

# Bend in the Bow

## Welcome

Open House  
11.24.15  
4:30–7:30 pm

Inglewood  
Community  
Association

## Purpose

Listen to and capture your input about Bend in the Bow, a new regional park for Calgary. Tonight is about Phase I (Inglewood Bird Sanctuary and Inglewood Wildlands). We have a background of the project, history of engagement so far, and questions for you to give feedback on.

## We're here to help

The project team includes City of Calgary staff and a consultant team. We have a multidisciplinary group of landscape architects, biologists, reclamation specialists, water resource engineers, environmental scientists, historians and artists. We're here to listen to you - we want to know what you think



## How do I get involved?

### PHASE 1 Inglewood Bird Sanctuary + Inglewood Wildlands

#### TONIGHT

Use the sticky notes to give us feedback on general concepts or specific ideas.

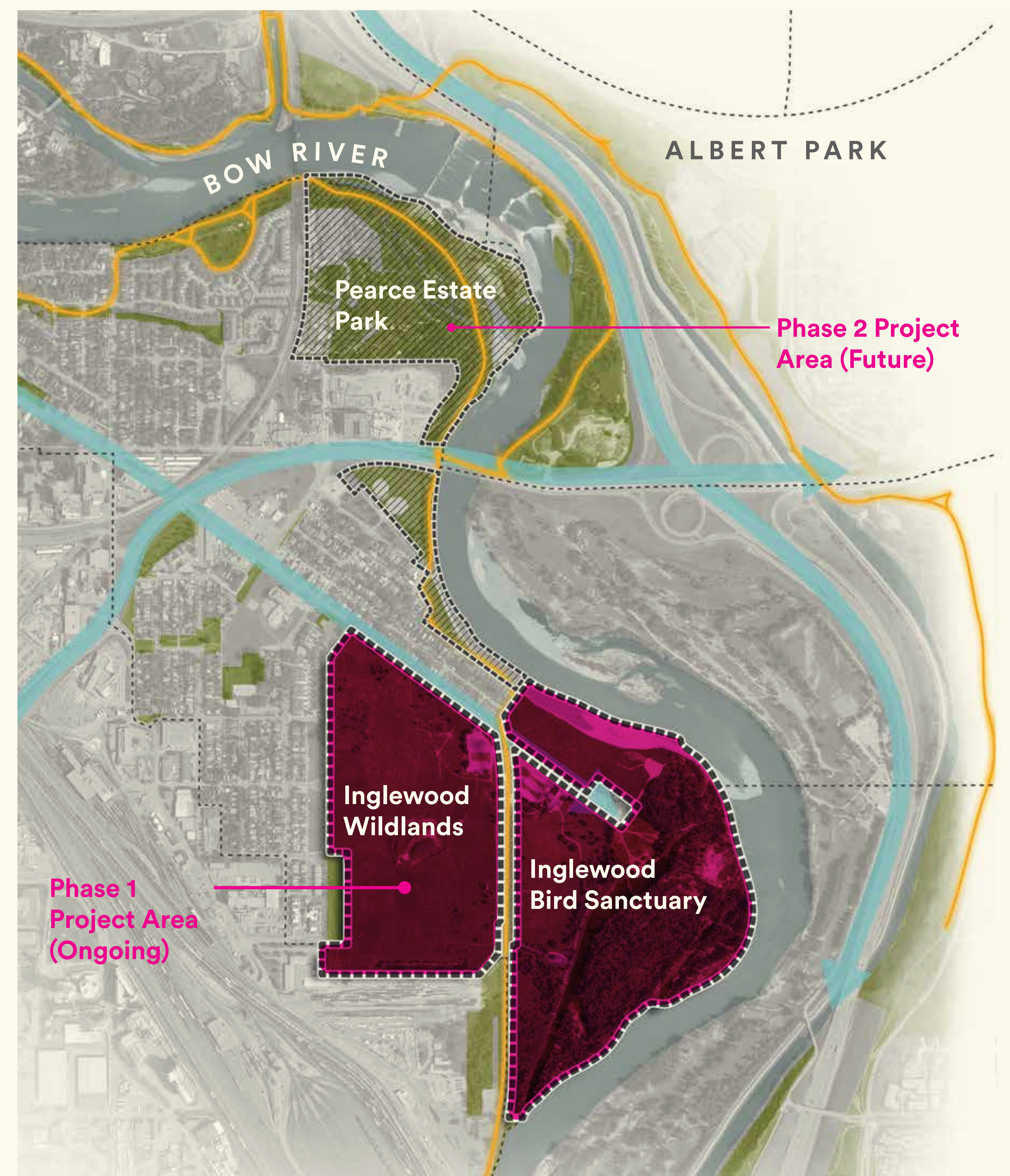
Have questions? Talk to us!

#### ONLINE

Need more time? Want to share Bend in the Bow with others?

Go to [calgary.ca/bendinthebow](http://calgary.ca/bendinthebow).  
An online survey has been set up to continue the conversation.  
A copy of all the boards will be available at this link.

Remember, the survey closes December 30, 2015.



#### STAY INFORMED

 [calgary.ca/bendinthebow](http://calgary.ca/bendinthebow)

