

What We Heard

Malmo Plains
Exploring Opportunities

| BUILDING GREAT
NEIGHBOURHOODS



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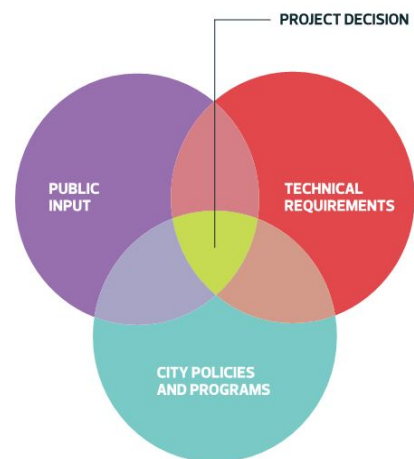
Project overview

Beginning in spring 2021, Malmö Plains will experience Neighbourhood Renewal. Through the City of Edmonton's Building Great Neighbourhoods and Open Spaces branch, the Neighbourhood Renewal program will rehabilitate roads, replace street lights, curbs and gutters, repair sidewalks, and connect missing sidewalk links where possible in Malmö Plains. Cost sharing opportunities will be made available through the Local Improvement process for sidewalk reconstruction and decorative street lighting upgrades in the neighbourhood. Other opportunities to improve City-owned parks and public spaces will also be explored.



Decision-making process

There are many critical aspects in the decision-making process for neighbourhood renewal. Along with public input captured throughout the public engagement process, the project team needs to consider technical requirements, funds available and City policies and programs to determine what is ultimately built during neighbourhood renewal.



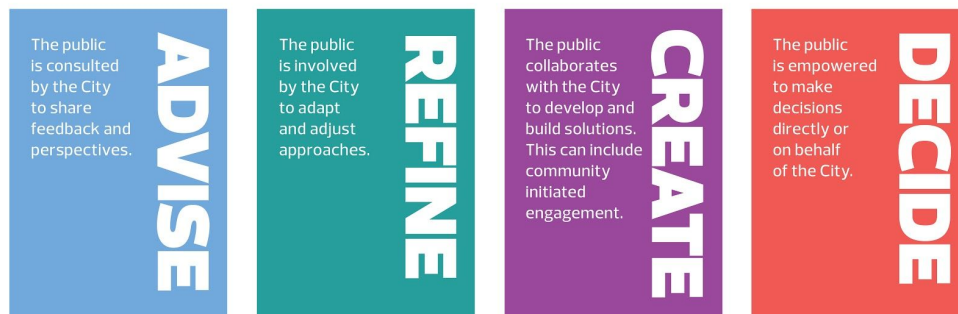
Roadmap to Building Great Neighbourhoods

The Neighbourhood Renewal program follows the roadmap below, and this report focuses on public input that was heard during the **“Exploring Opportunities”** phase. At each step, the project team will share with you how your input will inform the decisions being made.



Engagement spectrum

The public engagement spectrum is a tool that explains the level of influence the public has when they participate in City of Edmonton public engagement activities. As we move across the spectrum from left to right, there is an increasing level of public influence and commitment from the City and the public.



Public engagement to date

Building a Project Vision Together: June - July 2019

Vision and Guiding Principles Workshop, Walking Tour, and Online Engagement

In June and July 2019 we held a workshop and community walking tour as well as had online engagement tools available. We collected feedback from participants to help **CREATE** a draft Vision and Guiding Principles for Malmo Plains. We also asked participants to **ADVISE** us on the possibilities for neighbourhood renewal and help us **REFINE** our understanding of the existing infrastructure in the neighbourhood. The feedback is summarized in our **Visioning and Local Knowledge What We Heard** which can be found at edmonton.ca/BuildingMalmoPlains.

Exploring Opportunities: September - October 2019

Drop-in Workshops and Online Engagement

We held two identical public **drop-in workshops** on September 28, 2019 at the Malmo Plains Community League Hall from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. where we shared the draft Vision and Guiding Principles and the analysis of the neighbourhood identifying the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and constraints in relation to neighbourhood renewal.

At the drop-in workshops, we asked participants to help us REFINE the assessment of the neighbourhood, identify opportunities for enhancements and confirm the draft Vision and Guiding Principles for Malmo Plains.

An **online survey** was available from September 28 until October 12, 2019. Participants shared feedback on the draft Vision and Guiding Principles, parks and public spaces and getting around Malmo Plains.

Confirm the Vision and Guiding Principles

The Vision and Guiding Principles are unique to Malmo Plains and will help guide decision-making throughout the Neighbourhood Renewal project. The Vision is a short description that sets the direction for the Neighbourhood Renewal project by stating the elements that are most important to the community. The Guiding Principles are ideas and priorities that shape how the Vision is applied to the neighbourhood design.

We presented a DRAFT Vision and Guiding Principles to participants and asked them to help us improve by helping to REFINE a final version.

Here is the final Vision:

Malmo Plains is a family-friendly neighbourhood that welcomes people of all ages and diverse backgrounds. We are an active, enthusiastic and engaged community that enjoys connecting with and looking out for our neighbours. We appreciate that our neighbourhood is walkable, bikeable and safe, with easy access to transit, schools, the University of Alberta and shopping. We take pride in the character of Malmo Plains including the mature trees, park spaces and quiet atmosphere.

