

What We Heard

Parks and Open Space Master Plan

ADVISE

City of Edmonton
Blatchford Redevelopment Office
Parks and Open Space Master Plan
April 2026
Edmonton.ca/blatchford



The logo for the City of Edmonton, consisting of a blue square with the word "Edmonton" in white text.

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Acknowledgements

The City of Edmonton acknowledges that the traditional land on which we reside is in Treaty Six Territory. We would like to thank the diverse Indigenous Peoples whose ancestors' footsteps have marked this territory for centuries, such as nêhiyaw/Cree, Dene, Anishinaabe/Saulteaux, Nakota Isga/Nakota Sioux, and Niitsitapi/Blackfoot peoples. We also acknowledge this as the Métis' homeland and the home of one of the largest communities of Inuit south of the 60th parallel. It is a welcoming place for all people who come from around the world to share Edmonton as a home. Together, we call upon all of our collective, honoured traditions and spirits to work in building a great city for today and future generations.

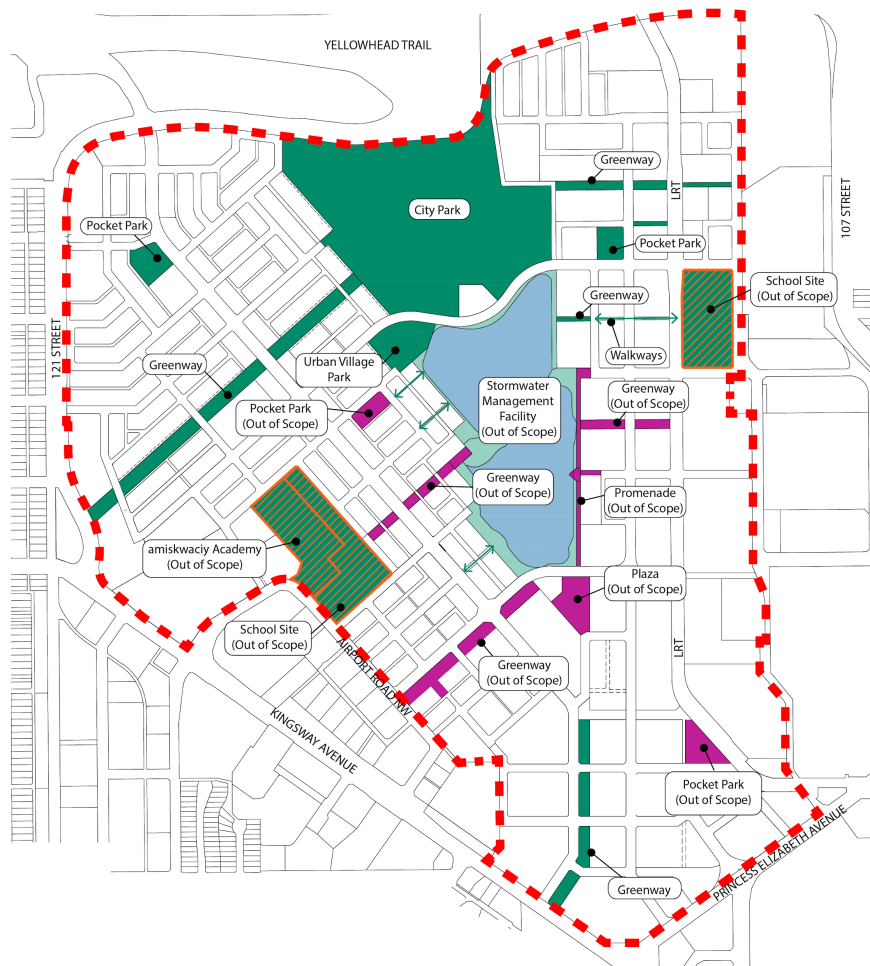
The project team thanks drop-in session attendees and survey respondents for sharing their thoughts and insights on how to shape the Blatchford Parks and Open Space Master Plan.

Project overview

The Blatchford Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan provides a high-level vision and implementation strategy for 32.48 hectares of parks and open spaces. Of this total, 21.88 hectares are included in the current planning and public engagement process. The remaining 10.60 hectares are not in scope because they are school sites or areas that are already built or currently being designed in detail.

