



# WELCOME

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

## STANLEY PARK REDEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



## Purpose of the event .....

- » RECAP on the background to the Stanley Park Redevelopment Initiative.
- » SHARE ideas on the future vision for the park.
- » GAIN INPUT on the draft design concepts and management strategies.
- » INFORM participants about the design process and how to get involved.



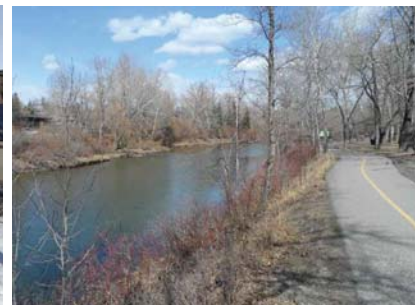
## Format of the event .....

A number of presentation panels have been prepared to explain the process for the Stanley Park Redevelopment Initiative. The consultants have also undertaken a preliminary assessment of Stanley Park as it stands today. These panels show some of the key issues affecting the park, including different uses and activities, natural areas, important views and pathways. Feedback from earlier consultation events has been summarized on the "What We Heard" panels. This has helped inform the preliminary vision and concepts for the future of the park. Staff from Stantec Consulting Ltd. and The City of Calgary will be on hand to answer any questions you have and to listen to your comments.



## Facilitators .....

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



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

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



# PROJECT CONTEXT

## Stanley Park Redevelopment Initiative

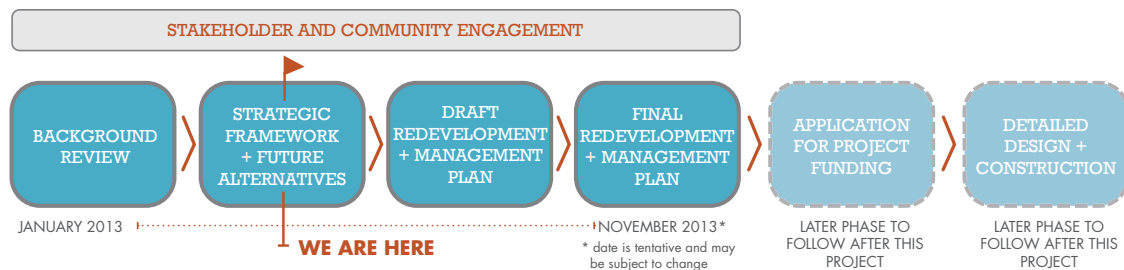
Stanley Park has become increasingly popular in recent years, resulting in greater demands placed on the park. The City of Calgary Parks is working towards a redevelopment plan for the park. This plan will take into consideration increasing numbers of park visitors, enhance park visitors' experience, boost the park's environmental health, and identify much needed lifecycle upgrades and replacements.

## Why Prepare the Plan?

Stanley Park is a popular multi-use park with a long history and a place in the hearts of the communities and users it serves. As visitor numbers increase, the evolving needs and desires for the park will be addressed by this plan. The goal is to ensure the park remains valuable for park users today and into the future. To do this, a comprehensive redevelopment plan is required to ensure all activities can be balanced in a sustainable way.

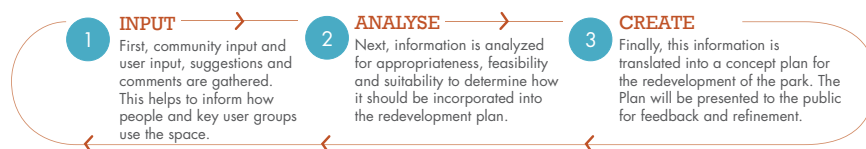
## What are the steps in the process?

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



## How it all works

Following the completion of the Final Design and Management Plan scheduled for November 2013, the plan will be used to request funding for future implementation. Detailed design development and construction phases would be undertaken if and when funding is obtained.









