

BUENA VISTA / SIR WILFRID LAURIER PARK MASTER PLAN

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS (PIP) HIGHLIGHTS

The City of Edmonton has initiated preparation of a master plan that will guide the use and management of Buena Vista/Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park over the next ten (10) years. Options for redevelopment of the former Yorath House and grounds, as well as its ongoing use, management and operation, will also be considered.

Buena Vista/Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park forms a large, dynamic park area in Edmonton's west end. Covering more than 110 hectares, the park area offers a wide variety of amenities for a broad range of users from across the city, including natural spaces, year round use trails, a dogs off leash area, playground, picnic sites, ball diamonds, and a boat launch. The park area is also home to the Edmonton Rowing Club and Edmonton Whitewater Paddlers boat houses, Yorath House, and the Edmonton Valley Zoo, attracting many visitors every year.

The master plan will provide strategic direction and guidelines to address increasing demand on the park area as a result of the growing city population and the revitalization plan underway for the Edmonton Valley Zoo, while ensuring that the long-term ecological integrity of the river valley is preserved.

The master plan, representing the Concept Phase in the City planning process, will be a high level, strategic document. It will provide a vision and clear sense of direction for the park area, identify and address public needs and priorities, and provide direction for environmental protection in the park.

The planning process will address the following key project requirements:

- ✓ Build upon previous related studies.
- ✓ Develop an understanding of public demand for this park area and its amenities through a strategic public and stakeholder consultation process, while incorporating technical considerations and a thorough understanding of the ecological impacts of increased use and development.
- ✓ Utilize the strategic direction and guidelines as set out in the Ribbon of Green Master Plan and the Urban Parks Management Plan as a departure point for this study.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

As a key component of developing the master plan, input will be obtained from key internal and external stakeholders, user groups and the general public using a public involvement process that is consistent with the City's Corporate Involving Edmonton Framework. The City is committed to:

- Engage key internal and external stakeholders, including Park Leaseholders, park users from across the city, businesses, communities and organizations, as well as the general public, in a transparent and open public consultation process to obtain input into developing the master plan.
- Provide a variety of opportunities for key stakeholder groups and the general public to participate in defining the vision and objectives for the park area and provide input into review and refinement of the draft concept plans and the recommended plan.
- Communicate to participants how their input affected the decision.



LEVEL OF INVOLVEMENT

The City of Edmonton’s Corporate Involving Edmonton Policy and Framework includes a Continuum of Public Involvement that helps to set clear expectations for everyone involved, informing stakeholders and the public about what they are able to influence, and at what point in the process.

Overall Level of Public Involvement for this process is: *Information Sharing/Consultation*.

Information Sharing	Consultation		Active Participation	
Sharing information to build awareness	Testing ideas or concepts to build knowledge	Collaborating to develop solutions to build commitment	Sharing decision making to build ownership	Delegating decision making to build responsibility



Information Sharing

Information will be shared through a variety of means throughout the Master Planning Process regarding:

- ✓ Project purpose and background.
- ✓ Opportunities for involvement.
- ✓ Draft Concepts and Master Plan.
- ✓ How input from stakeholders and the public has been used in the decision process.

Consultation

Opportunities will be provided for the public to be involved at a Consultation level relative to:

- ✓ Helping to define the vision for the Park.
- ✓ Providing input regarding uses of the Park.
- ✓ Providing input regarding draft Concepts and draft Master Plan.

The Advisory Committee will be involved at a Consultation/Collaboration level with the Design Team in:

- ✓ Determining formats for public sessions.
- ✓ Identifying park uses.

- ✓ Reviewing concepts.
- ✓ Making recommendations regarding refining the vision for the park area.
- ✓ Making recommendations regarding refining the final master plan.
- ✓ Helping to build ownership and support for the project and process as ambassadors and communication conduits.

HOW THE PUBLIC WILL BE INVOLVED

The following public involvement activities are planned:

- Advisory Group composed of representatives of key park users, recreational and community groups, the general public and City staff, to provide input and advice throughout the planning process (March to November, 2012).
- Public Visioning Session (March 21, 2012) to obtain input regarding the vision for the park area and what is important to consider in the plan.
- Workshop with Advisory Group and other Key Stakeholders (April 2012) to obtain input into the Program Statement and elements to be included in the plan.
- Public session to review and provide input regarding draft plan Concepts (June 2012).
- Public session to review the final draft master plan before it is presented to City Council (Fall 2012).
- Website on which information about the background and process, reports from public sessions, and a final evaluation of the public involvement process will be posted.
www.edmonton.ca/buenavistalaurierplan
- Online surveys will gather input to help:
 - Finalize the park vision and identify preferred elements to include in the master plan (April 2012).
 - Refine draft Concepts (June 2012).