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David Powell Landscape Architect
#202, 2222 Albert Street, Regina SK S4P 2V2
(306) 569-1599

INTRODUCTION

Wakamow Valley Authority is required to appoint an “architect planner” to carry out a periodic review of its development plan under the terms of The Wakamow Valley Authority Act. David Powell Landscape Architect (DPLA) has been commissioned to help Wakamow in reviewing the 1979 Conceptual Master Plan. Direction for this undertaking has been provided primarily by Wakamow staff, with input from both the Wakamow Valley Board and Advisory Committee members.

Collectively, a direction for this review was determined through discussion, and confirmed by the board.. The objectives of the review are to:

- satisfy the statutory Master Plan review requirements
- examine the relevance of master plan principles to the current situation
- review current development versus the master plan
- identify other development issues
- evaluate achievement in implementing recommendations of the latest review
- examine public perception and use based on survey results
- suggest directions for the next seven years
- discuss the need for a revised master plan

Related planning work was required to complement the review:

- provide a conceptual plan for a trail linkage with options for river crossings
- discuss phasing of pathway and bridge implementation

The report is intended primarily for use by the Wakamow Valley Board, administration, and participating partners. The findings and recommendations presented are intended to allow effective consideration and discussion by these groups.

To document the results of the review, this report has four sections, including this introduction. Review of the original master plan direction is included in a section titled *Upstream: Looking Back*. Evaluation of Wakamow performance and current status is covered in *Midstream: Wakamow Now*. Direction for the future, including master plan revision needs and the trail linkage concept are presented in *Downstream: Looking Ahead*. A summary insert has been created for public use, to facilitate sharing information. A map showing the development units, management and advisory zones, plus land tenure is included. As well, the options for a trail linkage are presented on a fold-out map that is suitable for public circulation.

Previous master plan reviews were carried out in 1986, 1991, and 2000. In addition, a thorough Master Plan was completed for River Park in 1995. The first two master plan reviews can be characterized as retrospective, looking back to the original 1979 plan. Both provided relatively technical detail, including legislative, cost and physical

planning aspects. The 2000 review was by contrast a forward-looking document, providing a set of “success statements” related to a set of priorities developed by a Wakamow committee. All three reviews involved substantial public input with formal processes. The current review has not had the benefit of input from a dedicated committee, nor did the mandate include a public consultation process, although results of a recent telephone survey were available.

Wakamow has made great progress in achieving many of the aims of the original master plan. The over-riding theme identified at that time was rejuvenation. Previous reviews have each had a particular focus. The 1986 review emphasized the organization of Wakamow. The 1991 review’s focus was sustainability. The 2000 review presented recommendations positively, based on a theme of linkages. This emphasis continues to be valid.

Therefore the first recommendation of this report is to connect this viewpoint to the original theme:

A. Wakamow will continue to rejuvenate the Moose Jaw River Valley by creating and strengthening linkages between people, participants and places.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations from all sections of this review are listed here in the order of their appearance. Details of the factors and rationale supporting the recommendations are found in the text of the main sections of this review document. The recommendations are listed with letters rather than with numbers to avoid the implication of priority that a low number might suggest. Referring to a letter will allow the reader to find the recommendation in the text. All recommendations are also printed in bold type in the body of the document.

A. Wakamow will continue to rejuvenate the Moose Jaw River Valley by creating and strengthening linkages between people, participants and places.

B. Wakamow will re-evaluate the original master plan concerns and reconfirm or modify where appropriate, through strategic planning exercises and/or in a revised or renewed master plan.

C. Wakamow will continue to encourage participation of volunteer supporters, completing a volunteer development program to ensure reward and recruitment of volunteer talent.

D. Rehabilitation of many misused areas in the valley is less critical than in the past. Wakamow will continue rehabilitation primarily through vegetation management, including biological controls.

E. Wakamow will place an emphasis on linkages between recreational and leisure opportunities, and the river valley setting.

F. Wakamow will identify and use practical opportunities to improve awareness of cultural resources in the valley.

G. Strategic planning will be undertaken to evaluate the most appropriate use(s) for the Wild Animal Park lands. The results will be integrated into any revised Wakamow Master Plan.

H. Updating of policy direction will include a re-evaluation of a vehicular parkway as part of Wakamow's development in light of changing recreational needs and opportunities.

I. Wakamow will retain a low priority for development plans for Churchill Park and the west side of "the Turn" (Kingsway). However, simple recreation uses such as low intensity trail use as originally proposed can be implemented.

J. Resource protection is otherwise the most important element at "the Turn".

K. Wakamow will undertake planning to determine appropriate uses for the valley bottom-lands area that would be consistent with a trail linkage route.

L. Wakamow will continue to follow master plan prescriptions for low intensity, small scale development components in areas with existing development.

M. The Wakamow Board will review the status of all Authority-wide plans and strategies that are under development by committees and sub-committees to establish reasonable schedules for completion, or to re-assign priorities.

N. Resource management activities focusing on naturalization, native plants and biological controls will continue. An emphasis on consistent documentation of resource values will occur particularly as data gaps are filled.

O. Wakamow and the City of Moose Jaw will develop management agreements for new public land areas in the valley, and conclude necessary updates of existing

agreements, so that land management can be carried out effectively.

P. Wakamow will continue to work with the local Trans-Canada Trail group to provide trail opportunities within the valley, with a focus on routes, signage and grant submissions.

Q. Wakamow will examine the potential of acquisition of adjacent railway lands in case these become available, as part of strategic planning efforts.

R. Wakamow will re-examine its relationship with private lands, including in-holdings, possibility of release or exchange of lands for private or public uses, and related legislative status. This examination could be included in a master plan revision or related strategic planning effort. Appropriate development planning strategies for areas around private in-holdings will be documented.

S. Wakamow will determine what type of urban development control issues are most important, consider advantages of change, and discuss any modifications to current practice with the City of Moose Jaw using existing committee channels.

T. Wakamow will work with the City of Moose Jaw to determine further potential of recreational and public walkway linkages and carry out integration where practical. The city should continue cross-country ski trail routing and maintenance within Wakamow.

U. Wakamow will investigate possibilities for a new "home" for the Authority's office. Evaluation will cover the need for public contact and profile, program outreach, lifespan of current facility, alternative locations, space needs, and budget implications. Options should be given a cost-benefit priority.

V. Wakamow will continue to periodically evaluate public perception of its status, facilities and programs through surveys directed at Moose Jaw residents. Evaluations should be supplemented by similar data collected from users on site.

W. Wakamow will implement a valley-bottom trail and bridge linkage extending from the downstream developed parts of Wakamow to Connor Park.

X. Wakamow will coordinate with the City of Moose Jaw to plan, implement and promote physical pathway linkages with the city, and viewpoints at appropriate locations.

Y. Wakamow will formulate and act on ways to evolve to a unified new image for

the Authority, without detracting from current support, and as part of an overall marketing plan.

Z. Wakamow will undertake a marketing evaluation to better define current users and potential markets for the experiences and settings that Wakamow offers. The evaluation will address satisfaction levels of current users by supplementing data from existing surveys.

AA. Wakamow will prepare long term capital and maintenance plans to support tailored funding requests and lobbying. Effort to solicit non-governmental support will also continue.

BB. Wakamow will increase conservation and natural regeneration activities.

CC. The Authority will continue efforts to diversify recreation options by increasing winter opportunities, and use of the river, using simple facility enhancements as well as programming.

DD. Wakamow will de-emphasize new development for picnicking and playgrounds. Where playgrounds must be replaced, carefully evaluate demand.

