AL21997-395

CANADIANA

NOV 20 1997

FISH CREEK

PROVINCIAL PARK

Management Plan

MANAGEMENT PLAN

fish creek

Copies of this report may be obtained from:

District Manager

Foothills District

Alberta Environmental Protection

Natural Resources Service

P.O. Box 2780

Calgary, Alberta

T2P 0Y8

Telephone: (403) 297-5293

Fax: (403) 297-5284

ISBN: 0-7785-0005-5

Pub. No.: T/392

Alberta
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

APPROVAL STATEMENT

The Fish Creek Provincial Park Management Plan is the official plan of Natural Resources Service. The Plan is consistent with the provisions of the Provincial Parks Act and General Regulations, and with provincial policies, priorities, and direction.

Assistant Deputy Minister, Natural Resources Service

June 17/97

Date

The Plan is a commitment by the Region to the protection and management of resources, the provision of recreation opportunities, the delivery of programs and services, and the development, operation, and maintenance of facilities for the area.

Regional Director, Southern East Slopes Region

2 June 97

Date

The Fish Creek Provincial Park Management Plan is recommended for approval and implementation.

District Manager, Foothills District

May 31, 1997

Date

Ranger-In-Charge, Fish Creek Provincial Park

May 31/97

Date

The team responsible for the preparation of the management plan included Derry Armstrong, Wayne Meikle, Rod Gow, Roger Reilander, and Katherine Stangness. In addition, Will Pearce assisted as a representative from the city of Calgary.

FISH CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK PLAN SUMMARY

PURPOSE OF MANAGEMENT PLANS

Management plans provide the overall direction for the programming, development, maintenance and protection of a park.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

The Fish Creek Provincial Park Management Plan was developed with an extensive public involvement and consultation process. Common areas of concern included wildlife safety, conflicts among recreational users, overdevelopment issues and trail etiquette. The importance of protecting natural features in the Park was an issue that was consistently mentioned.

PURPOSE OF PROVINCIAL PARKS

The purpose of provincial parks is to protect outstanding recreational landscapes and provincially significant natural, historical, and cultural resources while providing quality recreational and educational experiences.

FISH CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK VISION STATEMENT

A vision statement was prepared to guide future management of the Park:

*"Alberta's Fish Creek Provincial Park is a natural landscape
in an evolving urban setting where the needs
of wildlife and natural systems are balanced with
outdoor leisure and environmental education opportunities."*

Specific objectives outline management directions for the Park:

- Preservation Objectives
- Heritage Appreciation Objectives
- Outdoor Recreation Objectives
- Tourism and Economic Development Objectives

GENERAL MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

General management guidelines provide direction on common issues found throughout the Park. The general guidelines will be applied throughout all areas of the Park.

Vegetation _____ Natural processes will be generally allowed to occur with a minimum of interference except in facility areas.

Wildlife _____ Management of wildlife will reflect the important balance between maintaining healthy natural systems with providing leisure opportunities for Park visitors.

Water Resources _____ Focus will be on maintaining water quality, quantity, and preserving the aesthetic value of the Fish Creek and the Bow River.

Cultural Resources _____ Cultural, historical and archaeological features will be monitored and protected within the Park.

Traffic Corridors _____ Park supports the City of Calgary GoPlan and will not support extension of traffic routes through the Park.

Park will work with City to ensure traffic corridors will be developed or improved with sensitivity for the Park's ecosystem and the aesthetic value of the Park.

Trails _____ Existing system of shale and paved trails will be maintained, but no major expansion of trails is proposed.

Shared use of trails will be improved through a comprehensive trail etiquette and education program.

Within the Park, trail cycling and mountain biking will not be for intensive sport or competition-based activities.

Dirt track mountain biking within the Park will be addressed with consideration for the policy direction being formulated by the City of Calgary.

Equestrian use will continue on existing designated trails.

Security _____ Park Rangers will maintain security in the Park with an emphasis on personal public contact. The Park Watch program be promoted.

Volunteers _____ The Park will actively encourage volunteer stewardship and promote partnerships.

A Volunteer Management Strategy will be prepared to coordinate these activities.

Special Events _____ will be permitted if they are consistent with the vision statement and Park objectives, and do not significantly restrict leisure opportunities, damage the natural features of the Park, or place exceptional demands upon Park resources.

Commercial _____ No new commercial concessions will be considered Opportunities except those associated with the Sikome Lake site.

Fees _____ Fees will be considered for educational materials, use of Sikome Lake and for group use.

ZONING AND DETAILED MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Fish Creek Provincial Park has been divided into seven management areas. Within each area, management zones have been identified to explain appropriate uses with detailed management guidelines. Detailed management guidelines outline management that is specific to a particular management area. In some instances, exceptions to the general management guidelines are identified. The management areas are:

Deer Run
East Bow River
Sundance
Parkland
Macleod Trail
Evergreen/Woodlands
Woodbine

LAND DISPOSITIONS

Existing dispositions provide easements for utility lines, storm and sanitary sewers, water mains and gas pipelines. Management of existing and future dispositions will preserve aesthetics of the Park and minimize impact on natural resources.

LAND EXPANSION

Expansion of Fish Creek Provincial Park will be considered where the additional lands will assist in achieving the Park's established vision and objectives. Land expansion may involve partnerships with other levels of government or private groups.

REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND COORDINATION

Regional integration refers to management efforts to work with surrounding landowners and government agencies. Good communication and cooperative efforts will be the key to regional integration. The intent of these affiliations will be to ensure compatible activities occur on adjacent lands to minimize negative impacts on the Park.

Coordination relates to the cooperative management undertaken with partners inside the Park. The successful implementation of many Park management guidelines will be contingent upon cooperative management.

IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

The implementation of the plan by the Natural Resources Service will be the responsibility of the Ranger-In-Charge of Fish Creek Provincial Park. All implementation will occur as budget allocations allow. Open house meetings will be held each year for the public to review the previous year's activities and to assist in the developing priorities for the next year. A formal review of the plan will occur in ten years.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN.....	1
1.1 Public Involvement	1
2.0 OVERVIEW.....	3
2.1 Regional Setting and Access	3
2.2 Resource Description	3
2.3 Historical Resources	4
2.4 Facilities	5
2.5 Visitor/User Analysis	5
2.6 Management Issues	6
MAP: Fish Creek Ecosystem	
3.0 LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT.....	7
3.1 Legislative Framework	7
3.2 Resource Features	8
3.3 Cultural and Historical Features	9
3.4 Recreational and Educational Features	10
4.0 FISH CREEK VISION AND OBJECTIVES.....	11
4.1 Fish Creek Provincial Park's Vision Statement	11
4.2 Objectives	11
4.2.1 Preservation	12
4.2.2 Heritage Appreciation	13
4.2.3 Outdoor Recreation	14
4.2.4 Tourism and Economic Development	15
5.0 GENERAL MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES.....	17
5.1 Vegetation Management.....	17
5.1.1 Forest Management.....	17
5.1.2 Grassland Management.....	18
5.1.3 Fire Management.....	18
5.1.4 Weed Control.....	19
5.1.5 Boundary Mowing.....	19
5.2 Wildlife Management.....	20
5.2.1 Beaver.....	20
5.2.2 Richardson's Ground Squirrels and Raptor Management.....	20

5.2.3 Ungulate Management.....	21
5.2.4 Heron Colony and Raven Rocks.....	21
5.2.5 Harassment of Wildlife.....	22
5.2.6 Other Wildlife and Public Safety.....	22
5.3 Water Resources.....	23
5.3.1 Bow River.....	23
5.3.2 Fish Creek.....	24
5.3.3 Storm Water.....	24
5.4 Cultural Resources.....	25
5.5 Traffic Corridors.....	25
5.5.1 Bow Bottom Trail.....	26
5.5.2 Road Access Points.....	26
5.5.3 Highway 22X and 37th Street Improvements.....	26
5.5.4 Rail Access.....	27
5.6 Trails.....	27
5.6.1 Pedestrians.....	28
5.6.2 Wheelchairs.....	28
5.6.3 Equestrians.....	29
5.6.4 Trail Cyclists and Mountain Bikers.....	29
5.6.5 Other Trail Users.....	31
5.6.6 Trail Maintenance and Upgrading.....	32
5.7 Park Security.....	33
5.7.1 Park Rangers.....	33
5.7.2 Park Hours.....	33
5.7.3 Park Watch.....	33
5.8 Volunteers and Partnerships.....	34
5.8.1 Stewardship Opportunities.....	34
5.8.2 Partnerships.....	34
5.9 Special Events and Commercial Filming.....	35
5.9.1 Special Events.....	35
5.9.2 Commercial Filming Guidelines.....	35
5.10 Commercial Opportunities.....	35
5.11 Fees.....	36

LEGEND SHEET

6.0 ZONING AND DETAILED MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES.....	37
MAP: Management Areas	
6.1 Deer Run Management Area.....	39
6.1.1 Bankside/Burnsmead/Mallard Facility Zone.....	39
6.1.2 Poplar Island Preservation Zone.....	40
6.1.3 Bow River Grassland Natural Environment Zone.....	40

MAPS 1 & 2

6.2 East Bow River Management Area	43
6.2.1 McKenzie Meadows Facility Zone	43
6.2.2 Bow River Access Zone	43
6.2.3 Bow River Natural Environment Zone	44
MAP 3	
6.3 Sundance Management Area	45
6.3.1 Sikome Lake Facility Zone	45
6.3.2 Boat Launch Access Zone	46
6.3.3 Hull's Wood Facility Zone	46
6.3.4 Fish Creek South Natural Environment Zone	47
MAP 4	
6.4 Parkland Management Area	49
6.4.1 Visitor Centre Facility Zone	49
6.4.2 Bow Valley Ranche Historical Zone	50
6.4.3 Heron Colony Preservation Zone	51
6.4.4 Acadia Natural Environment Zone	51
MAPS 5 & 6	
6.5 Macleod Trail Management Area	55
6.5.1 Glennfield/Shaw Facility Zone	55
MAP 7	
6.6 Evergreen/Woodlands Management Area	57
6.6.1 Voitier's/Bebo Facility Zone	57
6.6.2 Raven Rocks Preservation Zone	58
6.6.3 Fish Creek Valley Natural Environment Zone	58
MAP 8	
6.7 Woodbine Management Area	61
6.7.1 Shannon Terrace Facility Zone	61
6.7.2 The Barn Facility Zone	62
6.7.3 Midnapore Access Zone	63
6.7.4 West Fish Creek Valley Natural Environment Zone	64
MAP 9	
7.0 LAND DISPOSITIONS	65
7.1 Existing Dispositions	65
7.2 Future Dispositions	65
8.0 LAND EXPANSION	67

9.0 REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND COORDINATION.....	69
9.1 Regional Integration.....	69
9.2 Coordination.....	70
9.2.1 Resource Management.....	70
9.2.2 Park Operations.....	70
9.2.3 Environmental Education.....	70
10.0 IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW.....	71
APPENDIX I: NATURAL HISTORY THEMES.....	73
APPENDIX II: IMPLEMENTATION TASKS.....	75
APPENDIX III:SUPPORT MATERIALS.....	83

PURPOSE OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Management plans provide the overall direction for the programming, development, maintenance and protection of a park or recreation area. They translate the preservation and recreation mandates of the Natural Resources Service into a specific direction that can be efficiently and effectively implemented in each park or recreation area.

The Fish Creek Provincial Park Management Plan will:

- Establish the classification of the Park,
- Articulate a direction and purpose with regard for the natural, cultural and historical features in the Park,
- Define specific objectives for preservation, outdoor recreation, heritage appreciation, and tourism / economic development,
- Place existing facilities and programs in context with the objectives,
- Determine resource management requirements to meet the objectives,
- Identify issues or concerns with recommendations for remedial actions,
- Review opportunities and establish priorities to meet the objectives.

1.1 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

In order to ensure that the management plan for the Park meets the interests of the public, a public involvement process was launched in the summer of 1996. The process was implemented in four phases. Each phase built upon the input received in each previous stage. Following are the activities conducted in each phase of the process:

Phase I

Awareness and Issue Identification

- questionnaire
- meetings with interested groups
- open houses
- newsletter/news release
- development of a contact list

Phase II

Issue Resolution and Building Partnerships

- issue discussion paper
- workshop sessions
- newsletter
- contact through mailing list
- preparation of a draft plan

Phase III

Review of Draft Plan

- focus group sessions
- presentations to groups
- release of plan highlights
- newsletter
- open houses

Phase IV

Preparation of the Approved Plan

- release of plan and summary
- newsletter/news release
- contact through mailing list
- plan distribution on request

The consultative process associated with development of the plan is documented in a series of reports that are available at the Bow Valley Ranch Visitor Centre. The reports detail what was said by the public and how this feedback was obtained.

