

imagine Parks what do you see?

July 23, 2013 working draft

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	2
Executive Summary.....	4
Vision & Mission.....	5
Guiding Principles	6
The Plan at a Glance.....	7
1. Focus on People.....	8
Goal 1.1 Individual & Community Well-being	
Goal 1.2 Responsive to Citizens	
Goal 1.3 Stewardship & Ecological Literacy	
2. Focus on Open Space.....	10
Goal 2.1 Natural Environment Protection	
Goal 2.1.1 Air, land, and soil	
Goal 2.1.2 Trees, plants and animals	
Goal 2.1.3 Water	
Goal 2.1.4 Energy alternatives	
Goal 2.2 Vibrant Spaces & Cultural Places	
Goal 2.5 Access & Connectivity	
3. Focus on Governance & Management.....	12
Goal 3.1 Efficiency, Effectiveness & Economic Well-being	
Goal 3.2 Collaborative Approach	
Goal 3.3 Meaningful Work	
Appendices.....	14
Stakeholder Engagement Summary	
Research Summary	
Policy and Legislative Alignment	
Glossary.....	19



*imagine*Parks what do you see?

July 23, 2013 working draft

Introduction

Why imagineParks?

Parks have a special place in the hearts of Calgarians and in our communities. Calgarians value their parks, to exercise, relax, play sports, spend time with family or enjoy nature. The bottom line is great parks contribute to healthy communities and a high quality of life.

The *imagineParks* vision serves as a foundation for the future of City parks. It helps us re-imagine our public open spaces so that they have optimal benefits for our amazing city. This vision aligns with *imagineCALGARY*, which outlines the type of city that Calgarians envision.

Calgary's parks and public spaces have grown rapidly over the past century, along with this prosperous city. Calgary's early settlers were naturally drawn to the river banks for activities like family time, swimming and picnics. Over the decades, new leisure activities emerged, including bicycling, organized sports and bird-watching. More recently, other activities are proving popular, such as river rafting, mountain biking, community gardens and geo-caching. The list of park activities continues to evolve.

In addition to evolving activities in our parks, there is a deeper appreciation of the contributions that parks make to society. There is an emerging body of research proving how parks and access to nature have positive impacts on our health, well-being and overall life-satisfaction.

In 2010, The City of Calgary Parks celebrated its 100th Anniversary. It was a time to celebrate our public open spaces and appreciate how much we've accomplished as a city. Now, it is time to look ahead. It's time to re-imagine how our public spaces can have even more positive impacts on our daily lives and communities.

Imagine

Imagine a park. What do you see? Close your eyes. What do you hear? How do you feel? Are you in a specific place or are you simply surrounded by images, people exercising, relaxing, enjoying nature?

By being in a park we can help define it, both our experience in it and what exactly it is. What happens in our minds when we close our eyes and imagine a park helps inform us about who we are. It tells us about our heritage, our upbringing, our education. By being in a park we are both in a space as well as being affected by that space.

Parks are both something physical and emotional, in that they shape our experiences as people living in an urban environment. We are different people when surrounded by parks. Perhaps through this, we need to re-imagine parks.



imagine Parks what do you see?

July 23, 2013 working draft

Re-imagine

When we look at our public open space differently, we can begin to imagine new ways to experience it. Parks departments have historically been associated with areas that have ecological or recreational value. Today, new research proves the strong relationship between our physical and mental health and open space. In other words, in addition to the recreational and environmental value that parks have, their mere existence provides us with an opportunity to be healthier and happier.

To think differently – to re-imagine – we can start by asking what new ways can we introduce parks into our city. What services should our spaces provide us? What role do we have in stewarding them? Where should we redesign space? Where should we be offered a reprieve from our built environment? How should we move through our city? What is our relationship to our surroundings? How do we represent Calgary's history?

By modifying our parks, reprogramming them, redesigning them, or adding new public spaces altogether, we begin to offer novel ways for us to experience and enjoy them. What spaces need to be re-evaluated for a new function? Which streets could use more trees? Are there areas where we could bring storm water function out of our sewers and bring them to the surface to provide a new public realm? Can some alleyways or vacant lots be redesigned to offer ecological value and make a community more beautiful? Who might we collaborate with to program our parks? Could health care providers be a valuable stakeholder in our park design and location?

When we begin by asking questions, we can look at Calgary differently.



*imagine*Parks what do you see?

July 23, 2013 working draft

Executive Summary

The City of Calgary Parks, as the steward of public open space, facilitated the development of *imagineParks* by: engaging Calgarians, community organizations, practitioners and other levels of government; researching best practices, science and trends; and by aligning with related plans and legislation.

The City of Calgary Parks received more than 1,600 detailed responses from citizens who participated in qualitative focus groups, workshops and online and telephone surveys. Input was collected from representatives from stakeholder groups, City staff, subject matter experts and citizens from all walks of life, including frequent and infrequent park users.

Today, The City of Calgary Parks maintains, manages and/or stewards approximately 12 per cent of all land within the city. This land plays a key role in the daily lives of citizens and our environment. Looking to the future, Calgarians have told The City of Calgary during public consultations that they want to maintain and enhance the quality of parks. However, citizens also recognize there is a cost to do so as well as challenges given the increasing number of user groups, societal changes and funding challenges for our parks and open space system in Calgary.

