

Calgary



# Centre City Plan Refresh

## **What We Heard Report**

Parks Workshop 2019 March 20



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What We Heard Report: 2019 March 20  
Parks Workshop

## About this what we heard report

This report summarizes the activities and results of engagement for the Parks Workshop on March 20, 2019 for the Centre City Plan Refresh project. It outlines the project, the purpose of the public engagement, the activities we did, and a summary of what we heard at the event. A full list of comments received through public engagement is included in this report.

## Project overview

In 2007, based on extensive citizen input, City Council adopted the Centre City Plan, a vision document that describes what the Centre City could look like in 30 years. The Centre City Plan is a coordinated strategy document that pulls together the vision for the Centre City along with strategies and actions relating to land use planning, economic, cultural, and social development, and governance. With the approval of the adoption of the Centre City Plan (CPC2007-049), it included a recommendation for regular monitoring and reporting. In January 2017 the Centre City Plan was identified as one of 28 Council policies to be amended. It's time to review and refresh the original Centre City Plan.

Calgary's Centre City is the area south of the Bow River (including Prince's Island Park) from 17th Avenue SW and 14th Street SW, to the Elbow River. It also includes Downtown, Eau Claire, West End, West Connaught, Connaught Centre, Victoria Crossing Centre, East Victoria Crossing, East Village, Chinatown and Stampede Park area. (A map is contained in the Centre City Plan, 2007.)

The purpose of this refresh project is to:

- affirm the current plan's vision and principles;
- reassess the big-picture direction for the Centre City;
- identify actions to realize the vision;
- update the information in the Plan to align with other city policies such as the [Municipal Development Plan](#) and [Centre City Guidebook](#); and
- eliminate overlap with other documents.

Engagement was approached with the understanding that the plan need not be re-written; rather it will be updated or, "refreshed", to reflect the current thinking within the Centre City. An update to the Centre City Plan is an opportunity to refocus Calgary's energy and reinvigorate a commitment to success in the Centre City.



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## Background and Purpose

The workshop engagement approach was designed to review the proposed Parks goals, related initiatives, and “Big Moves” that were developed by the Centre City Plan (CCP) core project team through their analysis of all inputs compiled leading up to the workshop. Multiple inputs include:

- a review of the existing 2007 Centre City Plan to identify which information should remain in the Plan and be updated and which information should be removed;
- a review of related City of Calgary policy, guideline and strategy documents;
- input collected from various departments throughout the City;
- results of the Strategic Foresight process (This is a scenario-based methodology that immerses participants in a study of the future by asking them to create and explore multiple plausible alternatives for a domain or topic of interest.);
- stakeholder and public engagement that was compiled into a What We Heard Report;
- a review of the results from the Downtown Economic Summit that was held on 2017 March 2; and
- a review of best practice research.

## Target audiences

The targeted audience for this engagement was primarily internal stakeholders from the City of Calgary.

### Internal Stakeholders

A wide cross-section of internal stakeholders were invited to a focused workshop. The following stakeholders provided representation from the following City of Calgary business units, as well as Ward 7 Councillor’s office:

- Parks policy and implementation staff
- Urban Design
- Urban Strategy
- Neighbourhoods
- Recreation
- Police
- Bylaw and animal services
- Fire and Rescue
- Event Services
- Arts and Culture

## Engagement Overview

### What we asked

The workshop engagement approach was designed to review the proposed goals, related initiatives, and “Big Moves” that were developed by the Centre City Plan core project team through their analysis of all inputs leading up to the workshop.



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## Proposed Outcomes and Goals

The Big Moves for Parks to achieve within the Centre City are:

- Greening the Centre City
- Connecting people to destinations

The Goals to get to the desired Big Moves are:

- Goal #1: Acquire additional park space in the Centre City.
- Goal #2: Enhance existing parks and open spaces in Centre City
- Goal #3: Enhance public realm linking parks and open spaces
- Goal #4: Leverage publicly accessible private open space to meet Parks needs
- Goal #5: Better collaboration across departments to leverage work regarding recreation, flood resilience, urban design and planning
- Goal #6: Good interface between parks and other uses.

Engagement focused on the following components:

Topic	Engagement Questions	How input is used	Level of Engagement
<b>Goals</b>	<i>Is this a realistic Goal? Is it viable? Why or why not?</i>  <i>What are the best ways that this goal could be implemented?</i>	The Centre City Plan Refresh will identify goals, initiatives and big moves to be considered during the preparation of the refreshed Centre City Plan. The project team will review stakeholder input alongside relevant departments from across The City. Stakeholder ideas will be reviewed, considered and included where possible. Where major themes cannot be addressed, the project team will advise why they could not be implemented.	<i>Consult:</i>  We will consult with stakeholders to obtain feedback and ensure their input is considered and incorporated to the maximum extent possible. We undertake to advise how consultation impacted the decisions and outcomes.
<b>Priority of Initiatives</b>	Participants reviewed and prioritized pre-identified initiatives for each goal.		
<b>Big Moves (Outcomes) / Ideas / Actions</b>	Facilitated discussion with all participants at once, discussing any support or suggestions regarding pre-identified “big moves”: “Greening the City” and “Connecting People to Destinations”		





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## Event Summary

An engagement workshop took place on March 20, 2019, in the Kathy Dietrich Collaboration Space, Municipal Building. A total of 25 attendees participated in the engagement workshop.

The workshop asked participants to accept the meeting invite to ensure appropriate participation numbers of between five to seven people seated at each of the four tables. People who accepted the meeting invite were assigned a table. Table assignments considered department representation intending to get a diverse mix of people at each table.

Table facilitators guided the discussions and recorded comments made by attendees. The workshop began with a presentation providing a brief history on the Centre City Plan, the purposes of the workshop, an overview of the briefing analysis and the context of these internal discussions with the project’s current direction.

This workshop format worked well as attendees were generally captivated during the activities and were provided a *Parks Brief*, which is an analysis document, ahead of time for review in preparation for the day’s activities.

## What We Heard

### Activity 1

Activities one and two were table discussions regarding the proposed six goals relating to Parks and Open Space in the Centre city.

On each table was a draft list of Big Moves, Goals, and initiatives related to each goal. This list was compiled from the Parks Brief and was meant to help participants throughout the workshop. Participants were asked to write comments, make additions, and note if they agreed or disagreed with the information.

The first activity was with respect to the first goal, which was to “acquire additional park space in the Centre City”. Participants were asked to discuss the following questions:

- Is this a realistic goal? Is it viable? Why or Why not? (5 minutes)
- What are the best ways that this goal could be implemented? What would it take? Who would need to be involved? (13 minutes)

The following table is a summary of themes that emerged from the feedback. The summary is in order of rank, meaning that the first theme was the most frequently cited and the last theme was the least cited.

### Goal 1: Acquire additional park space in the Centre City

Theme	Description
<b>More Common</b>	
Viable - Acquire through public/private collaboration	<i>Acquire/utilize setback area along “green streets”; Coordinate with civic partners and developer for opportunities rather than flat-out purchase (publicly accessible private space, partnerships); developer and City swap usable new park space for development rights in other places (i.e.: private owned surface</i>

	<i>parking for density bonusing or city-owned land with better development proximities; Utilize “temporary park use”; Think vertically (rooftop or within high rise building);.</i>
Viable – Focus on existing city-owned land	<i>Relocation and redevelopment of Victoria Park bus barn; encourage the greening of existing links (i.e., 1<sup>st</sup> Street SW); acquire future park space as part of Greenline land acquisition</i>
Viable – Prioritize based on geographical area’s needs	Prioritize areas that are currently the most deficient
Not Viable – “Regional” vs. “Local” park	According to parks policy, the Centre City is deficient in the number of “local” parks that should be available to residents, but there are “regional” parks (i.e., Riverwalk) which provide the same amenity residents as well as visitors from outside the Centre City. Why not just share the park, regardless of its local or regional classification?
Not Viable – Existing park space under-utilized so we should first reconsider the current approach to acquisition and design of park space before acquiring more land	<i>First, consider what the intended use of the park is for users before making purchase decisions; many existing parks are underutilized so doesn’t make sense to keep repeating same mistakes; potential to rethink park space as “events space” instead of passive enjoyment opportunity.</i>
<b>Less Common</b>	
Viable – Utilize underground parking	Encourage existing parking lots to be relocated underground so that the surface can be utilized for park space (i.e., Haultain Park has underground parking for adjacent high-rise development).
Viable – Canadian Pacific Rail line	<i>Currently possible to acquire land adjacent to and/or over top of the existing rail line; can acquire the land outright when CPR closes the line someday.</i>

## Activity 2

The second activity was related to the following question:

***If we can’t meet all our park needs through the acquisition of new park spaces, are there other strategies we can take to provide quality parks and open space environment?***

The “other strategies” relate to goals two to six, which are:

2. Enhance existing parks and open spaces in Centre City
3. Enhance public realm linking parks and open spaces
4. Enhance interface between parks and other uses.
5. Leverage publicly accessible private open space to meet Parks needs
6. Better collaboration across departments to leverage work regarding recreation, flood resilience, urban design and planning

Participants were asked to have a discussion, for each goal, around the following questions:

- Is this a realistic goal? Is it viable? Why or Why not?
- What are the best ways that this goal could be implemented? What would it take? Who would need to be involved?

