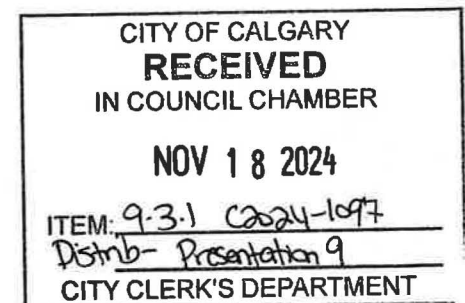


Saving the Inglewood Pool

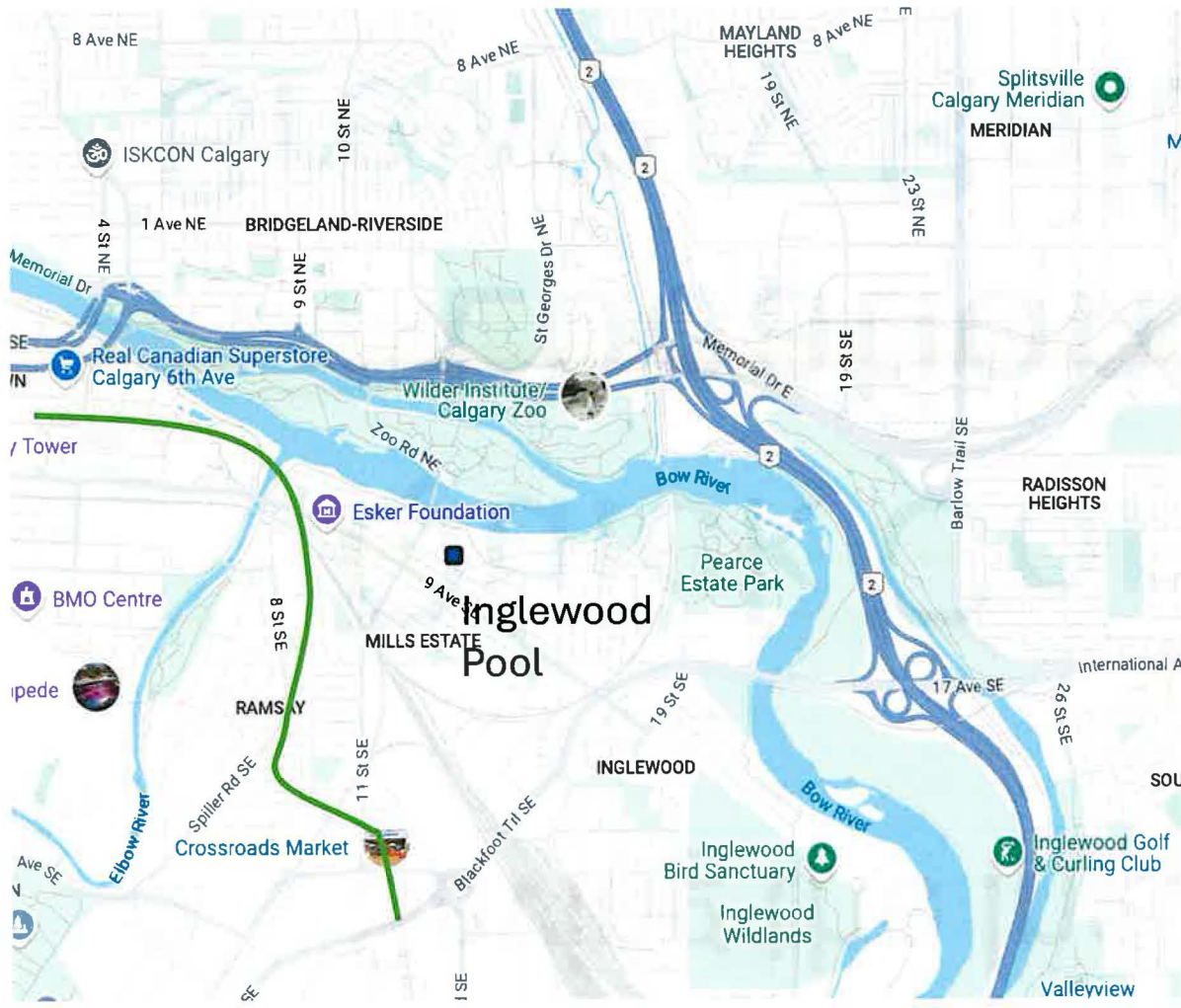


Quick Context on Pool Location in City and Brewery Rail Lands Project





Inglewood Pool Location



Inglewood is on Key Commuting Corridors:

- Blackfoot Trail to 9th Avenue into and out of downtown from/to the North, East and South.
- Targeted to be along the Green Line Transit from downtown to the South.

It Contains a Growing and Diverse population

- With various agencies and institutes: YWCA, Sheriff King Home, Woods Home, Alexander Centre, Rubarb Patch, Colonel Walker School, Day cares, Geo. C. King senior living (East Village), etc.



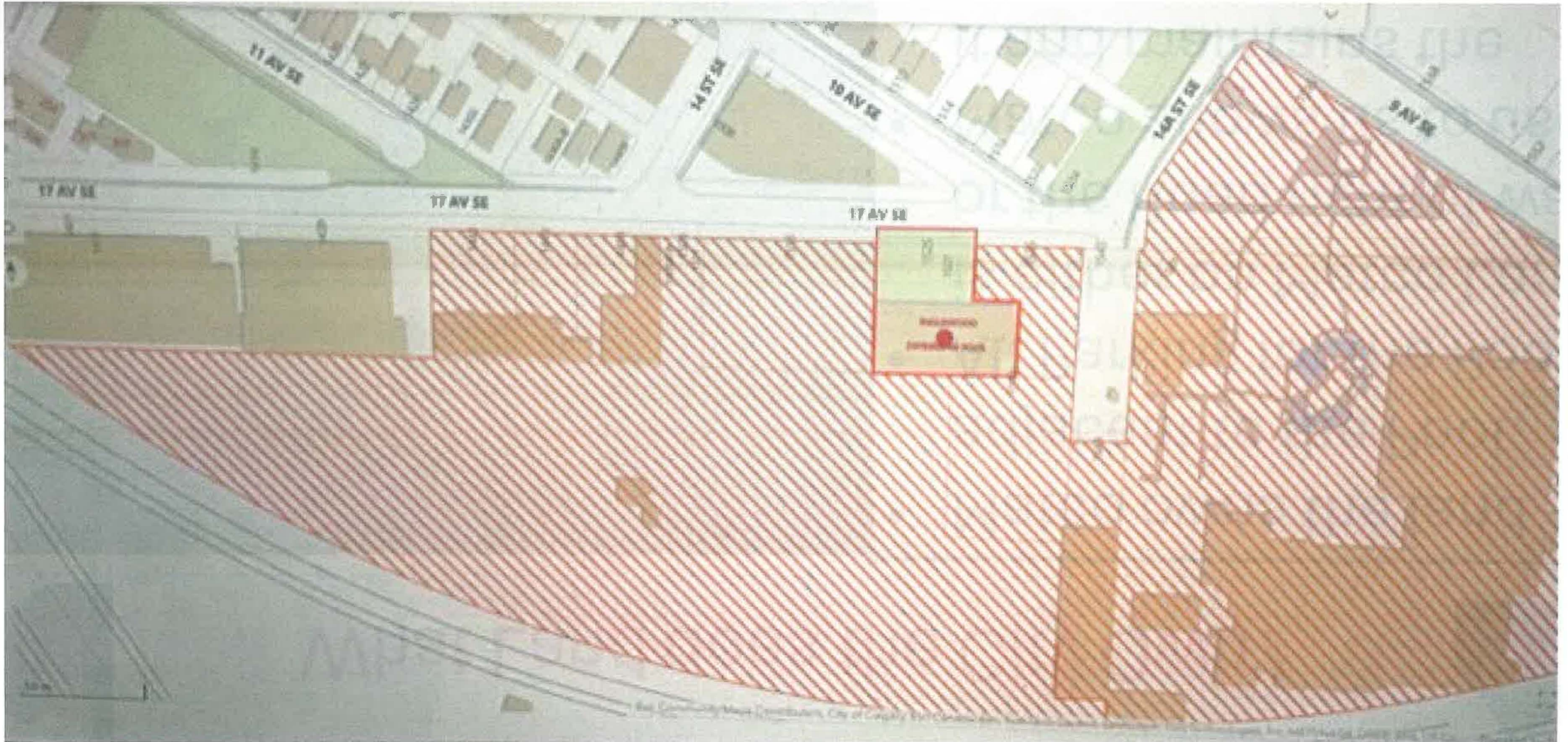
What Land does the City Own?



