

CITY OF EDMONTON 2020 – 2040
COMMUNITY RECREATION FACILITY

MASTERPLAN

CREATING VIBRANT COMMUNITY PLACES.

What We Heard

Phase III Community Engagement Report
April 2018

Edmonton

Table of Contents

1:	Public Engagement Overview	1
2:	Public and Stakeholder Feedback	3
3:	Summary	5

What We Heard

01

Public Engagement Overview

Public engagement for the Approach to Community Recreation Facility Planning in Edmonton is a part of the City of Edmonton's commitment to:

- Better understand how facilities are being used
- Help guide decisions for future recreation facilities and services
- Address the city's dual challenge of aging infrastructure and rapid growth

Public engagement is directed by the City's vision, guiding principles, and Public Engagement Policy C5931. The Policy identifies the value of the public engagement process and recognizes its value to support decision making. The Policy includes the following definition of public engagement:

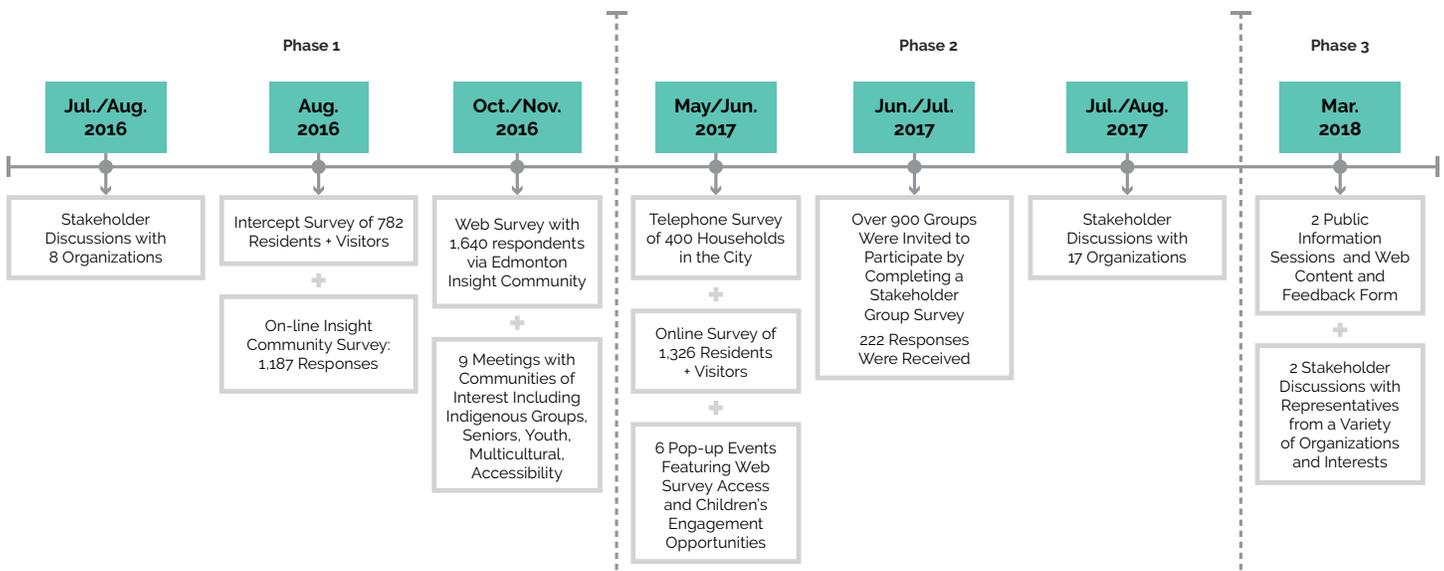
Public Engagement creates opportunities for people to contribute to decision making by City Council and Administration about the City's policies, programs, projects, and services, and communicates how public input is collected and used.

Public Engagement Process

In an attempt to open the public engagement process to as many participants as possible, a variety of engagement activities were implemented to hear from Edmonton's residents, community organizations, and community stakeholders. The purpose of the public engagement process was to:

- Provide the opportunity for the public to share input
- Build stakeholder awareness and understanding
- Set the stage for successful development of the Approach to Community Recreation Facility Planning in Edmonton

The following graphic is a timeline of the public engagement activities conducted from 2016 through 2018:



Phase III Engagement Activities

Engagement in Phase 3 was focussed on gathering comments on the draft Master Plan material. Several initiatives were undertaken to share information and capture comments. These activities included two meetings with project stakeholders as well as two public information sessions. The stakeholder meetings¹ took place on March 19th and March 22nd. The public information sessions were held March 20th from 4-7 p.m. at Central Lions Recreation Centre and March 21st from 4-7 p.m. at Terwillegar Community Recreation Centre. In total approximately 175 people attended the two information sessions.

