



# Bend in the Bow.

Design Development Plan  
Phase 2: Pearce Estate Park

What We Heard #3:  
Preferred Concept Option  
September 2016

—  
Report prepared: September 2016

Contents

---

<b>Project Overview</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Engagement Overview</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>What We Asked</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>What We Heard</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Next Steps</b>	<b>8</b>

# Project Overview

---

The City of Calgary has begun a long-term project to connect the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary (IBS) to Pearce Estate Park. This project is called Bend in the Bow.

Phase 1 of this project, which includes the IBS and the Inglewood Wildlands, is complete.

**Phase 2 is wrapping up and focused on Pearce Estate Park and the adjoining green spaces along the Bow River towards the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary.**

This document continues to build on previous engagement for Phase 2 Bend in the Bow. For a summary of the overall process, and what we heard previously, please visit [calgary.ca/bendinthebow](https://calgary.ca/bendinthebow).



# Engagement Overview

The engagement for Pearce Estate Park and the adjoining green spaces (Phase 2 of Bend in the Bow) was made up of three stages: Vision and Programming, Concept Options, and Preferred Concept. This What We Heard Report describes the activities and the results of the engagement from the final 'Preferred Concept' stage.

On September 13, 2016, stakeholders were given opportunity to provide comments and feedback on the preferred concept for Phase 2. Stakeholders were asked to confirm the proposed park features and identify missed opportunities, before heading into the Grand Vision on October 13.

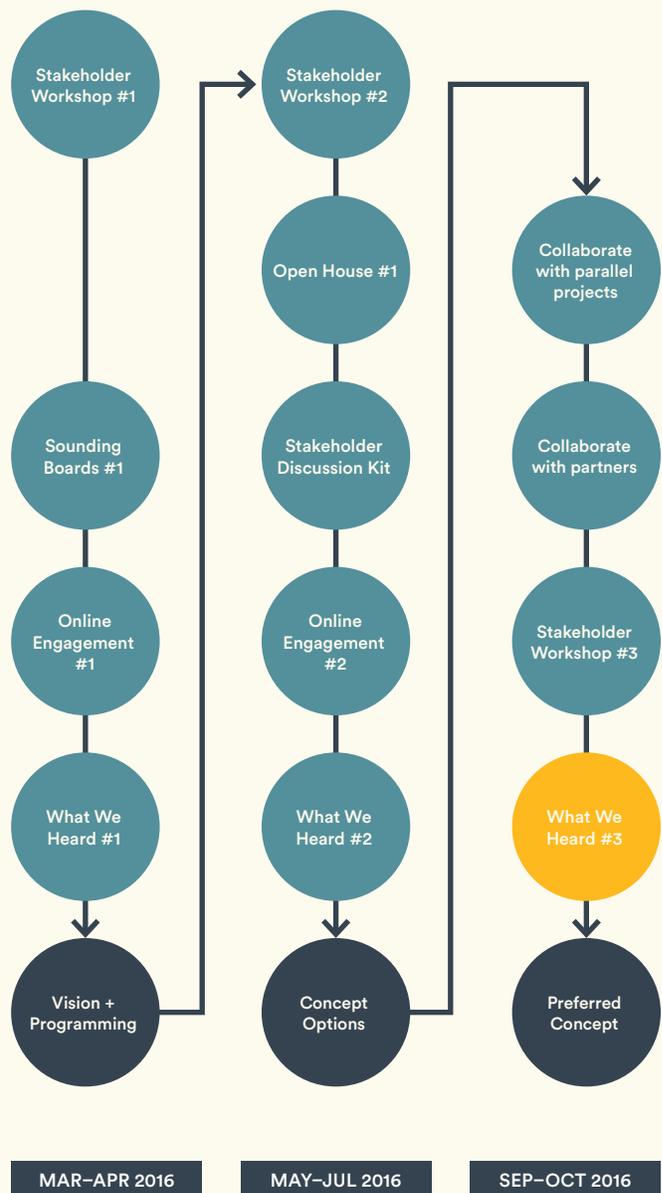


Figure 1: Bend in the Bow Engagement Process & Opportunities



Figure 2: Preferred concept for Phase 2 presented during engagement for feedback



# What We Heard

---

Overall, the preferred concept that was presented was well supported by the various stakeholders groups in attendance.

