

Canmore Park Wetland Restoration

In-person & online survey // What we Heard

21 December 2015



Project overview

City of Calgary Parks is proposing to restore a natural wetland in the eastern portion of Canmore Park. The original wetland was removed in the 1960s. We now have a better understanding of the environmental benefits wetlands provide. Today, this area remains wetter than other areas of the park, and is a candidate site for restoration, using The City's Wetland Compensation Program funds.

Before deciding if the restoration will happen, the public, park users and surrounding neighbours were asked for their opinions and ideas. The feedback gathered will be used in conjunction with other information (technical study, project approval, etc.) to determine whether the wetland should be restored. A decision will be made in winter 2016. If the decision is 'yes,' the project goes ahead and more public engagement will happen for the design of the wetland.

For more project information visit calgary.ca and search [Canmore Park Wetland Restoration](#)

Engagement overview

- ▶ Two public engagement sessions were scheduled:
 - August 5 – cancelled due to rain
 - August 8 – 84 people dropped into the in-park session
 - The session included on-site experts to discuss the project, a map of the proposed site, as well as background information on this project
- ▶ An online survey
 - August 5 – September 2, 2015
 - 104 survey responses
 - The survey included a map of the proposed site, as well as links to background information on this project

What we asked

- ▶ How people use Canmore Park: Will restoring the wetland affect the way you currently use Canmore Park?
- ▶ What is your level of agreement with the plan to restore the wetland in Canmore Park?
- ▶ What other things should be considered (e.g. historic, aesthetic, environmental, etc.)



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What we heard

Participants shared a wide range of feedback on the potential wetland restoration in Canmore Park. Feedback explained reasoning for and against the project, identified impacts to current use of the park, and provided general commentary on things to consider should the project proceed.

Should we restore the Canmore Park wetland?

Overall, there is a large sense of support and enthusiasm for restoring the wetland. Some of the themes that *demonstrated support for the project* include:

- ▶ Natural areas like wetlands are important and support wildlife (plants and animals) which is beneficial. Participants exhibited a general sense of support based on the sentiment that wetlands are important for nature, natural water systems, and biodiversity
- ▶ A wetland will not impact how most people say they use the park. Some are even willing to change how they use the park to support the wetland and some say with a wetland they'd use the park more
- ▶ Wetlands make for beautiful and aesthetically pleasing places to enjoy. Leisure use in the park, particularly around the wetland, would be an added benefit
- ▶ There is an educational importance of wetlands. Many people made suggestions that visitors should have the opportunity to learn (eg. programs, signage, boardwalks, class visits)
- ▶ The preservation of natural areas was a prominent theme. 'Going back to what was naturally there', and preserving nature within urban settings were related themes
- ▶ Many participants offered general support through a variety of comments such as "nice idea", "about time" or "it will be a nicer area".

Some participants expressed concerns about restoring the wetland. Very few were wholly opposed, though some were. Some of the themes that *demonstrated concern or opposition to the project* include:

- ▶ Concerns and questions around increased mosquitoes as a result of the wetland. Concerns included the potential for mosquitoes to impact children playing at the spray park
- ▶ General concerns regarding the prioritization of tax dollars. A small number of participants believed the money could be spent better elsewhere. Some of these comments demonstrated a general distrust of City projects

Many comments were not based on a 'yes or no' standpoint, and instead offered general feedback, ideas, recommendations and questions. For a verbatim listing of all the input that was provided, please see the [Verbatim Responses](#) section (page 5).

If we restore the wetland, what else should be considered?

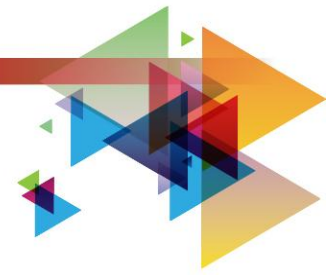
Question three was an open-ended question, asking participants what 'other' things should be considered if the wetland were restored. Several themes emerged from this question:



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- ▶ **Do what's natural. Nature is good and so are wetlands**

the sentiment that wetlands are an important part of healthy ecosystems remained prominent. Many people believed that restoring the wetland to its natural state (as a wetland) is the right thing to do. Some commented that paths should be limited near the wetland, kept in as natural of a state as possible; some even suggested there should be no paths. Sustainability was discussed, with people wanting to ensure that whatever is done is based on long-term planning. Some people believed that it is important to preserve nature in urban areas.
- ▶ **Include low-impact pathways for leisure access around the wetland**

many people recommended that boardwalks or pathways be built so that people can access the wetland and view it close-up. These suggestions were in line with other comments that referred to the wetland as a beautiful and aesthetically pleasing place to enjoy; somewhere that should be enjoyed in a leisurely manner. Referring back to the last theme, there were still others who preferred the paths are kept minimal or as natural as can be.
- ▶ **We can all learn from the wetland; about nature, about our community, and about our history**

Educational benefits were often suggested as considerations for the park designers and planners. Participants commented that children would benefit from the wetland, either by visiting with their class or through the informal education of experiencing the wetland. Some people suggested that interpretive signage could be placed near the wetland or on the concrete path adjacent to the wetland. In addition to environmental education, some people discussed the opportunity to educate people about the history of the wetland and of the neighbourhood park.
- ▶ **I support the wetland restoration. Can you make it bigger?**

Some of the most common comments were suggestions or questions around the possibility of making the wetland bigger. The majority of these commented that the 'original, natural wetland' was much bigger than what is proposed. A number of comments presented a general case for support, referencing memories of the original state and general "good idea" comments.
- ▶ **I have some concerns: mosquitoes, cost, and off-leash dogs**

a variety of concerns were presented. The most common was concerns and/or questions about increased mosquitoes. Some participants had concerns of the cost (and the priority of this project against other potential projects), while others mentioned cost as something to simply keep in mind. Off-leash dogs emerged as an area of concern for some people; partially because people often let their dogs off-leash in this on-leash park, but also because of concerns that off-leash dogs may disrupt the wildlife and biodiversity of the wetland.
- ▶ **Wetlands support healthy water-systems, but they also cause flooding and ice build up**

a number of comments discussed various aspects of water-related benefits and concerns. Some asked how this would affect flooding and ice-build up (with some of them even providing specific locations to look out for; see verbatim comments). Other participants commented that the designers should consider other water systems (in Canmore and Confederation Parks) that may interact with the proposed wetland.



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- ▶ **Leave the park as is. We don't need to restore the wetland**
A small number of participants did not agree that there was a need to restore the wetland. Some commented that the park is good enough as is. Sometimes this was connected to the sentiment that restoring the wetland is not a priority worthy of limited resources.
- ▶ **This is great for the community. Involve us in the process!**
A small number of participants commented that restoring the wetland would be good for the community. In one case it was referred to as “a place for community connection.” Some others expressed an interest in volunteering to help.

