



# ROYAL GARDENS

## WHAT WE HEARD REPORT

BUILDING GREAT NEIGHBOURHOODS

APRIL 2019

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**  
SHARE YOUR VOICE SHAPE OUR CITY

Edmonton

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Starting in 2019, Royal Gardens will see the replacement and enhancement of its aging collector and local roadway surfaces, street lights, and sidewalks as part of the City of Edmonton's Neighbourhood Renewal Program for mature neighbourhoods. Building Great Neighbourhoods has been exploring the enhancement of these and other City owned areas within the community, including green spaces and parks. Building Great Neighbourhoods looks for opportunities to make desired upgrades and improvements in coordination with the Neighbourhood Renewal Program.

To develop a better understanding of what these enhancements might look like and how they could improve the way people work, live and play in the community we wanted to engage with residents. Engagement began with the Concept phase in January 2018. In this phase, the project team developed a vision statement, core values, urban design themes, and focus areas (draft concepts), as well as an Urban Design Analysis. The Urban Design Analysis provided the exploration and foundation of the draft concepts.

For more information on the Concept phase, please refer to the project history available online at: [edmonton.ca/BuildingRoyalGardens](http://edmonton.ca/BuildingRoyalGardens)

The following report tells the story of the public engagement activities that occurred in the Design phase including the Preliminary Designs Public Event and the Pre-construction Public Event.

The Preliminary Designs Public Event held on November 8, 2018 provided the opportunity to share the preliminary designs with the public and to gather feedback to further refine them. Information was also shared on the decorative street lights and sidewalk reconstruction Local Improvement process, construction staging, and next steps. Through the analysis of the feedback gathered at this event, as well as other factors such as City policies and programs, technical requirements, and available funding, the preliminary designs were finalized.

The Pre-construction Public Event held on January 29, 2019 provided the opportunity to share the finalized designs and plans for construction with the public and to gather feedback and perspectives on possible construction issues. Information on construction included what to expect during the planned two-year construction, and how to prepare your property. The event also provided an opportunity for residents to learn more about the sidewalk reconstruction local improvement process and participate in the decision for this improvement.

***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.

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>1.0 BACKGROUND AND ENGAGEMENT OBJECTIVES</b> | <b>1</b>  |
| <b>2.0 DECISION-MAKING PROCESS</b>              | <b>1</b>  |
| <b>3.0 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT APPROACH</b>           | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>4.0 YOUR FEEDBACK</b>                        | <b>4</b>  |
| PRELIMINARY DESIGNS PUBLIC EVENT                | 4         |
| DECORATIVE STREET LIGHT LOCAL IMPROVEMENT       | 12        |
| PRE-CONSTRUCTION PUBLIC EVENT                   | 13        |
| <b>5.0 NEXT STEPS</b>                           | <b>13</b> |

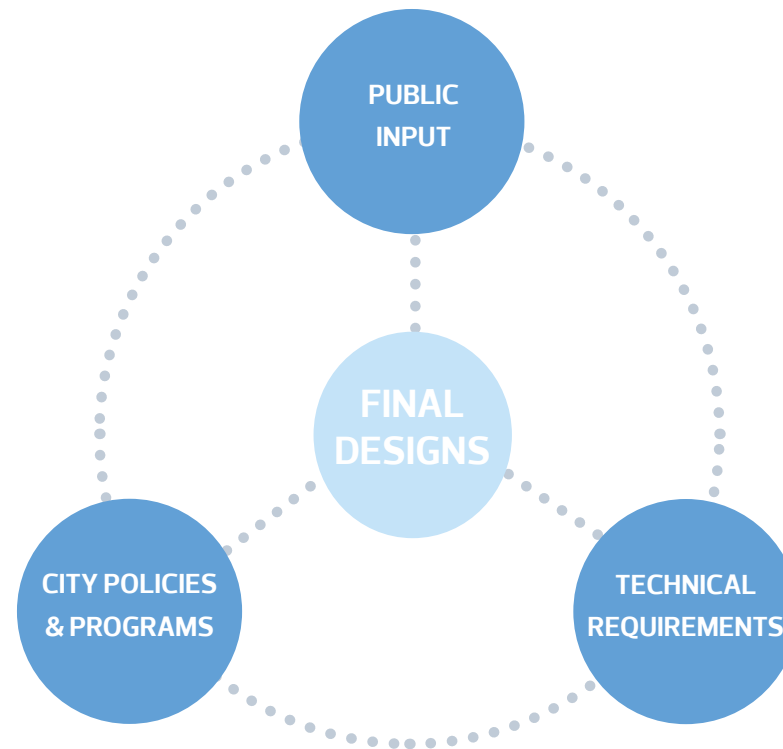
## 1.0 BACKGROUND AND ENGAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

