



Memorial Parkway Program

Building flood protection with natural spaces to gather and commemorate



2022 Year in Review

Happy New Year! 2022 was a busy year for the Memorial Parkway Program and we wanted to share a few highlights of our accomplishments in 2022 and provide a look ahead for 2023.

Building a team



Early in 2022, as we advanced the design of the Sunnyside Flood Barrier, the project team recognized the opportunity to integrate the flood barrier into other work that was happening along the Memorial Parkway. We recognized that by taking a more integrated and coordinated approach, we could achieve the best outcome for the area.

In March 2022, we built our program team and committed to learn from the history of Memorial Drive to plan for its future. We began by creating an awareness of the transition from the Sunnyside flood barrier project to the Memorial Parkway program, with an expanded focus on developing flood protection and incorporating public realm improvements in this cherished site along the Bow River. Building on

experiences from the West Eau Claire and downtown flood barriers, we've learned that flood protection can work harmoniously with beautiful and functional public spaces.

Building community relationships



Our team has been working extensively with community members—both on site, in person and online. We began our first public engagement in spring 2022 and validated a unified vision on the future of Memorial Drive with the [Key Principals along Memorial Drive](#) as an outline for our work.

Our mission for the Memorial Parkway program is to create a universally accessible, vibrant and sustainable public realm. We will prioritize place-making and experience; incorporate a flood barrier; provide multi-modal movement; preserve the living memorial; and provide new spaces to gather and celebrate the natural setting. Inclusivity for all ages and abilities is an integral piece of the Parkway, as is keeping the design adaptable for the future needs of Calgarians.

Throughout 2022, we've continued to build relationships with citizens who live, work and travel in Sunnyside/Hillhurst and who travel the Bow River bikeway, pathway and parkway.

Learning from community members



During our second phase of public engagement this summer and fall, the program team set up booths at key sites on the Memorial Parkway and met with people who use these spaces. We've overwhelmingly heard that Memorial Drive is a historically, culturally and ecologically important part of Calgary that must be protected and—where possible—enhanced.

Participants were asked to prioritize five special places along the Memorial Parkway and rate potential improvements and opportunities for each space that had been identified by the program team.

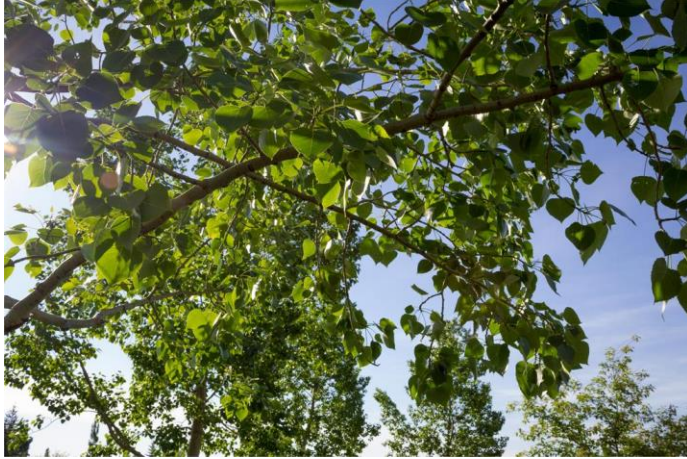
Final Ranked locations:

1. Peace bridge north shore
2. Prince's Island pedestrian bridge / river access
3. Poppy Plaza
4. 7 Street N.W. lookout
5. Calgary Soldiers Memorial

During phase two of engagement, we had over 1,000 visitors to the Engage portal page. In addition, we had more than 150 participants at our in-person sessions. We received 200+ submissions for ranking special places and potential improvements within the Memorial Parkway and almost 200 additional comments related to Memorial Drive mobility.

With the close of both phases of engagement, our next step is to update citizens on work progress as the team advances the design this spring.

Protecting our trees



The program team has inventoried, surveyed and completed health assessments of each tree on site. We plan to move beyond our project site, with expanded boundaries to plant additional trees, where more trees are needed along Memorial Drive. We've also made modifications to the original design of the flood barrier to minimize tree removals. Finally, we've secured over 150 cloned poplar trees to plant as part of our flood barrier work.

As we transition from planning to construction

We have been working with residents and visitors to develop a roadmap for improvements along the upcoming Sunnyside flood barrier. The direction forward is to integrate public realm improvements, tree protection and restoration work, by creating spaces that enhance the connection with the river, natural environment and commemorate our heritage.

We will continue to work with community members to prepare for and troubleshoot potential impacts of construction activities.

Outreach work will continue as we meet with businesses, local committees, Veterans Associations and other community members to keep our work moving forward.

We remain committed to the construction of the flood barrier and to updating public realm spaces. Our goal is to create new spaces, as well as improve existing ones, in ways that promote interaction and use by all Calgarians. We are working together and coordinating all the individual projects happening in the area to help reduce disruptions and impacts to citizens, visitors, and businesses in the area.

The program team will be providing updates in spring 2023 once the construction schedule and work plan has been confirmed.

More information

To learn more, visit calgary.ca/memorialparkway or engage.calgary.ca/memorialparkway.

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