

# Bowmont Natural Environment Park Management Plan Update

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WHAT WE HEARD REPORT

November 2015

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## Introduction

Public and stakeholder engagement played an important role in the development of updated management recommendations for Bowmont Natural Environment Park (NEP). The engagement process for the Bowmont NEP Management Plan Update consisted of two phases, which correspond to phases one and two of the three-phase project timeline:

**Phase 1:** Foundations

**Phase 2:** Exploring Options and Trade Offs

**Phase 3:** Draft and Final Plan

The purpose of Phase 1 is to identify what is valued, causes for concern, and opportunities for improvement related to key management themes in Bowmont Park. Public and stakeholder input was used to validate and supplement site analysis and inform the development of updated management recommendations. The focus of the Phase 2 engagement process evolved based on the significant number of comments received in Phase 1 about off-leash areas and their management. Off-leash management was identified as a significant polarizing issue in Bowmont NEP, and was therefore targeted for further public input in Phase 2. Phase 3 of the project draws upon the results of the public engagement process to develop a draft and final management plan for the park.

This report summarizes the engagement tactics and feedback received for phases 1 and 2 of the Bowmont NEP Management Plan Update project. Verbatim comments can be found in Appendix A of this report.

In combination with a comprehensive review of relevant plans and studies and rigorous site analysis, this feedback constitutes an important component of the management planning process for Bowmont NEP. It will be instrumental in guiding long-term protection and improvement strategies to ensure a sustainable future for this important natural area.

## 1. Phase 1

The first phase of engagement, “Foundations”, took place from May to July 2015. In this phase, the project team reached out to the public and community stakeholders to see what their park experience is, what they would change, and what they envision in the long term for Bowmont NEP. During this initial phase of engagement, more than 300 individuals took part in the process, providing over 1000 ideas. The majority of feedback was received through the public online survey and online map tool.

### Phase 1 Engagement Objectives

The objectives of the Phase 1 engagement process were to:

- Identify what is valued and where
- Identify causes for concern
- Identify opportunities for improvement related to key management themes

### Engagement Themes

The City of Calgary identified a number of priority management topics to be addressed in the updated management plan. These topics were framed as management themes which were used to direct feedback and classify comments in all engagement activities. These themes were used to facilitate comparison of stakeholder feedback across different engagement activities in phase 1. The four management themes are:

- **Natural Habitats**

The natural habitats theme refers to the unique plants, animals, and natural features that characterize Bowmont NEP as a treasured natural area. This includes water resources, sensitive landforms and vegetation, as well as wildlife connectivity.

- **Access + Amenities**

The access and amenities theme refers to how accessible Bowmont is to all people, regardless of age and ability, as well as the distribution and quality of park amenities. This includes the location of access points, signage, wayfinding, parking, garbage bins, and other park amenities.

- **Pathways + Trails**

The pathways and trails theme refers to regional pathway, nature trails, and mountain bike trails that run through Bowmont NEP.

- **Off-Leash Dog Areas**

The off-leash dog areas theme refers to the fenced and unfenced areas within the park dedicated for off-leash use. This includes the location and clarity of existing off-leash boundaries, as well as ancillary off-leash area signage and other ancillary amenities.

### Engagement Tactics

An integrated engagement and communication approach was followed to provide multiple ways of joining the conversation about the Bowmont NEP Management Plan Update. Engagement was undertaken in accordance with The City of Calgary *Engage!* Policy. Engagement activities and communication tactics correspond to the level of engagement along the City of Calgary’s engagement spectrum. This spectrum allows for levels of engagement to vary through each project phase. It allows for engagement activities to be specifically tailored to different stakeholder audiences.

Phase 1 engagement tactics included centralized and decentralized approaches to engagement. Centralized events included a community stakeholder workshop to gather input on what is working and what could be

improved in the park. Decentralized activities included an online map tool and online survey. These decentralized online activities were designed to maximize opportunities for the public to share their thoughts and comments related to park management in Bowmont NEP. Engagement activities for Phase 1 are listed below, and elaborated upon in the following sections:

- Public Online Map Tool
- Public Online Survey
- Community Stakeholder Workshop

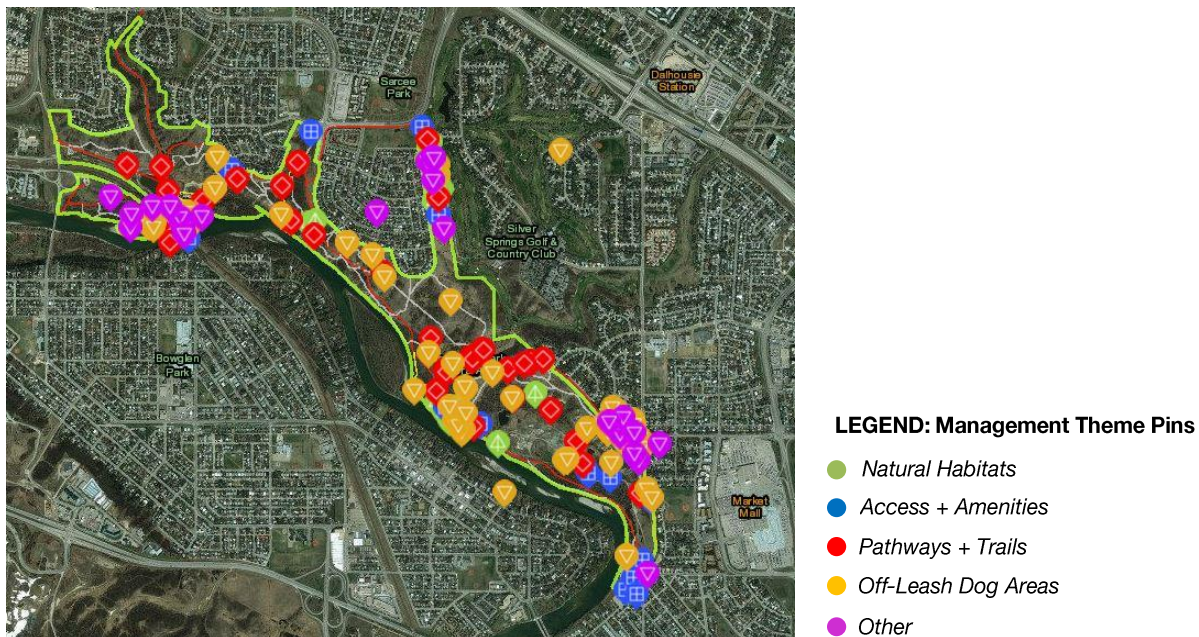
### **Online Map Tool**

Public feedback on the four management themes was gathered using an online map tool from May 31 – July 31, 2015. The online map tool sought broad input on three areas of enquiry:

- What was working well;
- What could be changed; and
- What would be good to see in the future.

The online map tool, developed by O2, was accessible through a link on the City of Calgary’s project webpage. Users were asked to place a “pin” on the map associated with the four key management themes (Natural Habitats, Access + Amenities, Trails + Pathways, Off-Leash Dog Areas). A fifth pin was available for users to make comments about park issues unrelated to the four identified themes.

With the placed “pin” users were asked to write open-ended, location-specific comments related to the management themes (Figure 1). This tool was instrumental in providing spatially relevant feedback on what is working well and what needs improvement in Bowmont NEP. The information provided is stored in a geo-database that can be accessed when refining management recommendations for the updated plan in Phase 2 of the project.



**Figure 1. Screenshot of the online map tool showing frequency and location of “pins” for all management themes**

### **Online Survey**

An online, open-ended survey complemented the online mapping tool to gather exploratory, detailed input from the broader public on issues and opportunities. This survey was available through a link on the City of Calgary project website and hosted through Survey Monkey. The web survey was advertised through community posters, social media and on the project webpage.

The City of Calgary identified a number of priority management topics to be addressed in the updated management plan. These included natural habitat management, access and amenities, pathways and trails, and off-leash areas for dogs. To ensure that public feedback on these management topics was not influenced by leading questions, online survey questions were crafted to be as open-ended as possible. The online survey posed the following questions for each management topic:

- **Natural Habitats:** What comments do you have about natural habitats and wildlife in Bowmont Park?
- **Access + Amenities:** What comments do you have about access to Bowmont Park and the amenities found within the park?
- **Pathways+ Trails:** What comments do you have about trails and pathways in Bowmont Park?
- **Off-Leash Dog Areas:** What comments do you have about off-leash dog areas in Bowmont Park?
- **Other:** Do you have any other comments about Bowmont Park that may be unrelated to the management categories?

The survey was taken 231 times, resulting in 912 comments in total.

### **Community Stakeholder Workshop #1**

The City of Calgary identified community groups with specialized knowledge and vested interest in Bowmont Natural Environment Park. These were largely the same stakeholder groups who were involved in the East Bowmont Design Development Plan in 2012. The project team reached out to the following community groups and community associations:

- Varsity Community Association
- Montgomery Community Association
- Bowness Community Association
- Silver Springs Community Association
- Calgary River Valleys
- Nature Calgary / Calgary Field Naturalists Society
- Off-Leash Calgary
- Calgary Pathways Advisory Council
- Calgary Mountain Bike Alliance
- Bike Calgary
- Calgary Roadrunners Club
- City of Calgary, Ward 1

An email invitation was sent to the identified community groups and local community associations seeking one participant from each organization to represent the group's interests and concerns at a stakeholder workshop to be held on June 16, 2015. The invitation read as follows:

Good afternoon,

The City of Calgary is looking to update the 2004 Bowmont Natural Environment Park Management Plan. In light of the following changes that have occurred within and around Bowmont Park since 2004, it is important to amend the plan to make any necessary changes to improve the ecological health and user experience of the park:

- The acquisition of Bowmont East (formally known as the Klippert property) into the park
- The development of the Bowmont East Gate Park Design Development Plan
- The incorporation of storm water management into the park as part of the newly acquired lands and in the western portion along the 85th Street Bridge
- Off leash use of the park – many users currently do not adhere to the boundary recommendations of the Plan, nor do they follow the new Off Leash Management Plan guidelines developed in 2010
- Damage to vegetation and fragmentation of habitat caused by the proliferation of informal trails
- The 2013 Flood, which resulted in damage and erosion to the river banks and riparian areas.

While stakeholders were consulted extensively during the recent development of the East Bowmont Natural Environment Park Development Plan (approved in 2014), significant events such as the 2013 flood have prompted the need to conduct additional consultation for the updated management plan. It is important for the City to check back in with stakeholders to make sure that what we heard still rings true, and provide an opportunity for stakeholders to voice their concerns about issues that have emerged since the flood. The City wants to ensure that the management plan for Bowmont Park responds appropriately to current conditions and future needs.

The first phase of the management plan update project is engaging with internal and external stakeholders to inform them of the top issues we've identified within Bowmont Park:

- Habitat and wildlife protection- this is critical to the long term management and environmental sustainability of the park.
- Off Leash Areas:
  - unclear boundaries and resulting user conflicts,
  - changes to pilot off-leash areas need to be implemented,
  - river access for dogs and people,
  - alignment of the Off Leash Management Plan with Bowmont Park Management Plan updates
- User conflicts on the multi-use trails between cyclists, pedestrians and other park users – mitigating conflict and improving user experience.
- Flood impacts to the river bank
  - How do we balance safe access to the river for all users while ensuring riparian and river bank protection?

We also want ensure we haven't missed anything- this is where we'd like to hear from you.

We value your opinion. On behalf of the City of Calgary Parks project team, we invite you to attend an evening workshop to share your insights and concerns about the management of Bowmont Park. These discussions will be framed by previous engagement results, as well as the biophysical and policy/management changes that will shape future management of the park. Your feedback will help us develop sound management recommendations to balance resource protection with multiple uses tailored to the unique conditions of Bowmont Park.

Please join us:

Tuesday, June 16, 2015 6pm – 8pm  
Varsity Community Centre  
4303 Varsity Drive NW

*We ask that only one representative of your group/organization attend, to ensure we can capture feedback as thoroughly as possible. Please RSVP to: Caitlin Smith ([caitlin.smith@o2design.com](mailto:caitlin.smith@o2design.com)), by June 10, 2015.*

*Online Engagement Opportunities: An online survey and map tool will be available for you to leave comments related to the project at your convenience. The survey and map tool will be launched **Tuesday June 2**, at [Calgary.ca/bowmontpark](http://Calgary.ca/bowmontpark).*

*We hope to see you at the workshop and look forward to continuing this important conversation about the future of Bowmont Park.*

*Sincerely,*

**Nicole Brugman**, B.Sc, P.Biol  
Northwest Natural Areas Project Coordinator  
Parks, Natural Parkland Management  
The City of Calgary  
T 403-537-7556

One representative from each identified group was present at the stakeholder workshop on June 16, 2015, with the exception of Off-Leash Calgary. Repeated attempts were made to contact a representative from Off-Leash Calgary, but the project team did not receive a response.

During the stakeholder workshop, stakeholders from these groups were asked to identify what is working, key issues, and opportunities related to park management for Bowmont. Maps illustrating key management topics were developed to categorize stakeholder feedback into the same categories used in the online survey: habitat management, pathways and trails, access and amenities, and off-leash dog use. Stakeholders were invited to record their comments on post-its or directly on the map for each management category.

## **Phase 1 Engagement Feedback**

The following sections assess what was heard during the Phase 1 public engagement period. Trends and key issues are described generally in the section below, and results pertaining to specific management themes are summarized in the section that follows.

### ***What We Heard - Summary***

Over the course of the engagement activities in Phase 1, key concerns and points of tension were identified by analyzing the detailed written feedback collected. The resulting common concerns expressed in Phase 1 were:

- Protect wildlife and habitats
- Park amenities are adequate
- Improve accessibility for children and people with disabilities
- Reduce the amount of off-leash area
- Increase the amount of off-leash area
- Off-leash signage and boundaries are confusing
- Minimize user conflict on pathways
- Enforce speed limit for cyclists
- Designate 199R Silverview Way as Urban Natural Area (*Out of Scope*)



## What We Heard - Results by Theme

The following sections analyze the comments received in the Phase 1 engagement activities by management theme. The detailed written feedback from the online map tool, online survey, and stakeholder workshop were compiled and analyzed to identify common themes and concerns. For each management theme category below, the most frequently repeated opinions have been grouped into statements that generally express recurring ideas. The scale of the text (large to small), represents the number of times an opinion was repeated (most to least). Detailed verbatim feedback for all phase 1 engagement activities is available in Appendix A.

### Natural Habitats Theme

1. Increase protection for natural habitats and wildlife
2. Maintain natural habitats as they are currently
3. Restrict access to prioritize preservation and restoration
4. Increase education and awareness to promote sustainable park use

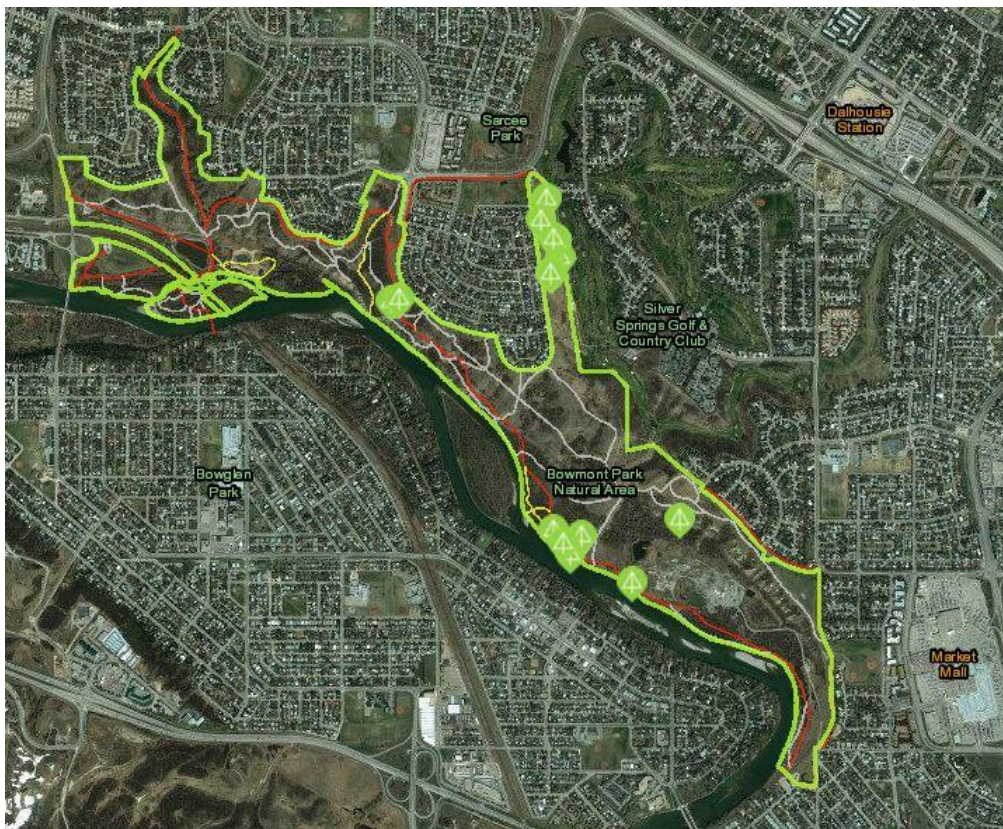


Figure 2. Screenshot of online map tool comments related to Natural Habitats

Of the total comments received about natural habitats, most were related to **future use/park use**:

- 70% of comments in the natural habitats management category indicate a desire to ensure preservation or management of current habitat or would like to see more lands designated for habitat
- 22% of comments indicate satisfaction with the current quality and quantity of natural habitats in the park

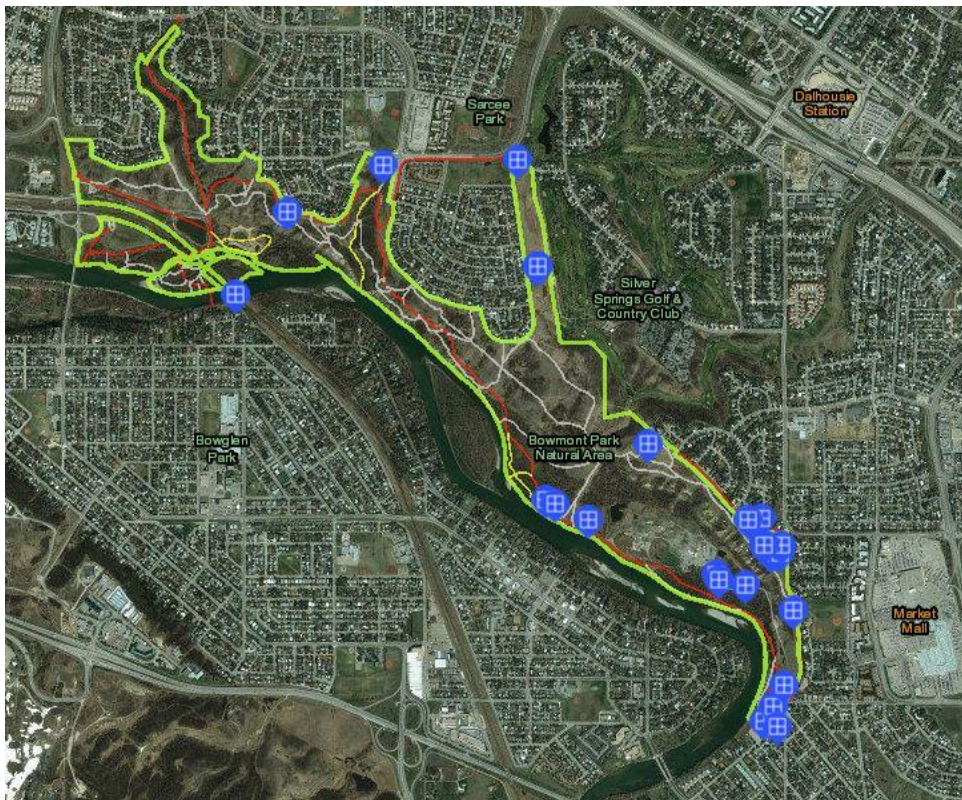


Of those 70% above who were concerned about **preserving or increasing habitat**:

- 26% would like to limit, restrict or prioritize access for conservation and restoration of habitats while allocating appropriate places for people, dogs and cyclists to enjoy the park
- 19% would like to see more signage and educational materials in the park to facilitate greater appreciation of nature and ongoing restoration work in the park.

### ***Access and Amenities Theme***

1. Access and amenities in the park are adequate
2. River access is important and should be maintained
3. Additional/enhanced wayfinding signage is needed at entrances
4. Provide additional garbage bins, especially in off-leash areas
5. Provide additional signage stating park rules



**Figure 3. Screenshot of online map tool comments related to Access + Amenities**

Of the total comments received about access and amenities in Bowmont Park:

- 70% noted that park access and amenities are adequate and no action is needed
- 30% requested additional amenities in the park, specifically:
  - trash bins

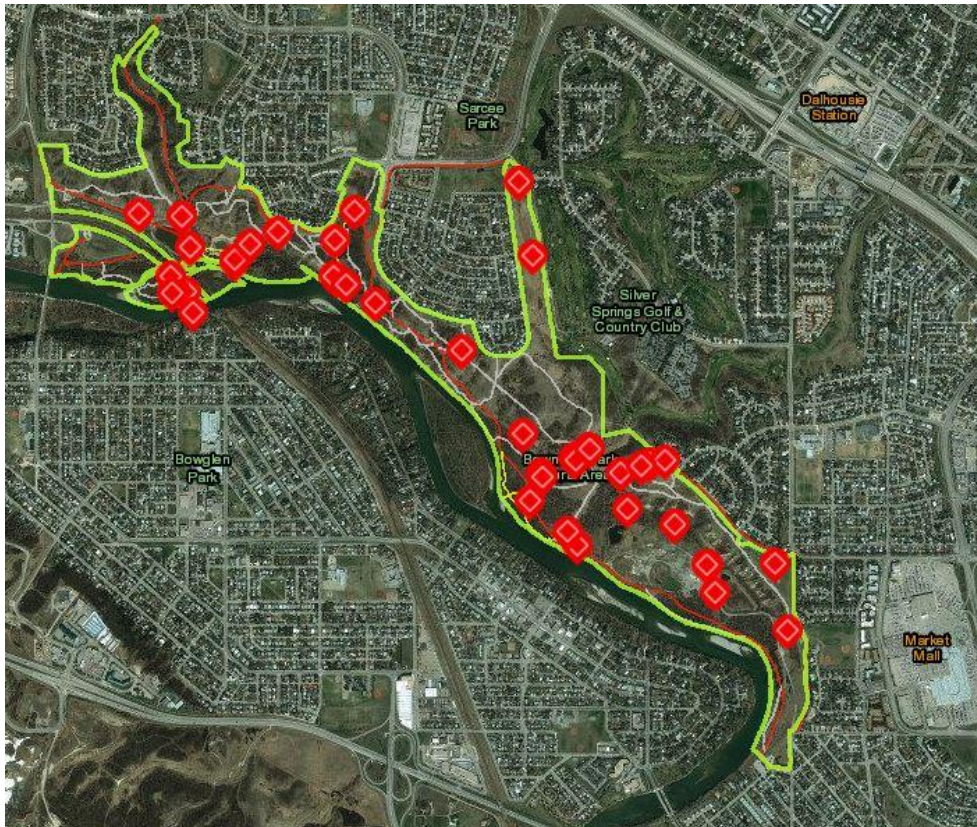


- water fountains and picnic tables
- additional signage (directional and educational)
- washroom facilities

River access was also identified as a highly valued amenity in the park.

### ***Pathways and Trails Theme***

1. Mitigate user conflict on pathways
2. Enforce speed limit for cyclists
3. Leave pathways natural
4. Pathways and trails in the park are adequate



**Figure 4. Screenshot of online map tool comments related to Trails + Pathways**

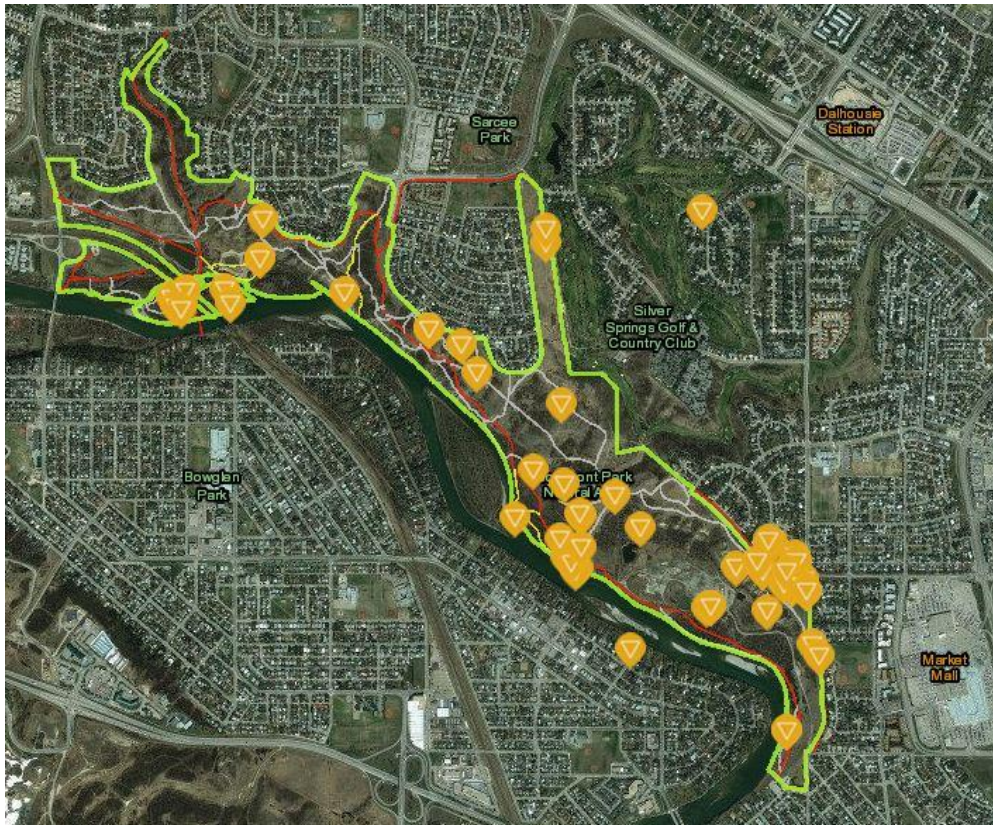
Of the total comments received about pathways and trails in Bowmont Park:

- 73% responded that the pathways and trails were in good condition and no action is needed
- 25% had concerns over user conflict and safety on pathways and trails, specifically:
  - cyclist management: slowing down cyclists or separating routes to reduce user conflict
  - concern about dogs off leash on pathways



### Off-Leash Dog Areas

1. Off-leash areas in the park are adequate
2. Need greater enforcement to prevent off-leash infractions and user conflict
3. Off-leash boundaries and signage are confusing
4. Need to investigate configuration of off-leash areas
5. Too much off-leash area in the park
6. Not enough contiguous off-leash area in the park
7. Keep 199R Silverview Way as off-leash



**Figure 5. Screenshot of online map tool comments related to Off-Leash Dog Areas**

Of the total comments received about off-leash dog use in Bowmont Park:

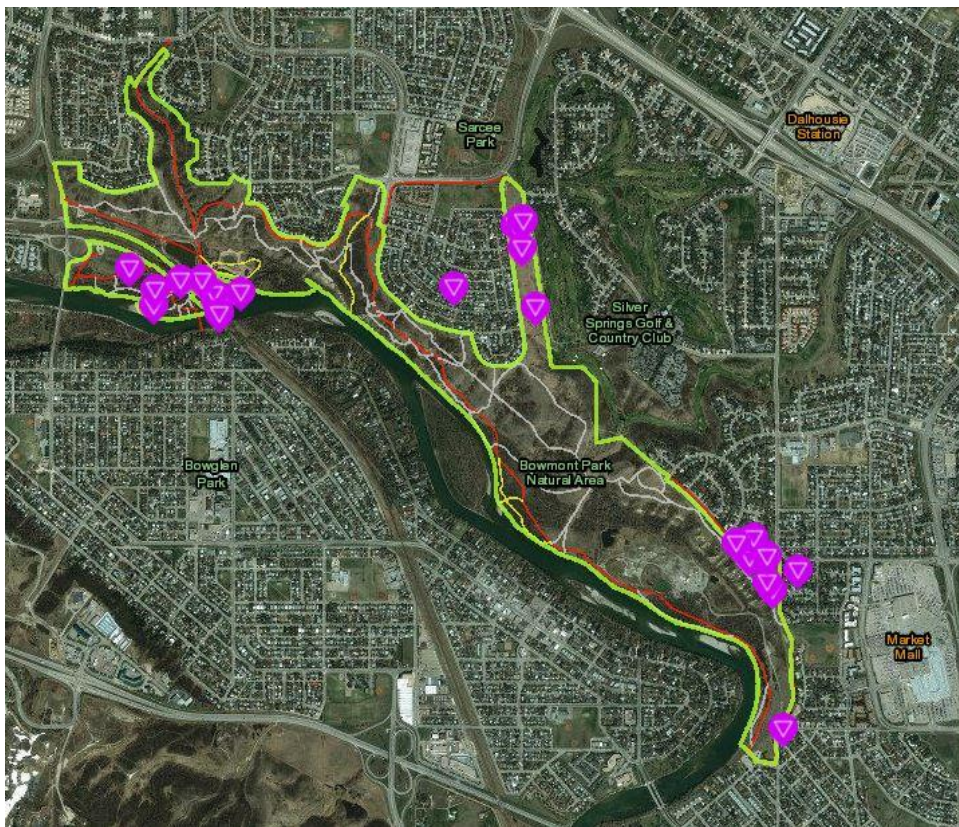
- 65% are happy with the current off-leash area amount and configuration, and would like to keep them as they are
- 31% feel that greater enforcement is needed to ensure dog owners do not violate the rules



- 31% expressed that the off-leash area boundaries and signage are confusing
- 24% would like investigate new options for off-leash are placement and configuration, or see off-leash areas reduced
- 10% would like to see off-leash areas expanded in Bowmont Park

#### ***Other Comments - General and Out of Scope***

1. Keep 199R Silverview Way as natural parkland
2. Provide additional bylaw enforcement to address vandalism in the park
3. Consider 199R Silverview Way parcel for seniors housing



**Figure 6. Screenshot of comments related to other concerns**

- 38% want 199R Silverview Way to be kept as parkland
- 10% are concerned about vandalism and partying in the park and would like to see more enforcement
- 4% would like to see improvements in park maintenance
- 2% want to develop the area adjacent to 199R Silverview Way as seniors housing

A great number of comments collected from the phase 1 engagement activities were focused on the future use of 199R Silverview Way. Many people would like to see this area, which is currently designation for “Future Urban Development” (S-FUD) designated as an Urban Natural Area to ensure that it remains open green space. Others would like to see the area used for high density seniors housing.

**It is important to note that land use designations for 199R Silverview Way are outside the scope of the Bowmont NEP Management Plan Update, and will therefore not be addressed in this project.**

### ***Points of Tension***

Off-leash area management presented itself as a significant polarizing issue over the course of the phase 1 engagement. Even though 65% of people reported to be satisfied with the current amount and configuration of off-leash area in the park, these same respondents had concerns about a lack of enforcement of off-leash infractions and confusing off-leash boundaries and signage. In general, regardless of whether or not the respondent was for or against off-leash areas, 31% of those surveyed expressed that the off-leash area boundaries need to be clarified and enforcement needs to be strengthened to reduce user conflicts.

Owing to the significant opposition in views on off-leash areas compared to other management themes, it became clear to the project team that additional feedback was needed for this topic. Engagement activities in phase 2 were therefore focused on gathering public input on three options for off-leash area amount and configuration in Bowmont NEP.

### **How the Feedback was Addressed**

The comments collected from the online survey, online map tool, and community stakeholder workshop were used to inform the development of updated management recommendations for Bowmont NEP. The following table shows how the most frequently occurring comments for each management theme were used to develop management recommendations.

**Table 1. How the feedback was addressed**

Generalized Comments	How the Feedback was Addressed
<b>NATURAL HABITATS</b>	
Increase protection for natural habitats and wildlife	<p>The online map tool, online survey, and stakeholder workshop collected feedback on specific areas of the park that were highly valued for nature appreciation and wildlife. The number of comments related to habitat and wildlife protection also indicated that it is a very important topic to most park users. This information informed the development of updated management recommendations for habitat protection and restoration.</p> <p>Recommendations included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The protection of significant habitats will take precedence over recreational use when the latter may conflict with the viability of the habitat</li> <li>– Protection the escarpment and other sensitive landforms</li> <li>– Consider seasonal access restrictions to protect seasonally sensitive wildlife</li> <li>– Use restoration techniques to enhance existing habitats, where required</li> <li>– Naturalize river bank stabilization approaches to provide greater habitat value</li> </ul>
Restrict access to prioritize preservation and restoration	Many people were concerned that public access to certain areas (both permitted and unpermitted) was causing damage to sensitive

	ecosystems and features in the park. This strongly voiced concern, combined with site analysis, influenced the development of management recommendations the maintenance and enhancement of fencing and signage to prevent access to sensitive areas of the park.
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Increase education and awareness to promote sustainable park use	In response to concerns about a lack of environmental awareness among park users, management recommendations for a new education strategy, educational programs, and volunteer programs in the park were developed. These recommendations are aimed at fostering a greater sense of shared stewardship and promoting sustainable park use.
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## ACCESS + AMENITIES

Access and amenities in the park are adequate	Given the number of responses indicating that park access and amenities were satisfactory and in good condition, few changes were recommended. Updated management recommendations included reviewing the placement of various park amenities, such as signage and garbage bins, to ensure they are meeting public demand.
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River access is important and should be maintained	While it was clear from the collected comments that access to river is an important aspect of the user experience, fully addressing river access was considered to be outside the scope of the Bowmont NEP Management Plan Update project. Determining the most appropriate locations for river access within the park is a project within itself. Therefore, a feasibility study will be conducted to evaluate river access points at a later date.
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Additional/enhanced wayfinding signage is needed at entrances	In response to comments concerned with a need for improved access and wayfinding in the park, management recommendations were developed to review the placement of signage within the park and make necessary improvements. It was also recommended to improve vehicular and pedestrian access to the park from the surrounding neighbourhoods.
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Provide additional garbage bins, especially in off-leash areas	In response to requests for additional garbage bins in the park, it was recommended that the locations of existing garbage bins be reviewed to ensure proper placement in areas where there is high demand.
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Provide additional signage stating park rules	In response to requests for additional signage stating park rules, it was recommended that the locations of existing signage be reviewed to ensure proper placement. Management recommendations were also developed to increase safety and enforcement in the park, including the provision and/or enhancement of signage where violations consistently occur (e.g. off-leash infractions, off-trail travel, vandalism, etc.).
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## PATHWAYS + TRAILS

Mitigate user conflict on pathways	Comments expressing concern about user conflict on pathways occurred frequently under both the pathways and trails management theme and the off-leash dog areas theme. To mitigate user conflict on pathways, it is recommended that the configuration of off-leash areas be reviewed to minimize conflict in high use areas. The issue of cyclists going too fast on the regional pathway was
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	also expressed as a safety concern. To address this issue, management recommendations were developed specifying targeted enforcement for speeding cyclists and enhanced speed limit signage.
Enforce speed limit for cyclists	The issue of cyclists speeding on the regional pathway was repeatedly cited as a safety concern. To address this, management recommendations were developed specifying additional and enhanced speed limit signage in targeted locations, as well as increased bylaw presence in the park.
Leave pathways natural	In response to comments expressing a desire for a more naturalized trail system, management recommendations were updated to include more specific guidelines for trail surfacing. These recommendations specify that trails surfacing should be varied, with the primarily goal being sustainability of the trail. Surfacing material will be determined depending on site specific conditions.
Pathways and trails in the park are adequate	Given the number of responses indicating that the pathways and trails within the park were largely in good condition, few changes were recommended. Updated management recommendations included continually reviewing the pathway and trail network to ensure it is meeting the demands of multiple user groups.

#### OFF-LEASH DOG AREAS

Off-leash areas in the park are adequate	Off-leash area management presented itself as a significant polarizing issue over the course of the phase 1 engagement. Owing to the significant opposition in views on off-leash areas compared to other management themes, it became clear to the project team that additional feedback was needed for this topic. Engagement activities in phase 2 were therefore focused on gathering public input on three options for off-leash area amount and configuration in Bowmont NEP.
Need greater enforcement to prevent off-leash infractions and user conflict	
Off-leash boundaries and signage are confusing	
Need to investigate configuration of off-leash areas	
Too much off-leash area in the park	
Not enough contiguous off-leash area in the park	Land use designations for 199R Silverview Way are outside the scope of the Bowmont NEP Management Plan Update project, and will therefore not be addressed in this project.
Keep 199R Silverview Way as off-leash	

#### OTHER COMMENTS

Keep 199R Silverview Way as natural parkland	Land use designations for 199R Silverview Way are outside the scope of the Bowmont NEP Management Plan Update project, and will therefore not be addressed in this project.
Provide additional bylaw enforcement to address vandalism in the park	In response to comments expressing concern about vandalism and frequent partying in certain areas of the park, it is recommended that the City increase bylaw presence in target areas prone to unsupported or illegal activities.

Consider 199R Silverview Way parcel for seniors housing

Land use designations for 199R Silverview Way are outside the scope of the Bowmont NEP Management Plan Update project, and will therefore not be addressed in this project.

## **2. Phase 2**

In Phase 1 of engagement, a major point of tension emerged around off-leash areas and their management. In light of this clear concern voiced by the public, additional public input was needed to help determine ways to minimize user conflict, and protect sensitive landforms and habitats while responding to a desire for high quality off-leash areas in the park. An important aspect of this endeavor was clarifying off-leash boundaries and ensuring that off-leash areas and management are in alignment with current City policies and guidelines.

### **Phase 2 Engagement Objective**

The purpose of phase 2 of the public engagement process was to gather input from stakeholders and the public on three off-leash boundary options. This feedback will help the project team determine a final off-leash area concept for Bowmont NEP that balance off-leash use with environmental protection while minimizing user conflict.

### **Off-Leash Options**

Three off-leash area options were developed to present a range of scenarios for off-leash area amount and configuration in the park. The options ranged from the least amount of off-leash area in the park, to the most, with a moderate amount as a middle-ground option. Each option was developed within guidelines set by existing City plans and policies, a series of off-leash area pilot studies conducted specifically for Bowmont Park, and public feedback on off-leash areas from phase 1. The three options were presented as follows in Figures 7, 8, and 9.



