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ISL Engineering and Land Services

Buena Vista/Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park Master Plan

Online Survey Report Regarding Draft Vision

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Table of Contents

BACKGROUND	2
PURPOSE	2
SURVEY RESULTS	2
Question 1: Extent to which Vision Reflects Your Future Vision for the Park	3
Question 2: If you Disagree or Disagree Strongly, Please Explain	4
Question 3: Additional Comments Regarding the Vision	10
Question 4: Average Frequency of Visits to BVLP	14
Question 5: Types of Activities You Do in the BVLP	14
Question 6: Neighbourhood/Community in Which You Live	16
Question 7: First Three Digits of Postal Code of Respondents	16
Question 8: Gender of Respondents	17
Question 9: Age Group of Respondents	17

ONLINE SURVEY REPORT

BACKGROUND

Throughout the Master Plan design process, the Project's **Vision Statement** will be used as the foundation for considering, selecting and evaluating whether potential program elements and design decisions are appropriate for the site. The Vision Statement guides the design process. It reflects 'what can be', not 'what is'.

The draft Vision Statement for the Buena Vista/Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park (BVLP) Master Plan was crafted based on review of previous City of Edmonton documents that includes previous public consultations and input from the 2012 public visioning session. The draft Vision Statement was then refined by the project's Advisory Committee and the BVLP project team (the design team and City of Edmonton administration).

Comments collected from the public, stakeholders, Advisory Committee and the City in April will confirm if the draft Vision Statement captures to essence of the input received.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the online survey was:

- To obtain input from Edmontonians and park users regarding how well the draft Vision statement reflects their future Vision for Buena Vista/Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park.

SURVEY RESULTS

A total of 127 individuals responded to all or part of the online survey relative to the draft Vision for Buena Vista/Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park that will provide direction to the Master Planning process.

A link to the survey was provided on the project website at: www.edmonton.ca/buenavistalaurierplan and was also sent via email to individuals who have signed up to be kept informed of the process. Notice was also sent out through the City of Edmonton Twitter and Facebook accounts.

The online survey period was from April to May 6, 2012. Due to technical difficulties with the website, the survey was not available for the full time period.

The results of the online survey are presented below related to each of the questions included in it.

BUENA VISTA/SIR WILFRID LAURIER PARK MASTER PLAN
REPORT ON ONLINE SURVEY REGARDING DRAFT VISION, APRIL/MAY 2012

1. Please indicate the extent to which you feel this Vision statement and the sub-elements of it presented below reflect your future Vision for the park area.

Vision Elements	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure	Did Not Reply
Overall Vision Statement: "A Park on the Edge" A park characterized by an interplay between two distinct settings: maintained and natural. These settings support a diverse range of year-round outdoor activities, provide access to the North Saskatchewan River and connect park users to attractions in the central west end of the City's river valley.	44 (36%)	67 (53%)	4 (3%)	4 (3%)	2 (2%)	6 (5%)
Experience: BVLP offers a range of settings that allow users to experience the edge between preserved natural and manicured recreational landscapes.	39 (31%)	64 (50%)	6 (5%)	3 (2%)	6 (5%)	9 (7%)
Connections: BVLP has connections within it and along its edges to the surrounding communities, while providing linkages to adjacent River Valley attractions including the Edmonton Valley Zoo, Fort Edmonton Park, Hawrelak Park, and the Trans Canada Trail	46 (36%)	61 (48%)	5 (4%)	3 (2%)	3 (2%)	9 (7%)
Identities: BVLP has a unique and clearly defined identity, promoting a diverse range of uses that celebrate activity in nature and the outdoors.	40 (31%)	62 (49%)	9 (7%)	2 (2%)	5 (4%)	9 (7%)
Uses: BVLP has zones of structured and unstructured uses, which coexist in complimentary fashion, that overlap, transition or have distinct edges.	38 (30%)	60 (47%)	6 (5%)	5 (4%)	7 (6%)	11 (9%)
Communication: BVLP clearly communicates transitions and edges between zones of designated use through appropriate signage, wayfinding, and landscape elements.	32 (25%)	53 (42%)	17 (13%)	7 (6%)	7 (6%)	11 (9%)
Access: BVLP provides amenities that support its users; providing year-round accessibility, shelter and safety	27 (21%)	58 (46%)	16 (13%)	6 (5%)	9 (7%)	11 (9%)
Heritage: BVLP interprets and integrates relevant heritage resources, bringing them back from the edge.	20 (16%)	43 (34%)	20 (16%)	7 (6%)	25 (20%)	12 (9%)
River: BVLP provides recreational activities along the water's edge and access to the North Saskatchewan River.	38 (30%)	62 (49%)	6 (5%)	3 (2%)	7 (6%)	11 (9%)

**BUENA VISTA/SIR WILFRID LAURIER PARK MASTER PLAN
REPORT ON ONLINE SURVEY REGARDING DRAFT VISION, APRIL/MAY 2012**

- A total of 121 respondents provided a response relative to all or some of the vision statement elements, and 6 skipped the question.
- The majority of respondents generally agreed or strongly agreed with the overall Vision (89% support / 6% not support) and the Sub-element statements (range from 50 to 84% support).
- The Sub-element statements receiving the highest level of support included: Connections (84% support / 6% not support), Experience (81% support / 7% not support), Identities (80% support / 9% not support), River (79% support / 7% not support), and Uses (77% support / 9% not support).
- The Sub-element statements receiving the lowest level of agreement included: Heritage (50% support / 22% not support), Communication (67% support / 19% not support) and Access (67% support / 18% not support).
- A few respondents indicated there were unsure about each statement, in particular the statements related to Heritage (20%), Access (7%), Uses (7%), Communication (7%) and River (7%).

