



BOW RIVER TROUT FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER – Spring 2017

Calgary, Alberta



The solitude of a day fishing

About Bow River Trout:

Bow River Trout originated in the spring of 2016 when the **Calgary River Users Alliance (CRUA)** recognized the need for the fishing community to have a place in the discussion with the city regarding improving access to the Bow River for a diverse group of users.

Bow River Trout has been registered as an Alberta Society by the name of **Bow River Trout Foundation** by a group of like-minded individuals acting as the founding board. In the coming months and years **Bow River Trout** hopes to ensure that the fishing community at large is considered in improving access to the Bow River both within and outside the city of Calgary, as well as contributing to the enhancement of the fishing experience in the Bow River Basin.

The founding directors of **Bow River Trout** can be found on the [BRT Website](#)

Our Objectives:

1. To promote and support the responsible use and enhancement of the Bow River Sub Basin fishery
2. To commit to the maintenance and improvement of access to the Bow River Sub Basin for the fishing community.
3. To support the sustainability and enhancement of responsible fishery regulations and water management through sound conservation practices of the Bow River Sub Basin.
4. To promote, foster and educate the public about the sport fishing opportunities available within the Bow River Sub Basin.
5. To advocate for and support improvements to aquatic and riparian habitat that benefit the Bow River ecosystem.
6. To engage and inform the membership and general public on the Foundation's initiatives, programming and projects.
7. To cooperate with all levels of government, organizations or stakeholders whose objectives are similar in whole or part with the objectives of the Bow River Trout Foundation.
8. To build and sustain a healthy organization.



“Advocate and Support for the Bow River Fishery”



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River Access:

After initial success in communicating with the City of Calgary for improved access to the Bow River within the City limits, and the subsequent approval of the River Access Strategy, **Bow River Trout** has with other stakeholders engaged with the Province via Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) to improve existing access points as well as begin the process of improving river access elsewhere along the Bow River.

The City Reach of the Bow River:

On February 13th, 2017 Calgary City Council approved the **Calgary River Access Strategy**. This will provide the fishing community two new boat ramps at **Ogden Bridge** and **Inglewood**, as well as upgrades to **West Baker Park** and **Graves Bridge** (Glenmore). The current timeline has the **Ogden Bridge boat launch** planned to be open in the fall of 2017. More details on the Calgary River Access Strategy and the benefits it will provide anglers in terms of safe access to the river are available on the [BRT Website](#)



Ogden Bridge Boat Ramp Site

Calgary to Carseland:

Bow River Trout has also obtained a place at the ongoing roundtable discussions with **Alberta Environment & Parks (AEP)** regarding improved access to the Bow River outside of the City of Calgary. The current short term focus appears to be to ensure improvements are made at **Policeman's Flats**, road improvements at **MacKinnon's Flats** and ramp upgrades at Carseland.



Policeman's Flats looking upstream

Moving Forward:

In the longer term **Bow River Trout**, plans to advocate for improved access to the Bow River both upstream and downstream of the City of Calgary. Preliminary discussions with AEP suggest they are likely to proceed with a much improved network of boat launches and access points along the Bow. Timing on these projects is uncertain at the moment, but the discussions are at a very early stage and we are optimistic that firm timelines will be set within the year.



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How You Can Help

As part of the Calgary River Access Strategy, Calgary Parks has asked CRUA member organizations assist in the funding of the new developments, **Bow River Trout** needs funding to do its part in ensuring these improvements are made. We have made grant applications, but to ensure these and future projects we are looking for continued funding as well as developing a stable membership to ensure its longevity and its recognition as being representative of the angling community at large.



Membership

Bow River Trout Foundation has an annual membership fee of \$25.00. April 1 to March 31. This includes a BRT membership decal

SUBSCRIBE!

Your membership to Bow River Trout will:

- Allow you to work closely with like-minded individuals to advocate and give back to one of North America's greatest fisheries.
- Support of new and improved river access throughout the Bow River Basin
- Email to you the BRT Newsletter produced quarterly, giving updates on progress with initiatives of interest.
- A BRT decal comes with your membership.
- *Your name will be entered into a chance to win a custom fly rod.*

A 6" boat decal of the same design above is available for \$15.00

Buy Now

Donations:

Bow River Trout has engaged with **Calgary's River Access Strategy** to financially support development of 2 new boat ramps on the Bow River. **Ogden Bridge** will be developed in 2017 and **Inglewood** in 2018. Details of the planned developments can be found at the following link. [Priority Access Sites.](#)

Each site will cost approximately \$500,000 of which river users are asked to contribute **\$75,000** to each site development. The balance paid by the City of Calgary.

Bow River Trout has made a grant application to a local community grant agency to support **Ogden Bridge Boat Ramp** development.

We are requesting donations from local community businesses and individuals for the balance of our commitment of \$35,000.

Donate



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Updates

Update on Whirling Disease

Earlier this year the Canadian Food Inspection Agency declared the entirety of the Bow River watershed to be infected with whirling disease. Currently AEP is trying to determine how best to manage the disease over the long term. More information is available at

<https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=46262A00CB125-CCE0-5AC7-9815E058B20176B3>

At a minimum we recommend the best practices cleaning and washing all equipment after every use, and especially when moving between different waterbodies. You can find more here <http://aep.alberta.ca/fish-wildlife/wildlife-diseases/whirling-disease/default.aspx>

Catch and Release Impact

After our long winter and as we are thinking about getting back on the water and fishing again we would like to provide a reminder on best practices for catch and release fishing to minimize the impact on released fish. For an update of *CnR* with ways to increase survival check out our website at

<https://bowrivertrout.org/2017/03/13/catch->

Changes to Fishing Regulations

The province conducted several surveys ahead of changes to the 2017 fishing regulations. These include the standardization of regulations in the Bow River from Banff National Park boundary downstream to Bassano Dam - Open all year; Bait Ban and Catch and Release of all species of fish. For more details and current developments see the AEP website at <http://www.albertaregulations.ca/fishingregs/>

As we move forward we will engage our membership both with surveys and discussion on proposed regulation changes to ensure that the thoughts of the angling community at large are represented.

The Bow River Water Management Model

With the current debate as to how Albertans interact with our natural places, there has been discussion of bigger changes in how the Bow River could be managed. While movement has started with improving river access, the flood mitigation pilot plan negotiated between AEP and TransAlta to manage river flows through Calgary is expiring in two years and may open the door to discussion on better methods of flow management. For updated information please check our website at

<https://bowrivertrout.org/river-flows/>.



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