

Stage 3 – Draft Mill Lake Park Master Plan

Council Meeting

May 27, 2025

Parks, Recreation & Culture

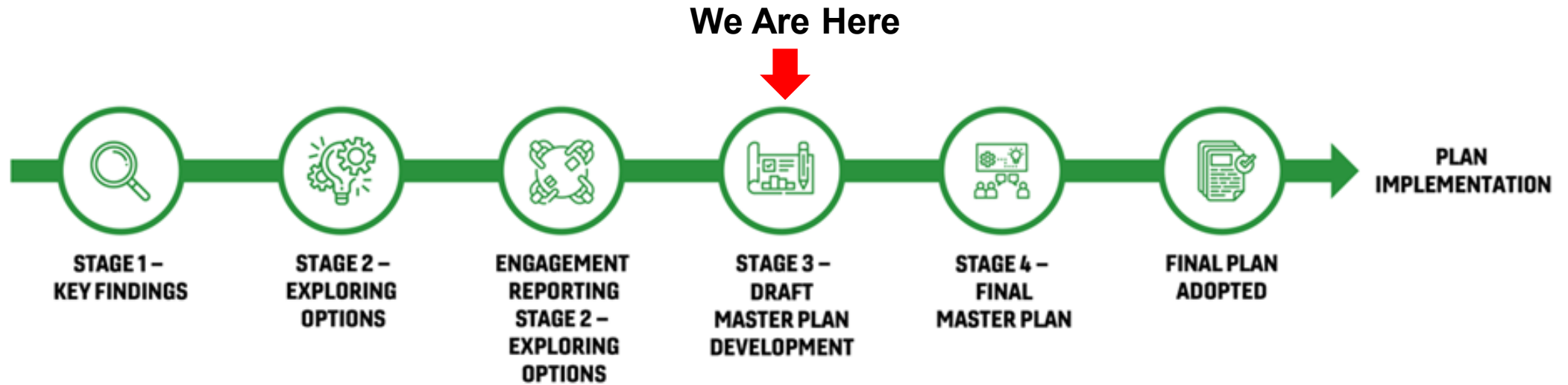


Purpose

- To introduce the Draft Mill Lake Park Master Plan (Plan) to Council for consideration prior to undergoing the final round of community engagement.



Background



Background

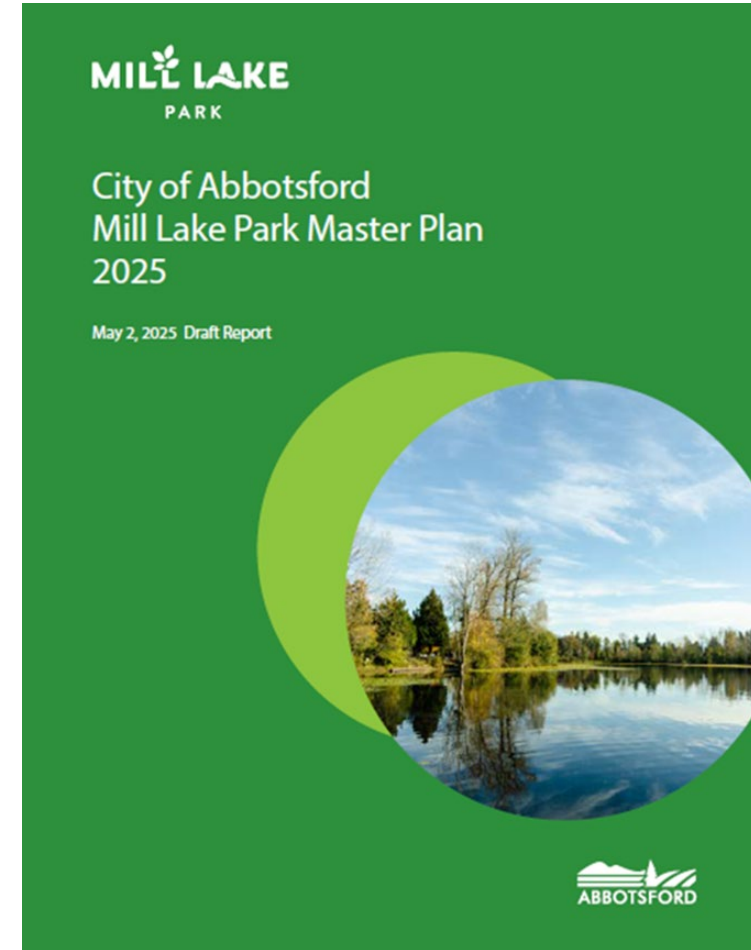
- At the November 5, 2024 Regular Meeting, Council received a report on the Stage 2 – Preferred Concept Plan (Concept), including engagement findings.
- Subsequently, staff presented a summary of additional community engagement regarding the Concept at the April 8, 2025 Regular Meeting.
- Ten items, including the retention and replacement of the boardwalk, were submitted to the public for clarification.
- All of these items received clear public support for inclusion in the Plan for Council's consideration.



