



Town of Fort Smith Public & Stakeholder Engagement No.1 What We Heard Report



Prepared for Town of Fort Smith
by IBI Group

December 2021

Table of Contents

1	Public & Stakeholder Engagement	1
1.1	Process – What We Did.....	1
1.1.1	Public Engagement Plan (PEP).....	1
1.1.2	Stakeholder Engagement	1
1.1.3	Public Engagement.....	2
1.2	Stakeholder Feedback - What We Heard	2
1.2.1	Project Advisory Committee.....	2
1.2.2	Business and Tourism Focus Group	3
1.2.3	Economic Development Advisory Board	3
1.2.4	Elders and Seniors Society	4
1.2.5	Arts and Culture Representatives	4
1.3	Public Engagement - What We Heard.....	5
1.3.1	Public Open House	5
1.3.2	Online Survey.....	5
1.4	Public Engagement - Next Steps.....	8
	Appendix A – Community Engagement Notes & Survey Data.....	9

1 Public & Stakeholder Engagement

1.1 Process – What We Did

1.1.1 Public Engagement Plan (PEP)

Public and stakeholder engagement was guided by a Public Engagement Plan prepared with input from the Town of Fort Smith project team.

Following the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Spectrum of Public Participation, the project team determined the level of engagement would be to Involve – to work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.

The COVID-19 Pandemic continues to impact everyone's lives, causing public engagement to move to online platforms since March 2020. Over the course of the pandemic, provincial and territorial restrictions allowed in-person engagement to resume temporarily, before shifting back online in response to high case-counts. As such, the public engagement plan was developed with the intent to host stakeholder and public engagement in-person with the ability to shift online as required.

Key stakeholder involvement included internal Town departments, Conibear Park & Amenities Advisory Board, Tourism and Business representatives, the Economic Advisory Board, Indigenous Government representatives, the Elders and Seniors Society, and local artists and musicians. The stakeholder's role on the public engagement spectrum was the same as the public: Involve but were consulted separately from the public as an opportunity to understand their unique vision for the park.

The Public Engagement Plan (PEP) was prepared and then refined with input from the Town. It included the background and context of the project, engagement strategy, timeline, engagement activities/techniques, reporting and evaluations, participation challenges & opportunities, stakeholder analysis. We proposed two community visits that included up to five (5) meetings with stakeholders and a public open house per visit; and one online event; and survey questions for the two (2) community visits and the online event.

1.1.2 Stakeholder Engagement

In-person meetings were held with stakeholder groups in a total of five (5) meetings to establish themes, guiding principles and priorities related to signage, landscape amenities and an overall theme and feedback on the Conibear Park concept design as approved in 2017. These discussions took place on October 25, 26 and 27, 2021 at the Northern Life Museum and Cultural Centre with the following stakeholder groups:

- Project Advisory Committee
- Business and Tourism Representatives
- Economic Development Advisory Board
- Senior and Elders Group
- Arts and Culture Representatives
- Indigenous Government Representatives

All stakeholders were invited to attend the public open house.

1.1.3 Public Engagement

The public engagement included an open house on October 27 at the Northern Life Museum & Cultural Centre from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. The open house included a short presentation and the encouragement to interact with the project team in attendance. The presentation includes 2 display boards: a project information board and the Conibear Park concept design as approved in 2017. An online survey was posted on the Town's project webpage and participants were directed to it to share their feedback. Hard copies of the survey were also available. The online survey was live from October 19 to Nov 7, 2021. Post cards with the webpage link were handed out during community events prior to and during the community visit.

1.2 Stakeholder Feedback - What We Heard

1.2.1 Project Advisory Committee

The first stakeholder meeting was with 8 members from the Project Advisory Committee on Oct 25. Key elements that should be considered in the park:

- Honour the history.
- Include all 4 languages on the signage (these include: English, French, Cree, Chipewyan).
- Theme linkages to other festivals such as Dark Sky Festival and Paddlefest should be explored.
- To function as an arts hub to support activities such as:
 - Arts/crafts sales,
 - Music festivals,
 - Sunday service in spring/summer,
 - Covered stage,
 - Remembrance Day parade
- Vandalism is a concern, so CEPTD principles will be important.
- A satellite visitors' centre could be included here (since the current one is located in the Federal Government building with Parks Canada Heritage for Wood Buffalo National Park).
- It could include interpretive signage that is strategically placed.

The committee also made the following suggestions related to signage:

- Interpretive signage is better kept short with QR codes linking to further information on the topic.
- Themes for the signage could include:
 - Tipi structure
 - Aurora/northern lights
 - Snowshoes
 - The four rapids
 - Stone/granite from around the community
 - Boats similar to the steamers that NTCL used on the river

1.2.2 Business and Tourism Focus Group

The second stakeholder meeting was with nine members from the Business and Tourism Focus Group on Oct 26. The following topics were discussed as related to the park:

- Parking was identified as an issue for those trying to access the park by vehicle. However, the Town recently acquired the movie theatres site to provide more parking.
- Washrooms need to be included in the overall design.
- The Trans Canada Trail park should be included in the overall design and include interpretive signage and passive uses.
- The park should include winter activities such as:
 - no perimeter barriers as skidoos will drive through the park
 - a fire pit for people to gather
 - ice carvings could be an activity
 - warming huts should be considered
- Any structure should protect from the elements: rain, snow, wind and not constructed of logs.
- Include a water fountain or tap.

The committee made the following suggestions related to signage:

- Signage should be unique but understated and durable
- The granite being quarried should be investigated as a base material or include river rocks and concretions
- The river and rapids should be the overall design theme for signage
- Signage should be fun and visual-based
- Signage could acknowledge the area history regarding trapping

1.2.3 Economic Development Advisory Board

The third stakeholder meeting was with seven members from the Economic Development Advisory Board on Oct 26. The following topics were discussed as related to the park:

- Trees should be planted at the perimeter of the park, but the park should be oriented towards MacDougal Road.
- For larger events, the Town would consider closing the adjacent road to the park to keep traffic off MacDougal Road.
- The river theme should be emphasized as the Town's name translates to 'below the rapids'. The river was part of the voyageur's route so this further emphasizes its importance.
- Other municipalities have the aurora as their municipal logo (i.e., Inuvik), so something unique to Fort Smith should be chosen.
- More passive uses should be directed to the Trans Canada Trail Park.
- Addressing deficiencies in the Trans Canada Trail park design should be done at the same time as a preliminary design is done for Conibear Park.

- The name Conibear should be retained as the family donated the land for the park to the Town.
- Pathways should be winding and not straight to encourage visual interest.

Comments related to signage included:

- Rocks from the river should be incorporated into the signage.
- Signage shouldn't be too cute and should encourage movement around the community.

1.2.4 Elders and Seniors Society

The fourth stakeholder meeting was with 9 members from the Elders and Seniors Society on Oct 27. The following topics were discussed as related to the park:

- History of the Conibear Family and the conibear trap needs to be highlighted. The park is about the Conibear family, not the Town.
- The old visitors centre was well attended, with an elder present to tell history stories to the tourists.
- Some participants would like to see a 'roadside attraction-sized' replica of the conibear trap installed in the park.
- Snow carving of animals surrounding the community was one suggested winter activity.
- Parking needs to be increased around the park.
- The park design should include a building with a permanent washroom
- A half-amphitheatre with a splash pad would be preferred over a full amphitheatre
- Lighting will be important for safety and accessibility
- Participants prefer moveable seating over permanent, installed seating.

