

Calgary



Bend in the Bow Design Development Plan

Phase 1: South Site (Inglewood Bird Sanctuary and Wildlands)

WHAT WE HEARD REPORT: Stage 1

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the Bend in the Bow.

Engagement Stage One

Issues, Opportunities,
Needs + Desires

Phase 1: Inglewood Bird
Sanctuary + Inglewood
Wildlands

GOALS

1. EDUCATION
2. ENVIRONMENT
3. CULTURE



SIX WEEKS
(JUNE 16 - JULY 22)



**TWO
SOUNDING
BOARDS**



IBS LEARNING CENTRE

INGLEWOOD WILDLANDS



**TWO
STAKEHOLDER
MEETINGS**

→ Internal Stakeholder Group

→ External Stakeholder Group



**120+
COMMENTS**
FROM ONLINE
MAPPING TOOL



**50+
COMMENTS**
FROM FACEBOOK



NEXT STEPS

→ **DRAFT CONCEPT**

Comments Received

400+

by Theme



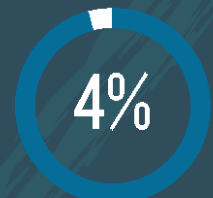
**THEME 1
USE +
PROGRAMMING**



**THEME 2
CONSERVATION**



**THEME 3
ACCESS +
CONNECTIVITY**



**THEME 4
MAINTENANCE +
SAFETY**

1. Executive Summary

The City of Calgary has embarked on the creation of a new regional park in the Inglewood area: Bend in the Bow (Figure 1). Bend in the Bow will transform the Inglewood Wildlands, the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary and Pearce Estate Park into an urban park for Calgary with diversely programmed areas. To provide the design and planning framework, the City is preparing a Design Development Plan (DDP) for the southern portion of the site (**Phase 1**), which includes the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary and Inglewood Wildlands. The northern portion of the site (**future Phase 2** of the project comprising the Pearce Estate lands) will undergo a similar process in 2016.

The DDP will integrate all areas of site (both southern and northern portions) into a cohesive and well-functioning landscape unit, as well as into the fabric of the local neighbourhood and the city as a whole. The plan's goals for Phase 1 (Inglewood Bird Sanctuary and Inglewood Wildlands) include the following:

- **Education** and program renewal: educate and celebrate the importance of the culture and environment of this regional destination in Calgary and their role in its stewardship
- **Environment:** enhance the habitat of this federally-recognized urban bird sanctuary
- **Culture:** conserve and celebrate the area's historical significance

The DDP, consisting of a vision for the regional park, a coherent and complementary program, concept design and preliminary cost estimate, will be used to guide future design and construction phases of work for the southern portion (Phase 1), and inform development of the northern portion of the site (future Phase 2). As part of the process, the City is gathering feedback from key stakeholders and the public to inform the design.

The purpose of this What We Heard Report Summary presents the findings from the first stage of engagement for Phase 1 (Inglewood Bird Sanctuary and Inglewood Wildlands).

