

WHAT WE HEARD

PUBLIC VISIONING SESSION REPORT

Buena Vista / Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park Master Plan Visioning Session (March 21, 2012)
What We Heard Report

Table of Contents	Page
1) Purpose of Visioning Session	4
2) Visioning Session Outputs	4
3) Format of Visioning Session	4
4) Top Priorities to Consider in Developing The Vision	5
a) Maintain natural area focus	
b) Natural with minimal development	
c) Off leash area	
i) Keep Buena Vista natural / Maintain & extend off leash & distance walking of dogs	
ii) Fencing of off leash area	
d) Parking	6
i) Central parking	
ii) Dog Walking Area Parking / Handicap Access	
e) Respect	
f) Washrooms	
g) Yorath House	7
i) Conflicting views –Remove Yorath House	
h) Safety	
i) Access to River	
j) Signage	
k) Maintain distinction between Buena Vista and Laurier Park	
l) Park entrance	
m) Four season use	8
n) Better separation of uses	
i) Better delineation of different use areas	
o) Hot air balloons	
p) Miscellaneous	
5) Other factors –Not identified as top priorities	
a) Operations	
i) Maintenance/roads/mowing	
ii) Garbage	
iii) Policing/Enforcement	
b) Trails related	9
i) Multi-use trails	
ii) Paved vs. gravel trails	
c) Relocated water sports areas	
d) Conflict	
e) Connectivity/duplication of services	
f) Other amenity ideas	
g) Additional study/research	

Buena Vista / Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park Master Plan Visioning Session (March 21, 2012)
What We Heard Report

Appendices

1) APPENDIX A: Uses of Buena Vista / Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park	10
2) APPENDIX B: What do you value/most appreciate about Buena Vista / Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park?	11
a) Improvements needed	16
3) APPENDIX C: How would you like to see / look / feel Buena Vista / Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park used in the future?	20
4) APPENDIX D: What should the project team keep in mind when developing the vision for Buena Vista / Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park?	27

Buena Vista / Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park Master Plan Visioning Session (March 21, 2012)

What We Heard Report

Purpose of Visioning Session:

To obtain input from stakeholders regarding what the Buena Vista/Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park (BVLP) means to them, and what ideas they have regarding what BVLP should look and feel like in the future to help determine the vision for the park.

Visioning Session Outputs (the products or results of the event):

- Increased understanding by Project Team about what is important to participants/ Edmontonians regarding the future use and management of BVLP.
- Confirmation of themes from previous consultations.
- A list of themes/ideas that will assist the Project Team, in consultation with the Advisory Committee, to develop a vision for BVLP that will set the focus for development of the Master Plan.

Format of Visioning Session:

The public visioning session was designed as a World Café type format that began with a short presentation about the background and scope of the BVLP Master Planning process. This was followed by three rounds of table discussions at which table hosts facilitated and recorded input from the conversation at their table. Participants were asked to move to a different table for each round.

Each round of discussion focused on a different question which built on the previous question/topic. The three questions/topics included:

1. What do you value / most appreciate about BVLP?
2. How would you like to see BVLP used in the future? What should BVLP look and feel like?
3. What should the Project Team keep in mind / consider when developing the vision for Buena Vista / Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park?

At the end of the third round of discussion, each table group was asked to identify the key factors on cards that they felt should be kept in mind/considered by the Project Team when developing the vision for BVLP. They were then asked to identify the top five factors which were reported back to the full group, and the cards were collected and sorted into themes. All remaining cards were also collected to be included in the report. Those cards that reflected the top theme areas identified by others were included with the appropriate theme. Others that did not fit within the priority themes were grouped into other themes for this report.

The top priority themes are presented below, not listed in order of the priority. Specific notes provided relative to each theme from all tables are included. If a specific statement was made more than once, the number of times it was made is included in brackets following the point. In some cases, there were conflicting views relative to specific themes, and these have been identified within the theme area. All additional themes that were not identified as top priorities have been included as other themes.

A full listing of input received during the three rounds of the session is included in the Appendix, sorted by theme areas. Review of this full listing provides additional background relative to the top priority factors identified during the session.

Buena Vista / Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park Master Plan Visioning Session (March 21, 2012)
What We Heard Report

TOP PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED AT VISIONING SESSION

Maintain Natural Area Focus

- Keep it natural! (4) / Natural (3)
- Keep natural areas / Good as is (natural)
- Keep natural land undeveloped / Leave as undeveloped and natural as possible (2)
- Keep existing natural environment
- Natural character of park / Maintain natural area focus
- Keep natural feel to Buena Vista / Keep natural like Buena Vista is now (2)
- Keep it natural. No development, no paving! Keep natural elements – no paved trails at B.V.
- Maintain wild spaces, wildlife habitats
- Keep wilderness feel in B.V. and along river edge / Keep wildness and trails
- “Leave it alone” – a quotation from three years of discussion about Terwillegar Park.
- Being able to walk in the woods with nature
- Make BVP more Park-like – recognize uses of this area slow it down and beautify
- Keep Buena Vista as a natural area, keep trails non paved
- No development on existing trails

Natural with Minimal Development

- B.V. and L.P. – keep natural look and feel of park and minimize “urban”/“commercial” development (including Yorath House)
- Keep Buena Vista basically the same with very few buildings of amenities
- Preserve Buena Vista as a natural parkland with Laurier continuing as family picnic area
- Keep parks the way they are – maintain natural area (minimal development some enhancement using environmental practices ie. washrooms and lighting)
- A space to be valued for all its multi-use. Kept as natural as possible.
- Sustainable natural environment while creating more recreational opportunities.
- Restrict development of Buena Vista and relocate existing development to Laurier Park
- Consider and respect the current majority users. Leaving BVP as is and consider the uniqueness of BVP vs Laurier vs Hawrelak, etc. BVP is a peaceful place, let’s keep it that way.
- Not too much development in B.V.

Off Leash Area

Keep Buena Vista natural / Maintain & extend off leash & distance walking of dogs

- Off leash (3) / Keep off leash area the same
- The only complete natural area for distance walking of dogs - people come a long way to use this park.
- Natural and undeveloped off-leash area
- Larger/extend off-leash area (2)
- Riverside off-leash trails extended North and South
- Expand off-leash area towards McKenzie Ravine (2) / from footbridge to McKenzie Ravine
- Extend off-leash from Yorath House to McKenzie Ravine
- Off leash dog friendly as possible

Fencing of Off Leash Area

- Increasing accessibility and walkability of off-leash dog park and have fenced area for service dogs.
- Fenced training area for service dogs
- Agility area for dogs

Buena Vista / Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park Master Plan Visioning Session (March 21, 2012)

What We Heard Report

Parking / Road Access / Accessibility

- Parking, parking, parking / Better parking / More / additional / increased parking (3)
- Parking/access
- Work out plan for road access and improved parking
- Parking analysis (Increase? Decrease? Signage? Improve?)
- Creative parking around existing road ways (e.g., 132 street)
- Increased parking – angle on either side of 132 Street. Allowed up to residential on both sides of Buena Vista Road central parking only.
- Redirection of parkers to avoid congestion, illegal parking, etc., before it happens.
- Event parking traffic congestion
- More parking that is clearly designated for user groups
- Allow parking as needed for #'s using vs limited lot
- Open the fields to informal overflow parking
- Rationalize vehicular movement/parking (limit extent)
- Better access from parking; not have to walk on the road
- Wheel chair access / improved accessibility for people with mobility issues

