

## **MEMORIAL DRIVE THE LANDSCAPE OF MEMORY**

### **3.0 DESIGN DEVELOPMENT PLAN SUMMARY**

The public response to the Design Development Plan and the plan process has been very positive. The results of the work program confirm the Vision Statement and affirm the values Calgarians place on the Memorial Drive corridor. Calgarians have shown great support for the overall project objectives to protect and enhance the legacy and future character of Memorial Drive.

An analysis of the results begins to characterize the nature of development Calgarians envision will further the project objectives. The report and analysis provide many ideas for specific design responses and a development plan to guide the future decisions, planning and detailed design of those responses.

The analysis includes a review and summary of the following:

- Participant Comments – Support for Design Development Plan
- Drawing Ratings – Preference and Consensus Building
- Participation Overview - Common Landscape Patterns Observed

### **3.1 Participant Comments**

Design team members compiled comment sheets filled out by open house and workshop participants, e-mail comments and verbal comments (Appendix D). The following statements are based on a general overview and the presence of repetitive themes. Most participant comments focused on potential or perceived issues and functional parameters for the future enhancement of Memorial Drive Corridor rather than the design details.

#### **GENERAL COMMENTS**

- most comments reflected that participants were satisfied with the direction the project
- some participants advocated the need to integrate the Colonel Belcher Care Centre more closely into the project;
- the need for environmental and ecological stewardship; maintenance and enhancement of natural areas and habitat was supported as part of the project ambiance; potential technical issues were raised relating to bank stability and erosion and noise pollution;
- need to address social issues such as homelessness, vandalism and graffiti;
- participants advocated that issues such as transportation, parking, land use and density need to be integral to plans.
- long-term project funding to make the project sustainable into the future;
- maintenance and operations are important to the success of the project;
- keep it simple and uncluttered.

AMENITIES - observations and comments related to features & elements desired within the corridor to support or enhance its use (benches, lighting, signage) and the comments supported the inclusion of some public facilities (washroom, concession).

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CONTINUITY - observations and comments related to how the corridor can achieve a cohesive and continuous sequence of public open spaces and activities; median and boulevard tree planting were seen as important elements of continuity, as well as mitigating car oriented environment.

ACCESSIBILITY - observations and comments related to defining a landscape that is safe, publicly accessible and supportive of a wide variety of recreational and commuter uses; participant comments particularly supported wheelchair access to river pathway connection to Edworthy Park, and safe crossings across Memorial Drive.

LEGIBILITY - observations and comments related to achieving a strongly unified, continuous, and recognizable sense of place and sense of identity, commemoration, trees and “green” were common design themes.

LEGACY - observations and comments related to the provision of opportunities for commemoration that respects the memory and legacy of Calgarians who fought for freedom.

### 3.2 Drawing Ratings

Stakeholder drawings were rated during the Stakeholder Workshop and at the Public Open House. There were a total of 53 features from the drawings that participants were asked to rate. A total of 1523 ratings were documented. The category for rating each feature was:

- Column A- I love it! Go for it!
- Column B – Needs More Designing
- Column C – Belongs Elsewhere

The drawing rating exercise helped to determine areas of consensus for the development of specific features for the project. Results were compiled and analyzed (Appendix E) to identify ideas that are popular as well as ideas considered inappropriate for Memorial Drive.

A summary of the analysis, combining ratings from all participants, shows strong support for all the ideas depicted in the drawings (66% of the ratings approved ideas as drawn and 84% of the ratings approved the ideas). Ratings corresponding to elements addressing Legacy and Legibility received a slightly higher total percentage of approval.