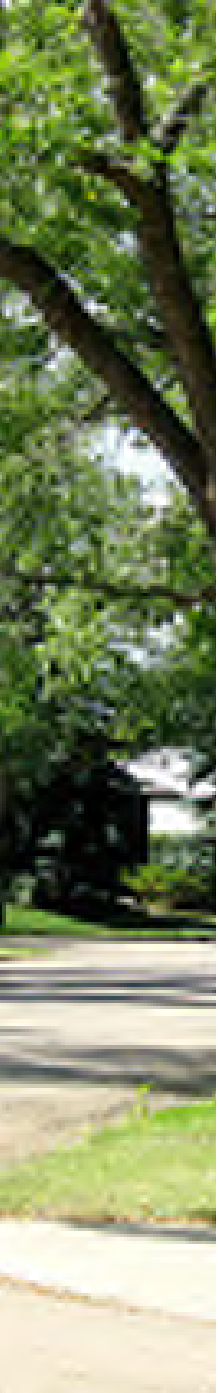
The Royal Gardens project team began public engagement with the community in February 2018. This report includes a summary of the engagement findings from the Preliminary Designs Public Event (November 8, 2018) and the Pre-construction Public Event (January 29, 2019).

- The Preliminary Designs Public Event event shared the preliminary designs with the public and invited them to share their feedback to ADVISE on the designs.
- The Pre-construction Public Event shared the final designs with the public, as well as information on construction. The public was invited to share their perspectives and feedback to ADVISE on future construction and to DECIDE on the sidewalk reconstruction local improvement.

## 2.0 DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

It is important to note that while public engagement is a critical aspect in the decision-making process for neighbourhood renewal, there are several contributing factors that will ultimately determine the final plans, including City policies and programs, technical requirements, and available funding.





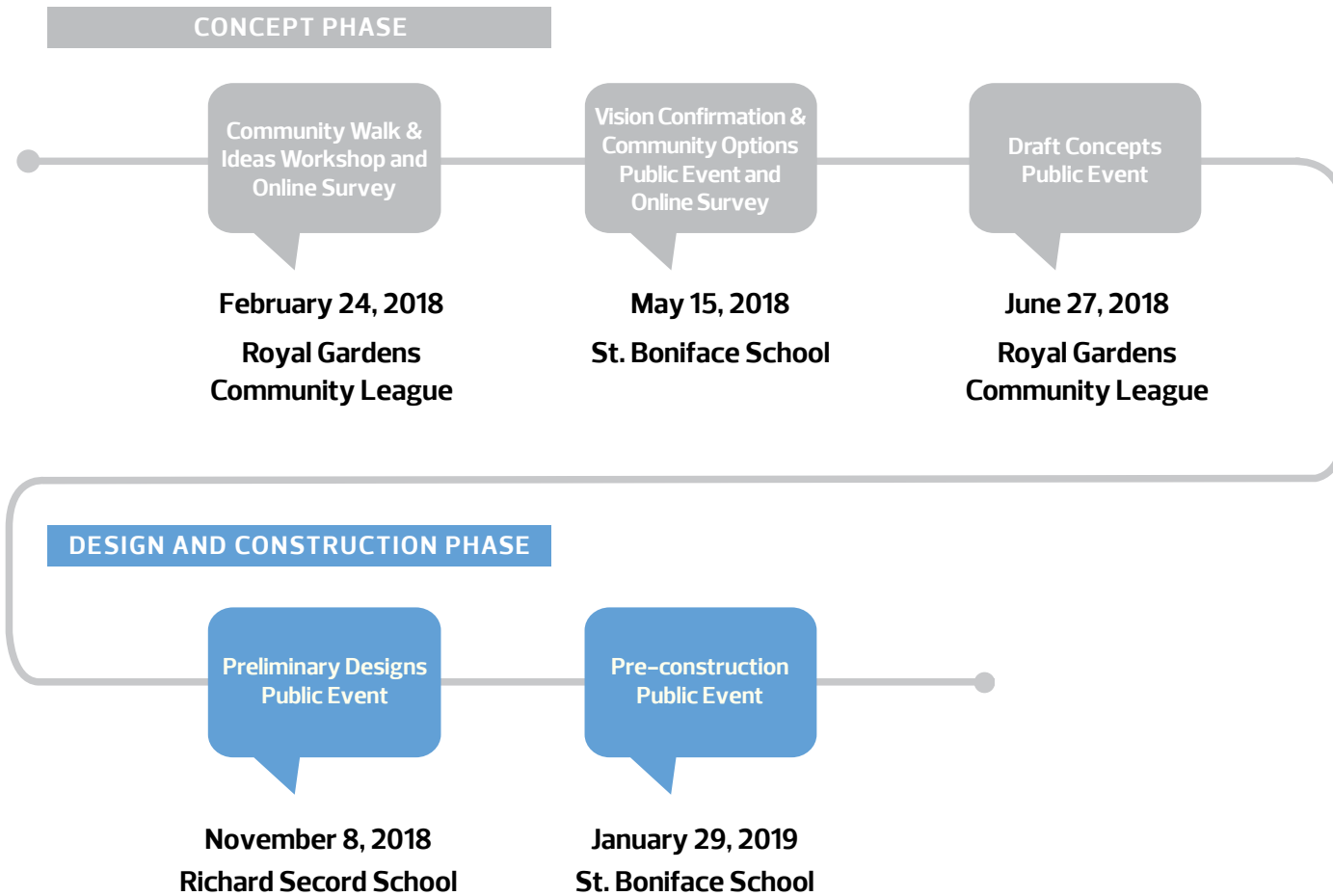
### 3.0 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

