

Clearwater Park Development Plan

C B CATHERINE BERRIS ASSOCIATES INC
A



Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	5
INTRODUCTION	7
SITE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS	13
GUIDING STATEMENTS	25
DEVELOPMENT PLAN	29

Appendices

APPENDIX A - Phase 1 Visioning Workshops	35
APPENDIX B - Plan Options	43
APPENDIX C - Phase 2 Comment Form Input	50



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Clearwater Park was selected as one of the Legacy Park Program candidate parks for preservation and protection of key watershed areas along the Elbow River. The City acquired the Clearwater Park site in 1979 through a donation of lands from the Devonian Group of Charitable Foundations. The purpose of the acquisition was to promote the preservation of unique riparian habitats along the Elbow River and to offer recreation opportunities for residents in the region.

The dynamic Elbow River system and associated riparian communities contribute to this site's high level of environmental significance. Current use consists of group camping activities at the Clearwater Park Tipi Site, archery at the Calgary Archery Club lease area, and informal visits by neighbouring residents, mostly for walking and dog walking. The site is not physically identified as a park.

The Province of Alberta - Alberta Transportation is planning to twin Highway 8, and this has a significant effect on considerations related to the park's future. Clearwater Park could potentially be used to treat and manage stormwater runoff (from the highway and/or the surrounding area), a new regional trail system will run along the south side of the highway, and the new highway construction will displace the Elbow Valley Constructed Wetland, which has been the location for a popular environmental education program.

This project involved the preparation of a development plan for the City-owned portion of Clearwater Park. The planning was accomplished through a comprehensive design and community engagement process with input from City staff (internal stakeholders), external stakeholders and the public.



INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Context

Clearwater Park was selected as one of the Legacy Park Program candidate parks for preservation and protection of key watershed areas along the Elbow River. The Legacy Park Program, funded through the Enmax Legacy Park Fund, supports land acquisition and park development within and near the City of Calgary in future development corridors. The Legacy Park Program focuses on the creation of regional parks in the Shepard, Bearspaw, and Clearwater areas, where the City has significant land holdings.

The City acquired the Clearwater Park site in 1979 through a donation of lands from the Devonian Group of Charitable Foundations. The purpose of the acquisition was to promote the preservation of unique riparian habitats along the Elbow River and to offer recreation opportunities for residents in the region.

Clearwater Park is located 7.2 km west of Calgary's city limits, north of Highway #8 (Glenmore Trail), along the Elbow River (**Figure 1**). The entire future park consists of about 383 ha (947 acres), portions of which are owned by Rocky View County, a Municipal District in Alberta. The park land owned by the City is a quarter section, or about 65 ha.

The dynamic Elbow River system and associated riparian communities from alluvial wetlands to forests contribute to this site's high level of environmental significance. The Elbow River is an important wildlife habitat and movement corridor, and a variety of significant ecosystems are found within the park site. The City is committed to minimizing damage to the unique natural assets of this park while supporting environmental education and recreation. Not all of the park is environmentally sensitive; the southwest corner of the park site was a previously cultivated field and there is a large area of mowed grass near the south boundary.



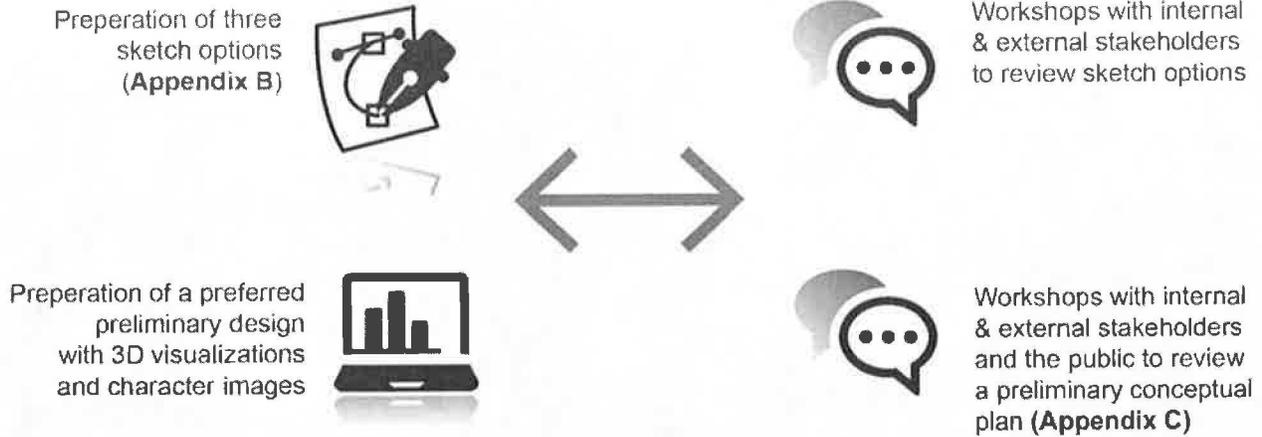
Portions of the site have been made available for recreation use over the years. The Clearwater Park Tipi Site consists of campsites and tipi platforms that can accommodate approximately 30 people. This rustic amenity provides the City of Calgary with the only overnight "backyard" camping for school, community and private groups; there are about 30 bookings per year. The Calgary Archery Club leases a portion of the park site. Its facilities include several buildings, fences, an open grass area used as an archery range, and an archery cross-country area with platforms, trails and obstacles within the forest.

