



RILEY COMMUNITIES

Local Area Planning Project

Phase 1 – ENVISION: What We Did Report

Winter 2023



Riley Communities Local Area Planning Project

Phase One: ENVISION What We Did Report

Report Back – Winter 2023

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Project overview

The Riley Communities Local Area Planning project includes the communities of: Hillhurst, Hounsfield Heights - Briar Hill Sunnyside, and West Hillhurst.

Through the local area growth planning process, we'll work together to create a future vision for how land could be used and redeveloped in the area – building on the vision, goals and policies outlined in [Calgary's Municipal Development Plan](#) and [The Guide for Local Area Planning](#).

The Riley Local Area Plan will fill gaps in communities / areas where no local plan currently exists and replace other plans that are largely outdated.

What did we do with the input received?

This input was used to update the concepts presented to the public for Phase 2: EXPLORE. This is the What We Did Report which demonstrates how your feedback in Phase 2 was used to inform the draft concepts in Phase 2, and what we are now looking for feedback on. We encourage you to review the Phase 1 - ENVISION What We Heard Report to understand our communications and engagement approach, the questions we asked, and the feedback we collected during the phase of the project. It also will provide you with the context of how

feedback collected in Phase 1 helped to inform the concepts in the draft local area plan in Phase 2 that The City is looking for feedback on from January 17 – February 12, 2023.

What We Heard / What We Did

Below you will see the themes that emerged from our public engagement and the responses from the team as to how that feedback will be used to further refine the plan.

PAST

Q1 - What is important for people to know about the area's history?

Theme	What We Did
Participants value the rich and diverse history of the area	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To supplement the additional history section for the plan area that was developed as part of the draft Chapter 1, the project team is looking to develop both heritage policies and heritage guideline areas to capture rich and diverse histories and built forms of the area.
Participants highlighted the importance of recognizing the Indigenous history in the area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The project team is working with internal staff whose work focuses on Indigenous matters within The City to explore better incorporating Indigenous histories and placemaking policy opportunities into the plan.
Participants identified a few specific properties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The project team is working to develop heritage policies that will help to implement and complement work from the Heritage conservation incentives and programs. The intent of this work is to encourage and incentivize the retention of historically significant properties.
Participants identified several geographic and community landmarks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The project team revisited the draft Chapter 1 to confirm details provided in the community context section aligns with ideas shared. Further, a draft Vision and set of Core Values were developed to highlight key geographic and community landmarks and build on existing community assets.

Participants value their parks and open spaces

- After reviewing public input and ongoing discussions with the Working Group, community associations and individuals in the plan area, the project team developed the following draft Core Value for Parks, Recreation and Open Space. This draft Core Value is specific to valuing parks and open spaces. It will drive decision-making and policy development as part of Phase 2 of the project and be embedded in policies and implementation options throughout the plan.

Expand and enhance the inventory of parks, recreation facilities, natural areas and public spaces throughout the Riley Communities, including the McHugh Bluff and spaces along the Bow River. Focus on providing a range of parks and recreation spaces near all living in the Riley Communities.

PRESENT

Q2a - What do you love about the area and your community and why?

Theme	What We Did
Participants value proximity to amenities and destinations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• After reviewing public input and ongoing discussions with the Working Group, community associations and individuals in the plan area, the project team developed a draft Vision and set of Core Values that are aimed at enabling equitable access to amenities and destinations across the plan area. Proximity to amenities and destinations are also highlighted in the draft Chapter 1 content and will be built upon in subsequent chapter developments.
Participants value their parks and open spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• After reviewing public input and ongoing discussions with the Working Group, community associations and individuals in the plan area, the project team developed the following draft Core Value for Parks, Recreation and Open Space. This draft Core Value, specific to parks and open spaces, will drive decision-making and policy development as part of Phase 2 of the project. It will be embedded in policies and implementation options throughout the plan. <p><i>Expand and enhance the inventory of parks, recreation facilities, natural areas and public spaces throughout the Riley Communities, including the McHugh Bluff and spaces along the Bow River. Focus on providing a range of parks and recreation spaces near all living in the Riley Communities.</i></p>
Participants value the recreational opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• After reviewing public input and ongoing discussions with the Working Group, community associations and

