

**City of Edmonton Centennial Plaza Redevelopment Project**  
**Questions received from the public & stakeholders through the Engaged Edmonton platform**

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The **Centennial Plaza Redevelopment project** sets a direction for future improvements to make Centennial Plaza easier to get to, move around in and enjoy.



**What theme guides the proposed design of the project?**

The theme for this project is Sensory Garden. The proposed preliminary design aims to create a space that inspires the senses of sight, sound, touch and smell to create multiple experiences as people move through the Plaza.

**What are the project goals?**

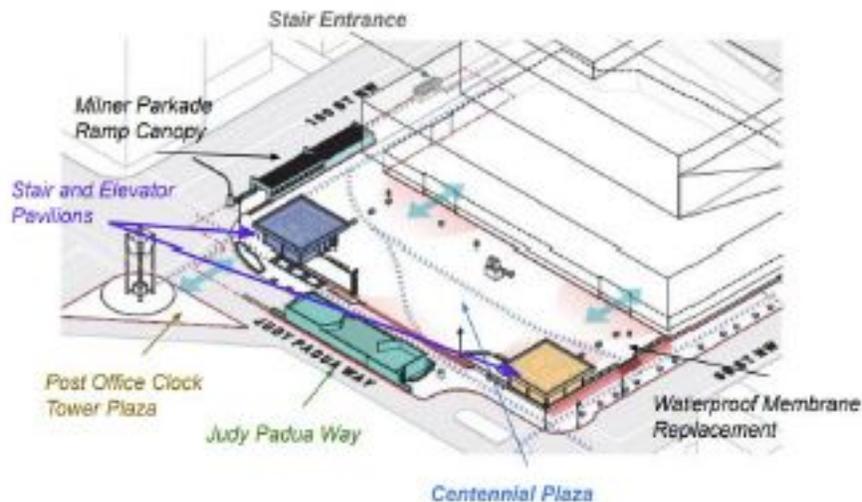
The four project goals for the Centennial Plaza Redevelopment project are:

- *Child-friendly space* - a space that encourages child-directed play even without formal play structures.
- *Safety & security* - a space that is safe and secure with green space, good sightlines and appropriate lighting.
- *Winter City* - a space that will be used all four seasons through seasonal planting, lighting and covered areas.
- *Everyday use* - a space that is not only for events, but for people to gather, to sit and to walk through.

**What is included in the redevelopment project?**

- Centennial Plaza itself

- Post Office Clock Tower Plaza
- Library parkade waterproofing under Centennial Plaza
- Stair and elevator pavilions on the southeast and southwest corners of the plaza
- Removal of the outdoor amphitheatre
- Facades for parkade exits, ramps and stair entrances including the Milner Parkade Entrance
- Judy Padua Way



**What could also be included pending funding support?**

Currently, the project is funded through the completion of a preliminary design for Centennial Plaza, Clock Tower Plaza and Judy Padua Way. The features presented in the preliminary design are currently being refined and an updated design will be presented to City Council in spring 2021 to request funding for final design and construction. Features such as bike racks, limited power for small events and performances and art and historical interpretations are under consideration and, depending on the final budget and technical considerations, may be included in the design presented to Council.

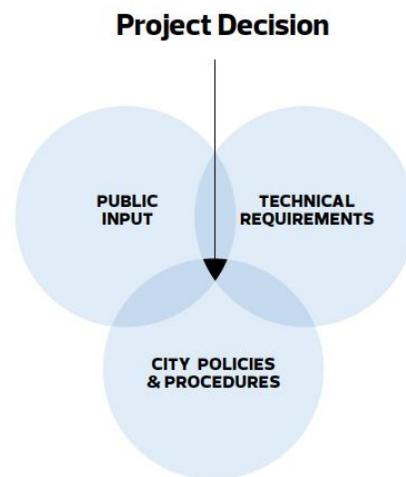
**How are decisions made for the project?**

Re-envisioning Centennial Plaza aligns with the strategic direction from a few City plans, policies and directions including:

- Breathe, Edmonton’s Green Network Strategy
- Downtown Public Places Plan
- Green and Walkable Downtown Project of the Capital Plan Downtown Community Revitalization Levy (CRL)
- Child-Friendly Edmonton
- Winter City Strategy

Decisions about the design of the project take into consideration:

- **Public Input** - public input gathered in spring and summer 2020 from key downtown stakeholders, including the Edmonton Public Library, Downtown Business Association and Downtown Edmonton Community League, as well as from the general public through an online survey that received 957 responses.
- **City Policies & Procedures** - the goals of the **Capital City Downtown Plan**, such as creating a green and walkable downtown that is vibrant and accessible and connects different spaces.
- **Technical Considerations** - many technical considerations like structural load limits on the Plaza, maintenance and operation needs, building codes, land surveys, utility lines and construction material standards.



### **What is a preliminary design?**

A preliminary design is a plan that includes specific design elements such as materials and overall layout for the redeveloped space and locations of features such as child friendly spaces, greenery and seating.

### **How was the layout of the space determined?**

The project goals guided the layout of the space. The Plaza is meant to be a place for people to gather, sit and walk through. It is designed to complement other spaces close to the Plaza, such as Churchill Square, that contain more open space for larger gatherings.

The play areas in the Plaza are designed to encourage child-directed play without formal play structures. The space is meant to be more flexible and accessible than a traditional playground design.

The space is also designed with safety and security in mind. The mounds and trees help to define the edges of the Plaza while also allowing for good sightlines and pedestrian flow. This, along with lighting, helps create a sense of safety and security in the space.

Seasonal planting and canopies were also included in the layout to encourage use of the space during all four seasons.