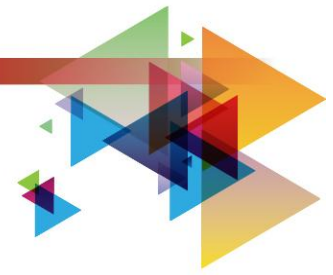
Next steps

- ▶ City staff will review this information as well as additional feasibility reports to help them make a decision about the wetland restoration.
- ▶ If the wetland restoration is approved, citizens will have an opportunity to provide input on the design aspects of the potential wetland.
- ▶ If the wetland restoration is approved, the project team will communicate with park users to help manage expectations around what to expect from the wetland. Participant comments demonstrated varying expectations of what wildlife and plant species may return to the park. Expectations around size also varied.

Timeline

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Fall 2015 | Public engagement #1 complete. |
| Winter 2016 | Determine feasibility; make final decision. |
| Winter/Spring 2016 | Preliminary design and public engagement #2 (if decision is made to move forward) |
| Summer 2016 | Final design determined. |
| Summer 2016 | Tender for construction |
| Fall 2016 | Construction |





Verbatim Comments

Some of the themes, or comments within a theme, were only heard in one of the questions, not all. In questions where a theme was not heard it is not listed.

Question 1 - Will restoring the wetland affect the way you currently use Canmore Park?

Participants were asked to select from the following options. Numbers represent responses:

Yes, a lot	Yes, a little bit	Neutral	Not much	Not at all
16	32	9	15	55

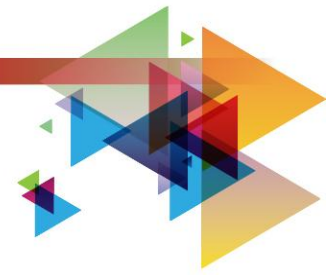
Themes that emerged include (listed in order of popularity):

General Themes
Non-issue because it doesn't affect pathways or other areas of the park that I use
General Support
Will encourage me to use the park/that area of the park more often
Natural, ecological, and benefits/wetlands are important
Concerns about mosquitoes
Benefit for children
A beautiful or aesthetically pleasing place to enjoy
Educational benefits
Leisure use
Memories of original state, or desire to return to original state
Willingness to adapt behaviour to support wetland restoration
Prefer current landscape as opposed to a wetland
Other

Verbatim comments

- Because I like nature, hearing nature and the wetland will bring more!
- I will come to this side of the park to watch nature even more!
- I may have to stay away if mosquitoes increase
- I don't think this will have much effect other than being a more interesting place
- Great idea. About time
- It will not affect anything. It will improve
- It is an area I never venture and would love to have more ducks about
- Not a bad idea. If it blocks off storm drain what happens for run off flooding, path icing etc?
- I will continue to enjoy the park often
- Walking in the park, exercising and bringing children to the wading pool will be sadly affected by the mosquitoes that are likely to accompany a wetland area. More coyotes will be attracted to the birds- coyotes are already a problem as they venture into the nearby neighbourhood.
- The area is already fairly heavily covered with vegetation. I do not venture into the proposed area often or at all.

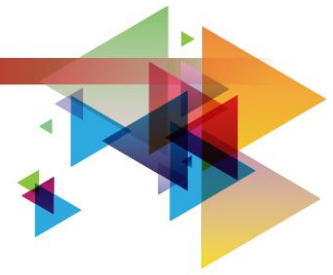




Verbatim Comments

- A none issue
- I might like just stopping to look at the wetland, much as I do with the creek in Confederation Park.
- I don't use the park very frequently
- I'd go more often
- The Green Space as it is now is inviting and useful. The 'wet land' or 'bog' as we used to call it was a mosquito infested no go area that you couldn't pay me to enter.
- Because I normally have avoided the muddy area.
- the wetland is located at the bottom of the hill, we only walk along the top section, or use the pathway to confederation park
- concerns with additional insects (mosquitoes, etc.) will detract from use of surrounding areas
- I bike often through the park, the wetlands won't change that. But as an avid birder I'm excited to see the change and the return of a larger variety of ducks.
- I would adapt my usage to accommodate it being changed back. I don't really go into the wetter parts as a rule anyways
- We use the path systems for walking. it will not deter us from using the park
- The plan will affect the areas I use in the park, but it will be in a positive way. It will bring more diversity to the ecosystem, and create a nicer environment for me to enjoy
- I usually use the pathways for my walks.
- Mainly use the tennis courts and walking trails
- It's such a minor footprint.
- The park is beautiful, and returning the wetlands will add to that beauty. I use the park to access nature and wetlands are part of that. Please restore the wetlands.
- There will still be a lot of green space to walk on.
- I walk in the park a fair bit, if it becomes more of a wetland it will be a nicer area and I will walk through more often. There will be more
- Enjoy bird watching, and would save having to travel to Bow River to do so (e.g. Inglewood Bird Sanctuary).
- That portion of the park is close to the longer Confederation park walkway but well enough away that it wouldn't affect how we use the park currently. We have walked around the proposed area to explore around it and through the wooded areas. It seemed like an odd area but knowing that it was filled would explain its appearance.
- Mostly walking through it, or playing tennis. I can't see how this will impact me much.
- Wetlands are an important part of our ecosystem. I am in full agreement to restore the wetlands at Canmore Park. I will visit the park more often to follow its progress.
- It will provide an opportunity for my children to see and experience a wetland ecosystem near home.

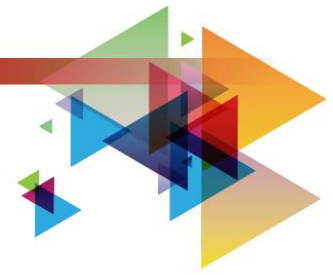




Verbatim Comments

- Because the map is not visible in Chrome, Firefox, or Internet Explorer.... I don't have an opinion
- I live nearby and run multiple times a week through the park. I have mixed thoughts about returning it to a wetland. I fear that it's going to turn into a mosquito breeding ground and I'll probably avoid running near there.
- My children play in Canmore Park; I believe bringing back the wetlands area will positively impact how we use the park as it will provide more nature to observe. The change would be the opportunity for new activities in the park. The main paths, playground areas etc. are unaffected, with lots of areas still for spontaneous soccer or Frisbee games
- I only use that part of the park to cycle through on the pathway close to the proposed restored area
- The area that will be affected by the wetland restoration does not detract from the park space that is available for active use, and has the potential to become a valuable amenity.
- More likely to spend more time there, since a wetland will attract more wildlife and plants.
- I have no problem altering my activities for nature
- I tend to avoid walking through this area already because it is usually wet and mucky
- I don't currently use Canmore Park, but if the wetland was restored and there was more wildlife there I might take my kids there.
- The park is great either way - resorting the wetland component just seems like an added bonus.
- We love the streams in Confederation Park. A natural setting will encourage us to visit Canmore Park more often.
- We sometimes walk the dog through that particular area.
- Because I don't use Canmore park
- With the restoration of the wetlands I will visit the Park to enjoy more than I do presently to enjoy a more "natural" park experience.
- We walk in Canmore Park daily in the summer and on weekends in the winter. In the summer, I am concerned that the wetland will increase the number of mosquitoes and flies and will lead to an unpleasant park experience.
- I will stop to check out ducks and other bird life as I bike though the park. All good!
- We would walk down to the wetland area more often
- No because we don't need to walk through it to enjoy the park.
- Won't really affect my use of the park
- I don't actually go into Canmore Park a lot.. I'm just working there for the summer in the spray park.
- It will be an excellent addition to the park.
- I love to walk there. There's always something in bloom, the sunset is unobstructed. I love the smell of the willows. You can feel like you're out in the country in the middle of the city.

