

BEARSPAW RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT PLAN

PHASE 1: **WHAT WE HEARD REPORT**

The City of Calgary
Rocky View County
TransAlta

September 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report summarizes what was heard during Phase 1 (Discovery) engagement for the Bearspaw Reservoir Management Plan, held June 18 to July 26, 2026.

The Bearspaw Reservoir supplies drinking water to approximately 1.6 million people across the City of Calgary and Rocky View County and generates hydroelectric power for approximately 10,000 homes. The City of Calgary, Rocky View County and TransAlta are working together through the Bearspaw Reservoir Trilateral Task Force to develop a Management Plan to guide how the Reservoir is managed, used and protected.

Phase 1 focused on building awareness of the project and gathering input on current use and access, community priorities, and concerns and opportunities to inform the draft Plan.

ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT

Input was gathered through an online survey, a public information session, and focus group discussions with organizations that have direct knowledge of the Reservoir.

1,036 surveys were completed, approximately 80 people attended the July 19 information session at the Haskayne Legacy Park Pavilion, and three focus group sessions were held with representatives from six interested parties.

Awareness was built through project web pages (nearly 5,000 visits from over 4,100 visitors), approximately 15,000 postcards mailed to residences, road and pathway signage, social media, newspaper advertising, and outreach to Treaty 7 First Nations and the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, which will continue through the project.

WHAT WE HEARD: KEY THEMES FROM ENGAGEMENT

- **Access and recreation were the dominant topics.** It was the top primary interest overall (86% of 1,004 respondents), the top theme in the balancing-priorities question (62% of 484) and the top theme in the final open-ended question (46% of 398). Among those who raised access directly, roughly seven in ten (~70%) wanted it to be expanded or formalized, most often citing Glenmore or Ghost Reservoir as the model.
- **Consistent, cross-question support for restricting motorized watercraft in favour of non-motorized recreation.** Limiting or banning motorized craft was the single largest theme in the source water quality question (34%) and recurred in the safety infrastructure (10%) and final thoughts (10%) questions. Kayaking or canoeing was the most-supported low-risk activity (88% of 755 respondents); stand-up paddleboarding was the top “other” mention.
- **Safety and access were framed as compatible, not competing.** About 55% of balancing-priorities safety comments supported adding safety measures, including signage, entry points, and emergency response, alongside continued or expanded access. ~25% favoured education over new restrictions; ~15% saw safety as reason to limit access. Weather and wind (85% of 759), water levels (81%) and life jackets (75%) were the top safety considerations; focus groups flagged the lack of dedicated on-water emergency response as a gap to close before access is formalized.

- **Water quality protection remains a foundational priority, but nearby development is seen as the greater long-term risk.** In the dedicated water-quality question, restricting motorized watercraft was the leading theme (34%), followed by development and runoff pressure (14%). When asked to select specific concerns, fuel and contaminants (63%) and nearby development (59%) ranked ahead of recreation near the water (37%).
- **A recurring equity concern about private and landowner access.** 6-8% of respondents raised concern that adjacent landowners have unrestricted or informal access while the public does not and asked that new rules apply equally to all users.
- **Jurisdictional complexity and a desire for clear, consistent rules.** Respondents and focus group participants raised how City, County and TransAlta roles intersect, and asked for consistency with the approach to access and management of the Glenmore and Ghost reservoirs. On-site signage (84%) and municipal websites (79%) were the preferred channels for future information; a smaller group (5% of dam-operations and 4% of final-thoughts respondents) expressed skepticism about the process itself.

ADDITIONAL INSIGHTS

Not every theme reflected consensus. A small but vocal minority (~5% of balancing-priorities respondents) wanted existing access restricted or closed, citing safety, litter and neighbourhood impacts, a genuine split from the majority favouring expansion. Motorized use drew the sharpest disagreement: most comments favoured restricting or banning it, but a smaller group defended existing motorized use as an established, legally protected use of a navigable waterway

These findings, along with the full survey, information session and focus group results — including verbatim comments in Appendix A — are explored in detail throughout this report and will inform the draft Management Plan in Phase 2.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PROJECT BACKGROUND 5
PROJECT TIMELINE 6
PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT 6
PHASE 1 ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW 7
ENGAGEMENT RESULTS 7
COMMUNICATIONS OVERVIEW 8
WHAT WE HEARD|FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS 9
DISCUSSION SUMMARY 9
WHAT WE HEARD|INFORMATION SESSION 11
DISCUSSION SUMMARY 11
WHAT WE HEARD|SURVEY RESPONSES 14
WHO DID WE HEAR FROM? 14
WHAT WE HEARD | Introduction questions 15
WHAT WE HEARD | Balancing priorities 20
WHAT WE HEARD | Protecting source water quality 23
WHAT WE HEARD | Ensuring public safety 26
WHAT WE HEARD | Protecting dam operations and water management 29
WHAT WE HEARD | Evaluating low-risk recreation 30
WHAT WE HEARD | Environmental and shoreline considerations 32
WHAT WE HEARD | Communications, education and responsible use 34
WHAT WE HEARD | Final thoughts 36
THANK YOU 37
APPENDIX A: VERBATIM COMMENTS 38
VERBATIM COMMENTS | Introduction questions 38
VERBATIM COMMENTS | Balancing priorities 43
VERBATIM COMMENTS | Protecting source water quality 68
VERBATIM COMMENTS | Ensuring public safety 84
VERBATIM COMMENTS | Protecting dam operations and water management 101
VERBATIM COMMENTS | Evaluating low-risk recreation 117
VERBATIM COMMENTS | Environmental and shoreline considerations 121
VERBATIM COMMENTS | Communications, education and responsible use 124
VERBATIM COMMENTS | Final thoughts 125

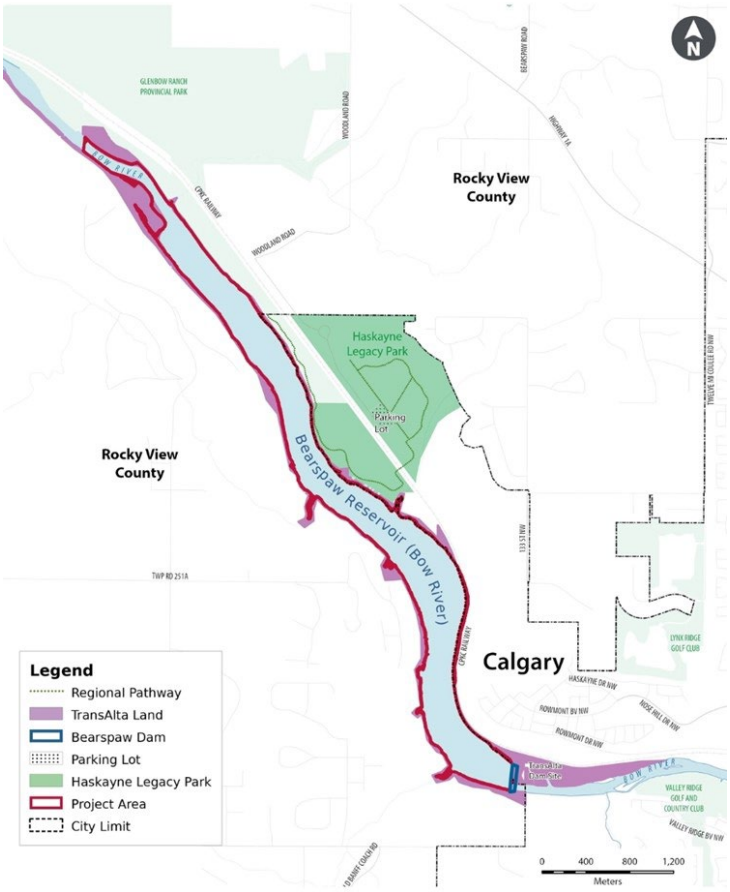
PROJECT BACKGROUND

The **Bearspaw Reservoir** is a critical regional waterbody located on the Bow River, supplying drinking water to approximately 1.6 million people in the City of Calgary and Rocky View County. The Reservoir feeds into the Bearspaw Dam, which generates hydroelectric power for approximately 10,000 homes in the surrounding area.

As growth and recreational demand continue to increase in the region, the reservoir faces several complex challenges, including:

- Risks to source water quality from recreational and land-based activities
- No on-water emergency response
- Numerous unauthorized or informal access points

Managing these considerations is complex. The Reservoir spans multiple jurisdictions and includes lands and responsibilities involving federal and provincial governments, the City of Calgary, Rocky View County, and TransAlta.



To support a coordinated approach, the City of Calgary, Rocky View County and TransAlta formed the Bearspaw Trilateral Task Force. In 2019, the Task Force completed a **Consensus Report** that identified key risks, desired outcomes and principles to guide future management of the Reservoir.

Building on that work, the Task Force is now developing the Bearspaw Reservoir Management Plan and Implementation Plan. The Management Plan will provide a framework to guide future decisions about how the Reservoir is managed, used and protected.

The Management Plan is being developed through several phases. Phase 1, Discovery, focused on building awareness of the project and gathering input about current use and access, community priorities, concerns and opportunities, and perspectives that should be considered as the draft Management Plan is prepared.

PROJECT TIMELINE

WE ARE HERE	UPCOMING	UPCOMING
SUMMER 2026	FALL 2026	SPRING 2027
Phase 1: Discovery	**Phase 2: Refine**	**Phase 3: Finalize**
Build awareness and gather input on current conditions, concerns and priorities to help inform the draft Management Plan.	Share and collect input on the draft Plan to help refine recommendation towards the final draft Management Plan.	Share the proposed Management Plan and provide final opportunity for questions and comments ahead of approvals process.

PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

The purpose of this report is to document and report back on what was heard during Phase 1 engagement for the Bearspaw Reservoir Management Plan.

It summarizes feedback received through the online survey, information session and focus group discussions, including perspectives on current use and access, source water protection, public safety, dam operations and water management, environmental considerations, communications and education, and potential low-risk recreation.

The What We Heard Report is not a decision document and does not indicate that any particular access, recreation or management option has been approved.

PHASE 1 ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

Phase 1 public engagement (Discovery) was open from June 18 to July 26, 2026 and focused on building awareness of the project and gathering input to support drafting the Management Plan.

In Phase 1, we asked for input to better understand:

- How people currently use and access the Reservoir area
- Priorities that could influence the long-term management of the Reservoir
- Concerns and opportunities related to safety and environmental protection
- Perspectives on potential low-risk recreational activities

ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

Input was gathered through an online survey hosted on the City of Calgary and Rocky View County engagement portals, a public information session, and focus groups with interested parties.

1,036

surveys completed

June 18 to July 26, 2026

~80

information session attendees

July 19, 2026 | Haskayne Legacy Park Pavillion

3

focus group discussions with representatives from

6

interested parties

June and July 2026

Project website traffic	Visits	Visitors
City of Calgary project page	4,556	3,897
Rocky View County project page	404	207
Total	**4,960**	**4,104**

Indigenous engagement

Outreach and invitations were extended to Treaty 7 First Nations and the Otipemisiwak Métis Government. This engagement will continue throughout the project.

COMMUNICATIONS OVERVIEW

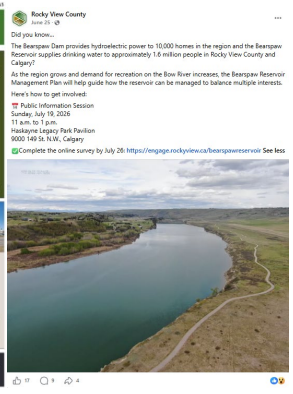
A range of tools was used to build awareness of Phase 1 engagement and invite participation. Promotion was coordinated across the City of Calgary, Rocky View County and TransAlta.

Channel	Details
Project web pages	Dedicated project pages were hosted on the City of Calgary and Rocky View County engagement portals. engage.calgary.ca/bearspawreservoir engage.rockyview.ca/bearspawreservoir
Direct mail	14,973 postcards were distributed by mail to all residences within an approximate one-mile radius of the reservoir.
Road signs	Two road signs in the City of Calgary and two road signs in Rocky View County, in place from June 26 to July 27, 2026.
Pathway signs	Signs were installed at the Haskayne Legacy Park Pavilion and the Springbank Heights Way parking area.
Social media	Posts were shared on City of Calgary and Rocky View County social media accounts, supported by geotargeted advertisements.
Newspaper advertisements	Rocky View Weekly, four editions. High Country News, July edition.
Interested party outreach	17 email invitations were sent to interested parties to attend focus group sessions. Email outreach was extended to 10 additional interested parties to share project information.
Indigenous outreach	Outreach and invitations were extended to Treaty 7 First Nations and the Otipemisiwak Métis Government.









WHAT WE HEARD | FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Purpose: Focus group discussions brought together organizations and individuals with direct knowledge of the Bearspaw Reservoir and the surrounding river system, including watershed and environmental organizations, on-water user groups, recreation interests and operators.

Representatives from six organizations participated in three sessions in June and July 2026.

Sessions were structured as open discussions rather than formal presentations. Participants were asked how the Reservoir is currently used and accessed, what pressures and concerns they see, what opportunities the Management Plan should explore, and what role education and enforcement should play.

DISCUSSION SUMMARY

The summary below reflects what was discussed throughout these sessions. Comments are recorded as input received and have not been independently verified. Individual participants and organizations are not identified, and comments are not attributed to any single session or participant.

TOP THEMES

- ✓ Safety and emergency response
- ✓ Access, infrastructure and informal use
- ✓ Water quality and environmental protection
- ✓ Recreation and management approach
- ✓ Regional and jurisdictional context
- ✓ Education and process

SUMMARY: Safety and emergency response

- Wind and sudden weather changes were identified as the most immediate on-water hazard, along with cold water, lightning and changing water levels.
- Participants noted there is currently no dedicated on-water emergency response, and supported establishing a defined response capability before access is formalized.
- Views differed on whether continuous on-water patrol is required, or whether response capacity, warning systems and education would achieve the same outcome.
- Organized groups and operators described safety practices already in place, including personal flotation device requirements, weather and water temperature thresholds, waivers and trained staff, and offered to share their policies with the project team.

SUMMARY: Access, infrastructure and informal use

- Participants described informal access as already occurring, and suggested that designating and equipping specific sites would concentrate use, reduce disturbance in sensitive areas and improve emergency access.
- Suggested elements included designated launch and take-out points, parking and staging areas, trailer accessible sites for emergency response, and supporting facilities.
- Participants sought clarity and consistency in how access restrictions and signage are applied along the shoreline.

SUMMARY: Water quality and environmental protection

- Participants supported source water protection as a priority, and asked to see the evidence and thresholds linking specific activities to water quality risk.
- Concerns included fuel and hydrocarbons, sunscreen and personal care products, plastics, direct body contact with the water, and stormwater as a broader long-term consideration.
- Shoreline erosion, riparian and habitat condition and fish populations were raised, along with support for monitoring and community stewardship.

SUMMARY: Recreation and management approach

- Participants discussed which activities could be compatible with the Reservoir's primary functions, and how those distinctions would be applied and enforced in practice.
- The ability to use electric motors was raised as an opportunity to decrease levels of pollution caused by motorized watercraft. As electric motors become more popular, this was identified as an area where definitions and regulations will need to keep pace.
- Participants pointed to management tools used at other managed reservoirs, including restrictions on craft type, limits on the number of craft permitted at one time, and buffer zones around infrastructure and intakes.
- Participants cautioned that establishing expectations and rules before access is opened is more effective than introducing them afterward.

SUMMARY: Regional and jurisdictional context

- Participants encouraged the project team to consider the Reservoir as part of a connected river system rather than in isolation, noting that varying rules between adjacent stretches of water create confusion for users.
- Jurisdictional complexity was widely acknowledged, and participants asked how provincial involvement would be secured and how enforcement authority would be obtained and resourced.
- Participants raised how the Management Plan would relate to longer term decisions about dam operations and infrastructure.

SUMMARY: Education and process

- Education was consistently identified as central to any future management approach, including signage, safe boating and cold water information, seasonal updates and stewardship messaging.
- Participants noted that organized groups can apply rules directly to their users, and that reaching the general public requires different tools.
- Participants asked for clarity on what is open for input and encouraged the project team to document the rationale for decisions so that reasoning is visible to the public.
- Participants emphasized implementation, and offered continued involvement in Phase 2.

WHAT WE HEARD | INFORMATION SESSION

A public information session was held at the Haskayne Legacy Park Pavilion on July 19, 2026, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Approximately 80 people attended the session.

Project team members set up information boards, distributed project materials, answered questions and gathered input from attendees.

Input collected directly on the information boards and through the two hard copy surveys completed at the event has been included with the survey results in the next section, so that all input related to the same question is reported together.





DISCUSSION SUMMARY

The following themes summarize the conversations project team members had with attendees during the session. They reflect the range of comments, questions and perspectives shared and should not be interpreted as representing consensus among attendees.

TOP THEMES:

- ✓ Access and demand
- ✓ Safety and emergency response
- ✓ Water quality and environmental protection
- ✓ Consistency of rules and jurisdiction
- ✓ Development and land use
- ✓ Interest in specific activities
- ✓ Existing character and activity

SUMMARY: Access and demand

- Many attendees expressed a desire for greater public access to the reservoir, with some suggesting formal public access is overdue.
- Some attendees felt that managed access could be safer than the informal access occurring today.
- Discussion about formal access included the need for supporting facilities such as parking, washrooms and garbage collection.
- Questions were raised about the distance between existing access points and the water, and how people are expected to reach the reservoir.
- Some attendees anticipated increased visitation as nearby development and park areas build out and asked about future pathway connections.
- Some adjacent residents described existing unmanaged shoreline activity, including gatherings, fires and use of private docks, and questioned whether formal access would reduce or increase these pressures.

SUMMARY: Safety and emergency response

- Questions were raised about emergency response and how emergency crews currently access the reservoir.
- Some attendees identified slope stability and geotechnical conditions along the shoreline as considerations for future access.
- The need for public education about safety conditions on the reservoir was also raised.

SUMMARY: Water quality and environmental protection

- Protecting source water quality over the long term was identified as an important consideration.
- Concerns raised included human waste, garbage and the lack of facilities at informal use areas.
- Some attendees asked about cattle accessing the reservoir and how livestock use is considered alongside restrictions applying to the public and pets.
- Wildlife movement was also raised, including the need to consider corridor connectivity when designing fencing or other infrastructure.

SUMMARY: Consistency of rules and jurisdiction

- Some attendees noted that boat launches and motorized recreation are permitted elsewhere along the reservoir and suggested rules should be more consistent.
- Questions were raised about how reservoir rules relate to upstream activities and whether management should be considered at a regional scale.
- Some attendees referenced other managed reservoirs in the region where access and use are controlled through bylaws as possible examples to consider.
- Questions were also raised about responsibility for publicly owned lands along the reservoir and enforcement related to unmanaged use.

SUMMARY: Development and land use

- Nearby development proposals were raised in discussion, including questions about how development is considered alongside reservoir management.
- Some attendees expressed the view that land development may pose a greater risk to the waterway than recreation and questioned the relationship between development approvals and restrictions on reservoir access.
- Slopes, riparian areas and water quality were identified as considerations relevant to both development and access decisions.

SUMMARY: Interest in specific activities

- Stand-up paddleboarding was mentioned by several attendees as an activity they would like considered as part of future reservoir management.
- Questions were raised about existing recreation operations on the reservoir and how they may fit within future management.

SUMMARY: Existing character and activity

- Some residents from the Springbank side of the reservoir spoke about valuing its current quiet character.
- These conversations also included concerns about existing undesirable or unmanaged activity in some areas, including informal party spots and youth gatherings.

WHAT WE HEARD | SURVEY RESPONSES

The online survey was available on the Rocky View County and City of Calgary project pages from June 19 – July 26, 2026.

A total of 1,036 surveys were completed, including the two hard copy surveys received at the information session.

WHO DID WE HEAR FROM?

724 respondents answered the survey question, "Where do you live?"



543 City of Calgary **176** Rocky View County **25** Other / comment

Category counts total 744 across recorded location responses, slightly more than the 724 respondents who answered this question, as reported in the source data.

"Other" locations named 25 responses

Cochrane	10
Rockland Park	2
Airdrie	1
Brazeau County	1
Canmore	1
Crossfield	1
Drumheller	1
Foothills County	1
Mountain View County	1
Parkland County	1
Other descriptive / boundary-related responses	5

Organizations & businesses represented 13 respondents

- Alberta Whitewater Association
- Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
- Bow River Basin Council
- BoWave Sports School
- Cochrane Paddlers
- CRUA
- Los Spokes Cycling Club
- Paddle Alberta Society
- Paddle Canada
- Rockland Park Community HOA
- United Alberta Paddling Society
- Geoscape Group Inc.
- Kilani Outdoors

**Respondents could select more than one answer, so the combined responses exceed the total number of people who answered the question.*

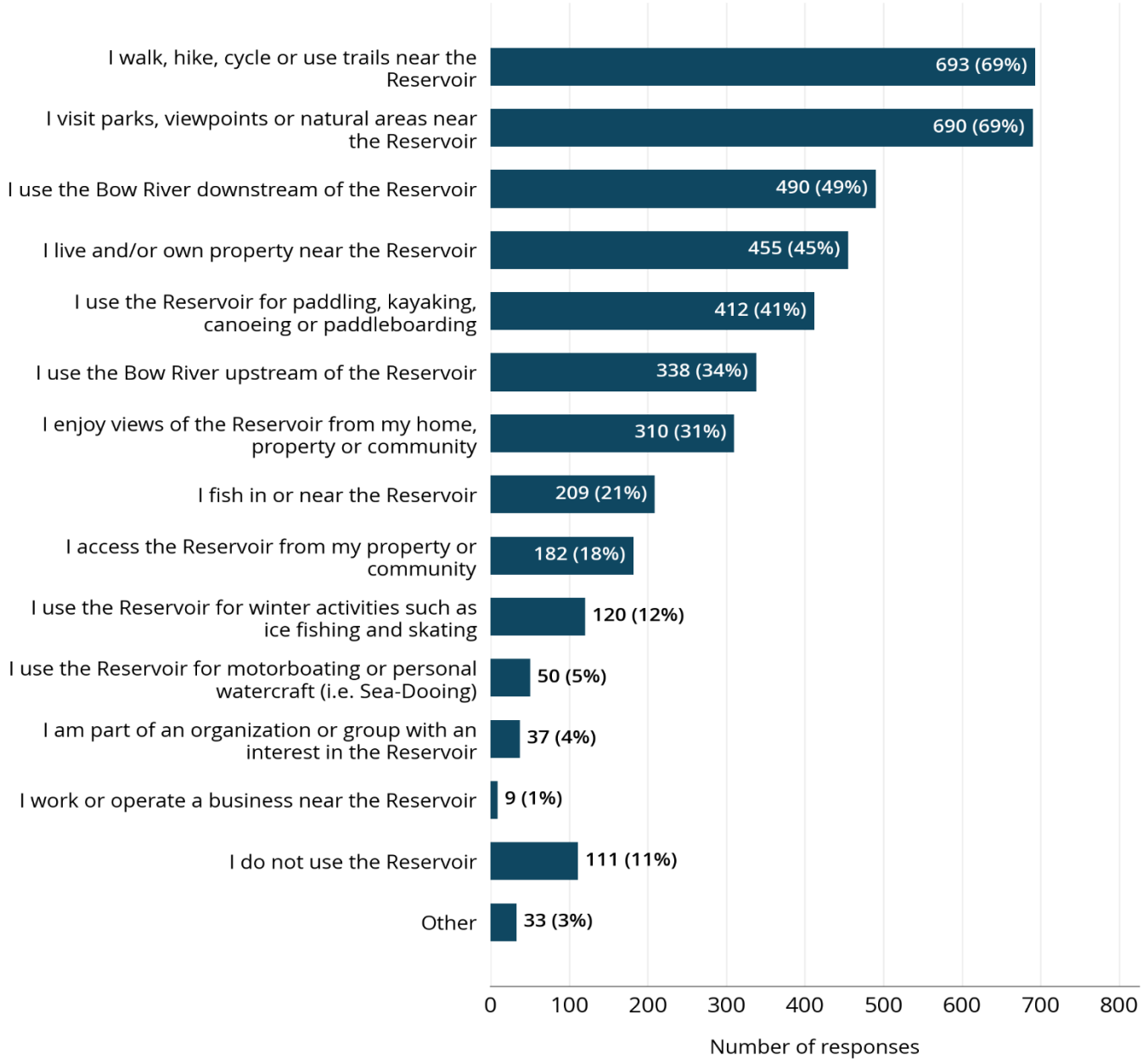
WHAT WE HEARD | Introduction questions

Q1 HOW DO YOU CURRENTLY USE, ACCESS OR EXPERIENCE THE BEARSPAW RESERVOIR OR SURROUNDING AREA?

Select all that apply

Respondents: 1,002

Total responses: 4,139 (survey)



Percentages reflect the proportion of question respondents who selected that option. Because respondents could select multiple options, percentages may add up to more than 100%.

"OTHER" RESPONSES

A total of 33 respondents selected "other" and provided a comment. A summary of "other" responses is below. Verbatim comments can be found in Appendix B.

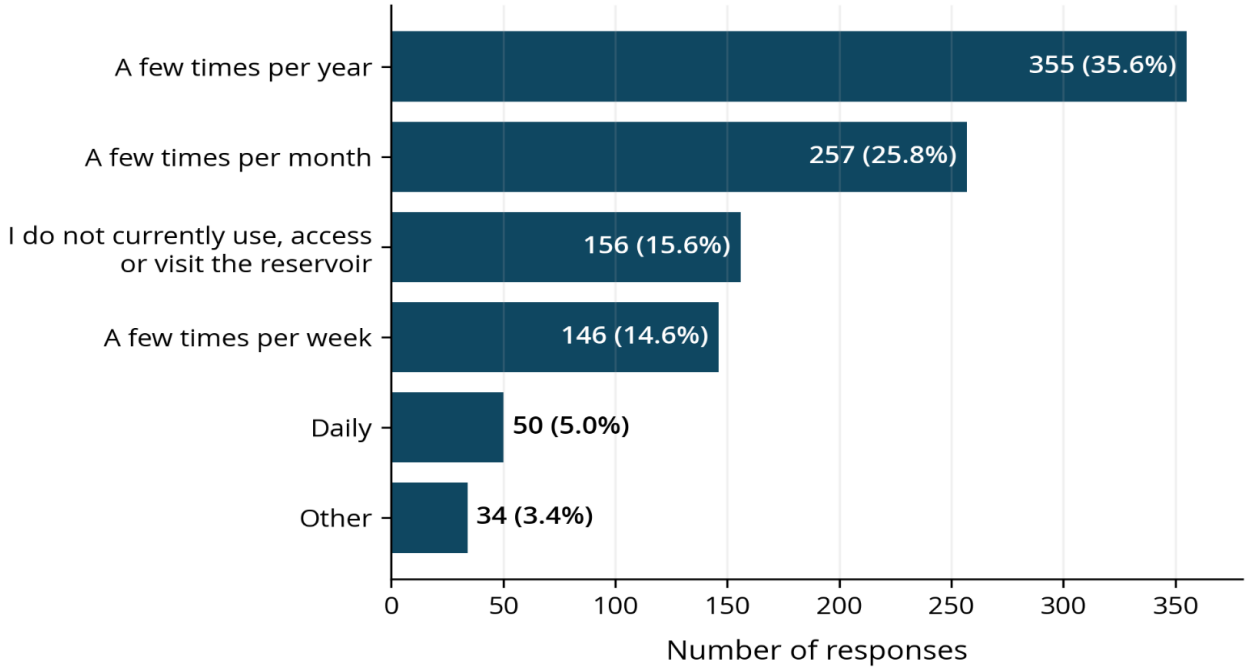
Comments	Number of mentions
Would use the Reservoir if access were available, naming kayaking or canoeing	6
Access is currently blocked or restricted by the rail crossing, fencing, gates or private control	6
Unclear or unknown how to legally access the Reservoir	4
General interest in recreational use of the Reservoir	3
Live in or adjacent to the Reservoir area	3
Identified drinking water as their connection to the Reservoir	3
Would use the Reservoir if access were available, naming paddleboarding	1
Other single mentions, including winter use on the ice, off-leash dog walking, fishing, viewing only, desire for a commercial dive operation, flood mitigation value, and a general statement on access rights	7

Comments that addressed more than one topic were included under each relevant category. As a result, the total number of mentions may exceed the total number of respondents.

Q2 HOW OFTEN DO YOU USE, ACCESS OR VISIT THE BEARSPAW RESERVOIR?

Multiple choice

Respondents: 998 (survey)



"OTHER" RESPONSES

A total of 33 respondents selected "other" and provided a comment. A summary of "other" responses is below. Verbatim comments can be found in Appendix B.

Comments	Number of mentions
Would use it more often, or at all, if access were easier	11
Access is blocked, gated, unavailable, inconvenient or unsafe	9
Very infrequent use, once or twice a year at most, usually attributed to access	5
Use varies by season	4
Commentary unrelated to frequency, including jurisdiction or other considerations	3
Past use only	1

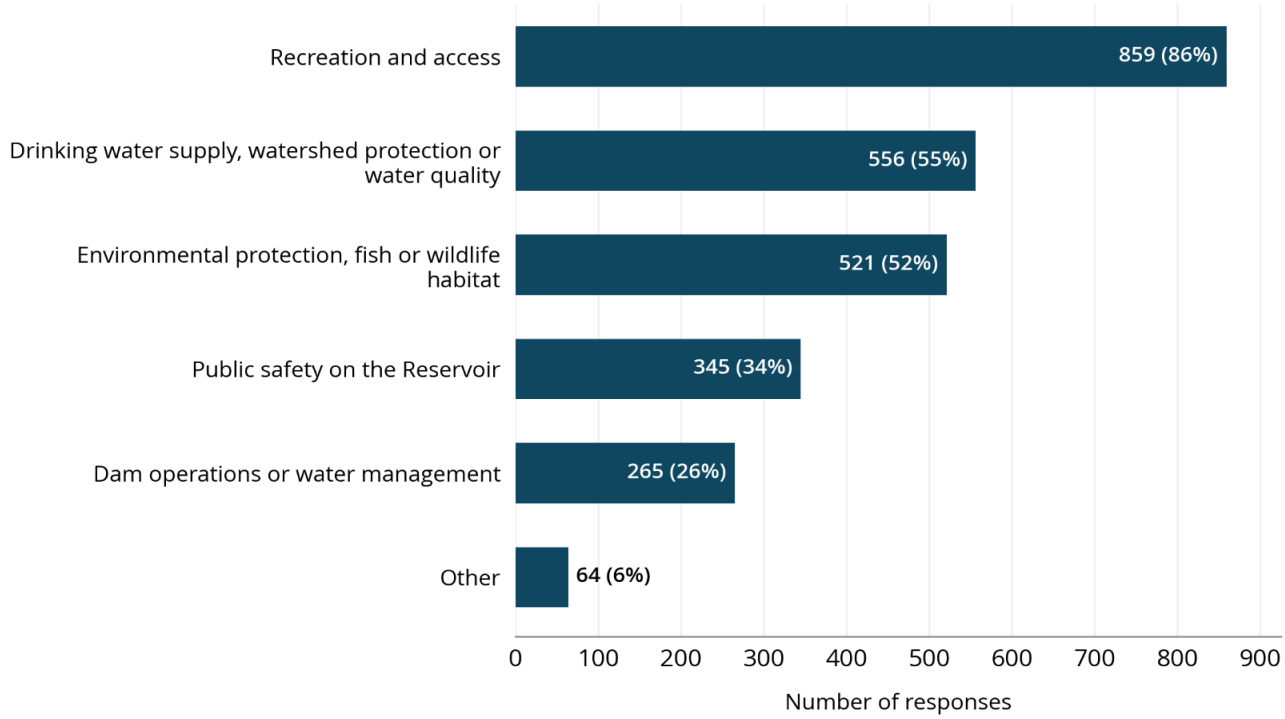
Comments that addressed more than one topic were included under each relevant category. As a result, the total number of mentions may exceed the total number of respondents.

Q3 WHAT ARE YOUR PRIMARY INTERESTS IN THE PROJECT?

Select all that apply

Respondents: 1,004

Total responses: 2,610 (survey)



Percentages reflect the proportion of question respondents who selected that option. Because respondents could select multiple options, percentages may add up to more than 100%.

"OTHER" RESPONSES

A total of 64 respondents selected "other" and provided comment(s). A summary of "other" responses is below. Verbatim comments can be found in Appendix B.

Comments	Number of mentions
Public access and equity, including concern that access should not be limited to adjacent landowners or a single private operator	11
Pathway and trail connections between Calgary, Haskayne Legacy Park, Glenbow Ranch and Cochrane	7
General interest in improved recreational access	6
Concerns about visitor behaviour at existing access points, including litter, drinking, camping and human waste	5
Access infrastructure, including parking, docks, stairs and a rail crossing	5
Specific recreational activities, including paddle sports instruction, fishing, boating with family and wind sports	4

Comments	Number of mentions
Restricting motorized or commercial craft	4
Protecting the drinking water supply and water resources	3
Preserving the natural environment, wildlife and natural character	3
Commentary on jurisdiction, engagement process or project scope	3
Restricting public access or maintaining the area as-is	3
Retaining existing motorized boating	2
Adjacent landowner concerns about where access is sited, erosion, traffic and compensation	1
Nearby residents describing a general interest in the area	2
Other single mentions, including enlarging the dam for hydro capacity, clearing dam debris, and a technical problem with the survey	3
One response contained discriminatory content and has been removed.	1

Comments that addressed more than one topic were included under each relevant category. As a result, the total number of mentions may exceed the total number of respondents.

WHAT WE HEARD | Balancing priorities

Q4 GIVEN THE KEY PRIORITIES, DO YOU FEEL THAT THE TRILATERAL TASK FORCE SHOULD EXPLORE ADDITIONAL ASPECTS TO MANAGE THE RESERVOIR?

Long answer

Respondents: 484 (475 from survey, 9 from information session boards)

The project team reviewed all responses and grouped them into common themes. Comments that addressed more than one theme were included under each relevant theme. Percentages therefore represent the approximate proportion of respondents who raised each theme and may total more than 100%.

Top themes identified	% (of 485)
Exploring, improving or maintaining access and recreation	~62%
Ensuring public safety, including safe access, emergency response, hazards, signage and enforcement	~18%
Protecting source water quality	~15%
No additional aspects identified / existing priorities considered sufficient	~13%
Environment, habitat, shoreline and wildlife protection	~11%
Equity and fair access, including concern about preferential or private access	~8%
Nearby development and land-use pressure	~6%
Dam operations and water management	~4%

DEEPER DIVE: Exploring Access and recreation (~62% of responses)

Recurring perspectives	Indicative quote
~70% supported expanding, improving or formalizing public access and recreation.	"We need to focus on public access to this reservoir. As the population grows we need to get more water access to the public. Just like public access to ghost, glenmore and barrier reservoirs there should be public access here."
~ 30% mentioned providing infrastructure to support safe, managed access, including parking, pathways, launches, washrooms or designated access points	“Ensure easy public access so people are not trespassing on private land… Make it easy and concentrated where they do.”
~17% wanted to maintain access but place conditions on how recreation occurs, including non-motorized use or other restrictions	“Just make sure we can use non motorized water craft on the reservoir. Motorized not permitted.”
~17% suggested using other reservoirs as a model, particularly Glenmore and Ghost	“We need to focus on public access… Just like public access to Ghost, Glenmore and Barrier reservoirs there should be a way to accomplish this.”
~5% supported maintaining existing access or use largely as-is.	"I believe they should leave it as is, and allow the existing local access points to remain."
~5% wanted to restrict/close existing access because of safety, water quality, environmental or neighbourhood concerns.	"Shut down the existing informal access points around the reservoir. Shut down the parking lot at the Bearspaw reservoir public access… Too much litter strewn about… No washroom facilities so where does excrement go? Into the river."

DEEPER DIVE: Ensuring public safety (~18% of responses)

Recurring perspectives	Indicative quote
~55% supported access alongside safety measures, rather than treating safety as a reason to prevent recreation	"People will access water anyway, so please make this access safe."
~35% mentioned specific hazards such as cold water and no emergency response	"If any recreation is allowed, there needs to be some sort of emergency response. That water is super cold."
~25% favoured personal responsibility, education or warnings over additional restrictions	"Public safety cannot be an excuse to restrict access."
~20% called for education, signage, enforcement or monitoring to support safer use.	"Public safety is best addressed through life jackets, education and signage, not restricting responsible recreation."
~15% viewed safety concerns as a reason to limit or restrict some access or activities	"The reservoir is in close proximity to the city of Calgary… [public access] creates problems with parking, environmental damage and safety."

DEEPER DIVE: Protecting source water quality (~15% of responses)

Recurring perspectives	Indicative quote
~35% named it as their highest or overriding priority.	"Protecting source water quality is, by far, the most important consideration. All other aspects are comparatively inconsequential."
~30% raised concerns about nearby development, runoff or other land uses affecting water quality	"…I am more concerned about the Haskayne medium density development plan that will have a much larger negative impact on the water and the environment."
~25% viewed low-impact or non-motorized recreation as having relatively little or manageable effect on water quality	"Enabling some access for things like paddle boarding and fishing has zero impact on water quality."
~20% pointed to upstream or existing sources as greater water-quality risks, including agriculture, wastewater, the rail line and existing development	"Runoff and drainage from watershed properties affect the overall goal of water quality."
~20% viewed recreation or motorized use as a meaningful risk to source water quality	"I do not think any public access should be granted as its the primary drinking water supply."
~15% asked for evidence, testing or comparison with other reservoirs before further restrictions are considered	"Has water testing shown further restricting access is necessary?"

DEEPER DIVE: Environment, habitat, shoreline and wildlife protection (~11% of responses)

Recurring perspectives	Indicative quote
~45% called for protection of wildlife, fish and habitat	"Wildlife management. I live close by and see in this corridor and along the river many animals and birds including but not limited to moose, coyotes, weasels, eagles, osprey, owls etc. Their use must be included. Although I don't fish their habitat must also be considered."
~35% raised shoreline, riparian or erosion concerns	"The Plan should evaluate cumulative watershed impacts from future development, including increased runoff, erosion, sediment loading, stormwater discharge, and loss of riparian areas that help protect water quality."
~30% raised cumulative impacts from nearby development and land-use change	"Further development on either side of Bow River will cause more erosion and run off."
~25% wanted natural areas preserved and to limit disturbance	"I think there needs to be a big and main conscious effort to protect the reservoir and its wildlife... We need to make conscious efforts to allow for more protection of land and wildlife."
~25% supported balancing environmental protection with responsible recreation	"Balancing watershed and environmental impact is important but so is healthy recreation."
~15% Raised environmental impacts associated with particular recreational uses, including motorized craft, wake or noise	"Definitely no power boats... Protecting the waterfowl... would be seriously affected by any recreation."

DEEPER DIVE: Equity and fair access (~8% of responses)

Recurring perspectives	Indicative quote
All comments indicated that access and restrictions should be applied fairly and consistently to everyone, including adjacent landowners and the general public. Concern that the Reservoir is functioning as a private or exclusive amenity.	"Same rules for landowners and the public. If no public boat launch, then no private boat launch." "Currently seems like a private lake for owners on the south side."

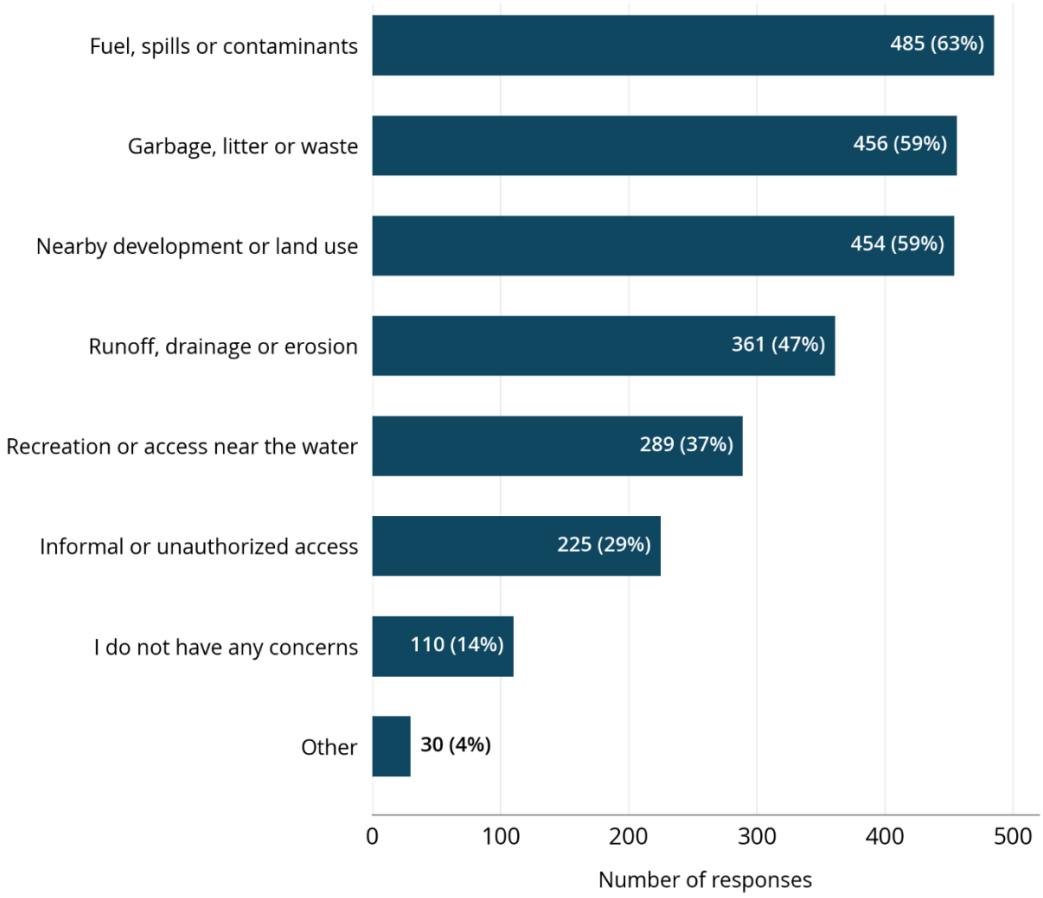
WHAT WE HEARD | Protecting source water quality

Q5 WHAT CONCERNS DO YOU HAVE ABOUT PROTECTING WATER QUALITY IN THE BEARSPAW RESERVOIR?

