

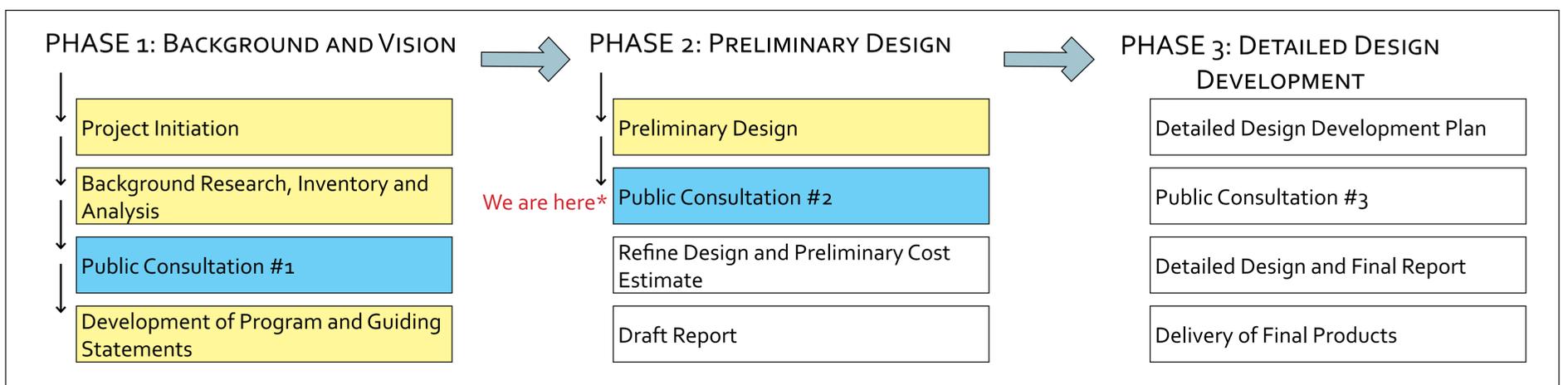
What is Happening

The City of Calgary initiated a process to design the 65 ha City-owned portion of Clearwater Legacy Park. Until now, the “tipi park” has been rented to school and community groups for camping and outdoor activities. The site has the potential to become a unique regional park, providing opportunities for recreation and environmental education, with links to the regional greenway system.

Process

The design process includes three phases as illustrated below. During Phase 1, in May 2011, visioning workshops were held with stakeholders and the community. We are currently in Phase 2.

The City has also collaborated with Rocky View County and Alberta Transportation on the development of the preliminary design.



Process Diagram

Purpose of the Open House

The purpose of this open house is to present the preliminary design and to obtain input on the park design from stakeholders and the community.

Once the input has been reviewed, the park design will be refined as appropriate.



