

Shepard Regional Drainage Plan – FAQ Sheet



Where is the Shepard Regional Drainage Corridor?

The Shepard Regional Drainage Corridor area is shown in Figure 1 Shepard Drainage Corridor attached to this FAQ sheet.

What Municipalities Are Involved in the Shepard Regional Drainage Plan?

The City of Calgary
The Town of Chestermere
Rocky View County

What is the Shepard Regional Drainage Plan (SRDP)?

The SRDP is a regional stormwater management plan that is being developed by the three municipalities. The SRDP will provide direction regarding adequate conveyance systems, protection of water resources, and preservation of open space and water features in the region.

The Shepard Regional Drainage Plan will:

- build upon the work of previous studies;
- model stormwater conveyance/ land use condition scenarios;
- identify an ultimate conveyance alignment;
- undertake a bio-physical assessment along the proposed conveyance alignment;
- develop a Regional Drainage Plan with specific targets to guide development in the area.

Specific targets will include: stormwater volumes per unit area of development, stormwater conveyance system peak flows, Total Suspended Solids (TSS) loads to receiving waters, pollutant management requirements, and protection and mitigation measures affecting natural wetlands.

What is the Drainage Servicing Strategies for the Shepard Drainage Corridor?

A study, entitled Drainage Servicing Strategies for the Shepard Drainage Corridor (Shepard DSS), was completed in 2008 for the Western Headworks Regional Stormwater Management Subcommittee (WHRMS). The WHRMS included the Western Irrigation District, Alberta Environment, Rocky View County, Town of Chestermere, and The City of Calgary. One major outcome confirmed by the study was that stormwater drainage from newly developed lands cannot drain to the Western Headworks (WH) Canal and Chestermere Lake. The study recommended underdrains (pipes under the canal) to direct flows from the north under the WH canal to the Bow River via the Shepard bypass and ditch. The study provided a series of options for conveyance systems and release rates that need further consideration by the municipalities.

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Why is the Shepard Regional Drainage Plan necessary?

The City of Calgary and the Town of Chestermere have recently annexed lands within the Shepard Drainage Corridor for the purposes of long term growth (50 years). Rocky View has recently adopted a Growth Management Strategy entitled Rocky View 2060 which is a 50-year growth plan. In order to accommodate these long term growth plans, infrastructure planning is required. One important aspect of this infrastructure planning is for stormwater management infrastructure. The Shepard Regional Drainage Plan will be one of the first steps in planning for stormwater infrastructure to service this area. In the interim, zero stormwater discharge for post development conditions is required.

Who is the Shepard Regional Drainage Committee?

Shepard Regional Drainage Committee was formed as a successor to the WHRSMS and consists of representatives from the three Municipalities; Rocky View County, Town of Chestermere, and The City of Calgary. The purpose of the Committee is to work together and engage stakeholders in order to develop a Regional Drainage Plan for the Shepard Drainage Corridor. The Committee has carried out a preliminary evaluation of conveyance systems and release rates presented in the Shepard DSS based on economic, environmental, and social principles.

How long will this study take?

The committee's goal is to have the study completed by spring of 2011.

What are the next steps?

The Committee, after a thorough Request for Proposal process, has selected AECOM Canada Ltd to prepare the Shepard Regional Drainage Plan. One of the first objectives is for AECOM to provide a recommended conveyance alignment. When AECOM has provided the recommended alignment, the committee will host a second information Session. The committee may request access to your lands during the course of the study.

Where can I access information during the course of the study?

www.calgary.ca or call 3-1-1
www.chestermere.ca
www.rockyview.ca (see My County Matters)

What is the timeline for the proposed conveyance system and alignment?

The proposed plan will be phased and dependent on development requirements and demand. Sections of the regional drainage plan may be implemented within the next few years in existing development areas and Area Structure Plans. Other sections of the plan may take up to 30 years to be implemented.