A Master Plan for Clearwater Park was prepared in 1982; the plan identifies the site's resources, park objectives, and a proposed plan for recreation use and amenities within the park. A study of the park's biophysical resources was prepared in 2010 (Dillon Consulting). Due to the age of the original master plan and the presence of a relatively new community around the park site, the City initiated this planning process for Clearwater Park.

The Province of Alberta - Alberta Transportation is planning to twin Highway 8, and this has a significant effect on considerations related to the park's future. Some of the considerations related to the highway project include the following:

- Early in the process, Alberta Transportation considered using Clearwater Park to treat and manage stormwater runoff from the highway and as a potential source of gravel for road construction. A subsequent decision was made not to pursue these options.
- A new regional trail system will run east-west along the south side of the highway.
- The new highway construction will displace the Elbow Valley Constructed Wetland, which has been the location for The Mud Between My Toes, a popular environmental education program that is a combination of outdoor field studies and classroom workshops.

Phase 2 Preliminary Design



Key stakeholders involved in the process included the following:

City of Calgary - Parks, Recreation, Councillor-Ward 6, Transportation Planning, Community and Neighbourhood Services, Water Resources

Alberta Transportation (Long Range Planning)

Other external stakeholders involved in the process included the following:

City and Community Groups

Community Associations of Signal Hill and Discovery Ridge

Elbow River Watershed Partnership

Calgary Pathway Advisory Committee

Calgary Arts and Development Council

Calgary River Valley Forum

Calgary Field Naturalists

Calgary Sports Council

Cycling Groups

Calgary Archery Club

Off Leash Calgary

Other Government Groups:

Rocky View County

Alberta Environment

TransAlta

Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)



SITE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

2.1 Biophysical Inventory and Assessment

The site inventory and analysis is based largely on the Biophysical Inventory and Assessment conducted by Dillon Consulting in 2010, which includes information on the following:

- Biophysical information on the park and adjacent riparian lands
- Environmentally significant areas within the park
- Preliminary impact assessment related to future recreation amenities and activities
- Recommendations for appropriate locations of future amenities to minimize development impacts to the natural environment

Overview

The Clearwater Park site is substantially level and it slopes gradually down to the grade of the Elbow River. Most of the property is in a relatively natural state, containing river, river bank, riparian and forested ecosystems. A previously cultivated field occupies the southwest corner, and a pond that was originally built to be a swimming pool is located south of the river near the west edge of the park.

The portion of the park south of the Elbow River is easily accessible, with roads on two sides, and it is used informally by residents of the surrounding areas. Access to the north side is limited to one rural road end. The north side of the river is therefore much less disturbed. The northeast corner of the site extends up an escarpment.



Figure 6: River Channel Change (Dillon Consulting)



Figure 7: Vegetation Communities

Vegetation

High quality, provincially rare white spruce ecosystems and river wetland habitat dominate the majority of the land north of the Elbow River (Figure 7). South of the river, balsam poplar forest is the dominant vegetative cover. The previously cultivated field in the southwest corner of the park is now occupied by numerous native plant species such as silverberry, shrubby cinquefoil, Canada buffaloberry and buckbrush, in addition to grasses.

Around the perimeter of the constructed pond, situated just north of the tipi campsite, there is standing water and poorly drained upland soil material. The shrub species in this area include silverberry, willows and choke cherry. Emergent species in the saturated soil and standing water include small sedges, rushes, horsetail, and other wetland species. Because the pond has a diverse cover of aquatic and hydrophytic vegetation along its entire perimeter, it is classified as a wetland.

On the exposed gravel bars of the Elbow River, a mixture of sand and coarse fragments composed of pebbles, cobbles and boulders are present. These sites are flooded on an annual basis. Vegetation is established around the shelter of stranded logs and trees. The characteristic shrub species include red-osier dogwood, balsam poplar, sandbar willow, velvet-fruited willow, flat-leaved willow, silverberry and buckbrush.

