



# What We Heard

## Public Opinion Survey

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## **Background**

### Beaumaris Lake Open Space Rehabilitation

The open spaces and amenities surrounding Beaumaris Lake are starting to show their age. Opened in 1979, these adjacent areas are almost 40 years old and need to be updated to improve safety concerns and landscaping aesthetics.

Building upon the 2016 Stormwater Lakes Condition Assessment, the Beaumaris Lake Open Space Rehabilitation project intends to address identified issues and create a vision for any future repairs or modifications that are required.

## **Process**

This rehabilitation project is made up of three main phases, with each phase creating the foundation for the next phase of the project.

### **FUNCTIONAL PROGRAM ASSESSMENT AND SUMMARY**

Assessment of the open spaces and amenities around the stormwater facility identified six main areas of interest that needed to be addressed with the rehabilitation project:

- ✚ East Park Area
- ✚ West Park Area
- ✚ Promenade Area
- ✚ Docks and Viewpoints
- ✚ Trails
- ✚ Lighting

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### **CONCEPT OPTION DEVELOPMENT**

Through a series of public engagement opportunities, the City gathered input from the neighbouring residents, surrounding communities and other lake-amenity users to inform creation of concept options, community values and an overall vision for design of the lake's open spaces and amenities.

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### **PREFERRED CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT**

Feedback received on each concept option was used to refine the concepts into a preferred design for each area. The preferred design and vision will be used to create a detailed design and estimated construction budget for approval by City Council.

## Community Engagement Committee

The City of Edmonton formed a community engagement committee to help guide the engagement activities for the project, consisting of a diverse group of Beaumaris Lake stakeholders. Members of the committee included:

- ✚ Residents of the multi-family housing buildings facing the lake
- ✚ Residents of the single-family homes surrounding the lake
- ✚ Local community association representatives

The committee met several times to provide local perspective on best methods and locations for connection and engagement with the Beaumaris community and surrounding areas. Their input shaped the community engagement approach that was used in the Functional Plan Phase of the project. All communications to the public were also channeled to the committee to assist with building awareness of the project and upcoming public engagement opportunities.

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## Community Engagement Phase 2

November 19 and 21, 2017

Using the input received in June 2017 from residents and Beaumaris Lake users, via the online survey and lakeside engagement boards, the team created a series of concept designs for four main areas around the lake:

- ✚ **The West Park** – the upper plaza area located on the west side of the lake, between the lower promenade area and the Edmonton Public Library branch
- ✚ **The Promenade** – the wide concrete and paving stone area that runs along the west side of the lake parallel to the upper housing and retail areas
- ✚ **The East Park** – the small bay area on the most eastern part of the lake near 106 Street
- ✚ **The Overall Lake Concept** – concept designs for the remainder of the lake

To showcase these concept options, the project team hosted two community engagement events at Good Shepherd Anglican Church, located near the lake at 15495 Castle Downs Rd NW. The two events were hosted at different times of day and different days of the week to maximize the opportunities for interested stakeholders to participate in the project.

- ✚ Event 1 – Saturday, November 18, 2017 – 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- ✚ Event 2 – Tuesday, November 21, 2017 – 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Each event was presented in the same format. Attendees were given a brief overview of the room layout and event structure, followed by a guided tour through a set of project information displays. The display boards outlined the project context (overall goals, previous feedback, project timeline, etc.), details on each concept option for the four areas around the lake. At each concept display virtual reality (VR) headsets were available to help visualize the concept.

## Online Survey

The online survey consisted of three main components: three general demographic questions to establish the participant connection to the Beaumaris Lake area; a series of individual concept images with details of the main design elements in each; and general questions to evaluate the project's community engagement program. Open-ended questions were included to allow for additional feedback. The survey was live from November 18, 2017 to December 2, 2017. During this time, 123 surveys were completed.

## West Park Concepts

Generally speaking, participant response to the three concepts created for the West Park area was nearly equal. Respondents were asked questions on each concept option, as well as each element within the concept option separately. This helped to provide a clear picture of the most and least supported elements in each concept. This approach was used, rather than prioritization of the three concepts in their entirety, as it allowed for design progression of favoured elements for the next phase of design. The following tables measure the net levels of support for each element presented in the concept options (percentage of support minus percentage of approval).

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### WEST PARK

Feedback from the three concept options in the West Park were divided, identifying different components from each of the options as preferred components. Preference was given to the soft, winding pathways, with the desire for a direct route. There was equal interest in the water feature and the interactive art feature, with hesitation mentioned around maintenance required for a water feature. There was strong support for an open lawn area, as well as an upper plaza to support seating opportunities and gathering spaces.