Select all that apply

Respondents: 773

Total responses: 2,410 (survey)



Percentages reflect the proportion of question respondents who selected that option. Because respondents could select multiple options, percentages may add up to more than 100%.

"OTHER" RESPONSES

A total of 30 respondents selected "other" and provided a comment. A summary of "other" responses is below. Verbatim comments can be found in Appendix B.

Comments	Number of mentions
Concern about private or landowner control limiting public access to the Reservoir	8
Motorized watercraft, including hydrocarbon, pollution, noise or safety risks	7
Upstream and off-site sources, including the rail line, cattle and agriculture, sewage and upstream commercial use	4
Improved or managed public access, including safer access and comparison to Glenmore Reservoir	4
Concerns about nearby development and associated water use	2
Distrust of the engagement process or how the question is framed	2
Other single mentions, including public access as a potential risk, waterside-property runoff, dogs in the water, private vehicle use on the ice, and a regional pipeline proposal	6
Unclear or not related to this project.	2

Comments that addressed more than one topic were included under each relevant category. As a result, the total number of mentions may exceed the total number of respondents.

Q6 DO YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS FOR PROTECTING SOURCE WATER QUALITY?

Long answer

Respondents: 301

The project team reviewed all responses and grouped them into common themes. Comments that addressed more than one theme were included under each relevant theme. Percentages therefore represent the approximate proportion of respondents who raised each theme and may total more than 100%.

Theme	% (of 301)	Indicative Quotes
Restrict or ban motorized watercraft (often citing Glenmore Reservoir as the model)	~34%	"Make the reservoir non-motorized watercraft access only."
Nearby development & land use / runoff pressure	~14%	"Do NOT allow any more development near the Bow River. That is how you protect the river."
No further concerns / satisfied	~10%	"The water quality in the reservoir is generally good and existing regulations are adequate to keep it that way."
Litter, garbage & human waste management	~8%	"The 'Bearspaw Reservoir Public Access' point is a source of litter and mischief."
Railway / train derailment risk	~6%	"What is the plan if a train derailment were to happen near the reservoir?"
Illegal/unauthorized marina & informal access points	~5%	"Protect the water and eliminate the illegal operation of the marina in Bearspaw."
Enforcement, education & signage	~5%	"Education and enforcement of existing laws/bylaws would help."
Agricultural runoff, septic systems & livestock	~5%	"The current and historical septic systems and use of fertilizers and pesticides by current residents that live and farm along the water's edge."
Equity / private landowner access framing	~3%	"Please don't allow this to be a NIMBY thing with local land users, where access is restricted to effectively create a private lake to a privileged few."
Existing regulations/treatment already adequate	~3%	"I do not [have concerns], because the numerous layers of legislated water quality protective measures that exist provincially are world class."
Water quality monitoring / testing	~2%	"Remote IOT or SCADA type monitoring system with water quality sensors to determine whether access should be restricted."
Other comments: monitoring, stewardship engagement, requests for more information	~8%	"There should also be some discussion and plan for how stewardship groups and communities can engage in dialogue and be collaborated with to achieve outcomes."

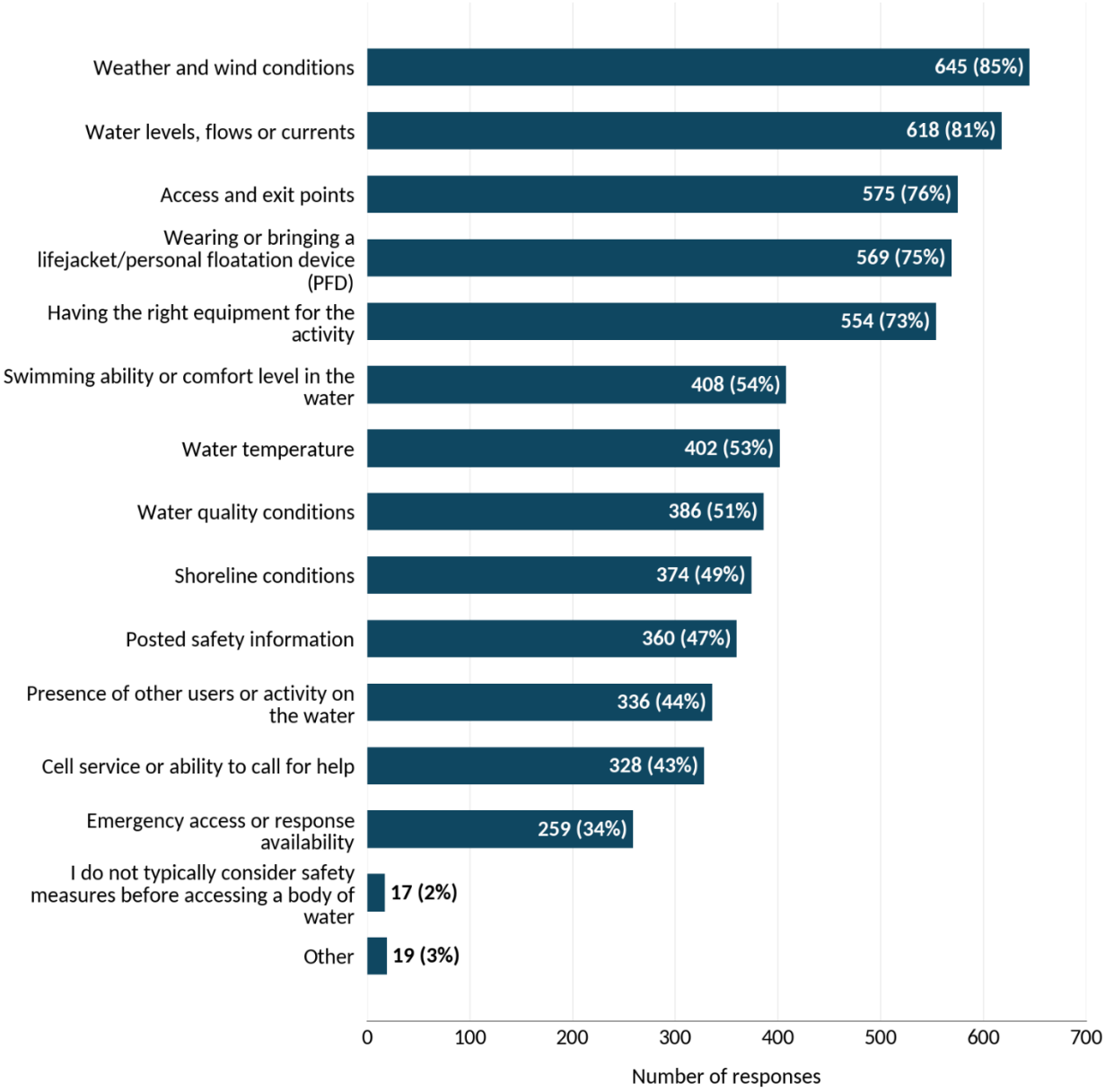
WHAT WE HEARD | Ensuring public safety

Q7 WHAT ARE THE KEY SAFETY MEASURES YOU CONSIDER BEFORE ACCESSING A BODY OF WATER?

Select all that apply

Respondents: 759

Total responses: 5,850 (survey)



Percentages reflect the proportion of question respondents who selected that option. Because respondents could select multiple options, percentages may add up to more than 100%.

"OTHER" RESPONSES

A total of 19 respondents selected "other" and provided a comment. A summary of "other" responses is below. Verbatim comments can be found in Appendix B.

Comments	Number of mentions
Safety concerns related to other users, including intoxication, unsafe boat operation and lack of supervision	3
Do not currently access the Reservoir	3
Additional hazards not listed, including submerged snags or obstacles and available daylight	2
Who else is in the group, including their ability, equipment and health	2
Personal judgement, awareness and responsibility	2
Risk on the Reservoir is comparable to or lower than other waterbodies	2
Commentary on access rather than safety	2
"All of the above"	1
No response given or not related to this project.	2

Comments that addressed more than one topic were included under each relevant category. As a result, the total number of mentions may exceed the total number of respondents.

Q8 WHAT SAFETY INFRASTRUCTURE OR FEATURES WOULD MAKE THE RESERVOIR MORE ACCESSIBLE FOR LOW-RISK RECREATION?

Long answer

Respondents: 371 (362 from survey, 9 from information session boards)

The project team reviewed all responses and grouped them into common themes. Comments that addressed more than one theme were included under each relevant theme. Percentages therefore represent the approximate proportion of respondents who raised each theme and may total more than 100%.

Theme	% (of 371)	Indicative Quotes
Formal access points, docks & boat launches	~39%	"A permanent dock to safely get in and out of the water, signage posting updated concerns like strong currents." "A proper public boat launch."
Emergency response access & equipment	~20%	"Ensuring timely access for emergency services. Patrols during busy periods." "No dedicated emergency [response]." (in-person)
Signage (risks, rules, conditions)	~14%	"Clear signage of risks and ask lifesaving society to provide a free lifejacket station."
Restrict motorized craft	~10%	"The non use of power boats for recreational purposes..."
Safe railway / train track crossing	~8%	"Bridge across the railway tracks." "Installing approved rail crossing infrastructure... to allow for safe and managed recreational access."
Personal responsibility / no more infrastructure needed (incl. opposed to increased accessibility)	~8%	"Leave it as is. No additional safety measures required." "I'm not in favour of making the reservoir more accessible."
Model after Glenmore / Ghost Lake	~8%	"Same infrastructure as for the Ghost reservoir."
Patrol / enforcement presence	~6%	"F&W and RCMP/police presence as needed."
Illegal marina / unauthorized use concerns	~5%	"Get rid of that illegal marina."
Parking facilities	~5%	"Direct access for a vehicle with parking available."
Education & awareness	~4%	"Education about risks in the area."
Washrooms / garbage facilities	~3%	"Designated beach areas within a keep-out area for boats. Serviced garbage bins."

WHAT WE HEARD | Protecting dam operations and water management

Q9 WHAT INFORMATION WOULD HELP YOU BETTER UNDERSTAND HOW RESERVOIR AND DAM OPERATIONS AFFECT ACCESS, SAFETY AND RECREATION?

Long answer

Respondents: 421

The project team reviewed all responses and grouped them into common themes. Comments that addressed more than one theme were included under each relevant theme. Percentages therefore represent the approximate proportion of respondents who raised each theme and may total more than 100%.

Theme	% (of 421)	Indicative Quotes
Comments regarding safety, recreation and access	~29%	“Clear rules for use of the dam for recreational activities. Locations of safe entry/exit points. Ensuring motorized boats are ensuring safety of people doing non-motorized activities."
No further information needed / satisfied with what’s available	~20%	"Nothing would help. I’ve worked in the power gen industry and understand the system."
Water level, flow & operational data/warnings	~18%	"Clear information on how water levels, flows, currents, debris, ice conditions… change throughout the year."
On-site signage at access points	~14%	"Signage near the reservoir to inform public of currents… minimum distance to stay away from the dam."
Website / online information hub	~10%	"Have a dedicated website where users can find information on current and expected operations."
Skepticism / distrust of the process	~5%	"It would help if TransAlta was more forthcoming with its operational plans for its entire Bow River network."
Model after Ghost Lake / Glenmore precedent	~7%	"Look at what is done at the Ghost Reservoir."
Public education & awareness campaigns	~5%	"Tours of the dam, posters with explanations and diagrams, website with info."
Historical / technical operating data	~2%	"Historical data showing variability of reservoir level."

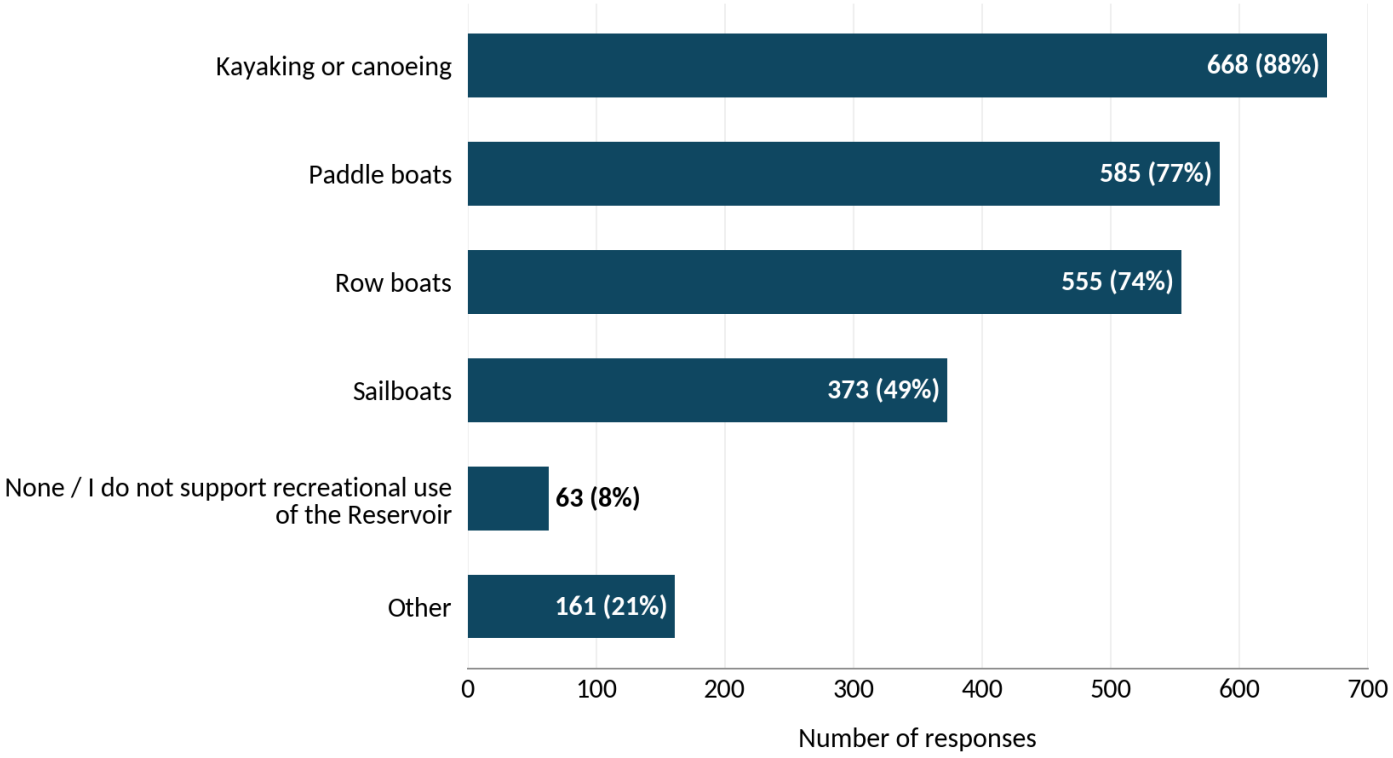
WHAT WE HEARD | Evaluating low-risk recreation

Q10 IF LOW-RISK ACTIVITIES ARE FOUND TO BE APPROPRIATE THROUGHOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN, WHICH ACTIVITIES WOULD YOU BE SUPPORTIVE OF?

Select all that apply

Respondents: 755

Total responses: 2,405 (2,308 survey, 97 information boards)



Percentages reflect the proportion of question respondents who selected that option. Because respondents could select multiple options, percentages may add up to more than 100%.

"OTHER" RESPONSES

A total of 161 respondents selected "other" and provided a comment. A summary of "other" responses is below. Verbatim comments can be found in Appendix B.

Comments	Number of mentions
Stand-up paddleboarding (SUP)	47
Motorized boats and personal watercraft	21
Fishing and angling, including ice fishing	20
Swimming and other in-water use, including wetsuit swimming and designated swim areas	12
Suggested conditions or limits on recreation, including limits on numbers, craft types, access points or vehicle access	12

Comments	Number of mentions
Comments questioning whether direct body contact with water is an appropriate or workable measure of risk	12
Land-based activities, including cycling and pathway connections, hiking, picnicking and bird watching	11
Comparisons to other reservoirs or waterways as precedent, including Ghost, Glenmore, Cochrane, Chestermere and the Bow River	10
Electric motors and electric-powered watercraft	9
Wind sports, including windsurfing, kiteboarding, kitesurfing and wing foiling	8
Opposition to or restrictions on motorized watercraft due to pollution, fuel, safety or other concerns	6
Distrust of the question's framing or of the process	5
Winter recreation, including skating, ice fishing, kiteskiing, snowshoeing and snowmobiling	4
Scuba diving	3
Equity in how recreation restrictions are applied, including to adjacent landowners	3
Tubing/rafting	3
Dog access or swimming	2
Support for all recreational activities, including motorized vehicles	2
Support for all non-motorized activities	2
Comments about access rather than a specific activity	2
Opposition to recreation on the Reservoir	2
Other single mentions including pedal boats, sailing, rowing/dragon boats	3

Comments that addressed more than one topic were included under each relevant category. As a result, the total number of mentions may exceed the total number of respondents.

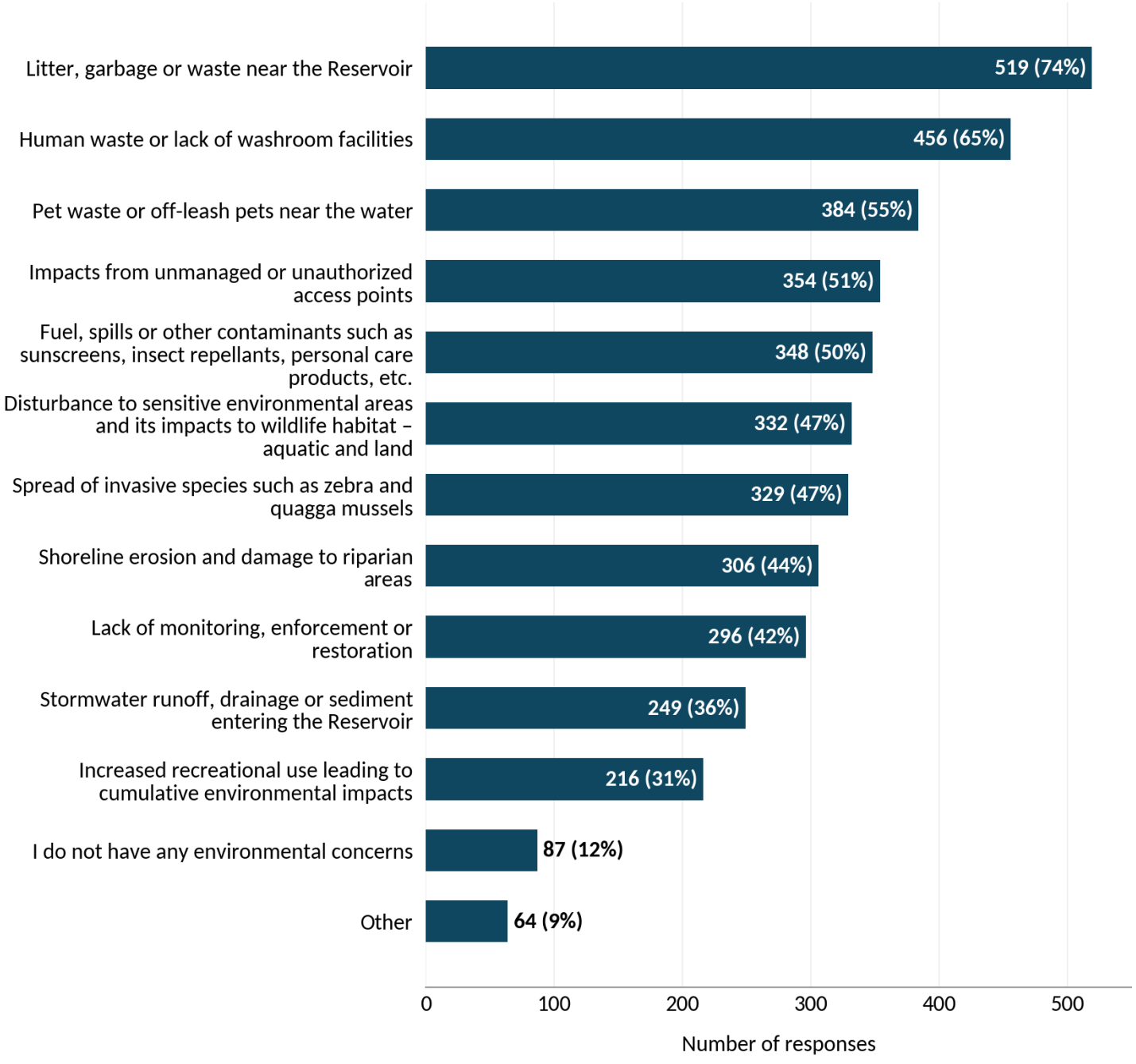
WHAT WE HEARD | Environmental and shoreline considerations

Q11 WHAT ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS DO YOU HAVE RELATED TO CURRENT OR FUTURE USES OF THE RESERVOIR?

Select all that apply

Respondents: 700

Total responses: 3,940 (survey)



Percentages reflect the proportion of question respondents who selected that option. Because respondents could select multiple options, percentages may add up to more than 100%.

"OTHER" RESPONSES

A total of 64 respondents selected "other" and provided a comment. A summary of "other" responses is below. Verbatim comments can be found in Appendix B.

Comments	Number of mentions
Skepticism that some listed environmental concerns are significant, or that recreational use is a greater concern than existing/background impacts	10
Visitor behaviour and volume at existing access points, including litter, human waste, disrespect and overcrowding	9
Motorized watercraft, including fuel spills, wake, prop wash and noise	9
Comparison to Glenmore, Ghost or other waterbodies where similar recreation or access is already managed	8
Upstream and off-site sources are the greater risk, including agriculture and cattle, the rail line and upstream watershed load	7
Nearby land development and associated runoff or environmental impacts	7
Enforcement and monitoring, including questions about who would monitor activity or enforce rules	7
Protection of wetlands, riparian areas, wildlife and habitat	5
Formalizing access points would reduce impact more than leaving access informal	5
Skepticism about the framing of environmental risks, particularly comparing sunscreen and personal care products with fuel spills	5
Adjacent landowner activity, including encroachment, runoff, motorized use and lack of monitoring	5
Erosion and shoreline impacts, including informal trails, steep banks and changing reservoir conditions	5
Dam and reservoir operations themselves as the environmental issue	5
Invasive species and weed control	2
No or minimal environmental concerns	2
Other single mentions, including sites of historical importance, off-leash dogs, flood mitigation, spreading users downstream, distrust of intent and one unclear response	6

Comments that addressed more than one topic were included under each relevant category. As a result, the total number of mentions may exceed the total number of respondents.

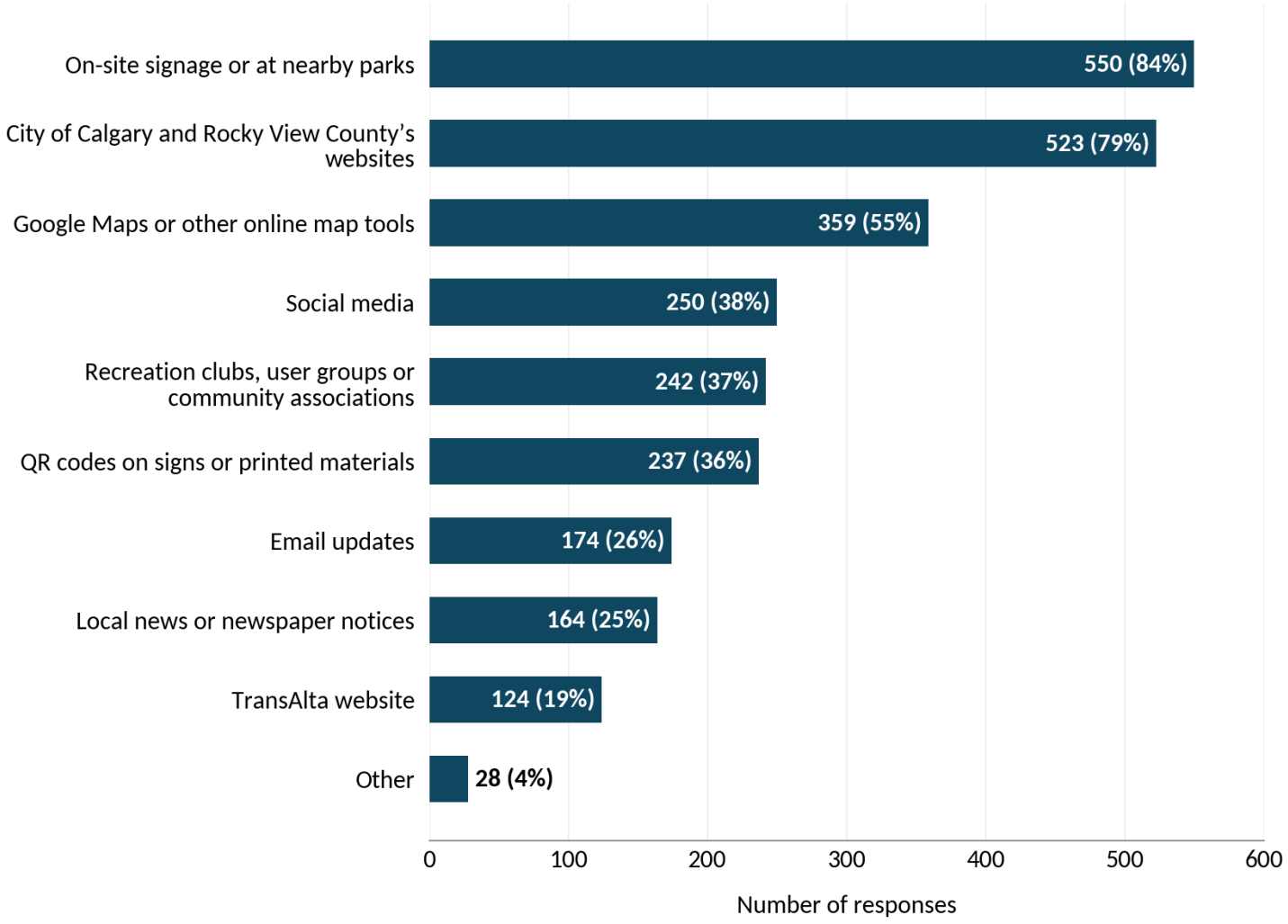
WHAT WE HEARD | Communications, education and responsible use

Q12 WHERE WOULD YOU PREFER TO FIND INFORMATION ABOUT RESERVOIR ACCESS, SAFETY, CONDITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS?

Select all that apply

Respondents: 658

Total responses: 2,651 (survey)



Percentages reflect the proportion of question respondents who selected that option. Because respondents could select multiple options, percentages may add up to more than 100%.

OTHER RESPONSES

A total of 28 respondents selected "other" and provided a comment. A summary of "other" responses is below. Verbatim comments can be found in Appendix B.

Comments	Number of mentions
Opposition to promoting Reservoir access, additional signage or information encouraging use	5
On-site signage, including at the parking lot, on Highway 1A and at the water's edge	5
Direct communication, including mail, door-to-door outreach and contact with nearby residents or businesses.	4
QR codes and phone-based information will not reach everyone	3
A dedicated project website rather than pages within municipal sites	2
In-person contact, including a staffed information booth or door-to-door outreach	2
Partnerships with local clubs and organizations,	2
Education and stewardship-focused information about protecting and caring for the Reservoir	2
Comments about access or infrastructure rather than where information should be provided	1
Other single mentions, including municipal websites, social media, a community newsletter, Indigenous knowledge and stewardship teaching, a question about who monitors access, and comparison to how Glenmore is handled	6

WHAT WE HEARD | Final thoughts

Q13 IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE THE PROJECT TEAM TO CONSIDER AS THEY PREPARE THE MANAGEMENT PLAN?

Long answer

Respondents: 398

The project team reviewed all responses and grouped them into common themes. Comments that addressed more than one theme were included under each relevant theme. Percentages therefore represent the approximate proportion of respondents who raised each theme and may total more than 100%.

Theme	% (of 398)	Indicative Quotes
Expand public access & recreation	~46%	"Water is a public resource and it should be available for multiple uses/users." "Public access to the reservoir."
Nearby development & land use pressure	~11%	"I am deeply concerned about proposed land use change LOC2026-0004... could threaten the drinking water supply."
Restrict motorized watercraft	~10%	"Get the motor boats off our drinking water and get rid of any commercial operations."
Bike path & trail connectivity	~9%	"A trail system from Calgary (Bowness Park!) west along both sides of the reservoir — continuing to Cochrane."
Public safety & emergency concerns	~8%	"The reservoir can be a very dangerous body of water. It is not suitable for inexperienced or unprepared boaters."
Illegal/unauthorized access & enforcement	~7%	"Please remove the Bearspaw reservoir public access area. Too many people are causing chaos."
No further comment / satisfied	~7%	"Nothing at this time."
Equity / end private landowner gatekeeping	~6%	"Should two tiers of people (private landowner and the public) continue to exist for access to the reservoir?"
Environmental & wildlife protection	~5%	"Significant concerns — especially in terms of environmental and wildlife impact."
Process, governance & transparency concerns	~4%	"It already seems that the management plan has been predetermined."

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who participated in Phase 1 engagement between June 18 to July 26, 2026.

Phase 2 engagement is planned for fall 2026. During this phase, we will return to the community to share and gather feedback on draft directions for the Bearspaw Reservoir Management Plan.

More information about Phase 2 engagement opportunities will be shared as details are confirmed.

Please visit www.engage.calgary.ca/bearspawreservoir or www.engage.rockyview.ca/bearspawreservoir.

APPENDIX A: VERBATIM COMMENTS

VERBATIM COMMENTS | Introduction questions

Q1 HOW DO YOU CURRENTLY USE, ACCESS OR EXPERIENCE THE BEARSPAW RESERVOIR OR SURROUNDING AREA?

Select all that apply.

VERBATIM "OTHER" RESPONSES (SURVEY)
Would use the reservoir for kayaking regularly if available
I aspire to operate a Dive Shop which we have a pool that is indoor confined water and I have federal permission to build access from fish and wildlife. They said If I BUILD IT and they can use it, its all good specifically outlined around line of sight and immediate direct access for emergency services. Shoreline of sight and ease of use ♥ i have underwater attractions and infrastructure for training and teaching purposes and tanks and other dive equipment and boats for rescue. I have ropes bouys and other devices assets like a dock boat launch and gazebo area for survival and evacuation and shelter for emergency purposes. I also have an AED and 100% O2 on site..
I walk on the reservoir during the winter (when it is frozen) with my dog to give her exercise.
Because of the train crossing being closed, and the difficult access to other locations, I cannot use the area as we should be able to
Flooding mitigation
A citizen and resident who wishes to retain his responsible use of the reservoir, without restrictions.
Off leash dog walking
I used to use it more often when I first lived moved to Tuscany in 2004 but trans alta has made it near impossible for visiting
I would love to use the reservoir for recreation, fishing or paddle boarding. Access is a huge challenge,
I would like public access to the reservoir so I can kayak.
I get my drinking water from the reservoir
Live in Tuscany, should have access and want access but they have illegally blocked it for us non-wealthy neighbourhood exclusives even though we have access.
I'd use the reservoir for paddling my kayak, but there is currently no easy public access.
I'm a resident for the last 14 years with over a thousand yards of damn frontage and Have expertise Knowledge of activities water conditions wildlife And communicate very closely with the neighborhood
I would like to use it for paddling but the only legal way is to rent it (last year)
I am concerned about our drinking water quality and quantity
I have only looked at it.
For decades I used the reservoir 3-4 times per week, until access was cut off by chain link fences on both sides of the tracks. 😡 😡
Didn't know I could use the reservoir
I want to use the reservoir water and nearby trails but know accessing it means crossing rail tracks and that's not legal.
I want to access the reservoir water with my own boat and kayak but I am unable to do so.
I live in Tuscany, which is very close to the reservoir
I haven't used it because I don't know how to access it

VERBATIM "OTHER" RESPONSES (SURVEY)
Recreational water sports
Lack of access makes using it difficult
I do not use the reservoir due to unclear public access right of ways. Posted trespassing signs that may or may not be legitimate near supposed access points are unclear?
I would really like to access the reservoir for canoeing
Would love to use it but don't know how to access it?
Fishing the lake once. Would love to use our motorized boat to fish the lake.
I live in the adjacent community
I see the reservoir as a potential water playground & am curious as to why this does not seem to be the case?
My family drinks the water from the reservoir.
I kayak a lot in the Calgary/Kananaskis areas and I would like to be able to kayak the reservoir.

Q2 HOW OFTEN DO YOU USE, ACCESS OR VISIT THE BEARSPAW RESERVOIR?

Multiple choice

VERBATIM "OTHER" RESPONSES (SURVEY)
There is currently no good access but if there were, we would use the reservoir a few times a month
A few times per week SEASONALLY. Predominantly summer, with a few times per month in spring and fall.
I have been here for about 10 years now I have a massive amount of invested interest and appreciation and inflation. With no profit made yet.
Depends on the season. Winter time would be two to three times per week walking on it.
I dont currently use the reservoir as I find access limited, awkward and uninviting.
Because access is completely closed off, I cannot use it on a weekly basis as I would like to.
I would use it several times a summer if access was reasonable.
Access to the reservoir is next to impossible.
earspaw Reservoir is a shared public resource. Decisions affecting public access should be: Based on scientific evidence. Within each authority's legal jurisdiction.
Access is limited by the homeowner group with their locked gate - its not fair - I want to use this water body weekly
I dont use the actusl reservoir as I find that access has been limited by trans alta, rockyview county and its residents as well as the City of Calgary
Illegally blocked access. I want to access it. I would access it a few times a week.
I used to be able to walk down to the Reservoir and walk on the path that is down there. Now with the marina there they have cut off access to everyone so I no longer can go down there. I think the path should be available for everyone.
A few times a week during the summer, very limited in the winter. Perhaps this question needs an answer for people like me that use the area more during the late spring, summer and early fall.

VERBATIM "OTHER" RESPONSES (SURVEY)
he federal government has constitutional jurisdiction over navigation and shipping. A municipality generally cannot enact a bylaw that effectively prohibits navigation where federal law protects it.
The reservoir does not currently have public access.
It's inaccessible to use with my boat , as the launches are private property and gated for simply a few residents who live on the water
I used it 3-4 times per week spring summer and fall until access was cut off via road way
Access is limited- I would be there all the time if there was access
I don't use the reservoir specifically, but I would love to access it through Haskayne Park
Just used it once
Weekly in summer, monthly in winter
Maybe once a year, because access is more limited for paddling now its not as worth it. I paddle above and below frequently though
I get to the shore through absolutely inconvenient for boat access points. They are very difficult to reach and purposely made unsafe public access points listed on the Rocky View County map.
Reservoir access is not available from the north side.
I've been there once
I would if there was public access
Once or twice per year due to access
As stated above I do not currently use but would like to use the reservoir. I would like to use it for water based non motorized recreation
I have hiked in in the past
I would like to use reservoir for kayaking, but access is difficult
Would like to use the reservoir more ofetn if it had easier access
1 time

Q3 WHAT ARE YOUR PRIMARY INTERESTS IN THE PROJECT?

Select all that apply

VERBATIM "OTHER" RESPONSES (SURVEY)
I am interested in people not spoiling the area near the Bearspaw reservoir area. There are too many people accessing the area causing too many problems like excessive litter, noise, partying, drinking, doing drugs and other illegal activities like illegal fishing and hunting from these areas close to the reservoir. For example Bearspaw reservoir public access on Springbank Hgts way.
Bearspaw Reservoir Public Access park is a safety concern. Park users have been noted to overnight camping on property and in vehicles. Users have been drinking in the park and then driving. Users have been noted as littering (dumping human ashes in reservoir water supply). There needs to be more security measures in place or the park shut down for safety and environmental reasons.

VERBATIM "OTHER" RESPONSES (SURVEY)
I don't think people should be camping near the river. There are no campgrounds or washroom facilities at Bearspaw reservoir public access point. This leads to litter in the area and urine and feces going into the beautiful Bow river. Disgusting
A trail system linking Calgary along the reservoir on both sides where possible.
I am interested in closing off access to the Bow River from Bearspaw reservoir public access area on Springbank Heights Way. Too many people are accessing the area and basically ruin the natural experience with their yelling, drinking and dumping garbage.
i would like to see NO public access to bearspaw reservior area especially from the parking lot on South side of river along Springbank heights way. there is too much public drunkenness and mischief that puts community at risk i.e. drunk driving and river rescues, and dumping in the river. for example someone dumped their dad's ashes into the river.
Maintaining the natural area with NO ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENTS
I want to be able to bike from Calgary to Cochrane via Bearspaw and Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park, without riding on Highway 1A.
water conservation
I also cleared debris from the dam operations over time. Drift wood logs and trees.
Protection of my rights to publicly access the reservoir around the lake and prevent homeowners from lobbying to cancel my access rights
I am interested in facilitating safe and responsible public access for teaching paddle sports
I am a citizen and resident who wishes to retain his long-standing responsible access to the reservoir, without restriction
We should not be using gas powered motors boats on our drinking water
I am interested in cycling from Calgary watermark villas to Haskayne Glenbow
I am interested in PUBLIC recreation access. The houses in springbank have taken over. There needs to be a public access point
I believe there is a balance between public access and protecting water supply/habitat. If it is no motors and improving access so it is not only available to local land owners.
I'm concerned about the Bear's paw Marina being pushed out of business by rich people living on the other side of the reservoir. I believe that this government should support small businesses and this is a great area for low-income people to be able to access the river and enjoy the public waterways that we all should have rights to, not just the people who can afford it
Interested in obtaining easy public access as was supposed to happen when Haskayne Park was developed. Not enough parking etc at Ghost Reservoir and having access for paddling sports here would be better
Live close and interested in the feel of the general area
management plan, not creating new legal authority.
I am interested in you people not limiting access or no access at all to the reservoir.
Make the lake bigger, deeper, and the dam bigger with hydro electric capacity.
It is very unfair that we as calgarians do not have full access to the water body - a select few homeowner control access and this is not fair.
I'm interested to continue motorized boating by my property
Would like to be able to use the path without driving to Woodland Road and taking a gravel road with my vehicle, which is so dusty not enjoyable at all
Limited access
I am interested in access to Haskayne Legacy Park and Glenbow Ranch provincial Park from Calgary bike paths.

VERBATIM "OTHER" RESPONSES (SURVEY)
A municipality would face significant legal hurdles if it attempted to: Ban navigation on the Bow River itself. Prohibit /A municipality can: Warn that conditions are dangerous. Recommend against floating. Restrict access to municipal facilities during emergencies. Coordinate with emergency management agencies.eople from floating through municipal boundaries. Extinguish the public right of navigation. Restrict federally protected navigation rights without proper authority.
connecting bike paths between Rockland Park community, the Haskayne Legacy Park and Glenbow Ranch would be great!
I want to make sure no constructions happen along the reservoir that will endanger the safety of water supply to calgary. Particularly the proposed land redesignation plan LOC2026-0005
Continued use of power boats in the area
It was a great place to go and get away from the hustle and bustle of the big city while still being in the city.
Preservation of wildlife including birds, fish, etc.
All water resevoirs for drinkwater must be protected at all cost. This include rivers.
Interested in preserving its natural beauty.
I am worried people accessing this water and doing whatever they want will cause a death or harm drinking water. Dog issues as always, and people affecting water with gas, oil, garbage, poop.
Leaving it alone
I live nearby, on the Calgary side, and am only able to legally access for paddle boarding through a private company which charges even for the pleasure of using my own board. Understanding water protection is necessary, and that several options West of town are no longer allowed, this would be an amazing addition to Calgary's recreational offerings.
I live on the south side of the reservoir (Springbank Heights) and access the river daily. The public access to the reservoir at Springbank Heights is via a Rocky View County reserve that was established in 1970s for residents of Springbank Heights. Any additional traffic to access the reservoir at Springbank Heights will negatively impact our residential community. The banks of the south side of the reservoir are steep and subject to Erosion which needs to be protected and considered in future plans. The significant variation of water depth and flow rates experienced at the west (upstream) end of the reservoir can be a safety concern. The predictability of the shoreline and depth is not recognized by many users of the water shoreline. I have personally experienced a very serious near miss with a pet a number of years ago when the water level rose. Future recreation activities and access should be focused on the North side of the river and closer to the dam where water levels are more predictable and the shorelines and less exposed to erosion.
How landowners below the new high water mark will be affected/ compensated for their loss of use.
Would love to see safe access to the reservoir from Rockland Park. I often see people hiking down the steep hillside down to the water to fish mostly or walk. They often use the slope between osprey park and the corner house beside it. Would love to see a winding path down to the water there since it's also very close to the playground and dangerous for children who might wander to close to the ridge.
I am interested being able to take my kids boating a fishing on the reservoir
I would like to have easy road access to the water with convenient parking, so that I can bring boat/kayak like I can do in the Glenmore Reservoir.
I would like access to the reservoir for recreational purposes
The best way to preserve the BPreservoir is to provide public access for recreation. It is ludicrous that Transalta should control access to a pulicly owned resource, lta shoul
I am interested in equity. Recreation access should not be restricted to those who can afford to live along the reservoir.

VERBATIM "OTHER" RESPONSES (SURVEY)
Please restrict commercial boat activities on the reservoir
Build a dock down there and over pass across the tracks!
I am interested is public access
It is important to keep recreation access for all. No motorized boats allowed.
I need clarity on how residents in Springbank are able to limit access to the shore front along Emerald bay, I want this made abundantly clear to me why I can't park and access the doc. Secondly why I can't use my own water craft in the Marina, I've been search for this info for years now
Having clear public access points. There are limited public lake access options in the city of calgary.
Did not allow me to click the I am not a robot and submit … amd redoing the survey
I am interested in keeping the [redacted] away from the water
I would like easier public access. Living in Bearspaw village I used to walk down to the reservoir to Haskyane Park or cycle to Glenbow Provincial Park, through the Tree Farm. This access route has been shut off by the new owners running a marina.
bike paths
I am interested in what you've already decided you are going to do after you check the box of public engagement.
Would like to see a second railway crossing for pedestrians
Security and policing concerns due to increase in population in Calgary and surrounding areas
I'd like to be able to access the reservoir for wind sports like windsurfing and wing-foiling
I'm for bike/hike paths, view points, and trails connecting Calgary to Chochrane.
This body of water should be accessible to the general public, not just those that live along the south side of it.
I would like to fish in the reservoir but there is next to no public access to this public body of water. Haskane Park needs access to the water. Also please connect the bike path from Calgary to Cochrane.

