

Removal of invasive fish species

October 2023

Storm ponds play an important role in your community. They help protect our rivers by removing sediment, fertilizer, pesticides, and other pollutants, as well as protect your community from flooding.

Unfortunately, an abundance of invasive fish species, including Prussian carp and goldfish, have been found in the Royal Oak storm pond (see map of location on the back). These fish are harmful to the environment, economy and human health and must be removed to prevent them from reaching the Bow River.

Why are these fish a problem?

These species are not native to Alberta and become invasive when released in the wild. They multiply quickly, will alter habitat, out-compete native species for limited resources and spread disease to native species.



Various goldfish netted from a storm water pond.

What we're doing

To help control the spread and minimize impacts to the river, we're taking steps to remove this invasive fish species from this pond.

Beginning in mid-October, we will be draining the pond for approximately six months over the winter (weather pending) to keep the bottom and shoreline

open to freezing temperatures and reduce the chance of fish surviving over the winter.

Potential impacts

- Residents may notice water levels beginning to lower and some odour from the ponds as organic material is exposed to the air. This is normal and the odour will dissipate quickly.
- Residents may see dead fish on the bottom and sides of the pond. The fish will be removed as required.
- Fencing will be placed around the pond for safety.
- An excavator may be on site and located within the pond footprint if ice removal is required.
- Residents may hear generator noise, which will comply with the Community Standards Bylaw with respect to hours of operation and noise limits.
- When the project is complete, equipment will be removed from the site and runoff water will gradually refill the pond.

How you can help

Never release aquarium pets or other fish into storm ponds or other bodies of water. The release of fish into a storm pond carries a fine of \$3,000 under Stormwater Bylaw 37M2005.

Unwanted pets can be returned to the pet store or given away. After your pet passes on, please bury it or dispose of it in the garbage rather than flush it to prevent the spread of disease. Contact 311 if you have any questions or visit calgary.ca/stormponds to learn more.

Royal Oak storm pond (51 WL)

