



**CITY OF PRINCE ALBERT**  
**COMMUNITY SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

**AGENDA**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2022, 4:00 PM**  
**MAIN BOARDROOM, 2ND FLOOR, CITY HALL**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- 4.1 April 27, 2022 Community Services Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes for Approval (MIN 22-43)

**5. CORRESPONDENCE & DELEGATIONS**

**6. REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATION & COMMITTEES**

- 6.1 Little Red River Park Development Update (RPT 22-220)

Verbal Presentation: Timothy Yeaman, Parks and Opens Spaces Manager

- 6.2 Forestry Management Plan Update (RPT 22-221)

Verbal Presentation: Timothy Yeaman, Parks and Opens Spaces Manager

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**8. ADJOURNMENT**



City of  
**Prince Albert**

*MIN 22-43*

**MOTION:**

That the Minutes for the Community Services Advisory Committee Meeting held April 27, 2022, be taken as read and adopted.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Minutes



## CITY OF PRINCE ALBERT

### COMMUNITY SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

# MINUTES

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2022, 4:00 P.M.  
MAIN BOARDROOM, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR, CITY HALL**

PRESENT: Councillor Dennis Ogradnick  
Cathy Crane  
Diane Kopchynski  
Rose Rothenburger  
Rishi Sankhla  
Robin Wildey

Savannah Price, Secretary  
Jody Boulet, Director of Community Services

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Councillor Ogradnick, Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

#### **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

0017. **Moved by:** Sankhla

That the Agenda for this meeting be approved, as presented, and, that the presentations, delegations and speakers listed on the Agenda be heard when called forward by the Chair.

Absent: Councillor Tony Head, Landon Adams and Jordan Carriere

**CARRIED**

**3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

0018. **Moved by:** Rothenburger

That the Minutes for the Community Services Advisory Committee Regular Meeting held March 30, 2022, be taken as read and adopted.

Absent: Councillor Tony Head, Landon Adams and Jordan Carriere

**CARRIED**

**5. CORRESPONDENCE & DELEGATIONS**

**6. REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATION & COMMITTEES**

6.1 Friendship City Partnership with Thorey en Plaine – Update (RPT 22-127)

Verbal Presentation was provided by Judy MacLeod Campbell, Arts and Cultural Coordinator.

0019. **Moved by:** Wildey

That the following be forwarded to an upcoming Executive Committee meeting for consideration:

1. That the update on the Friendship City partnership with Thorey en Plaine, France be received as information and filed; and,
2. That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to sign the Charter on behalf of The City, once prepared.

Absent: Councillor Tony Head, Landon Adams and Jordan Carriere

**CARRIED**

6.2 Municipal Cultural Action Plan Update (RPT 22-161)

PowerPoint Presentation was provided by Judy MacLeod Campbell, Arts and Cultural Coordinator.

0020. **Moved by:** Sankhla

That the following be forwarded to an upcoming Executive Committee meeting for consideration:

That RPT 22-161 be received as information and filed.

Absent: Councillor Tony Head, Landon Adams and Jordan Carriere

**CARRIED**

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**8. ADJOURNMENT – 4:41 P.M.**

0021. **Moved by:** Wildey

That this Committee do now adjourn.

Absent: Councillor Tony Head, Landon Adams and Jordan Carriere

**CARRIED**

COUNCILLOR DENNIS OGRODNICK  
CHAIRPERSON

SAVANNAH PRICE  
SECRETARY

MINUTES ADOPTED THIS 25<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY, A.D. 2022.



***RPT 22-220***

**TITLE:** Little Red River Park Development Update

**DATE:** **May 13, 2022**

**TO:** Community Services Advisory Committee

**PUBLIC:** **X**

**INCAMERA:**

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the report be forwarded to the 2023 Budget Committee deliberations for consideration of the proposed 2023 initiatives.

**TOPIC & PURPOSE:**

To provide and update on current development within the park, approved plans for 2022 and the proposed initiatives for 2023 and 2024.

**BACKGROUND:**

Over the last few years there has been considerable headway on work to bring improvements to Little Red River Park which started with the development and adoption of the Little Red River Park Masterplan in 2019.

In the spring of 2019, the City of Prince Albert engaged HTFC and Oxbow Architect to create a Master Plan for Little Red River Park with a goal to address programming and infrastructure needs in the park.

Since the adoption of the Masterplan, the Community Services Department continues to revisit the document each operating year to ensure that goals for park improvements and programming aligns with the plan as well as the Community Services Masterplan. This in turn allows Community Services to review this information, identify priorities and consult on what those future costs may be to make the necessary improvements and bring that information in report form for further consideration.

This report will provide an update regarding what has been accomplished year-to-date, along with updates on partnerships, development opportunities and operational improvements related to the priorities outlined in the Little Red River Park Master Plan.

## **PROPOSED APPROACH AND RATIONALE:**

Little Red River Park is a natural urban park covering approximately 1,200 acres within the city limits of the City of Prince Albert. It is situated immediately north of the North Saskatchewan River. Prince Albert is fortunate to have such a large park in proximity to its urban core. A place of great natural beauty, Little Red River Park is of comparable size to Winnipeg's Assiniboine Park (1,100 acres) and Vancouver's Stanley Park (1,000 acres). At the confluence of the Spruce (Little Red) and North Saskatchewan Rivers, the park is ecologically contiguous to the Nisbet Provincial Forest. It is one of the series of parks along the North Saskatchewan River known collectively as the Pêhonân Parkway.

Although Little Red River Park does not serve as large an urban population as Winnipeg or Vancouver, Saskatchewan's park tourism has traditionally drawn visitors from the whole province, and not just the nearest urban centres. Because of its large size and natural setting, Little Red River Park has the opportunity to serve as an urban park while functioning similarly to a municipal or regional park, offering a broad range of potential visitor experiences. The site has offered appeal to people from across the province of Saskatchewan and Canada through the years, for a variety of human activities.

In 2019, HTFC Planning, Design, and Oxbow Architecture undertook the tasks of collecting data, engaging the local community, and analyzing findings on the park in order to offer recommendations for moving forward through a 10-year Master Plan. The purpose of the Master Plan is to guide future operations, development, partnerships, governance and funding of the park to ensure that it remains a valued place in the Prince Albert region.

Community Services will identify in this report the successes to date and will also provide a summary of priority work to be completed in 2022 based on prior budget approval. We will also highlight future recommendations as identified in the 'Stages of Development' report provided to Council in June of 2021 and Capital investment required under each stage to help accomplish these priorities.

### **2020 – 2021 priorities and improvements that have been accomplished:**

1. Contractor in place to supply services to the Cosmo Lodge (Knotty Pine Bistro)
2. Parks Department has taken responsibility for the day-to-day maintenance within the park, including but not limited to: Mowing, string trimming, garbage, pruning, daily checks thru out the park, snow removal, etc.
3. Improvements to the trail systems, ski hill, working in partnership with both the Prince Albert Nordic Ski Club and the Kinsmen Ski and Snowboard Centre Operator. Council's approval on a Bike Skills Park within Little Red River Park in partnership with the Rock 'N' Road Cycling Club.
4. Improvements to the signing of trails.
5. In House GIS support and partnership with Saskatchewan Polytechnic on development of an interactive trail map that is available on the City website.

6. Marketing initiatives to bring more awareness to the park through the New City Website and social media sites.
7. The Park also experienced a noticeable increase to the overall attendance.
8. Renewal of the Kinsmen Ski and Snowboard Center Operator Agreement
9. Development of formal Agreement with the Prince Albert Nordic Ski Club for the network of trails and Equipment.
10. Development of formal Agreement with the Rotary Club for the Rotary Adventure Park.
11. Fire Smart Management/Fuel Mitigation first year completion in 2021 under a 5-year agreement with the Saskatchewan Public Safety agency through a federal government cost share 60% City, Federal Government 40%
12. Internet connection has been brought to the Ski Hill and Cosmo Lodge but has proven not so reliable due to the low area the core are of the park sits. We have searched out other opportunities and technology in consultation with the IT Department and will be updating our service through the Star-link satellite platform in the coming weeks.
13. Fire hydrant connection near the bottom of the east toboggan hill has been completed with hopes of providing our own snow making services for the toboggan hill within 12-24 months.

### **2022 Priorities:**

- Installation of Rotary Adventure Park and Zip Line to begin construction towards the end of May.
  - Financial Commitment of \$1,200,000 broken down as follows:
    - \$520,000 Rotary Adventure Park (43%)
    - \$400,000 Malcom Jenkins Family Foundation (33%)
    - \$280,000 City of Prince Albert (23%)

Improvements will include but not be limited to a new adventure playground, adult work-out zone, ninja warrior challenge area, inclusive zip line, swings, four 100' zip lines, kids play zone, picnic tables, benches, animal proof garbage bins, fire pits, newly improved picnic shelter, lighting.

- Parking/roadway/lighting improvements to be completed:
  - Financial Commitment of \$146,750 broken down as follows:
    - Toboggan Hill – 66 stalls at a cost of \$25,000

- Existing large parking lot south of Cosmo Lodge – 47 stalls at a cost of \$34,000
- Cosmo Lodge parking – 38 stalls at a cost of \$17,750
- Parking Lot lighting improvements - \$70,000
- Develop a Resource Management and Emergency Preparedness Plan that encompasses the entire park, Kinsmen Ski Hill, Cosmo Lodge, user groups operating within the park during the four operating seasons. Consultation with all levels of emergency services, user groups will be required.
- Provide a report back to Council September 12 on the work and costs involved to accommodate the hosting of festivals and other major events within the upper plains area of the park. This is currently being reviewed as directed by resolution of Council as per Chester Fest 2022 (RPT 22-85).
- Three newly pre-fabricated bridges have now been set in place as of May 12 and the contractor will continue work to ensure all bridges are ready for public use in the coming weeks.
- Continue work with Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency and Prince Albert Fire Department to continue work on a wildfire management plan for Little Red River Park. The City is in a 5-year agreement with SPSA for Fire Smart Management/Fuel Mitigation Planning. Through this agreement the City has committed to \$153,900 over the 5-year period with a cost share structure as follows:

2022 – 60% City funding \$30,780	40% Federal \$20,250
2023 – 60% City funding \$30,780	40% Federal \$20,250
2024 – 60% City funding \$30,780	40% Federal \$20,250
2025 – 60% City funding \$30,780	40% Federal \$20,250

Total improvements committed through community partnerships, grants and City funding in 2022 - **\$2,977,530.00**

**2023 Priorities for budget consideration:**

1. New compostable toilets/washrooms through out the remainder of the park – an additional four handicapped accessible double jumbo toilet building units at approximately \$40,000 per unit for a total of approximately \$160,000.
2. A 16 X 24 warm-up shelter used in the park for four season programming and winter warm-up. This would be a green initiative with solar panels for lighting and electrical power, and a wood stove for heating purposes. Total projected cost for buildout would be \$50,000.

3. Once the Playground has been completed and amenities are in place, consideration for Playground Programming for Little Red River Park will be made.

Total improvements for consideration during 2023 budget deliberations - **\$210,000**

### **2024 Priorities:**

1. A new Ski Lift for the Kinsmen Ski and Snowboard Center. The current lift has approximately two maybe three years left and is nearing the end of life. Ski Lift options continue to be researched and what the costs around those options might be. Total cost for budget consideration in 2023 is around approximately \$150,000. Research continues on pricing and innovations within the market place for ski lifts.
2. Provide water service to Old Log Cabin, Cosmo Lodge, Toboggan Hill, and other areas as required. Public Works is working to bring improved water service thru the park connecting strategic points to a closed water system that will eventually make its way to out to the Airport. This closed water system will allow for potable water in the central core of the park and provide additional snow making opportunities.

Total Improvements for consideration during 2024 budget deliberations - **\$150,000 estimate**

By the end of 2024 the City would have accomplished the main core improvements for Little Red River Park as outlined above. These amenities and improvements are the first recommendations through the Little Red River Master Plan. We believe these are part of the core essentials of the park and add to the sustainability of services and programming while assisting with the function and flow of the park. Community services will continue to provide Council with future updates that outline continued sought out partnerships and future funding noting that the LRRP Masterplan has been put together as a living document to be reviewed year-to-year.

### **Operational Requirements:**

Community Services also recognizes that as we work to build out the core essentials of the park there will be a need for additional staffing support as the park sees a continued healthy increase in visitors. Over the past 24 months and specifically since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, parks and green spaces have seen big increases in usage and Little Red River Park is no stranger to that.

This pandemic has brought us to a shifting dynamic in Parks and Green Spaces highlighting how they have been viewed previously and now focuses on how they are being used and viewed as a result of the pandemic. In a 'Park People – Canada's City Park Network' article published July 16, 2020 a public survey was provided to select Canadian Cities to hear from Canadians on their use and perspectives on these areas and how they have been impacted by COVID-19.

The Survey results highlight that both municipal leaders and the public have developed a greater appreciation for parks and green spaces during the pandemic.

- Almost three-quarters (70%) of Canadians said their appreciation for parks and green spaces has increased during COVID-19.
- 94% of cities indicated they have seen increased awareness among municipal

leadership of the value of parks to public health and crises resiliency during COVID-19.

- 82% of Canadians said that these spaces have become more important to their mental health during COVID-19.
- Parks are having a significant impact on Canadians social well-being especially for those who live alone. While 38% of people who live with others said parks have become more important to their sense of social connection, this jumps to 47% for those who live alone.
- Over half (55%) of cities said park use has increased during COVID-19.
- Almost two-thirds of Canadians report they have been visiting parks at least several times a week.
- 87% of Canadians support increased spending on parks, park budgets are facing insecurity.
- Canadians are using green spaces closer to home during COVID-19.
- Canadians would like more access to public space, nature, and outdoor programming as part of COVID-19 recovery.
- Canadians are using parks to connect with nature during COVID-19.

Parks and greenspaces continue to see an increase in its user base highlighting the importance of maintaining those spaces and providing services to ensure that we meet standards and service delivery levels. Little Red River Park is no exception to this as we have seen a tremendous increase in activities as families and individual users look for those opportunities to recreate outdoors especially during the pandemic.

### **Other Equally Important Strategic Planning Considerations:**

Community services is committed to researching these other important considerations looking for innovative technology opportunities, funding partnerships, consultation and ongoing communication while considering the following.

*Security of Park thru fencing initiatives, gates deterring vehicular entry* – Security of the park has long been a concern with unwanted vehicular traffic and the challenges that come with securing a 1200+ Acre Park.

*Clearing of deadfall from river course* – The meandering course of the Spruce River (Little Red River) runs approximately 6.5 kilometres in total length from the point where it meets the northern boundary of the Park to the point where it spills into the North Saskatchewan River. Along this course, deadfall from the forested river edge has rendered this river course unnavigable, and indeed dangerous to watercraft. This represents a missed recreational opportunity.

Removal of this deadfall within the Park, will create an opportunity for canoe and kayak trips along the Little Red. This, in turn, if demand allows, opens up potential boat rental opportunities within the park.

*Internal Wayfinding and Boundary Demarcation* – Signage throughout the Park with discrete branding and graphic continuity will help to build a strong graphic identity for the Park and identify it as a unique and special place. Signage must be clear, unambiguous, multi-lingual, and employ best practices for universal design.

Signage should also clearly demarcate all park entrances and boundaries of the Park, it should be clear to visitors that they are entering the Park. Also in our efforts consideration should be given to lighting at the entrances to the park. There is currently no street lighting at either of

the Park entrances. This is a problem for both safety (perceived and actual) and wayfinding.

Reconciliation – Locations that once housed the local Dakota community including the cabins, roads and community hall as well as sacred spots have been identified. In the spirit of inclusivity and Reconciliation, there is an opportunity to work with Wahpeton and other local First Nations and Metis communities to build a gathering space for cultural events that bring together youth and Elders from indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

Improved transportation Too and Through the Park – Ideas such as extension of Prince Albert Transit Service to the Park with regular day-time service to Cosmopolitan Lodge would increase accessibility to the Park for those with limited transportation options. The new route could also service Glass Field Airport from the main Downtown transfer point at Central Avenue and 14<sup>th</sup> Street.

North Riverbank Trail System (Kiwanis Club) – In 1997 a capital project was undertaken by the City with financial support from the Prince Albert Kiwanis Club in the amount of \$17,500 and Nature Prince Albert and Saskatchewan Lotteries in the amount of a \$7000 grant to upgrade the self-guided nature trail system just North of the City and East of the Diefenbaker Bridge along highway 55 East. Today this 4.5 Kilometers of trail on the south side of highway 55 East is overgrown and inaccessible in many areas and would require planning and budgetary consideration to see it re-habilitated and serving as a natural guided experience by foot or bike to Little Red River Park.

Re-establishment of the Friends of Little Red River User Group – This group has served as an important voice for user groups at LRRP over the years with a direct line back to the Community Services Advisory Group. The group has been inactive for the last 15 months due to the Pandemic.

### **CONSULTATIONS:**

Extensive consultation was completed through the development of the Little Red River Park Master Plan.

The Department continues to work with the Rotary Club through the development of the Rotary Adventure Park.

Efforts to continue a consultative approach in the weeks and months ahead with park visitors, user groups, other key organizations and groups as outlined in the Little Red River Park will be key to ensuring continued success moving forward.

### **COMMUNICATION AND/OR ANNOUNCEMENT PLAN:**

Administration will continue to communicate internally with all departments involved as well as our Communications Department to ensure timely updates are provided to the public and user groups where necessary.

### **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS/IMPLICATIONS:**

There is no policy, financial, privacy implications or other considerations

**STRATEGIC PLAN:**

There are three (3) Strategic Goals related to the Community Services Master Plan supported here:

**Active & Caring Community:** The planning process has taken into account all feedback received by the public, user groups and stakeholder organizations.

**Sustainable Growth:** The planning process will identify recommendations that focus on priorities for the future with the understanding of available resources to implement any initiatives.

**Infrastructure:** The City will create infrastructure that supports growth while planning for continuous improvement.

**OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN:**

This report supports the Community Services Master Plan initiatives and addresses the goal of contributing to infrastructure and sustainability efforts through proper planning which can help preserve and maintain natural and built environments. Our connection to the natural world is important and must be considered in the delivery of community services.

**PUBLIC NOTICE:**

Public Notice pursuant to the Public Notice Bylaw No. 24 of 2015 is not required.

**PRESENTATION:**

Verbal - Timothy Yeaman, Parks and Open Spaces Manager

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Littel Red River Masterplan
2. Pathway 1
3. Pathway 2
4. Parking Pads
5. Parking Lot Stalls
6. Playground
7. Zipline
8. Picnic Shelter
9. Bridge Rendering

Written by: Timothy Yeaman, Parks and Open Spaces Manager

Approved by: Director of Community Services and City Manager



# LITTLE RED RIVER PARK

## Master Plan



City of  
**Prince  
Albert**



**HTFC**  
PLANNING & DESIGN

**OXBOW**  
ARCHITECTURE

May 2020

## **Acknowledgements**

The City of Prince Albert and the Consultant Team recognize that the Prince Albert and Little Red River Park are part of Treaty 6 Territory, the traditional lands of the Cree, Dene, Dakota, Saulteaux and Ojibwe peoples, and the homeland of the Métis Nation. We acknowledge, honour, respect, and give thanks to the peoples and traditions that have come before us.

The Consultant Team also wishes to acknowledge the help and participation of all of those that contributed to this plan, especially Tim Yeaman, Bruce Vance, Judy MacLeod-Campbell; the City of Prince Albert's Little Red River Park Technical Committee; Dr. Leo Omani and Elder Norma Green of Wahpeton Dakota Nation; the City of Prince Albert's Traditional Knowledge Keepers Committee; Friends of Little Red River Park; Michelle Taylor of the Prince Albert Historical Society; Noreen McBride and the Prince Albert Métis Women's Association; Nathan Stregger of the Kinsmen Ski and Snowboard Centre; Mike Horn from the Prince Albert Nordic Ski Club and Pine Needle Mountain Bike and Music Festival; and Dr. Merle Massie.

The team extends a heartfelt thank you to all of the committed and enthusiastic City of Prince Albert staff, and the kind and welcoming residents of Prince Albert and District who have helped to shape this vision for Little Red River Park.

# **Little Red River Park Master Plan**

prepared for the City of Prince Albert  
Community Services Department  
Tim Yeaman, Parks Director

by HTFC Planning & Design and Oxbow Architecture

## **Consultant Team**

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May 2020





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***“Prince Albert is one of the more fortunate cities in North America to have an area such as the Red River Park. It has been established that its surface and sub strata are unique for Central Saskatchewan and the area has both historical and nature interpretive significance.”***

- O.K. Aschim, Chairman of Prince Albert Parks and Recreation,  
Nature Interpretation Committee, 1972.



# Executive Summary

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Little Red River Park covers approximately 7% of the footprint of the City of Prince Albert. Its ecological, recreational, and cultural importance to the region cannot be overstated. Its exemplary biodiversity, extensive network of trails and recreation facilities, scenic beauty, and historic significance for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, make Little Red River Park a hidden gem in the vast landscape of Saskatchewan.

Recognizing the need to protect this natural treasure, the City of Prince Albert, acting on a direction laid out in the Community Services Master Plan, commissioned this Master Plan for Little Red River Park. This document is the result of an engaging process of listening – to the people of Prince Albert and district, those that use the park regularly, and indeed the land and water themselves – to determine a direction forward.

## 1.1. Process

The first step to creating this Master Plan was data gathering, which included:

- An examination of the history of the site;
- An inventory and analysis of the site and its operations;
- Engagement with park users and the general public;
- Engagement with Indigenous communities; and
- Reviewing existing planning documents, standards and frameworks;

From there, the process moved on to thoughtful consideration of the foundations on which to base the Plan by:

- Identifying the Goals of the Plan;
- Generating a Mission and Identity Statement;
- Devising a set of Guiding Principles.

The data gathered in the first step was then examined against the foundations in the second step, and a master list of recommendations was developed, leading to a Renewal Plan. From this plan, a Strategic Action Plan was laid out to determine a course for implementing the recommendations through achievable phases.

The process was rounded out by a Financial Analysis of the Plan and identification of potential partnerships and sources of funding for completion of the Strategic Directions.

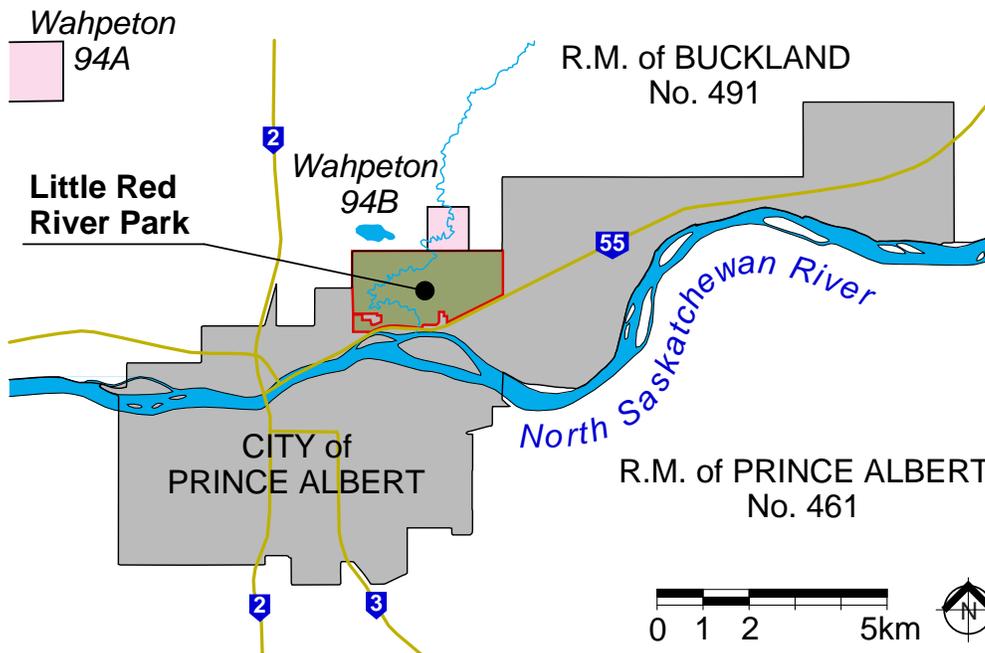


Figure 1. Location of Little Red River Park

## 1.2. Foundations

### Goals and Objectives

The Little Red River Park Master Plan aims to:

1. Build a comprehensive current overview and inventory of the Park.
2. Listen to stakeholders and rights-holders;
3. Develop a 10-year vision for the Park.

### Mission and Identity Statement

Little Red River Park strives to be a place where healthy relationships with the land and the community are promoted and nurtured. It is a place where conservation of natural systems and heritage resources are balanced with recreation and cultural amenities, and programming to enhance the quality of life for Prince Albert and District residents, as well as providing a destination for visitors to the city and region. It is a place for Prince Albert to demonstrate its commitment to the education, growth, health and wellness of its citizens by providing recreational and learning opportunities in a natural setting, and programming for youth to foster sustainable values for current and future generations.

This is achieved through Learning, Healing, and Doing by:

- Providing opportunities for land-based learning to nurture the **MIND**.
- Providing for places and ceremonies to promote healing of the **SPIRIT**.
- Encouraging activities to promote healthy lifestyles, to promote honouring the **BODY**.

## **Guiding Principles**

Little Red River Park is a place that:

- Ensures resources in the Park are inclusive and accessible to all;
- Conserves natural and heritage resources;
- Tells the truth; tells the story of Prince Albert;
- Reconciles the past with the future; and
- Encourages public participation in decision-making with listening as a key tool.

### **1.3. Key Strategies**

1. Invest in repairs to meet safety and accessibility requirements.
2. Implement a governance model that provides a single point of contact for the Park, allows access to private funding opportunities, and establishes a clear system for managing programs and facilities.
3. Commission feasibility studies, branding and wayfinding packages, and engineering reviews in anticipation of major improvement projects.
4. Commit to seeking sources of revenue and establishing partnerships that can offset capital and operating costs.
5. Work persistently at enhancement projects, keeping the public and park users well informed, and give opportunities for public input where appropriate.
6. Construct and operate Little Red River Park in a manner that is economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable, and embraces new partnerships and innovation.
7. Assess successes and monitor progress each year of the ten-year process to determine the best course of action for full implementation. This may require adjustments to the Strategic Directions as the Plan progresses.

### **1.4. Measuring Success**

Each project undertaken as part of this Master Plan must be scrutinized through a Development Review Process to ensure that it meets the following criteria prior to full implementation:

1. It meets the foundations of the Plan.
2. It is environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable.
3. Full public consultation, including with Indigenous communities, has been undertaken and concerns are addressed to a satisfactory level.
4. It adheres to the principles and policies of local plans and by-laws.
5. It follows the provincial and national standards.





## Project Background

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### 2.1. Introduction

Little Red River Park is a natural urban park covering approximately 1,200 acres within the city limits of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. It is situated immediately north of the North Saskatchewan River. Prince Albert is fortunate to have such a large park in proximity to its urban core. A place of great natural beauty, Little Red River Park is of comparable size to Winnipeg's Assiniboine Park (1,100 acres) and Vancouver's Stanley Park (1,000 acres).

At the confluence of the Spruce (Little Red) and North Saskatchewan Rivers, the Park is ecologically contiguous to the Nisbet Provincial Forest. It is one of the series of parks along the North Saskatchewan River known collectively as the *Pêhonân Parkway*.

Although Little Red River Park (the Park) does not serve as large an urban population as Winnipeg or Vancouver, Saskatchewan's park tourism has traditionally drawn visitors from the whole province, and not just the nearest urban centres. Because of its large size and natural setting, Little Red River Park has the opportunity to serve as an urban park while functioning similarly to a municipal or regional park, offering a broad range of potential visitor experiences. The site has offered appeal to people from across Saskatchewan and Canada, through thousands of years, for a variety of human activities.

In 2019, HTFC Planning & Design and Oxbow Architecture (the Consultant Team) undertook the tasks of collecting data, engaging the local community, and analyzing findings on the Park in order to offer recommendations for moving forward through a 10-year Master Plan. The purpose of this Master Plan is to guide future operations, development, partnerships, governance and funding of the Park to ensure that it remains a valued place in the Prince Albert region, and that it might become an example of a successfully operated and maintained urban public space.

Throughout the data-gathering phase of this project, both the Consultant Team and the City of Prince Albert have recognized the importance of the site's history to informing the process of creating a Master Plan for the Park. As the project progresses, this history continues to expand and become more comprehensive. This, along with the other factors outlined in Figure 2, lay out a framework for guiding this process.



Figure 2. Master Plan Process

## 2.2. Historic Context

The site of Little Red River Park has been a meeting place (*Kistahpinanihk*) for Saskatchewan First Nations for many hundreds of years.<sup>1</sup> Located on the forest edge, it sits in the ecotone between Saskatchewan's two major ecoregions: the prairie and boreal forest. According to ecological historian Merle Massie, First Nations "people chose to live near – or to create – ecological edges in order to exploit the resources of more than one biome and promote economic resilience and health. Those who resided at or near ecological edges usually exhibited high levels of cultural interaction that promote the exchange of knowledge, technologies, and resources in such a way as to increase the adaptive repertoire available to any one group."<sup>2</sup> It is for this reason – the diversity and shelter offered by the edge condition biome – that, to the Cree People, the Prince Albert area was known as 'the Good Wintering Place.'<sup>3</sup>

Within the forest prairie edge biome, and within Little Red River Park, the alluvial plain at the exit point of the river, as well as the upper plains on both sides of the river, served as a major gathering site. Although there have been no official archaeological investigations within the Park to date, and an archaeological survey was not included within the scope of work of this project, evidence exists, both physically, and in oral tradition and written reference, to suggest that the area of the Park is likely to contain a rich repository of archaeological artifacts.

In the 1860s and 1870s, Dakota families who had visited and used the region as part of their traditional territory moved more permanently into the area following unrest in the United States. A small village formed on the alluvial plains and upper plains of Little Red River, accessing both high ground and fresh water. While some of these families left during the struggles of the 1885 Resistance, others stayed. Recognizing the important connection to place, the Wahpeton Dakota people won Crown recognition through the creation of Wahpeton Reserve 94B in 1917, adjacent to the north boundary of today's Little Red River Park.

*Kistahpinanihk, the Cree word for "a gathering place," is embraced as an important 'term' and 'identifier' as it helps to qualify the community's distinct sense of place by expressing the dynamics of multiculturalism, pluralism and cosmopolitanism practiced from pre-settler to modern times. Today, the community is considered a meeting place for northern communities – and a significant regional city in the Province. Kistahpinanihk has also been adopted as the name of Prince Albert's Official Community Plan.*

- from Section 5: Prince Albert's Culture Themes, Goals and Actions, City of Prince Albert Municipal Cultural Action Plan (2016).

As an indication of the Dakota connection to this place, the origin of its place name should be mentioned, for the name 'Little Red' is said to relate to a significant event in Dakota history:

Now, why did we call Wahpeton Reserve #94B, the Little Red Reserve? We knew the small river that flows past that reserve as *Wakpa Sa Ci'stin'na*. It was said by our older Dakota relatives, long ago (*enhanna*) this is where our ancestors had a big fight with (the) *Zu'zu'he'ce'dan* (Gros Ventre). They said the *Zu'zu'he'ce'dan* attacked our campsite early in the morning, the one on the plateau above that now known as the Cosmo Lodge in Little Red River Park, across the river from the City of Prince Albert. While our ancestors pushed the *Zu'zu'he'ce'dan* back towards the North Saskatchewan River, where the *Zu'zu'he'ce'dan* had left their canoes, many died on both sides (and much blood was spilled). This is why our older Dakota relatives said the river was named *Wakpa Sa Ci'stin'na*, which means Little Red River.<sup>4</sup>

Throughout the years, the area of the Park has become a centre for many local Indigenous cultural practices, including a sweat lodge located on the upper plains, which was used throughout the 20th century; and as a picnic site for various Indigenous cultural and political groups. More recent gatherings have been hosted by the Prince Albert Métis Women's Association, which include Elders lunches, First Nations craft and language workshops, and bingo for seniors.

Although most of the Wahpeton First Nation now lives on their original site, 94A, not all of the Dakota moved there when it was established in 1894. A small group remained in the village at the site of Little Red River Park. In 1912 members of this group were moved half a mile north of this location, due to pressure from the private landowners, likely because of financial incentives by a land boom that was underway at the time.

This parcel of land was eventually set aside for Wahpeton in 1917 and is referred to as 94B. This land adjacent to Little Red River Park remains an important part of the Dakota community. An historic mass grave is located at 94B, where victims of the Spanish Flu were buried during 1917-18, a time when the Wahpeton population was decimated, reduced from 300 to less than 30 people. The 94B site is also home to a healing lodge, administrative offices, and community gatherings. Both 94B and the site of the historic village within Little Red River Park have important cultural significance to the Wahpeton First Nation and are considered sacred ground.

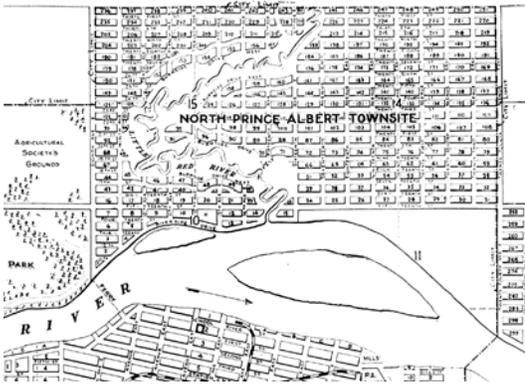
Beginning in the 1880s, Prince Albert's lumber industry began to grow. Several townships north of the river were withdrawn from development or lumbering, so the lumber and cordwood industries began about six miles out from the river edge. Prince Albert homeowners grumbled about having to drive so far to cut cordwood for their wood stoves.

Lumber companies working northern timber berths would float logs down both the Shell/Sturgeon and Little Red Rivers to the mills at Prince Albert. Little Red would often experience low water, with logs jamming and unable to be floated downstream. Lumber companies would build temporary dams near what would become Prince Albert National Park, to build up a large flow of water to burst the logs downstream. Floating cookshacks floated behind the log drivers downstream to Prince Albert.



As Prince Albert grew, Little Red River became a favourite recreational space for Prince Albert residents and visitors. Canadian author L.M. Montgomery (famous for her *Anne of Green Gables* and *Emily* series of books) stayed with her father in Prince Albert in 1890-1891. She and friends rowed across the North Saskatchewan River to Little Red River Park for a berry picking day trip. She was enchanted. In her diary, she recorded:

What a wilderness it was! Steep banks covered with mighty, heaven-sweeping pines, weird with age: below, a thick undergrowth of poplar through which we forced our way to a most romantic little spot where nature ran riot in untrained luxuriance....



Prince Albert plan, 1912 (PAHS)

In 1912, the city of Prince Albert embarked on an ambitious hydroelectric project, the LaColle Falls Hydroelectric Project, hoping to become a centre of industry and commerce. During this time, and perhaps under the suggestion of the Toronto urban planning firm E.A. James and T. Aird Murray, the City of Prince Albert considered developing the area into residential housing. The area of the Park can be seen divided into suburban residential lots in a plan from this era. The plan for the hydroelectric dam was never completed, abandoned because of the city's financial woes, along with the onset of war. The land that was Little Red River Park was spared from suburban residential development.



Choir picnic, 1923. (PAHS)

By the 1920s, Little Red River Park had settled into its new role as a day trip destination for Prince Albert residents. A swinging bridge was added to its enticements. In 1930, the Prince Albert Sanatorium was built to house and treat tuberculosis patients. Its situation amongst the pines was thought to help bring healing to patients.



Ski jump. 1940

Ski jump fever took the city by storm and by the 1940's, a major ski jump and hill was constructed on the convenient slopes of the Little Red River, in the place where today the Kinsmen Ski and Snowboard Centre hill operates during the winter. In 1947-48, the provincial ski jumping competition was held at Little Red River Park.<sup>5</sup> While daredevils leapt, children flocked to the toboggan hill, which has since become a fixture in the Park.



The healing and supportive powers of the pines for tuberculosis patients suggested that Little Red River Park might be a good place to situate Saskatchewan's new female

correctional centre, Pine Grove, built in 1965. Though the sanatorium was closed and later torn down in 1988, Pine Grove remains a critical provincial facility serving an important role in Crown policy. It is situated near the Park's shared east entrance road. Pine Grove overlooks some of the Park's most impressive and ecologically important high banks.

In the 1970s, a proposal was put forward to the provincial government to convert the Park to the Little Red River Regional Park, including the central development of a new and expanded ski hill on the plateau north and east of Cosmopolitan Lodge. According to newspaper accounts from the time, ski hill development was to include a significant addition to the existing slope, to increase the length of the ski runs. Newspaper accounts from this time include the suggestion that garbage be used to add to the height of the riverbank. This proposal faced opposition from within the community, who feared that the threats to the natural and cultural assets of the Park would mean the permanent loss of some of these features.

A summary of letters exchanged between archaeologists, historians, and environmentalists with the Province of Saskatchewan (Department of Tourism & Renewable Resources) from this time show concern for the loss of any of the fragile natural habitat ('the park is a botanist's dream, it grows most of the plants that are to be found in the province'<sup>6</sup>) and important archaeological remains. Although a thorough archaeological study has never been undertaken, the remains of the historic Dakota village are still visible to the informed eye. As well as this important feature, there may also be remains from earlier First Nations settlements and encampments, as well as from post-contact history. A letter from Ian G. Dyck, Archaeologist, also mentioned 'there is rumoured to be a late 1700's fur trade fort on the Little Red River that has not been exactly located. It, too, may be on the plateau within the Park.'<sup>7</sup>

### 2.3. Previous Master Plan

Little Red River Park comprised the largest contiguous part of the study area of the *Prince Albert River Valley Park 20 Year Master Plan (2004)*. This plan provided a number of recommendations for improvements to Little Red River Park, including:

- Upgrades to Cosmopolitan Place;
- Rationalization of trails;
- Roadway improvements and/or re-alignments;
- Tourism-oriented development in the old Sanitorium site (referred to as North Park);
- A festival site in the eastern upper plains;
- A large group picnicking site on the east end of the western upper plains;
- Several picnic sites along the trails north of the Spruce River; and
- Trail and canoe/kayak access to the small island to the south of the highway.

Some of the recommendations laid out in the 2004 Master Plan have been implemented to some degree. Improvements to trails, including addition of lighting to the River Trail; upgrades to Cosmopolitan Place; and use of the Park for festival events have taken place since 2004. Many of these improvements have been led and funded, at least in part, by the user groups and contractors who have acted as stewards of Little Red River Park over the years.

The 2004 Master Plan also recommended the relocation/expropriation of the Pine Grove Correctional Centre, Prince Albert Youth Residence, as well as the residential properties south of the Sanitorium site, in order to convert those parcels to a land use that is more compatible with the Park. While it would open up the possibilities of creating continuity between the Sanitorium site and the rest of the Park, the Consultant Team recognizes this as an impractical and cost prohibitive undertaking. Instead, acknowledging that this does present a constraint to the planning process, and potentially an opportunity for partnership, a more pragmatic approach to addressing this issue is recommended.

Overall, the 2004 Master Plan advocated for an approach that is “about conservation and enhancement as opposed to ‘development’ *per se*,” which is a sentiment that is generally brought forward in this current Master Plan.

## 2.4. The Need for a Master Plan

The *Community Services Master Plan* (2018) called for the development of a master plan for Little Red River Park as one of its strategic directions. The public engagement process for the *Community Services Master Plan* indicated that approximately 67% of households used the facilities at Little Red at least once during the previous year.<sup>8</sup>

All previous master plans that included Little Red River Park looked at a much broader study area, but considering the footprint of the Park and its importance to the citizens of Prince Albert and district, it is important to undertake a master plan specific to the Park itself. With the 20-year mark approaching since the release of the 2004 River Valley Master Plan, the Little Red River Park Master Plan is well timed.



Photo Credit: Prince Albert Ski Club





## Goals and Objectives

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### 3.1. Goals of this Plan

The aim of this master planning process is to assess the state of the Park, develop a vision for its future, and consider the appropriate steps towards planning for its long-term health, so that it may continue to be a place the community cherishes for years to come.

The need to address maintenance and capital improvements at Little Red River Park led to the proposal for a Master Plan, to help direct the future of the Park. Master plans are tools that help reference the future of management and development decisions for the Park, collectively compiling the community's wishes for the future while referencing best practices informed by solid research and a thorough understanding of the site.

The objectives of the Little Red River Park Master Plan are:

- 1) To build a comprehensive current overview and inventory of the Park.
- 2) To listen to stakeholders and rights-holders.
- 3) To develop the 10-year vision for the Park.

