

Bow River Access Plan



What We Heard Report | November 21, 2017

Cover Photo: Johnson's Island Road, Wyndham-Carseland
Provincial Park, Courtesy of Bow River Trout Foundation

Environment and Parks, Government of Alberta
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Bow River Access Plan: What We Heard
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Bow River Access Plan Overview

Over the last 30 years, the Bow River (part of the South Saskatchewan River Basin) has grown in reputation to become a world famous fly fishing destination and popular area for rafting and canoeing.

The Bow River Access Plan (Plan) supports the broader provincial outcomes of providing Albertans more access to nature, recreation and tourism opportunities identified in Alberta's *Plan for Parks* (2009) and Alberta's *Tourism Framework* (2013).

At a regional level, the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (2017) identified water-based recreation as highly valued within the region and the need to maintain or develop access to recreational water bodies is important to provide outdoor recreation and nature-based tourism opportunities. The plan also stated that support of current initiatives and other potential co-operative initiatives is needed to provide stable, long-term public access to these water bodies in order to enhance water-based recreational experiences.

The Plan attempts to capture these broad outcomes and further identifies key river access points for public use; reduce site impacts; improve recreation, tourism and educational opportunities; reduce user conflict, and; improve public safety while ensuring a sustainable fishery. The Government of Alberta (GOA) will continue to work with the City of Calgary on river access sites within the City limits as part of our involvement with the City of Calgary River Access Strategy (City of Calgary 2017).

Figure 1. Planning Area.



What We Heard

In the development of the Plan, a number of common issues were raised during the engagement sessions and through the online surveys. All comments received were reviewed and considered. The GOA recognizes the importance of stakeholder feedback and has provided responses to these.

Issue	GOA Response
Health and sustainability of riparian and aquatic ecosystems	The GOA has expanded the desired outcomes of the Plan to include the health and sustainability of riparian and aquatic ecosystems.
Potential impact to the fishery from increased access	The GOA has identified sustainability of the fishery as a desired outcome for the Plan. The GOA will conduct routine fish population monitoring of the Bow River fishery to assess the health of fish populations. The GOA will consider the implementation of additional angling regulations to ensure the Fishery Management Objective for a high-quality Rainbow Trout and Brown Trout fishery and sustainable populations of native Mountain Whitefish and Northern Pike are maintained into the future. By formalizing access points and implementing appropriate design standards, ongoing habitat impacts from several informal accesses are avoided. During the summer of 2017, the GOA was concerned that low flows from low precipitation and whirling disease may add pressure to the cumulative effects on the fishery.
Requests for designation of specific sites for motorized and non-motorized activity	The GOA encourages multiple use at each site to ensure access to all river users. Where possible, river user etiquette will be incorporated into new signage.
Accessibility: regardless of age, ability or disability, economic standing or other factors	Where possible, GOA will design new facilities for accessibility and maintain accessibility over time. Access fees are not being contemplated at this time.
Public safety: 911 call boxes, lighting and video surveillance.	Cell phones have largely replaced the need for call boxes (which are highly prone to vandalism). Although lighting and video surveillance are not being contemplated at this time, both options will be considered if problems arise at a particular site.
Request for additional facilities (benches, picnic tables, picnic shelters, etc.)	The facilities at Fish Creek Provincial Park will be used as a model for design for the other GOA river access sites. The need for additional facilities such as benches, picnic tables and picnic shelters will be considered on a site-by-site basis. GOA will need to consider the costs to purchase and maintain any additional facilities.

Overnight parking	The GOA will consider overnight parking for the purposes of downstream overnight use as a pilot project. Overnight camping will not be permitted in parking areas.
Opportunities for stream-side/island camping	<p>Opportunities for camping are currently available at Wyndham-Carseland Provincial Park. For McKinnon Flats, camping will be considered as the GOA determines future land management options for this site and considers potential contributions of the site to the Alberta parks system.</p> <p>Although camping is an allowable activity on public land, the GOA is not considering formalizing camping on Bow River islands at this time. The GOA has additional information to respect the land for those considering camping on public land at: http://aep.alberta.ca/recreation-public-use/recreation-on-public-land/camping.aspx.</p>
Minimum/consistent standards for boat launches	The boat launch design at Fish Creek Provincial Park is currently the standard for river access along the Bow River and as such, it will be used as a model for other boat launches within the GOA system. The boat launch width is anticipated to accommodate two boats.
Instream modifications to alter stream flow dynamics at launch sites	In order to avoid environmental impacts to the Bow River, the GOA will not be pursuing instream activities to alter stream flow up or downstream of a launch site.
Interest in timelines, dates and funding models	Following the approval of the Plan, improvements will be implemented on a site-by-site basis coordinated by operations staff as funding is available.
Consideration of additional sites outside the planning area	The planning area includes the main stem reach of the Bow River from Fish Creek Provincial Park to Wyndham-Carseland Provincial Park. The GOA acknowledges additional Bow River access sites beyond the current scope are desired. As existing sites identified within the Plan are improved, new sites may be considered outside of the planning area.

