

River Park | Sandy Beach | Britannia Slopes Consultation Phase 2
World Café Workshop
March 19, 2011 – 9:30 am to 1:30 pm
Windsor Park Community Association – 5304 6 St. SW

Environment & Park Sustainability – Verbatim notes

Section A

Group A1

Flip Chart Notes A1

- Don't cut grass as short on west side from power lines or use tougher grass (native grass).
- Set of rules
 - Enforcement / passive controls
 - Education / fencing
 - Seasonal restrictions
 - Nesting
 - Brood times
 - Full study of wildlife
- Eliminating dogs for four years to encourage repopulation of wildlife
 - Segregate dogs and other activities after conducting a study of wildlife, biodiversity, natural functioning
 - Snow fence areas that need re-growth to protect areas that would be assisted with "re-naturalization," e.g. plantings (grasses, trees, shrubs, native species)
 - Address natural ground water flows
- Maintenance
- No stairs and no pavement
- Expectation by the City for developers to provide green space, including off leash in all future development plans and re-development
 - Reduce the severe impacts on existing natural area parks
- Willingness to invest in park management, maintenance
 - Be proactive rather than reactive

Map A1

- Circle around natural area in Britannia Slopes, "rehabilitate back to natural state," "nesting owls," "no dogs for four years."
- There's a number of circled "Ps" on the map indicating areas that need rehabilitation. "4-year rehabilitation with snow fences."
- Repair the stairs. Gravel landing areas on stairs. Erosion control around the stairs. Shorten the distance between the risers on the stairs.
- No dogs for four years – arrows showing River Park upper area.
- Tougher grass, no mow – circled on the River Park upper area.

Group A2

Flip Chart Notes A2

- Signage
 - Educate on reclamation, why fences are there
 - Language used on signs should be educational
 - Don't over sign though
 - More interpretive style signs
- Close park at 11 p.m.
 - Sign at both ends of the park
- Reclaim areas using techniques similar to farming
 - Conduct an environmental study / assessment from a sustainability perspective
 - Recommendations
- Nature takes precedent over people / need to look at developing other parks
- Investigate YMCA lease
 - When does it expire?
 - Why don't we open it up as more park space? More sharing of that space?
- Need to gain an understanding of utilization of the park
- Peak parking relates to rafters
 - Need to control rafting through the development of a management plan
 - Not more parking
 - No boat launch
 - No urbanization
- Park ambassadors are needed
 - Enforcement
- Suggestions benefit all users
 - Users are attracted to the park because it's natural
- More formal / safe paths on Britannia Slopes, in limited numbers
 - Use non-slippery material
- Prioritize
 - Protect river, river valley and banks
 - No off-leash on banks
 - No professional dog walkers
 - Maintenance plan
 - First priority is reclamation
 - Prevent erosion of banks and slopes
 - Natural erosion ok
 - Bring back park ambassadors
 - Replanting
 - Better control water release from the dam
 - Post fines for not picking up after dog or having a bag
 - Enforcement

Map A2

- Discreet, clear signs -- \$500 (?) fine for not picking up after dog, \$250 for not having a bag – signs in parking lots
- River must be protected
- Return of park ambassadors to aid enforcement

- No boat launch, no viewing structures
- Signage, not over signage, that educates the public and keeps them moving through the park.
 - Inform people of the sensitive habitat (e.g. fish spawning, etc.)
 - They may take more care in the park and its sustainability
- Close the park at 11 p.m. until 5 a.m. with gates like other parks
- Do not increase accessibility, e.g. no increase in parking
- Add bike racks at edge of parking lot
- No off-leash along riverbank
- No new structures
- Replanting to maintain greenery (Britannia Slopes)
- Natural erosion ok – control outflows as required

