

## Great Neighbourhoods Backgrounder

Great Neighbourhoods is the coordinating body overseeing the revitalization of Edmonton's mature and high-needs neighbourhoods. Designed to improve the livability of Edmonton's neighbourhoods, the program coordinates residents, the visioning process, the planning process, and ultimately, City departments, and other orders of government to ensure the reconstruction process is treated holistically.

Paramount to the work we do is community engagement. The first step in our work is to ask the residents of the community in which we are working: 'what do you want your neighbourhood to be?' We develop partnerships with the community leagues, business associations, and other community-level networks to ensure that our work is designed by and for the community, and done so in a sustainable way.

### Background:

As stated in the Community Services Business Plan 2013 – 2015, Great Neighbourhoods is playing a lead role on achieving the following Corporate and Department goals:

Corporate Outcome:	Department Outcome:	Result:
Citizens are connected to their communities and have pride in their city.	Citizens are socially connected and active in their communities.	Implementation of the Great Neighbourhoods Framework.
Communities are accessible, strong, and inclusive with access to a full range of services.	Citizens integrate past, present, and future needs and appreciate the balance of how we work together to ensure Edmonton is a sustainable City.	Continue to work with partners in the ongoing implementation of the ELEVATE plan and recommendations.

### Results (2009 - 2013)

Neighbourhoods have been revitalized in the following major ways:

- pedestrian connectivity from one space to another is improved;
- residents now use commercial main streets as public spaces; and
- safety rates are higher in Edmonton's highest need neighbourhoods.

Using a collaborative model designed by Great Neighbourhoods, community capacity has been built in Edmonton's highest needs neighbourhoods. Our collaborative model has enabled the City to:

- build relationships, mobilize community leadership and resources, and build commitment for shared action;
- work with Business Revitalization Zones to recruit new businesses and promote façade improvement programs;
- work with Community Leagues to understand City's land-use planning processes;
- support development of new organizations and festivals like Arts on the Avenue, Kaleido Arts Festival, Deep Freeze Winter Festival, and the East Meets West Festival; and
- support Integrated Services Teams to respond to community concerns like bylaw enforcement and crime prevention.

## Great Neighbourhoods Backgrounder

Successes include:

- collaboration with partners to improve commercial main streets along 118 Avenue, Stony Plain Road, 95 and 97 Streets by developing new wide, pedestrian-friendly sidewalks, installing new trees, street furniture and public art, and improved lighting;
- development of a new framework for the City of Edmonton which will improve how citizens are engaged on City projects;
- development of a one-stop shop for residents to learn information about City services, their neighbourhoods and capital projects underway in their neighbourhoods via the development of 300 neighbourhood-specific web pages and a neighbourhood interactive map;
- exemplification of a 'One City-One Voice' approach to leading City efforts to deliver services in a coordinated, effective and efficient manner such as the Building Great Neighbourhoods Program;
- completion of 20 Community Walking Maps covering nearly 70 neighbourhoods, which help residents to meet their neighbours, get exercise, visit local shops, enjoy nearby public spaces and generally improve their quality of life;
- engagement of our School Board partners, the Province and Federal Government to develop a new urban agenda for Edmonton's mature neighbourhoods; and
- support for the City's relationship with the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues by enacting the Tri-Partite Licence Agreements.

Note: Corporate Outcomes are currently under review and will be discussed with Council on March 11, 2014.