It was important that our approach to engagement considered a broad range of activities to provide residents with different opportunities to share feedback. To achieve this, we held multiple public events throughout the community and provided online opportunities with surveys. Many of the public events were informal in nature and allowed participants to stop in at a time that was convenient for them to learn more about the project and share input on the plans for neighbourhood renewal.

Through these activities, residents were able to share their perspective and feedback at various levels of the public engagement spectrum (see below and page 3). Residents were also able to come back to see how their feedback from past events was used as the designs progressed. This approach to engagement fostered a continuous line of communication between the City and community, promoting a transparent and inclusive process.



Public Engagement Spectrum



## 4.0 YOUR FEEDBACK

This section includes a summary of the feedback from the Preliminary Designs Event. The feedback received has been considered, together with technical considerations, City policies and programs, and available funding to develop the final designs for renewal.

### **1** PRELIMINARY DESIGNS PUBLIC EVENT November 8, 2018

This event provided the opportunity to share the preliminary designs with the public and to gather feedback to finalize the designs. These preliminary designs were developed based on public feedback received since February 2018, and also considered City policies and programs, technical requirements and available funding.

The preliminary designs shared at the event are shown on the following pages. For more information on the designs and project history, please visit: [edmonton.ca/BuildingRoyalGardens](http://edmonton.ca/BuildingRoyalGardens)

### What we heard

Residents' comments about the preliminary designs and the overall plans for neighbourhood renewal were generally positive. The following pages include a summary of what we heard and did for each of the designs.

#### Engagement technique :

To determine if revisions were required, participants were asked to use sticky notes to provide comments on the designs. At the Preliminary Design Event, participants also learned about the Local Improvement process, and had the opportunity to fill out and submit a decorative street light Expression of Interest form.