A total of 60 minutes was given for this exercise; 10 minutes for each goal and 10 minutes for a report back to the room.

The following tables summarize the themes that emerged from the feedback regarding each goal. The summary is in order of rank, meaning that the first theme was the most frequently cited and the last theme was the least cited.

## Goal 2: Enhance existing parks and open spaces in Centre City

Theme	Description
<b>More common</b>	
Viable – Define what “enhancement” is intended to achieve	<i>Depends on users and how to target them through enhancement investment; people use space when they have a reason to; are downtown places comfortable/workable?; lots of existing spaces need help/work; public wants to enjoy these parks!; need more green in park spaces; study how people use specific parks and then repeat successes and understand failures; private and natural areas; understand each parks’ unique adjacencies; include urban agriculture opportunities (i.e. <a href="#">Seattle PPatch</a>) along 13 Avenue Greenway; consider relaxing public drinking; existing spaces not big enough to give you a “taste of nature”; wildlife connections through James Short Park</i>
Viable –Amenity/feature suggestions	<i>Insect, falcon, floral paintings; Beautify-add flowers; Places where people can take selfies; public washrooms; dog park; How to tie technological enhancements into park designs?; Winter warming huts; Case study example: <a href="#">The Forks (Winnipeg)</a> is more successful in the winter than the summer</i>
Viable – Best solutions through stakeholder engagement	<i>Work with the local community to design/program spaces; Calgary Downtown Association may have perspective on how to improve commercial park space; Look to <a href="#">“Creating Coventry”</a> project and/or local growth planning; Collaborate with inside-orientated fitness groups to promote outdoor park use; Collaborate with building owners to promote green roofs as public amenities</i>
Viable – Include event/programming considerations	<i>Adaptable spaces that can be partnered with to temporary host popups; outdoor stage amenity</i>



	<i>comments that programmed uses are in decline and non-programmed uses on the rise.</i>
<b>Less Common</b>	
Viable – Olympic Plaza considerations	<i>Olympic Plaza is not safe, too dark; skating rink is important; plaza needs rebranding</i>
Viable – More green space in parks	<i>Successful parks are green, soft, inviting; ensure nature between parks spaces and the river</i>
Viable – Funding	<i>Create a legacy fund; Maintenance budgets should be higher for Centre City and operate at a higher level</i>
Viable – Focus on the public realm, not just parks spaces	<i>Enhancement of public washrooms and fountains not necessarily in the parks. Just balance strategic need vs decreases the likelihood of social disorder</i>
Viable – Princess Island considerations	<i>Princess island is a missed opportunity</i>

### Goal 3: Enhance public realm linking parks and open spaces

Theme	Description
<b>More common</b>	
Viable – Improving the user’s public realm ‘experience’	<i>Public realm links act as a pedestrian refuge; the street network can enhance the experience; [enhancing] streets can act as a continuation of connections between spaces based on experiences rather than the distance; Great links become their own parks</i>
Viable – Encouraging active modes enhances the public realm	<i>Encourage active lifestyles with walking/cycling; Enhance walking links; Encourage pedestrian/non-auto modes to go there (instead of drive); sidewalk improvements – interesting treatments near parks, inviting red carpet/welcome mat/signage.</i>
Viable – 13 Avenue Greenway related feedback	<i>Green streets need to have anchors; 13 Avenue Greenway remainder does not conform to best practises, needs to be redesign and intersection need safety upgrades (high costs); Connectivity – finish 13 avenue greenway – Rail corridor is a barrier – no connections to the Bow River – North/south connectivity is okay – east/west street</i>
Viable – Suggested Features	<i>Public art; Light as art; tree</i>
Viable – consider destinations that are being linked	<i>Focus on anchor destinations; How do we capitalize on the +15 system? (living walls) – vertical connections; Connections to vacant offices through repurposing lower floors for public uses (i.e., daycare, playground, dog park)</i>

<b>Less common</b>	
Viabile – On-street connectivity links are key	<i>Connect existing on-street and off-street cycling pathways</i>
Viabile – best practise examples	<i>Stephen avenue; 13 Avenue Greenway</i>
Viabile – Economic development, collaboration and funding	<i>Encourage route systems of getting around an area, which will encourage commercial activity; Urban Strategy and Sonny Tomic’s work directly relates to this goal; Beltline Community Investment Fund (BCIF) is a good funding source – more IF’s would be better, but recreation has trouble accessing these for a new Beltline Recreation Centre - Perhaps tie it to plan objectives instead of simply “demonstrate growth”</i>

### Goal 4: Enhance interface between parks and other uses

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>More common</b>	
Viabile – Consider “Built-Form” edge	<i>Feeling that “we” [The City] should not be responsible for providing active uses within parks; Incentivize active uses fronting onto park; don’t have adjacent uses that turn back on park; enhancing landscaping across from parks; could use interface as component of evaluating open space acquisition; question if all parks need to be at-grade; aesthetics</i>
Viabile – Consider retail edges including food and event programming	<i>Animate edges with small retail; restaurant uses; food trucks; allow entertainment spaces; small businesses; movie night</i>
Viabile – Regulatory considerations	<i>Challenges with building code requirements; update the Land Use Bylaw accordingly; work with Feds to use Mewata Armoury space; safe injection sites should NOT be adjacent; allow for testing/trying different things; winter city strategy “uses”</i>
Viabile – Funding considerations	<i>Park’s operational considerations/costs; more funding resources from Council and levies (bigger push for philanthropy)</i>
Viabile – Plus 15 considerations	<i>Better use of +15? / Interface with open spaces; +15 green space would increase social disorder which is already a difficult/challenging situation</i>
Viabile – Amenity possibilities	<i>Consider interface with the river; more bathrooms; consider what achieves active lifestyle?</i>
Viabile – Prioritize sites for enhancement	<i>Focus on specific locations to activate interface on open space hubs (i.e., Riverwalk, Sien Lok, Eau Claire, Peace Bridge)</i>

## Goal 5: Leverage publicly accessible private open space to meet Parks needs

Theme	Description
<b>More Common</b>	
Viable – Regulatory considerations	<i>Cut red tape to allow for privately driven activations/flexibility; concern that goal may not be achievable unless donated/leased back to The City; Allow these spaces through a long term lease with The City (instead of being entirely private – i.e.: Devonian Gardens); Sell density or transfer Plaza density; The City pilot to program existing public/private space to experiment and learn; Design guidelines and a formal program would be a benefit (i.e., <a href="#">Toronto POPS</a>); no new parking lots; increase activity by providing Places Committee</i>
Viable - Amenities	<i><a href="#">Commercial vendor program</a> piloted last year; leaning into “Grab and Go” food service; Murals; Encourage people to use indoor spaces; Leverage rooftop spaces</i>
Viable – Public / Private Collaboration is key	<i>Private owners may limit potential and need to be consulted; Calgary Parks and Parks Foundation (and their capital) to identify priority list; Offer building owners opportunity to repurpose vacant office space for private/public open space (i.e.: Devonian Gardens)/Owners to benefit from new destination attracting customers and tenants (i.e.: Eau Claire indoor playground)</i>
Viable – Public Right of Way opportunities	<i>Streets open only during rush hour; Concerns about how to work with Roads / Transportation – someone needs to resource plan from the City side – Council needs to lead the way to close a street; Utilized laneways (i.e., <a href="#">The Backyard Alley Party</a>);</i>
Viable – Events / Programming opportunities and concerns	<i>Potential for <a href="#">Alley Parties</a>; Concerns that utilizing existing parking lots as event spaces is too expensive; Concern that “sPARKs” (A street park or portion of a street right-of-way that doubles as park space) doesn’t work in Calgary;</i>
Viable – Implementation funding	<i>Bonus for plaza space should be financial contributions towards one good space rather than multiple unused plazas; Address escalating costs of maintenance; Parks enhancement fund</i>
Viable – Infrastructure and general challenges	<i>Ensure development includes programming infrastructure (i.e.: electricity); risks/high density/security</i>