This Master Plan includes:

- Synthesis of comprehensive overview, including identifying opportunities for new development, facilities, and partners;
- Analysis of community-based input, including opportunities for cultural and recreational programming, heritage and ecology programming; and desired services;
- Linking and leveraging current uses with future opportunities, trends, and partners, including developing operating strategies and policies for current and future facilities;
- Linking and leveraging the Little Red River Park Master Plan with other City of Prince Albert plans, including the *Municipal Cultural Action Plan*, the *Community Services Master Plan*, and others;
- Prioritization, ranking, and linking of each Master Plan recommendation (needs, demands, potential directions) and long-range planning guidelines to responsible entities (City, private, non-profit, commercial), with timelines, financial requirements (where feasible), partnerships, and potential granting agencies;
- A conceptual Park Renewal Plan showcasing existing and potential future infrastructure development and biophysical overview.



### 3.2. Mission and Identity Statement

Little Red River Park strives to be a place where healthy relationships with the land and the community are promoted and nurtured. It is a place where conservation of natural systems and heritage resources are balanced with recreation and cultural amenities, and programming to enhance the quality of life for Prince Albert and District residents, as well as providing a destination for visitors to the city and region. It is a place for Prince Albert to demonstrate its commitment to the education, growth, health and wellness of its citizens by providing recreational and learning opportunities in a natural setting, and programming for youth to foster sustainable values for current and future generations.

This is achieved through Learning, Healing, and Doing by:

- Providing opportunities for land-based learning to nurture the **MIND**.
- Providing for places and ceremonies to promote healing of the **SPIRIT**.
- Encouraging activities to promote healthy lifestyles, to promote honouring the **BODY**.

### 3.3. Guiding Principles

The Consultant Team has developed this Master Plan guided by the following principles.

Little Red River Park is a place that:

- Ensures resources in the Park are inclusive and accessible to all;
- Conserves natural and heritage resources;
- Tells the truth; tells the story of Prince Albert;
- Reconciles the past with the future; and
- Encourages public participation in decision-making with listening as a key tool.



## Inventory & Analysis

In the opening stages of the Master Plan process, the Consultant Team undertook an extensive review of documents pertaining to Little Red River Park. This included a review of City, Provincial and Federal plans and policies, historic accounts and photographs, existing plans, maps and air photos, and online resources such as *Prince Albert Now* articles, websites and social media pages.

Over three days in May 2019, the Consultant Team visited the Park and gathered data, covering the extents of the site on foot, bicycle and vehicle. GIS (Geographical Information Systems), GPS (Global Positioning Systems), and mobile device technology along with digital photography was employed to document features and sites throughout this expansive park.

During this visit and subsequent visits data was also gathered through the public engagement process (see Chapter 5.0).

### 4.1. Planning Context

Along with presenting its own vision, goals, mission and guiding principles, in developing this Master Plan, it is important to ensure that the strategies listed herein concord with the City's and District's other planning documents. At all stages of implementation of the recommendations presented, these plans should be referenced and crosschecked to ensure compliance. If clashes do occur, careful thought should be given to amending the appropriate document to ensure values are consistent.

#### 4.1.1. Alignment with Existing Plans and Policies

This Master Plan should act as part of a total package with the following documents. For each plan, the relevant sections, strategies and policies are listed for reference.

#### 4.1.1.1. **Kistahpinanihk – Official Community Plan**

*Kistahpinanihk-2035* (Bylaw No. 21 of 2015) “provides the comprehensive policy framework to guide the physical, environmental, economic, social and cultural development of the City.”<sup>9</sup> This Official Community Plan touches on many important aspects of Prince Albert’s future growth.

Among the sections of the plan that relate to Little Red River Park and improvements and developments therein are:

- Section 5: Sustainability
- Section 6: Land Use
  - 6.7 Parks and Environmental
- Section 9: Parks, Recreation and Natural Areas; and
- Section 10: Environment.

#### 4.1.1.2. **PA Planning District Official Community Plan**

*The Prince Albert Planning District Official Community Plan (2018)* lays out the following Regional Goals in Chapter 2:

- Environment and Heritage/Cultural Preservation:
  - Recognize the potential impacts of flooding, erosion and slope stability on development and municipal infrastructure.
  - Provide ongoing opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy and appreciate the environmental, cultural and heritage resources in the region.
  - Conserve significant cultural and heritage resources.

Other chapters in the Plan most pertinent to Little Red River Park include:

- Chapter 6: Environmental and Cultural Resources;
- Chapter 7: Hazard Lands;
- Chapter 8: Transportation and Servicing Policy;
- Chapter 9: Inter-Municipal Co-operation;
- Chapter 10: First Nations; and
- Chapter 11: Plan Implementation

Like its municipal counterpart, this Official Community Plan has a comprehensive focus that touches on all aspects of life in the region.

#### 4.1.1.3. Community Services Master Plan

The City of Prince Albert's *Community Services Master Plan* (2018) (CSMP) has as one of its strategic directions "to develop a master plan for Little Red River Park;" recognizing the importance of this park to the health of Prince Albert. The commissioning of this Little Red River Park Master Plan is a testament to the City's commitment to following the recommendations laid out in the Community Services Master Plan.

Beyond this very specific direction, the CSMP aligns with the values put forward in the Little Red River Master Plan, with a focus on well-being and sustainability.

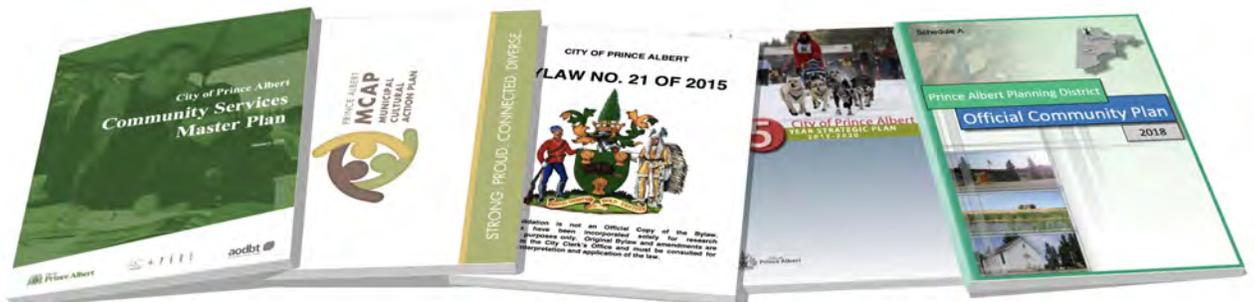
Some of the other congruent directions that are promoted through the CSMP include:

- Developing partnerships;
- Enhancing support;
- Addressing gaps;
- Engaging the community; and
- Promoting opportunities and the benefits of recreation.

The Plan also prioritizes outdoor facilities, multi-use trails, natural areas/ open spaces, toboggan hills, campgrounds, and cross-country skiing/ running trails, all of which the Little Red River Master Plan addresses.

#### 4.1.1.4. Municipal Cultural Action Plan

*The Municipal Cultural Action Plan* (2016) (MCAP) touts Little Red River Park and the Pêhonân Parkway as a place that "provides residents and visitors alike an opportunity to connect with the natural environment."<sup>10</sup>



Four of the MCAP's Strategic Actions call for improvements that relate to the Park or align with the goals of this Plan, either directly or indirectly:

- 2.3: Incorporate historical and cultural landmarks to enhance and celebrate neighbourhoods and to draw tourism, interest, and cultural learnings;
- 2.4: Complete the Rotary Trail system to link to Little Red River Park;
- 2.5: Focus attention on Little Red River Park as a cultural asset to the community;
- 3.1: Celebrate, support, and promote Prince Albert's rich Indigenous history and makeup.

The MCAP also lists as one of its cultural goals to “support and celebrate the value of sports and recreational programming, activities, and initiatives and the role they play in enhancing Prince Albert's cultural identity and make-up.”

Some of the recommendations in the appendix of the MCAP also closely align with those laid out in Chapter 6.0 of this Plan.

#### **4.1.1.5. Recreation Facilities and Parks By-Law**

*Bylaw No. 13 of 2018* pertains to recreation and parks. It defines roles and responsibilities, and regulates activities within that scope. As it relates to Little Red River Park, amendments to the bylaw may be required depending upon the governance model that is implemented for the Park. For example, it may become necessary to define a new role for a Park Manager or Executive Director as well as list responsibilities for that position.

It should also be noted, in relation to trails, that this bylaw recognizes it as an offence if any person “develops new trails, pathways or other passages which may distribute or destroy the material landscape or vegetation without written consent of the Director.” This clause is important for the protection of the integrity of the Park's environment. It may become necessary to further develop restrictions such as this, within this bylaw, depending on any designations the Park might obtain through the implementation of this Master Plan.

#### 4.1.1.6. **Prince Albert Strategic Action Plan (2015-2020)**

The City's Strategic Action Plan is nearing the end of its term, but its vision, mission, core values, operational themes and strategic goals all very much align with those of this Master Plan. Encouraging entrepreneurship, being innovative, being inclusive, developing sustainably, being accountable and transparent, working collaboratively, and striving for excellence are at the heart of both of these Plans.

A renewal of the Prince Albert Strategic Action Plan must consider and incorporate the Strategic Directions of the Little Red River Master Plan to cement its implementation to the broader strategies for the City of Prince Albert.

#### 4.1.2. **Provincial and National Guidelines**

Within the past five years, several new action plans, frameworks, networks, and guidelines for parks and recreation have been issued, both provincially and nationally. The principles within these plans have helped to inform recommendations for this Master Plan and should also be cross-referenced often throughout the implementation of this plan.

##### **Saskatchewan**

- Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association:
  - *2014 – 2019 Strategic Plan*;
  - *Recreation and the Quality of Life in Saskatchewan* (2016);
  - *Eat Healthy Play Healthy*.
- SaskCulture:
  - *2015 – 2019 Strategic Plan*;
- Sask Sport Inc.:
  - *Sport Development Strategic Plan 2017 – 2021*.
- Saskatchewan in Motion:
  - *Active Saskatchewan*;
  - *2019 – 2022 Active Saskatchewan Strategic Plan*.
- SaskOutdoors – Saskatchewan Outdoor Environmental Education Association.

## Canada

- Parks Canada:
  - *Parks for All : an Action Plan for Canada's Parks Community* (2017);
- Joint Initiative of the Interprovincial Sport and Recreation Council and the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association:
  - *A Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015 : Pathways to Wellbeing*;
- Government of Canada (and provincial and territorial governments):
  - *Let's Get Moving : A Common Vision for Increasing Physical Activity and Reducing Sedentary Living in Canada* (2018).
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: *Calls to Action*;

## 4.2. General River Valley Description

The Spruce River or Little Red River as it is traditionally known, is one of three major tributaries within the North Saskatchewan River catchment basin, near the forks of the North and South Saskatchewan Rivers, along with the Sturgeon and Garden Rivers. Water from this system – the source of which is north of the site near Prince Albert National Park – eventually flows out to Hudson’s Bay.

The land that forms the Little Red River valley is rich with diverse flora and fauna, rolling topography, and scenic beauty. Its meandering watercourse has carved out the sandy land to create habitat for life forms of all sizes from tiny microorganisms to tall trees. The valley is a living laboratory of the prairie-boreal ecotone.

### Hydrology

As the ice from the last Ice Age receded, water shaped the land. The erosion and deposition processes of the muddy Little Red River (*Wakpa Sa Ci’stin’na* in the Dakota language) snaked its way down the land from its source, southward to the great north tributary of the Saskatchewan River (*Kisiskâciwanisîpiy* in the Nêhiyawêwin language). The soil deposited along the shores created the perfect conditions for the development of mixedwood forest, and as it pushed through to the lowlands, it carved away the soft, sandy cliffs of the uplands, before entering a flat plain and joining the larger stream.



As bends in the meandering river tightened, the water began to find new routes, and several oxbows in the watercourse eventually broke away forming lakes and sloughs whose waters would become still, spawning new habitats.

Flooding, both from spring meltwater runoff and from human activity, affects the river valley annually, contributing to bank erosion and silt deposition, especially in the alluvial plain near the mouth of the Little Red River. In the summer, as the basin drains, and the hot air contributes to evaporation, the water level returns to its normal.<sup>11</sup> In the wintertime, all of the waters freeze solid, and the cycle begins again.

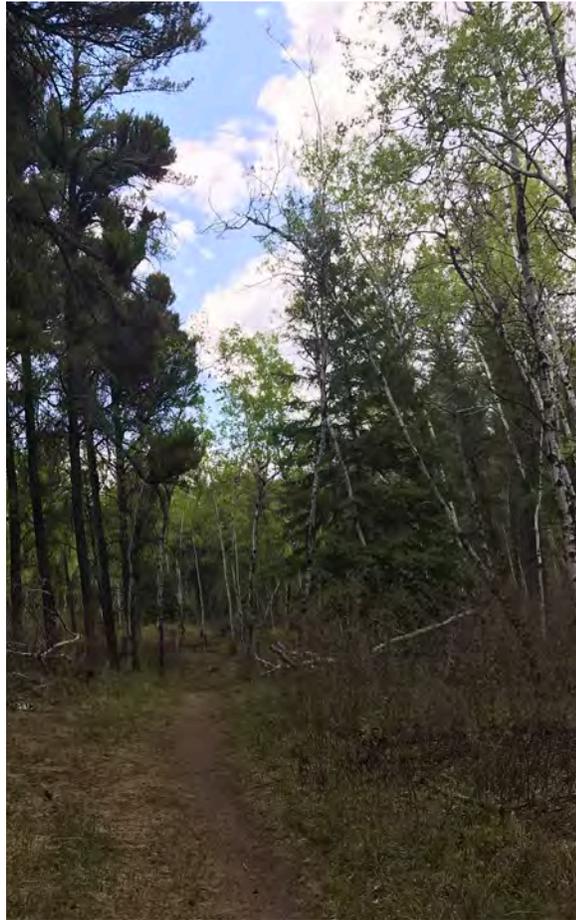
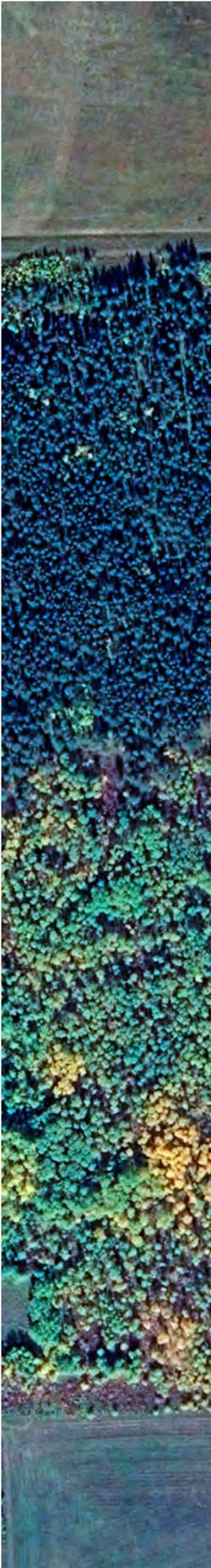
### Topography and Soils

The parent material within the region of the forks of the North and South Saskatchewan Rivers is made up of glaciofluvial rock – boulders, sand, silt and clay – deposited as glaciers receded and formed Glacial Lake Saskatchewan. As a result, large deposits of sand and gravel can be found throughout the Spruce River Valley, where the soil is predominantly categorized as brunisolic. Other soil types within the valley include chernozemic (near the prairie-boreal transition), gleysolic (in wet areas such as Kristi Slough), organic (deep peaty pockets), and luvisolic (in forested areas).<sup>12</sup>

This sandy composition is clearly visible in the eroding hills along the river's edge within Little Red River Park. These steep walls are contrasted with open areas of undulating land and rolling hills throughout the valley. In the flatter areas near the junction of the Little Red and North Saskatchewan, silty soils have given way to bank erosion, which has been worsened by human activity. Erosion control measures have been implemented in the alluvial plain near the mouth of the river since the flooding events of the 2010s in order to mitigate the deterioration of the river's edge.

The landscape of the valley and the plains above have been in constant flux over centuries and millennia. As Merle Massie has noted, this terrain “has changed from glacier covered, to lakebed, to delta, to steppe, to spruce forest, to prairie, and back to boreal forest.”<sup>13</sup> The tree line is ever moving, and so too are the inhabitants that occupy this space.





The divide between pine and poplar forests



Felling of trees by beavers



Photo credit: Brian Ho (Instagram)

Changes in soil profiles can sometimes be clearly discernable based on subtle changes in topography, moisture level, pH scale, and other such factors. This is easily observable in sudden changes of plant species. Such is the case in the southeast corner of the Park, where there are clear lines, visible from the ground level, between grassland, jack pine forest, poplar forest, and forage crop.

### Flora and Fauna

The main feature of the river valley is the mixedwood forest, a medley of mostly coniferous trees, interspersed with pockets of deciduous trees and shrubs. In the higher, drier, sandier areas, jack pine is the feature species with an understory of reindeer moss, bearberry and rice-grasses.<sup>14</sup>

Areas that have moister soils, such as the floodplains in the south of the valley abound with stands of poplar, birch and white spruce with an understory of hydrophilic shrubs such as dogwoods, beaked hazel, green alder, wild rose, and saskatoon. Where there are organic deposits, one will find stands of black spruce and tamarack with understoreys of Labrador tea, raspberry, twinflower, miterwort, and sedges. The wettest areas are ideal for thickets of willow and sedges.<sup>15</sup>

A broad range of animal species dwell in the forests, plains, and waters of the river valley, ranging in size from moose to mouse and smaller still. Mammals such as deer, elk, beaver, martens and rabbits find their home in these ideal surroundings. There are also many bird species – both migratory and non-migratory – that live in the tree canopies, as well as many waterfowl that take advantage of the sloughs, bogs and marshes within the valley. Insects, especially pollinators, play a big role in ensuring the diverse ecosystem is sustained. Historically bison also grazed the plains, part of the Saskatchewan Herd that would overwinter at this site.<sup>16</sup>

Of course humans are a big part of this landscape, and have been since nomadic groups first set foot in this region. People have lived and gathered on this land for many generations and have become a part of its ecosystem – adjusting with the seasons and adapting to the changes – along with all of the other animals, birds, insects, and plants that call the valley home.

The plant and animal species that can be found in the valley include many that have traditional uses to Indigenous peoples and have been harvested for a number of broad uses such as food, shelter, clothing, tools, and medicine. Through conscientious and careful practices, this land has been able to sustain its inhabitants with all of its renewable resources.



Photo credit: Estelle Hjertaas (Instagram)

## Some of the Species Found Within the River Valley

### Trees:

- Jack pine
- Black spruce
- White spruce
- Tamarack
- Balsam poplar
- White birch

### Shrubs and groundcover:

- Red osier dogwood
- Beaked hazel
- Green alder
- Wild rose
- Saskatoon
- Bearberry
- Lowbush cranberry
- Ostrich fern
- Horsetail
- Fireweed
- Blueberry
- Reindeer moss
- Rice grasses
- Labrador tea
- Dwarf raspberry
- Twinflower
- Mitrewort
- Sedges
- Willow
- Cattail
- Bulrush
- Reed grass

## FLORA

### Birds:

- Barred owl
- Red-tailed hawk
- Woodpecker
- Grey jay
- Chickadee
- Spruce grouse
- Eagle
- Heron
- Crane
- Canada goose
- Duck
- Loon
- Pelican

### Fish:

- Northern pike
- Pickerel
- Sauger
- Goldeye
- Sturgeon
- Perch
- Trout
- Catfish

### Mammals:

- Moose
- Elk
- White-tailed deer
- Timber wolf
- Black or brown bear
- Fox
- Wolverine
- Marten
- Lynx
- Otter
- Beaver
- Muskrat
- Mouse
- Rabbit

## FAUNA

### 4.3. Park Edges

The perimeter of Little Red River Park totals over ten kilometres, creating a variety of edge conditions. This presents a challenge where adjacencies are homogenous with conditions within the Park boundary, and indeed serve to blur the boundary itself. While most of the Park's edges are clearly defined by roads, there are a number of areas that are ambiguous.

The western edge of the Park, particularly north of the West Parking Lot, blends seamlessly with the neighbouring Nisbet Provincial Forest. The sandy Kristi Lake Loop trail serves as a vague demarcation of this boundary, but the landscape on either side of the trail and the Prince Albert city limit (*i.e.* the Park boundary) are contiguous. This makes it difficult to discern this boundary. The same is true on the north edge of the Kristi Heights zone, and the entire length of the north boundary line, which abuts the R.M. of Buckland, and Wahpeton 94B lands.

Depending on one's perspective, this ambiguity can be seen as either positive or negative. On a positive note, the Park's lack of a defined boundary accentuates its continuity with the adjacent parcels of land, and invites trail users into the broader trail network. The trails in Little Red River Park extend nearly two kilometres beyond the northwest corner of the Park proper.

However, this also presents some challenges in the form of trail user conflicts, park security and park identity. Without fences or gates along these edges, access to the Park via trails in these locations is unimpeded, which encourages covert after-hours use of remote areas of the Park. Non-permitted uses of trails such as motorized vehicles like ATVs and snowmobiles can also be easily concealed, potentially damaging trails and natural systems without consequence to offending parties. In terms of park identity, it is unclear to park visitors where the Park/City ends and where the neighbouring jurisdictions begin.

Another edge that lacks a definitive boundary is the intersection of the Sanitorium site and the Pine Grove/PA Youth Residence properties. Because these facilities were constructed following the decommissioning of the Sanitorium facility, land once part of the hospital complex has since been amalgamated into the neighbouring correctional facilities. Security fencing has dead-ended the existing north road, and the south road leads onto the Youth Residence property, which eventually circulates back to Little Red River Park Road just west of the actual park boundary and gate.

#### 4.4. Existing Infrastructure and Amenities

Figure 3 shows the existing conditions at Little Red River Park.

As it has always been, Little Red River Park remains *Kistahpinanihk*, a meeting place. Thousands of people from all ages, abilities, and walks of life find their way to Little Red every year. A year-round destination, nearly seventy percent of Prince Albert residents visit Little Red River Park (LRRP) annually, making it one of the city's most important recreational sites. For those not from Prince Albert, Little Red River Park is a hidden gem, known primarily via the groups most familiar with its events, including winter cross country ski loppets, summer mountain biking and music festivals; or its amenities, including the ski hill, trail network and picnicking sites.

The Park offers bird and wildlife viewing, downhill skiing, cross-country (skate and classic) skiing, hiking, cycling (mountain, fat-tire and cyclocross), snowshoeing, and picnicking. The Park also hosts the annual Pine Needle Mountain Bike and Music Festival in June, as well as loppets and other nordic ski events and competitions. In 2019, the Park hosted the national archery championships, represented by the local Prince Albert Bowbenders Club.

Because Little Red River Park is adjoining the Nisbet Provincial Forest, it is difficult to appreciate its size or to determine its boundaries while on the ground. Existing trails move freely between park and non-park space. To be an urban park within a large forest is both a blessing and a curse. Space and natural resources abound, but access is difficult to control, and unwanted or undesirable park activity occurs. With nebulous boundaries and development that has often occurred haphazardly, the Park lacks a certain clarity. It is time for Little Red River Park's identity to be more well-defined and for the citizens of Prince Albert to collectively weigh in on the future they would like for this wonderful natural area.

As the numbers show, the citizens of Prince Albert appreciate this park as nearly 70% of the city's population visits the Park annually. The Park functions with assistance from the City in the form of grant dollars provided through tendered contracts to operators of both the Cosmopolitan Lodge and Kinsmen Ski and Snowboard Centre. The City has also formed partnerships with respected user groups such as the Prince Albert Ski Club, Rock 'n' Road Bicycle Club and others.

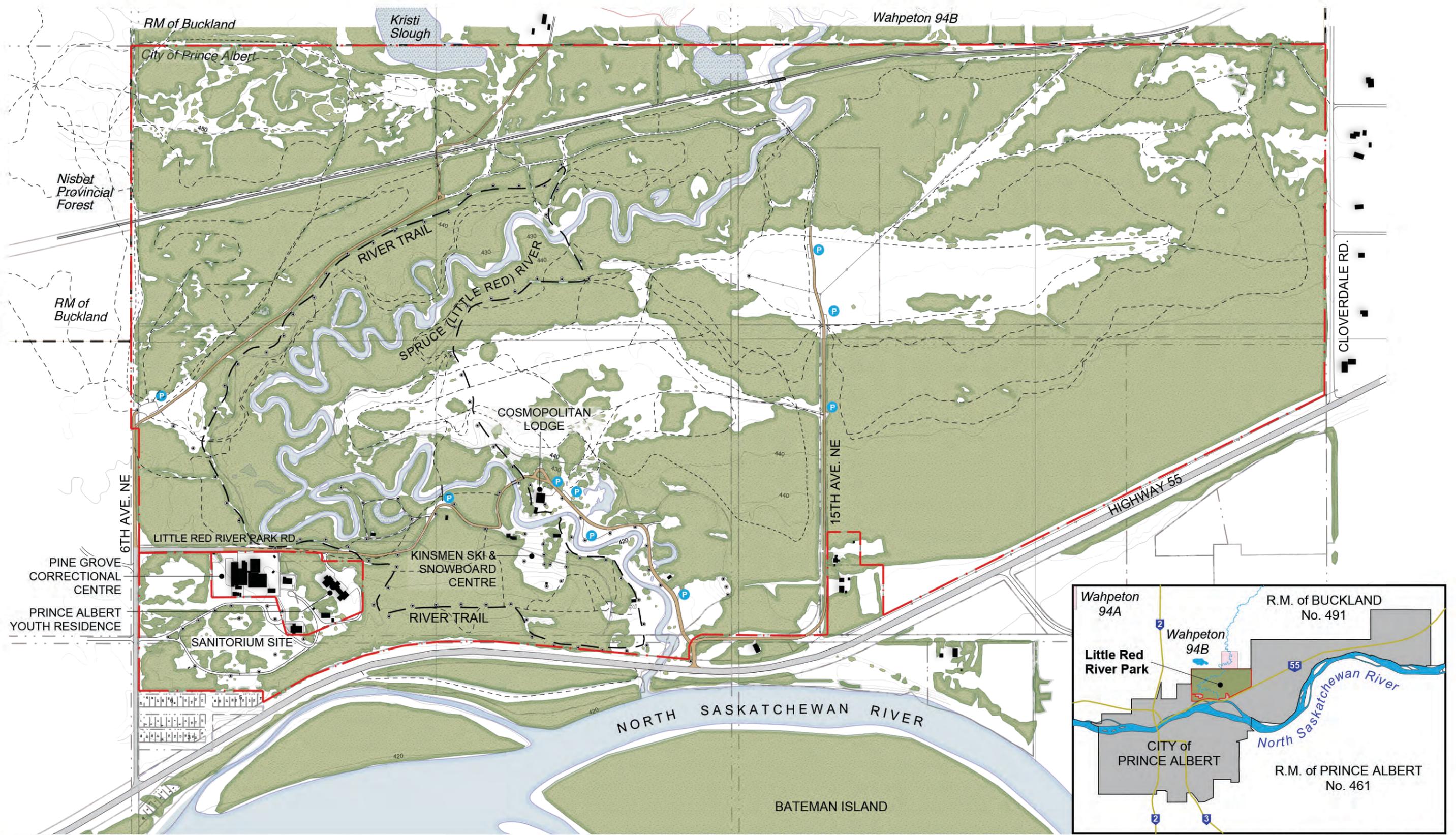
These contractors and volunteer groups contribute to the upkeep of the Park as part of their agreements and tend to concentrate their maintenance efforts in the immediate vicinity of the lodge and ski trail areas. For the remainder of the large park, volunteer labour from local sports and recreation organizations help to keep up the more outlying areas.

Although the Park is well used and successful, it is also showing signs of deterioration. The health of the forest has been compromised by dwarf mistletoe. Graffiti is a problem, as is illicit use that is causing environmental damage, especially from ATVs. The grassland upland areas are starting to fill in and the network of trails is vast, confusing and without a central trailhead. Off-leash dogs are not relegated to a specific area of the Park, so it is not possible to visit the Park without dog encounters. Infrastructure in the Park is out of date and often in a state of disrepair, particularly the washrooms and bridges.

Flooding in recent years, particularly during 2013 and 2014, caused significant damage to the Park, particularly the riparian habitat. During the flooding of 2013, the Park was closed to the public from June 20 into the fall. In 2016, the river was intentionally dammed in the Park, near the toboggan hill, to provide a reservoir of clean water for the City during the Husky Oil spill.<sup>17</sup> This caused further damage to already eroded riverbanks and significant vegetation was lost. During the summer of 2017, a major bank stabilization and reforestation project was undertaken.

As of the fall of 2019 the health of the riverbank areas is improved, but vegetation is still establishing and the river edges, particularly at the south end of the Park, are still bare. As well, it is worthwhile noting that the river further upstream is jammed with dead trees, which might also be the result of the last decade of flooding. Although not impeding enjoyment of the Park, it makes the river unnavigable, which is an unfortunate loss of recreation potential for paddling, kayaking and paddle boarding. Bridge infrastructure lost or damaged during these flooding events is still being addressed.





LOCATION PLAN (1:200,000)



Figure 3:  
**LITTLE RED RIVER PARK : EXISTING CONDITIONS**

0 50 200 500m SCALE 1:10,000

- |  |               |  |                                |  |                     |
|--|---------------|--|--------------------------------|--|---------------------|
|  | PARK BOUNDARY |  | MARSH/BOG                      |  | TRAIL               |
|  | BUILDING      |  | WATER BODY                     |  | ROAD                |
|  | LIGHT POLES   |  | TREE COVER                     |  | RAILWAY             |
|  | PARKING AREA  |  | CONTOUR LINES<br>(2m INTERVAL) |  | PLANNING BOUNDARIES |



#### 4.4.1. **Park Access**

There are four vehicular entrances to Little Red River Park:

- The main entrance off of Highway 55;
- The west entrance on Little Red River Park Road (past Pine Grove Correctional Centre);
- The west parking lot at the terminus of 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE;
- The Sanitorium road (though it technically does not connect to the rest of the Park without passing through the Prince Albert Youth Residence property).

Along with the above noted, there are multiple access points for non-vehicular traffic via the numerous trails that enter the site from perimeter roads and the trail network in the Nisbet Provincial Forest.

#### 4.4.2. **Cosmopolitan Place and Lodge**

Cosmopolitan Place comprises Cosmopolitan (Cosmo) Lodge, the Kinsmen Ski and Snowboard Centre, the Swinging Bridge, and the picnic and barbecue areas in the lower river valley – the central, flat area of the Park – which can be accessed by Highway 55 and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE.

Cosmopolitan Lodge sits at the centre of Cosmopolitan Place. A building of wood construction of approximately 530 square metres (5,700 square feet). It houses a large open hall, a smaller side hall, a kitchen/canteen, full service washrooms, and storage space.

The previous contractor in charge of operations of Cosmopolitan Lodge invested much time, effort, and capital into improvements to the lodge and its environs, as well as providing valuable public programming. More investment is required, however, to bring it up to the standard required to achieve the goal of being a destination for locals and visitors.

The current contract format encourages the operator of the Lodge to generate revenue through the operation of the food and rental services offered at the facility. This revenue supplies the contractor with the income required to sustain this business, while the contract amount can be applied to cover any overhead costs that come with operation and maintenance of the facility.

There are five large picnic areas within Cosmopolitan Place, with approximately twelve smaller picnic sites throughout. The first large site, along the east entrance road, contains a shelter, outhouse and several individual picnic spots with fire pits. The second is a picnic shelter across the river near the former playground site. The third is the picnic shelter adjacent to Cosmo Lodge. The fourth is a large group use area that sits across the road from the Swinging Bridge. This space contains a large shelter, outhouse and several fire pits and barbecues. The fifth area is situated along the loop road north and west of the group use area. This loop contains several individual picnic spots, a large shelter with wood burning stove and an outhouse.

#### 4.4.3. Kinsmen Ski and Snowboard Centre

Skiing has been a part of life at Little Red River Park for generations. The current facility, opened in 1990, includes the Old Log Cabin, tow-rope lifts with lift house, two ski runs, and out buildings that house grooming and maintenance equipment. The facility is operated under a contract, separate from the operating contractor of Cosmo Lodge.



Photo credit: Kinsmen Ski & Snowboard (Facebook)

#### **4.4.4. Trails**

The extensive system of trails throughout Little Red River Park is an attractive and well-used trail network in the region. There are nearly fifty kilometres of trails within the boundaries of the Park. With so many trails, there are often user conflicts, and challenges to keeping the trails organized have arisen. The task of forming, grooming, controlling and policing the trails has been undertaken by the different trail user groups, such as the Prince Albert Ski Club and the Rock 'n' Road Cycle Club, but more investment is needed to create a coherent system of trails with clear use demarcation and elimination of conflicts.

Figure 4 shows the current trail network.

#### **4.4.5. Programming and Events**

Little Red River Park has become a venue for several regular events throughout the year, including the Pine Needle Mountain Bike and Music Festival in June, the Cosmo Classic Loppet in January/February, and the Prince Albert Winter Triathlon in February. It has also been a venue for weekly trail runs, weddings, gatherings, graduation and family photographs, outdoor yoga, youth day camps, school trip outings, and one-off events, as well as cultural programming at Cosmopolitan Lodge (language classes, beading workshops, Elder bingo nights, etc.) among others.

### **4.5. Cultural Resources**

The whole site of Little Red River Park has many stories to tell through the years, from a time before humans occupied it up to the present moment. There are three sites within the Park that hold particularly strong historical value: the historic Dakota village, the Swinging Bridge, and the Sanitorium site.

#### **4.5.1. The Historic Dakota Village**

There once existed a village in the flat area north of Cosmopolitan Lodge. This village contained cabins, roads and a community hall, along with some sites sacred to the local Dakota community. The history of this village is not widely known within the Prince Albert region, and there is an opportunity, through this plan, to honour this history.

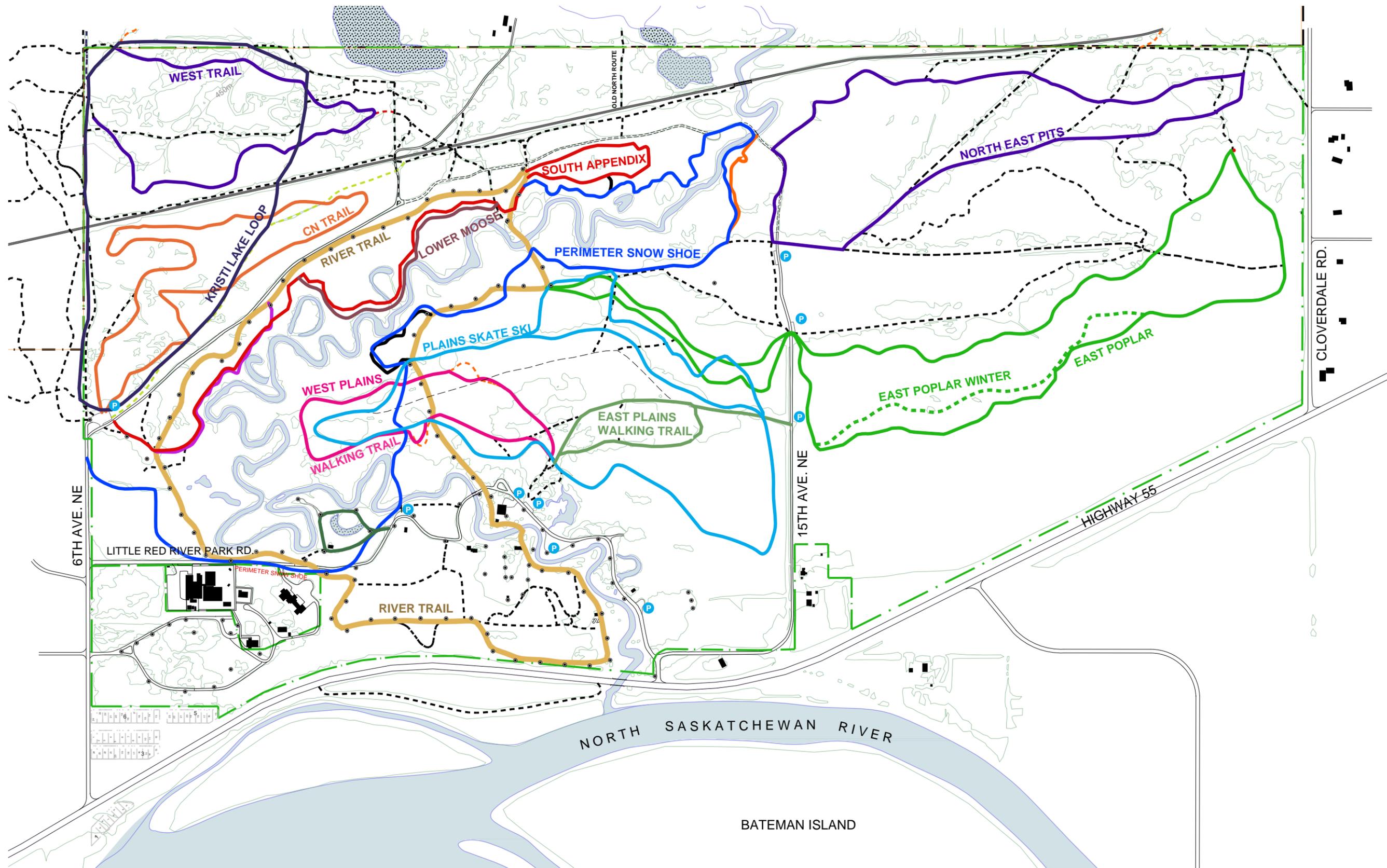


Figure 4:  
**EXISTING TRAILS MAP**



-  PRIMARY TRAIL (RIVER TRAIL)
-  SECONDARY TRAILS
-  TERTIARY TRAILS
-  PARKING AREA
-  LIGHT POLES

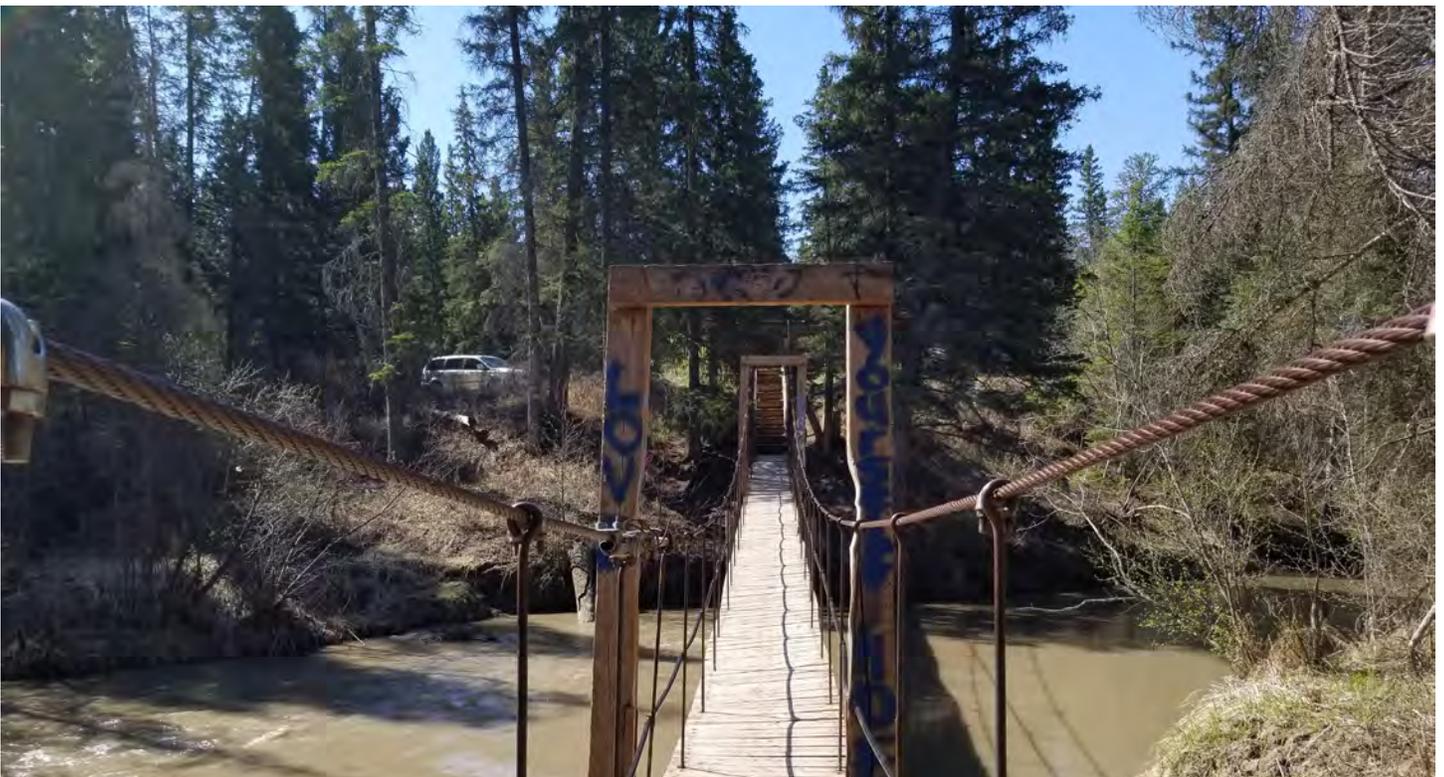


#### 4.5.2. The Swinging Bridge

For nearly a century, the Swinging Bridge over the Spruce River has contributed to the charm of Little Red River Park. It offers visitors a fun way of engaging with the river, while also providing a thrilling sense of risk and danger. In recent years the bridge has fallen into disrepair, and unfortunately, actual risk and danger have become a part of crossing the bridge. A sign that reads ‘Caution. Damaged bridge. Use at own risk’ now greets visitors at each landing.

