



This Is My Neighbourhood

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

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

Green Table

Hunches

Selected Hunch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If people feel more connected and proud of their community, they are more likely to take care of it. There is an opportunity to utilize communications to build a connection and sense of pride.
Hunches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Missed opportunity to get info out to community • How to use existing events to turn into something more fun/exciting • Missing opportunity to connect with newcomers • People want to feel connected to their neighbourhood • More communication will help people feel connected/proud of community = more likely to take care of it • Lack of involvement – possibly due to lack of education • Missed opportunities to share resources = missed connections • Utilized children/kids’ events to garnish relationships • Lack of communication = lack of participation • People need more opportunities/information in order to feel connected

Experiments

Experiment 1: Community _____ Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weeding, fence painting, litter pick up, paint the basketball courts etc. • Maintenance in community • Sign up to volunteer • Raking/shoveling • Rink maintenance/painting courts • Fix a neighbour’s fence
Experiment 2: Pecha Kucha “Skills” Event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 minutes to tell us about your skills, how you’d like to contribute to help your community (10 people)
Experiment 3: Park Crawl	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nearby City staff host neighbourhood map guiding to the next park • Family-friendly activities @ each • BINGO sheet/treasure hunt/passport • Incorporate a “clean-up” stop • Exercise stop • Use # as part of treasure hunt to measure social media engagement <p>*Develop a hashtag for the community – use social media to communicate “Take a pic of yourself around community”; incorporate into all 3</p>



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Orange Table

Hunches

Chosen Hunch:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adding traffic calming circles (button), narrowing the road and providing visual all will slow traffic and improve community vibrancy (walkability)
Hunches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a hunch that if Nose Hill Dr. was improved there would be less shortcutting in Ranchlands • Have a hunch that improved alternate routes would reduce shortcutting • Paint word “slow” on pavement • Narrowing the road will slow traffic, especially at crosswalks • Traffic circle at Ranchero Dr. and Ranchlands Blvd might help slow people down • Public art on key fences (St. Rita’s) would slow traffic and beautify – also create a gateway • Slowing traffic mid-block (Ranchlands Blvd) would improve walkability and vibrancy (people reluctant to come out of homes) – possible traffic circles

Experiments

Experiment 1: Measure Speeds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (people walk, biking, driving) prior to, during and post experiment • Pylon and painted traffic buttons (directional areas) • Need a radar gun • Ranchlands Blvd/Ranchero Dr • Ranchlands Blvd/Ranchview Rd • Within the estates (Ranchview Dr/Ranch Estates Dr) • Survey administered by CA – signs in community • Article in newsletter • Community engagement about traffic calming • Poll often
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Yellow Table

Hunches

Selected Hunch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desire to unite the community to feel enriched and connected.
Hunches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People want to help others • People need help from others • People new to Canada need to meet people • Opportunities for collective knowledge sharing – don't know how to talk to others • Diverse neighbourhood • Feel like a lesser community – want to feel like neighbouring community • Want flower boxes and fences • Look like a poor community – because we are a diverse community • Want stronger sense of community • Diversity of renters/owners • People see transient nature of renters as negative • Have a demographic that is poor • Want to understand neighbours

Experiments

Experiment 1: Pop-up Event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are people interested in sharing tools/toys/books? • Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Volunteers from community ○ Info booth (pop-up tents) ○ Food ○ Advertising • Go to popular areas (parks, or transit stop) • Would people sign up for the Facebook page?
Experiment 2: Art Project to decorate areas in the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight dilapidated areas (fences) • Beautification and message to City • Hang lights, hang art, include diversity items (something that represents culture) • Community sign (dress the community sign) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide box of props to decorate the sign or provide flags at the entrance
Experiment 3: Low-cost Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At community centre • Cooking classes, sharing ethnic dishes • Simple home repairs workshop



