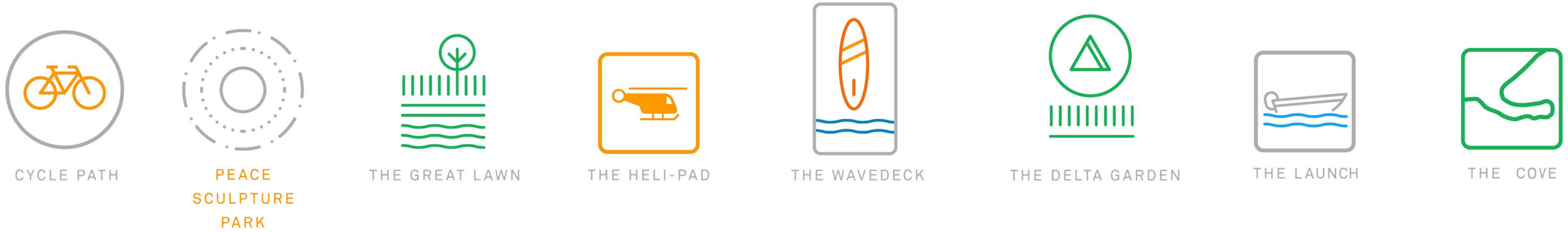
WEST EAU CLAIRE PARK



Public Open House #2
Wednesday, December 10, 2014 | 4 - 8 PM
Eau Claire Market, Centre Court

Project Summary

The City of Calgary, with O2 Planning + Design Inc., is developing a plan to enhance the West Eau Claire Park and adjacent public space. The plan will address the area along the Eau Claire Promenade from the Louise bridge (10th Street SW) to Eau Claire Plaza. It will identify a clear vision and principles to guide a public realm concept plan, and prioritize improvements. The current design concepts are based on the first two phases of investigation and design work combined with extensive public and stakeholder engagement.

Engagement Activities

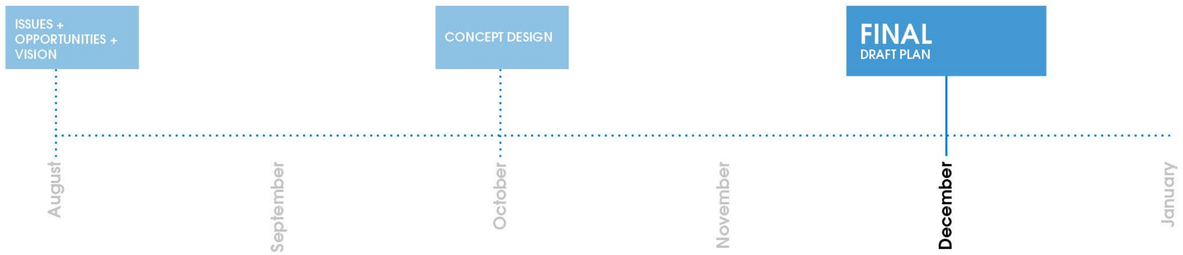
Online

The project webpage calgary.ca/westeauclaire provides information about the project and hosts the online map tool. The map tool allowed the project team to gain input on how you use the park, and your ideas for change. All display material presented at the open houses will also be posted online.

In Person

Open houses give you the chance to speak with Calgary Parks about the project. This is the second of two open houses scheduled for the project. At the first open house in October we presented initial design concepts that addressed the issues and opportunities that were identified through the project team's site analysis and extensive public input we received. We have also held meetings with the Eau Claire Community Association, adjacent property owners, and City of Calgary business units.

Project Schedule



In August, we asked you about what you like and don't like about the park. Your input will help generate design ideas.

In October, we presented initial park concepts, and asked you to confirm an overall design direction.

In December, we are presenting a draft plan for the park, and check back to ensure the plan is consistent with what you told us in October.

SAFE Design

SAFE Design is the first international environmental crime reduction certification program focused on achieving security through functional architectural and landscape design. The SAFE Design Council is committed to the quality, legitimacy and rigor of SAFE Design. The SAFE Design Assessment was used to examine four separate criteria for the Eau Claire Project. These four criteria are meant to cover all aspects of environmental crime prevention on the site. When these four criteria are properly met, the site should experience a lower risk of crime. These criteria include:

Access & Wayfinding

Access is a means of approaching, entering or exiting a space, and the natural limitations placed upon individuals to orient them through parts of a site. Wayfinding encompasses all of the methods by which individuals orients themselves in a physical space and navigates from one place to another. The assessment of Access & Wayfinding on site includes an examination of the site entry and exit points, legibility and controlled movement, signage and access.

