

River Park/ Sandy Beach/ Britannia Slopes

FAQs: Combined Park Management and Design Development Plan

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What is going to happen in 2011?

Following the 2009 public input process, The City of Calgary received requests to extend the public consultation process on a draft plan for River Park, Sandy Beach and Britannia Slopes.

The direction Parks received from City Council in May 2010 was to conduct another round of public consultation to include the perspectives of a broader range of interested Calgarians. Essentially, Parks is taking a step back from the drafting a plan to gather more input from the public. In the spring, Parks will draft a new revised plan and post it on the project web site (www.calgary.ca/riverpark) for further public review.

This next round of public consultation is open to all Calgarians and original key stakeholders who wish to participate. The input received from this next phase will be combined with the valuable input received during the 2009 key stakeholder and public consultation process.

The project web site will be updated regularly so that all citizens will be able to stay up to date on the progress of the project and view summaries of the public meetings over the coming months.

Future public engagement activities will focus on building consensus on topics of interest and identify solutions. Moderated online discussions are also planned.

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What will happen with all the feedback provided by stakeholders in 2009?

The framework for this second phase of public engagement in 2011 will build on the information gathered from stakeholders and the public during 2009.

In 2009, The City of Calgary engaged a key stakeholders group comprised of representatives from 18 external organizations and six internal City of Calgary business units.

In addition to two key stakeholder workshops, a public open house and online survey were also used to gather public input.

I was a stakeholder in the 2009 public engagement. Can I still participate?

Yes. The next phase of public engagement will be open and accessible to all members of the public. There will be multiple opportunities for input and comment to ensure that all interested citizens will have an opportunity to provide input. To stay up-to-date on the project and opportunities to provide your input, please visit www.calgary.ca/riverpark.

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What is a Combined Park Management and Design Development Plan? Why is one needed?

The purpose of a combined plan is to address current problems and work towards the long-term preservation of this regional park. Once public and expert input is gathered, the plan describes the physical improvements to the landscape and infrastructure of the park that need upgrades or replacement and introduces new infrastructure that may be required.

This popular regional park is a unique mix of recreational uses and physical character. Users perceive the park differently and have different interests, aspirations and concerns.

In June 2007, the River Park Steering Committee, a group of various stakeholders, presented a memo to Parks including recommendations for short-term maintenance and long-term planning to address physical issues and user conflicts in this river valley park.

When would the final, approved Combined Park Management and Design Development Plan be implemented?

This project is still in its early stages. As with a potentially large project like this, it could take years before all the funding is obtained and any construction would begin.

Gathering public input and drafting a plan is the first step in a process before any development or changes would take place in the park. The next step would be presenting the plan to Council for approval. If approved, the project would be considered by Council for future budget allocations.

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What is happening with the off-leash areas?

The regional park currently has designated off-leash areas at River Park and Britannia Slopes. The designated off-leash areas are extremely popular, however user conflicts do exist, such as with off-leash dogs and pathway users and off-leash area users and local residents.

The City of Calgary Parks will be reporting on a draft Off-Leash Area Management Plan to Council's Standing Policy Committee on Community & Protective Services on February 2, 2011. The administrative document is intended to provide Parks staff with consistent, citywide guidelines for operating off-leash areas. Once finalized, the plan will guide future decision making on current and future off-leash areas in Calgary (including designation changes for current off-leash areas).

Parks has posted the draft Off-leash Area Management Plan on-line for stakeholder review. Citizens can find the most recent off-leash information at: www.calgary.ca/offleash.

Why are you doing a management plan for River Park, Sandy Beach and Britannia Slopes at the same time?

In June 2007, the River Park Steering Committee, a group of various stakeholders, presented a memo to Parks including recommendations for short-term maintenance and long-term planning to address physical issues and user conflicts in River Park, which borders other parks along the river valley.

Recognizing issues of overuse and deterioration are also faced within Sandy Beach and Britannia Slopes, a decision was made by The City of Calgary to perform a comprehensive planning exercise that would respond to the management and design needs of the park as a regional and contiguous open space park system.

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What is happening with Glenmore Athletic Park?

The City of Calgary Recreation is currently in the concept plan phase for the proposed revitalization of Foothills and Glenmore Athletic Park. The City of Calgary Recreation is planning further public engagement on this project in early 2011. As with the River Park/Sandy Beach/Britannia Slopes plan, both of these projects are aimed at better accommodating current and future demand for these popular public spaces. For more details on this project, please click on "Related Links" found on www.calgary.ca/riverpark.

What is happening with the 50 Avenue Local Area Plan?

Building on the work completed to date, the community associations and The City of Calgary are in the process of producing a Local Area Plan (LAP). LAPs are policy plans for local geographic areas that provide guidance for future decisions related to land use, urban form and mobility issues. The study area for the Local Area Plan (LAP) study includes the communities of Britannia, Elboya and Windsor Park. Over the next year or so, The City of Calgary will be exploring creative options for future growth of the 50 Avenue SW Corridor. Your input will be a key part of the planning process. For more details on this project, please click on "Related Links" found on: www.calgary.ca/riverpark.