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# What We Heard Report

## Queen Elizabeth School Park Master Plan

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Edmonton



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## **OVERVIEW**

Edmonton's mature neighbourhoods are great places to live and are home to many treasures, including District Activity Parks. These parks serve several neighbourhoods in the larger surrounding area and are important for health, wellness and quality of life. District Parks are part of a city-wide park system and support a wide variety of facilities, programs and open space activities.

Queen Elizabeth School Park ([9425 132 Avenue NW](#)) is a District Activity Park located in the Killarney neighbourhood. It has been identified as a priority for renewal to update park infrastructure and park amenities to meet community needs.

To guide future development in the park and to seek funding to update park infrastructure and amenities, the City of Edmonton has undertaken a master planning process for Queen Elizabeth School Park.

Once completed, the Master Plan will establish a long term vision for this park. It will be used to shape the park's future, taking into consideration the interests expressed by the public, use of existing amenities, new amenities and activities, operational requirements and City strategies and policies.

This report summarizes What We Heard from the second phase of public engagement for the Queen Elizabeth School Park Master Plan.

### **The Master Plan Process**

The Master Plan for Queen Elizabeth School Park will establish a vision and management plan for the next 25 years, and build upon existing plans, policies and initiatives while identifying public needs and priorities. It will provide direction for environmental management, as well as recommendations for civic, cultural and recreational uses that are appropriate to the park.

The completion of a Master Plan is part of the CONCEPT Phase of the Park and Facility Development Process. In this phase, public consultation is critical as it informs the final concept for the Master Plan from now until its completion in the SEASON of 2019.

Existing policy, City Administration and public input will inform the process and outcome of the CONCEPT Phase, at the end of which the Master Plan report and concept plan will be submitted to City Administration for consideration for inclusion in the 2019-2022 Capital budget.

### **Public Engagement Summary**

Public engagement is critical to the Master Plan process to ensure the final document reflects the changing priorities of the existing park users and the surrounding community.

To date, we have held one engagement session for this project. In October 2016 we hosted a public workshop to understand how people use the park space and how they wanted to use the space in the future for more information please see the [Fall 2016 What We Heard Report](#).

## **HOW WE ENGAGED**

In the spring of 2017, the City of Edmonton held public engagement sessions to obtain feedback on elements to be included in the concept plan for the park. This engagement built on the fall 2016 engagement and we took the feedback and worked with a design consultant to create a preliminary

concept idea. We presented that preliminary concept idea at multiple invite-only workshops during spring 2017:

Engagement Session #1: April 26, 2017

Audience: School administration from Killarney Junior High School and Queen Elizabeth High School were invited. Killarney Junior High School administration attended.

Engagement Session #2: April 26, 2017

Audience: Killarney Community League, Glengarry Community League and on site sportsfield user groups were invited.

Engagement Session #3: May 25 2017

Audience: Grade seven, eight and nine students from Killarney Junior High School.

## **WHAT WE ASKED**

The City shared the preliminary concept for Queen Elizabeth School Park and asked the following questions about the project:

- Where do you enter and exit the site?
- What paths do you travel along within the site?
- What areas of the park do you use most frequently and what do you use them for?
- What do you like about the proposed elements? What don't you like?
- What areas have issues? For example: areas that feel unsafe, wet areas, areas where there is damage, lack of shade, seating, garbage bins etc.
- Have we missed anything?
- Are there better uses for the space in this park site?
- Are there activities that you, your family or friends would like to do but don't have space for facilities in the community? This could include space for social or cultural gatherings, different sports, etc.

## **WHAT WE HEARD**

The following summarizes what we heard during our spring 2017 engagement sessions. All input will be considered as we refine the design and move towards completion of the Master Plan.

Overall the majority of the feedback heard for this project was extremely positive. People were supportive of the overall Master Plan process and were supportive of the preliminary concepts presented.

We also heard:

- There is a strong desire for basketball courts whether these are new infrastructure or whether they take the place of other infrastructure, like the existing tennis courts.
- Desire for a play area but the type of play elements were debated. Possible play elements

mentioned included:

- Monkey bars and swings
- Small playground, including swings, monkey bars and a slide
- Existing amenities need to be renewed:
  - Fences
  - Tennis courts
- Desire for more trees and plants
- Desire for shade and seating areas, including:
  - By sportsfield and around the park
  - Between trees on the berm
- Pedestrian access could be improved, specifically:
  - Looping the path around the northern perimeter,
  - Across 132nd Avenue north of Queen Elizabeth High School
  - In the parking lot north of Queen Elizabeth High School

## **AS A RESULT, WHAT HAS CHANGED IN THE PROJECT?**

Based on citizen input, the preliminary concept idea was updated to create a preliminary concept plan.

Some suggestions that were included in the preliminary concept plan:

- Basketball courts were added
- A playspace was added
- Seating areas were added
- Shade structures were added
- The soccer fields were reconfigured and one baseball backstop was removed
- Pathways were added

## **NEXT STEPS**

The next step in Queen Elizabeth School Park Master Plan is to use the feedback to refine the design and present it to the public to see if it fits the needs of the community. Following that round of engagement the Master Plan will be finalized.

For further information about the project, please visit the website:

[https://www.edmonton.ca/projects\\_plans/parks\\_recreation/Queen-Elizabeth-School-Park-Master-Plan.aspx](https://www.edmonton.ca/projects_plans/parks_recreation/Queen-Elizabeth-School-Park-Master-Plan.aspx)