In low-lying areas of the active floodplain that are subject to periodic inundation, soils are typically coarse sand. Willows dominate the shrub layer, along with consistently occurring balsam poplar and silverberry. Common forbs include creeping spike-rush, bluejoint, redtop, Kentucky bluegrass, wire rush and Canada thistle.

- This is the best example of a relatively undisturbed riparian floodplain in Calgary's park system.
- No known contamination exists.

Recommendations from Dillon Report

The following recommendations were prepared for Clearwater Park based on the biophysical inventory and assessment:

- The entire area on the north side of the Elbow River should be set aside as a conservation area for the protection of wildlife habitat and wildlife corridors. Public access should be limited and educational opportunities should be explored and considered.
- Signage indicating the boundaries and perimeter of Clearwater Park should be posted as soon as possible (currently there is no indication at any point on the perimeter of the park that the property is administered and controlled by the City of Calgary).
- A policy regarding access for dog-owners and dogs to the south side of the park is needed. Currently dog-owners and dogs use this part of the park intensively and as a result trails are forming in silty soils, compaction is occurring, and dog fecal matter is strewn throughout the area and in close proximity to the river.
- As an initial consideration for future recreational use and facility development, no permanent structures should be placed within the 1-in-50 year flood zone.



2.2 Site Use Inventory and Assessment

Heritage Resources and Traditional Land Use

The park is close to the Tsuu T'ina Nation Indian Reserve 145, 500 m from the nearest point. Given a wealth of historical resources located near the park, it is apparent that the Tsuu T'ina people, and possibly other First Nations groups, used the general area for living, hunting and gathering. The Blackfoot First Nation currently has interests in the area.

Buffalo hunting and gathering of plants were likely the primary activities in this area. There are campsites and kill sites in the broad Clearwater study area, but none known within the park. Due to the current private and local government land ownership in the broad study area, it is highly unlikely that any traditional activities (food gathering or cultural) are currently being conducted here.

so this list is based on what is visible from public land and air photos.

Visual Resources

The potential for recreation use is affected significantly by the visual characteristics, or resources, of a site. The primary visual feature of Clearwater Park is the Elbow River. When the water level is low enough to allow safe access, the river provides outstanding open views up and down the river. The river bed is a dynamic landscape that is always changing. Rock and driftwood features are unique elements and park visitors often create sculptural or structural art with the rocks and wood.



The constructed pond and the channels connected to the river are also interesting features of the site. Forested areas vary in character and are attractive as well as providing experiences of nature, including the smells, sounds and sites of water, soil, fresh air, vegetation, fish and wildlife.

The park is less attractive close to the highway, where the experience and sounds of traffic dominate. The overgrown field in this location does not have any particular appeal for the average park visitor.

Existing Use

The site is not physically identified as a park. The Clearwater Park Tipi Site is rented by reservation to community groups such as schools and not-for-profit organizations that have low-impact land stewardship ethics. The site, which is currently user maintained, is open from Easter to Thanksgiving. During July and August, the site is used intensively. In the spring and fall, use is lower, and mostly on weekends. Between 2010 and 2013, there were between 17 and 19 annual bookings.

The park provides the City of Calgary with the only overnight “backyard” camping for community groups close to the city. Activities of community groups typically occurring at the campsite include team-building, nature study and appreciation, orienteering and outdoor games. The pond is close to the campsite and there are trails to the river from the campsite.

A portion of the Clearwater Park property is leased to the Calgary Archers Club for use as an archery range. The long-term lease expired in 2012 and the lease is now renewed annually.

In addition to the sanctioned uses, there is a significant amount of informal use on the site, despite it not being identified as a park. Most of the use is based on walking on the trails through the forest and to the river. The site appears to be used a significant amount for dog walking,

flowers, seeds, and roots can be poisonous and deadly, e.g., tall larkspur, death camas, and locoweed (late yellow locoweed and early yellow locoweed) and Canadian milk vetch.

Throughout the park site, there are remains of old barbed wire fences and in some cases these wires are low to the ground and hidden from obvious sight by vegetation. These wires represent considerable trip hazards where they are present.

As in any natural area, the risk of being stung by wasps, bees or hornets is always present.



2.4 Analysis

The analysis of opportunities and challenges is based on the site inventory and assessment information and input received during the planning process.