The Blatchford Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan strives to create a pedestrian focused design, sustainability features, transit/LRT access, and a network of diverse parks and plazas throughout the neighbourhood. To ensure the network is functional, multi-purpose, and accessible to everyone, the plan makes use of Edmonton’s “Breathe” strategy. Parks and green spaces that are in scope for this project are coloured green, including:

- A large City park in the north central part of the neighbourhood
- Small “pocket” parks on the northwest and northeast side of the neighbourhood
- An “Urban Village” park near the location of a future stormwater pond
- Several narrow “greenways” throughout the neighbourhood



Public engagement approach

The Blatchford Redevelopment Office previously engaged with the community on a recreational needs assessment to ensure the district park design aligned with these requirements. This information helped inform the park design during the development of the Parks and Open Space Master Plan. This latest round of engagement assisted the project team in completing the Parks and Open Space Master Plan by updating recreational needs for future parks, incorporating sustainability elements, and considering interpretation strategies.

As noted earlier, the Parks and Open Space Master Plan is intended to provide a high-level vision for the Blatchford community. The public was asked to ADVISE the project team on the Plan’s elements. The City of Edmonton’s Public Engagement Spectrum (below) notes an ADVISE level of engagement means the project team will consider public feedback as part of project decision making.



How we engaged

Public engagement for the Blatchford Parks and Open Space Master Plan occurred from February 25 to March 11, 2026. Primary engagement methods were an in-person drop-in session held on February 25 at the Edmonton Inn and Conference Centre and an online survey that was publicly available on edmonton.ca/Blatchford from February 25 - March 11.

Information about the project and engagement opportunities was communicated through a postcard mailed to over 10,000 addresses in and around Blatchford, Blatchford e-newsletters, direct emails to interest groups, and via edmonton.ca/Blatchford. The webpage received 840 pageviews, 50 of which came through a QR code on the mailed postcard.



What we asked

The project asked people how parks and open spaces in Blatchford could be used for different activities, support environmental goals, and help share the area's history and stories. The public was asked to provide feedback on:

Recreation

- What spring and summer activities can be considered?
- What fall and winter activities can be considered?
- What events/activities can take place in Blatchford parks and open spaces?

Sustainability

- What sustainability elements should be considered in the park and open spaces?

Interpretive Elements

- What methods people prefer to learn about the history, ecology, and development of Blatchford parks and open spaces.

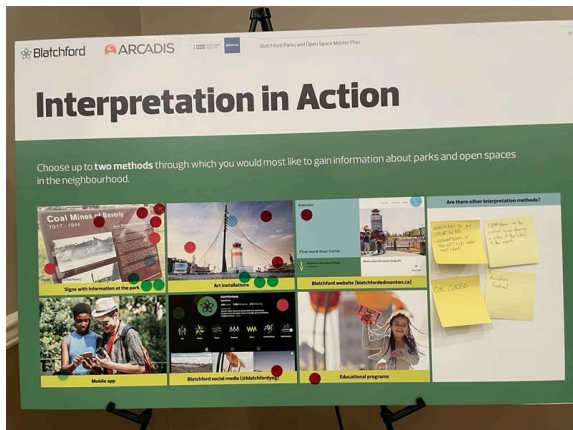
Who we heard from

Drop-in Session

On February 25, 2026, the project team hosted a drop-in session at the Edmonton Inn and Conference Centre. A total of 25 members of the public attended the event, discussed the project with the project team and provided feedback on possible elements and amenities throughout Blatchford parks and open spaces. The chart below shows activities, sustainability elements and interpretative methods most preferred or important to those who attended the drop-in event.

