

# WHAT WE HEARD

## Newton Park Development

Edmonton

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During public engagement for the Newton Neighbourhood Renewal (October 4, 2016 and March 14, 2017), the City of Edmonton heard comments expressing interest in upgrades to both Jacob Prins and Germain Dalton Parks.

Based on the feedback we received, the City held on-site meetings at each park site to further discuss the improvements that enhanced lighting and the addition of park furniture and other amenities would have on the use patterns for each park. In addition to the site meetings, a survey was posted online to gather additional feedback.

### BACKGROUND

Letters were delivered to all residents near each of the park sites. The letter invited residents to the on-site park meetings on September 12 and 13, 2017, and also directed them to the online survey.

### WHAT WE HEARD

The questions asked at the on-site meetings and in the survey were around the current uses and the level of agreement for recommended improvements for lighting, park furniture and other park improvements. The City received 35 responses to the survey (in person and online).

### GENERAL THEMES & RESPONSES

#### Jacob Prins Park:

- It was identified that there was a missing sidewalk along 121 Avenue
- A fence or barrier along 121 Avenue would promote safe use of the open space in the park
- Addition of benches and picnic tables would attract more users to the park, reducing undesirable uses
- Interest in the lighting in or around the park site - mixed feedback regarding the benefits of additional light and the trade-offs of attracting people to the park after dark

#### Germaine Dalton Park:

- The most prevalent request was for the widening of the existing path through the park site to accommodate multiple uses (cycling, walking and dog walking)
- Concerns were shared about vehicle traffic on the park site, primarily

- entering at the 123A Avenue park entrance
- It was shared that several of the larger trees in the park suffered damage in recent wind storms, with an interest in the City replacing trees throughout the park (both deciduous and coniferous varieties)
- It was noted the the existing waste receptacles were next to the benches, creating an unpleasant resting space due to the wasps and dog waste. It was suggested to separate these elements
- There was an interest in maintaining the open space in the park for casual recreational use
- Mixed feedback was also received about lighting in this park. The overall opinion was that the park does not require additional lights but the existing may need to be upgraded.

## **NEXT STEPS:**

At Newton's Pre-Construction Meeting on February 8, 2018, a concept plan showing the recommended improvements for each park site will be shared. The public will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the location of park furniture. The final design will be posted on [edmonton.ca/BuildingNewton](http://edmonton.ca/BuildingNewton) once available.

## **The recommendations being shown for each park site are:**

### **Jacob Prins Park:**

- Addition of the missing sidewalk along 121 Avenue
- Addition of benches along the public sidewalk facing the park site and 121 Avenue
- Addition of another picnic table close to the existing picnic table, and addition of a connection to the 121 Avenue sidewalk for accessibility
- Creation of an opening at the south end of the existing chain link fence along the east side of the park (52 Street)
- Addition of planting beds along 121 Avenue to enhance aesthetics and to act as a barrier for children and balls
- Additional lighting is not being pursued within the park. The existing streetlighting on 121 Avenue will illuminate the new sidewalk on the south side of the road, which is where users are expected to be after dark.

### **Germaine Dalton Park:**

- Installation of bollards to prevent vehicle traffic at 123A Avenue entrance
- Additional tree plantings throughout park (both deciduous and coniferous varieties)
- Additional waste receptacles and relocation of existing away from other park furniture
- Widening the existing path through the park site to accommodate multiple uses (cycling, walking and dogs) will be explored, as additional investigation is necessary to understand tree impacts
- Upgrades to existing light fixtures are currently under review