Comments related to signage included:

- Signage could be made of the same steel that the trap is made of. The Conibear Trap was a Fort Smith invention and should be acknowledged as such.
- The participants preferred less emphasis on the river theme as signage.

1.2.5 Arts and Culture Representatives

The fifth stakeholder meeting was with the arts and culture representatives, 2 visual artists and 1 musician, on Oct 27. The following topics were discussed are related to the park:

- An art space is being developed near the park, so there should be good accessibility with the demolition of the old movie theatre.
- Its important to have a wood stage with a building of some sort. A permanent building would be preferred but at the very least there should be a temporary structure that could act as a staging area for musicians.
- The preferred location of the stage would be on the south property line, for sound and sightline purposes.
- Having a portion of the stage raised would be preferred (e.g., drum risers)
- Artists in town have their own PA systems, which would be controlled near the stage.
- Stage must be of a size that can accommodate amplifiers, monitors, and microphones.

- Power appears to be at the site but should be confirmed prior to detailed design.
- Portable bleachers that could be moved in for larger events would be good for people who don't want to sit on the grass. They should be put up on the perimeter of the park.
- Allowance should be made for craft markets and displays, with the need for the stage, parking, shelters, and power (for musicians playing at the market).
- The stage could have a backdrop for murals or visual displays.
- The park design should have areas where kids can continue to play.

There were no specific comments related to signage in this discussion.

There will be further meetings with the all of the above groups during the second community visit.

1.3 Public Engagement - What We Heard

1.3.1 Public Open House

The public open house was held on Oct 26. The following feedback was gathered from 2 participants during the public open house:

- One participant wanted to ensure that the barbeque installed by the Union of Northern Workers (UNW) would still remain within the park.
- The same participant wanted to ensure that the UNW Labour Day Barbeque would still be able to go ahead.
- The same participant stated that the UNW would be interested in purchasing a bench and installing with a plaque to honour a long-time member, now deceased.
- A canoe paddle could be a sign prototype.

1.3.2 Online Survey

The online survey was available on the Town's project webpage from Oct 19 to Nov 7, 2021.

206 survey responses were collected online and 1 hard-copy survey. This is what we heard:

Conibear Park Concept Design

- 95% respondents were residents of Fort Smith.
- The highest number of responds were between the ages of 36-45 years (22%), 26-35 years (21%), 46-55 years (21%), showing that there is a wide range of residents interested in the park.
- 57% of respondents claimed to only visit the park 1-7 times per year. Illustrating that programming and amenities could draw more people to use it in future.
- The majority of respondents access the park by motor vehicle at 57%, followed by walk/run at 34% and cycle at 13%. Confirming that demand for more parking near the park would be required as well as a need for bike racks.
- Of the activities that respondents visited the park for, the 2 most popular tied at 19% were outdoor stage and performance area for music festivals/performance; and community events. Followed by:
 - Community BBQ and Picnics with family at friends at 17%
 - Artist workshops and vendor display at 14%
 - Winter events at 9%

- Rest and relaxation at 8%
 - Interpretive area/centre at 7%
 - Interpretive tours at 4%
- 18 respondents selected other activities such as:
 - Space for children to run around and play
 - Playground for children with musical instruments
 - 10 respondents referred to a splash park or summer water activities
 - Outdoor movie nights
 - Outdoor rink in winter
 - Dog shows, fashion shows, live theatre
 - Buskers
 - Continue to develop/connect the interpretive area across the road
- While many were happy with the concept design as is, the most commonly suggested additional amenities included:
 - Splash park for kids
 - Covered stage
 - More seating areas / picnic tables (including requests for barrier free seating)
 - Picnic shelter/tables with umbrellas
 - Garbage cans
 - Washrooms
 - Lighting
 - More trees, flowers (a native vegetation garden)
 - Bike racks
 - More parking
- Amenities that respondents would most value about Conibear Park, once developed, would support the park as a community gathering place for events including a similar list from the question above:
 - A balance of quiet open space that can also host outdoor events
 - More seating areas
 - Picnic shelters
 - Activities for kids
 - BBQs
 - Garbage cans
 - Washrooms
 - Retaining the existing hill for kids to play on

Vision and Guiding Principles

- 74% of respondents agree with the vision statement (34% strongly agree and 41% agree).
 - Of the 7 who responded with “other” they felt Conibear Park is not a recreation space and is not used during the winter.
- 77% of respondents agree with the guiding principles (27% strongly agree and 50% agree).
- The 4 guiding principles are ranked in order of importance (from most important to least important):
 - Amenities and Recreation
 - Safety and Accessibility
 - Environment
 - Heritage and Culture
 - Character and Identity
- The signage themes most identified include:
 - Rustic
 - Clean wood/metal
 - Indigenous references
 - Historic reference to the Town’s founding
 - Nature themes such as: northern lights, the rapids, and wildlife
- Other comments left in the “what else should we know?”, include:
 - “It’s our only central green space, don’t pack too much stuff in there”
 - “A statue of a man portaging 200lbs packages on his back, to remind us of how tough local people were back in the old days”
 - “I really appreciate the work and the vision! I loved having Conibear as a hub for events!”
 - “The next project NEEDS to be a splash pad!”
 - “Any buildings with facility for cook area”
 - “Dogs, pets should not be allowed at the park. A Conibear is a great place for a water park.”
 - “Drinking fountains/bottle fills for summer”
 - “I miss conibear park.”
 - “Monitoring to avoid unnecessary damage.”

1.4 Public Engagement - Next Steps

The project team will prepare the Amenities and Signage Audit Report, based on the feedback gathered from the public and stakeholder engagement, and other technical and financial considerations. All stakeholders and the public will be consulted again in January 2022 during the second community visit to develop the Preliminary Conibear Park and Amenities and Signage Design. The third, online, stakeholder and public engagement will take place in February 2022 to present the preferred Preliminary Conibear Park and Amenities and Signage Design. The feedback from all public and stakeholder engagement will be captured in a What We Heard report that will be updated following each event.

