



Old Strathcona Public Realm Strategy

Phase 1 What We Heard Report

October 2022 | edmonton.ca/OldStrathPublicRealm

SHARE YOUR VOICE
SHAPE OUR CITY

Edmonton

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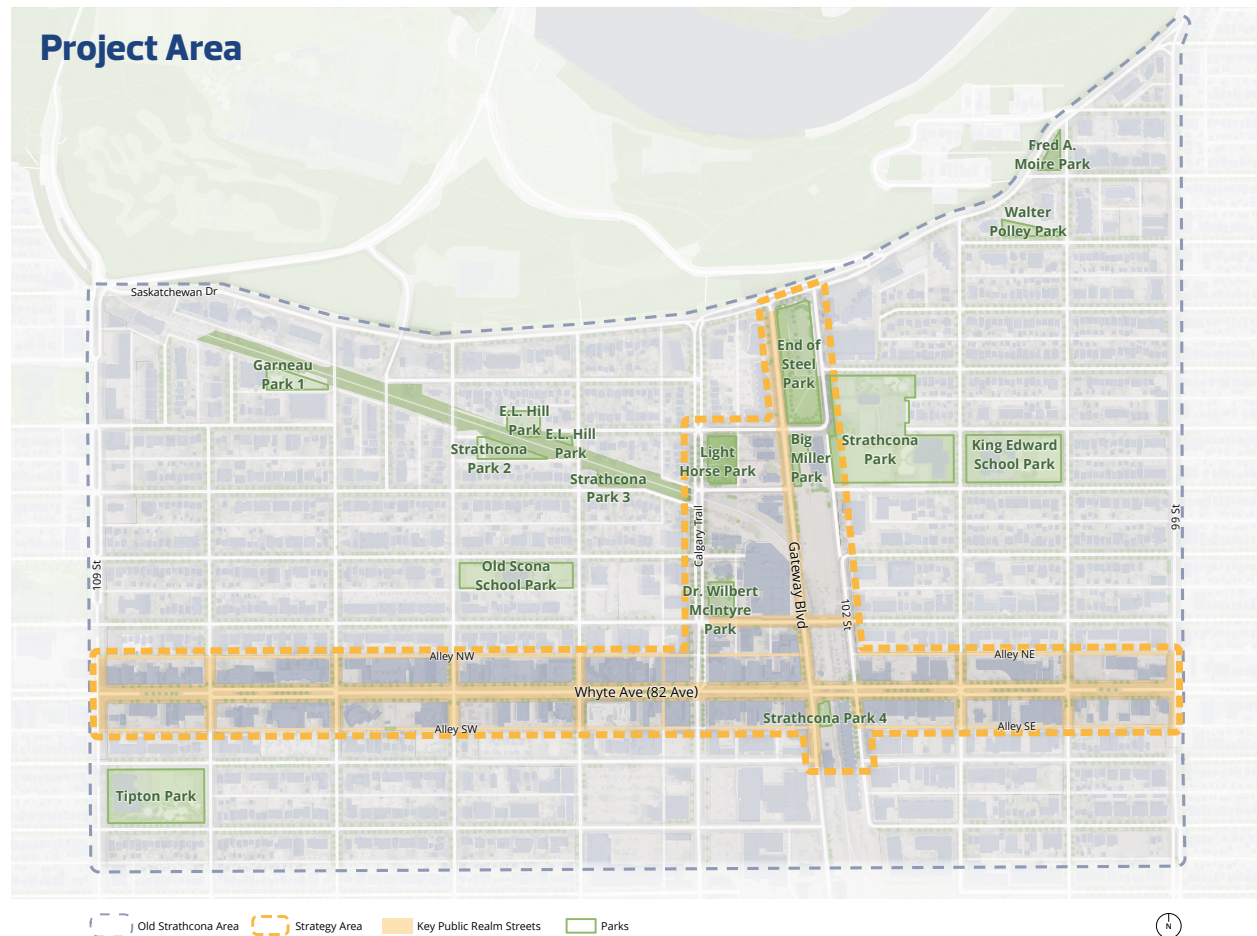
PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Old Strathcona Public Realm Strategy will use the ideas and feedback of Edmontonians to envision a new future for publicly-owned land in Old Strathcona.

Project Objectives

The Old Strathcona Public Realm Strategy will:

- + Imagine a new future for public spaces such as parks, parking lots, plazas, alleyways and streets
- + Identify an approach to integrate mass transit while prioritizing pedestrian spaces along Whyte Avenue
- + Add to the vibrant and diverse opportunities for people to live, work and play within Old Strathcona and surrounding neighbourhoods



Public Engagement Approach

HOW WE ENGAGED

Phase 1 Public Engagement was open for feedback from **August 10–28, 2022**.

To reach a wide range of Edmontonians and visitors, a variety of methods and tools were used, to generate awareness and encourage participation.

Communications



Social Media

Posts on the City of Edmonton's Facebook and Twitter accounts.



Sidewalk Decals

Signage was posted on sidewalks around the site to direct people to the project webpage and opportunities to participate.



Promotional Cards

Business cards with the project website were distributed at pop-up events to encourage at-home participation.



Direct Emails

Direct emails to identified stakeholder organizations.



Postcards

Postcards were mailed to 19,000 households and businesses in the area inviting them to participate in engagement.

Engagement



Online Public Survey

The online survey, hosted on the project webpage, was the primary means to collect feedback in Phase 1.



Printed Public Survey

A paper version of the survey was available for pick-up at Strathcona Public Library.



Pop-up Events

On August 19 and August 20, 2022 during the annual Fringe Festival, the project team set-up displays and hosted casual conversations with passersby.



Interactive Map

Online map tool to collect site-specific pins from participants.

WHO WAS ENGAGED

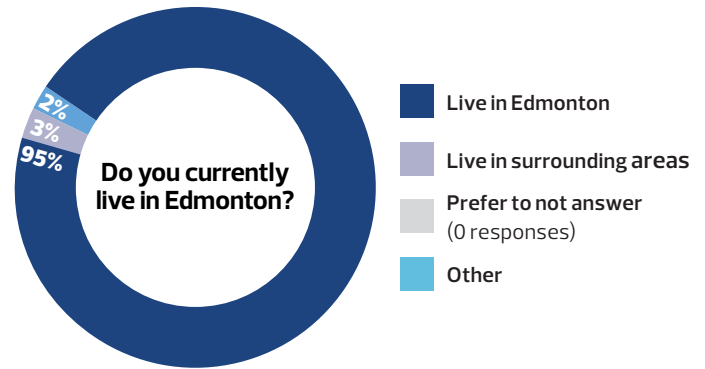
The City is committed to involving the people affected by the decisions it makes, and seeks diverse opinions, experiences and information so that a wide spectrum of perspectives are represented in the process.

General Public: This report summarizes the findings from Phase 1 Public Engagement, which focused on collecting feedback from local residents, visitors to the area, and the general public. (Note, the number of respondents noted for each question varies due to online survey programming and paper survey responses.)

Stakeholder Groups: A Community Advisory Committee (CAC) has been established as a diverse and collaborative group of area stakeholders to support the work on the Old Strathcona Public Realm Strategy. It includes representatives from the community leagues, the Old Strathcona Business Association, destinations like the Old Strathcona Farmers Market and the theatres or organizations who reflect, support and/or advocate for different communities (such as Youth Empowerment & Support Services, the Accessibility Advisory Committee, Senior Citizen Opportunity Neighbourhood Association, Old Strathcona Youth Society, Paths for People and Pride Corner). Prior to Phase 1, these groups participated in conversations and site walks with the project team to discuss issues and opportunities. (Note, summaries from these discussion are not included in this report.)

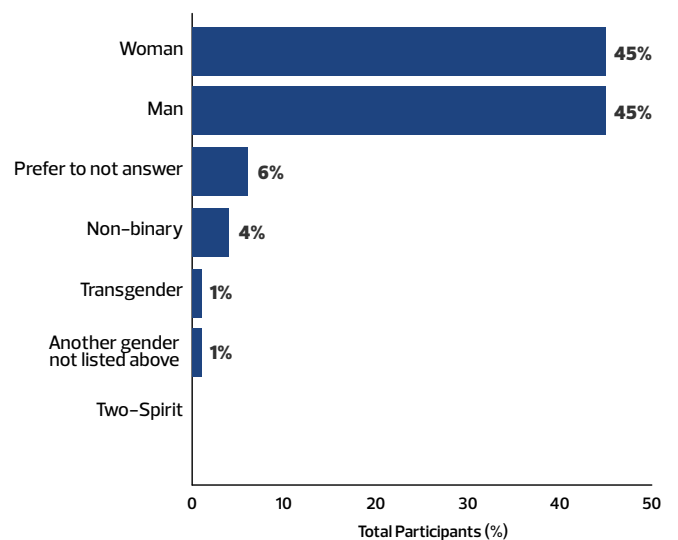
Demographics

To better understand who is—and is not—participating in the public engagement process, below are the demographics shared by public survey respondents.



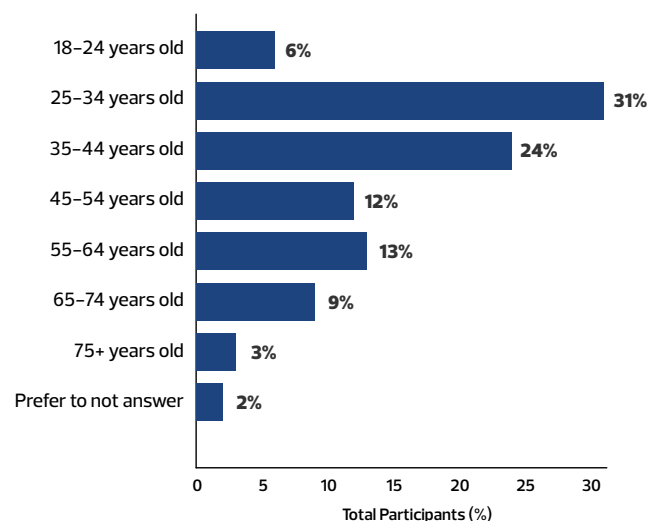
450 respondents

What is your gender?