#### Ideas considered popular based on the analysis are:

	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
Safety measures between bikes and people	30	6	-
Opportunities for lighting	30	6	-
Commemoration of all branches of the services	24	1	-
**Monument is main cenotaph- a signature element	25	-	-
Visible from a distance	14	7	-
Clear visibility through the space for security	14	8	-
Clear, prominent message of why Memorial Drive exists	22	5	-

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It is interesting to note from these popular ideas that “Safety measures between bikes and people” has the second highest number of ratings in column A (30) next to “Seating bays along pathways” (31). “Monument is main cenotaph” was the only feature out of the 53 rated that the rating indicated 100% support for the idea as drawn.\*\*

**Ideas considered most strongly supported based on the analysis are:**

	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
Seating ‘bay’ along pathway	31	3	1
Marker- location, community, history, context	29	4	1
Controlled crossing	29	1	1
Continuity of tree planting program (over time)	27	3	1
Ground-level lighting, wall-mounted (in stone walls), & pole-mounted throughout the corridor	27	2	2
Trees canopy road either side of glade	27	1	2
North-south continuity strengthened by pedestrian connections	26	2	2
Pedestrian bridges act as commemorative elements	23	4	2
Fountain is commemorative	15	12	2

A combined column A and B rating greater than 26, and no more than 2 ratings in column C determined the above elements.

**Ideas considered inappropriate for the project based on the analysis are:**

	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
Water taxi	6	3	18
Natural fishing spots	9	6	15
Water play	12	6	14

Based on the analysis the general consensus provides support for safety, lighting, seating, trees, pedestrian connections and commemoration (message, cenotaph, markers, bridge and fountain). It should be noted that when considering development of the popular ideas rated by the participants, important design comments accompanied each of the drawings.

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## 3.3 Participation Overview

The responses of participants in Phase II, in written words, dialogue, and images were many and varied. The design team observed a number of recurring patterns. A 'pattern' is understood as a timeless and universal template for solving a particular design problem that is not tied to any specific location or circumstance. The pattern relies on the specific circumstances of the local environment, and its relationship to other interacting patterns to make it unique to that place.

### 3.3.1 Pattern - The Trees of Memorial Drive

Ensure that trees maintain an important role in the landscape of Memorial Drive. Aside from their aesthetic function, trees are essential in connecting people to nature and natural cycles, seasonal rhythms, and microclimate enhancement.

#### Principles Addressed

Continuity, Legacy

#### Possible Design Responses

- Native species are easier to establish, require less maintenance, are more drought and pest-resistant, and hardier with respect to climatic conditions.
- Select trees and their location to enhance the microclimate, and act as passive means of climate control.
- Find means to utilize trees to continue the original intent of the Memorial Drive legacy. As a memorial, the regeneration of the existing trees and continued planting of new trees represents the animation of life, growth and spiritual renewal.
- Trees can define spaces (in bosque, grove, or allée form), as well as visually reinforce edges of roads
- The selection of tree species can be used to establish certain places as unique.
- Consider the life-cycle of trees and interplanting of newer trees with more mature trees.
- Coordinate Memorial Drive planting program with Calgary's overall urban forestry strategy (e.g. avoid monocultures of tree species)
- The use of native plant materials provides a unique local reference, and assures that plants are tolerant to local climatic conditions.

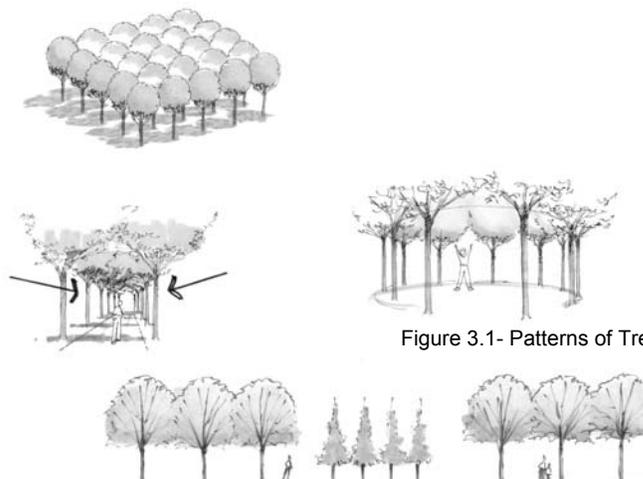


Figure 3.1- Patterns of Trees in the Landscape

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### **3.3.2 Pattern - Pedestrian-Friendly Environment**

Environments are most valued where pedestrians are separated from, or have precedence over vehicles. Ensure that pedestrian patterns of movement are accommodated throughout the length of the corridor with universal access, safety, & pedestrian amenities.

