



Ranchlands Open Space Plan

Stakeholder Report Back: What we Heard

October 19, 2018

Project overview

In 2018 The City did engagement in Ranchlands for the project called This is My Neighbourhood (TIMN). TIMN was created as an opportunity for residents to partner with The City to identify ways to help make their neighbourhood an even better place to live, work and play.

During TIMN residents in Ranchlands outlined what was important to them and came up with a vision. The City then worked with residents to identify projects that would support the vision and be possible in their neighbourhood.

Residents prioritized the projects and City Administration ensured they could be implemented. One project was an open space plan assessment. An Open Space Plan is a framework for the enhancement of public open space areas in suburban Calgary communities. In 2018, The City developed the Neighbourhood Open Space Guidelines, which provide a general step-by-step process for understanding and enhancing open spaces in all of Calgary. The document will become available in late 2018.

Engagement overview

From September 8 to Oct 1, 2018 we held the first round of engagement. The engagement was done in three ways:

1. In-person through a park board
2. In-person on September 8, 2018 at a Community Association event
 - The paper with all of the drawings from this event is on page 12
3. Online through the Engage Portal <https://engage.calgary.ca/RanchlandsOpenSpace>

In total we received 243 comments and a total of 346 different ideas.

What we asked

We used the community vision created during This is My Neighbourhood as a starting place for what could be in the open space plan. The vision for Ranchlands is: Ranchlands values feeling safe walking around the community and near streets, having beautiful parks and more gardens, having residents who care about their properties, and having modern playgrounds where families can gather. *We then asked:* keeping in mind the vision for Ranchlands, what programs, maintenance, improvements, changes do you see as needed to realize this vision for the parks in Ranchlands?

We also shared that as part of this open space plan we are talking about Rancho Park, the small park on Rancho Green NW and on Ranchview Drive NW. The results of the engagement will be extrapolated to the other small/pocket parks in the community as well so keep this in mind when making your comments. It was noted that the cultural heritage parks are not part of the engagement but that we would take that feedback into consideration.



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What we heard

You told us that you wanted to see all season use and for all users of the open spaces. This included different ages and abilities, as well as for adults, kids and dogs to have easy spaces to be together. One idea is a dog tie up area outside the playgrounds so that parents can walk with pet and kids and then stop for a play. You wanted to keep the the green spaces green, natural and for the amenities to be modernized. Overall you wanted your community and the open spaces to be safe, easy to get around. You wanted the pathways and sidewalks to be safe for all pedestrian. You told us you wanted them safe both from the elements (snow), conditions (roots, crumbling paths, etc.) and from drivers.

Overall you wanted to see the spaces be part of the community, to serve as a sense of community connection or a community hub and for all residents to be able to use them easily and safely.

- For a detailed summary of the input that was provided, please see the [Summary of Input](#) section.
- For a verbatim listing of all the input that was provided, please see the [Verbatim Responses](#) section.
- To see the image of the kids and adult drawings for the Sept 8 park event see page 12.

Next steps

Based on your priorities a concept open space plan will be created and additional engagement on the plan will be done in November 2018 so that the plan can be finalized at the end of December 2018.

Summary of Input

Below is a summary of the key themes. The verbatim comments start on [page 5](#).

Things you said you love/want to keep in the Ranchlands open spaces:

- off leash parks and walking your dog
- green spaces and parks/playgrounds
- trees
- wild spaces
- garbage cans
- flower pots on Boulevard
- trails
- bike lanes
- sledding
- new benches
- tennis courts

Things you said need some maintenance in the open spaces:

- sidewalks
- laneway garbage clearing
- modernization of parks
- safe crossing
- night lights for soccer fields



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- path maintenance
- tennis court maintenance
- speeding control

Programs you would like to see in the open spaces:

- drop in sports
- community garden
- general programs

Connections you would like to see in the open spaces:

- more pathways/ better connections in general
- safe and well maintained pathways
- traffic calming in general

Improvements you said you would like to see added to the open spaces:

- more off leash areas /off leash improvements / better enforcement of use
- more trees
- more benches / picnic area
- swimming / splash park
- community garden
- interpretive signage (for walking and hiking)
- more lighting for safer night walks
- fit park / pickle ball court / running track
- skate park
- improve the access to rancho park (hill side)
- play structures for many ages that are accessible to all, there is a detailed list of what you would like to see in the verbatim comments
- make it safer for pedestrians / traffic calming
- pathway maintenance / better connections
- improve sledding
- recycling in the park / more garbage cans
- fire pit
- more natural areas / plant flowers
- community gathering spaces / café/ places to get food
- by law enforcement / security improvements in general
- value connection with transit / make transit better



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Verbatim Comments

The verbatim comments are grouped by question. Everything is as submitted, unless there was inappropriate language, indicated as [inappropriate language removed] or something was illegible, indicated by [sic].

Things to keep

- I guess you can walk children instead of going to parks
- All the parks!! All the playgrounds!
- green spaces
- don't mess with my trees
- garbage cans in school yards
- Offleash is great (yes) (YES!) (Yes!)
- lots of opportunity
- flowerpots on Blvd (nice!) (+1) (Agreed) (+1)
- trees
- trails
- bike lanes
- Rancho Park - walking dog, watching soccer/playground access
- wild spaces
- I have a dog but don't use the parks (reactive) but I still love living near so many & such a dog friendly neighbourhood! Keep them!
- off leash dog area
- LOVE SLEDING ON THE RANGE ROAD SIDE
- Leave many of our open spaces for creative & unstructured play. Parkour park (small obstacles, bars, etc...). Spaces to have to be filled to be fun.
- good sushi found here
- Please, please, please try to keep the mature trees (and plant more even!). The trees are such an important and appealing aspect of our community.
- Things to keep, not thinks... ;)
- "All the lovely mature trees and ideally plants in all, that will help prevent soil erosion improve appearance and beautify this area known for its feelings AvenueS
- Some neighbourhood sign with flower border similar to those seen in awkward or Edg"
- love the recent addition of two benches in this park.
- Love the green space and room for free play
- The tennis courts need a bit of maintenance, but are in a lovely quiet location. A great little neighbourhood secret.
- tennis courts

Things to maintain

- Laneways - cluttered with trash
- the open spaces and recreational areas need to be modernized
- help the kids cross the street
- more crosswalks with lights



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- clear snow & ice from path and sidewalks!! (Yes)
- more walkable community by maintaining more paths
- Tim Hortons
- Does a strategy mean developing the open spaces with homes?
- some parks are outdated, old
- sidewalks are pretty bad in some areas (yes!) (agreed)
- better lighting @ crosswalks
- lighting at transit stops (+ heat?)
- snow removal from pathways
- Could consider adding night lights here to accomodate night time soccer players
- Pathway is in horrible shape! Barely passable due to overgrowth from adjacent lawns. As well, many roots pushing through very eroded pavement make for a rough ride and/or walking hazard.
- The tennis courts need a bit of maintenance, but are in a lovely quiet location. A great little neighbourhood secret.
- more cops to patrol the streets for sped...it not safe for kids, night [illegible]...sick of speeders.... (agreed)

Connections

- all good = more taxes
- more pathways - paves & signed with marked crosswalks
- poplar trees are damaging sidewalks parks just fine!!!! Remove them please
- (Yes!) Better walkways & connections to Crowfoot Station - Crowfoot area & Nose Hill Drive are very dangerous for pedestrians - poor lighting & poor side walk maintenance in winter (2nd'd) (100% agree)
- Safer walking paths to Crowfoot Stn that are also direct
- quicker clearing of snow on connecting paths to Crowfoot 48 hrs isn't acceptable
- people
- [inapropriate language removed]
- no proper way to connect the park with the commercial area. Make this pathway more whimsical and exciting.
- The hill from Rancho Dr into the park is steep, either a pathway or stairs would allow for direct access to the fields, particularly during the busy sports season.
- There is no pathway or stairs from Range Way to the park. The hill is quite steep leading down to the playground.
- It is odd that the bike pathway takes this weird detour. There isn't even a crosswalk where the path meets Rancho Dr. Further, there is no drop curb on the west side of Rancho Dr for the cyclists to then join. Needs a rethink and realignment.
- Traffic calming measures on this Ryad. Uts bear the playground but gets used as a rat run between the blvds

