

What We Heard Report Grandview Heights Neighbourhood Renewal

Refined Designs Event

February 2020

REFINE

SHARE YOUR VOICE
SHAPE OUR CITY

Edmonton

Roadmap to Building Great Neighbourhoods

The Neighbourhood Renewal Program follows the roadmap below. Most recently we gathered community feedback on refined designs.



LEGEND

- 
Public Engagement and Communications Opportunities
- 
Concept Phase
- 
Design Phase
- 
Build Phase
- 
Operate Phase

Public engagement activity timeline

DECEMBER 2018 – JANUARY 2019

Community Walk, Vision and Guiding Principles Workshop and Online Survey

- + Develop and build solutions with us regarding a vision and guiding principles
- + Help us improve our understanding of what infrastructure exists in the neighbourhood

FEBRUARY 2019

Vision Confirmation and Community Options Event

- + Help us improve and finalize the vision and guiding principles
- + Adapt and adjust our approach to identify opportunities and challenges

MAY 2019

Draft Concept Designs Event

- + Help us refine the draft concept designs and confirm that they align with the vision and guiding principles
- + Help us prioritize potential improvements to the neighbourhood

NOVEMBER 2019

Refined Designs Event

- + Share feedback and perspectives on the refined designs
- + Make a choice on the decorative street lights expression of interest

FEBRUARY 2020

Pre-Construction Event

- + Share feedback and perspectives on construction considerations
- + Make a decision on the local improvement tax levy for sidewalk reconstruction

What We Heard Reports were created in January 2019 and September 2019, and are available online at: edmonton.ca/BuildingGrandviewHeights

The following report provides a summary of what we heard at the **Refined Designs Event**.



Refined Designs Event

What we did

- + A public event was held on November 14, 2019 at Grandview Heights Community Centre from 5:30 to 8:00 pm. The public event included display panels that presented the refined designs to participants and encouraged them to share feedback.
- + The displays were shared on the project webpage for those who could not attend the event. We also received feedback by phone and email.

What we asked

- + Is there anything else we should think about when finalizing the designs?
- + Do the refined designs align with the vision and guiding principles?

What a great turnout! More than 160 people shared their feedback on the refined designs for neighbourhood renewal in Grandview Heights.

- + More than 300 comments were shared

"Grandview is a neighbourhood that works! Maintaining the integrity of this mature community is imperative so please keep that in the forefront."

- Grandview Heights resident

"I love the loop idea. A nice walking/biking path will be great along the perimeter."

- Grandview Heights resident

"The loop is redundant, given the existing grass paths, and not required. We need more grass and less pavement."

- Grandview Heights resident

What we shared

Refined designs featuring:

- + Upgraded residential streets with measures to slow traffic and improve sightlines
- + Improved walking and biking connections
- + The Grandview Loop (including 62 Avenue, Grand View Drive and 124 and 125 Street)
- + Park improvements (including Grandview Heights Park and pocket parks throughout the neighbourhood)
- + Streetscape and intersection alignment improvements

The refined designs are available at: edmonton.ca/BuildingGrandviewHeights

Each design was developed to:

- + Integrate, wherever possible, public input gathered through several public engagement sessions, email submissions, and phone calls since December 2018
 - + Reflect the vision and guiding principles created in collaboration with the community
 - + Reflect technical requirements in the neighbourhood
 - + Align with current City of Edmonton policies
-

What we heard

We received over 300 comments on the refined designs. The feedback will be used to help finalize the designs.

What we heard about: The Grandview Loop

Design

What we heard

The Grandview Loop – West, north and south

About the shared-use path:

- + Many participants provided feedback on the shared-use path along Grand View Drive and 62 Avenue. Feedback was mixed with some indicating support for the path and some expressing concerns.
- + Concerns included loss of green space, aesthetic impacts, cost, maintenance requirements and safety.
- + Support included improved safety, use by kids, physical activity opportunities, better winter use from snow clearing and improved accessibility for aging residents and those with reduced mobility.

