

**River Park | Sandy Beach | Britannia Slopes Phase 2**  
**Open Space Workshop: February 12, 2011 – 1:30 to 4:30 pm**  
**Temple B'nai Tikvah – 900 47 Ave. SW**

**Group 5**

**Issue:**

**Park Sustainability**

- **Park sustainability is in question, as a natural or urban park**
- **Health and sustainability of this park should be the #1 priority – it is more about the park than about us**
- **Preservation of natural space (reserve)**
- **Restoration, access, sustainability**
- **Keep natural vs. more development (water park, concession)**
- **Overarching objective for the parks a) keep it as natural as possible  
b) urbanize the park**

**Discussion Group Flip Chart notes:**

- Definition of sustainability
- Natural vs. urban
- Levels of use/number of people
- Native grasses – preserve
- Reduce erosion
- No mowing in more natural areas
- Natural might mean bison trampling, gopher holes
  - bison use is seasonal, dog use is 365 days/year
- Preserve natural habitat, vegetation, river banks
- How to replace what is damaged by human use
- Defining area people can use
  - Improving signage to reduce erosion
- Maintenance
- Erosion of banks by dogs/ people/ water flow
- Sustaining the cultivated areas as well
- Nature vs. natural
- What does “natural environment park” prescribe
- No new recreational elements
- No paved paths
- No new features unrelated to preservation
- How to deal with flat part of River Park
- Degradation due to off leash
- Rotate off leash use through different areas
- Like what they do in New York & other cities
- Limit use of natural environment parks and encourage in other parks
  - Open new park space
- City is proposing to increase # of off leash areas in Calgary
- Have rotating off leash use within park
- Off leash use contributing to degradation – will opening entire park to off leash worsen this?
- 50<sup>th</sup> Ave. to 45<sup>th</sup> Ave. has worst degradation
- North of 45<sup>th</sup> Ave. isn't as bad

- Ok to walk through on leash to get to off leash area?
- Surrounding developments using park contributes to environmental degradation
- Leased area could be freed up as valuable green space
- Areas of heavy use relate to parking
- Dog droppings left in park is a problem
- Others said they have observed dog walkers picking up – not enough is being removed
- Regulate professional dog walkers in park
- Erosion of river bank due to dam not being dredged
- Also being caused by human use
- Better management of dam needed
- Concern about erosion on flat area of River Park because of reduced vegetation
- Need grass more tolerant of high traffic
- Hard to limit # of people?
  - Increased parking doesn't help
- Idea of levy on new development to pay for management of park
- Issue with regional status of park
- Problem of concentrating use in park despite other green/ open space in area
- Follow all of The City's policies regarding green space
- Issue of weeds replacing vegetation that has been degraded
- Dog urine and feces of great quantity at River Park is creating unhealthy soil chemistry
- Dog compaction of soil and claw action destroys turf
- Dog compaction and urine around base of trees kills roots of trees
- Over use with dog walkers with 8-12 dogs: dogs create more erosion because of lack of supervision and sheer numbers
- Protective fencing has helped – temporary or long term
- Rotating off leash 1/3 of park
  - Difficult to control
  - Fencing/ Bylaw Enforcement
- Idea of fencing area around pathway for off leash
- Concentrating use in one area may worsen degradation
- Parks to conduct density study for Altadore to determine future use/ pressure?
- Designate sufficient park space in new communities such as Currie Barracks
- New vegetation should be planted according to plan – don't plant new trees/ shrubs until a plan is in place
- "Park calming" measures
  - Reduce parking
  - Similar to measure to control traffic in Elbow Park
  - Restrict commercial dog walking
  - No parking zones on 14A St.
  - If you build it (parking) they will come
- Consider a resident group to work with Parks – oversight & input on design process
- Improve transparency & buy-in by residents
- Reduce mistrust
- Enforcement should be increased re: dog use

Post-it note:

No off leash areas. The dogs travel in packs. One cannot identify the owner of the dog that has pooped & no one has picked up the dog dirt. Sorry dog lovers, but a few sloppy owners have spoilt it for the rest of you. River Park STINKS in the summer.