# DOG OFF-LEASH AREA BOUNDARIES | OPTION 1

DRAFT

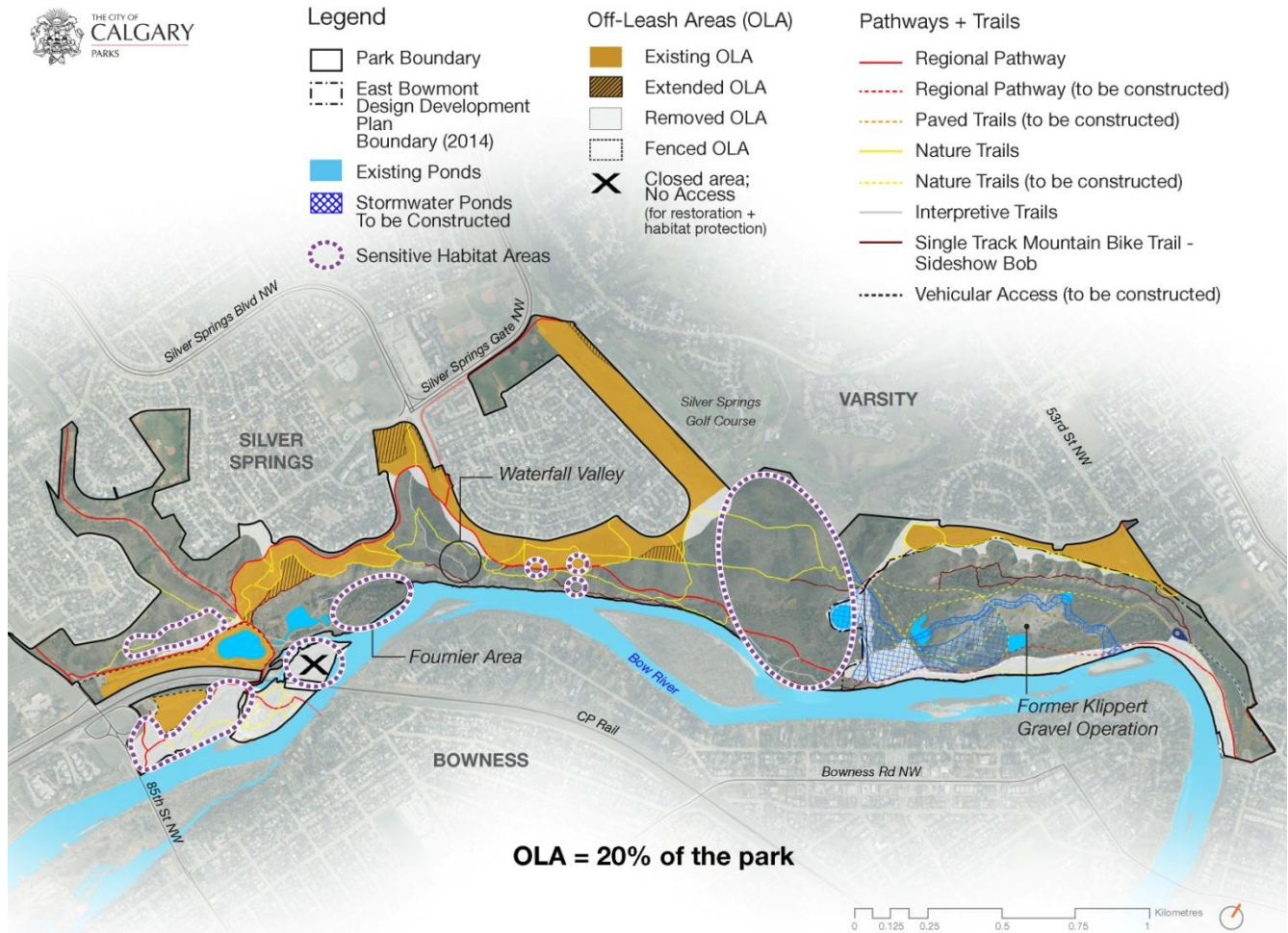


Figure 7. Off-Leash Option 1: Least Amount of Off-Leash Area

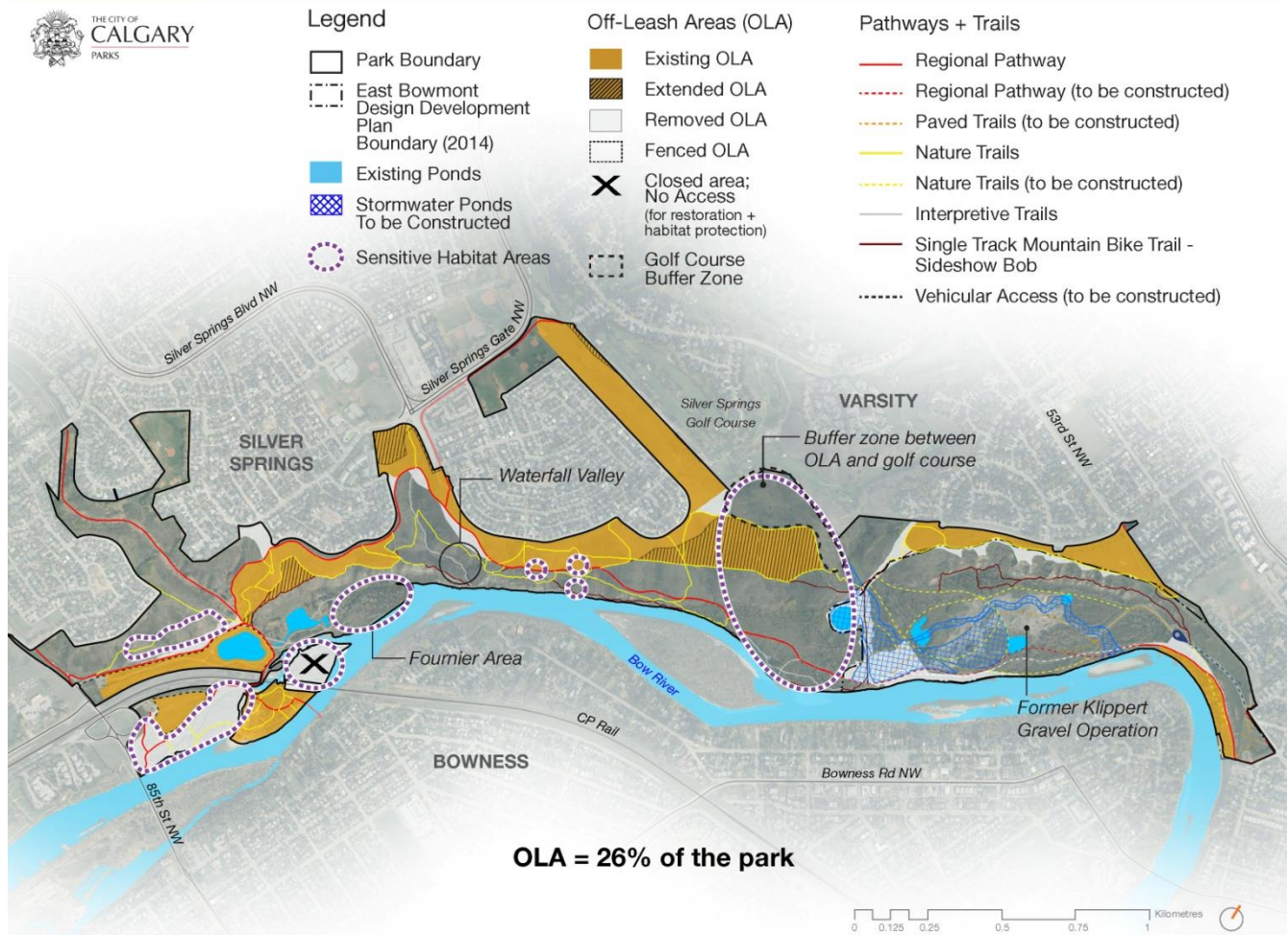


Figure 8. Off-Leash Option 2: Moderate Amount of Off-Leash Area



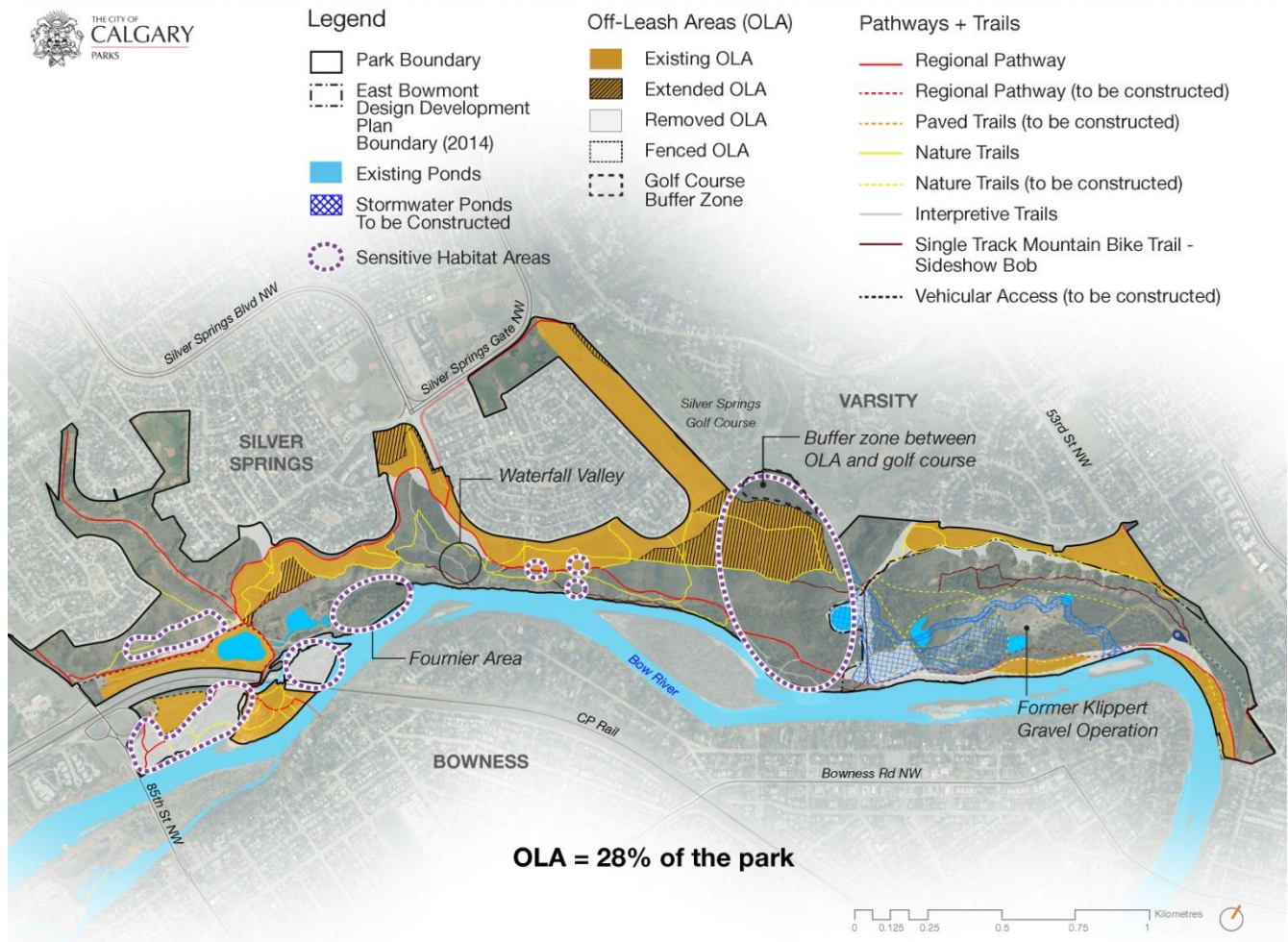


Figure 9. Off-Leash Option 3: Most Amount of Off-Leash Area

## Engagement Tactics

Phase 2 engagement tactics also included centralized and decentralized approaches to engagement. Centralized events included a community stakeholder workshop and a public open house to gather input on the three off-leash area options. An online survey was developed as a decentralized strategy of gathering feedback from members of the public who could not attend the open house. Engagement activities for Phase 2 are listed below, and elaborated upon in the following sections:

- Public Online Survey
- Community Stakeholder Workshop
- Public Open House

### Online Survey

An online survey was developed to gather broad public feedback on the three off-leash options. This survey was available through a link on the City of Calgary project website and hosted through an online interface called Typeform. The web survey was advertised through community posters, social media and on the City of Calgary's project webpage.

The online survey explained the process of determining the off-leash area boundary options, and presented each of the options maps individually. Users were asked to choose their most preferred option and explain why they liked or disliked each option. The online survey generated a total of 213 responses.

### Community Stakeholder Workshop #2

A workshop for external stakeholders was held on October 1, 2015. This workshop initiated Phase 2 of the project, which will culminate in a Draft Updated Management Plan for Bowmont Park, complete with revised off-leash boundaries for the park.

The purpose of this workshop was to gather input from stakeholders on three off-leash boundary options. The City of Calgary again reached out to the same community groups and community associations that were invited to participate in the phase 1 stakeholder workshop. An email invitation was sent to the community groups and local community associations seeking one participant from each organization to represent the group's interests and concerns at a second stakeholder workshop to be held on October 1, 2015. The invitation read as follows:

*Dear (community representative),*

*Phase 1 of the Bowmont Management Plan Update is now complete. I'd like to thank you for your input; your comments have been instrumental in developing the updated draft management recommendations for the park.*

*We are now moving into Phase 2 of the project, where we would like to share these proposed recommendations with you and get your feedback on what we heard. In particular, we need your input in addressing the following:*

- *Off-leash boundaries/locations for the park*

*We would like to invite you to a second workshop where we will review and discuss the proposed management recommendations, and confirm the objectives guiding for the park to see if there are any opportunities for improvement.*

*Management recommendations for all categories will be reviewed, with particular attention to updating off-leash boundaries. Your input is important in informing decisions for these management categories, which will become part of the updated management plan for Bowmont Park.*

*Please join us:*

Thursday, October 1, 2015 6pm – 8pm  
Bowness Scout and Lion Hall  
8551 Bowness Road NW

We ask that only one representative of your group/organization attend, to ensure we can capture feedback as thoroughly as possible, and in an unbiased manner. Please RSVP to: [Nicole.Brugman@calgary.ca](mailto:Nicole.Brugman@calgary.ca), by September 24, 2015.

We hope to see you again at the workshop and look forward to continuing this important conversation about the future of Bowmont Park.

Regards,

**Nicole Brugman**, B.Sc, P.Biol  
Northwest Natural Areas Project Coordinator  
Parks, Natural Parkland Management  
The City of Calgary  
T 403-537-7556

Of those invited, the following community groups and community associations sent one representative to participate in the second stakeholder workshop. This time, the project team was successful in contacting and engaging a representative from Off-Leash Calgary:

- Varsity Community Association
- Bowness Community Association
- Silver Springs Community Association
- Calgary River Valleys/Calgary Roadrunners (same representative for both organizations)
- Nature Calgary / Calgary Field Naturalists Society
- Off-Leash Calgary
- Calgary Mountain Bike Alliance
- City of Calgary, Ward 1

The workshop consisted of a background presentation and rotating discussions around two stations: 1) an information station presenting the proposed management recommendations for four major management themes and 2) an engagement station where stakeholders were asked to give their feedback on three options for off-leash boundaries. Stakeholders were invited to write comments on custom post-it notes and place them on the map expressing which option they liked the most, and the least, and why. The custom post-its provided classified comments into the following categories: “I’m happy about this because”, “I love this because”, and “I’m unhappy about this because”.

### **Public Open House**

An open house for the members of the public was held on October 23, 2015. While engagement in Phase 1 of the project collected public feedback on a diverse range of topics related to park management, this open house in Phase 2 of the project focused on only one topic: off-leash areas and their management. In Phase 1 of the project, the majority of public comments focused on off-leash areas. In light of this clear concern, additional public input was needed. The purpose of the open house was to gather input from members of the public on three off-leash boundary options.

The open house consisted of a self-guided walk-through of 20 informational posters explaining the project goals, process, and rationale behind the proposed off-leash boundary options. After having reviewed the background material and the advantages and trade-offs of each off-leash option, participants were invited to share their comments on each option at an “engagement station”.

A “Parking Lot” station was also set up for participants to provide comments they believed were important, but unrelated to off-leash management. At this station, many people also left comments more generally related to off-leash management in the park that did not necessarily pertain to a specific option.

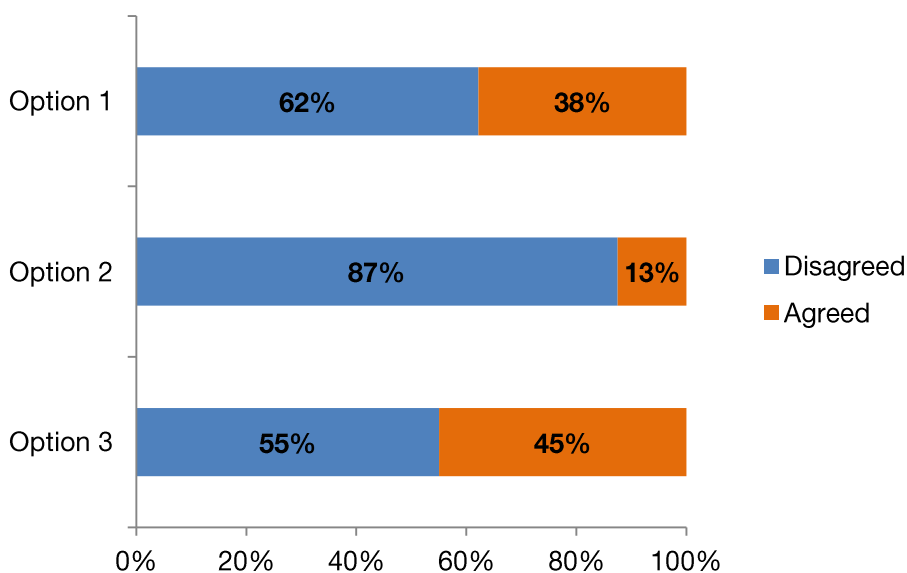
Participants were invited to write directly on the maps, or use custom post-it notes to record their comments and place them on the map expressing which option they liked the most, and the least, and why. The custom post-its provided classified comments into the following categories: “I’m happy about this because”, “I’m unhappy about this because”, “I love this because”, and “I do not love this because”.

## Phase 2 Engagement Feedback

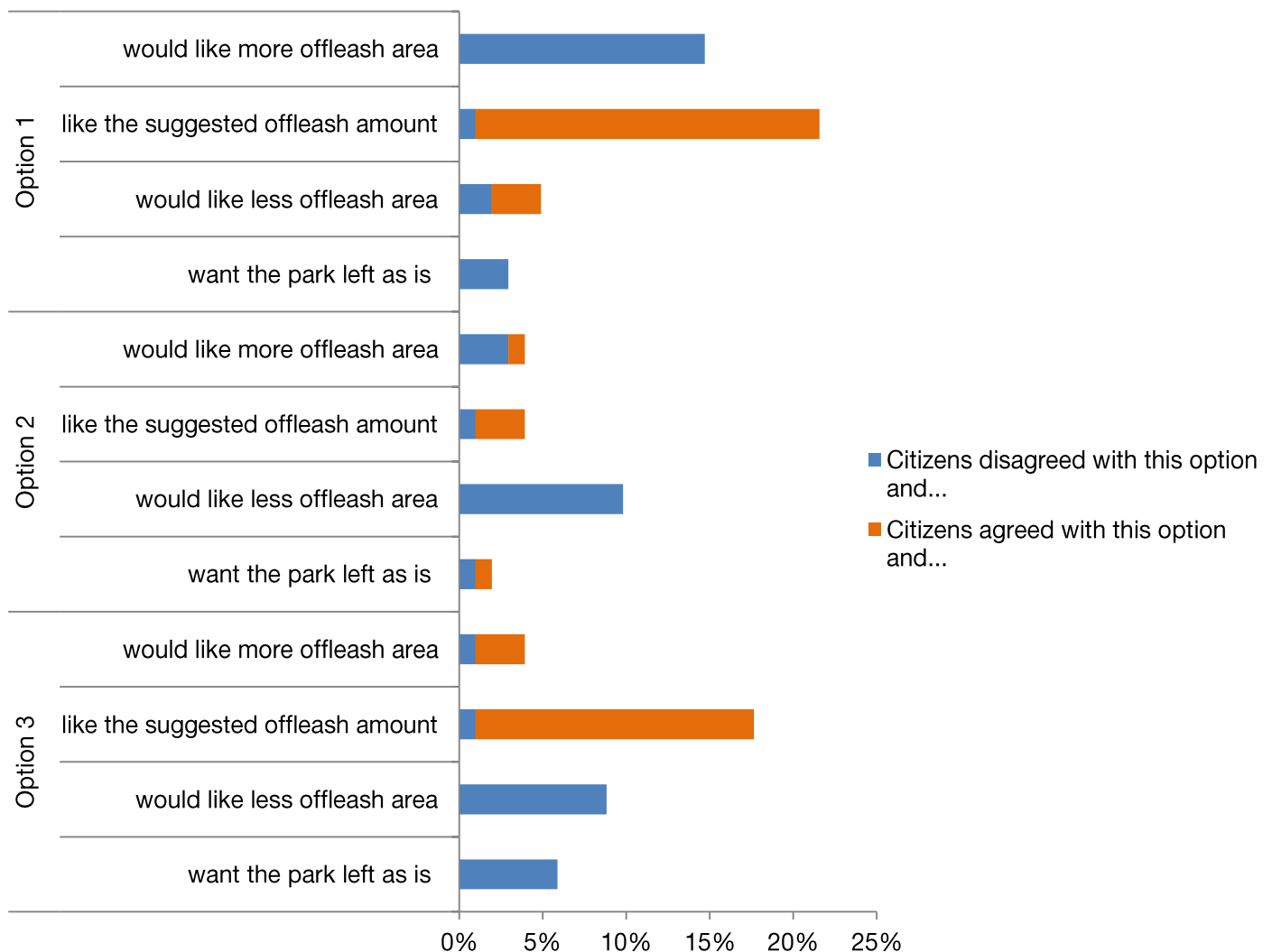
The following sections assess what was heard during the phase 2 public engagement period. Trends and key findings are described generally in the section below, and results pertaining to each off-leash area option are described in the section that follows.

### What We Heard - Summary

The stakeholder workshop, online survey, and public open house generated a total of 865 comments related to off-leash areas and their management. Figure 10 illustrates which off-leash options were most preferred. Forty-five percent (45%) of survey respondents indicated that option 3 (most amount of off-leash) was their preferred option. Thirty-eight percent (38%) of survey respondents indicated that option 1 (least amount of off-leash) was their preferred option. Only thirteen percent (13%) indicated that option 2 (moderate amount of offleash) was their preferred option, meaning that this middle-ground scenario was the least desirable option. Eighty-seven (87%) of respondents disagrees with option 2, 55% of respondents disagreed with option 3, and 62% disagreed with option 1. The survey results point out that off-leash use in the park is indeed a polarizing issue, with the most preferred options for the majority of park users falling into one of two mind-sets on opposite ends of the off-leash area spectrum. Figure 11 shows the reasons why people generally agreed or disagreed with each option.



**Figure 10. Preferred Off-Leash Options**



**Figure 11. Off-Leash Preferences: Detailed Analysis**

**Option 1:**

- 15% (15 comments) want more off-leash than what this option provides
- 22% (22 comments) think there is a good amount of off-leash provided by this option
- 5% (5 comments) want less off-leash than this option provides
- 3% (3 comments) want off-leash areas in Bowmont to remain as they are

**Option 2:**

- 4% (4 comments) want more off-leash than what this option provides
- 4% (4 comments) think there is a good amount of off-leash provided by this option
- 10% (10 comments) want less off-leash than this option provides
- 2% (2 comments) want off-leash areas in Bowmont to remain as they are

### Option 3:

- 4% (4 comments) want more off-leash than what this option provides
- 18% (18 comments) think there is a good amount of off-leash provided by this option

### Results by Off-Leash Option

The following section presents the most frequently heard comments, both for and against, each of the three off-leash area options. The detailed written feedback from the online survey, the stakeholder workshop, and the public open house were compiled and analyzed to identify common concerns for each option. For each off-leash option, the most frequently repeated opinions have been grouped into statements that generally express recurring ideas. The scale of the text (large to small), represents the number of times an opinion was repeated (most to least). Likewise, the word cloud associated with each option indicates the frequency at which certain key words were repeated throughout the various engagement activities in Phase 2. Detailed verbatim feedback for all phase 1 engagement activities is available in Appendix A.

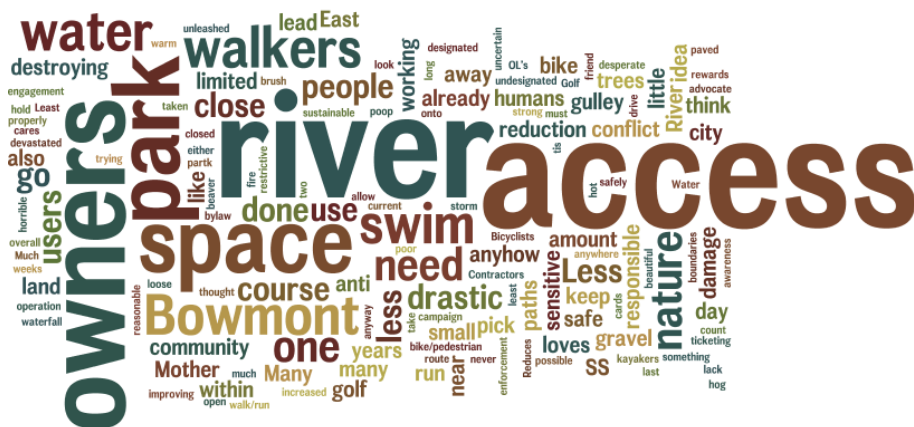
### Option 1: Least Amount of Off-Leash

Those who were in favor of option 1 indicated that it was their preferred option because:

1. It prioritizes habitat conservation over other uses
2. It reinforces Bowmont's status as a Natural Environment Park
3. It does the most to minimize user conflict

Those who were NOT in favor of option 1 indicated that they were unhappy because:

1. It reduces the total amount of off-leash area
2. It was perceived that the option removes off-leash river access in West Bowmont
3. It was perceived that user conflict would still be an issue under this scenario, especially since dogs would be occupying smaller areas



**Figure 12. Recurring Key Words for Option 1**



Those who were in favor of option 2 indicated that it was their preferred option because:

- Those who were NOT in favor of option 2 indicated that they were unhappy because:

- [illegible]

## Bowmont Natural Environment Park Management Plan Update

### What We Heard Report

### Option 3: Moderate Amount of Off-Leash

Those who were in favor of option 3 indicated that it was their preferred option because:

1. It offers the most amount of off-leash area
2. It offers off-leash area on Bowness Island
3. It extends off-leash areas for longer contiguous walks
4. Provides greater off-leash river access

Those who were NOT in favor of option 3 indicated that they were unhappy because:

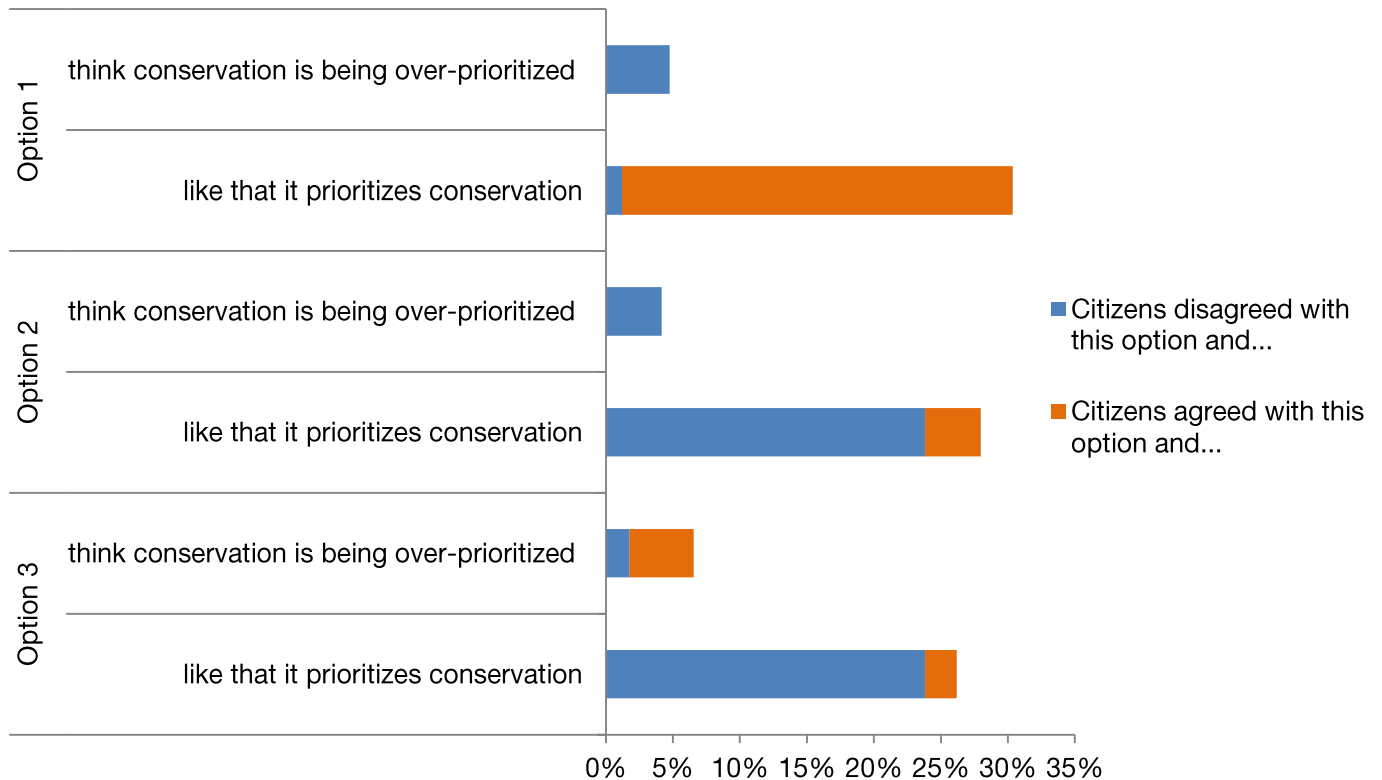
1. It proposes more off-leash are in sensitive habitat areas
2. It was perceived that user conflict would still be an issue under this scenario
3. It was perceived that some users would increasingly ignore rules and off-leash boundaries if so much area is designated off-leash



**Figure 14. Recurring Key Words for Option 3**

## Key Themes - Conservation

Conservation of natural habitats emerged as a key value and driver of many users' off-leash option preferences. Those who agreed with option 1 indicated that it was their preferred option because it prioritized conservation over other uses. Many people disagreed with option 2 because they felt it did not prioritize conservation enough. Similarly, people who disagreed with option 3 felt that natural habitats were being compromised in favor of off-leash use.



**Figure 15. Opinions on Conservation for each OLA Option**

### Option 1:

- **30% (51 comments) like that this option prioritizes conservation**
- 5% (8 comments) think that the amount of area prioritized for conservation is unreasonable

### Option 2:

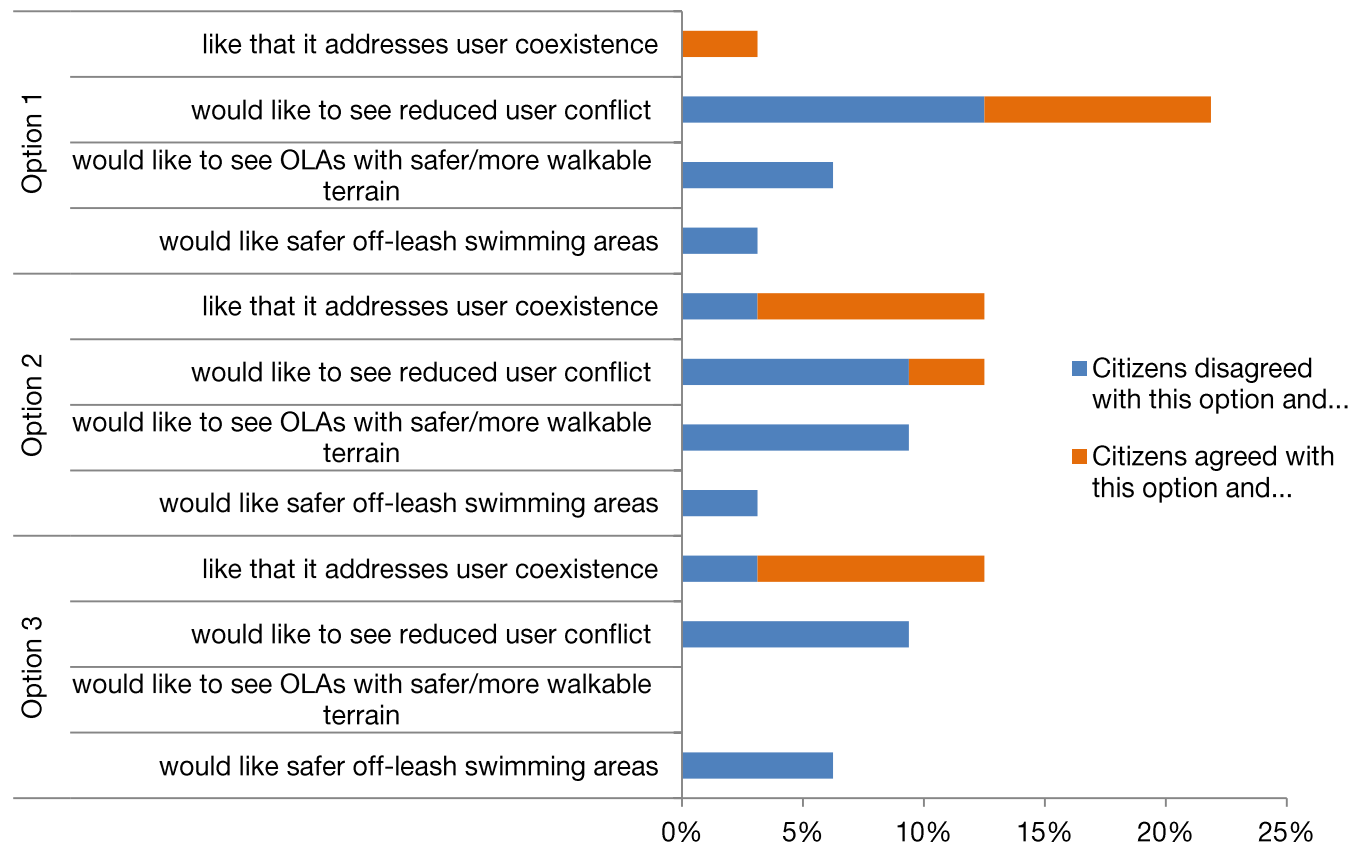
- **28% (47 comments) think this option needs to prioritize conservation more**
- 4% (7 comments) think that the amount of area prioritized for conservation is unreasonable

### Option 3:

- **26% (44 comments) think this option needs to prioritize conservation more**
- 7% (11 comments) think that the amount of area prioritized for conservation is unreasonable

## Key Themes – User Conflict

Another key issue that was cited repeatedly, both in favor of and against changes to the off-leash area configuration in Bowmont, was the issue of user conflict. User conflict on pathways and in off-leash areas is a multi-dimensional issue, having concerns rooted in safety and user experience. For option 1, many responses indicated that they preferred this option because it attempted to minimize user conflict. However, roughly the same number of responses indicated that this option still presented safety issues resulting from user conflict. When conflict was cited as a safety issue for option 1, it was largely due to a concern that dogs and people would come into more contact (hence greater conflict) if off-leash areas are confined to smaller areas. Many comments indicated that people disagreed with options 2 and 3 because these options did not adequately address user conflict between dogs and other park users.



**Figure 16. Opinions on User Conflict for each OLA Option**

### Option 1:

- 22% (7 comments) think there are ongoing issues with user conflict
- 6% (2 comments) think there are issues with terrain safety and walkability
- 3% (1 comment) think there are issues with dog swimming safety
- 3% (1 comment) think there is a good level of user coexistence

### Option 2:

- 13% (4 comments) think there are ongoing issues with user conflict
- 13% (4 comments) think there is a good level of user coexistence
- 9% (3 comments) think there are issues with terrain safety and walkability
- 3% (1 comment) think there are issues with dog swimming safety

**Option 3:**

- 12% (4 comments) think there is a good level of user coexistence
- 9% (3 comments) think there are ongoing issues with user conflict
- 9% (3 comments) think there are issues with dog swimming safety

**Out of Scope Comments**

Over the course of the phase 2 engagement activities, several comments were collected that were considered out of the scope of the Bowmont NEP Management Plan Update project. At the open house, a “Parking Lot” station was set up specifically to collect comments that participants believed were important, but unrelated to off-leash management. In general, the most “out-of-scope” comments collected were related to river access in the park.

There was some confusion among participants at the open house over the implications for river access for each off-leash boundary option. Participants were informed that river access points would be determined at a later date pending a feasibility study. Because determining river access was not in the scope of this project, existing access points were not shown on the option maps. This was perceived by many as a wholesale removal of river access in Bowmont Park. This is not the case. It was also perceived by some that the absence of river access points marked on the maps indicated that dogs were not allowed down by the river. Dogs are allowed on-leash everywhere in the park, including the river bank, except in areas that are closed to all access or marked ‘No Dog’.

Due to this confusion, river access factored prominently into many participants’ off-leash option preferences. Many comments indicated that people disagreed with option 1 because it *appeared* to remove all river access from West Bowmont (which is NOT the case). Options 2 and 3 presented some off-leash area in West Bowmont, where river access and swimming for dogs is a popular activity. For this reason, many comments indicated that option 3 presented the best conditions for river access for dogs.

**How the Feedback will be Used**

The results of the phase 2 engagement activities will factor in to a final concept for off-leash boundaries in Bowmont NEP. In addition to public feedback on the off-leash options, the final off-leash concept will be guided by existing City plans and policies, guiding documents, and direction from Council.

It is important to note that the off-leash options presented during phase 2 represent only three scenarios in a range of possible outcomes for off-leash area configuration. Therefore, the final off-leash concept will factor in the combined interests of the public, as expressed for each off-leash option, not just the most preferred option. Recurring themes, as derived from the record of comments, will influence the delineation of updated off-leash boundaries and management recommendations for Bowmont NEP. Other factors, such as the results of the off-leash area pilot studies for Bowmont NEP, the Calgary Off-Leash Area Management Plan guidelines, and the locations of sensitive vegetation communities and habitats will also factor into the final off-leash area concept. The following table explains how each of the most frequently occurring opinions for each off-leash option (both in favor of and against) will be addressed in the final off-leash concept.

Generalized Comments	How the Feedback will be Addressed
<b>Option 1 – Reasons in favour of the least amount of off-leash area</b>	
It prioritizes habitat conservation over other uses	The new configuration of off-leash areas will strive to keep all sensitive vegetation communities and habitat areas as on-leash or—in special cases—closed to all human and dog access for restoration and conservation purposes.

It reinforces Bowmont's status as a Natural Environment Park	The final off-leash concept will support Bowmont's status as an important natural environment park. To the greatest extent possible, off-leash areas will be located away from areas of environmental significance and biodiversity in the park.
It does the most to minimize user conflict	The project team will take note of high conflict areas identified by park users and will strive to minimize conflict in these places (as well as other locations characterized by similar conditions) through adjustments in off-leash boundaries and recommendations for greater bylaw enforcement.

#### **Option 1 – Reasons Against of the least amount of off-leash area**

It reduces the total amount of off-leash area	The final off-leash concept must bring the total amount of off-leash area in Bowmont to $\leq 30\%$ to be in compliance with the Off-Leash Area Management Plan guidelines.
It was perceived that off-leash river access is removed in West Bowmont	The project team will attempt to balance the demand for off-leash access on Bowness Island (former pilot off-leash area) with the recommendations of the pilot off-leash studies. The goal is to protect and restore critically sensitive areas while providing for some off-leash use in more resilient locations. Further investigation is needed to determine hardened river access points, while taking these concerns into account.
It was perceived that user conflict would still be an issue under this scenario, especially since dogs would be occupying smaller areas	Clarifying off-leash boundaries, in addition to a commitment to greater bylaw enforcement in target areas are recommended to reduce conflict between dogs and other park users.

#### **Option 2 – Reasons in favour of a moderate amount of off-leash area**

It attempts to balance habitat conservation with other uses	Providing an acceptable amount of off-leash area, in locations people like to use, will be balanced with a focus on conserving sensitive habitats throughout the park.
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#### **Option 2 – Reasons Against Reasons a moderate amount of off-leash area**

It proposes some off-leash in sensitive habitat areas	The final off-leash concept will prioritize the conservation of critically sensitive areas over other uses when the latter has the potential to compromise the ecological integrity of the natural area.
It reduces the total amount of off-leash area	The final off-leash concept must bring the total amount of off-leash area in Bowmont to $\leq 30\%$ to be in compliance with the Off-Leash Area Management Plan guidelines.
It was perceived that user conflict would still be an issue under this scenario	Clarifying off-leash boundaries, in addition to a commitment to greater bylaw enforcement in target areas are recommended to reduce conflict between dogs and other park users.

#### **Option 3 – Reasons in favour of a the most amount of off-leash area**

It offers the most amount of off-leash area	The final off-leash concept will strive to provide a diversity of off-leash areas and greater connectivity between off-leash areas in the park, while avoiding sensitive habitat areas and minimizing user conflict wherever possible.
It offers off-leash area on Bowness Island	The project team will attempt to balance the demand for off-leash access on Bowness Island (former pilot off-leash area) with the recommendations of the pilot off-leash studies. The goal is to protect

	and restore critically sensitive areas while providing for some off-leash use in more resilient locations.
It extends off-leash area for longer contiguous walks	The final off-leash concept will strive to provide greater connectivity between off-leash areas while avoiding sensitive habitat areas.
It provides off-leash river access	The project team will attempt to balance the demand for off-leash access on Bowness Island (former pilot off-leash area) with the recommendations of the pilot off-leash studies. The goal is to protect and restore critically sensitive areas while providing for some off-leash use in more resilient locations. Option 3 still retains off-leash access on Bowness Island south. However the dissatisfaction was that the north side of the island would become on-leash, which was perceived to be the only safe off-leash swimming area in Bowmont Park. Further investigation is needed to determine hardened river access points, while taking these concerns into account.
<b>Option 3 – Reasons Against the most amount of off-leash area</b>	
It proposes more off-leash in sensitive habitat areas	The final off-leash concept will prioritize the conservation of critically sensitive areas over other uses when the latter has the potential to compromise the ecological integrity of the natural area.
It was perceived that user conflict would still be an issue under this scenario	Clarifying off-leash boundaries, in addition to a commitment to greater bylaw enforcement in target areas are recommended to reduce conflict between dogs and other park users.
It was perceived that some users would increasingly ignore rules and off-leash boundaries if so much area is designated off-leash	A commitment to greater bylaw enforcement is needed to curb off-leash infractions in the park.

### 3. Conclusions and Next Steps

The Updated Bowmont NEP Management Plan must fall in alignment with the objectives and guidelines of other pre-existing plans and policies during the review and finalization process. These included the Calgary Municipal Development Plan (2009), the Open Space Plan (2003), BiodiverCity Strategic Plan (2014), the Urban Park Master Plan (1994), the Off-Leash Area Management Plan (2010), and the Bowmont Natural Environment Park Management Plan, among others.

Once a final off-leash area concept has been finalized, it will be incorporated into a draft Updated Management Plan along with the draft recommendations for each management theme. The draft Bowmont NEP Management Plan will be reviewed by City staff and put before upper management prior to being finalized. It is anticipated that the final plan will be posted online in the spring of 2016 (Figure 17).

#### Engagement Timeline + Process

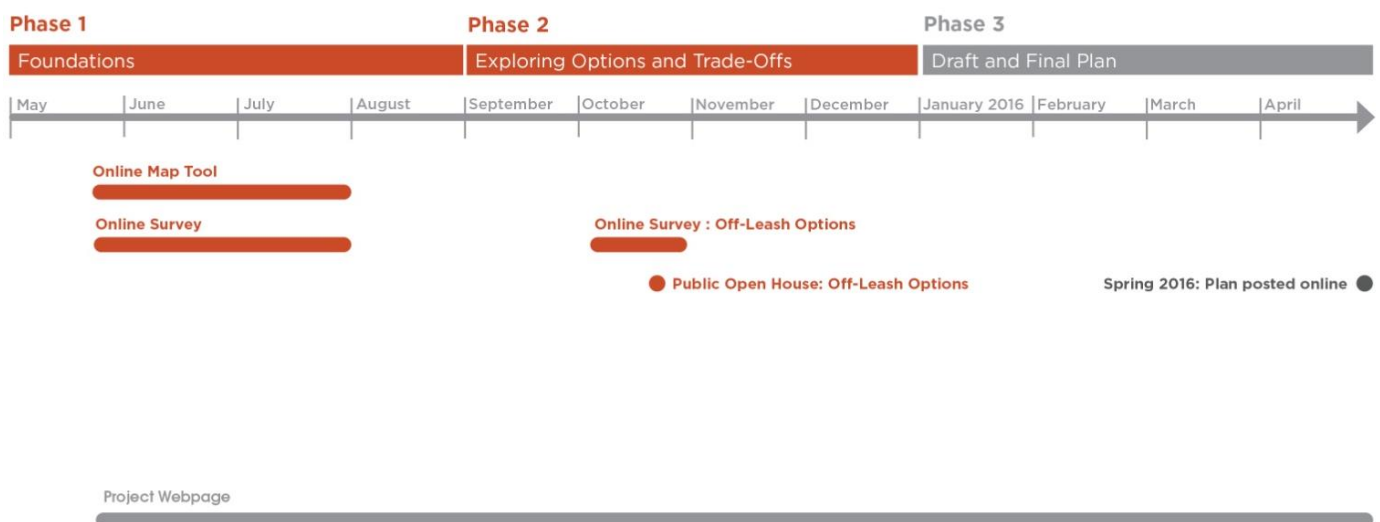


Figure 17. Project Timeline



## 4. Appendix A: Verbatim Comments

The record of comments for both phases of engagement is listed below. Comments are listed according to the engagement activity in which they were collected.

### Phase 1 Online Survey

Comments listed according to management theme are presented below:

#### Natural Habitats

- Dogs should not allowed in the natural areas.
- Maintaining natural environments for wildlife is essential. Perhaps a balance can be achieved by limiting development in the park but minimizing the access limits and controls for users. I'm thinking of how there seemed to be active management and control of access to some of the river areas in recent years and how this effort was wasted as a result of the 2013 flood.
- Keep it natural with no residential development  
keep off leash area
- I am very concerned that the area east of Winsport is being considered for development. When we look at much older/larger cities than ours, we see that the green/natural spaces that have been preserved are highly valued. It takes foresight and courage to preserve these areas when many economic and political pressures for development are present. I encourage you to resist these pressures and preserve this area for many generations of Calgary and area families to enjoy. After all, do we look back with pride and say that Calgarians quality of life has improved as a result of Market Mall or Chinook Centre? I believe more people enjoy and benefit from Fish Creek or Nose Hill Park.
- I feel the park east gate should keep natural to protect natural habitats and wildlife.
- This huge park area has undergone some changes over the years to better encourage a better relationship between nature and human use. In particular, the coyotes and beavers were a major concern a few years ago, for some of us. We completely respect the need to protect the vegetation and sensitive habitats.
- I am concerned about the waterfowl that have now made the storm water ponds (off 85th) their habitat and are being disturbed by off-leash dogs jumping in the water.
- I would like to see 199R Silverview Way zoned as an urban natural area. It serves as an natural corridor for wildlife between Sarcee Park and Bowmont Park closer to the river. Such corridors are extremely important for wildlife such as coyotes, deer or smaller birds. Without corridors their habitat becomes too "pocketed", animals cannot freely migrate and finally disappear from the area.
- I very much enjoy the ability to head out of my house on Silverview Road and within minutes, see greenspace to the east, south, and west (along with those mountains to the west)! I take daily walks along the trails--both east and west. Seeing a young buck, Hungarian partridges, the occasional coyote, along with a variety of birds, truly enhances my experiences.
- I believe Habitat and wildlife should be protected.
- We agree that natural habitats and wildlife such as deer and coyotes are critical to long term management and environmental sustainability of the park.
- Bowmont Park provides a unique natural habitat to many species of animal and plant that is presently enjoyed by all visitors/user groups and needs to be preserved in this natural state for future generations to enjoy. Its an escarpment that is unique to Calgary's river valley providing natural trails for walking and cycling plus one paved path for multiple user groups. It also provides a corridor for wildlife that is needed to maintain this park as a natural preserve that it was once designated as.
- Natural areas should be protected and only low impact areas should be accessible to the public

- have areas within the park that are for naturalists and must have dogs on-leash.  
keep the nature appreciation area as dogs only on-leash  
Have a realistic way to sign this, monitor it and impose penalties for those who break the rules
- The area of 199R Silverview Way is beautiful - sometimes we see coyotes and deer. This area needs to remain natural/untouched for the wildlife.
- We do agree that natural habitats and wildlife such as deer and coyotes are critical to the long term management and environmental sustainability to the park.
- Parks should get real about this and do something to protect the habitat.  
Make more Nature Areas

#### Restrict off-leash areas

Keep off-leash out of Natural Areas and out of the river

- We are very fortunate to have such varied wildlife and plant life in Bowmont Park. Signs designating areas that are particularly used by wildlife (i.e. coyote dens in the spring/ summer) might help people be more aware of/sensitive to certain areas at certain times of the year. Also, there has been much 'road kill' in the park in frequent years due to the increase in mountain bikes being used. It would help enormously if cyclists were designated to paved pathways only.
- Parks must start doing the work to preserve natural habitats and wildlife in Bowmont.  
Keep the Nature Appreciation Area and add more of these  
Large signs are needed throughout the Park explaining what preservation is being done. Parks must get started with serious work on preservation  
Parks must stop caving in to the demands of the Dog lobbyists.
- Having wild natural spaces within the city is very important to my family, not only for the sake of nature and wildlife itself, but for opportunities to experience and enjoy nature in our own backyard. Existing Bowmont Park areas strike a good balance between natural preservation and recreational access. I don't think nature and people are incompatible so there is no need to restrict access to areas of the park beyond what is already instituted. Development in surrounding areas will have a greater impact on wildlife diversity in Bowmont park than any management decisions made within the park (e.g., we used to get coyotes in West Hillhurst until the building of the Children's Hospital largely cut off their access to the inner city). Having said that, I would like to see 199R Silverview Way zoned as an urban natural area — any other sort of development on that land seems out of place and any reduction of natural spaces within the community would be a definite step backwards in terms of sustainability and recreational opportunities. While I understand the rebuilding and reinforcing of the river bank that was done below Home Road following the 2013 flood, in general I would like the river bank to remain as natural as possible, not only within Bowmont Park, but throughout the city. It is a fact that a natural, vegetated river bank mitigates flooding better than canal-like stone embankments which only serve to accelerate the water flow (Ness, R., et. al., <http://trca.on.ca/dotAsset/55395.pdf> page 5; Smith, B., <http://ro.uow.edu.au/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1064&context=thsci> section 2.2.1). As an example, the current "restoration" work being done to the north river bank in Parkdale seems unnecessary considering the minimal bank damage that was done by the flood, and almost criminal in terms of most certainly causing future flooding to be more severe — I would not like to see that kind of "restoration" done in Bowmont Park.
- Land should be preserved as much as possible maintaining natural habitats.
- Being able to see a variety of wildlife, flora, and fauna while walking my dog is an integral part of why Bowmont Park is so relevant. Trails throughout the park have been created through continued cycle and foot use, but do not seem to hinder or impede upon the native species that continue to flourish here. Deer, grass snakes, many bird species, coyotes with pups, a myriad of insects, and more are inhabitants of all areas of Bowmont Park - all of which I have enjoyed seeing first hand on a regular basis. The crocus in spring, diverse wildflowers blooming through summer, and pussy willows out in fall and spring are great - and a way to educate my children on native Alberta and our history.

