12 Foot Davis and Adjacent Sites
Peace River, Alberta

Proposed Concept Design
Presentation and Discussion
January 26, 2010

Government of Alberta
Objectives
Create conceptual upgrading plans for the 12 Foot Davis Grave Site, the Dr. Greene Cairn Site and the Peace River Provincial Recreation Area (PRA).
Enhance direction finding to the sites from Peace River and Highway 2.
Enhance the connection between the 12 Foot Davis statue at Riverfront Park and the grave site.

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Conceptual Overview
**Existing Qualities**

- Open, unobstructed views
- Uncluttered – Stonehenge-like
- Respectful of gravesite but not representative of one
- Minimal interpretive information
- No facilities (benches etc.)

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12 Foot Davis Site Analysis
Notes

The area requires general upgrading and facilities such as benches.

There is a raised flat area to the northwest of the grave marker that presents an excellent view of the river. It provides an opportunity to create a public area somewhat separate from the grave.

The grave should be treated with respect. One way to do this is to separate it slightly from the main sitting and interpretation facilities.

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12 Foot Davis Site Analysis
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Conceptual
12 Foot Davis Site – Option

- Picnic tables
- Entry sign - refer to Option 2
- Native planting transplants
- Mown grass
- Native planting transplants
- Unmown native grass
- Typical bench
- Typical interpretation marker
- Light sandblast concrete plaza adds formality
- Stylized lobstick - 'the way home' – refer to Option 2
- Interpretation loop – gravel trail
- Accessible table
- Interpretation example – low/simple

CONCEPT
- Retain uncluttered open 'top of the world' character by keeping features low.
- A small concrete plaza adds formality.
- Ensure grave remains separate from this public area. Plaza is on edge of a steeper slope presenting a good view.
- Upgrade grave by replacing marker and adding a white slat picket fence. Oversize slightly to ensure visibility from Riverside Park.
- Stylized lobstick indicates the 'way home' for Davis and current Peace River population.
- Interpret the Davis era as it pertains to the river, fur trade etc.
- Mow only selected areas to provide a sculptural element to mown area. Transplant a limited number of native plantings to define areas.

- Davis Grave – replace marker with replica of original marble log, surround site with white slats picket fence as per original grave

Interpretation – Davis Era
1. First Nations
2. The river
3-6 Davis accomplishments
7. Area settlement
8. Peace River
CONCEPT

As per Option 1 except:

1. More mown grass area - closer to present condition.

2. Entry plaza less formal with concrete only for the plaza. Entry structures emphasize the plaza entry.

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Conceptual
12 Foot Davis Site Option 2
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Grave Marker Options

**12 Foot Davis Site**
Suggestion
- Remove the existing marker and relocate to the museum if possible.
- Restore imagery of a grave site.
- Install a replica of the original carved stump marble monument and enclose it within a white picket fence. (use metal and powdercoat for durability)
- Construct the fence slightly larger (taller, wider) than historic to ensure visibility from Riverfront Park
- Separate grave site slightly from benches and interpretive features.
- Consider installation of a symbolic ‘Lobstick’ ... showing the way home. Install slightly separated from grave site.

**Historic Imagery (Peace River Museum)**

The existing grave marker and the original.

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Grave Marker Options
12 Foot Davis Site
Entry Trail
The gravel trail is in good condition – some pruning back of the brush and addition of gravel would make it more inviting. It would be a good area to interpret the flora/fauna of the area.

Entry Area
The area requires greater visibility from the road and a more defined entryway.

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Dr. Greene Cairn
Site Analysis
The stairs are somewhat visually out of place but they serve their purpose.

An interpretation area at the base of the stairs would take advantage of a flat area and serve to visually anchor the stairs.