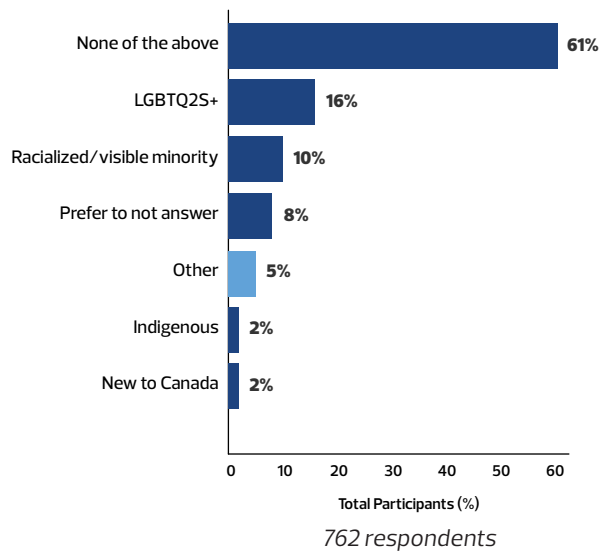
763 respondents

What is your age?

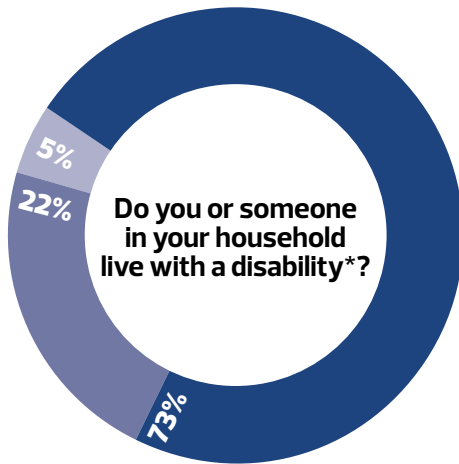
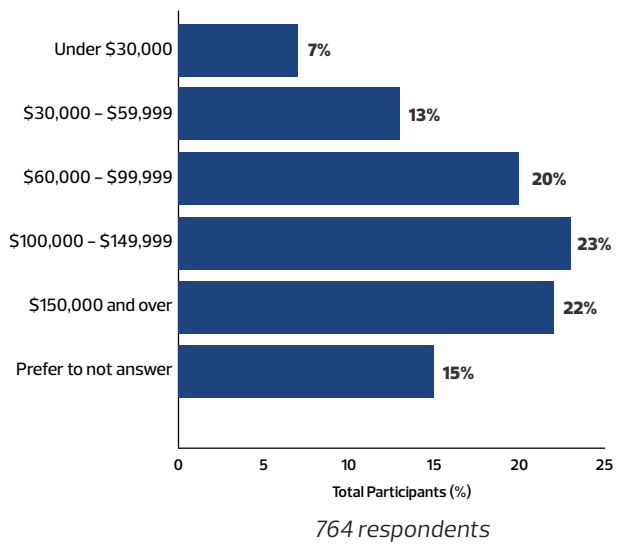


762 respondents

Are you a member of any of the following groups?



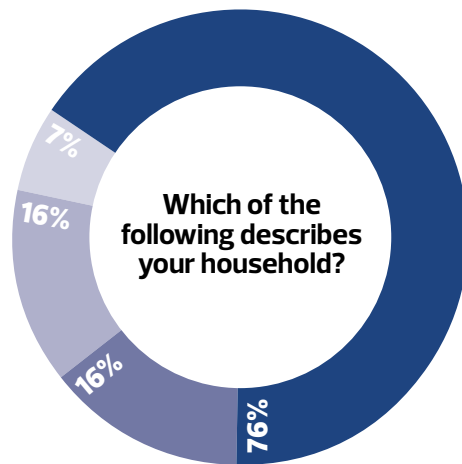
Which of the following categories best describes your total household income in 2021 before taxes?



*A disability may be defined as a long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairment.

764 respondents

- Yes
- No
- Prefer to not answer



764 respondents

- We have people in our household aged 13 to 64
- We have people in our household aged 12 and under
- We have people in our household aged 65+
- Prefer to not answer

WHAT WAS ASKED

What We Asked	Why We Asked
PUBLIC SURVEY	
<p>Residents, Visitors and What People Do in the Area</p> <p>Q1A: Do you live in Old Strathcona? Q1B: How often do you visit Old Strathcona? Q1C: Can you share more about why you do not currently visit the area? Q2: When you visit the area, what do you typically do? Q3: When you visit the area, who do you typically come with?</p>	<p>To understand how respondents currently use the area.</p>
<p>Mobility & Movement</p> <p>Q4: When you visit Old Strathcona, how do you usually get there? Q5: How satisfied are you with the following when you walk, wheel, or cycle in Old Strathcona? Q6: Thinking about adding non-LRT Mass Transit infrastructure to Whyte Avenue, please indicate how acceptable each element is to you.</p>	<p>To understand what is working and how acceptable potential changes may be.</p>
<p>Open Space & Activities</p> <p>Q7: How much do you agree with the following statements based on your experience? Q8: Thinking about how the area will densify and welcome new generations of Edmontonians in the coming decades, how should the area be labelled on the map be reimagined? What uses, activities or ideas should be planned for this area? Q9: Thinking about how you, your family or your community might use public spaces in the Old Strathcona area today and in the future, what types of uses would you like prioritized in these spaces? Q10: Do you have any other ideas or priorities that should be considered for open space and activities in Old Strathcona as we plan for 1.25 million people?</p>	<p>To understand what is working, how areas could be improved, and what priorities should be.</p>
<p>Inclusion & Equity</p> <p>Q11: How much do you agree with the following statements based on your personal experience? Q12: What is one thing the City can do to make a positive impact on gender equality of current public spaces in Old Strathcona?</p>	<p>To understand barriers and how public spaces can be more inclusive for all.</p>
<p>Comfort & Safety</p> <p>Q13: How much do you agree with the following statements about the current state of public space in Old Strathcona? Q14: What would help to improve your access and experience of current public spaces in Old Strathcona? (consider shading, seating, lighting, weather)</p>	<p>To understand barriers and how public spaces can be more safe and comfortable.</p>

What We Asked

Why We Asked

POP-UP EVENTS

- + **Mobility & Movement:** How can walking, biking, and transit be improved?
- + **Open Space & Activities:** What parks or other open spaces do you enjoy? Why?
- + **Inclusion & Equity:** What experiences or activities would help to make you feel welcome in the community?
- + **Comfort & Safety:** What would help you feel more safe and comfortable?

To align with public survey questions and gather feedback in a quick format.

MAP COMMENTS

- + I love this because...
- + This doesn't work because...
- + I wish this could be...

To gather information about places that are valued in the community, places that are cause for concern, and ideas for improvement.

Public Engagement Summary & Results

WHAT WE HEARD

Key Takeaways

The purpose of Phase 1 engagement was to learn about the issues, opportunities, and priorities the public feels are important to address in the public realm of Old Strathcona. The following sections outline what we heard through public engagement and a summary of recurring themes and key insights from this phase of engagement.

Mobility & Movement:

- + Concerns with parking and traffic volumes
- + Provide efficient and accessible parking options while reducing the overall space allocated to street parking and parking lots
- + Reduce traffic in the area due to noise levels, air pollution, and safety concerns
- + Prioritize pedestrian and cyclist mobility throughout the area through additional bike infrastructure, connectivity, and improved separation from vehicles

Open Space & Activities:

- + More pedestrian oriented spaces throughout Old Strathcona
- + Focus on improving existing green spaces, adding additional spaces to gather and attend events, and increasing connectivity and safety for people to get around
- + Open spaces activated year-round and the inclusion of winter friendly amenities such as skating rinks and warming huts to encourage people to spend time outside in all seasons

Inclusion & Equity:

- + High feeling of overall belonging and welcoming, but need to improve supports for specific groups and populations
- + To make public spaces more gender inclusive, increase the feeling of safety at night with better lighting and increasing people on the street, as well as providing gender-neutral public washrooms and barrier-free sidewalks

Comfort & Safety:

- + Safety is a significant concern in the area
- + Address conflicts between people walking, biking, and driving, while increasing pedestrian safety at intersection crossings is a recurring need
- + More outreach services to support vulnerable populations, while also balancing the needs of other people spending time in open spaces
- + Increase the amount of affordable housing in the area to help alleviate the housing crisis



764

Survey Participants



130

Pop-up Event Visitors



213

Map Comments

Public Survey

During Phase 1 of engagement, a public survey was used to gather feedback on the current conditions and future priorities of Old Strathcona's public realm. The survey was open for feedback from **August 10–28, 2022** and gathered responses from **764 participants**.

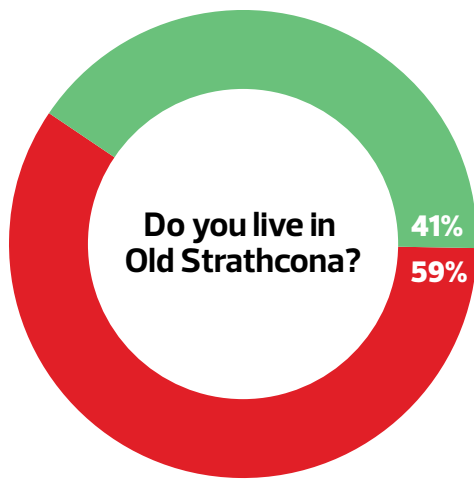
The survey captured information about current use and visitors, as well as ideas and feedback under the following four themes: **Mobility & Movement**, **Open Space & Activities**, **Inclusion & Equity**, **Comfort & Safety**.

Residents, Visitors and What People Do in the Area

The responses in the graphs below outline who is spending time in the area and the reasons they are there. While there was representation from both residents and visitors to the area, 59% of respondents do not live in Old Strathcona. All respondents are still familiar with the area, with almost 70% visiting the area daily or weekly.