VERBATIM COMMENTS | Balancing priorities

Q4 GIVEN THE KEY PRIORITIES, DO YOU FEEL THAT THE TRILATERAL TASK FORCE SHOULD EXPLORE ADDITIONAL ASPECTS TO MANAGE THE RESERVOIR?

Long answer

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
I believe they should leave it as is, and allow the existing local access points to remain.
Shut down the existing informal access points around the reservoir. Shut down the parking lot at the Bearspaw reservoir public access. There is too much parking congestion with people parking and blocking access. Too much trouble in neighborhood with people drinking and driving. Too much litter strewn about. I guess people don't know how to use trash can. Too many people overnight camping in parking lot and by the river. No washroom facilities so where does excrement go? Into the river.
Definitely no power boats of any kind. The reservoir is a natural amphitheatre and sound is heard all round the Springbank area. Protecting the waterfowl that regularly go in the evening and would be seriously affected by any recreation.
no
Nothing at this time
The Bow River and Bearspaw reservoir are navigable waters used for transportation so should be federally regulated

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
The "Bearspaw Reservoir Public Access" point (as listed on Google Maps) is problematic. This area is a safety concern as I have seen multiple people getting drunk here after dark, and driving off or camping in area. Someone will likely drown themselves here. Additionally, there are significant levels of litter left in the area on a regular basis. As such, I am concerned about the water quality being impacted by such people.
Safety and environmental aspects of the Bearspaw Reservoir Public Access by the public. There are concerns of littering and the environmental impact (water cleanliness). There are public safety concerns of drunkenness (during water use and driving) and users overnight camping on the land. What happens if someone drowns on this piece of land because they ante intoxicated? Who is held liable?
Limit public access to the area. People are disrespectful animals that don't give a [redacted] about the river, the environment or other people trying to enjoy nature.
I am confused about the plans about public safety.
Maintain access to the water for the existing users/people with legal access to the reservoir
Create a paved road for both bicycle and car use. A roadway that can be accessed throughout the year. Connecting a paved road to access Haskayne Park to the existing Bearspaw Marina. Allow public parking at Bearspaw Private Marina. Allow public parking and non motorized boat access to reservoir at multiple locations. Keep in mind that the most access occurs June through late August.
Any increase in access must be managed by the appropriate land owners. Specifically the City of Calgary, Transalta and Rockyview County. It must include how litter, weed control, legal vehicle parking, safety and funding for the maintenance of access and recreation will be managed. At current use there is continual illegally parking, trespassing across private land and littering on City of Calgary lands on the SW side of the reservoir.
1: Easy access take-out places to take out canoes etc. floating on the river from the west. A "boat" ramp for non motorized boats. 2: a trail system from Calgary West along both sides of the reservoir.
Please take in to account any businesses that operate out of this area and how changes would affect their business. Compensation. Free resources to use in schools.
Same rules for landowners and the public. If no public boat launch, then no private boat launch.
The reservoir is in close proximity to the city of Calgary. Anywhere public access to the reservoir has granted, gets overused and creates problems with parking, environmental damage and safety
the priorities stated appear complete. personally paths for walking along the reservoir should be a priority. From my perspecive of points 1 and 2 above, water access should be restricted
I believe that a higher priority be placed on access to this body of water which is very limited within the Calgary and surrounding area.
Using examples of the Glenmore reservoir along with the Ghost (not for drinking) would like access from the Haskayne side for paddle boarding and kayaking (non motorized). Currently seems like a private lake for owners on the south side
Please ensure the plan includes the provision of accessible public washroom facilities near the shoreline.
Ensure easy public access so people are not tresspassing on private land. There needs to be ease of access from calgary and from the park or people will just cut across and access where they want to and in turn damage the shoreline. Do not keep people from using it. Make it easy and concentrated where they do.
Yes, enable access and get government out of the way. All those considerations read like you are looking for ways to restrict access, not enable it. If you somehow mess up the water quality, you completely lost the plot, considering everything up stream, enabling some access for things like paddle boarding and fishing has zero impact on water quality.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Let me protect my self while recreating.. its not your job. Put in a boom and don't let people near the actual dam... Build some parking lots!
Maintain recreation access; I paddle the bow from Cochrane to Bearspaw and use public access to pull out at the reservoir
I think that the reservoir would best be protected by closing off access to it from the Bearspaw reservoir public access point on Springbank Heights Way. The public does not have to be accessing the river and contaminating the water supply for residents downstream. Most of the people accessing it are from Calgary and they do not treat the area well. They bring their dogs and leave dog pooh everywhere-they don't pick up after their dogs. They leave litter behind. They erode the river bank.
I feel the system works fine as it is.
I feel that public access to the river should be closed at the parks especially so close to Calgary. i have seen illegal fishing and hunting in the bearspaw reservoir park. I have also seen drinking and driving from this park that endangers the community. Sometimes there are so many people at the bearspaw reservoir park that they park on the road and obstruct road access. i have seen illegal camping in the area which detracts from the beauty of the area. these campers dont pay muni. taxes
No, I think you have it covered.
Further development on either side of Bow River will cause more erosion and run off.
n/a
The Task Force needs to consider cumulative impacts from population growth near the reservoir and means by which to "control" access if the level of use becomes excessive.
Protecting Rocky View County landowners from activities of and interactions with City of Calgary trespassers to private property on the reservoir
Haskayne Damcar proposal to build homes. Close to the Reservoir..while building toxins draining into our drinking water.
should manage it like Glenmore
Yes. Similar dams seem to have significant public access, while Haskayne seems to be very limited. Also don't understand the usage rules of the pavilion (indoor and outdoor spaces)
You should explore. Reuse Waste Water. Eg carwash, toilet water, re filter and use that water for farming, for watering municipal gardens etc. As they have already done so in Europe. In Calgary we are adding and adding more housing, buildings using water from? The water infrastructure is way to old, now we live with the consequences. Have government get of their royal buts and start paying for fixing, not for prayers meetings???!! Kissing the stinky bum from the one next door.
Yes. The Task Force should also evaluate cumulative impacts from existing and future development across the watershed, including stormwater, water quality, erosion, riparian health, wildlife, climate resilience and infrastructure capacity. As the drinking water source for 1.6 million people, management should be based on a precautionary, science-based approach that prioritizes long-term source water protection before expanding public access or recreation.
Yes, how will the proposed Haskayne Development ASP with over 9,000 potential residents, be incorporated as part the Trilateral Task Force as this will have a significant impact to all the priorities of the Task Force.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Who will be responsible for implementing and enforcing any regulations or rules that the Trilateral Task Force identified.
NO commercial activities on or close to shoreline Buffer zone, natural vegetation, between reservoir and privately-owned property
Stop the illegal operation of docks on the water. Without proper access and water safety plans illegal operations need to stop
Walking and cycling trails near the reservoir. More public access to the river. Devonian Land Trust property that is on the Bearspaw Reservoir should be developed for a public park. We have no parks in Springbank.
I think this is a good start, and as time goes on, we constantly should assess the needs and usage of the reservoir and change things accordingly
Allow more public access to the reservoir while maintaining the above priorities
The major issue is access and only one public access for Bow river use is in Cochrane. Nothing up river or down river. As a fly fishing guide that further stresses the south bow which is already struggling with limited access points. Many of the usable access points are closed to public access and only for the fire department. Open more boat launch above and below Cochrane gives all users great access. The fly fishing industry brings milllion of dollars into the Alberta economy.
Recreation on this reservoir is a priority for all of us, that should be considered. Its time to open this area to the public since its public thats pays for this resource it should be for our use.
Direct access to the reservoir's east end close to the dam is desirable for man launched crafts such as a Kayak. Also parking and access to the reservoir for winter activities such as ice fishing.
I believe that recreational use and fishing access should be well managed within the guidelines and that catch and release has minimal impact.
The recreational activities for the bow river are not different from those at the glenmore dam and reservoir.
Like the Glenmore Reservour, I strongly feel north calgary should have great access to our recreational resources and that includes the Bearspaw reservoir. Allowing access should be a higher priority, not an “explore”.
Ensure Public Access Points are not Closed if Private Access is allowed
no
Ensure environmental uniqueness is protected
No. Protecting source water quality is, by far, the most important consideration. All other aspects are comparatively inconsequential.
quiet and gentle activities, allowing swimming, allowing access with dogs, allowing paddle raft, allowing fishing boats with low speed limit make sense. Allowing high speed watersports oriented craft with large wakes and loud stereos or sea doos dont make sense. electric powered craft, for example, use of electric trolling motor only, even if gas outboard is attached but out of the water, is reasonable compromise.
The only concerns I have is regarding safety- as there have been times water has been released with little warning and availability for rescue. However- I do not believe the reservoir should be used for rec at all in order to maintain natural area and also water quality.
Please develop and accommodate recreational activity. This area is our home and we want to enjoy the beautiful opportunities it can offer.
Development of communities adjacent to the Reservoir should be delayed until such time as the Task Force develops its recommendations. Recent Haskayne community development proposal brings thousands more people into proximity of the Reservoir, despite limited access across the railway and TransAlta directives. Preserving the parkland surrounding the reservoir through limited access to non-polluting recreation should be high on the agenda.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Local land owners are the only ones that use powered water craft on the lake and use it as their person lake. More access should be given to the public to access the lake for recreational opportunities including angling
Decommission Emerald Bay (access and use)! Many residents access the reservoir from their adjacent property through a linear Environmental Reserve to the shoreline under the control of TransAlta. Docks, utility trenching and paring occur on the ER and appear not to be enforced by RVC- essentially in contravention of the MGA. Terminate the long standing Emerald Bay marina access agreement and reclaim the site to a natural state. Universal application of access restrictions.
I think the task force should include a review of how other reservoirs are managed (like Ghost dam, Kananaskis dam, Glenmore reservoir, Spray lakes reservoir) and look at introducing policies that balance corporate interests with recreational use. I think that emergency response is a bit of a red herring as that could be applied to all waterbodies in the province. Also, access on the south and north sides of the reservoir don't seem to be equitable.
Waste of time and money. Let's be real, Ghost Lake is overrun with motorized boats, and that water flows down, yet there is not a peep about limiting that area. But a reservoir with maybe 2-3 boats on it on a weekend? Are there not higher priorities to spend money on? Rockland has enough runoff the banks collapsed, and there are massive dust clouds from construction blowing onto the water as well as debris, but not only not a peep, but another development to the north far larger proposed.
People have being using for many years without emergency assistance. Stop controlling what is natural so charge people fees.
The task force should not be limiting access to the reservoir for recreational uses even if the on water emergency response is limited. On water emergency response is limited on many lakes and rivers throughout Alberta.
Water quality and quantity is imperative to all decisions. Without both there will be no safe population or food production in southern Alberta and on into Saskatchewan and up to the Hudson Bay.
Generally they seem covered off. Need to address current situation where some seem to have privileged access
The stated priorities reflect some of my concerns.
Sounds like the task force has essential aspects covered.
By engaging all of the stakeholders, including nearby communities, to come up with a plan that satisfies all parties. I think the Glenmore Reservoir demonstrates that this is possible and is a good model to emulate
Explore more formal access and recreation opportunities
Environmental and wildlife protection.
No
Install buoys on a strong cable to keep boaters 300 m away from penstock inlet, like is done at Canmore (just east of the Nordic Centre), Barrier Lake, Upper Kananaskis Lake and Ghost Reservoirs. All these are owned and operated by TransAlta. All non-motorized boating, as is allowed for the above reservoirs and also Glenmore Reservoir. No swimming - too cold. No ice fishing - this is still a river and ice thickness is unpredictable. Only allow access from designated points.
Yes to everything including supporting businesses 🙌 I also have a small greenhouse for survival.
Exploring the creation of a greater number of managed access sites day use sites, swimming, paddling and fishing on the reservoir.
Major developments adjacent to the reservoir in the HasKayne park area seems ill advised with respect to water quality, safety, environmental protection etc
I am concerned with septic fields from homes leaking contaiminated ground water into the dam
Focus should be on formal access, this is a public resource but a small minority currently prevents most public from accessing the reservoir.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
No that sounds good
Existing 'informal' access is discouraged by the hostile local landowners. They shouldn't have exclusive rights to public land and waterways.
Formal public access to the reservoir would be nice
no, right priorities
Prevent special interest groups from eliminating access points to essentially privatize the access and reservoir for their exclusive benefit. That means recognizing their subtle and obvious attempts to lobby and sway politicians to cater to their privacy over the rights of other lake users to access the lake and shoreline for recreational purposes.
Yes. Better public access for on water activities. Fishing and boating.
Better public access, better passage for people conoeing or kayaking from Cochrane to Calgary. Recreation access is the priority. The way the reservoir has been limited is not the same as the uses on Ghost or Glenmore Reservoir. It is time to open it up to public use as an asset to all Albertans
Fence it off, completely restrict access
I think you should really think hard about secondary effects with any changes. I think improving recreational access will actually improve drinking water safety, dam operations, and overall safety. A reservoir is an attractive place and people will ignore any signs and rules if there's no designated access
I see no risk to water quality considering existing management and legislated protective measures. Regarding public safety, there is sufficient vehicle access to the reservoir should emergency services be required. TransAlta currently operates under sufficiently stringent regulations and legislation. Formalizing access to the reservoir will only serve to reduce freedom of access enjoyed by many. Seems this may be an attempt to create a problem that does not exist.
Water sport communities have long kept their own members safe through regular training anf certification for their staff and volunteers. The TTF could benefit from taking similar courses so they personally understand how user groups keep themselves accountable and safe
Some sort of outdoor museum about dam operations would be cool to visit
N/a
how come sprinbank residents can boat there and us on the east side of reservoir cannot??? lets make it fair to everyone
Regards "Exploring access and recreation" above, the TF should ALSO factor in how many other recreation areas have been restricted or closed over the years, and how any new restrictions on Bearspaw will push users farther into wildlands (for which they may not have the skills and from which rescue is far more dangerous to responders and more costly). The area immediately below the dam used to be a family favourite recreation area and has been completely cut off.
With the addition of haskayne park, this has introduced more people to the area. Make use of Haskayne to its fullest capability and have another place people want to go to. Glenmore reservoir and Bowness/Baker park are way over crowded. Give people another choice to go enjoy the waterways and recreate.
It sounds like the Task Force priorities align with mine. Some additional aspects may be important to manage the reservoir, yes.
Cycling access from neighborhoods (Tuscany) near Haskayne Park. Would kayak if water access was easier.
Just make sure we can use not motorized water craft on the reservoir. Motorized not permitted. They are too loud and pollute the water. Even if electric. Motorized also has a higher chance of leading to injury.
No, emphasis on access and recreation, and perhaps coordinating with rocky view county to share pathways with the city

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
We need to focus on public access to this reservoir. As the population grows we need to get more water access to the public. Just like public access to ghost, glenmore and barrier reservoirs there should be a way to accomplish this.
The priorities stated seem appropriate.
Pro active (pre building road/ parking infrastructure) : Traffic and parking management Crowchild and 12 mile coulee road intersection is already an issue during rush hour and week- end : The provincial and federal governments need to be engaged as an interchange will be required if further public access to the reservoir is planned and all the RVC development and Calgary Rockland development is progressing
Yes, I do not think any public access should be granted as its the primary drinking water supply.
No
No, the priorities listed seems to cover everything.
Yes, I agree that the Trilateral Task Force should explore additional aspects to manage the reservoir. Most importantly, protecting our source water quality to ensure safe drinking water. Ensuring public safety with proper access and signage. Protecting dam operations and water management to ensure the dam can react should there by any flood concerns. Exploring access and recreation: such a beautiful area which everyone should be able to access & enjoy safely.
Who, specifically, are the groups pushing for this initiative? Names. Who profits? There is no transparency. It smells like typical busy body groups wanting to grab the power to "regulate" access to the reservoir. It is a public right to access, unrestricted. Regulate always means: add cost to the user and grow the management largesse. Show us who is behind these proposals, who profits from them, and precisely how the management largess will be funded. I and many others see it this way.
No
Aquatic health should be explicitly mentioned somewhere
Multiple proper access points to the reservoir for Rockland Park residents
Yes. This is there for the benefit of tax payers, the public should be given access.
Ensuring a fair access for everyone while protecting the resource for future generations.
The Task Force should explore structured, low-risk recreational frameworks that balance public enjoyment with drinking water protection and safety. Addressing community needs requires evaluating equitable access alongside core infrastructure priorities. Evaluating designated, safe entry points for non-motorized users (such as paddlers) serves the broader public equally. Aligning recreational policies with source water safeguards ensures drinking water remains clean and secure.
Wildlife management. I live close by and see in this corridor and along the river many animals and birds including but not limited to moose, coyotes, weasels, eagles, osprey, owls etc. Their use must be included. Although I don't fish their habitat must also be considered.
Sure
Yes. Primarily around access. It seems like a few well positioned people with vested interest make sure the general public has no access
Protection of the water source while giving safe access for the public is important to my family. We would love to be able to paddle board or canoe on the reservoir WITHOUT motor boats in the area. Having safe access from neighbouring communities would be ideal.
Yes
Yes

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
No
This is a public lake surrounded by private property. Accessing the lake in a safe way is difficult. Would like to see better access for boats and winter activities.
As included above, the safety of the drinking water supply is key. Though not an additional aspect of reservoir management, this aspect cannot be stresses enough.
N/A
I think this covers things well.
I disagree with the framing of public access and recreation as being a highly conditional and caveated "if".
No
The public safety excuses for restricting river access are a joke. I can go five minutes west and access shore. Or if I live on the south side I can have a dock but oooohhhh the north side is forbidden because a dam is nearby.
I am deeply concerned about proposed land use change LOC2026-0004. Large-scale development near the reservoir could threaten the drinking water supply for about 70% of Calgarians. I urge the trilateral task force to take immediate action to protect this environmentally sensitive area and prioritize the long-term safety of our watershed.
Alberta Backcountry Hunters & Anglers supports maintaining public access to the Bearspaw Reservoir and Bow River. As a public resource, access should not be unnecessarily restricted. While protecting drinking water, public safety, and dam operations is important, these objectives should be achieved through education, stewardship, enforcement, and targeted management—not broad closures. Public access must remain a priority in any future management plan.
As per law all navigable waterways are owned by the people. Access should not be restricted ever in any way. Saftey warnings should be put in place and then its at the user's risk to use it in a safe matter. As for trans Alta, they should have bo say whatsoever, they have a responsibility to share the waterway and make it safe, not just close it to the public. Translata needs to put people before profits. They currently have a monopoly on that water and it should never be like that.
The Plan should evaluate cumulative watershed impacts from future development, including increased runoff, erosion, sediment loading, stormwater discharge, and loss of riparian areas that help protect water quality. Once natural drainage systems, shorelines, and riparian habitats are disturbed, restoration can be difficult and costly. Any expansion of recreational access should be subject to a precautionary approach that prioritizes long-term drinking water protection above all other uses.
I believe should look at all aspects as identified above, my suggestion is improving public access so that all people can enjoy, not just local land owners, but still regulate to ensure safe habitats and water. So possible look at to motors, etc. I believe there is balanced approach here.
Yes I believe safe access and better marking needs to exist, as well as more education about the risks of water activities in the reservoir. However I strongly believe that recreation opportunities should be created.
No
Public recreational access should be allowed with consideration for non- motorized access only
I think we should have more access for people to enjoy the waterway. I fear that this is being pushed by the rich community who believe the waterway is their personal property and are trying to push out the rest of the community. Just because you bought waterfront property does not mean that you own the water. I believe everyone should have access because that is a federal right.
100% yes. We were so excited to be getting access to recreational water in NW Calgary as Ghost Reservoir is so busy it can be dangerous for paddlers. Given it's only a few Km's further upstream it seems ridiculous that we

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
can't easily access this water unless we are rich (folks living on the south side) or we walk to the rental place on the North (which has been treated poorly)
The current allowance for mostly private access motorized recreation, while actively restricting non-motorized public access appears to be entirely in opposition to almost all the key priorites above.
The task force must expand its focus and participate in future residential and commercial development within the Bow River Corridor. There currently is a proposal by a developer to add significant residential development in this area that if approved would significantly increase the risk of water contamination.
I'm not sure what is meant by additional aspects to manage. I feel that the community of Tuscany should have access to the reservoir water due to the close access and how our community value the resovoir and help take care of the community and enjoy the natural area
Grant easy pedestrian access from rockland park and connect pathways from city to haskayene park
We crave outdoor spaces & more to be near or on water come summer. There are very few large bodies of water in NW. The ongoing battle between the city, transalta & the Bearspaw marine seems ridiculous the marine saw an opportunity when there was already many using the water. Why can the reservoir not be treated the same as ghost dam or glenmore reservoir? People/myself have been using it for years before the marine set up, more will come as the city grows. Work with it instead of fighting it.
Maintaining public access to the waterbody, much like other reservoir structures in the Calgary Area.
If recreation on the reservoir is going to remain extremely limited (no formal access points to this public body of water) then can it be used as a site for solar (floating) and wind power generation? The rich landowners who have locked out public access would flip, but it could serve as an excellent source of renewable power.
If it is used like the Glenmore reservoir where you can't swim, have dogs swim in it and only hard sides kayaks, then our water would stay safe. Yes Glenmire has a water safety boat that go up and down the reservoir but the one time we needed to use it, they could take my kayak but the person had to walk back as the safety boat was too high to climb aboard without a deck
While the major priority is water quality, I would like to see access along the reservoir much as we see around Glenmore reservoir pathways.
Recreational access that is managed would make me feel safer with my kids and more welcomed to take part in activities. I love showing my kids the dam and being able to get closer and access the reservoir would be very nice for them
I don't understand the question but I live in rockland park and it would be nice to be able to legally be able to kayak and fish in the reservoir.
Those are good priorities
I think it should be up to the public to mange expectations of how to use the reservoir for access and recreation with some rules applied of course
I'm curious if the priorities are really for the reservoir and water supply, or is it for the city to create thousands of property tax payees in the nearby residential development?
Yes. Enough people access it anyways you might as well open it with regulation to stop unauthorized and unregulated use.
Water access for sports like windsurfing is limited near Calgary. I would like the the task force to explore the actual risks of "wetsuit-related" non-motorized sports like windsurfing on the reservoir. What risks do sunscreen or skin contact with the water actually pose to drinking water quality when compared to other contaminants in the river from upstream of the reservoir, or from the motorized watercraft that presently use the reservoir?

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
The above points seem to be sufficient. Alberta lacks recreational water areas. I think a correct balance can be made between environmental concerns and using the reservoir as a public recreational area as is done with the Glenmore Reservoir.
Focus on collaborative management and how the reservoir benefits both these groups and other impacted water users in the SSRB in coordination with other infrastructure across the basin.
Much like the Glenmore reservoir all aspects need to be considered, drinking water, recreation, access and safety.
Canoeist need the access to the portage trail around the dam back. It was illegaly take away years ago with the promise to restore in the future as soon as possible. It seems to be possible now😌. Any paddler should be able to start a trip upstream of the reservoir and portage without the use of a vehicle around the dam to continue the journey down river.
Yes. Recreational access will only grow support and appreciation for all the listed priorities.
Regards "Protecting source water quality" the scope must include MD and Municipal entities. Runoff and drainage from watershed properties affect the overall goal of water quality. Floating the river there are farms whose cattle have direct access to the Bow River hence all their effluent is absorbed by the river. The exclusive housing area of Emerald Bay have very nice lawns that bespeak of herbicide application as well as private exclusive access to the lake for their power boats.
Yes I think that public access to the reservoir should be the same as the Glenmore reservoir. Everyone using Glenmore reservoir is made aware of respecting the water and surrounding environment, so the same access should be provided to the Bearspaw reservoir. This will offset overloading other areas.
Yes. I would like to see a motor free reservoir. Access only to non motor sports. Access to the are with bike paths from Bowness area, Watermark area.
I believe the relocation if the rail line that runs on the north side of the reservoir should be considered. With various environmental contaminants being shipped along the line, and the recent example of the derailment in the Priddis Slough, there is a tangible risk of contaminating a major drinking water supply. The cost of relocating the rail line would be certainly high, but the magnitude of consequence of a spill is also high.
Cameras to monitor the type of water crafts and activities going on there.
No additional priorities. Re: informal access - I'm concerned about engaging in informal access - it is desirable to get to the reservoir, but since I do not own property, I'm always searching for informal access, which is getting harder and harder to find. I don't want to trespass, but I want to use the reservoir. Re: public safety - it should be use your own risk - there are not lifeguards at every stretch of ocean. People need to be smart!
The Bearspaw Reservoir is not solely under municipal control. It is governed through a combination of federal, provincial, municipal, and private authorities, each with distinct legal responsibilities. Any management plan should respect these jurisdictional boundaries.Maintain public recreational access where it can be managed safely. Base decisions on transparent scientific evidence. Continue consulting residents and user groups. practical management strategies rather than broad restrictions.
I think that it should be open to the public and not shut down
Yes I do. Population is expected to grow in the area and recreational use of the reservoir should be a priority that is considered. Like it or not people will use the reservoir, the best thing you can do is provide safe access to this beautiful body of water. Glenmore provides a good example of what that could look like.
Provide a boat launch for fly fishing drift boats to exit the river just like the other areas of the Bow River
The priorities above seem adequate but the setting up the culture for use going forward must be clear with clear definitions of what elements are, what is and is not allowed, the plans need to address the principle of walking back decisions that lead to decrease in water quality and drinking water safety. There should also be some

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
discussion and plan for how stewardship groups and communities can engage in dialogue and be collaborated with to achieve outcomes.
There are no additional aspects that I think need to be explored. I am primarily interested in equitable recreation access to the reservoir being managed in a fair and safe manner. Thank you!
I think the main priorities align with my own thoughts however when looking strictly at access. The fact that access is currently limited can be viewed as both a positive and a negative. On the positive side, restricted access makes the site more difficult to reach, which helps reduce risk. On the other hand, increased access could improve emergency response times but also increase risk. The right balance will need to be struck.
As long as the residents on the other side of the reservoir have private access into the reservoir you cant reasonably expect to stop other folks from accessing it . Treat everyone equally - not preferential treatment for those with the financial means to access a public waterbody from private land. Also address the marina and make the owner pay for the damage to the riparian and the continued access across city land (Haskayne) and disregard for city property. Its a bad look for the city.
Yes, recreational access from Calgary.
Protect drinking source and do not allow select private individuals from profiting from illegal business on the reservoir
Water quality and safety main priorities
No
There should be no recreational activity on a reservoir so important to over 1.5 million people - access needs to be very restricted to water management people and no one else
It will be free access to all public to enjoy and protect the reservoir
.
Beautiful parks by the reservoir while not being able to walk up to the water.
If source water protection is a priority, then environmental protection also needs to be a priority. Without a healthy ecosystem, both water quality and quantity will be negatively impacted. It's more cost effective to maintain quality source water than to treat it, making it a better option for a municipality. Protecting the natural environment provides additional ecosystem services, including flood and drought mitigation. Recreation should be considered in the context of the other priorities.
It should still be open to all public, not just rich folks nearby. We all are paying taxes to city.
Has the water quality been compromised over the past 10 years? If not, then the amount of motorized boats, body contact with water, cow manure has not affected the water to date from the surrounding land owners. There has been a new boat rental started that has added traffic to the reservoir which needs to be reviewed and a proposed residential development near Haskayne. I am concerned who the decision makers are on this trilateral task force and what their motivs are.
Yes, I believe the public should be given year-round access to the dam for recreation and unmotorized water sports.
The idea of having those as main priorities is good - it is about how they will implement them is what's important. I look forward to a more detailed plan about how they will manage those priorities.
Yes, the big thing is proper Calgary access for recreation to haskayne park
Please ensure that: Stormwater runoff is managed to a higher standard and/or discharged downstream of the dam Recreational access is provided, similar to the opportunities at the Glenmore reservoir, including but not limited to nonmotorized boating, fishing, and onshore recreation. As much waterfront land as possible is preserved for environmental and recreational purposes

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
The CPKC right of way can accommodate regional passenger rail service A multi use pathway connects Calgary and Cochrane
No, these priorities are adequate. The main purpose of this reservoir is for power generation and water management. Second comes recreation, this water body is a gem to have so close to the city and having these controls in place sooner then later is important. There are a number of properties that have direct access to the water body, with very little public access. The recreational aspect of the water body needs to be shared by all not just those that have direct (aka private) access.
As long as it doesn't cost users money
It would be nice if paved bike trails were available between Calgary and Cochrane along the Bow River and Bearspaw Dam. As well as tie in pathways for communities like Harmony to the bike paths.
Ensuring public access is maintained and not only available for those that live along the reservoir
No, what you've got here is enough.
No
No, i dont believe it's necessary. Its a waste of tax money. There are no issues, dont make any where there are none to begin with.
First of all - the controlled access to the Dam should be eliminated - its PUBLIC PROPERTY - the locked gate and boat launch and the attitude of the residents is ridiculous. Its nearly impossible to use this resevoir for paddleboarding, kayaking and winter activities like ice-fishing. Ghost resevoir is wide open for use - why is this one restricted?
Low risk recreational access has to happen. There is huge demand for this near the city.
Explore the feasibility of hydro power generation.
I don't think the task force should interfere with efficient energy generation as well as efficient supply of water to the city.
Please, Do NOT use the reservoir with gas/oil boats
Doesn't Cochrane and all upstream cities discharge waste water into this river? Why would recreational activity be worse than that?
There needs to be access to all types of users to the reservoir. Just like ghost lake. There also needs to be access for emergency services
Easy access to the reservoir should be second priority after water quality...same as Glenmore and Ghost. Calgary has a lot going for it, but lake access for recreational purposes is sorely lacking
Yes there should be public access to paddle on the reservoir
No I think it's going a fine job as is and more people tasked with oversight he would be ineffective
A bike path going along the River would be awesome.
The existing informal access points should be formalized and new ones created to facilitate easier access to the water. The current situation seems to actively discourage or impede access.
As it is right now, the entire access to the reservoir feels like it is delegated to a select few of elites who owned property locally. This feels like a travesty to me. I would love to be able to have canoe or kayak access to the reservoir. This feels fair and reasonable.
No- these look good.
No
Along with the priorities listed above, I think it is important to allow public access to public waterways for non motorized recreation such as kayaking and canoeing. The model of the heritage boat ramp and canoe club are good examples of public access and options for boat storage.
Yes

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Xx
Limiting access under the guise of environmental control is a joke. You've already blocked it off to the communities who have access because you want it to be an elitist hot spot. Truly hope you all rot in hell.
Yes, motorized boating, same as Ghost Resivoir.
It would be great to simply improve access with walking paths or trails along the river and add benches so people can enjoy the beautiful views comfortably. This could create a welcoming public space without the need for lifeguards or expensive major infrastructure.
Na
The public access, parking is of main consern.
No
I would like additional public access and parking areas explored.
No.
Protecting source water quality should come above recreational access and use. Public health and safety is top priority.
Yes, I think they should look into extending the pathway from Haskayne Park into Calgary.
I think if you are not going to allow the public access to the water for boating, then you should prevent the wealthy people who own massive homes on the reservoir from having their own private access. Its either everyone can, or no one can. I have purchased a jet boat to access the reservoir from Cochrane. I should have direct access simply for safety sake. I have had 'locals' tell me that I am not able to be there because I dont live there. Thats a problem!
Beyond what's already listed, I have no other aspects.
I have no additional comment.
No
I think there needs to be a big and main conscious effort to protect the reservoir and its wildlife. The city of Calgary north end does not have as many natural areas as the south. We need to make conscious efforts to allow for more protection of land and wildlife
The bearspaw marina should be shut down. The owner bullied his way on to the water illegally. Since when do we paddle boat etc in our drinking water?
I believe the protection of our water source should be a top priority. I think development above the Reservoir i.e. Haskayne Subdivision would compromise the source water quality because of the changes to the natural environment which would have a big impact on run off into the Reservoir if streams and creek beds are destroyed in the development process and if there is a large loss of natural cover both for water quality and plant and wildlife ecosystems.
For clarity, the access and recreation priority should include improved public access or additional access not just the management existing limited access. Ensuring equitable and safe access to this public resource is a fundamental priority. Also suggest the CPKC railway and clean up of its litter/waste, contamination and effects on public access, water and wildlife collisions should be included considered, for its effects on water, wildlife, public access.
No, these priorities to manage the reservoir seem sufficient. However, it would be appreciated if recreational access to the reservoir from Rockland Park can be created in order to prevent people from illegally crossing the train tracks separating the reservoir from the community.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Lived on the reservoir 20 yrs; my property borders the west side. • Residents take pride in keeping it clean, often cleaning up after visitors. • Those of us who live here have safely used the water & ice for decades. • Happy to host a site visit. • My concern is the commercial paddleboat rental serving inexperienced users. • This river has long supported kayaks, canoes, boats & powerboats, like waterways across Canada. Please consult year-round residents before making long-term decisions.
Yes. I think it ought to be given about the same attention as the Glenmore reservoir. Although I will point out that the Elbow river pretty much only has Bragg Creek upstream of it and no other dams; whereas the Bearspaw Reservoir on the Bow has a lot of other development, including more or less unregulated access at Ghost (ever seen all the cars on there in the winter?!
Yes. I agree with the objectives and concerns about developing the area in a fiscally prudent, environmentally sound, and safe manner. Not engaging in this process invites a growth "like Topsy" with no consideration for the future. A principle, should be the less development the better. It would be nice to continue to have limited access and restrictions to the river area. Thought to wheelchair access without the fear of being run over by e-bikes would be helpful. Thank you.
I feel no matter what input you get from the public you will still do what you set out to do as I live in Bowness our quality of drinking water has gone all we get when we turn on our taps is chlorine . It is a beautiful spot to hang out to walk around to enjoy nature, but like everything else in Calgary, it will get ruined by developers and leave Calgarian's less less access to the most beautiful spots in Calgary.
Water quality and recreational use as high priority
Yes. The health and wellness of residents, and making this a great place to live, also requires a variety of recreational activities and this is a key and unique opportunity in that space. Don't let fear drive decisions and seize this opportunity to enhance an amazing, free, and very beneficial recreational space. Future generations will appreciate the innovative solutions and opportunities we shape.
Yes
Yes, I feel the task force should explore a use case similar to the Glenmore reservoir that allows non motorized recreation. The water quality impacts of swimming should also be studied empirically before ruling this out as an option. Prohibition on commercial businesses may help prevent over use.
Protect drinking water and maintain public access.
No
The balance between motorized access vs self propelled should be considered. It may be possible to formalize access for certain recreational activities while others may conflict with the priorities.
Close the flood gates for recreational access
Public safety is best addressed through life jackets, education and signage, not restricting responsible recreation. Existing public access is already very limited. Recreational use has negligible impact on water quality compared with natural and urban sources. Any policy should balance safety with longstanding federal navigation rights, provincial stewardship, environmental protection, and the interests and property values of established waterfront residents.
I think this should remain open to the public to use. Glenmore Reservoir is open to the public and still maintains water supply etc.
The listed activities are sufficient
No

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Develop and establish safe access points to the reservoir with safety signage along the route. I am interested in hiking and biking along the reservoir. It would be helpful if there were safe, established trails with signage to prevent users getting lost. I would also be interested in canoeing or kayaking the reservoir if there was an established base.
I am interested in maintaining public access to the reservoir. I feel the current status is being well managed for recreation and safety. I have been there many times to access the recreation activities provided. The team is very professional and places safety at the highest priority. They are doing a very good job. Public access must be maintained and protecting the environment as well.
I'd like to be able to use it more easily to paddle from up at Rockland park. I don't think motorized boats should use it personally, but make it easier for kayaks, canoes and paddle boards to access. Currently it's not very accessible
I am very concerned I'm protecting our reservoir to have it there for future generations. Especially with the building of AI data centres, Calgary is already on water restrictions. We don't need our water going to machines when it can be used for wildlife and humanity. I want my kid to be able to have memories of playing, fishing, and exploring our reservoir.
No, open it up to paddle boarding and kayaks. Canmore allows paddle boarding on their reservoir water
No. This should suffice.
I like that there is not a lot of access to the reservoir as it keeps it a bit quieter.
Environment concerns to address wildlife habitat.
Preventing development adjacent to the reservoir should be the primary outcome
There is an aspect to protecting wildlife management and interaction that could be impacted as well.
Public access should be maintained
No
The communities transition towards increased interest in outdoor recreation and the need to move forward with compromises
Less about management and more about access. To go paddle boarding you either have to rent or chose a long path to the water which is designated. Make it easier for people to enjoy. Set up clear guidelines that are clearly posted and ENFORCE the rules! As an example, people constantly have their dogs off leash in leashed areas with no consequence
These objectives look sufficient
I think the environmental and water quality safety levels should be the number one priority. Recreational activities should be the last thing considered
Would be great if we could have powerboat access. Charge a fee
Water safety so its use can be more accessible
Yes there needs to be more consideration around ensuring enough land for people to enjoy mature and respect for the already seriously damaged environment
What is that
Yes. The water needs to be protected and environmental concerns are a real issue.
Task force is too focused on the wants and needs of the property owners near dam and dam operators comfort/liability, while not taking the importance of the recreational opportunities that are neede by all citizens of Calgary and Cochrane. There is a lot of dams near Calgary and there shoulde be no difference between how Bearspaw and Ghost

