

THE PARK and LAKES

Overall Plan

Much of the 70 acres of parkland has been left in its natural state. The majority of the land at Church Ranches has never been cultivated. The natural grasses, wild flowers and trees are as they have always been. There has been minor clearing for pathways.

All ditches and disturbed sites are seeded to a **special native grass seed mix**. Homeowners can purchase this mix from Church Ranches.

Easements for **pathways** will ensure residents on every lot have direct **walking access** to the private park (see map).

The interconnecting **lakes** have been constructed in the naturally low-lying wetlands on the property. These lakes total 20 acres in area. Every effort has been made to integrate the man-made shorelines with the natural contours and features of the land.

Two of the lakes are **stocked with trout** and the third will be this summer. The depth of Alexa and Cody Lakes allows over wintering for the fish, under normal seasonal conditions. Sand **beaches, docks and canoe racks** are built on the shorelines of Phases I and II lakes and will be added to the Phase III lake in the summer of 1999.

A fourth lake has been added to the lake system. It will be filled in the summer of 1999, and surrounded by private lots. Although not connected to the park system, it is connected through underground pipes to the other three lakes. Water flows from Lake Four to irrigate the Bearspaw Golf Course.

Construction Details for Lakes

- The lakes were deepened to a maximum of 14 metres.
- First, the top 1.5 metre of soil was removed and relocated to provide contoured landscaping within the general park area.
- Then, the clay till was removed, recompact and replaced as a natural liner on the sides and bottoms of the lakes.
- The side slopes on the lakes are 3:1 on the leeward sides and 5:1 on the windward sides.

Water Supply Details for Lakes

- Water for the lakes is purchased from the Rocky View Water Coop. The raw water is pumped from the Bow River to the Coop's large reservoir on the north end of Church Ranches.
- Water circulates through the one kilometre of stream in Phase III at the rate of 600 gpm. Aeration will be provided by a series of falls along the stream.
- Approximately 40 per cent of the total lake water will be replaced annually with fresh water from the Bow River.
- Lake Four is constructed to accommodate any short term water level fluctuations in the other three lakes.