The vast amount of information gathered has been organized into a long -term vision statement for parks and open space in Calgary. The vision is supported by three key result areas:

- Focus on people
- Focus on open space
- Focus on governance and management

It is important to note that these key result areas along with their associated goals are not mutually exclusive. They are highly interdependent and interrelated in terms of helping us achieve Calgary's parks and opens space vision.

imagineParks sets a foundation to work toward the type of city Calgarians envisioned by establishing clear direction for future Parks strategic action plans, business plans and annual objectives.

Through *imagineParks*, The City of Calgary Parks begins another chapter in serving this great city to ensure our parks and open spaces continue to contribute to Calgary's high quality of life.



*imagine*Parks what do you see?

July 23, 2013 working draft

Vision

Calgary's connected and diverse open space system is recognized as vital to public wellness, healthy environments and high quality of life. Vibrant parks, pathways and natural areas are cherished and protected as places to rest, play and connect with each other, our heritage and nature.

Mission

The City of Calgary Parks is the steward of Calgary's public park lands. Parks serves citizens by collaboratively managing a sustainable open space system. Parks contributes to individual and community well-being by providing public programs, services, facilities and amenities.



imagine Parks what do you see?

July 23, 2013 working draft

Guiding Principles

The following guiding principles underlie all public open space decision making. They guide The City of Calgary towards the vision for Calgary's open space system and are a reflection of the values and beliefs about our public parklands. They are principles that are easy to remember, articulate and apply. As the stewards of public open space, when making decisions regarding the development and management of parklands, The City of Calgary will:

Focus on People

Parks engages Calgarians to ensure a variety of beautiful and functional public open space options are accessible to all regardless of age, income, culture or ability. These spaces will provide opportunities for rest and relaxation, social interaction, community vitality and a range of recreational, cultural and educational experiences. Engagement of citizens through environmental education connects individuals to the land, promotes stewardship of parks and environmentally sustainable attitudes and behaviours.

Be Accountable and Responsive

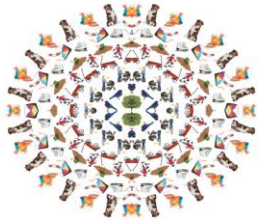
The City of Calgary Parks is accountable for efficient, effective and responsive management of public open space. We consider economic, social, environmental, smart growth, organizational and financial sustainability objectives. In addition to stakeholder engagement and integrated planning, the beauty and function of Calgary's open space is guided by legislation and is a reflection of current trends, management practices, science and ongoing evaluation. Parks will consider public health and safety in all our planning, operational and educational practices as well as strive to exceed all federal, provincial and municipal guidelines.

Preserve Biodiversity and the Natural Environment

Protection of biodiversity in the city is a priority for The City of Calgary. Protecting biodiversity ensures the connectivity of our open space and the health of the ecosystem including flora, fauna, air, water and soil in Calgary. Healthy, functioning ecosystems are essential in producing goods and services people depend on and contribute to economic and social wellbeing.

