# RECOVER: Edmonton's Urban Wellness Plan

**RECOVER Engagement Process**

What We Heard

June 14, 2018

https://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/initiatives_innovation/recover-urban-wellness-plan.aspx

## Executive Summary

Between January and May 2018, the City of Edmonton undertook a comprehensive public engagement effort as part of its RECOVER initiative, which seeks to address urban wellness issues in five core neighbourhoods. Built collaboratively and in conjunction with the communities that were being engaged, the public engagement process included three phases:

- Community meetings
- Community interviews; and,
- Wellness walks.

In addition to these engagement phases, a public showcase was held on May 8th, which provided Edmontonians an opportunity to see the initial results of the whole RECOVER process, which includes a solution prototyping process that was featured at the event.

The goal of the engagement was to promote public awareness about RECOVER and to hear from those people who live, work, and play in the core neighbourhoods. Particular care was taken to capture the voices of people not traditionally heard from in public engagement processes. Participants included members of the newcomer community, small business owners, local residents and people who are street-involved.

They all shared a number of concerns and aspirations for their neighbourhoods. Above all else, they want to live and work in places that are safe. They want to see a reduction in crime and social disorder, and have streets that make all users comfortable, especially pedestrians and cyclists.

They expressed a desire for high-quality, vibrant public spaces. This included more public art and opportunities to interact with built-form heritage as well as heritage stories, access to parks and other green space like the river valley, and streets with cafes and other businesses that allow the community to gather and relax.

Finally, they want and need access to quality public service. Everything from services that meet the needs of the street involved, to recreation opportunities and even basic services like regular garbage collection.

Participants in the engagement expressed significant frustration and, in some cases even anger, at how the City has addressed urban wellness issues in their communities in the past. People often felt like the City talks about dealing with wellness issues but fails to follow through with action.

However, due to the inclusive approach taken during RECOVER and the focus on quickly implementing small prototype projects, a cautious optimism is building in the community. There has been a recognition that the City is doing things differently through this process, and that continuing in this manner has the potential to generate significant results on these complex issues.




## Background and Introduction

The City of Edmonton's RECOVER initiative is meant to get the ball rolling on a new way of addressing urban wellness issues in Edmonton's core neighbourhoods. It is centred on bringing together City staff and community stakeholders to work in a collaborative and inclusive way, and takes a new, data-driven approach underpinned by ethnographic research that has been used to inform the development of fast-fail prototypes.

Importantly, RECOVER has been about so much more than creating a wellness plan for five neighbourhoods. It is about a commitment to sharing perspectives, and to trusting one another. It recognizes that small actions can have radical impact and that the City must keep communities at the centre of all of its planning.

*"RECOVER shows how a combination of simple and new thinking can have profound impacts on our community."*

In this first year, RECOVER targeted five urban neighbourhoods in Edmonton's core communities: Boyle Street, McCauley, Central McDougall, Queen Mary Park, and Downtown, focusing on the development of a comprehensive, coordinated approach to urban wellness that can be adapted and eventually replicated city-wide.

*"This is definitely not the usual government urban planning approach which might have involved locking themselves in a room, developing a plan that they hope is bullet proof and then asking the community for feedback."*

These neighbourhoods were selected due to the high concentration of low income, vulnerable, and homeless persons as well as a high concentration of the social support services that serve them. In addition, the recent development of Rogers Place and other city civic initiatives has drawn attention to, and created some urgency for, issues facing these neighbourhoods.

## RECOVER Engagement Process Principles

A new approach to tackling urban wellness issues required a new way of working with neighbourhoods. It required an approach that was intentional about building new relationships and strengthening old ones. The City wanted to explore ideas with neighbourhoods and test them collaboratively, rather than present solutions. Fundamentally, the RECOVER process was committed to a more inclusive way of working with community stakeholders, businesses, and people with lived experience. The process was designed to be:

- Diverse and Inclusive**:** The City made significant efforts to engage different perspectives. In particular, a priority was given to the "less usual" community members who are not traditionally invested in community engagements, including vulnerable people, Indigenous, newcomer and multicultural residents.
- Place Based: The City focused our engagement with the five core neighbourhoods and where appropriate, aligned engagement efforts with other relevant City initiatives.
- Phased and Focused: The City's engagement took a phased approach that allowed people to provide input throughout the duration of the project.
- Open and Transparent: The City committed to participants and community members to running an open and transparent engagement process. All the input we have collected is included in this what we heard report, which will be distributed to participants in the process and made available publicly online.
- Data and Story Driven: The City's engagement efforts focused on hearing people's stories and collecting data and evidence in order to support good decision making.

## RECOVER Engagement Process

Community engagement for RECOVER involved three distinct phases, including:

**Phase 1:** community meetings and street surveys
**Phase 2:** wellness walks; and,
**Phase 3:** May 8th Prototype Showcase Event

The overall approach to the engagement process was designed to ensure that all members of the community, from business owners, to residents, to the street-involved, had an opportunity to participate and have their voice heard. As well, the engagement was used to promote the overall RECOVER project, and validate what was learned in the innovation process. This approach informed the rationale for choosing both the engagement formats, and the invited audiences for the community meetings.

The engagement plan was built in collaboration with the RECOVER Community Advisory Committee, which had representation from community leaders, residents, and businesses. They reviewed and commented on draft engagement plans, which were revised according to their input. The process was also designed to be iterative, with the feedback from the community meetings and the street interviews helping to inform the route selection for the wellness walks. The community identified important places and spaces, and then offered the opportunity to have an in-depth discussion about those places during the walks.

A summary of the engagement evaluation conducted by the City has been attached as Appendix 1 of this report.

### Phase I: Community meetings

Beginning in February 2018, 9 community meetings were held with various stakeholder groups and neighbourhood residents in each of the five communities. On average, these meetings were attended by 10-15 participants, with a total participation of 131 people. The specific audiences for these meetings were chosen after the City's project team met with community leaders for advice and input. These community leaders also played an important role in reaching out and inviting participants to attend. Efforts were taken to ensure that these meetings were as accessible and welcoming as possible. Meals were served to those in attendance, and where required, childcare and language translation services were provided.

The community meetings had three main goals:

- To provide participants with an overview of the RECOVER project and engagement process,
- To develop an initial understanding of how each community views wellness, including specific locations that matter to the community.
- To receive feedback on the project team's initial definition of wellness[1], and

This definition was developed in collaboration with the RECOVER Community Advisory Committee.

The meetings were also used to gauge participant willingness to get involved with future prototyping initiatives.

## Phase I: Street interviews

Running concurrently to the community meetings, 40-50 individual interviews were conducted in each of the five targeted neighbourhoods. This engagement technique was designed to meet community residents in the places they normally live their lives, gathering quality feedback from a diverse selection of community members who may not have otherwise been engaged. Over the course of a month, RECOVER engagement team members door-knocked in the five communities and talked with residents. Interviews were also conducted at locations within the community like restaurants, convenience stores and other businesses. In every case, the people interviewed were confirmed to be residents actually living in the community.

All of the Interviewees were asked three questions:

- What does a "well" community mean to you?
- What spot(s) in your community negatively or positively impact wellness?
- What would you do to improve the well-being of the community in general?

General demographic information about the interviewees was also recorded. Of the 250 responses to the survey 42 percent of respondents were female and 58 percent were male. The respondents were from diverse backgrounds, both culturally and socioeconomically.

[1] For reference, the draft definition of wellness that community members were asked for comment on was:

*In Edmonton, we value wellness, which means ensuring the right systems are in place to promote and sustain the conditions for people and neighbourhoods to thrive.*

*Urban Wellness goes beyond just physical and mental health, it is health in mind, body, emotion and spirit. It is places where people feel safe and accepted, that encourage diversity - in opinions and cultures. Relationships between individuals, families and business strengthen the community, inspire people to contribute to civic life and create a vibrant social and economic scene. Urban wellness also means a blending of natural and built environments that promote health and allow people in their neighbourhoods to flourish.* Wellness enables Edmonton to be a great city where people are happy, healthy and want to engage in their communities.




## Phase II: Wellness walks

Rather than simply discuss certain locations in an abstract way, a series of “Wellness walks” were held in each of the five communities. These walks visited locations that were identified as important during the street interviews and community meetings. The walks aimed to build knowledge regarding how community residents feel about urban wellness and to prompt discussion about improvements by directly visiting physical places, to bring together diverse neighbours, learn about others’ perspectives and to build relationships.

On average, there were 15 participants at each walk. These participants were broken up into small groups (up to six people) and led by a facilitator through a one-hour tour of the community. Each group stopped at the pre-identified locations to discuss how each place contributes or detracts from the wellness of the area. At each site they were asked:

- In what ways does this spot contribute to or undermine the wellness of our community?
- How does this spot make you feel?
- I wish this spot had…

At the conclusion of the walking tour, all participants were brought together to discuss their experiences with the group. After having had a chance to discuss the locations collectively, participants were offered a final chance to provide location specific feedback by placing a sticky note with their comments directly onto a map of the route.

The feedback gathered during the wellness walks will form a key input into the development of future prototype projects. Many of the participants suggested prototype projects that could be implemented at the locations visited during the walks.

## What We Heard: Common Themes About Wellness

As people discussed their own definition of wellness during Phases 1 and 2 of our engagement, they centred on a few simple ideas they believe are critical to building healthy communities; *safety, space, and public services*. Specifically, the need to feel safe, the need to have access to vibrant public space, and the need for appropriate public services were the dominant themes we heard from all participants – from business owners to street-involved residents. This shows the needs of all community members are more

similar than they are different, something that holds true not just for the residents of the five targeted communities but for all Edmontonians. We all want to feel safe in our homes, have access to beautiful, thriving spaces and access and use public services we need and expect from the City.

## 1. The importance of safety.

Safety was by far the most common theme heard during the engagement and was particularly important to those people who attended the community meetings. When asked to think of a "well community", safety was the word that came to mind most often. When identifying locations in their community they did not like, participants often cited safety, or more specifically, a perceived lack of safety as the reason they did not like particular areas. Similarly, locations that made people feel safe were frequently cited as the areas of the community that participants liked the most.

**Safety as a barrier to participation in community life.**

A perceived lack of safety is a barrier to members of the RECOVER communities accessing certain locations and amenities in their neighbourhoods, which detracts from their ability to fully participate in community life. People noted they avoid certain areas of their community (like parks, or certain streets) due to safety concerns. These area-specific safety concerns were most often driven by the presence of criminal activity (gang activity, thefts, vandalism, vagrancy etc.) and sometimes by the presence of vulnerable groups like drug users or people experiencing homelessness.

*"I don't feel safe here. I don't want to let my grandkids play outside because you never know who can be lurking around the corner."*

*"I wouldn't want to walk anywhere in this neighbourhood at night, which makes me sad."*

**The relationship between safety and social stigma**

A perceived lack of safety impacts the perceptions held by the rest of the city about these neighbourhoods, which leads to stigmatization. This creates further barriers to community wellness. Improving the safety of these areas would help reduce the social stigma attached to the communities by those in other areas of the city.

*"Social stigma [is] attached [to] the community from those that live outside it. They think it's risky to walk at night or park their car when I have visitors. The perceived level of safety would be nice to improve."*

*"This area is considered full of crime, but this community has many positive things."*

**The role urban design plays in making safe communities**

Safety concerns are often also related to the physical design of spaces. In particular, there is significant appetite for improving the walkability of these neighbourhoods as a way to improve safety, points that were raised repeatedly in the doorstep interviews and wellness walks. Currently, roads and vehicle traffic are prioritized, often to the detriment of pedestrians. Furthermore, where pedestrian infrastructure like sidewalks, lighted crossings, and bus stops do exist, they are designed in ways that are unsafe for people who are walking. Widening and repairing damaged sidewalks, installing more and better lighting, lowering speed limits, and improving pedestrian crossings would all contribute to safer neighbourhoods.

*"Many reckless drivers have almost hit pedestrians, including myself, on a number of occasions. Better signalling systems are required to make this area feel safe again."*

*"The walkability is not great, it's for vehicles. I would [like to see] the speed limits [lowered] and safer pedestrian crossings."*

**Safety concerns held by vulnerable groups**
Some of the participants in the RECOVER engagement process were from vulnerable groups. These participants shared many of the same concerns expressed by other participants – such as worries about criminal activity, walkable streets etc. They also expressed some additional safety concerns about locations that other participants felt were "safe." In particular a number of people during the community meetings said they often felt unsafe in shopping malls and other commercial venues due to discrimination from staff and security. They also expressed apprehension about interacting with many government agencies – like the police, the healthcare system and in some instances, social workers – again due to concerns about discrimination and mistreatment from these institutions.

