



# 12 Street S.E. Bridge Replacement

What We Heard Report  
June 30, 2017

## Project Overview

The 12 Street S.E. bridge spans the Bow River on the south side of St. George's Island and is in need of replacement due to its age and deteriorated physical condition. The bridge, constructed in 1908, was originally designed to carry horse and buggy, as well as pedestrian traffic to St. George's Island. Now it is an important link for vehicles and people on foot or bikes, which provides access to and from 9 Avenue S.E. to Memorial Drive and points south. A new bridge will ensure this important link is maintained for the next 100 years.

The bridge will be replaced with a new structure that will:

- Provide two lanes for vehicle traffic with adequate lane widths, which could accommodate emergency vehicles and future Transit, and increase safety generally.
- Be more flood resilient.
- Provide pedestrian/cycling access across the bridge and incorporate into existing pathway on the north and south ends of the bridge.
- Be easier to maintain and will last for a long period of time (100 years).
- Incorporate an historical/commemorative component recognizing the old bridge design.
- Continue to provide access into the Zoo's Administration area parking lot and building.

## Engagement Overview

This Engagement was intended to gather input on landscaping and commemoration of the historical significance of the site. In addition, the information gathered may inform the public art process. The project team was available and had valueable conversations during the two public in-person engagement sessions:

- Thursday, March 9, 2017 at the Alexandra Society Centre Main Gym
  - 85 residents/public attended
  - 20 comments
- Saturday, March 11, 2017 at Festival Hall
  - 65 residents/public attended
  - 29 comments

An online engagement opportunity was available on The City of Calgary engage portal:

- Thursday, March 9 – Sunday, March 26, 2017
  - 190 site visits\*
  - 36 comments

*\*Visits - Number of visits to this page. A visit is a series of actions that begins when a visitor views the first page from the server, and ends when the visitor leaves the site or remains idle beyond the idle-time limit. The default idle-time limit is thirty minutes. This time limit can be changed by the system administrator.*

## What We Asked

Residents and public were asked to provide input on commemoration and park landscaping and features. More specifically, questions for commemoration were about 4 areas:

- 1) The history of the bridge
- 2) First Nations
- 3) Facts about the bridge
- 4) The area around the bridge

The specific questions for landscaping were about the general types of trees and shrubs:

- 1) Fruit/flowering Tree
- 2) Shade Tree
- 3) Other Suggestions

The specific questions for enhancements and features in the park were about 4 areas:

- 1) Natural play space using materials such as logs, rocks and sand
- 2) Furniture (e.g. picnic tables, bike racks, benches)
- 3) Informal performance seating or gathering space
- 4) Other suggestions

The following draft concept was provided. All items noted as proposed (in blue) can be changed. Red stars denote potential commemorative element locations.





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## What We Heard

Residents and public that provided input emphasized the history of the bridge as a commemoration priority. They also indicated interest in First Nations and facts about bridge and area. It was clear that the public would like to have natural landscaping with native species. In addition, if possible residents would prefer to have more mature trees planted since they will be replacing large mature trees that were removed. Participant input focused on the park having a natural environment while including play elements and furniture.

- ▶ For a detailed summary of the input that was provided, please see the [Summary of Input and Verbatim Responses](#) section.

## Next steps

- ▶ This report will be reviewed by the Project Team with Calgary Parks to discuss next steps
- ▶ The old bridge will be removed and the Project Team will determine what can be cleaned and reused in late Spring 2017
- ▶ The Public Art Concept Committee will meet in June 2017 to review this report



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## Summary of Input and Verbatim Comments

**What aspects of the sites history do you feel are important to commemorate?**

Aspect	The history of the bridge	First Nations	Facts about the bridge	The area around the bridge
Participant Total	22	13	7	13

**Comments why the above selections were made:**

History of the bridge and history of First Nations settlement in the area are most important. Facts about the bridge are important, but less so.
In a city like Calgary where it's considered "new" in comparison to other places in Canada and abroad, it's important to gather information to share with the community and to have for future generations. We would not wish to lose any history considering we don't really have that much comparatively speaking. Also, visitors and Calgarians would presumably find it intriguing and interesting.
I think it is most important to focus on the history which does include the first nations aspect. much more important to honour that "older" history versus the more recent history.
The story of this bridge, as well as the new one, are a story of the transformation of indigenous territory into colonised land. This bridge, and each iteration, represent successive shifts of character and colonization of the river area; This process, while ultimately neutral, is strongly represented in the area and should be recognized. Seeing this all as one greater concept is essential.
I love that the bridge was one of the first and that horse & buggy used it
First Nations and area histories bring lesser known parts of our history as a community to light. That's important.
Make it about a story not bullet points. Easy to remember and share and tell with others
In Calgary or really any city I visit the landmarks are commemorated with interesting facts about history and people are always interested and stop to read. Great conversation piece.