Central Parking

- More / additional central parking (2)
- Utilize all existing parking including zoo lot. Do not take more natural area for parking.
- Fix the parking issue – put in scope valley zoo parking
- Central parking for B. Vista, Laurier and Zoo

Dog Walking Area Parking / Handicap Access

- Investigate potential northern location to reduce pressure near rowing club (use zoo parking better).
- Provide additional parking north of Buena Vista Drive near the Dog Walk Park and the Rowing Club.
- Improve roadway and parking for dog walk area
- Create more parking areas near dog walker parking / Improve parking for off-leash area
- Handicap access in B.V. off-leash (perhaps a small “paved” trail)

Respect / Courtesy / Multiple Use

- Respecting all users / Current uses must be respected and included
- Continue attitude of respect for all users and activities, few or no restrictions, be cooperative.
- Keep existing activities
- Do not lose user groups
- Managed as big picture/whole unit holistic system

Washrooms

- Public washrooms
- Improved / better washrooms in BV (3)
- Install rustic toilets (out houses) in a few strategic spots along trails
- Better washroom – simple, nothing fancy, permanent facilities, not more locations (B.V.)
- Improve washroom access at Buena vista (no porta pottie)
- Better facilities in Buena Vista (parking and washrooms)
- Amenities in Buena Vista (washroom, lighting, paved road)
- A couple more toilets and not positioned on the road so everyone knows and sees you!
- A leashing post by toilet

Safety

- Safety (lighting, trails cleared, slow traffic, signage, supervision) / Safety (users)
- Feel safe in park / sense of community

Buena Vista / Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park Master Plan Visioning Session (March 21, 2012)

What We Heard Report

Yorath House

- Alternative uses for existing facilities / Find alternative use for the Yorath House
- Make better use of Yorath property
- Yorath – redevelop – some gathering place at Yorath (add more public washrooms. There was a plan for Yorath 15 yrs ago – revisit use)
- Concession opportunity at Yorath House
- Yorath house – make “community hall” and “wedding hall”
- Re-develop Yorath – multi-use/community use

Conflicting View - Remove Yorath House

- Yorath House – remove it and bring the area back to a natural setting

Access to River

- Better water access (variety of uses – dogs, wading/swimming, fishing, etc)
- Non-conflicting access to river for dogs and boats
- Make area all the way to river’s edge off-leash (if it’s not already)
- Access trail to water’s edge downstream from ERC to encourage pedestrian’s to avoid ERC as their access route / Access to river downstream of ERC dock for dog walkers.
- Make new beach access east of EWP clubhouse to allow dog walkers to get down to river or off beach if coming from east.
- Transportation and access to river beach - Provide routes North and South of the rowing club between the river trail and the multi-use trail
- Make larger (wider and less sloped) river access from EWP clubhouse to improve river access to this area.

Signage

- Better signage / Better signage regarding the existing areas
- More signage to designate areas / Clearer signage to improve multi-use
- Clear signage marking on leash area around rowing club boat house
- Signage/education (park user “respect/manners” education)
- Park user education (signage) for respect of different users
- Signs or some kind of notification about the park as a quiet area at the boat launch and on B.V. drive.
- Signage at Laurier boat-launch encouraging responsible powerboat operations in proximity to paddlers, rowers, docks, and erodible banks.
- Solar or electrical lights at the board where information is posted
- Signage and maps need to be accurate and helpful
- More signage with actual explanation of rules/laws
- Communication – signage for prohibited vs allowable uses, signage re keeping to the trails, keeping the nature areas natural

Maintain Distinction between Buena Vista & Laurier Park

- Buena Vista/Laurier are different and need to be kept separate for different uses
- Maintain key features of parks

Park Entrance

- Identifiable park entrance
- Integration of park entrances
- Make Buena Vista Road more park-like – bike clubs and running clubs use this road along with walkers. Make it beautiful and safe.
- Upgrade and maintain the road off Buena Vista Road
- Pave and clear Melton Hill Road for commuters

Buena Vista / Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park Master Plan Visioning Session (March 21, 2012)

What We Heard Report

Four Season Use

- Consideration for cross country ski trail on closed road in Laurier
- Groom cross country ski trails in Laurier Park
- B.V. and L.P – more winter activities (low impact) – ie X-country in Laurier and skating oval
- Amenity building/coffee/warm-up
- Like toboggan hill
- Keep Laurier as family picnic area – including boat lunch and groomed X-country ski trails in winter.

Better Separation of Uses

- Reduce conflicts between user groups
- Better distinction between dog-walkers and rower areas
- Re-routed trails
- Keep multi-use

Better delineation of different use areas

- Think of multi-use in the sense of designated uses
- More obvious separation around rowing club – perhaps gating on main trails to remind “on-leash”
- Separate bike paths from off-lease with monitoring and fines with monitors
- Keep cyclists to main (gravel) road
- Multiple use – but not all users getting access to the same space all the time
- Not allow Special Interest Groups to conflict with public use and access to the park and it’s amenities

Hot Air Balloons

- Eliminate possibility of hot air balloon launching / No hot air balloons
- Hot air balloons should not be in a park of this type (area-dogs spooking)

Miscellaneous

- “Soft” barriers (vegetation) between areas
- Connect to Boardwalk
- Focus on park maintenance by: increasing the number of garbage cans, maintain pathways and gravel roadway in, and proper signage (off leash and non-off leash areas)

OTHER FACTORS IDENTIFIED – NOT PRESENTED AS TOP PRIORITIES

Operations

Maintenance / Roads / Mowing

- Maintained
- Do NOT move the field of happiness!
- Re-create the “great meadow” (it is becoming a great busy, maybe a controlled winter burn)
- Keeping the roadways safe (snow/gravel) and healthy (garbage) provide bags.
- Maintain roadways so no potholes
- Transportation access/ability to close after hours

Garbage

- Garbage cans – increased number throughout the park
- Better pick-up of garbage

Policing . Enforcement of Bylaws / Use

- Better monitoring (by way of designated people given authority to be official monitors) to report to bylaw/peace officers (fines for not poop scooping)
- Enforcement (bikes on proper trails, on leash use, parking, speed)

Buena Vista / Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park Master Plan Visioning Session (March 21, 2012)

What We Heard Report

Trails Related

- Develop bridge to parking commuter trail – with lights
- Make the Trans Canada Trails run through the park / multi-use connectivity to other city trails
- Main pathway paved

Multi-use Trails

- Park is a multi-use area – more sharing of trails with multi users (recreational and commuters, walkers, runners, cyclists, dog walkers, etc)
- Multi-use with direction
- Keep multi-use (lease, dogs area, Rowers, leased areas)
- Multi-use trail – paving of “main” trail in Buena Vista, labeled as “on leash” ON trail only off-leash allowed to cross
- Multi-use trail system through park
- Make a multi-use trail from Buena Vista Park to MacKenzie Ravine and from there to MacKinnon Ravine
- Extend boundaries of off-leash, bike trails, etc. to include more of park as multi-use
- Keep it cooperative users, not just special “elite”
- Keep it free access
- Some interest / mixed views regarding mountain bike trails

Paved vs Gravel Trails (mixed views regarding whether or not to pave)

- Don't pave, gravel or chip wood paths

Water Sports Area / Possible Relocation / Reduce Conflicts

- Like the suggestion to move paddlers and rowers near boat launch in Laurier Park
- Not against moving rowing/paddling into Laurier (opposing views also noted that this is one of the best areas of the river in which to row)
- Development of recreational water sports (row and paddle clubs)
- Larger discussion identified boat launch as 1 of only 2 in the City
- On water safety – interactions between motorized/non-motorized, other uses

Connectivity / Duplication of Services

- Connectivity to Fort Edmonton Park and beyond as part of RVA and Ribbon of Green
- Connectivity to Hawrelak Park especially for events like Heritage and Silver Skate Festivals
- Others – connectivity and extend boundaries
- Hawrelak Park provides a huge area for skating which is manned. Do not increase tax dollars to duplicate sources we already are provided.