## 114 Street improvements (between 40 Avenue and 43 Avenue)



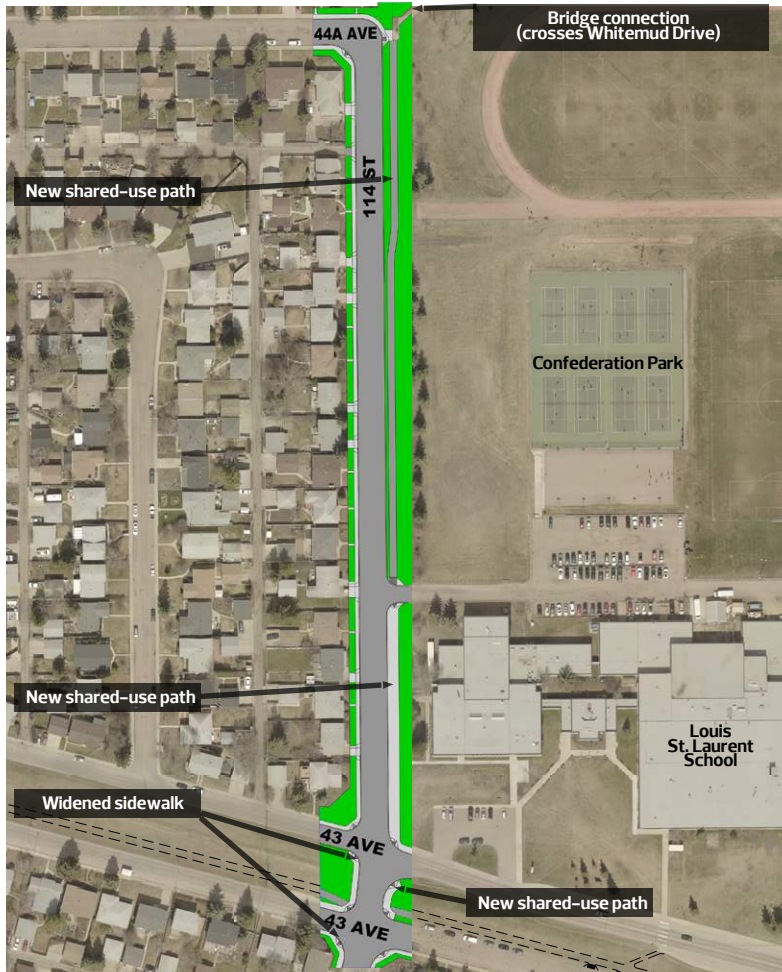
### What we heard

We heard concern regarding vehicle speeds and mixed feedback regarding changing the speed limit.

### What we did

- We maintained the proposed shared roadway with a speed limit of 30 km/h and raised crosswalk at 114 Street and 41 Avenue to slow traffic, improve safety and improve the existing bike route.
- We maintained the proposed widened sidewalks along the west side of 114 Street to promote higher walking volumes and links to key destinations.

## 114 Street improvements (between 43 Avenue and 44A Avenue)



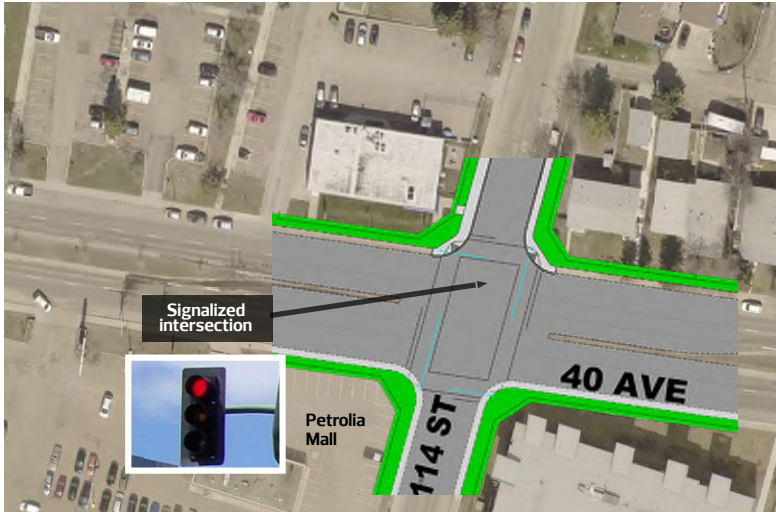
### What we heard

We heard that residents liked the shared-use path design. We also heard that the overpass (bridge connection) needs to be improved (lack of lighting, slippery, not bike-friendly, needs hand rails, etc.), and that a waste receptacle and dog bag dispenser should be provided near the overpass.

### What we did

- We maintained and added coloured concrete within the proposed shared-use path along the east side of the street as a dedicated space for people to walk and bike.
- We maintained the proposed removal of the existing fence and replaced it with a natural barrier.
- We added renewal of the pathway connection up to the overpass.
- We passed on the feedback about improvements to the overpass to appropriate City departments for future consideration.

