



Removal of invasive fish species

September 2026

Storm ponds play an important role in this area. They help protect our rivers by removing sediment, fertilizer, pesticides, and other pollutants, as well as protect the area from flooding.

Unfortunately, an abundance of invasive fish species, including Prussian carp and goldfish, have been found in the East Fairview Commercial North storm pond (see map of location on the back). These fish are harmful to the environment, economy and human health and must be removed to prevent them from reaching the Bow River.

Why are these fish a problem?

These species are not native to Alberta and become invasive when released in the wild. They multiply quickly, will alter habitat, out-compete native species for limited resources and spread disease to native species.



Various goldfish netted from a storm water pond.

What we're doing

To help control the spread and minimize impacts to the river, we've previously taken steps to remove this invasive fish species by draining and freezing this pond, but each storm pond is unique and this technique wasn't successful, so we're piloting a different approach.

Beginning in mid-September, we will divert stormwater around the pond using a temporary bypass system and lower the pond's water level, temporarily removing it from service while work is underway. A registered pesticide that is lethal only to fish will be applied. The product degrades quickly in the environment, so there is no long-term accumulation in water, soil or plants. The pond will be monitored regularly, and it will not be returned to service until testing confirms the pesticide has dissipated and safe release limits have been met. The product is registered by Health Canada and authorized for use by Alberta Environment and Protected Areas.

Potential impacts

- Fencing will be placed around the pond for safety.
- As water levels begin to lower, you may notice some odour from the ponds as organic material is exposed to the air. This is normal and the odour will dissipate quickly.
- During this work, you may see dead fish in the pond; they will be removed as required.
- During this work, you may hear generator noise, which will comply with the Community Standards Bylaw with respect to hours of operation and noise limits.

When the project is complete, equipment will be removed from the site, and runoff water will gradually refill the pond.

How you can help

Never release aquarium pets or other fish into storm ponds or other bodies of water. The release of fish into a storm pond carries a fine of \$3,000 under Stormwater Bylaw 37M2005.

Unwanted pets can be returned to the pet store or given away. After your pet passes on, please bury it or dispose of it in the garbage rather than flush it to prevent the spread of disease. Contact 311 if you have any questions or visit calgary.ca/stormponds to learn more.

East Fairview Commercial North storm pond (82WP)