**Goal 6: Better collaboration across departments to leverage work regarding recreation, flood resilience, urban design and planning**

Theme	Description
<b>More Common</b>	
Viable – Governance model needed to address policy, process, and funding concerns	<i>Annual frequent meeting to share Centre City work programs for different city teams; implementation key to any project, formalized governance could result in efficient construction AND clear operation/maintenance accountability; would help to align existing policy (i.e.: Imagine Parks vision); improve parks and transportation collaboration instead of parks vs. transportation outcomes; Maintenance of green infrastructure difficult for municipality, perhaps potential solution is to hand off to communities</i>
<b>Less Common</b>	
Viable – Potential opportunities to unify corporate vision, cross corporate efficiency and diversity of outcomes	<i>Centre City plan (through council approval) would provide clearer permission space for Administration; earlier collaboration to prevent scope-creep and associated project cost &amp; time overruns as well as reduce cross-corporate project overlap; Transportation has a lot of land within road right of ways that have abundant potential Parks multi-purpose uses; Could help resolve longstanding issue of no trees (parks want) within road right of way setbacks (transportation want.)</i>
Not Viable – Concerns regarding lack of resources to collaborate properly	<i>City departments already as lean as can be; lots of sources of capital funding but few operational sources; opportunity to pursue service line budgeting questions; implementing projects collaboratively often ends in the lead group having to push forward to meet project timeline/budget</i>
Viable – other thoughts	<i>Use green look with low impact development as a catalyst for this approach; Confusion why Calgary can't collaborate as well as other cities already do</i>

**Suggested New Goals**

Theme	Description
Social Equity	<i>How do we achieve this? Often a social equity outcome conflicts with other goals; May need to be separated from other goals to be more like a filter of some sort</i>
Social Spaces	<i>Creating social spaces/places for people to connect and spend quality time</i>

Sports Fields	<i>Big moved based on actual demand/assumption could be a large sports field</i>
Collaboration	<i>The citizen-identified gap in Parks system (i.e., public Wi-Fi) is what should become the Centre City Plan's Big Move</i>
Vibrancy	<i>All the goals are ultimately towards a more vibrant Centre City</i>
Prioritize	<i>Initiatives need to be prioritized</i>

### Activity 3

The third activity consisted of six tables, each having a large piece of paper listing one goal and associated initiatives. Attendees were asked to freely circulate to each of the six tables to review each list of initiatives for each goal, discuss them with whomever they chose, and identify which initiatives should be prioritized. Each attendee was asked to prioritize no more than five initiatives for each goal. They were asked to prioritize putting a check mark beside the relevant initiative(s) and if desire, add a supporting comment.

The following summary of themes, that emerged from Activity #3 are in ranking order, meaning that the first theme was the most frequently cited and the last theme was the least cited. Initiatives that were not selected to be prioritized by any of the participants are omitted from the following tables.

Goal #1	Acquire additional park space in the Centre City	
Source	Initiative	Participant Comments
<b>Highest Priority</b>		
CCP 5.1 ACTIONS	Develop a detailed action strategy that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defines/redefines the function/role of all existing Centre City parks to establish what is required in acquisition of new open space for size and function;</li> <li>• Establishes the spatial distribution of parks relative to people;</li> <li>• Plans for a variety of open spaces with criteria that will create a sense of place to meet the needs of each neighbourhood and the Downtown;</li> <li>• Locates future parks such that view lines to and from the parks are reviewed to ensure the vitality of the park;</li> <li>• Integrates with the pathway and linkage system; and</li> <li>• Recommends enhancement/revitalization of existing parks to meet their role/function better and create of a sense of place.</li> </ul>	Prince's Island Park should be a priority - update Centre City Parks Enhancement Plan
CCP 7.6.3	Selection of future open space within the Centre City should consider the amount of sunlight the site receives. At the time a park site is formally secured, consideration should be given to the level	



	of sunlight protection required to serve the functions of the park.	
CCP 4.2.8 ACTIONS	Identify and acquire open space between 8 Street SW and 14 Street SW (inclusive) to meet the needs of the local population. Ensure adequate functionality of the open space with an optimal size of 0.2 hectares as well as be open to opportunities to reallocate existing under-utilized open space.	
<b>Less Priority</b>		
WWHR Quick Win Ideas	Identify indoor green spaces and whether there is a need for more.	
CCP 5.2.8	Resolve the pathway/transportation conflict points between the Louise Bridge (9 Street SW) and the new West Park (Crowchild Trail SW) by twinning the pathway system from Nat Christie Park to the Pumphouse Theatre and/or other solutions that would minimize congestion for the pedestrian along this area of the riverfront.	

Goal #2	Enhance existing parks and open spaces in Centre City	
Source	Initiative	Participant Comments
<b>Highest Priority</b>		
WWHR Quick Win Ideas	Review the allowance of drinking alcohol in public parks.	The prohibition era ended almost 100 years ago so no longer needs to be disallowed in public; Already happening at picnics sites anyways.
Internal Stakeholder Review. Proposed new policy for CCP.	Protect and enhance urban forestry and the natural habitat by conserving and enhancing riparian areas, retaining natural vegetation and features, habitats and wildlife, as well as connecting green space and corridors to form a green urban network in the Centre City	More flowers in parks
TAC Input	Parks should have four-season amenities.	
TAC Input	Parks and open spaces should be designed or upgraded to support major festival and events. Design parks, public spaces and streetscape spaces, so there is appropriate infrastructure in place for turn-key festival and event use.	More study; Not just festival and events; What are the gaps (e.g., informal soccer); Can there be room for small scale grassroots events, i.e.: small business markets; Opportunities to engage residents in permitting them to animate space
WWHR Quick Win Ideas	Prepare a plan for public restrooms in the Centre City	Not enough public washrooms

WWHR Quick Win Ideas	Riverwalk paths should have good lighting. Some locations are dark.	Capital/Cost - 5A Network in Pathway & Bikeway Plan
<b>Less Priority</b>		
TAC Input	Sien Lok Park upgrade.	Everything in the downtown area should be redone; To encourage more people to use this park
WWHR Quick Win Ideas	Identify locations for community gardens and build more	Inviting to the public, encourage engagement. Very desired and need amenity.
WWHR Quick Win Ideas	Winter events programming. Incentives for Winter events or subsidize Winter events.	Need a four-season strategy for all parks
WWHR Quick Win Ideas	Spray parks in the Centre City need bathrooms with change tables.	Bathrooms at high visibility areas with max benefit (e.g., LRT Stations)
Internal Stakeholder Review. Proposed new policy for CCP.	Design block layouts, buildings and open space with generous space standards and carefully planned spatial arrangement that can allow for adaptation with relative ease to suit the needs of different users over the years.	Interconnectivity between various open spaces
Internal Stakeholder Review. Proposed new policy for CCP.	Design project landscaping to increase the interconnected corridors of the urban forest and natural habitat as well as all riparian areas and open space at the Centre City.	
DT Economic Summit	Increase the visibility of indigenous communities and heritage in the Centre City through public art, place names and urban design. Add indigenous elements to parks, open space, public realm, etc.	Project and promote ethnic minorities. Indigenous History must be a priority
CCP 5.1.13	Emphasize all Centre City parks as locations for public art.	
CCP 5.2.10	Establish opportunities for an urban edge (e.g. restaurants/coffee shops) in appropriate locations along the riverfront such as the new West Park and Elbow Riverfront Park.	
TAC Input	Finish 13 Ave Greenway	Complete the green belt as per Centre City Urban Design Guidelines. Current Greenway design has serious challenges/problems
WWHR Quick Win Ideas	Build another dog park.	
CCP 5.2.13.	Preserve all pedestrian views and connections directly to the Bow and Elbow Rivers.	