Use Integrated Planning

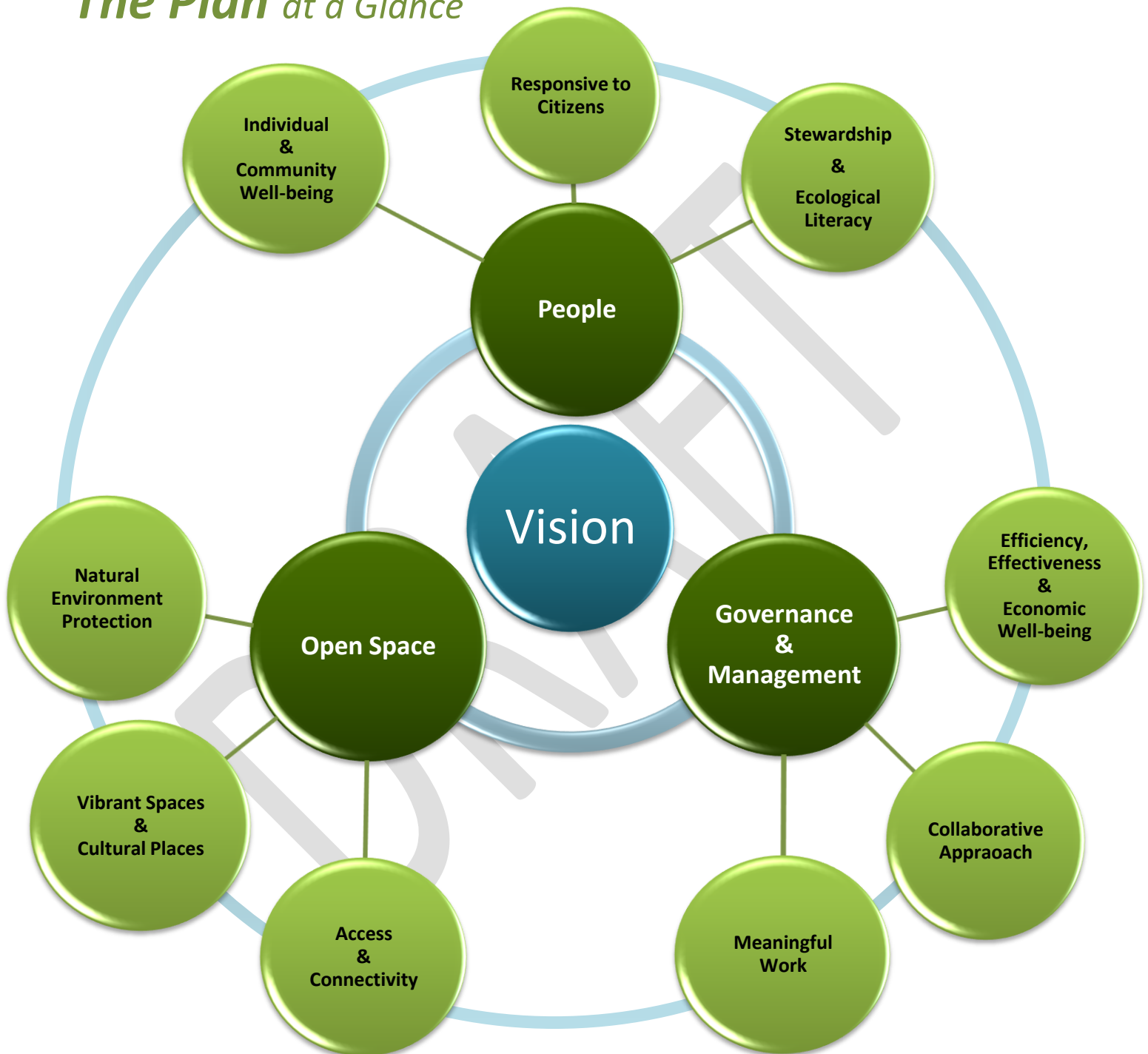
Calgary's open space is a complex system which requires a systems approach. Integrated planning and implementation is key within Parks, and with other City departments, school boards, other levels of government, adjacent municipalities, non-government organizations and the public and private sectors. Using integrated planning results in a beautiful, vibrant and varied park system contributing to healthy people and a sustainable city. It creates a destination city where people want to work, live, play and visit.



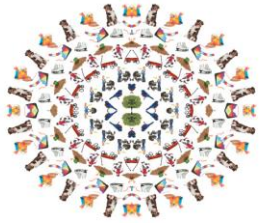
imagineParks what do you see?

July 23, 2013 working draft

The Plan at a Glance



The focus areas and goals are highly interdependent and interrelated in achieving the vision.



imagine Parks what do you see?

July 23, 2013 working draft

1. *Focus on People*

The direct link between human wellness and access to high-quality open space is understood. A diversity of public parks, pathways and natural areas desired by citizens are well used, resulting in individual and community well-being. Community stewardship and ecological and cultural preservation demonstrate value for, and ownership of, our open space system.





imagine Parks

what do you see?

July 23, 2013 working draft

Goal 1.1: Individual & Community Well-being

Appropriate access to Calgary's open spaces is viewed as essential to individual and community well-being. A diversity of safe open space, amenities and programs support healthy lifestyle choices, and foster a sense of community identity, pride, inclusion and ownership.

Goal 1.2: Responsive to Citizens

Easily accessible parks are responsive to evolving citizen expectation and community demographics. They provide diverse and equitable programs, events, and amenities that support healthy lifestyle choices and promote sustainable behaviors.

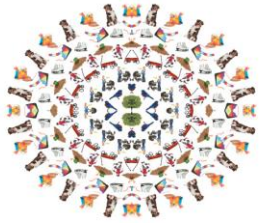
Goal 3.3: Stewardship & Ecological Literacy

Citizens, practitioners, educators and the public, private and non-profit sectors are actively engaged in our local communities, creating and managing a sustainable region of parks and open space.

Example strategies:

- Create an inclusion strategy for all ages, financial capacities and cultural backgrounds.
- Deliver programs that build on sense of community.
- Highlight benefits provided by open space.
- Ensure a range of types and sizes of parks, facilities, and amenities such as: play structures, pathways, community orchards and gardens are accessible and reflect citizen expectations.
- Regularly evaluate the operation and programming of Parks' open spaces and facilities.
- Develop a strategy for the allocation of open space in industrial and business areas.
- Continue collaborative relationships with organizations for the planning, design and management of parks.
- Collaborate to develop a healthy communities index for community and open space design, including programs and services for both existing and future communities.
- Collaborate to develop a health impact assessment to be used with community development plans and area development policies.
- Support volunteerism and community services as a way of engaging in communities.
- Commit to experimental/experiential learning and education for staff and volunteers and provide outreach opportunities.
- Deliver outcome based programming in parks and open spaces to link recreation activities to sustainability and stewardship.

Other Strategies? Let's use our imaginations!

