

Crescent Road N.W. Master Plan Report Back



Presentation:

1. Welcome, Introductions, Agenda, Land Acknowledgement
2. Project Context
3. Phase One Engagement, what we did & What We Heard
4. Next Steps

Questions / Discussion:

- a. Are there any issues or ideas that aren't captured in the What We Heard report?
- b. Suggestions or insights for the next phase of engagement?

Feedback: www.engage.calgary.ca/crescentroad

Meeting Norms

Meeting Flow

- Presentation will be recorded. Please keep mic on mute.
- Use the chat function for questions.
- Questions may be answered in chat, more complex questions after the presentation.

Respectful Workplace Policy

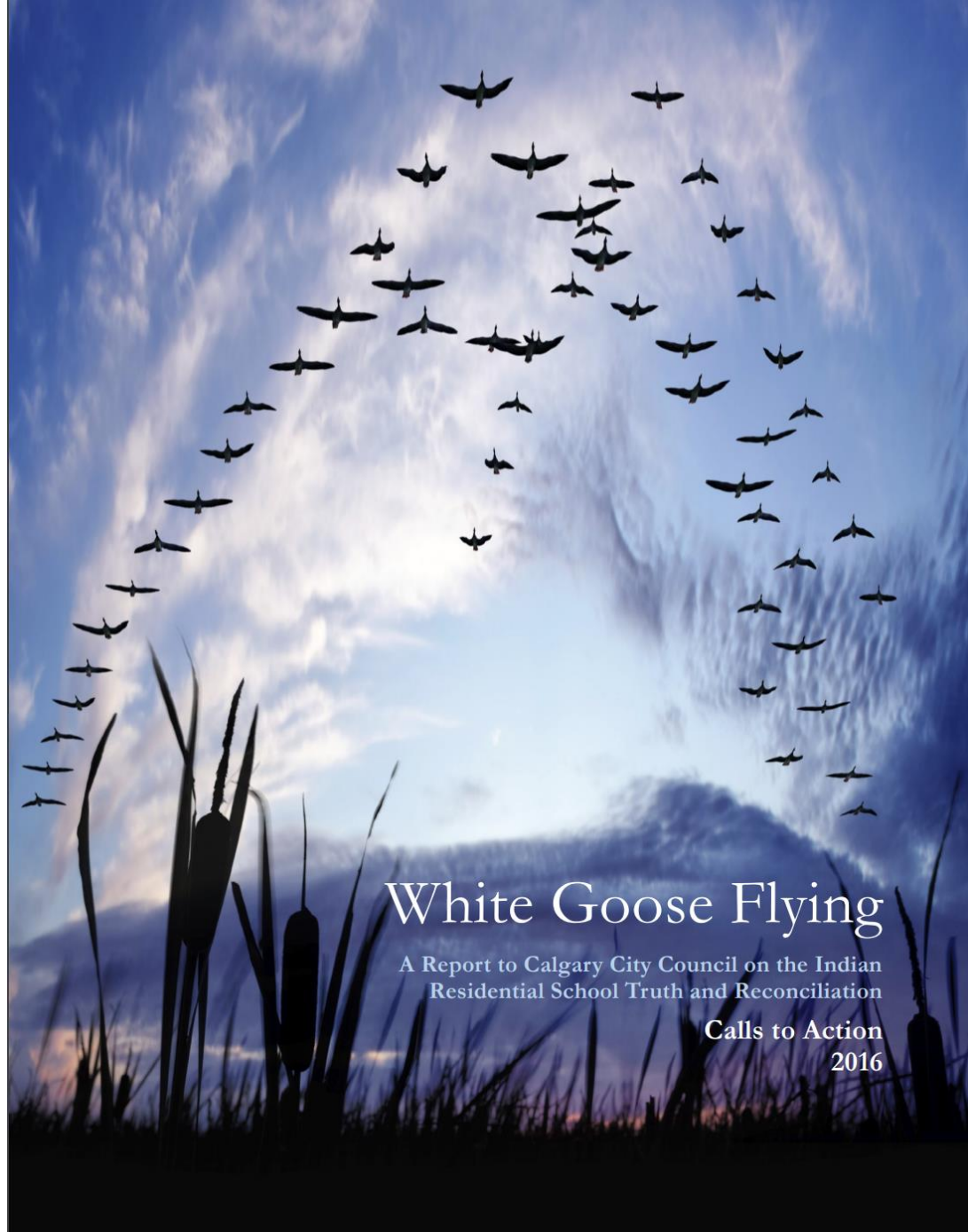
- The City is committed to ensuring that everyone will be treated with respect, honesty and dignity.
- It is our objective to create and sustain environments that are healthy, productive, efficient and make all feel welcomed and included.
- Behaviour and/or situations that run contrary to such treatment will not be tolerated. The City recognizes that disagreements may occur. We expect these issues to be resolved in a manner that contributes to a healthy and positive workplace and service delivery environment.

Land Acknowledgement

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge that we are gathered on the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta.

