

**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**

***Water Use – Verbatim Notes***

**Section A**

**Group A1**

**Flip Chart Notes A1**

1. Pollution
  - When it rains white foam appears from the storm sewer
  - Storm ponds could remove sediment from water
  - Dog feces contributing to pollution problem
  - Budget: these ideas are blue-skying – when budget factors in, priorities may be different
  - Is there a difference in water quality by golf course?
  - Don't know if there has been testing of the water quality.
  - What is the water quality in the Elbow River now?
  - What research has been done?
    - Healthy but with problems
    - Lack of vegetation
2. Erosion
  - Use effective solutions that have been used in other riparian control areas
  - Gabion rip rap (rocks)
3. Access
  - What solutions were used at Southland?
    - Consider differences for flow/swimming
  - Create formal launch area
4. Benefits
  - Won't get sick from swimming in contaminated water
  - Improved safety as a result of decreased access - fewer accidents on river
  - Decreased erosion – will make area look nicer
5. Priorities
  1. Erosion
  2. Access
  3. Pollution

**Map A1**

Note: RP = River Park; BS = Britannia Slopes; SB = Sandy Beach

- Access for rafters (denoted below the dam)
- Test water quality (two areas denoted on map)
- Plants
  - Rip raps and gabions to prevent erosion (RP side)
- Storm sewer white foam (two areas denoted on map, BS and RP sides)
- Assess dog access, vegetation and paths that don't erode (BS side)
- Keep dogs out, feces in water (north side of RP)
- Storm pond to prevent pollution

## **Group A2**

### **Flip Chart Notes A2**

1. Pollution
    - Reduce number of dogs in the park – 30% off-leash/70% on-leash
      - Urine killing new grass
    - Rafters - bottles/trash/urinating/etc.
      - Limit number of rafters
  2. Erosion
    - Reduce number of dogs in the park – 30% off-leash/70% on-leash
      - Trampling causing erosion because of the number of dogs per square foot
    - Xeriscaping
    - French drain
    - Communication and education
    - Signage to say where off-leash areas are
    - Increase awareness of other dog parks
- Stagnant water issue
- create natural drainage
  - trapped low infiltration area
  - not in favour of a storm pond
3. Access
    - No launch area at the parking lot at Sandy Beach
    - Create alternate launch areas where river is not being used
    - Why are people being directed away from former launch area by water treatment plant - security?
    - Bylaw enforcement - regarding glass in the water
    - On-leash signs
      - Erect a less destructible sign (current signage is constantly being knocked down)
  4. Benefits
    - We can improve the quality and erosion through engineered solutions. Needs to be localized where problem is, natural looking by design.
  5. Priorities
    1. Access
    2. Erosion
    3. Pollution

### **Map A2**

- Bylaw enforcement regarding no rafting (denoted below the dam)
- Access boat / raft safety issues (denoted below the dam)
- Marks around the water plant, no explanation
- Create a launch area, hard surface, air pumps?!
- Change balance on- and off-leash areas (RP)
- Two areas on the RP side were denoted as “stagnant?”
- Two areas on the RP side were denoted as “seasonal flooding”
  - To limit seasonal flooding of paths, e.g. gravel to help drainage
- Create soft tiers along the bank (RP side)

### **Group A3**

#### **Flip Chart Notes A3**

1. Pollution
  - Is the river polluted?
  - Rafters – how much damage are they doing?
  - Concern about distinction between access for dogs to river by public vs. private property owners (who have access whenever they want)
  - Permits should be required to take dogs into the park
2. Erosion
  - When parts are eroded, fence it off and let people create a new trail
3. Access
  - More bylaw enforcement
  - Dredge the reservoir
  - Control water levels to allow some flooding of the river to maintain the banks
4. Benefits
  - Fewer people
  - Improved water quality
5. Priorities
  - Some dissention but:
    1. Access
    2. Pollution
    3. Erosion

#### **Map A3**

- Dredge dam and allow water levels to rise and repair banks, limit access at high water
- Fenced (area denoted along the slope of RP)
- No pesticides, pollutants by home owners
- Permits for rafters
- Limit rafters, animals and kids to save water (river)
- More bylaw enforcement
- Bring back park ranger program
- No dogs in river valley to bring back natural banks (BS side)
- When eroded, fence off and let people create another trail, four years (BS side along river bank)
- Limit BMX bikes to preserve banks (BS, SB side)
  - Put up fencing to preserve banks

### **Group A4**

#### **Flip Chart Notes A4**

1. Pollution
  - Reclaim river bank
  - Limit access - rest it for a while
  - Signage – provide signage that informs people of what's going on and why

2. Erosion
  - Eliminate access to west slope at the river from the bridge to outflow
3. Access
  - Don't want big concrete dog access point like at Southland
  - Don't encourage more formal access to come in at one point
  - Eliminate access to west slope at the river from the bridge to outflow
  - Educational signage (discreet but effective)
  - On-leash below escarpment
  - Bylaw enforcement

#### **Map A4**

- Allow for a more natural spring and potential river flow for the trees (below dam)
- Rafters are an issue, and we would like to minimize the amount of stress put on the river by rafters, e.g. pollution, erosion by access etc. We therefore do not want to see formal structures to encourage more rafters. Perhaps enforcement of bylaws, life jackets, no alcohol may discourage some of this.
- No dogs in river to prevent pollution.
- On-leash below escarpment (RP side)
- Keep free from access, no people or dogs (area denoted on map)
  - Significant natural erosion and safety issues as well as prevents pollution
  - No dogs access to preserve slopes
- Educational signage together with temporary fencing to allow reclamation of riparian slopes along river banks, explain to people why area is closed