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Reservoir are managed. Ghost reservoir is upstream, just as Bearspaw and families are able to swim/fish/hike/paddle/boat there
I believe access to the reservoir allows all those who contribute to the maintenance and up keep, a healthy option to recreate. This area should not have limited access. We canoe on this reservoir as a family and would love to see other families enjoy this as a non motorized water recreation option.
Areas around the reservoir should be more accessible to the public. I would also like to see a safe and continuous bike connection between Bowness and Haskayne Park. Better trail and pathway connectivity would encourage recreation, reduce vehicle use, and allow more Calgarians to enjoy these natural spaces.
No
Emphasize path expansion to the reservoir. From communities like Tuscany.
None
Yes, priority should be to conserve natural resources while providing limited access to Calgarians needing recreational safe activities that allow us to support and conserve nature in a responsible way at no charge to calgarians only.
Yes, recreational access should be a priority. Development of a management plan that includes drinking water and a location for water-based recreation is very important
From Rockland park are we going to have acceda to Glennbiw ranchito, Hiking or biking?
explore how to manage and allow access while maintaining integrity and undeveloped natural environment
No. Residents in the NW have waited for greater than 10 years for a trail to connect Calgary to Cochrane
The reservoir is a stretch of the Bow River, which is a designated Navigable Waterway. Access can control type of craft (non-hydrocarbon), but should otherwise we open for Albertan's to enjoy!
Certain activities are more of a safety and water quality risk and should be prohibited, like swimming, camp fires and paddle boarding. These lower risk uses should not dictate overall recreational use and opportunities. EPA does not patrol rivers and lakes in the province that are heavily used and that are more dangerous (e.g. Kananaskis lakes, Spray lakes). People use more remote and riskier waterbodies all the time. TTF needs to better explore public recreation and options to maintain it.
The prime concern and entire reason the dam was allowed to be built was flood mitigation both in spring run of and winter flow for ice dam prevention. Secondary to that is electrical generation and after that should be habitat and public use. The area between Calgary and Cochrane should have easy and maintained trails and pathways to enjoy. I'm not sure about access to the water itself but that should be controlled and most likely patrolled in summer
Yes
Yes, I think that public access and recreation should also be considered as it is an area that is near lots of neighborhoods that do not currently have any nice areas nearby for that type of water access water access can promote physical literacy increase in physical activity decreased in things such as depression Access to these types of areas can definitely help promote positive mental health and can be very beneficial for the community as it is somewhere to gather and enjoy time together.
Upstream water supply and quality.
Better and easier access. Picnic benches and sandy area on the shore. Food stalls or food cans during summer.
I think the key priorities capture the objectives well.
Yes 100%
I think Environment and Habitat should also be a primary priority. While it is a man made lake, there is still significant ecological habitat for birds, fish, plants, and mammals.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Creating a safe access point from Rockland park community. Enough people are accessing it and more will as the community grows. It would make more sense to have a clear and controlled access point to increase safety.
I'm not well enough informed to form an opinion
Balancing watershed and environmental impact is important but so is healthy recreation. Calgarians have limited water access for recreation and very few warm months each year. If we look to maintain a balance, public access on foot should trump business access for profit. Free public access to water and pathways contributes to a healthy lifestyle.
Install an under pass under the rail road tracks where the public access used to be instead of the chanlink fence that cut off all public access.
Yes- public recreation is very important. There are not many places to paddleboard within the city of calgary(despite people saying otherwise- cannot on Glenmore, private community lakes- or many other recreational lakes in Calgary). It would be really nice if you didn't have to travel 30 minutes to Ghost. There is no difference between ghost and Bearspaw- except the people who live beside it
Keep it how it is. To much traffic will poison the water supply.
No but I would like information about recreational use more easily available
I am very concerned with increasing public, recreational access while balancing keeping the reservoir healthy and clean. I hope that access for non-motorized watercraft will be allowed soon. It's frustrating that right now the reservoir is "private" access by residents and a private business utilizing public infrastructure (Haskayne parking lot) and charging people to use the reservoir
Yes. It's rare to have access to this space aside from a select few residences; however, if drinking water is at risk, I'd like that to be considered strongly in any recreation/access changes.
Yes
Formal maintained access / exit point.
Yes, please let the nearby neighbour have access to the reserve. We have enjoyed the nature and want to continue having the opportunity to do so.
X
No unauthorized water access. Too many people doing random things- including off leashing dogs and leaving poo, garbage etc should not be happening! It is not a swimming pool- it's a water source. It presents real danger and no way to rescue isn't okay.
No just leave it alone, it's one natural area you don't have to demolish and have trucks and masses or people around. Go away
Absolutely. As Calgary expands, so must the recreational opportunities. Currently, I can only access the proposed plan area from a private property/company which charges for the access and privilege of using my own paddle board. Several options for paddle boarding west of the city have been disallowed, for understandable reasons which would need to be taken into account here as well. But, with responsible access, I believe the community would make the effort to ensure nothing risks our access.
Access to the reservoir should be available to everyone
I'd like to see more easy access for recreation
To make water access safer and more accessible — yes
yes
The existing parks (Haskayne and Glenbow) need to be sustained and protected for all Albertans to enjoy. The dam and reservoir level should not be raised nor the Parks flooded. More recreational opportunities and development for the reservoir and parks needs to happen.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Provide casual access for non fuel watercraft and no swimming. The Bow River starts in the mountains and its important to ensure water quality from committees and adjacent land use all the way back to the source.
Public access should be supported and allowed, even with the concerns
No
Do not limit access to the reservoir or the access roads for recreation purposes to the wealthy landowners surrounding it
Maintain the recreational area of Haskayne park, with connections to the rest of the pathway system to Cochrane. Ensure the safety of flora and fauna.
Not really
Ensure water quality is maintained. Enable access to the reservoir for recreational fishing. Enable water sports access for non-motorized sports.
I'm not sure
Public access should be a priority. It's unfair that the residents of Bearspaw are permitted to gatekeep such a beautiful public piece of land. If concerns about protecting the water quality and wildlife were legitimate then motorized watercraft in the area, and all areas upstream would have been banned ages ago. It's very obvious that access to the public is only being blocked because of the tax bracket of the neighbouring community.
As a homeowner in Tuscany, it is overly difficult for the public to use this world class resource. Access should be easy as the river is a public resource and the growth of Calgary necessitates the opening of new areas for public recreation. Public safety should be the first priority, but if the city can properly resource emergency response, it would take pressure off busy recreation areas and provide a new opportunity for residents on the west end.
N/A
Safety to users of the reservoir and Communities who live along the river. Protecting the shoreline, vegetation, and wildlife. Limit access to the reservoir in a controlled manner - focused.
No
Ensure people who live on/nearest the reservoir don't keep illegally blocking it off from public use.
No
The wording of the last point should be Ensuring Access and Recreation instead of Exploring. Furthermore it should be ensured that none of these priorities are ever excluded or removed from the Trilateral Task Force's (or future replacement entity) duties to the public they serve.
No
No comment
I think that collaboration is needed. And I think that public access is important. Its a beautiful space that needs protection and I dont think having non motorized users will do harm to the environment.
No, satisfied with the stated priorities & considerations.
Access should be available to the public, whereas currently some property owners block certain access points. If there's recreation on the reservoir it needs to be open to all.
Yes. In addition to water supply reliability, the Task Force should consider long-term climate resilience, drought and flood management, water quality protection, environmental impacts, recreation and public access, infrastructure maintenance, emergency preparedness, and population growth. Regular public reporting, transparent decision-making, and collaboration with affected communities will help ensure the reservoir is managed sustainably for future generations.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Creating a boardwalk and a couple access points from Rockland would be ideal. People often hike down the ridge anyway. Most people I see doing this are holding fishing gear and the odd paddleboard.
Yes, public access to the river is nice, now it is limited as only people with properties have access. There is nothing obliging them to make wise choices around water management and safety. Access points would allow for increased public education around safe water use and how that can coexist with successfully water management.
Provide formal access to the reservoir, i.e., stairs, floating docks, swimming paths, etc. Designate emergency services from closest county for water rescue, if required. Avoid motorized boat use to protect water supply.
Yes
We can't talk about the reservoir without also talking about the rail tracks and the missing pathway link to Haskayne Park. We have waited many years for a pathway link up to access Glenbow Ranch PP and connect Calgary to Cochrane. Re the reservoir: people cross the rail tracks all year to get to the water and trails. I also want access - legally. Rockland Park residents also now access the land and trails south of the reservoir, putting more impact on that previously quiet trail system.
Let us fish there. It’s a federally protected navigable waterway and frankly the blocking of public access by the province in conjunction with an energy conglomerate is a violation of federal statutes protecting the use of navigable waterways by the public. The privatization of our beautiful natural resources and one of our most productive fisheries is not only absurd but absolutely appalling. If you aren’t part of the solution you’re part of the problem. Public access rights are paramount.
I what my kids to be able to go for a swim when they want to
Yes
Ensuring public access and non-motorized boat recreation on the reservoir the same way as in Glenmore reservoir and Ghost lake.
No i dont think the reservoir needs a task force lol. Leave it the heck alone.
No, I think those priorities are balanced
Not really
I would like the reservoir to have public access as well as keeping the area safe and maintained for what it is used for as stated above. We've been enjoying it for years that shouldn't change.
Ensuring access from Rockland park would be ideal.
Let it be open
Yes
I think the reservoir should be enjoyed by all.
The illegal "Bearspaw Marina" should be shut down once and for all. Illegal access through Haskayne and TransAlta property creates a huge environmental and safety concern.
I think limiting the reservoir in this approach is masking it as environment and water safety but allows the wealthy whom own properties on it to still access. Access to the Glenmore is still allow d and should be equal access to bearspaw
Yes I do. I think the public should have access to the reservoir. People enjoy it and ir should not be restricted.
It would be nice if there where more access points
The Task Force is addressing the Key Priorities. Recreation should remain a important element.
Yes.
The task force should consider allowing access to the reservoir over the train tracks via bridge
Yes

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Yes.
Unsure
Don't know? what are the overland watershed pathways.
Keep powered vessels out of Glenbow Ranch PP, and keep all internal combustion engine powered vessels off Northern Calgary's drinking water supply
Sure
There should be considerable thought and effort put to proper recreation access. Not to the extent like Glenmore reservoir but people should be able to enjoy it and saves it from clearly planned and managed area.
No . What is stated is sufficient.
All I care about is a fair and easy way for people to use the reservoir. It makes no sense that home owners in the area can claim they have a private doc as stated in a real estate video for a non water front property, and the public can't access it. We need better public access with hour restrictions based on water levels or usage only, and those must apply to the residents of Springbank and Bearspaw as well.
Safety is always important but so is public access.
This reservoir should not just be a private oasis for the limited residences along its shoreline. There are already numerous private docks and people utilizing the reservoir for motorized recreation (Which I am not against but it sounds like it is something that is not wanted from a source water quality standpoint). With out any management how can it be expected that motorized usage isn't occuring?
I would like to ensure that the reservoir remains accessible to the public for recreational activities.
Has water testing shown further restricting access is necessary? Accessability to these nature areas is valuable to the lives of many people recreationally.
Unclear question
Reservoir access to the public, similar to glenmore resevoir. Currently there are none and it's a disservice to other members of the public who do not have private property along the reservoir. This limited is a significant oversight by the city of Calgary and should ensure there's access for residents in the community that also resides along the reservoir
Na
Improving overall public access to the Bow River surrounding Calgary and immediate areas should be looked at - this could decrease pressure on Bearspaw Reservoir usage.
the priorities seem well thought out and balanced. Unfortunately, to prioritize some of the other listed items, more effort may be needed to control/manage the recreational aspects which can be detrimental to the functional use of the reservoir.
From what neighbours are saying it sounds like nobody actually really cares about the environmental aspects of the current reservoir set up. It's more likely that neighbours would prefer if the access was closed off to people who can't afford to live here. I do not agree with this at all. It's a beautiful area and it should be open to all.
I would like to see access over the dam for everyone, similar to the Glenmore reservoir.
Specifically I would like to see secretive of the reservoir remain but limited to non motor watercraft.
The reservoir should remain open for public use.
No, leave it as it
Yes I think private landowners in rocky view county should be engaged on making access more reasonable for recreational use.
Allowing safe and managed recreation for Calgarians to enjoy
Given that it our water supply, I feel there should be no recreational use.
Public saftey should be removed.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Need more access to our water
Just keep it safe
Don't know
I think safe, recreational use of the reservoir is critical. There are few places to paddle board or go swimming close to Calgary. I hear rumours of a Bow River beach development by the city but the Bearspaw reservoir still provides a place to paddle board, kayak or swim in naturally clean, low current water. Getting into the water is not easy but worth it for teenagers, young adults; older adults. Please include recreational use as a key aspect in any Bearspaw dam redevelopment plan.
I'm finding it very difficult to access the reservoir and we feel as if we are not wanted there.
Recreational access should be a key component.
Public access for non motorized watercraft should be allowed. Kayaking paddleboarding or windsports do not affect the water quality in anyway. The lack of safety coverage is not a concern . People should be responsibke for their own safety as they are in the mountains or forest. People are using watercraft on Ghost lake, it's the same water.
I think those aspects are sufficient.
I would like to see a complete ban on any motorized boats in the water. The damage to the environment, safety issues and degredation to recreational enjoyment, not to mention the sound pollution to those living and playing nearby, should make it a no-brainer.
Access should be allowed from rockland park
Dam has been mostly restricted to a very small privledged population who can use it for recreation. Preventing public access for non-motorized activities, while allowing motorized boats for these privledged people is unfair.
Yes. The Task Force should prioritize public access for fishing and recreation. The reservoir is a public resource and should include designated areas for fishing, boating, kayaking, walking, and other outdoor activities. Access should be expanded with proper safety measures, parking, washrooms, and clear rules. Protecting drinking water and dam operations is important, but restrictions should be kept to the minimum necessary so the public can safely enjoy the reservoir.
Unsure
Need flat shorline area to launch kayaks that is located close to parking area to be able to load/inload kayaks. Powered craft should not be allowed except for rescue services. Powered craft used by people that have private propert/acreages on the reservoir should noe allowed either.
No
I think the use should remain as is, and not be limited by a small minority of private land owners. The glenmore reservoir is open to the public for use why would this reservoir be different? it is a public resource funded by tax payers.
If it makes for a better community access and ownership of this public resource, then Yes
Yes
I think that as long as the task force is placing the wildlife and environmental health of the reservoir as a priority, the ecosystem and community surrounding the reservoir will thrive. Thank you.
I think the task force should look at expanding access to the reservoir and implementing proper pedestrian train track crossing locations. It is a busy rail line that needs more crossing locations.
Allow easy public water access at Haskayne building.
Isn't the Glenmore Reservoir the same? So no.
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VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
I think some of the preamble to this survey reflects that the city wants to take a very restrictive and enforcement heavy approach to the reservoir which I do not agree with. Recreational access must be maintained at least as good as it presently exists. Access must reflect the wants of the community not the desires of Transalta to chase people away from anywhere near their infrastructure because they choose to be poor neighbors to the community.
Easier and safer public access to the reservoir is my priority.
Pollution of drinking water
na
No, I feel that the project as it is outlined above with the key priorities is focused on managing the reservoir well.
1 The evaluation by the task force should consider the long term value to the community. The public land around the reservoir is an asset, the value of which should be maximized for residents of Calgary and Rocky View. I believe the area around the reservoir could become a highly valued recreational area, much like Glenmore reservoir is now. 2 The task force should also consider the issue of private landowners with "carte blanche" access versus public access with safety managed.
Consideration should be given to having recreational access for non motorized water activities. I have paddle boarded on the reservoir and feel this type of activity can take place given proper safety measures. It's not a private body of water and yet those that have property on it treat it as such and use motorized boats on it which is much more detrimental to wildlife and the safety of those using it.
I think this covers it
This is rich people trying to restrict access to the public.
Keep it open for boats.
No, additional aspects are not needed and I believe that some of the priorities are already extraneous.
These seem like the main points
The reservoir is no different than any other in Alberta, and recreational use should be encouraged
No
Recreational purposes - stand up paddling/ water bikes/ trail paths
I do not
Safe access for recreation on the reservoir must be made. Existing informal access points are dangerous and unsafe. People will always access the reservoir regardless of it being discouraged. Having access these informal points myself I think it is gross that only people who live nearby have a safe private access to the reservoir.
Responsible management needs to be a key point in regards to water levels
Limit communities and densities around the reservoir.
No opinion at this time. I'm still learning.
Yes
No
Yes I think it should be managed similarly to the Glenmore Reservoir. Specifically I am aware of adjacent homeowners using the reservoir in summer and winter for hazardous activities (campfires, motorized recreation, swimming). There should be specific public access points maintained and a buffer from private residences.
I need access to the reservoir for bike and walk
Yes
No
Nothing in particular.
Yes

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
I'm also interested in future developments close to the reservoir
No
Finding a balance of looking after our water supply and allowing recreational access without over-regulation would be wonderful.
No
I think the reservoir has been successfully privatized for many years, and I believe the task force is tasked with ensuring its continued privatization by limiting the public access points. The reservoir is currently a public asset and all of its recreational benifits are enjoyed by the few who own access. This isn't fair public management
Build rules balancing recreational usage and water safety. Do not over-restrict unnecessary
Before this is answered which government entity has jurisdiction on and adjacent to the reservoir?
Provide safe railroad crossing and water access for fishing, boats, kayaking, etc. Both near Rockland Park and Haskayne park, build broadwalks and piers to enjoy water and views along the shore. It is fine to have same rules as for Glenmore reservoir - i.e. no swimming, no pets in water. However, inflatables like SUPs should be allowed. Establish water emergency response team in Haskayne park. People will access water anyway, so please make this access safe.
No
Give us please the access to the reservoir for kayak and fishing! Make the crossing of railway safe from The Rockland part community!!!! Below the dam and upstream!!! it's very dangerous for kids!
Yes. WWe would use the reservoir more fro recreation activities like kayaking if access was easier.
Some notes R directed @the City. Same rules as the Glenmore Reservoir. No motorized vehicles, it is drinking H2O. If U don't provide recreational access 2 the H2O then U should not allow houses 2 B built on the H20.Instead pathways & H20 access areas should be designated in these areas, even manmade. The shore up 2 the high H20 mark is accessible 2 the public. That could create quite the issue if people were desperate enough 4 access. Equal access 4 all in appropriate & multiple areas w/parking.
No. Those seem to cover it.
While safety and water quality is key, limiting access to the reservoir for recreational activities is a disservice to everyone. Surely we can find a solution that allows access to the site while limiting any negative impact to the reservoir.
Heightened awareness through more extensive marketing on all of the issues. More radio and tv airtime, etc.
Yes I believe further management of the reservoir is required to protect the natural habitat of this area. I don't believe that motorized vehicles should be allowed on the reservoir.
Currently, those who access the reservoir do so in a manner that respects all the key priorities stated above. Decisions that are taken or recommended as a result of the task force should have a priority of maintaining that access and not create barriers that restrict access. Additionally, public safety cannot be an excuse to restrict access. Calgarians have been accessing the area long before it was considered a part of Calgary and there were also no emergency services from the City back then.
I am concerned that access to the Reservoir needs to be improved. I would like to be able to use the reservoir for using a standup paddleboard. I realize that there are safety risks, but I do not need that to be managed by the city. I currently use the ghost reservoir and accept the risks with that undertaking. I feel that residence of Northwest Calgary should be able to access the reservoir as our population grows. access to recreation becomes a necessary part of a vibrant city.
More access for public recreation not limited to a few who have properties on the other side. Not fair

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Unsure if by the word manage, the outcome will be to limit, and or remove my access to the reservoir and thereby the Bow River itself. As a Metis, and direct descendant of Jasper Hawes, and other local Metis whose time in the area, predate Confederation, and Alberta 1905 entry as a province. If improvements can be articulated and agreed upon great; but we saw in the city of Calgary recently where input on the blanket rezoning of R1 was not agreed upon but went ahead just the same undemocratic.
- foot, non- motorized, hiking, biking, paddling, sailing, running, nature, lower impact access should be prioritized. Beautiful resource with incredible views is a treasure for the region. pathways that connect regionally to Cochrane have a high recreational value.
Overall I support well-managed recreational access on the reservoir. it's such a beautiful area, and it's wonderful to see families and children out enjoying it. Rules should be in place to ensure public safety and to protect water quality but it's same the river that everyone and their dog is in at many other access points. I am more concerned about the Haskayne medium density development plan that will have a much larger negative impact on the water and the environment.
Non motorized boating needs to be protected as a right for Canadians to navigate our waterways. Access needs to be allowed as per the Navigable Waters Act.
Provide additional opportunities for rowing (including beach sprints), sailing, paddling, kayaking and paddle boarding.
All Calgarians should have access to the reservoir. Access to Bearspaw reservoir should be comparable to Glenmore reservoir. Privileged Calgarians that live near Bearspaw should not be able to restrict access for their own use
Motor boat use is very exclusive to very few and should be equal to all Calgarians. Better access for non-motorized boats is needed.
Yes, as most of us do not use the reservoir for anything other than viewing. I think a task force that can help deter dangerous situations would be prudent.
Primary goals should be environmental protection and habitat connectivity for wildlife. Secondary goal should be the connectivity of the bike pathways. There should be a bike pathway across the Dam and through valley ridge golf course to connect with other regional pathways. There should also be the broader goal of a bike pathway connecting the city to Cochrane through this area and then through glenbow ranch provincial park.
No
Like any public good, equal access and use of the waterbody should be sought to ensure that anyone can boat, fish, or otherwise enjoy this public asset. There ought to be easements and theoretical road rights of way (yes we know that local landowners have fenced across some of the access points, and made access exceedingly difficult) to the water's edge that could be improved to permit access.
Occasionally there are motor boats that park near the dam and play loud music, not often, but enough to be concerned about if that population grew. I like to see kayaks, canoes on the water, ice fishing and fishing as well. Perhaps a safe entry point or two would be helpful.
I do agree that additional aspects should be taken into consideration, but not if this is to become a class battle. For access to be only granted to the wealthy I am not in support of that. This is a very important resource for all of NW Calgary and I would be very disappointed to see exclusion based on who can pay. Everyone deserves to have

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
access. I personally do work for wealthier members of the communities that requires access to the reservoir. Would my access be limited? I am concerned.
Bearspaw reservoir should not be a private lake for adjacent land owners. I would love to canoe and fish the reservoir but I am currently shut out. Public access needs to be established.
Yes, connecting to the legacy trail from calgary by bike path that could double as emergency access would be great.
I would like to see formal public access to the reservoir for local sportsman, paddleboarders and recreational users. I do not agree that large wakesurf style boats should be allowed, but would like to see a public boat launch and a restriction on boat size and horsepower allowed
I have boat swam in dam for 35 years please keep open to to us in all way love it there
There should be no consideration to the preferences of the snooty Bearspaw residents who are trying to block recreational access under the guise of protection, when they are more concerned with having it to themselves.
What would be the goal and timeline. A make work project is not needed
Removing the corrupt individuals at the top of City Hall should be the priority. It's hard to do business in any way when the top people cannot be trusted.
Open reservoir up for all recreational activities. Boating sailing fishing etc.
No. It's more over-governance. I know the unions and public sectors love more government, but the public doesn't.
A save access to the reservoir to be able to go paddleboarding from Rockland Park
Should have pedestrian /community access from rockland park side. Many people risk crossing the tracks but would be much safer. Can use same rules as for more reservoir re boats/no swimming etc.
Public access to waterways and the ability to enjoy them should be the first concern. The Glenmore reservoir is surrounded by houses and walking paths, the Bearspaw Resevoir should be no different.
Managing our drinking water should be a priority. If any recreation is allowed, there needs to be some sort of emergency response. That water is super cold.
It would be nice to be able to walk up to the reservoir. Would be nice to be able to fish there from the shore. Or let a dog go for a swim or have a sip of water.
I believe your task force should include Calgarians that actually spend time on the reservoir. The people that live on the river see daily what happens on the water.
To kayak I would need fairly level access point close to a parking area to unload/load kayaks. We kayak Glenmore reservoir several times every summer and would like to paddle Bearspaw. Also we currently enjoy biking along the reservoir from Glenbow Park to Calgary and back. Now we will start at Haskane and bike west - that way easier - uphill to Glenbow and downhill return.
Verbatim comments (information session)
Same rules for landowners and the public. Bearspaw is not a private lake.
Bearspaw is publicly funded. Should be public access!
Bike paths to Calgary – it's the TCT!
Restore public access from Bearspaw Village Road
Public access for non-motorized from Haskayne to Reservoir
Bike Path to Calgary Network (2)
Same rules for public and landowners. Bearspaw is a public lake.
Other damns (Ghost, Dickson, etc.) have navigated public access.

VERBATIM COMMENTS | Protecting source water quality

Q5 WHAT CONCERNS DO YOU HAVE ABOUT PROTECTING WATER QUALITY IN THE BEARSPAW RESERVOIR?

Select all that apply

VERBATIM "OTHER" RESPONSES (SURVEY)
I do not agree with anyone and everyone being able to access the river. People throw trash in the river. I have also witnessed someone throwing dead people's ashes in the river. All kinds of contaminants are in the river. People motorboating and scaring wildlife.
I drove by a huge sign about someone wanting to build a huge subdivision near the Bearspaw reservoir. Where will they be getting water for these houses since water licenses are unavailable for the Bow river? It also looks like they will build a channel going to the Bow river on their billboard.
Private landowner use of vehicles on ice
The largest safety factor for water quality is the rail line that runs along the reservoir and along the Bow River upstream of the reservoir. Other concerns would be sewage and cattle in the Bow River upstream of the reservoir.
motorboats
The CPR mainline and potential for spills
I would like to survive here. There is a lack of anything unless you make it or break it.
The vast numbers of users and commercial operation upstream of the reservoir. Local recreational users are NOT the problem.
My concern is with access. This is not an objective survey. It is designed to provide the groups behind these initiatives the answers they want. The agenda of those pushing these initiatives is clear. It's all about control and limiting access to this public area.
local landowners treating the lake like their own personal pond
I'm concerned about the questions about unauthorized access to the water. It really feels like you guys are trying to make it so it's harder for everyday people who don't live in those Rich houses to access the waterway
Build a pipeline to get source water from the Elk, Kootenay, Kicking Horse, or Blaeberry rivers, like Denver does. Do it now, before the glaciers that feed the Bow retreat too much and while Alberta is still in Canada.
Hydrocarbon pollution via powered boats.
You know what you're doing. Open the access.
Its a private playground.
In terms of water quality and safety there should be no motorized watercraft allowed on the reservoir, including the residents who live along the shore.
Disagree with a private company having the only access to the river as well as how they manage it. I do not think that a private company should be able to limit access and be able to operate a private marina on a drinking water reservoir. I disagree with motorized boats being used on the reservoir
I am pretty sure over the years that I have seen motorboat on reservoir. Also the home owner around there have put up Private Property sign on the South side of reservoir on property that I believe is government owned. There used yo be a nice wooden dock for access off of Municiple land but someone has dismantled it.
Dogs in water- safety and contamination.
messing with it
waterside property owners using fertilizers and chemicals leaching into reservoir

VERBATIM "OTHER" RESPONSES (SURVEY)
I would like easier safer access from the north and south sides of the river and making it easier to put paddlebpards in the water
Current private access by local resident motorized boat owners.
I do not support any new use of the bow river for AI developements
Motorized boats and jet-skies should be banned to avoid pollution, noise and danger to other people in / om the water in canoes, sailboats, etc.
Pubic access to the reservoir that is by restricted to local property owners.
I don't agree that no access or recreation should be allowed. Only that it should be restricted like the Glenmore Reservoir
Lack of good access for recreational use which creates risks for water quality
Riparian Rights be fully recognized
the cattle that live up river and poop in the water

Q6 DO YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS FOR PROTECTING SOURCE WATER QUALITY?

Long answer

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
With the majority of use being in non-motorized watercraft (paddleboarding and kayaking) I believe the threat to water quality should not be of concern to anyone
Close public access to Bow River.
Question: why are motorized boats allowed to use the reservoir if it is used as our drinking water. That is my main concern.
Nothing at this time
As stated previously, the "Bearspaw Reservoir Public Access" point (as listed on Google Maps) is a source of litter and mischief.
Limit land use/public access point
Do NOT allow any more development near the Bow River. That is how you protect the river and the Bearspaw reservoir.
No further concerns
Security and limited access to the train tracks to prevent malicious activity to the rail system
My biggest question is how is the Bearspaw reservoir different from Glenmore reservoir? Glenmore is no motorized boats except rescue due to drinking water reservoir but at Bearspaw reservoir private residence have and use motorized boats on it. The marine has a resuce which is for safety so same as Glenmore. How are the private residents allowed to operate motorized boats on a drinking water reservoir?
Water is already treated with all these chemicals so is there really a concern?
Rail hauling dangerous chemicals runs adjacent
Education and enforcement of existing laws/bylaws would help.
Canmore and banff dump their sewage in the river upstream. It needs good treatment no matter what. We just need to make sure people arent leaving garbage around the shoreline.
Stop trying to make things a concern that are not an issue. Runoff from everything up stream is 1000000 times more impactful than someone paddling on the reservoir.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Real consequences for failing to protect, upstream commercial use should not be allowed to continue if it constantly fails to meet and is just willing to pay the fine
I often hear motorized water craft on the river. Why is that? That is a potential source of fuel contaminating the river. Also people leave their trash by the river and eventually it gets into the river and floats down to Calgary. There is also illegal fishing. In 2022/23 when there was a fishing ban due to severe heat and low water levels, there was still people fishing on the river. People are just disrespectful, & that is why the Bearspaw reservoir public access pt must be closed
The more people are allowed on the reservoir (for example by that illegal "Bearspaw Marina"), the more problems will develop.
General public should not have access to the river at bearspaw municipal park. they leave their litter by the river and in the parking lot located on Springbank Heights Way. I have seen condoms in the parking lot. People do NOT use the garbage can to dispose of litter. As well people park there and walk their dogs. they do NOT pick up after their dogs since I find dog shit all along the road. It is quite disgusting.
Banff, Canmore, Morley and Cochrane polute the reservoir Swimming, non motorized water vehicles, boats, boards have minimal to zero impact Probably the illegal docks, fuel spilage and fuel contamination from residents of EMERALD BAY with their many wake boats should be a concern
new proposed development will affect watet
The only way to protect the water by is by Making it inaccessible to everyone.
The Bearspaw Reservoir supplies drinking water to approximately 1.6 million people and should be managed using a precautionary, watershed-based approach. The Task Force should leverage the policies, operational practices and lessons learned from protecting the Glenmore Reservoir, including access management, monitoring, public education and enforcement, while addressing cumulative impacts from future development.
Will the Management Plan expressly establish protection of Calgary's drinking water source as the overriding priority, ahead of recreational access and development interests. Will the Task Force recommend defined source water protection buffers or no development areas for sensitive embankments, drainage corridors and lands directly connected to the reservoir. Has the Task force reviewed Haskayne Neighborhood 4& LOC2026-0004 for stormwater, erosion & recreational pressure impacts?
Protect the water and eliminate the illegal operation of the marina in Bearspaw
In Montana there are multiple boat launches paid for by fishing licenses and at most boat launches there are also first come first serve campsites. The revenue goes to maintaining boat launches as well this has a positive influence on hotels, restaurants, guide shops and other local businesses. In Calgary the fly fishing industry attracts tourists which benefits all intestines. More access would increase economic growth!
I see no difference from this reservoir to any other in the province, we can all use this resource as we see fit. It's time to allow recreation on the reservoir for us paddlers, fisher people and anyone wanting to enjoy the resource.
Make the reservoir non-motorized watercraft access only.
No different protection required than what is enforced at glenmore reservoir
Educate people on what is acceptable to our in the reservoir rather than prohibiting.
Train derailment and increase residential density adjacent to the tracks.
Clear Signage and not have double standard in terms of access only allowed for land owner and not public. If by-laws are broken fines and legal action should be applied to residence or non-residence alike.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Glenmore Reservour does not allow motorized boats and by the sounds of it, Glenmore provides water for less households. So, why then would motor boats be allowed on Bearspaw?
Formal access to the reservoir such as at Glenmore reservoir would be welcome and encouraged
Yes. No further development or access to this area. This area should be protected for the city water, wildlife, and historical indigenous community importance (artifacts discovered nearby)
Only non-motorized and electric only (10 kW max) should be allowed on the water. A complete ban on electric driven motorized devices is unwarranted, there are plenty of low powered water devices that provide recreation and enjoyment. A small electric trolling motor on the back of an inflatable boat, for example, is valid safety equipment in the event of sudden bad weather or an injury to a rower.
Proximity of large scale land development that will dramatically increase the population living close to the Reservoir will aggravate all of the water quality concerns, whether access is restricted or not.
If you're really interested in water quality....impose a motorboat restriction, and no water body contact permitted (similar to Glenmore Reservoir).
Power boating is allowed on the ghost reservoir, how many incidents have there been?
It's laughable to be chasing a couple boats out there on a weekend with these massive master Planned communities and the dust, runoff and garbage blowing onto the water unmonitored. When reported, the City simply says to contact the developer.. what a joke. But a little fishing zodiac.. the end of the world!!
The water quality in the reservoir is generally good and existing regulations are adequate to keep it that way
Keeping people alive and healthy.
The current and historical septic systems and use of fertilizers and pesticides by current residents that live and farm along the waters edge.
Protecting the river above the reservoir. There's a lot of new development in Cochrane along the river valley, I'm worried about storm water runoff.
Limit recreation to non-motorized equipment
Motorized watercraft should not be allowed other than patrol and rescue requirements.
Copy the management and rules of the Glenmore Reservoir. It works well, prioritizing water quality protection, but also allowing non-motorized boating.
Its on going 👐. We are the guardians Scuba divers.
Water source quality is affected along the rivers entire course so not sure how managing this dmsll portion of the river is affective for all eho use it? Even if measures are taken at the tesevoir there is ability to access the river upstream and downstream of this site
have all sewage piped to Calgarys sewage treatment plant Regulations on types of fertilizers home owners in the areq can use Do water quality tests often in the dam
run off from developments around the reservoir are a concern
Anglers are not an issue but land owners dumping, changing contours, installing septic systems, are a risk as is over development of the shoreline and the loss of access to the public. This is clearly a political attempt to further curtail use by suggesting the push by landowners to flood this system with complaints knowing most recreational users will not even notice this.
The water treatment plant is designed to remove Contaminants from the water. The power plant is not affected by oils from the human body. These have been exaggerated by Transalta and The city of Calgary, The restrictions have been overkill and a theft of a natural resource we should all enjoy.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Fence off reservoir, don't allow any animals or humans in it. My home country water source ruined by people. Other places completely don't allow people in it to prevent. Calgary needs to protect precious water source. This reservoir is for drinking NOT for playing in
Providing authorized access for recreation will be the single best approach to protecting water safety
I do not, because the numerous layers of legislated water quality protective measures that exist provincially are world class. Water quality in the reservoir, and this area of the Bow river, are exemplary. Let's not try to improve something that, all things considered, is the best it can be.
Keeping the reservoir as non-motorized water craft use only will help prevent these concerns.
Cattle?
It is insane to think that the miniscule inputs of a few recreational users have any measurable effect on the water compared to the incredible number of gas plants upstream, road grime/oil/salt from Cochrane and other upstream communities. If you want to ban gas-powered recreation, go for it. But it is a massive overreach to suggest that recreational paddling, fishing etc have any consequences.
There already is motor boat access via private land owners. This should be restricted to non-fuel boats, since a fuel spill here is too dangerous. Even emergency response should use non-petroleum vehicles.
None
No motorized vehicles on the water. Create better access points for canoe or kayak. Also make better trails from Rockland park to the river and reservoir so people are screwing around on the train tracks.
Just like other reservoirs we need to manage pollution and environmental impacts both from local land owners(pesticides, fertilizer etc.) and public. This should be able to be accomplished Just like other reservoirs.
Access should be limited to essential only, as its the primary drinking water supply for the city.
Stop attempting to let regular citizens enjoy to area. Calgary is starved for recreational activities and here you are trying to remove it so only the home owners on the south shore have access to it. Shame on you.
Limit the use of motorboats.
See my previous response. To repeat: My concern is with access. This is not an objective survey. It is designed to provide the groups behind these initiatives the answers they want. The agenda of those pushing these initiatives is clear. It's all about control and limiting access to this public area.
Provide more information and opportunities for public awareness so that people can learn to appreciate the natural beauty of our river via low-impact activities and understand the essential value of clean and healthy water.
The access should be restricted to the activities which are not harming environment while maintaining access for the public
Particularly concerned about gravel mining runoff. Also concerned about fluctuations in water level which impede a natural coastline.
Unfortunately all of it is of concern. As the city continues to spread this vital source of water is being affected by the increased population.
No
Local landowners should not be allowed to access the water if nobody else is
No
I do not have concerns with recreation near the water but have concers with recreation on the water above the reservoir. I have significant concerns with commercial recreation activities on the reservoir waters above the dam for possible contamination of the drinking water supply and safety of those using the waters for recreation purposes. Lack of emergency services for those recreating on the water is also a big concern.
I encourage the team to take a pragmatic approach when considering these risks.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
I am deeply concerned about proposed land use change LOC2026-0004. Large-scale development near the reservoir could threaten the drinking water supply for about 70% of Calgarians. I urge the trilateral task force to take immediate action to protect this environmentally sensitive area and prioritize the long-term safety of our watershed.
I believe appropriate waste structures should be in place on the Rockland park side where access is heavier, to address garbage. I also believe that if safety is actually the concern, then speed/wake boats should have been limited there long ago, not abolishing the access and use for paddlers and anglers.
I suggest working to ensure access for everyone. Nature is a human right. We shouldn't be stopping people who aren't rich enough to live on the dam from experiencing it
We have water treatment plants for a reason
Bearspaw Reservoir is critical to Calgary's drinking water. Development associated with LOC2026-0004 could increase runoff, erosion, sediment, pollutants, and alterations to natural drainage systems. Damage to riparian areas, escarpments, and environmental open spaces may reduce natural filtration and watershed protection functions that are difficult or impossible to fully restore. Uncontrolled recreational water activities may also introduce risks to long-term drinking water quality and safety.
Please don't allow this to be a NIMBY thing with local land user, where access is restricted to effectively create a private lake to a privileged few. It would be wonderful to create a place where the public can enjoy, fishing, nature and water recreation. While still considering water and habitat safety. By restricting motors, etc. I live close to the reservoir, but have never been able to access it, I would love my kids to be able to enjoy this public asset.
Non-motorized access would reduce the risk of contamination
You can't let the rich folks boat on this reservoir and deny others access to non-motorized water sports use
Limit motorized recreation, allow non-motorized recreation.
Would like to see water source protected with limited development and still have recreational access. We live fairly close and I only heard of recreational opportunities on the reservoir a few years ago (Bearspaw Marina?). Saw something about access being cut off. Would like to see controlled access to area preserved and development around the reservoir limited.
Participation in current and future land use applications by developers
Especially the possibility of that development idea of the mega structure off 12 mile and Crowchild coming into Tuscany I feel would replenish and pollute the resovoir and take the resources away from Bearspaw and Tuscany residents this is natural Beautiful area that should remain natural.
Keep motorized boats out of the reservoir. It should not be a private lake for adjacent landowners.
There needs to be more public access to this public waterway.
Motor craft in the reservoir, especially near the dam bother me
What is the plan if a train derailment were to happen near the reservoir or other parts of the river?
Motorized vehicles such as boats should not be allowed on the reservoir. Public access for kayaking or canoeing, or ice fishing or skating in the winter by all members of the public should absolutely be allowed. The local homeowners gatekeeping the reservoir needs to be stopped. This is not a private waterway for the homeowners, this is a public waterway for everyone to enjoy. This should be the same as the Glenmore reservoir.
Again look to the Glenmore reservoir. Non motorized watercraft. Clean craft or dedicated usage. Public access from designated spots.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Given the surrounding farm land run offs and the proximity of the railway (thattransports dangerous goods), any concerns about recreational contamination are moot. Except maybe for fuel from motor boats.
As per previous comments. If overall goal beyond power generation is Water source then this Reservoir should be treated as Glenmore Reservoir is. Bearspaw Reservoir provides enough power recreation access and pollutants as it is. A historical text from early newspaper decried the issue of Ranchers disposing of their dead stock in the river and ending up in the water intake grates upstream of the Fledgling city before the Glenmore was built.
I am very interested in recreational access to the Bear's Paw Reservoir. I rely on transit and would like to see a route there.
Everyone seems to honor the source water quality at Glenmore reservoir so the same guidelines should be applied to the Bearspaw reservoir.
Remote IOT or SCADA type monitoring system with water quality sensors to determine whether access should be restricted or preventative measures taken in the event of a water quality upset.
Concerned about land development near or on the reser
There is a lot of chatter about informal access, but this is the least of my concern - focus on the other pieces and let people use the reservoir for non-motorized activities. .
Bird droppings are continuous, daily, Wildlife feces, livestock runoff, pet waste, stormwater, and upstream sources likely create a much larger background load than careful boating. A drowned animal create a strong local contamination event, but it is a localized pulse, not a reservoir-wide ppm problem.regulator of water resources, erosion control, water licences, shoreline protection, habitat stewardship, and pollution under provincial legislation Water Act and Environmental Protection
Keep it open and let people access it
Stop with killing free activities for ppl in Calgary and limiting people on what they can do based around water.
Make it deeper. Make it more flood resilient. I own a house on the resevoir and you should be making it a world class resevoir for calgary and area. We need water and more of it.
Recreation may not have the same scope of challenges as future development and stormwater but setting the stage for success and limiting types of activities that can reduce water quality is important. There may be benefit to use collaboration efforts on this project to work on issues such as stormwater as new recreational opportunities will bring new pressures to develop around the area.
Coming from a first response background, what can be done with the train that parallels the reservoir? If people fully knew the number of hazardous materials that rolled by on rail every day. I understand almost all trains are near bodies of water but i think a serious review with the rail authority on their own emergency response capabilities would be critical to minimize risk. A comprehensive emergency response review with all applicable parties could highlighting any important gaps.
Until you stop the private land owners from accessing the reservoir from their land you cant meaningfully protect any of it. Private power boats should not be allowed.
Ban motorized boats, however allow for canoes, kayaks, sailboards, etc.
Keep the Jeets away
Railway needs permanent access to area in the light of any potential derailments around the S turn on the line just west of the dam - therefore NO development on north side of reservoir - residential or otherwise - as is presently being considered
None

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
As noted above, protection of source water needs to include protection of the natural environment. The two go hand in hand.
There are ranches along the bow river where cows enter the water to drink. The run off from the fields brings excrament waste water into the river. We've seen floating dead cows and deer. If you want to eliminate motor boating, then you need to have a serious look at the amount of motor boat activity at Ghost Lake. The amount of motorized boats on the reservior is extremely minimal due to access- one to two at a time x 2 days per week over 12 weeks = 48 boats total/yr -not enough to impact.
Control use for all users not just some. Mirror management plans in other places like the Glenmore reservoir… no need to re-invent the wheel on this one.
Home owners on west side have private access for boats and whatever they want. And I can't even get easy walkable access to fish from the shore. This is wrong. They do not own this reservoir. So either access for all or none I'm tired of seeing speedboats on there and I can't access myself. I believe horsepower should be limited or electric only and there should be public access for fishing that you don't have to die climbing up and down a steep Bank.
I would like to see a large setback zone for development to protect the water, and a total ban on powered boats.
Should the Bearspaw reservoir not be treated the exact same as the Glenmore Reservoir?
Cattle ranching is the biggest concern I have for the water quality.
Why is it that the upper-class landowners are allowed to use motorized watercraft's yet the public aren't allowed an access point to the reservoir? It seems outrageous that the city of Calgary is so corrupt to remove access from every-day public members and instead allow motorcrafts from the south side of the river to have private, unmonitored access. OPEN THE ACCESS TO THE PUBLIC for non-motorized watercraft. How is this any different than Glenmore Reservoir?? Elitist agendas?? Get it together.
Do not do this.
Control Glenmore Bearspaw & Ghost the same.
It would also be important to add trash bins along the trails so people can dispose of waste properly and help keep the area clean and protect the environment.
I would like better trails and access points
No engine boats Heavy fines if littering Big parking ares so access to water stays contained in certain area
Has always been very limited access to the water until we have a marina that has been built. No washrooms so we know where everyone is going to the washroom and are drinking water.
Will this help finish the Canmore to Calgary trail? As a distance runner I'd love to have more through access to trails in the reservoir area. I live in Tuscany. Why can't we have the same as glenmore reservoir?
Prohibit the use of motorized boats, jet skis, with the exception of emergency services, much like the Glenbow reservoir. Establish a safe zone that limits encroachment on the shore.
Without proper outhouses etc. users are left with human waste near the water intakes.
Keep motorized vehicles off resevoir
I think it should be limited to non-motorized vehicles like kayaks or row boats just like the glenmore reservoir.
Make a uniform set of rules and access, or keep the wealthy off the water in their boats!!!
Why are there are different rules or guidelines applied. For example the glenmore reservoir allows a lot of recreational use and there is an entire road traversing it. There are golf courses near by as well. Why is recreational use all the sudden a great concern at bears paw?

