

What is Camp Pond Dam?

Camp Pond Dam is a small earthen dam located on Richland Drive in the Richland Estates neighborhood in Raleigh. The dam is regulated by the North Carolina Dam Safety Program (Dam Safety) as a “high hazard” dam based on the potential for downstream property damage and loss of life in the event of dam failure.

Richland Drive is the only access road for residents of the Lakeland Woods neighborhood just south of Camp Pond. If the dam were to fail, these residents would have no means to safely enter and leave their neighborhood. In addition, residents downstream are at risk if the dam were to fail.



Aerial view of Camp Pond Dam and Richland Drive

Who owns the dam?

Camp Pond Dam is co-owned by four private property owners on Richland Drive and the City of Raleigh. The City is specifically responsible for maintaining Richland Drive and its right-of-way over the dam. Per Dam Safety rules, the owners of a dam share the responsibility for maintaining it in a safe condition. The feasibility and success of this project and future of the dam depend on collaboration between the private co-owners and the City.

What prompted this study?

In December 2021, Dam Safety issued a Notice of Deficiency to the owners of the dam after recent inspections indicated several issues of concern, including:

- Deterioration and clogging of the principal spillway pipe
- Erosion under the outlet pad of the auxiliary spillway
- Large trees and bushes growing on the dam

An engineering study must be performed to evaluate the condition of the dam and identify remedial measures.

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What are the goals of this study?

The principal goal of the Camp Pond Dam Engineering Study is to evaluate options to bring the dam back into compliance with Dam Safety regulations. The remedial measures must also provide roadway safety and maintain access for residents along Richland Drive.

In addition to addressing Dam Safety concerns, the City has identified the Camp Pond Dam project as an opportunity to achieve additional environmental and stormwater management benefits through the City’s investment and through implementation of the City’s Lake Management Evaluation Program Policy.

What is the “Lake Management” Policy?

The City’s Lake Management Policy allows for the City to fund improvements to privately-owned lakes and ponds if it is determined that the project could provide significant stormwater management benefits.

The Policy requires that a range of possible alternatives be evaluated prior to recommendation of a preferred alternative. The preferred alternative is then proposed for City Council authorized funding as a project within the City’s Stormwater Capital Improvement Program.

What is being proposed at Camp Pond Dam?

The City is currently working with its consultant to evaluate three remedial alternatives for the dam:

Alternative & Description	Cost*
Alternative 1: Pond is maintained at current water surface & dam spillways are improved to comply with Dam Safety regulations.	\$2.7M
Alternative 2: Dam spillways are improved & lowered to the bottom of the pond to allow a natural stream to develop in the former pond area.	\$3.1M
Alternative 3: Dam spillways are improved & partially lowered to allow a natural stream & wetland areas to develop in the former pond area.	\$3.2M

*Preliminary construction cost; subject to change as design proceeds.

What happens next?

After the public meeting, the City will compile and review stakeholder input and evaluate the potential alternatives, considering public opinion, anticipated cost and risks, potential benefits, and Dam Safety requirements. The preferred alternative will be presented to City Council and the City’s Stormwater Management Advisory Commission for approval.

After approvals, the next steps will include preparing final design plans and securing the necessary easements and environmental permits. Construction is anticipated to begin in Spring 2025.