



In the 1950s, the Penticton Creek was 'channelized' in response to flooding that devastated Penticton's downtown. While the concrete channel helped with flood management, native fish species struggled with the loss of natural creek habitat and populations dropped. Over time, the concrete channel deteriorated. In 2012, the community identified the restoration of the creek as a priority for the Downtown Plan and in 2018, Council approved a plan to restore the creek in several phases over many years at an estimated cost of \$30 million. Two sections of the creek have already been restored between Ellis Street and Nanaimo Ave.

The City is proceeding with the next phase of work which will restore the portion of the creek running between Nanaimo Avenue and the intersection of Norton Street and Wade Ave E. This phase will involve the removal of Nanaimo Avenue Bridge in early July to ensure that the future creek flows, under flooding conditions, can safely pass through this section of the creek. The remaining activities are planned to take place in the creek during the annual fish window, typically in late July. This will involve redirecting the creek, removing concrete, undertaking earthworks and installing river rock. In advance of this work getting underway, the City has prepared this handout to provide information about the project for residents in the area. More information is available at pentiction.ca/restore-penticton-creek and regular updates will be provided as the work progresses. If you have any questions, please feel free to email engineering@pentiction.ca.

What to expect in the coming weeks

Preparations for this project got underway this spring with the removal of undergrowth and trees that were anticipated to interfere with the creek rehabilitation. That work was completed in advance, to avoid bird nesting season and to mitigate impacts on wildlife. The City is now getting ready to issue a construction contract to complete the remaining scope of work. Once the contractor is in place, the first activity will be the removal of Nanaimo Avenue Bridge in early July. The remaining major activities are planned to take place in the creek during the annual fish window, typically in late July. This will involve redirecting the creek, removing concrete, undertaking earthworks and installing river rock.

How will residents be affected?

Those in the area should expect to see the following:

- Removal of the Nanaimo Street Bridge – *early July*
- Closing of the creek side walkway during creek channel restoration – *mid/late July*
- Detouring pedestrians around Wade Avenue – *mid/late July*
- Creation of laydown areas for material on nearby roads and lanes – *mid July*
- Naturalization of the creek - *late July to end of August*
- Restoration of adjacent areas, landscaping, and path – *Fall, potentially Spring 2023, depending on weather and availability of plant materials*

Why does the bridge need to be removed?

In 2017, the City completed a study to determine mandated creek channel capacity and bridge clearance constraints for a once in 200 year storm event. The study identified this was the case for the Nanaimo Avenue bridge which could cause flooding on Penticton Creek and threaten nearby homes, businesses and City infrastructure. Detailed analysis for the current proposed project has re-confirmed this clearance deficiency from which it was recommended that Nanaimo Bridge, which is nearing the end of its lifespan, be removed.

How will the removal affect traffic in the area?

The removal of the bridge will disperse vehicles to the other four routes in and out of the area, namely Pickering Street to Haven Hill Road/Eckhardt Ave., Van Horne Street to Vancouver Ave., Abbott Street to Vancouver Ave., and Westminster Ave. to Ellis Street.

Will removing the bridge affect emergency response times?

It is anticipated that the area will see a potential increase in fire response times by approximately 32 to 35 seconds with the removal of the Nanaimo Ave. bridge. Penticton's Fire Department has confirmed that this change is not expected to create adverse impacts to the emergency response.

Will the bridge be replaced?

The City will monitor the need for future transportation infrastructure in this corridor as part of its regular infrastructure planning and capital budgeting process.

What about the fish?

One of the main goals of this work is to restore the natural fish habitat of the creek to promote the return of the Kokanee and Rainbow Trout. The plan is to remove the concrete lining and reshape the channel to incorporate a series of riffles and pools lined with rip rap and river rock to allow the fish to migrate upstream from the lake to spawning areas. The City is required to have a permit from the provincial government prior to working in the creek. In accordance with this permit, the fish will need to be relocated prior to construction proceeding and all work in the creek must be completed during the fish window to avoid disturbing eggs, juveniles or spawning adults.

What about pedestrian traffic?

The existing multi-use path on the south side of the creek will remain and consideration will be given to the installation of a new pedestrian/cyclist bridge at Nanaimo Avenue in the future, in the context of other infrastructure needs throughout the city.

Why are trees being removed?

It's unfortunate that some trees will need to be removed from the site in order for machinery to excavate the creek. This work was conducted before the birds nested and new trees will be planted throughout the area once work is completed.

Why is the creek dry? And why do I see a big pipe?

In order to excavate the creek, the water needs to be temporarily dammed and redirected. The water will flow through a pipe bypassing the work area and then be reintroduced to the Penticton Creek channel downstream. This must be done during a specific timeframe when fish are not in the creek.

Are any improvements planned in the area?

The bridge approach will be landscaped after the bridge is removed. There are also plans to improve the walkway and landscape by adding new trees, and improve safety with greater visibility, a wider path and better lighting.

What about the bus routes?

BC Transit has implemented changes to routes 3 and 16 effective June 13.

Where can I find out more about Penticton Creek restoration plans?

The creek restoration project has proceeded in several phases since 2015 when the first demonstration project was completed. Once this 2022 section is done, the overall project will be approximately 19% complete. A copy of the Penticton Creek Master Plan can be viewed at penticton.ca/restore-penticton-creek.