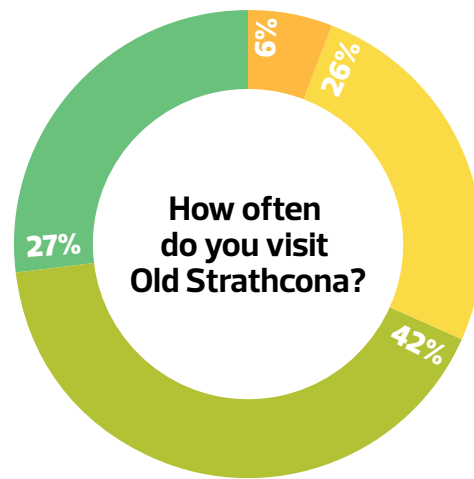
Many people are moving through the area as pedestrians or cyclists and are in the area for leisure activities. The majority of respondents come to the area to eat, drink, shop, or attend events. A significant number also indicated that they visit the farmers' market or library, or hang out in a park, plaza or along the street.

While the majority of respondents come to the area on their own, several participants indicated that they come with someone or to meet people in the area. Relatively few people frequent the area with their children.



763 respondents

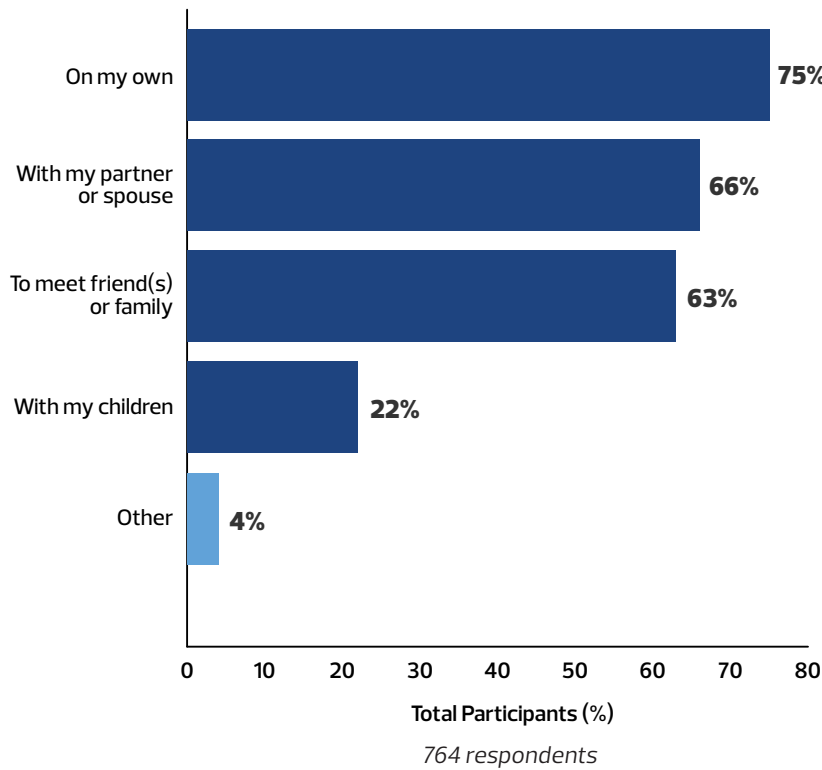
■ Yes ■ No



452 respondents

■ Daily ■ Monthly ■ Never
■ Weekly ■ Once or twice a year

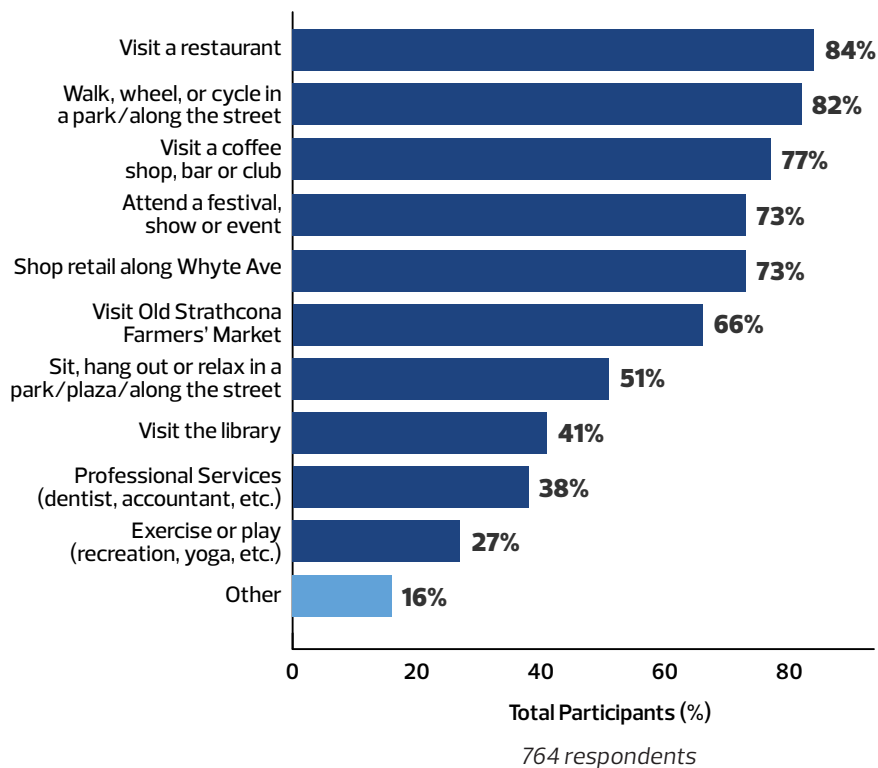
When you visit the area, who do you typically come with?



Other Comments

- + Live in the neighbourhood
- + Work in the neighbourhood
- + Dog/pet
- + Business/clients
- + Neighbours

When you visit the area, what do you typically do?



Other Comments

- + Live in the neighbourhood
- + Work in the neighbourhood
- + Transportation (e.g. walk, bike, transit, drive)
- + Grocery shopping and other essential shops/services
- + Meeting people (e.g. family, events)
- + Institutions (e.g. school, arts)
- + Activities (e.g. lessons, volunteering, gardening, enjoyment)

Mobility & Movement | How we move around

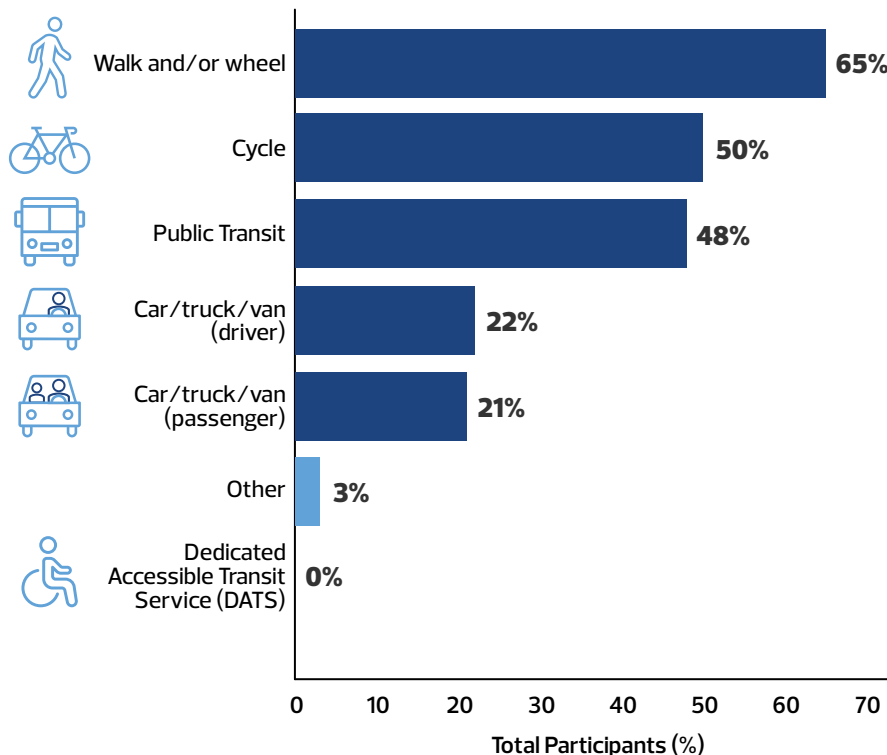
In order to better understand how best to create a more welcoming space for residents and visitors to get around, participants were asked to share their experience with walking, cycling and using transit in Old Strathcona.

The majority of respondents indicated that they walk (65%), cycle (50%), or take transit (48%) to get to the area. In general, people are not very satisfied with the safety elements when moving through the space as a pedestrian or cyclist. Specifically, people were most dissatisfied with the physical separation between pedestrians/cyclists and vehicles, and the availability of bike racks and storage infrastructure.

When asked to consider adding non-LRT Mass Transit, the majority of respondents indicated it was very or somewhat acceptable to accommodate mass transit by prioritizing transit over cars at intersections, reducing on-street parking, and reducing traffic lanes. Participants were slightly less supportive of removing turning lanes to add mass transit lanes. There was significantly less support for removing loading zones for businesses.



