

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

Pathways & Trails – Verbatim Notes

Section A

Group A1

Flip Chart Notes A1

- Parking
 - “Helter skelter”
 - Leads to protection of environment
 - Mark - better for consistent use
- Structure of trail
 - Mud pathway tends to expand trail
- Right-of-way
 - Humans should have right-of-way over animals and bikes
- Desire lines
 - Connectivity
 - Lead anywhere?
 - Serve a function?
 - Cost benefit – money to build so rationalize
- Impact on environment
 - Erosion
- Safety
 - Separate pathways and parking lot compounds undesirable behaviour
- Disabled access for river pathway
- Primary (River Valley) and secondary paths (along escarpments along River Park and Britannia side) through the park
 - Tertiary (informal pathways) goat trails
 - Doggie lane
- Sensitive to park entrances near residents
- Users
 - Disabled users
 - Pedestrians
 - Bicycles
 - Community users: non-community users main entrances
 - Riverdale
 - Flats
 - Pathway down the hill
 - Improve blind corners

Map A1

- Primary multi-use routes marked in green dotted line winds from edge of reservoir around athletic park down to Sandy Beach parking area back up to River Park across bridge to Riverdale Ave.
- Parking indicated in brown at:

- Corner of 50th and 14A St.
- Sandy Beach
- Near Riverdale entrance to park
- Purple line: acknowledge that cyclist cut through at an angle from 14A St. to 38 Ave. and 11 St.

Group A2

Flip Chart Notes A2

- Step path from River Park to river #1
 - Please take dogs off leash, so they will not be pulled down steep, icy slope
 - Dog owners should not use this path
 - Paving the path will attract cyclists
- Restoration and Rehabilitation #2
- Do not increase infrastructure in order to increase use
- Bike path off of 14A St.
 - Not conducive to family use
 - Sensitive to loading and unloading on park side
- Traffic moving to the side of the path is exasperating erosion
- Closure of some “desire lines” for two to three years to rehabilitate the area (Britannia Slopes)

Map A2

- Upper Britannia area crossed with brown marker indicates potential close off to rehabilitate from braiding
- Area marked in green on River Park indicating stepped path down to river needs TLC
- Transition area noted at corner of 14A St. and 50 Ave. SW
- Teal line at valley level of north west edge of Britannia indicates path needs to be widened from bridge and there is a note indicating braiding problem on west side of this bridge

Group A3

Flip Chart Notes A3

- Pathway maintenance in winter #1
- Recognize commuter versus recreational bike travel
- Access for seniors
 - Formal path down from Britannia Slopes to valley

Map A3

- Park ambassadors are a good idea!
- Not too many paths
- Do not urbanize park
- Purple dotted line between Crestview Road and 14A St. says acknowledge this use and make it safe

- Area between Lansdowne and Britannia noted that it is important to leave this wildlife corridor untouched!
- North end of upper Britannia noted that informal trails through woods is very nice
 - Charming and work well
 - But protect from dog overuse
- Areas marked in brown on Britannia Slopes south end leading to river
 - Formalize a bit more for safety (particularly seniors) and reclaim large portions of slope around it. But still keep this natural
 - Note on west side of bridge to formalize path / stairs (not paving) and add railings (wood)
 - With some stairs wooden and handrails for seniors going down hill
 - Signage that slope is being rehabilitated
- Upper Britannia area marked in green next to road noted as:
 - Dangerous in melt/freezing months
 - Maybe not paved?
 - But! Paved is good for accessibility and family biking
- Along Britannia Drive past Crescent Blvd. noted to keep the ridge informal walkway – line is marked in purple
- Parking area entrance at 50 Ave. and 14A St.