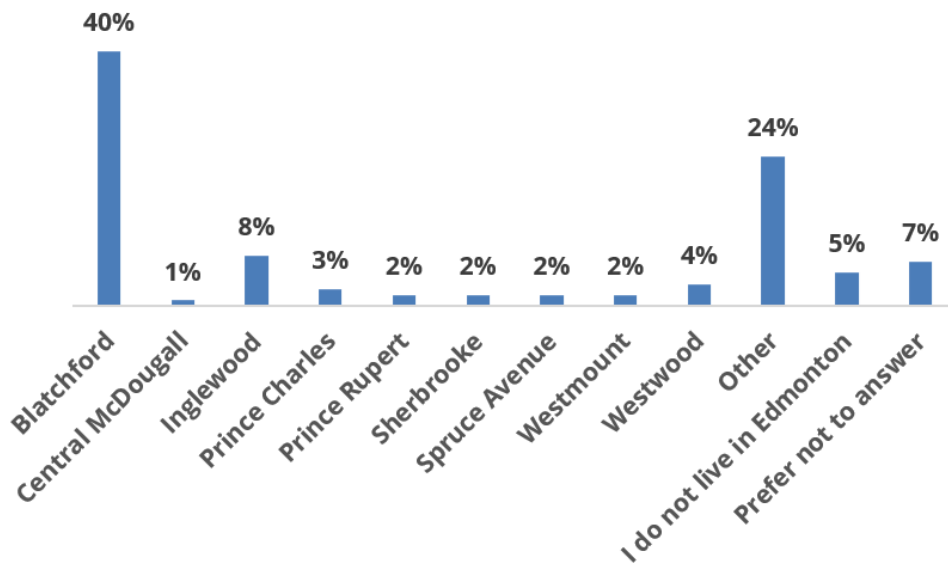
Activity Boards

Category	Top Voted Items
Spring and Summer Activities	Community Events, Grow Plants/Community Garden, Walking/Rolling
Fall and Winter Activities	Community Events, Skating, Sliding Hill, Barbeque/Firepits
Events	Seasonal Themed Events, Educational Workshops, Arts and Cultural
Sustainability Elements	Tree Planting, Native Plants, Pathways, Edible Landscaping
Interpretive Elements	Informational Signs, Art Installations, Social Media

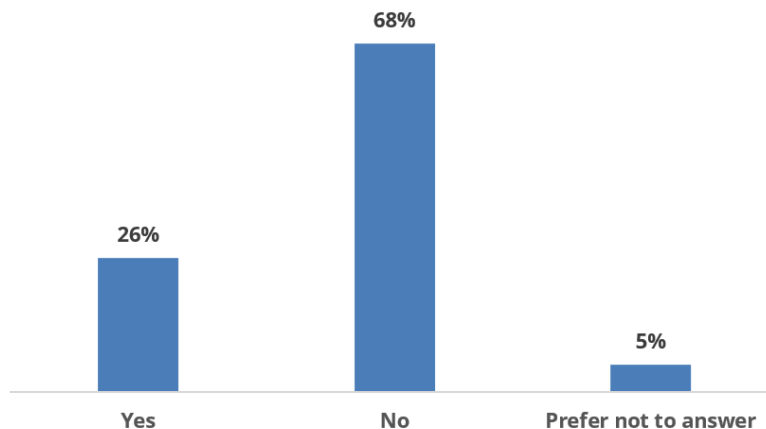


Online Survey

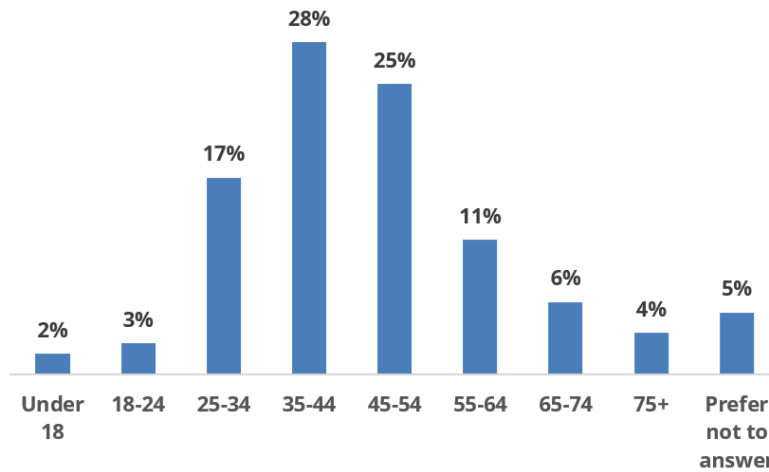
A total of 114 respondents completed the survey. Most (64 per cent) respondents indicated they lived in Blatchford and nearby communities (Central McDougall, Inglewood, Prince Charles, Prince Rupert, Sherbrooke, Spruce Avenue, Westmount, Westwood). About one-quarter (24 per cent) of respondents were from other neighbourhoods in Edmonton, with some of these respondents indicating they intended to move to the Blatchford neighbourhood. A few respondents chose not to answer this question (7 per cent) . A smaller portion indicated they do not live in Edmonton, with some of these respondents indicating they were considering moving to Blatchford in the future.