EE. Wakamow will investigate ways to gain, improve and maintain current river data, base mapping and other resource information, including grants in kind from agencies providing such information.

FF. A revised or renewed master plan will be prepared, to cover the same range of topics as the original master plan, and in particular will address the following:

Reflect the current context

- Changed physical setting, river regime, flood control requirements
- Social setting
- An evolved, functional Wakamow Valley Authority organization
- Relationship with partnering jurisdictions;

Review development approach to date; make recommendations

- Evaluate current level of development for quality and quantity
- Re-assess direction for currently developed segments;

Determine appropriate use for particular land segments

- Bottom-lands formerly identified for a golf course
- Former Wild Animal Park;

Evaluate benefits/drawbacks to enacting un-proclaimed parts of *The Wakamow Valley Authority Act*;

Examine land use issues;

- Likelihood of change to agricultural, industrial or transportation uses, increased residential use
- Relationship of Wakamow to private land, including in-holdings
- Acceptability, legality and practicality of potential release of Wakamow land for residential or other uses
- Need to modify boundaries of Development and/or Advisory Areas;

Review previous master plan objectives and priorities, recommendations and policies;

Evaluate level of concern with natural river processes, review flooding and slumping data;

Review and evaluate conservation efforts to date;

Examine potential for enhancing cultural elements, both historical and pre-historical;

Summarize a proposed new or renewed development strategy;

Suggest strategies for an increased profile for Wakamow .

GG. A revised or renewed Wakamow conceptual master plan will include a public consultation process.

HH. The process to complete a revised Wakamow master plan will involve all participating jurisdictions.

II. Recommended phasing for a trail connection from Wellesley Park to Connor Park is in this order:

- Assiniboine footbridge,
- Cree Bridge upgrade and parking,
- define a route through Churchill Park between these bridges,
- new Bottom-lands bridge and pathway access from east, with a defined connection to 4th Ave,
- viewpoint, trailhead and parking at 4th Ave,
- routes from east and west to Wills bridge and upgrade of Wills bridge,

Upgrades of the route from the 7th Ave bridge to Connor Park, and upgrading of parking at the bridge, could occur in sections anytime.

Loop routes could be defined in Churchill Park or the Bottom-lands areas at any time after phase-in of the relevant bridge crossings.

JJ. Wakamow will develop a budget, funding and design schedule for a valley multi-purpose pathway linkage from Wellesley Park to Connor Park, based on the recommended phasing and incorporating recent bridge funding commitments.

UPSTREAM: LOOKING BACK

A REVIEW OF MASTER PLAN ELEMENTS FOR RELEVANCE



Background

The 1979 Conceptual Master Plan aimed to set forth guidelines and long range concepts to enhance recreation potential while minimizing negative flood effects. It identified six original concerns

- minimize flood damage by encouraging low value uses in the flood plain;
- develop year-round, family oriented outdoor recreation
- integrate the Wild Animal Park with other valley facilities
- ensure recognition and enhancement of heritage resources
- maintain a significant amount of natural habitat; and
- provide for active volunteer participation.

The 1979 Conceptual Master Plan presents direction for the development of specific parts of the valley within the Wakamow Development zone. The Conceptual Master Plan also provides detailed policy direction for a range of issues.

The original concerns, development direction and policy direction were all reviewed for current relevance. The result is subjective, based on an evaluation of several factors: the intent of the original recommendation, changes in direction or circumstances over the years, progress (or lack thereof) in implementation, and relative urgency. Summaries of the evaluation of relevance of development direction for specific areas, and of policy direction are each presented in an appendix.

What is meant by relevance in this context? Relevance of a particular element means that it is appropriate to the proposed location and surroundings, and to the time at which it would occur. It is more awkward to evaluate relevance of a physical element that's already built or provided. Already developed elements are, obviously, less relevant in terms of priority for implementation, but because of maintenance needs, must be evaluated.

The quality of an existing element (how well it was implemented) is considered as part of the development check-list presented later in this document.

Similarly, relevance of a policy has to do with its appropriateness to the circumstances and the importance of the issue or activity addressed. A policy successfully in

place, which addresses a matter of ongoing concern, would of course be relevant.

Analysis

Generally, the original six concerns are still relevant. Without doubt, progress has been made in addressing these issues. Over thirty years, public agency approaches and general public interest towards environmental issues and outdoor recreation have also changed. The Wild Animal Park is no longer operating in its original tourism-oriented role, and has no facilities, even though it remains as public land. Flood control in the valley has been largely successful, and natural regeneration has in many places reduced the profile of runoff management. Higher value uses have been reduced in flood prone areas as numerous residences in the valley have been removed, although this risk remains and the process is not complete.

Wakamow has been successful in building a dedicated volunteer group, without whose assistance the organization would not function well. Volunteers have allowed Wakamow to effectively utilize relatively limited resources to preserve, develop and maintain valley recreational opportunities and resources.

As would be expected, the detailed evaluation of all the components of the 1979 Conceptual Master Plan leads to the conclusion that some elements are now more relevant, and some are less relevant than thirty years ago.

The original theme for the development concept is rejuvenation. Physical rejuvenation has occurred - many site-specific issues have been dealt with, where reclamation or modification of past practices were required. Other senses of rejuvenation, in relation to recreation activities in a pleasing setting, are just as current today. Rejuvenation has guided the thought behind development and the implementation of plans. Examples are the reconstruction of a dance hall into the Connor Park shelter, the re-use of the Sportsman's Centre as Wakamow offices, and the retention of iron frame bridges. Many un-developed areas have become naturalized and stabilized, and industrial effects have lessened. On the other hand, this theme remains relevant given that natural forces and processes as well as urban demands continue to precipitate situations requiring renewal.

Detailed points of the development concept include one that is less relevant than in the past: rehabilitation of mis-used areas has occurred in most of the critical locations. Two points are considered more relevant today. There is still a strong need to increase the profile of the link between recreational opportunities and the setting in the river valley. There is also a strong need to improve awareness of historical and cultural connections.

The 1979 Conceptual Master Plan presents direction for the development of specific parts of the valley within the Wakamow Management Area. Changes due to factors outside Wakamow control, other development, to policy and to land tenure have made some of these less practical or outmoded. For example, the Wild Animal Park has ceased operation, although the city of Moose Jaw has control over the land and has granted a conservation easement to Wakamow. Therefore the previous assumption of high intensity recreation for this area may not be practical. Likewise, much of the area identified as a potential golf course has come under Wakamow control. However a golf course in the valley at the eastern end of the city has been successfully meeting local demand for a number of years now, raising into question the viability of a small golf course at this location. Similarly, a vehicular parkway may be a less appropriate component now, given changing recreational behaviour, cost of roadways and bridges, and current expectations for areas with limits on vehicle access. These are examples of elements that may best be dealt with in through further planning efforts, such as a revised or renewed master plan, or one of the periodic strategic planning exercises. Wakamow has found such planning exercises successful in focusing on a particular set of related issues. Generally, the overall development direction for other Wakamow areas is still appropriate.

The Conceptual Master Plan also provides policy direction for a range of issues. The policy framework is comprehensive, and is collectively relevant. Lack of resources and land control make some specific policy recommendations less practical to put into effect. For example, a vehicular parkway will have less importance than trail circulation, given the removal of one bridge and loss of vehicle capacity on another. Limited resources and the lack of site-specific features have made it difficult to implement historical and archeological interpretation. However, seizing any practical opportunity to deliver these messages will increase public interest.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The basic concerns that Wakamow Valley Authority needs to address are still generally valid. Some adjustments may be appropriate. (Note that recommendation A is found in the Introduction section.)

