

# Calgary River Users Alliance

**A review of designated boat ramps**

## **Current Designated Boat Launches**

**West Baker Park**

**Shouldice Park**

**Cushing Bridge / 17 Ave. Se**

**Graves Bridge / Glenmore Trail**

**Quarry Park**

**Fish Creek Park**

## WEST BAKER PARK



Approach to Parking lot. Parallel parking only. Need to address the truck/trailer parking. Parallel parking on the approach roadway could be used.



Gate closed but not locked. Sign does not restrict access but indicates no parking within the entrance way.



# WEST BAKER PARK



View from the parking lot looking south to the boat ramp.



View of the boat ramp looking across to Bowness Park. The ramp is a double lane concrete interlocking slab base



# Shouldice Park

Access off Bowness Road and Monserrat Drive NW. Closed but not locked. Parking restriction signs on each side of the access



View east along Monserrat Drive to the parking lot on the left hand side by the tennis court. Truck/trailer parking needs to be defined



# Shouldice Park



The boat ramp is a single lane concrete interlocking slab base. There is a hardtop roadway between the barricade and the ramp.

Cyclist on the “Pathway” about to cross the “Roadway”. It may be appropriate to add “Caution” and/or “Yield” signs at crossing.



## St. Patrick's island/ Calgary zoo



Supplemental boat ramp development is possible at the downstream south/east corner of the property adjacent to the parking lot in an area referred to as "The Cove"



This photo is taken from the same position as above, but looking SE across the parking lot.

The 12th Bridge across the Bow River at the SE perimeter of St. Patrick's Island is being replaced in 2015-6. Is there a potential for a boat ramp at this new development?

## 17 Ave. SE / Cushing Bridge



This access is on the north side of 17 Ave. SE adjacent to the Cushing Bridge.

Figure 15: The barricade on the west side of the condo development shows a sign “Fire Department Emergency Use Only” is on private property.

Figure 16: The recently renovated roadway access to the boat ramp. Wider and upgraded from what was there prior to the condo development. Adequate in-line truck/trailer parking



Figure 17: Access of 17 A St. SE. was closed with the condo development. Should it be reopened to the public?



# 17 Ave. SE / Cushing Bridge



Access at the top of the ramp. To the left is the service access to Harvie Passage that may be used when the redevelopment gets started later in the year. Historically, no parking in this ramp approach

The single lane ramp is usable but is in need of some repair. A second gravel base ramp could be installed on the upstream side of the existing ramp

The ramp access is not visible by north bound cyclists until they clear bridge. North bound Pathway “Caution Signs” needed.



# Glenmore Trail / Graves Bridge



New gate installed – locked in “open” position. Adequate parking in the assigned lot and under the bridge.

This ramp could be lost to the “Heritage Drive Permanent Flood Barrier”



The gravel bar exposed by the 2013 has been used as a playground by recreational vehicles. Installing concrete blocks or large boulder barricades would restrict access upstream of bridge protecting 90% of the gravel bar.

## Glenmore trail / graves bridge



The existing sign:

**THIS BOAT LAUNCH IS PROVIDED FOR  
EMERGENCY VEHICLES**

The public is welcome to use this facility, however,  
**EMERGENCY VEHICLES HAVE PRIORITY**  
This sign should be installed at all City of  
Calgary boat launches

Recently a:

**"NO MOTORIZED VEHICLES"**  
sign was installed at the base of the  
boat ramp prohibiting access to the  
gravel bar upstream of Graves  
Bridge.



# Quarry Park



From the barricade the hardtop roadway crosses the park and the pathway

Access off Quarry Dr. SE onto Quarry Way SE. Closed and locked. Parking restriction signs on each side of the access.



# Quarry Park



A wide open gravel base ramp approach allowing for easy turn around and with some improvements the potential for a parking lot  
Potential for a gravel base parking lot adjacent to access road

View of the boat ramp from the river. The ramp is a single lane concrete interlocking slab base.

Lots of room for an additional gravel base ramp lane adjacent to the existing ramp.



# Fish Creek Park

This provincial park boat ramp has accommodated both the Calgary Fire Department and recreational river users for many years and is an example of where cooperation between agencies has a positive outcome.



A double wide hardtop access to the boat ramp. Seasonally closed due to ice and snow build up



View of the boat ramp from the upstream bank looking south to Highway 22X Bridge. Redeveloped in 2014 with a double lane concrete ramp.

# Fish Creek Park



The parking lot is large enough to accommodate truck/trailer parking that facilitate easy and rapid boat ramp access



Information signs, garbage bins and toilets have been installed close to parking lot.



Parking ban signs have been erected along the approach lane to the ramp

Boat Launch Rules are posted at the boat ramp barricade. A good example of what could be used at other boat ramps in the



# CRUA POSITION

There is a need for discussion over the current City of Calgary boat ramp access policy. Emergency Services Access needs to be protected, but Public Access should be assured to responsible river users.

**The current position of closing and locking access gates should be changed to:**

- **Gates locked into open position.**
- **Closed & locked only under Provincial “High River Flow Advisory”, or Maintenance and Danger to the Public**



## CRUA POSITION

An assessment of each boat launch is needed to meet “Fire Departments Access Code” and river users needs:

- Roadway lane width.
- Roadway parking or parking lot availability
- Boat Ramp upgrades
- Improvement made where needed



New signage granting public access needs to be installed at all designate boat launches in the city.