 @CalgaryParks

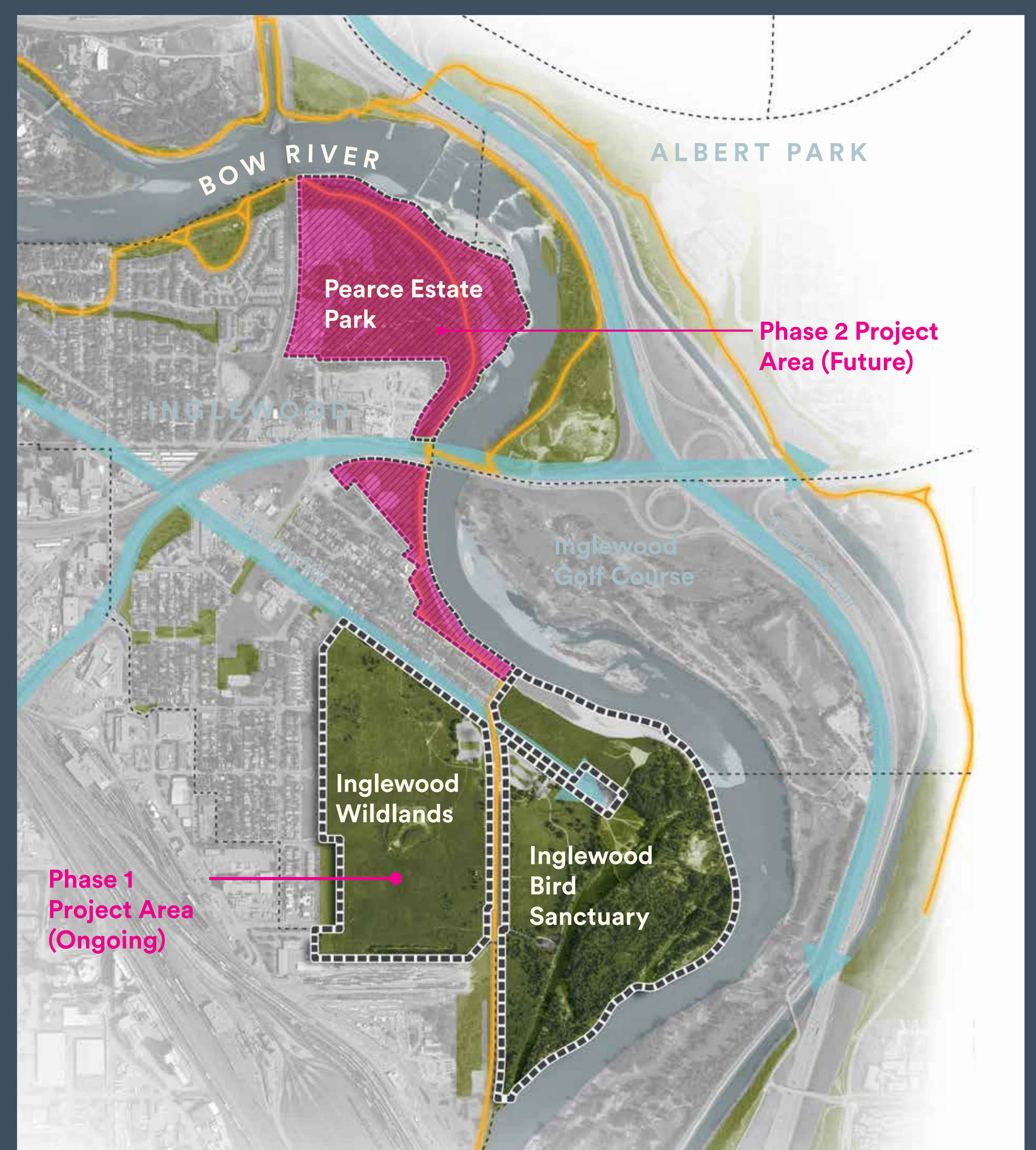
 City of Calgary Parks

 or call 311

### PHASE 2 Pearce Estate Park + surrounding area

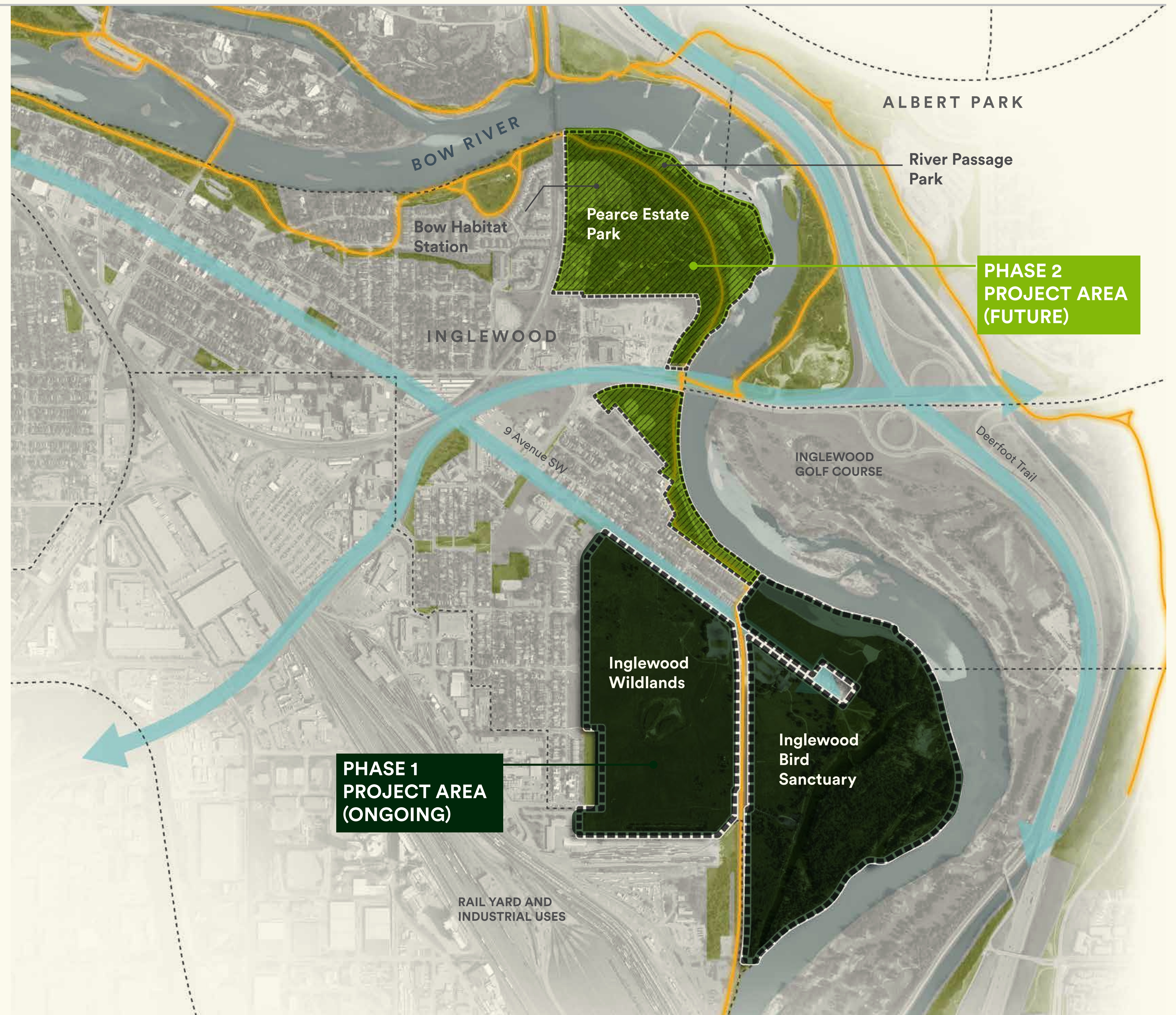
#### COMING IN 2016

We will be holding public input sessions on Phase 2 in 2016.





# What (and where) is Bend in the Bow?



The City of Calgary has begun the process of consolidating several open green spaces along the Bow River into a regional park called Bend in the Bow.

This park is for a wide range of users. Phase 1 areas (Inglewood Bird Sanctuary and Wildlands) are for passive activities: bird watching, nature viewing, art, walkers and history buffs.

Phase 2 (Pearce Estate and surrounding lands) will be more focused on active recreation activities.

**Bend in the Bow Regional Park is home to a diverse range of wildlife. Protection and enhancement of their habitat is one of our project priorities.**

## Why a regional park?

The location of Bend in the Bow is rich in cultural and natural history. It is place where Calgary, as we know it now, started. We want to preserve this history for future generations.

In creating Bend in the Bow, The City aims to balance active and passive recreation and educational opportunities, while preserving and celebrating the natural and cultural heritage.

## Phase 1: Inglewood Bird Sanctuary + Inglewood Wildlands

The Inglewood Bird Sanctuary is the only federally-recognized bird sanctuary in Canada that is located within an urban setting. The 67-hectare site received bird sanctuary status in 1929, and is The City of Calgary's flagship location for delivering environmental education programs to the general public and school groups. The Inglewood Wildlands is a privately owned green space leased to The City by Suncor Energy Inc. Located on the former British American Oil Company refinery land, the site has been transformed through a rigorous remediation process that involved the landowner, the City and the dedicated efforts of the Inglewood Wildlands Society and its team of volunteers.

**Phase 1 focuses on conservation and stewardship through educational programming, and will have passive recreational opportunities.**

## Phase 2: Pearce Estate

In the second phase, The City will shift its attention to the lands north of Inglewood Bird Sanctuary all the way to Pearce Estate Park.

**Phase 2 will include new active and passive recreational opportunities to be explored through public engagement in 2016.**



## What is a DDP?

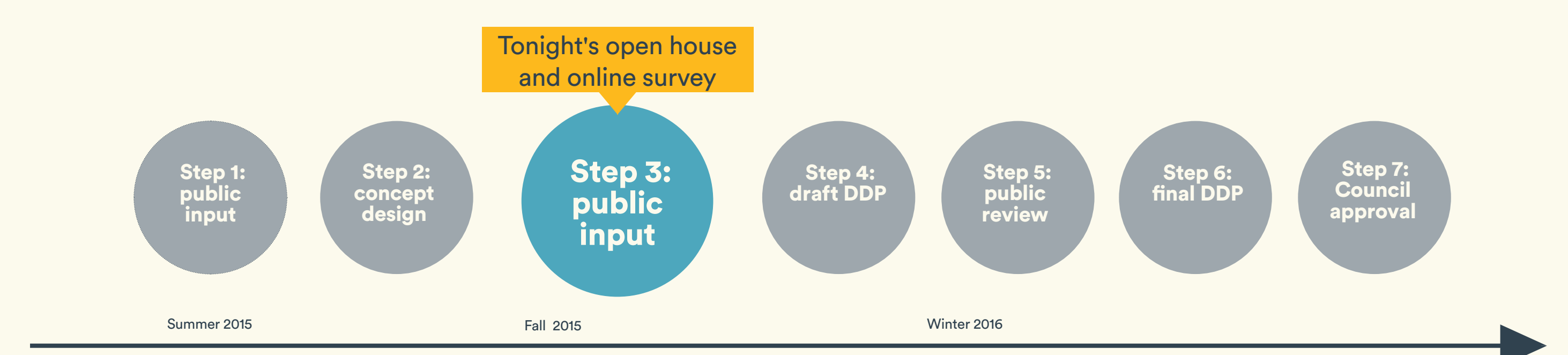
A Design Development Plan (DDP) is the product of an collaborative process of design and engagement between The City, a team of consultants, stakeholders and the public. Very broadly speaking, it is the road-map/plan that The City uses to build a park, create a transit line, plan a community.