Discussion

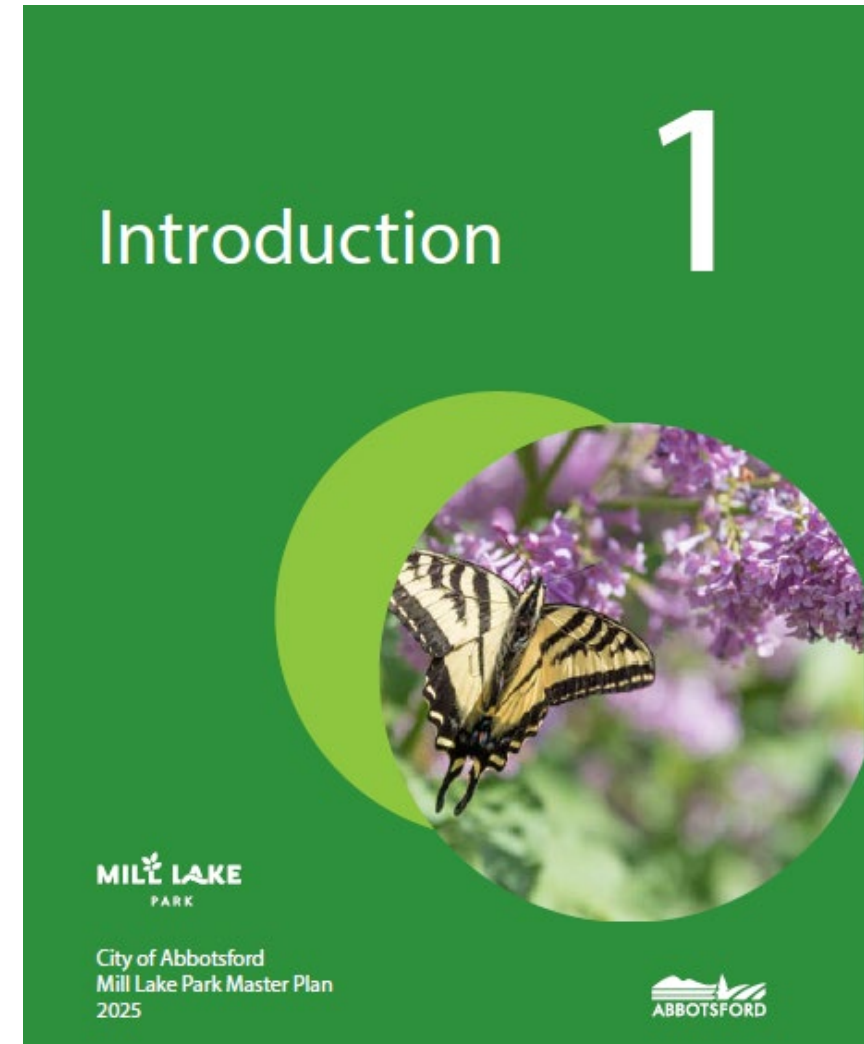
Draft Mill Lake Master Plan

- Introduction
- Site Overview
- Site Analysis
- Engagement Process & Outcomes
- Vision, Guiding Principles & Big Moves
- Master Plan Concept
- Design Program
- Implementation Plan



Introduction

- Plan purpose
- What is a Master Plan?
- The Need for a Master Plan
- Project goals and outcomes
- Project process



Site Overview

- Site Context (surrounding area)
- Park History (First Nations, Post settlement history and establishment of the Park)
- Policy Context (Strategic Plan, OCP, City Centre Neighbourhood Plan)
- Site Assets and Inventory (description of existing amenities and infrastructure)