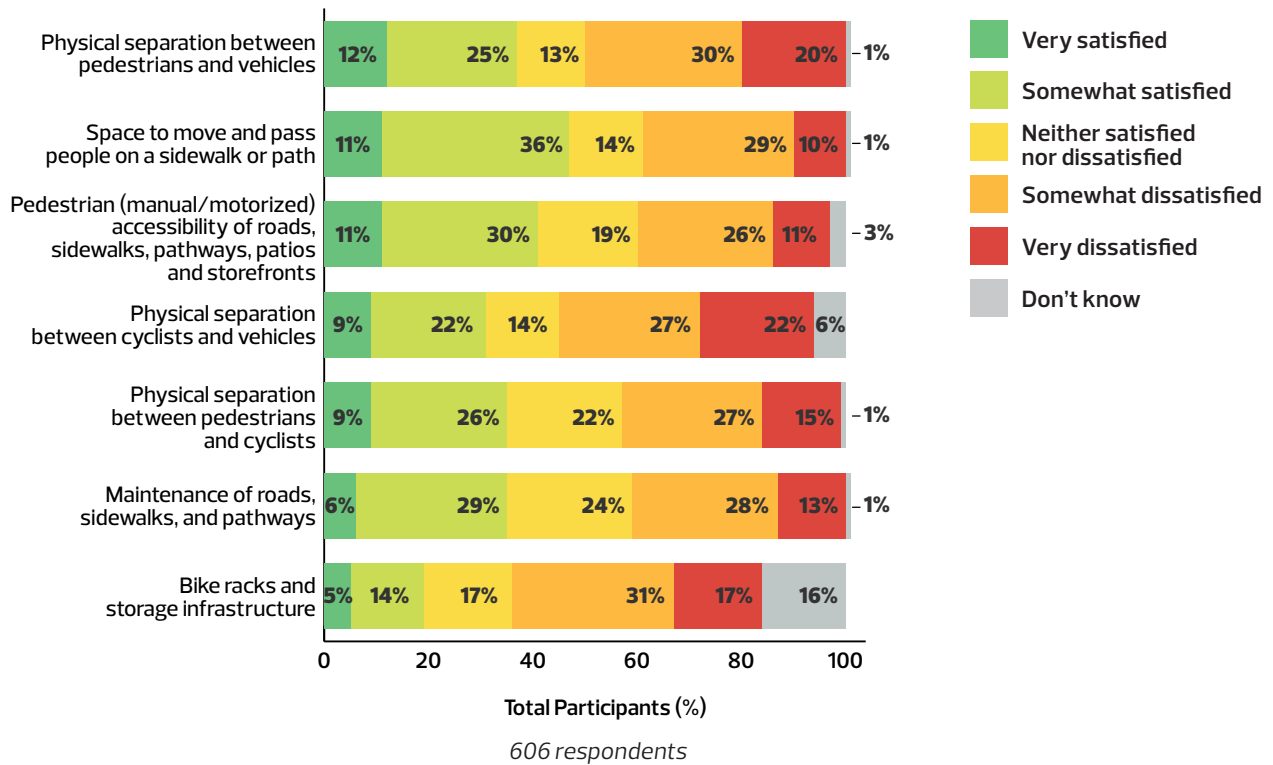
When you visit Old Strathcona, how do you usually get there?



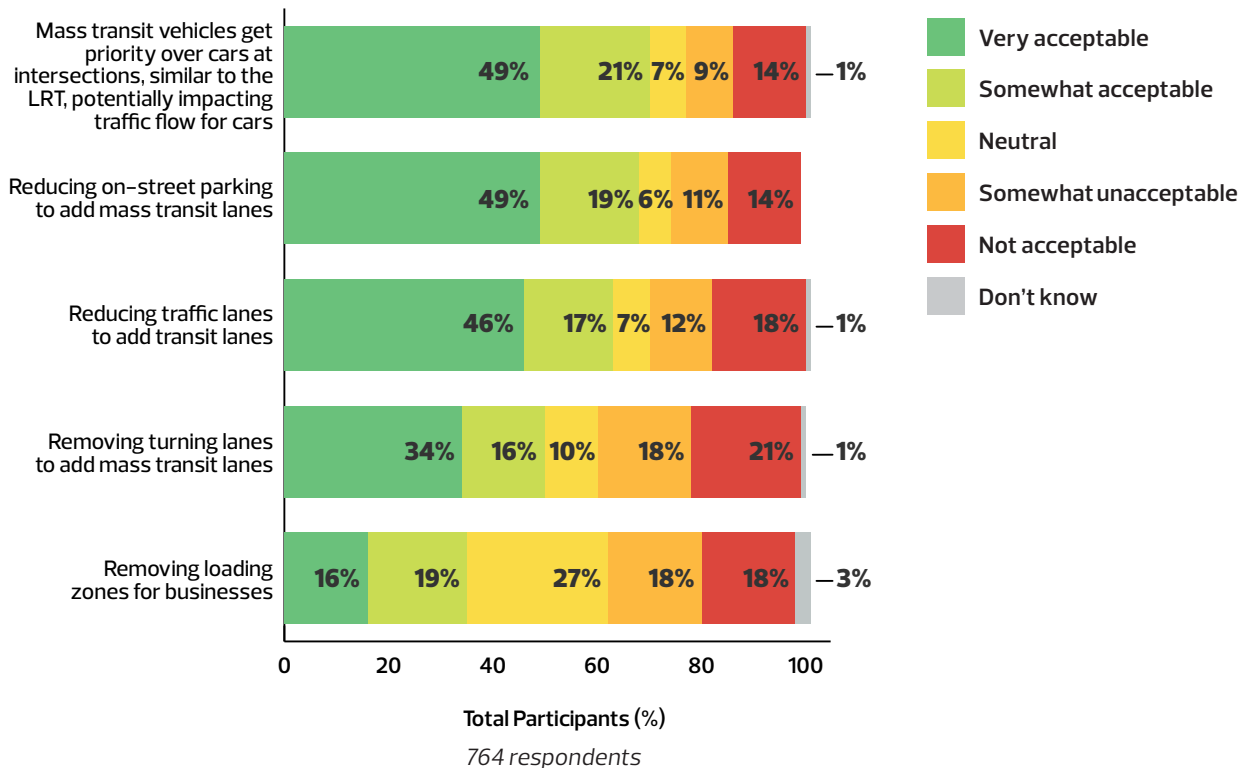
Other Comments

- + Live in the neighbourhood
- + Work in the neighbourhood
- + Taxi/Rideshare/Carshare
- + Streetcar
- + Scooter
- + Motorcycle

How satisfied are you with the following when you walk, wheel, or cycle in Old Strathcona?



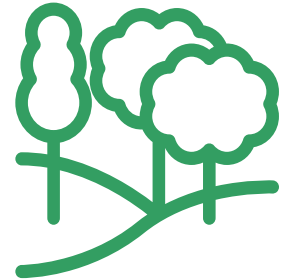
Thinking about adding non-LRT Mass Transit infrastructure to Whyte Avenue, please indicate how acceptable each element is to you.



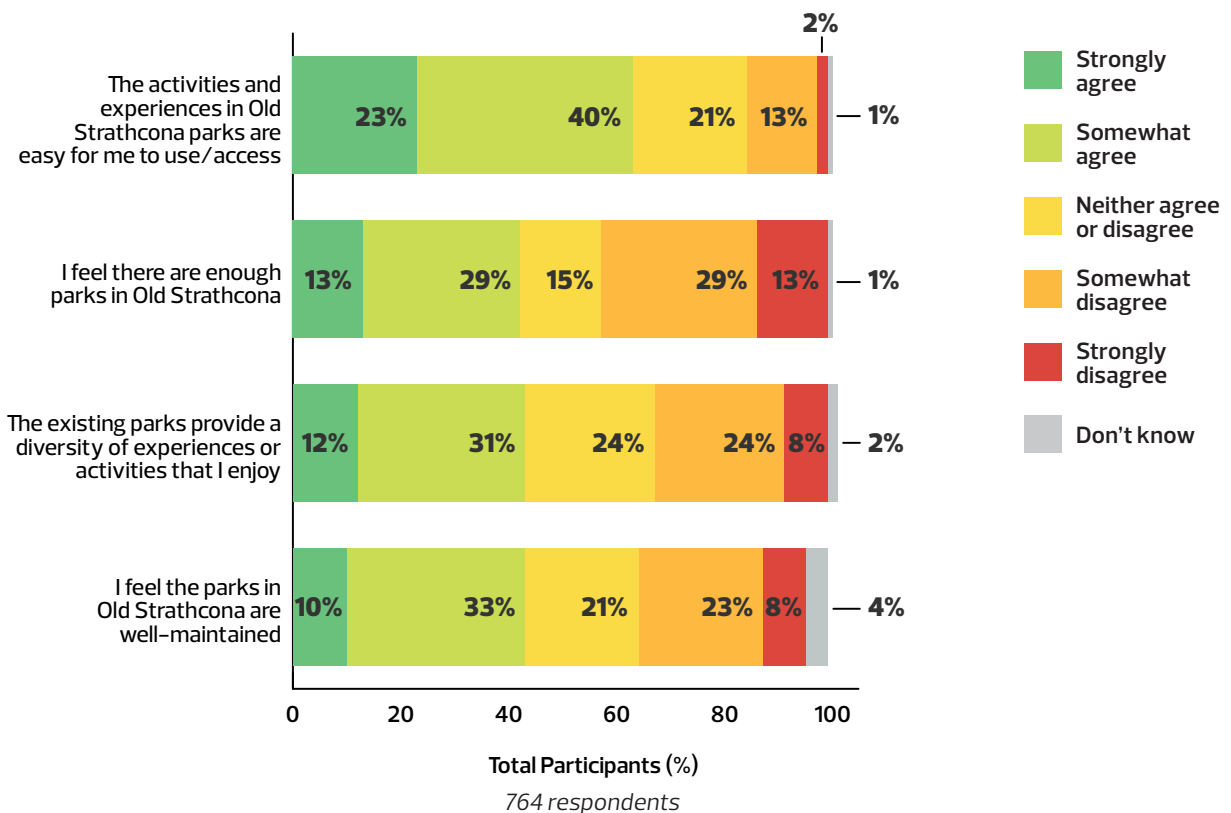
Open Space & Activities | How we connect outdoors

Participants were asked how they currently use open spaces and what they hope to see in the future in order to guide the development of Old Strathcona's open space network.

When asked about their current experience, the majority of respondents (63%) strongly or somewhat agreed that the activities and experiences in Old Strathcona were easy for them to use and access. There were varying responses regarding how well people think the parks are maintained in Old Strathcona. Participants were most divided in their opinions of quantity of park space and the diversity or experiences or activities that these spaces provide. However, those statements received over 42% general agreement (strongly and somewhat combined).



How much do you agree with the following statements based on your experience?



How should the area labeled on the map be re-imagined? What uses, activities or ideas should be planned for this area?

Participants were asked to share their ideas of what could happen in the publicly owned land east of Gateway Boulevard from Whyte Avenue to Saskatchewan Drive. While some respondents felt that this area could remain as it is (small parks and parking lots) most felt that changes should be made to increase the benefit that this space can provide to the surrounding community. There were a significant number of responses related to reducing or eliminating the current parking spaces and converting it to a more pedestrian and cyclist friendly area. Maintaining and adding additional green space for people to gather, attend events and festivals, or participate in a variety of recreation was of interest to many participants. Incorporating elements to support year-round recreation such as skating rinks and winter events was also frequently mentioned.