2. If you noted “Disagree” or “Strongly Disagree” regarding any of the above statements that make up the Vision, please explain.

Comments were provided by 47 (37%) of respondents. These have been sorted by topic, and are listed under the headings of the Overall Vision Statement and its sub-elements.

OVERALL VISION STATEMENT

- In many ways the statement does a good job of balancing various considerations regarding the current uses of the park and the desire to make the park accessible to all in the future. I appreciate the kind of time and effort that must have gone into the statement's development. I understand that it is just a vision statement, and not the plan, but without specifics the statement hardly feels like it applies the BVLP and not to any other park in the valley. Quite honestly, I feel like the statement is more about talking points and popular sentiments regarding nature and heritage interpretation than it is about the park itself, or the people that could be a part of the park.
- Buena Vista area is a one of the City's main Dogs Off Leash with extremely high numbers but is not reflected in the vision
- The ONLY reason this city is great is because of it's vast areas of mainly undeveloped parks. Developing this into anything beyond what nature does is wrong, wrong, wrong. It's disgusting the city wants to ruin this semi natural area.
- BV and LP are VERY DIFFERENT parks; any statements that try to reflect their combined character or use are just confusing or contradicting. I only use BV but I use it every day. I think most people who will be receiving this survey are BV users. I think it is a mistake to force both parks together under one vision. When I'm reading these statements, I'm trying to figure out which park certain phrases are referring to, and if those phrases are accurate--it just doesn't work.

**BUENA VISTA/SIR WILFRID LAURIER PARK MASTER PLAN
REPORT ON ONLINE SURVEY REGARDING DRAFT VISION, APRIL/MAY 2012**

No Distinct Identity / No Detail in Vision

- BVLP doesn't have its own distinct identity yet...it is a mix of dog park (a la Terwillegar Park), Picnic Park (a la Hawrelak Park without the lake and amphetheatre) but "also has" the zoo and rowing clubs present. I don't really see it as being distinct or having its own distinct flavor
- I disagree because the statements have no substance. They provide no detail of what I am agreeing to.
- This is totally meaningless. It simply describes roughly how the park is used today. Where's the vision?
- A park is generally considered to be a destination, not a connector between the river valley and the rest of the city; there really isn't much heritage - the Yorath house has not been used for years, and was built under circumspect conditions; there are numerous boat docks and facilities along the river - unless the river gets cleaned up and is safe to use year round I don't think this is a fair vision for the park.

Year Round

- There are no "year round" activities in BVLP. There are no public amenities in the park, which support year-round activities. The park is focused primarily on off leash dog walkers. The park is a major foot and bicycle transportation corridor from central Edmonton to the west end. For seven months of the year, foot and bicycle traffic has to yield to off leash dogs and their overbearing owners.

EXPERIENCE

Transitions

- My experience is that BVLP transitions between designated zones are poorly defined and confusing. I walk my dog through the park and am never certain where the off leash ends or begins! Where bikers are riding or what areas are off limits for dogs.

- I do not want to see fences or paving in the park. I also don't want to see specific areas of entry to the river for dogs. There are a number of wildlife species in the park and putting up fences, paving or restricting access will harm their access and their natural habitat. The only place I would support paving is the parking lot.

Preserved

- I am disappointed to see an emphasis on "preserved natural...landscapes." The idea of preserved nature is, at best, a myth, and at worst both misleading and damaging to the way citizens are directed to conceptualize nature with the City of Edmonton. The presentation of these landscapes as "preserved" underwrites entirely the effort that is undertaken in managing the ecological elements of Edmonton as well as the two centuries of human history and impact the river valley has seen. Presenting the "preserved" nature in BVLP as valuable also creates a dichotomy between the nature and the people surrounding it, and provides no way for people to interact in a positive way with the nature without affecting its "preserved" status. I would be much more comfortable with a vision statement that emphasized the ways in which the interactions between people and natural elements of the environment can positively interact. There is considerable opportunity here considering BVLP's proximity to the JJ Nature Centre.

CONNECTIONS

- The only "Connection" I know of in BVLP is the bridge to Hawrelak Park.

Trails

- BVLP needs to be more open to bicycling. More of the trails should be made multi- use trails open to all users including bikes.

**BUENA VISTA/SIR WILFRID LAURIER PARK MASTER PLAN
REPORT ON ONLINE SURVEY REGARDING DRAFT VISION, APRIL/MAY 2012**

- There should be a designated SINGLE track (NARROW) trail for bicyclists. If there was a designated trail that mountain bikers could use, perhaps they could learn to keep off the other trails where the dogs and walkers are. The trail along the river is in terrible shape and poorly maintained. Esp. the 1st km or so from Gov't House Park

IDENTITIES

- Identities are not clearly defined. All in all, the usage is hard on the park paths and trees. Consider directing dogs to certain areas
- BVLP has not had a clear identity specified. Neither of the parks has a pure nature or activity been assigned to either. If we wish to maintain Buena Vista as a natural setting we should move the existing Edm. Rowing Club and White Water Paddle clubs to Laurier Park on or near the Boat Launch site. Laurier Park already houses the Zoo, playing field, picnic sites, boat launch, some restroom facilities, and a paved road connecting to Buena Vista Road. It is the logical location for future development for activities, while leaving Laurier Park in a natural condition.