<p>Consideration of additional sites inside the planning area to reduce the distance between the proposed sites including between Policeman’s Flats and McKinnon Flats</p>	<p>As opportunities for future additional sites arise, the GOA will work with First Nations communities, Métis organizations, municipalities, private landowners, and user groups for both the planning and the long-term stewardship of potential future sites. The GOA will continue to investigate other river access opportunities in the planning area including additional sites between Policeman’s Flats and McKinnon Flats. The GOA will monitor and model programs to measure overall health and sustainability of the fishery and will incorporate results into decision making prior to increasing Bow River access sites. The GOA will revisit this Plan in 2027 as part of the proposed 10-year review.</p>
<p>Policeman’s Flats Improvements</p>	<p>The GOA considers Policeman’s Flats a temporary site. The GOA will work with the City of Calgary to identify an alternate location for Policeman’s Flats.</p>
<p>Creation of new provincial park at McKinnon Flats</p>	<p>The GOA will determine future land management options for this site and consider potential contributions of the site to the Alberta parks system.</p>
<p>Education, including invasive species</p>	<p>Whirling disease and aquatic invasive species education are a core part of these program areas and are a priority for the GOA. Fish disease and aquatic invasive species threaten the productivity and sustainability of native fish populations, ecosystem health, and pose risks to water related infrastructure. The GOA has engaged stakeholders to develop an education and outreach plan that is based on the AEP’s environmental education framework. The GOA has implemented this strategy and initiated the “Clean, Drain and Dry Campaign Your Gear” and “Don’t Let It Loose” to prevent the spread of fish diseases and aquatic invasive species. GOA is currently reviewing potential options for equipment cleaning stations. The limitations of electricity and potable water at each site may determine the scope of the cleaning stations.</p>
<p>Enforcement of motorized activity</p>	<p>Boat usage is regulated by Transport Canada. The Small Vessel Regulation (a federal regulation) Part 10 Safety Precautions and Operational Requirements Section 1007 reads “No person shall operate a vessel in a careless manner, without due care and attention or without reasonable consideration for other persons.” Please contact the Office of Boating Safety with Transport Canada at obs-pnr-bsn@tc.gc.ca with any concerns.</p>
<p>Communication of conditions of launches, closure, hazards, traffic and access points and signage</p>	<p>The GOA will consider using existing advisory site systems to inform river users of closures and hazards. The public can report river public land abuses to the toll free Report A Poacher line at 1-800-642-3800. The report will then be processed and sent to the appropriate team for response.</p>

Stakeholder Engagement Overview

The GOA recognized the personal and commercial value of the Bow River and provided opportunities for river and river valley users alike to contribute their views and expectations into the planning process. As such, targeted stakeholder organizations were engaged throughout the Development Phase (February to May, 2017) of the Draft Plan. Further engagement was carried out thereafter during the Engagement Phase (July 2017).

The opportunity for feedback included stakeholder meetings, providing feedback directly to the Planning Team, and participating in an online survey. A summary of all feedback collected has been included in this report.

First Nations and Métis Engagement

The intent of Crown-led engagement is to support good governance and informed decision making. To ensure First Nations communities and Métis organizations were meaningfully involved and informed, the GOA has taken the following steps:

- Ensured that identified First Nation communities and Métis organizations were provided with the same engagement opportunities as stakeholders and the public.
- Provided the identified First Nations communities and Métis organizations, at each phase of the Plan renewal, with information on engagement opportunities, background information on the Plan as well as the status of Plan's development process, include any relevant information such as data, maps and plans with requests for feedback.

Development Phase

Engagement at this phase commenced in February 2017 and consisted of meetings with stakeholders for the purpose of collecting information on current access and access needs, identifying potential management issues and options, and testing the level of support for proposed management concepts. Stakeholders during the Development Phase included local governments, recreation organizations, conservation organization and commercial recreation. First Nations communities, during the Development Phase, were involved through the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan First Nations Sub-table. The feedback from groups and individuals during the Development Phase was critical in the formation of the Draft Plan.

During the Development Phase, additional feedback was gathered through meetings and by providing comments directly to the Planning Team. The First Nations at the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan First Nations Sub-Table provided suggestions in meeting on May 24, 2017 (Table 1).

General feedback included suggested general improvements (Table 2) and site specific improvements (Table 3).

Table 1. General Improvements Suggested by First Nations.

Infrastructure	General Improvements Suggested by First Nations
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce uncontrolled vehicle use in riparian areas to mitigate impacts to traditional plants and biodiversity. Access control measures need to be combined with enforcement to ensure the rules are being followed. • Consider user registration focused on site capacity. • Concerns that there may be increased use as a result of improvements. • Consider methods to limit use if a site exceeds capacity on a given day. • Reduce disturbance at existing sites and limit new disturbance. Consider reducing number of sites. • Reclaim disturbed areas outside the facility footprint, including riparian.
Boat Launch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement mitigation measures to reduce impacts during boat launch upgrades or construction.
Amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repatriating of First Nations' place names. • Sharing First Nations history through signage and other methods (<i>i.e.</i> interactive displays). • Implement mitigation to reduce the introduction and spread of invasive species.