Bullets all need space between them

Opportunities

Clearwater Park offers many opportunities to create a highly unique park for the City and region, offering valuable and rewarding experiences attractive to residents and tourists. Some of the key opportunities include the following:

- **Water-oriented recreation** – With excellent access to the Elbow River, the potential activities include boating, fishing, wading, river art, and appreciation of the river environment.
- **Land-oriented recreation** – Existing recreation opportunities include walking, hiking, and camping. These could potentially be expanded to include informal play (on grass areas), picnicking, cycling, and disc golf. With some limited improvements to the accommodations, there could be opportunities to expand camping opportunities to include older groups, school groups, and private or corporate retreats.
- **Environmental protection, enhancement and education** – There are significant opportunities to protect and enhance the environmental resources on the site. Due to the park's proximity to the City, there are also opportunities for environmental education, both on an informal basis (e.g., interpretive signs and brochures), and through organized programs (e.g., school excursions, summer camp experiences, community programs). Current environmental education opportunities relate to the river and forest ecosystems; these could be expanded with the addition of a pond/wetland.

- **Highway** – The traffic noise from Highway 8 Glenmore Trail can be heard within the park. This will likely increase with the highway twinning. Other constraints related to the highway twinning include the loss of access from the highway to the site (currently for the archery club) and the likelihood that the trail will not be able to extend east from the park along the river.
- **Tipi site** – The Clearwater Park Tipi Site limits opportunities for the public to have access to the entire park site, including the pond.
- **Utilities** – The site has no water or sewer access, and toilets are currently outhouses.
- **Water level** – If a stormwater pond is built, without stormwater flows from the highway project, it is unknown whether the groundwater combined with local stormwater will be enough to have water in the proposed pond year-round.
- **Management responsibilities** – Because this is a City park in the county, management responsibilities are unclear and will need to be determined in relation to emergency response for police, ambulance, fire and environmental hazards, as well as management of park use and environmental stewardship.



Site Inventory and Analysis Summary

The site was divided into areas of similar characteristics that relate to the park development plan (**Figure 8**). These are as follows:

- **North of River - ESA** – environmentally sensitive area not suitable for park development, could be used on a limited basis for environmental education or research
- **Elbow River Channel** – environmentally sensitive area and highly hazardous in the spring, not suitable for park development, could be used on a seasonal basis for environmental education and art
- **Pond and Wetland Fen** – environmentally sensitive area not suitable for park development, except potentially for the east gravel bar edge that could be used for seasonal access to the pond for small boats
- **Secondary Channels** – environmentally sensitive areas have opportunities for environmental enhancement, potential for some limited trail crossings on small bridges
- **Forest with Informal Trails and Forest with Structures, Trails and Bridges** – moderate environmental sensitivity, has potential for environmental enhancement and nature trails



GUIDING STATEMENTS

3.1 Vision and Objectives

The vision and objectives for the park are based on the site inventory and analysis, as well as stakeholder and community input.

Vision

The vision is in the present tense, as it describes how it is hoped that the park will be seen in the future:

Clearwater Park is a unique legacy park, representing the nature and culture of the lands surrounding Calgary. It is an oasis, focusing on nature conservation and environmental education. The site is a jewel that protects what is precious; land, air, water, and natural areas. The park is connected to the regional trail system.

Objectives

1. Protect environmental resources, including the wildlife corridor through the valley and the habitats within the park.
2. Provide interpretive information and nature and cultural education programs.
3. Manage use to minimize conflicts among uses and impacts on habitat, addressing the need for use guidelines and standards for etiquette.
4. Plan the major park amenities based on the principals of universal design.

Retain and improve the opportunity for the "tipi camping" experience, i.e., rustic, nature-oriented experience.

Establish trails that connect the park with the regional trail system.

Retain access to the river, respecting risk management considerations.

Program 2: Moderate

- moderate improvements to site, enhanced facilities

Facilities

Same as Program 1, with the addition of:

- Interpretive centre: nature and culture, indoor, interpretive displays, meeting / multi-purpose room, washrooms, summer and winter use (warm-up hut in winter)
- River access – marked path
- Interpretive wetland: stormwater function, paths and viewpoints, trails
- Washrooms for tipi site
- Larger parking lot for day use: minimal impact

Activities

Same as Program 1, with enhanced walking, wildlife/bird viewing and environmental education opportunities, improved river access, camping not quite as rustic

Program 3: Enhanced

- enhanced day use functions and facilities, no tipi site (rationale is that significantly higher day use would conflict with the overnight tipi use)

