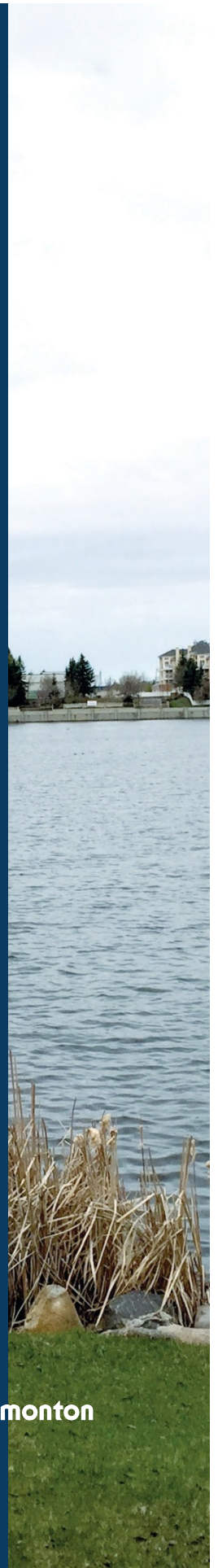


# What We Heard Beaumaris Lake Open Space Rehabilitation

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## Background

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, and the 2017 Functional Plan Assessment and Preferred Concept Development, the overall 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 two main phases, with each phase creating the foundation for the next phase of the project.

### PREFERRED CONCEPT CONFIRMATION AND STYLE PREFERENCES

Using the input received during the Concept Option Development phase in late 2017, a preferred concept for the open spaces and amenities around the stormwater facility was created. This concept contains modifications of several of the six main areas of interest that were identified at Beaumaris Lake:

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

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### PRELIMINARY DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

Through a series of public engagement opportunities, the City gathered input from the neighbouring residents, surrounding communities and other lake-amenity users to shape the design elements for the lake's open spaces and amenities. The goal is to create a cohesive design for the entire Beaumaris Lake area that uses similar materials and styles in all applications. The feedback received from the three engagement opportunities will be used to determine orders of preferences. These preferences will be considered with the approved budget, maintenance considerations, product availability, etc., which will all determine what is actually implemented within the open spaces around Beaumaris Lake.

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# What We Heard

## Community Engagement Event

### June 13, 2018

Using the input received in November 2017 from residents and Beaumaris Lake users through the online survey and engagement events, the team refined the concept designs for the four main areas around the lake and identified critical components for further input. The goal for the amenity and open space design is to create consistent styles and uses of materials for:

- ++ **Furnishings** – these materials will be used on furnishings, such as benches, tables, and waste receptacles. Final design may include a combination of the materials listed.
- ++ **Benches** – there are a variety of options for benches around the lake including the types of materials used in its construction, and the use of backs and arms. Final design may include a combination of options.
- ++ **Lighting** – lights around the lake include pole lighting to provide illumination to large areas, and smaller bollard lights to provide site specific lighting and keep views of the lake uncluttered.
- ++ **Walking Surfaces** – the two main types of walking surfaces around the lake include those areas within the East and West Parks, and the proposed boardwalk area incorporated into the west Promenade area. All walking trail surfaces around the lake will be paved with asphalt.

To highlight these concept options, the project team hosted a community engagement event on Wednesday, June 13, 2018 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Good Shepherd Anglican Church, located near the lake at 15495 Castle Downs Rd NW. The event was hosted at this location and on this day due to the success of the previous events held similarly to present the conceptual designs in the previous phase.

Much like the previous events, 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 the finalized/preferred concept for the four areas around the lake, and idea rating sheet-style questions on each of the design material and style questions. Attendees were asked to either fill in a circle or attach a coloured sticker under their choices in each of the areas listed above. Results from the event were combined with the survey results to show the collective view. The event attracted nearly 90 attendees.

