

CHIEF WHITECAP PARK MASTER PLAN

PRELIMINARY CONCEPT PLAN

The Preliminary Concept Plan provides for the programming potential of the Park, given all the issues, needs and desires of the different stakeholders, keeping in mind the overall desire to keep development of the Park minimal and in harmony of the natural splendor of the site. The main attributes of the plan are as follows:

1. On Leash vs. Off Leash vs. No Dogs

- The vast majority of the site would remain as an off-leash dog run.
- No dogs would be allowed in the Interpretive Area in the southeast corner of the site, and in the north end of the site (to avoid dogs entering the residential properties in Birchwood Heights).
- On-leash corridors are proposed at the south end of the site (where an existing path transects a remnant native prairie), and along the east side where a possible future Trans-Canada/Meewasin Trail is proposed.
- Of the overall Park site of 392 acres, 280 acres (71%) would be off leash, 97 acres (25%) no dogs, and 15 acres (4%) on leash.

2. Parking

- Parking lots are proposed at the north end of the site, and adjacent to the Interpretive Area in the southeast corner. The southern parking lot would require the construction of a road in the existing unopened road allowance/right-of-way.

3. Pathways

- Most of the existing paths would be retained.
- A primary trail is proposed along the top of bank, connecting to the parking lots through the off-leash area.
- A primary trail is also proposed looping through the Interpretive Area.
- Secondary trails would be retained in the floodplain, except in the "no dog" area at the north end.
- Secondary paths would connect to the primary path at the south end.
- Trails down the steep slopes are to be discouraged to minimize erosion. Where proposed paths selectively navigate the slope, rustic timber stairs are suggested.

4. Signage and Fencing

- Signage is proposed along pathways to designate off leash/on leash/no dogs.
- Site maps are proposed at the parking lots.
- Fencing (e.g., page wire, 1.2 metres or 4 feet high) is proposed around the Interpretive Area.
- Fencing and/or bollards are recommended along the east side of the Park, to prevent vehicular access.

5. Interpretive Area

- Three main themes are proposed: Historical interpretation of the Rifle Range; Cultural interpretation of the Whitecap Dakota First Nation; and Natural interpretation of the remnant prairie.
- The statue of Chief Whitecap could remain in the remnant prairie, or it could be moved to the Cultural interpretive area.
- The interpretive facilities are intended to be unobtrusive and low impact (i.e., no large structures).

6. Recreation

- Use of the site as a dog run and beaching area would continue.
- No intensive recreational uses would be permitted (e.g., overnight camping, sports fields).

7. Vegetation

- The existing wooded slope and floodplain are to be preserved. Eroded slopes are to be restored. Beaver control may be required to preserve the Cottonwood Poplar in the floodplain.
- The upland area, formerly cultivated, is to be re-vegetated using predominantly native species (i.e., naturalized landscape).

8. Other Amenities

- Garbage containers and dog poop bag dispensers are required at the entrances to the site.
- Gates are proposed to allow maintenance vehicle access from the parking lots.
- Lighting is not proposed, assuming that the Park is closed at dusk.
- Benches are proposed at the lookout areas, and within the Interpretive Area.
- No washrooms are proposed, although portable toilets would likely be required for school group visits and special events.