Programs

- drop-in sports and activities (kids + adults) (Yes!) (1 check mark)
- children's sports
- Community veggie garden & a splash park would be great additions to our community



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- "A naturalised pre-ground adjacent to the library suitable for a wide age range would be a great addition in this area
- Alternatively some community garden allotment"
- Community garden program. Produce could also be sold, but some community allotments would be great
- more programs available to lots of different groups

Improvements

- balance beams - fit park
- cat park, cat slide [includes diagram of aforementioned cat slide along with a drawing of a cat at the cat park]
- dog tie ups in park (playground) so we can stop and play with the kids
- flat and easy to get to - keeping the natural topography - Crossing signal at the park. Between here and the pocket park.
- multi use park [this is accompanied by a large diagram of park that includes the following: monkey bars, tree house, sandbox, food trucks, dino, splash park]
- playing with animals - monkey bars - slides - horseback riding
- swings - cats at the park - look like a cat - cat and dog park - things for Ai [sic] owls - in green space by hall poles for osprey
- teeter totter (with image)
- - tower with a climbing hall and you can play with things inside or you can also go inside Next because it gives [illegible] and adventures
- make sure there are no vagrants in soccer park checking after dark - remove bleachers
- spray park
- -teeter totter - Recycling in the parks
- *outdoor gym (100%) (yassss!) (yes please)
- a median to slow down traffic at bottom of hill; on Ranchland Blvd The Hill to drive on
- A more current and modern play structure for a wider age range
- A splash park would go a very long way in Ranchlands (maybe not on top of this windy hill. But somewhere)
- a splash/spray park (This! In Rancho Park!)
- ADD cross walk at THIS CORNER
- Add steps up to SE side entrance ;by baseball diamond) to improve winter safety/accessibility
- adding a bench to this dog park would be great!
- adding a sidewalk to this section of grass. when crossing the street to get to this dog park there is not sidewalk to use. Everyone seems to trample this poor families lawn. I have even seen people drive up on this guys grass to do a u-turn!
- Additional pathway from pedestrian crossing to connect it to the path which currently circumvents an actual continuation (no (towards the shopping centre in crowfoot)
- adult fitness equipment at playground (Rancho)
- Adult Fitness Park
- another entrance sign on this end of community (off John Laurie or Nosehill)



- As a property owner, my main desire is to see the aesthetic modernized to place us in equal stead with other area communities (increase property values). Ranchlands is undervalued, but it shouldn't be - it's such a beautiful and connected community.
- at bottom of hill. median to slow down traffic - make community nice to stroll/walk along
- Aviary [image]
- Bigger [sic] playground
- bigger nicer playground in Rancho park (Yes)
- Bottle Can Recycling Bins in Park
- Calgary Housing
- can we have a skate park close to ranchlands
- change intersection @ DQ - silly people pulling out in front of cars!
- clean up toys and don't leave them on sidewalks for everyone to trip over - enforce bylaws! (agree!)
- clear the snow on ALL back connecting walkways (Yes)
- communal fire pit or outdoor movies like St. Patricks
- Community Fire Pit
- community gathering space like St. Patricks Island
- community train
- Community veggie garden & a splash park would be great additions to our community
- CONNECTED GREEN SPACES/OFF LEASH AREA (or shared / seasonal uses)
- create more forests (not less)
- crosswalk between Ranchlands and Dalhousie @ John Laurie/Sarcee - footbridges are a long ways away (agree!)
- Crosswalks leading from parks for safe crossing. ie. Pathway down Rancho Drive
- deal w/Calgary Housing issue + the tenants (PLEASE *explain???)
- Different playground equipment
- dog park [image]
- dog parks are too small :((Agreed!)
- Dogpark p poolsss oblsplay poolsss so many podls [sic]
- enforce the parks green spaces for people walking off leash their dogs!
- Family fier [sic] pit
- Fence the off leash area completely on John Laurie side - too many dogs hit by cars
- fences in off-leash dog park w/separate area for small dogs
- FOR POCKET PARKS: Obsical [sic] Course Park. Family Fire Pit. A Huge Slide.
- FULLY FENCED DOG PARK
- garbage cans to drop dog bags (Yes)
- Garden
- Gateway signage is VERY outdated. Granted there was an effort to improve with paint, but the design is so 70s. If I had choose 1 thing, this would be it. An update to something more modern (urban) would improve first impressions dramatically.
- get rid of condos
- giant planters
- Hiking pathways w/ descriptive signs and/or wayfinding
- I agree with this ^!! Dog owners make it impossible for walker to enjoy these spaces
- I want a big slide! Self as Trex on slide depicted, with speed lines