#### 4.5.3. The Sanitorium Site

The site of the former Prince Albert Sanitorium is a piece of land of approximately 38 acres, within the bounds of the Park, which is currently unused. The original roads constructed for the building remain, and utilities such as water and sewer are intact at the site. There is a brick and stone monument along one of the roads commemorating the hospital. The ‘blank slate’ nature of this site and the fact that it is isolated from the rest of the Park, calls for a land use that does not rely on a direct connection to the Park’s other amenities.



#### **4.6. User Groups**

One of Little Red River Park's great strengths is the fact that so much of the programming and maintenance of the Park is undertaken and overseen by grassroots organisations, who act as stewards for the Park and care deeply about continually improving its amenities. The formation of the Friends of Little Red River Park has helped to galvanise these efforts and improve communications between user groups and the City of Prince Albert.

Among others, these include:

- Prince Albert Alpine Ski League;
- Rock 'n' Road Cycling Club;
- Prince Albert Trail Riders;
- Prince Albert Ski Club;
- Prince Albert Triathlon Multisport Club;
- Prince Albert Bow Benders;
- Operating contractors, staff and volunteers of Cosmopolitan Lodge;
- Operating contractors, staff and volunteers of the Kinsmen Ski and Snowboard Centre;
- City of Prince Albert Summer Playground Program;
- Educational institutions: primary, secondary and post-secondary;
- Local chapters of various service and youth clubs.

#### **4.7. Safety & Security**

A number of safety and security issues currently present challenges to park users and operators. With so many remote areas and a lack of surveillance, limited number of staff, and lack of a dedicated patrol assigned to the Park's extents, deterring and apprehending illegal activities has become nearly impossible, especially after hours.

Though gates at vehicular entrances are locked at night, access to the Park is still possible, and illicit use of the Park has been occurring. Open, unpermitted fires in the Park present a wildfire hazard, especially during dry periods.

There are currently many positive aspects of Little Red River Park and its operations and use that promote safety, such as the strong sense of community and stewardship that is created by the various user groups, continuous activity in the Park, and the efforts of the operating contractors and City staff. More measures can be taken however, to increase not only the visitors' sense of safety, but actual safety and security. Examples include lighting at the Park's entrances and throughout Cosmopolitan Place, a foot or bike patrol through the Park during open hours, and an afterhours patrol.

Although the data collection process did not include a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) assessment of the Park, all future projects should consider evaluating existing safety and security issues, and identifying potential solutions using CPTED principles. These principles include natural surveillance, natural access control, maintenance, activity support, and territorial reinforcement.<sup>18</sup>

#### **4.8. Climate and Seasonal Cycles**

Prince Albert sits at the northern edge of the Humid Continental climate zone, and experiences big differences between the four distinct seasons. Though winters can be extremely cold and harsh, the people who have inhabited the region have embraced this seasonal diversity, and have adapted their activities to suit the seasons.

The climate is changing. The changes are gradual, and may appear subtle, but small shifts in normals can have significant effects over time. The projections for climate change in this region call for a potential increase in mean annual temperature of 2.3°C within the next three decades and 4.6°C by 2080.<sup>19</sup> Days reaching 30°C or higher are projected to increase from the historical normal of seven per year to as high as thirty-five by 2080.<sup>20</sup> Average annual precipitation is also projected to increase by as much as forty-four millimetres by 2080 with the highest increases being in the spring.<sup>21</sup> This additional rain, coupled with spring melt waters could significantly increase flood risk in the Spruce River and North Saskatchewan River valleys.

This is why it is increasingly important to preserve and protect the natural resource that is Little Red River Park. The forest cover within the Park's bounds provides much needed carbon sequestration and oxygen exchange. With increasing temperatures, the shade and fresh air that these trees provide will be sought out by those seeking outdoor recreation.

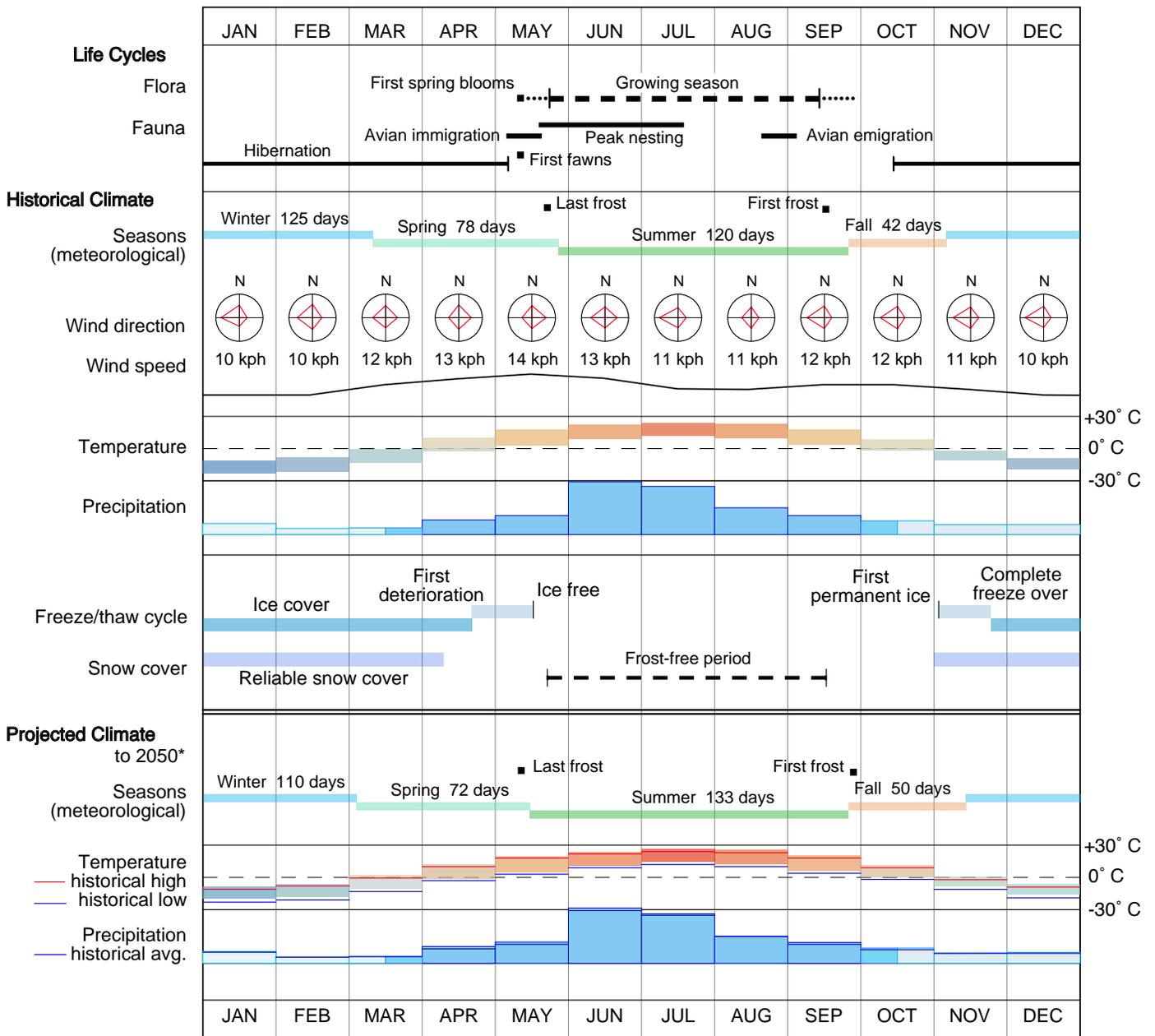


Figure 5. Seasonal Cycles

## 4.9. Strengths, Opportunities and Constraints

After gathering data on the Park, its history, amenities, users, and resources, some clear strengths, opportunities, and constraints became apparent. Identifying these, along with aforementioned goals, mission and guiding principles has helped to inform the process of developing a robust set of recommendations.

### 4.9.1. Strengths

Among Little Red River Park's many strengths, the one that stands out the most is its **natural beauty**. With an environment teeming with life, and tracts of undisturbed wilderness, balanced with low impact uses, the Park has remained a destination for locals and visitors for many generations.

The development of an **extensive recreational trail system** that ties into neighbouring trail systems to create a vast network, has given residents and visitors opportunities to enhance their well-being through exercise, enjoyment of nature, and social networking.

A **strong community infrastructure** made up of City officials, trail users, operating contractors, grassroots volunteers, and Indigenous community members has given a voice to the Park and created strong advocacy for protection and preservation of not only the environmental, but the cultural and social factors that make this place a valuable asset to the people of this region.



Photo credit: Prince Albert Ski Club (Facebook)

#### 4.9.2. Opportunities

Building upon these strengths means embracing opportunities to make Little Red River Park an even greater asset to the people of Prince Albert and beyond. A place so rich in flora and fauna, observable hydrology, and a deep cultural heritage makes it an ideal classroom for children and adults alike. The Park has the opportunity to be a **centre for environmental education** through partnerships with Indigenous Knowledge Keepers, the Province's school boards, and post-secondary institutions.

There is also a great opportunity for the Park to be a **place for Reconciliation**. As a piece of public land that has significance for Indigenous peoples, with a history of displacement due to municipal development, and a natural setting that encourages **environmental stewardship** and **land-based education**, the Park can offer a place where people of all backgrounds can come together to share in the painful memories of the past and look to a future of healing and unity, while sharing traditional knowledge and skills



Photo credit: CPAWS - Saskatchewan Chapter

### 4.9.3. Constraints and Challenges

Many of the most significant challenges and constraints to development within the Park have been addressed in previous sections, such as the **large scale of the Park**, incompatible **land uses of adjacent properties**, the **sandy soil conditions**, and the **prevalence of invasive species**.

One of the most challenging aspects of this site is its proneness to **flooding**. A changing climate, large storm events and changes to freeze-thaw cycles have the potential to increase the frequency and severity of flooding. Unfortunately the most developed areas in the Park are in the floodplain.

Flood mapping has identified the 100- and 500-year flood lines, denoting the extents of the most extreme events. It should be noted that these types of flood events tend to occur more frequently than the 100 and 500-year labels suggest.

It is imperative that all proposed developments are sensitive to the risks of developing within this floodplain. Wherever possible, in accordance with the restrictions laid out in the *PA Planning District Official Community Plan*, no permanent structures should be built within these zones without first mitigating the risks presented by these flood events. Priority should be given to choosing sites that sit outside of the flood lines, as indicated in Figure 6.



Photo credit: PANow

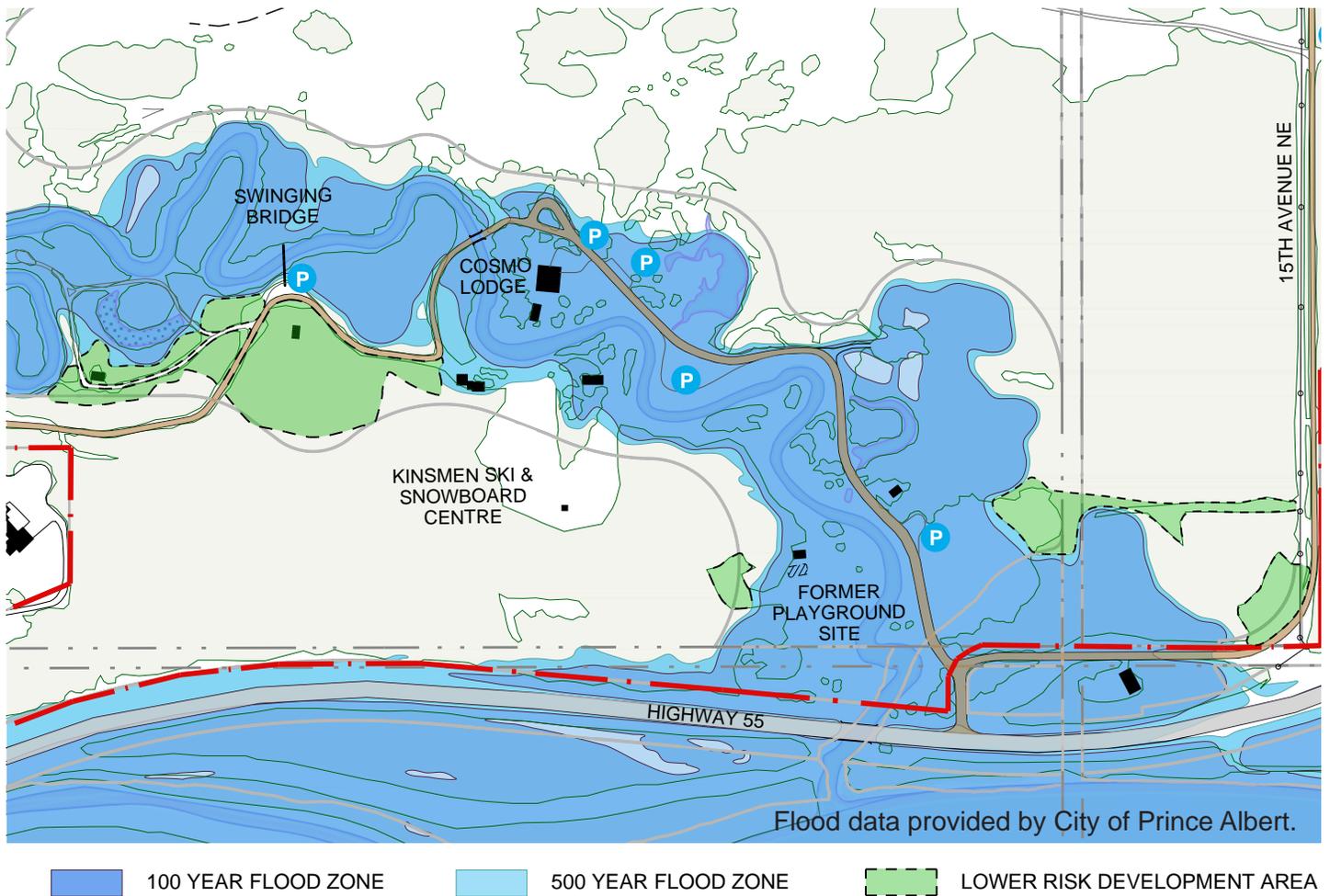


Figure 6. Flooding Constraints within Cosmopolitan Place





## Public Engagement

### 5.1. Process

The Consultant Team completed a rigorous public engagement and data gathering process for the development of this Master Plan for Little Red River Park.

An important component of this study was meeting with members of the community to learn how the Park is currently used and to determine what the Park means to people, how it plays a part of – and adds value to – their lives, and their vision for its future.

From the start, the Consultant Team met with individuals and groups, to learn as much as they could about how this park functions in the community. Together with staff from the City of Prince Albert, a list of individuals and organizations was compiled, which became the checklist for a series of engagement sessions.

### 5.2. Consultation with Stakeholder Groups

Throughout 2019, the Consultant Team conducted meetings, interviews, and teleconferences with a number of stakeholders within the community in order to gather pertinent information and guidance on potential directions for the Park.

The following individuals, committees, or groups met with the Consultant Team:

- Kinsmen Ski & Snowboard Centre - Nathan Stregger, Manager;
- Friends of Little Red River Park Advisory Committee;
- Prince Albert Ski Club - Mike Horn, Fresh Air Experience;
- City of Prince Albert Technical Steering Committee - Tim Yeaman, Bruce Vance, Jeff da Silva, Craig Guidinger;
- Ranch Ehrlo - Brittany Acorn, Program Manager;
- City of Prince Albert Cultural Advisory Committee;
- Saskatchewan Polytechnic, School of Natural Resources and Built Environment - Joanne Marchand, Instructor;
- Prince Albert Tourism - Amber Pratt, Executive Director;
- Province of Saskatchewan, Nisbet Forest Representative - Trevor Jacobson, Land Manager;
- Rotary Club of Prince Albert - Keith Fonstad, President Elect and Joe Weinrich, President;

- Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (Saskatchewan) - Gord Vaadeland, Executive Director, Stu Coles, Project Manager;
- Rock 'n' Road Mountain Bike Club - Quintin Wismer, President;
- City of Prince Albert Museum - Michelle Taylor, Director;

The Team met with the following through teleconferencing:

- Saskatchewan Rivers School Division - Cory Trann, Superintendent and Tyson Fetch, Indigenous Perspectives Coach;
- Saskatchewan Regional Parks Association - Katrina Irving, Executive Director;
- Province of Saskatchewan Culture & Sport, - Cynthia Bryce, Executive Coordinator to Assistant Deputy Minister of Parks;
- Saskatchewan Polytechnic, School of Natural Resources and Built Environment - Joanne Marchand, Instructor and Kevin Benmerrouche, Student.

### 5.3. Consultation with Indigenous Communities

Prince Albert is located on Treaty 6 land, the traditional territory of the Cree, Dene, Dakota, Saulteaux and Ojibwe peoples, and the homeland of the Métis Nation. The Prince Albert Grand Council comprises twelve First Nations and according to the 2016 Census, close to 40% of Prince Albert's population identifies as Indigenous, which includes First Nations, Métis and Inuit.<sup>22</sup>

An important aspect of the public engagement process was ensuring that Indigenous communities were well represented and indeed deeply involved in the master planning process. The site of Little Red River Park has significant pre-contact history, and was, up until the last century, inhabited by the local Wahpeton Dakota peoples, who today have reserve land bordering the Park.



During the data gathering process, the Consultant Team kept an open and continuous dialogue with Wahpeton Traditional Knowledge Keeper Dr. Leo Omani. During this process, Dr. Omani identified an area within the Park that was once a Dakota village. On the evening of May 22, 2019, the Team met with Dr. Omani and Elder Norma Green, offering tobacco and being subsequently led on a walkthrough of the area to identify important sites and to emphasize the importance of preserving and respecting this history and land.

The Team also reached out to Prince Albert Grand Council to engage in dialogue with the area First Nations, as well as a committee of Traditional Knowledge Keepers assembled through the Municipal Cultural Action Plan.

The following individuals, committees, or groups met with the Consultant Team:

- Prince Albert Métis Women’s Association - Noreen McBride, President;
- Wahpeton Dakota First Nation - Dr. Leo Omani, Traditional Knowledge Keeper and Norma Green, Elder;
- Jason Surkan, local Métis architect;
- City of Prince Albert Traditional Knowledge Keepers - Alan Adams, Ian McKay, Dr. Leo Omani, Joanna McKay, Leah Dorion;

#### **5.4. Website and Survey**

Over the summer of 2019, an online park survey was conducted. The Consultant Team worked with staff from the City of Prince Albert, particularly Bruce Vance, Judy McLeod-Campbell and Tim Yeaman, to assemble a survey that would provide information regarding the relevant issues, while leaving the survey questions flexible enough that responses could be more than a simple ‘yes’ or ‘no.’ Open-ended questions were also provided. The survey was launched using the *Let’s Talk Prince Albert* online platform, and 700 registered email addresses received a direct invitation to engage with the survey. With assistance from Bruce Vance, Manager of Marketing & Sponsorship (City of Prince Albert), the survey was launched on June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and was kept online through the end of the Labour Day long weekend.

Bruce Vance also helped to ensure that the online survey was promoted throughout the community, as social media posts and media releases were organized. The Consultant Team also posted on social media and sent the online survey link directly to Facebook pages associated with the Park (Prince Albert Alpine Ski League, Rock ‘n’ Road Cycling Club, Prince Albert Trail Riders, Prince Albert Ski Club, Prince Albert Triathlon Multisport Club, Prince Albert Bow Benders,

Pine Needle Mountain Bike and Music Festival and Summit Run) via Facebook Messenger, asking each administrator to post the link and distribute to their memberships. Signs advertising the survey were also posted at key locations throughout the Park.

Paper copies of the survey were left at the canteen in Cosmo Lodge, in the care of staff, in the hope that the many seniors who frequent their programming, who might not have computer access, could fill out copies of the survey. These were later entered manually into the online platform. Approximately 100 paper surveys were completed and collected during the Pine Needle Mountain Bike and Music Festival, where a member of the Consultant Team set up a table, and also circulated amidst the crowd throughout the event, to engage park visitors directly, to explain the purpose of the survey, and to ask for participation. Because the consultants were worried about over-representing participants of the bike race, special care was taken to approach anyone in the vicinity of Cosmo Lodge during the day, and surveys were completed by music festival attendees, spectators, visitors to the canteen, and people who just happened to be walking by or perhaps visiting the washrooms in the Lodge.

The Consultant Team asked school superintendents from both City of Prince Albert area school divisions (Saskatchewan Rivers and Prince Albert Roman Catholic School Division) to dispense the online survey to school principals and teachers, as this park is heavily used by school groups. The local teachers' union representative was asked to send the survey to teachers over the summer, so that they could be engaged when they were less busy. Organizations with a known interest or stake in the future of the Park were asked to circulate the survey to their staff, including: Ranch Ehrlo, the Municipal Culture Action Plan Working Group, Prince Albert Urban Indigenous Coalition, YWCA Settlement Services, the RM of Buckland, Prince Albert Chamber of Commerce, Nature Prince Albert, and the Prince Albert Wildlife Federation. The Prince Albert Community Network Coalition kindly advertised the survey on their website.

A total of 546 surveys were completed. Of the total, 26% were completed by individuals who self-identified as either being of First Nations (50) or Métis (91) descent. The Consultant Team was pleased to have a survey sample that included a strong representation from these two groups, representational of the general population of Prince Albert and a good indicator of the survey's accuracy.

The City of Prince Albert is to be applauded for its commitment to the engagement platform *Let's Talk Prince Albert*. The work it has done to set up and gain public

trust in this engagement tool was enormously helpful during this project. This was a highly useful tool during the public engagement process and demonstrates the City's commitment to listening to its citizens. City administration and staff were very helpful throughout the Park survey process and are obviously committed to the idea of public engagement and listening to what the community has to say.

The online survey also confirms what is witnessed at Little Red River Park: people from all walks of life and all backgrounds love and use this park. In so many ways, this park is already a success.

### **Main Takeaways from Online Survey**

- ◆ A large majority of respondents (93.2%) use the Park several times throughout the year (including those that visit daily);
- ◆ Over 95% of people reach the Park by vehicle, most are travelling to the Park with others;
- ◆ More than half of respondents typically park near Cosmo Lodge or Cosmo Place, but several expressed that where they park depends on the activity in which they are taking part;
- ◆ About 25% of respondents say they know every corner of the Park, while 40% say they know some of the trails but not very well;
- ◆ About 34% of respondents are less familiar with the full extents of the Park and may be limiting their visits to the Cosmo and Kinsmen areas;
- ◆ Afternoon is the most popular time for park visits, followed by early evening;
- ◆ Lunch time visits are about a third as popular as afternoon visits, suggesting there is an opportunity to bring more people to the Park at lunch time (with improved food options);
- ◆ Summer is the most popular time for park visits, but visits in winter and the shoulder seasons are fairly even and not significantly lower than summer visits, so there already is good utilization of the Park year-round;
- ◆ By far the most popular winter activity is walking/biking, followed by tobogganing/sledding, and then cross-country skiing;
- ◆ By far the most popular summer activity is hiking/walking, followed by barbecuing/picnicking;
- ◆ Cycling (either mountain biking or recreational) is third most popular, followed by dog walking;
- ◆ Several respondents mentioned photography in the 'Other' category;
- ◆ Generally those coming to the Park to use the trails use the west parking lot. Those coming to walk dogs use the east parking lot; for most everything else, one would use the main entrance and park near Cosmo Lodge or destination.





## 6.0 Renewal Plan

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### 6.1. Planning Zones

With a site the size of Little Red River Park, it is difficult to examine it as a whole without understanding that there are naturally varying levels of density and intensity in different areas of the Park. Dividing the space into zones allows for a more thorough analysis of needs, gaps, and opportunities.

The zones indicated in Figure 7 are based on a combination of distinct geographic features and density of uses and activities. These are not intended to be used beyond the distinctions required for the purpose of this Master Plan, but help to better illustrate the recommendations and priorities laid out in this document.

The Park has been separated into ten zones:

1. **The Core** encompasses the area known as Cosmopolitan Place. It is bounded to the south by Highway 55 including the Park entrance, the treeline atop the ski hill and the large group picnic area; Cloverdale Road to the east; the upper ridge and the Spruce River to the north and east. The Core includes Cosmopolitan Lodge, the Kinsmen Ski Centre, the Swinging Bridge, and the picnic areas along the main road.
2. **The Upper Plain** includes the flat area at the top of the ridge above Cosmopolitan Place and roughly follows the 440 metre contour line and the tree line along the open plain east of 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE. It then follows 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE southward.
3. The remaining portion of the **Spruce River Valley** makes up its own zone and includes many of the lower trails, the river itself and the oxbow lakes dotted along the river course.
4. To the south of The Core is the **South Trails** zone, which is bound by Highway 55 to the south, the Prince Albert Youth Residence (PAYR) property to the west and the ridge to the north and east.
5. The southwest corner of the Park is the **Sanitorium Site**, bounded by 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE to the west; Little Red River Park Road, Pine Grove Correctional Centre (PGCC) and PAYR to the north; and the residential neighbourhood to the south. The east boundary is formed by an extension of the PAYR property line.

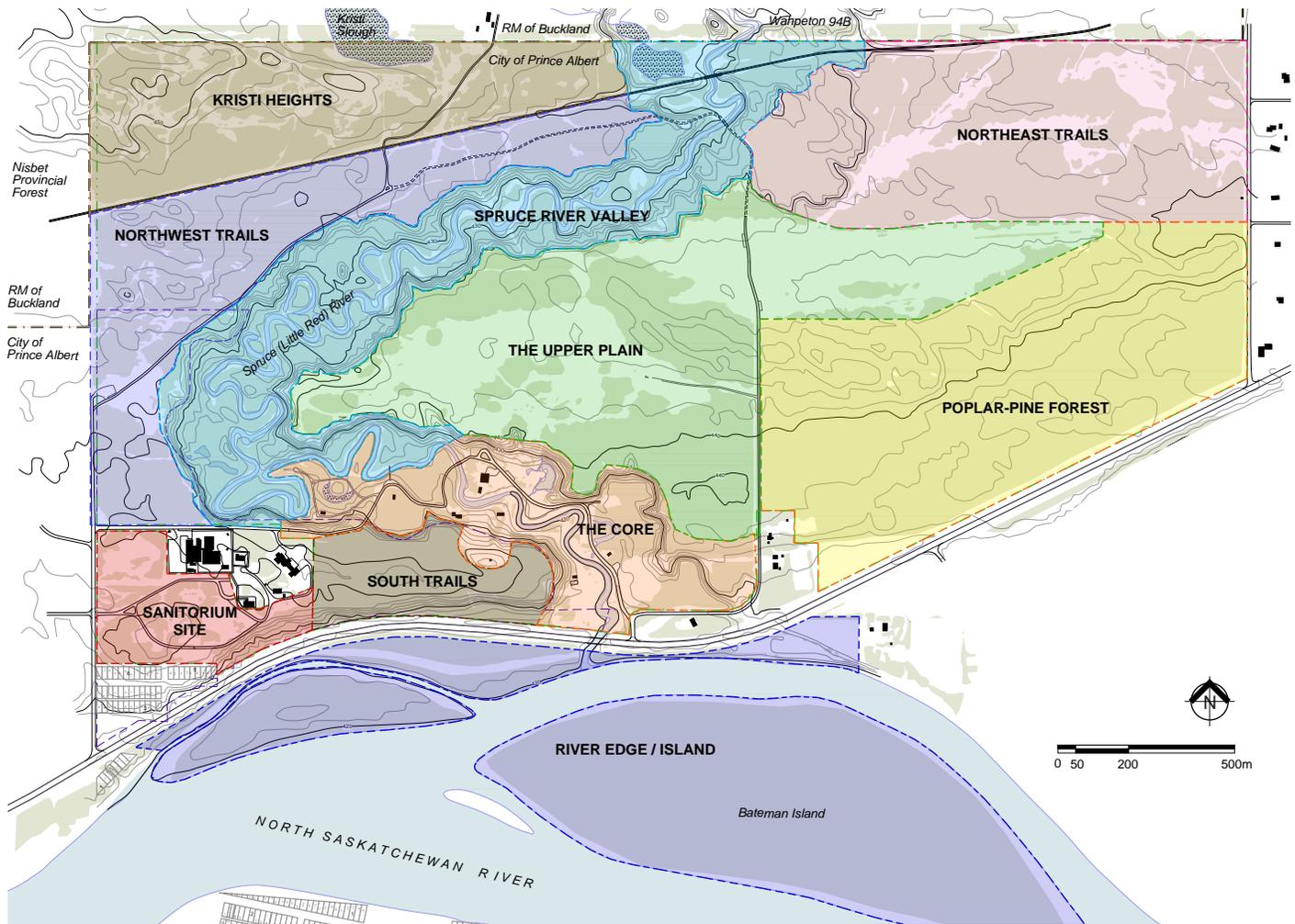


Figure 7. Planning Zones

6. North of Little Red River Park Road and bounded to the west by the Spruce River Valley and the north park road is the **Northwest Trails** zone. Bounded to the west by 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, this zone fully encompasses the West Parking Lot and the CN Trail.
7. The extreme northwest corner of the Park, **Kristi Heights**, is bounded on the west and north by the city limits, on the south by the CN rail line and on the east by the river valley.
8. The extreme northeast corner, **Northeast Trails**, is bounded to the west by the river valley, to the north by the city limits, to the east by Cloverdale Road, and follows the tree line on the edge of the upper plain.
9. The southeast corner of the Park, the **Poplar-Pine Forest**, is bounded to the south by Highway 55, to the west by 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE and the residential properties along the road.
10. The **River Edge/Island** zone covers the area south of Highway 55 and the islands in the North Saskatchewan River, including the full extents of Bateman Island.

## **6.2. Improvements to Existing Amenities**

Little Red River Park's existing infrastructure and amenities have been successful in building a well-used park with many activities to offer. That is why it is important to improve upon what has been established and build on the strengths of the Park in order to achieve the goals of this Master Plan.

### **6.2.1. The Core (Cosmopolitan Place)**

The Core or Cosmopolitan Place, as it is described in Section 4.4.2, is the most developed area of the Park with the highest density of activity.

The following sections examine each of the areas within the Core zone with recommendations for improvements. Though some of the trails pass through this area, these are explored separately in Section 6.2.4.

#### **6.2.1.1. Cosmopolitan Lodge**

Cosmopolitan Lodge has the opportunity to act as the heart of Little Red River Park, a community hub. Its central location in the Core zone makes it an ideal starting point for visitors, a stop-off point for park users and a space for events, gatherings, and classes.

Additional funds should be allocated to the following upgrades to Cosmopolitan Lodge and its environs.

Upgrades to building:

- Improvement of heating and cooling systems;
- Provision of Internet and cable access;
- Installation of security and surveillance systems;
- Washroom upgrades including family-friendly facilities.

#### Upgrades to grounds:

- Permanent site lighting and seasonal lighting;
- Better security for wood and equipment storage;
- Soft landscaping around the building to provide a more welcoming environment for visitors, weddings, and special events;
- Patio extension and improvements that provide comfortable eating and lounging space with tables and umbrellas, accessible from the building interior;
- Improved walkways and connections to adjacent facilities (paths, bridges, etc.);
- Improved connection between Cosmo Lodge and nearby picnic shelter;
- New pathways to provide better accessibility for mobility issues.

#### Seasonal and programming improvements:

- Seasonal installation of a skating rink in open grassed area;
- Healthy food options with year-round café/bistro format;
- Rental services (skis, snowshoes, etc.)\*
- Continuation of accessible cultural programming (Indigenous crafting workshops, Elder bingos, language classes, healthy living courses, respite programs, etc.);
- Comprehensive trail information (signage, pamphlets, etc.).

\*Note: Success of rental service will be dependent upon improved security and coordination with trail user groups. Previous attempts at providing these services were challenged by frequent thefts from lack of surveillance, joy-riding/not returning equipment, and equipment that was incompatible with current standards.

All of these improvements must employ principles of universal design and be to the highest standard of sustainability to promote accessibility and advance the message of environmental stewardship.

#### 6.2.1.2. **Kinsmen Ski and Snowboard Centre**

In recent years, the Kinsmen Ski and Snowboard Centre has been operated by a contractor, who along with upkeep of the hill and lifts, has added a snowboard terrain park, and ski and snowboarding programming for youth. This program has been extremely valuable to the community and provided youth with positive and healthy activity options and role models. Further investment in this facility is therefore paramount to continuing this important public service.

Much of the equipment at the ski hill is original to the facility, and requires extensive maintenance throughout the ski season, which has stretched the operating contractor's time and financial resources. Replacement of aging hardware is now long overdue and will greatly improve operations at the facility.

The terrain park has also proven to be an enticing amenity as approximately 80% of the business the hill receives is from snowboarders using this facility.<sup>23</sup> Further investment in this feature of the Park is required.

There are currently no washroom facilities at the ski centre. Visitors use the washrooms at Cosmopolitan Lodge. As these two facilities are operated by separate contractors, this requires coordination in order to ensure that washrooms are available during the ski hill's operating hours. The distance between the Old Log Cabin and the washrooms at Cosmopolitan Lodge is approximately 180 metres and requires crossing the bridge to access. The addition of a washroom building in closer proximity to the Old Log Cabin would greatly improve service at the ski centre, and would allow the facility to operate truly independently from Cosmopolitan Lodge.

Additional funds should be allocated to the following upgrades to the Kinsmen Ski and Snowboard Centre.

Equipment and infrastructure upgrades:

- Replacement of current lifts with new, variable speed rope lifts, complete with lift house controls;
- Replacement of grooming equipment (snowcat);
- Removeable bridge to allow safe winter access from the Parking lot to the Old Log Cabin (in favour of current seasonal snow bridge);

#### Upgrades to Old Log Cabin:

- Refurbishments as required to both exterior and interior;
- Provision of water service;

#### Hill Improvements:

- Enhanced terrain park;
- Opportunity for development of summer activity to extend use of the hill to a four-season facility (e.g. a zip line, summer ski training track, etc.).

#### Safety, Security and Comfort:

- Ski patrol to be on duty during open hours;
- Opportunities for ski patrol training for local youth;
- Development of a clear emergency plan for the facility;
- Improvements to emergency access;
- Re-routing/separation of cross-country ski trail at base of hill to alleviate conflict with downhill skiers/snowboarders;
- Additional washroom building.

### 6.2.1.3. The Swinging Bridge

#### Bridge Structure

The bridge that stands today is not the one that was built in the 1920s, but regardless of the vintage of the current bridge, there is a high degree of heritage value in having and maintaining a swinging bridge structure at this location. Though the bridge was not mentioned much through the public consultation process, respondents that did allude to it, highly value it. There is also evidence online that the people of the region treasure this structure and would like to see it preserved.<sup>24</sup> Efforts should be made to enhance this feature and celebrate its contributions to life in Prince Albert.

Flood mapping suggests that in major flood events, the majority of the bridge structure would be under water and would be at risk for damage or destruction. Any design for bridge repair or replacement must consider this, and ensure that mitigating measures are taken to prevent this and eliminate risk to health or threat to life.

Full replacement of the structure is recommended with an aim to make it as accessible as possible to bring the opportunity for crossing the bridge

to as many visitors as possible. This is a costly endeavour and should be evaluated through a separate public consultation process along with a feasibility study with relevant certified engineering professionals.

### **Destination Space**

Currently, the north landing of the bridge leads to a triangular patch of forest between the bends in the river. This space presents an opportunity for a shaded seating/picnic area. Surveillance may be a challenge in this location, however, as it is well hidden from the rest of the Core area.

At very least, a trail should connect the north landing back to the River Trail north of the traffic bridge near Cosmopolitan Lodge.

### **Heritage Interpretation**

Whether repair or replacement is pursued, an opportunity exists for heritage interpretation at this site.

#### **6.2.1.4. Picnic and Group Use Areas**

The results of the Let's Talk Prince Albert survey indicated that picnicking, whether in small or large groups, was the top summer activity at Little Red River Park.<sup>25</sup> In the 1982 Little Red River Study, a similar question in the public engagement process at that time showed that picnicking was also the top summer activity.<sup>26</sup> It is clear that the Park has long been a destination for this activity, and is an important place for local residents to enjoy food and social interaction.

### **Toilet Facilities**

There are currently three outhouse structures throughout the Core zone serving the adjacent picnic and group use areas. A large number of those consulted through public engagement identified that the top priority for improvements to these picnic areas is replacement of the existing outhouse structures with better, more modern facilities, complete with water and sewer service. Alternatively, composting facilities with onsite water storage for washing should be considered as a less expensive and more sustainable solution.

Each current picnic site is situated less than 220 metres from an outhouse. The picnic shelter south of Cosmopolitan Lodge is serviced by the lodge's indoor washrooms. However, if the Lodge is closed, the nearest outhouse is 380 metres from this shelter. Refer to 6.2.1.2 for recommendation of adding a washroom building at the Kinsmen Ski and Snowboard Centre.

It is important that improvements to toilet facilities are accessible. The existing structures present challenges for park visitors with disabilities.

### **Picnic Sites**

There are currently five group picnic areas complete with shelters, and approximately twelve smaller picnic sites, throughout the Core. Some of these are equipped with fire pits, and some are simple clearings with a picnic table.

There is spatial capacity to add more picnic sites with fire pits along the western loop road, as well as along the entrance road from the highway. This would, of course, add to the maintenance requirements of the Park operators, so it is important to evaluate expansion based on the governance and staffing model that is chosen for the Park.

Addition of waste receptacles at these sites will aid in keeping the Park clean. Again, this will add to the maintenance requirements as receptacles will need regular disposal. Refer to Section 6.2.8 for more on waste management.

Permitting local food trucks to set up near Cosmopolitan Lodge on non-festival weekend days may also encourage more visitors to come out to the Park and spend time using the various amenities. It is important, however, that this does not significantly detract from business at Cosmo Lodge, and that proper consultation with the Lodge operators is undertaken.

## Play Spaces

The loss of the footbridge and asphalt paths – between the parking lot at the foot of the toboggan hill and the playground – during the 2013 flooding made the play area largely inaccessible. The aging play structure was removed in 2019, and a request for proposals was subsequently sent out, with funding from the Rotary Club of Prince Albert, to replace and expand on the playground with new equipment. Replacement of the footbridge is an important part of this refurbishment, as it will once again allow visitors to park close to the site.

As noted in Section 4.9.3, with significant capital investment in developments such as an expanded play space, the City must carefully consider appropriate siting outside of the floodplain. Rebuilding a playground/adventure centre in its previous location is not recommended unless flood mitigation measures are employed as part of the development. A risk assessment should be undertaken to ensure these investments are protected from damage or loss due to flood activity.



Photo credit: Myles Tan

Regardless of which location is chosen, the new playground site would also benefit from the addition of outdoor fitness equipment nearby, providing fitness opportunities to the public, as well as giving parents an opportunity to engage in physical activity while their children are using the playground structures.

The toboggan hill is a popular spot throughout the winter and with the addition of lighting, use has been extended. However, there is an opportunity to extend use of this hill into the summer and shoulder seasons. The hill, or a site nearby, could be developed into a mountain bike skills park or jump track. This might also be an ideal location for installation of a zip line that carries riders to the west side of the Spruce River.

Other additions to further extend play opportunities for all ages include disc golf, large swings, horseshoe pits or a biathlon training course.



Example of a zip line. Photo credit: Anita Denunzio

## 6.2.2. Roads and Bridges

With the decommissioning of the Hands Bridge, the vehicular route through the north portion of the Park has been eliminated. While there is an operational advantage to having a circuitous route through the Park, especially for emergency and security access, there is also an advantage to converting the vehicular road to a trail as it restricts use to foot and bicycle traffic only.

