



# What We Heard & What We Did Report: Kinistinâw Park

April 2019

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**Edmonton**

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## Project Background

Kinistinaw Park is currently an under-utilized open space located in the community of Boyle Street. As the centerpiece of The Quarters Downtown, Kinistinâw Park is envisioned as an inviting and safe urban park. Its design will reflect the past, present and future stories of the community, encouraging everyday enjoyment. It will provide special opportunities for celebration and gathering. Integrated with the surrounding streets and properties, the park will be a dynamic and well-loved neighbourhood destination that is a source of local pride.

Name	Kinistinâw Park Development			
Date	October 2016 – January 2019			
Location	Various locations including Boyle Street Plaza, Downtown Farmer's Market, St. Teresa of Calcutta Elementary School, Edmonton Tower, The Armature and other locations			
Contact information	Open Space Infrastructure Delivery Telephone In Edmonton: 311 Telephone Outside Edmonton: 780-442-5311 email: <a href="mailto:openspacedelivery@edmonton.ca">openspacedelivery@edmonton.ca</a>			
Level of public engagement	<b>ADVISE</b>	<b>REFINE</b>	<b>CREATE</b>	<b>DECIDE</b>
Description	Public engagements were held to guide and create the design for the Kinistinâw Park Development project.			

## Summary

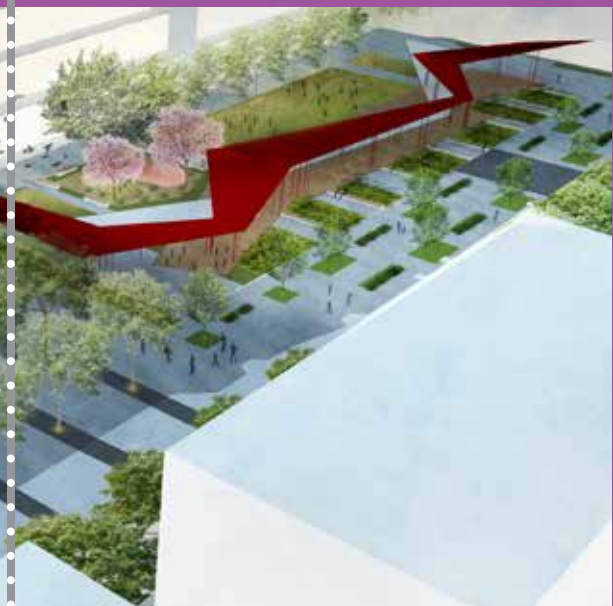
The City of Edmonton is undertaking the development of a new park within The Quarters Downtown, c0ed Kinistinâw Park. The intent of the park is to create an open space for the community to gather, as well as to attract further redevelopment in the surrounding area.

### *Concept Design Artist Rendering*

*Phase II*



*Phase I*



The goals and objectives of the Kinistinâw Park Development project were to:

- + Improve connectivity to the park space within The Quarters Downtown;
- + Make The Armature and Kinistinâw Park a focal point and a year-round gathering place in Downtown Edmonton;
- + Use environmentally sustainable landscape design practices;
- + Ensure the publicly accessible open space is designed, maintained and managed to help keep it vibrant, safe, and clean.

The project involved a significant stakeholder and public consultation process. Input from community organizations, City staff, residents, and members of the public contributed to establishing a comprehensive vision for the park, and ultimately informed the development of the design.

## Engagement Process

Extensive stakeholder and public engagement was an integral part of the Kinistinâw Park Development project.

