



What We Heard Report Grandview Heights Neighbourhood Renewal

**Vision, Guiding Principles and
Community Knowledge**

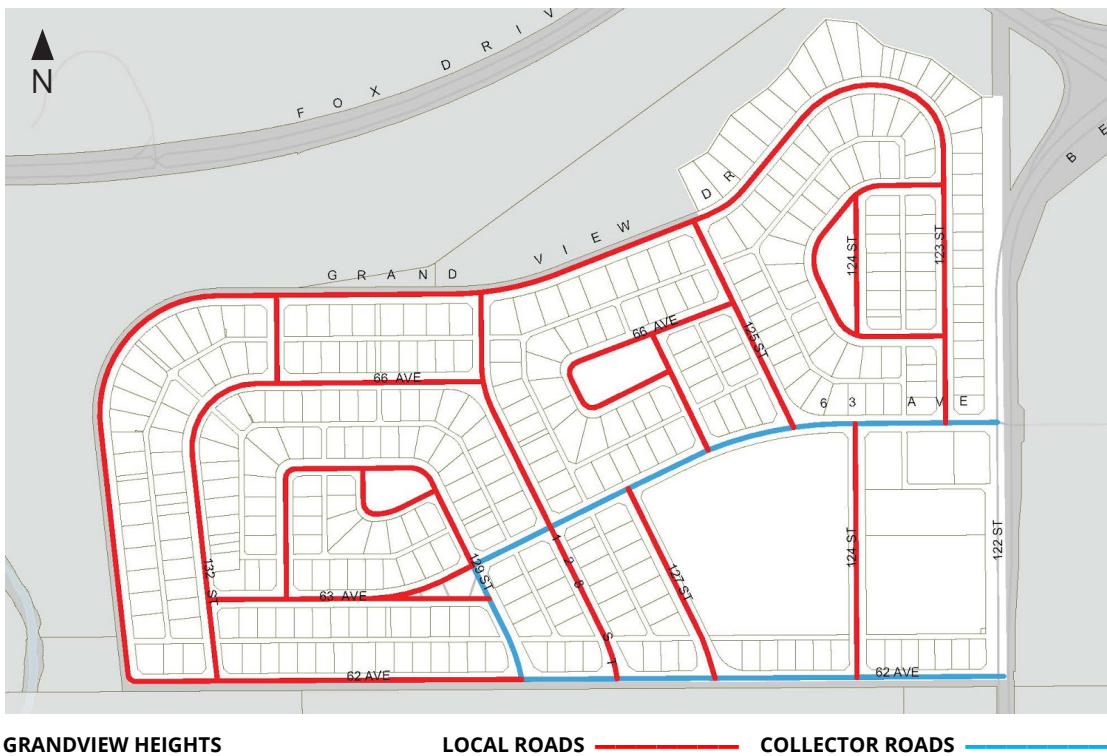
January 2019

**SHARE YOUR VOICE
SHAPE OUR CITY**

Edmonton

Background

Beginning in 2020, Grandview Heights will experience Neighbourhood Renewal. Through the City of Edmonton's Building Great Neighbourhoods and Open Spaces branch, the Neighbourhood Renewal program will rehabilitate roads, replace streetlights, curb and gutters, repair sidewalks, and connect missing sidewalk links where possible in Grandview Heights. Cost sharing opportunities will be made available through the Local Improvement process for sidewalk reconstruction and decorative streetlight upgrades in the neighbourhood. Other opportunities to improve parks and public spaces will also be explored.



Roadmap to Building Great Neighbourhoods

The Neighbourhood Renewal program follows the roadmap below. Currently, we are **Building a Project Vision Together** and **Exploring Opportunities**.