There are two options for the replacement of Hands Bridge:

1. Replace the bridge with a new vehicular bridge and restore the roads to and from the bridge, but restrict vehicular access to service or emergency vehicles only by installing gates at each end;
2. Replace the bridge with a new pedestrian bridge and convert the old road to a multi-use trail.

All vehicular roads throughout the Park require upgrades, especially 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, which can become impassable when wet or snow covered, due to the sandy soil conditions of the site.

An engineering review of all bridges, both vehicular and pedestrian, should be commissioned as soon as possible to determine priorities for replacements or remedial structural repairs.



There is currently restricted access on the north-south road passing through the Kristi Heights zone. This road is the sole access to a private residence just north of the Park boundary in the RM of Buckland. This represents an inappropriate land use, and it is recommended that the City of Prince Albert consult with the RM of Buckland, and request that an access road for the private land owner be constructed off of Lato Road. Sufficient notice must be provided to the landowner in order to allow for this adjustment.

### **6.2.3. Parking**

Parking lots throughout the Park are not formalized with stall markings, as they are typically surfaced with granular material. This is generally appropriate where there are single lines of perpendicular parking stalls or parallel stalls. However in the larger lots, such as the lot that sits across the river from the ski hill, there is an advantage to organizing the lot into rows using trees and shrubs. This may also help deter drivers from destructive activities in the lot (i.e. “donuts”). Trees should be added to all parking areas to provide shade.

If increased demand requires additional parking, low-impact, single-row perpendicular stalls can be added along the main road at reasonable intervals. The area adjacent to the road is relatively clear of vegetation and a minimal amount of clearing would be required to convert these to parking areas.

Any trees planted within the floodplain should be flood tolerant species.

### **6.2.4. Trails**

The Park is currently lacking winter walking trails. While Nordic ski trails and fat bike trails abound, there is little provision for trails designated for foot traffic. Walkers tend to use trails meant for other uses, which becomes dangerous and destructive to trails groomed for these specific purposes. Where wide enough, such as the River Trail, multiple uses should be accommodated, with clear separations.

Trailheads, complete with signage, at key points and where trails intersect will provide trail users with comprehensive information about each trail, and convey the route, level of difficulty and distances. The signage at trailheads can also be used to reinforce trail etiquette and appropriate trail use.

Other key improvements to the trails that require further investment of labour and capital are:

- Restoration of the former Kiwanis bike trail for improved safe bicycle access to the Park;
- Re-naturalization of rogue trails with signage and demarcation to control access;
- Public roll-out of a GPS mobile app currently being developed by Saskatchewan Polytechnic's Natural Resource Management, Forestry and Ecosystem Technology Program;
- Improved accessibility where feasible;
- Benches and waste receptacles at appropriate intervals along major trails, where appropriate;
- Low impact outhouses in the more remote areas of the Park.

#### 6.2.5. Events, Programming and Marketing

One of the Strategic Directions of the *Community Services Master Plan* is to “enhance the current promotion of existing community opportunities including facilities and amenities, programming, and activities.”<sup>27</sup> Significant investment should be made to promote Little Red River Park and its services, not just within City of Prince Albert literature and media, but beyond the region. Promotion through modern media technologies, such as social media platforms, will help to extend this reach. The natural beauty of the Park is its own best tool for promotion, and visually rich materials displaying the Park's balance of nature and recreation will benefit not only the Park but the city and region.

A big part of this promotion is external wayfinding. Improved signage within the city, and along Highway 55 will guide visitors to the Park and inform them of the services available. Roadside signage should indicate the following amenities:

- Cosmopolitan Lodge,
- Kinsmen Ski and Snowboard Centre
- Historic Swinging Bridge;

- Symbols for picnic space, washrooms, playground, trails, toboggan hills, and interpretive elements;
- Any new facilities that may arise from the Master Plan.

#### **6.2.6. Internal Wayfinding and Boundary Demarcation**

Signage throughout the Park with discrete branding and graphic continuity will help to build a strong graphic identity for the Park and identify it as a unique and special place. Signage must be clear, unambiguous, multi-lingual, and employ best practices for universal design.

As an extension of its funding for promotion of the Park, it is recommended that the City put out a call for proposals for the development of a branding and wayfinding package for Little Red River Park.

Signage should also clearly demarcate all park entrances and boundaries of the Park. The existing signage at the main park entrance off of Highway 55 is arranged with a hierarchy that gives prominence to Cosmopolitan Place over Little Red River Park. It should be clear to visitors first that they are entering the Park, and secondly that the area of the Park that they are entering is Cosmopolitan Place.

Likewise, the signage at the intersection of 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE and Little Red River Park Road lacks the weight appropriate for a park of this size. The green directional sign for Pinegrove Correctional Centre is more prominent than the small painted wooden sign for the Park. The directional signage should contain both Pinegrove and Little Red River Park, but there should also be a separate, more prominent welcome signage for the Park, following the established graphic identity.

Lighting at these entrances is also extremely important. There is currently no street lighting at either of the Park entrances. This is a problem for both safety (perceived and actual) and wayfinding. The main road through the Park must be well lit, from gate to gate to ensure there is a safe route through. This is especially important with extensive winter use of the Park, when the sun sets as early as 4:45 pm.

Low fencing along the open northwestern edge of the Park (Northwest Trails and Kristi Heights zones) with a chicane or ‘kissing gate’ at trail entrances can aid in marking the Park edge as well as deterring vehicular entry in areas that have less surveillance due to their remoteness. This will help curb damage from ATV users.

#### 6.2.7. Forests

The forest within the Park, though not recognized as being part of the Nisbet Provincial Forest, is contiguous and therefore ecologically part of said forest. Preservation and management of this ecosystem is important to ensure that it thrives for generations.

The commissioning of a forest inventory and management plan, in partnership with the Nisbet Provincial Forest, can move toward developing a potentially innovative precedent-setting management strategy. This plan should also include strategies for removal of dwarf mistletoe and other invasive species that can be detrimental to the forest inventory. There is potential for a partnership with Saskatchewan Polytechnic’s Forestry Management Program.

Another important strategy that goes hand in hand with forest management, and in line with the Prince Albert District Official Community Plan, is the commissioning of a Wildfire Management Plan for Little Red River Park. This should be done in collaboration with the Province of Saskatchewan to ensure continuity between the jurisdictions on either side of the Park boundary. This could be the site of innovative management, again possibly testing techniques in partnership with Saskatchewan Polytechnic.



### **6.2.8. Waste Management**

With an area as expansive as Little Red River Park, disposal of waste can be challenging. The current operator contract allows for collection of waste from bins within the Park. Currently, large waste receptacles at Cosmopolitan Lodge and the northwest parking lot (Upper Plains) serve as collection points for offsite pickup and disposal by a private waste removal company.

A more comprehensive waste management plan would allow for an increase in the number of smaller receptacles throughout the Park with a central collection point that is more convenient for pickup, but also less visually obtrusive to the natural surroundings. Ideally this plan would also include recycling and compost to divert waste from the landfill site.

It is recognized that vehicular access is limited along the more remote trails in the Park, which will limit the ability to collect from receptacles in these areas. Also, the sight of waste receptacles along trails through a natural setting is generally undesirable. Unfortunately, it is difficult to curb littering, so a waste management plan should allow for staff to travel the trails on foot or bicycle to collect litter on a regular basis. Any signage that conveys trail etiquette should include instilling respect for the natural environment and deterrence of littering with posted fines for offending parties.

### **6.2.9. Deterrence of Illegal Activity**

One concern that the Consultant Team heard during the public engagement process was that despite signage throughout the Park informing visitors of fines up to \$5000 for violations, enforcement is rarely carried out. Enforcement may be difficult due to the remoteness of sites where these activities are commonly occurring. The Park operations contractors have traditionally not been equipped with the power of enforcement, and are typically encountering these activities while alone or in pairs. This presents a risk to safety and generally the only course of action is to call police, who may not be able to respond in time to catch the culprits in the act.

As long as illegal activity goes unchecked, it will continue. A successful management structure will include provision for a dedicated park patrol that has the efficacy and authority to issue fines and if required, safely apprehend offenders. A community-based volunteer patrol program should be explored, perhaps in collaboration with a ski patrol program.

### **6.3. New Opportunities**

Along with building upon existing amenities, there are a number of opportunities for new developments within the Park. It is important to note that the Park's natural beauty is its most important trait, and that all new development must not impede or detract from the nature of the site. Most of the new opportunities recommended in this section are proposed for The Core, as this is the area where the density and intensity of development should occur. Any development in the trail and forest zones must be limited to improvements to trails and circulation, wayfinding elements, and interpretive components.

#### **6.3.1. New Development in the Core**

Through the data gathering and public engagement process it was clear there was much support for the addition of fitness/adventure amenities in the Core. Some of these features have the potential to bring in revenue for the Park, while others can be offered free of charge with upkeep costs offset by the revenue-generating facilities. It is important that there remain a significant number of activities that are free of charge in order to fulfill the goals of being inclusive and welcoming to all.

#### **Zip Line**

The terrain of the Park allows for installation of a zip line, which is a pulley and cable system strung between two points. Users attach themselves to the pulley and use gravity to propel themselves along the cable. The popularity of this activity has been growing in recent years<sup>28</sup> and a unique zip line attraction in the region could greatly increase tourism traffic and revenue.

There are a number of challenges with zip line facilities that need to be taken into account, however. Safety is paramount, and the facility must be operated by trained professionals, and equipment must be kept to a high standard. The sandy soil conditions will also present constraints for erection of the towers required for the facility. A full geotechnical report must be commissioned, and recommendations from geotechnical engineers must be followed. This, along with potentially high insurance and permitting costs, might diminish the viability of this business opportunity. A full feasibility study is a necessary first step.

An alternative to a fully staffed zip line system is a smaller line system not requiring supervision, similar to the one at Kinsmen Park in Saskatoon. Such a system has a slope that is steep enough to create momentum but does not present significant danger from falling, providing a thrill for young kids without the high cost that a full zip line would require.

### **Other Climbing Features**

Rope towers or climbing walls can add a more financially accessible adventure element. Climbing elements of a certain height can be integrated into the playground structure, but larger features would require the use of harnesses and safety equipment, and should be staffed to encourage proper use. Climbing features could be bundled with a zip line and other adventure elements to develop an adventure centre, where a variety of activities with different levels of admission costs could be implemented.

The current toboggan hill seems the best location for this type of activity centre, as lighting has already been installed on site, and the elevation necessary for the zip line element is ideal. The upper area of the toboggan hill also lies outside of the 100 and 500 year flood levels, so new amenities here would be protected from such damage. The climbing feature might also be iced in the winter to have its use extended year-round.

An area of the current toboggan hill might also be contoured and designated for younger children.

## **Camping**

There is currently no campground within the boundaries of Prince Albert, and there are very few facilities in close proximity to the city. Little Red River Park has already established itself as a picnic spot and stop-off point for summer travellers passing through the region. There is an opportunity to establish camping within the Park, but it is important that there is no significant impact on the natural environment and the established activities within the Park.

It is not recommended that full service camping be implemented in Little Red River Park. However, if an RV campground is to be pursued, it must be developed within the Core zone. Bringing RV traffic into the Upper Plains could have devastating effects to the natural environment, and would disrupt the well-established trail activities throughout the Park.

While it is outside the scope of this Master Plan to make recommendations for areas outside the boundaries of the Park, it is worth noting that supporting the development of a full service campground in close proximity to Little Red River Park could be very beneficial to any revenue-generating activities within the Park.

Low-impact camping (*i.e.* non-serviced tenting sites) on the other hand, has the potential to not only generate revenue, but would extend the hours of the Park's operation. Having people staying in the Park overnight, especially if the facility has 24-hour staff on duty, would increase the surveillance and security of Cosmopolitan Place, and potentially deter illegal activity within the Park.

## **Fishing**

The large pond to the west of Cosmopolitan Lodge, likely formed as an oxbow of the river, offers an opportunity for fishing. Following proper impact assessment and consultation with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, this water body can be dredged and stocked with local fish species to provide a spot for licensed anglers to gather. This activity would complement low impact camping, giving campers a broader range of activities while staying in the Park.



Photo credit: Jess Lindner

### 6.3.2. Sanitorium Site

#### Indigenous Ceremonial Grounds

There is a demand within the Indigenous community for space to conduct traditional activities such as powwows and sweat lodges. With the presence of water and sewer services, established ring road, and easy access from 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, the former Sanitorium site is ideal for this purpose. This site was considered in the recent past for this use. With continued consultation with the City's Traditional Knowledge Keepers Committee, this recommendation should be further explored.

### 6.3.3. Spruce River Valley

The meandering course of the Spruce River (Little Red River) runs approximately 6.5 kilometres in total length from the point where it meets the northern boundary of the Park to the point where it spills into the North Saskatchewan River. Along this course, deadfall from the forested river edge has rendered this river course unnavigable, and indeed dangerous to watercraft. This represents a missed recreational opportunity.

Removal of this deadfall within the Park, will create an opportunity for canoe and kayak trips along the Little Red. This, in turn, if demand allows, opens up potential boat rental opportunities within the Park.

A manageable approach to this clean-up effort is to begin with the portion of the valley within the Core zone, and work northward toward the northern boundary, with an aim to complete the full clean-up within two years. Subsequently, new deadfall should be cleared as soon as possible.

### 6.3.4. Upper Plains

#### Historic Dakota Village

The Consultant Team's walkthrough of the western Upper Plain zone with Wahpeton Elders, Dr. Leo Omani and Norma Green, identified locations that once housed the local Dakota community, including the cabins, roads and a community hall that was used for gatherings. There were also sacred spots identified during the meeting.

Due to the sacred nature of this area of the Park, development of any kind, other than to interpret this history and provide space for gatherings would be inappropriate. The existing trails through the plain do not present any conflict of use, and indeed open the opportunity for the education of the public through interpretive elements or art pieces along the walking routes.

Interpretive signage in this zone might communicate:

- The general location of buildings and roads in the historic Dakota village;
- Indigenous plants with Dakota names;
- Indigenous land management techniques, such as prairie burns.

In the spirit of inclusivity and Reconciliation, there is an opportunity to work with Wahpeton and other local First Nations and Métis communities to build a gathering space for cultural events that bring together youth and Elders from Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

#### Land-Based Learning

Prince Albert's and indeed Little Red River Park's unique positioning on the boreal-prairie ecotone makes it a prime location for nature-based education. The rich diversity of flora and fauna, the structure and composition of the soils, and the hydrology of the rivers, create a natural laboratory for observing and learning from nature.

A dedicated outdoor classroom space where the forest meets the plain in the eastern portion of the Upper Plain zone, will provide space for students of all ages and levels of learning. This might also be accompanied by a low-impact building, which would employ green building technologies, to

form an environmental learning centre, similar to the Brightwater Science, Environmental and Indigenous Learning Centre near Beaver Creek. This model combines scientific knowledge with local Indigenous Traditional Knowledge to provide a broader understanding of land, people and natural systems.

This initiative would benefit from a partnership between Saskatchewan Polytechnic, the University of Saskatchewan, local school districts and First Nation and Métis communities. In particular, the Indigenous academic programming at the local schools is a huge potential resource for ideas and inspiration.

### **Camping**

In tandem with the development of an environmental education centre, the eastern plain is an ideal location for low-impact camping. This could take the form of tenting sites or rentable yurts. This opportunity provides overnight camping space for school groups visiting the learning centre, but could also, in the summer time, be rentable to visitors, providing another stream of revenue for the Park.

Camping in this zone could replace or complement the low-impact camping recommended at Cosmopolitan Place.

#### **6.3.5. Trail and Forest Zones**

##### **Trails**

With the aim of limiting disturbance of the natural systems in the Park, and focusing any new developments in the Core zone, there are not many new opportunities in the remaining zones, apart from the improvements described in Section 6.2.

One recommendation that provides a new opportunity that can be built off of the existing trails is the development of a flagship single-track mountain biking trail that is accessible to all. This would be an attractive feature that could extend the tourism draw for the region, and provide local residents with a unique recreation destination within the Park. Consultation with local mountain biking groups and professional track designers will help to identify



Photo credit: Irene Lasus

an appropriate route and design parameters for such a track. Liaison amongst the trail groups and the Friends of Little Red River Park is of utmost importance to ensure that there are clear terms of use, and conflicts of trail types and uses are avoided.

#### 6.3.6. Programming and Events

Along with continuing the annual events that have been taking place in the Park, some of the ideas for further programming and events that arose during public engagement were:

- More festivals throughout the year (e.g. winter festival, summer festival);
- Celebration days (e.g. Canada Day, Treaty Days, etc.);
- A dedicated park website and social media;
- Controlled burns;
- Interpretive hikes;
- Back country yoga;
- Elder-guided medicinal plant walks and ecosystem walks;
- Powwows;
- Treasure hunt/geocaching;
- 4R (Respect, Reciprocity, Reconciliation, Relevance) training;



Photo credit: Elisabeth Wales

- Continued and enhanced funding of ski programs at Kinsmen Ski and Snowboard Centre;
- Continuation of cultural programming at Cosmopolitan Lodge and invitation to other groups to complement this;
- Fun runs, nature walks, skills events, garbage picking;
- Living museum displays and interpretive programs;
- Art in the Park (in partnership with the Rawlinson Art Gallery);
- Enhancement of current rentals to offer choices as infrastructure improvements are made (eg. Canoes, kayaks, SUP's, mountain bikes);
- Commitment, through programming and interpretation, to telling history of the site and region.

### 6.3.7. Other Recommendations

Other opportunities that were identified include:

- Naming of sites and trails throughout the Park through Indigenous naming ceremonies (Dakota, Cree, Michif, and Dene) to carry on the work of the City of Prince Albert Traditional Knowledge Keepers to bring more emphasis to the languages represented in the area;
- Archaeological investigations in collaboration with First Nations and Métis and the University of Saskatchewan's Department of Archaeology and Anthropology's archaeological field school;
- Development of a Living Museum in partnership with the Prince Albert Historical Museum.

#### 6.4. Improved Transportation To and Through the Park

Full circulation through the Park has been cut off since closure of the road leading to Hands Bridge as the bridge is no longer structurally sound.

As described above, options for remediation include:

- Restoration of access to this road and construction of a new vehicular bridge to re-establish vehicular circulation; or
- Re-naturalization of the old road and/or conversion of the road to trail with a more modest crossing at the Hands location.

The idea of a second bridge across the North Saskatchewan River has been around for a long time, and has been reignited more recently through the Municipal Cultural Action Plan. Both the 1982 Little Red River Study and the 2004 River Valley Plan called for a new bridge at 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, which would bring traffic right to the edge of the Park, increasing visibility and creating opportunities for improving the Park's identity.

Extension of Prince Albert Transit's service to the Park with regular day-time service to Cosmopolitan Lodge would also increase accessibility to the Park for those with limited transportation options. This new route could also service Glass Field Airport from the main Downtown transfer point at Central Avenue and 14<sup>th</sup> Street.

Any road improvements or additions must follow municipal and provincial standards and adhere to the *Prince Albert District Official Community Plan* (Section 8: Transportation and Servicing Policy), as well as the *Prince Albert Transportation Master Plan*.

**6.5. Summary of Recommendations**

See Figures 8a and 8b for a summary of the Renewal Plan recommendations.

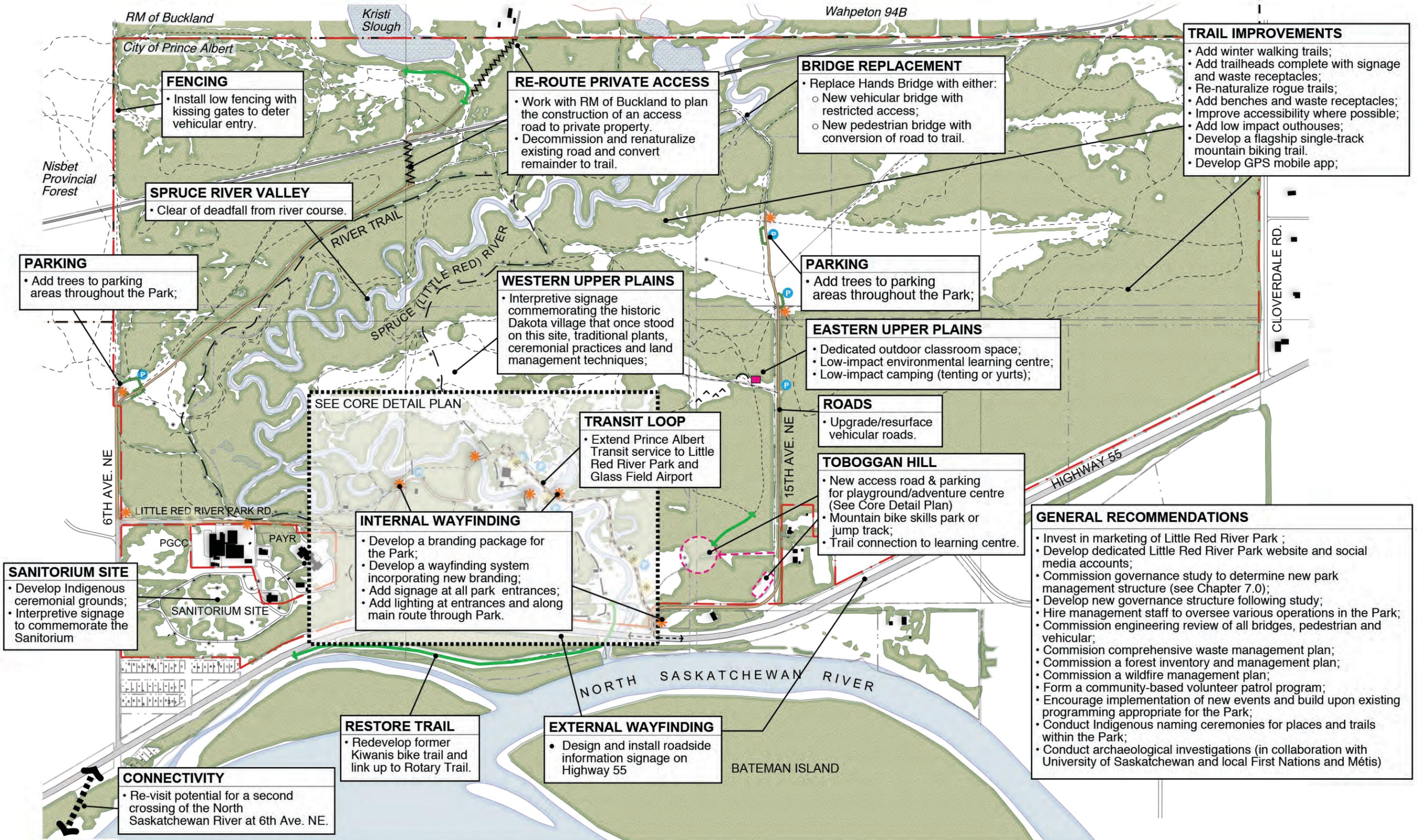
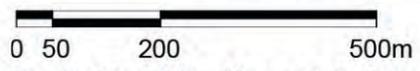


Figure 8a.  
**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**



- PROPOSED WAYFINDING SIGN OR TRAILHEAD
- ADDITIONAL LIGHTING
- ADDITIONAL TREE PLANTING
- PROPOSED STRUCTURE/ DEVELOPMENT
- NEW OR RESTORED TRAIL CONNECTION

Data has been gathered from multiple sources. Accuracy is not guaranteed. For information only. Drawing is not to be used for any construction purposes.



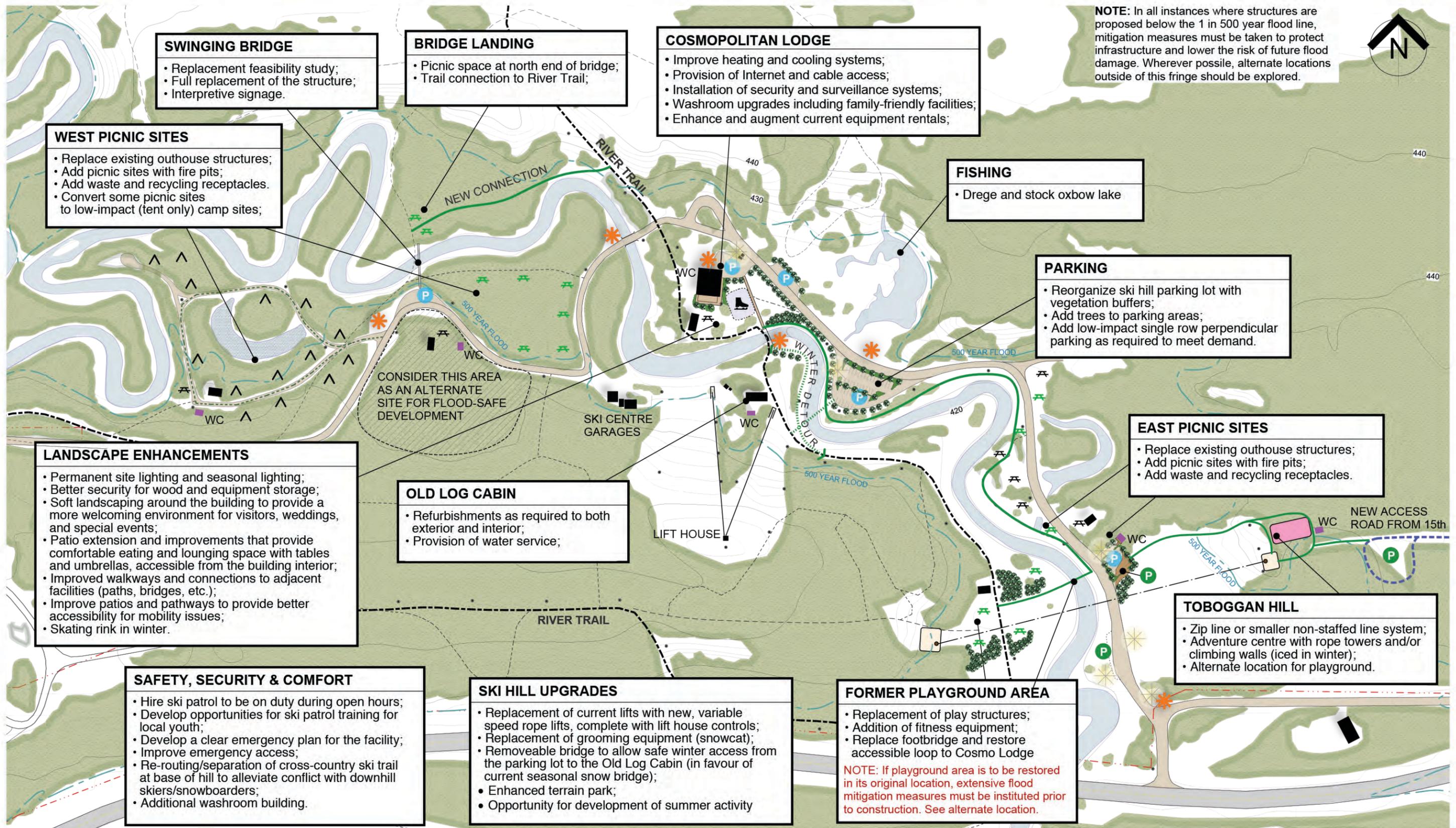


Figure 8b.

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS : CORE DETAIL PLAN**



Data has been gathered from multiple sources. Accuracy is not guaranteed. Drawing is not to be used for any construction purposes.

- P EXISTING PARKING
- P NEW OR EXPANDED PARKING
- \* PROPOSED WAYFINDING SIGN OR TRAILHEAD
- TRAIL EXTENSION
- WC NEW OR REPLACED TOILET FACILITIES
- \* ADDITIONAL LIGHTING
- \* ADDITIONAL PICNIC SPOT
- ^ OVERNIGHT CAMPING SPOT





## Governance and Staffing Structures

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### 7.1. Introduction

The following options are presented as a starting point for discussion of a revised governance structure for Little Red River Park. Further study and analysis of the governance options presented herein is required before moving forward. Ideally, a full governance study with specific recommendations should be commissioned by the City of Prince Albert. Refer to Chapter 8.0 Strategic Action Plan for specific strategies to achieve this.

### 7.2. Option 1: City-Operated Park with Partnerships

Under this model, Little Red River Park will continue to be managed by the Parks Manager in the Community Services Department. A governance board, made up of the Park's stakeholders — a variation of the existing Friends of Little Red River Park — would aid in decision-making processes. Operation of the various park amenities would still be charged to private contractors who would have the opportunity to generate their own income from their enterprises within the Park.

Significant investment of public funds would be required under this model to implement the recommendations in this Master Plan. This investment may be sourced from increased funding in annual City budgets over the ten-year period of the Plan's implementation process, or through various grants.

A portion of this funding may also be sourced from increased taxation or fees charged for certain park services such as parking. This approach will likely be met with opposition from residents.

The City might also charge a levy on any personal revenue that is brought in from the private contractors' park operations (e.g. food sales at Cosmopolitan Lodge) though this may serve to reduce the appeal of bidding on park contracts.

Under this model, it is also recommended that the City hire a manager, specific to Little Red River Park, to alleviate the extra workload that would otherwise fall on the Parks Manager, given the added obligations that come with the implementation of the Master Plan.

### **7.3. Option 2: Separate Governance**

This option would require the City to relinquish operation of the Park to a separate body. In most cases, the City would still maintain ownership of the land, and provide funding toward certain aspects of park management, but the governing body would head operations, and seek funding for capital projects.

Three different models for this option are presented herein.

#### **1. Conservancy Model**

Using the Friends of Little Red River Park as a seed for the formation of an arms-length organization to act as a governing body would ensure that the institutional knowledge and grassroots structure of this group is preserved and the interests of the amenities and user groups in the Park are maintained.

The Little Red River Park Conservancy would work to fundraise, advise, and make decisions regarding operations and capital projects within the Park's boundaries. The conservancy would be governed by a board of directors, and staffed by a manager who would oversee operations staff. There would still be an opportunity to contract various operations to private organizations under this model.

#### **2. Regional Park Model**

This option is not new to Little Red River Park. Attempts were made in 1978 to have the Park designated<sup>29</sup> but this did not come to fruition.

Little Red River Park far exceeds the minimum size requirement of 160 acres. Regional Parks require sponsorship from a Municipality and an application must include a 5-year plan and proposed budget. The Park must make a net profit of at least \$10,000 per year.

Advantages to this model are that the Regional Park body does the lobbying for funding from the Province, capital grants are available, there is more exposure for the Park through the provincial guide, parks can attend the Annual General Meeting, and they can assist one another.

A Regional Park must also have a local board. Again, the Friends of Little Red River Park can serve as a seed for this board.

### **3. Provincial Park Model**

While there are examples of towns that sit within the boundaries of Provincial Parks in Saskatchewan, there are no current examples of Provincial Parks that sit within the limits of a city in Saskatchewan. This would either be a precedent-setting example, or there would be a requirement for the City of Prince Albert to transfer ownership of the land to the Province of Saskatchewan.

In any case, conversion to a Provincial Park would relieve the City of Prince Albert of all responsibility of Little Red River Park. It is likely not an ideal candidate for this model, but it is worth consideration as an option.

The disadvantage to operating as a Provincial Park, is that these jurisdictions typically rely on entrance fees to fund their operations, which would serve as an economic barrier to established park users and would go against the goal of being available to all residents of the region.

## **7.4. Option 3: Combined Governance**

A third governance option is the transferring of responsibilities of different areas or amenities within the Park to different governing bodies or models, or to create a multi-level structure like Meewasin Valley (City of Saskatoon, Government of Saskatchewan, and University of Saskatchewan).

Examples of organizations or models that might form part of this combined model are listed below.

### **1. Environmental Designations**

Examples of environmental designations that portions of Little Red River Park might meet eligibility for are:

- Protected Area;
- Ecological Reserve;
- National Wildlife Area;
- UNESCO Biosphere Reserve

These designations come with governance requirements.

## 2. Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA)

Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCA) are:

...lands and waters where Indigenous Peoples have the primary role in protecting and conserving ecosystems through Indigenous laws, governance and knowledge systems.”<sup>30</sup>

The rich history of the Dakota people that most recently occupied the site prior to displacement in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century contributes to the Park’s potential eligibility to be designated as an IPCA. This model is relatively new and has yet to be widely appointed, but the Federal Government has expressed a desire to designate more IPCAs. Little Red River Park could be a great model for this system of governance.

There are different management models within the IPCA system. Working under the *Indigenous People – Government Partnerships* model, the City of Prince Albert would partner with local Indigenous communities to form a governance body for the Park.

## 3. Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measure (OECM)

The Convention on Biological Diversity defines an “other effective area-based conservation measure” as:

A geographically defined area other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in situ conservation of biodiversity with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio-economic, and other locally relevant values.<sup>31</sup>

## 4. Indigenous Guardian Program

Indigenous Guardians are paid staff who partake in a diverse range of activities to promote ecological Indigenous values including “protecting and conserving ecosystems, developing and maintaining sustainable economies, and continuing the profound connections between Canadian landscape and Indigenous culture.”<sup>32</sup>

In 2017 the Federal Government launched a pilot program, setting aside \$25 million over four years with the aim to develop a National Indigenous Guardians Network.<sup>33</sup>

The Indigenous Leadership Initiative is promoting a federally funded, Indigenous-led National Indigenous Guardians Network in Canada that supports development and employment of guardians across the country. This network has generated broad support, including from the Assembly of First Nations which passed a resolution in 2015 calling for a national Guardians program.<sup>34</sup>

The City of Prince Albert, its large Indigenous population, and the region at large would mutually benefit from employing this program in Little Red River Park.

## **7.5. Personnel and Policy Recommendations**

A number of personnel, both paid and volunteer, will need to be engaged to ensure smooth operation of the Park. As well, with the adoption of new governance, concrete policies must be developed.

### **Personnel and Staff**

- Dedicated maintenance crew;
- Park Board with a clear charter;
- Park patrol/ranger;
- Establishment of Indigenous-led foot patrol for the broader PA area (e.g. Okihtcitawak Patrol Group in Saskatoon, Bear Clan Patrol in Winnipeg);
- Dedicated LRRP Volunteer Association (to add more cohesion and coordination between the groups currently doing work in the Park).

### **Policies to be Developed**

- Off-leash policy;
- Green Event Guidelines/Policy;
- Healthy Food Environment/Health Food Policy/Guidelines.





## Strategic Action Plan

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The key to the successful implementation of the Master Plan is in setting out priorities for improvements and acting in a sequence of phases that build upon each other throughout the ten-year implementation period.

In the first few years, it is important to tackle existing deficiencies, especially as they relate to accessibility, safety and security. The commissioning of studies, policy changes, and development of management plans and packages that are prerequisite to major projects should also be undertaken at this stage.

It is important too in these early stages to implement some smaller projects that are visible and impactful, assuring the public that actions are being taken to improve the Park, and establishing a momentum to build upon. Therefore, a significant investment should be made in the first phase of the Plan, and subsequent periods should be relatively equal in their levels of investment.

### 8.1. Key Strategies

1. Invest in repairs to meet safety and accessibility requirements.
2. Implement a governance model that provides a single point of contact for the Park, allows access to private funding opportunities, and establishes a clear system for managing programs and facilities.
3. Commission feasibility studies, branding and wayfinding packages, and engineering reviews in anticipation of major improvement projects.
4. Commit to seeking sources of revenue and establishing partnerships that can offset capital and operating costs.
5. Work persistently at enhancement projects, keeping the public and park users well informed, and give opportunities for public input where appropriate.
6. Construct and operate the Park in a manner that is economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable, and embraces, new partnerships and innovation.
7. Assess successes and monitor progress each year of the ten-year process to determine the best course of action for full implementation. This may require adjustments to the Strategic Directions as the Plan progresses.

## 8.2. Strategic Directions

### Phase 1: Establishment (Years 1-2)

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#### 1. Establish governance structure and commission prerequisite feasibility and engineering studies.

- a. Based on the governance options presented in this Plan, commission a full governance study for the Park, and implement a clear governance structure for operations, funding, marketing and enhancement projects in the Park;
- b. Determine staffing requirements based on chosen governance model. Regardless of which model is chosen, staffing should include security and maintenance positions.
- c. Put out a call for proposals for a branding package for the Park, which includes a discrete graphic identity for Little Red River Park;
- d. Upon adoption of the branding package, put out a call for proposals for the development of a comprehensive wayfinding system for the Park, that incorporates the new branding and graphic identity;
- e. Commission an engineering review of all bridges, both pedestrian and vehicular to determine replacement and repair recommendations;

#### 2. Execute improvements to Cosmopolitan Lodge and its immediate environs.

- a. Provide data and cable connections to the Lodge to allow for wi-fi access and broadcasting of televised events. Provide television in coordination with operating contractor;
- b. Install security and surveillance systems to help deter crime including enhanced security for wood and equipment storage;
- c. Extend back patio and make any improvements required to provide comfortable eating and lounging space with tables and umbrellas, accessible from the building interior;
- d. Review accessibility and implement improvements to bring the building up to current standards and best practices.

3. **Make improvements to Kinsmen Ski and Snowboard Centre.**
  - a. Work with ski hill contractor to replace current lifts with new, variable speed rope lifts, complete with lift house controls;
  - b. Provide water service to Old Log Cabin;
  - c. Hire ski patrol to be on duty during open hours;
  - d. Develop a clear emergency plan for the facility and improve emergency road access;
  - e. Work with cross-country ski user groups to re-route trail at base of hill to alleviate conflict with downhill skiers/snowboarders;
  
4. **Replace existing outhouse facilities in Cosmopolitan Place picnic areas.**
  - a. Provide new accessible toilet buildings, including water for washing. Facilities should be sustainable (e.g. compost toilets, onsite water storage) and fit with the established aesthetic of Cosmopolitan Place.
  
5. **Enhance connectivity:**
  - a. Replace the footbridge near playground to improve access from park entrance at Highway 55. The bridge should follow accessibility standards and should be of an aesthetic that is consistent with Cosmopolitan Place.
  
6. **Repair Park roads.**
  - a. Re-grade and resurface 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE within the Park.
  - b. Make any other road improvements that are of immediate concern to general safety and security.
  
7. **Improve trail quality and legibility.**
  - a. Add winter walking trails alongside or near to ski trails. Monitor their use during the season and evaluate successes and any requirements for subsequent improvements. Use of branded signage should be used to convey the message of trail etiquette and the importance of use separation.
  - b. Launch GPS mobile trail application in partnership with Saskatchewan Polytechnic's Natural Resource Management, Forestry and Ecosystem Technology Program;
  - c. Identify areas of the trail system where accessibility can be improved and implement measures to achieve this. Information gathered in this process can be applied to future trailhead development. A key example is the loop between the former playground site and Cosmo Lodge.

- d. Begin re-naturalization of rogue trails to rationalize the existing trail system. Develop signage and markers to aid in this effort by prohibiting traffic to areas of re-naturalization.
- e. Install fencing and kissing gates along northwest park edge to deter vehicular entry.

**8. Clear deadfall from river course.**

- a. Begin clearing of deadfall from south end of the Spruce (Little Red) River. Consultation with pertinent environmental professionals should be undertaken to ensure that established wildlife habitat is not adversely affected, and that mitigating measures are instituted where disturbance is likely to occur as a result.

**9. Invest in broader marketing of Little Red River Park**

- a. Commit funding to a marketing budget for the Park to develop promotional material that features the Park's amenities using a combination of photography, video, copy, and current media platforms, in accordance with the graphic identity package. Promotion should be far-reaching, drawing in potential visitors from Saskatchewan, Western Canada, and beyond.
- b. Develop a dedicated Little Red River Park website and social media accounts. Assign operations to dedicated personnel, either within the City (or park management team) or externally through a marketing firm.

**10. Name/re-name sites, trails, or facilities**

- a. In partnership with the City's Traditional Knowledge Keepers Committee, schedule naming ceremonies for sites and trails within the Park with appropriate names that draw on Indigenous traditions and the region's history.

## **Phase 2: Enhancement (Year 3-4):**

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- 1. Generate resource management and emergency preparedness plans.**
  - a. Develop a waste management plan for the Park that includes determining waste and recycling requirements for on-site collection and off-site disposal.
  - b. Work with Saskatchewan Environment to develop a wildfire management plan for Little Red River Park that works in tandem with the Wildfire Management section of the *Nisbet Integrated Forest Land Use Plan* (July 2012)
  - c. Develop a forest inventory and management plan with certified foresters and environmental professionals.
  - d. These plans may be integrated into a single comprehensive management plan. This plan should also reference the City's flood plain policies and flood plain mapping completed in 2019.
  
- 2. Replace Hands Bridge.**
  - a. Based on findings of the engineering study in Phase 1, replace existing Hands Bridge with either:
    - i. New vehicular bridge with restricted access points;
    - ii. New pedestrian bridge with conversion of road to trail.
  
