

Gold Bar Community Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2024



Cindy Shepel

Director, Gold Bar
Wastewater Treatment Plant

A NOTE FROM CINDY

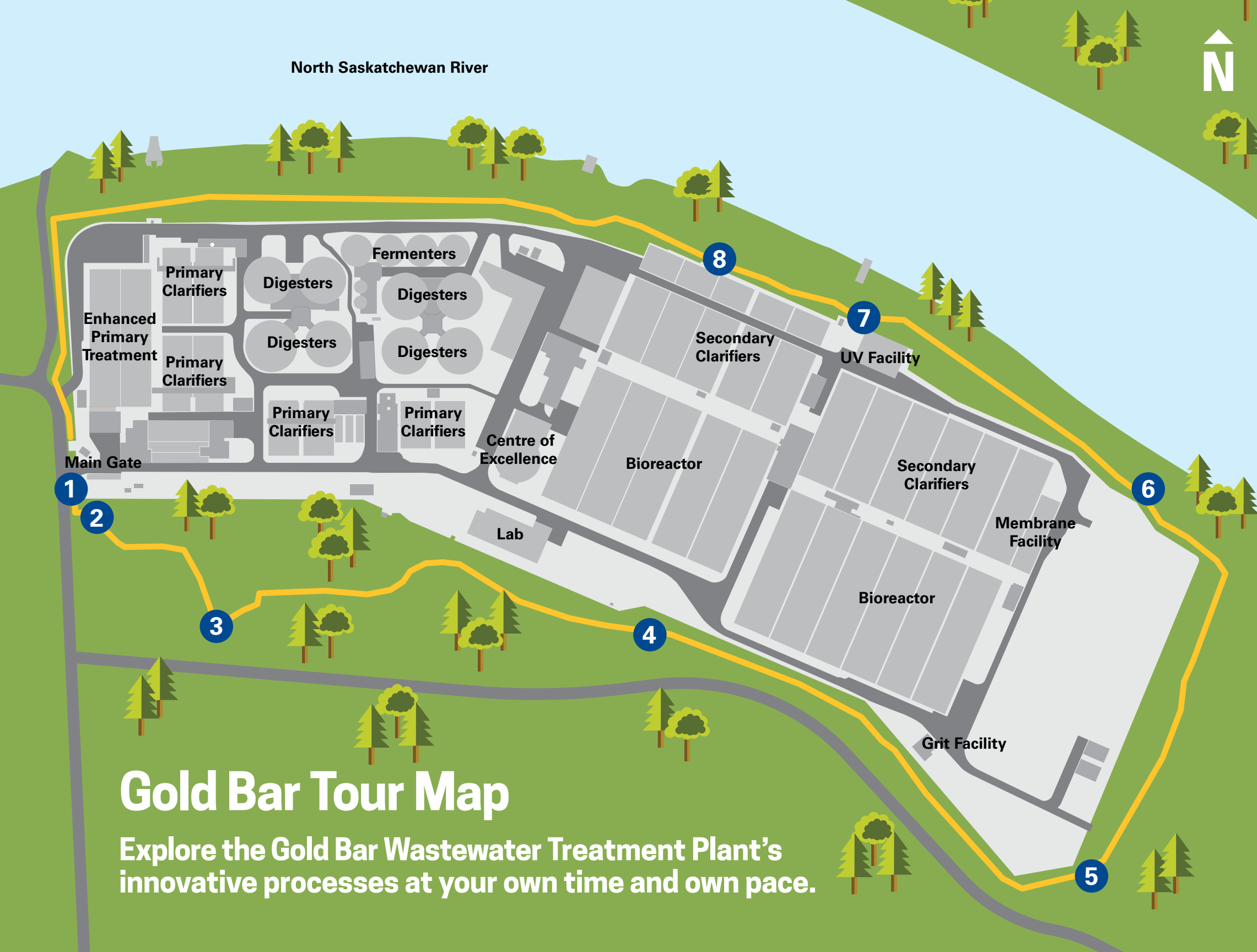
Gold Bar Park is beautiful in the winter months and we hope you and your family have been able to enjoy all the winter activities the park has to offer. Here at the Gold Bar Wastewater Treatment Plant, we remain committed to ensuring our wastewater treatment plant is safe, reliable and able to meet the needs of the city and the Gold Bar community.

This edition of the community newsletter looks at our upcoming activities for the first few months of 2024. The centerfold highlights the newly launched Gold Bar Wastewater Treatment Plant walking tour. This self-guided walk helps you explore the Gold Bar Wastewater Treatment Plant's innovative processes at your own time and own pace. If you need an activity to get your family outdoors, we encourage you to take our self-guided tour.



Our shared goals with the community.

We are committed to operating the Gold Bar facility without expanding beyond the current fenceline through 2060 and beyond. We also worked together with the community to create five shared outcome statements. We continue to strive to achieve the shared outcomes, and each of our projects is designed to align with them.



North Saskatchewan River



Gold Bar Tour Map

Explore the Gold Bar Wastewater Treatment Plant's innovative processes at your own time and own pace.

This is a self-guided walk. The stops have been selected by our staff to help you discover the site on your own. The stops tell you about the processes and features of our facility.

Stop 1: What is wastewater? Every time you flush the toilet, take a shower, or do a load of laundry, you send wastewater to the Gold Bar Wastewater Treatment Plant through a network of underground pipes. The plant's job is to take what you put down the drain and turn it into clean, safe, reusable water.

Stop 2: What causes odour at Gold Bar? Treating wastewater is a smelly business. We do our best to capture and treat air that carries odours from wastewater treatment processes. Most of these odours are related to hydrogen sulphide (H₂S). This gas can be smelled at very low levels.