Internal Stakeholder Review. Proposed new policy for CCP.	Protect, restore and enhance all riparian areas in any development at and/or near riparian corridors within the Centre City. &increase recreation operations where appropriate (e.g. River access)	It is important to protect it (flood, natural area, etc.)
WWHR Quick Win Ideas	Allow restaurants or food trucks in parks	Already in Place
CCP 5.1.3	Ensure the future vision of Fort Calgary is integrated as a part of the open space system and special areas within the Centre City.	
CCP 5.1.12	Explore opportunities for incorporating bicycle facilities in Centre City parks.	Bike Share - not explore just do
CCP 5.1.14	Establish, as a priority, the portions of the Centre City Public Art Strategy that relate to the open space, riverfront and linkages system.	
TAC Input	Shaw Millennium Parks should have a master plan completed. Venue Optimization Project.	
WWHR Quick Win Ideas	Install some outdoor park workout/exercise equipment.	
WWHR Quick Win Ideas	Identify locations for playing soccer in the Centre City. Not necessary soccer - just large open space multi-use (see above) *	*tie in with other uses. Interest for CPL to explore more uses at Memorial (+ drinking) "HUG" - shift "Pilot."
Internal Stakeholder Review	Finish redesign of Humpy Hollow Park	
CCP 4.2.2.7	Reinforce all pedestrian and bicycle-oriented, physical and visual connections to the riverfront and across to Prince's Island Park and the Bow River as well as improve key bicycle routes through this neighbourhood. See Concept 23: Bicycle Network.	McHugh House permanent location. Echo Square to make this park as a heritage park
Internal Stakeholder Review. Proposed new policy for CCP.	Mix native and ornamental plants to enhance diversity. Use native and drought-resistant plant species that are tolerant of urban pollution and conditions in new developments.	Edible Plants? I.e., berries
Internal Stakeholder Review. Proposed new policy for CCP.	Create community gardens at grade in sunny, non-windy locations, or on podiums or roofs, particularly in residential development, for economic and social benefits. Include pedestrian lighting and sitting areas to enhance such community	Yes!

	gardens as additional amenity space. Consider using these community gardens as gateway features for different neighbourhoods.	
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Goal #3	Enhance public realm linking parks and open spaces	
Source	Initiative	Participant Comments
<b>Higher Priority</b>		
Strategic Foresight	Stephen Avenue upgrade	Needs to better balance hard and soft scape cover; Attract tourism; More activation spaces needed.
Internal Stakeholder Review. Proposed new policy for CCP.	Maximize tree canopy in all new developments using street trees, tree groves or clusters at open space areas, amenity space and along streets to reduce urban heat island effects and CO2 emissions.	
Proposed new policy for CCP by TAC	Use drought tolerant and hardy plants for landscaping.	Sustainability; Anything climate change related should be a priority; More flowers in Parks!
CCP 5.1.5	Create an open space/linkage loop through and around the Centre City via the riverfront, 13 Avenue S and the CPR Special Area. Include opportunities to celebrate the historical significance that is found along 13 Avenue S and the role of the CPR to the City of Calgary.	Longer term, but should be included (maybe as feasibility study)
CCP 5.2.3	Reinforce strong pedestrian connections to the riverfront to meet open space needs for the residential/mixed-use neighbourhoods in the following manner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a 12/13 Avenue S Greenway connection to the Bow and Elbow Rivers by connecting the new West Park and Elbow Riverfront Park; and</li> <li>• Reinforce the importance of the north/south pedestrian-enhanced connections to the riverfront.</li> </ul>	
<b>Less Priority</b>		
CCP 5.2.11	Create special places along the riverfront that connect with the north/south street intersections (e.g. public art, activity/interpretive opportunities such as where 6 and 8 Street SW connects to the river pathway system).	Quick win

Seattle Downtown Plan	Enhance connections to rivers.	Think about and/or destinations around rivers; Wayfinding for parks and open spaces, including distance and estimated time to wade
CCP 5.1.2	Create a comprehensive and connected open space system that links parks/plazas, the riverfront, and special areas.	
TAC Input	Increase the number of permeable surfaces throughout the Centre City.	The artificial turf at SHAW Millennial Park
Internal Stakeholder Review. Proposed new policy for CCP.	An integrated design approach should be engaged to resolve and accommodate multiple building and/or development objectives through green infrastructure and sustainable measures in all development.	

Goal #4	Enhance interface between parks and other uses.	
Source	Initiative	Participant Comments
<b>Higher Priority</b>		
CCP 5.2.14	Implement the new Eau Claire Plaza Design Concept and its interface with Prince's Island Park.	Princess Island stage area redevelopment should be a priority. Do not wait for the Eau Claire Market land to be developed; Eau Claire Plaza needs a facelift badly; Keep area vibrant; Think about festival and events requirements.
WWHR Quick Win Ideas	Guidelines for interface with Plus 15 system. Could green spaces be incorporated into the Plus 15 systems?	Good opportunity to introduce 'greenhouse' within +15. Indoor and outdoor spaces
<b>Less Priority</b>		
CCP 5.2 ACTIONS	Prepare Urban Design and Environmental Guidelines for future urban edges along the Bow and Elbow riverfronts.	Yes, we need that pressure to preserve the riparian / riverfront open space and balance



		development near the riverfront.
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Goal #5 Leverage public and publicly accessible private open space to meet Parks needs		
Source	Initiative	Participant Comments
<b>Higher Priority</b>		
Learning s from other municipal ities	Toronto has formalized a program for design, identification, mapping and signage related to privately owned publicly-accessible spaces (POPS). This program raises the profile of publicly accessible spaces in the City through formal City GIS mapping and a single brand, complete with signage.	Low cost; No one knows/understands where SPARKS are, why they'd want to go
CCP 5.1.11	Plan for land uses that are supportive and enhance the vitality of both existing and new open spaces.	Include adjacent parcels; Complete analysis to access demand/needs; Reform land uses and previews to ensure more functional and active open spaces; Those spaces are ornamental and properly used.
<b>Less Priority</b>		
CCP 5.1.9	5.1.9. Establish and develop sPARKS as flexible and eco-friendly places/connections that complement neighbourhood centre activities and create places for localized civic celebrations and events. sPARKS shall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be located on north-south oriented streets that have low traffic volumes (e.g. less than 5,000 vehicles per day);</li> <li>• Be located in areas that already have active land uses at-grade or have the potential for redevelopment or significant improvement of existing building edges;</li> <li>• Accommodate slow-moving vehicular traffic and on-street parking in the winter and various active/passive pedestrian activities in the summer;</li> <li>• Ensure through-cycling;</li> <li>• Consider distinctive eco-paving (e.g. full or partial water retention or permeability), textures and colour treatments;</li> <li>• Provide distinctive, movable and multipurpose street furniture to accommodate various pedestrian activities; and</li> <li>• Provide special lighting, water, landscaping or public art features.</li> </ul>	Complete study of needs/preferences/priorities for spaces (public & private) Focus on who is not just everyone.

CCP 5.2.13	Preserve all pedestrian views and connections directly to the Bow and Elbow Rivers.	
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Goal #6	Better collaboration across departments to leverage work regarding recreation, flood resilience, urban design and planning	
Source	Initiative	Participant Comments
<b>Higher Priority</b>		
Internal Stakeholder Review. Proposed new policy for CCP.	Collaborate with Water Resources and Parks at The City of Calgary at the onset of all development projects to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>develop an integrated and adaptive water management approach to protect and manage riparian areas; and</li> <li>confirm on requirements and targets of The City of Calgary Riparian Strategy that may impact development projects.</li> </ul>	
TAC Input	Where TOD projects are underway, identify specific areas in the Centre City where public-private partnerships may happen in short-term (tactical urbanism, sPARKs, etc.)	
<b>Less Priority</b>		
Strategic Foresight	Integrate stormwater management into design and transportation projects and ensure proper maintenance.	
Downtown Economic Summit Actions	Support alternative cultural groups and venues in the Centre City by providing administrative and financial support, brokering access to facilities and spaces, ensuring flexible and supportive land use and design policies, and providing access to City-owned buildings.	
CCP 5.2.15	Implement the Utilities & Environment Protection Public Art Master Plan along the riverfront.	Moving forward this should be the model for park development

## Activity 4

As a final workshop activity, the entire room came together as one large group to discuss two potential “big moves” that were identified as part of the Centre City Project teams’ initial analysis:

- Greening the Centre City; and
- Connecting People to Destinations.