<p>and community spaces in the area</p>	<p>individuals in the plan area, the project team developed the following draft Core Value for Parks, Recreation and Open Space. This draft Core Value specific to expanding and enhancing the inventory of parks, recreation facilities, natural areas and public spaces will drive decision-making and policy development as part of Phase 2 of the project and be embedded in policies and implementation options throughout the plan.</p> <p><i>Expand and enhance the inventory of parks, recreation facilities, natural areas and public spaces throughout the Riley Communities, including the McHugh Bluff and spaces along the Bow River. Focus on providing a range of parks and recreation spaces near all living in the Riley Communities.</i></p>
<p>Participants expressed concerns about adding more growth in their communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To address community growth and change, the draft Core Values address common concerns on the subject: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Housing Choice draft Core Value emphasizes that as new housing is developed, it suits the evolving context of each of Riley's individual communities. Moving forward, policy decisions will aim to reflect this Core Value. ○ The Moving to and through the Riley Communities draft Core Value emphasizes safe, accessible and efficient movement in the area by prioritizing walking, wheeling and transit. Additionally, a Mobility Plan is being undertaken for the plan area, which will provide a long-term roadmap to guide transportation improvement projects and investments to offset the impacts of growth and change on the transportation network. ○ The Aligning Improvements to Growth draft Core Value emphasizes investment into public amenities that support growth and change and further enhance the sense of place within the Riley Communities.
<p>Participants supported adding more growth in their communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Housing Choice draft Core Value emphasizes building upon the range of housing options that exist in the Riley Communities to meet the evolving needs, life stages and household compositions of Calgarians. Chapter 2, Enabling Growth, will speak to how and where growth is supported in the plan area. • The Aligning Improvements to Growth draft Core Value emphasizes continued mixed-use development along Main Streets and corridors such as 10th Street N.W., 14th Street

	N.W., Kensington Road and 19 th Street N.W. as well as transit-oriented development around the Sunnyside and Lions Park LRT stations.
Participants value the access to goods and services in the area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After reviewing public input and ongoing discussions with the Working Group, community associations and individuals in the plan area, the project team developed a draft Vision that focuses on supporting a variety of housing, amenities, destinations, and mobility options that will form a foundation to further the area as one of the most vibrant parts of the city. The intent with the proposed Vision is to build on what individuals already value in the plan area, particularly its location and proximity to nearby destinations.

Q2b - What are the challenges your area is facing and why?

Theme	What We Did
Participants feel that there needs to be road infrastructure improvements in the area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are continuing to work on a Mobility Plan that will identify and prioritize improvements to the transportation network. The Mobility Plan will identify short- and long-term measures that can be undertaken to upgrade road infrastructure.
Participants expressed concerns around what effects growth and change could have on traffic safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Moving to and through the Riley Communities draft Core Value emphasizes safe, accessible and efficient movement in the area by prioritizing walking, wheeling and transit. This Core Value will be reflected in the plan's policy framework as it is further developed. The Safe and Accessible Communities draft Core Value emphasizes safety and accessibility as key considerations in public realm improvements and improved transportation options. This draft Core Value will be reflected in the plan's policy framework.
Participants are concerned with increase in social disorder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The draft Safe and Accessible Communities Core Value will work to ensure that new building design and public realm improvements considerations deliver safe and equitable spaces. The project team has also highlighted these concerns with appropriate City departments.
Participants expressed concerns about adding more growth in their communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To address community growth and change, the draft Core Values address common concerns on the subject: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Housing Choice draft Core Value emphasizes that as new housing is developed, it suits the evolving context of each of Riley's individual communities. The Moving to and through the Riley Communities draft Core Value emphasizes safe, accessible and

	<p>efficient movement in the area. The Riley Mobility Plan will also identify transportation network improvements that can offset the impacts of growth and change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Parks, Recreation and Open Space draft Core Value emphasizes expanding and enhancing the inventory of parks, recreation facilities, natural areas and public spaces throughout the Riley Communities. This will work to ensure that quality parks and recreation opportunities can be accessed by all in the plan area. ○ The Aligning Improvements to Growth draft Core Value emphasizes the creation of public amenities that support growth and change and further enhance the sense of place within these communities. This will focus on providing the right amenities and area improvements as the Riley Communities continue to grow and change.
Participants supported adding more growth in their communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Housing Choice draft Core Value emphasizes expanding the range of housing options to meet the evolving needs, life stages and household compositions of Calgarians. This will be reflected in the plan's policies as they continue to be developed. • The Aligning Improvements to Growth draft Core Value emphasizes continued mixed-use development in key areas such as along Main Streets and key corridors as well as transit-oriented development around the Sunnyside and Lions Park LRT stations.
Participants expressed a desire to have a greater range of housing options in the area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Housing Choice draft Core Value emphasizes expanding the range of housing options to meet the evolving needs, life stages and household compositions of Calgarians. The direction from this Core Value will be reflected in the plan's policies.