#### **Principles Addressed**

Accessibility, Continuity

#### **Possible Design Responses**

- Make the distinction between public streets and pedestrian- related open space clear enough that it can be read by motorists and pedestrians.
- Mix vehicles and pedestrians on a strictly controlled basis (for example, controlled or signalized pedestrian crossings, grade separations).
- Recognize that much activity occurs at the point where pedestrians and cars meet, strive to make that interface as safe as possible
- Consider the motorist visibility of pedestrian crossings as essential, and where possible, provide pedestrian refuges on centre median of road
- Ensure that there are safe, direct, unambiguous hard-surfaced pedestrian routes throughout the corridor.
- To the greatest extent possible, separate foot traffic from wheeled pedestrian traffic; provide clear identification of pathway function by using different surfaces, signage, width, etc.
- Provide a clear definition of pathway edges; use smooth, even paving surfaces; curb cuts should be provided where pathways connect with hard-surfaced areas.
- Provide a variety of places to stop and rest along routes, even between established nodes.
- Pedestrian rest areas are also fitted with pedestrian amenities like trash receptacles, bicycle racks, drinking fountains.

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- Provide even, continuous lighting along pathways. Align lighting and pathways so that it is possible to see a considerable distance ahead; avoid dense shrubs close to pathways.
- Select fixtures that are vandal-resistant, and that coordinate with the materials and design intent of other landscape elements (furnishings, signage).
- The corridor may be accessed at key points by clear, direct connections to local public transit (bus and LRT)

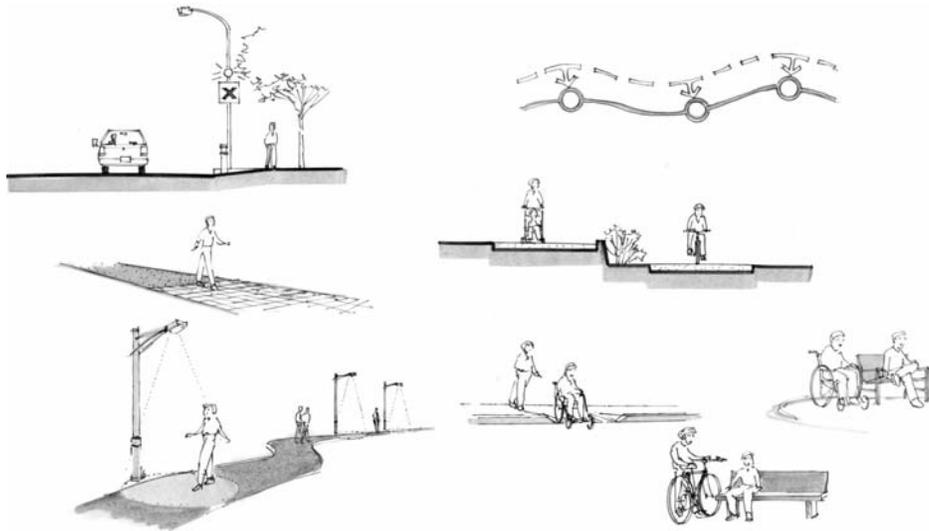


Figure 3.2- Patterns of pedestrian - friendly environment

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### 3.3.3 Pattern - Establish a Distinct Identity for the Memorial Drive Corridor

Memorial Drive is valued as a distinct urban landscape within the City of Calgary, and has a unique sense of place that needs to be reinforced.

#### Principles Addressed

Legibility, Continuity

#### Possible Design Responses

- Establish a single name for the entire length of the corridor, and all signage should reflect this name.
- Employ consistency in roadway speed throughout the corridor to further reinforce a continuous identity.
- Employ a consistent palette of materials, colours, and forms in the landscape
- Ensure a consistent vocabulary in signage, lighting fixtures, paving materials and landscape furnishings throughout the corridor.
- Establish a sense of 'portal' or 'gateway' at both the East and West access to the corridor, which should identify to both vehicular and pedestrian traffic that they are entering a unique area, marking the corridor as an identifiable precinct
- Establish similar, but smaller scale, portals at key routes which enter the corridor from perpendicular routes.