This includes: the Blackfoot Confederacy, made up of the Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai First Nations; the Stoney Nakoda First Nations, comprised of the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Wesley First Nations; and the Tsuut'ina First Nation. The city of Calgary is also homeland to the historic Northwest Métis and to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3.

We acknowledge all Indigenous urban Calgarians who have made Calgary their home.



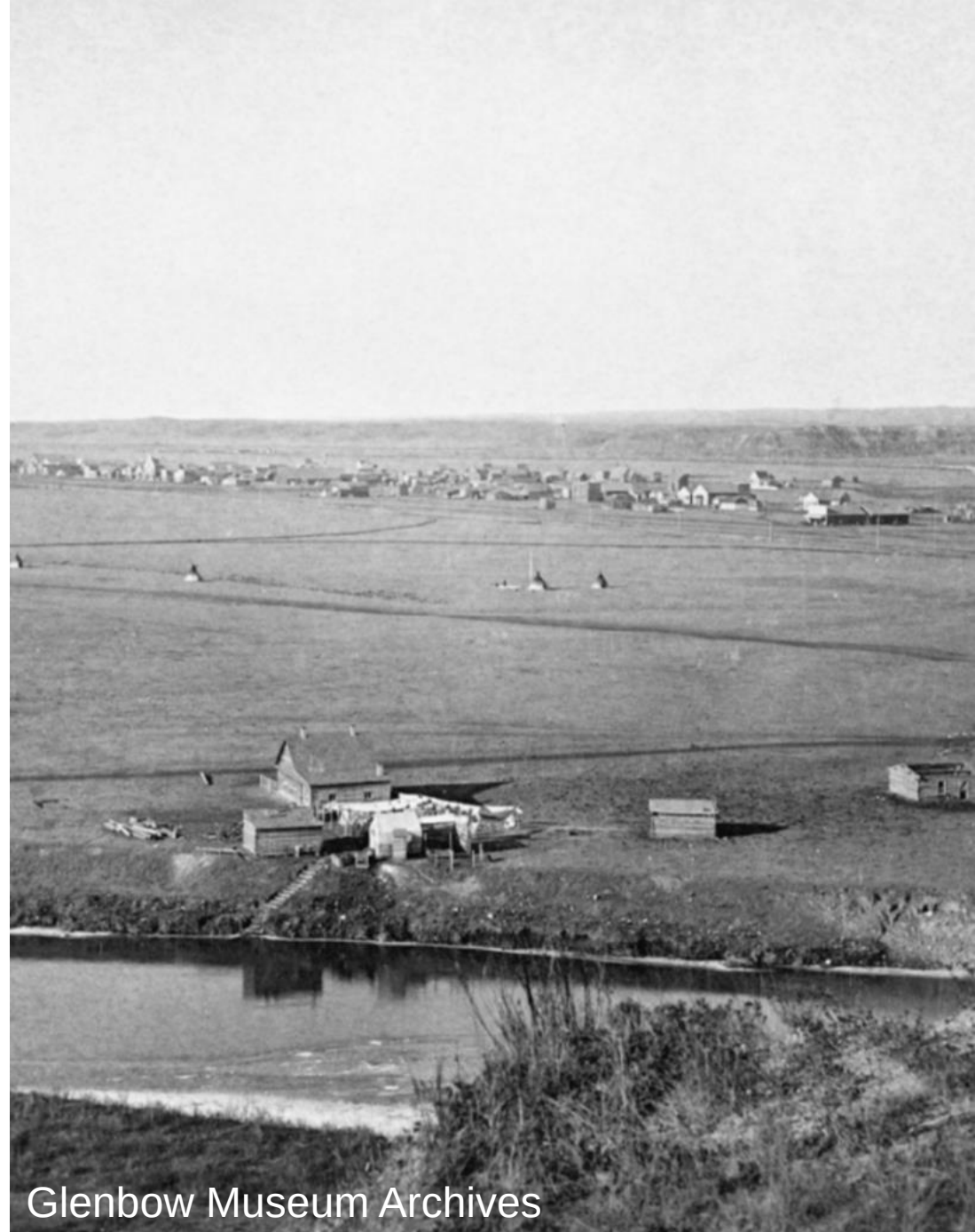
White Goose Flying

A Report to Calgary City Council on the Indian Residential School Truth and Reconciliation

Calls to Action
2016

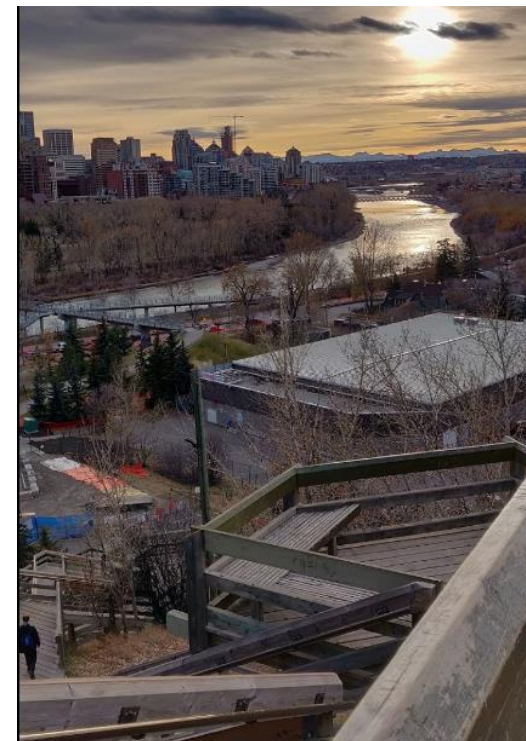
Historical Site Context

- Indigenous communities have lived and travelled through this area since time immemorial
- We'd like to better understand the history of this bluff from an Indigenous perspective and are developing a thorough and thoughtful Indigenous engagement process.
- Additionally connecting with Parks Archeologist