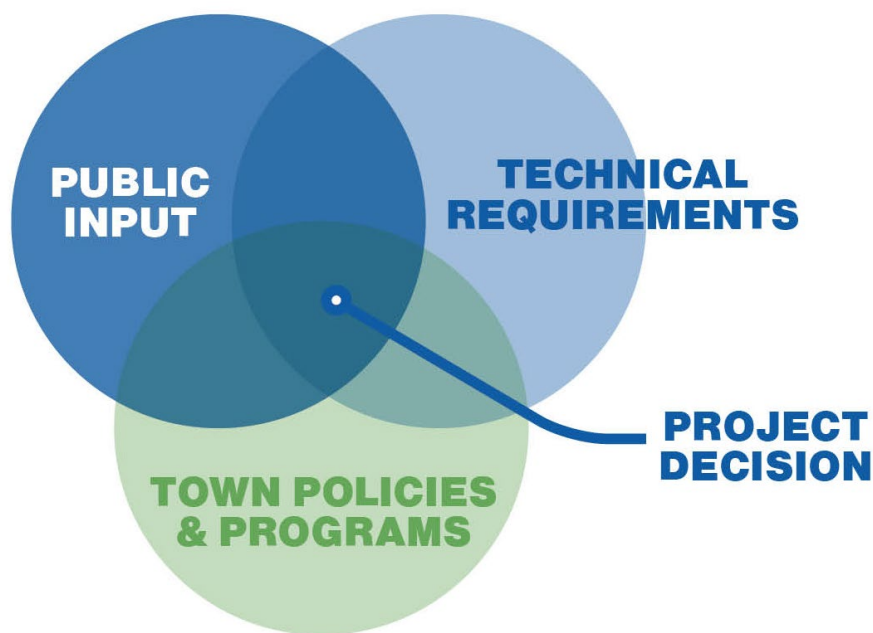


Diagram: inputs influencing the project decision-making process

Appendix A – Community Engagement Notes & Survey Data

Display Boards
Online Survey Draft
Hard Copy Survey Draft
Community Meeting Notes
Survey Data (under separate cover)

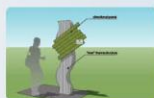
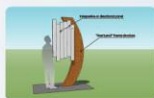
Conibear Park & Landscape Amenities Design Standards

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Tunguska event galaxies
not a sunrise but a
galaxyrise great turbulent
clouds circumnavigated the
only home we've ever
known. Tendrils of
gossamer clouds gathered
by gravity explorations
billions upon billions a still
more glorious dawn.



<https://fortsmith.ca/conibearpark>



CONIBEAR PARK

CONTACT INFO

Name
Phone Number
Email Address

Conibear Park & Landscape Design Standards

Project Background

The Town of Fort Smith is working with IBI Group, a landscape design firm from Edmonton, to re-design Conibear Park and create Landscape Design Standards for directional and interpretive signage and landscape amenities such as garbage cans and benches.

Landscape Amenities Design Standards

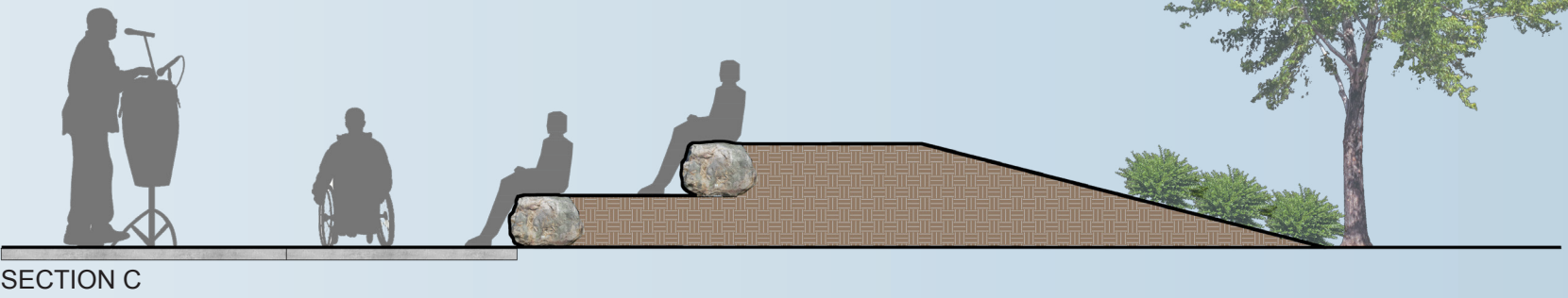
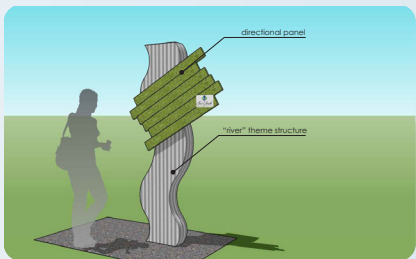
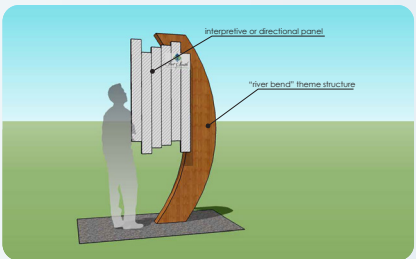
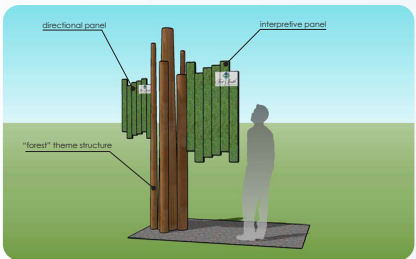
The design standards should take into consideration and reflect the local cultural heritage. This will include wayfinding signage, interpretive signage at locations of significance, and infrastructure such as benches, garbage bins, pole banners, and other amenities. The designs will create a sense of arrival and awareness of “place” for visitors and residents.

Conibear Park Design

The preliminary concept for Conibear Park calls for this central site to be developed as a small outdoor venue for concerts, recitals, plays and theatre. Interpretive signage is proposed throughout the site to inform visitors of the history and culture of the community and of Conibear Park. It includes a potential interpretive area which will complement the parks characteristics and describe its history and that of the town.

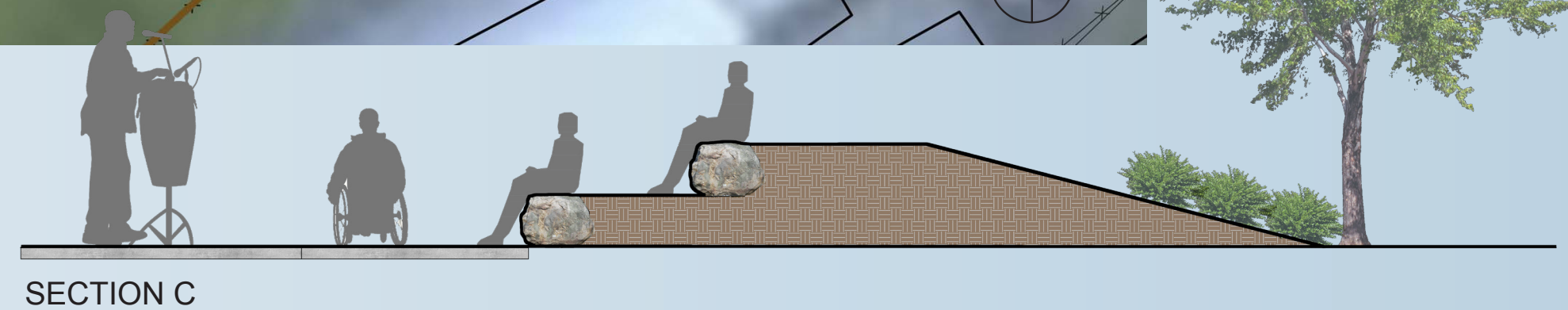
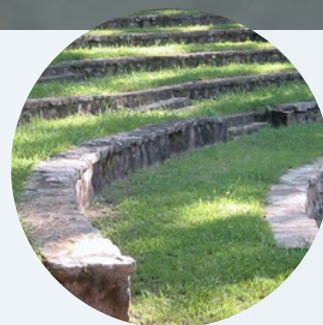
The concept design for Conibear Park included a potential cultural interpretive area as part of a conceptual design adopted in 2017 as part of the Fort Smith Open Space Enhancement Plan.