City contact information needs to be added



# CRUA POSITION



The “**Parks & Pathway Bylaw**” governs public access to boat launches. Clarification of use is needed.

The “**Roadways**” are the only motorized vehicle access lanes in City parks and have the right of way when crossing “**Pathways**”.

- Parking lots need to be large enough to accommodate truck/trailers combinations.
- Bollards restricting access to Pathways, “Caution” and “Slow” signs need to be installed where appropriate.



# **Boat Launches Opportunities**

**Douglasdale Park**

**Bonnybrook**

**Ogden Road**

**Old Refinery Park**

**Bend In The Bow Park**

**Haskayne Legacy Park**

**Pine Creek / Legacy Community**

**Future Community Developments**

**( South 88 St. SE & 120 St. SE )**

# Douglasdale Park



Access off Douglas Park Blvd SE. Hardtop roadway. Adequate angled parking, toilets, park benches, etc. Well maintained as ball park. Sufficient roadway width to allow for boat launch preparation

Carry in boat access to the river is available. A designated boat ramp could be added without too much cost.



Excavation of a single lane gravel base boat ramp would be inexpensive

## Bonnybrook

Access off 15 Street SE, adjacent to water treatment plant. Service road in place to Bow River.



Site is currently used by RiverWatch as a stopping point

Adequate parking space at river's edge.

Possible Construction of a boat ramp downstream of outflow



# OGDEN ROAD



Canadian Pacific bank side property.  
Used as a “casual” trailered boat access for  
many years. Subject to CP trespass  
enforcement



Access off Ogden Road  
SE, adjacent to  
Bonnybrook Bridge



A good site for a new boat  
ramp



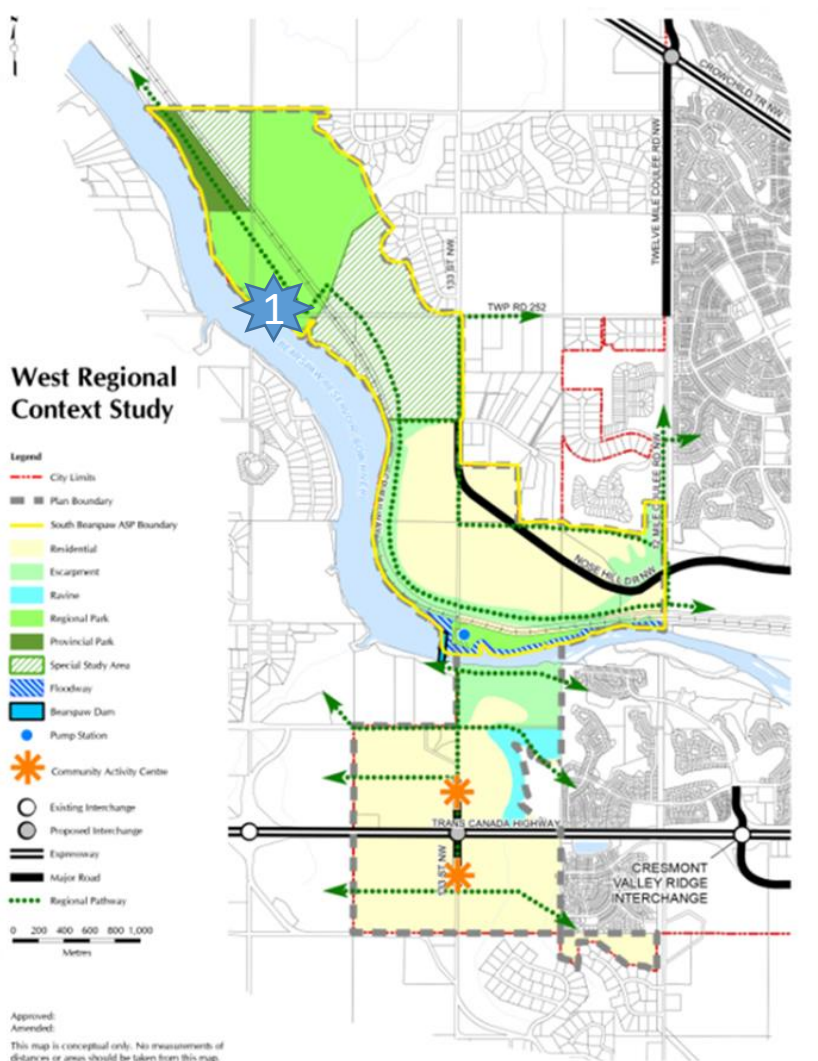
# Bend-In-The-Bow Park



**1** Public trailered boat access at Cushing Bridge is critical in the redevelopment of the park.

**2** A new boat ramp is needed as a replacement for the one lost at Calgary Zoo .  
A take-out point above Harvie Passage will ensure safe river use through the city reach of the river

# Haskayne Legacy Park



The development of Haskayne Legacy Park in northwest Calgary needs to include a boat ramp. This would allow for river use between Cochrane and Bearspaw Reservoir downstream of Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park.

1

A boat ramp with adequate truck / trailer parking is needed

## Pine Creek / Legacy Community



- 1 A boat launch site should be considered with access off 194 Ave SE.