*"Police presence gives me conflicted feelings about safety. I stay at Hope Mission sometimes and don't feel safe there."*

*"We need friendlier police that are trained to deal with this community sympathetically, warm places to go during the day and employment for people with criminal records."*

*"[The child and family support system] created more mental illness, suicide, and addiction. There is no hope"*




## 2. The importance of vibrant community space

A common theme among all of the participants in the community meetings, wellness walks and the street interviews was that activity (business, cultural, social) is a critical part of creating vibrant and healthy communities. Places with walkable destinations that attract large crowds - like coffee shops and restaurants, festivals and parks - were often identified as the places in communities that people liked the most. People are drawn to the vibrancy of these spaces, and they provided a chance for all members of the community an opportunity to meet and enjoy each other's company.

These vibrant, bustling spaces also contribute to the overall feeling of safety in a community – the large crowds and accessible, open sidewalks in popular pedestrian areas make people feel welcome, secure and safe.

Contrasting this, people (especially during the wellness walks), were struck by how negative and uninviting barren spaces can be including parking lots, fenced off empty lots, or other inaccessible areas.

*"I like 104 Street because there are people walking and it feels safe."*

*I like 118 Ave in summer there are nice shops and bakeries [and] lots of great festivals. There's lots of different people – old and young. It feels lively, like a community.*

*"It's great to walk around and experience the vibrancy and activity. It's the noise that lets you know this is a happening area."*

*"Streets aren't just for going from here to there, but also destinations."*

**The role of arts and heritage in building welcoming public spaces**
Arts and heritage installations play a large role in creating vibrant, welcoming spaces and there is a strong desire for more public arts and heritage in the RECOVER neighbourhoods. Public art – from arts festivals to visual art installations like sculptures and graffiti walls - create destinations within communities and help to beautify otherwise unwelcoming spaces.

The neighbourhoods in the RECOVER process are some of Edmonton's oldest, and have a rich history waiting to be told. These heritage opportunities should tell the story of Edmonton's Indigenous history, both from modern times and from long before this place became Edmonton. Telling these stories would be a powerful way to advance the City's commitment to its reconciliation agenda.

*"I would like to see works of art that are human in form and scale to make us feel welcome."*

*"[I like] the different types of graffiti here. It's not an eye-sore, but very nice to see the different artwork."*

*"Acknowledgement of significant Indigenous milestones at sites throughout the city would be a great way of connecting the past and present. Anything from artwork to historical plaque could help acknowledge Indigenous contributions to [Edmonton] as well as brighten the overall appeal of the community."*

**The need for more nature**
Parks and natural green spaces like the river valley were commonly identified as valuable assets in the community that contribute to community vibrancy. Many participants asked for the addition of more parks after being prompted to think of amenities that could improve wellness in their area.

Parks and natural spaces are valuable to communities for a variety of reasons: They provide free, accessible spaces for residents - especially children - to be active and enjoy the outdoors. They frequently have programmed events or festivals that can be enjoyed by residents, and they offer a way for Edmontonians to experience nature without having to leave the city. Many people spoke of the lack of recreational amenities for children in the City's core and the great value that parks hold for young families and children in strengthening the wellness of their community.

Importantly, nature was not just seen as relegated to parks and the river valley. There was a strong desire to see more

*"We need more outdoor parks. We don't have enough in this area."*

*"The greenery and fountains are beautiful and the area allows for kids to go and play and enjoy their surroundings."*

*"The riverbank is a positive place because you can connect with nature in a way that is simply not possible in the city."*

**The importance of maintaining public and private spaces**
Vibrant spaces are well maintained spaces. Buildings in various states of disrepair and unmaintained streets and sidewalks are all seen to contribute to an overall lack of neighborhood wellness. They make spaces feel unwelcoming, unused, and uncared for. This impact was most

obvious during the wellness walks, with many people commenting on the state of disrepair of buildings and other infrastructure. Both the City and private landlords need to do their part to maintain their facilities in these neighbourhoods. As one participant noted, well-maintained spaces have an impact on the broader community and help people take pride in where they live.

*"I don't like 95 street, it is run down dirty and the homes look scary. Many homes are abandoned."*

*"When a place is dirty, it's tough to care about it"*

**The importance of local businesses**
Businesses, especially those businesses that allow members of the public to gather and relax like restaurants and cafes, are critical to vibrant spaces. Thriving businesses are a draw for community members and other Edmontonians. Many of the areas that participants in the engagement process identified as being their favourite were successful local businesses – places like the Moth Café and the Italian Centre.

Other businesses are important too – from stores to service businesses to offices. All of them draw people and activity to an area, creating a feeling of activity and vibrancy.

*"Find out what [The Moth] is doing right and replicate it!"*

## 3. The need for accessible public services

Public services play a critical part in the wellness of any community. From very basic services like garbage collection and public washrooms, to public transportation and recreation programs and facilities, the City needs to ensure that all Edmontonians are able to access the public services they need.

**The need to provide basic services and amenities**
Providing basic services and amenities – public washrooms, proper garbage disposal, water fountains, etc. - for the large numbers of people experiencing homelessness in the inner city is critical. Not only will this improve the dignity of vulnerable people, it will help reduce social disorders like littering and public urination.

*"Public toilets have been a positive initiative. Pilot projects on Whyte Avenue have been successful."*

**The need to provide transportation options**
Frequently, the issue of wellness was connected to access to public transportation services and active transportation options. Many community members with whom we spoke indicated that their quality of life was greatly enhanced by the ease of public transportation. They choose the core of the City to live because of the many bussing options available to them which made their access to work and schooling easier.

Active transportation options – such as walking and biking – also need to be supported through well-designed infrastructure. This is particularly important in the core, as some residents do not own private vehicles. Active transportation options are also seen as important in drawing people to an area and creative vibrant spaces.

*"Transportation is not as good as it could be. The frequency of buses is not enough and if you miss a bus it can be a long, cold wait."*

*"[A well community is] connected to walking, cycling, and public transportation amenities. There is ease of access to social service provision."*

**The need for accessible, affordable recreation and arts opportunities**
Recreation is a key component of mental and physical well-being, and a priority of the City. However, the number of recreational opportunities, particularly affordable recreation opportunities, can be limited in the RECOVER neighbourhoods. Providing more opportunities and working to improve the accessibility of the opportunities that do exist would go a long way to improving community life. Many people cited the need for inexpensive building spaces in order to host children and youth programming – they indicated that accessing affordable space within the community was impossible and that the City needed to prioritize what available space there was for use by residents and not for those who live outside of the community.

*"In my good community I would like to have a community centre with leisure activities, more basketball courts, soccer, tennis and swimming pools."*

*"Healthy lifestyles that involve some physical activities such as sports are very expensive. Make [them] accessible and affordable."*

## What We Heard: Other Common Themes

Beyond the key ideas of safety, spaces and public services, two other strong themes emerged from the engagements.

**Varying levels of resistance towards vulnerable groups**
People in these neighbourhoods have complex feelings towards vulnerable groups. Some have intensely negative feelings towards vulnerable populations and the social agencies that serve these groups, particularly safe consumption sites. People in the community meetings were particularly direct about the issue of marginalized communities and their impact on the wellness of a community. Some of these people would like to see vulnerable populations relocated to other areas of the city and/or greater attention paid by Police Services in monitoring and addressing negative issues generated by marginalized communities.

More commonly, community members felt that the high concentration of social service agencies attracted vulnerable populations and made their communities less safe. While they recognize the importance of providing social supports, they believe these services should be spread across the City, not just concentrated in the inner-city neighbourhoods.

*"We should replace "tent city" with infrastructure for vulnerable people."*

*"We need better services for homeless people. I feel unsafe with so many around (though some are friendly)."*

*"Spread out the homeless services all around the city, its concentrated here and they feed off each other."*

**There is power in small changes**
Particularly on the wellness walks people noted there is power in adding small, human touches to neighbourhoods. Things like benches, small green spaces or opportunities for spontaneous play on sidewalks can help transform a place and make it more welcoming. As well as improving urban spaces, these types of small projects should not require lengthy bureaucratic approvals, or large budgets. They can instead be identified and completed quickly, making a significant impact to communities in a short amount of time. Virtually all of the participants who participated in the sessions said that they would actively participate in any initiative which enhanced their community.

This feedback is consistent with the prototype approach taken by the RECOVER process. All of the prototypes focus on small changes that can be made quickly, and together have a large cumulative impact on the wellness of the community.

*"I find this place can look better if the surroundings show that Edmonton accepts this population . . . like having benches and a playground."*

## Phase III: May 8th prototype showcase

On May 8th, 2018, an event was held at MacEwan University to showcase the RECOVER project as part of the third phase of the engagement. Members of the public were invited to view displays related to both the overall RECOVER process and each of the 13 prototype projects. Members of each prototype team were on hand to discuss how their projects were implemented and their initial results. The event culminated with a panel discussion, where five people involved in RECOVER reflected on their experiences with the initiative to date. Approximately 140 people attended the showcase and panel discussion.

Overall, the event was designed to be the intersection of the public engagement and prototyping streams of RECOVER. While the public was involved in both the prototyping and engagement, the two project streams ran concurrently. This event allowed for public to interact with the prototypes more in-depth way and learn about the ethnographic research that informed their development.

**Panel discussion**

After an opening blessing from Grant MacEwan's Indigenous Knowledge Keeper, Roxanne Tootoosis, greetings on behalf of City Council from Scott McKeen, and an introduction from Deputy City Manager Rob Smyth, five panelists engaged in a discussion about their perspectives on the RECOVER process and then took questions from the audience.

The panelists included Dawn Marie Marchand, the previous Indigenous artist-in-residence for the City of Edmonton, Phil O'Hara, a long-time resident of McCauley, Ian Mathieson, Director of Operations for Boyle Street Community Services, Colleen MacCuish an Industrial Design student at the University of Alberta and Laurene Viarobo, Executive Director of the North Edge Business Association.

Discussion opened with the question "What does social innovation mean to you now that you've been working on these prototypes. What about social innovation has made this project different?" Panelists spoke about their initial discomfort, but how the commitment of all parties involved in the process built trust, and resulted in a new, powerful and inclusive way of working.

*"There is power in bringing people from all walks of life together through a process like this, and while it can be uncomfortable to start, the results at the end are stronger because of it."*

Ultimately, the success of the RECOVER process could influence the way the City makes decisions in other areas as it is a radical departure from traditional decision-making processes.

*"I was a little suspicious about the process initially, but over time I bought into it and feel like it's an opportunity to do things differently than we have been in the past."*

The panel was asked by an audience member to reflect on how individuals can play a role in combating the stigma and prejudice associated with homelessness.

Based on the results of a number of prototypes, they observed that creating spaces that are welcoming for all people and that allow opportunities for members of all socioeconomic groups to meet and interact are key to breaking the stigma associated with urban wellness issues. Bringing people together shows that we are all people who aspire to similarly peaceful and meaningful lives and helps to foster respect and understanding with one another. The prototypes brought people together in new and interesting ways, contributing to community vibrancy and spurring discussions about the needs of Edmonton's vulnerable communities.

*"I am recovering from homelessness. It's a struggle because it's a bad disease. I am learning to live again... We need to work together and live as one. Just take that first step and we'll make it."*




## Advice to the City

Throughout the engagement process we heard a number of recurring pieces of advice for the City of Edmonton from participants, much of which dovetails well with the overall intentions of the RECOVER process. People want the City to take the lead on urban wellness issues but said the way the City works needs to change in order to make real progress. They advised the City to:

- Work with communities: People living in the targeted communities are invested in making their neighbourhoods better places in ways that City staff or any other non-residents simply cannot be. When asked if they would be willing to get involved in a project that would improve their community, participants in the engagements overwhelmingly answered yes. Harnessing this enthusiasm and working closely with affected neighbourhoods on the issues that affect them is key to making real change. There were repeated requests that the City hire community residents to deliver on the services that are required.

The City also needs to work with these communities because it needs to build trust. There is a real sense of frustration and anger among many community members that has come from a lack of action on wellness issues. Years of decision making without community input and a perceived double standard for how decisions are made about the core neighbourhoods versus wealthier suburban communities mean there are relationships that need to be mended.

- Create welcoming environments for community members: Residents were very keen on getting involved in activities that strengthened their communities but indicated that it was crucial for the City to create family friendly environments to maximize their participation. This includes childcare, food, and translation. Making links first to community leaders was also identified as essential if the City wanted to create bridges to different ethnic communities.

- Don't overcomplicate things: A common complaint is that the City tends to over-bureaucratize its work. City projects to improve neighbourhoods require planning and design phases that are perceived to be inordinately long and needlessly delay implementation.

  Citizen-led projects often run into zoning or permitting issues, where finding answers to questions can feel impossible and navigating the City's red tape can seem like more effort than it is worth. The City should find ways to reduce this red tape so effort can be spent improving communities, rather than fighting the bureaucracy.

- Make small changes that have big impacts: Small changes can have transformative impacts, don't require long lead times to plan and implement, or need large budgets. For example, some benches or public art can be all it takes to turn an unused stretch of sidewalk into a community gathering place. Best of all, if these small changes don't work they can easily be altered or undone. The RECOVER prototype process helped to prove this fast-fail, small scale type of project can make a real difference. It could become a model for how the city operates going forward.