Existing Pond on Site



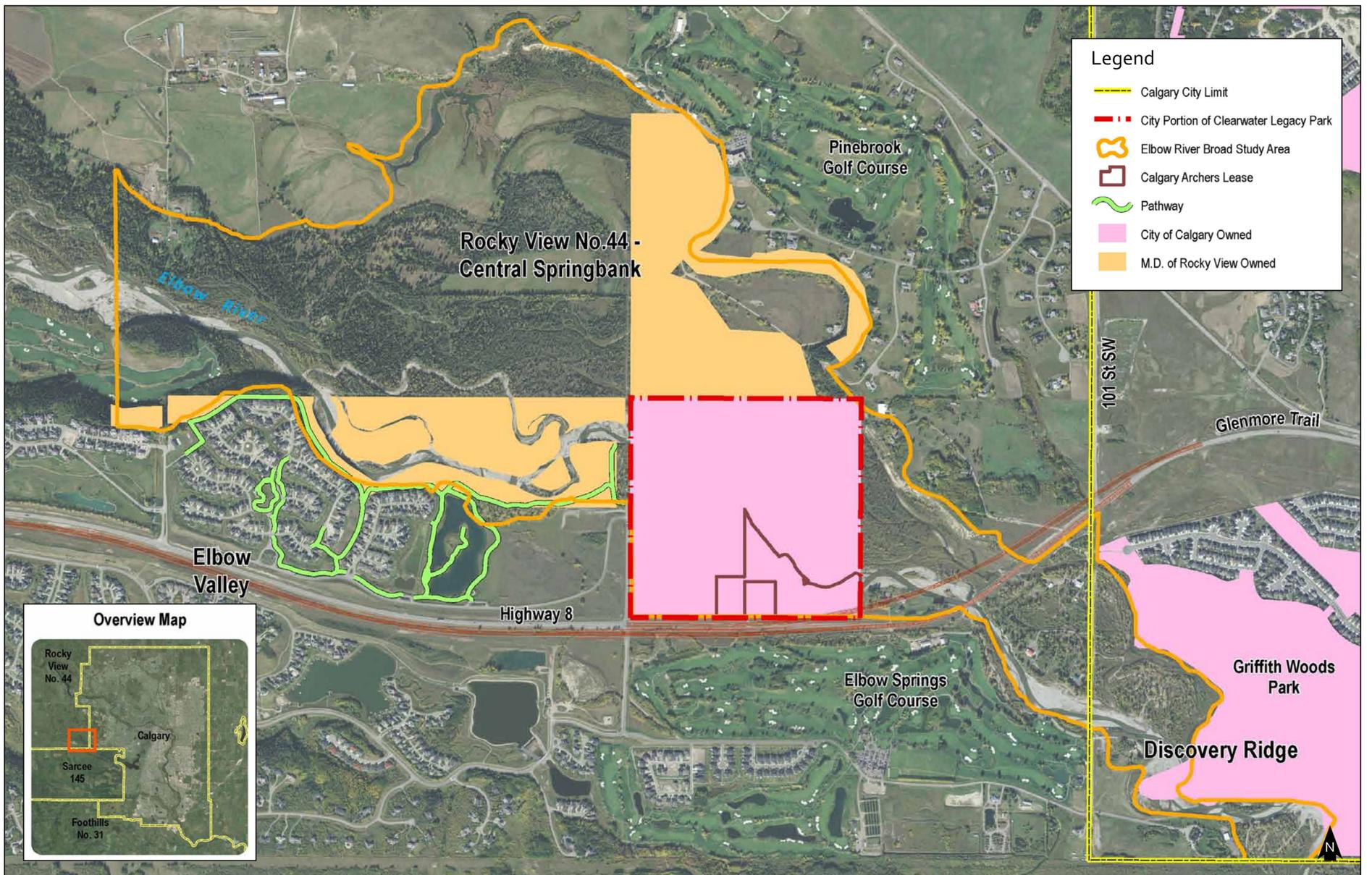
Tipi Camping



Stakeholder Meeting



Access to Elbow Valley Trail

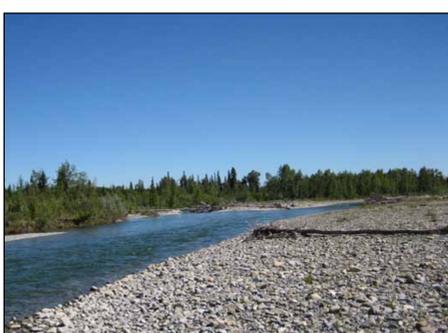


Clearwater Legacy Park
Context Map

The Site

The Clearwater Legacy Park site was donated to the City by the Devonian Group in 1979 for environmental protection and recreation. Park development is made possible through the Enmax Legacy Fund.

Alberta Transportation (AT) is proposing to twin Highway 8 adjacent to the park. As part of that project, the Clearwater Legacy Park site was identified as a potential location for a naturalized stormwater pond. This was viewed by the City, stakeholders and the community as an opportunity to enhance the habitats and environmental education programs within the park site, especially because the existing Highway 8 Elbow Valley Wetland site may be affected.