Summary of the History of the Park

DATE	RECENT MAJOR EVENTS RELATED TO THE PARK'S CREATION
1919-1920	Trethewey House constructed
1936	Abbotsford Lumber Company donates 8.23 acre park south of Mill Lake
1944	Park dedicated
1955	Lions Club donates 7.5 acre park on the Mill Lake foreshore
1958	Centennial Park & Centennial Pool opening
	David F. Gosling Memorial Square dedicated
1970	Lake closed to power boats
1979	John Mahoney Park established
1995	Lions Point Viewing Platform constructed
2006	Rotary Crossing Playground constructed
	John Mahoney Park added to Mill Lake Park



Site Analysis

- Legal parcels and land use
- Gateways and entrances
- Park character, facilities and amenities
- Biophysical analysis (analyze ecosystems, vegetation, and wildlife including species at risk)
- Safety and security
- Events and seasonal programming (e.g. Run for Water, Symphony in the Park)
- Key Park Projects (e.g. Aquatic Strategy – Centennial Pool, Reconstruction of Dock)



Engagement Process & Outcomes

- Detailed engagement process and 'who we engaged'
- Identify engagement opportunities through project Stages 1 through 3
- Key takeaways and learnings



The strong message from the community is that the Park is a vital urban amenity.



Vision, Guiding Principles & Big Moves

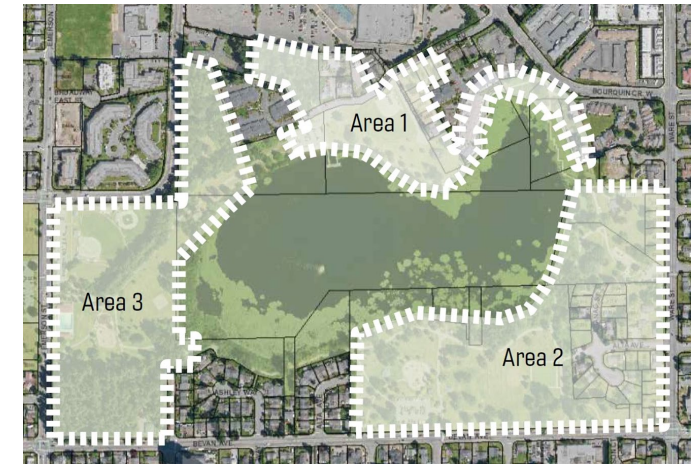
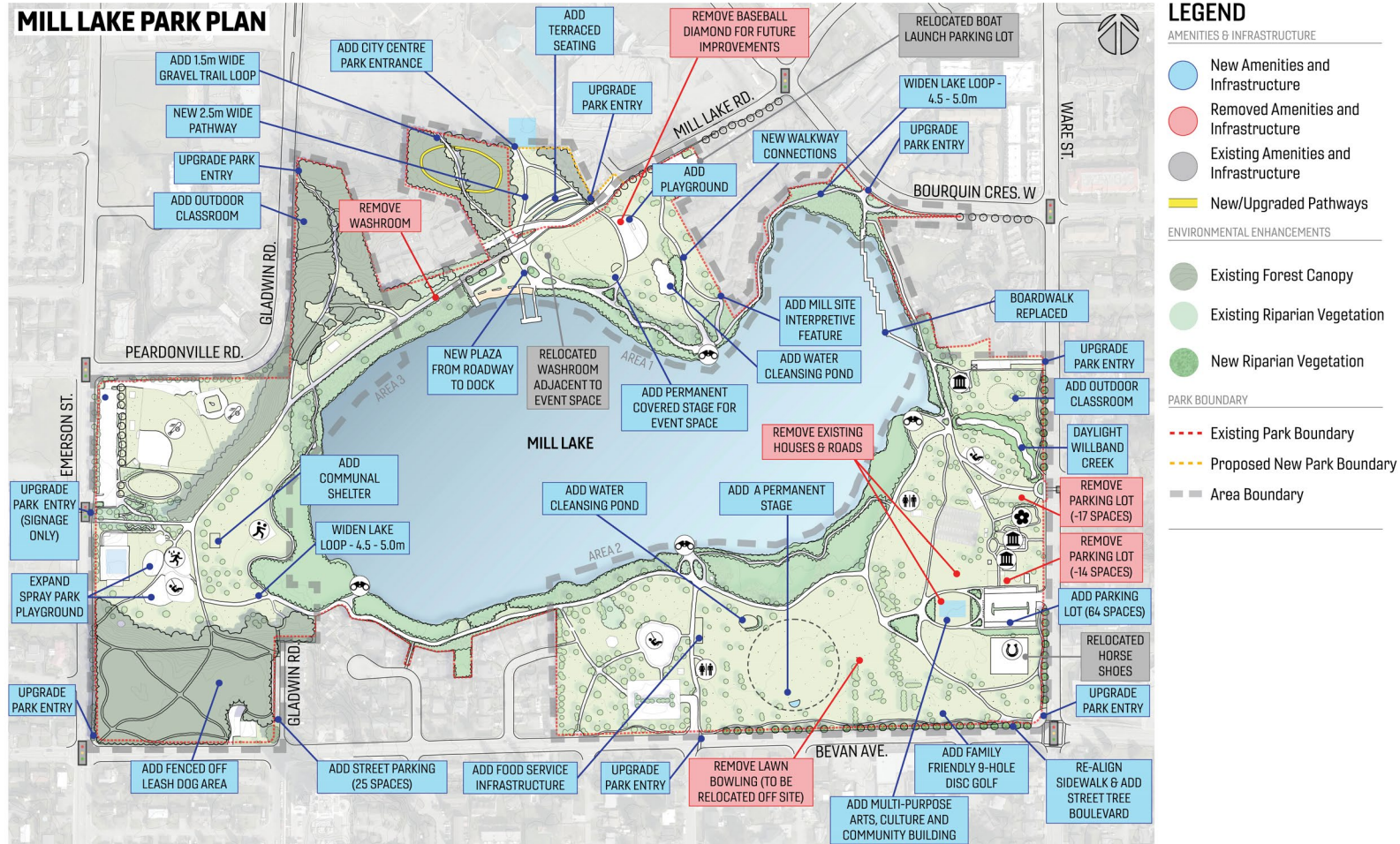
- Vision
- Four Guiding Principles (Environment and Landscape, Amenities, Safety & Accessibility, Culture)
- Seven Big Moves
 1. Create space for community and culture
 2. Prioritize broad public use
 3. Reallocate parking
 4. Enhance amenities
 5. Environmental enhancements
 6. Upgrade the Lake Loop
 7. Improve Park entrances and edges

