ROCKY RIDGE RECREATION FACILITY
CPC DESIGN NARRATIVE

Site Layout and Building Design

The Rocky Ridge Recreation Facility is a ‘building within a park’ located on the edge of the Calgary city limits, between the developing northwest and Rocky View Counties. The facility reflects and responds to its natural surroundings. The physically diverse 26.1 hectare site has a large hill in its northeast corner, the highest natural elevation in the city limits, a wetland in the southwest, and views to the Rocky Mountains beyond. The southeast corner of the site has been set aside for future development. Integrating the facility into this park-like setting provides northwest Calgary with natural recreation opportunities.

The 26,000m² facility provides 100,000 residents in northwest Calgary with essential natural recreation opportunities. Integrating the facility into this park-like setting provides northwest Calgary with beyond. The southeast corner of the site has been set aside for future development. Integrating the facility into this park-like setting provides northwest Calgary with natural recreation opportunities.

The schematic design of the Rocky Ridge Recreation Facility meets the program requirements approved by Council in June 2012.

Landscaping

The Rocky Ridge Recreational Facility landscape plan includes a reconstructed wetland and integration of the natural grasslands on the hill adjacent to the new facility. The reconstructed wetland meets the compensation requirement for the removed existing wetlands on the site and will also function as a stormwater management facility and passive recreational amenity. Users of the Rocky Ridge Recreational Facility can cross the wetland via a boardwalk that connects it with the facility’s larger pathway system providing the opportunity to experience and enjoy the vegetative diversity of the wetland and the natural character of the site.

Stormwater runoff from the parking lots and roads will receive basic pretreatment in bioswales and oil grit separators (OGS) prior to entering the wetland system. The bioswales in the parking lots are planted with a trembling aspen and a fescue grass mix. Pretreated stormwater enters the wetland system through a densely vegetated zone to optimize the filtration process. The stormwater is further treated in the wetland through various natural processes before it eventually flows into the Royal Oak drainage system.

The wetland has been designed with vegetative concentric rings giving the wetland a naturalized aesthetic. The aquatic or [well] zone at the waters edge has been designed meandering belts of wet meadow, shallow and deep marsh vegetation including sedges, bulrushes and cattails. The riparian (wet-dry interface) zone is comprised of multiple native species of willows including beaked willow, sandbar and yellow twig willow and include an approved riparian grass / sedge mix. The upland prairie (semi-dry) zone will consist of a mix of native prairie grasses, native shrubs including saskatoon, red osier Dogwood, native prickly rose, gooseneberry, silverberry and golden flowering currant. Deciduous and coniferous trees will include trembling aspen, balsam poplar, bur oak, white spruce and siberian larch. The planting palette for the remainder of the site is composed of native and adaptive species that thrive in the southern Alberta climate with minimal watering beyond normal rainfall once established. This planting scheme provides a visual aesthetic and embodies a natural character that is distinctly Albertan.

Environmental Sustainability

The Rocky Ridge Recreation Facility is being designed in accordance with the City of Calgary’s sustainability design guidelines and is intended to achieve LEED Gold certification. Additional sustainable site design and access initiatives include the following:

- Bus route and bus stops on site.
- Bicycle parking.
- Limit site disturbance and restoration of habitat.
- Stormwater management and quality control.
- Light pollution reduction.
- Low-water automatic drip irrigation system (irrigation to be provided to the trees and shrubs only).

Sustainable design initiatives incorporated into the building design include:

- Energy modeling.
- The use of Co-Generation for energy production and the capture of heat for re-use.
- Durable building envelope.
- Water use reduction and low-flow fixtures throughout.
- Enhanced building commissioning.
- Installation of measurement and verification systems within the building to monitor energy and utility use, including outdoor air delivery monitoring.
- Construction waste management.
- Recycled and regional materials.
- FSC wood, minimum 50%.
- Interior finishes will be low-emitting. As the design develops options for regional materials and recycled content are being explored.

With its strong natural amenities, the site encourages substantial outdoor programming. Trails wind their way across the site, connecting the facility with the hill, archaeological sites, wetland, and regional pathway system. Walking, hiking, running, biking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are all accessible to the public, activating the landscape, and further connecting the facility to its surroundings. Areas of respite in the form of seating spaces and picnic tables situated along the wetland pathway allow visitors to take solace in their surroundings. A basketball court, skate park and tennis courts enhance the outdoor programming.
SITE PHOTOS

January 2012

August 2012

Image 1

Image 1

Image 2

Image 2

Image 3

Image 3
CONTEX PHOTOS

Image 1

Image 2

Image 3

Image 4

Image 5

Image 6
AERIAL PHOTO

Figure 2.3.1, Aerial Photograph Locating the Rocky Ridge Recreation Facility

Image Source: GEC Architecture

Level One Floor Plan (Activity Level)

Level Two Floor Plan (Entry, Theatre, Library Level)

Level Three Floor Plan (Running Track Level)
EXTERIOR RENDERINGS
FITNESS AREA
AQUATICS
LEISURE ICE
RECREATION ICE