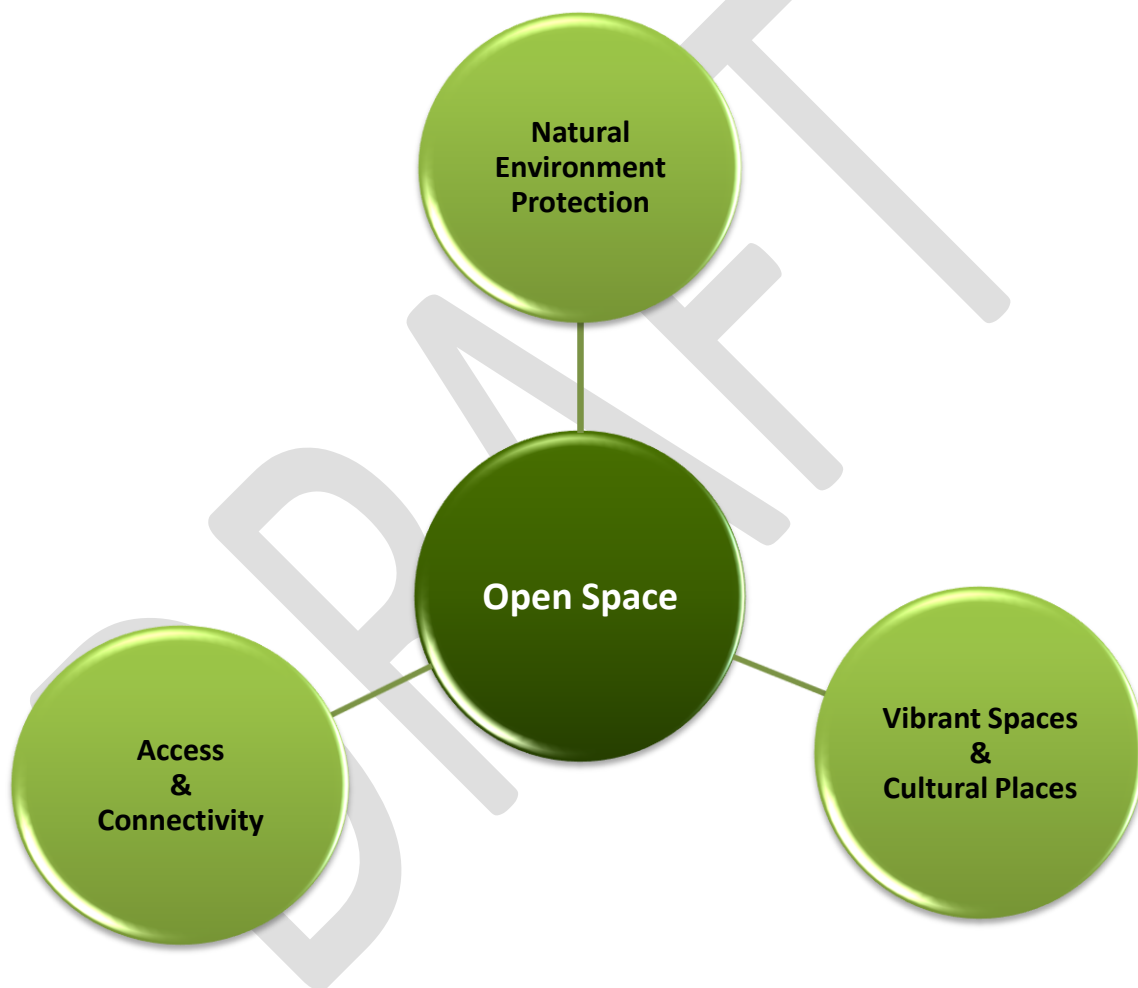


imagine Parks what do you see?

July 23, 2013 working draft

2. *Focus on Open Space*

Planning with the natural environment as a priority results in social, economic and environmental benefits. Accessible, connected, healthy, diverse, beautiful and vibrant places define Calgary's sustainable park and open space system.





imagine Parks what do you see?

July 23, 2013 working draft

Goal 2.1: Natural Environment Protection

Calgary's urban natural environment is protected through collaborative and deliberate city planning and management.

Goal 2.1.1: Air, land and soil

Lands essential to maintaining regional ecosystem functions are preserved, human impacts are minimized and the carrying capacities of ecosystems are maintained at an ecologically appropriate level.

Goal 2.1.2: Trees, plants and animals

Biodiversity conservation is integrated with development planning and management. Conservation of locally adapted species is encouraged to minimize loss of local genetic diversity while invasive species populations are monitored and managed.

Goal 2.1.3: Water

Land and water use are managed to protect Calgary's aquatic systems.

Goal 2.1.4: Energy alternatives

Energy demand is lessened, alternate energy sources are supported and waste is reduced in open spaces and used as a resource.

Goal 2.2: Vibrant Spaces & Cultural Places

The aesthetics of our open space and cultural landscapes are appreciated and enjoyed as valued pieces of Calgary's heritage, natural history and identity. Public art, interpretive signage and events create a sense of place in our city and a culture of stewardship.

Goal 2.3: Access & Connectivity

Calgary's neighbourhoods grow and renew in a way that is sensitive to: the continuing understanding of ecosystem services; changing community demographics; access and connectivity of open space; and to the overall beauty and enjoyment of the city. The pathway infrastructure network supports mobility and is easily accessible for a diversity of users, well-connected, provides ecological value and is a convenient multiuse and alternate transportation choice.