*(Fish Creek Provincial Park Management Planning Reports:
Public Involvement Process Phases I-IV)*

OVERVIEW

The overview provides a brief outline of the resources and features found in Fish Creek Provincial Park. Detailed information pertaining to the natural resources, historical and cultural features, facilities, visitor analysis, and management issues is available at the Park library located in the Bow Valley Ranche Visitor Centre.

2.1 REGIONAL SETTING AND ACCESS

Fish Creek Provincial Park is located in the south end of the City of Calgary, in the Province of Alberta. The park encompasses the Fish Creek valley which is oriented east-west starting from the Tsuu T'ina Nation in the west. The Park extends east across the Bow River to McKenzie Meadows Drive SE.

Several major roads access facility areas within the Park. Canyon Meadows Drive accesses Mallard Point, Bow Bottom Trail accesses Burnsmead/Bankside, the Bow Valley Ranche site and Hullswood/ Sikome Lake. The Shaw's Meadow / Glennfield facility is accessed from Macleod Trail. Elbow Drive provides access to Voitier's Flats. In the west end of the Park, access to Bebo Grove is provided by 24th Street with 37th Street providing general access to the Shannon Terrace facilities. Many visitors also access the Park via the City of Calgary regional trail system and small community connector trails. (See the Fish Creek Provincial Park Management Areas Map in Section 6)

2.2 RESOURCE DESCRIPTION

Fish Creek Provincial Park is comprised of approximately 1,200 hectares making it the largest urban park in Canada, and one of the largest urban parks in North America. Fish Creek is unique in the provincial park system due it location within a major urban area. The Park offers a natural environment surrounded by urban residential development and includes two riverine valleys: Fish Creek and the Bow River.

West of Macleod Trail, the Fish Creek valley is deeply incised into a "V" shape with steep walls. The valley walls are heavily forested with white spruce and balsam poplar.

East of Macleod Trail, the Fish Creek valley opens and widens into the broad valley of the Bow River. The Fish Creek valley floor is primarily open grassland with stands of balsam poplar along Fish Creek and the Bow River. It is important to note that the Park is not a pristine landscape; it has been manipulated throughout the years by native settlements, ranching, farming, and industry. Although some of the Park has been changed by past and present use, much of the natural landscape (escarpment, floodplain, vegetation, stream channels) remains.

The Fish Creek watershed extends west into the foothills south of Bragg Creek. Fish Creek itself is a migratory spawning stream for rainbow trout. The Bow River and Fish Creek valleys have active flood plains and provide habitats for a variety of fish, birds, mammals and other animals which reside or move through the Park. (See Fish Creek Ecosystem Map)

There are several locations that are of interest from a geological or vegetation perspective. Numerous viewpoints provide spectacular vistas of the valley floor and mountains to the west.

2.3 HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Fish Creek Provincial Park is rich with cultural resources related to the history of aboriginal people in the valley and the ranchers who followed. There are numerous sites of archaeological and historical significance. From the tipi rings and buffalo jumps in the west, to the site of Shaw's Woolen Mill in the centre of the Park, and the ranch sites at either end, the Fish Creek valley is a wonderful interpretive resource. The Shaw's Meadow site is designated as a Provincial Historical Site and the Bow Valley Ranch is recognized as an important historical area. The colourful history of the first inhabitants of the area, and those who followed, is charted in the valley and marks the progression of the Calgary area over the past century.

The Fish Creek valley was proposed as a park by the City of Calgary in 1966. In 1973, Premier Peter Lougheed announced that the provincial government would designate the valley as a provincial park. The Order-in-Council to formally designate the park was signed on June 10, 1975.

2.4 FACILITIES

Major recreation facilities include the Bow Valley Ranch Visitor Centre, the Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre, Sikome Lake for swimming, and several day use sites for picnicking. A complete network of walking, cycling and equestrian trails is located in the Park. The Park provides recreation opportunities for the surrounding neighbourhoods, other sections of Calgary, several nearby towns, as well as visitors to the region and province. Four concessions operate to provide services to visitors. These include The Ranch at Fish Creek Provincial Park, Boss Foods (concession at Sikome Lake), McKenzie Meadows Golf Course, and Happy Trails Riding Stable.

2.5 VISITOR/USER ANALYSIS

Fish Creek is a day-use park. In general, most visitors come from within the City of Calgary, many from adjacent residential communities. The Park is used throughout the year with the summer season attracting the most visitors. Primary recreational activities include walking (which includes dog exercising), cycling, picnicking, fishing, wildlife viewing, in-line skating, jogging, cross-country skiing, skating, and swimming.

The most recent statistics available place visitation at 1,477,548 users for the 1995/96 season. These statistics are based on traffic counters which determine the number of vehicles entering each access point. A large number of people enter the Park on trails from adjacent residential districts and City pathways. No data is presently available on the amount of "walk-in" use. Consequently, the figures presented on visitor use can be considered to be conservative.

The Park was originally designed for 400,000 visitors annually. Current visitation is estimated to be over 2 million with "walk-ins." Planned residential developments will completely surround the Park within 15 years. Further urban developments will increase visitation to the Park. Management of increased visitation will be a priority for the Park.

2.6 MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Management challenges within Fish Creek Provincial Park occur due to intensive recreational use and conflicts between recreational users. High visitation has created site-specific deterioration from over-use such as loss of vegetation and soil erosion. Park natural features and recreational uses are influenced by outside urban development. Conversely, some park resources create concerns for surrounding land owners (eg. fire hazards and problem wildlife).

The public consultation process for the management plan identified several areas of concern: wildlife management, conflicts between passive versus intensive sport or competition-based activities, overdevelopment, and trail etiquette. The importance of protecting natural features within Fish Creek Provincial Park was an issue that was consistently mentioned.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

3.1 LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

The Natural Resources Service of Alberta Environmental Protection is responsible for the administration and management of lands designated under the authority of the Provincial Parks Act and the Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves and Natural Areas Act. Under these two pieces of legislation five distinct categories or classes of conservation - outdoor recreation lands are established: Provincial Parks, Provincial Recreation Areas, Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves and Natural Areas. This classification framework is a valuable organizational tool. Each area is appropriately designated within one of the five classes on the basis of environmental significance and sensitivity, potential visitor opportunities and priorities for management of the site.

The classification system is intended to:

- (1) express the primary purpose and the role individual areas in achieving the four program objectives - Preservation, Heritage Appreciation, Outdoor Recreation, and Tourism/Economic Development.
- (2) assist visitors in selecting appropriate areas to satisfy their outdoor recreation and heritage appreciation needs; and,
- (3) assist the Natural Resources Service in establishing development, management, and operational standards and guidelines.

The legislative mandate for provincial parks such as Fish Creek Provincial Park is outlined in the Provincial Parks Act. Section 3 of the Act defines the purpose of provincial parks as follows:

Parks shall be developed and maintained:

- (a) for the conservation and management of flora and fauna;
- (b) for the preservation of specified areas and objects therein that are of geological, cultural, ecological, or other scientific interest; and
- (c) to facilitate their use and enjoyment for outdoor recreation.

Bow Valley Ranch

William Roper Hull bought a Government Supply Farm based in the Fish Creek valley in 1891. In 1896, a large brick Ranch House was constructed. In 1902, Hull sold the property to Pat Burns who developed the area into a cattle ranch which grew to 8500 acres. In 1946, the Ranch House underwent major renovations and was lived in by the Burns family until 1969. The Bow Valley Ranch was recognized as a cultural centre in the Calgary region and remains symbolic of the golden era of ranching.

3.4 RECREATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL FEATURES

The following are recreational and educational features that are significant within the Park:

Trail System

The trail system is the primary recreation feature of the Park. It includes over thirty kilometres of paved trails, forty-six kilometres of aggregate or shale trails, and six kilometres of equestrian trails. The system connects to neighbouring communities and the City's regional trail system.

Recreation Facilities

Picnic areas, a golf course, Sikome Lake, volleyball courts, playgrounds, and a boat launch provide a range of recreational opportunities.

Wildlife Viewing

Fish Creek Provincial Park serves as a sanctuary for a wide variety of wildlife. Wildlife viewing is a major recreation and education attraction.

Bow Valley Visitor Centre

The Visitor Centre provides a historical display, an amphitheatre, adventure packs, and maps. An information officer is available to answer visitors' questions.

Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre (formerly the Shannon Terrace Environmental Education Centre)

Currently, the Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre provides programs for over 18,000 students each year. Schools from Calgary and area take advantage of this facility and its potential as an outdoor classroom.

Environmental Education

FISH CREEK VISION AND OBJECTIVES

Effective management of the Park must satisfy both the overall objectives of the Alberta parks program and visitors who enjoy the area. To achieve this, a vision statement and specific objectives for protection, heritage appreciation, outdoor recreation, and tourism / economic development in Fish Creek Provincial Park have been developed.

4.1 FISH CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK'S VISION STATEMENT

The vision statement will guide the future management of the Park and assist in making decisions that reflect what the public has indicated through their involvement in this process.

*"Alberta's Fish Creek Provincial Park is a natural landscape
in an evolving urban setting where the needs
of wildlife and natural systems are balanced with outdoor leisure
and environmental education opportunities."*

The natural landscape of Fish Creek Provincial Park includes the creek and river valleys along with the vegetation, water, and wildlife. This natural system has been influenced by past human activities and will continue to be influenced by changing urban surroundings. The influence of human activities on natural systems within the park makes management and protection of the area a major challenge.

Balancing the need for protection with the pursuit of leisure activities is a vital management concept for the Park. Outdoor leisure activities within the Park include: wildlife viewing, walking, cycling, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, fishing, and jogging. Enjoyment of these activities is dependent upon peaceful, attractive natural surroundings.

4.2 OBJECTIVES

The four broad program objectives—Preservation, Heritage Appreciation, Outdoor Recreation, and Tourism/Economic Development—provide a general framework for the Natural Resources Service's conservation-outdoor recreation system. These same objectives are expressed at many

different levels in the system with varying degrees of detail. When moving from the broad systems level down to an individual park, the objectives become more detailed and site specific in nature. They can be further refined and applied to the management of a specific natural or cultural history theme as required.

4.2.1 Preservation

Fish Creek in summer

The Natural Resources Service is committed to preserving and protecting, in perpetuity, provincially significant landscapes. These include representative and special natural or cultural landscapes and features. Also included are landscape-related prehistoric and historic resources of the province. These resources are integrated into a system of parks and other protected areas.

The specific preservation objectives for Fish Creek Provincial Park are as follows:

- to ensure wildlife habitat and species within the Park are managed and protected on a sustainable basis,
- to manage and protect the natural vegetation of the Park,
- to protect the features that are representative of the Parkland and Grassland Natural Regions,
- to actively maintain biological diversity within the Park,
- to allow natural processes to operate in the management of Poplar Island, Raven Rocks, and the Heron Colony,
- to protect special areas including the geological formations and native grasslands,
- to maintain historically significant sites including the Bow Valley Rancho House and Shaw's Woolen Mill site,
- to protect culturally significant features which include tipi rings and bison jumps.
- to ensure the integrity of natural watercourses and springs are maintained.

4.2.2 Heritage Appreciation

Fish Creek Provincial Park is a valuable site for the interpretation of Calgary area history and the natural environment.

Heritage appreciation objectives for Fish Creek Provincial Park are:

- to enhance visitor understanding, use, and enjoyment of the Park environment,
- to provide environmental education opportunities for community, elementary, secondary, and post secondary youth and school groups throughout the year,
- to provide visitors with an opportunity to learn about and gain an appreciation for the mandate, purpose and goals of the Department,
- to provide visitors with an opportunity to understand and learn about the concept of sustainable development,
- to enhance public understanding of environmental education and ecosystem management,
- to become a centre of excellence in environmental education programming and training in Alberta,
- to focus on programming for educational groups and professional teacher development which may involve training and research opportunities for the educational community,
- to increase the environmental literacy of learners entering the program,
- to upgrade the Bow Valley Visitor Centre and the Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre to reflect current technologies and environmental approaches,
- to expand informal community educational programming,
- to expand formal educational programming.

Canada Geese

4.2.3 Outdoor Recreation

The Park presents some unique opportunities for a variety of outdoor pursuits. Low impact, nature-based recreation activities will be facilitated within the Park. Facilities such as baseball diamonds, soccer fields or additional playground structures will not be provided. Outdoor recreation pursuits that are compatible with the Park's preservation and heritage appreciation objectives will be supported.

Outdoor Recreation objectives for Fish Creek Provincial Park are:

- to provide opportunities for relaxation and a healthy life style
- to ensure a proportion of recreation facilities are barrier free for universal access,
- to provide opportunities for picnicking in facility areas.
- to provide opportunities for trail-based activities such as walking, cycling, equestrian, jogging, cross-country skiing, and in-line skating,
- to support use of the Park as a popular nature watching destination,
- to encourage shoulder season use of the Park while managing heavy summer visitation,
- to support water-based recreational activities such as canoeing and fishing on the Bow River,
- to provide recreation opportunities that promote public understanding, appreciation and respect for the sensitive natural and heritage resources in Fish Creek Provincial Park,
- to provide intensive recreational opportunities only at Sikome Lake and the McKenzie Meadows Golf Course.

