

Inglewood Bird Sanctuary Reconnection project Project update, June 2021



The Inglewood Bird Sanctuary Reconnection project will ensure the health and longevity of the lagoon, create habitat for fish, birds and wildlife, add enhancements for park visitors and protection against future flood events.



Artist project rendering



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Improving lagoon health and longevity

- The hydraulic outlets that control water levels in the lagoon need upgrades. They likely cannot withstand another flood and their loss could result in the loss of the lagoon.
- Poor water quality has been linked to cases of avian cholera in the park.
- The lagoon has become known as a fish trap.
- There is risk of redirection of the river. This could result in a new river channel being created in the park during flooding which has the potential to harm the park, Colonel Walker House and the lagoon.

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Improving lagoon health and longevity

- Repairing the outlet controls will provide more stability to the water level in the lagoon.
- Creating a channel to connect the lagoon to the Bow River will:
 - provide the lagoon with a continuous stream of water, preventing it from becoming stagnant and improving the quality of water and health of the lagoon.
 - create a fish passage between the lagoon and the river, reducing the risk fish will become trapped in the lagoon.
- Both activities reduce the risk of a sudden redirection of the river creating a new rive channel in the park.

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Calgary 🖄 Reducing erosion





- Use a combination of plant material and natural and synthetic support materials (bioengineering) to stabilize slopes, reduce erosion and establish vegetation.
- Reshaping gravel bars that were formed during the 2013 flood. This allows water to flow through the river channel more evenly, reducing the amount of erosion that will occur along the riverbank.

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Improving fish habitat

- New pools and riffles (shallower, fast-moving sections broken up by rocks) will provide protection from predators and oxygenate the water.
- Large trees and boulders create habitat diversity.
- Willows in the banks provide shade and coverage.
- This work is part of our Fish Habitat Compensation program, which compensates for habitat lost during riverbank repairs from the 2013 floods and restores vital habitat area.



Improving bird habitat

- Bank swallow habitat impacted by the flood will be restored, improving nesting conditions and habitat availability for bank swallows.
- Replanting new trees will create more age diversity of trees in the park which supports the diversity of birds.
- Upgrades to the lagoon will improve the quality of the water which will benefit the birds, fish and wildlife in the park.



"Log Jam" pedestrian crossing



The log jam feature mirrors the way in which fallen trees are sometimes adopted as crossings by both human and wildlife.

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"Log Jam" pedestrian crossing



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- Prior community outreach highlighted the desire to reconnect with historical aspects of the site.
- The artist Tim Knowles spent three years working with the project team and had a month-long residency onsite.
- The crossing is a hybrid structure, part bridge, part flood control mechanism, bird blind and log jam.
- It allows visitors to cross over a stream to the island in the north-eastern section of the park. The deck has benches and screened viewing areas for bird watching.
- Incorporates lumber sourced from the site.
- Installation will happen during stage 2 of construction.

Tree removal and restoration

- We are removing 47 trees that are near the end of their lifecycle. Removing older trees promotes the growth of younger trees, increasing the longevity of the forest.
- This is less than 1.6 per cent of available mature tree habitat. A biophysical impact assessment of the park determined that there is enough available substitute habitat to absorb this temporarily until new plantings within the project area have grown to maturity.
- Trees will be repurposed within the park to:
 - Create fish habitat.
 - Strengthen the riverbanks.
 - Provide habitat for nesting birds/wildlife.
 - Provide logs for the pedestrian crossing.

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Tree removal and restoration

- When trees are removed in natural areas, a restoration plan is developed to restore the ecological health of the area.
- The restoration plan includes planting native trees and vegetation that can act as buffers for flood-prone areas and provide food and shelter to wildlife.
- The restoration plan will result in more than 47 new trees in the park once they reach maturity.
- Planting new trees will create more age diversity in trees in the park. This promotes more diversity of bird species.

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Construction timeline table

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Aquatic Restricted Activity Period												
Nesting Bird Restricted Activity Period												
Heavy Park Use Period												

Construction timeline map



Complete landscaping and planting

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Pathway and trail improvements

- A section of the existing trail network will be realigned to bring park users parallel to the new lagoon inlet channel.
- The new pedestrian crossing helps to join existing pathways and trails, creating a series of interconnected concentric loops within the park.





Park and pathway closures

- We will use detours when possible, but some closures are necessary for the safety of the park's natural inhabitants and park goers.
- Sections of the park adjacent to the pathway closures will not be accessible as travel is not permitted off the pathways.



Traffic impact mitigation

- We have heard from residents in the past that truck traffic is a concern.
- We have made efforts to minimize the amount of truck traffic that will need to travel to and from the site.
- Material removed onsite will be reused on the project and will not need to be hauled offsite.
- Only small equipment will be used onsite.

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