B. Wakamow will re-evaluate the original master plan concerns and reconfirm or modify where appropriate, through strategic planning exercises and/or in a revised or renewed master plan.

C. Wakamow will continue to encourage participation of volunteer supporters, completing a volunteer development program to ensure reward and recruitment of volunteer talent.

Most development concept directions from the Conceptual Master Plan are still appropriate. Some are less relevant due to success. Some are more relevant due to increased pressure or lack of progress.

D. Rehabilitation of many misused areas in the valley is less critical than in the past. Wakamow will continue rehabilitation primarily through vegetation management including biological controls.

E. Wakamow will place an emphasis on linkages between recreational and leisure opportunities and the river valley setting.

F. Wakamow will identify and use practical opportunities to improve awareness of cultural resources in the valley.

The overall direction for development identified in the 1979 Conceptual Master Plan is still appropriate, with the notable exception of assumptions about the Wild Animal Park and the former agricultural bottom-lands identified for a golf course. A vehicular parkway may be a less appropriate component.

G. Strategic planning will be undertaken to evaluate the most appropriate use(s) for the Wild Animal Park lands. The results will be integrated into any revised Wakamow master plan.

H. Updating of policy direction will include a re-evaluation of a vehicular parkway as part of Wakamow's development in light of changing recreational needs and opportunities.

MIDSTREAM: WAKAMOW NOW



CURRENT DEVELOPMENT VERSUS MASTER PLAN

Background

The 1979 Conceptual Master Plan is organized around the valley's traditional park designations, which are in turn based on historic uses. Each of the nine areas, either parks or adjacent/intervening areas, was given a land use management policy. Potential uses or new features were identified, in keeping with the land use approach. Over time, the nine areas were to be linked with the Wild Animal Park to form a continuous park system under cohesive management.

The accompanying map shows the current development units, as well as the land tenure. Area names reflect current usage. Most of the land within Wakamow's Management Area is now publicly owned.

The original land use concept continues to form the core of Wakamow's approach to the valley resources and their management. Given the length of time since the Conceptual Master Plan was introduced, a comparison of current development with the original direction is useful, and is shown in the following chart.

<u>Area name</u>	<u>Policy</u>	<u>Potential use/feature</u>	<u>Current use/feature</u>
Plaxton's Lake	High Intensity Recreation	Boardwalk	✓
		Parking lots and Parkway	✓
		Landscaping	✓
		Skating	✓
		Park Building, Washrooms	✓Sportsman's Centre
		Boat Launch	X
		Link to Crescent Park & Train Station	X
		Ecological zone	✓
		Visual Buffering	✓

River Park	High Intensity Recreation	Picnic area Swimming Pond Washrooms Concessions Canoeing Parking Lot & Parkway Pedestrian Bridge Ski Run, Toboggan Slide Viewing platform Skating Oval Campground removal	✓Three areas, six shelters X ✓Permanent and portable ✓ ✓Rentals, boat launch ✓Two lots X X X ✓ X Campground still operates successfully
Wellesley Park	Low Intensity Recreation	Trails Picnic area & Shelter Arboretum Parking Lot & Parkway	✓ ✓ X Bird feeding area ✓
Churchill Park	High Intensity Recreation	Campground Playing fields Change rooms Trail System Parking Lot & Parkway	X A mix of former and X current residential uses X X Informal trails X No vehicle bridges
Valley Bottom-lands	High Intensity Recreation	Golf Course Trail System	XLow intensity agriculture X Informal and TC Trails Natural areas Re-vegetation
The Turn: Kingsway Park & Queensway Park	Environmental Preservation	Trails Interpretive Facility Bridge on dam Landscaping Parking Marsh Preserve Picnic area (east side)	✓TC Trail to Connor Park X X X Vegetation management ✓East side (Queensway) X No formal preservation X Proposed memorial garden
Valleyview Ecological Preserve	Environmental Preservation	Nature Trails & Boardwalk Parking Interpretation	✓Includes TC Trail ✓ ✓
Connor Park & Wild Animal Park	High Intensity Recreation	Picnic area & Pavilion Parking Lot Canoe Launch Group use Pedestrian Bridge Zoo Outdoor enclosures & range	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ X X No zoo activities X Semi-natural areas and re-vegetation

Analysis

As can be seen, many of the development proposals from the 1979 Conceptual Master Plan have been accomplished as noted by checkmarks (✓). With a few exceptions, such as technically or climatically challenging ideas like a swimming pond or ski slopes, much of the area at the downstream end of Wakamow's Management Area has been developed in keeping with the plan. Quality of development is very good. Guidelines for development in flood zones are being followed. There is a reasonable level of uniformity in construction details.

A fair number of conceptual development potentials have not been realized, as indicated by an ✗. Several areas stand out.

Churchill Park makes an excellent location for a relocated and upgraded campground, since it is served by urban infrastructure and has mature trees. However, scattered residential use remains in this area, making conversion to intense recreational use impractical for at least the near future. A Churchill Park campground can continue to be a long-term goal. Priority for this relocated use is considered low. Other recreational uses in Churchill park that are compatible with current residential uses can be considered and implemented.

The valley bottom-lands area has potential for a range of uses, and most of the area identified for a golf course is now in Wakamow control. The market for a small golf course appears to be limited. Road access is now very awkward with no traffic bridge available. This would increase development costs. Other appropriate recreational uses for this area should be examined, perhaps as part of a master plan revision.

The west side of "the Turn" or Kingsway Park retains potential for an interpretive facility, but the expense of such a facility at an appropriate location continues to make this a low priority. Resource protection is the most important activity at this location.

The Wild Animal Park ceased operation in 1995; its former use and role as a tourist destination is not likely to be reinstated. Development recommendations for the Wild Animal Park lands were not included in the original master plan. In cooperation with the City of Moose Jaw, the owner, planning discussions and studies should be undertaken to determine potential uses for this area, and whether it should be under more direct Wakamow jurisdiction. The Wild Animal Park includes a relatively new traffic bridge. This could be used to create a linkage with Connor Park and to create looped trail (or road) experiences for visitors.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Development to date has been positive, and appears to be meeting public expectations. Within the higher intensity, older developed areas development has varied from the original concept for reasons of practicality, aesthetics or cost.

Avoiding partial development of areas where the land base has not been fully accumulated is a reasonable approach, and is consistent with previous master planning recommendations.

Most incomplete components of the master plan development have been deferred for reasons of practicality, scheduling, cost, public safety, or decisions by other jurisdictions. In some cases these reflect changes in public demand.

I. Wakamow will retain a low priority for development plans for Churchill Park and the west side of "the Turn" (Kingsway). However, simple recreation uses such as low intensity trail use as originally proposed can be implemented.

J. Resource protection is otherwise the most important element at "the Turn".

K. Wakamow will undertake planning to determine appropriate uses for the valley bottom-lands area that would be consistent with a trail linkage route.

L. Wakamow will continue to follow master plan prescriptions for low intensity, small scale development components in areas with existing development.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN IMPLEMENTING 2000 REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS

Background

The previous master plan review was completed in 2000. A set of priorities were established by the committee. These were supplemented by a series of success statements related to the priorities. In addition, some specific directions were presented for Wakamow's development program.

The 2000 priorities and supporting success statements can be placed in four general categories: securing support, policy, delivery to the public, and resource management. Discussion of factors related to each category is provided. New issues are identified. An evaluation of the degree of implementation is provided for each priority and related success statements. Evaluations are based on site observation, reference to the most recent public survey, and discussion with the board and staff, and are therefore relatively subjective. Components mentioned in the 2000 review's success statements are identified in *italics*. Recommendations are provided.

