



South Bow Pathway and Pumphouse Park

Report Back: What We Heard
May 2022

Project overview

On May 25, 2020, Council approved the [Established Area Growth and Change Strategy](#) and committed funding for public realm improvement projects within established areas seeing the pressures of redevelopment to the greatest degree. This work identified the South Bow Pathway and Pumphouse Park as an opportunity to increase activity and mobility in the area and create a comfortable park to host everything from intimate private gatherings to larger community events.

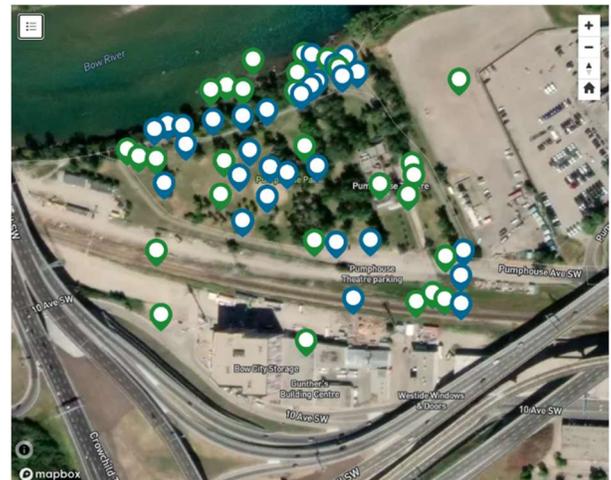
There are some elements of the park that cannot be changed due to budget constraints and scope of our project. These include water and electrical connection locations, capacity load of pathways, removal of trees or site ecology and below-ground work that could be unsafe due to previous environmental contamination.

Engagement overview

Phase 1: park users and general public

In Phase 1, we learned about how Pumphouse Park is currently used and what people like and dislike about the park.

Engagement took place between August 25, 2021 and September 13, 2021. Due to COVID-19-related conditions, public engagement was done online. Two pages were created on the Engage Portal for this project: (1) a page with simplified questions and information that could be accessed using a QR code on signage within Pumphouse Park and (2) a webpage with more information about the project with the opportunity to provide input through a “social map” as well as through questions about use and ideas for the park.



The social mapping allowed participants to drop annotated pins on an aerial map of the Pumphouse Park area and provide their input through comments directly on the map. Apart from comments that contained personal information or offensive language, all comments were visible to all visitors to the page.

The opportunity to participate was promoted using social media advertising and local news coverage. There were 657 visits to the engage portals for this project; 65 pins were dropped on the map and 88 provided input through questions about the park.

Phase 2: feedback on improvement concepts

Based on the public input collected in August and September of 2021, technical analysis, and internal stakeholder feedback, the project team divided Pumphouse Park into three zones and developed two



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concepts for park improvements. The concepts are not meant to be a choice of A or B. They are to give a general idea of how the elements and amenities can influence how the park is used and the public's experience of the space.

Phase 2 included engagement with local event organizers as well as the general public. The final design will blend features from both to best reflect what we understand the desired experience of the park to be as well as technical and functional considerations.

Targeted stakeholders local event organizers

The targeted engagement was part of The City's commitment to hear from event organizers regarding the design of civic spaces used for event activations and to achieve our goals of the [Eventful City Strategy](#), including developing new processes to optimize the utilization of existing City spaces for year-round activation. In addition to online engagement, event organizers were invited to a Teams session to learn more about design concepts for the park and specific design considerations however registration was low, and the event was cancelled. For this reason, their feedback was provided through a private Engage portal.

The opportunity was promoted by directly emailing organizers who hold events in other City parks or facilities, or have partnered with The City in hosting activities:

- Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary
- Rogers Insurance Ltd.
- Be There Races
- Kids Help Phone
- Collega International
- YYCFoodTrucks
- Calgary Pro-Life Association
- Cystic Fibrosis Canada
- Calgary Humane Society
- Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus Association of Southern Alberta
- Crohns and Colitis Canada
- Running Room
- JDRF
- Prostate Cancer Canada
- Southern Alberta Myeloma Patient Society
- Portail de l'Immigrant Association PIA
- ICNA Calgary
- Parkinson Association of Alberta
- Pelvic Floor Clinic, Women's Health Ambulatory Care (Calgary Health Trust)
- Ovarian Cancer Canada
- Fresh Start Recovery
- Calgary Marathon Society
- Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at
- Terry Fox Foundaion
- Hustle for the House
- Calgary Pagan Pride Society
- HIV Community Link
- Believe in the Gold
- Outrun the Stigma
- The Salvation Army
- Calgary Food Bank
- Run for Women
- Venezuelan Canadian Association of Calgary
- Calgary Korean Association

The Engage portal page for event organizers provided the concepts developed for each zone as well as detailed information specific to their needs and interests including:

- Site capacity for the different zone concepts; space for set up/take down and event amenities like tents and port-a-potties
- Parking capacity and transportation options



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- Limitation to surface amenities only and minimal-to-no digging to avoid costly environmental remediation
- Out of scope changes including adding more water valves and electrical connections, removing trees

The engagement ran March 1 through March 14, 2022; 107 visitors accessed the site and 8 provided input through survey questions. The questions and input received are included in Appendix 1.

