



# This Is My Neighbourhood

Report Back: What We Heard  
Creative Ideation Session, August 14, 2017  
Chaparral

## 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 worked with the neighbourhoods to first identify a neighbourhood vision. From that vision, participants, working with City staff, came up with creative ideas (programs, services and small-scale infrastructure improvements) that support their neighbourhood vision as identified in Step 1. Those programs, services and infrastructure projects will be implemented in 2018.

## Engagement overview

This report covers what we heard during the Creative Ideation Session on August 14, 2017. This is the second step in the engagement process for the This Is My Neighbourhood program. The purpose of this workshop was to develop experiments to test community initiatives, programs and improvements.

## What we asked

In this workshop, we divided participants into three tables and asked them to generate ideas about how the community could realize their vision, and to develop hunches about why those ideas are important. Then, based on those ideas, participants were asked to develop experiments to test their hunches.

Below is a summary of the hunches and experiments from each table, as well as a complete list of ideas that were generated.

## Next steps

The improvements and experiments identified at the workshop will be selected and tested in their respective communities in fall 2017.





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## Summary of input

### Blue Table

#### Hunches

<b>Selected Hunch</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desire for opportunities to explore all the parts of the community.</li> </ul>
<b>Hunches</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a desire for opportunities to explore all three parts of the community (Lake, Ridge, Valley)</li> <li>• Chaparral is a disconnected community (Lake vs. Valley)</li> <li>• Greenspace in Chaparral Valley could be used as a connecting space</li> <li>• State of boulevards/impact of Stoney Tr has affected community pride and experience travelling through neighbourhood</li> </ul>

#### Experiments

<b>Experiment 1:</b> Virtual Community Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neighbourhood geocache</li> <li>• Parks/pathways maps</li> <li>• Amenities maps</li> </ul>
<b>Experiment 2:</b> Progressive Block Party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• i.e. pickleball in Lake Chaparral 1-2 pm</li> <li>• bball tourney 3 on 3 in Ridge 2-4 pm</li> <li>• 4-7 community BBQ in Valley</li> </ul>
<b>Experiment 3:</b> Adopt-a-Rink	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get an 'adopt a rink' at the 194 green space (or elsewhere)</li> <li>• Measurable – host a pop up café/hot chocolate night with firepit, winter activities</li> </ul>

### Red Table

#### Hunches

<b>Hunches</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People want to explore different spaces within their community</li> <li>• People want to be active and create more activities in their community – in their natural space</li> <li>• Being on the edge of the city (away from downtown, where they work), people feel disconnected from centres of activity</li> <li>• If parents felt safer, then they would allow their kids to roam and enjoy the neighbourhood</li> <li>• People don't know what they don't know</li> <li>• People aren't aware or recognize how great their community really is or what the opportunities are</li> <li>• People want to appreciate a greater awareness</li> </ul>
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## Experiments

<b>Experiment 1:</b> Pit Stops throughout the Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 active, 1 passive/observational</li> <li>• Measure:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Use of “passports”</li> <li>○ Test participation level and #s completed</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Experiment 2:</b> Neighbour Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When completed, “I participated in neighbour tag”</li> <li>• Conversational – did they learn more about neighbourhood and its amenities?</li> </ul>
<b>Experiment 3:</b> Community Boards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “did you know...”</li> <li>• “I like to _____ in my community”</li> <li>• Measure:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Observe: participation level of contributors</li> <li>○ Observe: visual count of how many stopped to read</li> <li>○ Conversational: did they go to other parts of the community based on learnings from the board</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## Yellow Table

### Hunches

<b>Selected Hunch</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through programming and intentionally designed space, people of all ages feel a reason to meet and socialize at Chaparral Valley Square</li> </ul>
<b>Hunches</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People want more use of the things</li> <li>• More of a reason to be outside</li> <li>• Better use of spaces by having programming</li> <li>• Community members want to meet and have a reason to be together</li> <li>• Intentionally designed spaces for conversation</li> <li>• Chaparral Valley Square would be a great place to host community events (currently being underutilized)</li> <li>• Opportunity to get people to connect through space (all access)</li> <li>• Need a place to meet and be idle</li> <li>• Programming to create awareness for space</li> <li>• We need to create some purpose combined destination to</li> </ul>

## Experiments

<b>Experiment 1:</b> Board Game Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hay bales</li> <li>• Online invite, fun signs</li> <li>• Used/bring your own/donate</li> </ul>
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## Experiments (continued)

<b>Experiment 2:</b> Library in Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Old newspaper box</li> <li>• Books, games, recipes</li> <li>• Weekly</li> </ul>
<b>Experiment 3:</b> Gazebo Gathering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring a chair/leave a chair</li> <li>• Test new locations</li> <li>• Musical chairs</li> <li>• Seasonal themes</li> </ul>

