Welcome
Project Background

Project Overview

The purpose of this project is to ensure a long-term strategic approach for the development, use and management of Gallagher Park; including its site partner’s attractions and programming, through the development of a 20-year Concept Plan.

A concept plan builds on existing plans, policies and initiatives while identifying public needs and priorities for the park. The plan also provides direction for environmental protection and recommends civic, cultural and recreational uses that are appropriate to the area.

Learn more by going to: edmonton.ca/gallagherparkconceptplan
Site History, Inventory & Analysis

Gallagher Park has always been a cherished and well-used river valley park. This location has been traditionally used as a gathering spot and place of commerce by Indigenous people and new settlers. It now provides walking, cycling and commuter access to river valley trails, the downtown core and the adjacent neighbourhoods both in the river valley and topping its banks. As a River Valley Park, its environmental assets are protected and, with careful planning, enhanced for the enjoyment of both Edmontonians and visitors. Spectacular views from the park are some of the best our City has to offer.

The project area is important in Edmonton’s history. A few significant points in Gallagher Park’s history:

- Indigenous settlements were common along the North Saskatchewan River.
- Gallagher Park was created and named in 1958 after Cornelius Gallagher.
- The Edmonton Ski Club was established in 1911.
- Cloverdale Community League was established in 1920.
- The Muttart Conservatory was built in Gallagher Park in 1976.
- The Edmonton Folk Music festival was first held in Gallagher Park in 1981.

The Environmental Overview for this project has investigated local environmental conditions including:

- Surface and groundwater, soils and terrain stability
- Past contamination
- Vegetation communities, weeds, and rare plants
- Wildlife species, connectivity, and species at risk
- Historical resources

The following are examples of the Idea Gathering panels which attendees were asked to provide comments on during Phase 1 to inform our site analysis and understanding.

Learn more by going to: edmonton.ca/gallagherparkconceptplan
Vision Statement & Guiding Principles

Our vision for Gallagher Park, the only river valley park accessed by LRT, is a hub for distinctive year-round recreational experiences that is integrated into the thriving city core and river valley system.

The guiding principles are:

- Facilitate enhanced access to both active and passive recreational activities
- Enhance the ecological values of the park
- Provide facilities and infrastructure that support and enhance existing recreation and complimentary uses
- Encourage LRT and active transportation access to the Park and its activities

Participants and respondents for the Phase 1 Engagement were generally very supportive of the proposed vision and guiding principles, and in agreement with the various components. There was considerable support for access by LRT, encouraging active transportation modes, access for persons with disabilities, and support for enhancing the ecological values of the park.

This vision statement and guiding principles were communicated and endorsed as part of Phase 1 of the project.

Learn more by going to: edmonton.ca/gallaghiparkconceptplan
What We Heard and Observed

Phase 1 Engagement: Gathering Ideas and Development of a Vision Statement & Guiding Principles

In support of citizen engagement in the first phase of development of this Concept Plan, the City of Edmonton hosted an engagement event on March 6, 2019, at the Cloverdale Community Hall.

The focus of this event was to secure input from the public on the proposed draft vision and guiding principles for the project and to gather additional ideas that would assist in the development of draft concept plan alternatives.

Stakeholder and Public Input

Input was obtained from site partners including the Cloverdale Community League, the Edmonton Folk Music Festival, the Edmonton Ski Club and the Muttart Conservatory, other external stakeholders, such as the Bennett Centre and from the public and stakeholders as summarized in the What We Heard report from Phase 1 of the project.

In addition to the proposed guiding principles, participants in the Phase 1 engagement also identified the following as important considerations in the development of the concept plan alternatives for Gallagher Park:

+ Access and accessibility
+ Environment and heritage
+ Recreational activities
+ Amenities
+ Safety and security

These topics are depicted on panel 5 in relation to the City’s Breathe Strategy. Existing and proposed activities and related infrastructure connected to each of these topics is also depicted. This information provides a design program for the formulation of concept design options.

PARTICIPANT PROFILE

How do participants currently use Gallagher Park?

Participants provided information on how they currently use Gallagher Park.

How do participants currently get to Gallagher Park?

...and how participants currently access Gallagher Park.