#### **Group A5**

##### **Flip Chart Notes A5**

1. Pollution
  - Reduce dog use
  - Disperse dogs/owners to other parks
  - Pick up after pets more
  - Education
  - Dog ambassador
2. Access
  - Don't promote use of these parks
  - Publicize parks/off-leash areas that are underused
  - Build a doggy playground somewhere else
  - Research needs of the dog community
3. Enforcement

#### **Map A5**

- Boat and raft launch (below the dam)
- Dogs on short leashes prevent erosion, pollution, safety (RP side)
- Education and enforcement, poop pick up, volunteer, community association and bylaw
- Fencing to prevent erosion, do not increase usage (BS side)
- Maintain hard paths

- Temp fencing until rehabilitated (BS side denoted)
- Change on- and off-leash percentage
- Protect this water way (creek flow in along 14 A Street)

## **Section B**

### **Group B1**

#### **Flip Chart Notes B1**

- Storm water outfall draining into Elbow
- Leaching dog feces into river
- Catch basins in dog park to catch run off – into sewer system not storm water system
- Re-grading and possible catchment pond
- Beside Elbow River (e.g. in valley)
  - On-leash, avoid dogs in water
- More enforcement and maintain temporary fences
- Solutions
  1. Keep on-leash in low valley beside river
  2. New, better fences both sides on verges
  3. Re-create ponds, catch basins (constructed wetland) drainage in dog park
  4. Create other off-leash areas to take stress use away from this area.

#### **Map B1**

- Prioritization
  1. Dogs on-leash in river valley
  2. Better fencing
  3. Runoff / storm sewer outfall
- Used to be pond here (north area of River Park)
  - Constructive wetlands to treat storm water?
- Very high bacteria counts from outfalls, esp. EC59, sewage leaks?
  - Bacteria treatment in catch basins?
- Leaking of dog waste into river (River Park side)
- Collection and treatment of runoff? Into sewer not storm system
- Enforcement of poop pick up (River Park side)
- On-leash or no dogs in river
- Improve fence, maintain fence (River Park side)
- Improve stairway to river, dangerous
- One trail only access, maintain this trail (denoted on Britannia Slopes side)
- Proper fence, solid to prevent users (bikes, dogs) from eroding the slope (Britannia Slope side)
- Create a designated raft and boat launch, focus rafters to one location (denoted on River Park side)

## **Group 2**

### **No separate flip chart notes**

#### **Map B2**

- Designate raft launch somewhere
  - Need to consider location carefully regarding erosion and flooding
- Public education regarding park care and pick up
  - Park ranger program and volunteers
- Consider a fence to control access to escarpment (River Park side)
  - High priority to maintain integrity of slope
- Dog waste runoff and regular clean up education (River Park)
- Repair stairs on River Park side
- Storm water direct to river impacts water quality (River Park side)
- Largest storm water catchment area in Calgary (denoted River Park side)
- Reasonable water quality is good
- Daylight / naturalized some of streams, ponds and wetlands as natural as possible (north side of River Park)
- Solutions to address safety are a high priority
- No huge concrete on river banks, stabilize, maintain safe dogs and people access
- To reduce erosion, real stairs on Britannia Slopes side
- Restore pathway with compactable material (BS side)

## **Group 3**

### **No separate flip chart notes**

#### **Map B3**

- Two launch areas for rafters designated – one below the dam and another along river bank in RP
- Priorities
  1. Signage, enforcement, volunteers
  2. Storm water effluent
  3. Not encouraging increase usage
- Expand parking by 20 spots only
- Specific dog access areas along river
- Pathways – a few well developed along slope (RP side)
- Signage regarding water quality education (Sandy Beach, RP)
- Respectful usage
- Clear designated on- and off-leash signage
- Planting deep rooted and natural plants to minimize erosion (SB side)
- Control entry points for rafters and volume of use by time suggestion
- Defined access point for rafters with a lottery or campground type registration, or system for timed launch
- Bylaw enforcement and volunteers reinstated
- Launch parking area that does not impact on local residents

## **Group 4**

### **No separate flip chart notes**

#### **Map B4**

- Drainage for seasonal melt (RP side)
- Permit requirements for river users, e.g. rafters, etc.
- Controlled access for river users
- Study and invest in regulating and managing and enforcing restricted use of the waterway, rafters and others, what impact 3,000 plus people and their dogs using the river and river corridor for aquatic biodiversity and studies.
- Small concrete boat launch for rafters pending study regarding location and number of people participating in this activity (location denoted on RP side of bank)
- Impacting riparian zones!
  - Need comprehensive ground water study
  - How park users impact ground water flows which change the vegetation ground stability, wildlife habitat and ground water aquifers and quality
- People only access upstream of dogs enforced
- Separate dog and kid access to water
- Alternative water experience for dogs
- Priorities
  1. Study of water and quality of banks, what is the worst problem
  2. Drainage off parking lot
  3. Separation / management of user groups for water
    - a. Signage enforcement / bylaw and volunteers
- Pretreatment of outfalls, constructed wetland? Concern regarding mosquitoes

## **Group B5**

### **No separate flip chart notes**

#### **Map B5**

- No direct release of storm sewers into water
- Reasonably sized, well maintained wet pond
- Permanent or periodic limits to dog access to preserve habitat
- On- and off-leash enforcement around the water
- Establish rafting access facilities, concrete boat ramp, fencing
  - Make it user friendly, e.g. raft ties, etc.
- Fencing or barriers to limit access to slop and control erosion (BS side)
- Priorities
  1. Environmental preservation