Table 2. General improvements suggested by stakeholders.

Infrastructure	General Improvements Suggested by Stakeholders
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate parking. Consider parking for trailers and separate vehicle only parking for hand launch boats. • Install gates or other methods to control access during high flow/flood conditions. • Consider additional river access sites to disperse use and decrease the distance between sites. Others felt that the existing number of river access sites is appropriate if the existing sites are improved. • Sites designed to meet emergency response vehicle specifications.
Boat Launch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install designated boat launches or designated boat launch areas. • Double lane (or greater) boat launches are preferred to allow quicker loading and unloading.
Amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where applicable, existing river access sites would benefit from the installation of toilets, garbage and recycling receptacles, increased signage (<i>i.e.</i>, regulations, education on gravel bar use/misuse, distance to next sites), covered shelters, benches, picnic tables, launch and parking area lights, and gear cleaning stations. • Consider camping opportunities in suitable locations. • Consider designed camping location on islands with basic facilities.

Table 3. Infrastructure improvements suggested by stakeholders by site.

Access	Boat Launch	Amenities	Other
Fish Creek Provincial Park			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open gates earlier and close later in the day during the main angling season (<i>i.e.</i>, daybreak to dusk) to distribute usage throughout the day. • Establish a process to permit overnight parking for the purposes of downstream overnight use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark a centre line on the boat ramp to clearly indicate that two boats can load or unload at a time. • Install a sign indicating that the boat launch can accommodate two vehicles at a time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install/move the existing toilet facility closer to the boat launch. • Establish an area adjacent to the river for clients to practice casting. 	
Policeman’s Flats			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No suggested improvements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a secondary launch at the area currently occupied by the parking sign. • Install rig matting to the existing launch. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly delineate the roadway and parking area. • Add gravel and grade the parking area to help with safety and vehicle wear. • Install temporary washroom, garbage and signage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate safety hazards and determine mitigation options. • Post a sign upstream advising of hazard. • Grade the area that was the previous boat launch site. The ramp is already being used by some individuals and it allows river users to avoid the in-stream hazards at the upstream end of the access sites (<i>i.e.</i>, the rocks creating the pool where folks are currently launching from). • Remove the berm.

Access	Boat Launch	Amenities	Other
McKinnon Flats			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade access road. • Design the access road to accommodate City of Calgary fire rescue access to the Bow River. • Restrict access to homestead site and area adjacent the parking lot. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formalize boat launch and restrict access to the gravels bar except when launching or taking out from the site. • Design the boat launch to accommodate City of Calgary fire rescue. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install washroom, garbage receptacles, lighting and signage. • Consider overnight camping as part of the area review. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider classification as a Provincial Park or Provincial Recreation Area under the <i>Provincial Parks Act</i>.
Legacy Island			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain access across backwater channel. Consider flood resistant options to avoid crossing through the channel. • Minor grading across backwater channel to maintain car access. • Install a bridge or large culvert to provide access across to the island or a more-permanent flood-resistant concrete-based structure across the back channel. • Upgrade barrier (berm) intended to prevent vehicle access beyond the access road and parking area. • To prevent access, a post and cable fence or boulder barrier may be required. • Boulders preferred as they would be reasonably flood resistant and if lost in future floods would not degrade downstream habitat. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install a swamp mat (similar to the Quarry Park access) at the launch. • Widen the launch for up to four boats. • Designate lanes on the launch. • Maintain launch to manage silt accumulation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install washroom, garbage receptacles, lighting and signage. • Picnic tables. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider classification as a Provincial Park or Provincial Recreation Area under the <i>Provincial Parks Act</i>.

Access	Boat Launch	Amenities	Other
Johnson's Island (Wyndham-Carseland Provincial Park)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the access to the existing boat launch as it is currently quite steep. • Potential reconfiguring of the ramp upstream by 10 metres should be investigated. • Upgrade the boat launch where the concrete pads have been dislodged. • Widen the boat launch to allow for two boats at the same time. • Install signage and land designation to indicate that two boats can launch at the same time (<i>i.e.</i>, signage). • Consider adding a secondary hand launch and day use area with picnic tables where the access road first passes by the river. This site was a day use area with washrooms in the past (the earth dam was destroyed in the 2013 flood). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install lighting and additional signage. • Upgrade existing parking and consider an overflow parking area near the berm. • Update the sign at the parking area to indicate the correct location of the washroom facilities. • Investigate the requirements for increased parking capacity and better parking. • Consider designating the existing parking lot for trailered vehicles with access for standard vehicles in a new parking lot on the east side of the road behind the washroom. • Identify opportunities for portaging around the weir. 		

Engagement Phase

Engagement at this phase commenced on July 4, 2017 with the release of the Draft Plan and consisted of meetings and an online survey was opened to the general public that closed July 31, 2017. Meetings included suggestions provided by the Métis Nation of Alberta Region 3 on August 17, 2017.

