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Neighbourhood Vision and Opportunities



Neighbourhood Vision and Guiding Principles

Meyokumin's Vision and Guiding Principles were created through public engagement running from February to April 2022. These were confirmed by the community in the next phase of engagement in September and October 2022.

A Vision is a short description that sets the direction on what the community would like to see for its livability and mobility in the future. Important elements are identified for the City of Edmonton's work on roads, sidewalks, streetlights and outdoor public spaces. These elements tell us the most important things to look at when we create plans to renew a neighbourhood.

Guiding Principles are more pointed ideas on how people live, work, learn and play in their neighbourhood. Guiding Principles help bring the neighbourhood Vision to life and help to guide the Neighbourhood Renewal project.

Meyokumin Vision

"Meyokumin – where community meets to live, work, play and grow together."

Meyokumin Guiding Principles

We value building a thriving community where we celebrate:



Gathering. We gather in safe, inclusive spaces to create memories and experiences with friends, families, neighbours and those we haven't met yet



Connections. We are connected by wide pathways and safe roadways that link us within Meyokumin and the city beyond



Beauty. We enjoy nature's gifts in all four seasons: the abundance of trees, plants and greenery throughout our community that all ages and abilities can experience



Active Living. We enjoy walking and biking with friends and family on smooth, clean sidewalks and pathways that can be used by people of all ages and abilities as they travel to their desired destinations



Diversity. We are a community of all ages, abilities and generations, diverse cultures and experiences. Inclusion makes us stronger as we meet in community gathering spaces, programs and events



Community. We care for one another, have a strong sense of community and feel safe in our neighbourhood

Opportunities and Constraints Analysis

The Neighbourhood Background and Context, Ideas Jam and engagement activities provided a comprehensive understanding of the Meyokumin neighbourhood. Meyokumin has a number of strengths as well as some areas for improvement, including improvements related to GBA+ analysis criteria (denoted by ). From these strengths and areas for improvement, we can then identify the opportunities and constraints for the neighbourhood. The analysis of opportunities focuses on what Meyokumin could be in the future if the positive attributes of the neighbourhood are maintained and strengthened and the areas of improvement are addressed. Constraints are the set of factors that create obstacles to fully realizing all the opportunities for the neighbourhood.

Strengths

- Meyokumin is a culturally diverse neighbourhood where residents feel a sense of pride in their community
- There is good availability of various destinations in and around Meyokumin, including schools, places of worship, a community league and shopping opportunities. This aligns with the City Plan's vision for 15-minute districts
- A number of open spaces exist in Meyokumin, including Meyokumin Park, school fields, sports fields, a pocket park and a green pathway. All residents have access to open space within 400–500m from their home, aligning with the City's Urban Park Management Plan
- Community connections within Meyokumin are strong as there are no arterial roadways dividing the neighbourhood



Walkway in Meyokumin Park

Areas for Improvement

- There are concerns with speeding on the main roads within the neighbourhood
- There is missing or inadequate infrastructure for walking and biking, including narrow/missing sidewalks, poor surface quality, missing curb ramps and a lack of safe and comfortable biking infrastructure for people of all ages and abilities 
- There are traffic safety concerns at Meyokumin School, particularly during school drop-off and pick-up times 
- There is a lack of places for people to rest when walking around the community, particularly for residents who have a shorter walking range 
- There is a lack of street trees throughout Meyokumin. High amounts of hard surfaces can cause decreased rainwater capture, increased pavement and air temperatures (heat island effect)
- There are barriers which reduce access to shops and services for people walking and biking
- There is no dedicated biking infrastructure separate from vehicle traffic within Meyokumin
- Meyokumin Shopping Centre is inward facing, with blank walls facing the street
- While Meyokumin is in close proximity to the Mill Woods Transit Centre, the transit centre is not easily accessible for people walking, rolling and biking due to gaps in the sidewalk and pathway network
- Meyokumin is part of the Millhurst Community League which is located in Sakaw. Mill Woods Road South is a major barrier to supporting a biking and walking connection between Meyokumin and the Community League.
- Arterial roads and Mill Woods Road South are out of the scope of Neighbourhood Renewal. The potential for a shared pathway on the east side of 66 Street will need to be coordinated with other programs

Opportunities and Constraints

The analysis of opportunities focuses on what Meyokumin could be in the future if the positive attributes of the neighbourhood are highlighted, and the weaknesses improved or eliminated. Constraints are the set of factors that create obstacles to fully realizing all the opportunities for the neighbourhood.

Opportunities

- Provide new sidewalks and curb ramps in missing locations to help enhance walking for all ages and abilities within the neighbourhood
- Widen and enhance existing sidewalks, pathways and breezeways to help create quality walking and biking connections throughout the neighbourhood and to improve connections to open spaces
- Enhance sections of alleys to make them more comfortable for walking and rolling to help improve connections in and out of the neighbourhood
- Connect destinations with an internal bike network that links with biking infrastructure outside the neighbourhood along 66 Street, 50 Street and Mill Woods South
- On many streets the road right-of-way width provides the opportunity to add street trees and better walking and biking facilities
- Provide new accessible connections to increase access to shops and services such as Meyokumin Retail Centre
- Place gathering spaces at key decision points through the neighbourhood to provide a place to stop and rest and wayfinding information for community destinations
- Enhance entrances to the neighbourhood to create a sense of welcome and to calm traffic as it enters
- Reduce speeding and create more comfortable conditions for crossing streets by adding vertical elements or narrowing the roadway with curb extensions
- Strengthen community mailboxes as a node within the neighbourhood with the addition of further pedestrian space, seating, plantings and incorporating bus stops where feasible
- Review the position of bus stops, passenger access and the waiting environment for all seasons to help enhance the transit rider experience
- Review pick-up/drop-off arrangements for the schools in the neighbourhood to help improve access to these

important community destinations

- Enhance pedestrian priority and create active commercial use that faces the street at the Meyokumin Shopping Centre
- Leverage existing open spaces by adding more trees, pedestrian lighting and planted materials to the neighbourhood, as well as added recreation and seating opportunities
- The potential for a shared pathway on the east side of 66 Street will need to be coordinated with other programs
- Coordination with other City programs may provide an opportunity to address concerns at arterial intersections and crossings on the edges of the neighbourhood, including across Mill Woods Road South, that are out of the scope of Neighbourhood Renewal



