



WELCOME

“DESIGNING STANLEY PARK
TODAY...CREATING A LEGACY
FOR THE FUTURE”

STANLEY PARK REDEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



Purpose of the event

- » **RECAP** on the background to the Stanley Park Redevelopment Initiative.
- » **SHARE** ideas on the future vision for the park.
- » **INFORM** participants about the final design concept.
- » **ACKNOWLEDGE** how the design evolved from the stakeholder input.



Format of the event

A number of presentation panels have been prepared to explain the process for the Stanley Park Redevelopment Initiative. Feedback from earlier consultation events has been summarized on the “What We Heard” panels. This has helped inform the vision and concept for the future of the park. Input received on the two design concept options was used to refine the final concept. Staff from Stantec Consulting Ltd. and The City of Calgary will be on hand to answer any questions you have and to listen to your comments.



Facilitators

The project team is made up of The City of Calgary Parks and Stantec Consulting Ltd. staff. Team members are in attendance so please share your views with them.



Who are the key stakeholders of the Stanley Park Redevelopment Initiative?

YOU...Residents, Neighbours, Recreation Groups, Community Associations, Walkers, Cyclists, Nature Enthusiasts and **anyone that has an interest in making Stanley Park a better place to enjoy!**





Stanley Park Redevelopment Initiative

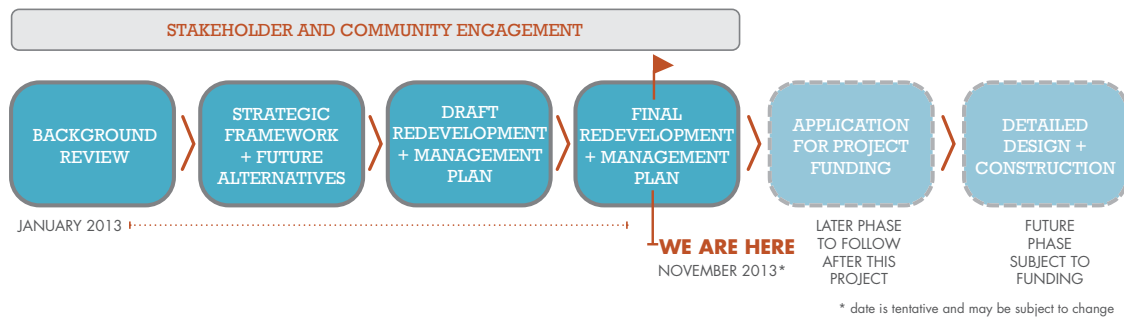
Stanley Park has become increasingly popular in recent years, resulting in greater demands placed on the park. The City of Calgary Parks has been working on a redevelopment plan for the park. This plan will take into consideration increasing numbers of park visitors, enhance park visitors' experience, 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. As visitor numbers increase, the evolving needs and desires for the park will be addressed by this plan. The goal is to ensure the park remains valuable for 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.

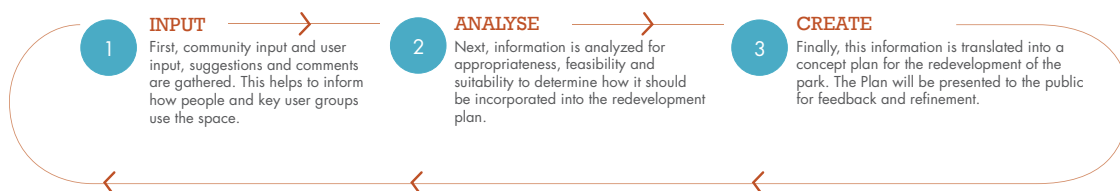
What are the steps in the process?

Calgary Parks retained Stantec Consulting as experienced park planners and engagement specialists to assist with this project. The planning process involved a step by step approach:



How it all works

Following inputs from stakeholders on the Final Design and Management Plan, the plan will be used to request funding for future implementation. Detailed design development and construction phases would be undertaken if and when funding is obtained.



WHAT WE HEARD PHASE 1

Summary of Phase 1 Engagement.....

The early engagement focused on gaining an understanding of how people currently use the park, and what was preventing them from using it if they did not already. A number of consultation events allowed the public, user groups, and impacted City departments to speak with designers and project staff about desires and concerns. Sounding boards were strategically located within the park to target park users and an online survey was used to obtain specific input.

The following summarizes the engagement activity undertaken in the first phase:

- » March 16: Kick-off Event (open to the public) 74 participants.
- » March 18: City of Calgary Staff Workshop.
- » March 23: External Stakeholder Workshop (specific interest groups).
- » 2 Sounding Boards located within the park: 1100 comments collected between mid March to May 21.
- » Online Survey: posted on the PlaceSpeak website from 1 March to 10 May. 68 responses.
- » May 23: "Park in the Box" Youth Workshop held at Rideau Park School: 37 Grade 6 students and their teachers.



[Sounding board in the park]



[A "wordcloud" from the sounding board comments. Larger text indicates words used more frequently]

Quick stats - current use in the park.....