- Focus on effective implementation: People were very complimentary about many of the ideas the City has had regarding improvements to the inner city. However, they observed that there have been implementation challenges with City projects in the past. Focusing on ensuring effective implementation of ideas and initiatives will be crucial to making real progress on urban wellness issues.

- Ensure innovation is inclusive: Any prototypes (or other projects related to urban wellness) need to be designed in a way that is inclusive and accessible for everyone. This means recognizing that people who are experiencing homelessness, mental health challenges, or addiction issues are residents of Edmonton and deserving of having their needs met. Projects designed to exclude these people (such as benches that prevent sleeping) are discriminatory and should not be considered.

- Focus on beauty and cleanliness: People in the core are most proud of spaces that are bright, attractive and welcoming. These beautified spaces also have a ripple effect - when people are proud of their surroundings, they take greater care of them and invest in their ongoing maintenance. Beauty matters.

## Next Steps

RECOVER has accomplished a lot in just under seven months, and it is just beginning to make an impact. There is still research being done and several tools are being developed to help the City understand the strengths and challenges in these neighbourhoods, as well as measure changes as solutions are implemented. A final report for RECOVER including recommendations will be submitted to

City Council in August 2018 and will impact how the City plans to continue addressing urban wellness issues.

> *"RECOVER is an opportunity to do business differently over time and to develop relationships with people, based on things we have in common rather than based on our differences and conflict."*

This initial RECOVER process provides an excellent jumping off point for future urban wellness initiatives. Between this public engagement process, the community-based research involved in the development of the prototypes, and the prototype evaluations, there is a critical mass of knowledge building about how small changes can make a big impact on wellness.

The targeted communities have been very receptive to the way the City has approached them during both the research and engagement periods. There is a real recognition of the care and effort taken by the City to do things differently on this issue and involve the community in a meaningful way. Continuing on this path and involving the members of the community while focusing on dignity, respect and inclusion for all is a sure way to make real progress on complex urban wellness issues.

## Appendices:

Several appendices have been included to provide additional detail on the engagement tactics that were used. They are:

**Appendix 1:** Engagement process evaluation results
**Appendix 2:** Overview of engagement dates
**Appendix 3:** Wellness word cloud
**Appendix 4:** Location specific feedback
**Appendix 5:** Community meeting agenda
**Appendix 6:** Oromo Community Invitation
**Appendix 7:** Doorstep interview guide
**Appendix 8:** Wellness walk facilitator guide

## Appendix 1: Engagement Process Evaluation Summary

A total of 96 residents within the five core neighbourhoods over phases 1 & 2 of the community engagement process completed participation surveys. The nine questions that were asked on the surveys are as follows:

1. The purpose of the activity was clearly explained.
2. I understand how the input from this activity will be used.
3. I had enough information to contribute to the topic being discussed.
4. I felt respected during the activity.
5. I felt safe during the public engagement activity.
6. I feel my views were heard during the public engagement activity.
7. I feel my input was adequately captured and recorded.
8. I feel that the input provided through this public engagement activity will be considered by the City.
9. This activity was a good use of my time.

These surveys were meant to gauge RECOVER's public engagement sessions. According to the results, it appears that a majority of the participants (93% to 97%) are in agreement with most of these questions. However, questions 2 and 8 raise a flag, as these two questions have the most disagreement amongst the participants. It appears that 17% of the participants in response to question 2 are unsure of how their input from these sessions will be used. In reference to question 8, 27% of the participants have doubts that their input will be considered by the City. This raises the discontention between citizens and the City and that they feel like their voices are not being heard or considered. In response to question 8, one participant expressed that they feel "fatigued" and another said that they were "unsure" if the City would consider their input.

Direct comments left on the Surveys:

- "112 St - 101 ave to 111 Ave → this area should be a thoroughfare
- "I have park ideas, SE corner of 105St & 107 Ave
- "I'm not sure how my input will be used"
- In response to question 8
    - "Unsure, I have confidence in the people involved (consultants & specific staff) but the City has a bad reputation"
- "Thank you! Very informative, friendly staff. Approachable & knowledgeable"
- Referring to the question 9
  - Personally, yes. As a citizen it is doubtful"
- Referring to question 8
    - "FATIGUE!!"

## Appendix 2: Overview of Engagement Process

| Engagement Format | Dates |
|---|---|
| **Phase I** | |
| **Community Meetings** | ● February 28 – Chinatown and Area Business Association<br>● March 14 – Multicultural Community<br>● March 20 – Downtown Business Association<br>● March 21 – Oromo Community<br>● March 22 – Intercultural Centre<br>● March 22 – Creating Hope Society<br>● March 29 – Senior's Association of Greater Edmonton<br>● April 4 – Ambrose Place<br>● April 6 – John A McDougall School |
| **Street Interviews** | ● March 13 to April 10 |
| **Phase II** | |
| **Wellness Walks** | ● April 21 – Queen Mary Park<br>● April 21 – Central McDougall<br>● April 25 - Downtown<br>● April 28 – Boyle Street<br>● April 28 PM – McCauley |
| **Phase III** | |
| **Prototype Showcase** | ● May 8, 2018 |

## Appendix 3: Wellness Word Cloud

To help illustrate the intensity of feeling around the community's response to the question "when you think of a "well" community, what things (or words) come to mind?" a word cloud was created. Words from written responses to this question are displayed together, with the size and intensity of words determined by the number of times they were used across responses.

The most prominent words correspond well to the common wellness themes summarized in the main body of the report. Safety, access to park space, transportation issues and leisure activities were among the most commonly mentioned things people correlated with the idea of wellness. There was an intensity of feeling around importance of community and how amenities and cultural connectedness represented significant aspects of wellness particularly for new Canadians.

In all the facilitated sessions, people spoke about the relationship between wellness and family friendliness. While people in general spoke to the importance of green spaces, many people spoke about the connection of city vibrancy to their own definition of wellness. Not unlike the draft definition of Wellness (included earlier in this report on page 4) put forward by the Community Advisory Committee, people's definition of wellness was holistic and included physical, emotional and spiritual dimensions.



# Appendix 4: Location Specific Feedback

The engagement process was designed to understand how people feel about certain areas in their communities and how these spaces contribute (or detract) from urban wellness. As such, the RECOVER engagement team received a lot of feedback regarding specific locations within each of the five communities. This appendix summarizes the feedback received at the most commonly identified locations, as well as highlights any suggestions made regarding possible future prototypes.

## Queen Mary Park

### 107th Avenue

Residents had significant concerns about 107th avenue particularly regarding its safety for pedestrians. Given the large volumes of pedestrian traffic this area would benefit from wider sidewalks, more benches and seating, and improved pedestrian crossings. Some residents also expressed personal safety concerns due to large presence of homeless individuals along 107th avenue.

Despite these concerns, the diversity of businesses along the avenue combined with the high levels of activity make it a vibrant, multicultural area appreciated by many. Residents believe this area has a great deal of potential, and with some investment could become a destination shopping area similar to Whyte Avenue.

"*107th Avenue is not pedestrian friendly, [I'm] scared to cross the road."*

*"We should encourage more retail shopping and cafes to make 107th Avenue a destination shopping area; to bring it to life."*

**Prototype ideas**: Benches and seating, crosswalk lights, wider sidewalks.

### 109th Street and 105 Avenue

The lack of sidewalks and presence of numerous vacant lots made this location feel inaccessible and unwelcoming to community members, though some did praise the new bike lanes as a positive change to the area. This area needs significant investment for revitalization – either by encouraging private businesses to locate here, or by creating an urban park.

**"***This looks terrible. I don't walk after dark here, it's not inviting."*

**Prototype ideas:** Create a park

### The Mustard Seed

The community was quite accepting of the Mustard Seed and the population it supports. They appreciate the effort spent maintaining the building and surrounding land, especially the recent public art additions.

*"Bissel and Mustard Street are welcoming places."*

### Shiloh Baptist Church

The church building is seen to have great potential as a gathering place for the community. However currently, it is seen to be in need of repair, and perceived to be mostly empty.

*"We should see if community and youth programs could be created from the church."*

**Prototype ideas:** improved signage, seating.

## Downtown

### Beaver Hills House Park, Alex Decoteau Park, Michael Phair Park

Parks were some of the favourite places identified downtown. They are seen as small islands of greenery in an otherwise very developed neighbourhood and act as places for community members to gather, relax and for children to play.

The only negative comments received with regards to parks were about the overall cleanliness and state of repair of park facilities. People would like the City to ensure these valued community spaces are kept free of litter and are well-maintained.

*"Michael Phair Park is cute, as well as Beaver Hills and Alex Decoteau."*

**City Hall and Churchill Square**.
City Hall and Churchill square were some of the most favourite locations people identified. They enjoy the peace and quiet in City hall itself, often using it as a safe place to nap or read. Outside, Churchill Square is a bustling hub of activity that has space for summer activities (like the fountain), or interesting festivals.

People particularly liked Churchill square because it is one of Edmonton's few spaces that brings together people from all walks of life – from the homeless to the very wealthy.

*"Churchill Square [is one of my favourite places]. There's always something going on."*

*"City Hall is quiet place to hang out and read"*

**City Centre Mall**
For some community residents, City Centre mall is a destination that offers a variety of shops, entertainment options and social activities. For them it is an attractive, vibrant and welcoming space that contributes positively to the community.

However, for many others, the mall is seen as uninviting and exclusive, and they spoke about experiencing racism and discrimination from the mall staff

**Roger's Place**
Roger's Place is seen as an out-of-place development within the community. It was built with significant taxpayer funding but is inaccessible to many of the residents in the surrounding area. Rather than being seen as a connection to downtown it is a barrier that starkly contrasts the rich, bustling entertainment district on the south with the large vulnerable population on the north.

*"I don't like the area behind Rogers Place. It is rundown and it shows city poverty vs. rich."*

## Boyle Street

**97th Avenue and 102 Street**
The site of the former Harbin Gate attracted a large amount of feedback, particularly during the community meetings and during the wellness walks. The Gate was well-loved within the community and there was significant frustration with the decision-making process around its removal.

More generally, there are concerns with the design of this street. People want this space to be beautified with public art. They would also like to see improvements made to increase pedestrian safety.

*"This is the core of original Edmonton and Chinese community. It has faced systemic racism here since 1890-and still built community."*

*"Bring the gate back – re-install it."*

> **Prototype idea:** Create an art or heritage installation that showcases Edmonton's Chinese community and its history in this area.

**97th Avenue and 105th Street (Living Bridge)**
People see a lot of potential for this area especially given its connection to the new Royal Alberta Museum and walking paths along the LRT, however it needs more care and upkeep. The space could be

activated through programming and public art, especially art that tells stories about Edmonton's Chinese and Indigenous communities.

While people saw potential for the top of the bridge, there were significant safety concerns about the underpass.

*"This park way/bike path connectivity is cool! If the bridge underneath felt better to use, that would help too."*

**Prototype ideas:** Create a public garden. Install public art and heritage exhibits related to Edmonton's Indigenous and Chinese communities.

**Jasper Avenue and 97th Street (Top of the riverbank)**
This area attracted a lot of commentary due to the recent proposal to allow a high-rise condo building to be constructed on the parkland here. Though this area of the river valley is less accessible than others, there is still a strong intensity of feeling towards keeping the park a public space for all to enjoy.

*"This view needs to remain for all of Edmonton. Forget high-rises or more walls that block the view, natural beauty is wellness for all. Connectivity is wellness to the neighbourhoods."*

**The Moth Café (9449 Jasper Avenue)**
The Moth Café is a neighbourhood favourite and is seen as a local success-story as it draws both local residents and Edmontonians from across the city. Having a thriving, popular restaurant helps fight some of the stigmatism often associated with the area. Given its popularity, people felt there should be some improvements made to the surrounding infrastructure including the parking lot, sidewalks and adjacent bus stop.

*"Investing in the sidewalks and parking lot around the care would make it look more inviting and much easier to access."*

**Prototype ideas**: Repair sidewalks, improve nearby bus stop, add benches and seating.

**Salvation Army Housing (9304-103a Avenue)**
This building is out of place with the surrounding community as it feels cold, institutional and intimidating. While the Salvation Army provides important services to people, local residents would like to see the building and surrounding area beautified through public art, gardens and other efforts that integrate it into the community. Much of the feedback received about this site referenced the Edmonton People in Need Shelter Society as a good example of how social services agencies can integrate well into the neighbourhood.

*"This Salvation Army Building feels institutional. It doesn't add to the neighbourhood and doesn't feel loved."*

*"Replicating the care and look of Edmonton People in Need shelter would make this place look less ugly for residents and neighbours."*

**Prototype ideas:** Install public art, create a community garden.

**Okisikow (Angel) Way**
There has been significant investment in this area of Boyle Street (both public and private) recently, and the revitalization efforts here are widely recognized and appreciated. This area has become a favourite in the community for its beautiful buildings, public art, and pedestrian friendly infrastructure. Residents hope it can become a model for other areas of the community. While feedback for this area is resoundingly positive, people did wish to see more greenery. They also recognize that work to revitalize this area is still occurring – while the infrastructure is in place, the area needs more businesses to locate here in order to reach its full potential.