Analysis

Securing support

Wakamow continues to use a variety of methods to support its activities.

Efforts for fund-raising and soliciting private donors have been modest and the results varied. Wakamow is successful in gaining in-kind support from local service clubs. A *fund-raising plan identifying required human as well as financial resources* has been initiated at the committee level. Wakamow continues to *pursue relevant grants or programs from government or other sources to supplement project capabilities* on a project-by-project basis, and maintains strong long-term relationships with local service clubs.

Government funding has not significantly increased in recent years. The provincial government provides an annual base level of support, as well as a supplementary amount that usually increases annually. Similarly, the other participating jurisdictions provide statutory funding contributions. However, the total figure does not keep pace with increasing costs. Related *lobbying of participating partners* continues. The usual periodic review of the statutory funding levels is currently overdue. Wakamow *continues its participation in ASUPCA* to add its voice with other urban park authorities.

Marketing and promotion is also an ongoing activity. A *multi-faceted marketing* strategy is being completed, and committee work continues. As a related activity, a *volunteer management program* is being developed as part of a strategic planning exercise. These projects are incomplete.

Policy

Mandate review is underway. A sub-committee is looking at the advantages of *which (if any) un-proclaimed section of the Wakamow Valley Authority Act should be proclaimed*. No action is proposed.

Sustainable long range planning occurs. Wakamow continues to work with its participating partners *to help ensure that Wakamow's objectives are reflected and respected in policies, legislation and works adopted* by these jurisdictions. Ad-hoc committee meetings with the city are called as issues arise, and have recently been infrequent. Action toward a *long range infrastructure management plan* has been initiated by priority identification in one of the Wakamow Boards's sub-committees. *Determination of roles, priorities and avenues of communication in cooperation with operating partners* has yet to be established.

Delivery to the public

Increased attention to *maintenance of the most highly development areas* has occurred. Although expenditures have increased, there is room for some efficiencies in maintenance without affecting public satisfaction. *Varied maintenance levels* are being continued *in other areas*.

Efforts have been made to *explore new or traditional winter uses*, primarily by clearing river areas for free skating. These efforts have been experimental and not fully successful. The established network of cross country trails is maintained by City of Moose Jaw staff; although routes vary from year to year this is an ongoing program. A *winter special event* called Winter Festival was initiated in 2009 and will continue in 2010.

New development has focused on additions and improvements to existing intensive park areas. Progress on this priority has been good. *Public safety, environmental, heritage and maintenance concerns are dealt with before development projects proceed*. New development recognizes *impact from river valley environmental processes*, such as limitations on new structures in the flood plain. A general priority list has been developed, but a formal capital works program has not been developed to date.

Details of development since 2000 are as follows:

- Structures: Rotary River Park Pavilion
Upgrade Kiwanis River Park washroom and add Lodge and Pavilion
Gazebos in Lions River Park
- Roadway: Adjustments in Lions River Park, Kinsmen Wellesley
Access control in Queensway Park
Parking upgrades at Rotary River Park
- Trails: Paved trail re-aligned near bridges at Lions & Rotary River Parks
Plaxton's Lake Boardwalk upgraded for accessibility
Trans-Canada trail route granted through valley
- Recreation: Boat Launch at Kiwanis River Park
Fire circle redeveloped
Native Plant garden and pathways, partnered on Turtle sculpture
- Signage: Park signs on 2nd Avenue
Interpretive and map signs at 6 locations

When compared to the development program identified in 2000 there are several successes and a few notable differences

Centrally located, year-round washroom facilities are in place at River Park. Signage improvements have successfully been initiated.

The emphasis on linkage has not been realized. Specifically, a trail linkage between existing routes in Wellesley Park and Connor Park has significant gaps. A new bridge between Wellesley and Churchill Parks has been evaluated, with preliminary studies, but a new bridge is not yet a reality. Providing access to the Trans-Canada (TC) Trail through its local committee has resulted in establishment of a route along the valley. The trail standard is not high but it supports a variety of users, with many parts receiving regular use. Wakamow does not maintain the TC trail. Pathway links to city neighbourhoods occur in some places, but there is room for stronger connections.

Recreation development was to have focused on improvement of existing picnic facilities and playgrounds, rather than additional facilities. Excepting the new pavilion added to the Kiwanis River Park, this redirected emphasis has been accomplished. All play structures have been evaluated, and a repair / replacement program has been established.

Resource Management

Creating sustainable infrastructure and facilities is an ongoing activity. New infrastructure and facilities are being designed and constructed for long life within

the parameters of flood zone requirements. *Protection of the river and its environmental processes* is part of Wakamow philosophy, while *recognizing the practical limitations flooding, erosion and slumping pose on development*.

Wakamow continues to *work with water management agencies and others in the Moose Jaw River basin to enhance water quality* and resolve flood control issues. Replacement of the dam at the head of Plaxton's Lake so as to maintain resource and recreation values is one such matter currently being reviewed. A new dam will be constructed within the next few years.

Attempts are made to reduce environmental impacts as a matter of course. Wakamow continues to *stress naturalization as both a landscape element and to reduce maintenance costs*. Generally successful, this priority could get more attention in regard to routine use area maintenance. *Biological control of undesirable plants and animals* has been initiated with development and implementation of pest management plans for leafy spurge and purple loosestrife.

Natural and heritage resource conservation is ongoing. *Gaps and information needs regarding environmental conditions* have been identified. *Resource values are being identified and protected*, primarily within the management areas and less so in the advisory zone. Documentation of resource values is inconsistent. Because there are few site specific resources, archeological-related development is not practical. Wakamow is aware of the sensitivity of pre-historic resources. *A greater emphasis on redevelopment of historic resources* is not evident and could still occur.

Recent extensions of land control in the bottom-lands area between Churchill Park and Queensway Park will allow *the protection of further urban "wild spaces"* that include large areas of *natural ecosystems, and the opportunity to revitalize native plants and animals*. Wakamow takes over management of parcels of land from public jurisdictions (typically the City of Moose Jaw) under the terms of Management Agreements. Agreements will be required for the areas newly under public tenure. A process to update these agreements with the city is currently slowly being developed.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Priorities and success statements put forward in 2000 are still important. Significant steps in improving delivery of outdoor opportunities to the public were made. New physical development has generally been in keeping with recommendations. Although progress regarding picnicking and nature appreciation was good, trail and bridge linkages showed less progress. Other recommendations in this report address development, therefore none are provided here.

Policy development and securing support are areas where priorities remain valid, and are key to the health of the organization, but the tasks are complex and in many cases rely on a small volunteer group for action. The result is that work is ongoing and progress has necessarily been measured in small steps.

M. The Wakamow Board will review the status of all Authority-wide plans and strategies that are under development by committees and subcommittees to establish reasonable schedules for completion, or to re-assign priorities.

Gains in reaching resource management priorities are more clearly evident. This is mostly due to recent achievement of control of valley land so that there is now continuous Wakamow influence along the river all the way from Plaxton's Lake to the Wild Animal Park. See the map showing land tenure and the various development units.

N. Resource management activities focusing on naturalization, native plants and biological controls will continue. An emphasis on consistent documentation of resource values will occur particularly as data gaps are filled.

O. Wakamow and the City of Moose Jaw will develop management agreements for new public land areas in the valley, and conclude necessary updates of existing agreements, so that land management can be carried out effectively.