## 114 Street and 40 Avenue intersection improvements



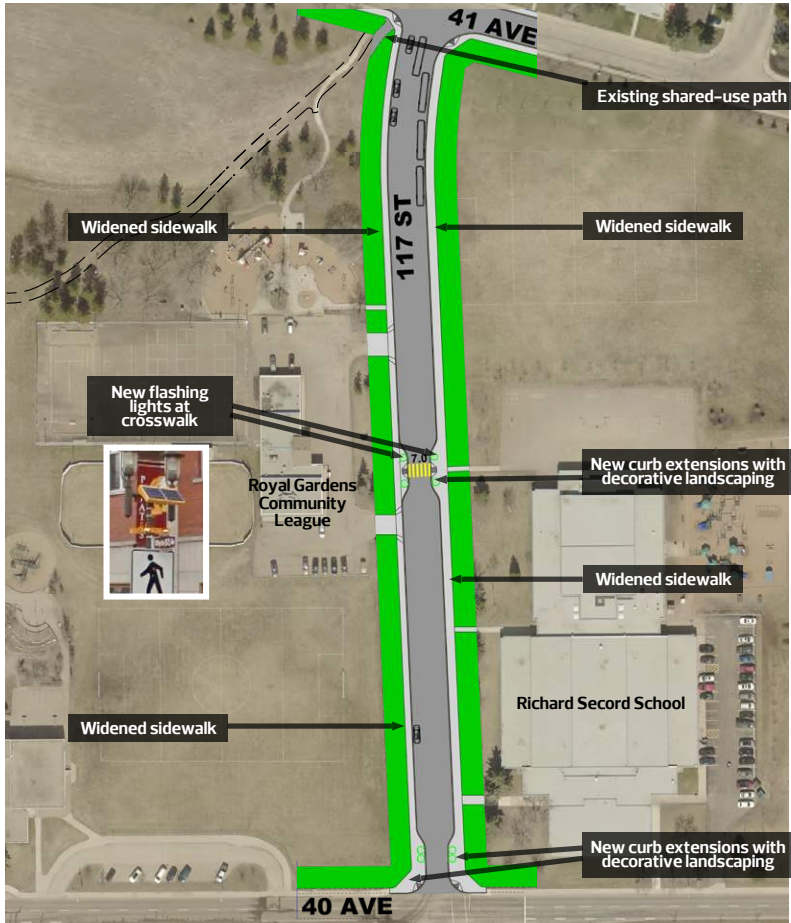
### What we heard

We heard that residents both liked and disliked the idea of signalization. Residents liked the idea due to the potential to make the intersection safer. They disliked the idea because they may have to wait longer to turn from 114 Street during peak travel times. If signalization does proceed, residents liked the idea of short cycles on the lights during non-peak hours. We also heard that we should consider other types of signalization such as flashing pedestrian lights or different crosswalk types such as raised crosswalks.

### What we did

- We maintained the proposed signalization of the 114 Street and 40 Avenue intersection to increase pedestrian safety and orderly movement of traffic.