- 3. Continue upgrades to Cosmopolitan Lodge.**
  - a. Upgrade heating and cooling systems.
  - b. Upgrade washrooms including family-friendly facilities
  - c. Enhance the landscape surrounding the building, including:
    - i. Permanent site lighting and seasonal lighting;
    - ii. Soft landscaping around the building to provide a more welcoming environment for visitors, weddings, and special events;
    - iii. Improved walkways and connections to adjacent facilities (paths, bridges, etc.).
    - iv. Provision for winter skating rink in open area between the Lodge and the Kinsmen Ski and Snowboard Centre.
  
- 4. Continue upgrades to Kinsmen Ski and Snowboard Centre.**
  - a. Replace grooming equipment (snowcat).
  - b. Develop opportunities for ski patrol training for local youth.

**5. Upgrade parking.**

- a. Reorganize parking lot near ski hill with vegetation buffers.
- b. Plant trees along parking areas throughout the Park.

**6. Develop an active recreation area in the Core.**

- a. Add two new picnic sites with fire pits complete with additional waste and recycling receptacles.
- b. Add parking, signage, paths, fencing and picnic shelters near former playground site. This is only recommended in this location if flood mitigation measures are undertaken to ensure that amenities are not within the 100 year flood zone.
- c. Monitor use of these sites to determine potential for future demand of additional sites in later phases.

**7. Enhance trails with trailheads and seating options.**

- a. Develop trailheads complete with signage and waste receptacles. Signage should communicate trail system and routes, difficulty, and etiquette. Information and graphics must follow accessibility standards and best practices, and follow Little Red River Park's brand guidelines;
- b. Install benches along trails where appropriate to increase accessibility;
- c. Continue to monitor and mitigate rogue trails.

**8. Develop the site of the old Sanitorium as an Indigenous ceremonial ground.**

- a. Work with local Indigenous groups, Elders and Knowledge Keepers to design and build a gathering space and ceremonial ground that can accommodate powwows, sweat lodges, seasonal feasts and other ceremonial and celebratory gatherings that are welcoming to all.
- b. Develop and install interpretive signage, consistent with Little Red River Park branding, to commemorate the story of the history of the sanitorium and tuberculosis treatment at this site.

**9. Develop land-based learning initiatives and commemoration of Indigenous history at the Upper Plains site.**

- a. Develop and install interpretive signage commemorating the historic Dakota village that once stood on the western portion of the Upper Plain, as well as traditional plants, ceremonial practices, and land management techniques of Indigenous peoples that have lived in the region prior to and following European contact.

- b. Working with local schools and post-secondary institutions, develop programming for land-based learning and outdoor education.
- c. Create a dedicated outdoor classroom space where visiting school groups can gather to learn Indigenous Traditional Knowledge and environmental science.

**10. Pilot low-impact camping in Upper Plains.**

- a. Allow for low-impact camping (tenting or yurts) for supervised youth field trips in relation to land-based learning programs or other youth and family group trips.

**11. Implement wayfinding system throughout the Park.**

- a. Based on the wayfinding package in Phase 1, design and install signage at all of the Park's entrances, and at key points within the Park.
- b. Install lighting at entrances and along main route through Park.
- c. Design and install roadside information signage on Highway 55.
- d. All signage must comply with Little Red River Park's brand guidelines.

**12. Continue clearing of deadfall on river course.**

**Phase 3: Continued Improvement (Years 5-6):**

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**1. Consider feasibility of replacement of the Swinging Bridge.**

- a. Re-visit bridge engineering study and consider any recommendations for replacement of the Swinging Bridge structure.
- b. If required, commission a specific study by engineering professionals for replacement of the bridge.

**2. Consult with RM of Buckland to request construction of access road to adjacent private property.**

- a. Private property north of the Park in Rural Municipality of Buckland is only accessible by internal Park road. The City of Prince Albert and the RM of Buckland should plan the construction of an access road from the RM's grid in order to give this landowner access to the property.
- b. Portions of the road within the Park should be re-naturalized to deter vehicular use.

- 3. Put out a call for provision of equipment rental service.**
  - a. With the increased trail use and cleared river course, it is assumed that there will be an increased demand for casual visitors requiring rental equipment (bicycles, canoes, kayaks, snowshoes, etc.). This may be able to be accommodated by the Cosmopolitan Lodge operations contractor, Park staff, or it may require a third party to set up a kiosk. Consider security and loss prevention requirements for this service prior to commissioning.
  
- 4. Continue upgrades to Kinsmen Ski and Snowboard Centre.**
  - a. Develop a bridge structure to allow safe winter access from the Parking lot to the Old Log Cabin (in favour of current seasonal snow bridge). This structure must be able to be disassembled and stored in the off-season.
  - b. Complete interior and exterior refurbishments to Old Log Cabin as required.
  - c. Invest in further enhancements to the snowboard terrain park.
  
- 5. Pilot low-impact camping in Cosmopolitan Place picnic sites.**
  - a. Designate a number of picnic sites as low-impact (tent only) camp sites.
  - b. Assign staff to oversee campsite rentals and provide overnight, on-site security.
  - c. Add six new casual (non-camping) picnic spots with fire pits to mitigate conversion of existing picnic sites.
  
- 6. Continue development of adventure- and nature-based play spaces.**
  - a. Add playground, fitness equipment, picnic sites, pathways and lighting to active recreation area.
  - b. Make accessibility and grading improvements to toboggan hill.
  - c. Develop a mountain bike skills park or jump track.
  - d. Invite expressions of interest in developing an adventure centre (zip line or smaller line system, rope towers, climbing walls, etc.).
  
- 7. Repair Park roads.**
  - a. Upgrade/resurface vehicular roads as required.
  
- 8. Extend Prince Albert Transit service to Little Red River Park.**
  - a. Consult with PA Transit and Glass Field Airport to add a new route that services both locations. This extension might also service other neighbourhoods in North Prince Albert, such as Hazeldell and Nordale.

## **Phase 4: Renewal (Year 7-8):**

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### **1. Assess success of land-based learning and consider expansion.**

- a. Based on first years of operation of outdoor classroom and development of environmental education programming, assess feasibility of building a low impact building to house an environmental learning centre.
- b. Continue to build partnerships with educators and institutions to develop curriculum for environmental learning centre.

### **2. Continue improvements to Kinsmen Ski and Snowboard Centre.**

- a. Invite expressions of interest in developing a summer activity at the ski hill site that will extend use of the site while not impeding on the function of the ski hill;
- b. Design and construct washroom building in close proximity to Old Log Cabin.

### **3. Replace Swinging Bridge.**

- a. Based on previous phase's assessment, replace swinging bridge with new structure complete with accessibility upgrades (if feasible).
- b. Develop picnic space at north end of the bridge.
- c. Create a trail connection from north landing to the River Trail.
- d. Design and install interpretive signage telling the history of the Park and the Swinging Bridge.

### **4. Provide additional parking.**

- a. Provide additional low-impact single row perpendicular parking if it is required to meet demand. Include vegetative buffers where possible.

### **5. Enhance trails.**

- a. Install low impact outhouses at appropriate intervals along major trails where appropriate. Structures should be appropriately sited so as not to take away from views of or have any negative impact on the natural environment.
- b. Restore the former Kiwanis bike trail south of Highway 55 to increase accessibility to the Park for cyclists.

## **Phase 5: Fulfillment (Years 9-10):**

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### **1. Construct Environmental Learning Centre on Western Upper Plain.**

- a. Based on feasibility study, put out call for proposals for design and construction of environmental education centre, award contract, and open doors to public. Include public engagement in design process.

### **2. Evaluate.**

- a. Evaluate success of Master Plan and determine next steps for continued success. Identify any elements of the Master Plan that have not been fulfilled, and determine if an action plan for their execution is required to complete the tasks.
- b. Continue to allocate funding to marketing and promotions to continue to build on increased park use.

### 8.3. Evaluation Process

Each project undertaken as part of this Master Plan must be scrutinized through a Development Review Process to ensure that it meets the following criteria prior to full implementation:

1. It meets the Goals and Objectives of the Plan as laid out in Section 3.0;
2. It is environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable.
  - a. Environmental sustainability:
    - Federal and Provincial standards for assessing environmental impacts are followed;
    - It fits any forest and wildfire management plans that are in place;
    - It follows best practices for resilience and adaptation to climate change factors; and
    - It does not conflict with any adjacent land uses.
  - b. Economic sustainability:
    - A full financial evaluation has been undertaken;
    - Partnerships and funding sources have been set;
    - Cost and revenues have been projected; and
    - There is sustained demand for the activity or amenity being proposed.
  - c. Social sustainability:
    - It promotes the general health and well-being of residents of Prince Albert and District
    - It is respectful of heritage values and where possible contributes to the education of the public; and
    - It presents activities that are inclusive and accessible.
3. Full public consultation, including with Indigenous communities, has been undertaken and concerns are addressed to a satisfactory level.
4. It adheres to the principles and policies of local plans such as the *Prince Albert District Official Community Plan*, the *Community Services Master Plan*, the *Municipal Cultural Action Plan*, and City of Prince Albert by-laws.
5. It follows the provincial and national standards in Section 4.1, and any other pertinent standards that may arise in the course of the implementation of this Master Plan.

## 8.4. Programs and Partnership Opportunities

The following is a list of potential partnerships and program support for projects within Little Red River Park:

- Prince Albert Historical Society;
- Prince Albert Indian and Métis Friendship Centre;
- Prince Albert Grand Council;
- Local First Nations: Wahpeton, Little Red River (Lac La Ronge), Sturgeon Lake, Kiskaciwan, Muskoday, One Arrow;
- Métis Nation Saskatchewan;
- Prince Albert Métis Women's Association;
- Prince Albert Multicultural Council;
- Prince Albert Tourism and Marketing Bureau;
- Prince Albert Wildlife Federation;
- Prince Albert Winter Festival Society;
- Prince Albert Historical Museum;
- Saskatchewan Polytechnic – Natural Resource Management, Forestry & Ecosystem Technology;
- University of Saskatchewan;
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans;
- Prince Albert Regional Economic Development Alliance;
- Ranch Ehrlo;
- Prince Albert & Area Teachers' Association;
- Make Prince Albert Beautiful;
- Summit Run;
- Department of Canadian Heritage;
- The National Trust;
- Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Industry;
- Sask Rivers School Division – Indigenous Perspectives Program;
- Bowbenders Archery Club;
- Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS);
- Ministry of Environment;
- Prince Albert Model Forest;
- First Nations University of Canada;
- Traditional Knowledge Keepers Committee (City of Prince Albert);
- Museum of Natural Sciences;
- Ministry of Corrections and Policing;



Photo credit: Francesco Paggiaro





# 9.0 Financial Analysis

## 9.1. Capital Development Budget Estimate

An order of magnitude budget estimate was prepared by the Consultant Team for each of the phases presented in Chapter 8.0. This costing is based upon similar construction projects, current market values, and consultation with pertinent local trades and suppliers. In each phase a contingency of 25% has been included. An estimate of design and engineering fees in the order has also been included for each phase. This fee has been excluded for any projects which might already include such fees, or where these fees would not be required. Likewise, fees have been included for consultation with Elders and Knowledge Keepers.

<b>1.0 PHASE 1: Establishment (Years 1 - 2)</b>	
<b>A. Prerequisite Studies</b>	<b>\$350,000</b>
<b>B. Cosmopolitan Lodge Improvements</b>	<b>\$120,000</b>
<b>C. Kinsmen Ski &amp; Snowboard Centre Improvements</b>	<b>\$155,000</b>
<b>D. Replacement of Outhouses</b>	<b>\$352,500</b>
<b>E. Enhanced Connectivity</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>
<b>F. Road Repairs</b>	<b>\$528,000</b>
<b>G. Trail Improvements</b>	<b>\$790,000</b>
<b>H. Rivercourse Cleanup</b>	<b>\$45,000</b>
<b>I. Marketing</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>
<b>J. Naming of Sites</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<b>Phase Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$2,845,500</b>
25% Contingency:	\$711,375
Elders Fees:	\$56,910
Design & Engineering Fees:	\$231,800
<b>PHASE 1 TOTAL ESTIMATE:</b>	<b>\$3,846,000</b>

<b>2.0 PHASE 2: Enhancement (Years 3 - 4)</b>	
A.	Resources Management & Emergency Preparedness \$125,000
B.	Replacement of Hands Bridge \$400,000
C.	Cosmopolitan Lodge Upgrades \$722,000
D.	Kinsmen Ski & Snowboard Centre Upgrades \$300,000
E.	Parking Upgrades \$85,000
F.	Active Recreation Area \$570,000
G.	Addition of Trailheads and Seating \$80,000
H.	Sanitorium Site Development \$200,000
I.	Land-based Learning Initiatives \$171,000
J.	Low-impact Camping \$25,000
K.	Park Wayfinding System \$126,000
L.	Rivercourse Cleanup \$45,000
	<b>Phase Subtotal: \$2,849,000</b>
	25% Contingency: \$712,250
	Elders Fees: \$42,735
	Design & Engineering Fees: \$253,900
	<b>PHASE 2 TOTAL ESTIMATE: \$3,858,000</b>

<b>3.0 PHASE 3: Continued Improvement (Years 5 - 6)</b>	
A.	Swinging Bridge Replacement Feasibility \$25,000
B.	Private Access Road Decommissioning \$50,000
C.	Equipment Rental Service* \$50,000
D.	Kinsmen Ski & Snowboard Centre Improvements* \$400,000
E.	Picnic/Camp Site Enhancements \$145,000
F.	Active Recreation Area Phase 2 \$1,500,000
G.	Road Repairs \$150,000
	<b>Phase Subtotal: \$2,320,000</b>
	25% Contingency: \$580,000
	Elders Fees: \$23,200
	Design & Engineering Fees: \$219,500
	<b>PHASE 3 TOTAL ESTIMATE: \$3,143,000</b>

<b>4.0 PHASE 4: Renewal (Years 5 - 6)</b>	
<b>A.</b>	<b>Kinsmen Ski &amp; Snowboard Centre Improvements</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>\$175,000</b></span>
<b>B.</b>	<b>Replacement of Swinging Bridge</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>\$540,000</b></span>
<b>C.</b>	<b>Trail Enhancement</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>\$125,000</b></span>
	<b>Phase Subtotal:</b> <b>\$840,000</b>
	25% Contingency: <b>\$210,000</b>
	Elders Fees: <b>\$8,400</b>
	Design & Engineering Fees: <b>\$81,500</b>
	<b>PHASE 4 TOTAL ESTIMATE:</b> <b>\$1,140,000</b>

<b>5.0 PHASE 5: Fulfillment (Years 9 - 10)</b>	
<b>A.</b>	<b>Environmental Learning Centre</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>\$1,045,000</b></span>
	<b>Phase Subtotal:</b> <b>\$1,045,000</b>
	25% Contingency: <b>\$261,250</b>
	Elders Fees: <b>\$10,450</b>
	Design & Engineering Fees: <b>\$104,500</b>
	<b>PHASE 5 TOTAL ESTIMATE:</b> <b>\$1,421,000</b>

<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST OF IMPLEMENTATION</b>	<b>\$13,408,000</b>
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\* Costs may be shared depending on final governance structure

## 9.2. Operating Costs

Along with the development projects laid out in the Renewal Plan, it is important to take into account ongoing operating costs that will arise from implementation of these strategies. Without knowing the governance model that is to be employed, it is difficult to determine which of these will be applicable, but annual costs to be considered in City budgets include:

### Staffing

- Park Manager;
- Park staff;
- Overnight staff (camping);
- Park Ranger(s) and/or security personnel.

### Operations

- Maintenance;
- Groundskeeping;
- Replacement of infrastructure and equipment;

### Promotions

- Marketing materials.

## 9.3. Potential Revenue Sources and Funding Programs

The following is a list of potential revenue sources for projects within Little Red River Park. This list is by no means exhaustive, and ongoing searches for new grants and revenue sources should be undertaken annually. Web links provided are current as of the date of publication.

### Revenue From Park Activities

- Fees for use of Indigenous-specific ceremonial area;
- Pine Needle Festival partnership;
- Trail passes and guided hikes;
- Parking fees;
- User fees (though fees for park entry will deter lower income users);
- Various revenue sources from park activities;
- Sale of carbon offset credits.

## Local Funding Sources

- Sponsorships;
- Service clubs: Rotary, Kiwanis, Kinsmen, Lions, Cosmopolitan;
- Pêhonân Parkway Board;
- Local foundations such as Prince Albert and Area Community Foundation;

## Provincial Programs

- **Community Grant Program** (Saskatchewan Lotteries) – helps volunteer-operated, non-profit community organizations develop sport, culture and recreation programs. <https://www.sasklotteries.ca/about-us/community-grant-program.htm>;
- **Parks For All Action Grant** (Saskatchewan Parks & Recreation Association) – in support of the *Parks for All Action Plan*. <https://www.spra.sk.ca/funding/spra-grants/>;
- **Aboriginal Arts and Cultural Leadership Grant** (SaskCulture) – supports the sharing of cultural skills and knowledge to young people through participatory cultural activity with First Nations or Métis arts and culture leaders. <https://www.saskculture.ca/programs/funding-programs/grants/aboriginal-arts-and-cultural-leadership-grant>;
- **Métis Cultural Development Fund** (SaskCulture) – supports community-based cultural activities and initiatives that preserve, strengthen and transmit Métis culture and traditions. <https://www.saskculture.ca/programs/funding-programs/grants/metis-cultural-development-fund>;
- **Community Initiatives Fund** (SaskCulture) – provides grants to support programs and projects that focus on healthy growth and development of children and youth, individual and community wellbeing, or nonprofit and community leadership. <http://www.cifsask.org/>;
- Municipal Revenue Sharing Program.

## Federal Programs

- **Canada Nature Fund** (Environment and Climate Change Canada) – supports the protection of Canada’s ecosystems, landscapes, and biodiversity—including species at risk. The Fund is available to not-for-profit and Indigenous organizations, provinces and territories, and others. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/nature-legacy/fund.html>;

- **Community-nominated priority places for species at risk** (part of Canada's Nature Fund) – supports multi-partner initiatives in priority places where there are opportunities to protect and recover species at risk and their habitat through multi-species and ecosystem-based conservation action. [www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/nature-legacy/fund/community-nominated-places-species-risk.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/nature-legacy/fund/community-nominated-places-species-risk.html);
- **Enabling Accessibilities Fund** (Employment and Social Development Canada) – provides funding for eligible capital projects that increase accessibility for people with disabilities in Canadian communities and workplaces. [www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/enabling-accessibility-fund.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/enabling-accessibility-fund.html);
- **Green Infrastructure programs** (Natural Resources Canada) – investment in commercial-scale technology demonstrations, deployment, community capacity building, and targeted research and development. <https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/climate-change/green-infrastructure-programs/19780>;
- **Canada Cultural Spaces Fund** (Culture, History and Sport) – supports the improvement of physical conditions for arts, heritage, culture and creative innovation. [www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/cultural-spaces-fund.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/cultural-spaces-fund.html);
- **Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage** (Culture, History and Sport) – opportunities for local artists, artisans, heritage performers or specialists to be involved in their community through festivals, events and projects. It also allows local groups to commemorate their local history and heritage. [www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/building-communities.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/building-communities.html);
- **Commemorate Canada** (Culture, History and Sport) – provides funding to initiatives that commemorate and celebrate historical figures, places, events and accomplishments of national significance. [www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/commemorate-canada.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/commemorate-canada.html);
- **Indigenous Languages and Cultures Program** (Culture, History and Sport) – The Indigenous Languages Component supports the reclamation, revitalization, maintenance, and strengthening of Indigenous languages through community-driven activities [www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/aboriginal-peoples.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/aboriginal-peoples.html);
- **Creating, Knowing and Sharing: The Arts and Cultures of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples** (Canada Council for the Arts) – acknowledges the cultural sovereignty of Indigenous peoples and respects the concepts of First Nations, Inuit and Métis self-determination. [canadacouncil.ca/funding/grants/creating-knowing-sharing](http://canadacouncil.ca/funding/grants/creating-knowing-sharing);

## Charities, Non-Profit, NGO, and Private Sector Grants and Programs

- **Canadian Tire Jumpstart Accessibility Grants** – supports the capital costs of construction and renovation projects aimed at helping kids of all abilities enjoy sport and play. [jumpstart.canadiantire.ca/pages/accessibility-grants](http://jumpstart.canadiantire.ca/pages/accessibility-grants);
- **TD Green Space Grant** – supports green infrastructure development, tree planting, forestry stewardship, and community green space expansion as a way to advance environmental and economic benefits toward a low-carbon economy. [www.arborday.org/programs/TDGreenSpaceGrants/grant-information.cfm](http://www.arborday.org/programs/TDGreenSpaceGrants/grant-information.cfm);
- **TD Canada Trust Friends of the Environment Foundation** – supports a wide range of environmental initiatives, with a primary focus on environmental education and green space programs. This grant was awarded in the past for riverbank stabilization in Little Red River Park. [fef.td.com/funding/](http://fef.td.com/funding/);
- **Cabela’s Outdoor Fund** - supports Canadian non-profit charities that support our 3 conservation pillars of advocacy, education, and conservation. [www.cabelas.ca/pages/outdoorfund](http://www.cabelas.ca/pages/outdoorfund)
- **Mountain Equipment Co-op’s Community Grants Program** – supports outdoor environmental education programming, education on ecologically sensitive areas, trails, skills-parks or backcountry shelters. [www.mec.ca/en/explore/spring-and-fall-grants](http://www.mec.ca/en/explore/spring-and-fall-grants);
- **Co-op Community Spaces** – supports projects that improve the places Canadians meet, play, learn and share. [www.co-op.crs/communityspaces/](http://www.co-op.crs/communityspaces/);
- **Saskatchewan Trails Association Funding Programs** Partnership Initiative Program, Members Grant Program, Charitable Status Program. [sasktrails.ca/trail-builders/#funding](http://sasktrails.ca/trail-builders/#funding);
- **Community Forward Fund** – supports housing, the arts, renewable energy, food and community spaces. [communityforwardfund.ca/](http://communityforwardfund.ca/);
- **Green Municipal Fund** (Federation of Canadian Municipalities) - Funding available for studies, pilot projects, and capital projects. [fcm.ca/en/programs/green-municipal-fund](http://fcm.ca/en/programs/green-municipal-fund);
- **The McLean Foundation Grants** – supports arts, conservation, education, general health and welfare. [www.mcleanfoundation.ca/](http://www.mcleanfoundation.ca/);
- **Go Wild Community Grants** (World Wildlife Fund Canada) – supports projects to restore habitat, monitor species at risk or help Canadians connect with nature and take to protect our country’s diverse wildlife and varied ecosystems. Past grants have supported trails, youth education, mapping, and monitoring. [www.wwf.ca/takeaction/gowild/](http://www.wwf.ca/takeaction/gowild/).





## Conclusion

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Little Red River Park has inspired artists, authors, and photographers with its natural beauty. Soaring pines, set against open plains, sandy cliffs and meandering muddy waters have stirred the imaginations of countless visitors and inhabitants of this site throughout the centuries.

As much as this place inspires, there are dark points in the history of this place, when people were displaced and the nature was set to be bulldozed to make way for paved streets, when garbage was proposed to be used as fill, when sacred ground and the graves of ancestors were threatened with careless development.

The directions laid out in this Master Plan aim to ensure that both preservation and progress are thoughtfully carried out. **Listening is a key tool** to this process. All of the projects undertaken in this place must begin with listening, not just to the people, but the land, the water, and the living components of this ecosystem.

The body that governs Little Red River Park, whether it be the City of Prince Albert's Parks Department, a new conservancy, or a combination of different groups, must adhere to the guiding principles of **inclusivity, conservation, truth, reconciliation** and **public participation**. Building healthy relationships is key to building a bright future, and this is achieved through **learning, healing, and doing**.

The success of realizing this Master Plan will not be in whether everything presented in the Strategic Actions is completed within the ten-year timeframe. Instead it will be seen in the quality of the actions that are taken. If they stand up to the foundations of this Plan, then Little Red River Park will continue to be a success. And the artists of the future will continue to capture its beauty in sound and light.



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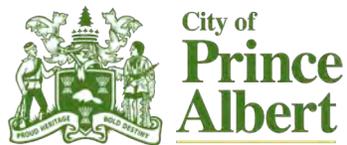
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**LEGEND**

-  3m Proposed Trail
-  Compostable Washroom
-  Picnic Site with Fire Pits
-  Picnic Site
-  Light Posts

NO.	DATE	REVISION	BY
1	8/23/21	REVISED PLAY AREAS	SON

**PROPOSED PLAY AREA  
ROTARY ADVENTURE PARK  
LAYOUT - CRS DESIGN**



**CITY OF PRINCE ALBERT  
PUBLIC WORKS  
LITTLE RED RIVER PARK**

SURVEYED BY	DATE
A. NAGRAMA	07/02/21
DRAWN	DWG. FILE NO.
A. NAGRAMA	R:\Eng_Common
CHECKED	HORIZ.
	1:750
APPROVED	SCALE
	VERT. N/A

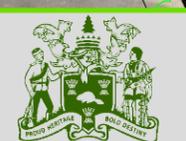
G:\Public Works\eng\_common\SURVEY\2021 SURVEY DATABASE\LITTLE RED PARK - PLAY AREA 2021\LITTLE RED PARK - PLAY AREA 2021.B.dwg Feb 23, 2022 - 10:24AM vsawchuk



- LEGEND**
-  3m Proposed Trail
  -  Compostable Washroom
  -  Picnic Site with Fire Pits
  -  Picnic Site
  -  Light Posts

NO.	DATE	REVISION	BY

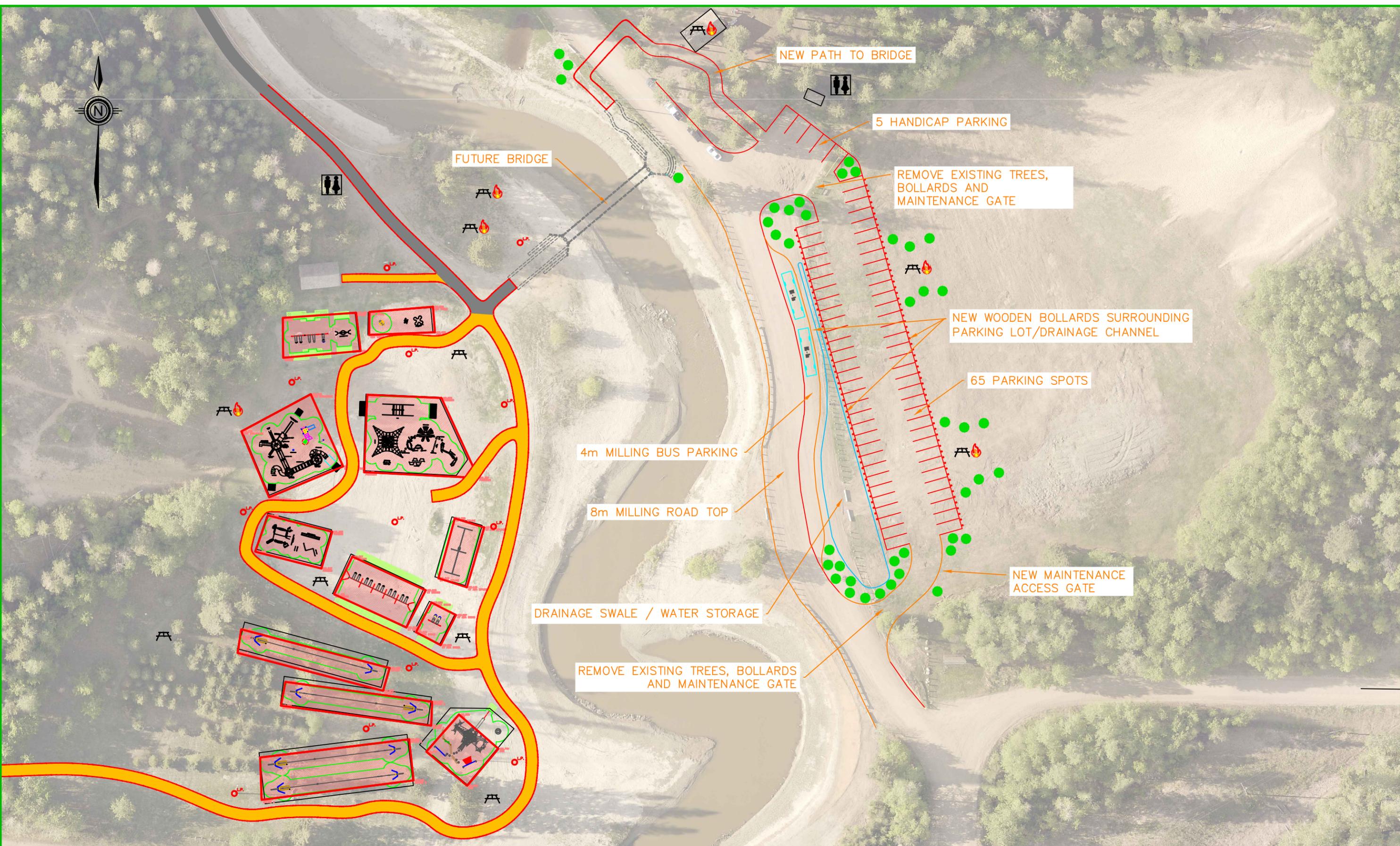
**PROPOSED PLAY AREA  
ROTARY ADVENTURE PARK  
PATHWAY TO LION'S GATE BRIDGE**



**CITY OF PRINCE ALBERT  
PUBLIC WORKS  
LITTLE RED RIVER PARK**

SURVEYED BY	DATE	02/22/2022
DRAWN	V. SAWCHUK	DWG. FILE NO.
CHECKED		HORIZ. 1:1250
APPROVED		SCALE VERT. N/A

G:\Public Works\eng\_common\SURVEY\2022 SURVEY DATA\BASE\LITTLE RED PARKING PADS\LITTLE RED PARKING PADS.LIDAR\_TC.v2.dwg Mar 01, 2022 - 11:41AM tchalupiak



NO.	DATE	REVISION	BY

**PROPOSED PARKING LOT  
LITTLE RED RIVER PARK  
PLAYGROUND LAYOUT - CRS DESIGN**



**CITY OF PRINCE ALBERT  
PUBLIC WORKS  
CONSTRUCTION DETAIL**

DESIGNED	T. CHALUPIAK	DATE	MARCH 1, 2022
DRAWN		DWG. FILE NO.	R:\Eng_Common
CHECKED		HORIZ.	NTS
APPROVED		SCALE	VERT. NTS



**66 stalls**  
**1,900m<sup>2</sup>**  
**\$21,000**



47 Stalls  
2,670m<sup>2</sup>  
\$29,000





**38 Stalls**  
**1250m<sup>2</sup>**  
**\$13,750**

# Little Red River Adventure Park



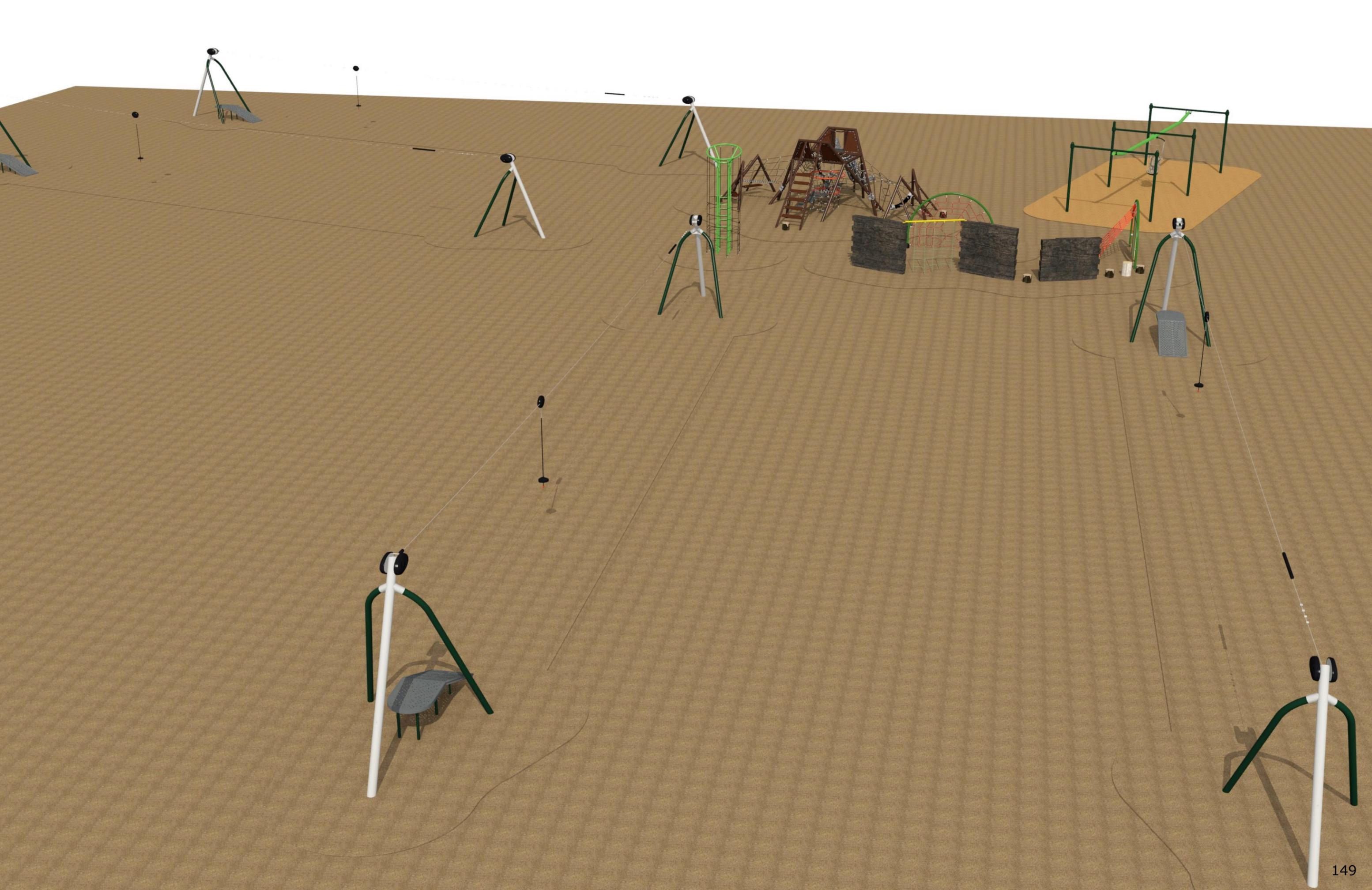






# Zipline Final Colours











# LITTLE RED RIVER PARK

## PROJECT OVERVIEW:

DESIGN PROPOSAL FOR THE EXTERIOR CONCEPT OF LITTLE RED RIVER PARK OUTDOOR KITCHEN AREA. THIS WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH A GUIDE ON COLOUR, FINISHING SELECTIONS AND LANDSCAPING.

