



The future layers of
Dalhousie

Community Visioning Project

Project Timeline:
Data gathered and opinions expressed in the report were a product of online engagement that took place between January 2021 and April 2021.

Project Authors:
This report was developed by Zhuxuan Ma and Travis Dickie as part of their final assignment in their capstone studio course. Contributions were made by the authors and residents of Dalhousie. The course is the product of a partnership between the University of Calgary’s School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape faculty’s Planning program and volunteers from the Dalhousie Community Association.

A message from the Dalhousie Community Association
The Dalhousie Community Association is extremely appreciative of the opportunity to collaborate with the University of Calgary School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape (SAPL) to develop and complete the Future Layers of Dalhousie project. We would like to thank Travis and Melody for their thoughtful and thorough engagement with our Community Association, through our Planning and Development Committee, as well as their outreach to the residents, businesses and community groups that call our Community home. We recognize that this is a very comprehensive project in terms of not only looking at the current context and future potential of our Community, but also in terms of achieving meaningful engagement in the unique and very impactful circumstances of a global pandemic that has challenged the way we interact and the lens through which we view our communities and City.

We are particularly pleased with Travis and Melody’s distillation of what began as randomly generated ideas into tangible and focussed recommendations, that will provide the Community Association a framework with which we can consider and incorporate short- , medium- and long-term strategic planning initiatives as our community continues to adapt to growth and evolving demographics. This initiative has already breathed new life into how residents view their community, and it has helped spark new brainstorming and increased resident involvement with the Planning and Development Committee itself. We very much look forward to applying the feedback, learnings and recommendations from this project and the final report, towards the continued evolution of our Community, to meet the needs of current and future residents and to encourage the sustainability and growth of the environment and amenities that we all value.

Future Layers of Dalhousie

Table of Contents

	Page Number		Page Number
Project Introduction		Workshop 2 Exercises	
• Table of Contents	3	• Result from the <i>Improve Community Connection Points</i> activity	26
• Project Introduction	4	• Result from the <i>Destination Catwalks and Walkways</i> activity	27
• Project Timeline	6	• Result from the <i>Build TOD With Future Growth in Mind</i> activity	28
• Communications Strategy	7	• Result from the <i>Development placement</i> activity	29
		• Final ideas from the participants on all three activities	30-31
Research & Analysis		Online Activity Results	
• Population and demographics	8		
• Built form and community amenities	9		
• Influential site conditions	10-11	Activity 1: <i>Early February</i>	
		• Parks and Public Spaces Survey	32
Community Engagement and Concept Development		• Parks and Public Spaces Map Exercise	33
• Collecting and consolidating input	12		
• Building a vision for the project	13	Activity 2: : <i>Late February</i>	
• Vision for the community project	14	• Pedestrian and Cycling Realm Survey	34
• Plan overview	15	• Activity 2: Pedestrian and Cycling Realm Map Exercise	35
Design Concepts		Activity 3: : <i>Early March</i>	
• The Community Plaza	16-17	• Traffic, Transit and the Streetscape Survey	36
• Multi-Purpose Hub	18-19	• Activity 3: Traffic, Transit and the Streetscape Map Exercise	37
• LRT Activity Centre	20-21		
		Activity 4: <i>Late March</i>	
Concept Implementation		• Future Development Ideas Board	38-39
• <i>A Day in the Life</i> - presentation of new amenities working together	22-23		
• Implementing your ideas	24-25	Activity 5: <i>Early April</i>	
		• Community Amenity Ideas Board	40-41

Future Layers of Dalhousie

Project Introduction

Project Summary

The Future Layers of Dalhousie project was a 4 month engagement and visioning process that was developed in cooperation with residents of Dalhousie and final year planning students at the University of Calgary.

Due to restrictions placed on the engagement process by COVID-19, the students solicited resident feedback using a combination of synchronous and asynchronous methods. Each week, an online mapping, survey or discussion opportunity was released on the project website. Here, residents were asked to contribute their thoughts, feelings and experiences about living in Dalhousie. These activities covered a variety of planning topics, including: parks, public spaces, roads, cycling, development, community amenities and safety, and can be explored in the appendix of this report.

In addition to asynchronous activities, two synchronous workshops were held over Zoom where the students and the community would participate in a brainstorming session. The objective of the first workshop was fact finding and discussion about key topics, whereas the second workshop was about imagining tactical ways to implement broader community desires.

Industry professionals and teaching staff at the School of Architecture Planning and Landscape provided the students with regular feedback about the direction and goals of the project. In addition, volunteers from the Dalhousie Community Association also worked with the students to contribute and workshop ideas, and contribute feedback.

In addition to a recorded presentation, this report was generated to serve as a catalog of resident input, as well as a conceptual example of how community projects could be created and grown into long-term community initiatives within Dalhousie.

Who is this report for?

The purpose of this project is to present current and future residents of Dalhousie with a vision of what *could be*. Synthesizing research, community feedback, policy and design, the students developed three design concepts around a vision for a ‘decentralized community centre’.

As an engaged resident, community association volunteer or community leader, this report will give you a sense of what some of your fellow residents wanted to see in the neighborhood in 2021, as well as ideas for how Dalhousie could meet the needs for community amenities over the long term.

Where should I begin?

This foremost purpose of this report is to get residents talking about what they want to see in Dalhousie’s future. The second purpose is to provide examples of how other communities completed similar projects, as well as the methods, financial aid and other steps that could be undertaken for Dalhousie volunteers who wish to see similar outcomes.

Here are some recommended chapters for residents who are opening up the Future Layers of Dalhousie booklet for the first time.

- 1. Check out what your neighbors want to see more of
Visit the appendix pages 26-41
- 2. Have a look at the design concepts and the rationale behind them
Visit the Concepts section on pages 16-21

Explore low-cost ways to volunteer on a community project
Visit the implementation section on pages 24-25

How should you use this document?

This is a place for inspiration

- The UCalgary students spent a semester learning about what Dalhousie residents wanted and crafting designs that try to meet those requests - check out what they did!
- Learn about your neighbors! In addition to designs, this report gives you a sense for who lives in Dalhousie and what hopes, dreams inspire them.

This is a place for ideas

- Do you have an idea for a community project and don’t know where to begin? This report suggests some possible next steps.
- Are you looking for community project ideas? There is a short list of suggestions that were popular with your neighbors. Start there!

This is a place for action

- Looking for ways to fund a project? Check out some of the resources that we’ve listed that could help you to fund a project.
- Some visions require a team to carry out - we explore some of the key places that you can begin to look for volunteer team members for an initiative or project.

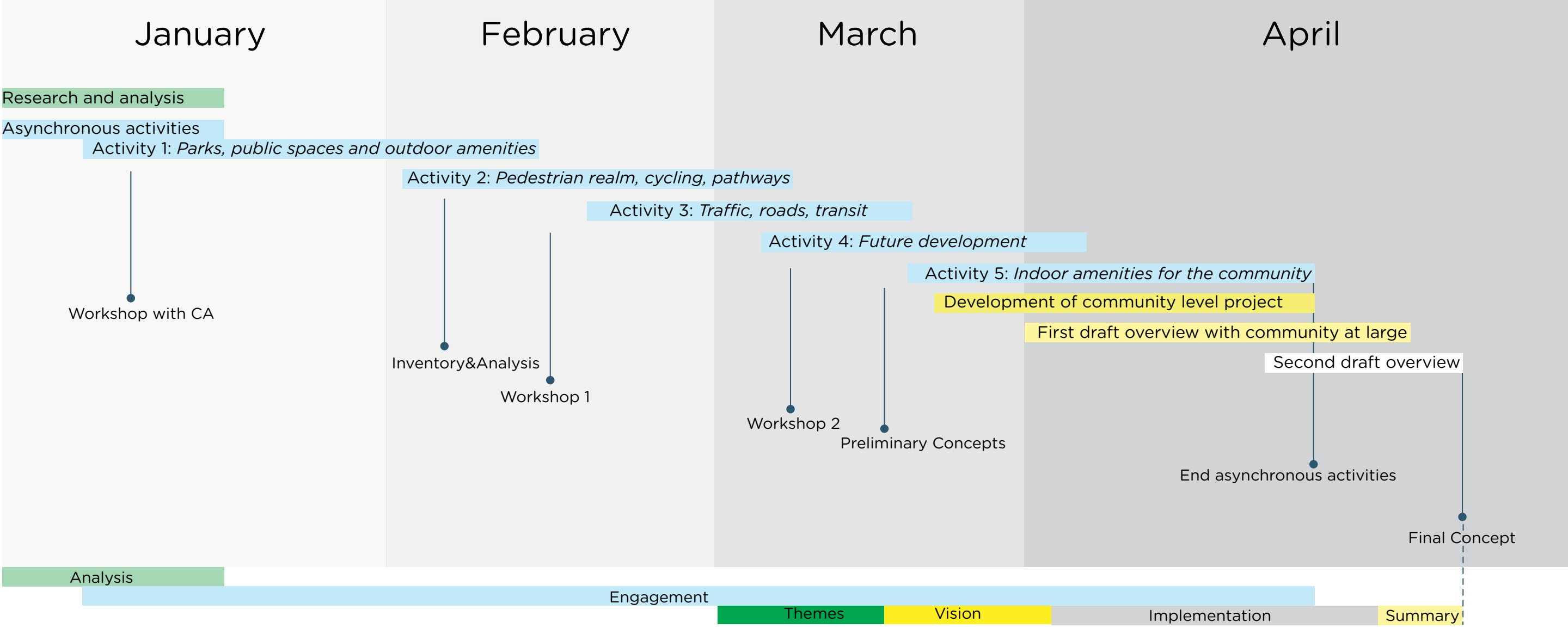


Future Layers of Dalhousie

Project Timeline

Major milestones and events

The project timeline is a detailed look at how different stages of the project's four month progression overlapped with the 8 online activities (many had map and survey components), the two workshops and ongoing analysis and concept development that took place.



Future Layers of Dalhousie

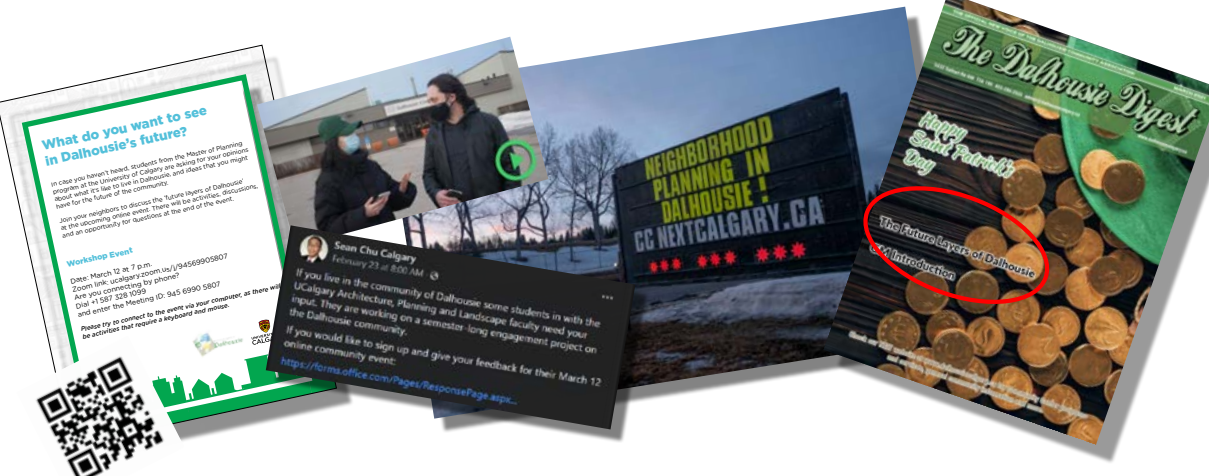
Communications strategy

Communications and Marketing

In order to connect with the most representative population of residents possible, the students were sure to inform the public using popular online and offline communication mediums. The online platform and purpose of the project were communicated to residents in the *Dalhousie Support*, *MyDalhousie* and *Dalhousie Community Association* Facebook Group as well as on Twitter. In addition to social media, an email sign-up form and the DCA e-newsletter and the homepage for the DCA and *Future Layers of Dalhousie* online platform were used to regularly connect with participants with new information.

Upcoming events and promotion of the initiative were also conducted using physical media, including street signs, full-page articles in the community newsletter and event posters.

Lastly, a variety of video, graphic design social posts, telephone calls and direct email were also used to connect with neighborhood residents.



Online Promotional Content

The students promoted events and activities to targeted Dalhousie groups on 3 platforms and e-newsletters, and also reached out to the ward Councillor, Sean Chu for assistance.