USES

- There are zones of structured and unstructured uses but they are currently mostly in Laurier Park with the exception of the Edmonton Rowing Club, the White Water Paddling Club and the Horath House. These exceptions show a marked disrespect for the public at large and wish to restrict access to certain parts of the park and parking for the sole use of club members.

No Areas Should be Designated for Special Interest Groups

- By not allowing biking in a portion of the off-leash area an elite group of dog walkers is supported. All of BVLP should be accessible to all users. We all pay taxes.

- There should not be any areas designated for any special interest groups, i.e., service dog training - they have their own facilities to do that, and those dogs need exposure to real life experiences.

Biking VS Off Leash Use

- There is a bit of conflict between the bike-riding and the off leash areas.
- The signage is very poor and completely ignored by dog walkers in the on-leash area. Some have been vandalized because dog owners feel they have the right to do so. The no-biking area has superior signage. Again a two tiered system that should not be allowed in the valley that belongs to all of us. I have had many unpleasant encounters with off-leash dogs and their owners in the on-leash area. Unless an enforcement officer is in place at all times the City cannot control this behaviour that has been encouraged because of the exclusive off-leash area. To make BV a feature that can be enjoyed by all the restrictions on bikers in the off-leash area should be eliminated since dog owners follow no restrictions.
- Dog park people and the rest of us, do not get along. dog park people feel that side of the park is for dog users only and not a park that ALLOWS off leash dogs. i have had a friend bitten by a dog with the owner standing there defying it- it requires stitches. i don't find that the boat launch is very accessible- you really can't get down to the water, its not inviting, we call it a 'river valley' but except for the bridge to Hawrelak, you don't experience very much river- just the valley

COMMUNICATION / SIGNAGE

- Communication is my biggest gripe. Too many off-leash dogs going to Hawrelak park across the bridge, too many folks chastising cyclists in Melton Ravine, disjointed travel from LP through BV to get from the Quesnel Bridge to Hawrelak footbridge.

BUENA VISTA/SIR WILFRID LAURIER PARK MASTER PLAN
REPORT ON ONLINE SURVEY REGARDING DRAFT VISION, APRIL/MAY 2012

- Communication is awful, signs conflict, they are old and worn out in places it is unclear if you can have your dog in Laurier area. The path and bike paths that take you out of Laurier on to Laurier Drive are poorly marked. Dangerous to walk on the bike path and the steps do not have a hand rail due to bike ramps on both sides....put rails on one side
- Communication: - don't get carried away with signage clutter.
Communication: Although the latest signs that were installed are clearer, there is still some outdated and inaccurate signs posted in some areas. Also, there are still some inconsistencies when it comes to the areas around the rowers club where dogs should technically be on leash both for the safety of the dogs and the people carrying boats. I find it hard sometimes to know the boundaries of where the off-leash dog area ends when you are travelling further north.
- We utilize the Buena Vista Off-Leash area every day and absolutely LOVE it. However the signage represents an aerial view of the boundaries which is confusing and doesn't make sense when you're walking.
- The on leash areas are not clearly signed. The signage is not maintained. The leased areas are not clearly marked within the park. The "wayfinding" could avoid the leased areas and make it easier for there to be less conflict between user groups.
- Signage at off leash is terrible. One path allows bikes if you approach it one way and has NO BIKE sign if you approach it another way. We never had difficulty with the bikers before it became multi used and now the off leash area continues to shrink.
- Signage is inadequate, and I would be happy to point out where more/larger/clearer signage is required.
- I think there could be better signage along the trails to say where they go possibly including distances and such.
- What I love most about BVLP is its most rugged parts and the trails that allow me to walk there from the downtown area. I have most often noticed conflict in BVLP when people who are drawn to the more landscaped types of parks wander into the more rugged areas. I believe that appropriate signage could alleviate some tensions.
- Signage is lacking & signage that is there is confusing (if I am new to the park, how do I know where I am and what I am looking at when the sign is just a shot from a satellite/plane? I have been walking BV 6-7 days a week for the last two years and those sky shots still confuse me!) (why is the dog park boundary one place on paper and 100 feet further down the trail according to the sign posted there?) (cyclists still ride their bikes WAY too fast throughout the park, without using their bells to signal their position, everywhere including off limit areas of the dog park) (no signage indicating washroom facilities – port-a-potty at entrance to parking lot in BV but does everyone know about the other one beside the rowing club quonset?).
- Signage could be better to help clarify designated areas ie. dog park. I'm not aware any year round shelter in the park, but not sure it is necessary. If the Yorath house is kept as a historical building perhaps it could offer washrooms, coffee shop and shelter.
- Communication and signage are lacking
- No signage as to where the on leash and off leash areas are.
- I don't believe the signage in the northern side of the park is very clear.
There is no clear signage, but in all honesty that is the last of the park's concerns.
- Clarity is needed, to general public, daily users of this area and for users who frequent on a regular basis that do not reside in west end who choose to come to this area. I believe that there is this notion that majority use this area due to convenience, close proximity to park. You should not forget those who travel to this park regardless of where they reside and have done so for many years.