- Improve access entry. At the fence perimeter: this park is often used by young families but is difficult to access with strollers et cetera
- It would be nice to see Ranchero Park used outside of soccer season times. Does some new amenities need to be added like natural playground elements, etc. Do the ball diamonds get used and can one of them be replaced with a more useful amenity?
- keep dog parks - enforce dog poo pickup (2 check marks)
- keep dog parks. enforce dog poo pickup!!! (3 check marks) (SECOND)
- keep dog parks. enforce poo pickup (2 check marks) (SECOND)
- keep lanes clear of debris
- Keep the woodland area. Create a fairy garden ur similar nature engagement trail
- lamppost is archetctual; nostalgic; timeless decorative; welcoming
- lighting for walking in winter
- Like having better connections with transit, lightning and more secure area
- Lots of safe places to play - more things to play on - sometimes little kids and big kids don't play well together - more swings and stuff - things for teenagers - activities to meet other kids - sports - badminton - more active things - more health things - singing dancing
- Lot's of swings, slides and things to do for kids. 1 (or 2) and
- Love the idea about the water feature. This would be very welcome as families could use it not just the overwhelming number of soccer teams through the spring, summer and fall. We live on range green and don't get to use the park b/c of the soccer
- Make the hill in this park an approved tobogganing location.
- Modernized play equipment suitable for a wider age range.
- more community encouraging areas
- more flashing crosswalks
- more flowers/grasses/shrubs (like what citadel did on roads)
- More forested area around the perimeter of the park. Create a sound tree wall.
- more garbage cans (agree)
- more garbage cans in the parks, on street corners - and recycling!
- more lighting on pathways for night walks (to feel a bit more safe) (yes!) (agree) (agree) (x2)
- more off leash areas - Much NEEDED!!
- more off leash parks (with responsible pet owners!); off leash is fine the size it is no more is required
- more park benches!!
- More plasese to get food
- More play equipment for a wide range of ages. More swings. More trees. Picnic shelter. Spray park here or near the community centre.
- more signs telling people to pickup Dog poop. I hate walking through it on sidewalks
- More soccerfields (outside of the top of the big hill)
- more traffic calming like in Bridgeland with pylons + painted crosswalks + curbs
- more trees
- more trees in Ranchlands Park & cut the grass in the entire park not just soccer fields
- more trees in the Ranchlands park (2 check marks)
- more walkable community - accessible; walkers wheelchairs
- more waste cans

- Natural Adventure Playground - tree house, you can sit in the roof, logs etc..., rocks, bridge between, tree house (see accompanying diagram)
- natural spaces, water features (pond/lake); more trees, native plants; skating rink in winter!
- Naturalized gathering/play area with a water feature- small duck pond/creek with a bridge. Ranchlands needs some water features.
- need a few more benches
- neighborhood cafe? (agree)
- NEW & UPDATED PLAYGROUNDS
- new playground structures
- Newer play structure with more swings
- nice lamp posts along the streets in park @ same places
- off leash almost perfect but need gates, especially at John Laurie (agree!)
- off leash areas for sm. dogs only!!
- off leash dog parks! (there's only one) The rest are of leash sections on paths and none near Rancho (walk your dog)
- off-leash green areas (needs better fencing)
- out door swimming
- pathways repaired
- People sled here at winter. Problematic when they go to far and run over the road. Put a short fence or else RIP our kids in winter.
- Perhaps a wading pool area in one green space - maybe by the com. Fire pit =:)
- pickleball courts (YES!)
- picnic areas
- Playground - swings - circle swings, ropes, zipline, monkey bars
- playground : swings- circle swings, ropes, zip line, monkey bars
- Playground extension to include under 5 age group
- playgrounds need modernization (2nd)
- Please put light up flashing 30km lights in the school zones. Iâ€™ve seen too many speeders ignore the 7:30am to 9pm. A reminder to slow down in winter is VERY good
- provide compostable dog poo bags (3 check marks)
- Put in new traffic circle remove light so people will slow down going past school (SECOND)
- Reduce or eliminate the off leash parks
- Re-image how we use this space. What other amenities could be introduced other than baseball and "tot-lots? what if we introduced social elements like BBQs and banquet tables? bicycle repair equipment located in the park - encourage biking?
- remove dead and mostly dead trees on city property & replant
- remove graffiti quickly
- remove mattresses in alleys!; charge owners removal fee
- Remove poplar trees + fix sidewalks (NO)
- Rental properties that (don't?) look like dumps, landlords need to step up to the plate and improve their properties (yes!!) (agree!) (yes)
- replace old playgrounds
- Replant the trees that were removed along Ranchlands Blvd. several trees were removed and it feels bare now.



