

What We Heard Report: Your Input on Capital Investment

Balwin and Belvedere Revitalization

Neighbourhoods of Opportunity,
Growth and Culture

Fall 2020

SHARE YOUR VOICE
SHAPE OUR CITY

Edmonton

ADVISE

Acknowledgment

We acknowledge that we are on the traditional land of treaty Six territory and the traditional Métis Homeland of Region IV (four). We do this to create awareness that we are all treaty members, and to show recognition and respect for Indigenous Peoples and the traditional territories on which we live and work.

A special thank you to the Community Capital Project Team members, who supported the completion of this important milestone in the Capital Investment Process.

Covid-19 Context

The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted our neighbourhoods and communities across Edmonton and the world. For this project, the public health restrictions significantly impacted the engagement process to collect neighbourhood ideas and feedback. We had to work creatively with the community capital project team and we sought input from the neighbourhoods through methods such as the survey and workbook.

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1. Neighbourhood Revitalization Program and the Capital Investment Process

The City of Edmonton's Neighbourhood Revitalization Program uses an asset and place-based community development model to identify initiatives and clarify priorities held by community members as it relates to enhancing their neighbourhood(s). The goal of the Neighbourhood Revitalization Program is to improve the livability of Edmonton's mature and established neighbourhoods, and mobilize community-led action. The program offers resources to support both social and physical infrastructure.

Resources to support the physical infrastructure development in Balwin and Belvedere falls under the Neighbourhood Revitalization Capital Investment Plan. Capital investments may include replacing old for new infrastructure. Some examples are enhanced lighting, benches, public art, wayfinding features and park redevelopment. Investments in physical infrastructure enhance public spaces such as roadways, alleys, open spaces, and parks, to increase social connection, beautification, economic vibrancy and safety.

Neighbourhood Revitalization Capital Investment follows the City of Edmonton's Project Develop and Delivery Model (PDDM). As projects go through the strategy, concept, design, build, operation and delivery phases, the PDDM establishes set checkpoints. It is intended to ensure that all City projects have completed necessary checkpoints before being considered for the delivery phase.

PROGRAM PRINCIPLES



PROGRAM OUTCOMES

- + Properties are attractive and well-cared for
- + People feel safe in their homes and community
- + The local economy is thriving
- + Investment in the community is strong
- + The social fabric of the neighbourhood is strong
- + People are empowered to lead change

COMMUNITY CAPITAL PROJECT TEAM

The Community Capital Project Team is an integral part of the Revitalization program's process for capital investment. This team, made up of residents and a non profit representative, formed early in the year, has been hard at work developing and implementing tools to gather feedback from the neighbourhoods. This team will make recommendations to the City for investment within both neighbourhoods.

COLLABORATING WITH THE BALWIN AND BELVEDERE NEIGHBOURHOODS AND THE CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROCESS



2018

Balwin and Belvedere Revitalization approved by Council

2019

Revitalization Strategy was developed

2020

- + Initiation of the **Strategy Phase** of the City of Edmonton Capital Program Design and Delivery Model
- + **Community Capital Investment Project Team** and the City of Edmonton began collaborating to curate the feedback from neighbours and businesses in the area on physical improvements
- + Public engagement activity #1: Survey
- + Public engagement activity #2: Workbook

