

## • SECTION 1: Public Consultation Background

### • Purpose of the Preliminary Design Plan Workshop

The purpose of the workshop:

- To ensure that the progression of the site design from the Master Plan phase to the Preliminary Plan phase is consistent with public expectations
- To explore five topics of site design challenges to engage the public in suggesting design solutions and improvements: Movement, Physical Recreation, Winter City, Inclusiveness, and Aesthetics.
- To provide information to the public regarding the project and anticipated timelines for detailed design and construction.

### • Public Notification Methods

Prior to the workshop the following public notification methods were used to publicize the workshop and the online survey:

- A notice was published on the project webpage hosted on the City of Edmonton website.
- An notice was included in the Neighbourhood Branch - Southeast Park Bench Newsletter
- Road signs were placed on the major adjacent streets
- Project team contacted and notified related City working group for distribution to their members and groups. These included - CRC, SECLA, SEESA, Local CL's, WinterCity, Age Friendly, Aboriginal Multicultural, SFUC, Sports field bookings groups
- Messages were posted on the City's social media channels
- Flyers were posted at the Bonnie Doon Leisure Center
- Unaddressed mail pieces were send out to a 2.5k catchment area via Canada Post, based on postal code and neighbourhood proximity to proposed facility Project Website

### • Format of the Preliminary Design Plan Workshop

The evening was divided into two sessions. Both sessions will covered the same material, topics and presentation. Each session consisted of a short presentation and three rounds of small group discussions. Participants were advised that it was not a drop in session, and it was

intended that they stay for one of the two sessions, or both if they were interested in exploring all five topics. The workshop ran for 4 hours, from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm on February 29th, 2016, and was held at Vimy Ridge Academy.

As participants arrived, they were able to review display boards, post comments on sticky-notes, and discuss the project with City staff and project consultants or to sit at tables while waiting for the presentation. Participants were provided with a workshop booklet which mirrored the display materials and discussion topics, and provided a brief survey. The booklet also provided alternate ways for participants to submit their booklets after the workshop, including the online survey.

The half hour presentation provided the following information:

- Introduction to the project and project team
- A recap on what work already complete, including the Master Plan, public consultation.
- A description of the goals of the workshop, the type of feedback being sought, and the elements of the design that are fixed and those that are flexible or needing feedback
- A description of the next steps following the workshop, including reviewing the feedback, the detailed design process, the anticipated construction schedule, and next consultations (i.e. online survey, playground open house and construction notification)
- A description of other projects that are being coordinated with the Dermott Renewal Project, including Vimy Ridge Academy Modernization, Bonnie Doon Leisure Centre Rehabilitation, Valley Line LRT (Intersection) and Idylwylde Park Redevelopment
- A high level walk through of the park preliminary design with especial attention to items that changed since the Master Plan and items that needing particular feedback
- Introduction to the Workshop activities, including the workshop group discussions, display boards, workbook and online survey.

Following the presentation, participants were provided with the opportunity to ask general questions about the presentation materials and the workshop process.

The workshop group discussions were developed as a “world café” format. Each table featured one of the five topics of site design challenges: Movement, Physical Recreation, Winter City, Inclusiveness, and Aesthetics. Participants were able to rotate to three of the five discussion topics (Movement, Physical Recreation, Winter City, Inclusiveness, and Aesthetics) that interested them the most. Twenty minutes was allotted for each round of discussion.

Each table was hosted by a facilitator who led the discussion at the table and took notes of the group discussion. Additional project staff were made available apart from the tables at the display boards to discuss the project one-on-one with participants not interested in participating in the small group discussions.

At each table, large format print-outs of the Existing Conditions Plan, Preliminary Design Plan, topic questions and graphic materials were available to help facilitate discussions. For each

topic, a description of the “design challenge”, a description of “how we are addressing the challenge” and “our questions for you” were presented to the public for discussion.

As the discussions progressed, facilitators and participants captured the comments on flip-chart paper, on the plans and graphic materials and in the workbooks, which participants submitted following the event. Participants were also offered the opportunity to digitally submit their comments via the online survey.

- **Format of the Online Survey**

The on-line survey was posted online from February 29, 2016 to March 8, 2016. A link to the survey was provided on the City’s website and provided in the workshop workbook.

The online survey was designed to mirror the workshop booklet so the experience of participating in-person and online was consistent. Online participants were provided with the same graphics and asked the same questions as in the workshop.

- **About the Participants**

The Workshop was attended by 18 participants and a total of 3 workbooks and 6 online surveys were submitted by respondents. In addition, three participants emailed the project team with general comments regarding the project. Please note that due to the limited number of participants, the collected feedback, though valuable, provides limited statistical data.

Demographic data was provided by 7 of the 9 workbook and online survey respondents. The following provides an overview of the information they provided:

*From what perspective are you completing this survey? (7 Respondents)*

*In the previous question, if you answered "business", "organization" or "other", please specify: (2 Respondents)*

- Public Engagement Oversight
- City of Edmonton

*In the previous question, if you answered "individual" or "household", which neighborhood do you live in? (6 Respondents)*

- Within 5 Km of this district park that was only directly notified of this project this year.
- Idylwyld

- Holyrood
- Holyrood
- Holyrood
- Idlywylde
- Ottewell

*Age of individual completing survey: (7 Respondents)*

*I heard about the survey/open house through:*

*If other, please specify: (1 Respondent)*

- My neighbours
- Family (Dermott)

## • Public Consultation Lessons Learned

The following outlines some of the challenges and lessons learned in regards to the public consultation process:

- The venue for the public workshop, Vimy Ridge Academy, was difficult to navigate because of the building's construction project. In project's previous consultation event, the Idylwylde community hall was used and it was a much more convenient location for the public to access.
- There was some confusion regarding the information that was being covered at the workshop event. Due to misinformation passed through word-of-mouth, some attendees thought that the workshop was for the Leisure Centre upgrade project not the park project.
- The invitation that was sent out to the public did not provide enough information regarding the content and format of the open house. This was commented on by some participants.
- It would be valuable for open house notifications to provide a link for or information regarding the online survey.

- One respondent felt very strongly that public notification for this project, including previous consultation for the Master Plan, was inadequate. He had the following suggestions for improvement.
  - Post event information materials at all City of Edmonton Venues within 5km of the project.
  - Promote upcoming consultation events for different City projects at all City open houses.
  - Use small chloroplast signs on orange barricades, such as those used by the Neighborhood Renewal Project
- It is unclear whether or not some of the online survey respondents had attended the open house. This would be a valuable question to include on future online surveys because it provides an understanding of the types of materials and engagement that participant had prior to responding to the survey.