The majority (68 per cent) of respondents had children/grandchildren under the age of 18 years in their household. A few respondents (5 per cent) chose not to answer this question.



Most survey respondents were between the ages of 25 to 54 years old (70 per cent).



Almost half identified as female (48 per cent), while a similar percentage identified as male (42 per cent). A small portion (one per cent) of respondents identified as non-binary, transgender, Two-Spirit or another gender. Some respondents (10 per cent) chose not to answer this question.

What we heard

Spring and Summer Activities

Survey respondents were asked to select up to five activities in spring and summer that they or a member of their household would like to do in Blatchford parks and open spaces. As noted in the chart below, the five most desired uses included attending community events, using pathways for walking/rolling, relaxing in a green space, using a dog park, growing plants/community garden and picnicking.

Expected Park Use	Percentage of Respondents	Number of Respondents
Play outdoor tennis	9%	10
Play outdoor pickleball	11%	13
Use a playground	21%	24
Relax in green space	57%	65
Grow plants/community garden	27%	31
Use pathways for walking/rolling (e.g., bike, mobility aid)	71%	81
Use a dog park	36%	41
Picnic	27%	31
Barbeque/firepit	21%	24
Attend a community event (e.g., market, live music)	72%	82

Expected Park Use	Percentage of Respondents	Number of Respondents
Use a spray park	18%	21
Informal play and exercise (e.g., frisbee, yoga)	25%	29
Exercise with outdoor fitness equipment	21%	24
Play volleyball	6%	7
Bird watching	18%	21
Other	13%	15

A few (13 per cent) respondents selected “other” and specified an activity they would like to do or see in the various Blatchford parks and open spaces. The “other” desired activities/amenities are listed below from most to least frequently mentioned.

- Basketball
- Disc golf
- View platforms of the neighbourhood or downtown
- Geothermally heated outdoor pool
- Chess tables
- Farmers market

Fall and Winter Activities

Respondents were asked to select up to five fall and winter activities that they or a member of their household would like to do in Blatchford parks and open spaces. As noted in the chart below, the five most desired uses included attending skating, use pathways for walking/rolling, attending community events, sliding hill and cross country skiing.

Expected Park Use	Percentage of Respondents	Number of Respondents
Use a playground	10%	11
Use pathways for walking/rolling (e.g., bike, mobility aid)	61%	70
Use a dog park	32%	37
Picnic	4%	5
Barbeque/firepit	21%	24
Attend a community event (e.g., market, live music)	50%	57
Informal play (e.g., build a snow figure)	25%	28
Exercise with outdoor fitness equipment	9%	10
Skate	64%	73
Play hockey	15%	17

Expected Park Use	Percentage of Respondents	Number of Respondents
Snowshoe	21%	24
Cross country skiing	40%	46
Sliding hill	48%	55
Bird watching	13%	15
Other (Please specify:)	5%	6
None of the above	1%	1

A few (five per cent) respondents selected “other” and specified an activity they would like to do or see in the various Blatchford parks and open spaces. The “other” desired activities/amenities are listed below from most to least frequently mentioned.

- Outdoor winter art spaces
- Indoor gardening facility

As noted in the charts above, many respondents indicated they would like to attend summer (72 per cent) and winter (50 per cent) community events in Blatchford open spaces. These respondents were asked to provide examples of the types of community events they would like to attend. The word cloud below highlights the most frequent suggestions, with the full range of responses categorized into the following key themes.



- **Markets & Local Commerce:** Strong interest in recurring outdoor markets, including farmer’s markets, artisan/craft markets, and seasonal holiday markets.
- **Live Music & Performances:** Desire for a range of music and performance events—from casual local acts to higher-profile concerts and festivals inspired by major city events.
- **Social & Seasonal Gatherings:** Interest in community-building events such as food-focused gatherings, seasonal celebrations, and outdoor movie nights.