- Matco owns the land adjacent to the Pool.
- All Parking for the Pool is either on Matco Land or the Road right of way.
- Matco allows us to use it and maintains the parking areas.



The Full Brewery Rail Lands Property





Pool Location in Brewery Rail Lands



So, the Pool is ideally located to both support both:

- A significant flow of commuters at beginning, and end of day that can use the facility and support local businesses
- A significant demand from residents during the day – Seniors, before and after school programs, parent/tot classes, special needs groups etc.
- Located in one of the primary growth areas in the City
- However, there has been no marketing of the facility and programs do not match the natural and obvious demand patterns



Obvious Near-Term Solution



- Invest in Required Maintenance to extend Pool life for 2 more years
- Adjust schedule and programs to match demand patterns
- Promote the pool to both commuting and inner-city communities
- Measure, monitor and adjust based on usage and seasonal needs
- Work with various stakeholders to determine future direction for this important and strategically located recreational asset

Saving the Inglewood Pool



Findings towards the
Budget Implications



Financial Aspects of Closure Decision



- Initially part of a blanket \$60 million across the board cut
- In Mayor's and Councillor Walcott's words "the decisions at the time were not well thought-out"
- 2024 decision was based on previous decision with no new data except loose approximation of upgrade costs
- Upgrade costs were estimated based on Optimal Life Cycling recommendations
- Would save \$400,000 net operating costs that were in budget
- Decision was based on costs did not sufficiently consider the \$2 million decommissioning costs
- Nor the opportunity cost of losing the valuable land (much greater than \$600K)



Saving the Inglewood Pool

So Many Questions!





Key Learnings – Oct 8th and Since



During October 8th Meeting

- There are **NO** safety issues
- Cost of **demolition** is @ \$2 Million
- Cost of building new is significantly higher - \$4.1 to Life Cycle vs up to \$80 Million to build new
- Administration has **not** been measuring and reporting on usage and tax burden
- Bob Bahan Pool is up on chopping block soon

Since October 8th Meeting

- Keeping it alive will only cost \$350 K maintenance
- So, the two year costs of keeping the pool open are \$750 K in 2025 and \$400 K in 2026



A Very Important Unasked Question



- In answer to a question from Councillor Dhaliwal - Director Johnson responded that dropping usage would not impact the tax burden per visit
- The next question should have been - what percentage of the operating costs are fixed costs (costs that are independent of usage)?
- Most costs of a pool should be fixed regardless of the number of program hours
- Only some costs – lifeguarding, hot water maybe, some portion of building heat... - are variable. The rest are fixed - – probably well over 90 %.
- So, if usage is cut back, then the costs remain high while revenues drop significantly
- So tax support for visit is **much higher** as hours get cut back



Another Question - Why Dec. 22nd ?



- Most Likely to have no operating costs in 2025

However:

- The money **was** in the Base Budget
- There are no immediate Safety Concerns
- Railway Brewery Lands not approved yet – this land would be in Phase 2 (likely years away)
- \$400,000 in operating costs is .0074 % of the total budget or **less than 25 cents per citizen per year**

Saving the Inglewood Pool



The Slow Death of
Community Pools in
Calgary



Community Pools – which one is next



- YWCA closed in 2013 – part of why the YWCA moved to Inglewood as location
- YMCA closed in 2021
- Beltline closed in 2021
- Inglewood in 2024?
- Vecova Pool closing in 2025

What Community Pool(s) is/are next?