Elbow River



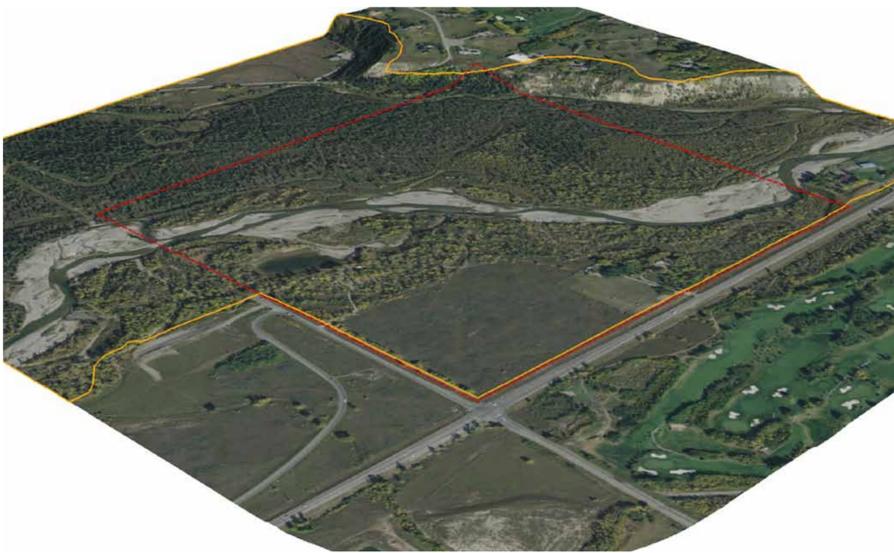
Park Access From Range Road 25



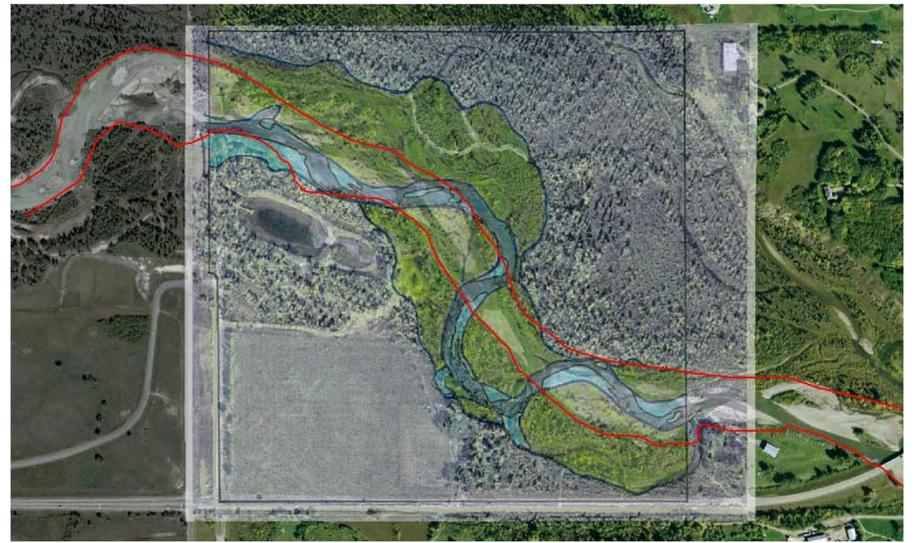
Tributary Channel to Elbow River



Site of Proposed Stormwater Pond



3D View of Park Site



River Channel Change

In 2010, a Biophysical Inventory and Assessment was conducted (Dillon Consulting Limited).