SPECIFIC PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

Background

Various planning and development issues have arisen in recent years that were not anticipated in the original master plan, nor (in some cases) in previous reviews. Other previously identified development issues persist and are re-iterated here.

Trans-Canada Trail

The Trans-Canada Trail is a national program with the aim of creating continuous trail routes across the nation, following general routes established through a national Trans-Canada (TC) Trail organization. Local volunteer groups typically determine the actual route and implement the trail on the ground. The establishment of a TC trail through the valley by a local group in recent years with permission from Wakamow helps meet the national goal. This route links to trails going beyond Moose Jaw, and creates a larger trail system for Wakamow visitors.

Most of the route is on public land in Wakamow's Development Area. Wakamow's position is that the local group is responsible for implementation and maintenance of the TC Trail, which is to be in keeping with Wakamow management principles and land control. Some of the TC trail routes are suitable for inclusion in Wakamow's designated trail routes (see the section on Trail Linkages). TC Trail signage has been developed at various levels, in some cases providing an overlap with Wakamow information. However, trail identification and signage is inconsistent.

Given Wakamow's receipt of funding for footbridge and trail development in late 2009, coordination with the TC Trail is important. Clarification of the status of overlapping trail segments is needed. Wakamow should continue to set standards and conditions for TC Trail development. Where routes are taken over by Wakamow (see the Trail Linkages section), this would include development and maintenance responsibilities, but TC Trail status would be retained. More consistent signage and accurate mapping should be a goal, especially for integrated portions. Wakamow should continue to work with the local TC Trail group to resolve routing issues and foster this national recreational program. This could include joint grant submissions.

P. Wakamow will continue to work with the local Trans-Canada Trail group to provide trail opportunities within the valley, with a focus on routes, signage and grant submissions.

Railway lands

Railway activities have long been defining elements of the Wakamow valley experience. Rail rights-of-way cross the valley and border parts of Wakamow lands. The Southern Rails Cooperative short-line railway now controls the former CN line and bridge parallel to Highway 2. There is also rail traffic on the spur line that runs along Home Street near the Wakamow office. It is possible that this line may again be abandoned. It would be prudent for Wakamow to have a contingency plan that would determine a potential response and priorities for acquisition of all or part of the line in the case of abandonment, and to assess whether this appears likely.

Q. Wakamow will examine the potential of acquisition of adjacent railway lands in case these become available, as part of strategic planning efforts.

Potential release of Wakamow lands

The idea of use of select portions of Wakamow lands for residential development has recently arisen. This might result in financial benefit for Wakamow. Before making decisions even in principle, evaluation of the concept for consistency with Wakamow

philosophy and master plan principles, and legality under the Wakamow legislation should occur. Release or exchange of lands for other purposes may also be possible. A broadly based public consultation process to allow balanced public input would be required. Positive and negative implications must be considered before beginning to identify possible locations. Various land tenure frameworks (lease versus sale) should be investigated. Evaluation should address potential for conflict with view intrusion, vegetation manipulation, future land use alterations, build-out or -up of structures, and future property subdivision, and practicality of avoiding or controlling such conflicts. Pursuing this approach may require that land use controls be institutionalized with Wakamow, requiring proclamation of some unused portions of the Act.

Clarification of in-holding status

Private land in-holdings have been respected as part of the fabric of Wakamow since its inception. The original plan's direction to reduce this type of high-cost development is still valid and should be acted upon whenever the opportunity arises. None-the-less, properties remaining require creative management solutions, and have an effect on short- and long-term development strategies. A study to evaluate which flood plain residences are likely to persist for the foreseeable future would be useful. Consideration should be given to removing municipal infrastructure in other areas e.g. roadways, alleys, fire hydrants. Subsequent action could include allocating buffer zones around inholdings with management prescriptions, determining appropriate recreational uses beyond buffers, and modifying vegetation patterns accordingly.

R. Wakamow will re-examine its relationship with private lands, including in-holdings, possibility of release or exchange of lands for private or public uses, and related legislative status. This examination could be included in a master plan revision or related strategic planning effort. Appropriate development planning strategies for areas around private in-holdings will be documented.

Development control and adjacent properties

This is an ongoing issue for Wakamow. For the most part, land use and zoning control lies with the City of Moose Jaw. Formal and informal mechanisms have evolved to ensure that Wakamow's opinion regarding land use changes within the Wakamow Development and (to a lesser extent) Advisory Area are heard and considered. Other types of control are in place under municipal bylaws. There may be efficiencies or advantages to both groups in considering changes to the method of control over such aspects as roadways (including abandoned rights-of-way), traffic and parking

enforcement, adjacent development, and drainage.

S. Wakamow will determine what type of urban development control issues are most important, consider advantages of change, and discuss any modifications to current practice with the City of Moose Jaw using existing committee channels.

Recreational and public walkway linkages to City of Moose Jaw

Stronger physical non-road connections to the City are part of a higher profile for Wakamow in the community. These ideas have been stated in previous master planning efforts. Several locations have been addressed, but there appears to be further potential. The City should be encouraged to develop a greenway or recreational corridor component to their recreational or public space strategy if this does not exist. The city's role in cross-country ski trails is successful and should be continued. Moose Jaw's hosting of the 2010 Sask Winter Games could provide opportunities to increase this capacity.

T. Wakamow will work with the City of Moose Jaw to determine further potential of recreational and public walkway linkages and carry out integration where practical. The city should continue cross-country ski trail routing and maintenance within Wakamow.

Location of Wakamow offices and maintenance facilities

The 1979 Conceptual Master Plan envisioned a relatively high-profile location for the Wakamow office. Both the CP station and the building at Railway and 2nd Street NE were proposed as locations. Acceptance as Wakamow headquarters of the Sportsman's Centre, a building formerly owned by the South Saskatchewan Wildlife Association, has been mutually beneficial for both groups. This location poses some drawbacks: it is difficult to find resulting in a low public profile, offers limited space and is architecturally unimposing. The building although sound is aging.

U. Wakamow will investigate possibilities for a new "home" for the Authority's office. Evaluation will cover the need for public contact and profile, program outreach, lifespan of current facility, alternative locations, space needs, and budget implications. Options should be given a cost-benefit priority.

PUBLIC PERCEPTION

Background

An overview of the results of the 2008 telephone survey of 125 Moose Jaw residents provides an idea of the public's perception and use of Wakamow and its facilities. General conclusions can be drawn from the published results. In many cases, the same or similar questions were asked in at least one previous survey (surveys were conducted in 1998 and 1995). This allows a perspective of how perceptions or uses have changed over the years.

Analysis

Overall perceptions of Wakamow are positive. Respondents are familiar with the Authority and its facilities. They feel it contributes positively to Moose Jaw's quality and future. Wakamow is seen to provide good value for tax expenses. Respondents rate Wakamow very positively as an urban park and conservation area, more highly than in past surveys. Residents desire a continued Wakamow presence.

Respondents get most of their information about Wakamow from the newspaper, followed by family and friends, which is unchanged since 1995. They feel well informed about it, and better informed than in past

Attitudes to development of Wakamow also seem positive. Respondents seem strongly satisfied with facilities, and feel the place has improved. In spite of this satisfaction, they give more support to improvements than in the past. Support is strongest for water related, bridge or river improvements followed by trails. Respondents are slightly more in favor of new development over maintenance and noticeably more in favor over programming (both show an increase from previous results). Results indicate opposition to commercial development, more strongly than before. Most residents surveyed feel there's enough picnic and natural areas, but strongly support greater conservation emphasis. They strongly support a trail linkage from end to end. Residents find Wakamow archeology of interest

Use of Wakamow appears to be somewhat less than in the previous survey. A strong majority have not been to Wakamow, but in any case feel it is well-used. Most indicate they are too busy to visit, or uninterested in using Wakamow. Those that do visit, use Wakamow least in the morning

Areas most frequently visited are Rotary River Park and the nearby downstream developed parts of Wakamow. Respondents least frequently visit the upstream end

(Connor Park). Most take their visitors to Wakamow, and feel it's a Moose Jaw attraction.