## “Dusk Walk”

### June 13, 2018

Immediately after the close of the community engagement event, the project team led a group walking tour around the lake to receive detailed information on areas of concern and to show participants the various types of furnishings and design components already present. The walk also provided an opportunity to better explain the preferred concept design in relation to specific places. The project team was joined by representatives from the Edmonton Police Service, the EPS Neighbourhood Empowerment Team (NET), the City of Edmonton’s forestry and parks operations departments, and Ward Councilor Jon Dziadyk. Some input provided by attendees included:

- Specific areas requiring maintenance (undergrowth trimming or dead tree removal, for example)
- Areas requiring more lights
- Areas where tree branches block existing lights
- Popular gathering spaces/problem areas
- Conflict points at corners for pedestrians/cyclists

Several of these issues were noted by the representatives in attendance and will be prioritized outside of the scope of this project by the city’s forestry department and EPS.

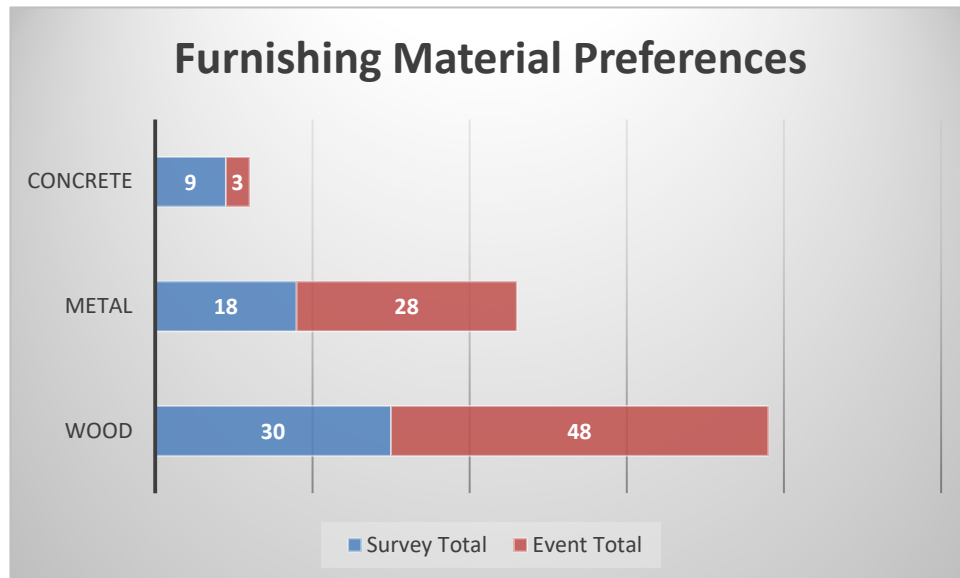
## Online Survey

The online survey consisted of two main components: several demographic questions identical to the ones used in previous surveys to establish the participant connection to the previous phases of engagement and to the Beaumaris Lake area; and a series of preference/ranking style questions on each of the design elements. An open-ended question was included to allow for additional feedback. The survey was live from June 13, 2018 to June 30, 2018. During this time, 57 surveys were

completed.

