

River Park, Sandy Beach & Britannia Slopes

Open Space Workshop – March 19, 2011

Feedback Form Responses

1. Do you feel you had the opportunity to share your thoughts and opinions?

- Yes (21)
- Just part of my opinions because there are time restrictions.
- Pretty much, except for the initial environment & sustainability group, which was highly inefficient. Dominated by A type personalities & several loud conversations going on simultaneously.
- I am very appreciative of the opportunity to share my thoughts & hear the views, sometimes contrasting, of others.
- Yes, but of course, some people are more forceful than others, so mostly their ideas were discussed.
- Ample opportunity.
- Mostly. Felt a lot of people showed up with their own single idea, and were fairly single minded on some topics.

2. What did you like about this session?

- Respectful dialogue
- The opportunity to point out that River Park flat area and Altadore are being overused by off leash and the community has too much “off leash” vehicle traffic. Reduce the off leash area of River Park flat area to 30%.
- I liked the small discussion groups.
- There actually was some very civil, solution seeking conversations.
- Small groups were great & the momentum – keeping people moving among groups were very well done! Venue was great.
- Overall organization. Ability to participate in 5 topics – small groups.
- Sharing ideas with passionate & interesting people.
- Much more interactive in small groups.
- Time & opportunity to express concerns.

- Length was perfect as was process.
- Opportunity to speak.
- Reasonable discussion aiming at finding solutions.
- Session was more constructive than Feb 12/2011. Facilitators were good at keeping discussions on track.
- Frank, open, friendly discussion well thought out format – rapidly covered by key areas. Very effective facilitation. Good props to work with. Liked that experts were listening in on groups.
- Maps helped to focus & illustrate ideas.
- I felt people were really respectful of each other. Much less conflict than I expected.
- Smaller groups better participation, more give and take (sharing ideas, challenging ideas) more positive and less dominated by interest groups. Also – great participation by parks, water, etc.
- Lots of discussion & good points.
- Very, very good.
- More detailed discussions.
- Well organized.
- Brainstorming, reaching some consensus.
- Everyone was able to be heard – respectful.
- That rotating people to different topics enables everyone to contribute & possibly learn about other users & topics.

3. What could be done differently?

- Extend the time.
- I think it went well.
- Facilitators need to be more proactive in monitoring conversations & effectively covering topics.
- Perhaps putting a sign at each station that was used today listing the “top 5” items – not bottoms – as a result of all the input to date (I realize some of the questions incorporated these issues). But I would like to have confirmed we are using all that public input.
- Quonset Room too noisy! - Maps should have had more specific existing use/info e.g. dog group – existing off leash areas highlighted.
Pathways group –existing formal & informal trails.

Environmental – existing irrigated area & prairie grass vs. thickly vegetated.

- Sometimes difficult to hear in main room with five simultaneous groups.
- More sessions so that a “proper” sample of the stakeholder is ensured.
- I would make the city officials wear event T-shirts to show that they are not participants but subject matter experts.
- More sessions ‘proper’ sample could be here.
- More hard facts presented. E.g. what is the scientific evidence of water degradation?
- More time!!
- Nothing.
- Perhaps a little more time for each session?
- Maintenance. Preservation.
- Questions were sometimes too complex and hard to understand.
- Nothing. It was facilitated brilliantly! It becomes what the contributions are.

4. Would you participate in this type of session again?

- Yes (23)

5. Do you have any additional comments?

- **Just the same thing again:**
- No added facilities/amenities. Use education/signage (post signs to indicate use/behaviour. Have Bylaw presence. Allow Dog Ambassadors and Park Ranger volunteers to off-set city’s resources. More maintenance (grass cutting/watering).
- Upon listening to the summary comments from the group leaders, they were completely and totally biased in favour of leash for River Park flat area. I found these summaries to completely mislead the group as to a bias in favour of off leash.
- I learned some really valuable information today! Well managed! Thank you.
- Main concern is how broad solutions discussed today translate to implement action plans. I.e. limit access or separate trail use does not mean do it with fencing! We do not want park carved up with fencing. Also – signage – we need it but not if it detracts from park experience/visuals....” signs...signs...everywhere a sign...”
- Consider plans for River Park in context of other parks in the greater region (Glenmore, Weaselhead, etc.) Looking forward to the plan evolution! Couldn’t

find a category for this comment: 1. Upgrade the Sandy Beach washrooms so they are available year round, BUT they must be cleaned & maintained properly. Add a hound-hitch outside, please.

- I did not hear any facilitator mention a single thing that was discussed at any of my "tables". Seems pretty odd, especially some of our comments were strongly agreed with by all, those at the table.
- I hope that the concerns are "heard" and that the "city" does not march on with a development that will not make the users happy and may overload the parks to the tipping point. At every table I heard discussion about parking – no increase or limited increase, yet only 1 facilitator brought up this topic. Also sustainability by limiting use, or at least not encouraging more use was not discussed by any facilitator. Please be careful to not encourage overuse!
- I am looking to see everyone's opinion on a park plan. It is clear that everyone wants a management plan not a "development plan".
- River Park is heavily used. More off-leash parks necessary.
- The process seems to be progressing at a fast pace that hopefully doesn't compromise the solutions. Enforcement seems to be a common theme throughout all of these different group discussions. Why has there not been a rep from bylaw enforcement present to explain their position in the past, the present & going forward?!!
- Thanks to everyone who made this happen.
- Please do something. I have volunteered too much of my time & energy to see this get shelved!! No phase 3. To do nothing about River Park is to condemn it to a slow ugly death. Please.
- I appreciated the opportunity to participate in all five topics.
- Waiting for additional plans from the city on off leash.
- Well organized.
- We hope we are being heard.
- Thanks for all the work and time put into the process.
- Didn't feel that the question of dog ownership was appropriate for the sign in process of the online discussion. No other users were segregated with a single question.