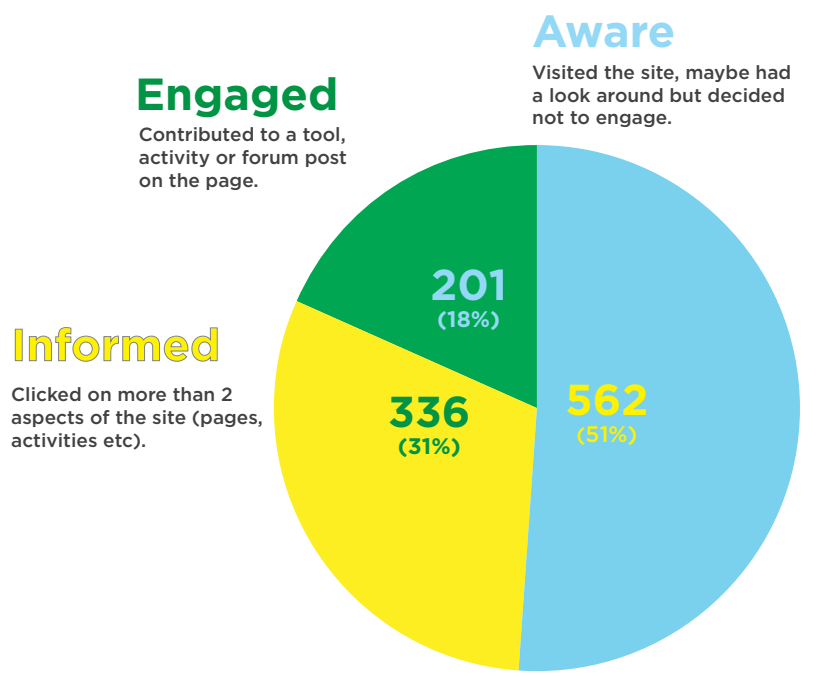
Physical promotional content

The students worked with the community association to advertised the project and second workshop on street signs and in the Dalhousie Digest newsletter.



Common words and topics discussed during the project

The word cloud above is an inventory of all of the feedback from the entire project. The size of the words correlate to the number of times they showed up in the analysis of nearly 4000 words. 'Dalhousie' and other common words have been remove, and the word quantity limited to 46 words in order to make the result more visually informative.



Resident engagement pie chart

The pie chart above breaks down the activity of the 1099 resident engagement in the online activities by their level of interest. This number is slightly more than the 832 total site visits, as it separates some engaged, aware and informed behaviors into multiple areas.

Participation

1/25/2021 - 4/10/2021

143

Pins were placed in the 3 mapping activities.

103

Complete submissions were made in the 3 survey activities

163

Comments were made in 3 discussion topics and two ideas boards.

832

Visits to the Future Layers of Dalhousie Webpage since January 25

639

Residents who visited the site arrived from a DCA site, web newsletter or URL bar

295

Visitors were directed to our site from promotional social media links

Participation metrics

These are the online participation numbers from the Future Layers of Dalhousie online activity platform.

Population and demographic

Research & Analysis

While not all of the information collected is relates to the vision for this project, this section would be useful for residents looking to understand some of the major forces at work when it comes to housing, population growth, education and transport, and how the average rates of each in Dalhousie compare with the average for all communities in Calgary.

Housing trends in of note *c/o 2016 Civic Census*

These tables demonstrate the difference between the quantity of different home types in Dalhousie and the home types where the most people live. As we can see, just over half of the community is made up from single family homes and just over half of all Dalhousie residents live in single family homes.

Other than the reasonable number of people who live in townhouses and apartments, a surprising take-away from this information is that nearly half of the community is already made up of multi-family housing.

Transportation trends of note *c/o 2016 Civic Census*

Dalhousie fell in line with the Calgary average in many other categories in the 2016 Civic Census, but transportation preferences showed an interesting deviation from the norm. Dalhousie residents use public transit more than the Calgary average, and use personal vehicle and carpool transport less than the Calgary average.

Population trends of note *c/o 2016 Civic Census*

Another intertesting point is the speed at which the population of Dalhousie grows, then reaches a plateau in the 1980s while the size of Calgary continues to grow. The obvious explanation is that current housing stock in Dalhousie has remained full, though this could change as the area becomes more intesified.

Comparison between Dalhousie and Calgary housing averages

66% vs 71%

Dalhousie residents who own their place of residence

Calgarians who own their place of residence

13% vs 17%

Dalhousie home owners who spend more than 30% of their income on shelter.

Calgarian homeowners who spend more than 30% of their income on shelter.

39% vs 37%

Dalhousie home renters who spend more than 30% of their income on shelter.

Calgarian home renters who spend more than 30% of their income on shelter.

Comparison between Dalhousie and Calgary transportation trends

67% vs 76%

Dalhousie residents who use a personal car or carpool on a daily basis

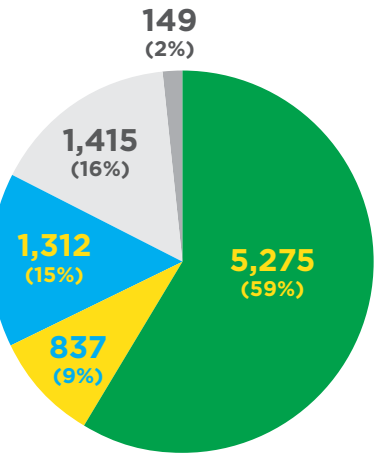
Calgarians who use a personal car or carpool on a daily basis.

26% vs 16%

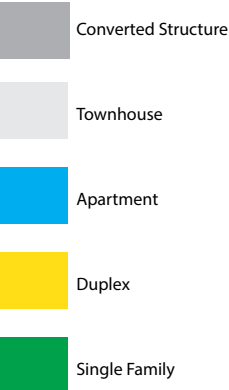
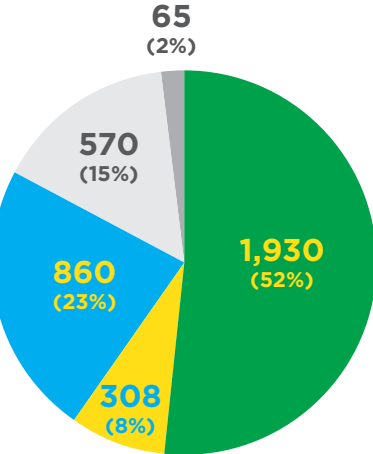
Dalhousie residents who use transit on a daily basis

Calgarians who use transit on a daily basis

In what home type do people live?



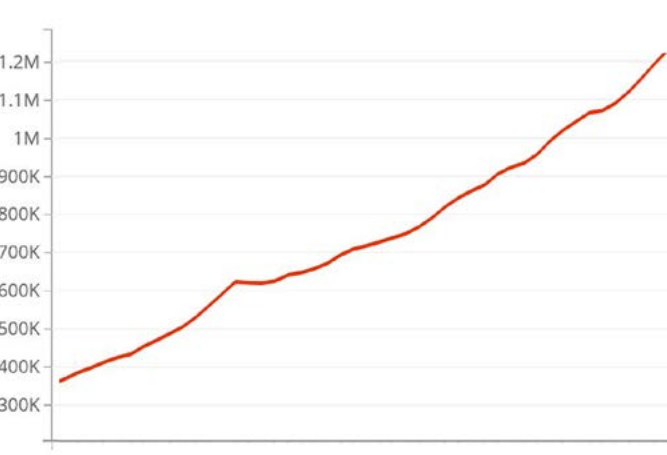
How many of each home type are there?



Dalhousie population growth over time



Calgary population growth over time

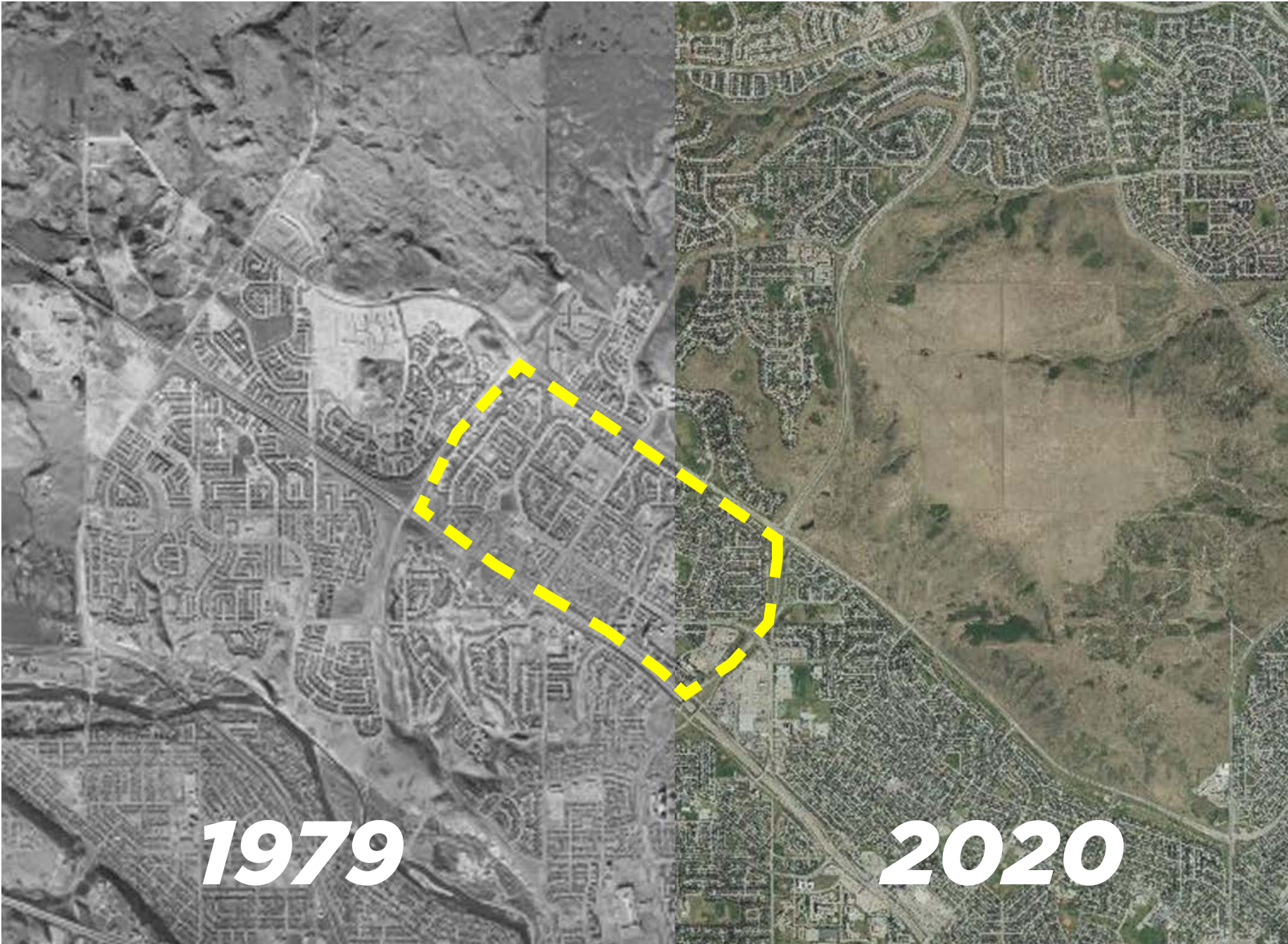


Built form and community amenity

Research & Analysis

Amenity and built form analysis

As a community, Dalhousie's move from the fringe of the city to the fringe of the inner-city throughout its lifetime marks a transformation of its role in the northwest quadrant. Many of the baseball diamonds, soccer fields and other community infrastructure reflect usage patterns from when the community was built, and focus on the needs of the immediate neighborhood. As the City of Calgary has grown, the LRT station, Dalhousie shopping area are among the increasing number of amenities that serve the needs of the greater quadrant, and reflect the kind of thinking that should inform future community infrastructure.



Influential site conditions

Research & Analysis

Built in the late 1960's, Dalhousie's original role as a bedroom community has morphed over the last 60 years into a destination for for university students and families. The roads which connect residents to other parts of the community and the northwest quadrant have also adapted to the increased growth and volume of commuters in the surrounding area.

Quadrant roads

Calgary's northwest is home to 65 of the city's communities - many of which are located within close driving distance of Dalhousie. Whether commuting to downtown from the distant northern suburbs via Crowchild Trail or east and west by way of John Laurie Blvd, the daily traffic on the expressways surrounding Dalhousie undoubtedly has an *island effect* that isolates it and the surrounding communities. Like the perimeter roadways, the LRT is another reminder to residents of their community's role in serving the needs of the greater northwest quadrant.

Community roads

Within the community borders, Dalhousie Dr. And 53rd St. play a similar role to quadrant roads, but on a smaller scale. These multi-lane roadways have the unintended consequence of exacerbating the island effect within the community as seen in the second map.

Land use

Land use patterns in Dalhousie follow a conventional distribution pattern which separates low-mid density residential (north side) from high density, commercial and institutional uses which show up along the south and south eastern sides of the community. There are a strip of acreage properties along the southwestern edge of the community that have recently been redesignated from low density to future urban-style development due to their proximity to the LRT and Crowchild Trail.



Land use and major expressways in the quadrant
Beyond the commercial, direct control, institutional and special use land districts close to Crowchild Trail, most of the land use in Dalhousie is low to medium residential, with a few exceptions for high density. Also seen here is the neighborhood's location within four major expressways in the quadrant.



The 'island effect' caused by collector roads in the community
Multi-lane roads that run through the community and the divisions that they create are represented in this map. Though pedestrians and cyclists do cross between these areas regularly, major roads create barriers that impact safety, atmosphere and ease that are important to the traveler's experience.



Crowchild Trail Expressway



Regional pathway runs through community



Some rear walkways are buttressed by private development



Pedestrian overpasses connect Dalhousie to adjacent communities



Desire lines created by pedestrian traffic along northern perimeter

Influential site conditions

Research & Analysis

Similar to the road and land use patterns, the amenity distribution across Dalhousie follows conventions from the era in which it was built. Though not part of the original design, a large commercial mall was developed along the southern and southwestern edges of the community. Also, a unique pathway system follows a series of utility lines behind the properties of many residents in the west and eastern part of the community.

