

City of Edmonton **Heritage Valley District Park**

What We Heard Report

Heritage Valley District Park Draft Concept Plan

March – July 2020

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Edmonton



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Thank you for talking with us.

We are excited to be able to design and construct the new Heritage Valley District Park to serve the south Edmonton neighbourhoods in the Heritage Valley Area to meet the growing needs of the community for competitive sports and recreation activities.

You told us that you are excited that you will have access to sport and recreation amenities in your neighbourhood and that you are eager to enjoy the park's outdoor social gathering spaces and amenities for families.

Informed by the City's Urban Park's Management Plan, Breathe: Edmonton's Green Network Strategy, and technical studies, your input has supported the development of the final concept plan for the Heritage Valley District Park. This project is now moving into the design phase, with Stage 1 construction anticipated in 2021 to align with the opening of Dr. Anne Anderson School.

We hope you look forward to seeing this park become a reality over the coming years!

THANK YOU.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The City is currently planning for the Heritage Valley District Park which will support the growing Heritage Valley area in south Edmonton. It will be home to two high schools, multiple sports fields, a variety of open space amenities to serve the area, and a community recreation centre. The 30 hectare park will be located between 32 Avenue SW and 35 Avenue SW, and 127 Street and 135 Street.

The project's concept phase is now complete. The final concept plan includes locations for basic amenities on the park site, including sports fields, flexible open space, trails, and space for future amenities through partnerships and development. The location of facilities, including the Dr. Anne Anderson High School, a Catholic school, and a future community recreation centre, have also been determined.

HERITAGE VALLEY DISTRICT PARK: STAGES 1 AND 2



While there is no timeline on the development of the recreation centre, Dr. Anne Anderson High School will include indoor recreation facilities for use by the public until the community recreation centre is constructed.

When the extension of the Capital Line LRT to the south is complete, the park will be within a five-minute walk of an LRT station.

Project Staging

Over time, the park will evolve. The concept plan allocates space to both base-level amenities (for immediate construction) and future amenities. The base level amenities will be constructed in two phases between 2021 and 2023. The future amenities (shared-level and enhanced-level) will be constructed when funding becomes available, or in partnership with community programs, initiatives or organizations.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Public Engagement Philosophy

The City of Edmonton is committed to seeking diverse opinions, experiences, and perspectives from Edmontonians, ensuring a wide spectrum of input is available to decision makers.

Public input, technical analysis, and City policies are considered in determining the concept plan. The City's public engagement spectrum defines the public's level of influence in engagement processes. Engagement activities for the development of the Heritage Valley District Park were at the ADVISE level on the City's Public Engagement Spectrum.

Visit edmonton.ca/PublicEngagement for more information on the City's public engagement process and click on Vision, Definition and Spectrum.

How We Engaged

In February 2020, a public engagement process was designed for the project, with the intent to gather public and stakeholder feedback and perspectives to inform the development of the concept plan for the district park.



Stakeholder Interviews: City of Edmonton stakeholders

Interviews with internal City of Edmonton stakeholders: Neighbourhood Services, Open Space Planning, Transportation Planning, Facilities Planning, Sports Fields, Operations and Maintenance, Recreation Facilities, and Sports Partnerships.



Stakeholder Interviews

Interviews with project partners: Alberta Infrastructure, Alberta Catholic School District and Edmonton Public School Board.



Stakeholder Working Group

A series of meetings were held with representatives of both the internal and external stakeholders identified above.

Four meetings



Sport Field User Committee

Committee members were provided the opportunity to provide input to the concept design via an online survey.



Public Survey

Online (edmonton.ca/HeritageValleyDistrictPark) June 15 and July 3, 2020.

534 surveys respondents

WHAT WE HEARD

Stakeholders

Input shared by both internal and external stakeholders provided expertise and information from their specific area of specialty to inform the concept plan. No common themes were anticipated or received.

Public

The following is a summary of what we heard from the public.

Overall support – There is significant overall support for the Heritage Valley District Park plan. Individuals who completed the online survey indicate appreciation for the diversity of amenities that will be available. It is often described as an “inclusive” plan that offers something for everyone, at every stage of life, during every season of the year.

Welcome addition to south Edmonton – Some participants indicate the Heritage Valley area is currently underserved and as such, the district park is both welcomed and needed.

Support for City’s District Park philosophy – Respondents also express support for the City’s District Parks philosophy; schools will benefit from proximity to the amenities and use of the amenities will be maximized with student use during the day and general public use in the afternoons, evenings, and weekends.

Identified priorities – The following are identified as priority areas for development in the Heritage Valley District Park in both the short and longer term.