WE ARE HERE – ADVISE

DECEMBER 2020

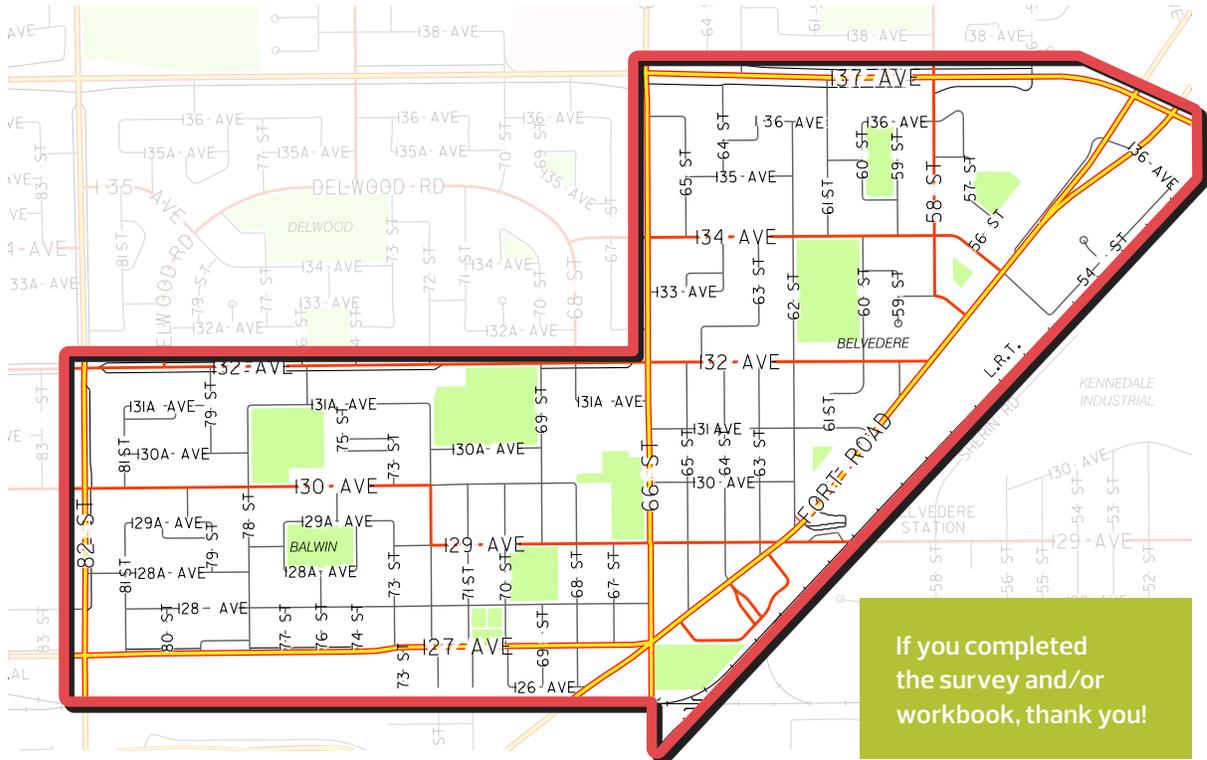
Create and distribute "What We Heard" report

THE CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROCESS



2. What We Heard

WHO WE HEARD FROM



Residents, businesses, non profit and other stakeholders of the Balwin and Belvedere neighbourhoods participated in a survey (June 2020) and workbook (October 2020) and contributed specific ideas for capital investment. The survey and workbook collected information about residents' thoughts about physical improvements to public spaces within the neighbourhoods. Residents were encouraged to think about physical improvements as they relate to the vision and goals of the Balwin and Belvedere Revitalization Strategy as well as to specific locations within the neighbourhood that were shared in 2019.

The survey was mailed to each address in the neighbourhood with a stamped addressed return envelope. The survey was also translated into the top 7 languages of the neighbourhood (Cree, French, Chinese, Ukrainian, Spanish, Arabic and Tagalog). The workbook was distributed online and made available in print.

PEOPLE WHO COMPLETED THE SURVEY

107

WORKBOOK

84

WHAT YOU TOLD US

Through the survey and workbook we heard about the strengths that already exist in Balwin and Belvedere, these include: Parks and green spaces within the neighbourhoods, rinks, playgrounds and spray deck (Balwin) within the neighbourhoods, community league halls, child care centres, youth gathering spaces (e.g. Africa Club, Trinity Church etc.), neighbourhood schools, Balwin and Belvedere being a key connection area between downtown and the northeast among others.

Residents, businesses, non profit and other stakeholders identified that they gather and connect with each other and feel a sense of pride, safety and belonging at a few different locations within the neighbourhood. These include: Belvedere Park, Balwin Park, Zoie Gardner Park, Braids Park and Robert Brett Park. Other suggestions for improvements to public areas to increase the opportunity for people to meet and get together included: additional park improvements and amenities such as garbage cans, picnic tables and BBQ pits, Fort Road revitalization, sidewalk, road and alley improvements, increased support for community events and beautification initiatives such as tree and flower planting.

Respondents also shared safety concerns about gathering in public spaces and on busy streets; many community members do not connect with each other but would like to. Suggested safety improvements included: trimming of coniferous trees, enhanced neighbourhood lighting, increased neighbourhood events to develop connections and relationships, the creation of welcome spaces, increased traffic safety around busy intersections including Fort Road and 66 Street, resources and supports for vulnerable members of the neighbourhood etc.

Respondents identified that local businesses are of value and support for local businesses can be enhanced through improvements of lighting, beautification of streets and sidewalks, walking access, renovated storefronts etc.

Informed by the Revitalization Strategy developed in 2019, Balwin and Belvedere's Vision is...

Belvedere and Balwin are committed to creating proud, safe and diverse communities that support and value their people and businesses.

GOALS

1



Individuals who live, work and play in Balwin and Belvedere are more connected with each other and engaged in community activities.

