



This Is My Neighbourhood - Meadowlark Park

Stakeholder Report Back: What We Heard
November 17, 2017

Project overview

This Is My Neighbourhood was created to provide an opportunity for residents to partner with The City of Calgary to identify ways to help make their neighbourhood an even better place to live, work and play.

In 2016, The City of Calgary delivered more than 100 programs, services and small-scale improvement projects to a first group of 14 neighbourhoods.

In 2017, The City of Calgary is working with a new group of 14 neighbourhoods. The City will work with the neighbourhoods to first identify a neighbourhood vision. From that vision, participants, working with City staff, will come up with creative ideas (programs, services and small-scale infrastructure improvements) that support their neighbourhood vision as identified in the engagement. In 2018 those programs, services and infrastructure projects will be implemented.



Engagement overview

This report covers what we heard during the visioning phase for Meadowlark Park. This is the first step in the engagement for the This is My Neighbourhood program.

What we asked

Residents in Meadowlark Park were asked:

What would make Meadowlark Park a better place to live, work and play? They were then asked to choose their top three vision words from a list (see below), or add their own, and explain why they chose that word.

Accessible • Active • Beautiful • Clean • Connected • Diverse • Family-Friendly • Healthy • Inclusive • Safe • Walkable

Step 1 Tell us your vision

What would make your neighbourhood a better place to live, work and play? Choose your top 3 words from the list, **or add your own**, and tell us why.

- Accessible • Active • Beautiful • Clean • Connected • Diverse
- Family-friendly • Healthy • Inclusive • Safe • Walkable

Vision Word (example)	Why? (example)
Accessible	I see many seniors with walkers and parents with strollers who have a hard time crossing streets.
Vision Word #1	Why?
Vision Word #2	Why?
Vision Word #3	Why?



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How we connected

There were three different ways citizens could provide feedback:

1. Everyone in the neighbourhood was mailed a postcard with the vision question and could drop it off at the Meadowlark Park Community Association, the local Fire Station and the local library. The postcards were sent to 1582 residents.
2. The vision survey was available online through the engage.calgary.ca/myNeighbourhood/meadowlarkpark portal page from July 10 to October 31, 2017. The survey was promoted on road signs, through Facebook, and in the community newsletter. We received 113 pieces of feedback online and nine comments on Facebook.
3. City staff attended various community events to gather feedback. In total, we received six postcard submissions. The table below summarizes the events we attended and how many people we reached at each event.

Event Name	Number of people reached at community events
Lawn Chair Theatre	15
Community Association board meeting	8
Ribbon Cutting/Oktoberfest	45
Pop Up	4
Total	72

4. We also asked participants online how they heard about this program. These were their responses:

Community Association	Community Event	Community Newsletter	Facebook Ad	Mail Notice	Roadside Sign	Word of mouth
5	1	3	2	9	1	2

No one selected: City of Calgary Website, Engage Website, Recreation Facility, Social Media, Tim Hortons TV, or Other.

What we heard

This is a short overview of what citizens of Meadowlark Park told us this summer and fall. Of the eleven vision words provided, **Safe, Beautiful, Clean** and **Family-Friendly** were chosen the most often.

Safe: Traffic and vehicle-related concerns were the most common comments pertaining to safety, with a focus on speeding, traffic volumes near the mall and short-cutting through the community. A number of people suggested traffic calming measures and controlled intersections to help address these concerns. In addition to traffic concerns, a desire to make the community playground more safe was also mentioned, due to observations of broken glass and drug-use.



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Beautiful: A number of people expressed their appreciation for Meadowlark Park’s green spaces, but also had suggestions to improve the look and feel of them by replacing dead trees, and using them as gathering spaces or to host activities. People noted that a beautiful community has many positive impacts because it encourages community involvement, contributes to safety, and it increases property value and community pride.

Clean: Residents feel that a clean community contributes to increased safety and community pride. Concerns with cleanliness included garbage and litter due to the close proximity of Chinook Mall, and the desire to clean up and possibly pave the community’s back alleys.