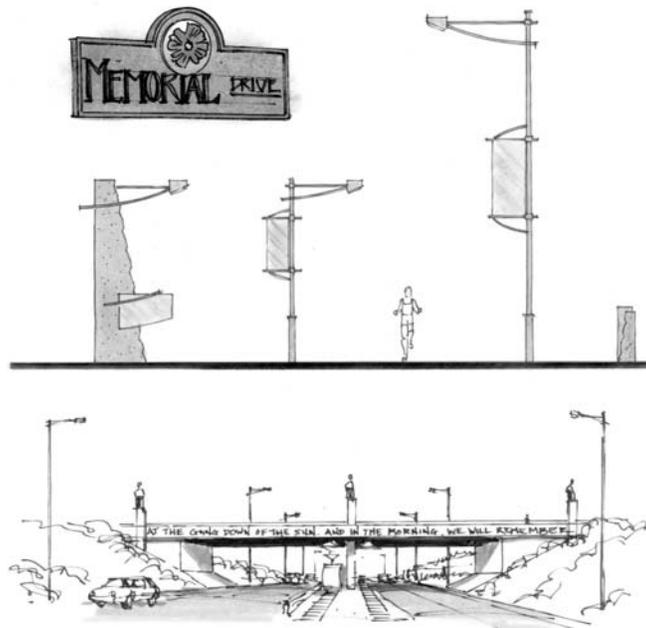


Figure 3.3- Patterns of Identity

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### 3.3.4 Pattern - Establish a High Quality of Landscape Development for the Memorial Drive Corridor

The nature of the Corridor as incorporating sacred spaces means that the public feels it deserves a high level of care and attention in its design and maintenance.

High quality landscaping and site layout contribute highly to public satisfaction in this regard.

#### Principles Addressed

Legibility, Continuity, Legacy

#### Possible Design Responses

- Invest considerable design time in site and detail design.
- Allow for the future resources required to care for and maintain the landscape. (consider its lifecycle.)
- Employ a palette of materials that is both durable and has a sense of permanency befitting a commemorative landscape.
- Ensure that materials, forms, and fixtures used throughout the corridor are consistent and appropriate for a commemorative landscape.

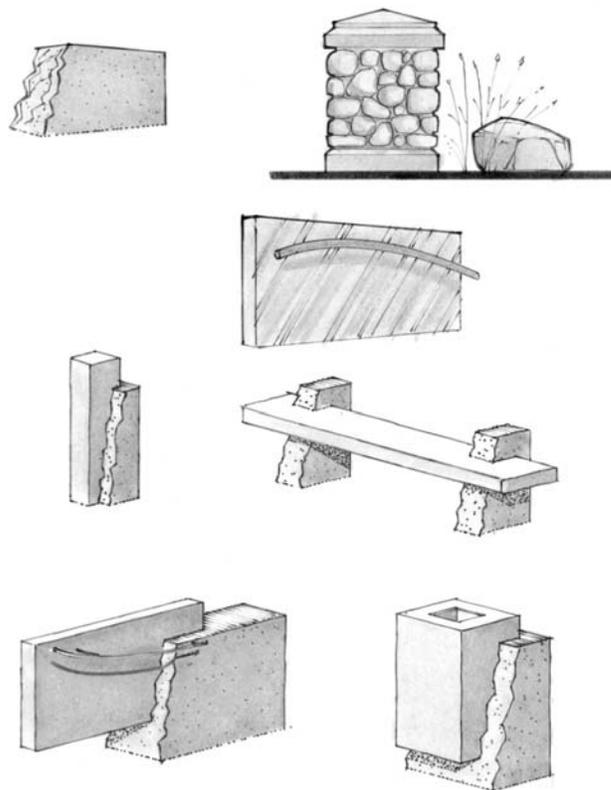


Figure 3.4- Patterns of Landscape Development

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### 3.3.5 Pattern - Degree of Visual Interest and Complexity

The Corridor has a complex set of roles within the urban fabric: a historical role; a recreational role; a transportation role; a cultural role.