Community amenities

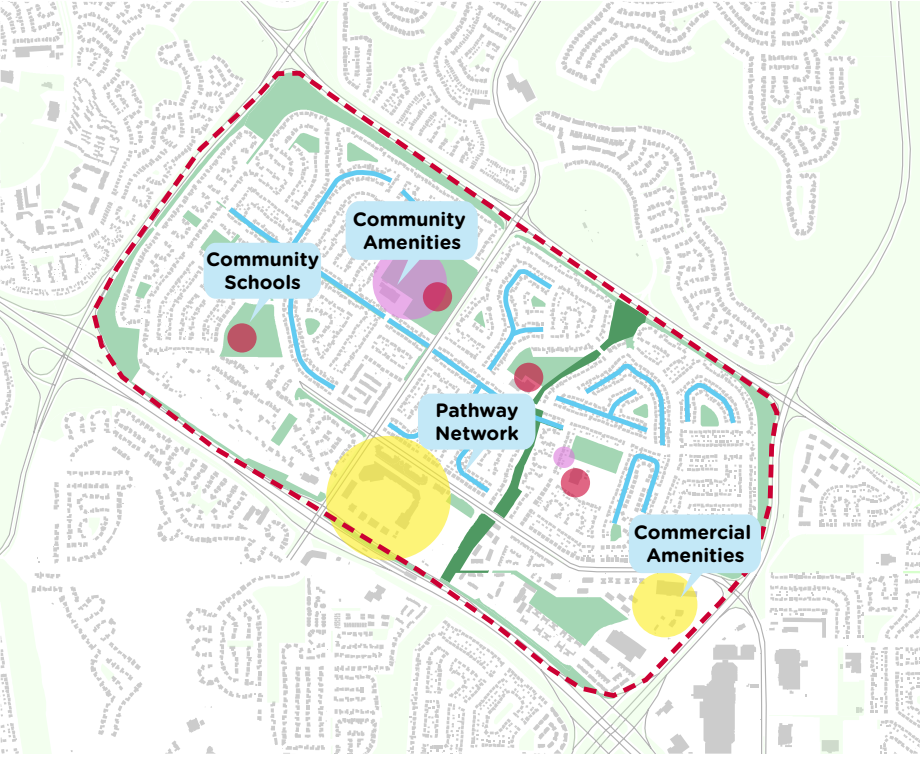
A large community hub lives next to 53 st., a major collector road that runs through the centre of the neighborhood. An older, original community building lives in the east side of Dalhousie and is still in use. Also, an original junior high school and three original elementary schools continue to serve residents of the community, and serve as feeder schools for the surrounding area.

Current and future developments

In addition to infill development throughout the community, a series of high rise multi-family developments have been planned and proposed, both within the transit oriented development radius, and nearby the secondary commercial centre on the southeast side of the neighborhood. One is currently in development.

Transit Oriented Development

It is expected that future coordinated development will take place in the TOD area, and that ongoing infill development will take place between private sellers.



Existing amenities in the community
An inventory of existing neighborhood amenities lives on this map. Yellow circles indicate the presence of commercial centers, red circles are junior high and elementary schools, purple circles represent community center structures, and blue lines represent segments of the walkway network.



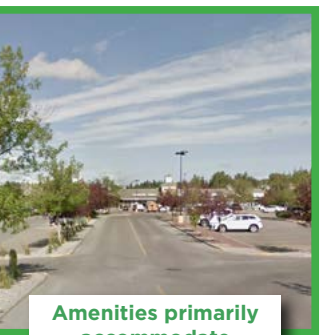
Future Transit Oriented Development (TOD) buffer
The current Municipal Development Plan suggests that intensified, yet graduated development take place within a 600m radius of the Dalhousie LRT, as well as along major roadways. Here, we see the location of the current Remington high rise development within the buffer, the location of the planned Co-op residential towers, and south Dalhousie which is most dedicated to multi-family housing.



Major shopping plaza near LRT



Secondary shopping centre is the site of future development



Amenities primarily accommodate vehicular traffic



Large LRT parking lot is located next to the major shopping centre



Community buildings and land in east and west Dalhousie

Collecting and consolidating input

Community Engagement

How did the resident feedback inform this report?

Sentiments from this project's two workshops, weekly activities and all of the major results from the 2017 engagement process with the City of Calgary were grouped together into categories, tallied up and consolidated into major trends (shown in figure 1). The students then used their judgment to create three distinct themes that reflected the comments, as well as what they had learned in their research.

In the second workshop, the students then worked with residents to brainstorm ways that the need expressed in each theme could be satisfied. The outcome helped to inform the vision for the project as seen in figure 2.

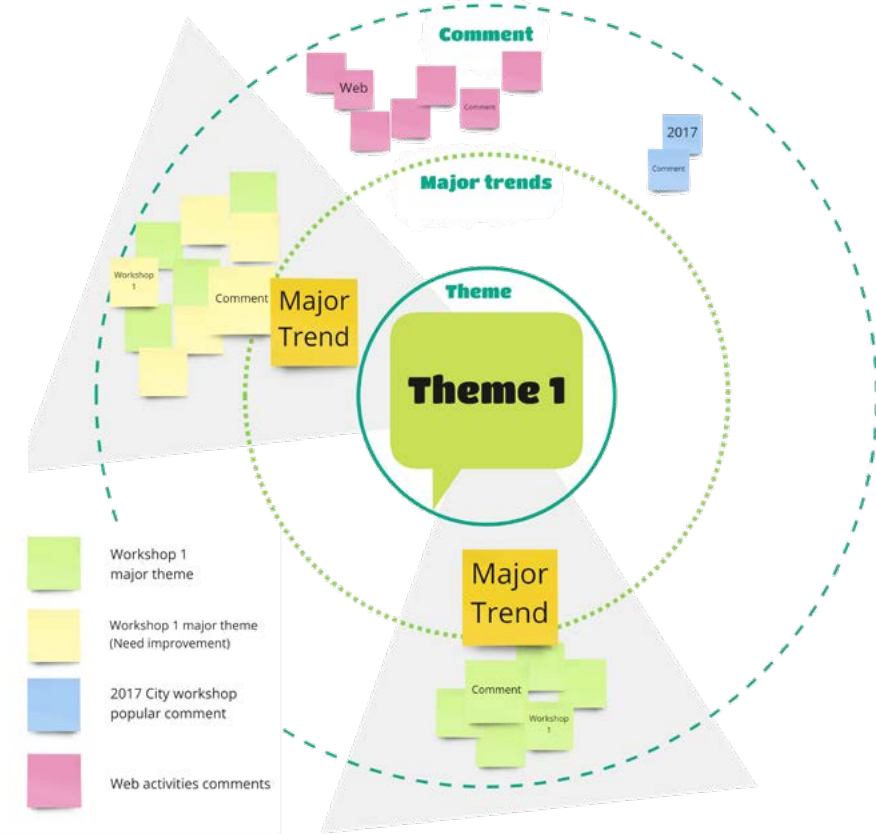


Figure 1: Consolidating comments into themes

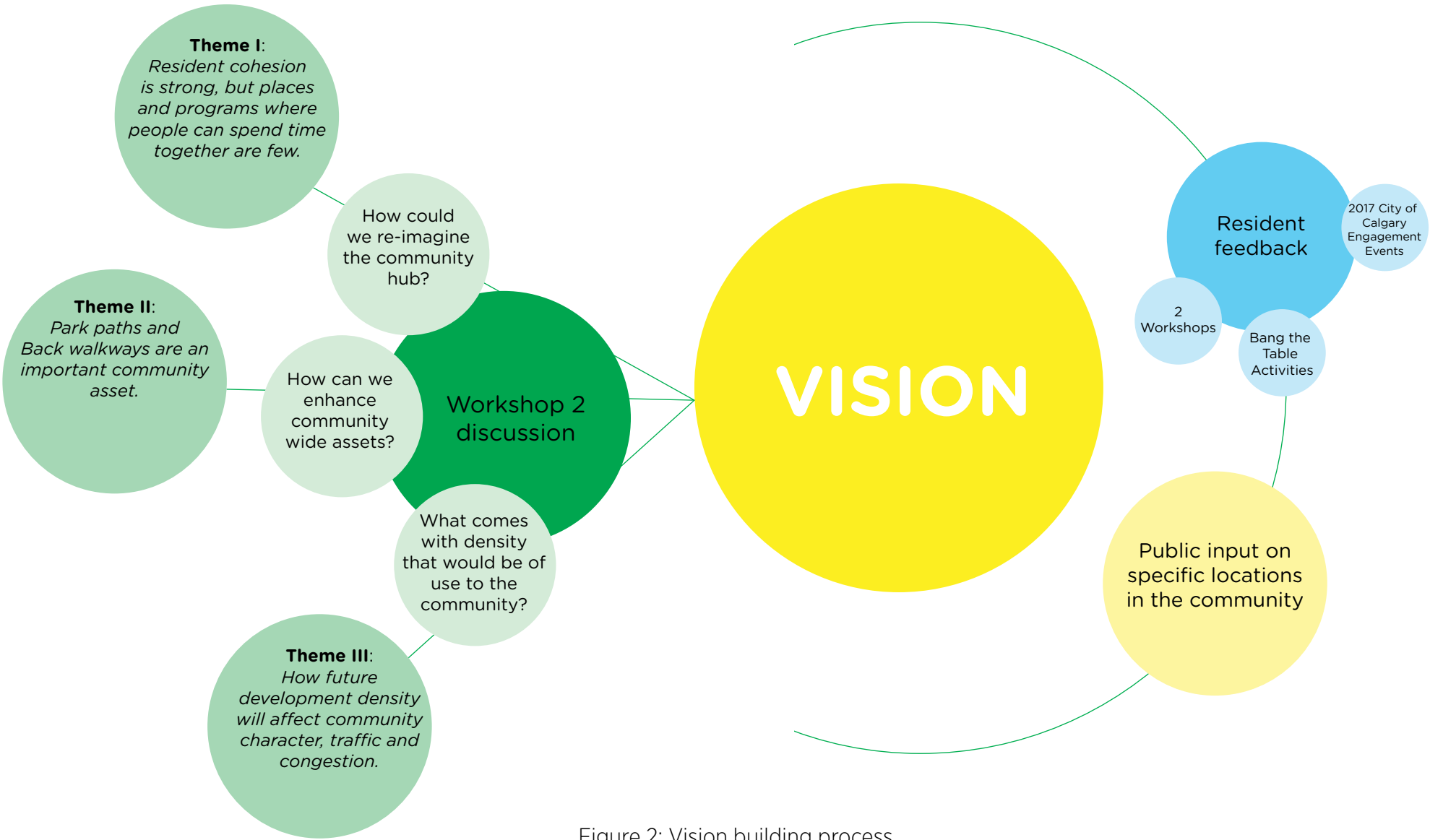
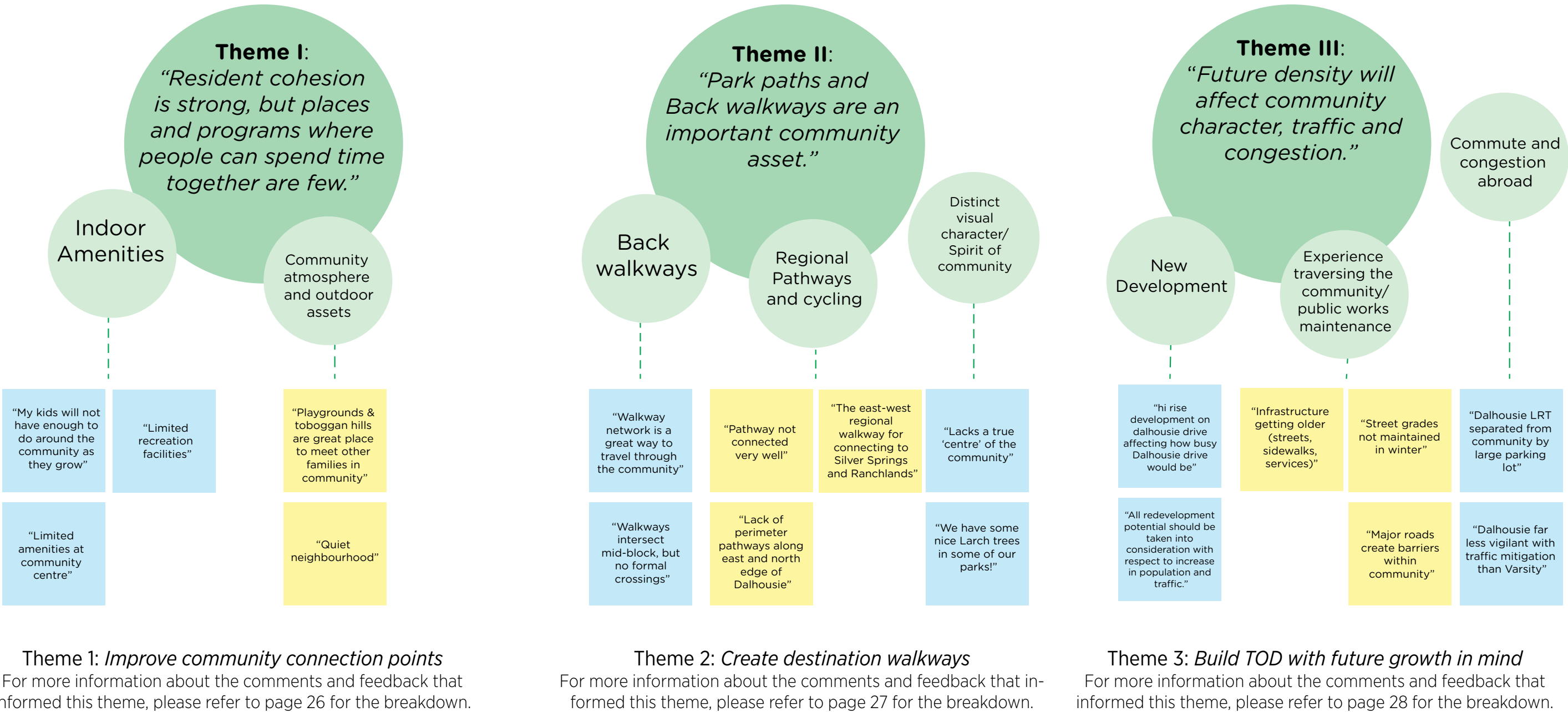


