

The background is a vibrant green with a pattern of stylized, semi-transparent icons. These icons include construction equipment like trucks and cranes, as well as community elements like houses, trees, and people. The overall theme is urban revitalization and community development.

2021 Annual Report Balwin & Belvedere Revitalization

edmonton.ca/BalwinBelvedereRevitalization

Edmonton

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Background

Neighbourhood Revitalization aims to improve the livability of Edmonton's mature and established neighbourhoods and mobilize community-led action.

In 2018–2019, Balwin & Belvedere community members identified key components of the Revitalization strategy. This strategy now guides the implementation of projects and initiatives in the neighbourhoods toward four goals:

- + Community Connectedness**
Individuals who live, work and play in Balwin & Belvedere are more connected with each other and engaged in community activities.
- + Economic Vibrancy**
Local businesses in Balwin & Belvedere are welcomed, celebrated and supported by local residents as part of the community.
- + Beautification**
Homes, businesses, sidewalks, parks and other places in Balwin & Belvedere are kept clean, tidy and well-lit.
- + Safety**
Residents and businesses in Balwin & Belvedere take deliberate actions to help make the neighbourhoods feel safer for all community members.

Progress Update

In 2021, the Balwin & Belvedere Revitalization Guiding Team continued to meet virtually throughout the year. The Guiding Team plans, implements, and evaluates the community-led projects which action one or more

The main focus in the initial years of Revitalization was on establishing connections, networks and open communication pathways so that residents, businesses, property-owners and organizations felt welcome to share their ideas.

Under the **safety** goal, a Safety Project Team hosted virtual community workshops and information to help empower neighbours on safety and health topics.

Under the **beautification** goal, a project team helped to organize a mobile pick-up service to expand the Big Bin Clean Up events hosted by each Community League.

Under the **community connections** goal, a Community Garden project team initiated a pop-up community garden for residents, members living at Balwin Villa, and members of Sinkunia Community Development Organization.

COMMUNITY CAPITAL INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

NEIGHBOURHOOD REVITALIZATION BALWIN & BELVEDERE

Report Summary | May 2021

The Capital Investment Priorities report sets out recommendations for the prioritization of Neighbourhood Revitalization funding for capital projects in the Edmonton neighbourhoods of Balwin and Belvedere. The work was initiated in December 2020 as a collaboration between residents of Balwin and Belvedere, City of Edmonton Neighbourhood Revitalization, local stakeholders, and facilitators.

This work stems from the Balwin and Belvedere Revitalization Strategy which was published by the City of Edmonton in 2019. Additional inputs included 'What We Heard' reports from recent engagements through both Revitalization, other City of Edmonton projects, and records of community ideation over 2020. The Community Capital Investment Project Team developed a set of criteria to prioritize the potential projects. The projects on the reverse side of this page have been identified as priority capital investments in Balwin and Belvedere by the Community Capital Investment Project Team.

What's Next? The recommended projects will be circulated to various departments with the City of Edmonton for technical and funding review.

The City makes decisions using a combination of policy and program information, public engagement input, technical requirements and available funding. This process helps to ensure that the decisions we make are fiscally responsible, align with best practices, consider the existing public and private infrastructure, land uses and activities in the neighbourhood and result in the best outcomes for our city.





PROJECT CRITERIA	
Social	Brings diverse people together to stay and socialize
Eating	Provides spaces to share food with family and neighbours
Events	Invites people to use it / host events
Play	Encourages play
Welcome	Shows evidence of community presence and a welcome signal
Beauty	Beautifies and brightens public space and amenities
Nature	Brings natural life to public spaces
Info	Provides information about the communities
Lighting	Provides well-lit public spaces
Access	Improves access for pedestrians
Speed	Slows down traffic
Visibility	Supports high visibility in public spaces
Attraction	Attracts people to businesses and services
Pedestrians	Improves experience for pedestrian shoppers
Public	Makes local commerce visible in public space
Culture	Reflects local cultural presence
Free	Does not require money to enjoy
Accessible	Enhances accessibility for all
Year-Round	Works and invite use in all seasons
Open	Removes need for permission to participate
Other	Uses high-quality, durable materials Easy to clean and maintain Leverages partnerships with other City work or community initiatives where possible

For ongoing project updates visit:
edmonton.ca/balwinbelvedere/revitalization | balwinbelvederehub.com

In addition to the project teams working toward the four goals, a Community Capital Investment project team was formed in 2020-2021. This group developed tools to gather ideas and feedback from the neighbourhoods on key infrastructure projects (also known as capital investments) such as green spaces, parks and streets within the area. In May 2021, the project team completed a report for Community Capital Investment Priorities and in December 2021 a summary report was delivered to all mailing addresses (pictured). For more details on the capital projects, see the **Capital Investments** heading below.