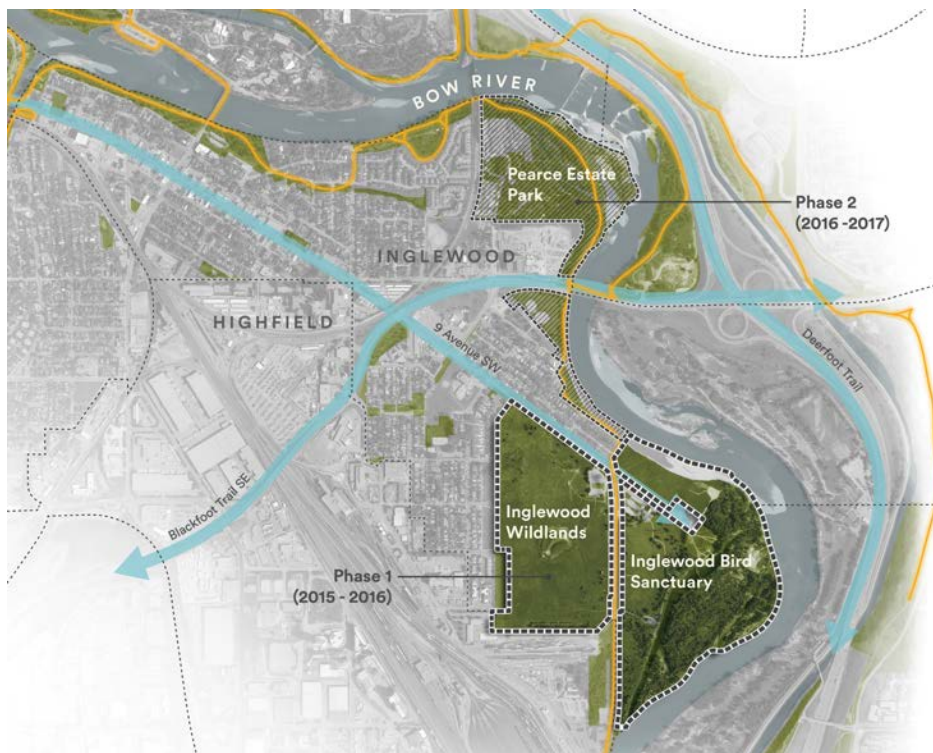


Figure 1. Bend in the Bow Study Area (Phases 1 and 2)

Stage 1 Engagement: June–July 2015

The first stage of engagement for Phase 1 took place from June to July 2015. A combination of centralized and decentralized activities were used to gain insight from citizens. These include:

- Sounding boards
- Online mapping tool
- Social media
- Internal and external stakeholder meetings

Over 400 comments were received, which identified the following key values:

- The Bend in the Bow is highly valued for its role as a nature sanctuary and historic site.
- Participants want a park that is respectful of the needs of wildlife, is resilient and biodiverse, balances human activity with habitat preservation, highlights and educates on the dynamic riverine environment, supports habitat-forming processes in the environment and fosters stewardship of the natural environment amongst visitors.
- Participants would like a range of programming opportunities that educates on how cultural and natural history conservation can be supported and fosters a greater sense of natural and cultural stewardship.
- Participants would like to see improvements to accessibility, circulation, navigation and signage, within the site, as well as between the site and the surrounding area.
- Participants also see opportunities to address safety and maintenance issues.

These insights will inform a set of value statements and steer the development of a draft concept design.

Next stages of engagement

The second stage of engagement for Phase 1 (Inglewood Bird Sanctuary and Inglewood Wildlands) will begin in July. Events will include internal and external stakeholder meetings, onsite and online public engagement, and an open house to gather feedback on the park vision, programming and concept options. The final stage of engagement for Phase 1 will take place from Fall 2015 to Winter 2016 and will include stakeholder meetings and a final Grand Vision Open public open house.

2. What We Did: The Process

Public and stakeholder input is important for helping the design team understand how people use the park currently, what could be improved, and what they would like to see in the future. Public participation early in the process ensures that the public's wants and needs are properly understood.

Between June 16 and July 22, 2015, citizens and stakeholders were asked to provide information about their issues, opportunities, needs and desires for the Phase 1 (Inglewood Bird Sanctuary and Inglewood Wildlands) Bend in the Bow area. Over 400 comments were received during the process, providing key insights for the park development.

The general public and project stakeholders were asked to complete three statements:

- What I like about this area ...
- This needs improvement ...
- In the future I would like ...