- Leave the park as natural as possible. Minimize impact to wildlife corridors. Protect natural vegetation.
- The City is not protecting the natural habitats in Park  
City must start an enforceable program to stop dogs and bikes from going everywhere in the Park.  
The idea that the Park is being protected is not happening to any meaningful extent.
- Love them!
- Having the opportunity to have access to the natural areas and perhaps see some wildlife in Bowmont Park needs to be preserved for future generations. Protecting the park from development is necessary to be able to pass this opportunity to future generations.
- Leave them as they are currently
- In Bowmont Park things should be left as they are for the wildlife.
- these should be left as natural as possible (though I must say I enjoy the osprey box - and I think the wooden walkway to the waterfall was a good way to protect that area from damage).
- The area between the Silver Springs Golf Course and Silver View Way should be mowed for the safety of the animals off leash and to protect small children.
- why are you destroying trees where the coyotes live?
- We need another Inglewood Bird Sanctuary in Bowmont. More wildlife protection and closed areas, please.
- I think the habitat should be left alone to thrive as it is. We see so much wildlife in our neighborhood- deer, coyotes, fox, pheasants. They need the park more than we do.
- I adore the natural habitat and wildlife in Bowmont Park. I love walking here as it is an escape from the city within the city. Its beautiful the way it is and I would hate to see it changed.
- As a long time resident of Silver Springs, we have enjoyed the natural area/green space between our community and Varsity Estates. We often hear the coyotes howling during the night. It seems that in Calgary there is a need to build something on every open land space rather than leaving it natural.
- The original intent for this park was to sustain a natural park with little and minimal development to support wildlife in a natural state and provide the opportunity for people to enjoy the values of this retreat, the wildlife, plants, animals and birds that depend on it as part of the river valley. We do not need more pavement and infrastructure. Recent work to control the river is disappointing - we need to respect and leave room for the river to run its natural course. The green space known at 199R Silverview Way needs to be rezoned to Urban Natural Area and protected as such without pavement. It is an important corridor for people and wildlife and should be left that way. It was the general understanding when Bowmont Park was designated that this was part of the park and would be kept natural.
- The undeveloped and natural areas are greatly appreciated within city limits. Protecting these areas from future urban development should be a priority.
- Maintain them as best possible, If there are tradeoffs, bias towards natural rather than high usage.
- I am very supportive of the strategy to preserve the natural habitats and wildlife in Bowmont Park. I hope that the coyote population will remain in check naturally.
- The natural habitat preservation must be the number one priority for this park. Dog owners and cyclist must not be seen as the priority when planning land uses.
- it's beautiful as it is, leave the wildlife alone, We just love to watch the coyotes, deer, rabbits , birds omg we have seen so many wonderful birds!
- Riparian area next to the river is probably the most important area to be protected. Probably the best approach is defined access points to the river in areas with local gravel "beaches"
- should be preserved and protected
- keep it natural
- It is wonderful the way it is with deer coyotes, foxes etc. Off leash areas are very important
- We want to keep the current habitat for deer, coyotes, birds etc. while allowing people to use the park as they currently do. I'm concerned about the invasive plant species that are being

allowed to multiply in the park presently. Currently Hounds Tongue is proliferating at 114°10'23.25"W 51°5'12.69"N, in a grassy area near the River.

- I love the area and use it often to walk my dog.
  - We would like to keep this area as it currently is with no future development.
  - I think bikes cause 100X more damage to the natural parks than dogs!!
  - Generally this is a nice area and areas within the river valley itself are well used. The mix of unpaved and paved trails seems good.
  - It is critical to preserve all of This habitat. Coyotes, deer, birds and many other animals inhabit this area. Any re designation of any area will seriously affect their existence.
  - It is wonderful to have wildlife in this area and I think we should preserve this area and the natural habitat as much as possible.
  - leave it as is.
  - Preservation of the natural habitats and protection of the wildlife is extremely important to me.
  - The coyotes that border the Silver Spring Golf course and bowmont park have become aggressive and dangerous. While walking with my small children I saw them tracking our paths from the other side of a small ravine. They don't seem to be afraid of humans anymore and the park is unsafe for small children.
  - The lack of grazing animals in the 199R Silverview Way means the grass gets unnaturally long. If some native tree species were planted here it might provide a more natural habitat.
  - 199R Silverview Way area provides a wonderful habitat that promotes diversity. From neighbors walking their dogs to hearing coyotes at night. During the day you'll see the bunnies and birds, and if you're lucky sometimes deer... I hope the city will do more promote the diverse landscape for the residents and for those who visit (animals and the people).
  - Seeing wildlife in the City of Calgary is a real treat. Bowmont Park provides an accessible venue to "get out and enjoy nature" and if you're lucky you may even see deer. The natural habitat is one aspect of this park that gives it true character. I hope others can see the beauty in the park and support the natural "habitat."
- There has been a lot of discussion regarding 199R Silverview way. I absolutely support rezoning this land from S-FUD (SPecial Purpose Future Urban Development) to "Urban Natural Area".
- This is a beautiful space and definitely needs to be maintained. My preference is for it to be left as wild as possible.
  - We love it.
  - Our whole family enjoys access to view the natural habitat and wildlife in the Bowmont park and find it a wonderfully unique and wholesome experience because of the existence of the dirt trails. We have generally had good experiences with other types of users - mountain bikers are courteous and most dog owners are able to control their pets when off leash. We would like to advocate for specific off-leash areas (fenced in), as can be found at the West End of the park. We feel it keeps pressure off the wildlife and other users of the park.
  - It is great that it is wild, at times the coyotes are a bit prevalent but you just need to be aware
  - I want the City of Calgary to preserve 199R Silverview Way and ensure this land is kept as a natural green-space
  - Over the last 25 years, there are fewer deer (I rarely see one....there used to be a group of 14) in the park, which seems to be influenced by a huge increase of dogs. Large contiguous parcels need to be kept as reserve, no dogs off leash ...
  - I believe that Calgarians have a duty to preserve wildlife habitats including safe access to fresh water (Bow River). There is diverse wildlife that make Bowmont Park their home.
  - Very good as is.
  - Need to be preserved but observable by walkers and runners.
  - Retaining natural habitat for the wildlife is of utmost importance, especially but not limited to, the strip of land known as 199R Silverview Way - as an example; coyotes have a den in this area. Some folks wish to develop this area, ignoring wildlife habitat and future generations. They have said we have enough park space. That mindset is ridiculous.

- Things seem ok to me at this point
- My priority would be to preserve that natural wild landscape as much as possible and the natural diversity with limitation in development. Safe trails and access points to points of interest/natural wonders to encourage our community to get out and explore and to develop respect for nature and our natural world are a must. The information signs about the plants, animals etc found in certain areas are also nice and help connect users with the park environment - more of these (where appropriate) would be a good thing by deepening our community's appreciation of our natural environment. They could also draw awareness to the need for erosion control, protection of rare plants and animals etc. Perhaps some at the lookout points could indicate the names of the mountain peaks visible on the horizon etc as well as features close by.
- I would be interested to know which species and habitats are of main concern here. The conservation of any rare or sensitive species (ex. bull trout) should be a priority in the park, while habitats for common and invasive species, plus areas that are frequently wrecked by flooding may be better left for the dogs :).
- I did spot some baby trout in the river between the train bridge and the pedestrian bridge, but they were too small to reliably identify.
- Wildlife travel and live along the 199R Silverview Way and 81 Silverview Way corridor. Need to make sure that they can continue to move freely in this area (do not build fences or alter landscape that could restrict their movement).
- I'm very happy with the area and its management.
- Don't confuse natural with messy and unkempt. The growth right along the pathway still needs to be cut back instead of letting it grow so long that it dwarfs the benches along the sides!
- It is a beautiful park with wonderful walking paths.
- Lets preserve the habitat while also preserving the esthetics of the park to users - ie - maintaining scenic benches and access to scenic lookouts, without obstructing the view with big beastly "preservation" fences.
- I'm very saddened by current bench losses on the scenic point and the ugly fence in its place. This has destroyed this area's amazing scenic view that I have loved over the years. I can only hope that "preservation" does not overrule esthetics in future plans. Who wants a park well-preserved by big, ugly fences? I don't. What is the point?
- Nice to have birds in park. Would not want any dramatic increase in park access that might impact habitats
- I love the 'wildness' of Bowmont Park with increasing numbers of native flowers appearing. Please keep this - it's important that we remember how this land used to be even 100 years ago. Glad to read that invasive species like carragana are being removed.
- I think Bowmont Park in its existing states is sufficient for natural habitats and wildlife. Some remediation of trails that are damaging habitat is fine, but remember that wildlife develop corridors through use and humans do the same, so restricting trail development or access unless in an extremely damaged area is detrimental.
- Preservation of natural areas with no use of chemicals herbicides pesticides in the park/ natural areas....
- I like it as it is
- Preservation of natural habitats should be a priority
- Wildlife has definitely decreased during the last decades. More habitat developed is needed.
- I love having the coyotes and wild animals in our area of Bowmont Park around Silver Springs
- Please leave the natural habitats either alone or managed for the ecology they provide. Once you run out, no city EVER recreates them properly.
- They're important -- even the gophers. It would be nice if the city of Calgary would stop poisoning them. Furthermore, dogs shouldn't be allowed to run freely too far past the bike paths since they tend to chase the wildlife. Finally, please stop spraying herbicide in Bowmont Park.



- Good attempts to leave habitats untouched
- It should remain a natural habitat
- I like that we have a natural area around the river with its wild vegetation and wildlife. It's a major advantage of living in Silver Springs.
- I believe the area as with other park areas are critical to this city and its residents. Having the good fortune to be able to access this area is a wonderful opportunity for me, my family and friends who on occasion walk with us.
- Wildlife has mostly disappeared since the bike lanes have been built. Forget the dogs...the bikes have scared the wildlife
- It's an important habitat for the animals and we need to keep it as such.
- Leave the natural areas just that - no cutting, no spraying and no built up walking trails.
- Love that we have natural areas in our city
- Appreciate that there is a lot of natural habitat area and wildlife. In the winter, the coyotes and deer come up from the Park along the golf course behind our house - keep it wild
- Natural habitats should be just that. Left natural
- The wildlife in Bowmont Park has decreased dramatically. Not even a coyote can be seen or heard lately.
- if there is conflict or issues in terms of spawning or birthing in the area, perhaps temporary closures for that sensitive time/area could be implemented without removing the access year round. has an impact assessment been done?
- I haven't seen much wildlife in there, I hear the City wants to scale back the dog access because of Salmon - is there really much Salmon in the Bow because I never see them in that area at least. Will you block access to the river from people too? I am pretty sure they disturb it as much as dogs would (if not more)
- Having grown up in a small area in BC I think that the natural habitats existing in this park in the city are amazing. I find especially in the lower areas of the park people are very responsible. If anything the issues I have encountered have been in the upper areas of the park where sometimes I might find garbage etc around benches or playgrounds.
- I walk, bike, run and walk my dog in Bowmont park. The amenities are great and I think I have a good perspective of all type of users. Clarity is needed on dog on/off leash areas and biking. I think dogs tend to get blamed for a lot in the park and the damage along the cliffs and informal paths created by bikers doesn't get adequate attention
- One of the great features of the park is the wildlife- deer, coyotes, beavers, birds, etc... Parks must act as their guardians and make sure they can continue living in this area. Their environment needs to be protected while still making way for our recreational needs. Consider developing some form of signage system that lets people know they should not enter areas that disturb wildlife and important plant life.
- Pleased with the effort. Keep up the good work in this regard.
- Degree of use seems sustainable and allows extensive bird habitats
- Old forest growth key to sustainability of the wild life inhabitants needs to be left alone and the riverway corridor inhibited by fences. I have noticed large swaths of meadows destroyed by flood mitigation planning. This needs to be built into the natural environment not take away from.
- For the majority of species I would support maintaining current protections. However, coyote populations seem to fluctuate and I do not support their growth due to safety risks to children and others.
- important wildlife areas should be prioritized for conservation or restoration. River access should be limited to a few locations (as a sacrifice) and all other areas should be restored using natural methods in a way that discourages access (is thick shrubs or no trails nearby). No hard engineering like rip rap, gabion baskets etc. These do not reflect the natural beauty of the park, do not send the right message to users about what riparian areas should look like, and often do not function as well as natural riparian areas.

- The importance of biodiversity can be appreciated in natural habitats and wildlife. Bowmont Park is an excellent example of an important natural area that contributes to biodiversity.
- The current lay-out and arrangements concerning the area is absolutely fine.
- Much less wildlife than 10 years ago. East Bowmont is being destroyed by stormwater pond construction. West Bowmont radically altered by the flood. No more inner channel - just stormwater now. Not a fish habitat now.
- not much left of natural habitat and wildlife, due to stormwater pond construction, the flood, and City Parks Dept interference
- Introduction of formal pathway by the springs by the old house has encouraged more people into the area, and yet reduced people's ability to sit and enjoy the springs.
- They are wonderful as is.
- love the fact this park is so wonderful. I have seen wildlife such as porcupines, garter snakes, rabbits, a bobcat, ring necked pheasants, deer and fawns, mallard ducks, and of course coyotes. Love the sequential order on how the wild flowers flower every year. Bugs me when people pull out a particular weed as they don't bag them and deposit it into the garbage as they will go to seed after they are pulled and laying on the ground ☹. I have called 311 to let them know that there is black knot disease in the park. I have also contacted and taken photos of the noxious weed of yellow clematis. Thistle has been sprayed but whoever you have from the city doesn't know where to go to do the spraying. Need a dog walker who walks 360 days of the year to show you!
- Much has been altered drastically by the flood. The stormwater pond installations in East Bowmont have resulted in the loss of habitat and wildlife. So much for a "natural" environment park!
- They are in good condition and should be left alone.
- The pond at the old Fournier residence has been home to an unknown species of carp for some time. During the flood some of these made it out of the pond, I saw several dead carp on the old driveway where the house and old building sat. It may be wise to investigate how native the fish are to the area. I haven't been out to the island(spit of land East of the old house) for a long time because it is posted, was it cleaned up?
- fun. always watch for birds and animals and children have sighted many varieties. Gets them back into nature. Feel like you are in the countryside and not a city
- Keep park as natural as possible to protect wildlife
- less dogs = more favorable conditions for the plants and wildlife in Bowmont.
- I think it is great to have some protected natural habitat areas like the one just east of the main dog parks - I also like that there are area where folks and dogs may walk on paths through the trees and near the river and by the ponds. Good to have a mix.
- I do not see the 199 Silverview site as a natural habitat. This was originally designated as the Sarcee trail extension and would not have been a natural habitat if that had gone forward. I see nothing but long grass and weeds on that site. As far as a wildlife corridor, deer would be heading out on to Silver Springs Gate. I consider this a "peninsula" outside of the river valley and Bowmont Park. This is a parcel of land that could be used for seniors housing.
- I enjoy both the natural habitats and wildlife in the park while walking our two dogs.
- I appreciate the efforts that are being made to protect the wildlife and natural elements in the park.
- Concerned re dog access to the river having a negative impact on spawning areas for trout in spring and fall
- In general, natural habitat areas seem to be in good condition but wonder if any vegetation monitoring is being done. Where trail closure and revegetation seems to have worked, old barriers/fencing should come down. Elsewhere, these efforts need to be reviewed/revised. It appears that community volunteers could be involved in this.
- Join the BP Forest/Gardens to Bowmont park for a continuous walking park experience
- 95 percent of Canada is rural. We do not need wildlife habitats within the city, The park is boxed in on the north, south and east by major roadways. Some wildlife will make their home

in the park and so be it. Ask yourself how many deer are killed by cars, how many pets are killed by coyotes, how of river banks are destabilized by beavers and how many animals get put down each year because they wander into the city. Deer are a major part of cougar diets.

- This is a special place in Calgary and used it a lot. I love the crocuses in the spring and all the running routes that are there, plus off leash areas for dogs.
- We need to set reasonable expectations that reflect the fact that this park is located inside a major city. With the appropriate goals, Bowmont Park can be a welcoming place for both people and wildlife.
- The area has been quite scary lately for small children. There are many coyotes and porcupine
- I use Bowmont Park often only to take my dogs - the park is beautiful and it is the only place I take my dogs to roam free.
- The natural habitat is important to maintain but in balance with the users. People who have access to natural spaces learn to respect it.
- The area is being ruined by bicyclists cutting ever multiplying new trails.
- Preserve them.
- left as is please
- Don't care
- I am glad that the banks of the river across from Bowmont are being reinforced. I would like to see this done at Bowmont.
- Development of "wet lands" on the "klippert" property s/b a priority.
- Lots of wild flowers and such in the hills. Have seen the occasional coyote & deer, Garter snakes, etc..

The flood caused the small pond/bridge west of the train bridges to all but get cut off from the main river so is just a stagnant slew. A channel from the main river to this area needs to be dug so that spring runoff can restore this area to where it was prior to the flood.

- i always see interesting things: birds, flowers (throughout the seasons!), Silver Springs - a great place.
- They appear to be thriving and well.
- I think it is important to preserve areas that are special and not common in other areas of Calgary. I don't think, however, that trout areas need to be protected in a specific area common to dog users. it's a big river. Dog areas are very limited.
- Must be protected! Sensitive areas must be identified with limited or no access to the public to protect coyote habitat etc. People must clean up after their pets. Too much dog poop! More info about wildlife would be helpful. Limit off leash areas to protect wildlife.
- As an avid user over the last 20 years, i can say that the wildlife is doing just fine in the park.
- Make it a natural wetland - that is a destination for wildlife and NOT a destination for people. Perhaps one wide bike/walking/dogs on-leash path that skirts along the river and allows a bypass view of the wetlands proposed in Klippert. NOT drive in, parking with access to boardwalks and feeder paths. Leave it alone. Build few viewing platforms along the path near the river and perhaps one above looking down and leave the natural area alone. Were it to flood again you are spending a lot of money that could wash away - if that is the plan.
- We need to preserve it
- This is one of the nicest parks close to our home. It provides a variety of natural habitat but I haven't encountered any wildlife. Birds do not frequent the area too.
- Keep the dog park
- The 'natural habitats' are literally being burned. There are more than a dozen open fire pits, and people are taking axes to the trees.
- Love the park and use it daily for off leash so walk in the designated area by the ponds.
- Love it!
- No Comment
- What happened to the Beavers and their lodge on the north side just under the 85th st bridge?

- We love that we can see owls, deer, coyotes, rabbits, beavers, muskrats, and any number of birds in the park. I hope it continues to be welcoming for the original inhabitants.
- We should do all that we can to preserve any natural wildlife habitats. Without that, what's the point of a park or natural-environment
- Excellent work so far
- Protect them
- To encourage appreciation for our environment, you should involve students and volunteers in habitat management efforts.
- It's a beautiful area, but I feel that it's being overrun by offleash, unruly dogs and owners that don't really care to follow basic rules.
- N/A
- There has been a major decrease in sightings of wildlife since the 2013 flood. Ongoing construction and fencing is further disturbing any pathways the remaining animals might use. I have not seen any deer or foxes since the flood, but they were frequent prior.
- Leave Bowmont free of mis-guided over management and further construction of artificial environments. Parks meddling threatens to ruin the very qualities that draw people to the park.

For instance- the insane cutting of mature poplars in the peaceful forest area below the golf course ravine!

- Off leash areas should be monitored to ensure wildlife, flora and fauna are protected
- Limited awareness of the wildlife and measures needed to protect specific areas - despite walking in Bowmont park twice daily.
- It is very clear that flood damage mitigation has overruled any wildlife plans. Access to the river was denied animals for months so that heavy vehicles could cross the pathway. Many acts of civil disobedience by normally law abiding citizens illustrated the frustration at putting the park on hold. Big stick management!
- I love and think it is important to leave nature as it is. We live across from the park and hear the coyotes nightly as well as owls, and often see deer and a lot of other wild life. I would like to see the FUD designated section across from the Silver Springs golf course incorporated into the park. It is beautiful with all this plant and animal life and it only makes sense to leave as part of the park land.
- Bowmont park is an outstanding urban park. It should be protected and not developed into housing. The redevelopment of bowmont east into more parkland is an outstanding idea
- Dandelions are atrocious
- Bowmont Pak is an incredible resource for the residents of all Northwest Calgary.
- PLEASE leave Bowmont Park a natural environment park for all the fauna and flora that live there, and for the people who want to enjoy it as is
- You guys should really stop repairing the fence near the old Fournier property. People will just keep tearing it down to hang out on the river bank. Just leave it as it is. I've seen people along the river banks, but not too far inland or too far south. Let it go, let it be. It's a waste of time and money to try to limit access to that area. People will keep destroying the fence or access the area from the other side of the inlet there.  
I love that part of the park best!
- One of the best places to enjoy nature in Calgary. Love it!
- I think the city should leave the park natural. In Varsity there are a whole bunch of ugly fences that have been put up. It really makes the park ugly. There was talk of putting some fancy wooden walkway from Varsity down to the river, close to the old gravel pit/by the new stormwater pond. I think that is a terrible idea. Again, takes away from the "natural" and people will just use the grass on the sides to bike down, or walk with small kids. Also, the maintenance would not be kept up.
- The Fournier sanctuary is fantastic but the park needs to be more efficient at making sure people and dog do not access it. I have seen dogs chasing ducks in the little pond inside the sanctuary... I also noticed people breaking the fence in order to access it.

- We have lots of deer, coyotes, rabbits, mice, voles, birds. Wildflowers bloom in abundance. A beautiful area to enjoy.
- Beautiful walk among nature. Where can you go in the city to make you feel you are out of town within nature? I see snakes, birds, porcupines, ring necked pheasants, owls, deer and coyotes.
- Should be expanded to include not only more riverine habitat but also grassland habitat. And they need a good deal more protection. For example, the fencing bordering the Fournier area is falling down (not all due to the flood). The wire netting is feeble. The signage is inconsistent and sparse. Protected areas could be renamed “Calgary Wildlife Sanctuary at Bowmont”. (Inglewood Bird Sanctuary could become Calgary Wildlife Sanctuary at Inglewood—and put them under the same management umbrella.) Regretably they need ‘policing’ with fines for trespass—education/signage has proven to be insufficient.
- Better signage around the natural areas that are supposed to be off limits to people/dogs/etc. is essential. Many of these areas were damaged by the floods, and have not been restored, and as a result have seen growing use in the past few years. This would also benefit from the trail education program discussed below.
- keep Clipper ponds, avoid cutting down trees, many large trees have been cut down in East Bowmont like about 50 40' plus footers destroying what's there
- These have been seriously disturbed by construction (destruction) activities in the park during the Stormwater Pond projects - west and east. The June 2013 flood also radically changed Bowmont Park. East Bowmont Park is very ugly these days. Removing caragana bushes might be a good idea in theory, but why have they left the debris behind? It looks awful!
- Try to leave areas as natural as possible - no fencing or stairways. Fencing definitely does not work to block off pathways. Users just go around creating another path.

### **Access + Amenities**

- Many of the park access points are not well known. All park entrances should be clearly signed. Also, guide signs should be installed to lead people to the park from Crowchild Trail, like the Bowness Park sign on the Trans-Canada Hwy and the Edworthy Park sign on Bowness Road.
- My family has great access as we live two doors down from a park entrance.
- It's easy to access ...leave as is
- I live close to the Bowmont park area and I often walk my dog in these natural habitats. I have rarely seen any conflict between walkers/joggers/dog walkers. I hope our city is not responding the 1% in their defining of areas.
- Good.
- Access with new parking areas and signage across the entire Park has greatly improved over the years. Better garbage containers at strategic locations have also improved the dog walkers experience! The Klippert site is a fantastic opportunity to provide a brand new experience for all users...not sure what might fit there, but hope it will take into account all users.
- I find access fairly user friendly, especially on bike. Once flood repairs are done, there will be improvement. I am concerned about off leash dogs using areas that are inhabited by native and migrating species.
- The access is good and the amenities are sufficient. I like the park being wild and natural.
- I find it very easy to access the park and appreciate the signs regarding plants and animals and the benches and stairs (in several of the areas, including the boardwalk down to Waterfall Valley).
- I feel nothing should be changed at this time.
- There are several access points to Bowmont Park. The amenities are adequate in order to keep it a natural park.



- The access for all user groups is adequate to maintain the Park in its natural state and no further amenities are needed. There are plenty of benches and lookout areas for people to use as needed, accessible to all groups.
- Access is adequate; amenities should be kept to a minimum and only in low impact areas
- Bowmont Park could use more garbage bins to allow people to dispose of their doggy poop bags. I find I have to carry mine for quite some time until I find one.
- There are several access points to Bowmont Park. In order to keep it a natural park the amenities are adequate.
- Have clear signs everywhere which explain the rules of a natural area park and for this park
- I do not feel that there is a need for amenities within the park. It is a natural environment area and needs to remain as such.
- Don't add any more Entrances  
Add only a Small river access at East end of Park, near Home Road  
Do not put river access in the Nature Area  
Post large, simply worded signs at all Entrances and throughout the Park
- I grew up and Bowness and spent a lot of time exploring Bowmont Park in my youth. I recently moved my family to a home adjacent to Bowmont Park in Silver Springs primarily because of direct access to the park. I don't think we need more infrastructure within the park (keep it natural) and current parking/trail entrances seem sufficient for the visitor load. To reduce future load on existing natural areas the City should continue to set aside large regional parks and green spaces in all new developments.
- I love that garbage bins are dispersed throughout the space, so I can dispose of my dogs droppings. The paved pathway is excellent to take a nice leisurely walk or ride with the family - even with young children. Fencing along roadways provides a good separation between park and urban areas. Parking areas and access are definitely suitable for the park, and are seldom too full. The benches placed allow for rest and contemplation in a park that is revered by many Calgarians.
- There are enough signs and benches throughout the park.
- Access is OK  
Need Maps at Access points and clear information about the Park and the rules
- For us, the access is great, as long as 199R Silverview Way remains natural for the use of pedestrians and dog walkers.
- The access to Bowmont Park is appropriate for a natural area. There are enough points for people and pets to access the park by walking to enjoy this natural area within the City of Calgary. The less development in the park the better for the natural habitats and the wildlife these habitats sustain.
- I like the path for dog walking
- It is such a "wild" gem within the inner city. I wouldn't like to see it "developed". It's a hiker's paradise just like it is. I also wouldn't want to see it ruined with a lot of bike rutted paths.
- A few more garbage cans and the addition of dog poop bags, these are seen throughout the Country at off leash areas. ABSOLUTELY NO KIDDIE PARKS!!! Kids don't play at parks anymore, so please don't waste the money.
- it is all good. do not change anything
- Access is good, amenities are fine but we could use more dog waste bins in the park. That might help people pick up their dogs waste more frequently.
- Access and amenities in the park are more than adequate
- We live within walking distance of the park but see a large number of vehicles parked at the south end of Silver Springs Blvd where it adjoins the Park.  
While bike riding or walking in the park, we enjoy the view points overlooking the Bow River valley.
- We do not need any more amenities in this park. Access is excellent and does not need any further development. A number of communities are served routinely by this park and increased access will not enhance the values of the park.

- The amenities within the park are good at present. The signs providing directions are helpful. I do not feel there is a need for further amenities within this style of park (ie. Picknick shelters, washrooms etc)
- Allocate a bit a space to make the park accessible to all.
- I believe the access to the park is great. I believe maintaining the trails, park benches and nature signs provide adequate amenities.
- Access and amenities are fine. Try to keep things simple and not over developed.
- The access is fine, many people come from elsewhere to walk in the park, we think the markers chosen are hideous but not enough to recommend anything different as they actually merge with the environment very well which is more important than the markers themselves.
- I prefer to see it remain in its relatively undeveloped state. Viewpoint platforms are good. Opportunity for some recreational uses within the former gravel pit since it is already quite degraded
- progressing really well.kudos to the city
- good access maybe more benches or picnic tables would be nice
- I like it natural as it is,no pavement or buildings.
- I think access is sufficient as are amenities. May toilet facilities at a couple of entrances.
- I live in the north west corner of Varsity Estates and enjoy being able to access the park via 700 Varsity Estates Place. Access to the park is good and I feel there are enough amenities within the park.
- We enjoy the access and the use of the current space and area as it is.
- they are good
- The benches put in the park as memorials are generally well placed and useful.
- Access is very good as demonstrated by the number of citizens using the area.
- I think the access we have now and the current amenities are just about right. I would not like to see access increased.
- It is very good.
- Bowmont Park is very accessible and I think the amenities in the park are sufficient given that it is a natural habitat.
- As it is a long walk to get down to the River from much of the East side of the park the current access points should be maintained. This includes the 199R Silverview Way area. More garbage cans in the park might encourage dog owners to pick up after their dogs.
- I think the pathway system and signage is great. It really promotes the various areas that people can gain access too. The benches people place here are wonderful to come to enjoy the area. I'd encourage more garbage cans-- to maybe promote dog owners to clean up after the dogs and to keep the area clean of garbage so it doesn't disrupt the wildlife in the area. I would discourage picnic tables as the area to avoid garbage.
- Mountain biking in the park is a lot of fun. The trails provide a fun way to get some exercise. I'd love to see a little more development go into the mountain bike side of the park. Access to the park is reasonable, there is ample parking and access points.
- I love the pathway along/above the river and appreciate that it is well maintained to support walkers and bikers. The waterfall area is very lovely and the pathway down is well kept and easy to use.
- Excellent
- From our perspective, the Access to the park is very suitable and sufficient, as it is well connected through the river pathway system and via neighbourhood parking.
- Do NOT add any more viewing platforms or built structures. They are a disconnect to the natural area, where a simple bench provides a resting/meeting place. Dog feces fills up the garbage pails...needing more pickups?
- I think that Bowmont Park is beautiful! I enjoy my daily walks in the park. Access is easy and there is no associated cost. I cannot afford to travel to the mountains; Bowmont Park has

afforded me and my children easy access and affordable access to nature that have on many occasions provided escape from city noise and pressures.

- Good as is.
- Could use another entrance from the west side of McCleod Tr. for foot traffic.
- Access is satisfactory
- Garbage cans along paved trails encouraging dog owners to clean up after their pets, and signage to remind patrons of pedestrian / cyclist right of way and clarity around off leash areas are encouraged as trails are used by all frequently.
- fine as they are.
- I love the maintained pathways, the fenced in off-leash dog park on the west side of the park, and of course access to the river!
- Need to improve access from Silver Springs Gate to Bowmont Park. Need to work with Calgary roads to improve this access for pedestrians and vehicles.
- There are no toilets anywhere along the route. It's a long walk from Klipperts to Bowness Park and there is not a single port-a-potty anywhere. With more users, we really don't need people just "going in the bushes".
- Would be nice to see additional garbage bins along pathway system as well as more lighting.
- We do not need increased vehicular access to the park - bringing more users to the natural areas - they can walk and bike (or wheelchair on the paved paths)
- Good access as it is. good trails for biking and hiking.
- We have good access at the eastern end of the park, either from 40th Avenue NW or by the Maranatha church. We know there is good access from Silver Springs too and from the western end at Bowness Park
- As it is right now, there are two small playgrounds at the far east end of Bowmont Park and many benches situated throughout. I don't see the need to add any additional amenities as this is a natural area. I oppose spending funds on washrooms, large amphitheatres, cedar plank boardwalks, etc. This is a natural area and does not require unnatural amenities added.
- Need better access to Natural areas for handicapped and less agile people, seniors.... Better parking at the top of the ridge Varsity Estates ..... View for people who are handicapped/confined to vehicles is important. Access to natural areas should not just be for the fit and youthful and for elites.
- I like it as it is. We have few untouched places in Calgary... it would be nice to see this park left as is.
- Sufficient and should not be further developed
- Access is good at present.
- Need more garbage cans
- add toilets. and fire pits and benches.
- There are more than enough amenities. Any more of them and you'll ruin the character of the park.
- Access is good but public washrooms would be an awesome idea
- They should remain the same.  
A water fountain would be nice.
- I enjoy the natural terrain; not like the paved walkways in the Varsity Ravine off-leash park.
- Less "development" and more "leave it alone"
- It's great.
- It's fine the way it is. It's one of the untouched natural areas in the City and it doesn't need to be improved with so-called amenities. Leave it alone.
- Every neighborhood should have access to natural unspoiled areas for walking and quiet contemplation
- No problem with current access
- Access is good

- I would like to see more garbage bins. There is too much space in between bins, and most of the time, the bins are overflowing with garbage/dog poop bags.
- I've never had any problems parking and getting into the park.
- I think that access to the park is great.
- Current access is excellent.
- Calgary Roads should work with Park staff to improve vehicular access into the park from Silver Springs Gate. Consider building a pedestrian activated crosswalk at this location so residents living north of this road to safely access the park. Calgary Roads should consider reducing the speed limit on Silver Springs Gate to do this.
- Access is fine. Current level of amenities is fine.
- Off leash access to the river and in the park is a must. Most users are cyclists, runners, and dog owners... we can all live happily together, it should not require that good dogs be unfairly on leash...
- Parking access should not be expanded - if parking at Klippert site occurred this would lead to much more casual use and impacts on natural habitats. All parts of park can be accessed as is but takes a bit more dedication to walk/bike for 1-2 kilometers instead of parking close to center.
- Access should be left as is to preserve the area. Any additional parking or access is going to again take away from it. Visiting the park for over 40 years I have never had an issue with access. Washrooms are not necessary and again would take away from the area.
- Increase in parking lot access via East Gate (Klippert) would be detrimental due to promoted motorized ease of access to the core of the park - it looks like this is not part of the East Gate plan as it should not be.
- they are what i expect
- I live in nearby Varsity Estates Park, which is near Bowmont Park. Whether by foot, car, or bicycle, I can easily access Bowmont Park and the amenities within it.
- There are sufficient access points so that a walker/hiker is able to walk through different pathways and enjoy the unobstructed views. The simple amenities (benches) and design of the footpaths allow for maximum enjoyment of the park.
- There don't need to be any amenities. Fine as is.
- Amenities are fine as they are.
- Really really need to fix the underpass under the railway, close to the pedestrian bridge, which was destroyed in the floods, so one can access Bowness/Bowmont via the pathway.
- Just right.
- Leave the park natural. We want some area for our dogs to run free but not along busy roads or just in bushes/ shrubs. These dogs are our family and we don't want them flattened by cars that do drive more than 50km along Silverview way.
- Don't need amenities in a Natural Environment Park. Access isn't an issue.
- My only criticism is there aren't enough trash bins throughout the park.
- Access by foot is great, leave the car in the parking areas or on Street and walk/ride/roller blade etc.
- More garbage bins would be appreciated. A few picnic tables for families enjoying the park would also be nice.
- Minimum access to park and no amenities within the park, keep it natural.
- It would be nice to have a single public washroom and water fountain somewhere along the pathway.
- Good access to the park - might want to change up the traffic signage for the old klippert mine site entrance - that might confuse some folks.
- I find the access and amenities are just right and do not think they need any changes - just upkeep of existing amenities - I like it left simple without a lot of paved paths and signs etc.

- I think there are many points of access to our beautiful park. The 199 Silverview site is not a frequent access point. The Bowmont park can be accessed further south of the FUD designation.
- As long as the current dog access remains available, I will be happy. I don't visit the park otherwise, nor do many others. This is dog walking territory.
- Generally the access is good, though since the construction process has been active some of the trails and access points are in poor condition.
- Access is good
- Access is fine now. Do not establish a parking lot in Klippert Lands area. People can park in above in Varsity or SS and at West end and walk in.
- Would be nice (and safer) to have a pedestrian overpass over Silver Springs Boulevard from the Birthplace forest to "199R Silverview way." This would ensure better access to the entire Bowmont park system for residents of Silver Springs, Ranchlands, and Dalhousie.
- Remove all signs, fences and other obstacles placed in the park. Let nature manage the park. This is about building bureaucracy at city hall. How much has all that orange fencing in the park, which has served no useful purpose cost tax payers. Each time you fence off one path another is created to bypass it.
- No complaints - I live nearby and access the Park at 53 St and 32 Ave.
- Parking areas in the east end of the park need improvement to avoid placing too much burden on nearby residential streets.
- A few more garbage bins (including for dog waste) would be appreciated: perhaps near the two pedestrian bridges. Probably too much to ask - but a faucet with water for the dogs in the parking area near the 85th Street bridge?
- I hope all the underpasses are almost completed post flood. The detours are quite long and not kid friendly
- Very pleased with amenities - no issue, no comment
- My preference is to keep the amenities to a minimum. We love living near and using the park because of the natural habitat. There are plenty of spaces for those that want paved paths and ice cream elsewhere.
- It would be nice to have a few picnic tables in the upper park.
- Drinking water filling stations.
- Leave it the way it is.
- they are perfect
- more garbage cans
- There is a dangerous slope from the East side of the fenced dog park down to the asphalt trail. Someone is going to be seriously hurt. I have made Parks aware of this several times and nothing has been done. It is steep and slippery in the snow months and when it has been raining.
- East Bowmont Park access points are adequate.
- Access is good and getting better now that flood damage is being done.
- adequate
- I travel west to east and east to west on dirt and on pavement, on foot and on two wheels. I love the park and all its trails as they are. Winter or summer I enjoy them in the same manner.
- LOVE LOVE LOVE my Bowmont Park! I wish people would pick up their garbage. Myself along with other regular users are picking up their refuse on a regular basis. Perhaps more garbage bins?
- Would be great to have more info/interpretive panels educating the public about habitat conservation, flora and fauna, history of the area, wildlife facts, etc. Perhaps make it interactive by having medallion runbings that people can collect along the way.
- It would be nice to see better signage, or maps. Possible washrooms at some access points.



- No amenities other than a main thoroughfare to allow humans and their leashed pets to skirt an area protected for wildlife. Let it be and let us view it from afar or from one trail along and at the west end to come up the hill
- access should be kept open
- Easily accessible. Though the pathways need rehabilitation. Most especially the pathway leading to the waterfalls.
- Having a washroom at the main entrances would be great.
- Fence picnic and road access for kids and dogs safety
- I have no issues with access to the park. I would like to see more garbage cans, please!
- The park needs better signage for the location of the boat launch. It would also be helpful to have a designated bike path for people commuting on bikes as they tend to go at much higher speeds and conflict with pedestrians.
- I love the fact that it's left somewhat natural. It's unfortunate that the path under the train bridge is washed out but I'm guessing that'll be fixed sometime.
- The parking lot by the 85 St bridge is too small especially during the summer when it is full of rafters. Also having a light placed in the parking lot would be nice especially when you're walking your dog during the winter. It's very dark there during the winter evenings and there are very few people around. A light would help for safety.
- Garbage bins are needed at each entry to the off leash areas.
- There are very few amenities, except the odd park bench, and I like it that way. The only thing I'd add is a water fountain at each end, and perhaps one in the middle.
- We enjoy the fact that Bowmont Park remains natural. We would not like to see infrastructure and amenities introduced like they are in Bowness Park. They are different parks, and we use each of them differently for different purposes.
- I prefer more natural parks. A few benches or tables for sitting and a picnic, but little else. The more "wild" the better. Clear paths of course are important for keeping people out of the natural vegetation.
- Access paths are good, except for Dandelion weed control. Quite excessive in green spaces.
- vital to the NW
- All good.
- I love the new viewing platforms. Thank-you!
- Love the off leash
- washrooms would be nice
- Keep the park natural. Nose Hill's construction of pathways over several years permanently affected wildlife so there are now very few animals. I am concerned that more paved pathways, construction vehicles and fencing in the area are disturbing wildlife already traumatized by the flood effects. It would be great to have a set of washrooms on top of the bluffs near Home Road and in Silver Springs. Keep access to the river for people AND dogs as the vast majority are very responsible.
- Access is fine. The only "amenity" needed in the park is the natural environment- as is.
- access to river for all people, not just dogs
- Please add two new poop lockers - one at the far end of the off leash park and one on the island.
- It will become an amazing place for people to enjoy but we don't need to over manage it. Let paths develop where people want to go. Let dogs wander along with the wildlife - and expect some conflict in a natural park.
- Because I live near the park it is easy access for us to the park. I think there is access from many different locations including the pathways along the river. The park has many users which is nice to see.
- Bowmont park should remain as natural as possible, no large buildings or structures. Planting more trees and adding shrubs and vegetation is good.

- It is easily accessible and no further amenities should be considered.
- Leave it a natural park for all those who want to enjoy a little wilderness in the middle of a city.
- It's pretty wonderful as is. It's my favorite place to walk and for my dogs to swim.
- Keep it simple, love the viewing platforms
- There was talk of an amphitheater and bathrooms being installed. I think that is ridiculous. Most of the users of this park are the area residents, and they all have bathrooms at home. I think it would attract more homeless people to the area.
- Great access, lots of benches and trash collection. Very happy with it
- I think there need to be more refuse containers.
- Need to keep R 199 on Silverview Way NW as natural park land. No housing to be built in this area.
- No more amenities please.
- There are not enough garbage bins, and are often placed closed to each other leaving long stretches of park unserved by bins. Especially off the paved paths is significantly under serviced.
- need better maintenance (ie weed cutting)
- There are no amenities in this park and that is just fine with me. I use this park every day and don't want amenities. It is supposed to be a Natural park. The project in East Bowmont is hardly Natural.
- Not enough trash cans. Rusty iron figures placed along the park serve no purpose, are unattractive and impede walking, please remove.