## Furnishings

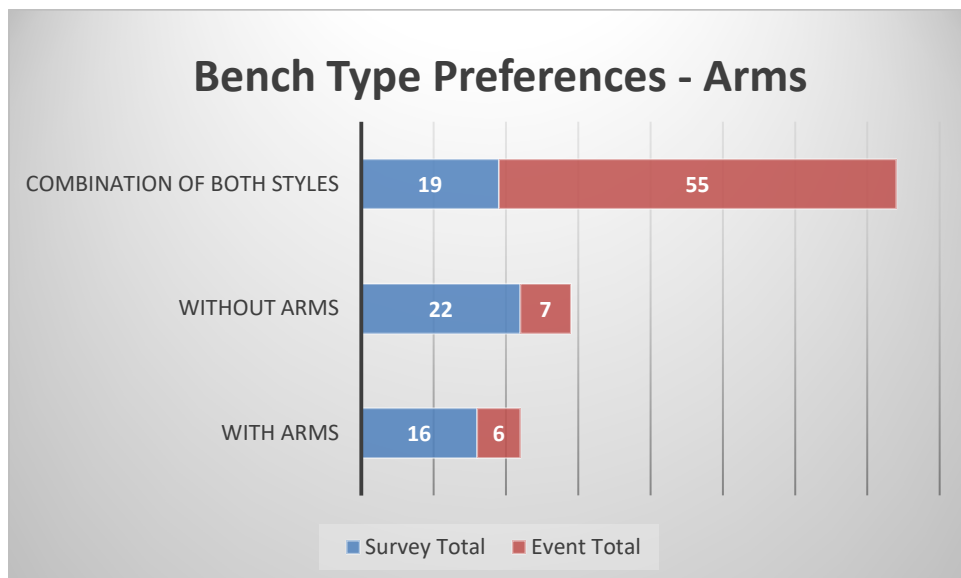
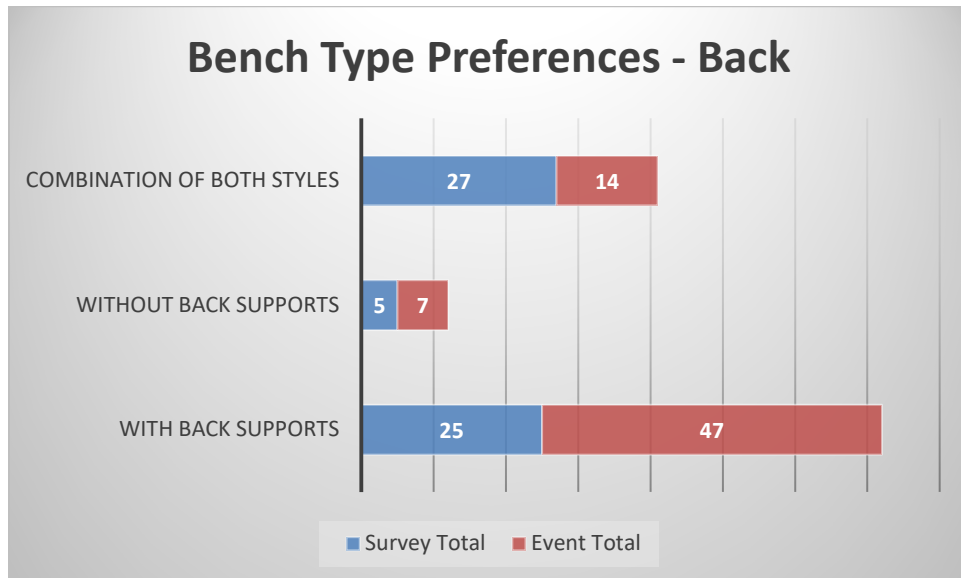
The furnishings around the lake include the benches, tables, and waste receptacles, and may include other elements as required to complete the design. These materials may also be used in combination in certain locations or pieces, such as a bench that is a combination of metal and wood, etc.



Respondents showed a clear preference for the use of wood in the lake’s furnishings, which is unsurprising given the results of previous engagements that indicated a desire for a natural, subdued style similar to the existing naturalized state of the lake and its surroundings.