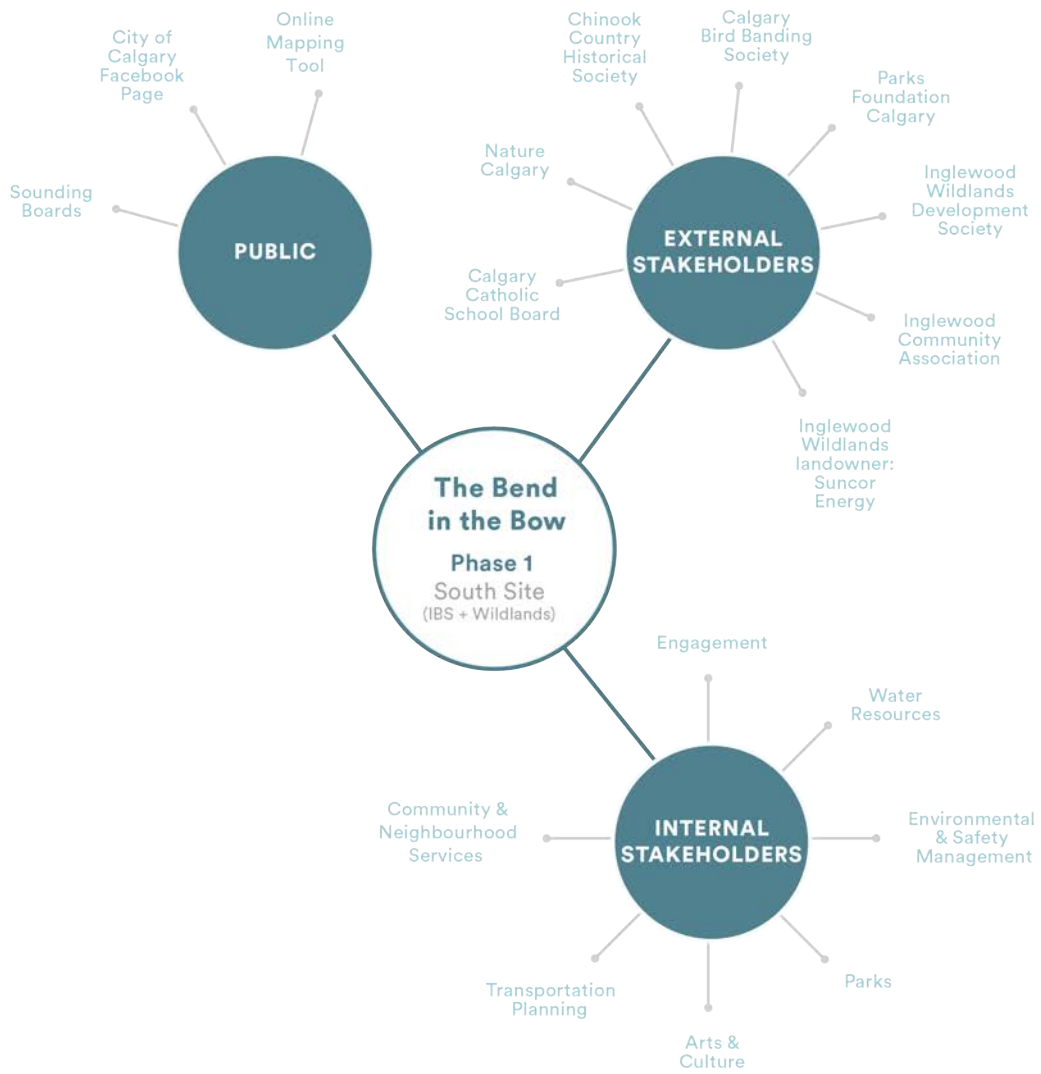
These comments were collected through:

- Sounding boards in two locations (86 comments)
- Online mapping tool (117 comments)
- Social media (50+ comments)
- Stakeholder meetings and workshops

In addition to the public engagement process, the Design Development Plan is being informed by the following:

- A comprehensive assessment of the ecological, fluvial, cultural and historical landscape
- River morphological responses in terms of erosion impacts and mitigation and riparian restoration

Below: Summary of stakeholder groups



3. What We Heard: Ideas and Themes

3.1 What We Heard

Generally, the feedback we received demonstrated that people who use the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary and Inglewood Wildlands are very passionate about it and highly value the area. Below are three word clouds summarizing the response the three main questions. Larger words indicate a higher frequency of occurrence.

What I Like About the Area...