#### Principles Addressed

Legibility, Continuity, Legacy

#### Possible Design Responses

- Employ visual variety in height, colour, road setback, shape and size within a recognizable whole. For example, use very tall features to mark major nodes.
- Break down the overall length of the corridor into smaller units, ideally recognizing the various character areas that comprise Memorial Drive.
- Establish a visual rhythm to elements along the corridor (for example, the rhythm of light fixtures, the placement of major and minor nodes).
- Use imaginative landscape materials, forms, signage and fixtures throughout the corridor to reflect the various roles that Memorial Drive plays in the urban fabric

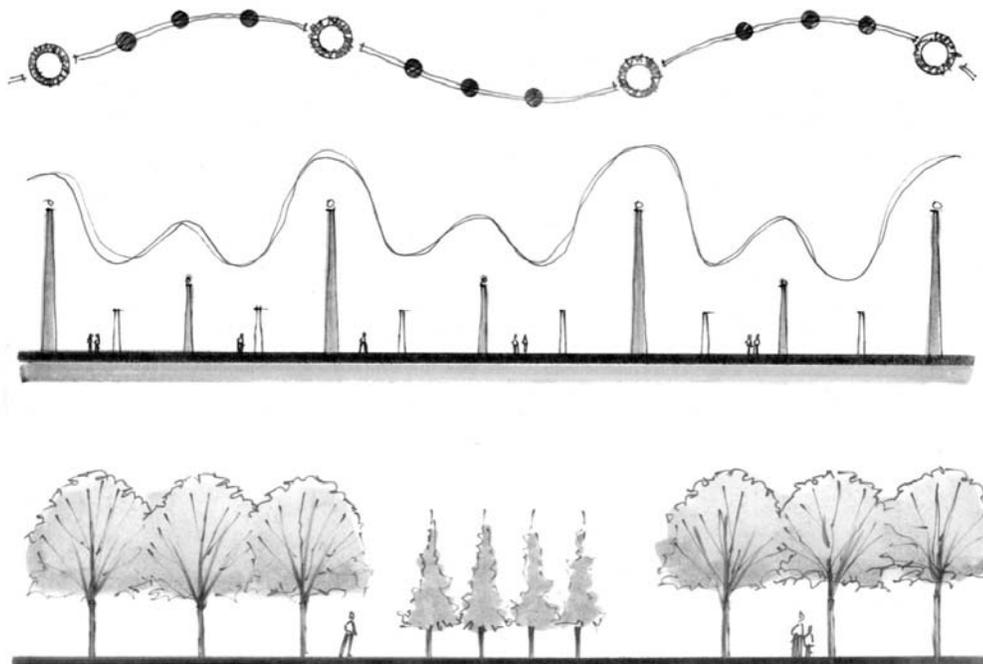


Figure 3.5- Patterns of Visual Interest

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### 3.3.6 Pattern - Palette of Materials that is Consistent and Appropriate for the Memorial Drive Corridor

The nature of the Corridor as incorporating sacred spaces means that the public feels it deserves a high level of care and attention in its design and maintenance.

#### Principles Addressed

Legibility, Continuity, Legacy

#### Possible Design Responses

- Avoid materials that are either too institutional, or too residential in character.
- Consider the durability and longevity of materials in order to support high levels of use.
- The palette of materials should include materials that have some local or indigenous reference (e.g. sandstone, river rock)
- Where possible, use standard components to allow for repair/replacement as required.
- Consider local sources of landscape materials where possible, and consider minimizing the energy investment in their fabrication, transportation, installation and operation.
- Ensure that materials used throughout the corridor are consistent and appropriate for a commemorative landscape.
- Employ light and light fixtures as part of the palette of materials.

