

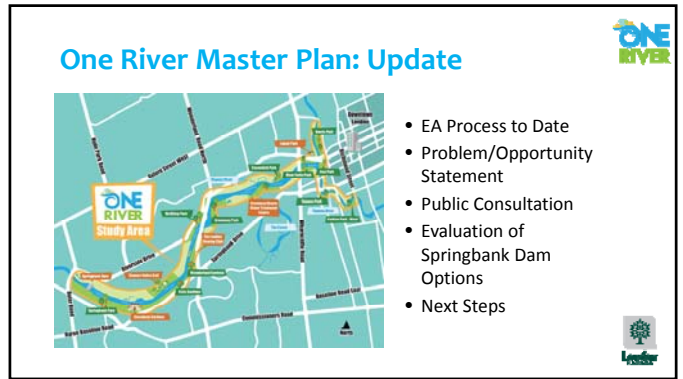


ONERIVER
Creating a Master Plan for the Thames River


One River Master Plan Stage I Report

Ashley M. Rammeloo, P.Eng.

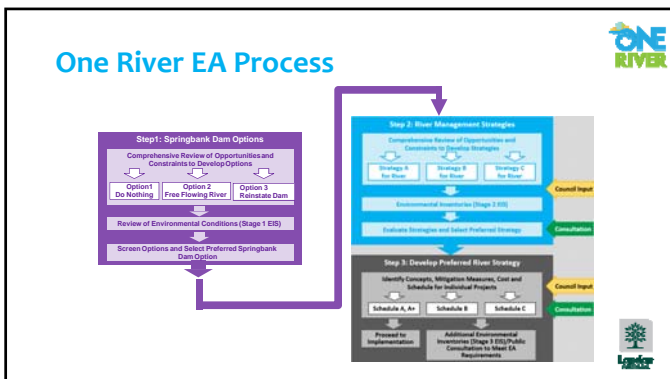
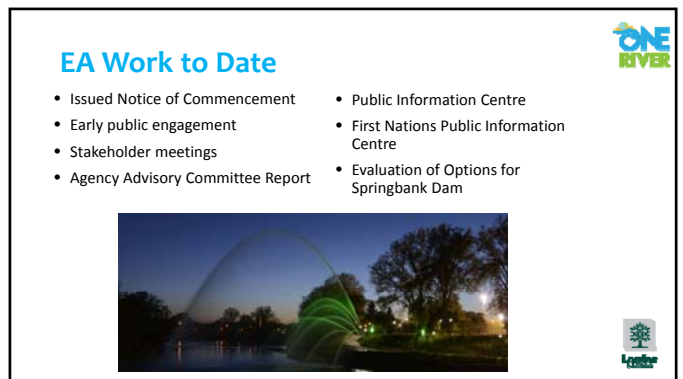
Share your vision for the future and learn more:
getinvolved.london.ca/OneRiver



One River Master Plan: Update




- EA Process to Date
- Problem/Opportunity Statement
- Public Consultation
- Evaluation of Springbank Dam Options
- Next Steps

EA Work to Date

- Issued Notice of Commencement
- Early public engagement
- Stakeholder meetings
- Agency Advisory Committee Report
- Public Information Centre
- First Nations Public Information Centre
- Evaluation of Options for Springbank Dam



Public Engagement



- Early Consultation Pop-Ups and Community Events
- River Usage Survey
- GetInvolved website
- Stakeholder meetings
- Public Information Centres
- First Nations Engagement
- Email and letter mail contact lists







First Nations Engagement

- Notice of Commencement and invitations to meet were sent to nine First Nations and Indigenous communities as well as Métis Nation of Ontario
- All reports and updates sent directly
- Information cards placed at N'Amerind Friendship Centre
- Public Information Centre held at Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, with Munsee-Delaware and Oneida nations also invited

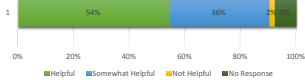
Public Engagement

- Close to 1,000 people filled out the river usage survey
- Stakeholder meetings
- Over 270 people attended the PICs
- 473 Springbank Dam surveys submitted
- Over 100 emails, letters and phone calls received

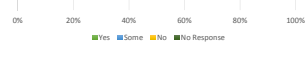
Public Information Centre Results

90% of respondents indicated that the information provided was helpful





Category	Percentage
Helpful	64%
Somewhat Helpful	26%
Not Helpful	7%
No Response	3%