Facilities

- Trail network: well defined hierarchy, identification / directional signs, for use summer and winter
- Major interpretive centre: nature and culture, indoor, interpretive displays, meeting / multi-purpose hall, washrooms, summer and winter programs and use, available for rental , utilities to be determined / potential opportunity for a "green" approach
- Interpretive wetland: stormwater function, paths and viewpoints, trails
- Largest parking lot: includes staging for bikes
- Pond access: launch for floating water activities (not swimming)
- River access: boat launch for rafts, canoes, kayaks
- Entry: sign, gate, kiosk with site map



Precedent Image: Bridge



DEVELOPMENT PLAN

4.1 Plan Description

Several iterations of the development plan were prepared during the planning process. **Appendix B** describes the first set of options. These were refined into a preferred preliminary design plan that was presented to stakeholders and the public for input in April 2012 (**Appendix C**). Generally the response to the plan was very positive, with slightly lower support for disc golf, sports, and overnight camping. This can be explained partly by the respondents, who were mainly neighbourhood residents.

After consideration by City staff, the preferred plan was refined, with a variation related to stormwater management. The development plan of 2014 has stormwater management and environmental education functions, and it is intended for consideration as a replacement of the Elbow Valley Constructed Wetland. The park will be built to support year-round use with a focus on nature appreciation and education.

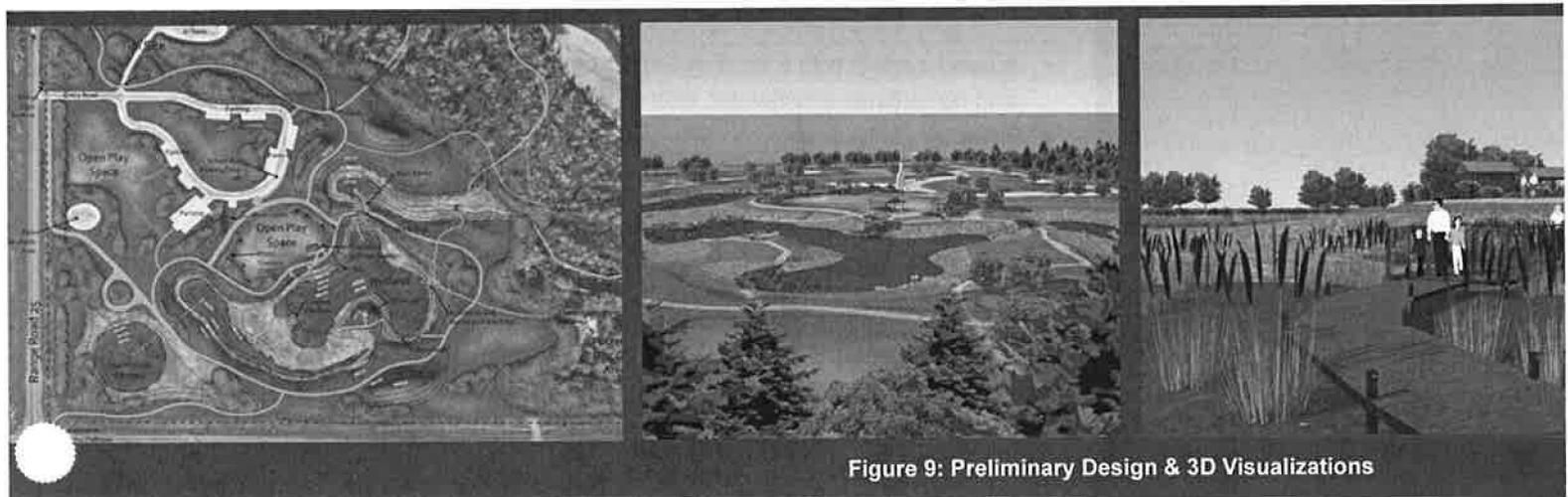


Figure 9: Preliminary Design & 3D Visualizations

The following are the features unique to Option 2.

- The pond/wetland system has two separate pond areas and a wetland, with an island between the main pond and wetland.

4.2 Park Management

The management of the park will need to be determined over time depending on the amenities that are developed and the partnerships that may be formed. The following are some initial ideas that were discussed in relation to management:

- The park would be gated and locked at night, with a security service hired to open and close the gate and to check on the park at night.
- Community stewards would be encouraged to provide informal oversight and to engage in environmental stewardship.

4.3 Cost Estimate

A Class D cost estimate for the options is based on typical 2014 construction costs (Figure 10). A Class D estimate is an "indicative" estimate, a rough cost projection used for budget planning purposes in the early stages of concept development of a project. More detailed cost estimates will need to accompany preliminary and detailed design. The items included in the cost estimates for both options are described below.

