

Design Program

7



City of Abbotsford
Mill Lake Park Master Plan
2025



7 Design Program

The design program is summarized below in alignment with the four main guiding principles themes for the Park.

Themes of Guiding Principles

- 1. Environment & Landscape
- 2. Amenities
- 3. Safety & Accessibility
- 4. Culture

The major components of the proposed plan for the Park include the following items listed according to the 4 themes & guiding principles.



Environment & Landscape



Amenities



Safety & Accessibility



Culture

Daylight Creek with Lights



7.1.1 Environment & Landscape

Improve Water quality in Mill Lake

Modifications to the storm meter outlets that currently flow directly into Mill Lake are proposed to reduce sediment and nutrients.

Daylighting of the outlets into small stormwater ponds adjoining Mill Lake will allow for the water from minor storm events to be partially cleansed before it enters Mill Lake.

Daylighting of the outlet of the lake into Willband Creek will be an interpretive and educational feature while also helping to cleanse the run-off from Mill Lake.

Nature Interpretation

The Parks considerable natural assets are proposed to be interpreted with signage and other media. Online environmental information could be provided to support this initiative.

Landscape Beautification

Enhanced planting, including a focus on trees, is proposed for some open areas of the Park to increase tree canopy coverage. The edges of the Park provide opportunities to

create treed streetscapes that would be more appealing for pedestrians. Ornamental planting could be provided at the main Park entry points. The overall intent for the landscape of the Park is to reinforce its natural character.

Feature Gardens in the Park

The plan proposes the ongoing retention of the Sylvia Pincott gardens with support from community groups for its maintenance.

Tree Protection and Enhancement

Existing native tree stands are proposed to be retained and enhanced through management of invasive species and measures to reduce the risk of fire.

Protection and Expansion of Riparian Zone

Mill Lake's riparian zone vegetation is important for lake water quality and as habitat for numerous species. Based on the existing and potential vegetation and fish presence, a 30m wide Streamside Protection and Enhancement Area (SPEA) is anticipated for Mill Lake.

Multi-Purpose Building



7.1.2 Amenities

Public Washrooms

The washroom buildings (seasonal or year-round) in the park are planned to be either replaced or upgraded to ensure they are safe, accessible and architecturally align with the form and character of the Park.

Multi-Purpose Arts, Culture and Community Building

A new Multi-Purpose Arts, Culture and Community Building is proposed for the southeast corner of the Park. This building could cater for small community gathering events and displays. The building would include accessible washrooms.

Picnic Sites and Shelters

The 3 shelters in the Park will be retained and enhanced where necessary to support picnic activities. A new shelter is proposed for the west portion of the Park.

Dock - Fishing and Other Uses

The recently constructed dock on the north edge of

Mill Lake will be retained to cater for lake viewing, fishing and launching of minor watercraft.

Play Areas

The existing playgrounds in the Park will be retained and upgraded where necessary. A new playground is proposed for the northern area of the Park to cater to existing and expected residents who will enjoy this area of the Park.

Viewpoints / Lookout Plazas

To provide better opportunities for viewing of Mill Lake and mountains to the southeast, seating areas are planned to be provided in the north end of the Park.

Swimming

Swimming in the lake will remain restricted for the foreseeable future. However, future plans for swimming in the Centennial Pool will be informed by the Aquatic Services and Facilities Strategy.

Dog Park



Dog Park

A fenced dog off leash area is proposed for a portion of the forested area in the south west corner of the Park.

Food Services

Power supply is proposed for an area adjoining the Bevan Avenue parking area and playground to provide temporary food services.

Sport and Recreation Facilities

The plan proposes a reduction in active recreation facilities in the Park, such as the existing ball diamond in the north end of the Park to provide more space for other recreation activities, including events. The existing horseshoe pits are proposed to be relocated within the Park and lawn bowling relocated. An area for disc golf is proposed in the southeast corner of the Park.



Sport & Recreation

Amphitheatre/ Permanent Stage



Amphitheatre / Permanent Stage

The Park currently hosts numerous events and with the expected increase in the residential population in the downtown area, permanent stage infrastructure is proposed – one in the north of the Park and one in the south. The northern stage area will be complemented with a seating terrace on the planned expanded Park area adjoining the commercial development.

Additional or Upgraded Site Furnishings

General enhancement of site furnishings throughout the Park is proposed with a focus on accessibility and consistency and durability of materials.