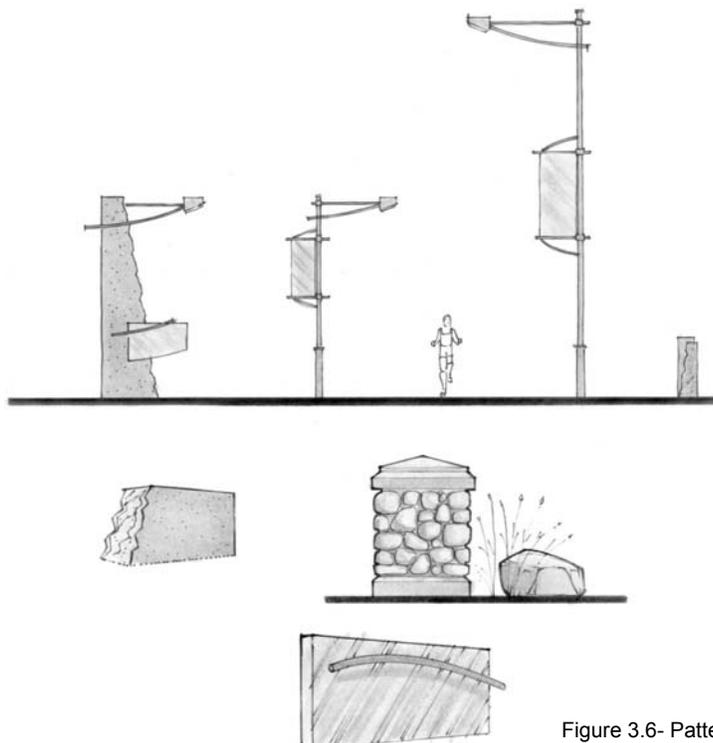


Figure 3.6- Patterns of Material Palette

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## 3.3.7 Pattern - Establish Consistency in Roadway Treatment

The design of roadways should support the goals of the open spaces, that is, to enhance accessibility to the corridor, provide safety for pedestrians and motorists alike, establish a consistent and unique visual identity for the corridor.

### Principles Addressed

Legibility, Continuity

### Possible Design Responses

- Locate and design buffer landscaping so that it does not inhibit either functional or visual access to roadways from neighbouring residential and commercial uses.
- Roadway treatments should support means of safe crossing for pedestrians.
- Employ a consistent and durable palette of materials in surfacing, curbs, lighting, signage, and pageantry.
- Ensure that materials, forms, and fixtures used along Memorial Drive are consistent and appropriate for a commemorative landscape.
- Enforce a consistent roadway speed limit throughout the corridor to further reinforce a continuous identity.
- Establish a single name for the entire length of the corridor, and all signage should reflect this name.

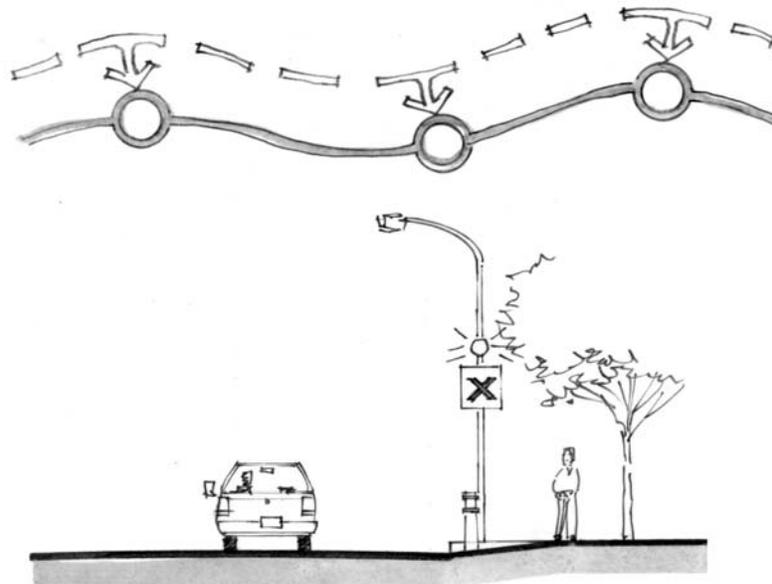


Figure 3.7- Patterns of Consistent Roadway Treatment

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### 3.3.8 Pattern - The Open Spaces of the Memorial Drive Corridor are Fully Accessible to all Calgarians

The design of all aspects of the open spaces shall support maximum use for all Calgarians, regardless of age or ability.

#### Principles Addressed

Accessibility, Continuity

#### Possible Design Responses

- Site entries accessible to disabled persons shall be easily identified and clearly marked with signs, maps, or other orientation devices.
- Provide tactile and audio cues to orientation where possible to assist the visually and auditory-impaired.
- Provide level (2% max. grade), well-lit, and clearly designated parking spaces for disabled persons at key access locations to the Memorial Drive open space system.
- Integrate ramps into the design of pathways used by both the able-bodied and disabled alike. Observe established maximum gradients of 8%. The area extending from the top and bottom of a ramp should be clear and level for a distance of 1800mm. Such clear areas shall also be provided at least every 9.0m along ramps greater than this distance.
- Provide frequent rest areas along pathways (which might also incorporate interpretive elements).
- Pathways, crosswalks, and rest area surface treatments shall be free-draining to remain relatively water and ice-free. Pathways shall be surfaced with firm, even-textured, non-slip materials.
- Provide pathway lighting, and ensure that there are no steps along the length of any pathway.
- Overhanging trees near pathways shall be maintained at 2200mm above pathway to safeguard the visually impaired.

