



Preservation Of An Icon

The Mirror Pond Project: FAQs

Please join us in our effort to preserve and restore Mirror Pond! This beloved iconic feature of our town is in need of silt removal and maintenance in order for it to continue to be a centerpiece of Bend. Below are project details, including how to support the project.

Q. What is causing silt build-up in Mirror Pond?

The silt is the result of three main factors: unfiltered water that contains cinders and other sediment draining directly into the river from 21 City of Bend storm drain outfalls, the dam at Newport Avenue, which slows the river and allows sediment to collect, and natural erosion from the banks of the river.

Of the 21 storm drain outfalls, 11 are between Galveston and Newport Avenues (directly into Mirror Pond) and none filter the sediment out before pouring the runoff into the river.

Q. Who owns Mirror Pond? And who owns the dam that creates the pond?

The waters of Mirror Pond are owned by the State of Oregon. Mirror Pond Solutions, LLC, owns the land underneath Mirror Pond. Pacific Power & Light owns the dam that forms Mirror Pond.

Q. Who has been involved in the decision to preserve Mirror Pond?

The Bend City Council and the Bend Park & Recreation District Board both voted in support of preserving Mirror Pond. Mirror Pond Solutions, LLC was formed in 2013 by Todd Taylor and Bill Smith to acquire the land under Mirror Pond and to facilitate the process of getting approvals, permits and the funding necessary to remove silt and preserve Bend's most iconic feature. Once the silt removal takes place, Mirror Pond Solutions intends to donate the land beneath the pond to the Bend Parks and Recreation District.

Q. What studies of the Mirror Pond silt issue have been conducted to date?

Multiple studies have been performed on Mirror Pond over the past four decades: several for the silt removal project in 1984, a Silt Analysis by Becon Engineering in 2014, an Environmental Assessment by APEX in 2016 and a Treatability Report put together by Zk3 Industries in 2017.

Q. What is the scope of the Mirror Pond silt removal project?

The goal is to remove approximately 75,000 cubic yards of silt from the areas of the pond with the heaviest buildup, which are between the Galveston bridge and the Newport Avenue bridge. This will be to a depth of approximately 5 feet.

A separate, but related, project is being undertaken by the Bend Parks and Recreation District that will be working to restore the banks of Mirror Pond and improve surrounding trails.

Q. Who will be the general contractor on the project?

The contractor has not been determined. Mirror Pond Solutions has applied for permits to remove the silt. The permit process requires identifying detailed Methods and Means for the process. Solely to provide the detail necessary for permitting, Mirror Pond Solutions, with the help of Taylor NW, prepared a budget that shows timelines and projected costs by function. Once the permits have been secured, the entire project will be put out to bid. The bid accepted will determine the final budget.

Q. How will the silt be removed?

The subcontractor will utilize electric-powered equipment, which is very quiet, with a floating horizontal auger to remove the silt. Silt material will be piped into a filter press that removes the water. The dry, pressed silt will be shipped by truck from the filter pressing area on the Pacific Power & Light land adjacent to 70 Newport Avenue to provide cover material for a local landfill. (Because the silt has limited nutrient and structural value, it is not appropriate for other purposes. No significant contaminants have been found during silt testing). During the process, the pond water quality will be closely monitored to ensure there is no degradation.

Q. What is the timeline for the project?

First, permits must be secured. This is a lengthy process and should be complete by the end of 2017 or early 2018. Next, funding must be secured. Then, most likely in the summer of 2018, silt removal can begin. It is estimated that removal will take approximately 155 days to complete.

Q. How much will the project cost?

The current estimate from Mirror Pond Solutions is \$6,700,000.

Q. How will the project be funded?

After permits are secured, Mirror Pond Solutions will meet again with the City of Bend, Bend Parks and Recreation District and Pacific Power to request the necessary funding before putting the project out to bid. Additional funding is being raised privately from the many supportive community members.

Q. What happens if permits are granted but full funding is not available?

With permits in hand, the silt removal project can proceed on a limited basis, removing significantly less than the 75,000 cubic yards needed to fully restore Mirror Pond.

Q. How long are the required permits valid?

The permits are valid for 7 years.

Q. How will Mirror Pond and Drake Park events and activities be affected by the project?

All events that occur in or around the Mirror Pond area are being taken into account. The current plan is to make sure the popular takeout area where floaters and rafters exit the river (just east of the Galveston bridge by Riverside Drive) will remain, and to the east of that could be a string of floating buoys to prevent further passage downriver. This would mean the river would be closed between the buoys and the Newport Avenue bridge.

Q. When did the previous maintenance of Mirror Pond happen?

Silt was last removed from the pond in 1984 (approximately 60,000 cubic yards of silt were removed at that time), and before that in 1964.

Q. How long before the pond needs to be cleared again, and who will pay for it then?

The City of Bend is currently planning and budgeting treatment systems to filter the silt from its storm drain outfalls that pour unfiltered water into Mirror Pond. There is also planning to change the shape of some of the areas in the pond where the water is moving slow enough to allow silt deposits. This will increase the velocity and keep the silt moving instead of settling. It could be 50 to 60 years or more before the silt build-up again requires removal to preserve Mirror Pond.

Q. What will happen to Mirror Pond after the silt removal project is complete?

Mirror Pond Solutions will donate the land it owns beneath Mirror Pond to Bend Parks & Recreation District.

Q. What environmental impact does the Mirror Pond maintenance project have on the area's flora and fauna?

Mirror Pond has been part of Bend for more than 100 years, and has established the environment that exists today. A deeper pond, without the current silt build-up, will lower the average temperature, reduce or eliminate undesirable odors, and continue to support the traditional flora and fauna that are part of the Mirror Pond ecosystem.

Q. How can individuals and businesses contribute?

Donations will be accepted through the Celebrate Bend Foundation. Donations can be made via PayPal at www.celebratebend.org or by mailing a check made out to Celebrate Bend Foundation with "MP Silt Removal" on the note line to The Celebrate Bend Foundation, 109 NW Greenwood, Suite 101, Bend, Oregon, 97703. Celebrate Bend Foundation is an IRS-approved 501(c)3 with EIN: 41-2127869. If the project is not fully committed to be executed by December 31, 2018, your payment will be refunded.

For further information, visit www.celebratebend.org or email michelle@celebratebend.org, Celebrate Bend Foundation, 109 NW Greenwood Ave., Suite 102, Bend, OR 97703, 501(c)3, EIN: 41-2127869.