

3.0 STUDY GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General

The development of the Master Plan Guiding Principle, Goals and Objectives was completed through a series of meetings of the Steering Committee as well as feedback from the public and stakeholders at Public Information Centres and Workshops held on June 20, 21 and 23, 2005.

The Guiding Principle, Goals and Objectives were used to assist in the development of a Long List of Alternatives and Management Strategies. The objectives were also used to assist in the evaluation of strategies.

3.2 Guiding Principle, Goals and Objectives

Provided in Table 3.1 are the Guiding Principle, Goals and Objectives that were established for this study.

Consistent with the study focus, separate Goals have been established for storm sewer infrastructure and for the natural resources of the watersheds located within the City. The objectives also reflect distinct categories for natural resources and the separated storm sewer system.

Table 3.1: Master Plan Guiding Principle, Goals and Objectives

Guiding Principle

- Treat rainwater as a resource to be protected and managed, rather than a waste product to be quickly moved from where it falls.

Goals

1. To develop management guidelines for the maintenance / replacement of the City's existing separated storm sewer systems and for design of proposed systems.
2. To develop and implement appropriate strategies in order to protect, enhance and restore the natural resources of the watersheds located within the City under present conditions and as land use changes occur in the future.

Objectives

Water Quality

1. Maintain or enhance water and sediment quality to achieve ecological integrity.
2. Improve water quality in watercourses and major receiving waters including the Grand, Niagara and Welland Rivers as well as Hamilton Harbour and Lake Ontario.
3. Improve water aesthetics including odour, turbidity and clarity.
4. Protect groundwater quality to support watershed functions.

Water Quantity

5. Preserve and re-establish the natural hydrologic cycle.
6. Reduce erosion impacts on habitats and property.
7. Minimize risk to human life and property due to flooding.
8. Maintain groundwater levels and baseflows to sustain watershed functions.

Aquatic Communities and Habitats

9. Protect, enhance or restore native aquatic species and communities.
10. Protect, enhance or restore the stability, diversity and connectivity of habitats in watercourses, riparian habitats and other waterbodies to support native aquatic plants, invertebrates, animals and fish.

Terrestrial Communities and Habitats

11. Protect, enhance or restore habitat diversity, health and distribution in the watershed to support plant and animal communities.
12. Minimize the impact of surrounding land uses on natural system integrity.

Sewer System

13. Manage storm runoff to reduce basement flooding.
14. Incorporate into the design of sewer systems an allowance to accommodate future growth, including intensification.