Picnic Site Along the Bow River

4.2.4 Tourism and Economic Development

Fish Creek Provincial Park is a major attraction in the City of Calgary. Local use is supplemented by visitation from other Calgary communities and nearby towns. A small proportion of use comes from international visitors that make a special trip to Fish Creek Provincial Park during their visit to Calgary and Alberta.

The economic impact of the Park reaches beyond its boundaries. The existence of the Park has created many business opportunities in surrounding communities. The Park regularly responds to various business enquiries requesting visitation data and facility information for planning business initiatives, to be located outside the Park, that range from local small businesses to national franchises. Projected growth of Park visitation should also increase surrounding business opportunities. In addition to the direct stimulation of business the Park has indirect business effects. Residential developers and real estate agents often use proximity to Fish Creek Provincial Park as a selling point for potential buyers.

Natural and heritage resources within the Park are the basis for the majority of business enhancements that occur in the vicinity of Fish Creek Provincial Park. The Park will not function as an effective business generator if pollution or environmental degradation are allowed to occur.

Tourism and economic development objectives for Fish Creek Provincial Park are:

- to work effectively with existing concessionaires to provide quality services for visitors to the Park,
- to maintain excellent opportunities for visitors to experience the facilities, landscapes, vegetation, and wildlife that are protected within the Park, and
- to work with the City of Calgary to identify adjacent business opportunities that are appropriate and do not negatively affect the Park, and
- to provide visitor programming that emphasizes the Park's vision statement and preservation objectives.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

General management guidelines provide direction on common issues found throughout the Park. The guidelines direct how resources and activities will be managed to achieve the Park's vision statement and objectives. The general guidelines will be applied throughout all areas of the Park. The guidelines address management of vegetation, wildlife, water, cultural resources, traffic corridors, trails, security, volunteers, special events/commercial filming, commercial opportunities, and fees.

5.1 VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

The overall management intent for vegetation within the Park will be to generally allow natural processes to occur with a minimum of interference. Management actions may be required to prevent damage in facility areas, to address public safety issues and meet regulatory requirements. Vegetation management issues in the Park include: maintenance of natural vegetation, fire management, weed control, and boundary mowing.

Dandelion

5.1.1 Forest Management

Forested areas occur predominantly on the lands west of Macleod Trail, and the riparian areas along Fish Creek and the Bow River. Riparian vegetation provides important cover for wildlife movement. Many of the major facility zones are located in forest stands.

- Active forest management will focus on the facility zones to ensure that long term forest cover is maintained.
- Forest stands that occur outside facility zones will be left alone, with no specific management actions.
- Dead or damaged trees that represent a hazard to people or buildings may be pruned or removed within facility areas. Dead trees that provide nesting sites for birds may be left standing within facility areas.

-
- Tree planting will occur only in facility areas. Native species will be selected.
 - Large gaps in the riparian vegetation along Fish Creek and the Bow River will be assessed to see if wildlife movement is impaired. Planting programs will be initiated if problems are identified.

5.1.2 Grassland Management

The majority of the east end of the Park is open grassland. Prior to ranching and agriculture activities grassland areas were typically rough fescue. The rough fescue grasslands have since been replaced by brome. Moist climatic cycles and the absence of disturbance by cattle, buffalo, or fire have encouraged bush encroachment. Two sites near the Visitor Centre and Sikome Lake have been identified as native prairie grasslands, typical of the short-grass prairie that existed before cultivation of the region.

- Brome grasslands will not be restored to native rough fescue due to high costs.
- Brush encroachment is a natural process and will be allowed to continue.
- Native prairie grass areas near Sikome Lake and the Visitor Centre will be monitored. Management action may be necessary to maintain the native grasses.

5.1.3 Fire Management

Fire maintains healthy vegetation within some ecosystems. However, uncontrolled fires in Fish Creek Provincial Park pose an unacceptable risk to people and facilities, as well as surrounding homes. Controlled fires are one method of sustaining the vigour and diversity of Park grasslands while reducing the hazard of wildfires. Management of vegetation is required in Fish Creek Provincial Park since wildfires could have catastrophic results.

- Natural fires will be suppressed in all areas of the Park.
- Grass cutting (hay) will continue where necessary to reduce hazardous fuels and minimize the damage associated with wildfires.
- Small controlled fires will be permitted in order to achieve vegetation management objectives in some grassland and shrub areas.
- Prescribed fires will be planned in conjunction with the Park's neighbours and the City of Calgary Fire Department. Public

information programs conducted prior to controlled fires will emphasize the ecological need for fire while serving to properly notify and inform local residents.

- The Fire Management Plan prepared for the Park in 1989, will be reviewed, updated, and implemented.

5.1.4 Weed Control

A wide variety of weeds have been introduced to the Park: Knodding Thistle, Dandelions, Purple Loosestrife, Green Leafy Spurge, Scentless Chamomile, and Canada Thistle have been subject to control.

- Control of noxious and restricted weeds will remain a priority in accordance with the Weed Control Act
- Public notice will be provided prior to the application of herbicides.
- Spraying will be done responsibly with sensitivity for the Park's other flora and fauna. Control of non-target vegetation damage will be a priority. Chemical controls will not be employed in sensitive areas.
- Alternatives to spraying will continue to be used including picking, biological controls, or removal by haying.
- Fish Creek Provincial Park will implement the Weed Control Plan prepared for the Park in 1995.

5.1.5 Boundary Mowing

Fire breaks act as a safety measure for local landowners and allow for emergency vehicle access to all Park areas. A fire break has been maintained along Park boundaries where grasslands are adjacent to residences.

- A 5 - 7 metre fire break will be maintained where grasslands are adjacent to the Park boundary.
- The fire breaks will not contain any landscaping or improvements of any kind.
- In some neighbourhoods fire breaks will be maintained by private landowners, in accordance with specifications and standards set by the Park.
- In other areas, the Park will maintain the fire breaks.

5.2 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

The health and well being of the wildlife within the Park boundaries is a major public concern. The impact of increased visitation and expanding development surrounding the Park is the focus of public concern. Wildlife viewing is recognized as a valued opportunity for Park visitors. Management of wildlife and their habitats will balance maintaining a healthy natural system with providing leisure opportunities.

5.2.1 *Beaver*

Beaver have become common residents of the Fish Creek valley since the Park was developed. Beaver have been removed when their activities have flooded park facilities or damaged trees within facility areas. Management of beaver will endeavour to strike a balance between a healthy population and protection of forest and facilities.

- Beaver activity will be monitored annually.
- Wiring of trees as a protective measure will continue in facility zones.
- Beaver will be removed only when their dams or activities are endangering facilities and trees within facility zones. Removal may also be necessary to protect unique or limited habitat types (for example Heron Colony trees).

5.2.2 *Richardson's Ground Squirrel and Raptor Management*

Fish Creek Provincial Park provides habitat for many birds of prey including eagles, hawks, and falcons. These birds are natural predators on the Richardson's ground squirrel population.

- The raptor population will be monitored to assess population trends.
- Richardson's ground squirrels will be controlled within facility zones. These animals prefer short grass areas to avoid predators. To ensure that ground squirrels will be available to support raptors, some areas will be maintained as short grass habitat specifically for ground squirrels.

Richardson's Ground Squirrels

-
- The Ground Squirrel Management Program prepared for the Park in 1986 will be reviewed, updated, and implemented.

5.2.3 Ungulate Management

Wildlife movement along Fish Creek and the Bow River is critical to maintaining an ungulate population within the Park. Isolated populations of wildlife must not be allowed to develop as a result of limited mobility along the Bow River and Fish Creek. Freedom of movement for wildlife must be facilitated since protection of travel corridors is an important role of the Park.

Development of the remaining residential communities adjacent to the Park will restrict movement through lands that were formerly pasture and acreages. Current City of Calgary plans call for a significant upgrade to the 37th Street thoroughfare on the west end of the Park.

The Tsuu T'ina Nation adjoins the Park west of 37th Street. Fish Creek flows through the Reserve before entering the Park. Future development plans for Reserve lands are unknown. New developments around the Park may impact upon ungulate movements.

- The riverine corridors will be protected for wildlife movement.
- Deer populations will be monitored on an a regular basis.
- Installation of wildlife fencing will be recommended to the City of Calgary for the 37th Street thoroughfare upgrade.
- Park staff will continue to work with City planners and private developers to address wildlife corridor issues.
- An educational program to minimize the impact of deer and other wildlife on adjacent properties will be developed.
- The Resource Management Plan prepared in 1984 will be reviewed, updated, and implemented.

5.2.4 Heron Colony and Raven Rocks

The Heron Colony and Raven Rocks are located within preservation zones. The Heron Colony is the nesting site for several pairs of Great Blue Herons. The area is fenced to deter human access. Along the south border of the area there is a viewing platform with an interpretive display. Raven Rocks, a striking rock escarpment, supports nesting sites for birds due to its

inaccessible ledges and cliffs. Nesting species include prairie and peregrine falcons.

Falcon on Nest

- The Heron Colony and Raven Rocks will remain as restricted access areas.
- Nesting of the Great Blue Heron will be monitored on an annual basis.
- Raven Rocks will be monitored annually for nesting raptors.

5.2.5 Harassment of Wildlife

Loose pets will frequently chase or disturb wildlife. If uncontrolled, pets can be injured or killed by wildlife. People occasionally harass wildlife by following too closely or by approaching den or nesting sites.

- A public awareness campaign will be aimed at pet owners to keep their animals leashed.
- The campaign will also address the problem of people harassing wildlife. Public education, stewardship, and controlling access are some approaches that may be considered.
- The regulation controlling pets off leash will be strictly enforced.

Dogs on Leash

5.2.6 Other Wildlife and Public Safety

Other wildlife using the Park will not be actively managed unless their activities pose a clear risk to the public, park facilities or private property.

- An education program will address how neighbours can respond appropriately to wildlife that stray into adjacent urban areas.
- Every effort will be made to relocate animals that pose a public safety hazard.
- The release of non-native wildlife species in the Park will not be permitted unless agreement is reached within the Natural Resources Service.

- Reintroduction of species that were previously found in the Park may be considered.
- A racoon population may establish itself in the Park which may require specific monitoring and management.
- Feral (wild) domestic animals will be removed.

Fawn in Grass

5.3 WATER RESOURCES

Water management within the Park will focus on water quantity and quality, plus preserving the aesthetic value of Fish Creek and the Bow River. The Park will work with Natural Resources Service staff, other agencies and upstream users to ensure appropriate water quality, quantity and biological viability of watercourses within the Park.

5.3.1 Bow River

The Bow River has been proposed for recognition as part of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System and has been identified as being worthy of special management. The Bow River, and side channels are significant sites for local fish enthusiasts and the international sport fishing community.

- The Park supports the Bow River Water Quality Council and its mandate which states: "The Bow River will be conserved and protected as a fragile and unique resource and recognized as our lifeline. This vision allows for a balance of multiple uses, ensuring that the needs of all stakeholders are considered, but recognizing that a healthy ecosystem is paramount."
- Partnerships with other agencies will be pursued to improve fish habitat in the Bow River.
- A storm sewer outfall into the Bow River from the Homestead subdivision (south of the McKenzie Meadows Golf Course) may require an easement across the Park.
- Construction of buildings or major facilities will not be considered in areas at significant risk of flooding as per the Canada/Alberta Flood Damage Reduction Program.

5.3.2 Fish Creek

Fish Creek flows east from the foothills area and is important habitat for beaver, heron, waterfowl, and amphibians. The Park's management intent for Fish Creek will be to protect it as an important fish and wildlife habitat. The long-term viability of Fish Creek will depend on the appropriate management of storm water in the Park.

- The Creek will be protected to ensure adequate water quality and quality with a healthy riparian ecosystem.
- Accidental chemical spills or other contamination will be reported, contained and managed.
- The Natural Resources Service will work with various conservation partners to improve fish habitat.
- The Park will work with other agencies to monitor and maintain water quality.
- When initiated by the Natural Resources Service, the Park will cooperate to complete an in-stream flow needs assessment for Fish Creek.
- Construction of buildings or major facilities within the floodplain will be avoided as per the Canada/Alberta Food Damage Reduction Program.
- Stream banks may be hardened or stabilized only to protect bridges or underground utilities.

5.3.3 Storm Water

Storm water drainage from surrounding urban lands is creating serious problems within Fish Creek Provincial Park. Such runoff carries pollution from Calgary streets and can cause stream bank erosion and scouring of the stream bed. Management of storm water drainage into the Park will be done in cooperation with the City of Calgary to reduce peak flows and improve water quality.

- The Park will review the current storm water situation within the Fish Creek watershed with the City of Calgary.