The area between stairs and monument would benefit from creating a flat area with a bench and interpretive signage. Interpret the accomplishments of Dr. Greene. A low black steel rail fence would add prominence and tie in visually to the stairs.
Concept:

**Give more prominence to entering site by defining the parking and adding an entry plaza.**

**Interpret the life of Dr. Greene, local flora/fauna, and Greene Valley Provincial Park.**

**Repair cairn and add a bench and interpretation.**

**Add interpretation at the base of the stairs - end of the accessible portion of the path.**

**Provide formalized (gravel) trail connections to the Day Use area.**
Provincial Recreation Area (PRA) - Day Use Area

An attractive area presenting nice views. It has lost most of its day use facilities (shelter/tables/fire pits etc.) over time.

It does not present the commanding views of the Davis site but does overlook the town and the railway trestle.

It requires overall upgrading and better definition of parking areas.

Central Area

In the foreground is poorly defined parking area that could be used for picnic activities. In background is the sloped central grass area. It would be more useable if a portion was terraced to create a flat area.

Lower flat area

This area had a shelter at one time and would have been the centre of day use activities because of the shelter and it’s flatness.

Informal ATV trails are damaging the slopes

Lower flat area – old shelter foundation

Parking – poorly defined

Parking – poorly defined

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Peace River PRA Analysis
Twelve Foot Davis Day Use Area

*Plaque
Concrete base*

**Interpretation (low and durable)**

Upgrade facilities using imagery similar to Davis site.

Formalize parking, group use areas and trailheads.

Formalize gravel trail connections to 12 Foot Davis and Dr. Greene sites. Consider gravel trail connection down slope to Peace River.

Establish grass and use for picnic. Excellent views

Retain open central area for games.
Remove old foundation and cistern

Trail to 12 Foot Davis site

Major trailhead to Davis and Dr. Greene sites – gravel pad with bench and trail map and arrow to Davis site. Boulders add prominence.

Retain gate for maintenance and emergency vehicles

Remove excess asphalt and better define parking

Minor trailhead to Dr. Greene site – gravel pad with bench and trail map. Boulders add prominence

Accessible trail down slope gives access to lower area. Use as a group use picnic/gathering area. Slope forms a natural amphitheatre.

Picnic area – tables and some raised stoves for BBQ
Potential useable area if graded flatter – ball throwing etc.

Picnic tables typ.

Site entry sign. Place smaller directional sign at junction with county road.

Parallel parking

Define parking

Gate

Potential gravel trail down slope to Peace River

Block off/rehabilitate old trails

Consider a privy to serve all 3 areas. (Vandalism issues)

Retain gate for maintenance and emergency vehicles

Define parking

Establish grass and use for picnic. Excellent views

Picnic area – tables and some raised stoves for BBQ
Potential useable area if graded flatter – ball throwing etc.

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Conceptual
Peace River PRA Day Use Area

Concept

12 Foot Davis Day Use Area

Twelve Foot Davis Day Use Area
Upgrade the 12 foot Davis Gravesite, the PRA day use facilities and Dr. Greene Cairn site and provide walking connections between the sites.
For travellers who do not stop – at each pulloff, install a large sign listing attractions. This sign would introduce area attractions and the signage imagery used in town.

For travellers who stop - install an information kiosk with information on each site, a map, and a handout brochure.

Improve aesthetics of each pulloff as it reflects on attractions in Peace River – add boulders/native planting

At highway turnoffs into Peace River – work with Alberta Transportation to install typical Area Attraction signs.

Coordinate signage with Downtown Peace River Revitalization and Tourism Plan.

For directional purposes - suggest the name **12 Foot Davis Grave Site Park** to encompass the grave site, the PRA day use area and Dr. Greene Cairn sites and the areas between. It need not be a singular legal entity.

**12 Foot Davis and Adjacent Sites**

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**Conceptual Directions – from Highway Pulloffs**
Increase the importance of Davis at Riverfront Park by adding interpretation. Add an arrow pointing to gravesite on the hill as well as a map showing route.

Add directional signage starting from the statue at the park and continuing along the roads to the hilltop gravesite. Coordinate with Downtown Peace River Revitalization and Tourism Study.

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Conceptual
Riverfront Park – 12 Foot Davis Statue