2



Local businesses in Balwin and Belvedere are welcomed, celebrated and supported by local residents as part of the community.

3



Homes, businesses, sidewalks, parks and other places in Balwin and Belvedere are kept clean, tidy and well-lit.

4



Residents and businesses in Balwin and Belvedere take deliberate actions to help make the neighbourhoods feel safer for all community members.

Detailed feedback from the Balwin and Belvedere neighbourhoods is organized on the following pages by theme. The comments below are for improvements that are overarching for the Balwin and Belvedere neighbourhoods. You may notice that some ideas are repeated more than once as they cross over into more than one area/theme.

While all feedback is reviewed and considered, not all ideas will be approved and developed into a project. Recommendations will be made through a formal prioritization process with the community capital project team and will take into consideration available budget, community input, and other criteria developed during the prioritization process.

Safety

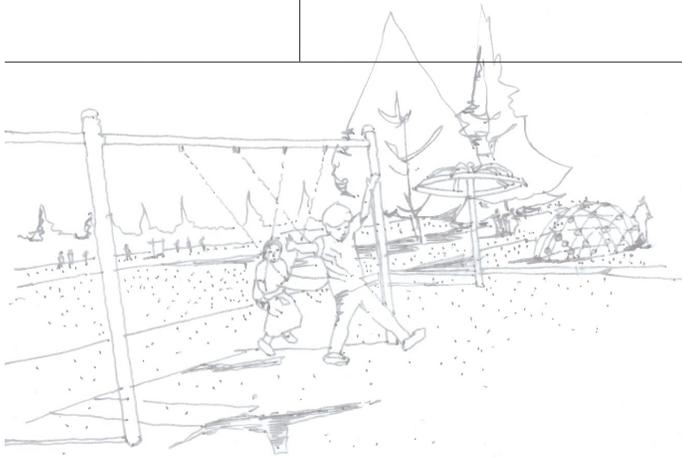


AREA/THEME	IMPROVEMENT
SAFETY AND CLEANLINESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Enhance the safety and cleanliness of parks by increasing lighting along pathways, removing/ trimming coniferous trees to improve visibility, and adding waste bins
LIGHTING AND VISIBILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Enhance lighting in parks to increase safety + Add string lights to trees in parks + Remove/trim coniferous trees to increase visibility through parks
ACCESSIBILITY AND SAFETY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Improve accessibility and safety for people walking and wheeling by adding curb ramps and crosswalk lights + Install crosswalk lights at the intersection of 71 Street and 127 Avenue
STREET LIGHTING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Enhance lighting to increase safety + Change the LED lights back to halogen + Add string lights to trees along main roads
SPEEDING SIGNS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Install digital speeding signs to help reduce speeding
COMMUNITY WATCH PROGRAM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Establish a community watch program to help keep the neighbourhood safe
COMMUNITY PATROL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Increase community patrol across both neighbourhoods
POLICE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Increased police presence in the neighbourhoods + Install CCTV cameras

Parks and Green Spaces



AREA/THEME	IMPROVEMENT
AMENITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Update playground equipment in all parks + New amenities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Picnic tables + BBQ/fire pits + BBQ pits + Emergency call boxes + Waste bins + Dog waste bag stations + Water fountains + New recreation amenities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Spray park + Baseball diamonds + Playground equipment and workout area + Swings and slides + Climbing wall + Soccer nets + Basketball hoops + Skateboard park/BMX/Scooters
SEATING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Add benches in parks and along pathways
COMMUNITY GARDEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Create a community garden to help bring residents together
SHADED AREAS AND SHELTERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Provide shaded areas or shelters/pavilions in parks to encourage people to use the parks in the warm summer months
CREATE PARK SPACES FOR ADULTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Create park spaces that aren't just for children but adults too
TREES AND PLANTINGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Plant more trees + Plant more flower beds and native plant species that provide edible berries such as Saskatoon Berries
PATHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Create paths for walking and biking



