

Yellowhead Trail: St. Albert Trail to 97 Street Prince Charles Community Conversation What We Heard Summary

An in-person community conversation event was held for Prince Charles residents to receive an update on the design for the St. Albert Trail to 97 Street section of Yellowhead Trail and to discuss accesses to the neighbourhood, active transportation connections and options for the landscaping and open space features.

The event was held at the Inglewood Community League Hall (12525 116 Ave NW, Edmonton) on Tuesday, May 24, 2022, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. The event included a presentation, followed by small group discussions. Approximately 13 residents attended.

A recorded version of the presentation shared at the event is included on the project website edmonton.ca/YellowheadSATto97Street.

A survey was available from May 24 to June 15, 2022, for residents to provide feedback about the same topics discussed at the community conversation event. The survey was available online and paper copies were also available at a drop box located near the Prince Charles Spray Park. Sixteen survey responses were received.

The following pages provide a summary of what we heard from Prince Charles residents at the in-person community conversation event and the online survey, and what's next for the project.

In-person Community Conversation Event Summary

At the in-person community conversation event, the City team presented three concept options for the landscaping and open space features for the Prince Charles neighbourhood. The options presented are highlighted below along with a summary of residents' questions and feedback.

What We Shared

Concept Option 1 - Straight Wall and Straight Shared-Use Path Along Existing Berm



Option 1 provides a straight shared-use path on the top of the existing berm adjacent to the noise wall along Yellowhead Trail.

In this option:

- The new, straight noise wall is located close to Yellowhead Trail.
- A new illuminated shared-use path is located on the top of the existing berm.
- Existing vegetation is maintained where possible and additional landscaping provided in select locations.

Considerations:

- There is limited usable open space for amenities due to the steep slopes of the berm.
- Existing vegetation is retained (north of the existing noise wall).

Concept Option 2 - Curved Wall and Curved Shared-use Path



Option 2 includes removal of the existing berm. It provides a curved shared-use path and noise wall next to Yellowhead Trail and opportunities for new open space, landscaping and amenities.

In this option:

- The new curved noise wall is located close to Yellowhead Trail, meandering into nearby open space.
- The existing berm and vegetation are removed and the area is leveled, providing an opportunity for usable open space and new amenities.
- The illuminated shared-use path meanders through the new open space, connecting to amenity nodes and community sidewalks.

Considerations

- The curved shape of the noise wall slightly reduces usable open space compared to Option 3 (Straight Wall and Straight Shared-use Path).
- The new open space provides visual interest with the curved wall and shared-use path.

Concept Option 3 - Straight Wall with Straight Shared-use Path



Option 3 provides a noise wall next to Yellowhead Trail with a straight shared-use path. This option provides the most opportunities for new open space, landscaping and amenities due to the removal of the existing berm.

In this option:

- The new straight noise wall is located close to Yellowhead Trail (similar to Option 1).
- The existing berm and vegetation are removed and the area is leveled, maximizing opportunity for usable open space and new amenities.
- An illuminated straight shared-use path provides a direct path of travel through the new open space, connecting to amenity nodes and community sidewalks.

Considerations:

- This option provides the most opportunities for new open space, landscaping and amenities.
- A straight shared-use path provides the shortest line of travel for commuters.

What We Heard

Safety, Visibility and Lighting Considerations

Some residents expressed concern that the Option 1 design may allow for undesirable activity to occur in the area due to a lack of lighting at night and diminished sightlines caused by the berm and proposed landscaping along the path. However, some participants feel that the design of the berm and increased use of the open space area may help to deter undesirable activity.

When discussing Option 2, concerns were raised around safety and usability of the space and residents suggested consulting Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) design standards.

Residents noted that Option 3 offers more space for community gatherings, recreation activities and amenities than alternate options, which was viewed favourably. It was also noted that Option 3 may provide better sightlines for shared-use path users. However, some residents shared concerns that the design may invite undesirable activity into the open space and encouraged the City to ensure clear sightlines when designing the space and create an area that minimizes undesirable or criminal activity.