Species Inventory

Wildlife

Deer, elk and moose – mostly in winter

Large carnivores - corridor along the river

Small mammals – mice, voles

58 bird species observed

Frogs and toads – breeding in spring

Fish

Sport fish: brown trout, mountain whitefish, northern pike, rainbow trout

Non-sport fish: brook stickleback, fathead minnow, lake chub, longnose sucker, white sucker

Species at Risk

Two rare plants: western fescue and widgeon-grass, both found north of the Elbow River

Possible unique ecosystem around the pond - *Elaeagnus Commutata* Riparian Shrubland

Least flycatcher – sensitive, around pond and in Balsam Poplar forest

The following are some of the relevant conclusions from the Biophysical Inventory and Assessment:

- The entire park is an environmentally sensitive area, the best example of a relatively undisturbed riparian floodplain in the City.
- The entire Elbow River floodplain is a continuous wildlife corridor.
- The north side of the Elbow River should be a conservation area with limited access and potential educational opportunities.
- Consider no permanent structures in the 1-in-50 year flood zone.



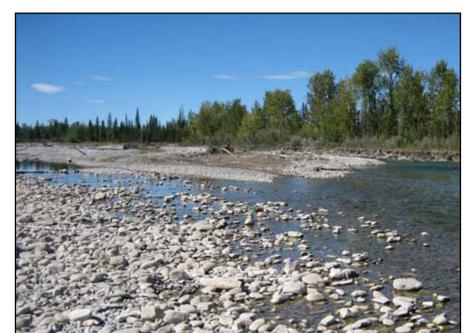
Pond Ecosystem



Existing Access Road

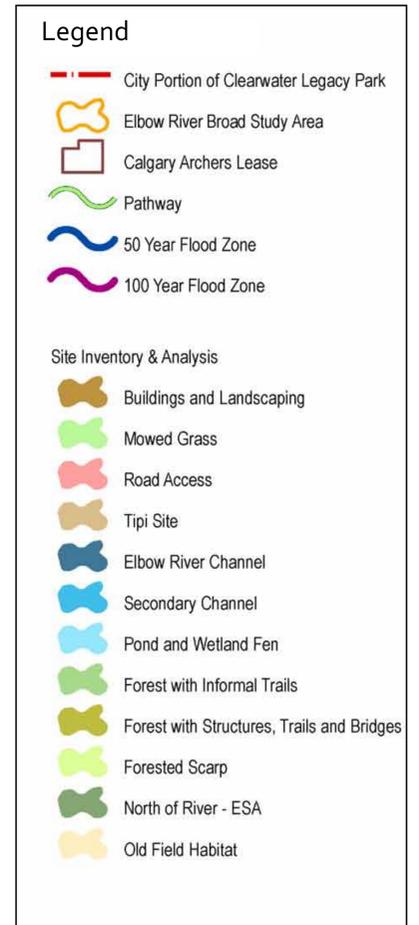
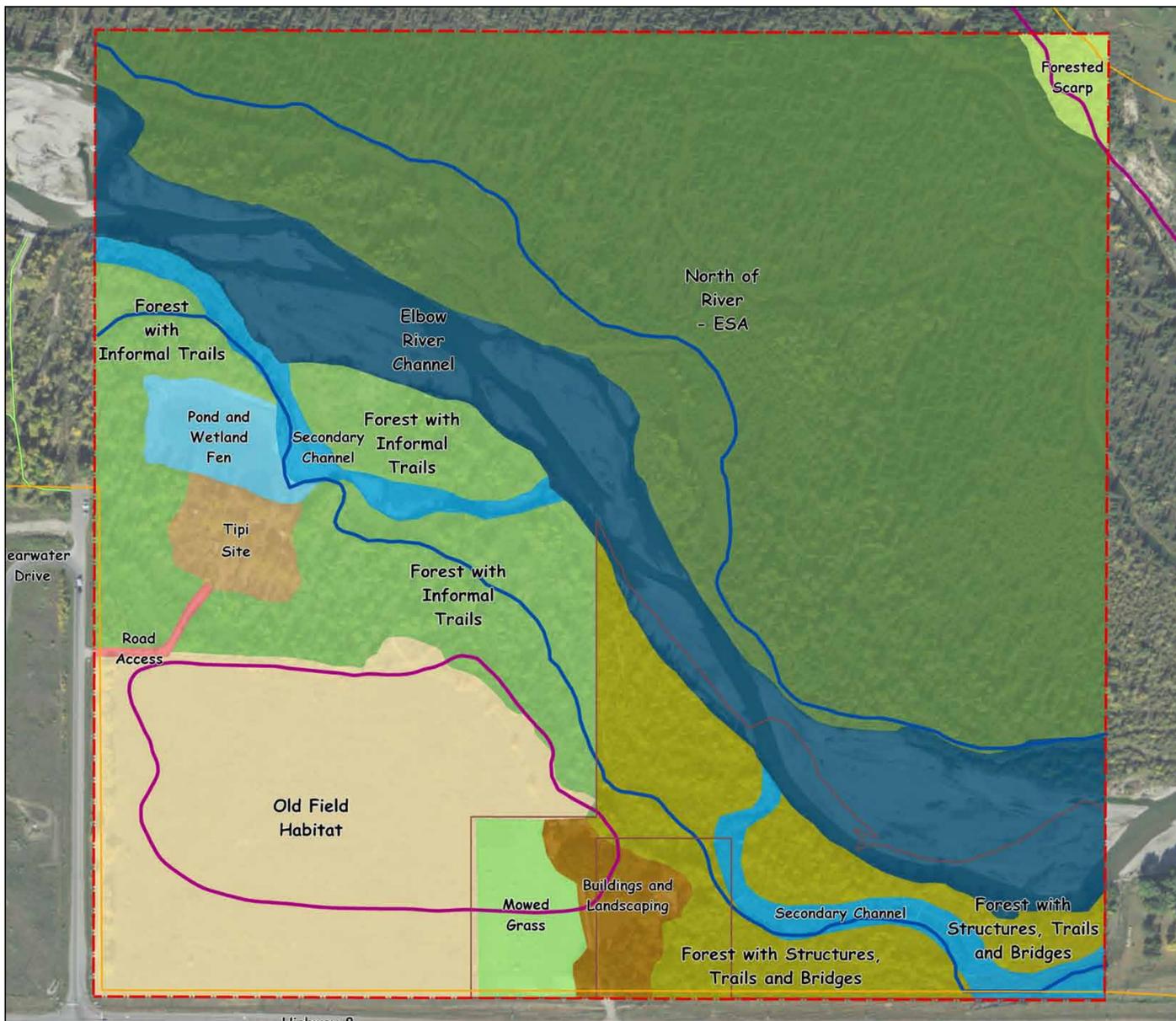


