

CALGARY
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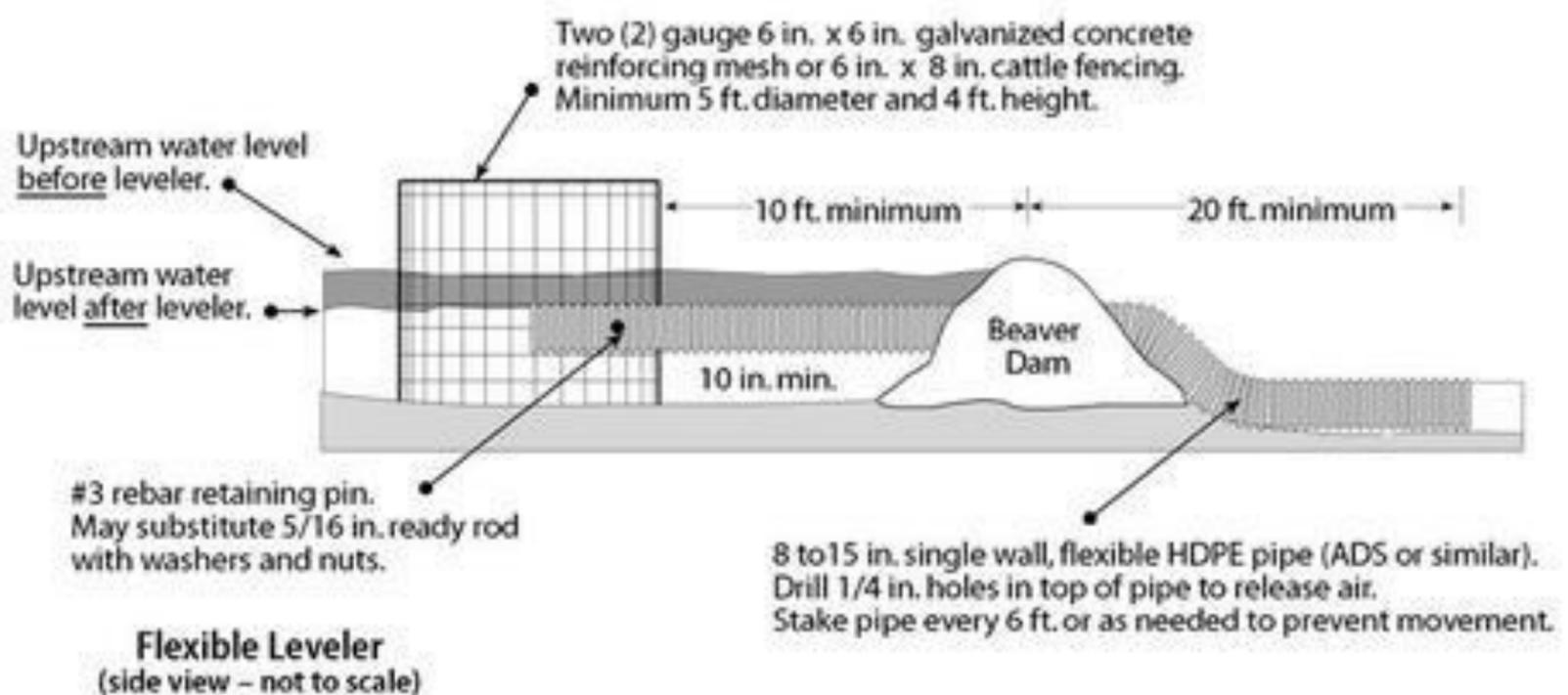
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We are the voice of our rivers

Beavers In Fish Creek

Fish Creek Beaver Coexistence Project

- **Purpose:** Balance beaver and human needs in the Marshall Springs area of the park, and challenge negative perceptions about beavers.
- **What beavers need:** Beavers build dams in a water body. These dams are their homes, where they store food, shelter from predators, and raise their families. When a dam is built across a flowing creek or river, it can create wetlands, but can also cause flooding upstream because the water flow is partially blocked.
- **What humans need:** Park users need the pathways and roads to remain usable and not be flooded over. Flooding can erode this infrastructure.
- **What does this project involve?** When a beaver dam is discovered within the park and it is a risk to causing flooding across the human use areas of Fish Creek Park, a team is activated to install “coexistence devices” or pond levelers to prevent flooding while not destroying the beaver dam.
- **What does the pond leveler do?** These glorified pipes are installed through part of the beaver dam, to allow some water to flow through to the downstream side, and thereby prevent flooding upstream of the dam. The beaver repairs the dam and carries on.



- **Win-Win solution:** Previous beaver management solutions were to put wire caging around many of the trees in the park. This is a very time-consuming process and can choke the tree as it grows. Pond levelers allow the beaver to do what it needs to do and allow humans to avoid flooding risk.
- **Project Partners & Funders:** This project is supported by Alberta Environment & Parks, Humane Solutions, You Betula Environmental, Cows & Fish (also known as the Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society), Miistakis Institute, City of Calgary, and Friends of Fish Creek’s dedicated volunteers.

Test Your Beaver Knowledge!

(from “Alberta Beaver Survey Comprehensive Data Report,” Miistakis Institute, 2017 – check the back of this sign for the answers)

1. Beavers naturally exist in Alberta
2. Beaver population numbers today are greater than their historic (pre-1900) numbers in Alberta
3. Beavers spend the majority of their life in waterbodies
4. Beavers build both dams and lodges
5. Beavers eat fish
6. Beavers must chew on wood because their teeth do not stop growing
7. Beavers have webbed feet
8. Beaver dams can create ponds (wetlands) that help replenish groundwater
9. Beaver dams can create ponds that are important for fish such as trout
10. Beaver dams act as barriers to fish movement in streams
11. Beaver colonies can have up to 12 individuals living in one location
12. Young beavers disperse at 6 months of age
13. Beavers are driven to build dams based on the sound and feeling of running water
14. Beavers create wetlands and habitat that benefits other living things
15. Ponds created by beaver dams generally help reduce the threat of flooding
16. Water captured behind beaver dams results in lower flows and causes insufficient water downstream
17. Cutting of trees by beavers results in loss of tree populations



Beaver photo credit:
Phil Smith

Beaver Quiz Answers

1. True
2. False
3. True
4. True
5. False
6. True
7. True
8. True
9. True
10. False
11. True
12. False
13. True
14. True
15. True
16. False
17. False