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ISL Engineering and Land Services

Buena Vista/Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park Master Plan

Visioning Session Evaluation Results

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BACKGROUND

Participants at the Buena Vista / Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park Visioning Session (World Café format) were asked to complete an evaluation survey. Half (71) of the approximately 140 participants at the Visioning Session completed all or part of the evaluation.

The survey was divided into two parts. In the first part, respondents were asked to indicate the extent to which they agreed with a series of statements, and in the second part, they were asked to provide some demographic and use information. The results are presented below.

PART I: LEVEL OF AGREEMENT WITH A SERIES OF STATEMENTS

1. The information presented at the Visioning Session was clear and easy to understand.

17 (25%)	44 (64%)	5 (7%)	2 (3%)	1 (1%)
Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure

- The majority of participants who responded 61 (89%) indicated they agreed or strongly agreed that the information presented at the Visioning Session was clear and easy to understand.
- Seven (10%) indicated that they did not feel the information was clear and easy to understand.

2. The information presented at the Visioning Session was appropriate for my needs.

15 (22%)	44 (64%)	5 (7%)	3 (4%)	2 (4%)
Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure

- A total of 59 or 86% of participants who completed the evaluation agreed or strongly agreed that the information presented was appropriate for their needs.
- A couple were not sure, and 8 or 11% disagreed or strongly disagreed, noting the following comments:
 - Not as much info from organizers as I thought there would be. More just ideas from general public.
 - No real info given - ie biodiversity, report copies etc.
 - Not enough details/too much dancing around questions
 - Why was this brought up? Is it broken? Things seem fine, except stuffy elitist rowing club. The park is not theirs!

3. There were good opportunities for discussion with others throughout the session.

25 (35%)	45 (63%)	1 (1%)	0	0
Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure

- All respondents except one agreed or strongly agreed that there were good opportunities for discussion with others during the session.

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4. The facilitators encouraged everyone to participate.

33 (47%)	36 (51%)	0	0	1 (1%)
Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure

- All respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the facilitators encouraged everyone to participate in the discussion.

5. I now have a better understanding of the Master Planning & Public Involvement Process, as well as how my input will be used.

8 (12%)	50 (74%)	5 (7%)	1 (1%)	4 (6%)
Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure

- The majority of respondents (58 (86%)) agreed or strongly agreed that they now have a better understanding of the Master Planning and Public Involvement process, as well as how their input will be used.
- A few (6 or 8%) disagreed or strongly disagreed with this statement, and 4 (6%) were unsure.

6. Participating in this session was a good use of my time.

16 (23%)	46 (66%)	3 (4%)	0	5 (7%)
Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure

- Almost all respondents (62 (89%)) noted that they agreed or strongly agreed that participating in the session was a good use of their time, and 5 (7%) were unsure.
- Only 3 (4%) disagreed, providing the following comments:
 - If info is utilized for later use/plan
 - Generalized concepts only, not enough details of the development
 - Regarding question #5 -to have a resource (internet) that can re-iterate this process, also more in-depth information on this process.
 - Master planning processes-the city seems to use costly cumbersome processes that take excessive time then spend \$ to make things worse for public use. eg. restricted small paved parking lots that don't allow increased family use. Terwillegar dog park lot. BV small parking areas. Then they give tickets to users of the park!!

7. The venue location was appropriate.

27 (38%)	40 (56%)	2 (3%)	1 (1%)	1 (1%)
Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure

- The majority of respondents (67 or 94%) agreed or strongly agreed that the venue was appropriate, and one noted they were not sure.
- Three (4%) disagreed or strongly disagreed, noting the following comments:
 - Too small
 - There was not enough parking
 - Was in west end as is the park land in question which drew more people that this pertains to

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8. Please tell us how you heard about the session today? (Circle all that apply)

3 (4%)	18 (26%)	1 (1%)	1 (1%)	22 (31%)	10 (14%)	10 (14%)	25 (36%)	12 (17%)	7 (10%)
Website	E-mail	Twitter	Face Book	Roadside Signs	Poster	Newspaper Ads	From Someone Else	Community League or Other Organization	Other

Other organizations included: Rowing Club (3); North West Voyageurs Canoe and Kayak Club; City of Edmonton CRC; Dog walkers email list; At the dog park; At the park

9. Please provide any other comments or suggestions you may have regarding the Buena Vista / Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park Master Plan Public Involvement Process.

- A total of 49 respondents provided additional comments or suggestions. These are listed below, sorted by themes.