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
I am more concerned about the haskane development /land redesignation proposed by the city. Density is really high and very adjacent to the water. Run off from the streets. Fertilizers from backyards that is the issue.
Bearspaw Marina should not be allowed to operate a business on the reservoir. This is our drinking water! What's going to be the next business to open?
I am not in favour of a large amount of public access into our drinking water supply. I believe the Reservoir can tolerate a limited amount of recreation. The use of self propelled water craft seems reasonable but I believe that should be at the users risk. The users need to be prepared and responsible for their own safety.
I've plein-air paint and paddled Bearspaw Reservoir since 2008. As a federally regulated navigable waterway, the public retains a longstanding right to travel on the water itself. I support a Management Plan that balances safety and source-water protection with clearly designated, low-impact public access points (per ASP policies 18.09-18.15), coordinated emergency response, and enforced, well-marked parking/access areas so recreation and safety needs are met together, not traded off.
Impact of railway operations/condition and adjacent and upstream communities is likely greater concern than public access related
No access via Woodland Road and shut down Marina
My greatest concerns are shoreline development, erosion, and stormwater runoff. These pose the greatest long-term risk to water quality and the diverse wildlife that depends on the reservoir and surrounding habitat. Protecting these areas should remain the priority while preserving responsible recreational use.
Looking at a map and wonder about how the City of Calgary is doing its part WRT water quality in the Bow WRT runoff. Just downstream of the dam there are TWO golf courses (Lynx Ridge, Valley Ridge) right on (VR) or effectively on (LR) the river bank, and < 2 km upstream of the actual intake for the Bearspaw Treatment Facility. Not sure if there is restriction on pesticide/fertiliser/etc use on these courses, but runoff from golf courses is ID'd as moderate risk in the document.
The best way to control unauthorized access is to provide a controlled access point.
Restrict access - especially from developers. They have no consideration for long-term impact on the environment.
As I have lived in Bowness for 37 years the city and transalter are all aware of what's happening to our drinking water and no matter what the public import is nothing will change because it's all about profit and not about the citizens
Please have a big picture and innovative look at enhancing and maintaining recreation activities that do include "touching" the water (paddle boarding, shallow area wading, canoeing, etc). Look outside our borders and ask how others manage emergency response, water quality, etc while providing an amazing (and should be celebrated) recreation opportunity.
The residents along the reservoir are good stewards of the area as we have a vested interest in keeping it clean and safe. The biggest threat is from day users, especially unauthorized day users that trespass across City land across from Springbank Links GC and from the south to use the two coves. Garbage is strewn everywhere by these people, including in the water and on the banks. We are also concerned that many cattle enter and defecate in the river on 6 or 7 km upstream from us.
Access should be prohibited to prevent impact to water and for safety
Want the gates closed for recreational use
Environmental protection is already supported through comprehensive federal and provincial legislation, including regulations administered by Environment and Climate Change Canada, Alberta Environment and Protected Areas, and fisheries and wildlife authorities.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Look at Glenmore Reservoir. It is open and still maintains water quality
I just worry about it being controlled by a corporation
Hire something along the lines of park rangers to manage the area.
If Bearspaw Marina is a problem for the city maybe you should also look at Glenmore as well and treat them both under the same operation.
I do not believe that allowing non-motorized boats (Kayaks, SUPs) will endanger the water supply
There's a lot of hillside and construction that's been unmanaged. Ensuring a safe decent to the reservoir and making sure it's stable. No motorized vehicles means less pollution to our drinking water...
Human powered watercraft should be allowed. Motorized watercraft prohibited.
Don't allow motor boats on it, allow non motorized craft
No.
It is a river and public should be able to access it without having to pay. I am not sure how Bearspaw Marina or whatever it's called is able to charge for access to a river that does not belong to them
Keep all motorized (petro and electric) craft off of the reservoir, except emergency craft. Not allow swimming, wading, etc., in the reservoir, by humans and/or pets.
No development should be allowed around the entire reservoir
People from other countries using it to bathe as if it is a place to clean oneself
No
I think it's important that access for kayaks and paddle boards continue. We do not have many places to enjoy the water and nature in calgary and access to the Bearspaw reservoir is crucial and should not be limited. However access to boats and pollutants should be.
Overcrowding, noise, commercial exploitation, obtrusive signage
I want to launch my paddleboard in the reservoir and I want to paddle the Bow River from Cochrane to the reservoir with access to take out. I want a public boat launch where I can use my own vessel.
I strongly oppose any efforts to limit recreational (non motorized) access to the areas around the bearspaw reservoir. Responsible usage and enjoyment should be encouraged- similar to the access people enjoy in other similar areas in the city.
Limiting access will likely protect source water
I think we should have access to this just like the Glenmore reservoir
Ensuring athat citizens are able to access and use the reservoir will keep water quality in check as citizens would be able to report spills/leaks/garbage efficiently
Allow only non motorized water crafts
In Germany, many lakes are used for recreation while still protecting water quality through clear rules, zoning, and enforcement. Instead of banning access completely, low-impact activities like kayaking, paddleboarding, sailing, rowing, and electric boats are often allowed in designated areas. Water quality can be protected by restricting fuel-powered motors, adding proper waste bins, washrooms, signage, spill prevention, and managed access points. Bearspaw could follow same approach.
Na
I think the better the access the less of a concern informal access will be and such no damage surrounding wildlife. Likewise garbage and litter etc would be managed with better formal pathways and facilities
Limiting motor-crafts on the water.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
A section of the space can be used to responsibly utilize and admire the beauty of the area. We need to conserve the space so any infractions should be heavily penalized. Mark the areas that can be used, monitor and see how this goes. Ensure that safety and conservations practices are upheld. Keep developers out of the area. There is plenty of other space not close to our rivers that can be developed. Keep our water system clean.
I don't think motorized boats should be allowed in bearspaw. They are the biggest polluters by leaking oil and gas into the water.
Recreational use of motorized water craft should not be permitted
Any increased access of the reservoir carries increased risk of contamination to the city's main source of water. For this reason there should be a thorough plan and budget drawn up for frequent and consistent presence of bylaw/rule enforcement around the reservoir.
prohibit motorized craft except in emergencies
Limit gas motors
The primary risks to water quality at Bearspaw are agricultural runoff, a train derailment, a major flooding event, sedimentation and pollution from upstream and various other kinds on non-point source pollution. A major train derailment or vehicle based release (e.g., oil or fuel) is the risk of highest consequence, and the TTF can do nothing about it. Recreational use is a low risk to water quality and not more of a risk at Bearspaw compared to the heavily used Glenmore or Ghost reservoirs.
I believe that there are many water sources in the area that public have access to such as the bow River and ghost Lake Reservoir, where they are able to balance protecting water source quality as well as the importance of public access to beautiful area areas such as this to be enjoyed by everyone I think that there can be solution where both objectives are possible
Upstream water quality
Would the intent be to make it similar to the Glenmore reservoir, where swimming and no motorized water craft are allowed? If not, because current users would be up in arms, then I'm curious to see the outcome and how this will be managed.
motorized recreation on the reservoir
People paddleboarding/kayaking make little change to water quality. Better to educate on clean non motorized craft than to ban. The biggest issue is waste and pollution from new construction sites.
No
Creating a space with easy access to garbages and washrooms and rules/fines around littering, fires, etc is important. Boats or any motorized vehicle should not be allowed on the reservoir.
We have lived overlooking the resevoir for 50 years and have seen motor boats roaring around the resevoir disturbing flocks of birds and polluting. We also see snow geese, pelicans, geese, great horned owls and other wildlife there. Increased recreational use of any kind in the water will make this worse. Motor boats are the worst but people using canoes, kayaks, paddle boards and with dogs still leave garbage pollute and send wildlife away. Ice fishermen in the winter also leave pollution.
No AI data centers anywhere near our fresh water
This needs to be ope. For recreational use
Motorized water craft must be banned. A little fuel spill or oil is detrimental. This must apply to all drink water reservoirs including Ghost Lake. The whole Bow river must be protected. It is the only source of drinkwater as a whole. I live in Cochrane in 1982 when we moved to Cochrane we could see fish swim in the river. Now the only thing is see swimming in the river are dogs. The absolute destruction of habitat over the years is incredible. A good example is the off-leash area in Cochrane.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Not allowing motorized watercraft. Preventing erosion, minimizing development near the watershed. Supporting planting native species of riparian areas
I have seen motorboats on reservoir.
Limit development of building and residential housing close to the river- keep area as is, so much wildlife in this area. A beautiful area that should not be ruined
Upstream you unrestricted jet boats, a recreational reservoir, a city, and rail that parallels the river. It seems like some folks are using conservation as a tool to isolate their private property from recreational users.
no.
X
It's not a swimming pool. Erosion, poo contamination, garbage all show up when people start using the area. People bring their dogs and damage all the shore line, never pick up poo, allow dogs to chase wildlife... and they are never on leash. It is just going to end up in tragedy. Or contaminated water.
Leave us alone, leave the area alone, go fix all the broken areas elsewhere and go away
Anything that would negatively affect water quality is, and should be, a concern.
I am primarily concerned about water quality. I think recreation on the entire Bearspaw Reservoir should be limited to watercraft not using liquid fuels. Nearby land use should ensure no effluent from livestock or humans reaches the river. No swimming or water skiing. Just like the Glenmore Reservoir. Access should be provided for these activities on the north side from the Park. The restrictions should apply equally to use from the south side of Bearspaw reservoir.
I think public access should be allowed
Only Private access on bodies of public drinking water is wrong. Only Private access for parts of a public river is also wrong. Rich get to have their lake with our water- and no one has eyes on them? Who is watching them then? If they want a private lake, it should be on a real lake, not a dammed up public river. We should be have access to the whole waterway for non gas powered crafts. - make this public access. Make the dam have a portage route around or a white water course down the side.
Use similar restrictions that have been placed on the Glenmore Reservoir.
NA
Yes. Public access points should be established and marked at multiple locations on both sides of the reservoir/upstream on the river. With good access to get kayaks into the water and parking close by.
N/A
No
I think building infrastructure made for non motorized paddling will help with a lot of the concerns listed. And I think running it similar to Glenmore Reservoir could work very well. Non motorized paddlers should be allowed and welcomed at the reservoir
Besides protecting the water and environment, informal unauthorized access is my main concern in the Rockland area.
With specific access points it is easier to manage public activities. This is the same thinking used when specific pathways are built and maintained in parks to avoid people creating their own pathways everywhere.
Boating does not deplete the water quality.
My primary concern is the construction material and garbage the wind carries to the river. The winds are high in Rockland Park coming in from north and west, blowing through the construction areas, and carrying debris into the river valley. Further there seems to be absolutely no action from the government to manage the epic

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
infestation of Black Henbane. The city has declared it a Noxious Weed yet the developer has done nothing to control its spread through the neighborhood and river valley.
Public access rights are federally protected. The existence of a conjunctive effort by the government and a private corporation to withhold access to a publicly funded ressource (taxpayers paid for the creation of the reservoir and the provincial park that borders it) is absolutely abhorrent and should be treated as a dereliction of duty in regards to the officials who are not only legally, but morally and ethically responsible to oppose such acts. Shameful behaviour from all involved
The Glenmore Reservoir does not have engine driven boats on it. Why is residents of Bearspaw allowed to have motor boats?
No
If you really want to protect this water source you need to make sure that the people who live around the Reservoir are not using motorized watercraft on it and watch for contaminants from their lots. However you do not do that. I have seen multiple times and have a recording of a motor boat used in the Reservoir for water skiing.
I have been to many cities around the world with more extreme drought conditions than Calgary that still allow recreation on their reservoirs
Motorized boats should be banned on the reservoir with the exception of safety boats. It should be somewhere that family's can paddleboard or fish without worrying about power boats which also pollute and risk fuel spills into our water source.
Don't allow extra changes for public use keep the area controlled and safe as it is.
No
There is enormous amounts of construction garbage from the Rockland Park community development that are blowing down the hill towards the water.
No
I support recreational access. It's no different than Ghost or Glenmore. It is a beautiful place that we should all be able to enjoy safely. I support low contact water activities and minimal use of motor boats. (The marina, a wonderful addition to our community, occasionally uses a motor boat for patrol and to provide assistance if needed, which should still be allowed). I am more concerned about the impacts on the water and environment from the proposed Haskayne neighborhood development.
If motorized water craft are allowed on the reservoir it makes little sense that the public are unable to use it for paddling and kayaking more readily.
when access regulations are set, penalties for breaching those regulations should be appropriately high to ensure they are respected and enforced.
I do want to ensure that there's enough garbage cans and removal of waste to ensure that it remains a clean space. Access to washrooms as well to avoid people doing their business in places they shouldn't be doing as I've seen issues arising all across Canada.
Restricting watercraft access to human powered (paddle not motor)
I have seen multiple people driving boats in the reservoir and worry about fuel spill contaminating our drinking water.
Protect the undeveloped spaces.
Lots to f people use the bow river up and down stream , and it not a big concern.
Ensuring cp rail is following regulations for herbicide application on rail rights of way.
No

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
The rail line is right along the river and reservoir, should it have a derailment, the water source protection will be a problem.
City is so concerned about land but keep on developing taking out wetlands and what not.
If you're going to limit recreational activities with claim of protecting source water quality don't make same ill thought decision made at Glenmore Reservoir where they allow only hard kayaks and not inflatable ones or SUPs but yet it's ok to allow dragon boats and certain clubs access. Allow all responsibly. No need to have rescue services, we don't have them at every lake in the vicinity and people recreate at own risk.
Suggest non-motorized recreation and no swimming.
Again, keeping the water and safe for animal and human use should be the top priority. Development and motorized use should be banned beyond benign recreational opportunities.
Allowing motorized boats on the dam seems to be counterintuitive to protecting the environment and water. Ghost lake and the damn would have considerable fuel leakage into the water.
Enforcement is necessary, many people act like rules dont apply to them
No
There should be no motor boats allowed.
Make good access points, much like Bowness and Baker parks
This is an important recreational asset. I find it ironic being so concerned about people on paddle boards on a reservoir when the gravel pits along it get a free pass along with the municipalities (ie Cochrane dumping raw sewage a couple years ago into the river because they could built a water pipe)
Motorized water craft should not be allowed on the reservoir.
Keeping motorized boats off of the reservoir.
NA
My concern is this is rich people trying to block access to the public under the guise of protecting safe drinking water. Recreational access to Glenmore reservoir makes it clear that this is how I describe it.
No
I use the river for boating and fishing. Keep it open for recreation
I am concerned about restricting public access. People boat on glenmore reservoir all the time. This is about rich property owner want to keep their own private lake.
No
Seems crazy that we allow people to kayak, sail but not swim. As a water source we should be limiting recreation.
The nearby residents use of speedboats and other recreational watercraft is unfair to other people who live in Calgary. Make public access for non motorized or electric watercraft. Small boats with electric motors, canoes, kayaks paddleboards etc.
The exploration of additional basins to store water needs continued consideration
The proposed dense community in the Damkar land is concerning. The less people living near the reservoir the better. Low density helps solve all the concerns about preserving the water and environment around the reservoir.
Keep motorboats out of the reservoir area
Your challenge to preserve water quality comes from downstream infrastructure the city has neglected for 30 years.
I do not want that area to be developed into a residential/business area. This has been happening on the edges of our city (for example in Tuscany, where I live) and also in the areas of Cochrane (the gravel pit next to

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Precedence is awful to look at and potentially creating many health concerns). We must respect & enjoy the beauty and natural surroundings of our city. I am concerned about maintaining the H20 quality as people use that H20. I am also concerned about conserving the water also.
There should be checks on neighbouring land where private homeowners have blocked access to public land. There would need to be budget to monitor usage and adjacent slopes/banks similar to Glenmore Reservoir.
None
Not Bearspaw res. specifically, but NO MORE COAL DEVELOPMENT IN ALBERTA.
Limit motor boats on the reservoir.
Low impact water sports should be allowed on this body of water, they will little impact on water conditions. A private business operates there however the public cannot use it although it is a public body of water. The problem is that a private business is determining who can use public space. Would be nice is everyone could use the resources
The railway company should be asked about what toxic substances they use
No
No
Yes
No petroleum based power sports should be permitted.
No
No, education is critical, and we have many many many public access water areas in this city and this is not a concern worth limiting access over any of the other public water ways. I wonder why it's an issue with this one?
Should be the same or similar rules as for Ghost lake or Glenmore reservoir. I.e. no swimming, but allow boats, SUPs including inflatable, canoes, kayaks. Safe and accessible access and railway crossings
Definitely concerns. City of Calgary and several local water co-ops are dependent on drinking water obtained from reservoir. Contamination of water can easily occur. Water quality must be carefully monitored and recreational usage must be policed.
Establish no swimming zone. Allow safeaccess for fishing and boating including inflatable boats and SUPs
All non motorized vehicles paddleboards, kayaks, canoes should be allowed. Any motorized vehicles should not be allowed
I would like much easier access to the reservoir for non-motorized water sports. Currently it is next to impossible to access it and it feels like it is actively discouraged
Clear signs in multiple languages that you can't put garbage, chemicals in the water or bathe in it.
No
If you can't provide access to the public then you have to take access away from the current residents. They have had it in the past, but so has the public.
Please allow recreational access and make safe entry points. I have no concerns about water source protection
If there are businesses that are causing issues that are major contributors to the proposed management review then review their specific operations relevant to existing legislation and act accordingly. Putting restrictions on near by land and home owners, and rate payers doesn't seem the right approach to responding to licensing businesses operating on the reservoir.
I understand that non motorized boating is allowed on the Glenmore Reservoir. As well as many points upstream of this reservoir. I'm not sure that water quality is the real issue.
What harms Bow River water quality? -Sprawling developments in Cochrane -Dust from Exshaw Cement plant

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
-Litter floating down tributary streams -Unnatural concentrations of waterfowl in certain areas A few humans swimming or paddling in a lake comparatively makes zero difference in water quality, water quality is not an excuse to prevent access.
Fuel spills, noise and erosion to the banks due to high powered motorized watercraft are the biggest concerns of mine. I'm an advocate for self propelled quiet boating and recreation.
Not enough public access exists currently.
It should be managed like the Glenmore Reservoir - recreation, no motors
Glenmore is used for recreation and so should Bearspaw
I wonder the effects on fish populations and changes to water temperatures.
Rockland Park is a construction zone and there is quite a bit of debris and building materials that blow away. I've seen a clean up crew only once (in the spring) so while this building continues it would be good to have a regular clean up crew addressing all the materials flying around.
I do not see a problem with public access if they are respecting the resource and acting responsibly. The wording of this question really makes it seem like you only want a certain class of people to have access to it.
Stop taking away Albertan's right to enjoy exercise and water activities. If it were up to you, you'd have us all on electric scooters, unicycles, skateboards, and bicycles not getting any exercise.
Keep motorized watercraft off. The Glenmore water reservoir does not allow motorized watercraft. Both supply water to Calgary.
I am concerned that access to the waterway for public recreation has been blocked. I'd be interested to see a study of the pesticides entering the waterway either upstream or from runoff from nearby residences.
It isn't fair that it is being questioned that the public should be able to access the area. Land was donated and now people who live around there want to dictate the use because they are rich.
I know that people are allowed to be on the water in Glenmore reservoir, but there are no motor boats except for rescue. Maybe that's what should happen here too? If it's our drinking water, I don't want fuel spills in my water.
Collaborative stormwater management to a higher than normal standard and/or discharge downstream of the dam. Reduced pavement for nearby developments through adopting Norwegian subdivision design standards. Well designed water access for on land recreation and nonmotorized boating.
Upstream quality
The same restrictions that are on the Glenmore Resivour could apply the the Bearspaw Resivour.
This our drinking water, swimming/inflatables should not be allowed. Nor should powered craft except for rescue services. Powered craft used by private homes/acreages having access to the reservoir from their properties should not be allowed at all.

VERBATIM COMMENTS | Ensuring public safety

Q7 WHAT ARE THE KEY SAFETY MEASURES YOU CONSIDER BEFORE ACCESSING A BODY OF WATER?

Select all that apply

VERBATIM "OTHER" RESPONSES (SURVEY)
People show up at the Bearspaw reservoir public access area drunk, disorderly, disrespectful, and dirty
Submerged snags or obstacles.
My own ability to make decisions for my self
All of the above. I did my research and did the work and paid for the signs
N/a
Have the right equipment, be aware of your surroundings, other people & activities on the water, and above all use your head. What other "safely measures" are needed? People already understand this. There is no need to create regulation to solve a problem that doesn't exist.
I do not access the reservoir.
Less people and let's make it the best lake around. Put in 5 or 6 pipes into calgary for better and more supply of water.
Daylight conditions/availability
we can't even access it.
No access should be allowed
Motor operated boats - some people operate these in unsafe ways.
The safety of children not being attended too
I am not accessing and going in the Lake or river. It is for fish
Who else is in my group and how their abilities, equipment and health all fit into the above safety measures.
buddy-other people around
None. People can access Bow river in way more trecherous conditions than the ones on the calm Reservoir.
I am 81 years so I do not access water but have an interest for younger generations.
Safety issues on the reservoir are no different than the 1000,s of rivers, streams and Lakes throughout the country. and

Q8 WHAT SAFETY INFRASTRUCTURE OR FEATURES WOULD MAKE THE RESERVOIR MORE ACCESSIBLE FOR LOW-RISK RECREATION?

Long answer

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
There was a safe and effective staircase built by residents at a public access point on Springbank Heights Road. You people at Rocky View tore it down a few years ago, making it far less safe...
No low-risk recreation needed.
More accessibility on the south shore for paddle boarding or kayaking.
I'm not in favour of making the reservoir more accessible
N/A. An infrequent patrol of the "Bearspaw Reservoir Public Access" point would be a good idea, especially at night.
The reservoir should NOT be accessed for any recreational activities.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
The reservoir is a dangerous body of water subject to violent weather changes. It is not suitable for low risk activities unless very close to a safe exit from the reservoir
Public parking within meters to the shore. Flush toilets and running water. Bearspaw Marina has excellent washroom facilities. Lights for parking. Covered picnic areas. Shower facilities. Floating pier. Free parking. University of Calgary run rentals.
A mechanism is needed for evacuation of inexperienced paddlers when high winds occur. The current rental outlet does not consider users skill level and many novice renters are at risk if strong winds occur. Due to the NW exposure of the reservoir and quickly changing weather and winds, inexperienced recreational users have no idea of their risk they are exposed to in changing wind conditions.
An entry point for emergency vehicles. The emergency vehicles need to be nearby.
I have lived on the Bearspaw Reservoir for over 25 years. The valley is susceptible to instant violent weather changes. The water is always cool/cold. It is not a safe place for novice boaters. I have made countless rescues of rafters in distress on the reservoir and have personally been caught in dangerous conditions in a small boat. A manned large motorized rescue boat is required for a rapid response. It is not a safe body of water for anyone who is not knowledgeable and equipped
i do not support motor boats or other motor craft in the Reservoir (except emergency or maintenance craft)
The Bearspaw marina has a rescue boat. Glenmore reservoir has a dock accessible for all users using private equipment or rental equipment vs Bearspaw if you have private equipment you can not use their dock. Transportation from the Haskayne parking lot to the marina would be a bonus plus safety for crossing the open train tracks.
A permanent dock to safely get in and out of the water, signage posting updated concerns like strong currents in spring etc, some dedicated paths to the water if dock is unattainable
Tha same access and should be available as that of Gleore Dam on the Elbow River as a minimum requirement.
Safety standards are well established and should be consistent with other reservoirs
Signage
easy access points from the calgary end and from the west end of the park. Don't keep people from using it because there are some idiots out there. Just be harsher on the idiots.
Go away government. Let me protect myself and my family while recreating. Your job is to enable access, not protect me from my self.
Designated, safe, monitored access points
Have people go elsewhere for low-risk recreation.
Get rid of that illegal marina. Those of us who live on the reservoir have been safely and responsibly accessing it for decades
I feel that the bearspaw municipal park on Springbank Heights Way should be closed. people blatantly disregard safety notices and do whatever they want with no regard to residents in the area. they trespass on other peoples property.
Managing the access points.
The marina that is established should have a water barrier to protect the dam further downstream and to keep boaters and users out of the area like they do in Parker, Arizona near the Parker dam. The river is used by recreation use and the boundary is clearly marked.
Ensuring timely access for emergency services. Patrols during busy periods. Controlled access/egress.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Safety and protection of Rocky View County residents from the hundreds of City of Calgary trespassers that utilize the Reservoir now is a real concern today and should be addressed. Valley Ridge and Westmont developers promote trespassing. Trespassers have deliberately lit and abandoned 2 significant wild fires and countless camp fires next to the Reservoir. Constant fear and risk of damage to or destruction of property, or death, is prevalent . Confrontations with trespassers is the norm.
Inaccessible for people.
500 characters or less: If low-risk recreation is considered, safety measures should mirror Glenmore Reservoir: clearly defined access points, designated launch areas, restricted/protected zones, posted regulations, dedicated patrol and enforcement personnel, rescue equipment, emergency response capability, meaningful fines for violations, public education, and ongoing water quality and safety monitoring before expanding access.
Emergency response services access equipment and personal is priority#1. Rules & Regulation on access to water, types of crafts allowed, defined safety requirements, presence of enforcement personnel, fines, inspections, and no bodies allowed in the water (on water craft only), no motorboats of any type.
Limit all activity on this water body until there is a formal access agreement, safe passage to the water across the railway tracks and emergency services access
F&W and RCMP/police presence as needed
Same infrastructure as for the ghost reservoir
More access gives more opportunity for emergency services.
It would be great to have a boat launch with washroom facilities, along with information signs. But it should also be use at own risk like any other lake.
Leave it as is. No additional safety measures required
Again, education about water and ice safety. Extended cell coverage, but a also a clear message risk is understood and is the responsibility of the user.
Proper access/dock on both sides of the reservoir that are easily accessible. The City of Calgary park that exists on the South West side currently does not allow any access to the park let alone the water. It is silly as it promotes unauthorized access.
Safe and appropriate public access to the river through the Haskayne legacy park please
Clear signage of risks and ask lifesaving society to provide a free lifejacket station.
Better access for emergency responders. Shorter and more direct
A centralized access point would be good. Provide some emergence response equipment like emergency life rings, inflatable boats, etc for quick responding public would ease the pressure on the city and county emergency responders. Sorry, but you can't fix stupid. It doesn't matter how many emergency responders stand on the shores, someone will do something stupid to be entered into the Darwin Awards.
No high speed watersport focused boating. I.e. wakeboarding, wakesurfing, water skiing, sea doos. speed limit for all or use of electric trolling motor while on water where gasoline outboards must be tilted up and out of water. gas disconnected. outboard can remain on boat but.not running.
Direct access for a vehicle with parking available for vehicles while on the water. Boat ramp or docks for launching canoes and kayaks.
It should not be accessible. There are enough recreation spots in Calgary for water downriver.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Great list, yes I consider all of those. Also distance to the shoreline at all times.
I have used the Reservoir for canoeing, kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding and swimming for over 30 years. I believe that all recreational users should be self reliant on their training, skill-level, and be able to self-rescue. I don't believe that TransAlta, the City, or the County should be responsible for providing part/full time rescue on the Reservoir or the Bow River leading into the Reservoir. Post sufficient signage limiting liability and keep access points limited.
The non use of power boats for recreational purposes. I am once saw a power boat drive at high speeds near paddle boarders causing a large wake and potentially having those boater fall off their boards due to this boaters behavior
Support no body-water contact for maintaining water quality concerns...so this section of questions is somewhat contradictory for what it is implying. For paddling navigation- a proper take out/portage at Bearspaw Dam is required. Why is RVC not using their approved RVC Blueway trail classification for guidance?
Similar to other lakes and reservoirs in the province.
Come on.. I've lived here for nearly a decade and the levels here rarely change any noticeable visual level. The dam is blocked off, and I have never seen anyone remotely close to it. Ghost however you launch right by the dam.. but no issue? Same sort of barrier. The issue right now is the boat rental place on the other side of a very busy train track. Has the rail operator been brought in as a stakeholder to address unauthorised crossings of their right of way?
Individual user preparness is up to the user. The segment of the river above this reservoir from ghost dam to Cochrane also has colder water but is used by hundreds of people safely each week during the summer months. Since the bow river is an navigable water body a safe route to portage a boat (such as a canoe) around the dam could be added.
Safe access points for the public, first responders, and local enforcement services. Parking areas and garbage facilities. Signage explaining the permitted use of the area.
An ice monitor report. A recreation user pass where they must register. This would create a mailing list to help inform users of risks.
Require PFDs when on the water, have life rings available at access points, limit access at times of high flow
Some type of on ware emergency response, similar to glenmour reservoir
Signage, formal access points on both sides of the reservoir, and closer to the dam for emergency exits.
Either make the shores safe for walking (difficult), or do not allow access to the shores via signs. Direct people to where they can walk beside the lake.
I always make it by appointment 😔 and I am always here to protect life. I also do shoreline clean ups and underwater clean ups. I dive the reservoir regularly for health and well-being when its safe to do so no one lawful is in the water at night. Some do it and do it alone 😔. Night diving is a thing for us but no one has done it here. Yet.
Safe public pedestrian access to put in kayak, canoes, paddleboards etc
having no gasoline proopelled boats only sail boats, canoes , paddle cboards etc
Education about risks in the area
Public access points to the water
There are laws in place for safe boating. Maximize shoreline access around the reservoir will always make it safer for all users.
A proper public boat launch.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
defined exit points, defined entrance area. Parking for users. Fewer no trespass signs, more use at own risk. Navigable connection encouraging and supporting portage to get around dam.
fenced off no access
Designated access points for parking, water access, etc. it will increase the density of people in any one area and those areas can be more effectively safetied
None, leave it as-is. Further infrastructure development for the sake of increasing recreational access will diminish the existing natural enjoyment. Please don't spoil what is wonderful.
The reservoir is in and of itself one of the safest local options for flat water paddling that we have, especially if you stipulate that it is for non-motorized crafts only. Ideally, Bearspaw to Ghost Dam would be non-motorozed craft only. Established foot paths, loading and unloading zones (small boat launches), and clear signage about the risks of paddling glacial waters are all key to user safety.
Emergency phones on shore at any formal docks or entry points. Basic throw rescue equipment. A life jacket loaner station (Lifesaving Society). Green and red flags for safe or not / open or closed.
I am trained as a whitewater canoe and kayak instructor, past lifeguard, have wilderness first aid and substantial experience I can apply to using the outdoors safely. It is incredibly unfair and shortsighted to apply blanket restrictions on all users based on the worst-of-the-worst unprepared, untrained and unskilled people needing rescue. The best approach is to require people to pay for rescue - those of us with skills can take our chances or insurance co's will vet buyers based on ability.
There already are multiple road/boat launch areas (informal or legacy). Clean them up and make them safe for emergency response people. Haskayne Park is a huge investment that has so much more potential .... right now it is very under utilized.
Continued use allowed for public
Better entry and exit points.
People getting on the water need to be able to fend for themselves. Patrolling the river like it is done on the bow sounds good enough to keep people in check,
Have a formal safe access point for users. This shoyld be very easy to do. The informal spots have hazards for accessing the reservoir. Put up signage as well for conditions to watch for.
Water Policing and rescue capability should be similar to what Calgary has for the bow river
I would rather allow any access, people can recreate elsewhere.
Keep politicians away from it
Clear signage to authorized parking areas and access points. Signage with safety rules before accessing the water.
If you are so concerned with the operation of the dam and the legitimate interest in protecting this property, then by all means, install buoys or other markers, barricades, locks etc, to limit access to those areas. Trespass can be addressed by the courts like any other situation (i.e. you trespass, there is a fine or charge).
Visible signage for safe access points.
Official pathways. Proper signage. Proper access points.
Access for people in the city
The safety starts with the user, the requirements for being safe on the water is no different than any other city of Calgary river related activities
Designated beach areas within a keep-out area for boats. Serviced garbage bins.
N/A

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
The access is very limited. Motor boats are allowed but only those who live on the reservoir have the ability to launch boats. A safe public access point for people both motorized and non motorized is a must. People are unsafely accessing this body of water due to the lack of ifrastruxture
Recreaters should be required to have their own safety equipment to be on the lake
Easy access from a dock/pier or beach-like access. No motorized water crafts. Safe crossing point on the train tracks.
We live in Rockland park where there are train tracks. Accessing the reservoir for water activities would be nice but with the train tracks there's a risk so I think building a foot bridge that would allow folks to access the reservoir safely would be good. In addition to that warning lights and barricade when a train is passing through would be helpful
Emergency a cess and response availability is extremely important.
Fire department patrol boat or boat access for emergencies
Dedicated shoreline access for public.
Time to get real about the safety aspect that is used an excuse to restrict access. Seems like the south side homeowners have manage to survive. Seems like they almost want to protect it as a private lake. Sarcasm intended....
I don't believe safety infrastructure is entirely needed. I believe people need to be responsible for their own, use, gear and actions. Not unlike any other lake or reservoir that is out side of City of Calgary/ TransAlta control.
Safer access points!!!!!!!! People are finding ways down with it without public access points. Having safe monitored public access points keeps people safe and promotes accessibility
Docks. Boat launches. In my opinion if transalta wants to operate the dam and hydroelectric plant they should be paying for all public saftey measures out of pocket as thank you to all citizens for letting the water way be dammed and made less safe
Low-risk recreation is a must, safety measures should prioritize protection of drinking water, public safety, and reservoir operations. This includes designated access points, controlled launch areas, clear hazard signage, restricted zones around critical infrastructure, emergency response capability, water quality monitoring, shoreline protection measures, invasive species controls, and ongoing enforcement. Any recreational access should be carefully managed and subject to continuous review.
Having a place where the general public could more easily access the water would eliminate risks that may have to be taken to access from currently known points. Glenmore is a similar waterbody in a sense that the drinking water for the city comes from the Glenmore dam. Having access to Bearspaw for those who live close by would be a wonderful alternative location for potential water access. Maybe rules along the lines of Glenmore would help mitigate risk for interested parties.
Good cell phone coverage
Better Access, since the north stairs were removed
It should be the same as it is for other parts of the river. I don't understand why this is such an issue. When all throughout Calgary Cochran and other areas you can access the river and people swim and paddle board and kayak all over it. Yes, the reservoir is there but it's not the only reservoir on this River and it seems that the reason why we're having problems with it right now is because the rich people don't like how everyone has access and they want it to be their private little area.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
It should be no different than Ghost Lake which also had a dam and is the same water (water temp) as Bearspaw. I've spent years recreating on and in Ghost Reservoir. A safe launch site for kayaking, etc, some form of cell coverage
The Bearspaw reservoir is a body of water with the same risks and hazards as any other lake or reservoir in the province. There is plenty of room to manage a seperation of the east end of the reservoir (dam operations) from the greater area. Signage and booms are already in place in these areas. Creating a useable upstream and downstream access point would naturally limit usage below the downstream takeout point.
Not sure
First aid stations, safety alert button (like on trains etc) to alert authorities. Having city come out to test water regularly. Have it patrolled
Easier access points
Designated access/exit points and clearly marked safe and unsafe areas.
Other sections of the river are not managed in such a way. They onus is on the river user to assess the risk and conduct themselves accordingly.
Actual public access via road rather than gatekeeping by existing residents.
I don't think it needs more infrastructure, or very small and non-intrusive. The natural areas should be kept as is.
Pedestrian railway crossing to River downstream from dam.
Safe and easy accessibility. I am a Senior and the north side is not accessible to me. Easy handicapped accessibility to the water and closer parking would be very nice.
Other than a no go zone around the dam itself, access to the entire body of water for all members of the public is important. The safety measures for this reservoir should be no different than any other body of water in Alberta.
I frequently access a body of water that fluctuates up to 40 feet seasonally. There is limited emergency services and very limited access to contact those services. You need to be prepared as accept the risks. Don't do stupid things. Pay attention to wind and weather. Use your pfd. Know where the hazards are.
If more access were given to conservation restrictions, proximity to dam restrictions, Portage exit at Bearspaw dam need embellishment. The normal boating signage like lifejackets, and water safety are a must. Neophyte non motorized users are in of themselves unpredictable of their abilities and as the lake has limited access and on water safety resources they could find themselves in situations (not unlike the yearly incidents of people having incidents with bridge abutments or weirs).
It would be nice to have a recreation rental shop there for kayaks, canoes, paddle boats, etc.
All the above aforementioned items, comparable to the Glenmore reservoir. If people are already using the Bearspaw reservoir for their recreation purposes, then it should be accessible for the public to use as well. It's obviously safe if people are already using it.
Docks with ladders for ingress/egress. Concrete stairs into the water. Posted safety requirements and suggestions. Site specific safety education campaigns. Emergency response connected phone at access points. Restricted access
Cell service and cameras
I personally do not think others need to take responsibility here - I always paddleboard with a friend and wear a PFD. Signs should be posted, but people engages their own risk. Ensuring safe access removes some of the risk assumed.
A pathway around the reservoir with designated access points to the water. The biggest risk I see isn't with the water but with the rail line that must be crossed to access the water. Safe railroad crossings should be considered.
Keep city council out of it. They make it dangerous and more complicated.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Do it all. Make it world class.
Access points need to be managed with education to inform what types of access is allowed using specific equipment guidelines. One type of access should not dominate an area (i.e car/trucks should be planned to safely be used, if at all, around pedestrian, cyclists and other users. All users of the site are responsible for safety with emphasis on the larger the vehicle or equipment the greater the responsibility. Sites should be minimal for access and entry but installed for high use.
Motorized water vehicles are unsuitable for the reservoir and are a safety risk. If access is to carry-able watercraft this will prevent many concerns about inappropriate use and risk to water quality.
Give proper access to ordinary users but probably limit it to foot access only with an ability to provide easier emergency vehicle access through a locked gate or something.
stop power boats. Then paddle boarding/canoeing can occur without risk of injury
Easy access to shore. This allows the ability to exit when condition change, or to assist others.
Safe acess sites, thereby not wrecking shoreline. Enforcement of litter bylaws. Definitely no motorized skidoos etc.
Same as use the bow river for paddle boarding or floating
Common sense
Emergency response availability. A large user group will be families that may not have water awareness and may assume if the area is open to the public, emergency services are available.
The Bearspaw reservoir does not have any significant amount of flow, it is a very stable body of water. Wind is the biggest challenge. Awaress of sudden wind change information is recommended. Since there is very few motorized boat access points, the reservoir is already restricted to the amount of motorized activity which currently has a healthy balance. Since the north side has the train tracks, and the south side has private properties, public access points are already limited.
Not accessible paths. I don't mind finding/making a path to a reservoir but a more designated paths to it would be safer for everyone
Make it clear that the Bearspaw reservoir is a natural area and that all users are responsible for their own safety.
From a public safety perspective this waterbody should not be treated or managed any different then any other waterbody in Alberta. Don't over think this, or find a solution to a problem that may not even exist.
Limit the horsepower for boats or have no motorized boats. Have safe easy access for public not steep banks.
More of a shore/ beach line would help. It is difficult to get to the water.
A public park with access to launch should be a priority.
Safe access points and docks Wind forecast or guidelines for safe human-powered boating if the wind picks up The lack of formal access points is a huge challenge for recreational human powered boaters
Easier access and more parking areas for users would also improve response times in the rare instances when aid is required
A parking lot and a pathway and a dock that are public access
Pathways or easier/accessible access points. An area for swimming would be nice to have a dock or shoreline access
Better larger beaches and access areas with gradual sloping terrain to water. Provide more areas that are next to the water. I have visited many reservoirs in the United States that take full advantage of the water and have created day use areas along the resevoirs where paddling and swimming are encouraged.
A life jacket station like at glenmore reservoir and harried passage would be good

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
.. a public access point?? Why did you remove it? You are the reason there's limited safety availability; you have made it less safe for people to access safety support.
Presence of wake boats.
Unblock the illegally blocked road for access. You know what you're doing with this. Everyone can see past it.
Docks and boat ramp same as Ghost dam
It would be helpful to improve safe lake access for swimming by creating a proper entry point, clearing the shoreline and shallow areas of silt, branches, and debris, and adding a small designated access area with clear safety guidance. Since the reservoir has important safety and water-quality concerns, any recreation improvements should stay low-cost and low-impact, with a focus on managed access rather than major construction.
Fines if not wearing proper pfd, just one access point, signs with safety recommendations.
A proper roadway for emergency vehicles. Possibly volunteer medics like on a ski hill. Washrooms down by the water
The reservoir should primarily be for drinking water not recreational use. Find somewhere else to play. Humans are inherently dirty.
formal access for emergency services (there's too many users now to not have reliable response).
Established entry points with mandatory safety equipment verification. On water spot checks with fines or barred access until issue is fixed. Large electronic signs providing information such as wind speed water temp, etc.
I think people should be responsible for their own safety.
A boat launch available to the public. There is one, but it has been renamed a portage route. A public boat launch would make it safer for everyone because more people would be on the water.
public boat launch on both sides of the reservoirs. Ensuring that both rigid AND inflatable kayaks are permitted. Ensuring that paddleboarding is allowed.
I think is more dangerous to go floating down the river due to the currents.
Where are all these people using bearspaw marina going to the bathroom? In our drinking water! This marina has no place being on the reservoir. This is a matter of public safety, it is our drinking water. Why is he still there?
I believe users should be prepared for the conditions and responsible for their own safety.
Partner with the Emerald Bay community to allow emergency services a formal water-access agreement at their existing private dock, since it is already a maintained launch point on the reservoir. Pair this with live condition cameras/weather monitoring (as at Ghost Lake) and maintained, marked informal access points elsewhere on Bearspaw, plus rescue throw-lines and posted emergency contacts, to close the on-water rescue gap without new construction.
Improved safe public access points with posted information
A bridge or walkway connecting the community of Rockland Park to the reservoir for low risk recreation would arguably reduce the number of people crossing the train tracks beside the reservoir. This allows community members to safely enjoy the reservoir while reducing any incidents associated with the train
Investment should prioritize shoreline stabilization, erosion control, and protecting wildlife habitat and water quality. Any long-term access plan should also address the railway along the east side of the reservoir by providing clearly identified, legal crossings, as it presents a genuine public safety concern for anyone accessing the reservoir.
Like Glenmore, a PFD loan system. Access points for emergency responders (even if that is in addition to public access). Information signage. Emergency help phone at access points. And, SUFFICIENT ACCESS POINTS. If you don't make sufficient approved access points, people will make their own.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
And why do I have to click a reCAPTCHA for EVERY SECTION?!
Controlled access point, with a user fee in order to maintain facilities and have staff onsite to manage. Access only for non-motorized craft with appropriate safety equipment on board allowed. No swimming permitted.
There doesn't seem to be many access points for emergency boats to rescue someone who is drowning or the boat overturned same with paddle boarding canoeing how fast can rescue get to them without more access points
Multiple points of public access.
Ability to hike and walk trails alkng the river, allow for access to enjoy rock throwing or wading into the river
Generate the opportunity for people to easily access the water and evaluate relevant risks. Think about Johnston lake near Banff, or a non lifeguarded beach on the coast where we balance opportunity, education, and risk. Create access opportunities like strategic entry and exit points to the water, or even places to encourage certain activities (think about an engineered shallow space like off of Waikiki beach where walls create a calmer section for some users). Seize this great opportunity!
Boat launch facilities (sailboat or kayak); wildlife
The residents along the reservoir are familiar with conditions and how to use it properly and safely. Day users like those from the Bearspaw Marina pose a high risk. They are unfamiliar with the reservoir and often completely inexperienced with water activities. They scatter all over the reservoir, often getting far too close to the dam or too far downstream or downwind to return to the marina without walking along the shoreline or being rescued by a power boat. We see this all the time!
There shouldn't be any recreational activities
Have green orange and red flags for access, as the man made lakes do. A red flag would prohibit activity on the lake due to unsafe conditions or provide a warning of unsafe conditions.
The water is supper high and not safe what so ever. Needs to slow down as well
Make public access to the reservoir readily and conveniently accessible. That would be low risk.
ractical measures that would significantly improve public safety include: Strong encouragement or mandatory use of approved life jackets. Clear hazard signage identifying operational areas and seasonal risks. Public education regarding dam operations, weather conditions and safe boating practices. Clearly designated launch areas. Continued coordination with emergency responders
Signage, education, safety docks along the perimeter.
A dock for launching canoes.
Better access. The city actually blocked the road prior to making it more difficult to access the Marina now. Quite upsetting actually. The city is too involved and controlling. There needs to be better public access to the area. This whole thing has been ridiculous. I watched the last council meeting in this and the city council didn't even consider the 300 letters written on this issue. I was utterly disgusted.
Having stairs rebuilt to access the reservoir on the south side would ideal. The previous stairs were not very safe, but at least it allowed access to the reservoir.
Stairs down from Rockland or something would be safer Better access- haskayne is like a km to get down with a board