84% indicated some or all of their questions had been answered



Category	Percentage
Yes	64%
Some	20%
No	16%
No Response	0%


Problem/Opportunity Statement




"The river that flows through London's downtown has many names:

- *Deshkan Zibibing (known to the Anishnaabeg and Lenape of the Great Lakes);*
- *Kahwy' hatati (ONYOTA:KA); and,*
- *The Thames (John Graves Simcoe)*


This river is both our inheritance and our living legacy. It is our collective responsibility to maintain and enhance this shared natural, cultural recreational and aesthetic resource. The One River Master Plan Environmental Assessment will consider the area historically influenced by the Springbank Dam and will provide a plan that coordinates critical infrastructure projects in ways that improve the overall health of the river, identifies and creates an understanding of potential impacts these projects may have on downstream communities, species at risk and/or endangered species and where possible avoids them and respects the vision of Back to the River's "The Ribbon of the Thames" concept plan. This study, in the context of many other ongoing initiatives, will preserve for future generations this valuable resource and allow people of all abilities to enjoy and access this designated Canadian Heritage River."




Public Feedback




- The majority of respondents (55%) indicated that nothing had been missed in the problem/opportunity statement.







Springbank Dam Options




- **Do Nothing**
Dam is left as-is
- **Free-Flowing River**
Dam is decommissioned and no longer provides water retention but may be repurposed
- **Reinstate the Dam**
Dam is reinstated to provide a water retention function

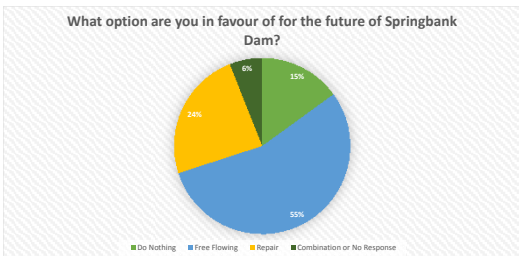





Public Feedback – Dam Options



What option are you in favour of for the future of Springbank Dam?



Option	Percentage
Do Nothing	55%
Free Flowing	24%
Repair	6%
Combination or No Response	15%



Evaluation Criteria

Natural Environment



- Water quality, geomorphology, Species at Risk, terrestrial habitat, aquatic habitat, groundwater and surface water interactions

Social/Cultural Environment

- Cultural heritage, public health & safety, boating recreation, fishing recreation, land-based recreation, shoreline accessibility, aesthetics, First Nations concerns, urban revitalization

Technical and Economic






- Flood hazard impact, carbon footprint, constructability, approvability, operations & maintenance, compatibility with existing and planned infrastructure projects, capital cost

Natural Environment

Option 2 scored significantly higher than the other options due to consistently higher scores in nearly every criterion:




- Ability to improve water quality from existing conditions
- Potential for improvements to geomorphology
- Protection for Species At Risk, terrestrial habitat and aquatic habitat

Social/Cultural Environment

Options 2 and 3 ranked similarly:

- Option 2 ranked significantly higher for fishing recreation and First Nations concerns
- Options 2 and 3 were ranked equally for cultural heritage and aesthetics
- Option 3 was shown to be slightly preferable with respect to public health and safety, boating recreation, land-based recreation, shoreline accessibility and urban revitalization







Technical and Economic

Option 1 scored the highest due to the fewest costs and permitting requirements associated with doing nothing.

Option 2 scored closely behind Option 1, showing balance between costs, constructability, approvability, and operations and maintenance.

Option 3 was noted to be the most difficult to receive approvals for, to construct, and would have the highest cost.

Evaluation of Options


Criteria Category	Option 1: Do Nothing	Option 2: Free-flowing River	Option 3: Reinststate the Dam
Natural Environment	3.0	4.5	1.3
Social/Cultural Environment	2.1	4.3	4.1
Technical and Economic	3.7	3.1	2.1
Total	8.8	12.0	7.6

Recommended: Option 2 Free-flowing River

- Decommission Springbank Dam
- Determine most environmentally and fiscally responsible way to do so
- Consider potential repurposing of concrete structure, subject to future structural review

Next Steps

- Quick start work, e.g. invasive species management plan and removal
- Forks of the Thames – incorporation of Ribbon of the Thames concept plan
- River enhancements, e.g. erosion mitigation, natural heritage protection projects, public space improvements, boat launches, river access
- Springbank Dam decommissioning plan



Questions?

