



Reimagine Oliver Wellness

Phase III Public Engagement Results

The population of Oliver is projected to double in the next 40 years, meaning more population density and mixed-use spaces. Residents will need local spaces and places to meet their recreation, social and community needs.

The Reimagine Oliver Wellness Plan is intended to provide a high-level recreation vision in the Oliver neighbourhood based on the community needs assessment, stakeholder engagement, best practices and alignment with draft and existing City of Edmonton policies and strategies.

As part of Phase III of the Public Engagement we asked Oliver residents and visitors to help us prioritize over 370 ideas that we heard to date. The results of the final round of engagement are presented here.

Visitors Summary



Highlights

TOTAL VISITS	744	MAX VISITORS PER DAY	72
NEW REGISTRATIONS	6	ENGAGED VISITORS	81
		INFORMED VISITORS	206
		AWARE VISITORS	461

Over 740 total visits were made to the online engagement page from December 4th, 2020 to January 3rd, 2021.

Prioritizing Opportunities

Seven opportunities were identified in public engagement to date. In Phase III, these opportunities were ranked as follows, from most anticipated & important to least:

1. **Additional Bike Lanes Opportunity:** align with the draft Bike Plan which identifies 100 Avenue between 110 street and 116 street as a future bike lane to connect Downtown to the Oliver Neighbourhood and the River Valley (by way of Victoria Park Road).
2. **Active Transportation and Recreation Opportunity:** Expand and redesign the staircase in Constable Ezio Faraone Park to serve as an active transportation link, an active recreation facility in itself and, with appropriate seating, a spot for passive recreation and celebration.
3. **Rest and Celebration Opportunity:** Integrate regular seating to the connection points to and from the Victoria Promenade (for example, along 100 Avenue).
4. **Community Gathering Opportunity:** In Oliver Park and along the Victoria Promenade.
5. **Public Space Design Opportunity:** Update the park design in City-owned portion of Mackenzie & Mann Park to make it clear that it is a public park. Add wayfinding signage indicating the Recreation Centre connection.
6. **Dog Park Opportunities:** (1) Consider a fenced-in off-leash dog area in Ribbon of Steel Park (the flat area north of the street car terminus) (2) Monsignor William Irwin Park: A fenced dog off-leash area could be accommodated in the NW corner, taking advantage of existing fence.
7. **Wayfinding Opportunity:** place wayfinding signage at key junctions, including at access points to the River Valley (for example around Victoria Promenade) and around main parks.



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Prioritizing Ideas

We heard 4 key themes from the public engagement so far: community hub; versatile, multipurpose spaces; access and connectivity; vibrant and functional design. We've asked residents and visitors of Oliver to help us prioritize specific features and ideas.

1. Community Hub in Oliver Park

Since space and green space are limited, a community hub should align with best practices of multipurpose, multi-season and multigenerational design. Through the survey and online engagement, we heard the following desired characteristics:

- Encourages physical and social recreation
- Serves as an age-friendly, inclusive and accessible space
- Appears vibrant, multipurpose and programmable
- Accommodates community growth
- Represents a high standard of design
- Encourages partner-based (with community league and other organizations) programming

Examples and specific features were cited through consultation. When asked to prioritize these ideas, from most appealing to least, the following list emerged:

1. Indoor/outdoor pool
2. Community center with free access and bookable meeting space
3. Wellness and recreation center with bookable studios, fitness equipment and meeting space
4. Indoor playgroup/play space

2. Multipurpose, All-Season Outdoor Amenities Throughout

A highly walkable community, Oliver provides an opportunity to offer innovative and well-designed outdoor amenities to improve access to and quality of recreation in the neighbourhood. Through the survey and online engagement, we heard the following desired characteristics:

- Encourages physical and social recreation
- Functions as an all-season space
- Serves as an age-friendly, inclusive and accessible space
- Appears vibrant, multipurpose and programmable
- Encourages partner-based (with community league and other organizations) programming

Examples and specific features were cited through consultation. When asked to prioritize the features from most appealing to least, the following ranking emerged:

1. Natural play spaces
2. Additional garden plots
3. Gazebo and benches
4. Outdoor fitness equipment
5. Off-leash dog park
6. Paved basketball court (to replace the grass court in Kitchener Park)
7. Skateboard park.