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
I know that wind and currents can make it a bit sketchy
Amount of mosquitoes
We have a public reserve that has access to the river. A good solid stairway built by volunteers was recently removed after a lady complained she had slipped on it. No there is nothing but a muddy slippery access with a rope for safety. This is dangerous and a proper stairway should be put in place . People still access the river despite a no river access sign by RVC. The Bearpaw Marina is illegal but still exists it should not be allowed to continue its operations, no one reinforced the law
Bridge across the railway tracks
Safe access/egress with lower travel time than current in the event of an emergency.
Multiple entry and exit points. So that if the wind blows in one direction or the other it isn't a huge fight to get back to the exact same area. Same As how the bow river has multiple drop sites
Proper dock and boat ramp.
No comment
No motorized boats (unless required for water rescue) or motorized personal crafts like jet skis or seadoos
designated access points
Safe access to the reservoir that would be compatible with safety connected with the railroad. Educational signage and messaging related to safe boating. Restrict motorized boats to keep toxic materials away from reservoir and prevent user conflicts.
Canadians are not very water wise. It is however an individuals responsibility and shouldn't stop others from being allowed to enjoy water
Clear paths, access in and out to the reservoir
Easier access should be provided
More access points for non motorized water use,
Elevated walkway to preserve vegetation and unobtrusive dock options, access to shoreline for shore fishing and exit from water. Make it walkable so I don't have to use some motorized way to get there
Public boat launch.
Not sure
Entry/exit points and parking. A waterfront area would be great
Boat launches where it would be easy to rinse Kayaks/sups/boats and carry them down. Washrooms
Trails or pathways to the water/shallows. Clear communication on acceptable use of the reservoir
Reservoir access can be managed safely with clear rules, not just restrictions. I support designated access points, posted water level/wind information, emergency markers, rescue equipment, and low-impact recreation like kayaking, canoeing, rowing, sailing, and paddleboarding. Better bike/pathway connections, including Bowness to Haskayne Park, would also improve safe access without adding vehicle traffic.
More accessibility to the water plan
Similar infrastructure amenities as the Glenmore Reservoir
Designated parking areas vs road parking near Springbank Links
Limiting motor-crafts.
Make sure the area is clearly labelled and that the access has a good landing platform. Have a safety device that is available and evaluated monthly. Create a poster that clearly outlines risks. No drinking or recreational drugs and ensure people are cleaning up after themselves. Floating devices must be appropriate for river use. We need to ensure that they are clean due to the risk posed by invasive species.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Posted safety information
Safe access points for the public
Emergency phone or beacon installed near main access points, frequent and consistent presence of enforcement officers. If this area is opened further to the public it will become very popular very quickly.
designated put in and takeout points. encourage responsible use
Pathways, emergency features, and public washroom.
Good signage. Emergency response like any other waterbody in Alberta. Potential flag system for weather
Most well used lakes and rivers in Alberta are not patrolled, are not conducive to timely rescues and lack access infrastructure. Create 1 or 2 public access points on the reservoir and post intelligent signage about the risks. Perhaps EPA Conservation Officers could be deployed to occasionally patrol these areas, like other public lands (the water in Bearpaw is public land). I find the safety concerns re: recreation use are overstated and should not override positive recreation benefits.
Paths, places to park and launch
I believe that if there was a public dock or “boat launch” that could be made similar as the one currently at ghost Lake Reservoir along with perhaps a small access road that emergency vehicles could access could promote safe low risk recreation. I also think that if public access was limited to just non-motorized water vehicles such as paddle boards, kayaks, and canoes that this could also help with keeping the recreation, low risk and protecting water quality
Official entry and exit sites.
Clearly defined entry point with public safety boom downstream of these activities, such as immediately near that floating wharf in Haskayne park.
A public boat launch should be added
Signage, none motor boats on water, launch pads, and picnics areas. Safety for children
Answers above suffice.
A safe entry point on the north side with signage on proper use. A way to safely cross the railway tracks
Gosh, I don't know
Posted conditions, rules, considerations and fines. No business operations cluttering up the shore
Access to the lake itself. It is nearly impossible without significant effort
We do not support any water recreational use of the dam because of the importance of it as a drinking water supply for a huge number of people! If no one was allowed to go on or in the resevoir you would not need any safety support which is very costly to provide.
Clear signage must be placed not to access the water and one must stay away from the banks to prevent erosion. Then there must be consequences for people who do. That is lacking now. At Haskane there are signs but people still go to the lake.
Keeping non-motorized watercraft off the reservoir
Safe access points, but more usage creates more potential for contamination. I’ve seen motorized boats there and wonder if that impacts drinking water quality.
Formal maintained access and egress.
no
If people will be allowed to access- strict rules about where to access, what kind of activities, and service for garbage etc. because it is drinking water ban motorized activities/ dogs in water? Haskayne park is sadly already

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
full of off leash issues- watched an off leash dog chase a deer.... I guess birds/nests/ducks are now going to be on the list too...
None just avoid using it for recreation and leave it be natural and untouched for once maybe mow the lawn and get rid of foxtail barley and leave us alone
Users of the Bearspaw Reservoir should do so at thier own risk. No swimming. Key things include safe access points from the City of Calgary lands including the Park and the ability to call for help.
Don't know
Posted access's on each end Info. Route around the dam.
Ensure access for first responders similar to how they can access the Bow river below the dam.
Understanding the reality that this is a working dam, proper public communication can alleviate concerns around changing conditions and dam operations. Clear public signage and communication on websites and social media should be enough for most of the population to understand when and why access may be restricted. Clear public access points with parking and amenities will also ensure signage is seen and followed.
Better access to the water.
Life Guard
Limit Access. The river should be thought of first as nature and not a recreation facility. This is home to various birds, fish, and other animals. Please put in place strict regulations to protect the beautiful bow river. A large percentage of current users either leave garbage, damage the shorelines, or chase wildlife away. So why do we want to invite more to use the water?
Ensuring residents don't block access to public or emergency services.
Floating docks
A road to it, for one thing.
Easily accessible rescue boat access. ie: a boat ramp for non-motorized boats as well as motorized rescue boats
Depending on budgets, a response team similar to the Glenmore Reservoir could be implemented. Otherwise signage and educating users on safety is important. Having a mandatory life jacket policy helps save lives. The AWA and the life saving society are great resource for water safety. A collaboration with them on signage and education could help keep people safe. A flag system that indicates conditions could also be helpful.
Maintained access for paddlesport put in/take out locations. This encourages paddlers to travel known routes which are safe & known for emergency response.
It needs to be accessible period whereas today there are issues with land owners blocking access. Similar safety features to the Glenmore Reservoir
A river side path with accessible beach area or the marina where we could rent and use equipment and life jackets as well as the presence of safety professionals.
Please see previous answers as they also apply here

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Formal access points, stairs and docks. Life-saving equipment, signage, and other tools for prevention and rescue. Better cell reception.
Ensuring that there are posted information and instructions in case of emergency. Providing an emergency call phone on a pole/post in case someone does not have a cell phone.
Bridge or tunnel across the rail tracks! Fencing to make it clear where I can and can't be in relation to the tracks. Signage of what / when legal access to the water means. Siren/loudspeaker from the dam operators of water level changes to signal people off the reservoir. Use at own risk signage for winter thin ice risk.
Public access rights not impeded by a bunch of corporate shills In by law and police uniforms.
Build a road with a ramp and a parking lot similar to the Baker park. People riding the Bow river downstream get to way dangerous safety conditions than on a practically lake, what is the Bearspaw Reservoir.
The embankment on the south side is steep, and the stairway that was in place was appreciated before it was removed.
Its fine the way it is. What do you have in place for ghost reservoir? Make it like Ghost reservoir.
Easy access, call boxes for emergencies. But there needs to be personal responsibility.
Public launch and access
Clear access points and signage. Maybe a map of where you are able to get entry. I haven't used the reservoir despite wanting to as the only access from Rockland Park seems questionable and I'm unsure about other access when not using rental services at the marina
Use your access for watercraft
Access to emergency personal, cell phone service, signage, oversight.
Multiple access points on both the north and south shores, a large chained off area similar to the dam on barrier lake near the dam, I believe no gas motorized boats should be allowed, electric and personal powered only, like a lot of good lakes are. Keeps it from getting out of control like ghost.
Accessible clearly marked pathways to reservoir level that are useable at most water levels. PFD lending stations.
Public access to launch non-moterized water crafts.
Allowing public access that does not require the public to "sneak" on to the reservoir could allow eome management of users - for example signage with requirements for usage.
I defer to those that are 'experts' in this field and would trust that regulations or changes reflect current safety and environmental protocols.
I think the existing infrastructure is fine
Restricting access to only human powered watercraft, meaning no motor powered watercraft
It would be great to have an established access point to access the reservoir and then public services nearby (ie washrooms). That should also help make it easier for EMS to access if needed.
An access point with easier water access and a safe crossing of the rail line from Rockland park or nearby
They could build a boat launch so the fire department could access the river.
Installing approved rail crossing infrastructure on the north side of reservoir to allow for safe and managed recreational access.
Bearspaw Marina allows safe and responsible access to the reservoir
It's on the person accessing the water to be smart. You don't need a government or city or fire departments. Stop wasting money. Put the ownes on the people
Appropriate public parking (large enough lot) and access to the East end of the resevoir.
Easier access poibts

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Path and shore for launching kayaks/paddleboards/ non motorized boats. Picnic tables and
Emergency response is important and right now I do not think there is easy access for response.
Actually having accessibility to it. By making it hard to get to, you the city make it unsafe. Also, the use of the water is not owned by the people in their million dollar homes. Accessibility should be for everyone. They purposely go out of their way to block ways to get there. How is that fair?!
It should be like mountain lakes, use at own risk but post clearly not too wordy, things like mandatory life jackets and dress for the water temp not air temp. Similar to signage in recent years at Barrier Lake. People should not be heading out without checking winds etc on own but if they do it is own risk. Access to safe entry points is just as important in my opinion.
Convenient road access to launch points
Once more, and hopefully you're getting what I'm going for here, ban all motorized use on the water. Other than search and rescue perhaps. And keep an extreme limit on development. Preferably zero.
Public access points with ability to get in and out of the water safely. I.e beach, ramps, stairs, etc. Also, safe access across the rail tracks.
-
Defined access points
Suggest security cameras at variouspoints along the reservoir - but that may require staff to monitor them.
Formal access points
Why just low risk users, if you make the large body of water make it accessible for power boats.
A good dock
Safe access to cross the train tracks
Adding proper pedestrian train track crossing locations. Development on the shore to enhance recreational use and provide access improved access points
No motorized boats or Jet-Skis.
It has been used successfully now isn't it? A public dock? What does Glenmore Reservoir have in place? Monitor water levels, flow...
This is a red Herring. The reservoir is fine, this is just an excuse for more regulation and restrictions.
Entrance and exit points made obvious (signage) and information about the safety of the reservoir water on that day (ie: like the coloured flags at a beach - could also be available online and kept timely/up to date with water conditions)
Policing the private landowners currently on the reservoir. Including the Bearspaw reservoir in the area monitored by the Calgary Police Service (boats)
Public access to the water for recreation.
Better access points for both users and rescue personnel. Mandatory wearing of PFD's.
Additional access points on the North side of the Reservoir
This is a distraction. The issue is rich people trying to keep public away from the water.
none
Honestly what is there currently is good. The marina is great. A few access points for people would be good and perhaps signage for people to know the risks. We cannot bubble wrap everyone, some credit must be given to the choices people make.
There aren't many or any official access points along the route on the map. Access points in the city are crowded and I think people try to create their own to spread out.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
No different than any other lake., or floating down bow river on a tube
Allowing the marina to operate under strict rules
There is no excuse to not have access for first responders on the reservoir. The informal access points are dangerous but the reservoir itself isn't inherently more dangerous than floating down the bow River. Make public access a priority and have access for CFD watercraft and ambulances
No more recreation on it would be the safest.
Proper dock areas accessible to the public.
1 to 3 designated access points with safety information and safe ways to access. Potential for Recreation or a private vendor to operate there as well.
Need more parking and access points.
None
Establish public access points with properly constructed ramps to launch all types of boats (kayaks, canoes, rafts). Access points have road and parking available.
A safe pedestrian railway crossing.
Signage for current flow rate.
There needs to be a level of individuals looking after themselves and their safety. Patrol is not necessary and it would be based on use at your own risk. In the event of an emergency there is the Bearspaw Fire station.
Safe shoreline access path or dock
Netting around dam. Clear entry and exit spot. No motorsports. Garbage cans on site And maybe even an AED / emergency phone
None
Boat launches, water quality monitoring, change rooms, cafe, beaches, swimming zones.
I believe the fire department should have a boat ramp easily accessible if an emergency occurs. Second to this I would like to see an accessible ramp created so everyone can float the reservoir. I also believe people need to be responsible for their own safety and wellbeing and would not want to see tax dollars or an access fee attached to life guards posted around the reservoir.
Designated area for launching non motorized watercraft
The entire water front should have been made public, for future parks. Pathways, water access, picnic areas.
Safe access for boats, inflatable SUPs and fishing. Piers for fishing and enjoying views. Safe railway crossing from Rockland park. Boat rental with assistance in emergencies
Again which govt entity has jurisdiction?
None. The less access to the public the cleaner and more untouched the area will stay. High density development on the north shoreline would cause tons of issues and concerns
Availability of access points.
Access should not be allowed
Easy access & parking. Buoys to mark the do not enter areas. Rules & Regulations that are reasonable, not ridiculous just to try to deter people as some would not respect it if it is too outrageously stated. Educational events at the access areas.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Zones should be created and enforced, based on recreation type. Patrol boats utilized on weekends and holidays. No alcohol allowed.
Proper dock or ramp for easy entrance into the reservoir for non motorized water vehicles
A public launch area for entering the reservoir would be nice. It is also fine the way it is now. A crossing across the railway track would also be appreciated, or if people are allowed to use the ones already there, that would be good.
Safe, well marked entry points. There is no need for extra emergency services. People should be able to make their own risk assessment same as in any lake or park outside city limits.
Continued police prescence in the river
Define and enforce existing legislation relevant to operating businesses on the reservoir and how they and their customers access the water itself.
Improved emergency access and communication is needed, but sensible use should be expected.
A proper launching area, parking lot, and access to the parking lot from a road. I am a very experienced paddler and ease of access should be provided to those who are experienced. Novice boaters may need more oversight. Access to the Ghost Reservoir works in this manner.
-Life jackets mandatory -Emergency response available -"No go" zone closer to the dam -Careful monitoring of weather and wind conditions (Bearspaw marina already does a great job of this) -No motorized boats- except marina safety boats and emergency response boats. Currently some homeowners who have river access use fast powerboats and even water skis. This is a safety risk when you have numerous other people out in canoes or paddle boats.
Ultimately making access official will make it safer as more people on the water will be able to provide safety in numbers (ie call for help, aid in rescue) and the access itself will be safer. Other ideas include - Official launch that can be closed when conditions are unsafe (Flood, Too Cold, ect) - Lifejacket enforcement and loaner station - Safety boat run by the whatever marina is allowed to rent at the lake as part of a lease agreement.
You don't need much other than signage specific to dam operations. We need to create a culture of people being responsible for themselves. It's up to the public to get educated on the specific boating skills, safety and knowledge about our area climate, weather patterns, water temps etc.
Too many power boaters, jet skis, etc currently.
Patrols and controlled public access points
Safe and secure access points for paddlers and fisherpersons, paved pathway linking Calgary to Cochrane, secure access points for emergency rescues if needed - treat the area in the same way that the stretch of waterway in Calgary including the Glenmore reservoir is treated and serviced
Emergency access
Need better access from Tuscany / rock land park.
Gates around the area with a lock to prevent access during times with no life guard.
Safer access - boat launch
A proper access point (or more) Posting general info about risk, phone number to call if help required
Formal access points (rad connected). Availability of stable shore-fishing sites. Access to the Calgary to Cochrane bike path. Cellular coverage.
Railroad crossing and pathway for access from Rockland park.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Actually making it easy to use. It ia like a certain group don't want it used and their goal is to make it hard to do so.
I don't think I would want to access this reservoir if there is no emergency response. At least if I float down the river with lazy day rafts, there are patrol boats around, so I know I'm more safe. This is still a river, and if someone were to fall in, that water is cold. So there needs to be emergency response there.
People need to use common sense. Education might help.
People should use Bears paw lake at their own risk. Maybe boats have to be inspected and approved to ensure they don't have any liquid leaks.
Entry and exit points, emergency response, no motorized water craft
Suggest security cameras - or their like - at various points to monitor the reservoir. Howevre that usually requires staff to monitor them.
VERBATIM COMMENTS (INFORMATION SESSION)
Limited formal access
No dedicated emergency
Private property access
Equalize access similar to other dams across the province
Public tax money built the dam – public needs a say. Thank you!
Personal liability
Same as other dams – no motor through, paddle board
There is personal liability in walking, biking, etc. Boating is no different.
No different than Glenmore

VERBATIM COMMENTS | Protecting dam operations and water management

Q9 WHAT INFORMATION WOULD HELP YOU BETTER UNDERSTAND HOW RESERVOIR AND DAM OPERATIONS AFFECT ACCESS, SAFETY AND RECREATION?

Long answer

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
I would like to understand why there is a sudden need to change anything at all. This place has existed peacefully for decades and has been enjoyed by residents with no issues.
info on internet
Just stay off the water. Would recommend no recreation.
Open house, in person forums
Don’t know
To know back up studies
Put a area boundary in place for watercraft, then people can enjoy the access within those boundaries. i.e. don't go past a certain point that is close to the actual dam wall
Most experienced boaters and paddlers understand those considerations. Introducing many novices is a significant risk management issue. Restricted access has limited novice use and risk of injury or fatality.
It is always a worry about getting stuck/swept into the dam. Clear barriers, large signs on/near the water and good take out/portage points are essential.
The reservoir has a thick layer of sediment on the bottom from the recent flood events. Water was managed much better in 2006 flood than in 2013. The reservoir needs to be kept at a lower level to keep water velocities

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
higher when there is heavy silt loading to prevent the heavy sediment build up. This practice would also provide more retention volume available to control flow for downstream flood prevention. The silt bottom makes this lake unsuitable for beach or swimming.
flow of water, level of water, protection from getting close to the dam
I am sure Trans Alta knows a head of time if they will be doing a massive change in water levels/flow so notification ahead of time would be sufficient and a closure if needed due to drastic changes but when has that ever happened and how have the private residents dealt with this issue for the many previous years since private houses have been built on the shoreline?
Signage near the revisor to inform public of currents will be strong due to dam operations, minimum distance to stay away from the dam
The same access and availability should be available as it is in the Ghost Dam site.
Historical data showing variability of reservoir level
Education in small bites shared with the public. Local ads and info available at local markets and events.
Just have signs at access points. If flood gates open, there just should just be an alarm sound or flashing light on the dam (or both) or something.
Build parking lots with access to reservoir. Put up a sign that says dont swim past the rope near the dam. Then put in the dont cross me rope(already exists). Then if people get in in trouble for doing something stupid, put up a poster at the parking lot so other people can learn something and be less stupid. Beyond that, my safety while recreating should not be your concern.
I don't need any info, been taught to stay away from dams and although they can fluctuate flows it's not like it drains in 10 mins; downstream safety and making sure all downstream users throughout the country have access to what they need flow wise is most important
open houses about Dam operations.
I wish TransAlta would give waterfront property owners some communications on water levels (at either end, high or low). Similar to a tide chart we use on the coast
online info about how the dam works would be helpful. Also there is someone who wants to put in a new community at Klippert gravel pit area. check out discoverspringbank.com. it looks like they want river access. how would they provide water for the 40+new homes?
unsure
More detail as to dam operations and how potential impacts on safety will be managed if the reservoir is more extensively used for recreation purposes.
none
Awareness, Education.
explain dam operations
Compare concerns to other dam operations across the province to learn and improve on what is currently working/ not working in other locations
500 characters or less: Provide clear information on how dam operations affect water levels, currents, debris, and changing hazards; the operational constraints required for hydroelectric generation and flood management; historical safety incidents and near misses; emergency response limitations; and how these factors influence safe public access. Mapping seasonal and real-time operational risks would help the public understand why certain areas or activities may need to be restricted.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Clear information on how water levels, flows, currents, debris, ice conditions, and hydroelectric operations change throughout the year and how these affect public safety. The Management Plan should also explain how future residential growth, increased recreation, and cumulative impacts will be managed to ensure public safety, protect dam operations, and safeguard the Bearspaw Reservoir as a critical drinking water source for the Calgary region.
The Ghost dam and recreational use is an example of how a properly managed water body can operate. Illegal marinas without business licences and safe access should be stopped
More development of recreational areas and public access ti the river. Rocky view has taken away access and dock for kayaks etc and fishing. in the county property in the area in which I completed this survey.
Look at what is done at the Ghost Reservoir
The Ghost Reservoir has operated for years with little to no issues. Two boat launches, campground and local businesses. To deny access for the public will providing wealthy landowners solo access does not serve the greater community.
Same as all the others, signs, floats(markers) or buoys to mark the unsafe areas, but it should all be the same. The Ghost dam is open to public use and it has a hydro development on it. These dams were created with public money, so the should be accessible to the public.
Warning signs, protected perimeter prior to reaching the dam, do not cross line, exist access in advance of the dam.
I am aware of the water quality issues. I think the release of untreated sewage from communities upstream and from agricultural activities pose more of a risk than recreational users
Tours of the dam, posters with explanations and diagrams, website with info.
signage and proper fence maintenance
knowing when water levels are changing
You need to make sure it is safe, limit commercial access.
water level and dam flows, safe distance from dam. currents.
Knowing when or under what conditions water flowing through the dam may be faster or rising
None
Need to have the 'keep out' buoys by the dam, but further upstream of the dam it's essentially a lake and water levels & current changes a lot less than being in the river portion, so it is safer.
It would help if TransAlta was more forthcoming with its operational plans for it's entire Bow River network of dams and reservoirs. It operated pretty well with the long term employees prior to the 2013 flood. However, "new" operators in 2013 that were less familiar with the overall network of dams MIGHT have caused some of the Calgary flood of 2013. Make recreationalists aware of how you are operating the Bearspaw Dam (when drawn down, when releases from upstream, etc.)
Produce modern public education materials provided and delivered to Albertans/Calgarians/RVC'ers.There is accountability on the part of the municipalities and TransAlta to provide safety and operational information to the public.
Currents are deep and slow, water level never moves more than 5 or 6 inches in spite of what the Cities website says. The community here has used the reservoir for 30 years safely without issue, because there is none. During that time having access has allowed rescues of wayward rafters and tubers, and has allowed fire and rescue access to attend to Cochrane injuries to drink tubers... Access that is paid to be maintained by us.
There's a severance line for the reservoir which is meant for operation of the reservoir and is akin to a land right. However this is largely unknown and wholly ignored by landowners living adjacent and building docks into the reservoir and recreators who believe they have unfettered access

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Alberta's are accustomed to changes in reservoirs and this poses little challenges for non motorized recreational users. If there are no barriers before the dam they could be added but I believe they already exist. Typical signage would be more than. Enough.
Website from dam operators indicating time and nature of activities
If the maximum is 10,000 homes what does Calgary think it's doing adding more and more population. The river comes first.
This dam is no different than the Ghost Dam up river. The same issues and challenges have existed for many years, and have been successfully managed by all the same parties that use and manage the area.
Notified (via a recreation user list) if the water level is lower than the ice. Notified of the timing of when water levels are changing (especially when they are being lowered)
Have a dedicated website where users can find information on current and expected operations, especially changes in operation.
More information on dam operations over a typical year
None.
I have most of a master's degree in energy engineering, including hydrodam design and operation. No more info needed. Tell people the water level fluctuates. They will understand.
Reports on opening and closing the dam flow rate expectations predictions and run off reports vis reports. It is like chocolate milk some days others its quite nice. Underwater for visibility. Others may be interested in more climate and environmentals and historical data.
The posting all relevant information that affects users with explanations.
Social media page or website advising if river use is safe
Have pulbic announcements when relasing large volumns of water
Signs around access points
Nothing. They have marker buoys. People follow the rules or not. It’s the risk a few may take but shouldn’t punish the majority by further restricting access.
warning sign, that has worked at glenmore and ghost for decades. Website update on contions and power generation managed by Transalta.
Don’t know
Information on the reservoir and dam operations
A
Information is already posted in and around the operational area of the Reservoir and Dam, and readily available from TransAlta upon request.
I understand how it works. Users would benefit from only having supported main access at the west end of the reservoir, avoiding paddler interaction with the dam unless paddlers aim to specifically portage to continue down the bow river.
Fun touch exhibits
more info
Nothing would help. I've worked in the power gen industry and understand the system. How Calgary got a bee in its bonnet about Bearspaw is purely a matter of proximity. The same watershed includes Ghost Reservoir (arguably the busiest recreational water body with a short drive from the city), Seebe, Barrier, Lower/Upper Kananaskis Lakes, and Minnewanka/Two Jack Lakes. None of these have cropped up in the draconian restrictions Calgary is considering, yet they're part of the same system.
Just like the Glenmore Dam ... where there is a huge paddle wheel boat, and multiple other non-motorized activities.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
I care about flooding mitigation in bowness
All the above, perhaps a website dedicated to The reservoir with all important info
Development ideas & plans for feedback. Cycling connection between rockland park to Cochrane
Its signage is fine. Also we can check if boating is permitted on city of Calgary website. Closures because of water levels can be easily found.
Signs and information placard, public notice on Facebook or city webpage
We need to focus on public access to this reservoir. As the population grows we need to get more water access to the public. Just like public access to ghost, glenmore, kananaskis and barrier reservoirs there should be a way to accomplish this.
Alerts send to all when dangerous to be on the reservoir
The public shouldn't be around critical infrastructure. There are plenty of other similar areas for use.
None
N/A
Include a pamphlet in our utilities invoice or mail out to all NW city neighborhoods explaining the Bearspaw Reservoir and Dam operations. Signage explaining how the dam works and safety rules around it.
As already stated in my previous, it's easy to restrict access to the critical areas of the dam and power plant. There is zero need to limit access to the rest of the reservoir. It is a public resource.
None
Signage. A website with clear and well laid out information for people to look up before trying to access the river or reservoir.
Public access to operational water level data and a forecast. Maybe that exists already.
Summary slide deck
Signs
Honest and reliable information openly shared consistently
When does TransAlta adjust water levels and by how much?
Timing of plans
There should be better public access routes. The current routes are often blocked by those surrounding the area.
Understanding at what flow rates does the river become more dangerous.
Maps of acccess points a rules of use.
CPR running parallel to body of water and safe crossing for those who want to enjoy the water.
A list of landowners nearby and their connections to politics
Seems like a pretty minor hydro dam
None
Information on the website, information for residents in HOAs, social media platforms, etc. and signages un the area
Signs
More communication
Signage
I don't know.
Don't need much, pretty straightforward. Feels like this is driven by TransAlta lawyers hijacking this process rather than pragmatic members of the community discussing risks rationally.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Posted signs
I am familiar with dam operations.
Management is not saying no use. Unacceptable.
I look at the shutting down of recreational access of the BPR as a privatization of a public resource. There are many dams in Alberta that have recreational opportunities allowed on them: such as the Ghost, just upstream. That are used every year by Albertans. I believe “public safety” is a convenient phrasing that will allow the slippery slope of privatizing our public waters to continue.
I want to see a plan to how residents of all of Calgary can use the dam
I'm not interested in caring about dam operations. The PRIVATE company needs to accommodate the PUBLIC on ALL PUBLIC WATERWAYS.
I would like to better understand how reservoir operations, fluctuating water levels, currents, debris movement, ice conditions, and emergency releases affect public safety and recreational access. Information on exclusion zones, operational constraints, historical incidents, emergency response capabilities, and how recreational use could impact both dam operations and drinking water protection would help inform responsible decision-making.
Information on a website. Etc
A comparison of what is so different between Ghost Lake (further upstream from Bearspaw) and this water body. Many of the lakes we frequent for fishing and recreational boating are also dams in some form. Just because this body of water is also a dam doesn't mean that there shouldn't be access to it. I understand that not all the activities that are allowed at Ghost are being considered for bearspaw, but being able to go for a paddle near home would be a huge bonus.
Downstream outflow volume reporting and ghost dam inflow reporting
Posted signage.
No concerns
Asd
Knowing if there are times when water comes up.
Like all over the world, people use reservoirs safely without issue. We should follow their examples. Signage public education. Safe access points. All the things that we use with all the other reservoirs and all the other dams throw out Alberta, Canada and the world. This shouldn't be such a controversial issue. We have access to the water.
Ensure users are well aware of the current (ie they should plan to travel westbound first so they can ensure they have energy to get back easily to their launch site (if the current is strong). We navigate these things at ghost Lake and the Mountain Lakes (ie Barrier Lake). I think TransAlta and the city have been heavy handed in denying access. Share information on how it is different for other dammed lakes and explain how you can allow wealthy people direct access but not others
I don’t know what I don’t know.
Signage at developed access points (rather than informal sites) would focus information toward the target audience. Shoreline signage, and booms would be a last resort caution.
Website and maybe social media. I have never know where to find info about the area other than randomly sometimes seeing something in a community Facebook group. A consistent source for official information would be nice.
Actually now that I’m thinking it would be nicer to have this resovoir not have access to rec activities as people can use Glenmore. Let’s keep this one remain natural and safer due to the natural wildlife being closer and also water main issues
Where to access.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
frequently updated water levels and flows
I would like to see setbacks put in place to manage the dam, keep recreational users at least 500m away from any infrastructure.
I understand the issues.
Signage explaining dam operations. Signage clearly displaying current safety conditions (similar to colour coded forest fire risk signage).
Have a big board showing depth, temp and wind conditions at the access point
Readily available explanations of the operations of the dam would be useful for education.
How does opening the dam affect conditions on the reservoir and the safety of users
Posted guidelines for when it is and is not safe to be on the water
It would be helpful to have better access to information on decisions behind dam operations.
Information about any operating activity of the dam that results in changes in water flow, levels and currents on the reservoir.
What is the idea to get the public to safely use a road or anything that would be easier to access the reservoir?
--
Not sure. Maybe finding out what has stopped it being opened before and how it is the same or different than glenmore reservoire.
Information on why, where (e.g., how close to the dam) and when (e.g., time of year) risks are greatest would be helpful in planning any on-water recreation.
The floating booms that keep people away from the dam itself are sufficient safety measures for the reservoir.
clear and transparent information related to operational changes and how that could impact reservoir use and downstream water levels - proactive conversations and advance notice related to changes in ops.
Warning signs, bouys, posters warning of risks.
There are a few selected residences (Emerald Bay) and further up the reservoir that have “exclusive rights” to use the reservoir for recreation - powered and unpowered equipment. I don’t understand how you can make rules for the “general public” and exclude these residents. Safety rules needs to be universal - the public either has access or not - you can’t have 2 sets of safety rules
Unsure
There is signage and access restrictive floatation already in place there just needs to be vigilance on its maintenance to ensure its always there and well maintained. The Bearspaw downriver land used to have access over the tracks. This was removed some years ago. There are many places in Calgary where there are level crossings used by pedestrians. This area access should be re-established for public access and safety in case of extraction requirements at the dam portage area.
This could be posted in signage at access points and distributed via social media and other media.
Posted information regarding safety
Dam operations online dashboard, showing current conditions, warnings for unsafe conditions, and maps of safe/restricted areas. Engineering controls should be implemented around the dam to ensure zero access to dangerous areas.
Actually give information.
Maybe a flag system whereby at legal/formal access points it is red when dam operations make it higher risk like they use at the ocean when the current is particularly strong. Or some sort of alert on a cel phone when you show up at the site advising of conditions.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Alberta introduced one of Canada's first formal dam safety regulatory programs in 1978, following international dam failures, and has continued updating it over the decades.Overall, Alberta has an excellent safety record for major hydroelectric dams.
Na
If access is restricted I would want to understand what makes Bearspaw different then glenmore. In addition the bow river is used upstream and downstream for all recreational activities. If any restrictions were put in place I would need to understand what is special about that point of the waterway. Living near the reservoir I have not observed fluctuations or currents in the water level. I see this as a bit of a scare tactic right now.
beacons or markers to delineate safety zones, website showing current flow rates and expected water level changes.
Don’t need any
Make the dam bigger. Make it more efficient. Make the lake deeper. Do it all. Calgary needs it.
There are many other areas of the Bow river that are dammed and provide hydroelectric power. This is NOT an excuse for preventing or curtailing recreational access.
Established times of day for most change in conditions by dam operations should be listed and updated as these change. Understanding that there are downstream benefits of dam operations (Ice jams etc). Manage expectations of users to allow for operational changes to be made safely. Establish a no go zone that emphasizes a precautionary approach (lots of buffer).
Signs posted in the area, along with website information, would be helpful for understanding how the Reservoir and Dam affect access and safety.
Na
How reservoir and dam operations affect access , safety and recreation.
Good signage with education.
nothing, The speed at which water levels may "change" is a silly reason to restrict access and its not the reason. Address the private land owners, the marina and then either let everyone have access or no one. Ticket for non compliance instead of tacitly permitting some to access and others not.
Bearspaw Reservoir is a common good and not for the enjoyment and profit of certain people
None particularly, I am familiar with reservoir management.
?
The reservoir should be for everyone not just the rich
No information required - there should be no recreational access
Keep posted about the changes - online
Information is already available.
What are the environmental impacts of dam operations and how are they being mitigated? Are there changes that could be made to maintain a high-level of operations while also minimizing envrionmental impacts?
More info posted near the reservoir
The water levels since 2013 have changed very little from day to day operations. There is no noticable current or flow similar to the bow river upstream or downstream. It is a very stable reservoir. The dam has widened it's boundary line in 2025. Over the years, people floating down from Cochrane and portaging canoes, rafts past the dam as essentially stopped. But the dam could provide information where to portage.
Current access points, critical areas of the dam/reservoir where public access should be restricted
Just hope to continue to have access to parks and recreation areas
Interpretive signage, online and on site access to management information and water levels. Visual mapping of currents and demarcation of areas to avoid.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
I suggest that the committee mirrors what happens in other reservoirs across the province. TransAlta will have a good idea on what is required, what works, what doesn't, etc.
N/a
What the flow rate is and the safe distance to maintain from the dam
I want something that's fair for all people not just the people who bought property near the reservoir on the west side on Rocky view County
No additional info
Unsure
Signage in the park would be great once the park is established
None
The public access and recreation on the reservoir should take second priority to Transalta's ability to generate power for the city.
Give access for recreational purposes
Where to stay away, but that is already clear.
Not worried, deal with the same thing at ghost, seebe etc
Signs and updates posted in parking areas of the public access points
A website explaining any restrictions
N/a
A map online and signage at the water front.
Postings of all the relevant information to the public and reasons how the operations affect users. Wouldnt that be already be a responsible and transparent obligation
Not applicable
Clarifying who has access. Is it private (a company had a boat rental business which indicates the access road was private.
N/a
Online user friendly information on water levels Information on water levels at the put in points
Real time updates or a site to check expected conditions
Xx
How is this different than Glenmore?? I don't understand why we don't use the same measures as Glenmore damn and allow public access.
Is there public access right now?
This is a good start
Access map.
How many times do I need to repeat myself in the survey?
It would be interesting to know if it's Transalta, Springbank, Railway or other entities controlling access for hand launching of watercraft.
When, why, how much, how quickly water levels change
Lots
It would help to have clear information about how dam operations affect water levels, currents, and safe access points, so recreation can be planned without putting people at risk. It would also be useful to understand what low-impact improvements are possible while still protecting dam operations, water management, and emergency safety

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Recreational related
I just want more parking and good trails for dog walking
Webside, dedicated.
N/a
Webpage to check if access is available and local weather information
Information for me on the Rockyview website
Flow storage and outlet times and conditions
Unsure. Haven't really interacted with the reservoir. I would love to do triathlon swim practice there if viable and safe though.
Information kiosk on site, flyers to local homes, ads in social media.
How much the levels change without warning.
No extra measures requiredas dam is already roped off
Just basic information should be sufficient.
A website providing current water and weather conditions for the reservoir to determine kayaking feasibility.
Don't know
Nothing further to add.
I understand them already.
NA
Posted information that is accessible to the public
Whether Ghost Dam is doing to be built up more to protect Cochrane and Calgary from future flooding and fresh water supply and electricity
I would be interested to see what information you think would be needed for all users to create a safe environment on the Reservoir. I think I have the information I need to be safe recreating on and in the Reservoir. The areas that are not meant to be entered are well marked on the Reservoir and during changes that occur when we have higher than normal flow I am likely to stay off the Reservoir.
Ensure there is proper signage
Entry/egress is the real risk: Revelstoke Dam shows signage alone isn't enough, since people are still stranded/swamped near the water when levels rise. Bearspaw needs engineered access points (stairs, ramps, defined edges), not just informal dirt trails, paired with audible/visual warnings before releases (as BC Hydro uses at Revelstoke) and real-time level data so users know when it's safe to enter or exit the water.
None for me but for others that may be less informed just posting this information clearly at key access points
- Access points to the reservoir for city staff and community residents - water testing
Public information on access - hours and overall human and wildlife safety
What risk does it pose? I am pretty sure TransAlta keeps a perimeter visible to keep people a safe distance away from the dam.
As one of the closest residents to the dam, I have observed its operations year-round for over 20 years. I would like to better understand the data supporting any claims regarding operational impacts on safety and recreation. I welcome the opportunity for City representatives to visit my property and discuss my firsthand observations and experience.
Billboard signs on site.
Continue to provide publicly available information as the process unfolds.
More information about what recreation is available to the residence of Calgary also how the reservoir and dam affects our drinking water, our leisure time and our environment

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Create specific areas tht enables safe access
Take a lens of making things possible. A zero risk approach is a disservice to the people and all of the benefits of recreation. I think information on how others in the world have made the win-win possible in a situation. Recreation happens now, how do we support it moving forward.
Plans and opportunities to become a citizen member of the committee evaluating the reservoir options.
I don't know.
None
Need to know when gates will close
Live updates on conditions
Details on why you can access Glenmore dam within a few hundred meters, Ghost river dam within a few hundred meters, Wyndham- Carsland dam, but Bearspaw has an 8km zone, and what exactly that 8km zone of public federal water limits me to do
None
I would benefit from communications regarding environmental impact studies/evaluations as long as they communicate in a way that offers comparative, quantifiable results that are digestible to a layperson in order to allow me to make a more informed decision around changing the existing access to the reservoir and dam.
I would like clear public information on daily water levels, expected fluctuations, current/flow risks, wind conditions, dam exclusion zones, and safe launch/access areas. Signage and an online update system would help users understand when recreation is safe and when access should be limited due to dam operations.
Na
Better signage. It's not always access to the water everyone wants. But access to viewing the water. Pathway linkages etc.
None
More posted safety information
I'm not sure what you mean by this question, but if relevant a visual with maps highlighting areas and types of risk would help understand the different variables around the reservoir.
I wish we have a guided walking tour, I know how does it work?
None
Water Levels, run off, recreation contamination, use of private citizens. Safety of children with advisors if necessary Everyone has the use of water not the elite… if the elite have an accident do they have their own safety (fire, ambulance access] NO THEY DO NOT…. you want private you pay for prive, DIG YOUR OWN WATER SOURCE
Flag/sign system. Good safety info like.
The TTF has not provided evidence of realized risks to safety or infrastructure at Bearspaw other than to state that they exist. The Ghost reservoir, Spray Lake, Kananaskis lakes, Oldman dam reservoir, various lakes apart of irrigation districts are damned and all high use recreational lakes. I understand how dams function and I do not see a reasonable risk to dam infrastructure from recreational use of the reservoir, especially non-motorized use.
Safety programs and information boards at access points. Water control is the primary purpose and and why it was approved. Electrical generation is secondary. The dam controls the Bow River flow through Calgary and 2013 was a FAILURE most general public dont know about where TransAlta generation was put above safety of the city. Both up stream dams Bearspaw and ghost were allowed to remain high despite the late snow pack threat.
None. I worked at TransAlta.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
.
When the dam opens and closes.
None
No opinion. I just want everyone in Calgary to have access and awareness of this beautiful area.
The rules and bylaws
Signage at all access points. Webpage information.
Info about real time flow rates and water level variations
That is easily found online for those interested. Information posted at the reservoir should reflect current conditions and risks.
None
Comparisons between other reservoirs- highlighting why one is 'more dangerous' (Bearspaw vs Ghost) with evidence. 'Because i said so ' is not enough. Lack of trust in government is very real.
Easy infographics
I understand how a reservoir dam system work. It must be protected at all cost.
I think lot of paddlers in the area have experience paddling near, and avoiding damage. Buoys to help avoid dangerous areas are useful
N/A
Diagrams, signage
Is it safe to swim in the reservoir? How strong are the currents?
If private residences are allowed along the banks of the reservoir without any restrictions on access then none.
Public information in the city website which will be useful.
Just that you will stop wrecking our quiet area and go away
I think the City does a great job of communicating river safety information. I trust they would do the same for this area.
Water conditions, warning system
Warning Access signage
Public signage at adjacent parks
Limit water activities upstream of the dam for 1 Kilometre and provide emergency response for for those that may be hurt near the dam.
Pdf information
Don't know.
Not sure
General info
Any information helps
Postings. Web pages. Route and water access points.
More hydro power! Ask Trans Alta to install wind turbines, battery or solar panels to generate and store more power!
NA
An infographic detailing the risks involved with perhaps a link/QR code to a video explaining how things operate and what hazards to be aware of.
See previous answer, clear and ongoing communication would be enough.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
None
Tye Northwest part of the city need more bodies of water for residents to enjoy
I'm not sure
Increase monitoring and enforcement by of Alberta Wildlife, RCMP, and TransAlta to educate people. The general public don't read the signs. Most people who access the water don't know it is an actual working dam. I believe the risks are not well understood by people who access the water upstream of the dam where water levels can fluctuate the most.
None
Na
Why do the properties of rich people not affect the access safety and recreation of the reservoir?
As current as possible knowledge of dam release times, water levels and any expected maintenance causing changes to the above 2 and the duration of the maintenance, as close to the extent that can expected as possible.
Signage
Signage, education, maybe an eLearning system that requires user to take before accessing the reservoir.
I use common sense.
None
I refer to calgary.ca for general information. This is a good place to post such information.
N/A
Social media, email, news, community flyer
We just moved to Rockland and have never lived near the river before. Would like more access to safety instructions and advice and how we can keep our rivers safe and clean. Maybe flyers to the Rockland neighborhood?
Public information signs at places like Haskayne or Glenbow to raise awareness around dam operations
Daily schedules of dam activities, signage for fluctuating water levels, etc.
Schedules of operations and operation plans
Na
What information? I don't get the question. You need to be enforcing the law AND providing safe access. This whole thing seems written on the knowledge that people are illegally accessing the reservoir water ... does that mean I can do it too? I resist because I know I can't legally cross the rail tracks.
N/a
Any info would be nice
None
None. Create a safety buffer as at the Glenmore park or at Rundle forebay in Canmore and stop pretending that this station is somewhat different from them.
The dam operations did not impact my usage of the site previously.
More signs.
post / communicate impacts outside of the dam area, is it safe or not
Posting at future public access boat launch
Any
Maps and signage about access areas, areas of concern around the dam and why, how a reservoir might differ from typical lake use
Easy access to dam operations literature and safety of water flow around the dam
Nothing

