



Elbow Island Park gravel bar reshaping and fish compensation

August 2019

Project update

Background

Since the 2013 flood The City has completed several riverbank stabilization and rehabilitation projects along the Bow River. While necessary, these projects sometimes result in the loss of fish habitat.

The Elbow Island Park gravel bar reshaping and fish compensation project will restore fish habitat along the side channel at Elbow Island Park. The project will also include some flood mitigation work, the installation of permanent functional public art and park improvement components.

Update

Construction of Elbow Island will begin Aug. 19, 2019 and will end by the beginning of October. The project was delayed from the original July start date as the water levels in the Elbow River were higher than anticipated.

Project details

The project site is located on the Elbow River adjacent to Elbow Drive S.W. between 26th Avenue S.W. and Roxboro Road S.W. Work will include:

- Reconnecting the Elbow Island Park side channel to the main Elbow River Channel.
- Constructing additional fish habitat structures using large trees and boulders.
- Improving flow capacity and enhancing fish habitat by reducing the amount of gravel and vegetation under the bridge. This will also reduce water levels adjacent to the river during flooding.

- Improving the usability and function of the park where possible.
- Installation of three artworks collectively titled “The Wandering Island”. This includes:
 - A new staircase from the 4th Street bridge which acts as the sculptural entry point to the island.
 - Broadened trails that lead to artistic stepping stones, creating a rock ford over a secondary channel of water.
 - Three benches designed by three artist teams, located on the pathway encircling the island.
- Re-planting of all areas disturbed and the new channel banks with native plants and grasses.
- Restoration of all construction access locations to their pre-construction conditions.
- Approximately 50 trees were removed to rehabilitate the island and restore river flow. Trees removed will be reused to create fish habitat. The same number of trees will be planted as compensation along Elbow Drive and 26 Avenue S.W. adjacent to Elbow Island Park.

Project impacts

- Citizens will see construction traffic along Elbow Drive, Rideau Road, Roxboro Road and 4th Street.
- There may be some restrictions in access to park areas around the construction site, which will include rafters trying to access the island from the river.

Preliminary site map:



Project Information

If you have any questions, or would like more information please contact 311 or visit calgary.ca/fishcompensation