Tipi Camping Site

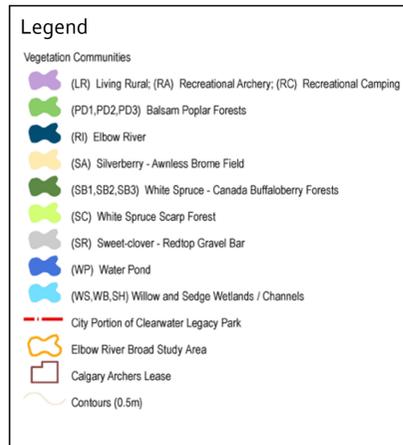


River Habitat Corridor

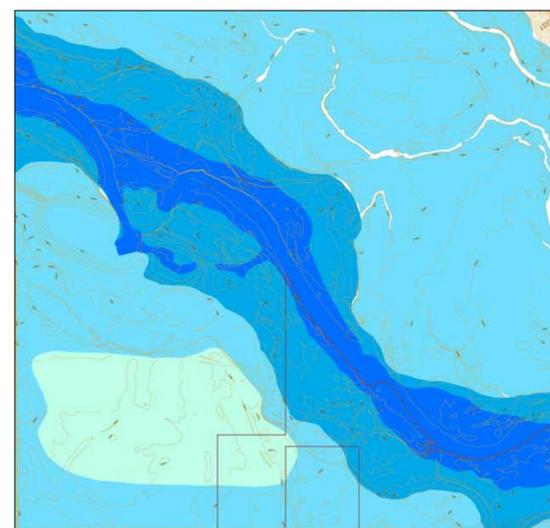
Site Analysis



Clearwater Legacy Park
Summary Analysis Map



Vegetation Communities



Flood Zones



Silverberry Field



Flood Zone



Open Grass Area



White Spruce Forest

Vision & Objectives

The vision and objectives for Clearwater Legacy Park are based on what we heard during the first round of consultation.