Above: What I Like About the Area Word cloud. Larger words indicate higher frequency of occurrence.

In general, engagement feedback indicated that what is liked most about the area is the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary’s role and function as a protected natural environment and educational facility within the city. Feedback also indicated the passive recreational opportunities along the existing pathways and in open spaces, especially in the Inglewood Wildlands are highly valued as a community asset.

This Needs Improvement...

Overall, feedback related to desired improvements in the area included enhancement of habitat conservation and improved efforts to further protect urban wildlife and increase biodiversity in the area. Respondents were also interested in the ongoing flood remediation and resiliency efforts. Additionally the Inglewood Wildlands was identified as a key area in need of improvements such as improving programming of the space and improved connectivity between the Wildlands and Inglewood Bird Sanctuary.

3.2 Engagement Summary and General Themes

Under the project's three main principles (education, environment and culture), the following points summarize the most frequently heard responses:

Education

- Provide a diverse range of opportunities to experience the site's natural and cultural assets
- Guide human use to minimize impact to natural and cultural assets and maximize experience
- Foster sense of stewardship through volunteerism and education opportunities

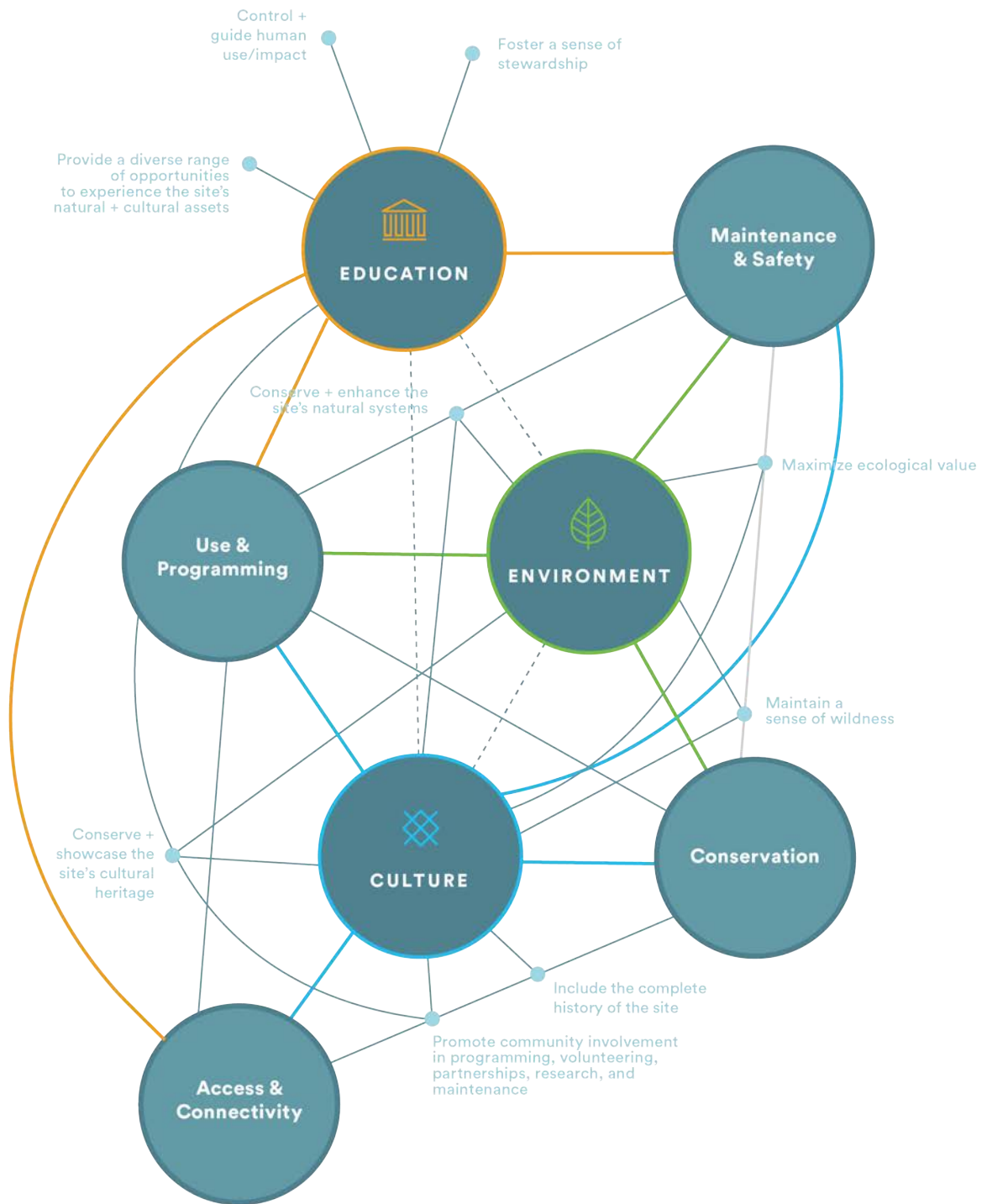
Environment

- Conserve and enhance the site's natural systems
- Maximize ecological value
- Maintain a sense of wildness

Culture

- Conserve and showcase the site's cultural heritage
- Promote community involvement in programming, volunteering, partnerships, research, and maintenance
- Include the complete history of the site from pre-contact times, to settlement, agricultural use, industrial use, and conservation.