<https://www.fortsmith.ca/conibearpark>



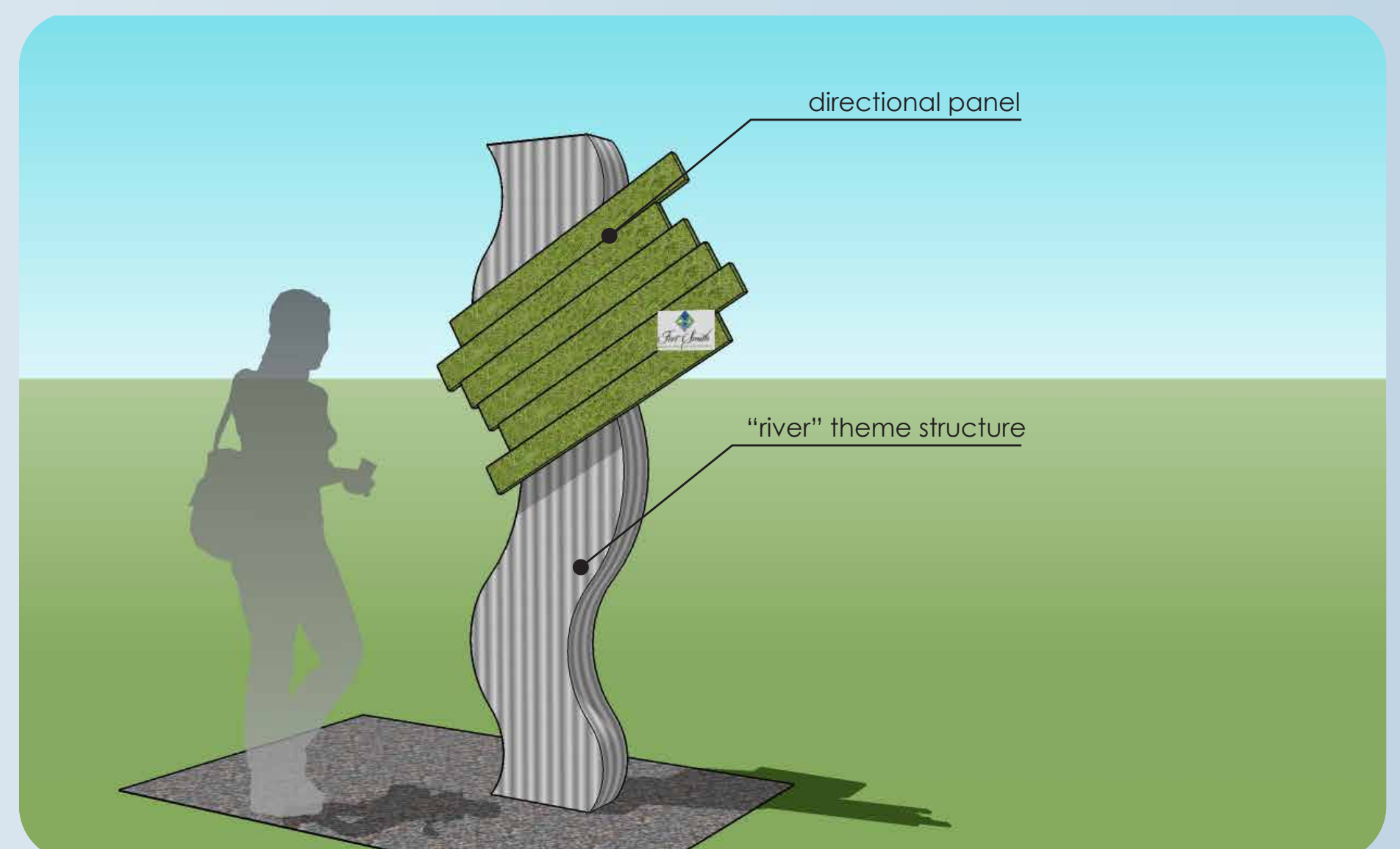
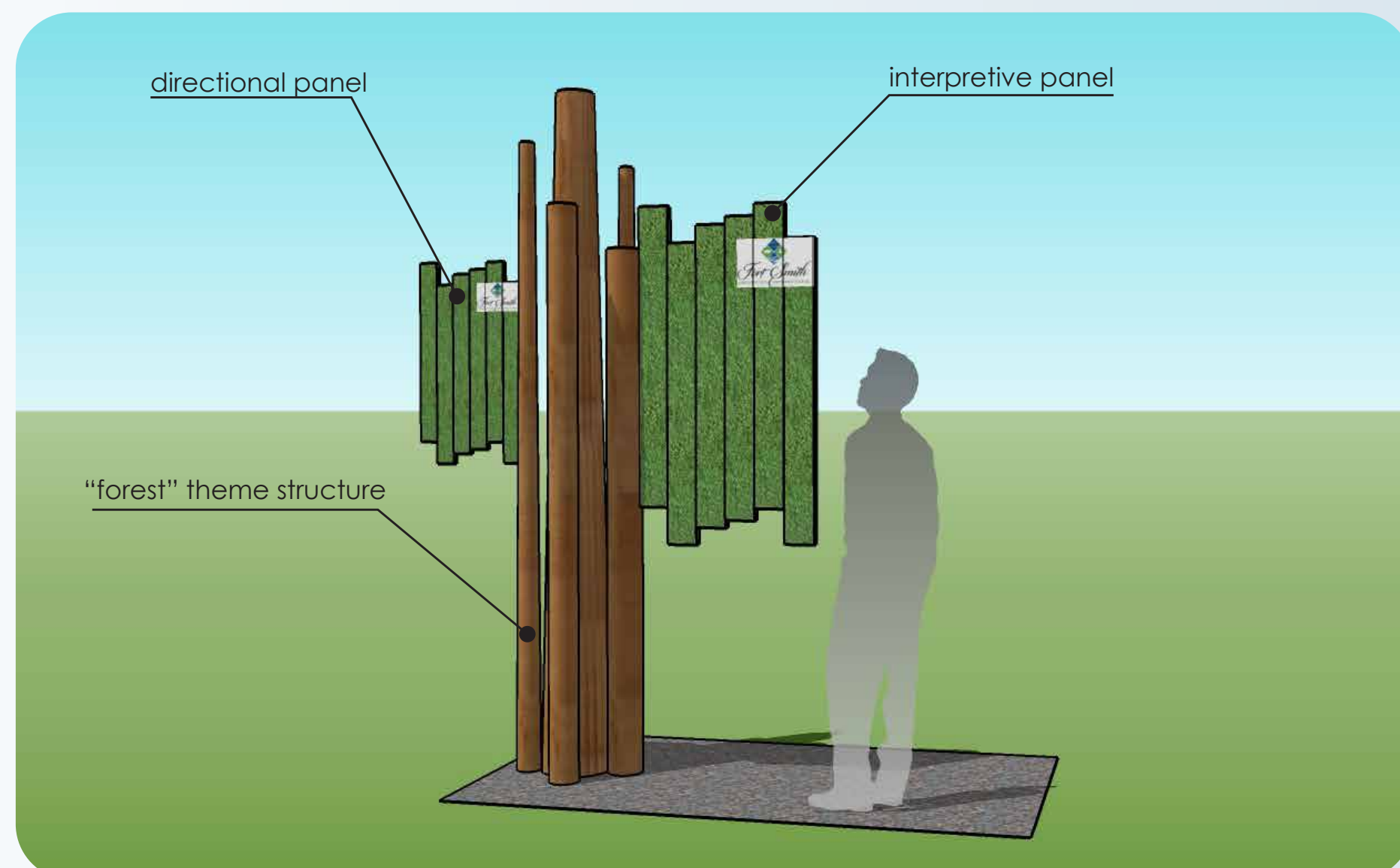
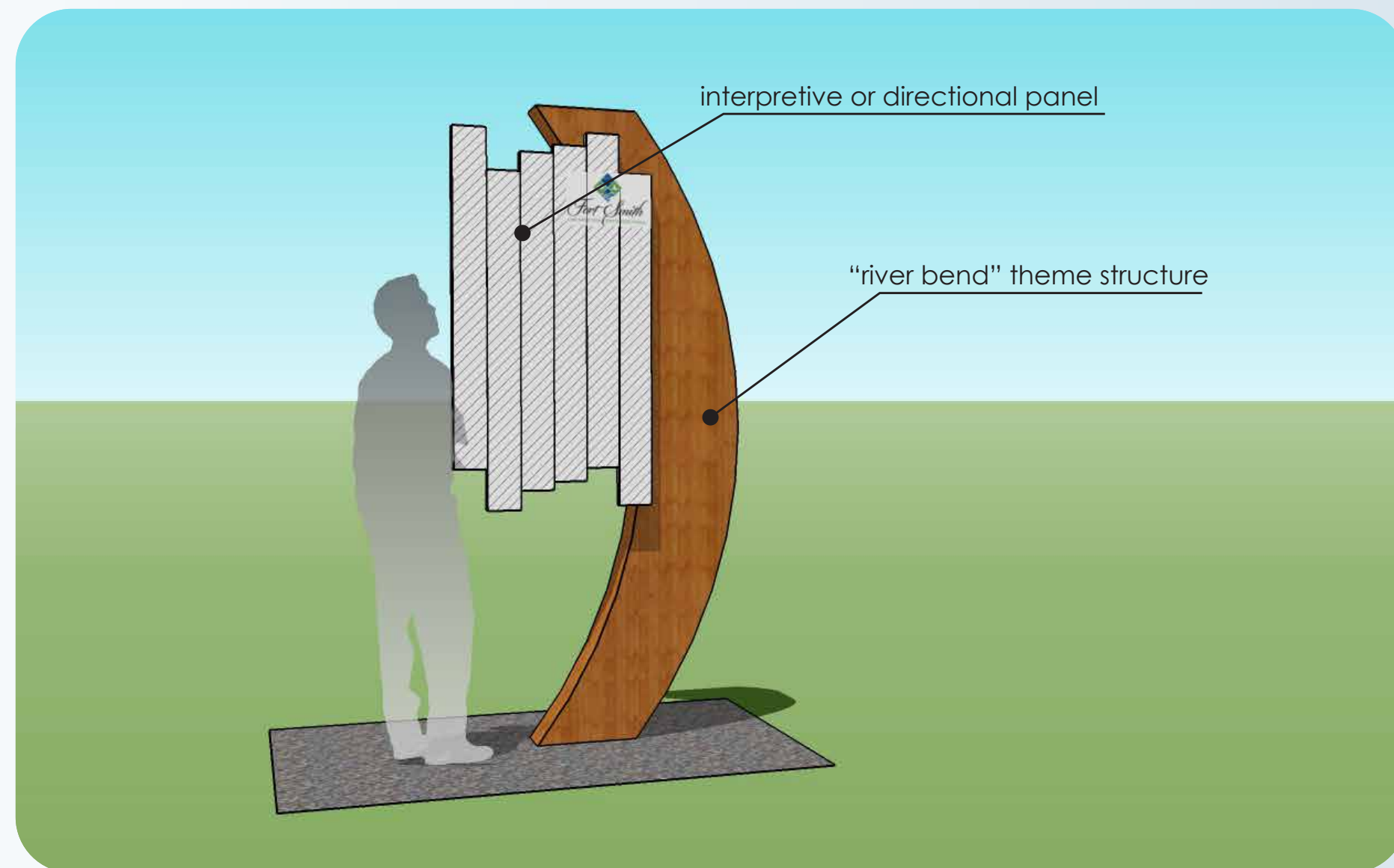
Stay informed for the next opportunity to have your say here:





CONIBEAR PARK



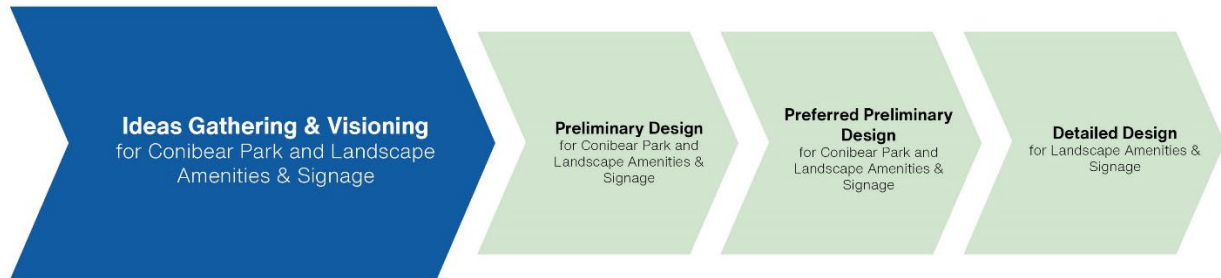


SIGNAGE REFERENCE IMAGES



Fort Smith Conibear Park & Design Standards Survey Questions

The Town of Fort Smith is working with IBI Group, a landscape design firm, to provide a preliminary contemporary design for Conibear Park and provide Design Standards for directional and interpretive signage and landscape amenities such as benches, planters, picnic tables, etc.



The project is currently in the Visioning phase. The Town is looking for your feedback on the following items:

1. To establish themes, guiding principles and priorities related to signage, landscape amenities and
2. An overall theme and feedback for Conibear Park as well as feedback on the conceptual design that was presented and approved by the Town of Fort Smith in 2017

Please review the concept design for Conibear Park and take a few minutes to fill in our survey.

1. Are you a resident of Fort Smith? (please select one)
 - a. Yes, I am a resident
 - b. No [drop down member of surrounding areas, Metis/First Nations, etc.]
2. Age of respondent. How old are you?
 - a. Under 18
 - b. 18-25
 - c. 26-35
 - d. 46-55
 - e. 56-65
 - f. 65+
3. How often do you visit Conibear Park? (please select one)
 - a. 1-10 times a week
 - b. 11-20 times a week
 - c. 21+ times a week
 - d. 1-10 times a month
 - e. 1-10 times a year
 - f. I do not visit Conibear Park

4. How do you usually get to Conibear Park?
 - a. Motor vehicle
 - b. Walk/run
 - c. Cycle
 - d. Other (please specify)
5. Why would you visit Conibear Park / What activities would you participate in? (select all that apply)
 - a. Artist workshops and vendors display
 - b. Interpretive area/center
 - c. Outdoor stage and performance area Music Festival / Performances
 - d. Community BBQ
 - e. Picnic with family and friends
 - f. Rest and Relaxation
 - g. Community Events
 - h. Interpretive Tours
 - i. Winter events
 - j. Other (please specify)
6. Based on the conceptual design of Conibear Park, are there any features you would like to see?
7. What do you value most about Conibear Park today?