*"It shows effort and care and changes the perception of the neighbourhood. It's already helped to revitalize [this area]."*

**Prototype ideas:** Plant more evergreen trees, find a way to activate the space in winter.

**Edmonton People in Need Shelter Society (EPINSS)**
EPINSS is seen as a model for how to seamlessly integrate social services into the community. Their building is bright and inviting, well cared for and surrounded by well-kept green space. This starkly contrasted with the Salvation Army housing nearby.

*"Wonderful neighbours who engage by keeping our streets beautiful and active."*

## McCauley

**The Italian Centre Shop**
The Italian Centre is a McCauley institution and loved by neighbourhood residents and Edmontonians alike. It is seen as more than just a place to go shopping, but also a gathering spot to meet neighbours and spend time with friends. The busyness of the area contributes to a feeling of vibrancy and wellness.

*"like the Italian centre coffee shop because it reminds me of home. We get together here with friends."*

**Giovanni Caboto Park**
Right across from the Italian Centre, this park is another widely appreciated area in the neighbourhood. It is a destination for community gatherings and festivals, families with children, and for people wanting to take a break from the hustle and bustle of urban life.

While people enjoy the park, many have concerns about its level of cleanliness especially due to the prevalence of used needles and other drug paraphernalia sometimes found in the area.

*"Giovanni Caboto park is nice. I like watching the kids play and laugh."*

**La Piazza Centre**
There is a significant level of concern about La Dolce Vita in La Piazza Centre. Community members feel it is a hub of gambling and other unseemly activities.

*"La Dolce Vita is an iffy place."*

## Central McDougall

**107th Avenue**
Much like the feedback received about 107th avenue in Queen Mary Park, there are concerns about the safety of 107th avenue, particularly around its safety for pedestrians. Lower speed limits, more controlled crossing lights, better lighting and improved sidewalks would all help to address these concerns.

There were also concerns about the prevalence of illegal activities, such as drug use and street prostitution along 107th avenue. People suggested that an increased police presence, especially at night, would help address these issues.

*"107 Ave is not safe for kids, there are no adequate crossings."*

**Prototype Idea:** Wider sidewalks, improved pedestrian crossings

**Boyle Street Community Services**
The Boyle Street Community Services received very polarized responses from community members. For some, it is seen as a positive place within the community that provides essential services to a vulnerable population. Others said they tend to avoid the area because of their uneasiness with the homeless population in the area.

Boyle Street Community Centre was also seen as a place where Edmonton could focus effort on telling stories from its indigenous history, particularly given the large Indigenous demographic in this area of the city.

*"[Boyle Street] needs to accommodate more people and support the entire community. It should have more supports and City backing."*

*"[I don't like] Boyle Street. I don't like getting asked for change - don't feel safe there."*

**Prototype idea:** Install a public art or interpretive heritage display at this location. Whatever is installed here should be rooted in Edmonton's Indigenous history.

**105 Street**

People enjoy the tree-lined, pedestrian friendly 105th street, along the LRT line. They enjoy walking in the area and are looking forward to the development of the future art park.

*"It's nice how they incorporated trees along the LRT track. It has an old world feel."*

## Appendix 5: Community Meeting Approach and Agenda

**Objectives**:

- Broaden Understanding of initiative—build buy-in/support
- Build relationships between attendees
- Test draft definition of wellness /take input
- Identify and recognize places/stories that matter to community members
- Identify barriers to both acceptance and participation
- Nurture participation in phase 2 wellness walks and prototype session
- Establish the best way to communicate and/or reach communities

**Communities:**

- Business groups
- Multicultural organizations
- Helping organizations (including medical/health)
- "Regular" community members
- Indigenous communities
- Seniors
- Youth and Students & Faith-based groups

**Agenda**

| TIME | ACTIVITY | OUTCOME |
|---|---|---|
| 10 min | Welcome/Introductions | |
| 10 min | Overview of RECOVER /Why We Are Here? | |
| 40 min | What are some of your favourite locations in your community?<br>What makes them special?<br>-<br>What are some of your least favourite locations in your community?<br>What makes them negative?<br>-<br>(Moderator summarize what makes a "well community" from input received above. | MAPPING<br><br>DEFINITION AND CLARITY |
| 15 min | Would you get involved in an initiative to strengthen the wellness of your community?<br><br>If "No" what would it take to… strengthen your confidence in the initiative? Get you actively involved?<br>- | IDENTIFYING BARRIERS |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 15 min | (provide definition on sheet)<br>-<br>Based on what you have said about what makes a healthy community, look at this definition and tell us what you think?<br>-<br>Is there anything about this definition that gives you pause for concern? Are we missing anything? | DEFINITION<br>DESIGN |
| 15 min | Next Steps –<br>Community Wellness Walking Tours<br>How do we best communicate with you/members of your community over the next few months?<br>- | INSIGHT |



**Appendix 6: Oromo Community Invitation**

# Let's talk about **Recover: Edmonton's Wellness Plan.**

We're working to improve wellness for all Edmontonians by **turning your ideas for strengthening our communities into reality.**

**MAR 21 2018**

Wednesday, 5:30 – 7:30 pm
ASSIST Community Services Centre
9649 – 105A Avenue
Dinner provided, Family Friendly

**ADVISE**

If you live and/or work in the five core neighbourhoods (Boyle Street, Central McDougall, Downtown, McCauley & Queen Mary Park) this meeting is a chance to share: What does wellness mean and look like in our community? What are your favourite and not so favourite parts of your community and why? What can we put in place to achieve our vision for urban wellness?

Find out more by visiting:
edmonton.ca/**UrbanWellness**

**SHARE** YOUR VOICE
**SHAPE** OUR CITY

Edmonton



# Haa'aasofnu Mee Waa'ee Dandamannaa: Karoora Fayyaalummaa Edmenten.

Yaadota keessan Waldoota Hawaasaa gara Dhugaatti Jajjabeessuuf Oolchuudhaan Fayyaalummaa Warra Edmentenootaa Wayyeessuuf Hojjechaa Jirra.

**MAR 21 2018**

Roobii/Arbaa, 5:30 – 7:30 WB
ASSIST Community Services Centre
9649 - 105A Avenue
*Irbaata maatii hiriyyaas ni qabna*

Naannoowwan ollaa shan (Boyle Street, Central McDougall, Downtown, McCauley and Queen Mary Park) keessa kan jiraattan yoo ta'e,Walgahiin kuni carraa gaariidha: Fayyaalummaan maal jechuudhaa fi  hawaasa keessan keessattis maal fakkaata? Maalfaadha caalchifattuu fi maalfaa hagas mara hin caalchifattan hawaasa keessan keessatti? Mul'ata fayyaallummaa magaalaa bakkaan gahuuf maal maal gadi dhaabuu qabna?

Caalaatti hubachuuf:
edmonton.ca/**UrbanWellness**

**SHARE** YOUR VOICE
**SHAPE** OUR CITY

GORSA

Edmonton

## Appendix 7: Doorstep Interview Guide

Hello

My name is _____

And I am here on behalf of the City of Edmonton.

The City of Edmonton is conducting a small survey and we were hoping that you could participate. The survey takes between 5 and 10 minutes. You will not be identified.

(*For street interviews only)*
*Do you live in one of the following:*

*Boyle Street*
*McCauley*
*Central McDougall*
*Queen Mary Park*
*Downtown*

*If none of the above, abandon interviews*

This interview is about the Recover project which focusses on improving the wellness of communities. Recover improves communities by identifying small initiatives or projects that people can take on to make a neighbourhood better. These projects are simple and can be developed over a short time. These projects could be things like creating park benches in a pretty site or turning city-owned buildings into usable spaces. They might be turning vacant lots into play areas for kids or putting a fountain in a park. These projects are simple things that can make our relationship with the community better. One project in of itself can't change a community but a number of projects really can have a positve impact on a person's relationship with the area that they live or work.

With that information, we would like to ask you a few questions…

When you think of a "well" community, what things (or words) come to mind?

_____
_____
_____
_____

What locations in this community do you like and why?

_____
_____
_____
_____

What locations in this community don't you like and why?

_____
_____
_____
_____

If you could change anything about your community, what would it be?

_____
_____
_____
_____

Would you ever get involved in a project that could improve your neighbourhood?

_____
_____
_____
_____

If not, why?_____

This concludes our interview. Thank you for participating. I would like to bring to your attention some information where you participate further.

## Introduce and Invite:

**Wellness Walking Tours**
Boyle Street – April 14, 10-12 pm & Lunch
McCauley – April 14 , 1 – 3 pm & Lunch
Queen Mary Park – April 21, 10-12 pm & Lunch
Central McDougal – April 21, 1 – 3 pm & Lunch

**May 8 Prototype Session**

*Provide a "leave behind" with details about walking tours and prototype sessions.*

Edmonton

# Neighbourhood **Walks**

RECOVER

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# Introduction

Recover, Edmonton's Urban Wellness Plan, is working to improve wellness for all Edmontonians by turning your ideas for strengthening our communities into reality.

As an Edmontonian, your voice matters—and it's our job to listen. We started with conversations in each of the five core neighbourhoods, Boyle Street, Central McDougall, Downtown, McCauley and Queen Mary Park, meeting with residents, business owners, and community groups to build a better understanding about community perspectives on wellness in each neighbourhood.

Now, through a series of neighbourhood walks, we're set to explore each neighbourhood and share stories about areas of importance, discover unseen aspects of each community, and strengthen relationships with neighbours. We want to hear your stories and ideas too.

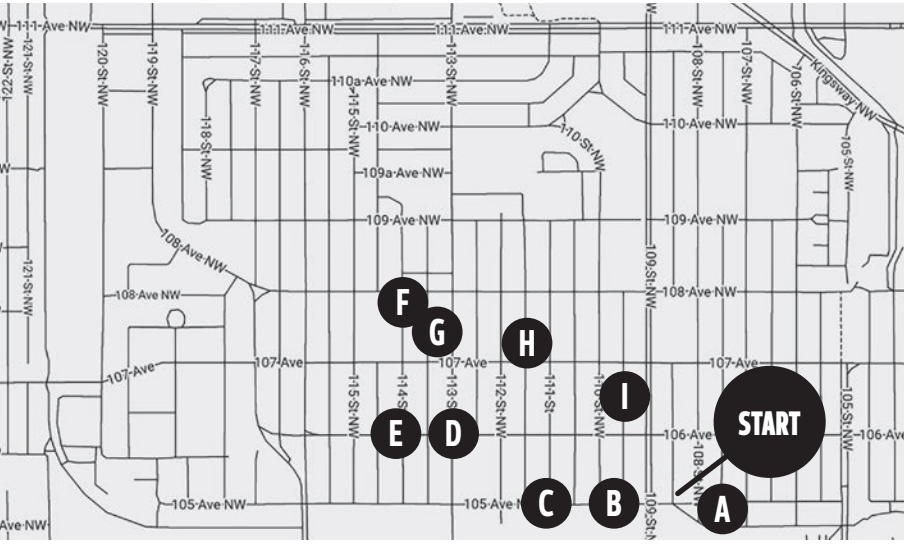
**We will be sharing more about the progress of Recover on May 8th (5:30 – 7:30, Allard Hall, MacEwan University).**

We will report back to you on how your input was heard, considered, and/or advanced. What you have to say is important, and is part of the larger conversation about urban wellness in Edmonton.