Group A4

Flip Chart Notes A4

- Two or three safe paths, well spaced out, down from Britannia Slopes
 - Three may be too many
- Signage
 - Educate about why it is important to use paths

Map A4

- Put signs in parking lots asking people to please use pathways
- General comments
 - Pavement is slippery
 - Maintenance of pathway
 - Restrict time with gates at entrances and close park at 11 p.m.
- Area in green on west side of river towards 14A St. noted as:
 - Restrict areas during sensitive times
- Area along slope edge on River Park / Sandy Beach
 - Blue indicates: trench and fence to keep dogs from going down
 - Fuchsia indicates: like the beauty of this informal path, if a new fence added maintain view and character
- Path east of 14A Street note in green indicates: lights here are good but not along ridge
- Parking area drawn in brown on 50 Ave. just east of 14A St.
- Dotted purple line all along 14A St. with note: could move bike route off-street but concerned about off-loading user conflicts
- Parking and signage noted at north corner of Sandy Beach (in brown)
- Britannia side
 - Brown area at south end and down slope noted a need for wooden stairs with railing

- Maintain formal pathways
- Should be some access points plus signage with “use paths only”
- North end area in blue noted as: like this informal trail system but put dogs on leash
- Parking lot noted in brown at north end with signage

Group A5

Flip Chart Notes A5

- Signage on trails / pathways that identify X kilometers to next off-leash area
- Signage in parking lot identify nearby off-leash areas (in addition to River Park)

Map A5

- Note south of 50 Ave. and west of river
 - Creeping wider
- Area mid-way on 14A St. but at slope side marked with “more usable and safe”
- No paved pathways on River Park or Britannia Slopes
- Maintain paths as gravel and erosion
- The trail needs seasonal repair
- Keep paths informal
- Better natural pathways would encourage path use
- Paving might help with erosion control (especially given numbers)

Section B

Group B1

Flip Chart Notes B1

- Post guidelines for users
 - Legible signs (ensure signs are clear – ex. Current on- and off-leash signs are too similar) – FIRST PRIORITY
- Bylaw presence
 - Word spreads about following rules – SECOND PRIORITY
 - Cyclists don’t obey speed limit or dismount on bridge
- Never pave pathways
 - Fits more with the park (natural)
 - Use other compacting substances (like those used in provincial parks) such as limestone
- Reinstate Dog Ambassador and Park Ranger volunteer programs – THIRD PRIORITY
 - Helps offset resources
 - It’s a presence
 - Vests make a difference
- Trail maintenance and stairs
 - Need maintenance, especially the ‘Black Path’ by Lansdowne and the stairs going from River Park down to Sandy Beach

Map B1

- Education! Post signs as other cities do
 - Respectful use
 - Share
 - Educate
 - Responsibility lies with users
- Keep trail in middle of River Park dog park as a trail (gravel)
- Path used by bikes on east side of 14A St. needs better signage
- No additional pathway along Lansdowne and Riverdale Avenues

Group B2

Flip Chart Notes B2

- Parallel walking/bike paths or dedicated lanes (twinning) – not everyone in the group supports this
- No fencing
- Cyclists not dismounting (stagger gates at entrances to bridges suggested)
- Improvements to bridge
- Maintain pathways as they are

Map B2

- City needs to clarify what paths vs. trails means (trails, pathways, etc.) – leads to confusion
- Eliminate desire lines along Britannia Slopes
- Re-engineer entrance to park at Crestview
- Eliminate desire lines at north end of River Park dog park
- Require safe, sustainable path from north end of Britannia Slopes into valley
- Create bike path along top of Britannia Slopes
- Along east side of 14A St., make a priority bike/cyclist path (although this was noted as a conflict area between pedestrians and dog owners because dogs can jump out of cars onto people) and to east of that, create a pedestrian priority pathway that goes around the entire park. Along the slope edge, create traffic calming to ensure the path is not high speed
- For trail through centre of dog park, make a sidewalk, meaning paved or other medium because the current path is eroding
- Create esplanade heading east along 50th Avenue east of Britannia
- Signage at south end of dog park needs to be bigger, at eye level. Also needs to be clear that southeast of dog park is an on-leash area (the area between the two off-leash areas)