People expressed interest in seeing mixed-use, high-density, and affordable or mixed-income housing developments. Addressing safety concerns was also suggested, with interest in increased lighting and offering outreach and support services for vulnerable populations.

Comment Summary

+ Cars & Transit

- + Reduce/ remove the area dedicated to surface parking lots
- + Increase efficient parking options (parkade, underground)
- + Increased transit access (Transit hub, High Level Line, Mass Transit)
- + Reduce traffic impact (noise, pollution, congestion)

+ Pedestrian & Cyclist Mobility

- + Improved pedestrian and cycling connectivity
- + Improved bike infrastructure (lanes, secure lock up)
- + Make the space more walkable (wider sidewalks, safer crossings)
- + Seating (benches, picnic tables)

+ Development

- + Mixed use development (residential, commercial)
- + High density housing
- + Walkable area with small commercial development (businesses, community organizations)
- + Food venues (restaurants, cafes, patios)

+ Parks & Open Space

- + Increased parks and green space (plazas, gardens, trees, water features)
- + Dog park
- + Multi season (shelter, shade, wind protection)
- + Community gardens

+ Events & Culture

- + Festival or event space (markets, music, food trucks, winter events)
- + Programming and activation to promote public use
- + Multi season recreation space (skating rink, pool, playgrounds, courts, fitness equipment, skate park)
- + Space to celebrate Indigenous culture
- + Public art
- + Gondola

+ Safety & Support Services

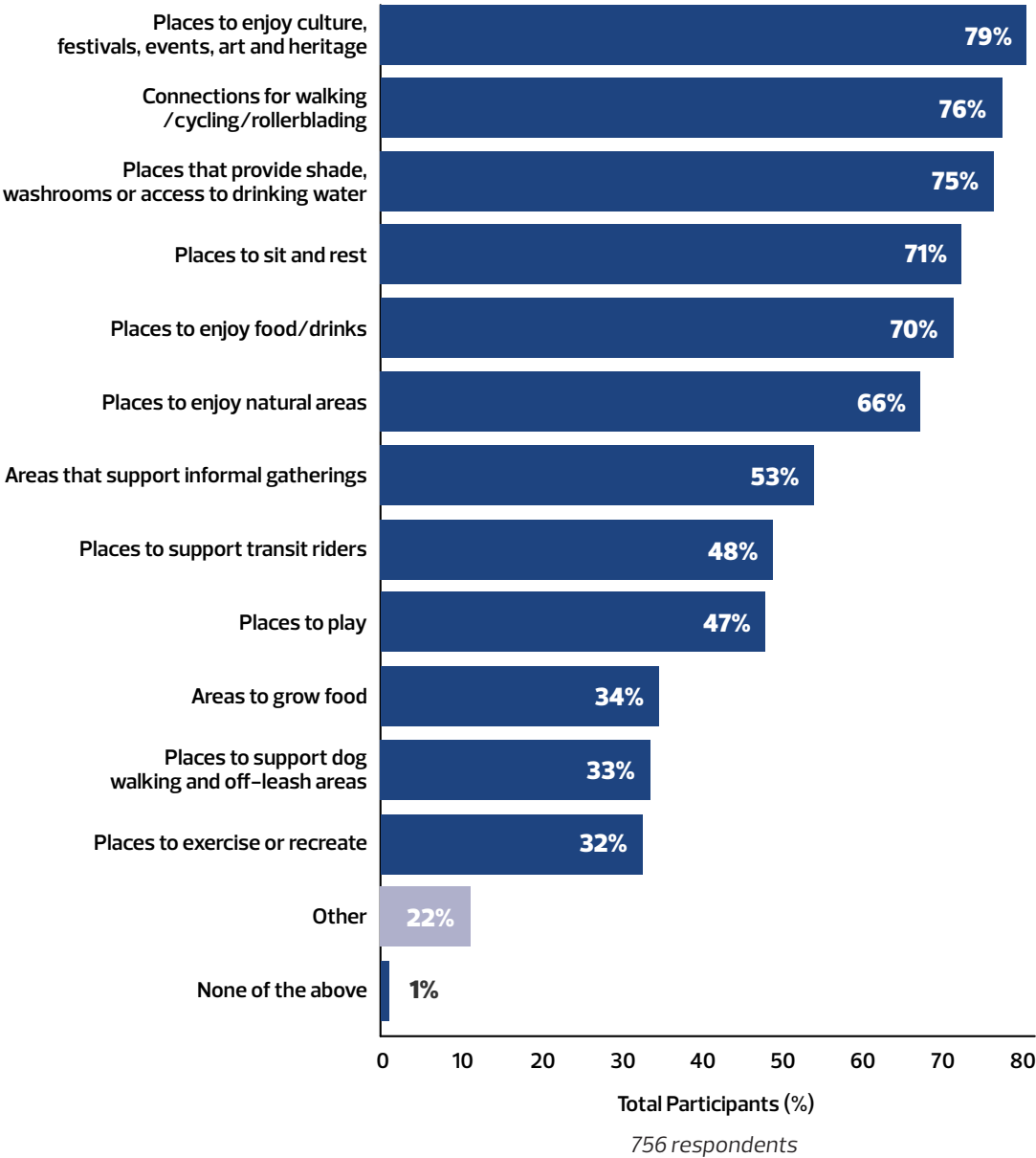
- + Affordable housing developments
- + Dedicated community outreach and support services space
- + Keep the area clean and maintained (adequate garbage receptacles)
- + Current concerns about safety in park and public spaces
- + Increase lighting

+ Accessibility & Amenities

- + Improved accessible and/or free parking
- + Upgrade and add additional public washrooms
- + Water fountains
- + Improve overall accessibility for all mobility levels (wheel chairs, strollers)
- + Accessible transit

When asked what uses people would like to see prioritized in public spaces today and in the future, participants were primarily interested in seeing more places to enjoy events, art, and heritage. They also indicated that these spaces should include amenities such as shade, washrooms, access to drinking water, and areas to sit and rest. In addition, prioritizing connections for people walking, cycling and rolling through the area was expressed from many respondents.

What types of uses would you like prioritized in these spaces?



In the “other” comments, the majority of respondents were interested in seeing a balance between parking and pedestrian space in this area. Several respondents feel that parking should still be included, especially in regard to accessibility, but that alternative options such as underground and parkades should be considered. Providing supports for vulnerable populations was also expressed from many participants. Creating a space that is safe, clean and accessible for all members of the community was referenced frequently. Respondents felt that a variety of uses including events, commercial space, cultural amenities, and recreation options should be prioritized to ensure that this remains a great neighbourhood for current and future generations.

Other Comments

+ Mobility

- + Parking (underground, parkades, accessible parking)
- + Transit (rail, street cars, LRT)
- + Reducing traffic volumes
- + Noise reduction (police enforcement)
- + Bike infrastructure (parking, secure covered storage)

+ Parks & Open Space

- + Multi season infrastructure (seating in sunny locations, fire pits, outdoor lighting, water feature)
- + Dog parks (on-leash preferred)
- + Green spaces (trees, gardens, urban park)
- + Recreation (outdoor pool, outdoor gym, indoor recreation, skate park)
- + Food growing spaces (Community garden)

+ Amenities & Accessibility

- + Free wi-fi hot-spots
- + Increase accessible areas (wheelchair, other mobility supports)
- + Seating (benches, picnic tables, accessible seating)
- + Shade (structures and trees)

+ Safety & Support Services

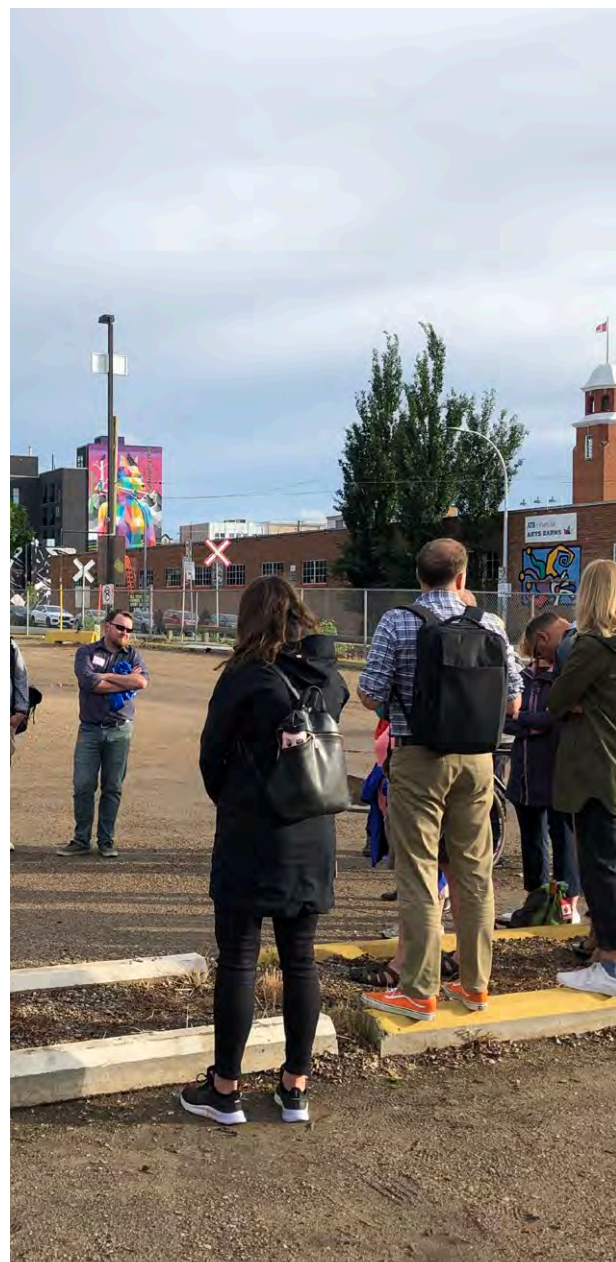
- + Increased safety measures
- + Clean streets and public spaces
- + Support services for vulnerable populations
- + Affordable housing

+ Development

- + Commercial (cafes, restaurants, retail)
- + Housing

+ Events & Culture

- + Event space (flea market, theatres)
- + Cultural amenities (public art, museums, co-working spaces, creative collectives, makerspaces)



Do you have any other ideas or priorities that should be considered for open space and activities in Old Strathcona as we plan for 1.25 million people?