## Strengths

The enhanced wildlife corridor and the provisions to conserve natural habitat areas was identified as one of the strengths in the preferred concept. Although specific programming will be determined in the detailed design, the opportunity to repurpose the green space south of Blackfoot Trail into an active open space was also met with a positive response. The addition of the flood protection landform (as required by The City of Calgary Water Resources) was supported for the reason that it will provide a more distinct separation between the natural and active zones of use within Pearce Estate Park.

## Balance

The priority for this project is to balance three core values: nature, culture and education. Pearce Estate Park is a well-loved and extremely active park. It is used by many different groups, for many diverse reasons. The use of the river's edge and elements to support this use, for example, is one feature of the park where balance is key. Multiple projects in and along the river, as well as competing priorities, usage and opinions on how park visitors want to access and enjoy the river's edge need to be balanced, so the natural beauty, ecological benefits, and heritage of the park remains.

## Opportunities

The flood protection landform introduced to stakeholders was not just seen as an opportunity to separate the zones of use in the park, but as an opportunity to create new habitat for various species of wildlife and vegetation found in the park. Within this opportunity, stakeholders asked us to further consider the impacts on the park's wildlife and vegetation with respect to parallel projects (i.e. Harvie Passage) and what the construction and increase in users will have on them. More in-depth study and collaboration with the other projects happening in parallel with Bend in the Bow will need to take place. Stakeholders also saw an opportunity to further develop interpretive elements for the park with more stories related to the history and impact the river has had on it.

The following pages show a detailed summary of the comments received.



## Strengths

- Separation of Natural & Active Use
- Wildlife Corridor
- Natural Wildlife Habitat
- Active Use Area
- Interpretive Opportunities



## Balance

- River Edge: Nature & recreation usage
- Culture: Ensure balanced presence



## Opportunities

- Interpretive: History & impact of water
- Berm: Habitat creation
- Study: Impact from increased use

# What We Heard

## Detailed Summary of Input

What We Heard		What We Heard		
<b>Berm</b>	Creates good delineation of space, barrier between natural & active use	<b>Active Use</b>	Support to redevelop green space south of Blackfoot Trail and opportunity for new active use features	
	Support for natural plantings on one side		Consider: Winter use (skating, ski paths)	
	Consider: Moving farther back where possible to preserve more natural space		Pearce Estate Park is not an appropriate site for a disc golf course	
	Provide background/rationale		Consider: Use cultural features as buffer between active & natural zones	
Consider: Safety, views, accessibility		<b>Paths</b>	Support simplified paths & wayfinding	
 Consider: Opportunity to create specific habitat & strengthen corridor; Tunnels for wildlife to cross berm to wetland; Tobaganning on multi-use side			Strengthen east-west pedestrian connections north of SoBow	
			Path not required on top of berm or in picnic area	
<b>Wildlife Corridor &amp; Habitat</b>	Support for enhanced wildlife corridor, protecting natural areas, and passive restoration	<b>Pearce Memorial</b>	 Consider: Critical review of existing trail locations	
	 Consider: Island as wildlife refuge corridor; Or for recreational access		Reconsider location & message in overall Pearce story	
	Underpass: Screening at underpass to stop wildlife access to road	 Consider: Traditional style, rather than modern interpretation	<b>Interpretive</b>	Water: Include the history & impact of water throughout the site (irrigation, flooding, drainage, recreation)
	 Consider: Vegetated or art opportunity for screen; Knock out embankment to widen corridor			Transportation heritage: First Nations routes & train lines
	Preserve biodiversity			Interpretation should be integrated and dynamic (more than signage)
	 Consider: City-wide biodiversity study; Identify species using the corridor			 Support for interpretive signage in wildlife corridor
	Consider bank swallow habitat			
 Support for no light along corridor/ regional trail				