Storm Sewer Outfall on Fish Creek near Shaw's Meadow

5.4 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Numerous archaeological sites have been identified within the Park including tipi rings, buffalo jumps, and processing sites. Few of these sites have been studied in any detail. There are several sites of historical significance which include Shaw's Woolen Mill site and the Bow Valley Rancho. The Bow Valley Rancho buildings are in need of repair. The cultural sites document the history of the Fish Creek valley from native use, through the ranching era, and the beginning of urbanization.

The history of the Fish Creek valley is currently interpreted in a display at the Bow Valley Rancho Visitor Centre. In addition, interpretive signs and interpretive events help to bring the history of the Park to its visitors. The Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre also interprets the Park's history through programming.

- Cultural, historical and archaeological features will be monitored and protected within the Park.
- Cultural themes for interpretation and environmental education programs will be presented.
- Cooperative research efforts with universities, colleges, or other appropriate groups will be identified and coordinated.
- The Park will work with Alberta Community Development, volunteers, partners, or other groups to renovate and maintain the buildings at the Bow Valley Rancho.
- Shaw's Woolen Mill site will continue to be managed as a Provincial Historic Site.

5.5 TRAFFIC CORRIDORS

Several major traffic corridors exist within or near the Park. These corridors have significant effects on the Park including stress on wildlife. The Park will work with the City of Calgary to ensure that all traffic corridors will be developed or improved with sensitivity for the Park's ecosystem and the aesthetic value of the Park.

Trail under Mcleod Trail

5.5.1 Bow Bottom Trail

Bow Bottom Trail is a major access route to the Bow Valley Ranch Visitor Centre, Sikome Lake, Hull's Wood, the Boat Launch, and the Bow River at the Highway 22X bridge. Currently, gravel is being removed from a pit at the end of Bow Bottom Trail resulting in large numbers of industrial trucks travelling through the Park. The owners of the pit have indicated the gravel supply will be exhausted by the spring of 1998, with a reclamation project to wrap up by the fall of 1998.

- Once the gravel supply at the pit has been exhausted, the Park will work with the City of Calgary to determine appropriate traffic use on Bow Bottom Trail, so that this road does not become a major traffic corridor through the Park.

5.5.2 Road Access Points

Elbow Drive, 14th and 24th Streets are access routes to the northwest side of the Park. In the past, pressure has been placed both on the Park and the City to allow these roads to be developed as thoroughfares. With the continued growth of the City south of Fish Creek, pressure to develop such thoroughfares through the Park may increase.

- The Park supports the City of Calgary GoPlan which does not support extension of traffic routes through the Park.
- Road access to the Park will be maintained at Elbow Drive, 14th and 24th Streets.

5.5.3 Highway 22X and 37th Street Improvements

The City of Calgary has identified expansion projects for both Highway 22X and 37th Street. Both projects will involve a bridge over important wildlife travel corridors adjacent to the Park. The City will be encouraged to implement improvements that are sensitive to these important areas.

- Any bridge developments will be encouraged to provide for wildlife movement and to protect the riparian ecosystem along the banks of the water course.
- Recreational trail access under bridges will be provided.

5.5.4 Rail Access

A Canadian Pacific Railway bridge exists at the Shaw's Meadow Day Use Area. The CPR track has been proposed as a commuter route from Okotoks to access the City's LRT system. The City has indicated the development of an LRT station is planned for the area. The LRT station will be located outside Park boundaries.

- Future LRT construction is supported as it will improve access to the Park from all areas of the City, while reducing vehicular traffic.
- The Park will not support the development of a large scale regional LRT parking lot adjacent to the Park. A local use parking lot for the LRT station will be located outside the Park boundary.
- All improvements or developments will be sensitive to the riparian vegetation and wildlife travel corridor supported by Fish Creek.
- The recreation trail under the CPR bridge will remain accessible to park users.
- Business opportunities associated with the LRT system will be located outside the Park boundary.

5.6 TRAILS

Formal trails in Fish Creek Provincial Park are surfaced with shale or asphalt. The only designated dirt trail is a six km equestrian trail. Trail construction completed prior to commencement of the management planning process focussed on building extensions to the City's regional trail system, providing connecting trails to new subdivisions, and upgrading of trails to address safety concerns or increased trail use. Trail conflicts are the most frequent area of public concern with respect to Park management. Pedestrians, equestrians, cyclists, and other trail users have different needs and look to the Park to provide opportunities for each activity. In response to all the demands placed on the Park, several management guidelines have been established.

The shared use of most trails will be encouraged except when safety hazards occur due to congestion or user conflicts. In congested areas, wheeled traffic will be encouraged to use the paved trails, pedestrians will be encouraged to use the shale trails. As new trail activities occur in the Park, safety issues

will be identified and addressed. Shared use of trails will be emphasized through a comprehensive trail etiquette and education program. The goal of the program will be to reduce trail use conflicts as well as adverse environmental impacts through signs, special events and an education program. Common sense, courtesy, and communication will be the basis for good trail etiquette.

The following section is divided by type of trail users and includes pedestrians, wheel-chair use, equestrians, cyclists and mountain bikers.

Trail Separation Sign

5.6.1 Pedestrians

Pedestrians make up a high proportion of trail users and include: walkers, joggers, bird-watchers, and dog walkers. Problems with dogs off leash and owners not picking up after their pets are increasing. Safety issues relating to pedestrians and wheeled traffic on shared trails is recognized as an area of concern. Pedestrians usually move slowly as compared to wheeled traffic and unexpected encounters pose safety concerns.

- Pedestrians are encouraged to remain on formalized trails and to minimize their impact when venturing off trail.
- In congested areas where trails have been twinned, pedestrians are encouraged to use shale surfaced trails.
- Pedestrians are encouraged to walk on the right side of the trail and to be considerate of others sharing that trail.
- Pedestrians must keep their dog on a leash at all times.
- A review of Provincial Park legislation and penalties (which relate to dogs off leash and cleaning up after pets) will be conducted to make them more consistent with City regulations.
- The regional trail through the centre of the Park may be snow plowed to safely accommodate pedestrians, as park resources allow.

5.6.2 Wheelchairs

Persons using wheelchairs currently access the Park through the formal trail system. The paved trails are the most popular as they remain unaffected by

season or weather conditions. Some shale-surfaced trails also provide access when they are dry.

- Wheelchairs will have access to the trail system subject to the limitations encountered regarding grade and topography.
- All areas surrounding facility zones will continue to be made accessible for all trail users.

5.6.3 Equestrians

Equestrian use of the valley predates the Park and has been accommodated since its inception. A horse concession operates at Shannon Terrace. Some equestrians ride into the Park or bring their horses by trailer. A safety issue on the equestrian trails relates to the use of these trails by cyclists and walkers who may inadvertently startle horses. Concerns have been expressed about the length of the equestrian trail.

- The six km equestrian trail will be maintained. Equestrian trails will not be extended.
- If a regional equestrian trail is developed to the Park boundary, a connection to the equestrian trail will be permitted in the Woodbine Management Area.
- The trail dedicated for equestrian use will be clearly signed to reduce user conflicts. Other visitors will be discouraged from travelling on the equestrian trail.
- Management decisions will be made when there are muddy trail conditions to mitigate or to reduce damage to the designated six km trail.

Equestrians

5.6.4 Trail Cyclists and Mountain Bikers

Cycling and mountain biking are popular activities within the Park. Two types of users have been identified within the Park. "Trail Cyclists" typically stay on the designated trail system. "Mountain Bikers" like to venture off trail and cycle on dirt tracks within the Park. Public input to the planning process identified several issues with respect to both types of use within the Park. With respect to cycling, the public expressed concerns about excessive speed and a lack of warning from trail cyclists approaching pedestrians. The

public identified a variety of issues regarding mountain biking off the formalized trails within the Park. Concerns were expressed regarding the negative effects of mountain biking on the natural environment and conflicts with other users.

The following management guidelines will apply to both trail cycling and mountain biking in the Park:

- The purpose of trail cycling and mountain biking in the Park is for access as well as to appreciate and enjoy the Park's unique natural environment within an urban setting.
- Trail cycling and mountain biking activities must be compatible with the Park's objectives for preservation, heritage appreciation, and outdoor recreation through low impact, nature-based activities. Neither trail cycling nor mountain biking will be for intensive sport or competition-based activities.
- A trail etiquette and behaviour education program will be developed to emphasize shared use of trails and minimizing environmental impacts.
- Trail cyclists and mountain bikers will be directed to yield to pedestrians.
- Trail cyclists and mountain bikers will be discouraged from creating new trails.

5.6.4.1 Trail Cyclists

The following guidelines pertain to trail cyclists in the Park:

- All trail cyclists will be encouraged to stay on the trail system, to share trails, and to exercise proper trail etiquette.
- In congested areas of the Park, where trails have been twinned, trail cyclists will be encouraged to use paved trails.
- To ensure the safety of all trail users, the Park will review Provincial Parks legislation regarding the use of bells, speed of cyclists, and riding with an animal on a leash.

Trail cycling and Deer

5.6.4.2 Mountain Bikes

The proximity of Fish Creek Provincial Park to the City of Calgary Park system and the interconnection of these two trail systems requires consistent management direction where mandates are compatible.

- The City of Calgary is developing a "Cycling policy for undesignated trails and parkland" and Fish Creek Provincial Park will be an active participant in this initiative to achieve a regional perspective.
- Upon completion of the City policy process, guidelines for dirt track mountain bike use within Fish Creek Provincial Park will be formulated with consideration for City of Calgary policy.

5.6.5 Other Trail Users

Other trail users in the Park include in-line skaters, roller-skiers, and cross-country skiers. In-line skaters and roller-skiers use paved trails in the summer. Cross-country skiers usually use shale trails and the sides of the paved trails. Public concerns identified user conflicts between specialized users and pedestrians. Issues raised by cross-country skiers in the Park relate to their desire for dedicated ski trails. Snow ploughing of parts of the trail system and pedestrian use of ski tracks have created conflicts.

- All user groups will be encouraged to minimize conflicts and to practice proper trail etiquette within the Park.
- In-line skaters and roller skiers will be encouraged to yield to pedestrians.
- The Park will work with volunteers to permit grooming and track setting for cross-country skiing as weather permits. Pedestrians will be encouraged to avoid walking on cross-country ski tracks.

Cross-Country Skiing

5.6.6 Trail Maintenance and Upgrading

Trail maintenance or upgrading projects identified for attention include:

- completion of the paved regional trail through the centre of the Park,
- connections to existing or new subdivisions
- connections to the City regional trail system,
- repairs to existing trails,
- widening of existing trails when repaving is required,
- removal of low use trails, and
- Where necessary to reduce user conflicts, minimize disturbance of natural processes, or to provide for public safety, some dirt trails will be closed to all use and reclaimed. Special attention will be given to steep valley slopes and riparian areas.

Specific changes to the trail system are detailed in the zoning guidelines that follow and are identified on the zoning maps.

- Signs with maps, interpretation, education, and proper trail etiquette messages will be used to encourage the appropriate, safe use of the trail system.
- Twinned trails may be provided for congested portions of the trail system.
- Wheeled traffic will be encouraged to use the paved trails and pedestrian will be encouraged to use the shale trails.
- Some new or upgraded trails will be designed to accommodate emergency vehicles.
- Clear lines of vision will be provided to address existing trail safety concerns.
- Links with the City of Calgary pathway system will be preserved.

Paved Trail

5.7 PARK SECURITY

Fish Creek Provincial Park is unique within the Natural Resources Service as a provincial park, in an urban setting. Park Rangers, Park Watch programs, and controlled hours of operation, all contribute to a safe, peaceful experience for visitors.

5.7.1 Park Rangers

Park Rangers maintain security with support from Calgary Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services. The Natural Resources Service uses a compliance model for handling infractions. This model promotes prevention and education as well as enforcement.

- The compliance model of enforcement will continue with an emphasis on prevention and education.
- Park Rangers will patrol the Park on a daily basis. Emphasis will be placed on personal public contact while on patrol.

5.7.2 Park Hours

Fish Creek Provincial Park operates as a day use Park. Access to parking lots is controlled by gates. Hours of operation vary throughout the year, but are consistent in that the gates open at 8:00 am. and are locked in the evening at dusk.

- Access will be controlled from dusk to 8:00 am throughout the year to minimize after hours use.

5.7.3 Park Watch

Park Watch is promoted as a security enhancement initiative. The program encourages Park users and neighbours to report incidents directly to Park staff. The potential for public involvement with respect to Park security is vast.

- The Park Watch program will continue.

5.8 VOLUNTEERS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Volunteer participation in Fish Creek Provincial Park is well established. Volunteer stewardship is encouraged through a Park cooperating association or working directly with Park staff on specific projects. Interested volunteers are matched with available projects. Partnership opportunities with businesses and other non-government organizations are approached in a similar fashion.

5.8.1 Stewardship Opportunities

Stewardship of the Park is encouraged through volunteer participation.