## **Pathways + Trails**

- The Parks Dept. should give up trying to close trails which lead thru grasslands. It is futile because people ignore the closures and signs.
- Improved maintenance and rerouting of high erosion areas would improve sustainability. Making official trails more appealing would seem to reduce the number of social trails
- There seems to be a balance between access and environmental conservation. The main issue I see is the erosion at the very top of the ridge on the street side of the cable fences due to pedestrian traffic - perhaps wood chip pathways similar to those in birthplace forest? Fully paved pathways would cause issues for pedestrians due to faster moving vehicles.
- pathways in 199R Silverview Way need to be left natural...for pedestrian and dog use only
- The pathways in 199R Silverview Way need to be left natural for the use of pedestrians and dog walkers.
- The pathway systems are fantastic and greatly improved with new benches and vantage viewing spots. We have thoroughly enjoyed hundreds of hours walking this park and the pathways, as well as, the off pathway trails. It is critical that we work together to preserve access for all users.
- Unofficial trails depict the most efficient routes for people, these should be examined. Education and signs should be available to promote positive use of pathways especially in regards to bike and dog use.
- I like the trails and pathways system in Bowmont Park. The paved bike trail takes "heavier traffic" (commuter bikes, strollers) from narrow trails in meadows above and below. Hence the area can stay as almost pristine prairie, which I think is very good.
- I appreciate the many trails and pathways in Bowmont Park and would like to see 199R Silverview Way left natural for my walks and cross-country skiing in the winter.
- The pathways in 199R need to be left natural (i.e. left unpaved) for the use of pedestrians and dog walkers.
- We feel the pathways in 199R Silverview Way need to be maintained as they are and not paved, as people enjoy the park the way it is.
- The trails need to be left unpaved to maintain the park in its natural state for future generations to enjoy, which must also include 199R Silverview Way. The present paved pathway is

adequate to allow all user groups (including pedestrians and dog walkers) an opportunity to experience the beauty of this natural park.

- There is a concern about proliferation of mountain bike trails on the slopes near the river below Silver Springs. Mountain bike activities could be diverted to area at 199R Silverview Way
- Ensure Dogs are on-leash on all trails
- Leave 199R Silverview Way as is! This area needs to be remain natural. I live within this block and walk my dog daily in this area. It is greatly enjoyed by many. The trails are great that lead you down to the river. This is a beautiful area enjoyed by many people, dogs and wildlife.
- We feel the pathways in 199R Silverview Way need to be left natural and unpaved for the use of the many people and dog walkers who use this area.
- Have By-law in the Park to give out fines for unleashed dogs on the pathways and owners who allow their dogs to harass others. Get into the Park and fix up the trails that need it.
- Paths within Bowmont Park need to remain as natural as possible. Paths that have developed over the years from people walking across the land need to remain natural. These paths were made by pedestrians and dog-walkers and are not suitable for cyclists who can be found in clusters of four or more, cycling at high speeds along them. Cyclists are a hazard to park-users: people, dogs, as well as wildlife, big and small. Too often, the remains of small animals are found on the paths, flattened with a bicycle tire imprint upon them.
- Many trails need repair and upkeep. Inventory should be done at least once a year. 40th Ave Trail to River needs proper drainage added and repair. Keep cyclists under control and off steep trails
- I like the balance Bowmont Park has between the paved regional pathway and the natural (formal and informal) trails. For 30 years I have been mountain biking on all grades of trails within Bowmont Park and have not seen significant degradation of the natural areas. On the contrary, I feel that in the past 10 years the trail quality and sustainability has actually improved. The stairs, interpretive boardwalk, and restoration work in Waterfall Valley has really improved that area. I would like to see the viewpoint next to the river at the bottom of Waterfall Valley improved, with better stairs leading to the river — people are going to access the river there so might as well make the best of it. I think the formal multi-use trail leading around the mid-elevation of Waterfall Valley is great and an excellent example of how to mitigate conflicts between different user groups (walkers, mountain bikers, etc.) As recently as July 2105, there has been additional work done to reduce erosion by rebuilding or rerouting trails while keeping those trails open for all users (particularly around Waterfall Valley). I would like to see the formal and informal trails continue to be managed in this manner. For example, the steep fall-line trail directly north of the new stormwater catchment (<https://goo.gl/maps/rLSyZ>) could be restored and rerouted to better follow the slope contour to the valley bottom. Similar restoration/rerouting could be done at N51.10103° W114.20073°. Above all, I think all user groups need to be accommodated: cyclist commuters, mountain bikers, runners, pedestrians, and dog walkers. Education is always useful and some signage at entrances about multi-use trails would go a long way to reducing conflicts: keep dogs under control, cyclist yield to other users, avoid using trails during wet conditions, stay on established trails.
- Pathways should be left unpaved especially in area 199R Silverview Way so that pedestrians, snow-shoers, have full use.
- There are sufficient pathways throughout the park to currently meet the needs of the users of Bowmont park. Further building or encroachment on the Park would hinder the wildlife and native species of the land, and have negative impact on neighbouring communities and golf courses, etc. Specifically, the pathways in 199R Silverview Way should remain un-paved and natural. This corridor is highly used by families for biking, dog walks, bikers, nature clubs, seniors walking groups, and the native animals - especially migratory birds during spring and early summer for baby season.
- The paths along 199R Silverview Way must be left as natural as possible, footpaths (unpaved!) for people and dogs.
- Need some serious upkeep and monitoring

- I enjoy that there is a paved pathway along the river, which is great for cyclists and those that cannot handle the steeper, more natural paths. But please do not pave any more spaces as the natural habitat is important to us and the wildlife.
- In a natural park, as many of the pathways should remain unpaved as possible to keep the park a natural area. This includes the pathways in the 199R Silverview Way.
- The trails are fine as is
- I like the natural pathways that human feet have created. The pathways in 199R Silverview Way should be left natural (not paved) for use by pedestrians.
- Trails and pathways are fine, just tell the bikers they don't own the pathway as we have come across bike groups that take up both lanes and almost run us into the ditch, bikers need to have more respect for walkers.
- tell the cyclists to go somewhere else. hikers and walkers do not get along with cyclists. they are obnoxious people.
- I've walked them all and I love them all
- Pathways in 199R Silverview way need to be left natural, unpaved, for the use of pedestrians. Just because we are a city does not mean everything has to be a concrete jungle. Keep it natural!!!
- We really enjoy the bike paths in the Park which we often use to ride over to Baker and Bowness Parks. They are generally kept in very good condition. There are many natural pathways for pedestrians to traverse the park as well as people out walking their dogs. In particular, many folks use the natural pathways in the 199R Silverview Way. As this area parallels a paved street with relatively low vehicular traffic, there is not a need to pave any of the trails in this area.
- The number of cyclists that refuse to use the designated bike path is upsetting. They are tearing up more natural dirt paths that could serve walkers for many years to come. For 40 years, I have walked the hillsides, on a simple path and I am totally opposed to having it restricted or unavailable for me as a walker. The paved bicycle path through the park is excellent and bikers should be invited to stay off the hillsides and river bottom paths and they need to be enforced from doing so.
- I would appreciate that pathways throughout the park that are up paved be left in their natural condition. Walking and biking on the natural trails is more enjoyable than the paved trails. This is also true for 199r silverview way.
- Trails that interfere with the natural nature of the park should be avoided. Restrict mountain bike trails if they impact the preservation of the natural areas or even unnatural area that look like natural areas.
- I believe they are adequate and don't need to be more extensive.
- The existing trails and pathways are fine. My comment would be that increased use of trails by cyclists travelling off the paved pathways will result in increased erosion of the natural areas.
- The pathways are great and the trails are fantastic as they are!! Strongly recommend 199R Silverview Way needs to be left in its natural state - no more paving!
- I am frequent user of "sideshow bob" and other informal trails for mountain biking. It offers great early season mountain bike riding before the snowpack disappear in the mountains. I think some of the recent re-routing in the Silver Spring drainage to more gradual sustainable climb/descents has been an improvement. Would like to see more development of sustainable winding trails that use the natural contours of the slope.
- leave 199 SILVERVIEW WAY AS IS FOR OFF LEASH AREA
- leave the right away along the pathways natural
- Pathways in 199R Silverview Way need to be left natural, unpaved etc.
- As I like to walk in the woods, grass I mainly use the side trails. Also this works well for my dog. Currently we often walk through the quarry so if that becomes closed to dogs I hope I'll continue to be able to sure the riverside unpaved paths.

- I walk my dog every day in the 199R Silverview Way area. It is a beautiful piece of green space beside the golf course and it needs to be left natural and the area should be left unpaved for the use of pedestrians and dog walkers.
- we would like to keep the pathways as it currently is.
- 199R Silverview Way needs to be left natural for the use of pedestrians and dog walkers no need for paving unless dogs will be allowed on them
- 199R Silverview Way should be redeveloped as a housing area; perhaps for Seniors. It is currently mostly not used except by a few vocal individuals and their views are not representative of the majority of Silversprings residents.
- Pathways are kept in excellent condition .
- a mix of pathed and non paved trails is very nice in the park for walking, running and cycling. But we cannot have dogs off leash where you have cyclist, roller bladers, runners and walkers. It is not safe. Despite what the dog owners think
- I think the pathways and trails are well maintained and more than adequate. I would like to see the pathways in 199R Silverview Way to stay in their current natural state for the enjoyment of all current walkers and area dogs and their owners.
- Pathway in 199R Silver view way need to be left natural
- I love them!
- There should be a paved or wide gravel path in the middle of 199R Silverview way to allow access to the area for children in strollers and adults with reduced mobility. As well there is a lot of pedestrian traffic walking down the road of Silverview way because of the lack of trails within the park area. I don't believe this is safe.
- The bike paths are great but I feel its not necessary to continue to pave pathways or add boardwalks. Leave it natural
- I love the bike trail that drops in from silver springs blvd. The access to downtown promotes the active lifestyle in the community and also makes it enjoyable for those to just walk and enjoy the landscape.
- I love the natural "single track" in the park. It's provides a wonderful alternative to COP or Kananaskis for crosscountry riding. The paved pathways provide a great place for people to walk. A paved pathway intersecting the existing path up to Silverview way would be amazing.
- I like the paved pathway and appreciate the efforts to stop people from making additional pathways in random areas.
- Pathways in 199R Silverview Way needs to be left natural (i.e. left unpaved) for use of pedestrians and dog walkers.
- Absolutely believe that the natural/dirt pathways in 199R Silverview Way and throughout the rest of the park should remain in their natural condition. There are not many places in the city, where you can enjoy this natural setting, an as it stands, they have been sustainable to date. The dirt pathways also supply an excellent option for walkers and runners who are prevented from running on the hard surfaces of concrete and pavement. Dirt is a welcome reprieve!
- Please keep the pathways natural and unpaved
- The pathways are clearly marked and well maintained
- Trails along the riverside are a desired route, to connect with the river....as the banks are eroding, some could be realigned to protect the bank, but keeping in mind the connection to the river. Some trails need drainage provided, as the bikes have caused much damage in some areas that hold water. The steep hill on the regional pathway as it descends into the riverine area is always icy (needs a lot of gravel, which is done well) - this could be avoided if the water was redirected. Winter snow removal is appreciated.
- Please ensure single track access for mountain bikes are preserved and expanded. Thanks!
- The trails and pathways are beautiful. The City of Calgary has done tremendous work balancing the preservation of natural habitat with public access. Many, many Calgarians enjoy this park.
- Trails are great as they are. Attempts to make less undulating, smoother trails are going to increase the speeds mountain bikes travel and will thereby increase user conflicts. My only



concerns with the park are related to the overactive building of useless fences and trail manipulation by the city over the last 5-6 years.

- Everyone should just get along and smile in our beautiful parks. I am a pedestrian, a dog owner, and a cyclist. I happily apply my brakes on my bike when I approach people or pets (on or offleash). I smile at people I encounter in the park and say hi. If I have my dog offleash, I make sure she is not on the pavement ... when we can't be on dirt track, I leash her ... if it's not prime cycling time, I might not leash her. I may ride my bike on the dirt trails with her offleash. I do avoid the asphalt during commuter time in the morning and the evening. I wonder if the city has ever considered encouraging a "commuter time" adjustment to offleash areas ... a time block when pedestrians are encouraged to stick to the right and have leashed dogs. The struggle I have with cyclists (and I'm an avid one myself) is the speed at which they approach people. Even if my dog is on a leash or I'm without a dog ... or I'm with a toddler ... they need to slow down when people are present. That's another thing to consider ... a reduced speed limit for bikes "when people are present." Weaving through people on the pathway along Parkdale Blvd when it's shared-path season, is dangerous and causes hostility.
- Need to balance runner and cycle paths. Pavement is hard on runners.
- Satisfactory
- I like to mountain bike there. It is too bad trails like sideshow bob aren't well maintained and given better access is a great trail for a city. I like that there is the paved pathway and then the trails to separate the users.
- The presence of informal trails (in many contexts, not just parkland) is often an indication that the formal trails provided are not located ideally. Sometimes users' "ideal" locations can be in conflict with other objectives (erosion protection etc) but in other places they indicate places where consideration should be given to rerouting the "official" pathways to support users' preferred movement patterns.
- The city has made a mess of the path to the river from bowmont west (at the east end of the gravel pit)... there is a big hole in the ground (eventual settling pond?) a raised, long mound of dirt where the path used to be, which turns to a bog in the rain... and it looks like something went and chopped horribly through the forest... it looks just terrible. and in/after the rain, is just such a mess - not good for walkers, bikers or animals alike.
- The paths along 199R Silverview Way and 81 Silverview Way should be left as dirt footpaths - no pavement. Cyclists should use the paved road Silverview Way in this area, not paths in the Bowmont Park green-space.
- They are great! Only problem is the dog-owners who figure the pathways are for them. If their dogs are on-leash, the leashes extend out for 20 feet and they let their dogs go from one side of the path to the other, making it risky for cyclists.
- Very well maintained
- I hike as well as mountain bike on the dirt pathways and have never encountered "conflicts". Lets preserve, maintain and develop appropriate trails for both mountain bikers and hikers - some shared and some separate - so that the park remains an interesting sporting location to enjoy. Removing the interesting mountain bike trails (ie steeper hills) only serves to have cyclists developing other unofficial interesting trails. A park like Bowmont, while preserving necessary habitat, needs to be enjoyable by bikers, hikers and walkers alike. What would be the point of a beautiful park if one could not get "off road" (and out from behind beastly preservation fences) to enjoy it?
- Important to keep access to trails for mountain biking and hiking. Minimal use of fencing helps to maintain beauty of park, as prior fencing projects have been ugly and get broken
- The bicycle trails are great and well used. We have used them both as pedestrians and as cyclists and have not had any conflicts whatsoever. We've lived in the Varsity community for over 30 years and feel privileged to have access to this great park in the middle of a large city.
- Existing trails and pathways are sufficient. I have no problems with the mixed use (bikers, hikers, dogs, teenagers, wildlife, etc.) on all existing trails. I do not recommend severely limited or shutting down trails. I also think that as many trails as possible should be left natural

for the use of hikers and dog walkers. I don't believe a bunch of concrete or asphalt is at all natural in this area.

- There should be more trails and access to the river....better access, parking along Silverview Dr. for people not on foot....
- The "sustainable" paths do not seem that sustainable...
- Please continue to manage the informal pathways, through the development of a variety of different pathway networks (not just the paved multi-use path) within the park.
- Cycling on secondary trails continues to erode trails at an unsustainable rate. Trails are rutted and becoming V-shaped. Cyclists are unresponsive when damage is pointed out. They treat the park as theirs to destroy.
- Cyclists (mountain bikes) are rude and will almost run over people and dogs on leash or sitting there. Cyclists run bikes on wet dirt paths and tear them up. The cyclists speed down the hills and all over the bicycle paths and then are rude to pedestrians
- The informal trails that you refer to have been there long before it was designated a park. They're trails worn by cattle. Pedestrian traffic on these dirt paths is not an issue. The issue is bicycle traffic on these trails. Bicycles should stay on the bike paths.
- they are great
- It has been my observation that wheeled traffic does many times more damage than foot traffic
- I value the single-track trails for mountain biking which is a great feature of living near the park. I use the whole length of the park, traversing mid-hill, below the paved path and especially like Sideshow Bob, the traverse above the Klippert ex-gravel pit. And the single track trail selection above the paved path too.
- I believe the walking areas in the 199R Silverview Way should be left natural and not paved
- Too many pathways and not preserving the originals. The originals are natural pathways...the constructed ones try to dictate traffic
- The pathways in 199R Silverview Way need to be left natural (i.e. left unpaved) for the use of pedestrians and dog walkers.
- The trails have been there for generations and I have never personally witnessed any conflicts while using them to jog, ride my bike or walk my dog. There does not need to be any improvement.
- Leave pathways natural for walkers and off-leash dogs
- keep them as wild as possible.
- Trails should be left alone, not like what has been done to Nose Hill. The trails at Nose Hill used to be nice to walk on (Dirt Trails) then they made a bunch of pee gravel trails, which are hard to walk on especially if it is hilly. And then came the weeds due to disturbance, should have been left alone
- The cyclists need more discipline in creating their own trails. However, many times I have been walking my dog on leash, only to have to step aside so I don't get run over by a cyclist. They need to be more responsible.
- Could a rotational access for trails and pathways at different times of the year be made so that the vegetation could rebound? Bikes are especially degrading to trails...perhaps some paths could be restricted access or separate path could be outlined for pedestrians and cyclist.
- One of my favorite getaways within the city! I love going for long walks in there.
- Since some of the work in the park began I have found that the pathway connecting the upper and lower paths by the new settling pond is a mess. Every time it rains that path gets so muddy I am actually unable to walk on it in anything other than rain boots as the mud is so deep. Is there a plan to fix this sometime soon?
- Parks has done a great job on trails, and reclamation after the flood.
- Pathways along 199R Silverview Way should be left as natural footpaths for walking, not paved which could promote bike use in this off-leash dog area.
- Very good. Closing off areas that have experienced excessive erosion is a good idea.

- They are pretty good. Core paved trail for wheelchair/ limited mobility access. Good dirt trails for hiking and biking off road which have been worked on over the last few years.
- Leave as is.
- Agree with prior management plan to encourage limited further development of unofficial trails, but all existing trails with multiple users should be continued to have access, ie for hiking and mountain biking. Trail design to minimize conflict between faster moving cyclists (paved) and other users would be useful in some areas; I have not experienced issues with slower moving cyclists on mountain bike (dirt) trails.
- restoration/closure of informal trails is important for preserving high quality habitat, such as coulees, and keeping users on designated trails
- The trails and pathways are adequate to satisfy my needs.
- Combination of paved and smaller unpaved trails is excellent, allowing for different user interests (bikers, walkers, dog walkers) to have similar enjoyment.
- Need pedestrian ONLY pathways in Bowmont. Not just the one in East Bowmont by the Quiet Zone.
- Need to formalize some of the pathways and put some surfacing materials down
- See above.
- Great.
- I am hearing challenged and have been mowed down a couple of times while walking along the paved path along the river. The cyclists go hell bent for an election and whizz by without a care for humans walking along the common pathway. If I see cyclists coming my way, I will gather my dogs and we get off the path until they go by. Cyclists are always happy when the pedestrians move for them! I don't want to see paved paths up along the hills.
- Many informal trails have been created by cyclists. Existing dirt trails are getting wider and deeper, thanks to non-caring mountain bikers.
- In excellent condition. And well used.
- Its nice that cars are kept off the road leading in and that the pathway system is being maintained despite some difficult and trying events/disasters.
- Love them! Use them weekly. Well kept and maintained even in winter. Garbage is collected weekly.
- Restrict trails and pathway to current levels and eliminate informal trails by enforcement.
- I appreciate the variety of pathways, and enjoy cycle commuting through the park as well as walking on the smaller trails.
- Need to keep pathways and trails clear and keep the dogs off of them.
- I think the trails and pathways are ok.
- I am happy with the trails and pathways in Bowmont park and feel very fortunate to live so close to such a beautiful area.
- Love the trails and pathways the way they are and would like to see them kept that way.
- The trails and pathways are generally well maintained, though the multi-use element presents many challenges. For all the concern about dog access, the real safety factor in our 200+ visits per year is speeding cyclists.
- many cyclists do not obey the 20km/hr limit. Often seems like they are using pathways as training for the tour de france. Otherwise the layout width and maintenance is excellent. Many dog owners do not obey the on-leash bylaw whilst on the pathways in bowmont park
- In general, I think that the goal of striking a good balance between preservation and public access/use has been struck in Bowmont. I have not noticed much new informal trail development in my "middle" portion of the park. I find that the informal dirt trails are important components for dog walkers, walkers and trail runners as well as some bikers. However, overall use levels remain low or modest and condition of these trails does not seem to have deteriorated much....there are a few exceptions where minor drainage issues or erosion exists which should be addressed...this would be a good ongoing project for volunteers. The 4 year old bike/hike trail reroute in Waterfall Valley appears to have worked out well for trail users.

Some of the nearby trail closure and reclamation efforts appear to have worked well with former trail sections having revegetated....wood/wire barriers associated could be removed to complete this "naturalization" process. Elsewhere, closure efforts need more review/attention to determine best balance point and how to address issues/concerns.

- They are fine. The trails above and below asphalt separate bikes, walkers and pets.
- Paved trails could have better signage/maps at the entrances to the park. If the paths went along the river to the east (instead of going up the huge hill from the watershed/dog park) it would be more useable. Also, along the entire length of the park if a paved path existed along the upper level there would probably be less impact on the land via people using dirt trails for shortcuts etc. It would also be nice to see a more direct paved path extended from "199R Silverview way" to Varsity. This would likely increase bike commuters in the area (currently many people use a cut through Varsity estates as it's shorter & less hilly)
- Put 10 km speed limits on the paved trails and 5km on dangerous intersections. Avid cyclists do not use the paved trails of the park. I cycled to work from Silver Springs to downtown from 1982 till 2005 and quit using the park early on.
- The existing pathway systems is sufficient and natural trails should be left as is in their natural state and not developed further.
- Generally fine. For running the paved trails are great, otherwise the dirt paths are great for walking the dog. Now that the flood damage has been repaired, I can run through to Bowness Park again!
- The current network of narrow dirt trails is a big part of what gives the park the character of a "natural environment". I would like to see this character maintained as much as possible. It may be necessary to close or re-route some (e.g. design trails with switchback in steeper areas or eliminate clearly redundant ones). However, the ability to crisscross the park on this trail network is an important part of what the park is today. I would also like to see the trails stay multi-use (walk, run, bike), with some attention paid to mitigating conflicts in "bottleneck" areas, e.g, by doubling up on trails for short stretches.
- While this may be a natural park, it would be good to clean it up a bit following the flood. In particular, the flood dropped so many rocks on the "island" that the trails are no longer accessible. Could they not be pushed aside, and broken trees moved, so that the lovely trails are again walkable?
- I am an active biker. I use both the paved and dirt paths as a physical activity. I would like to see bikes still welcome in both paths
- Exceptional condition - I live in Tuscany and I have been using the pathways for biking downtown. Very pleased with the trails and pathways.
- We love walking the pathways and do so literally every day. I'm concerned with the damage being done by the bikes and the way they ride through the area, it needs to be respected as a space for all.
- Too many bicyclists driving dangerously fast. Where trails intersect pathways there should be speed bumps for cyclists.
- Leave them the way they are with the odd change to preserve land/rain runoff.
- would like keep the current trails and pathways maintained to the best standard possible
- take out the bike path and re-route to the other side - bikers are the worst abusers, they don't stop for anyone, i have been passed while my dog was ON LEASH passing a parent and their child and the biker went between us!!!! didn't even slow down and the speed limit is 20 but they go way faster
- There should be a safe pathway from the fenced area down to the asphalt trail.
- East Bowmont Park trail along the escarpment s/b reviewed & possibly closed.
- Trails were being kept up and maintained until the floods. Now the West part of Bowmont along the river is a bit of a war zone.
- they are becoming too "paved" or "groomed" - leave some wild in the wilderness please

- Love them. I'm a cyclist and a dog owners ... a smile and a hello go a long way to keeping everyone in a good mood. Cyclists just need to use their brakes when they approach people and dog owners need to stay clear of the pavement during busy times / rush hour.
- bikers need to slow down
- I love that we have a multi use park. I do wish that the fence and walking path was put OUTSIDE the new wetponds. What owner wants their dog to be in chemical treated water? And since the bikes are just zipping through anyway, why did they trump the use of the path being protected from dogs? We are the locals who stay, use and want to maintain the beauty of our park. The paths by the wet ponds are not useable or safe for dog use. And please don't tell me to keep my dog from water. If it is there, what dog doesn't want to step into it? I purposefully stay away from the wetponds as much as possible. And this used to be a free range off leash walking area that is now no longer suitable. So I go to Fournier which I understand is also not supposed to be off leash, and it too, has the chemical wet pond. I want to roam safely in an off leash area where I can balance the need for protecting sensitive habitat but not be in a closed fenced area like the area beside wet ponds where people who don't train their dogs go because it is fenced off completely. I do not stand still and throw a ball for my dog. I'm a farm girl who walks for miles with my dog. I bought near Bowmont 15 years ago for access to the hills to roam, and river to swim. I am concerned this is becoming more and more unusable and restricted.
- The pathway is great until you hit the train bridge and then it becomes very congested. Perhaps a separate walking and bike path is prudent. As well designated mountain bike trails along the silver springs section would be great to avoid conflicts with pedestrians.
- This area has been heavily used bike the mountain bike crowd, that's even how I discovered it 20 years ago. Even though I'm not on the bike so much more it would be great to "solidify" some of the current trail network and create some new options with the addition of the klipperts property.
- This has become a very popular area for mountain bikes and drone flyers. I agree some allowance needs to be made for mountain bike trails as this group too have been long time users from within and outside the community. The flying of drones needs to stop.
- As mentioned above the pathway (wood) leading to waterfalls need repairs in some spots.
- I bike and run in bowmont park everyday. I love the trails.
- maintain them
- Stop managing the trails? I can't remember how long ago it was, but maybe five or six years ago wooden bridges were put in, trails were packed down, and a bunch of little trees were planted. The bridges were insanely slippery when it rained and worse when there was ice. After a year the nicely packed trails were awful. All the trees were dead. It's a natural environment park, why pave so much of it over? Just mitigate the damage being done. I've been going to that park for 30 years, and I've seen more damage in the last 5-6 years than the other 20+ combined. And I'm NOT including flood damage.
- I know the city supports bikers in a huge way, but off trail biking is a big problem in Bowmont. There are bike tracks cut deep into the ground in places there shouldn't even be foot traffic.
- I am constantly frustrated and deterred from using Bowmont park because of people who use it's entirety as an off leash area. I walk my dog on leash at all times. He has anxiety about dogs running at him and charging, and this happens every time I try to go through bowmont. I even avoid the paths that have been created by people, and I stick only to the paved path. I see dogs charging out from the trees and river bank onto the path towards people and leashed dogs, running into the way of bicyclists, etc. I have been charged at by an off leash large dog with a muzzle and obvious aggression, and the owner nowhere to be seen. I can't think of any other pathway problems because I'm so distracted by the off-leash use.
- Frustrating that dogs are often off-leash on the paved trails. Your dog may be friendly--I or my dog may not be!
- Love the bike paths but navigating them is a bit confusing- more directional signage and 'you are here' maps would help

- Most trails are good however a lot were damaged during the flood and have not been repaired, primarily the non-paved trails. It would be nice to have a set of stairs leading out of the south fenced dog park, heading east. The east gate section is very steep and always covered in ice during the winter.
- I love them all. I use the paved trails for running and cycling with the kids, and Sideshow Bob for mountain biking with my friends. I understand there is a risk of proliferation of too many informal trails. Perhaps signing trails for mountain bikes (and assigning green/blue/black ratings) would prevent people from going any which way.
- The trails and pathways are always well maintained and we are impressed with how it has recovered since the flooding.
- If they are well maintained they will get used. More pull off areas for rest stops and for congestion would be good. Viewpoints!
- Confusion that paved ways are on-leash. Most if not all dog owners ignore this fact. Better enforcement and signage would be beneficial.
- Vital to the NW
- Plenty.
- Too often off leash dogs run across the path from behind the trees and cause near collisions with cyclists.
- could use some work. Split off bike trails from the walking
- Keep them minimal and use signage to educate cyclists to avoid making new undesignated trails and encourage people to pick up after their dogs.
- There is a decent system of constructed and informal pathways, with some room for improvement in both types, after honest open consultation with all user groups.
- pathways and trails are well maintained and marked
- They are unsustainable. New bike trails crop up weekly - convene a local group by working with resident mountain bikers to build a world class trail system and have peer monitoring and periodic enforcement checks for any off path riding.
- as above. Use positive signs not a nice statement followed by a bunch of rules. e.g. "This is a multi-user park. Please be courteous and understanding of each other."
- As far as I can see, they look well kept.
- Need more signage for trails. Far too many people walk dogs off leash where they are supposed to be leashed
- The paved pathway is great. There are too many informal pathways going down the hill that are being created.
- I enjoy walking along the natural paths. It is a shame that some visitors insist on damaging the flora on the paths. They wreck it for everybody,
- Although I am not sure it would work, a crosswalk type space would be most welcome and appreciated. i.e.: paint on the paved pathways along with a sign telling cyclists/pedestrians that the area is a crosswalk for dogs. I'm thinking specifically of areas where people/dogs are leaving an off leash area and crossing the pavement to get to the river. Paint and signs would hopefully alert cyclists that free running dogs are likely in that area, so they might consider slowing down. It would likewise alert dog-free users of the pathways that off leash dogs are a possibility in that zone.
- Make it so the bike single track is maintained with any graveling, small bridging, berming necessary
- I think they are good. We really like all the single track bike trails and we use them a lot. The path from Varsity down to the river needs repaired since the flood. The rain eroded it and it has not been fixed. It has been 2 years.
- I think for the most part people on the paved pathways are courteous, and the unpaved pathways are the most fun!
- Having single trails is a fantastic benefit to this park. I understand this increases erosion but I don't see the major impact of this.



- To date nothing has been done on trail improvement at the east Silverview Way entrance. We are getting 3-4 trails side by side, from the past 40 years of use, which are getting deeper and wider, thus taking away vegetation. The entrance is also a very muddied area when it rains. Many users do not pick up their dog refuse along the trails, but leave it for other conscientious dog walkers. Lots of watershed going down the hills, which are frequently used by cyclists and walkers. A paved pathway from the top of this area to join with the bottom would be useful.
- I don't want to see anymore paved pathways as then it becomes a leashed walk.
- An appalling mess—one only has to look at the area of grass at the corner of Silver Springs Dr and Silver Crest Dr to see how we can't resist cutting corners/ taking short cuts across the tiniest areas. Unofficial trails continue to proliferate—it's ugly. Close all unofficial trails. Clarify what is a trail and close the rest to off-trail cycling/walking.
- This park is in desperate need of a trails education program. Some potential topics:
  1. How informal trails are easily created, and how they damage the ecosystem, geology, and natural beauty of the park.
  2. How using the trails when they are wet and muddy does significant often irreparable damage to the trails. Staying off the trails when they are muddy by all user groups is essential.
  3. Respecting other users. Walkers hate mountain bikers, mountain bikers hate dog walkers. Why can't we all just get along!

Another idea would be for the Friends of Bowmont who are a great advocacy group to look at starting a volunteer trail care group to work with the City to maintain the trails that are sustainable, while restoring non-sustainable trails to natural environment.
- where people walk put road gravel down
- There need to be pathways where cyclists are NOT allowed in Bowmont Park. Some pathways need to be "formalized" - some pathways were supposed to be formalized according to the original Management Plan. They weren't.
- Leave natural paths as is, do not fence in areas. These paths have been there for decades and have not changed. Remove stairways from Waterfall ravine. These are the most unnatural features in Bowmont Park. These stairs are dangerous when wet, and who wants walk on stairs in park!

## Off-Leash Dog Areas

- The off-leash area boundaries are too complicated, and dog owners are completely ignoring them. Off-leash areas should NOT be located in natural areas. The fenced off-leash area at the west end of the park works well. A similar area could be set up in the old gravel pit at the east end.
- This is great and should be continued
- I love the off leash areas - so do our dogs. The off leash areas were the primary reason my wife and I moved to Silver Springs. The fence posts in the middle of the hill showing off-on leash areas are overkill - dogs should be able to run on the entire hill. However, I see an issue with cyclist safety on some of the unpaved trails - perhaps some should be designated as for cyclists only. The only reason the dogs are on the trails is because their owners need somewhere to walk! User priority on trails could also be assigned on a rotation basis, so that everyone gets a variety. Then you could remove the ugly fence posts in the middle of the park
- 199R Silverview Way should remain an off leash area
- I live close to the Bowmont park area and I often walk my dog in these natural habitats. I have rarely seen any conflict between walkers/joggers/dog walkers. I hope our city is not responding the 1% in their defining of areas.
- I feel 199R Silverview Way should remain an off-leash dog area.
- We have walked all areas of Bowmont from the "church" off Home Road to the main off leash dog area just off of 85 St. Bridge. We walk daily from Silversprings parallel to the Golf Course and across the ridge to the river with our dogs. It is critical that we keep the area at 199R

Silverview Way as a natural green space to allow us access to walk from home to the river valley.

- I am very concerned about the effects that dogs have on the area and the level of entitlement that dog owners have over the space that is inhabited by native and migrating species. Dog activities along the river bank and in the ponds deteriorate the land and the safety for these animals.
- I like that people walk their dogs along the pathways. But I wouldn't like some areas to become "dog parks". Once an area is assigned as a "dog park" it becomes uninviting for non dog owners (the grass becomes trampled flat, and many plant species become destroyed).
- These are important. Equally important is the monitoring of such as dog-owners who are able to maintain control of their dogs when they are off-leash and can keep track of where their dog poops and are conscientious about picking up after their dog are the only ones who should be the only ones who are permitted to have their dogs off-leash.
- I feel that 199R Silverview Way should remain an off-leash area.
- 199R Silverview Way is constantly being used by dog walkers and should remain an off-leash dog area.
- The off-leash dog areas that are presently in place need to be expanded and not just include areas that no one can access - ie., overgrown brush that's impassable. Dog walkers from many different communities use this park as well as the 199R Silverview Way corridor that should have designation as off leash as well.
- Off-leash dog areas should be available at strategic points. 199R Silverview Way would be a good option for this kind of activity
- The off-leash area at 40th Ave and 53rd St. is already very large and must also have the playgrounds. There have been not been problems here
- 199R Silverview Way should remain an off-leash area. My dogs love it and we respect it by picking up after them. This area needs to remain off-leash!
- 199R Silverview Way is constantly being used by dog walkers and should remain as an off-leash dog area.
- Dogs are NOT the most common users of the Park. I go to the Park often and see many users who do not have dogs. Do not expand off-leash in the Park. Enforce on-leash. Do not remove playgrounds on 40th Ave. They do not cause a problem. Make a fenced area for dogs somewhere away from the Park in the NW. Allow only a small area for river access - but do not put it in the Nature Area. Have any river access monitored
- I am in favour of off-leash areas in certain parts of Bowmont Park, in particular the area known as 199R Silverview Way, which needs to be left natural and as an off-leash space. This land is not suitable for cyclists to use given the number of dogs running free, especially as there is a paved roadway right beside it. I would also encourage signs for park-users in all areas of the park to pick up after their dogs.
- Leave Both Playgrounds at the Varsity end of Park. Both are used. Lots of space for both dogs and playgrounds.
- The whole Park is treated as Off-leash by most dog walkers. Parks must change this attitude problem. The entire Park is not a DOG-PARK. All Citizens pay taxes and have a right to enjoy time in the Park without being bothered by dogs.
- Parks must not give in to the Demands of the Dog Lobbyists
- The City must clamp down on Dogs that are not controlled. Clear signs must state Park users do not want to be sniffed and jumped on by dogs. Monitoring and fines are essential
- Dogs should be on-leash in most of the Park.
- If adding off-leash, fence it and put it outside the Park in Montgomery or University lands or old Klippert site
- I think the off-leash zones and signing within the park are confusing. I have no problem with people walking their dogs off-leash on the formal/informal trails, but the concept of "dog parks" within Bowmont Park Natural Area seems incompatible with sustainability. In my experience areas that are heavily used as off-leash "dog parks" suffer a lot of damage and are

no longer inviting for non-dog-owners. I previously lived adjacent to the green space in West Hillhurst and though the vast majority of dog owners are responsible, it is still not a place that you want to be if you do not have a dog. The upper meadows of Edworthy Park (at Sarcee and Bow Trails) and the off-leash area on the train trestle island of Bowmont Park are other examples of natural spaces that have quite literally been overrun by dogs, becoming unattractive to non-dog-owning users and antithetical as conservation spaces. Concentrating any activity is unsustainable within a natural environment area. With this in mind, I would prefer to see the former Klippert gravel pits restored to a reasonably natural state and would avoid the temptation to create a dense off-leash “dog park” within that space. It goes without saying that paved pathways should always remain on-leash to reduce conflicts.

- Off-leash dog areas are OK but it's the on-leash areas that are not respected
- Off leash areas in Bowmont park are well marked and well used. As a very regular visitor to the park, I can attest tht dogs are under control and cleaned up after exceptionally well in this area. Having frequented other off leash areas in the past, I have been continually pleased with the respect that dog owners show the land and the surrounding communities in this park. As many users from neighbouring Varsity use this park on a regular basis for hiking, dog walking, recreational cycling and work commutes, keeping 199R Silverview Way natural, accessible, and undeveloped is imperative!
- We need more continuous off leash areas, not less. 199R Silverview Way must remain as an off leash dog area. Need off leash area for dogs and people to access Bow River.
- Too many dog owners treat the entire park as off-leash. They also have no regard for other Park users. The only way to stop this is to ban off-leash in the Park
- Set up fenced areas outside the Park for off-leash
- Off-leash does not belong in a Natural Area. Stop dog owners calling this a DOG-PARK. The Park is paid for by all citizens, not just dog owners.
- Keep the Playground at the north end of the Park.
- We use these off-leash areas almost daily. Please do not remove any off-leash areas as they are loved by dogs and dog owners alike, especially 199R Silverview Way.
- Bowmont Park has a number of user groups, one large group of users who use the park frequently through all seasons of the year is people who walk dogs in the park. Having a significant portion of the park available for off-leash use is definitely an attraction for many who patronize the park. Therefore a large part of the park should continue to be allocated for off leash use for this important user group. The 199R Silverview Way should continue to be part of the off-leash area of the park.
- Preserve the north end as an off leash area
- I feel 199R Silverview Way should be left as it is and designated as Park Area and part of Bowmont Park, where people can use it for walking and as off-leash area for dogs.
- off-leash areas should be as far from main pathways as possible.
- The worst thing that ever happened to Bowmont was the silly on-leash, off-leash, the whole area should be off-leash, it was a waste of money doing the on & off leash signs...shame on the City of Calgary for that expense mistake.
- they are fine the way they are. I am a dog owner and right now it is working with the river access and current off leash areas. DO NOT SHRINK IT. Please!!!
- No problem with how the park is set up at the moment but I'd hate to see any development at 199R Silverview Way.
- I feel as though 199R Silverview way should remain off-leash dog area.
- Although we do not own a dog, we see many people walking their dogs in the 199R Silverview Way designated area. The dogs are able to enjoy the natural terrain without being encumbered by a leash. We have never had any issues with the dogs using this off-leash area, and therefore feel this area should remain an off-leash area.
- For the most part there is no issue with off leash use by dogs and dog owners. Most are very respectful. There are a few culprits who do not pick up after their dogs, which is a real shame.

Dogs who are encouraged to chase wildlife on the land and in the water should find their owners receiving excessive fines.

- The off-leash dog areas are currently not very clear. There are posts stating whether the path on/off leashed but they are not always strategically placed.
- Perhaps a more detailed map at the entrance of the park showing what areas are on/off leash would be beneficial. Signage more clearly stating which trails are off-leash would mitigate conflicts.
- It is sometimes somewhat confusing where offleash and on leash areas end and begin. Many people do not respect the on leash areas particularly on the paved trail, and this can cause frequent conflicts.
- Away from pathways. Away from playgrounds. Don't move playgrounds to implement off-leash areas.
- It is not clear to visitors what the off-leash areas are. They should be clearly delineated and enforced.
- 1) There is too much land area within Bowmont Natural Park being designated as "off leash" dog areas. This area is designed as a natural environment park and not a dog park. 2) There is little if any enforcement by the bylaw officers. Many dog owners do not complying with the on leash rules when they enter areas designated as 'on leash'. If the city would actually start handing out tickets to dog owners who are in violation of the rules things might change. Warnings and gentle reminders do not work. On any given day you will find 3 out of four dogs in "on leash" areas are off leashes. If there are no consequences for violations nothing is going to change. 3) A portion of the park needs to be designated as no dogs allowed. That means no dogs either on or off a leash. This land area would be just for the animals and plants native to the area as well as humans to enjoy. No dogs harassing the wildlife who live in the park and no dogs on or off a leash harassing people who want to interact with nature in it's pure form.
- We strongly recommend and cannot say this loudly enough, 199R Silverview Way should REMAIN an off leash dog area for sure!
- Generally not a problem for me as user. Occasional interference but the majority are good. Would like to see continued emphasis on picking up dog feces.
- leave the silverview way offleash as is.
- keep areas of off leash but not everywhere. Like the one near SilverView Way
- I feel that 199R Silverview Way should remain an off leash dog area.
- Need off leash to stay near the east entrance to the Park and need water access for dogs.
- Please leave the area in 199R Silverview Way an off-leash area.
- We would like to see the current area as off leash
- 199R Silverview ways should remain an off leash dog area
- Dogs do not cause the destruction to the areas it is all the bikes and people that ruin the pathway and cause 100 times more damage than the dogs so don't punish the dogs and dog owners ...stop the bikes and especially their off-pathways riding-it is not needed to be off the paved pathways and watch their speed...I have lived in area for almost 20 years and the dogs have never caused issues in the park it is the bikes and the many many pedestrians that tromp all over that cause the issues
- Reduction of the off-leash area would greatly improve the experience for non-dog owners.
- No comment
- As a victim of a dog attack, I wonder why the city would have off leash areas mixed with pedestrian and cycling paths. This is a recipe for disaster. We want to encourage all people to enjoy the park not just dog lovers. I have run into "friendly" dogs in both bowmont and nose hill that should never be off leash as they are not well behaved and the owners are not in control
- They are well appreciated and well used. The area 199R Silverview Way should remain an off leash area as well, as it adds greatly to the natural areas and free space used by both wildlife and residents of the community.
- I feel that 199R Silver view way should remain an off-leash dog area

- The one comment I would make on this is that the areas that are off-leash, and those that are on-leash are not that well defined, and seem to be broken up into odd bits here and there. I can be walking my dog off-leash when all of a sudden we're in an on-leash area, then an off-leash again a short distance along. Having larger, well-defined areas for off-leash and on would make things easier for everyone.
- The whole park is used as an off leash area by most dog owners. There is no discretion by most dogs owners to respect the designated off leash areas. As I like to take my small children for walks in the park I have to keep them extremely close as some of the off leash dogs behave aggressively when approached. The lack of enforced on-leash areas makes it harder for non-dog owners to fully appreciate the park. This is especially true for small children who can't be allowed to explore more than 10 feet away from a parent.
- As a resident along the 199R Silverview Way it would be nice to have a on leash buffer area along the the Silverview way street. Many dog owners let their dogs cross the street and go up on residents' front yards. Most of the east side of the 199R Silverview way is unused. If there was a path in the middle of the park and the east 1/2 designated off leash that would be an equitably division of the area for different users.
- Keep the off leash areas. This is one of the few places in the city where you can take a dog and its not just a big open field. Its much more engaging for pets and pet owners.
- The off-leash dog area is great, particularly 199R Silverview way area. I personally don't own a dog, but take enjoyment in watching the dogs and appreciate that it's become such a popular place for families. My husband and I look forward to taking our kids out with a dog in the future.
- People seem to enjoy the off-leash dog areas, I don't have a dog and haven't really been affected by the off-leash areas. As long as people properly train/control their dogs and pick-up after them then I am fine with the off-lease areas. It is entertaining to watch the dogs run free.
- I appreciate that there needs to be some areas for off-leash (199R Silverview Way works) but I greatly value on-leash areas on the pathways and in areas where wildlife are living/more prevalent. I also appreciate your effort s to have garbage cans available for the dog droppings. I have no idea what to suggest you do to the people who refuse to use the facilities or pick up after their dogs or leave their bags hanging but I would certainly support efforts to improve their citizenship.
- Please keep them as they are.
- I am not a dog owner, but respect good dog owners that have the appropriate control over their off-leash pets. My greatest concern for all users, is that 199R Silverview Way remain a natural access point to the the North East section of the park, and whether it remains an off-leash designated area, is not as much of a concern.
- Please ensure the pathways remain off leash . It is one of the reasons I moved to this area and there are so few in the city.
- Some of the signs cannot be seen when the natural grass grows in summer - more signage of different placement of existing signage
- First of all, much more bylaw patrols are needed. People even with dogs on leash don't follow the rules, to keep the dogs away from walkers/bikers. The offleash areas need to be decreased and clearly signed. Access to the river? Destroys access for the rest of us that don't have dogs. So please consider that shoreline options for non-dog people are needed and must be respected. I often see dogs off leash, even on the regional pathway, run from their owners towards deer (the only deer around it seems) or other creatures on the slopes. The owner was totally oblivious to their dog's actions. Owners must engage with their pet at all times when taking them into public areas. Yes, I feel frustrated and discouraged when walking in the park, as my personal space is not respected by dog owners. Allowing dogs to chase any wildlife, birds, etc is unacceptable. Yes this is a huge issue, as not all people want a dog in their space.