Other Amenity Ideas

- Add a water fountain in Buena Vista
- Doggie water fountain
- Lost and found box
- Update playground / new playground space
- Add pond to park with paddling / splash park
- Food truck / concession

Additional Study / Research

- Study actual present use pattern (eg ID areas of conflict/no conflict; survey all uses and seasonal/daily variation)
- Finding the percentage of people actually using the designated areas and during which seasons. No rowers using waterfront.
- Having monitors to “police” and enforce user research evaluation surveys

**Buena Vista / Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park Master Plan Visioning Session (March 21, 2012)
What We Heard Report**

**APPENDIX A: Uses of Buena Vista / Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park
(as identified by Participants in the Visioning Session, March 21, 2012)**

Use / Activity	Number
Dog walking (both off leash & on leash, most not specified)	41
Walking / hiking / rambling	19
Cycling/mountain biking/commuting (recreational & not specified)	18
Running	9
Access Hawrelak Park	6
Winter Sports	
Cross Country Ski	10
Snow shoe	1
Toboggan	1
Water Based Activities	
Rowing	10
White water paddling	3
Canoeing	2
Boat launch	2
Swim	1
Picnic / BBQs	8
Events (church, family gatherings, school groups/races	5
Build Forts / play in park	4
Visit Zoo	2
Pick berries (Saskatoons)	2
Ride horses (in past)	1
River access/watch rowers	1

Buena Vista / Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park Master Plan Visioning Session (March 21, 2012)
What We Heard Report

APPENDIX B:

What do you value/most appreciate about Buena Vista / Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park?

Natural /undeveloped / less structured than Hawrelak Park

- Natural / Natural area / natural environment
- Natural feel (6)
- Undeveloped (2)
- Not Hawrelak Park – less structured
- Naturalness / Naturalness – hate to see this changed
- Like Buena Vista non-groomed – meadow and forested area
- Appreciate the undeveloped nature of BV
- More trees – shade and cooler
- Naturalized area in BV – get away, native from city – running, bike riding
- No overly developed, gravel, pathway through trees – hope it stays relatively undeveloped
- Naturalized area BV – quietness, like it's not overly developed
- Less accessible, not as crowded (have to know where it is to get to it)
- Like nature bound/conversation piece
- Not over run to parking lots
- Great that park gives people opportunity (like the coffee lady who has dishes for the dogs)
- Keep park a secret/don't do any developed
- Not a lot of restrictions in park
- Diversity of landscape (5)
- Shrubs
- Trees (1)
- Willow swale – stay – not manicured
- Long grass, wildflowers
- Don't spend too much money – good as is
- Leave as it is
- Value natural areas, trees
- Naturalness (weed wackers kept out)
- Left mostly the same
- Stay wild
- Nice location and most enjoy path on river bank
- Loves trail against the river because you can enjoy moonlight
- Best thing about is the natural setting being in the country in the city
- MacKenzie – naturalization was positive
- Variety of terrain

Nature watching / Escape / Peaceful during week / trees & shade

- Nature watching
- Escape
- Peaceful-during week
- Children access to nature, learning opportunities
- Nature (2)
- Can go off and be yourself
- We value the quiet, pristine natural field at the east end of 79 ave
- Peaceful/serene
- Natural oasis (3)
- Quiet (4)
- Wild/nature of it – should embrace it

Buena Vista / Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park Master Plan Visioning Session (March 21, 2012)
What We Heard Report

Wildlife (coyotes, beavers, deer, owls, eagles, pileated woodpeckers, birds)

- Wildlife – coyotes, beavers
- Nature in the City
- Animals-wildlife: birds/coyotes/wildlife/deer/owls/bald eagles/beavers
- Pride that BVL is largest green belt, naturalized area with deer, fox, coyotes in BV, walk dogs
- Bird habitat
- Butterfly grove/clearing/tree
- Birds
- Wildlife habitat (6)
- Although wildlife to come back – less wildlife
- Wildlife (pleasant)
- Wildlife – family of ravines, coyotes, opportunity
- Loves encounters with coyotes, pileated wood peckers and owls
- Coyote sounds at fence to zoo
- Sighting wildlife, coyotes, deer, fox

Ready / easy access / access to other parks

- Ready access – get there without driving
- Open space to do so many activities, access to other parks
- Links between park – great to bike through different parks
- Linkage between parks (2)
- Close proximity
- Convenience
- Car access is good
- Location – close to west end (3)
- Good access to Hawrelak (1)
- Connectedness to other parks (3)
- Connectivity from Parkview to MacKenzie – like the gravel (vs. asphalt)
- Connectivity (Hawrelak)
- Access to Hawrelak park, to Emily Murphy Park
- Enjoys spaces that connect to other nearby parks
- Connect to Fox Creek
- Access to LP from LP neighbourhood
- Melton Ravine – (access to Hawrelak)
- Value location

Multi-purpose / Unique blend of uses for wide range of people / family oriented (kids & dogs) / friendly, Healthy choices / economical / don't need membership

- Unique blend of uses to a wide range of people (unique)
- Healthy choices – economical, don't need a membership
- Also likes family use
- Can bring kids and dogs
- Appreciate that it is multi-purpose – try to co-exist
- Nice respectful “usual” park
- Community of park users
- Variety
- Encourage minimal intervention
- Lots of user groups – all seem to get along – good relationships (for the most part)
- Enjoys the small nature/scale to interact with other people/dogs
- Likes the multi-use aspect of the Park – cited Red Deer Park as an example
- Good combo of open space and trails

Buena Vista / Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park Master Plan Visioning Session (March 21, 2012)

What We Heard Report

- Good mix of uses (not parking)
- Respect of all interests
- Has natural barriers/no chain link fence/ no need for one
- People who use park in different ways have integrated need/allow/respect each other's interests no conflicts between different groups
- Social element of users
- Some use Terwilligar – further – different feel
- As then – name as BVLP – more to multi-use
- Use up and conflicts down – understanding
- Can meet new friends
- Diversity of uses (3)
- Social interaction
- Sense of freedom
- Natural meeting areas (social)
- Groups that meet together
- Natural congregating areas
- Path that borders river, changing views year round provides an opportunity for socializing and informal meetings of people and squirrels
- Community (sense of) – meeting people/dogs
- Likes mix of natural area and woods and path with access to water in winter – looking forward to spring
- People you encounter are friendly in the off leash area even if it's a non-dog owner
- Offers best way to explore people and dogs