FUTURE

Q3. What's important to you and for future generations when thinking about how the area could evolve in the next 10-30 years and why?

Theme	What We Did
Participants highlighted potential infrastructure upgrades that should also be considered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are continuing to work on a Mobility Plan that will suggest and prioritize suggested transportation infrastructure improvements that will inform the content in Chapter 3: Supporting Growth of the Local Area Plan. The purpose of this Chapter is to highlight suggested improvements and areas of investment in the Riley

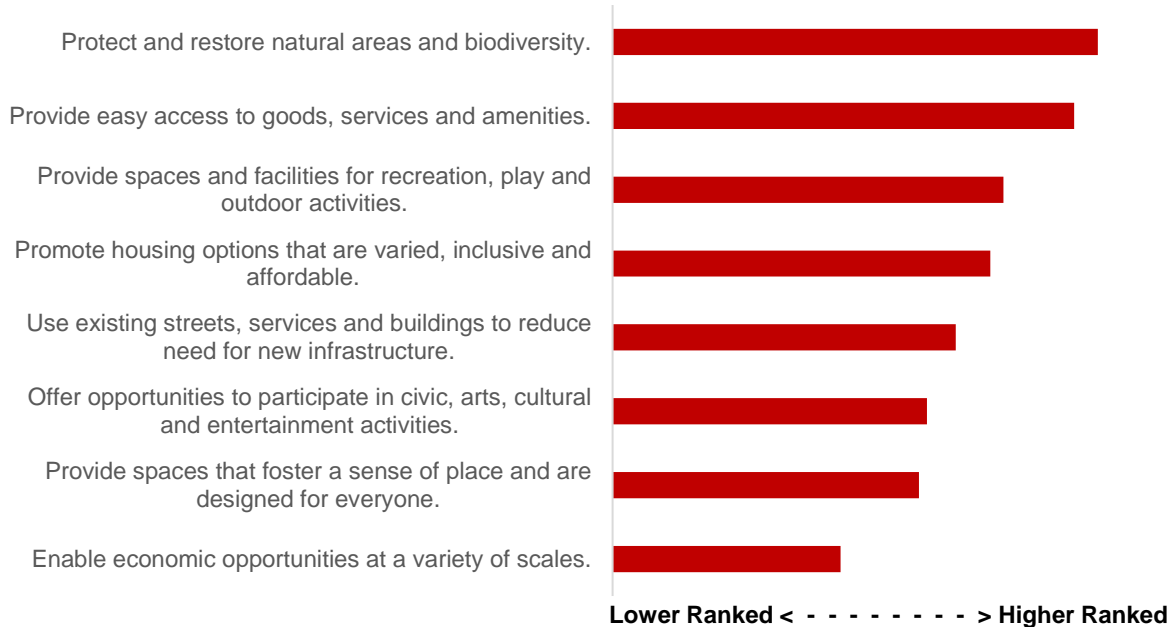
	Communities that will further the plan's Vision and improve the quality of life in the Riley Communities.
Participants expressed concerns about adding more growth in their communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To address community growth and change, the draft Core Values address common concerns on the subject: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Housing Choice draft Core Value emphasizes that as new housing is developed, it suits the evolving context of each of Riley's individual communities. As the plan is further developed, the specifics on what types of housing are supported and where will be further developed and engaged upon. ○ The Moving to and through the Riley Communities draft Core Value emphasizes safe, accessible and efficient movement in the area. Mobility policies will be developed as part of the plan and transportation infrastructure projects will be suggested that will be aimed providing transportation infrastructure to serve the evolving needs of the area. ○ The Aligning Improvements to Growth draft Core Value emphasizes offsetting the impacts of growth by providing new amenities and infrastructure that provide benefit to the community as a whole. Investment priorities that reflect this draft Core Value will be included in Chapter 3, Supporting Growth. <p>Additionally, the project team will be exploring density bonusing and what its implementation would look like at a LAP-scale as part of the policy development work in Phase 2. Accounting for density bonusing in the plan development will better connect changes in density to community amenities and area improvements.</p>
Participants supported adding more growth in their communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Housing Choice draft Core Value emphasizes expanding the range of housing options to meet the evolving needs, life stages and household compositions of Calgarians, which will be reflected in the plan's policies. • The Aligning Improvements to Growth draft Core Value emphasizes continued mixed-use development along Main Streets and corridors such as 10th Street N.W., 14th Street N.W., Kensington Road and 19th Street N.W. as well as transit-oriented development around the Sunnyside and Lions Park LRT stations.