Draft Vision

The project team has proposed the following Draft Vision for Conibear Park:

“Conibear Park is a significant recreation and gathering space that represents the culture and history of Fort Smith, and is accessible by all, in all seasons.”

8. To what extent do you agree with the above vision? (choose any 1 options)
 - a. Strongly agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Neutral
 - d. Disagree
 - e. Strongly disagree
 - f. Other (please specific)

Guiding Principles

9. The project team has proposed the following draft guiding principles for design of Conibear Park:
 - Environment – protect and enhance the environmental qualities of the park including natural plantings and landscape.

- Heritage/Culture – recognize, celebrate, and incorporate the heritage of the park including indigenous and post settlement history.
- Amenities/Recreation – enhance park infrastructure and amenities to support recreational, cultural and performance activities, including opportunities for all people, while protecting and enhancing the natural qualities of the park.
- Safety/Accessibility – make the park a safe and accessible public space for all users.
- Character/Identity – create and maintain a distinct identity for the park.

10. To what extent do you agree with the draft guiding principles?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Strongly disagree
- Other (please specify)

11. Please rank the guiding principles in order of most important to you. (With 1 being the most important and 6 being last important.)

- Environment
- Heritage/Culture
- Amenities/Recreation
- Safety/Accessibility
- Character/Identity

Landscape Design and Signage

12. The town wants to introduce landscape design themes and signage, is there a theme you want to see for interpretive and directional signage? (for example: rustic, or industrial theme, or use materials with bright colours or wood.)

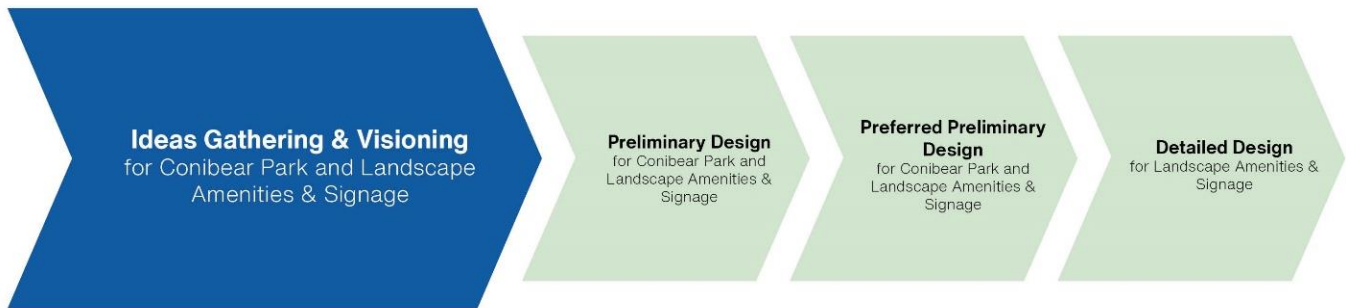
13. Is there anything else you want us to know?



Fort Smith Conibear Park & Design Standards - Survey

The Town of Fort Smith is looking for design ideas for two projects: Conibear Park as an outdoor cultural area; and Signs and Amenities.

We are working with the landscape design firm, IBI Group, to provide us with the designs.



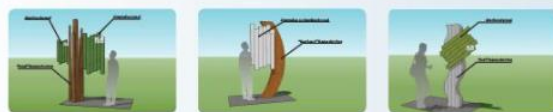
The project is in the Ideas phase, and we are looking at themes for:

1. Signage, and landscape amenities: This includes wayfinding signs, interpretive signs, and amenities such as benches, garbage bins, etc.
2. Conibear Park Cultural Centre

Please review the concept design for Conibear Park and take a few minutes to fill in our survey.

1. Are you a resident of Fort Smith? (please select one)
 - ☐ Yes, I am a resident
 - ☐ Prefer not to answer
 - ☐ No
2. If you are not a resident of Fort Smith, are you a resident of one of the following?
 - ☐ Bell Rock
 - ☐ Fort Fitzgerald
 - ☐ Hay River
 - ☐ Fort Chipewyan
 - ☐ Fort Resolution
 - ☐ Enterprise
 - ☐ Other (please specify) _____

3. Age of respondent. How old are you? (please select one)
- ☐ Under 18
 - ☐ 18-25
 - ☐ 26-35
 - ☐ 46-55
 - ☐ 56-65
 - ☐ 65+
4. How often have you visited Conibear Park in the past? (please select one)
- ☐ 1-7 times per week
 - ☐ More than 7 times per week
 - ☐ 1-7 times per month
 - ☐ More than 7 times per month
 - ☐ 1-7 times per year
 - ☐ I do not visit Conibear Park
5. How did you usually get to Conibear Park? (please select one)
- ☐ Motor vehicle
 - ☐ Walk/run
 - ☐ Cycle
 - ☐ Other (please specify) _____
6. In the past Conibear Park was a gathering place for festivals and events. What activities do you think should be possible at Conibear Park? (select all that apply)
- ☐ Artist workshops and vendors display
 - ☐ Interpretive area/center
 - ☐ Outdoor stage and performance area Music Festival / Performances
 - ☐ Community BBQ
 - ☐ Picnic with family and friends
 - ☐ Rest and Relaxation
 - ☐ Community Events
 - ☐ Interpretive Tours
 - ☐ Winter events
 - ☐ Other (please specify) _____



CONIBEAR PARK



Above is the approved concept design for Conibear Park, as approved by Town Council in 2017, please refer to this as you answer the following question:

7. Using the above concept design as a starting point, are there any features you like to add or change?

8. Given that Conibear Park is primarily an open space now, what would you value most about Conibear Park in the future, once it is developed?

Draft Vision

We propose the following vision for the future of Conibear Park:

“Conibear Park is a significant recreation and gathering space that represents the culture and history of Fort Smith, and is accessible by all, in all seasons.”

9. To what extent do you agree with the above vision? (choose any 1 option)

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Other (please specific) _____

Guiding Principles

The project team has proposed the following draft guiding principles for design of Conibear Park:

- **Environment** – enhance the environmental qualities of the park including natural plantings and landscape.
- **Heritage/Culture** – celebrate and incorporate the heritage of the park including indigenous history.
- **Amenities/Recreation** – enhance park infrastructure and amenities to support recreational, cultural and performance activities, including opportunities for all people.
- **Safety/Accessibility** – make the park a safe and accessible public space for all users.
- **Character/Identity** – create and maintain a distinct identity for the park.

10. To what extent do you agree with the draft guiding principles? (please select one)

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

11. Please rank the guiding principles in order of most important to you. (Place a number from 1-5 next to each option, with 1 being the most important and 5 being last important.)