Figure 2: Vision building process

Building a vision for the project

Community Engagement



Future Layers of Dalhousie

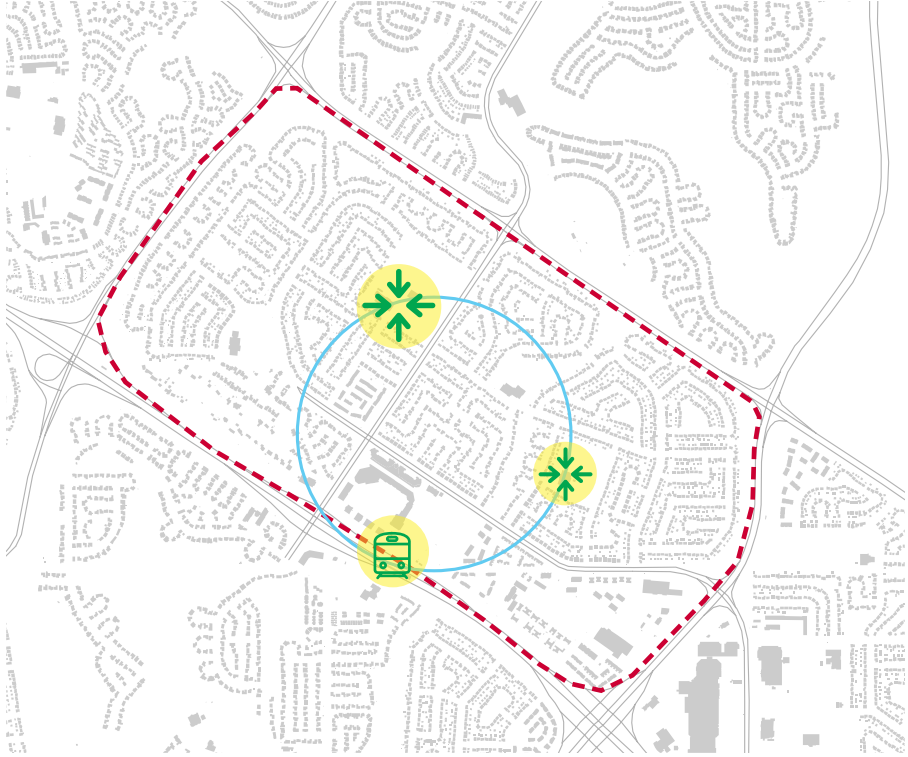
Vision for the Community



Create destination walkways

As the conduits used to connect people to amenities in the south, east and west parts of Dalhousie, the back walkways should be more desirable to walk along. While these walkways or “catwalks” are privately owned (up to the pathway itself), their frequent use suggests that they should be made into more of an attraction, and be decorated in ways that represents the unique personalities of the homeowners, and the people who live in Dalhousie.

Areas where the walkway system overlaps with major roads should receive equal attention. In addition to beautification, they should also receive lighting upgrades, crossing visibility enhancements and other safety features.



Community amenities in east, south and west

Many of the comments that were received from residents about community rejuvenation focused on the addition of specific outdoor public amenities. Deciding where those facilities would best serve the surrounding community was essential, and as a result, it was determined that an amenity node in each of the three sections of the Dalhousie would be the best action to take.

The choice of which amenities live at each node would reflect the availability of land, needs of the surrounding area and potential for future growth nearby. Currently, the west side of Dalhousie has an abundance of land, the east side has a small portion and the southern area would evolve through negotiations with developers and the city as TOD growth continues.



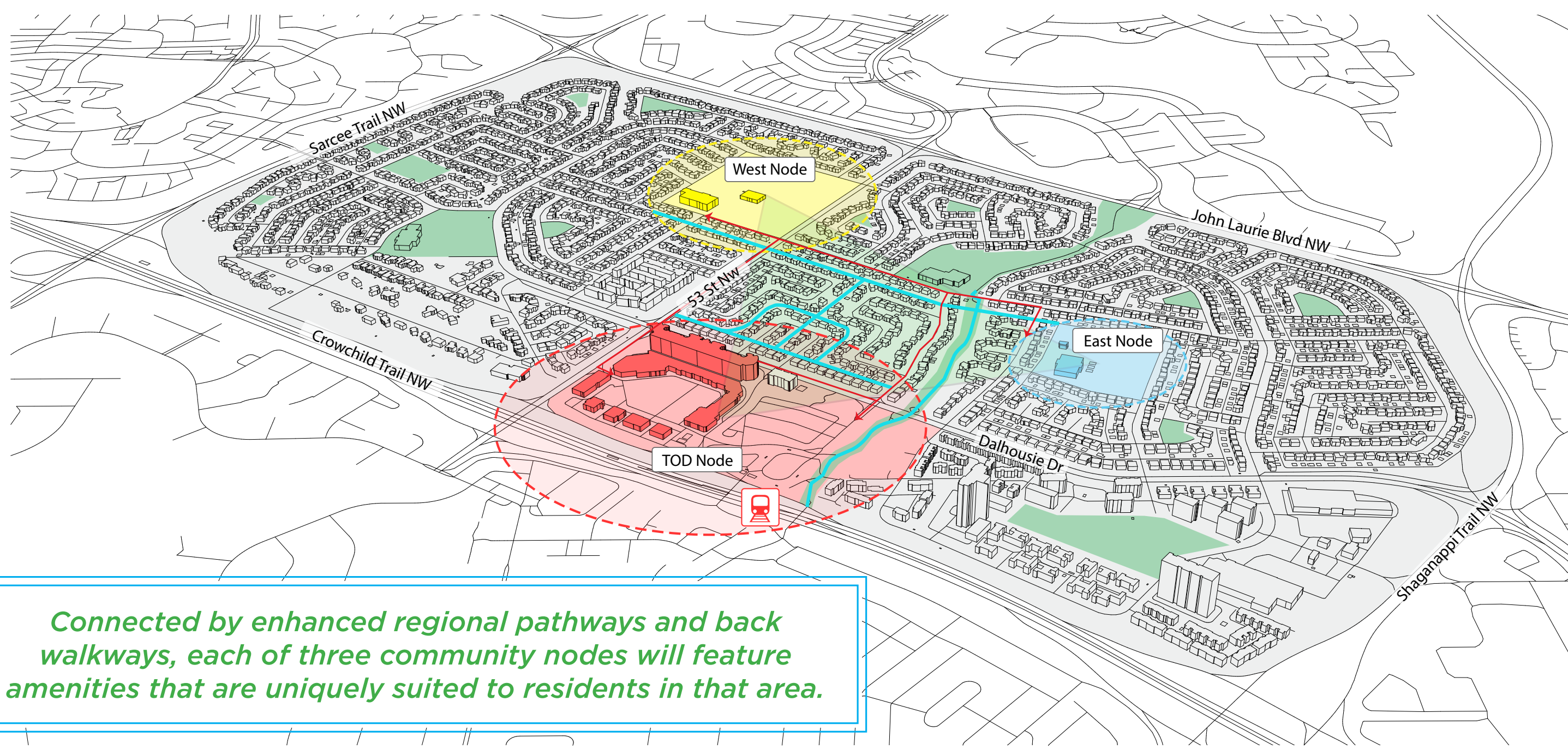
Enhance the places where people meet

City of Calgary demographic studies suggest that half of Dalhousie households have children living at home, and that many attend the community’s four schools. It was important that community infrastructure do its best to overlap with the travel patterns of families between the school sites (indicated in red). These linkages between schools and community nodes create opportunities for local residents to connect on the street.

The 400m walk shed buffers above demonstrate the overlap between sites, and the importance of the 5-7 minute connection in a neighborhood.

Decentralized community centre vision

Plan Overview



Connected by enhanced regional pathways and back walkways, each of three community nodes will feature amenities that are uniquely suited to residents in that area.

West node: Outdoor amenity centre

Community Plaza

Much of the community feedback revolved around the desire for new sports and leisure amenities, and despite the decentralized vision for Dalhousie's community 'centre', the available land and high use of this location cemented the decision to embellish its role as the community plaza. This space would continue its role as a destination for Dalhousie residents, but also draw visitors in from surrounding communities.

Gateway

Our intervention begins with a gateway to the Community Plaza. A widened entrance from 53 street would welcome visitors through the existing hillside and tree cover and into a multi-purpose activity space.

Fitness track and soccer field

The existing soccer field would be moved to the northern portion of the site, making room for a running track along the perimeter of the plaza, and an outdoor fitness center on the site's west end.

Splash park

In the middle of the track would live a small summer splash park and a patio where residents could enjoy coffee at seasonal benches and tables.

Playground and structures

At the north western part of the site, the existing playground would extend southward into a series of active play structures that would be built into the hillside.

Hockey rink

A revised outdoor hockey rink would live immediately north of the Dalhousie Community association with benches and a fire pit close-by.



Community ice rink

A community rink would be constructed north of the DCA building, and feature boards, netting, benches and a fire pit.

This image is from the Canyon Meadows community centre rink.



Children's splash park

A shallow concrete basin is filled during summer months, and sits next to a patio with seasonally available tables and chairs.

This image was taken at Riley Park in the neighborhood of Hillhurst.



Natural hillside playground

An obstacle course style playground would be built into the hillside next to the existing play structure.

This image helps to illustrate the concept, but is not located in Calgary.



This image is the purposed entrance to the community plaza, with a landmark structure and permanent sign to welcome people in. A more moderate slope at the entrance is introduced, and links to the running track.

East node: Auxiliary community centre

Multi-Purpose Hub

The east community node would serve as a testing ground for pilot projects and as an auxiliary space to the main community centre. It would focus on offering programs and services that are in demand by the residents of East Dalhousie.

Pilot projects testing new ideas

This has functioned as a daycare in the past, but could also be the new home for a pre-school, youth programs or other community initiative. Commonly requested ideas like a community garden and pre-teen after school programs could begin their life inside, or in the field behind the east facility.

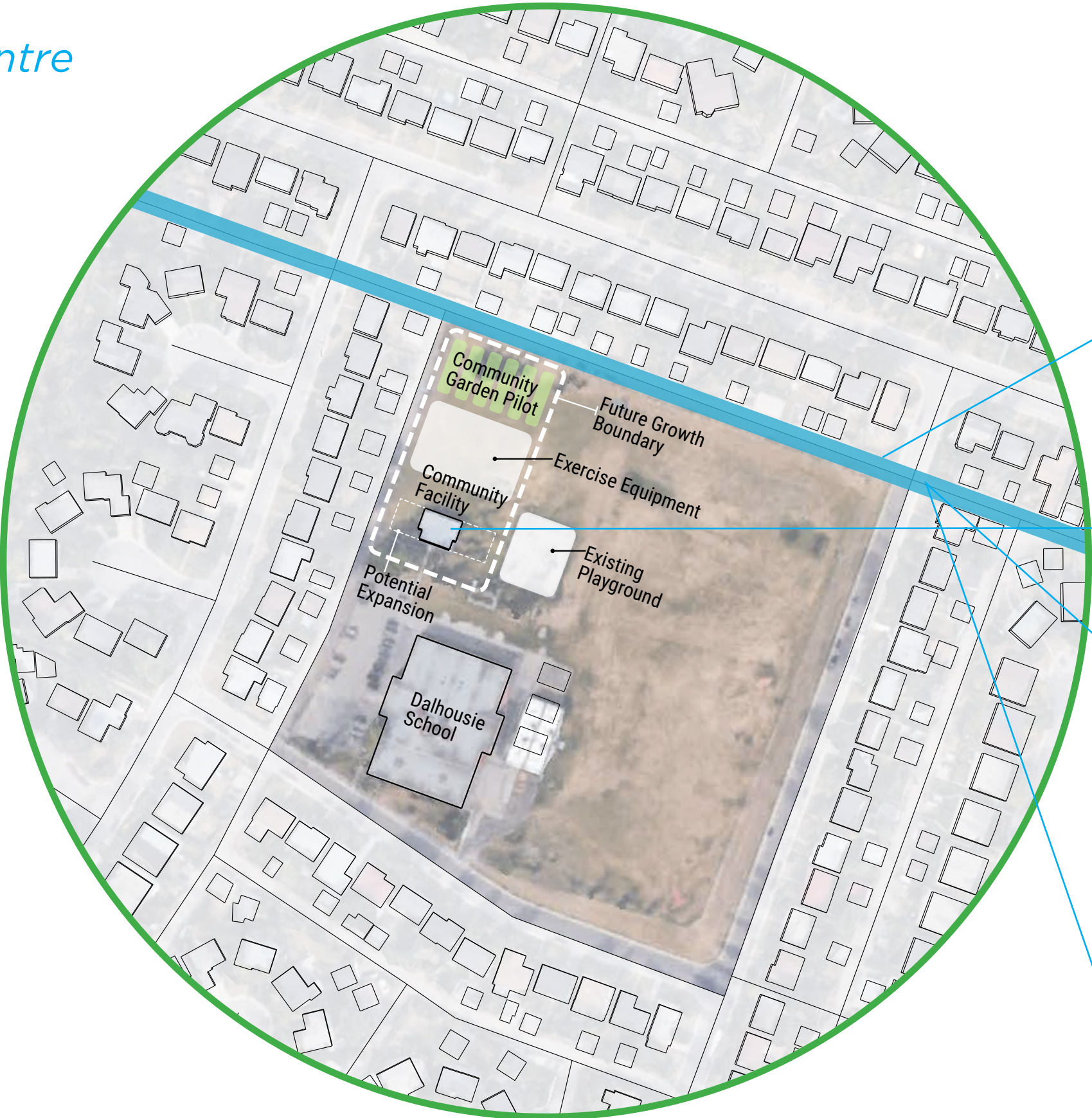
Resource hub

The proximity of this building to key points in the walkway network would allow it to serve as a resource hub for projects that relate to the regional pathway, and primary community catwalks in the neighborhood.