### How does a Design Development Plan fit within the big picture?

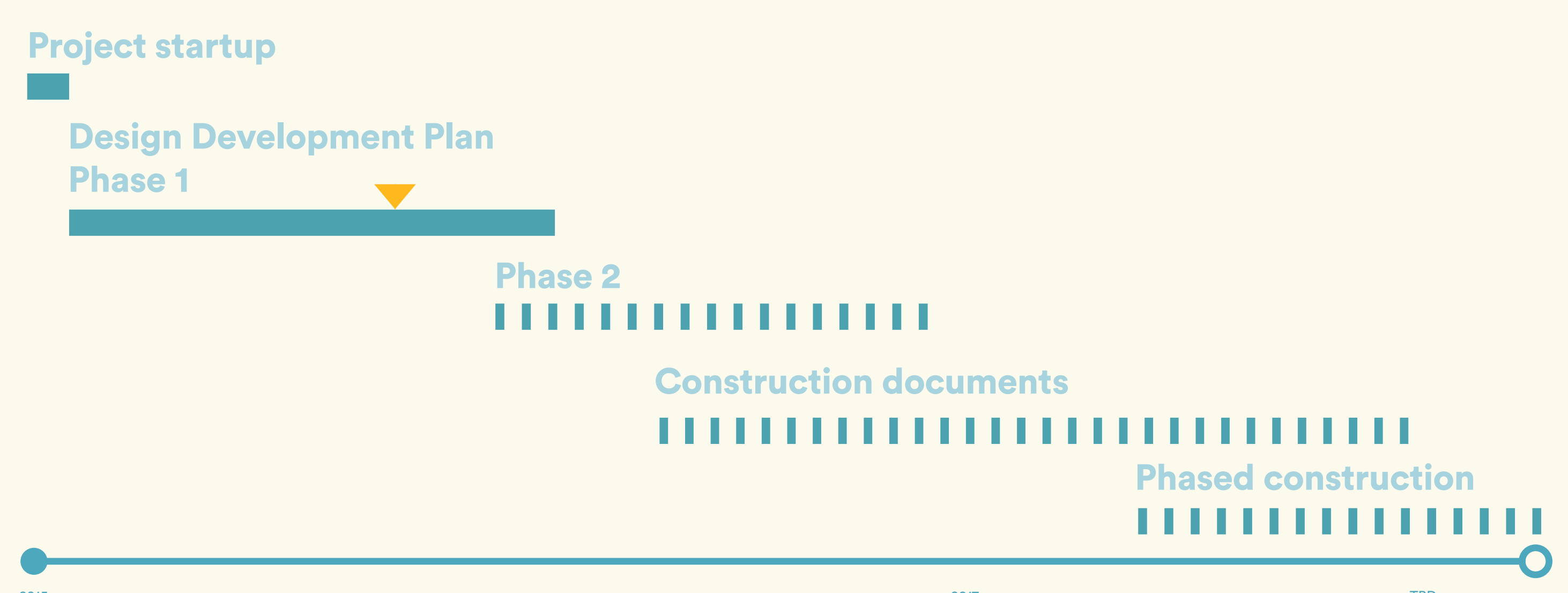
This is an early stage of the process. There's still a long way to go before construction will begin, and we'll be asking for feedback along the way.

This is one of the first steps of the process. We gathered some broad feedback about your experience of the site earlier this year online, and met with a dedicated team of stakeholders who are extremely knowledgeable about this area. We've now developed an initial design concept that you're seeing now.

#### PHASE 1 DESIGN DEVELOPMENT PLAN TIMELINE

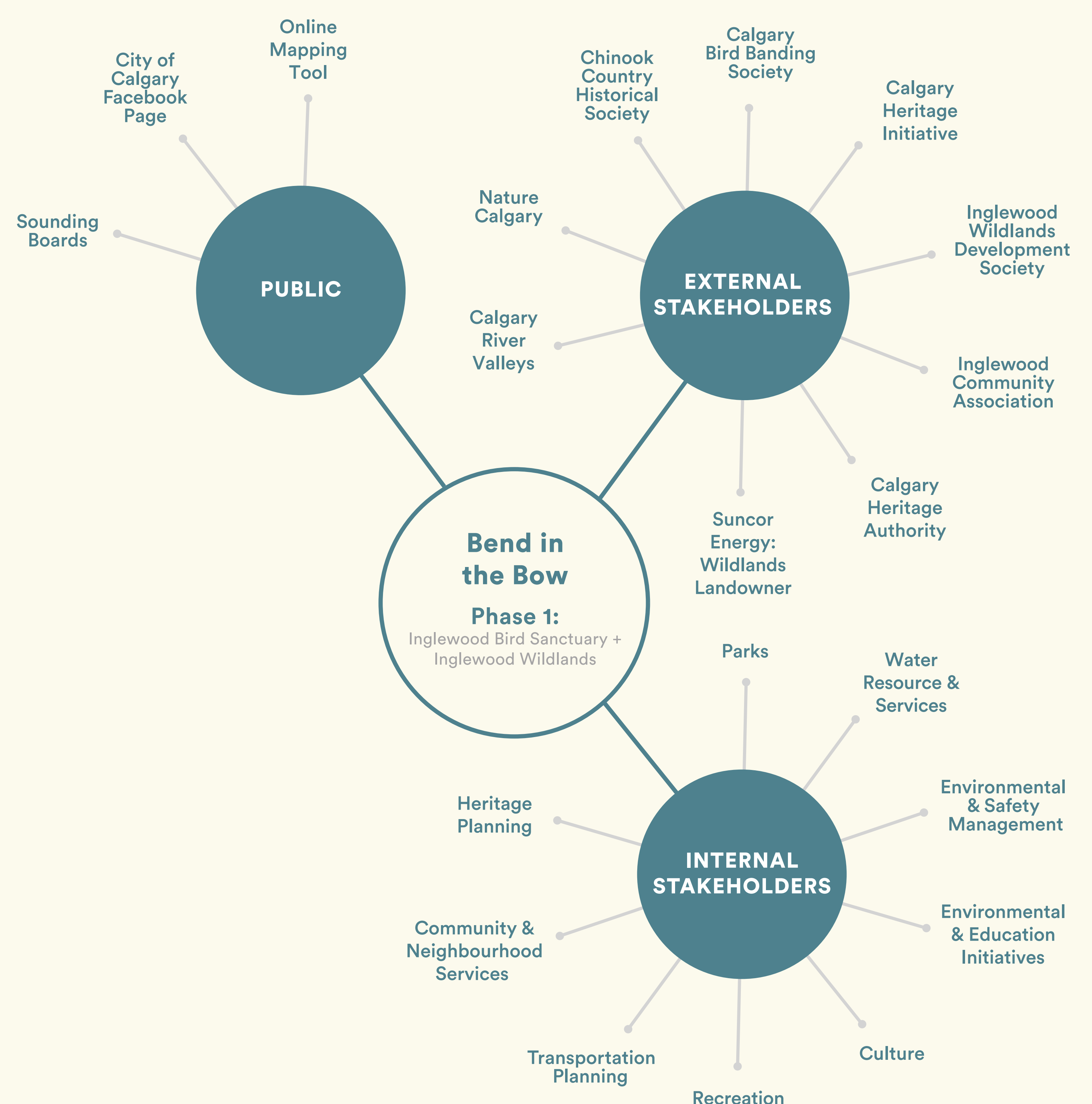


#### OVERALL PROJECT TIMELINE



### Your Role

This is a park for all Calgarians- for generations to come; we want to hear from you. Your ideas and insight will be incorporated into the next version of Bend in the Bow; and, while we have many considerations and factors to address in creating a new regional park, hearing from citizens is key in creating a space that tells stories through vibrant experiences.





# Project Constraints

There are always a number of constraints and no-gos; here's a few that we're working with for Phase 1 and you should keep in mind too.

## Inglewood Bird Sanctuary is the only urban bird sanctuary in Canada.

### This means:

- Birds (and other wildlife) are experienced without harming or disturbing them or their habitats. Conservation is priority at all times.
- Dogs and other domestic animals are not permitted in the sanctuary or Inglewood Wildlands. (Service dogs are allowed.)
- There continues to be no public access to the river in this area of Bend in the Bow. Active recreation or sports are not allowed.