Glenbow Museum Archives

Crescent Road- Site Context



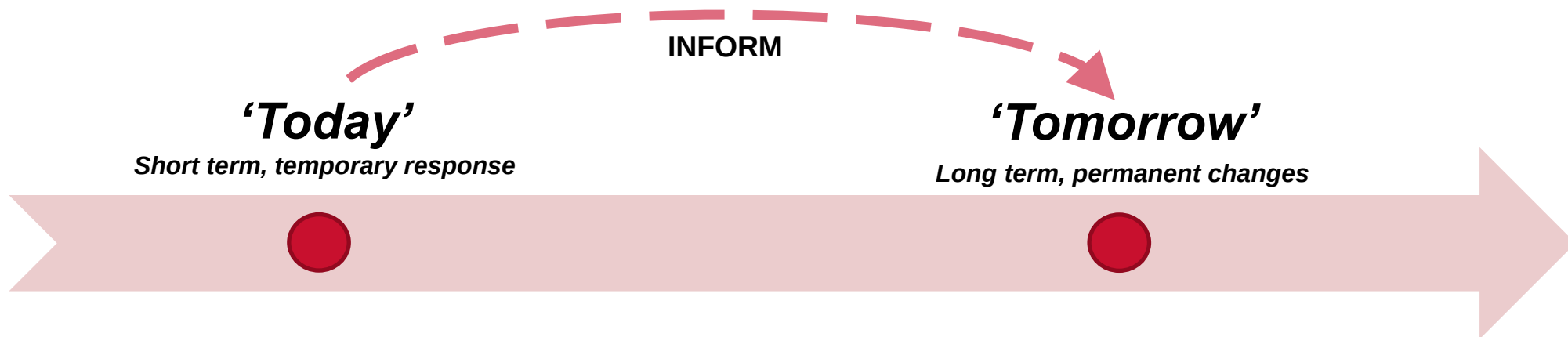
Crescent Road is a **special public space** in our city with natural areas, parks, paths and streets with unobstructed views of the Bow River Valley, downtown Calgary and the Rocky Mountains.

Challenges and Opportunities

- 311s, Community Submissions and conversations with internal groups like Calgary Police Service, Bylaw, Livery Services and Calgary Parking Authority
- Recent projects like North Hill Communities Local Area Plan and Green Line planning

Challenges	Opportunities
•Disruptive behavior at night •High use of fitness and recreation activities •Poor lighting •Maintenance and waste collection •Parking •Damage to natural environment •Vehicle traffic going too fast •Sterile space for strolling	•Iconic views of downtown and Bow River valley •Better accessibility for people of all ages and abilities •Reconciliation and historic interpretation •Seating, picnic tables, places to relax comfortably •Activating the spaces through commercial opportunities •Gateway to Crescent Heights •Connection to future Green Line and Centre St BIAs

Coordinated Approach



- Operational and enforcement focused. Response to amplified issues with COVID-19 pandemic.
- The City installed a **temporary closure** for summer/fall 2021.
- Closure removed in November.

- The **Crescent Road Master Plan** project will create a cohesive vision for the area to guide future investment.
- Interdisciplinary team from Transportation, Parks and Planning.

Master Plan Outcomes

Deliverables:

- Engagement summary
- Design concept with technical analysis
- Cost estimates
- A proposed phased implementation plan and operational plan

Considerations:

- Existing bylaws and enforcement tools
- There are several ongoing mobility and traffic safety initiatives coordinated through the Neighbourhood Streets program and the Established Areas Growth and Change Strategy
- No funding for long term, permanent changes. Plan to request funding in next budget cycle

Similar Recent Projects



Bow to Bluff



4th Avenue Flyover Park

Master Plan Scope



- Purposeful **dialogue** between The City and citizens and stakeholders to gather **information** to influence **decision making**.
- One of **many inputs** into decision-making.