## CONCEPT INSPIRATION:



ROTARY ADVENTURE CLUB  
PRINCE ALBERT, SK

LITTLE RED RIVER  
PARK

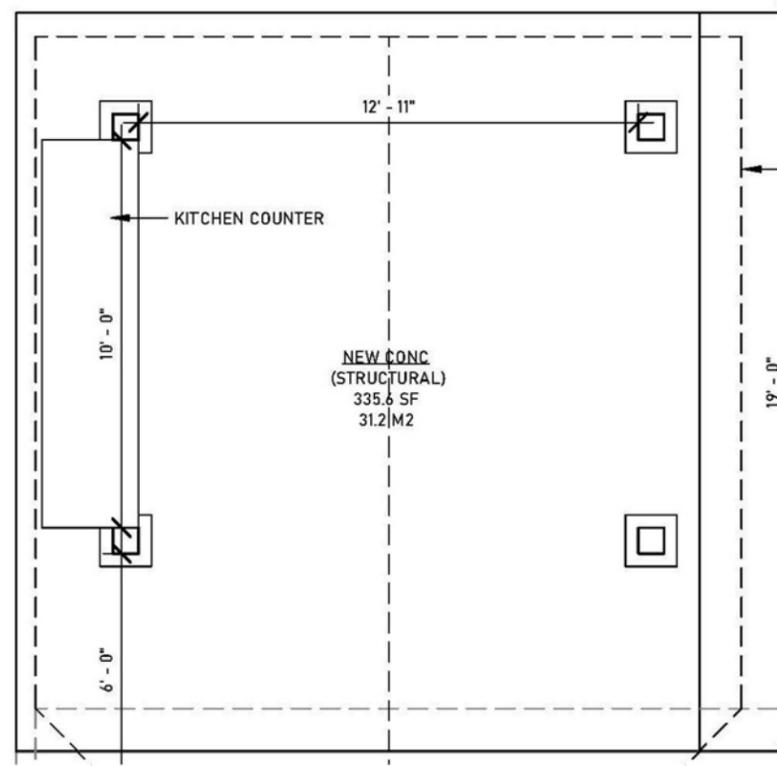
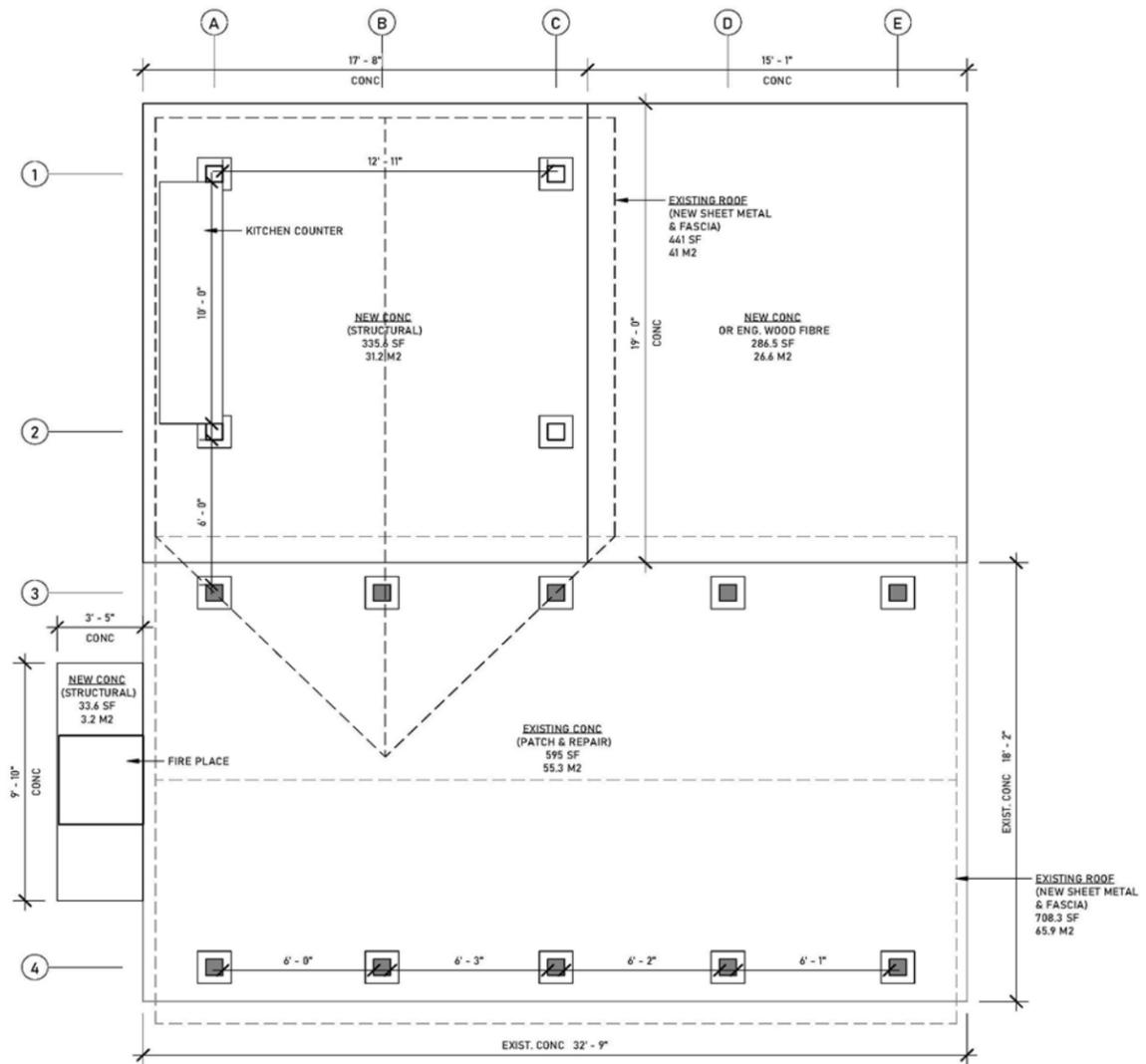
JENAYA DORVAL  
Saskatoon SK  
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PROJECT OVERVIEW

NOT TO SCALE

AO.0

November 5, 2021



ROTARY ADVENTURE CLUB  
PRINCE ALBERT, SK

LITTLE RED RIVER  
PARK

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SITE PLAN LAYOUT

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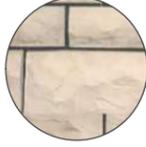
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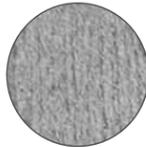
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ROOFING:  
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STRUCTURE/PERGOLA:  
TREATED TIMBER & REFINISHED TIMBER DARK BROWN
- 

PILLARS/FIREPLACE/  
KITCHEN:  
SANDLEWOOD CASTLE STONE VENEER
- 

COUNTERTOP:  
CAESARSTONE CLEARSKIES QUARTZ
- 

ENGINEERED WOOD FIBER
- 

CONCRETE
- 

PAVING STONE
- 

FIREPIT & BENCH:  
DESERT BUFF STONE

ROTARY ADVENTURE CLUB  
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## MATERIALS

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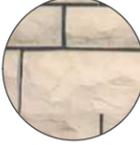
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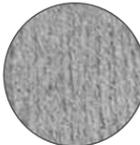
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*FIREPIT & BENCH:*  
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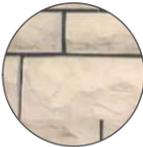
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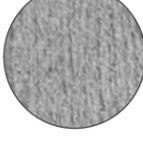
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 CAESARSTONE CLEARSKIES QUARTZ
- 

**ENGINEERED WOOD FIBER**
- 

**CONCRETE**
- 

**PAVING STONE**
- 

**FIREPIT & BENCH:**  
 DESERT BUFF STONE

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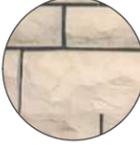
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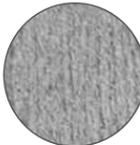
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*PAVING STONE*
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*FIREPIT & BENCH:*  
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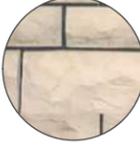
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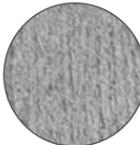
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**FIREPIT & BENCH:**  
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ROTARY ADVENTURE CLUB  
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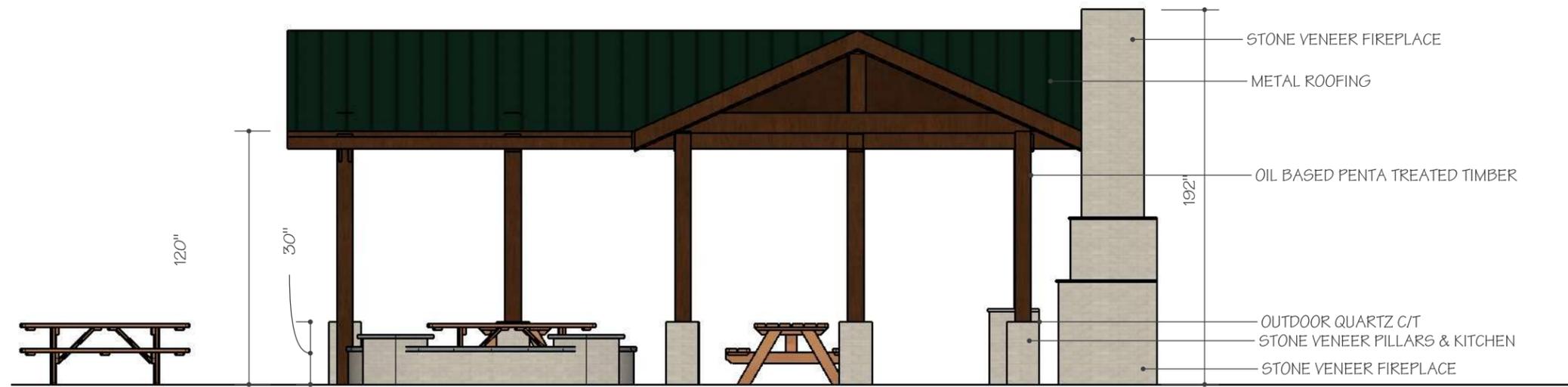
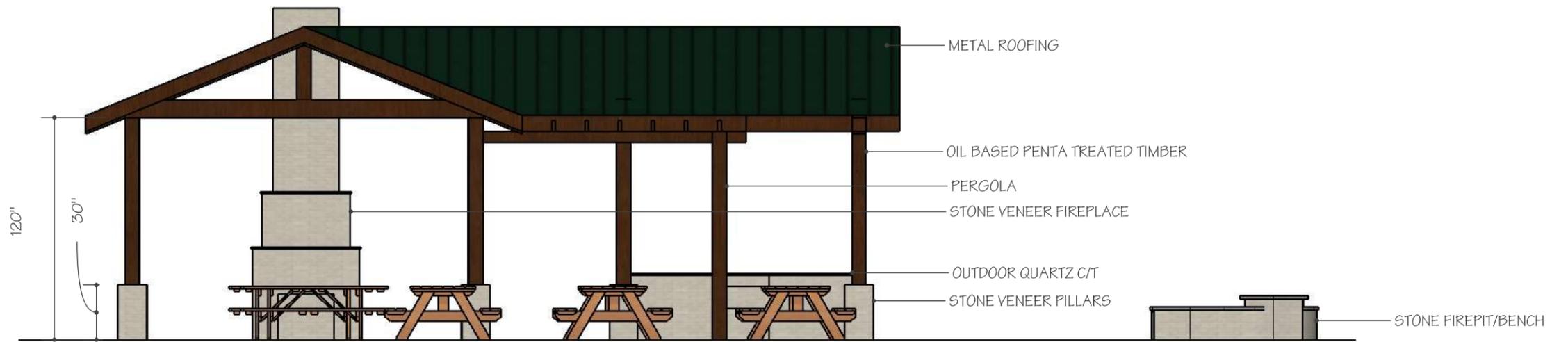
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## MATERIALS

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November 5, 2021



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PRINCE ALBERT, SK

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PARK

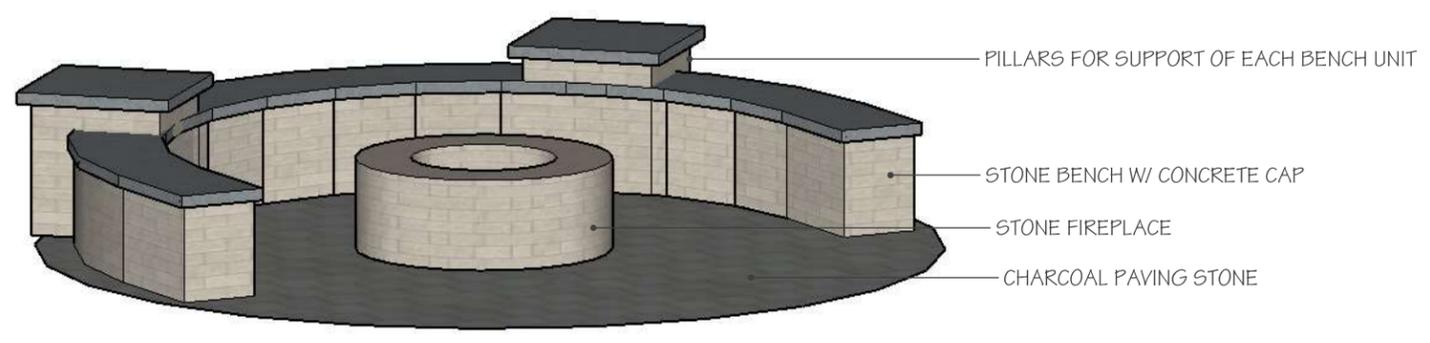
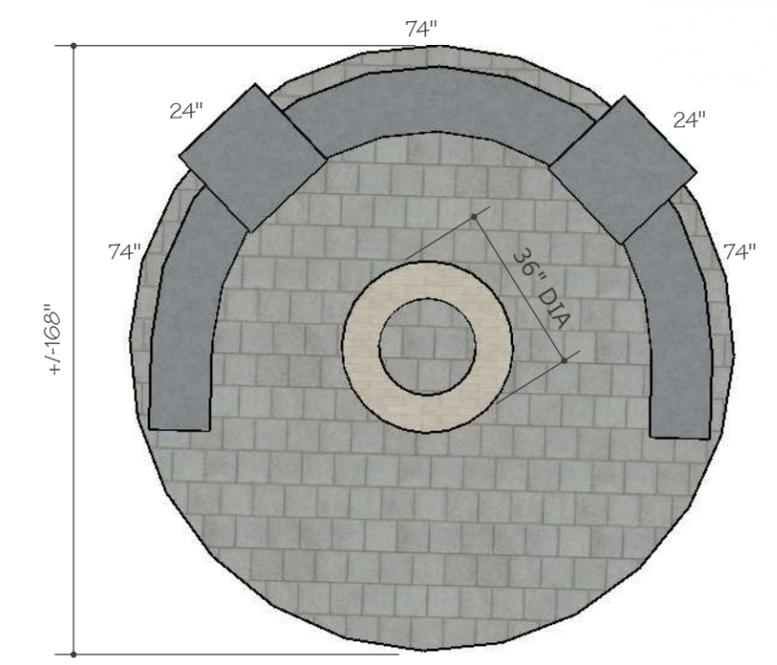
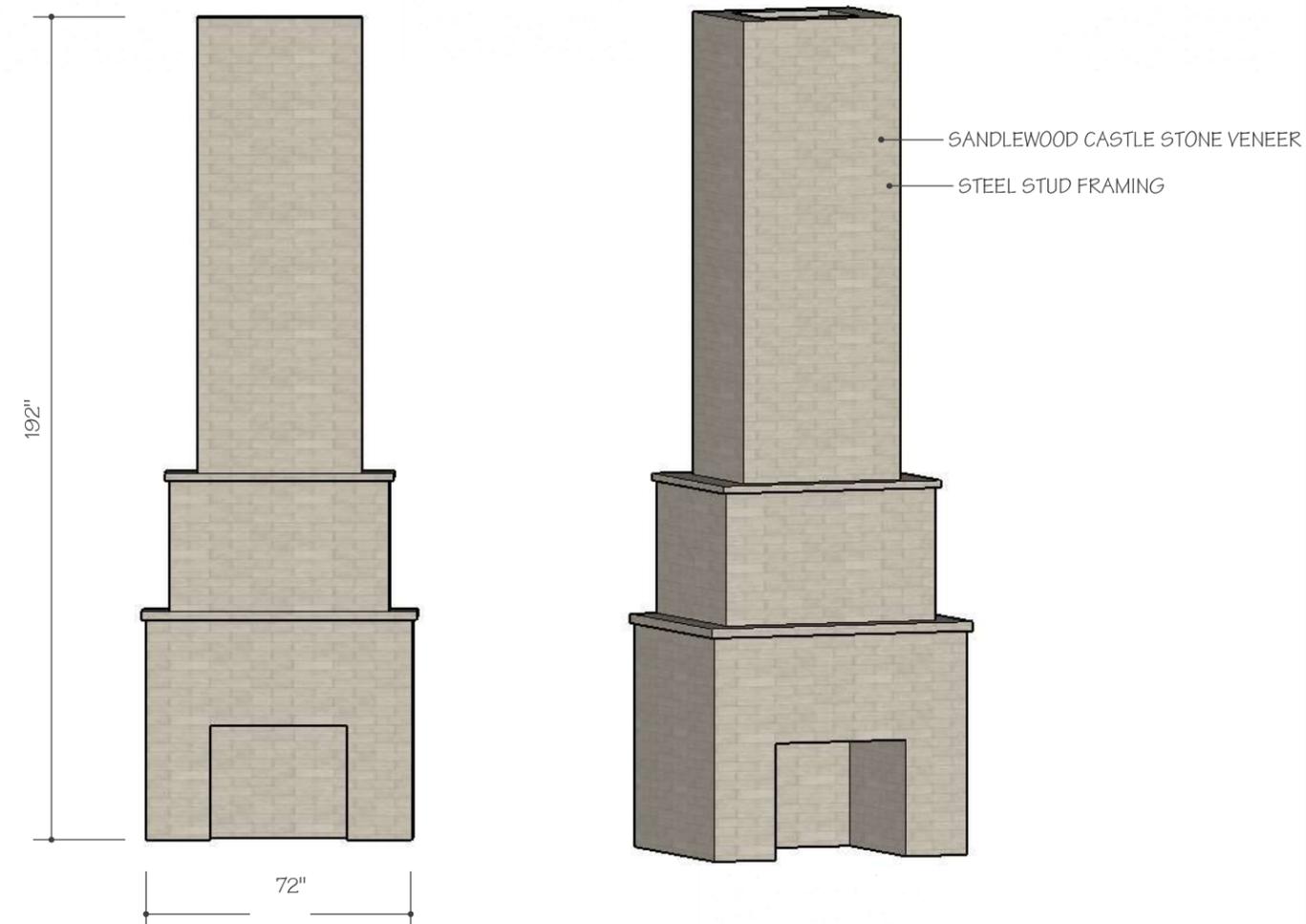
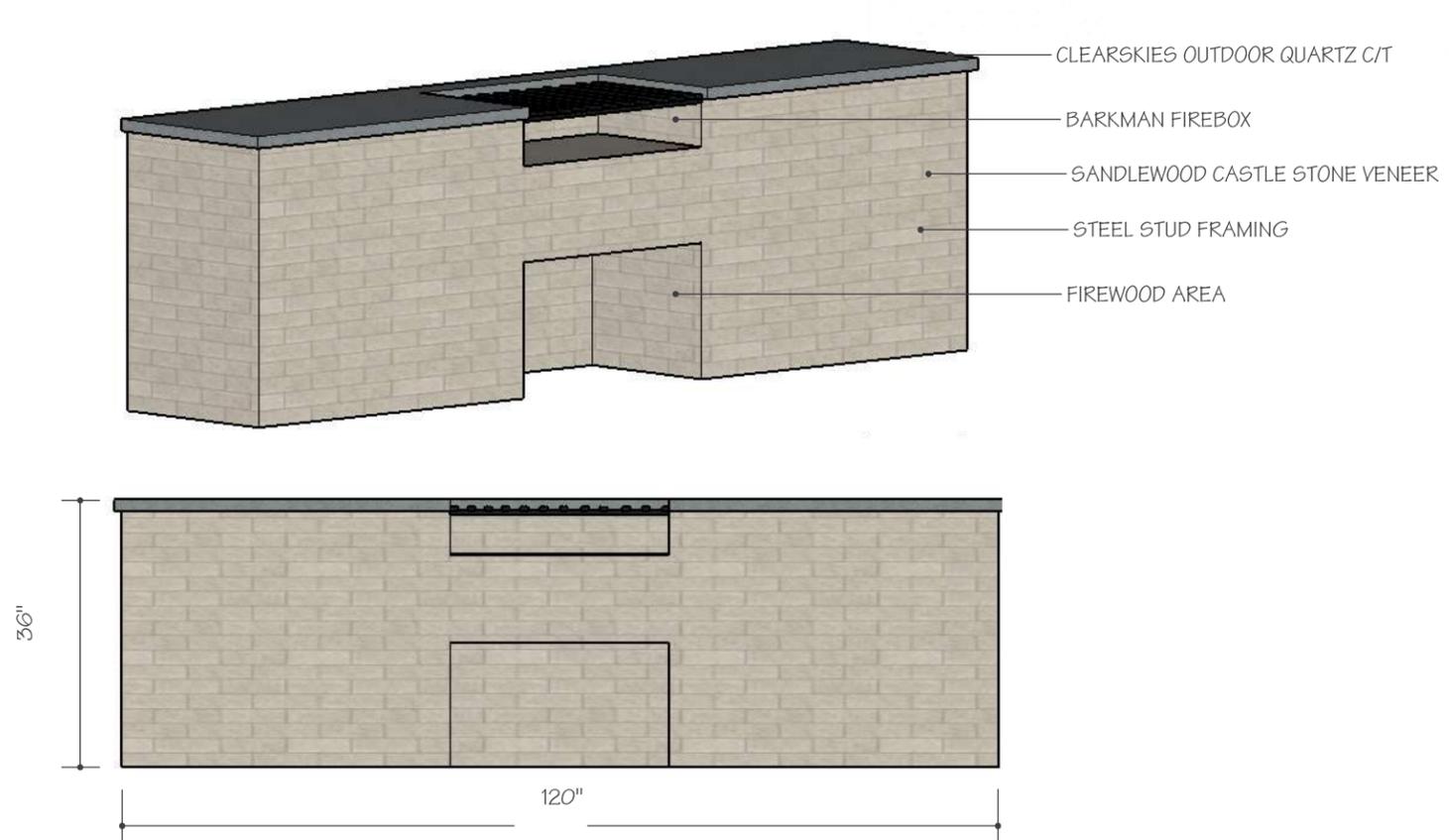
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ELEVATIONS

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November 5, 2021



<p>ROTARY ADVENTURE CLUB PRINCE ALBERT, SK</p>	<p>LITTLE RED RIVER PARK</p>	<p>JENAYA DORVAL Saskatoon SK jenayadorval@gmail.com</p>	<p>FIREPLACE/ KITCHEN &amp; FIREPIT NOT TO SCALE</p>	<p>A3.1 November 5, 2021</p>
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Sliding Hill Bridge



Lions Gate Bridge



Sports Council Bridge





With the development of a Forestry Management Plan we not only wanted to focus on the tree planting guidelines but also provide guidance and direction for all urban forest management decisions within the City of Prince Albert.

Focusing on the maintenance, renewal, and community awareness of our urban forest, the Plan ensures:

1. An effective and efficient urban forestry program is implemented in the City of Prince Albert that promotes the preservation of a healthy and sustainable urban forest;
2. A framework is created that includes ongoing monitoring and assessment, so that priorities, requirements, procedures and specifications are adhered to when planting, removing, and maintaining all public trees within the City;
3. Regular inspection cycles that utilize data of City-owned trees to establish cyclic maintenance programs and a system of response prioritization; and,
4. That the benefits of the urban forest are maximized for the well-being of the community and residents of Prince Albert can enjoy a safe, attractive, and vibrant urban forest in perpetuity.

The goal in achieving the above 4 points is to continually review the internal workings of the forestry department, challenge oneself to do more, recognize short falls and communicate effectively in an open and honest format to ensure reduction in liability and mitigation steps to help achieve this.

The City residents enjoy a high quality of life in a vibrant, healthy and prosperous community. All of the city's trees, whether they are along streets or in parks, in yards or in woodlands, in the urban or in the rural areas, natural stands of boreal forest and aspen park land contribute significantly to the city's health and are considered part of the urban forest. The effective management of this diverse and valuable resource is the continued focus of this plan and this department.

### **PROPOSED APPROACH AND RATIONALE:**

The Parks Division is responsible for the planting, maintenance, and protection of trees and vegetation on city-owned and public land within the City of Prince Albert.

There are many components that need to be considered when establishing good urban forestry practices within a City, including arboriculture, entomology, pathology, and the execution of established and proven horticultural practices. A well-planned Urban Forest Management Plan will help in ensuring that there is an urban forest for generations to come.

Prince Albert's urban forest includes trees of different species, ages, sizes. Some are large, old remnants of the area's natural forests; others are small, young saplings. Some have been planted; others have regenerated on their own. All of these trees form part of the city's green infrastructure which sustains the community by filtering air pollution, providing shade, reducing energy use and bringing nature to the city.

Prince Albert's urban forest, as in many cities, is confronted with various challenges that threaten its health and sustainability. Key pressures include changes in land use, urban intensification, conflicts with infrastructure, climate change, invasive pests (DED – Dutch Elm, Disease, EAB – Emerald Ash Borer), plants and diseases, and limited allocation of resources.

To maintain and enhance the urban forest under these conditions requires thoughtful planning, effective management, sufficient resource allocation and ongoing cooperation between the city, its residents and other local stakeholders.

The purpose of this plan is to increase urban forestry management effectiveness and efficiency, assess and improve upon tree health and diversity, minimize risks to the public and maximize the benefits provided by a healthy and sustainable urban forest.

This plan will help identify opportunities on both the public and private lands, in urban and rural Prince Albert, and focuses on five key areas:

1. Management and Implementation
2. Community engagement and stewardship
3. Protection and Preservation
4. Reforestation and Enhancement
5. Tree Health and Risk Management

### **Focus Areas for 2022**

The forestry department will be taking the necessary time this summer to develop a plan on how to best use the \$143,800 in annual funding noting the following:

- 45-years behind in pruning/care and maintenance of our urban forest;
- No current tree inventory exists outlining species, value, health, height of trees to help in the process of identifying concerns and hazards within the urban forest. This information would be beneficial in our overall efforts of planning to ensure we are getting to the worst areas by proactively planning and not reacting, and;
- Formalizing a process and starting point when utilizing a contractor and identifying what that focus should be (i.e. elm pruning) and identifying timelines to when this work is to be completed.

### **Areas of commitment currently being undertaken:**

- Fire Smart Management work thru our partnership with the SPSA Saskatchewan's Public Safety Agency;
- Continuation of our focused block pruning programming;

- Addressing work orders and complaints directed to us through the City Works system;
- Continuation of our DED (Dutch elm disease) Survey – monitoring of the health of our elms within City limits and identifying any remedial action that may be required;
- Completion of a full tree inventory and annual maintenance strategy at the Cooke Municipal Golf Course;
- Working with community partners such as PA Model Forest on tree planting initiatives in and around our community and residential areas;
- Watering, maintenance and care of all new tree/shrub planting material that has been installed over the last 3-years, and;
- Continued training and educational opportunities for Forestry Staff,
- Collecting of data and comparative statistics to share with Council for future reports regarding work completed and progress made;
- Partnership and collaboration with a GIS student at Saskatchewan Polytechnic on providing a student led project with preliminary data on identifying city owned trees verses private owned for City consideration. This project presentation is to be made to our GIS and Community Services Department prior to the completion of the 2021-2022 school year, and;
- Continued efforts as to the 2021 motion of Council (0178 RPT 21-208) made at the regular City Council Meeting May 3, 2021. Within that motion there were several recommendations that came forth:
  - *That an update regarding the Forestry Management Plan be forwarded to the Community Services Advisory Committee as part of the 2021 Committee Work Plan;*
  - *That Administration provide correspondence to the property owners adjacent to 2021 and future Capital Utility Replacement Programs by the first week of May each year advising if tree removal of more than three (3) trees per block is included within the project scope;*
  - *That the City's website provide a map indicating the locations of the Capital Utility Replacement Programs;*
  - *That if discovered conditions result in the need to remove more than three (3) trees per block, not previously identified in the May correspondence, that revised communication be provided;*
  - *That administration provide annually, to the City Council meeting following April 15, a report on the intended Work Plan for the Capital Paving and Utility Infrastructure Replacement Program for the construction season;*

- *That the City Arborist be consulted prior to the removal of any trees by the Public Works Department; and,*
- *That the City Standards applied by the Public Works Department when reconstructing existing streets be made flexible to allow for retention of existing surface works and boulevard trees in established neighbourhoods when it is practical and desirable to do so.*

The Park and Public Works Departments continue to work together on identifying barriers to completing Capital Utility projects when trees are involved by providing insight, advice, assessment and options to removal. Removal is always looked at as a last resort after all other options to removal have been considered. Options to removal need to be practical, economical and take into consideration the overall impact on a community during and after the work has been completed.

### **CONSULTATIONS:**

The City of Prince Albert Urban Forest Management Plan is a collaborative effort between past and present City of Prince Albert Parks Division staff. The intent is that it is a living document that is updated and reviewed each operational year as new industry related information and knowledge becomes available.

While City staff have been the driving force behind the Management Plan, there continues to be consultation across the industry and province seeking out advice and contributions from all levels of expertise.

The department continues to consult with the following:

- Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency
- Ministry of Environment Forest Services Branch
- SaskPower
- Board Directors with the Association of Saskatchewan Urban Parks and Conservation Agencies
- International Society of Arboriculture
- Certified Arborists
- Other Municipalities
- Land Developers
- Current and Retired members of the forestry profession.
- Public Works
- Planning and Development

We have also gained valuable insight from the community through Prince Albert resident inquiries and forestry requests have informed the priorities, concerns, and outcomes of the Plan.

**COMMUNICATION AND/OR ANNOUNCEMENT PLAN:**

Administration will continue to communicate internally with all departments involved as well as our Communications Department to ensure timely updates are provided to the public and user groups where necessary.

**OTHER CONSIDERATIONS/IMPLICATIONS:**

There is no policy, financial, or privacy implications, official community plan implementation strategies or other considerations.

**STRATEGIC PLAN:**

This report supports the ability to be accountable and transparent while working to ensure all facets of City operations and projects are sustainable; operating with efficiency, mitigating risk, and utilizing transparent and realistic costing. This report also supports the Strategic Goal of Active & Caring Community through the development of an Urban Forest Management Plan.

**OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN:**

This report supports the Community Services Master Plan initiatives and addresses the Goal of contributing to Infrastructure and sustainability efforts through proper planning which can help preserve and maintain natural and built environments. Our connection to the natural world is important and must be considered in the delivery of community services. This document would also support the Community Services Master Plan in the development of a master plan for Little Red River one of our 'Jewel' parks and also would support the consideration and development of a Forestry Bylaw to help protect and maintain our Urban Forest.

**PUBLIC NOTICE:**

Public Notice pursuant to the Public Notice Bylaw No. 24 of 2015 is not required.

**PRESENTATION:**

**Verbal Presentation** – Timothy Yeaman, Parks and Open Spaces Manager

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Forestry Management Plan

Written by: Timothy Yeaman, Parks and Open Spaces Manager

Approved by: Director of Community Services and City Manager

# Forestry Management Plan 2018-2038

*Building bridges through Urban  
Forestry to enhance well-being of  
community and sustainability of  
the environment.*



City of  
**Prince Albert**

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## 1.0 THE URBAN FOREST

### 1.1 Acknowledgments

The City of Prince Albert Urban Forest Management Plan is a collaborative effort between past and present City of Prince Albert Parks Division staff and Management. The intent is that it is a living document that is updated as information and knowledge becomes available.

While City staff; have been the driving force behind the Management Plan, there have also been advice and contributions from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment Forest Services Branch, SaskPower, Board Directors with the Association of Saskatchewan Urban Parks and Conservation Areas, the ISA and certified arborists, other municipalities, land developers, and current and retired members of the forestry profession. We have also gained valuable insight from the community – Prince Albert resident inquiries and forestry requests have informed the priorities, concerns, and outcomes of the Plan.

### 1.2 What is the Urban Forest?

Prince Albert's urban forest includes all trees and their habitat within the city's urban area boundary. This includes trees on both public and private property: along city streets; in parks, open spaces and natural areas; and in yards and landscaped areas of residences, offices, institutions, and businesses. The urban forest is a shared resource that provides a wide range of benefits and services to the entire community.

### 1.3 Overview

Urban forest management, or urban forestry, refers to the planning and managing of city trees and vegetation in a manner that promotes their environmental, cultural, and biological health. The Parks Division in the Community Services Department is responsible for the planting, maintenance, and protection of trees and vegetation on city-owned and public land within the City of Prince Albert.

There are many components that need to be considered when establishing good urban forestry practices within a City, including arboriculture, entomology, pathology, and the execution of established and proven horticultural practices. A well-planned Urban Forest Management Plan will help in ensuring that there is an urban forest for generations to come.

The City of Prince Albert residents enjoy a high quality of life in a vibrant, healthy and prosperous community. All of the city's trees, whether they are along streets or in parks, in yards or in woodlands, in the urban or in the rural areas, natural stands of boreal forest and aspen park land contribute significantly to the city's health and are considered part of the **urban forest**. The effective management of this diverse and valuable resource is the focus of this plan.

Prince Albert's urban forest includes trees of different species, ages, sizes. Some are large, old remnants of the area's natural forests; others are small, young saplings. Some have been planted; others have regenerated on their own. All of these trees form part of the city's **green infrastructure**, which sustains the community by filtering air pollution, providing shade, reducing energy use and bringing nature to the city.

Prince Albert's urban forest, as in many cities, is confronted with various challenges that threaten its health and sustainability. Key pressures include changes in land use, urban

intensification, conflicts with infrastructure, climate change, invasive pests (DED – Dutch Elm Disease, EAB – Emerald Ash Borer), plants and diseases, and limited allocation of resources.

To maintain and enhance the urban forest under these conditions requires thoughtful planning, effective management, sufficient resource allocation and ongoing cooperation between the city, its residents and other local stakeholders.

The purpose of this plan is to increase urban forestry management effectiveness and efficiency, assess and improve upon tree health and diversity, minimize risks to the public and maximize the benefits provided by a healthy and sustainable urban forest.

This plan will help identify opportunities on both the public and private lands, in urban and rural Prince Albert, and focuses on five key areas:

- 1) Management and Implementation
- 2) Community engagement and stewardship
- 3) Protection and Preservation
- 4) Reforestation and Enhancement
- 5) Tree Health and Risk Management

Recommendations for each of these areas have been developed based on a review of Prince Albert's current practices, evaluation of leading examples from other Municipalities, input from city staff and the community. The recommendations have been assigned priorities within the plan's 20-year framework (***still in development***), considering actions likely to provide the most tangible benefits in the short and long-term. These priorities will need to be reviewed every five years and may be adjusted to reflect changes in existing conditions and/or resource availability.



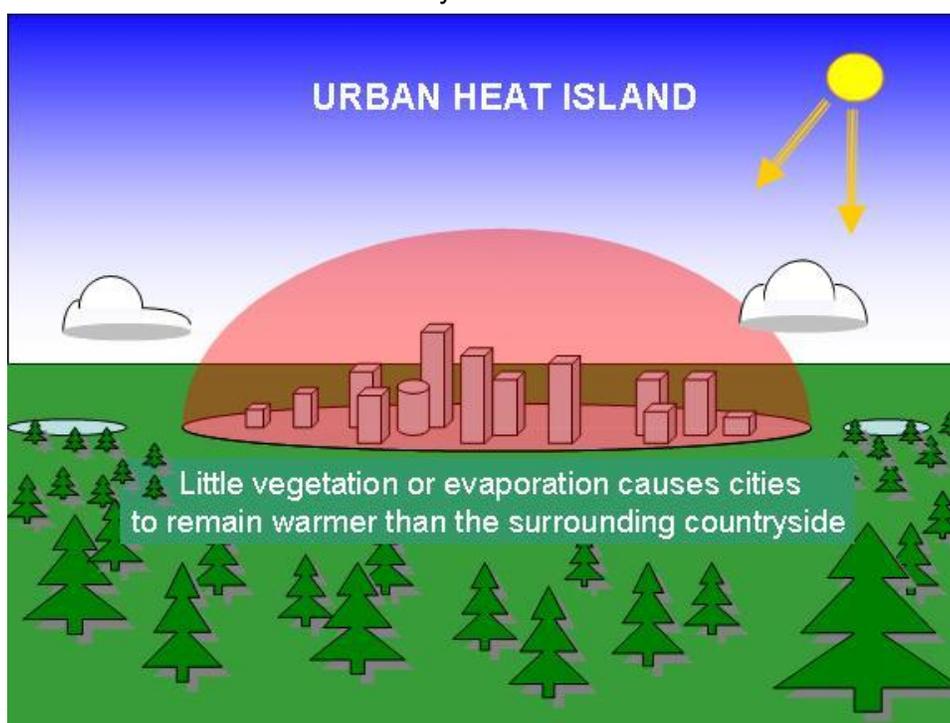
## 2.0 URBAN FOREST BENEFITS

Urban forests provide a wide range of benefits to cities and the areas around them. These have been well documented in various studies and reports, and the latest research attributes value to some of these benefits.

### 2.1 Environmental Benefits

Trees in cities provide valuable environmental services, including these:

- **Filtering air pollution** – Trees and vegetation reduce air pollution through carbon sequestration; by absorbing carbon dioxide and ozone, and releasing oxygen. Plants can capture and remove airborne pollutants and particulates such as dust, smog, and soot.
- **Removing atmospheric carbon** – Young trees absorb CO<sub>2</sub> at a rate of 13 pounds per tree each year. Trees reach their most productive stage of carbon storage at about 10 years at which point they are estimated to absorb 48 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. At that rate, they release enough oxygen back into the atmosphere to support two human beings.
- **Moderating the Urban Heat Island Effect** – Urban environments typically exhibit higher temperatures than their rural surroundings due to lack of vegetation, and increase in reflective, heat-absorbing, and impermeable surfaces. This is referred to as the Urban Heat Island Effect. Trees and vegetation can reduce urban temperatures by cooling cities during hot summer months through their daily dew and evaporation cycle. The light absorbed by vegetation might otherwise be converted into heat energy. Trees can extend the life of sidewalks and roadways.



- **Providing energy savings by shading buildings in the summer and screening them from wind in summer and winter.**



- **Cleaning and reducing storm water runoff** – Trees can hold vast amounts of water that would otherwise wash away valuable nutrients and also pollutants that could end up in the river systems. Trees are an important part of storm water management in many cities.

- **Stabilizing Slopes and Protecting Against Erosion** – Trees and other vegetation are essential for stabilizing the soil and preventing erosion and excessive run-off. The roots bind the soil structure and the trunks of the trees slow

down the flow of water. This is also critical especially along our North Saskatchewan River, Spruce River and the drainage channel.

- **Increasing Biodiversity** – Birds, animals and insects use trees for food, shelter, nesting and mating. Trees provide shelter for the undergrowth required for healthy soil structure. By protecting the trees we also save all the other plants and animals that they shelter.

Trees in built-up areas also provide habitat for urban-adapted wildlife and migratory birds, and they can provide temporary refuge for some types of wildlife moving between natural areas. Woodlands in both urban and rural areas provide habitat for a variety of species, including plant and animal species alike.

Although there remains uncertainty about how different species and ecosystems are going to respond to the shift predicted to be associated with climate change, it is generally agreed in the scientific community that the maintenance and reforestation of treed areas is one of the easiest and least expensive means of cooling urban and rural environments.

## 2.2 Social/Economic Benefits

Trees and green spaces have been linked to improvements in these:

- **Physical and psychological well-being** – It takes 3 minutes for blood pressure and muscle tension to reduce significantly after seeing trees. It has been observed that hospital patients, who can see trees out their windows, are hospitalized 8% fewer days than their counterparts.
- **Visual screening** – City trees often serve several architectural and engineering functions. They provide privacy, emphasize views, or screen out objectionable views. They reduce glare and reflection.
- **Safety for pedestrians and other road users** – There is a growing body of evidence suggesting that the inclusion of trees and other streetscape features in the roadside environment may actually reduce crashes and injuries on urban roadways. The

evidence suggests that the presence of a well-defined roadside edge may be leading drivers to exercise great caution.

- **Property values** – Trees are one of the few landscape investments that increase in value over time. Research shows that the beauty of a well planted property and its surrounding street and neighbourhood can raise property values by as much as 15%.
- **Human Comfort** - Trees provide shade, shelter, wind protection and visual screening, which can assist us in carrying on with our everyday activities. Trees can reduce exposure to harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays by offering shade and absorbing up to 95% of the UV radiation.

Urban spaces with large, healthy trees feel more welcoming and safer than those without them. Stress levels have been found to be lower among people who enjoy even moderate exposure to trees and green areas, and research shows that trees facilitate positive social interaction.

## 2.3 Urban (Forestry) Myth



Many people believe trees and vegetation provide insulation from noise. Studies have shown that a significant stand of mature trees and vegetation, 15-30 metres thick, are only able to reduce noise levels by 6 decibels. The reduction of noise is more of a psychological one – people are less conscious of noise if they cannot see the source.

## 3.0 PREAMBLE

The following vision, guiding principles and strategic objectives have been developed with careful consideration for best practices and for Prince Albert's distinctive environmental and social context. The themes that run through these statements are intended to be realized through the implementation of the recommendation laid out in this plan.

### 3.1 Vision

We envision a city in which all community members live and play where the trees and woodlands of Prince Albert are maintained and enhanced long term, in acknowledgement of the value environmentally, socially and economically that they provide. The city will work by building strategic partnerships within the community in both the urban and rural communities to ensure that essential resources are managed effectively to maximize the overall health of the trees, increase native biodiversity, minimize risks to public and property and contribute to the environmental sustainability and quality of life in Prince Albert.

### 3.2 Guiding Principles

The following seven principles are intended to guide the implementation of this plan over the long term.

- 1) The city's urban forest, a major component of its green infrastructure, is a valued and shared resource.

- 2) The city, its residents and other local stakeholders must work together to improve, care for, maintain and expand upon the urban forest.
- 3) The right tree must be planted in the right place to maximize upon its full potential
- 4) The city's urban forest must include a high diversity of native and non-invasive species to improve its resilience to various stressors
- 5) Tree protection and reforestation must be priority considerations during development and intensification.
- 6) The city's trees must be maintained in a healthy and safe condition through ongoing risk assessment, health care practices and an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach.
- 7) This plan must adopt an *adaptive environment assessment and management* approach that allows for changes in response to new information or conditions

### 3.3 Strategic Goals

The following eight goals identify the key items that the City of Prince Albert is seeking to achieve through implementation of this plan.

- 1) **Increase awareness** among city staff, local landowners and residents alike about the benefits and services provided by the urban forest and how to care for it.
- 2) **Forester engagement and stewardship** in both the urban and rural areas by providing resources, building partnerships and supporting educational and hands-on activities
- 3) **Transition the city from a reactive to a proactive management model** by implementing appropriate policies and management practices related to both the protection of existing trees and the planting of new trees, on public and private lands.
- 4) **Explore mechanisms** for more inter-departmental coordination regarding proper protections and management of the green infrastructure (i.e. trees) and educate about tree protection guidelines, policies and best practices.
- 5) **Improve the resilience of trees** to current stressors by implementing policies and industry best management practices that optimize *native species* diversity and tree growth potential
- 6) **Minimize the risk presented by trees** in the urban forest to people and property on public lands by developing guidelines and best management practices.
- 7) **Monitor and review the status of the urban forest** using established criteria and indicators on a regular basis, and revise planning and practices as required to ensure ongoing progress towards realizing the vision

- 8) **Ensure that the urban forest is recognized as a critical municipal asset** and infrastructure component through a long-term commitment to proactive management, adequate resource allocation and joint stewardship with the city and the community.

### 3.4 Purpose of the Plan

The Urban Forest Management Plan provides guidance and direction for all urban forest management decisions within the City of Prince Albert. Focusing on the maintenance, renewal, and community awareness of our urban forest, the Plan ensures:

- An effective and efficient urban forestry program is implemented in the City of Prince Albert that promotes the preservation of a healthy and sustainable urban forest;
- A framework is created that includes ongoing monitoring and assessment, so that priorities, requirements, procedures and specifications are adhered to when planting, removing, and maintaining all public trees within the City;
- Regular inspection cycles that utilize data of City-owned trees to establish cyclic maintenance programs and a system of response prioritization; and,
- That the benefits of the urban forest are maximized for the well-being of the community and residents of Prince Albert can enjoy a safe, attractive, and vibrant urban forest in perpetuity.

## 4.0 URBAN FOREST SUSTAINABILITY

### 4.1 Challenges and Solutions

The City of Prince Albert is the third-largest city in Saskatchewan and is situated near the centre of the province on the banks of the North Saskatchewan River. The city is well known as the “**Gateway to the North**” because it is the last major centre along the route to the resources of northern Saskatchewan. The city’s current population of 35,930 (2016) along with the combined planning of development to accommodate a possible population of 50,000 by 2025 – the City of Prince Albert continues to be a leader and welcoming place to live for all.

New residents bring diversity, ideas and new opportunities. They also bring more demand for housing and more pressure on the city’s urban municipal services, including roads, sewers, parks and natural areas. These pressures, combined with the already present and emerging threats of tree pests, and environmental stresses, will require careful planning, active management, ongoing monitoring and creative problem solving to maintain the urban forest as a healthy and growing entity.

Currently, the biggest threat(s) to the urban forest are the Emerald Ash Borer, which has the potential to decimate the city’s ash trees. Emerald Ash Borer has shown itself to be an aggressive and non-selective pest when it comes to all members of the Fraxinus Genus Species (Ash trees).

The other threat is a well-known one, DED or Dutch Elm disease. Dutch Elm disease is a fungal disease of elms. The fungus is spread by both a native and an introduced bark beetle whose larvae tunnel under the outer bark and create distinctive feeding ‘galleries’. There are

fungicide treatments available for individual trees but they are costly, must be repeated regularly, and may only prolong the life of the treated tree by 5-10 years. On average, DED arrives three to seven years after the first detection of elm bark beetles. Of the two, we know we can manage DED but not EAB.

At the site-specific level, particularly in urban and urbanizing areas, the biggest pressure on trees is the competition for space both above and below ground.