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3. Community Access and Connectivity

There is an opportunity to highlight and fully utilize the Oliver green space and park network by providing easy access, navigation and passive programming opportunities to existing spaces. Through the survey and online engagement, we heard the following desired changes:

- Encourage wayfinding between existing amenities
- Ensure placemaking strategies are in place (ie. park signage)
- Ensure pedestrian and bike-friendly walkways and roadways
- Provide better transit connections

Examples and specific features were cited through consultation. When asked to prioritize the features from most appealing to least, the following ranking emerged:

1. Designed walking loops
2. River Valley connection maps
3. Wayfinding signs to navigate Oliver's park network
4. Community poster and message boards
5. Park signage indicating programs and/or historical significance
6. Additional historical plaques at lookouts and key locations

4. Vibrant and Functional Design

There is an opportunity to apply placemaking best practices to enhance green spaces through intentional, human-centered design that promotes multipurpose, multigenerational all-season use.

Residents were asked to rank the following opportunities from most important to least important:

1. Ensuring the community hub is a safe and welcoming environment with dedicated and designed spaces for gathering, rest, relaxation & celebration.
2. Shutting down portions or all of the Victoria Promenade and 102 Avenue to vehicle traffic on weekends.
3. Combining an outdoor playground/natural play structure for children with an adult meeting place and "street-workout" park for adults.
4. Flooding the pond in Paul Kane Park to create a child-friendly skating rink. A skating rink would activate space that sits empty all winter.
5. Grooming elementary school fields for cross-country skiing/walking tracks.

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Reimagine Oliver Park

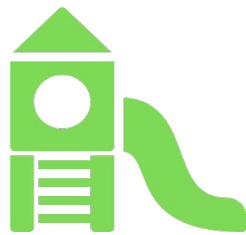
Oliver Park is one of the largest and most popular parks in the neighbourhood. Currently, the following amenities can be found in Oliver Park:

- A single pad arena in the NW corner.
- A playground in the NE portion of the park.
- A seasonal outdoor pool in the SW corner and a small parking lot (note: pool currently under maintenance and not operational)
- Green space in the SE portion of the park, the former location of the Oliver Community League Hall and land leased to the Community League.

A high-level future vision for the Oliver Park was proposed, and included the following attributes:



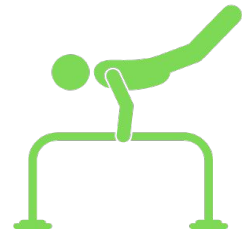
Multipurpose community hub



Upgraded playground



Landscaped seating area



Outdoor workout equipment



Additional landscaping



Heated gazebo



Maintained and lit walkways



Outdoor skating rink in case of pool/arena closure



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Reimagine Oliver Park

The public feedback on the Oliver Park vision fell into 3 themes: Natural Environment, Recreational Amenities, and Celebration and Gathering.

Natural Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Improve landscaping by flattening some of the berms. ● Improve walkways to include lots of park bench seating. ● Provide a camouflaged canopy to add character to the park and provide space for live music or social gathering. ● Provide a natural barrier to the 104 avenue to block noise ● Add some water elements to add ambience and create natural sounds. ● Keep at least 85% of the space green and avoid too much hardscaping. Reduce environmental impact of the surrounding areas. ● Provide improved lighting with unique or artistic elements. ● Include elements of Indigenous design and plants.
Recreational Amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reopen the Oliver Pool; add rooftop outdoor fitness area. ● Provide outdoor fitness equipment, similar to Grandview Park. ● Add a fenced-in dog park. ● Add community gardening spaces or offer raised garden beds in the parking lot. ● Add an outdoor rink for community free-skating. ● Convert the skating rink into a year-around indoor skateboarding facility. ● Provide bike racks, bike repair stands and tools. ● Upgrade all park equipment for disability access. ● Replace existing playgroup with a natural play space that engages a range of ages.
Celebration and Gathering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide a circular, hardscape space with useable firepit and BBQs. ● Provide access to outdoor power for programs and events in the green space. ● Provide area for a multi-purpose user facility (community hub). ● Provide access to a commercial kitchen.

On behalf of the City of Edmonton, we'd like to thank the residents, visitors and stakeholders of the Oliver Neighbourhood for their valuable input and ideas.

Stay tuned for the Reimagine Oliver Wellness Report, to be released in early 2021.

Questions? Contact: isdresearch@edmonton.ca