Budget



Professional
Expertise

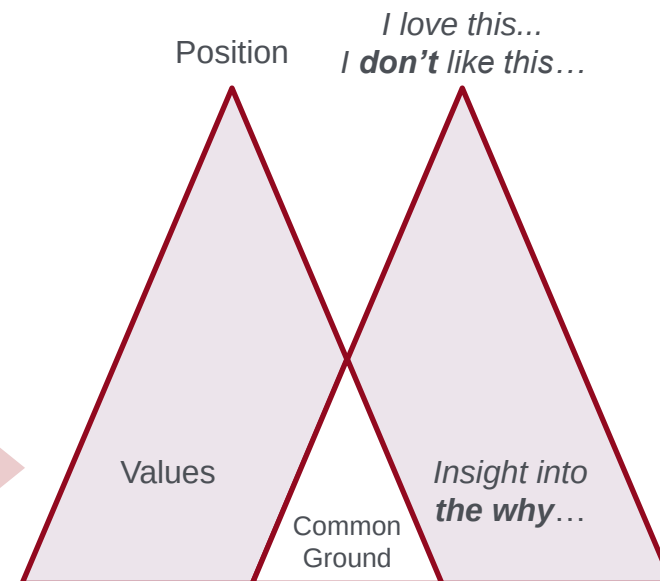


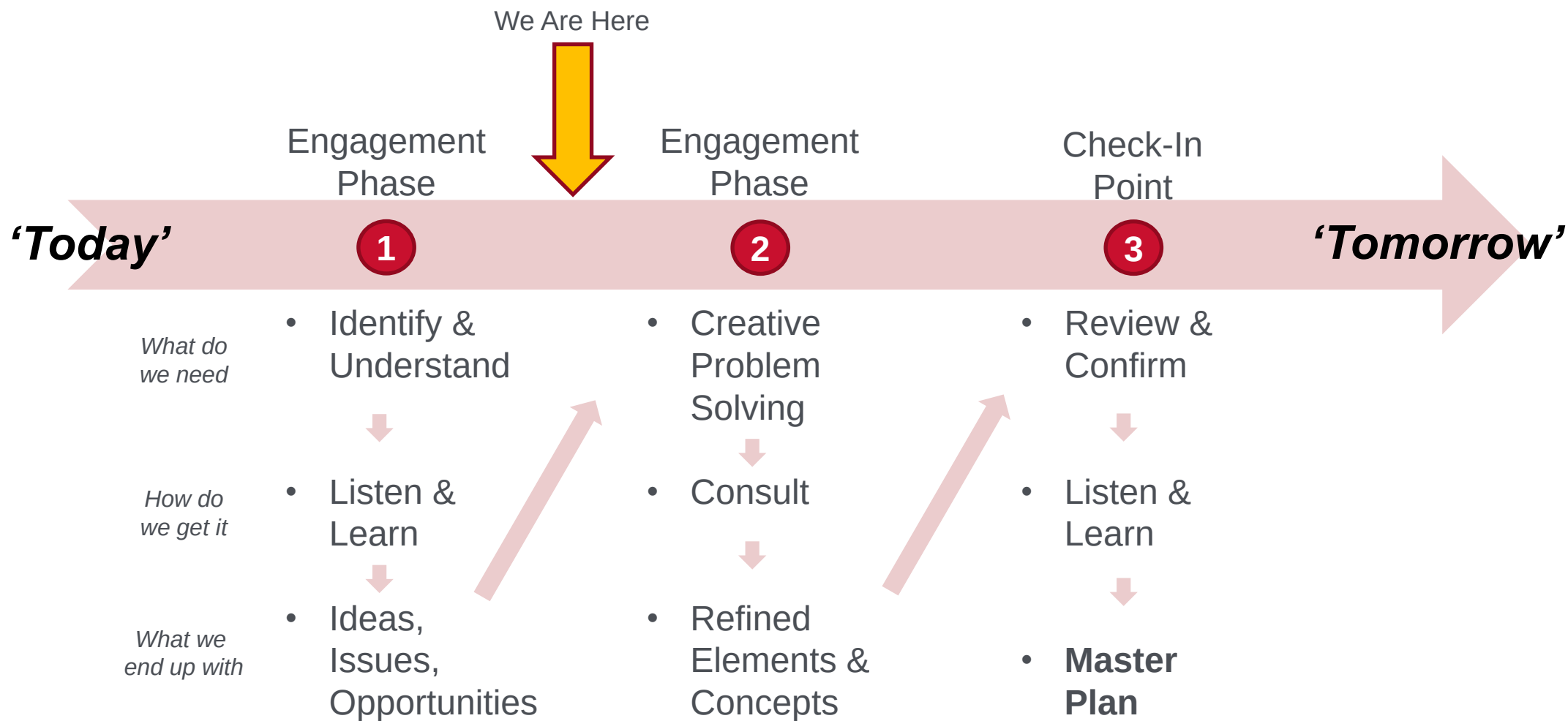
Community
Feedback



Policy &
Legislation

- Seeks to *understand the why*, behind participants' ideas, interests, or positions.
- Provides opportunity for both **volume** of responses and **details** to be heard (*the many and the few*).
- Includes reporting back on **how feedback was used**, and if not, why.





