

What We Heard Lansdowne Staircase & Trail Project

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Edmonton

What We Heard

Concept Phase

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Residents of the Lansdowne neighbourhood provided input in Spring 2015 at a public engagement meeting for the Building Great Neighbourhoods Program. Feedback gathered indicated the community's need for a formalized trail and staircase connecting South West Lansdowne Drive down to the shared-use-path along Whitemud Drive.

The City of Edmonton heard from residents that the existing 'goat trail', which had formed from frequent use of the hill, was unsafe. This project was initiated, beginning with concept design.

An external consultant was hired to provide geotechnical investigation reporting, feasibility and environmental impact assessment study, concept planning and preliminary design for a staircase and trail at this location. Through testing, the hill and existing 'goat trail' separating Lansdowne Drive and the shared-use-path was deemed feasible for this proposed enhancement project.

Public engagement in Fall 2018 provided an opportunity for Lansdowne residents and users of the public space to provide feedback on two proposed concept plans.



CONCEPT PHASE ENGAGEMENT

Who: General Public, Lansdowne Residents/Businesses, Edmonton Mountainbike Alliance and Councillor Walters

What: Drop-in Public Engagement Session

Where: Lansdowne Community Hall, 4915 124 Street NW

When: Tuesday, September 25, 2018 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Why: The engagement event was held to gather public feedback to inform the finalized concept plan and bring the project to the next phase of design.

The engagement event was promoted with a mailout and email invitations, and was advertised on the City of Edmonton website. Approximately 30 members of the public attended, with the majority identifying as residents of the Lansdowne Community.

WHAT WE HEARD

RESPONSE – COMMENT FORM, CONVERSATIONS AND INQUIRIES

The overall response to the proposed concept plans was well received with a majority of the respondents indicating support for the staircase.

When asked “What are your thoughts on the information provided?”, feedback was mostly positive with some of the following points or questions raised:

- ✚ **Benches** – attendees at the public engagement session were very interested in the inclusion of benches as part of the design. Comments varied from benches at the top to benches on the various landings. Final design may include a combination of options. Furthermore, some comments inquired whether an existing bench in close proximity to the top of the proposed stair would be removed.
- ✚ **Lighting** – addition of lighting close to top and bottom of trail was raised by multiple participants.
- ✚ **Grandview Staircase** – multiple comments inquired whether the proposed Lansdowne Staircase was comparable to the Grandview Staircase.
- ✚ **Whitemud Ravine** – concerns were expressed that the proposed bike rail was promoting biking in the Whitemud Nature Reserve area. Clarification was provided that the proposed staircase would connect to an existing shared-use-path. The plan for this project respects Whitemud Creek as a nature reserve and does not encourage biking in restricted areas. Mitigation measures will be considered as the project progresses.
- ✚ **Switchbacks vs. Stairs** – a few attendees inquired whether switchbacks instead of a staircase was considered. Current slope is too steep for switchbacks to be feasible. Additionally, switchbacks would have a greater impact environmentally.

When asked “Which option do you prefer? Option A or Option B?” With the exception of a few responses, the majority of the respondents showed preference for the option with the fewer landings (Option B).

WHAT'S NEXT

Conclusion of Concept Phase


- + Input from public engagement will be reviewed and considered in potential adaptations of the design.
- + Technical and Operational input will be reviewed and incorporated.
- + Project cost estimate will be updated accordingly.

Transition to Design Phase

- + Preliminary Design will reflect input from the Concept Phase and further define project details and cost.
- + Project updates and information will be available on the project website.

MORE INFORMATION

Please visit the project website: **edmonton.ca/LansdowneStairs**



Learn more by going to:
edmonton.ca/Lansdownestairs
or call 311

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