- The Park will actively encourage volunteer activities and promote partnerships through identified worthy projects.
- A volunteer management strategy will be prepared to determine activities, coordinate a contact list, and set guidelines for recognition.
- A community-based volunteer directory will be developed to identify individuals prepared to volunteer and match volunteers with relevant projects.
- The Park will work with volunteers to develop guidelines for mountain bike use upon completion of the City of Calgary "Cycling policy for undesignated trails and parkland".
- The Park will work with volunteers to implement cross-country ski trail grooming.
- The Park will work with volunteers and other agencies to educate users about proper trail etiquette.

5.8.2 Partnerships

Partnerships are a valuable link to the business community and non-government organizations. Past projects have included tree planting projects, facility maintenance, and donations.

- Park partnerships will continue to be encouraged.

5.9 SPECIAL EVENTS AND COMMERCIAL FILMING

Special events and commercial filming projects occur regularly in the Park. To ensure these events do not adversely affect enjoyment of the Park by others, guidelines will be established that will apply to any group using the Park as a special events venue or filming location.

5.9.1 Special Events

Special events are common, especially during the summer months. Activities have included the SPCA Dog Jog, the Terry Fox Marathon, TOPS walk-a-thon, and City of Calgary Parks and Recreation events.

- Special events that are consistent with the Park's vision statement will be considered subject to an approval process. Special events that significantly restrict leisure opportunities for other users or degrade Park resources will not be permitted.
- Approved special events will not place exceptional demands on Park resources or budgets and staff time.

5.9.2 Commercial Filming Guidelines

Past film projects conducted in the Park include commercials, television series and feature length films.

- Guidelines for film companies working in the Park will be developed to provide standards of acceptable practise. Such guidelines will include use of Park staff and vehicles, crowd control methods, set security, and facility closures.
- Filming projects shall not interfere significantly with public leisure activities or negatively impact Park resources.

5.10 COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

There are four concessions within the Park: a food concession at Sikome Lake, the Bow Valley Rancho House and the Foreman's House which have been leased with the intent of restoring both facilities and developing a restaurant, a riding stable near Shannon Terrace and a golf course on leased land east of the Bow River. The public has expressed concern regarding further commercialization of the Park.

- All existing concessions will be managed to ensure that the terms of their contracts are met.

-
- Privatization of the operation of Sikome Lake will be investigated through a facility operating agreement or similar arrangement.
 - No new business opportunities will be considered for the rest of the Park, though the Park may make further use of the private sector, groups and volunteers for delivery of existing services and facility operations.

5.11 FEES

The public involvement process identified charging fees as a possible method to offset growing park operating costs with reduced budgets. Fees for educational programming, swimming facilities, and special events are common throughout the City of Calgary. In addition, other provincial parks charge reservation fees for use of formal group sites. Currently within Fish Creek Provincial Park, no fees are charged for special services related to environmental education, group use, and Sikome Lake. The Park has two facilities that could charge for group use.

- Fees for environmental education materials, use of Sikome Lake and group use will be investigated.

LEGEND

Preservation Zone

Natural Environment Zone

Facility Zone

Historical Zone

Access Zone

Boundary Land Parcels (subject to possible transfer)

Transportation Corridor

Paved Pathway

Proposed Paved Pathway

Paved Pathway to be Removed

Shale Pathway

Proposed Shale Pathway

Shale Pathway to be Removed

Equestrian Trail

Proposed Equestrian Trail

Equestrian Trail to be Removed

Stairway to be Removed

Road or Parking

Fence

Building

Bridge and Number

Park Boundary

ZONING AND DETAILED MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Fish Creek Provincial Park has been divided into seven management areas each with detailed management guidelines. Within each area, management zones have been identified to explain the appropriate use and management of each part of the Park. General management guidelines will apply to all areas, while detailed guidelines will focus on particular management areas. In some instances, exceptions to the general management guidelines have been identified. The following zoning descriptions have been applied throughout the Park.

ALL DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES WILL BE
IMPLEMENTED AS BUDGET ALLOCATIONS PERMIT.

Access Zone

Access zones provide safe and convenient access to outdoor recreation opportunities and accommodate major access routes to the Park. Facilities will be limited to parking areas, roads, washrooms, and information/orientation signs.

Facility Zone

Facility zones provide a range of intensive outdoor recreation opportunities. Developments include picnic areas, visitor centres, educational facilities, service concessions, swimming areas, parking, and washrooms. The greatest density and highest levels of visitor use will occur in these zones. A variety of information, interpretive, and educational facilities, including displays, kiosks, amphitheatres, and trails may be developed where appropriate. Most administrative and maintenance facilities will be situated in facility zones.

Historical/Cultural Zone

The Historical / Cultural zone includes lands or features of significant historical value. Management emphasis will be placed on historic preservation and heritage appreciation. Use will be consistent with the protection of historical or cultural resources and oriented to increasing visitor appreciation of these resource values. Development will be limited to designated trails, signs, interpretive facilities, and historical restoration or reconstruction.

Natural Environment Zone

Natural environment zones encompass natural landscapes which provide opportunities for the appreciation and enjoyment of natural environments through a variety of outdoor recreation, educational, and interpretive opportunities. Dispersed outdoor recreation opportunities which bring the visitor into close contact with nature will be encouraged. Trails for walking, cycling, equestrian riding, and nature appreciation are permitted while interpretation and education activities may include self-guided trails, displays, and conducted programs.

Preservation Zone

Preservation zones encompass lands or features that merit special protection because of special landscapes, physiographic or geologic features, unique, rare, or endangered species, or sensitive areas. Preservation zones provide the highest degree of protection to perpetuate natural heritage resources. Lands and waters in these zones will be managed to ensure that natural resources and processes remain largely unaltered by human activity. Use must be consistent with the preservation of natural resources and will be controlled and, in some instances, access will be restricted. Visitor activities will primarily be oriented to heritage appreciation. Development will be limited to trails, viewing platforms, displays, and interpretive signs. In some instances off-site interpretation may be necessary in order to protect unique resources. Scientific research activities will be permitted if they do not conflict with preservation objectives.

Legend

The various zones have been colour coded as indicated on the legend and maps for clarity.

FISH CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK MANAGEMENT AREAS

*Tsuu T'ina
Nation*

*MIDNAPORE III
AREA PLAN*

*HOMESTEAD
AREA PLAN*

N

1:50,000

6.1 DEER RUN MANAGEMENT AREA MAPS 1 & 2

The Deer Run Management Area extends from Higgins Bridge across the Bow River in the north to the Bow Bottom Trail bridge across Fish Creek in the south and is bordered by the Bow River to the east. The area is representative of the Grassland Natural Region. Facilities developed here include washrooms, picnic areas, parking lots, and trails. Within the area, three management zones have been identified for management.

Picnic Tables by the Bow River

6.1.1 Bankside/Burnsmead/Mallard Facility Zone

The Bankside/Burnsmead/Mallard Facility Zone contains the day use areas for which the zone is named. The zone is a brome grassland with a few patches of shrub and balsam poplar forest. The zone is bordered by the Bow River and Bow Bottom Trail. Associated facilities include parking lots, washrooms, picnic areas, trails, and the main maintenance compound. The majority of visitors use the zone for picnicking and access to the trail system. The Higgins bridge and the McKenzie bridge have provided new access routes over the Bow River and increased visitation from communities east of the Bow River.

6.1.1.1 Management Intent

To provide access to the Park, picnicking and trail use opportunities.

6.1.1.2 Detailed Management Guidelines

- No new facility development will be permitted, only improvements to existing sites.
- Additional interpretive / educational signs will be developed.
- Improvements may be considered for washroom facilities to accommodate increased use.
- Reduction of picnic sites may be considered if use continues to decline for this activity.

-
- Tree wiring programs will be implemented and beaver removal may be employed if facilities are threatened.
 - Tree planting programs will be permitted.
 - The main maintenance compound will be retained.

6.1.2 Poplar Island Preservation Zone

Poplar Island is located in the Bow River between the Mallard Point and Bankside Facility Zones. Poplar Island provides habitat for many deer, coyotes, birds and other animals. The island is difficult to access because it is isolated by a side channel of the Bow River. Vegetation cover is primarily a brome grassland with a few stands of shrubs and a poplar forest.

6.1.2.1 Management Intent

To sustain natural processes with minimal human disturbance.

6.1.2.2 Detailed Management Guidelines

- Access and visitation will not be encouraged.
- Bridges will not be built to the Island.
- Trails will not be developed.
- Controlled fires may be employed for fuel reduction.
- Tree planting programs will not be permitted.
- Beaver removal will only be considered when facilities are threatened in adjacent zones. No other wildlife control measures will normally be required.

6.1.3 Bow River Grassland Natural Environment Zone

The zone includes grassland features, patches of shrub and poplar forest along the Bow River, and trails that extend through the entire Deer Run Management Area. The only intact tipi rings in the Park occur here. The tipi rings are considered a significant historical feature.

6.1.3.1 Management Intent

To provide dispersed recreation opportunities primarily through the trail system and to preserve the tipi rings.

6.1.3.2 Detailed Management Guidelines

- The Bow River Grassland Zone will provide opportunities for visitors to appreciate and enjoy the natural environment through outdoor recreation, education, and interpretation.
- Major facility development will not occur.
- Benches will be added along the existing trails.
- Trail expansions or connections identified on the zone map will be permitted.
- Disturbance of the tipi ring area will not be permitted.
- Interpretive signs will not be used to draw attention to the tipi ring area.
- Vegetation planting will not be permitted.

Glacial boulder above Bow Valley Ranch site looking east, 1976

**DEER RUN
MANAGEMENT AREA
NORTH**

1:7500

**DEER RUN
MANAGEMENT AREA
SOUTH**

1:7500

6.2 EAST BOW RIVER MANAGEMENT AREA MAP 3

The East Bow River Management Area extends from the McKenzie Bridge in the north to south of the Highway 22X bridge and is bordered by the Bow River to the west and by McKenzie Meadows Drive to the east. A golf course and trail are the major existing developments. Three zones have been identified within the area.

6.2.1 McKenzie Meadows Facility Zone

The McKenzie Meadows Facility Zone extends from the McKenzie Bridge to just south of the Highway 22X bridge and is bordered by a trail link to the west and McKenzie Meadows Drive to the east. The McKenzie Meadows golf course and an associated access road occupy part of the zone. At this time, only part of the road is paved.

6.2.1.1 Management Intent

To provide a public golf course developed, operated and maintained by the private sector.

6.2.1.2 Detailed Management Guidelines

- Upgrading of the access road to a hardened surface will be permitted.
- The golf course lease includes facility zone lands south of Highway 22X. If the lease holder wishes to relinquish lands south of the highway, those lands will be incorporated into the Bow River Natural Environment Zone.
- Extension of the regional trail south from Highway 22X along the Bow River will be permitted to provide a link to the planned Homesteads subdivision.

6.2.2 Bow River Access Zone

The Bow River Access Zone consists of an access road from McKenzie Meadows Drive and a parking lot near the Bow River.

6.2.2.1 Management Intent

The management intent for the Bow River Access Zone will be to provide access to the Bow River regional trail.

6.2.2.2 Detailed Management Guidelines

- Future improvements may include paving the parking lot.
- Development of a washroom facility will be considered if demand warrants.
- Signs to orient visitors will be installed.
- A formal boat launch will not be developed but hand launching of small water craft will be allowed.

6.2.3 Bow River Natural Environment Zone

The Bow River Natural Environment Zone is composed of several parcels of land along the Bow River that border the McKenzie Meadows golf course. The zone extends south of the Highway 22X bridge and abuts the Bow River valley escarpment. Balsam poplar trees make up the majority of the vegetation in the riparian area along the Bow River.

6.2.3.1 Management Intent

To protect the Bow River floodplain and riparian area and to provide recreational access along the Bow River via the regional trail.

6.2.3.2 Detailed Management Guidelines

- Access to the zone will be via the regional trail.
- Benches and viewpoints may be added along the trail to enhance the visitors' experience.
- Additional interpretive or directional signs may be installed if demand warrants.
- Additional connector trails to the McKenzie subdivision will not be developed.
- Extension of the regional trail south along the Bow River will be permitted.
- A trail connection into the proposed Homestead subdivision will be considered.
- Picnic facilities will not be developed in the zone.
- A program may be considered to maintain or restore riparian vegetation.

EAST BOW RIVER MANAGEMENT AREA

1:7500

6.3 SUNDANCE MANAGEMENT AREA MAP 4

The Sundance Management Area begins just south of Fish Creek and extends to the Highway 22X bridge. It is bordered by the Bow River to the east and by Sunvalley Boulevard to the west. The area includes Sikome Lake and its facilities, the Hull's Wood Facility Zone and the Boat Launch Access Zone. The area supports grasslands with balsam poplar along the Bow River and Fish Creek valleys. The Sundance Management Area includes four management zones.

6.3.1 *Sikome Lake Facility Zone*

Sikome Lake is the most intensely developed recreation area within the Park and includes three swim centres, a water treatment plant, maintenance shop, four playgrounds, an amphitheatre, beach volleyball courts, and four parking lots. All buildings and structures within the zone require major renovations.