Details to be considered at a later design stage

*What We Heard*

**Urban Forestry Grove**

Support for urban forest/arboretum using Pearce's trees, interpretive opportunity

Consider: Less geometric style

**Parking**

Insufficient parking allocated for increased use of site



Consider: Parking locations for river access & festival use (Park & Ride – Max Bell Shuttle)

**Washrooms**

Review location of new washroom to move out of flood plain, into area easier to service & increased visibility for safety



Consider: Pump-out

**Picnic Areas**

Increase number of picnic facilities



Consider: Bookable group sites & fire pits

**Play**



Opportunity to tie in Pearce to play structures (Bow Bend Shack, irrigation)

*What We Heard*

**Parallel Projects**



Harvie Passage Impact: Need to study and address impact of increased high-intensity use from Harvie Passage on Pearce Estate Park amenities, habitat, wildlife corridor, and river edge condition

Consider: Biophysical Impact Study



River Access Strategy: Continued support for boat launch & river use amenities (change rooms, parking) at Pearce Estate Park

Consider: Parking locations (including trailer accommodation & distance to water); Removable change rooms to address flooding



Bioengineering Sites: Coordinate interpretive elements & signage

Parallel projects appear to be developed in isolation



Consider: More collaboration between projects & levels of government required

**Coordination**



Construction: Consider construction disturbances to wildlife, vegetation, and existing educational/recreation program use

# Next Steps

---

The feedback received from stakeholders during this stage of engagement will be used to help refine the Grand Vision, where appropriate. The Grand Vision will address the overall plan for both Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Bend in the Bow sites, combining the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary (IBS), Inglewood Wildlands, Pearce Estate Park and the adjoining green spaces into one scheme. At this stage in the process, it will address the design at a concept level. Comments related to specific design or programming details, or recommendations for additional studies, will be kept on record and used to inform the subsequent stages of the project, or new related projects that derive from the Bend in the Bow Design Development Plan in the future.

These future projects and decisions will require that the City of Calgary address the opposing viewpoints on design details arising from stakeholders' differing values. Additional parameters, such as internal policies, technical constraints, and strategic plans, will also need to be taken into consideration.

## **Thank you for your continued participation!**

We have endeavoured to work collaboratively with you throughout this process and greatly value your ideas, feedback, and knowledge. Although this stage of the process is at a close, we would be happy to continue to receive your input moving forward, as we work towards a balance of Nature, Culture, and Education together.

We look forward to seeing you at the Grand Vision on October 13!

---

Project information is available at [calgary.ca/bendinthebow](https://calgary.ca/bendinthebow).

