

BUILDING GREAT NEIGHBOURHOODS

Calder Renewal Newsletter Issue #3 – January 2020

Edmonton

Through the Building Great Neighbourhoods and Open Spaces Branch, the Neighbourhood Renewal Program rehabilitates your residential roads, replaces street lights, sidewalks, curbs and gutters, and adds missing sidewalk links in your neighbourhood where possible. Other opportunities to improve parks and public spaces are also explored. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2021.

This newsletter intends to keep you informed of the neighbourhood renewal in Calder, and when and how you can join the conversation. Planning for Calder Renewal is underway, and we are working with you to create a draft design and determine what will be built.

We will continue to invite you to participate in a variety of ways, then we will share what we heard from you and your neighbours, and how the information was used to inform the design.

Exploring opportunities

In September 2019, we reached out to Calder's residents, businesses and visitors to help **REFINE** our understanding of the enhancements that could help to improve your neighbourhood.

During the **Exploring Opportunities** stage we distributed an online survey, conducted meetings with community members and key stakeholders, and hosted a Walk and Workshop event to gather input to further explore issues and opportunities for the Calder neighbourhood.

Calder Renewal Concept Phase

Spring/Summer 2019

Building a Community Vision Together

Fall 2019

Exploring Opportunities

WE ARE HERE

Winter 2020

Exploring Options and Trade-offs

Spring 2020

Community Feedback on Draft Design




Calder community vision and guiding principles


The Calder Renewal project team worked with community representatives to **CREATE** a vision and guiding principles that represent the key themes from our early engagement. This vision will be used to guide decision-making for neighbourhood renewal and future community actions. The guiding principles are ideas that inform how the vision should be applied to the neighbourhood design and used to inform the choices for community-led initiatives.


Calder community vision


“Calder is a well maintained, diverse, historical rail community. Bright and happening for all ages and backgrounds. Calder is rich with natural beauty, heritage, and community pride. It is a neighbourhood full of connections to services and amenities for all ages. Calder is unique in its historical significance and how together we live, work, play, and gather. It has a small town feel within a big city.”


Guiding principles:


 **Greenery:** Calder features a natural beauty full of green spaces and tree lined streets.

 **Accessibility and connections:** Calder provides freedom of movement through safe and accessible connections for all ages and abilities, whether they walk, bike, drive, or take transit in the community.

 **Historical pride:** Calder values and maintains its unique character stemming from its strong history, heritage, and community pride.

 **Sense of community:** Calder prides itself on the neighbourhood's diversity and togetherness, fostered through friendliness of residents, public gathering spaces, public art, regular community programs, events, and initiatives.

 **Local amenities:** Calder offers a wide range of services and amenities for all ages, in and around the neighbourhood.

 **Neighbourhood safety and attraction:** Calder feels safe and inviting with friendly people, active public spaces, cared for properties, and well-lit parks and pathways.

What you had to say

The following is a summary of what we heard through public engagement during the Exploring Opportunities stage of this project. These themes were developed using input gathered through the online survey, conversations with community members and key stakeholders, and from the walk and workshop event.

Historical character

“I love our old homes and huge trees!”
“History is important, I suggest plaques to capture history.”