Vision:

Mill Lake Park is the “heart” of the City of Abbotsford’s parks system connecting our diverse population with nature and each other in a Park where ecological integrity is prioritized, play and exploration are fostered, and where culture is celebrated.



Master Plan Concept



Master Plan Concept

General Park Enhancements:

- Widen Lake Loop to 4.5 to 5.0 M for all users
- Restore Streamside Protection and Enhancement Area (SPEA)
- Redevelop Park frontages to include pedestrian buffered road edges
- Establish Park entrance hierarchy and enhance entrances
- Expand forest canopy
- Develop water cleansing ponds and channels



Master Plan Concept

Key Area 1 Enhancements or Amendments:

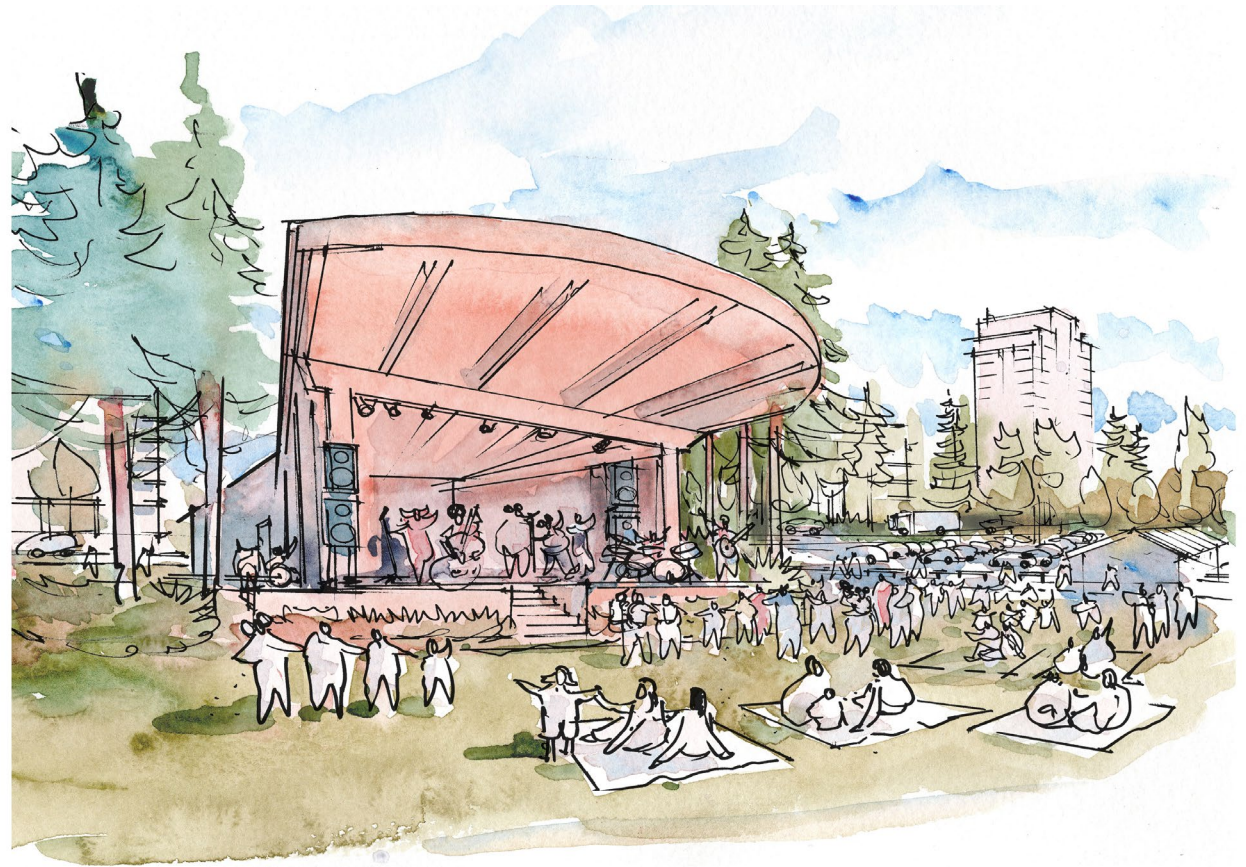
- Add City Centre Park entrance with viewing plaza
- Add a permanent stage with terraced seating
- Remove ball diamond (pending suitable replacement within parks system)
- Retain and replace the boardwalk



Master Plan Concept

Key Area 2 Enhancements or Amendments:

- Add a second permanent stage
- Daylight Willband Creek
- Add Multi-Purpose Arts, Culture and Community Building
- Relocate horseshoe pits
- Add nine-hole disc golf course



Master Plan Concept

Key Area 3 Enhancements or Amendments:

- Add off leash enclosed dog park
- Reconfigure ball diamonds and expand parking
- Retain Centennial Pool
- Expand spray park and playground



Design Program

Design Program section included to provide rationale on elements of the park and addresses:

- Environment and Landscape
- Amenities
- Safety and Accessibility
- Culture



Implementation Plan



- The Master Plan will be implemented in four phases over approximate 20 year time frame
- Each phase will align with City's five year capital works program
- Financial Strategy section is intended to assist with orderly, predictable and equitable development of the Park
- Mechanisms for paying for Park improvements include capital reserves, grants, DCC's and ACC's
- Future investigations, studies & assessments section included to support implementation (e.g. undertake an Integrated Stormwater Management Plan)



Next Steps

Complete Stage 3 Community Engagement Scope:

- **Let's Talk Abbotsford:** Host a community engagement opportunity for the public to provide feedback on the Draft Plan.
- **Stakeholders:** Key stakeholders notified via email of the community engagement available through Let's Talk Abbotsford.
- **Council Advisory Committee Meetings:** Present the Plan to the Community, Culture & Environment Advisory Committee at an upcoming meeting
- **Social Media & On-Site Signage:** Social media accounts and on-site signage in the Park will be used to inform the public about the engagement opportunity



Recommendation

That Council endorse the community consultation for the Draft Mill Lake Park Master Plan, as outlined in Report No. PRC 047-2025.