## Other ideas

- Bike parade
- Bike rodeo
- Art walk
- Paint the street
- Scavenger hunt/Amazing race
- Simple wayfinding
- Neighbourhood fun 5k (themed)
- Recreational cycle route activity with stops along the way
- Corner libraries “borrow a book”
- Pop-up plays
- Pop-up café
- Programming on green spaces
- Community BBQs
- Connected pathways
- Family events
- Winter activation
  - Ice sculptures
  - Hot chocolate
- Adopt a rink
- Visual wayfinding (all ages can interpret)
- Blvd flower pots
- Off leash park
- Board game little free library
- Mobile community centre
- Pathway stencils stops i.e. games/activity along pathway
- Virtual community centre – app for that
- Neighbourhood knock night – meet your street neighbours
- Sculpture wildlife “200” (park)
- Seed exchange
- Community garden – food or ornamental; at entrance?
- Native garden
- Bird houses in the neighbourhood (community building project)
- Community market – for out-of-towners too
- Walking hand in hand
- Knock on the door
- Community garage sale
- Monthly/seasonal farmers market – centrally located
- Beauty night
- Painting bee
- Neighbour “speed dating”
- Painted front stoops
- Generation karaoke
- Game days at community centre
- Inclusive space for everyone in the community to feel welcome
- Neighbour welcome day
- Community da at the lake (2-4 seasons)
- Hello signs
- “These are the people in your neighbourhood”
  - Sesame Street
  - Neighbourhood skill exchange
  - Community spotlight
- Cleanup area
- Recipe swaps
- Creating community hub in garden space, i.e. stage
- String lights
- Neighbourhood skills exchange
- Community posting board identity



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- Corner parklet with temporary planters
- Gardening club
- Polka dots
- Flower baskets and banners
- Community sign at entrance
- Gateway that sums up the identity of the community
- Create pit stops with map on pathway/"passports"
  - E.g. Activity stencils; enjoy view to track
- Scavenger hunt sign up #s (test participation level; who did it, who completed it)
- Invite neighbour to share an experience – walk/bike
- Neighbour tag
  - invite neighbour to do activity, when done, the one asked now asks the one...
  - "I participated in neighbour tag" sign
- Hot chocolate stands in winter – along the route
- Progressive winter treats/activities along the path
- 4 boards – 1 for each section of the community
  - Did you know
  - I like to be active by \_\_\_\_\_ in Chaparral
  - Likes and don't likes
  - Observe – participation level in contributing to the content
  - Observe – who and how many stop
  - Conversation – did they go to other parts of the community (based on learnings from the board)
- "Neighbourhood build"
  - One neighbour starts the chain, asks neighbour to join for a walk, go to next neighbour and build a large group
- Fri, Sat, Sun activities in the valley/ravine that are programmed for teens to cut down on the drug use (i.e. like a star watch program and/or outdoor dance night in valley or square)
- Community ownership of the ravine
- CA programming for 12-18 teen/tween targets
- Activities for everyone in the family
- Active – skatepark? In the valley
- Active – An event and/or farmers market partnered with the school
- Family fit days
- Outdoor fitness programs
- Safe – speeding – obstructions (i.e. parked cars) slows down traffic
- Ravine...maybe a fence?
- CPTED report on bus route pathway – strategic lighting is essential
- Speed/traffic calming – bike path? Speed bumps?
- Active/safe – biking – separated lanes or painted on-street routes?
- Speed bumps on pathways
  - Reduces speed of cyclists and skateboarders
  - Safer for pedestrians
- Mentorship and buddy programs
- Encourage reporting
  - 311
  - 266-1234
  - 911 – crime in progress (broken window theory)
- Drug para. – needle disposal in high traffic areas
- Safe – education around cleaning ravine and a community cleanup day in ravine
- Mobile adventure playground which can move from Chap. Valley square to Chaparral proper
- Mobile adventure playground for family
- Art that creates a visual fence
- Pop-up green space
- Green space programs for kids that take over the street too
- Kid walkways
- Pathway 1/2km markers
  - Creates goals (markers) – promotes fitness
- Safe – Traffic safety; Chaparral Blvd would benefit from the sleeves to notice crosswalks
- Safe – Paint the pavement along Chaparral Blvd. to enhance with cars slowing down OR paint the pathways to slow down bikes
- Colourful crosswalks
- Safe - Sleeves = visibility – visibility issue or creating an awareness to location?
  - Sleeve does not make the rule; sign is still sign
- Things that remind folds that they need to slow down
- Everyone should be able to use community roads and feel safe
- Novel uses of green spaces



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- Provide sports equipment
- Host games/act
- Dog walk party/parade
- Balloons to mark
- Active – closer skating area outdoor
  - CA partner with Sikome Lake for skating and/or events out of Sikome
- Active – map of community and amenities on utility boxes and/or garbage bins
- Active – dog park by Stoney Trail
- Dog park
- Active/safe – get around without worrying – wayfinding signage/maps?
- Pickle ball
- Outdoor play spaces
- Adult park exercise equipment
- Public art for hubs
- Playground variety
- General use for all ages
- Outdoor classroom

- Utilize community schools
- Community centre
- Communication i.e. looks vs. valley
- Pathway benches
- Street scape welcoming
- Ensure bus pads are connected by crosswalks or sidewalks
- Neighbourhood
  - Dog walking
  - Running
  - Basketball
- Offer adult programs
  - Run group
  - Walk group
  - Cycle group
  - Seniors
- CCS has a “free bell” program
- Organize a block party... suggest a theme
- Tents
- Playground expansion