

# Draft actions.

## PRINCIPLE: **housing condition**

In order to address the issues of an aging housing stock and the number of derelict and vacant lots, and to facilitate the overall improvement to housing condition in Queen Mary Park, the following actions are recommended.

1. Update the requirements for Housing Opportunities Program for Edmonton (HOPE) and Curb Appeal grant programs to make them accessible to more households.
2. Create a new 'rental housing improvement program', similar to the HOPE program, to provide financial assistance to private landlords, private non-profit landlords or co-operative housing providers to repair or rehabilitate their property.
3. Create incentives to focus infill development on vacant and decaying lots.
4. Improve property standards and local by-laws emphasizing maintenance of rental properties.

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## PRINCIPLE: **housing choice**

There is a need to explore options to ensure an appropriate mix of housing to meet the needs of residents. In addition, while housing costs are below average they are rising and individual and households incomes remain well below average with over 40% of renter households facing affordability challenges (spending more than 30% of their income on rent).

- 1.** Investigate if there are vacant sites within Queen Mary Park for the City's First Place Program (homeownership program for first-time home buyers).
- 2.** Consider potential of providing incentives to target infill development on affordable home ownership options aimed at providing housing options for families.
- 3.** Investigate the opportunity for a City Seniors' Housing project within Queen Mary Park.
- 4.** Investigate the opportunity for a rent-to-own pilot project.
- 5.** Review the current Secondary Suite grant program to identify opportunities to encourage more applicants.

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## PRINCIPLE: **housing stability**

Over one-quarter of households in Queen Mary Park are living in low-income and there are a number of residents that have only been living in the neighbourhood for a short time. Households living in low-income are likely struggling with housing costs and may be at risk of losing their home.

1. Promote existing resources on landlords and tenants rights and responsibilities.
2. Work with the Landlord and Tenant Advisory Board (LTAB) to provide training and resources to first-time home buyers.
3. Consider a housing stability program to provide assistance to residents at risk of losing their housing (assistance may include up to two-months' rent and/or gas and hydro costs).

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## PRINCIPLE: **housing connections**

In order to facilitate opportunities for residents and stakeholders to be engaged in neighbourhood housing, and encourage new partnerships in housing, the following actions are recommended.

1. Develop a neighbourhood marketing plan to build community connections and inspire new residents and potential employers.
2. Promote and create greater awareness of City housing programs and resources.
3. Partner with Habitat for Humanity (or other partner) to develop affordable homeownership on vacant lots.
4. Monitor the housing mix and condition in Queen Mary Park by updating the Housing Snapshot as new data becomes available.