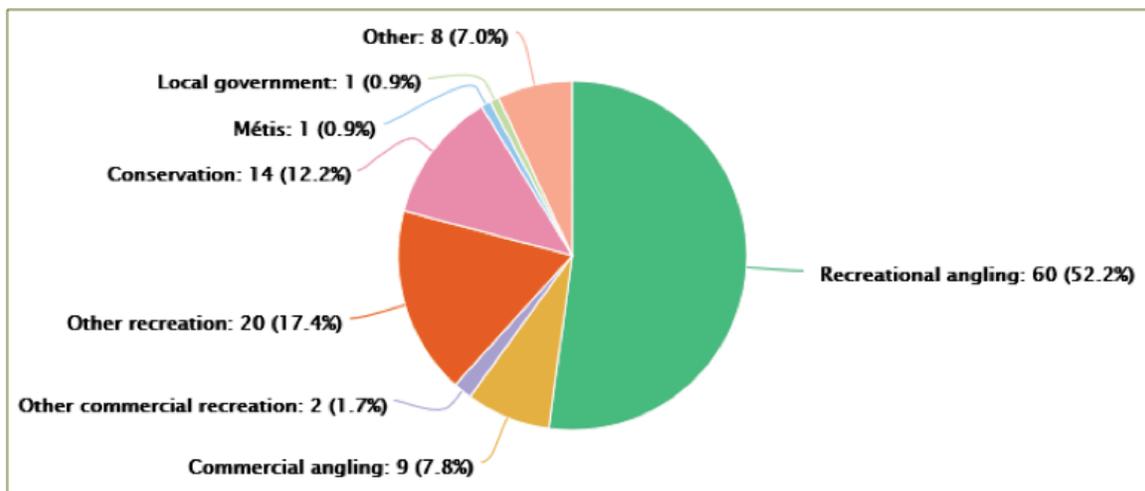
Table 4. Additional improvements suggested by the Métis Nation of Alberta Region 3.

Infrastructure	Additional Improvements Suggested by Métis Nation of Alberta Region 3
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns about the potential for increased use and potential overcapacity.
Amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repatriating of Métis place names. • Sharing Métis history through signage and other methods (<i>i.e.</i> interactive displays).

During the time the online survey was live, the online site that hosted the survey had 1450 unique visitors and included the Draft Plan for download. The Draft Plan was downloaded by 571 site visitors. Public input was received through 115 responses to an online survey and comments directly received by project staff. For each question, the response has been presented in a series of tables and/or diagrams and common themes are summarized. A copy of the online survey questions is provided in Appendix B.

There was a diversity of interests represented by respondents to the online survey with the majority of these affiliated to the recreational angling community.

Figure 2. Affiliation of survey respondents (Question 7).



Desired Outcomes

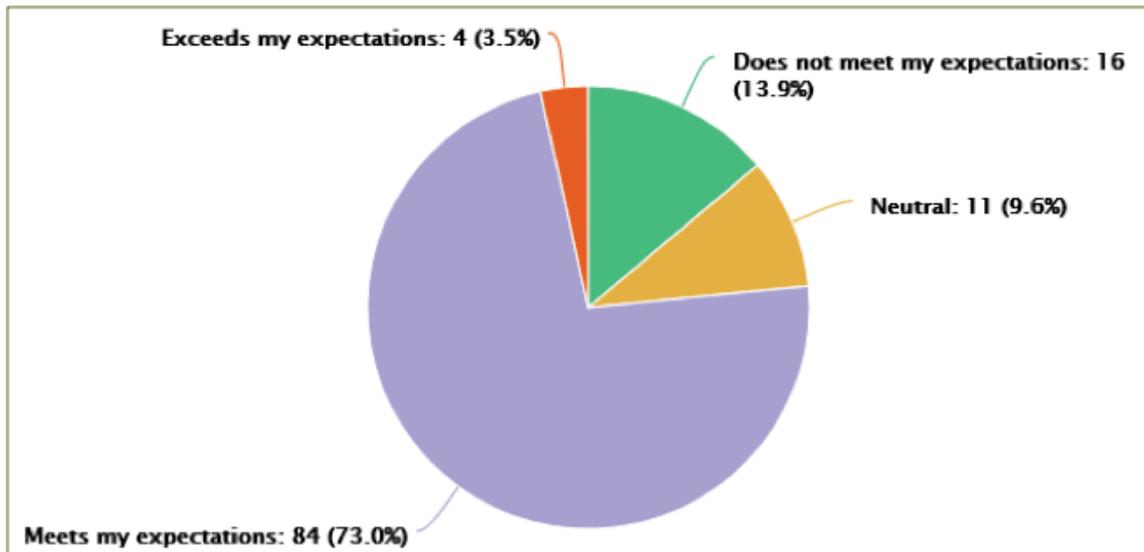
The online survey focused on identifying the level of public support for the desired outcomes, the extent that the Draft Plan achieves its intent, and the proposed infrastructure and operational improvements to the access sites. The Draft Plan desired outcomes included:

- To develop a sustainable river access plan for anglers and other recreational users (*i.e.*, canoeists, kayakers, etc.) as well as those seeking nature experiences along the Bow River.
- To ensure the sustainability of the fishery.
- To focus on improving the existing facilities at the Bow River access sites within the planning area. The priority is identifying an alternative location to Policeman's Flats.
- To reduce site impacts (*i.e.*, site erosion, inappropriate user behavior, human waste, etc.).
- To facilitate commercial recreation and tourism opportunities within and adjacent to the Bow River.
- To develop partnerships with anglers, guides and tourism operators to enhance the management and stewardship of Bow River access sites.

