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Background

In the late 1990s, Parks Canada identified a need to improve reception, orientation and education services for visitors to Banff National Park. It was determined that the best place to deliver these improvements would be in the heart of the town of Banff, where 80% of visitors stop during their trip. To this end and knowing it would take many years, Parks Canada began acquiring the necessary lands on the 200-block of Banff Avenue.

After more than two and a half decades of work, it is anticipated that on September 30, 2024, Parks Canada will have 10 adjacent lots on Banff Avenue. These lots include Banff Avenue Park, the current visitor information centre and its associated parking, and two other buildings.

The broad intent is for these lots to be redeveloped with facilities, spaces and programs that support visitor reception, enjoyment and connection with the rest of the park, and which foster understanding of the challenges faced by protected areas like Banff.

The full picture of what this redevelopment will look like, and the details of its programs and services, has yet to be developed. This picture will be created through a process called scoping which will focus on:

1. obtaining a complete picture of the site through detailed studies, and
2. identifying the principles, considerations, constraints, needs and aspirations for redevelopment with the help of Indigenous communities, stakeholders, the public and Parks Canada staff.

The results of these activities will then be used to create redevelopment options (also known as conceptual designs). Parks Canada will seek feedback on these options from Indigenous communities, stakeholders, the public and staff.

The Engagement Process





Frequently Asked Questions

What is the project about?

- A. Parks Canada is advancing work on an idea first envisioned almost 25 years ago to re-develop facilities in the 200-block of Banff Avenue to support visitor reception, enjoyment and connection with the rest of the park, and to foster understanding of the challenges faced by protected areas like Banff.

Q. Why has it taken so long?

- A. This has been a part of the long-term vision for Banff National Park for decades. Parks Canada needed to acquire the necessary lots through the appropriate process. After more than two and a half decades of work, it is anticipated that by September 30, 2024, Parks Canada will have acquired 10 adjacent lots on Banff Avenue enabling Parks Canada to proceed to the next step - planning.

Q. When will there be a new building on the ground? What will it look like?

- A. It's too soon to say. We are in the very early stages of our planning where the work is focused on 1) obtaining a thorough understanding of the site through specific studies (so we know what is and is not possible), and 2) identifying the principles, considerations, constraints, needs and aspirations for redevelopment. The results of these activities will then be used to create redevelopment options for the site. This process will take about two and a half years. We will be asking for feedback from Indigenous communities, stakeholders, the public and Parks Canada staff throughout this process.

Q. Why is Parks Canada doing this? Why not leave the block as it is?

- A. National Parks exist with the ongoing grace and support of Canadians. An investment in helping them enjoy and connect to the park, and in understanding the challenges for its protection, is an investment in the park's future.

Q. How much will the project cost?

- A. The costs of redeveloping the site are not known at this point, as there is no final design. At present we are simply studying the site and engaging with others to create redevelopment options to choose from.

For More Information:

www.letstalkmountainparks.ca/200-block-banff-avenue-redevelopment



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We Want To Hear From You!

This is a rare and important opportunity. Advice and feedback from Canadians is essential to arriving at a redevelopment plan that makes a meaningful contribution to the visitor experience and reflects the values and views that Canadians have for Banff. In the first stage of engagement - which begins immediately and extends to June 2023 - your input will help us set the framework for moving forward, making decisions and identifying potential options for redevelopment.

You can get involved by:

- Completing the survey or sharing your thoughts on the Ideas Board on the project website at www.letstalkmountainparks.ca/200-block-banff-avenue-redevelopment
- Sending your views to Opinion@pc.gc.ca or Office of the Superintendent, Box 900, Banff, Alberta T1L 1K2
- Requesting a telephone or video conference meeting with a project team member (submit your request to Opinion@pc.gc.ca).
- Participating in the community session to be held in Banff in winter 2023.

Any and all comments submitted to Parks Canada will be carefully considered by the project team.



Redevelopment site = Lots 4-13