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Other ideas

- Community cleanup event
- Incorporate business and residents
- Clothing donation (i.e. kids)
- Fixing properties – building and repairing neighbourhood fences
- Plant exchange
- Playground maps
- Pop-up street party
- Pictures on electrical boxes. Themed community relation to Ranchlands.
- Community clean-up day and swap sale
- Events – community cleanup
- Create sense of pride
- More ownership, more pride, more respect, more care, education for renters, low income, refugees for Ranchlands
- Program for Calgary Housing Residents; supportive seniors
- In Ontario, use of more natural products for lawns instead of chemicals
- Community sign contest
- Fence painting day
- Pathway walks (organized) to explore what is there and what connections might be missing
- Service/handyman projects
- Family friendly – having community dinners once a week, bringing people together
- Tool shed (share/rent)
- Sidewalks
 - One person makes change
 - Ripple effect
 - Business referrals
 - Movie night at park
- Mall garbage blows into neighbourhood – good question; fences
- Poop bag stands at the dog park
- Clean – allow bus stop waste baskets to be used for dog waste
- Dog bag dispensers/garbage bin
- Access to parks overpass to silver spring to access pathways
- Gathering spaces includes some benches and litter cans; picnic tables
- Fitness park in easily accessed area
- Adopt a park
- Begin a playground rebuild committee – approach developer for Ranchero rebuild
- New playground, more equipment – exercise playground equipment
- Pop-up play areas other than playgrounds (bball hoops, giant chess games, etc.)
- Adopt-a-playground – improvements that might occur quicker than the formal lifecycle?
- Paint on roads – traffic calming
- Pylons and slow down signs; BC insurance/AMA
- Clean – broken pathways collect debris – re-pave/repair pathway
- Bike or walking paths to be fixed
- Pathways for kids to cycle separate from traffic
- Cycling education
- Lighting over Nose Hill Drive
- Nose Hill Dr. connector to LRT
- Lumination
- Group activities – rides, walk, strollers
- Renters perspective and education
- Job-share through website, round-up
- Connectivity with other social services like they do near CSC main campus; partnerships
- Use the verge for ped scale lighting
- Lighting – issue is tall trees obscure light diffusion – tree pruning side lighting
- Bicycle parade through the pathway (during which concerns are identified); then discussion on top spots for repairs (Develop Action Plan)
- Winter bike to school day with safety workshop
- Remove street verge grass strip to increase roadway width for safer bicycle pathway (verge trees could act as parking blocks)
- Dog park cleanup days where registration licensing fee is reduced when they attend a cleanup
- Doggy group with education and walking partner with PetSmart for ex.
- More frequent community cleanups and block parties
- Community garden
- Web access (Facebook, etc.) to help others with their home needs (elderly/single parents, etc.)
- Gardening block party – with food, kid events; swap



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- Database of skills from community – for “worker bees” – i.e.: tool library/Facebook group
- Planters with flowers/edible plants in key locations (city ROWs) – can use as curb cuts and picnic tables to slow traffic
- Benches along major walking routes
- Gardens for median strips – planters that aren’t part of LEAF program
- Outside bins for recycling and waste on main roads
- When city takes a tree they replace a tree in our community
- Even out sidewalks and add seating so elderly can walk and wheelchair
- Walking maps on current infrastructure (bins)
- Accessibility tour of neighbourhood with seniors and youth
- Improvement of wayfinding signs throughout community and to pathway system
- Children walking to school – walking school bus
- Parents taking turn walking children (near them) home to build a safe walkability (walking school bus)
- Improve pedestrian crossings and slow traffic
- Painted crosswalks at intersections
- Improve entry sign – involve community groups in design
- Painting crosswalks – yield to pedestrians etc.
- Flashing sign “slow to 30 km”
- Speeding problem tackled through traffic circles, which can be beautification focal points
- Enter Ranchlands from Nose Hill need speed bump, a crosswalk and signage
- Graffiti workshop
- New playground equipment
- Fix/replace fences along Ranchlands Blvd
- Update/re-do playgrounds to make them nicer and safer
- Tool lending library
- Toy libraries
- Walking tours, parks/gardens
- Little libraries
- Paint utility boxes
- Community walking tours (awareness, meet others)
 - Redo pathways
 - Picnic table(s) in parks
 - Community gardens
 - Reforestation of public lands
 - Bylaw presence
 - Planned community art/murals
- Encourage pedestrian activity
 - Graffiti murals
 - Get people to remove graffiti on property
 - Pet cleanup awareness
 - Repairing sidewalks
 - Pedestrian lights at Ranchlands Blvd and Rancho Dr, help slow traffic cutting through our community
 - Same with at Ranchview Drive
 - Planters on the Blvds
- Beautifying, accountability, neighbours helping neighbours
 - Help people on community cleanup day that can’t bring their stuff to the site
 - Have a volunteer cleanup crew
 - Flower boxes
 - Have a pick-up spot for bigger items and a pick-up day
 - New community entrance signs
 - Brighter lighting throughout
- Pride in community (shows you care)
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 - Garbage cans
 - More garbage cans near 7-11 and other areas
 - Have puppy poop bags attached to garbage cans
 - Get people to look after their lawns and walks beyond their fences
- Taste of Ranchlands – potluck event
- “Fixing bee” – do you need help fixing your fence?
 - Group that will help fix a fence in a day