- To identify strategies for educating Albertans about the sites, what can be anticipated at each site, and expected behaviors on and off the river.
- To continue to explore opportunities for expanding the Bow River access network beyond the sites identified in this Draft Plan.
- To align with the City of Calgary’s River Access Strategy (City of Calgary 2017).

Overall, the majority of respondents indicated that the desired outcomes set out in the Draft Plan met or exceeded their expectations. Some respondents suggested a greater emphasis on health and sustainability of riparian and aquatic ecosystems and non-motorized recreation. To protect riparian and aquatic ecosystems, recommendations included designating specific sites for recreational use of motorized or commercial activities and others for non-motorized recreationalists while recognizing that everyone should enjoy access to the river.

Figure 3. Expectations of desired outcomes (Question 1).



Achievement of Intent

The overall intent of the Draft Plan is to identify key river access points for public use, reduce site impacts, and improving recreation, tourism and educational opportunities, while reducing user conflict, improving public safety and ensuring a sustainable fishery. Respondents were asked to identify the extent to which they believe the Draft Plan achieves its intent related to:

- a. Key river access points for public use
- b. Reduce site impacts
- c. Improve recreation, tourism and educational opportunities

Figure 4. Expectations of the Draft Plan achieving its intent to support key river access points for public use (Question 5a).

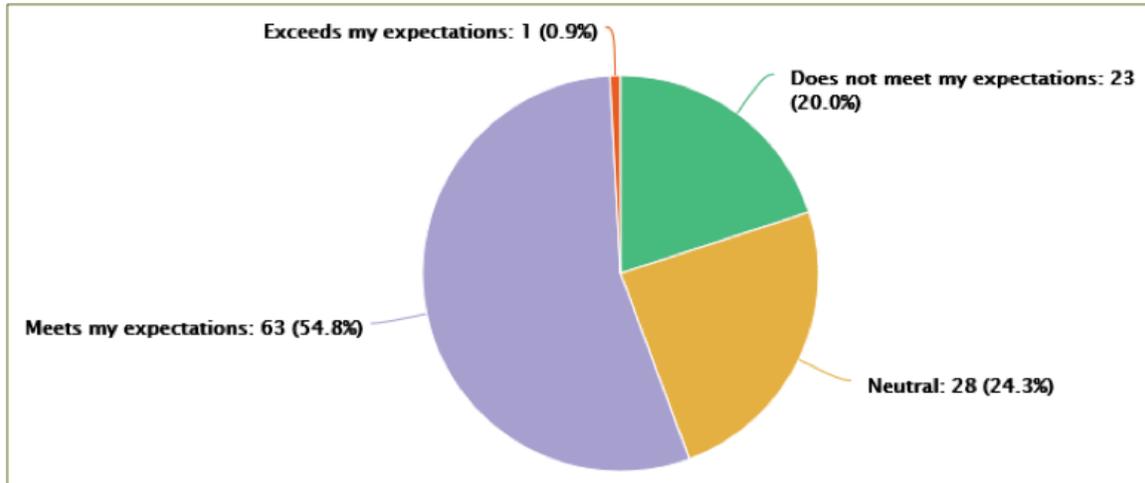


Figure 5. Expectations of the Draft Plan achieving its intent for reducing site impacts (Question 5b).