Catwalk revitalization

The revitalization of nearby catwalks will be an effective, low-cost opportunity for the community to come together and connect after a year of lockdown. Volunteers would engage in handshake agreements with property owners whose homes back on to key walkways, and work with daycares and community school students to develop a shared art piece that could be mounted along the path.

Other communities have developed illustrations, multi-piece mosaics, and unique lighting arrangements that transform an ordinary walkway into a community destination. Long-term, the walkway network would be augmented with more purposeful placement of crosswalks and crossing lights along major roadways.



Community building art

Work with schools and resident groups to create a multi-piece community art installations.

The photo on the left demonstrates the kind of work that can be achieved through partnerships with schools, daycares and other contributing community groups.



Hire an artist to plan the space

The 'Toon Tunnel' is the work of a volunteer artist to decorate a Nose Hill underpass in Thorncliffe. This creates a unique attraction out of an otherwise unremarkable concrete tunnel.

The photo to the left shows the artist posing beside her work.



Pathway lighting

Encourage homeowners to add creative and unique lighting solutions to the portion of the pathway along their back fence. A variety in lighting styles would help to diversify the experience of travellers along the lane.

The photo on the left is intended to illustrate the type of low-cost lighting that can be used.



These design ideas that are based on a photo from a well-used catwalk in Dalhousie. In this photo, the pathway is split, saving the left side for cyclists and right side for pedestrians. Decorations and lighting also give emphasis to the intention of the redesign.

South node: Future growth area

LRT Activity Center

Similar to the Community Plaza, the LRT node would undergo an ambitious transition to become a welcoming inter-community space for residents of Dalhousie as well as surrounding neighborhoods that connect via the regional cycling pathway.

Multi-story parking garage and commercial main floor

Our primary intervention is the addition of a multi-story parking garage to the western-most side of the parking lot. Similar to the Platform parking garage in the downtown East Village, a carpark that could one day be transitioned into commercial or office space would help the site to achieve its future best use. This also presents a good opportunity to extend the shopping area beyond the Indigo building into the LRT space, as well as activate a currently nameless street that connects the mall to Dalhousie Drive.

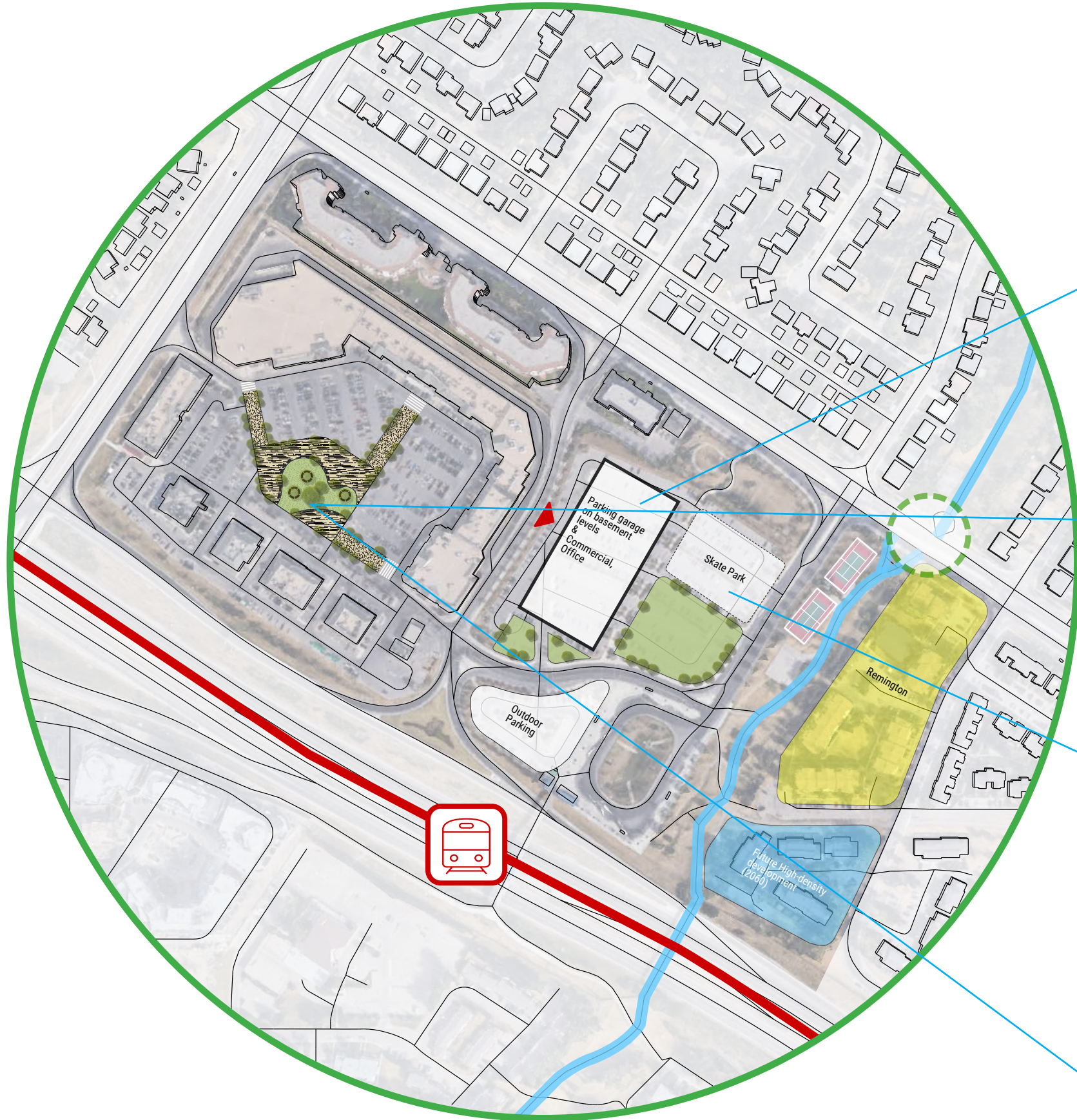
Dalhousie Station shopping centre central landmark

Establishing an meeting space and a moderately sized seating area at the center of the shopping mall parking lot is suggested. This would serve as a meeting place and memory point for visitors, and stand out from a distance with the introduction of an art piece, sculpture or other memorable installation.

Augmented pathway and amenities

The Remington high-rise that is currently under construction on the southern side of the LRT site will feature an sizable common space, though more will be required to accommodate the area's future growth and the increase in pedestrian traffic from the regional pathway.

A multi-purpose green space, a medium sized concrete skate park and the development of a play structure in the green space next Dalhousie Drive are proposed. Linking the site to the rest of Dalhousie using the regional pathway is a critical first step in activating this area, as presently, pathway users must travel to nearby intersections to cross.



Parkade and storefront

A parkade with a main level shopping would activate the area, retain parking spaces and provide added space for amenities.

This image references the multi-purpose 'Platform' parking garage in Calgary's East Village.



Rest area & central landmark

An island in middle of the parking lot where people can meet and connect with friends.

This image is a public art landmark that helps to illustrate the concept.



All ages skate park

The Huntington Hills community skate park is an excellent example of how to execute this sort of facility. It sits nearby the library and is frequented by young people.

This image is of a skate park in a community node at Calgary's Huntington Hills neighborhood.



Living in an amenity rich community

A Day in the Life

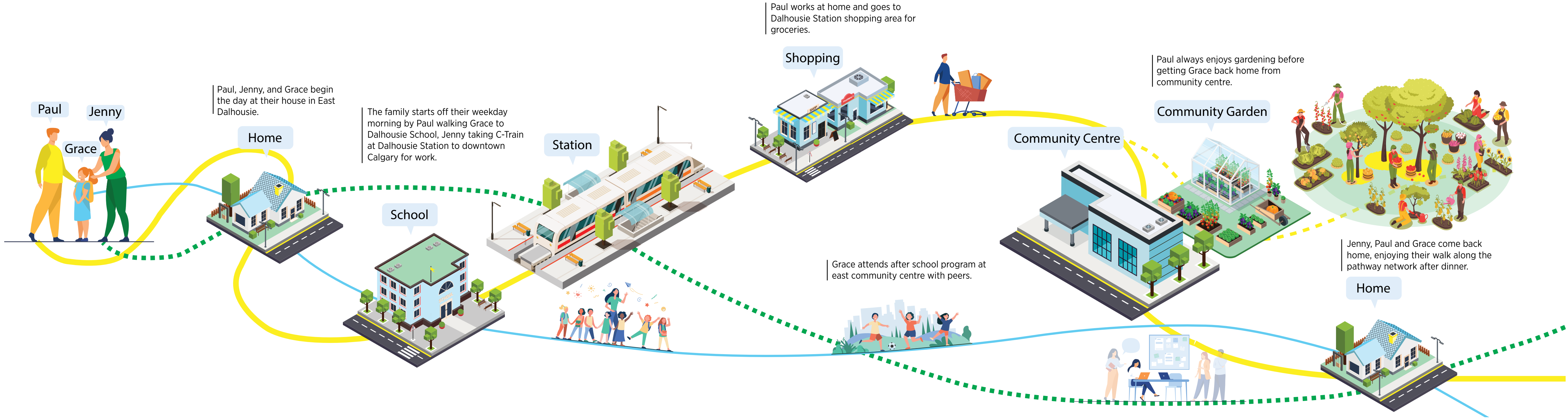
A weekday journey of a young family in Dalhousie.

This diagram describes a typical weekday of Paul, Jenny, and Grace's family in life. Paul's family live in east Dalhousie. Paul is a writer and works at home. Jenny is a market manager who works in downtown Calgary. It usually takes about 7 minutes for Paul to walk Grace to school at the east Dalhousie community center. Paul enjoys the morning walk at the pathway system and grabs a coffee on the way back home to start his morning writing.

Jenny likes biking to the C-Train station and reading on the way to work. After a long busy workday, Jenny always sees some friends at the plaza of the shopping area close to Dalhousie station, has a cup of coffee then riding back home.

Grace is their 9-year-old daughter, who loves sports at her age. Grace loves the children's football program after school. The most exciting thing in a day for Grace is going to after school program – playing football with peers at the community resource building just next to her school.

After a day of their different but enjoyable experiences in the community, they go for a walk at the pathway system near their house in the evening. Their weekday journey might be a typical one in the community, but residents in Dalhousie enjoy various lives, varies in different age groups, occupations, and family structures.



Application, funding and strategy

Implementing your ideas

How do community projects begin?

Every community project begins with an idea. Whether it's a plan for something big like a new hockey rink or a smaller project like a block party or a memorial bench in a park, fulfilling an idea requires committed community members with perseverance to follow-through on their vision.

To achieve an objective, these community members often need some amount of these three things - *money, time and a team of people who believe in the idea*. When looking for money to fund a project, there are a number of municipal grants that can help bring your vision into reality. The City of Calgary's *Inspiring Communities Grant* is mentioned in the section to the right, but it is also recommend that you look toward non-profit and social organizations like churches, the Rotary/Lion's Club, or the provincial and federal governments to help with a project that fulfills a shared mutual interest.

For people who are looking to volunteer their time on a low-cost project, there are guides, examples and other resources that will help you to plan and structure the different stages of the endeavor. Tasks like writing applications, stakeholder engagement and event organization all require a significant time investment, but play an important role to get a project going. Once initiated, ongoing volunteer opportunities like belonging to a neighborhood Scouting chapter, organizing community babysitting for teens or a Block Parent Program watch do not require a heavy time commitment, and the work can be shared by many people in the community.

This is where having a group of committed residents is helpful, as many hands make for light work, and help to create a social atmosphere around a shared goal.



Community project grants and gifts
The City often offers project-based funding for communities. For example, projects like [community gardens](#) are eligible for their own grants. Other projects could look to the [Inspiring Communities Grant](#) to help to pay for supplies.



Partner with youth program organization
Work with known organizations to offer local programming in community buildings. This could include [Scouts Canada](#), religious youth groups or through [municipal programs](#).



Playground optimization program application
Playground revitalization can be a long process, and is often funded by the city. If communities want to apply to have new playgrounds built or old ones upgraded, [determine your eligibility](#) and be sure to apply.



Encourage maintenance of back lane vegetation
Recommend proper care of shared laneways to private households in community newsletters. Create unique Dalhousie best practices or share existing [bylaw and recommendation resources](#) that specify standards.



