

Park Sustainability + Maintenance



Recommendations

Build Stewardship

- > Work with existing volunteers, stakeholders and stewardship organizations to create an "Adopt-a-Park" organization for the entire park that can enhance the sustainability of the park through education and hands-on activities.

Provide adequate maintenance to sustain the park.

- > Perform an annual assessment of specific regular maintenance and specialized maintenance requirements.
- > Establish a servicing schedule for parking lots and garbage receptacles. Increase service in high-use areas and peak summer weekends as needed.
- > Repair fences at the top of escarpments promptly.
- > Direct maintenance vehicles to remain on surfaced roads and pathways, and minimize use of soft surface trails.
- > Fill and regrade low spots where standing water collects.

Provide a healthier landscape in River Park.

- > Undertake a turf restoration demonstration project in the irrigated area of River Park to test methods to sustain turf in a high-use off-leash area.
- > Test options for soil amendment, aeration, reseeding, fertilization, irrigation and periods of rest and restoration.
- > Expand successful turf restoration methods and irrigation to remainder of the River Park off-leash area.
- > Consider opportunities to capture and reuse stormwater for irrigation.
- > Avoid irrigation within 30 metres of the top of the escarpment discourage slope instability.
- > If possible, any recently planted trees and shrubs in River Park should be moved to landscape clusters as shown in the Design Development Plan. Any new tree and shrub planting should also be planted in landscape clusters.

Key Features

- 1 Tree Planting – Plant new or move recently planted trees in clustered locations within the Manicured Zone to form Living Fences and frame significant views
- 2 Dog Waste Disposal – Screen with landscaping and provide extra container near parking lot
- 3 Naturalized Grass Buffer – unmown, non-irrigated grass

See other display boards for additional recommendations related to Park Sustainability + Maintenance.

Rationale

Parks acknowledges that maintaining healthy turf in the River Park off-leash area is a major challenge. Off-leash dog use is especially hard on turf because claws dig deep while dogs are running and turning quickly. Many in the community suggested the use of native grasses would be more durable, but landscape experts point out that native grasses, which evolved under considerably different conditions, will not stand up to off-leash use. Thus turf would be maintained using methods similar to sports fields: seeding with non-native grasses, lots of soil amendments, aeration, fertilization, frequent irrigation and periodic, partial closures for rest and restoration of turf. The Draft Plan proposes a demonstration project to test methods to maintain healthy turf, trees and shrubs in the River Park off-leash area. The results of the demonstration projects will be evaluated to determine if these methods can be expanded to the whole of the River Park off-leash area, and how this may affect public expectations for similar restoration in other off-leash areas.