Play Equipment in 55 Street Park



Bus Stop on 19A Avenue

Constraints

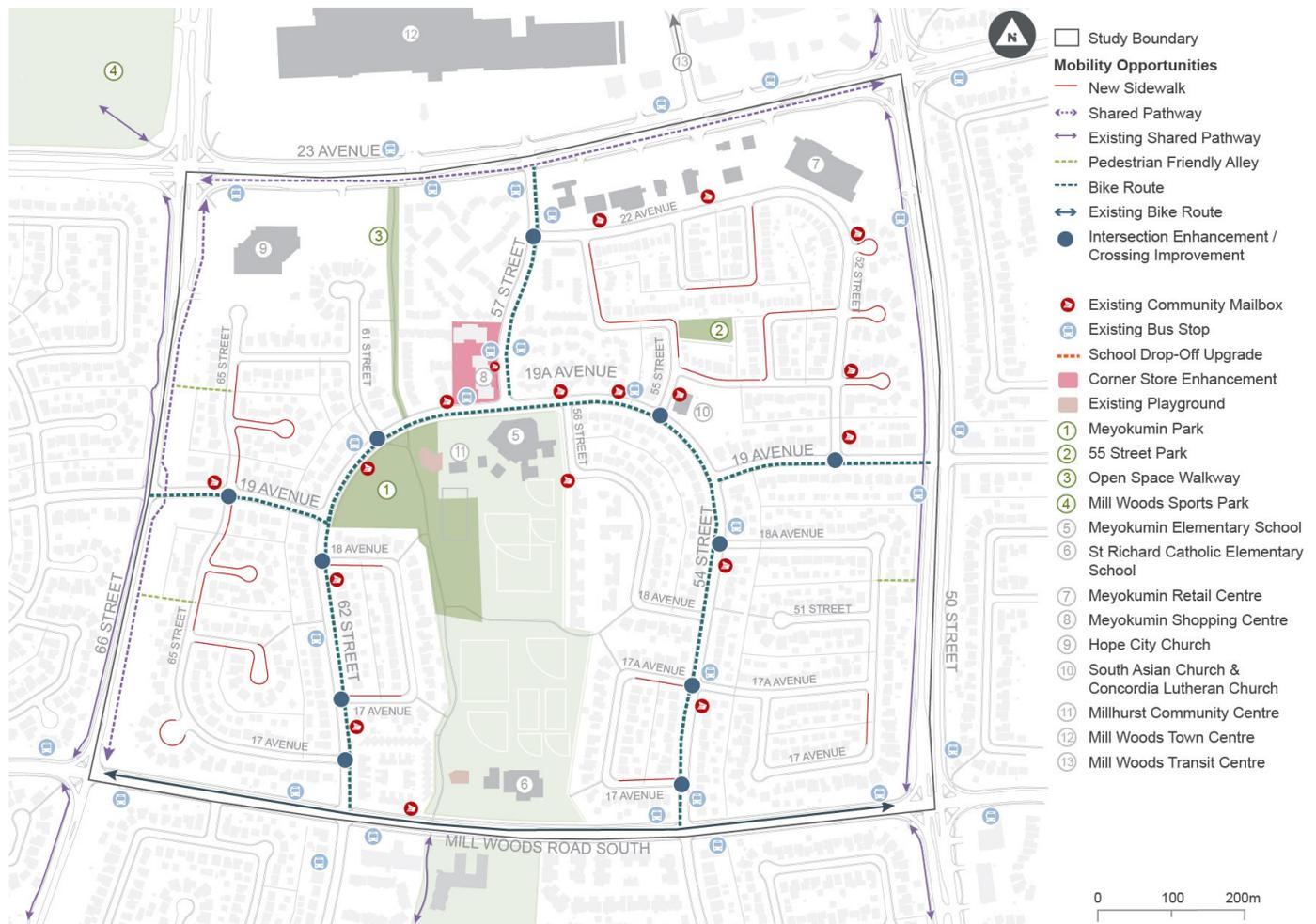
- Open spaces are shared and heavily used by sports teams and the community league. This limits the space available for other uses or enhancements
- The schools in the neighbourhood bring high levels of vehicle traffic during pick-up and drop-off hours that can only be partially mitigated through the scope of Neighbourhood Renewal
- Meyokumin is closely linked with the Sakaw neighbourhood to the south – both neighbourhoods also share Millhurst Community League. There may be limits to better connecting the two communities due to the extent of the project boundary

- On some streets, the homes have existing trees and other landscaping encroaching into the public right-of-way. This may limit the ability to add boulevards in some areas
- The location of underground and surface utilities may limit the ability to add boulevards, narrow roads, add landscaping, widen sidewalks or add shared pathways in some areas

Neighbourhood Opportunities Map

The Neighbourhood Opportunities Maps illustrates where opportunities were identified through background analysis and engagement. These opportunities will be used to develop options and identify benefits and trade-offs.

Map 1: Neighbourhood Mobility Opportunities Map



Map 2: Placemaking and Open Spaces Opportunities Map