## This area holds the heritage of many stories.

The Colonel Walker Homestead and Bird Sanctuary is a legally protected historic resource and must be protected for future generations.

The former refinery site of the British American Oil Company is an evaluated historic resource by the Calgary Heritage Authority. The Design Development Plan must respect and conserve the site's heritage value.

## Existing site remediation monitoring wells and contaminant recovery systems will be protected in the Wildlands.

We need to keep these intact to ensure the public and the environment are safe.

## New uses and improvements on the Inglewood Wildlands must be approved by Suncor Energy.

They're the landowners, and we have to ensure that they agree with what we're proposing, and that it won't impede ongoing remediation efforts.

## Part of the area is located within the floodplains.

Care needs to be taken with the addition of new buildings or structures within the floodplain.

## The Inglewood Wildlands is a passive, urban wilderness park.

This is one of the primary conditions of the lease agreement with Suncor Energy. Passive use includes the enjoyment of nature, the attraction of wildlife and environmental education. Bikes, sports and dogs are not permitted.





# What's important about this site?

This site is rich in cultural and natural history. It reflects our shifting attitudes about environmental conservation and land stewardship over time. It is a story that must be shared with future generations.

## First Nations

Evidence of historical use by First Nations has been found on site. After the 2013 floods, traces of an encampment were discovered along the banks of the Bow River.



## Colonel James Walker

The Colonel James Walker Homestead lands have been evaluated by the Calgary Heritage Authority and the site is considered valuable for the association of Colonel James Walker, a founder of the city and Calgary's 1975 centennial citizen of the century. The site is the only remaining homestead in the inner city and is a tangible reminder of the importance and predominance of agricultural activity to the city's early development.

## The Sawmill: Calgary's first manufacturing activity

Colonel James' property includes a secondary river channel, which made it ideal for constructing the area's first sawmill. As a result, this was a place of early sawmilling activity and the sawmill itself represents Calgary's first manufacturing activity. The sawmill contributed significantly to the early economic and physical development of the city.



## Selby Walker obtains bird sanctuary status

In 1929, Selby Walker obtained status for the property as one of the first federally designated migratory bird sanctuaries in Alberta and Canada. This initiative represents one of Calgary's earliest examples of natural conservation efforts.



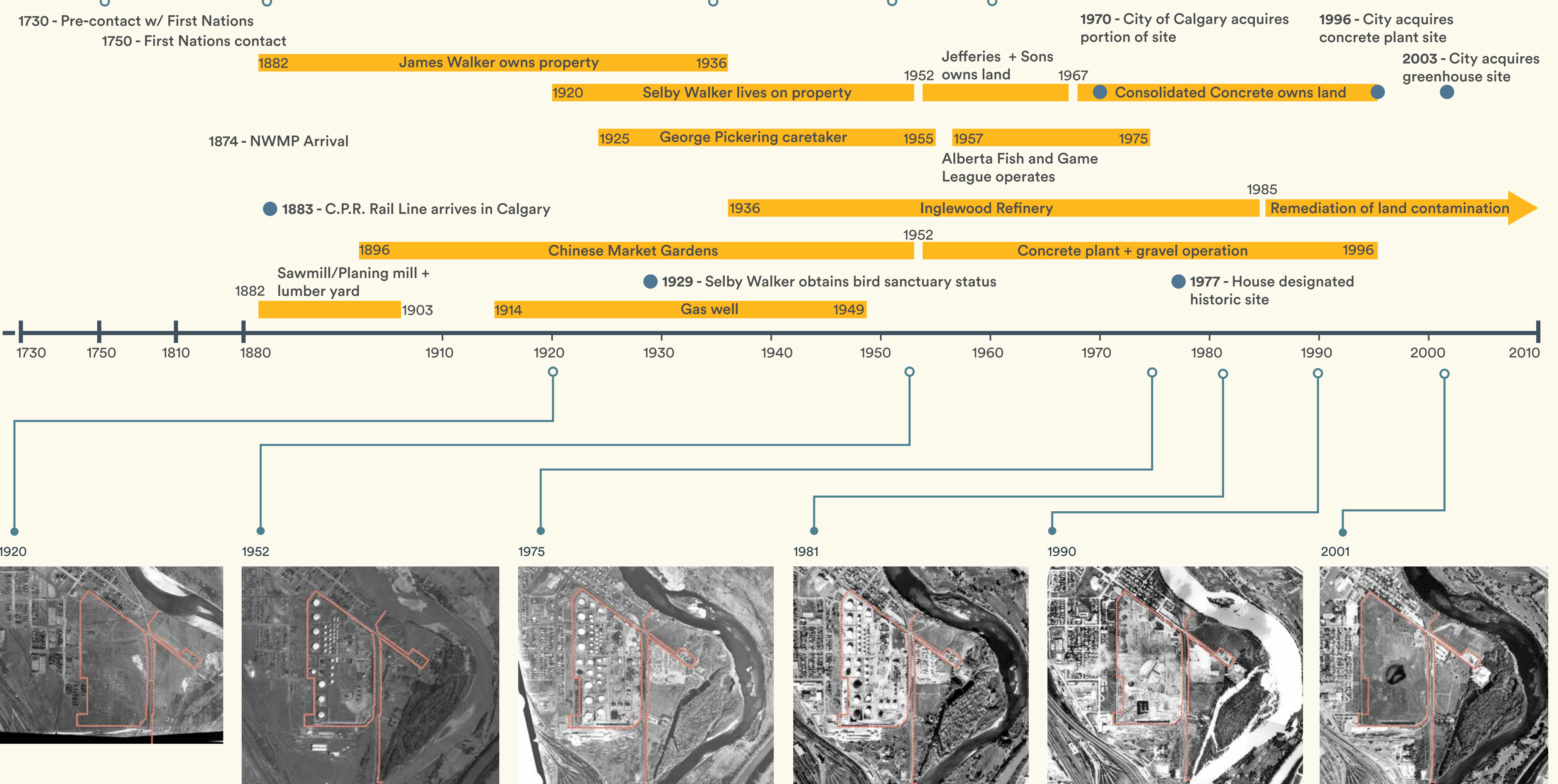
## Chinese market gardens

From 1896 to 1952, several Chinese families leased land from Colonel Walker and established market gardens. These highly productive gardens were used to grow vegetables and bedding plants, and represent an early example of urban agriculture and horticulture in our city.



## Ingleswood Refinery

British American Oil established an oil refinery in the 1930's on the site of the present day Ingleswood Wildlands. In 1985, remediation of refinery lands was established.





**During the first stage of engagement earlier this year, you provided over 400 comments through sounding boards in the bird sanctuary and Wildlands, and through an online mapping tool. Internal and external stakeholders also offered feedback and invaluable background information about the site.**

## Engagement Stage One

Issues, Opportunities,  
Needs + Desires

## DESIGN DEVELOPMENT PLAN VALUES

1. EDUCATION
2. ENVIRONMENT
3. CULTURE



## SIX WEEKS

(JUNE 16 - JULY 22)