Work with an artist to decorate the catwalks
[Coventry Hills](#) contracted an artist to plan and design art for a collector road fence and the community filled it in with colour - this was an excellent way to bring the community together. For ideas on how a decorated walkway could look, check out the [Re-imagine Catwalks Playbook](#)



Request a new marked crosswalk with the city
If crossing safety in high traffic areas is of concern, be sure to reach out to the city with a [request for new infrastructure on their website](#).



Apply for city and non-profit programming
Pop-up youth programming opportunities like [the mobile skate park](#) and [Antyx community art projects](#) are excellent ways to introduce new initiatives to the community without bearing the full weight of the cost.



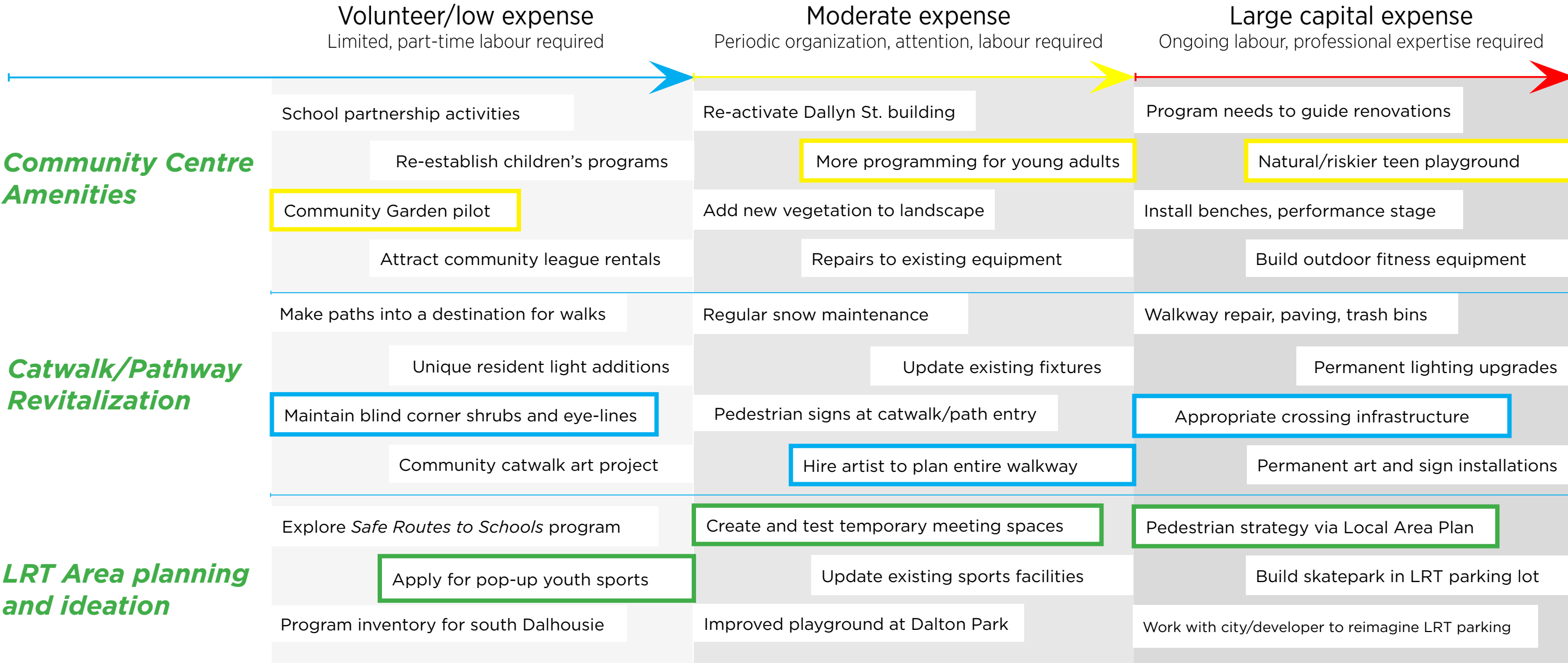
Identify and test new meeting spaces
Temporary furniture is one of the most affordable and effective ways determine if people would linger in a particular public space, and whether a more permanent installation should be carried out. This sort of project begins with a vision and a modest budget.



Organizing volunteer advocacy groups
When working with the city or developers on projects, having a unified community voice for is an important asset. Building communications infrastructure to rally and organize people is an important step here. This can be achieved through initiatives like [community association memberships](#).

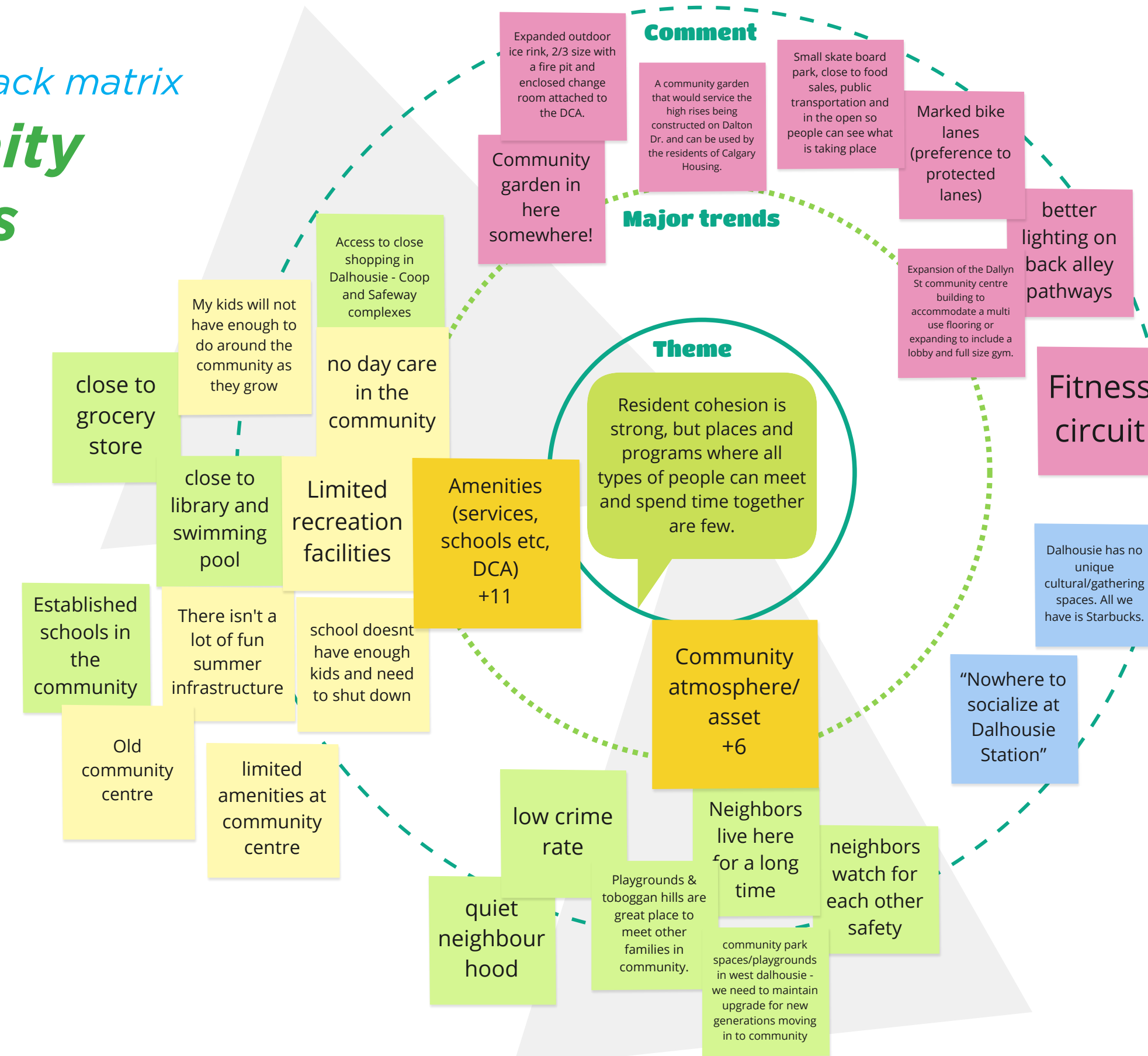
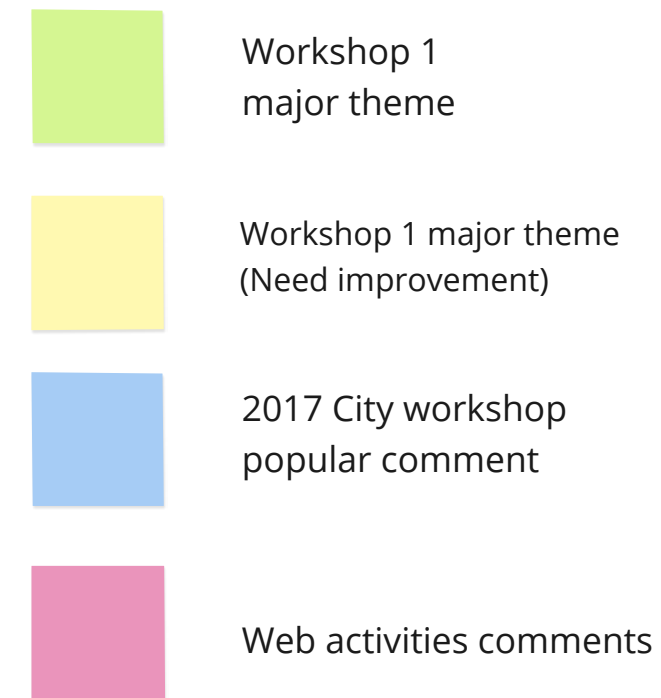
From volunteer projects to long-term initiatives

Implementing your ideas



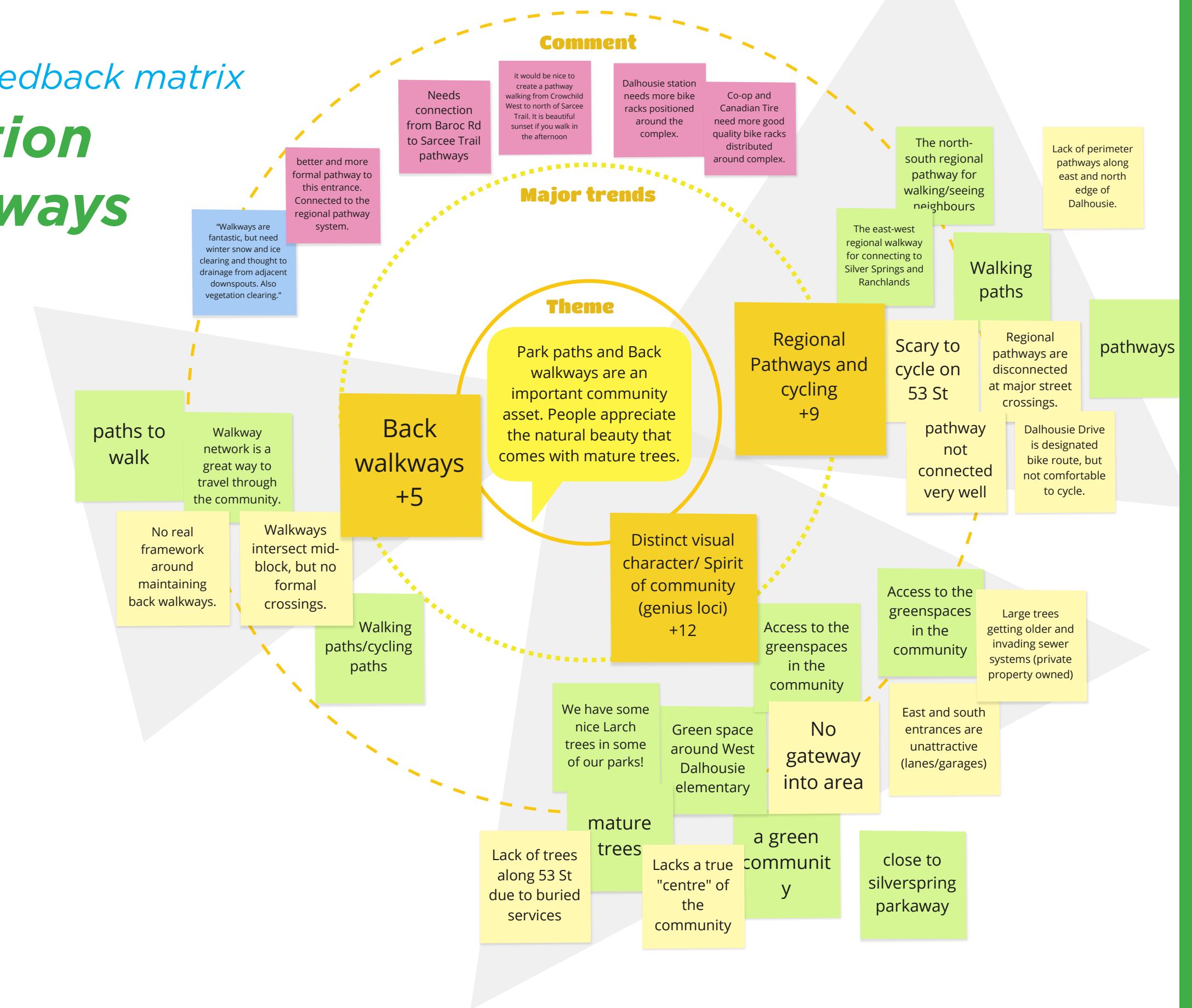
Improve Community Connection Points

The students then took that information, pooled it with prevailing opinions that they had heard throughout the process and developed three major themes that spoke to needs, concerns and hopes that they had identified in their engagement.



