



2018 May 22

Dear residents,

There are several exciting projects underway to improve and enhance Bowmont Park. Work in the park may result in pathway detours and temporary restriction to off-leash areas. Here's an overview of what you can expect:

Bowmont fish compensation project:

Following the 2013 flood, The City undertook a number of projects to create healthy habitat for fish to replace habitats that were lost as areas of riverbank were repaired after the 2013 flood.

In order to appropriately compensate for the loss of fish habitat, The City identified a number of sites that could supplement lost fish habitat, including the west side of Bowmont Park. Construction and fish compensation is planned to start mid-summer, and last until the end of the year.

The work will entail:

- Re-opening historic side channels
- Re-establishing flow to the side channels, through excavation and re-contouring, to provide year-round connectivity from and to the main channel of the bow river
- Constructing additional fish habitat structures using large trees and boulders
- Re-planting of all areas disturbed and the new channel banks with native plants and grasses;
- Providing additional bank and channel enhancement and protection to promote natural channel function while protecting infrastructure and the environment.
- Replacement of the existing (north) pedestrian bridge with a longer single span bridge.

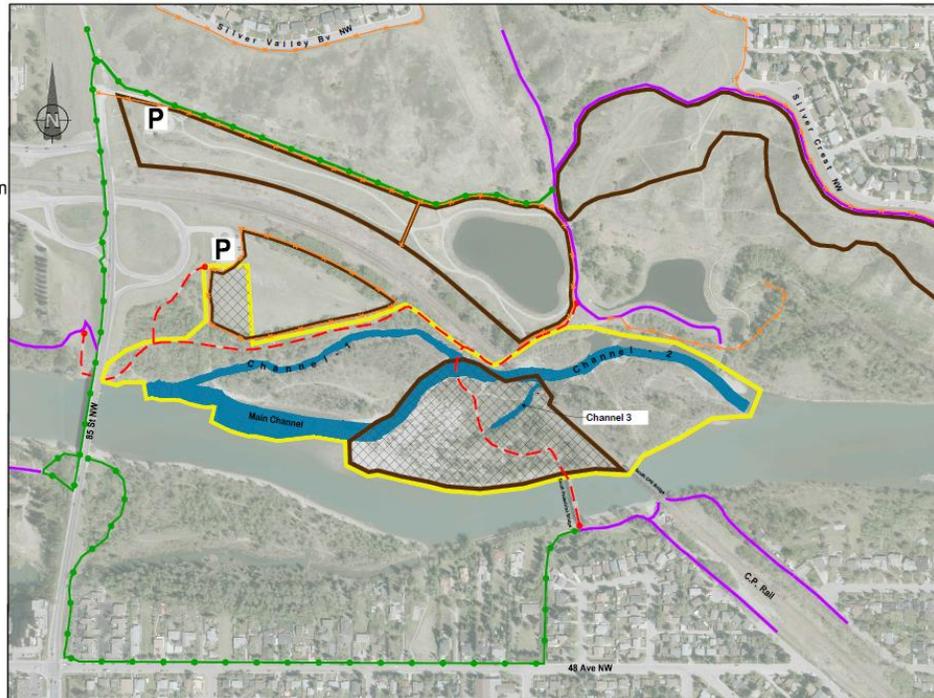
The project will result in some closures and detours for park and pathway users, including:

- Closure of the pathway along the north side of the river (see attached map), and
- Closure of the pedestrian bridge connecting the park with Bowness and the south side of the river.
 - Detours will be in place and clearly marked.
- River access will be restricted to allow for construction.
- The west parking lot and adjacent off-leash area will be partially closed and used for a construction staging area. A small portion of the off-leash area may be closed in spring to store woody debris and other material for use in summer/fall 2018.
- Approximately 12 trees will be removed to allow for construction. These will be used in the fish habitat compensation and replaced with approximately 3,000 trees and shrubs as part of the project.

Site map:

Legend:

-  Construction boundary
-  Off leash area
-  Channels 1, 2, 3, and Main
-  Fence
-  Pathway open
-  Pathway detour
-  Pathway closure
-  Parking lot
-  Closed off leash area



Bowmont West Fish Habitat Enhancement Project

If you have any questions about the tree removal or the Bowmont West Fish Compensation project feel free to contact 311, or visit the webpage at calgary.ca/fishcompensation.

Dale Hodges Park

Construction of Dale Hodges Park on the site of the former Klippert gravel pit is ongoing.

Most of the site development was completed in 2017. Fine grading and seeding will be completed, weather permitting, in the spring of 2018, and the stormwater infrastructure commissioning that was started during the winter of 2018 will be completed in the spring of 2018.

The site currently has newly planted trees and shrubs with a large amount of newly seeded areas. These areas need to successfully germinate before the site can be opened to the public to avoid risk of damage to the site. In the spring, the city will be able to determine the success of germination of the seeded areas and provide an update on a potential opening date.

Bowmont park management plan improvement project

A section of the off-leash area near the silver springs entrance will remain closed until late fall to allow more time for the new plants to establish. A detour is in place. Park's staff are currently installing entering/leaving off-leash area signs to define the off-leash area boundaries throughout the park.

You will also see new, updated entrance signs and park maps appearing in the park later this year.

Naturalization

There is some work underway to improve the health of the park through naturalization work. Invasive plants have been removed and native species were planted to enhance the sensitive grassland habitat, reduce weeds and improve the important wildlife corridor.

Slope stabilization

Slope stabilization work continues and this year there will be some geotechnical drilling to prepare for a new trail and staircase that will help slow erosion in the park. Users won't be impacted by this work during 2018, but are asked to please obey signs and avoid newly naturalized areas to let the plants grow.