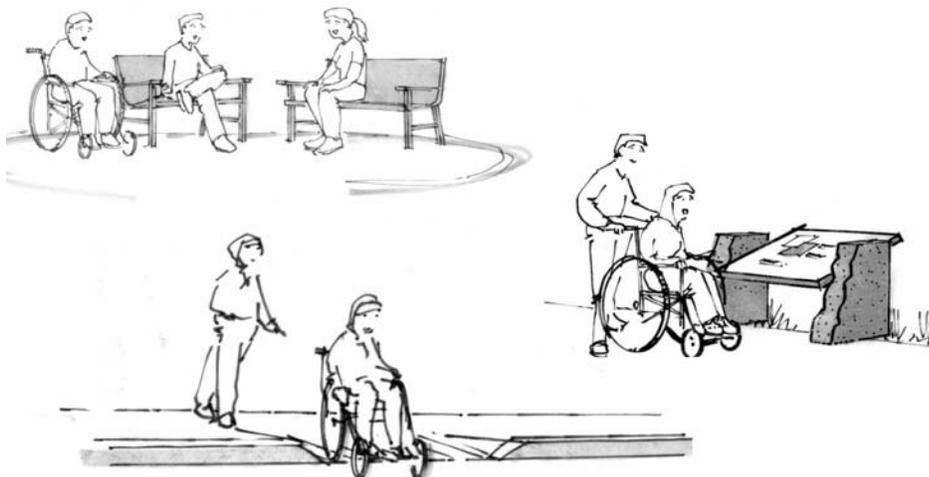


Figure 3.8- Patterns of Accessibility

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### 3.3.9 Pattern - Connected Series of Spaces and Experiences

The Memorial Drive corridor should offer a set of experiences that connects the various elements along the pathways and tells the various stories of war and sacrifice.

#### Principles Addressed

Legibility, Continuity, Legacy

#### Possible Design Responses

- Where possible, locate and design major and minor nodes in series, such that from one node, the next node is visible in the distance. This visible connection will draw visitors through the open spaces by setting a new goal to reach. The visible landmark of the succeeding node pulls people along the pathways to the next destination.
- The rhythm or interval of major & minor nodes should remain relatively consistent throughout the Memorial Drive corridor. Nodes are placed at natural points of interest such as significant views, heritage sites, significant pedestrian crossings, or open space opportunity.
- Unifying paving treatments, landscape furnishings, lighting, etc may enhance connections among nodes.
- Clear, themed signage (including pageantry) with a unified visual look will also assist in connecting spaces & experiences within the corridor.
- Artwork or sculptures with a common underlying interpretive message may also be used to thematically connect nodes.
- Nodes are built around a particular 'story' to be told in connection with war, remembrance, or commemoration, placed roughly in the centre of the node.
- Consistent use of trees and plant materials & species can also reinforce the connectivity of spaces.
- Help establish connections through time (temporal continuity) by the use of living materials, reinforcing seasonal variation of plant materials, as well as making visual connections to the river, and using historic/ natural/indigenous materials (like sandstone or river rock).

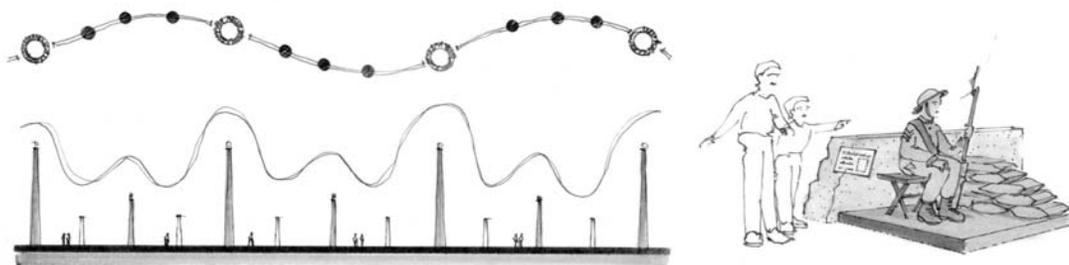


Figure 3.9- Patterns of Connected Spaces and Experiences

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### 3.3.10 Pattern - Children in the Landscape

Consider that the Memorial Drive corridor should offer children the possibility of participating in the landscape, and learning about war and its ramifications.