Below-ground root habitat in built-up areas is typically characterized by inadequate soil volumes, quality and drainage. Roots must compete for space with underground utilities, and soils can become too compact to support the fine root hairs that provide water, oxygen and nutrients. Above ground, trunks, branches and foliage compete for growing space with people, buildings, overhead utility services and vehicular traffic. As a result, conditions are typically insufficient to promote tree longevity and health, and trees are unable to reach their *genetic potential*, meaning they ultimately provide fewer benefits and cost more to maintain and replace.

Other conflicts occasionally occur when branch failures, tree roots and uprooted trees damage property and infrastructure and sometimes pose risks to human safety.

Solutions, as recommended in this plan, include the following:

- Identifying adequate space for trees early in the planning and development approval process;
- Improving above-ground and below-ground site conditions for trees, focusing in built-up areas;
- Protecting trees determined to be significant in the community;
- Planting a diverse mix of native and non-invasive tree species, and
- Regular, proactive tree care.

Urban trees with adequate growing space and subject to ongoing maintenance will be more resilient to environmental extremes and to the rigors of urban life and will, therefore, be better able to adapt to future challenges. They will also pose less risk of failure, need to be replaced less frequently and provide exponentially more benefits as they mature.

## 5.0 PRINCE ALBERT URBAN FOREST

Prince Albert's urban forest is constrained in that there is limited types of vegetation and diversity of tree species which will grow in our climate. The majority of our old growth urban forest (trees over 50+ years of age) is of the following species and characteristics.

- Acer Negundo (Manitoba Maple) – a fast growing, short lived tree, many of which are nearing the end of their life cycle and becoming a liability due to rot.
- Ulmus Americana (American Elm)
- Fraxinus pensylvanica (Green Ash)
- Populus x jackii Northwest (North West Poplars) – a fast growing, short lived tree with a weak limb structure and invasive and strong root system. Many of these were planted

as a donation in the 1980's and have also proven to be one of the few hardy species for our environment.

Many of Prince Albert neighbourhoods, particularly the more established ones such as Midtown, East Hill, and West Hill, are characterized by and loved for their established tree canopies.

## 6.0 PARK & BOULEVARD TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

### 6.1 Diversity

It is essential to implement the planting of various tree species. These different tree species add varying color, texture, form, size and adaptability to the finished landscape. An urban forest that has several diverse species and age is better able to withstand insect & disease infestations as well as severe weather conditions.

### 6.2 General Tree Pruning

Proper tree pruning will greatly assist in maintaining the health, appearance and vigour of trees. Regular pruning corrects minor defects that would otherwise eventually become major tree surgery. Pruning will be undertaken by the Forestry Crew in order to maintain these trees in the best possible condition as established by good arboricultural standards and industry best standards. Thus, pruning serves the following purpose (not listed as priority):

#### i) Health

- To maintain the overall health of the tree
- Remove broken & diseased branches
- Address rubbing branches/limbs that create wounds
- Improve taper on branches and limbs
- Remove codominant stems
- Attempt to improve overall structure and health of the tree to reduce the risk of failures

#### ii) Safety

- Trees in high use areas (playgrounds, e.g.)
- Removal of broken and dead material (widow makers)
- Look for poor branch attachments (V-crotches)
- Excessive leaning (may indicate root problems)
- Trees in construction areas (10+ year lag time)
- Interference with line of sight on streets
- Utility pruning (safety of workers, keep the light on)
- Topped trees (will be a hazard down the road)

### iii) Aesthetics

- Improve Views (vista pruning)
- Provide clearance (car, mowers, pedestrians)
- Pathways & sidewalks to 8 feet
- Streets to 18 feet
- Reduce shade & wind resistance
- Lawns, groundcovers, mulch beds with flowers
- Influence fruit & flower production

## 7.0 BACK LANE/ALLEY'S

We want to encourage and educate that responsibility is taken by property owners to ensure the maintenance and health of the trees, on their properties whether they be at the front or the back of the property. The purpose of back alleys and lanes are to act as a right of way for public utilities, back yard and garage access. Back alleys/lanes are not recognized green spaces and therefore, the City of Prince Albert does not consider plantings located in the back alleys/lanes as part of the City of Prince Albert Urban Forest as it relates to both the forestry by-law and this master plan. ***The forestry division under the direction of the Community Services department when requested will perform needed pruning in these utility right of ways.***

## 8.0 PRUNING AND CHEMICAL DAMAGE

Through this plan we want to encourage accountability through education and engagement. Currently we have concerns with trees being altered, pruned, or damaged due to what we call "***Homeowner Blight***". We want to try and head this off through having a dedicated forestry crew to solely focus on the front sides of the streets, addressing the dead, diseased or dying, and a properly managed urban forest program that focuses in on the health of the tree.



## 9.0 MAINTENANCE / PLANTING OF TREES

The City of Prince Albert will only undertake tree maintenance on City property. No work will be completed on private property unless by custom work order due to infraction of a City Bylaw, in which case the property owner would be billed for the work. The exception to this is boulevard trees that were planted in the past on private property with permission of the property owner because the boulevard was an insufficient width to accommodate trees. There are very few instances of these being planted and include the following locations and tree species:

- *Johnson Crescent: Elms*
- *Kemp Crescent: Elms and Green Ash*
- *Helm Crescent: Elms and Green Ash*

The City of Prince Albert no longer plants trees on private property. All new developments must provide room for trees within boulevards conforming to the Parks and Open Spaces Design standards. Any previously constructed developments which do not provide space for trees within boulevards (such as Coombe Drive and Glenn Howard Way) will not be planted with boulevard trees.

We want to encourage our citizens to plant private trees on the frontages of City Property in residential areas to help enhance their neighborhood. Often the purpose is to offer additional protection from prevailing winds and privacy to their own yards. An application for approval must be made to the Department of Community Services, with written approval required prior to commencement of planting.

## 10.0 NATURAL STANDS

The natural stands of forest we have within the City are just as much part of Prince Albert's Urban Forest as the transplanted trees. We must protect and preserve these areas. They allow people to connect with Mother Nature the way it was intended to be. These natural stands contain vegetation and wildlife that cannot be seen and admired anywhere else within the City. The complete removal of trees and underbrush in some of these areas alters this habitat forever. Continuous removal of underbrush will eventually lead to the overall decline in health to the remaining trees, as they will be more susceptible to insect and disease attacks. Public safety is high priority in these areas but it should not be at the expense of these natural stands. Remember, these natural stands are not the problem. Any request for underbrush/tree removal in these natural stands will be studied and assessed on an individual basis. The amount and type of complaints relating to a particular site will be taken into account before a decision is reached, as to the approach to rectify the concern. Some of the natural stands we need to protect within the City are:

- The Cooke Municipal Golf Course
- North of the Crescent Acres Community Club
- West side of 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue East from 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> Street East
- Miller Hill Park area
- Waste Water Treatment Plant area through to MacDowall Crescent

- Between 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> Street from 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue East to 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue West
- All areas within the Pehonan Parkway, including the Little Red River Park

It is administrations recommendation that some of the above listed natural stands should be thinned as required. In consultation with Police and Fire Services some of these natural stands need to be thinned and/or mulched and identified for controlled burn. This will alleviate some of the concerns for public safety as well as allow the forest floor to recover to its natural state between thinning cycles. Only the required amount of underbrush and dead plant material should be removed. This would still allow for a healthy forest stand and also address the needs of public safety. Thinning brush at the Cooke Municipal Golf Course and at the Little Red River Park should be avoided unless absolutely necessary.

## 11.0 TREE PLANTING

Prince Albert property owners are encouraged to plant trees within their private property. The current Zoning Bylaw requires that in most zones, trees are planted at a ratio of 1 tree per 45 square metres of landscaped area, to provide canopy cover and help deliver the city-wide benefits of a healthy urban forest.



Planning before planting ensures that the right tree is planted in the right place. Proper tree selection and placement can enhance the design of a site and prevent costly maintenance and potential infrastructure damage later on.

Trees should be chosen so that they are suitable to the planting site, and so that:

- The size of the tree fits the size of the site and can attain a healthy, mature canopy without interference;
- The species is suited to and can survive in our climatic zone;
- Trees are selected and located to complement the conditions and function of a site, promote public safety, not impede vehicle and pedestrian sight lines, not block vehicle and pedestrian access, and not interfere with above- and below-ground utilities.
- A tree can survive under site-specific conditions such as exposed or sheltered sites, sites with higher pollution levels, less soil, and/or compaction of its root system due to high foot traffic;
- A tree is not unnecessarily exposed to pests and diseases, or conditions that may weaken the tree or expose it to pests and diseases;

Tree planting must follow the City of Prince Albert Master Specifications 2014 document, specifically Section 02950: Plant Material. All trees planted in the City of Prince Albert should have been grown in the same climatic zone as Prince Albert, or next immediate zone, to ensure hardiness of all nursery stock species.

When planting trees, it is important to plant the right tree in the right place. A Landscape Architect, experienced Landscape Designer or ISA Certified Arborist can help you make an informed decision.

Tree planting is undertaken only in the spring or the fall. In order to limit the demands and disruption to tree pruning and regular maintenance, planting will be split between these two times. Minimum tree container size shall be no smaller than a 15 gallon pot.

## 11.1 Park Trees

Parks provide space for neighbourhood residents to interact with each other and meet new people. They're also great spaces for events and for people to engage in recreational activities. This allows people to develop a sense of community. A park is perfect for a picnic, a concert, or a farmer's market – whatever the community feels it needs.

All plant materials shall be a hardy species capable of healthy growth in Prince Albert and shall conform to standards of the Canadian Nursery Trades Association for Nursery Stock. When planting park trees the City of Prince Albert Master Specifications along with the City of Prince Albert Design Standards will be used to identify preferred tree species and planting guidelines.

Trees and shrubs to be primarily planted in groupings and mulched with a bark mulch or post peelings as per specification while individual specimen trees in turfed areas are acceptable as well.

All plant material to be planted a minimum of 5m away from a pathway, sidewalk or property line within a park.

There should be a minimum of 40 trees/ha on all dedicated municipal reserve.

There shall be a replaced value of two (2) new trees planted for every one (1) tree removed on any public lands

## 11.2 Street (Boulevard and Median) Trees

Trees that are planted within a City Road Right of Way (ROW) must be of a species that can tolerate urban conditions, particularly pollution, salt exposure, and lack of growing medium.

There are 4 types of boulevards within the City of Prince Albert:

1. **Combined Curb and Sidewalk** - Where the sidewalk is directly adjacent to, and abuts the curb at the edge of the roadway. In this instance street trees will be planted between the sidewalk and property boundary.
2. **Separated Curb and Sidewalk** - Where there is a space between the sidewalk and the curb. In this instance street trees will be planted between the sidewalk and curb.
3. **Curb and No Sidewalk** – Where there is a curb and no sidewalk, street trees will be planted between the curb and property boundary following the setbacks for Curb Face of Roads.

4. **No Curb or Sidewalk** – Where there is neither a curb nor a sidewalk, street trees will be planted between the edge of paved roadway and the property boundary following the setbacks for Curb Face of Roads.

Boulevard trees should be planted in new single-family residential subdivisions at a minimum ratio of 1 tree per lot front, 1 tree per lot back, and 2 trees per lot side.

Street trees should be spaced a minimum 10 metres apart.

Trees should only be planted in a median where there is a minimum 2 metre wide planting area, and should be centered within the median where they are most protected from traffic and snow plow damage.

Property owners may request a tree(s) from the City to be planted in the boulevard adjacent to their property. Requesting a boulevard tree is not a guarantee that one will be planted. The Parks Manager or their designate will need to inspect the site to ensure that there is sufficient room and no infrastructure conflicts to accommodate a tree.

If tree removal is required and undertaken to accommodate City utility work along an entire block, the block will be re-planted as per the Tree Planting guidelines when landscaping is completed.

[Refer to Appendix “A” Tree Planting Letter](#)

### 11.3 Minimum Planting Distances from Infrastructure

The following is a set of guidelines that should be followed when considering a potential tree planting site. Trees require a setback of a minimum distance, measured from the centre of the tree trunk, from utilities and other objects. Distances that are listed below have been determined with the goal of preventing immediate and future conflicts:

[Refer to Appendix “B” Tree Planting Tips](#)

#### City of Prince Albert | Tree Planting Guidelines

(metres)

<b>Spacing</b>	
Between Street Trees	10.0m
<b>Curb Face of Roads</b>	
Arterial Roads	2.0m
Collector Roads	2.0m
Local Roads	1.5m
Street Corners (in accordance with the Corner Visibility Triangle)	7.5m
Separated Curb-Sidewalk where minimum setbacks cannot otherwise be accommodated and trees are required	centered
<b>Paving</b>	
Sidewalks, Public Pathways, and other Pavement	1.0m
Private Walkways	1.5m
Driveways (located so as not to obstruct vehicle sight lines)	1.5m minimum
<i>Tree Species &gt; 6.0 metres tall</i>	2.0m (preferred)
<i>Tree Species &gt; 12 metres tall</i>	3.0m (preferred)
<i>Tree Species &lt; 12 metres tall</i>	5.0m (preferred)

**Buildings**

Where there is lawn between the Building and Tree	3.0 m
Where there is no lawn between the Building and Tree	3.5m

**Fences, Bollards, and Site Furniture**

Private Fences adjacent to Road Right of Ways	1.0m
All Fences, Bollards, and/or Site Furniture adjacent to or within Municipal (Park) Reserve where there is no lawn between the Fence, Bollard, and/or Site Furniture and the tree	1.0m
All Fences, Bollards, and Site Furniture adjacent to/within Municipal (Park) Reserve where there is lawn between the	2.0m

**Community Mailboxes****3.0m****Signs**

Front of Stop and Yield Signs	7.0m
Roadway Signs except from front of Stop and Yield Signs	2.0m
Front of Bus Stop Signs	12.0m
Side and back of Bus Stop Signs, and front of Bus Stop Signs where tree is more than 3.0m from curb face	3.0m
Railway Signs	12.0m

**Utilities**

120 - 240 Voltage Lines (Street Light Power Lines, Traffic Control Lines, etc.)	0.6m
Buried High Voltage Power Lines	2.0m
Overhead Power Lines and Power Poles	
<i>Tree Species &gt; 6.0 metres tall</i>	3.0m
<i>Tree Species &gt; 12 metres tall</i>	6.0m
<i>Tree Species &lt; 12 metres tall</i>	15.0m
Telecommunication Lines	2.0m
Fibre Optic Lines	3.0m
Gas Distribution Lines	2.0m
Gas Transmission Lines	10.0m
Water and Sewer Lines	3.0m
Utility Pedestals	2.0m
Electrical Transformers	3.0m
Curb Boxes	3.0m
Overhead Lights (Street Lights, etc.)	5.0m
Fire Hydrants	3.0m
Catch Basins	1.5m

Residential Subdivisions should provide a minimum of 1 street tree per lot frontage, 2 trees per lot side, and 1 tree per lot back within adjacent street boulevards or public open space (where lot backs or sides onto public open space or street right of way).

Trees must be located and planted so that they are capable of achieving a healthy growth, form, and aesthetic, without restricting vehicle and pedestrian access and safety. Variance from City requirements and guidelines may be considered on a case-by-case basis if they cannot be met without compromise to tree health.

## 12.0 REFORESTATION PROGRAM

Whenever a tree has to be removed from City property (ie. disease, old age, liability issue, interference with utilities) it must be replaced with two trees. This two to one ratio will ensure the continued growth of a successful urban forest. If the tree cannot be planted in or near the same location, then a tree will be planted in another site location to maintain the proper number of trees.

The need to maintain a comprehensive reforestation program results from a decline in general forest population in the older established areas of the City.

The reforestation program will see the planting of various tree species to help avoid devastation from insects or disease.

Selected trees will be drought tolerant, cold hardy (preferably Zone 2), salt tolerant and disease and insect resistant species. New species that are compatible to our zone will be considered.

Trees will also be considered for their aesthetics, leaf color, bark color & texture, longevity, mature height and spread, form and function for the planting site.

Refer to Appendix “C” – Preferred Tree Species.

## 13.0 CAPITAL PLANTING PROJECTS

These projects are generally located in the newer developments of the City. Most are funded through the Land Fund Accounts. The various species of trees planted will be on a one tree per private frontage with two trees allowed for corner lots. Trees will not be planted until the lot has been finished, underground structures installed and boulevard is finish graded. All projects relating to Parks will follow the designated plans.

## 14.0 PARK & BOULEVARD TREE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

### 14.1 General Information

The purpose of this program is to preserve the health and appearance of the City's boulevard and park tree inventory and to ensure that the trees do not constitute a hazard to public or to property.

Some of the maintenance will include pruning, bolting and/or bracing of trees, watering, mulching, removing dead or diseased trees and stumps, inspecting pruning activities performed by contractors or utility agencies, and providing information and training in proper tree maintenance techniques.

### 14.2 Services Provided

Pruning, removal, stumping, bolting and bracing services are provided for trees on City boulevards and parks (elm tree pruning is not allowed between April 1<sup>st</sup> and August 31<sup>st</sup>).

The tree inquiry program collects service requests from the public and other civic departments. Requests are addressed according to priority and available resources.

Tree pests and diseases will be monitored on a regular basis. In the years when the economic and/or aesthetic damage to trees may be excessive, a spray program may subsequently be recommended by Council.

A planned street tree health enhancement program is carried out on all new boulevard plantings for a minimum of three years. This includes mulching, replacing and removing tree stakes, replacing dead trees, watering (with adjacent property owner assistance) and structural pruning. An informational package will be supplied to each property owner so they can understand basic maintenance requirements of the new tree.

A gator bag shall be installed on all newly planted trees and shall remain in place to help with watering for a minimum on three years.

Boulevard tree planting shall not commence until the lot is improved, all underground structures have been installed and the boulevard is finish graded.

Our Forestry staff can provide technical advice and on-site supervision required by contractors, utility agencies or other civic departments.

New developments will have one tree per property, with corner lots been allowed two trees.

### 14.3 Current Status of Resources & Approaches

Currently, the greatest challenge facing the City of Prince Albert Forestry division in the Community Services Department is adapting best management practices with limited money, staff and resources. The Forestry section is currently responsible for all trees on City lands including those on streets (i.e., typically within the first 1.5 m from the curb), in riparian areas and greenways, in parks and in publicly owned natural areas. They deal with all aspects of the urban forest, including tree maintenance, planting, and removal, stumping and responding to storm damage.

The City of Prince Albert Forestry Section currently includes one Assistant Manager, one Foreman (II), Foreman (III), 5 Labourers and administration staff (see Appendixes Figure 4.0 - Winter and 4.1 - Summer below for the staff organizational structure). There are in total 7 full-time staff members within the department to take care of all tree-related work within the City. What is slowing down the response time and quantity of work being done is the requirement of staff to perform winter maintenance support and other various services as requested, this has left us without a full-time dedicated forestry crew that solely focuses in on the health of the trees.

The physical resources (owned), as of January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018, held by the Forestry division:

- **1992 Forestry lift with a 40' Lift – Telescopic not articulating**
- **2013 Forestry lift with a 60' Lift – Telescopic not articulating**
- **2015 One ton truck with chipper box**
- **2011 Forestry chipper**

- **2011 Stump grinder**
- **6 Stihl chainsaws**

In 2017, the Forestry Section responded to 709 requests for services ranging from tree stump removal to pruning with a 90% completion ratio.

Currently, strategic management of the urban forest is limited to a 1:1 ratio for tree removals and replacements, and response to customer service requests, with minimal activity spent on proactive forest management practices. The current approach involves applying the capacity of workload (with current staff, assuming no unanticipated winter storms or other emergencies) to undertake various forestry activities to existing outstanding requests. We then apply various factors (i.e., an assessment of potential risk to persons and property) to prioritize and schedule when the work can reasonably be expected to be accomplished.

Generally, a crew of 4 to 5 carries out tree planting for two months (April and May) each year. Throughout the rest of the season the crew works on tree trimming and removals (except for those transferred to snow removal or responding to other emergency work requests in the winter). When trees are removed, crews perform complete restoration activities (stumping and soiling).

## 14.4 Tree Inquiry Program

The purpose of this program is to systematically prioritize and respond to public concerns regarding trees. Hazard and high priority tree concerns will be addressed first, then general pruning requests will be addressed as time and resources permit.

In 2014, the Parks Division implemented an Urban Forestry Task List with the goal of being better able to prioritize and track Forestry requests as they were received and be better able to provide updates on requests.

## 14.5 Procedure

### i) **STEP 1 - A customer contacts the Community Services Secretary (CSS).**

- The CSS will identify the problem(s) by asking questions of the caller. Is it a broken branch? Is it a tree pest or disease? Is it a hazard? Is it a nuisance? The CSS will determine if an on-site investigation is necessary.
- An **on-site investigation is not necessary** when the CSS is able to satisfy the callers concern over the phone. The CSS may document the comments for future reference.
- When an on-site investigation is necessary the CSS will generate an Incident Report Form with the name, address, and telephone number of the person with the concern. The callers' comments should be brief and concise regarding the concern.

- If the request is deemed to be an emergency, the Assistant Parks Manager or Forestry Foreman should be contacted by phone to check out the concern immediately.

**ii) STEP 2 - The Assistant Parks Manager receives an Incident Report Form.**

- He will review the Incident Report Form to be sure the information is clear and then forward it to the Forestry Foreman.

**Please note: If elm tree requests are not deemed a hazard, they will not be addressed until after the pruning ban ends August 31.**

**iii) STEP 3 - The Forestry Crew will make an on-site investigation of the tree in question.**

- They should let the homeowner know they are investigating the concern. The present health and structure of the tree should be assessed during the investigation. The assessment should be as professional and objective as possible. It is the Forestry Crew's responsibility to determine the appropriate course of action to be taken.

**Refer to Appendix "D" - for Basic Tree Risk Assessment Form**

- If they **deem no action is to be taken** the person should be notified by phone, in person or by a mailer of the investigation results.
- If the Forestry Crew deems that work is necessary then the Incident Report Form should include the work performed, the date completed; the Foreman's initials and any other comments. If time permits, any additional pruning requirements to the tree will be performed at this time.
- If the tree work cannot be completed at the time of the investigation, then the customer should be notified in person, by phone or mailer as to the intended work and when they feel they can return to complete the work.

**iv) STEP 4 - The Forestry Foreman will prioritize the future tree work.**

- The Incident Report Forms will be placed in order of priority for the work to be performed. Top priority will be completed first with low priority attended to as time permits.

**v) STEP 5 - The service work is performed.**

- The Forestry Crew should notify the adjacent homeowner that they are proceeding with the tree work. The Incident Report Form will be completed after the work is complete.

**vi) STEP 6 - The Incident Report Form is returned to Assistant Parks Foreman.**

- The work performed is confirmed and the forms are collected and returned to the CSS.

**vii) STEP 7 - The CSS receives the completed Incident Report Form.**

- All forms are then entered into our Incident Reporter data base.

## 14.6 Incident Report Priority Guidelines

**i) Emergencies:**

- Tree has fallen over and presents an immediate danger to the public.
- Large broken branch on the ground or in the tree and presents an immediate danger to the public.
- Severely leaning or swaying tree that presents an immediate danger to the public.
- Newly cracked or splitting tree that presents an immediate danger to the public.

**ii) Top Priority**

- Obstructing branches which over hang sidewalks, roadways, driveways, signage or streetlights.
- Tree removals that have been approved (ie. Service connection repair or water main break)
- Tree removals due to confirmed cases of disease (ie. Dutch Elm)
- Trees with branches rubbing on houses or shingles.

**iii) Low Priority**

- General tree pruning
- Tree is interfering or shading a privately owned tree
- Tree has die-back but not considered a hazard.

## 14.7 Pest Management

All trees within Prince Albert's Urban Forest will be monitored constantly for disease and insect infestations. When the Forestry Crew receives an Incident Report Form stating that there is a concern dealing with a pest, the tree(s) in question will be investigated. The assessment will determine if the tree is to be pruned, removed, treated or left to defend naturally.

The City does not promote the use of chemical sprays and will only spray as a last resort to control a severe outbreak. We can recommend to residents to use a pressure hose to knock down the pests with water if they choose. At their own expense, residents could also spray their boulevard tree adjacent to their property with insecticidal soap, Dipel or Thuricide, if this is one of the recommended biological controls for that particular pest.

A tree will be considered for removal if more than 40% of the crown has been killed. If a tree has been confirmed to have Dutch Elm Disease it will be removed (stump included) immediately. If a tree is confirmed to have EAB (Emerald Ash Borer) the department will contact CFIA (Canadian Food Inspection Agency) and seek direction from the agency.

No person shall apply or administer any chemical that would cause death to any public tree. If this was to occur the offender would be held responsible. If a person is deemed responsible, that person will bar the assessed value of that tree. Within that assessed value, would include cost of removal plus cost of replacement of the tree(s). The assessment of the infected tree will be assumed a healthy tree upon assessment.

## 14.8 Damage to Private Property Caused by City Trees

Any and all damage incurred to private property which may be caused by City trees requires submission of a claim to the City of Prince Albert Finance Department by the property owner. The Finance Department will then open a claim file and this will be provided to the City's insurance provider for further investigation. Should the City be found at fault for any damage caused by City trees, property owners may receive compensation from the City.

The exception to this is the removal of tree roots in sewer service lines. Should a property owner experience blockages, a back-up, and/or a flow issue to their sewer service line, the property owner should call a plumbing company to diagnose and solve the problem. If tree roots are identified in the service line, City of Prince Albert Staff will investigate on site to determine the ownership of the trees:

- If there are trees on City property and on private property (in this instance trees on private property are defined as vegetation higher than the house eaves), then the property owner will receive 50% reimbursement of the cost to clear the service line.
- If there are trees on City property only, then the property owner will receive 100% reimbursement of the cost to clear the service line.
- If there are trees on private property only, then the property owner will receive no reimbursement towards the cost to clear the service line.

The City will only reimburse for clearing tree roots in the service line. Unknown blockages such as diapers, napkins, towels, etc. are not covered as the City has no control over what goes into the sewer service connection. Service line maintenance, repair and/or replacement are otherwise the responsibility of the property owner for the service line connection between the building and the main. The City does not pay for replacement of private portions of a service even if a City tree caused root intrusion damage. Often root intrusions into a service line are an indication of a larger problem or failure(s) which have allowed the roots to gain entry into the service line. This usually occurs at the end of the life span of the service line.

If problems are identified, video of the service is recommended and the City will provide compensation only if there is problems on the City's portion of the service line outside of the private property. If a failure occurs on the portion that lies outside the private property on City-owned land, and this is identified through service line photography, then the City will repair the failure at no charge to the adjacent property owner and pay for the video.

In the past, agreements were made with property owners for yearly maintenance (clearing of tree roots) of service lines due to trees or moderate failures (sags) in the service through the Public Works Department. Public Works has no record of these agreements and learn of them as people bring them to their attention. Public Works will no longer be signing any more of these agreements, but rather will be fixing problems and/or identifying problem trees that need to be removed, whether City or private. Tree removals would be as per Section 15 of this document.

The property owner is responsible for paying for the removal of a City tree if the tree removal is required (as deemed by the Director of Community Services) for any work within their private property. This can be completed by custom work order through the Community Services Office.

## 15.0 TREE REMOVALS

When a request is received for a tree removal, it will be evaluated and determined whether it is a hazard or non-hazard tree. Tree removals will always be considered as a last resort to rectifying an issue, once all other options have been explored and exhausted.

### 15.1 Hazard Tree(s)

If a City owned tree is evaluated to be a hazard tree, the removal process will be scheduled for the earliest date. The City will pay for all costs associated with the removal and reforestation if required. The following situations are when tree removals may receive immediate approval:

- The tree poses an immediate hazard to people or property.
- The tree has a confirmed case of Dutch Elm disease.
- The tree has a confirmed case of EAB and direction for its removal is provided by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.
- More than 40% of the crown of the tree is dead.
- More than 40% of the crown is infected by a disease.

### 15.2 Other Considerations for Tree Removal

Other trees considered for removal may have one or more of the following:

- Is the tree dead, diseased or dying? These are referred to as the Three D's. The percentage amounts are listed above.
- Trees in the way of a renovation/construction project and would interfere with utilities, buildings, driveways, etc.
- Trees that obstruct sight lines, causes roof damage, sidewalk damage, and utility line damage or interfere with public maintenance work.
- A tree that restricts the healthy growth of a more desirable tree.
- Trees that are leaning severely.
- Have major obstructive limbs and if the limbs were removed would ruin the overall structure of the tree that may cause a potential hazard.
- Trees that have a history of complaints or problems.
- Trees that are deemed to be causing a security concern.

- Trees that have been planted by citizens on City boulevards or parks and interfere with regular park maintenance or utilities.

The property owner adjacent to the tree to be removed will receive a Tree Removal Letter from the City.

Refer to Appendix “E” - for the Tree Removal Letter.

If a person(s) requests a city owned tree to be removed solely for personal purposes (i.e. driveway), and in the event the Parks & Open Space Manager agrees after exhausting all other avenues to save the tree, the person(s) shall be responsible for the assessed value placed on the tree, which would include removal and replacement costs.

Typically, healthy trees are not considered for removal except in extenuating circumstances and at the City’s cost which may include:

- Tree roots interfering with underground utilities, such as tree roots in sewer lines. In this case, the City requires proof that a City tree is the problem and it is not a one-time only occurrence. For example; if the property is being reimbursed by the Public Works Department for annual preventative maintenance of City tree roots in their sewer line, and an experienced member of the Urban Forestry Crew is able to clearly identify the offending tree, the tree may be removed. At time of removal, all parts of the tree must be removed including the stump. Preventative maintenance must be recommended by the Public Works Department Utility Manager.

Refer to Appendix “F” – Appraisal Worksheet

Refer to Appendix “G” – Guidelines for Evaluation of Trees

### 15.3 Non Hazard Trees

When the tree removal request has been investigated and the tree is determined to be a non-hazard, the tree will not be removed. Steps such as pruning will be considered to help alleviate the problem that is being investigated. The following are requests where, under normal circumstances, tree removal requests will be denied. The following concerns are considered a nuisance and are not reasonable grounds for removal.

- The leaves, fruit or seeds are a nuisance to clean up.
- Leaves are filling up eaves troughs.
- The leaves from boulevard trees are plugging up the catch basin.
- The seeds are considered unsightly.
- The sucker growth at the base of the tree is unsightly.
- People at the residence are too old or disabled to clean up the leaves, fruit or seeds.
- The tree is attracting insects.
- The tree is obstructing the street light.
- The tree is obstructing a view.

- The tree is affecting growth of private trees.
- The tree root flare is interfering with mowing.
- The tree roots are exposed above ground or lifting the ground.
- The branches are too low and interfering with mowing grass under the tree.
- The tree does not fit their landscape plans.
- The tree roots are growing into the sewer lines.

We will refer them to Public Works to apply for a sanitary sewer blockage reimbursement. A tree that has been identified causing root problems in a sewer line, on an on-going basis (annually), will be considered for removal. Should it be decided that the tree in question will not be removed; the applicant will be notified in writing as to the decision. The applicant must ensure that no undue harm comes to the tree(s) requested for removal. Malicious tree and/or City property damage will result in action taken to receive compensation for the tree and/or restoration of the City owned property to its full value as determined by the Council of Trees & Landscape Appraisers Field form report for Cost of Cure. Cost of Cure determines the cost of the replacement and/or repairing of plants and restoration of the property to its pre-casualty condition.

## **16.0 URBAN FOREST STORM RESPONSE PLAN**

### **16.1 General**

The purpose of the Storm Response Plan is to have an action plan in place to respond to damage to the Urban Forest caused by intense storms. This will assist with providing the City with the safest, efficient, organized clean-up procedures to returning the City's Urban Forest to acceptable standards. All employees involved will know their role and the responsibilities that are required from them. All safety practices will be followed to ensure the safety of the employees, the public and all property involved.

### **16.2 Minor Storm**

A minor storm will be of the nature that causes fallen trees and limbs, minor road blockages and minimal damage to a local or broad area. The Forestry Crew will perform the majority of the clean-up and all hazardous scenarios can be completed within a week's work.

### **16.3 Major Storm**

A major storm will be classified as of the nature that causes numerous fallen trees and limbs, uprooted trees, road blockages on both major arterial and residential streets, and severe damage throughout the City. Clean-up from these storms will involve assistance from other City crews including Parks crews and support from Public Works crews to supply loaders and trucks with operators. Private contractors or other trained personnel such as the Pen Crew/Riverbend Work Crew may need to be called in to assist. Clean-up from these storms will take from one

week to several weeks. Additional funding, staffing and equipment will need to be allocated to complete this severity of a clean-up.

## 16.4 Staff Responsibilities

To ensure a safe, efficient clean-up, all staff will know the role they are responsible for. All City Policies & Procedures, Occupational Health & Safety, Provincial Legislation and the Collective Bargaining Agreement will be adhered to. Any staff member locating an emergency situation shall notify 9-1-1 immediately.

All staff will be responsible for completing hazard assessments.

## 16.5 Training (Importance of ISA Certification)

Working towards having certified arborists on hand will be critical in how we deal with the health of the City's trees moving forward. The need to be knowledgeable, understand how to work with a tree, assess its overall health, determine whether it is dead, diseased or dying will only help to add depth and confidence to the department. The more knowledge and the more staff understand the better job they will be able to do of providing a safer and more sustainable Urban Forest for everyone to enjoy.

Why have a trained arborist(s) on staff? You wouldn't choose a doctor without a license to perform surgery – so why choose an arborist without a license to perform tree maintenance? The department believes that the best service comes from the most qualified professionals – that is why certification is important. Here's why it is important:

### First of all, what is an ISA arborist certification?

The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certification program ensures arborists are trained in all aspects of arboriculture. If an arborist has an ISA certification, it means they meet basic criteria, including at least three years of full-time, hands on experience in arboriculture or a degree in related fields including forestry, horticulture, and landscape architecture. Candidates must pass an exam and maintain their certification through continuing education or retake the test every three years. Professionals can also further specialize and obtain certifications in areas including arborist utility, arborist municipal, tree worker climber, tree worker aerial lift, and board certified master arborist.

### What are the benefits of having a certified arborist?

- They meet or exceed arboriculture standards: An arborist has passed an exam designed to cover all necessary areas of knowledge to thrive in the industry. The certification process includes an application process, an exam, and review following the exam. This means certified arborists have met the ISA's standards and have been screened and approved through their in-depth review process.
- They demonstrate dedication to continuing education: This certification means the arborist has made an effort to stay current and pursue continuing education. Certified arborists have fulfilled the required amount of Continuing Education Units (CEU's) over a three year period including taking college courses, participating in local events,

presentations, and competitions, taking computer based trainings and seminars, and staying up-to-date with CPR and First Aid training.

- They have significant, relevant experience: To obtain certification, arborist must have at least three years in the field or a college degree in a related field. These professionals are not rookies – they are experts who have put a lot of time and effort in the field and want to maintain and build their knowledge throughout their careers. The ISA also promotes networking locally and beyond so professionals can work with each other to bring the highest quality services to a region.
- They use science and technology to bolster their practices: The ISA focuses not only on arboriculture best practices, but on how to use science, technology, and research to define best practices drive results. An arborist is not just trimming trees at random; they are using high quality tools backed by scientific knowledge of tree anatomy and ecosystems to maintain plant life. Professionals use literature reviews, podcasts, seminars, research databases and more to stay up-to-date on how science and technology can reinforce professional standards.
- They govern their actions with sound ethics: Certified arborists follow the ISA Certified Arborist Code of Ethics. This means they comply with local and national laws and policies, meet or exceed professional standards, practice safe and ethical decision making, respect confidentiality, reflect truthful and accurate public information and avoid conflicts of interest between customers and respect public health protocols.

### What is the ISA?

The International Society of Arboriculture is an organization dedicated to using research, education, and technology to foster professional arborists who will benefit trees and forest worldwide. The organization was founded almost 100 years ago in Connecticut and has since gained over 20,000 members around the world. Their goals are to promote research for healthier trees, raise public awareness of public awareness of arboricultural issues, promote and provide professional development for arborists, and foster best practices to keep professionals and citizens alike safe when it comes to arboriculture.

## 16.6 Staffing

### i) Assistant Parks Manager

- Investigate and monitor the severity of damage caused by the storm.
- Call in Forestry Crew as needed.
- Confirm with Forestry Foreman if extra help is required from within the department and call in the necessary amount of employees.
- Requests assistance from other departments when required.
- Requests assistance from contractors or other trained personnel (Pen Crew/Riverbend Work Crew) when required.
- Reviews the Incident Report Forms and prioritizes hazard and non-hazard trees or situations.
- Coordinates the location of the crews with the Forestry Foreman when damage is over a large area.
- Responsible for making overtime work decisions.

- Ensures only qualified personnel are operating specialized equipment.
- Deals with the follow-up calls from residents who were affected by tree damage from the storm.
- Contacts utility companies if they are required.
- Maintains a list of all staff, equipment and other related charges from the storm related clean-up.
- Reports to the Manager of Parks & Open Spaces as to the damage received and if more resources are needed.
- Provides all reports and documentation as required by the Manager of Parks & Open Spaces or Director of Community Services.
- Will be the immediate contact person with the Communications Manager as to the damage and progress the Crews are making.
- Will be the immediate contact person for the media regarding the damage and progress being made during the storm clean-up operation.

## ii) Forestry Foreman (Foreman III)

- Lay out, assign, supervise and work with large sized crews engaged in maintenance, construction and repair operations.
- Maintains records of staff and equipment hours, materials and work performed and communicate all to out of scope supervisor.
- Responsible for requesting and ensuring all locates are completed.
- Assist with cost estimates when required.
- Assign and supervise the work of hired equipment and contractors.
- Follow Acts, Regulations, OH&S, Bylaws, Agreements, policies and procedures.
- Perform other related duties as assigned.
- Responsible for encouraging and maintaining high levels of safety and communication with all staff working under their supervision.
- Prepare reports and oversee the completion of reports by subordinates.
- Order materials and supplies.
- Pick up time cards and review the time cards as to the correct time and account numbers.
- Deal with Bylaw regarding complaints and clean ups.
- Run Toolbox meetings.
- Assist with Parks when needed.

## iii) Forestry Foreman (Foreman II)

- Prioritizes, designates and assists with all duties of the Forestry Crew and other crews assisting with the clean-up.
- Calls in Forestry Crew and makes recommendations for staffing personnel, regular work hours, overtime and equipment required.
- Reviews the Incident Report Forms and gives updates to the Assistant Parks Manager as work is completed.
- Will authorize tree removals as required.

- Oversees proper pruning techniques for the damaged trees that do not need to be removed.
- Ensures the safety of all crews and the surrounding work area.

#### iv) Forestry Crew

- Performs all clean-up work as assigned by the Forestry Foreman.
- Completes any paperwork that may be required.
- Follows all safety requirements and guidelines.

#### v) Parks, Public Works, Contractor Crews

- Perform all clean-up work as designated by the Forestry Foreman or the immediate Crew Foreman.
- Follow all safety requirements and guidelines.

#### vi) Duty Foreman

- The Duty Foreman can call in the Forestry Foreman to respond to the storm clean-up.
- The Duty Foreman can assist with prioritizing the hazard areas needing immediate attention.

#### vii) Parks & Open Space Manager

- Reports to Director of Community Services the damages caused by the storm and gives updates as to clean-up progress.
- Assists the Assistant Parks Manager when necessary with administrative duties.
- Assumes the duties of the Assistant Parks Manager in his absence.

## 17.0 STORM CLEAN-UP PRIORITIES

The following will be used to prioritize the work assignments for the staff due to damage from the storm.

### 17.1 High Priority

- A call received from 9-1-1 that people are injured and trapped in a car or house that has a tree down.
- People caught in a life threatening situation due to a tree down.
- The possibility of a damaged/split tree falling on a house and cause injury to individuals.
- A damaged tree (ie. split) that could cause immediate danger to the public.

### 17.2 Mid Priority

- Trees down blocking major arterial street(s).
- Trees down blocking minor arterial street(s).

- Trees down blocking local streets and rear lanes.

### 17.3 High Priority

- Uprooted and damaged trees on public property.
- Trees from Mid Priority that are piled on boulevard for removal.
- Branches and cut up logs to be hauled to dump site.
- Stump grinding/removal will be performed at a later date.
- Tree replacements to be diarized and performed at a later date.

## 18.0 TREES ON PRIVATE PROPERTIES

City crews will only go on private property if:

- 1) There is a life-threatening situation that requires the City's specialized equipment and trained staff, or the potential for a situation to cause an injury.
- 2) A private tree has fallen onto a City street.

Homeowners are responsible for removing any damaged trees and branches from their own property.