Community Led Initiatives

Throughout 2021, neighbourhood-based agencies and organizations offered community-focused activities, events and programs both in-person and virtually. These initiatives support area residents and also spread awareness of and engage with Edmontonians from the surrounding neighborhoods.



Sinkunia members at Packingtown Growers pop-up community garden, May-October

“ Our group held a virtual gardening workshop to kick off the Packingtown Growers community garden. The first day it was opened we provided seedlings and tools through Revitalization funds and everyone planted together. We held a few regular volunteer hours throughout the week where gardeners could visit each other. Overall, it was a very positive experience for me and the community. I learnt some things that will be useful in implementing the permanent community garden and micro-orchard. It was great to walk in the neighbourhood and talk to people I had met through the garden. ”

— JENNIFER,
PACKINGTOWN GROWERS

Community Led Initiatives

Some examples of these included:

- + Balwin & Belvedere Partners (social agencies quarterly networking group)
- + Transit Hotel (heritage site plaque)
- + KARA Family Resource Centre and KARA Too (neighbourhood connection programs)
- + Little Bear Resources (homelessness experiences speaker)
- + Balwin Community League and Belvedere Community League (Big Bin Clean Up events and mobile pick-up service; community newsletters; programs & events)
- + Sinkunia Community Development Organization (food security and gardening programs; youth summer programs)
- + Princeton School and parent association (playground redevelopment)
- + St. Francis of Assisi School and parent association (playground redevelopment & reopening)
- + Fort Road Business Association (new website & business directory)
- + The Mustard Seed's Mosaic Centre (community mural and drop-in programs)
- + Local interdenominational churches and NiGiNan Housing Ventures' *omamoo wango gamik* / Belvedere House (Smudging Ceremony and Interdenominational Healing Walk)
- + Kids Up Front (Music on the Move concert in Zoie Gardner Park)
- + Packingtown Growers and Excel Society's Balwin Villa Assisted Living Housing (pop-up community garden)
- + Revitalization & Abundant Community Edmonton (monthly virtual coffee chats)
- + Edmonton Police Service, Neighbourhood Empowerment Team (NET), REACH Edmonton and City of Edmonton Bylaw (safety initiative collaborations)

As in years past, the Fort Road Business Association (Business Improvement Area) worked alongside the many diverse businesses and land-owners that are located in and around the Fort Road and Belvedere areas.



St Francis of Assisi School playground reopening, July

Community Led Initiatives



New mural at The Mustard Seed's Mosaic Centre by artist Lewis Lavois



Princeton School playground redevelopment, October

“ If we missed you in our Smudging and Interdenominational Blessing, know that our thoughts, healing and prayers were with you. It was an amazing uplifting inspiring morning. People waving, watching for us through their windows, walking over to see us, people coming out of their homes to be with us and receive. May we be at peace as one and this is the start of a new day! ”

– PARTICIPANT,
SMUDGING CEREMONY AND
INTERDENOMINATIONAL HEALING WALK

Funding for Community Led Initiatives

TOTAL REVITALIZATION FUNDING AWARDED IN 2021 Detailed in table below	TOTAL COMMUNITY CASH CONTRIBUTIONS Matching Fund/ Macro Grant only	TOTAL COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS Matching Fund/ Macro Grant only	TOTAL COMMUNITY IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS Matching Fund/ Macro Grant only
\$32,410	\$253,546	\$270	\$17,160

GOAL	GROUP NAME	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	FUNDING AWARD
Community Connections	Fresh Routes Inc.	Service initiation and adaptations during Covid-19 pandemic for food security	\$7,000
Community Connections	Belvedere Community League	Zoom subscription to enable virtual meetings	\$200
Economic Vibrancy	Revitalization Guiding Team (via Balwin Community League)	Grant Writing Workshop	\$2,009
Safety	Revitalization Safety Project Team	Community Safety draw	\$250
Community Connections	Packingtown Growers Community Garden (via Balwin Community League)	Community garden public engagement and advertising	\$284
Safety	Revitalization Safety Project Team	Community houselessness and crime public info session	\$250
Community Connections	Council for the Advancement of African Canadians (Africa Centre)	Revitalization Communications Project (Summer Student Interns)	\$2,981
Beautification	Princeton School Parent Volunteer Committee	Princeton School Playground Redevelopment	\$10,000
Community Connections	Belvedere Community League	National Neighbour Day Community event	\$350
Community Connections	Revitalization Communications Project Team (via Balwin Community League)	Development, printing and delivery of the Revitalization Newsletter (August and October issues)	\$5,811
Community Connections	Revitalization Safety Project Team	Smudging Ceremony and Interdenominational Healing Walk	\$2,125
Safety	Revitalization Safety Project Team (via LPY Holdings Inc.)	Lights On Pilot Project	\$800
Community Connections	Belvedere Community League	Halloween Trick or Trunk Community event	\$350

TOTAL \$32,410

City Led Initiatives in Collaboration with Community Partners

Area-Wide Newsletter for March and May

Total Cost: \$5,236

Community connections and communications were key priorities in 2021, particularly as we continued to navigate the changes to our lives as a result of public health measures for Covid-19. A newsletter to incorporate information from the many organizations, businesses and community groups in Balwin & Belvedere was launched in 2020. The newsletter was locally printed by Scope Printing and delivered by the social enterprise group, On Site Placement. The first issues of 2021 were supported directly by Revitalization with following issues led by the community.