BV & LP two distinct areas, different users/uses

- Laurier and BV are two separate area
- See different usages between two spaces: LP-groups, schools, manicured & BV – Natural
- Two are different
- Two distinct characteristics – which is good – both are used
- Laurier is a very beautiful park; Nice and keep as is
- Division between rugged and manicured
- Expanse of park (1)
- Laurier – good for children (1)
- Distinction between north/south, separate spot for organized activities
- Likes the whole park LP

Park entrance along BV Road

- Buena Vista Road – from the traffic circle you feel that you are part of the park. This should be considered in the park development

More neighbourhood park than city wide / community feel / friendly

- Not sure it is a 'city-wide'-more neighbourhood
- Friendly, community-feel
- Pulls communities together

Safety

- Feels very safe in the park
- Safe – understanding within community – sense of community
- Sense of safety (2)
- Safety

Buena Vista / Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park Master Plan Visioning Session (March 21, 2012)

What We Heard Report

Off Leash area, naturalized, close to town

- Dog park/off leash (6)
- Like off-leash area
- Rowing area is on leash
- Fencing/gates can be used
- Amount of off-leash space (don't change)
- Off leash – naturalized aspect
- Off leash – naturalized – separation of use
- Off leash – only place like it
- Never experienced an off leash space so proximate to down town
- Walking a dog is a “legitimate” recreational activity
- Dog walking, trails, keep natural
- Enjoys the trails

Dog walkers from all over

- Dog walkers come from all over – some come across Ped bridge
- Off-leash – travel to as destination
- Dog with wings – seminar dog training
- People come to interact with watch dogs

Access to river activity, fishing, wading, dogs

- Swimming in River in BV is great (lovely area, shallow for wading)
- Fishing
- Access to river activity (few places in city)
- Dogs – swimming (3)
- Access to the water for lab to swim
- Access to the river – beach
- Use of river with dogs/access to water
- Easy access to the river (2)
- Get to river bank
- Taking kids fishing
- Access to river and off leash area

Boat Launch (only 2 in City)

- Laurier Boat Launch (only two in the City)
- Boat launch (2)

Rowing / Paddling / Kayaking – one of best areas on river for rowing, facilities

- Only environment In the City of Rowing/Canoeing/Kayaking; distinctively different from recreation
- One of best areas of the river to row (mid-April to Nov); access for University rowers across the...
- Rowing/paddling are anchors as far as sporting activities
- Rowing club holds events (corporate challenge)
- Edm. Rowing club facilities
- Rowing Club – 30 yrs – get along and respect each
- Access to water activities – rowing/paddling
- Paddlers – access facilities

Trails

- Casual trails that are not part of the established network
- Like it the way it is – biking through trees and cow paths
- Trail access to neighbourhoods

Buena Vista / Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park Master Plan Visioning Session (March 21, 2012)

What We Heard Report

- Trail access to neighbourhoods, terrain
- Courtesy use of trails
- Like the natural trails – no need to pave commuter trails and give it a wide berth
- Dirt non-paved trails – running and dog walking
- Cycling on dirt trails
- Narrow trails
- Continuing of trails
- Use all trails – options/diversity narrow trails =positive aspect
- Variety of trails (5)
- Natural trails (2)

Walking

- Walking (3)
- Recreational walkabilities: trails, river use, “not just another sports park

Biking

- Biking (2)
- Commuter trail vs recreational trail, pave & have dog walkers respect
- Riding bikes – can CCC

Running

- Running (2)
- Size-good to run

Picnic sites (private, unique) / manicured

- Appreciate picnic sites – lunch away from crowd
- Picnic sites are private
- Picnic sites overlooking river are unique
- Manicured picnic sites
- Picnic area (2)
- Spontaneous use of picnic areas “well-kept secret”
- Picnic area – everyone gets a good spot – more interactive and narrow lane
- Picnic spots are nice
- Enjoy group picnic areas, covered space

Group picnic sites, covered, group activities

- Good for group activities
- Bocce ball in LP – family event picnic area

Watch balloon launching

- Can watch balloon launch
- Hot air balloons – fun to watch take-off

Orienteering (1)

Horse back riding (1)

Yorath House – multi-use facility

- Multi-use facility – use existing facility – banquet facility/meeting space
- What is the cost for adaptation for reuse
- Yorath – coffee shop
- Yorath House and memorial – grounds in front, maintained
- Commercial use – concession at zoo (Yorath)

Buena Vista / Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park Master Plan Visioning Session (March 21, 2012)

What We Heard Report

Saskatoon berry picking (2)

Tobogganing

- Neighborhood “park piece” are nice for neighbourhood and tobogganing
- Bread basket/lunchbox/ “The Bowl” – tobogganing
- Toboggan hill
- Tobogganing sites

Cross country skiing

- Winter uses – cross country skiing
- X-country skinning – go in main gate and see views

Improvements Needed

In addition to identifying what participants value / like most in the parks, some also identified areas where they felt improvement is needed.

Park Name

- Change the name

Yorath House

- Comments on Yorath House septic and insulation
- Should do something with house – but have to consider parking
- Homestead – potential story to be told about the history

Playgrounds

- Playground equipment in LP is antiquated
- Limited playgrounds and could be improve
- Playground (1)

Trails

- Universal paved trail
- Sidewalk along roadway – since there isn’t room for pedestrians
- Improve the trails
- Commuter trail vs. recreational trail – have dog walkers respect
- Individuals avoid the bike trail
- Conflicts? – bikes – intensity – speed – use of hills
- Access to x-country ski trails/looking at how river bank is collapsing – is this being done at part of EA
- Value trail along river/must watch for environmental erosion/losing trail
- Constant developing/morphing of trails

Mountain Bike Trails

- Area seems disjointed – no designated areas for certain areas (e.g. mountain biking)
- Mountain bike trails
- Biking in wooded area – double, single track north side of BV – no one else uses area or wants to use it other than mountain bikers
- Want bikers to be able to help maintain mountain bike trails (like in Millcreek Ravine) or in area

Buena Vista / Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park Master Plan Visioning Session (March 21, 2012)

What We Heard Report

Off Leash – Conflicts / Respect of Boundaries

- Questions about off-leash by Rowing and Paddling
- Difficulty with putting dogs on leash/off leash as you pass rowing club
- Is the beach area on leash or off leash?
- Is rowing club an off leash dog area?
- Ambiguity between off-leash areas – not about regulation – should be about respect and education of boundaries
- Some conflicts between rowers – dog walkers
- Bikes/dogs conflicts – sometimes – not all trails are allowed for bikes
- City trucks accessing across natural off-leash area
- Need to manage dogs
- Concern now with walking group dogs aren't on leash at Foot Bridge
- Biking, concerned about running into dogs on trail near off-leash and fast mountain bikers
- Conflict with dogs off leash at rowing club TANK
- Misunderstanding of where off leash dogs can go
- Combination of dogs-food-and small kids presents potential conflict at picnic site
- Experience with dog owners that don't pick-up
- Agrees that off-leash area should be respected more and dog owners in off-leash areas should clean-up so space is not restricted in future
- Dog droppings left on grassed area – no picked up – experienced this even where dogs are not allowed
- Design – alleviate conflicts