**BUENA VISTA/SIR WILFRID LAURIER PARK MASTER PLAN
REPORT ON ONLINE SURVEY REGARDING DRAFT VISION, APRIL/MAY 2012**

ACCESS

- I don't think that there is easy access to the meadow area of the off-leash meadow for walk people using walkers and wheelchairs.
- There are not a lot of access points into the park from the Community. Fencing along the bank along almost all of Laurier prevents access to and from the Community. Buena Vista is a bit better with trails that take you into the communities along the way.
- Access: I believe the parking lot at the off leash should be made bigger. I would make a big paved parking lot incorporating the space between the current off leash parking lot and the rowers parking lot. Also, I believe adding lights around the parking lots would be beneficial as there have been car robberies and to simply help maintain safety at night. I also think the road down to the off leash should be paved as well so there are no big potholes at every change of season.

Amenities / Washrooms

- Amenities for public are very much needed - ie. Restrooms
- There are no washrooms, lighting or a cafe (or similar type of place).
- The new cafe at the zoo is too far away.
- We love the park but would like more benches tables and shelter/bathroom please.

Dog Park Area Amenities

- Would like to see more amenities in the dog park area-washroom facilities, fenced designated small dog area, concessions, security.
- There is no shelter at the dog park. There is only a single port-a-potty bathroom in all weather.
- I would like to see the dog park area given some lighting during the winter months as it is almost impossible to use as it gets dark so quickly. There are lights available that do not use electricity but rather the fuel from the doggy doo. I do not feel safe walking there in the dark even with my dogs.

- There should also be a washroom/shelter in the dog park area.
- Would like to see an off leash dog friendly water area.
- The access to the river is only for the whitewater paddlers and the canoe club folk. They also have the best access for parking, a problem for my elderly parent and myself as well as our elderly dog. One person's elderly dog and his elderly owner were hard pressed to get the dog from the park to the parking lot when the dog collapsed and died. The chain across the gate prevents any emergency access.

Off Leash Boundaries

- The off-leash area should be expanded north of the bridge since we are the ones that seem to utilize a small loop past that point 75% of the time.
- Buena Vista Dog Park is a gem and has a sense of community within it's users. Please do not diminish the dog park.

Shelter

- I don't know of any shelter access.
- Unsure what you mean by shelter under access and there are really no amenities to speak of.
- There are no public shelters in Buena Vista Park summer or winter. Laurier Park has 1 restroom building that is closed in the winter. Winter maintenance of the trails and roads in either park is minimal.

Safety

- For Safety: lights on the commuter trail (the main bicycle trail) through the park would be nice. I would ride my bike to work for a much longer season if there were lights on this trail.

HERITAGE

- Heritage: Other than the Yorath Residence - What defines heritage resources?
- Not sure what heritage resources you are referring to.

**BUENA VISTA/SIR WILFRID LAURIER PARK MASTER PLAN
REPORT ON ONLINE SURVEY REGARDING DRAFT VISION, APRIL/MAY 2012**

- I am confused about the heritage element of the vision statement. While, as a historian, I am eager to see heritage discussed in the planning of the park, I am at a loss to guess what the statement the statement is referring to, and what is meant by "bringing them back from the edge."
- Heritage? What heritage? Other than Yorath house which sits empty and in growing disrepair as nature takes its toll, and the zoo which has abandoned its historical character (does anyone remember when it was the "Storyland Valley Zoo?") the site was either undeveloped or a gravel pit.
- The heritage buildings are not marked nor are they explained as to what they are and why they are historic.
- I really don't see any signage explaining the history of the area.
- Heritage: I assume that "bringing them back from the edge" is code for spending 'whatever it takes' to get the McGrath (Yorath?) house into usable shape. In my view, cost/benefit discipline should be applied to investment decisions!
- What does it mean to bring relevant heritage resources back from the edge?
- If you call expanding the Rowing club and trying to restore the Yorath House and give it and its surrounding manicured grounds to special interest as restoring resources then we are on different pages.
- The only "heritage resource" that I know of is the Yorath House, which is not being brought back from the edge as far as I know. That having been said, it may be too decrepit to "bring back" -- I don't know.
- The City administration has allowed Yorath House to fall, disused, into a state of near collapse. I hardly see that as "integrating relevant heritage resources, bringing them back from the edge. This is a shameful waste.
- While I personally would want to revitalise Yorath House it may prove to be uneconomic to do so. Without significant financial support from the City and the will to operate the building the reference to the house may be a contentious issue.
- Every time I see Yorath house I am saddened by how the city has let it fall into disrepair and could not believe it when I was told the EPS uses the house for training exercises, including ammunition exercises? House and grounds are wonderful and all stops should be pulled to bring them back to former glory.
- The has been no respect for the Yorath House... leaving it the way it is for 20 years shows no respect for the community. It could be great for gatherings or a cafe, but it is used for pretty much nothing.
- Yorath House should not be considered for any club or special interest group

Yorath House

- Yorath house should be renovated and used for qualifying groups - such as children's education and recreation
- I am not sure what you mean by "heritage resources". The City has let Yorath House (historical?) deteriorate for over 15 years. Likely would now be a huge expense.
- The park does not make use of the Yorath House facility if this were incorporated into true park then I would consider this a potential Heritage site

RIVER

- Access to the river edge is minimal, path could be better maintained with access points along. If you are with your dog there is only one access and at one end you land in the Rowing Club and have to cut through. Keep the paths natural but access could be improved
- Questionable quality access to the river during high water.
- It would be nice for others who own canoes or kayaks to be able to access the river without belonging to the clubs who have dibs on the parking, the buildings and the dock.

