

Downtown Public Places Plan

Vision

The Downtown Public Places Plan will meet community needs and provide guidance for an increasingly vibrant, well-designed, accessible and sustainable Downtown.

About Downtown Public Places

Downtown public places provide space for Edmontonians to socialize, celebrate, recharge and live life. Downtown public places — our open spaces, parks, and plazas — need to act as the playgrounds, resting spots and social spaces for residents, workers and visitors, while also providing premier locations to host international and local festivals, events, commerce, arts, and culture.

Why is this Plan important?

Downtown Edmonton is changing. Projects, including the refurbished Legislature Grounds, Ice District and LRT Valley Line, are attracting more development, businesses, and people. As Downtown grows, the size, quality, location, and connectivity of public places becomes more important.

Having exceptional public places in the Downtown will help to:

- + Attract families and talent
- + Grow civic pride and identity
- + Improve public health, safety and vibrancy
- + Create opportunities for chance encounters and memorable experiences

Plan Objectives

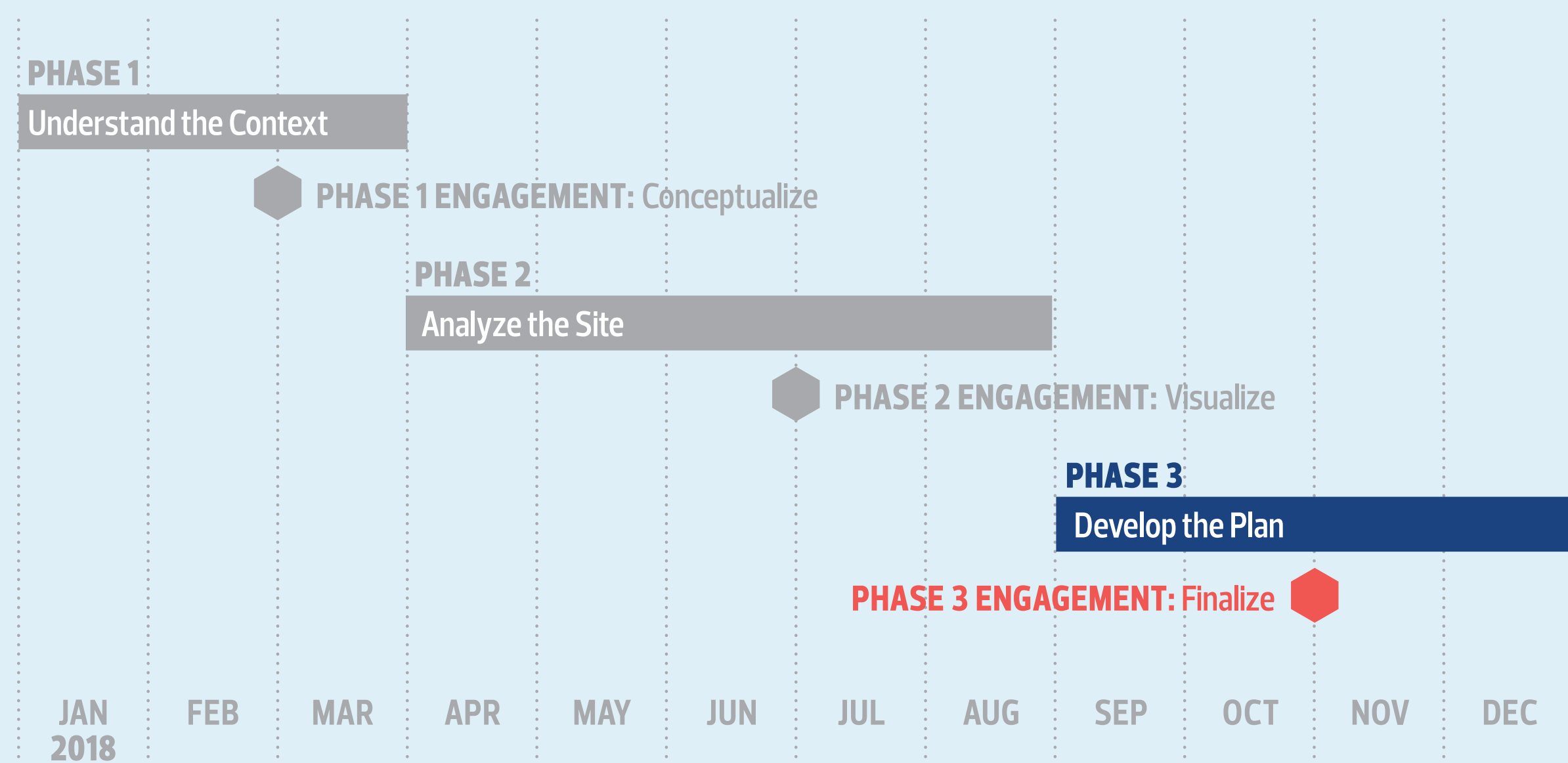
- + Create comfortable, memorable, attractive destinations and spaces
- + Improve connections between the Downtown and the River Valley
- + Guide open space development, design and programming in Downtown
- + Focus on the quality, functionality, connectivity and supply of open spaces
- + Provide design recommendations for developments impacting open spaces
- + Inform and align current and future Downtown projects