- running track around Ranchlands Park or community park
- SAFETY - Intersection/crosswalk needed at ranchero drive and ranchview drive
- second that
- Second the comment about a splash park or some other water feature.
- signs for pathways available for walking
- skate park [image]
- skate park [inappropriate language removed]
- SKATE/BIKE PARK
- Skate/bike park
- "Small park just off alley of ranchlands way. It needs some serious TLC there isn't enough equipment for more than 3 kids to be playing on the park at a time.
- 1 tire swing
- 1 slide
- 1 rocking animal...
- We need better parks in the pocket parks."
- snow removal on 'back alley' paths
- Soccer
- Some sort of water/splash park
- speed bumps on Blvd in front of daycare!
- Speed control and a pedestrian crosswalk. A lot of people including children cross the road here to catch the bus. People drive WAY too fast in this area.
- Splash park & naturalised playground (such at haysboro CA) tgat is suitable for toddlers and up a there are no playgrounds suitable for younger explorers)
- Splashpark would be awesome for family time during the summer on those hot days.
- spray park
- Spray park here or the community centre would be wonderful!
- stage [image]
- stop 'educating' dog owners re poo p/u and having dogs off leash - enforce!
- The baseball cage has not been used in years. It should be removed.
- the fences that back onto this main entry corridor into the neighbourhood should be replaced with a low/no maintenance fence that is consistent in design/finish.
- The playground in this park is very old and tired.
- the ranchiland bus come to property at the time
- The random pathway in this park could be paved into a loop to allow kids to learn to ride in the park. Some training traffic signs and a little traffic circle could be good for teaching children how to ride in an urban environment.
- there is erosion on this slope that needs to be addressed
- this bus stop should be improved to match the one that was done directly across the street including the removal of tree roots
- "This great local playground could benefit from a fence to prevent all the animal faeces that ar frequently found in it & the surrounding grassy green
- An improvement to the oath direction would also be an asset"
- this hill gets used in the winter time for sledding, but it is a bit off camber and sometime caused sleds to careen into the trees.



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- This little park is tired and old. It is well situated for the local residents many with small children.
- This park desperately needs updating. There are more kids in this area now, and one swing (and a baby swing) don't cut it. The monkey bars are loose and very dangerous.
- This park feels inaccessible due to it's raised location on the rancho drive side. Love the idea of a picnic area, gardens, play/exercise equipment, better tobogganing to create more use. A splash park would be really expensive.
- This pathway needs to be leveled and resurfaced. Roots are breaking and uplifting it. The vegetation is over grown on the sides and at minimum needs to be trimmed and maintained.
- toilets in parks
- too much homeless here, more security
- tow vehicles parked permanently in area - enforce bylaws
- TRAFFIC CIRCLES TO SLOW TRAFFIC
- Unsavoury people use this playground at night. Makes me scared to walk past. Add more lights here.
- update the playgrounds themselves
- Update this well situated but limited playground for a wide age range
- UPDATED -> more kid friendly -> custom park for ranchlands to stand out
- We need to raise money for a spray park for the community.
- Zipline (associated image)

Image of Oct 8 drawings