Survey results suggest that visitors' use is focused on trail use (walking, jogging and cycling) which is unchanged. Picnicking has increased in popularity, however playground use has declined. Results suggest that respondents may view trail use is seen as separate from park use, since a majority say they use trails, while a majority also stated they don't visit Wakamow. Of trail use, biking is reported to be a minority use behind walking/jogging. A strong majority use trails less than five times annually. Duration of trail use is short (around a half-hour). A minority of respondents attend events, but this is an increase since 1998.

Conclusions

The overview suggests that Wakamow is in a good place in the public's eye. Perception is positive, and satisfaction high, even for many who do not use facilities. New development, as long as it's not commercial, has support. There is strong support for expanded conservation activities. Trail use has a strong standing, and support for continued emphasis on trail linages seems clear.

V. Wakamow will continue to periodically evaluate public perception of its status, facilities and programs through surveys directed at Moose Jaw residents. Evaluations should be supplemented by similar data collected from users on site.

DOWNSTREAM: LOOKING AHEAD

DIRECTION FOR THE NEXT SEVEN YEARS



Background and analysis

A focus on linkages in Wakamow is found in the original master plan, and was emphasized in the previous master plan review. Now that a continuous valley land base has been secured, a physical linkage all along the river through Wakamow's Development Area can occur. The most practical approach is to establish a multi-purpose trail which will extend recreational opportunities and broaden public perception of the size and resources of Wakamow.

Surveys indicate residents of Moose Jaw are well satisfied with Wakamow and its facilities. They support further non-commercial development. To some extent, residents and users may not be aware of the full range of Wakamow activities in the river valley, nor its physical size, and there may be confusion among residents or visitors as to which sites are part of Wakamow.

Conclusions and recommendations

A concerted development focus on linkages is required. There are two components. The primary one is a valley-bottom trail and bridge linkage extending from the downstream developed parts of Wakamow to Connor Park. This has been a priority for a number of years. Other major development priorities have been achieved. Still others cannot be carried out for some time (e.g. Churchill Park) until other conditions change. Now that there is a continuous land holdings a trail linkage is practical. Wakamow announced receipt of funding for bridges and trail development in late November 2009, thus further progress in the trail linkage is assured.

W. Wakamow will implement a valley-bottom trail and bridge linkage extending from the downstream developed parts of Wakamow to Connor Park.

The secondary linkage component is city connections. Several trails now link to city streets, but are not particularly well marked as to destination, and don't form part of any continuous routes within the city. There is potential to create a trail head with parking and/or viewpoint at several locations. Still valid is the original concept for an urban streetscape link to Crescent Park near downtown. Coordinated study and action with the City of Moose Jaw will be required.

X. Wakamow will coordinate with the City of Moose Jaw to plan, implement and

promote physical pathway linkages with the city, and viewpoints at appropriate locations.

There is an opportunity to re-invent Wakamow's image. Using a multi-faceted approach, increasing the public profile of Wakamow in Moose Jaw and vicinity would be beneficial. The aim would be two-fold: make Wakamow an integral part of the city's identity; and create a strong impression of Wakamow as a large public park space. This would involve de-emphasizing the separate segment names of the historic parks and subdivisions and placing more emphasis on a unified identity for all of Wakamow.

Various methods can be employed:

- Promotion, especially as part of the new "surprisingly unexpected" tourism campaign for Moose Jaw.
- Visual identity, through a signage scheme of distinct internal signs as well as directional signs using the logo on streets and highway.
- Hosting more events drawing from Moose Jaw and beyond, such as music festivals, outdoor markets, or mountain biking rallies.

Y. Wakamow will formulate and act on ways to evolve to a unified new image for the Authority, without detracting from current support, and as part of an overall marketing plan.

Z. Wakamow will undertake a marketing evaluation to better define current users and potential markets for the experiences and settings that Wakamow offers. The evaluation will address satisfaction levels of current users by supplementing data from existing surveys.

Wakamow must assure funding that is in keeping with the development and maintenance needs. To support and justify requests, Wakamow must complete comprehensive long-term plans for infrastructure and other capital needs. Lobbying activities must continue, with funding requests tailored to the mandates of participating jurisdictions, particularly the provincial government.

AA. Wakamow will prepared long term capital and maintenance plans to support tailored funding requests and lobbying. Effort to solicit non-governmental support will also continue.

An increase in conservation and natural regeneration activities is supported by public opinion. Natural areas are increasingly attractive to the public, and are critical for both resource protection and flood resistance. Wakamow should explore opportunities

for supplementary funding (grants) to undertake background studies and area specific activities, and to work with nature groups or university researchers. The focus can be on areas that will not be developed soon, or that will protect existing natural values or facilities.

BB. Wakamow will increase conservation and natural regeneration activities.

CC. The Authority will continue efforts to diversify recreation options by increasing winter opportunities, and use of the river, using simple facility enhancements as well as programming.

DD. Wakamow will de-emphasize new development for picnicking and playgrounds. Where playgrounds must be replaced, carefully evaluate demand.

Understanding the Wakamow resource base requires much better base information. Collection of base mapping for lands under Wakamow control, as well as facilities and infrastructure, is important for management purposes. New airphoto data is available at relatively low costs and would provide similar benefits. Resource attributes should be included in mapping using good mapping technology. Consideration should also be given to developing an inventory of river information. Data is held by all levels of government on river flows, flooding, control options, and water quality; most agencies would be open to sharing such data especially if their files are becoming crowded.

EE. Wakamow will investigate ways to gain, improve and maintain river data, base mapping and other resource information, including grants in kind from agencies providing such information.

NEEDS FOR A REVISED MASTER PLAN

Background and Analysis

A revised or renewed master plan is essential to properly direct development, help set priorities, identify opportunities, and renew the philosophical underpinning of Wakamow. Thirty years have provided a range of changes to conditions and assumptions, both physical and social. Significant recommended development has occurred within Wakamow. Five master plan reviews and one park area master plan have been undertaken in that time span.

The last two master plan reviews have recommended a revised master plan. Two larger areas of land (the Wild Animal Park and the valley bottom-lands) have recently come under Wakamow control. Other Saskatchewan urban park authorities in Weyburn and North Battleford have recently updated their original master plans. Arguably, a revised conceptual master plan is overdue.

Wakamow has had success with strategic planning exercises focused on particular issues. A professionally facilitated strategic planning effort involving the Wakamow Board, and the Advisory Committee as well as a public session could help develop the framework for a master plan revision. Participating jurisdictions will have key interests in revision to the master plan, and should be considered as primary stakeholders with a distinct role in the process. Because of the importance of Wakamow to public recreation and resource protection in Moose Jaw, dedicated public involvement is a requirement for an effective master plan revision. These activities would increase the local profile of Wakamow.

Conclusions and Recommendations

A revised conceptual master plan for Wakamow is overdue. A revised master plan should build on the established philosophical framework of the original conceptual master plan. A planning process leading to a new document should be started in the near future.