The majority of respondents are interested in seeing the pedestrian and cyclist experience improved and the addition of more green space for recreation and events as Edmonton's population grows. Participants expressed interest in balancing parking and pedestrian space, considering alternate parking options and ensuring that parking and transit options are made accessible. The volume of traffic was a concern for many respondents and reducing the speed, noise and pollution levels was suggested to help improve the safety and enjoyment of the area. Considering permanent or temporary street closures was also suggested. In addition, several respondents voiced safety concerns with cyclists and e-scooters on the sidewalk and would like to see better enforcement to improve pedestrian safety. The overall safety and cleanliness was also raised as a concern by many people, and efforts to address safety and find ways to support the vulnerable populations in the area was identified as a key priority.

Comment Summary

+ Cars & Transit

- + Parking (utilizing empty lots, underground parking, parkade)
- + Transit (LRT along Whyte Ave, mass transit, transit hub, rail, street car, park and ride)
- + Increase accessible parking options
- + Reduce the speed limit (noise, safety)
- + Reduce traffic volumes (Remove lanes on Whyte Avenue, re-route traffic)

+ Pedestrian & Bike Mobility

- + Bike infrastructure (protected bike lanes, secure parking facilities)
- + Year-round bike lane clearing
- + Pedestrian prioritization (wider sidewalks, seating, traffic calming,)
- + Close streets to cars
- + Connectivity for bikes and pedestrians (keep bike lanes open during events)
- + Seating (benches, places to enjoy eating)

+ Safety & Support

- + Affordable housing
- + Support for unhoused and vulnerable populations with safe injection sites
- + Keep side walks clear of snow and ice
- + Prohibit e-scooters and bikes on sidewalk
- + Reduce noise pollution
- + Improved cleanliness of facilities and infrastructure
- + Safety support at all times and seasons (lighting, policing)
- + Increase bathrooms and water fountains
- + General accessibility for all ages and abilities

+ Culture & Events

- + More festivals and events (music, family friendly events, movie nights, food trucks, markets)
- + Alternative uses for the OSFM parking lot and rail yard (businesses, affordable housing)
- + Places to celebrate and honour Indigenous Culture
- + Winter animation (events, heated spaces)
- + Public art
- + Gondola

+ Development

- + Commercial (patios, small businesses, restaurants)
- + High density and mixed-use development
- + Preserve and honour history

+ Parks & Green Space

- + Green space (trees, boulevard gardens, permeable surfaces, pocket parks)
- + Food growing spaces
- + Dog park (on and off leash)
- + Multi season recreation (fitness equipment, playground, skating rink, skate park, pool, courts, disc golf)
- + Activate spaces (alleyways)

Inclusion & Equity | How we belong

While many participants indicated they feel a sense of belonging and that public spaces are welcoming to everyone (both over 55% strongly or somewhat agree), many people indicated that spaces are not as supportive for Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) individuals or for children.

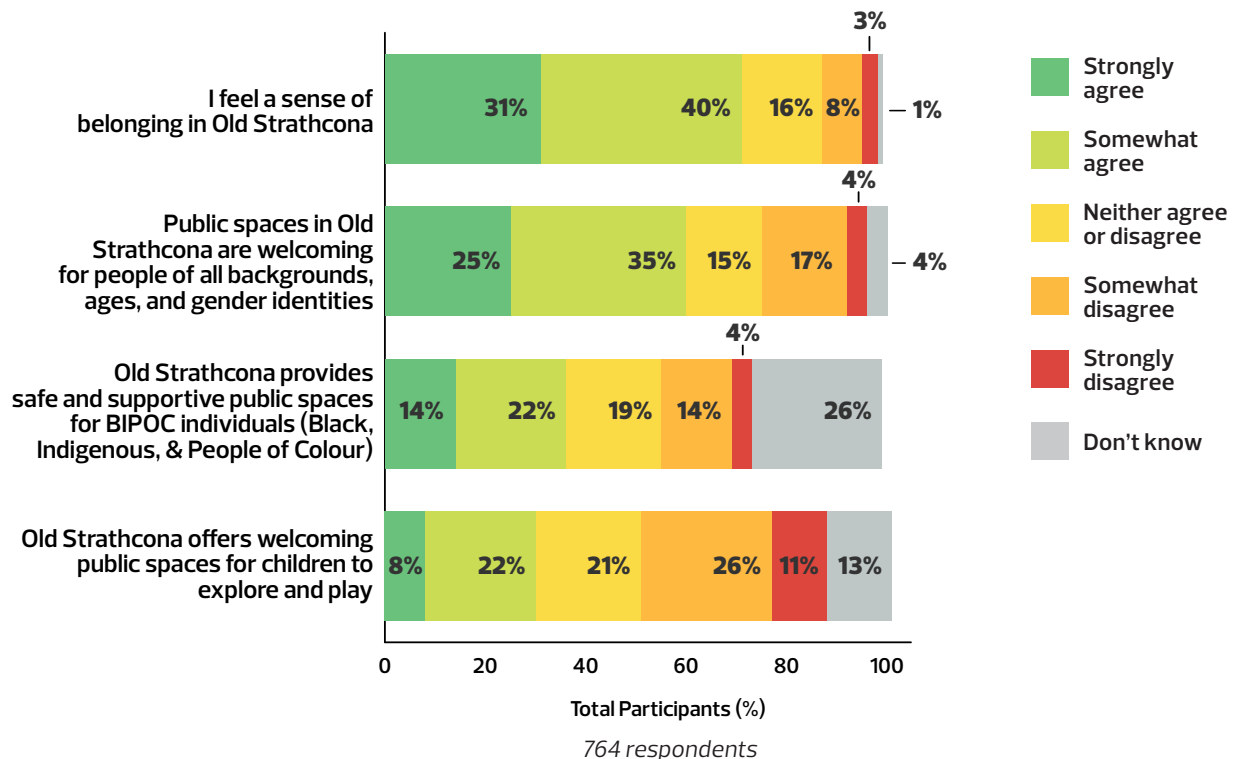
To make a positive impact on gender equality in public spaces in Old Strathcona, the primary recurring sentiments were to improve the feeling of safety (especially at night) and provide access to public washrooms. Some participants shared experiences of feeling unsafe and highlighted the need for better lighting, more eyes on the street, and safety enforcement in the area, especially around bars and Pride Corner.

Some people highlighted homelessness as an issue in the area, and felt that providing housing and social supports would mean the streets become safer for everyone.

Some respondents agreed with suggested changes and understood why a question on inclusion and equity was asked while others felt no changes were needed or expressed that they did not agree with or understand why this question was needed/asked. Others felt it is an important issue to address, but did not know how or felt unqualified to answer. It was also noted by some that design alone cannot solve systemic issues of racism, misogyny, and homelessness.



How much do you agree with the following statements based on your personal experience?



What is one thing the City can do to make a positive impact on gender equality of current public spaces in Old Strathcona?

Comment Summary

+ Amenities

- + Access to public gender-neutral washrooms:
 - + Allows visitors to stay in public space for longer
 - + Supports people of all genders
 - + Supports families with children
 - + Supports accessibility
 - + Supports people without access to private washroom facilities
- + More family/child-friendly spaces
- + Improve cleanliness and care for spaces (garbage, vomit, windows)

+ Safety & Security

- + Make streets and public spaces more well-lit, especially alleys
- + Increase safety and comfort for women, trans folks, and everyone walking alone at night
- + Enforce noise bylaws and address hate speech on major street corners
- + Enforce harassment near bars at night
- + Eyes on the street (patios, street life)

+ Mobility & Accessibility

- + Increase road safety
- + Sidewalk access for strollers, etc.
- + Require businesses to provide ramps

+ Diversity & Culture

- + Events and spaces celebrating 2SLGBTQ+ folks
- + Public spaces to support and celebrate different cultures

+ Housing & At-Risk Populations

- + Provide safe, affordable housing and support people to get off the street
- + Provide supportive services for people experiencing homelessness (mental health, drug addiction)
- + Increase feeling of safety for public services, especially in winter (e.g. library, transit)
- + Share resources in public spaces to call when someone is in need of help
- + Encourage a mix of amenities to draw a variety of people to public spaces

+ Engagement & Decisions

- + Continue to listen to the people most affected
- + Create diverse teams and leadership for decision-making