Dog Access to/from River

- How dogs come up from the river – could have more trails – easier access

Winter Use

- Like to have Laurier open for winter (why is it closed)
- Set x-country ski track in winter
- Trails could be turned into X-country ski trails in winter
- Washroom. warm up shelter for winter
- City used to make groomed x-country ski trails through LP – don't anymore

Washrooms

- Public washrooms throughout park (near Boathouse and ped. Bridge)
- Port-a-potties aren't appropriate washrooms
- Need public washrooms
- Washrooms – not happy about the relocation of the washroom near the rowers parking lot
- Presence of public washrooms for LP park users and still an outcome
- Bathroom access

Parking / Road Access

- Parking
- Opposed to rowing club priority parking – universal parking – (ie anyone can park in any lot)
- Off-leash parking shortage
- Rowing Club paid to construct parking but can't access it
- Needs to be graded to allow for drainage
- Using parks for sports for 20 yrs – wasn't busy a few years ago – got a lot more busy in the last 10 yrs, use it for rowing, parking lot by TANK for Rowing club gets used by other users
- Parking is an issue- more parking – increased user ship
- Area by pump station used for overflow parking; integrate zoo master plan into master plan for zoo
- Have to address parking

Buena Vista / Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park Master Plan Visioning Session (March 21, 2012)

What We Heard Report

- Underutilized area adjacent to 132 and Buena Vista Road
- Field, between 132 Street and BV Rd gets opened to parking only on special occasions. Opportunity for parking lot
- Speed along road beyond parking lot – excessive speeding – dangerous conditions
- School bus parked along BV Rd – could they use the actual parking lot?
- Less vehicle traffic
- Minimization of “car” (no concrete) (3)
- Parking not great for north side – should be paved
- Future: lighting and parking
- Concern - Ladyslippers disappear due to widening
- Access blocked by construction

Signage

- Park user “respect/manner” education – signage
- Park signage – strange locations etc.
- Signage to on leash has been removed
- Better signage for off leash vs on leash
- Unclear about boundaries of the park due to signage/maps
- Signage – special event – Hawrelak – education
- Signs – people take dogs bc no bikes
- Not properly signed as to where dogs cannot go/must address how to fix
- Needs better signage for dog areas/non-dog areas
- Better signage (1)
- Not a strong sense of place (way finding)

Control Access

- Potential to control out of hours access

Separation / Enforcement of Use

- Enforcement of use of areas needs to be looked at – eg bikes on trails/non-bike
- Needs to be organization of park, signage, designate paths for certain users
- Can’t have as nice of an area without having more people using it
- Would like areas for biking, families, dogs
- By law – off-leash/bikes/parking
- Opportunity for open fires in LP

Traffic / Use Counts

- Be good to quantify users and conflicts – simple traffic counts

Bicycle/running groups using Buena Vista Road as training – negative

Motorized Boats

- Don’t Value * - Motorized Users:
- Personal watercraft and the non-conforming users
- Not following rules of the water ways
- Creating wake/eroding wake
- Very loud boats – noise by law?
- Can something be done to encourage more considerate users

Buena Vista / Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park Master Plan Visioning Session (March 21, 2012)

What We Heard Report

Hot Air Balloons

- Relocate the hot air balloons to another location – scares the dogs
- Hot air balloons – 2 issues – why do they have access to public park?
- Balloons spook dogs/dogs go missing

Expand Size of Park

- Feels the park could be bigger – gets tired of doing the same trails
- Extend the park North along River Valley

Maintenance

- 132 Street is in terrible condition
- Internal Road, Illumination beyond the Rowers Parking lot along 129 Street facing North to illuminate the field in the winter
- Keep the dog bags filed
- Dog waste bags and dog art work
- Whitewater Paddlers – looks derelict

Lake for Paddlers

- Improved access for Whitewater Paddlers – lake like Rundle

Concession

- Used to be a concession trailer in summer and winter but no longer (me and my dogs)

Buena Vista / Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park Master Plan Visioning Session (March 21, 2012)
What We Heard Report

APPENDIX C:
How would you like to see / look / feel Buena Vista / Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park used in the future?

Same as now / Keep the same / Natural / Undeveloped

- Same as it is now / Remain the way it is / "Happy the way it is" / Keep park way it is
- Leave it as is – let the river-valley be green
- Keep it as it is. Loves the small neighbourhood park component
- Happy with way it is now, naturalized, picnicking
- Natural feel
- Undeveloped (2)
- Natural environment an "oasis" in the City
- Preservation (especially of riverfront) is key focus of all development
- Great park as it is – worried about
- Deadwood safety concern vs natural habitat (leave as is?)
- Maintain natural areas
- Keep as natural as possible
- Wilderness feel (9)
- Like natural area – open/wooded area
- Maintain beauty, natural area
- Keep the meadow as a meadow (BV)
- Feels the park is flat and not tree covered (BV)
- Primarily naturalized – minimal amenity, parking, washrooms
- Keep a balance between two uses – maintained/naturalization
- Want trees
- Keep the wildness and trails
- Keep wildlife
- Keep less structured
- Laurier – oldest park? Protected as such
- Quiet nature (2)
- Keep park wild
- Wild and natural
- Wild and natural – don't build anything
- Retain natural areas as park space in future
- Like natural park space; rough trails and ability to make new trails; paths don't formalize; improve access
- Dog walker values natural elements in BV
- Urban forest – safe for people and wildlife – reforestation (2)

Extend Park Boundary / Connectivity

- Boundary of park to McKenzie Ravine
- Connectivity to McKinnon Ravine from BV. Improve

Multi-Use / Respect / Safety

- Like that it is multi-use park space – maintain healthy lifestyle
- Have better integration of different activity and respect for safety of different users.
- LP is a destination pt. so it creates conflicts – avoid conflicts between different user groups
- Continue multi-use function – guidelines
- Lots of respect between user group/need to continue to get along
- Maintain variety of uses (6)
- Few conflicts: issue of a few – unwritten rules – community

Buena Vista / Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park Master Plan Visioning Session (March 21, 2012)

What We Heard Report

- Courteous feel
- Safe for all users
- Want to make it safe for everybody
- More multi-use – shared usage/co-existing/courteous
- Different seasons create different uses – quantitative analysis of usage – seasonal/diurnal
- Combination of approaches
- Likes the less-used component; The more you put into an area, the more regulated; pushes out the dog users (other uses)
- Foster existing respect with multi-users/uses
- Party for various user groups to get to know each other
- Find use for space adjacent to 132 street
- Use varies time of day and time of year

Keep 2 distinct areas

- Like the two distinct areas
- Maintain two distinct park areas
- They're two separate parks
- Likes structure in LP and less structure in BV
- Development in Laurier
- Laurier – okay groomed
- BV space – wants to see a greater integration of different activities; treat open space greater meadows area in BV differently

Off Leash Area

Keep / Extend Off Leash Area

- Extend off-leash to McKenzie Ravine
- See off lease park extended beyond boundary (along Riverbank North of the footbridge) – or Multi-use
- Develop field by entry to off-leash
- Dogs- should be allowed in Laurier
- Extend OL area
- Keep off leash area as is
- Keep the current dog park-user – off leash area (3)
- Main use is off-leash area