+

A. Site Preparation

1. Clear and rough grade areas for new site amenities including paths, roads, parking areas, sites for structures and furnishings, and new vegetation areas. Strip, screen and stockpile organics for re-use in vegetation areas. Rough grading does not include pond and wetland excavation or grading of berms.

B. Pond and Wetland

1. Excavate pond and wetland areas. Grade pond and wetland areas and on-site berms. Re-use excavated materials for berms. . Excavated materials may be salvaged as base material for path and road construction if appropriate. Excess excavated materials may be used elsewhere for City works or sold. The estimate does not include costs for off-site disposal.
2. Supply and install liner in pond areas.



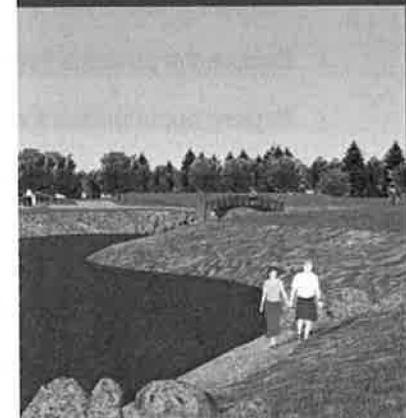
11. Supply material for and construct the entry kiosk with roof and sign boards.
12. Supply material for and construct the stairs.
13. Supply and install the gates.
14. Supply and install the benches, including concrete pads.
15. Supply and install minimal security lighting for the overnight site parking lot.
16. Supply and install signage, including park entry, interpretive, wayfinding, and regulatory signs.

G. Disc Golf Area

1. Supply and install 18 baskets.
2. Supply material for and construct 18 tee boxes, including gravel base and surface courses with wood edging.
3. Supply and install course signage.

H. Vegetation

1. Supply and install shrubs in proposed vegetation areas, including placement and fine grading of growing medium 45 cm deep.
2. Supply and install trees spaced 2m on centre in groups covering ¼ of the proposed vegetation areas.
3. Supply and install grass and wildflower mix hydroseed for meadow areas, including placement and fine grading of growing medium 20 cm deep.
4. Supply and install grass mix hydroseed for lawn in open play spaces, including placement and fine grading of growing medium 20 cm deep.
5. Supply and install wetland plants at pond edges and wetland area, including placement and fine grading of growing medium 30 cm deep.



Appendix

A

Phase 1
Visioning
Workshops

<p>Vision</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Premier site, jewel, bird sanctuary, destination 2. Oasis for people/groups 3. Legacy 4. Protect what's precious - land, air, water, space 5. Environmental education 6. City / Rocky view collaboration 7. Involvement of the community <p>Other Comments on Vision</p> <p>Refuge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ "Private sanctuary" available to groups ▪ Progressive design ▪ Regional open space ▪ Importance of land – human health, habitat ▪ Park focused on water, corridors and connections ▪ Bird sanctuary "exemplified" ▪ Premier site for the City (with other 2 Legacy sites)
<p>Objectives</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manage use to minimize conflicts and protect habitat 2. Coordinate planning with Rocky View 3. Accessible to all but not all accessible 4. Keep and enhance tipi aspect 5. Guidelines, etiquette, standards 6. Trail corridors east and west 7. Environmental protection 8. Protect valley wildlife corridor 9. Connection to traditional land uses – wildlife, plants, etc. <p>Other Comments on Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect and restore the riparian zone, link to watershed planning