For more information visit **edmonton.ca/UrbanWellness**

# Queen Mary Park ROUTE 1&2

APRIL 21 | 10AM - 12PM | START: FOUNDRY ROOM, 10528 - 108 ST (ROUTE 2: GO IN REVERSE)

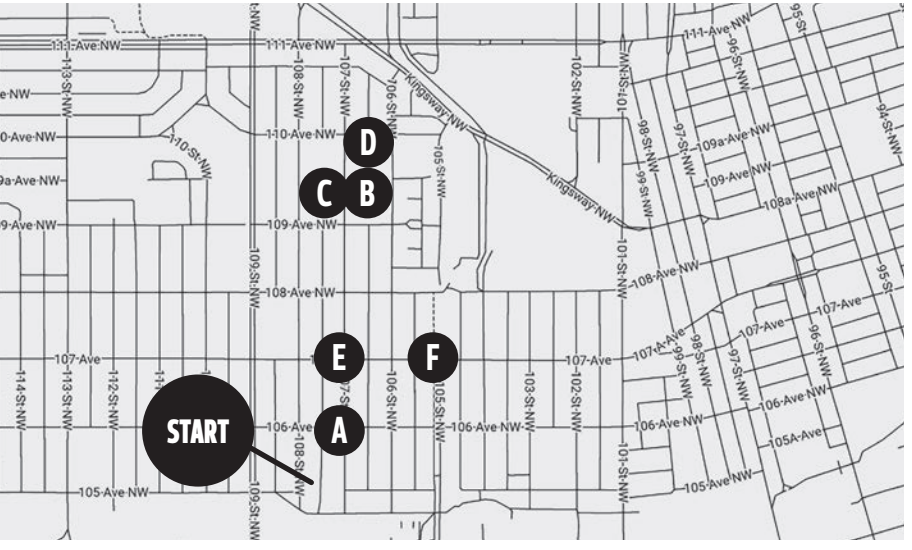



| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **A** | **Road right-of-way north and east of grassed road island** (portions of 108 Street and bit of avenue east of Foundry Room) | What if we closed this part of the road and converted it to a park? Some people are trying to make this happen. |
| **B** | **105 Avenue** 109 to 111 Street | This area is lacking in greenery, but at least there is a shared use path now. In the parking lot behind the new Allard Building, some sort of park is planned. *"This avenue is not so pedestrian friendly or attractive."* |
| **C** | **DC3 Art Projects** 10567 - 111 Street | dc3 Art Projects is a contemporary art gallery that acts as a supporter, advocate, producer and promoter of contemporary art. Founded in 2012; the gallery space also hosts a new bookshop dedicated to visual arts publications – magazines, books and editions - and hosts book launches, readings and events. |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **D** | **Action for Healthy Communities**<br>10578 - 113 Street | This is a charitable organization whose mandate is to give voice to central Edmonton's neighbourhood residents' views and concerns about wellness and healthcare reform. AHC is committed to fostering individual and group participation and action to improve the comprehensive and holistic health of diverse communities. |
| **E** | **Mustard Seed Community Support Centre**<br>10568 - 114 Street | The area has many services for newcomers and gathering spaces for various cultural communities.<br>Community gathering space with lots of programs, activities, and events. Centre for Ethiopian culture and heritage, kids' programs, sports, quarterly magazine, etc<br>*"I don't feel safe in this area"* |
| **F** | **Shiloh Baptist Church**<br>10727 - 114 Street | Shiloh Baptist Church is the oldest black Baptist church in Western Canada. It was founded in 1910, out of the need for persons of 'colour' to have a welcoming place to gather to worship, only because other existing churches in Edmonton turned them away. Today, it is a great place for gospel music and boasts a multicultural congregation. |
| **G** | **Edmonton Immigrant Services Association**<br>10720 - 113 Street | This association provides programs and direct services to new immigrants, refugees, and first generation Canadians. Helping people to make a smooth transition to life in Canada through integration, settlement, adaptation and education. |
| **H** | **107 Avenue** | Known as the Avenue of Nations, this vibrant street serves as the spine for a very diverse community. It has many gathering spots for different cultural communities, as well as restaurants and services. As a bustling urban street, residents note that it needs more crosswalks and lights for pedestrian safety. The Avenue can also act as a divide between communities on either side of it.<br>*"The walkability of this street is unreal and the diversity makes me feel at home [like Toronto]."*<br>*"I spend my lunch time looking out my office window and count the pedestrian near misses."* |
| **I** | **Low Rise Apartments**<br>(between 106 & 107 Avenue) | The walk-up apartment buildings are located conveniently near many services and are also walking distance to downtown. Unfortunately, they often have garbage and shopping carts left in front of them. People experiencing homelessness sometimes sleep in the lobbies, making them feel unsafe and dirty to their residents.<br>*"Since I work with apartment buildings, downtown buildings - problem with the homeless, especially in the winter, they open doors, they urinate, they smoke, they leave garbage. Even they leave bad words on the wall. We have children."* |

# Central McDougall ROUTE 1

APRIL 21 | 1-3:30PM | START: FOUNDRY ROOM, 10528 - 108 ST




**A** **106 Avenue**
109 to 106 Street

This area is a 'least favourite spot' for residents.

There is a planned park at 107 Street but timing for this development is not yet determined.

*"There are no green spaces and the space is filled with parking lots."*

**B** **Central McDougall Park**
10630 - 109 Avenue

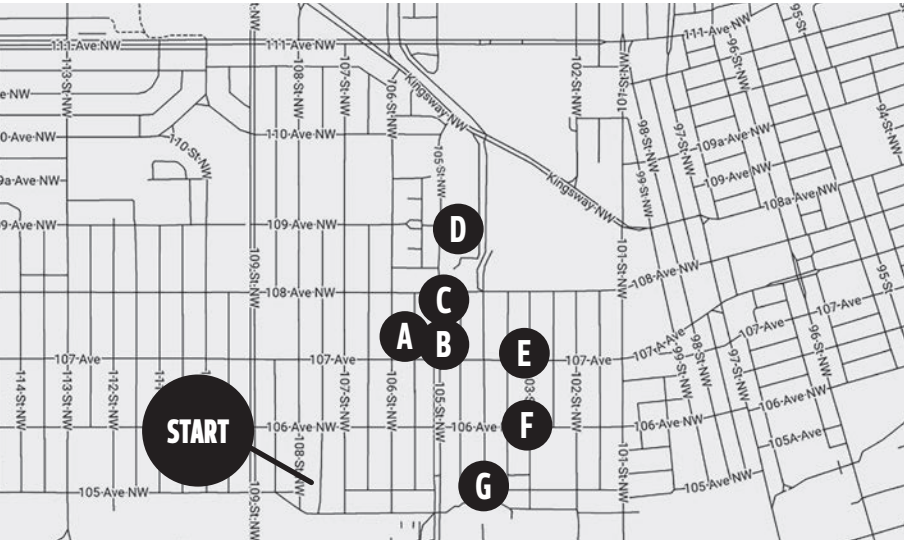
Known as the "Purple Park," this is great place for free and low-cost community art programming, Green Shack program, and sports. However, many feel that the Community League is inaccessible to residents and there is no public toilet for the kids to access.

*"There is no access to a toilet for our kids; we had to rent our own port-a-potty."*

*"I love the park. My uncle is part of the community league and often holds events in the park in an attempt to restore wellness to the area. Simple social innovations like turning old barrels into plant beds, adding greenery, and holding community BBQs and other events helps bring people together."*

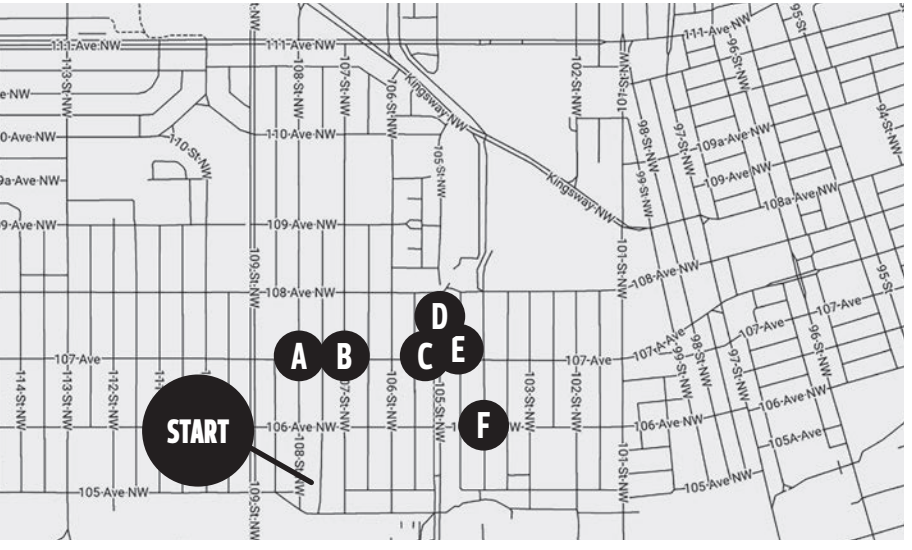
| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **C** | **John A. McDougall School**<br>10930 - 107 Street | This school is an open and accessible multicultural hub with the majority of students being English language learners. A community storage container is to be placed in this Spring for local community programming and an above ground (Hay Bale) community garden is at the front of school.<br>*"Its availability and access to space is great."* |
| **D** | **St John's Cultural Centre**<br>10611 - 110 Avenue | The Cultural Centre was established primarily to accommodate the needs of the various Ukrainian associations. It also has an open and accessible community space that has sports activities for neighbourhood kids. However, the space reminds residents that the area does not have a Recreation Centre for their kids.<br>*"It's a great gathering spot for children; it's popular for the neighbourhood kids and is not well used by non-residents which is great because we don't get pushed out."* |
| **E** | **All Nations Centre**<br>10704 - 107 Avenue | This popular Centre helps immigrants to settle in Edmonton and provides specific help with English language learning. It also has a drop-in centre for connecting with others. |
| **F** | **107 Avenue**<br>109 to 102 Street | Known as the Avenue of Nations, this vibrant street serves as the spine for a very diverse community. It has many gathering spots for different cultural communities, as well as restaurants and services. As a bustling urban street, residents note that it needs more crosswalks and lights for pedestrian safety. The Avenue can also act as a divide between communities on either side of it.<br>*"The walkability of this street is unreal and the diversity makes me feel at home [like Toronto]."*<br>*"I spend my lunch time looking out my office window and count the pedestrian near misses."* |

# Central McDougall ROUTE 2



| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **A** | **Diversity Centre**<br>10510 – 107 Avenue | Residents view this as one of the few local spaces that offer affordable office spaces, daily and short-term rental, and event hosting open to the cultural diversity of the neighbourhood.<br>*"Gradual gentrification is happening, and we need to have spaces that belong to the community, like this space."* |
| **B** | **Future Art Park**<br>SE corner of 107 Ave & 105 St | This is planned to be a park in the future.<br>*"We need more services beyond basic services such as food and shelter - we need self actualisation programs such as art programs and spaces for that."* |
| **C** | **105 Street, north of 107 Avenue**<br>(LRT line, linear park) | Residents say this is one of their favourite places - where they often go to relax and reconnect with nature. It is an attractive street with lots of trees and a small park at north end. It is interesting to note that there is no LRT stop for the community. |
| **D** | **Prince of Wales Armouries Heritage Centre**<br>10440 – 108 Avenue | Residents say they love the beauty of this location but that it is *"inaccessible to the community due to affordability."*<br>*"We can walk around it, but not in it."* |
| **E** | **107 Avenue**<br>102 to 105 Street | Known as the Avenue of Nations, this vibrant street serves as the spine for a very diverse community. It has many gathering spots for different cultural communities, as well as restaurants and services. As a bustling urban street, residents note that it needs more crosswalks and lights for pedestrian safety. The Avenue can also act as a divide between communities on either side of it.<br>*"The walkability of this street is unreal and the diversity makes me feel at home [like Toronto]."*<br>*"I spend my lunch time looking out my office window and count the pedestrian near misses."* |
| **F** | **106 Avenue**<br>101 to 104 Street | This area is a 'least favourite spot' for residents.<br>There is a planned park at 107 Street but timing for this development is not yet determined.<br>*"There are no green spaces and the space is filled with parking lots"* |
| **G** | **MacEwan LRT stop**<br>104 Street, north of Rogers Arena | A nice park-like green space that highlights Central McDougall's connection to downtown and other key city areas. |