Example strategies:

- Develop guidelines that minimize the impacts of construction on ecosystem services.
- Create site-specific and regional monitoring and modeling tools to improve our understanding of the impacts of urban development on land and water.
- Develop a land acquisition and disposition strategy.
- Facilitate a biodiversity action plan to conserve, sustain, and advance our ecosystem and biodiversity.
- Develop a process and criteria for bio-regional/watershed planning and management with specific strategies for watershed, riparian and environmentally significant areas protection.
- Continue to deliver environmental education and volunteer engagement activities to enhance our aquatic ecosystems.
- Produce Low Impact Development (LID) guidelines for park development.
- Create an alternative energy production strategy for parks, i.e., composting, animal waste, wind power, solar, etc.
- Develop an integrated parks-specific waste strategy.
- Develop educational and interpretive components for parks and open space to enhance user experiences with respect to cultural landscapes with ecological and archeological significance.
- Facilitate a community-wide, multi-stakeholder public art and culture strategy for parks and open space to align with The City of Calgary's Public Art Policy Framework.
- Collaborate on planning a pilot community that advances ecosystem services in the construction of roads, open spaces and the overall built environment.
- Support sustainable and secure food sources through the provision of land and education.

Other Strategies? Let's use our imaginations!



*imagine*Parks what do you see?

July 23, 2013 working draft

3. *Focus on Governance & Management*

Calgary's open space system contributes to Calgary's economic well-being and is a reflection of responsive and integrated best practices in park planning, design, construction, operation and efficient management of resources: human, financial and technical. Collaboration with citizens, government, health and education organizations, the community and the private sector fosters public wellness through the provision of high-quality open space.





imagineParks what do you see?

July 23, 2013 working draft

Goal 3.1: Efficiency, Effectiveness & Economic Well-being

Efficient and effective management of resources, open space and amenities contributes to the city's economic vitality and financial sustainability. Evaluating The City's fiscal health includes environmental and social measures.

Goal 3.2: Collaborative Approach

A collaborative approach and access to public information allows Calgarians to participate in decisions that affect their well-being and contributes to Calgary's high-quality open space system.

Goal 3.4: Meaningful Work

Planning, developing and operating parks and open space is meaningful, open and collaborative. The work environment attracts and retains quality employees dedicated to serving citizens.

Example Strategies:

- *Establish guidelines and opportunities for local business and commercial activities in parks.*
- *Develop guidelines to formalize a process in seeking alternative sources for operational funding.*
- *Develop policy and actions to enable decision making to recognize the economic value of parks in growth management and capital project spending, highlighting environmentally significant areas, scenic and cultural resources.*
- *Provide communications in multiple languages to engage a diverse set of communities.*
- *Develop a plan to initiate and maintain an effective e-Government program.*
- *Develop strategic partnerships with specialists in recreation, education, health care, heritage and the environment to advance the strategies of the business unit and to advance transparency.*
- *Continue to evolve and develop responsive and relevant employee recruitment, retention and development strategies.*
- *Develop apprentices, trades, and vocational orientation programs for secondary level and university/college students.*
- *Develop and implement career-long learning and training programs based on accountability and mutual responsibility including opportunities for career cross-training.*
- *Establish a training program for all City of Calgary Parks employees to understand underlying rationale and supporting the environmental stewardship and sustainability messages.*

Other Strategies? Let's use our imaginations!



imagineParks

what do you see?

July 23, 2013 working draft

Appendices

Stakeholder Engagement Summary

The City of Calgary Parks received almost 1,600 detailed responses from citizens who participated in *imagineParks* focus groups, workshops and online and telephone surveys. Input was collected from representatives from stakeholder groups, City staff, subject matter experts and citizens from all walks of life, including frequent and infrequent park users.

Comprehensive and intensive public engagement activities were:

- Four focus groups with a total of 36 randomly selected citizens (including one youth focus group),
- Nine stakeholder visioning workshops with 149 participants,
- Group discussions with 180 children from grades 2 to 12,
- Telephone survey with a random sample of 506 citizens, and;
- Public online survey with 742 respondents.

Key results of the public and stakeholder engagement included:

- Calgarians deeply value their public parks and open spaces.
- Calgarians primarily value and use parks for recreation activities. Less frequently cited reasons for using parks and pathways were relaxation, social interaction, nature enjoyment and transportation (i.e. pathway commuting).
- There was a clear direction from citizens for The City of Calgary to maintain and enhance current park features, services and amenities. Also, citizen concerns for the future consistently included the potential deterioration of public safety and maintenance in our parks as well as weakened natural environments and biodiversity.
- Participants' ideas for the future typically focused on adding new or expanded features to our parks. The public strongly values basic infrastructure in parks that support park cleanliness, user safety and comfort (such as garbage bins, benches, washrooms and lighting).
- Rather than blue-sky aspirations for the future of parks, stakeholders were more likely to express concerns centered on The City of Calgary's challenges of paying for the "level of maintenance, diversity and specialization" of parks that Calgarians expect now and in the future.
- When asked, most citizens favoured increased taxes to maintain or expand parks, rather than service cuts. This result was consistent with findings from 2011 public consultations on The City's 2012-14 budget process.
- There was consistent public support during the *imagineParks* consultations for securing new funding from corporate sponsorships and donations to maintain and enhance parks. Park user fees were consistently rejected as a funding source by most participants.
- Calgarians recognize there are more pressures on our parks and open spaces, such as more user groups and the need for more funding sources, community involvement and public education.
- There is a desire to maintain focus on providing a wide diversity or types of park activities and features, such as multi-purpose parks (sport fields, playgrounds, etc.), off-leash areas, community gardens, natural areas, festival spaces, pathways, etc.