**BUENA VISTA/SIR WILFRID LAURIER PARK MASTER PLAN
REPORT ON ONLINE SURVEY REGARDING DRAFT VISION, APRIL/MAY 2012**

- I would like to see no access for power boats in BVLP. I would like to restrict the usage of non-motorized vehicles in the park. I have no problem with cars and motorbikes using the paved and gravel roads in the park as they provide access to picnic areas, trail heads, and off lease areas. But powerboats/seadoos destroy the harmony between people and nature.

3. Do you have any additional comments regarding the overall Vision? If yes, explain.

A total of 49 respondents indicated they had additional comments regarding the overall Vision Statement or Sub-elements of it, 51 indicated they did not have comments and 27 skipped the question.

The comments have been sorted by topic, and are listed under the headings of the Overall Vision Statement and its sub-elements, as appropriate.

OVERALL VISION STATEMENT

General

- I think the vision of this being a multi- user park is important. Every interest group would like to have the park to themselves. We all need to learn to be tolerant and considerate of others. I think that too much of the park has been closed to cyclists.
- The park is fine as it is.
- This survey is so generic that you cannot get a good perspective of what the public really wants for the two parks. Perhaps this is what you wanted. It frustrating as I have no say as to what I use it for and would like to use it for in the future.
- The words are nice, but the real test will be in the change/improvement proposals. The vision more or less states the obvious, but it doesn't say anything about what the City intends to do about it.
- "A Park on the Edge" sounds dangerous. It does not sound beautiful, calm, relaxing, rejuvenating, etc. That's what BV is; it is not a park on the edge.
- Far more usage of the word "edge" than there was during the evening session at West End CRC.
- 'A Park on the Edge' may be too strong a statement for some. It has connotations that imply division, possible separation, lack of access etc.
- I guess vision statements are generally vague.
- I don't think the vision does a good job conveying the uniqueness of this park area.
- I feel the above statements are not helpful or clear at all. I still don't know what is being planned for this area.
- Plain language please. Vision statement and the sub elements a little too abstract. I find myself needing to read and re-read in order to feel comfortable that I understand what is being said. "Edge" metaphor is a no go!
- I'm surprised that a lot of the good discussions that have been previously held are not included in the vision statements.

Missing Elements

- Buena Vista Road is not mentioned as an integral part of the plan. There are running clubs, cycling clubs, walking groups, and various other groups and individuals that use this road on a regular basis both winter and summer. Vehicles need to be restricted to one lane up and down - a recreation lane needs to be put in both up and down - speed needs to be restricted for the safety and sanity of people and the animals that must live next to this very busy road. Adding some trees and shrubbery would enhance the park-like conditions that should lead into the zoo and parkland.

**BUENA VISTA/SIR WILFRID LAURIER PARK MASTER PLAN
REPORT ON ONLINE SURVEY REGARDING DRAFT VISION, APRIL/MAY 2012**

- To pursue the BVLP collective vision, there is a need to take the zoo out of the park lands (which I understand they are doing by some form of consolidation plan) and integrate the parks. Right now, they are two different parks with distinct character from one another (one is a picnic area with a "ring road", one is a "wild" off-leash area where not even cyclists are welcome). Future plans should better integrate the two parks and make the experience "flow" with distinctive transitions, but not disruptive ones.
- General: there is no mention of aligning the number of users with the appropriateness of number/characteristics/investment in the various 'settings'.

Year Round Use

- Keeping the commuter trail clear in the winter, and lights on the commuter trail may encourage more people to use it in winter.
- I think it is important to ensure appropriate resources are available in the park for year round use... e.g. washrooms and to respect / accommodate the needs of the various users, (park users, picnic users, walkers, dogs, paddlers (rowing, canoe and kayak) as well as the cyclist who need to pass through the area to connect with other river valley trails).
- In the winter it would be nice to have some set cross country ski tracks to encourage cross country skiing in the park.

EXPERIENCE

- I don't know what you mean by "experience the edges and transitions" in #1
- City planning should attempt to make Laurier into a park similar in nature to Hawerlak Park. Buena Vista Park should be styled in the same natural plan as Terwilliger Park.
- What is meant by 'maintained' areas? Are these the existing lawns in Laurier Park, parking areas, access to Hawerlak Park? I am assuming we are talking about existing areas and not ones yet to be developed as 'maintained' spaces.

- Buena vista is picnics and BBQ. Buena visit is a natural place for walks with your dog off leash. Please leave it this way.

Natural

- I wish BVLP had even more "rugged" aspects to it. There is no shortage of manicured parks in Edmonton. BVLP offers Edmontonians a landscape where one can commune with Nature and imagine themselves to be in Jasper or other similar environment.
- Would appreciate some reference to natural environments, preservation opportunities, and interpretation opportunities re: flora and fauna in those environments.
- I would prefer greater emphasis on celebrating nature and less on the "edges".
- As I was unable to attend the meeting, what I get from the statement is that the zoo is the maintained area and the dog park and walking trails will remain natural. I am strongly in favor of keeping the park as natural as possible while keeping the paths groomed so they are safe for commuters and walkers are able to use them in the winter.
- Please keep large sections "wild" and unmaintained. It is such a wild jewel in city.
- Do NOT develop this park. Read Richard Louv's Nature Deficit Disorder. And then leave the park ALONE.
- Very important to maintain/ support the completely 'natural' setting on the Buena Vista side of the Park (dogs off-leash, walking trails etc.), or the beauty & value of this incredible resource, that allows Edmontonians to feel as if they have 'escaped' from the City altogether with every visit, will be lost. So pay attention to the 'edge' and be careful not to chip it away!
- I have always loved being in the river valley and not knowing you were in the middle of a city. I hope we can maintain this feeling for future generations. I hope that there is little to no commercialization developed in the river valley unless it is vendors that support the recreational activities like bike rentals etc.