- I use the off-leash dog areas (although I walk my dogs on leash) as do many other Calgarians. For the most part, dog owners are responsible and I personally have had no incidents (I walk my dogs in the park 3 times per day)
- We need to preserve 199R Silverview Way and keep this land as a natural green-space. Many pet owners in our community use this land as an off-leash area. It is one of the few official off-leash sites in Bowmont Park and my hope, along with many others, is it will remain that way.
- Leave it all off leash except main trails.
- Everyone should just get along and smile in our beautiful parks. I am a pedestrian, a dog owner, and a cyclist. I happily apply my brakes on my bike when I approach people or pets (on or offleash). I smile at people I encounter in the park and say hi. If I have my dog offleash, I make sure she is not on the pavement ... when we can't be on dirt track, I leash her ... if it's not prime cycling time, I might not leash her. I may ride my bike on the dirt trails with her offleash. I do avoid the asphalt during commuter time in the morning and the evening. I wonder if the city has ever considered encouraging a "commuter time" adjustment to offleash areas ... a time block when pedestrians are encouraged to stick to the right and have leashed dogs. The struggle I have with cyclists (and I'm an avid one myself) is the speed at which they approach people. Even if my dog is on a leash or I'm without a dog ... or I'm with a toddler ... they need to slow down when people are present. That's another thing to consider ... a reduced speed limit for bikes "when people are present." Weaving through people on the pathway along Parkdale Blvd when it's shared-path season, is dangerous and causes hostility.
- Needs clear boundaries and perhaps a reinforcement period as the boundaries are established.
- Satisfactory
- I don't like these. No one follows the by laws. I live near and use an off leash area near my house. I was frustrated enough one night And came home and read the by laws. To see what the rules actually are. What a joke. I think dog owners should have to pass a test or something. Or there is actually some by law enforcement. I've never actually seen a by law officer in any park I have visited or pathway in the city. But I see lots of dog owners not following the by laws. And when you mention something to them about the by laws a fist fight almost breaks out. So let's get ride of the off leash area unless it is fenced in and a don't have to worry about my 2 year old enjoying the park with dogs roaming around.
- clarity around this should also exist along popular water frontage, with some areas reserved as leashed areas. Also some signage reminding dog owners that use of the off-leash areas is a privilege, contingent on their ability to keep their pets under control, and away from small children and cyclists.
- The off-leash areas seem to be anywhere in the park. No one follows the rules for on leash on the paved pathway.
- Maintain off leash access to the river. Increase current off leash zones.
- The off-leash areas are what I love best about Bowmont Park. My dog and I are in the west side of the park for 2-10 hours a week throughout the year, mostly in the fenced area and down by the river on the island. Other than the usual dog drama that can happen anywhere, we've only had great experiences with the people and dogs in this area. Living in Rocky Ridge (a community with zero off-leash areas) it's such a great park to have a short drive away. While I understand you need to mind the interests of many groups, I'd like to say that cyclists and pedestrians have many more options to roam freely than dogs do in the city, and I'd love to see the areas on the west side of Bowmont remain off-leash in the future.
- 199R Silverview Way needs to remain as an off-leash area for dogs
- Please do something about the off leash pitbulls in the dog areas. This breed kills more other dogs every year than all other breeds combined and when other dog owners see one in the area they are forced to leave the park to keep themselves and their dogs safe. Signs asking pitbull owners to keep their dogs on leash would help.
- I wish they didn't exist. In the Spring, the amount of dog mess in the park is astonishing. The problem with off-leash is that dogs run far from their owners, through long grass and other



weeds or bushes. Even if the owner sees the dog making a mess, he isn't likely to wander all over the bush to follow the dog. The mess just lays there. Dogs chase me when I'm running, and the owners yell from the distance, "don't worry, he's friendly", or they yell at me, "it's an off-leash area, you know, you shouldn't be running here." Off-leash means a dog should be under control, responsive to commands, but few owners understand or care about that. Even fewer bother to clean up after their dog, unless you are watching them. A friend of mine cleaned up on Nose Hill one year and collected 30 POUNDS worth of dog crap. Disgusting. Bowmont is even worse. Dog poop heaven, and owners that think this is the perfect spot to let their dogs do whatever they want. It makes me want to close it off to dogs entirely.

- Please keep the off leash areas at Bowmont Park!!! (199R Silverview) river access for dogs is ALWAYS appreciated too - helps people get their dogs out in the heat for safer, cooler physical activity.
- Need to ensure signage is labelled well around off leash areas as many people take advantage of the non-off leash areas. Would also encourage additional garbage bins.
- Paved pathways should continue to be on-leash, with more bylaw enforcement, for safety and poop scooping.
- Dirt trails should be off-leash, and more enforcement for ensuring dogs are managed in control.
- Provide more poop pick-up bag stations and garbages.
- Paved paths should be on leash, otherwise off.
- Don't have a dog so no comments to contribute.
- In general I think the off leash areas in Bowmont should be expanded. I am a dog owner who controls his dog and have not had any conflict in the 6 years I have lived in the area and used Bowmont Park. I think education of users (dog and non-dog owners) is a better use of funds than restricting off leash access and areas. There are hundreds of dog owners that want access to the river and this should be allowed. There is an existing gravel bar that dog owners (and non-dog owners for that matter) frequent with shallow water entry points.
- Dog walking areas should be enforced for the protection of all park visitors, safety of children, and sanitation....
- Off leash river access should be maintained. This park is a wonderful mixed use area. I walk here daily and am yet to see a conflict between off leash dogs and other park users. In Australia we have parks where dog areas are "must be under control"- either by voice or on a leash... they are not designated as "on leash"... I would love to see this in Canada. poorly behaved dogs should be on leash, well behaved dogs should be given more latitude and allowed off leash.... I would love to see this distinction here. Making all dogs on leash due to a few poorly behaved dogs just isn't right.
- Dogs should be on-leash except within fences off-leash areas. Do owners are not responsible and do not leash dogs along the path resulting in numerous unreported incidents
- Since the off-leash area off 85th St. was marked, dogs off leash in the rest of the park is less a problem. Owners disregard leash signs, simply saying "He's friendly." Posting without fencing is useless.
- Excellent. People generally friendly and dogs well controlled
- make sure offleash areas do not impact ecology.
- make sure offleash areas separate somehow from non-dog areas.
- Dogs should be kept on or close to the bike paths. The use of specific off-leash areas (like the one at the very western edge of the park near the Bowness 85th Street bridge is fine).
- Excellent off leash areas. Slightly difficult keeping the dogs off the pathways
- I am greatly in favour of more off leash area. I have noticed that those who have off leash dogs have them better trained and controlled.
- I am hoping that the 199R Silverview Way continue to be an off-leash area for all.
- Off leash areas are fine. The dogs are under control, the bikers are not
- It is important that 199R Silverview Way remain an off-leash dog area.

- The off-leash areas of Bowmont Park are more than adequate. Particularly the area of 199R Silverview Rd.
- Please let this park remain an off-leash area
- Keep the 199 Silverview Way as an off leash area. I don't have a dog, but enjoy walking in the area
- I used to have a dog and enjoyed walking her in Bowmont and taking her to the river. I haven't had a dog for years, but I still go to that park often. I don't see any problems with dogs being off leash there. I certainly never witnessed any problems in all these years.
- Off leash areas are good, with no user conflicts
- Most of the dog owners are very responsible with their dogs. I use the off-leash area for my dogs and we love it.
- There are not enough off-leash areas readily available to dogs. Maintenance of an off-leash area is vital and access to the river. If conflicts have arisen in the past then perhaps better signage and/or definition of boundaries could be made.
- Please maintain off leash access. The report mentions "conflicts"... as a daily user of the park, I have never encountered a "conflict" between dog owners, and other park users. Please do not let the rare conflict negatively impact the majority of park users who co-exist peacefully. Dog owners are regular users of this park, please maintain the off leash access, especially to the river. Dogs in the river rarely conflict with other park users. Also, in the winter, dog owners are almost the sole users of the park... it would be nice if off leash areas were expanded seasonally (i.e. more off leash in the winter).
- Calgary has been a very dog friendly city and I see no reason to change that. The off leash has coexisted very well with everything else there so why change it now?
- I find the current off-leash areas in Bowmont Park to be very good. I appreciate that there are plenty of off-leash areas away from the road. It is also one of the few areas of the city where there is easy access to the river which is especially important in the hot months. I always have my dog on leash on paved paths and make every attempt to stay out of the way of cyclists. I do feel that many cyclists on the lower pathway are going way too fast as they enter the park from the east end.
- Completely ignored because they were way too complicated. A ran into a by-law officer once who couldn't tell me if I was off leash or on-leash.... that confusing. Easy access to the river is required and dogs need some large space to run and play. Try not to divide things up so much or create a bunch of confusion.
- 199R Silverview Way should remain an off-leash dog area. Off leash areas should be clearly marked so everyone knows where they begin and end. These areas should exclude mountain bike trails and paved bike trails to avoid conflicts with pets and cyclists
- Far too many dog owners seem to think the entire park is off-leash. This is a problem for me when I walk my small dog (always on leash) and big dogs off leash, on paved paths accost her. We completely avoid any paths near the dog park because of this problem.
- This is the best off leash park for dogs, off leash access to the river is important. Having dogs along and in the river keeps them off the pathways and very little incidents happen here. I have no problem keeping my dogs on leash on/along the paved bike path, but I think a lot of the park can safely stay off leash - especially in the winter! Please maintain the offleash areas in this park and to the river...
- On leash should be on paved pathways only
- Off leash area is an excellent idea and works fine. People and their dogs respect the area and I have never encountered any problems.
- Off leash areas as supported by prior management plan should be continued. Fenced in off leash parks should not be the only option available in Calgary. It is up to individuals to control and clean up for their animals if using broader areas.
- The only key area that dogs need to be consistently leashed is on and beside the paved pathways due to faster moving cyclist use and larger groups of users.

- i like that there is a fenced off area as well as large expanses of off leash area throughout the park. It would be good if off leash areas corresponded more with designated trails, but not the regional pathway. Dog owners will generally stick to trails and will look for long routes or loops to walk where dogs can be off leash for the entire walk. It is not practical to leash and unleash dogs several times as you walk through multiple on and off leash zones. Off leash areas should be located away from regional pathways, where user conflicts are high. A single location for dog access to the river should be encouraged, such as the island.
- I have a older dog that needs to walk and run to remain healthy, I'm strongly in favour of having off-leash dog areas. I also volunteer as an Off-Leash Ambassador for the City's Animal Services & Bylaws. Off-Leash areas are not only good for socializing dogs, when properly used they can also be an excellent place where the dog-owners can get acquainted and learn how to get along and develop a sense of community. This is the case in Varsity Ravine Off-leash Park.
- I absolutely support the policy of keeping dogs on leash, as the signs also suggest.
- Fine as is. No fish habitat in West Bowmont now and East Bowmont is being so radically disturbed by construction that it makes no sense removing off-leash areas. Need more!
- Need more offleash not less. Bowness has no other offleash areas.
- Just enough now.
- I have not had any conflict with other people walking their dogs. I think we are Pretty decent towards each other. We want some area for our dogs to run free but not along busy roads or just in bushes/ shrubs. These dogs are our family and we don't want them flattened by cars that drive more than 50km along Silverview way. I love walking early in the morning before work and it so peaceful.
- Leave the off-leash areas that are currently being used as off-leash - off-leash! Bowness has no other off-leash than Bowmont Park. We lost so much in the flood, we don't need to lose our beloved off-leash areas.
- The entire park should be off leash except maybe for the paved pathways just to keep cyclists safe.
- Betty Fournier (former land owner) request to then Ald. Dale Hodges to put signs up to warn pedestrians about her dogs being off leash created the off leash park. It sure would be nice to see something attributed to this humble yet important pioneer and former resident of what is now called the Bowmont Park.
- Most people see the entire park as off-leash. Bicycles, children and animals constantly mixing on the pathway.
- No off-leash areas in Bowmont Park pathway to be on leash only.
- We have enough off leash parks and not enough enforcement on owners who can't control their dogs. Not all of Bowmont Park and the river needs to be polluted by dogs.
- We use the bowmont offleash areas many times a week and really love them especially the fenced area with the pond, and the river access.
- I think there are enough off leash dog areas and more are not needed.
- I encourage someone from the engagement team to actually VISIT the park and see that the majority of people using it on any given day or night are people with dogs. The more off leash, the better. Restricting off-leash dog areas to allay concerns of people who rarely, if ever, use the park is wrong. Have someone from your engagement team wander down to the playground one day, count the number of children and parents who use it, then count the number of people walking dogs. You will see who actually uses the park regularly.
- Dog walkers are probably the single largest user group, and their needs and issues need to be respected. So sad to see issues and conflicts manufactured by a small but vocal anti-dog lobby. Until the survey process created the pro-dog and anti-dog camps, there seemed to be no conflict. I've yet to hear about a serious incident with a dog, yet cyclists using Bowmont Park have been responsible for sending pedestrians to the hospital.
- Do not think the off leash area should be near the playgrounds.

- I have never seen a bylaw enforcement officer in Bowmont park ensuring that owners keep their off leash dogs under control
- While many of the old signposts have been removed, some remain and should be removed and updated signage posted.
- They are fine as is.
- They're fine, so long as people are respectful and pick up their dog's waste. Perhaps putting bags on signs for people who have forgotten them would help?
- The entire park should be off leash, Put city hall on a leash to control their spending and over reach as far as city properties are concerned.
- Unfortunately the off-leash dog area are frequented by dog owners who do not have control over their dogs. I have personally been bitten in a on-leash area by a dog who was off leash and chased down several times in the onleash areas by dogs that are not in control. In addition many owners allow their dogs to be off-leash on the bike path which is an additional cause of potential conflict and poses a danger to animal and cyclist.
- 99% of the time I do not have a dog with me, but have no complaints whatsoever about them. The odd non-picked up dog poop, but generally better than I have experienced at other parks in Calgary near Fish Creek.
- Fencing or a buffer zone is needed in proximity of the regional pathway to avoid collisions between dogs and cyclists in particular. There is certainly room for designated off-leash areas in the park.
- this is one of the few areas in NW Calgary where dogs can swim. There was some talk about closing some of the river access to dogs but there's only one place that is suitable. The ponds by the wooden foot bridge have no fresh water so they get stinky (and are too small for big dogs); and the beach under the big pedestrian bridge is not suitable because the water is too fast there for most dogs. The only good spot is under the train bridge where it crosses the main river. Please don't close that to off-leash dogs.
- Please keep the park at the intersection of 40th Ave and 53rd St. Off leash.
- I hope that these off leash dog park areas can be sustained because this is one of the biggest reasons that I come to the park. I often dog sit for 3 dogs and I am often unable to walk them unless it is off leash. Bowmont Park is my preferred place to take them.
- There is a very strong community built in the area as a result of the off leash areas. By observing, you can see the majority of consistent users in the park are those with dogs. The bike riders are simply moving through, the dog walkers are involved in the space. It is not just an off leash area, it is a natural based community center that is building a community that gathers for other activities .
- We need more signage and few more waste bins in the park. Dog owners are the most frequent and numerous park users, most are very civil and the dogs are well behaved. However, new visitors to the park should know its off-leash so they can plan accordingly.
- I would like to see a natural river access retained for off leash dogs with a contiguous off leash path to the upper park.
- Off leash areas are important to many users.
- Clear posted signage is helpful.
- I think the Off-Leash dog areas are fine the way they are. What changes are you considering?
- It is very dangerous having off lease areas so close to paved bicycle pathways.
- They should be expanded. Everyone has a dog. This city is the most unfriendly to dog owners. I am embarrassed of it when friends come to Calgary.
- the off leash areas are wonderful and perfectly sized for the community
- Totally disagree with changing areas from off leash to on leash; the only other people that use these areas are drugs addicts, truent kids, and drunks. If dogs walkers stop going to these areas you will have no visibility of what is happened, plus you want people to exercise, that is when i walk my dog, preferable not in the small areas you are leaving us, because not all dogs behave. you are changing it because of the confilct between people and dogs off leash tell those people to go to the other 2 parks beside Bowmont, and besides that stop wasting

money on the park leave it to the dogs, it is just going to get flooded in another 9 years anyways

- I don't know the rules now but dogs should be allowed to be off-leash down by the river. They need to swim in the heat of summer and they need a drinking spot all year long.
- Most dog owners ignore on-leash areas.
- This has always been the reason for living in Bowness & Silver Springs. The closed in off leash area with the storm ponds was poorly thought out. The ponds should have a fence around them to keep pets out of storm water and keep kids/folks off the dangerous ice in the winter. Continued River access by the Pedestrian bridge and west to 85th for Pets is a must!
- not enough of them
- Love them. Actually not entirely sure where they are ... at both ends of the park people enjoy off-leash time with their dogs ... as I said above, if dog walkers can observe a time to avoid the paved paths when commuter traffic is high, I experience little to no conflict with dogs/bikes. Bikes ride faster than the posted limit and dogs are off leash in areas that may not be designated, but some common sense among both groups, can keep the conflict to a minimum. No one owns the park!
- more off leash areas
- Please please please do not taint the damage to the park from dogs. The people who use the park and litter and bike the paths are also heavy users. I miss my park how it was. I don't think it is too much to ask for a free roaming place with river access and plenty of hills and grass in which to explore in our vast city. Yes, we need to have control of our dogs, that goes without saying. But that is not the issue of whether or not to have off leash. Please don't penalize the responsible dog owners of Bowness and area who cherish our beloved Bowmont.
- I do not believe that off leash areas should be alongside the bike path. It is dangerous to riders and the dogs. I believe the off leash park at the west end is sufficient. The current signs and boundaries are vague and confusing. There is also tons (metric tons) of dog feces through the park that is not being scooped up by owners.
- I think the current system with different designated areas provides a good balance.
- The open area between Home Road beyond the first playground, to 40 ave NW has been offleash to this community for 40 years. Were you to position an auditor there you would see how many regular dog owners use the space (as compared to others) and the manner in which many walk from there to the river to swim their dogs - then back up to the park. Sue - a long standing member of the Varsity Community Centre - a runner and fearful of dogs - has been making it her personal agenda to close off-leash for years. The community and our new alderman were misrepresented in the Varsity Newsletter prior to the flood; when in fact well over 200 people who love and utilize the off-leash area articulated clear and reasonable options for shared space. I can't believe we have to start all over again.
- Please keep this part of town dog friendly
- My dog is always on leash on this area so I do not have any comment.
- Owners leave dog poop in middle of trails. Everyone should respect the trails...and all is fine. I agree with off leash.
- We have many great off leash areas and this one is no exception, it is great for dogs and their owners because of river access and shade on hot days
- I would like to see complete fencing on the second park (it's open at the end). Clear indications of where the off leash zones actually are - where they start and where they end. No more ridiculous off leash zones - some are right in the middle of nothing but chest high bush - neither dogs nor people can go there. Fenced off leash in upper Bowmont would be amazing, as there are only a few fenced off leashed areas in all of Calgary.
- I don't know if it's illegal to harass the dogs in the off leash areas, but it's happening. From my own personal experience, people have ridden by on bikes/skateboards calling to my dogs to 'come catch me fido', barked at them, tried to kick one of them, and actually thrown sticks \*at\* them not to them. My mother has had similar experiences, the worst of hers seeing a kid on a

bike buzzing an older lady and her little dog and kicking at it, then coming back around to do it again.

- I am constantly frustrated and deterred from using Bowmont park because of people who use it's entirety as an off leash area. I walk my dog on leash at all times. He has anxiety about dogs running at him and charging, and this happens every time I try to go through Bowmont. I even avoid the paths that have been created by people, and I stick only to the paved path. I see dogs charging out from the trees and river bank onto the path towards people and leashed dogs, running into the way of bicyclists, etc. I have been charged at by an off leash large dog with a muzzle and obvious aggression, and the owner nowhere to be seen. I can't think of any other pathway problems because I'm so distracted by the off-leash use.
- Love the off leash area!!! More education is needed about people picking up after their dogs.
- The bigger enclosed park area is a sewage dump. Pet owners are irresponsible and come unprepared to clean up after their dogs. Can the city install and provide doggie bags with more garbage receptacles? In addition, would it not be possible to create an agility pRk for dogs similar to the one in the deep SE?
- Love them!
- Dogs should have access to the river and the fenced off leash areas are not adequate for larger or high energy dogs.
- Off leash dog areas are good however the drainage ponds are not suitable for swimming your dog due to the mud and pond scrub. Therefore most dog owners go to the river. Some of the previous dog entry points were washed away during the flood and no longer exist. I would really like to keep the section of the river east of the train bridge remain as an off leash area. This is the only section of the river where the current is very calm and it is safe to swim dogs that are not comfortable in the faster river current. In fact just last weekend (Sat June 6) a dog had to be rescued from the current by the Fire Dept. Please, Please keep this area open to dogs!! It is the safest entry point and rarely are there families with children in this area so it is perfect for a dog entry area.
- I do not have a dog, but am fine with the entire park being offleash, except for the paved pathway (where cyclists' speed would make dogs a hazard). I believe existing bylaws over picking up after your dog or aggressive dogs should be sufficient as long as bylaw officers periodically patrol the park or create awareness blitzes at the access points.
- It's a shame there is no way to better manage dog owners. The off leash areas work very well most of the time, but have unfortunate consequences on the rare occasions that they don't work. We walk our dogs at least once daily through Bowmont and have only had a rare problem. We also bike without our dogs and have never had issues with dogs. I do believe that the problems are caused by those who do not adhere to the rules as they are currently. Making more rules will only punish those who do follow them.
- I don't own a dog so I don't care that much, but I prefer when dogs are on leashes in public areas for safety reasons! Off-leash areas should be smaller, designated areas with a fence and not right on public paths.
- No comments except people ignore the fact that paved path ways are NOT off leash.
- Off Leash area with water access is important
- Wonderful test pilot area within the west portion of the park along the river. Very practical and full of use.
- I think people think that the entire area is off-leash. I never see bylaws out there doing anything about it. It's such a shame that families can't enjoy a park without worrying if a large, aggressive dog will charge at them.
- Best off leash in the city
- Leave them as is. Coexistence is the key but remind people with signage that this is a HUGE privilege and the park deserves respect.
- Off leash areas are far too small, forcing dog walkers are to simply ignore the obtrusive signage in order for their dogs to enjoy free running, and to learn socialization naturally.



- The area by the bridge from the island to Bowness is used frequently by dog owners and should be maintained as an off leash area. The storm water pond is not safe for swimming for dogs and should be fenced off.
- I love to watch my dog enjoy a swim and together we have many lovely walks. If the whole park is off leash, there will be no concentration of dogs. Of course any aggressive dogs are not allowed off leash anywhere, ever. Owners of these dogs must be dealt with firmly.
- I think it is great that there are so many designated areas for off leash. Generally people are respectful with picking up after their pets.
- the dog owners use Bowmont park 365 days per year and i suspect this group spends more hours in the park than any other group. i recall when the park had signs for offleash for the entire park. If anything the park should consider expanding the offleash areas.
- Better signage for off leash and ON-leash areas
- There are sufficient off leash areas.
- I would like to see dogs enjoy the park too as long as they behave appropriately,
- Please don't further restrict access for off leash dogs in Bowmont. I and my dogs are heavy users of the park. As I don't have kids, this is one of the few uses of my tax dollars that I love. A more formal/fenced area in the former Klippert property would be great for some, but for others, like me, no longer being able to roam on the hillsides and river banks with my off leash dogs would cause me to regularly break the rules. And I dislike doing that. Please add to, but do not take away, off leash access.
- Dogs are still all over the place
- I think more of it should be off leash. There is so much area for dogs to run, let them run.
- Please don't tighten off leash rules down there! I've been walking down there regularly for 8 years and the only damage I can see is from the 2013 flood. For the most part - the trails I walk on now are the same ones I walked on 8 years ago and I really don't think it's affecting the vegetation negatively. I spend most of my time on "the island" -- it would be nice however if something could be done to clean up the west end of the island that had 6' of river rock dumped on it in 2013. So to summarize -- I think more damage was done by the flood than has or ever will be done by the dogs -- and I would love to see some of it repaired.
- Dog owner seem to think that the entire park is off-leash... better signage may be required but ultimately making them pay for not following the rules is the way to go. I am sometimes afraid to walk with my kids on the paths....
- I think some of them need to be rethought and changed. the areas where dogs are allowed off- leash are totally bush/brush filled and not good for any sort of walking.
- I am a dog owner and we need to keep off leash dog areas . I am not keen about having the off leash part along the busy roads without fencing. Example would be along Silverview Way.
- Disagree with the areas that are on and off leash in Bowmont Park near the Silverview Way area towards Varsity and the river.
- I regret that the area under and around the CPR bridges was made off-leash—it's devastated. Take it back. There are good off-leash areas at W. Bowmont (especially the one with the storm pond), and adjacent to Silverview Way. There should be no off-leash in the general area of Bowmont Natural Area.
- This is a big reason many people come to Bowmont, or who buy in the surrounding communities. Baker, and Bowness are on-leash, and responsible owners respect the rules in these parks. It is important to keep Bowmont off-leash so our canine citizens, and their tax paying owners have a place to enjoy. However this needs to be respectful. More garbage bins would help encourage more dog owners to put their poop bags where they belong. Why isn't there one at the far end of the lower fenced in off-leash area? One on the island would be a big help as well (and be used by more than just dog owners since many people have picnics on the shore and have to lug their waste all the way back to the car park).
- more the better
- Very important for Bowness residents to continue to have our existing off-leash areas in West Bowmont Park. We have NO OTHER off-leash areas!!!!!!

- There should be more off leash areas in the park. Off leash signage needs to be improved.

## Other Comments

- Bowmont Park is poorly promoted and needs more entrance signs and map signs.
- We don't need more land for development in Silver Springs - leave the current green spaces alone. If someone wants to build a seniors complex in the neighborhood (which I support), let's rezone some existing residential space.
- 199R Silverview Way should be redesignated from special purpose-future urban development to urban natural area protect this land from development
- I think that 199R Silverview Way should be redesignated from Special Purpose-Future Urban Development (S-FUD) to Urban Natural Area.
- We have lived in Silversprings for many years and specifically chose this neighborhood for the green space and access to many trails and the river, for both our enjoyment and our dogs. We tremendously value the off leash areas and were involved in the process in the early 2000's as the designation of space was discussed. We are completely in favour of preserving the natural habitats and preventing unnecessary erosion and deterioration of the natural parkland...but...we are also very passionate that space for off leash dog owners and access to the river, remains part of the Bowmont Park planning. Cyclists, hikers, families, are all considered as important as users for the amazing large space...dog walkers deserve the same consideration in evaluating strategies.
- I would love to see natural play spaces and lookout areas similar to Red Deer's Kerry Wood Park to encourage child engagement in park spaces. There are no spaces like this in Calgary.
- I would very much like to see 199R Silverview Way redesignated to an Urban Natural Area as I understand that it's currently designated as Special Purpose-Future Urban Development which would greatly (negatively) impact the wildlife that calls Bowmont Park its home.
- I want 199R Silverview Way to be redesignated from Special Purpose-Future Urban Development (S-FUD) to "Urban Natural Area" thereby protecting this land from development.
- In order to protect this land from development, 199R Silverview Way should be redesignated from Special Purpose Future Urban Development (S-FUD) to Urban Natural Area. We are proud Calgarians to have invaluable natural parks like Bowmont Park.
- I feel very strongly about the future of Bowmont Park being maintained as a natural habitat that provides a beautiful location for all Calgarians and visitors to enjoy - the beauty of the river valley, the beauty of the Rocky Mountains to the west, and a magical 360 degree view of a natural park within a city that continues to grow. We as Calgarians need these parks as a place to enjoy the beauty of nature which truly needs to be maintained for future generations, including the 199R Silverview Way corridor, as urban sprawl is destroying these needed environments. It provides a space for people to come to get away from the stresses of life, and to enjoy the beauty of what has been a natural park truly is, not one that man creates. My hope for all visitors to Bowmont Park is to see an area that has been maintained the way it was, in its natural state, for those user groups such as school children to see into the past, and for all others to cherish what nature has provided. Please leave Bowmont Park and the 199R Silverview Way corridor an Urban Natural area so it can be protected from development.
- 199R Silverview Way should be managed as an integral part of Bowmont park in particular to keep green corridors to the river open for wildlife, to reduce additional encroachment and pressure on sensitive areas of the park and to relieve the areas closer to the river from activities such as mountain biking and off-leash dog walking. Therefore 199R Silverview Way should be designated as Urban Natural Area
- Have clear rules posted and have by-law patrol the park
- 199R should be redesignated from Special Purpose - Future Urban Development (S-FUD) to "Urban Natural Area". This area needs to be protected from development!!! NO development wanted!!

- In order to protect this land from development, 199R Silverview Way should be redesigned from Special Purpose-Future Urban Development (S-FUD) to "Urban Natural Area". We are proud Calgarians to have invaluable, natural parks like Bowmont Park.
- The City and the Parks Dept should be dealing with the problems like other Cities do. Make proper decisions about habitat protection and management - not just what the dog lobby wants.
- Do not allow a lobby group to bully to get their own way. Dogs are not the major users of the park. Dog owners should not be allowed to let their dogs harass others. Make rules, post them and have enforceable penalties. All citizens should feel this is their Park to enjoy and to feel safe from harassment by dogs
- The stretch of land known as 199R Silverview Way needs to be re-designated from S-FUD to Urban Natural Area so as to protect the land from future development. It is an integral part of the park, an important access point to the park and is a frequent corridor for wildlife.
- Leave both Playgrounds south of 40th Ave at 53rd St. Children must have use of the Park.
- Active and on-going monitoring of the Park is essential. Get Parks staff out of the office and doing work in the Park. Get by-law in the Park
- Acquire the land at 199R Silverview Way
- Ensure that Good Planning is Done and that Parks do not abandon this whenever the Dog Lobbyists start making Demands. They are only one segment of the total number of Park users. Other users outnumber them: walkers, runners, naturalists etc
- As a river user, I would be interested to understand what is being done about the bank reinforcement around the Telus conduit access at N51.09205° W114.18257°. A channel-wide boom was installed and then promptly removed early this summer prior to some work being done in the area. Is this pile of rocks jutting into the river being removed, reshaped, etc. The current arrangement is definitely hazardous for novice river users and unnecessarily accelerates the channel flow immediately downstream.
- The area 199R Silverview Way should be re designated from S-FUD to Urban Natural Area to protect this land from development.
- I feel passionately that the entirety of Bowmont Park should be maintained as off leash/natural/recreational area. Our footprint grows as our population does, but one of the integral qualities that draws newcomers to Calgary is our natural space within the city. Encroaching on these spaces for further development is not only upsetting to the current population, but also detrimental long term to Calgary. On that note, 199R Silverview Way should ABSOLUTELY be redesignated FROM 'special purpose - future urban development (S-FUD) TO 'URBAN NATURAL AREA'. This would ensure protection of this integral part of Bowmont to remain a well loved and well used park for wildlife and Calgarians alike!
- 199R Silverview Way should be re-designated from S-FUD to "an urban natural area".
- The City needs to get serious about what it is doing with the Park and stop allowing some vocal dog owners to run what is happening.
- Dog walkers are not the majority of people who use the park.
- Rules need to be publicized clearly so that all users can use the park. There also must be enforcement and a method of checking up on a regular basis on users who do not respect others.
- Do not remove playgrounds. Dogs are not the only people who use the Park.
- We would request that 199R Silverview Way be redesigned from Special Purpose - Future Urban Development to "Urban Natural Area". It is a well-loved, well-used piece of land that we want to protect.
- 199R Silverview Way NW should be kept as a natural green area
- Bowmont Park needs to be protected from further development, this includes urban development, if we are going to be able to offer present and future generations the opportunity to enjoy the park's habitat and the wildlife it supports. At present the 199R Silverview Way is designated as Special Purpose - Future Urban Development, (S-FUD). This needs to change.

199R Silverview Way needs to be redesignated as an "Urban Natural Area" which, moving forward, will provide some protection for Bowmont Park from future development.

- I am completely opposed to changing zoning to allow development. Change zoning to keep it a park all of it
- 199R Silverview Way should be redesignated from Special Purpose - Future Urban Development (S-FUD) to "Urban Natural Area"
- This area is wonderful, this should NEVER, EVER be developed, not much needs to be changed, we have been enjoying this area for many, many years, please do not touch and change things, it is working just fine!!!
- Keep it all natural please. 199R Silverview must stay natural..... please please please. ALSO, do not build any structures of any sort..... leave it all alone. Get rid of those big yellow giant bouys in the river. why are they there?
- Keep it the way it is.
- I strongly believe that 199R Silverview way should be redesignated from special purpose future urban development to an urban natural area, thereby protecting this land from any development. Dont take any more natural areas away from us! We love and appreciate this natural beauty the way it is.
- We have been approached by both the pro and con sides regarding the building of a senior's complex on a portion of 199R Silverview Way. Although we recognize there may be a need for a senior's complex in Silver Springs, we do not feel this is where it should go. Building here, would mean the loss of more natural area, similar to what is currently being debated for the Paskapoo Slopes. Our natural and green areas are slowly being chipped away by urban development. We are also concerned about how such a development would be accessed and what addition traffic or traffic controls there would be in Silver Springs, in particular on Silver Springs Gate NW, 54 Ave NW and/or Silverview Way NW.
- In order to preserve 199R Silverview Way as a natural area within Bowmont Park, we feel it should be redesignated from Special Purpose - Future Urban Development (S-FUD) to Urban Natural Area.
- It is my desire to see this park left in as natural a state as possible, there is no need for investment of financial resources to develop this park any more than already has happened. The effort to control invasive weeds is greatly appreciated. Some areas where the bushes are encroaching and filling in the grassed areas near the top of the park by cloning may need some routine management as well. Thank you.
- Areas of the park that have been zoned for future urban development should be re-zoned as natural park area. Parks such as Bowmont Park that provide an escape in the city add incredible value to wildlife habitat, improved quality of life and increase the value of the communities that surround it. Development of this land would impede on all of these factors.
- I have been told that the natural area around 199r silverview way is zoned for future urban development. I do not think this should be zoned for development in the future, but should be re zoned to urban natural area to protect it from development. I feel strongly that this park and surrounding area should be protected and kept to a similar state of natural and undeveloped land that it currently is in, and would strongly support any efforts to further this protection of Bowmont park.
- There has been considerable discussion about residential development on the section of the park between Silver Springs and Varsity Estates. I fully support maintaining that area as part of the park. However there is currently very little natural vegetation and it is not particularly attractive. Extending the bicycle paths would be one idea to improve the look and functionality.
- The major concern I see is the lack of any enforcement by the City of Calgary to ensure dog owners are complying with the rules. The number of tickets a bylaw Officer could hand out in one day would easily pay their wages. A lack of financial resources to hire bylaw officers is not an reasonable excuse.

- We strongly strongly recommend that 199R needs to be redesignated to an "urban Natural Area" so it is not developed!
- I think we will see more winter use with the popularity of fat bikes and should also be a consideration for trail design.
- redesignate Silverview way for Urban Natural Area
- consider keeping the area by Silverview way a natural area and prevent future projects by having it designated as urban natural space
- 199R Silverview Way should be redesignated from Special Purpose-Future Urban Development to "Urban Natural Area" Thereby protecting this land from development
- Water access for kids and adults.
- We would like to see the area around 199R Silverview Way redesignated from S-FUD to Urban Natural Area to protect it from future development.
- we would like to see this area protected as urban natural area and protected from future development.
- redesignate 199R Silverview Way from special purpose-future urban development to Urban Natural Area thus protecting the land from development
- The area adjacent to 199R Silverview Way should be redeveloped as a high density housing area.
- It is very important to this community, it's wildlife and area residents that 199R Silverview Way be redesignated from Special Purpose-Future Urban Development(S-FUD) to "Urban Natural Area" to protect this important and well loved greenspace/habitat from land development!
- 199R Silver view way should be redesignated from S-FUD to Urban Natural Area
- I would like to see 199R redesignated as a urban natural area to protect this space for future generations.
- 199R Silverview Way should be designated as Urban Natural Area,, it's the main reason we came back to Silversprings and invested in the community. There aren't many places in Calgary that provide this type of environment to all residents who can enjoy the views of the mountains, city center and the river.
- As mentioned above: There has been a lot of discussion regarding 199R Silverview way. I absolutely support rezoning this land from S-FUD (SPecial Purpose Future Urban Development) to "Urban Natural Area".
- This is a lovely space and we all need to support the City's work in keeping it beautiful!
- Let us keep the space green including 199R Silverview Way.
- Our whole family feels strongly that the 199R Silverview Way should be redesigned from Special Purpose-Future Urban Development (S-FUD) to "Urban Natural Area" to maintain the excellent quality of life that it has facilitated in its current form and use. We use this portion of the park daily for everything from walking, recreational jogging, snow shoeing and mountain biking to commuting to work. This stretch of the Bowmont park is unique in its topography and is an appreciated and MUCH used part of the park.
- Please designate 199r should be redesignated from special purpose -future urban development to urban natural area. Please do not allow development in this amazing area
- If the City of Calgary plans development in this area, the local area residents need to be well informed and public meetings should be held
- The "temporary" fence at what used to be a lovely viewpoint with several benches is obscene! To now sit at a bench one cannot see over the fence, and the view is totally destroyed. I have seen many folks sit there, as a break from a bike ride, or a romantic evening stroll....this fence is a disconnect...please reconsider this feature. The view platforms create in my opinion the same disconnect ...sitting on a bench within that structure one sees only fencing! Another disconnect. This is (was) a lovely park, providing a respite and connection to the prairie and riverine environments in which we live. Bowmont as a natural environment park needs to be kept as much as possible in its natural state with no intrusion by built environments and manipulated, manicured areas (referencing the east end where the gravel pit is being

redesigned, removing a lovely pit that is home to ducks, beaver (muskrat), etc....the terracing of the land as suggested in the plan is not fitting with the natural environment.)

- The Parks Department has indicated that it wants to incorporate the S-FUD (199R) parcel into the park. Seniors housing is desperately needed in Silver Springs and this is the only parcel of land zoned for future development that would accommodate this requirement.
- It is my sincere hope that lot 199R Silverview Way will be preserved as is. I hope that the beautiful trees, wild roses and other wildflowers, and wildlife habitat are left untouched. It is a beautiful area that offers a tranquil experience with nature within the confines of a large and growing city. I am grateful my daily walks in this part of the park. For many years, enjoying Bowmont Park was all I could afford to do with my children when they were little (I couldn't afford to take them to the local pool). Thank you for providing the opportunity to complete this survey.
- Disagree with posts put all over the park for leash zones, ugly fencing. Putting pressure treated wood posts all over for dubious reasoning degrades the natural beauty of the park.
- Vandals like to tag the bridge, giving the area an unsafe flavour. Cycle cop patrols might help with this.
- Please, please do not allow development of 199R
- I think it is great that you are taking feedback from users. Especially in an easy format such as this.
- Preservation is the priority. We love it the way it is. We also really enjoy having Angels Cafe in the more developed area of the park and would enjoy opportunities for similar SMALL unobtrusive cafes near the trail in other developed areas of the park - ie Baker park would be one option, another would be on the Bowness shore adjacent to the pedestrian bridge near where the railroad crosses the Bow. Concessions in these areas would provide destinations and encourage people to use the system, without interfering with the natural beauty of the park.
- Many European cities also have really nice "beer barden" type patios along their waterfronts where you can sit and have a beer or a nice bottle of wine and watch the river go by - here's one example of what I am thinking of: <http://www.pictokon.net/bilder/2007-03/dresden-carolaschloessen-biergarten.jpg> . This is one area that Calgary could perhaps learn from. Care would have to be taken that these did not become venues for loud partying and overconsumption of alcohol, but a combination of strict zoning controls on the size and nature of the patio (no outdoor speakers, no bright lights or advertising banners, possibly even no hard liquor), and adequately high concession/licensing fees (to keep the price of alcohol from falling too low and encouraging overconsumption) could result in a really nice space. The important thing would be making clear to the concession holders that noise limits will be enforced, and business plans based around the sale of large volumes of alcohol will not be permitted to succeed even if the concession holder is driven out of business.
- I would like to see the north end of 199R Silverview Way dedicated to seniors accommodation. Silver Springs has abundant park land which I use frequently but 199R is well situated traffic-wise for a senior's residence.
- 199R Silverview Way needs to remain park space and should be redesignated from S-FUD to an "Urban Natural Area"
- Too many pitbulls off leash in the area.
- I love the Klipperts area, but it has been a mess since the flood. Lots of trees taken down, with no clear communications as to what is being done. Please look carefully at what is happening and being allowed as far as dogs. They are making a mess, they are dangerous to runners, walkers and cyclists, and they are increasingly having the run of the place. Every owner seems to have 2 or 3 dogs, and the dogs outnumber the humans most days. Please put up some big signs that say "control your dog" and explain what that means. Most dog owners honestly seem to feel that runners or walkers shouldn't be in the off-leash areas, and that is absolutely not what off-leash means. Thank you.