Public Engagement Spectrum

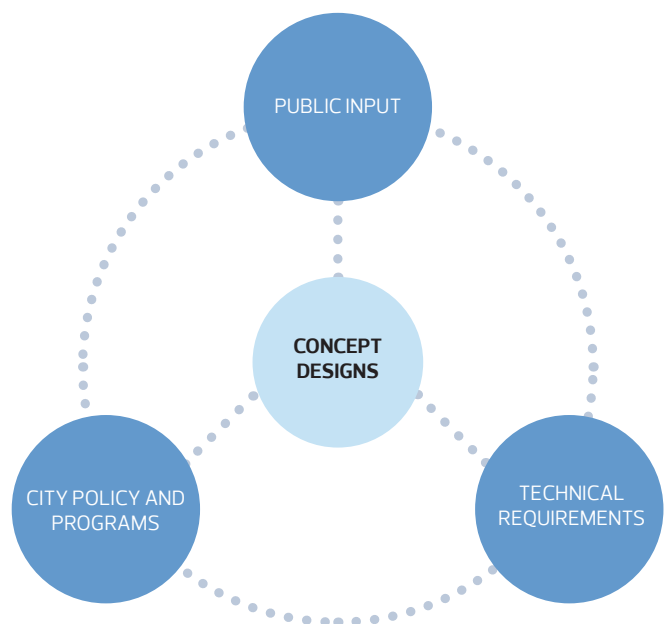
Public Engagement at this stage in the project will:

- + **CREATE** a vision and guiding principles
- + **REFINE** our understanding of what infrastructure exists in the neighbourhood



Decision-Making Process

It is important to note that while public engagement is a critical aspect in the decision-making process, there are several other factors that will also be considered along with public input in determining what is ultimately built with neighbourhood renewal. Some of these factors include City policy and programs, technical requirements, and available funding.



Public Engagement Activities

What We Did

We held a Community Walk and Workshop on December 5, 2018 at the Grandview Heights Community Centre from 5:00 to 9:00 pm.

- + The Community Walk included a guided walk around Grandview Heights to develop a better understanding of the neighbourhood.
- + The Workshop focused on developing a vision and guiding principles and identifying opportunities for improvements.

An Online Survey was also available to the public from December 6, 2018 to January 16, 2019.

What We Asked

We asked residents to help create a vision and guiding principles for renewal in Grandview Heights and identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and constraints. Please see page 7 for what we heard.



***More than 55 people attended the Walk and Workshop
More than 110 people responded to our Online Survey***

Public Engagement Activities

Neighbourhood renewal in Grandview Heights will include several opportunities for the public to get involved through public engagement activities.

Starting the Conversation (Completed):

- + Pre-engagement interviews (October 2018)

Building a Project Vision Together and Exploring Opportunities (You are here):

- + Community Walk, Vision and Guiding Principles Workshop (December 5, 2018) and Online Survey (December 5, 2018 to January 16, 2019)
- + Vision Confirmation and Community Options Event (February 21, 2019)

Exploring Options and Tradeoffs and Community Feedback on Draft Design:

- + Draft Concept Designs Public Event (Spring 2019)

Community Feedback on Final Design (including Street Light Expression of Interest & Cost Sharing Opportunities):

- + Preliminary Designs Public Event (Fall 2019)

Preparing for Construction and Construction on Your Streets:

- + Pre-Construction Event (Winter 2020)

Celebrate with Us

- + Wrap-up Celebration

What We Heard

The following sections include a summary of what we heard at the Community Walk and Workshop and through the Online Survey. The summary has been developed to reflect the relevancy, frequency, and diversity of the responses we received based on the questions that were asked to residents.

We asked: What are your three favourite things about Grandview Heights today? (survey only)

What We Heard:

- + **Natural Environment** including the mature trees, landscaped yards, and the river valley
- + **Location** including the proximity to the South Campus LRT Station and the ravine
- + **Neighbourhood Amenities** including the school and neighbourhood parks
- + **Quietness** including the seclusion of the neighbourhood and very little traffic
- + **Sense of Community** including the people who live in the neighbourhood and the safe and family-friendly environment
- + **Getting Around** including it being easy to walk and drive throughout the neighbourhood

We asked: What are some of the challenges you face moving and living in and around your neighbourhood? (survey only)

What We Heard:

- + **Speeding** particularly on 62 and 63 Avenue
- + **Lighting** including areas within the community that do not have adequate lighting when walking
- + **Maintenance** including issues with road and sidewalk conditions and snow clearance
- + **Accessibility** including a lack of curb cuts throughout the neighbourhood which causes accessibility issues for people with mobility challenges
- + **Traffic** including high traffic volumes when turning onto 122 Street and near the school during peak hours
- + **Things to do** including not enough places to shop, eat, and gather as a community
- + **Parking** including concerns about people from outside the neighbourhood parking along streets within the neighbourhood

We asked: Thinking about a renewed Grandview Heights, what would you like to see changed? Upgrades will be required to support the community for the next 30 to 40 years. (survey only)

What We Heard:

- + **General Public Realm Improvements** including improved lighting, roads, sidewalks, playgrounds, etc.
- + **Entrance Feature** including a more aesthetically pleasing entrance, potentially through a gateway feature
- + **Pedestrian Safety Measures** including traffic calming (speed bumps, squared curbs, flashing lights, etc.) and improvements to intersections
- + **Neighbourhood Hub** including the redevelopment of the commercial area, with amenities such as a grocery store or café
- + **Getting Around** including improved pathways for walking and cycling, as well as accessibility improvements to make it easier for people of all ages and abilities to get around
- + **Neighbourhood Amenities** including benches, improved lighting and a community garden
- + **Natural Environment** including maintenance of tree stands (removal of deadfall) and the addition of boulevard trees
- + **Other** including parking time limits, lower speed limits on the main roadways, and improved drainage



We asked: What is your vision for the future of the neighbourhood? (workshop and survey)

What We Heard:



People

- + Age diversity in the neighbourhood (young families, seniors, etc.) and the ability to age-in-place



Nature

- + Maintain and enhance the connection with nature
- + Preserve mature trees and renew green space through new planting/landscaping
- + Being close to nature makes the neighbourhood unique and distinctive, and gives the community character
- + Access to the river valley must be maintained and enhanced



Connectivity

- + Improve connections to surrounding green spaces/trails (Whitemud Park, ravine area, etc.)
- + A connected and walkable neighbourhood, that is easy for people to get around
- + Connections that are inclusive to everyone
- + Enhance connections to the South Campus LRT Station



Safety

- + Safety when walking, especially when crossing wide intersections
- + Lighting which enhances safety



Character

- + Preserving culture and community character
- + A well maintained neighbourhood with mature trees is a big part of neighbourhood identity
- + Small community feel with a great sense of pride
- + Promote community character
- + Neighbourly type of community



Things to do

- + Community gathering places for social opportunities
- + Multi-season activity areas
- + Enhancing community spirit with events that are inclusive to all



Amenities/Design

- + Provide amenities to pocket park spaces to make these areas more useable
- + Improved and new trails to enjoy nature
- + All season design

Based on the what we heard feedback, we developed a draft vision statement and guiding principles, as well as a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and constraints summary. The February 2019 event will include the opportunity to refine and confirm the draft vision statement and guiding principles.

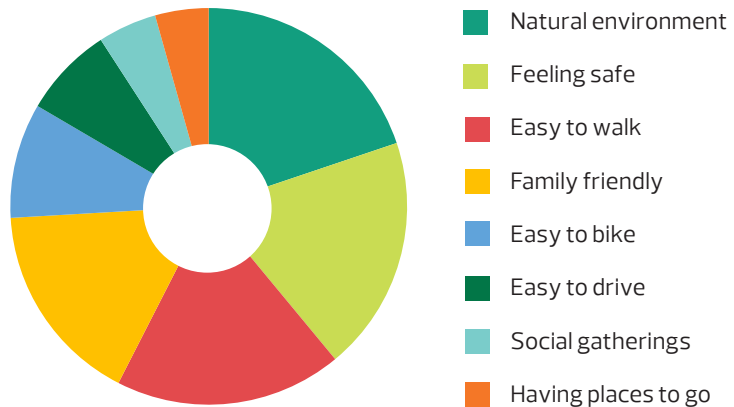
Draft Vision Statement

Grandview Heights is a family-friendly neighbourhood that is welcoming to all. It has a strong community character where neighbours know each other and enjoy the area's connection with nature. Grandview Heights is a safe place where it's easy to move around and enjoy destinations in and around the neighbourhood.