## TWO SOUNDING BOARDS



## INGLEWOOD BIRD SANCTUARY NATURE CENTRE



## INGLEWOOD WILDLANDS



## TWO STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

## Internal Stakeholder Group

## External Stakeholder Group



120+  
COMMENTS  
FROM ONLINE  
MAPPING TOOL



50+ COMMENTS FROM FACEBOOK



## NEXT STEPS

**DRAFT CONCEPT**

## Comments Received

## by Theme

400+

42%

## THEME 1

### USE + PROGRAMMING

30%

## THEME 2

### CONSERVATION

19%

**THEME 3**  
**ACCESS +**  
**CONNECTIVITY**

4%

## THEME 4 MAINTENANCE + SAFETY

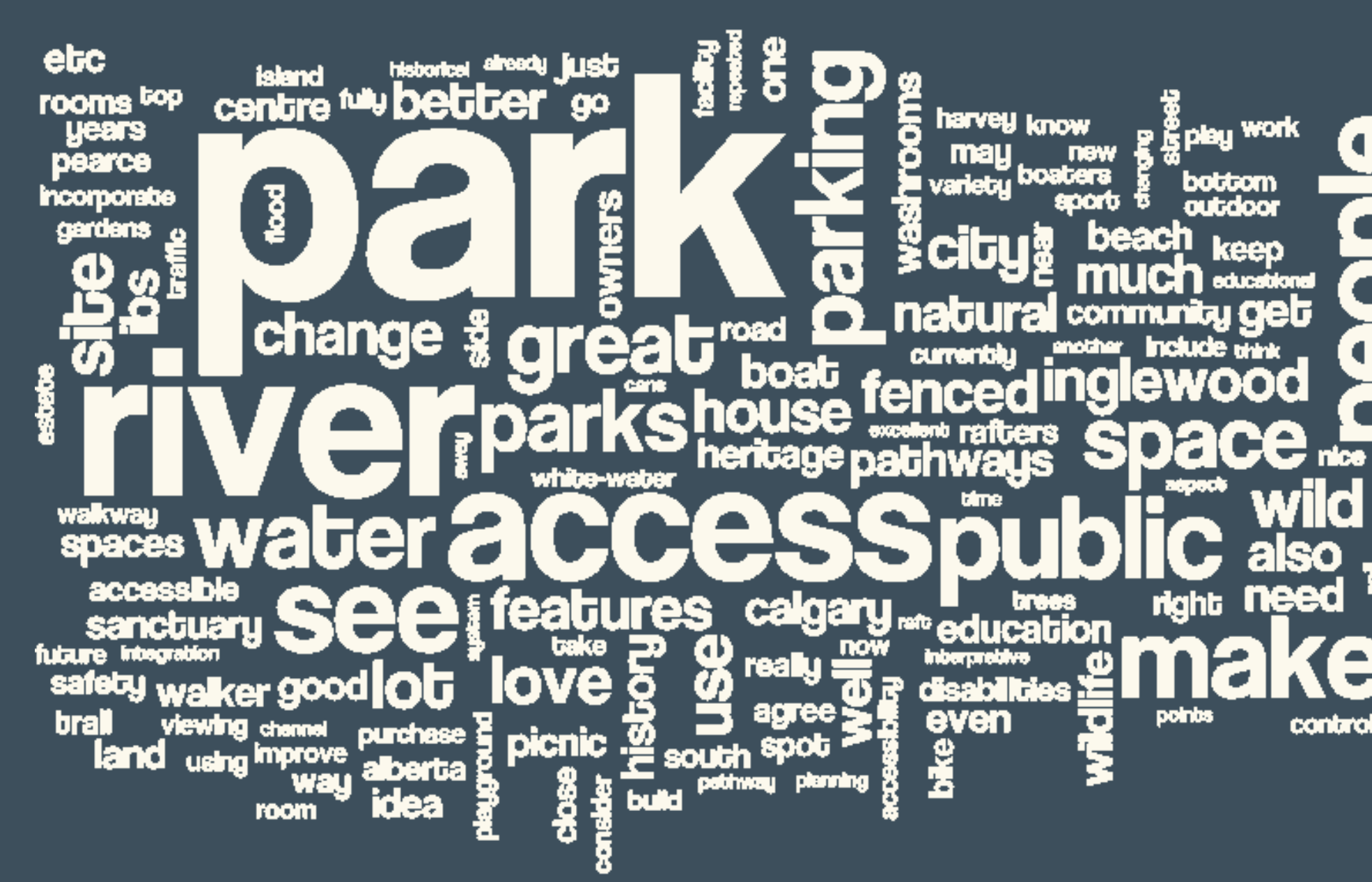
## What is liked about the area:



## What needs to be changed:



## In the future:





# Vision

Bend in the Bow will be a park that tells stories: stories about our city’s beginning, our impact on the land and how our culture was shaped by our environment. It’s a park that shows how we are ultimately responsible for the health of our environment.


Bend in the Bow will tell the stories of how this site has evolved over the past century, and the role of conservation in managing our natural and cultural history for future generations.

# Core values of Bend in the Bow

Core values act as guiding principles for the project. They help us make future design and management decisions. Through the process of engagement, we have identified three core values — nature, culture and education.

Tell us what you think about our vision and values?

Did we miss anything?



## Nature

We will conserve and enhance the environmental value of Bend in the Bow for future generations.

- This includes:
- Bow River and the surrounding dynamic riverine environment to respond to habitat-forming processes that naturally occur.
  - Ensuring the federally recognized migratory bird status of Inglewood Bird Sanctuary is maintained.
  - Synchronizing The City's efforts to enhance the recreational and habitat value of the Inglewood Wildlands with Suncor Energy's ongoing efforts to remediate remaining contaminants.

## Culture

We will conserve and celebrate the site's historic significance, and recognize the valuable contributions of its former residents.

- This includes:
- Recognizing that this site was inhabited by First Nations long before the arrival of western society.
  - Showcasing the significant contributions made by Colonel Walker and his family in not only the establishment of Calgary, but in the conservation of their homestead.
  - A commitment to tell the lesser known stories that played an integral role in the site history, including agriculture, wildlife conservation, and industry.
  - The history of the former oil refinery, how it impacted Calgary's development, and ongoing efforts to remediate it.

## Education

We will inform the public about the intrinsic value of Bend in the Bow, helping to create citizen advocates who act as stewards of our city’s natural and cultural heritage.

- This includes:
- Providing a diverse range of opportunities to learn about the site's natural and cultural assets.
  - Connecting with more Calgarians by improving site access and connections to the surrounding community.
  - Recognizing that there are many stories to tell, and telling those stories through a wide variety of methods and approaches.
  - Providing opportunities for visitors to understand dynamic, natural processes through a combination of science, art and innovative design.
  - Continue to support and enhance hands-on volunteering.



# A park that tells stories

We wanted to celebrate the rich cultural and natural history of Bend in the Bow through experience; you are able to experience various stories of the area through themed walks on pathways and trails



## The River's Edge

The river edge trail tells the story of stewardship, industry + the dynamic Bow River.

Meandering through mature forest on the river's edge, you can explore the significance of the area to First Nations, the importance of the Bow River to Calgary's first settlers, and how a dynamic river can impact human settlements- both in the past and presently.

## Lagoon Loop

The lagoon loop tells the story of early conservation efforts by Selby Walker, Alberta Fish and Game and other notable conservationists.

The lagoon, once spring-fed, has been a major attraction at the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary since its inception. Visitors will learn about efforts by Selby Walker and George Pickering to preserve the area, use of the site by Alberta Fish and Game, and how the City of Calgary came to acquire the site.

## Homestead Trail

The homestead trail is a story about early settlement, industry, agriculture, and the role of crafts in Calgary's development

Take a walk through the early history of the site after it was settled by Colonel James Walker. You can learn how the site was the location of Calgary's first sawmill, how the area was an important source of food production, and explore the important legacy that Walker has left on Calgary and his homestead.

## Wildlands Wander

The wildlands wander tells a story about the environmental impact of industry, post-industrial reclamation efforts, and the resilience of nature.

This area was home to Calgary's first gas well, as well the location of one of Calgary's largest refineries. The story of how the refinery was decommissioned, and the successful story of ongoing efforts to clean up contamination will show you how we got to our current park through reclamation. You can also learn about the ongoing, dynamic process of restoring wildlife habitat.

## Community Connectors



A well-used park is one that is connected to the community.

We are improving access to the Inglewood Wildlands and the Bird Sanctuary, as well as strengthening the connection between the two sites. We also want to enhance the appearance of Bend in the Bow where it meets up with the Inglewood community.

What immediately comes to mind when you think of the idea of "a park that tells stories?" Why?







# The River's Edge

We've provided these images as a starting point for discussion. They do not represent a final design. Take a look and tell us what you think.



## Proposed elements

### R1 Bank swallow colony

The 2013 floods eroded a large part of the riverbank in this area, leaving behind ideal habitat for bank swallows. We're keeping their home safe by leaving it intact and moving trails a safe distance from the bank.