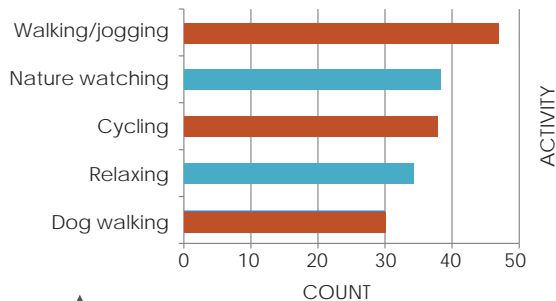
The following charts provide a brief summary of some of the findings.

Noted memorable features

- » Nature
- » Using the pathways and trails
- » Views
- » River activities (picnics, rafting)
- » Space for families

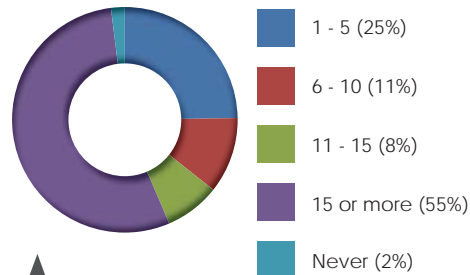
74% of survey respondents rated current park experience as excellent or good

Top 5 current activities



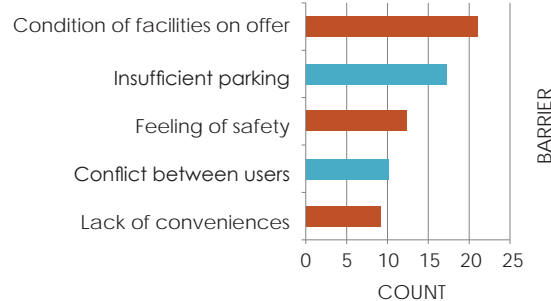
People participate in moderate activity as well as using the park as a place to relax.

Typical number of visits to the park in the summer (June to September)



Summer is a popular time in the park, with 55% of people making 15 or more visits in a month (compared to 34% in the winter months).

Top 5 barriers to using Stanley Park



Dated or poor quality facilities and a lack of parking are major reasons that prevent people from visiting the park.

WHAT WE HEARD PHASE 1

Quick stats - areas for improvement in the park.....

The early consultation events and online survey also asked some general questions on how people would like to see Stanley Park improve in the future. While some users liked the park the way it is with little or no need to change it, others had suggestions for ensuring existing amenities be retained and/or improved. These are summarized below.

Top 5 amenities that don't currently meet expectations



- 1 Washrooms
- 2 Parking areas
- 3 Outdoor pool
- 4 River bank
- 5 Picnic/BBQ areas

Top 5 goals for the park



- 1 Protecting the ecology of the Elbow River valley
- 2 Providing unstructured/spontaneous recreation opportunities (activities that do not require bookings, rules etc)
- 3 Protecting and interpreting the cultural heritage of the park and surrounding community
- 4 Serving as a venue for public events and community gathering
- 5 Providing structured recreation opportunities (e.g. programmed sports and activities)

Top 5 most important issues for the Plan to address



- 1 Condition of existing facilities
- 2 Environmental protection/restoration
- 3 Safety
- 4 Riverbank stabilization
- 5 Opportunities for play

Other desirable park facilities/amenities

In addition to the "top 5" issues listed above, the following were also noted as being important facilities/amenities to include in future plans (both in the open-ended online survey questions and comments received at the kick-off event launch).



Picnic/open space



Community garden



Food/coffee kiosk



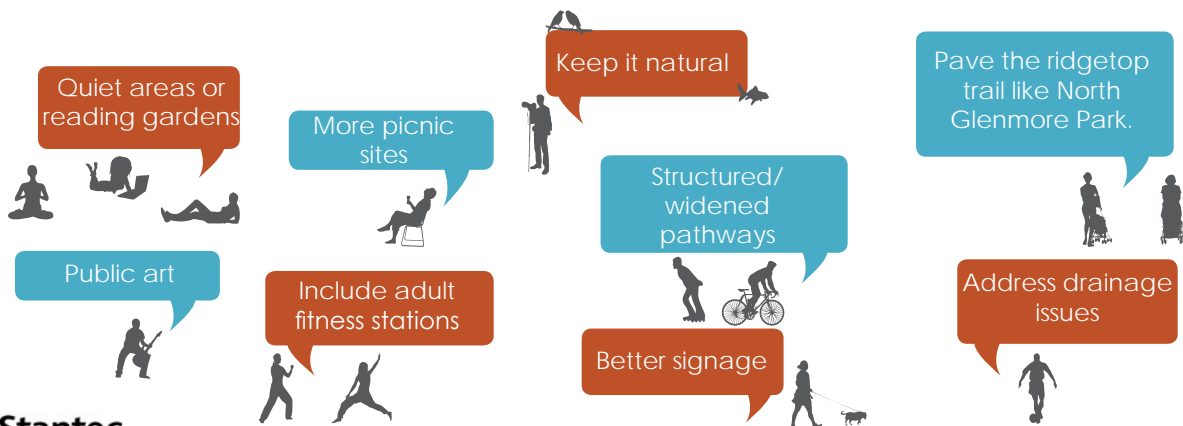
Social slope



Play areas

Key themes

In reviewing the general comments that people provided, there were a number of common themes that emerged during the first round of engagement.