Participants completing the workbook were asked to provide feedback on the event itself. Only one respondent completed this section. This individual responded as follows:

*What did you enjoy about the open house event?*

- Well organized and effective

*What aspect of the open house event do you think could be improved*

- [no response]

*Please tell us your level of agreement with the following statements by circling your answer below:*

*I felt my concerns were understood*

- Strongly Agree

*I felt welcome and encouraged to share my views*

- Strongly Agree

*I understood why I was here*

- Strongly Agree

*I understood how my feedback will be used*

- Strongly Agree

*The language was easy to understand*

- Strongly Agree

*The event was well run*

- Strongly Agree

*The format of the event made sense for what it was trying to accomplish*

- Strongly Agree

## • SECTION 2: Thematic Overview of Feedback Received

The following provides a summary of common themes that were received from multiple respondents during the workshop, in workbooks and on the online survey:

### *Wayfinding*

Wayfinding signage is important to the site and it should be designed to be easy to read and effective. Specifically, wayfinding signage should be provided to help people find the entrance to the Leisure Centre when entering the site from the west parking lot. One respondent mentioned that a community message board would be useful.

### *Public Art*

Public Art was favored by respondents (one person was opposed). Several respondents suggested including art along the south side of the Leisure Centre to highlight the route to the building entrance.

### *Seating and Furnishings*

Gathering areas should include a mix of different seating types, including accessible furnishing, in order to provide options and encourage inclusiveness. Furnishings should be provided in locations with site activities, including the Leisure Centre, multiuse field and play space.

Seating area should be made comfortable through the provision of shade, whether trees or a shelter, and protection from weather.

Respondents had mixed feelings about whether the number of furnishings shown were appropriate (some wanted less, some wanted more). Some mentioned additional types of furnishings, such as help/pay phones.

When shown two potential furnishing palette, respondents favored the curvy/organic palette over the geometric palette. A few respondents mentioned a preference for dark metal on the furnishings.

### *Infrastructure*

Several respondents mentioned the desire to have a drinking fountain or bottle filling station within the park site. In addition, water servicing for landscape watering and ice making was mentioned as important infrastructure.

Lighting within the park and around the Leisure Centre was highly noted as an important design consideration. A preference was given for light with a natural quality.

Several respondents noted that electrical and water servicing would be valuable for encouraging festivals, buskers and food trucks.

### *Cycling*

Though there were minimal responses regarding cycling, it is important to note that there were opposing views. Some people noted a preference for including bike lanes, while another person requested that only children under 10 years old be allowed to use bikes within the park.

### *Vehicle Movement and Parking*

Some respondents had specific concerns regarding vehicle movement and parking. There was a desire for public transit and DATS stops closer to the Leisure Centre.

Some respondents were concerned about traffic, congestion and pedestrian safety at the new 83 Street intersection. As well, there were concerns about restricting 81 Street access to emergency vehicles only, which would impact neighboring residents' vehicle access into the site.

There was some concern regarding City management of parasitic parking resulting from the LRT, which would limit the number of stalls available for park and Leisure Centre users.

There were concerns that the closure of the temporary gravel parking lot on the southeast side of the Leisure Centre would have a negative effect on seniors and handicap people because they may have to travel further to access the building.

### *Pedestrian movement*

Pathways should be pedestrian friendly and wheelchair accessible.

Maintenance and snow removal should be consistently conducted by the City, especially for access to the Leisure Centre early in the morning in winter. Potentially, the walkway along the Leisure Centre could have a covered structure, railing or underground heating to mitigate snow and ice issues.

The recreational looping trail should be completely separated from the sidewalk along 83 Street and wider than shown. It should also be made of consistent material rather than switching materials when joining other walkways. Some respondents requested that the trail be cleared in winter.

### *Washroom*

There were minimal comments received regarding the washroom. One respondent requested a second washroom facility and that the washroom be an all-season facility.

### *Warming Hut*

The majority of comments received were in support of a warming hut as a means to promote Winter City (one respondent was strongly opposed).

The warming hut should be designed with all-weather protection. Some respondents mentioned that the shelter should have heating and/or solar power.

It should also have seating and/or tables to allow for groups of people rather than individual users.

The shelter should be designed for safety, security and should allow for clear sightlines. Some respondents gave specific design recommendations relating to aesthetics, forms and colors.



### *Fitness Equipment*

People responded favorably to including fitness equipment in the design. Some respondents requested additional fitness equipment and locating it at intervals along the looping trail and possibly in the play area.

### *Additional Activities and Amenities*

Several Respondents requested that additional winter activities be added to the site. The majority of these requests were for skating be added to the site, either as a skating trail or a leisure skating area. Cross-country skiing, a winter activity programming area and sledding were also requested.

A few people requested an off-leash dog area.

### *Landscaping*

A high number of respondents supported the idea of including edible landscaping within the design.

There was also strong support for including evergreen plant material and landscaping with seasonal interest. However, there were mixed responses regarding which species of evergreen trees should be included in the design or whether evergreen trees should be used at all.

Some respondents noted that berming within the open space area would be a valuable addition to the landscape. They also noted that the landscape design should be functional by providing wind-breaks, buffers and shade.

Respondents indicated that the maintenance requirements, horticultural practices and longevity of plant material be highly considered when designing the site. Plant material should be cost-effective, low-maintenance and perennial.

Several individual respondents had very specific suggestions regarding specific plant species preferences.

## • SECTION 3: Verbatim Feedback Received

### • Movement Topic

The following text description of the topic was provided at the discussion tables, in the workbooks and in the online survey. The intent of this text was to set the stage for discussion and to orientate the participant prior to answering the workbook/survey questions:

#### *Challenge:*

- The main access into the park site for vehicles and pedestrians is from 83 Street into the new parking lot. Because the parking lot and access driveway are located at the back of the building it may be difficult for people to find the building entrance or other destinations on site.

#### *How We Are Addressing The Challenge:*

- We have added wide sidewalks around the building and to important destinations in the park. We have added an entry node at the main walkway to highlight the key pedestrian route. We will include wayfinding signage to help people find the right route to destinations.

### • Verbatim” Workshop Discussion Feedback

The following Verbatim comments were captured by the table facilitator and participants during the discussions at the Workshop:

- concern with early morning accessibility snowplowing on sidewalks for 5:20am opening
- concern with longer route to get into parking from neighborhood
- concern with mix of traffic, LRT and pedestrian at intersection
- management of parking to ensure it is used for onsite activities
- signage directing people from parking to entrance of building from pathways
- heated sidewalk around pool to ensure that snow and ice are clear at 5:20 am to maximize safe movement
- ensure that sidewalks are plowed to support people getting to the pool at 5:20 am
- how are we going to deal with LRT parasitic parking

- messaging for Metro needed for community
- concern with longer walks from parking lot now that the overflow lot near the pool is closed

- **Verbatim Paper Workbook and Online Survey Feedback**

The following Verbatim responses were received in response to the questions on the paper workbook and online survey:

***Question 1: Are there ways to help people who enter from the west parking lot know where the front of Leisure Centre or other site destinations are?***

*Responses from Workshop Workbooks (2 Respondents)*

- signage,signage,signage
- "GOOD" signage

*Responses from Online Survey (6 Respondents)*

- This is not a significant question.
- Amenities sign(s) with arrows ,@ rear of building/ edge of parking lot.
- More signage at the entrance and future parking lot.
- Yes the wayfinding signage.
- Way-finding signage is important.
- symbols/signage (large)
- Are there interesting features or amenities that would make the walk around to the front entrance enjoyable?