Group A3

Flip Chart Notes A3

- Have less off-leash area
- Steepest areas of slopes should have restricted access, may be fences but fences should not restrict view from benches
- Crestview Road path – improve material and reduce steepness
- Path with steps, fix risers and use a different material so its not muddy
- Britannia Slopes paved path running down the slope – pavement needs to be restored. Make it a desirable pathway so people don't make other pathways on the slope.
- Determine what areas are off-leash and rotate for reclamation
- Controlled access down to the river, down the banks
- No dogs or only on-leash dogs in the river valley
- More enforcement
- Increase maintenance of off-leash areas
- Create more off-leash areas throughout the City. Rotate use for reclamation
- Better, more interpretive signage
- Make decision as to where the off-leash areas are going to be
- City needs to have developers provide off-leash areas in new developments

Map A3

- Control / designate access to river. Protect / rehab riparian zone – arrows drawn to show where (Britannia Slopes)
 - No dogs or on-leash
- Off-leash area in River Park – reduce and/ or rotate off-leash area. Line drawn to show where a fence should be placed
- Increase maintenance of off-leash area
- On-leash area – protect waterway
- Access path dangerous – improve grade of path and material used
- Protect and rehabilitate river banks
- Steepest areas need to be restricted or minimized

Group A4

Flip Chart Notes A4

- Priorities:
 - River
 - River valley
 - Slopes
 - All should be on-leash areas
- Look at planting some white spruce
- Manage geo-caching activities in sensitive areas
 - Regulation and policy needs to catch up to these new activities
 - Look at what and how the federal government is regulating these activities
- Plant grasses that withstand high use
- Better communication online and signage about other off-leash opportunities

Map A4

- Communicate vs. regulate
- \$
- River Park – 70% on leash on escarpment, chain link fence, two sided fenced area
30% of River Park for off leash
- Area marked on north part of River Park, “used to be garter snake hibernaculum.”
- River, river valley, slopes make on-leash
- Two areas circled along river valley on River Park side, “hard landscaping?”
- Geo-caching presents an unregulated and growing use of park. Should be restricted in sensitive parks.

Group A5

Flip Chart Notes A5

- Well maintained path on Britannia slopes
 - Once paths are muddy, people walk on either side of the path causing erosion
 - Proper gravel path with timbers lining the path
 - Paved path allows everyone access
 - Usable year round
- Slopes need to be a priority for restoration
 - Limit access
- Increase education / interpretive type signage
- Appeal to people’s sense of respect / consciousness
- Priorities:
 1. Maintenance, includes erosion of slopes
 2. Communication / education, includes signage, helping people understand the impact of their activities on the environment / choices, park ambassadors can provide positive encounters, keep signage fresh (e.g. seasonal), increase knowledge and respect of area through history of the park
- Park name, should there be one name for the park instead of three?

Map A5

- Positive reinforcement of good behaviours!
- Increase plantings of natural grasses and plants on River Park side.
- Add signage to educate users on why some plants are there, highlight natural features and reasons for including them
- Increase maintenance of River Park.
 - More watering
 - Increased path work on all areas
 - Reduce impact on slopes
 - Increased vegetation on slopes and areas to protect water tables
 - Ambassador program
 - Bylaw blitz
- What about a boardwalk in sensitive areas?
- More resources to support what is already being done or is already in place. “M” management and maintenance.
- Better maintain the fence along the slope to stop dogs going to the other side. Use better maintenance. (River Park side.)
- Provide proper maintained pathway (Britannia Slopes side)
 - Will limit random wear of escarpment
 - Erosion on Britannia Slopes needs to be addressed

Section B

Group B1

Flip Chart Notes B1

- Access shouldn't be unfettered
- Planting
- Get creative by hard paving some pathways / walkways to better regulated foot traffic and better preserve green spaces
 - Focus foot traffic on some pathways / walkways and away from others
- City must enforce off-leash / on-leash rules better

Map B1

- Needs seeding / greenery maintenance – areas noted in River Park escarpment
- Hard path / sidewalk – area noted on River Park escarpment
- Bike lane on 14th street
- Other sidewalks and bike lanes are noted for Britannia Slopes