Group B3

Flip Chart Notes B3

- Paved paths or other composite preferred to prevent further path degradation
- Provide controlled, safe access
- Very important tool for passive control of users – people, dogs, cyclists, rollerblades, etc. - to give users good experiences without or with minimum natural functionality disturbances
- Reduce braiding and destructive desire lines
- Design to avoid or minimize disruption of ground water flows and wildlife habitats
- Need to invest in pathway design maintenance and management (studies, new ideas)
- Need to police the pathway rules
- Finding new and better balance between access and nature
- Build in pathway controls for seasonal restorations and events
 - Nesting and brood months – ground nesters
 - Flood and other reasons to restrict
- Safety of paths
 - Erosion and large rocks
- Aggregate on trails not good for dog paws and can be bumpy (anything >7mm) (referring to non-slip aggregate in asphalt)
 - Fort Calgary aggregate is good
- Decrease natural hazards (ice, mud, stagnant water) to prevent further erosion
- Drainage an issue (pathways used as drainage – impassable by pedestrians)

Map B3

- Safety of paths
 - Erosion and large rocks
- Aggregate on trails not good for dog paws and can be bumpy (anything >7mm) (referring to non-slip aggregate in asphalt)
 - Fort Calgary aggregate is good
- Decrease natural hazards (ice, mud, stagnant water) to prevent further erosion
- Drainage an issue (pathways used as drainage – impassable by pedestrians)
- Eliminate stagnant water typical locations along path in centre of dog park; re-grade for better drainage
 - Standing water erosion at fountain
- Log shed - fence required between shed and other fence to limit access
- Maintain paths within dog park
- Maintain/fix train from dog park down to river
- Install fences along Britannia Slope escarpment to limit access
- Erosion on top of Britannia Slopes and the Slopes
- Properly engineered trail – paved access with proper maintenance and drainage for people with strollers

- There was some debate as to whether the beach area along the east side of the river should be on- or off-leash
 - Tons of erosion; create one or two maintained paths to the river; possibly make on leash
- Maintain Black Path
- No path behind Lansdowne (security/safety)

Group B4

No separate flip chart notes

Map B4

- Keep pavement out of park
- Bylaw – no warnings/zero tolerance
 - Weekends in spring and summer need lots of presence
- Restore/rotate/maintain – FIRST PRIORITY
- Steep trail from Britannia Slopes to the valley: close off with vegetation; rest for a few years – fence off (FIRST PRIORITY)
- No new path along Britannia Slopes (behind Lansdowne) (PRIORITY 1A)
- Garbage can in lake near parking lot by Riverdale Avenue. Fix! (SECOND PRIORITY)
- 15th Street be a designated bike lane! (THIRD PRIORITY) “Transit corridor” – this is a commuter path not a bicycle path! Too fast! Dangerous!
- Stairs from Dog Park to river (railway ties) should be taken out. Dangerous. Another solution. (THIRD PRIORITY)
- Rotate use of dirt pathways (FOURTH PRIORITY)
- Fix pathways – big gravel is not the answer – mulch??? Pea gravel may be an option
- Enforcement. Enforcement very important
- Public access to Camp Riveredge to take pressure off the park
- Garbage in mud in dog park - fix

Group B5

No separate flip chart notes

Map B5

- Educational signage to mark sensitive areas and history of area
- Address path condition and railing heights
- Upgrade and maintain existing pathways
- Provide historical and interpretive signage on pathways
- Repair/restore stairs from Britannia Slopes to river
 - Slope management, erosion control, railings (one handrail at a good height!), change rise/run for safety

- Restore and maintain pathways along top of Britannia bluff – make it stable for seniors but do not encourage bike riding
- Maintain long Britannia bluff path with compactable, porous material (not concrete, not slippery for seniors' safety) and also prevent "cyclist runaway"
- Bridge across river should have stagger gates to force dismounting
- Upgrade steep path from bluff to river with real stairs (for safety and to prevent erosion and prevent additional desire lines); upgrade maintain path/prevent bikes
- Fix "braiding" along Britannia Slopes – no fence along the top of the escarpment
- Create one new formal path from Britannia Slopes to valley but keep natural (zigzagged trail up)
- Crestview park entrance is too steep; designate on-leash or no dogs; should be no access to the river edge on west side of river below Crestview and south (no walking)
- No new path behind Lansdowne (crime, fire, erosion would result if there was a path) – a good walking connector already exists via lane and Lansdowne
 - Upgrade existing back lane from Lansdowne to Elbow Drive
- Upgrade trail at Britannia Drive near Elbow Drive