- + Green spaces / treed areas / park-like areas and shared-use pathways and trails
- + Tennis courts
- + Outdoor water amenity (swimming pool, splash park)
- + Social gathering spaces including picnic areas, barbeque / fire pits, benches, and cooking / warming / shade-creating structures
- + Family focussed areas including toboggan hill and playground
- + Recreation centre

Park useability and circulation – Respondents want to ensure the park allows for efficient traffic flow and circulation, easy connection between the park and neighbouring communities, and adequate parking.

Maintenance – Respondents encourage the City to commit to the ongoing care and maintenance of both sports fields and green spaces and to ensure the park design creates a safe and secure environment.

Desired Improvements and City Responses

When asked what could be improved about the draft concept plan, here's what we heard and our responses:

WHAT WE HEARD	CITY RESPONSE
Outdoor water activities are desired	Overall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Based on the City of Edmonton's philosophy for district parks, outdoor pools are not applicable for this type of park.
	Future (Subject to Funding and Partnerships) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Space has been allocated in the concept plan for the potential future development of a spray deck.
Provide visitor comforts including: washrooms, benches / seating and waste receptacles	Overall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + A large portion of the existing tree stands located in Stage 1 near Dr. Anne Anderson High School will be maintained. + At a minimum, an additional 55 trees per hectare will be planted in the park to achieve a natural aesthetic. The planting strategy will include evergreen trees to create wind buffers during the winter and deciduous trees to provide shade in the summer.
	Now <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Public washrooms will be located in the public recreation facilities within Dr. Anne Anderson High School. + Benches will be located no more than every 100m along the walking paths as per City of Edmonton Accessibility Guidelines for district parks, and additional seating will be concentrated at key areas around the park. + Waste receptacles will be provided at all key areas and strategically throughout the park to optimize convenience and maintenance considerations.
	Future (Subject to Funding and Partnerships) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Public washrooms will be considered as part of the development of a future Operations and Maintenance Yard, and the community recreation centre.
Include social gathering spaces and picnic areas, and shaded areas	Overall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + The concept plan includes numerous passive spaces which can be used for large or small informal gatherings. + A large portion of the existing tree stands located in Stage 1 near Dr. Anne Anderson High School will be maintained. + At a minimum, an additional 55 trees per hectare will be planted in the park to achieve a natural aesthetic. The planting strategy will include evergreen trees planted to create wind buffers during the winter and deciduous trees to provide shade in the summer.

WHAT WE HEARD	CITY RESPONSE
Include social gathering spaces and picnic areas, and shaded areas <i>(continued)</i>	<p>Future (Subject to Funding and Partnerships)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + The concept plan includes space for the future development of a central plaza, the opportunity for community league licensed land, as well as picnic areas with shelters and fire pits, and pavilions.
Include more court facilities	<p>Future (Subject to Funding and Partnerships)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Additional space has been allocated in the concept plan from the draft concept for future development of court sports.
Ensure adequate parking	<p>Overall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Parking spaces have been assessed based upon City of Edmonton standards, and will be confirmed through design. + The Dr. Anne Anderson High School, the Catholic high school and the future recreation centre will have shared facilities which will support public parking for the park. + Additional parking space has been allocated north of Dr. Anne Anderson High School, in addition to parking along the interior service road.
Ensure efficient traffic flow into, out of and through the park	<p>Overall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Roadway accesses, park entrances and through roads have been designed to ensure efficient traffic flow. All entrances have been assessed and designed to allow for safe queuing and vehicle movements.
Ensure park is accessible to all skills and abilities, and ages	<p>Overall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Accessibility standards have been met or exceeded in the park design. + Included amenities consider varying age groups and abilities such as family play areas, benches/seating, walking paths, and green and open spaces.
Provide areas for quiet enjoyment of green space	<p>Overall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + While the focus of a district park is sports and recreation amenities, other amenities including picnic areas, benches, amphitheaters, passive recreation areas and tree stands are included in the concept design to provide opportunities for enjoyment of green and open spaces for all users.
Provide walking paths and trails	<p>Overall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Multiple walking paths are incorporated into the park design. These trails will connect to amenities, as well as provide the opportunity for recreation. The trail network will be refined as the park develops over time, ensuring that connectivity is provided as new amenities and facilities are developed.
	<p>Now</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Paths for both pedestrians and cyclists are a priority in the concept design, and the path system has been developed to tie into the neighbourhood trail network, as outlined in the Neighbourhood Area Structure Plan.

Input received during engagement has informed the final concept plan (August 2020), including the responses as detailed in the chart above. The final concept plans which include the base-level plan to be constructed between 2021 and 2023, and the future concept plan (full build out) can be found here.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- Spring 2021** Stage 1 base-level construction begins
- Spring 2022** Stage 2 base-level construction begins
- Fall 2023** Base-level construction complete

Future Opportunities for partnerships and additional funding will be explored in order to deliver shared and enhanced level amenities.

STAY INFORMED

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