



## 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. It is currently open June to September from 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. daily.

**Amenities:** There are change rooms, a concession stand, and a playground 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 for patrons. In 2017, Alberta Parks replaced the beach sand and commercial food trucks will be on site in the parking area for the public to enjoy.

**Access:** The Sikome Aquatic 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 available at the Facility. During peak periods there may not be any parking available. Limited transit is available; busing service requires transit users to walk approximately 1km to the Facility from Sun Valley Boulevard.

The facility is fenced and in 2016, Alberta Parks implemented entry fees for the first time.

**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 being offered. Currently there are no special event rentals.

**Visitation:** The majority of visitation to Sikome is by Calgary residents. Families are a key demographic. Despite 2016 being a rainy season, 66,000 people visited Sikome.

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

Visitation to Sikome has exponentially increased since it opened in the late 1970's. At the same time, its infrastructure is aging. Sikome has not seen many significant upgrades over the past 30 years. 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 as a land steward and its vision to connect Albertans to nature.

Alberta's population has also significantly grown and urbanized. From 2011 until 2016, Calgary's population has grown by 14.6 per cent. With these trends, access to parks and open spaces become more important for Albertans' health and wellbeing. Proximity to a large, dense population base positions Sikome to become a gateway to Alberta Parks' broader network of landscapes and ecosystems.

### **3. When will the redevelopment occur?**

A redevelopment plan for the Sikome Aquatic Facility is anticipated to be complete in early 2018 and construction to occur after the planning process is complete.

### **4. How can I participate in the project?**

Phase 1: There are several opportunities for involvement, including attending open houses, completing a survey of what you would like to see happen at the Sikome Aquatic Facility, and participating in a 30-day public participation period. More information and updates are available at [www.AlbertaParks.ca/consult](http://www.AlbertaParks.ca/consult)

There will be public participation activities in Phases 2 and 3 of the project

### **5. Read the 'Frequently Asked Questions' and still have questions?**

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