Parks and Green Spaces



AREA/THEME	IMPROVEMENT
WALKING/BIKING PATH BETWEEN THE SMOKE STACK AND BELVEDERE LRT STATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Add rest areas, lighting, flowers, waste bins, emergency call phones, playground equipment for kids, exercise equipment, art and historic information plaques + Move the existing benches to face towards the open space rather than the wall
OTHER SHARED WALKING/BIKE PATHS TO CONSIDER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Consider walking/bike paths along: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + 132 Avenue connecting to the LRT path + 137 Avenue or service road + 128 Avenue + 127 Avenue + 66 Street + Extend the path from Belvedere LRT station north to Manning Town Center
SIGNAGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Provide park signs that include the address and hours of operation
Green space at the corner of 131A Avenue and 81 Street	
TREES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Add new trees
Robert Brett Park	
PLAYGROUND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Update the existing playground equipment and replace the sand surface
SEATING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Add benches for parents and seniors
LIGHTING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Enhance lighting in the park to increase safety
Zoie Gardener Park	
SEATING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Add benches facing the existing playground
BASKETBALL COURTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Add basketball courts
Green space near the CN railway	
NEW PARK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Create a new fenced off-leash dog park using the green space near the CN railway
SOUND BARRIER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Along the railway line south of 127 Ave, west of 73 street to Fort Road

Community League Park



AREA/THEME	IMPROVEMENT
ELECTRONIC MESSAGING SIGNS	+ Add electronic community messaging signs to the community halls
Belvedere Park	
AMENITIES	+ Update the skating rink and basketball courts
LIGHTING	+ Enhance lighting in the park to increase safety
BELVEDERE COMMUNITY HALL	+ Add a cement surface to the Belvedere skating rink to make it easier to flood, maintain ice and be used for other year round activities
Balwin Park	
PLAYGROUND	+ Update the existing playground equipment
BALWIN COMMUNITY HALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Parking lot resurfacing + Ice rink board repairs + Asphalt resurface in rink + Lighting upgrades for rink and the parking area + Playground redevelopment + Repairs to cracking tennis courts



Streets



AREA/THEME	IMPROVEMENT
PATIOS	+ Create outdoor patios at restaurants and cafes for people to socialize at
SIDEWALKS	+ Create wider sidewalks that are more welcoming and help people access businesses + Improve sidewalks along 22 Street and 132 Avenue
BEAUTIFICATION	+ Create inviting streets to attract both businesses and customers by adding seasonal planters and decorations, trees, benches, public art and waste bins
BIKE LANES	+ Provide bike lanes to help people access businesses
BUS STOPS	+ Add benches at bus stops
COMMUNITY ENTRANCE SIGN	+ Create a bold community entrance sign to reflect the character of the community
FLOODING	+ Fix the flooding issues at the northeast corner of 137 Avenue and 66 Street
WAYFINDING	+ Clear signs along the walking paths
FORT ROAD	+ Enhance the maintenance of the centre boulevards and add landscaping + Replant trees and add flower baskets to streetlights
66 STREET	+ Create a boulevard space for new trees between the sidewalks and roadway to enhance the feeling of safety for people walking or wheeling
INTERSECTION OF FORT ROAD AND 66 STREET	+ Install a diagonal crosswalk (scramble) + Repair hand signals and add buttons for audio + Create a longer left turn light (west onto Fort Road south) + Add two turning lanes for cars to turn onto Fort Road from 66 Street + Add a pedestrian crossing along the east side of the intersection + Add flashing pedestrian lights and speed cameras + Add a "Welcome to our community" sign



Streets



AREA/THEME	IMPROVEMENT
SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AT BUSY INTERSECTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Install countdown crosswalk lights, zebra painted crosswalks and crosswalk buttons with audio + Install pedestrian crosswalk lights at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + 128 Avenue and 66 Street + 128 Avenue and 71 Street + 130 Avenue and 66 Street + Increase the crosswalk light timing at the intersection of Fort Road and the Belvedere LRT Station + Install traffic signs, speed bumps, yield signs and stop signs + Create roundabouts + Provide more speed enforcement such as a radar camera by Zoie Gardener Park + Create a walk/bike overpass on 65 Street to access Station Pointe
GRAFFITI AND STREET CLEANING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Clean up graffiti along streets and garbage in the alleys + Increase the cleaning frequency of streets
SIDEWALKS, ROADS AND ALLEYS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Repair surfaces

