

## **STANLEY PARK REDEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE**

**Key Stakeholder Workshop #1 – March 23, 2013  
8:30 – 12 noon, Parks Administration Building in Stanley Park**

### **Attendees from the following Stakeholder Groups:**

- Elboya Heights Community Association
- Stanley Park Lawn Bowling Club
- Canucks Rugby Club
- Calgary Outdoor Swimming Pools Association.
- Southern Alberta Pioneers & Their Descendants
- Rocky Mountain Little League
- Glencoe Club
- Bike Calgary
- Nature Calgary
- Calgary Pathways & Bikeways Advisory Council
- Calgary tour de nuit Society
- Calgary River Valleys
- Elbow Park Residents Association

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City of Calgary and Stantec Staff

### **PURPOSE**

This workshop was held to gain an understanding about the problems and opportunities that currently exist in Stanley Park during *Phase 1 – Start Up & Background Research, Assessment and Review* from representatives of key stakeholders keenly interested in the future of Stanley Park. It was the Project Teams' goal to obtain a clear understanding of the site issues from a stakeholder perspective as well as to have a discussion about areas for improvement in the future.

After a brief introduction, the groups toured the park (led by City and Project staff) and were asked to complete a site evaluation form. This was followed by a short break and two workshop exercises.

### **AGENDA**

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 08.30 – 09:00 | Welcome, introductions, project overview (indoor)                   |
| 09:00 – 09:45 | Guided site tour and evaluation of park (outdoor)                   |
| 09:45 – 10:00 | Warm-up/Break (indoor)  |
| 10:00 – 11:00 | “World Café” – brainstorming on key issues within the park (indoor) |
| 11:00 – 11:15 | Park Programming Target (indoor)                                    |
| 11:15 – 11:30 | Next steps (indoor)   |

## 1. **Welcome, Introductions, Project Overview**

Terry K. welcomed all participants and reviewed the morning agenda. Michelle W. brought greetings from The City and explained the background context of the study:

Stanley Park has become increasingly popular in recent years, resulting in greater demands placed on the park. The City of Calgary Parks is working towards a redevelopment plan for the park. This plan will take into consideration the increasing number of park visitors, with goals to enhance park visitors' experience, boost the park's environmental health, and identify much needed lifecycle upgrades and replacements.

### **Why Prepare the Plan?**

Stanley Park is a popular multi-use park with a long history and a place in the hearts of the communities and users it serves. The Stanley Park Lawn Bowling Club expansion and the evolving needs and desires for the park will be addressed by this plan.

The goal is to ensure the park remains valuable for park users today and into the future. To do this, a comprehensive redevelopment plan is required to ensure all activities can be balanced in a sustainable way.

### **What are the steps in the Process?**

The City of Calgary Parks has retained [Stantec Consulting](#) as experienced park planners and engagement specialists to assist with this project. The planning process involves a step by step approach:

- First, community and user input, suggestions and comments are gathered. This helps to inform how people and key user groups use the space. It will also help identify areas for improvement.
- Next, information is analyzed for appropriateness, feasibility, and suitability to determine how it should be incorporated into the redevelopment plan.
- Finally, this information is translated into a concept plan for the redevelopment of the park. The plan will be presented to the public for feedback and refinement.

# Stanley Park Process Chart



## 2. Guided Site Tour and Evaluation of Park

Attendees were separated into four groups in order to tour through the park. All were asked to observe the park using a site survey form to record their observations. The following is a summary of the comments provided and an average of the rating of the park elements.

Site Configuration	SCORE (1: POOR, 4: GOOD)			
	1	2	3	4
Ease in walking to the place			3.47	
Ease in walking around the place			3.25	
Evidence of visual landmarks		2.81		
Accessible for all		2.44		
Ease of access to Elbow River			3.00	
Clear hierarchy of circulation		2.31		
Clear signage	1.79			

### Other comments on Site Configuration

I think that generally there is balance (i.e. open space areas for more density, for children, for adults)

This refers to the escarpment from the parking lot on 42 Avenue to Southern Alberta Pioneers Memorial Hall. Much of the open area on this route is so isolated it could not easily be repurposed.

Trails and paths need repair (erosion on escarpment due to development of some desire paths, severe braiding by bikes cutting corners on upper area in Stanley Park – needs dev / or closure to bikes. Signage to show walking paths and grade would make park more pedestrian friendly. Calgary River Valleys and EPRA support 2 small designated partner sites and restoration of rest of riparian zone.