## 117 street improvements (between 40 Avenue and 41 Avenue)



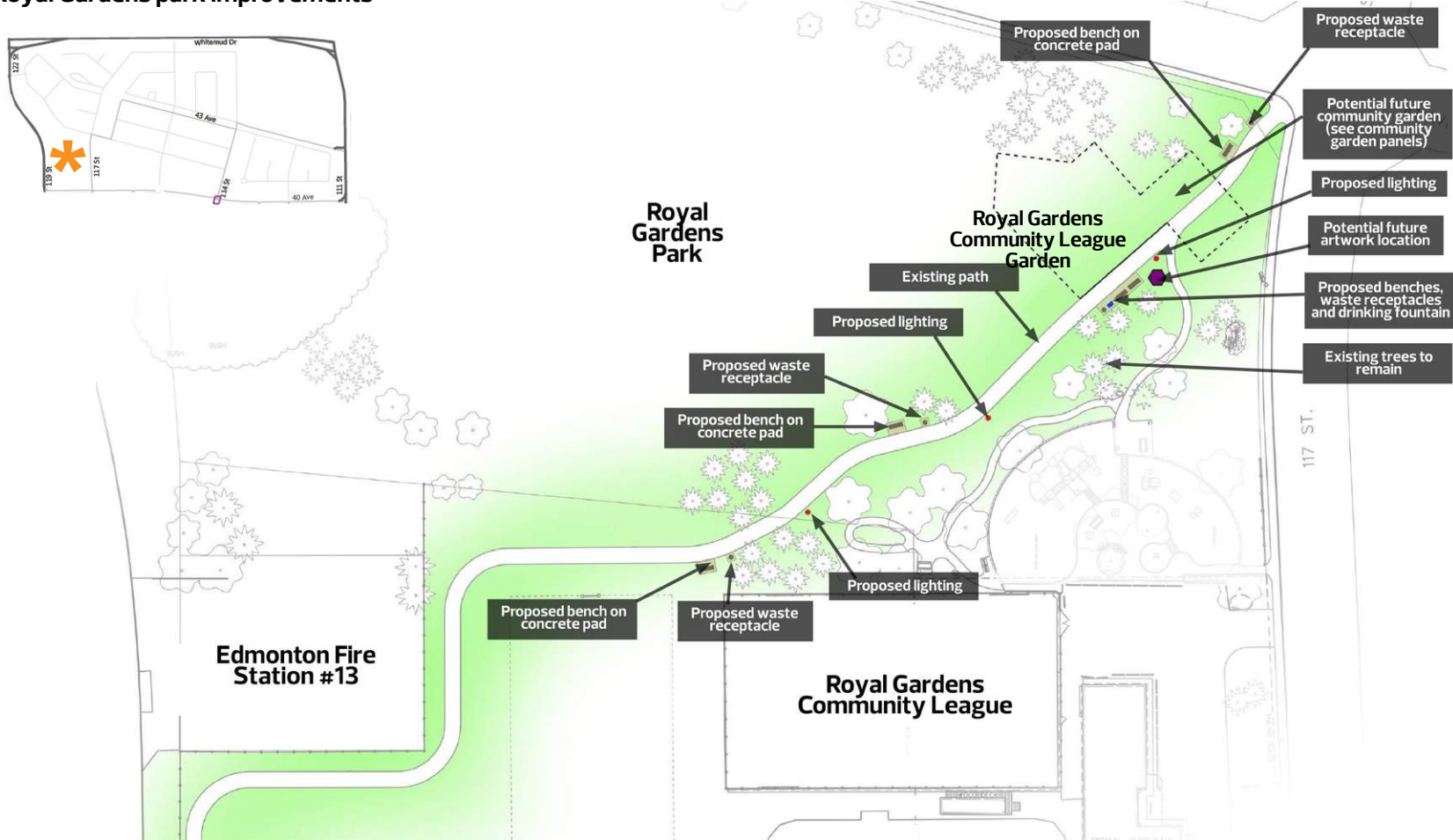
### What we heard

We heard that there is concern with the curb extensions at 40 Avenue and 117 Street, and that this may lead to traffic congestion, due to the narrowing of the road. We also heard that there is concern about speeding, and interest in doing more to improve the school parking and drop off/pick up operations. We also heard that there should be consideration for a crosswalk light instead of curb extensions, and four-way stop signs or flashing lights at the 40 Avenue and 117 Street intersection.

### What we did

- We removed the proposed curb extension and landscaping at 40 Avenue and 117 Street intersection to allow turning movements for large vehicles such as buses and to help reduce wait time for left and right turns onto 40 Avenue.
- We maintained the proposed curb extensions and flashing lights at the mid-block crossing to improve safety, reduce crossing distance and improve sight lines. We removed the proposed landscaping to maximize visibility of people crossing the road and increase walking surface.
- We maintained the proposed widened sidewalk on both sides of the street.
- We added a zebra marked crosswalk at 41 Avenue and 116 Street to increase driver awareness for people crossing.
- Feedback regarding drop-off and pick-up operations was also shared with Edmonton Public School for future planning consideration.