***Question 2: Are there interesting features or amenities that would make the walk around to the front entrance enjoyable?***

- 

*Responses from Workshop Workbooks (1 Respondents)*

- Suggest heated sidewalks to clear snow and ice 24hrs. Have experienced this system on driveway etc. at our condo.

*Responses from Online Survey (6 Respondents)*

- This is not a significant question.
- Murals/ artwork to lead them forward, around walking areas. Perhaps use one walls for a fun amenities sign needed?
- Put the "Art Work" on the way to the front.

- Yes the South side of the building looks quite pleasant.
- Evergreens in the landscape planting area around the pool building. Garbage & recycling cans in the entry plaza and by the front doors.
- bike lane??

*Question 3: Are there any additional suggestions or comments you have about movement?*

*Responses from Workshop Workbooks (1 Respondents)*

- Will DATS busses be able to access entrance to the Leisure Centre? handicap stalls indicated for the Leisure Centre entrance. Currently 2 stalls and most always occupied. I suggest 6 stalls as this facility is popular with seniors who come from several areas of the city. Need more study because population demography is quickly maturing in Alberta.

*Responses from Online Survey (4 Respondents)*

- The main and only entrance in/out of this parking lot via motor vehicle is across the tracks of the Valley LRT line. It doesn't matter if you go north, west into the mall parking lot, or south. I guess NO ONE learned any lessons on the congestion caused by this by the Metro Line LRT at 111 Avenue at Kingsway Avenue. Or the problem at Princess Elizabeth Avenue and 106 Street. Some more future unfavourable press on the horizon with this park project. I guess no one thought this would be a significant problem. Well, it will be and you have been warned that it will be. Expect people to jump the curb where the emergency access only (no local traffic) "entrance/exit" onto 81 Street in between where the high school is and the tennis courts are. I guess you didn't think this one through. People will figure this out and short cut through the neighbourhood regardless.
- People will take the shortest route through the parking lot to reach their destination, ie. the sidewalk around the building. I think there should be another crosswalk, approx. where the bus drop off is located. Everyone will be crossing straight through here. Should there be speed bumps, to prevent speeding thru crosswalks?
- I will likely access the park space by walking from Holyrood, either by the walkway on the west side of Vimy or from the east past the tennis courts. Please make the those routes pedestrian-friendly also. You might not have enough bike racks in your current plan.
- bike lane

- **Physical Recreation Topic**

The following text description of the topic was provided at the discussion tables, in the

workbooks and in the online survey. The intent of this text was to set the stage for discussion and to orientate the participant prior to answering the workbook/survey questions:

*Challenge:*

- The existing running track needs to be removed because of LRT construction. Cycling, running and walking are important activities on site.

*How We Are Addressing The Challenge:*

- A trail loop (approximately 400m) surrounds the open space and playground area. The trail design includes, distance markers, benches and gravity-based (bodyweight) fitness elements. Fitness elements will be focused on using low-key elements (i.e. chin-up bars, dip bars, etc) and will have small signs that indicate the type of exercises that can be performed in each location.

- **Verbatim” Workshop Discussion Feedback**

The following Verbatim comments were captured by the table facilitator and participants during the discussions at the Workshop:

- is the running trail groomed?
- everyone needs to be away from high traffic
- open space - berms and additional landscape/planting to breakup space
- provide a continuous gravel trail - better for running/walking comfort
- 1.5m seems narrow
- all paths should be groomed in winter (walking-winter city)
- do not merge path with sidewalk on 83 street
- spread fitness equipment around park
- berms along trail
- There is a group of doctors in City that will provide fitness equipment

- **Verbatim Paper Workbook and Online Survey Feedback**

The following Verbatim responses were received in response to the questions on the paper workbook and online survey:

***Question 4: The trail materials and widths vary (see plan). Are the materials and width appropriate for the trail use?***

*Responses from Workshop Workbooks (1 Respondents)*

- Please ensure trails are wheel-chair accessible year-round under all ppt

conditions.

*Responses from Online Survey (5 Respondents)*

- No it's not. The trail should be made out of Portland cement concrete or asphalt, not this compacted granular base. It will easily rut and be an inconsistent surface to walk/run on. You also need to make it wider than 1.5 meters. These narcissistic cyclists will dominate the path as they ride their bicycles and spread gravel all over the place. Because these cyclists are so self absorbed and feel the world revolves around them, they will not share the path safely with pedestrians yet expect motor vehicles to share the road with them.
- Is there a reason asphalt is put in that one trail area and not consistent use of compacted granular..? Since the asphalt is around the kids area, would a softer material be better, s/as recycled rubber? I do like the general use of natural materials for paths though, to echo the neighbourhoods' name of Idylwylde , provide as much 'natural' surroundings as able.
- For walking or running yes. I dont think they are wide enough for cyclists.
- It seems awkward to me to have the granular trail connecting with the asphalt/concrete walkway. I don't think it will be convenient to run laps using this approach; I would be worried about colliding or being in the way of other users as I ran from the granular trail onto the asphalt/concrete pathways.
- can't enlarge the picture so can't tell

**Question 5: Are the features included in the trail design (distance markers, benches, fitness elements) appropriate and in the right locations?**

*Responses from Workshop Workbooks (2 Respondents)*

- Can more fitness equip. be added around the fitness loop at intervals
- Not sure.

*Responses from Online Survey (4 Respondents)*

- More benches, less bike racks. Better yet, no cycling allowed at all in the park. They can walk their bikes across. Only small children, 10 and under, should be permitted to ride their bikes in the park.
- There is not currently need for so many bike racks(5?, unlisted one @ 'entry node'). Currently there is seldom more than a few bikes anywhere around the area but the spots chosen seem fine.. start small w/ these, add later as they become needed. Too many tables around kids play area. Tables create separate groups, benches allow for general seating - mix up the seating provided to 'allow' people to mix more. Never seen anyone standing around and watching people play tennis though.. deck with lounge seating may not be well-placed, replace with 'group swing' and benches for soccer field etc (on

other side of pathway)?

- Yes, this looks like it would be very interesting with lots of different elements.
- I think you have too many distance markers. Benches and fitness elements seem good.

**Question 6: Are there additional features along the trail that would create an enjoyable experience when using the trail?**

*Responses from Workshop Workbooks (1 Respondents)*

- Water fountains provided? If so, then install ones that dispense efficiently for filling water bottles. I assume there would be water available at the tennis courts.

