

PRESTWICK POND

A SUSTAINABLE WATER SYSTEM THAT PROTECTS THE ENVIRONMENT AND PROVIDES AN ATTRACTIVE, NATURAL SETTING.

PRESTWICK POND FACTS

- Prestwick Pond totals approximately 20 acres (8ha), including a water surface of 13 acres (5ha) and 7 acres (3ha) of adjacent landscaping. The pond is owned and operated by the City of Calgary as a public utility and open space.
- Prestwick 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 ultimately discharges into the Bow River.
- The pond is designed to hold water regardless of variable weather conditions, but levels can fluctuate up to 6 feet (2m). At normal water level at its deepest point, it is approximately 12 feet (4m) 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 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 about 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

- Prestwick 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.
- Prestwick Pond is landscaped to include planting of the shallow edges of the pond with emergent vegetation to help remove nutrients (e.g. lawn and garden fertilizers) from the pond. Specially designed manholes at storm outlets aid in the capture and retention of any undesirable materials before they enter the pond. Algae and other aquatic plants may cause natural odours from time to time.

RECREATIONAL BENEFITS

- Prestwick Pond will be landscaped to provide an attractive, natural-like setting and includes approximately 3/4 mile (1.2km) of pathways.
- 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. 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.
- 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 pathway system will be an ideal setting for numerous other activities such as cycling, jogging, walking, 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)

