



# GREATER FOREST LAWN COMMUNITIES

Local Area Planning Project

Phase 1 – ENVISION: What We Did Report

Winter 2023



# Greater Forest Lawn Communities Local Area Planning Project

Phase1: ENVISION  
What We Did Report

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## Project Overview

The Greater Forest Lawn Communities Local Area Planning project includes the communities of Albert Park/Radisson Heights, Applewood Park, Dover, Erin Woods, Forest Heights, Forest Lawn, Forest Lawn Industrial, Penbrooke Meadows, Red Carpet, Southview, 09Q, and a portion of Golden Triangle.

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 Greater Forest Lawn Communities Local Area Plan will fill gaps in the communities where no local plan currently exists and replace other plans that are largely outdated.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 that will be presented to the public for [Phase 2: EXPLORE](#). This is the What We Did report which shares how your feedback in Phase 1 of public engagement 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 will also provide context of how feedback collected in Phase 1 helped 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 for further refine the local area plan.

### PAST

Question 1: What is important for people to know about the area's history?	
Theme	What We Did
<b>Participants highlighted the desire to have more acknowledgement of Indigenous history in the area.</b>	The project team is working with internal City staff whose work focuses on Indigenous matters to explore better incorporating Indigenous histories and placemaking policy opportunities into the plan.
<b>Participants highlighted the</b>	To supplement the <a href="#">additional history section</a> for the plan area that was developed as part of the draft Chapter 1, the project has

<p><b>importance of local history in the area.</b></p>	<p>added history on how the cultural diversity in the communities have evolved over time.</p> <p>In addition, the project team is formulating a “planning culturally” approach for the Phase 2 engagement and will learn more about the local history from communities in the plan area.</p> <p>The practice of planning results in systemic change, adding a cultural lens and integrating cultural consideration into the way The City will make decisions, collaborate and govern. Planning culturally has two dimensions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Adding value:</b> where cultural resources add value to existing or proposed plans/policies/programs addressing all facets of planning and city building</li> <li>• <b>Assessing impacts,</b> where the potential impacts (positive or negative) of a new proposal on a city’s identity and cultural vitality are identified and addressed.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Participants value the cultural diversity in the area.</b></p>	<p>After reviewing public input and ongoing discussions with the Working Group, community associations and individuals in the plan area, a draft Core Value on Vibrant and Diverse Culture, Arts and Business was created to emphasize support of cultural diversity in the community. The project team will continue to develop policies on safety and inclusiveness in the subsequent chapters.</p> <p><u>Draft Core Value</u> – Vibrant and Diverse Culture, Arts and Business:</p> <p>Attract and support a variety of arts and culture initiatives, employment opportunities, businesses and services along International Avenue S.E. and commercial and industrial areas that enhance and promote the communities’ vibrancy and cultural diversity by revitalizing the area into a creative and cultural destination hub enjoyed by community members and all Calgarians.</p>
<p><b>Participants value the natural environment and communities’ amenities in the area.</b></p>	<p>The draft Core Value on Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities specifically speaks to protecting and investing in community amenities such as parks, open spaces and recreational and community facilities for people of all ages, cultural backgrounds and abilities. This draft Core Value will guide 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><u>Draft Core Value</u> – Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities:</p> <p>Protect and invest in parks, open spaces, and recreational and community facilities for people of all ages, cultural backgrounds and abilities to promote overall community</p>

	wellness and quality of life. Create a safe, accessible and connected open-space system that links neighbourhoods, parks, natural areas, and community amenities, such as the escarpment park, community hubs, Elliston Park and Max Bell Centre.
<b>Comments were made that the communities are facing stigmas and stereotypes that need to be changed.</b>	<p>The draft Vision statement emphasizes the cultural diversity and inclusiveness value in the community and the plan area continues to evolve into thriving, welcoming, and safe neighbourhoods. The draft Core Values that support the draft Vision and guide future planning policies for the area emphasize provision of well-connected mobility choices, inclusive open spaces, various housing options and business opportunities for people in and beyond the communities. In addition, the plan will be developed through a cultural planning lens to address stereotypes by building an understanding of people from diverse cultures.</p> <p><u>Draft Vision:</u>  The Greater Forest Lawn Communities will continue to value the cultural diversity and inclusiveness found throughout the plan area and continue to evolve into thriving, welcoming, and safe neighbourhoods by providing well-connected mobility choices, inclusive open spaces, various housing options and business opportunities for people in and beyond the communities.</p>