Family-Friendly: A couple of people mentioned the increase of young families in the community, as well as their appreciation for the parks and bike paths in the area. Other comments included the desire for more family-friendly events and paved back alleys.

For a verbatim listing of all the input received, please see pages 5-9.

VISION WORD: ACCESSIBLE	5
VISION WORD: ACTIVE	5
VISION WORD: BEAUTIFUL	5
VISION WORD: CLEAN	6
VISION WORD: CONNECTED	6
VISION WORD: FAMILY-FRIENDLY	7
VISION WORD: HEALTHY	7
VISION WORD: INCLUSIVE	8
VISION WORD: SAFE	8
VISION WORD: WALKABLE	9
VISION WORDS: OTHER	9

Vision statements

From this information, 3 vision statements are suggested for Meadowlark Park. A quick poll at engage.calgary.ca/myNeighbourhood/meadowlarkpark will be available from November 17 to November 27 where residents can pick their favourite vision statement. The vision statements come from the vision words and ideas you shared with us through the engagement.

- a) Meadowlark Park values being a safe, beautiful, clean and family-friendly neighbourhood.
- b) Meadowlark Park values feeling safe as they move through the neighbourhood, a clean and well-kept environment, and family-friendly events and opportunities in their neighbourhood.
- c) Meadowlark Park values safe streets and a sense of security, clean and well-kept surroundings and a family-friendly environment with accessible outdoor spaces and events for all ages in their neighbourhood.



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Next steps

In early 2018 we will be planning the creative process. First, we will share with you a number of neighbourhood vision statements and have you select one.

From that vision, members from your community will work with City staff to come up with creative ideas (programs, services and small-scale infrastructure improvements) that support that vision.

In 2018, those programs, services and infrastructure projects will be implemented.



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Verbatim comments

The following is all of the verbatim comments we received for Meadowlark Park. The verbatim is broken down by Vision Word and includes the submissions received online and those received in person through the postcards. If an inappropriate word was used, the following is used to indicate that it was removed: [inappropriate word removed]. If personal information was submitted the following is used where that information was removed: [personally identifying information removed].

Vision Word: ACCESSIBLE

Selected 1 time

Answers to “why” below

- as per example, easier ways for seniors and parents to cross roads

Vision Word: ACTIVE

Selected 6 times

Answers to “why” below

- We lack areas for active living like a bike park / skate park / community garden
- Lots of kids - need an ice rink!!
- Would love to see more young kids/families on walks - Due time
- Would like to be able to let my dog off leash so we both can get some running in
- I would like to see a fenced in park that allows dogs. All my school yards do not allow dogs.
- Promote bike paths and walkways to encourage outdoor enjoyment

Vision Word: BEAUTIFUL

Selected 12 times

Answers to “why” below

- It makes you feel safe and content to walk in a neighbourhood where the houses and lawns are well-kept.
- Our houses are older but most are well-maintained and this shows that our neighbours care about each other.
- There are a few houses, possibly not occupied by the owner, which require new roofs and paint. It is important that the neighbourhood look clean and loved.
- If the neighbourhood is beautiful, it will bring people out! We need people to be outside and meet each other. It's also great for property values!
- Beautiful communities = more walkable and active communities
- The crosswalk at 61st Ave and 5th Street, going to the mall is in rough shape. The bricks on the retaining wall are crumbling and the paint on the metal railing is peeling.
- The shortcut pathways (ex from Meadowview Rd up to Mailbou Rd) are narrow, worn out, asphalt pathways that are not maintained and are not particularly appealing. Some are in good shape but others are not.
- We are an old neighbourhood and many of the streets are in disrepair, and public trees (especially between the community and



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- Chinook Centre) are half dead, need to be replaced, and the boulevard is weed infested.
- Develop the central park into a more vibrant "people space".
 - Improve the look of the common park space and roads
 - Central park is beautiful and the neighbourhood community centre and playground is pretty. There are lots of mature trees, and the community is slowing being updated which is great!
 - We have a nice big green space in the centre of our community that hardly anyone uses. It