Concept Element Net Approval	West Park 1	West Park 2	West Park 3
Upper Plaza at same level with existing parking	14%	N/A	N/A
Gently graded paths down to lake to improve accessibility	48%	N/A	N/A
Minimal stairs	28%	N/A	N/A
Open multi-use areas	17%	N/A	N/A
Low Maintenance	25%	N/A	N/A
Upper seating area with multiple access points	N/A	30%	N/A

<b>Concept Element Net Approval</b>	<b>West Park 1</b>	<b>West Park 2</b>	<b>West Park 3</b>
Gentle switchback path through low/no maintenance plantings to improve accessibility	N/A	29%	24%
Stormwater Management Education Zone	N/A	8%	N/A
Large upper terrace with multiple access angles	N/A	N/A	19%
Large multi-use green space	N/A	N/A	22%
Interactive low-rise water feature	N/A	N/A	17%
All of the above	39%	30%	21%
None/not applicable	61%	50%	43%

<b>Main Concept Elements</b>	<b>West Park 1</b>	<b>West Park 2</b>	<b>West Park 3</b>
Upper plaza/terrace area	14%	30%	19%
Trail alignment	48%	29%	24%
Multi-use areas	17%	N/A	22%
Additional features	N/A	8%	17%

## PROMENADE

The concept for the promenade was largely favoured by the respondents. The increased seating options, replacement of the railing and planted edge were elements that appealed to the public. Concern was expressed over the boardwalk and required maintenance of the material chosen. This should be further reviewed in the next stages of the project.

<b>Concept Element Net Approval</b>	<b>Promenade</b>
New railing improves views of the lake	31%
Variety of seating opportunities	24%
Planted wall to soften lake edge	20%
Interpretive signage for educational opportunities	7%
All of the above	42%
None/not applicable	62%

## OVERALL LAKE CONCEPT

The proposed enhancements to the overall lake trail were well received by the respondents. The inclusion of wayfinding, fitness circuit and interpretive signage were viewed as a good addition to the trail system, as well as the addition of seating opportunities. Most respondents understand the safety risk associated with the floating docks and agree the raised view decks provide a safer alternative. Many respondents also expressed concern around the level of activity on the trails, the width of the trails and the conflicts that can happen.

Concept Element Net Approval	Overall Lake Concept
Addition of fitness circuit signage to enhance exercise options around the trail system	0%
Addition of interpretive signage around the trail system describing local wildlife and plants	29%
Addition of seating/picnic tables at key locations around lake trail system	15%
Replacement of existing floating platforms with platform that meets bylaw requirements	20%
All of the above	32%
None/not applicable	45%

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## EAST PARK

Responses from public engagement indicated that Option 1 was the preferred concept for the East Park rehabilitation. Respondents noted the preference to have the open grass space separated from the upper plaza area, and expressed that the wavy walls were more visually appealing.

Concept Element Net Approval	Overall Lake Concept
Addition of fitness circuit signage to enhance exercise options around the trail system	0%
Addition of interpretive signage around the trail system describing local wildlife and plants	29%
Addition of seating/picnic tables at key locations around lake trail system	15%
Replacement of existing floating platforms with platform that meets bylaw requirements	20%
All of the above	32%
None/not applicable	45%

## **Summary**

Results from the survey respondents were reviewed and translated by the City of Edmonton project team, and the following results were observed:

### **GENERAL FEEDBACK**

A number of common themes emerged from the respondent feedback:

- ✚ Benches: Clear preference was made by the public for wood or wood-like seating material. Comments were also made to provide benches with backs, as well as armrests.
- ✚ Waste: With the addition of seating areas, including picnic tables, concern was raised over the number of waste receptacles around the lake adjacent to seating and picnic areas.
- ✚ Lighting: The provision of lighting in all areas was frequently mentioned by the public to enhance the feeling of safety around the lake and in the park areas.
- ✚ Maintenance: As the current state of infrastructure at Beaumaris Lake is aging and in need of repair, respondents are concerned about a lack of maintenance following the rehabilitation project.
- ✚ Elements of play: Many comments included the desire for opportunities for play for children visiting Beaumaris Lake.



Learn more by going to:  
[edmonton.ca/BeaumarisLakeRehabilitation](http://edmonton.ca/BeaumarisLakeRehabilitation)  
or call 311

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