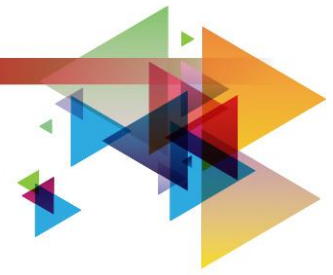




Verbatim Comments

- I love to see the young families playing in the spray pool. I'm so proud to live in Collingwood. I understand from some of my neighbours who bought when the area was new, that the city wanted to put the garbage dump on that land. Apparently the community pushed to have a park there instead, and raised money to plant the evergreens on the south side of the pool.
- My husband and I are empty nesters. We used the wading pool in the park when the children were small. During their school years, the park was used for natural science classes (in the remaining wetland at the western edge of the park) and used for CBE cross country runs. When they became teenagers, we all played tennis on the public courts. For a number of years, I was part of the volunteer team that did the April City Park Cleanup (it never needed much work as it is such a low use space). Now we value the park for its beauty and the green space. The restored wetland would just be an asset.
- I live at [address removed for privacy], near the park, and I remember the wetlands, the ducks and cat tails.
- It should be put back, it was wrong to remove it in the first place. Seems that someone new comes along in the park who then feels a need to make their mark on things, regardless of logic. [name removed for privacy]
- Currently we enjoy riding our bikes through the park, with a restored wetlands, we will stop to explore and spend a little more time.
- I walk my dogs in the park, and I will change my route a little, but I think I'd like an actual wetlands instead of the sort of oozy parts we have now. There are a lot of dragonflies--it would make it easier for them to raise their broods there and really keep down the mosquitoes.
- Normally don't use that part of the park
- Wetlands bring more mosquitoes. There are lots of wetlands to view all around Calgary already. We don't need another mosquito breeding wetland in our backyards. The splash park for the kids is pretty close to there so it would spoil their enjoyment also. There are lots of wetlands in Confederation Golf Course so I think this is a big waste of time and money!
- I use the paths, and my kids play in the green spaces. I don't think such a small change will impact my use and I think the benefits of a wetland would outweigh any impact to me.
- Pathway will be unaffected
- Opportunities to see different kinds of wildlife, such as birds
- The area shown on the map isn't accessible today because of vegetation so if that were replaced by wetland, it wouldn't make much difference to the usability of the park.
- abike through and occasionally walk. We would enjoy a natural space.
- I live across the road [address removed for privacy] from the park. This will be a great opportunity to view wildlife, in particular the addition of many birds that will frequent the park... I'm expecting great photo opportunities. As well the additional water will recreate the beauty of the wetlands for our enjoyment.

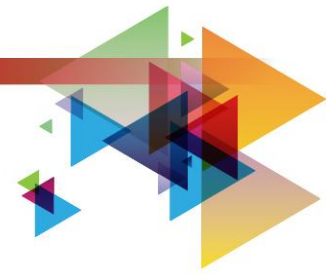




Verbatim Comments

- We walk our dogs in the park & don't go into the natural areas. When our granddaughter is older we will go to the green spaces or the splash park
- It will affect the way I use the park as it will encourage me to visit more often. The original park was home to frogs, ducks and various bird species plus all the cattails. I'd like to see the area in question expanded westward to take in the whole bowl.
- Our family enjoys using this park several times during the week...so it will not impact how or the number of times we use the park area.
- I haven't been to Canmore Park yet; I usually walk towards Queens Park.
- I live in the area but do not use Canmore Park frequently.
- There will be more opportunities for bird and wildlife viewing, so we may spend more time at the wetland end of the park.
- I walk my dog daily exactly where the restoration would be. I also think there will be a huge increase in mosquitoes etc. From standing water.
- I go to Canmore Park often with my kids to play and learn. A wetland will increase the biodiversity, and hence the learning opportunities.
- We typically use the spray park or bike on the paths. We rarely play in the field or around the trees as there are too many mosquitoes.
- It would be nice to have a natural wet land for views and wild animals. If this can help storm sewers as a retention pond that would be great to ease infrastructure.
- I use this park almost daily and live directly across the street. I see the impact as minimal and not affecting walking paths or public usage.
- Currently, we use the spray park as well as running the pathways through Canmore Park. However, I hope to spend more time exploring the off path areas with my children and dog, especially if there is a wetland.
- The area being restored is off of the path so not an area that is directly in the use area
- I don't use that area of the park. Besides a wetland would be beneficial and I would rather change my habits to have the wetland back.
- Opportunity to observe and accommodate wildlife
- As long as as many natural paths stay in the park, I am for it. It is such a calm oasis and even though those paths are short it's like you are right out of the city.
- More variety of wildlife and plant life. Great for our school systems that have Wetlands as part of the curriculum in Grade 5. Currently trips are out to Ralph Klein Park. Lots of \$ for bussing. This would give more chance for local discovery. Personally, great for walks.
- I live on [address removed for privacy] and walk past the wetland area every day. I will continue to do this, but with a heightened level of interest in the area watching the seasonal changes in the plant cover and wildlife.
- As a dog owner we frequent Canmore Park almost daily. Also we use the path system in the winter when the snow is too deep in the park because it's plowed. My family also uses the path system for cycling and running.





Verbatim Comments

- I like the idea of having some water loving birds close, and that the wetland will also teach people about the importance of providing a unique habitat for different birds.
- I might actually spend more time in the park. My small son enjoys the park (he especially likes climbing the trees) and our family enjoys coming for a picnic or a stroll and enjoying the surroundings. A wetland would add to the appeal.
- I'll visit the wetland occasionally to see what birds are there
- I think the mosquitoes will keep me away in the summer. I usually go to this area of the park about 5 times per week
- Would likely head over to wetland and bird watch and might pond dip with my children for aquatic invertebrates.
- The proposed wetland zone has very high growth anyway so we usually do not enter it.
- I would like to see the wetland restored so that all the original species can live there once again
- Yes.. it will affect HOW and WHEN in a VERY Positive way. I will frequent the area more just like the animals and scenery would be attracted to this area.. However wetlands generally riverside deter people from walking right through; a positive for wildlife. It could attract and educate park goers via a view point above along the hill side. With proper education and some history on the park and area. Thank you. Always thought it should be a wetland of sorts... it's always so wet and lush in that dip.
- I live across from Canmore Park and enjoying using the park for walking, running, and biking. That section of the park has always been wet/damp, so I have only accessed it during the winter. To return it to its natural state is the right thing to do.
- We usually play at the west end of the park. This could provide some excellent adventuring area for little and big birdwatchers.
- Increased mosquitoes from standing water. flooding of 19 street during flash summer storms bc of plugging the drain in order to supply the wetland
- Our family uses the park facilities like the tennis courts and splash park. I would not anticipate a significant impact on those activities from this proposal.
- The park has a lot of space to walk, playing fields, tennis courts and kids park all which are not impacted by the wetland. We have noticed in walking the park that part of the slope outlined is often wet anyway, so its acting as nature intended the drainage to before the changes. The wetlands further east into Confederation Park are an attribute to the area with birds and wildlife, this one will be too.
- I would continue to be able to walk there and enjoy the scenery
- I live a 5-minute walk from where the proposed wetland will be, and I regularly run and walk in this area. I feel this will only change my use by encouraging me to run and walk more in the proposed wetland area to see the wildlife.
- I often walk through the area that would be restored, but I imagine I would not be difficult to go a slightly different way...

