

## **River Park/ Sandy Beach/ Britannia Slopes**

### FAQs #2: Combined Park Management and Design Development Plan

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## **What is the objective of this project?**

The City of Calgary's objective with the combined management and design development plan for River Park, Sandy Beach and Britannia Slopes is to ensure the park is healthy, enjoyable and sustainable for current users and future generations.

At the present, there are numerous issues and opinions on solutions to the issues being identified by a wide variety of stakeholders. The goal of the 2011 public consultation process is to gather a public input on the issues most concerning to the public, and what possible solutions would be most acceptable.

The City is committed to a transparent process by collecting public input and reporting back to the public at each stage of the public consultation process before a draft park plan is presented to Council.

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## **What will the management plan include?**

The purpose of a management plan is to establish strategies for the protection and enhancement of all public parkland within the study area. The content of draft strategies proposed for this management plan will depend on the issues and solutions identified by the public over the coming months as well as those identified by stakeholders in 2009.

In other words, it's too early to be specific about what potential park management solutions will be addressed in the draft management plan.

Please participate in the public meetings and/or online discussions planned over the coming months to ensure your concerns and ideas are heard.

To help you foresee what issues and potential strategies may be covered in the draft management plan, Parks will be reporting on the results of each stage of the 2011 consultation process. A draft management and design development plan will also be posted online for public review in May 2011. As well, stakeholder input results from 2009 are on the project's [Background Information](#) web site.

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## **What happened to the concept plan presented to the public in 2009?**

Parks would like to emphasize that there is no management and design development plan at this stage. The park management and design development plan developed in 2009 no longer exists.

Parks was directed by Council to take a step back and gather additional input from a broader range of the general public. Once The City of Calgary Parks gathers that input from citizens over the coming months, a draft plan will be written and shared with the public in May 2011.

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## **What is the timeline for the project?**

The City of Calgary Parks has been directed by Council to provide a draft plan to the Standing Policy Committee for Community & Protective Services on June 29, 2011.

Public consultation will take place from February to May. All citizens are welcome to participate. Events will include workshops as well as moderated online discussions.

Once a draft plan is ready in May 2011, it will be posted for public review on the project web site at: [www.calgary.ca/riverpark](http://www.calgary.ca/riverpark).

The [presentation](#) from the recent Jan. 19 and 27 introductory session provides a summary of what has happened to date and the next phase of public consultation.

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## **Can the timeline be extended?**

The City of Calgary Parks is following the direction it was given by Council to provide a park plan to the Standing Policy Committee for Community & Protective Services no later than July 2011. The closest committee meeting to that deadline is June 29, 2011. There are no committee meetings in July or August. The timing of the process is also designed to be respectful of people's time and ensure this project is considered for funding in the next three year City of Calgary budget cycle (2012-14).

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## **What is an Open Space Workshop?**

In the "Open Space Workshop" participants will be able to discuss issues that are of most interest to them. After participants identify which issues will be discussed they then decide which small group discussions to participate in spending as much time as they wish in any group. An open space workshop will take place on Saturday, Feb. 12, at 1:30 p.m. at Temple B'nai Tikvah, 900 - 47 Ave. SW.

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## **When will the online consultation start?**

Moderated online discussions are planned for March 1 to 12 (for issues identification) and early April (solutions). Please revisit the project [web site](#) for the exact dates once they are confirmed. The online discussions will allow citizens who are unable or not interested in attending the Feb. 12 workshop to provide their input from the comfort of their own home and over several days if they wish.

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## **What is a World Cafe? When is it?**

The objective of this meeting is to have citizens work together on developing solutions and finding middle ground on issues. A World Cafe is a meeting process featuring a series of simultaneous conversations to pre-determined questions. These questions will be developed through the Open Space Workshop and online forum.

The World Cafe will take place on March 19 (time and location to be confirmed). If you are unable to attend this event, you will also have an opportunity to provide input during a moderated online discussion taking place over several days in April. Please revisit the project [web site](#) for the exact dates of the World Cafe and online discussion once they are confirmed.