# STUDY AREA MAP





# HISTORICALEVOLUTION

## LEGEND

Existing Feature

New Feature



STANLEY PARK 1949



STANLEY PARK 1962



STANLEY PARK 1974



STANLEY PARK 1985

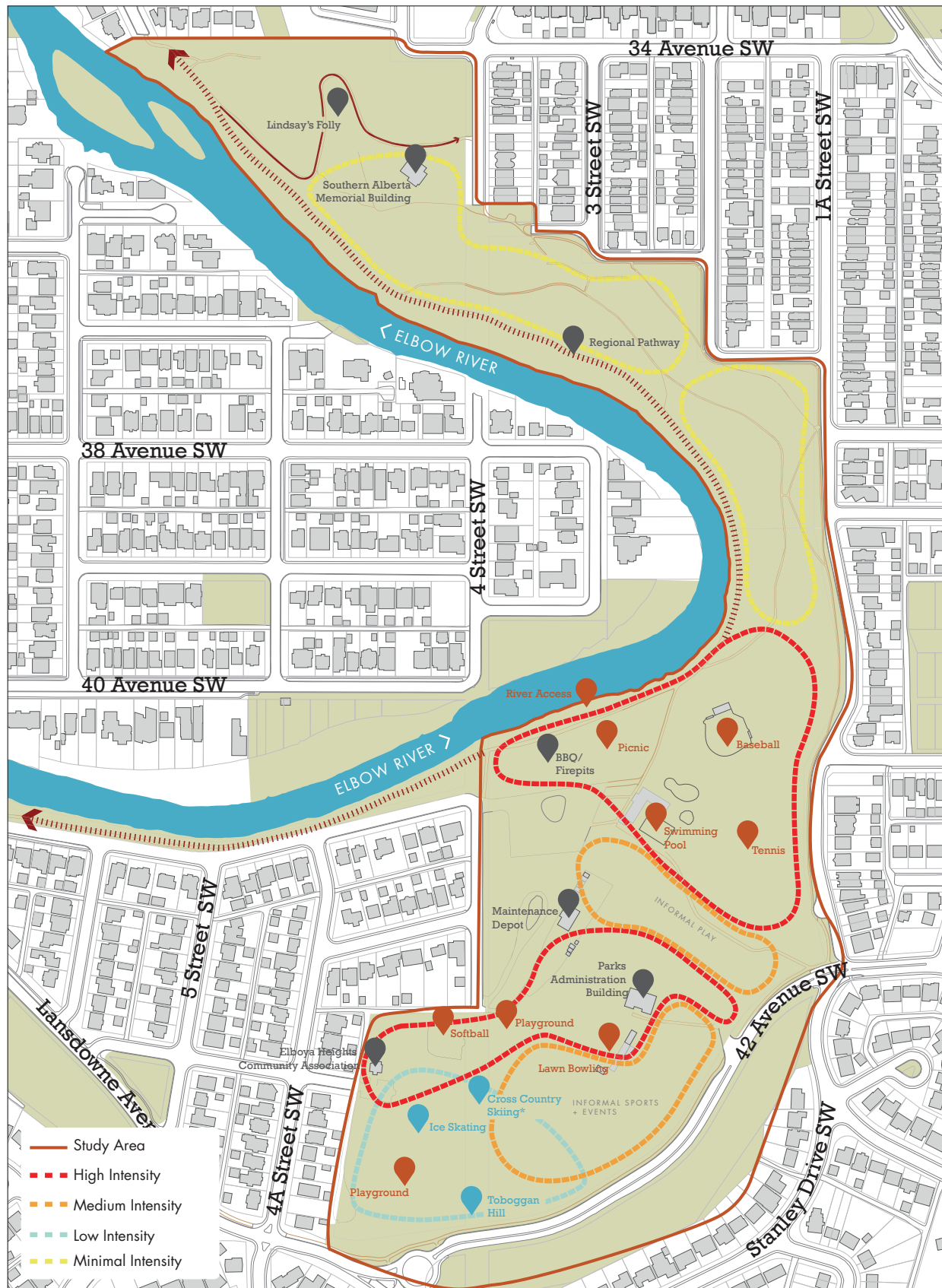


STANLEY PARK 1996



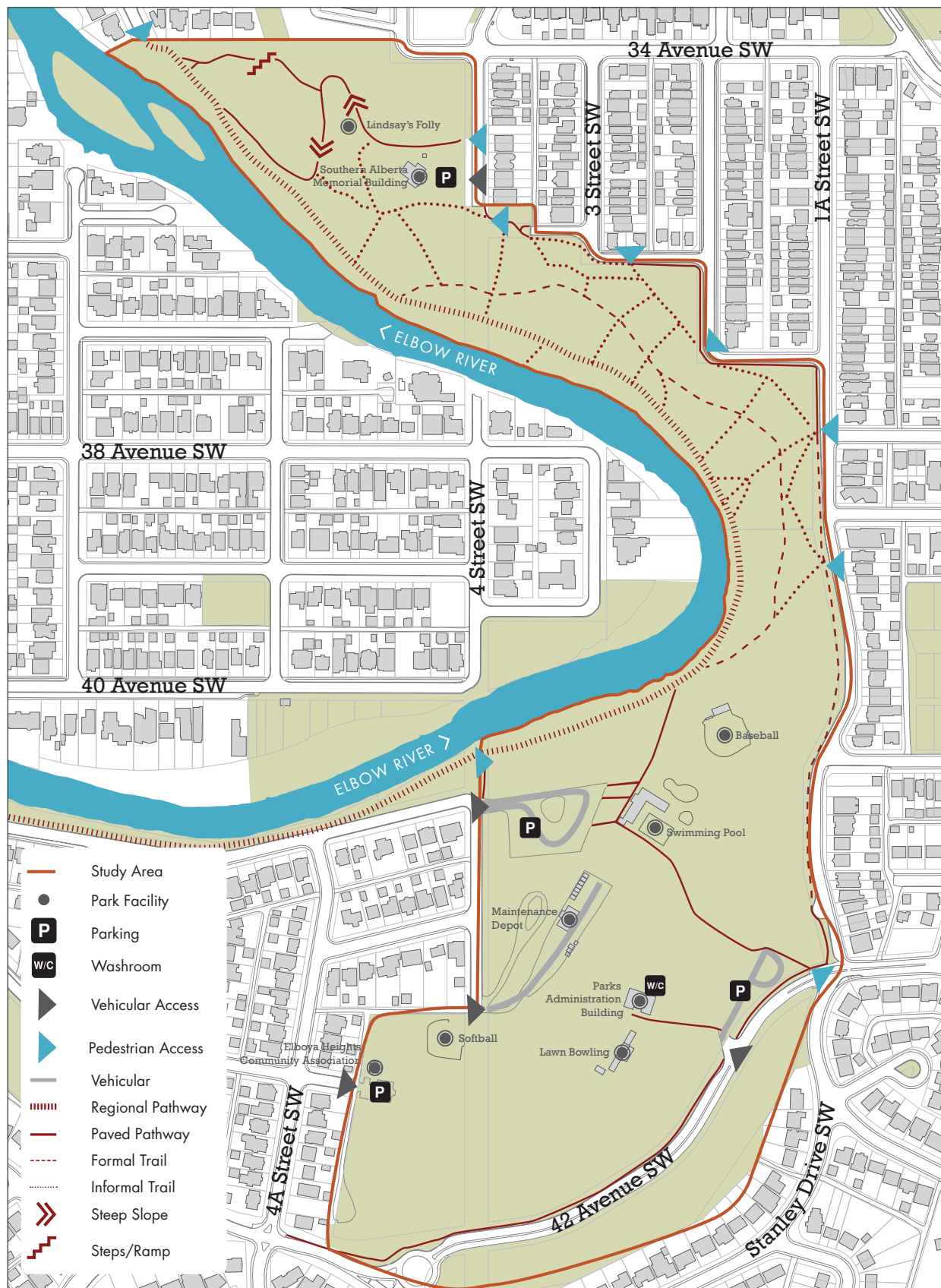
STANLEY PARK 2005

# ACTIVITIES AND USE INTENSITY



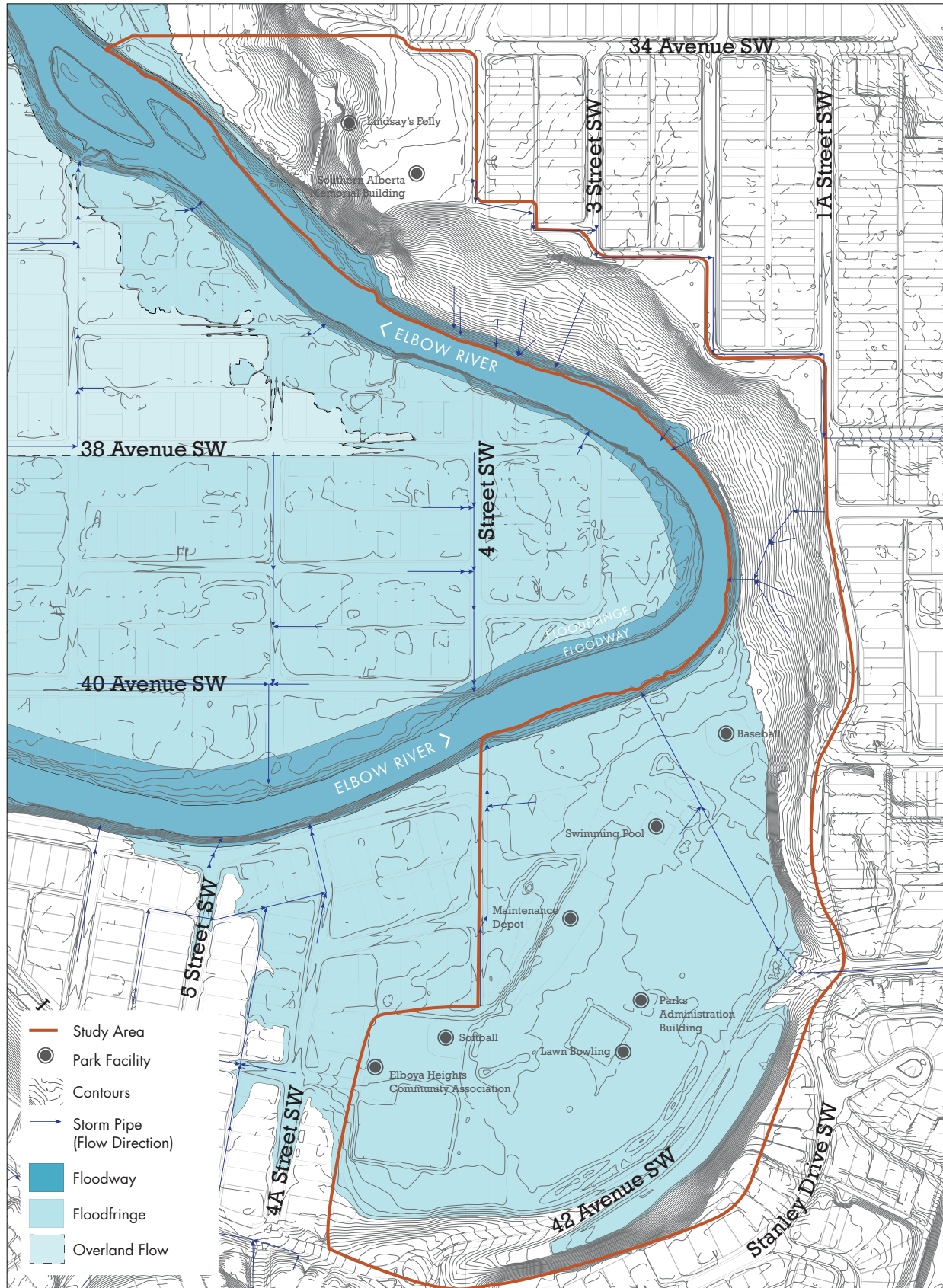


# EXISTINGCIRCULATION





# TOPOGRAPHY AND DRAINAGE

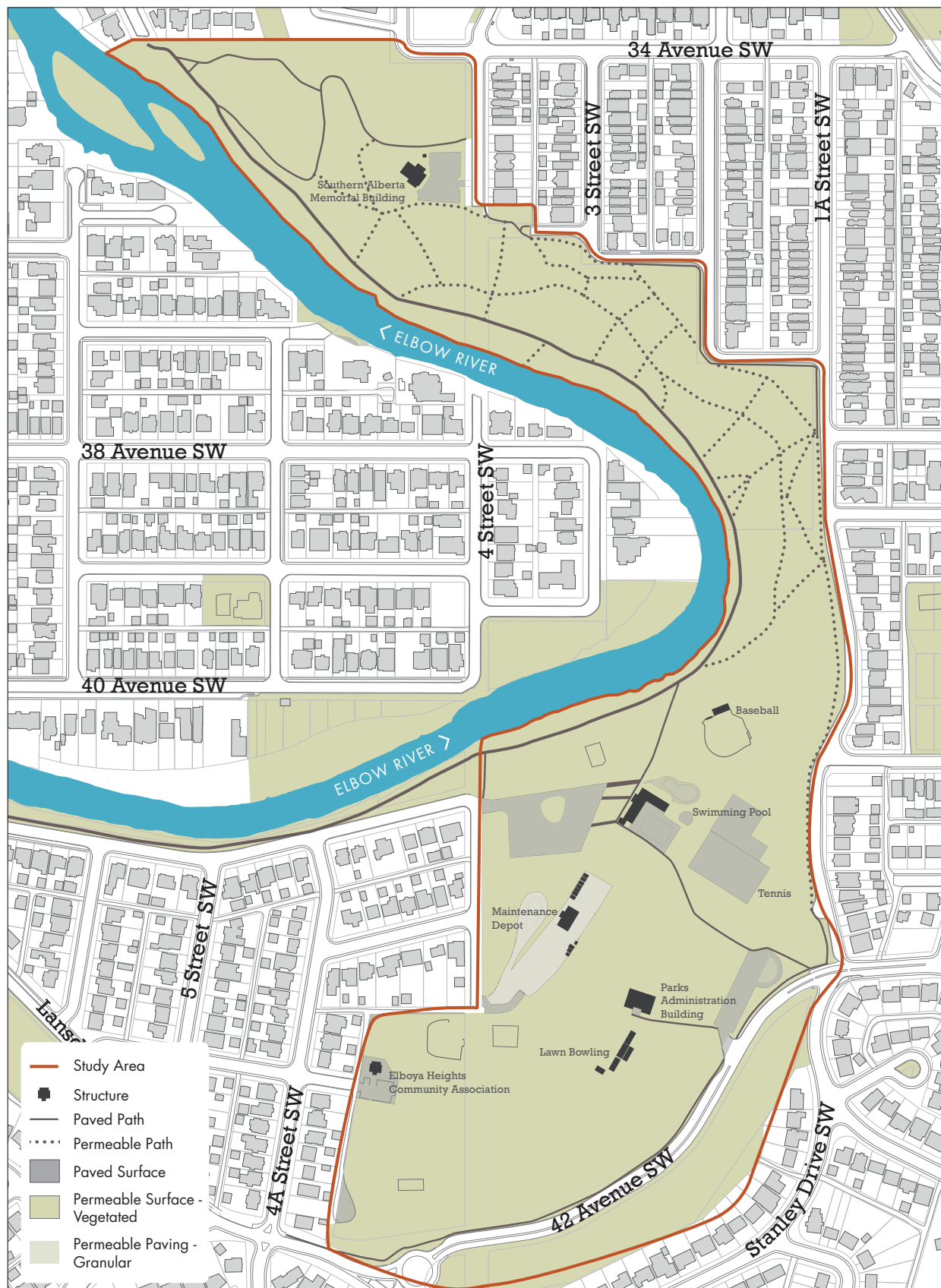


# EXISTING VIEWS AND MICROCLIMATE

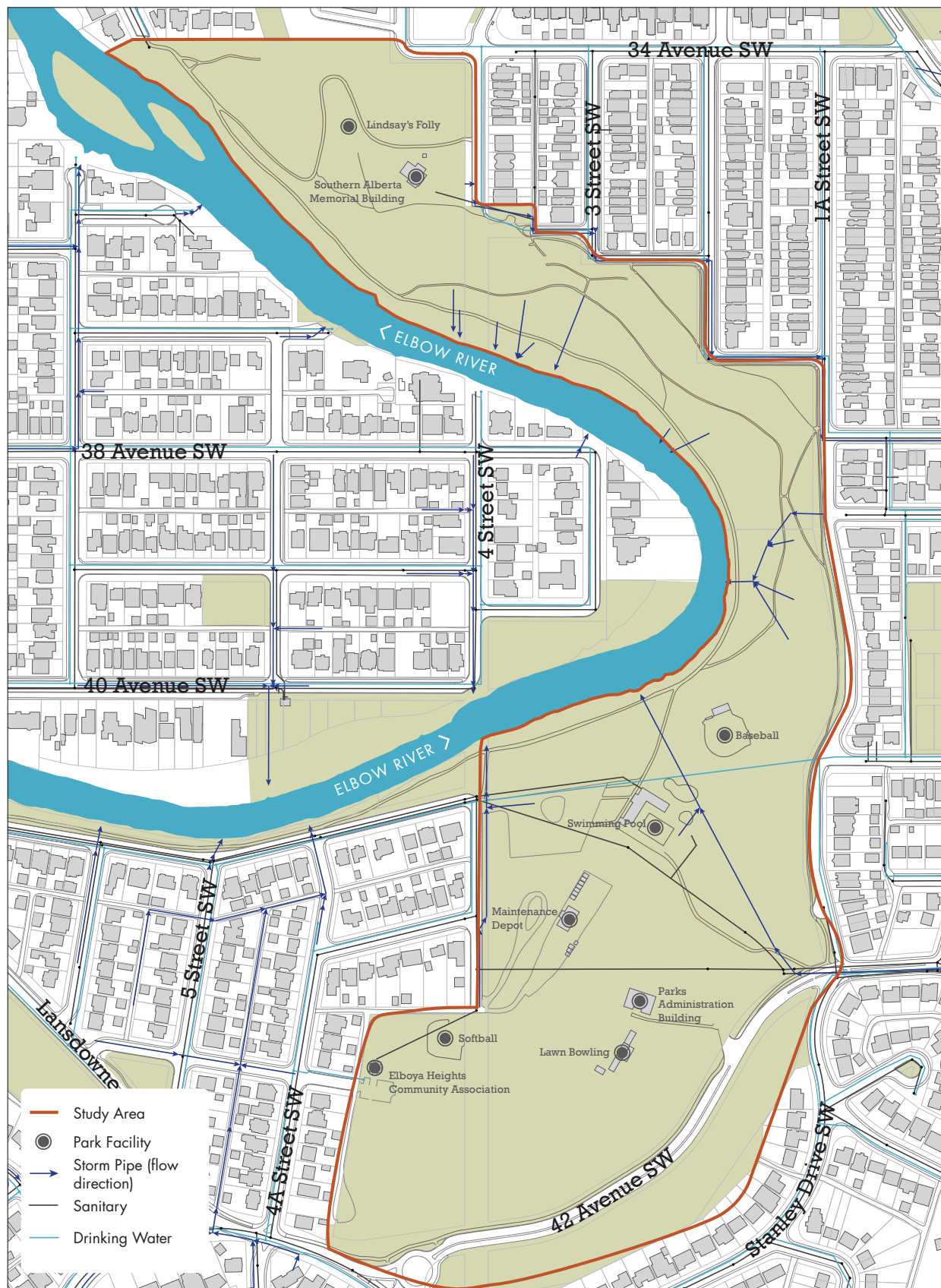




# EXISTING LAND COVER



# EXISTING UTILITIES





# VEGETATION AND SIGNIFICANT HABITAT



## MANICURED TURF

This vegetation community consists of maintained turf species, likely bluegrasses (*Poa* spp.) and fescues (*Festuca* spp.). This area is regularly mowed, and experiences consistent recreational use. Trees within these areas consist of shade trees, evergreens and ornamental species, which are either planted in beds, or in groupings which are mowed and trimmed around. These trees are also more heavily maintained than those occurring in natural areas, and may be pruned more frequently.

## RIPARIAN TALL SHRUB

Common species include:

- Dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*)
- Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*)
- River Birch (*Betula occidentalis*)
- Prickly Rose (*Rosa acicularis*)
- Willow (*Salix* spp.)
- Non-native and ornamental species
  - Smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*)
  - Coloneaster (*Coloneaster* spp.)
  - Honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp.)
  - Lilac (*Syringa* spp.)
  - Ash (*Fraxinus* spp.)

Notes:

This vegetation community occurs along the bank of the Elbow River. The bank is currently disturbed and supports many non-native and ornamental species. Areas along the bank have been previously armored with concrete slabs. Restoration of the bank with site specific erosion control measures, and native plant material is recommended.