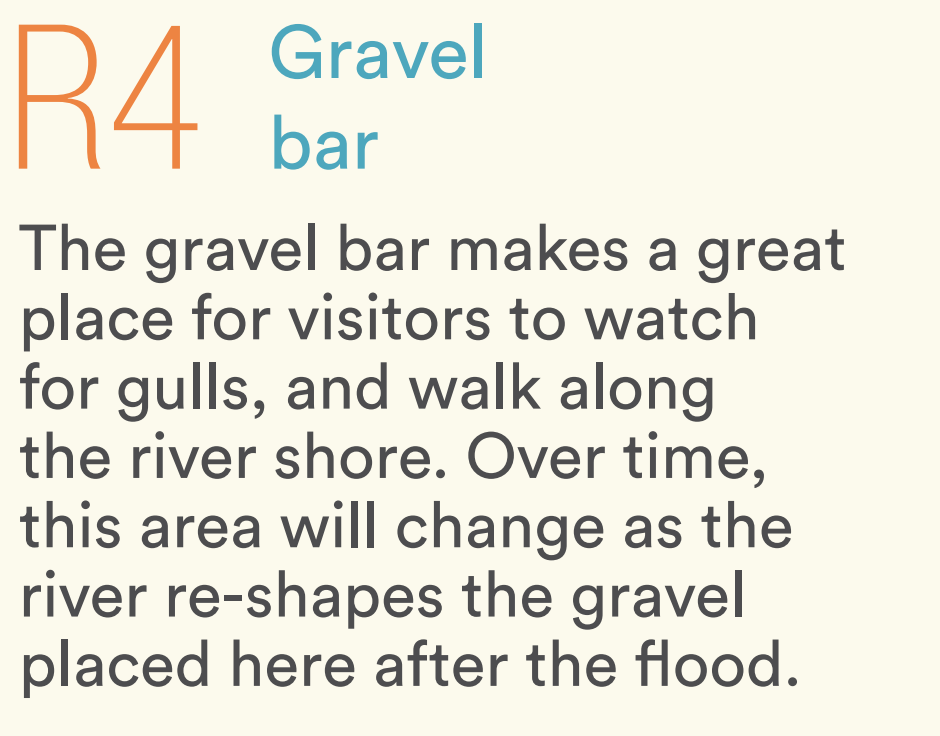
### R2 Natural play area

Did you know there's no running allowed in the Bird Sanctuary? It scares the wildlife. We know kids need to blow off steam sometimes, and this would be a good place to do it. The community is welcome to use it too.



### R3 Riparian forest

To help stabilize the bank, the City has already replanted balsam poplar trees and native shrubs along the top of the slope. This area will help protect this area during future floods.



### R4 Gravel bar

The gravel bar makes a great place for visitors to watch for gulls, and walk along the river shore. Over time, this area will change as the river re-shapes the gravel placed here after the flood.

### R5 First Nations Encampment

During the 2013 floods evidence of use of the site by the indigenous peoples of the Western Plains was uncovered. The People's of the Plains were nomadic, and seasonal and periodic use of the riparian areas is evident across Southern Alberta.



### R6 Lagoon inlet

One of the ideas we're evaluating is if habitat and water quality can be improved in the lagoon by introducing limited amounts of river flow into the lagoon. This will require future scientific studies.



### R7 Wildlife blind

We think constructing a wildlife blind near Jeffries Pond would be a great way to observe shorebirds who use the pond —with minimal disturbance to our avian residents.



### R8 Wood artifact

After the flood, this wood artifact was left behind. We're not exactly sure where it came from, or what it is — but we're trying to find out. If we do find out, we'll ask visitors 'What do you think it is? Where do you think it came from?'



### R9 Vegetated wildlife blind

We've intentionally kept the interior of the island free of trails to minimize our impacts on wildlife. Here we've proposed an opportunity for visitors to sneak into the forest and catch a glimpse of the wildlife while they stay largely out of sight.



what is it?

What do you think of the River's Edge story area? What do you think of the proposed elements?



Did we miss anything?





## Lagoon Loop

We've provided these images as a starting point for discussion. They do not represent a final design. Take a look and tell us what you think.



## Proposed elements

### L1 Stormwater pond + log boom

We're evaluating the feasibility of installing a pond to improve the quality of stormwater released into the lagoon. It would also provide an opportunity to integrate sawmill interpretive or artistic elements within the pond.



### L2 Bridge viewing scope

The lagoon bridge is a great place to spot wildlife. We're looking at installing a viewing scope and / or replacing the camera that used to provide a feed back to the nature centre.



### L3 Goose islands

These islands provide habitat for nesting geese, and great viewing opportunities. The existing islands are actually the old abutments from a bridge that was damaged in 2005. We're proposing new islands near the bridge.



### L4 Conservation lookout

Here we'd like to explain how attitudes about wildlife conservation have evolved since the sanctuary was established in 1929. Historic conservationists such as Selby Walker, George Pickering and other key figures will be highlighted.

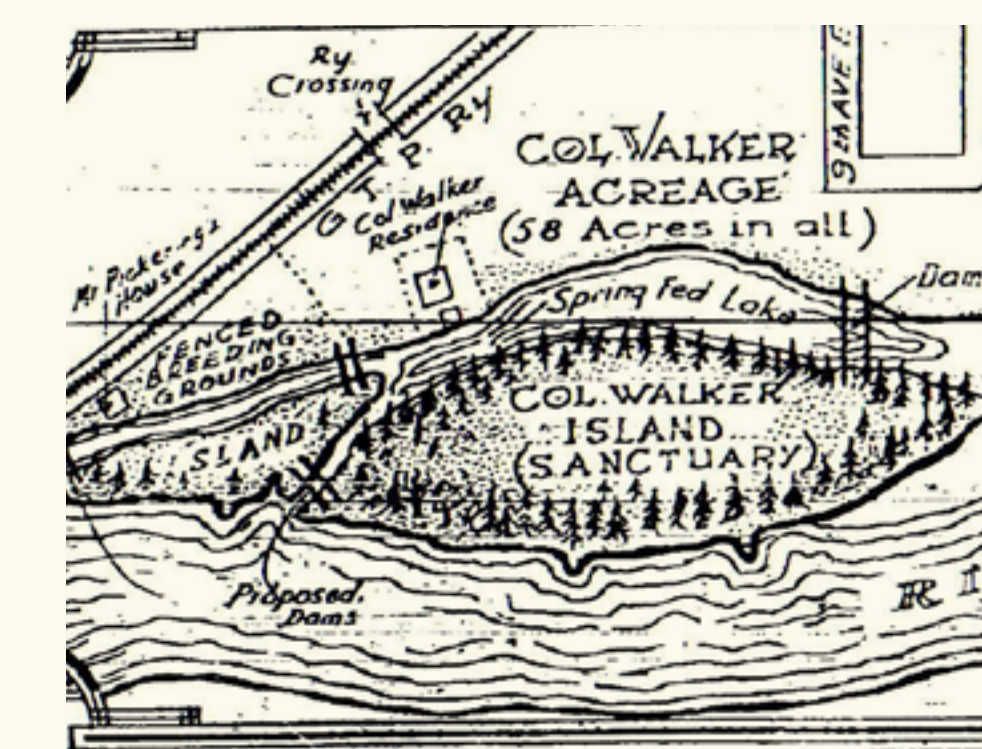
### L5 Osprey nesting towers

Nesting towers are proposed provide a viewing opportunity



### L6 Fish and game breeding history

Did you know this site was once used to breed sport fish and game? Alberta Fish and Game used the sanctuary after the Walker family sold the land. Clean water and good habitat made this an ideal location for rearing game.



### L7 Outdoor classroom

Construction of an Outdoor Learning Classroom in the Sanctuary is planned for completion in 2016. It will help replace infrastructure lost during the flood, and offer increased programming space for citizens to learn about the environment.

### L8 Bird banding conservation area

This area along is used for a long term research project by the Calgary Bird Banding Society. The area will remain off-limits to visitors, and will continue to provide a refuge area for wildlife throughout the year.

### L9 Fish passable weirs

As part of the lagoon inlet structure under scientific investigation, we're looking at ways to allow fish that get trapped in the lagoon to safely return to the river. We'll be sure that any proposed structures will minimize impacts to waterfowl.



What do you think of the Lagoon Loop story area? What do you think of the proposed elements?



Did we miss anything?







## Homestead Trail

We've provided these images as a starting point for discussion. They do not represent a final design. Take a look and tell us what you think.



## Proposed elements

13

### H1 Natural, cultural + agricultural origins

The plaza behind the Nature Centre is the starting point of this interpretive adventure. Here, visitors are introduced to the first natural, cultural and agricultural histories that this site has experienced.

### H2 Sawmill picnic structure + artifact

Colonel Walker settled here to build one of Calgary's first sawmills, supplying wood for many of our earliest buildings. The picnic structure would be a major cultural focal point and rest area for entire sanctuary.

### H4 Walker House + grounds

As Colonel Walker's residence for over 25 years, Walker made enormous contributions to the cultural development of Calgary. Later, his son Selby would become a pioneer of nature conservation in Canada.

### H5 Grand Trunk railway line

This story of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway is overshadowed by the story of Canadian Pacific Railway. The GTR followed this spur line that is today used by CN.