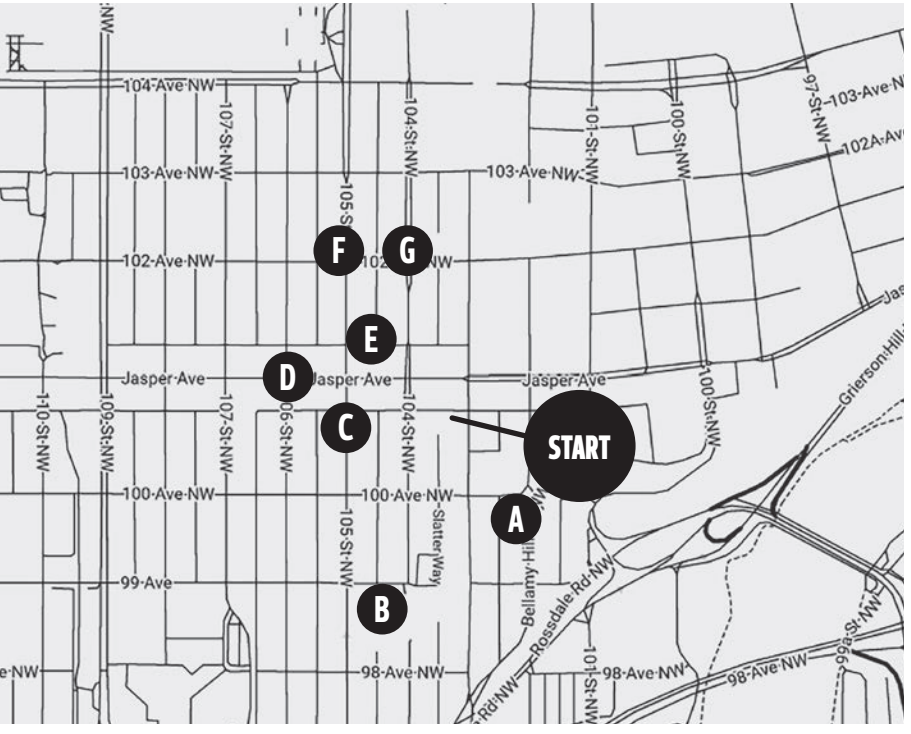
# Central McDougall ROUTE 3



| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **A** | **107 Avenue**<br>108 to 105 Street | Known as the Avenue of Nations, this vibrant street serves as the spine for a very diverse community. It has many gathering spots for different cultural communities, as well as restaurants and services. As a bustling urban street, residents note that it needs more crosswalks and lights for pedestrian safety. The Avenue can also act as a divide between communities on either side of it.<br>*"The walkability of this street is unreal and the diversity makes me feel at home [like Toronto]."*<br>*"I spend my lunch time looking out my office window and count the pedestrian near misses."* |
| **B** | **All Nations Centre**<br>10704 - 107 Avenue | This popular Centre helps immigrants to settle in Edmonton and provides specific help with English language learning. It also has a drop-in centre for connecting with others. |
| **C** | **Diversity Centre**<br>10510 - 107 Avenue | Residents view this as one of the few local spaces that offer affordable office spaces, daily and short-term rental, and event hosting open to the cultural diversity of the neighbourhood.<br>*"Gradual gentrification is happening, and we need to have spaces that belong to the community, like this space."* |
| **D** | **105 Street, north of 107 Avenue**<br>(LRT line, linear park) | Residents say this is one of their favourite places - where they often go to relax and reconnect with nature. It is an attractive street with lots of trees and a small park at north end. It is interesting to note that there is no LRT stop for the community. |
| **E** | **Future Art Park**<br>SE corner of 107 Ave and 105 St | This is planned to be a park in the future.<br>*"We need more services beyond basic services such as food and shelter - we need self actualisation programs such as art programs and spaces for that."* |
| **F** | **106 Avenue**<br>101 to 104 Street | This area is a 'least favourite spot' for residents.<br>There is a planned park at 107 Street but timing for this development is not yet determined.<br>*"There are no green spaces and the space is filled with parking lots"* |

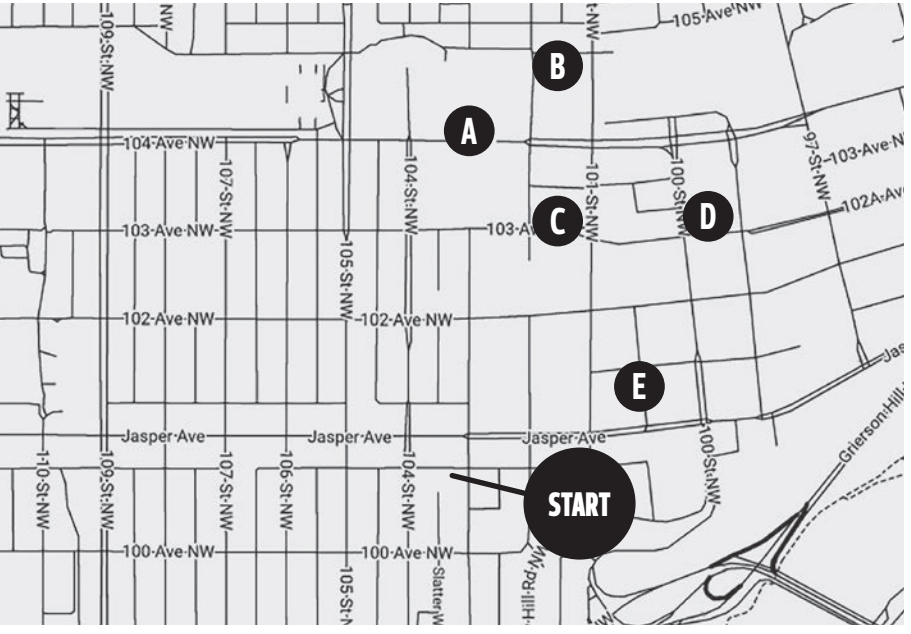
# **Downtown** ROUTE 1

APRIL 25 | 5PM – 7PM | START: DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY LEAGUE, 10042 – 103 ST NW



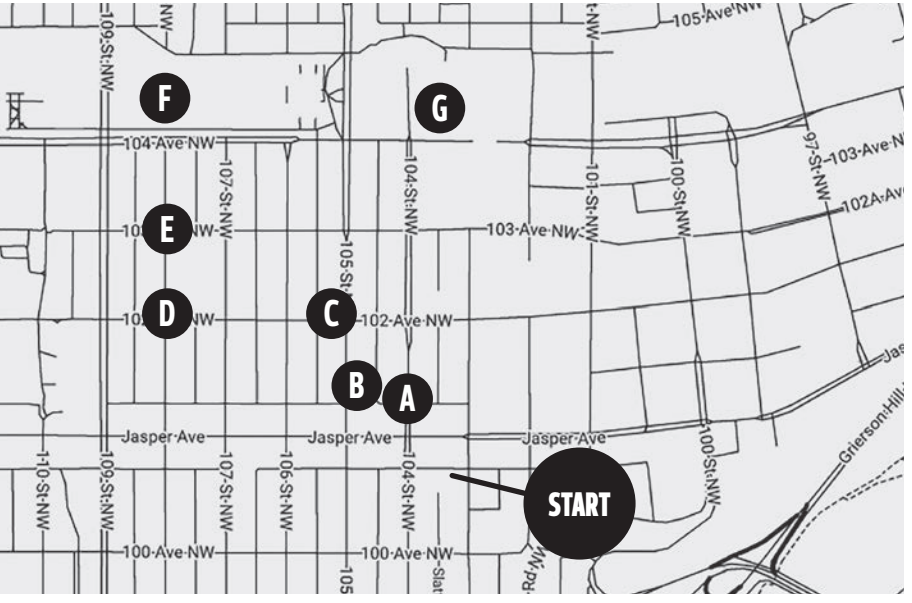
| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **A** | **Dwayne's Housing**<br>10209 - 100 Avenue | The building used to be a hotel. Two business men converted it to transitional housing and named it Dwayne's in honour of one of the men's brother who died after a seven-year battle with addiction. It provides housing for people that are often the hardest to house and are often misunderstood. Many of their guests often go unheard with no voice; ignored and forgotten. |
| **B** | **Dick Mather Park**<br>10425 - 99 Avenue | Soon (summer 2018) this will be the site of the only playground in Downtown Edmonton. The playground committee is made up of Edmonton Police Service (lead), COE, EPSB, DECL and the DBA.<br>*"We need more spaces where we can meet our neighbours."* |
| **C** | **105 Street**<br>south of Jasper Ave | *"Cleanliness is one thing that is missing downtown."*<br>*"Why is Edmonton so dirty?."* |
| **D** | **Jasper Avenue**<br>105 to 109 Street | Lively during the day and active at night.<br>*"This is what young professionals want in terms of liveliness"* |
| **E** | **Beaver Hills Park**<br>105 Street & Jasper Avenue | This park is a favourite gathering spot, but this park also has a lot of dark corners and many residents do not feel safe here. Loose rocks and concrete are used to throw through business' windows in the neighbourhood.<br>*"If we can replicate 10 of these in the city, [downtown] will be a lot more liveable."* |
| **F** | **Alex Decoteau Park**<br>*105 Street & 102 Avenue* | Edmonton's first downtown park in 30 years. Named after Canada's first Aboriginal Police Officer. A committee made up of area businesses and residents worked in close consultation with the City of Edmonton in the park design.<br>*"I love the garden, it is a great gathering space and it is new!"* |
| **G** | **104 Street**<br>*north of Jasper Avenue* | This street has generous sidewalks and trees. This section of the street is a designated heritage area that hosts a vibrant and popular farmer's market in the summer.<br>The Michael Phair Park connects to Beaver Hills Park and boasts art by Métis artist, Destiny Swiderski. The arts and park transform what used to be an underutilized space into a 'connector'. Alley of Light on east side of street boasts light-art-boxes with art that changes over the seasons.<br>*"This street has a lot of potential. It would be nice to have more places to go at night and on weekends."*<br>*"I feel like this space is wasted because there is nothing to do."* |

# **Downtown** ROUTE 2



| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **A** | **Ice District**<br>104 Avenue & 102 Street | Area is transforming rapidly as a planned major employment and entertainment district. There are major developments along a busy arterial street.<br>*"104 Ave is an attractive space further west."* |
| **B** | **Boyle Street Community Services**<br>10116 - 105 Avenue | The mission of Boyle Street Community Services is to build and provide community support to over 9000 people with multiple barriers to inclusion. Their vision is to see that all people grow healthier through involvement in strong, accepting and respectful communities. They focus on providing cultural, outreach, mental health, housing, family and youth, and employment services. This is also one of the new sites for supervised injection service. |
| **C** | **103 Avenue / Oilers Way**<br>*between City Hall & Edmonton Tower*<br>**102A Avenue**<br>between 100 & 101 Street | *"Road is a canyon."* This area is very windy due to downdrafts off of tall buildings. There are also *"too many parkades"* and not enough greenery.<br>*"No pedestrian interaction" and "not pleasant, and unfriendly."* |
| **D** | **City Hall Plaza** | Designed to be public space with active and passive uses in all seasons, with year-round programming. Warm microclimate (south facing, blocked from wind)<br>*"It's an open area, multi-use space."*<br>*"We appreciate that the public is welcomed here and not turned away."*<br>*"I've never seen anyone not welcomed."* |
| **E** | **Rice Howard Way** | One of the very few pedestrian priority areas in the city. |

# **Downtown** ROUTE 3




**A** **104 Street**
*north of Jasper Avenue*

This street has generous sidewalks and trees. This section of the street is a designated heritage area that hosts a vibrant and popular farmer's market in the summer.

The Michael Phair Park connects to Beaver Hills Park and boasts art by Métis artist, Destiny Swiderski. The arts and park transform what used to be an underutilized space into a 'connector'. Alley of Light on east side of street boasts light-art-boxes with art that changes over the seasons.

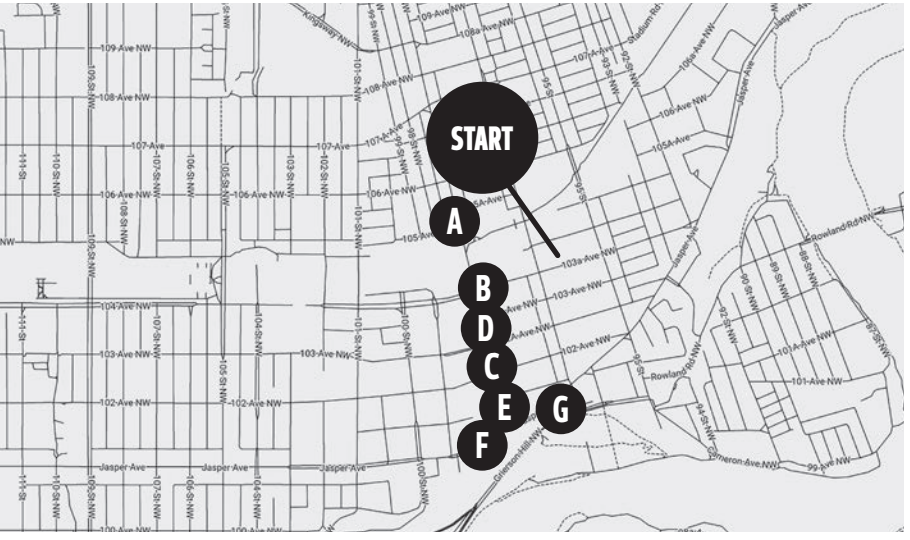
*"This street has a lot of potential. It would be nice to have more places to go at night and on weekends."*

*"I feel like this space is wasted because there is nothing to do."*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **B** | **Beaver Hills Park**<br>105 Street & Jasper Avenue | This park is a favourite gathering spot, but this park also has a lot of dark corners and many residents do not feel safe here. Loose rocks and concrete are used to throw through business' windows in the neighbourhood.<br>*"If we can replicate 10 of these in the city, [downtown] will be a lot more liveable."* |
| **C** | **Alex Decoteau Park**<br>*105 Street & 102 Avenue* | Edmonton's first downtown park in 30 years. Named after Canada's first Aboriginal Police Officer. A committee made up of area businesses and residents worked in close consultation with the City of Edmonton in the park design.<br>*"I love the garden, it is a great gathering space and it is new!"* |
| **D** | **Norquest College**<br>10215 - 108 Street | A school that offers workforce-relevant programming. They are proud to embrace diversity and honour inclusiveness. 64% of its students are born outside of Canada and there are 103 languages spoken on campus. The school is newly redesigned with generous sidewalks and public art. |
| **E** | **Naked Cyber Cafe & Espresso Bar**<br>10303 - 108 Street | Informal hangout with espresso drinks, sandwiches & sweets, free wi-fi, board games, and live music<br>*"It has live music and is kid friendly which is great for me and my family."* |
| **F** | **104 vs. 105 Avenue** | Participants from community discussions said that they like 104 Ave<br>*"It is an attractive space with trees."*<br>In contrast, 105 Ave, especially west of 109 St, is unattractive.<br>*"There are no sidewalks, no trees. New separated bicycle lanes, west of 109 St, are designated as multi-use trail since there are no sidewalks there."* |
| **G** | **Rogers Arena** | Rogers Place is a multi-use indoor arena. Construction started in March 2014, and the building officially opened on September 8, 2016<br>*"[Rogers Place] is out of place. Almost ironic - you have people across who can never dream of going there."*<br>*"It feels as if you don't belong."* |

# Boyle Street ROUTE 1

APRIL 28 | 10AM - 12PM | START: BOYLE STREET PLAZA WILLOW ROOM, 9538 - 103A AVE




**A** **Living bridge & overpass**
97 Street & 105A Avenue

The Living Bridge is a community garden, gathering space and connector through downtown. It has been described as a place where urban agriculture meets art and music. Critics have argued that it is also a place to find graffiti and syringes and a place used as a public washroom.