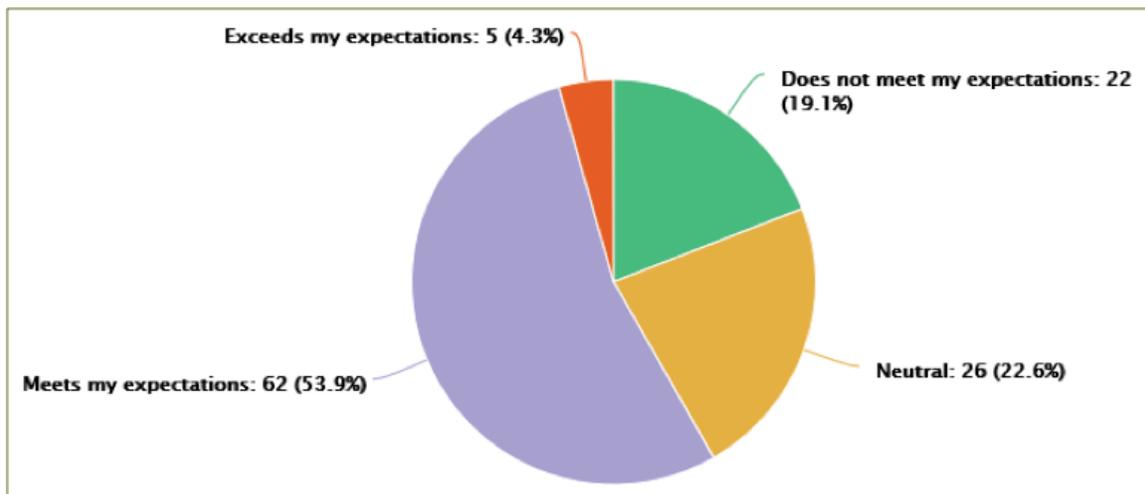
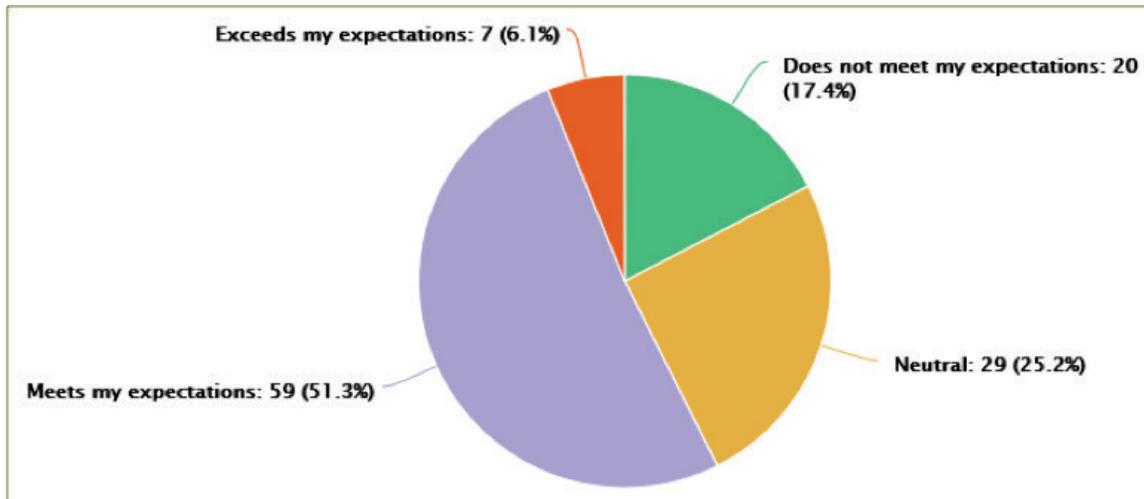


Figure 6. Expectations of the Draft Plan achieving its intent for improving recreation, tourism and educational opportunities (Question 5c).



Infrastructure and Operational Improvements

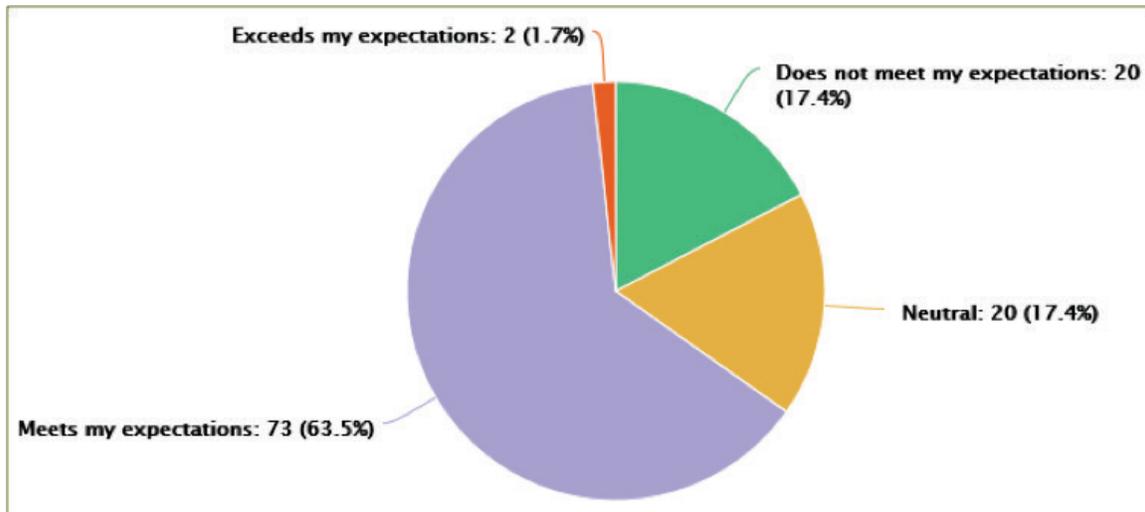
The Draft Plan identified improvements related to aspects of access, boat launch, on-site amenities and safety. In regards to improvements, the survey asked respondents to identify the extent to which they believed the improvements suggested in the Draft Plan were appropriate. Most respondents felt that the improvements suggested met their expectations for each site.

Table 1. Expectations of suggested improvements by site.

