

# Exhibition Lands - April 2019

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## From Concept Options to a Preferred Working Concept

As part of ongoing work to guide the future redevelopment of the Exhibition Lands, the City shared four preliminary land use concepts for the site last fall. Through a series of engagement sessions, Edmontonians and other stakeholders talked to us about their preferences and what was important to consider when developing the final plan. With that input in mind as well as the results of technical and market analysis, the Exhibition Lands project team has developed a preferred working redevelopment concept.

If approved, the concept, supported by relevant policy directions, will form the planning framework for the Exhibition Lands redevelopment. The concept aims to create a better connected community with transit-oriented villages and an expanded Borden Park anchored by educational/institutional nodes and commercial/employment centers. Later this spring, we will be reaching back out to Edmontonians and other stakeholders to gather feedback on the preferred working concept and associated policies.

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### Preferred Working Concept at Urban Planning Committee April 23, 2019

The preferred working concept will be presented to Urban Planning Committee on April 23, 2019 for endorsement. This endorsement will provide the City with the direction to further refine the plan, draft policy directions and engage the public and stakeholders.

The report will be available [online](#) starting April 18. Members of the public are welcome to attend the

The report will be available [online](#) starting April. For members of the public who are unable to attend the meeting, if you would like to speak to this item at the meeting, you will be required to [register](#). If you would like to watch the proceedings, but cannot attend in person, you can [stream the proceedings](#).

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## **New Project Documents Available Online**

Two recent studies have been posted to the project website: the [Exhibition Lands Historical Report](#) and [Economic Analysis of Redevelopment Options Report](#).

## **Learning from the Past**

To plan for the future we need to take historical context into account. As such, we commissioned a study that outlines the history of the Exhibition Lands site, touching on how the land was used by Indigenous peoples and settlers and illustrating the site's history as a gathering and celebration space over the past century.

## **Anticipating Future Demand**

The project team commissioned an economic study to better forecast and characterize future demand for housing and commercial development in the context of Edmonton as a whole and specifically the north of the city. The study provides macro-economic and demographic market projections for the next 25 years, and provides analysis for future demand and development of the Exhibition Lands. The study notes that the city of Edmonton has a prime opportunity to transform this underutilized site into a new vibrant, mixed-use, transit-oriented community close to the urban core and well connected to the rest of Edmonton. The study highlights the benefit of building the development around key employment and activity anchors to spark infill development.

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## Creating an Integrated Vision

As we refine the vision for the Exhibition Lands site, we are aligning our work with the Exhibition Lands Guiding Principles and Vision 2050, Council's strategic plan to 2028, which outlines goals for achieving a Healthy City, Urban Places, Regional Prosperity and Climate Resilience. Planning for Exhibition Lands also aligns with The City Plan, a city-wide planning exercise that is looking at what decisions and policies are needed to grow into a livable, thriving city of 2 million people. The comprehensive planning work underway for the Exhibition Lands is a key part of accommodating this future growth sustainably.

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## Northlands Park Transition

As of April 1, Northlands Park facilities, including the casino, barns and race track, officially transitioned back to the City of Edmonton. At that time, the City will take over maintenance and security of the site. To better secure the site and control access to the buildings, the City will install perimeter fencing and window coverings. Going forward, please report any issues on the site to 311.

## Site Activation

Last summer, the City organized a series of activities and events at the Coliseum site. We are currently exploring ideas to activate the lands around the Coliseum through temporary uses and events this summer. In the meantime EEDC will continue to use the site for overflow parking. More information to come.

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