Generally, the organizers have events 1-3 times a year and they are small to mid size. Most felt the concepts' amenities would not prevent their events, but a few were concerned the larger immovable amenities like the adult fitness area and volleyball court could limit their ability to host activities there.

General public

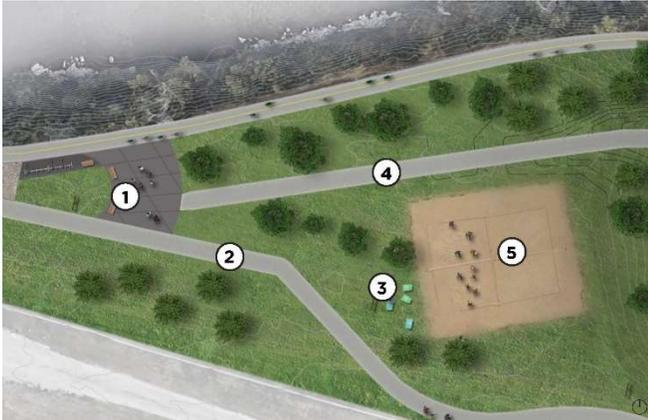
A separate Engage portal page was developed for the general public. The opportunity was promoted using social media and bold signs. Participants were asked to review the two concepts for each zone and asked what they liked and disliked. The engagement ran March 15 through March 27, 2022; 616 visitors accessed the information and 58 provided input through survey questions. The verbatim responses received are included in Appendix 2.

Summary of Input

Theme	Feedback example
Amenities for all seasons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year-round utilization, more inclusive as many people can be involved • It would be more well used by all. It could be used more months of the year and include more age groups. • It will be very popular throughout the year.
Open spaces for events or unstructured play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prefer the open concept, flexible use, the more generic the better, people will fool you with their creativity for space use. • Encourages activity and engagement, community building through event spaces • keeps the area more natural and allows space for a variety of activities from a picnic on the grass to throwing a frisbee.
Inclusive spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [Like]Pathway to access upper slope, helps with some accessibility issues. • It would be nice to see seating more accessible than picnic tables. • I would prefer the more inclusive fitness area
Natural areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant more trees and bushes. Make spaces with nature. • I like that it's green, but grass is such a bad choice in a dry city. What native species could you consider instead? • Leave some of the natural shrubs as many animals live in this area
Pedestrian and cyclist safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The realigned pathway to separate bikers from walkers clears up the congestion on the path. • I like that the pathway separates into pedestrian and other. This feels much safer, especially when walking with children.

Conceptual designs

Zone 1



Concept A

Legend:

1. Plaza space with non-movable bench seating, bike and scooter parking (plaza suitable for event entrance)
2. Realigned commuter pathway
3. Movable chairs and picnic tables
4. Separate pathway for pedestrians running parallel to the existing river pathway
5. Two regulation size beach volleyball courts

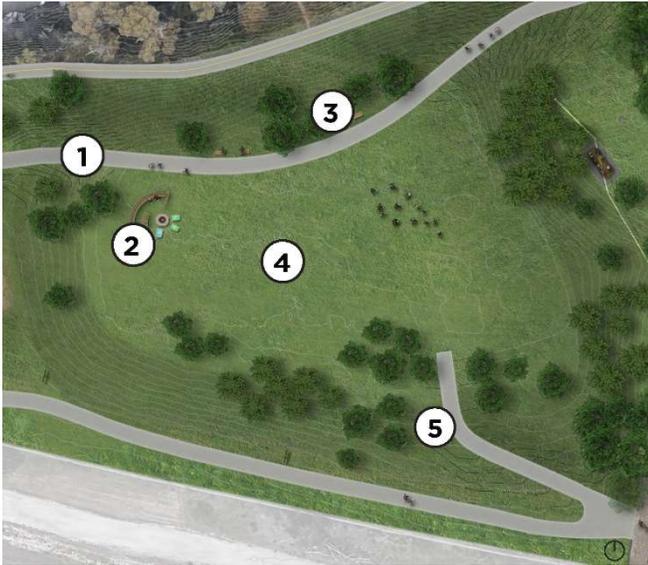


Concept B

Legend:

1. Plaza space with non-movable bench seating, bike and scooter parking (plaza suitable for event entrance)
2. Realigned commuter pathway
3. Movable chairs and picnic tables
4. Separate pathway for pedestrians running parallel to the existing river pathway
5. Family fitness area with rubberized fall surface

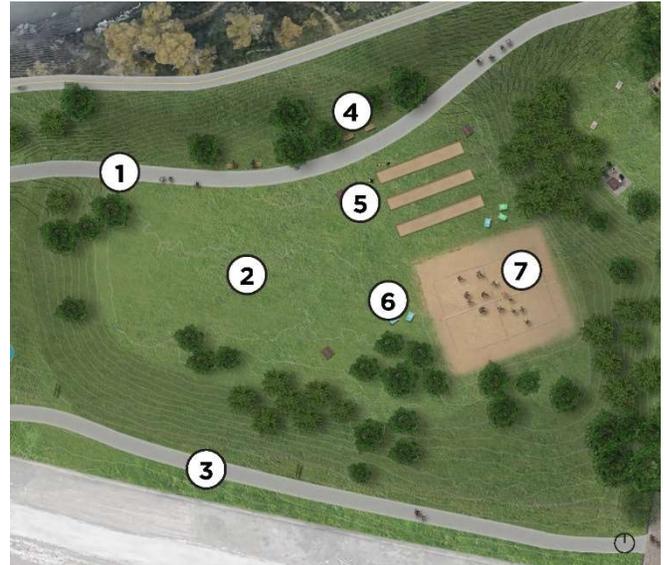
Zone 2



Concept A

Legend:

1. *Separate pathway for pedestrians running parallel to the existing river pathway*
2. *Non-movable fire pit with wood storage and shelter*
3. *Non-movable benches overlooking river*
4. *Open area on upper slope for events*
5. *Asphalt pathway to access upper slope*

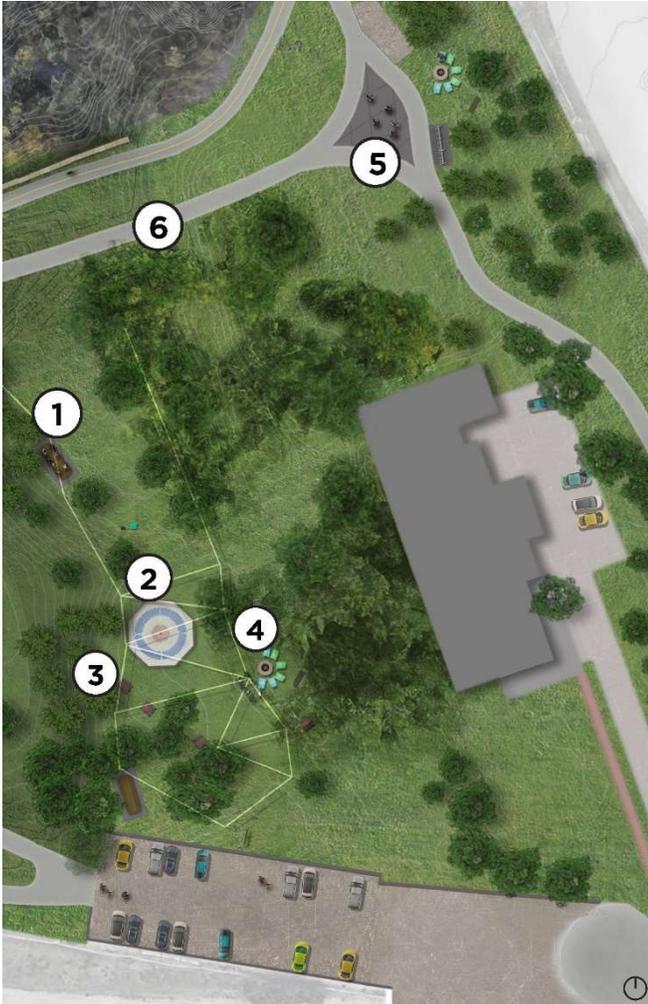


Concept B

Legend:

1. *Separate pathway for pedestrians running parallel to the existing river pathway*
2. *Open area on upper slope for events*
3. *Realigned commuter pathway*
4. *Non-movable benches overlooking river*
5. *Bocce ball courts*
6. *Movable chairs and picnic tables*
7. *Current beach volleyball court*