**Ideas about how you want the bridge to be commemorated:**

Have a bridge party every year on the new bridge including all the facts around how it came to be built.
Leave the bridge and maintain it for pedestrians and cyclists. Having two bridges near each other is comical and interesting
Design of the new bridge is a huge disappointment, made worse by not keeping the old one for pedestrians & cyclists.
The old bridge should be kept, history is important and what keeps us unique.
Hire a good artist through an open competition to design something beautiful



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Plaque pointing people to East = in green space to 1st nation inspired "waking medication circle" Bow River theme
History of bridge is interesting
Art is good!
Gateway to Inglewood
Put humor in art
More art!
Context is impo
A photo of the old bridge and the original Inglewood sign
Include images of what St. George's Island was
Images of old bridge & history
Avant garde - challenge the sh*t out of this. Challenge people.
Interactive art. Something to touch.
I love that bridge, and I hate to see it go. That said, I DO NOT want to see some lame, tiny plaque, or 3 tiny chunks of the bridge with a written description of what was once there. It's not a commemoration. It's lip service. We remove something of great character, replace it with something duller, put up a plaque & move on. Silly & boring. A proper commemoration acknowledge (indecipherable) & character & loss & change, and it doesn't smooth it over.
Plaque - commemorate history
Path way with bridge pictures - like Fort Calgary (indecipherable)
Plaques!
Reuse parts of the bridge
Like weird art work
Incorporate similar shapes into the landscape
Should be a pedestrian bridge
Incorporate parts of old bridge

What types of trees and shrubs would you like to see in this park?

Tree Type	Fruit/Flowering	Shade Tree	Other Suggestions
Participant Total	11	15	7

Other Suggestions:

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Edible and pollinator friendly shrubs
I think adding Saskatoon bushes would be a nice touch
Drought resistant native plants, bee-friendly flowering plants
Coniferous/evergreen of some sort - add winter colour
Large Conifers
Cottonwoods
Saskatoon berry bushes

## Comments on trees and shrubs in this park:

Cottonwoods! Native shrubs! No stinking manitoba maples!
Plains cottonwood. Saskatoon berry.
Yes. More shade trees please.
More big trees.
Please start with as big trees as possible (8 ft plus) to replace all the trees that were destroyed
Trees the bigger the better
Definitely none of these non-native! Invasive
All good - would like to see more native shrubs
Native to AB trees would be great
Any of these would be great! Love the idea of Saskatoon bushes
Use native trees and shrubs. Not invasive. Climate tolerant (indecipherable) +2
Fast growing tree
The lovely scents of fruit and flowering trees.
Being able to have a berry picking area would be a nice feature to have in our river Valley
Something natural to the area and that grows well.
It is important to have something that remains green in the winter. Also important to have some var...
Each one is used for different reasons. Trees are not "one or the other."
I regularly walk this route and it would be awesome to have more edible plants incorporated, along with...
To support the bird and insect populations
Plains cottonwoods and sask and bee loving untreated native species

## What enhancements and features would you like to see in the park?

Enhancement and features	Natural play space using materials such as logs, rocks and sand	Furniture (picnic tables, bike rack, benches)	Information performance seating of gathering space	Other Ideas
<b>Participant Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>See below</b>



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## Other Ideas for enhancements and features in the park:

Picnic tables & bike racks - make this a summer destination spot
Bonfire
Gathering space
Place for events / carolers
No artwork
Grass & trees No concrete/asphalt
Flood logs / driftwood made into sort of decorative artwork?
More trees for shade on walkways
Ped x-ing at north side
We love our natural river bottom environment. We Love the wildlife that uses the river as a corridor. TOTALLY NATURAL PLEASE!
More 'unmanaged' play areas with natural materials
Node view point near river edge
Want water access
East side close to bridge (water access)
River access
Seating / bike racks (lockable / safe)
Water feature: for example: fountain, babbling brook
It's nice to have logs and rocks not only for children play (and adults too?) but also dogs.
Calisthenics Park
Rain gardens and/or bioswales