Peer To Peer Network

The City's Revitalization team hosted a "Peer To Peer" session in May 2021, bringing together members of the different Revitalization area steering committees and project teams to build a network of changemakers. There was an opportunity to share ideas, learnings and experience for positive community change and neighbourhood revitalization. High level themes from the session were: marketing and communications strategies, relationships with community leagues and other community stakeholders, project and idea generation.

Packingtown Community Garden & Micro-Orchard

The City supported the pop-up garden as a trial project for a permanent community garden at the public park site located in Balwin at 12803-70 Street, west of the Excel Society's Balwin Villa. In addition, Revitalization supported the project team to draft a business case for a permanent community garden and micro-orchard in 2022 and beyond

Mobile Big Bin Clean Up Service during Big Bin Events

Total Cost: \$24,910

Balwin Community League and Belvedere Community League had successful "big bin" clean up events. This year, a mobile pick-up service was tested to help residents who may not have a vehicle to transport their large discarded items to the Community League halls for the events. The mobile service collected and removed the following:

2021 MOBILE BIG BIN SERVICE	BALWIN JUNE 19-20	BELVEDERE JUNE 12-13	TOTAL
Truck Loads of Miscellaneous Items (<i>not including items below</i>)	21	27	48
# of Mattresses and Boxsprings	73	102	175
# Fridges, Freezers and Air Conditioning Units	27	38	65

Planning for Capital Infrastructure Investments

Resources to support the physical infrastructure development in Balwin & Belvedere falls under the Neighbourhood Revitalization Capital Investment Plan. Capital investments may include replacing old for new infrastructure.

Investments in physical infrastructure enhance public spaces such as open spaces, parks, roadways and alleys to increase the Revitalization goals of community connections, economic vibrancy, beautification and safety.

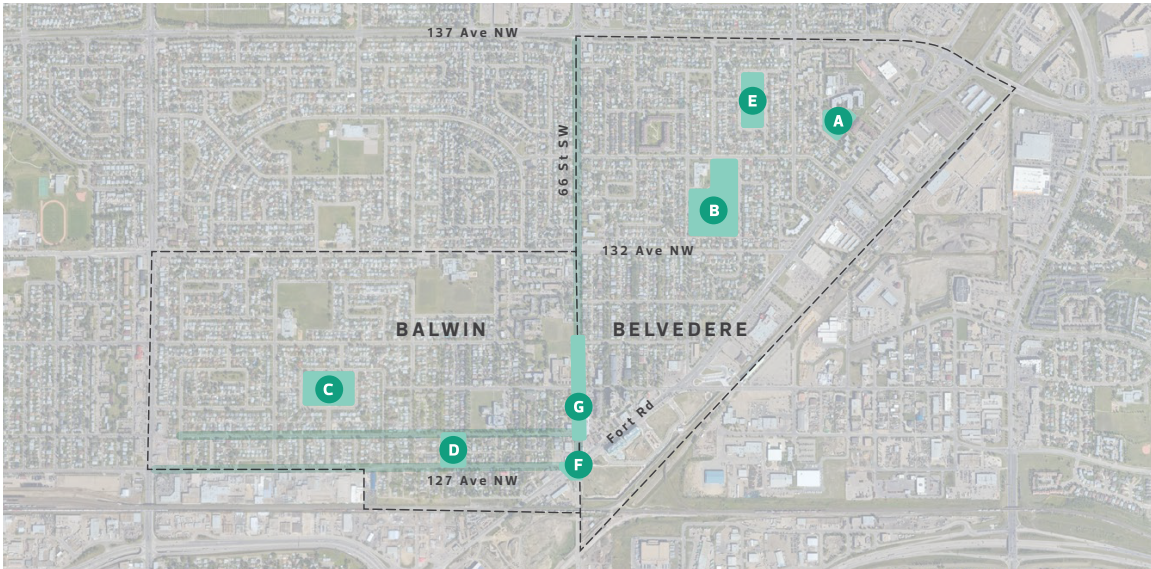
For 2019–2022, City Council approved a capital budget for Balwin & Belvedere Revitalization and Inglewood Revitalization for a total of \$13.4 million that would be leveraged with other City projects in the two revitalization areas. The majority of capital funding allocated for 2019–2022 was to be spent in Inglewood as there were immediate leverage opportunities with Inglewood Neighbourhood Renewal and 124th Street Renewal programs.

