



Sikome Aquatic Facility Redevelopment Plan in Fish Creek Provincial Park

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Sikome Aquatic Facility?

The Sikome Aquatic Facility (the Facility) is located within Fish Creek Provincial Park in the City of Calgary. The Facility is an artificial waterbody that serves as a swimming area during the summer months. Sikome is currently open from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Monday through Sunday) during the summer months (e.g. mid-June to early September).

Amenities: In addition to the swimming area, there are washrooms, change rooms, a concession stand, a volleyball court and three playgrounds in the immediate area of the sandy beach. The use of gas-powered barbecues is permitted in the lawn areas adjacent to the beach. Vending machines are also on site. In 2017, Alberta Parks replaced the beach sand and commercial food trucks were permitted on site for patrons to enjoy.

Access: The Facility can be accessed by Bow Bottom Trail S.E. or Sun Valley Boulevard S.E. off Highway 22x. Presently, there are approximately 550 parking spaces. Limited transit is available; busing service requires transit users to walk approximately 1 km to the Facility from Sun Valley Boulevard.

The facility is fenced and in 2016, Alberta Parks implemented entry fees.

Use: The primary use of the Facility is beach recreation and swimming. Heavy use of the area occurs during weekends in the summer. Swimming lessons are offered. Currently, there are no special event rentals.

Visitation: The majority of visitation is by Calgary residents, particularly families. Despite being a rainy season, approximately 62,000 people visited Sikome in 2016. Over 98,000 people visited in 2017.

2. Why is Alberta Parks redeveloping the Sikome Aquatic Facility?

Visitation to Sikome has exponentially increased since it opened in the late 1970's. Its infrastructure is aging, thus there is a need to update the facility to provide a modern urban provincial park visitor experience. This experience should reflect current trends in programming, open space demands, and Alberta Parks' identity and vision to connect Albertans to nature.

Alberta's population has significantly grown and urbanized; from 2011 to 2016, Calgary's population grew by 14.6 per cent. With this increase, access to parks and open spaces becomes more important for Albertans' health and wellbeing. With its proximity to a large, dense population base, Sikome serves as a gateway to Alberta Parks' broader network of landscapes and ecosystems.

3. What is being proposed for Sikome Aquatic Facility?

The draft Plan for the Sikome Aquatic Facility proposes the following key recommendations:

Amenities:

- Outdoor classroom
- Flexible/open spaces
- Additional picnic areas
- Accessible water platform
- Nature play areas
- Group day use sites
- Group day use shelters
- Fire pits
- Special event/vendor space
- Café/concession
- Bus drop off locations
- Food truck area
- Shade structures and trees for sun protection
- Fully accessible site
- Visitor information

Programming:

- Alberta Parks 101
- Swimming lessons
- Learn to camp
- Wildlife awareness program
- Environmentally-friendly outdoor recreation/eco-tourism program
- Programs offered by other providers (e.g. adventure kids program and wilderness survival program)

Special Events and Facility Rentals:

- Bookable group day use shelters (e.g. for birthday parties or other gatherings)
- Facility rentals (e.g. outdoor classroom space or special events area inside the fence)
- Special events staging (e.g. for races, arts, performance, etc.)

For more detailed information, please refer to the draft redevelopment plan, concept design, and the Phase 1 Engagement “What We Heard” report which are available online at:

www.AlbertaParks.ca/SikomeConsult.

4. How will the draft plan affect me?

The recommendations in the draft plan are intended to enhance the visitor experience, program opportunities and amenities at Sikome.

The primary objectives for the project are to:

- Enhance Sikome as an urban provincial park feature within Fish Creek Provincial Park;
- Define a unique and inclusive visitor experience;
- Create a sense of place that embodies Alberta Parks’ identity;

- Modernize and upgrade existing facilities and improve the utilization of space;
- Explore viable all-season programming; and
- Maintain accessibility for low-income Albertans.

5. When will the redevelopment occur?

A redevelopment plan for the Sikome Aquatic Facility is anticipated to be complete in 2018. Detailed design and construction will occur after the planning process is complete and when funding becomes available.

6. How can I participate in the project?

Phase 1 of the engagement process occurred in August 2017 and included an open house, online survey, and idea boards. Stakeholder and public ideas and feedback was considered in the development of the draft redevelopment plan, vision, concept design, and programming options for Sikome. Please see the 'Phase 1 Engagement - What We Heard' for an overview of results.

Several opportunities for engagement in Phase 2 of the project will be available between April 25 and May 24, 2018, within the 30-day public participation period. An open house, online survey and idea boards will be placed at the north access to Sikome and near Annie's Café to gather feedback (see details below). The purpose of this phase of engagement is to present and gather feedback on the draft redevelopment plan, vision, concept design, and programming options for Sikome.

The Open House will be held on:

When: Saturday, May 5, 2018 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Where: Bow Valley Ranch Visitor Centre, Fish Creek Provincial Park
15979 Bow Bottom Trail S.E., Calgary, AB

[Directions to Bow Valley Ranch Visitor Centre](#)

The final redevelopment plan and concept design will be posted online in 2018 after a final decision on the project is made.

More information and updates are available at www.AlbertaParks.ca/SikomeConsult/

7. What feedback and ideas were raised by stakeholders and the public in Phase 1?

Overall, participants were satisfied with the quality of services and facilities at Sikome. Areas for improvement included the provision of alternative forms of transportation to access the site, and enhancing the quality and cleanliness of the beach and water. For the complete "What We Heard" report detailing feedback received in Phase 1 please refer to www.AlbertaParks.ca/SikomeConsult/.

8. Read the 'Frequently Asked Questions' and still have questions?

- Inquiries can be directed to: Kananaskis.Projects@gov.ab.ca.
- Please use the subject line: Sikome