Summary of Phase 2 Engagement

After the first phase of engagement the comments were compiled and analyzed to help formulate two different design responses. The two design responses differed greatly in some cases, contrasting from each other by displaying some of the polar views we heard. In other instances, some components were similar in both plans to reflect consensus and priorities that park users agree on. The second phase of engagement focused on receiving feedback of how people viewed two design options and what aspects of each fit within their desires for the park. It also included feedback on an overall park vision and development goals.

The following summarizes the engagement activity undertaken in the second phase:

- » June 13 & 15: Stakeholder and Public Open House, 67 participants, 105 completed survey forms.
- » Online Survey: posted on the PlaceSpeak website from 13 June to 7 August, 76 responses.
- » Internal stakeholder session with City of Calgary departments.

Quick stats - comments & critiques received

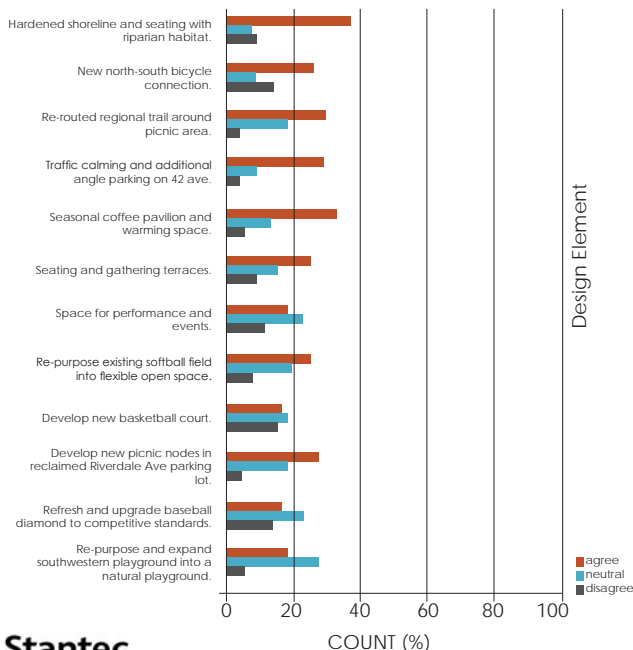
The following charts provide a brief summary of some of the findings.

Critiques of the draft Vision statement

- » Balance structured / unstructured recreation
- » Simplify language
- » 'Respect' rather than 'protect'
- » More focus on community / neighbourhood park
- » Recognize the organized groups that already use the park

65% of survey respondents agreed with the draft vision statement.

Responses to common design elements



Critiques of the draft management goals

River bank habitat

- » Naturalization
- » Provide better access
- » Encourage/discourage rafting

Family-friendly/multi sensory park

- » Maintain family-friendly feel
- » Keep it natural

Healthy/active lifestyle

- » Outdoor fitness equipment
- » Improve sports field
- » Prioritize nature and active lifestyles

Connectivity

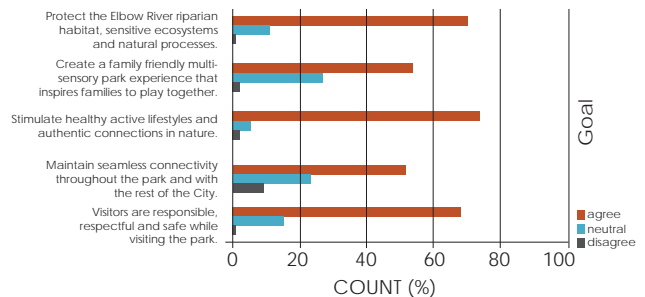
- » Better bike connections
- » Separate foot/bike traffic where feasible

Responsible visitors

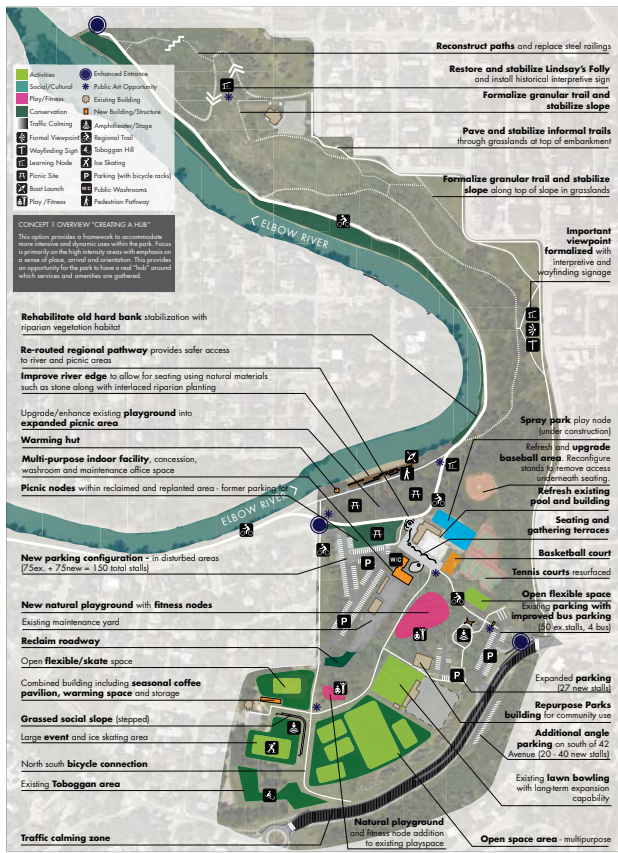
- » Signage
- » Enforcement

70% of survey respondents wanted to protect the Elbow River habitat and surrounding vegetation.

