

2015 AGM – Parks Report

2014 Review

Over the many years since the dry pond was built we continue to make strides towards maintaining and improving the park, our goal has always been **to create an area that residents could be proud of while showcasing the heart of our community**. The park contains 3 distinct areas with different needs, Sport Fields, Naturalized Area & Gardens, & Surrounding Green Spaces. The past year went very well over all with many of the things we have been working towards becoming increasingly apparent while reducing the budget by over 15%. We have and will continue to work hard to make sure it is as good as it can be while balancing our efforts with the resources we have. Our focus will continue to be towards never ending improvement of the space ...be it the naturalized area, general turf condition, the health of our trees & shrubs, or even the general appearance as seen from the roads or many paths that run around and through the space.

Some of the most visible and impactful aspects were;

- Agreement in principle with City Parks & Rec towards the establishment of a shared use and maintenance plan for the area going forward (Plan has been pending for 18 months).
- Coop City Forestry plan to nurse elms back to health (includes pruning, deep root feeding and fertilization)
- Installation of three benches through the City bench program (Thanks to the Allan's & Don Iveson).
- Over seeding & fertilization of turf areas (including green spaces adjacent to hall and volleyball courts).
- Irrigation of playing surfaces, south facing hills, & naturalized areas during dry periods.
- Cutting grass areas between City cutting cycles, including weed eater (additional cuts when required).
- Hills are being cut weekly as the City cannot cut them safely, with out rutting or scalping.
- Top dressing goal areas and damaged turf areas as required.
- Hand Aeration of goal areas and home plate area on baseball diamond.
- Volunteer work bee's (community members, teams, special interest groups).
- Clean up & weed control of parking lot area & paved areas.
- Planting of additional and replacement shrubs where required.
- Beautification of Hall with flowerpots and shrubs (Two plantings – summer & fall).
- Mulching & general maintenance of shrub beds.
- Pruning, weed control and general maintenance towards providing a healthy lush naturalized area.
- Weed control on turf playing surfaces, volleyball courts and around rink boards.
- Use of the portable nets towards increasing use while spreading out wear patterns.
- Use of portable nets and training grids to assist coaches in providing better training situations while improving the enjoyment of users.
- Replacement of two soccer nets on small portable goals.
- Canvassed sports and user groups to donate time and funds towards park maintenance.

Keys for 2015

- Formalize strategy towards reducing the financial burden on the community while maintaining the space.
- Work with City to maximize maintenance efforts (formalized plan that delivers benefits to our members).
- Work with the schools closely (drainage, wear issues, general clean up, student volunteers)
- Work with user groups towards donation of time and funds (net replacement, fertilizer, irrigation).
- Upgrade irrigation system (repair and replace as needed, improve efficiency).
- Enhanced Maintenance cycles for mini fields (including fertilization, irrigation, and cutting)
- Promote bench program with plans for another 3-4 benches.
- Look at potential of including art in the park... Amphitheatre, mulch beds, focal points adjacent to paths, including area around new playground project.
- Recruit a team of volunteers to assist in the maintenance & supervision of the park.
- Identify areas where we would like to see additional trees & shrubs (City and/or Community provided)
- Maintain all areas at similar levels to last year with the exception of the Mini Fields and Track Area, that area will receive an increase in focus & actual efforts to increase the quality of the space.

Projects

- Sustainable Soil Management – Enviro-Perfections – Trial Project
- Art in the park – Mural and other pieces with in the park
- Mini Fields & Track Area (enhanced maintenance & attracting special events)
By giving this area special attention this year our goal will be to attract the thousands of visitors that use this space (Especially young families with an interest in Soccer or Athletics) ie Youth soccer, Youth track events, possible FIFA or FC Edmonton events.
- Lastly....Your Ideas !!! (how can we make it even better?)

The most important measure of our success comes down to something very simple, **how often is the space used? & Who is using it?** When we look at the answers it becomes obvious that we are on the right track, not only is the park usually busy, it attracts people of all ages, within our community and outside...

It truly represents what Lendrum is and showcases the vibrancy and quality of life it provides for its residents.

Harvey Guhl	(Park Coordinator)
Bonnie Herring-Cooper	(Master Gardener)
Peggy Folinsbee	(Master Naturalist)

Lendrum Community Natural Area and Gardens
Annual Report 2015
submitted by Peggy Folinsbee & Bonnie Herring-Cooper

Natural Area & Ornamental Beds

Looking Back

We are grateful for all volunteers who provided regular and occasional help maintaining the park by weeding, mulching and pruning. Thanks also to those walkers and dog walkers who pick up litter, weed, prune and clean up after dogs. Thanks also to the University of Alberta staff who organize a Day of Service, in which UA students volunteer in neighbouring communities. Twenty-one students working with six Lendrum volunteers for the afternoon of August 29 completed a long list of tasks. We hear from many people how much they enjoy the park and appreciate the volunteers who tend it.

We formalized our first Partners in Parks stewardship agreement with the City of Edmonton. As a result, our requests for materials and services; e.g. mulch, plants, spraying of thistles, consultation go through one horticulturist. Planting of native flowering species in the meadows is slowing down as seedlings planted in 2012 and 2013 become established, flower, bear fruit and expand. Planting of native shrubs in 2014 was limited to replacing the cranberries below Avalon's parking lot with Viking chokecherries, which were flourishing by fall.

On August 6 Lendrum CL master naturalist, Peggy Folinsbee, hosted a very successful Family Nature Night organized by the Young Naturalists Club of Nature Alberta and the City of Edmonton. Forty-seven participants played games, painted with native dyes, joined guided walks and sampled native edibles.

Looking Forward

Get to know other Lendrum residents and interesting visitors on Monday evenings in June, July and August. Meet at the hall for an hour of gardening followed by refreshments. Projects under consideration for 2015 include art in the park, improvements to amphitheatre, attracting pollinators and encouraging dog walkers to "stoop and scoop".