Create Destination Catwalks/Walkways

- Workshop 1 major theme
- Workshop 1 major theme (Need improvement)
- 2017 City workshop popular comment
- Web activities comments

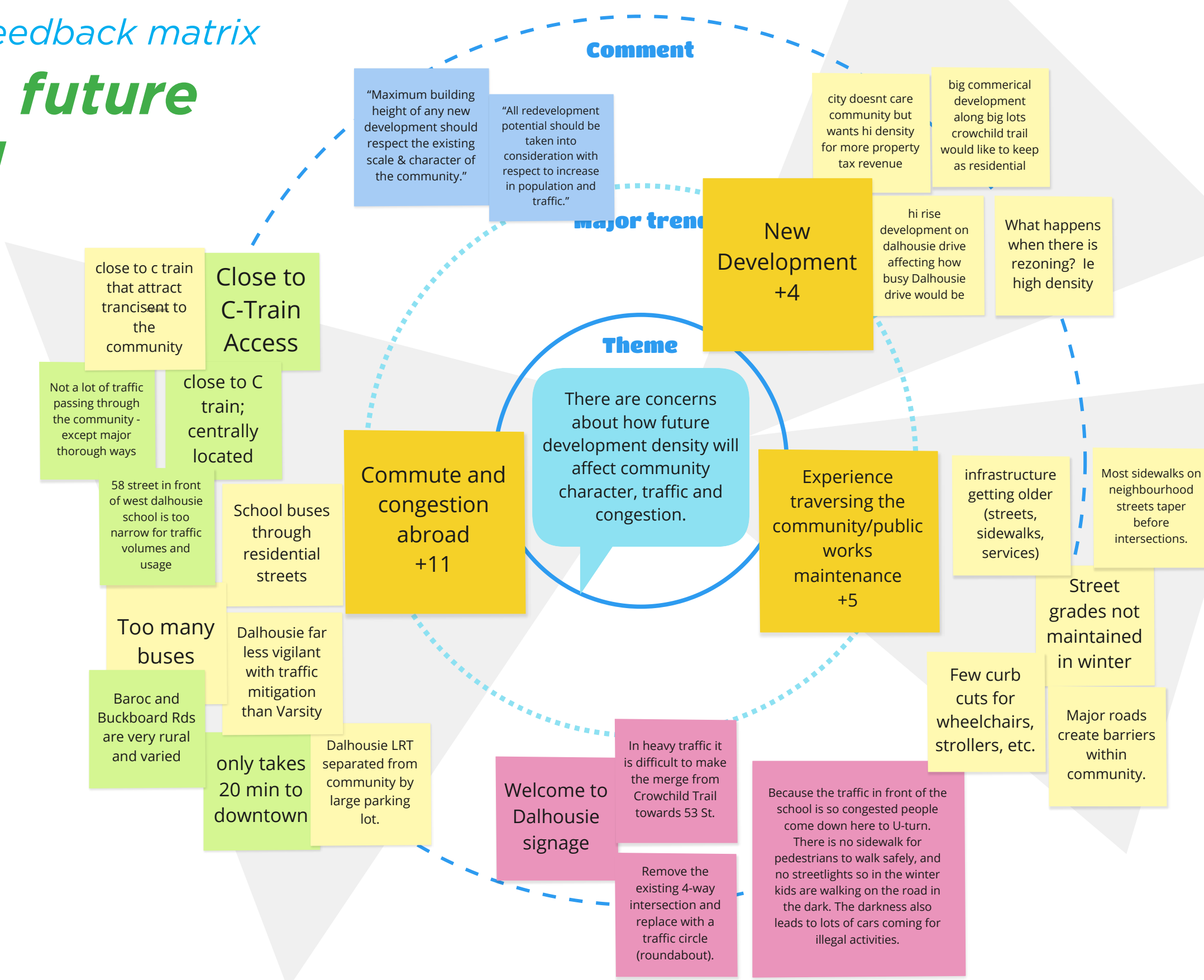


Theme 3: Consolidated feedback matrix

Build TOD with future growth in mind

The consolidation of comments into a theme on this page follows the same process as described on page 26.

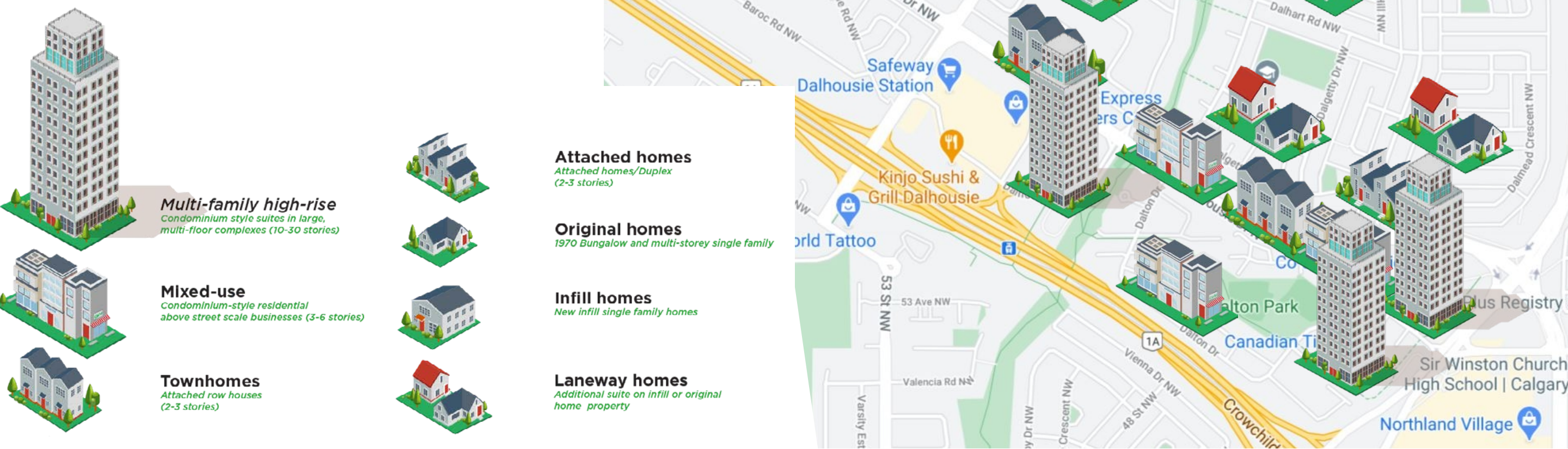
- Workshop 1 major theme
- Workshop 1 major theme (Need improvement)
- 2017 City workshop popular comment
- Web activities comments



Interactive activity by residents

Where should new development go?

This exercise was completed by residents at the second community workshop event.



How can we build up this future layer of Dalhousie?

Location?

The former playground at the north end of the LRT station could be repurposed in some way as a park or gathering space.

How could we re-imagine the community hub?

New programming

Weekly Sunnyside Flea market

Kingsland farmers market

Community equipment

www.calgary.ca

Outdoor skating rinks



These three idea boards were the product of a resident workshop event. The task here was to generate ideas for amenities that followed the three themes indicated on pages 26 - 28.

What do you think could fit in those areas?

TOD development area



What comes with density that would be of use to the community?

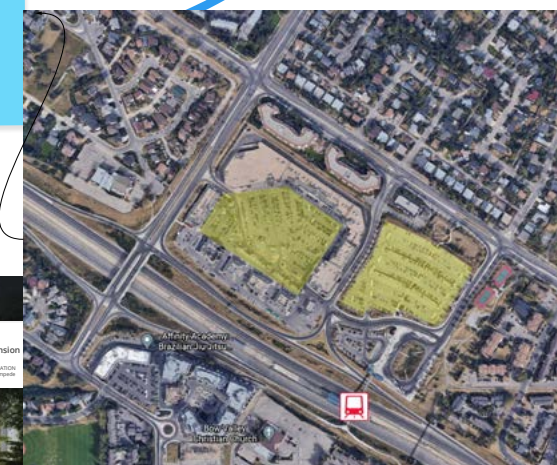
Single family streets



Focus higher density development in Dalhousie Station area.

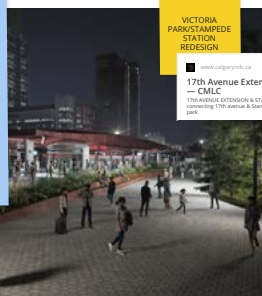
Are large surface parking lots associated with LRT and Dalhousie Station best use of space? Specifically w/ City-owned LRT lot, is it best use of City resources?

LRT and commercial area



All development should be integrated with the Community, for the benefit of the Community, not isolated.

Enhance Dalhousie Station walking experience

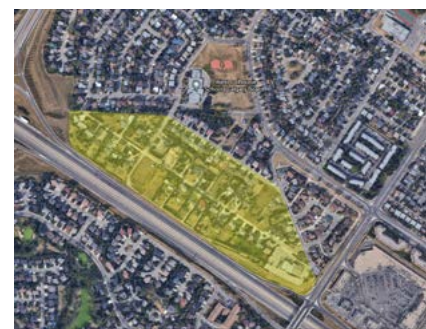


Sunnyside Village — O2 Planning + Design



Senior's facilities

Acreage properties (along Crowchild)



Purpose built facility

Beddington Theatre Arts Centre



C-Space (Arts and community hub in Marda Loop)

Community center is in a relatively central location for "residential area" north of Dalhousie Drive. Could add public gathering space, i.e. picnic tables, benches, fitness area, skate park or outdoor year-round hockey rink.

What changes can we make for the future layer of Dalhousie?

Improve connectivity at regional pathway crossings at all streets, i.e. make the crossings more equitable so that people can cross directly and safely following desire lines.

There are a number of open spaces in the community, some very large, that could be activated for citizens, even if just promoted as places to gather with friends, family, neighbours, etc.

Edmonton green shed containers - dropped in parks and city managers run program

Options to improve some of the older playgrounds in the community green spaces.

Enhance community-wide assets like parks and back walkways

Park Infrastructure update



calgaryplaygroundreview.com

Blakiston Park Playground - Brentwood

Location: mapCommunity: Brentwood - 3023 Blakiston Dr NWParking: free street parking Gordie's Review (9 years old): "I really

Update Sidewalks

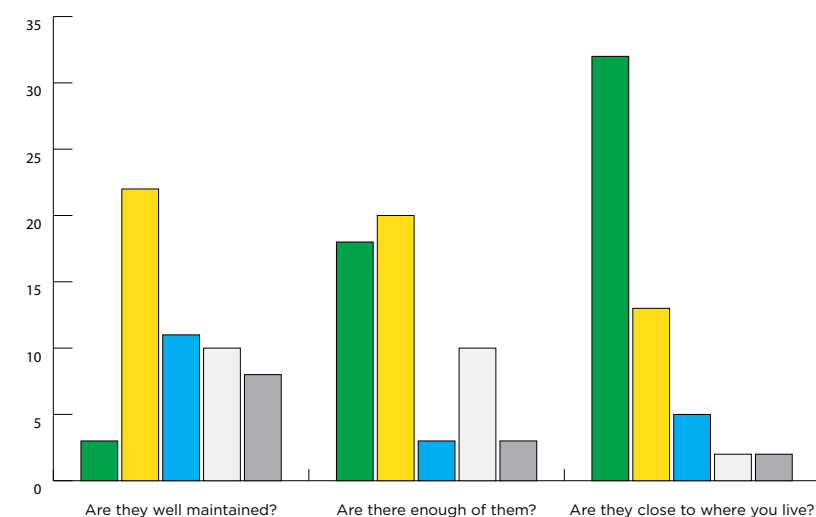
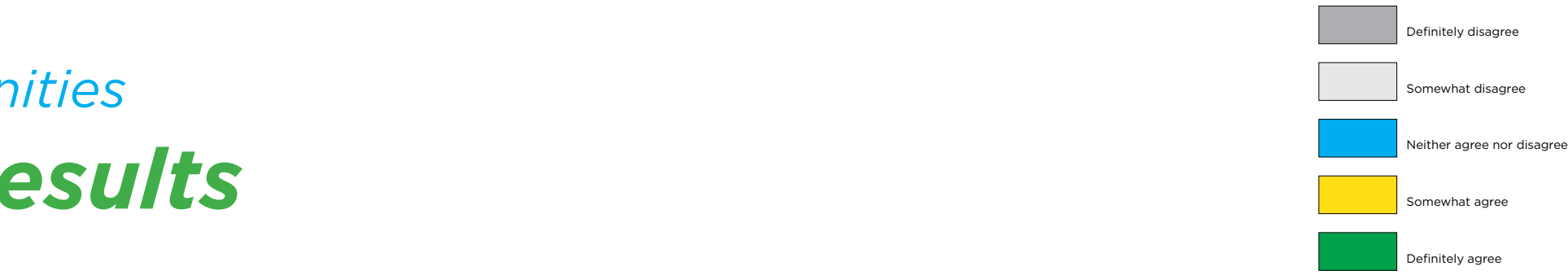


Back walkway maintenance recommendations (like Varsity)