- really is the centre of the community that's just waiting for something, maybe lawn bowling, attract some seniors? A small playground, an ice rink in the winter?
- If the community is maintained and has beautiful green spaces, residents are more likely to have pride of ownership and take care of their properties as well.
 - The better the community looks, the higher the property values

Vision Word: CLEAN

Selected 8 times

Answers to "why" below

- We get a lot of walking traffic from Chinook Centre, and often litter is left in the community.
- There is only one, beat up, metal garbage can along Meadowview Rd. Many people from the mall throw their garbage in the bushes. I would like to see a sturdy, nicer looking garbage can at each crosswalk that goes to the mall.
- In addition, either due to littering or strong winds, garbage accumulates along the bike path route beside Glenmore Trail, on both sides of the sound wall. The bushes are so thick and ill kept that it is hard to clean up. We have organized community pathway clean ups in the past but I would like to see something done on a regular basis. More people means

- less work and it shows that we care about where we live.
- the back alleys need to be paved, to avoid huge ruts, mud, slushy and mosquito breeding grounds
 - Our community has back lanes and many of these have become dumping grounds for people's garbage.
 - Lots of garbage left behind by homeless people
 - If the community is clean, residents are more likely to have pride of ownership and take care of their properties as well.
 - This brings people out. Nobody wants to hang out in a dirty place.

Vision Word: CONNECTED

Selected 5 times

Answers to "why" below

- It's hard to meet our community members
- Add tree swings to the trees meadowlark park

- I wish we still had a Canada Post mailing box to mail letters. It's a huge inconvenience to mail letters now.



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- A lot of families know each other and spend time together
- Places to connect even more than we already do. The community hall is a great options but

even areas in parks to get together and connect. Areas that people love to go and be, and where others will do the same so that you connect even more.

Vision Word: FAMILY-FRIENDLY

Selected 6 times

Answers to “why” below

- Having access to the bike paths, being a few minute walk and ride to the reservoir is beautiful and is great activities for the children. We have two beautiful parks in the neighbourhood.
- I have a family and my sons are always spending time at the park with the neighborhood kids
- If a neighbourhood is family-friendly, it is safe and a pleasant place to live in. Last year there were activities in the park and many neighbours attended, not just those with families. These activities are good for everyone. Many retired people showed up for Improv-at-the-Park and we all had a great time laughing with these talented actors. It would be wonderful to have more of these events brought to our neighbourhood. Calgary is a

wonderful place in which to live and we must all work to keep our neighbourhoods special.

- In the case of Meadowlark Park, it is especially important to keep single family homes here because the area is already in the midst of a very commercial area. We must maintain our green and quiet spaces, and even obtain more for walking and recreation.
- We would like to have paved alleyways - it would be cleaner, and safer for kids to play/ride bikes/walk through. It would also encourage neighbours to meet between backyards.
- Lots of youth families with kids living in the community
- More and more kids and families are living in the community

Vision Word: HEALTHY

Selected 7 times

Answers to “why” below

- We want to see our neighbours live to their old age in their homes rather than have to go to senior's homes.
- To do this, the sidewalks need to be well-maintained with elevated cracks repaired or identified by paint. The sidewalks must be looked after in the winter to prevent falls. It would be great to have more benches for sitting along the paths in the parks.
- We also have a diverse culture, age-range and ability in our neighbourhood. This makes it

attractive. In essence, as someone remarked, "It's like Mr. Roger's Neighborhood!" That's a good thing.

- Also, we could maybe incorporate fitness stations near the playground area where other people could work out.
- I highly value health and fitness
- Giving the communities the resources and option to do healthy choices in regards to weed controls and other things. Keep pesticides and harmful things out of communities.



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- stop using insecticides on communal grass areas

Vision Word: INCLUSIVE

Selected 1 time

Answers to “why” below

- We are a community of people that built there homes in the 50's and still live in them and young families. It would be nice if there was a way to bring the young and old together.