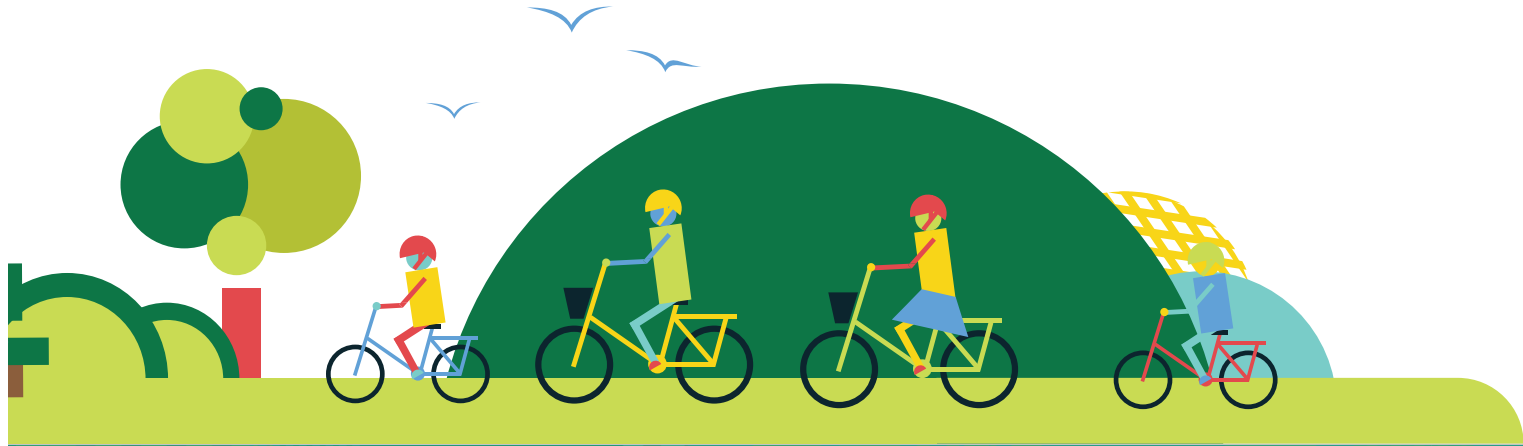
Participants believed that it is important to emphasize the history of the neighbourhood, and to highlight historic spaces and landmarks. Participants also identified that the Indigenous history should be recognized, and the significant contribution of the Canadian National Railway to Calder's past should be considered.

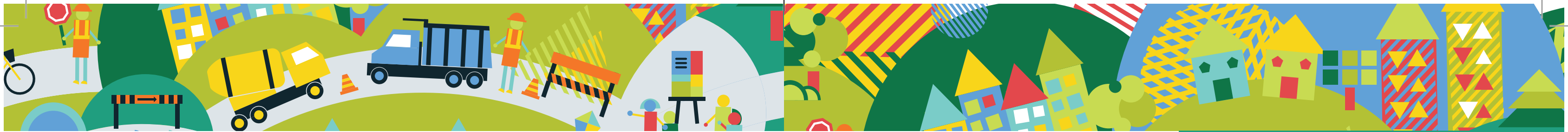


Open space upgrades and recreational opportunities

“I suggest adding a pathway in the park, upgrading playground equipment, and adding exercise equipment.”
“Calder could use more scenic open spaces. Parks need upgrading.”

Residents felt that the multitude of green spaces in Calder add to the unique character of the neighbourhood. Many believed that parks help residents to connect with their neighbours and additional amenities will make more people want to use these spaces. Participants indicated that providing new additions (i.e., skateboard parks, spray parks, community gardens) and upgrading playground equipment would help to improve green spaces in Calder and provide more recreational opportunities.





Placemaking

“Great mural on the side.”
“There aren’t a lot of places to sit; a reading area is needed.”
“I suggest adding an Indigenous space, or perhaps an art piece.”

The availability of enhanced public spaces that promote health, happiness, and well-being was important to many participants. These could include seating areas and public gathering spaces for residents to connect with each other. Enhancements to these spaces could include installing public art and well maintained landscaping. People also commented that community programming and events can help to bring the community together.



Community safety

“Add better visibility, lighting to stop crime.”
“I’d like to get to know more of my neighbours”

Safety is an important consideration for many Calder residents. Participants indicated that insufficient lighting and maintenance of landscaping can create spaces for illicit

and unsafe activity. Many believed that improvements in these areas and getting to know their neighbours would help them feel safer.



Streets and connections

“Sidewalks need to be redone with dipped corners for bikes and wheelchairs to have easy access.”

Upgrading ageing streets and sidewalks is important to Calder community members. Many believed that providing new and enhanced bike infrastructure and sidewalk linkages will make the neighbourhood better connected and more accessible. Participants identified a number of locations where crossing the street felt unsafe.