*"This is a problem place for the neighbourhood. We'd like to see this [bridge] gone."*

**B** **Great Western Garment building**
97 Street & 103 Avenue

Formerly the Great Western Garment (GWG) Factory, the building was constructed in 1911 initially as a retail department store then turned into a garment factory employing up to 375 people. Army & Navy acquired the building in 1955, expanded the store in 1968 and closed it in 2001. It has remained mostly vacant over the last 17 years.

*"The Army & navy building across from Canada Place can house homeless people here."*

**C** **Drawing Room Studios & Salon**
10253 - 97 Street

The Drawing Room Studios was a coworking and exhibition space in the city of Edmonton with a mandate to inspire and empower people through interdisciplinary arts. The Drawing Room was a place that attracted diverse emerging cultural producers to gather and work and fostered creative collaboration and critical discourse. It is now permanently closed.

*"This was an important gathering space for artists to come together and I miss it."*

**D** **Former site of Harbin Gate**
97 Street & 103 Avenue

Was built in 1987 as a symbol of strength of 30,000 Edmontonians of Chinese origin. Was moved in November 2017 to make way for the Valley LRT and no decision has been made about its future.

*"It was an icon. [...] The issue of its displacement and future needs to be addressed. When are we getting it back?"*

*"If we lose Chinatown that means we have nothing to tell our children, grandchildren, down the road. Where your ancestors came from. How they suffered through those times and how they protect themselves by working together and supporting each other. That's how Chinatown started. That's why you have the gate that signifies the entrance into Chinatown. You're telling the history to whoever comes to visit that there's a China Town here - and how it flourished."*

**E** **The Nook Cafe**
10153 - 97 Street

Nook Café started a suspended coffee program, inviting customers to buy a future hot beverage or snack for someone who can't afford one. It is located in a high visibility area of downtown"s east side and is fronted by great trees.

*"We try and level the playing field as much as possible. If you have money you can get things here, if you don't have money, you're just as entitled to something wholesomely made to eat and a nice warm drink. [...] All people deserve kindness. Even when they are maybe displaying things that are hard."*

*"They are friendly and open to all."*

**F** **Top of the Bank east of Shaw Conference Centre**
Jasper Avenue & 97 Street

Beautiful vista from atop the bank—lengthy view of the river flanked by the Shaw Conference Centre to its west and Louise McKinney Park (below) to its east.

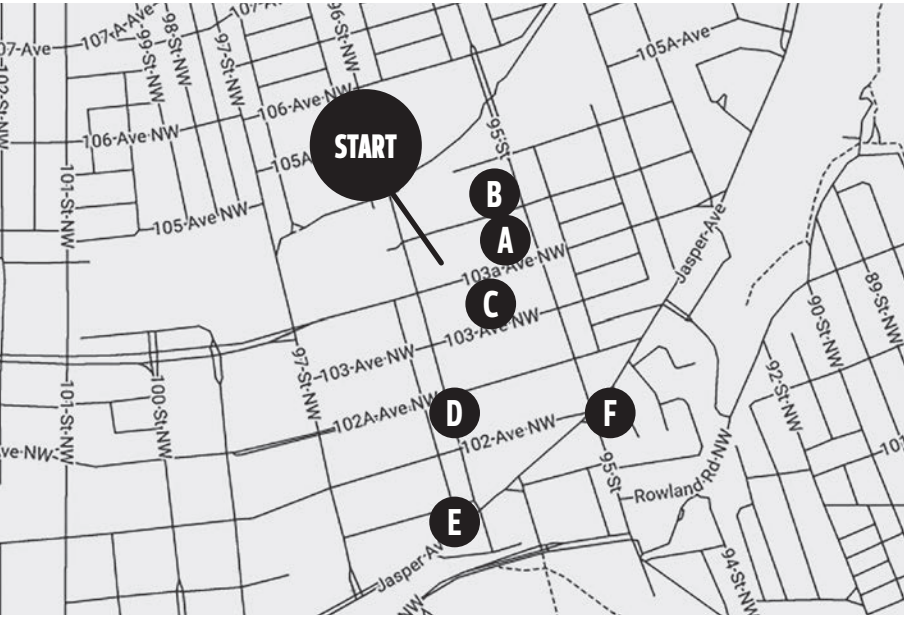
The east side of the Shaw conference is a gathering spot for vulnerable community members who huddle next to the building's venting system to stay warm.

*"I like being down at the river bank because I feel a connection to the land and water."*

**G** **Gibson Block**
9608 Jasper Avenue

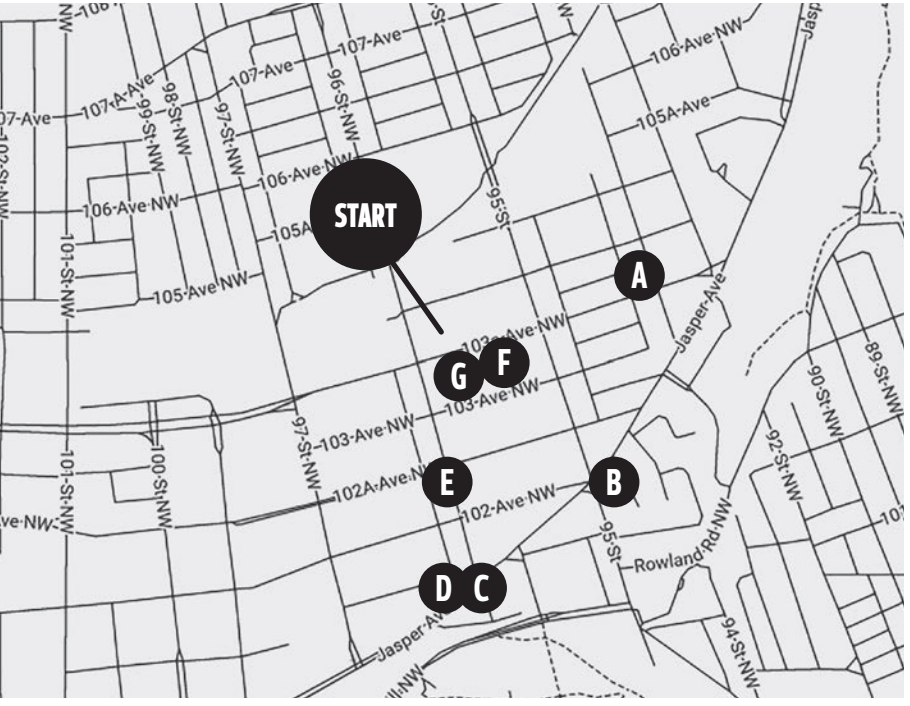
The Gibson Block Building is valued as a rare example of a commercial building following the 1902 prototype of a flatiron building, so named for its distinctive triangular shape. The building design, with Chicago style influences, was developed by William Gibson, and originally provided first floor retail space and offices on the remaining floors, the building's use has evolved with Edmonton's changing economic fortunes.

# Boyle Street ROUTE 2



| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **A** | **Urban Manor**<br>9524 - 104 Avenue | Urban Manor is an assisted living facility. It provides shelter and housing for men in need for whom there is no other facility immediately available or for whom there is no other appropriate facility. The home is staffed 24 hours a day. |
| **B** | **Renaissance Tower (Metis Capital Housing)**<br>9509 - 105 Avenue | A new home in the heart of our city for seniors and people with disabilities |
| **C** | **Edmonton People In Need Shelter Society (EPINSS)**<br>9536 - 103 Avenue | An assisted living facility in Edmonton that offers activities at their location for residents. These activities generally allow residents to maintain healthy lifestyles by encouraging movement and socializing with their peers. |
| **D** | **Armature and Future Kinistinâw Park**<br>96 Street, from 103A to Jasper Avenue | The Armature is a pedestrian-oriented street stretching 4.5 city blocks (along 96 Street from 103A Avenue to Jasper Avenue). It includes mid-rise, mixed-use residential development fronting the park.<br>Kinistinâw Park is a new park in the works for the area as part of the downtown redevelopment. The goal of this park is to create a community space for people to gather and to attract further re-development to the area.<br>*"If you build a park and not monitor it properly, it can become a negative area and it would be hard to shake that stigma."* |
| **E** | **Okîsikow (Angel) Way**<br>9579 - 101A Avenue | Look for the sign on the lightpost. The naming of Okîsikow Way was led by the Stolen Sisters Awareness Walk & Movement and the Centre to End All Sexual Exploitation (CEASE) to honour women who have been victims of violence. |
| **F** | **The Moth Café**<br>9449 Jasper Avenue | The Moth Cafe is located in a desolated corner of 95 St and Jasper Avenue, in the midst of the Quarters in the core. The cafe aims to provide nutritious, medicinal and tasty plant-based food/drinks.<br>*"Vegan food!"*<br>*"It's kid-friendly, inviting, and trendy."* |

# Boyle Street ROUTE 3

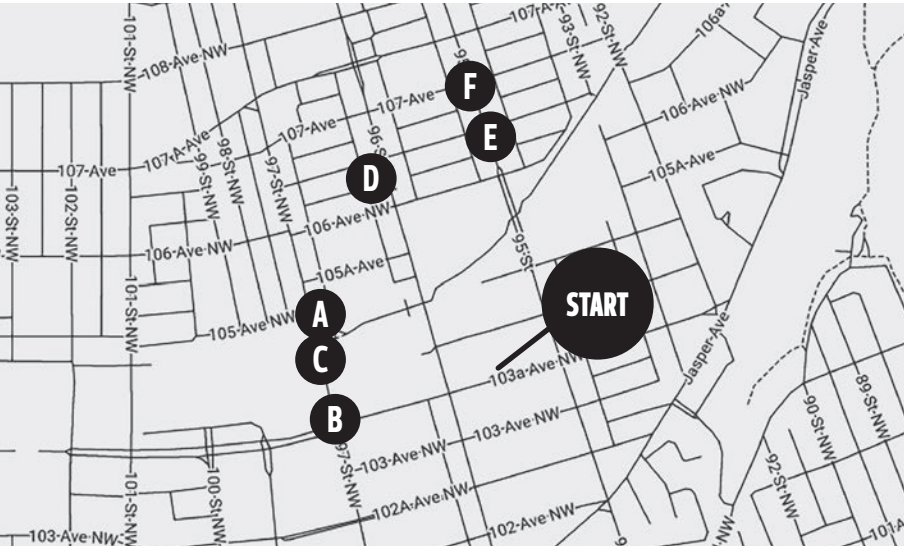



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| **A** | **Salvation Army Housing**<br>9304 - 103A Avenue | The Transformations Addictions Recovery Program is a 4 month inpatient holistic, abstinence based program. Men, aged 18 or older, whose primary addiction is to alcohol and/or drugs, are eligible. Clients must have completed detox before entering the facility and must be physically and mentally stable. |
| **B** | **The Moth Café**<br>9449 Jasper Avenue | The Moth Cafe is located in a desolated corner of 95 St and Jasper Avenue, in the midst of the Quarters in the core. The cafe aims to provide nutritious, medicinal and tasty plant-based food/drinks.<br>*"Vegan food!"*<br>*"It's kid-friendly, inviting, and trendy."* |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **C** | **Gibson Block**<br>9608 Jasper Avenue | The Gibson Block Building is valued as a rare example of a commercial building following the 1902 prototype of a flatiron building, so named for its distinctive triangular shape. The building design, with Chicago style influences, was developed by William Gibson, and originally provided first floor retail space and offices on the remaining floors, the building's use has evolved with Edmonton's changing economic fortunes. |
| **D** | **Okîsikow (Angel) Way**<br>9579 - 101A Avenue | Look for the sign on the lightpost. The naming of Okîsikow Way was led by the Stolen Sisters Awareness Walk & Movement and the Centre to End All Sexual Exploitation (CEASE) to honour women who have been victims of violence. |
| **E** | **Armature and Future Kinistinâw Park**<br>96 Street, from 103A to Jasper Avenue | The Armature is a pedestrian-oriented street stretching 4.5 city blocks (along 96 Street from 103A Avenue to Jasper Avenue). It includes mid-rise, mixed-use residential development fronting the park.<br>Kinistinâw Park is a new park in the works for the area as part of the downtown redevelopment. The goal of this park is to create a community space for people to gather and to attract further re-development to the area.<br>*"If you build a park and not monitor it properly, it can become a negative area and it would be hard to shake that stigma."* |
| **F** | **Edmonton People In Need Shelter Society**<br>9536 - 103 Avenue | An assisted living facility in Edmonton that offers activities at their location for residents. These activities generally allow residents to maintain healthy lifestyles by encouraging movement and socializing with their peers. |
| **G** | **Boyle Renaissance - Phase 1**<br>9538 103A Avenue | The Boyle Renaissance is a partnership between City of Edmonton and YMCA. The east building contains the Melcor YMCA Village affordable housing units. The west building is a community centre that includes the YMCA Child Care Centre, YMCA Family Resource Centre, offices, multi-purpose programming and physical activity space for the Boyle Street Community League.<br>*"There tends to be a large police presence in the area in the past. It's uncomfortable and it doesn't seem to change much of what's going on in the area. [...] But I've noticed a change with the police trained in the last few years, they are more respectful with people. They are more compassionate. They know people by name. They are there not for a power trip. We need the right kind of people [for policing]."* |