Complete the Survey

We are currently in the final phase of engagement. The City is looking for feedback on the draft plan through an online survey. To view the draft plan and take the survey, follow the link below. Provide thoughts on the proposed public place improvements and help prioritize them. The results of this engagement will help with the final plan development and creation of the implementation plan.

edmonton.ca/downtownpublicplaces

#YEGpublicplaces
downtownpublicplaces@edmonton.ca
Call 311



POLICIES

Plan Structure

To guide the development of a cohesive network of downtown public places, the Downtown Public Places Plan includes the following main components:

- 1. **Strategic Directions:** These statements provide overall guidance and direction for the future of public places downtown.
- 2. **Open Space Measures:** These provide measurable goals for the City to work towards when it is developing and improving downtown public places.
- 3. **Concept:** The overall concept provides a visual representation of the future of the public places network downtown, including major connections, proposed new open space, and priority projects.
- 4. **Site Specific Recommendations:** These recommendations provide more detail on the vision and priorities for each of the five focus areas of the Plan.
- 5. **Strategies and Actions:** These provide plan-wide tools for achieving each of the Strategic Directions.

Open Space Measures

Provision Level

- + Acquire approximately 2 ha of additional open space to the study area to provide for the needs of a high-density population in the future.

Connectivity

- + Fill existing gaps in the public places network to ensure that there is at least one public place accessible within 200m of any point in the Downtown.
- + Ensure all public places are within 200m of a transit stop.

Multifunctionality

- + Ensure each public place has high functionality for one of the three Breathe themes (Ecology, Wellness, and Celebration) and moderate functionality for a second Breathe theme.
- + Increase the Downtown-wide Wellness functionality of the public places network to at least 20%.

Breathe Functionality Themes

- + **Ecology:** Supports and enhances the environment by sustaining healthy and resilient ecosystems.
- + **Celebration:** Connects people to each other and builds a sense of place by providing places for communities to thrive, gather, and celebrate.
- + **Wellness:** Promotes healthy living and fosters wellbeing through diverse kinds of recreation, mobility and environments.

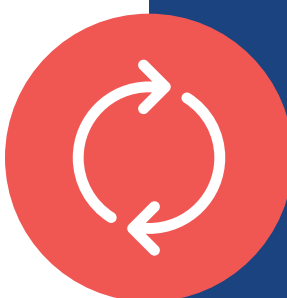
Strategic Directions



SAFE + INCLUSIVE: Ensure Downtown public places serve as safe and inclusive places for all Edmontonians.



ACCESSIBLE + CONNECTED: Ensure that the Downtown public places network is accessible, pedestrian-oriented, and well connected by high quality active transportation corridors and streets.



LINKED TO THE RIVER: Ensure Downtown is physically and visually linked to the top of bank and riverfront of the North Saskatchewan River Valley.



VIBRANT + LIVABLE: Make Downtown a vibrant, healthy, and animated place to live, work, learn, visit, and grow up in.



SENSE OF COMMUNITY: Ensure that Downtown public places reflect Downtown's distinct neighbourhoods and the strong sense of community, diversity, social interaction, and engagement that they offer.



GREEN + SUSTAINABLE: Enhance the environmental sustainability of the Downtown public places network.



CELEBRATION: Celebrate Downtown as a regional and national centre for entertainment, sport, creative arts, entertainment, festivals, and culture.



COHESIVE PUBLIC REALM: Ensure that Downtown has a high quality public realm that is well-designed, year-round, cohesive, and well-maintained.



MAJOR CONCEPT

Programming + Improvements

The Draft Downtown Public Places Plan defines each public place and its role in the wider network. The Plan also provides direction on improvements and programming, as well as direction on how each public place will contribute to the functionality themes from Breathe: Ecology, Celebration, and Wellness.