Traffic

“126 Street – People shortcut if there’s an issue on 127 Street”
“121 Street – There is very fast traffic.”
“School drop off is very difficult, so many cars and buses waiting”

Participants indicated that the City should consider measures to reduce speeding and shortcutting on some roads. Others identified significant traffic congestion at peak times around the schools and Keyano Park.



What’s new? Information you need to know.

Decorative street light options

At our next public engagement event, we will share information about the options available for decorative street lighting. Through the Local Improvement process, the community will **DECIDE** on the kind of lighting that will be installed during renewal. Information about the process, styles and possible costs to the community will be shared at our upcoming public engagement event.

Sidewalk reconstruction

A sidewalk reconstruction Local Improvement is initiated by the City as part of Neighbourhood Renewal. As a property owner, you will be able to **DECIDE** on whether you would like to proceed with sidewalk reconstruction or not. Information about cost-sharing with the City on sidewalk reconstruction and the process to provide your feedback will be provided at our upcoming public engagement event.

How is Neighbourhood Renewal paid for?

The Neighbourhood Renewal Program is paid for through a City-wide property tax reserve fund dedicated to the program. However, two specific improvements—decorative street lights and sidewalk reconstruction—are cost-shared by the City and property owners in the neighbourhood, as they are considered a Local Improvement.

What is a Local Improvement?

A Local Improvement is a construction project undertaken near or next to residents' properties which is considered more beneficial to the property owner or local area than to the City as a whole. Local improvements are a part of the Neighbourhood Renewal discussions with you and your neighbours. Learn more about this at our next public engagement event in January 2020.



A message from your Calder Renewal Project Manager

Thank you to all the Calder community members who met with us to walk your neighbourhood and explore opportunities to consider during neighbourhood renewal.

You shared issues, concerns, ideas and opportunities on parking, traffic, open and green spaces, cycling, neighbourhood lighting, safety, neighbourhood history, special places and the neighbourhood lived experience. With this local knowledge, we are creating options to share with you in January 2020.

Our next stage of engagement—Exploring Options and Trade-offs—is all about showing the community what is possible and discussing how these changes might impact you as a resident, property owner, or business owner. We will show you design options, along with associated benefits and trade-offs, for the key focus areas and discuss options for street lighting upgrades. Your feedback will help us determine which options to include in the draft design, which will be presented in Spring 2020.

We want you to get involved in your Neighbourhood Renewal! Please watch for information about our public engagement events and plan to attend.

Community-led opportunities

Some of the opportunities identified at our Fall 2019 public engagement workshop can be developed through Neighbourhood Renewal. Others will need community members to volunteer to support planning and implementation. Please come to our upcoming event to learn about possible community-led projects and find out how you can help. The Building Great Neighbourhoods project team will work with you and your Neighbourhood Resource Coordinator, Donna Harasem, to get these started.

As your Planning and Design Project Manager, I am available to answer your questions about the design process and to explain how you can be involved in the Neighbourhood Renewal public engagement process.

Laura Shewchuk
Project Manager
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Community Engagement Advisory Group (CEAG)

The Community Engagement Advisory Group helped us with our preparations for January's engagement events. They "tested" our questions to help us ensure we were asking them in the best way to get the input we need from the community. They also provided feedback to us on the last event, and as a result we have made improvements to our January events. Thank you team!

There is still time for you to become a member of the CEAG to support public engagement throughout Calder's Neighbourhood Renewal. If you know youth or school age children, parents with young children, or other adults who would like to participate, please contact the Project Manager Laura Shewchuk at laura.shewchuk@edmonton.ca or 780-944-0728.

More information is also available online at edmonton.ca/BuildingCalder.

What's next?

Exploring Options and Trade-offs January 2020

Coming up next in the Calder Renewal project, we will explore design options for the neighbourhood that consider issues and opportunities identified by the community. We will explain and discuss any associated benefits and trade-offs of the design options, and gather your feedback and ideas to be considered as we move toward a draft design.

