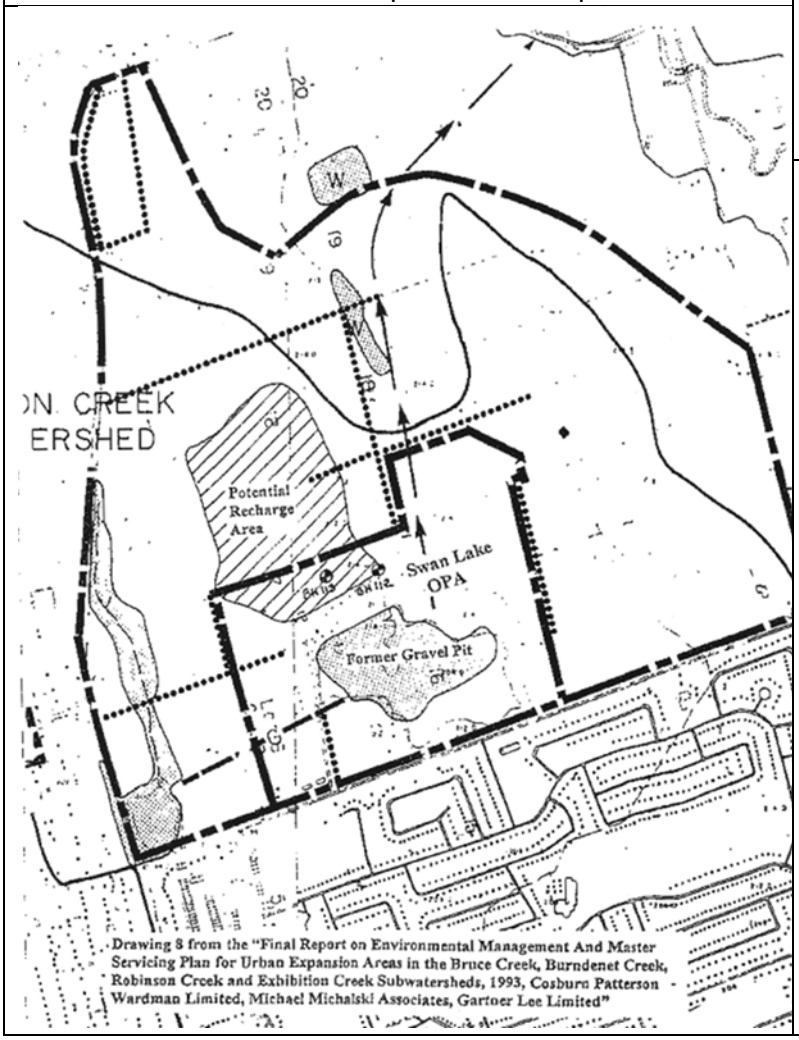
Historically, gravel extraction operations on the site began as early as the 1850s. However, the operations were phased out during the 1870s when the site was acquired by the Grove family. In 1962, the gravel operations resumed out of the Grove Pit under the ownership of Warnock and Johnson. Groundwater was struck around 1970 and the pit became a lake. Shortly thereafter the gravel pit operations discontinued.

2.2.2 Groundwater

Seepages of groundwater were observed in boreholes 3,4,5 and 6 during drilling. Groundwater, probably regional, was encountered in all of the boreholes with the exception of boreholes 7, 8, 9 and 13 and observation well 4. Groundwater water was encountered in test pits 5, 9,10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 33, 39, 40, 43 and 44. Depths to groundwater/wet cave ranged between 1.0 and 7.6 m below grade. ***By November 3, 1993, approximately five weeks after installation, the groundwater levels stabilized at 2.7 to 5.7 m below grade, elevation 208.0 +/- , in observation wells 2,3,4 and 5. In observation well 1, the water level was noted to be close to the ground surface on that date.*** An analysis of the static water level elevations indicated that in November, 1993, the regional groundwater flow was directed southwestwards with an average hydraulic gradient of about 1%. ***[Emphasis added]***

Potential Recharge Area

The following chart was included in the Peto MacCallum report identifying the "potential recharge area" which extends into the north-west portion of the park.



Ontario well records

The Ontario database for well records lists information on 27 different test wells from 1961 to 2022.

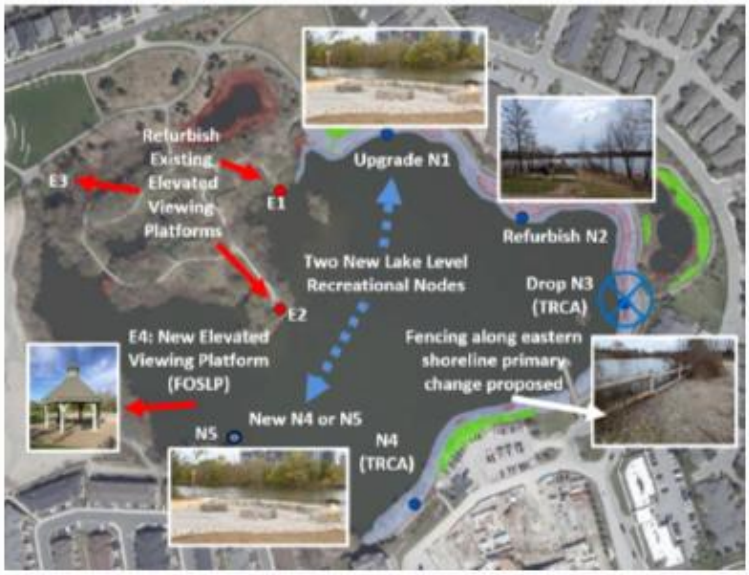
[Map: Well records | ontario.ca]

Well Locations In Swan Lake Park June 2025

Appendix C: Swan Lake Shoreline Questionnaire June 2024

FOSLP Proposed 2024 Recommendations

- Two New recreational nodes N1 & N5
  - Rather than 5
- Refurbish N2 – provide unrestricted views
- Add Gazebo (E4) as viewing area on western shoreline
- Install low-rise fencing provided it does not obstruct viewing areas



June 2024 124 Respondents

1) The invasive phragmites have been removed. (Choose 1)

96%	I believe removing phragmites was an improvement for Swan Lake
4%	I believe the phragmites should have been left alone

2) The TRCA recommended the use of stonework along the shoreline to restrain geese access to the shoreline. Markham staff is proposing lower cost fencing for geese restraint.

46%	I support the use of stonework to restrain the geese (cost not known)
43%	I support the use of lower cost fencing to restrain the geese. (cost estimate $125,000)
11%	I believe there should be no effort to restrain the geese

3) In 2022, the TRCA recommended 4 new recreational nodes and FOSLP requested an additional node along the western shoreline. In 2024, FOSLP is recommending two new recreational nodes be added along the shoreline. (Choose 1)

19%	I support the 2022 recommendations for installing 5 recreational nodes (cost estimate $900,000)
65%	I support FOSLP's 2024 recommendations for installing 2 recreational nodes (cost estimate $360,000)
16%	I support Markham staff recommendations that no new nodes be added (cost nil)

4) At present there is no view of the lake from the pathway along the western shoreline which is about 3-5 m above the water level. FOSLP recommends that a new elevated viewing area along the western pathway be added to provide residents on the western side of the park with a view of the lake. (Choose 1)

80%	I support FOSLP's recommendation for a new elevated viewing platform on the western shoreline. (FOSLP cost estimate $225,000)
20%	I do not support the installation of a new viewing platform on the western pathway.