*Responses from Online Survey (3 Respondents)*

- Yes, the additional feature would be NO 1 percent of public art garbage along the trail. Better yet, no public art at all in the park. Stop wasting the tax dollars on such garbage. We do not need another pile of silver balls, a pair of masonry boots, concrete Monopoly board game hotels/houses, propellers mounted on shafts on top of orange donuts, red Gumby legs running “statue”, a rainbow colored tarantula looking thing or any other taxpayer funded excrement under the guise of “art” desecrating the park. If public art is so important then why can’t some lazy sloth from the Edmonton “Arts” Council make a meaningful presentation and take a more significant active role with the public engagement process in order to bring about public art to public spaces. They don’t because, they take the public’s dollars for granted and don’t want to face up towards the public over the previous misgivings over the taxpayer funded crap they think is art. This organization is not very inclusive or engaging with the public and not eager in doing so. All they want is our tax dollars to finance their asinine projects. We do not need another City of Calgary ‘Poop Palace’ in our public spaces and/or parks. Water fountains along the trail or at least somewhere in the park for the public to use. As well as a pay telephone and a help phone to contact the police and/or ambulance if there is trouble in the park.
- I have often seen people standing around watching soccer, lacrosse etc but the plans do not include any seating for this. Could there be an interesting grouping of benches to enliven a sitting area around the soccer field? It could provide an area in itself to wander through and create an informal seating area. Remove some of the picnic tables - area is cluttered with them and not everyone coming to the park wants/needs a whole table to themselves. Mix up the seating provided to create different dynamics/possibilities. Add sculpture.. Some artwork includes/allows participation with the viewer.
- Fitness equipment (chin up bars) or simple balancing apparatus/games.

**Question 7: Are there any additional suggestions or comments you have about supporting physical**

## recreation?

### *Responses from Online Survey (3 Respondents)*

- A water spray park for children within the district park. An off leash area so people can participate in physical recreation with their dogs. Make the entire park a Wireless Edmonton eZone so people can use wi-fi in the park. The precedence has been established with Dr. Wilbert McIntyre Park. Please do not use the cop out of just going to the Idylwyld library across 83 Street to use free wi-fi since, McIntyre Park is adjacent to the Strathcona Library location where they offer another location of free wi-fi. Along the trail and park, there should be accessible 120 volt AC power outlets for the public to use. These power outlets can be used to power Christmas lights in the proposed trees that will eventually be planted around the trail and park. Disabled people can charge up their electric wheelchairs/scooters while enjoying the park and bench areas along the trails. These outlets can also be used to power up laptops and charge up USB devices. Another aspect of physical recreation is attending festivals. It would be nice if there is the adequate utilities infrastructure in the park to facilitate the possibility of accommodating the potential of some sort of small community festival in the park. Like the Heart in the Park Festival that is hosted in June in Giovanni Caboto Park on 95 Street & 108A Avenue. Or the Kaleido Arts/Byzantine Winter Festival in the Alberta Avenue Park on 118 Avenue & 92 Street. Not something extensive and huge like the Edmonton Folk Festival in Gallagher Park or Heritage Days in William Hawrelak Park.
- Has accessibility been remembered in (some) tables/ benches? Many people apprec. armrests. Uncertain if equip. provided covers all ages - is there suff. variety for the 'growing ones'? Is there a 'quiet & calm area' for those that need a timeout/break or just some solitary space? Parks should be for more than physical recreation; peace of mind and/ or mental stimulation is often what the majority(?) of people use park space for.
- Looks like a lot of bike racks but it isn't clear if the track is to be used by cyclists.

## • Winter City Topic

The following text description of the topic was provided at the discussion tables, in the workbooks and in the online survey. The intent of this text was to set the stage for discussion and to orientate the participant prior to answering the workbook/survey questions:

### *Challenge*

- In 2012, the City of Edmonton became a leader on the winter city world stage as Edmonton City Council endorsed the WinterCity Strategy for transforming Edmonton into a world-leading winter city. Winter is an important part our lives in Edmonton, but it is difficult to provide comfortable places for people



to go when it's cold outside.

#### *How We Are Addressing The Challenge*

- A warming hut that provides temporary shelter from the elements may be a beneficial addition to the site

- **Verbatim” Workshop Discussion Feedback**

The following Verbatim comments were captured by the table facilitator and participants during the discussions at the Workshop:

- slatted wood may not offer too much protection
- nice to have a place to site near play space or sliding hill
- love freezeway idea, pathway
- space may not be large enough for skiing and they are close to goldbar for skiing
- shelter should be bright but fit in with the rest of park, maybe blue to compliment orange
- heated seats - solar?
- not sold on winter shelter but want seating near bonfire? Possibly part of an event
- if a shelter was placed, orientation would be important
- could SE District winterfest be hosted there?
- equipment rentals like snowshoes
- programmed areas - snowman area - activity signage
- art along fence line?
- drinking fountain
- shelter should be large enough so it can be used by multiple groups at once rather than taken over by one (people will fee welcomed in)
- trees to wind break
- seats in warming shelter
- alternatively-want to maintain visibility for safety
- freezeway and cross-country ski trail around open space
- igloo shape would be warm and visible

- the red one may be nice depending on position maybe near another building
- safety concerns with enclosed shelters
- the playground seems like something kids can use in winter, so a shelter near the playground would be good for kids to warmup and near ski trail\ splash of colour around shelters and benches etc
- all weather furniture to create outdoor seating area
- trees and shrubs with colorful winter bark
- shelter should take into consideration all weather - snow, rain, wind
- lighting to make evening winter walks safe
- not fluorescent lights - something that fits nature theme
- railings around pathways to pool for ice safety
- overhangs over pool sidewalks to protect from snow
- winter programming for holiday break

- [Verbatim Paper Workbook and Online Survey Feedback](#)

The following Verbatim responses were received in response to the questions on the paper workbook and online survey:

**Question 8: Is there a location on site that makes sense for a warming hut?**

*Responses from Online Survey (4 Respondents)*

- This is not a significant question. Nor was this winter strategy nonsense this part of the original scope of the project. We do not need a warming hut. This is a waste of taxpayer's dollars. Spend money on something meaningful like another location of indoor heated public washrooms with handicapped access. Disabled people are going to find it a challenge to only go to the washrooms located on the north face the tennis courts. Another set of public washrooms in the park is a better implementation in a winter strategy. Since it is cold, homeostasis is going to kick in and people are going to have the uncontrollable urge to urinate more often. Just imagine what it would be like if you are disabled and you soil yourself because you could not get to the washroom in time. Do you want people making yellow snow in the middle of the park? Because, that is what is going to happen if you don't have a second set of washrooms for people. Let the second washroom venue be the warming hut on the south end of the park.
- Perhaps on the east side, next to the 'edible maze', but it should be situated to allow people to watch the sunset, and shelter from the west wind (which

comes across an open field).

- Near the kids play area so they can take breaks and warm up.
- Near the sledding hill.

**Question 9: What types of features should it have (i.e. heating, seating)?**

*Responses from Workshop Workbooks (1 Respondents)*

- Heated seating in warming shelter would be wonderful.

