

Welcome to Solstice II

Homeowners Environmental Stewardships Guide

Welcome to your new home in Solstice II. The homeowners manual has been prepared as a guide to ensure the protection of natural features and sensitive species within the local area surrounding your new home. Solstice II is located adjacent to Hanlon Creek Swamp Provincially Significant Wetland Complex (PSW) that has been protected from disturbance based on its natural attributes and functions. The Solstice II Condominium has been designed to reduce the impact of development on this wetland complex.

The wetland complex provides habitat for numerous native plant and wildlife species and is part of the natural heritage system for the City of Guelph. Living next to this natural area provides a wonderful educational opportunity for an individual and a community to better understand and appreciate our natural heritage. With this opportunity comes a responsibility to learn how to manage your daily affairs and activities so that you protect and enhance the functions of this area. We encourage you to learn more about this adjacent natural area and take advantage of this opportunity to develop a lifestyle in harmony with this wonderful environment.



Protecting our Natural Heritage

Wetland Protection

Wetlands have a number of important roles in the environment, including water purification and flood control. Wetlands provide many ecological functions, which include groundwater discharge and recharge, water quality improvement and storage, biodiversity, native seed source, and habitat for a diversity of species. Birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, insects, and fish species all require this wetland as habitat.

Wildlife needs space where it will be relatively free from harassment by people and pets. Wild plants need habitat where they are not constantly trampled and do not have to compete with non- native plants. Do not walk, or allow your pets inside the wetland area to prevent the disturbance of wildlife, trampling of plants and introduction/ spreading of non- native plant species.

Native Species Planting

A naturalization and planting plan has been included as part of the development. Native species have been planted in and around the naturalized stormwater management facility, and in the wetland buffet area. Native species known from the area have been planted to restore and enhance the wetland, and limit the impacts of development.

Please do not introduce invasive plant or animal species into these areas. Please do not plant anything in these areas unless you are participating in an event authorized by the Condo Corporation, the City of Guelph, or the Conservation Authority.



Protecting our Water

Stormwater Management Facility

Water quality is important to the health of humans and natural systems. A naturalized stormwater management pond has been constructed as part of the development to protect the quality and quantity of water. The pond has been carefully designed to filter pollutants from urban runoff before entering the adjacent Hanlon Creek Swamp PSW.

Prior to the Solstice II development on this property, rain and melting snow would infiltrate into the soil. When the soil was saturated, the surface water would drain into the adjacent wetland. This runoff was relatively slow and relatively clean. As this property was developed, impermeable surfaces such as roof, parking lot and roadway replaced much of the native soils. More water runs off these surfaces, more quickly, and in the process it picks up urban contaminants such as road dust and petro- chemical residues. This water now runs through a stormwater management pond before entering the adjacent Hanlon Creek Swamp PSW. The stormwater pond has been designed to mimic the function of the natural vegetation and soils. The pond slows down the rate of runoff from the development, allows sediment and contaminants to settle, and slowly releases cleaner water into the wetland. The vegetation growing around the pond further improves water quality. Many of the plants trap particulate matter and absorb chemicals and plant nutrients that, untreated, would impair water quality. Please refrain from introducing pollutants or any foreign materials (including animal species) into this pond to ensure that it continues to function in its intended manner.

What Can I Do?

- Maintain your vehicle to reduce leaks and drips. Clean up after accidental spills;
- Pick up after your pet. Pet waste can pollute wetlands and waterways;
- Reduce the use of de- icing salt and chemicals which cause calcium chloride to run into groundwater and wetlands;
- Do not use bleach pucks in toilets;
- Wetlands are home to many creatures including frogs, toads, small mammals and reptiles, including snakes and turtles. Many of these species populations are declining due to human impacts. None of these creatures are dangerous and should be left alone;
- Keep dogs on a leash to limit disturbance to ground nesting birds;
- Keep domestic cats indoors to limit predation on songbirds and nests and;
- Leave all nests alone often mothers will leave when there is a threat and return once the threat is gone.



Contact information

If you have any questions or concerns please contact:

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Welcome home.