



Old Refinery Park and Beaverdam Flats Restoration

The City of Calgary and Imperial Oil Limited have been working together to address the contamination at the former Imperial Oil Refinery site during the period of park closure from 2015 - 2019. As a result of the site remediation some changes to the area have occurred.

What have we done during the closure?

Cleaning groundwater

Groundwater pumping wells and a water treatment system have been installed to treat and clean the groundwater. Parks users will notice a network of groundwater pumping wells around the area.

Protecting the river

A 1500m subsurface barrier wall has been installed to prevent contaminants from entering the Bow River. This barrier will ensure the river is protected and remains clean. Park users will notice a soil berm in Beaver Dam Flats. This is in place to protect that portion of the subsurface barrier wall in the event of a significant flood such as what occurred in 2013.

Soil Capping

Clean imported soil has been placed on top of areas of known impact to provide a physical barrier from contaminants. Park users will notice these 'mounded' areas outside of the floodway.

Planting trees and shrubs

Trees and shrubs were planted in the park to compensate for the select trees that had to be removed during installation of the subsurface barrier wall. The trees that were cut were then laid throughout the park to provide habitat for park wildlife. Parks users will notice areas of clustered woody debris throughout the area.

Restricted Access Fencing

Restricted access fencing was placed in certain impacted areas of the site such as areas awaiting site redevelopment and areas with valuable ecological habitat (i.e. riverbank areas in floodway). Park users will notice chain link fence placed in these areas.

Former Sprung site

The former Sprung site operated on south Refinery Park during the late 1980s. When it closed down, fence was placed on the perimeter of the Sprung site. As part of the remediation, the Sprung fence was removed adding additional space to explore in the park.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why did it take four years to complete this work?

Construction operations occurred from 2015 to 2017, while restoration of the site occurred from 2017–2019. Restoration included planting numerous grass seed, shrubs and trees throughout the site. Due to dry growing seasons in 2017 and 2018 vegetation was slow to establish.

2. What’s the purpose of the wells, water treatment system, barrier wall, restricted access fencing and soil capping?

Groundwater pumping wells pump groundwater to the treatment system where the water is cleaned, filtered and then re-injected back into the ground. The subsurface barrier wall runs parallel to the Bow River, preventing contaminants in the groundwater from entering the river. Soil capping and restricted access fencing cover and prevent access to remaining contaminated soil.

3. Where did the tree removal take place?

The work was conducted at Old Refinery Park, the 50 Avenue Loop and the northern portion of Beaverdam Flats. Areas were chosen to minimize disturbance to the riverbank area. The City of Calgary Urban Forestry and Parks divisions provided input to minimize the number of trees to be removed, while allowing for the safe construction of the Risk Management Plan components (groundwater pumping wells and piping, water treatment system and barrier wall.)

4. Who is involved in the Risk Management Plan?

The City of Calgary and Imperial prepared the Risk Management Plan and are working together to ensure the site is risk managed appropriately. Alberta Environment and Parks along with other local, municipal, provincial and federal stakeholders provided input throughout the study and plan development period. The Risk Management Plan has been approved by Alberta Environment and Parks.

5. What about the health and safety of nearby residents and park users?

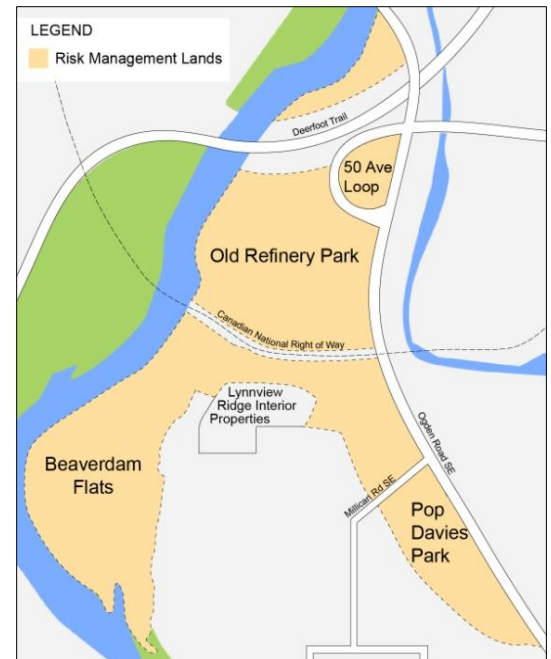
The health and safety of both workers and the public is very important. A detailed health and safety plan has been developed as part of the Risk Management Plan and any future work will be carried out in accordance with The Risk Management Plan.

6. If the site is contaminated, is it safe for use by Calgarians today and in the future?

Current uses of the park area, such as walking and jogging, are considered safe by Alberta Environment and Parks. Any recommendations for future land use will be reviewed by Alberta Health Services to ensure it is safe for use by Calgarians.

7. What will the land eventually be used for?

While no final decisions have been made, the area is intended to be used for community benefit. Options will be restricted to urban transportation, research, parks and recreational uses. The lands will not be used for private residential or commercial development.





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8. What will this cost and who will pay?

Imperial is responsible for 100 per cent of the costs on the Imperial-owned land. Costs will be shared 60/40 between Imperial and The City of Calgary on City-owned lands. It is estimated the cost to remediate the land is approximately \$32 million over a 20-25 year period.

Questions: Please contact 3-1-1 for more information.