## **Grand Vision**

**Thursday October 13  
4–8pm**

Presentations at 5:15 pm, 6:15 pm and 7:15 pm

**Alexandra Centre  
922 9 Ave SE**

# Appendix: Recorded Comments

---

# Stakeholder Workshops

## Verbal Comments (Recorded by note-takers)

1. Fluverium St John's
2. Discuss water (signage)
3. Not enough discussion about water throughout the site (irrigation, flooding, drainage)
4. Connecting planting in park to urban planting
5. Not modern – historical monuments
6. Trails not necessary around picnic
7. Very confusing – could use better orientation – programs can't find their way
8. Wheelchair accessibility around berm
9. More active park + natural – still exciting
10. "Big art" for Bow Habitat – interpretive Matrix
11. Critical review of existing paths – Re-evaluation
12. Could strengthen wildlife corridor – Could create habitat with berm – Larch
13. Planted berm vs. having a path
14. Livingston, Pearce connection?
15. Widely used by people with limited ability
16. Larch micro habitat – Sandstone outcropping bring in animals
17. A good staging area for groups using river access points
18. Really likes urban forest + still has lots of demands on site
19. Support expanded wildlife corridor – Dark at night
20. Simplify wayfinding + trail network – Don't be constrained by existing
21. Club use – Book group sites
22. Kerrywood Nature Centre – Really like outdoor play (Red Deer)
23. Picnic areas – Trails may not be necessary
24. Bookable fire pits
25. Busy! More picnic space/group spaces
26. Bring in idea of Pioneering/Experimentation
27. Naturalized vs. urban park
28. Original willow grove – cuttings
29. Why accentuate the berm with a path? Blend in
30. Berm contains/delineates zone change (Rec. vs. wildlife)
31. Opportunities for views
32. Change in height = habitat creation
33. Club/group staging area – Washroom? (Riverwatch)
34. Background on berm would be useful
35. Safety – View to the top of berm: avoid bad behaviour
36. Pearce: Monument(s) only? Balance against Livingston?
37. Maybe play up the park itself?
38. Larch on higher elevations = attract porcupines (micro-habitats)
39. Represent the history of Pearce – Like the urban forest
40. Riverwatch: Workshops on re-vegetation, etc.
41. More urban forest – Repeat throughout pockets along berm
42. Berm: Prefer to high wall tight at entrance
43. Invasive species too – Not so nice stories – Hybrids, etc. – Not native
44. 3 water interpretive loops – Sponsors wanted them branded
45. 200 kids a day via boat launch – Owned by fire department – Daily education tours by raft
46. Limit/restrict use of boat launch
47. Boat launch congestion management (Parking? Traffic? Emergency?)
48. Design charrette: Art for BHS (Key messages to Barb or Heather)
49. Roundabout: Fire department key to road to river
50. Road [along Active Use zone] would be required if a supporting launch was established
51. Green table
52. [Active Use Parking] Drive through is good!
53. [Active Use Parking] 3 School Bus: Equipment bus, Raft trailer, General parking with trailer pull-through
54. In use May/Sept/Oct – Riverwatch coordinate construction
55. [Connecting green spaces] Dark space
56. [Underpass] No light for wildlife – Constrain this site
57. Where do [boat launch users] park?
58. [Washroom] Year-round
59. Rainbow trout – Plan view
60. Programming links [at berm/path intersections]
61. History needs to be alive! Not just a bunch of storyboards
62. Calgary Public Library's website: History of Flooding
63. PEP is a better site to tell the story of the evolution of the Bow – How things have changed
64. Public boat ramp!
65. Multiple stories layered on the "rail trail"
66. Encounter bits of the story – Seeing the story alive
67. They surveyed the first nations trails as future transportation routes
68. [Active Use] Sounded great – This area in particular
69. [Active Use Parking] Too far to walk a boat from here
70. First Nations oriented + Grand Trunk layers
71. [Active Use Parking] Trail access – Expand parking
72. [GTR Trail] A rut – Trail marker