## GRASSLAND

Common species include:

- Wolf Willow (*Elaeagnus commutata*)
- Saskatoon (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)
- Potentilla (*Potentilla fruticosa*)
- Buckbrush (*Symphoricarpos occidentalis*)
- Goldenrod (*Solidago* spp.)
- Asters (*Aster* spp.)
- Fescues (*Festuca* spp.)
- Non-native and ornamental species
  - Smooth Brome (*Bromus inermis*)
  - Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)
  - Kentucky Bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*)

Notes:

This vegetation community occurs in open areas along the ravine slopes. Both native and non-native species were noted. It appeared that some White Spruce planting had occurred along the upper portions of the slope. Smooth brome and Canada thistle control is recommended.

## WHITE SPRUCE FOREST

Common species include:

- White Spruce (*Picea glauca*)
- Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*)
- Prickly Rose (*Rosa acicularis*)
- Dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*)
- Saskatoon (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)
- Non-native species
  - Smooth Brome (*Bromus inermis*)
  - Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)

Notes:

This community occurs in a small pocket along the ravine within Stanley Park. Native and non-native species are found within this community.

## BALSAM POPLAR FOREST

Common species include:

- Balsam poplar (*Populus balsamifera*)
- River Birch (*Betula occidentalis*)
- Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*)
- Saskatoon (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)
- Prickly Rose (*Rosa acicularis*)
- Non-Native, Naturalized and ornamental species
  - Manitoba Maple (*Acer negundo*)
  - Honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp.)
  - Caragana (*Caragana arborescens*)
  - Sweet clover (*Melilotus* spp.)
  - Smooth Brome (*Bromus inermis*)

Notes:

Portions of this community occur in the maintained picnic areas, where understory species are composed of mowed and maintained grasses. Trees located within the maintained area are mature, and are in generally good condition. The large trees are important for providing shade for the picnic areas on adjacent regional pathway. Naturalized portions of this community are found along the ravine slopes within Stanley Park and contain native, non-native, naturalized and ornamental species. Ornamental and naturalized species likely resulted from seed carried by birds and animals from the adjacent residences.

## DISTURBED

## SIGNIFICANT HABITAT



# WHAT WE HEARD

Thanks for your feedback! .....

A number of consultation events and initiatives have been held since March 2013:

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



[Sounding board in the park]



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

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

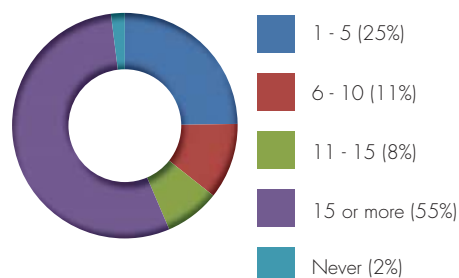
The early engagement focused on gaining an understanding of how people currently use the park, and what was preventing them from using it if they didn't already. The following charts provide a brief summary of some of the findings.

### Noted memorable features

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

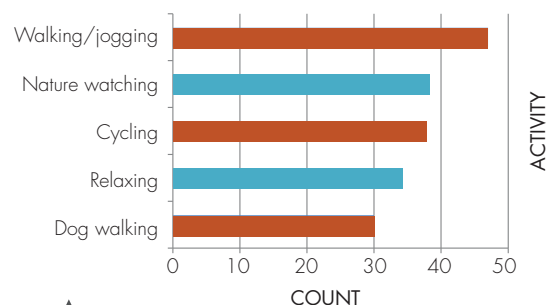
74% of survey respondents rated park experience as excellent or good

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



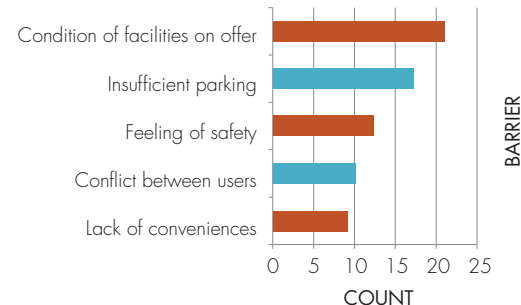
Summer is a popular time in the park, with 55% of people making 15 or more visits in a month (compared to 34% in the winter months).

### Top 5 current activities



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

### Top 5 barriers to using Stanley Park



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



# WHAT WE HEARD

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

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

### Top 5 amenities that don't currently meet expectations



**1** Washrooms

**2** Parking areas

**3** Outdoor pool

**4** River bank

**5** Picnic/BBQ areas

### Top 5 goals for the park



**1** Protecting the ecology of the Elbow River valley

**2** Providing unstructured/spontaneous recreation opportunities (activities that do not require bookings, rules etc)

**3** Protecting and interpreting the cultural heritage of the park and surrounding community

**4** Serving as a venue for public events and community gathering

**5** Providing structured recreation opportunities (e.g. programmed sports and activities)

### Top 5 most important issues for the Plan to address



**1** Condition of existing facilities

**2** Environmental protection/ restoration

**3** Safety

**4** Riverbank stabilization

**5** Opportunities for play

### Other desirable park facilities/amenities

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



Skate park/flexible space



Community garden



Spray park



Food/coffee kiosk



Performance area



Play areas

## Key themes .....

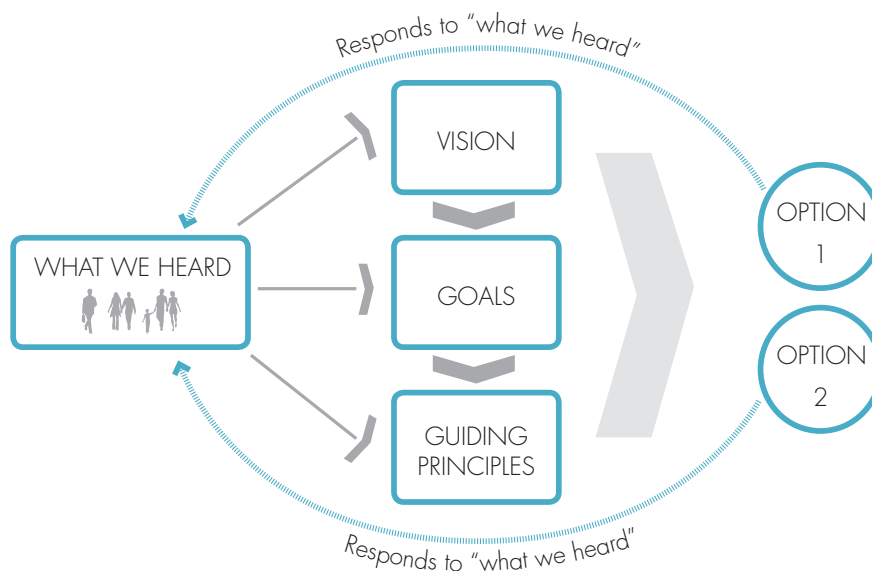
In reviewing the general comments that people provided, there were a number of common themes that emerged during the first round of engagement.