Below: Summary of project principles, themes, values and key ideas.



To analyze the feedback gathered through all engagement activities in Stage 1, the project team categorized comments into common themes:

- Use + Programming (42% of total comments)
- Conservation (30%)
- Access + Connectivity (19%)
- Maintenance + Safety (4%)

In summary, comments indicated an interest in increasing opportunities for recreational use and educational programming in the area, increased conservation of natural areas and cultural heritage sites to compliment the IBS’s role as a federal migratory bird sanctuary and historic resource, improved connectivity to the Bend in the Bow area, as well as between the site IBS and Wildlands. Additionally, comments identified areas in need of improved maintenance and issues that need to be addressed to improve safety.

Comments under the theme of Conservation were further classified into the sub-themes:

- Natural habitat and wildlife (67%)
- Cultural heritage (22%),
- River conservation (10%)

In summary, comments indicated an interest in improving conservation of natural habitat and increasing biodiversity of the area. Improving awareness of the cultural heritage in the area and its significance to the city as a whole was also highlighted as a key interest. Additionally, comments identified river conservation, in terms of flood resiliency, as an element to be emphasized.

Comments classified under the Use + Programming theme were further categorized into the sub-topics:

- Educational uses (23%)
- Dog-related uses (20%)
- River uses (16%)
- Other (41%)

In summary, ideas related to use and programming were commonly related to enhancing educational opportunities in the area as it relates nature and cultural heritage. Comments regarding dog-related uses and river related uses in the area also indicated a need for better education pertaining regulatory requirements in the area,

Below: Summary of thematic analysis and project outcomes for the next project phase.