6.3.1.1 *Management Intent*

To provide swimming and beach activities and associated intensive recreational opportunities. Greater emphasis will be placed on providing such activities through the private sector.

6.3.1.2 *Detailed Management Guidelines*

- Intensive landscape maintenance to support areas suitable for recreational activities will occur.
- Water quality will be maintained to standards required for swimming.
- New recreation facilities through private sector involvement to support current uses will be considered.

Sikome Lake

6.3.2 Boat Launch Access Zone

The Boat Launch Access Zone consists of a parking lot and a developed boat launch. The boat launch was developed in association with the River Valleys Committee of the Parks Foundation of Calgary with private sector donations. The facility is an excellent example of cooperative partnerships in action. There are no washrooms on site but development of a facility may be required if use of the boat launch increases.

6.3.2.1 Management Intent

To provide access for water-based activities on the Bow River.

6.3.2.2 Detailed Management Guidelines

- Informational or directional signs are required.
- Further additions or developments will be limited to a washroom if demand warrants.

6.3.3 Hull's Wood Facility Zone

The Hull's Wood Facility Zone is located off Bow Bottom Trail at 166 Avenue. The zone provides picnic sites, an amphitheatre, a washroom and parking. It is located close to Fish Creek and is surrounded by a balsam poplar forest.

6.3.3.1 Management Intent

To provide picnicking opportunities.

6.3.3.2 Detailed Management Guidelines

- Vegetation will be intensively managed to maintain trees for their aesthetic value.
- Improvements will be limited to washroom or picnic facilities if demand warrants.
- The amphitheatre will be maintained.

Bow River Boat Launch

6.3.4 Fish Creek South Natural Environment Zone

All other lands within the Sundance Management Area are included in the Fish Creek South Natural Environment Zone. The natural grasslands found at the top of the escapement near Sunvalley Boulevard are of particular significance. The riverine area bordering the Bow River is sensitive to disturbance.

6.3.4.1 Management Intent

To protect the riverine community and native grasslands. Trails will be maintained to provide the opportunity to enjoy the natural environment.

6.3.4.2 Detailed Management Guidelines

- Trail expansions or connections identified on the zone map will be permitted.
- The existing trail along the Bow River will be upgraded to regional trail standards.
- New facility development will be limited to signs, benches and viewpoints.
- An undesignated but popular route from Sikome Lake to Hull's Wood will be formalized.
- A trail that crosses Bow Bottom Trail at Hull's Wood will be closed and reclaimed.
- The need for a new pedestrian bridge across Fish Creek at Bow Bottom Trail will be evaluated. The bridge would allow a connection to the regional trail to address the safety concerns associated with pedestrians and cyclists travelling across the existing Bow Bottom Trail vehicle bridge.
- Informal trails may be closed and rehabilitated.
- Native grassland areas will be inventoried and monitored.

Hull's Wood looking east towards McKenzie Meadows, 1978

SUNDANCE MANAGEMENT AREA

1:7500

6.4 PARKLAND MANAGEMENT AREA MAPS 5 & 6

The Parkland Management Area extends northwest from Bow Bottom Trail to the edge of the Glennfield Facility Zone. It is bordered by the community of Parkland to the north and by the community of Sundance and part of the community of Midnapore to the south. Several significant sites exist in the area including the Heron Colony, the Bow Valley Rancho, a bison jump archeological site and the Fish Creek valley. Four zones have been identified within this management area.

6.4.1 Visitor Centre Facility Zone

The Visitor Centre Zone consists of the Bow Valley Rancho Visitor Centre, the east parking lot and a barn which is a storage facility and garage. The Visitor Centre is the administrative centre of the Park and provides environmental education programs, visitor information, a public washroom and first-aid.

6.4.1.1 Management Intent

To provide public information, support environmental education programs and park administration

6.4.1.2 Detailed Management Guidelines

- The facilities will not be expanded and minor improvements will occur only when necessary.
- Environmental educational programming will be expanded in conjunction with the Fish Creek Learning Centre redevelopment.
- The historical displays within the Visitor Centre will be maintained.
- Partnerships will be encouraged to maintain the Visitor Centre displays.
- The grounds around the Visitor Centre will be intensely managed as a lawn area.
- The existing barn will be used as a garage and for storage. If repairs become too expensive it may either be replaced or removed and equipment relocated to the east maintenance compound.
- The parking lots will be retained.

6.4.2 Bow Valley Ranch Historical Zone

The Bow Valley Ranch Zone includes the historic Bow Valley Ranch House and the Foreman's House. A log cabin located behind the Ranch House is thought to be one of the first buildings in Calgary. A paved parking lot is included in the zone. Calgary's rich ranching history is well represented by the Bow Valley Ranch which has abundant interpretive and educational opportunities. A lease agreement has been signed that will permit restoration of both the Ranch House and Foreman's House. The intention of the lease holder is to restore both buildings and open them to the public as restaurants. The cookhouse and bunkhouse are not considered to be historically significant. The cookhouse is used for storage and office space while the bunkhouse is used for storage.

6.4.2.1 Management Intent

To preserve the Bow Valley Ranch House and Foreman's House.

6.4.2.2 Detailed Management Guidelines

- Environmental education and interpretive programming will be expanded to include the historic buildings.
- The Ranch House and Foreman's House are historically significant structures and attempts to restore them and the associated grounds will continue.
 - Additional interpretive and educational signs may be provided in the zone.
 - The log cabin located behind the Ranch House will be disassembled and stored. The building may be offered to Heritage Park or reassembled in the Park at a later date. All other outbuildings relating to the Ranch House will be removed.
 - Partnerships will be pursued to achieve greater practical use and maintenance of the cookhouse building.

Ranch House in Winter

- The cookhouse will be maintained for office space and storage until a partner can be identified.
- The bunkhouse will not receive maintenance and eventually will be removed.
- Cyclists will be required to walk their bikes near the Foreman's House and Ranche House to address safety concerns.

6.4.3 *Heron Colony Preservation Zone*

The Heron Colony Preservation Zone is located midway between the Bow Valley Ranche Facility Zone and the Glennfield Facility Zone. Fish Creek flows through the zone and supports a riparian vegetation community on both banks. The area is representative of the Grassland Natural Region, but also contains shrubs and some poplar forest. The heron colony is fenced to deter human access to the nesting sites of several pairs of Great Blue Heron. A viewing platform and interpretive display is located along the south boundary of the zone.

Hérons

6.4.3.1 *Management Intent*

To protect sensitive Great Blue Heron nesting habitat.

6.4.3.2 *Detailed Management Guidelines*

- Restricted access will continue
- Interpretation of the site will be enhanced.
- Trees used for nesting will be protected from beaver.
- Nesting activity of Great Blue Herons will be monitored.
- A fire-break will be maintained around the zone.

6.4.4 *Acadia Natural Environment Zone*

The Acadia Natural Environment Zone consists of all other lands in the Parkland Management Area. Of particular significance are the native grasslands on the escarpment to the north of the Visitor Centre. In addition, the riverine vegetation along Fish Creek is an important feature.

The valley slopes support contrasting vegetation types with south-facing slopes being grasses and shrubs and north-facing slopes being forested. The valley slopes and Fish Creek are representative of the Grassland Natural Region. A trail system enables visitors to explore the natural attributes of the zone. Specific trails include a barrier-free trail, a self-guided interpretive trail, and an orienteering trail. Bison kill sites, a glacial erratic, and “ice caves” are significant features located within the Acadia Natural Environment Zone. The glacial erratic is located on the slope behind the Visitor Centre, and the bison jump and “ice caves” are located on the south bank of Fish Creek. The area is full of opportunities to learn more about the valley’s history and the natural environment.

6.4.4.1 Management Intent

To provide dispersed recreation opportunities through a trail system to bring visitors in contact with the natural surroundings. Identified special features will be protected.

6.4.4.2 Detailed Management Guidelines

- Beaver may be removed where their activities threaten facilities such as trails.
- Major facility development will not occur in the zone.
- Maintenance vehicles will have restricted access to the Acadia utility corridor.
- Existing trails may be improved or widened if necessary to permit emergency vehicle access.
- Trail expansions or connections identified on the zone map will be permitted.
 - * The trail from the community of Parkland to the Bow Valley Ranch site needs to be paved.
 - * The trail immediately behind the Visitor Centre requires resurfacing with shale.
 - * A new paved trail along Bow Bottom Trail to extend south from 146 Avenue to the Bow Valley Ranch site is required.
 - * A new paved trail from community of Sundance to join the regional trail west of Bridge 13 is required.
 - * A new shale trail from the community of Sundance to the trails south of the Bow Valley Ranch site is required.

-
- * Some existing dirt trail connector paths require surfacing with shale, and other small connector paths need to be closed and reclaimed.
 - * The existing stairway to the community of Acadia needs to be removed.
 - Archaeological and scientific research activities will be encouraged through various partnerships to gain an enhanced understanding of various sites.
 - Strict guidelines will ensure that research activities will not conflict with preservation objectives.

Bow Valley Ranch Site, prior to Park designation

**PARKLAND
MANAGEMENT AREA
EAST**

1:7500

6.5 MACLEOD TRAIL MANAGEMENT AREA MAP 7

The Macleod Trail Management Area begins at the eastern edge of the Glennfield Day Use Area and extends to the western edge of the Shaw's Meadow Day Use Area. It is bordered by Canyon Meadows Drive to the north and the communities of Midnapore and Shawnessy to the south. Macleod Trail bisects the management area. A LRT station is planned for south of Shaw's Meadow outside the Park with a trail connection. Development of the LRT station will significantly change visitation to the Macleod Trail Management Area.

Vegetation representative of both the Grassland and Parkland Natural Regions is found in the area. Vegetation along Fish Creek provides cover for wildlife movement. Only one zone has been identified for management of the area.

6.5.1 Glennfield/Shaw Facility Zone

The Glennfield Day Use Area consists of three washrooms, three covered picnic shelters, several picnic areas and parking lots (including one on 146 Avenue).

The Shaw's Meadow Day Use Area includes several picnic areas, a parking lot plus a washroom facility with an interpretive display. The site of Shaw's Woolen Mill is a designated Provincial Historic Site complete with a metal sculpture that commemorates the development of the wool industry in Alberta.

6.5.1.1 Management Intent

To provide access to the trail system and facilities for group and individual picnicking. Protection and interpretation of the Shaw's Woolen Mill site as a Provincial Historic Site will also be important.

6.5.1.2 Detailed Management Guidelines

- Development of a LRT station will require a review and possible redesign of the facilities.
- A redesigned zone may include a group day use area for picnicking.
- The zone will remain a major point of entry to the Park and a main source of Park information and orientation.

-
- Vegetation will be planted along Macleod Trail and the new LRT line to provide a noise and visual barrier.
 - All improvements or developments will be achieved with sensitivity for the natural landscape features of the area and recognize the importance of the wildlife travel corridor along Fish Creek.
 - All bridges across Fish Creek will provide for wildlife movement along the creek, and accommodate trail development.
 - The paved trail at Glennfield may be moved closer to the Creek if a redesign of the area occurs.
 - Vegetation may be managed to provide for the health of the riparian community, and for aesthetics.
 - The Glennfield roadway and parking lots need to be repaired.

Family at Glennfield

MEADOWS

Lake Divista

Glenfield / Shaw Facility Zone

Glenfield / Shaw Facility Zone

Shawnee Slopes

MACLEOD TRAIL
MANAGEMENT AREA

Midnapore

1:7500

6.6 EVERGREEN/WOODLANDS MANAGEMENT AREA MAP 8

The Evergreen/Woodlands Management Area is bordered by Macleod Trail and Bridge 11, to the east beyond Shaw's Meadow Day Use Area and by Bridge 10 west of the Bebo Facility Zone. The communities of Canyon Meadows and Woodlands border the area to the north and the communities of Shawnessy and Evergreen Estates border the area to the south.

The vegetation found within the area is representative of the Parkland Natural Region. The south side of the valley supports a mature spruce forest. The trail system in the area extends through the centre of the Park with connectors to adjacent subdivisions. Within the area, three zones have been identified for management.

6.6.1 Voitier's/Bebo Facility Zone

The Voitier's/Bebo Zone vehicle access routes are Elbow Drive and 24th Street. Pedestrian access is supported by several community trail connectors. The zone has several facilities including four washrooms, several picnic sites, and parking lots. The surrounding vegetation is mainly spruce forest with a significant riverine vegetation community along Fish Creek.

6.6.1.1 Management Intent

To provide Park access and picnicking opportunities.

6.6.1.2 Detailed Management Guidelines

- The Marshall Springs washroom and utility line may be removed when facilities are provided in the Midnapore Access Zone.
- Improvements will be limited to expanded washroom facilities at Voitiers and Bebo if demand warrants.
- The number of picnic sites may be reduced, if this type of use continues to decline.
- Tree planting programs will be permitted.
- The fireplaces at Marshall Springs or Bebo Grove will not be repaired or replaced.