Walking down to Elbow River from southern Picnic Club (Lindsay Folly) area was very poor / bad. The path was snow / ice covered. Grade of path was steep. No pathway on top of Park around 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. Walking on the flats was very easy.

Concerns would be the bike pathway location in some spots that conflicts with picnic area causing some collision concerns as well as blind corners around the pool area / concession. When outsiders (non-Calgarians) come for tennis tournaments, they often have difficulties finding the tennis courts.

Pathways not cleared of snow and ice.

Surprised that the City bike path at north end was not cleared – this restricts access from Parkhill to the river pathway. Too many signs in City Parks now – they should be minimized and only where needed.

Washroom needs to be wheelchair accessible. Big park so landmarks not always easy to locate.

Needs lights on pathways, needs more pathways, more parking (lots more).

Could be more signage regarding historical sites, more signage regarding on/off leash areas.

Ease of walking affected by icy cover on part of trails. Snow / ice cover also affected 'hierarchy of trails'

"Convenience Trails" are worn into many areas but have not been facilitated – top of ridge, areas where MUP have been poorly designed. There should be a way to allow access to the river without creativity conflict zones between users.

The pathway (asphalt) starts by the admin building being very flat and accessible. It is in need of repair and widening. Especially around SW corner of pool where it intersects from parking lots (both) and heads to river. Very congested site. River pathway heading toward downtown is not accessible to all due to steep hills. A lot of blind spots and dangerous or multiple users – walkers, strollers, bikes, deep, etc. Lack of washroom facilities very apparent.

Much of the park space is unsuitable for any use except woodland.

Some sections of the pathway not well designed. Poor sight lines, drainage pool at times. There are issues with off-leash dogs on the pathways, based on personal experience, year round.

Place Making + Comfort	SCORE (1: POOR, 4: GOOD)			
	1	2	3	4
Overall attractiveness			3.13	
Perception of safety			3.12	
Cleanliness and maintenance			3.25	
Comfort (seating areas)		2.93		
Presence of sunny areas			3.64	
Visual interest			3.50	

#### Other comments on Place Making + Comfort

The overall attractiveness, in my opinion, is diminished by the up-keep of the pool. Entrance and snack shop appear shabby. Appearance of south green buildings of the lawn bowling area not attractive – could trees be planted? Community center is attractive.

There is a lack of accessible washroom facilities and poor signage. There is not enough parking.

Preservation of natural areas and restoration (i.e. lawn removal) of native species and willows along riverbank will help to assure better water quality (filtration), reduce speed of flood waters and drainage, provide habitat for wildlife in the riparian zone, and support functionality of the lower Elbow River. Keeping the entire park on-leash will help

protect the natural areas (need reinforcement and signage). CRV recommends consideration of a small constructed wetland to filter storm water.

During the summer months the treed area on the east side of the big ball diamond has homeless people living in the bushes. Park has overall different look with four seasons right now the grass is brown, but overall the park has its charm.

Find the park to be very attractive; a great mix of open spaces and closed in foliage. Love the mix of nature with the ability to be active in tennis, swimming, ball diamond. One problem is lack of public toilets.

This is not an attractive time of 'year'

This is a well maintained park – staff are very helpful.

The large baseball park needs work; the baseball park needs a high wall to stop balls going into tennis area. Needs more washrooms.

The lawn bowling greens and clubhouses etc. are unsightly especially in winter.

Park had lots of interesting sites and views – but overall feeling is of scrappiness – doesn't seem any connection between them. Buildings and infrastructure all seem to be placed any old how. Don't relate to each other or the space they occupy.

Amazing canopy coverage makes it seem hidden away without being 'scary' or isolated. Areas are available to accommodate many requirements – sunny, clear for kite flying canopied for shade.

This all depends upon why you are here. Parking on nice summer day is very hard to find whether you're here for swimming, lawn bowling and river use. Most activity with garbage in seating near river. Nothing at far south end. Limited washrooms for number of users. Safety on pathway climbing hills towards downtown questionable due to blind spots and close proximity of shrubs / trees.

Park is a huge asset to the community and the City.