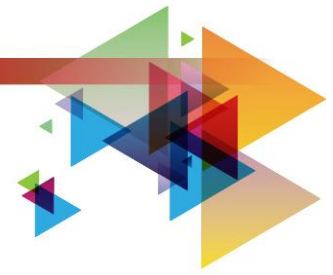




Verbatim Comments

- At present, the grass there is high, the trees are not a welcoming place to seek refuge and it feels like there "should" be water there. If the wetland is restored and made accessible, it could really make the space a more welcoming refuge and less of a "dead space" in the park.
- It will be a more interesting place to walk with our kids.





Verbatim Comments

Question 2 - *Thinking long term: place a sticker below to complete the following sentence; I think the plan to restore the wetland in Canmore Park is:*

Participants were asked to select from the following options. Numbers represent responses:

Terrible	Bad	Okay	Good	Great
5	3	4	16	97

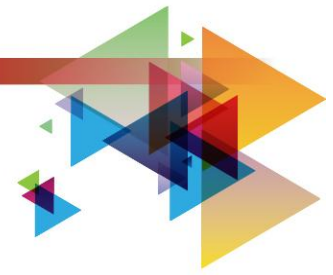
Themes that emerged include (listed in order of popularity):

Theme
Natural, ecological, and benefits/wetlands are important
Wetlands contribute to clean and healthy water systems
General Support
A beautiful or aesthetically pleasing place to enjoy
Going back to what's natural is the right thing to do
Leisure use
Preserving, restoring or expanding nature in urban areas
Educational benefits
Benefit for children
Concerns about mosquitoes
General opposition
It's good for the community
Concerns over cost. Spending money on wetland restoration is not a priority
It should be even bigger
Memories of original state, or desire to return to original state
Benefits for flood control and storm water retention
Prefer current landscape as opposed to a wetland
Will encourage me to use the park/that area of the park more often
Other

Verbatim comments

- I think it's a good idea because it clean the water naturally without using chemical
- Good idea. Maybe if it works you could even increase the size. Just try to ensure the perimeter outside does not get too soggy
- A wonderful idea to renew to the old way
- Love the potential for increased bird watching
- A good idea
- yes yes yes
- A benefit to the park and those that use it
- Wetland is a great idea for all wildlife. It's about time
- a great addition to our neighbourhood



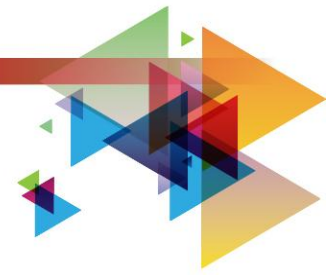


Verbatim Comments

- This is a good opportunity to restore what's been lost, and to educate people on the value and benefits of conserving wetlands and wildlife
- Ecological advantages in general and diversity of environment in community
- I think baby steps are good to allow more nature to come in
- Cattails, willows can grow and clean up area. Can be well used by kids
- Educational opportunities. Environmental possibilities. Great to capture the spring water. Potential to treat water naturally
- No downside. Especially for biodiversity in sync with parks and ecology and smart urban planning
- Nice way for wildlife to get water
- Love the opportunity for restoration of urban areas. One of my favourite places
- Good idea. Anything to support and restore the ecosystem is great in my view
- For reasons already stated. What is the goal of this endeavour in the first place? Crating more wetlands, restoring a past situation that no longer fits with the urban situation, or creating a better park for the surrounding neighbourhood? Wetland restoration is silly for this park since there is plenty of this type of enterprise just over the way in Confederation Park. If the purpose is to improve the park, let's think of some other ideas - surely this isn't the only one. How about an exercise track with stations for certain activities for fitness that runs through the treed areas?
- *(complaint that picture didn't load)*
- Nice to see the water flow from Canmore all the water to golf course and Confederation Park. Water will make the park better
- I think restoring wetlands is valuable for the ecosystem in the city.
- It is important to preserve and restore wetlands when possible. Better for our water system and for wildlife.
- It restores natural habitat and wildlife.
- Wet lands are good. But they need more space than is available in that small area.
- Wetlands are an important part of the ecosystem, whether in bio diversity, water management, or aesthetic appeal.
- We need more wetlands in the city to filter water before it goes down the storm drains into the river.
- Make for a more natural experience
- The more natural areas in our city the more beautiful and ecologically usable it'll be
- I agree that now that we know better about the value if wetlands ...that restoring them when possible is the right thing to do

- When I was a kid, I used to go down there & explore. There were snails, ducks. I used the wetlands as part of my biology report: ecosystem of a pond.
- This plan will improve the ecosystem, and create a more natural environment. This would be a lot nicer than some of our parks that the city has been developing into concrete pads.
- I applaud the city for looking into this. We have a wonderful children s water park area now. I hope the new wetlands will be child friendly since the water park brings so many children to



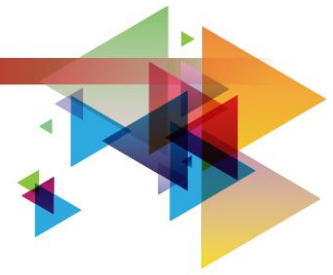


Verbatim Comments

the area. I would not want to see any accidents.

