

STANLEY PARK REDEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

**City of Calgary Staff Workshop #1 – March 18, 2013
8:30 – 12 noon, Parks Administration Building in Stanley Park**

Attendees from the following City Business Units:

- Calgary Parks
- Calgary Recreation
- Community & Neighborhood Services
- Public Art
- Animal & Bylaw Services
- Water Resources
- Transportation Planning
- Customer Services and Communications

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Stantec Staff

PURPOSE

This workshop was held to gain an understanding about the problems and opportunities that currently exist in Stanley Park during *Phase 1 – Start Up & Background Research, Assessment and Review* from City of Calgary staff with Stanley Park as part of their work program. It was the Project Teams' goal to obtain a clear understanding of the site issues from a City staff perspective as well as to have a discussion about areas for improvement in the future.

After a brief introduction, the group toured the park (led by City and Project staff) and were asked to complete a site evaluation form. This was followed by a short break and two workshop exercises.

AGENDA

- 08.30 – 09:00 Welcome, introductions, project overview (indoor)
- 09:00 – 09:45 Guided site tour and evaluation of park (outdoor)
- 09:45 – 10:00 Warm-up/Break (indoor)
- 10:00 – 11:00 “World Café” – brainstorming on key issues within the park (indoor)
- 11:00 – 11:15 Park Programming Target (indoor)
- 11:15 – 11:30 Next steps (indoor)

1. **Welcome, Introductions, Project Overview**

Terry K. welcomed all participants and reviewed the morning agenda. Michelle W. brought greetings from The City and explained the background context of the study:

Stanley Park has become increasingly popular in recent years, resulting in greater demands placed on the park. The City of Calgary Parks is working towards a redevelopment plan for the park. This plan will take into consideration the increasing number of park visitors, with goals to enhance park visitors' experience, boost the park's environmental health, and identify much needed lifecycle upgrades and replacements.

Why Prepare the Plan?

Stanley Park is a popular multi-use park with a long history and a place in the hearts of the communities and users it serves. The Stanley Park Lawn Bowling Club expansion and the evolving needs and desires for the park will be addressed by this plan.

The goal is to ensure the park remains valuable for park users today and into the future. To do this, a comprehensive redevelopment plan is required to ensure all activities can be balanced in a sustainable way.

What are the steps in the Process?

The City of Calgary Parks has retained [Stantec Consulting](#) as experienced park planners and engagement specialists to assist with this project. The planning process involves a step by step approach:

- First, community and user input, suggestions and comments are gathered. This helps to inform how people and key user groups use the space. It will also help identify areas for improvement.
- Next, information is analyzed for appropriateness, feasibility, and suitability to determine how it should be incorporated into the redevelopment plan.
- Finally, this information is translated into a concept plan for the redevelopment of the park. The plan will be presented to the public for feedback and refinement

Stanley Park Process Chart



2. Guided Site Tour and Evaluation of Park

Attendees were separated into four groups in order to tour through the park. All were asked to observe the park using a site survey form to record their observations. The following is a summary of the comments provided and an average of the rating of the park elements.

Site Configuration	SCORE (1: POOR, 4: GOOD)			
	1	2	3	4
Ease in walking to the place		2.92		
Ease in walking around the place		2.88		
Evidence of visual landmarks		2.83		
Accessible for all		2.18		
Ease of access to Elbow River			3.00	
Clear hierarchy of circulation		2.63		
Clear signage	1.82			

Comments on Site Configuration

Sidewalk or path needed on upper edge

Playfield – Ball diamond seems small with bench in right field. Street light in middle of nowhere. Power poles – change to underground? Non-compliant rails – green.

Needs to be a lot more signage both in regards to location and bylaws or suitable activities. Lack of signs advising of on-leash park. Found many park users with dogs off-leash in park.

Unclear route finding signage. Everyone doesn't need to arrive by car, so why is there no evidence / signage as to how to arrive by other means. LRT, walk, bus, cycle.

Lost opportunities on interpretation of habitats. Lots of unofficial trails. Poor connectivity in north section for upper and lower trails. Looks like high probability of off-leash (unofficial).

Parks maintenance yard is near river / riparian area. Beautiful area. Confusing layout. 2 playgrounds very close to each other. Need clear signage and routes – looped trails / pathways.

Don't want to ruin area with too much signage (looks ugly).