Visibility & Natural Surveillance

Visibility and natural surveillance refer to the ability to see what is occurring within a given space. This is largely informal surveillance, in that, if a site is properly designed, passive observation will be facilitated. Natural surveillance refers to the placement of physical features and 'guardians' within a physical space to maximize the observation of social interactions within the space. The assessment includes an examination of visibility (lines of sight), entrapment areas, use of natural surveillance and proper illumination of the site, gathering spaces and circulation routes.

Security & Manufactured Surveillance

Security and manufactured surveillance refers to any man-made features that oversee, prevent or control movement. Though not all forms of security and manufactured surveillance are required for all site types, the assessment includes whether it is necessary to implement active forms of surveillance and placement of surveillance, which includes physical security, emergency assistance, controlled access technology and manufactured surveillance.

Maintenance & Operations

Maintenance and Operations is the way in which a site is monitored and maintained. Assessment of maintenance and operations was the final step in the assessment to ensure proper maintenance schedules and policies are followed in order to promote feelings of ownership and respect for the site by ensuring the site is clean and free of signs of vandalism and decay.

WHAT WE HEARD...

Circulation + Accessibility

you said...

Issues + Opportunities + Vision Phase

"Pathway is extremely busy through here. Separation, like on RiverWalk, for bicycles and walking is needed."

"Increase of cycle community means increase in bike traffic at peak times and congestion at Eau Claire."

"Balance of needs for pedestrians and cycling."

"Many desire lines run through here [south Peace Bridge access]. Additional pathways should be provided across the green space."

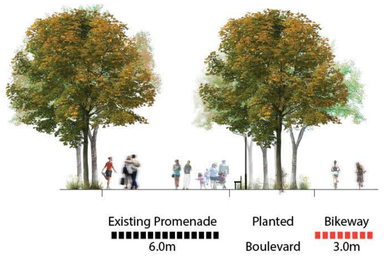
Concept Design Phase

"I like the bike and pedestrians separation that is proposed, however I would extend the separation West of 7th Street."

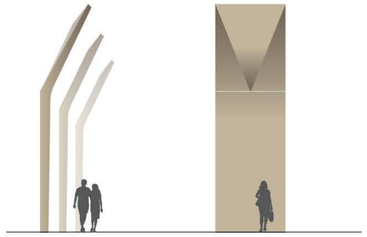
"The idea of intermittent separation with allowing pedestrians closer access to the river is ideal."

"I would not separate the current pathway. A new bike path moved much closer to residents at 500 and 400 Eau Claire is not desirable as it would bring more noise closer to many condo units."

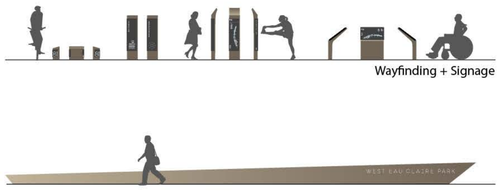
we envisioned...



Separated Circulation



Major Gateway



Gateways, Wayfinding + Signage

guiding principles...

1. Pedestrian and cyclist circulation will be clearly defined to ensure safe and effective movement throughout the park.
2. Where possible, pedestrian and cyclist circulation will be separated.
3. Additional pedestrian-oriented pathways will be provided to reduce congestion and enhance visitor experience.
4. The park will be accessible to those of varying ages and abilities.
5. Clearly legible and attractive wayfinding and signage will ensure visitor orientation and understanding.
6. Park entries will be identified and celebrated.

Maintenance + Safety

you said...

Issues + Opportunities + Vision Phase

"Lighting needs to be improved along the entire pathway for runners and commuters, especially in the winter when it gets dark early."

"This is a dangerous space – narrow pathways and poor lighting make this area popular with drug-users and the homeless."

"Seems to be a gathering area for the homeless. It can be pretty scary if you're on the path by yourself in the early morning and evenings, particularly during the winter. Better police presence or additional emergency call boxes would be appreciated."

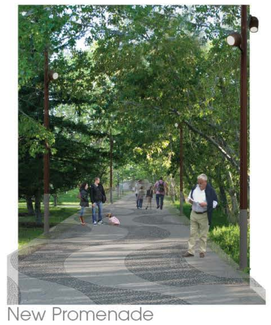
Concept Design Phase

"It is encouraging to see a greater focus on lighting. The best way to enhance safety is through opening up more spaces to more people, and this concept does that well."

"More lighting will help to make the path feel safer. Improving sight lines and reducing ice-build up will be good."

we envisioned...

Enhanced Lighting



New Promenade

Lagoon Access

River Views

guiding principles...