- Why not?
- Green areas, wildlife, nature etc are proven to be beneficial to people and communities.
- See above. (The park is beautiful, and returning the wetlands will add to that beauty. I use the park to access nature and wetlands are part of that. Please restore the wetlands.)
- We need more nature in the city.
- Wetlands are conspicuously missing in the city. The wetland areas in Confederation Park are a great area and make the park much nicer. They attract a great deal of birds which make the city a nicer place.
- I've always been proud of Calgary's great green spaces, and having more diversity amongst them such as wetlands would be great.
- Improved local wildlife habitat (birds particularly); park features don't have to be sports related: filling wet spaces for failed turf fields (high maintenance and inputs) was a bad idea; it will improve water quality through the whole confederation park corridor: natural filtration over a larger is always better than concentrating it downstream at the golf course.
- It's important for storm water management, wildlife, the health of the water and air in the neighbourhood/soils etc. Aesthetically I also think it will look nicer than an over landscaped bit of urbanity.
- Wetlands are an important part of our ecosystem. I am in full agreement to restore the wetlands at Canmore Park. I will visit the park more often to follow its progress.
- Re-establishing natural habitat. Re-establishing natural storm water features and functions. Educational opportunities for children to see a working wetland within an urban setting
- Because the map is not visible in Chrome, Firefox, or Internet Explorer.... I don't have an opinion
- My opinion is that: It'll turn into a mosquito breeding ground. 2. That it's not good use of the limited tax dollars we have. Especially in a time when we need to be tightening our belts and focusing on essential services. There is no natural flowing water through there. It'll be a slough, not a wetland
- I believe in the benefit of the natural ecosystem; I think people who use the park will appreciate the increased diversity.
- If it is a natural wetland then let's let that happen
- Restoration of wetland habitat is important for environmental reasons, as well as community enhancement.
- Biodiversity is already a challenge in a major city. Restoring a wetland will help.
- The wetland will attract all different types of birds and other helpful species that pollinate plants. It might mean more mosquitoes, but it also means more predators like dragonflies and birds that keep the mosquito population in check.
- This area is already very wet and this plan will better define the wet area.
- Restoring the park to natural wetlands will help the ecosystem there, as well as capture and filter rain water.
- Because it demonstrates good long-term thinking with respect to our environmental footprint. The wetlands in the Calgary region are absolutely vital to a healthy ecosystem
- we need to restore wetlands and natural ecosystems for all the known benefits

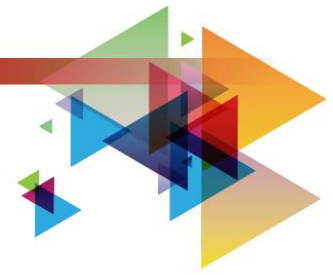




Verbatim Comments

- Because, "why not?"
- We know the benefits of wetlands so let's start restoration with the wetter areas.
- ... Will the recreate the natural wetland environment which is vital to the drainage of much of the east end of Nose Hill Park? This will aid in flood control in the Nose Creek watershed and it will provide a wetland ecosystem to support a more diverse plant and animal population.
- I am not clear on what benefit this will provide, and I'm concerned that the wetland will increase the risk of the park and adjacent roadway flooding. In addition, I am concerned that it will be a mosquito-breeding ground.
- Delighted to see wetlands return to the creek running through Confederation Park and golf course. Much more natural and positive
- More wildlife but not sure if there are downsides?
- I like the idea of restoring the habitat for the birds and animals.
- Wetlands are good for the environment
- I just think that... it already was a wetland.. And was filled 50 something years ago ... and nature has restored it and reclaimed it and there are some well established (after 50 years!!!!) trees and plants and such. I think that it's more of a waste of time and money and energy because sure it's too bad that it was filled all that time ago.. but what's the point now??
- Great idea to help make up for all the lost wetlands.
- I look forward to seeing the diversity of wildlife, and to provide a safe home for a few ducks that I've seen wandering the neighbourhood. I saw these ducks swimming in a 2' wide puddle on the road at the corner of Caribou Drive and 19th street this spring.
- I believe in natural green space to the extent we can hold or recapture it. I'm sorry the proposed area is so tiny. The park today is looking lovely, but the lawns and flower beds are labour intensive for the amount of use it gets. A self-maintaining wetland would be a smart move, provide better wildlife habitat and bring its own kind of beauty.
- Red wing blackbirds, and it used to have a pair of mallards that came back every year in the cat tails. Why was it removed to begin with? Put it back.
- I recognize the ecological benefit of wetlands and think it's a great opportunity to build awareness in an urban setting. It is also very close the Ecole Banff Trail and could be used by the kids and teachers to learn about wetlands, ecosystems...
- Wetlands are good in every way--they provide an ecological niche for creatures that make the city better, and they are really good for cleaning runoff water.
- Going back to a more natural way is better for nature
- Lots of wetlands in the area already
- Improving inner city natural areas is a priority for me.
- Is it big enough?
- Whenever we restore a habitat to what it does naturally, we are doing the right thing. As you have pointed out, we now know more about the importance of wetlands.
- I am not sure if this is a good use of tax money in a neighbourhood where sidewalks are atrocious
- We are building storm water encatchments (e.g. west campus) and should use the landforms previously created.
- For all the reasons already stated plus we know wetland areas are natures filter system... this



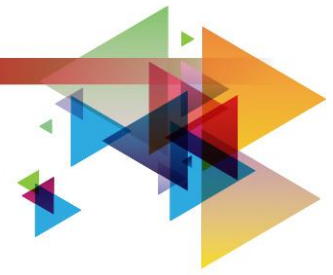


Verbatim Comments

is a huge benefit for humans & our water supply. And I expect less watering will be required for the trees & green spaces in the lower park area... providing a savings for our city water supply.

- We enjoy having the natural areas of the park as they attract wildlife. Hopefully the wetland area will do the same.
- This is long overdue. The whole of Canmore Park was a wetland and it was sad to see it dried up..The area in question should be expanded to bring water back to as much of the park as possible not just limited to this small area. Let's bring nature back to Canmore Park.
- If it was originally a wetland, and is still wet, it makes sense.
- It will provide a beautiful natural area in the park and add to the diversity of wildlife in the area.
- Wetlands serve multiple benefits, they provide biodiversity in the city, they help with storm-water retention and flora can provide filtering effects for preliminary treatment of storm-water.
- We have always loved the wilderness bits in the park and this will enhance this aspect of the park
- I think the environment has already adapted to the last human intervention.
- Cultivating an appreciation of nature is worthwhile for kids and adults. Small, easily accessible examples are key to increasing awareness.
- The more natural areas within the city that we can build, the better
- Returning area back to there natural state for water is fine.
- We have lost some inner city bird wildlife and this may help growth in the area
- Wetlands are some of the most productive eco-systems in the world. They are awesome because they increase biodiversity; filter, clean and store water; and they are beautiful!
- Restoration of natural spaces is critical to a healthy city
- More diverse ecosystem. Better use of the land.
- Wetlands have benefits for wildlife and human populations alike.
- All we can do to preserve the eco-system there is great, and it will make it that much more interesting
- Return to original state, reverse mistake originally made.
- This is a restoration project. Chances for success are good. A few wetland species still remain struggling to survive in a water deprived environment. The restored wetland will increase the diversity of plant and animal life, increasing public interest and enjoyment
- My concerns lie with costs and mosquitoes. There is an accumulation of water there in the spring. And after the mismanagement of the spray park's build and numerous renos I have my fears concerning city projects.
- It will be educational for those people who aren't familiar with wetlands and their importance.
- Wetlands are important environmentally and I would be proud to say my neighbourhood restored this area. I also enjoy coming to a park and enjoying wild/natural areas, animals, and plants - a wetland area would involve all these features
- Wetlands provide many important ecosystem functions and benefits to wildlife and people. Restoring this wetland will add a bit of nature to the area, and help educate people about the



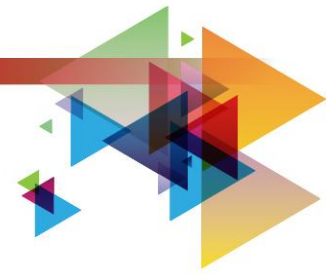


Verbatim Comments

importance of wetlands.