## Royal Gardens park improvements



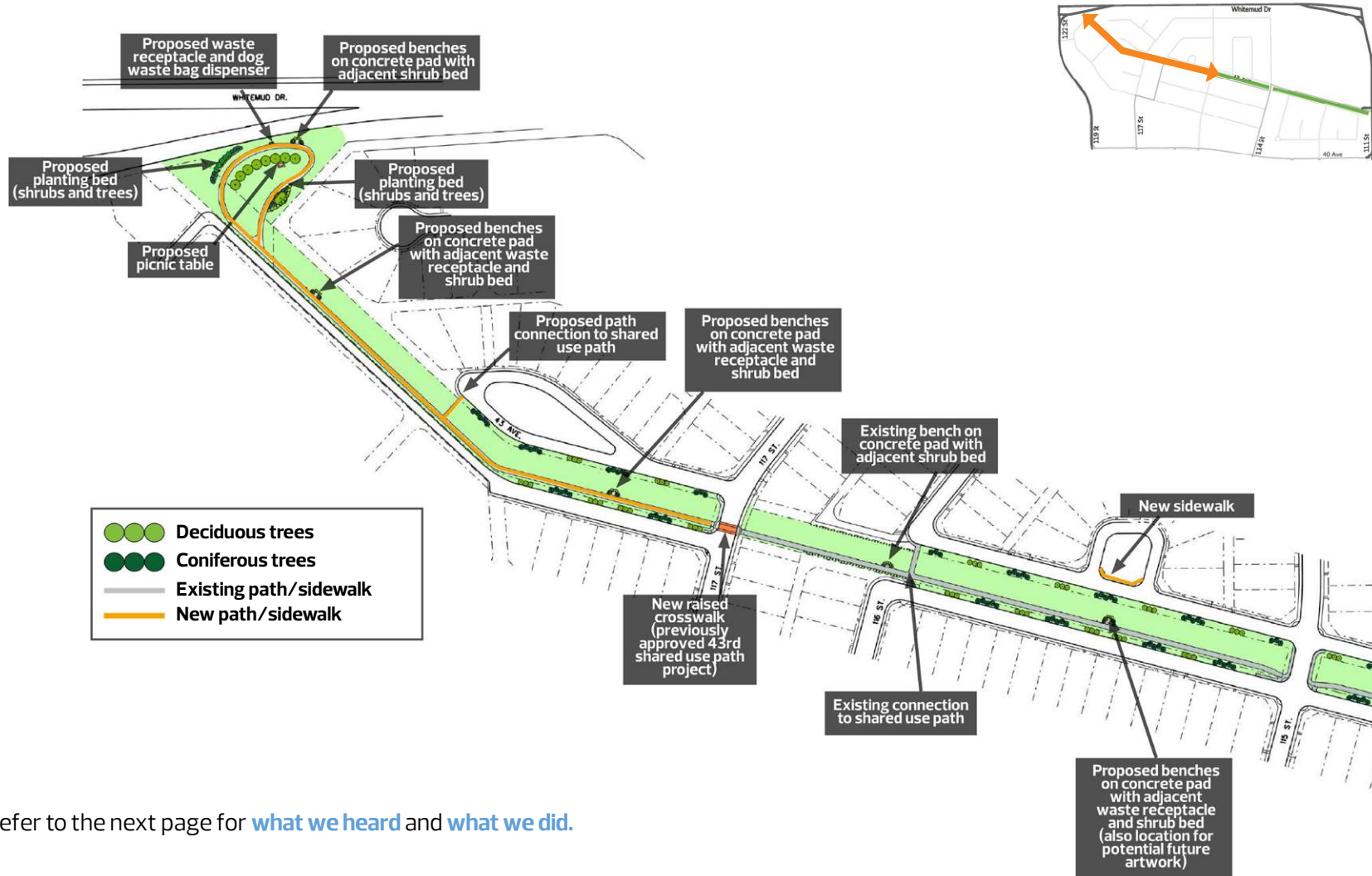
### What we heard

We heard that there should be consideration for more trees, a north to south path near the existing goat trail, and lights closer to the hill for activities such as sledding. We also heard that residents like the addition of the drinking fountain and mentioned that it should include a bottle filling nozzle.

### What we did

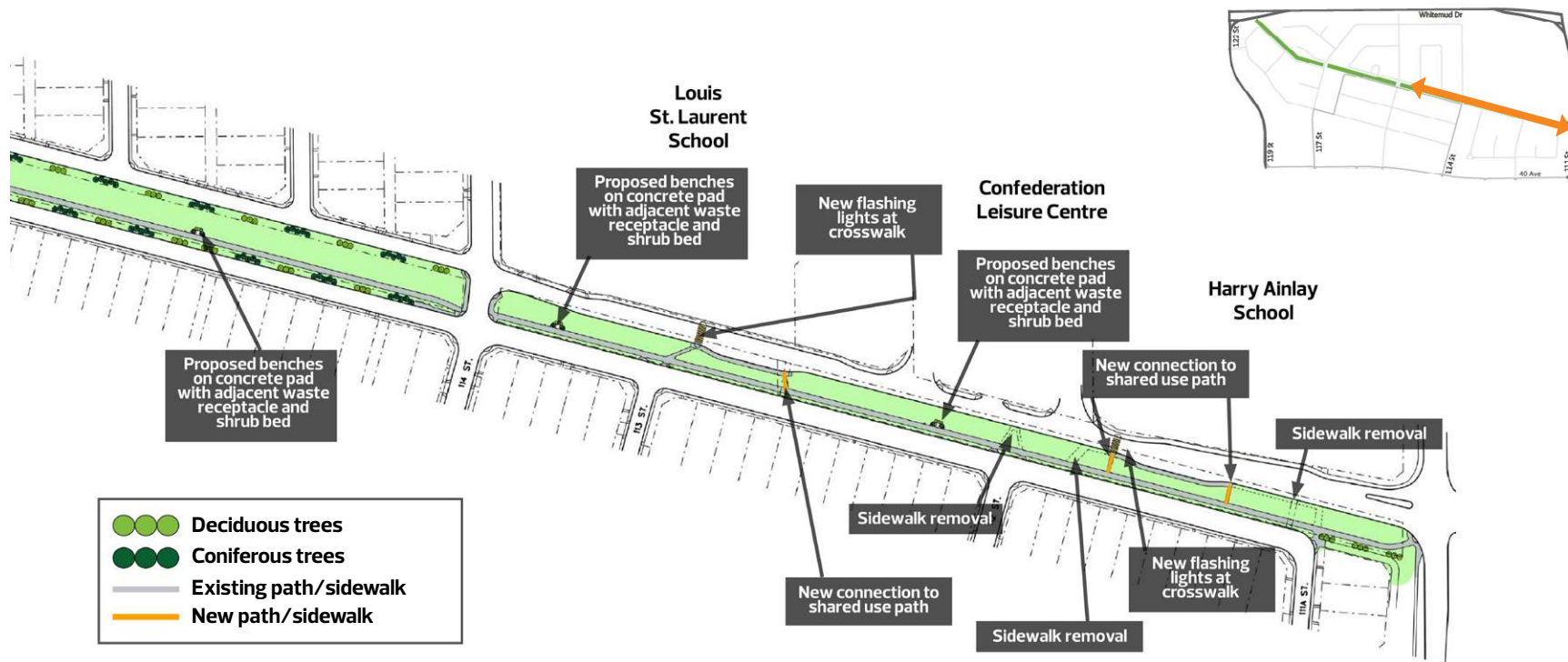
- We maintained the proposed amenity features (benches, waste receptacles, lighting, etc.) and added more lighting near the sledding hill to improve accessibility and enjoyment of the space.
- We maintained the proposed additional trees and added more trees to help beautify the park.
- We removed the proposed water fountain due to infrastructure constraints.

