

Calgary Bow and Elbow River Instream Work Sites

The 2013 Flood caused considerable damaged to the Bow River banks, instream infrastructure and changes to the footprint of the river. Over the past four years and into the future river banks will be stabilized and infrastructure redeveloped or replaced. In addition, new bridges and river access will be built to support the ever increasing diversity of the city.

Each year there are two “**Windows of Opportunity**” for instream work to be completed. **April 6 to April 30** and **July 15 to September 15**. The main purpose of these restriction is to protect the spring spawning Rainbow Trout and fall spawning Brown Trout and restrict instream work during spring run-off. Each instream project is governed by Federal and Provincial statutes whereby there are policies and procedures that must be met to receive project approval. Although precautions are put in place to reduce the movement in sediment downstream, reduced viability can be expected over the duration of the work schedule. The following are a list of project that are planned for 2017:

Harvie Passage:

This project managed by **Alberta Transportation** is a redevelopment of the high and low flow channels destroyed by the 2013 flood. Details of the project and timelines for instream work can be found at the following link [Alberta Transportation Harvie Passage Redevelopment](#). The consulting engineers have indicated that the spring window of instream work will be completed on time:

“Instream work started today. The Contractor is working towards removing the cofferdams in the next week or so but the temporary diversion channel may not be blocked off till later. We are allowed to work instream till April 30th. The river will definitely be diverted back to the High Water Channel prior to April 30th”

New 12 Street SE Bridge:

The New **12 Street S.E. Bridge** spans the Bow River on the south side of St. George’s Island. It is an important link for vehicles and people, which provides access to and from 9 Avenue S.E. and Memorial Drive and access to the Calgary Zoo. The majority of the instream work is complete. The new bridge is scheduled to be completed in 2017. Project details can be found at the following link [New 12 Street SE Bridge](#). The old bridge footprint has been proposed as a new boat ramp in the **Calgary River Access Strategy**. Work on the boat ramp is planned to start in 2018.

[New 17 Avenue SE Bus Rapid Transit Bridge:](#)

The City will be starting work on the bridge structures for the new **17 Avenue SE BRT Bridge** adjacent to **Cushing Bridge** in early April. The first pieces of instream work will be the construction of a berm on the east side of the Bow River so the bridge structures can be built. Project details can be found at the following link [New 17 Avenue SE Bus Rapid Transit Bridge](#)

[Bank Stabilization Upstream Graves / Glenmore Bridge:](#)

Phase Two of this riverbank stabilization is taking place in 2017. To further stabilize the riverbank, 110 meters of the bank will be shored up. Project details can be found at the following link [Glenmore Bridge Upstream Bank Stabilization](#)

[Elbow River Bank Stabilization:](#)

A stretch of the Elbow River bank at **Riverdale Avenue** will be stabilized in 2017. Project details can be found at the following link [Riverdale Bank Stabilization](#)

[Bow River Bank Stabilization Projects:](#)

Other riverbank stabilization projects that could be completed in either 2017 or 2018 include the following:

- D/S of Centre Street
- Shouldice park
- Montgomery/16 Ave NW
- Memorial Off-Ramp (west of Crowchild Trail NW)

[Bioengineering Demonstration Project:](#)

A project sponsored by The Province located downstream of Cushing Bridge (adjacent to the baseball diamonds at 7 AV SE and 20 St SE in Inglewood). The project is to demonstrate alternative techniques for bank erosion repair/protection. Construction is expected to start winter 2017/2018.

[Calgary River Access Site Developments:](#)

The **Calgary River Access Strategy** has identified six river access sites that will be developed in the next two years. A new boat ramp at **Ogden Bridge** and upgrades to **Graves Bridge** and **West Baker Park** access sites will start in 2017. Details of the site developments are available at the following link [Calgary River Access Sites](#)

[Bow and Elbow River Outfall Repairs:](#)

Currently there are repairs planned for 46 outfalls on the Bow and Elbow River. The majority of the projects are minor (outfall structure has minor deficiencies or minor scouring along the local river bed or bank) or gates are being install on the outfall. Outfall B69 (**downstream of Crowchild Tr. Bridge**) is considered a major repair project

and includes the removal of a former intake structure that is located within the river. The plan is for the work to be completed in 2017 although it is unknown if it will occur (currently awaiting regulatory approval). Outfall E65 (**downstream of Glenmore Reservoir**) is also considered a major repair project with expected construction of summer/fall 2017.

Fish Habitat Projects:

Side channels previously abandoned by the Bow River are to be reactivated in an effort to increase the fish habitat within the rivers. **Quarry Park** construction began in February 2017, with **Bowmont West** and **Beaverdam Flats** to begin October 2017. The work will focus on side channels however it will include some work within the main channel.

Gravel Bar Modification Projects:

Removing a portion of a gravel bar to increase the conveyance of the river and reduce the flood levels for the area of the project. Downstream of **Centre St Bridge** is expected to begin construction in winter 2017/2018. There are also several projects currently in design phase that will likely not be constructed in 2017 (**Crowchild Trail, 10th Street, Mission Bridge**).

ATCO Natural Gas Pipeline Removal:

This summer, ATCO will be working in a portion of the Bow River and along the river bank to remove an abandoned natural gas pipe. The instream work is scheduled for mid-July to mid-September 2017 and is adjacent to Golf Canada Calgary Centre 7100 15 St SE. Details of the site developments are available at the following link [ATCO Bow River Pipeline Work](#)

Summary:

Not all construction sites will impact the Bow River all the time during the spring and summer instream work windows. Every precaution to protect the environment can be expected. The referenced instream work sites will be updated as information become available.