The following engagement activities informed preparation of the park design:

- + Internal Stakeholder Workshop #1 | Boyle Street Plaza
- + Community Open House Event #1 | Boyle Street Plaza
- + Pop-Up Event #1 | Downtown Farmer's Market
- + Student Workshop | St. Teresa of Calcutta Elementary School
- + Stakeholder Interviews | Various locations
- + Online Survey
- + Internal Stakeholder Workshop #2 | Edmonton Tower
- + Pop-Up Event #2 | Winter Cities Shake-Up Festival (The Armature)

- + Community Open House Event #2 | Boyle Street Plaza
- + Community Open House Event #3 | Boyle Street Plaza

Participants involved in the engagement process included the City of Edmonton, community leagues and residents of Boyle Street, Riverdale, and McCauley, members of the broader public, students at St. Teresa of Calcutta School, as well as representatives from social agencies in the community including the Métis Urban Capital Housing Corporation, E4C, Bissell Centre, St. Barbara Russian Orthodox Church, Chinese Benevolent Association, Boyle Street Community Services, Farmer Market Downtown, YMCA Welcome Village, Downtown Business Association and the Edmonton Arts Council.

### Concept Design Artist Rendering





## What We Heard

During the engagement process, participants were asked to focus on their future experience of Kinistinâw Park by describing the things that they would like to do in Kinistinâw Park and identifying any “big ideas” that could make Kinistinâw Park a unique place in The Quarters, downtown and the broader city. The objective of the drop-in public engagement sessions was to identify the core community values and the desired qualities and characteristics for Kinistinâw Park.

The core values and characteristics that emerged included:

- + Emphasis on Safety
- + Celebrating Community
- + Integrated Green
- + Opportunities for Play
- + Unique Identity / Honouring Sense of Place
- + Strategic Programs & Community Partners

Ultimately, these values and characteristics informed the creation of the initial park design and were carried forward into the subsequent stages of design for the project.

### *Concept Design Artist Rendering*



## What We Are Doing

### OPEN LAWN

The open lawn will provide a space for gathering, relaxing and picnics and offers a contrast to the hardscape of The Armature. We heard that softscape spaces, such as the lawn, are needed in the community for flexible use.

### HARDSCAPE PROGRAM AREAS

As an extension of the Armature, the park will be used for community and city-wide events and festivals. We heard from many stakeholders that providing hardscape program areas are important to support a variety of events and activities such as performances, ceremonies, markets and temporary food service.

### CANOPY

The canopy is a visually interesting structural element that provides sheltered seating and program spaces. The canopy also contributes to winter city design through the use of a vibrant colour, lighting and integrated public art. We heard that the community is more likely to use the park at all times of the day and in all seasons if there are spaces protected from the weather, if it is well lit, and if there are a variety of places to sit.

### LIGHTING

Lighting is an important park element to create a safe place for all users and to encourage use at night and in all seasons. We heard that the community would like to see lighting provided throughout the park, including incorporating lighting into the canopy design.

### SEATING

We heard that the community would like to see a variety of seating provided throughout the park.

### PLAY AREA

The play area is an important feature of the park to create a family-friendly space. We heard that an exploratory play area is a desired park element.

### LANDSCAPING AND PLANTINGS

A variety of trees and plants are used throughout the park to introduce natural features into the The Quarters. We heard that the community would like to see native and locally adaptive trees and plant species.

### PUBLIC ART

Public art will be integrated into the canopy and at the park gateways. We heard that the community would like to see the public art represent the history and identity of the area, with an emphasis on the Indigenous and Chinese cultural identities.




## What Is Next

Design work for the Kinistinâw Park is now complete and the next step is construction of the park that will:

- + Be a safe, welcoming and inclusive space for all users, in all seasons and at all times of the day.
- + Be an extension of The Armature that provides for both formal activities and events, as well as informal and spontaneous experiences.
- + Have a unique identity and character that is reflective of the rich history and cultural diversity of the surrounding community.
- + Positively contribute to the revitalization of The Quarters Downtown by engaging with adjacent redevelopment opportunities.
- + Incorporate natural elements and integrate opportunities for play.
- + Provide amenities that consider the needs of park users.
- + Leverage opportunities for partnership and innovative models of operation/programming by continuing to engage with the surrounding community organizations, social agencies and businesses.

Thank you for participating in sharing your voice and shaping our city.





**For more information** on City of Edmonton  
public engagement, please visit  
[www.edmonton.ca/kinistinawpark](http://www.edmonton.ca/kinistinawpark)