Sites	Does Not Meet	Neutral	Meets	Exceeds
Fish Creek Provincial Park	9 (7.8%)	13 (11.3%)	84 (73.0%)	9 (7.8%)
Johnson's Island (Wyndham-Carseland Provincial Park)	12 (10.4%)	13 (11.3%)	82 (71.3%)	8 (7.0%)
McKinnon Flats	21 (18.3%)	9 (7.8%)	78 (67.8%)	7 (6.1%)
Legacy Island	12 (10.4%)	19 (16.5%)	74 (64.3%)	10 (8.7%)
Policeman's Flats	29 (25.2%)	16 (13.9%)	64 (55.7%)	6 (5.2%)

Overall, respondents indicated support for amenities and facilities identified in the Draft Plan.

Figure 7. Expectations of support for actions put forth in the Draft Plan (Question 3).



Respondents suggested that the GOA develop a system to communicate conditions of amenities, closures, hazards, traffic and access points and signage. Specific site improvements suggested by respondents to the online survey included:

- Fish Creek – creation of a breakwater upstream
- Policeman’s Flats – removal of only a portion of the rock berm
- Legacy Island – a two-wide boat launch is sufficient
- Johnson’s Island – consider overnight parking

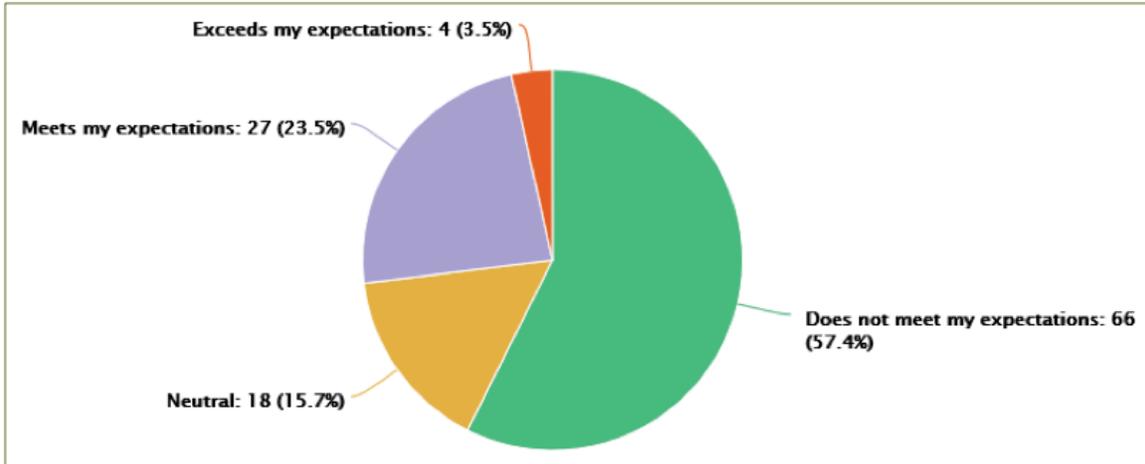
Additionally, amenities suggested by respondents included designated camping, gear cleaning stations to reduce the spread of invasive species and whirling disease, and enhancing public safety by including bad weather shelters, call boxes with direct link to 911, parking lot lights and video surveillance. In addition to recommendations for site improvements, it was also suggested that a system to communicate conditions of launches, closures, hazards, traffic, signage, and access points be considered. Where amenities are planned to be removed or relocated, respondents suggested that restoration of restricted areas be completed. Where amenities are planned to be created, respondents suggested that appropriate environmental, traditional ecological knowledge and historical assessments be conducted.

Access Sites

The Draft Plan focused on improving access to the river but did not identify the establishment of new access sites for the reach of the Bow River within the planning area, aside from potentially identifying an alternative to the current Policeman’s Flats site.

The majority of respondents indicated that the number of sites identified in the Draft Plan did not meet their expectations as appropriate for the current level of use.

Figure 8. Expectations of the number of sites appropriate for current level of use (Question 4a).



Many respondents suggested locations for additional new sites, including the need for an additional site between Policeman’s Flats and McKinnon Flats. Additionally, respondents suggested improving access by creating a shuttle system, considering sites on the south side of the river and considering accessibility. Respondents suggested that accessibility be provided regardless of age, ability or disability, economic standing or other factors.

Table 2. New sites suggested

Suggested Sites			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upstream of Calgary • 17 Ave/Blackfoot • Glenmore/Graves • Douglasdale • Cranston at Deerfoot Extension/Highway 22X Bridge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seton • Pine Creek Water Treatment • Burnco Off RR 295 • Buffalo Jump • The Mansion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frenchmans Creek/Ralph Klein Park • Cottonwood • Nature’s Hideway • Near Highwood Mouth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheep River • North of Stormwater outfall • Below Carseland Weir • Downstream of Carseland to Medicine Hat

Conclusion

Feedback was generally supportive of the Draft Plan, noting the need for education and enforcement. All comments received were reviewed and considered in the development of the revised Plan. The GOA recognizes the importance of this feedback and has provided responses to common issues raised during consultation and online surveys described in the Bow River Access Plan: Response to What We Heard document available on www.talkaep.alberta.ca.