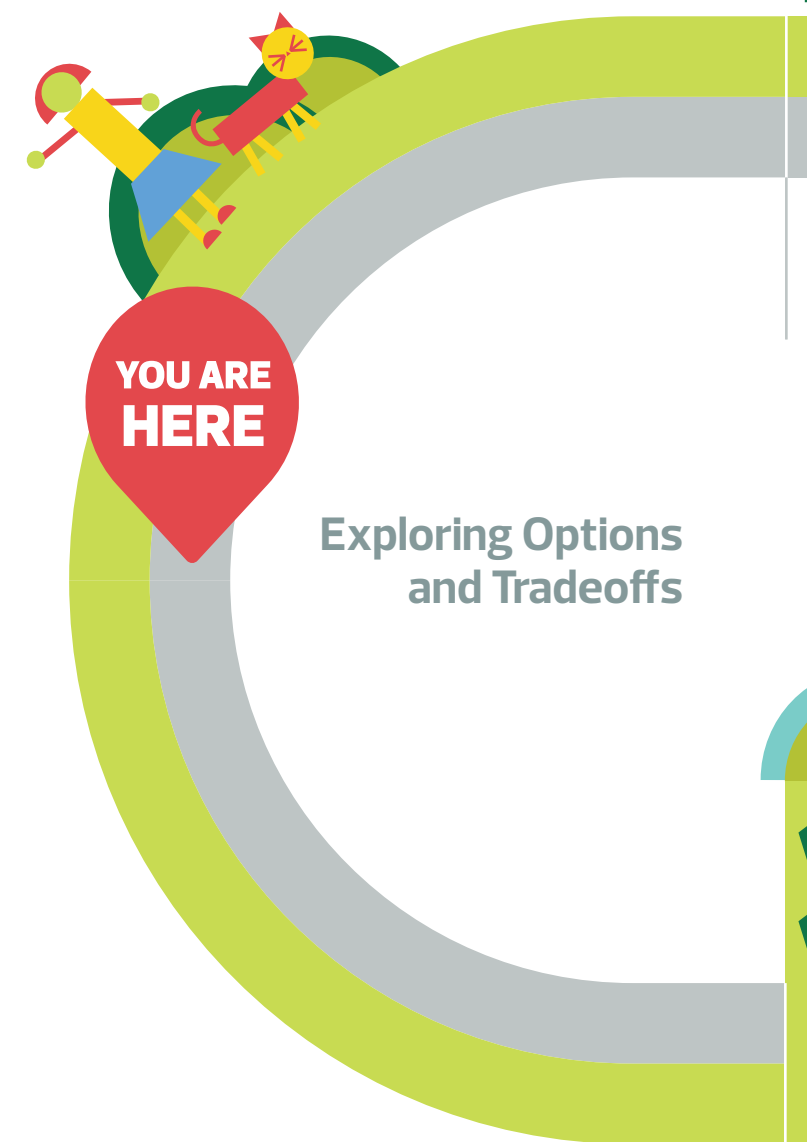
Please join us at one of two identical public engagement events in January, 2020:

Thursday, January 23, 2020
5:00–7:30 p.m.

OR

Saturday, January 25, 2020
10:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Northwest Edmonton Seniors' Society, 12963 120 Street



A message from your Neighbourhood Resource Coordinator

Exciting changes are happening in Calder! Families are moving to Calder to live in newly built infill homes, where they enjoy the benefits of the large lots and close proximity to downtown. The park behind the Calder Community League has been renamed Calder Memorial Park. The Calder Cenotaph has been relocated to the park, and Calder held its first Remembrance Day ceremony at the new location in 2019.

As the Neighbourhood Resource Coordinator, my role is to connect people who live, work, and play in Calder, and to enhance your neighbourhood experience socially and recreationally.

The Neighbourhood Renewal public engagement conversations have identified initiatives and projects that could be led by the community. Building Great Neighbourhoods does the heavy lifting with roads, sidewalks, street lights and some open space construction, but it is community members who can collaborate to carry out initiatives that build on the assets of the community.

If you are interested in learning about any of these initiatives, or have an idea of your own about how to connect with your neighbours, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

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