73. Locked gate needs access to boat ramp
74. Ensure access is preserved
75. Historically important for people to use the river to swim
76. High waters in June, so things should be movable
77. Don't clean up the beach
78. Waterworks: History of floods
79. Most wildlife moves at night – Protected is rhetorical
80. Move [south washroom] outside the flood plain?
81. Encounters better throughout the site (Pearce history)
82. Homestead history – A section of the irrigation demonstration
83. Memorial as an entrance feature
84. Change rooms [near parking lot]
85. Small scale version of Bow Bend Shack (Play)
86. [Memorial] Older look rather than modern art
87. Washroom closer to Harvie Passage – Sustainable washroom
88. Gravel beach should be fixed up
89. Ties to Pearce, weir, & irrigation
90. Link Harvie Passage signs – Structure history
91. Harvie Passage Interpretation: Weir history, Irrigation, Different boat crafts
92. Playing in water part of our history
93. Think about safety – What does that mean for design
94. A ditch/canal – Irrigation marker
95. Landform – Not mowed lawn – No pesticides
96. Examples of irrigation – Pearce tie-in – Play options
97. Open to the idea of moving the plaque
98. Plaque move: Talk to Donna, need permission from Ottawa
99. Federal marker – Look for it (purple background)
100. Benches
101. Check where federal plaque is
102. No need for channel for safety
103. Temporary barrier
104. "Wild look"
105. Protect riparian habitat, existing vegetation
106. [North shore] Protect and don't touch trees here
107. Fewer dogs in there the better – Keep natural/wild – Protect the trees & riparian habitat
108. Temporary flood barrier + access road [along north berm]
109. Pearce recognition requires an integrated approach to tell the scale of the story
110. Walking & emergency bridge [to island]
111. Owls here [north shore]
112. Old growth trees have become great attraction for flickers and woodpeckers
113. Bow Habitat responsible for stream (not O2)
114. Currently lots of bird habitat here (don't lose it)
115. Concerned about construction disturbance to wildlife (ie. of berm)
116. Not good location for [new] washroom? – Move to middle
117. Harvie Passage needs to become part of the conversation before PEP is firmed up
118. Refuge on island (limit access)
119. Still concerned that the importance of water is not part of the core values
120. Look more at berm location – Move here? [south]
121. Corridor of shrubs and trees good for birds
122. Keeping corridor is good!
123. Signage at river where the washrooms are (on river)
124. Make [underpass] more inviting
125. [Blackfoot Trail] Difficult location for pathway
126. Is the City planning bike path from the east side of the river over the existing Blackfoot bridge?
127. Potential conflict between disc golf and wildlife corridor
128. [Connecting green spaces] Habitat here? Corridor seems to end
129. [Urban Forestry Grove] Less geometric
130. [Urban Forestry Grove] Use Pearce's Trees
131. [Urban Forestry Grove] Use Diverse Species
132. Optimization of parking lot
133. Blackfoot Trail: Tight location for pathway
134. Continuity of habitat
135. Wildlife corridor to wildlands [west side of BHS]
136. Options for trailer parking
137. Change facility for paddlers
138. Humble but "flood proof"
139. Change rooms removable for flood – Lightweight – Flood corners on parking lot
140. If you expect "thousands of people every weekend" is there bus service to the area? Insufficient parking!
141. Awareness of boat launch to north of river
142. Nose Creek wildlife corridor is important
143. Berm boundary good to preserve natural areas – The further back the better!
144. Commitment to wildlife preservation on island – Province to commit as well (Corridor)
145. Understory, therefore locate the berm as far from river as possible – Would give further definition to the river over time
146. River valleys are what's left – Need to actively preserve
147. Need to address the fact that it is on the edge of Harvie Passage

