



Infrastructure and Development Services  
Phone: 780-459-1601

5 St. Anne Street  
St. Albert, AB T8N 3Z9  
[www.stalbert.ca](http://www.stalbert.ca)

File: E11

August 20, 2018

Attention: Home Owner

Dear Sir or Madame:

**Re: Invasive Asian Goldfish Removal from Lacombe Park Lake**

An invasive Asian Goldfish species has been identified in Lacombe Park Lake. These invasive fish species pose a threat to the natural aquatic ecosystems and species in the Sturgeon River.

In collaboration with Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP), City of St. Albert staff will be completing a chemical treatment of the lake using Rotenone, a naturally occurring compound derived from the roots of a tropical plant and commonly used to eradicate invasive fish. Rotenone is not harmful to humans, pets, wildlife or vegetation and breaks down naturally after application. See the FAQ attachment for more information.

The fish removal program is scheduled between September 4th and October 2nd and will involve the following components:

- Information on the fish removal program will be on the City of St. Albert website and in the CityLights section of the St. Albert Gazette.
- Signage will be set up around (including Lacombe Dog Friendly Park) and at key access points prior to the application and some barricades will be set up around the working area where staff will coordinate the removal program. Access to lake may be limited during the application, however all efforts will be made to insure any trails or pathways are open for use.
- Rotenone will be applied by City staff who have been trained by AEP in its safe use and this will include the use of backpack sprayers and a small boat with a mixing pump.



- The lake will be treated with Rotenone during the week of September 4th. It will take approximately 8 hours to treat the lake. Lacombe Park Lake will have a second treatment between September 18<sup>th</sup> and September 24<sup>th</sup> and will take approximately 8 hours to complete. On site preparation will take place late August, / early September and residents may notice activity around the lake but no Rotenone will be used.
- The chemical treatment acts immediately on smaller fish but may take several days to be effective on larger fish. City staff will monitor the lake and remove fish that may float to the surface or reach the shoreline. It is common for fish eating bird species, such as Blue Herons, to forage for fish after Rotenone treatments and it is not harmful to them or any other wildlife to consume the treated fish.
- Rotenone breaks down naturally and will take one to two weeks to break down depending on water temperature and sunlight hours. The lake will be monitored regularly after treatment and water quality will be assessed until Rotenone reaches acceptable levels and the barricades to the lake will be removed.
- Lacombe Park Lake will be inspected again in 2019 to evaluate the success of the program.

The introduction of invasive Asian Goldfish in waterbodies and natural ecosystems is becoming a provincial issue and similar fish removal programs have recently been conducted in St. Albert (2017, Erin Ridge), the Town of Okotoks and City of Grande Prairie. For more information and updates on the City's Goldfish Management Program, please visit [stalbert.ca](http://stalbert.ca) and search "goldfish".

Sincerely,



Christian Benson  
Manager, Environment

cc:

Kevin D. Cole, Director, Utilities & Environment  
Brian Brost, Manager, Utilities  
Melissa Logan, Sturgeon River & Natural Areas Coordinator

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