Rise in land along 42 Avenue could be naturalized (discontinue mowing, plant aspens in spruce, low berry bearing shrubs (Saskatoon – rose, cranberry – current). Old school rip rap in river comes out. Invasive control along escarpment (caragana, silver maple, blue spruce, cotoneaster). Minimize signage!!

Poor connectivity north to south. Poor access between lawn bowling green and pavilion.

A path system review to take users to designated areas through parking lots and from each space to the next. More parking is needed. Is there a major bus route through park? There should be.

Place Making + Comfort	SCORE (1: POOR, 4: GOOD)			
	1	2	3	4
Overall attractiveness			3.00	
Perception of safety		2.82		
Cleanliness and maintenance			3.27	
Comfort (seating areas)		2.73		
Presence of sunny areas			3.36	
Visual interest			3.27	

Comments on Place Making + Comfort

A lot of old dead-looking trees. New benches and picnic areas needed.

A few more picnic tables and benches would make the area more inviting.

Looks old and miss-matched is signage and buildings and amenities. Safety would vary in native area vs. manicured. Interpretation signs to connect.

Parks maintenance storage. Bowling green expansion – take down poplars. Erosion at pioneer cabin.

Steel railings – replace with wood and stone – post and rail Americana. Map all desire lines and goat trails.

Beautiful natural areas easily seen.

More washrooms especially in the higher use areas, like near the picnic / pool / baseball diamond.

Activities + Uses	SCORE (1: POOR, 4: GOOD)			
	1	2	3	4
Evidence of community events			3.10	
Range of uses on offer			3.60	
Year-round uses			3.00	
Popularity (how well used the area is)			3.56	

Comments on Activities + Uses

Adult gym. Band (staging). Newer and more bathrooms required. More parking required. Public washroom by river (year-round)

Limited winter and shoulder season use.

Better streamline uses to reduce conflict. Consider amenities to meet needs of uses (washrooms, events stage). Minimal connection to users that take advantage of natural components (bird watching) into natural area park 'n' play, volunteer interpreters, encourage events that connect to users (paddlefest).

Snack shack for skating area?

Shuttle bus from LRT – ugly walk is a barrier. Playground Shack manned 2 months per year (nature hut and swimming / wading pool supervisor).

Skating organized by community association, so while present, it is not an activity formally available through the park.

Could use more clustered seating and small areas for casual gatherings. Seats facing each other instead of only seat to view sites and for resting.

Sociability	SCORE (1: POOR, 4: GOOD)			
	1	2	3	4
Number of people in groups (2+)			3.00	
Evidence of volunteer activity			2.13	
Sense of pride and ownership		2.63		
Presence of seniors and children		2.75		

Other comments on Sociability

2 tot lots is great. Restaurant.

More children / seniors in summer months. Create more family child sessions (park 'n' play, public programming of Environmental Education)

Lawn bowling season brings in a lot of seniors.

Parks – person in park every day for 2 months (all regional parks)

3. World Café – Brainstorming on Key Issues Within the Park

Following the tour, the group was the divided into five groups and were invited to spend 10 minutes at each issue category table. City and Stantec facilitated the World Cafe

Notes by Category

ACCESSIBILITY

Types of access:

- Kayaking
- Rafting
- Dog walking
- Walking
- Running

- Cross country skiing
- Maintenance access
- Snow-shoeing
- Bus / Shuttle to LRT Station
- Cycling
- Wheelchairs

Parking:

- Additional events parking
- Look at expansion

Maintenance:

- Winter maintenance

1A Street Paved Pathway:

- Diagonal pathways (N-S)

Wayfinding vs. Less Signs:

- Overall map
- Trails / paths
- Interpretive / informational
- Regulatory
- Trail / path designation
- Behavior distinction
- Public art

Accessibility:

- Wheelchair
- Impaired walking
- Blind / hard of hearing
- Regional pathway

FACILITIES & AMMENITIES

- Picnic benches at far north should be installed
- Make Lindsay's Folly interesting – use public art to guide or manage trails and things that are happening
- Better incorporation of our cultural landscape for parks