**BUENA VISTA/SIR WILFRID LAURIER PARK MASTER PLAN
REPORT ON ONLINE SURVEY REGARDING DRAFT VISION, APRIL/MAY 2012**

- I am concerned that in making the park more accessible (to the occasionally user) or giving the different designated areas more definition the park would lose its ability to remain largely an intact natural environment.
- I go to the off leash park daily and greatly appreciate the natural aspect of it. I hope it stays the same. It is a great park as it is.
- I use this park daily - walking is a large part of my health regime and walking in the river valley is the best way to release stress, mediate and reconnect to the "real world". As a woman I have a large breed dog to provide me with the security to walk alone and off the beaten trail. Our all weather walks are typically 5-10km in distance and we roam the area for 2-3 hours daily. In the 'What we Heard Report' the heading: Fencing of Off Leash Area - gave me great concern. I need to have this clarified. My take is that the fenced in area would be for service dogs or user with dogs that would like the fence area. By no means would I like the whole off leash area fenced. This would negatively impact the wildlife by further fragmenting their habitat.
- The resounding note I heard from the visioning session was 'keep it natural.' This would be ideal.

Indigenous Plants

- One concern that has not been addressed is the non-indigenous shrub the prolific caragana (not sure of the spelling). Once the caragana gets a strong hold it chokes out the indigenous plants. You can see evidence of this in the BV the area around the Rowers Clubhouse and the entrance to the off leash. Unchecked the caragana will overtake. There needs to be a way to contain the spread. I know from experience the caragana is almost impossible to kill. One effective measure is to contain the spread with a mowed barrier and a yearly removal/cutting of plants that escape the contained area. I have seen caragana take over a lake resort in the matter of 50 years.

CONNECTIONS

- Need paved trail joining up to Hawrelak Park.
- I hope that a well-maintained bicycle connection between between Hawrelak Park and Jasper Place is implied in the vision of "Connections".
- Connections: the 'connection' to Fort Edmonton Park is so tenuous as to be meaningless. Hawrelak Park is at least connected directly by the footbridge. I walk my dog in the park (On-leash) on the trails but have no problem with the off leash area. Dogs need to run too but I would like to maintain (not increase) the area of the off-leash. I ride my bike in the park and would like to see the trail paved from the pedestrian bridge to the paved road by the valley zoo

IDENTITIES

- Re: Identities: BVLP has a unique and clearly defined identity, supporting a diverse range of uses that celebrate activity in nature and the outdoors - including off leash!!
- Identity: if "unique" means spending taxpayer money to create a 'unique' entrance, then the word should be deleted. Don't dwell on the uniqueness - rather focus on its inherent natural values - common with most of our wonderful River Valley.

USES

- It is important to respect / accommodate the needs of the various users, (park users, picnic users, walkers, dogs, paddlers (rowing, canoe and kayak) as well as the cyclist who need to pass through the area to connect with other river valley trails).
- To maintain the balance between all users of the park ie. cyclists, dog walkers
- Please, please, please do not lose the off-leash dog park!!!!
- Don't mess with the off-leash area! It is a beautiful spot to let the pups roam free.
- Please don't do the same thing that Calgary did for their Deerfoot South dog park!

**BUENA VISTA/SIR WILFRID LAURIER PARK MASTER PLAN
REPORT ON ONLINE SURVEY REGARDING DRAFT VISION, APRIL/MAY 2012**

Recreation

- Construction of outdoor handball courts fits the vision of "maintained...outdoor activities".

Off Leash vs Other Uses

- Keep the off leash area confined to their own separate area. Many people don't like dogs, and don't like to be in the woods with a pouncing German shepherd bearing down on them. They find them scary when the owner is in the field while the dog is in the forest
- There seems to be a lot of discussion regarding dog owners not picking up after their dogs I agree it would better if all owners were conscientious - I don't like my dog running in poop. Nor do I like to see the debris left behind by the humans after the weekend picnic at the Laurier park. At least dog poop no matter how undesirable does breakdown and disappear - unlike the human made mess. No wildlife is impacted by dog poop but the human debris (fishing line, hooks, glass shards ...) maim, strangle and kill.
- Off leash area needs to be better signed and enforced as I have been physically attacked more than once by dogs whose owner's did nothing but admonish me for jogging along a path toward Hawrelak Park. The majority of dog walkers are fine as are their dogs, but the few that are not need to face some penalties.
- Vision statement is well defined, but the experience does not match the vision. The park uses are well defined on the signage, but poorly followed in reality. When the city made an exception to park use policy and limited cycling in BVLP to two paths through the park, dog owners took that to mean that off leash dogs do not need to be controlled. That has resulted in a confrontational attitude from many dog owners on the two paths on which cycling is permitted. In every other off-leash area in the city, dog walkers, pedestrians and cyclists share the trails. BVLP needs to be run the way the rest of the city is. The Ribbon of Green program will generate much more rather than less foot and cycle

traffic in the river valley. BVLP was not created to be an oasis for off leash dogs.