148. River use is for passive use (according to City documents)
149. Divert wildlife corridor to island?
150. Acknowledge use of Harvie Passage and impacts on area during competitions
151. Part of the role of BITB is to point out inconsistencies between various plans
152. Questioning criteria for who is allowed to come to stakeholder meetings (eg. weighting of community members vs. boating associations)
153. Why haven't we looked at the other side of the river?
154. Island as potential isolation area
155. Island for wildlife corridor OR active use from river
156. Biophysical study needs to be done to acknowledge full impact of increased use
157. Divide/fence island to prevent interior island disturbance (no bridge) – Potential naturalization area
158. Paddling (high-intensity use) mixed with wildlife corridor
159. World class paddling = increased water user access – How to protect river edge?
160. Should people be on the gravel beach?
161. Type of active use if important for wildlife connection
162. Need to figure out what species are going to use the wildlife corridor
163. Fencing to stop wildlife using underpass from getting onto road instead
164. River corridor is the City's primary contribution to biodiversity – Give priority
165. No disc golf
166. Migratory birds down to IBS
167. City-wide biodiversity monitoring – Need to preserve what we have, don't lose it
168. Impact to biophysical of bringing thousands of people every weekend
169. No bridge to island
170. Manicured grass on channel in order to accommodate high intensity in summer
171. Preserve biodiversity
172. Berm good division of natural and active use
173. Likes that the plan has a general understanding that nature to be left as is
174. Don't let cultural negatively impact the corridor
175. Likes that disc golf is moved away from natural area
176. Likes the ball diamonds gone
177. Wildlife & culture beside each other, active further away
178. Protect the river edge if you do the active use
179. Riparian impacts
180. More migratory birds downriver
181. [Connecting green spaces] Could we fence off public use?
182. [Connecting green spaces] Leave entirely natural
183. [Connecting green spaces] Passive restoration & celebrate the regeneration
184. [Active Use Parking] Larger lot for truck trailers
185. Parking needs to be evaluated
186. Use cultural as less-intense buffer between natural and active use areas
187. [Active Use] This could be a good use
188. Move washroom closer to proposed boat launch?
189. Someone must provide infrastructure
190. Projects are completed in isolation?
191. Are we ignoring Harvie Passage?
192. Criticism of boat access on river (city-wide)
193. Mandate to protect river edge, increase biodiversity
194. [Images: Harvie Passage Interface] Missing the prior to Harvie Passage "habitat factors" for fish dependant birds (more friendly terrain + less human disruption)
195. [Images: Harvie Passage Interface] Will it be wildlife friendly? (Nocturnal? Winter?)
196. [Images: Harvie Passage Interface] Across "Low Water Channel" the island should be a wildlife sanctuary (management, protected, and with enforcement)
197. [Images: Underpass] On opportunity basis, make it larger – In the meantime, make it more wildlife friendly
198. [Images: Parking Enhancements] None of these are attractive to me. Ensure parking lots have defined walking access to pathways so people don't take short cuts that damage the park
199. [Images: Underpass] Clean it up, make it more inviting
200. [Images: Urban Forestry Grove] Biodiversity should be priority
201. [Images: Urban Forestry Grove] More natural, less geometric
202. [Images: Urban Forestry Grove] Diverse species – Replace Col. P's willows for porcupine habitat along H.P. channel
203. [Images: Urban Forestry Grove] Species that show the types of trees that Pearce brought into study
204. [Images: Railway Trail] Add a mini tressel bridge??
205. [Images: Railway Trail] I like keeping the feel of a rail trail on this
206. [Images: Gravel Beach] Is this on the "island" side or the PE Park side? Island – restrict access! Refuge for indigenous wildlife
207. [Images: Active Uses] Keep the disc golf to a minimum
208. [Images: Active Uses] Should be subject of specific

consultation – All of these are potentially fine

209. [Images: Interpretive Elements] Signs attached to trees? Really?

210. [Images: Wildlife Corridor] No built environment

211. [Images: Blackfoot Trail] Slope too steep for pathway and road negotiate with So Bow

212. [Images: Blackfoot Trail] Some of these option have too much slope to be compared to the existing trail to the bridge

213. [Images: Parking Enhancements] Where is the water coming from?

214. [Images: Wayfinding + Markers] Where is the layout map?

215. [Images: Play] The more options that can be applied the better

216. [Images: Wayfinding + Markers] Site is very un-navigable

217. [Images: Pearce Memorial] None of these – Not too modern, more traditional

218. [Images: Pearce Memorial] Outlook: Way too interpretive – Hard. upset.

219. [Images: Flood Protection Landform] No pesticides, no mowed lawn

220. [Images: Pearce Memorial] Interpret Bow Bend Shack as a playhouse

221. [Images: Pearce Memorial] Older look/historic

222. [Images: Pearce Memorial] Terrible place for the location

223. Impact of construction

224. With storyboard – multi-use of the trail

225. Rationale behind landform

226. Washrooms

- » New Washroom could be a pump out.
- » Concerns about washroom in the flooding area.
- » Located in a hard to service area and may be difficult to enforce.
- » Washroom is notorious for naughty behaviour

227. Safety

- » Bird blind – don't create any hiding spots to avoid people using the bird blind illegitimately.
- » Screening along Deerfoot Trail could be vegetated or an art opportunity
- » SoBow interface – SoBow is currently re-designating land use on their vacant site (potential town homes), so that would help with activating the currently concealed edge.
- » Bylaw supports formalized parking and trails (tackle issues of homelessness at the south end of the park where there are informal trails and lack of “eyes on the street”