- Love diversity (i.e. Lindsay's Folly) – surprise that natural area to the North. Need to celebrate diversity
- Consider twinning regional pathway in congested area
- Baseball / softball build game playable useable diamonds. Allow not for profit to fund the development of game playable diamonds
- Consider year-round tennis onsite with tennis bubble
- Issue of erosion and inappropriate access – goat trails need to be addressed. Need to look at pathway system
- Egress and access stewardship navigation / wayfinding is required especially in natural area
- Can't have crappy ball diamond rebuild onsite
- Lights at tennis courts and louvers should be installed so that they can be turned on (have not been for ten years)
- Basketball hoops are required NE Tennis courts could be converted
- River is massively used – need to look at access and egress management – Water Resources Planning
- Stewardship / educational opportunities in this area of the river
- New amenities consider low impact development especially capturing rain water to reduce impacts
- Manmade river playground in the area already used for play. Rope swings, slides varying water depth of variable water speed and access to river
- Elbow river is jewel facility in park
- Washrooms by picnic areas and ball diamond closer to regional pathway
- Move pool closer to river
- Houndsfield Heights 16th Ave and 19th Street NW 11 pieces behind fire hall
- Restaurant / coffee shop, wine bar, ice cream, bistro
- Fully accessible playground
- Building designs that blend with environment and usage
- Replace fencing around lawn bowling and pool with something new esthetically pleasing
- Fitness circuit along the pathway
- Cooling system for outdoor ice
- Metal railings, concrete piling, rip rap has to stop has to come out
- Natural playground by the river log jam type – convert what is there
- Include this (marked on drawing) triangle is park boundary
- Take softball out
- Underground electrical services
- Building do not confirm to set standard – has to stop
- Elboya CA is leading community garden in Regional Park?

- Year-round public washrooms are required
- No connectivity in the south side of the park – central – north
- Better use of grants, bursaries, SPOAs. Money is available need to access through not-for-profit
- Overall – park is showing its age – amenities are old, entrances, etc.
- Skate park for community use – tie with basketball
- Tennis overall is failing 160 outdoor courts not nearly as busy
- Remove ball diamond, expand picnic areas
- Swimming pool is an eyesore – signage, etc.
- Points of interest through public art, placemakers make use of them
- Lighting in high risk areas
- Gazebo programmable for events with service
- 5 different styles of benches – haphazard design with light standard, standardized wraps with themes
- Post and rail should be standard
- Baseball diamond not size / bleachers – used by homeless to be enclosed. This area may be better for community gardens
- School programming outdoor classroom possibility. May be kids bussed out of here
- Protect open space as unbookable public use
- Parking is terrible – need expanded parking lots
- One comment is that no more parking lots
- Cut off movement – question design to expand lawn bowling group, less bowlers that other users
- Stop moving 42 Avenue engineered height of land Aspen / berry bushes along the screen
- Stage for events like at Prince’s Island Park
- Need playground and park naturalist shack with leader – safety and programming
- Weekend parking access – street parking on south side not just north
- Quality facilities are required – game playable
- Trees are amenities too, conservative approach think twice before moving any of them.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

- Celebrate north end of park boundary which includes natural areas – opportunity to celebrate and promote stewardship
- Trails should be able to accommodate a bobcat for maintenance

- Consider hillside slippage around southern AB Pioneers – little traffic to protect hill and SAP LOC
- Recognize Lindsay's Folly through info panel
- Public Art? Lindsay's Folly navigation wayfinding
- Stewardship, placemaking, public art, education historical natural
- Impacts of goat trails – restore inappropriate trails, plan trails to better slopes
- Establish designated trail (non-paved) network – trail mix, dirt (sustainable trails)
- Off leash issues, increase signage to decrease impact on native space
- What is going on here? Giving knowledge of park uses and natural development / habitat
- Repair banks, rip-wrap needs to be replaced
- Limit access to sensitive areas along steep slopes
- Positive impact and communication around nest box research (visible wood duck boxes along riparian)
- Weed control needed along escarpment
- Stairs in natural area slope
- Erosion of banks
- River access for rafters? Leave natural, address riverbank design?
- River access – designated points (beach), restore native vegetation at non-access points
- Parks shack, 2 months per year, park 'n' play with environmental focus
- Formalize natural playground setting
- Riparian zone – stream bank stability, does it need restoration?
- Formalize natural pathways – remove metal post / rail
- More naturalized area within the high use areas – north end of park
- Remove cardigan, aster, winter color, interpretive signage
- Remove parks administration, expand lawn bowling to north of existing field, redo maintenance / admin building
- Rebuild maintenance yard with new 2/3 floor building with office space – storage (remove panabodes), blow up admin building and move lawn bowling expansion there
- Removal of soft ball diamond – more activities on that land
- Naturalized areas and storm water source control practices (rain gardens, bioswales)
- Accessible playground, could one of three playgrounds be removed and upgrade 1 or 2 of others?
- Look for naturalization opportunities
- Lawn bowling expansion – split expansion and add to top and left of existing area (drawing added to note)

