



Pearce Estate Park

The Corridor

Inglewood Wildlands

Inglewood Bird Sanctuary

Inglewood Wildlands: Regenerating Nature

You enter the ① Wildlands.

In the early morning mist, you're drawn to explore the landscape before you — rolling grassland, trees, birds, small structures and open space. As you walk, you learn how this site was once an oil refinery. From degraded landscape to wildland, you learn how the Wildlands has undergone a remarkable transformation that has brought this landscape back to a more natural state.

As you stand on the existing ② outlook hill, a view of downtown beyond the Wildlands serves as a reminder that nature exists so close to the city. In the other direction, grassland becomes forest. You see a train, and learn that a railway once ran through Inglewood, and ended where Fort Calgary once stood.

After the outlook, you discover traces of the oil refinery.

Before you, stands a small brick ③ transformer building, now the only remaining structure of what used to be an electrical generation system for the refinery. This now serves as a beacon of the Wildlands' fascinating heritage, as well as the site's slow transition from industry to habitat.

Walking further, you discover ④ traces of the former oil tanks, and learn about the incredible volunteer efforts that initiated the renewal of the land in the 1990s. In partnership with Suncor (formerly Petro-Canada) and community stakeholders, the site continues to be restored. Wandering through these areas, you discover the site and scale of the previous tanks, and gain an understanding of the landscape's natural resiliency and transformative cycles.



Looking down, you see a ⑤ developing woodland.

You learn that this is a "hydrosere": part of the natural plant succession from wetland to woodland. The establishment of the wetlands was part of the remediation process, and water was artificially pumped into the area to support these processes.

The wetlands have now dried up, and over the next few years, nature will continue returning this area into a naturally sustained balance.

To the south, a ⑥ restored grassland catches your eye.

Using soil rebuilding techniques, the ground can support a larger diversity of plant species. For now, this area has been set aside for wildlife and visitor viewing to allow natural habitat-forming processes to take place. Maybe in a few generations, this field will be an unbelievable habitat, not seen here since First Nations people inhabited the area.

Following the main arcing trail, along the exact alignment of Colonel Walker's old driveway, you take a quick detour to peer into the Separator Trench. This was installed to collect oil from groundwater as part of the site remediation, but is now full of clean water and teeming with life.

You are now standing in a ⑦ grove of poplars.

Phytoremediation is a process that uses plants to remove contaminants from the soil. Suncor started a pilot phytoremediation project during the summer of 2016 to complete the remediation process by planting these fast growing trees. Since then, these eastern and southern edges have been completely transformed into treed areas.

Following the examples of Pearce and Walker, Suncor continues to experiment with trees. The phytoremediation project will leave a legacy as a remediation showcase for techniques used throughout Alberta.

This experience of a site in a state of transformative change provides you with a new perspective on the landscape — and our role in regenerating nature.