*Responses from Online Survey (5 Respondents)*

- This second washroom warming hut should have toilets, running water for sinks, electric lighting, privacy to conduct one's business, a place to hang your winter jacket as your conducting your own personal business, a baby change station and natural gas heating.
- Year-round functioning, protection from all types of weather. There is a plethora of picnic tables planned and nothing that offers shelter in the whole park, other than the trees.
- Gas tube heating and seats would be nice but what about hours of operation and possible security concerns to prevent vagrant usage?
- Heating for sure. Seating. Shelter from wind. Tables to eat and have a snack. Similar to the building at Gold Bar park where the skiers can take a break in the "chalet".
- Benches, protection from the wind, windows to capture the sun's energy. Solar powered?

**Question 10: Can you describe what it might look like?**

*Responses from Online Survey (5 Respondents)*

- Something that shouldn't look like an abomination, under the guise of public art. A easily, simple and straight forward design would be nice.
- I prefer the (pink) shifting geometric design best but it may be subject to graffiti from flat areas provided, if not 'customized' with other artwork. Could this be used as a climbing surface/recreational item also? - multi-purpose use. However, the use of natural materials (wood) in other examples is also appreciated. The very last example is beautiful but it will be climbed on, etc, if that's at all possible.. should something be planned for kids to climb all over at the same time?
- A see through-type wall to allow viewing of interior and only 3 walls.
- Not sure but the suggested pictures look very nice. The wood structures are very interesting and keep the naturalized area look.

- I like the second one in the left column.

**Question 11: Are there any additional suggestions or comments you have about supporting the Wintercity Strategy?**

*Responses from Online Survey (5 Respondents)*

- This Winter City Strategy does not need to be supported. Tax dollars can go to more meaningful things like a Pothole Strategy, a practical and realistic Snow Removal Strategy and a sincere Public Engagement Strategy. Let's get those matters taken care of first before venturing into a Winter City Strategy that is not something that is within the scope of the project.
- I hadn't thought about future x-country skiers, as it is basically all flat park land. Even with all the upgrades, I don't think this park will provide much for winter users. Small kids have play areas but few other people will show up at this park during the winter - there are not many reasons to. The outdoor skating rink nearby does not currently get much use (either), as the bulk of the population is over 12, but this is changing a little lately. Some parks this idea makes sense for more than others. More and more people have pets/dogs than feel the desire for 'winter fun'. All these people need room to recreate with their pets but parks are seldom incorporating that fact of life into the design. There should be 'garbage/doggie bags' as well as garbage barrels. Separate pet play space is not likely do-able in this plan. ?
- A skating area perhaps.
- Make public bathrooms accessible year-round.
- cross country ski loop

## • Inclusiveness Topic

The following text description of the topic was provided at the discussion tables, in the workbooks and in the online survey. The intent of this text was to set the stage for discussion and to orientate the participant prior to answering the workbook/survey questions:

*Challenge:*

- Public parks are intended for the use and enjoyment of all people, regardless of age, race, gender, or ability. The park design should provide places where different types of people can interact, whether it is a casual conversation with someone you just met or it is a planned activity with people from the community.

*How We Are Addressing The Challenge:*

- We have included a range of different types of seating and gathering spaces (i.e. picnic sites, lounging decks, bench nodes) that are located throughout the site. Each gathering space offers a different type of experience and encourages different types of interaction.

- [Verbatim Workshop Discussion Feedback](#)

The following Verbatim comments were captured by the table facilitator and participants during the discussions at the Workshop:

- neighbours with disabilities
- pool use -seniors, arriving by bus - difficult accessing pool via foot - need accessibility for those who don't drive, LRT may not be close enough to home or pool
- gathering/social area outside of pool
- sidewalk maintenance to be more cohesive throughout park and school
- soccer field -high level sports and family use - integrated via playground
- include all ages in discussions - timing
- population density - summertime - reading on grass and picnics on blankets - no facilities needed
- boccee/horse shoes
- games tables
- multigenerational space near pool
- wifi hotspot
- hopscotch/asphalt games

- [Verbatim Paper Workbook and Online Survey Feedback](#)

The following Verbatim responses were received in response to the questions on the paper workbook and online survey:

***Question 12: Are there ways that the design of spaces could encourage interaction between different groups of people (i.e. children, seniors, families, disabled people, long-time community residents, new immigrants)?***

*Responses from Workshop Workbooks (1 Respondents)*

- Some things to consider: Set X-country ski track when conditions permit somewhere in the park where it would not conflict with the walking/jogging crowd, eg. in the multi-use field. Is there any chance of getting a skating trail like the idea that has been implemented at Victoria Park?

*Responses from Online Survey (4 Respondents)*

- Having a public space that has the utilities infrastructure in place and open space to host a community event like a festival inside the park. Eg. Heart in the Park Festival -- Giovanni Caboto Park, Kaleido Arts/Byzantine Winter

Festival -- Alberta Avenue Park, Edmonton Folk Festival -- Gallagher Park, Heritage Days -- William Hawrelak Park, etc.

- As mentioned, provide seating variety, some sort of open seating arrangement where the different types of sports is going on. Diversity in plant life will bring more people (and smiles) through the trails etc. Most people enjoy the visual stimuli plant life brings, which then changes with the seasons. Edible plants would be good education as well as eating (labels may prove useful). A message board for general community use might promote interaction/communications. Will people need to leave the park to access drinking water, other than washroom taps at tennis court building? (How is the edible maze getting watered?) Providing entertainment at parks brings people together - can buskers, food trucks etc hang out there? There are a lot of picnic tables planned but no where to have/make hot food. 'Food' (good food) brings people together. Is it possible to provide a spot for this, perhaps near the Leisure Centre/ washrooms?
- Somewhere for the older folks to sit and relax while watching kids is a great idea. Also maybe structures to workout for adults near the tots play area.
- I like having picnic tables grouped together.

*Question 13: Are there places where some groups of people that may not be able to use the park or may not be comfortable with using the park? Can we improve these places?*

*Responses from Workshop Workbooks (1 Respondents)*

- Try to make as much as possible wheelchair accessible

*Responses from Online Survey (2 Respondents)*

- By having adequate evening park lighting. Pay phones and help phones to call emergency services if the need should arise. Providing 120 volt AC electrical outlets in the park so the disabled can charge up their electric wheelchairs/scooters. Having a second washroom venue in the south end of the park so able body and non-able body people can actually use instead of making the journey to the north end of the tennis courts. This would be more meaningful than some warming hut that is only going to be used for the winter months. A 24 hour/7 days a week second washroom would be a more noble use of tax dollars than some warming hut that is NOT going to be used during the spring/summer/fall months. A better surface to travel on the trail than the proposed granular base. Why don't you wheelchair over that and see how you would like it?
- I don't go for a walk without my dog. Planning for these sorts of family members would be appreciated by many, esp. if it helps keep the area clean for everyone. Some people want a quiet spot to relax with a book, others want to be active. It can be hard to relax when someone is being rather active

next to you - provide spaces for a variety of paces.

