

Response to Petition: “Navan Wetland Zoning Will Devalue Properties and Strip Away Landowners’ Rights”

Q: Will this project restrict my rights as a landowner?

A: The property, owned by the City of Ottawa, lies within a floodplain and will not face any future residential or commercial development. The project proposes to enhance the current site and to provide an accessible trail for residents to enjoy the property.

Changes to this property will not impact adjacent landowners. Enhancement will be localized to the site owned by the City of Ottawa.

Q: Will this project devalue my property?

A: Research has demonstrated widespread economic benefits to developing green spaces within communities. Studies have reported up to 20% increases in property values near parks and green spaces when compared to properties with limited park accessibility.

Q: Will the project site in Navan ever be designated as a PSW?

A: This is very unlikely as the site is small and isolated from other wetland features due to the Village of Navan and large agricultural areas surrounding it. To be Provincially Significant, wetlands are scored on their size, complex features, presence of species at risk, and unique biological or hydrologic aspects. This site would not score high enough to be classified.

The closest significant system is approximately 6.7 km away (Mer Blue Bog). The Ontario Wetland Evaluation System requires an existing significant system to be within 750 m of a wetland if it is to be evaluated. Based on the current system features, this site would not be able to be evaluated by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

Q: Will this project cause an influx of mosquitoes?

A: The proposed excavation of wildlife ponds should not effectively increase the population of mosquitoes in Navan.

Most nuisance mosquitoes breed in seasonally wet, low lying floodplain areas, and standing water in hollow logs, birdbaths, old tires, flower pots etc. All of which presently exist within the community and around the low-lying project site.

The development of permanent ponds will not encourage or enhance the preferred habitat of these types of mosquitos. Wetland enhancements such as wildlife ponds help control mosquito populations by providing a biodiverse habitat with insectivores, and by reducing flooding.

Q: Will there be an influx of predators affecting the safety residents?

A: The proposed wildlife ponds will naturally draw new species to the site over time, such as turtles, frogs, waterfowl, and wetland plants. However, the scale of the project is unlikely to draw in large predators as they require large home ranges.