FF. A revised or renewed master plan will be prepared, to cover the same range of topics as the original master plan, and in particular will address the following:

Reflect the current context

- Changed physical setting, river regime, flood control requirements
- Social setting
- An evolved, functional Wakamow Valley Authority organization
- Relationship with partnering jurisdictions;

Review development approach to date, make recommendations

- Evaluate current level of development for quality and quantity
- Re-assess direction for currently developed segments;

Determine whether the former Wild Animal Park lands ought to be included in Wakamow's management zone;

Determine appropriate use for particular land segments

- Bottom-lands formerly identified for a Golf Course
- Former Wild Animal Park;

Evaluate benefits/drawbacks to enacting un-proclaimed parts of *The Wakamow Act*;

Examine land use issues

- Likelihood of change to agricultural, industrial or transportation uses, increased residential use

- Relationship of Wakamow to private land, including in-holdings

- Acceptability, legality and practicality of potential release of Wakamow land for residential or other uses

- Need to modify boundaries of Development and/or Advisory Areas;

Review previous master plan objectives and priorities, recommendations and policies;

Evaluate level of concern with natural river processes, review flooding and slumping data;

Review and evaluate conservation efforts to date;

Examine potential for enhancing cultural elements, both historical and pre-historical;

Summarize a proposed new or renewed development strategy;

Suggest strategies for an increased profile for Wakamow.

GG. A revised or renewed Wakamow master plan will include a public consultation process.

HH. The process to complete a revised Wakamow master plan will involve all participating jurisdictions.

TRAIL LINKAGE CONCEPT

Background

A focus on linkage was identified in the 2000 Master Plan Review. Research into some bridge locations, possible bridge designs and cost has been initiated by Wakamow. General cost estimates have been gathered for a free-span pedestrian bridge. Identifying potential routes and options was included in the mandate for the current master plan review.

The Trans-Canada Trail (TC Trail) organization has established a route along the valley in cooperation with Wakamow Valley Authority. This route forms part of the trail system available to recreational users in the valley, but is not maintained by Wakamow.

Wakamow now has a controlling interest in a continuous stretch of land between Plaxton's Lake and Connor Park. A continuous paved pathway extends from Plaxton's Lake as far as Wellesley Park.

In November 2009, at the very end of this planning and route selection process, Wakamow announced receipt of grant commitments for funding of a new pedestrian bridge to replace the Assiniboine crossing, plus re-surfacing of the existing derelict Cree bridge. The initiative will also include a path route through the Churchill Park area. The grant submissions were based on the trail concept phasing. Therefore, the funded components match the top priority phases identified in this section.

Existing routes

A paved trail runs from the Plaxton's Lake parking lot into River Park. South of the central River Park parking lot, a paved route follows the public road across the Blackfoot Bridge into Wellesley Park. In Wellesley Park paved paths form a loop to the south, with a network of informal unpaved paths to the north. Paved routes end at the location of the defunct Assiniboine bridge

There are no defined, formal paths through Churchill Park, but there is a network of graveled roads and alleys, as well as several former alleys or roads.

The Trans-Canada (TC) Trail enters the valley and continues southwest from the Cree bridge, under the rail and road bridges into the bottomland area. Part of this route would be suitable for use as a linkage trail. East of the 7th Avenue bridge there are some segments of existing tracks that are usable as a trail route. An established TC

Trail section runs from the north side of the 7th Avenue SW bridge and Connor Park. This would be suitable as part of the linkage route.

New Route

A proposed new continuous trail route is shown schematically on the accompanying map, along with alternative sections and bridge locations, as well as existing trail routes.

A new route is needed through Churchill Park, running west from a new bridge connecting to Wellesley Park. Two alternative bridge locations are identified. The proposed route runs alongside un-used or existing roadways, then across former residential areas maintaining a buffer space from current houses, to connect to the Cree bridge. A parking area could easily be added near the north end of this bridge.

From the Cree bridge, a route west across the Bottom-land segment will depend on the location of a new bridge. Two alternatives are identified. Both routes pass through wooded areas and close to the river, to provide interest and views of the river where practical. Some parts of existing trails could be used depending on the option used. Part of the TC Trail alignment below Highway 2 forms a segment of one option. Preliminary evaluation late in 2009 indicates that the more northerly location is more practical.

Repairs to the existing Wills bridge would create a safe pedestrian river crossing. The new route would parallel the river through natural and planted treed areas to the 7th Avenue SW bridge. Part of an existing track south of the river east of this bridge can be used for the trail, but a short new off-road section is needed. A good opportunity exists to create a public viewpoint, with parking and trail access, at the end of 4th Avenue SW.

The existing TC trail route completes the linkage to Connor Park from the 7th Avenue SW bridge. Parking at this bridge could be expanded or upgraded.

River Crossings

Between Wellesley and Churchill Parks, the former location of the Assiniboia road bridge offers raised abutments that could support a new pedestrian bridge. This has been determined to be a practical location by Wakamow research. An alternative downstream location connects current informal trails on either bank. Evaluation is proceeding at this site. Maintenance vehicle capacity is not essential at either location, as both end of the bridge could be reached by vehicles using existing roads.

Options were identified in the Bottom-lands area. Two locations were identified on straight, narrow sections of the river; both would require further evaluation. Both are now accessible from the east for construction. The northern option could provide a shorter route. The southern route could more easily pass through natural woodland on a longer route, using parts of established TC and informal trails. Maintenance vehicle capacity is not essential at this bridge, but might be desirable. Both sides could be accessible via public roads that would lead to the trail route and upgraded Cree and Wills bridges.

Two existing bridges need upgrading to complete the trail route. Both the Cree bridge and the Wills bridge appear to have sound steel frameworks. Both would need deck replacement to support pedestrian traffic, or infrequent maintenance vehicle use.

Trail Standards

A minimum standard is a 2.5m wide gravel or crusher dust surfaced path. An asphalt paved path is desirable, but if the granular path is well constructed, paving could be phased in. Clearing and grubbing required in woodland or shrubby sections. If trails are to be cleared in winter, low-lying sections requiring boardwalk should be avoided during route selection, or filled as part of construction. Secondary routes or connections to the city can be narrower (1.8m minimum) and could include steep or boardwalk sections. Steps should be avoided.

It would be desirable for bridges to be able to support a single, infrequent, light maintenance vehicle (a pickup truck with blade), but bridges need not be designed to be open to general traffic. This capacity is not essential at all locations (see above). At minimum, bridges should be wide enough to for two person walking bicycles to pass - approximately 2.25m. A firm deck would allow cyclists to ride across.

Other Considerations

The length of new trail is approximately 4.3 km . The southern alternative in the bottomlands is likely about 200m longer depending on an actual route. Upgrading of about 1.3 km of TC or other existing trails is required. Costs are in the range of \$5 to \$15/m for a crusher dust pathway, depending on grading and vegetation removal requirements. Paving adds about \$115/m, based on 2008/9 costs.

The TC Trail provides an alternate route along the valley, although at a lower standard. The option it provides for looped trail use is a valuable complement to the proposed linkage.

The parts of the TC Trail route recommended for upgrading as part of the new linkage route would be taken over by Wakamow for maintenance, but would retain their TC Trail designation.

As noted, not all bridges need maintenance vehicle capacity. If the existing Cree and Wills steel frame bridges are upgraded to carry such loads, this will allow access to both ends of a new bottomland footbridge, and all parts of bottomland trails. A new Assiniboine footbridge bridge would likewise have maintenance access to each end on existing roads.

