

Little River Dikes Improvement Project Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the purpose of the dike?

The purpose of the dike, along with the steel retaining wall, is to contain elevated floodwater during high volume flows. The dike prevents flooding of adjacent properties. The steel retaining wall stabilizes the bank and minimizes/eliminates erosion.

Q. Where along the Little River Dike is the area of concern?

The area of concern runs length wise from approximately the McHugh Street bridge to Riverside Drive and width wise from the east toe of the dike on the east side of the river to the west toe of the dike on the west side of the river.

Q. Why aren't structures (such as decks, boat docks, sheds, and fencing, etc.) allowed in this area?

Structures (such as decks, boat docks, sheds, and fencing, etc.) can impede the flow of the river during high volume flows. Under the Ontario Drainage Act, obstructions to the free flow of water are required to be removed.

Q. What is allowed within the dike area?

Only fencing is permitted down to the top of the steel retaining walls, provided such fencing is of an open mesh type, which permits water to flow through it without impeding flow.

Q. Under what authority would the City be undertaking this project?

The original drainage report, completed in 1983, contains a provision that the dike and steel wall be kept up and maintained in a good state of repair. The report was adopted under City of Windsor By-law 7635. In addition, the Ontario Drainage Act also contains provisions regarding upkeep and maintenance of municipal drains.

Q. Will the City be required to enter onto my land?

Yes. There are provisions in the Ontario Drainage Act that allow for assessment and repairs. Section 12(1) of the Ontario Drainage Act provides authority to the municipality to enter onto lands of any person in order to assess or survey. Section 63(1) gives authority for work to be undertaken to repair the drain. This work may only take place within a certain working space.

Q. If items are removed, what would be done with those items?

Property owners could keep any items if they choose to. Any items that are not wanted will be hauled away.

Q. Why are the obstructions a concern now?

It is a growing concern considering water levels have increased over the years and the occurrence of flooding events has become more frequent.

Q. Water levels have never reached flood levels. Is there really a need to repair the Dike?

Regardless of water levels, alterations and removals of sections of the dike by property owners have occurred causing deficiencies in the dike. Improvements/repairs will be made to restore the dike to the level of flood protection it was originally designed.