

THE POND AT ELGIN VILLAGE

A SUSTAINABLE WATER SYSTEM THAT PROTECTS THE ENVIRONMENT AND PROVIDES RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN A NATURAL SETTING.

INVERNESS POND FACTS

- Inverness Pond totals over 30 acres, including a water surface of 20 acres and 10 acres of adjacent landscaping. The pond is owned and operated by the City of Calgary as a public utility and open space.
- Inverness Pond is a storm water facility, NOT A FRESH WATER LAKE. The pond is an integral part of a storm water management system designed for McKenzie Towne and eventually discharges into the Bow River.
- The pond is designed to hold water regardless of variable weather conditions, but levels will fluctuate up to 2.0m (6ft.). At normal water level at its deepest point, it is 12 feet deep.

STORM WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

- Storm water is surface run-off from rain and snowmelt on streets, sidewalks, parks, open space and individual lots.
- Storm ponds are an important part of Calgary's storm sewer system, which minimizes flooding from heavy rainfalls. During these rainfalls, the wet pond fills with rainwater that exceeds the capacity of underground storm sewer pipes. As the rain diminishes, the water in the pond drains into the underground storm sewer pipes at a controlled rate.
- Storm ponds protect Calgary's rivers and streams from erosion by holding back water during heavy rainfalls. They also improve the water quality by retaining the water long enough to allow silt and other materials to settle to the bottom of the pond.
- Ponds are a tried and proven method for managing storm water in many cities throughout Canada. They have become necessary in new Calgary communities over the past several years because of overall development patterns and increasing environmental concerns for the discharge of water into the Bow River. It is expected that many new communities in Calgary will incorporate storm ponds as part of their storm water management practices.

YOU CAN IMPROVE STORM WATER QUALITY

- Inverness Pond includes a number of design features to manage water quality. These features can be enhanced by the conscientious efforts of all residents of McKenzie Towne to reduce pollutants on their yards and streets by limiting the use of fertilizers and car wash chemicals; the careful handling and proper disposition of oils, antifreeze, paints, grass clippings, and cleaning up after pets etc.

NATURALIZED ENVIRONMENT

- Although storm ponds are man-made, they quickly develop into natural environments that promote the growth of bulrushes and cattails as well as attracting birds and waterfowl.
- Inverness Pond is landscaped to include shading of the shallow edges of the pond with trees and emergent vegetation, to keep the water cooler on hot days and therefore discourage weed growth. The emergent vegetation will also help remove nutrients (e.g. lawn and garden fertilizers) from the pond. Specially designed manholes at storm outlets will aid in the removal of any undesirable elements before they enter the pond. Algae and other aquatic plants may cause natural odours from time to time.

RECREATIONAL BENEFITS

- Inverness Pond will be landscaped to provide an attractive, natural-like setting. A pathway system exists in the green space between the adjoining roads or homes, and the water. The area inside the pathway is irrigated, and will be maintained by the City to their park standards. The area outside the pathway to the water will be populated with native growth to create a natural looking edge and include vegetation such as trees; shrubs along the banks of the pond; and bulrushes, cattails and pond lilies in shallow waters. In addition to these landscape treatments, there will be benches at key points along the pathway system and lookouts. At the north end of the pond a "rip-rap" hard rock edge is planned along the waters edge.
- Storm ponds, like all natural ponds, may contain micro-organisms that irritate the skin and as a result, storm ponds cannot be utilized for recreation in the same fashion as fresh water lakes. Uses currently permitted by the City include a number of "non-water contact" activities such as canoeing, non-motorized boating, rafting, sailing and row-boating.
- The City prohibits the use of storm ponds for wading, swimming and in the winter, skating, or cross-country skiing.

AN IDEAL SETTING

- The pond together with the adjacent natural park lands and pathway system will be an ideal setting for numerous other activities such as cycling, jogging, walking, picnicking, orienteering, bird watching, photography, and outdoor educational opportunities.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

CITY OF CALGARY, SEWERS DIVISION • (268-5731 OR 268-1155 AFTER HOURS)
ALBERTA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (297-3362)

Elgin
VILLAGE

www.mckenziestowne-community.com