
What We Heard Report

Queen Elizabeth School Park Master Plan

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OVERVIEW

Edmonton's mature neighbourhoods are great places to live and are home to many treasures, including District Activity Parks. These parks serve several neighbourhoods in the larger surrounding area and are important for health, wellness and quality of life. District Parks are part of a city-wide park system and support a wide variety of facilities, programs and open space activities.

Queen Elizabeth School Park (9425 132 Avenue NW) is a District Activity Park located in the Killarney neighbourhood. It has been identified as a priority for renewal to update park infrastructure and park amenities to meet community needs.

To guide future development in the park and to seek funding to update park infrastructure and amenities, the City of Edmonton has undertaken a master planning process for Queen Elizabeth School Park.

Once completed, the Master Plan will establish a long term vision for this park. It will be used to shape the park's future, taking into consideration the interests expressed by the public, use of existing amenities, new amenities and activities, operational requirements and City strategies and policies.

Public engagement was held in the fall of 2017 to gather feedback to help refine the concept plan that was drafted following earlier rounds of engagement. The finalized concept plan was included in the Queen Elizabeth School Park Master Plan. This report summarizes What We Heard from the third phase of public engagement for the Queen Elizabeth School Park Master Plan.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

Public engagement is critical to the Master Plan process to ensure the final document reflects the changing priorities of the existing park users and the surrounding community.

In the spring of 2017, the City of Edmonton held public engagement sessions to obtain feedback on elements to be included in the concept plan for the park. This engagement built on the fall 2016 engagement and we took the feedback and worked with a design consultant to create a preliminary concept idea. We presented that preliminary concept idea at multiple invite-only workshops during spring 2017.

HOW WE ENGAGED

In the fall of 2017, the draft concept plan was presented to the public at an open house. Participants were asked to provide feedback through a survey. The survey was also posted on the project website, sent out to stakeholder groups and paper copies were available at the O'Leary Fitness and Leisure Centre. The information gathered through the survey contributed to the finalization of the concept plan that was included in the master plan.

The information from this engagement confirmed that the concept plan aligns with the needs of the participants. Feedback that wasn't included in the concept plan, such as the desire for connectivity to the neighbourhood was documented and will be considered for future projects in the neighbourhood.

Public engagement was held to gather feedback to help refine the draft concept plan and ensure that the vision for the park will meet the needs of the community. Following this engagement the concept plan was finalized and included in the Queen Elizabeth School Park Master Plan.

Engagement at this stage was combined with the Glengarry District Park Master Plan. As both parks are located along 132 Avenue the intended users of the district parks were quite similar. The concept plans for both sites were presented at the open house and the survey requested feedback for both parks. Invitations to the open house were sent out to the surrounding community, schools and sports groups with the intent of public engagement that included and encouraged participation reflective of Edmonton's diverse population.

Activities used to raise awareness of and promote the public engagement process for this project included:

- Roadside signage
- Flyers sent in the mail and posted at local leisure centres, bus stops, libraries etc.
- Social media posts
- Examiner and Metro newspaper advertisements
- Email invitations to school, sport and community organizations
- School and Community newsletters

The open house was held on November 7, 2017 at Glengarry Community League Hall from 4pm to 7 pm. 46 citizens attended this event. An online and paper survey was used to collect feedback. The survey was available at the event and was on the project website for the two weeks following the open house. The link to the survey was sent out to school and community groups during this time. The survey was completed by 41 citizens.

The input from this survey informed the finalization of the concept plan which is part of the Master Plan for Queen Elizabeth School Park. The Master Plan includes the concept plan, a high level cost estimate and a report.

WHAT WE ASKED

The City shared the preliminary concept for Queen Elizabeth School Park and asked the following questions about the project:

What Edmonton neighbourhood do you reside in?

What is your level of support for the concept plan for the Queen Elizabeth School Park?

Do you have suggestions or comments for improvement of this Concept Plan for the Queen Elizabeth School Park Site?