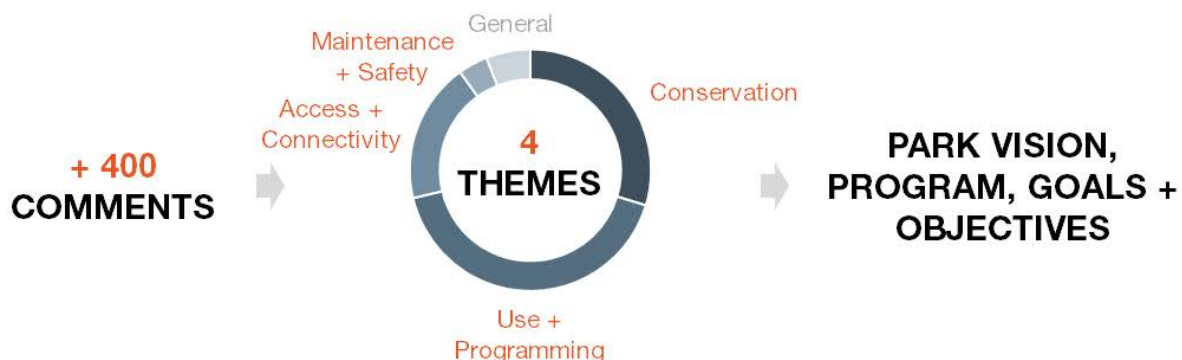


Table 2. Top Comments and Conclusions

Theme	Top Comments Listed by Frequency	General conclusions
Use + Programming (~42% of total comments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide social, cultural, and educational amenities for the public • Boat launch area for canoeing, kayaking + rafting • Support dog use in the park (on and off leash) • Balance between human use + conservation use • Support improved regulation of use (bylaw enforcement) • Restore and provide connection to Harvie's Passage • Do not support dog use • Improved observation deck or look out points/seating areas • Support preservation of area as a bird sanctuary • Incorporation of a beach area • Provide designated picnic areas • Highlight historical uses (including Indigenous uses) • Remediation efforts supported • Public art installations integrated throughout park • Provide year-round opportunities • Support active and passive recreational use (i.e., both walking and cycling) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desirable to continue and/or enhance programming that celebrates the heritage and culture of the area • Desirable to increase access to the river • Multi-season programming is also desirable.
Conservation (~30% of total comments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban wildlife + increased biodiversity • Preservation + rehabilitation of greenspace + natural areas • Heritage conservation • Conservation of existing bird sanctuary • Low maintenance / not "over-designed" • Balance between human use and conservation efforts • Improved riparian health • Flood mitigation + improved stormwater management • Restrict access for dogs to allow wildlife to thrive • River conservation / support remediation efforts • Highlight Indigenous heritage • Improved riparian health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and respect the natural environment • Build resiliency and biodiversity • Create a park that allows people to feel connected to nature, builds environmental awareness and stewardship
Access + Connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved circulation + integration of additional pathways (including multi-use pathways) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve wayfinding and signage • Increase connectivity to surrounding

Theme	Top Comments Listed by Frequency	General conclusions
(~19% of total comments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved access to the river Improved accessibility / universal design Improved entry features + wayfinding Improved public transit connections Enjoy existing naturalized, informal pathways; support minimal interference Better connections with parking lot Support limited access to sensitive areas 	<p>areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Universal design
Maintenance + Safety (~4% of total comments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance + safety issues to be addressed Crime prevention through environmental design Parking lot safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address safety and maintenance concerns through design

3.3 Points of Tension

Dog Access

Dogs are currently not allowed in the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary and Inglewood Wildlands, and will not be allowed in the future due to federal legislation and municipal policies.

A point of tension revealed in the process exists between those who would like to see permitted dog access in the Phase 1 Bend in the Bow area, compared to those who would like to ensure that the area remains a natural area sanctuary that restricts dog access. This split is reflected in opposing views on whether or not the following uses would be appropriate:

- Off-leash dog park
- On-leash dog park
- No dog access

With the exception of service dogs, dog are not allowed in the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary and Inglewood Wildlands to ensure the protection, preservation and enhancement of the wildlife habitat in the area. This requirement has been formally established federally in the *Migratory Bird Act*, as well as municipally in the *Natural Area Management Plan* and the *Inglewood Wildland Lease Agreement* between The City of Calgary and Suncor Energy.

The City of Calgary does not have any plans to change the management goals for either the Inglewood Wildlands or Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, and therefore dog access will not be accommodated in Phase 1 (Inglewood Bird Sanctuary and Inglewood Wildlands).

Dog access may be considered as an option for the Phase 2 (Pearce Estate) lands. The Design Development Plan process for Phase 2 is planned for 2016–2017.

River Access

Public programs and amenities that require access to the river are in conflict with regulatory requirements related to the federal migratory bird sanctuary (Inglewood Bird Sanctuary).

Therefore, river access and recreational river activities from the IBS will not be accommodated in Phase 1 (Inglewood Bird Sanctuary and Inglewood Wildlands).