In both settings an overview of the draft Master Plan was presented. During the stakeholder meetings a member of the project team delivered a presentation and answered questions. During the public information sessions, static panels were displayed with the Master Plan overview with members of the project team available to interact with attendees. A formal feedback form was available at the information sessions for attendees to provide comments. The display material utilized at the information sessions along with the feedback form were available on the City's website for two weeks following the sessions themselves, for the public to provide additional input.

About This “What We Heard” Report

This report summarizes the findings from the Phase 3 consultation activities. Comment forms were gathered at two information sessions; additionally the comment form was available for completion online. In total forty-one (41) sets of comments were gathered. Separate submissions were provided by the Edmonton Sport Council and Edmonton Hockey. These submissions have been synthesized with the other comments and are presented on the following pages.

¹ The following organizations attended the stakeholder presentations: Northlands; NAIT; Castle Downs Recreation Society; Arena User Committee; Alberta Centre for Active Living; YMCA of Northern Alberta; Edmonton Catholic School District; Edmonton Public Schools; and Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues.



02

Public and Stakeholder Feedback

Comments

The comments were in response to two areas of inquiry.

1. What stood out for you in the information presented?
2. Provide any comments you may have about the Approach to Community Recreation Facility Planning in Edmonton.

What Stood Out?

There was a variety of comments provided that identified what stood out from the presented material. Those comments with multiple mentions are noted below.

Strategic Analysis

- The population growth for Edmonton, particularly as it was presented according to areas of the city was interesting information.
- Categorizing facilities into neighbourhood, district, and metro is an interesting concept. There were some suggestions for the categorization of some facilities:
 - » Outdoor skating should be a neighbourhood facility.
 - » Nordic skiing (which is not mentioned) should be a district or metro facility.
 - » Soccer fields should be a neighbourhood facility.
- The basic commitment and the amenities included were interesting.
- Recognizing the role of community leagues and the value of community halls was considered positive.
- Seeing some attention given to facilities in the more mature areas of Edmonton was viewed positively.

Perceived Gaps

- The south of Edmonton, particularly south of the Anthony Henday, is the recipient of new recreation facility development. North Edmonton lacks any focus.
- Outdoor facilities (beyond soccer fields) seem to be missing from the Master Plan

Barriers to Participation

- Accessibility to recreation facilities is important and perhaps requires more attention. For some people public transportation needs to arrive directly at the facility not nearby for the facility to be accessible.
- Equal does not equate to equitable. Five minute radius means different things to people with different transportation methods.

Other Comments

A variety of comments were provided; some echoed the previously stated ones. The list below reflects those cited more than once.

Strategic Analysis

- Partnerships should be explored with the school districts (particularly with new school development) as well as with the YMCA and neighbouring municipalities like St. Albert.
- The private sector should be considered in the development of facilities as well as their animation and operations.
- Renewal of existing facilities (including arenas) should be a focus.
- When developing facilities, consideration should be given to both program and support areas.
- Community groups are an important part of the delivery system. Capacity building assistance from the City would be beneficial.

Perceived Gaps

- There is a need to have a paddle centre developed for people to access the river. This needs to include equipment storage for paddling clubs.
- North Edmonton is underserved and has been ignored with the Master Plan.
- Concrete sports (such as ball hockey, lacrosse) are neglected. Having space only when the ice is out of arenas is hampering the sports' development and participation figures.
- Seniors are a growing component of the community and yet the Master Plan did not specifically address this population.

Barriers to Participation

- Public transportation needs to go directly to the recreation facilities and not to a nearby terminal.
- Accessibility from all considerations (including culture) should be part of decision making.



03

Summary

Three main themes arose from the feedback gathered formally and informally through the review process.

1. Scope of the Plan

- The Master Plan has limited scope (some amenities are not included; more detail is needed for specific areas of Edmonton (e.g. Blatchford))
- "Live Active" - this City strategy for encouraging Edmontonians to become more physically active needs to be more strongly reflected in the Master Plan

2. Take Care of Existing But Build More

- There is a need to replace or reinvest in aging infrastructure, particularly ice arenas
- Investment in facilities in mature areas of Edmonton is welcomed
- The northern portions of Edmonton should see more infrastructure investment than reflected in the Master Plan

3. Important Considerations

- The Master Plan needs to reflect regional markets and stakeholders
- Financial, social, and physical accessibility all need to be considered in the planning, design, operations, maintenance, and animation of facilities
- Partnerships will become more important

