

Water Resources

Quarry Park Fish Compensation Project

January 2018

Using bioengineering to mimic nature

Following the 2013 flood, The City undertook a number of projects to repair and reinforce banks along the Bow and Elbow Rivers. These projects helped protect critical City infrastructure but in some cases had compounding impacts on sensitive fish habitat along the river.

In order to appropriately compensate for the loss of habitat, The City identified a number of sites that could supplement lost habitat at other locations. The project in Quarry Park was one of the sites used for this purpose.

The Quarry Park project excavated a historical side channel and installed a variety of fish habitat features. The project is located on the east bank of the Bow River a short distance north of the Ivor Strong Bridge. Construction involved excavating a channel approximately 1 km long with a maximum width of 250m. Two large box culverts were installed to protect access for the Calgary Fire Department boat launch in Quarry Park.

Park users are welcome to use the park again, but are asked to stay on the designated trails and pathways to avoid trampling the emerging vegetation. The channel is designed to be a natural system and may change through time due to natural river processes. This may mean that some of the banks may start to erode or that beavers may start to be active in the channel. More significant changes may be observed after this year's high water season which is to be expected.

Some additional work remains to be done at the entrance to the channel and watering and plant maintenance will be required for several more years until the plants are established.

Project details

The Project is located on the east side of the Bow River, a short distance upstream of the Ivor Strong Bridge on Deerfoot Trail. Work entailed:

- Digging down through silt to reach the historic channel.
- Constructing culverts through a man-made embankment which blocked the channel.
- Constructing additional fish habitat structures using large trees and boulders.
- Reconnecting the channel to the river.
- Re-planting of all areas disturbed and the new channel banks with native trees, shrubs and grasses.



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