Purpose:

- Confirm core challenges and opportunities
- Get feedback on potential interventions
- *Listen and Learn* commitment

When and How:

- August 23 to September 13, 2021
- Online with three tools - a survey, a mapping tool and a visioner (post-it notes)

Who:

- Promoted broadly on social media, with on-street signage and targeted residents with postcards in Rosedale and Crescent Heights neighbourhood
- **1,705** individual **contributions** from **751** active **participants** among **3731** unique site **visitors**

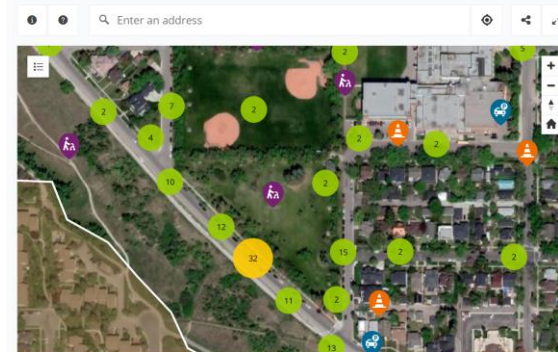
2 - Understanding Walking, Wheeling, Traffic Circulation, and Parking

One of the goals of this work is to provide clear **walking** and **wheeling connections** through the project area and to the rest of the network.

We also want to accommodate local motor vehicle **circulation** and provide **parking** or loading options that consider the needs of both local residents and visitors.

Click on **Add Marker** below to show us where walking and wheeling connections are needed, areas that are traffic trouble-spots, or where parking or loading areas are important.

337 contributions



3 - Planning a space for all

The City of Calgary wants to create a special public place that feels welcoming and safe for people of all cultures, ages, genders, abilities and backgrounds. Select a category below to share your thoughts on what this means to you or what it might mean for other users of the space?

CLOSED. The visioning activity has now concluded. Click to see all the submitted ideas.

Recent Categories -

14 September, 2021 Anonymous says: "Maybe having nearby adjacent handicap parking? Was so neat to see adults and kids alike learning to ride a bike in the flat and open space" 0	14 September, 2021 Anonymous says: "The extra walking space and adaptive lane help make this safe for all ages and abilities to enjoy the beauty of this area." 3	14 September, 2021 Anonymous says: "Do not allow large groups of young men to gather. Break up these groups who race and gather. Parks are not bars and back alleys." 2
14 September, 2021 Anonymous says: "The road closures over the past 18 months were supposedly brought in to help address COVID-not promote the aspirations of the local CLOSERS." 7	14 September, 2021 Anonymous says: "I would like safe spaces with vehicle access and parking. Crescent Heights park could use a facelift." 2	14 September, 2021 Anonymous says: "Closing the road to vehicles should prevent the 'disruptive behaviour' many people talk about." 1

What We Heard



1. Closure Conversation

- Single most **common issue** raised across all tools and topics, regardless of question.
- Strong **feelings** and **rationale** on **both sides** of the issue.

Insight into the *why*

- **Negative:**
 - Traffic volumes, speeds, and parking issues into the surrounding community.
 - Concerns around closure being unfair for accessibility for all
- **Positive:**
 - Safety along the bluff
 - Increased enjoyment and special space

"I am experiencing more dangerous driving on my road which leads up to Crescent Road. Pedestrians are unsafe, especially children going to school or the community playground. This closure is safe for a few but unsafe for many others."

Turned from loud, raucous nightmare into calm, family friendly walking and bicycling zone. No comparison. Keep it pedestrian area. Plenty of parking elsewhere in area. Walking only on the bluff. Loved the change in atmosphere.

2. Disruption and Disorder

- Excessive **noise**, **social disorder**, and **disruptive behavior** concerns in relation to the **park** spaces, as well as on the adjacent **roads**.
- Feeling that the temporary road closures had **reduced** this, while others felt it **pushed this** further back into the surrounding **community**.

Insight into the *why*

- Concern **shared** between local residents and park users.
- Much feedback focused on **enforcement**, less on **design aspects** to reduce social disorder.

*Keep it safe and clean.
That means regular patrols
by police to discourage
crime and sufficient
garbage cans and attention
by parks staff.*

*The area should be people
focused not vehicle focused.
Ensure nighttime activity can
be well managed to mitigate
party & noise issues.
Encourage respectful
behaviors through design.*

3. Accessibility for All

- Ensuring **vehicle access** and adequate **parking** for site users (including accessible parking).
- Access for all not limited to vehicles, but may include **transit, pedestrian connections**, and overall **approach** to the space.

Insight into the *why*

- The view along the bluff is **iconic**, city-defining space. **Visitors will come**. Lack of parking impacts neighbourhood streets, and those least able to walk longer distances.
- Concern that making the area **too accessible** or inviting may **increase** social disorder or neighbourhood **impacts**.

Driving is also a way for people to enjoy and experience the area, especially older people and people with health issues. Allowing traffic along the road while enforcing the laws regarding safety would be the ideal way to continue Crescent Road.

