



OLDS COLLEGE BOTANIC GARDENS AND TREATMENT WETLANDS

ORIENTATION

Welcome to the Olds College Botanic Gardens and Treatment Wetlands! Please review the following information in order to make your visit a safe and enjoyable one.

OVERVIEW

The Olds College Botanic Gardens and Treatment Wetlands consist of a 20 acre site, home to 19 ponds. Ten acres is intensively landscaped and is considered the third phase of our Botanic Gardens. The site is used for education, research and for recreation. The wetlands are a diverse landscape that includes many species of plants, from wetland plants to trees and shrubs. Wildlife is also found including insects, birds and mammals. Interpretive signage through the wetlands will help you to learn more about the different aspects of the site.

As you move through the site you may see other visitors - members of the public, Olds College staff and students, participants in guided tours, participants in events such as weddings, and organizations seeking to learn more about constructed wetlands.

HAZARDS

There are several hazards that exist within the site. Please take note:

- Deep ponds with slippery and steep banks. Difficult to get out of the water if someone falls in.
- Shallow ponds with slippery banks and/or rock banks.
- Tripping hazards due to rough and uneven pathways and bridges.
- Maintenance on the site occurs on a regular basis. Please keep an eye out for staff and equipment.

PONDS

- The ponds specifically are for research and educational purposes ONLY
 - No unauthorized or unsupervised use is permitted.
 - Any use of, or access to, the ponds requires the express permission of Olds College by prior notification.
 - In winter, ice on the ponds may be thin. Please stay off the ponds at all times.
- Of the 19 ponds, three (Ponds 1, 15, and 20 – see map) are deep (2-3 meters) with steep sides. Please do not go close to these ponds as they present a safety hazard. They have been signed appropriately.
- We ask that people stay away from the edges of the shallower ponds. However if you have a specific reason for wanting to access the water (ie. school children looking for aquatic insects) please contact us **prior to your planned visit:**
 - Manager, Botanic Gardens and Greenhouses – Jane Reksten 403-556-0479; jreksten@oldscollege.ca
 - Water Research Technician – Ruth Elvestad 403-507-5599; relvestad@oldscollege.ca

WASHROOMS

- Washrooms can be found in the Land Sciences Building (see map)
- Two out-houses are located on the road by the red barn at the South Entrance to the wetlands

PATHWAYS

- There are three kinds of pathways that run through the gardens – asphalt, interlocking brick and rundle crush (gravel).
- The edges between the different surfaces, and on and off the bridges may be uneven. Caution is advised.
- Wheelchairs are recommended to stay on the asphalt pathway that encircles the site.

AMPHITHEATRE

- It is possible to use the seating and to stand on the stage, but the building interior is inaccessible.
- Note: This summer the Amphitheatre is slated for some repair work and once under construction, the site will be fenced and there will be no access for use. Please phone ahead for more information.

PARKING

- There is a drop-off zone along the fence at the south end of the Wetlands, beside the South Entrance and the Red Barn.
- A small amount of public parking can be found along the road that runs south from the gardens (towards building #32).
- Lot DD which is south west from the gardens is also available to the public. Parking is free from May until September.

SECURITY

- Campus Security can be reached 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
 - Call 403-556-8224 for non-emergency situations.
 - For emergencies call 403-556-8225.

CONTACT INFORMATION

- For any questions or concerns please contact:
Manager, Botanic Gardens and Greenhouses
Jane Reksten
Cell: 403-556-0479
Office: 403-556-8323
E-Mail: jreksten@oldscollege.ca

Parents/guardians please keep control of children.

Use of the Olds College Botanic Gardens and Treatment Wetlands is at your own risk.



Olds College

GPS 1200

Olds, Alberta



General Notes:

Gates and pond numbers.

No.	Revision	Date

OC WETLANDS

Orientation Map

Drawn by:
J Reksten
 Project
Wetlands Manual
 Date:
April 18, 2016

Map Number

#20