

HIGHLANDS

Neighbourhood Renewal Newsletter

Edmonton

The City of Edmonton
is Building Great Neighbourhoods



This newsletter provides an update on Highland's neighbourhood renewal activities and information about our upcoming engagement session on September 27, 2018.



Planning for Highlands' Facelift

It has been a busy eight months in Highlands planning for next year's renewal construction. Thank you for sharing your ideas during our public engagement activities. Your input helped to shape the draft concepts for your neighbourhood.

January – Renewing Ada Boulevard Community Conversation

Highlands Golf Club and Online Survey

162 respondents in person and online

March – Stakeholder Outreach Workshop

Edmonton Expo Centre

25 participants

April – Two Public Engagement Events on Neighbourhood Vision, including Community Walks

Highlands School and Mount Royal School

78 participants

June – Two Drop-in Outdoor Events on Exploring the Possibilities for Highlands and Ada Boulevard

Henry Martell Park

277 participants



Highlands is Changing!

NEIGHBOURHOOD CONCEPT DESIGNS

It's time to reveal the Concept Designs for your neighbourhood. These designs are shaped by City policy and programs, technical requirements, and your input.

This input supports reconstructing streets, curbs, and sidewalks as well as adding missing sidewalks to make Highlands more walkable, connected and accessible for all. The funding to complete these upgrades comes from Neighbourhood Renewal, and it is allocated to renew roadways, sidewalks, and street lights. This work will begin starting in 2019 and continue throughout the neighbourhood until 2021.

Other updates coming to Highlands include:

- **New street lights**
- **Measures to reduce speeding and shortcutting**
- **Improvements to pedestrian crossings and connections**
- **Improvements to park spaces**

View all the Concept Designs for Highlands and Tell Us What You Think!

Drop-in Event!

Thursday, September 27, 2018

5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Highlands School 11509 - 62 Street

Also represented at the event will be: Yellowhead Freeway Conversion Project, Exhibition Lands, Highlands Granular Trail and Stairs Realignment, Highlands School Project and Highlands Facility Renewal.

Light refreshments and snacks will be provided!

Creating the Concept Designs for Highlands

First, thank you to everyone who contributed knowledge and experiences to help shape the future of your neighbourhood.

Creating the Concept Designs was not an easy task, with many factors to be considered. Over 2,545 residents live, work, and play in Highlands, each with individual needs, desires, and opinions for the future of the neighbourhood. There are also unique challenges when trying to add new elements to older neighbourhoods with mature trees and narrow roadways.

While all input and technical factors were considered, it is not possible to meet everyone's needs; compromises and trade-offs had to be made. The Concept Designs are the result of months of listening, learning, creating, balancing, and understanding. The cost for the Concept Designs must fall within the renewal budget for the neighbourhood to be approved for construction. Some elements proposed may not receive funding, however efforts will be made to partner with other City programs, community partners and initiatives to leverage additional funding opportunities.



What We Heard From You To Support the Concept Designs

RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL ROADS

People identified speeding and short-cutting through the neighbourhood as concerns. When considering possible solutions, they identified pedestrian safety and slowing vehicle traffic as desired outcomes.

In terms of reducing speeding, people indicated they would be most comfortable with solutions that include raised crosswalks, speed humps, raised intersections, and mini roundabouts. For shortcutting, they were most comfortable with the possibility of one-way roads and raised medians being added in the neighbourhood.

ACTIVE CONNECTIONS AND BIKE ROUTES

When it comes to active connections, people identified the addition of missing sidewalks as important to improving walkability and connectivity in the neighbourhood. Considering the mature trees and width of the roads in Highlands, it may not be possible to fit missing sidewalk links into the available space without affecting the roadway. Where missing sidewalks are proposed, people identified the possible impacts as narrowing the roadway, changing roads into a one-way street, removing on-street parking, and/or putting a sidewalk on just one side of the road. New sidewalk links will be installed where possible and be 100% funded by the City.

For bike routes, people expressed interest in seeing a designated east-west bike route along 113 Avenue along with an additional north-south route within the neighbourhood. However, there was a low level of comfort expressed for specialized bike facilities within Highlands. Options for bike routes include a shared roadway with painted bike markings, a shared use path, or alternatively no additional bike routes other than on Ada Boulevard.

OUTDOOR SPACES

When it comes to open spaces, people are highly comfortable with the idea of adding benches and park furniture in open spaces, including Henry Martell Park, Buttercup Park, and Betty Stanhope-Cole Park. There was also comfort with including interpretive or wayfinding signage and public art. In some parks, people want to see additional plantings and shrubs. They also have interest in a lookout at the U-shape green space along Ada Boulevard.

ADA BOULEVARD

In January, the City committed to ensure that Ada Boulevard is accessible and safe for all, while keeping its unique charm. The City indicated that it requires changes to Ada Boulevard, and that it wants to do its best to align these changes with the needs and interests of the neighbourhood.