## Pipeline corridor design improvements – west



Please refer to the next page for [what we heard](#) and [what we did](#).

## Pipeline corridor design improvements - east



### What we heard

We heard that residents liked the idea of new benches, waste receptacles and trees. There was some concern shared that trees could impact sightlines and be damaged by snow storage. We heard that there should be more dog bag dispensers along the pathway. We also heard that the connection should be improved to Whitemud Creek, that the proposed picnic table near Whitemud Drive may be hidden at that location, and that consideration should be given to provide barriers to prevent vehicles from crossing the pipeline corridor at 116/117 Street and 43 Avenue.

### What we did

- We maintained the proposed amenity features (benches, waste receptacles, picnic table, etc.) and the additional trees and planting beds.
- We maintained the proposed west extension to the shared-use path and connections to the existing shared-use path and walkways.
- We maintained the proposed 1.2m sidewalk on north side of 43 Avenue (between 115 and 116 Street) to improve accessibility and walkability.
- We adjusted the western end of the new trail orientation.
- We added dog bag dispensers along the corridor.
- We moved the seating in the northwest corner to a more visible location.
- We added landscaping, boulders and bollards to deter illegal vehicle crossing.

## DECORATIVE STREET LIGHT LOCAL IMPROVEMENT

The Neighbourhood Renewal Program covers the full cost to replace all street lights with standard galvanized poles, LED lights, and street address blades. The community may bring forth a submission to upgrade to decorative street lights through a cost-sharing opportunity with the City.

A submission was received in July 2018 which included the following choices of decorative street light features:

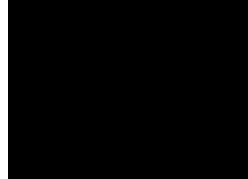
**Decorative arm:**  
Heritage



**Pole style:**  
Octagonal



**Pole colour:**  
Black



### Expression of Interest

Upon reviewing the submission, the City sent Expression of Interest (EOI) notices to registered property owners with the proposed decorative street light design (heritage, octagonal, black) and cost estimate in September 2018. To proceed, the City required 50% + 1 support from property owners and a minimum of 400 submissions for Royal Gardens by November 20, 2018. The City did not receive the minimum requirement of 400 submissions, and therefore the Expression of Interest for decorative street lights did not proceed.

Upgrades to the existing street light system will still be made and will include:

- New 24 foot galvanized poles
- New underground wiring
- New foundation
- Energy efficient LED lights





## 2 PRE-CONSTRUCTION PUBLIC EVENT

The final neighbourhood designs were developed based on the feedback received throughout the public engagement process from February to November 2018, and also considered City policies and programs, technical considerations, and available funding. To see the final designs, please visit: [edmonton.ca/BuildingRoyalGardens](http://edmonton.ca/BuildingRoyalGardens)

### Engagement technique :

To gather feedback on the construction process, participants were asked to use sticky notes to provide comments.

## 5.0 NEXT STEPS

Construction is expected to begin in Spring 2019. The project team will continue to share construction information with residents as it progresses.

For additional information please visit the project website: [edmonton.ca/BuildingRoyalGardens](http://edmonton.ca/BuildingRoyalGardens)

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