<p>Participants expressed a desire to have a greater range of housing options in the area</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Housing Choice draft Core Value emphasizes expanding the range of housing options to meet the evolving needs, life stages and household compositions of Calgarians. As the plan is further developed, the specifics on what types of housing are supported and where will be further developed and engaged upon.
<p>Participants expressed the desire to see the various parks and open spaces in the area maintained and improved</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is reflected in the following draft Core Value regarding parks, recreation and open spaces: <i>Expand and enhance the inventory of parks, recreation facilities, natural areas and public spaces throughout the Riley Communities, including the McHugh Bluff and spaces along the Bow River. Focus on providing a range of parks and recreation spaces near all living in the Riley Communities.</i> The plan will include investment priorities focused on improving, upgrading and expand the inventory of parks and open spaces in the Riley Communities as the area continues to grow and change.
<p>Participants expressed concerns regarding public safety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Safe and Accessible Communities draft Core Value emphasizes safety and accessibility as key considerations in public realm improvements, new building design, and in considering improved transportation options. The project team has also highlighted the concerns with other City departments.

RANK IDEAS

Participants were asked to rank and comment on eight ideas in order of their personal priorities. (1 = high priority, 8 = low priority), that have the potential to be addressed through the LAP process. The results were then combined with the results of the working group ranking exercise and are presented in a visual form below.

All Participant Ranking



Ranked Ideas	What We Did
Promote and restore natural areas and biodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Climate Resilience draft Core Value emphasizes area-specific improvements that will expand the tree canopy. As the plan is further developed, it will include policies that support the rejuvenation of natural areas and enabled increased urban biodiversity.
Provide easy access to goods, services, and amenities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The draft plan Vision reflects this, in stating that a variety of housing, amenities, attractions and mobility options will form a foundation to further the area as one of the most vibrant parts of the city. Easy access to goods and services will be enabled through the plan's policy framework, which will be further developed as the project progresses.
Provide spaces and facilities for recreation, play, and outdoor activity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Parks, Recreation and Open Space draft Core Value emphasizes expanding and enhancing the inventory of parks, recreation facilities, natural areas and public spaces throughout the Riley Communities. The plan's policies and investment priorities will investigate ways to enable and implement new and/or improved recreational spaces.
Promote housing options that are varied, inclusive, and affordable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Housing Choice draft Core Value emphasizes expanding the range of housing options to meet the evolving needs, life stages and household compositions of Calgarians, which will be further explored as the plan's policies continue to be developed.

Use existing streets, services, and buildings to reduce need for new infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Moving to and through the Riley Communities draft Core Value emphasizes safe, accessible and efficient movement in the area by prioritizing walking, wheeling and transit. The plan's investment priorities will explore what infrastructure upgrades are most important to support growth and change, as well as what pieces of infrastructure are right-sized to meet current and future needs.
Offer opportunities to participate in civic, arts, cultural, and entertainment activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The draft Vision for the plan emphasizes that there be a variety of attractions, enabled through supporting continued investments in the area. The plan will aim to support and help strengthen arts and culture activities, venues and groups throughout the plan area, as possible.
Provide spaces that foster a sense of place and are designed for everyone.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Aligning Improvements to Growth draft Core Value emphasizes the creation of public amenities that support growth and change and further enhance the sense of place within these communities. The plan's policy framework will be designed to help support this goal.
Enable economic opportunities and a variety of scales.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All the draft Core Values support the growth and change within the Riley communities that will make it an attractive place for both new and existing residents as well as businesses. This attractiveness will aim to support continued investment that will enable new economic opportunities at a variety of scales.

Project next steps

We will be back in the community from January 17 – February 12, 2023, for Phase 2: Explore. This phase will include multiple engagement opportunities including in-person, mail-in and online engagement, to review and further refine the concepts in the draft local area plan for the Riley Communities. Please pick up the engagement booklet to review and provide feedback, participate in an online Q&A session with the team, or attend the public open house on January 28, 2023, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at Hillhurst School. All details for these events including how to register, and information about where and how engagement booklets can be found (landing in your mailboxes from January 17, available to be picked up at My Idea Stations, and a downloadable version) are available online through our project website.

To stay up to date on project details and future engagement opportunities please visit engage.calgary.ca/Riley and sign-up for email updates.