



## Inglewood Bird Sanctuary Reconnection project: Tree removal Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

### **1. Why are you removing trees in the Sanctuary?**

While The City makes every effort to avoid removing trees, sometimes the nature of capital projects requires that some trees be removed. For this project we must remove 47 trees to build a new channel connecting the lagoon to the Bow River. This channel will improve the water quality in the lagoon and reduce the risk of the main channel of the Bow River being diverted through the park, which could result in the lagoon tripling in width, potentially harming the park, Colonel Walker House and the lagoon.

### **2. Did you try to develop a plan that wouldn't require trees to be removed?**

Extensive work was done during the planning phase to minimize the number of trees impacted. The final plan reduces the number of trees impacted by one-third. The design team also identified several trees that could remain by shaping how the banks are constructed to minimize impacts to their root systems.

### **3. How did you decide which trees to remove?**

The project team worked closely with Parks' urban forestry and conservation professionals during the design phase. The flow path for the lagoon inlet channel was designed to maintain the channel long-term, while meandering through the park where there are currently the fewest number of trees.

### **4. Are you restoring the area after construction?**

When trees are removed in a natural area, a restoration plan is developed to restore the ecological health of the area/forest. We will be planting over 90 new trees, as well as a variety of plants, shrubs and grass. Younger trees help replenish the older tree canopy and improve the health of the riparian forest.

### **5. How will the loss of these trees impact the forest and wildlife in the Sanctuary?**

Most of the trees being removed are near the end of their lifecycle and represent less than 1.6 per cent of the available mature tree habitat in the Sanctuary. While older trees play an important role in supporting cavity nesters, we completed a biophysical assessment that indicated there is enough suitable habitat to absorb this loss until the new plantings have matured. By reconnecting the river to the lagoon, and creating more diversity with new trees and vegetation, we are helping re-establish ecosystem processes that will create healthy habitats for all the species that call this park home.

### **6. What are you doing with the trees that are being removed?**

All the trees removed for construction will be repurposed within the Sanctuary. They will be used to create habitat for fish, birds, bugs and other wildlife, strengthen riverbanks and build the crossing structure.