Vision Word: SAFE

Selected 11 times

Answers to “why” below

- 5 Street is incredibly busy with traffic and noisy trucks. Can trucks be banned from using it? Can more traffic calming measures be put in?
- Our streets are used by commuters "cutting through" to avoid traffic on Elbow Drive between 58th and Glenmore. Cars travelling very fast (even if within the 50 k limit) speed by our central park where kids play. There should be a playground zone or speed bumps.
- We are close to Chinook Centre, and have many undesirables cutting through the neighbourhood.
- Add stop signs within the neighbourhood to make the neighbourhood safer. The intersections are currently uncontrolled which leads to close calls
- I have seen two accidents at the intersection on Malibou road. It is a four way stop, but there isn't any stop signs. There needs to be stop signs put in place.
- The speed limit needs to be reduced. There is people driving 50-60 and that poses a problem, as there is lots of children and seniors in this community.
- In order to keep the streets safe, we should be cautious about the frequent U-turns at Mayfair Road and MacKay Drive. Traffic calming would be appreciated by the local residents. Parking by permit only has kept the residents and children safer by reducing out of town non-resident traffic within the community. We do need more patrols by the City Police due to the increase of bottle pickers within the back alleys. We believe that some of these "bottle pickers" are actually looking for crimes of opportunity.
- We are close to Chinook and there are lots of “transient” people who go between the mall, our area, the Chinook train station, & the industrial area to the east. Feeling safe is a foundation for the other “vision” words. Without that, people don’t open up to neighbours and people in the neighborhood.
- Drug paraphernalia has been found in the park around the community hall. It has made me more aware when I am there with my kids. Are there ways to discourage drug use at the park?
- Our playground isn't safe. Last week my soon found glass everywhere in the rocks. The playground structure is okay, but lots of glass and different things can hide in the rocks. We need to have that tire product in our playground.



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- Don't feel as safe as I would like, few vehicle entry's this past year & need to lock gates

Vision Word: WALKABLE

Selected 6 times

Answers to "why" below

- We are close to many things, reservoir, Chinook, major roads, yet our community is beautiful with quiet walkable sidewalks and paths connecting us.
- This is the main reason I bought a house here, can walk to Chinook and Irt.
- It is a great community that is very walkable and has everything in walking distance, except grocery store. But it could need improvement around Chinook mall. If you have a dog you cannot walk through the mall and are forced to go around to get to the other side of McLeod Trail. That is a hazard as there are no sidewalks. There are no sidewalks between 5th Street and McLeod along Glenmore. Not on the south side or north side. Forcing pedestrians to walk further than you should have to or they walk on busy Glenmore Trail. Some improvements in those "commercial" areas would make a huge difference.
- It is important to have a pedestrian and bike friendly neighborhood, allowing residents to walk to the market, mall and throughout the neighborhood. The existing pathways require re-surfacing and are currently very hard to walk through, during the winter. It would be beneficial if an arrangement could be made to plow the path system, during the winter months. Salt is also required during icy winter conditions. It would be beneficial for all walkers within the community to have paved alleyways. If these costs could be added to the tax roles, and amortized over 30 years, we could gain support for this added value, within this pedestrian friendly community.
- We are close to so many great areas however walking to school (Elboya) or to the grocery store (Britannia Sunterra) the only way is walking along a busy street elbow drive or through other streets, it would be nice if the trails could continue up here.

Vision Words: OTHER

Selected 5 times. We asked if people had "other" words to share. When "other" was selected people gave these other words:

- CENTRAL GATHERING SPACE
- FUN
- HEALTHY PARK EXTRASIZE
- PRIVACY
- WINE



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Vision Words: OTHER

Selected 5 times

Answers to “why” below

- People wait for their kids they can extrasize
- Our community hall is on the border of the community it would be nice to have another more central gathering place like a community garden in the community
- Trees/hedges between the community and the mall on 5th St.
- See below ("We should do progressive dinners")
- We should do progressive dinners!