

Improving the Votier's Flats Storm Pond While Supporting Wildlife

August 2026

What's happening?

This summer, we're improving the storm pond at Votier's Flats in Fish Creek Provincial Park to address impacts from recent beaver activity that has affected the pond's outlet system and embankment.

The work will help protect critical infrastructure that plays an important role in managing runoff from surrounding communities and protecting downstream waterways. It will also enhance public safety while continuing to support local wildlife.

How is beaver activity affecting the pond?

Beavers are a valued part of Calgary's natural environment; however, their natural dam-building and burrowing activities can affect how storm ponds operate.

At the Votier's Flats storm pond, beavers have built dams at the outlet weir and burrowed into the embankment. These activities can:

- Restrict the normal release of water from the pond.
- Increase water levels within the pond.
- Damage the embankment through burrowing.
- Increase the risk of erosion and infrastructure failure.
- Create safety concerns if the embankment becomes unstable.

What we're doing

To address these issues, The City will complete several improvements and has been designed to balance infrastructure protection with wildlife considerations:

New underground outlet control structure

A new underground outlet control structure will replace the current flow path over the weir. This structure will:

- Maintain the stormwater pond's ability to manage runoff.
- Improve control of water levels.
- Eliminate the sound of continuously flowing water that attracts beavers to the outlet weir.
- Reduce the likelihood of future dam-building in this area.

Shoreline and embankment repairs

Areas of shoreline damaged by beaver activity will be repaired. The pond embankment will also be reinforced with protective materials to prevent future burrowing and help maintain its stability.

Supporting beaver habitat

The north side of the pond will remain unarmored, providing suitable habitat where beavers can build lodges away from the pond embankment. This approach is intended to reduce future conflicts while maintaining beaver habitat in the area.

Prior to construction, water levels will be gradually lowered. This is expected to encourage any beavers

currently occupying the site to relocate naturally. We will monitor beaver activity throughout this process and, where possible, observe where the animals establish new habitat.

Construction timeline and impacts

Construction is anticipated to begin in **early August 2026**.

Once construction is complete, disturbed areas will be stabilized for the winter. Landscape restoration and revegetation will begin in mid-April 2027, subject to weather conditions and site conditions.

During construction, visitors may notice:

- Lower water levels within the pond.
- Construction crews and equipment on site.
- Temporary fencing around the work area.
- Temporary pathway closures near the construction area.

- Short-term increases in construction-related noise and activity.

For public safety, the work area will be fenced and access to affected pathway will be restricted while work is underway. Detour routes will be clearly marked, and a pathway closure and detour map will be provided closer to the start of construction.

We appreciate the public's patience and cooperation while these important improvements are completed.

Thank you for helping us protect both critical stormwater infrastructure and local wildlife at Votier's Flats.

Contact 311 if you have any questions or visit calgary.ca/stormponds to learn more.

