

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 7

Issue: Encouraging responsible use of the park space by users; overuse / abuse of escarpment trails; how can different users share the park?

Discussion Group Flip Chart notes:

Defining the topic

Responsible sharing of park uses

- Dog waste bags (in IKEA container) maintained
- Multi-stream waste recycling

What is responsible use?

- Infrastructural use

Topic of group: Encouraging responsible use of space by park users

Who are the users?

1. Off leash walkers
2. Walking
3. Cyclists
4. Commuters
5. Tobogganing
6. Running
7. Rafters
8. Picnickers
9. Partiers (booze)
10. Day camps
11. Swimming (?)
12. Fishing
13. Playground
14. Commercial boot camp for fitness
15. Cross-country running and events
16. Commercial dog wading
17. Dog schools (obedience)
18. Passive / non-organized sports
19. Naturalists

What is responsible use?

- Keep sustainability of park in forefront
- No damaging uses
- Individual vs. institutional management
 - (Big 'M' management by City)
 - Can only do so much
- Things like:
 - No riparian activities
 - No littering

- Picking up for yourself
- Obeying bylaws
- Respecting rules
- Using the right area E.g. dogs on leash in right areas
- Like Calgary Transit info signs
- Awareness signage
- Proper signage
- Info signs E.g. C-train posters, to identify impactful actions (negative and positive)
- Dog off leash area – safety issues with kids, don't go to those areas
- Keep animals in control in right area
- Bylaw enforcement is key, not enough self regulation
- Some discussions on whether people are responsible users and how bylaw can empower users.
- The issue of patrols?
 - Volunteer?
 - Budget for City?
 - Citizen advocates educate other users – through engagement.
 - How to get Bylaw on site when users violate bylaw
 - Requires visible boundaries and signage
- Cyclists and dogs
 - Not many in River Park
 - In other areas there are improper pathways to allow both dogs and bikes
 - Cyclists go around River Park have to go on street to avoid dogs
 - Missing link of bike path
 - Compounded by traffic (esp. for families)
 - Southland Park is not a good example
 - River Park should address user conflict, but not cut up the park into pieces
- Path next to street along 14A St. for cyclists
 - May conflict with parking of off leash dog users
 - Enter by on leash pathway - is the street wide enough?
- No fences along pathway
- Signage in park is not sufficient in size and number to indicate off-leash / on-leash and bike path rules.

Back to education (combined information with bylaw enforcement)

- Signage is key
- Is that considered “infrastructure?”
- Also increase awareness of area by creating appreciation - creates respect
- Snow fence around water foundation
- Slough at south end near parking lot
- City maintenance and citizen ownership
- Bylaw enforcement
 - Cycling on River Park gravel path - is it allowed? If not, sign it.
- Who is responsible for knowing / educating users?
 - Both individual and City to support Bylaw Enforcement
 - Signs to highlight areas
- Park rangers / ambassadors program
 - Bring them back
 - Formal study and users to understand user group interests

- Slope users and pathway signage for closures
 - Signs disappear and can't be maintained / enforced
- Adopt-a-park empowers users to self police.
- Elboya students - restoring nature encourages ownership
- City does not allow users to improve park without approval
 - Implement program to allow users to maintain and improve
 - Let the people that care, care for the park
- Naturalist program – City and volunteers
 - Learn about nature
- Trees: adapted to environmental conditions
 - Slough drains by wet trees
 - Slope reinforcement
 - Then sign it
- Non-mowing and volunteer trees
 - Requires re-seeding and encourage tree regeneration
 - How do users protect park in natural areas?
 - Citizens observed degradation for decades (beavers in 1980s)

How to resolve expectations for all users?

- How to communicate and encourage
- User fees (\$25)
- Attractive information signage
- Donation box
- Bylaw enforcement
- Park ambassador
- Adopt-a-park
- Educating young people
- Naturalists
- Appropriate vegetation / healthy landscape encourages respect (broken windows theory)