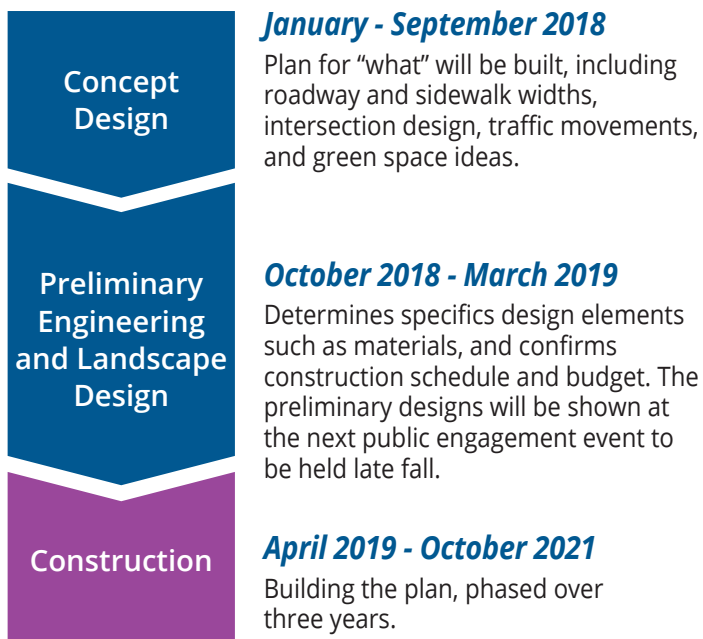
The Highlands vision and important elements set the stage for people's needs and interests, emphasizing a desire to enhance Highlands profile as an active and accessible neighbourhood, where streets and sidewalks are designed to favour pedestrians and other active modes of transportation. Through public engagement we heard a mix of views on how best to achieve this along Ada Boulevard. Some people encouraged us to maintain the status quo, many indicated that they understand that changes are required and want to see all updates made to the south side of Ada Boulevard, and others strongly urged us to prioritize universal accessibility on both sides of the boulevard.

We shared a variety of possible options that could be applied to update Ada Boulevard during our June public engagement sessions in Henry Martell Park, and developed some possible options to introduce designated paths along the boulevard. We are excited to share these concepts with you and receive your feedback at our September 27 drop-in event at Highlands School. Don't miss out on the opportunity to shape Ada Boulevard at our September event.

DECORATIVE STREET LIGHTS

As part of the renewal, standard street lights will be replaced. However, property owners have the opportunity to upgrade the street lights to decorative poles. The cost of the standard street light is paid by the City. However, the upgrade from standard to decorative street lights is a local improvement and the additional upgrade cost must be paid by the property owner. For more information, please visit edmonton.ca/localimprovements or contact the Highlands Community League.

Definitions and Timeline



Make Sure You are Informed!

Visit edmonton.ca/BuildingHighlands for more information, and to add your name to our email list so we can keep you informed of project updates and engagement opportunities. There’s still much work to be done and more opportunities for input before construction begins in 2019.

Highlands Vision and Important Elements

VISION

Highlands is a safe, friendly and highly-connected neighbourhood. It is an active and accessible destination, where people enjoy modern infrastructure and beautiful gathering spaces surrounded by local history.

IMPORTANT ELEMENTS:

- Highlands features its natural beauty, including mature trees and connections to the river valley.
- Highlands is an active and accessible neighbourhood, where streets and sidewalks are designed to favour pedestrians and other active modes of transportation.
- Highlands is a safe neighbourhood, where traffic management and lighting help people feel secure moving through the neighbourhood.
- Highlands is a friendly neighbourhood, where there are beautiful, functional and accessible outdoor areas for people to gather.
- Highlands honours and reflects its history, recognizing local points of interest and telling stories about the diverse groups of people who lived on these lands.
- Highlands is a connected neighbourhood, where the streets and sidewalks support a natural flow of people who move both north and south of 112 Avenue.

How Will the Vision and Important Elements be Used?

Options and recommendations for the neighbourhood are evaluated against the Vision and Important Elements and are reflected in the Concept Designs. The vision will be further used to assist with setting priorities when budgeting and making final design decisions.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT
SHARE YOUR VOICE SHAPE OUR CITY

For more information:

-  edmonton.ca/BuildingHighlands
-  buildinggreatneighbourhoods@edmonton.ca
-  311




Services for deaf or hard of hearing persons provided upon request. Call 311 at TTY/NexTalk 780-944-5555 and press 0, or email 311@edmonton.ca



Learn more about and get involved in City issues affecting you and your neighbourhood. Go to edmonton.ca/PublicInvolvementCalendar for a list of public engagement opportunities.