The room facilitator engaged all of the workshop participants and table facilitators in a conversation, asking the question: “After reviewing all of the goal and initiatives, are these two big moves the right ones for Parks in the Centre City? If not, what should be the big moves?”

The following tables summarize the themes from the discussion that emerged from Activity #4.

## Big Move: Greening the Centre City

Theme	Participant comments
<b>More common</b>	
Concerns about direction	“Greening” too utilitarian a word that doesn’t speak to how it affects people; WHY are we to green the Centre City?
Activate public space through amenities	Greening is good and certainly has environmental benefits, but parks aren’t successful if they don’t draw people in; amenities are what draws people in
Unused space	Greening is good because many of hardscaped spaces are not drawing people in as intended; Repurpose available/unused spaces first
<b>Less Common</b>	
Boulevards	Green boulevards are also important potential “Green” spaces
Experience	User experience is key, desire to “get out of the concrete”

## Big Move: Connecting people to destinations

Theme	Participant comments
<b>More common</b>	
Destinations are key	People go to places only for a reason, and it should be an attractive one; Bow plaza needs help to make it better used via partnerships
The interconnectedness of the Big Moves	“Greening” and “Connecting” big moves are interconnected
<b>Less Common</b>	
Collaboration between City groups and service lines	“Connecting people” involves Transportation, not just Parks
Multi-Purpose spaces in context with surroundings	Park design should be based on surroundings and should serve more than one purposes (via activities and amenities)
Plus 15 Consideration	Connect to places using Plus 15 creates a continuum of spaces that weren’t there before

## General Comments

Theme	Participant comments
Purpose	Purpose of Big Moves is not clear to some workshop participants



# Centre City Plan Refresh

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Service Line Concerns	Parks is not the only service line that's responsible for implementing these moves (- Transportation is also responsible)
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## Next Steps

With this report, the Centre City Plan Refresh team will:

- Review the input;
- Identify issues for further discussion with internal stakeholders;
- Review all workshop results together to find connections;
- Identify policy impacts; and
- Use the information to inform the draft refresh of the Centre City Plan.

The administration aims to rescope the Centre City Plan Refresh project considering work happening at The City that may have impacts such as the Downtown Strategy. Dependant on the results of the project rescoping, the Project Team currently aims to:

- Draft the Plan, including actions;
- Circulate the plan internally;
- Share the Plan with the public for feedback;
- Finalize the Plan;
- Present the Plan to relevant authorities; and
- Respond to any follow-up motions.

The input collected from this workshop will be used in addition to the findings from the initial public engagement.



## Appendix A: Verbatim Attendee Feedback

Verbatim comments presented here include all the feedback collected from the workshop. Comments have not been edited for spelling or grammar. Any personal information, such as names or contact information has been removed.

### Activity 1 and 2

<b>Goal #1 Acquire additional park space in the Centre City.</b>
<b>IS THIS A REALISTIC GOAL? IS IT VIABLE? WHY OR WHY NOT?</b>
<b>Response</b>
Perhaps get local park in most deficient areas
What's the minimum size needed? Acquisition sites and sizes should be <u>geographically and needs - determined.</u>
Linear linkages exist in the Centre City Plan - explore acquisition of setback areas along 'green streets'
Encourage greening of links, along 1 Street SW, etc
Temporary park uses
Haultain Park could be used as example for future development - develop <u>under</u> new park space
Consider regional amenities as local
Are existing regional parks accessible for Beltline residents?
Parks land strategy - beginning right now
Think notically
Viable Recreation says new space is already coming (Louise Bridge site)
Viable for the inheritable conversation of CPR line
Not viable to flat-out purchase <u>but</u> possible new opportunity via development and civic partner coordination
Viable via Greenline development land acquisition
Yes, Statistics, more local parks
Refine Regional catchment - Don't include regional
Focus on open space in Beltline
Existing parks are underutilized so why purchase more space
Expand existing parks
Parks need to be animated at all times of the day
What are the Parks intended use?
Utilize existing city owned
Land swap
City needs more event space - Centre City ideal for medium site, events level to vitality spaces - smaller scale even sites to activate
Where to site it - look where opportunities
Check age of buildings to see which areas are converting - if we understand where conversions happening then we can capitalize
Land swap using under-utilized sites (ie: parking lot)
You need a fund (rescue) for parks to enable nimble land acquisitions
Better utilize space in winter
Activity pursue parking lots - put a parkade underneath - do this in stages (phases)
Consider along CP tracks
When are lands converting to residential uses
<b>WHAT ARE THE BEST WAYS THAT THIS GOAL COULD BE IMPLEMENTED?</b>
<b>What would it take? Who would need to be involved? How can it be done?</b>
<b>Response</b>
Bus barns opportunity
Expand existing Parks





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Park over Railroad
City-owned land
Convert surface parking lots
Create a parkade and put a park on top
Partnership with private developers
publicly accessible private open space

<b>Goal #2: Enhance existing parks and open spaces in Centre City</b>
IS THIS A REALISTIC GOAL? IS IT VIABLE? WHY OR WHY NOT?
<b>Response</b>
Work with local community to design/program spaces
More of 'Creating Coventry'/Local Growth Planning
People use the spaces when they have a reason to
Many open spaces in CC are not big enough to give you a taste of nature that is needed
Adaptable spaces (if desired) that can be partnered with to host pop-ups - enhancement via temporary uses
Seattle PPATCH that allows citizens to plant their growth - 13th Avenue Greenway
DTC Association may be able to have a perspective on how to improve commercial park space
Are the DT spaces comfortable/workable?
Promote outside use for inside-oriented fitness groups
Depending on users, need to focus the investment, which should be targeted to the users.
Winter warming huts
The Forks in Winnipeg is more successful in the winter than summer
Washrooms
Skating Rink at Olympic Plaza
Viable - Because the public wants to enjoy their parks!!
Enhancement of public washrooms and fountains <u>not necessarily in the parks</u> . Just balance strategic need vs decrease likelihood of social disorder
Relax public drinking a very interesting pilot project
Dog parks also great, despite Connaught Park noise complaint debacle
Yes, we have lots of spaces that need help/work
Yes it is realistic
Create a legacy fund
Use our park spaces for more green - follow up study to understand how people use the specific parks, do more of that - use this to in enhancing parks
Follow up to see 'why are people not there?' (ie: East Village Parks 'Why are people not there/'
Consider what 'enhancement' means - green the parks - private more natural feeling areas
Enhance is not necessarily amenities - how do we tie technological enhancements to the park designs?
Programmed use on the decline
Non-programmed use on the incline
Each park has unique adjacencies
Druh's comments: What do people need? What do people want? What did we do right? What did we do wrong?
Successful parks - green soft inviting
Green probably isn't
WHAT ARE THE BEST WAYS THAT THIS GOAL COULD BE IMPLEMENTED?
What would it take? Who would need to be involved? How can it be done?
<b>Response</b>
Outdoor stage 'Chicago'



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Princess Island Park is a missed opportunity
Beutify - add flowers
Olympic Plaza not safe. Too dark
Places where people can take selfies
Rebrand Olympic Plaza
james Short Park - Habitat Connections
Ensure nature between park spaces and river
Diversity - insect, falcon, floral paintings
Maintenance budget should be higher for Centre City. Operate at a higher level
Green roofs

<b>Goal #3: Enhance public realm linking parks and open spaces</b>
<b>IS THIS A REALISTIC GOAL? IS IT VIABLE? WHY OR WHY NOT?</b>
<b>Response</b>
Enhancing linkages
13th Avenue Greenway remainder does not conform to best practices - needs to be redesigned.
Intersections need safety upgrades - high cost
Encourage active lifestyles with walking/cycling
On-street is the key
Connect existing on-street and off-street cycling pathways
Sidewalk improvements - maybe interesting treatments near parks - inviting red carpet/welcome mat/signage
Pedestrian refuge
Viable! Encourages pedestrian/non-auto modes to go there (instead of drive)
Viable! Encourages 'rate systems' of getting around an area and encourages commercial activity!
Viable - great links become their own parks
Yes, need to enhance walking links
Stret network can enhance the experience
The streets can act as a continuation of approach connections between spaces based on the experiences rather than the distance
It is viable (Stephen Avenue)
13th Avenue Greenway
Green Street needs to have anchors
<b>WHAT ARE THE BEST WAYS THAT THIS GOAL COULD BE IMPLEMENTED?</b>
What would it take? Who would need to be involved? How can it be done?
<b>Response</b>
Urban Strategy and Sonny Tomic's work directly relates to us
BCIF a good funding source more IF's would be better but recreation has trouble accessing for Beltline Rec Centre. Perhaps tie it to plan objectives instead of simply 'demonstrate growth'
Public Art
Light as Art
Tree
Connectivity - finish 13 Avenue Greenway - Rail Corridor is a barrier - no connections to the Bow River - North/South connectivity is okay - East/West street improvements
Focus on anchor destinations
How do we capitalize on +15 system? (living walls) - vertical connections
What does this look like?



