



Flood Control Strategy- Churchill Park Redesign

Engagement Summary
November 30, 2021



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1 Background

In December 2018, City Council approved implementation of the Flood Control Strategy to mitigate flooding in ten high risk flood areas. The area near Churchill Park was identified for this strategy due to high flood areas at nearby intersections.

To mitigate this flood risk, a dry storm pond will be constructed in the north end of Churchill Park, as well as upgrades to storm water sewer infrastructure. The large multipurpose field and three smaller multi-purpose fields (i.e., practice fields) at the north end of the park will be impacted during construction. The park's redesign will strive to reconstruct all impacted amenities while accommodating the addition of the dry pond.

Local residents and park users were engaged to raise awareness of the project, as well as to receive feedback on the draft concept design for consideration prior to finalizing the detailed design.

2 Stakeholders

Nearby Residents

Those who will be most impacted by flood mitigation and infrastructure construction were the primary stakeholders.

Adelaide Park / Churchill Community Association

The Community Association, as a representative of local community members, was an active participant in engagement and received updates throughout the engagement phases of the project.

Other Park Users

Other park users including sports groups (youth soccer and minor football), SUM theatre, Saskatoon cycle club, summer playground program representatives, and the Churchill Park Community Garden were also engaged with.

3 Marketing

An [Engage webpage](#) for the project was created on the City website. The website included a video presentation, links to engagement opportunities, background information and visuals, frequently asked questions, a project timeline, a comment forum, and contact information.

Residents near the impacted areas of Churchill Park received mailouts with a description of the project, instructions on how to participate in upcoming engagements, and contact information for the Project Manager.

Construction and funding recognition signage was installed at Churchill Park in November 2021.

4 Engagement Activities

Online Comment Form

An online comment form was posted on the Engage page and was open for responses July through October, 2021. Respondents were asked to provide feedback on benefits and opportunities,

concerns, and general comments on the draft concept design for the Churchill Park redesign. In total, there were 10 responses.

Engage Page Forum

A comment forum was available on the Engage site. Visitors could leave public questions or comments that would be responded to by the project team. Three (3) comments / questions were received through the forum.

Online Public Meetings

Two public meetings were held through Microsoft Teams Live Events. Meeting #1 was held on Thursday, September 23, 2021 (23 attendees) and Meeting #2 on Thursday, October 7, 2021 (8 attendees). Each meeting included the same opening presentation, with time afterwards for questions and comments from attendees.

Other

The Project Manager's contact information was provided on the City mailouts to be available to members of the public who wanted to provide comments or ask questions directly.

5 Feedback Summary

Below is a summary of public feedback received via all methods listed above.

Supportive Comments

- Flooding is a major concern; excited for flood mitigation
- Addition of trees

Concerns / Questions

- How will the storm pond handle flooding in a rainfall greater than a 1-in-10 year rain event; Can the City help residents prepare for severe rainfalls beyond the capacity of the storm pond (e.g., education)
- Would waste (e.g., debris and trash) be carried into the dry pond by storm water, and how would that be handled
- Availability of Churchill Park to visitors during construction (e.g., cross-country skiing)
- Opposition from resident(s) of the Churchill Gardens condominiums to tree plantings on the north side of the dry pond, just south of the complex, that were included in the draft concept design as they would obstruct their view of the park
- Removals of existing mature trees and shrubs
- Construction dust, noise (e.g., trucks backing up), and inconvenience for local residents
- Retain all multi-purpose fields
- Concern with dust from the back lane / rutting in the back lane from vehicle traffic accessing the park

Other Suggestions

- The City should communicate with the community association and residents prior to the project's initiation
- Amphitheatre type design or steps / seating on one or two sides of the dry pond
- Add fencing to create an off-lease dog park

- Add a path around the perimeter / a path along the north side of the pond to connect Bute Street to Clarence Avenue / connect to the community garden / consider accessibility in the design
- Add an ice rink
- Add a public washroom
- Add angled parking
- Add a BBQ area / gazebo
- Trees / shrubbery / urban garden / edible landscaping
- More benches / garbage cans

6 How Feedback Was Used

Some feedback received, such as suggestions for new amenities in the park, were outside the scope and budget for this project.

Feedback that informed the park redesign included the following:

- The multi-purpose fields will be incorporated into the design
- The existing trees along the east perimeter of the dry pond will be maintained
- Additional trees will be planted as part of the project
- Trees will not be added along the north side of the pond, maintaining the view of the park for the condo complex
- Pathways will be incorporated into the design
- The cross-country ski trail system within the park can include the dry pond area once the project is complete

7 Challenges

- Due to COVID-19, we were not able to conduct any in-person engagement. Online engagement can be less inclusive as some who would be interested in providing input may have limited to no Internet access. The mailout to residents included contact information for the Project Manager to mitigate that risk.
- The Adelaide / Churchill Community Association expressed frustration with the level of communications received from the City prior to Council approval of the project. Based on this feedback, the project team increased the regularity of its communications with residents and the Community Association, produced a virtual information video on the engage page, as well as held two online meetings to try and accommodate those who may not have been able to attend if only one was held. Information on the Flood Control Strategy, timeline, and location list will be provided to residents and community associations near future locations to generate a higher level of awareness prior to the initiation of those projects.