Thanks for opportunity

- This was an excellent well run event. Keep the users involved. Thank you so much for having people who use the park the opportunity to give input. It is appreciated. I understand input can be given on the web/email too. That is good.
- Having this meeting was a good idea. We had a chance to exchange different ideas
- Appreciate the opportunity to provide input. It remains to be seen how the COE will or will not implement these suggestions.
- Appreciated having the opportunity to be a part of this. Really heard about it through dog walkers and not through City means.
- Thank you for involving us.
- Thanks for asking for input.
- I appreciate the chance to have input into the future of the park. The round table format was better than the speaker format
- I wasn't sure the points I made in the final session were appropriately summarized.
- Keep the feedback loop going

Know who uses park / Recognize that use varies by season / impacted by weather

- You need to determine user numbers - a survey in all seasons maybe weekly by students . Weather affects the use.
- You need to do a quantitative survey of who uses the park (dog walkers, cyclists, etc.) and in

what numbers. and in what proportions and how often!!

- Collect data on who uses the park and when. There most definitely are different groups/populations/demographics in summer, winter, weekends, weekdays and spring special events at Hawrelak. You need a good understanding of the regular vs occasional users
- All multi-uses will be increased over time and thoughts regarding usage are important. Traffic has quadrupled over the last 3 years. A more seasonal usage could be looked at helping in usage.
- A proper survey of actual users to fairly represent those that are current users for final evaluation as to the master plan would be fair and genuine.

Distinctions between BV & Laurier (uses and user groups)

- You cannot/should not lump BV and Laurier parks together -the user groups and uses are not the same, nor are the parks
- Also it is not appropriate to lump BV with Laurier park together as they have nothing in common but an access road.
- Attendees mostly current users of BV park - little mention of Laurier. BV park users like it the way it is, as do most users of their local park, often having moved to an area because

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of the park (ie. Millcreek area). You're not going to get new and amazing ideas from such a crowd

Off Leash Users / Concerns

- My 2 major concerns are: 1) increase the off-leash boundaries of BV into the preservation area of the Ribbon of Green and 2) increase parking. Please note that dog walkers use and have used BV on a daily basis for more than 30 years - even in the "on" leash areas. The number of dog walkers is increasing. This group will need to be accommodated.
- add fenced area for service dogs; keep it natural
- Add fenced area for service dogs (2)
- Keep BV as natural and off leash dog friendly as possible. Move rowing club and paddlers to near boat launch in Laurier
- Water Users vs Off Leash Users
- Make the rowing club and the paddle club an on leash area
- Check existing limitations on off leash area. There are a number of misconceptions.
- It is not an isolated park system being easily connected to Whitemud, Hawrelak. Issues of parking, increased usages can be looked at in the larger picture. Perhaps if we extend the off leash to McKinnon -access to parking could be multi-point -at both ends. At Hawrelak, across the bridge (Quesnel).

Rowing Club / Paddlers / Water Users Concerns

- Talk to the Edmonton Whitewater paddler and rowing club representatives to be aware of their needs!
- Member of EWP (paddling club). My specific interests include improving our river access to facilitate our river activities -including kayak lessons, training and recreational paddling.
- I'm a Crestwood resident and ERD member. I use the park 3-6 times/week, year round as a pedestrian and rower

Process/timelines / Hear views of all user groups

- I did not realize this meeting was to talk with other people, private citizens. I thought we were going to hear more from City Council, developers, to why there is a need to change anything. Why not just keep status quo? Is this

plan going to be implemented quickly or is this a plan for 5-10 years from now

- Basic premise seems to be that a master plan with a project as an outcome is inevitable and required. A management plan is required but the parks are quite ok as is
- Majority of issues came to the surface. Good to see that the process met my needs
- Better publicizing of this meeting well in advance (posters in visual areas). I found out from a woman informing and promoting attendance to make our needs and interest known
- As with any invested group, sometimes people can be very narrow sighted with their views. This can have disastrous effects for people/groups who are not in a majority position (ie. non-dog walkers). I want to ensure that groups have equal representation for their concerns.

Information Needs

- I would like access to the biophysical analysis and the phase one EAS -please put them on the website. Let everyone know who is on the advisory committee
- Why is Katz house highlighted? Is his \$\$ got something to say here? He doesn't use the park or hardly lives at this house!