#### Principles Addressed

Accessibility, Continuity, Legacy

#### Possible Design Responses

- Ensure that as much of the landscape as possible is accessible to children.
- Protect children from any intrinsic dangers posed by the landscape (proximity to traffic, fast-moving water, heights). Remember that a place that is safe for children is safe for all.
- Choose finishes, materials, and plant that can withstand the play treatment of children and older youth.
- Offer opportunities for artwork or sculpture as a way to reach children with interpretive messages or historical stories.
- Children learn through play, therefore some of the interpretive messages may be conveyed in a fun, interactive way.
- Continue to involve children in the planning and design of the open spaces, and provide opportunities for them to help shape its future. Help them to shape their own memories of Memorial Drive so that the corridor remains relevant to future generations of Calgarians.
- Consider future programming that involves children (story-telling circles, public art projects, Remembrance Day activities, etc.)



Figure 3.10- Patterns of Children in the Landscape

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### 3.3.11 Pattern - Seating/Rest Node Development

#### Principles Addressed

Accessibility, Continuity, Legacy

#### Possible Design Responses

- Ensure that there are safe, direct, unambiguous hard-surfaced routes to access all seating/rest nodes.
- Provide a variety of places to stop and rest along routes, even between established nodes.

Outdoor sitting areas are best placed:

- overlooking established children's play areas;
- along pathway segments frequented by the elderly or disabled (every 60-90 m.);
- overlooking scenes of activity; in more tranquil, secluded locations;
- in locations to take advantage of significant views or natural features;
- in elevated locations with distant views;
- to take advantage of local microclimate (catch sun in winter, receive shade in summer, sheltered from wind).

Outdoor sitting areas:

- are designed in a variety of configurations to allow choice of group socialization or solitary seating;
- occur in a variety of backless and backed bench styles;
- have spaces for persons in wheelchairs to fit into a conversational seating arrangement;
- include steps, retaining walls, and planter edges as casual seating.
- consider the variety of textures, colours, and views visible from each seating location;
- are specified with nearby plant materials that will attract songbirds or butterflies; herbs or flowers with pleasant or evocative scents; exhibit seasonal changes (leaves, blossoms, fruit); or make distinctive sounds in the breeze (like aspen or poplar)
- ensure that some seating is placed up against a wall, berm, or area of denser shrub planting (people like to sit with their backs against something)
- Nodes are also interpretive opportunities to tell the many stories of war, remembrance, and commemoration.
- Pedestrian rest areas are also fitted with pedestrian amenities like trash receptacles, bicycle racks, public phones, and drinking fountains.

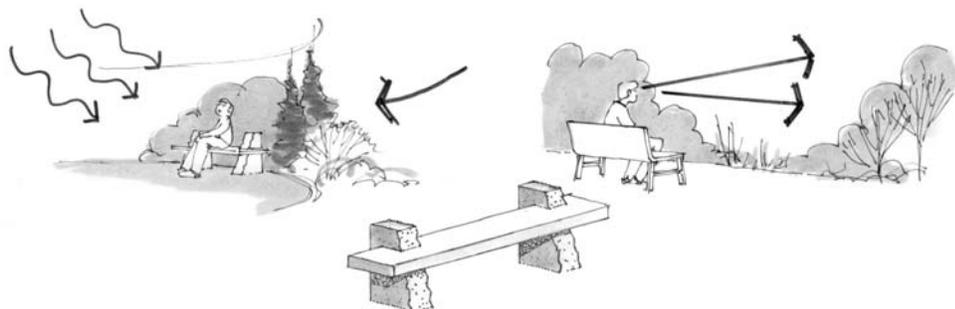


Figure 3.11- Patterns of Seating and Node Development