### **Where is the muster point for the Library?**

In case of emergency, Library employees, guests or visitors will gather at the muster point located in the south east corner of Centennial Plaza. In the event that the Plaza is unsafe or there is extreme/inclement weather, the muster point is Edmonton City Centre.

### **How was visual and physical connectivity considered in the design?**

The design considered how people will move around and between the buildings in the area. It also considered other outdoors spaces close by and the roadways next to the Plaza. As part of the project, Judy Padua Way will become a curbsless street. It will be a shared road, similar to 102 Avenue, that will have the same paving stone surface as the Plaza. Tree planting, seating and lighting will be added in the Plaza and along Judy Padua Way. These features will make it easy for people to see ways to move through the space and connect to nearby buildings and outdoor spaces.

### **Will the parkade entrance on 100 Street be adjusted or improved as part of this project?**

There are plans to cover the existing concrete parkade entrance at street level with a glass like material that will allow light to pass through. Trees and canopies are also included in the design and will be seen above the parkade entrance to help attract people to the Plaza.

### **How were the locations for the daycare space, children's reading area and play areas decided?**

Security and connection to the Library were key considerations when selecting the location for the children spaces in the Plaza. The childcare space is required to be secure, so it was put on the south side of the Plaza to help maintain good sightlines and pedestrian flow. The Plaza design includes seating areas that can be used for reading and a play area that is located in the south east area with a direct connection from the Children's Playroom in the Library.

### **How will the space accommodate winter use?**

The canopies and trees provide covered spaces offering protection from the weather. The seating on the Plaza will be put in places where the sun will be accessible and, as much as possible, out of the wind. The lighting will be designed to attract people to the space all year round and color will be added to reflect the light creating a sense of warmth. The layout of the Plaza also takes into consideration snow clearing so that people can use the space in the winter.

### **How will the space accommodate people with mobility challenges?**

The City's Accessibility Guide gives direction about the type and slope of the surface in the Plaza. It will be a smooth surface and have a two percent slope. The seating will include seatbacks and arm rests. Wheelchair resting areas will also be included in the space. The Plaza will have universal access from all three sides.

### **What will be considered to help make the space safe and secure?**

The updated Plaza design will have many types of lighting to promote a safe and secure space. LED lights will be installed at different levels including the seating areas, along the Library wall, by the stairs, along the pedestrian routes in the space and as part of the canopies.

### **What consideration has been given to entertainment and commercial uses within the space?**

There is an opportunity to have small events like markets in the space. Limited use power could also be provided to accommodate markets and/or artists performing in the Plaza. Food trucks could be located along the 99<sup>th</sup> Street and Judy Padua Way.

### **Will art and/or historical interpretations be incorporated into the space?**

A new historical plaque has been commissioned and will be added to the southwest corner of the Clock Tower Plaza. The design also includes a location for a new public art piece which will provide a playable, child friendly opportunity for children in Centennial Plaza. Other art and/or historical interpretations may be considered in the next stage of the Plaza design work.

### **What will happen to the Trader and Mahatma Gandhi Memorial statues?**

During the design phase for Centennial Plaza, it was determined that The Trader and Mahatma Gandhi Memorial statues no longer fit the design of the newly imagined plaza. The Trader and Mahatma Gandhi Memorial statues were removed in September 2020 and placed in storage. City Administration is working on revised policies that will provide direction about the future placement of monuments and statues on City sites. These policies will inform the future location of the Trader and Mahatma Gandhi Memorial statues at a different City site.

### **Are there any plans for visual improvements to the buildings next to the space (e.g., facades or landscaping)?**

The parkade exits and ramps will have a new façade as part of the Plaza project. Additionally, Judy Padua Way will become a curbsless street, similar to 102 Avenue. It will have the same paving stone surface as the Plaza to support pedestrian connections to buildings and outdoors spaces near the Plaza. Planting and street furniture will also be added.

### **What types of plants and greenery will be included in the space?**

The design concept calls for low maintenance plants and greenery that are strong and fit with Edmonton's climate. Perennials will be used as much as possible.

### **What will be considered when determining the type of canopy to put in the space?**

The canopy design will consider the trees in the space and the buildings and public art beside the Plaza. The canopies will be made of painted steel and stained wood. The current size is four to five metres tall.

### **What type of surfaces will be used in the space?**

The play area will have a durable rubber surface that is similar to what the City uses in other outside playgrounds. The daycare area will have a wood deck surface while the rest of the Plaza will have concrete pavers. Where possible recyclable materials will be used for the surfaces.

For the mounds, grass, ground cover planting or some other low maintenance material like artificial turf is being considered. The idea is to pick a material that will let people use the mound as a place to sit and/or play.

### **How will the project be funded?**

The project funding is currently approved to the preliminary design stage. Once a cost estimate for the entire project is complete, a request for funding will be submitted to City Council. If approved, funding for the final design and build of the project will come from the Downtown Community Revitalization Levy.

### **What happens if funding is not approved?**

If the Centennial Plaza project does not receive funding to proceed beyond preliminary design, the Plaza will remain as is today. The design work completed to date will be used to inform future funding requests if priorities change favourably for this project.

### **What are the next steps for the redevelopment project?**

The preliminary design phase was the final public engagement for the Centennial Plaza Redevelopment Project. The feedback we received, along with City policies and programs and technical requirements, will be used to develop the final design for the Plaza. The final design will be presented to City Council in early 2021 for their consideration and possible funding for the project.

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For more information and project updates on the Centennial Plaza Redevelopment Project, please visit [edmonton.ca/centennialplaza](http://edmonton.ca/centennialplaza)