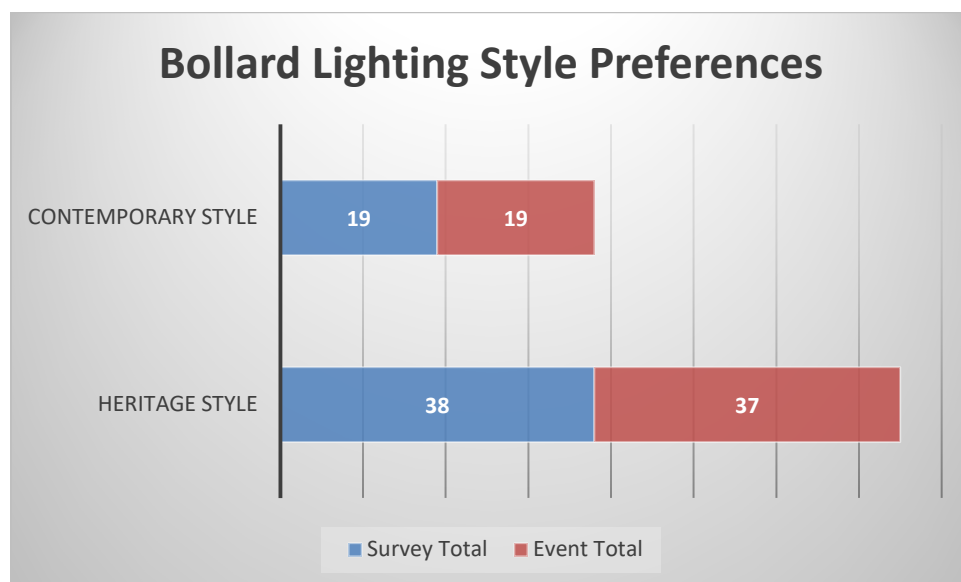
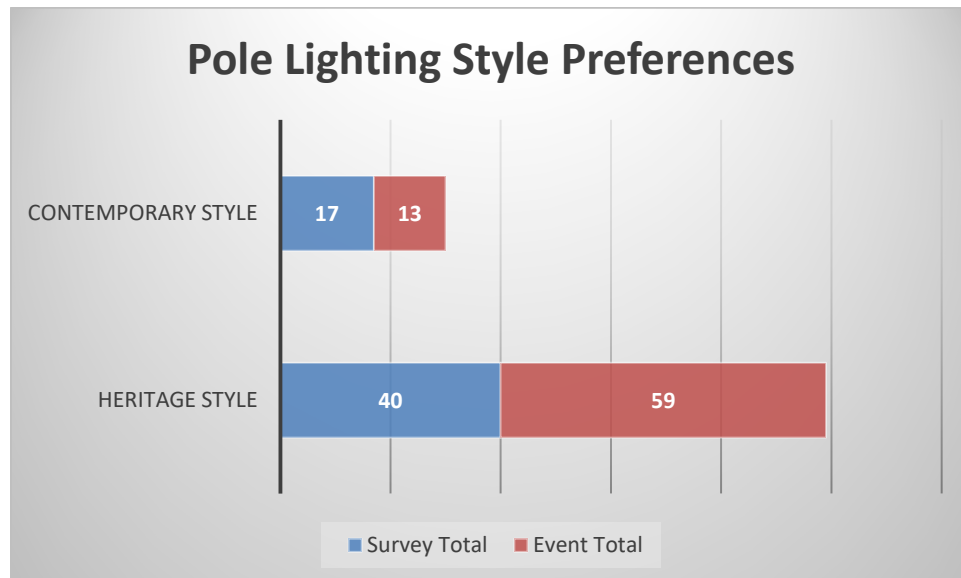
## Benches

The benches around the lake contain two main design elements, with participants asked to comment on both the arms and the backs of these types of seating.