Visit www.calgary.ca/imagineparks to view details of the public engagement activities.



imagine Parks what do you see?

July 23, 2013 working draft

Research Summary

Current corporate policies and guidelines were used to help capture the diversity of values and functions parks and open space provide to citizens. Understanding what parks and open spaces are now to how we might enjoy and value them in the future was aided by engaging local users and professionals, as well as reviewing and adapting peer-reviewed research and international plans and documents.

A park has long been associated with organized and informal recreation, as well as to provide people spaces to admire our natural environment. Exciting empirical advancements are being made in recognizing the mutual value of accessible public open space and our collective and personal well-being.

Hospitals that provide visual access to nature see patient recovery time shortened, as well as lessening the amount of prescribed pain medications and fewer post-op complications. Green views improve cognitive function, impulse control, resilience to stressful life events and overall mental health. In addition, time spent in parks correlates with improved concentration.

We're learning that there is a correlation between low access to nature and decrease in attention spans as associated with ADHD. Clinical depression, stress and anxiety are also presented in this scenario.

Communities that provide visually accessible rich vegetation have lower reported anxiety disorders among citizens. These settings help induce a greater sense of community, generosity, trust and civic-mindedness. As a result, loneliness, aggression and crime decrease.

All of this is broadly indicating that humans need to have physical ties to nature. Parks, as a physical element in our city fabric, can thus be understood as an element in preventative health care and wellness. Green spaces also provide context for a larger understanding and appreciation of life.

In summary, having access to – and spending time in – beautiful, healthy parks correlates with our social and personal wellbeing. Parks give us a sense of place, of meaning, imprints on our collective memory and are a fundamental structure in creating connections in both ourselves and the greater community.

More recently the natural world is being understood through a lens of “ecosystem services” in that parks provide quantitative goods and services for us. The benefits of clean drinking water, pollination and flood control are goods and services provided to us by nature. These services have been synthesized into four main categories by the United Nations Environment Programme. They are,

- Regulating services: climate, water, natural hazard and disease regulation, water purification and waste treatment, which are often strongly affected by the overuse of provisioning services;
- Provisioning services: freshwater, energy (especially the emerging issues around biofuel production) and capture fisheries;



imagineParks what do you see?

July 23, 2013 working draft

- Cultural services: recreation and ecotourism service;
- Supporting services: nutrient cycling and primary production which underlie the delivery of all the other services but are not directly accessible to people.

These services provide both direct and indirect economic value. Strictly, as a function of geography, properties near green space tend to have higher prices. Unique and beautiful parks can also be associated with tourism, which correlates to economic stimulation. Local business operating in or near a park can attract additional customers. Simply, parks provide spaces for the exchange of goods and services which generate financial wealth.

The above suggests a broadening of what parks provide us: a sense of community, health, recreation, beauty, attachment to history, as well as ecological functions.

Policy and Legislative Alignment

Policy Alignment

Recognizing the need to align with existing strategic documents, the Goals and Strategies found within this document been largely based on wording in imagineCALGARY, Calgary 2020 and the Municipal Development Plan, and in many instances quoted directly from these documents.

Calgary 2020 is The City's 10-year plan towards imagineCALGARY, a 100 year plan for The City of Calgary. This document recognises the city as a system of interrelated parts: "People, buildings, commerce, roads, business, skills, government structures, incomes, plants and animals, history, churches, schools and countless other elements" where combined to created a holistic vision for Calgarians.

Bridging the 100-year vision of imagineCALGARY, Calgary 2020 Sustainability Direction 10-year plan "links imagineCALGARY's Long Range Urban Sustainability Plan to The City's four-year business plans and budgets. The three-year business plans and budgets act as reference points in moving the 10-year horizon. This provides a logical place in time to meet community needs and expectations, and establish the capacity to deliver on these results."

The City of Calgary Municipal Development Plan (MDP) is a statutory plan that addresses the numerous aspects of land use planning including the provision of open space. It includes specific policies addressing the need for regional consideration of ecological networks and open space.

- 2.6 The City recognizes the need to partner with adjacent municipalities and regional neighbours to develop strategies for protecting watersheds, habitats and biodiversity and to establish ecological networks that benefit the region as a whole.
- 2.6.4 Build partnerships with neighbouring municipalities to work toward integrated regional open space.