Art and History

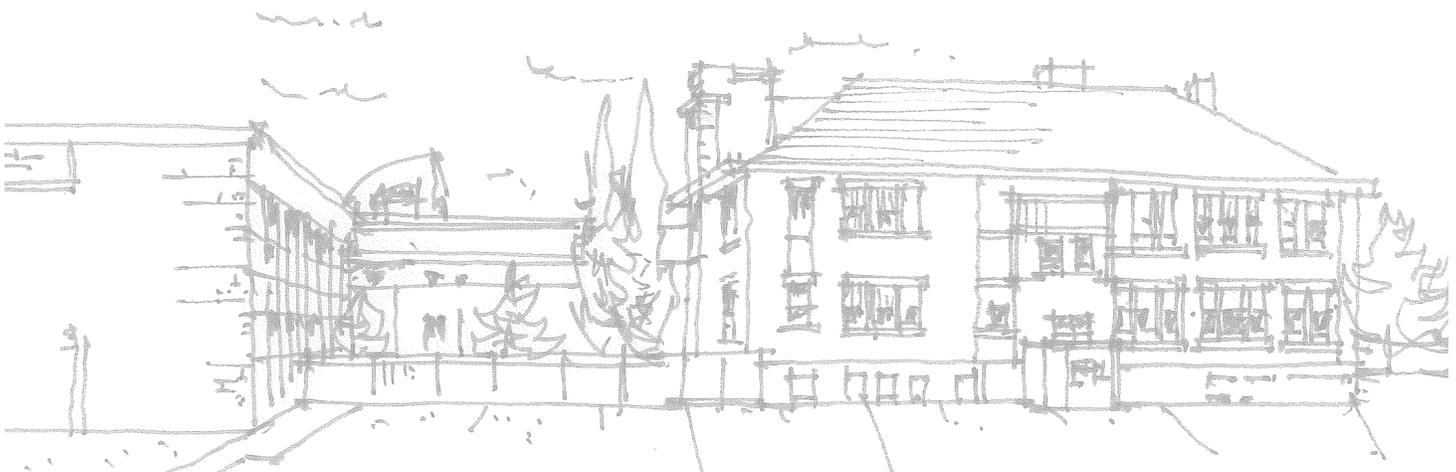


AREA/THEME	IMPROVEMENT
PUBLIC ART	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Add murals to the sides of buildings + Create colourful public art such as sculptures and murals to support a beautiful neighbourhood + Provide playable art + Create a designated wall for graffiti/community art
INFORMATION PLAQUES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Provide information plaques to highlight community history

Other comments we received



AREA/THEME	IMPROVEMENT
BELVEDERE COMMUNITY LEAGUE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Create a community hub + Offer outdoor equipment rentals
STAGE/BANDSHELL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Create a community stage/band shell to host community events
COMMUNITY EVENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Host events at the community halls for neighbours to get to know each other (i.e. food trucks or Farmer's Market)
CITY GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Provide City grants and subsidies to attract more coffee shops and restaurants to locate in the community
COMMUNICATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Ensure that communication materials provided in accessible formats for those who may not speak or read English as their first language
YOUNG FAMILIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + More amenities are needed to attract younger families
INDOOR GREEN SHACK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Create an indoor green shack for youth
AGENCIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Increase support to agencies helping those experiencing homelessness
TRANSIT HOTEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Restore and re-purpose the Transit Hotel to be used as a market, by small businesses, museum, bed and breakfast or office space + Move the Transit Hotel to Fort Edmonton Park + Demolish the Transit Hotel for a new park, more parking or for improves visibility for traffic turning from 66 Street to Fort Road SW



3. What's Next

FALL 2020

- + Data review and analysis of information gathered through Public Engagement activities

2021

- + Working closely with the Community Capital Investment Project team to evaluate project ideas and put forward prioritized capital investment project recommendations

COORDINATING CAPITAL INVESTMENT WITH OTHER KEY PROJECTS IN THE AREA

Information gathered through the Revitalization Program's capital investment public engagement process that pertains these projects will be forwarded on to the respective project teams.

FORT ROAD WIDENING

The Fort road widening project includes the widening of Fort Road to 6 lanes from Yellowhead Trail to 66 Street. Additional improvements include: widening of the CN Rail underpass, increased CN rail underpass clearance by lowering Fort Road, new shared-use path on the west side of Fort Road, and new sidewalk on the east side of Fort Road. For more information visit: edmonton.ca/YellowheadFortroad

125 AVENUE CONSTRUCTION

A new industrial collector road from 61 Street to Fort Road will be constructed including a new shared-use path and sidewalk. For more information visit: edmonton.ca/YellowheadFortroad

132 AVENUE RENEWAL

The residential collector road 132 Avenue has been identified for collector renewal. Construction is expected to begin in 2023 over three years. Public Engagement for this project is underway. For more information visit: edmonton.ca/132avenue

THE CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROCESS



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Revitalization Coordinator – Balwin and Belvedere
Neighbourhood Services,
Community Standards and Neighbourhoods Branch

balwinbelvedererevitalization@edmonton.ca

Citizen Services
City of Edmonton

To connect directly with the Community Capital Project Team please email
balwinbelvederecommunityled@gmail.com

If you are interested in receiving updates on the Balwin and Belvedere
Revitalization sign up through the project website at:
www.edmonton.ca/balwinbelvedererevitalization

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