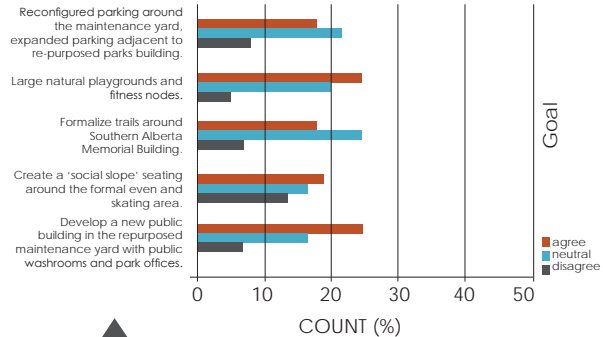
Responses to the draft management goals



WHAT WE HEARD PHASE 2



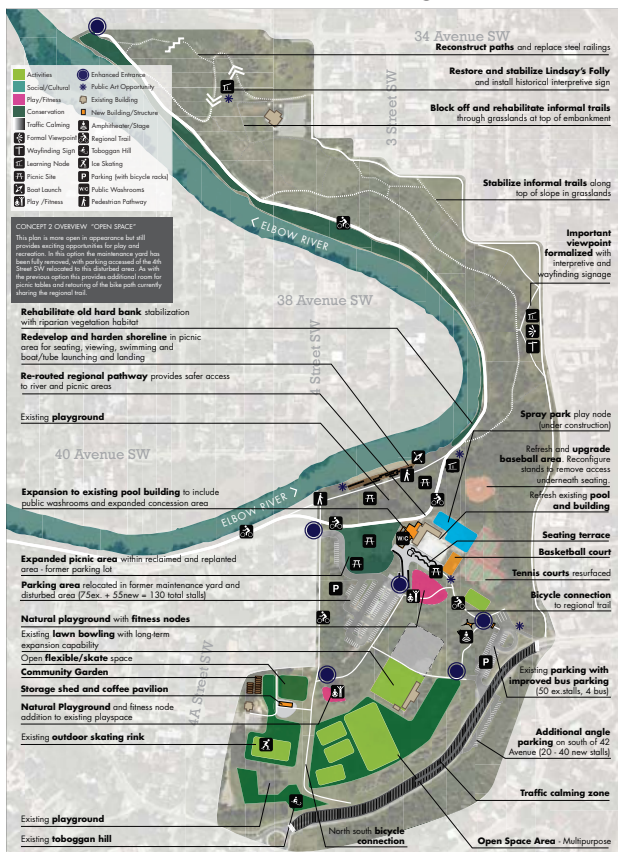
Support of design elements unique to Concept 1



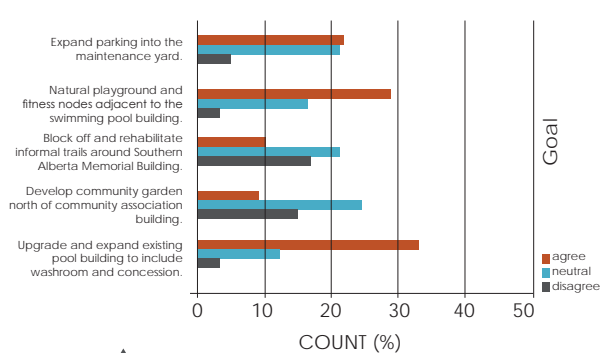
The majority of people supported the development of a new public building with access to washrooms.

Comments provided about Concept 1

- » Keep informal fields available for public use
- » Seating slope needs to accommodate athletic training opportunities
- » Keep the natural feel of the park
- » Outdoor gym/workout areas are a great idea
- » No need for a stage and additional performances
- » Cluster permanent elements into a single hub around pool



Support of design elements unique to Concept 2



Most people supported the concept to develop fitness nodes in conjunction with natural playgrounds in the park.

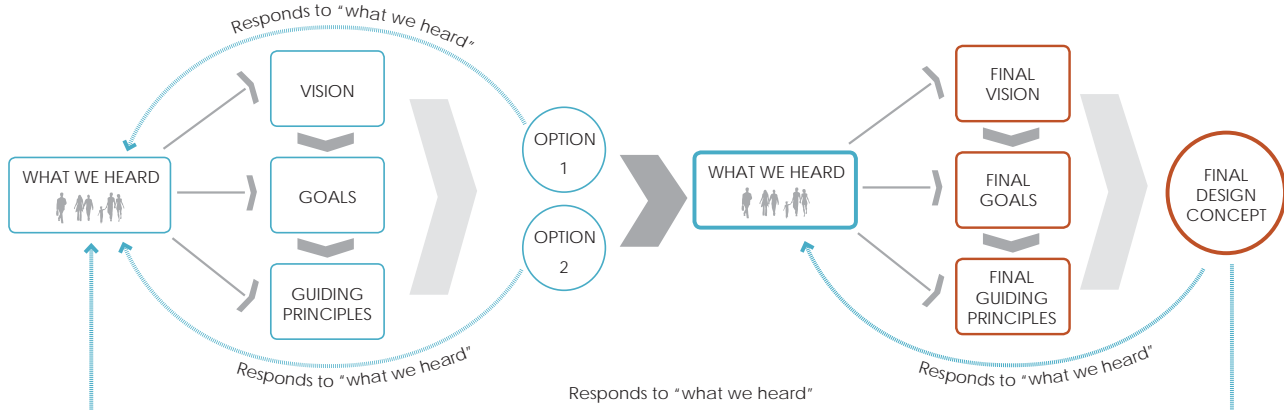
Comments provided about Concept 2





- » Balance parking with alternative transportation opportunities
- » Do not block the trails around the Southern Alberta Memorial Building
- » Keep informal fields available for public use
- » High need for an additional washroom near the pool building
- » Improve the existing parking areas before adding additional stalls