## 19.0 PUBLIC EDUCATION AND PROGRAMS

Educating the public about the value and importance of the Urban Forest is essential. They will learn how to appreciate and assist in the development of our Urban Forest. They will learn how to care for and nurture the trees in an area, which in turn means a beautiful, well maintained, healthy and safe Urban Forest environment. The Plant-A-Forest Day, involving Grade 5 students from all schools, assists in young children replanting a forest that was devastated by Dwarf Mistletoe, a great example of educating and involving the public.

To assist in public education and programs the following could occur:

- Our Parks and Forestry Crew could be available to assist the public with any questions or concerns that they have.
- Meeting with groups or organizations to provide education on forestry related topics could be made available. .
- Horticultural/Forestry Information Sheets could be developed and made available to the public upon request. These sheets could be topic specific and cover a wide variety of issues with regard to Urban Forestry and other horticultural information.
- An update to our City website could be made to include Forestry related subjects and timely updates at a touch of a finger.
- Site specific meetings could take place to provide further direction that cannot be easily given out through an information sheet or through a telephone call.

## 20.0 PRUNING CYCLE

Pruning street and park trees is an important component of managing a safe, hazard-free, and less costly urban forest in the long term. A pruning cycle will need to be initiated to provide regular maintenance to the City of Prince Alberts urban forest. Ideally, the pruning cycle would be: any tree under, 15" DBH (diameter at breast height) every 2 years to provide corrective and directional pruning, Elm to be pruned every 4 years and, parks and street boulevard pruning every 7 years. The focus being, on the overall health of the tree and ensuring that all hazards have been removed. The plan would be to strive towards an achievable maintenance cycle and to work towards having dedicated pruning crew(s) who are solely focused on tree care. In order to help us achieve this we will need to assess the Forestry Departments current commitments and look for solutions to providing consistency in the area of forestry management.

Pruning Crews would be responsible for the following:

- Reduce or remove limbs to train a central leader
- Remove any large deadwood and crossing branches
- Lightly thin to allow for light penetration and air circulation
- Prune broken or damaged limbs
- Raise the crown to provide clearance for vehicles (18'), pedestrians (7'), signs and street lights (as required)
- Note any remedial treatments such as cabling, bracing, fertilization, etc.

The seven zones involved in this cycle would be:

- *Midtown*
- *West Hill, East Hill*
- *West Flat, East Flat*
- *Crescent Acres/Crescent Heights*
- *Nordale/Hazeldell*

### Homeowner Requests

To maximize the efficiency of operations, requests for pruning outside of the scheduled cycle should be minimized.

## 21.0 INVENTORY STRATEGY

As is the case with any renewable resource, an inventory is an essential tool for the formulation of management strategies. It provides data about the City's trees which is necessary for the planning of management activities to achieve specific goals. This data typically includes species composition, the relative proportion of native versus non-native species, age structure, tree condition, location, size, management history and habitat. This information can be linked to

a GIS system to facilitate data collection, tracking, analyses and to refine management approaches over time.

Ideally every municipality should have an inventory of all its trees. However, this is usually not feasible, and so the easiest place to start is by focusing on the City's own lands where it can access and manage trees without much difficulty.

### **Why Tree Inventories are Important**

A comprehensive tree inventory is essential for the City of Prince Albert to effectively manage its urban forest, to maximize the benefits that trees provide, to minimize risk from potential hazards and to implement long-term management initiatives. It will identify details of the structure of the urban forest, which are necessary for the planning of management activities to achieve specific goals. An inventory may also reveal other valuable assets such as the presence of Species at Risk (e.g. Fraxinus Ash, Ulmus – Elm) that may otherwise be overlooked.

An inventory will also differentiate between intensively managed parts of the municipal forest (i.e., areas where individual trees are managed under arboricultural techniques) and extensively managed woodlands (i.e., areas that are managed using techniques more closely related to silviculture or forestry).

## **22.1 Status of Tree Inventory in the City of Prince Albert**

We currently do not have a working inventory and are starting from ground zero. It is hard to estimate at this time how many trees the city currently has; however, the Forestry staff are working with the City's GIS Supervisor (i.e., using GIS) to start plotting for the inventory and will be collecting data trees. This data once collected will then be downloaded into an iTree program that will allow the department to start analyzing things like Landscape, Canopy cover, Value, Planting, Species, Carbon Capture, Disease, etc.

### **22.1 GIS & Asset Management**

GIS or a Geographic Information System is basically a database of information that is geographically oriented. Like many municipalities, the City has recognized the potential value of this tool for planning (as well as some other applications e.g. iTree) and has gradually been expanding its capacities with this technology combines common data base functions with the visualization and geographic analysis benefits that are offered by maps, and can be very useful for linking urban forest data and mapping, and conducting a wide range of large, medium and small-scale analyses.

Examples of important urban forestry questions that can be answered with GIS, if the appropriate data is entered on a City-wide basis, and the appropriate planning layers are available, include:

**LARGE-SCALE** (can be conducted with air photo interpretation in conjunction with various planning layers)

- What is the City's total tree cover (including street trees) and how is it dispersed across the City?
- How much of the City's tree cover is in natural or semi-natural areas versus urban areas?
- How much of the City's tree cover is on private lands versus public lands?
- How much of the tree cover on private lands is on residential lands versus industrial, institutional and commercial?
- Where are the largest concentrations of City-owned trees?

**MEDIUM- SCALE** (requires some types of inventory data; the more comprehensive the data, the more accurate the answers will be)

- What parts of the City have mainly older trees?
- What proportion of the City's tree cover is in parks? Natural areas? Street trees?

**SMALL-SCALE** (requires a comprehensive tree inventory)

- What is the status (e.g., age, health, hazard rating) of all trees on City-owned lands?
- What is the status (e.g., age, health, hazard rating) of all trees on private lands?

## 23.0 QUANTIFYING OUR SUCCESS (ES)

As with all plans you must be able to quantify your successes. The following are some of the areas that we will monitor to see if we have achieved our goals:

- Two replacement trees planted for each tree removal
- Boulevard trees planted in new developments within a year
- Trees planted in parks as soon as a plan for the park is complete and the immediate surrounding properties have been developed.
- Completion of a zone per season for tree pruning/removal
- Implementation and monitoring of permanent positions for Forestry Crew
- A reduction in tree complaints due to an increased commitment to the maintenance of our Urban Forest
- An established block pruning program addressing the needs of all trees in an area.

We want to achieve these goals while staying within the approved budget for each year. The City of Prince Albert can achieve these goals with the cooperation of administration, Council and the citizens of this City.

## 24.0 POLICY AND GUIDELINE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Community Services Department:

- a) *Should ensure that all policy revisions and updates define the urban forest, identify it as a high priority for protection, and describe it as “green infrastructure” which needs to be actively managed.*
- b) *Should develop comprehensive, City-wide policies, guidelines for tree preservation, replacement and enhancement on both public and private lands.*
- c) *Should commit to protecting and, where feasible, enhancing the natural linkages within the City and to outlying communities such as Hazeldell, Nordale and the County of Buckland.*
- d) *The tree by-law should be reviewed and updated every 2 years to ensure it is relevant to the current standards and practices.*
- e) *Should evaluate if existing staffing is adequate to address the immediate pruning and assessment needs. This process should also include a detailed plan of where we currently stand in regards to current staffing and equipment, what type of commitment would be involved to reach the desired levels of service and what other options would be available and the costs involved.*

### **Communications Recommendations**

The Community Services Department:

- a) *Should host workshops or public meetings to get community input to the vision and goals to keep the Urban Forest Management Plan relevant.*
- b) *Should explore options for providing support and coordination of ongoing and potential volunteer activities related to tree planting in the City.*
- c) *Should explore mechanisms for more inter-departmental coordination regarding proper protection and management of the City’s green infrastructure (i.e., its trees) and educate about tree protection guidelines, policies and best practices.*
- d) *Should expand its public education initiatives by (a) updating and enhancing its on-line urban forestry resources, (b) consider offering urban forestry workshops for residents, and (c) exploring other educational opportunities with other partners (e.g., Saskatchewan Polytechnic College, Government of Canada Forestry Centre.)*

## **26.0 INVENTORY RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Community Services Department:

- a) *Should determine specific goals for a tree inventory and develop a system of data collection and asset management in the Forestry Master Plan.*

- b) Should complete a tree inventory for all trees on City lands outside of natural areas as part of the first 5-year management plan
- c) Should collect the tree inventory and use the GIS Toolbox to monitor overall tree canopy cover in the City, and help identify potential planting locations.
- d) Should explore options for administering and maintaining the forestry asset management system (e.g., tree inventory software, database, etc.) as it develops.
- e) Should complete a tree inventory for all Municipal woodlands based on accepted forest stand inventory for all municipal woodlands based on accepted forest stand inventory protocols.

## 27.0 GLOSSARY

Boulevard  
Corner Visibility Triangle  
Hardscape  
Median  
Soft scape

## 28.0 APPENDIXES

FIGURE 4.0

# COMMUNITY SERVICES

## PARKS – WINTER

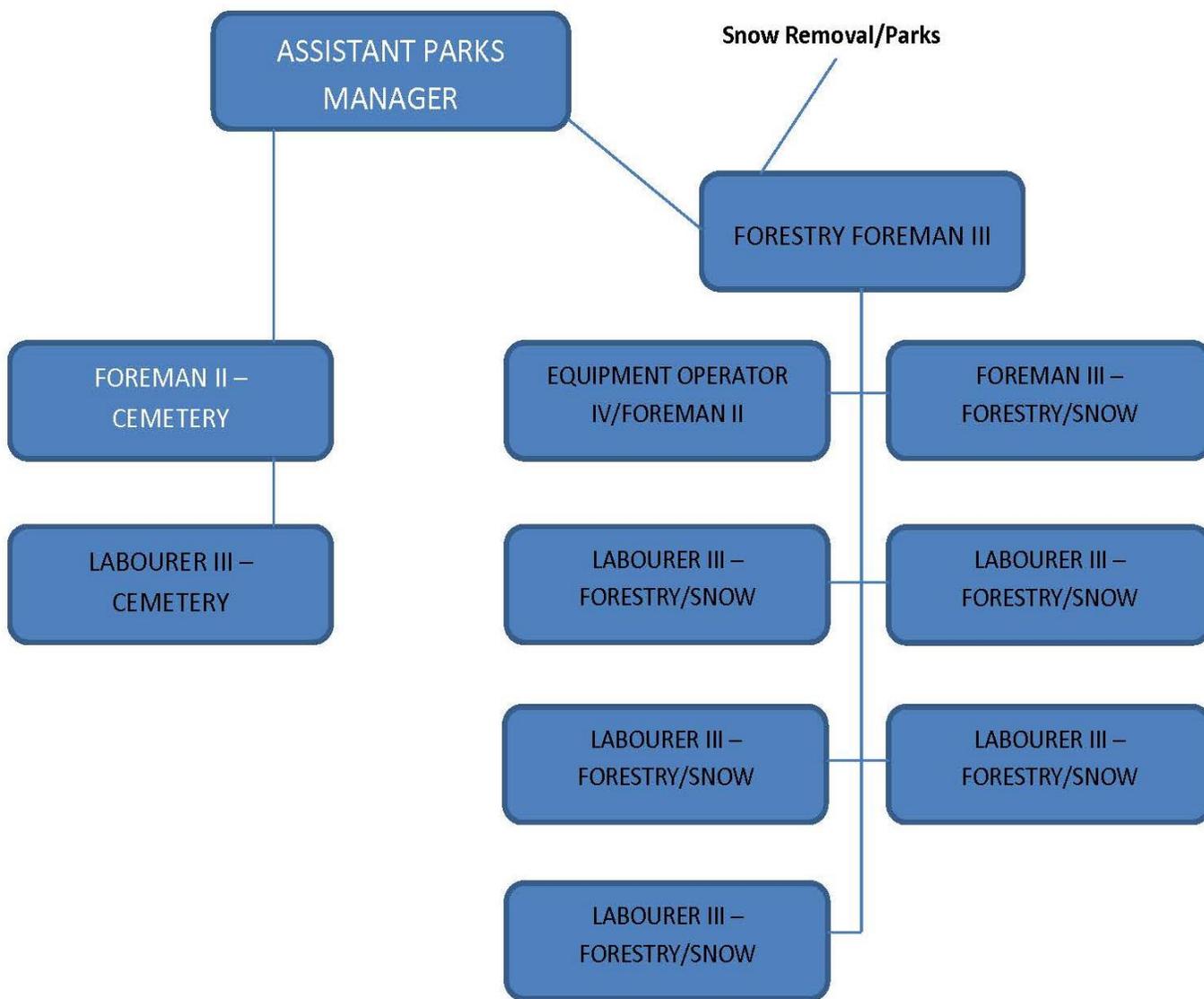
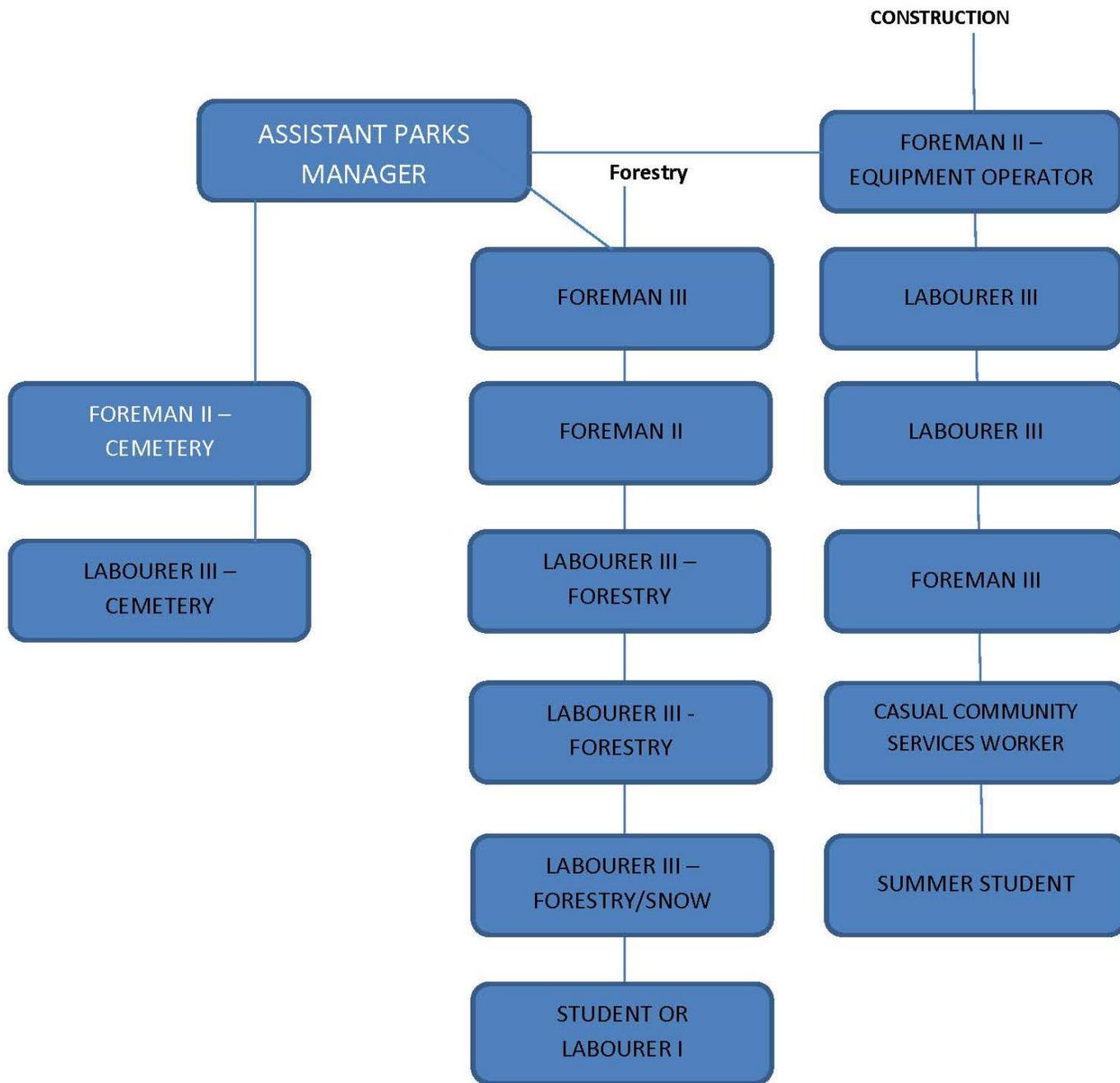


FIGURE 4.1

# COMMUNITY SERVICES

## PARKS – SUMMER



## Appendix “A” TREE PLANTING LETTER



Date:

Dear Homeowner;

The City Forestry crew recently planted a new tree on your property and we would like to ask your assistance in helping take care of it. The trees themselves will need to be watered at least twice a week and the process is as simple as filling the “Gator Bags” that have been provided by our department.

The Gator bags are designed to hold water and allow for a slow release of that water over a 9-12 hour period. This will allow for the following:

- 100% absorption with no run-off
- Deep saturation of the soil surface with every fill
- Reduces time spent at the tree
- Promotes deep root growth
- And only requires the bag(s) to be filled 1-2 times per week

### WHY SHOULD I WATER MY TREE(S)?

Newly planted trees have lost more than 75% of their root system. Regular watering will help your tree recover faster and grow healthier especially during dry conditions.

### CAN I OVERWATER MY TREE(S)?

**YES** – overwatering can be as harmful as a lack of watering. Always follow the recommended watering guidelines for normal, drought and wet conditions.

**Drought** – 20 gallons (90 litres) **twice** per week

**Normal** – 20 gallons (90 litres) **once** per week

**Wet** – No additional watering required

### HOW WILL I KNOW WHAT THE CONDITION IS?

The condition (drought, normal or wet) is determined based on the amount of rainfall per week.

**Drought** – 0 mm of rainfall per week

**Normal** – 30 mm of rainfall per week

**Wet** – 60+ mm of rainfall per week.

If there are any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to call me at your convenience.

Respectfully,

Parks Manager



## Appendix “B” TREE PLANTING TIPS

- **Call Before You Dig!** Be certain of all utility locations. Do not plant directly over or under any utility services.
- Be aware of the distance from the home’s foundation, fences and property edge. Consider windows, doors, air conditioning units, flower beds, other trees and all other hardscape features.
- A hole 1.5 times wider and deeper than the root ball or root spread should be dug.
- Plant the tree at the same depth that it had previously been growing.
- Spread roots out evenly in hole.
- Fill hole with parent material or a good loam soil. Pack firmly.
- Water thoroughly. Roots must not be allowed to dry out. Water at least once a week for the first growing season.
- Apply about 3 inches of mulch to help maintain moisture and protect root system.
- Trees of a 5-8 foot height should be staked for the first year. If staking with wire or rope, be sure to use a piece of rubber hose around the trunk to prevent damage to the newly transplanted tree.
- Keep mulch free of weeds and grass.
- Do not use herbicides around new tree.
- Avoid lawn mower and weed eater damage to tree trunk.

## Appendix “C” PREFERRED TREE SPECIES – SUBJECT TO CHANGE

City of Prince Albert   Preferred Tree Species		Zone	Height	Spread	Columnar	Upright/Spreading	Flowering	Fruiting	Winter Interest	Drought Tolerant	Water Tolerant	Salt Tolerant	Okay to plant under Powerlines	Expected Life in Years
Botanic Name	Common Name													

<i>Acer ginnala</i>	Tree-form Amur Maple	2	6m (18')	5m (15')		X							X	60
<i>Acer ginnala</i> 'Flame'	Flame Amur Maple	3a	6m (18')	6m (18')		X							X	60
<i>Acer saccharinum</i> 'Silver Cloud'	Silver Maple	2b	18m (60')	9m (30')		X				X	X	X		80
<i>Acer tataricum</i> 'GarAnn'	Hot Wings Tatarian Maple	3a	8m (25')	6m (18')		X				X		X	X	70
<i>Alnus hirsuta</i> 'Harbin'	Prairie Horizon Manchurian Alder	3a	12m (40')	9m (30')		X			X	X				80
<i>Fraxinus mandshurica</i> 'Mancana'	Mancana Manchurian Ash	2b	12m (40')	7m (20')		X				X	X	X	X	70
<i>Fraxinus</i> x 'Northern Gem'	Northern Gem Hybrid Ash	2b	15m (50')	12m (40')		X				X				70
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i> 'Patmore'	Patmore Green Ash	2a	18m (60')	11m (35')		X				X		X		70
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i> 'Rugby'	Prairie Spire Green Ash	2b	18m (60')	9m (30')		X				X		X		70
<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	Bur Oak	2b	24m (80')	18m (60')		X				X		X		99+
<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> 'Top Gun'	Top Gun Bur Oak	2b	18m (60')	5m (15')		X				X		X		99+
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> 'Black Hawk'	Black Hawk Mountain Ash	3a	9m (30')	6m (18')		X		X					X	50
<i>Tilia americana</i>	American Linden/Basswood	2b	18m (60')	12m (40')		X	X							70
<i>Tilia cordata</i> 'Greenspire'	Greenspire Littleleaf Linden	3b	12m (40')	10m (30')		X								70
<i>Tilia cordata</i> 'Ronald'	Norlin Littleleaf Linden	3a	15m (50')	9m (30')		X								70
<i>Tilia mongolica</i> 'Harvest Gold'	Harvest Gold Mongolian Linden	2a	12m (40')	8m (25')		X								70
<i>Tilia</i> x <i>flavescens</i> 'Dropmore'	Dropmore Hybrid Linden	2a	15m (50')	9m (30')		X								70
<i>Ulmus americana</i> *	American Elm	2a	20m (60')	12m (40')		X								99+
<i>Ulmus americana</i> 'Brandon'	Brandon Elm	2a	18m (60')	12m (40')		X								80

### All-Purpose Trees for All Applications

#### Ornamental Trees Located Away from Pavement | Street Trees between Property Boundary and Combined Curb-Sidewalk

<i>Betula platyphylla</i> 'Fargo'	Dakota Pinnacle Asian White Birch	3b	12m (40')	9m (30')		X				X				40
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Hackberry	2	15m (50')	12m (40')			X	X	X		X	X		99+
<i>Crataegus</i> x <i>mordenensis</i> 'Snowbird'	Snowbird Hawthorn	3a	5m (15')	5m (15')			X	X	X				X	40
<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	Russian Olive	3a	6m (18')	6m (18')			X	X	X		X		X	50
<i>Malus</i> x <i>adstringens</i> 'Jefgreen'	Emerald Spire Columnar Crabapple	2a	5m (15')	2m (6')		X		X					X	50
<i>Malus</i> x <i>adstringens</i> 'Jefspire'	Purple Spire Crabapple	3a	5m (15')	2m (6')		X		X					X	50
<i>Malus</i> x <i>adstringens</i> 'Thunderchild'	Thunderchild Crabapple	3a	6m (18')	5m (15')			X	X	X					50
<i>Malus</i> 'Durleo'	Gladiator Flowering Crab	2a	6m (18')	3m (9')		X		X	X	X			X	40
<i>Malus</i> 'Royalty'	Royalty Crabapple	2	5m (15')	5m (15')			X	X	X				X	70
<i>Prunus maackii</i>	Amur Cherry	2b	10m (30')	8m (25')			X	X	X	X				30
<i>Syringia reticulata</i>	Ivory Silk Japanese Tree Lilac	3a	6m (20')	5m (15')			X	X		X			X	40

<i>Picea glauca</i>	White Spruce	2a	13m (43')	6m (18')			X			X				50
<i>Picea pungens</i>	Colorado Spruce Blue Spruce	2a	19m (62')	8m (25')			X			X			X	80
<i>Pinus contorta</i> var. <i>latifolia</i>	Lodgepole Pine	1	25m (80')	8m (25')			X			X				99+
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scotch Pine	2b	18m (60')	8m (25')			X			X	X			80

### Upright Conifer Trees for Winter Interest Located where Space Allows

#### Park and Nature Trees Located Away from Infrastructure

<i>Acer negundo</i>	Boxelder Maple	2a	15m (50')	10m (30')			X				X	X		50
<i>aesculus glabra</i>	Ohio Buckeye	2b	11m (35')	11m (35')				X	X					60
<i>Larix laricina</i>	Tamarack	2a	12m (40')	6m (18')		X						X		99+

<i>Larix siberica</i>	Siberian Larch	1b	25m (80')	5m (15')		X							X	70
<i>Quercus ellipsoidalis</i>	Northern Pin Oak	3a	15m (50')	15m (50')				X						99+
<i>Salix alba 'Siberica'</i>	White Willow	2b	25m (80')	10m (30')		X				X				60
<i>Salix pentandra</i>	Laurel Leaf Willow	2b	18m (60')	9m (30')		X				X				60
<i>Sorbus aucuparia 'Rossica'</i>	Russian Mountain Ash	2b	8m (25')	6m (18')		X	X						X	50
<i>Sorbus aucuparia 'Fastigiata'</i>	Pyramidal Mountain Ash	3a	8m (25')	3m (9')		X	X						X	50
<i>Sorbus decora</i>	Showy Mountain Ash	2a	8m (25')	6m (18')		X	X						X	40

Please note that the Preferred Species are tried-and-true suggestions. Other species and substitutions may be permitted on City property with permission from the City of Prince Albert Parks Division

\*Elms are permitted in limited numbers in high visibility locations where they can be easily monitored for DED

# Appendix "D" Basic Tree Risk Assessment Form

Client \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address/Tree location \_\_\_\_\_ Tree no. \_\_\_\_\_ Sheet \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tree species \_\_\_\_\_ dbh \_\_\_\_\_ Height \_\_\_\_\_ Crown spread dia. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Assessor(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Tools used \_\_\_\_\_ Time frame \_\_\_\_\_

Target Assessment								
Target number	Target description	Target protection	Target zone			Occupancy rate 1 - rare 2 - occasional 3 - frequent 4 - constant	Practical to move target?	Restriction practical?
			Target within drip line	Target within 1 x Ht.	Target within 1.5 x Ht.			
1								
2								
3								
4								

### Site Factors

History of failures \_\_\_\_\_ Topography Flat  Slope  \_\_\_\_\_ % Aspect \_\_\_\_\_  
 Site changes None  Grade change  Site clearing  Changed soil hydrology  Root cuts  Describe \_\_\_\_\_  
 Soil conditions Limited volume  Saturated  Shallow  Compacted  Pavement over roots  \_\_\_\_\_ % Describe \_\_\_\_\_  
 Prevailing wind direction \_\_\_\_\_ Common weather Strong winds  Ice  Snow  Heavy rain  Describe \_\_\_\_\_

### Tree Health and Species Profile

Vigor Low  Normal  High  Foliage None (seasonal)  None (dead)  Normal \_\_\_\_\_ % Chlorotic \_\_\_\_\_ % Necrotic \_\_\_\_\_ %  
 Pests/Biotic \_\_\_\_\_ Abiotic \_\_\_\_\_  
 Species failure profile Branches  Trunk  Roots  Describe \_\_\_\_\_

### Load Factors

Wind exposure Protected  Partial  Full  Wind funneling  \_\_\_\_\_ Relative crown size Small  Medium  Large   
 Crown density Sparse  Normal  Dense  Interior branches Few  Normal  Dense  Vines/Mistletoe/Moss  \_\_\_\_\_  
 Recent or expected change in load factors \_\_\_\_\_

### Tree Defects and Conditions Affecting the Likelihood of Failure

**— Crown and Branches —**

Unbalanced crown <input type="checkbox"/> LCR _____ % Dead twigs/branches <input type="checkbox"/> _____ % overall Max. dia. _____ Broken/Hangers Number _____ Max. dia. _____ Over-extended branches <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Pruning history</b> Crown cleaned <input type="checkbox"/> Thinned <input type="checkbox"/> Raised <input type="checkbox"/> Reduced <input type="checkbox"/> Topped <input type="checkbox"/> Lion-tailed <input type="checkbox"/> Flush cuts <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	Cracks <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Lightning damage <input type="checkbox"/> Codominant <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Included bark <input type="checkbox"/> Weak attachments <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Cavity/Nest hole _____ % circ. Previous branch failures <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Similar branches present <input type="checkbox"/> Dead/Missing bark <input type="checkbox"/> Cankers/Galls/Burls <input type="checkbox"/> Sapwood damage/decay <input type="checkbox"/> Conks <input type="checkbox"/> Heartwood decay <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Response growth _____
--	---

\_\_\_\_\_ Condition(s) of concern \_\_\_\_\_

Part Size _____ Fall Distance _____	Part Size _____ Fall Distance _____
Load on defect N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Significant <input type="checkbox"/>	Load on defect N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Significant <input type="checkbox"/>
Likelihood of failure Improbable <input type="checkbox"/> Possible <input type="checkbox"/> Probable <input type="checkbox"/> Imminent <input type="checkbox"/>	Likelihood of failure Improbable <input type="checkbox"/> Possible <input type="checkbox"/> Probable <input type="checkbox"/> Imminent <input type="checkbox"/>

**— Trunk —**

Dead/Missing bark <input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal bark texture/color <input type="checkbox"/> Codominant stems <input type="checkbox"/> Included bark <input type="checkbox"/> Cracks <input type="checkbox"/> Sapwood damage/decay <input type="checkbox"/> Cankers/Galls/Burls <input type="checkbox"/> Sap ooze <input type="checkbox"/> Lightning damage <input type="checkbox"/> Heartwood decay <input type="checkbox"/> Conks/Mushrooms <input type="checkbox"/> Cavity/Nest hole _____ % circ. Depth _____ Poor taper <input type="checkbox"/> Lean _____ ° Corrected? _____ Response growth _____ Condition(s) of concern _____ Part Size _____ Fall Distance _____	Collar buried/Not visible <input type="checkbox"/> Depth _____ Stem girdling <input type="checkbox"/> Dead <input type="checkbox"/> Decay <input type="checkbox"/> Conks/Mushrooms <input type="checkbox"/> Ooze <input type="checkbox"/> Cavity <input type="checkbox"/> _____ % circ. Cracks <input type="checkbox"/> Cut/Damaged roots <input type="checkbox"/> Distance from trunk _____ Root plate lifting <input type="checkbox"/> Soil weakness <input type="checkbox"/> Response growth _____ Condition(s) of concern _____ Part Size _____ Fall Distance _____
--	--

Load on defect N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Significant <input type="checkbox"/>	Load on defect N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Significant <input type="checkbox"/>
Likelihood of failure Improbable <input type="checkbox"/> Possible <input type="checkbox"/> Probable <input type="checkbox"/> Imminent <input type="checkbox"/>	Likelihood of failure Improbable <input type="checkbox"/> Possible <input type="checkbox"/> Probable <input type="checkbox"/> Imminent <input type="checkbox"/>



**Appendix “E” TREE REMOVAL LETTER**

Date

Dear Resident:

Recently, the City of Prince Albert, Parks Department, performed an assessment of trees in your neighbourhood and determined that some of the trees should be removed. Located at your home are one or more such trees.

A Basic Tree Health and Risk Assessment was, completed using recommended standards as laid out by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). During our tree assessment, forestry staff completed a visual inspection to identify existing damage and potential risk. If the city tree in front of your property was identified as a candidate for removal a number of factors would have come in to play throughout the assessment to help identify it as such. .

To compensate for the removal of the tree(s), the City will be undertaking a program of reforestation next spring with trees of a suitable species.

Should there be questions or concerns regarding the process we would ask that you contact our Community Services Department at (306) 953-4800 where we can better direct your call.

Sincerely,

Parks Manager



## Appendix "F" APPRAISAL WORKSHEETS

### Appraisal Worksheet

(Taken from a form found in: *Guide for Plant Appraisal, 9<sup>th</sup> Edition*)

1. **Species** \_\_\_\_\_ Common name (*Scientific name*)
2. **Trunk diameter** \_\_\_\_\_ in. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Measured at 54" above grade)
3. **Condition rating** \_\_\_\_\_ % \_\_\_\_\_  
Based upon observations of the health and structure made on \_\_\_\_\_
4. **Location rating** \_\_\_\_\_ % \_\_\_\_\_  
Based upon site rating of \_\_\_\_%, contribution rating of \_\_\_\_% and placement rating of \_\_\_\_%.
5. **Species rating** \_\_\_\_\_ % \_\_\_\_\_  
Based on \_\_\_\_\_ (regional guidelines) \_\_\_\_\_
6. **Replacement tree size** \_\_\_\_\_ sq. in. \_\_\_\_\_  
Based on \_\_\_\_\_ (regional guidelines) \_\_\_\_\_
7. **Replacement tree cost** \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
8. **Installation cost** \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
9. **Installed cost** \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Based on \_\_\_\_\_ (regional guidelines) \_\_\_\_\_
10. **Unit tree cost** \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Based on \_\_\_\_\_ (regional guidelines) \_\_\_\_\_
11. **Appraised trunk area** \_\_\_\_\_ sq. in. \_\_\_\_\_
12. **Appraised trunk area increase** (over replacement tree) \_\_\_\_\_ sq. in. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Line 11 – Line 6)
13. **Basic tree cost** \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Line 12 x Line 10 + Line 8)
14. **Appraised value** \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Line 13 x Line 3 x Line 4 x Line 5, rounded to the nearest \$50.00)

## CTLA Tree and Landscape Appraisal

(Draft 10<sup>th</sup> Edition)

Appraisal Worksheet: Cost approach. Reproduction method. Trunk formula technique

1. **Species** \_\_\_\_\_ Common name (*Scientific name*)
  
2. **Trunk diameter** in. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Measured at 54" above grade)
  
3. **Condition rating** % \_\_\_\_\_  
Based upon observations of the health and structure made on
  
4. **Functional limitations rating** % \_\_\_\_\_
  
5. **External limitations rating** % \_\_\_\_\_
  
6. **Replacement tree size** sq. in. \_\_\_\_\_  
Based on \_\_\_\_\_ (regional guidelines) \_\_\_\_\_
  
7. **Replacement tree cost** \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  
8. **Installation cost** \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  
9. **Unit tree cost** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Based on \_\_\_\_\_ (regional guidelines) \_\_\_\_\_
  
10. **Appraised trunk area** sq. in. \_\_\_\_\_  
*Trunk area = (line 2)<sup>2</sup> x 0.7854*
  
11. **Appraised trunk area increase** (over replacement tree) sq. in. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Line 11 – Line 6)
  
12. **Basic tree cost** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Line 12 x Line 10 + Line 8)
  
13. **Estimated depreciated reproduction cost** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Line 12 x Line 3 x Line 4 x Line 5, rounded to the nearest \$50.00)

# GUIDELINES FOR EVALUATION OF TREES

Applied only to Single-Stemmed trees

## 1. Basic Value Data

- a. The basic unit value of all shade and other ornamental trees is \$71.94 per square inch unit of trunk cross sections at 4 feet above the ground (dbh) or \$11.01 per square centimetre at 1.2 m.
- b. Different species of trees have different values. They are expressed as a percentage of the basic unit value (See 1 (a)).
- c. This expressed percentage is called Class %. The different class percentages are listed here under.

## 2. Tree Species Ratings for the City of Prince Albert

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME
Class 1 – 110% (Special Class)	
<i>Picea pungens</i> ‘Koster’	Kosters Blue Spruce
<i>Picea</i> spp. (Specialties)	All grafted types of Spruce
<i>Pinus</i> spp. (Specialties)	All grafted types of Pines
<i>Quercus</i> spp.	Oak species
Class 2 – 100%	
<i>Abies</i> spp.	All Firs
<i>Aesculus glabra</i>	Ohio buckeye
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Chestnut/Horse Chestnut
<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	Russian olive
<i>Betula pendula gracilis</i>	Weeping birch
<i>Fraxinus selections</i>	Patmore/Summit/Fallgold/Manchurian
<i>Larix sibirica</i>	Siberian Larch
<i>Larix</i> spp.	Larch Species
<i>Picea</i> spp.	All types of Spruce
<i>Pinus</i> spp.	All types of Pines
<i>Populus tremula</i> ‘Erecta’	Swedish Columnar Aspen
<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	Douglas fir
<i>Syringa reticulata</i>	Japanese lilac tree
<i>Tilia americana</i>	American basswood
<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Little Linden Leaf, Lime (Hybrids)
<i>Ulmus americana</i> ‘Brandon’	American elm “Brandon”
<i>Ulmus americana</i>	American elm

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME
Class 3 – 80%	
<i>Acer ginnala</i>	Amur maple
<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	Silver maple
<i>Betula</i> spp.	All other types of Birch
<i>Crataegus</i> spp.	Hawthorns
<i>Fraxinus</i> spp.	Common Green Ash & Black Ash
<i>Juniperus scopulorum</i>	Rocky Mountain Juniper & Cultivars
<i>Malus baccata</i>	Siberian flowering crab
<i>Malus</i> “Rosybloom Hybrids”	Rosybloom Crabs
<i>Malus</i> spp. Hybrids	Hybrid Apple/Crab
<i>Populus x canescens</i> ‘Tower’	Tower Poplar
<i>Populus x jackii</i> ‘Northwest’	Northwest poplar – cultivar
<i>Prunus padus commutata</i>	Mayday tree
<i>Prunus</i> spp.	Plums and Cherries
<i>Prunus</i> spp. Hybrids	Hybrid Cherries & plums
<i>Pyrus ussuriensis</i>	Ussurian Pear
<i>Sorbus</i> spp.	Mountain Ash Species
Class 4 – 60%	
<i>Acer negundo</i> (upright var. or form)	Manitoba maple (specialty upright forms)
<i>Alnus</i> spp.	Alder
<i>Caragana arborescens</i>	Standard Pea tree
<i>Caragana arborescens</i> vars.	Standard Pea tree – forms
<i>Populus</i> Hybrids	Hybrid Poplars
<i>Salix acutifolia</i>	Sharp leaf willow <i>Salix</i>
<i>pentandra</i>	Laurel leaved willow
<i>Ulmus pumila</i>	Siberian/Manchurian elm
Class 5 – 40%	
<i>Acer negundo</i>	Manitoba maple <i>Populus</i>
X ‘Brooks #6’	Brooks #6 Poplar
<i>Populus</i> X ‘Griffin’	Griffin Poplar (Non-fluff)
<i>Populus</i> spp.	Native poplars
<i>Salix</i> spp.	Native Willows

### 3. Method of Determining Value

- Determine Class % to which species belongs, e.g. Spruce – Class 2 – 100% and has a diameter of 4” (this gives the spruce a basic value of \$71.94 per square inch).
- Determine area of cross section at 4.0 feet (1.2 m) above ground in square inches. For example the dbh (diameter at breast height) is 4 in. equals 12.57 sq. inches of area.

- c. Determine condition of tree. An Urban Forester from City Operations Department, appraise the condition on the following scale carries out this evaluation.

Condition:

Tree's Condition:	Percent:
1. Perfect tree or specimen quality	100%
2. Excellent tree	90%
3. Very Good tree	80%
4. Above Average tree	70%
5. Good or Average tree	60%
6. Below Average tree	50%
7. Fair tree	40%
8. Poor tree	30%
9. Very poor tree	20%

The Location of a tree is considered during the tree's Condition calculation. Location can influence the Condition calculation as a 10% premium or a 10% penalty.

Using the above data the value of trees may be calculated as:

- In this example, a 4" diameter the area of cross section is 12.57 in<sup>2</sup>
- The basic unit value or \$71.94 per inch<sup>2</sup>
- The Class % is Class 2 or 100%. Therefore:\$ 904.02
- 12.57 inch<sup>2</sup> x \$71.94 = \$904.02. Therefore, the Basic Value of Tree = \$ 904
- This figure is then multiplied by the Condition % (Say 80%) \$ 904.02 x 80% condition is \$ 723.22
- Therefore, the value of this example Spruce with dbh of 4" in is \$ 723 22 (round to nearest dollar)

OR

- In this example, 10 cm diameter, the area of the
- 78.54 cm<sup>2</sup> x \$11.01 x 100% = \$ 864.72. Therefore, the Basic Value of a Tree = \$865
- This figure is then multiplied by the Condition % (Say 80%) \$864.72 x 80% condition is \$ 691.78.
- Therefore, the value of this example Spruce with dbh of 10 cm is \$692. (round to nearest dollar)

- d. Examples of determining tree value are outlined in the table below

*Species % Varieties	Diameter of trunk	Cross Section	Class and %	Basic Value in \$'s (approx.)	Condition %	Rounded Value (\$'s)
OAK	4"	12.57 in <sup>2</sup>	1-110%	\$ 994	80%	\$ 796
SPRUCE	8"	50.27 in <sup>2</sup>	2-100%	\$ 3616	70%	\$ 2531
ELM	10 cm	78.54 cm <sup>2</sup>	2-100%	\$ 865	80%	\$ 692
Green ASH	20 cm	314.16 cm <sup>2</sup>	3-80%	\$ 2767	50%	\$ 1729