

Engagement Summary

Warehouse Campus Park - Design Goals and Required Elements

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A. Overview

The Warehouse Campus Neighbourhood Central Park project will design and deliver a major new park in the Warehouse District in Downtown Edmonton.

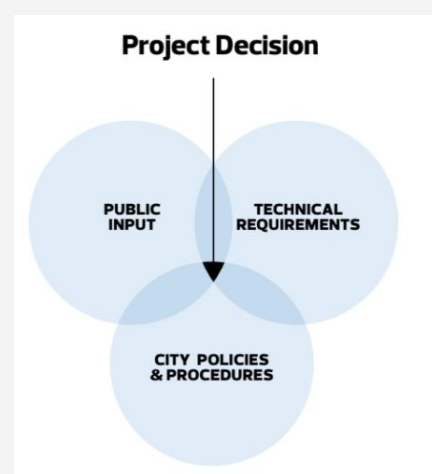
The Park is an essential element in the transformation of the Warehouse District and Downtown into a vibrant, attractive, dense and mixed-use community.

Design excellence is a primary goal of the project. To achieve this goal, the City intends to hold a design competition for the Park.

The City is committed to providing opportunities for public input into the design of the Park.

Public input, together with City policies and procedures and technical requirements have informed the high-level design goals and required elements for the park.

Upon completion of the Strategy phase, the City will begin the concept design, including a design competition. There will be additional opportunities for members of the public and stakeholders to provide feedback on the park's design.



B. Developing the Design Goals and Required Elements

In early 2019, draft design goals and required elements for the park were developed by City staff based on existing and proposed plans and policies, technical requirements and public input to the Downtown Public Places Plan which was being developed concurrently.

The Downtown Public Places Plan considered the role of the Warehouse Park in the context of all the public open spaces Downtown and identifies the park as one of the [plan's Big Moves](#). Close to 5,000 individuals and 20 stakeholder and community

organizations were engaged during nine in-person events and three public online surveys. What We Heard reports are available [here](#).

The policy, engagement and technical basis of each of the design goals and required design elements is available in Appendix 1

C. Engagement Opportunities

Urban Renewal staff shared the draft design goals and required elements with key Downtown stakeholder groups, including the Downtown Community League and the Edmonton Downtown Business association. Staff gave short presentations and were available for question and answer.

April 11, 2019 - Downtown Edmonton Community League Board

April 25, 2019 - Downtown Edmonton Community League Annual General Meeting

Downtown Business Association Operations Committee - regular updates

A public open house event was held at Norquest College on June 4, 2019. Sessions were held at lunchtime and early evening. Information about the park was shared, including the proposed design goals and required elements. Participants were invited to review the material and provide comments.

65 people attended the sessions.

D. What We Heard - Public Feedback

Verbal feedback from stakeholder presentations and the open house was noted and written comments from the open house were compiled. The following list is a summary of comments received:

Park Size and Configuration:

Some participants stated that the park should be bigger and more 'square'.

107 Street was suggested to be fully closed.

Parking:

Some participants felt that the area needed more, less expensive parking in the area.

Other participants urged a minimum of parking in the area and that adjacent street parking could be incorporated into the site.

Building Frontages facing the Park:

Several participants stated that adjacent buildings need to be designed to have active frontages facing the park and that regulations should support this goal.

Support for specific design goals or required elements:

Washrooms.

Permeable entrances, integration with streets and lanes.

Bicycle access.

Specific design ideas:

Include space for events, such as a mini amphitheatre

Include changes in topography - a hill for views and sledding.

E. Response to Public Feedback

The design goals and required design elements were broadly supported by participants. These are being adapted to provide direction for establishing initial concepts and will form part of the design competition brief. Entrants in the design competition will be required to demonstrate how their design advances the design goals and how it incorporates the required design elements.

Responses to specific suggestions:

City Council approved funding to acquire additional parcels of land to expand the park site that may be available for purchase.

The park area will not include parking. The Capital City Downtown Plan is clear in its direction to reduce the amount of surface parking lots in Downtown and to provide more park space.

Parking facilities under the park are not being considered. Such facilities would place limitations on park development and the long-term growth of trees and other vegetation. Underground parking facilities require repair or replacement of

waterproofing membranes after several decades. To conduct those repairs would require excavation of the park area, just as it is reaching full maturity.

The City will work proactively with owners/developers of adjacent sites to encourage and facilitate active frontages facing the park.

F. What Happens Next?

The project design goals and required design elements will inform the vision for this project. They will be incorporated into a design competition that will select a design consultant.

Public engagement will continue to play an essential role in the design process. The City is committed to providing opportunities for people to provide feedback and make suggestions as the design progresses through Concept Design, Preliminary Design and Detailed Design.

Appendix 1: Basis of Design Goals and Required Elements

The following abbreviations are used in this section:

DPPP: [Downtown Public Places Plan](#)

CCDP: [Capital City Downtown Plan \(Bylaw 15200\)](#)

Design Goals			
	<u>City Plans and Policies</u>	<u>Public/ Stakeholder Engagement</u>	<u>Technical Requirements</u>
A Green, Open Space	DPPP (4.3.1)	DPPP Engagement Phase 1 and Phase 2 : strong support for welcoming, multifunctional green space	
A Year Round Space	Winter Policy C588 Winter Design Guidelines CCDP (11.9)	DPPP Engagement Phase 2 and Phase 3	
A Sustainable Space	DPPP (3.7) CCDP (11.11)	Support for rainfall capture in DPPP engagement	
A Connected/ Integrated Space	DPPP (3.3) CCDP (9.1, 11.6)	DPPP Phase 1 : "issues with connectivity were the most frequent comments made"	
A Pedestrian Focused Space	CCDP (15)	DPP Engagement: pedestrian orientation noted to make Downtown more attractive	
A Timeless Space		Developed through internal City stakeholder group	

Required Design Elements			
	<u>City Plans and Policies</u>	<u>Public/ Stakeholder Engagement</u>	<u>Technical Requirements</u>
Universal Design	Accessibility for People with Disabilities Policy C602 DPPP (3.2.2)	DPPP Engagement - comments in Phase 1 and Phase 3	City of Edmonton Access Design Guide
Active Frontages	DPPP (3.9.2) CCDP (11.11)	DPPP Engagement - support for retail adjacent to parks, patios, etc.	
Winter City Design	Winter Design Policy C588 Winter Design Guidelines	DPPP Engagement - comments in Phase 2 and Phase 3	
Incorporation of 107 Street	DPPP (4.3.1)	DPPP Phase 3 (some conflicting opinions on closing 107 St - benefits to pedestrians vs. traffic impact)	Technical Requirement of park configuration, approved LRT concepts
Public Art Integration	Percent for Art Policy C458C DPPP (3.8.2)	Stakeholder engagement with Edmonton Arts Council	
Laneway Integration	DPPP (4.3.1)		Technical requirement of park configuration
Washroom Facility	DPPP (4.3.1)	DPPP Engagement phase 2	
Open Lawn Space	DPPP (4.3.1)		
Play Features	Child Friendly Edmonton Council Initiative Child Friendly Working Plan	DPPP Engagement Phase 1 and Phase 2	