Following the approval of the Plan, improvements will be implemented on a site-by-site basis coordinated by operations staff as funding is available. To view the approved Plan, refer to www.talkaep.alberta.ca.

Appendix A – Summary of Engagement Activities

Phase	Stakeholder Engagement	Date	Details	Purpose of Engagement
Development	Angling Outfitter and Guide Association of Alberta (AOGAA)	Jan 27, 2017	Meeting with AEP staff	Meeting provided opportunity for AEP staff to discuss vision for Plan, and to garner support of organization for objectives guiding the Plan.
	Recreation Organizations	Mar 16, 2017	Meeting with Plan Planning Team	Intent was to provide key stakeholders with information on the proposed BRAP planning process, to seek their input on the functionality of current access sites, and to identify opportunities for further river access.
	Conservation Organizations	Mar 16, 2017	Meeting with Plan Planning Team	Intent was to provide key stakeholders with information on the proposed Plan planning process, to seek their input on the functionality of current access sites, and to identify opportunities for further river access.

	Commercial Recreation Organizations	Mar 16, 2017	Meeting with Plan Planning Team	Intent was to provide key stakeholders with information on the proposed Plan planning process, to seek their input on the functionality of current access sites, and to identify opportunities for further river access.
	Local Municipal Governments	Mar 16, 2017	Meeting with Plan Planning Team	Intent was to provide key stakeholders with information on the proposed Plan planning process, to seek their input on the functionality of current access sites, and to identify opportunities for further river access.
	AOGAA	Mar 16, 2017	Meeting with AEP DM, ADM and staff	Meeting provided opportunity for AEP DM to directly engage with the AOGAA, and ask for their input on opportunities to enhance river access within the study area.
	AOGAA	Apr. 4, 2017	Meeting with AEP ADM and staff	Meeting provided opportunity for AEP ADM to directly engage with the AOGAA, and ask for their input on opportunities to enhance river access within the study area.

	South Saskatchewan Regional Plan First Nations Sub-Table	May 24, 2017	Meeting with AEP staff.	Meeting provided opportunity for South Saskatchewan Regional Plan First Nations Sub-Table to provide their comments and suggestions on the current direction and progress of the planning process.
Engagement	Release of Plan and Online Survey	July 4 – 31, 2017	Release of Plan and Online Survey	The Plan was announced on July 4, 2017 with the start of an online survey that closed July 31, 2017. The online site that hosted the survey had 1450 unique visitors and included the Plan for download. The Plan was downloaded by 571 site visitors. Public input was received through 115 responses to an online survey and comments directly received by project staff.
	Métis Nation of Alberta Region 3	Aug. 17, 2017	Meeting with AEP staff.	Meeting provided opportunity for the Métis Nation of Alberta Region 3 to provide their comments and suggestions on the current direction and progress of the planning process.

Appendix B – Online Survey Questions

1. The Outcomes and Objectives section on page 4 of the Draft Bow River Access Plan identifies a number of desired outcomes, including recreational, environmental, and educational outcomes. To what extent do you support the desired outcomes set out in the Draft Bow River Access Plan?

2. For each of the access sites identified in the Draft Plan, the Draft Plan proposes a number of infrastructure and operational improvements related to aspects of access, boat launch, on-site amenities and safety.
 - a. To what extent do you believe the improvements suggested for the Fish Creek Provincial Park site are appropriate?
 - b. To what extent do you believe the improvements suggested for the Policeman's Flats site are appropriate?
 - c. To what extent do you believe the improvements suggested for the McKinnon Flats site are appropriate?
 - d. To what extent do you believe the improvements suggested for the Legacy Island site are appropriate?
 - e. To what extent do you believe the improvements suggested for the Johnson's Island (Wyndham-Carseland Provincial Park) site are appropriate?

3. The Draft Plan Summary section on page 24 of the Draft Plan, proposes a number of actions to be taken by the Government of Alberta. To what extent do you support the actions put forth in the Draft Bow River Access Plan?

4. The draft plan does not identify the establishment of any new access sites for the reach of the Bow River within the planning area, aside from potentially identifying an alternative to the current Policeman's Flats site.
 - a. To what extent do you believe the number of Bow River access sites identified in the Draft Bow River Access Plan is appropriate for the current level of use?
 - b. What additional sites would you like to see included in the Bow River Access Plan?

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5. The overall intent of the Draft Bow River Access Plan is to identify key river access points for public use, reduce site impacts, and improving recreation, tourism and educational opportunities, while reducing user conflict, improving public safety and ensuring a sustainable fishery.
- a. To what extent do you believe the Draft Plan achieves its intent related to identifying key river access points for public use?
 - b. To what extent do you believe the Draft Plan achieves its intent related to reducing site impacts?
 - c. To what extent do you believe the Draft Plan achieves its intent related to improving recreation, tourism and educational opportunities?
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6. Please provide any additional comments on the draft management plan.

7. Are you affiliated with any of the following? (Please identify only one of the following options as your primary affiliation)