Activities + Uses	SCORE (1: POOR, 4: GOOD)			
	1	2	3	4
Evidence of community events			3.07	
Range of uses on offer			3.71	
Year-round uses			3.18	
Popularity (how well used the area is)			3.69	

#### Other comments on Activities + Uses

The park is a wonderful open green space with appropriate areas for many spontaneous activities and quiet spots as well. A good area for all age groups allowing for special activities during the summer and fall. I would like the City to disallow any use of amplifiers in the park. It is a valid suggestion to allow track setting for cross country skiing for Calgarians in the larger open area. It is also a valid suggestion that the Elboya community be allowed to flood pathways for spring skaters, over the ball diamond next to the community center.

The park offers a lot of uses for different groups. How to make everyone happy is the hard part. Even today mid-march snow on ground -5 degrees Celsius walking around, lots of people with dogs on-leash and off, runners, people in the ice rink even through people having a picnic summer months very busy

During the spring, summer, fall community wants are abundant. In the winter, the skating and sledding on the west side of the park is always busy on weekend and evenings. During warmer months the park attracts more people outside the community to picnic, play tennis and use the outdoor pool. More of the east side of the park.

Family groups were out. Runners, skating, etc. Even on a cool spring day evidence of popularity.

Popular year-round for neighbourhood residents passive use. Good central location for community based programs.

Our activity was relocated here by recreation which is trying to increase activities in these Park. Bike festivals, car shows, sporting events, lawn bowling is an excellent range of activities.

Hard to comment – visit on family holiday weekends!

Park is overused when you ratio people, parking and washrooms May – September. See little community use other than ice rink. Park is very popular May – September for many reasons car shows, baseball, pool, lawn bowling, etc. Also it is a site to visit for picnics. Question whether City Maintenance yard can be moved to free up space for alternatives use. Need more monitoring in summer for traffic and drinking in park.

Park is well used on summer evenings but not through the day. For large parts of the day / year no toilets are available to the public.

The pathway is an important, maybe the most important, north-south connector in this part of Calgary. As such it sees a lot of year-round use by cyclists. Joggers and (dog) walkers are also using the pathways and trails year-round.

<b>Sociability</b>	<b>SCORE (1: POOR, 4: GOOD)</b>			
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
Number of people in groups (2+)			3.40	
Evidence of volunteer activity		2.54		
Sense of pride and ownership			3.57	
Presence of seniors and children			3.33	

#### **Other comments on Sociability**

Saw one child with adult but as the temp was below zero not surprising.

Multi-use park effectively serves all ages groups. Paths and Trails – twinning the paths near the river increases the likelihood of blocking ground water flows and destroying riparian zone vegetation (avoid use of asphalt). Rec. use of grey shale on some paths for walking. Rec. meandering walking path in dev. Area of park.

The City does a nice job on keeping the park clean. Lots of different things to do for different users groups. Nice to keep open green space just for freedom to a lot of nothing.

Volunteer activity – facility buildings indicate large seasonal groups using park.

These activities are tucked away by the community association building. Picnic areas attract larger groups.

This is a very attractive area in the summer and seems popular for family picnics.

The current level of 'development' in the park is more than sufficient. Perhaps some areas could be upgraded or expanded (i.e. picnic area). Anything farther interfering with open space for all should be avoided.

This park seems to meet all demographic needs and is a hub connecting 'south Calgary' to downtown.

Lot of family activity at the weekend in the summer.

Based on personal experience a year-round (not just today)



### **3. World Café – Brainstorming on Key Issues Within the Park**

Following the tour, the group was divided into four groups and were invited to spend 15 minutes at each issue category table. City and Stantec facilitated the World Café

#### **Notes by Category**

##### **ACCESSIBILITY**

##### **Parking:**

- Dangerous speed bump in parking lot. Re-design in accordance with TAC guidelines
- Access to large main parking lot is through quiet residential streets in summer a lot of traffic
- Not enough parking many times – City employees use 42 Street when they have other spots available
- Institute parking along south side of 42 Avenue – build curbs
- Parking along 42<sup>nd</sup> busy during summer months – 42<sup>nd</sup> parking lot is small, concerns about traffic flow on 42 Street
- City employees should not use the 42 Avenue parking lot

