

## Preserving Nature Naturally in an Urban Park Setting



The Rotary Club of Calgary Chinook Nature Park in Fish Creek Provincial Park, (east side of the Bow River) contains engineered wetlands that filter storm run-off water before it enters the Bow River.

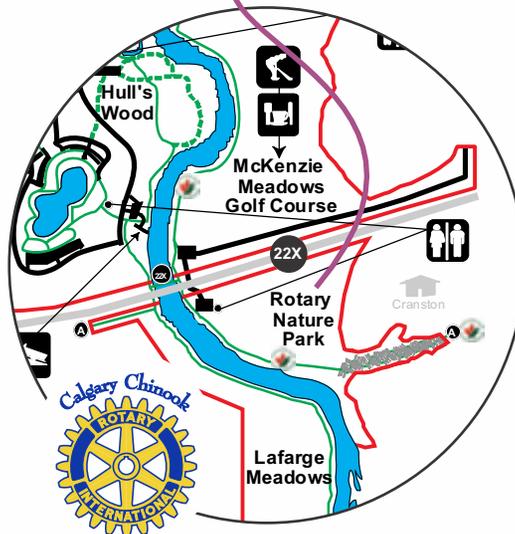
A system of natural surfaced walking trails leads the visitor on a nature walk around the

ponds and one can see a variety of wildflowers and native plant species. These ponds and the adjacent hillside attract several species of waterfowl and upland birds.

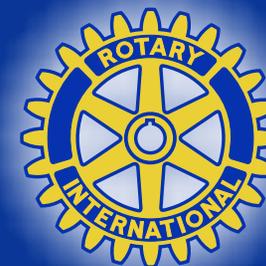
There are five gazebo shelters and numerous permanent benches throughout the area where a visitor can relax and observe nature.

### Day Use Only

- Liquor Prohibited
- No Motorized Vehicles
- Pets Must Be Leashed
- Pick Up After Your Pet
- Bikers Must Stay On Designated Trails
- Feeding Of Wildlife Prohibited



## Rotary Club of Calgary Chinook NATURE PARK at FISH CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK CALGARY, ALBERTA



“Service Above Self”



### For more information, contact:

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Alberta

## The Park

The Rotary Club of Calgary Chinook has quietly developed a special 40 acre Park in Calgary adjacent to Highway 22X in southeast Calgary. This unique project is described as a “Nature Park” and is located on the east side of the Bow River below Cranston. The Park is easily accessed by McKenzie Meadows Drive, and forms part of the Province of Alberta Fish Creek Provincial Park.



## Contributors and Donations

### Gazebos

Coca-Cola Bottling Co  
Carma Developers Ltd  
Lafarge Canada Inc  
KCS Contracting Ltd  
Spruce Meadows



### Donations and Complimentary Services

TD Bank Friends of the Environment Foundation  
Calgary Area Rotary Clubs  
MacKenzie Meadows Golf Club  
Thompson TMP Consulting Ltd  
Browning Design Inc  
Iron Horse Securities Inc  
Southwestern Traffic Systems Ltd  
Golden Acres Garden Sentres Ltd  
The City of Calgary  
The Province of Alberta  
Alberta Lottery Fund



### Please Be Aware That:

- The water is unsafe for swimming.
- Water levels can fluctuate depending on the season, and during inclement weather.
- During cold periods, the ice is unsafe for walking and skating.

## Nature Restored

A former gravel pit, the land has been reclaimed to its original natural state. To enhance the visitors' access to and enjoyment of the park, a number of special added features have been provided by the Club, and several corporate and other Calgary Rotary Club donors. These features include 5 gazebo shelters, a dozen rest benches, a paved parking area, and a walking pathway around the two wetland ponds, with a natural bridge between them.



## Wetlands: Nature's Way to Clean Water

What are wetlands? And why does everyone talk about them when the topic of stormwater is brought up?

In the past, wetlands were considered a nuisance: a blight on the landscape that contained cold, slippery creatures; a lot of mud; and a tangle of plants. It now appears that wetlands are beginning to get the respect they are due, in the recognition of the key role they play in cleaning storm water runoff.

Nature is given a helping hand when wetlands are constructed to collect storm water run-off from streets in the surrounding communities. Without these engineered wetlands, sediments, chemicals, and other harmful materials would run directly to Fish Creek and then on into the Bow River.

There are a number of natural and engineered wetlands located throughout Fish Creek Provincial Park. These wetlands collectively filter most of the storm water that flows from the city into the Park, protecting both water quality in the Bow River but also the Bow's world renowned fishery.



## Walk-About Facilities

The “Coke” sponsored Assembly Gazebo is erected near the Park's parking lot. It is the largest of 5 on site, is maintenance-free, environmentally friendly, and contains the Rotary motto “Service Above Self”, as well as a large Rotary logo on the north facing gable. An ideal place to assemble a group for a stroll around the Park.



The other 4 gazebos, scattered throughout the Park, each contain one of the Rotary 4-Way Test statements, as well as a plaque honouring the donor.

There are 12 permanent concrete park benches scattered throughout the Park, each dedicated by a Rotary Club located in the Calgary community of Rotary. Seasonal toilets and a waste disposal bin are located adjacent to the paved parking lot.

The Rotary Club of Calgary Chinook has also provided the railed passageway between the 2 ponds, the paving of the parking lot, 3 permanent cairns (1 of which honours the outside donors), the figure 8 pathway system within the park that encircles the ponds, and the planting of thousands of native trees and plants to restore this former gravel pit to its original natural state. The Rotary Chinook membership continue to make improvements for the enjoyment of visitors to the park.

Rotary International is dedicated to community service. This Nature Park is one of many parks that have been developed around the world. For more information on Rotary in Calgary, and its various Community Service projects around the world, please go to [www.rotarychinook.org](http://www.rotarychinook.org) and follow the links to Rotary International.



## Not an Off-Leash Pet Park

This is not an off-leash area for pet owners, but rather a special walk-about park adjacent to the river, providing visitors with an opportunity to stroll around the Park, with the added bonus of seeing plants, birds and animals in their natural habitat, within the city limits.