



Downtown Berm Walk

What We Heard & How We're Responding Report

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Downtown Berm Walk Through Event

On June 26, 2023, we hosted a community walk through event for the Downtown Berm project. During our community engagement efforts for the Downtown berm project, we gathered important feedback/questions and concerns from residents. We would like to summarize the key points raised during the event:

Tree and Shrub Planting near Centennial Park

What we heard:

Residents expressed concerns about the placement and planting of trees and shrubs near Centennial Park. Preserving the existing greenery and ensuring thoughtful placement of new vegetation were emphasized as significant priorities. The community desires a comprehensive landscaping plan that considers the park's unique character and ensures the long-term health and aesthetic appeal of the planted trees and shrubs.

How we're responding:

We acknowledge the importance of preserving the existing greenery and ensuring appropriate planting and placement of trees and shrubs near Centennial Park. A comprehensive landscaping plan has been developed that considers the park's unique character and meets the desires of the community.

Berm Height

What we heard:

Questions and inquiries regarding the height of the berm were frequently raised by participants. Residents sought information about the planned height and its potential impact on the surrounding area, including views, accessibility, and visual integration. Understanding the intended height of the berm is crucial for residents to envision its overall impact on the downtown landscape.

How we're responding:

The Town is using the Provincially-determined 1:100 year flood event for the minimum level of protection, to keep Downtown safe from flooding for decades to come, and the height of the berm has been set based on this flood event.

Parking Near the Ball Diamond

What we heard:

Concerns were expressed regarding parking availability near the ball diamond during the construction period. Residents raised questions about potential disruptions or limitations to parking and the impact on events and activities at the ball diamond.

How we're responding:

Our goal is to maintain accessibility to the ball diamond throughout the construction process while prioritizing the safety and convenience of the community; however, there may be some short-term impacts to parking in the area during construction. Ball diamond users may need to find alternate modes of transportation to the ball diamond (i.e. walk or bike), use nearby on-street parking in the community or use the BCF or Town Hall Parking Lots, a couple of blocks walk from the ball diamond.

Road Width and Retaining Wall

What we heard:

Questions were raised about whether the road would remain wide enough to accommodate traffic flow after reducing its width to accommodate the retaining wall. Residents wanted assurance that the road's safety and functionality would not be compromised.

How we're responding:

We heard from the community that two-way traffic is a priority on Riverside Drive, and the current design maintains two lanes of traffic. We recognize the importance of also maintaining safe and efficient road conditions. Traffic flow and safety will not be compromised after reducing the road width to accommodate the retaining wall.

Construction and Access to Badlands Community Facility, Arena, and Aquaplex

What we heard:

Residents expressed concerns about the impact of construction on access to the Badlands Community Facility, Arena, and Aquaplex. The community desired clarity on any potential disruptions or changes to access arrangements during the construction phase.

How we're responding:

We will develop detailed traffic management and pedestrian detour plans and coordinate construction activities to minimize disruptions and ensure continued access to the Badlands Community Facility, Arena,

and Aquaplex. Current maps for pathway and road closures and detours are available at floodreadiness.drumheller.ca

Pathway on Berm

What we heard:

Questions were raised regarding the pathway on the berm and whether it would be improved compared to its current condition. Residents desired a pathway that enhances accessibility and provides a better surface for pedestrians and cyclists.

How we're responding:

Maintenance on the Downtown Berm pathways had been deferred over the past year due to upcoming berm construction. New pathway surfaces will be built on the Downtown berm in locations where pathways currently exist. No additional pathways will be developed as part of the project.

Centennial Park

What we heard:

Participants expressed curiosity about the post-construction appearance of Centennial Park. They sought information on how the park's layout, amenities, and overall ambiance would be affected by the berm construction.

How we're responding:

A plan that preserves and enhances Centennial Park has been developed. Design considerations took into account the community's input and aspirations, while ensuring that the park remains an inviting and vibrant space for all to enjoy even after the completion of the berm construction. An overview of the park area is available on the Flood Readiness website: [Downtown Berm Landscape Concept Plan](#) and on our display board at the Badlands Community Facility.

Vibration Concerns and Impact on Residents

What we heard:

Residents, particularly those living near the construction site, expressed concerns about potential vibrations caused by the construction activities. Specific attention was drawn to residents of Riverview Terrace Condos, who voiced apprehensions about the impact of vibrations on their living conditions.

How we're responding:

Throughout the construction process, we will closely monitor vibrations using advanced measurement techniques, promptly addressing any deviations and taking necessary corrective actions. We will maintain open lines of communication with affected residents and provide regular updates on the construction progress and any relevant measures taken to address vibration concerns.

We appreciate the valuable input and concerns shared by the community during the walkthrough event. We remain committed to facilitating ongoing communication as we move forward with the Downtown berm project.