Comfort & Safety | How we feel

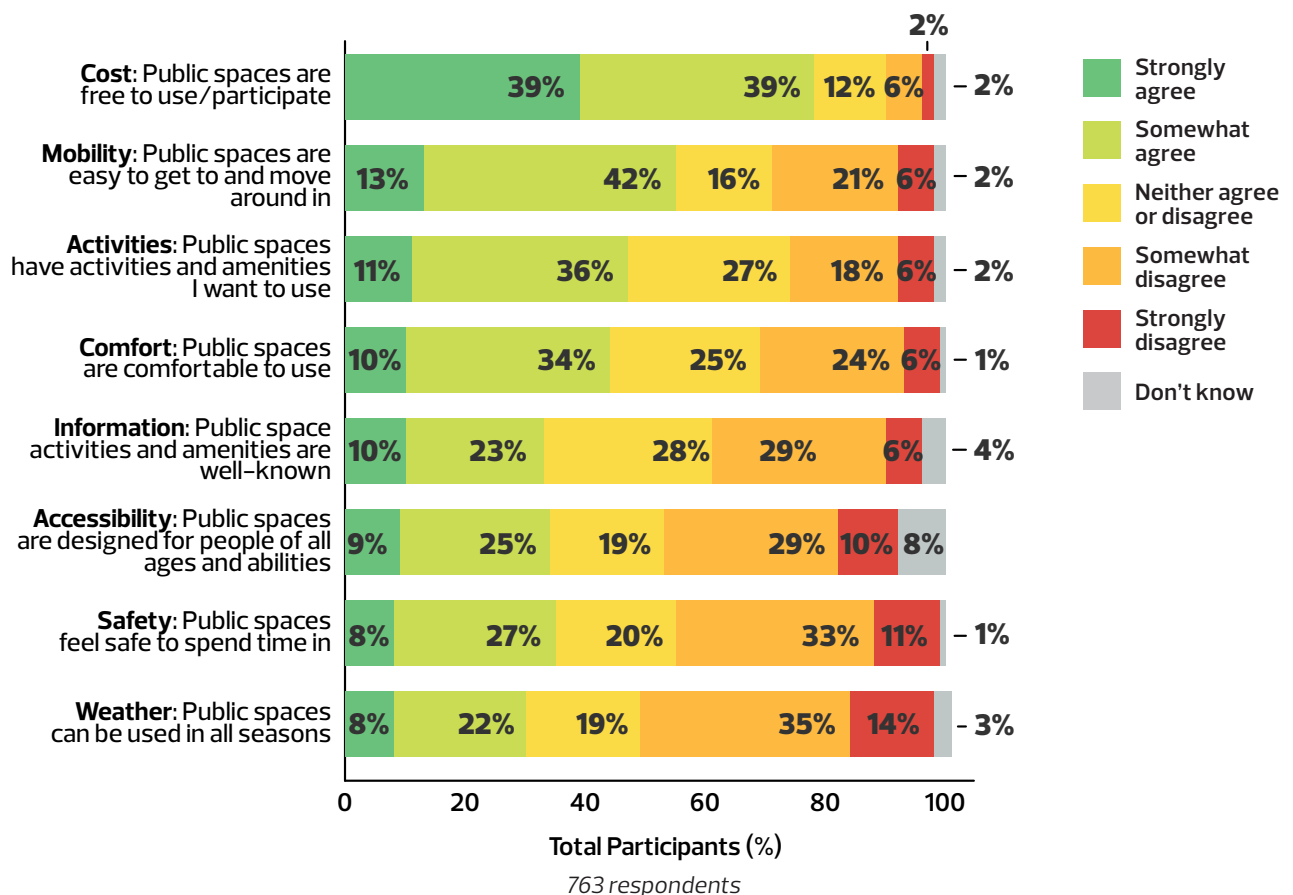
Over 39% indicated that they somewhat or strongly disagree that public spaces are designed for people of all ages and abilities, feel safe to spend time in, and can be used in all seasons. Cost had by far the least amount of concern, with 78% indicating they somewhat or strongly agree that public spaces in Old Strathcona are free to use/participate.

When asked how to improve access and experience of current space, many respondents expressed an interest in seeing more shade, seating, and lighting to improve comfort and safety throughout public spaces. People voiced concerns over traffic volumes and the danger and noise that this imposes on pedestrians and cyclists. Widening sidewalks, increasing curb cuts, and improving sidewalk patio ramps were all suggested as ways to improve mobility. Many people are also interested in having bike lanes remain open during events and festivals. Improved winter amenities including more lighting, heated spaces, and snow and ice removal was shared as a top priority as a way to encourage year-round use of spaces.

Overall safety in public spaces, including parks and the Strathcona Library, was raised as a concern by many. Suggestions were made to support unhoused and vulnerable populations while balancing safety for everyone in the area.



How much do you agree with the following statements about the current state of public space in Old Strathcona?



What would help to improve your access and experience of current public spaces in Old Strathcona?

Comment Summary

+ Cars & Transit

- + Parking (accessible parking, parkades)
- + Reduce traffic volumes (noise, pollution,
- + Transit (park and ride, improved bus shelters)
- + Frequency and reliability of transit

+ Pedestrian & Bike Mobility

- + Prioritize pedestrian space (widen sidewalks, curb cuts, ramps)
- + Winter maintenance (sidewalks, bike lanes)
- + Seating (benches, picnic tables, gazebos, covered seating)
- + Bike infrastructure (parking, bike lanes, bollard lighting)
- + Keep bike lanes open during festivals
- + Street closures
- + Pedestrian and cyclist connectivity

+ Safety

- + Increase safety measures (lighting, policing, more people)
- + Affordable housing
- + Support and outreach services for vulnerable populations
- + Maintain and clean public areas and infrastructure (garbage cans)

+ Culture & Events

- + Event space (music, food trucks, family events)
- + Winter animation (events, outdoor fire pits, heaters, warming huts)
- + Celebrate history of the area
- + Commercial (cafes, small businesses, restaurants)

+ Parks & Green Space

- + Green space (trees, gardens)
- + Water features
- + Multi-season recreation (playgrounds, splash parks)
- + Improved maintenance

+ Amenities & Accessibility

- + More public washrooms and water fountains
- + Improved navigation around sidewalk patios
- + Shade (structures and trees)
- + Accessibility for all mobility levels (wheelchairs, strollers)
- + Wi-fi



Pop-up Events

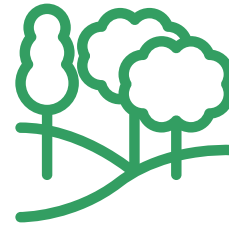
A series of pop-up events were hosted to give Edmontonians the opportunity to provide feedback in person. Participants were invited to discuss their thoughts on the area with project staff and place sticky notes on a series of display boards. They were also encouraged to use check marks to indicate support on other people's ideas.



Mobility & Movement

How can walking, biking, and transit be improved?

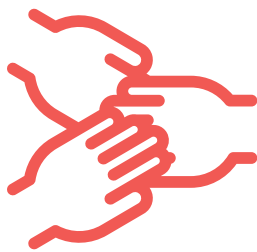
- + Improve sidewalks for all mobility levels (wheelchairs, strollers)
- + Increased transit accessibility
- + Additional separated bike lanes
- + Improve traffic flow
- + Parking (accessible)



Open Space & Activities

What parks or other open spaces do you enjoy? Why?

- + Include more trees, gardens, green space
- + Designated space for dogs
- + Additional patios



Inclusion & Equity

What experiences or activities would help to make you feel welcome in the community?

- + Support services for vulnerable populations



Comfort & Safety

What would help you feel more safe and comfortable?

- + Reduce traffic noise and noise from Whyte Avenue
- + Additional public washrooms
- + Increase safety and cleanliness

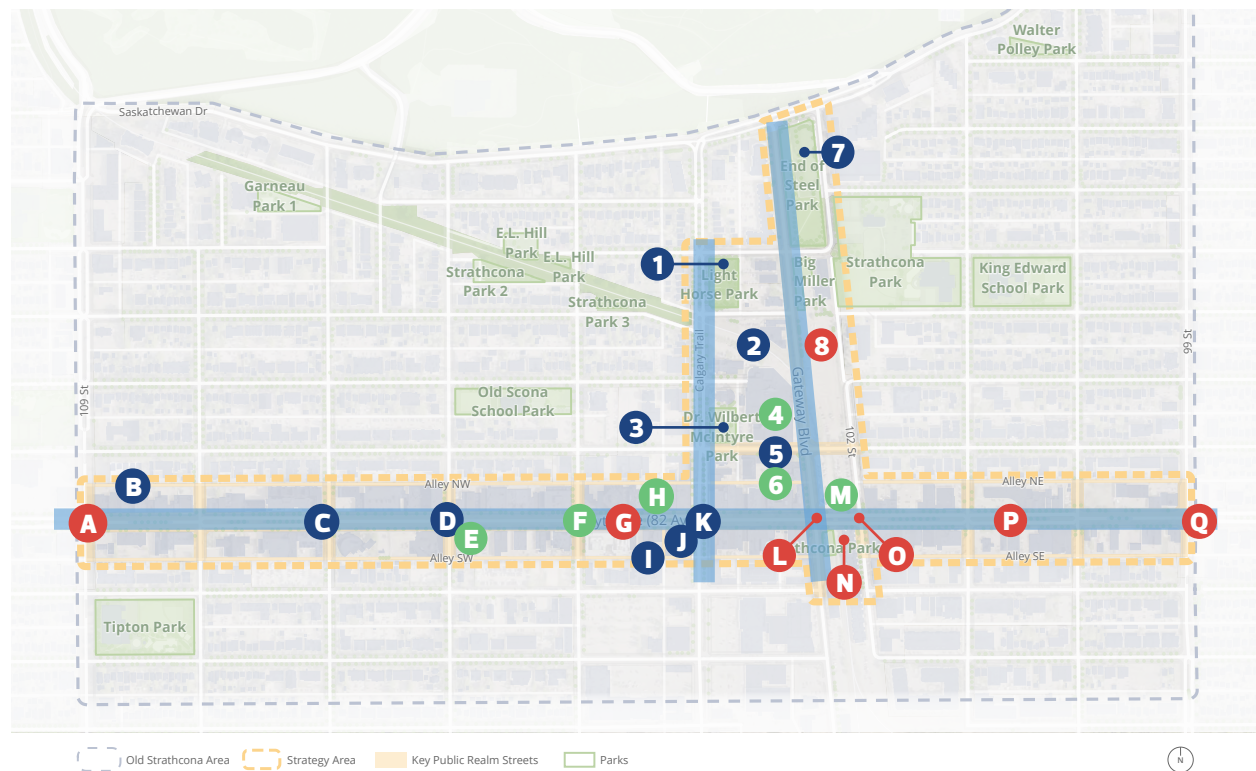
Map Comments

An online interactive map and map panel at pop-up events collected comment pins from participants about specific locations in the Old Strathcona area. Participants were invited to drop pins and leave comments on the following:

- + **Loves:** I love this because...
- + **Issues:** This doesn't work because...
- + **Ideas:** I wish this could be...

The map highlights “hot spots” of comment locations, with summary notes included on the following pages:

- + Locations in **green** highlight comments that are primarily ‘loves’.
- + Locations in **red** highlight comments that are primarily ‘issues’.
- + Locations in **blue** highlight comments that include a mix of loves, concerns, and wishes.



The project includes two Strategy Areas to address the unique needs and objectives within Old Strathcona:

- + **Strategy Area 1:** Gateway Blvd
- + **Strategy Area 2:** Whyte Avenue

The summaries on the following pages highlight the comments within the Strategy Areas. Comments shared within the broader Project Area will be used by the project team to better understand the surrounding context.