Workshop with External Stakeholders

8 Participants

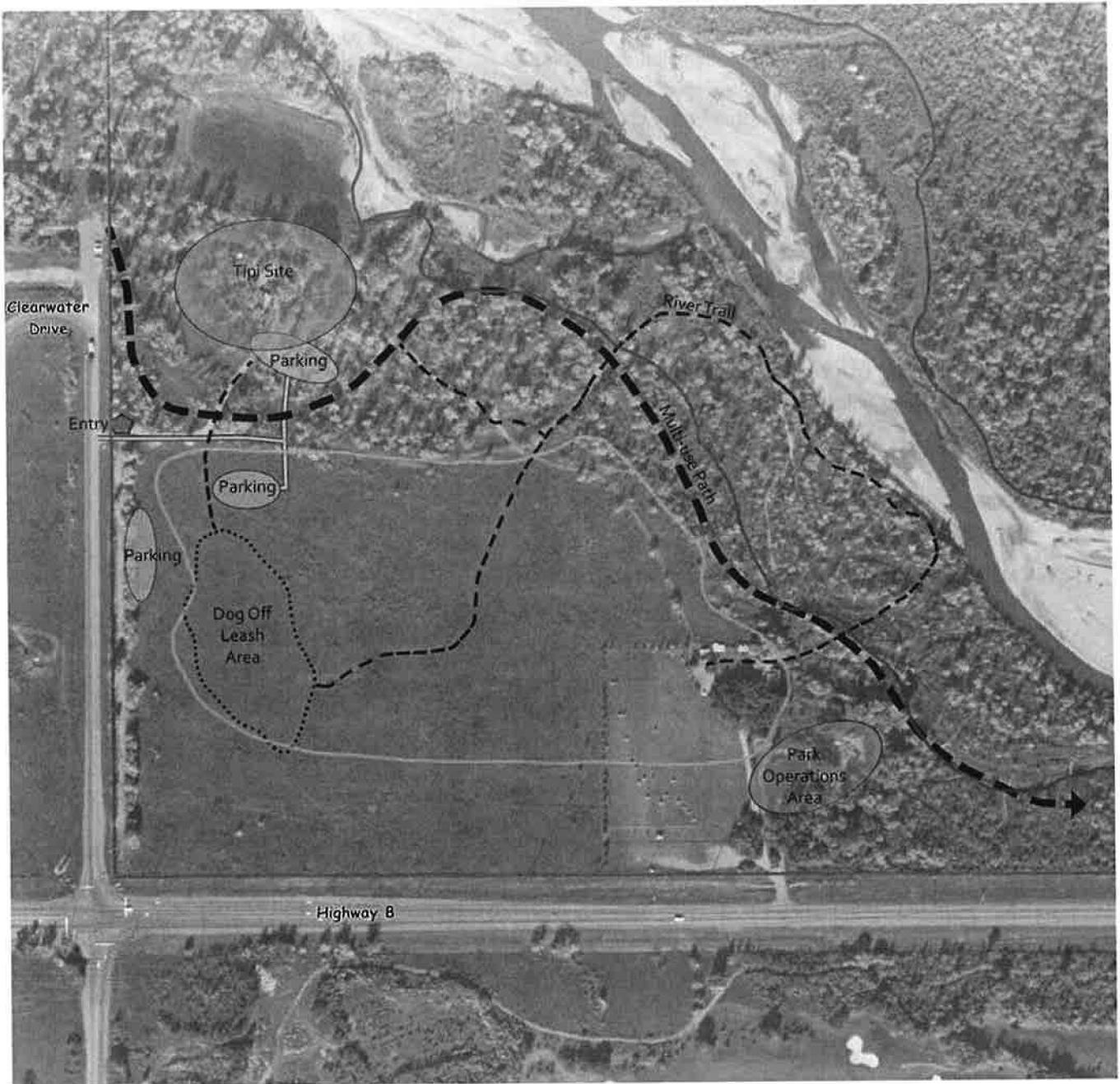
Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Elbow Valley is a nature-focused community, lots of green space and trails ▪ Riverside and roadside trails are public ▪ Rocky View Parks Plan is complete, will be going to Council soon – this site has ER and MR land and both can be used as park ▪ Trail just west of the site was washed out along the river – will be closed, needs to be rerouted ▪ Dog waste is a huge issue, especially in the spring when the snow melts ▪ Dog owners should be self policing, however this isn't always the case ▪ There is a wide spectrum of dog walking opportunities - off leash and on leash areas ▪ Bears are common in the area, e.g., difficult to compost ▪ Tipi Site is too rustic, more of a fair weather site ▪ Check flood mapping, it seems to flood more than what is shown on the map ▪ The north side of the river is used for fishing, fishers park at a road end across the river from the west portion of the park site, then they hike down to the river ▪ There are old barrel stave pipes on the north side of the river that were part of Calgary's first water supply ▪ Groynes and bioengineering are planned within the park near the new highway bridge to reduce the impacts of the river on the bridge structure ▪ A shopping centre is planned (on the corner southwest of the park?) ▪ Design work is under way on the highway so it can be "shovel ready", needs funding ▪ Likely resident concerns with the park will be traffic, parking, garbage, security and partying ▪ Park has the advantage of immediate access off the highway ▪ No transit to this area ▪ Hwy 8 wetland will be wiped out. Replace it here?
Vision*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Keep the park in its natural state ▪ Use a transect approach across the site – from developed to restored to wild
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No structures below 1 in 50 year flood ▪ Dog use policies and law enforcement ▪ Private trails vs. public trails – need to provide clear direction on this ▪ There should be a pedestrian/cycle path along the highway