- **Active & Recreational Programming:** Support for using parks and open spaces for fitness, wellness, nature-based events, and winter-specific activities.
- **Family & Kid-Centric Events:** Demand for programming geared toward children, with an emphasis on lively, engaging activities.
- **All-Ages Inclusivity:** Broad expectation that events be inclusive, welcoming, and appropriate for all ages across the community.

Sustainability Element

From a list of sustainability elements, respondents were asked to select up to two that they would most like to see incorporated into future designs for Blatchford parks and open spaces. As noted in the chart below, pathways for active transportation, storm ponds and natural areas to create habitat for birds and animals, and plants native to the Edmonton area in landscaping were the most desired. Respondents were also interested in seeing tree planting, edible landscaping, planting for water conservation and rainwater harvesting, and community gardens. Promoting recycling in parks and open spaces received the least number of votes.

Preferred Sustainability Methods	Percentage of Respondents	Number of Respondents
Tree planting	26%	30
Using plants native to the Edmonton area in landscaping	32%	37
Using storm ponds and natural areas to create habitat for birds and animals	36%	41
Promoting recycling in parks and open spaces	3%	3
Pathways for active transportation (walking/rolling)	38%	43
Edible landscaping (fruiting trees, shrubs)	20%	23
Community gardens	18%	21
Planting for water conservation and rainwater harvesting (rain gardens, permeable surfaces, etc.)	20%	23

Interpretive Programming

The majority of people said they would like to learn about parks and open spaces through signs in the park (56 per cent), as they are easy to read while visiting. The second most popular choice was art installations (44 per cent), showing that many people enjoy learning through creative and engaging displays. The third choice

The following were common themes observed across the responses organized in the order of frequency and emphasis:

History and Heritage

- **Airport History:** Many respondents wanted detailed information about the former municipal airport (Blatchford Field), as well as notable events and the airport's role connecting northern communities.
- **Indigenous History:** Respondents wanted acknowledgement of Indigenous ties to the land, including First Nations, Métis, and Northern Dene histories and traditions. There was interest in pre-airport uses of the land and how Indigenous communities interacted with the landscape historically.
- **Local Area History:** Respondents want context about surrounding neighbourhoods and landmarks such as Kingsway, Calder, the Yellowhead freeway, and the railyard. Many respondents want explanations about why roads are named after particular people and the historical stories behind those names.
- **Interpretation and Education:** There was strong interest in placing historical interpretation (signage, plaques, murals, "fun facts") near art installations and design elements so visitors can learn as they move through the space.

Sustainability and Environment

- **Sustainable Design:** Respondents asked for explanations of Blatchford's sustainability features, including how solar, geothermal, water management, and other energy systems work and what makes the neighbourhood a "green future" model.
- **Native Plants and Biodiversity:** There was broad interest in using local and native plants to improve habitat, support pollinators, and enhance biodiversity, including dedicated bee gardens and pollinator habitat signage. Respondents also requested educational signs identifying plants and wildlife.
- **Promoting Sustainability:** Respondents want clear information about the purpose of conservation features and how the community can support sustainable practices.

Public Amenities and Accessibility

- **Playgrounds and Recreational Spaces:** Many respondents suggested family-friendly features such as airplane-themed playgrounds, climbing-friendly art cutouts, and play structures that reflect the site's aviation heritage.
- **Landmarks and Wayfinding:** Respondents wanted clear wayfinding and interpretive plaques to help people understand historical and environmental features as they navigate the area.

Engagement participants also had questions about:

- Timing of park spaces
- Amenities planned in upcoming parks that are outside the scope of this engagement
- Upcoming land development activity
- Changes to the street layout such as market street

Updates about the parks and open spaces plan and other Blatchford news will be made on the Blatchford webpage.

What happens next

The project team will review and consider the engagement results as the Blatchford Parks and Open Space Master Plan is finalized. The plan will serve as the guiding framework for the development of each park space. As detailed designs are developed for individual parks, the designs will be shared publicly.