OUR APPROACH

The “evolutionary” diagram

The following diagram illustrates the process the project design team undertook in translating the comments from the engagement sessions into preliminary and final concept options. Essentially this is a “road map” outlining the evolutionary steps taken to ensure these concepts are grounded on strong themes that emerged from public and key stakeholder feedback.



- 1  **VISION**
Environmental preservation ranked highest during each of the phases in determining the desired goals for the park. It was therefore essential to have this as a central theme to the vision statement for Stanley Park.
- 2  **GOALS**
Protecting the Elbow River, providing recreation opportunities and creating a safe environment were all important elements to have a key aim for the park.
- 3  **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**
The design team developed a series of design principles built around the elements that people wanted to see in the park. This includes a range of uses and features that will ensure Stanley Park appeals to a wide audience.
- 4  **DESIGN RESPONSE**
The final design for Stanley Park focuses on a balanced response to the desires and concerns communicated to the design team and The City of Calgary during the engagement process.

 - » Long term net gain in natural vegetation balanced with new year-round facilities.
 - » Structured and unstructured recreation needs are enhanced and more diversified for users.
 - » New intensive uses balanced with low impact strategies such as flood mitigation and pervious surfaces.
 - » Protection/respect for the natural environment enhanced with interpretive signage and outdoor learning places.
 - » Renewed and refreshed image and legibility.
 - » Improved access, connectivity and safety.



VISION GOALS PRINCIPLES

Vision Statement

A vision statement describes a desired future state for Stanley Park. It is long-term, visionary and direction setting. The vision for Stanley Park is a touch-stone on which all decisions will be based.

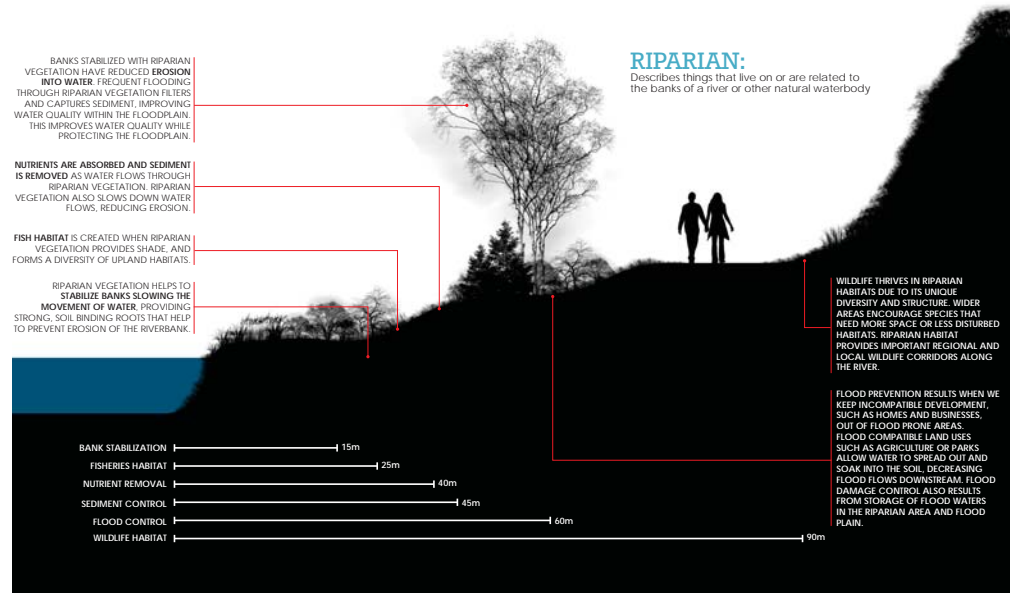
Stepping ahead 20 years to 2033, Stanley Park has become:

“ A memorable city destination that respects the Elbow River’s ecological habitat and is a hub for the community to engage in imaginative, innovative and stimulating structured and unstructured recreation and learning experiences. Stanley Park is a safe place that connects visitors with the Elbow River, adjacent neighborhoods and the citizens of Calgary. ”

Design Goals + Principles

Stanley Park will be developed, operated and managed to achieve the following goals:

1 Protect and enhance the Elbow River riparian zone; while providing appropriate human access to the river and mitigating flood damage potential.