Strategy Area 1: Gateway Blvd

104 St NW

- + **Issues:**
 - + Poor pedestrian experience (e.g. traffic speed/volume, unsafe crossings)
- + **Wishes:**
 - + Make more pedestrian-friendly (e.g. reduce traffic, slow traffic, close to vehicles)
 - + Prioritize signals for pedestrians

Gateway Blvd

- + **Issues:**
 - + Missing sidewalks
 - + Arterial road in centre of pedestrian area
 - + Vehicle disturbances (traffic, speed, noise, dust)
- + **Wishes:**
 - + Safer pedestrian crossings to parks
 - + Reduced/slower traffic
 - + Multi-modal road (walking, cycling, transit)

1 – Light Horse Park

- + **Loves:**
 - + Shaded picnic seating (limited in neighbourhood)
- + **Issues:**
 - + Unwelcoming, unsafe, uninteresting
 - + Encampments and at-risk populations
- + **Wishes:**
 - + More gardens
 - + Close street for better pedestrian connections

2 – Rail Corridor

- + **Loves:**
 - + New rail path
 - + Streetcar
- + **Issues:**
 - + Gravel lots are confusing to navigate
- + **Wishes:**
 - + High Level Line
 - + Improved safe crossings
 - + Make gravel lots more pleasant (public space or development)



3 – Dr. Wilbert McIntyre Park

- + **Loves:**
 - + Central location to linger
- + **Issues:**
 - + Does not function with high volume of use
- + **Wishes:**
 - + Improved safety and lighting to encourage use
 - + Improved maintenance
 - + Activate parking lot as a plaza

4 – Farmers' Market

- + **Loves:**
 - + Destination local market
 - + Theatre district
- + **Wishes:**
 - + Activate more frequently in the week

5 – 83 Ave

- + **Loves:**
 - + Comfortable pedestrian experience
- + **Issues:**
 - + Conflicts with bike lanes
- + **Wishes:**
 - + Permanently close to cars
 - + Keep bike lane access open at all times

6 – Alleyway Public Space

+ Loves:

- + Investment in alley revitalization
- + Vibrant and activated businesses
- + Residential development
- + Bike parking

+ Wishes:

- + Indoor bike parking
- + Improve maintenance of Alley NW (e.g. paving, lighting)

7 – End of Steel Park

+ Loves:

- + Green space
- + Daytime use

+ Issues:

- + Park feels unsafe/unused
- + Lack of safe pedestrian crossing and bike connections across Saskatchewan Drive

+ Wishes:

- + More seating
- + Intentional community space
- + Better pedestrian connections
- + New types of spaces (events, child-friendly)
- + Vegetation (trees, community garden)
- + Heritage (railroad, Indigenous recognition)

8 – Parking Lots

+ Issues:

- + Parking lot usually empty – used for farmers' market one day a week only
- + Some people require parking
- + Poor use of valuable land for people

+ Wishes:

- + Green linear park
- + Affordable housing
- + Mixed-use development
- + Vegetation (trees for shade, food forest, bioswale creek)
- + Bike path
- + Amenities (public washroom, water)
- + Gathering spaces
- + Discourage driving
- + Anything but parking



Strategy Area 2: Whyte Ave

Whyte Ave (82 Ave NW)

+ Issues:

- + Lively shops and street life
- + Pedestrian friendly

+ Issues:

- + Currently too car-centred
- + Noise/smell from vehicles

+ Wishes:

- + Reduce lanes for cars – increase space for people (walk/bike, patios)
- + Closed to cars – pedestrian only zone
- + Slow vehicle traffic
- + More pedestrian scrambles
- + Add bus rapid transit (BRT) or light rail transit (LRT)
- + Peak-hour dedicated lanes (for buses, taxis, ride share, etc.)
- + More bike parking
- + More trees
- + More seating
- + Improve lighting
- + Limit scooter use

A – Intersection: 109 St & Whyte Ave

+ Issues:

- + Unsafe driving (e.g. speed, not watching for pedestrians)

+ Wishes:

- + Crossing improvements
- + Gateway feature to Whyte Ave

B – Alley NW

+ Wishes:

- + Paved for bike use (connections to Whyte Ave businesses)
- + Improve lighting
- + Maintain deliveries and staff/tenant parking

C – Intersection: 107 St & Whyte Ave

+ Wishes:

- + Improve pedestrian signals

D – Intersection: 106 St & Whyte Ave

+ Loves:

- + Bike detectors

+ Issues:

- + Bike safety and blocked bike lane
- + E-bike speed

+ Wishes:

- + More bike parking
- + Close through traffic to reduce flow interruption and create plazas

E – Temporary Park

+ Loves:

- + New pop-up dog park
- + New seating and bike parking

+ Wishes:

- + More activation
- + Become permanent

F – Intersection: 105 St & Whyte Ave

+ Loves:

- + Neighbourhood character
- + Architecture & heritage landmarks
- + Scramble intersection

+ Issues:

- + Narrow sidewalk south of intersection

G – Sidewalk

+ Issues:

- + Sidewalk width too narrow
- + Walking path with patios difficult to maneuver

H – Alleyway & Area

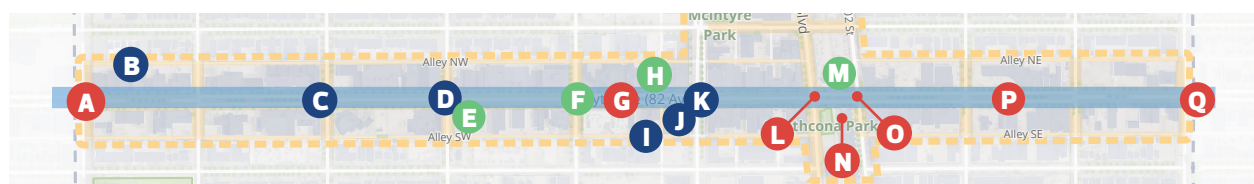
+ Loves:

- + Alley improvements (safer, brighter)
- + New development with historical preservation

I – Alley SW

+ Wishes:

- + Improve pedestrian connections
- + Improve lighting



J – Buildings

+ Issues:

- + Empty storefronts

+ Wishes:

- + Potential community space

K – Intersection: 104 St & Whyte Ave

+ Loves:

- + Scramble crosswalk
- + Increased pedestrian space
- + Pride corner

+ Issues:

- + Vehicle challenges (e.g. turn signals, visibility)

L – Intersection: Gateway Blvd & Whyte Ave

+ Issues:

- + Pedestrian safety (e.g. turning on red)
- + Pedestrian scramble impacting traffic flow of busy intersection
- + Traffic back-ups

M – Public Space

+ Loves:

- + Public washroom
- + Heritage streetcar

N – Public Space

+ Issues:

- + Feels unpleasant/unsafe/neglected
- + Feels car-centric, not welcoming to pedestrians

O – Intersection: 102 St & Whyte Ave

+ Issues:

- + Crosswalk feels dangerous – frequent near misses with pedestrians
- + Traffic flow/direction
- + Lack of maintenance (tree health, bus shelter cleanliness)

P – Street Segment (102 St to 99 St)

+ Issues:

- + Feels empty, uncomfortable, and unsafe

+ Wishes:

- + Increased development to increase number of people

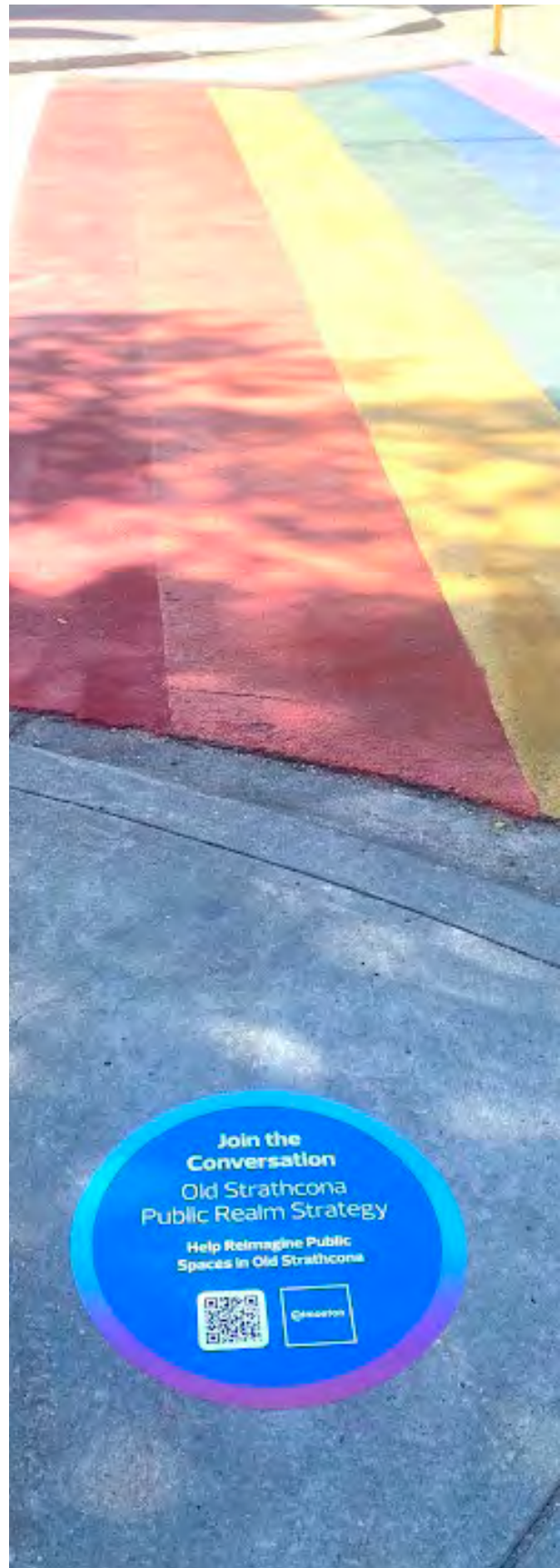
Q – Intersection: 99 St & Whyte Ave

+ Issues:

- + Feels unsafe for pedestrians

+ Wishes:

- + Improved safety and lighting



**What Happens
Next?**

Thank you for your participation!

Input will be used to help inform the priorities and draft recommendations to be developed in Phase 2.

The next phase of engagement is planned to occur in winter 2023. To stay up-to-date with the project and engagement opportunities, visit edmonton.ca/OldStrathPublicRealm.