Boat Ramp

The existing boat ramp is proposed to be retained to facilitate existing allowed watercraft use on Mill Lake, however, the adjoining parking area is proposed to be modified to allow watercraft launching and retrieval but not parking. Parking for cars and trailers will be provided in a new parking area adjoining Mill Lake Road. This change is proposed to reduce the amount of hard surfacing and related run-off into Mill Lake.

Utilities in and around the Park

Utilities, including power supply, will be upgraded where necessary to support enhanced or new amenities in the Park.



Boardwalk
to be Retained
& Replaced

7.1.3 Safety & Accessibility

Enhanced Park Entries (pedestrians and cyclists)

The major (primary) entries into the Park and secondary entries will be enhanced with Park identification and directional signage to make the Park more identifiable, accessible and safer. Lighting upgrades will be included. A new primary Park entry is proposed in the southeast corner of the Park at the intersection of Bevan Avenue and Ware Street. Another new primary Park entry is planned at the north end of the Park as contemplated in the City Centre Neighbourhood Plan.

Multi-use Trails – including Lake Loop

The multi-use trails in the Park, with a focus on the ‘lake loop’, are proposed to be upgraded and widened to allow for safer shared use of the trails and to promote multi-use accessibility. Signage may also be required to clearly identify locations which are shared (with bicycles) and locations that are pedestrian only.

The existing boardwalk along the east edge of Mill Lake is planned to be retained and replaced.

Nature Trails

Existing nature trails through the forested areas and along the edge of Mill Lake will generally be retained but not widened. A new nature trail is planned for the forested area at the north end of the park adjoining the commercial development.

Walkways

Paved walkways primarily for pedestrian use are proposed to be added to the southeast area of the Park which is currently occupied by houses that the City has acquired. New walkway links are also proposed for the planned expansion area at the north end of the Park to connect to the commercial development.

Park Lighting

Lighting in the Park is planned to generally be upgraded where Park use in the evening is encouraged. The lighting will focus on park entries, paved multi-use trails or walkways, play areas and buildings.

Parking Areas

Parking spaces will be increased; however, parking locations are to be reconfigured in the northern and eastern portions of the Park. Consideration will be given to providing opportunities for ‘passenger’ drop off or pick-up and access for transit vehicles for every day and event access.

Accessibility into Buildings Including Washrooms

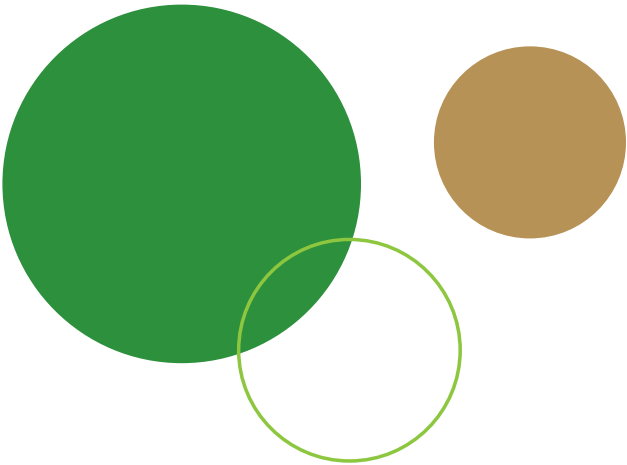
Accessibility into buildings will be assessed and enhanced where necessary.

Wayfinding / Directional Signage

Signage will be improved or added to the Park to facilitate better wayfinding.

Regulatory Signage

Consistent regulatory signage will identify appropriate park uses and hours for Park use to allow better Park management.



7.1.4 Culture

Additional Public Art

Mill Lake Park presents an opportunity to incorporate a public art program. Art could be located at major Park entries, into functional elements like park shelters or into site furnishings or interpretive features.

Trethewey House

Trethewey House and its associated gardens are planned to be protected as a heritage resource for Abbotsford. Planned modifications to the area between the House and Mill Lake will reinstate its former grounds and emphasize its importance in the Park.

Kariton House

Kariton House is planned to be retained as an ongoing focus for cultural activities including minor events.

Heritage (Interpretive) Signage

The Parks considerable heritage assets and history, including First Nations history, could be interpreted with signage and other media. Online history and heritage information could be made available to support this initiative. Activities associated with both Trethewey House and Kariton House could be aligned with this interpretation.