### H6 Gas, breweries + street lights

Calgary Natural Gas Company drilled gas well No. 2 on Walker's land. The gas would illuminate 9th Avenue SE and power the Calgary Brewing + Malting Company, founded by "Big Four" founder A.E. Cross.

### H7 Nature forage patchwork

Walker was an advocate for agriculture, and leased his land to Chinese market gardeners. The forage patchwork traces the patterns of the original gardens, but provides diverse habitats that will provide forage for wildlife.

### H8 Native meadow walk

After the ground nesting period ends each year, a meadow walk can be mowed into the forage patchwork, and visitors will be encouraged to walk through the diverse native meadows.

### H9 Demonstration market garden

Honouring the tradition of agriculture on this site, a demonstration market garden will be part of the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary's educational program. Children will be involved with planting, tending and harvesting the gardens throughout the year.

### H3 The long march to Inglewood

Along the same path that Colonel James Walker followed to his homestead, visitors will learn the stories of Walker's early life, his role in the infamous Long March of 1874, and personal history that precluded his arrival to Calgary.



What do you think of the Homestead Trail story area? What do you think of the proposed elements?



Did we miss anything?





# Wildlands Wander

We've provided these images as a starting point for discussion. They do not represent a final design. Take a look and tell us what you think.



## Proposed elements

### W1 Wildlands parking area

We haven't shown any modifications to the parking lot on this plan, but we're open to considering alternatives. Please give us feedback on the parking strategy for this park, and if we can make it better.

### W2 Panoramic hill

The knoll, where the existing pavilion stands, offers panoramic views of the city. We're proposing to replace the existing wood structure, and keep the existing Rotary Club marker in place.

### W3 Transformer station

This former transformer structure is one the only standing remnant the oil refinery. We're excited by the opportunities for what it could become, and would like to hear ideas from you about what it could be.

### W4 Wetland to woodland

A former hydrocarbon recovery ditch was reshaped into a wetland in 1996. By the early 2000s, the wetland no longer received groundwater, and began the long-term process of transforming to a woodland.

### W5 Phytoremediation on display

Did you know that plants can help clean contaminated soil? As part of Suncor's commitment to remediating the contamination from the former refinery, they'll be employing cutting edge technologies using plants.

### W6 Separator trench lookout

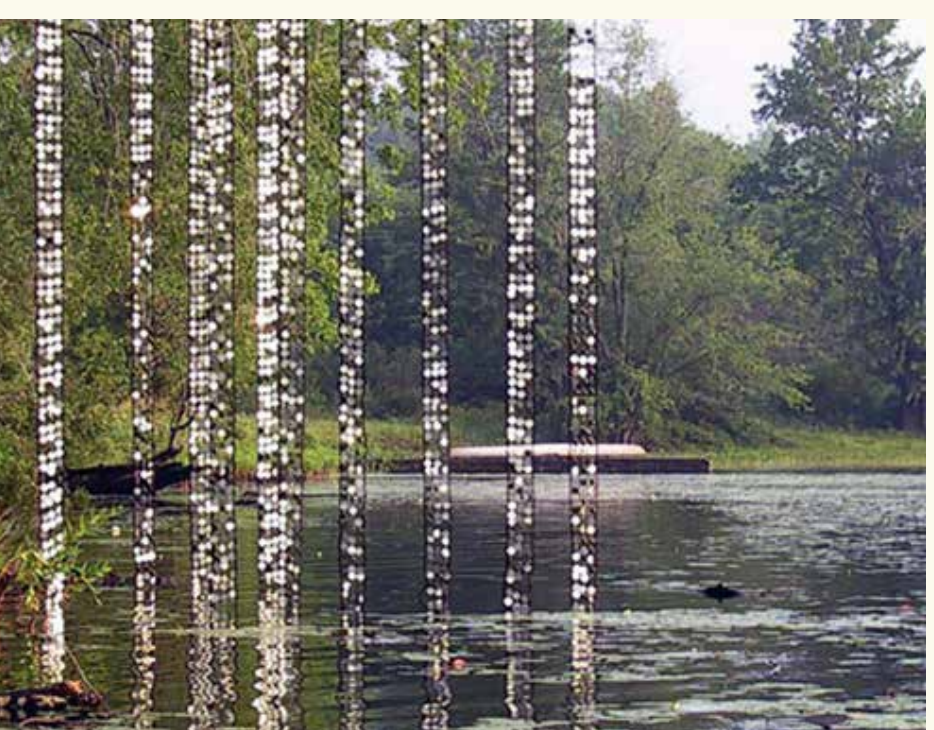
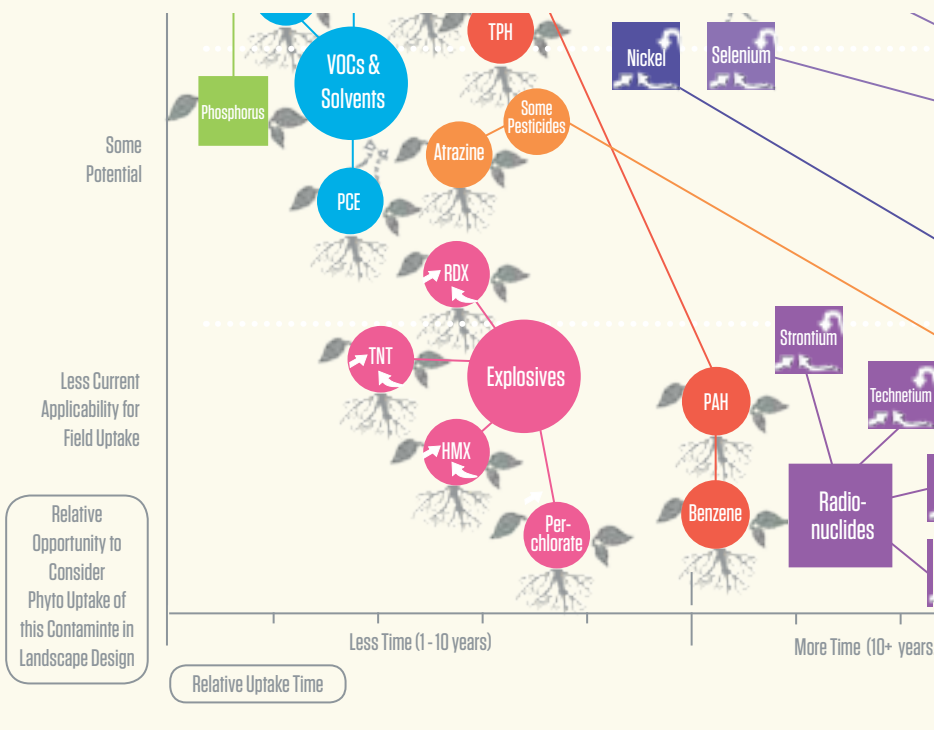
Back when the site was heavily contaminated, oil was separated from groundwater by removing it from the surface of this water-filled trench. Today, we see it as an historic artifact where the public could peer into an area inaccessible to humans.

### W7 Enhanced wildlife habitat


The trail system in the south portion of the Wildlands is minimal. Our intent is to manage natural processes over time to create high value wildlife habitat in the long term.

### W8 Refinery tank habitat traces


We feel it's important to recognize that this site was once home to heavy industry. To contrast where we are now with where we came from, we're proposing combining diverse wildlife habitats and an artistic approach in order to trace the former tank farm.



### What do you think of the Wildlands Wander story area? What do you think of the proposed elements?



### Did we miss anything?





# Community Connections

We've provided these images as a starting point for discussion. They do not represent a final design. Take a look and tell us what you think.



## Proposed elements

**C1** Park entrance feature

We're proposing new entrance features to identify the Inglewood Wildlands and Inglewood Bird Sanctuary. These will help visitors orient themselves, and mark their arrival to this place.



**C2** Community entrances

Community entrances mark the passage in and out of the park at various locations. They also provide an opportunity to remind visitors of the rules of the park and provide a map of the trail system.



**C3** Bend in the Bow Wayfinding

At key locations, we'll provide a map of the entire regional park. This will inform people decide what recreational opportunities exist around them, and help them decide where they'd like to go.



**C4** Improved 9th Ave interface

We've identified a great opportunity to improve the north edge of the Wildlands where it meets the community.



What community do you live in? How do you arrive at the site?