Principles:

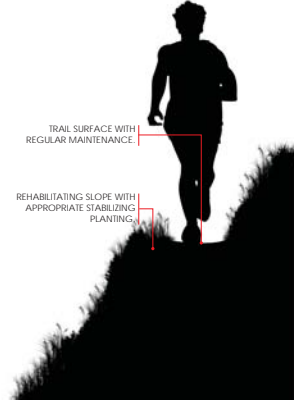
- » design opportunities for discovery with nature
- » provide opportunities to experience nature
- » create safe destinations for all people



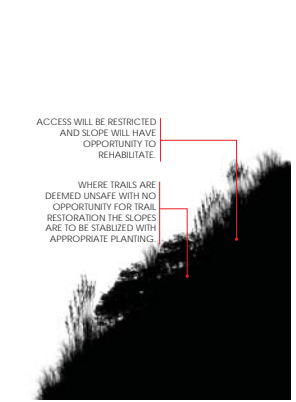
REHABILITATE EXISTING BANKS AND STABILIZE WITH NATIVE VEGETATION



EXISTING INFORMAL TRAIL CONDITIONS



REHABILITATING TRAILS TO BE SAFE AND STABLE



REMOVING TRAIL AND REHABILITATING SLOPE



VISION GOALS PRINCIPLES

2 Create a park experience that inspires families to play together in nature.



SIMPLE DESIGN ELEMENTS MADE OF NATURAL MATERIALS ENCOURAGE EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING, CREATIVITY, AND IMAGINATION. POTENTIAL PIECES INCLUDE LOGS PLACED BOTH VERTICALLY AND HORIZONTALLY, BOULDERS, AND WATER PUMPS.

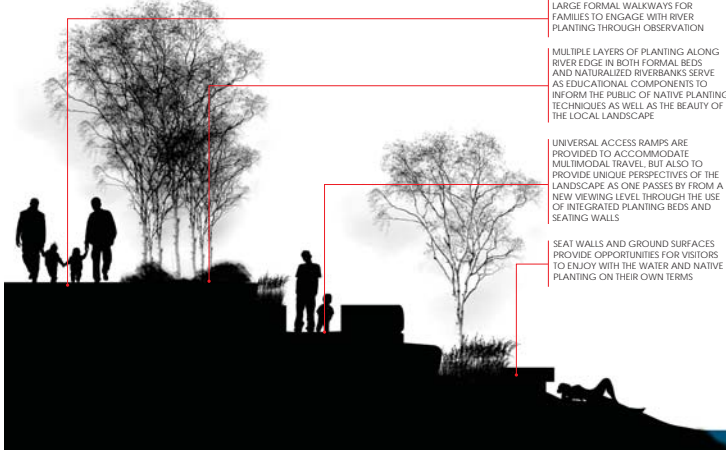
PLAY ELEMENTS CAN DOUBLE AS FITNESS PIECES TO ENCOURAGE MULTI-GENERATIONAL PLAY AND ENGAGEMENT WITH NATURE.

NATURAL PLAY SPACES

- Principles:**
- » play opportunities for all ages in nature
 - » year round destination
 - » encourage creative discovery



3 Encourage healthy active lifestyles through interactions with nature.



LARGE FORMAL WALKWAYS FOR FAMILIES TO ENGAGE WITH RIVER PLANTING THROUGH OBSERVATION.

MULTIPLE LAYERS OF PLANTING ALONG RIVER EDGE IN BOTH FORMAL BEDS AND NATURALIZED RIVERBANKS SERVE AS EDUCATIONAL COMPONENTS TO INFORM THE PUBLIC OF NATIVE PLANTING TECHNIQUES AS WELL AS THE BEAUTY OF THE LOCAL LANDSCAPE.

UNIVERSAL ACCESS RAMPS ARE PROVIDED TO ACCOMMODATE MULTIMODAL TRAVEL, BUT ALSO TO PROVIDE UNIQUE PERSPECTIVES OF THE LANDSCAPE AS ONE PASSES BY FROM A NEW VIEWING LEVEL THROUGH THE USE OF INTEGRATED PLANTING BEDS AND SEATING WALLS.

SEAT WALLS AND GROUND SURFACES PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR VISITORS TO ENJOY WITH THE WATER AND NATIVE PLANTING ON THEIR OWN TERMS.



IMPROVED RIVER EDGE

- Principles:**
- » play opportunities for all ages in nature
 - » year round destination
 - » encourage creative discovery
 - » integrate natural play and fitness nodes



SMALL GRASSED STEPS USABLE YEAR ROUND, PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SITTING, EXERCISES, AND SOCIALIZING.

SIGNIFICANT SPACES WILL REMAIN FOR EXISTING SPORTS TEAMS TO RECREATE.

GRASSED SOCIAL SLOPE



VISION GOALS PRINCIPLES

4 Maintain pedestrian/bike connections throughout the park and with the rest of the city.



Principles:

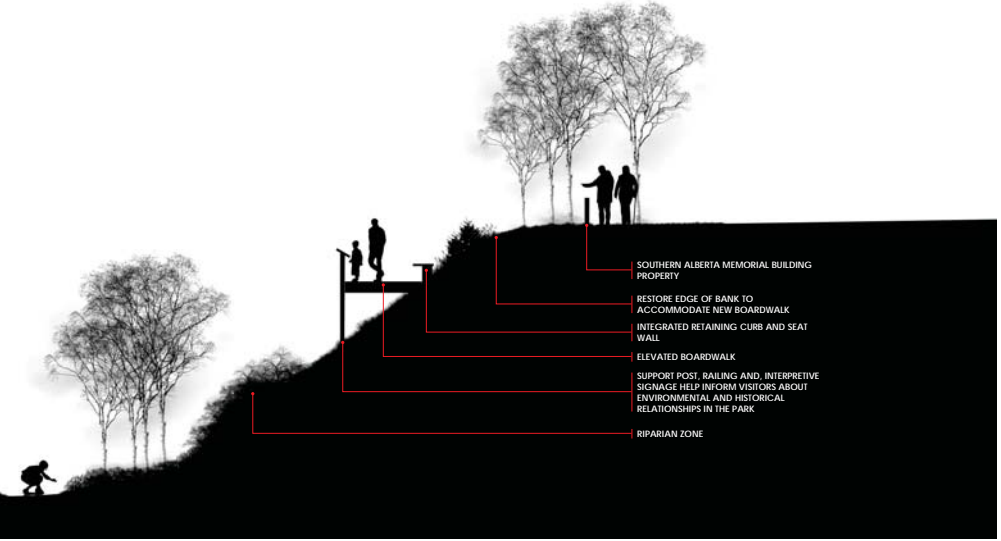
- » barrier free connections throughout and connecting to the park
- » ensure trails/pathways are safe for users and do not harm the environment

5 Visitors are responsible, respectful and safe while visiting the park.

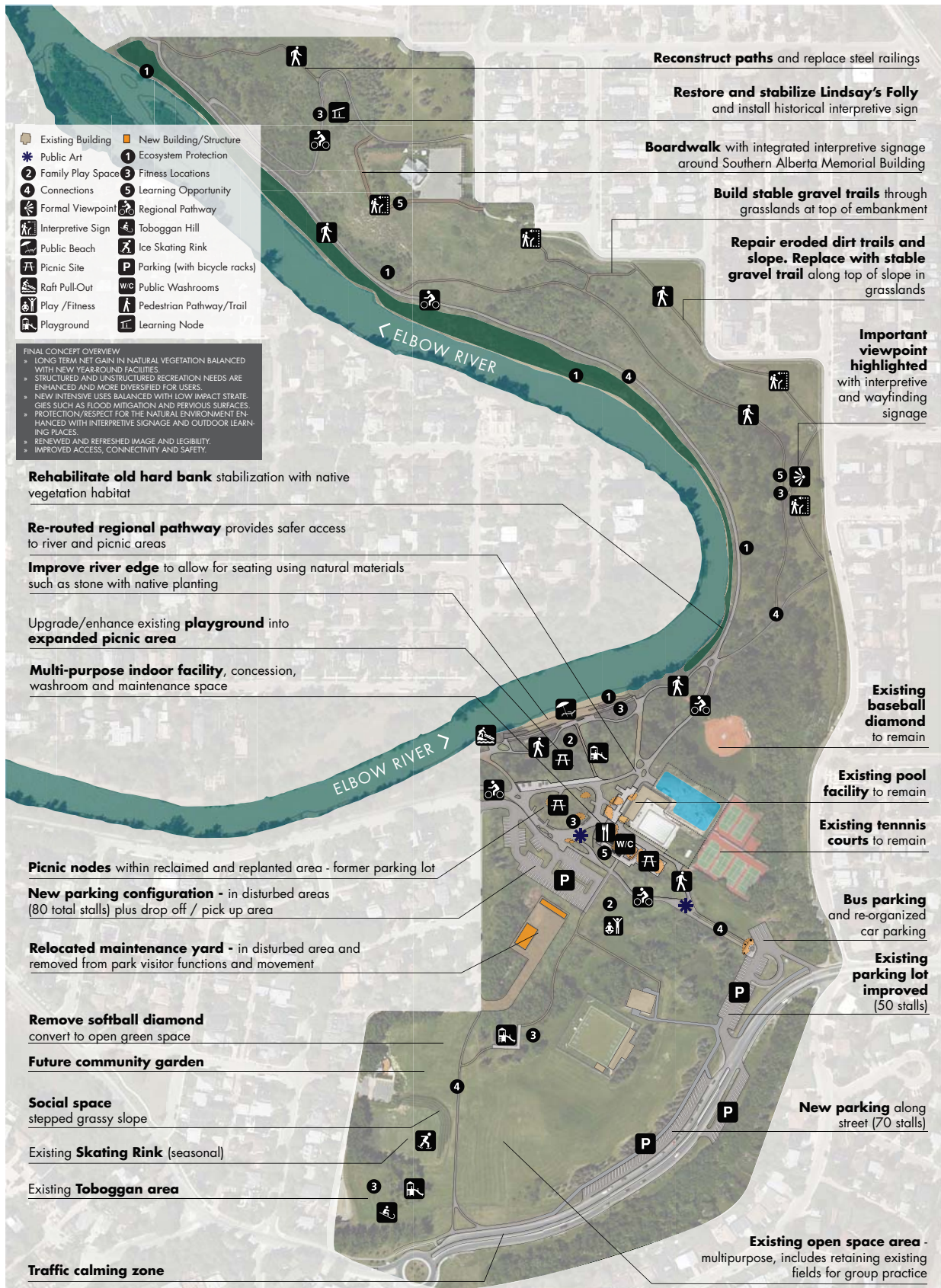


Principles:

- » highlight cultural history, such as Lindsay's Folly, within the park.
- » incorporate education into park features
- » provide signage and lighting for interest and safety



FINAL CONCEPT PLAN



FINAL CONCEPT RENDERING



- » Controlled separated access to pebble beach for swimming and wading.
- » Natural stone edges for seating and flood protection.
- » Storm water filtration with natural planting.