- Engage community volunteers in the management of the park - park patrol, information stations, guided walks
- Not impressed with new fencing blocking views at lookout below the silver springs main parking
- Please don't over-gentrify the park! It is a large enough area that we can maintain a significant portion of its wildness as well as modifying it to provide walking and bicycle paths. THANKS for all the planning you do on our behalf.
- In general I think the City should allocate funds to other projects as opposed to spending millions of dollars adding cedar plant boardwalks, washrooms, amphitheatres, etc. Bowmont Park in its existing state is meeting the needs of all users so I don't understand the fuss. More damage is being done by the heavy equipment in the area than all of the users have done over the past 100 years. I also think that any large areas currently classified as anything other than an urban natural area should be reclassified as urban natural areas to protect them from future development.
- Need for access to river frontage for handicapped and elderly... I am very disappointed in the loss of the Bowness Park river drive done by arbitrary decision making.
- I don't believe investing a lot of money in this park is the best use of funds... rather than spend millions on bowman - put it in healthcare/education!
- This is a great park. I look forward to continued development and preservation of the park under the Cities stewardship.
- Cyclists on unpaved trails are the greatest threat to the park. Tires are designed to churn up the trail, and cyclists regard trail damage as normal use that they have purchased with their bike. Pedestrians also rip out fencing and enter reclamation areas, but cause less damage. Fencing needs to be stronger and tickets should be issued to offenders.
- The off leash area around Silver Springs is excellent and used frequently by people all around the city. I would really hate to lose this area
- 1) Please stop building wooden walkways and steps in the park. They're difficult to walk on and the process of installing them causes more damage than it attempts to avoid. A good example is the damage the city of Calgary did to the irreplaceable lower shelf of the mineral formations for the main spring that feeds to the river. The city workers were given sledgehammers and were specifically told to smash the overhanging shelf to make room for steps. This formation is thousands of years old and has been partially destroyed by a city of Calgary directive. That's no way to care for an environmentally sensitive site like this.  
2) Less signs and less built structures in general would be nice. This park should be free of clutter (including the garish orange snow fences).
- We would not let Klippert develop it so how can we be allowed to put in more than simple amenities?
- I believe that 199R Silverview Way should be redesignated from S- FUD to " Urban Natural Area " thereby protecting our lands from future development.
- We strongly feel that 199R Silverview Way should be redesignated from S-FUD to "Urban Natural Area", thereby protecting this land from future development. We need to keep Bowmont Park as an Urban Natural area.
- Incorporate 199R Silverview Rd into Bowmont Park immediately and then leave it alone as a natural area.
- Please redesignate to an Urban Natural Area to protect the land from future development.
- my wife and i run frequently in the Park, we have not experience user conflicts.
- Preserve 199R Silverview way. Maybe add a bench or two to sit and watch the quiet area.
- In my opinion, the cyclists are destroying the park more than anything.
- there is always going to be some conflict but communication is key. it would be unfair/discriminatory to restrict use completely from one group. there has to be a way to compromise.
- The park is fine, please don't mess with it. Spend your money on more important things.

- I am not sure where it would fit but over the 10 years I have been walking in this park the amount of dandelions has gotten out of control. Is this something that is being dealt with?
- Graffiti by taggers on educational signs and trash bins makes me very angry. I have no idea how they can be protected.
- 199R Silverview Way needs to be redesignated from S-FUD to some form of park use such as "Urban Natural Area". No form of development (including any type of senior housing) should be permitted on this land now or in the future.
- If boardwalks are built, they must be properly maintained, otherwise they should be removed.
- Disappointed at the destruction of some old growth forest and meadows. Sad that more thought was not put into it.
- I love to use Bowmont park in many ways, mostly walking and commuting by bike through the park. I would not encourage significant changes - it is available for all Calgarians, but the access is focused on healthy lifestyles (excellent commuting route on bikes, distances not extremely convenient to drive vehicles close to core areas of park) and that also protects some of the natural and wildlife features of the park.
- The stormpond should be naturalized to resemble a wetland and provide habitat and educational opportunities for users.
- Among the major attractions and defining features of sustainable urban communities are their green spaces. Calgary is very fortunate to have a scenic river valley and well-maintained city and provincial parks. Best of all, the city has a number of significant natural wildlife areas well worth preserving. They enhance the quality of life not just of residents of and visitors to Calgary but also of the wildlife that share these precious and dwindling green spaces.
- It is a beautiful site. I live in Varsity and don't mind making the short drive to Silver springs just to enjoy this wonderful park and the views of the Bow river.
- West Bowmont is a place where generations of Bowness folks have come with kids and dogs to enjoy the river and forge friendships and community ties. PLEASE don't take that away from us!
- No stakeholder representation on your committee from dog walkers. eg. the rep from Bowness Community doesn't have a dog. Most Bownesians use Bowmont for dog exercising
- Make 199R Silverview Part of Bowmont Park as an off leash dog park. There should be no commercial or housing development in the park as has been done to the Paskapoo slopes.
- 199R needs to be designated officially as park land. This is the gateway to the natural reserve and it should be beautified near the baseball diamond. beautification would be something historical like the opposite side of the park at the entrance of Silver Springs Blvd. the senior housing/ Villa group tells everyone that there is enough parkland already. Where can you walk along the river and the natural springs where archeological changes are evident. Wonderful place for walkers and dog walkers can "escape" without leaving the city!
- Bowmont Park west-end used to be known as the "Twin Bridges" to Bownesians. It has always been widely used by Bownesian children and families - most accompanied by dogs. Now that the City has incorporated this area into Bowmont Park, we are in danger of losing our much loved, natural area. Why must you control everything and everyone in this City? You want everyone walking/cyclist/hiking on 1 pathway. This invites user conflict like nothing else. You guys are wrecking this park!!!!
- All "off-leash" areas in the city set all citizens (people and dogs alike) up for failure. I therefore contend that there is no such thing as an off-leash dog area in Calgary, unless it is fenced in. Even then, rules are too lax.....from the drama going on in our neighborhood park (Montalban) stricter guidelines (such as no unneutered pets) would help to go a long way. Also, non pet owners must realize what is normal behavior in dogs. They often escalate minor encounters into full blown ugliness, all in the name of their rights. Dog parks have dogs and their people in various stages of learning, and it is totally unreasonable to suggest a dog and it's person be totally in control of every situation. We often need the space and sociability of a park to practice both.

- This is my favourite city park. I love how much area is off leash...I don't have a dog but many of my friends do. I enjoy their freedom as much as they do. Dogs are less aggressive when off leash and leashes are actually dangerous when not used properly by owners anyway. I run the trails often with and without dogs. Please keep our park as is!!
- NA.
- Keep it as natural as possible.
- The CA's need to be reminded that unless they talk to residents and get their opinions - they don't speak for everyone, no matter how loud certain presidents are.
- it is a really great park. Love it as it is - do not want to see a bunch of signs and paved paths - they are just right as they are - do not need more...
- As the 199 Silverview parcel of land is designated FUD, it should be considered for much needed seniors housing. If this is considered "not an option", the city should consider doing a land swap of existing green space to provide land for development of seniors housing. We are faced with an incredible shortage of independent seniors housing and feel that dogs and abundant green space are taking priority over people.
- None.
- Additional bylaw presence may help to ensure that those few individuals who disrespect the park and those who use it are held accountable for their actions. I really hope that any decision-making is based on solid user statistics and analysis, and is not done simply to appease vocal minorities that are only concerned with their own agendas. Many citizens made efforts to have conversations with the Varsity Community Association and the previous Councillor about issues within the park, but were rebuffed. The lack of willingness to have open and honest discussions is very disheartening. Bowmont Park is a beautiful space, and we are lucky to have it. With a little compromise and fairness surely all the different user groups can coexist happily and effectively.
- I have not hunted for plans for Klippert property and wonder if there is an approved one? Is this a place for improving public vehicle access to the east end of the park?
- Annex the North of the Park into the park lands. Do not build housing on Silver Springs Gate between BP forest and the park.
- I have spoken to many park users and they are not happy with your plans. Get out of your offices and spend time in the park talking to the users as they are the ones most affected and they pay your wages.
- Generally I am very pleased with Bowmont Park and in reality don't want to see any changes that would take away its natural aspect. I feel it should be similar to Fish Creek and Nose Hill Parks and not be too polished.
- I welcome the improvements and addition of the former Klippert site. However, I hope the natural environment character of the park can be maintained. Less is more.
- We would like to see a walking path from the park at 40th ave and 53rd - to the river that is off leash so that our whole family (dog included) can go for a walk to the river and back for the dog to swim. This gets the whole family out, enjoying the park and getting exercise
- The challenge is to differentiate the comments of those who use the park and paths regularly to those who seldom do but want it a given way. Perhaps there should be more casual conversation on site with those actually there enjoying the space.
- Having designated places to enter and exit the river.
- I say leave the park as natural as can be. Allowing dogs to run there is part of that.
- I would like to see more enforcement of bylaws in the park like picking up after pets and not leaving trash
- no
- It would be nice to clear some of the rocks away to allow the water to once again, flow into the secondary outlet which is right beside the small pedestrian bridge. Many dog owners and parents of small children love this pool because it is very shallow which allows the little kids and small dogs to play in the water.
- No

- Since the flood, there has been huge problems with night time partying and fires in the park. As a regular dog walker and living almost on the park, I am constantly picking up bottles, cans and litter and have to keep a constant watch on my dogs so that they do not eat human excrement. Not sure the park was meant for that type of activity so would like to see CPS increase presence for that type of behaviour.
- we need more areas like Bowmont within the city
- Again ... common sense and cooperation can work. I don't agree with any plans or direction to overhaul the park and spend a lot of money changing something that is beautiful and natural and enjoyed by so many.
- I was part of this process back in 2000, 2004 as a Bowmont resident. I truly care, and seek a balance of the needs of all users. But please, we need more than the awful fenced in area by the parking lot!
- More benches and picnic tables at the east end would be nice.
- As a long standing Varsity Resident, it feels like Varsity and other older communities are under attack. The city is slowly chipping away at our long standing and once protected green spaces. One at a time - without tying them together to consider the overarching picture of loss for the whole community in the NW. People who live made choices for residency based on access and proximity and use these spaces as is. We are slowly (like Silver Springs) seeing the erosion of the green and naturally green places in Varsity and surround being disassembled one place at a time. Did you know that the Alberta Health Services, Alberta Children's Hospitals Child and Youth Advisory Council (35-40 kids/youth from across Calgary zone and southern Alberta) were consulted about the space around the ACH at the time it was built. A number one priority for those users of the health facility was access to a wild and undeveloped landscape around the hospital. We cannot control what the U of C has planned for their land, but it runs in complete opposition to what our patients and their siblings and families want. High to medium density housing....oh, and no dog park or off leash area planned. So in 2017 when pet owners move in, I guess they will cross Shaganappi and the numbers of dogs in Montgomery and Bowmont will rise - as will conflict and someone will be determined more than ever to take away current usage for the community who live here. Not to mention on street parking issues, shoppers, visitors. And then Christine Meikle school is being built as I write. The legal action is not even settled but I guess that doesn't matter. We agree that the school needs to be rebuilt or refurbished, but another loss of half that green space in our community. How did CBE let us know about their plan? When surveyors used chalk to mark points in some residents back gardens. The park along the top of the ridge that has always been off-leash is again under consideration to remove it, rather than hearing residents who have loudly expressed their willingness to support one larger play ground in the area that will be nearer the new school - and remove the old decrepit playground from the current off leash space. But it seems the preference is to make a long skinny stretch along a road with no fence and no room for clear sight lines the new off leash area. And now development below that will draw more people (rather than wildlife) rather than creatures and eliminate even more current use. Oh, and then there is the high rise for "over 50" at the end of 53 st. I know I rant, but I am so tired of the way development occurs one space at a time. The stakeholders in the community become weary and disengaged from any process because just when you believe you have made headway on one issue another comes up. Never is there a community vision from the city or developers. And the community is too tired to present an integrated viewpoint.
- This is me and my dog's favorite walk. We would always go to this park when the weather is nice. There are so many areas to explore and different pathways to use. We feel safe when we are here.
- I love bowmont! I call it my backyard. :)
- keep the dog park
- -It smells like raw sewage (has for years) down by the ponds. It's less noticeable when it's really cold, but the smell is always there.

-Partying is out of hand - alcohol, drugs, open fires, remains of bbqs left for wildlife to pick over. Bowness Park was shut down right after the flood, everyone seems to have moved over to Bowmont, and it's been trashed.

-You always have the 'share the pathway' signs geared towards dog owners. Be fair and add in some play-nice behaviors for others as well. Use a bell, use a light at night so others can see you, if you can't see around a corner slow down...

- I want bylaw down there. And not just one quick appearance in the dog park to scare one group of people. I want them to actually enforce all the bylaws (and laws) that people are spitting on so that park can be nice again.
- My only two concerns ever have been inadequate garbage cans, and people using the park as off leash outside of the provided and gated off leash portion.
- Bylaw officers need to frequent more often and educate people.
- Many of the dog river access points are exactly where families go with small children during the summer. This causes some conflict with trying to share the space. Also at dog entry points do not put in any step access to reach the river (similar to what is installed at Southland park). These steps are unusable for small and especially older dogs who cannot handle the jumps. Ramps would be preferable or in ramps conjunction with steps to get to the river shore.
- It would sure be nice if the City could encourage some local artists to paint the utility boxes visible from the paved pathway, like the art box project throughout the rest of the city. These are in some pretty remote locations so they'd take a lot of effort for an artist, but they represent big canvases which are currently quite blank and ugly. Acquiring some sculptures to put in various locations throughout the park would also be fantastic.
- Maybe more regular patrolling of the park at night would cut down on the fires and party garbage we find early in the mornings. It is a shame that our dogs and children are endangered by the glass and debris found there.
- none - keep up the good work! it's nice to be included in surveys and to know that you are actually looking for feedback.
- Job well done so far. Now if we could just get rid of the dandelions!!
- Please keep this fabulous park a quiet, restful place to be and in complete contrast to Bowness Park.
- Project management and accountability with timelines on construction and costing is a huge concern. Look at what the city has done to Bowness Park...a real tragedy of "how not to" screw up.
- no.
- I love the park and walk there every day at various times. It is the main reason I moved to Silver Springs and lived in Varsity previously. The onus should be on wildlife preservation and coexistence, not greater human traffic and accessibility. Thank you!
- Do not allow any buildings or further development in the park
- The park is a gem needing very little intervention to make it better. Nature will look after things despite our best efforts!
- I have heard that the area south of Silver Springs Gate is zoned for future use and some people feel it should be developed. I am strongly opposed to a change of use. The area forms an important part of the park for many people and connects the park with the birthplace forest. Any development should be strongly resisted. To protect the parcel it must be zoned as park as soon as possible.
- I think it is so important to keep the 'wild' of this park as much as possible. Again, it would be nice to see the FUD land incorporated into the park, it is the only thing that makes sense for our beautiful park.
- 199R Silverview way must remain part of Bowmont park and never developed into housing. We need to re designate 199R Silverview Way into park use only
- This was a beautiful park until you allowed rampant growth of dandelions. Should think about the kids et al before weeds and dogs etc.

- There should be a plan in place to reduce the amount of destruction by beavers. Without a plan the riverbanks will be denuded of all trees if left unchecked.
- Please change it as little as possible. It's a marvelous space where we city dwellers with low incomes can imagine we are not in the city anymore. This is Bowmont's greatest attribute.
- There should be one spot for the kids with bikes to build jumps with dirt and shovels
- I think the park is great the way it is. I think the city should spend the money on something that is going to benefit the citizens of Calgary, not a make work project.
- Fantastic park, thank you!
- For the most part, dogs are not the problem in this park, it is their irresponsible owners. As far as cyclists are concerned, , their use of the dirt trails when it is muddy or has just rained, causes a lot of deep ruts to be formed, which destroys the habitat.
- Keep the park intact as is.
- Disclosure: I walk my dog, cycle the paved pathway, and birdwatch in Bowmont. I regret that my comments are of a rather controlling nature, but clearly the educational/voluntary laissez faire simply hasn't worked, in part because the previous management plan tried to please everybody. And I do not think that patrolling the area with hapless volunteers will work either — I'm afraid that it requires authorized patrol people, and fines. It's a shame but voluntary behavior hasn't worked. For nature to thrive it needs minimal disturbance.
- High on the east side of the ravine coming down from Silver Springs Rd a very large tree was felled last September, and I don't believe it was done by the City. In the same area some kind of bicycle (?) course is being constructed.
- A jewel in the city. It would be great to see the City provide a plan to make this park as great as it could be. In these fiscally challenging times, looking at volunteer organizations might be needed. Look at the Alberta Parks model in Kananaskis where they engage with the Friends of Kananaskis to support volunteer initiatives.
- making a mess in East Bowmont ie trucks travelling all over paved pathways, city or contractors can't think outside the box
- Saw 2 trucks driving unnecessarily along the regional pathway in East Bowmont Park today. In order to "pass" each other, they had to go "off-road," resulting in yet more damage to the park. Why not use golf carts? There is NO reason to spend \$\$\$ on Bowmont Park. Mother Nature spoke loud and clear in June 2013.
- Please leave 199R Silverview Way NW as parkland. Do build on this area. It serves as a wonderful off leash area used by many people and also many walkers who love to walk through is very natural area. Once this is gone, it gone forever.

## Phase 1 Online Map Tool

Comments listed according to management theme are presented below:

### Access and Amenities:

- Parking lot needs improvement
- Why not remove this old playground and upgrade the much nicer location just a little bit south of here? Wouldn't that help to remove a potential user conflict between people and dogs?
- This is a great location for a playground - the setting is beautiful and it can be accessed directly by the paved pathway.
- There is zero point in wasting taxpayer dollars to put in a wooden boardwalk, art, etc. The next flood will take it all away.
- Open up old gravel pit road for lower grade pathway to the top of Home road. The existing pathway along side home road is too steep for bicycles.
- Pave this pathway down the steep hillside. The gravel path is always getting washed away and rutted by rain runoff.

- This small play area should be removed, expand or enhance the play area further to the south
- Need parking facilities similar to the west end of the park.
- The two playgrounds in this area are RARELY ever used by children or families. Some user access information might help create a rational context for decision making.
- please fix the rail underpass for the bike/walk trail from the pedestrian bridge into Bowness. Having to ride around to Bowness Rd to cross the railway is very inconvenient and wastes a lot of time, plus it is not a pleasant ride/walk area.
- Can't tell from this old air photo where the viewing platforms are, but I don't think they were worth the money. Was there any public participation before tax dollars were used? I rarely see them used.
- Remove the small playground in the offleash area and improve the larger playground to the east that is already within an onleash area.
- Agree with bike path idea here. Strongly disagree with any expansion of motor vehicle use on this road or parking. Any parking here would increase traffic to core of park and disrupt habitats and put strain on dirt pathway use.
- Parks needs to work with Calgary Roads to improve vehicular and pedestrian access to park from Silver Springs Gate
- Incorporate 199R Silver View Way into Bowmont Park. It provides an important connection to the Birthplace Forest and Botanical Gardens of Silver Springs - allowing walk/bike access to the north & west portions of community.
- Provide only small access points to river and not in Natural Area
- Don't remove the playground  
There is lots of space for playground and dog walking
- have sign on 40th that Bowmont is a Park for all users not just dogs. Get dogs under control
- Area big enough for dogs and playground. No reason to remove playground
- leave area as is and leave playground for the children
- do not build river access in the Nature Appreciation Area. Put it much further east-to cause less impact
- have proper signage which says this is a multi-use Park and not just for Dogs

### **Natural Habitats:**

- Add the area of 199R Silverview Way to the Park
- keep this nature area protected Keep off-leash away from here
- This is a neglected area of the park - but is important for wildlife movement and open space. It should be restored to native habitat
- An osprey frequently nests in this area. Current home is on top of a telephone pole. Development should ensure that possible nesting areas are not disturbed
- I believe this area should be left undeveloped and remain as an urban natural area. It can be used as an off leash or on leash area. Need to ensure coyotes, pets and humans can use this space safely. Cyclists should only use Silverview Way.
- Area should remain undeveloped. No bike trails on this open space. Pedestrian trails should be left as is or covered with mulch - no pavement. Fir trees near Silverview Way removed- restricts sight of people in park: women fearful being attacked.
- Is that fence "natural"? It is a sad sight and detracts from the natural beautiful scenery
- Keep the Nature Area as On-leash. Need MORE Signs and policing
- This is a Nature Area  
Keep off-leash dogs out of it



- Do not put river access in Nature Area Put it at east end, near Home Road

### Off-Leash

- This area doesn't work as an off-leash area - the river habitat and fish spawning areas are getting destroyed by too much use
- on/off leash zoning is confusing throughout the park
- off leash rules are generally ignored - especially in the on-leash 'quiet zone'
- Pilot project off-leash areas in west Bowmont have had their landscape radically changed by the 2013 flood. Makes no sense to redesignate areas to on-leash based on pre-2013 data
- Pilot off-leash areas have been radically altered due to June 2013 flood. Makes no sense to redesignate areas to on-leash based on pre-flood data.
- Why not make this heavily disturbed area (Klippert) an off-leash area?
- I am not afraid of Dogs usually but I have to say that i am anxious walking on this part of the path way with my kids as I have now seen multiple times dogs that were aggressive and not controlled by their owners.
- This should stay as an off leash dog park. A lot of the varsity residents use this area daily for doggie play dates. There have been no problems, so not sure why you want to remove it.
- With all the destruction going on in this park at present, on an off-leash "rules" should be the least of anyone's concerns. Nobody can wreck a park like the City can!!
- The area south of here is too narrow to have dogs off leash without them running across the path. Shouldn't it be off leash?
- Leave the pilot areas off-leash. The flood wrecked all this land anyways - and will again.
- this is impossible to navigate
- This area is highly used by residents of Varsity with dogs - as off leash - keep it this way
- Need signage: Off-leash Area
- We need to maintain a contiguous off-leash path from upper Bowmont Park to the river. The restriction of dogs because of fish spawning is a nonsense argument. The fish have the entire river. Dog owners are asking for 100m.
- This pathway should remain off-leash from upper Bowmont Park to the river. There should be at least 100m of natural (unhardened) river access for the many dog owners who are the most frequent and consistent park users.
- Areas that are prime for fish habitat are well documented. These can be maintained while leaving natural spaces open for dog access to the river. A balance is important to ensure access is respected
- I love walking the various paths with my dog and do so literally every day. Many do and should be supported in this use not closed off. There are a few that are disrespectful, do not punish us for those few
- This is not only a dog gathering area but a community connection point. We don't do enough of that in this city, respect the value it brings.
- The ponds under the wooden foot bridge become skanky and unsuitable for swimming (people or dogs) because they no longer get fresh water due to the rocks that the flood deposited. Would be great to move some rocks and create a freshwater channel.
- Fish do not spawn in the whole river. They spawn in specific areas where there is fine gravel which is gently sloped often on gravel bars. These areas seem popular with dog owners. The fish spawn in fall (Brown trout) and spring (Rainbow trout).
- This area is used by many people without dogs to walk. Off leash conflicts are common. Children should be able to run and freely play in this park without worrying about how dogs off leash will respond. Children use both playgrounds regularly.

- This area is most widely used by people walking dogs & should be maintained as an off-leash area. So sad to see a vocal anti-dog minority hijacking the discussion. Everyone seemed to coexist beautifully until the surveying started....
- Excellent idea to make this another off-leash dog area. And I don't own a dog!
- These west Bowmont islands are NOT fish habitat. The inner channel no longer exists, except when stormwater fills it.
- I have been walking my dog in Bowmont park for six years and have had only 2 conflicts with other dog owners that had their dogs on a leash and didn't like my dog coming up to them. I vote for expanding the off-leash access.
- The City won't adequately maintain this park so why does it want to spend millions redeveloping the area with concrete paths, amphitheaters, washrooms? This is ridiculous. Deal with the dandelions first.
- Let the old Klippert gravel pit reclaim itself instead of spending more money on it. Turn it into a off-leash area as the majority of people using this space right now are dog owners.
- The majority of the current users of this gravel bar are dog owners. This is a great access point for dogs and a perfect off leash area.
- I would like to see off-leash dog access to remain in this area or another equally suitable area such as the gravel bar upstream of this location.
- Dogs should be allowed off leash in this entire area. That is the current informal status and conflicts are no more than between any other user groups.
- All of this area should be off-leash access for dogs.
- This area should be all off-leash and the existing trails left as natural as possible.
- I live on 21st Ave NW. Many people down here walk dogs in B. Park. We need an off leash area closer to the east side without having to walk up the hill or walk 20 minutes west. Leaving the old quarry area as off leash would meet that need.
- Or leave east side off leash as is.
- Leave both playgrounds. There is enough space for both
- Leave Both Playgrounds. There is enough area for both Has not been a problem with both
- LEAVE BOTH PLAYGROUNDS There is lots space for children and dog walkers
- Do not allow Nature Area to become off-leash
- PLEASE re-designate this land (199R Silverview Way) to 'urban natural area' to ensure continued use for dogs and nature lovers alike!
- Don't expand the off-leash  
There is lots of it already
- off-leash is large enough  
dogs need to be kept under control and not annoy others
- Multi-use area. Children and Playgrounds must remain
- This is a Natural Area, set aside, keep off-leash out of it
- Do not have river access in the Nature Area
- Keep off-leash at west end of area near Bus stop on 40th
- Keep dogs under control here  
There are 2 pathways  
Post signs about this and impose fines
- do not change the playgrounds and  
do not expand off-leash
- There is no evidence that shows the playground should be removed. Children have the right to be here
- playground must stay there is no problem with both dog walking and children playing

## Pathways and Trails

- Better protection from random trails/erosion/slope failures is needed here
- This park is in desperate need of a trails education program to better educate user.
- People have broken part of the fence and are accessing the Fournier sanctuary. Repairs to fence should be happening as soon as possible otherwise people think it is normal. It is too bad that people do not respect this sanctuary.
- I love the network of trails that crisscross this area and would love to see that kept.
- Cyclists fly through here like they are in the Tour de France. Sightlines are poor, paved path is windy and there are many children, adults and pets in here. Speed limit needs to be reinforced!!!!
- There is a trail here that never dries up. It was supposed to have been formalized and gravelled as part of the original Management Plan. It has been wrecked now. Well done City of Calgary!!!
- This area of the park is very popular with the mountain bike crowd, at this pin location kids have been building jumps(pin location) even for years now. It would make a lot of sense to build some bike specific trail/trail through this area.
- great opportunity to add another bike skills park or something similar to the one going into fish creek
- This is a valued off leash area frequently used by people who live in Varsity. Few conflicts - move the old decrepit play ground equipment and enhance the second one that is closer to home road and make that skinnier beltway offleash
- People are NOT removing the fencing to access the Fournier Property They simply want to cross the normally waterless channel to access the pathways west of the Fournier. This is the preferred route to avoid train noise and congested regional path.
- We need speed calming features (bumps) in areas where pedestrian traffic conflicts with bicycles, which often travel at high speed and pose a serious safety risk to pedestrians.
- Bikers travel too fast on these trails making them unsafe for walkers
- Bicyclists are ruining this beautiful area with ever multiplying new paths and extreme riding. Bicycles should be restricted, walking are only.
- This path is heavily used by dog walkers, pedestrians and bikers. There needs to be a way to slow the bikers down so that the area is safe for all users.
- Leave these trails as natural as possible to balance with the use of pedestrian and dog walkers.
- These trails are being destroyed by the bikers; consequently they are creating new trails directly adjacent. These trails need to be recognized as intended for use by all, not just bikers.
- The addition of a second trail for bicycles that was done in this area a few years ago is an excellent example of a constructive way to reduce user conflicts in a high-use spot. I hope to see more of this approach.
- This area was paved 3 times and torn up for re-alignment, poor job, etc. Could we please save money and plan it properly the first time?
- I miss being able to sit and contemplate the springs. The new pathway has brought more people into a 'protected, sensitive' area, and yet ruined it for those of us rare visitors who appreciated the area before it was artificial and manicured.
- Might as well remove all of those wooden dog off-leash, on-leash, caution dog signs-they never worked properly anyway, and are now redundant in most places (and totally ignored)
- When they replaced the regional pathway just east of the stormwater off-leash area, they decided on a fairly steep grade. This means bikes come flying down the hill and around the bend. Many a close call cyclists and walkers. How about speed bumps?
- Totally agree that if any funds are going to be spent that a bike skills park would be a good use of money.
- Bikers frequent this area and are generally very respectful of other users. Continue to allow bike users throughout Bowmont Park.

- Bikers should be allowed access to the same areas as hikers. Why exclude one user group? Most bikers are respectful of other users and should be allowed to enjoy this beautiful area while respecting it.
- The trails in this area should be left natural and allowed to be used by all users (hikers, bikers, dog walkers). This is the status quo and no need to change it.
- Bikers do not "destroy" an area any more than other users. Hikers and dog walkers use trails and bikers should be allowed to as well. I have not seen a single biker creating a new trail in Bowmont Park.
- Leave all the trails as natural as possible in this area. There is NO NEED to pave in a natural area and the use of packed road crush is perfect if maintained on a regular basis.
- The new "preservation" fence is a beastly eyesore in a favorite spot that was once graced with lovely benches. Can we just move the benches back a little and stop barricading scenery with ugly fences please?
- This is a great trail for multi-use - please do not touch it!
- Preserve Bicycle and pedestrian multi-use trails, for shared use.
- I agree that bicycle use should be highest priority in this area, along with beautiful pedestrian trails around ponds and forest.  
Bike skills would be fun, but will not attract "natural" park users
- Trail improvements in this area to remove the steep fall line trail and replace with a more gradual sustainable grade have been a positive improvement.
- Sideshow Bob is a great asset and treasured by mountain bikers in Calgary. It provides a challenging trail within City limits. It has survived and be re-established after many slumps. It should be kept.
- Since there is now a dedicated bike lane on Bowness Road, no need for bikes to travel into Bowmont Park via this bridge. That would reduce user conflicts big time!!!!!! Many cyclists don't respect other park users and they speed.
- This area should be an official part of the trail network and of Bowmont Park. It is essential for wildlife. It is highly valued by neighbourhood residents as well as those in nearby communities, as it is used by very many. It connects the
- Keeping this corridor natural and undeveloped is crucial to users from neighbouring communities. This corridor allows pedestrian traffic to enjoy Bowmont park. Development of this area would cause an influx of traffic and decrease in native wildlife.
- Make Dogs be on-leash and bikes walked in Nature area
- The 40th Ave trail should be on-leash.  
Dogs are not the most frequent users of the Park
- Make this major trail on-leash and have penalties for those who ignore signs

**Stormwater: (Disabled for comment in mid-June because deemed out of scope of project)**

- This area should be wetlands and forests more than stormwater ponds
- The clear cutting of healthy trees and other plants in order to construct the stormwater ponds is alarming
- There are salamanders, ducks, muskrats, beavers, and fish in this lovely little pond. It is being sacrificed for the Stormwater pond. So much for a "Natural" park!!!!
- Maintain the natural duck pond as a beautiful walking area. The storm water ponds should work around the existing natural amenities

**Other:**

- On a hot summer day, this "beach" area is packed with local families with kids and dogs enjoying the river. This has been going on for years. Let it continue!!!!!!
- The dandelions in this area are disgusting. This used to be such a nice park, now it is an eyesore. The kids can't even play in it anymore.
- this area is an ocean of dandelions, it is not being managed properly and is an eye sore

- It is very irritating that the park pathway ends at a blocked road crossing at the top of Home Road. Either the pathway should be ripped up, or the road crossing re activated. It makes no sense to go east with no sidewalk to the next crosswalk.
- Nice aerial photo - obviously taken pre June 2013. Doesn't look like this now. Consultants and City Parks staff should actually visit the park one of these days.
- This area has been altered completely by the 2013 flood. Why not just leave it as it is? No point spending money on it or banning off-leash use. This has been the stomping ground of generations of Bownesians.
- The sense of community by the daily users of West Bowmont Park is strong and very important. It is much more than a place to let our dogs enjoy some much-needed off-leash exercise. The daily presence of these users is a strong deterrent to vandalism.
- 199R Silverview Way needs to be redesignated from S-FUD to an "Urban Natural Area".
- This whole area is known to Bownesians as Twin Bridges. Used for decades for passive recreation and family fun - including dogs. City annexed it into Bowmont Park. They need to respect its history for Bowness!
- This area should be designated as an urban natural area and saved from any future development. It is a very nice buffer between the two communities.
- 199R at the north end is an ideal site for multi-family and senior's accommodation. It has great road access and Silver Springs has a low density population now.
- No river channel here anymore due to rock dump from June 2013 flood. Means it is NOT fish habitat!
- Only water in channel is stormwater runoff now. No longer fish habitat.
- Graffiti
- Graffiti
- Leave the 2 Playgrounds
- The play area for dogs is far enough away it is not a problem. The Park is for all users not just dogs
- This area of Bowmont is NOT ideal for multi-family nor seniors residential! An already busy corridor, with poor access to LRT and amenities plus need to keep this NATURAL!
- Do not expand dog area  
Leave space for playgrounds and Children
- Keep the Playground at north end. Off-leash already has masses of space along 40th Ave.
- it would be wrong to make changes to the playgrounds they are part of the local community
- Do not make changes here children should playground near 40th Ave. Never been a problem with this

## Phase 1 Stakeholder Workshop

Comments were collected according to management theme, which were assigned stations at the workshop. Comments collected at each station are listed below.

### Station 1: Access and Amenities + Pathways and Trails

#### *Access and Amenities:*

- Recognition of location of former Shouldice manor –work with MCA
- River access points should assess sensitivity of allowing for boat access (west launch points)
- Boat launch areas will likely be used more and more as a pull-in for rafts
- Parking (near Silver Springs Gate NW) is awkward with access only going east
- Bank (near East Bowmont river access point) is quite steep since the flood
- Need more garbage bins and “poo bags” at “dog stations” near off-leash areas

- Issues with people partying in the park with tents and tarps put up, bottles and garbage left behind and firepits / increased after dark use and noise increases concerns for safety
- Safety issues due to increased risk of fire cause by increased open fires near the water
- Too much signage on the landscape – keep it grouped at access points
- Need proper signage about what you can and can't do at access points
- Concern with location of washrooms and issues with “undesirable” users if washrooms are located too far away from residences; maybe should be located near off-leash dog areas
- Need to identify formal access with amenities (i.e. benches, garbage etc.)
- Good access and good / enough parking; no issues with parking
- Parking lot very used while the other one on the other side is not very used (parking lot near 85<sup>th</sup> St)
- Safety issues due to partying near Fournier Area which is not accessible to police and bylaw
- Additional points of entry should be provided along 40<sup>th</sup> Ave NW along the park
- Access is a concern along Bow River Pathway near Varsity Village Park where more people are coming up by the stairway
- Need signage to address trespassing
- Parking lot access from 52 St good but shouldn't have paved parking unless permeable
- Curious why a beautiful new park bench is put beside a smelly storm sewer cover? (Bottom of Silver Springs?)
- Is there going to be a beach in the east section of the park? If so, can it be close to Home Road
- Partying in the Former Klippert Gravel Operation will be difficult to control
- Safety concern: lots of illegal parties and debris left in the park
- Concrete access to river for people and dogs should be avoided. No access preferred to protect fish habitat
- East gate will need surveillance to prevent vandals and parties
- Leave playground on East edge of park (at end of 53 St NW)

#### *Pathways and Trails:*

- Some conflict between dogs and cyclists/joggers near off-leash areas along water in former gravel pit
- Important NW commuter pathway (through the park)
- Issues with bicycle speed; cyclists not using belt
- Trail proliferations need to close; trails should be closed seasonally
- Provide signage with information regarding trail damage
- Need signage for pathway system indicating facilities and distance (ex. Washrooms)
- Fence put by pathway near ponds “ridiculous”
- Not enough “free roam” off-leash areas that are not near a “chemical water pond”
- Public education on how to behave and “do's and don'ts” (i.e. stay on pathways)
- If there isn't any enforcement then problems will continue
- Stewardship – currently there is nothing
- Some vandalism / break-in's along the fencing
- Conflict with walkers and dogs not on a leash (area east of 85<sup>th</sup> St)
- Busy entrance along Bow River Pathway where the pathway crosses the railway – hidden corner causes hot spot for issues
- Proliferation of trails on the hill near Silver Ridge Dr. NW
- Fournier area – should be able to walk around the area again
- Love the boardwalk – would like to see more
- Too many informal trails
- Safety and user issues on mountain bike trail
- Vegetation management create views to river (safety as well) which is good (adjacent to Varsity Village Park)
- Gate (at end of 32 Ave NW) should be locked

- Bottle neck / conflict area (between dogs and cyclists) (near 52 St NW and Home Road NW)
- Ice building on trails causes erosion issues and water pooling when its warm – angling of trails would help with drainage
- Many people use pathways to commute – gets more use in the spring
- Steep trails and fast bikes present conflict with other users
- Keep walking paths to water in Waterfall Valley.

## **Station 2: Flooding + Slopes and Erosion**

### *Flooding:*

- Potential for riparian restoration to prevent further flood damage (near Bears Paw Dam Road)
- Gravel bar that was damaged in the flood is ugly and sad
- City Council needs direction to preserve ecological integrity
- Naturalization needed around storm ponds; need more natural vegetation with deeper roots to stabilize soil
- Need natural vegetation along edge of Fournier Area (used to be there so it needs to be replaced)
- Hard to walk in area on edge water (on land form directly south of storm water pond, south west of rail)
- Ecological significance of riparian land: must protect as top priority
- Some areas should be allowed to flood – assessment needed to determine which areas to optimize
- Flooding critical to upholding critical riparian habitat – trails should be closed in areas that flood regularly
- Trails on edge were destroyed in flood – informal trails were made to circumvent
- People like to walk along river's edge and creeks, but they are the most erodible / flood prone
- Parks should focus on designing a trail for flood prone areas – trails along the river will not hold
- Planning must take into account future flooding

### *Slopes and Erosion:*

- Trampled vegetation near parking lots is an issues – near clearer boundaries or fencing
- Pedestrian bridge over lagoon is very popular and safe
- Summer info kiosks for education to promote environmental awareness – need face to face interaction
- Need more than just signage
- Trash and erosion from heavy foot traffic from people partying in the park is an issue (parties are occurring on south river edge adjacent to Fournier Area)
- At the end of the waterfall valley – pathway has been moved up but pathway is still eroding due to heavy use
- Waterfall Valley – people have been rerouted to less sensitive areas or stairs used to lessen impact
- If you can control access there is potential to control erosion
- Still need access down slope for dog walking too
- Dog walkers tend to stay on top of the slope – good area for off-leash
- Cross-country runs are in the winter – winter has less impact on the trails
- “Superior Pathways” needed to direct traffic to reduce informal trails and erosion
- Need to rehabilitate portion of park located between Silver Springs residential area and Silver Springs Golf and Country Club
- Keep people to top of slope to reduce erosion below
- Trails should be designated to reduce erosion – place trails in more stable areas
- If erosion is unnatural, control it. If natural, accommodate it.
- South of bus turn – find a way to reduce cliff jumping
- Sideshow Bob continues to erode – support on downslope side needed in key areas
- Where railroad ties are used for support, when they fail, slumping is worse
- Heavy rains naturally erode the escarpment slopes – vegetation doesn't hold



- Very slippery sediment on trail
- Better signage / control for end of park (south end of East Bowmont) / no exit to help reduce foot traffic on vegetated bank (stabilization)
- Fencing would reduce erosion but impact view and character of park
- More users due to new school – need to accommodate greater numbers
- Proposed path (zig-zagging) up from home road would help reduce slope erosion
- Erosion under benches in highly used areas
- Gravel base of trails (especially steep trails) causes erosion into river
- Bioengineering as a solution for slope stability and riparian health improvements
- Rehabilitate the river bank – we need the vegetation to come back. Important for bank stabilization.
- Freeze / thaw when water pools on trails is dangerous - as a result, people walk around, broadening trails

### **Station 3: Natural Habitats + Off-Leash Areas**

#### *Off-Leash Areas:*

- Remove the fence around stormwater ponds in the west side of the park. Move the fence to protect the water and dogs from getting the water dirty.
- Can't dogs go by the old Fournier house section? Not the protected area, but where the house was.
- Please have a designated beach area for dogs that is a decent size to prevent it from getting overcrowded.
- A fully fenced area for dogs should not be considered enough. I don't want to walk circles for an hour amongst people who only throw a ball for their dogs.
- Not enough free roam off-leash walking- especially below by the twin bridges pedestrian rail. Can we walk up through the hills?
- For both on-leash and off-leash lands: fencing, signage, and enforcement to control and protect environmentally sensitive areas.
- Stormwater ponds are ridiculous for walking dogs by. No one wants their dogs in chemical water. Too bad fence is by ponds.
- Use bulletins to build awareness (e.g. updates, photo contest, and information).
- Follow pilot off-leash recommendations.
- Do not increase off-leash areas. Would like to see a reduction in the amount of off-leash area.
- Balance habitat value with demand for off-leash
- Need for a mobile kiosk set up in the park to educate people on site. Manned by volunteers, bylaw, and City staff.
- Pathways should be safe: keep dogs close and on-leash.
- More garbage bins needed throughout the park.
- Safety regarding dogs: biting and jumping out in from of bikes and other trail users is an issue.
- More signage and education needed to inform people of the impacts of dogs on habitat.
- Fenced off-leash area is very successful (but crowded and should not be considered enough for the area).
- Bowmont should be a safe place for all users.
- River access is important.
- Bike and dog conflicts are frequent and hazardous.
- Repercussions of violations should be posted.
- Dog bag dispensers should be made available throughout the park.
- Poop-pick up is not happening. Bylaw needs to give more tickets.
- Dogs need to be on-leash on pathways.
- Retractable leashes can be dangerous if too long.
- Promotion of off-leash ambassador program – volunteer interaction for education.
- Concrete river access does not belong.

- Off-leash imposes on environmentally sensitive areas.
- Need better signage and better delineation of off-leash boundaries.
- More bylaw presence needed.
- Need to find a better way of enforcing the rules.
- Fence off-leash area in East Bowmont.
- Playground in multi-use area – leave as is.
- Do not fence the playground/off-leash area.
- Playground in off-leash area is well-used by residents.
- Dogs accessing stormwater ponds in East Bowmont is a concern.
- People are not putting their dogs back on leash in the central on-leash portion of the park.
- No connectivity between off-leash areas in East Bowmont and the rest of the park.
- Strip of off-leash land between Silver Springs and the golf course: potential location for fenced off-leash area, but check with golf course residents.
- Strip of off-leash land between Silver Springs and the golf course: coyote conflict with dogs.
- Pilot off-leash area: Need more off-leash walking areas, including beach areas (ok if keeping pilot area as off-leash).
- Keep pilot areas as off-leash. Works well for access and allows dogs to cool off.
- More fencing needed to prevent dog access to wet ponds.
- Area north of the 85<sup>th</sup> St stormwater ponds is a high conflict area for commuters, dog off-leash use and river access.
- Signage for off-leash areas are not clear – not clear where the area starts
- Fenced areas for dogs too small and overcrowded; not suitable for people who want to walk and roam with their dogs
- Not enough “allowed” water access for dogs (i.e. island bridge by bridge could a dog lagoon)
- Need water access for dogs
- Dogs off-leash run from fenced area to water (area near 85<sup>th</sup> St)
- Additional park lands in this area; North of Bears Paw Dam Road, south of Nosehill Drive and west of the existing park boundary)
- Off-leash area in disturbed areas possible (on east edge of park adjacent to residential)
- Decide on river access but for dogs only, not swimming or boating

#### *Natural Habitats:*

- Can balance be made so residents can enjoy park? – even if sacrificing some natural habitat
- All of the riparian area is crucial to our lifeline and the Bow River protect at all costs
- Protect important areas but please let me walk through it and enjoy it with my dog of- leash at least in some areas.
- Riparian Zone Protection – Need flooding / need natural river edge and biodiversity
- Seasonal protection for ground nesters
- River edge and ravines are important for protection – was listed number 3 & 4 as value to regional wildlife habitat
- Concern for loss of connectivity
- Enforcement presence required
- Would like protection for next 5 generations – habitat and wildlife
- Seasonal value needs to be considered (e.g. regional restrictions for ground nesters)
- Presence / absence of birds through indicators
- Fish Hatchery, Weaslehead, and Griffithswoods have very restrictive access for people to keep completely of areas (areas of no access or limited access)
- Education so people care and know about the park – tell the storey of Bowmont
- Invertebrates and others need to be considered (habitat and presence)
- Get schools to do tours through the park – youth education
- Less off-leash areas and more education

- Do not increase off-leash areas
- Enhance signs and park to explain what is expected of all users and what a natural areas is and how to help
- More education (i.e. “don’t pick the flowers”, “invasive weeds”), more collaboration for weed removal (i.e. volunteer base)
- Preserve riparian – no people; no pets
- Signage, bylaw, fencing (post and rail not chain link) to help protection
- Limited off leash areas
- Do not mix natural areas and off leash
- Naturalized storm ponds
- More education regarding habitat and explanations why it is important to not go into the river at non-designated points
- Do not increase off leash areas
- Section 5.2 pg 24 – reiterate “to give protection, precedence to the indication of...”
- Make river access for dogs that doesn’t affect spawning areas and natural habitat
- Spring pond is an important habitat and thrives all winter – needs to stay
- Protect and reduce access to waterfall valley
- Allow boardwalk and keep people to trails / boardwalk
- Non-native grassland area adjacent to Silver Springs has coyote dens that create conflicts with dogs – mitigation strategy is needed for more natural interaction
- Rehab non-native grasslands adjacent to Silver Springs or make it a more useable space
- Seasonal access to Nature Appreciation Area to protect birds – important are for ground nesting birds and rare plants; very sensitive area that needs more public education
- Storm water pond output in East Bowmont area could be a river access point if not an environmental problem
- No deer seen in Balsam Poplar Forest located in East Bowmont – concern that they are not moving in
- Concern school (in Varsity Village Park) will impact Bowmont
- Riprap void of vegetation and wildlife – not going to recover (east river edge along bottom portion of East Bowmont area)
- Durban agreement for biodiversity: how does this fit in?
- Concerned that council is not concerned enough with protecting the environment
- Education needed so people understand the implications of their actions – portable kiosk?
- Important to preserve Nature Appreciation Area
- Signage to identify wildlife habitat
- Stormwater ponds are ugly and not in keeping with the natural character of the park – no vegetation

#### **Other**

- Parks (department) needs a dual role so they can enforce bylaws
- Land use (proposed seniors house) – what is happening?