1. West Eau Claire Park will be a secure, safe and inviting environment.
2. Visibility and public safety must be considered when planting, lighting and maintaining vegetation and open spaces.
3. The Park must be economically and operationally sustainable. Designs will consider available resources, full life cycle costing, as well as long-term maintenance requirements.
4. Thoroughly maintain the Park to ensure the longevity of park elements and to reduce the incidence of crime.
5. Enhance lighting throughout the Park to ensure levels create a safe and welcoming environment.

WHAT WE HEARD...

Vegetation + Open Space

you said...

Issues + Opportunities + Vision Phase

"Nice natural setting in the inner city. Plenty of trees. An urban Oasis!"

"Green Space, it is an oasis in the middle of downtown. Really nice with the flower planters and trees"

"Vast expanses of grass, the natural trees and bushes which provide a buffer between the river and the bike path."

"I think the RiverWalk should be continued, but with more emphasis on preserving the natural riverbank."

"The trees and shrubs here both provide good bird habitat, so please do not clear the entire area out due to security concerns."

Concept Design Phase

"Love the great lawn area as a public space"

"Like that most of the green space will remain"

"Pictures how the great lawn as filled with deck chairs. Don't agree with this. Leave it open-currently young men come and play soccer. Early evening and weekends, see dads and kids out kicking a ball. We need space where people can get rid of energy"

we envisioned...

The Great Lawn

Perennial Gardens

Restoration of Riverbanks

Integrated Stormwater Management

guiding principles...

1. Maintain and protect healthy vegetation throughout the park to create green spaces that provide ecological benefits as well as aesthetic and recreational enjoyment.
2. Use vegetation and soft landscape to create the overarching sense of place and space.
3. Ensure riparian (riverside) vegetation is maintained for bank stability and habitat.
4. Use vegetation to enhance micro-climates in the park that support increased use.
5. Plant and maintain a diversity of species and age classes that create an enduring and sustainable urban forest.
6. Incorporate low impact development best practices to sustainably manage stormwater runoff and pollution.

Amenities

you said...

Issues + Opportunities + Vision Phase

"I'd appreciate more places to sit. Especially on weekends, seating is taken. In the shade preferably."

"Nice open space - allows people to use whenever and however they would like…lounging, playing with their kids, etc."

"As a resident, I think this should be maintained as open, flexible space, not cluttered up with work out space for downtown workers during their lunch hour. It should meet the needs of people that are in the area 7 days a week!"

"Provide amenities for river surfers and viewers (seats, change areas, board holders)"

"Create more restaurant/diner/cafe/pub patio space facing the river - like River Cafe, Boxwood, or San
Antonio's RiverWalk. […]"

Concept Design Phase

"The pathways and ped/seating areas are a nice mix of active and relaxed use. Public art provided for!"

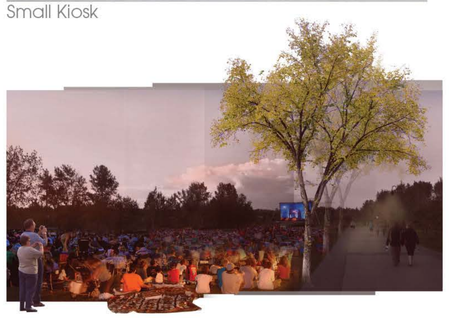
"Finally the south side of the Peace Bridge will look finished"

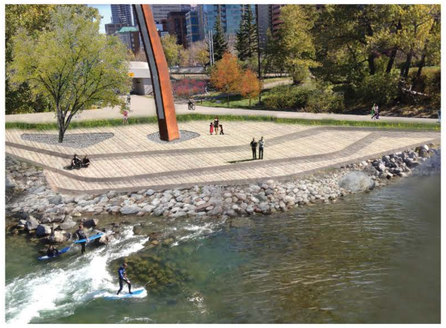
"Please incorporate space for a community garden for Eau Claire residents.[…]"

we envisioned...