The City of Calgary is beholden to Alberta Land Stewardship Act (ALSA), the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (SSRP), and the Calgary Metropolitan Plan (CMP). ALSA requires that planning areas be congruent with watersheds. Cumulative effects to land, water and air from development must be managed.



imagineParks what do you see?

July 23, 2013 working draft

Alberta's Land-use Framework (LUF) provides an approach to manage Alberta's land and natural resources "to achieve Alberta's long-term economic, environmental and social goals." ALSA created the legal authority to implement the LUF.

The LUF is described as setting "...out an approach to manage public and private lands and natural resources to achieve Alberta's long-term economic, environmental and social goals. It provides a blueprint for land-use management and decision-making that addresses Alberta's growth pressures."

The LUF does not provide specific policies but enables the preparation of the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (SSRP) which includes the area of the City of Calgary. Currently in draft form the SSRP sets a 50-year vision of how the region in which Calgary is a part should look. It is a watershed-level plan intended to serve as a regional plan for southern Alberta.

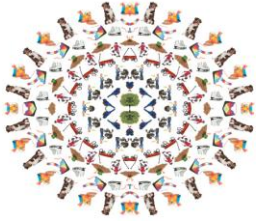
To facilitate the creation of a plan, a Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) was established to provide recommendations to the government. Some key recommendations related to parks and open space are noted below:

- 6.2.9.5 Provide accessible and affordable recreation facilities, parks and open space.
- 6.2.9.6 Local government and land managers explore partnership opportunities to revitalize, develop and enhance parks, open space and recreation within and in close proximity to municipalities.
- 6.4.4.5 Develop an all-season land- and water-based regional trail system that links communities, neighbourhoods and destinations with the region's parks and other recreation and tourism areas.

A draft SSRP is not expected to be released until sometime in 2013. Further public consultation is expected to follow the release of the draft plan.

The Calgary Metropolitan Plan (CMP) is intended to serve as a sub-regional plan for the Calgary region. A revised plan has recently been approved by Calgary Regional Partnership member municipalities and has been submitted to the Government of Alberta (GoA) for consideration. Although not confirmed by the GoA, it is expected that the CMP will be adopted as a sub-regional plan as part of the SSRP.

Principle 1 of the CMP "Protecting the natural environment and watershed" includes a number of strategies that are relevant to imagineParks. Examples include:



imagineParks

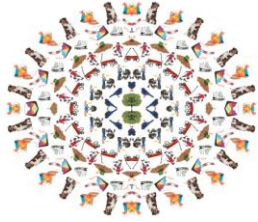
what do you see?

July 23, 2013 working draft

- 1.b.1 Ecological infrastructure. Calgary Regional Partnership (CRP) and member municipalities acknowledge the global attraction and value of our region's natural environment and will align and coordinate local, regional and inter-municipal plans to protect the six key elements of the region's ecological infrastructure:
 - Wetlands
 - Riparian buffers
 - Regional corridors
 - Large patches of natural vegetation
 - Ridges
 - Escarpments
- 1.b.4 Landscape connectivity. Member municipalities will work together to maintain and enhance landscape connectivity across the region to ensure the health and integrity of the ecological system.
- 1.b.5 Regional Open Space Strategy. CRP will pursue the creation of a Regional Open Space Strategy, which would include the provision of publicly accessible parkland.
- 3.b.3 Scenic corridors. Calgary Regional Partnership (CRP) and member municipalities should identify and encourage the protection of scenic corridors and major view sheds.
- The City of Calgary has an important role to play in supporting the long-term viability of the city and the region. The city works with its regional partners such as Rocky View County, the Municipal District of Foothills and The Town of Chestermere to ensure that growth is managed effectively to achieve the goal of long-term sustainability.

Legislative Authority

- Alignment with existing federal and provincial legislation and regional planning initiatives were also considered in the development of imagineParks, including but not limited to:
 - The Municipal Government Act: A provincial level act that provides the necessary legal framework for good government, services provision, facilities or other things that are necessary or desirable and develop and maintain safe and viable communities.
 - Active Alberta: "A government policy to achieve recreation, active living and sport outcomes, through a coordinated system, involving stakeholders, non-profit organizations, other levels of government, the private sector and individuals."
 - Alberta Weed Control Act: Regulates noxious and prohibited weeds in Alberta.
 - The Environment Protection and Enhancement Act: Supports and promotes the protection, enhancement and wise use of the environment in Alberta.
 - The Alberta Wildlife Act: Provincial legislation protection wildlife in Alberta.
 - Migratory Birds Convention Act: Federal level act that protects migratory birds through regulations.
 - Alberta Historic Resources Act: Provincial level act that protects historic resources in Alberta.
 - Canada Historic Sites and Monuments Act: Federal level act that protects historic sites and monuments in Canada.
 - Alberta Water Act: Provincial legislation to protect and manage water allocation in Alberta.



imagine Parks

what do you see?

July 23, 2013 working draft

Glossary

Biodiversity: The variability among living organisms from all sources including, *inter alia*, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part. Biodiversity includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems (Convention on Biological Diversity).

Bioregion(al): A distinct area with coherent and interconnected plant and animal communities, and other natural systems, often defined by a watershed.