##### **Accessibility:**

- Bike path – high-speed, bigger and wider path lead to faster speeds
- Access from bike path to 4 Street is difficult in winter
- Love that park is on the pathway system and is accessible to the public through walking and biking
- Bike traffic through busy picnic areas cause some concern; also by playground where you have children passing over bike path to access river and playground
- Widen pathway and create bypass for cyclists away from riverfront (through parking lot?)
- Like that there are trails to bike on that are not paved through area
- Poor sightlines, should try to reduce slopes and cut back vegetation
- Pathway is steep and iced up in winter and not used much, needs better drainage
- Issues with off-leash dogs on pathways (need better education or enforcement)
- Park used 90 days in summer
- Better design to reduce ice flow from hillside
- Dangerous blind corner – re-route pathway (not in front of pool entrance and concession stand)
- Main entrance point for 5 Street bike corridor traffic
- Re-route bike traffic onto road to reduce use conflicts (not on pathway)
- My only interest is the accessibility of the lawn bowling green low park to green

- I have never seen the softball area being used. Softball diamond rarely used, not regulation size
- Kids love the web park
- Access for SPLBC or walking along riverside activities are very good

## **FACILITIES, AMENITIES & NATURAL AREAS**

- Commuter bike path
- Divert bike traffic
- Shale walking path
- Connection of pathways between facilities could be better (between parking lot)
- Great lack of washroom facilities in whole park. In evenings, what is available is never opened
- Open spaces are key – adding pathways inside of park may lead to mini-parks
- Asphalt pathways leads to higher speed
- Baseball diamond is a key diamond to Rocky Mountain Little League. Is one of the nicest diamonds within Calgary
- Natural look to pathways “soft” touches to infrastructure
- Big renovation required – washrooms – add more capacity especially in light of special events (currently not enough for events, also not accessible)
- Flower beds near Parks Building are an amenity
- Riparian – remove grass, restore to natural filtration (e.g. Willows), protect from erosion
- Functional concession – upgrade for health department to offer cooked foods (hot dogs, etc.), café?
- Designated launch sites to protect riparian and backyards of residents
- Hard top path on escarpment would encourage too much speed
- Washrooms: challenge – vandalism, need resources to maintain
- Washrooms are totally inadequate. Only open for limited time in summer. Good idea to have more than one washroom in park.
- Asphalt compromises ground flow (pathway)
- Would prefer softer topping to informal escarpment pathway, not hard-top – discourage bikes on these areas
- Nice corners on escarpment could be nice entries
- Make a feature of interpretation of Lindsay’s Folly
- Softball – question value because seems poorly used
- Elbow River is an important corridor for wildlife – protect
- Invasive plants – remediate riparian and escarpment
- Brome grass et al bigger priority than dandelions
- From escarpment is a feature that you couldn’t see the tennis, etc...would higher fence compromise



- Walnut and other unusual planted trees – could be a feature
- Amenities / facilities are not coordinated to each other
- Ball park – kids can hit balls onto tennis courts – higher fence?
- Local experience is that slope has been stable
- Pathway – biking – up, down, too many convenience trails
- Erosion on slopes – no now fences, plant there?
- Lawn bowling – feels unfriendly, felt like a little “keep out” place
- Lawn bowling very accessible, everyone is always welcome, one of members always goes to the fence to invite people in
- Safety: directing kids (on bikes) and cyclists onto 42<sup>nd</sup> not as good as re-directing towards 4 Street
- Escarpment pathway maybe not paved, but shale or something would protect from “goat trails”
- Lawn bowling: expansion creates a barrier that cuts areas of park off
- Lawn bowling expansion: too much space in small park for one user
- Put more tables in current “Maintenance area”
- Rather not see more open spaces closed off with fences

## **MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT**

- Can some of the Depot area be used for other park purposes
- City staff have been very helpful
- Roads department plows roads and blocks access to pathway for cyclists (1 m high ridge of ice last winter)
- Parking lot 42<sup>nd</sup> flooding issues, stalls are unusable
- Bad drainage, low spot on pathway need to create drainage away from pavement
- 42 parking along SE edge parking
- Maintenance of green space and flower beds is good
- Maintenance of washrooms...?
- It should be made clear that the disabled spot is for 2 cars – 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue
- Tennis courts – courts have leaf debris
- Better signage – for uses, dog, trails, interpretive
- Improved garbage
- On-leash okay
- Inadequate bathroom facilities
- Cross-purpose use swim / public
- Signage – orientation children may get lost – tennis not apparent courts
- No bike parking racks?
- Poplar trees – planting of trees, picnic areas, succession planting
- Traffic day
- Homeless people sometimes use park
- Washrooms inadequate