## PRESENT

Question 2a: What do you love about the area and your community and why?	
Theme	What We Did
<b>Participants identified green spaces, parks and outdoor features as some of the positive aspects of their communities.</b>	<p>The Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities draft Core Value strive to provide parks and recreational facilities for people of all ages and create a safe, accessible, and connected open space system in the plan area.</p> <p><u>Draft Core Value</u> – Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities:  Protect and invest in parks, open spaces, and recreational and community facilities for people of all ages, cultural backgrounds and abilities to promote overall community wellness and quality of life. Create a safe, accessible and connected open-space system that links neighbourhoods, parks, natural areas, and community amenities, such as the escarpment park, community hubs, Elliston Park and Max Bell Centre.</p>

<b>Participants made comments about appreciating the proximity to downtown and the availability of amenities and services in the area.</b>	<p>A draft Core Value on Mobility Choices was developed to highlight the importance of providing safe, efficient, well-maintained, connected and accessible year-round mobility choices.</p> <p><u>Draft Core Value</u> - Mobility Choices:</p> <p>Provide safe, efficient, well-maintained, connected, and accessible year-round mobility choices through a network of transit, pathways, walking and wheeling infrastructure, and roadways, to locations including International Avenue S.E., Barlow / Max Bell LRT station, Franklin LRT station, Max Purple BRT transit station areas, and surrounding commercial and residential areas.</p>
<b>Participants commented that they appreciate the diversity in their communities and that it shows up in different aspects including culture, business, and food.</b>	<p>The draft Vision and Core Values in Chapter 1 recognizes the importance of diversity in the plan area, especially the Core Value for Vibrant and Diverse Arts Culture and Business that designates the area as a cultural destination hub.</p> <p>The project team continues to work with different community groups and explore planning culturally throughout the project process.</p>

### Question 2b: What are the challenges your area is facing and why?

Theme	What We Did
<b>Participants identified a number of challenges they experience in their communities such as safety, social disorder, drug abuse, crime, homelessness.</b>	<p>After reviewing public input and ongoing discussions with the Working Group, community associations and individuals in the plan area, the project team has incorporated safety in the draft Vision and sets of draft Core Values on Mobility Choices and Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities. The project team will continue to develop policy in subsequent chapters to enhance safety in parks, open spaces, public transit and other means of transportation.</p> <p>Residents are encouraged to contact 311 Calgary via phone or online (<a href="http://calgary.ca/311">calgary.ca/311</a>) to report bylaw related issues.</p> <p>For life threatening emergency assistance (fire, ambulance, or police) or to report a crime, call 911.</p>
<b>Participants commented on cleaning up rundown homes and amenities, graffiti and garbage in certain areas in the communities.</b>	<p>The plan is a comprehensive planning document for the entire area. Safety and quality housing options are incorporated into the draft Vision and Core Values to guide policy developments. The project team will continue to address community needs in subsequent chapter developments.</p> <p>Residents are encouraged to contact 311 Calgary via phone or online (<a href="http://calgary.ca/311">calgary.ca/311</a>) to report bylaw related issues.</p>

<b>Participants expressed a desire to increase the pride of community notably for those that are renters in the communities.</b>	<p>The draft Core Value that speaks to Housing Options has been modified to specify quality housing development is supported for people from all income levels. An increase in housing options will also be assessed in subsequent chapter development when the Urban Form Categories are mapped. It now reads:</p> <p><u>Draft Core Value</u> - Housing Options:  Support quality housing development that is diverse and accessible for people from all income levels throughout the Plan area, particularly near transit station areas, International Avenue S.E., commercial areas, major roadways, and community amenities areas, to meet the evolving needs of people in all stages of life.</p>
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## FUTURE

**Question 3: What is 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
<b>Suggestions were made about increasing access to more sustainable alternate transportation options.</b>	<p>The draft Core Value on Mobility Choices emphasizes providing alternate mobility options through a network of transit, pathways, walking and wheeling infrastructure. The Technical Advisory Committee consists of Transportation representatives that can further assess mobility options.</p> <p><u>Draft Core Value</u> - Mobility Choices:  Provide safe, efficient, well-maintained, connected, and accessible year-round mobility choices through a network of transit, pathways, walking and wheeling infrastructure, and roadways, to locations including International Avenue S.E., Barlow / Max Bell LRT station, Franklin LRT station, Max Purple BRT transit station areas, and surrounding commercial and residential areas.</p>
<b>Participants made comments about wanting to see more community amenities that give more options for activities and gathering spaces.</b>	<p>The draft Core Value on Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities specifically speaks to protect and invest in community amenities such as parks, open spaces and recreational and community facilities for people of all ages, cultural backgrounds and abilities. This draft Core Value will guide 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><u>Draft Core Value</u> – Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities:</p>