- Environment
- Heritage/Culture
- Amenities/Recreation
- Safety/Accessibility
- Character/Identity

Landscape Design and Signage

12. The Town wants to develop a consistent look and feel for signage. What should that look like? Is there a theme you want to see for interpretive and directional signage? (for example: rustic, or industrial theme, or use materials with bright colours or wood.)

13. Is there anything else you want us to know?

Please return the completed survey to a member of the project team.

Thank you for your time. The input received will be used to develop a preliminary design for Conibear Park and the Landscape Amenities & Signage, which will be shared in 2022. Please visit <https://www.fortsmith.ca/conibearpark> for project updates.

Fort Smith Community Meeting Notes

All meetings were held at the Northern Life Museum and Cultural Centre

1. Project Advisory Committee, Oct 25 7 – 9 PM

Present: Diane Banwell (Smith Landing FN), Lorraine Tordiff (Metis Organization), Connie Bedwell (Salt River FN), Craig Brown, Ben Mitchell, Alex Pryor)

Staff: Diane Seals, Daniel Wiltzen

Issues Discussed:

- Honour the history, honour the language (ensure all four languages are represented on signage: English, French, Cree, Chipewyan)
- Park was former hub of the community but fell into disuse when the Visitor's Centre burned down, and cenotaph was relocated to Legion Hall
- Potential for arts and culture hub with the following activities:
 - Arts/crafts sales
 - Music festivals
 - Sunday service in spring/summer
 - Covered stage
 - Remembrance Day parade
- Vandalism is a concern, but the design will incorporate CPTED principles
- The Town may wish to have a satellite visitors' centre as the current one is in the Federal Government building with Parks Canada Heritage for Wood Buffalo National Park
- Alcohol should be banned from the park
- Linkages to other festivals like the Dark Sky Festival and Paddlefest should be explored
- The park could contain some interpretive signage but should be strategically placed.

Signage comments:

- It was agreed that interpretive signage would be better kept short with a QR code linking further information on the topic.
- Several overall themes for the signage designs were suggested:
 - Tipi structure
 - Aurora/northern lights
 - Snowshoes
 - The four rapids
 - Stone/granite from around the community
 - Boats similar to the steamers that NTCL used on the river

2. Business and Tourism Focus Group, Oct 26 10 – 11 AM

Present: Adam Bathe, John Blythe, Melinda Skippings, Mike Couvrette, Caitlin Belanger, Sheldon Frank, Michelle Kaeser, Gerri Miltenberger, Nicola O'Keefe

Issues Discussed:

- Participants were pleased that offices were using the park as an informal meeting place during Covid restrictions
- Parking near the park is an issue, but the Town acquiring the former movie theatre site as a parking lot should solve the problem.
- Washrooms need to be accounted for in the overall park design.
- The Trans Canada Trail park should be considered as part of the overall park design, as its underused and could accommodate some of the more passive uses discussed.

- The Trans Canada Trail park could have interpretive signage and links to other parks in the community.
- The park design should account for winter activities, as people think of the park as a 3 season park at present. Some things that should be considered are:
 - Ensuring there aren't perimeter barriers as skidoos will drive through the park
 - A fire pit should be built for people to gather
 - Ice carvings could be encouraged as a winter activity
 - Warming huts should be considered
- Any structure that gets built should have a rain shelter or provide protection to users from the elements.
- The structure should not be constructed of logs (as was the former building)
- There should be a water fountain/tap for casual users of the park

Signage comments:

- Signage should be unique but understated
- Signage should be durable
- The granite being quarried should be investigated as a base material
- River rocks and concretions should be considered as a signage material
- The river and rapids should be the overall design theme for signage
- Signage should be fun and visual-based
- Signage could acknowledge the area history regarding trapping

3. Economic Development Advisory Board, Oct 26 12:00 – 1:00 PM

Present: Kevin Antoniak (chair), Linda Martin (vice chair), Jim Heidema, Caitlin Belanger, Mike Couvrette, Emily Falucci (Town), Cynthia White (Town)

Issues Discussed:

- Trees should be planted at the perimeter of the park, but the park should be oriented towards MacDougal Road
 - For larger events, the Town would consider closing the adjacent road to the park to keep traffic off of MacDougal Road.
 - The river theme should be emphasised as the Town's name translates to 'below the rapids'.
 - The river was part of the voyageur's route so this further emphasizes its importance.
 - Other municipalities have the aurora as their municipal logo (Inuvik), so something unique to Fort Smith should be chosen.
 - More passive uses should be directed to the Trans Canada Trail Park.
 - Addressing deficiencies in the Trans Canada Trail park design should be done at the same time as a preliminary design is done for Conibear Park.
 - The name Conibear should be retained as the family donated the land for the park to the Town.
 - Pathways should be winding and not straight to encourage visual interest.
 - Rocks from the river should be incorporated into the signage.
 - Signage shouldn't be too cute, and should encourage movement around the community.
4. Open House Oct 26, 7:00 – 8:00 PM
2 participants held a general discussion.
- One participant wanted to ensure that the barbeque installed by the Union of Northern Workers would still remain within the park.
 - The same participant wants to ensure that the UNW Labour Day Barbeque would still be able to go ahead.
 - The same participant stated that the UNW would be interested in purchasing a bench and installing with a plaque to honour a long-time member, now deceased.
 - A canoe paddle could be a sign prototype

5. Lunch with seniors/elders, Oct 27, 12:00 – 1:00 PM

Present: Margaret Schott, Beatrice Campbell, Mary Pat Schult, Richard Dietsch, Darlene Powter, Jane Craig, Leon Peterson, Mike Labine, Collette Labine

Issues Discussed:

- History of the Conibear Family and the conibear trap needs to be highlighted. The park is about the Conibear family, not the Town.
- The old visitors centre was well attended, with an elder present to tell history stories to the tourists.
- Some participants would like to see a 'roadside attraction-sized' replica of the conibear trap installed in the park.
- Snow carving of animals surrounding the community was one suggested winter activity.
- Parking needs to be increased around the park
- The park design should include a building with a permanent washroom
- A half-amphitheatre with a splash pad would be preferred over a full ampitheatre
- Lighting will be important for safety and accessibility
- Participants prefer moveable seating over permanent, installed seating.
- Signage could be made of the same steel that the trap is made of. The Conibear Trap was a Fort Smith invention and should be acknowledged as such.
- The participants preferred less emphasis on the river theme as signage.

6. Meeting with arts and culture participants July 27, 7 – 8 PM

Three participants held a general discussion. Two are visual artists, one a musician

Issues Discussed:

- An artspace is being developed near the park, so there should be good accessibility with the demolition of the old movie theatre.
- Its important to have a wood stage with a building of some sort. A permanent building would be preferred but at the very least there should be a temporary structure that could act as a staging area for musicians.
- The preferred location of the stage would be on the south property line, for sound and sightline purposes.
- Having a portion of the stage raised would be preferred (e.g. drum risers)
- Artists in town have their own PA systems, which would be controlled near the stage.
- Stage must be of a size that can accommodate amplifiers and monitors and microphones
- Power appears to be at the site but should be confirmed prior to detailed design
- Portable bleachers that could be moved in for larger events would be good for people who don't want to sit on the grass. They should be put up on the perimeter of the park
- Allowance should be made for craft markets and displays, with the need for the stage, parking, shelters, and power (for musicians playing at the market)
- The stage could have a backdrop for murals or visual displays.
- The park design should have areas where kids can continue to play.