However, recreational activities will be addressed in Phase 2 (Pearce Estate) where river access will be addressed, and may be considered as a possible programming option. The Design Development Plan process for Phase 2 is planned for 2016–2017.

Recreational Activities

The Inglewood Bird Sanctuary is protected as a federal migratory bird sanctuary, thus, some of the ideas brought up during stage 1 of the engagement such as higher intensity recreational activities) cannot be integrated into this phase of the project. The Design Development Plan is intended to preserve the vision of the Wildlands as an urban wilderness area for the enjoyment of nature, the attraction of wildlife, and environmental education, as identified in the Inglewood Wildlands Lease Agreement. While passive, nature-based recreational activities will be accommodated in Phase 1 (Inglewood Bird Sanctuary and Inglewood Wildlands), higher intensity and more active recreational activities will not be accommodated. However, programming for higher intensity active recreation will be considered as part of Phase 2 (Pearce Estate).

Taken together, these primary points of tension (dog access, river access, and recreational programming) indicate a significant need to improve awareness of the regulatory requirements of the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary and Wildlands. Moving forward, these regulatory restrictions, or critical design criteria, will be clearly communicated as part of consultation to ensure that the public and stakeholders are better aware of project scope and parameters.

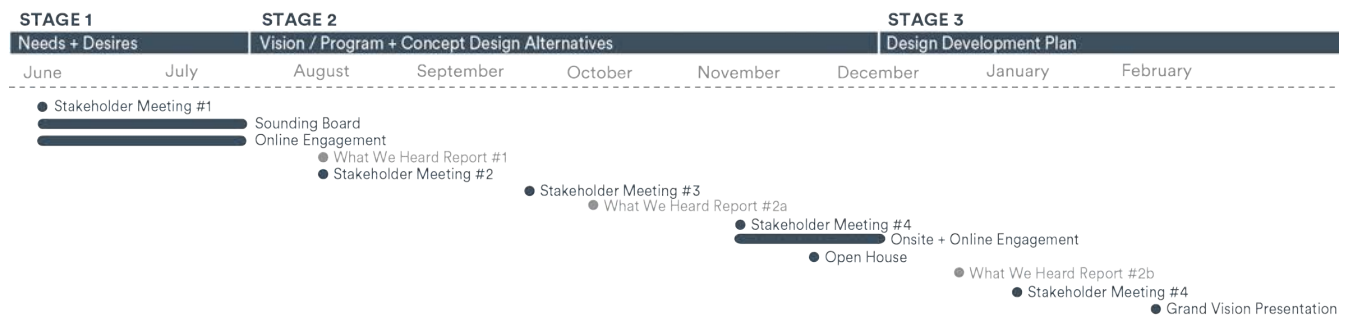
4. Next Steps

Bend in the Bow is a highly complex project, and the consulting team would like to ensure that all angles and stories are considered during the Design Development Plan process.

The project team will use the insights collected during Stage 1 of the engagement process to inform development of the vision, programming and concept design. The design will seek to integrate public feedback about what was liked, what could be improved, and what the public would like to see.

During the next stage of engagement, Stage 2: Vision / Program + Concept Design Alternatives, the public will be able to provide feedback on the Phase 1 (Inglewood Bird Sanctuary and Inglewood Wildlands) concept through online and in-person engagement activities, including a public open house. These activities are planned to take place during Autumn 2015.

The final stage of engagement is planned to take place in the early part of 2016. This will provide the public with an opportunity to review the final preferred design and the final draft Design Development Plan. A Grand Vision Presentation public open house will be held at the completion of the final stage of engagement for Phase 1 (Inglewood Bird Sanctuary and Inglewood Wildlands).



Looking for more information and project updates?

Project information and opportunities for public participation will continue to be made available on The City of Calgary Parks' webpage and through the project webpage on the *engage!* portal.

For more information, please visit calgary.ca/bendinthebow.

For Bend in the Bow project updates:

calgary.ca/bendinthebow 

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