Vision

Clearwater Legacy Park is a unique legacy park, representing the nature and culture of the lands surrounding Calgary. It is an oasis, focusing on nature conservation and environmental education. The site is a jewel that protects what is precious; land, air, water, and natural areas. The park is connected to the regional trail system.

Objectives

The objectives of this project are as follows:

- Protect environmental resources, including the wildlife corridor through the valley and the habitats within the park.
- Provide interpretive information along with nature and cultural education programs.
- Manage use to minimize conflicts among uses and impacts on habitat, addressing the need for use guidelines and standards for etiquette.
- Plan the major park amenities to be universally accessible.
- Retain and improve the opportunity for the “tipi camping” experience, i.e., rustic, nature-oriented experience.
- Establish trails that connect the park with the regional trail system.
- Retain access to the river, respecting risk management considerations.



Access to Nature



Regional Pathway System



Elbow River



Adjacent Development



Clearwater Legacy Park
Preliminary Design

The following are the features of the preliminary design:

- An entry road with a park sign leads to a short loop road with pockets of parking for 62 vehicles and a drop-off area with a capacity of up to three buses.
- A trail entering the southwest corner of the park connects to the regional trail system.
- The tipi site is enhanced with a more tipis, new washroom building, new picnic shelter, and a portable dock on the pond. Gates on the entry road and access trail allow the tipi site to be afforded privacy for those renting it.
- A pond system with four pond areas collects and remediates stormwater from Highway #8.
- Loop trails around and over the pond include a boardwalk, pier, viewing platform, overlook, and water access from which to appreciate the rich riparian habitats.
- Major new park features include a washroom building, large and small picnic shelters, and a “landmark energy” structure (e.g., solar, wind) all oriented around a large grass play space.
- The forests along the Elbow River are protected, with loop trails providing access.
- Other park elements include: a sign kiosk and interpretive signs throughout the park; a service road and park operations area; clumps of native vegetation providing interest, shade and filtered views into the park; park boundary signs where needed; future disc golf area; and benches, picnic tables, and garbage bins where needed.
- The park will be built to support year-round use with a focus on nature appreciation and education.



Pond and Wetland



Portable Dock



River Pathway



Boardwalk with Interpretive Panels

Visualizations

The visualizations illustrate the preliminary design. Photographs along the bottoms of these pages and the previous page show the potential character of new park features.



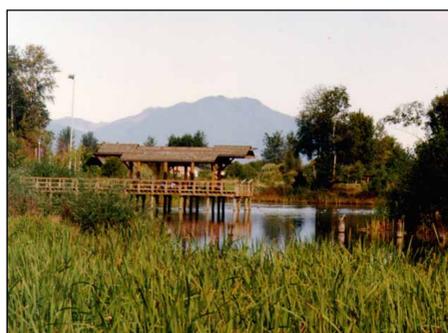
View Over Park from Southeast



View to Pier and Open Play Space from Overlook



Wetland Boardwalk



Pier Over Pond



Viewing Platform



Park Bridge

Visualizations



View from Boardwalk to Viewing Platform



View from Path to Water Edge Access



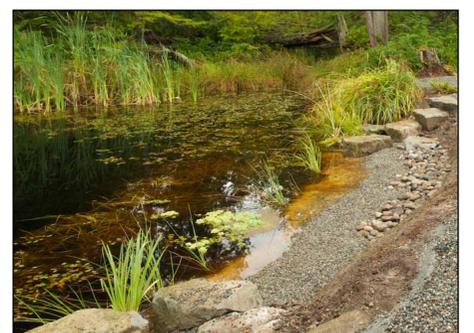
Viewing Platform



Wetland Boardwalk



Park Bridge



Access to Water Edge