# McCauley ROUTE 1

APRIL 28 | 1PM – 3:30PM | START: BOYLE STREET PLAZA WILLOW ROOM, 9538 – 103A AVE




**A** **Mary Burlie Park**
10465 – 97 Street

This important urban space in the midst of Chinatown currently possesses many negative social issues including people urinating, defecating, disposing needles which creates a space which does not feel safe. The proposed plan to improve the space includes ideas to reconfigure and reconnect the park to its surroundings by potentially adding in a new plaza with a cafe patio and retail along one edge which could become a place for a night market, food trucks and small festivals.

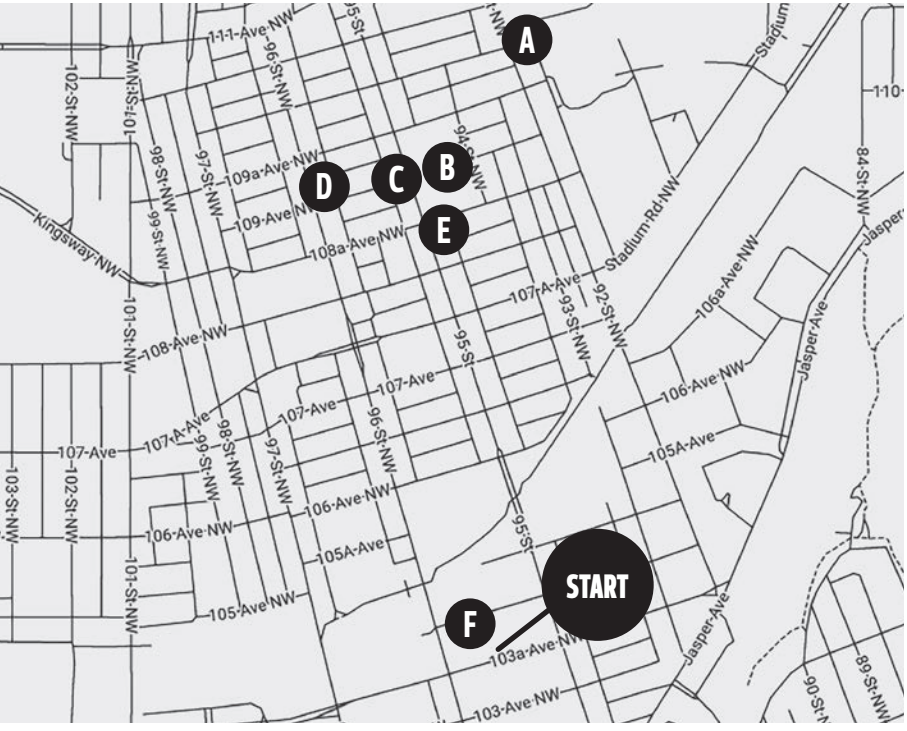
*"Mary Burlie Park should be a safe environment for seniors, children etc. The park is currently being used by homeless population."*

*"All these nice things (parks etc) is not for the community but for the homeless since they are the only ones who enjoy it."*

*"There are different types of graffiti there. Not an eye-sore but very neat to see the different types of artwork. I can go to the park with friends to socialize and drink openly with others. It's a great gathering place for all walks of life."*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **B** | **Chinatown**<br>97 Street & 102 Avenue | Youth connected to Edmonton's Chinatown believe it has the potential to be a destination that people will want to go to. It's about creating a place that celebrates many cultures.<br>*"At one point in time, even if you're a very successful business in Chinatown, you were not allowed to employ white people to work for you. So there's a lot of discrimination. So I think that the new generation, the descendants, needs to understand what the Chinese been through and how they elevate themselves and work hard and were successful."*<br>*"This is a very dirty area. I automatically assume that people in this area are homeless and often are harassed by panhandlers, even in the middle of the road. Despite being in your car while driving through this area, you do not feel safe. You feel vulnerable."* |
| **C** | **Living Bridge**<br>9603 - 105 Avenue | The Living Bridge is a community garden, gathering space and connector through downtown. It has been described as a place where urban agriculture meets art and music. Critics have argued that it is also a place to find graffiti and syringes and a place used as a public washroom.<br>*"This is a problem place for the neighbourhood. We'd like to see this [bridge] gone."* |
| **D** | **Boyle McCauley Health Centre**<br>10628 - 96 Street | This health centre is the only non-profit community owned centre in Edmonton. While some see the very existence of this centre as contentious, many others view it as a key to their very survival. |
| **E** | **Free Wall**<br>95 Street | This once blank, barren wall is now home to a variety of graffiti and street art that adds beauty and interest to a relatively drab setting along the existing shared path that is a key connector for pedestrians and cyclists in this part of town.<br>*"At the south end of the Canada post office, before the train goes underground into Churchill [station], there is beautiful mural arts on the walls."* |
| **F** | **McCauley Community Garden**<br>9538 - 107 Avenue | This lovely garden is one of well over 75 community garden sites now operating within the City of Edmonton which promote local, organically grown food, healthy and active lifestyles, and safer, more vibrant and connected communities.<br>*"This is a great place for people to come together"* |

# **McCauley** ROUTE 2




**A** **The Happy Hill**
Commonwealth Stadium,
West side, 110 Avenue

Residents, including children, use this space year-round. They use the hills as a toboggan run and as a place to walk their dogs.

"It is a great space for walking the dogs and strolling about, but it can be sketchy after dark. There is a reason why they call it 'Happy Hill.' We are hoping the supervised injection sites will decrease the amount of discarded needles."

"The City [Commonwealth Stadium] is a poor neighbour. We have a lot of issues with public urination when there are events at the stadium. And we get very little support from the city in terms of garbage clean-up, parking patrol, and security."

**B** **Giovanni Caboto Park**
9425 - 109A Avenue

This park was originally named Patricia Square Park however in 1981 the local Italian community pushed to "change the name to Giovanni Caboto Park to symbolize the contributions of all immigrants to Canada," as explained by Teresa Spinelli, president of the Italian Centre Shops.

*"[It's] great for kids. They have a splash park. It is well used and clean and the festivals in the summer are free which is great. The park has been rehabilitated and it's great for families and children."*

*"This spot is very quiet and serene. It's a great place to relax. I often slept there in the past."*

*"Now it's become a dangerous spot in my community because of youth and gang activity and violence."*

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**C** **Italian Centre Shop**
10878 - 95 Street

Has been a specialty grocer and gathering place for Alberta families and friends since 1959. The shop provides authentic Italian and European tastes & traditions which help to foster and strengthen a strong community and a sense of belonging for many.

"Good food, good coffee, and a great cultural store."

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**D** **Studio 96**
10909 - 96 Street

Studio 96 was formerly the St. Stephen's Anglican Church, a historic landmark on Church Street, and now provides an amazing venue for events including weddings, poetry readings, workshops, live music, holiday dinners and concerts to the surrounding community and beyond.

*"They are fine with kids being around - which is great."*

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**E** **La Dolce Vita Cafe**
10831 - 95 Street

The existing cafe and bar is located within a plaza that includes a few other business such as a restaurant, a barber and a pharmacy.

"The whole complex is not good for the community. It's very bad for litter, drugs, violence, and loudness."

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**F** **Boyle Renaissance - Phase 1**
9538 103A Avenue

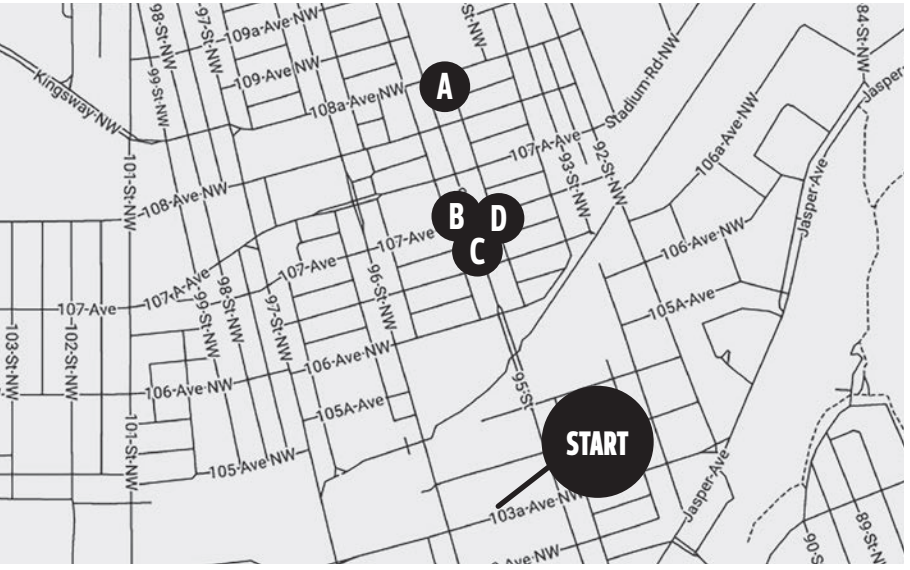
Partnership between City of Edmonton and YMCA. Boyle Street Community League leases space inside Boyle Plaza from COE.

Brings together a range of affordable and market housing opportunities.

Boyle Renaissance meets the housing, social, recreation and service needs of current residents and welcomes new neighbours to the community. Accredited childcare, cultural opportunities, park space, and social space.

The east building contains the Melcor YMCA Village affordable housing units. The west building, called Boyle Renaissance Plaza, is a community centre that includes the YMCA Child Care Centre, YMCA Family Resource Centre, and the offices, multi-purpose programming and physical activity space for the Boyle Street Community League.

# **McCauley** ROUTE 3



| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **A** | **La Dolce Vita Cafe**<br>10831 - 95 Street | The existing cafe and bar is located within a plaza that includes a few other business such as a restaurant, a barber and a pharmacy.<br>"The whole complex is not good for the community. It's very bad for litter, drugs, violence, and loudness." |
| **B** | **Intercultural Centre & Garden**<br>9538 - 107 Avenue | This facility is located in the heart of the McCauley community, within the old McCauley School building, and is home to non-profit organizations sharing a similar mandate or vision of antiracism, inclusion, and intercultural sharing and learning. Adjacent to the facility is a beautiful community garden.<br>*"The fruit trees are beautiful, and the garden is welcomed for everything. [...] It's about making it a positive space."*<br>*"Needles were found in the playground. I don't want to bring my daughters here [to the daycare] because of the needles."*<br>*"I work at nights, and there are some iffy people around these blocks [around the centre]. My son is scared to come here. I try not to be in this area [if I don't have to]."* |
| **C** | **'Life is beautiful' mural**<br>10767 - 95 Street | This three-tone mural depicting an idyllic cityscape under the hand-lettered banner "Life is Beautiful" was conceived by by local Curio Studio and commissioned by Beljan Development. Ivan Beljan has stated that the message of 'Life is Beautiful' is one that resonates with people and would hope to bring a reminder of how precious and special life is."<br>*"When I drive by this mural everyday, I can't help but feel happy inside."* |
| **D** | **McCauley Community Garden**<br>9538 - 107 Avenue | This lovely garden is one of well over 75 community garden sites now operating within the City of Edmonton which promote local, organically grown food, healthy and active lifestyles, and safer, more vibrant and connected communities.<br>*"This is a great place for people to come together"* |

# Notes

# Questions

In what ways does this site/spot/building contribute to or undermine the wellness of our community?

How does this site/spot/building make you feel?

I specifically love this site/spot/building because...

I wish this site/spot/building had...

REVIEWED APRIL 18, 2018

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