# Centre City Plan Refresh

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<b>Goal #4: Enhance interface between parks and other uses.</b>
IS THIS A REALISTIC GOAL? IS IT VIABLE? WHY OR WHY NOT?
<b>Response</b>
Enhance interface with built form
Animate edges with small retail
Parks operational considerations/costs
Test different things, try it
Challenges with building code requirements
Better use of +15? Interface with open spaces?
Do all of our park spaces need to be at-grade?
What achieves active lifestyle?
Viable - very similar to Goal #3
Yes, restaurant uses are great
Yay, food trucks
Aesthetics
Yes
Should consider interface with river
WHAT ARE THE BEST WAYS THAT THIS GOAL COULD BE IMPLEMENTED?
What would it take? Who would need to be involved? How can it be done?
<b>Response</b>
Plus 15 (+15) green space would increase social disorder which is already challenging situation difficult
More funding resources from Council and levies (bigger push for philanthropy)
Allow entertainment spaces
Restaurants
Not safe injection sites
Don't have adjacent uses that turn back on park
Allow food trucks
Allow small businesses
Work with Feds to use Mewata Armoury Space
Winter City Strategy uses
Movie night
Enhanced landscaping across from parks
LUB update
More bathrooms
Could use interface as component of evaluating open space acquisition
Focus on specific locations to activate interface on open space hubs (ie: Riverwalk, SienLok, Eau Claire, Peace Bridge)
It is not our responsibility to provide active uses in our parks
Incentivize active uses fronting onto park

<b>Goal #5: Leverage publicly accessible private open space to meet Parks needs</b>
IS THIS A REALISTIC GOAL? IS IT VIABLE? WHY OR WHY NOT?
<b>Response</b>
Leverage private space?
Parks foundation almost acts as another parks capital department. City would like to work with them to identify priority list
Cut red tape to allow for privately-driven activations/flexibility
High Line?



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What We Heard Report: 2019 March 20  
Parks Workshop

Commercial vendor program piloted last year - Laura Smith
Leaning in to grab and go food service
Streets open only during rush hour
How to work with Roads/Transportation? - someone needs to resource/plan from the City side - Council needs to lead the way to a closed street
Address escalating costs of maintenance
Viable
Risks, High Density, Security
Limited by Private owner
Need to consult with owner
Not feasible unless it is donated back to city, leased back
Bonus for Plaza should be \$\$ for one good space rather than unused Plaza
Yes we do want to leverage this space
<b>WHAT ARE THE BEST WAYS THAT THIS GOAL COULD BE IMPLEMENTED?</b>
What would it take? Who would need to be involved? How can it be done?
<b>Response</b>
Allow these spaces through a long term lease with City (instead of it being entirely private) ie: Devonian Gardens
Offer building owners 'opportunity' to repurpose vacant office space for private/public open space (ie: Devonian Gardens) owners benefit from new destination attracting customers/tenants (ie: Eau Claire Market indoor playground)
City pilot to program existing public/private space to experiment and learn
Ensure that development includes needed programming infrastructure (ie: electricity)
Self density or transfer Plaza density
Parks enhancement fund
Parking lots to even spaces - too expensive
No new parking lots
Sparks don't work in Calgary
Laneways?
Murals
Alley Party
Go to indoor space - encourage people to go to the spaces
Design guidelines and a format program would be a benefit - ie: Toronto example
Rooftop spaces, leverage these spaces
Increase activity by providing PLACES committee

<b>Goal #6: Better collaboration across departments to leverage work regarding recreation, flood resilience, urban design and planning</b>
<b>IS THIS A REALISTIC GOAL? IS IT VIABLE? WHY OR WHY NOT?</b>
<b>Response</b>
Better collaboration
Green infrastructure - low income development - maintenance concerns - off load to communities?
Other cities do this - how come we can't?
City departments are already as lean as can be
There are a lot of sources of capital funding but few for operational
Pursue service-line budgeting questions?
Use green loop with LID As a catalyst for this approach
Annual frequent meeting to share Centre City work programs for different city teams
CCP should provide the Council approved vision to grant permission space
Imagine Parks vision needs to align



# Centre City Plan Refresh

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Parks Workshop

<p>Viabale - it's already happening to some extent and should continue to evolve</p> <p>Not viable - actually implementing projects collaboratively often ends in lead group having to put forward regardless of concerns from other stakeholders</p> <p>Viabale - can avoid conflicting or redundant work</p> <p>Definitely</p> <p>Talking to Transportation about diversity</p> <p>Land tied up in roadways</p> <p>Opportunities across departments</p> <p>Yes, the City already does this - this has happened at West Eau Claire for example</p> <p>Governance around this collaboration could be formalized - ie: we are potentially working to put washrooms/water fountains, electrical outlets - but who maintains/builds this (governance could look into this)</p> <p><b>WHAT ARE THE BEST WAYS THAT THIS GOAL COULD BE IMPLEMENTED?</b> What would it take? Who would need to be involved? How can it be done?</p> <p><b>Response</b></p> <p>More Collaboration = higher potential project costs and if not scoped properly (collaboratively) the first time.</p> <p>Implementation is key</p> <p>Have each department accountable</p> <p>How can parks work with Transportation</p> <p>ROW setbacks - don't like to plant trees</p> <p>Tough to compete with engineering standards</p> <p>Parks \$\$ shouldn't just be borne by Parks. Share costs across departments</p> <p>One Calgary - Parks &amp; Open Sapce Service Line</p> <p>Flexibility in Design of Parks to withstand times changing - multi-use spaces/multi-ages</p> <p>Have a few explicit policies that are organic to ensure you are looking at a water levy, festival levy, recreation levy, activation levy, etc</p>
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<p><b>Goal #: Other Goals</b></p> <p><b>IS THIS A REALISTIC GOAL? IS IT VIABLE? WHY OR WHY NOT?</b></p> <p><b>Response</b></p> <p>Social Equity as a goal for open spaces - how do we achieve this?</p> <p>Often a social equity outcome conflicts with other goals</p> <p><b>WHAT ARE THE BEST WAYS THAT THIS GOAL COULD BE IMPLEMENTED?</b> What would it take? Who would need to be involved? How can it be done?</p> <p><b>Response</b></p> <p>(No data)</p>
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## Activity 3

Goal #1	Acquire additional park space in the Centre City.	
Source	Initiative	Priority and Comments
CCP 4.3.2	CP Rail Corridor Future Vision. Plus 30 public spaces that bridge the CPR Tracks. East West connections. At-grade plazas at entrances to plus 30.	√
CCP 5.1.6	Create a park/plaza within a five-minute walk for residents and employees in the Centre City. The parks/plaza shall meet the criteria set out in the Public Realm Policies and Parks criteria for the design or redevelopment of neighbourhood and urban open spaces.	√√
CCP 5.1 Actions	Acquire new park lands in the West Connaught, Connaught Centre, and Victoria Crossing Centre neighbourhoods to meet local open space needs. Ensure adequate functionality of the open space with an optimal size of 0.2 hectares.	already done - Enoch Park, Barb Scott Park
CCP 5.2.8	Resolve the pathway/transportation conflict points between the Louise Bridge (9 Street SW) and the new West Park (Crowchild Trail SW) by twinning the pathway system from Nat Christie Park to the Pumphouse Theatre and/or other solutions that would minimize congestion for the pedestrian along this area of the riverfront.	√
CCP 7.6.3	Selection of future open space within the Centre City should give consideration to the amount of sunlight the site receives. At the time a park site is formally secured, consideration should be given to the level of sunlight protection required to serve the functions of the park.	√√√√
WWHR Quick Win Ideas	Identify indoor green spaces and whether there is a need for more.	√√
CCP 4.2.8 ACTIONS	Identify and acquire open space between 8 Street SW and 14 Street SW (inclusive) to meet the needs of the local population. Ensure adequate functionality of the open space with an optimal size of 0.2 hectares as well as be open to opportunities to reallocate existing under-utilized open space.	√√√√
CCP 5.1 ACTIONS	Develop a detailed action strategy that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defines/redefines the function/role of all existing Centre City parks in an effort to establish what is required in an acquisition of new open space for size and function;</li> <li>• Establishes the spatial distribution of parks relative to people;</li> <li>• Plans for a variety of open spaces with criteria that will create a sense of place to meet the needs of each neighbourhood and the Downtown;</li> <li>• Locates future parks such that view lines to and from the parks are reviewed to ensure vitality of the park;</li> <li>• Integrates with the pathway and linkage system; and</li> <li>• Recommends enhancement/revitalization of existing parks to better meet their role/function and create of a sense of place."</li> </ul>	√√√√√ Prince's Island Park should be priority - update Centre City Parks Enhancement Plan