Vision- Brainstorming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No Class A Park ▪ Natural conservation ▪ Minimal “grooming”, focus on maintaining “naturalness” ▪ Minimum services with emphasis on natural environment ▪ Environmental protection [wildlife corridor] ▪ Connectivity to the city and Bragg Creek ▪ Cultural representation ▪ Reinforcing the Calgary experience ▪ Unique
Objectives- Brainstorming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No car camping ▪ Interpretive, like the wetland ▪ Restrict equestrian movement ▪ Less paved trails for conservation reasons ▪ No motorized vehicles ▪ Access to river is adequate
Program- Brainstorming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trails ▪ Trail use ▪ Boat launch at end of Clearwater Drive ▪ Picnic tables ▪ Benches ▪ Education ▪ More trash bins ▪ Out houses ▪ Minimal increase to tipi site okay ▪ Camping - keep the tipis
Vision- Consolidation and Priorities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Natural conservation / environmental protection 2. Unique 3. Minimal services 4. Reinforcing the Calgary experience 5. Cultural representation 6. Connectivity to the City and Bragg Creek

Appendix

B

Plan
Options









The development plan of Clearwater Park was presented to the public at an open house on April 25, 2012. An information package on the plan was also posted on the City's website. There were 23 comment forms received, and the input on these forms is provided here.

Comment form introduction:

Clearwater Park will provide opportunities for recreation, environmental education, and links to the regional greenway system. This is the second of three consultation phases in the design process. Please provide us with your input on the preliminary design.

1. What do you like best about the Clearwater Park preliminary design?

(Comments are listed by topic in order of response frequency, with the number of respondents mentioning each topic in brackets.)

- Paths / accessibility to site and river / link to regional pathway and other areas (9)
- Natural approach - river protection / wetland / boardwalk / meadows / aesthetics (6)
- Well thought out / adapts to the existing environment (4)
- Increases amenities and facilities for recreation (3)
- Keeping the Tipi site / camping (3)
- Opportunities for education / stormwater management (3)

2. What do you like least about the Clearwater Park preliminary design?

(Comments are listed by topic in order of response frequency, with the number of respondents mentioning each topic in brackets. Where there is no bracket, only one respondent mentioned the topic.)

- Increased people may result in over use / negative impacts on habitat (4)
- Loss of archery (3)
- Concerns about traffic noise, congestion, transients, illegal parking on RR25 (2)
- No trails north of river / lack of access to the ESA (2)
- Sitting water in ponds
- Not enough trees along highway

Components 1 = not at all important 5 = very important	1	2	3	4	5	Average
Protection of Elbow River forests with small trails				5	14	4.74
Naturalized meadow and tree/shrub areas				5	13	4.72
Loop trails in park connected to regional trail network	2		2	2	16	4.36
Vehicular access, parking and drop-off areas	3		2	6	10	3.95
Washrooms near open space area	2		4	3	8	3.88
Storm water pond system	1	32	3	5	9	3.86
Benches, picnic tables and garbage bins	1	14	4	7	5	3.78
Pond viewing structures - boardwalk, pier, viewing platform, overlook	23	1	6	3	9	3.76
Open grass areas	2		6	4	6	3.67
Small picnic shelters for small gatherings	1	3	5	5	5	3.53
Sign kiosk and interpretive signs	3	1	6	5	4	3.32
Enhanced Tipi Site - washrooms, picnic shelter, dock	5	2	6	3	71	3.22
Large picnic shelters for group events	5	3	2	3	5	3.00
Winter servicing and access	6		4	6	3	3.00
Landmark energy structure (e.g. solar, wind)	7	1	4		5	2.71
Disc golf area	10	2	5	1		1.83

1. Safety, above 100 yr water level, protects from floodwaters and erosions / doesn't want release of sanitary into river if building impacted
2. Who maintains? No plan for City to develop out here so difficult, argument for city to operate / maintain. Who is responsible if water quality is not meeting guidelines? From AB Transport road.
3. Can impact riparian areas
4. Floating debris if lifted by flood water

4. Do you have any other comments on the Clearwater Park preliminary design?

(Comments are listed by topic in order of response frequency, with the number of respondents mentioning each topic in brackets. Where there is no bracket, only one respondent mentioned the topic.)

- Impressive design / like the ideas so far (4)
- Don't make it too easy for people to use, it's one of the best kept secrets
- Safety of pedestrian access to the park from the south side of Hwy 8
- Move the whole design away from the river by 20 feet to have less effect on the area near river
- Traffic concerns to local residents – consider traffic study to determine if RR25 needs widening
- Security monitoring for teenage “party” place on weekends
- Stock fish in major pond as in Allan Bill Pond area
- More gravel pathways for walking and biking through the treed areas as in Fish Creek