6.6.2 Raven Rocks Preservation Zone

Raven Rocks at Sunset

The Raven Rocks Preservation Zone contains a unique sandstone cliff formation. The zone is located on the north side of the Fish Creek valley and extends from 17th Street to 24th Street. A lookout point provides a vista of the cliff and valley. Birds commonly nest on the inaccessible ledges or cliffs. The zone supports nesting sites for prairie and peregrine falcons.

6.6.2.1 Management Intent

To sustain natural processes with minimal human disturbance and protect falcon nesting sites.

6.6.2.2 Detailed Management Guidelines

- Human activity on or near the cliffs will be discouraged. The fencing at the top of the escarpment will be maintained.
- Tree planting may be considered to restore the riverine vegetation community.
- Raptor nesting activity will be regularly monitored at the cliff.
- Interpretation of the nesting sites will be done in a manner that minimizes harassment of nesting birds.

6.6.3 Fish Creek Valley Natural Environment Zone

The Fish Creek Valley Natural Environment Zone contains the majority of lands within the Evergreen/Woodlands Management Area. The zone is representative of the Parkland Natural Region. North-facing protected slopes support a heavily treed spruce forest. South-facing exposed slopes have sandstone cliffs and more rugged terrain. The vegetation along Fish Creek supports a significant wildlife travel corridor. A trail system extends through the zone.

6.6.3.1 Management Intent

To protect the Fish Creek valley and wildlife travel corridor along Fish Creek. Access will be provided through an extensive trail system.

6.6.3.2 Detailed Management Guidelines

- All wildfires will be actively suppressed. Controlled fires will not be permitted. Natural vegetation succession will be allowed to occur.
- Continuous vegetation cover along the banks of Fish Creek will be maintained.
- Beaver will be removed only if their activities threaten trails or facilities.
- Additional development will be limited to viewpoints and benches and the following trail changes:
 - * The paved trail to the Bebo Facility Zone needs to be extended to Bridge 5.
 - * The connector trail to Woodbine needs to be paved.
 - * A connector trail to the Evergreen subdivision will be permitted.
 - * A trail extending from Voitier's Flats Facility Zone to Bridge 7 needs to be paved.
 - * Some shale trails in Voitier's Facility Zone need to be removed.
 - * Several informal trails have been identified for closure and reclamation.

Shaw's Ranch circa 1900

**EVERGREEN / WOODLANDS
MANAGEMENT AREA**

7500

6.7 WOODBINE MANAGEMENT AREA MAP 9

The Woodbine Management Area is bordered by Bridge 3 to the east and 37th Street to the west. The community of Woodbine borders the area to the north and there are currently several acreage areas to the south.

Adjacent to the park, the area designated as Midnapore III, is scheduled for development into residential subdivisions by the year 2010. The main challenge in the Woodbine Management Area will be to manage the Park in the face of increased use and surrounding residential development. Three zones have been identified for management within the area.

6.7.1 Shannon Terrace Facility Zone

The Shannon Terrace Facility Zone is accessible from 130 Avenue south to Woodpath Road. The trail that enters the Park on the west boundary is part of the City of Calgary regional trail system. Within the zone there are several facilities including an environmental education centre, parking lots, a washroom, an amphitheatre, and a maintenance compound. A spruce forest representative of the Parkland Natural Region surrounds these facilities.

6.7.1.1 Management Intent

To support the programs of the Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre, to access the western portion of Fish Creek Provincial Park and the picnic sites nearby.

6.7.1.2 Detailed Management Guidelines

- The Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre will be the primary environmental education centre and become a centre of excellence for environmental programming and facilitation.
- Lawn areas around the Centre will be maintained to facilitate outdoor classroom activities.
- Paved trails will ensure barrier-free access and support intensive use by students visiting the Centre.
- The area will be managed as a important intersection between the City of Calgary regional trail system and the Park's trail system.
- The number of picnic sites may be reduced if this type of use declines.

-
- The west maintenance compound will be retained to support the Park.
 - The amphitheatre will be maintained.

6.7.2 The Barn Facility Zone

There are two barns situated in the Woodbine Management Area, the Mannix Barn and the Willans Barn. Currently, a concessionaire operates an equestrian operation from the Mannix Barn. The Willans Barn was part of the original ranching homestead and historical value. The Willans Barn is currently not being used.

6.7.2.1 Management Intent

To act as the base of operations for equestrian activity. The potential to use other buildings for expansion of environmental education program will be considered.

6.7.2.2 Detailed Management Guidelines

The Mannix Barn

- The equestrian concession will be moved from this barn by 1998.
- The equestrian connector trails surrounding the Mannix Barn will be closed and reclaimed.
- Opportunities to use this barn for environmental education will be explored.
- The barn will be removed if this is not feasible. The site would be reclaimed to form part of the West Fish Creek Natural Environment Zone.

The Willans Barn

- The equestrian concession will be relocated to the Willans Barn by 1998.
- Trails from the Willans Barn which link into the designated six km equestrian trail will be formalized with signs.
- If the equestrian concession is not successfully retendered, the Willans Barn site will be considered for use as part of the environmental education program.

- All other outbuildings on the Willans barn site will be removed with the exception of a log storage shed.
- Interpretation opportunities for the Willans barn site will be investigated.

Willans Barn

6.7.3 Midnapore Access Zone

The City of Calgary planning area south of the Park is currently designated as Midnapore III for planning purposes only. The Midnapore Access Zone will be redesignated when a subdivision name has been chosen.

The Midnapore Access Zone is scheduled for development as part of the residential development currently designated as Midnapore III. The zone is bordered by residential acreages with a shale trail leading into the Fish Creek valley. The zone contains the only route with easy access to the Park from the top of a steep escarpment. Future development of the zone may include washrooms, parking lots, and paved trails.

6.7.3.1 Management Intent

To provide access into the Park from the Midnapore III planning area.

6.7.3.2 Detailed Management Guidelines

- A trail through the Midnapore Access Zone will provide park access for the Midnapore III planning area and connect to subdivision trails.
- The exiting shale trail from 146 Avenue needs to be improved to regional trail standards.
- A City of Calgary regional trail on top of the south escarpment above Fish Creek Provincial Park will be considered.
- The exiting shale trail from 146 Avenue will be improved to regional trail standards.

-
- Washrooms near the Midnapore III planning area may be developed on top of the south escarpment
 - Picnicking sites will not be provided in the Midnapore III access zone.

6.7.4 West Fish Creek Valley Natural Environment Zone

The rest of the surrounding land base in the Woodland Management Area forms the West Fish Creek Valley Natural Environment Zone. Mature stands of spruce cover the majority of the area, with small areas of shrubs. The designated six km equestrian trail leading out from the Barn Facility Zone is located in the West Fish Creek Valley Natural Environment Zone. The Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre uses nearby trails for education and study. An informal viewpoint is located on top of the escarpment south of the Learning Centre. With residential development in the Midnapore III planning area, recreational use of the zone will increase dramatically.

6.7.4.1 Management Intent

To protect the Fish Creek valley and support the educational activities at the Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre. Existing equestrian trails will be maintained. Future management of the area will be heavily influenced by increased recreational activities from residential developments in the Midnapore III planning area.

6.7.4.2 Detailed Management Guidelines

- The six km designated dirt equestrian trail will be maintained and trail signs improved.
- The wildlife travel corridor along Fish Creek will be maintained particularly under any future 37th Street bridge development.
- Trails and study areas for environmental education will be maintained and monitored.
- A dirt trail to an informal viewpoint south of Fish Creek needs to be closed and reclaimed.
- Additional signs, appropriate viewpoints, and benches will be permitted on designated trails.
- Shale trails will connect to the Willans Barn site.
- A regional trail on the north side of Fish Creek between the Shannon Terrace Facility Zone and the Bebo Facility Zone needs to be paved.

Tsuu T'ina
Nation

Shannon Terrace
Facility Zone

Barn
Facility Zone

Midnapore 3

Wheat Fish Creek
Natural Environment Zone

Midnapore
Access Zone

WOODBINE MANAGEMENT AREA

1:7500

LAND DISPOSITIONS

Most of the Park's land dispositions are for utility easements.

7.1 EXISTING DISPOSITIONS

Existing dispositions provide easements for utility lines, storm and sanitary sewers, water mains, and gas pipelines. There are also three water extraction permits associated with Fish Creek.

- Management of existing dispositions will preserve aesthetics of the Park and minimize impact on natural resources.
- Vehicle access for maintenance purposes will be kept to a minimum.

7.2 FUTURE DISPOSITIONS

Management of future dispositions will focus on four areas of concern. First, routes through the Park will be located so as to minimize the impact on significant resources and facilities. Second, all construction methods will be sensitive to the Park surroundings. Third, rehabilitation requirements for any disturbed lands will be carefully reviewed. Finally, vehicle access for maintenance will be minimized.

- Future dispositions will be located to avoid recreation areas and sensitive landscape features within the Park.
- New utility lines will be underground if possible.
- Construction methods will be used to minimize disturbance on Park resources and visitors, with an emphasis on public safety.
- Reclamation will be undertaken to minimize erosion and to blend in with the surrounding vegetation. Native vegetation species will be used in reclamation, where practical.
- Maintenance of new dispositions will be sensitive to the aesthetics, natural resource values and recreational activities within the Park.
- Maintenance vehicle access by disposition holders will be kept to a minimum.

LAND EXPANSION

Fish Creek Provincial Park accommodates two million visitors each year. Predicted growth in visitation will place greater demands on the Park. One method of coping with increased use would be to expand the size of the Park.

Extension along the Fish Creek and Bow River valleys would increase the protection of the riparian vegetation and wildlife travel corridors within these valleys.

Expansion could involve partnerships with other levels of government or with private groups. Opportunities may arise for expansion through a variety of means including subdivision of surrounding lands, outright donations of land, and conservation easements. Lands so acquired would be incorporated as part of the park or managed by other partners to a common set of management objectives.

- The Natural Resources Service supports the City of Calgary's Fish Creek Growth Area Management Plan (GRAMP) that identifies expansion of park lands along the Bow River south of Highway 22X.
- Lands along the Bow River and Fish Creek would be valuable in protecting riverine habitat and maintaining a wildlife travel corridor.
- Expansion along the Creek or River would allow further extension of the regional trail system.
- Expansion will only be pursued as part of a larger, multi-partner effort. The collaboration of various partners may eventually provide a continuous green belt along the Bow River or Fish Creek.
- Future expansion may involve lands that are managed on a coordinated basis by municipalities, other partners or the province.

REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND COORDINATION

Fish Creek Provincial Park is surrounded by private property and its management is influenced by its neighbours' manage their land.

9.1 REGIONAL INTEGRATION

Regional integration refers to management efforts to work with surrounding landowners and government agencies. Good communication and cooperative efforts will be the key to successful regional integration. Contact will be maintained with other government agencies, the City of Calgary, Municipal Districts, the Tsuu T'ina Nation, private landowners, various community associations, and land development companies.

The intent of these affiliations will be to agree on compatible activities on adjacent lands to minimize negative impacts on the Park. Such integration will contribute to the fulfilment of the Park's objectives.

- Developers will be encouraged to set back new houses from the Fish Creek valley escarpment to reduce visual impacts within the Park.
- The City will be encouraged to require a natural green-space between new subdivisions and the Park.
- The Park will strive to maintain the integrity of the wildlife travel corridor along Fish Creek and the Bow River.
- The Park will recommend that any additions to the regional trail system in the Midnapore III Planning Area be located on top of the escarpment.
- A central, formalized trail will be established to connect into the Midnapore III Planning Area to permit future access to the Park from one location.
- A trailhead parking lot outside of the Park, will be supported for the Midnapore III Planning Area.
- Storm water and surface drainage into the Park will be managed to minimize erosion and flooding.
- Business opportunities oriented to serve park users will be encouraged near the Park boundary.

-
- The provision of playing fields (e.g. soccer pitches or baseball diamonds) and municipal parks will be encouraged near the Park boundary to provide for additional green space adjacent to the Park, while meeting the demand for sport-based recreation facilities.

9.2 COORDINATION

Coordination relates to the cooperative management undertaken with partners inside of the Park. The successful implementation of many Park management guidelines will be contingent upon cooperative management with the City of Calgary, government agencies, and other partners. The Park's urban location and Provincial Park designation makes coordinated management essential to meeting our vision statement and objectives. Good working relationships will be maintained with other partners that have a vested interest in the proper management of Fish Creek Provincial Park.

9.2.1 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Coordination of resource management in the Park will involve a number of agencies and will be a priority for the Park. Other branches of Alberta Environmental Protection, as well as Alberta Community Development, have resource management responsibilities in the Park.

9.2.2 Park Operations

The City of Calgary will be consulted regarding the operation of Fish Creek Provincial Park. Close working relationships will be maintained with Calgary Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services to address emergency responses within the Park.

Partnerships with business concessionaires that operate within the Park will also be important.