	<p>Protect and invest in parks, open spaces, and recreational and community facilities for people of all ages, cultural backgrounds and abilities to promote overall community wellness and quality of life. Create a safe, accessible and connected open-space system that links neighbourhoods, parks, natural areas, and community amenities, such as the escarpment park, community hubs, Elliston Park and Max Bell Centre.</p>
<p><b>Participants indicated that they would like to see happen in their communities were an increase in safety, inclusivity and overall cleanliness of their communities.</b></p>	<p>After reviewing public input and ongoing discussions with the Working Group, community associations and individuals in the plan area, the project team has incorporated safety and inclusiveness in the draft Vision. It now reads:</p> <p><u>Draft Vision:</u></p> <p>The Greater Forest Lawn Communities will continue to value the cultural diversity and inclusiveness found throughout the plan area and continue to evolve into thriving, welcoming, and safe neighbourhoods by providing well-connected mobility choices, inclusive open spaces, various housing options and business opportunities for people in and beyond the communities.</p> <p>The draft Core Values on Mobility Choices and Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities also emphasizes safety and inclusiveness in parks, open spaces, public transit and other means of transportation. In addition, the draft Core Value on Vibrant and Diverse Culture, Arts and Business emphasizes supporting cultural diversity in the community. The project team will continue to develop policy on safety and inclusiveness in the subsequent chapters.</p>



## Ranked Ideas

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



Ranked Ideas	What We Did
<b>Protect and restore natural areas and biodiversity</b>	<p>The Parks, Open Spaces and Community Amenities draft Core Values emphasizes protection, restoration and connection of natural areas, parks and neighbourhoods in the plan area.</p> <p>The project team will continue to develop policies in subsequent chapters to support natural areas and biodiversity.</p>
<b>Provide spaces and facilities for recreation, play and outdoor activities.</b>	<p>The draft Core Value on Parks, Open Spaces and Community Amenities emphasizes protection and investment of recreational and community facilities for people of all ages, cultural backgrounds and abilities to promote overall community wellness and quality of life.</p>
<b>Offer opportunities to participate in civic, arts, cultural and entertainment activities.</b>	<p>The draft Core Value on Vibrant Diverse Culture, Arts and Business provides directions on attracting and supporting a variety of arts and culture initiatives and employment opportunities to revitalize the area as a creative and cultural destination hub.</p>

<b>Provide easy access to goods, services and amenities.</b>	<p>The draft plan Vision states that various and inclusive housing, amenities, attractions, business opportunities and mobility options will form a foundation to make the community continue to evolve into thriving, welcoming and safe neighbourhoods.</p> <p>In addition, the draft Core Value on Mobility Choices emphasizes provision of efficient, well maintained, connected and accessible year-round mobility options throughout the plan area. The project team will continue to develop policies in subsequent chapters to support easy access to goods and services.</p>
<b>Provide spaces that foster a sense of place and are designed for everyone.</b>	The draft Vision for the plan emphasizes that the area will continue to value cultural diversity and evolve into thriving, welcoming, and safe neighbourhoods that provides diverse mobility choices, inclusive open spaces, various housing options and business opportunities for everyone.
<b>Promote housing options that area varied, inclusive and affordable.</b>	The draft Core Value on Housing Options emphasizes on providing quality and accessible housing options for people from all income levels in the plan area particularly in areas with existing infrastructures such as transit stations, commercial streets, and community amenities to meet the evolving needs of people in all stages of life.
<b>Use existing streets, services and buildings to reduce need for new infrastructure.</b>	The Climate Resilience draft Core Value emphasizes reimagining the reusing and repurposing of existing buildings and infrastructure to reduce need for new infrastructure.
<b>Enable diverse economic opportunities at a variety of scales.</b>	The Vibrant and Diverse Culture, Arts and Business draft Core Value emphasizes attracting and supporting businesses and services along International Avenue S.E., and commercial and industrial areas to enhance the communities' vibrancy in the plan area.

## Project Next Steps

Phase 2: EXPLORE will be open to the public from January 17 to February 12, 2023. This phase will include multiple engagement opportunities including in-person, mail-in and online engagement.

For the most up to date project information and future engagement opportunities, visit the project website at [calgary.ca/GFLplan](https://calgary.ca/GFLplan).