Small Kiosk

The Cove

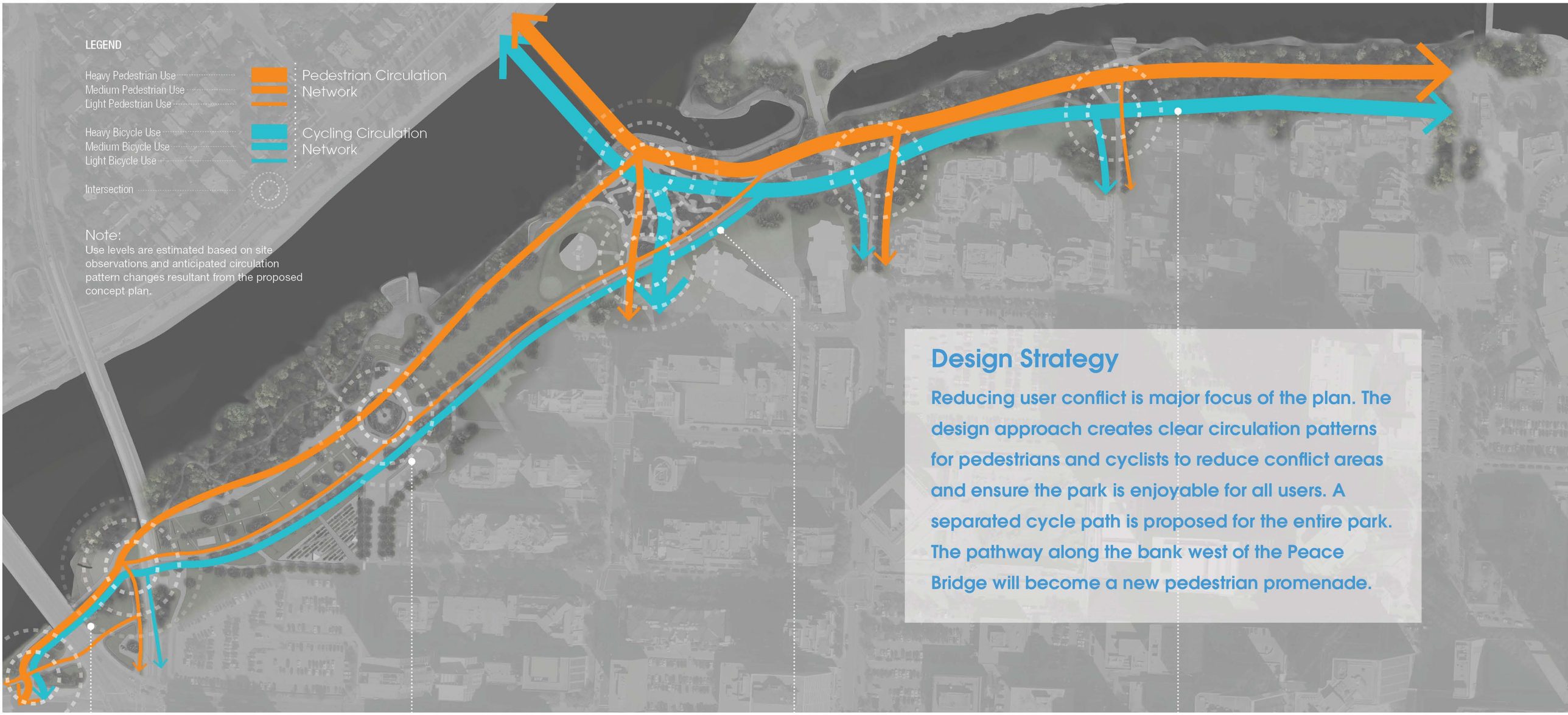

Evening Programming


The River Deck

guiding principles...

1. Provide high quality, well designed amenites and park elements that support desired public uses by a growing population.
2. Ensure that the needs of the local community are balanced with the desires of tourists and park visitors from throughout the city.
3. Ensure design continuity of hard and soft landscape elements.
4. Provide for a variety of uses for all ages and abilities.
5. Provide for use in all seasons and throughout the day and night.
6. Provide for wayfinding, information and education.
7. Provide for unique opportunities to engage with the Bow River.

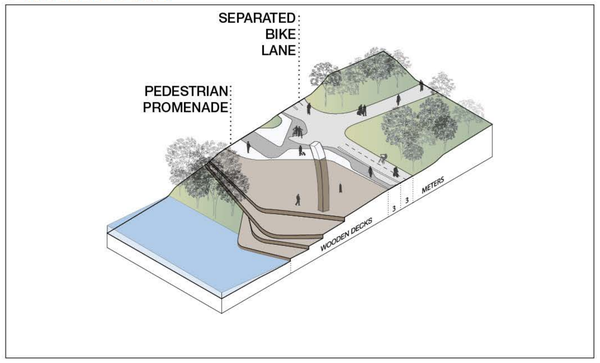
PROPOSED CIRCULATION



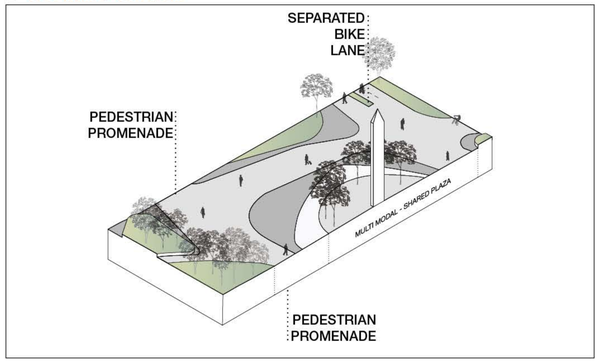
Design Strategy

Reducing user conflict is major focus of the plan. The design approach creates clear circulation patterns for pedestrians and cyclists to reduce conflict areas and ensure the park is enjoyable for all users. A separated cycle path is proposed for the entire park. The pathway along the bank west of the Peace Bridge will become a new pedestrian promenade.