228. Park Access

- » Emergency Access – Bylaw has a whole emergency response plan for Harvie Passage.
- » Requires a 4m wide boat launch
- » Better improvements for transit users at bus stops

229. Pathways

- » Long lights at the 19th and Blackfoot intersection. Potential pedestrian overpass as a future item. Lots of condos, pedestrians, and people will be in the area
- » Strengthen the east-west pedestrian connections north of SoBow

230. Parking

- » Parking for people during festivals (Nationals 2018 at Harvie Passage)
- » Consider trailer parking
- » Parking will become an issue as the park becomes more as a destination
- » Transportation supports more parking in the ball diamonds
- » Park and Ride (Max Bell Shuttle) during events

231. Festivals and Events

- » Support for second washroom placement and the adjacent open space
- » Consider the ability to bring in temporary infrastructure
- » Consider bringing in power and potable water
- » Support for terraced stone seating
- » Park would need irrigation to rehabilitate the turf after a major event
- » Suggestion of using the Max Bell parking lot to shuttle people in during events

232. Underpass

- » Could knock out the embankment at the underpass to increase width of the wildlife corridor
- » Underpass improvements supported by Transportation

233. Berm

- » Berm bridge – may be challenging to construct
- » Should give more room for wildlife to go through (small tunnels so wildlife can reach the wetland?)
- » Support for berm having one side natural plantings.
- » Do you want wildlife to go into the manicured areas?
- » Fun to have tobogganing hill on the multi-use side.

234. Tree Grove

- » Is more like arboretum rather than nursery. Can be seen as a place for tree trials, where trees can get bigger

**235. Municipal Reserve**

- » Raised for flood protection. Site still in discussion.

**236. Public Art**

- » Reconsider the memorial site locations. We are telling the story of Pearce in different representations on various sites to tell the story of urban forestry, Bow Bend Shack, and Irrigation.

**237. Wildlife Corridor**

- » Support for no lighting on regional trail.
- » Support for educational and interpretive signs within the wildlife corridor
- » Bank swallow habitat – keep an eye on this!

**238. Winter Activities**

- » Support for skating or ski path in the former ball diamonds

**239. Bio-engineering**

- » Tying in interpretive elements and signage to the bio-engineering demonstration sites.

**240. Fire department**

- » What do the improvements with the bridge look like?
- » Consider vehicle safety perspective / sightlines
- » SoBow has a design for the corridor that was brought through to widen..? That's an access point for fighting fire.
- » A turnaround above the bike path and hammerhead
- » Needs access to the whole of Harvie Passage for emergency, exponentially increased with use

**241. Strengths**

- » A place where people go and spend a day
- » Excited about enhanced natural wildlife corridor to Inglewood Bird Sanctuary

# Stakeholder Workshop

## Design Inspiration Images

Values beside each image denote the number of times it was selected by participants.

Only images that received at least one dot are shown.

### Gateways + Entrances



| 3



| 2



| 1



| 1

### Wayfinding + Markers



| 4



| 1



| 1



| 1

### Flood Protection Landform



| 4



| 1



| 1



| 1

### Parking Enhancements



| 2



| 1



| 2

### Wildlife Corridor



5



3



4



2



1



1

### Interpretive Elements



5



1



2



3



1



1

### Picnic



2



2



1



3

### Play



1



2



2



4



1

Harvie Passage Interface



| 8



| 2



| 3



| 1

Cold Water Stream



| 3



| 2



| 1



| 3

Gravel Beach



| 1



| 2



| 2



| 1



| 2

Pearce Memorial



| 4



| 1

**Blackfoot Trail**



| 2



| 1



| 1



| 1

**Underpass**



| 2



| 4



| 1



| 2

**Active Uses**



| 3



| 1



| 1



| 2



| 1

**Railway Trail**



| 1



| 1



| 2



| 1

## Urban Forestry Grove



| 1



| 1



| 3



| 1



| 1