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Replace static poster boards on dam operations with dynamic imagery and timelapse video of the various changes during dam operations
Information posted on the website is sufficient
I think there should be a “no access point” - not to go too close to the dam.
Ensuring lots of safety information is posted throughout
I would like to know what restrictions and/or changes are being considered as I live on the reservoir and deserve a say.
Maps with bouy lines clearly marked.
Any relevant information to be shared easily.
Na
Advertisements - brochures, social media
Nothing specific that isn't aready available.
I believe that all of the important information is not available online
None at this time.
Not sure
Not sure. More information. It also can’t be that the public can’t access the water, but those with expensive homes on it can build docks and do whatever they like on it.
A description of relevant hazards.
Signage easy to find at access
Unbiased and non fun killing information
None
How much city managers get paid and how little [redacted] work they do. It should be public information
Where to put in on the river
None
Signage App detailing use Park attendants
Is there a way to know when the dam is changing water intake/flow/water levels?
Just a pamphlet. How does the reservoir differ from ghost dam or barrier lake each with some form of hydroelectric generation but allow recreational use.
It’s beautiful I think the bike and walking paths are great ita very cold water and very deep. The dam makes me a bit nervous I have seen boats on it from springbank. The city is expanding out there now so this is very valid concern I have always wanted to see the bike path system expanded even to go to Cochrane along the river
Actually put it out there.
Are we going to allow Transalta to always quote these facts when they decide to restrict or eliminate recreational opportunities bcse of fear mongering. Should be able to exist near dams just like Ghost Lake and Barrier Lake which have adequate signage and barriers.
Is the reservoir upstream of the dam cordoned off for safety?
Public info sessions and easy to access and navigate and find websites.
Clear rules for use of the dam for recreational activities. Locations of Safe entry exit points. Ensuring motorized boats are ensuring safety of people doing non-motorized activities.
More information on how reservoir operations affect public access, including clear maps showing where recreation is allowed, seasonal water level forecasts, expected flow changes, and the reasons for temporary

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
closures. Regular updates, advance notice of operational changes, and clear explanations of safety risks would help the public better understand and plan safe recreational activities.
Information that is easily accessible and visible on site
General timelines for when water levels and currents are adjusted at the reservoir.
A website? Some sort of 'group' (FB?) that we can join/sign up to receive emails or read related information and exchange comments with each other??
Website
Dam levels should prioritize recreational access, and a stable level for the environment. Power gen should be a low priority.
No answer to provide
None
More information put out there! We need to continuously and objectively educate people on how these processes work.
None, the risks are well defined. People should use the reservoir at their own risk. All safety considerations should be clearly stated at recreational entry locations.
Adequate safety barriers and warning signs above the dam on the shoreline and water to keep people away from currents.
It's already well known Transalta hates any kind of recreational use near their infrastructure. They do in in everywhere they operate Canmore, Ghost, Kananaskis River etc. That should be tuned out of this conversation.
Motorized boats on reservor
Water info including flow, currents and obvious signage when coming close to infrastructure or low areas that could cause issues with boating/swimming, etc
I do not go close to the dam. I have never seen it as I go upstream.
Examples of how the operations could affect people using non motorized water recreation vessels. Having done so I have not experienced any situation that seemed unsafe. Like any body of water the weather is a factor and I would not use it if the weather were unstable.
Clear messaging of what is/is not allowed in terms of recreation within the reservoir
none
Why do the people who own averages near the reservoir illegally block access to recreational users
Perhaps a list up by entry points that states the opening and closing times of the dam or just listing when flows will be higher or lower.
If your worried about dam, put up a boom like they have at ghost lake, same river, same type of reservoir, how is this any different
N/A
Water dynamics of that specific reservoir
Details about how power generation affects water levels and currents at varying distances from the dam.
I access the reservoir, this is wholly overstated as a risk. Currently resdients access the reservoir with their boats constantly, but no one else has unimpeded access.
I dunno
Nothing comes to mind looking forward to the session on July 19
The same information provided for Glenmore, Ghost, Seebe etc.
Posted updates/ information if reservoir is unsafe on a particular day
I don't know. This is a strangely worded quested, a better question may be how would I want to access this information.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
I would want this information available at designated points around the reservoir and online. If there are certain aspects of the operations that make recreating unsafe I would want to know that.
Water flow
Nothing
Info sessions or circular flyers
Having information sessions
None. All waterbodies in Alberta can have changing water levels, flows and currents. People should educate themselves when entering any waterbody
Post it locally and use a standard coloured flag system similar to public ocean beaches and something similar on the City website.
Learn how it all works
Why is most of the shoreline privately owned?
This is no different that Glenmore or Ghost lake so rules should be the same. City and TransAlta should balance safe operation and recreation access to the reservoir
Make it the same as at the Ghost reservoir.
I think it is very similar to other places like Ghost Lake so the level of understanding for water sport enthusiasts is already high. It would be a very valuable place for people to enjoy non motorized water sports.
Not sure
A safety pamphlet. Educational booth. Permanent signage.
Have Jeremy Farkas on tv speaking to these points.
Make a clear distinction of where access is possible and where it is insafe
Not sure
It would be nice if Transalta, landowners, and the appropriate levels of government would be more transparent as to why access is restricted. I understand dams, high flows, current, weather, water conditions and safety as I recreate on many of the waterways in and around Calgary.
Signs on site
None, I'm a paddler, I watch the flows and reservoir capacities on the Alberta River Basins site daily.
How is safety provided around the dams in the region? There are procedures and safety requirements to keep those on the water back the required distance from the dam. Is this not already in place as a safety precaution?
Any information regarding a plan of use.
None
I don’t care about dam operations.
How often are water levels significantly adjusted? Is it only situational? (Like at spring runoff?)
Clear paths where you can walk along the reservoir and dam
Posted information about dam operations. Ie changing water levels
Knowing that there is a dam there, that's pretty major infrastructure. If you're going to allow recreation on there, you have to keep people away from it. I don't know what the solution is, but this is definitely not a simple lake.
The Dam should come first on priorities. People that use the water should use it at their own risk.
A website.

VERBATIM COMMENTS | Evaluating low-risk recreation

Q10 IF LOW-RISK ACTIVITIES ARE FOUND TO BE APPROPRIATE THROUGHOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN, WHICH ACTIVITIES WOULD YOU BE SUPPORTIVE OF?

Select all that apply

VERBATIM "OTHER" COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Fishing
I don't support any low-risk activities. People are not responsible enough to take good care. All they want is a good time and it is all about them and nothing else.
I feel power boats are the safest recreation on the bearapaw due to the unpredictable weather in the valley
Do not allow unrestricted access to the Bow river.
Stand up paddle board, kite surfing, pedal boats
Motorized small watercraft at low volume.
Fishing and ice fishing
Paddleboards
quit worrying about being so low risk. Put some ownus on people to be responsible for their own well being.
Swimming. Its a river, the amount of run off from farms is 100000 times more impactful than someone swimming.
There are people regularly swimming in the river and having campfires by the river. These fires could easily get out of control and then endanger Rockyview residents.
I support all forms of boating and recreation for existing landowners
hundreds already swim
Fly-fishing float tubes with waders and fins where the water doesn't contact the skin.
Fishing
The City of Calgary has history (and hopefully data) on the impact of low risk activities on the Glenmore reservoir. This should be a key driver for similar considerations on the Bearspaw reservoir.
fishing boats with outboard motors out of the water, use of electric trolling motor ok.
Sailboats depending upon the size of water available
Why would you do all this work and not consider medium-risk recreation? Wasteful and inefficient.
Standup paddleboarding, swimming. "Direct body contact with the water" is far too restrictive. Motorized watercraft upstream of the Reservoir on the Bow River will still cause issues with possible contamination.
paddle boards. They are already on the bow river and I see them using the bears paw reservoir already.
There are existing powerboat uses mostly by adjacent landowners that should be considered if not respected. A wholesale prohibition gazetted like Calgary did on the Bow and Elbow is not a solution.
All boats and swimming. Currently the reservoir is accessable by all boats(including motorized) and swimmers. I don't see why this would need to change.
Fishing, bird watching, hiking and picnicing.
paddleboards
stand up paddle boarding
Scuba diving. MOTOR BOATING. BUSINESS HOME BASED ONLY. As we should build for futures have to expect to build for people including crossing the river by vehicle and other infrastructure to suit the needs of the traffic flow and population density. Flow management. It is one of calgarys best assets that is not well used. Or is underminded. I wont survive without diversity and the ability to react to change. Financial gains are critical to support a local economy.

VERBATIM "OTHER" COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Not sure how boating is less risk than direct water contact as there is a risk of falling into the water. I am in support of wetsuit swimming with an orange visability swimming float
Fishing
Float tubing
Electric motors should also be allowed, fishing and wading also allowed
Being IN the water too - designated swimming areas
Paddle boards
No inflatables
Stand-up Paddle Boards.
N/a for me
Scuba diving far from damn.
"If low-risk activities are found to be appropriate". What a joke! It took quite a while for you to come right out and state that the powers that be have already made up their minds. Myself, I support access to all, however, access will be restricted. Licensing will be required. Costs borne by users and non-users of a public resource will increase. The loss of access by the public to a public resource will result.
Fishing, skating in winter, ice fishing
Dragon boats. Kite activities. Foiling. Swimming. Fishing. Trolling. electrical motors
SUP, open water swimming
Fishing
Off leash dog access
SUPaddle boards
Angling from shore, dock or boat.
Even motorized should be allowed
I would support all small non motorized boats or equipment.
You know that if you try to take away recreation activities, it's only going to be for the public. All the people who own those rich houses on the waterway are still going to use it because there's going to be no one there to report them. They want to take away public Access because they're mad that they paid for a big house on the water and now people are on the water near their houses
Sailboats capsize, so they are no different than paddle boards . Paddle boards should be allowed as well. You can only ban the other activities if you ban them for the folks on the south side or the reservoir. Also please explain why we can swim, boat and have our dogs swim in Cochrane or Ghost but not here.
Paddleboards/SUP
Electric boats
Fishing
Stand Up Paddle boards
Watersports that require wetsuits should also be explored as a low-risk activity, since the actual risk of contamination is actually quite low..
Swimming
Kite boarding
Motor boats
Everything
Car top or inflatable boats (boats that can be carried) should be allowed & would prevent problems associated with motorized watercraft . Similar to glenmore reservoir access.

VERBATIM "OTHER" COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Small electric powered boats.
electric motorized watercraft
Kiteboards/Kiteskiing Skating
Racing boats similar to at the Glenmore reservoir
I support the use of all types of recreation. Including motorboats and jetboats
Stand up paddle board
Any of the above could result in direct body contact with the water so I am also advocating for swimming with wetsuit and orange swim buddy
Would love to participate in these low-risk activities. Sadly, the residents around the reservoir has deemed Tuscany not in their tax bracket and has illegally blocked off access.
Electric motor boats, electric foilboards
Fishing
SUP
Stand up paddle boards
Keep the power boats off for everyone!!!
Fishing, beach access should also be allowed. Like in chestermere.
Stand up paddle boarding.
Standup paddleboarding should be classified alongside kayaking/canoeing, not as body-contact recreation: under normal use, the paddler stands on top of the board, not in the water, with no fuel/hydrocarbon risk and easy self-rescue. Ghost Reservoir, another TransAlta Bow River dam, already permits SUP and non-motorized craft without compromising water quality or dam operations. Bearspaw's plan should follow that same precedent.
Fishing, ice fishing, improved public access by bicycle, foot, and for personal watercraft
Motor Boat and River boats
Paddleboards
Paddle boarding, shallow area access to the water.
Fishing
I support motorized And grandfathering existing property owners. currently there are only private accesses for motorized boats
Public access
biking
Sup's
Power boats
Rafts
There are often fishing huts in the reservoir in the winter. Would there not also be a conversation for winter use and its impact as well? E.g. impacts like snowshoeing or snowmobiling
Fishing
Stand up paddleboards
Swimming. Dog access.
Stand up paddle boarding
Paddle boards
There is no limit on the rest of the Bow including Ghost Dam. This is a misleading and silly question
Fishing access

VERBATIM "OTHER" COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Power boats but possibly limit how many can be on the water at one time
Paddle board
Paddle boards and anything that can be walked down. No vehicle access.
Scuba
I can't see how any of the above activities can guarantee no body contact with the water. Someone can just fall in. And motorized boats are on there, which is worse.
I'm not sure you can limit direct body contact - on hot days people are going to choose to fall off their paddle boards and kayaks to cool off. Unable to control this
Electric powered SMALL watercraft - no jet skis and no waterskiing.
Standup Paddleboarding (inflatable should be allowed)
Only one point of general public access - ideally east of Haskayne Park
Jet boats
Stand up paddle boards
Boats with electric motors
Stand up paddle boats
Fishing access and public access rights to the water
Seadoo
Jet boats/all boats
Paddleboarding
Stand up paddle boards (minimal water contact)
There should be no exemption for landowners in Bearspaw or Springbank either. We need to make that abundantly clear with large fines. Can't be two sided
Small motor boats
Motor boats
Paddle boards
Motorized boats. Just like ghosts lake
Paddleboads/kayaks
Swimming
Electric powered pleasure craft
I would think it could be similar to the Glenmore reservoir, however I'm thinking that this water is quite a bit colder
Paddleboards. Hands down they can be used without contact with the water source. Why do we always think SUP users are flopping into the water recklessly. We stay in our boards like kayaks no different.
I support power boats
I support all recreational activities that do not pose a fuel spill risk. Swimming should be allowed.
I think motor boats everything should be allowed on there
Paddle boards
Swimming and paddle boarding should also be permitted in the Bow River
Motor boats.
Strict conditions
Swimming. Bodily contact is not a health issue with our drinking water reservoirs!
No Sailboats. Experience is required on those
Fishing

VERBATIM "OTHER" COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Inflatable SUPs
Must be limitation of numbers using reservoir
Stand up paddleboards and swimming SHOULD be allowed or considered low risk
Windsurfing and windfoiling
Paddleboards
Wingfoiling, stand up paddle boating.
Power boats, personal water craft that conform with existing legislation. The failure to even cite power boats should constitute a biase against motorized crafts.
Stand Up Paddelboard
Paddleboards (just as safe as kayaks)
Kiteboards and SUPs
Fishing
Paddle boards widely used and should be included
All non motorized use should be permitted. The subjective opinions of the bureaucracy need not decide winners and losers
Angling
Fishing
Paddleboards

VERBATIM "OTHER" COMMENTS (INFORMATION BOARDS)	
Join cycle path to Calgary pathway	8 mentions
Paddle board	4 mentions
Wind surf	1 mentions

VERBATIM COMMENTS | Environmental and shoreline considerations

Q11 WHAT ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS DO YOU HAVE RELATED TO CURRENT OR FUTURE USES OF THE RESERVOIR?

Select all that apply

VERBATIM "OTHER" COMMENTS (SURVEY)
There are a lot of wetlands in the area as well. Wetlands help with climate change and should be protected.
Maybe cameras should be installed near the reservoir and fine people that act stupid
Weed control on surrounding land.
Seems well managed
People are disturbing the riparian areas near the river with their pollution. They [redacted] and pooh in the water- NOT good. They dump garbage in the river and surrounding areas. Rockyview removed the stairs leading down to the river from the Bearspaw reservoir public access point but people do NOT get it. They still come here and climb into the river with their paddle boards, dingys etc.
i have a big concern about who is driving their motorboat up and down the river at night???/
Haskayne Development..There is little access to the reservoir. Numbers will increase
Upstream contamination from agriculture and community operations is a bigger problem
big wakesurf boats prop wash on bottom of reservoir, and wave impact on other boaters and swimmers and shoreline. noise.
I feel if the access can be managed like Glenmore reservoir that the expectation is already set

VERBATIM "OTHER" COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Damage to spaces of historical importance.
Development of housing/streets adjacent to the Reservoir affects stormwater runoff.
Emerald Bay residents encroaching/damaging RVC ER for their personal benefit. Do better RVC- your inaction is blatant hypocracy.
The operation of the dam with changing water levels is already terrible for riparian species from what I understand. I don't think it should be assumed that the existing situation is somehow a great environmental success story. Certainly provide safe and formal access points so people do not create their own access points.
Unfettered housing developments.
Calgary owns a parcel of land on the reservoir across from the Springbank Links that is notoriously used by teenagers who leave the site looking like a dump. Calgary should manage it or sell it to someone responsible.
Me not being hired or used effectively or its for futures the next guy it all becomes very localized somone else will do it if we dont...
Clearly this is an obvious attempt to further restrict use of the lake shore and water to the benefit of private interests and block the public from accessing a publicly owned lake. Closing off public access is wrong.
landowners have been using motor boats for a long time on this body of water. and strickly limiting access time for a change.
If you facilitate safe, easy access from the start, folks wont find themselves wandering to access or leave in different locations. They only do so now because no proper infrastructure exists.
Spread out downstream users, so Bowness park is less crowded
Flood mitigation
Other than litter, I have no environmental concerns. Are people and pets [redacted] on the shore? I doubt it, and even if so, I highly doubt it's a problem. I don't care about the so called "important environmental features". Important to whom? Ahh, right, the people who want to limit access (sorry I forgot).
This is a man made reservoir... whatever environment that surrounds it was established by people, let's not pretend that it's pristine and natural in any way...
Gas spills from motor boats
local landowners do not have any restrictions or monitoring of the runoff from their property into the reservoir
Having authorized access points would get rid of my concerns regarding unauthorized safety concerns
The same issues that I would have with the Glenmore reservoir that people still have access to
If we are concerned about all these things, why do we not have issues with runoff from farmlands adjacent to the river between Cochrane and Haskayne
Are you really trying to lump sunscreen in with a fuel spill... There are already large boats using the reservoir with very large fuel tanks.
Make the shoreline accessible for fishing, dogs and access. Make the lake deeper and dam bigger. Let's get the power!
The biggest issue you are not considering is waste from cows entering the water. People dont swim and there is not enough boats to make a difference, and, you need to review ghost lake.
Are fuel spills and sunscreen equal concerns? Manage this like Glenmore, please!
The pressures on the Reservoir and surrounding area, vegetation, wildlife, natural/seasonal water courses due to future development for example the proposed Haskayne Subdivision
My main concerns: impacts from unmanaged/unauthorized access points, litter, human waste from lack of washroom facilities, and shoreline erosion at informal trails. These are largely symptoms of no designated infrastructure, not of recreation itself. Formalizing a few low-impact access points with signage, waste bins, and

VERBATIM "OTHER" COMMENTS (SURVEY)
washrooms would concentrate and reduce impact far more effectively than leaving access informal and unmanaged, as it is today.
Apart from fuel, I am not convinved that personal contaminants like sunscreen or bug spray are as significant as any/all other inputs locally and regionally
There is no access allowed now but we see 300 cars a day on a warm weekend with no respect
large numbers of day users bring more sunscreen, insect repellants etc and other problems. Too many people!
Birds, wildlife, stormwater runoff and upstream watershed influences likely contribute a significantly greater ongoing background load than responsible recreational users complying with existing environmental regulations.
Evasive Carp
Fuel, but not sunscreen, that's silly
Business access and vehicle access bring to many people. The largest environmental impact has already occurred by creating a dam
I think nearby development and industry, and informal access leading to erosion causes way more damage that responsible, recreational use ever would. Most paddlers are aware of environmental issues affecting our waterways, and are involved in mitigating or preventing them.
Concerned about fuel contaminants. No concern about sunscreen/bug spray/personal care products
The south side of the reservoir has steep banks which are subject to erosion and need to be protected. Do NOT expand the access at Springbank Heights, since this is a residential community and already experiencing significant traffic and erosion problems. The west end is of the reservoir is documented as a wildlife corridor - please protect.
lol it's already a dam, the environmental considerations were overlooked long ago, what we need is fair access for public enjoyment close to the city, connected with the bike paths as well.
Need more enforcement and fine for [redacted] poeple that [redacted] in the water. Like in Chestimer. Don't need that in our water.
The Ghost River Reservoir, essentially the same Bow River water upstream, allows all water sports. Why would we not allow this closer to Calgary minus the motor boats?
Agricultural runoff. Lack of enforcement on stated concerns, for houses near the water.
No motorized vehicle should be allowed on the water. Period.
If you do increase the dam please do not use the same material they used in Glennifer lake - there is always a 20ft ring of silt all the way around the banks and it has a mud base - terrible for kids swimming
Runoff from encroching development, homes and gardens using lawn fertilizers and herbicides. Use of fertilizers and herbicides should be banned. They pollute the water, fertilizers cause algae growth and pollute the cities drinking water supply.
Development of land near the water
We need to vigorously protect water source but wonder why this is different than Glenmore
Concerned of an Increase of off lease dogs
I have the same levels of concerns for all things listed as I do for like-bodies of water (Glenmore reservoir) the same approach should should be applied
Environmental concerns should not be prioritized over recreational use
Who would monitor this?
Fuel spills. I don't feel non motorized items such as Paddleboards, kayaks and canoes create any issue with increased so erosion- they do not create a wake. Besides unless you ban boats and motorized vehicles from Ghost lake this is a mute point as that water flows into the abeatspaw reservoir.

VERBATIM "OTHER" COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Oh believe wind sports have minimal impact on water bodies.
I worry about farm animal waste & fertilizer going into the water. Also, reservoirs already have damaged the shoreline so much of the riparian & animal habitat is very minimal as the damage is already done.
People just need to be respectful and pick up after themselves
All have some importance but don't overthink it.
Pesticides and fertilizers leaching into the waterway from existing agriculture commercial and residential properties. Also spills from the rail line - there is a LOT of oil shipped past this location.

VERBATIM COMMENTS | Communications, education and responsible use

Q12 WHERE WOULD YOU PREFER TO FIND INFORMATION ABOUT RESERVOIR ACCESS, SAFETY, CONDITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS?

Select all that apply

VERBATIM "OTHER" COMMENTS (SURVEY)
There should only be info about no unauthorized access to Bow river everywhere.
Not everyone has a cell phone when using water bodies - QR codes may not reach everyone.
entry points if it is to be used
Not everyone has a phone
have a manned info booth set up at bearspaw municipal park
Signs that indicate the area is private and restricted.
Direct communication with Emerald Bay residents- re: ER encrochment
A dedicated website
Dedicated website
Its nice to have a point of contact face to face door to door get to know the people there
Maximize public access. Provide parking and washrooms. Provide litter services. Police as needed to ensure respectful use. Punish those who don't comply and always protect access for users now and into the future without falling victim to lobbying from private interests to erode public interests. If you don't want public use... buy property somewhere else. Public use came first.
Mailed information so we do not have to go looking for it
Partnering with local organizations like Alberta Whitewater Association will offload this responsibility for you, and make your tasks easier
Any supposed information needed conveying to the public can be posted on the Calgary or Rocky View websites
Public access needs to be well posted
We already do this for the city of Calgary with the Glenmore reservoir
Facebook and Instagram
Shouldn't be any of that
Dont ruin the area with signs and government over reach. Let people access it and survive.
continue to keep these places as historical educational spaces, Have Elders and other stewards teach and share there knowlage on how to care and take care of the land. Decolonize ownership and move towards reconciliation
Community newsletter
Please no QR codes, I don't want to stare at my phone when outdoors.

VERBATIM "OTHER" COMMENTS (SURVEY)
None keep people out of there
Educate people that the bow river is an important part of nature and needs to be protected. Don't promotes access so that it can be protected. Educate why controlled access is important.
Sign on highway 1A. More signage in the parking lot. City should work in conjunction with the Bearspaw marina
Again who would be responsible for monitoring access and policing?
Locations at the physical sites or on information searches websites when trying to decide how/what to do there.
The info could be mailed to homes that are actually on the river and to the small rental business on the river.

VERBATIM COMMENTS | Final thoughts

Q13 IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE THE PROJECT TEAM TO CONSIDER AS THEY PREPARE THE MANAGEMENT PLAN?

Long answer

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Leave it how it is, this place is very special to the residents who use it for recreational activities.
Please do not allow public access from Bearspaw reservoir public access point on Springbank Hgts Way any more. Too many fools accessing this and ruining nature with litter, illegal activities like drinking and driving, illegal camping, fishing and hunting. Too many fools plugging up the roadway and creating dangerous situations where emergency vehicles may not get through.
Nothing at this time
We have witnessed first hand numerous rafters and people in non motorized watercraft in distress on the reservoir. It is an unpredictable body of water.
As stated previously, the "Bearspaw Reservoir Public Access" point (as listed on Google Maps) is a source of litter and mischief. I can only see this issue being exacerbated if the amount of unmonitored, unauthorized access points to land increases.
Please see other thoughts written in survey
Please do NOT allow unauthorized access to Bearspaw reservoir. People are not responsible and just damage the environment. They would ruin it for all people that depend on the Bow river.
Water is a public resource and it should be available for multiple uses/users. The thing the county, the province need and should do is educate people (especially newcomers and immigrants) about the correct use of water resources. For example, person can use their boat recreationally, and care about the water controlling spills from their motor. Dogs and pets access to the reservoir must be prohibited, that is a bit source of contamination
The Beareservoir can be a very dangerous body of water. It is not suitable for inexperienced or unprepared boaters.
Having the Bearspaw Reservoir to look at but not touch would be a disservice to Calgary and surrounding communities. Public access would support the need for the outdoor activities that improve one's health and overall lifestyle. Taxpayers should have ample access to the Bearspaw Reservoir. Stop pushing paper and put the citizens hardworking tax dollars towards tangible and practical requirements - such as parking and flush toilets.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
I have observed the absolute disgrace of high volume unmanaged users at several Banff National Park locations and Ghost reservoir. Access user volumes must be kept low and effectively managed.
A trail system from Calgary (Bowness Park!) west along both sides of the reservoir - continuing to Cochrane.
People will look to the courts, should two tiers of people (private landowner and the public) continue to exist for access to the reservoir. Same rules for everyone.
The Bearspaw reservoir has thrived with limited public access. It is suitable for recreation when prepared for any weather condition. Unfortunately dam operations have created a very silty bottom. The reservoir is part of a river transportation system between the Bearspaw dam and the Ghost dam
If there was a dock that public could access there would be less damage to shore line and environmental impact of people accessing shore line for public use at numerous locations alone the bank. If there was a visual markers across the reservoir as a do not pass this point so people do not get close to the dam.
There isn't may places nearby for people to use low risk water devices like paddle boats or kayacks so when the Bearspaw marina was open is was an amazing experience but now people are getting in and out of the water off the bank which can be dangerous and are uneducated of risks. Also people are gonna get in the water anyway so making it safe and educating people is better than cutting it off.
I find it ironic that on the upstream side of the Bow River we have access of this body of water without restrictions. The survey appears to be self fulfilling as to limiting recreational activities near the City of Calgary.
Should integrate with regional work. Why is the TCT not open between Calgary and Cochrane?
Transient people will access the area as paths and hiking trails make it more accessible. The plan should include how to police and manage this population.
Don't restrict access. Give good access points and make it so there won't be garbage and waste left around by irresponsible users. You cannot get away from irresponsible people, you need to just make it easier for their use to be mitigated by having good access points with garbages and toilets. being this close to the city it is going to continue to attract a lot of people who have no idea what they are doing. Don't let them wreck it for everyone else.
Build some parking lots and het out of the way. Stop with the overkill government big brother protectionism.
The reservoir is not a private lake to my understanding so please consider that. The affects of agricultural and commercial runoff not far upstream is no different than rec users in terms of contamination risk so please consider that if it's to be protected for water quality there is a lot of work to be done locally upstream
Please remove the Bearspaw reservoir public access area. Too many people are causing chaos by illegally parking on the roadway, public drinking and boating or driving (which affects the community at large), littering, creating noise disturbances, camping illegally and just being a general nuisance. People are illegally fishing and hunting in the area.
Please close the public access that is bearspaw municipal park. This park and surrounding area is abused. There is lots of litter left behind, whether it be dog or human waste or broken pieces of sporting equipment. There is to much public drunkeness and risk to the community. There is illegal camping, fishing and hunting in the area. People are NOT respectful. There is too much traffic and speeding and killed wildlife.
Is the Bearspaw Reservoir Management Plan reviewing the impacts of the Ghost Dam Expansion project for City of Calgary flood mitigation that is planned.
Important to limit access points (channel users through one or two access points) and types of use (Glenmore Reservoir is a good operating model). Improved servIces will be essential (e.g., washrooms). Also important to try to limit access through other areas near the reservoir (e.g., the proposed Haskayne North development). Monitoring of use/impacts will be essential and mitigation measures (+ related funding requirements) should be considered in advance for action if/when problems arise.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
The average Calgarian needs a recreational outdoor release,and opportunity. Hundreds now trespass and use the reservoir. Developing a recreational mecca from Bowness Park to Cochrane should be the number 1 priority. Now uncontrolled, there are exceptionally high risks of further property damage and human injuries, or death
Most important is water quality. I am not the Expert. The environmental impact with the Haskayne development. Limited access..why are motor boats allowed. I have lived here for 40 years.How is more people living close to our water a good thing.
treatment between north and south side of reservoir - ie motor boots on south side none on north- get rid of them all
Address why motorized boats are allowed from the farm (south) side. Address why the pavilion is never utilized for public events (inside and outside) Address lack of signage Address speed limit coming off of Crowchild Address paving into the park Address cleaning of bathrooms Address: is this a city park- if so why does it not get the same support as other large city parks (garbage, bathroom cleaning, etc. Is there planned commercial usage of the pavillion? It seems very under utilized.
Where is the money coming from? I am sure it's from us the taxpayers. As in the past, those governments projects have always been way under budget. Spending taxes on frivolous things. Never, ever did any plan/project was under budget. Don't think it's going to happen this time.
500 characters or less: The Management Plan should take a 50+ year watershed perspective and assess cumulative impacts from existing and future development, climate change, stormwater and drainage, shoreline erosion, embankment stability, and increasing recreational pressure. Protecting source water quality must remain the overriding priority. Decisions should be science-based, precautionary, and coordinated with long-term land-use and watershed planning across all jurisdictions.
The Task Force's own mandate includes source water protection, development adjacent to the reservoir, long term sustainability and avoidance of incremental impacts. Given the proposed Haskayne Neighbourhood 4 development immediately adjacent to Bearspaw Reservoir, we are asking that cumulative impacts on source water quality, stormwater, erosion, public access and recreational pressure be formally assessed before land use decisions create irreversible conditions.
Develop recreation areas so Rocky View residence can enjoy parks and access to the Reservoir
Allow more public access locations on the reservoir
Worrying about containments is ridiculous because drainage of Lynx golf course, off roads and the fact that the Bow has passed through Lake Louise, Banff, Canmore and Cochrane. Educate people, open access points to the river, both create a safe and equitable river culture.
Its time to open this to the public, its public that payed to build these dams, its our resource to use as we see fit. In a modern city this recreation is desired and required for all of us to use for our recreation, along with many other uses.
Please provide launchable non-motorized access to the reservoir with parking for recreation and ice-fishing, at the lower reaches of the reservoir, so it is not only a "private lake" for the residence who back onto the reservoir. Similar access as the Glenmore Reservoir.
Deal with the larger problem of upstream communities sewage and agricultural contaminants

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
I road bike in the area and, as with the Glenmore reservoir, would love to be able to bike over the dam as it opens many routes and makes the Calgary area even better for cyclists.
Higher density development directly at shoreline level on either side of the reservoir seems ill advised.
Safe access to the river / resevoir; a very small proportion of people use this area. please protect it but also allow reasonable use
Apply the same rules to residence and public visitors alike.
Get the motor boats off our drinking water and get rid of any commercial operations.
It looks like landowners in Rockyview, do have boat launches already. They might get mad but, for the safety of the water supply, the boats will have to be banned. As for dogs in the water or their poop; their contribution to the levels of pollution are insignificant. When was the last time you saw a dog poop in the water? (No I am not a dog owner). Connecting the bike trail to Cochrane would be fabulous!
access for walking dogs and swimming and use of fishing boat where permanently attached outboard is tilted up.and out of water, gas disconnected, and using trolling motor for propulsion. no typical motorized watersports. have noise restrictions
The reservoir is a lovely place to spend some quiet and quality time enjoying nature from the water in a kayak or canoe. We look forward to experiencing that soon.
As a person who is local, I have significant concerns- especially in terms of environmental and wildlife impact. We have seen a huge increase in death of our deer and moose in the area with the development of new communities off 16th avenue NW and into springbank; driving these animals onto Stoney Trail and unable to follow migration or normal living areas. The natural area around the reservoir is critical and should be protected, not developed for recreation. The idea sickens me.
Thank you for getting ahead of this. Let's make the Bearspaw Reservoir an asset in all regards, source water, power generation, and recreational use. It's a beautiful area that can take some cars off the road from having to drive much further towards the mountains for a water-based activity.
As stated previously, strongly consider delaying approval of City of Calgary development (Haskayne) until this review is completed. In terms of access to the Reservoir, you should also be dealing with CP Rail regarding access across its rail line.
CPKC rail line also poses a threat. Is there any consideration for speed reduction for all trains adjacent to the reservoir to reduce threat of derailment and resultant spills? Water bomber base at Springbank airport- is Bearspaw Reservoir considered a water refill location during an active fire suppression response? If so- will this continue? If so- the public needs to be aware of this. Again- Emerald Bay needs to be addressed with a firm education/enforcement campaign about ER encroachment.
Lead with a view to enabling additional recreation opportunities for the Calgary area, not protecting corporate interests excessively. I believe a balance can be found.
Ghost has massive motorized access. There is a literal diesel train that runs along the shore hauling oil tanks and livestock with [redacted] spewing out the cages. The city has allowed a massive development in Rockland, and is looking at an even bigger high density application. Massive storms overflows will just be run off into reservoir over roads if pumps are overwhelmed. But you worry about human skin contact or sunscreen in the water? Are you serious?
It is unfortunate the city of Calgary limits access to the reservoir from Haskayne park. It was hoped by many including myself that this park would increase access to the reservoir. The recreational uses and access to this river already exist upstream of this reservoir. It is unlikely that these uses affect water quality when they already

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
exist upstream. Campfires can't be a concern because there is no place to camp (legally)along the reservoir as far as I am aware.
Recreational contact has negligible impact compared to the damn itself. Body contact also has negligible impact on safety of the drinking water compared to chemicals being used in and around this and the Glenmore reservoir.
Agricultural production, followed by water quality and human health safety.
The reservoir has been treated like a private lake by the local homeowners for many years. I see boating, water skiing, etc, currently on the lake. It must be remembered that this is in reality a navigable waterway, subject to Federal regulations and unfettered access. Of course it needs some logical protections but these must be weighed along with liberal public access.
Including a budget for monitoring the area and creating annual reports.
Prevent future residential or commercial development adjacent to the reservoir.
I think using the Glenmore Reservoir as a model is a good place to start. It would also be good to consider dedicated walking/hiking trails
Some recreational use should be allowed using the glenmore reservoir as a model.
Install buoys on a strong cable to keep boaters 300 m away from penstock inlet, like is done at Canmore (just east of the Nordic Centre), Barrier Lake, Upper Kananaskis Lake and Ghost Reservoirs. All these are owned and operated by TransAlta. All non-motorized boating, as is allowed for the above reservoirs and also Glenmore Reservoir. No swimming - too cold. No ice fishing - this is still a river and ice thickness is unpredictable. Only allow access from designated points.
Call me anytime [redacted]
It already serms that the management plan has been pre determined snd that is to limit access to the resevoir ehich is unfortunate unless you happen to live on it.
Many years ago I showed up at the dam when we were allowed access over the railway tracks and there was a large pile of driftwood at the head of the dam you can tell some fisherman had been there and they lit the drifwood on fire So keeping the driftwood pile under control so this cannot happen again would be imp;ortant
There needs to be an official public access which can not be blocked by those living on properties surrounding the water. Those individuals currently block access and harass anyone trying to access the water, treating the reservoir as their own private lake.
I'd love to see future considerations on recreational access points from Springbank and bearspaw
Public access is needed
This is clearly an attempt to further erode public use of a public lake and recreational area. Lobbyists in the area have steadily eroded access by users of the area. Making this area only for the rich and elitists is wrong and contrary to responsible governance for all.
Public access to the reservoir.
time to allow public access, time to reverse Transalta and Calgary's restrictions on access and use. Restore the routes through the reservoir and encourage canoe and kayak trips from Cochrane to Calgary.
Think of the future, calgary growing and cannot afford more water problems
I strongly urge you to create easy, designated access points for the public to use. Any plan that doesn't include them will not work in the long run. People will still bring out their boats, swim, etc if you say no access at all, but with simple rules people are much more likely to comply
Less is more. Over-management equates to increased social control. If one did not know better, one would think this management plan is needed because destructive conditions are threatening the area. This is not the case.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
The tools already exist under legislation. Enforcement of existing legislation is the path to the proposed objectives of the management plan.
It is best to get a head of a booming issue, and support your local communities and their wish for water access before it becomes an unmanageable problem. Collaborate with invested paddling associations to help create safe, respectful, responsible access. Especially as tourism continues to boom, nip these issues in the bud and create infrastructure that works from the start.
Calgary is growing and needs more, park, paddling, walking and biking locations
i would like to see same treatment for both Springbank residents and residents on the east side of reservoir. If no motor boating allowed than same applies for Springbank residents. Right now some are more equal than others- come take a look!
It shows how skewed these surveys are when the "Environmental and shoreline considerations" section did not allow comments. NO amount of recreational use will lead to the influx of pollutants that come from Cochrane, Canmore, Banff and more. Users cannot erode the shoreline like one major rainfall would. The City clearly already wants to shut down access and use of this space just like everything else (like the Parks bylaw that doesn't allow throwing Frisbees) so why bother with "engagement"?
Just like the Glenmore reservoir... this has such huge potential, especially with an under utilized Haskayne Park facility.
I think it's important to open up more amazing outdoor options to promote a healthy lifestyle for all in Calgary.
Thanks for the consultation
We would like to see a well managed and well monitored opportunity to access the area. Things like low impact water craft and e-bike/ bicycle access. As part of the Glenbow Ranch - Haskayne trail system, access to this area could be a beautiful AND safe, low-impact addition to Calgarys recreational opportunities.
Have Rocky view county open up access to haskayne park on bears paw village crescent, its baffling that access to a park can be « for resident only »
Just t9 reiterate...We need to focus on public access to this reservoir. As the population grows we need to get more water access to the public. It should not be just access to land owners around the lake. Just like public access to ghost, glenmore , kananaskis and barrier reservoirs there should be a way to accomplish this.
Pre built infrastructure before it becomes a problem (parking/ traffic) Should update traffic model regularly with actual data to validate assumptions to properly forecast infrastructure model and considering both Calgary and RvC development plans specially when provincial or fed funds / permits are required Calgary and RvC (contract their own Eng. Firms) should own and validate these models, not the developers engineering firm.....
How much is this so called project team costing taxpayers?
I would like to keep it accessible to the public
This survey has shown how many concerns there are around this area and will take cooperation of the all stakeholders to make decisions to ensure citizen's are educated And signage and approved access points are in place for everyone’s safety.
Who is on the "team"? Whose special interests are being served by the "team"? Who is behind it all? This survey is complete BS because it is structured only so as to illicit only the responses desired. And it appears that the "team" is under marching orders by an opaque group whose intent is to limit access to a public resource. I