The Grandview Loop – West and north

About the street design:

- + A few participants were concerned with the potential loss of parking and narrowing of Grand View Drive. Some of the participants also felt that this could lead to increased congestion and decreased visibility along Grand View Drive.

The Grandview Loop – South

About curb extensions and squared intersections:

- + Several participants liked the curb extensions and squared intersections along 62 Avenue to slow traffic, improve visibility and make it easier for people to cross the street. Some participants liked the existing width of the intersections and roads and felt they should be left how they are.
- + *Direct conversations with adjacent property owners will continue to finalize detailed design elements.*

About other design elements:

- + Some participants liked the new benches, but would like the privacy of nearby residents to be considered when choosing where to place them.
 - + Some participants would like the design to consider more trees and plantings along the shared-use path, as well as increased traffic calming to discourage speeding at the 128 or 129 Street intersection along 62 Avenue.
-

Design

What we heard

The Grandview Loop – 124 & 125 Street

About the boulevard with trees:

- + Some participants felt that the tree-lined boulevard along 125 Street would improve the look and feel of the street, while some other participants felt that the trees may obstruct sightlines for vehicles accessing front driveways.

About the street design:

- + Some participants liked that the design removed the shared-use path along 125 Street from the previous design.
 - + Some participants expressed that they like the existing width of the streets and do not feel that they need to be narrowed or redesigned.
-

What we heard about: 63 Avenue Improvements

Design

What we heard

63 Avenue – Entrance

About the boulevard with trees:

- + Several participants liked the tree-lined boulevard, but would like to ensure that sightlines are not obstructed by the new trees, while other participants expressed that they like the existing width of the road and are concerned with the loss of parking.

About the shared-use path:

- + Some participants felt that there could be a conflict between people that are walking and biking on the shared-use path which could lead to safety issues, while other participants liked that the shared-use path is separated from the street near the entrance.

About the 124 Street curb extension and crosswalk:

- + Some participants would like the project team to consider relocating the 124 Street crossing to the west side of the street to make it easier and safer to access the school from the north of 63 Avenue.

About entrance signage:

- + Several participants supported not having entrance signage on 63 Avenue.
-

63 Avenue – School area

About the street design:

- + Some participants liked the curb extensions as they reduce crossing distance for people going to the school. Some participants felt that curb extensions are not needed and could cause maintenance issues for snow removal.
- + Several participants liked the narrowing of the street, while some other participants expressed that they like the existing width of the street and do not feel that it needs to be narrowed or redesigned.
- + Some participants were concerned whether there would be enough parking available near the school and park.

About the boulevard with trees:

- + Several participants liked the new trees and some indicated that sight lines should be considered.
-

63 Avenue – Bus loop area

About the street design:

- + Several participants liked the narrowing of the street, while some other participants expressed that they like the existing width of the street and do not feel that it needs to be narrowed or redesigned.
- + Some participants felt that more traffic calming is needed to discourage speeding.
- + Some participants expressed concern that there is not enough parking along 63 Avenue.

About the new green space:

- + Many participants liked the new trees, benches and green space.
- + Some participants identified opportunities for a more substantial feature to be considered (ie. monument, fountain).

About the boulevard with trees:

- + Many participants liked the new trees and greenery, and expressed that visibility should be considered.
-

What we heard about: Park Improvements

Design

What we heard

Grandview Heights Park

About the shared-use path:

- + Some participants felt that the new shared-use path along the north edge of Grandview Heights Park is not needed and may be unsafe due to potential obstructed sight lines.

About the park amenities:

- + A participant identified the opportunity for a community garden to be considered for the park.
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Pocket parks

About the pathway in the 126 Street and 66 Avenue park:

- + Some participants felt the space should be kept open for playing.