- With more water comes more mosquitoes. The small footprint of the area is not large enough, in my opinion, to attract enough birds to eat the increase of insects that will breed there. I think with an enlarged footprint there will be more insects but also a greater chance on increasing the bird population but there still might not be enough birds
- I believe it will improve the natural habitat and return some species that once existed in this park. It will provide a learning opportunity for nearby schools and neighbourhood children.
- I like how many parks and how much nature there is in Calgary and I think the city should have as many natural areas as possible.
- Wetlands are an important part of Alberta's environment and should be protected/restored wherever and whenever it is possible to do so. Restoring the wetland to Canmore Park will make the park a more complete and certainly a more esthetic, beautiful and interesting place to visit. It will also provide the nearby schools a convenient and easily accessible location for nature studies.
- Very good thing
- Wetlands benefit us all. Air, water, plants, animals and insects need to survive and have a place in our concrete jungle
- If this is a restoration to a more natural state great. How/why did the wetland area shrink so much?
- Not enough details have been researched into the past aquifer, the flooding of 19 street during storms, the additional wildlife interactions and potential conflicts. The park is working well now, don't change it. and certainly don't spend a lot of money which could be used for better purposes elsewhere
- As stated, the pre-development wetlands served a purpose that we are just coming to understand more fully and any efforts to return those wetlands to their pre-existing state is beneficial to water management within the watershed. The City should take full advantage of any existing sites like this that could be recovered. The impact on the community in this case should be very small beyond construction/restoration work in the short term, another wetland is returned to former glory and the watershed benefits by having another natural filter and water storage area. All wins
- we all know natural watershed is the best way of runoff control, plus benefits the wildlife and park habitat all round, its not necessary to manicure all the grass with machinery so this is correcting a poor decision from the past
- I think it's important to be able to support, as much as possible, the original environmental condition of land. It will benefit us now and for the future. I anticipate it would also bring fauna and wildlife back that was originally there.
- As it will bring more diverse wildlife to the park, will aesthetically add to its areas of interest, as well as other benefits like water purification would be great!
- Will add some interest to the natural landscape and maybe some different wildlife, but hopefully not add too many more Mosquitoes!
- A dark pool of standing water (aka. mosquito-breeding pond) would be less great. But if the wetland is restored into a welcoming, "accessible" wetland and refuge, it would be really great. Something like the wetland by Fort Calgary but with more trees?
- There are social and ecological benefits





Verbatim Comments

Question 3 - *Is there anything else you would like the park planners and designers to consider in their decision? For example: long-term impact, environmental, recreational, aesthetic, historical or other factors*

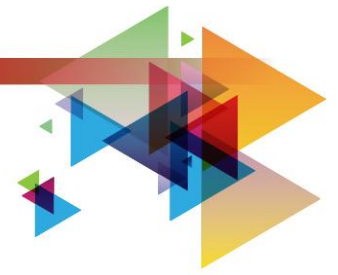
Themes that emerged include (listed in order of popularity):

Theme
Natural, ecological, and benefits/wetlands are important
Build boardwalks or pathways to enjoy the wetland with
Educational benefits
It should be even bigger
Concerns about mosquitoes
General Support
Going back to what's natural is the right thing to do
A beautiful, natural or aesthetically pleasing place to enjoy
Benefit for children
Concerns over cost. Spending money on wetland restoration is not a priority
Leisure use
Prefer no paths, or natural paths. Natural state is important.
Tips or Concerns around flooding and/or ice build up
Concerns about dogs, especially off leash dogs
Consider local waterways beyond the wetland, both in the park and beyond
Include interpretive/educational signage. Environmental, historical, community education
Consider long-term benefits and/or sustainability
General opposition
Memories of original state, or desire to return to original state
Canmore park is good enough as is!
Preserving, restoring or expanding nature in urban areas
Wetlands contribute to clean and healthy water systems
Willingness to volunteer; or involve volunteers from the community
Benefits for flood control and storm water retention
It's good for the community and other social aspects
Other

Verbatim comments

- Capture spring water to east. Myths of 9 more golf holes
- Flooding concerns (have sump pumps). Mosquitoes. Top of slopes behind Banff Trail. Done in the right way
- Reduce dandelions! Get rid of them in the parks and school grounds
- Anything you do here, put back the water. It's good
- Concern regarding officially Canmore Park is an ON-leash dog park, but dogs are usually off leash. Nesting could be hurt by dogs. I have a ??? [Illegible]

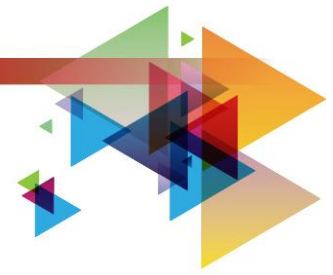




Verbatim Comments

- Path use. Biking on concrete. Dogs in natural area. Not having to see houses and concrete and good to see more greenery
- give it your best plan
- do more of these
- Boardwalk for bird watching facility along where the path is
- Can it be made a little bigger? Pathways?
- Mosquito control via fog. In 1960s things were worse. Will it be like that?
- More expansion of the wetland to the west and north
- Ensure there is a maintenance program in place to help ensure long-term success of the wetland restoration (e.g. weeds, vandalism etc)
- Nice idea. Would be great to keep access/path into the trees
- Learning opportunity for children with interpretive features
- Money might be better used to maintain the existing park: 1. clean dead wood from natural area 2. Fix irrigation system on west side of the park
- Wetland in this area is fantastic! How would herbicide use in remaining Canmore Park affect wetland?
- Providing access to water through paths, benches etc to allow children opportunities to learn and interact
- Hampering or restricting access to water reduces access for people and speeds up water - not natural
- I hope it will still be accessible for walking, skiing etc, but without formal trails
- Wetland don't need to be watered like green lawn grass. We need native grasses and plants
- Open up the natural springs for increase environmental benefit and water and biodiversity flow
- Pathway is very watery with snow-melt and icy (north of wetland) on ridge
- Shouldn't be taking out wetlands. Would like to see it go more natural
- Cost of construction
- Environmental
- Environmental and recreational aspects
- Create a place for community connection and activities (like the wonderful work done in St Patrick's Island) even if it more modest. Make it inviting, useful and beautiful for the people in the area: it is not a wildlife refuge. But keep the trees and shrubs for the birds and smaller critters
- I just wonder would this become a nice hatching place for mosquito's besides that I think it would be great to go back to a more natural landscape
- A promenade to enjoy the new wetland.
- Historical and environmental factors are important to keep in consideration, as well as long term impact. I think that restoring the wetlands would bring things back to historical and environmental conditions, and more wetlands is good for the long-term well being of our city.