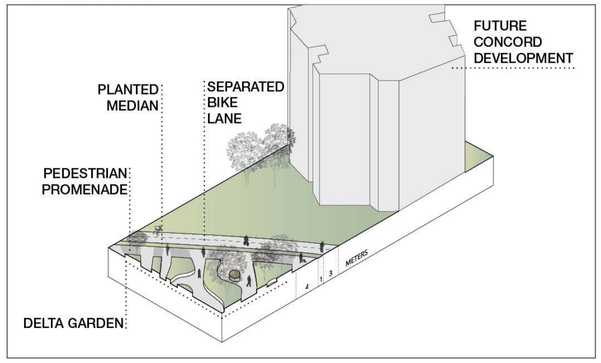
1 ROLLED CURB



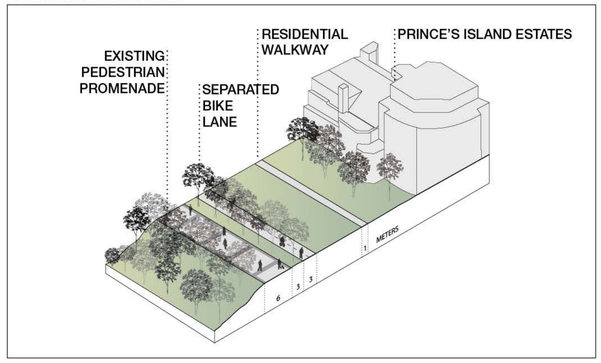
2 SHARED SPACE



3 NARROW DIVIDE



4 LARGE DIVIDE



WEST EAU CLAIRE PARK

CYCLE PATH

PEACE SCULPTURE PARK

THE GREAT LAWN

THE HELI-PAD

THE WAVEDECK

THE DELTA GARDEN

THE LAUNCH

THE COVE

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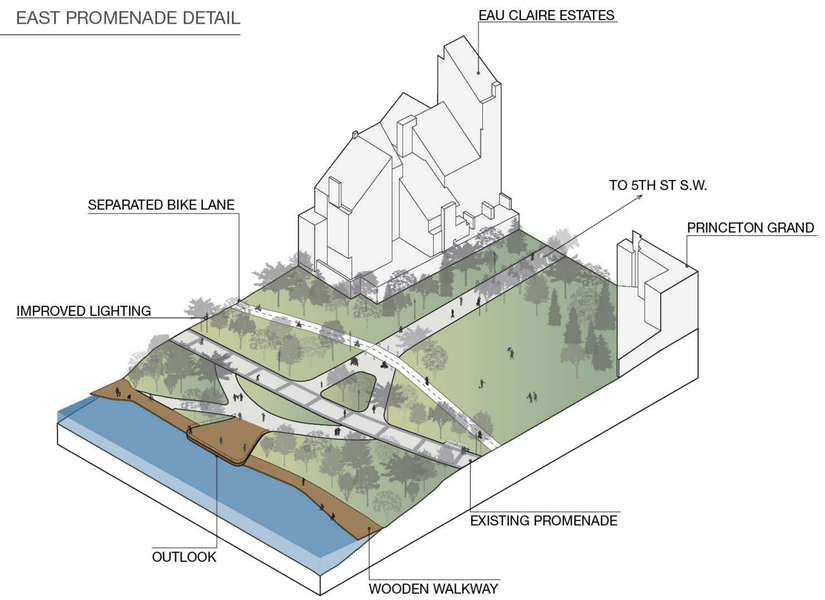
THE CITY OF CALGARY

PROPOSED PLAN - EAST END

East End Plan



Axonometric view of East End

A new boardwalk along the lagoon

Design Strategy

The east end of West Eau Claire Park is one the most picturesque public spaces in Calgary. The proposed design concept for this area will build upon the great qualities of this space and address the issues concerning circulation conflicts and safety.