CCP 5.2.2	Protect existing open space along the entire riverfront by transferring it to Parks inventory and designating it with the appropriate Land Use.	√
Learnings from other municipalities	Use money from a CRL to expropriate or purchase land to create a new park. Leverage development around the park.	√

Goal #2	Enhance existing parks and open spaces in Centre City	
Source	Initiative	Priority and Comments
TAC Input	Parks and open spaces should be designed or upgraded to support major festival and events. Design parks, public spaces and streetscape spaces so there is appropriate infrastructure in place for turn-key festival and event use.	√√√√ - *More study. Not just festival and events. What are the gaps (eg: informal soccer) Can there be room for small scale grassroots events ie: small business markets. Opps to engage residents in giving them permission to animate space
DT Economic Summit	Increase the visibility of indigenous communities and heritage in the Centre City through public art, place names and urban design. Add indigenous elements to parks, open space, public realm, etc.	√√ - Project and promote ethnic minorities. Indigenous History has to be priority
TAC Input	The following is a list of amenities that could be in parks...	
TAC Input	Parks should have four-season amenities.	√√√√ - yes, yes, yes
WWHR Quick Win Ideas	Allow restaurants or food trucks in parks	√ - Already in Place
CCP 4.1.9	Support opportunities in the Downtown that promote additional open space and public realm vitality such as sPARKS. See Open Space section and Appendix D: Glossary.	
CCP 4.2.1.6	Ensure the appropriate pedestrian movements are maintained and enhanced within Shaw Millennium Park. This should include consideration of a visually creative pedestrian overpass over Bow Trail to the riverfront.	
CCP 5.1.3	Ensure the future vision of Fort Calgary is integrated as a part of the open space system and special areas within the Centre City.	√
CCP 5.1.13	Emphasize all Centre City parks as locations for public art.	√√
CCP 5.2.1	Reinforce the riverfront as a premier open space component of the Centre City.	
CCP 5.2.10	Establish opportunities for an urban edge (e.g. restaurants/coffee shops) in appropriate locations along the riverfront such as the new West Park and Elbow Riverfront Park.	√√

CCP 4.2.3.11	Consider the potential for sPARKS and/or a woonerf along Macleod Trail SE and 1 Street SE between Riverfront Avenue and 4 Avenue SE. See Section 6: Open Space and Appendix D: Glossary.	
CCP 5.1.12	Explore opportunities for incorporating bicycle facilities in Centre City parks.	√ - Bike Share - not explore just do
CCP 5.1.14	Establish, as a priority, the portions of the Centre City Public Art Strategy that relate to the open space, riverfront and linkages system.	√
CCP 4.2.2.5	Due to the ultimate increase in residential development and population in the Eau Claire neighbourhood, a review of the need for and/or possibility of alternative sites for the heliport pad within the Centre City should be undertaken. Should the heliport be removed/relocated then the area it occupies shall become parks open space.	
TAC Input	Assess existing parks and open spaces to determine how they do or do not support major festival use.	
TAC Input	Finish 13 Ave Greenway	√√ - Complete the green belt as per Centre City Urban Design Guidelines. Current Greenway design has serious challenges/problems
TAC Input	Shaw Millennium Parks should have a master plan completed. Venue Optimization Project.	√
TAC Input	Sien Lok Park upgrade.	√√√ - Everything in Downtown area should be redone. To encourage more people to use this park
Strategic Foresight	Revitalize/redesign/rebrand Eau Claire as a destination. OR the Riverfront as a destination.	
WWHR Quick Win Ideas	Install some outdoor park workout/exercise equipment.	√
WWHR Quick Win Ideas	Review the allowance of drinking alcohol in public parks.	√√√√√ - Make it happen. The prohibition era ended almost 100 years ago. In progress (at picnic sites). We are doing it anyways
WWHR Quick Win Ideas	Build another dog park.	√√
WWHR Quick Win Ideas	Prepare a plan for public restrooms in the Centre City	√√√√ - Not enough public washrooms. I agree
WWHR Quick Win Ideas	Activate Tompson's Family Park	Re-do - 'overdone'

WWHR Quick Win Ideas	Identify locations for community gardens and build more	√√√ - Inviting to the public, encourage engagement. Very desired and need amenity.
WWHR Quick Win Ideas	Winter events programming. Incentives for Winter events or subsidize Winter events.	√√√ - Need a four season strategy for all parks
WWHR Quick Win Ideas	Identify locations for playing soccer in the Centre City. Not necessary soccer - just large open space multi use (see above)*	√ - *tie in with other uses. Interest for CPL to explore more uses at Memorial (+ drinking) "HUG" - shift "Pilot"
WWHR Quick Win Ideas	Spray parks in the Centre City need bathrooms with change tables.	√√√ - Bathrooms at high visibility areas with max benefit (eg: LRT Stations)
WWHR Quick Win Ideas	Devonian Gardens needs longer operating hours.	
WWHR Quick Win Ideas	Riverwalk paths should have good lighting. There are some locations that are dark.	√√√√ - Capital/Cost - 5A Network in Pathway & Bikeway Plan
CCP 5.1.10	Preserve sunlight access for all existing and new open spaces as per the Sunlight Preservation section.	
CCP 5.2.13.	Preserve all pedestrian views and connections directly to the Bow and Elbow Rivers.	√√
Internal Stakeholder Review	Finish redesign of Humpy Hollow Park	√
CCP 4.2.2.7	Reinforce all pedestrian and bicycle-oriented, physical and visual connections to the riverfront and across to Prince's Island Park and the Bow River as well as improve key bicycle routes through this neighbourhood. See Concept 23: Bicycle Network.	√ - McHugh House permanent location. Echo Square to make this park as a heritage park
Internal Stakeholder Review. Proposed new policy for CCP.	Design block layouts, buildings and open space with generous space standards and carefully planned spatial arrangement that can allow for adaptation with relative ease to suit the needs of different users over the years.	√√√√ - Interconnectivity between various open spaces
Internal Stakeholder Review. Proposed new policy for CCP.	Protect and enhance urban forestry and the natural habitat by conserving and enhancing riparian areas, retaining natural vegetation and features, habitats and wildlife, as well as connecting green space and corridors to form a green urban network in the Centre City	√√√√√ - More flowers in parks
Internal Stakeholder Review. Proposed	Mix native and ornamental plants to enhance diversity. Use native and drought-resistant plant species that are tolerant of urban pollution and conditions in new developments.	√ - Edible Plants? Ie: berries

new policy for CCP.		
Internal Stakeholder Review. Proposed new policy for CCP.	Design project landscaping to increase the interconnected corridors of urban forest and natural habitat as well as all riparian areas and open space at the Centre City.	√√√
Internal Stakeholder Review. Proposed new policy for CCP.	Create community gardens at grade in sunny, non-windy locations, or on podiums or roofs, particularly in residential development, for economic and social benefits. Include pedestrian lighting and sitting areas to enhance such community gardens as additional amenity space. Consider using these community gardens as gateway features for different neighbourhoods.	√ - Yes!
Internal Stakeholder Review. Proposed new policy for CCP.	Protect, restore and enhance all riparian areas in any development at and/or in the vicinity of riparian corridors within the Centre City. & increase recreation operations where appropriate (eg. River access)	√√ - It is important to protect it (flood, natural area, etc)