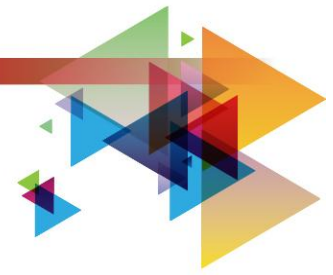




Verbatim Comments

- Leave is natural with viewing areas and wooden pathways to walk through.
- Is this just an attempt to save the cost of mowing the grass? Or some miss-guided environmental idea?
- All the above examples are good, recreating the wetlands to what they naturally had been makes much since, if able to improve upon them aesthetically that's wonderful. I hope that it's able to help the environment and diversity of the part and show long-term benefits
- I would suggest setting up a study on the area as you green it. I also think adding bird boxes/bat boxes would be ideal.
- maybe put in a birding or wild life viewing station that doesn't impact the area too much
- Historical.
- Boardwalk feature near/around the wetlands area. Similar to the ones found in Pearce Estate Park
- Make sure it can support all creatures and plants needed to make a healthy self-sustaining ecosystem.
- I love Canmore Park. Environmental issues are a high priority for me.
- I'm curious about the size of the proposed wetland considering its original size and how the cost of the project is driving the scope. Should it be bigger? It seems so at this point. Is it a scalable project over time or will it grow naturally once initiated? If this is just the pilot stage before a future expansion then it makes sense as it won't create too many future impacts with the increased use that will come. Related but unrelated to the wetland restoration is the playground and parking lot across 19th Street. If the wetland does bring in destination users this area could be improved as well. Signage to explain how Canmore Park is part of a larger natural drainage area would be helpful to visitors.
- Not in their decision about this particular park, but I believe consideration of maintaining natural areas such as wetlands should be made for new parks in the new areas of the city.
- Wetland restoration is a critical component of storm water management. Over the long term, as weather patterns become more severe, the roll of wetland features within the urban landscape will become more and more important. On a similar note, the City should investigate creek daylighting - a good example would be linear park in Varsity near 53rd Street.
- Because the map is not visible in Chrome, Firefox, or Internet Explorer.... I don't have an opinion
- Don't convert it to a wetland. It was a slough, not a wetland. There is no fresh water running through there. If anything, it should be filled in more so that the entire park can be used (i.e. more grass cut). Find ways to make it draw people in. A swamp won't do that.
- It should be maintained in a way that encourages people to interact with the wetlands (without damaging it) and it not turn into a garbage area.
- Include public education component about the value of wetlands and the history of this wetland, with particular references to how land development changed it over time.
- I hope you include native plant species as a part of you plan. It would be beneficial to have fruit producing plants for a variety of wildlife species that can help sustain them through the winter.

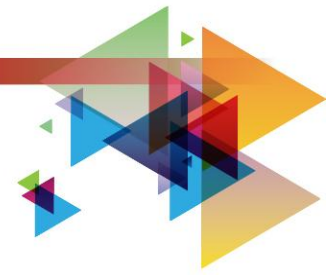




Verbatim Comments

- Recreational/educational. If the wetlands are restored, boardwalks should be installed so people can get a close up view of the environment.
- Yes. In addition to restoring the wetland in Canmore Park, please include the restoration and protection of the remaining "piece of prairie" which exists on the south slope of Canmore Park. This grassland is on the north side of Canmore Road between 19th Street and 28 Ave NW.
- If it could resemble some of the streams in Confederation Park, that would be very aesthetically pleasing. If it can be built so that mosquitoes can't breed and the chance of flooding is not increased, that would be a good idea. The park is perfect the way it is, and any interventions will have the risk of ruining what is currently working well.
- Maybe even make it closer to the original size of the wetland that was taken out in the 60's. The new area looks kind of small. But anything is better than nothing.
- Better bike access around the park
- The size of this park. If this was a humongous park that really would be able to benefit from this considerable change.. Then maybe this would be a good idea.. But this is a smaller park and this wetland would be right beside a road and there aren't necessarily tons of deer and other animals (like cranes and stuff... they'd be in Fish Creek...) that would immediately flock to the area. Also, it's not like a wetland will suddenly appear out of nowhere one day... I mean it will take many years and probably at least ANOTHER 50 something years to restore it fully.. So in one century, the area recovered and then was made into a wetland again.. What does this really accomplish??
- Don't know if this is part of the park planners concern, but when there's run off, there is always a wide flow of water coming across 19th Street in the curve, south of Collingwood Drive.
- In 1998 the city disposed of a huge pile of earth on the golf course from excavation for storm sewer through the park at 19th and Canberra Road. This has also caused heaving of the ground on the 9th fairway. Obviously, I don't know if the drainage issue could be mitigated through this wetland project, but perhaps it could be looked at.
- The wading pool received an extensive (and expensive) upgrade a few years ago. I was worried that the wetland would interfere with that, but I see from the plan that it should not. If anything, I would support expanding the wetland area. I am also interested in being part of a volunteer workforce to help when the dirty stuff starts. Haven't been involved in that since the woodlands and playground went in at ecole Banff Trail! Thank you so much for bringing this terrific project to my community and for this consultation project
- Still the best park for the elementary schools when they want to do their year end fun activities for the children. Also good for the runners and exercisers. It should never be designated to any one single sport such as ultimate frisbee etc. but left as a relatively unstructured area. In March there are wild crocus up on the top field.
- Depending on scale of the wetland, it would be cool to have a boardwalk or some type of structure to access the site, along with some type of information board to promote some education. Awesome idea, and I think, well supported by the community. Good work!

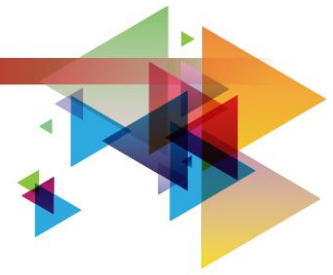




Verbatim Comments

- Looks as if the renewed wetlands will be pretty small compared to what was drained--I'd rather have it all restored. Draining doesn't work all that well. The path from the woody area to the garbage can through the former wetlands is just kinda mushy--not the advantages of a real wetland or the advantages of something dry.
- Just wonder if a wetland will become a great habitat for mosquito's
- The kids don't need to be chewed alive at the water park by all the new mosquitoes that will be breeding. Using chemicals is not a healthy alternative to getting rid of them either. Stupid to waste money on something that nature has done in plenty of areas in Calgary already.
- Is it big enough?
- Much as I like dogs, I would like to see planners keep them kept at a distance so that wetland wildlife is not disturbed.
- Environmental impact
- I would like to see the area remain as natural as possible. Perhaps a small boardwalk for humans to observe the interesting life forms the wetlands will provide but keep it natural please. Leave areas where humans can't access so the wildlife can have their space. This is a positive step for our park... thanks to the City of Calgary for providing this opportunity. We are moving in the right direction!!
- I played in the park as a child. Lot's of frogs, ducks and birds and even the occasional deer. Bring water features back to more of the park as one small area just won't do it justice.
- Please enforce the on-leash by-law by putting signs throughout the park especially around the wetlands area! Certain breeds of dogs will be attracted to the water, which could lead to damage to the natural area.
- It would be nice if the re-established wetland could be monitored for whether it supports life and purifies water to some extent.
- I believe we need to restore historical wetlands in as many cases as feasible. Wetlands are important for the environmental design aspects of our communities and can serve to mitigate damages by severe rainfall events.
- We would like the park to remain as natural as possible. We don't see any need for extra paths, etc.
- Canmore Park is used by dog owners, often off-leash. A small wetland surrounded on all sides by playing kids and romping dogs may not stand up to the intrusive abuse, and it may end up just being a mud hole rather than a vegetated biodiverse niche. Also, if it ends up increasing the mosquito count, it will attract ire from the community. Lastly, the educational potential needs to be realized by things like interpretive signs, associated online resource material, etc.
- We need more wetlands. There are many wetlands that have experienced attempts to be manicured over throughout Confederation Park. Make this one great, and we can restore more throughout the park.
- Potential restoration of the full historical wet Land also explore the potential of having interpretive signs along the pathway.
- Try not to let any developers near there. They get away with enough as it is.