- Don't knock down trees to expand lawn bowling
- Natural-looking appealing signs
- Launch pad by picnic areas for rafters
- More formal construction in the river at the bend making the area for swimming and playing sculpted basin / fast and slow areas shallow and deep *rope swings
- 42 Avenue – stop mowing, Aspen trees, Saskatoon, low brush, cut through
- Non-formal pathways on slope
- Needs management / control
- Use volunteers / users investigation process
- Erosion of banks
- Tree choice – urban forestry – balsam popular (need flood for restoration)
- Nature walk – birds, plants, wildlife – possible day use of building
- Lindsay's Folly
- Signage – dog-walking, “on-leash”, directional
- East side of 42nd parking – formalize
- Along 42nd create more natural visible – stop mowing
- On slope – white spruce preferable to mountain site lines
- Education signage – natural areas – stewardship
- Rip rap
- Formalize beach
- Natural play area – to replace playground ‘log jam’
- Metal railings etc – more natural products
- ‘park shack’ – 2 person staff – program (stop points) – Edmonton has similar program – seasonal
- Stone markers – public art
- Lawn bowling expansion – split format to minimize impact on trees and green space (two greens west two to North)? In direction of building (knock down better / redevelopment on new building)

MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT

- What kind of maintenance will be required for riverbank restoration work?
- Include strip of land along river edge all the way to Elbow Drive (Edison Park) on other side of river
- Space is tight now due to irrigation division plus center division operating out of this place
- Working area / storage in lower space
- Indoor garage (3 bay) must for equipment
- Need to ensure access to storm sewers and utilities are maintained – vehicle access required – currently via pathway

- How much can we involve the public / volunteers to become stewards of the park? Reduce pressure on ops crews and gain more ownership from park users.
- Is current location best place in park for the depot? Need to be separate from public space
- Build into the slope of ops yard? New building? Green roof? Low profile – blend into landscape
- Is Stanley the best location for the center div. ops depot here?
- Local pathways used within park – more for local connections in the park – lower priority. Better signage and awareness on existing pathways
- Drainage issues and snow clearing demands on pathways through the park – issue with limited funding
- Drinking and sleeping under bleachers – issues
- Minor camping activity here – compared to other parks
- Regional pathway – Glencoe Club optional amenities agreement to snow clear this pathway (*should be cleared by Glencoe). Priority 1 basis = within 24 hours
- Good vinyl clad bear bins in Stanley helps to reduce graffiti (shout out to amenities). Should be done city-wide, use as ops for messaging
- Less natural treatment, more recreation opportunities along busy river edge
- Snow clearing of regional pathway
- Concrete bank protection should be replaced with more natural treatment – bioengineering
- Riverside playground to be replaced with log jam – natural play. Remove rubber crumb
- Admin building turned back to public use – summer programming space – Park's Public Building
- All building are unsightly, should be better incorporated into the park, building design guidelines / standards
- Recommendation: natural areas 42 Avenue edge – native plantings / shrubs, stop mowing to naturalize edge, allow some cut through
- Maintenance of plot, clear paint stripping better maintained, maximize parking lot
- Op staff to park in depot, occupies a lot of space and inefficient use of space
- Beltline, Inglewood, Ramsay, Downtown, cemeteries – All central areas – center division ops and irrigation
- Greenhouse moved to lower area – needs to be close to Ops Building
- Irrigation has to occur during day due to manual system
- Park irrigated almost daily in summer – by natural means – someone has to plug in each turf valve
- Irrigation equipment stored on site: hoses and sprinklers
- Well-maintained park – no resident concerns

- 2 vehicles (crew) F550 Ford trucks, 2 foreman vehicles (pickup)
- 2 crews + 1 super > weekend / 2 crews + 1 super > weekday – vehicles shared
- No automatic irrigation system (class A- / B+). Turf key / manual irrigation system
- Wants automatic irrigation system
- Admin building not really functional for op use
- Office / kitchen / washroom in Op building is not used – can be reconfigured or new building built in Op yard
- Get rid of panabodes (8-9) and build more efficient structure / building