COMMUNICATION / SIGNAGE

- Need communication about parks multi-use, ie mountain bikes allowed in the park
- Important to ensure appropriate signage related to what areas are "off leash" and what areas are "on leash", what trails are available for cyclist and which ones are not.
- I don't feel need for more signs - kind of gets in the way of enjoying a break from the city.
- People coexist quite well, although better signage coming from the connecting river valley paths would be greatly appreciated (especially for bikes) to help maintain the peaceful environment.

ACCESS

- You would have less dog fights if you had the entrance and exit in different areas.
- What about parking - THE #1 BIGGEST ISSUE
- I would not be opposed to very limited commercial development in the river valley.

Off Leash Boundaries

- Buena Vista off leash area is unique - a large natural environment area in the river valley with access to the river in the centre of a large city. This combination is rare and the off leash area should be enlarged. There are many trails for mountain bikers, running groups and the like to use in the whole Ribbon of Green concept that this small slice of heaven could be left to the Dogs!

Safety

- During the report a number of people made comments to the sense of community and to the feeling of safety the BV has - I would like to point out that dogs and their companions are largely responsible for this - they are the ones utilizing the park daily with a slow amicable pace not racing by in the blink of an eye.

BUENA VISTA/SIR WILFRID LAURIER PARK MASTER PLAN

REPORT ON ONLINE SURVEY REGARDING DRAFT VISION, APRIL/MAY 2012

Amenities

- Washrooms and/or change rooms.

HERITAGE

- I don't know what you mean by "relevant heritage resources" or "bringing them back from the edge".
- I don't understand "bringing heritage resources back from the edge". What????
- Re: "bringing them back from the edge -of destruction, of the river, or of disuse? Statement sounds pretty and means nothing.

Yorath House and Grounds

- I also see an opportunity for BVLP to restore the Yorath House as a historic resource and re-purpose it as a place where it could be used to interpret the house itself and the surrounding natural historic resources.

RIVER

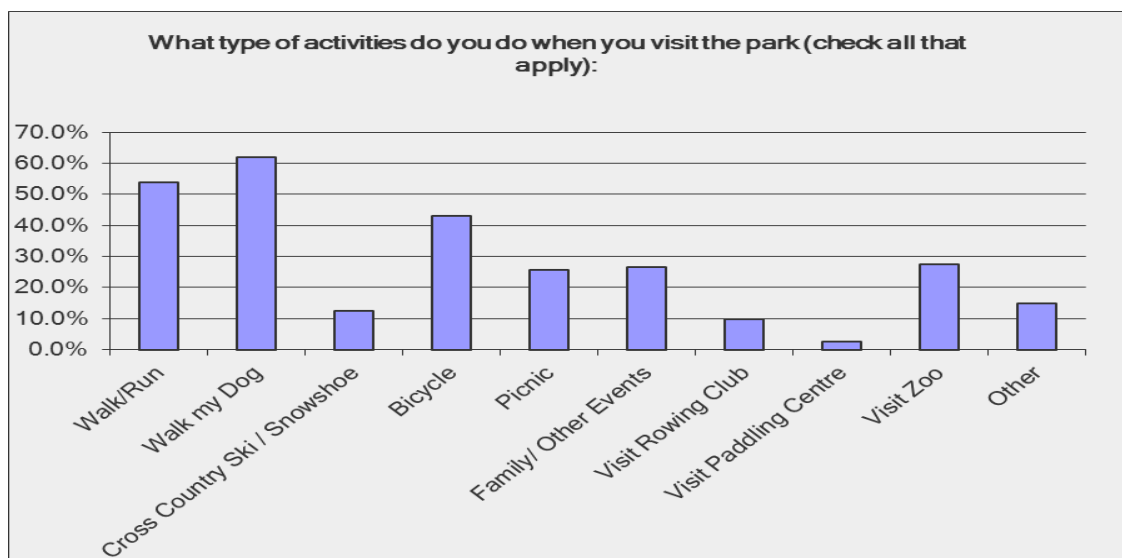
- Develop water access.

4. On average, approximately how often do you visit Buena Vista/Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park?

30 (25%)	31 (31%)	20 (17%)	20 (17%)	10 (8%)	8 (7%)	1 (1%)
Daily	2-4 times a week	Weekly	Once or twice a month	Regularly on a seasonal basis	Once or twice a year	Never

- Respondents to the survey were predominately regular users of the park area, with just over half (56%) using it daily (25%) or 2 to 4 times a week (31%).
- A further third of respondents use the part either weekly (17%) or once or twice a month (17%).
- Other respondents use the park regularly on a seasonal basis (8%), or only once or twice a year (7%).
- Only 1 respondent indicated they never use the park.