Stop 3: How do we measure air quality? The Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station (AAQMS) continuously monitors air quality near the Gold Bar site, giving us information we can use to make any changes necessary. Monitoring air quality is an important part of our commitment to reducing odour.

Stop 4: What is in these basins? In these basins are millions of microorganisms like bacteria, protozoa, and fungi, which consume two things: nitrogen and phosphorous. At EPCOR's Gold Bar Wastewater Treatment Plant, this treatment stage is called Biological Nutrient Removal.

Stop 5: What happens to solids in wastewater? Millions of litres of wastewater are processed at the Gold Bar facility every day. Almost 8,000 lbs of inorganic solids like rocks, silt, and garbage are filtered, screened and, manually removed from the system. That's about the weight of an adult hippopotamus.

Stop 6: Protecting the Watershed. Ducks, fish and all kinds of wildlife rely on us to keep the North Saskatchewan River clean and safe. The water we flush down the toilet or send down the drain eventually makes its way back to the river. Making sure this "wastewater" is clean and safe helps protect the river for those who depend on it and helps ensure we'll be able to enjoy the river for years to come.

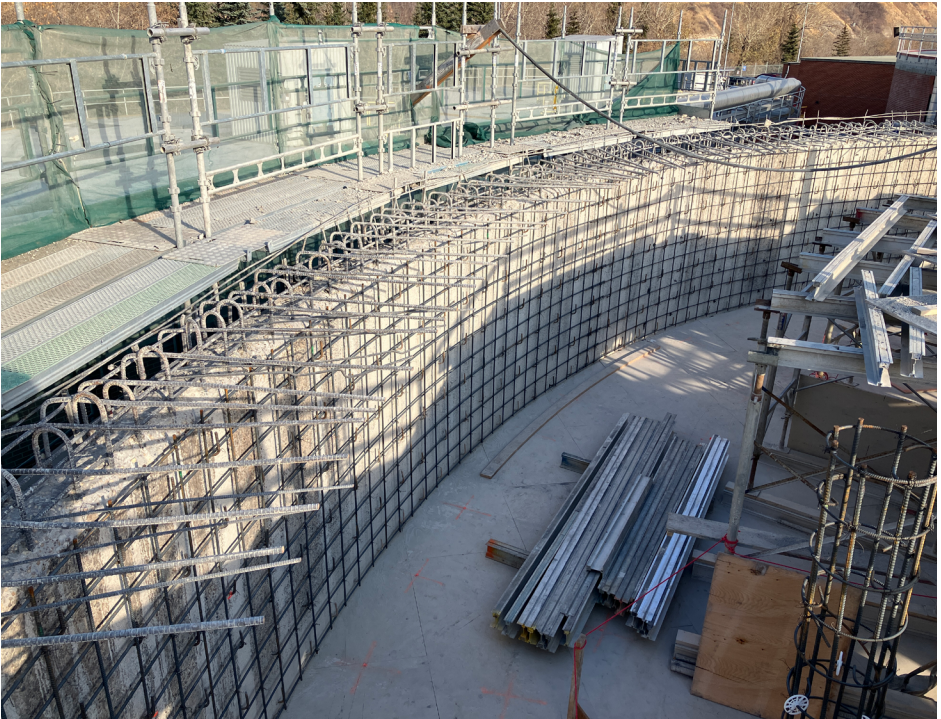
Stop 7: What's coming out of this outfall? After 17 – 18 hours, wastewater has been treated and cleaned to remove solids and excess nutrients. We are now able to return the water to the North Saskatchewan River in a condition that is safe for fish, the ecosystem, and recreational use.

Stop 8: Adapting to Climate Change. Climate change is predicted to increase weather volatility and variability in many regions. We have a long-term plan in place to manage increased extreme weather, including upgrades at the Gold Bar facility that will help mitigate potential flooding hazards.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Our construction hours are Monday to Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and all activities comply with the City of Edmonton's Community Standards Bylaw for noise control.

- We are upgrading the Square 1 Biogas system, which houses safety systems and equipment to convey biogas for reuse in our boilers for heating. We are expecting compressors for this project to arrive in Winter 2024. The equipment is large and transportation will be brief, but noticeable, along 50 Street.
- We are rehabilitating and upgrading digester #4, with work ongoing until mid-2025. This digester is one of the original structures at the plant, and is used to treat and stabilize the solids from the treatment process. There is currently a crane on-site as part of this construction.
- We are fixing an issue we noticed with a sag area on one of our pipe racks. We are expecting to complete the re-build of the pipe racks in the first half of 2024. There will be another crane on site as part of this work.
- From January through to April, we will be inspecting the sludge lines at the east end of the facility near the fence, and at the front end of the plant, to determine if they require rehabilitation. If rehabilitation is required, you may notice some additional activity at these locations in the coming months.



Construction at Digester #4

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SMELL AN ODOUR


- Check our water outages and alerts page to see if EPCOR has issued any notices about odour in your neighbourhood at epcor.com/wateroutage
- If you have concerns about an odour in your neighbourhood, you can contact our 24/7 phone line at (780) 412-4500.



We'd like to be more sustainable and produce fewer paper copies of the newsletter. Please sign up to start receiving the newsletter electronically.

THE GOLD BAR WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT WEBPAGE

Did you know that we regularly share facility updates about the Gold Bar plant, information about odours, and advertise future engagement activities on our website? Check it out at www.epcor.com/goldbar.

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We believe in listening to and engaging with the community. Community input and involvement is an important part of our decision making and we want to hear what you think about our initiatives.

LET'S TALK

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