Would these connections be beneficial to you? What connector is the most beneficial to you?

How else could we connect?





## The role of art in the landscape

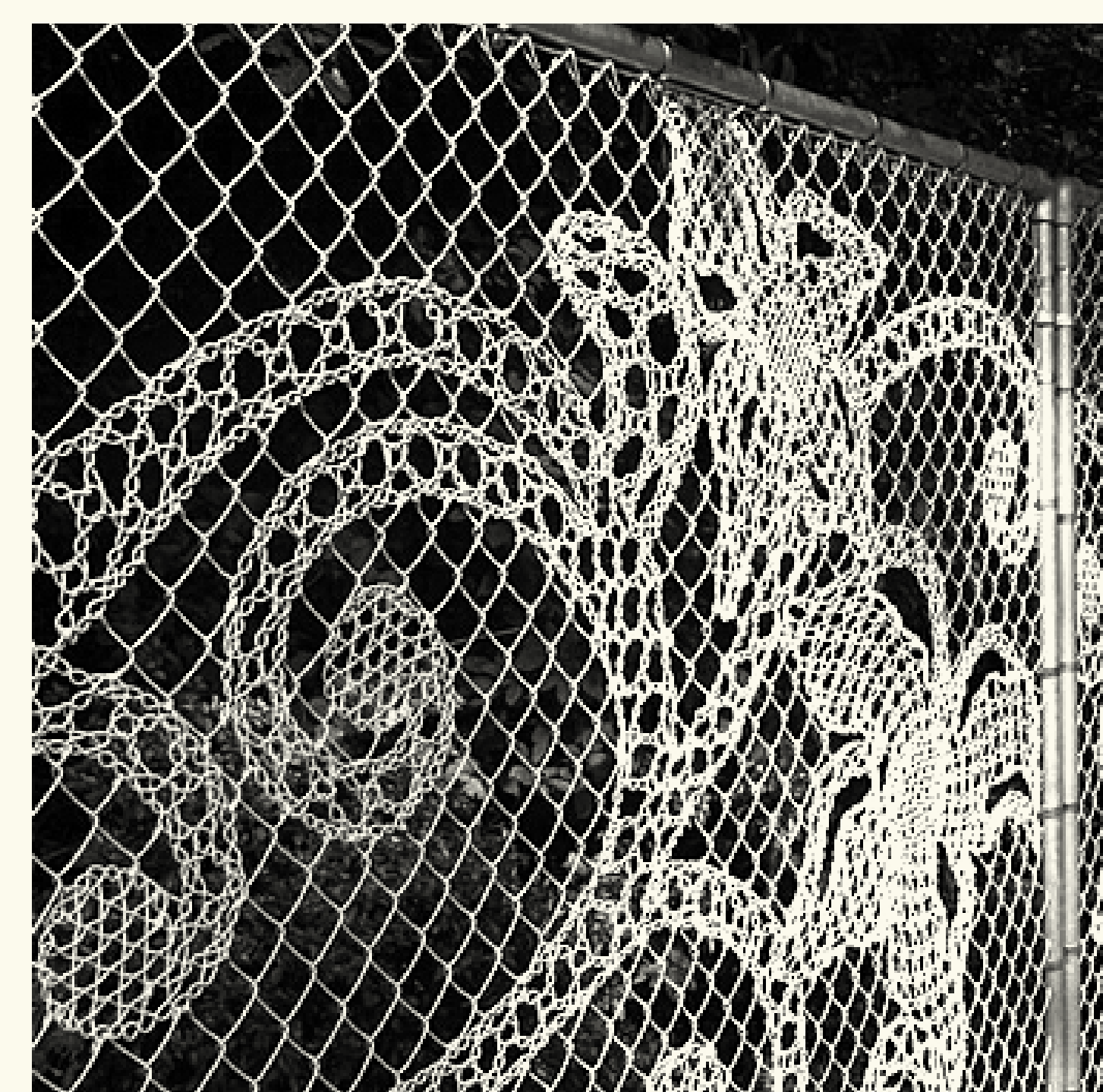
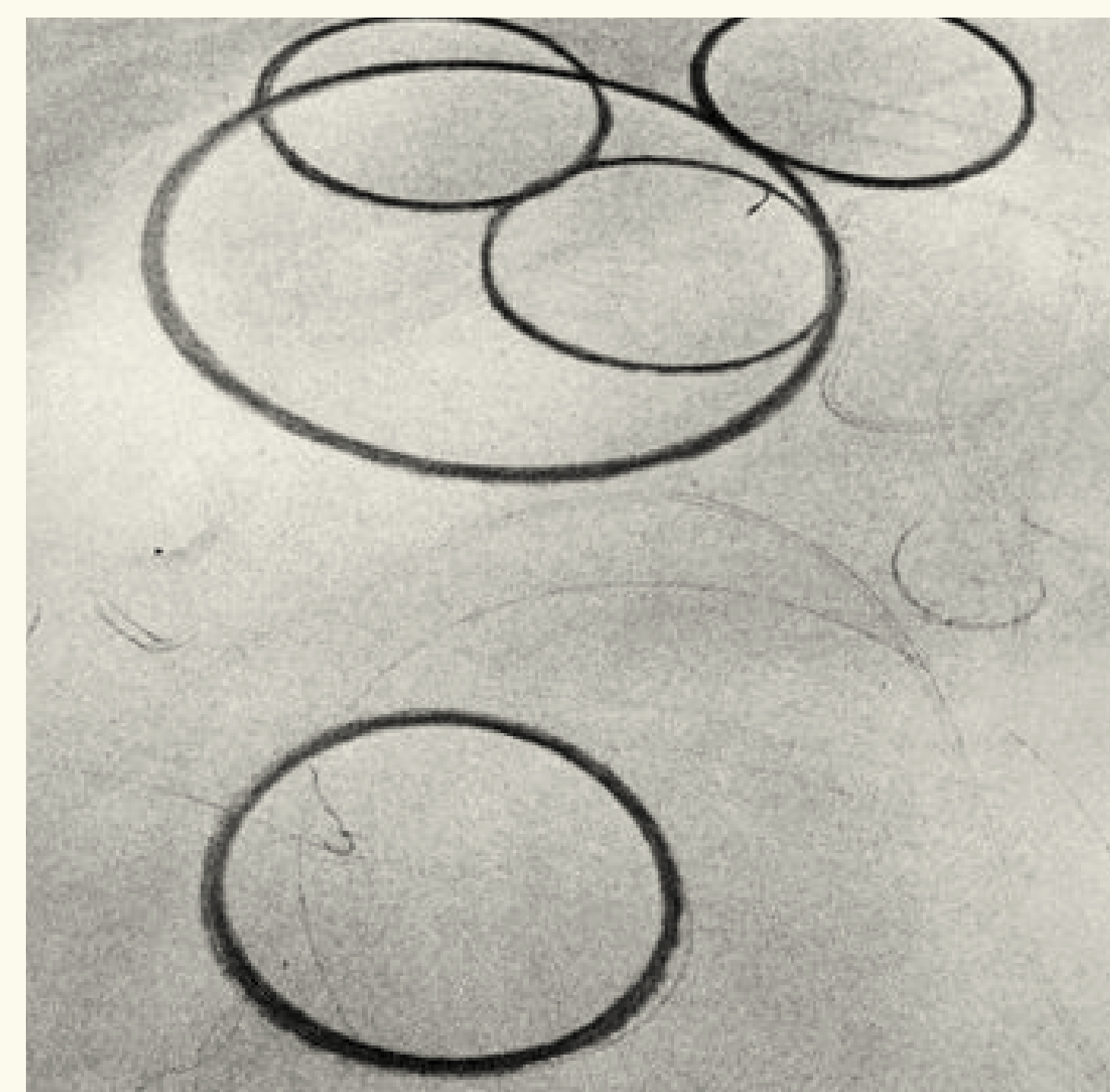
Art helps us tell the **stories of the park** and its history, while enhancing and celebrating the natural surroundings.

Art will support and enrich Bend in the Bow's core values—**nature, culture, education.**

Art will be balanced between **permanent** and **temporary** artworks, providing short and long term experiences that raise awareness of the landscapes, natural change and growth.

## Reference images

The images shown are not representative of actual artworks planned — they are provided for discussion purposes about art opportunities for Bend in the Bow.







How did we do?

What do you think are the strongest aspects of the plan?



Do you have any other ideas that could enhance this phase of the design?



Have we missed anything?