5. What type of activities do you do when you visit the park? (check all that apply)



**BUENA VISTA/SIR WILFRID LAURIER PARK MASTER PLAN
REPORT ON ONLINE SURVEY REGARDING DRAFT VISION, APRIL/MAY 2012**

65 (51%)	75 (59%)	15 (12%)	52 (41%)	31 (24%)	32 (25%)	12 (9%)	3 (2%)	33 (26%)	18 (14%)	6 (5%)
Walk /Run	Walk my Dog	X- Country Ski/ Snowshoe	Bicycle	Picnic	Family /Other Events	Visit Rowing Club	Visit Paddling Centre	Visit Zoo	Other	Did Not Reply

- Respondents were asked to identify all types of activities that they participate in when they visit the park. Six respondents did not answer this question.
- The most frequently noted activities identified by respondents included “walking my dog” (59%), “walking or running” (51%), and “Bicycling” (41%).
- “Visit the Zoo” (26%), “Family/Other Events” (25%), “Picnicking” (24%) were the next most frequently noted activities.
- The remaining specified activities included: “Cross-country skiing/snowshoeing” (12%), “Visit Rowing Club” (9%), and “Visit Paddling Centre” (2%).
- A total of 18 (14%) of respondents indicated “Other” activities which include:
 - Use the trails that run through the Ravine and from downtown.
 - Attend functions/ activities in Hawrelak Park
 - I operate a canoe rental business
 - Gather berries and nuts.
 - Canoeing / Use boat launch for canoes / bring my canoe or kayak down to access the river
 - Launch canoe at boat launch for downriver trips or take out from upriver trips
 - Orienteering (3)
 - Community events pets in the park etc.
 - Use the swings/slide
 - Take part in training classes with Dogs with Wings Assistance Dog Society
 - There is a strong community within those who frequent the Off Leash area of the park. This has resulted in visits to the park becoming a social gathering almost as much as an exercise opportunity.
 - Bird & nature watching (the changing of seasons represented in the flora and fauna), photography, meeting friends & berry picking all with my companion dog
 - Launch site for hot air balloon rides.
 - Work at Zoo

BUENA VISTA/SIR WILFRID LAURIER PARK MASTER PLAN
REPORT ON ONLINE SURVEY REGARDING DRAFT VISION, APRIL/MAY 2012

6. In what neighbourhood or community do you live?

Community/ Neighbourhood	Number	Community/ Neighbourhood	Number	Community/ Neighbourhood	Number
Alberta Avenue	1	Hazeldean	1	Patricia Heights	1
Ambleside	1	Highlands	1	Prince Rupert	1
Argyll	1	Jamieson	1	Quesnell	1
Bellevue	1	Jasper Place	1	Rio Terrace	3
Belmead/Aldergrove	1	King Edward Park	1	Riverbend	1
Blackburne Creek	1	Laurier Heights	15	Rutherford	1
Bonnie Doon	1	Lendrum	1	Secord	1
Brander Gardens	1	Lessard	1	Sherwood	2
Buena Vista	3	Lewis Estates	1	Sherwood Park	4
Callingwood	1	Lymburn	1	Spruce Grove	1
Crestwood	5	Lynwood	6	Summerlea	1
Dechene	1	McQueen	1	Summerside	1
Dunvegan	1	Meadowlark	3	Valleyview	3
East Crestwood	1	Mill Creek	2	West Jasper Place	3
Elmwood	1	Millwoods	2	West Meadowlark	3
Empire Park	1	North Glenora	3	Westmount/Glenora	1
Glenora	2	Oliver	3	Westmount	3
Glenwood	1	Parkland County	1	Westridge/Wolf Willow	1
Grange	1	Parkview	6	Windsor Park	1
Grovenor	5				

- A total of 117 responses were provided to this question, and 10 respondents did not reply.
- Respondents to the survey were from across the City;
- The highest numbers of respondents were from communities in close proximity to the parks, including : Laurier Heights (15), Lynwood (6), Parkview (6), and Crestwood (5), accounting for close to one third of all responses.

7. What are the first three digits of your postal code?

Postal Code	Number	Postal Code	Number	Postal Code	Number
T5B	3	T5T	9	T6M	3
T5G	1	T5Z	1	T6R	1
T5J	1	T6C	2	T6W	3
T5K	3	T6E	5	T6X	1
T5L	1	T6G	1	T7X	1
T5M	6	T6H	3	T8A	2
T5N	13	T6K	1	T8G	1
T5P	2	T6L	1	T8H	1
T5R	51				

- A total of 117 responses were provided to this question, and 10 respondents skipped the question.

**BUENA VISTA/SIR WILFRID LAURIER PARK MASTER PLAN
REPORT ON ONLINE SURVEY REGARDING DRAFT VISION, APRIL/MAY 2012**

8. What is your gender?

- Respondents to the survey were predominately female, accounting for two thirds (77) of responses
- Males accounted for 40 (34%) of responses, and 10 respondents did not answer the question.

9. Please indicate your age group.

0	0	1 (1%)	25 (20%)	20 (16%)	33 (26%)	26 (20%)	10 (8%)	3 (2%)	9 (7%)
<15 Years	15 - 19 Years	20 - 24 Years	25 - 34 Years	35 - 44 Years	45 - 54 Years	55 - 64 Years	65 - 74 Years	75+ Years	Did Not Reply

- The majority of respondents were between 25 and 64 years of age, accounting for 104 or 82%.
- The largest number of respondents were between 45 and 54 years of age (26%), followed by those aged 25 to 34 and 55 to 4 (both 20%), and 35 to 44 (16%).
- There were no respondents under 20 years of age, and only 1 aged 20 to 24 years.
- Approximately 10% of respondents were over 65 years of age.
- A total of 9 respondents did not provide their age group.

