cochrane
HOW THE WEST IS NOW

JIM UFFELMANN PARK ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY:
PROJECT AT A GLANCE

ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY:

This study included:

- A review of all existing relevant planning documents
- A comprehensive public engagement program
- Geotechnical investigations
- A phase one environmental site assessment
- A park usage pattern and condition assessment



PURPOSE OF THE STUDY:

Recognizing the Park's importance to the community, we wanted to get a better sense of how the Park is being used today and how it can be responsibly used for generations to come.

WHY WE CONDUCTED IT:

This study was initiated in response to the following:

- Concerns surrounding the number of conflicts reported to the Town between different recreational uses in the Park
- Visible evidence of bank erosion on the slopes to the Bow River
- A desire to understand the environmental sensitivity of the Park
- With future plans for Jim Uffelmann to serve as a vital commuter pathway linking Cochrane to Canmore and Calgary, preserving the park's integrity is paramount

PROJECT LIFECYCLE:

Background Review **Winter 2022-Winter 2023**	1	Review of all relevant municipal, regional, provincial and federal planning documents.
Initial Community Engagement **Winter 2023**	2	1. Internal Staff Workshop 2. Community Partner & Local Organization Workshop 3. Public Survey
Geotechnical & Environmental Assessments **Spring-Summer 2023**	3	Various site assessments to understand current Park conditions, usage patterns and areas of concern.
Draft Environmental Study **Summer-Fall 2023**	4	Compiling all findings and engagement to-date into a draft study to be shared with the public.
Follow-Up Community Engagement **Fall 2023**	5	Presenting the findings and engagement to-date with the public at an open house-style drop-in event.
Finalize Study & Present to Council **Fall 2023**	6	Putting the finishing touches on the study and presenting the findings and next step recommendations to Council.

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WHAT WERE THE RESULTS:

- Off-leash dog walkers are the most prominent users of the Park today
- As a whole, the Town requires more off-leash dog spaces
- Sections of the banks down to the Bow River are showing signs of erosion
- Environmental preservation of the park is a priority for residents
- Access to trails along the riverfront is important for numerous recreational activities
- It is important to educate residents on how to share the trail with all user types
- There are numerous educational and interpretive opportunities within the Park

WHAT'S NEXT:

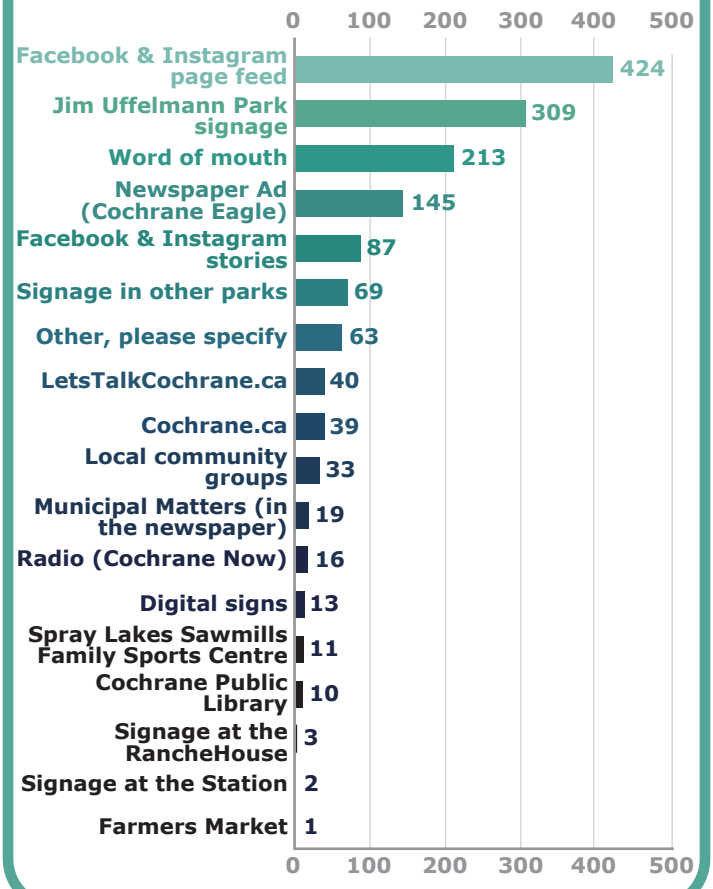
Following this engagement, the Environmental Study will be finalized and presented to Council. The following recommendations and next steps will be proposed:

- Conduct Phase II Environmental Site Assessment
- Conduct site-specific geotechnical evaluations
- Propose broader Riverfront Recreation Strategy with recreation opportunities for all ranges of use identified in this study
- Propose Off-Leash Dog Area Strategy for Cochrane
- Continue Active Transportation Standards for Cochrane with an emphasis on trail etiquette
- Develop interpretive signage program for the Park as outlined in the 2012 Parks & Open Space Master Plan
- Begin remediation efforts within the Park
- Continue planning for Trans Canada trail expansion through the Park

WHO DID WE ENGAGE:

- 12 Town of Cochrane Staff representing 6 departments
- 20 Community Partners and Local Organizations
- More than 1,150 people took the time to provide their feedback through our online survey

HOW DID WE REACH THEM:



Visit www.LetsTalkCochrane.ca/uffelmannparkstudy or scan the QR code to learn more and stay in the loop on project updates!

