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# Great Cities Have Great Parks

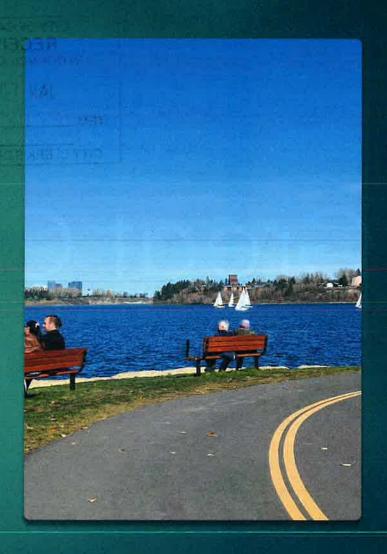
PRESENTATION TO STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING

Alexia Minton

**JANUARY 10, 2024** 

#### Importance of City Parks

- City parks encourage active lifestyles and improve mental health
- City parks increase community engagement and provide opportunities to socialize
- City parks help clean the air and improve public health
- · City parks are tools to help cities achieve their equity goals



#### Urban Parks you may have visited

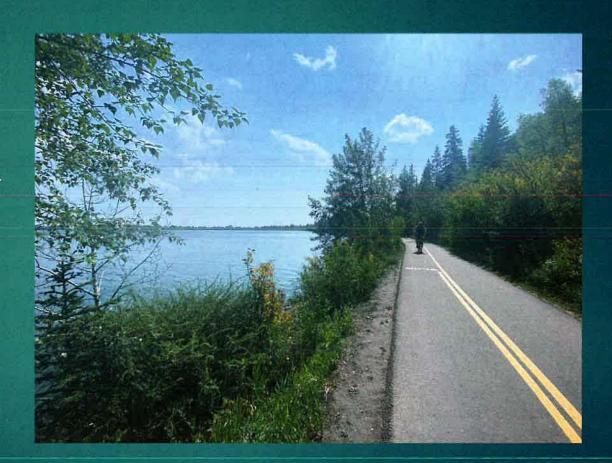
- Stanley Park, Vancouver, British Columbia
- High Park, Toronto, Ontario
- Mount Royal Park, Montreal, Quebec

- Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California
- Millenium Park, Chicago, Illinois
- Central Park, New York City, New York
- Hyde Park, London, England

### Great Cities Protect their Great Parks

Great Cities protect their great parks by having either roadways or waterways that buffer these parks from urbanization encroachment.

Effectively, these cities have used these perimeters to preserve and protect parklands and the precious nature of their environments.



#### Some of Calgary's Parks

- Central Memorial Park
- ► Haultain Park
- Bowness Park
- Nosehill Park
- Tom Campbell Hill
- Prairie Winds
- Stanley Park
- Sue Higgins Park
- ▶ Glenmore Reservoir



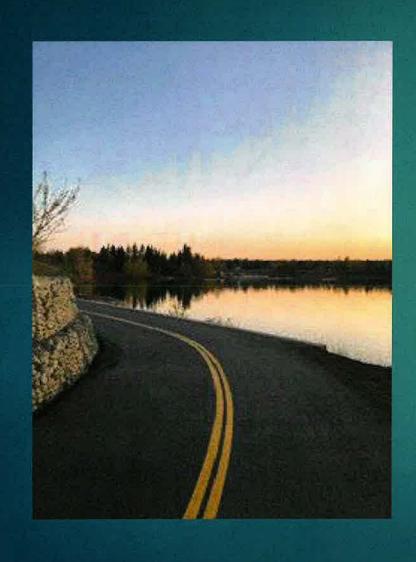
#### Glenmore Reservoir Parklands is Calgary's Great Park

- Mountain views
- Tennis Courts
- Splash Pad
- Pump Track
- Polo Field
- Quiet picnic tables and park benches
- Spacious Public Event Sites (Music and Theatre)
- Fields to practice cross country skiing and snowshoeing
- Heritage Park

...all integrated with scenic pathway system (for walkers, runners and cyclists) surrounding our lake-like reservoir. We Calgarians love this park.



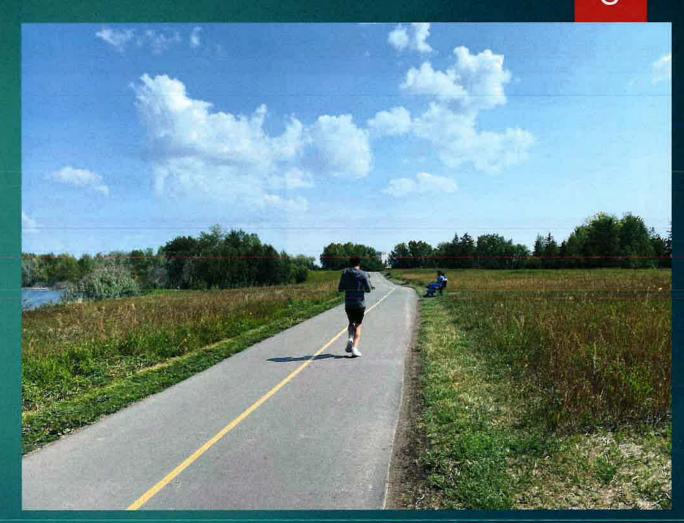
#### Glenmore Reservoir





## Parklands and Public Spaces are more important than ever!

- Calgary's population is growing rapidly.
- Throughout this densification process, Calgarians are expected to live in smaller and smaller living accommodations.
- This transition to smaller living spaces makes public spaces, and parklands in particular, of increasing importance for our recreation and mental health.
- Calgary's parklands and greenspaces must be off limits to developers.



## Glenmore Landing Redevelopment will Effect Reservoir Parklands

- 15-years of forecasted construction
- lengthy and high volume impact from the numerous pile drivers, back hoes, dump trunks and cranes required to excavate, prepare and build the development.

While we want to encourage folks to use parklands, after completion this development would likely create areas of extreme congestion and overutilization.

The effect of shading, noise and the unsightly nature of these looming towers will be a lasting blight on our "Great Park".



Preserve Parklands and Protect Parks:
Deny Glenmore Landing Redevelopment!

To help preserve and protect Glenmore Reservoir Parklands for all Calgarians, we must deny Rio Can's application for a Change in Land Use to build residential towers and an 'intensified' commercial development.

The Glenmore Landing strip mall must be held to its current height restrictions and footprint in order to maintain the parkland aesthetic of Glenmore Reservoir and preserve this unique environment.