# OUR APPROACH

## The “evolutionary” diagram

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



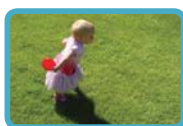
1



### VISION

Environmental preservation ranked highest in the desired goals for the park. It was therefore essential to have this as a central theme to the vision for Stanley Park.

2



### GOALS

Protecting the Elbow River, providing unstructured recreation and creating a safe environment were all important elements to have as key aims for the park.

3



### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The design team developed a series of design principles built around the elements that people wanted to see in the park. This includes a range of uses and features that will ensure Stanley Park appeals to a wide audience.

4



### DESIGN RESPONSE OPTION 1

This option addresses many of the comments received, in particular the requests for new facilities, amenities, pathways and expanded parking areas. It provides a framework to accommodate more intensive and dynamic uses within the park. In this option, the response has been to focus primarily on the high intensity areas with emphasis on a sense of place, arrival and orientation. This provides an opportunity for the park to have a real “hub” around which services and amenities are gathered.

5



### DESIGN RESPONSE OPTION 2

This option responds to comments received about retaining the more natural or less intensive uses within the park. Additional facilities are still included in this option but there are less new structures or building elements. This plan is more open in appearance but still provides exciting opportunities for play and recreation.



# VISION AND GOALS

## Draft Vision Statement

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

Stepping ahead 20 years to 2033, Stanley has become:

*A memorable City destination that protects the Elbow River's riparian habitat and processes and is a hub for imaginative, innovative and stimulating unstructured recreation and learning experiences for all. Stanley Park is a safe place that connects visitors with the Elbow River, adjacent neighborhoods and the rest of the City.*

## Draft Goals

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



# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following principles derived from the key themes that emerged from earlier engagement and will guide the development and management of the park and were used to focus the preparation of the master plan concept.

## Design with Nature and Nature's Processes



Using the landform

Sensitive design

Stanley Park will be developed and managed to minimize the impact of adjacent land uses, park operations and visitation on its ecological values. Natural processes will continue where these processes do not pose an unreasonable risk to public safety. Native plantings and green infrastructure will be applied, as appropriate, throughout the park.

### Play



Natural materials

Stanley Park will facilitate imaginative, innovative and stimulating play opportunities that supports early childhood development and allow families to play together.

## Experience Nature on Nature's Terms



River seating

Stanley Park will provide intimate opportunities to experience, enjoy and learn about the park's ecology, ecological processes and cultural history.

## All Season - All Day Destination



Seating

Pavilion + warming space

Stanley Park will be an all season park providing visitor experience day and evening.

## A Park for All Ages



Age-friendly

Stanley Park will be developed, managed and operated to inspire people of all ages to experience the park together.

## Cultural Diversity



Inclusive

Stage space

The park will embrace, attract and remain appealing to visitors from all cultures, races and socio economic classes providing opportunities for inter-cultural and racial learning and appreciation.

## Barrier Free



Universal design

To the extent possible, park facilities, infrastructure and experiences will be designed to mitigate mobility barriers.

## A Safe Place for All



Lighting

Safety features

The park will be designed and actively managed to provide a safe destination for visitors.



# PROPOSED PARK ZONING



# CONCEPT OVERVIEW

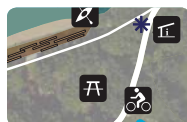
## DESIGN RESPONSE OPTION 1

### “Intensive + Dynamic Uses”

In this option, the response has been to focus primarily on the high intensity areas with emphasis on a sense of place, arrival and orientation. This provides an opportunity for the park to have a real “hub” around which services and amenities are gathered. To the south of this hub, a natural playground is proposed to provide opportunities for children of all ages to “reconnect” with nature and learn through play and exploration. Key features of the plan are:



Northeast, **trails are formalized** or selectively reclaimed, to provide better accessibility and safety, as well a greater opportunities to provide interpretative nodes that will celebrate and teach about the river and its ecology.



The **bike path is rerouted** around the existing picnic area near the river and rejoins the regional pathway further east. A **north-south bike path** is also provided to connect to 42 Avenue SW.



**Lindsay's Folly** will remain a key iconic destination and curiosity in the park and in time will be used for a public art opportunity to further emphasize the importance of this park, the river valley and the communities that surround this place.



A **new Parks building** would be constructed with additional public washrooms located closer to the intensive use area. The existing Parks building can be repurposed for other community uses.



An **additional skating/open area** located on the current softball field, will provide space for multi-seasonal activities and can be serviced by a standalone pavilion to provide warming, seasonal coffee, and storage area.



The large existing ice skating area with a turf “**social**” slope that will provide a unique sculptural element in this area of the park.



Parking in general has been greatly improved through relocation adjacent to the maintenance yard area, providing the opportunity to expand the **picnic areas** near the river to the south and provide more space for families in a **large natural playground**. Parking to the east accessed from 42 Avenue SW has also been improved to provide additional bus parking for participant in tournaments, as well as an extension of the lot closer to the Parks building. Parking has also been provided along the northbound lane on 42 Avenue SW.

## DESIGN RESPONSE OPTION 2

### “Dispersed Open Space”

This plan is **more open** in appearance but still provides exciting opportunities for play and recreation. In this option the maintenance yard has been fully removed, with parking accessed off the 4 Street SW relocated to this disturbed area. As with the previous option this provides additional room for picnic tables and rerouting of the bike path currently sharing the regional trail. Other key features include:



**Informal trails are blocked off and rehabilitated** to their natural state around the Southern Alberta Memorial building.



A **community garden** serviced by a multipurpose pavilion with storage facilities and additional open flexible green space in place of current under used softball field.