PROJECT NAME:

Fert Smith.

PROJECT NO: 11

PREPARED BY:

L. DENIGER.

DATE:

25 October 2021.

CHECKED BY:

SHEET:

OF:

1 2

DESCRIPTION:

~~STEERING~~ ADVISORY BOARD MEETING - 7-8 p.m.

① SIGNAGE & STANDARDS

materials ⇒ + wood - metal. ⇒ wood
⇒ * stone pillars. ⇒ flowerbush
+ Parakeet.

- Dame Belwell - Smith landing 1st nation.

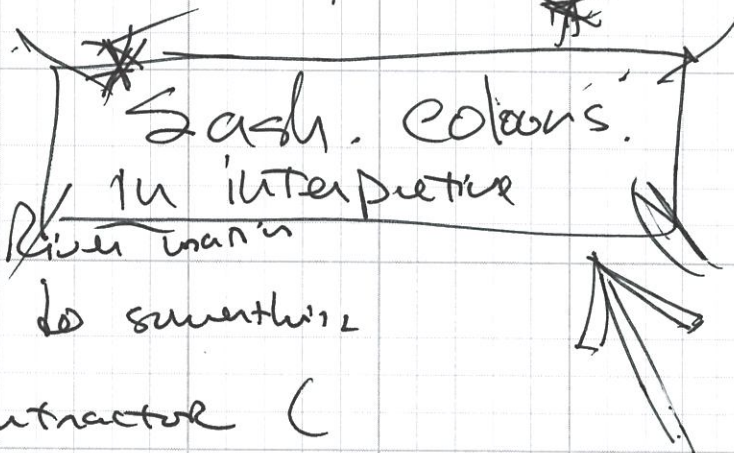
⇒ Lots of historical knowledge

⇒ Loraine Tuti

met's nation. 7.

⇒ ↓

Caribbean park computer



⇒ Cery

Salt River man

- Caribbean Park trip to do something

⇒ Cery Brown ⇒ Contractor C

⇒ Ben ~~Witchell~~ Mitchell ⇒ ...

- Alex Prior → Prior → anglican church.

- signpost.

Simone ⇒

- Tipi

⇒ northern lights

- Rapids

⇒ snow shoe. ⇒ Sash

⇒ River system.

⇒ Unique to Fert Smith.

* Boat traffic.

⇒ Rapids.

= Pelicans?

(maybe not)

⇒ Canoe.

- Whopping crane.



PROJECT NAME:

PROJECT NO:

PREPARED BY:

DATE:

25 / OCT / 2021

CHECKED BY:

SHEET:

②

OF:

2

DESCRIPTION:

② CONIBEAR PARK

Preferred
Directions -

- 2 ? = multiple space
- Tourism starting point

* Universal access is a must!!!
↳ for elders w/ walkers.

⇒ Covered staps.

⇒ no competition w/ other venues seen.

⇒ Information Centre would be
ideal in Conibear Avesp

* Washrooms!!! ⇒ Universal Access.

- (Showers?)
- Storage.

- Gathering ⇒

- Tourism ⇒ Starting point for
tourism.

= Dark Skies



PROJECT NAME:

FORT Smith

PREPARED BY:

L. DENIGER

CHECKED BY:

PROJECT NO:

DATE:

26 OCT / 2021

SHEET:

OF:

DESCRIPTION:

F.S. Tourism + Business Stakeholder meeting
10-11:30CONIBEAR PARK

- Adam Barr ⇒ Resident went to park
- John Bloor ⇒



Mike ⇒ - seen safety, parking,
⇒ Riverside park not considered a focal point
⇒ C.

⇒ Programming!

- ⇒ casual use / i.e. picnic, water fountain, washrooms
- ⇒ social gathering
- ⇒ Winter activities important

⇒ FIRE PIT

⇒ Security = vandalism.



PROJECT NAME:

PROJECT NO:

PREPARED BY:

DATE:

26 OCT 2021

CHECKED BY:

SHEET:

1

OF:

DESCRIPTION:

Economic Development Advisory Board meeting 12-100

Caribbean Park

- Central location -

- maintain as an active space

⇒ Use Trans-Canada trail part as passive.



- Caribbean park should be a destination
to draw people to the park ~~at~~ other
times than events.



Trees may obstruct view.

⇒ stairs should be seen from outside.

~~- disorient~~

⇒ theme ⇒

↳ River below the rapids (the satcha)



* NO STRAIT LINES

* NO



PROJECT NAME:

PROJECT NO:

PREPARED BY:

DATE:

CHECKED BY:

SHEET:

OF:

DESCRIPTION:

SIGNAGE & STANDARDS

- Stone

 Markers $\Rightarrow$...
interactive.

- Drums stone $\Rightarrow$ Concussion



Interpretive area.

- interactive - user friendly!
- Half enclosed half open
- = concrete loops? $\Rightarrow$

} preferably
open
spaces.

 snowmobiles out across the park.



PROJECT NAME:

Fort Smith

PROJECT NO:

PREPARED BY:

DATE:

27 OCT / 2021.

CHECKED BY:

SHEET:

1

OF:

DESCRIPTION:

~~Open House 7pm - 8pm~~
Smith landing. First Nation Meeting 1:00-5:00.

- Dave over culverts -



PROJECT NAME:

PROJECT NO:

PREPARED BY:

DATE:

27 Oct / 2021

CHECKED BY:

SHEET:

OF:

1

DESCRIPTION:

Metis Squ'lt'v

⇒ Trail park + Caribear park donated by
Same Family.

⇒ NOT ready trees.



Elders & Seniors

- Margaret shot ⇒ Family gathering
- people benefit their own lawns/chairs
- community events
- movable ~~set~~ seating. ⇒ { wooden Boats & iron people.

- Darlene Pauder.



⇒ Leon Benderson.

⇒ ... Name & history of the Caribears (Family)

⇒ ... water park?

⇒ ... Plaque of 1970.

⇒

Michael Dean.

- Caribear trap ⇒ ...



PROJECT NAME:

PROJECT NO:

PREPARED BY:

DATE:

CHECKED BY:

SHEET:

OF:

2

DESCRIPTION:

ELDERS + Seniors.

Michael Dean (cont.)

- Large trap 20' x 20' proposed 6 or 7 years ago

⇒ increase parking ⇒

⇒ Roller Laine

⇒ 1/2 amphitheatre

⇒ ... Water Park.

⇒ ... things they would like to see.

⇒ ① Washrooms +

② Protection from elements

Si map.

③ Steel Poles + w/ Animals icons at the top.

⇒ Attractive Landscaping

⇒ Juniper + Labrador Tea.

⇒



PROJECT NAME:

FORT Smith

PROJECT NO:

PREPARED BY:

DATE:

22 Oct 2021

CHECKED BY:

SHEET:

OF:

1

DESCRIPTION:

- Musicians meeting -

- Meredith - Antish } Potar
- Emily - Artist } Painter

-
- Stage area for musicians
- Stage should be front facing, not round.
- ~~Need~~ Building, similar to old one
- Stage should be ~~in~~ ^{located} south or ~~west~~ side of park
Facing west or north.
- Bleachers at periphery →
- Permanent market place.
-