

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why are improvements needed?

Cochrane Lake experiences fluctuating water levels, poor water quality, and occasional odor issues. The goal of the improvement project is to enhance water quality, manage stormwater more effectively, and create a safe, enjoyable recreational area for residents — all while protecting the lake's natural environment.

2. How will water quality be improved?

Fresh water from the Bow River will be introduced to the lake through a new water line, while upgraded pumps will remove older stagnant water. This circulation will improve water clarity, reduce algae growth, and help maintain healthier conditions year-round.

3. How will the plan help prevent flooding?

New, higher-capacity pumps will control lake levels by safely discharging excess water to Horse Creek during heavy rain events. The system will be automated and monitored to protect nearby homes and infrastructure.

4. Who operates and maintains the pumps?

Rocky View County will operate and maintain the pump system.

5. Can Horse Creek handle the extra water?

Yes. Studies have confirmed that Horse Creek can safely manage the proposed discharge of up to 150 litres per second.

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6. Why include a pathway?

The pathway will provide public access and connection to existing trail networks, allowing residents to enjoy the lake and surrounding natural areas.

7. Will the pathway go all the way around the lake?

The first phase focuses on the south and east sides. Future extensions may complete a full loop as surrounding lands are developed.

8. How will wildlife and nesting birds be protected?

Environmental studies have guided the design to avoid sensitive wetlands and wildlife habitats. Construction will only begin after wildlife sweeps confirm it's safe to proceed.

9. What has changed in the plan?

The original idea for a berm was replaced with a pathway built on existing ground. This reduces environmental impacts and keeps the trail within County-owned land.

10. When will construction start and how long will it take?

Approvals are expected in 2025, with construction beginning in 2026 and completion targeted by the end of that year.

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11. When will the new water line be built?

Once approvals are in place, construction of the new Bow River water line will begin, aiming for completion by the end of 2026.

12. Who is paying for the improvements?

The project is a partnership between Rocky View County and Macdonald Communities Limited. Future pathway sections on private lands will be funded by those developers.

13. What's been done so far?

- Project approved by Council
 - Technical studies and surveying completed
 - Regulatory applications underway
 - Detailed design and community consultation in progress
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14. Will the improvements help manage future development?

Yes. Updated lake levels and pump capacities have been designed to support long-term development and stormwater needs in the area.

15. How long will it take for water quality to improve?

Water quality is expected to improve gradually as fresh water is added and old water is cycled out. Results will depend on weather and lake conditions.

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16. Will the public be able to use the lake?

Yes. The goal is to make Cochrane Lake a year-round recreational space for residents and visitors.