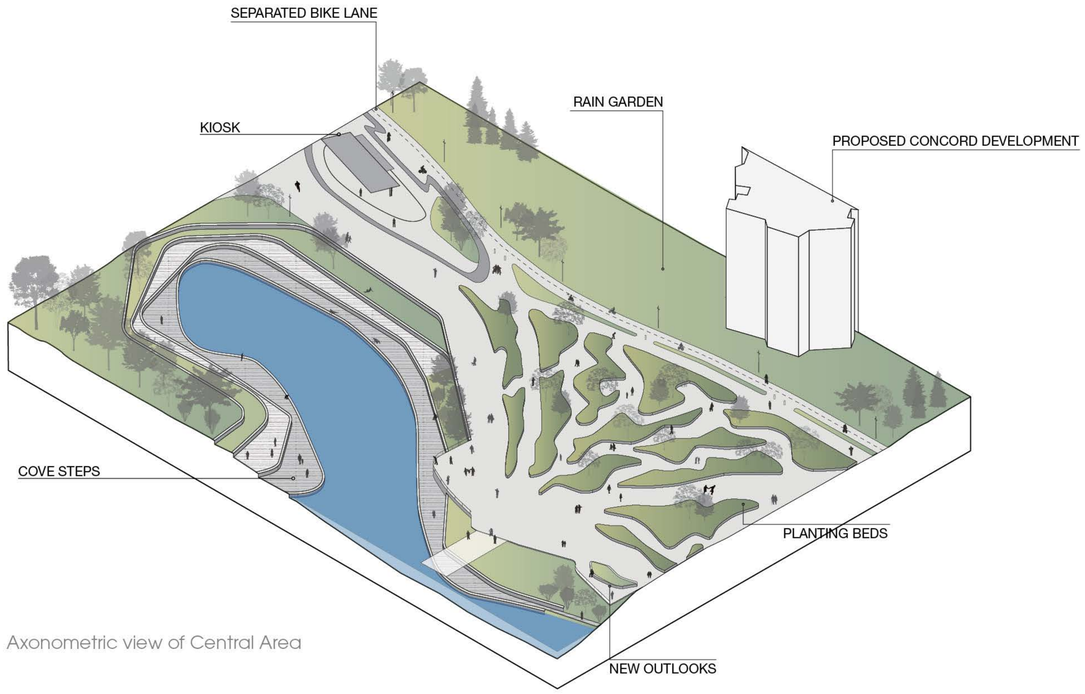
The main promenade will remain and become a pedestrian-only space. Cyclists will be directed to a cycle path located on the south side of the main promenade and separated by existing vegetation. Along the banks of the lagoon, a boardwalk will create a new walking experience with small gathering spaces and lighting. Pedestrian will be able to walk along the lagoon all the way to the Peace Bridge and use the boardwalk during the winter while skating. The lookout will be enhanced creating a larger gathering space with seating.

Vegetation along the bank of the lagoon will be pruned and managed to create better sightlines along the promenade. Lighting will be supplemented to increase levels for safety while ensuring light pollution does not impact adjacent residents. Tree planting will be enhanced to maintain a healthy urban canopy, define open spaces, and shape circulation patterns.

The gateway at 6th Street will be celebrated with entry features and signage. The park will help to manage stormwater by capturing and filtering runoff from the street before it reaches the river. Desire lines to 5th Street will be formalized, recognizing the importance of this connection to the future cycle track.

PROPOSED PLAN - CENTRAL

Central Area Plan



Axonometric view of Central Area

The Cove and Delta Garden

Design Strategy

The Peace Bridge has made the central area of West Eau Claire Park a major destination in the city. It is a complex space where commuters, cyclists, runners, pedestrians, and day users all come together. Managing this complexity while creating a public space commensurate with the significance of the Peace Bridge is the focus of the design concept.

The design is inspired by the form of a delta to manage pedestrian and cyclist movement while establishing a series of large and small gathering spaces. Conflict between user groups is managed through broad spaces and promenades that give cyclists clear access to cycle path connections. Pedestrians can stay to the perimeter of the space and filter into the Delta Garden at defined entry points.

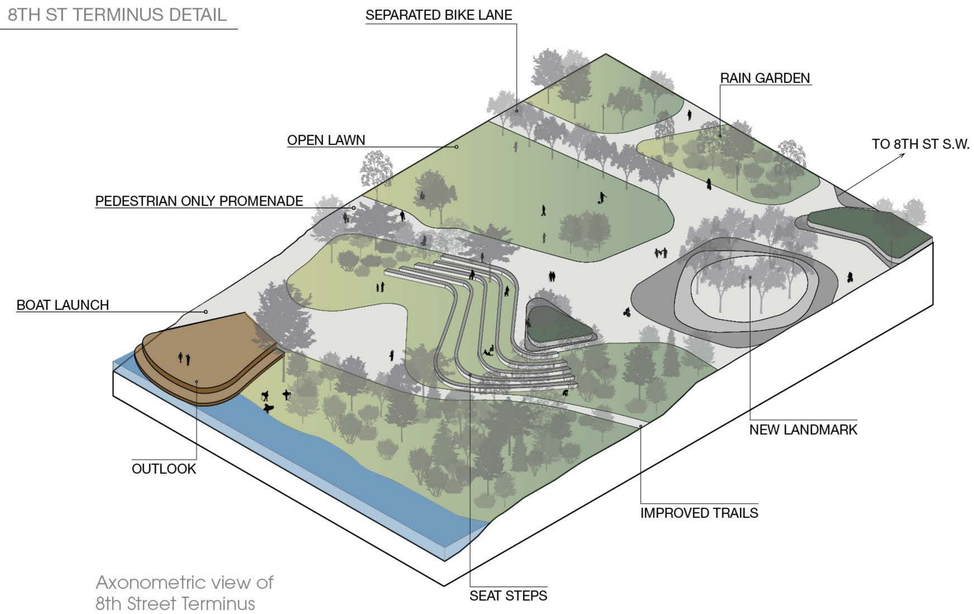
The Cove enhances the underutilized but highly valued space that wraps from the Peace Bridge around to the tip of Prince's Island. A series of terraces step down to the river providing access to the water's edge and places to lounge while looking out to the bridge.