Group B2

Flip Chart Notes B2

- Invasive species need to be managed better
- Restore native plants

Map B2

- Behavior change
 - Need more education

- Ecosystems
 - Natural management
 - Schools are a good place to start
 - Adopt a park / ambassador programs
- Consider moving non-natural areas outside of park and restoring here
- Contain traffic (runner / dog / bike) to repair stairs and paths on slope escarpment
- Limit to two paths on escarpment (Britannia Slopes)
 - Permeable surfaces
- Off-leash area in River Park “needs improved irrigation”
 - Use plants to reduce run-off and bacteria / nitrogen
 - Limit erosion
 - Use drought resistant plantings / where possible (River Park)
 - Consider different turf grasses (e.g. fescue)
- Priority
 1. River
 2. No dogs off-leash in river valley (on-leash only)
 3. Constructed wetland
 - a. Restoring natural pond
 - b. Daylight stream / skinny creek
 4. Address problem of invasive species – restore

Group B3

Flip Chart Notes B3

- Control erosion of slopes by restricting old deteriorated pathways and augmenting key pathways with real wooden stairs
- Measures to control K9 areas – rotating off-leash and on-leash areas. River Park is safer now than it was 30 years ago because of the presence of people walking dogs. But volume of dogs has put serious pressure on the park.
- Interpretive signage (like Fish Creek) to educate park users on the park ecology - flora and fauna
- Communicate the message that it is an ecologically sensitive area

Map B3

- Priorities
 1. Erosion protection, escarpments
 2. Foot traffic management
 3. Enforcement
- Interpretive signs to help educate people about sensitive areas
- Consider rotating off-leash areas to allow re-growth
- Find hardy, drought resistant ground cover native to area
- Improve waste management infrastructure
- Improve River Park pathways, main and escarpment edge
- No dog zone to protect creek – denoted north end of River Park
- Repair / replace old suspension bridge
- Restore the old stairs (Rive Park escarpment)
- Real stairs controls erosion (Britannia Slopes)

- Control erosion – safe for seniors and kids. Sustainable, compactable material. Restore pathway – Britannia Slopes side.

Group B4

Flip Chart Notes B4

- Britannia Slopes denote one or two paths better to encourage traffic on them, and discourage it on others.

Map B4

- Priorities
 - 1) No additional parking
 - a. Enforcement!
 - 2) Foot traffic control
 - a. Fencing (permanent)
 - b. Pathway dedication and improvement/maintenance
 - 3) Restoration and maintenance
 - a. Seeding for dog park
 - b. Signage, erosion control, temporary fences

Rotating Off-Leash areas – Enforcement!

Say what you are trying to protect on signs – tell people why they shouldn't

Green marker

- (Sandy Beach) – organize parking lot
- (River Park) –
 - Irrigation
 - Seeding
 - Restoration
 - Temporary Fence off
 - Rotation (crop like)
 - New wire, more permanent
 - Limit stop access
- Britannia – fence, limit use
 - Restoration efforts – Britannia Slopes
 - One path
 - Compactable
 - New material c/w maintenance
 - Limit spray, spread aggregate
 - Temporary fencing duration restoration
 - Signs keep on pathways
- Some areas drainage into sanitary sewer system
- More off leash areas elsewhere
- Consider on leash river valley (low)
- Maintenance
- Awareness
- Enforcement

- Limit & control use
 - No additional parking
 - Permit parking only on streets

Blue marker

- On leash enforcement (also bike speed)
- Single access dock and path – rafter
- Maintenance more temporary fencing - keep more
- More signs and enforcement on leash
- More wire trees – protect from beavers
- More garbage bins (on concrete pads) (River Park)

Group B5

Flip Chart Notes B5

- If a particular path / area is severely degraded, close it off for a period of reclamation.

Map B5

- Priority list
 - Maintenance of slopes (River Park side)
- Signage – explain why you are asking people not to do something
 - Say the species you are trying to protect to get buy-in
- Have rotating closures of small sections to allow recovery (re-seeding, etc.)
- Makeshift commuter path needs to be looked at (denoted on north side of River Park)
- More resilient fencing, but not higher, denoted for along River Park slope
 - Improve erosion control
 - Needs seeding
 - Needs fixing