Keep Natural / Keep as it is

- Keep natural -do not create another Hawrelak Park
- Preserve natural area. No development on trails
- Keep it simple; human beings trump dogs; keep up with flora -aging/dying trees and natural wild flowers; hot air balloons are not well defined in usage or safety
- We come because it's a natural area -that's a big attraction. It's nearby so more attractive than the further away Terwillegar Park
- Please keep the park as it is except for minor changes/improvements only
- We enjoy the off leash area and natural feel of the park and would hate to see that change.
- Fantastic place. Maintain the character and the purpose of this park, specifically access to parkland and river for residents and their dogs, and watersports enthusiasts

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Multiple Use

- Should/can be multi-use. Bikes could be incorporated
- Please assume that multi-use not mean that all uses are valid and allowed in all places at all times -uses should be clearly designated.
- Remember that the park has an athletic development component
- Try to identify specific geographic locations where conflict of uses occurs (ie. dogs vs. bikes) Once you've done that you can identify how to resolve the issue -at that spot - or by relocating uses
- Better supervision to all cyclists/dog owners; both need some

Yorath House

- It would be helpful to know what plans had historically been done and what previous generations visioned for the area. Also the Yorath family may have had wishes for the use of the property -it would be respectful to bring that forward for consideration

- Keep Yorath house open to the public and not exclusive to specific user groups.
- If keeping Yorath means more development and less natural spaces -Yorath becomes a liability, not an asset. The aquatics activities are important but more activities will increase pressures and incompatibility.

Parking/Access/Connectivity

- Transportation/ access to new zoo. uses and park access is critical to this planning. Traffic calming along Buena Vista is needed. Access/Closure of park is required.
- like it basically as is. Need more parking. Love being able to walk/run/swim my dog not too far from home.
- Please keep it as it is as much as possible. Whatever is done, please consider increased traffic use and parking challenges. We live right off Buena Vista Rd. and we want to keep traffic down

Part II: Demographic Questions Summary

The Survey also asked participants to share some information about themselves to help the Project Team determine we are engaging with a representative cross-section of Edmontonians. The following questions provide a summary of responses to these questions.

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

41 (59%)	17 (25%)	10 (15%)	1 (1%)	0
Daily	Once or twice a week	Once or twice a month	Once or twice a year	Never

One respondent noted they were a student who rows twice a day in the summer

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

37 (54%)	46 (67%)	16 (23%)	26 (38%)	12 (17%)	14 (20%)	11 (16%)	4 (6%)	15 (22%)	2 (3%)	10 (15%)
Walk /Run	Walk my Dog	X- Country Ski/ Snowshoe	Cycle	Picnic	Family /Other Events	Visit Rowing Club	Visit Paddling Centre	Visit Zoo	Hot Air Balloon	Other

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If you said Other, please specify:

- Enjoy the natural environment and bird watching
- Boat docks
- Live near access to the park so I have a vested interest in what is going on.
- Just in the Buena Vista side
- Commute to work on the south side.
- Connect to Hawrelak Park / Walk to Hawrelak for events ie. symphony under the sky
- I have a small pet service business and every day I visit the park with anywhere from 5-12 dogs. We love the park and enjoy it immensely just the way it is!
- Train service dogs at this park very often. A safe and useable space would be awesome.
- Walk service dogs in training, service puppy training classes, client training service dogs
- Training dogs -dogs with wings

12. In what neighbourhood or community do you live?

Community/Neighbourhood	Number	Community/Neighbourhood	Number
Alberta Avenue	1	Lynwood	7
Aldergrove	1	McQueen	1
Buena Vista	1	Millwoods	3
Canora	1	North Glenora	4
Crestwood	8	Oliver	1
Elmwood	1	Parkview	7
Garneau	1	Strathcona	2
Glenora	2	Summerlea	2
Grosvenor	1	Terrace Heights	1
High Park	1	Terwillegar	a
Idylwyld	2	Westmount	1
Laurier Heights	12	West Edmonton	2
Lendrum	1	West Jasper	2
Lymburn	2		

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

Postal Code	Number	Postal Code	Number
T5B	1	T6A	1
T5K	1	T6C	2
T5M	6	T6E	2
T5N	8	T6G	1
T5P	2	T6H	1
T5R	32	T6K	2
T5S	1	T6L	1
T5T	6	T6R	1

14. What is your gender?

- Respondents were fairly evenly split between males (31 or 46%) and females (36 or 54%).

15. Please circle your age group:

0	0	2 (3%)	5 (7%)	6 (9%)	22 32%)	21 31%)	11 16%)	1 (2%)
<15 yrs	15 - 19 yrs	20 - 24 yrs	25 - 34 yrs	35 - 44 yrs	45 - 54 yrs	55 - 64 yrs	65 - 74 yrs	75+ yrs

- Respondents represented a range of age groups from 20 to 75+ years.
- Two thirds (44) of respondents were between 45 and 74 years of age.