Berm and Shared-Use Path Design

When discussing Option 1, some residents noted that the height of the berm may leave shared-use path users unsheltered from the wind and create unsafe icy conditions in the winter. It was also noted that residents feel that a shared-use path may result in conflicts between users who walk (with or without dogs) and cyclists.

When discussing Option 3, some feel the path design is good that there would be less direct access and visibility to the impound lot with the addition of landscaping and trees along the shared-use path.

Residents were pleased to see that the shared-use path would help increase connectivity between local communities and amenities.

Landscaping and Recreation Amenities

When discussing Option 1, the idea of incorporating rest areas and amenities in the open space area was positively received by residents, although no consensus was reached on the type of amenities to include. Residents mentioned that a playground may not be needed due to the path's close proximity to local schools where playgrounds already exist. A community garden was mentioned as a possible option for the open space, but concerns were expressed regarding the space looking "messy."

Residents mentioned that they support low maintenance amenity options and noted that the incorporation of trees into the design was positive. They also like that Option 2 provides more multi-use open space than Option 1. In addition, it was noted that the curved wall is aesthetically pleasing. Some also mentioned that a skate deck/skateboarding area would be well-received if incorporated into this design.

Residents suggested the following amenities:

- Community gardens
- Spaces for large family gatherings
- Playgrounds
- Adult fitness equipment
- Trees

Noise Mitigation

Some residents desire higher noise walls to reduce noise.

General Questions/Comments

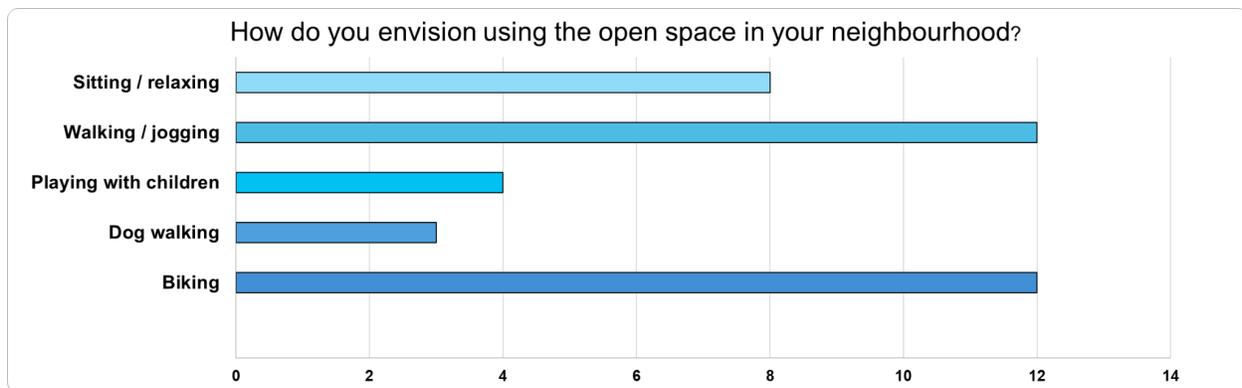
General questions and comments received about the design options and project area include the following:

- Consider re-using or harvesting the vegetation that exists.
- Consider implementation of security measures along the paths, such as a panic button or cameras.
- Consider a shared-use path from Prince Charles to the Telus World of Science.
- Consider a shared-use path along 121 Street; east of the impound lot.
- Consider adding a bus route from Prince Charles to Downtown or Royal Alexandra Hospital.
- Concern about getting out of Prince Charles, especially during construction with no traffic lights.
- Support was noted for the freeway conversion.