ILLUSTRATION OF RIVER EDGE BEACH



FINAL CONCEPT RENDERING

- » Design based on nature: closed canopies with tree-like light supports.
- » New canopies carried over to existing pool building for architectural continuity

- » Flood-proof concession and washroom building.
- » Pedestrian only active precinct.
- » Playful lighting for nighttime interest and safety

ILLUSTRATION OF NEW WASHROOM AND CONCESSION

- » New transparent pool security fence for viewing.
- » Shelters for outdoor learning, relaxing and informal cafe-style seating.
- » Elegant security lighting and nightscaping.
- » Permeable decorative paving.

ILLUSTRATION OF NEW PICNIC CAFE PLACE



DESIGN & MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

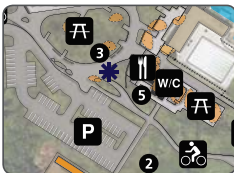


Future resilience of the natural landscape:

- » Restore river bank vegetation to help mitigate flood damage and create habitat
- » Planting new trees to replace the aging poplars
- » Control of invasive species
- » 13,000 square meters (139,930 ft²) of vegetation restoration and new naturalized park space



Retention of organized and unstructured sports recreation areas, such as the formal rugby practices or impromptu pick-up games.



Reorganized parking and addition of 75 new spaces along 42 Ave

- » Parks operations will stay at the park however, the maintenance yard will shrink to make room for more park space and the hub buildings
- » Re-organized parking in the northwest will incorporate low impact development (LID) strategies and allow for new day use picnic area



Natural play zones and outdoor fitness facility

- » 600 linear metres (1,968 ft) of new or re-aligned regional pathway for safety and better connectivity
- » 750 linear metres (2,460 ft) of upgraded regional pathway to current standards
- » 1,250 linear metres (4,100 ft) of local pedestrian paved pathways – improved connectivity
- » 1,500 linear metres (4,921 ft) of trail repairs and improvements, protection and restoration in natural areas



New 500 m² (5,000 ft²) multi-purpose building for central year round food service, washrooms, social spaces and outdoor learning place



Additional picnic and and flexible open space

- » 2,000 m² (20,000 ft²) of additional formal picnic space
- » The park is designed with flexibility in mind - the ability to adapt to changing needs in the future

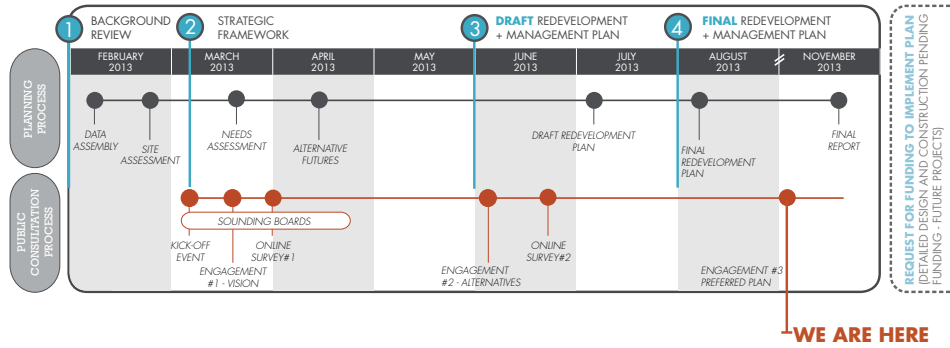


Refreshed park identity and legibility

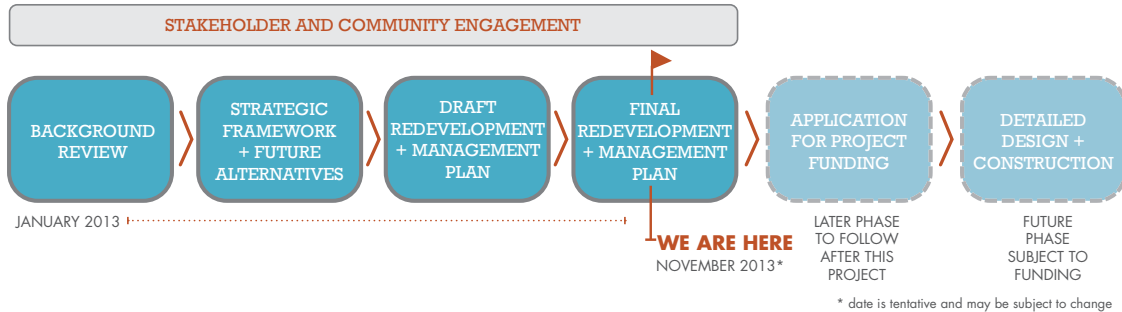
- » Lindsay's Folly provided a new identity for its historical significance
- » Educational interpretive signage
- » New entrance and sense of place



Project timeline:



What are the next steps in the process:



THANK YOU

PLEASE FILL OUT A SURVEY AND VISIT THE PROJECT PAGE:

www.calgary.ca/parks