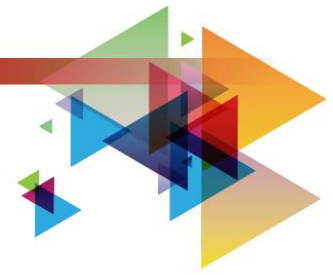




Verbatim Comments

- Keeping aesthetic factors in mind can help bring a wide range of people on board for the restoration project and minimize concerns/objections.
- Please, please, please, keep as many natural paths as possible there. I am a bit of a sentimentalist. My dad built our one and only home right on top of the park in 1958...the year I was born. It was a farm for the first 9 years of my life and then transformed into Confederation Park. We never moved until I was a adult. Literally, I could tell stories all day about the fun and adventure we had. I always vowed that if I could, I'd move back onto the park. I am now a homeowner on [address removed for privacy] and we appreciate the park every single day, in every single season. Keep it real please!! Thanks.
- I believe it's important to show history, give information on placards about the animals & plants as well as the purpose of a wetland. With so many new to Canada Calgarians, teaching them is a great idea. Recreationally the area is fantastic as it is not commercialized; keep it simple and don't take away from the simple nature of the park.
- I have never been in favour of having the spring, which emerges from the grove of willows in the NW corner of the park, run underground into Confederation Park Golf Course and beyond. Imagine how Canmore park could be transformed if the spring was an open waterway like it is in Confederation Park. As an integral component of the wetland restoration, I would like serious consideration be given to restoring as much of the waterway through Canmore Park more as possible - west of the tennis courts to the willow grove, and east of the splash park to the wetland.
- Canmore Park is a pretty sweet park as it stands so I find it hard to believe there won't be projects regarding the city's infrastructure that is worthy of the funding more. Also as a resident of the area for over 30 years and my tax increases have been severe within the last few years so I don't need a wetland that badly.
- It would be great if the area could be bigger so as to attract a larger number of birds. Also, maybe there could be interpretive signage at a viewing platform. That would be wonderful for birders and photographers. The entire plan is laudable.
- Informational / interactive signs that are also enjoyable for children would be appreciated if possible.
- Ensure you hire a wetland restoration expert, who has experience restoring this type of wetland, to oversee the project. Enlist community volunteers to help with the project - this will help create buy-in and support for the project.
- Please consider that in the 60s there was clear standing water in much of the low standing area of Centennial Park (as it was called then, not sure why there was a recent name change) and an abundance of mosquitoes which were chemically "fogged" as a control method. At that time there were many more birds (and of species not found now) but that was still not enough to control the mosquitoes. So... please consider West Nile disease, and quality of life for neighbours who use their yards in the summertime. Consider opening up the creek that was on the west side of this park and divert all water into a flowing stream which might allow less breeding options for mosquitoes. When the creek was flowing there was not the large amount of boggy area surrounding it and there was less water in basements in the area.





Verbatim Comments

- Not sure why the proposed restored wetland is so small compared to historic wetland footprint.
- The only thing I am wondering is if the wetland will lead to a much higher number of mosquitoes in the area, but it is not a major concern for me, I know how to protect myself against the little blood-suckers.
- I would like the ENTIRE ORIGINAL WETLAND restored to provide habitat for native birds and insects and to provide an interesting and useful aspect to beautiful Canmore Park.
- ... :) My brother remembers building forts out of the cat tails when he was a child and he would like to have those opportunities for his children with in the city. We have covered much of the wetland in this north area of Calgary with concrete, let's give some of it back to the animals.
- The park is working well now. Don't change it and certainly don't spend a lot of money which could be used for better purposes elsewhere
- The only concern I would expect may have to be considered is potential for flooding of the pathway during heavy storms and/or ice build up on the pathway related to this flooding during freeze/thaw cycles associated with this wetland. I drive by this area almost daily and in my experience the pathway is well travelled so pathway closure due to flooding/ice would be a concern for sure. Mitigation of this risk is likely feasible through change to the pathway elevation near the if this is a legit concern. Looking forward to see what it looks like!
- I think the biggest factor is knowing it was a natural wetland before, the change has obviously distorted natural water flow as we've noticed its often wet anyway, this will allow better water control plus has the added habitat benefits.
- I would hope that it is aesthetically pleasing and support natural drainage. I'd love to see signs and education to support knowing the history and environmental and social benefits.
- I guess just having benches and ways to safely navigate walking near the wetlands with young children in mind.
- When I first heard about this plan, I thought it was for the west end of the park where there is a small stream (sometimes!) it would be nice if this area was looked at as well..
- Some signage to teach visitors about wetlands would be cool. Boardwalks are cool. A nice mini shaded, summer-refuge, keeping all those big old trees in the park would be great. A lot of students + young people live in the area -- it would be cool to have a little fitness park/parcours somewhere in the park (like the one outside the Olympic Oval).

Other Questions/Comments:

- Will it be a sustainable wetland?
- Washrooms at Nose Hill Park? For seniors it's a long walk back to the car or home. Needs water fountains. With no washrooms and no water the park is only suitable for people 40 years and under.





Verbatim Comments

- How will The City manage this? They can't even manage the spray park. Prefer to see it the way it is
- Will there be an increase in mosquitoes?
- How will the remainder of the area be impacted?
- Nearby houses foundation; had to rebuild foundation because of water damage. Houses have sump pumps
- Spend money on keeping the current park nice
- Are we able to pick up debris in the natural area from the storm?
- Not going to fill out the survey because I don't feel strongly one way or the other
- What about safety of children? What will the depth of the water be?
- Keep the park multi-use: for runners, kids etc. Don't want it to be for just one purpose
- Storm water along 19th. There has been flooding on 19th about 30m north of the regional pathway entrance during storms. Any 311 calls on that area? Has Water Services looked at that area before? How would wetland change this storm water drainage and would The City improve that?
- Drainage/storm water covers have holes large enough for ducklings to fall in. Any chance of changing mesh size?