9.2.3 Environmental Education

Environmental education services will be coordinated with the local school boards and post secondary education institutions.

IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

All implementation will occur as budget allocations permit.

Implementation of the Fish Creek Provincial Park Management Plan by the Natural Resources Service will be the responsibility of the Ranger-In-Charge. Projects priorities will be reviewed annually. Park concessionaires will have a role to play in the overall implementation of the Management Plan. The public will be encouraged to take an active stewardship role in fulfilling the Park's vision statement and objectives.

The public will be asked to participate in an annual review of the projects completed within the Park. Public open house meetings will be held early in each calendar year to review the previous year's activities and to assist in developing project priorities for the next year.

A formal plan review will occur in ten years.

fish creek

APPENDIX I

NATURAL HISTORY THEMES FISH CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK

The Province of Alberta contains a variety of natural regions ranging from the Rocky Mountains in the west, grasslands in the south, and boreal forest in the north. One of the purposes of the parks system is to protect representative examples of each natural region.

Fish Creek Provincial Park is a significant resource that represents a variety of natural history themes within the Province. The following will outline the specific features of each natural region represented within Fish Creek Provincial Park.

GRASSLAND NATURAL REGION <i>Foothills Fescue Subregion</i>	
LEVEL 1 NATURAL HISTORY THEMES:	LEVEL 2 NATURAL HISTORY THEMES:
1. Valley/Ridge - Exposed Slope	(a) Eroded Bedrock (b) Till (c) Coarse-grained Glacial Lake Deposits
2. Valley/Ridge - Protected Slope	(a) Low Shrubbery (b) Tall Shrubbery (c) Woodland
3. Valley/Ridge - Springs	(a) Springs
4. Valley/Ridge - Floor/Stream	(a) Inactive Terrace (b) Riparian - Low Shrubbery (c) Riparian - Tall Shrubbery (d) Riparian - Woodland (e) Riparian - Active Channel (f) Riparian - Recently Inundated (g) Riparian - Abandoned Channel (h) Sinuous Stream (i) Meandering Stream (j) Turbid Stream (k) +/- Clear Stream (l) Intermittent Stream (m) Permanent Stream

PARKLAND NATURAL REGION
Foothills Parkland Sub-Region

LEVEL 1

NATURAL HISTORY THEMES:

LEVEL 2

NATURAL HISTORY THEMES:

1. Valley/Ridge
- Exposed Slope	(a) Eroded Bedrock
(b) Till
(c) Coarse-grained Glacial Lake Deposits
2. Valley/Ridge
- Protected Slope	(a) Low Shrubbery
(b) Tall Shrubbery
(c) Woodland
3. Valley/Ridge
- Springs	(a) Springs
4. Valley/Ridge
- Floor/Strea	(a) Riparian - Low Shrubbery
(b) Riparian - Tall Shrubbery
(c) Riparian - Woodland
(d) Riparian - Active Channel
(e) Riparian - Recently Inundated
(f) Riparian - Abandoned Channel
(g) +/- Clear Stream
(h) Small Stream

Further details on Natural History Themes are outlined in *Natural Regions & Natural History Themes: Targets for Alberta*, Peter Achuff for Alberta Parks Services, 1993.

IMPLEMENTATION TASKS

Several projects have been identified in the management plan for implementation in the Park. The majority of these projects, in keeping with public feedback, involve minor improvements and maintenance of existing facilities in Fish Creek Provincial Park. Each project has been summarized into one of five areas: resource management, communication and information, security services, park development and operation, and trail management.

All implementation will occur as budget allocations permit.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Vegetation

- Native prairie will be monitored for the invasion of other plants.
- Assessment of the tree canopy will be done in facility zones and along the riparian vegetation areas within the Park.
- Fire breaks will be maintained around the heron colony and along selected boundaries.
- The Fire Management Plan will be reviewed, updated and implemented.
- Opportunities for prescribed burns will be investigated.

Water

- Water levels and water quality will continue to be monitored in Fish Creek.
- A water management plan will be produced by the Natural Resources Service and the City of Calgary.
- Impacts on stream banks from human activities will be monitored and vegetation may be used to protect banks.
- Bridge abutments will be protected and repaired as necessary.

Wildlife

- Wildlife fencing will be installed as part of along the 37th Street thoroughfare improvement in conjunction with the City of Calgary.

-
- Feral (wild) domestic animals will be removed.
 - Beaver activity will be monitored annually and controlled as necessary.
 - Trees may be wired for protection from beavers.
 - Raptor populations will be assessed annually in conjunction with the Richardson's Ground Squirrel management program.
 - The heron colony will be maintained as a restricted access area through signs and fencing.
 - The Great Blue Herons' nesting activity will be monitored each spring.
 - Raven Rocks will be monitored for nesting raptors each spring.

Communication and Public Information

- A program aimed at improving public understanding of the need for pets to be leashed in the Park will be implemented.
- A volunteer strategy will be developed.
- A community-based volunteer directory will be developed.
- A shared trail program (trail etiquette) will be defined and implemented.
- Directional signs will be improved throughout the Park.
- Additional interpretive and educational signs will be developed.
- Environmental education will be expanded at the Bow Valley Ranch Visitor Centre.
- Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre will become a Centre of Excellence for environmental education in Alberta.

Security Services

- A review and update of existing park regulations will be requested.
- Park Rangers will continue to work with the Calgary Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services and the Natural Resource Service with respect to emergency or enforcement situations.
- The Park Watch program will continue to be supported.

PARK DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATIONS

Operations

- A fee for use of Sikome Lake during the swimming season will be investigated.
- Fees for environmental education materials and use of Sikome Lake will be investigated.
- A group use or reservation fee will be investigated for limited access areas.
- Commercial filming guidelines will be developed.
- The Park will work with the City of Calgary and gravel pit operators to minimize industrial traffic on Bow Bottom Trail.

Development

- Expand washroom facilities as demand warrants.
- Remove selected picnic sites in facility zones where demand is declining.
- Benches or viewpoints will be considered along the trail system.
- The banks of Fish Creek will be stabilised where facilities require protection.

Deer Run

- existing roads and parking lots need to be repaved.
- existing 2.4 m pathways need to be repaved and widened.
- existing washroom roofs need to be replaced with metal and the interiors of buildings upgraded.

Sundance

- investigate construction of a new bridge for the trail system near Hull's Wood.
- old picnic sites at Hull's Wood need to be reclaimed.

Sikome

- new power and relay lines to water well sites need to be installed.
- existing trail near the lake needs to be removed and a new trail built along the outside perimeter of the facility.

-
- irrigation system needs to be updated.
 - new site furnishings including benches and trash cans need to be installed.
 - pavement on parking lots needs to be repaired.
 - sand for beach area needs to be replaced.
 - landscaped areas need to be levelled and reseeded
 - buildings need to be reroofed and interiors upgraded
 - existing wooden playgrounds need to be replaced
 - equipment in various buildings needs to be upgraded or repaired

Parkland

- The Bow Valley Rancho House and the Foreman's House will be restored by the private sector through a lease agreement.
- The log structure behind the Rancho will be disassembled log by log and stored.
- display area in the Visitor Centre needs to be renovated.
- shores need to be hardened protect bridge abutments.
- stream bank erosion to be monitored.

Macleod Trail

- Glennfield/Shaws area will be assessed for redesign when plans for the LRT station and Shawnessy Centre are determined.
- group use areas need to be redesigned to make them more effective
- 146 Street parking lot needs to be removed.
- disturbed sites need to be removed.

Evergreen/Woodlands

- The fencing at the top of the Raven Rocks escarpment will be maintained.
- The Marshall Springs washroom and utility lines will need to be removed when a new washroom is available in the Midnapore III Access Zone.

Woodbine

- Environmental education sites will be formalized along the trails near the Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre.
- A new washroom facility will be provided for the future access zone in Midnapore III. Marshall Springs washroom will then be removed.

Willans Barn

- The Willans Barn will house the horse concession or, failing that, be considered for use as part of the environmental education program.
- All out buildings associated with the Willans Rancho will be removed, except for the log storage shed, which will be left as is for as long as possible.

Mannix Barn

- The Mannix Barn will be assessed for use as part of the Environmental Education program.
- If the Mannix Barn is found to be unsuitable for this type of use, it will be torn down and barn area and pastures will be reclaimed.

TRAIL MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

- Dirt trails will be assessed for concerns about user conflicts, environmental disturbance and public safety.
- Some dirt trails will be formalized, and others will be reclaimed as identified in each management area.
- The equestrian loop trail will be more clearly signed.
- Access trails for emergency vehicles will be provided.
- Connectors to the regional trail system will be developed or formalized.
- New connections or trail links, that have been identified, will be supported.
- Completion of a paved arterial trail through the Park will be supported.

Deer Run

- paved trails will need to be upgraded when required

East Bow River

- trail along Bow River needs to be paved to meet regional trail standards
- a trail from Sikome Lake to Hulls Wood needs to be formalized
- a trail across Bow Bottom Trail at Hulls Wood needs to be removed.
- new trail from a paved trail at Sundance to trails at the Bow Valley Ranch (paved) is needed.
- new trail at Sundance to connect into trails at Sikome Lake is needed.
- a new pedestrian bridge across Fish Creek at Bow Bottom Trail to connect with regional trails will be investigated.

Sundance

- a paved regional trail from Highway 22X bridge along Bow River to connect to new subdivision is required.

Parkland

- a shale trail at Parkland hill needs to be repaired where it is washing out
- pave existing shale trail from Parkland to Ranch area
- a paved trail behind Visitor Centre needs to be removed.
- new paved trail along Bow Bottom Trail, to 146 Avenue from Bow Valley Ranch is needed.
- a dirt trail needs to be upgraded to a shale connector.
- stairway to Acadia needs to be removed.

Macleod Trail

- a trail from the boundary to the Glennfield Area needs to be moved.
- connections to the LRT station and Shawnessy need to be built.
- unused shale trails at Glennfield need to be removed.

Evergreen/Woodlands

- a trail from Bebo Facility Area to Bridge 5 needs to be paved.
- trail to Woodbine Area needs to be paved.
- when Midnapore III is developed, a trail from 146 Avenue to the regional trail at Bridge 5 needs to be upgraded.
- the trail connection to the Evergreen subdivision needs to be repaired.
- shale trails at Voitier's Flats Day Use Area need to be removed.
- trails from Voitier's Flats to Bridge 7 need to be paved.

Woodbine

- trail from 146 Avenue to Woodbine area needs to be upgraded to regional trail standards
- connecting shale trails at Willans Barn area need to be developed.
- trail to lookout point south of the Shannon Terrace Facility Zone needs to be eliminated.
- existing equestrian trail needs to be clearly signed.

APPENDIX III

SUPPORT MATERIALS

FISH CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

<i>Terms of Reference</i>	Fish Creek Management Plan Team	1995
<i>Public Involvement Strategy</i>	Fish Creek Management Plan Team	1995
<i>Report: Phase One, Issue Identification</i>	Fish Creek Management Plan Team	1995
<i>Report: Phase One, Public Involvement Process</i>	Fish Creek Management Plan Team	1995
<i>Report: Phase Two, Issue Resolution and Consensus Building</i>	Fish Creek Management Plan Team	1996
<i>Report: Phase Two, Public Involvement Process</i>	Fish Creek Management Plan Team	1996
<i>Phase Two Workshop Series, Management Plan Workbook</i>	Fish Creek Management Plan Team	1996
<i>Report: Phase Three, Public Involvement Process</i>	Fish Creek Management Plan Team	1997
<i>Report: Phase Three, Review of the Draft Plan</i>	Fish Creek Management Plan Team	1997
<i>Report: Phase Four, Preparation of the Approved Plan</i>	Fish Creek Management Plan Team	1997
<i>Calgary Urban Park Master Plan: A Plan for the Future of our River Valley Parks</i>	Citizens Advisory Committee for the City of Calgary	1994
<i>City of Calgary Transportation Plan</i>	Lonny Cabinet	1995

<i>Fish Creek Provincial Park: A Guide to Canada's Largest Urban Park</i>	Anna Robertson	1991
<i>Fish Creek Provincial Park Fire Management Plan</i>	M.H. Depper	1989
<i>Fish Creek Provincial Park Ground Squirrel Management Program</i>	Gregory M. Wagner & Dan Smith	1986
<i>Fish Creek Provincial Park Resource Management Plan</i>	Derry Armstrong Mike Glossop Steve Lamden	1984
<i>Fish Creek Provincial Park: General Plan</i>	Alberta Recreation, Parks And Wildlife	1976
<i>Fish Creek Growth Area Management Plan</i>	City of Calgary	1996
<i>Fish Creek Provincial Park: Environmental Review</i>	Ian Waugh	1996
<i>Group Final Recommendations Midnapore III Area Structure Plan</i>	City of Calgary	1996
<i>Weed Control Plan: Fish Creek Provincial Park</i>	Rob Hummel	1994

Bibliothèque nationale du Canada

3 3286 51349 6071