

BLESS Priorities for LHCPP Funding (Revised Aug 21, 2022)

A. Trail Improvements and Extensions in the St Albert Portion of LHCPP

This should include extending the existing gravel trail to the current south boundary of Lois Hole Park, an appropriate multi-use bridge over the creek, and other environmentally sensitive improvements where needed on the adjacent minor trails. It could also include some additional picnic facilities adjacent to the LHCPP shelter.

B. Extending the Trail System into the City of Edmonton

Eventually the LHCPP trail system should extend along the north boundary of the Trumpeter and Hawks Ridge Neighbourhoods and should provide connections into the City of Edmonton neighbourhoods and a connection across to the County of Parkland. In order to achieve this, and to protect the environmentally sensitive land along the shoreline, the Province will need to acquire a portion of the parcel of land north of the Trumpeter Neighbourhood. Ideally, it will acquire an appropriate setback to permit construction of a multi-use trail above the floodplain. The Province will need to negotiate a deal with the existing landowner(s) to acquire a portion of their property, including all land that would be designated as Environmental Reserve (ER).

C. Acquisition of Additional Parcels on the North Side of Big Lake

This could possibly include the Ducks Unlimited parcel and other parcels of environmentally sensitive land. Once acquired the land could become the site of further trails and environmentally appropriate improvements, viewing platforms and information signs.

D. Environmental Learning Centre (ELC)

The Province has an outstanding commitment to build an ELC in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2010. This facility should preferably be near to the hub of the LHCPP trail system and will need to have an adjacent parking lot and adequate access route. Ideally it will be connected into municipal water and sewer servicing systems. The most likely location is just west of the LeClair Way extension in the City of St Albert. At this time any funding available for this facility would mainly be used to proceed with the building's detailed planning and design.

E. Environmental Cleanup of the Sinopec Former Gas Site

The cost of this cleanup should be born by the former operator of the facility. However, the Province should now allocate some funds for the legal and other costs involved in prompting Sinopec to proceed with full cleanup of the land and restoring it to its natural condition.