Learn more by going to: edmonton.ca/gallagherparkconceptplan
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Existing Features & Activities – Summer

Learn more by going to: edmonton.ca/gallagherparkconceptplan
Existing Features & Activities – Winter

Learn more by going to: edmonton.ca/gallagherparkconceptplan
Proposed Enhancements — Summer

What do you think of the proposed enhancements?
Proposed Enhancements — Winter

What do you think of the proposed enhancements?

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Proposed Park Enhancements

Please review the examples of proposed enhancements shown below. Which of these proposed enhancements are most important to you?

**Access & Accessibility**
- Additional Shared Use Paths/Sidewalk Linkages
- Modified Vehicle Access & Parking
- Enhanced Park Entries

**Amenities**
- Public Washrooms
- Additional Courtyards/Seats near Muttart Conservatory
- Viewpoints/Lookout Plazas
- Warming Huts

**Environment & Heritage**
- Enhanced Planting
- Interpretive Signage (Nature and Heritage)

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Proposed Park Enhancements

Please review the examples of proposed enhancements shown below. Which of these proposed enhancements are most important to you?

**Safety & Security**
- Vehicle Barriers & Vehicle Access Controls
- Park Lighting

**Recreational Activities**
- Improved Biking Trails
- Cross-Country Skiing Trail
- Picnic Sites
- Improved Walking Trails

**Other Comments?**

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Possible Partnership Opportunities

Below are examples of additions to Gallagher Park that could be made possible through funding from a partner organization or community group. Which of these proposed enhancements are most important to you?

- Additional Public Art
- Ice Climbing/Rock Climbing
- Multi-Use Building
- Rink Shack and Rink Upgrades
- Snow Tubing
- Chairlift

Learn more by going to: edmonton.ca/gallagherparkconceptplan
Optional Enhancements – Landscaping

Gallagher Park currently includes ornamental gardens located north of Muttart Conservatory and groups of remnant native trees and shrubs on the slopes below Connors Road. The future landscape of Gallagher Park could include either a primarily ornamental landscape (Option 1) or a primarily naturalized landscape (Option 2). Please identify your preference for either Option 1 or Option 2.

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Optional Enhancements — Pathways

The pathway alternatives shown below would provide access from the corner of 96 Ave and 95 Street to the community league facilities. Please identify your preference for either Option 1 or Option 2.

In this option, a minimum 3m wide shared use path would be provided through the level area of the park. It would be located to avoid tent and stage locations for the Edmonton Folk Musical Festival.

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Optional Enhancements — Skiing Upgrades vs. Larger Sledding Area & Staircase

In the portion of the park shown below there is an opportunity to upgrade skiing facilities (Option 1) or provide a staircase and retain a large sledding area (Option 2). It is not possible to incorporate both in this location. Please identify your preference for either Option 1 or Option 2.

In this option, the existing T-bar would be retained. A new staircase would be provided. A large sledding area would be retained.

In this option, a chair lift could be provided by a partner organization to the top of the existing T-bar. Some tree clearing and regrading would be required to create an upgraded ski run. A tubing run could also be provided.

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Optional Enhancements – Vehicle Access

As shown below, there are two alternatives for providing vehicle access to the parking area in the park. Please identify your preference for either Option 1 or Option 2.

In this option, the existing vehicle entry at the south end of 96A Street would be retained and enhanced. This access would not be affected by LRT operations or vehicles servicing the Muttart Conservatory.

In this option, a new vehicle access would be provided across the LRT track and south of the Muttart Conservatory. The existing vehicle access form the south end of 96A Street would be used for emergency access only. This option could reduce vehicular traffic on local streets in Cloverdale.

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Next Steps

We need YOUR input!
We want to know what you think of the concept plan ideas and options for Gallagher Park.

Stay Involved
A further public engagement event is scheduled for the final project phase.

+ Public Engagement Session #3 – Preferred Concept Plan for Gallagher Park

Using Your Input
Thank you for attending today’s open house! We value your time and contributions to this process.

The community input that we receive today will help to create a preferred concept plan. We are also gathering input through an online survey.

In the near future, we will come back to the community to present the preferred Concept Plan which will subsequently inform the final Concept Plan.

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