*Question 14: Are there any additional suggestions or comments you have about supporting inclusiveness?*

*Responses from Online Survey (5 Respondents)*

- Meaningful and substantial outreach to initially seek out stakeholders and adequate promotion of the public consultation process with this project so people can have the opportunity to participate in earlier sessions. The people responsible for this did an incredibly lousy job in accomplishing this task! There was promotional material concerning this event in the Bonnie Doon Leisure Center but no promotional material in other City of Edmonton Venues within a 5 Km radius. Edmonton Public Library locations being Idylwyld (194 m), Capilano (2.79 Km), or Strathcona (2.86 Km) branches. There is a community events triangular column in the middle of Bonnie Doon Shopping Center, located on the west half of 83 Street right across from this park that could have been used for promotional material of this event but was not used. No notification in the Edmonton Re Use Center (2.08 Km) located on 83 Street & Argyll Road. Other City of Edmonton venues that could have been used, that are within a 5 Km radius of this proposed park, in order to promote this project and corresponding meetings are: Hardisty Fitness and Leisure Center (10535 – 65 Street), the City Arts Center at Garneau Park (109 Street & 83 Avenue), The Muttart Conservatory, the Old Strathcona Farmer’s Market, the Downtown Farmer’s Market, and the Stanley Milner Public Library. Were there any posters posted or any other promotional material at any of these other locations to promote the existence of this project? No! This is a district park, correct? Yet all of these fore mentioned venues to place promotional material are within the 5 Km radius of this project site. It has been mentioned in the past in the Council’s Initiative of Public Engagement meetings about using other venues that are owned by the City of Edmonton where promotional material could be posted for public consultation events but apparently that input was ignored. Another suggestion that was ignored during the Council’s Initiative of Public Engagement meetings is how other public “consultation” meetings that are sponsored by the City of Edmonton could be used to promote other public engagement meeting of other topics in the same geographical area. The public meetings concerning neighbourhood renewal for the areas of Bonnie Doon, Argyll, King Edward Park, Avonmore, Queen Alexandra, and Strathern could have mentioned in their Power Point Presentations about this Dermont District Park project and how the municipality is looking for public insight on that other project. No mention of this Dermont District Park project at these events. A promotional tactic used by Neighbourhood Renewal / Building so-called “Great” Neighbourhoods is the use of chloroplast signs mounted on orange barricades strategically placed on boulevards. This is great for places where a large boulevard sign would not

be practical to use. Like the one boulevard sign located on the south east corner of 82 Avenue & 83 Street to promote this event.

- These barricade/chloroplast signs can be located on collector/distributor roads inside and on the periphery of a neighbourhood. For instance, 79 Street, where there is a bus route, Route #94, that travels through the Idylwylde community. Another public “consultation” session that could have advertized this Dermont District Park Project was the What Moves You Edmonton Public Transit meeting at the South East Edmonton Seniors association (SEESA). But nothing there as well. This Dermont Park project could have been brought to the public’s attention on numerous occasions during the Valley Line LRT “consultation” process but again, it wasn’t. It also wasn’t mentioned at the newly formed Valley Line LRT working groups. The concept of informing a captive audience at another City of Edmonton public “consultation” event to promote another City of Edmonton public “consultation” event was also mentioned there, AGAIN, during the formulation of these community LRT groups. And AGAIN, fell on deaf ears. Aren’t you on the same team as far as working for the City of Edmonton? This district park “consultation” project has been going on since 2009, correct? So how could you miss all these other opportunities where you had a captive audience on another public works project to make known of this Dermont District Park project? One of the most prominent and reoccurring barriers to engagement and inclusiveness concerning the public (who are expected to pay for all of this) is that the public is not aware of these other projects in the first place. How can they excise the option of participation in these other “consultation” meetings if they don’t know it exists? It’s not like I am not aware of all these other City of Edmonton sanctioned events yet, this project somehow eluded me. My fault for not knowing about this? I don’t think so. Page 12 of Phase 1 Final Report on the Council’s Imitative on Public Engagement: “Therefore, it would need to strive for immediate improvements. This effort should not wait until the Initiative was completed. “Fixing the airplane while continuing to fly it” was both necessary and desired.” So much for fixing the airplane. The online survey version of this workbook was NOT posted the City of Edmonton website under the public surveys page.  
[http://www.edmonton.ca/programs\\_services/public\\_engagement/public-engagement-surveys.aspx](http://www.edmonton.ca/programs_services/public_engagement/public-engagement-surveys.aspx) Nor posted on the public engagement calendar.  
[http://www.edmonton.ca/programs\\_services/public\\_engagement/public-engagement-calendar.aspx](http://www.edmonton.ca/programs_services/public_engagement/public-engagement-calendar.aspx) People could only find out and submit an online survey ONLY if they found the Dermont District Park web page on the City of Edmonton website.  
[http://www.edmonton.ca/city\\_government/projects\\_redevelopment/dermot-t-district-park-renewal.aspx](http://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/projects_redevelopment/dermot-t-district-park-renewal.aspx) This is NOT the first time, a separate City of Edmonton section that has failed to post a public survey link on these other web pages instead of only the home page of that specific project.



- You expect us to be aware and to use these other resources yet, you don't use them yourselves to interact with the public and ascertain information about a project that has a influence over our lives. The frequency of how many times I have encountered this exact same scenario is way too many times for me to count. Please, start utilizing the same resources that you expect us to use on the Edmonton.ca web site. I am about supporting inclusiveness and AWARENESS, too bad certain members of City Council, City of Edmonton Civic Administration and their mercenary private-for-profit consultants don't share the same beliefs as myself. Only play lip service to it.
- Sometimes inclusiveness means allowing for differences than assimilation to 'mainstreamed' activity. Only so many options are possible for a small space, sometimes less is more (esp with #tables, deck areas). This park is getting re-designed to accommodate a lot of traffic (at once) - which it does not/will not likely get, unless it is getting planned for Vimy Ridge students to use during their unscheduled time (...little as that is). They have rather poor 'school' grounds to sit on, and there are no plans to change this. (?) If it is largely used by students, a lot of litter will be likely left and few other people will want to be there at the same time. Teen aged people (esp.) will want to have 'private' spaces - not sure what to say about inclusiveness for sex in the park. These last two items are the current 'norm' at the small Idylwylde Park, which are not appreciated by other park users/ residents. I am not sure how to make this improved for everyone.
- Include water fountains for getting drinking water.

## • Aesthetics Topic

The following text description of the topic was provided at the discussion tables, in the workbooks and in the online survey. The intent of this text was to set the stage for discussion and to orientate the participant prior to answering the workbook/survey questions:

### *Challenge*

- The look and feel of a park is affected by the selection of materials, colors and style of elements. All elements and features in the design need to fit together in terms of aesthetics and need to be high quality, functional and long-lasting.

### *How We Are Addressing The Challenge*

- The planting and furnishing palettes shown reflect the natural qualities of the adventure play area, nature play area and landscaped open spaces. The two furnishing palettes focus on clean-lined contemporary design and a combination of wood and metal.