What we heard:

The following key components of Malmo Plains were added to the Vision:

- Diverse backgrounds
- Looking out for our neighbours
- A bikeable neighbourhood
- Quiet atmosphere

Here are the final Guiding Principles:

- A. Improving accessibility for people within the community and to surrounding destinations
- B. Making the places where people travel safer for all users, ages and abilities
- C. Creating welcoming spaces that encourage and make it easy for community members of all ages to come together and gather
- D. Respecting and preserving the natural character of the neighbourhood and its mature trees
- E. Adding basic amenities to create parks and open spaces where people of all ages can gather, connect and play in all seasons
- F. Creating safe and well-lit spaces within the community

What we heard:

Community members generally agreed with the Guiding Principles and the following suggestions were incorporated to provide additional clarity:

- Guiding Principle A - Clarification was added to be focused on people moving within Malmö Plains
- Guiding Principle C - It was important for community members to have all ages added to reflect children, youth and adults in the Malmö Plains neighbourhood
- Guiding Principle E - Community members felt it was important to create spaces that people could use in all seasons

Refine the assessment

The assessment of Malmö Plains is based on public input from the spring engagement opportunities and a technical background review by the project team. The information goes into three themes:

Community Spaces



Getting Around



Safety



A SWOC analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Constraints) was created for each theme to assess the neighbourhood. We presented the SWOC analysis for each theme to participants and asked them to help REFINE the analysis and provide additional feedback.

What we heard

The following section includes a summary of what we heard at the two identical workshops and through the online survey. The feedback we received has been themed and summarized to reflect the frequency and diversity of input received.

Community spaces

Strengths	+ The existing trees and green spaces should be maintained as they contribute positively to the character of Malmo Plains
Weaknesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Noise from Whitemud Drive carries into the neighbourhood + The neighbourhood has limited opportunities for the community to gather in parks and community spaces + There is a lack of up-to-date programmed recreation spaces for all ages, such as a skate park or playground
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Opportunity to encourage more use and participation in the pocket parks and green spaces throughout the neighbourhood, such as fitness activities and equipment, winter activities, community gardens, mountain bike paths, natural play elements, benches and pocket libraries, while maintaining open space for other uses like kids soccer, family volleyball, and playing tag. + Opportunity for a unique visual identity for Malmo Plains in community spaces through well designed signage and landscaping beautification + Opportunity to bring programmed areas to the Malmo School Park, such as with tennis courts, winter activities and spectator benches for the existing soccer field and baseball diamonds + Opportunity to encourage dog walking, such as off and on leash park areas and to add more waste receptacles for responsible waste disposal
Constraints	+ The berm reduces noise from Whitemud Drive and 111 Street but is an underused green space and limits sightlines

Getting around

Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + The community is centrally located and easily accessed from major roadways by car, LRT or bike
Weaknesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Challenges for parking and turning around on 49 Avenue due to increased parking near Edgeway + The intersection at 51 Avenue and 115 Street feels unsafe for people of all ages trying to cross the street + The ramp and connection from the Whitemud Drive pedestrian bridge to the shared-use path in the alley could be improved for accessibility because it is steep and the fence is difficult to move around + Creating tree lined streets may negatively impact accessibility by having a grassed boulevard instead of a hard surface + Existing landscaping may be impacted if the sidewalk moves toward private property lines
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Opportunity to expand connections and shared-use paths through the alley network + Opportunity to add a drop-off lane for Malmo School to ease congestion + Opportunity to include protected bike lanes or other options to create a safe space for people to ride bikes through the alleys and along 46 Avenue and 115 Street + Opportunity to improve the connection to the Whitemud Drive pedestrian bridge + Opportunity to add sidewalks to the pocket parks + Opportunity to add crosswalks at key intersections, such as 116 Street and 51 Avenue for people to safely cross to the bus stop or Lendrum Place Community
Constraints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Constraints include poor condition of alleys (not a part of the neighbourhood renewal project)

Safety

Strengths	+	More people active and moving in the neighbourhood
Weaknesses	+	Shared-use path along Whitemud Drive has poorly maintained landscaping, does not have full snow removal in winter and poor lighting in areas
	+	Crossing 51 Avenue at 115 Street does not feel safe for families walking to school in Lendrum Place
	+	The sidewalk in front of Malmo School has a steep slope to it, which is difficult to walk on in the winter months
	+	The stairs to the Whitemud Drive pedestrian bridge are in poor condition
Opportunities	+	Opportunity to improve lighting throughout the neighbourhood, including at alley connections to the LRT station and the shared-use path
	+	Improve pruning of trees along Whitemud Drive and the berm to improve visibility in the area and reduce loitering
	+	Create a formal bike path off of the Whitemud Drive pedestrian bridge
Constraints	+	Many safety concerns concerning property theft and non-resident foot traffic near the LRT station and the berm cannot directly be resolved through infrastructure built through neighbourhood renewal

The Malmo Plains Neighbourhood Renewal project team heard from residents about neighbourhood concerns that cannot directly be resolved through infrastructure built through neighbourhood renewal and are indicated as constraints above. We will share these concerns with the appropriate City departments or agencies for their attention.

Next steps

With feedback from the community, the project team will begin to develop draft designs that help address the community's concerns and identified opportunities as well as the technical background review that was completed during the **"Exploring Opportunities"** phase.

Future events for the Malmö Plains Neighbourhood Renewal project will include:

- + Exploring Options and Trade-offs - Winter 2020
- + Draft Design Event - Spring 2020

Please visit edmonton.ca/BuildingMalmoPlains for more information and to subscribe to the email list for project updates and future engagement opportunities.