#### **Phase 2 Online Survey**

Public comments on each of the three off-leash area options are listed below. Comments explain why each option was or was not their preferred choice.

##### **Option 1: Least Amount of Off-Leash Area**

*Option 1 is my preferred option because:*

- Better river/wildlife protection
- Bird and wildlife habitat

- There is too much uncontrolled off-leash use in the park therefore less is better
- I prefer this option as I see lots of damage by dogs and do not always feel safe around these areas that are off leash. This is gonna piss some people off though!
- The sign post system does not prevent out of control dogs from crossing into on-leash areas, passing through off leash areas is still a hazard when out of control dogs are present
- I am a park user without a dog, so don't need off leash areas. Also, I have had numerous bad incidents with off leash dogs, so really the less of leash areas the better.
- Dogs should be leashed.
- While many dog owners are responsible with their pets, I have observed too many that abuse their privileges in the park, and the problems are always worst at off-leash areas. Minimize off-leash areas to minimize environmental impacts of irresponsible dog owners and reduce conflicts with pathway users (especially children and bicyclists).
- Public parks should not be treated as public toilets for dogs. Also offleash (and poorly controlled onleash) dogs are a hazard to other park users. Parks are for people, NOT dogs.
- It is the best option for preserving the natural area while still having off leash area. Off leash areas don't need to be huge to be useful. The areas defined in option 1 are close to residences and parking lots.
- Should be off leash area along north river bank adjacent main foot bridge. The rest of former pilot area should be redesignated on leash as most users do not respect the existing pathway bylaws so interfere with on leash users and bicycles on the pathway and often do not have control or observe / remove defecation. City of Calgary needs to be way more consistent and diligent enforcing the pathway bylaw in this area. I use the path almost daily and haven't seen a bylaw officer patrolling in years. Even though I've called in 3 incident complaints. I've come to realize it's the wild west and you are on your own, I carry pepper spray on every walk now. Only had to use it on 1 pitbull and he left us alone immediately. The owner was oblivious. Where are bylaw officers?
- I would like to suggest areas of the park, besides sports fields and playgrounds, where NO dogs are allowed.
- Native grassland habitat, riparian protection and reduction of conflict between dogs and non-owners has to be the highest priority
- Parks are not for off-leashed areas. Keep them on a leash
- Protect the environment!
- Conflict between dogs/owners and Non dog owners using the same space.
- too many OLAs in the city already
- We often walk on the path near Nose Hill and find persons with dogs unleashed. I have had dogs jump on me and my sister. I watch dog owners allow their dogs to run freely, tramping vegetation, play in the river, and defecate anywhere. My main concern is the harm to the plants, bushes, and river. As a taxpayer, I do not support money going to dog owners, who pay no extra money for these females leash areas.
- The smell on a hot summer day is offensive. Some dogs are a physical bother to the many older people out for a walk.
- Off leash more often means less controlled dogs, more of an owner issue.
- Option One is my preferred option. Less off leash areas. Far to much of the park is currently designated as off leash areas. This is a " natural environment" park. The objective is to preserve the environment and provide a sanctuary for wildlife in an expanding urban environment. It should be for people to access with the priority on discovering and enjoying a place where human impact is as limited as possible. It is not a park for dogs. My family and I want to access the park to enjoy nature and wildlife. Pure and simple.
- OLA is sufficient and spread out - supports advantages listed.
- The current and proposed expansion of the dog-off leash areas in Bowmont Park pose several very significant risks to the community and enforcement challenges due to their

locations, size, lack of physical boundaries, mixed use nature, and lack of signage that clearly specifies the responsibilities and obligations of users. If not addressed, community risk remains high requiring significant changes to enforcement strategies and priorities. The use of off-leash areas has become an expected amenity within the City. However, the current system of off-leash areas is unsafe and hampers the Bylaw Officers ability for effective Education, Awareness and Enforcement. The consistent presence of bylaw officers in or at off-leash areas would be a general deterrent to inappropriate behavior and promote compliance with the appropriate bylaws. Unfortunately, the current and proposed expansion of the off-leash area in Bowmont Park makes this presence difficult if not impossible. In addition, awareness, education and consistent enforcement are key factors in compliance with bylaws. The current off-leash areas lack clear boundaries and signage that outlines obligations and responsibilities. Further, they are located in mixed use areas and back onto private property and roadways making them dangerous to the public and animal safety. The importance of signage and use of physical barriers to clearly identify off-leash areas are necessary. In this way members of the public are clear when entering and exiting off-leash areas and can make an informed decision. In addition, those who choose to use the park with a dog are given clear obligations and responsibilities. Those who enter without a dog for other purposes do so under the same understanding, or may choose to not enter at all. The importance of off-leash areas in a very safe location was also evident. Fencing with a double gate is optimal for keeping dogs in and away from busy roadways and adjacent residential and on leash areas. Policing of off-leash areas with proper fencing and signs becomes much more effective because of the awareness of dog owners and other members of the public. Fencing also assists to confine the problems within a manageable area that can easily be monitored. Bowmont Park is an Environmental Reserve and a natural habitat for numerous types of wildlife including deer, ground birds and other small animals there is a significant risk for unintentional impact on various types of animal habitat and chasing of other animals. The fact that dogs are allowed off-leash in these areas only magnifies and encourages the chance that these offences will occur and creates the untenable situation where a bylaw officer is asked to charge someone for a situation that was foreseeable and avoidable on the cities part.

- Least amount of off lease area! Any habitat that is in the off leash area is preserved and saved.
- Least amount of off lease area
- Why are we letting the dogs destroy our natural areas. Should be limited as much as possible.
- Most of Bowmont dog use is not leashed regardless - pathway or environment trail. By reducing the official area of off-leash, you have a higher chance of reducing off-leashes in other inappropriate areas. Overall, the boundaries of these maps do not seem that different anyway, thus the expanded area is nothing more than a go-ahead for constant offleash use throughout the entire park.
- Because of the impact of these areas on the natural habitat, and the lack of control that many owners seem to have over their animals.
- People are unwilling or unable to control their dogs regardless of off leash areas. There will be dogs off lease everywhere in the park no matter what.
- Damage caused by dogs running loose and not controlled by their owners
- In my experience, some but not all, dog walkers have no respect for the existing on-leash boundary. I have had at least 2 confrontations in this park after kindly asking people to put their dogs on leash in areas designated as such. Parking areas adjacent to the off-leash area are also considered off leash by dog owners and although not everyone likes getting sniffed up and jumped on, dog owners disregard that and dogs jump out of cars and start roaming. Perhaps a separate parking area is justified.
- I live near the park and see daily people from many other areas bring their dogs to this park. Many are not responsible dog owners and do not keep their "children" on leashes near walkways nor keep them out of restricted areas.
- This option minimizes the severe impact of off-leash dogs on many types of wildlife.

- It is an educational space for children. Let them observe what is possible by expanding rather than retracting natural spaces. How long until we see the return of species like various owls.
- Minimizes impacts to wildlife.
- It impacts seriously on native flora and fauna; disturbs breeding birds, and eventually the whole area becomes life less.
- My primary reason for visiting the park is to enjoy birds and other wildlife, which requires as much natural vegetation as possible.
- I use the park for walking and birding and have witnessed dog owners outside of off-leash areas and allowing their dogs to disturb nesting birds. There is also an increased amount of garbage from dog poop and bagged dog poop found throughout the park. The City offers enough off-leash areas without the impact upon habitats important to native species.
- Bird and wildlife will be less impacted by dogs running loose.
- As a dog owner there is already enough off leash area in Bowmont Park and surrounding area. Let's keep a reasonable area for other users who want to enjoy the area. It isn't that difficult to keep dogs on a leash, while still enjoying the park.
- Keep the area in its natural space
- Better biodiversity more balanced approach for all types of users
- Off-leash dog use is incompatible with any other park use especially if the park is a natural area. Species counts plummet when parks are off leash.
- better protection of environment; dog owners do not control their dogs in off-leash areas
- I support option 1 because some dog owners have demonstrated that they do not respect the designation of natural environment park by not maintaining control of their dogs throughout the park. Dogs are allowed to wander wherever the owner wishes despite the signs identifying an on-leash requirement. I would be less concerned if the responsible dog owners were holding the irresponsible dog accountable for their actions. I no longer feel safe approaching irresponsible dog owners who have little to no respect for other park users or the park.
- Preferred option keeps habitat and environment. Still lots of space for off leash areas
- I would like access to the river and area pathways without free-running (off lease) dog encounters.
- There is more than adequate amount of dog off leash areas. In addition, there must be more incentives for dog owners to pick up their dog's droppings. We back on to the manicured Park ( Silver Hill and Silver Crest Crescent ) adjacent to Bowmont Park and people continue to let their dog crap on the hillside and blindly walk away. This manicured area should be an on lease area and there should be a \$500 to \$1000 fine for not picking up their dog's crap.
- People do not use all off-leash areas. People are not cleaning up after their dogs. People do not leash their dogs when they should.
- Option 1 provides better protection for birds and flora & any other wildlife in the park.
- Many dog owners do not respect the boundaries and their dogs run freely at times attacking other park users.
- Option 1 is my preferred option because many wild bird species are at risk of being flushed out by off-leash activity. The same has been observed in North Glenmore Park (on leash park), where hunting dog owners are now bringing their dogs to illegally train to hunt in these so-called protected ponds. Bylaw enforcement is aware but they cannot be at these ponds 24/7. Therefore, perhaps we need to ban off-leash because many dog owners do not respect the on-leash areas. The same is true behind my house where there is a pathway. Greater than 60% of dog owners walk their dogs along this pathway "off leash" even though its illegal. When challenged one is sworn at, insulted and sometimes threatened. I'm not against dogs but until dog owners start to respect the rules that are already in place I believe that all areas within the City of Calgary should be deemed "on leash".
- Dogs and their owners have not shown respect for the park and are causing severe damage. They have also created an environment where I don't go to the park because of the 'attitude'

of many dog owners that they have the right to do whatever they want. I feel that dogs have more rights than me.

- Is preferred because keeps dogs away from vegetation and wildlife. I run in the park and find dogs already are off leash when they shouldn't be. More access to off leash areas will increase this negligence.
- Current boundaries are not being followed. In sensitive areas, conflicts arise from interactions with unleashed dogs, not under control. I expect that the wildlife in those areas is under constant stress from their constant flight mode.
- The area that is just east of the rail way is very affected by dogs/people and needs to be closed.
- Too many aggressive dogs/uneducated owners. Lots of dog crap!
- I visit this park every weekend and am constantly running into people with off leash dogs in on leash areas. I believe that off leash areas must be clearly delineated. There should also be more signage in on leash areas, to help 'remind' people to keep their dogs contained. I like this option because it maintains the natural environment as well as the on leash pathways that I use with my on leash dog. There is plenty of off leash land in the city and Thai option is a good compromise.

*Option 1 is NOT my preferred option because:*

- We need more off-leash space, not less! Bowness has no off-leash area except for West Bowmont Park!!!!
- Terrible! Bowness has NO off-leash space other than West Bowmont. This whole area heavily impacted by flooding. Leave it all off-leash!
- Far too much loss of existing off-leash area. Totally unwarranted!
- Dreadful! Not nearly enough off-leash area
- It removes one of the best spots for NW Calgary dog owners to take their dogs down to the river. This location is very popular, friendly, and enjoyable. Removing it from the allowable off-leash zones will only create massive conflict and people who will absolutely disobey the changed bylaw.
- Then numbers of off leash dogs will just increase in local areas. Discovery Ridge is rife with off leash dogs, city and dog owners who do this don't care. City have told me I need to deal with each dog owner who has their dog off leash. The aggression and violent outbursts are shocking!
- Is not my preferred option. It restricts off-leash access to the river.
- Dogs require access to the river for bathing and drinking during summer months. Under your current plan there is no accommodation for this throughout most of the park.
- If the City of Calgary wants to continue to be a dog friendly community we'll need to ensure access for dogs to run free... if we spend millions on bike road ways surely we see a need for dog owners who pay a yearly licensing fee accessible space for their pets.
- More off-leash area is needed in Bowmont NOT less!
- loss of contiguous off leash
- There is absolutely NO logic in taking away the off-leash in West Bowmont (former Pilot Project area).
- There is not enough off leash area, not enough access to the water and the off leash areas are already crowded and this is less space
- Flawed science is behind these designations! Whole park has changed thanks to 2013 flood. Need to re-do your studies.
- Too little off-leash
- there is a huge decrease in off leash areas. There is no river access.



- Playgrounds should be nowhere near off leash areas. Children and off leash dogs do not mix. This is a disadvantage for all options.
- I use Bowmont Park specifically for its OLAs
- I believe the off leash area east of the pedestrian bridge across the river, which would be lost in this scenario, provides a valuable resource for dogs and dog owners and does little to harm the river environment any more than the human traffic already existing there. In my observations, people with and without dogs tend to interact well along the riverbank, and having the cold water to run in during the summer is very important for the dogs.
- I like having some off leash river access - it's hard to see on this tiny map if there would be any river access but it looks like there wouldn't be.
- Dogs aren't the issue in the natural area. People and cyclists are.
- The owners of dogs are the problem, not the dogs. Cyclists do more damage to vegetation than dogs.
- Reducing the off leash areas too much will simply lead to dog owners ignoring the restrictions (which currently happens anyway) and therefore won't achieve the advantages. Boundaries need to be denied by fences not trails to prevent dogs leaving the off leash areas (like at the West End of the Park). Dogs simply ignore posts and trails.
- Quite honestly, off leash parks are a huge bonus to me personally and I don't really like the idea of having them diminished.
- This option removes one of the few remaining places where we can take our dogs for a swim. The 2 small patches of shoreline at either end of the park make up only a small percentage of the shoreline.
- No access to the river for dogs
- the off leash right now is where most people walk and then it is restricted back in the hills seems opposite to what it should be
- I have a dog and this is highly restrictive
- The extent of the OLA should not be reduced. Most of the users of this area are there with their dogs. More OLA space is needed in this city.
- Most of the users of the park are dog owners.
- I have two dogs and follow the rules for off leash but this would lose all access to the river. During the summer this is our favorite area and I'd hate to lose it.
- The dogs pose no problems to the area and are less of a problem than procupines and coyotes along with deer who clearly pose a significant problem and the city choses not to care to control. Bikes, by observation, cause a lot of problems, digging into the soil, not to mention the cyclists have too big of a voice, and my advice to them is to stop bullying everyone and perhaps go elsewhere where you can do less damage and less buyyling.
- Need more OLA
- I'm not sure how I'm supposed to choose a preferred option after only seeing one option. But based on the fact that it's less offleash area I'm guessing it won't be my preference.
- We need more off leash space, not less.
- Dog owners are getting squeezed everywhere in the city. We have lost several areas to competing interest groups already. Dogs owners are tax payers too!
- Dogs néed space to run. If confined they will fight
- Dogs are not doing any harm to the people or park therefore more off leash area is the best idea.
- Reducing off leash creates more stress on the smaller areas
- Need more off leash areas.
- Enjoy taking our 3 dogs to large off leash parks around the city
- By decreasing the space the remaining areas become more congested. I also want to access the water so my dog can swim.
- more off leash area needed

- The more you concentrate the dogs the number of complaints and altercations will increase.
- We lost a substantial, trouble free, maintenance free area when the city jumped on the opportunity to save a few dollars by fencing off the area below Bears Paw Dam. Simultaneously, those that feel we can keep urban areas "wild" gained a huge area to protect. Though years ago, I still seethe over the loss of that space. Frankly, when tourists came to visit Calgary, that location is the one I showed them. Near that time, the City also chose to close the Fournier area. Frankly, I walk the paths in the Bowmont area. I do not visit the pouncy English ideal dog pasture with its coffee klatch because I like to see a little nature and get some exercise. Off the Hyacinth Bucket - ideal plan, I rarely ever see people, with dogs, without dogs, on bicycles, off bicycles etc. They just aren't there. Let me actually walk my dog in peace. Of all city issues, this particular one will determine my vote in all future elections. Stop trying to turn our natural areas into a Disneyfied version.
- I walk the trails daily with my well behaved dogs and have had no issues with the mountain bikers. I do not use fenced dog parks as there are too many untrained dogs there. I appreciate the ability to walk the trails off leash, which I have done since 1992.
- Pets are important family members. And having a pet encourage outdoor activities which is healthy for Calgarians.
- Not feasible. Too restrictive
- There is such a shortage on fenced off lease in Calgary. Edmonton has 6 and Calgary has 3. The current area is small and in the summer bikers cut through the park.
- The off leash area is small enough as it is and well-contained. There are a ton of bike paths in the city and lots of room for people to walk and enjoy nature already.
- Does not provide enough continuity for off-leash dog walking, need more off-leash areas in East Bowmont
- Not enough OLA
- More & more dogs, less off leash space for them...
- I believe that this habitat should be open to off-leash accommodation as possible
- Further restrictions to off-leash are not preferable and drastically reduce water access.
- We value the freedom for us and our pets.
- There is not enough offleash space in Calgary- reducing it would cause more problems and tight quarters for more animal altercations.
- I do not feel that the off leash areas negatively affect others users enjoyment of the park experience.
- not enough off leash areas
- We need more off leash areas as it socializes dog s and give them the excessive they need.
- There are only two parks in North Calgary with significant off leash walking areas. This area is frequented with off leash use, and I've never had a conflict and therefore wish to have the most off leash possible
- The identified closed area is the best, and most popular, water access area for dogs to swim
- Too little off leash area
- We walk our dogs daily and need access to the river and a wide variety of trails; we ALWAYS pick up ours and often other 'missed' droppings and garbage on our walks; our dogs are under control, even when off-leash. Instead of penalizing responsible owners, we recommend that 'professional' dog walkers, which we have often observed having little control and, actually not picking up should be monitored and fined; in our experience, the overwhelming majority of private owners are very responsible and thoughtful regarding their dogs impact on the area, this includes Nose Hill, as well. Thanks for this opportunity.
- My off leash use is the reason that I use Bowmont Park. It provides me and my dog with a beautiful space to exercise and the vast majority of users of the park are dog walkers
- not many options for long off leash walks

- I own a dog and to honest with you, dog walkers are the primary users of this park 365 days a year. Other users tend to come only when the weather is nice. The dog walkers are the major users and I see no impact on the vegetation from dog use. The major impact I see on this park is the lack of maintenance provided by the City of Calgary, i.e. broken fences, crooked signs, diseased trees are not removed (black knot).
- It reduces the amount of off leash are
- The majority of users in the park on a total time and frequency usage graph are dog walkers. While others use the park for other purposes, if the city was to conduct an on-site survey for a week, this would become very clear. The dogs require access to the river, especially during the summer months.
- No off leash area.No access to river from dogs and minimal damage to park.
- The dog community has been extremely active in trying to work with the City on the off leash issue. How many more times are we going to go through this exercise???
- Not enough OLA.
- It has the least off leash area. The off leash areas by the river are very heavily used and enjoyed by many in the city.
- No river access. A 50 to 60 pound dog walking in it 'bare' feet does not cause erosion. Bikes with big knobby tires cause erosion and there was none until all the bikers started using the park for off-roading.
- there is no place for dogs at the river and there is no direct way to walk down to river with the dogs off leash.
- see below but add no river access for all of Varsity, University Heights, Bowness East, East Silver springs. In a survey we did as a community I remind you of the elderly folks (and our neighbour hoods are older communities) who talked about not being able to walk far or down or manage a lot of up and down safely.
- I need my exercise while I walk my best friend
- No water access
- It's ridiculous and assumes dog walkers are the cause of habitat damage
- My family and dog actively use the offleash parks
- Too little off leash access
- The dogs in off leash areas are well behaved. The dogs enjoy off leash areas and should be allowed this
- Off leash is the best use of parkland.
- The diagram is difficult to read but in general I feel that the existing setup of OLA is acceptable.
- I feel the majority of dog owners are responsible and supervise their dogs well.
- I have walked in the park on a daily basis since moving to Varsity in 1979. The main disturbances I have noticed are from inconsiderate, speeding bikers & the never-ending noise from first Klippert Concrete & now the city.
- Will force dogs into a small area that will then be overused and degraded
- off leash too separated
- There is already limited OLAs
- I like walking my dogs there. I don't want to lose any off leash areas.
- Not enough off leash
- The destruction in this designated onleash area, is not from the dogs! From early spring into fall, the board members need to visit this area. It is here that you will find fire pits burning( I took pictures of at least 8 pits in the park), booing and partying, swinging off of the bridge, people/families leaving their trash, booze bottles and clothing along the banks behind them. They are chewing up the area, not the dogs. And then there is the mysterious person/people that is creating a sitting area on the banks by laying sod, manipulating logs, adding tables, platforms

and another fire pit to add yet another area for their partying. This happens throughout the park from one end to the other in particular along the banks. Guess who cleans up this mess? Most times they are people that are out walking their dogs along with others that frequent the park. Then there is the person/people that have blocked a run off area that ducks and other birds frequent, leaving the water nowhere to go. Whose brainstorm was this? The water is now stinky and full of algae. To say that the damage in the area is from dogs is unfair, biased and unbiased. For some poop to be left behind is far less damage than what the humans have created. The dogs have not scared off all of the wild life. The beavers are still there doing tremendous damage to the area (have you seen the destruction in there? It looks like clearcutting. The ducks are still having babies, the sea gulls and Canada goose are still frequenting the area, coyotes are still wandering through, snakes are still warming themselves on the rocks, and hawks still sit in the trees as do a host of other species of bird. The cyclists are dangerous at best. Bells are hardly rung, speeding down the hill from Silver Springs and around corners on the pathways let alone the damage to the hill sides. It's one thing to implement change but there really needs to be better due-diligence and scientific studies prior to doing so.

*Option 2 is my preferred option because:*

- It allows for the maintenance of a natural habitat and protection of native species
- I think this option provides a good balance between the needs of dog owners and other users.
- I like the balance struck here between protecting sensitive areas and allowing dogs access to the river in an off-leash capacity. I think a lot of this won't matter, though, unless the on-leash areas are actually patrolled and the law is enforced, because it certainly isn't being enforced now.
- This is a moderate approach, but requires enforcement to be effective.
- It strikes a balance and is likely to be adhered to by many dog walkers. I am still concerned that the off leash areas should be fenced. Removing the off leash area at the South part of East end makes sense as the pathway has bushes very close to it there and dogs frequently appear on the pathway without warning resulting in user conflicts.
- Off leash parks are a huge bonus to me, personally. However, one of my biggest peeves is the lack of clear identification of the boundaries. This should be improved in ALL off leash areas. While I very much enjoy using these spaces, i also very much dislike knowing that the natural habitat is being destroyed. I would be happy giving up space in favour of the habitat. Fenced areas are probably the best solution of all.
- As both a dog owner and an active birder this is the best compromise. Most of the riparian habitat is protected while one of the last places in the city where we can take our dogs for a swim legally is preserved. By this I mean the west end of the RR crossing/ pedestrian bridge island.
- There should be some access to river for dogs
- Same reason as option 1
- Unless fenced, current users ignore most signage and rules, so why give a greater area for abuse.
- The area just east of the train tracks needs to be protected and closed therefore this option is great.
- Limits conflicts between users
- Good balance between off leash and habit preservation
- I don't think this much off leash area is necessary. Parks are multitude and I am not comfortable bringing my children or dog to off leash areas because they are often either attacked or scared by dogs. I appreciate the need for off leash area, but I don't think this much is necessary.

*Option 2 is NOT my preferred option because:*

- Potential damage to sensitive riparian areas, one only has to look at what happened at Southland Park and damage that was done to river banks. If there is native grassland habitat
- Not enough off-leash space, and no consideration given to the huge loss of off-leash areas recently in the NW. Also, Bowness has ZERO off-leash space!!! Bownesians have been coming to West Bowmont with dogs decades before that area was dragged into the Bowmont Park. Our families deserve to be able to use this space for recreation activities, including our dogs!
- The addition of the rock-covered piece of land in West Bowmont isn't much of a "gift". Dogs and people don't like walking on this rock. Thanks for nothing!
- Not nearly enough off-leash in West Bowmont area.
- Don't take away our off-leash in West Bowmont east of train trestle bridge! Much loved beach area for families with and without dogs. We all get along. NOT a fish habitat.
- Though we use the west end of the park, this appears to be quite unfair to dog owners living near the east end. And, like all options, still does not address the primary issue of user conflict.
- Until we have more people ticketed nothing will help.
- Option 2 is not my preferred option. There is restricted off-leash access to the river.
- Limited access to the river for bathing and drinking water.
- "Moderate" or "Balanced" is subjective to any one side (let's face it... the current city administration) how about a simple percentage.
- No river access for East Bowmont dog owners.
- best balance of public use and protection
- Leave West Bowmont Pilot Project off-leash as OFF-LEASH. The flood has completely changed the whole thing. It's not "sensitive" area. Leave it all off-leash there
- a lot of this space is not even useable for the dogs to run, for instance along the twisty steep path on the left side of the map, the only place to go is on the path, the trees are dense, there is a fence on one side and a steep embankment on the other.
- You need to re-do any studies that were done prior to June 2013 flood! Things have changed. Wildlife habitat, fish habitat, and flora are all different now.
- Too little off-leash. Have you folks actually been to West Bowmont. The river deposited tons of rock and silt. The whole area has changed drastically since you did your "studies." Leave it off leash.
- Very poor area to access river for dogs-this is not a beach area-I would like to see direct access down to the river.
- same as option 1
- habitat should come first
- I feel there is plenty of off leash areas available, parks should be for people.
- As per #1, I don't think this balance is actually achievable given the permeable boundaries
- This option does little to minimize user conflict.
- Smaller OLA is better.
- Need to minimize off-leash areas to reduce current environmental damage and user conflicts.
- Too much dog consideration without consideration for people.
- Option 1 is plenty of space.
- Would be okay if pathway bylaw was enforced.
- Dogs do little to enhance the urban wilderness experience

- Disadvantages outweigh increased off leash areas. Where else can these habitats be protected and enjoyed in the city.
- Problems with pedestrian bike traffic and dogs off leash even out side of the off leash area.
- More emphasis should be placed on preserving the natural habitat that is unique to the river area.
- Too much environmental impact!
- Priority should be given to children/people using the space
- In my experience, at least half of the people ignore leash restrictions anyway, so try to keep it low by any means possible,
- Off-leash areas should be confined to existing fenced areas. This forces irresponsible pet owners to respect on and off-leash areas or face fines.
- preference is less is better for dog/owner issues.
- There is currently too much off leash areas.
- With dogs onleash, everyone can still use the park, when they are off leash, many people are impacted by dogs at large, startling runners children seniors, irresponsible owners..
- this does nothing to prevent damage to sensitive areas and does nothing about user conflict
- Damage to sensitive areas and can still take walks with leash between OLA's
- Refer to comments in Option #1
- Too much off lease area is not good for wildlife/habitat conservation. Ruins the hiking area with interruptions by dogs.
- Too much off lease area is not good for wildlife/habitat conservation. Ruins the hiking area with interruptions by dogs.
- Too much off leash.
- This is an acceptable compromise as well, though not the preferred option.
- There are already far too many OLAs in the city and only a single nature preserve which is free of dogs, Inglewood Bird Sanctuary. Dogs do not need to walk in the best natural areas!
- See above
- Less off leash area is preferred and it should be fenced to keep dog in
- Keeping the area natural so that "my deer" and "my birds" can have a refuge is paramount to keeping Bowmont a NATURAL area. Harassing wildlife is not desirable. We are blessed to have such a wonderful area for wildlife in the midst of our city. Educate the pet owners to appreciate the natural wildlife and keep their pets at home!
- We want to maximize biodiveristy. Minimizing off-leash areas not only keeps dogs that destroy undergrowth and fragile ecosystems, but will also reduce traffic in general.
- It does little to minimize potential user conflict. Abuse of leash regulation is rampant in Bowmont (I rode through this park as a bike commute for the last 19 years from the start of May to the end of October; my estimate is that less than 20% of dogs are on-leash within designated on-leash areas, such as the paved pathway) with resulting dangers to other users (both pedestrians and bike riders) and ongoing damage to habitat and wildlife. According to info from the Nature Conservancy (which allows no dogs on its properties, e.g. Cross Conservation Area), the presence of dogs has caused bird numbers to drop by an average of 41% at some sites and the diversity of species to fall by 35%, along with significant impacts on the abundance and activity of native mammals.
- Dogs destroy sensitive plants and scare away birds and small mammals.
- Dogs off-leash have a significant impact on wildlife. Sharp-tailed Grosue have been extirpated on Nose Hill due to off-leash.
- The area will literally go to the dogs--bye bye wildlife.
- See above

- the potential damage to sensitive species and habitats is unacceptable in an area where users of the park have already noticed an increase in the destruction that off-leash dogs have caused in the area.
- After my answer to the previous option, namely least amount of off leash, this question is pointless.
- It creates user conflict.
- Don't compromise the land
- I choose option one
- Does not protect park natural areas sufficiently. Larger off-leash areas lead to owner entitlement problems and are difficult to enforce.
- Option 2 isn't my preferred choice because of the identified disadvantages. OUR parks are supposed to be shared environments and not public toilets for dogs.
- Damage to the environment and fecal pollution will expand and make the park less desirable to visit.
- As a daily user of the Park, the OLA should be limited to non-sensitive areas, such as riparian areas. The number of dogs playing by the river on a nice summer day cannot help but have a negative impact. It's perfectly reasonable, that people can be expected to seek out non-sensitive areas for their dogs to run. There is a lot of land around Calgary.
- I want as little off leash area as possible.
- Damage to the environment
- You are impacting areas that you state are already in a sensitive state.
- My experience has shown that dog owners (up to 60%) do not respect the on leash rules and providing even partial off-leash will result in many dog owners letting their dogs off leash in non designated areas such as wet ponds that are inhabited by many wild birds
- Most dog owners have shown they are not responsible and have little regard for the natural habitat. Go to the area under the train bridge just on the south side of the dog park and see for yourself how they have destroyed a beautiful park. One thing that is missing is enforcement. Dog owners do not use a leash because there is no enforcement. Walk from Silversprings down the path off Silversprings Road and you will see that the majority of dogs are not on a leash.
- Not enough protection of sensitive areas
- It does little to minimize conflict between dog owners and others. I run in that area and many times dogs run at me while their owner is 100 yards behind yelling, "he's friendly!" I don't know that. Off leash seems to correspond with lazy owners who fail to control their dogs. Also, when I see dogs running 100 feet from the pathway into shrubs and rough areas, I do not see the owners following them in order to clean up the mess they leave behind. Unfortunately, a few irresponsible owners ruin it for the "good" ones, but based on the amount of dog feces I see in the park, there are more than just a few "bad" owners. In the spring, after the snow melts, there is dog waste everywhere.
- More damage to vegetation, and dogs scare away wildlife.
- This option actually doesn't look bad, but once again I haven't seen all the options and this makes it sound like the next option will have more offleash and maybe do more to reduce conflict which would be good.
- Reducing size of off leash space is not acceptable.
- With more people and more dogs in the city, dog parts need to be able to handle this growth
- Need more off leash areas
- Dogs have less areas to run free whereas cyclists and hikers have many more options
- Same as first option
- not enough off leash



- Considering the number of dog owners who use the park compared to cyclist commuters and others the off lease and dog access areas should be greater not reduced. Cyclists are getting their way everywhere with no regard to the law and rules.
- See my comments on option one.
- The majority of the users who walk the trails are polite and their dogs are well behaved. The conflict, in my opinion is on the paved paths.
- I think the more off leashed parks will encourage more outdoor activities for many Calgaries. I am always happy to see the oldies with their pets.
- We need more off lease not less
- We have little off-leash area within the city as it is. Responsible dog owners need a place to enjoy nature too.
- Need more off-leash in East Bowmont
- Still not enough OLA
- still taking away off leash areas
- Optimal off leash is needed.
- While this option does provide more water access for dog owners, I still feel a fantastic reason to visit Bowmont park is the abundance of off-leash opportunities.
- I would prefer more offleash space as it maximizes both my physical health and my pets.
- I prefer the off leash areas to remain as they are today
- Still not enough area
- There needs to be more off leash areas. Cyclists can ride their bikes any where in the city. Walkers can walk anywhere in the city. Dogs have very few areas where they can be off leash so I believe the off leash areas need to be as large as possible. Also very frustrating to have to be keashing and unleashing dogs all the time to comply with ola
- Same answer as for option one
- It's still less than current
- I own a dog as I said in the previous comment, if it weren't for the dog walkers, this park would be essentially empty 80% of the time.
- Few spaces for dogs to exercise in the city
- The damage to riparian and sensitive grasslands area is so minuscule as to not be relevant-
- Off leash area is too limited and most of this area is in Silver Springs. The area accessible by car to 40th Avenue is a very busy one for off leash dogs exercising. It would be wisest for the city to structure the off leash area in such a way that the dogs could be spread throughout the area near Varsity or they will all end up in the field at the top, where there are also playgrounds, etc. Access to the river is a must for dogs on a hot day.
- Not enough off leash area
- The dog community has been extremely active in trying to work with the City on the off leash issue. How many more times are we going to go through this exercise???
- Again, not enough OLA, specially by the river.
- Loss of off leash area. I am not aware of user conflict issues and I have been using this off leash area for twenty years. Very little access to river - I believe dogs do not do damage to the river banks.
- No. River access is immediately downstream from storm water drain, very polluted and dangerous for pets and people. Access is only where the river bank was restored. There is no natural entry to the river, just climbing over big rocks. Bikes on the pathway travel too fast, someone is going to be badly hurt or killed in a collision. A 50 to 60 pound dog walking in it 'bare' feet does not cause erosion. Bikes with big knobby tires cause erosion and there was none until all the bikers started using the park for off roading.

- that area for the dog beach is very poor-it's too deep and the river access is too steep. the current is too strong. there presently are 2 natural gravel bars which are excellent beaches. perhaps you should limit the amt of rafters on the river if you are worried about habitat-I spent the summer watching them come ashore leaving their garbage on land and we came across many areas this summer where they had defecated-
- see below and above
- Again - the majority of users are dog walkers - and are not the cause habitat impact - they should not have their utility of the park impacted so negatively
- We use the park multi-use with walking, biking and offleash. We do not find the offleash an issue while doing our other activities.
- Restriction of off leash access is too extreme
- Off leash is the best use of park land.
- Again, diagram difficult to read. Current OLA configuration acceptable.
- It is a natural area and it is healthy exercise for dogs to be offleash.
- it does nothing to deal with speeding cyclists. Please turn the old Klippert Concrete site into a natural area with a small amount of public parking & toilet facilities.
- The more you spread out the dog area the less damage to the park. Also dog walkers are the highest use of the park in winter and need to be spread out
- Smaller than opt 3
- Too many problems with dogs.

*Option 3 is my preferred option because:*

- People should take responsibility for their pets whether on or off leash. I have not experienced any problems, despite being at Bowmont lots with 3 young children and no dogs. Environment protection is important, but so is encouraging healthy animal-human bonds - and this includes keeping animals and humans happy healthy and exercised
- Reducing the OLA simply reduces the amount of use this area gets, regardless of the fact that there are dogs. We should encourage the use of these spaces by Calgarians, and allowing dogs is a fantastic way to achieve.
- Cyclists do not use the area to the same degree as dog walkers, dog walkers use the facility year round, snow or shine, daily. We have never had an incident with other dog owners, cyclists or wildlife in the 20 years we have been using the park. Vandals, illegal fires, jumping off bridges and graffiti remain much more problematic and restricting public access will just intensify the amount of illegal activity already in the park. Cyclists have hundreds of kilometers to use and have devastated the grassland hills near Silver Springs with their off trail riding. Dogs and their owners are not the problem with this park. More trash cans, bathrooms and security would benefit the park much more than kow towing to some elitist cyclist community.
- This is my preferred option as a dog owner and runner we like to connect trails for longer walks. My dogs are well trained and stay with me so damage to the habitat is minimal compared to mtn bikes.
- As stated before, when dogs are licenced and fees paid to the city, requiremnts should be to have off leash areas, especially since the city cares not to control deer, coyotes, porcupines or cyclists who cause far more damage by many people's observation including mine.
- No controls on Mtn biking which may b just as damaging to native habitat
- Need more OLA
- Offers the most ability to walk through the park and increased access at the bottom, west end is nice.

- The more space available, the easier it is for non-dog people to avoid coming into contact with dogs.
- Most people who use the park are dog walkers, there should be more off-leash areas available for dogs throughout the city and dog walkers are the main users of these parks.
- It's one of the few dog parks in the city that has access to the river for the
- There will be the same amount of conflict either way. Bike riders are rude even when you are walking without a dog. Dogs aren't doing environmental damage. People who walk their dogs are getting exercise, which benefits society and keeps health care costs down. Too many rules ruins the park and takes the joy away.
- More space = less impact
- Need more off leash ares.
- Provides large area for many people and their dogs to enjoy off leash areas
- I want my dog to enjoy the outdoors and being off leash chasing a ball and playing with other dogs.
- is my preferred as it embraces a large community base
- I disagree that increasing the off leash area does nothing to reduce conflict. If you concentrate the dogs there will be much more conflict between dogs, owners and the public. I also disagree that the dogs are making a significant damage to the flora and fauna. If they are then they are too concentrated and should therefore have more space, not less.
- See my comments on option 1.
- I enjoy my daily long walks on the trails with my dogs and have not had issues with other users, including the mountain bikers. The occasional park user does not use these trails, closing the off leash trails will mostly impact the local users. What needs to be more regulated are the well used paved paths. I bike those paths recreationally and the commuters do not use their bells, they speed past pedestrians and it scares me how they are unaware that children and even dogs on leash can dart in front of them without notice.
- Outdoor activities are precious for Calgary. With more off leashed parks, it encourages outdoor activities even in winter.
- The education of off leash parks for pet owners has positively increased over the past ten years. It is the lack of consideration by others that creates the conflicts.
- We need more green space and offlease
- User conflict can be regulated by bikes staying on paths and responsible dog owners controlling and picking up after their pets.
- Dog owners need a place where their animals have access to nature, most issues are because bikers ride to fast in areas,
- I believe the advantages are greather than the disadvantages
- Close to enough OLA
- Extends off-leash areas for longer contiguous walks
- Best option for walkers
- These off leash areas are the least utilized and therefore seem to incur the least impact from off-leash dogs. A great part of living in Silver Springs is the amazing off-leash opportunities for our four-legged friends.
- Same
- To keep your dog happy, healthy and out of trouble, you'll need to find ways to exercise her brain and body. If she enjoys the company of her own kind, visits to your local dog park can greatly enrich her life. Benefits of going to the dog park include: Physical and mental exercise for dogs Your dog can zoom around off-leash to her heart's content, investigate new smells, wrestle with her dog buddies and fetch toys until she happily collapses. Many dogs are so mentally and physically exhausted by a trip to the dog park that they snooze for hours afterwards. Opportunities to maintain social skills Dogs are like us, highly social animals, and many enjoy

spending time with their own species. At the dog park, your dog gets practice reading a variety of other dogs' body language and using her own communication skills, and she gets used to meeting unfamiliar dogs on a frequent basis. These valuable experiences can help guard against the development of fear and aggression problems around other dogs. Fun for pet parents Dogs aren't the only ones who enjoy dog parks. People do, too. They can exercise their dogs without much effort, socialize with other dog lovers, bond and play with their dogs, practice their off-leash training skills, and enjoy the entertaining antics of frolicking dogs.

- As a dog owner allowing my dog to have the freedom to run around and play, lets him have an enjoyable walk and tires him out
- They are very few areas in the north west of the city that allow large extended areas of off leash designated space. This is important to the 1 in 3 households that have dogs.
- Almost all of the pet owners I have come across are very responsible and I would rather have off leash areas than all of the ignorant cyclists!! They are the ones who ruin the park!!
- Have not experienced user conflicts aside from off leash on paved paths in years of using park. Off leash doesn't mean uncontrolled. Reasonable amount of space for off leash use with continuous non paved trails. Only definite on leash should be paved pathways
- Since you only give three options I picked this as the one I prefer but I believe the Ola should be much bigger not getting smaller every year as it has in the last 15 years
- Same answer as for option one
- Maximize off leash area
- Still too much reduction need another option which has more on the west side
- see first response
- This is my preferred option because it maximizes off leash space and access to the river via those off leash spaces
- Provides most off leash space and river access
- Need areas for dogs to exercise
- Most OLA. Except on or near the paved pathway, the entire area, including the 'not needed' flood control area at the east end should be OLA
- I believe the park area should be accessible to as many people as possible and dog owners should not be restricted to margin areas that have little options for natural area interaction.
- It provides the most off-leash access. With regards to damage to sensitive areas, I think the city is fooling itself, if it thinks that bikes and walkers don't do more damage than dogs. As well, the construction staging area in the old gravel pit and the swathing and destruction done by the city this spring is a hundred times more damaging than the damage any users would create.
- Most off leash space for dogs
- There is very little to no damage done by responsible dog owners and their dogs. We are being squeezed out of space by people who seem not to understand the needs of dogs and owners,.
- Since the City keeps going back to this issue over and over and over again, let's make it ALL off leash and get it over with. I am sick of these stupid surveys.
- Best option available. Still much less than what we currently have but if we have to pick an option this seems to be the best one given.
- It provides at least a small amount of access to the river for the dogs and people. This activity is extremely enjoyable for man and dog and is very valuable to city dwellers. More off leash area should be made available.
- Yes. Provides access to the river at a natural grade, more space. We need a corridor to the upper park OLA. No river access. A 50 to 60 pound dog walking in it 'bare' feet does not cause erosion. Bikes with big knobby tires cause erosion and there was none until all the bikers started using the park for off roading.
- this is the best option but I would like to see a direct access to the river where we don't have to leash dogs.