Survey Feedback Summary

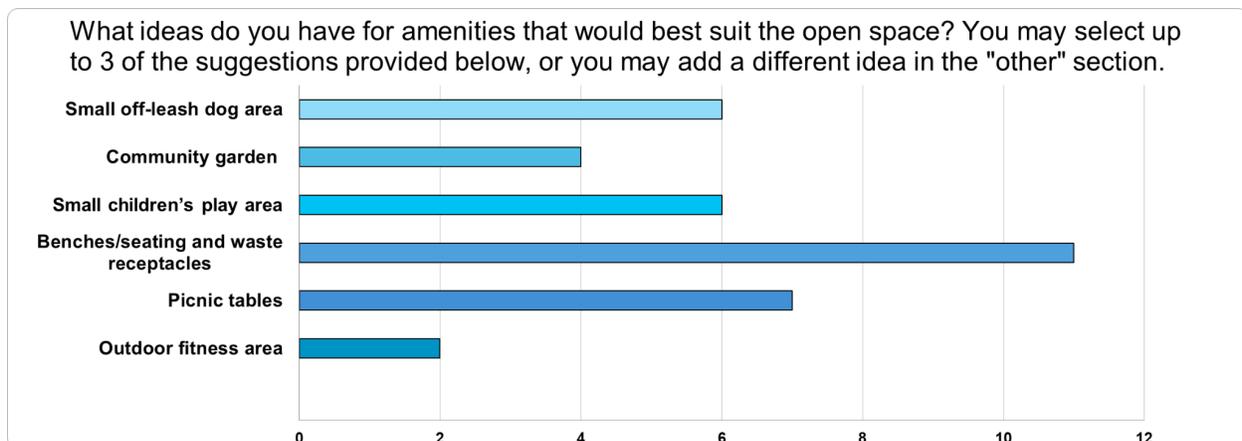
Question: How do you envision using the open space in your neighbourhood?

Residents mentioned walking/jogging and biking as the most popular uses for the Prince Charles open space, with sitting/relaxing and playing with children being the next most popular responses. It was also mentioned that the open space could be used as a community gathering place.



Question: What ideas do you have for amenities that would best fit the open space?

Benches, seating and waste receptacles were the most popular amenity options selected by residents, with picnic tables and a small off-leash area as the next most popular responses.



Five additional amenities were mentioned for consideration in the open space area for Prince Charles:

- Lounge seating
- A community-run concession stand
- Dirt trails
- Shelter
- Indigenous interpretive signage

Question: What do you like about Option 1?

Concept Option 1 - Straight Wall and Straight Shared-Use Path Along Existing Berm



Residents noted that retaining already established vegetation in the area was very important to the community. Some residents mentioned that they like the straight shared-use path for the local connectivity it provides and the fact that it is a shared-use space.

Question: How could Option 1 be improved?

The improvements mentioned most were to remove or reduce the steepness of the berm to provide more land on either side of the path for amenities. It was also suggested that the City should consider extending the noise wall east to provide a noise barrier between residential housing and the CN Rail yard.

What do you like about Option 2?

Concept Option 2 - Curved Wall and Curved Shared-use Path



Residents like that this concept provides more open space and room for amenities. It was also noted that Option 2 provides more visual interest due to the curved shared-use path and noise wall.

How could Option 2 be improved?

The improvements mentioned most were to retain current vegetation. Additional ideas mentioned include:

- Implement a direct connection from the shared-use path to the 127 Street and Yellowhead Trail intersection.
- Add seating and outdoor amenities.
- Plant trees closer to the noise wall.
- Add more visual interest along the shared-use path.
- Straighten the shared-use path.

What do you like about Option 3?

Concept Option 3 - Straight Wall with Straight Shared-use Path



Residents mentioned that they like that Option 3 includes a lot of open space for recreation activities, amenities and community gatherings. Greenery and plants were also mentioned as being desirable aspects of the design.

The noise wall was noted as being aesthetically pleasing. The separation of activity areas (i.e., pathway from green space) was received positively.

How could Option 3 be improved?

Residents noted that extending the noise wall east to provide a sound barrier at the CN Rail yard would be desirable. Eco-friendly landscaping was also mentioned as a priority, to ensure that plants being planted are low maintenance and require minimal water resources. Considerations for making the space welcoming to Indigenous people was also mentioned.

What's Next

Feedback received from Prince Charles residents at the in-person community conversation event and from the online survey will be used along with City policies and programs and technical analysis to refine the active transportation connections, landscaping and open space features for the neighbourhood. The revised plans along with the preliminary design plan for Yellowhead Trail: St. Albert Trail to 97 Street, will be shared with residents in 2023.

The City will provide more detailed information about the project as it moves forward into future phases of design and construction. To stay up to date and get the latest information about this project please visit edmonton.ca/YellowheadSATto97Street and sign up for the e-newsletter.