

# Bulletin: Frazer Lake Water Levels

Background, updates & next steps



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*This bulletin is for information purposes only. It is intended to provide a brief overview of the history of Frazer Lake.*

## Purpose

To provide background, updates, and anticipated next steps on the water levels and management of Frazer Lake in the Mission.

## Background

Frazer Lake is city managed under a provincial water licence. It is designated as parkland but is currently privately owned and is anticipated to be formalized as a public park amenity through future development.

Low water levels have affected several City owned ponds in the Upper Mission area, including Frazer Lake, Mair Pond, Jack Smith Lake, and Hill Spring Pond. Water levels can be impacted by many natural processes, including evaporation, underground seepage, and stormwater runoff. These ponds were originally built as part of an irrigation system for rural uses before the area was redeveloped with neighbourhoods. In the early 1900s, Frazer Lake was an irrigation reservoir supplied by Bellevue Creek. In later years, Pollard Spring along with well water would replenish the pond's water level. Bass were introduced for recreational fishing, which is not their natural habitat. As such, the pond's conditions and water levels have always been influenced by people and precipitation. Today, the pond relies on runoff from 23 hectares of watershed and Pollard Spring, which is not a consistent source of water. Like many small seasonal wetlands (also called ephemeral ponds or temporary water bodies) in the Okanagan, these ponds naturally experience cycles of wet and dry conditions.

Throughout 2025, Frazer Lake's water level was especially low due to a combination of limited snowpack, reduced rainfall, and irregular inflows from Pollard Spring—even with the addition of stormwater from the surrounding neighbourhood. The City encourages best practices for stormwater management in accordance with its bylaws. Generally, ephemeral ponds like Frazer Lake are not replenished with other water sources, such as treated municipal water, and maintaining good water quality remains a priority. Residents are concerned about how fluctuating water levels affect local wildlife. Western painted turtles have moved into Frazer Lake from nearby wetlands, while spade-foot toads are naturally found in ephemeral ponds like this one.

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## Updates

To ensure responsible management and compliance with environmental regulations, the City engaged a professional biologist to assess habitat conditions and guide future wetland stewardship. The following are the key findings that will inform the City's next steps in managing Frazer Lake:

1. Additional treated stormwater from the neighbourhood may be directed into Frazer Lake.
2. The low water levels in the pond were not a result of adjacent development activity.
3. It is recommended regular water quality testing and water level monitoring begin.

## Next Steps

The City will require a stormwater management plan for any new development applications. In part, this is to determine redirecting the appropriate volume of stormwater into the pond. Routine monitoring and water quality testing are being scheduled for 2026 and beyond.

Future development will support the official dedication of parkland around Frazer Lake and secure existing and new trail connections to the lake for the public's use.