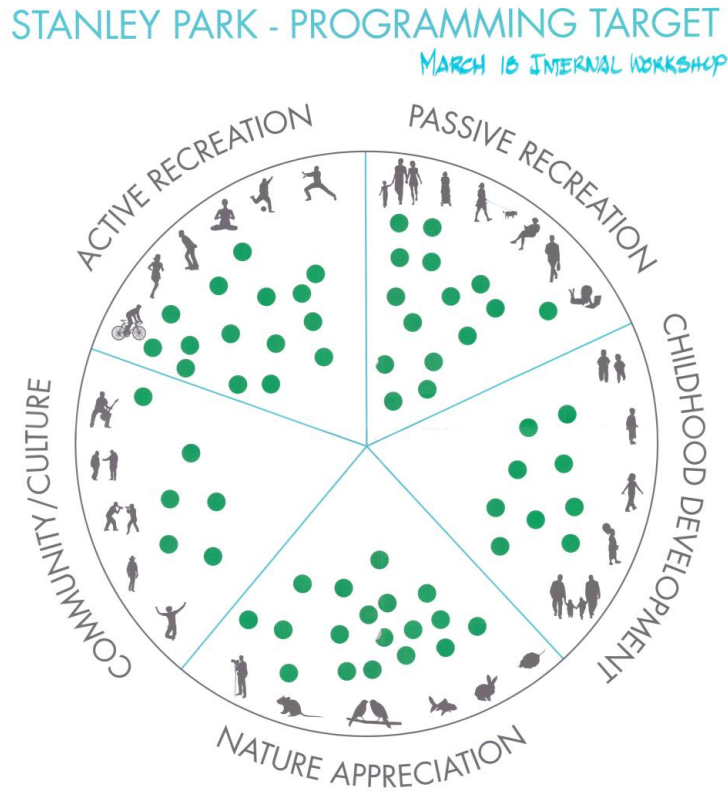
PARK PROGRAMMING

- Environmental Interpretive – self-directed. Enough signage to give people an idea
 - Cultural / Historical Interpretive Signage
 - Change Lawn Bowling fencing to something nicer
 - Use stone pillars for signage (4 of them)
 - WC's for winter as well – skiers, tobogganers – need money for operations / maintenance
 - Opportunity for volunteers – programming – things that groups can do
 - Park Shacks (educational) – open when park is open – staffed – crafts, outdoor learning, play supervision, nature learning
 - Directional Signage (i.e. to washrooms)
 - Environmental Education events – perhaps booths
 - Educational Programming – especially north end (people do not know about natural areas) – unique – combination of manicured and natural
 - Programming – consider where to LIMIT access – sensitive areas
 - Opportunity for interpretive signage – historic, natural features
 - Log Jams – groups of logs - sitting, outdoor classes – natural play
 - Day Camps – washrooms
 - Group seating areas related to fire pits? (Mostly single seats and tables existing)
- OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS**
- Adult Fitness Circuit
 - Washroom close to picnic areas
 - West Baseball diamond should disappear
 - Have a meaningful baseball facility (fenced, game-orientated)
 - Add picnic area, get rid of west ball diamond
 - Define picnic areas better shelter? Not old type – gazebo type 25 X 25 – styled architecture
 - Event Space (wedding, power, may need more parking)

- Formalize rink area (easier to flood)
- Community Gardens – Elboya CA
- Take out nasty metal / rubber surface play equipment – add a log jam at the beach
- Warning Signs (for example at pool – cycles have blind corner)
- Use Parks building for environmental program
- Band shell – permanent for activity / events to take pressure off Prince’s Island
- Washrooms
- Stoves – free wood supplied
- Stage – for events
- Boot Camps – use benches, tables – need minimal facilities for their aerobic exercises
- Outreach to community groups rather than city programs to put on interpretive programs (bird watchers)
- Expand Lawn Bowling (major uses in numbers, enhances presence, fence – BAD)
- Skateboard area
- Not clear way-finding – many informal trails
- Sport court with basketball

4. Park Programming Target

Prior to adjourning and an invitation to monitor the project and attend the next workshop in spring 2013, each participant was asked to mark the chart below with 3 green sticky dots. The image below is a scan of the results:



The workshop adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Summary Prepared By:	Terry Koch
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This summary is the author's best interpretation of meeting discussions. Please notify the author of any omissions or errors.