Here are some guiding principles that the City sometimes hears about. Please select 5 out of 8 of the following principles that are most important to you.

(survey only)

As indicated in the table, the guiding principles that are most important to those who completed the survey include the **natural environment**, **feeling safe** and a community where it is **easy to walk** and **family friendly**.



What are some guiding principles for the neighbourhood? (workshop and survey)

Draft Guiding Principles

- + Walkable neighbourhood that is safe and easy for people to move around
- + Enhancing green spaces and preserving trees
- + Giving people alternative options to get around other than cars (walk, bike)
- + Celebrating the culture, community, and character of the neighbourhood
- + Creating year-round opportunities to be physically active throughout the neighbourhood
- + Making the neighbourhood accessible for all ages and abilities
- + Maintaining the quietness and peacefulness of the neighbourhood
- + Highlighting and maintaining the distinctive and unique look of the community
- + Creating opportunities to gather as a community

What are some strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and constraints that exist within Grandview Heights? (workshop and survey)

Strengths + Strengths include being close to the South Campus LRT station, the ravine, and the surrounding trail network. Other strengths include the neighbourhood parks, mature trees, and natural feel of the neighbourhood. Neighbourhood amenities such as the tennis courts and the ice rink, as well as the walkability throughout the neighbourhood and limited traffic, were also identified as strengths.

Weaknesses + Weaknesses include speeding along 62 and 63 Avenue, street parking issues, road and sidewalk conditions, as well as the steepness of curbs and wideness of crossings, which can cause accessibility and safety issues when walking.

Opportunities + Opportunities include improved connections along the outskirts of 62 Avenue and Grandview Drive and wider sidewalks along 63 Avenue. Other opportunities include traffic calming measures along major roadways and near the school to improve safety, as well as amenities in park spaces and near the ravine, such as lighting, picnic tables, and garbage cans. Improvements to the entrance of the community and commercial area are also opportunities.

Constraints + Constraints include congestion when exiting the neighbourhood and around the school area during peak hours. Other constraints include the lack of connectivity to other neighbourhoods, as the surrounding lands are mostly comprised of open space owned by the University of Alberta.

“Our neighbourhood is a community of walkers.”

“The tree parks are one of our greatest assets.”

“There are safety issues with school drop off and pick up right now.”

“We should improve the entrance into the community to better reflect that natural, quiet community we live in.”

Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Constraints Summary



Additional Feedback Received

The following feedback was received that relates to other City projects and maintenance. This information will be shared with the appropriate areas for consideration and follow-up.

- + Concern over bus service being eliminated and how this impacts accessibility to the South Campus LRT Station
- + Poor alley conditions
- + Issues with winter windrows and lack of snow clearance

Next Steps

We will meet with you again in February 2019 to confirm the draft vision statement and guiding principles, and to better understand where opportunities for neighbourhood renewal exist within the neighbourhood. Following this event, we will use your feedback to develop draft concept designs which will be brought back to you in Spring 2019. We will also share more information with you on the local improvement process for decorative street lights and sidewalk reconstruction at this time.

Please visit edmonton.ca/BuildingGrandviewHeights for more information, and to add your name to our email list so we can keep you informed of project updates.



Working together to make the most out of your neighbourhood.

This is your city and your neighbourhood. We want to understand how you experience your neighbourhood and ask for your input on what we might do to make it better.

We will engage and work with you on the renewal of roads, sidewalks, street lights, and park spaces, and promote other community opportunities to enhance how people live and interact in your neighbourhood. We commit to being open and transparent about how your input is used. Let's make the most out of your neighbourhood.

For more information:

edmonton.ca/BuildingGrandviewHeights
or call 311

SHARE YOUR VOICE
SHAPE OUR CITY

Edmonton