Brownfield site: A site that has been abandoned, vacant, derelict or underutilized property where past actions have resulted in real or perceived contamination and where there is an active potential for redevelopment. Brownfield sites include parcels of all sizes from corner gas stations to large areas encompassing many properties (Calgary Municipal Development Plan).

Complete community: A community that is fully developed and meets the needs of local residents through an entire lifetime. Complete communities include a full range of housing, commerce, recreational, institutional and public spaces. A complete community provides a physical and social environment where residents and visitors can live, learn, work and play (Calgary Municipal Development Plan).

Cultural landscape: A land area that has been deemed historically significant based on paleontological, archaeological, prehistoric, historic, cultural, natural, scientific or aesthetic interest.

Daylighting or stream daylighting: An approach to restore the natural function of streams by removing them from pipes into a natural stream morphology. Stream daylighting intends to restore habitat and promote infiltration.

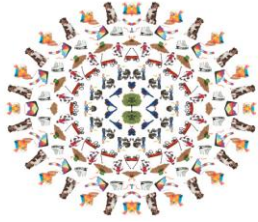
The Durban Commitment: An international agreement for local governments on the sustainable management of biodiversity.

Ecological integrity index: A tool used to provide a qualitative measure of the ecological and environmental integrity of an open space. It considers naturalness, area, connectivity, edge to interior ratio, surrounding landscape types, position of the open space within the larger area, among other things.

Ecological literacy: The ability for individuals to understand and analyze an environmental problem and make informed decisions.

Ecosystem: A community of living organisms (plants, animals and microbes) in conjunction with the nonliving components of their environment (things like air, water, minerals and soil), interacting as a system.

Ecosystem services: Generally understood as nature's ability to clean water and air, break down waste, replenish resources, provide a cultural and spiritual service, and provide a sustainable source of human and non-human resources such as food.



imagine Parks

what do you see?

July 23, 2013 working draft

Environmentally significant area: A natural area site that is valuable because of its naturalness, habitat type, sensitivity, user value, as well as archaeological and historical significance.

Equity: The absence of difference in health between groups that otherwise have different social qualities such as income, education, etc. In terms of parks, open space and facilities, equity ensures the same access to services regardless of social status.

Health impact assessment: A tool to help measure the potential impacts of planning and development decisions on community health by addressing the relationship between the built environment and human health. Key elements of the assessment can include housing density, proximity to parks, biodiversity, services, transit access, land use mix, street connectivity, aesthetic quality of the built form and overall human-scale development.

Healthy communities index: The analysis of the physical characteristics of a community (roads, parks, buildings, etc), public services (medical services, childcare, groceries, recreation and education facilities, etc), ecosystem services and social capital to produce a rating scale for the analysis of a community's health over time.

ISO 14001: A management system by The International Organization for Standardization that addresses various aspects of a corporation's environmental management processes to identify and control environmental impact.

Low impact development: An approach to land development and on-site stormwater management using natural features integrated with constructed controls to mimic pre-disturbance hydrological functions.

Mission: A mission statement is short and concise and describes who an organization is, who it serves, what it does and how it does it.

Neighbourhood: A component of the urban landscape providing residents with access to a number of daily needs and amenities that are within a reasonable walking distance from their home.

Open space: Open space in its broadest sense includes all land and water areas, either publically owned or offering public access, that are not covered by structures. For the purposes of this plan, open space includes current and potential future parks, pathways, roadway greens, land for parks and recreation facilities, cemeteries and other types of alternative use open space.

Park: A specific-use open space area that is managed to provide opportunities for recreation, education, cultural or aesthetic use. A park is normally associated with significant amounts of vegetation but may not necessarily dominate a specific area when that area is a hard surface plaza.

Place protective behaviour: A possible outcome of action when an individual feels a sense of identity, attachment, emotional connection and stewardship towards a given place. The outcome is generally associated with feelings of happiness and enjoyment towards the area.



imagine Parks what do you see?

July 23, 2013 working draft

Riparian area: Refers to any land that adjoins or directly influences a water body, including floodplains and land that directly influences alluvial aquifers. Typical examples include the green ribbons of lush vegetation that grow on floodplains and watercourse banks. They usually are distinctly different from surrounding lands because of unique soil and vegetation characteristics that are influenced by the presence of water above the ground and below the surface. Water is present due to a water body or elevated water table such as in a seep or spring.

Social return on investment: A methodology that assigns monetary value to environmental process and social values. Social values can include but are not limited to increased community cohesion; improved quality of life; increased self-confidence; environmental improvement; expanded social networks; increased social inclusion; and improved individual health.

Watershed: An area of land that catches precipitation and drains it to a specific point such as a marsh, lake, stream or river. A watershed can be made up of a number of sub-watersheds that contribute to the overall drainage of the watershed.

Well-being: A state in which an individual, group, or organization realizes their potential, can cope with normal stresses, can be productive and are able to make a contribution to the community.

Wellness: A condition of complete health including social, emotional, physical, mental, financial and/or environmental health.

Vision: A vision statement describes the preferred future state and is written in the present tense. It is a short inspirational statement that motivates people to work towards a common outcome.