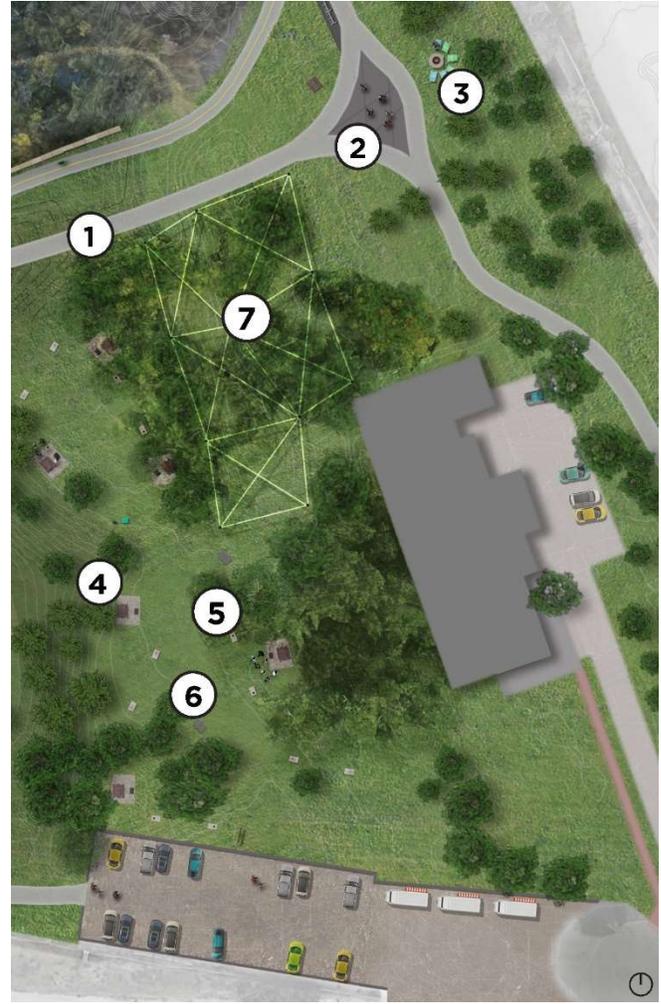
Zone 3



Concept A

Legend:

1. *Non-movable harvest picnic tables for gatherings of 12 or more*
2. *Seasonal croki curl rink with pole and overhead string lighting*
3. *Movable picnic tables with pole and overhead string lighting*
4. *Non-movable fire pits with wood storage area*
5. *Plaza space with non-movable bench seating, bike and scooter parking*
6. *Separate pathway for pedestrians running parallel to the existing river pathway*



Concept B

Legend:

1. *Separate pathway for pedestrians running parallel to the existing river pathway*
2. *Plaza space with non-movable bench seating, bike and scooter parking*
3. *Non-movable fire pit with wood storage*
4. *Non-movable picnic areas – rentable space*
5. *Non-movable bean bag toss boards*
6. *Non-movable ping pong tables*
7. *Pole and overhead string lighting*



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When asked about what they liked about the possible improvements, the benches by the river, separate pathways for pedestrians, and bocce courts were mentioned most often. The table below summarizes the sentiments towards specific elements and amenities at a high level.

Zone	Specific amenities in Concepts A or B that were identified
Zone 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liked movable chairs and picnic tables • Preference for the larger plaza space • Preference for the fitness area
Zone 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liked the permanent fire pit with wood storage and shelter • Liked movable chairs and picnic tables • Mixed feelings about the volleyball courts, slight preference for removing • Liked the permanent bocce courts
Zone 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixed feelings about the crokicurl rinks • Preference for the games (ping pong and bean bag toss) • Liked both lighting options • Concern that placement of fire pits must not impact theatre (smoke, noise)

There were a number of elements and amenities that were not included in either concept or were identified as being out of scope:

- Stage or similar permanent performance area, washrooms, making no changes or a more naturalized area, natural maze, public art, playground, enclosed dog park, tennis court, basketball, waterpark, pickleball, barbeques, river access/launch area.

There were also a number of comments on liking an amenity but preferring it to be in another park or feeling Pearce Park, Millennium Park or another park already meets the need for it e.g. volleyball, fire pits.

Next steps

The project team will review feedback from the public and event organizers received through Phase 2 engagement. The final design will consider features from both concepts to best reflect what we understand the desired experience of the park to be as well as technical, functional and budget considerations.

It is anticipated that construction will start in 2023. For project updates visit engage.calgary.ca/pumphousepark.