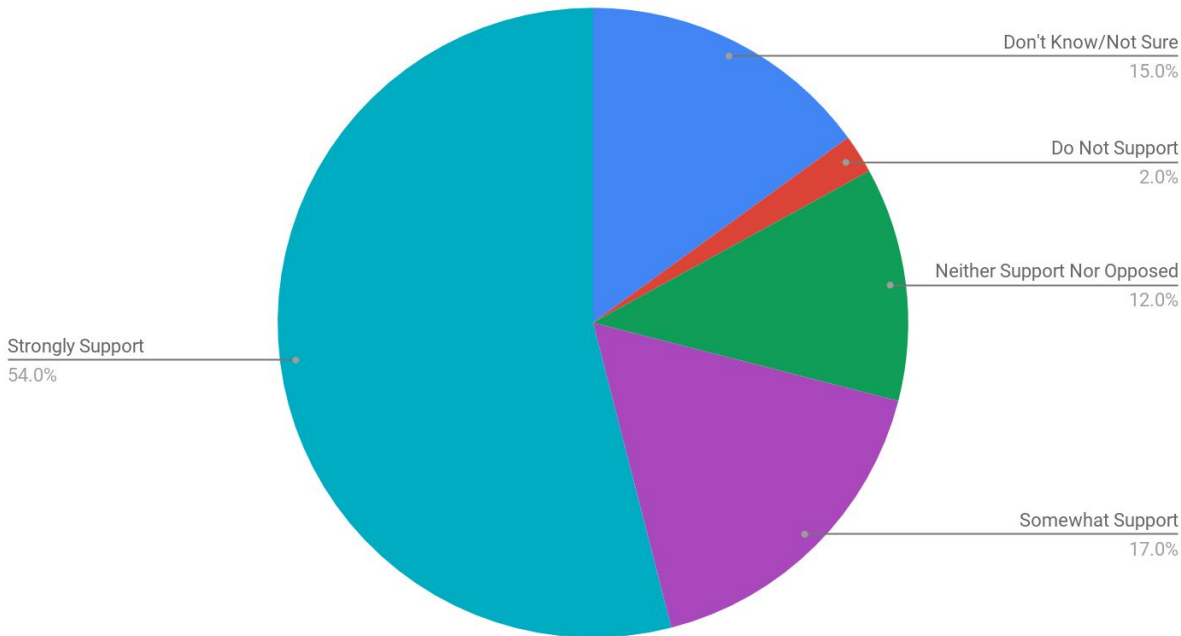
WHAT WE HEARD

The following summarizes what we heard during our fall 2017 engagement session. All input was considered as we refine the design and move towards completion of the Master Plan.

The general public was surveyed to share input on the Preferred Concept Plan for each park site. For Queen Elizabeth School Park, the Preferred Concept Plan reflected feedback from previous public engagement held in fall 2016 and spring 2017, stakeholder input and technical review.

Participants were asked about their level of support for the concept plan for Queen Elizabeth School Park. They were then asked to provide reasons for that level of support and to provide suggestions or comments to improve the concept plan.

Level of Support for Queen Elizabeth School Park Concept Plan



Overall the majority of the feedback heard for this project was extremely positive. People were supportive of the overall Master Plan process and were supportive of the concept plan presented.

We also heard:

- There is a strong desire for accessible spaces.
- There is support for basketball courts.
- There is a belief that the design will increase usage of the parkspace.
- The sports fields and other existing amenities need to be updated.
- The site is currently boring and this new plan will make it more appealing to residents.
- There is a desire for more landscaping and trees.
- There is a desire for pedestrian connections and new trails.

AS A RESULT, WHAT HAS CHANGED IN THE PROJECT?

After this last round of engagement, the input we received from residents confirmed support for the plan. The master plan was then updated. Not all of the suggestions could be included. If the project is funded to move into the design phase, additional public engagement will be undertaken and additional details can be added to the design.

Some suggestions that were not included:

- Additional baseball backstops were not included - students and staff of the two schools requested a focus on soccer, football, and basketball.
- Crosswalks, on street parking and on street bike paths - these are outside park boundaries and outside of the scope of this project. Instead, these features will be flagged for future neighbourhood and road renewal projects.
- An artificial turf facility is not being considered as part of this project. The City has developed an overall [Approach to Community Recreation Facility Planning](#) which addresses how planning for new fields will be done in Edmonton moving forward.

NEXT STEPS

The Queen Elizabeth School Park Master Plan and associated concept plan have been finalized. This Master Plan will be used as a guiding document for future park projects.

Related documents:

- Glengarry District Park and Queen Elizabeth School Park Fall 2016 What We Heard Report
- Queen Elizabeth School Park Spring 2017 What We Heard Report
- Queen Elizabeth School Park Master Plan

For further information about the project, please visit the website:

https://www.edmonton.ca/projects_plans/parks_recreation/Queen-Elizabeth-School-Park-Master-Plan.aspx

Thank you for participating in sharing your voice and shaping our city.

For more information on City of Edmonton public engagement, please visit www.edmonton.ca/publicengagement