Clarify Off Leash Area / Address Conflicts

- Confusion about what is off-leash – i.e. around boating areas
- Clear where off-leash is around boating facilities
- Issues between Rowers and dog walkers
- Have separation of dog trail from boating uses
- Must distinguish off-leash through separation/signage
- Get dogs down to water without infringing on rowing club access
- Push gate on trail to signify on leash/off leash

Dog Training Area

- Training area in dog off-leash area
- Dogs with wings - #1 park they recommend
- Small fenced area for training service dogs

Dog Clean Up

- Facilities for bags/poop bags to encourage dog users to clean up
- Poop pickup program in BV

Buena Vista / Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park Master Plan Visioning Session (March 21, 2012)

What We Heard Report

Off Leash Area Amenities / Facilities

- Picnic area in off leash dog area so you can BBQ with dog there
- Covered picnic shelter in off-leash
- Cooperative users – dog fountain – tap (no waterline)
- Pond in off leash dog area for dogs
- Dog fountains, amenities
- Off leash area – bicycle free (3)
- More benches/tables in off leash area

Signage

- Signage
- Better signage - accurate and clear – bigger
- Better signage to separate uses
- Appropriate signage/designated areas/uses
- Signage is important
- Map of main trails
- Signage on trails – priority users
- Is sand bar really off-leash – signage
- Add signage at the parking areas
- Need better signage for on leash and off leash area

Better Enforcement

- No enforcement – dog owners only not other users
- Better enforcement – poop patrol
- Crime in picnic area in evening

Trails

- Great trails from Ped Bridge to Mc Ravine
- Shared use on all trails
- Shouldn't have to walk on road to get from parking area to trails
- Awkward access from parking to great meadow
- Soft trail along 131 street
- Vehicles/pedestrian conflict
- Path diversion to make it less likely for dog users to use
- Main trail lighting
- Lighting on trail maintained
- Make river edge pathways continuous and passable (maintained to mulitgate crossing)
- Add some path connections to riverside pathways to BV and LP
- Add path options to river edge to deal with river water level, erosion areas
- More choices for people to cross cut between the multi-use trails and river trails at rowing house
- More maintenance on bridal path
- Fix dead end trails or properly make them
- Path by Yorath – some signs say closed
- Take care of existing trails
- Trails maintain themselves (ie. No weed clearing needed)
- Wants to see trails for cyclists
- Restrict bikes on trails where they aren't supposed to be (river trails)
- Bike park/mountain bike
- More single track cycling trail in BV Park
- More bicycle access to single track (1)

Buena Vista / Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park Master Plan Visioning Session (March 21, 2012)

What We Heard Report

Trails – Opposing Views on Paving (Commuter vs Recreational)

- Confusion on multi-use trail – feels a paved trail would make it more clear it is a multi-use trail. Just the one stretch.
- People use bike trails for commuting to/from work and dog people don't respect them
- Important to maintain commuter access
- People walk/bike run to get access city-users shouldn't charge
- Pave one of the principle trail and keep the other half unpaved for clear identification of use
- Extend trail to Hawrelak – main trail connection to Hawrelak has issues because of dogs; desire for dog restriction.
- No concrete trails – keep natural
- No paved trails in BV
- Don't pave trails

Parking

- Parking – additional
- Exclusivity of rowers parking
- Parking – need more? – issues of parking in Rowing area
- Paved parking – handicapped spots especially
- Parking in field on weekends – not just for overflow for city events
- Don't encourage use if no parking
- Parking storage?
 - Focused in Buena Vista (Dog Walker/Rower)
 - Angle/perpendicular and parallel parking along roadway
 - Events at Hawrelak put additional pressure
 - Encourage non-car modes of transportation to park (transit) etc.
 - If parking was taken out of Buena Vista and shifted/expanded in field near Buena Vista
- Integrate zoo parking lot
- Improve zoo parking lot
- Would like to work with Zoo to discuss parking
- Rethink integration of zoo with other park space eg. Parking
- Doesn't want to recommend solutions to parking without knowing what the Zoo is planning
- Issues during special events – parking an issue
- Doesn't like people jumping curb in Rowing parking lot to park on the grass
- More parking/ better defined parking (its limited)
- Appropriate parking areas
- Dog park extra parking
- In summer parking will be a big issue
- Parking for north side – maybe next to 132 street
- Staging area, imp. access to rowing, Yorath House
- Parking opportunity
- Different opinions about where new parking areas should go (at base or closer to great meadow?)
- Add overflow parking area (3)
- Fix parking

Yorath House

Keep Yorath House

- Yorath House – coffee bar/food – stopping point for
- Ques-re Yorath House use for future – as it is in need of a lot of \$ to make it usable
- YH – tied with rec use for rowing/paddling
- YH – coffee house, washrooms, worth investment to make it usable
- YH – has merit in keeping property

Buena Vista / Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park Master Plan Visioning Session (March 21, 2012)

What We Heard Report

- Yorath House:
 - Community uses
 - Rental for events
 - Are there legal implications
 - Heritage
 - zoo has duplicate amenities
 - Washrooms – permanent
 - Environmental education centre
 - Nature centre
- Yorath House – public family/safe/canoe rental/like rental/club usage – in winter warming hut
- Yorath House turned into something looks abandoned – has lots of potential
- Do something with Yorath
- Picnic areas around Yorath – dog friendly picnic area
- Café at Yorath with washrooms

Remove Yorath House

- Return Yorath space to a natural space
- Get rid of it

Family Oriented Activities / Facilities

- Upgrade to facilities – playground
- Upgrade playground
- Options for space for a variety of activities and modernize facilities (playgrounds picnic area)
- Add a new nature playground space
- Possible community garden
- Only place to bring children and dogs for walk
- Upgrades to ‘family orientated’ activities
- Family friendly (1)
- Upgraded playgrounds (1)
- Great to have facilities where kids can mess around/connect in nature
- Museum/refreshments/lots of potential/yoga studio/classes for kids about nature/nice to see a purpose for it
- Integrate activities – zoo – picnic – play – explore
- Water/splash park on picnic side
- Food truck, concession

Other Amenities / Facilities

- Would like to see ability to rent bikes/using boat in the summer
- Permanent snack stand (summer)
- More benches – but no cut trees – open field
- More benches in naturalized areas (similar to what is along river edge)
- A but too overgrown in picnic area
- View scape to river from picnic area – lookout to river
- More garbage cans
- More garbage cans throughout the park
- Keep berries for berry picking

Conflicting Views RE: Development

- Less development
- Recreational – no commercial development (5)

Buena Vista / Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park Master Plan Visioning Session (March 21, 2012)

What We Heard Report

Hot Air Balloons

- Eliminate the hot air balloons – spooks the dogs, private enterprise, and they don't notify by hour
- Don't launch balloons in park
- Hot air balloon – signage/warning
- Scared balloons – conflict

Winter Use

- Maintain ski access along river
- Look to counter trail degradation at river edge
- Winter shelter
- Toboggan hill
- Better cross country trails
- Winter usage on trail –Cross country trails in Laurier
- See COE track paved park for x-country in winter
- X-country ski track closer to river through BV
- Promote x-country skiing/make trails available
- In winter road to boat houses gets awful
- Laurier – train for x-country ski in winter (4)
- Skating rink behind Yorath parking