A **natural playground** closer to the existing swimming pool facility.



A Proposed **addition to the Swimming Pool** building to accommodate public washrooms, and enclosed concession area that could be used throughout all seasons if desired.



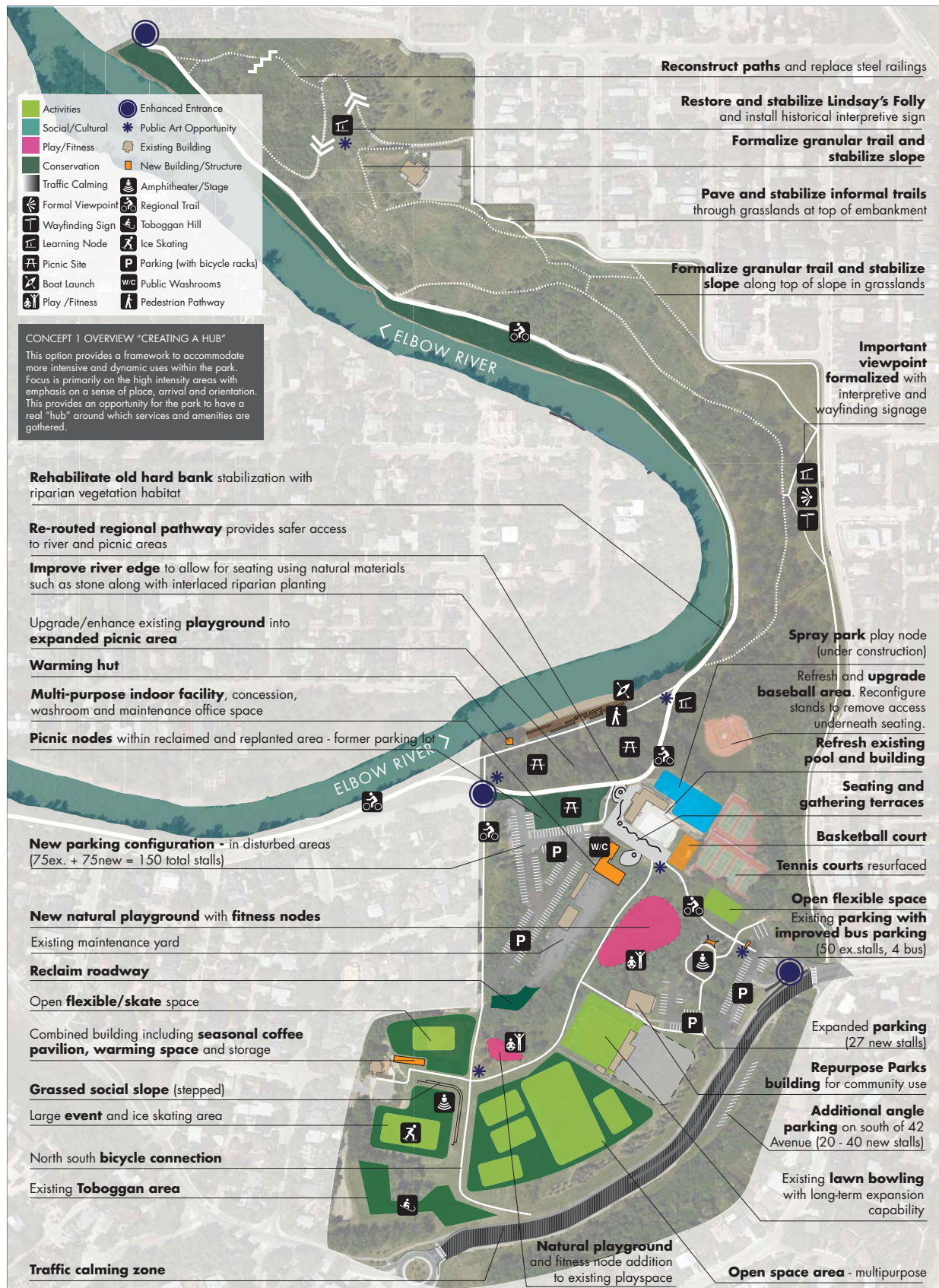
**Improved parking layout** off 42 Avenue SW, including bus parking.



Existing Parks Maintenance Depot and Administration Building removed to allow for more **open flexible green space** and reconfigured parking.