In 2020 and 2021, the Balwin & Belvedere Community Capital Investment project team worked with the Revitalization Coordinators to develop and facilitate engagement and prioritization of capital projects. A workbook and online survey were distributed to gather project ideas. In December 2020, a What We Heard report was published which

summarized the public feedback. In mid-2021, the Community Capital project team finalized a report which prioritized the ideas based on a set of community criteria. The [Community Recommendations for Capital Investment report](#) is available on the Balwin & Belvedere Revitalization webpage.



Planning for Capital Infrastructure Investments



A Robert Brett Park: Improved park lighting, renewal of existing amenities, and improved opportunities to play and gather for local residents of all ages.

B Belvedere Park: Improved park lighting, renewal of existing amenities, and future social and recreation opportunities.

C Balwin Park: Improved park lighting, renewal of existing amenities, and future social and recreation opportunities.

D Zoie Gardner Park: Improved park lighting, increased pedestrian connections, and traffic calming measures around the park.

E Braids Park: Improved park lighting and renewal of some basic amenities.

F Fort Road & 66 Street: Improved pedestrian crossing and welcoming entry to the neighbourhoods.

G 66 Street (128-130 Ave): Improved pedestrian crossings, traffic calming, and street beautification.

The City of Edmonton will use this report in 2022, as well as a review of City policies, programs and technical requirements to draft a capital investment proposal to City Council for 2023 to 2026 funding cycle.



Acknowledgements

Community change does not happen without the dedication, passion, innovation and skills of community members like you! Revitalization in Balwin & Belvedere has been growing since 2018 and each year new possibilities are explored. The hundreds of community members who have contributed to their neighbourhood in 2021 are shaping our city one block and one interaction at a time. Thank you to each and every person who supports the community!

Revitalization Guiding Team members:

- + Stella Carson, chairperson & resident, 2020-2021
- + Angela Moroz, vice chairperson & resident, 2020-2021
- + Keri Willis, resident, 2020-2021
- + Jennifer Porritt, resident, 2021
- + Nicole Renaud, resident, 2021
- + Sharif Haji, Africa Centre, 2021
- + Cynthia Lenders, Balwin Community League, 2020-2021
- + Alana Prockiw, Belvedere Community League, 2020-2021
- + Deanna Fuhlendorf, Fort Road Business Association, 2020-2021
- + Lincoln Nanaquawetung, KARA Family Resource Centre, 2020-2021
- + Rachael McEwan, Mosaic Centre, 2020-2021

City of Edmonton Integrated Community Development Team members:

- + Serena DeSouza, Revitalization Coordinator
- + Anna Vesala, Revitalization Coordinator
- + Chris Auton, Balwin Neighbourhood Resource Coordinator
- + Shannon Murray, Belvedere Neighbourhood Resource Coordinator
- + Landon Turlock, Community Safety Liaison
- + Tammy Francis, Community Relations Advisor
- + Debra Jakubec, Abundant Community Edmonton

Looking Forward

A new year means recruitment and welcoming new members of the Revitalization Guiding Team and project teams, as well as another round of project funding! Applications for the Guiding Team and funding projects are available on the City webpage.

The Revitalization Coordinator will be bringing important capital project engagement back to the community in 2022 for further input on design options. Revitalization happens with many people, in many locations and on many scales— small and large! Every resident, property owner, business and organization in Balwin & Belvedere is an agent for change. These are your neighbourhoods, and as such, your voice(s) matter!

Revitalization Guiding Team:

- + Email: BalwinBelvedereCommunityLed@gmail.com
- + Website: BalwinBelvedereHub.com
- + Social Media: facebook.com/BalwinBelvedereCommunityLed

City of Edmonton Revitalization:

- + Phone/Text: 780-975-3829
- + Email: BalwinBelvedereRevitalization@edmonton.ca
- + Website: edmonton.ca/BalwinBelvedereRevitalization

Contact Information

FOR COMMUNITY LED REVITALIZATION UPDATES, VISIT:

BalwinBelvedereHub.com
facebook.com/BalwinBelvedereCommunityLed

FOR REVITALIZATION UPDATES, SUBSCRIBE TO THE CITY REVITALIZATION E-NEWSLETTER AT:

edmonton.ca/BalwinBelvedereRevitalization

TO GET INVOLVED OR SHARE IDEAS, CONTACT THE REVITALIZATION GUIDING TEAM:

BalwinBelvedereCommunityLed@gmail.com

CONTACT THE CITY OF EDMONTON REVITALIZATION COORDINATOR:

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