Washrooms

- Good washrooms/water fountain
- Improved washrooms in BV
- Better provision for washrooms 4 season, fully services potable
- Porta-potty –need more locations
- Could use washrooms in the winter
- Better washrooms at park/somewhere other than parking lot
- Better washrooms (5)
- Better washroom facilities, near parking
- Washrooms further in – closer to bridge
- Add more public washrooms – maybe at Yorath House space

Accessibility/Mobility

- Wheelchair access through BV, people have used park then want to continue when they have reduced mobility
- Trails for people with mobility issues
- Paved wheelchair loop in off leash area (accessibility (3)
- Make park (LP) space more accessible for disabled users
- Add access for seniors in LP
- Park access – park n' ride – parking and accessibility (2)

River Access

- Easier access from rivers edge to river trail
- Fishing pier
- Accessible to everyone – better water access (2)
- Wants man-made access to river edge

Boat Launch Area

- Public education/signage for use of boat launch. Educated the irresponsible boat users. Ie stunting
- Motorized water craft restricted
- Keep river along park boundaries natural use/make boats/seadoos quiet

Rowers / Paddlers Access/Facility

Buena Vista / Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park Master Plan Visioning Session (March 21, 2012)

What We Heard Report

- White water pad - want to use it more than current if better access
- Continue to use in future, want better access to water ramp is needed that isn't too steep – need flat
- Water site in front of white water clubhouse 100m long for use when river is too high/fast would expand ability to have lessons
- Rowing club – access to river
- Rowing club – expansion parking – boat storage (1)
- Water access – upgrade – rowers and paddlers (3)
- Rowing Club – open house needed
- 3 cross paths between TH, rowing club/paddlers to get to/from river – no designated path – no signage – more maintained esp. in winter (not paved but gravel)

Access Roads Maintenance / Traffic Management

- Traffic management on Buena Vista Road
- Concern- traffic on BV road with increased use
- Use of BV Road – danger for cyclers, travelling too fast creating a dangerous situation
- Better access road into rowing area – how its poorly maintained its rough and rutty
- Recognize conflict better in better roads & keeping natural
- Softer surface for roads, access roads
- Discussion about impact on park improvements impact on roads – zoo expansion – activities – speed bumps – on hill – slow traffic down on hill as entrance
- Need some sort of road maintenance in BV – road condition is bad.
- Road conditions improved
- Road
- Grading of road – spring
- Switch back near south is quite steep can't get through there easily
- Service vehicles – use principle trail
- Off road/off road vehicles
- Borrow pit – proper reclamation

Park Entrance

- Address entry and welcome to park
- Park entrance feature to distinguish the end of residential and entering the park
- Close road access in evening (gate like at Hawrelak)
- Gate park after 11 pm
- Roundabout at 132 street/BC road to add landscaping features, restrict car access

Buena Vista / Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park Master Plan Visioning Session (March 21, 2012)
What We Heard Report

APPENDIX D:

What should the project team keep in mind when developing the vision for Buena Vista / Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park?

Natural / Maintain what have

- Preserve what we've got, with a few tweaks
- No change for changes sake. If it isn't broke don't fix it.
- If it ain't broke – why fix it – build on the good things (2)
- Keeping it the way it is Maintain as is
- Maintain existing features
- Don't change a lot overall – leave it alone
- Existing uses are important; leave it way it is; little tweaks. More enviro practices but no big developments
- Users like it way it is
- Build on the good things we have (2)
- Not much that needs to change!
- Natural character – good feature
- Keep BV a natural area
- Leave as natural as possible
- Maintain naturalness of BV
- BV is a rare asset and don't want to lose it
- Recognizing LP as a specific park space for picnicking and families Leave the park in its semi-natural state
- Not like Hawrelak, keep it as close as possible to natural
- Keep the naturalness of it
- Feeling like you're not in a city
- Get away in the middle of the city
- Keep naturalized area
- Left in natural state by design and by neglect
- No thoughtless grooming
- Respect nature
- Experience nature
- Naturalization
- Maintain wild spaces/wildlife habitat (3)
- Access to the wildlife
- Maintain natural area corridors
- Walkers use natural areas
- Align the design to current uses – quantify
- Parks are for: nature, people, and domestic animals
- Climate change
- Maintain natural area and manicured park sites
- Natural/undeveloped – protect the natural vegetation
- Promote re-naturalization of lawn area at Buena Vista Road – add agility park
- Keep park natural
- Clean-up/make presentable/inviting
- Environmental import
- Respect the natural
- Natural plants – access to a place to experience nature
- Whole area – many of uses should be within - Master Plan – all of the needs are met
- Think about what we enjoy and make sure it is considered when making “improvements”
- A walk in the woods
- Mitigate bank erosion – rocks/trees - Cost?

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What We Heard Report

- What's the city's vision for the use of the river?
- No light! – dark skies
- Dark “I can see the sky”
- As natural as possible
 - Non-manicured
 - Undeveloped
 - Balance – man and nature
 - Minimize access to river – keep key points of access – no more dock etc. points added only clarify one main dog area at river edge.
- Incorporate into creating a national resource for the City
- Historical walk

Two Distinct Areas

- Recognize that there are two distinct areas
- Laurier vs Buena Vista – two distinct parks based upon usage
- Focus development to Laurier Park
- Maintain key features of individual parks – Laurier (picnic) – BV (5)
- Totally different uses in each park

Multiple Use / Zoning

- Multi-use
- Look at usage numbers and see if uses should be kept same/changed
- Usage numbers (80% dog walkers?) look at who uses it most – give those people priority
- Compatibility matrix to look at uses/conflicts
- Keep in mind unique blend of users in parks
- Careful look at usage “zoning” – time and space
- Multi-use doesn't mean everyone uses everywhere all the time
- Multi-use – existing multi-uses bikes on trails
- Respect the other users on site – rowing clubs – need a more distinctive boundary/indication
- Continuation of the uses that currently exist
- Enjoy the intermingling of different groups
- Communication between the different users; Mutual respect
- Space for every one – blend users
- All users must be acknowledged
- Really enjoy the diversity
- All different groups interact well
- Reduce conflicts between user groups (2)
- Multi-use: paddlers, runners, cyclists
- Managed as big picture/whole unit holistic system
- Respect between user groups
- Easy access throughout – connectivity into and through
- Connectivity
- Structural/organizational ways to manage interaction between users
- Future vision needs to recognize BV park as a multi-use area
- Recognize BV as pace for dogs off leash and for rowers
- Multi-use connectivity to trans-canada trail
- Connectivity to the rest of the city's trail (on West side of the city)
- Consider bike clubs and running clubs and their needs
- Highly used – make better – attract more people
- Hawrelak – how much traffic comes from Hawrelak, how much in the future
- Courtesy

Buena Vista / Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park Master Plan Visioning Session (March 21, 2012)