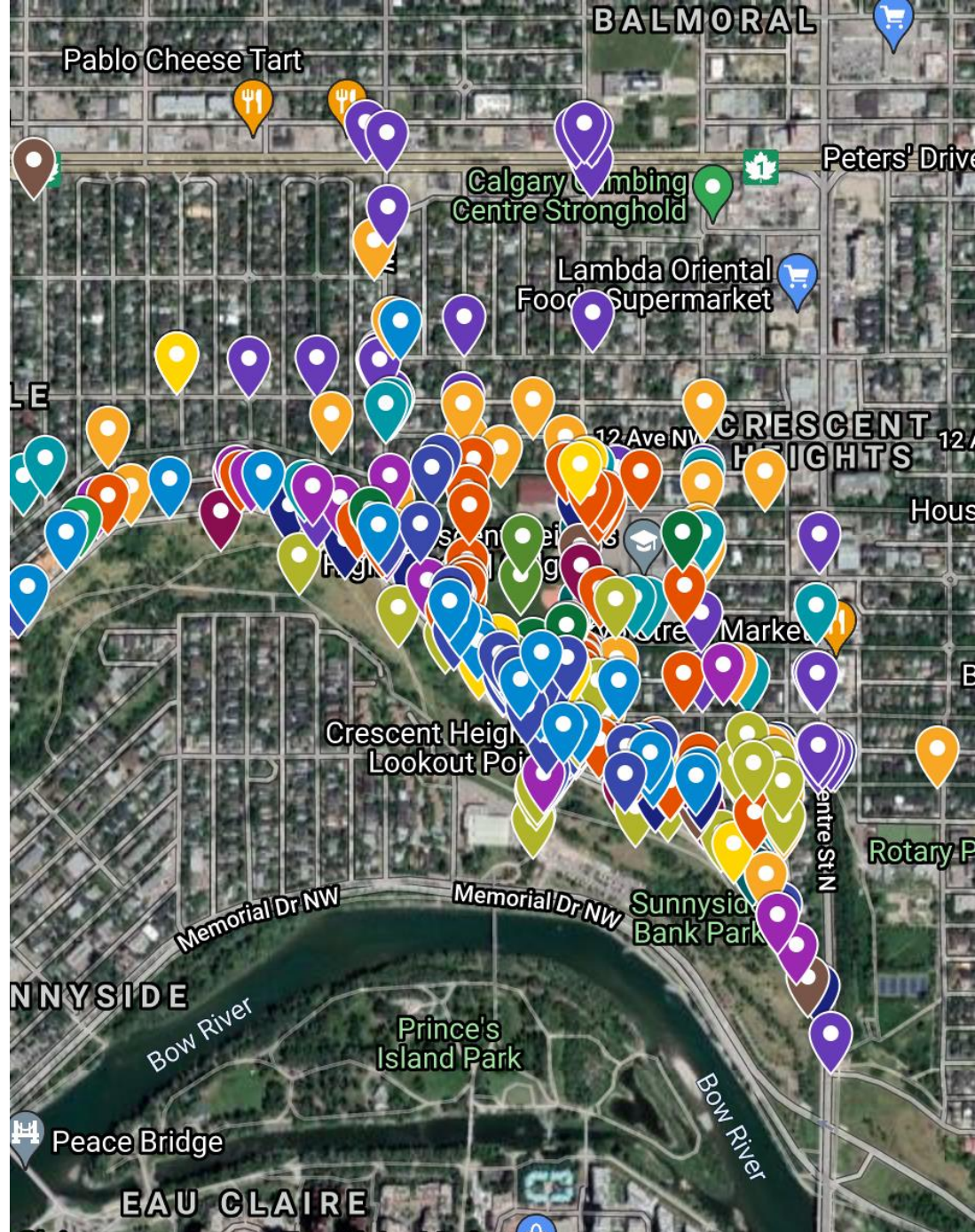
It should be easy for people to arrive at the spaces (on bike routes, include bike racks, accessible to public transport and some parking especially for those with mobility challenges and/or small children).

4. Neighbourhood Impacts

- **Traffic volumes, speeding, and especially parking impacts** were highlighted for residents either immediately adjacent to the space or further back into the community.

Insight into the *why*

- **Intersections** identified as key places where pedestrians and cyclists see safety concerns.
- Many see **tension** between idea that **traffic calming** has been done in the area, but redevelopment of park space may **increase traffic** to and through neighbourhood.





5. All-Season Design and Maintenance

- General feedback on the importance of **maintenance** to surfaces and equipment, as well as **maintenance operations** for garbage collection and plants.
- Specific noting of safety issues with **snow and ice**.

Insight into the *why*

- Sidewalks, paths, and stairs see use all year round. Desire for more **snow-clearing** or designs that **minimize icing**.
- Suggestions for **resilient materials** as well as inclusion of general use amenities (water **fountains**, **garbage** bins, path **lighting**).