About the park amenities:

- + Several participants liked the new benches, while some participants are concerned that they may not be used.
 - + Some participants suggested that wood benches would be preferred instead of metal benches.
 - + Some participants wanted existing trees to be kept and new succession planting to have a natural feel.
-

What we heard about: Next steps & final remarks

What we heard

Next steps & final remarks

About the decorative street lighting:

- + Several participants liked the decorative street lighting option for black poles, and some participants felt that the decorative street lighting is not needed.
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What we heard about the: Vision and Guiding Principles

We asked: Do the refined designs align with the vision and guiding principles?



As indicated above, the majority of participants felt that the refined designs align with the vision and guiding principles.

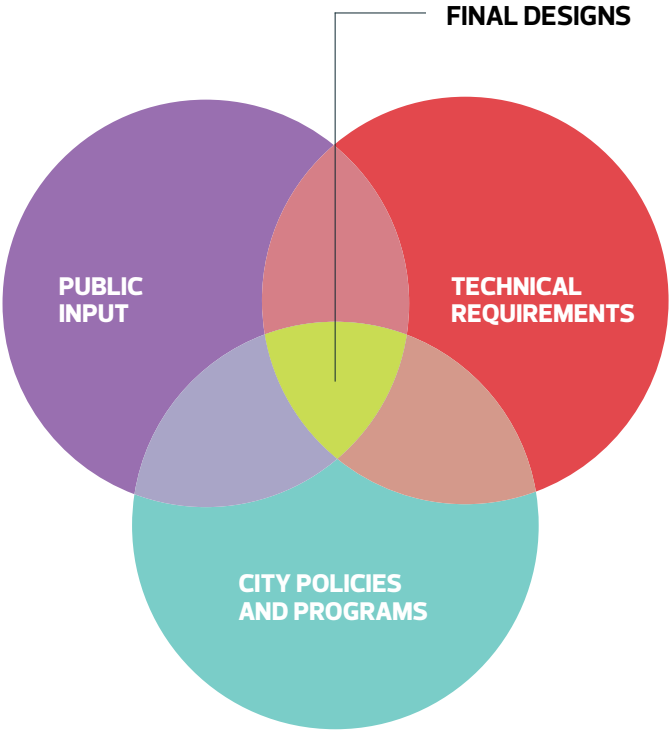
An additional display board was brought to the event by a resident to capture feedback and share perspectives on the refined designs. The feedback received was similar to what was heard for the individual refined designs display boards that were created for the event.

How we will use this information

We will use this information to finalize the design and to help determine what is built through neighbourhood renewal in Grandview Heights.

Decision-making process

It is important to note, that feedback was one of the considerations when finalizing the designs. We also looked at **City policies and programs, technical requirements, and funding** to determine which designs were chosen to be built.



Decorative street lights and next steps



Decorative street lights Expression of Interest form – September 2019

- + An Expression of Interest form to upgrade to decorative street lights was sent to property owners in September 2019.
- + Property owners were invited to fill out and submit the form to decide on decorative street lights by November 20, 2019.
- + Based on the results of the Expression of Interest, decorative street lights will **not** be included.
- + Existing street lights will be replaced with standard galvanized poles and LED lights



Pre-construction event – February 2020

- + A public event will be held on February 18, 2020 to present the final designs for Grandview Heights and share information on construction and next steps.
- + A petition form for sidewalk reconstruction was sent to property owners in January 2020. Property owners can sign a petition against sidewalk local improvement.



FEBRUARY 2020

SPRING 2020

Pre-construction Event
Local improvement decision for sidewalk reconstruction

Construction begins!



Working together to make the most out of your neighbourhood.

This is your city and your neighbourhood. We want to understand how you experience your neighbourhood and ask for your input on what we might do to make it better.

We will engage and work with you on the renewal of roads, sidewalks, street lights, and park spaces, and promote other community opportunities to enhance how people live and interact in your neighbourhood. We commit to being open and transparent about how your input is used. Let's make the most out of your neighbourhood.

For more information

Web: edmonton.ca/BuildingGrandviewHeights
Email: buildinggreatneighbourhoods@edmonton.ca
Call: 311

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