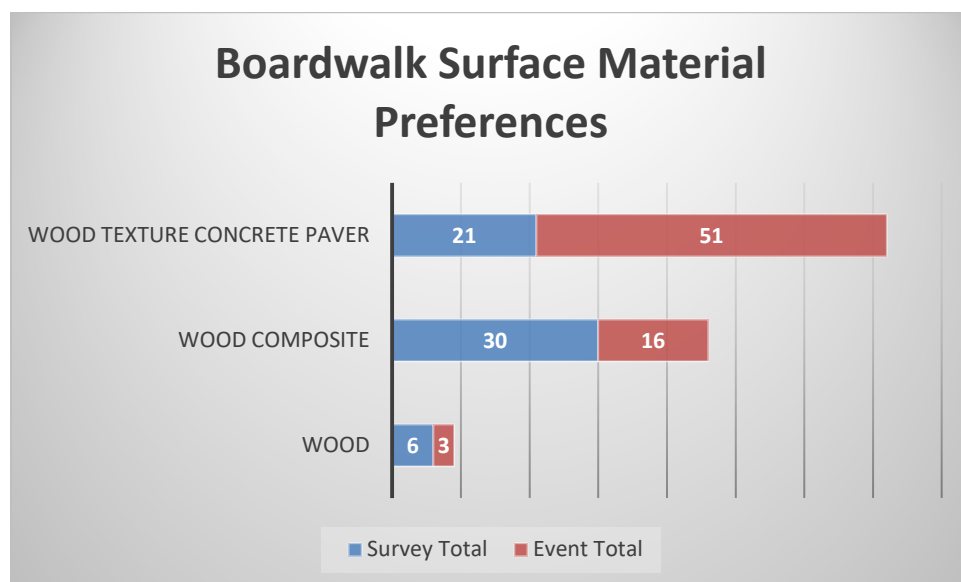
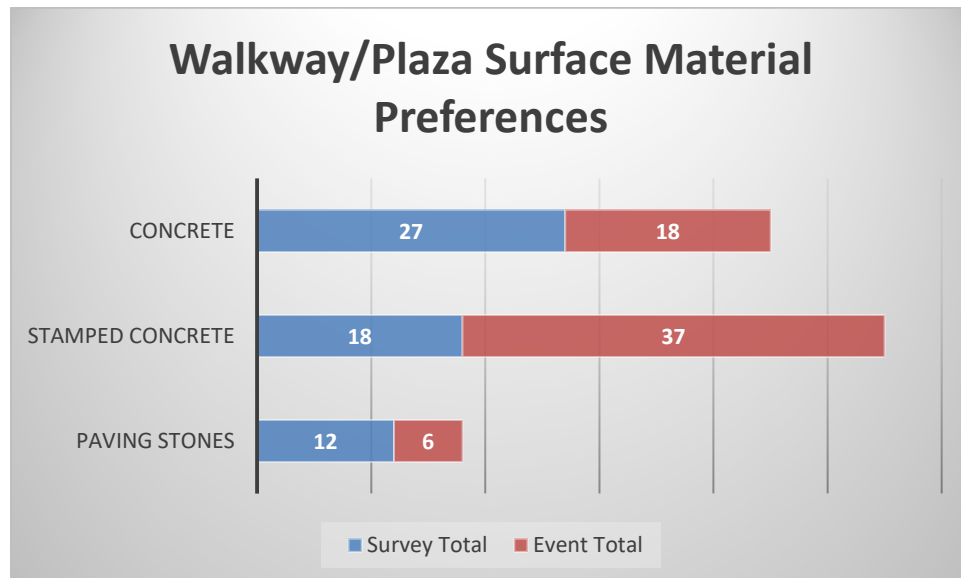
Respondents showed clear preferences for the benches at the lake to have back supports and a combination of styles with and without arms. This may be partially because this combination of types of benches currently exists at Beaumaris Lake and seems to be working well. It will also allow for more flexibility in the seating options in some of the popular areas.

## Lighting



There are currently no bollard lights at the lake, and attendees at the community engagement event were very interested in their inclusion in the designs for the both the East and West Parks. The use of a consistent Heritage Style for all lighting within the overall design was strongly supported and will mesh nicely with the naturalized ambiance at Beaumaris Lake.

## Walking Surfaces



The results for the surface materials for the walkways and plaza areas within the East and West Parks and the boardwalk are not surprising. Many stakeholders encountered over the course of the previous projects expressed their distaste for the existing paving stones in the promenade area due to the heaving and associated tripping hazards, and for the wood on the boardwalk because of how quickly the wood on the viewing platforms has deteriorated. It is interesting to note that the number of respondents that preferred both the stamped concrete for the walkway/plaza areas and the wood texture concrete paver for the boardwalk surface were significantly higher at the event than they were in the survey. This is likely because the event attendees were able to ask questions of the project team regarding both products, which many had never seen before or knew much about.

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