## • Verbatim" Workshop Discussion Feedback

The following Verbatim comments were captured by the table facilitator and participants during

the discussions at the Workshop:

- Who takes care of edible maze?
- Watch the cut through in planted areas
- More pleasant place to walk
- Mixed planting to provide wind screen
- Maturity of plants/trees - ensure proper distance for plant growth
- Can we set a variety of types of seating in the seating areas?
- Seating needs arms for accessibility
- black metal on furnishings (grounds the item)
- Access ease
- features should accumulate less garbage
- organic looking furnishings
- Elms have aphid problem in area
- Fruit trees - species people want the produce from
- herb garden
- mix of plantings
- no roses - brutal plants - aggressive
- include Nanking cherries and sour cherries
- honeyberries - good idea
- blue spruce should not be planted - messy
- consider fir trees (ex U of A Farm - balsam fir)
- Nanking cherries - like avonmore school
- pleased to be planting American elm
- berms in open space to break it up for interests skate
- curvy furniture is more attractive
- rounded furnishing compliments nature - can you ties into building structures?

- good to have evergreens -ensure not in areas with road salt
- wind break for runners on track (evergreen)
- two halves of park works for two different spaces (sport and park)
- What else could be done here in winter - still big open field that will not be used
- casual skating space. Skating loop in park through nature
- like trees (more is good) similar to Ritchie Park
- like edible park -plants - like concept of gardening group to be involved
- will there be a spot to fill water bottles outside
- shelter for shade
- benches need to be around shade trees
- need trees around group swing
- could it be like Tubby Bateman Park
- Use Natural Elements as sitting features (i.e. boulders)
- furnishing -need lots of bike parking
- like curvy furniture because not as severe
- like option 2 (geometric/blocky) - more modern. More comfortable
- lighting along north side/possible west side of building safety for morning/evening
- blooming periods of plants
- prefer woodchips to sand
- play features - graffiti and age appropriate for sites (including older kids)
- Color-in winter (year round) - dogwoods - flowering plants
- some evergreen trees with deciduous
- like edible plant area - will attract birds
- curvy furniture - more inviting - seems more comfortable
- like flat bench-lots of room to sit
- need seating along path but also on sidewalk by south wall of pool

- fruit bearing shrub all over would be unique (not just in one area)

- [Verbatim Paper Workbook and Online Survey Feedback](#)

The following Verbatim responses were received in response to the questions on the paper workbook and online survey:

**Question 15: Does the combination of aesthetic palettes create an attractive and enjoyable site? Can they be improved?**

*Responses from Workshop Workbooks (1 Respondents)*

- See my comments #18

*Responses from Online Survey (5 Respondents)*

- It can be improved by using more cost effective measures in the selection of plants. There is going to be the ongoing costs of green housing these seedlings at the Muttart and transporting & replanting some of this vegetation year after year after year. Not all of these plants are perennials.
- Combination can depend on how well it's done aesthetically. Provide plantings that change grow/mature at different times in the season, also a space that is more meditative than colourful (allergen friendly?) Consider aromas as well as visual stimuli. Create a windbreak with a mix of trees on the west side.
- Yes. The edible plants is a great idea.
- Looks good. Include plenty of the juniper so there are several smaller evergreen shrubs, in addition to the trees.
- looks good--lots of evergreens so it still looks nice in the winter

**Question 16: Which furnishing palette do you prefer?**

**Question 17: What are the reasons for your preference?**

*Responses from Online Survey (5 Respondents)*

- Because this is the illusion of choice, the decision is already preconceived. It doesn't matter what the member of the general public selects. I've seen and experienced this feigns of selection, autonomy, and influence concerning a public works project before. Any public input just gets simply ignored here. Yes, I am not jejune to the modus operandi in how this municipality conducts themselves towards the public concerning these so called "choices".
- The landscaping is curvy - go with the flow. but some combination of form/style would be preferred. Dark legs/edges 'grounds' the

furniture/equipment better than light (aluminum-coloured metal). Dark will also look less dirty over time.

- Matches the existing Pool and School Building.
- The curvy furnishings fit into a natural better than the blocky elements.
- more welcoming yet still clean and modern

**Question 18: Are there any additional suggestions or comments you have about aesthetics proposed for the site?**

*Responses from Workshop Workbooks (2 Respondents)*

- Put in a big rock structure like the buffalo at Tubby Bateman Park. Please LOTS of bicycle lock-ups. Function is more important than form here.
- "Plantings need more thought. Eg. Tree pallet-no spruce please; alternatively consider balsam fir, tamarack, scots pine. Deciduous hardwoods-avoid green ash and elm in lieu of hardy linden cultivars, bur oak, aspen poplar. Shrubs/perennial forbs- absolutely no rose or lilac. Please consider only native shrubs and forb cultivars and look to cultivars that are adapted to the site and will attract birds and wild bees. Species considered for the edible maze could well be planted over a broader area along with native grasses and forbs wherever plantings are being considered. Note that honeyberry (hascap) is a low-growing, heavy fruit-bearing shrub that is very easily established but because it bears male and female flowers on separate plants the plantings have to be in pairs to ensure pollination and fruit production (it is an excellent choice). Saskatoon and high-bush cranberry, nanking cherry, goose-berry, beaked hazelnut and the proposed grape vines will nicely round out the edible maze appearance and effectiveness.
- 

*Responses from Online Survey (3 Respondents)*

- I know that you will not be receptive, let alone follow through with this. Please use deciduous trees ONLY, NOT coniferous trees. All they are going to do is drop their needles on the ground and kill the grass and other plants by altering the pH of the soil. This will lead to unnecessary future maintenance. You have to take in consideration of the future upkeep costs to preserve the park. Do it right by doing it once then the upcoming costs will be minimized in the future. I know, this is an alien concept in how the City of Edmonton conducts themselves with public assets and public funds. I am sick and tired of increased property taxes, rate payer fees, and additional levies on the property tax bill because some greedy private-for-profit consultant didn't think things through and having this so-called "mistake" augmented by the total failure of civic administration in not properly stewarding and providing

legitimate oversight on a public works project. Eg. Walterdale Bridge, 102 Avenue Bridge, the 23 Avenue overpass, the sewage drainage problems in Millwoods/Highlands/West Edmonton, building so called “great” neighbourhoods, the Metro Line LRT, the poor planning with the future fiasco of Valley Line LRT, the upcoming second Arena, etc. Another disturbing trend I have seen is planting too many trees too close to one another. All this does is deprive moisture and nutrients from the soil where these trees will encounter retarded growth. The deciduous trees from the tree palette have the capability of growing very tall and wide. They need adequate room from one another to grow up, grow out, and expand their roots into the ground. If they are too close to one another, additional pruning of branches will be required when you should not need too if the trees are adequately spaced. There are trees in Hawrelak Park and Walterdale Park that are very large and majestic because there is ample room between them. This is the long term goal here. Not the short term goal of corporate greed of the private-for-profit motive of these consultants and the vendors who sell trees. A consideration for the potential of any large trees is having extra control joints reinforced with re-bar in sidewalks that run along any of these future trees. Not these faux control joints that are found in the sidewalks. This was not taken in consideration when these trees grew in what we call now mature neighbourhoods. It is nice to have an urban forest but back then, people didn't have the foresight to deploy this pre-emptive tactic to mitigate sidewalk heaving and causing a trip hazard and destruction of sidewalks because of the growth of tree roots. Fire hydrants inside the park. This would not just provide fire counter measures in the area but would eliminate the use of a tanker truck to water the planted and growing trees in the park. Just bring a hose to water the trees. This would assist in accelerating the growth of these trees.