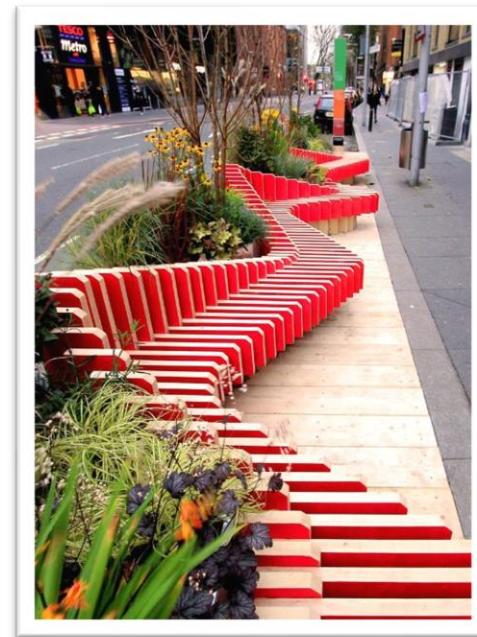
6. Balancing Use

- **Quiet** enjoyment, **group** gatherings, **fitness** activities, and **commuting** access where all identified as important or desired.
- Space should be planned to **accommodate all** and **minimize conflict** between these differing uses.

Insight into the *why*

- Space to **spread out** during pandemic has been important.
- Conflict between users on paths from **speed**, on stairs and common areas from **volume**.
- Interest in **multi-use spaces**. Can be adaptable based on season, group, and need.
 - Eating nook...play area...performance space

Safe space for families to give their kids the freedom to run without worrying about dogs, traffic. Allow there to be green space to allow those using it to use it as they see their interests grow.



More seating, perhaps subtly carved into the edge of the bluff, allowing for unrestricted views. Current seating is located on the wrong side of the path. Paths to accommodate walking or cycling, not both simultaneously.

7. Creative Ideas for a Special Space

Insight into the *why*

- Seating in different areas for different uses:
 - Quiet or separated niches with emphasis on views
 - Multi-use seating/eating areas (more flexible than just standard picnic tables)
- Design elements should preserve and highlight the existing views.
 - Some excitement for art or interactive installations, but in ways that compliment, not detract from viewscape, like a skyline map or peak-finder.
- Emphasis on the natural environment much more than manicured gardens.
 - Including information or related signage
- Interest in Indigenous interpretation or art on site.
- Additional fitness equipment (bottom of stairs).

The view is the single most important distinctive feature of this area. Create room to appreciate the views that is not directly on the pathway (a couple of step-out decks or berms).



Snow removal for the stairs is very important. Perhaps the new stairs could be heated? Could there be a funicular installed like the one in Edmonton?

What We Heard

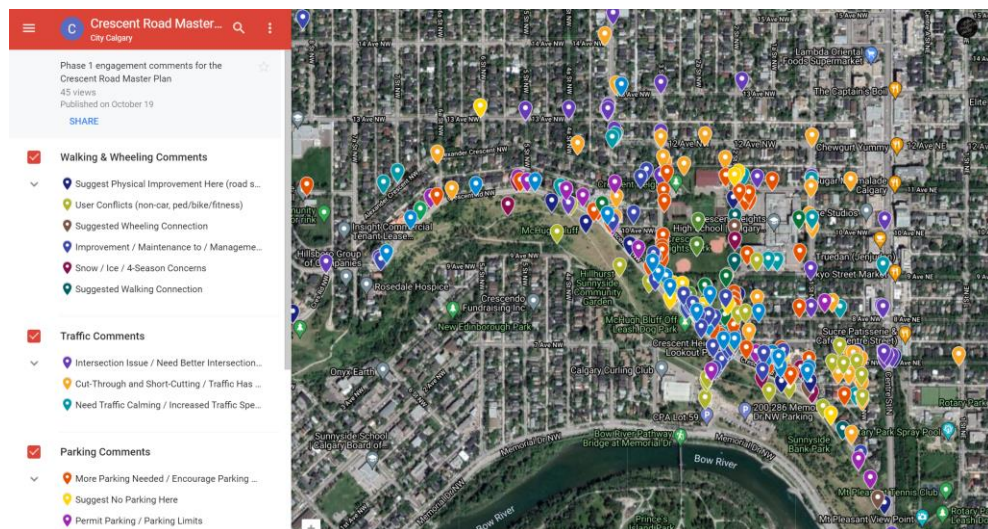
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Verbatim Comments