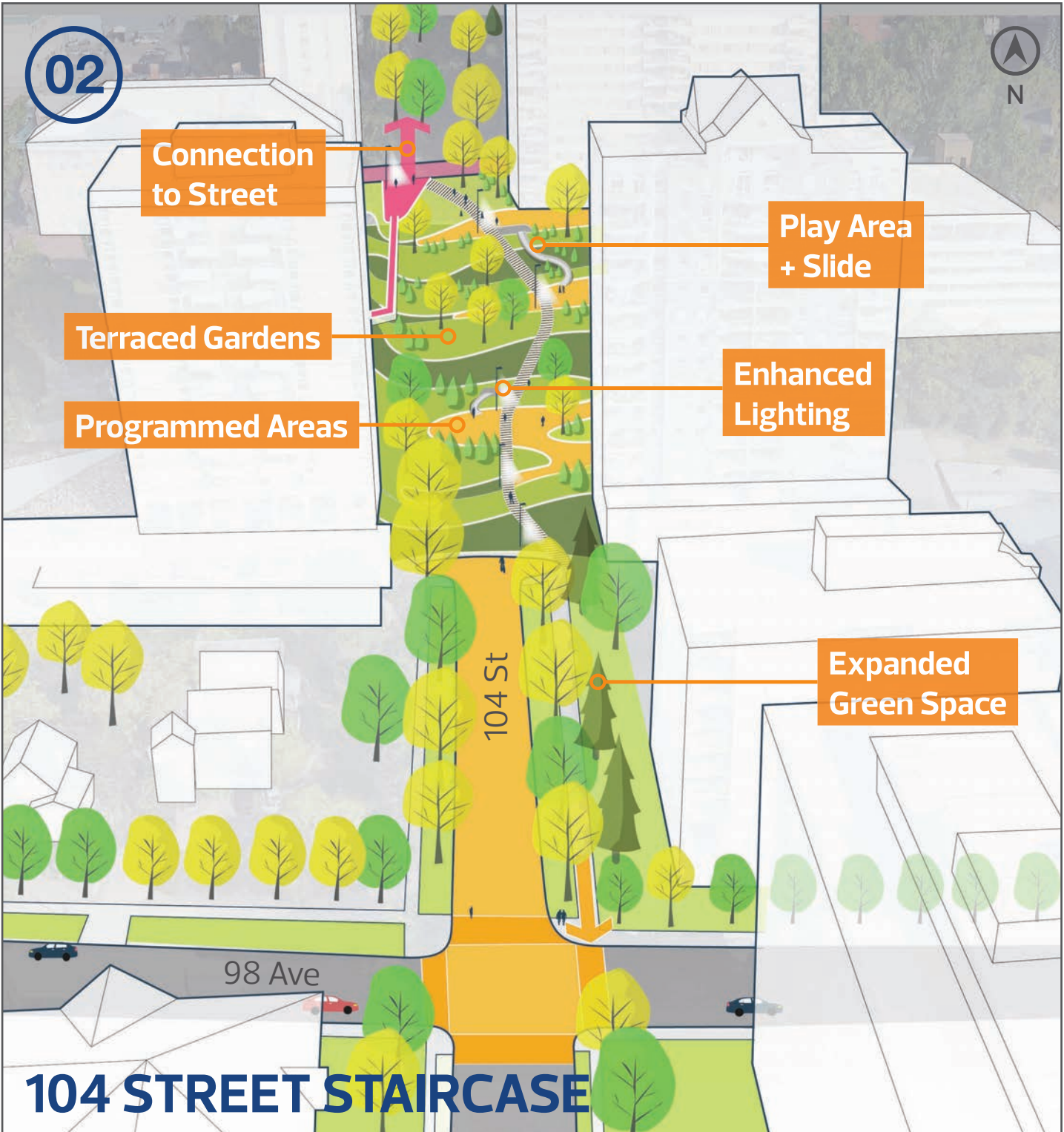
Enhanced Connections

Through analysis and engagement, we identified several connectivity and accessibility gaps in the Downtown public places network. The Plan proposes to address them by creating new or enhanced connections in the network.



Big Moves

- 1. McKay Avenue Central Gathering Space
- 2. 104 Street Staircase
- 3. Quarter's Connection to Louise McKinney
- 4. 109 Street Connection
- 5. Central Core Connections
- 6. 97 Street Bridge
- 7. Railtown Park Crossing + Expansion
- 8. MacDonald Promenade
- 9. Warehouse Campus Park + Beaver Hills House Park



BIG MOVES