What We Heard Report

Add Amenities / Facilities

- Add amenities – e.g., outhouses
- Better amenities, but nothing fancy
- Increase use of park = better/more parking/amenities – new user need to understand what use
- Laurier – brought up to date for playgrounds
- Washroom facilities
- Washroom facilities (Yorath House?)
- Inappropriate washroom facilities in BV
- Move benches in higher area
- Maintain off trail access
- Washrooms/etc solar power, compost, recycle technology sensitive to environment
- Solar powered lights along BV trail parking lot
- No commercialization
- Less development is preferred

Parking / Roadway

- Need more parking – smaller localized lot
- Rationalize parking and limit vehicle use
- Look at sharing parking with Zoo
- Investigate potential for northern access parking and entrance
- Increase parking around off leash area to reduce pressure on rowing parking
- Roadway/parking access improvements (pot holes)
- Zoo parking usable for off leash/park users?
- Parking – to service all areas, centralized rather than into the site
- Parking Issue – open field adjacent to BV Rd. leave as informal parking as daily overflow parking
- More parking – overflow
- Fix the road – graded
- Capacity of BV road to more traffic?
- Smaller localized parking preferred over single large.
- Get rid of potholes on road coming in
- Gravel/natural parking lot, no asphalt
- More efficient parking as use increases (zoo too)
- Add parking in BV park on both sides of 132 Street
- Avoid taking out natural space for parking
- Need to look at new ways to add parking off of existing roadway eg. 132 street (both sides)
- Buena Vista Road – traffic will increase
- Public transit only seasonally

Signage

- Signage (2)
- Better signage
- Need better signage – more clear signage
- Not clear can't have off leash in rowing/Yorath area
- More signs – leashed areas, bike areas, rowing areas
- Signage – communication
- designate areas for existing users better to avoid conflict

Non-compatible / Conflicting Uses

- Balloon launches are not compatible with off-leash
- Separate dog use from rowing club and Yorath House patio
- River Trail – BV Rd to Ped Bridge shouldn't be off leash; need area to walk safely with kids

Buena Vista / Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park Master Plan Visioning Session (March 21, 2012)

What We Heard Report

- Children and families don't interact well with large dogs off-leash. Dogs also scare off wildlife
- Differentiate pathways for rowers and for dog walkers
- Improved route to water for dogs through rowing club
- Concern uses (existing/future_ of zoo and impacts on parks
- Safety issues – blind trail crossings – inappropriate night issues (1)

Paddlers / Rowers Access / Amenities

- Add a pond 100 yds x 50 yds just west of Edmonton White Water Paddlers Clubhouse (EWP)
- Small horseshoe shaped pond near paddler Kayaker area
- Improve access to river for (EWP) – gentle ramp instead of steep steps
- Gentler slope for Whitewater paddlers/rowers with trail bridge overtop (like Rossdale)
- Worries about Rowers carving out their own piece of park
- Rowing Club to have safety practices to ensure that they don't harm/hurt others
- See rowers relocate to developed portion of park (WL) due to current incompatible uses at current location (Rowers vs dog walkers) and allow older rower sites to revert to a natural area or relocate to south side of river (are boat houses/docks in the best spot for all users in the park?)
- Rowing cross on multi-use trail with bikes – sight lines
- Rowing- Athletic development component (adapture program – amputees)

River Access

- Create a more immediate access point to the water close to the entrance to the park
- Loves the beaches
- Dog – swept under dock with current – have imp. Access downstream from row launch

Off Leash Area / Amenities

- Love the dog park
- Keep off leash area/ dog walking area (2)
- Clearly define where off leash areas are
- North boundary – extend to the North McKinnon Ravine for dogs off-leash
- Expand off leash area to park boundary to preserved area of ribbon of green
- Determination of off-leash vs on-leash – education
- Dog training facility
- Open entire rivers edge to dogs-off-leash
- Anything along the river to continue to be off leash
- Remove on leash from MacKenzie to get to off-leash area
- Add a designated access for off leash area users through LP to river edge pathway
- Dog walkers need off leash area – don't remove
- Dark to walk dogs – need some light (dark sky technology)
- Better if fenced area for dogs to run around in
- Smaller controlled fenced area for service dogs
- POOP powered lights
- Leashing post at the toilets

No Dog Walking

- Take dog walking area away

Winter Use

- Cross country tracking along Laurier Park road – needs
- Incorporate a pond/skating rink
- More consideration for x-country skiing/snow showing – set tracks in winter
- Cross country ski in picnic area

Buena Vista / Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park Master Plan Visioning Session (March 21, 2012)

What We Heard Report

Yorath House

- Yorath House – no/minimal use
- History of site – educational signage etc.
- Children’s use in Yorath House – Scouts or similar organization
- Coffee shop for Yorath House
- Yorath: toilet, dog coffee house, facility for rentals, concession – small scale commercial venture – don’t add parking near the House
- Once YH is changed from res to public building, eg. Elevator, fire, etc.
- Who pays for new development – eg YH, boat upgrades?
- No commercial uses in YH
- Yorath – share history – education centre, kids areas, day camp
- Opportunity/ merit for retrofitting for arts/crafts/ display areas/ washrooms, meeting areas
- Yorath – education centre (not coffee) – day camps (nature based)
- Like the way it is, except Yorath needs a use – tie in with rec activities/activity groups already down there

Conflicting View

- Get rid of Yorath House and make more parking

Bylaw Enforcement

- Keep bikes on trails they are allowed
- Speed limits on trails for bikes
- Ability to enforce bylaw
- More enforcement
- Signage/enforcement of people using just off leash area and picking up after another
- By law enforcement
- Event parking/traffic congestion (2)
- Speed on entrance road (1)

Trails (conflicting views re: paved/not paved; mountain biking)

- Keep informal trails informal – don’t gravel the casual trails
- Respect the multi-use trail as part of the city wide network
- Hawrelak side paved – BV side not – disconnected
- Maybe pave part of main pathway to connect the two
- Use of park as commute route
- Giving recreational scene in Edmonton, more x-country ski trails/cycling paths
- Add connect to the new trail to the top of bank neighbourhood road
- Create open up a new trail for mountain bikers
- Don’t want to see a lot of mountain biking
- Nobody wants paved trails – but could add road crush to existing trails so that they are less muddy
- No paved trails

Park Entrance / Name

- Entrance – only 1 – need something to make it more representative of entering a park
- Integration of park entrances (1)
- Highlight 3 different areas upon entrance – BV/LP/zoo
- Hard to tell where to go if you’ve never been there before
- Hard for new users to find park when visiting first time
- Part of plan – parkland – road to traffic circle
- Park “feel” – as you access programming from Buena Vista Road
- Create more improved access in a roundabout
- Name the park – Buena Vista / Name officially Buena Vista and keep it natural

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What We Heard Report

Accessibility / Mobility

- Gravel path hard for roller blading/biking pushing strollers on when coming from Hawerlak Park
- Paved wheelchair access into park
- Improve handicapped access and handicapped area
- More accessible for moms with strollers and people on crutches

Boat Launch Area

- Recognize and keep most boatable space in the river for rowing and non-powered craft
- Launch area for non-powered and powered water crafts separate
- Add new designated access points to river beach area to avoid overuse of existing rowing club access
- Boat launch – courtesy notice that river is used by others (small-people-powered boats)
- Don't like motorized boats
- Education about quietness of park at boat launch
- On-water safety – boats interacting with other park users
- Access for non-motorized water crafts