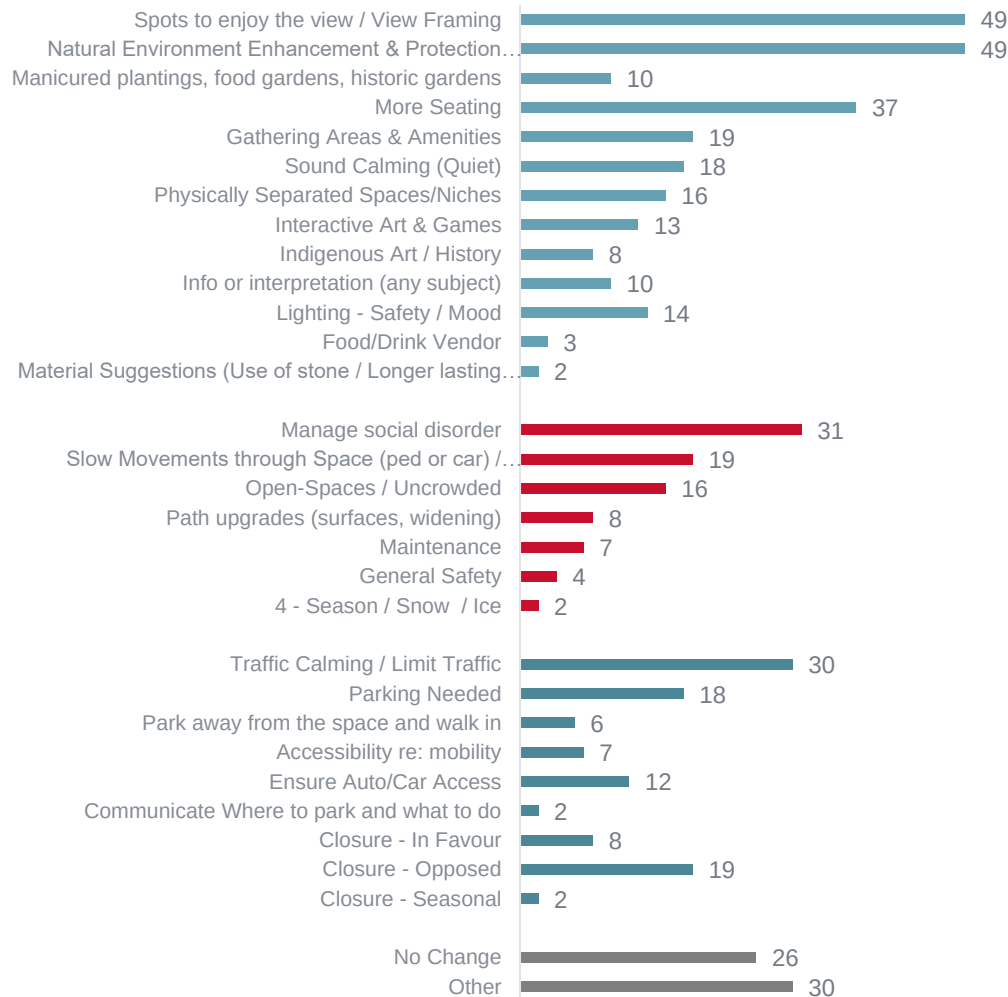
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Map View

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1I7qFbD9Z0RjLyQKRGFoJx4OeyFM8KDcX&ll=51.06036762156171%2C-114.07050051015513&z=16>



What do we need to know to help create areas that support reflective experiences in Focus Area #1?



Master Plan Goals

- Strengthened through Phase One Engagement

Balance

Design the street and park spaces **to thoughtfully balance reflective and active experiences** with the adjacent neighbourhood and natural areas.

Connection

Provide **clear walking and wheeling connections** through the project area and to the rest of the network.

Accessibility

Accommodate **local motor vehicle circulation** and **provide parking/loading options** that consider the needs of local residents and visitors.

Inclusive

Create a special public place that feels **welcoming and safe for people of all ages, genders, abilities and backgrounds.**

Blending Mobility + Public Space Interventions



Additional speed humps



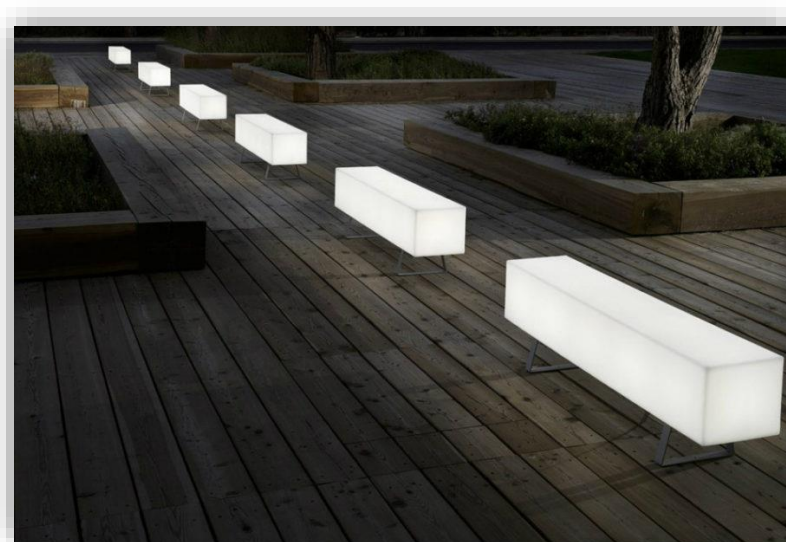
Curb extensions



Re-purposing road space



Intentionally designed public space



Lighting

Next Steps

Winter 2021/2022

- Prepare design options, review and refine
- *Phase Two Engagement*
 - Share design options and how they address key issues
 - Ask for feedback on design elements from the options

Spring 2022

- Report back to community
- Prepare Master Plan which includes cost estimates and proposed phased implementation plan
- Report to Council



Questions / Discussion:

Q1. Are there issues or ideas that aren't captured in the What We Heard report?

Q2. Suggestions or insights for the next phase of engagement?

Feedback for Q1 & Q2 on project engage page until Friday, Dec 3rd at 4:30 pm.

www.engage.calgary.ca/crescentroad