- Improve handicap parking on 42<sup>nd</sup> – bad signs
- Portable washrooms
- Power
- Irrigation
- Locations – UPB, MAP – migrant with parameters
- BBQ pits – not often cleared – partial user, education of people uses etiquette
- More BBQ pits potentially
- Add stairs need

## **PARK PROGRAMMING**

- Amphitheatre near skating rink on slope
- Volleyball
- Pioneers – rent their hall, have very strict curfews on loud music
- Way-finding and signage – interpretive / cultural / historical / natural
- Outdoor nature adventures – school program?
- Baseball league – they bring in their porta-potty – ideal scenery for them (scenery nature). Little league – too short for other leagues looking for funding to upgrade, taller fence
- Small soccer pitch with simple stainless goal posts
- Need a better path between S parking and baseball
- Discussion about programmed indoor tennis – limited opportunities for kids after age 9
- Playground is very popular – packed (near storage yard)
- Skating is really well done – keep!
- Baseball diamond not well used
- Day camps – concession (decent one), better washrooms
- Use parks building – more use for outdoor education (under-utilized)
- Swimming lessons at the pool (not well advertised) and lane swim times
- Music events would be great – need concession, gazebo for groups (music)
- Movies in the park at community hall big turnouts
- Car shows – are they best use for the Big Lawn? Plus are the uses appropriate for grass?
- Big events – could there be a shuttle from Chinook or other location to decrease cars (lawn bowling club does shuttles to hotels during tournaments)
- Bike Festival Tour de Nuit, Ride for Road Tour – feeder rides from N&S arrive at Stanley Park and Family Road – spills out into open grass area as it gets bigger – effort to keep it contained of look good

## **OTHER OVERALL COMMENTS**

Other stakeholders that should be involved:

- Sarcee Fish and Game Association
- Paddlers / rafters / canoe clubs
- Tennis Alberta
- U of C Outdoor Education (rental arm)
- Elbow Valley Cycle Club

Group was not keen on the survey, but really appreciated guided tour and world café format and questions

Need solid area on natural areas as we move forward

Need to consider that the regional pathway is part of City's infrastructure system and very important for movement north / south

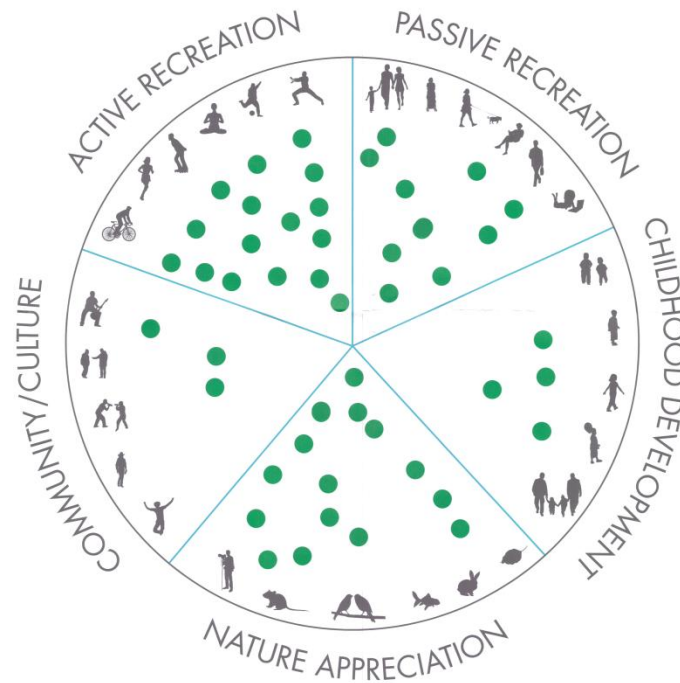
Need to keep it as a red line through the park – improvements are needed to avoid conflicts.

#### 4. Park Programming Target

Prior to adjourning and an invitation to monitor the project and attend the next workshop in spring 2013, each participant was asked to mark the chart below with 3 green sticky dots. The image below is a scan of the results:

### STANLEY PARK - PROGRAMMING TARGET

MARCH 23, 2013



The workshop adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Summary Prepared By:	Terry Koch
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This summary is the author's best interpretation of meeting discussions. Please notify the author of any omissions or errors.