

Kennedale Constructed Wetland – Mother Nature’s Water Filter

July 22, 2010

From gravel pit to wetland, facility cleanses stormwater without chemicals



What was once an old gravel pit in Hermitage Park has been transformed into the City’s first wetland built exclusively for stormwater treatment and river protection. With the help of marshes, pools and natural vegetation, the new \$7.5 million dollar Kennedale End-of Pipe Constructed Wetland cleans stormwater before it flows into the North Saskatchewan River.

Built by the Drainage Services Branch and funded in part by the Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF), the wetland is a cornerstone project of the City’s Stormwater Quality Strategy.

“The North Saskatchewan River and the river valley area are some of Edmonton’s most important assets,” said Edmonton Mayor Stephen Mandel. “The protection and stewardship of the River is a responsibility we all take very seriously. I am proud to say that our City is leading the way in environmental protection with innovative projects such as this wetland. It’s an investment in our future and the collaboration between all three levels of government was crucial to its success.”

End-of-pipe treatment wetlands are a relatively new, innovative, and cost-effective way to treat stormwater runoff. They do not require the addition of chemicals for treatment, but instead use the physical, chemical and biological processes which are all part of the wetland ecosystem. The City’s other thirteen constructed wetlands are used primarily for flood protection with stormwater treatment as a secondary feature.

“Our government is pleased to see the results of projects such as this new wetland because they serve to protect our environment and strengthen our community,” said MP Tim Uppal, Member of Parliament for Edmonton-Sherwood Park.

Besides providing an enhanced green space in the community, the Kennedale Wetland serves as an educational tool to demonstrate the functions of wetlands and their importance in the environment. It is expected to operate indefinitely and will allow the city to continue to develop and grow as an urban centre without harming local watersheds.

“Investing in municipalities supports thousands of jobs today and lays the foundation for future economic growth,” said Luke Ouellette, Alberta’s Transportation Minister. “Continuing to invest in public infrastructure is part of the Alberta government’s plan for a strong economic recovery.”

The Kennedale Constructed Wetland was recently recognized by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities with a Sustainable Community Award for Water. The project also helps bring attention to The Way We Green, the City’s new long-term environmental strategic plan.

For more information:

Elaine Trudeau

*Asset Management & Public Works
Drainage Services*

Title	Communications Officer
Telephone	780-496-3868

Donna Kinley

Western Economic Diversification Canada

Title	Regional Manager, Communications
Telephone	780-495-6892 780-991-7432 (cell) Toll-Free Number: 1-888-338-WEST (9378)
Website	(http://www.wd.gc.ca)

Trent Bancarz

*Alberta Transportation
Communications*

Telephone	780-427-0623
------------------	--------------

Copyright © 2011, City of Edmonton.