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
remind the "team" that the bow river and whatever reservoirs are created thereon are public resources. Restricting public access is entirely wrong.
There should be an official pathway from Rockland park to Haskayne park.
Access points for residents of Rockland Park
Every dam I have ever seen has a recreational plan outlined when the project is started, and most have a great plan and the public is able to take advantage of the tax funded project for recreational activities. The bearspaw dam seems to have been able to skip the fun part of having a dam, except for the elite few who live on the reservoir and do whatever they want. This is a navigable body of water and the public should be allowed access.
Ensuring public access while maintaining the integrity and safety of the resources
This water way should allow for equal public access and enjoyment for all.
When will the bike paths be completed to link the city paths to Haskayne and Glenbow parks
There are already plenty of boats on the reservoir. Those operating the boats know that almost no one can see them and there is zero enforcement for their behavior. Allowing additional access would help ensure that anyone using the reservoir was doing so responsibly.
Glad to see this is being reviewed. The Bow River is such a unique and precious resource. We can't afford to get this wrong.
No
Choose the rules and make it accessible to all citizens.
This is a beautiful spot to access the water especially on hot days in the city. I go there to find peace, be near the water, and unwind. It is a very important place for me.
Local landowners should be heavily restricted in their use of the lake. A 500m riparian area should be established between their property and the lake, and if any of them are caught recreating in that area, they should be fined. T If they get fined multiple times, they should be forced to sell their home to someone who can follow the rules
No
No. Thank you for all you do to protect our water supply.
I encourage the team to take a balanced and pragmatic approach to weighing the risks (which have been heavily emphasized in the engagement) versus the much-needed opportunities to provide recreational opportunities to our rapidly-growing city. Families are navigating an unprecedented cost of living crisis, and access to affordable recreation close to home should be a strong priority.
A lot of the people in this area live there because they want quick access to the outdoors. This is an initiative that will be welcomed by all outdoor enthusiasts.
The reservoir should have public access no different than ghost lake. For years the reservoir has been reserved for a very few to use. Alberta waterways are public and should have provisions for access.
Ghost lake is a recreational water body, why can't bearspaw reservoir be the same.
Time to balance safety, drinking water and recreation with more than banning access on one side and allowing docks and boats on the other.
I am deeply concerned about proposed land use change LOC2026-0004. Large-scale development near the reservoir could threaten the drinking water supply for about 70% of Calgarians. I urge the trilateral task force to take immediate action to protect this environmentally sensitive area and prioritize the long-term safety of our watershed.
No one is illegal on stolen land. Don’t keep the dam access private. You are keeping people away from natures which is their human right

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
This is a public waterway. Private companies like transalta should have no say on how we use it, they should have to insure its safe for the public when the public is using it. They should have to worl around the public, not the public work around them.
A Plan should assess the cumulative impacts of future watershed development, increasing recreational use, shoreline access, and infrastructure expansion on drinking water quality, public safety, reservoir operations, riparian health, erosion, and natural drainage systems. Decisions should be guided by a precautionary approach that prioritizes long-term source water protection and recognizes that many environmental impacts may be difficult, costly, or impossible to fully reverse once they occur.
Alberta environment and natural wonder is a huge benefit and draw for this region. Access to a body of water should be available to the general public for everyone to enjoy.
I would love to be able to access this water body with less logistical nightmares. We have fished it from shore and carted in a kayak to paddle it, but current access severely inhibits our want to enjoy a public body of water. Being able to access such a dynamic waterbody, so close to home, would encourage us to stay closer instead of going 2 hours away just to fish and enjoy. We don't have many decent lakes close to Calgary, this would be an amazing gem if public was allowed access.
Allow non- motorized use. We need more water recreation sites for human powered water craft
None
I would like you to consider the optics. Most people use this area because of the Bear's paw Marina. If you cut off access to the waterway you're essentially destroying this business, which is a small business. You'll also be catering to The rich people liveing in the area because they want private access and only private access. In this current economic and political climate, it would probably be better to not screw with public access to public waterway that we have access to.
You absolutely need to host some open houses in NW Calgary on this matter to inform and work with community members
There should be direcy walking or pathway access to the reservoir for residents from the Tuscany community. Pathways of City of Calgary and Haskayne Park should be connected. We should not have to bike on highway from Tuscany in order to get to Haskayne Park, or have to drive the bicycles in a car to use the Haskayne Park pathways for biking.
There is no reason to not allow public access non-motorized recreation, given the current private motorized access.
The Biw River and associated watershed has important historical significance to our Indigenous communities. Any use of these lands should pay homage to these peoples. It could be a significant step in the evolution of Reconciliation
I really think there should not be rec access to use it only walking pathways around this area of city is so natural and the wildlife we need to keep it clean. People can use Glenmore one of want to have rec access
They city continues to grow and growing west right ontop of the reservoir more are searching for recreational locations. By continually fighting people from going where they've gone for years you've drawn more attention and garnered more everyday users through news and social media. Make it safe and work with the county/marine for clear entrance/exits, expectations.
Maintaining responsible public access while ensuring that this plan does not create a private recreational opportunity for adjacent landowners. If one private citizen who owns land adjacent to the reservoir is permitted access, then all private citizens should be afforded the same opportunity regardless of land ownership status. Equity in action.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Haskayne Park was open several years ago and most of the public has no idea about it because there's no sign on the 1A. I only know because I read about it in the newspaper. Calgarians deserve access to the water that's next to the park in a safe and well-planned way just as they do at Baker park or Bowness Park. A concern for our drinking water source could also be the cows that are allowed to free range next to the water in Haskayne Park.
I really would like public assess to this body of water
Please keep in mind that many citizens are interested in safe and uncomplicated access to experience the river and reservoir wildlife habitat. Such access (I envision a pathway network) needs to be available to walkers, cyclists, and special needs citizens. There also needs to be access to the existing Calgary multi-use pathway network and a direct connection with the Glenbow ranch park and pathway.
None. thanks
I would love to be able to use the water in the reservoir for a simple day off to get a paddle board or a kayak to get into the water. Thanks for looking into it.
-
Many years ago below the dam there was a recreation area with picnic tables that was closed. I believe the reason was due to crossing the CP line. Install a crossing the same as in Glenbow Park and Haskayne Park. Connect the long promised pathway from Haskayne Park to Rockland Park/Tuscany communities pathway system
We use Ghost reservoir for recreation with no problems. I think k we should have more access to Bearspaw. We live near by and would love to have access for fishing and recreation purposes. Nothing really user friendly on the north side.
Thank you all for working on formalizing public access to the reservoir, in a safe and environmentally considerate manner. A proper recreational access plan has been long overdue.
Public access to the Bearspaw Reservoir should be maintained or increased. Motorized craft should be banned from the reservoir.
If the reservoir is open to any recreation it should be public with managed access. Not just for the wealthy few.
There is no point in restricting non motorized recreational access with the excuse of environmental concerns! There is farmland all around the reservoir with the resulting run off. There is a railway close by that at times transports dangerous goods without the city even knowing about when, what quantities and what chemicals. There is motorized use upstream of the reservoir with the resulting contamination. This is a water body that belongs to all of us. we should be allowed responsible usage.
I appreciate there a lot of stakeholders in this decision (TransAlta, RockyView County and the City of Calgary). This is not the only reservoir in the area (Ghost Lake and Glenmore). You should leverage best practices that may already exist and make the access “fair” to Calgarians, RockyView county residents and “local” residents that have properties on the reservoir. You can’t tell the public “no access” while there are residents with powered watercraft that access the reservoir 365.
Glenmore Reservoir should offer a good model of user access and management. Its been there for years and must have some sort of ecological and environmental management plans and concerns. There is also no harm in a reservoir the size of Bearspaw to restrict access in some areas for breeding/nesting habitat preservation. Much like floats used for Swimming areas, these sensitive areas should be protected from public access. Emerald Bay properties probably already encroach on habitat access.
Transit access
All of the environmental concerns that apply to the Glenmore reservoir can be applied to the Bearspaw reservoir. People are already using the reservoir for recreational purposes so there is no reason that this area cannot be made accessible to the public.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Our water bodies are for public use, not every park needs to monitoring for safety. A modern license scanner at boat launches could monitor at least 1 person from a group to identify problematic people along with the use of cameras.
encourage the Task Force to: Maintain public recreational access where it can be managed safely. Base decisions on transparent scientific evidence. Continue consulting residents and user groups. Develop practical management strategies rather than broad restrictions.
No other comments
This is a great opportunity for the city! It is an amazing place for recreation and this should be a priority. Many Calgarians enjoy this body of water today, let's make sure more can safely use it in the future.
Build it to be world class. Dont pander to the dont build anything movement. Let's get water and lots of it.
The idea of creating better access to Albertans is one that has appeal. The challenge is around the potential for high increase in use and people management. Water quality and the risks to drinking water need to be communicated robustly and often to citizens to allow for their understanding of their role in protecting the critical resource and managing expectations. It is likely this will become a high use area if access is improved. Set the tone early as its hard to walk things back.
Thanks for your work on this project!
Improve cycling / pedestrian access from Calgary and Cochrane
I think being proactive is key here, i live in the area and the nearby development is growing fast. Its simply a matter of time before issues come up and this is a key critical resource, especially our drinking water. Also, while most people are respectful and responsible, there must be a strong mechanism of deterrents to bad actors.
same as above - treat all residents equally - not just access for those with property on the reservoir and set an example by not letting one land owner do what every they want without repercussions or this type of behavior will be seen again at other locations. Enforce. Stop with the education first approach. Its not working.
Recreation is not appropriate
Remember to leave undisturbed areas for the native wildlife.
Do not allow any residential or commercial development any where on either side of the reservoir- how basic a request is this to protect an entire city drinking supply
How many people is predicted that will use the reservoir and what time of the year (only summer)
Considering electric powered boats for recreational users.
The main thing is to consider the long-term sustainability of the area. It's imperative to take a big picture approach and consider how the decisions of today will impact the area well into the future. Decisions should be based on information, not opinion, and driven by experts, not outspoken individuals and groups.
Please reconsider the facts. 1- the water is stable - low flow, very small no sudden fluctuation. Your stated danger regarding these two don't exist. Your messaging is incorrect. 2 - there are currently minimal motorized boat access points that already reduce your perceived risk from hydrocarbons so more boats cannot access. (have there been water quality issues past 10 years?) 3- Please consider Ghost Lake boats 4- Restricting development at Haskayne Ranch will reduce people accessing.
Nope

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Expanded non-water recreation world be amazing (waterfront trails, expanded haskayne park, connection to Cochrane and to Calgary)
Please open the reservoir to recreational use, and ensure that adjacent development has better than best practice stormwater management.
Don't re-invent the wheel here on this plan. Use what has been in place for other similar water bodies ove rteh years and just enhance the learnings to be reflected in this one. This waterbody should be no different then any other water body in Alberta that gets used for similar purposes. Priority use 1 = electricity generation; priority use 2 = water management; priority use 3 = recreational
We enjoy the use of the reservoir and access for free
Recreational access for canoe and kayakers should be supported.
Once again, there seems to be two rules if you have a lot of money and an expensive house, you can have private access to a private lake, which makes no sense to me. I pay taxes too.
An oz of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Let's reduce costs to the taxpayer by first making it very difficult for people to pollute and abuse this precious resource.
I think keeping the pathways through that area should be considered essential
As a Calgary taxpayer living in Tuscany - I used to use the dam all the time in the early 2000's - CPR made a change to the track safety (which I supported) which limited the ability to walk in via a pathway - the dam is a beautiful spot and should be open to all members of Calgary community - not just the 10 houses that happen to be waterfront. And access to the lake for paddleboarding, kayaking, or ice fishing should be universal - you should ban all gas powered boats, see-doos etc
There is a big farm right on the reservoir. The fields and provincial park next to the reservoir are full of pooping cattle. The City being concerned about people touching the water and water quality concerns just screams pure BS to me when there are industrial farming operations literally on the reservoir itself. The City has an amazing potential resource for recreation, next to a growing population with insatiable demand for things to do outside. Make the access points happen.
No, the survey is completely accurate
The river upstream of the reservoir is accessed for all sorts of recreation already. Don’t restrict what makes Calgary and area great. Find a way to allow responsible use similar to what is already allowed on the bow River through Calgary
There has been private access by the rich owners of adjacent properties for long enough. Access should be there for all users, just like ghost reservoir
This is an artificially created body of water. Is is not an intact ecosystem. It should be managed so that as many citizens as possible can benefit from access to it. Dirty water powers the turbines just as well as clean..and its subsequently treated too. It's a shame it's so problematic to go for a paddle or wet a line currently
It seems that the plan is already directed towards less access. I have often watched residents if rockyview county who live next to the water boat, swim, fish, jet ski and water ski in the reservoir yet post in their neighborhoods that parking is not tolerated and access to reservoir is not permitted. I am for developed and managed access to this body of water especially from the newly created haskayne park.
There is currently a very strong perception of elitism when it comes to current access to the reservoir. This needs to be strongly considered by your team and its decision-making. If there is not wider public access that comes as a result of your work, it is only fair that access to the water be removed to all. There cannot be tiered access based on income bracket.
Those that live on or near the reservoir should not have the right to end the use of recreation on the reservoir.
Litter and people(new canadains) being unsafe using the water or flotation devices on the water

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Why are you allowing motorized boats from the south side, but restricting all public access from the north? It is hypocritical and illogical to say that public access is the issue for low-risk recreation use when you are still allowing motorized watercraft's from the city's elite. This is public land and the public should be allowed to use it. How is it any different than Glenmore reservoir?
Make access easier and ban wake boats.
You already should know my feelings and how I feel about the project team. I'd like you guys to consider the levels of corruption you're participating in, and wonder how you sleep so peacefully at night.
It is important to balance nature and people. This place should stay protected, but people should still be able to walk, enjoy the fresh air, and admire the views. Simple paths, benches, and gentle water access would improve the area without harming nature. A toilet at the nearby parking area is enough. Designated swimming access and low-impact solutions would help people enjoy the river in harmony with the environment.
It's an amazing area, pls don't put an off leash park
No
People should be able to use the reservoir for on water activities and there should be easier access to it.
No alcohol allowed at the shore, heavy fines
I live in the Blue Ridge area and have no access to get down to the Bear Park Reservoir. Would be nice to have a path that somebody could walk down and get on the path that is down there.
Increased used of places like bowness park does not meet existing recreation needs as city grows
Don't listen to lobbyists looking for more access to the reservoir.
Find a way to complete the Canmore bike path and open up the reservoir to pedestrians. I don't boat myself but that area is blocked off in a frustrating way for cycling and running from Tuscany.
I want the community to better understand impacts to our drinking water quality.
Bp plan should have same regs as Glenmore for recreation. Nerd better/more access points. NOT a private lake for the wealthy that live on it. No motor s!
Have open public access for everyone, not just landowners or people that pay.
Yes, extending the pathway from Haskaynr or from Calgary
There should be a takeout point for canoes and kayaks at Haskayne Park for canoes and kayaks.
For too long the resevoir has been treated like a private playground for those who have direct water access in both summer and winter. There have been many projects that have been intentionally designed to frustrate or outright hinder the publics access, but NOTHING done to hold the locals to the same standard. Its rules that apply the same to everyone, or give the public the same access
As these waters are downstream to the Ghost Reservoir are the same concerns being addressed by Rocky View County or are these concerns unique to Bears Paw Reservoir?
Protect the Glenbow Provincial Park. Don't let a gravel pit or extra multi residential buildings over take the area and don't expand the Bearspaw dam. The Ghost dam should be expanded only
Maintaining safe drinking water should be the priority, not how to fit people in to play in the same water we drink.
I would like swimming to be considered in the plan. It has a limited impact if access is limited. It would have to be the users responsibility to manage the risks.
I have loved and cared for this reservoir since 2008, painting and paddling its shores. I want to keep it wild and beautiful for generations to come. Policing people out and leaving access undefined breeds exactly the damage we're trying to prevent. Give this place safe, designated access and basic infrastructure, and people will rise to meet that standard of care. Respect is built through stewardship, not restriction. Trust the people who love this place.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
The water and fishery need to be managed as a valued, public resource with equitable access for low impact recreation, rather than a private oasis.
Residents of Springbank that live along the river already have access to the reservoir waters. It only makes sense to consider adding reservoir access from Rockland park as community members are eager to enjoy the reservoir waters as well. The train tracks are a limiting factor in accessing the reservoir. Thus, a bridge or walkway from Rockland Park to the reservoir should be seriously considered
None
Yes open east end access and mange it, the park has a serious lack of management. Weed control noise control. The gate should be looked at 11 pm or earlier to stop 24 hour use. I catch poacher ever week all year. We also have people looking for help whe rafts sink, Maria refuses to help boaters coming down river as the is no exit point
Create some access points- let's make use of this body of water like we do the Glenmore Reservoir.
Please work closely with year-round residents, who have decades of firsthand experience with the reservoir and dam operations. I have lived on the west side for 20 years, among the closest homes to the dam, and welcome an on-site meeting to share my observations. Focus on erosion, runoff, habitat protection and practical safety while preserving responsible recreation.
I think you need to provide access for recreation if for no other reason than to allow downstream navigation of the river. If you don't, it's a free-for-all. It would be nice to have another lake area in the N part of the city for activities like the Glenmore Sailing Club, rowing, canoeing, etc. And make the survey a single survey without having a recaptcha at every step. That part was irritating.
It would be absolutely wonderful if there if the pathways at Haskayne connected to the City of Calgary, that would also eliminate some vehicle traffic at Glenmore Ranch and Haskayne. Also would love to see a toilet somewhere in the middle, it's a long way in between. Another great addition would be an off leash dog area away from the water.
Please allow only minimally invasive intrusion to this area as possible. I know with the growth of Alberta (Calgary in particular) the stress on native areas is being pushed to the limit. It is nice to be able to find places with very little human contact that one can walk in. Keeping developers and other profit-making ventures OUT of the picture is critical in the planning of this important area. Thank you for taking into account public input.
The sad thing about doing these surveys is no matter what the public input is you will still do what you set out to do. Look at the Calgary rezoning a majority Calgarians were against it, but the city went against our wishes and the same thing no matter what Calgarians say about the Bears Paw dam project it doesn't matter because it's in the best interest of Calgarians and Rockyview county
Make this City and surrounding area great. We are a world class city and this is a world class innovative recreation opportunity.
I hope there are opportunities for qualified citizens to be part of the refinement of the recommendations.
The residents of Emerald Bay have been using the reservoir safely, responsibly, in a low impact manner and without significant incidents for nearly forty years. We would not like to see our access restricted. "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!" The biggest environmental and safety threats are from inexperienced and disrespectful day users and overcrowding!
We need maintained public access points to protect the drinking water and the environment.
No recreational access to be considered

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
People love the river and using it. It can make or break someone's summer. As well fish find the water and the water around as a home. And the doors being kept open poorly effects both the people and the fish.
Give us convenient, readily accessible access so that the public can enjoy the reservoir just like the landowners on the south side who seem to enjoy exclusive, private access to this beautiful body of water. This body of water is owned by all Albertans yet there is still no public access for those of us who would like to go for a paddle or fish from a row boat.
Future management should seek an appropriate balance between public safety, environmental stewardship, protection of critical infrastructure, respect for established property owners, and the longstanding public enjoyment of Alberta's navigable waterways.
Low risk recreation should be on the reservoir
I'm tired of a bunch of rich old people determining what people can access. I live in a nearby community but can't afford land next to the Reservoir so therefore cannot use waterways? We live in a beautiful country and I believe in outdoor access for all. Fine those that litter, educate, but do not close access because the people nearby and rich snobs.
as mentioned above, connecting bike paths between Rockland Park community, the Haskayne Legacy Park and Glenbow Ranch would be great!
Is there going to be a dedicated bike path connecting Rockland park to Cochrane that partially runs along the perimeter of the reservoir?
I have seen cattle 🐄 standing in the water between Morley and the Bearspaw reservoir so I assume efforts are made to mitigate introduced biohazards when using the water for the drinking water supply. I am not sure that keeping dogs 🐶 cats and people away from the reservoir is critical. Good luck in your efforts.
Pathway connection along the reservoir to Cochrane!
The Bearspaw Reservoir is a beautiful and sensitive area. It needs to be protected and maintained for future generations.
Can this management plan explore the extension of the Calgary bike path alone the reservoir and connecting to Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park. Thank you
We allow paddle boarding on the bow river already, and they had that one site for a few years where you could rent paddle boards and canoes. Allow non motorized recreational water craft on it
I'm begging you, please find an easy way for people to travel from Bearspaw Village to Haskayne Park. All roads are closed to pedestrians, and cyclists. People have to drive many extra miles. It will create great opportunities for a healthier life for many people.
Given increasing demands for water recreation, proper public access will need to be provided to minimize unauthorized access. However, unauthorized access will likely continue and grow, decisions on law enforcement will need to be made.
Currently there is minimal risk of issues with water quality due to use by people using boat and other water craft? Even then the Ghost Reservoir is heavily used by motor boats
The lack of public access to the reservoir has been a concern of mine for decades. Why only a few people have access to this public waterway is not appropriate. The private land owners who have destroyed the riparian habitat along the shore should be restricted. Also motorized watercraft that have been using the reservoir should be suspended.
This reservoir should be more of asset to the city. Big key point. Immigration has resulted in cultures not understanding how to respect the environment including noise pollution. Make the reservoir more accessible but with string enforcement of the rules!

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
I don't think the reservoir should be used for recreational purposes. There are other areas in the city that provide these that are not essential drinking water. I see people violate the rules and regulations at Glenmore constantly and I fear the same will happen at Bearspaw. Protect the integrity of the reservoir over entertainment
Is there a possibility of connecting the bike path system from the city of Calgary (Rockland Park and/or Tuscany subdivisions) to the Haskayne/Glenbow Provincial Park bike trail off of Woodland Road without riding along highway 1A? Thank you.
I think building this as a non motorized accessible to the public water source would be a great use of the water. Currently, unless you live on this, or pay to rent a paddle board, it isn't accessible , which is frustrating when you can see it and access it from your home.
The beauty of this are is the unspoiled and noncommercial basis of it. The lack of development is central to its value. Keep it simple and quiet. I grew up fishing the reservoir as a child with my friends and the lack of development was rare. It affords opportunity to simply enjoy nature. No signs. No businesses. Wildlife and water. This is a rare commodity and must be protected.
Providing public access to the reservoir would be a positive. Or allowing the marina to let public launch their own unmotorized crafts from their site.
As I look at the many access points further downstream of the Bearspaw Reservoir, I can see the clear impacts of unmitigated access and little oversight. However this is not a valid excuse to deny Calgarians from accessing what should be an unrestricted right. Better management of river shorelines by the city as well as clear communication regarding acceptable river usage should be the only path forward.
Please consider active transportation as part of the management plan. There should be a continuous cycling and walking pathway connecting Calgary, Haskayne Park, the Bearspaw Reservoir area, and Cochrane. Improved trail connectivity would provide safe public access, reduce vehicle traffic, and allow more residents to enjoy the area while respecting environmental and water-quality protections.
The reservoir and Haskayne park should be more accessible from Calgary, especially via bicycle paths from the west edge of the city. This path could also serve as an emergency services access. It is risky to ride my bike on the 1a highway to get to the Haskayne/ Glenbow Ranch trail systems.
Cycling access from the existing city of Calgary pathway network and not having to go on a busy highway to access the area or drive to the area
Would love formal access from Tuscany/Rockland.
I've been using the reservoir for 6 years for paddle boarding , I've had to access it through hiking in. I would like better access, I don't want it over populated with people who have no consideration for environment and safety.
The current situation illustrates the public will use the reservoir. Signs regarding trespassing are ignored. It appears the rules are there for transalta's interests, not the public and not providing access to open water in a very dry area
If you open this area to more recreation it will undoubtedly become popular very quickly. Some suggestions would be gated access with set hours, enforced visitor capacity limits and full time staffing for education /enforcement during busy season.
Preserving the Bow and area is the most. I wish l can have access all to Glenbow ranch from Rockland park.
how will you manage existing residential access versus public access? Access should not be limited to adjacent property owners.
Water is for everyone period!! No one has the right to exclude anyone from such a free loving land. Why in gods name do you feel that you are more important than your neighbors. If a community usage pass needs to be sold at a nominal fee great.. but exclusion is [redacted]

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
More than 30% of Albertan's paddle. This section of the Bow River must be opened.
As stated in other sections, there are many other man-made lakes in Alberta that exist because of dams and that support robust recreational use. The safety risks and threats to dam infrastructure are very low at this location relative to other reservoirs and natural lakes/rivers in the province. Certain activities should be prohibited like swimming (people and pets). I think non-motorized recreational use with 1 or 2 public access points is a safe, and reasonable accommodation.
I think that low risk recreation would be possible and very beneficial for the community and also can be done while keeping public safety, water, quality, and TransAlta operations in mind. I believe if we kept motorized water vehicles off of the water, then it could be accessed and used by the public similarly to other bodies of water in the area, by keeping this beautiful location away from public use it is a disservice to the community and also poses a new risk of unauthorized access
It's a public body of water, it allows boats but there is no public launch access unless from Cochrane and only a very select few home owners have access which is not right. It's a public amenity and should be open to all regardless of wealth status
This beautiful area should have access for all Calgarians. Right now the access is limited and underused.
How to get an easy access?
I think it would br lovely to have a designated recreation area for those who participate in activities safety, and are mindful.of the environment. A playground for children would be nice and a launch area would be great as well.
No. Was a good, comprehensive survey.
A safe access point on the north side for approved recreational non motorized watercraft is of very high priority for us.
None I can think of.
Protecting public access to healthy outdoor recreation is important. We are land-locked in Alberta and for a couple months of the year, having the ability to access water for activities does wonders for our mental health. I do not think vehicles of any kind should have access to the water though, except a parks crew for emptying garbages. I've watched a golf cart with a trailer from a business run people off the pathway multiple times to get to the water and back.
It used to be a great recreational spot until all access was cut off but installing a chain link fence on both sides of the railroad tracks that cut off public access to the dam road and dam itself. Please re open access so people can enjoy it once again.
What super rich people want is not the only thing to consider.
As the surrounding population increases, it is critical that regulations for the resevoir and surrounding areas be made now and enforced before overuse causes irreparable damage.
Please allow public access. Public access to waterbodies is a right. This should not be a private lake for the few who live along this area, nor a vehicle for private profit as we are seeing with the Bearspaw Marina
At first, it seemed like recreational use was possible, but as more information and questions were asked, it sounded progressively unfeasible. And also currently not adhered to by residents with direct water/dock access. It doesn't make sense.
Balance a thoughtful plan.
no
If people use it, people will abuse it. Haskayne Park is already full of off leash issues. (Dog poo, dogs not staying on trails, dogs chasing wildlife) I don't think this is a responsible thing to do unless it is a supervised site- and who has money for that? Pay per use to cover site enforcement?

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Go away and leave us alone - we don't need you welcoming people to the area. Leave nature alone for once.
I believe there is a balance to be struck in responsible use and mitigating environmental impact. Giving people the option shouldn't encourage people to do something inappropriately, and if it does, they are likely already doing it.
Water is critical. Safe storage pre use is beyond important. Maximizing safe storage of water is a major priority. Recreational use like boating ie like at Glenmore is only once safe storage and maximizing storage is considered
Priority #1 is water quality. Need to ensure the reservoir is not filled with upstream silt and caving of riverbanks. also ensure upstream water quality use similar guidelines. Access to the Reservoir must be fair to people on both sides of the river. - same rules and access provided.
I think public access should be allowed
None
Should land owners around the reservoir be able to profit from the recreational opportunities? Or should the city manage and provide access/ boat rentals etc ?
I'm very concerned about the flora and fauna in the area. I would also be concerned that it might become overused
Nope
Public Money spent in water recreation is made back in the health and vibrancy of the community. Look how busy Harvey passage And canoe meadows are.
NA
Despite the concerns of some landowners, the general public deserves access to recreate on the reservoir. No one owns the river and many concerns can be addressed by making clear access points with amenities and emergency services to ensure public safety and staff to ensure environmental protections. There are clear templates for how to do this right, and the city has the tools to make this happen in a positive and responsible manner.
No
N/A
Please do NOT focus on recreation. The bow river and bearspaw reservoir is an important asset to the health and wellness of Alberta citizens including the wildlife. The bow river is one of the most beautiful environments and needs to be protected from development.
Consider the residents who had taken carenof the reservoir and live on or by it.. dont allow it to become a overcrowded place with no rules
Na
Do not cater to the wealthy trying to limit access to the water. They have boats and boat launches, meaning they drive trucks right up to and into the water to launch their boats with no care or concern for the environment or water. This is just an attempt by those rich people to keep the public out.
The impact of increased traffic in our community along Range Road 32.
Good luck. Keep up the good work!
The reservoir has private access for many of the wealthy landowners whose properties reside on the shores and have blocked public access. If the reservoir cannot be accessible to everyone then access should restricted for everyone. It is unclear why this reservoir access is different than Ghost and the same access to the public should be available.
We need safe access points to allow people to enjoy recreation on the bow river / reservoir. I don't believe motorized vessels should be allowed on the reservoir either to protect shorelines from erosion and our water

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
quality from boat fuel, etc. Not being to legally access the bow river to enjoy activities such as fly fishing due to no legal access points (on the rockland park side) needs to be addressed in a timely manner. Or trespassing will continue to occur.
Local residents use this body of water today. Access is curtailed sometimes by them. This should be accessible to all with similar usage guidelines and safety measures as the Glenmore Reservoir.
I encourage the project team to keep the public informed throughout the process and provide regular updates on decisions, progress, and impacts. Residents should have ongoing opportunities to participate, share feedback, and help shape the future of the reservoir. Working together with communities, stakeholders, and local governments will help create a stronger, more sustainable, and more resilient Calgary for future generations.
Would need proper management to keep garbage and litter under control with more people frequenting the water. Also not sure how to manage the safety around the train tracks.
That stretch of the river is s beautiful area and access to it for all would be wonderful. As with anything offered to the public, careful monitoring and implementation is necessary
Pathway connection to Haskayne/Glenbow Ranch PP Legal and safe rail crossing and access to the water
Don't let the corporate shills win. Our tax dollars - mine and yours - are hard at work protecting an energy corporations "private" (illegally created) property. You're on the inside. Do what you can to bring public access rights to our waterways back to the public. It's a federal law, and you have the power to help put it right.
Ensure safe public access for launching non-motorized boats, kayaks, canoes, paddle boards, sail boats etc.
No
The group needs to provide safe access like they do with other reservoirs in the area. So that none motorized crafts can use the the lake.
I think people wearing a wetsuit without sunscreen should be included as a low risk option
Keep it PUBLIC
All boats should be allowed and should be structured like Ghost reservoir.
It needs to be open with easy access to the general public for non-motorized water activities. Currently too many of the locals with water access use power boats and some use them dangerously (trying to scare people enjoying the water so the out power boats). It needs to be open for fishing - it's a great resource that has had limited access to the public since access through bears paw dam road was closed by CPKC.
what about all the metal debris that the trains leave all over the tracks and areas, it seems quite dangerous and its everywhere
Public access boat launch
Private homes have docks which contradicts statements made about restricting access due to safety and response concerns. In addition, those concerns aren't an issue on other water bodies in the province.
Easier access via Rockland Park for emergency vehicles. Lifeguard on duty.
Water is southern Alberta's most valuable asset, essential to our long-term sustainability. Don't let get-rich quick schemers flaunt safe environmental practices for short-term gain, but long-term pain
Easier access from the parking lot to the Bearspaw marina. There are not a lot of calm waters to enjoy recreational activities in Calgary or near Calgary eg SUP, canoeing, etc. and it should be a priority to provide taxpayers a place to enjoy the outdoors in this beautiful city.
No
Stand up paddle board access please! :) Please work in conjunction with the existing Bearspaw marina. They have been a great addition to our

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
community, have hired many local people, and have operated safely and responsibly. We are true neighbors of the reservoir (we can see it from our home). It is a beautiful and very special place that deserves protection, but also to be enjoyed safely and responsibly.
100% transparency. Just don't screw this up
Safe access from neighbouring Rockland Park community to the reservoir
Considering the people that live on the water and bought here with the understanding that access is a part of the value of our property.
Currently the reservoir operates as a private lake with motorized usage for a select few. Recreational usage for the public creates value for all socioeconomic status's. As far as environmental impact goes; it is a dam reservoir that has a major impact on the natural environment already. Motorized usage and local runoff from commercial and residential properties likely have a much larger impact than adding defined user access points.
Living in rocklamd Park we are aware of people walking down to the reservoir although not accessible from this area. Is there anyway to make it accessible in the actual dam area close to Rockland Park? It would be so enjoyable to have access close to home!
Connection to Calgary pathway system needs to be included in the plan
Remove access to the water for motor powered watercraft
I hope we can find free, public access to the reservoir for City residents. It's a great gem for the city and currently only available to those who can pay, or afford to live on it.
As the Rockland park neighborhood continues to develop, and the future Haskayne development begins, more adults and children will be tempted to access the resevoir. Without proper access points, unsafe access and accidents will inevitably take place. We appreciate your consideration in putting in a safe access location for the general public to enjoy the resevoir!
It is a alberta river and all Alberta should have public access to it.
No
I think it is important to allow Bear Paul Marina to remain. It provides a great recreational experience enhancing the health and well-being of Calgarian. It is a well managed organization and they take their responsibility seriously
None
Stop wasting tax payer money. Publish how much wasted funds are used in meeting for managers and how [redacted] little work they do.
No
If Calgary can't figure out a way to allow recreational activities on the Bearspaw reservoir, I strongly suggest they come up with a Bow River water development plan to create a safe, multipurpose water area, something desperately needed!
Please protect public access points, especially the public access point from the south side on Springbank Heights Way. It is my favourite place for stargazing, boating and lake views. Losing it would be very disappointing, especially considering how little garbage I see down there.
I would love easy access to the water but also worry about people abusing it.
The water use it for everyone. It should not be restricted to use for a select few because they have money and whine.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
The more easily accessible it is, less damage is done as people will then use proper accessible as opposed to creating their own.
I do not support any pets swimming in the water and any off leash areas next to the water. There are irresponsible dog owners and I do not want my water contaminated with feces and urine. I also want more enforcement present.
Allow paddleboards. It is antiquated thinking that a paddleboard user has any more contact with the water source than a kayak, canoe or similar. We can launch same way as they do with only our ankles getting wet. If you're going to limit recreational activities with claim of protecting source water quality don't make same ill thought decision made at Glenmore Reservoir. SUPs are not floaties we are watercraft. Our goal is to stay dry Kayakers roll in the water more we ever would fall in.
Similar useage to Glenmore Reservoir makes sense to me.
I'm sure you're feeling pressure from developers and from motorized vehicle users. But if you don't get this right, you're gonna destroy this pristine resource for generations to come. Don't fold to their pressure.
-
Keep the public up to date - somehow. Thanks
Expand the biking trail so that it connects Cochrane and Calgary Make sure the area is built with tourism in mind - make it a facility that people want to visit and make sure transalta pays there share!!
Any construction impact to the community of Rockland park
Consider expanding recreational use and adding more entry locations to the reservoir. Include "moderate risk" activities in the plan. It's ridiculous swimming is in the same category as motorized watercraft/ fuel powered recreation.
We need better recreational access to the reservoir so that people can kayak there
Will there be a foot bridge to the opposite side of the lake. Alternate location for such bridge in Glenbow Provincial Park.
Equality of access.
This reservoir should be able to be accessible for all people not just the rich
This is a major source of water for human consumption and there are more places people can go to recreate. No recreation use should be allowed in or near the reservoir. It should be significantly increased and more power generation should be created. The reservoir should be used to mitigate against flooding.
People with Non motorized water craft should be able to enjoy the reservoir. Access should be created to this public space.
I believe the area surrounding Bearspaw reservoir could be a regional jewel with immeasurable value to the community, similar to Glenmore reservoir. The project team needs to consider the value of such a tremendous recreational asset (potentially). Restricting access of this asset only to existing landowners is a disservice to the communities and not in alignment with management of similar areas such as Glenmore, the Elbow and Bow waterfronts.
If water contact is being discouraged then why has there been a boat marina on the Springbank side for years? Seems rather unfair that only the rich can access this beautiful area.
It would be nice if a balance could be found for non motorized recreational use with proper entry points. Similar to the Glenmore reservoir. Calgary does not have a lot of water recreation areas and our season for these activities is short.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
This stretch of water is not entirely within the city of Calgary and as such the city does not have the jurisdiction to restrict recreational uses of it including swimming or paddle boarding
NA
Allowing the rich to restrict public access to water under the guise of protecting the environment is a farce. Go see the sea-doos and recreational equipment in the area to witness the hypocrisy first hand. If it's good enough for the glenmore resevoir it's good enough for bearspaw.
No
Keep our water open to recreation!!!! Kayaks, paddle board and motor boats!!!
There absolutely should be public access allowed at the reservoir
Most people are inherently good and will abide by what is necessary, but what is necessary needs to be weighed carefully. There will always be some people who won't, no matter what is implemented. Information and being informed is key.
Why is this different than the Glenmore Reservoir?
The rich property owners want their own private lake. This reservoir is no different than ghost lake just upstream or glenmore reservoir. City needs to provide facilities for people to access and use the lake. Also shoreline access needs to be developed so people have large access areas.
Restricted residential and commercial building along the water will cause environmental damage (water run off and light pollution)
Make multiple public access points the reservoir is beautiful and manage it properly. There should be CFD boats on the reservoir.
Can't believe motorboats are still allowed on the reservoir. It's a big environmental and drinking water concern for me.
Recreational opportunities, designated areas where people can responsibly enjoy the area are important.
Please attempt to maintain equal usage of the areas adjacent to the reservoir, and on it if deemed okay. At the moment those with large properties adjacent have blocked public access to public lands, and are treating the reservoir as their own private lake.
None
This is all about the private business that operates on the reservoir and won't let general public access it. solution is to allow everyone or no one.
Please keep it simple
Concerned of an influx of people and off leash dogs. We currently enjoy the parks walking trails and my wish list would be to have a second mini parking area near the end of woodland drive with a second pedestrian rail crossing. Water recreation would completely change the use of this park in a negative way
Navigation from Cochrane to Calgary should be maintain for river users.
I do not have any issues with direct water contact by people wishing to swim in the reservoir either, I consider this low risk recreation as well.
Move the rail line north of Bearspaw 😂
No
Consider the public many, not the water access owning few that wish to keep their private lake. This is a public asset which the general public should be able to access and enjoy. Please apply your same logic and methods to Glenmore recreational activities.
Prioritize providing safe and fair access to the reservoir for boating, fishing and hiking. Including safe railway crossings near Rockland park. Currently Haskayne park is cut off from water - it should be connected and have

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
piers and other infrastructure to interact with water (even if swimming is not allowed). Also currently rich homes on the opposite side do have access including pier which is not fair
The low use of personal water craft on this lake doesn't require more laws and control. It's a navigable waterway and powerboats should be permitted the same as every other reservoir in the province. The city of Calgary is the only river systems in the entire province that is blocked to motor boats. This is really a shame as all the other city's allow river users access for all watercraft.
Make it safe crossing the railway first and access for non propelled watercraft's and fishing.
This area is already limited in who will access it due to the 1km trek to the reservoir!! Non motorized sports will not in any way damage the ecosystem or the water quality. Since we can't control the access up stream, Ghost lake, Banff, Canmore - there isn't a way to 100% prevent every incident
It would be such a great place to enjoy water sports. Would make it so much easier to access the sports. Drive to Ghost Lake makes it often too time consuming.
No
Use should be FREE.
No
If access isn't given then all residential water areas in the city & counties need to be public & have public access. There is Way too many people in this city to not have recreational access to the water.
It is important to be reminded that most of the people who are currently accessing the area are responsible individuals who without even having the key priorities listed were already practicing and respecting those priorities. Nature lovers tend to love and respect nature. Don't make things over complicated. Not everyone has the benefit of being able to drive long distances to enjoy scenery and water access. We should proudly enable free public access to bodies of water within City limits.
Please create well marked access points for on water recreation. Our city needs more access. Given that people are swimming and recreating within the water all along the river upstream and all throughout the river in the city it feels heavy handed to limit access to this amazing resource. Please let us use it.
So I understand why paddleboards may not be allowed. I am a paddleboarder, but I also own a hard side kayak. I also understand that many casual users don't follow or understand clean, drain and dry. Surely there is some way to allow experienced and responsible users to recreate on the reservoir. Just as certain types of boats are allowed on the Glenmore Reservoir. I have paddled on the Bearspaw Reservoir in the past. I would like to do do again using my own equipment.
Please for gods sake don't make it as restrictive as Glenmore reservoir.
This is a great body of water with lots of potential.
Recreational access of non motorized watercraft and floating or paddling craft should be allowed as should access for fisherpeople. Specific access points should be built to allow access. The areas at Glenbow and Haskayne are logical points of access. Completing the pathway to link Calgary and Cochrane is an important part of the development.
Improved recreational access is absolutely necessary.
This is an important recreation area.
Would there be any advantage to looking at building a new dam further away from the city?
Do not allow development on the reservoir. There are many other opportunities for city development, on the source of our drinking water is not one of them
standup paddleboards, wingfoiling and windsurfing should be allowed on the resevoir.

VERBATIM COMMENTS (SURVEY)
Overbearing restrictions on recreational use should not be implemented. It seems local government desires to make a rules and regulation mountain out of a mole hill. Maintain recreational access!
No confetti, dyes, balloons, large gatherings, faculty rentals, alcohol, smoking within 30m of the water, motorized vehicles except service, emergency or wheelchair access. No off leash pets within 30 meters.
Thank you for your efforts and good luck
Management plans are code for development. “Safety access” means boat launch. “Uncontrolled access points’ means paved paths The management plan of paskapoo slopes includes jamming thousands of people into a once special area. This reservoir needs to be left alone so access remains the biggest deterrent for over crowding.
Safe access to the reservoir for the public to enjoy. No motorized boats. Light recreation only, no mass tourism.
Fair access for public.
I would like the project team to consider that there has been decades of recreational access to BPR without issue. Now that Rockland park has been developed, TransAlta has issue with Access and amount of use. Now they seek to privatize a public resource in the name of safety.
The fact that rich land owners have been able to have a private reservoir for their motorized boating use for decades without any oversight is not acceptable. And now with the increase in population and inflatable watercraft they are mad that more people are accessing the reservoir. As long as there is along walk to get down to the water, that will naturally restrict the amount of public users. Calgary needs more free water recreation opportunities for the public, not less.