A small kiosk will create a gathering hub and amenity for park users. Serving light snacks and beverages, the kiosk is envisioned to as a year round destination along the promenade that will enliven the space during the winter and shoulder seasons.

The pedestrian promenade will shift north, guiding pedestrians toward the Peace Bridge and along the river's edge with a new 6m wide promenade with enhanced lighting and sightlines. Cyclists will be separated from pedestrians along the existing pathway by vegetation and a rolled curb.

PROPOSED PLAN - WEST END

West End Plan



Axonometric view of 8th Street Terminus

The Launch creates a new gathering space along the river

Design Strategy

The west end of West Eau Claire Park will be enhanced to create a number of diverse public spaces, connecting and refining existing park elements and expanding park programming. Pedestrian and cyclist circulation remains separated through this zone, making circulation separated throughout the park. The main pedestrian promenade flows along the top of the bank with an expanded surface, adequate lighting, lookout points, and better sightlines the river.

8th Street is terminated with a plaza that connects the city with the river. Landscape terraces step down toward the Launch and orient views toward the Peace Bridge. The terraces open visibility into the natural area along the river.

Adjacent to the plaza, to the east, the Great Lawn stretches out and is defined with an urban row of elm trees on the south side and a natural groupings of poplars on the north. To the west is the Peace Sculpture Park, an open area with a framework of low walls and vegetation that define spaces for existing and new monuments and sculptures celebrating peace.

The lower, natural area will be pruned, a pathway defined, and picnic areas established. Lighting will enhance safety in the area. All elements will be designed to withstand and work with the yearly fluctuations of the river and flooding.

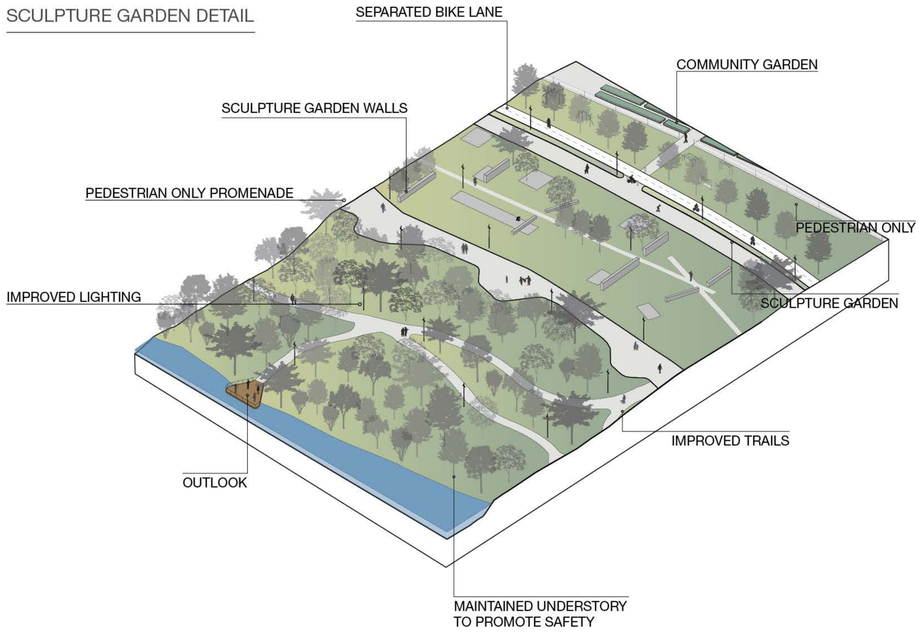
The River Deck will create a new gathering space near the river's edge with a series of stepped boardwalks.

A community garden and fitness stations are proposed for the open space adjacent the parking lot at 8th Street bring active and passive community spaces to the Park.

