



Managing odours at Taravista storm pond

September 2023

To improve storm pond water quality and mitigate storm pond odours in Taradale, this fall we will begin installing rotational devices at the Taravista storm pond located in the southeast corner of 80 Ave. N.E. and Taradale Dr. N.E.

Background

The Taravista storm pond was built to capture and hold stormwater washed away from rooftops, driveways, lawns, streets and sidewalks. The pond slows the flow of stormwater long enough to settle out sediments and pollutants, helping return cleaner water to our rivers and streams.

When bacteria breaks down organic material in storm ponds with low oxygen, the pond naturally produces gases that the human nose can detect at very low concentrations. The smell is like rotten eggs, and in low levels is not dangerous to humans, pets and the environment.

The City has been monitoring storm pond odours in Taradale, and while the concentrations are low and meet all provincial guidelines, we are piloting a proactive approach to mitigate the odour through the installation of pond water rotational devices. Submerged under the water, these devices help increase pond ventilation and prevent ice from completely forming over the pond.

Project timeline and steps

The pilot project will begin in mid-September 2023 and is anticipated to end in mid-April 2024 (weather dependent). The project will follow the steps outlined below:

- A shallow trench will be excavated from the existing monitoring panel to where the electrical box/outlet for the powering of the devices will be installed. The electrical box will be installed late September/early October at the location shown on Figure 1.
- During the trenching residents may hear some noise between 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Monday-Friday, which will comply with the Community Standards Bylaw with respect to hours of operation and noise limits.
- For public safety, the excavation area and sections of the shoreline will be fenced until the end of installation and remediation. Signage will be placed along the shoreline where the devices will be installed and along the opposite shoreline across the pond, Figure 1.
- Once the placing of the cable and installation of the outlet box is complete the rotational devices will be brought to the pond, placed on the bottom and connected to the outlet box.
- The pathway will remain open throughout the project.

The performance of the devices will be monitored during the project. Depending on the results, the devices will either be removed or left in the pond for the next winter. The outlet box will likely remain for the foreseen future. It will be removed as necessary.

Project information

For more information on storm ponds visit calgary.ca/stormponds. If you have questions or concerns regarding this project, please call 311.

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Project location and layout maps