- It would also provide a source of drinking water so a future potential festival would not have to use an EPCOR water trailer to provide drinking water on the site to be made available for public consumption. Another use of these hydrants is to flood the open grass area, in the winter time, to have a small open ice rink for small children to stake on. Wouldn't it be nice to find other uses for a fire hydrant instead of its intended purpose.
- There has been no question about the park border - I am not fond of grey chain link fencing. If needed, could this (please) be covered with greenery or something. There will be the LRT and street noise, etc. bordering the west side - it would be nice to control this 'influx'. Much in favour of edible palette - just concerned it will be trampled by kids playing, wanting to run through it. Know they will want to pick the flowers etc too.. (:

- [Comments Left on Display Boards](#)

The following comments were written on sticky-note and placed on the display boards at the

open house:

- open and lit spaces
- covered walkway to avoid snow on walks
- bus stop? X3
- local access via foot pedestrian/bike friendly
- homeless activity no thanks!
- fence along 83 street for kids safety
- sledding hill please!
- looping trail is good (gravel!)
- signage for parking/entrance

- ## Comments Received via Email

*Email #1*

Thank you for the Open House and the opportunity to meet you and see the plans for the park. I appreciate you clarifying the different funding for the Bonnie Doon Pool and the unfortunate situation that will arise with the entrance staying on the east side.

I did not realize there was such an extensive afternoon agenda (this was not communicated on the flyer I saw), so I was unable to stay for the meeting part or the sessions around the table. However, looking at the plans, the only suggestion I have is that an area is created with equipment similar to that below. I took this photo in China, but I know there are many examples of parks with similar equipment to serve the older population, those in rehab, and those who have limited range of motion and strength.



My last feedback is related to the location of the meeting. Terrible to have to meander through a construction site and then negotiate a set of stairs. This would not have been easily accessible to those with mobility issues; I'd be surprised it was accessible to wheelchairs. The school has been under construction for months. Did no one know that? Were there no other options considered, like the public library across the street (with the big meeting room)? The community hall? Disappointing. My hope is a better location is chosen for the next meeting.

#### *Email #2*

"This e-mail is my response to the draft Dermott District Park Renewal workshop held on February 29th. I have not completed the entire workbook. My concerns focus entirely on the transportation safety and parking portions of the plan, the 'Movement Challenge'. For background, we live in Ottewell and swim at least 5 early mornings per week at the Bonnie Doon Pool.

My primary concern focuses on the proposed intersection of 83rd street and the new proposed parking area entrance. This proposed intersection is located where 83rd street bends, the LRT track changes sides of the road between the east side and the west side, vehicles are travelling along 83rd street and entering/leaving the proposed parking area, and pedestrians (children to seniors), bicycles and skateboards are going every direction.

The proposed intersection is on a curve. This limits sight distances for vehicle drivers and requires looking for the LRT (which angles across the proposed intersection), other vehicles (turning and proceeding forward), and pedestrians/bicycles/skateboards at angles either much less or much more than a standard 90 degree view. As these angles are non-standard, the probability of not seeing vehicles or humans until it is too late and the odds of fatal or injury collisions increases.



Traffic volumes on 83rd street are relatively high and much higher than the parking lot traffic. The timing of lights for vehicles and LRT traffic will likely result in delays for traffic entering or exiting the proposed parking lot. This will result in frustrated drivers turning left across traffic on red lights, blocking intersections, and not carefully observing vehicle and human traffic. Again the possibility of serious collisions increases.

If, as proposed, at the intersection of 83 street and 90th avenue traffic is not permitted to turn right onto 90th avenue, all traffic from the north and east of the Dermott park site will be forced to detour in some manner to get home. This traffic would either need to go north on 83rd street to 98th avenue (a much longer route), cut through the Holyrood neighbourhood at 95th avenue, or cut through the north end of the Bonnie Doon mall to access 90th avenue from 85th street (the likely answer).

If, as proposed, the current entrance to the swimming pool on 81st street is also closed, the proposed new intersection on a busy 83rd street will be the ONLY way in or out of the swimming pool and the entire park area. All Dermott park traffic (swimming pool, soccer field etc.) traffic from north and east of the site will be forced to take the longer route around and enter 83rd street to get to the new proposed parking area. In the very likely event of collisions or other traffic delays at the new proposed intersection, the nearby LRT station, or the already busy 83rd street, access into or out of the parking area would become impossible for vehicles and emergency vehicles.

If, as proposed, the overflow parking area for the swimming pool is closed and pool patrons need to park in the new parking area if existing parking area is full, then pool patrons would need to make their way around the building. Speaking as an early morning pool patron, most early morning pool/hot tub/steam room patrons are retired or long ago retired. Some of these people have limited mobility due to joint replacements or the wear and tear on a body over 70 or 80 years. Walking around half the perimeter of the pool building would be a long, difficult, and dangerous trek on snow/ice covered sidewalks. These sidewalks are not cleared in the early morning.

There are already issues with commuter vehicle parking in and around the pool area. Some park in the pool area or on the residential streets of 81st street and 86th avenue and take the bus to downtown or elsewhere to work. Some park and take the refinery plant busses from 90th avenue and 79th street. Some construction workers at Vimy Ridge school park in the pool parking area or on the residential streets. A parking lot clearly visible and accessible from 83rd street combined with the new nearby LRT station is only going to increase these issues and the volume of traffic entering and exiting the parking area. When I asked staff at the open house about the park-and-ride issue, I was told it was a 'management' issue for the mall and the pool. Not a helpful response for pool patrons.

All of these issues need to be considered together. It is not appropriate to declare that the LRT line and station, the pool, the existing overflow parking area, the schools, the mall and the Idylwyde park are out-of-scope and can therefore be ignored. If everything does not work when all of the factors are considered then the Dermott District Park plan will not work.

The location and configuration of the proposed new intersection on 83rd street will result in LRT/vehicle traffic (including bicycles and skateboards), and pedestrian collisions. It will increase delays on an already busy street. If the 81st street access to the pool is closed, it will be much more difficult, time consuming, and potentially hazardous to access the pool.

Please consider relocation and/or reconfiguration of the proposed intersection on 83rd street and please do not close the 81st street access.”