- The disadvantages are "potential" and not certainty; the offleash has existed for 30+ years and the flood and development have done/did more damage in less time than the dogs have, and there is never an ability for dog owners to speak to or address "user conflicts" as many conflicts are reported by dog fearers and by those that identify a conflict where one may not exist - but if reported as such the other half (the dog owner) is not a party to the information or conversation. I have a well trained dog who is remote collared who ran toward a man and his wife. I recalled by dog with the collar and there was no incident but the gentleman was so angry he elicited a confrontation that escalated terribly. I am sure "we" were reported but would never have had an opportunity to share our perspective. There is no arguing and no excuse when an actual bite or physical contact occurs - but I am skeptical about the city data overall on user conflicts. I also feel that the communities of Varsity, University Heights, Silversprings etc are under assault one piece of space independent of another. University District Development, Christine Meikle School Development, Bowmont Park Development, 53 ave park defence etc etc. There is no ability to speak to the big picture as we are all exhausted with the small battles one at a time. I also expect if you create a "city" off leash park and advertise it the issues you worry about will come to be regardless of dogs or no dogs. Bikes, hiker/walkers, birders, buses, etc. etc... your plan to build - they will come and it will be the humanity you draw to Bowmont that will be its demise nature wise over time, not the tens of dogs that use the park daily.
- The park can handle it. Stop overworking a very user friendly park as it currently exists. Dogs do not create problems with the natural environment. Bikers and party people do. Where does this get addressed?
- I should not be punished for the few bad dog walkers who do not pick up after their dog and keep them under control
- I prefer to have as much off leash as possible
- This is the most advantageous and give the most amount of utility
- We are a multi-use family to this park, this is the best option for our family
- Off leash access is maximized, which is a fair reflection of the fact that dog walkers are the highest users of the park. And the fact that no reasonable case has been made to demonstrate dogs are causing harm to "sensitive" areas
- The off leash areas we have now are beautiful, extending them for longer walking options would be great.
- Off leash of the best use of park land.
- I like to take long walks and bike rides with my dog
- There has not been substantial user conflict. Smaller off-leash spaces would potentially increase the opportunity for user conflict through increased pet anxiety. As the current OLA is 33% it should be mentioned that this option reduces OLA as do the others.
- This allows the park to be enjoyed by the greatest number of people. It sometimes appears that those in charge of planning changes in Bowmont Park only want to 'put in under glass' to be looked at from afar. Considering the terrible damage the post flood berm construction did to the riparian area along the river it is disingenuous to blame hikers & dogs for destroying this park.
- This is my preference because I want to allow for people with dogs to have a place to go
- In winter this will provide maximum use of the park to the Calgarians who use the park the most in poor weather
- best choice option
- I am a Varsity resident and responsible dog owner. I prefer the existing areas allocated.
- Extends off-leash areas for longer contiguous walks
- I don't think we should lose any off leash areas. The city could actually use more off leash parks.
- Most off leash
- I prefer more off leash areas with minimal disturbances between my on and off leash walks

- In my opinion this is too much off leash area. I think that having this much off leash land will encourage people to continue to walk off leash with their dogs on the remaining on leash pathways, and this is not fair for other users.

*Option 3 is NOT my preferred option because:*

- There are too many conflicts between dogs/users
- Loss of natural habitat
- Damage to sensitive riparian habitat. Look at what happened at Southland Park riverbanks.
- You have based consideration of off-leash areas on conditions that existed pre- June 2013 flood! Particularly, in West Bowmont, conditions have been drastically altered. The whole area merits off-leash use.
- West Bowmont off-leash dog walkers are unofficial guardians of this area. We pick up garbage, put out fires, and were clearing pathways of trees following the June 2013 flood. Our presence here discourages the presence of riff-raff. We deserve to retain this whole area as off-leash. Re-route the speeding bicycles elsewhere! I pay high taxes to live in this part of Bowness.
- Your options are terrible! Do you people ever visit this park in the summer - particularly West Bowmont? It is a hive of activity and off-leash is just one very small part of it. Unless you completely fence off all areas, you won't be preserving "sensitive" areas and "important fish habitat."
- West Bowmont Park is the ONLY off-leash area in Bowness! We have lost just about all other off-leash areas over the past 5 years. This area was heavily damaged by June 2013 flood. Should all be off-leash. Bikes don't really need to cut through here now there is dedicated bike lane on Bowness Road
- Though this is much better for those of us with dogs, it still does nothing to mitigate user conflict. The Southland off-leash park has a beautifully engineered system of fences and self-closing gates that allow dog owners to enjoy long contiguous walks with their dogs and plenty of socialization, whilst nobody - dog walkers, cyclists or other users - need to worry about conflicts such as dogs running out of bounds onto pathways, etc. I have never understood why the City was able to construct such a wonderful multi-use park with fantastic off-leash areas, yet not done so for the NW? Does the NW not pay some of the highest property taxes? This would be one of the best resolutions for everyone.
- Is not preferred. Restricted off-leash access to the river.
- Same as options 1&2. I do not see access to the river, especially in the eastern part of the park.
- Let's be honest... there are both non & responsible dog owners... and I have issues with dog owners who allow their dogs to roam free within OLA and non OLA, as a dog owner I too am concerned with dogs running freely in non-fenced areas...however I don't believe creating limited OLA is the solution no more so then increased bike lanes will alleviate traffic congestion, decrees greenhouse gas emissions or ensure bike owners obey traffic rules, what is required is strict enforcement by city bylaw & police services officers.
- We want the beach area east of the train trestle in West Bowmont to remain off-leash! It is the only safe area for small and elderly dogs, as well as their humans to access the water. The flood deposited a lot of silt in this area, and created an ideal swimming area. Leave it off-leash!!!!
- Too much off leash
- Again, no rationale for taking away off-leash privileges in West Bowmont. Also, give East Bowmont dog walkers the rock beach area. It can't be rehabilitated or restored. The next flood is going to destroy any work being done presently in East Bowmont. Stop any work until Bow River flood mitigation measures are in place! Quit wasting tax payer money!

- this is still not enough and not even in alignment with the city standard of 30%, the walks are still short and crowded and dog walkers should be able to access as much of the park as anyone else, not less we should not be punished for having dogs to walk, we pay the same amount of taxes
- You need to re-do your "scientific" studies upon which you are partially basing these off-leash designation decisions. Need current studies reflecting changes due to flood. Also, you cannot "lump" the whole park into one when it comes to decisions. West Bowmont is vastly different than the rest of the park. It was also far more extensively damaged/changed by the flood. It is also a vital part of our Bowness history and heritage. We need to retain this as off-leash. We have NO OTHER off-leash in Bowness, despite what the display said at your Oct 22 open house. PLEASE leave us West Bowmont as our only off-leash. There is really no good reason why you shouldn't!
- Bowness needs our beloved Twin Bridges (you call it West Bowmont) to remain off leash. We love it, warts and all. It was Bownesians who cleared the regional pathway after the flood. Dog owners were in there trying to save trees. We clean up people's garbage and keep it safe. It got wrecked in the flood, just like our homes
- This is a better option but again there is no way down to the river that is completely off leash. not sure why we cannot access river without leashing the dogs.
- The maps are so small it is almost impossible for me to determine anything. Sorry
- In a natural environment park, the environment MUST take precedent. User experience is decreased with off leash dogs for many people, some of which will no longer walk the park. I choose time of day and areas where i hope not to encounter dogs. As recently as a week ago, walking near the hogsback, within 5 minutes 5 different dogs ran directly to me, one jumped up and put its muddy paws on my chest. I try to be tolerant. I do not invite dogs to greet me. They must be under control at all times! More education? Policing? Where is respect for other users of the park? Yes I'm ranting, but after 25 years of seeing wildlife and vegetation in Bowmont decline, it upsets me.
- Damages vegetation, and will make it less natural of an area in the long run, for the sake of peoples pets. Yes, I realize lots of people have dogs, but Bowmont is a natural treasure, should not be turned into a pile of dog poop left from off leash users who do not pickup after their dogs and barely supervise them at all.
- People need to put number dogs.
- Smaller OLA is better.
- Need to reduce off-leash areas to reduce environmental damage and user conflicts.
- Too much dog consideration without consideration for people.
- Option 1 is plenty of space.
- Some people already think off leash area is anywhere they want it to be.
- Dog owners are often not in control of their animals, who can pose a real danger to children and wildlife
- Too much long term deleterious effect on native habitat for short term pleasure for dog owners
- see above answer!
- Same as answer to option 2 too many conflicts with Dog owners not respecting other users of the park.
- Too many dogs who are NOT under control of owners charging people, other dogs and damaging sensitive areas. I have seen owners not pick up after their pets (my neighbours included), allowing them to dig up plants and charge users of the park.
- Again.....too much environmental impact!!
- Priority to non dog owners using the space.
- Too much damage and annoyance.

- There are enough off leash areas near us! Dog owners walk by our house regularly to go to the one west side of scenic acres. That area is disgusting with dogs ruining the grass. Owners let their dogs pee, and defecate on our yard, on their way to the off leash.
- Habitat health and citizen enjoyment of park should take precedence over dogs. Dog waste is the number one contributing factor to storm water/run-off pollution.
- less is better for dog/owner issues.
- I am not in favour of "most amount" of off leash areas.
- Damages park, not everyone loves dogs, small children are not allowed at large and don't jump at or startle others, try riding a bike with small kids and dogs barking and chasing them "playfully"
- damage to sensitive areas and does nothing about user conflict
- Damage to sensitive areas.
- Too much off lease area is not good for wildlife/habitat conservation. Ruins the hiking area with interruptions by dogs.
- Too much off lease area is not good for wildlife/habitat conservation. Ruins the hiking area with interruptions by dogs.
- Too much conflict with other users and damage to natural areas.
- I do not see the benefit of this, and in particular, would not like to see east Bowmont officially an offleash zone. Dog users will still have their dogs off leash here regardless of official status - if it were set as official off leash, what would happen? Fences? Regulations? These thin strips of land hardly seem like they warrant the benefit only to dog users.
- Keep the dogs and their owners in a fenced in area and under control
- I doubt dog owners would respect On-Leash areas anyway so may as well limit the extent in the first place.
- Riparian ecosystems are under pressure everywhere in Alberta. Let us make an effort to preserve this one.
- See answer to why Option 2 was not my preferred choice.
- Definitely not!!!! Should not even be an option!!! It makes us think option two is the middle ground. There is no middle ground!!!! Re-naturalize to the maximum.
- the potential damage to sensitive species and habitats is unacceptable in an area where users of the park have already noticed an increase in the destruction that off-leash dogs have caused in the area.
- After my answer to the previous option, namely least amount of off leash, this question is pointless.
- Creates a large off leash area that is not reasonable given the potential for conflict with people, for whom the park is built for. It is easy to keep dogs on a leash, we do with our two most of the time.
- There are other off leash areas
- I chose option one
- Off leash parks are a failed experiment.
- This is my least preferred option! The amount of power dog owners currently have over the Bowmont Park and the city counsellors is astounding. I had more than one alderperson tell me of their fear of dog owners if they dare to broach the subject of limiting dog access to a multi-use public park. Dog owners need to be held accountable for the behaviour and actions of other dog owners if they want to sustain the existing off-leash areas.
- Increased fecal pollution will impact canine wildlife health and increasing numbers of pet dogs will contract diseases from other dogs as well as coyotes.
- Bowmont Park, being an urban park with high users cannot sustain increasing OLA and the degradation that comes with these in sensitive areas. They are ruining these areas for



remaining users that respect these areas are not to be trampled or wildlife chased. Please no more unfenced OLA

- I want as much protection as possible for wildlife & flora so that requires fewer off leash areas.
- Parks are for all people not just those with dogs.
- way too much chances of damaging the ecosystem
- This is a destructive approach and counter to the concept of "Natural Environment Park" and protection of the ecological system and wildlife
- For all intents and purposes that is the situation now as dog owners ignore all rules and use the whole park as if it were all off leash. Giving them the green light would just lead to more damage to the park and fewer now dog owners using the park.
- Not nearly enough protection of sensitive areas
- See answer above. Also, in all the times I have been in Bowmont, as a runner, walker or cyclist, I have yet to see a bylaw officer or anyone checking to see if owners obey the on-leash or off-leash areas. Off-leash seems to just mean owners and dogs can do whatever they like. If I thought there would be enforcement, then maybe there should be greater freedoms for dogs, but when I have never seen any, then no: control dogs (and owners) by drastically limiting their free reign of the park. How many fines have ever actually been handed out? Compare that to the number of users.... and the amount of dog waste you can easily find in the park. No freedoms without compliance and enforcement.
- Again, damage to vegetation and wildlife areas. Also big potential for user conflict.
- Because it could damage the natural features of the area
- This option would be fine, but I do not think it is necessary to have this much off leash area. Option 2 would be fine, but 3 is OK too.
- It doesn't do much to protect some of the sensitive areas. I can live with a bit less off leash areas.
- Natural area needs to be protected.
- Most dog owners who live in the area, not the ones who come from other parts of the City are very responsible and will obey the on/off leash signage. Conflict occurs when cyclists "bully" dog owners into moving aside in off-leash areas.
- I like having the off-leash areas defined by the nature trails.
- The disadvantages explained above do not outweigh the benefits.
- I don't think off leash areas should be detrimental to natural areas. If there is space that has already been compromised by human activity, then that area should be utilized for off leash parks. Other than that, moderate use is good enough.
- As a dog owner I prefer this one, however I know compromises must be made to partially satisfy of the anti-dog/pro-environment lobby. Even with this they will never be totally satisfied.
- Once the most amount option is adopted, you are basically opening the entire park to off lease, and will be unenforceable, as is in the protected zones on Nosehill.

## Phase 2 Stakeholder Workshop

Stakeholder feedback on proposed recommendations per management theme is listed below, followed by categorized comments on the three off-leash area options.

### Habitat Management

- Beavers on 2<sup>nd</sup> wet pond are destroying unique Griffin poplar trees by the Fournier Area.

- Within the large patch of continuous grassland/forest, put signage for sensitive areas i.e. “sensitive area, please stay on the trail”. Employ fencing and stiff fines i.e. Bow Valley Ranch signage and fencing.
- High animal mortality rate at Crowchild Trail– Silver Springs gate intersection: What protection and mitigation strategies are being considered? (Fencing?).
- How do we prevent the high animal mortality rate?

### **Pathways, Trails, Access + Amenities**

#### *Access + Amenities:*

- Lights and a shelter should be added to the large fenced in off-leash area on Bowness Island. This would benefit walkers, bikers, and dogs!
- Trash bins should be added to the large fenced in off-leash area on Bowness Island.
- More attention to design and mitigation measures to deal with user conflict. Conflict will still occur with on-leash (Bowness Island).
- I’m unhappy about this because:
  - Northeast playground removal: Leave playground.
  - Access is already adequate and change is not necessary NE playground area.

#### *Pathways and Trails:*

- Where is there a wildlife corridor provided to allow movement in and out of the park?

## Park Maintenance, Safety + Enforcement

- Lots of parties and noise on Bowness Island.

## Education + Stewardship

- Developing and delivering meaningful and appropriate volunteer opportunities in the park based on the environmental education strategy: not specific to OLH areas. i.e. volunteer weed control – goats beard or grasslands.
- Consider broad delivery of education, possibly with property tax assessments.
- Off-leash dog and natural habitat seminars to educate on why this is important.
- Signs in the park should educate the public as to why areas are on-leash.

## Dog Off-Leash Area Boundaries | Option 1

- *I'm unhappy about this because:*
  - Northeast proposed OLA: too much off-leash.
  - Too much off-leash around residential trail areas of SS.
  - Because the least amount of off-leash.
  - This area (Bowness Island East) is enjoyed by too many people and dogs to close!
- *I love this because:*
  - Reduces user conflict.
  - It represents the least amount of OLA (of the total BNEP)
  - Signage for OLA should be enough at entrance points. Owners will know!
  - Some loss of total off-leash.
  - Least amount of OLA.
- *I'm happy about this because:*
  - The least amount of off-leash.

## Dog Off-Leash Area Boundaries | Option 2

- I'm unhappy about this because:
  - Northeast proposed off-leash area:
    - This area must not be fenced.
    - Too much off-leash.
  - Bowness Island East:
    - This is a highly used area of the park for off-leash and river access. The area has experienced a lot of damage from the flood and should remain an area where dogs, people, and families should be able to enjoy.
  - Of potential damage to riparian areas.
  - No reduction of user conflict.
- 40<sup>th</sup> Ave NW off-leash area (area with playground):
  - This area could be fenced in for OLA. Second person agrees.
  - Keep this as a multi-use area with both playgrounds. No fencing.
- Crowchild trail – Silver Springs gate intersection mortality:
  - Fencing on either side would help to discourage wildlife from going north.
- OLA below Silver Springs Golf Course: too much.

### Dog Off-Leash Area Boundaries | Option 3

- I'm unhappy about this because:
  - Potential damage to riparian areas.
  - No reduction of user conflict
  - We have enough off-leash area. Don't need anymore. Will cause damage to areas.
  - Off-leash area near the Northeast playground: too much off-leash area.
  - OLA below Silver Springs Golf Course: coyote territory conflict. Several groups on the north end denning. Potential aggressive conflicts with northern boundary of proposed off-leash area.
  - Sad to lose the river access of Bowness Island East. Safe area. Not aware of spawning here. Second person agrees.
  - Bowness Island East should remain off-leash. Having safe areas for dogs ( and people) to enjoy the river is extremely important! Second person agrees. ^Note that this comment and the previous comment of both persons are the same. The same comment was written twice.
  - So sad to lose Bowness Island East area!
  - Could you consider fencing around wet pond # 1? Prevents wildlife disturbance from dogs.
  - Could Fournier interpretive trails be off-leash? But NOT the fenced off area just by old house section.
- I happy about this because:
  - If the Nature trail pathways north of the NW OLA extend halfway up the grassy bank then great!
- I love this because:
  - Bowness Island East should remain OLA.
  - Long hill pathway to waterfall valley designated OLA. Yay! – for long walks.
  - Keeping OLA and extending them. Thanks.
  - Buffer zone between OLA and golf course: I don't think a private golf course should be given priority over a public park and public uses including OLA. This provides more area to spread out the impacts that come with over-use of a smaller area.
- Proposed OLA below Silver Springs Golf Course:
  - Too much!!! Way too much!
  - Too much off-leash. Check biodiversity.
- Would like to see OLA number counts to see what areas have high usage.
- Please keep East Bowmont off-leash.
- Could Fournier be off-leash? Not past existing fence but by pond.
- Would like to see data and numbers that support closing the Bowness Island East area off-leash section!
- Are there plans to remove the rock that now prevents the freshwater from flowing between the Bowness Islands under the footbridge.
- Waterfall valley needs to be clearly marked as people are walking through water to get to the bottom of the river now that the steps are gone.
- Can we add fences around the NW storm ponds? Important for ducks, geese, and water protection.

## Phase 2 Public Open House

Public comments on each of the three off-leash area options are listed below.

### Dog Off-Leash Area Boundaries | Option 1

- *I'm unhappy about this because:*
  - We need to keep off leash areas as they are and increase owner awareness. Mother Nature cares for us. Let's care for each other.
  - This area should not be allocated as off-leash as part of the land is designated for future development.
  - Dogs need some OL's that aren't by the road! This has been my route for 23 years. You should make it offleash because we will walk there anyhow.
  - Less offleash means less community engagement and interaction. Less community.
  - It is not enforced. Dogs are running loose all over the park, destroying it.
  - West side of Bowmont: less offleash area.
  - The OLA are quite close to the roads rather than deeper in the hills.
  - No justification for such drastic reduction in off-leash space!
  - 50% of dog walkers I encounter on the bike/pedestrian paths have unleashed dogs. Nicer to have more space in line with guidelines.
  - There are too many off-leash areas. Dogs should only be off-leash within fenced off areas.
  - Not enough off-leash and off-leash areas are disconnected.
  - This plan as well as the other two use paved paths as boundaries. This ensures conflict between cyclists and dogs.
  - There is poor connectivity for dog and bike users – trails that don't go anywhere are not sustainable.
  - I am a dog owner but also a taxpayer, yet I can only use 20% of the park...
  - Too little (few) continuous offleash walks. Less OLA than we have now may lead to increased conflict among users (dogs and owners).
  - The large "sensitive" area by SS golf course is one of the only areas that is flat and safe to walk/run dogs safely and is taken away!
  - ½ of the area between there and waterfall valley is unusable as a walking area due to the slope heavy bursh and uncertain footing.
- *I love this because:*
  - The less offleash area the better for the health of the park.
  - The least amount of offleash. We don't need anymore than 20% offleash.
  - As an owner of two dogs, I feel there is more than enough OLA already. Looking forward to the new park!
  - Best option by far!
  - Makes good use of natural topography to define areas – 20% is more than enough area in this large a park.
  - It maintains the environmental areas in their present state.
  - It preserves more area. There are enough off-leash areas now. The park is large so 20% is a lot of land.
  - I like this option best. We don't need a lot of off-leash areas. Dog should be walked on-leash.
  - I like this option best. We don't need a lot of off-leash areas. Dogs should be walked on-leash.
  - Option 1 is best. The dogs are offleash all the time anyways – so the more restrictions, the better.
  - It preserves the existing lands in this area. Protecting the environment in this park must be the top priority now and in the future.
  - The off-leash is adequate and there's an attempt o preserve more natural habitat.

- Option 1: provides best protection of natural environment areas and wildlife and avian populations.
  - It protects sensitive areas.
  - Least impact on the environment still substantial offleash space!
  - Individuals won't be able to turn their dogs loose to the parking lot adjacent to the church!
  - I appreciate that the park encompasses 2 fenced parks. I would not like to see these parks disappear from the community or to be reduced in size.
  - There is less offleash area.
  - The piece of land south/west of the Fournier Area needs to be closed. Option 2 is good as well. Too many break into this area, happens from the Fournier trail!
  - This area needs to be protected as part of Bowmont Park and used as an offleash area.
  - It protects wildlife areas. Dogs and people have the rest of the city.
  - Least is better for the natural environmental park needs to give priority to plant and animal life.
- *I'm don't love this because:*
    - Reduces overall OLA for the park. Dog walkers are one of the largest users of the park.
    - Too small area, protecting space that has been previously disturbed. Not reasonable.
    - Will ultimately lead to lower compliance rates cause it's too small and too restrictive.
    - Request a campaign to advocate dog owners to be respectful of nondog walkers to control dogs and pick up after them. Signs? Events? Periodic enforcement ticketing or positive rewards like 5% Tim's cards for the responsible dog walkers.
    - Don't think sensitive area near golf course should be off-leash.
    - There is already too much OLA and people don't pick up the dog's poop.
    - No more OLA areas. Leave the land to Nature as it was. People are spoiled they don't look after their dogs anyhow the way they should.
    - Least amount of offleash. Many dog owners go offleash in undesignated areas anyway.
    - Because of the drastic reduction of OLA for responsible dog owners and taxpayers. I do not agree with this at all.
    - Dogs are not damaging the park. Bicyclists are doing the damage.
  - *I'm happy about this because:*
    - Has least offleash. Keep the park natural. Keep offleash away from paved pathways – many have dogs ofleash on the pathways and are rude, if spoken to.
    - No offleash area because dogs affect the wildlife.
    - It has the least offleash area. Bowmont natural area.
    - Least offleash. With different users pathway can be dangerous at times, e.g. dogs running, fast cyclists.
    - Less environmental damage and conflict. Better co-existence.

### **Out-of-scope comments for Option 1**

- *River Access:*
  - There is no river access. Very antidog – it's ok for the rafters and kayakers to hog the river and the fire boat zooms up it all day long->what about the dogs???
  - No water access for dogs.
  - The river access is very limited near the gravel operation area.
  - The closed area removes a safe space for dogs to swim where there is not a strong river current.
  - Has the least amount of offleash and river access for dogs.
  - Bowmont East gulley: no river access is not fair to dog owners. Dogs love to swim and play.

- No water access at all. I do not agree with this at all.
  - Bowmont East gulley: No river access for dog owners. This is just a reason for people to go against bylaw. Very anti-dog. Why change something that is already working.
  - This idea is horrible. Dogs need water and bicycles don't. This is too drastic. It is nice to have space to run and exercise my dog at a place close to home.
  - My dog loves to swim. To take this away would be so unfair. It also lets them drink water when it is hot out. I think that they need lots of space to run.
  - West side of Bowmont: River access limited.
  - River access for dogs and their owners is one of our favourite aspects of this park. Whoever proposed this option has clearly never been to the area on a warm day to experience the friendly, social atmosphere.
  - Much less river access.
  - My dog loves to swim and it is a beautiful space to utilize with my best friend and this does not allow us to use this space together. Terrible idea!!!
  - Water access a must – all gravel bars.
  - Dogs like to swim in the river.
  - Complete lack of river access for dog owners is unreasonable.
  - No river access for dogs.
  - Many dogs and walkers are in area close to SS. Golf course heading down to river -> access to river??
- *Maintenance:*
    - OLA at intersection Silver Springs Gate NW and Varsity Estates PI NW: parking not accessible from southbound Sarcee.
    - OLA north of waterfall valley: reroute regional path around sensitive area.
    - Graffiti on garbage containers and benches not being addressed .I waited 2 months before reporting. I called 311 – should be regular patrol and clean up.
    - Contractors within the east portion of Bowmont Park are destroying not improving the natural environment of Bowmont NE park.
    - “Mother Nature” has done far more damage in this area than on/offleash dogs or humans – either bike riders or not have done. Presently, there is a beaver in the second stand water pond who has devastated the area. The city has been down 3 times in a little over 3 weeks trying to clean up the mess (to keep the ponds working properly and for safety of humans). Although, the city is desperate to hold onto as many trees as possible – because of last years storm. Nothing is being done to protect these trees. When do people start to count?
- *Fencing:*
    - I appreciate that the park encompasses 2 fenced parks. I walk my dogs 8 months of the year in the dark. The security that the fencing provides is very important to me.
- *User conflict:*
    - Cyclists are a danger and need to use the road.
- *General:*
    - This open house is driven by one “thought”. Drive – no pets AKA dogs to the majority of the park.

## Dog Off-Leash Area Boundaries | Option 2

- *I'm happy about this because:*
  - It presents an appropriate balance to mitigate safety between cyclists and dog owners!
  - There is more OLA in the centre area of the park. A lot of people, myself included, run the length of the hills from East to West and West to east. Dogs offleash there is awesome and safer because it is far from the paved pathways.
  - This option balances the desires of users and takes habitat preservation requirements. Clearer marking of closed trails/trails closed to cyclists would help.
  - Don't have a problem with offleash areas as is – no dogs would be better. More emphasis needed for when dog leash is needed. When you pick up take it with you to deposit – more bins. Define areas better – dogs can't read – Designate.
- *I love this because:*
  - Less desirable than option 20% of (1) park. Once started, there is no return.
  - More offleash is better. Lets increase dog ownership awareness.
  - Closing the area SW of Fournier area is good!
  - I believe this to be a good compromise of all factors considered!
- *I don't love this because:*
  - Leave the park to Nature there is already too much OLA.
  - Still, like option 1. It is not 'dog-friendly'.
  - It appears to be a fair compromise between options 1 and 3.
  - Limited offleash areas.
  - Offleash areas affect the wild habitat.
  - There should be no offleash areas in Bowmont Park. Defined locations are needed specifically for dog park designation, e.g. 14<sup>th</sup> St SW. "On" again "off" again areas do not work – dogs cannot read!!
- *I'm unhappy about this because:*
  - More offleash than option 1.
  - The OLA between the two Sensitive Habitat Areas (one marked with X) doesn't make sense: 1. Offleash dogs will inevitably stray into the sensitive areas. 2. It straddles a formal path which is by definition on-leash.
  - There are too many offleash areas. Dogs should only be offleash within fenced in areas.
  - The proposed OLA in the Sensitive Habitat Area, South of the golf course is wonderful habitat for ground and shrub nesting birds.
  - Too much of the OLA is close to roads in the east side.
  - Though many good aspects, it still does nothing to mitigate a main concern: user conflict.
  - Keep "railway island" offleash! It is no longer sensitive area due to flood of 2013 – no side channel water. Lots of silt and many rocks.
  - This is a natural area park and offleash areas destroy or damage the designated sites. We have enough offleash acreage.
  - OLA is brush and on slope below golf course.
  - Extended OLA close to SS Golf course is all slope (poor for dog walkers).
  - Sensitive habitat grassland patch: I do not like the extended offleash area to intrude into a sensitive area.
  - Sensitive habitat grassland patch: cannot walk dogs on the slope by SS golf too dangerous!! Same goes for current offleash area, too dangerous due to scrub and slope and uncertain footing.
  - Offleash area is within sensitive habitat area. Parks should protect sensitive habitat.
  - Dogs disturb too much of the natural environment.
  - Dog area encroaches into sensitive wildlife area. Please protect the wildlife!
  - Too much offleash in a sensitive habitat area.



- North end of grassland sensitive habitat patch: flat area: most people walk dogs here. This area is preferable for OLA.
- OLA north of waterfall valley: unusable scrub, unsafe for dog, conflict with joggers.

### **Out-of-scope comments for Option 2:**

#### *River and vehicular access:*

- River Access remains available for dog owners. A few hundred feet out of the many miles of river frontage in Calgary isn't much to ask but is all we need!
- Gives people and dogs access to river on either end of park.
- It is not 'dog-friendly'. No access to the river.
- East Bowmont – no river access! That sucks.
- Need river access for dogs as well as some paved paths in offleash. In spring when paths are muddy it is impossible to stay in offleash areas as so much mud sticks to your boots – this causes more damage than anything.
- Bird habitat: The river current is gentle there – allows good, safe water enjoyment for families with kids and dogs.
- There is not adequate river access at the East end/centre of the park.
- Limited access to river.
- No direct access to river for our dogs. Where the offleash swimming is has quite a strong current. It's not where we like to go. It's not safe!
- Constructing vehicular access is a mistake...the safety issues for pedestrians will increase, the abuse of the environmental areas will become a major problem. And the area deserves to remain a 'pedestrian' access area for the benefit of all Calgarians.
- Too much vehicular access – restrict vehicles to only east end of Klippert.

#### *Erosion and trails:*

- Seems to ignore erosion issues with rogue bikers. City seems only focused on dogs, and ignoring bikers who cause more damage and more danger to walkers.

#### *Fencing:*

- I would like to see better gating systems installed.
- A fencing and one-way gate system like the Southland offleash park would be perfect.

### **Dog Off-Leash Area Boundaries | Option 3**

- *I'm unhappy about this because:*
  - Leave West Bowmont offleash AS IS NOW!
  - It encroaches into wildlife areas! Dogs and people have the whole city.
  - No control over many, many, dogs that come by our backyard. Second person: Build a fence!
  - It has the most offleash. A natural environmental Park does not need more offleash area.
  - Too much offleash areas within sensitive areas. There are plenty of opportunities to walk dogs in Bowmont and neighbouring areas.
  - There should be less offleash areas. Dogs should only be within fenced in areas.
  - This plan maximizes the contact between OLAs and paved paths – a sure way s to enhance conflict.
  - As the owner of 2 dogs, we have enough OLA already.
  - Way too much offleash area.
  - Too much offleash in a sensitive habitat area.
  - Sideshow Bob is not environmentally friendly and should go.

- We have too much land devoted to offleash areas already the park should be preserved in its natural state.
- Why are we changing what is already there? It works the way it is now.
- Sensitive habitat areas should be off limits to cyclists.
- This assessment was done in 2009. No consideration to 2013 changes.
- Just leave the park alone! Everyone gets along the way it is. There's a healthy coyote, bird, and deer population so this tells you the habitat is fine the way it is. Dogs cause no more damage than coyotes and deer.
- *I happy about this because:*
  - Lots of water access for dogs. Long contiguous access for OLA.
  - I like a lot of offleash areas.
  - There is pretty good access to the water for dogs. But there should be some areas that are off limits to cyclists.
  - The maps are easy to understand. Thank you!
  - Most amount of offleash area.
  - It extends offleash areas for long contiguous walks.
  - Dogs are good for mental health! Accommodating them is smart. Offleash large areas promote hiking and walking – also health promoting (As long as the cyclists don't kill anyone).
  - It has the maximum offleash area for offleash.
- *I love this because:*
  - No offleash means I can go hiking without dogs being aggressive and be safe.
  - This has the most area for dog walkers.
  - I want 33% offleash area but add extended areas.
  - Most OLA of the 3 options. People without dogs can still use OLA.
  - Klippert gravel pit area ASAP. That's more important.
  - It gives the most offleash area.
  - Option 3 is the best for all users safe for offleash dogs and owners, trails for bikes – areas that need protection are protected from all users bikes/joggers/walkers.
  - There is 33% OLA. Extend Buffer zones all is good.
  - I don't love this but it is the best you can offer, it must be where I put my rod.
  - Also the plateau area by the golf course is valuable because it offers a great place for them to run and is away from the streets. It's a pleasure to walk this loop.
  - I have walked my dogs here for 23 years. We moved to SilverSprings because of the park nearby. I usually walk M-Fri during the day for about an hour and rarely see more than one or two other people. I will keep walking in this area. I feel I have the right to be out there when no one else is using it.
  - It gives me the most amount of offleash area as possible.
  - Offleash areas are very important – dogs need a place to run and play (great place for socialization).
  - Adequate OLA in total BUT could be better dispersed e.g. away from roads. The "gully" at the bottom of the long gravel hill path in the varsity side should be OLA.
  - Big offleash area.
  - The more offleash the better for me and my girl. We enjoy exploring the river and hiking while not causing damage to the area. We are responsible pet owners that would like to enjoy this space with our wonderful dog.
  - Sensitive habitat areas are clearly identified. Still lots of offleash.
  - The happiest I see my dog is at this park...running, swimming, and socializing. She is happy. I am happy. From Derek, Carrie, and Rubarb.
  - At least it protects a small section of sensitive fish nursery habitat along the River.
  - Closer to what majority of dog walkers use now near Golf Course.
  - Most offleash – the only people I meet on the trails during the week are dog walkers.

- Much more ability for a contiguous dog walk for a decent duration, and our beloved river access.
- *I don't love this because:*
  - Stop *bicyclists*? Not dogs.
  - It's better than the other 2 options, though not sufficient. Is spending \$\$\$ the reason for all of this? Why change something that already works?
  - Thank you for having this forum! "Option 3" is the best. This is the best park for dogs and their socialization. Please, more off-leash.
  - Leave the park alone. OLA: 33% is not much in the scheme of things. Second person: I agree 100%!!
- OLA at intersection Silver Springs Gate NW and Varsity Estates PI NW: designate park! Keep green NO FUD.
- Sensitive grassland habitat patch: keep OLA please.
- Fournier area ponds: is this area counted in the %? Not fair if it is included in the calculation.

### **Out-of-scope comments for Option 3:**

#### *River and vehicular access:*

- We will have only one place in all of NW -> river access.
- Dogs need to swim.
- Give East Bowmont dogs river access.
- Former Klippert Gravel operation: Please keep this area available for water access for dogs.
- South shoreline end of sensitive grassland habitat patch: should be offleash river access.
- Restricted bird area: only safe current area for small/elderly dogs to use the river. Second person: also good for children. Third person: please let us have our beloved beach here!
- Dogs like to swim.
- Dogs need to swim [O2: not a repeat].
- Better river access in East.
- Dogs need access to swim!
- Water access.
- Please leave river area for walkers and dogs. We love it.
- Only river access for dogs on West side is an area that's heavily used by families. Other river access areas which you are removing were better.
- Need river access for dogs. Safest place with slow current is the area you're removing SW of Fournier area.
- Much reduced river access from current.
- 99% of dog owners use gulley as river access.
- East Bowmont gulley: West of Bowmont park, headed down to gully, to river (sand bar) is currently being used as offleash access to river and should stay.
- There is pretty good access to the water for dogs.
- Lots of water access for dogs.
- Much more ability for a contiguous dog walk for a decent duration, and our beloved river access.
- #3. This is the only reasonable plan. Need areas where dogs have access to river.
- Need access to river banks – happy place to sit and watch river flow by!
- I can live with option 3, because we can "all" gain access to river access – we can co-exist with dog owners and those who don't have a dog.

#### *Erosion and trails:*

- City says erosion alongside riverbanks is caused by offleash...though has the city done studies on police and fire department. Boats going up and down the river over the past couple years?
- The trail erosion is from bikes (literal grooves).

#### *Maintenance:*

- Please put in more garbage cans (some were even removed by the City!!) as far more people will pick up after their dogs. Second person: Yes pls!!!
- Please put some lights at the fenced dog park and parking lot. It gets so dark and scary in evening.
- Please more garbage cans inside OLAs = less poop.
- No matter the option there needs to be more garbages near and around the area. Especially the east end of the fenced in offleash area. Second person: Yes, pls.
- Fournier area ponds: Save are from beavers!
- Offleash walkers are doing more to clean up and repair the damage done there than any city group has ever done. You spent (I assume) gross amounts of \$ planting trees and putting in pathways etc. This was then ripped up again when the new stormwater ponds went in. Then further damage was of course caused by the flood. Mother Nature (Beavers, erosion, floods) is doing far more damage than offleash dogs will ever do. As offleash walkers, we clean up garbage, cut trees down that have fallen across the pathways (flood) and enjoy pathways that have been cut into the land for many years. We clean up glass from parties. For some reason we are constantly being blamed for the DAMAGE we do. Please please contact me so I might know what exactly this damage is TERRI 403 813 1585.
- Channel between Bowness islands: Rocks. Clear the rocks and get river water flowing into channel again.
- Rehabilitate the Former Klippert gravel operations. Second person: Yes, please!!

#### *Fencing:*

- Golf course needs new fence- broken storage junk piles.
- Still would be better with a fence and one way gate system like Southland OLA to mitigate user conflict.

#### *User Conflict:*

- Let's not forget the destructiveness of other park users like 1. Mountain bikers (eroding and causing ruts) 2. Animals.
- Destructive cyclists cause ruts in pathways.
- Nature uses the same trails as we do i.e. coyotes.
- Area south of fenced OLA: people camp here.
- No one seems to talk about ALL the rafters who leave their garbage on the river banks and we dog people pick their stuff up. The bikers tear up the trails as well. It's healthy to have a dog.
- But there should be some areas that are off limits to cyclists.

#### *General:*

- I think it's important to protect the river areas and have designated OLA near rivers but the rest of the hills and areas should be OLA.
- Put some landmarks and street names for a frame of reference. It is very difficult to figure maps out.
- Reminder seasonal use – cyclists and fair weather walker/dog walkers, only die hards are out.
- Restricted bird area: not sensitive anymore
- Area south of fenced OLA: not really that sensitive anymore due to flood.
- Area south of fenced OLA: This area is no longer usable due to flood damage.

- Bowness island areas: These areas need to be reevaluated post 2013 flood. The landscape is not what it was in 2009 at the conclusion of the last study.

## **PARKING LOT: general and out-of-scope comments**

### *River access:*

- Please have dog access to the river!!
- Have the river flowthrough area (west side under walking bridge) cleaned out and elevation lowered so water can go through since the flood. Second person: Yes, please!!! Third person: YES.
- Need offleash river access for dogs. Second person: hear hear!

### *Fencing:*

- Golf course needs to build a new fence and change their irrigation of water from the gully in BNR. Stop storage and junk along the current broken fence.
- Please no fencing along ridge similar to one above Sandy Park – butt ugly! Second person: I agree!
- Individual A: 2) Fencing is expensive and useless. People ignore the fences because the parks department ignored the people.
- Individual A: 3) People memorialized their loved ones with benches, don't put fences in front of them.

### *Maintenance:*

- Why are you shredding the caregnas in the park? They will regrow anyway.
- Weed killer chemicals – how long does the chemical last? Lots of: Canadian Thistle, Yellow clematis – noxious weed, Black knot.
- Icing on steep downhill East end of park (where there is a sign). Always ice here please put culvert.
- Anything being done about the beaver problem?
- It would be great to have a light at the main parking lot of the offleash area, especially for winter when the time changes.
- Composting program for pets (The Compostgarden.com) as used in the States.
- Beaver damage along river banks.
- Individual A: 7) Remove all 4X4 post from park. Clean up your junk throughout the park. Vehicle tracks past much longer than human trails.
- With increased use of this area by people in vehicles, there will be a challenge to regulate and maintain what is already an area that is abused – fence violations, graffiti, breakdown of pathways, and trees that are damaged and removed. NO VEHICLES.
- Individual A: Beavers destroy the trees along the river and ponds leading to erosion. Bring in a good trapper and relocate or make some good *lots*.
- Individual A: 4) Park officials put up a water dam in a very dangerous place. The dam was a significant safety risk, and quickly removed.

### *Erosion and trails:*

- Soil erosion close SS golf course on trails is clearly from bikes not dogs and walkers.
- No paved paths in natural areas.
- Cyclists create a lot of deep grooves in the terrain when it is wet (muddy).
- No open house discussions re cyclists who can go wherever they want and damages occur because they love mud!
- Gravel path on steep grade up to Varsity has deep ruts that rain keeps making bigger! Please pave so I can ride my bike back up to Varsity. I am 60 on a pleasure bike, not a mountain biker. Same from the church up near home road – please pave switchback trail so I can ride up at that end. Thanks.
- The path down to the river at the end of 40<sup>th</sup> needs to be regarded. The runoff has caused massive ruts. They need to put in more S curves or switchbacks to solve this. The grade is too steep.

- There need s to be OLA with paved pathways – inspiring the paths in the OLA are so muddy that it is impossible to walk on the paths in the OLA without pounds of mud sticking to your boots. This is very damaging to pathways.

#### *User Conflict:*

- Been mowed down by speeding cyclists because I didn't hear them from behind.
- Cyclists should set off bikes if encountering pedestrians and dog walkers on pathways. Not the other way around!
- To mitigate conflicts between cyclists and pedestrians on pathways, establish separate lanes for each ala the river pathway or as Vancouver does in Stanley )Park. With plenty of room along this parkway, this should be visible.
- Trail bikers are a safety concern to walker/joggers. Second person: agree. Third person: we endorse this!! Can be very unsafe to walkers at times!
- Speed of bikers on paths is dangerous. Second person: I agree!! Third person: agree. Fourth person: Agree + no use of bells!
- Bikes on ridge (not bike trail) go too fast. Should be on bike path and slow down.
- Need to start ticketing speeding bikes! Second person: hear! Hear!
- Need to start ticketing dog owners on pathway with unleashed dogs!
- Hard to contact anyone when violations happen. Motorcycles and quads this year along by SS golf course have done major damage. Was left on hold with 311 and police too late to even try and catch them.
- Please consider "off-bike" areas. They create damages and conflicts. Why should they have access to the entire park!!!
- Citizens want also to be treated with dignity and respect. My experience is that I want more onleash/no dogs area without being bullied away from City Employees and dog owner. This is not about love for dogs offleash its all about money.
- An excellent way to mitigate user conflict would be to implement a fence and one-way self-closing gate system to connect segmented OLA sections in a more contiguous by safe fashion, exactly like the highly successful Southland off-leash area.
- Individual A: 5) Wildlife – this is a box canyon for wildlife, encouraging deer brings in ticks (Lyme disease), cougars.
- Individual A: 6) Since we now have bike paths on roadways, make cycling in parks, slow and causal 5-10km. Allow people to walk dogs and children, freely on pathways with no onleash rules.

#### *Signage:*

- Please keep in mind the Park is called Bowmont Natural Environment Park...stop putting up with all these UGLY sign posts AND "viewing" platforms. Keep it NATURAL!! Second person: Here, here!
- Keep Bowmont "Natural" no more signs!
- Need signage for onleash areas – some dog owners are very rude, if reminded that their dog should be on leash.

#### *Ongoing development plans:*

- Keep, 199R green! No FUD.
- Beware the next big flood! Your "boardwalk artificial wetland" area will be destroyed. How much money is all that costing the taxpayers?! Second person: Agree!
- What is being done to rezone the "future development area" to "park"
- We need to be more informed about the rezoning of FUD and have a say in its rezoning, just or don't rezone it! Would like to see a land swap FUD for some green space in SS for Seniors Housing (OK with keeping it natural but need to make a trade).

*Offleash:*

- Please consider a seasonal approach more offleash in the winter.
- The playground on Silversprings Drive –should be leashed.
- If we cannot define and control offleash (and we have not). And if we cannot or will not police and enforce limits and behavior (and we have not) then do not have offleash dog areas.
- Individual A: 1) Make the park all offleash – long walk's are healthy for all.

*Conservation:*

- Education has not worked. Wildlife habitat has first consideration.
- Leave Critical Mass Area for wildlife – especially ground nesters. Therefore some areas, including river edge, where there will be no dogs. Some areas with only seasonal onleash (not in mating 'nesting' and brood months).

*General:*

- People are spoiled, they want everything, but then the Taxes go up because of it then they complain like hell.