Pathway loops can be established in any of the areas discussed, using existing routes for the most part. This may be a useful strategy to maintain interest and provide user options in between phases of connections of the continuous route. For example, parts of the TC Trail route could be used to loop back from Churchill Park. Existing tracks could be used in the bottom-lands to create a circuit through the area below 4th Avenue, and alleys and tracks in Churchill Park could be used similarly to designate a loop east of the Cree Bridge.

Phasing

Extending the current formal trail route west would build on existing use, encourage existing users, and be easier to manage. Paving extension over time would offer continuity. Therefore, a new foot bridge at the Assiniboine location appears to have priority. This would extend existing formal routes, but is not essential to reach Churchill park, which can now be reached on the north bank

Cree bridge upgrading should follow a new Assiniboine bridge. This would allow foot and maintenance access into the former nursery area, and access to the TC trail.

A new bottomland bridge would require upgrades of both the Cree and Wills bridges to provide continuity and reduce risks. Consideration should be given to upgrading these concurrently in case there would be savings in mobilization costs.

Establishment of bridges is the most important element. Then trail routes can be established, with standards being upgraded as resources permit. Users will be able to make their own routes in most places, e.g. using existing roads through Churchill Park.

Extension of connections to the Wild Animal Park lands could occur at a later date, depending on results of planning for this area. A bridge across the existing dam downstream from Connor Park could also be considered as an alternative. A land linkage on the west side of the river would appear to be the simplest approach.

Conclusions and Recommendations

II. Recommended phasing for a trail connection from Wellesley Park to Connor Park is in this order:

- Assiniboine footbridge,
- Cree Bridge upgrade and parking,
- define a route through Churchill Park between these bridges,
- new Bottom-lands bridge and pathway access from east, with a defined west side connection to 4th Ave,
- viewpoint, trailhead and parking at 4th Ave,
- routes from east and west to Wills bridge and upgrade of Wills bridge.

Upgrades of the route from the 7th Ave bridge to Connor Park, and upgrading of parking at the bridge, could occur in sections anytime.

Loop routes could be defined in Churchill Park or the Bottom-lands areas at any time after phase-in of the relevant bridge crossings.

JJ. Wakamow will develop a budget, funding and design schedule for a valley multi-purpose pathway linkage from Wellesley Park to Connor Park, based on the recommended phasing and incorporating recent bridge funding commitments.

This page number for Development Areas & Land Tenure map

This page number for Trail Linkage Route map

APPENDIX

RELEVANCE OF EXISTING MASTER PLAN PRINCIPLES

Key

- less o no change + more

1979 Master Plan Elements

Relevance

Theme for development concept (pg 52): Rejuvenation	o	some has occurred
- enhance oppn for recreation or rejuvenation	o	underway
- broaden choice of activity	o	
- improve awareness of history	+	
- make nat'l environment more accessible to public	o	underway - trails
- preserve exist quality environments	o	has occurred
- rehabilitate mis-used areas	-	mostly addressed since 1979
- develop diverse recreational oppn. in unique landscape settings	o	
- link these through relationship to river/valley	+	increase profile
- respect natural forces and processes	o	link to water needs attn
Development concept general (graphic: pg 54)		
Wild Animal Park: High intensity recreation	-	fate of WAP unclear owned by City w. conservation easement would need footbridge
-non-motorized link to Connor Park	-	no current use
-entrances from 9 th & 7 th Aves and Hwy 2	-	
-terminus of park system	o	
Valleyview Ecological Preserve: low intensity	o	
- preserve short grass prairie on upland	+	confirm resource quality, needs mgt plan achieved
- preserve wooded bottomland and valley walls around oxbow	-	
Connor Park: Env. Rehabilitation		
-rehab.& re-vegetate upland area	-	residential development
-maintain current uses	o	
The Turn Historic Area: Env preservation		
-interpretive facility, enviro education	o	no progress
-preserve forest, marsh, and prairie	o	
- non-motorized trails, vehicular parkway loop, picnicking	o	
Golf Course: High intensity recreation	-	Golf viable? -downstrm course - need new focus
-up to 140 acres available	-	

Churchill Park: High intensity recreation	?	space is available
- campground	-	cgnd at River Park
- baseball diamond & bleachers	-	too many residences
Wellesley Park: Low Intensity Recreation		
-day use picnicking	o	established use
-arboretum	o	bird feeding garden
River Park		
-sports fields, skiing	o/-	skating/ski impractical
-lake and beach	-	
-picnicking	o	
- non-motorized trails, vehicular parkway	+/-	road exists
- easement at top of slope	+	mandate?
Plaxton's Lake: High intensive recreation		
-Park centre building c/w washrooms, parking, boat launch	o	mostly implemented
-winter ice skating	o	
-convert train station to info/multi-use centre	-	conversion occurred
-pedestrian and visual connection ot Crescent Park	o	City input
-retain marsh vegetation	o	not yet on CP side
Edge areas		
-Agricultural (south): preserve agriculture	-	outside direct control
-River valley buffer: allow linear parks along valley edge, protect slopes	+	mandate?
-Thunder Creek(west): environmental rehabilitation, conserve marsh	o	talk to CP
-Spring Creek: visual open space, advisory role for Wakamow	-	city responsibility
-Industrial Park: rehabilitate and improve/screen appearance	o	some progress
-Agricultural (east): restrict scattered uses, rehabilitate gravel pits	-	better, low priority
Circulation policy (pg 91)		
-Vehicular parkway where practical without degrading recreation area quality	-	less viable, \$, need roads for access first
-non-motorized (multi-use) trails through all park units, tour boat service, prohibit ATVs	+	linkages, ped bridges are lower cost
Land use policies		
-statements of intent for protection, low & high recr development, enviro rehab and edge/buffer areas	o	
-essentially zoning policies linked to aims of various areas	o	
-control requirements for buffer/edge factors	o	jurisdiction?
-statements re: urban development: urban core, special	o	

protective provisions for residential, river valley crossings, adjacent rural development		
Access & circulation policies (pg 113)		
-strategic access points, signs at each	o	
-signage and info	+	
-parkway road system	-	less imp than trail
-trail linkages	+	
-parking and perimeter road design for minimal visual impact	o	enforcement?
-non-motorized recreation vehicles only	+	“, residential
Recreation policy		
-utilize recr potential as aspect of community pride, growth	o	
-year round recr oppn both active and passive	+	incr winter/fall
-awareness of inter-relationship with City recr programs/services	o	
-monitor water quality, develop within biophysical capacity	o	monitoring?
-detailed site plans before development	o	
-logo	o	implemented
History & archeology policy		
-Overall survey, surveys before any disruptive development, confer with province if resources found	o	
-protect cultural integrity of “the turn” from non-plan development	o	dam only one initiated?
-establish register of all land-based cultural elements, confer re: Wakamow cultural features fitting into regional heritage	o	
Facilities & Services Design policy		
-standard architecture, materials & construction techniques to extent practical	o	
-site furniture to use organic material	-	impractical
-permanent facilities s/b above flood levels, those below s/b flood resistant	o	
-limit reuse of private structures if acquired	o	
-underground servicing, consider irrig demand	o	
-use municipal water/sewer services to extent practical	o	
Landscape Development/Rehabilitation policy		
-control land use and screen to avoid unsightly vistas	o	jurisdiction?
-inventory eroding areas and implement remedial measures	o	implemented?
-clean up contaminated or refuse-ridden areas	-	mostly done
-no new development in area steeper than 1 over 3 (33.3%) from toe of slope unless stability is analyzed	+	Wakamow powers?
Education & Interpretation policy		
-encourage public education and interpretation of both natural history and the cultural landscape	o	
-use various means to deliver messages, including trails, sites, signage, dedicated buildings, and publications.	o	funding limits