PROPOSED PLAN - WEST END

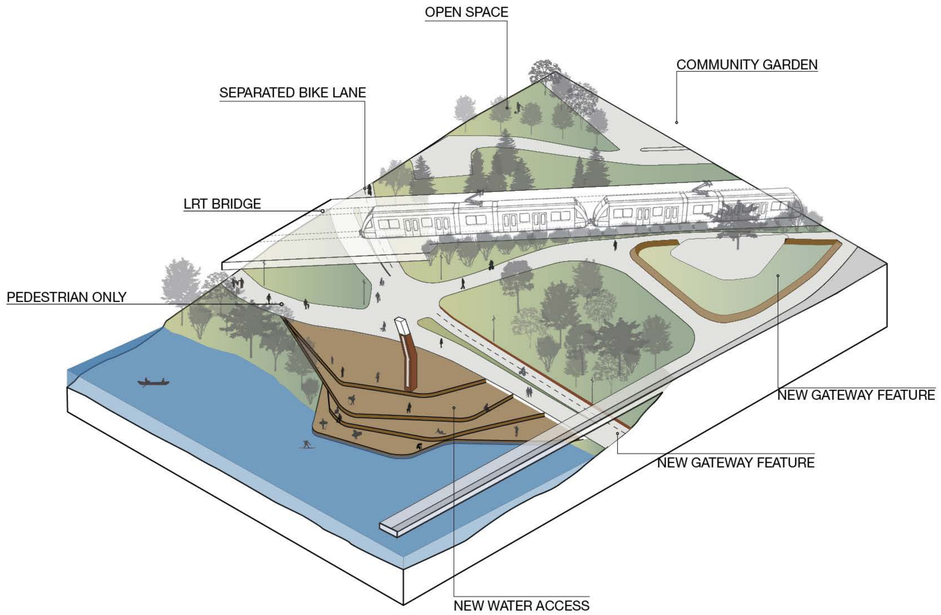
The Great Lawn

SCULPTURE GARDEN DETAIL



The River Deck

SURF DECKS & GATEWAY DETAIL



What Do You Think?

The City of Calgary wants to know what you think about how the plan has evolved and how it addresses the issues and opportunities raised throughout the planing process. We would like to know how you would prioritize implementation of the plan.

Please provide feedback by filling out a survey tonight or online, answering the following questions:

Final Draft Plan

On a scale of 1 to 5, how well does the final draft plan address the major issues, challenges, and opportunities facing the park:

1 RESOLVING PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLIST CIRCULATION CONFLICTS / CREATING LEGIBLE AND SAFE CIRCULATION NETWORK	1	2	3	4	5
2 PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF VEGETATION	1	2	3	4	5
3 IMPROVING SAFETY AND REDUCING CRIME IN THE PARK	1	2	3	4	5
4 ENHANCING AVAILABLE AMENITIES	1	2	3	4	5
5 PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE SAFELY WITH THE RIVER	1	2	3	4	5
6 BALANCE OF NATURE WITH URBAN AMENITIES	1	2	3	4	5

Implementation Priorities

Implementation priorities will be used to help the project team develop implementation recommendations. This input will be used as one of the decision making criteria's for recommendations that are put forth for implementation. It will help focus on implementing what is important as funding becomes available.

Please let us know how high or low a priority the implementation of the following proposed design elements are to you:

ELEMENT	PRIORITY	ELEMENT	PRIORITY
CYCLIST AND PEDESTRIAN SEPARATION	HIGH MED LOW	THE LAUNCH	HIGH MED LOW
NEW PEDESTRIAN PROMENADE	HIGH MED LOW	COMMUNITY GARDEN	HIGH MED LOW
DELTA GARDEN	HIGH MED LOW	PEACE SCULPTURE PARK	HIGH MED LOW
THE COVE	HIGH MED LOW	GATEWAY ELEMENTS	HIGH MED LOW
KIOSK	HIGH MED LOW	LIGHTING AND SIGHTLINE ENHANCEMENTS	HIGH MED LOW
LAGOON BOARDWALK	HIGH MED LOW	RIVER DECK	HIGH MED LOW

There are several different ways to provide your feedback. We will collect feedback until **December 24, 2014.**

COMMENT FORM — Complete a comment form tonight, and hand it to one of the project team members.

ONLINE — Visit calgary.ca/westeauclaire to review the display material, and fill out a survey.

IN PERSON — Speak to a project team member tonight, and let us know what you think.

NEXT STEPS

Through December and January, we will be preparing the final West Eau Claire Park + Public Realm Plan. Your feedback will be incorporated into the final plan document which will be used to generate support for implementation. Please check the project website for updates.

THANK YOU