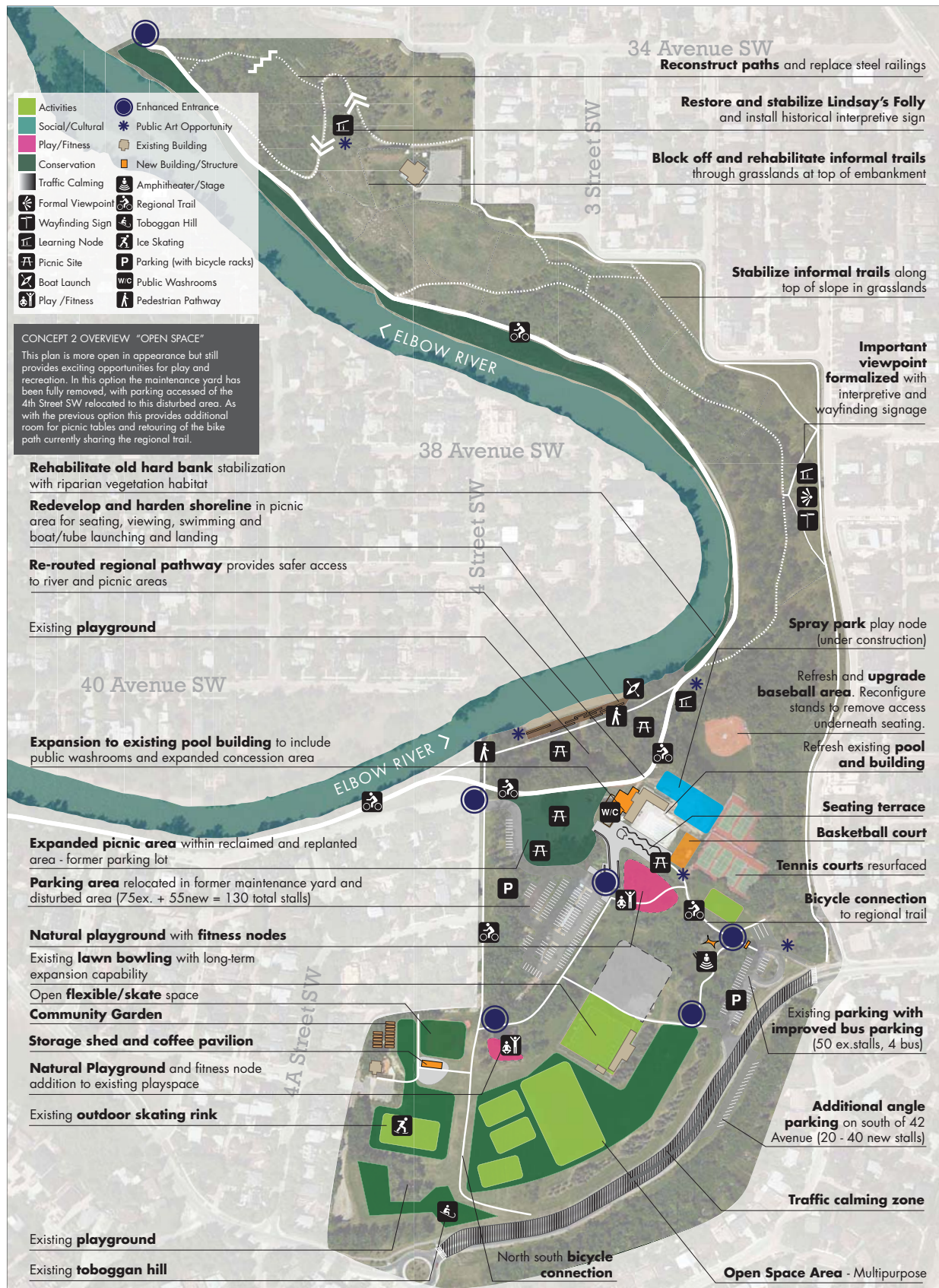


# PRELIMINARY CONCEPT 1





# PRELIMINARY CONCEPT 2





# HOW TO GET INVOLVED

## We need your help! .....

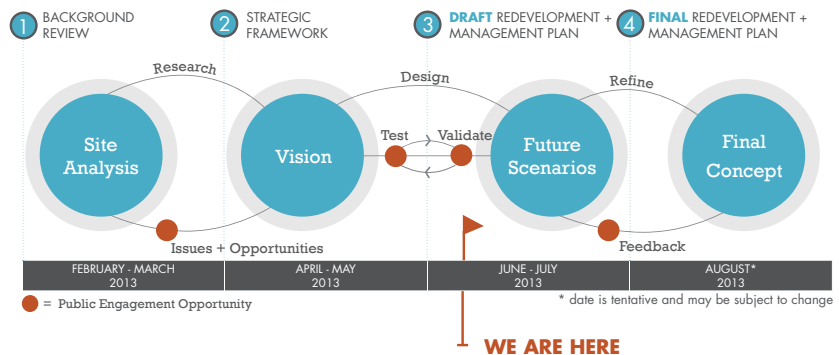
Over the next few months, there will be a variety of opportunities for you to get involved, including these engagement events and online feedback. The intent is to allow all voices to be heard equally, and to provide balanced input in the future development of the park.

Visit [www.calgary.ca/parks](http://www.calgary.ca/parks) and click on the Stanley Park link under [Parks Highlights](#). Alternatively you can scan the barcode below using your smartphone, which will take you directly to The City of Calgary website.

## How you can provide your input along the process .....

This diagram shows you where in the process you will be able to provide your input. Upcoming events will be posted on The City of Calgary Parks and PlaceSpeak websites (further details below).

Please ensure you complete the **online survey** (available from the PlaceSpeak page)



## Community engagement tools .....

PlaceSpeak is an online public consultation platform that connects the project team with residents based on their location. PlaceSpeak encourages inclusive, informed, and authenticated public participation while producing dynamic feedback informed by geography. To keep up to speed on the redevelopment initiative and upcoming opportunities to help shape the future of Stanley Park:

PLEASE REGISTER FOR PLACESPEAK BY FOLLOWING THE LINK FROM THE PROJECT PAGE:

[www.calgary.ca/parks](http://www.calgary.ca/parks)

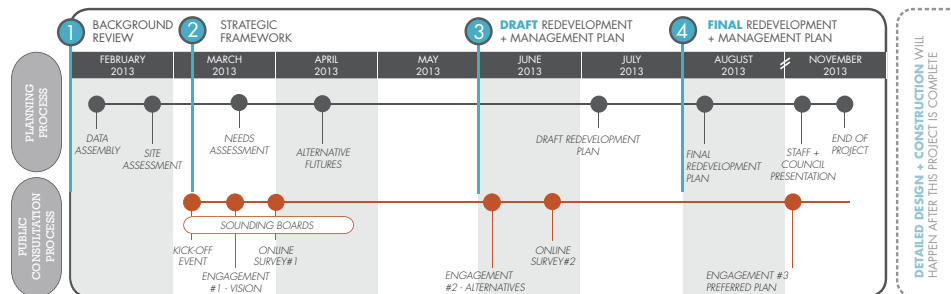
and click on the [Is this your neighborhood?](#) button





# NEXTSTEPS

## Project timeline\*



\*Please note that all dates are tentative and may be subject to change

## Upcoming events\*

The following are milestone events and engagement techniques with corresponding approximate dates.

- |                                     |  |                      |
|-------------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | In Park 'Sounding' Boards  | Installed March 2013 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | On-line Survey #1 and Social Media Campaign (hopes/aspirations)      | March 2013           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Community Awareness Kick-Off BBQ - <b>public welcome</b>             | March 2013           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Stakeholder and Youth Workshops - <b>by invitation</b>               | March/May 2013       |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | On-line Survey #2 (conceptual designs)                               | June 2013            |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Stakeholder and Public Workshops - <b>open to all</b>                | June 2013            |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Preferred Plan Public Open House and Display - <b>public welcome</b> | November 2013        |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Final Design Development & Management Plan - Council Presentation    | November 2013        |

# THANK YOU

PLEASE REGISTER FOR PLACESPEAK AND FREQUENTLY VISIT THE PROJECT PAGE:

[www.calgary.ca/parks](http://www.calgary.ca/parks)