Saving the Inglewood Pool



The Kicker



Upcoming 2025 Temporary Pool Closures



- Renfrew is closing for 2-3 months in April
- Glenmore Pool is closing for 2-3 months in June
- Southland Leisure Centre is closing for 4 months in September
- MNP is closing an 8 lane 50 meter pool for 6 months in July
- We already hear that people are being turned away from MNP because they are too busy
- **Where are these people/groups to swim?**

Saving the Inglewood Pool



Other Benefits



Misalignment with Other City / Provincial Priorities/Issues



- High Growth Rates
- Densification in inner city – more people / less parking
- More Bike Lanes
- Climate Emergency
- Rising Health Care Costs
- Misaligned with Health, Social & Cultural Principles

Letter from Dr. James Stone re: Closure of Inglewood Aquatic Centre

BPHE, BA, MSc, MD, PhD, FRCPC, FAACVPR, FACC

- I am writing to you this morning with a heavy heart. I am aware of the City's plans to close Inglewood swimming pool. This will have devastating consequences for the community. Children and seniors will not drive through downtown to access other facilities. Their fitness levels will fall, their social engagement will fall, and you might as well encourage them to eat more deep-fried foods. The overall negative effect on their general health will be about the same.
- I have spent my entire cardiology career trying to prevent heart attacks and strokes. Encouraging people to obtain regular physical activity and exercise is crucial to realizing that goal. When people live in a community where they can easily obtain daily physical activity, this goal is relatively easily obtained. However, in a recent study published in Canada, Calgary ranked amongst the least friendly physical activity friendly communities in North America. We love cars. Not swimming, cycling, and walking. Closing pools is not the answer.
- If you vote to close this pool, or other community exercise and physical activity facilities, you are driving nails into coffins. And you can watch with pride, as the mortality rates in these communities rise in the coming years. Vote as you think best. But do not delude yourselves into thinking that closing community facilities will benefit the mental, physical, or social health of the residents and voters who live in those communities.



Health Benefits – So Many Stories



November 18, 2024

Attention:

Mayor Gondek
City of Calgary Councillors

We are writing to express our support for the preservation and continued operation of the Inglewood pool in Calgary's oldest continuous community. The Cross family has proud roots in this historic area and believes that community-based gathering places are essential to thriving municipalities. The donation of land through the Calgary Brewing and Malting company in 1963, enabled the first public indoor pool to be built in Calgary. This rich history has provided all Calgarians, including numerous aquatics organizations, affordable access over the years.

The City's continued support of this facility would demonstrate a commitment to the community's heritage, ensuring that it remains for future generations of families, children and seniors to enjoy. The promotion of affordable, inclusive recreational facilities resonates with us all. As you consider the proposal to extend the life of the pool, we hope that you will honour the history and continue to invest in this vibrant growing community.

Respectfully,



Gretchen Cross Thompson



Jill Cross

Conversation with Lois Haskayne

One of her greatest regrets in life is that she never learned how to swim – as a child nor later in life. Shew was always paranoid of water and embarrassed that she could not swim.

Her own brother drowned in Rosebud Creek when he was trying to fix a pump. He was 65 years old at the time while Mrs. Haskayne was on her honeymoon.

She is glad that all of her grandchildren/great grandchildren have learned to swim . Swimming is an essential Lifetime skill, that should be available to everyone.



Economic Benefits to the Community



- There are currently groups and individuals that come to the pool from outside of Inglewood and Ramsay
- One group talked to has had after swim social events at Cold Garden, Dandy Brewing, Ol' Beautiful, HighLine Brewing, Hose and Hound, Dirty Duck, etc.
- People stop for coffees, spices, flowers, many businesses in the area
- Expanding hours to have morning and afternoon swim and fitness and later evening hours will significantly increase the economic spillover benefits of the pool.