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## **Who are the stakeholders? Will the residents living close to the park have more say than other stakeholders?**

The stakeholders for the 2011 public consultation process are members of the public. Any citizen is welcome to take part and provide input on this regional park. All public input gathered during the 2011 public consultation process will be equally considered. As well, anyone who took part in the public consultations during 2009 is welcome to take part as a member of the public.

The City of Calgary Parks is tracking the communities that participants are from to ensure that residents living closest to park are participating as well as other park users from across the region. As well, roadside signage will be used to promote input opportunities in these neighbourhoods and in and around the regional park at various stages in the public consultation process.

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## **I'm concerned about expansion of parking lots. Why was that considered in 2009?**

The lack of parking, its impact on adjacent street parking and illegal parking (i.e. parking on grass and blocking emergency vehicle access to the park) during peak usage periods has been identified as an issue in the park. Parking issues were identified by the River Park Working Group (a citizens coalition that approached The City of Calgary in 2007 to address numerous concerns in the park) as well as in 2009 by various stakeholders, including residents living close to the park.

The solutions presented in 2009 by The City of Calgary Parks to increase parking lots on both sides of the regional park was proposed to address current demands for parking (during peak periods). This solution was opposed by other stakeholders, including residents living close to the proposed parking lots on both sides of the park for various reasons including increased traffic and loss of green space.

The City of Calgary hopes that a solution to parking concerns can be identified by public participants during the 2011 public consultation process.

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## **The park is being overused. What will The City of Calgary do to limit access to the park?**

The City of Calgary Parks does not generally limit public access to public parkland. Calgary's parks are for all citizens to enjoy. The exceptions to this philosophy is when there is a public safety risk or environmentally threatened area.

To address issues of overuse, park management strategies are employed. What the potential strategies could be for River Park, Sandy Beach and Britannia Slopes will be influenced by the public input on issues and solutions gathered over the coming months.

As this input is gathered over the coming months, it will be reported back to the public on the project web site. As well, in May 2011, The City of Calgary Parks will post a draft management and design development plan for public review and comment.

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## **Is Alberta Fish & Wildlife a stakeholder?**

In 2009, O2 Planning and Design consulted representatives from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Alberta Sustainable Resources Development (Alberta Fish & Wildlife is part of this department). Specifically, information was provided on the Trout Red Inventory and Riparian Health

Inventory. A summary of this work is included on page 23 of the [Park Description](#). This information is included on the project's [Background Information](#) web site. In 2009, the project's stakeholder group also included representation from Cows and Fish (a non-profit society also known as the Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society), the River Valleys Committee, Nature Calgary and the Stanley Park to Glenmore Dam Preservation Society.

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## **How was the January information sessions promoted?**

In November 2010, flyers promoting the 2011 public consultation process were delivered to 8,040 residences in the following communities surrounding the regional park: Bellaire, Mayfair, Windsor Park, Britannia, Elboya, Elbow Park, Roxboro, Rideau Park, South Calgary, Altadore, North Glenmore Park, Meadowlark Park, Park Hill/Stanley Park, Garrison Woods.

The City of Calgary will promote the 2011 public consultation process through low-cost/high-impact methods such as bold signs, event posters, media coverage and social media (Twitter, Face Book, City web site, e-mail). Newspaper advertising is very costly and often not as effective for public engagement events as bold (road side) signs.

The City of Calgary is also encouraging community members to share information (bulletin boards, community associations, social networks, etc.). If you think there is someone who doesn't know about this project, please invite them. As well, if you have not done so already, please provide your e-mail address so that you can receive direct updates on this project and the public input opportunities.

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## **I don't have a computer or e-mail, how can I take part?**

Public workshops are included throughout the engagement process for people without computers to provide feedback. Information on upcoming events can be obtained by calling 3-1-1. The City of Calgary has made project background information binders available at the Calgary Public Library's Alexander Calhoun Branch (3223 - 14 ST NW) and Central Library Branch (616 Macleod Trail SW). These binders contain the same information included on the project's [Background Information](#) web site.

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