

## Engagement Summary

### Exhibition Park Neighbourhood Improvements Preliminary Design Study

#### Summary of Information

The City of Guelph is conducting a study in the Exhibition Park neighbourhood to enhance the park's infrastructure to manage flooding, upgrade aging systems and address ongoing challenges expressed by the community.

The City is developing recommendations to address infrastructure needs while planning for long-term sustainable development and efficiencies. The study proposes upgrades to sanitary sewers, watermains, stormwater sewers, and surface works identified in the Water and Wastewater Servicing Master Plan, the Stormwater Management Master Plan, and through asset management planning.

As part of this project, field information (e.g., a topographic survey, and soil information) was collected, design alternatives were evaluated, and a preliminary design was developed to inform detailed design and construction.

#### What we did

The City of Guelph hosted the third public open house on February 11th, 2025, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm at the Victory Public School.

The purpose of the Public Open House was to:

- Generate awareness about the Preliminary Design Study
- Share what was heard at the second public open house, and how it was used to refine the design solution
- Share preferred preliminary design solution
- Provide an update on associated projects
- Respond to questions or concerns

The Public Open House shared information about the project and allowed the community to ask the project team questions. [Have Your Say](#) allowed the community to share additional feedback between February 11 and March 4, 2025. Approximately 40 people attended the Public Open House, and 5 completed the online survey.

#### What we heard

The following is a summary of feedback from participants who attended the Public Open House or completed the online survey. The results should be considered qualitative and not representative of all residents' perspectives.

##### Preferred Stormwater Solution

A diagram and map was provided showcasing the preferred stormwater solution, explaining that it reduces the overall storage required underneath the Exhibition Park Arena parking lot, by both planting a garden or similar feature to reduce runoff

and diverting stormwater to a new storm sewer along Kathleen Street.

Participants were asked to share ideas that may help improve the preferred option. Most attendees expressed general content with the design. The following additional feedback was received:

- Green Infrastructure
  - Incorporate bioswales for stormwater management.
  - Increase natural vegetation for rainwater collection (e.g., gardens).
  - Explore rainwater harvesting for field watering.
  - Assess the feasibility of directing Kathleen Street's stormwater to Westmount.
- Streetscape Design and Lighting
  - Reevaluate sidewalk placement in areas where space is limited.
  - Avoid streetscape and greenscape disruptions.
  - Widen road and narrow median on Kathleen Street between Tipperary Place and London Road.
  - Improve lighting at Kathleen Street and London Road.
  - Reduce light pollution by directing lighting to parking areas.
- Traffic, Safety and Parking
  - Address speeding concerns in the school and community safety zone.
  - Move pedestrian crossing from on London Road from Lyon Avenue to Kathleen Street.
  - Confirm overnight parking and winter street parking availability at the stadium during construction.

## Construction and Phasing

A map was provided, showcasing a series of project phases of neighbourhood improvements to ensure that infrastructure upgrades are completed. A table was also provided, showcasing a list of the proposed construction order, including the phase numbers, street names, design period and construction period.

Participants were asked to share comments or ideas that should be considered as the project team determines the phasing of construction. The following feedback was received:

- Sidewalks and Streetscape
  - Maintain existing open streetscape where possible (e.g., north side).
  - Address utility poles obstructing sidewalks (e.g., Division Street between Exhibition Street and Woolwich Street).
  - Consider widening sidewalks where feasible.
- Construction Impact and Maintenance
  - Specify what elements will be dug up (pavement, curbs, sidewalks).
  - Justify the need for work on London Road, given previous improvements.

- Address Glasgow road, sidewalk, water main, and sanitary sewer needs.
- Ensure new pipes, storage tanks, and sewer upgrades in Phase 2 will effectively reduce water issues.
- Active Transportation
  - Ensure proper detours for affected bike routes.
  - Improve active transportation routes if the spur line (Phase 2) is out of use for an extended period.

## Road Reconstruction – Typical Right of Way Section

A diagram was provided, showcasing a typical section to depict how road reconstruction could occur throughout the project.

Participants were asked to share any features they would like to see added. The following feedback was received:

- Road Design
  - Integrate traffic calming measures (e.g., raised crosswalks, curb bump-outs, cycling infrastructure).
  - Ensure Kathleen Street maintains a consistent width to London Road.
  - Reduce right-of-way width where possible to preserve green space.
- Public Amenities
  - Allocate additional space for street parking.
  - Increase tree and shrub planting.
  - Add more shaded benches.

## Additional Feedback

Participants were asked if there was anything else the project team should know. The following feedback was received:

- Urban Standards
  - Preserve old trees, hedges, and narrow streets to maintain the area's unique and historic features.
- Project Timeline and Decision-Making
  - Clarify how long the detailed design process will take.

## Next steps

After this third engagement phase, the project team will consider feedback to refine the detailed design and construction. The City will implement detailed design and construction over several phases, the order of these is based on several factors including flood mitigation, sewer capacity, and the logical order of construction. People in the project area for each design and construction phase will be notified when each of the projects is about to start. The preliminary sequencing is discussed in the Preliminary Design Report, and will be reflected in the City's next capital budget update.

If you have any questions, please contact the following:

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