

**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**

## **Topic Development**

### **Part 1 - Issue Cards Grouped for discussions**

Water Quality – pollution of Elbow River; Riparian Health  
Vegetation – erosion of Sandy Beach & area banks  
Britannia Slopes and top paths; Impact of dogs on river and riparian areas  
Rafting  
Stewardship

#### **Off Leash**

- Maintaining off leash
  - No new facilities
  - Education / occasional bylaw presence
  - Bring back volunteer programs
  - Issues with process
  - Issues with Phase 1
  - Original surveys were slanted (extending survey when responses were not what project team wanted?)
  - No consideration of other recreational use within a park or on hill
- Athletic park impact on River Park
- Expansion of off leash area
- Preserving and managing off leash in Regional Park
- Improving alternate off leash areas to reduce pressure
- Off leash areas built in suburbs
- Reduction of off leash area
- Consider other lands / recreational facilities in area

#### **Pathways and Safety**

- Pathways
  - Regional
  - Local
- Improve pathway for pleasure of cyclists and walkers
- No fencing in the park; pedestrians priority over cyclists
  - No concrete pavement over natural grassland
  - No pathways behind house
  - No cutting down trees for cyclists

Sandy Beach is my community green space. Should other people who come from their communities with their own green space have an equal voice to mine? As a local resident, I am impacted by their use of this space.

- Impact of park use on surrounding communities.

#### **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, or
  - b) urbanize the park

#### Traffic and Parking

- Connectivity - paths and parking lots should not be built along property lines of private residences - safety issues and invasion of privacy will result
- Residential traffic & parking

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

Safe places for children to play in the park; safety for children and adults.

#### Part 2 - Ungrouped issues not discussed

- Density in the park
- Building for peak usage
- Building unnecessary structure in nature park E.g. lookout areas, paved paths
- Process – should we consider appointing an oversight committee (made up of residents surrounding the park) that would have direct access to Parks & O2 to ensure the comments of today are reflected in the final plan
- How do we know that when a decision is made, our input will be taken into account? Will there be an independent member to report back on the process?
- Lack of Bylaw enforcement (not enough)
- City Parks department's accountability to the voting public
  - Transparency of Parks Policy to communities
  - Transparency of Parks relationship and discussion with local Councillors
  - Transparency in how Parks take direction and who it answers to
- “End Game”
  - Funding
  - Budget (capital)
  - Councillor Pincott
  - Committee
  - Council (8/15)
- Significance & honouring of Harvie donation (bequeath) of River Park
- Does the combining of three parks to one park dilute adjacent community wishes? If the 1<sup>st</sup> plan is on the shelf, why is O2 planning here today? They were resistant to change.
- What is the framework that we have to fit into? I.e. wildlife, natural spaces, traffic, waste management, human rights, conflict reductions, etc.
- Can other off leash areas have lights at night, etc., to draw users to those areas and decrease overuse with ours?
- What does natural area naturalization mean?
- Issue – re-vegetation regime
- Issue – prioritization of urgent issues & relationship to Parks budgets

- Do we want to pave over existing natural land for parking lots?
- Don't change natural environment park into urban recreational park
- Natural park policy says if overuse, provide additional new park space for Calgarians
- Importance of environmental policies as paramount over human use/overuse (Natural Environment, Imagine Calgary, Triple Bottom Line, open space, PlanIt policy, other relevant policies)
- River bank
- Preserve wild spaces over increasing pathways
- Sustainability of grass & trees in park
- Parking on 14A St.
- On leash and off leash areas
- How can we keep the park, river & slopes as natural as possible and yet establish restrictive measures to decrease erosion
- How do we educate users? Rafters, bikers on/off trails, teenagers making camps
- Issue – cyclist/pedestrian conflict between Riverdale Ave. parking lot & pedestrian foot bridge
- Let's ensure that proper traffic and parking studies are completed for this process
- Parking on 14A St.
- Inappropriate to access a regional park by way of small residential street (Riverdale Ave.)
- Open access for all public users
- Do we really want to invite ¾ of population of Calgary to bring dogs to our park?
- Drag racing on 50<sup>th</sup> Ave. as result of drunk drivers from Sandy Beach
  - Implementing round-about or speed bumps on 50<sup>th</sup> Ave. does not decrease traffic
- Safety – ice on paths; gravel path lighting
- Rafting
- Issue – dogs running free on Sandy Beach & other on leash areas
- Poor signage for on leash areas
- Rotating off leash areas within River Park