Goal #3	Enhance public realm linking parks and open spaces	
Source	Initiative	Priority and Comments
Proposed new policy for CCP by TAC	Use drought tolerant and hardy plants for landscaping.	√√√√ - Sustainability. Anything climate change related should be priority. More flowers in Parks!
CCP 5.1.2	Create a comprehensive and connected open space system that links parks/plazas, the riverfront, and special areas.	√√
CCP 5.1.5	Create an open space/linkage loop through and around the Centre City via the riverfront, 13 Avenue S and the CPR Special Area. Include opportunities to celebrate the historical significance that is found along 13 Avenue S and the role of the CPR to the City of Calgary.	√√√√ - Loner trem. But should be included maybe, as feasibility study
CCP 5.2.3	Reinforce strong pedestrian connections to the riverfront to meet open space needs for the residential/mixed-use neighbourhoods in the following manner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a 12/13 Avenue S Greenway connection to the Bow and Elbow Rivers by connecting the new West Park and Elbow Riverfront Park; and</li> <li>• Reinforce the importance of the north/south pedestrian-enhanced connections to the riverfront.</li> </ul>	√√√√
CCP 5.2.11	Create special places along the riverfront that connect with the north/south street intersections (e.g. public art, activity/interpretive opportunities such as where 6 and 8 Street SW connects to the river pathway system).	√√√ - Quick win (I think)
Strategic Foresight	Identify existing and future destinations and improve connections between them. Destinations could be outside of the Centre City.	

Strategic Foresight	Stephen Avenue upgratde	√√√√ - Needs to better balance hard and soft scope over . Attract tourism. More activation spaces needed.
TAC Input	Increase the amount of permeable surfaces throughout the Centre City.	√ - Artificial turf at SHAW Millenial Park
Internal Stakeholder Review. Proposed new policy for CCP.	An integrated design approach should be engaged to resolve and accommodate multiple building and/or development objectives through green infrastructure and sustainable measures in all development.	√
Internal Stakeholder Review. Proposed new policy for CCP.	Enhance storm-water management by employing a sustainable form of urban drainage system for all development within the Centre City	
Internal Stakeholder Review. Proposed new policy for CCP.	Harvest rainwater and reuse storm-water in buildings, open space, parks and other landscaped areas for non-potable water consumption and irrigation purposes. See applicable licensing requirements and policies of Alberta Environmental and Sustainable Resources Development (AESRD) for accepted practices of rainwater and storm water re-use.	
Internal Stakeholder Review. Proposed new policy for CCP.	Maximize tree canopy in all new developments using street trees, tree groves or clusters at open space areas, amenity space and along streets to reduce urban heat island effects and CO2 emissions.	√√√√
Seattle Downtown Plan	Enhance connections to rivers.	√√√ - Think about and/or destinations around rivers. Wayfinding for parks and open spaces, include distance and estimated time to wade

Goal #4	Enhance interface between parks and other uses.	
Source	Initiative	Priority and Comments
CCP 5.2.14	Implement the new Eau Claire Plaza Design Concept and its interface with Prince's Island Park.	√√√√√√ - Princess Island stage area redevelopment should be priority. Do not wait for the Eau Claire Market land to be developed. Eau Claire Plaza needs a face lift badly. Keep area

		vibrant. Think about festival and events requirements.
CCP 5.2 ACTION S	Prepare Urban Design and Environmental Guidelines for future urban edges along the Bow and Elbow riverfronts.	√ - Yes we need that pressure to preserve the riparian/riverfront open space and balance development near riverfront.
WWHR Quick Win Ideas	Guidelines for interface with Plus 15 system. Could green spaces be incorporated into the Plus 15 systems?	√√√√ - Good opportunity to introduce 'greenhouse' within +15. Indoor and outdoor spaces
	Other	Encourage more active edges whether public or private. Activate building edges at corporate pocket parks. Encourage active edges at strategic interfaces along riverfront

Goal #5	Leverage public and publicly accessible private open space to meet Parks needs	
Source	Initiative	Priority and Comments
CCP 5.1.9	5.1.9. Establish and develop sPARKS as flexible and eco-friendly places/connections that complement neighbourhood centre activities and create places for localized civic celebrations and events. sPARKS shall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be located on north-south oriented streets that have low traffic volumes (e.g. less than 5,000 vehicles per day);</li> <li>• Be located in areas that already have active land uses at-grade or have the potential for redevelopment or significant improvement of existing building edges;</li> <li>• Accommodate slow-moving vehicular traffic and on-street parking in the winter and various active/passive pedestrian activities in the summer;</li> <li>• Ensure through-cycling;</li> <li>• Consider distinctive eco-paving (e.g. full or partial water retention or permeability), textures and colour treatments;</li> <li>• Provide distinctive, movable and multipurpose street furniture to accommodate various pedestrian activities; and</li> </ul>	√√ - Complete study of needs/preferences/priorities for spaces (public & private) Focus on who is not just everyone.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide special lighting, water, landscaping or public art features.</li> </ul>	
CCP 5.1.11	Plan for land uses that are supportive and enhance the vitality of both existing and new open spaces.	√√√√ - Include adjacent parcels. Complete analysis to access demand/needs. Reform land uses and preview to ensure more functional and active open spaces. Those spaces are ornamental and properly used.
TAC Input	Program events in s-parks	
CCP 5.2.13	Preserve all pedestrian views and connections directly to the Bow and Elbow Rivers.	√
Learnings from other municipalities	Toronto has formalized a program for design, identification, mapping and signage related to privately owned publicly-accessible spaces (POPS). This program raises the profile of publicly accessible spaces in the City through formal City GIS mapping and a single brand, complete with signage.	√√√√√ - Low cost. No one knows/understands where SPARKS are, why they'd want to go
	Vendor Program	√

Goal #6	Better collaboration across departments to leverage work regarding recreation, flood resilience, urban design and planning	
Source	Initiative	Priority and Comments
CCP 5.2.15	Implement the Utilities & Environment Protection Public Art Master Plan along the riverfront.	Moving forward this should be the model for park development
TAC Input	Where TOD projects are underway, identify specific areas in the Centre City where public-private partnerships may happen in short-term (tactical urbanism, sPARKs, etc.)	√ √
Strategic Foresight	Integrate stormwater management into design and transportation projects and ensure proper maintenance.	√
Downtown Economic Summit Actions	Support alternative cultural groups and venues in the Centre City by providing administrative and financial support, brokering access to facilities and spaces, ensuring flexible and supportive land use and design policies, and providing access to City-owned buildings.	√
Internal Stakeholder Review. Proposed new policy for CCP.	Collaborate with Water Resources and Parks at The City of Calgary at the onset of all development projects to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• develop an integrated and adaptive water management approach to protect and manage riparian areas; and</li> <li>• confirm on requirements and targets of The City of Calgary Riparian Strategy that may impact development projects.</li> </ul>	√√√

## Activity 4

### Big Moves

- Greening the Centre City
- Connecting people to destinations

	Comments
Are there other Goals?	Current work well
	Leverage....."=good , but not top priority for spending - connection to vacant offices. Repurpose lower floors for public use. Eg: daycare/playground/dog park/Devonian P+2
	and Social equity - may need to be its own; a filter
	What are all the goals striving toward? A: a more vibrant Center City
	Need to prioritize initiatives
Big Moves	Better = to activate it (parks) Not rec. programming; but having amenities to get people there
	the experience piece! Getting out of the concrete
	"greening' could be too utilitarian, tut not used by people
	people 'go places for a reason". It has something attractive
	Partnerships eg: Bow Plaza - help to make these places better used
	Connecting to places via +15 - a continuum of spaces
	Yes - we have lots of hardscaped areas that are underutilized. Need green! But it's nt the only thing
	Green boulevards are also important 'green spaces'
	look at what's around a place before we build a park. Really multi-purpose eg: different types of activities and amenities, can't serve just one purpose
	Be clear. Why are we greening Centre City?
	Connecting people - these big moves don't necessarily belong to parks
	The purpose of big moves is not clear
	Purpose of parks is not just enviro - it's to connect people and provide active space
	Big move 2 is important, but is directly relates to the purpose of one goal
	Should be: creating social spaces, places for people to connect and spend quality time
	Service line focus. Not only Parks responsible
	It is important to connect people to nature and green
Big move based on actual demand/assumption could be large sports fields	
Whatever the gap is that's identified by citizens....that should be the big move eg; could even be WiFi in all parks	
Repurpose available/unused spaces	