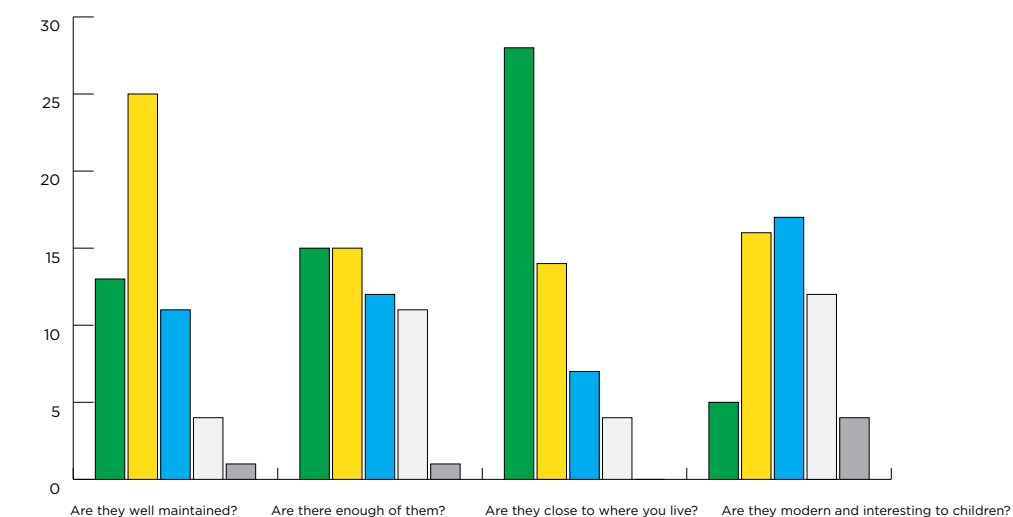


Open spaces and outdoor amenities

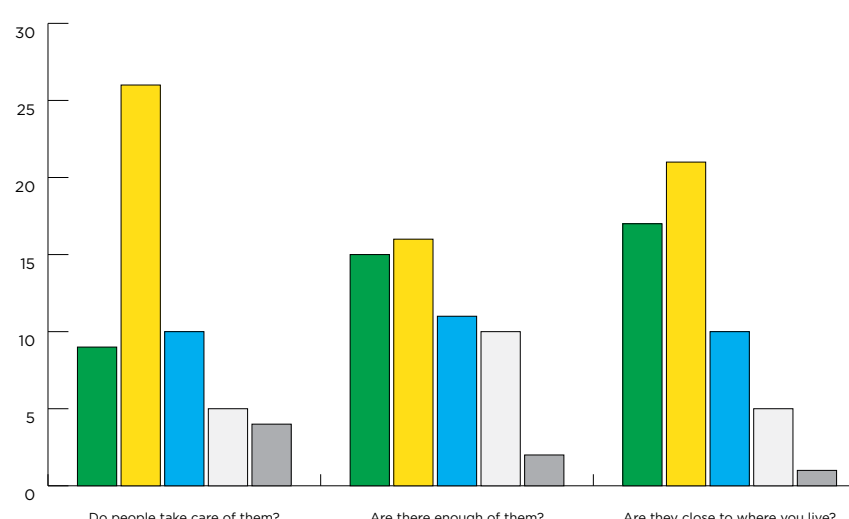
Activity 1: Survey results



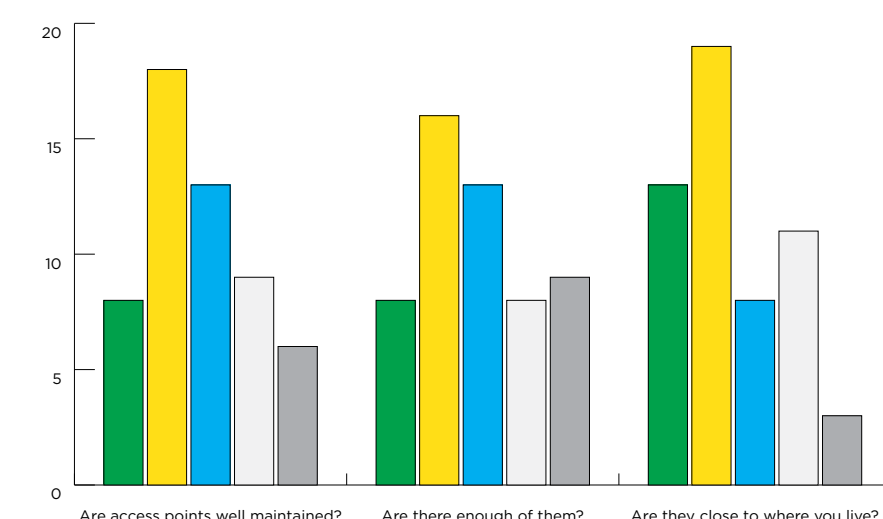
Walking paths



Playgrounds



Off-leash dog parks



Connections to Nose Hill

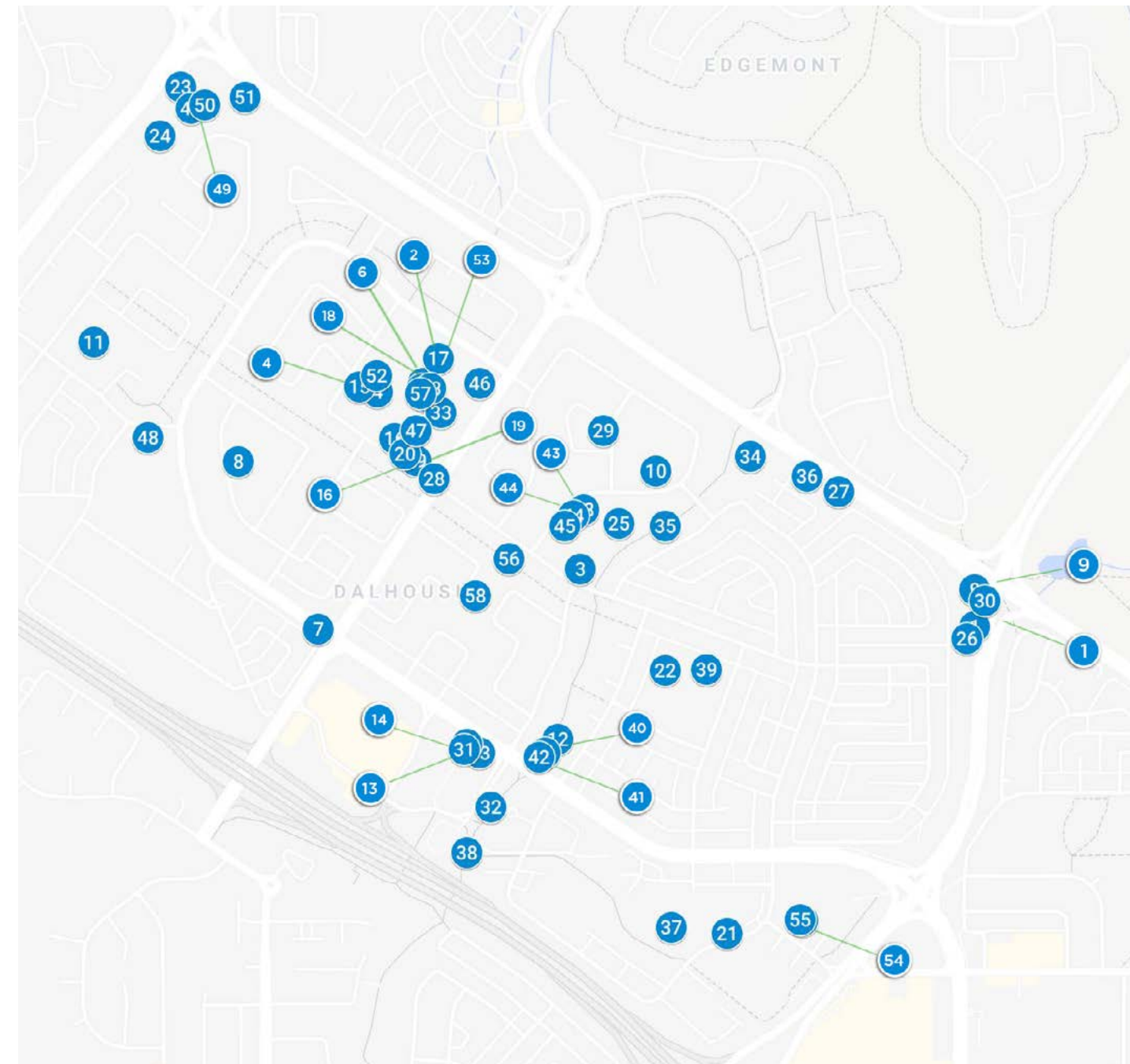


Open spaces and outdoor amenities

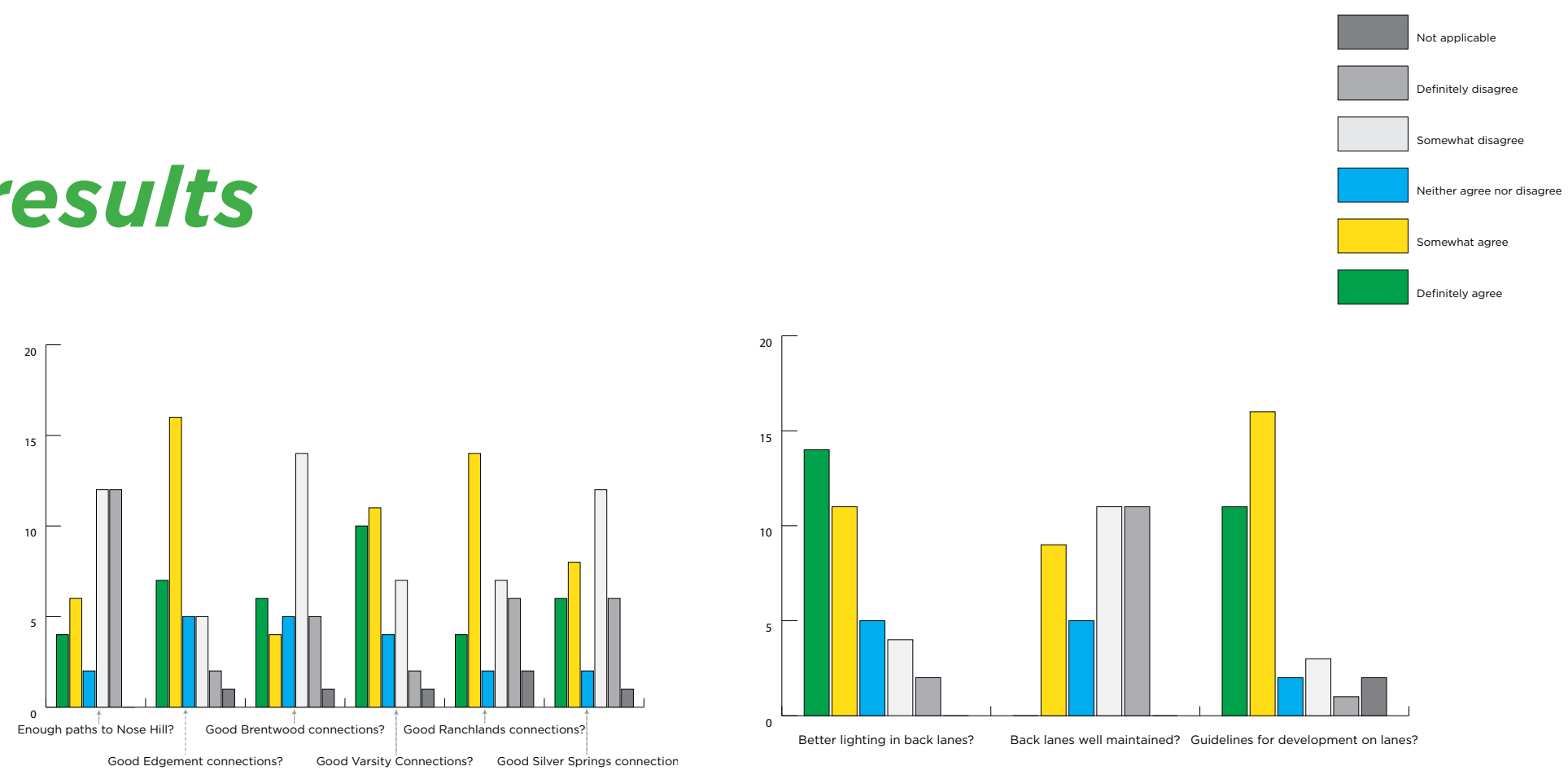
Activity 1: Map exercise

Resident comments match numbers on the map

1. Wouldn't it be great if this was a dog park and if it connected safely to Nose Hill?
2. Community garden!
3. Take down old playground and make this into a natural risky play area for kids (the North playground, not the school one)
4. Would be nice to have lighting or windscreens around the chain link.
5. An ice rink with boards to be used for ice & ball hockey year round
6. An ice rink with boards to be used for ice & ball hockey year round
7. Marked bike lanes (preference to protected lanes)
8. An outdoor gym
9. Tunnel into Nose Hill Park, much like what there is at 14th and 24th avenue into Confederation Park
10. Steps need to be repaired
11. "Fitness circuit"
12. Fitness Circuit along the entire ravine.
13. A community garden that would service the high rises being constructed on Dalton Dr. and can be used by the residents of Calgary Housing.
14. Small skate board park, close to food sales, public transportation and in the open so people can see what is taking place
15. Outdoor Parcour area, low level used by the gym classes during the day and general public after hours
16. Outdoor fitness stations used by PE students in gym class, general public after hours and gives a good view to watch soccer etc on the field while exercising.
17. Fencing around the ball diamond and improved benches and back stop so that it can be used for little league games and practices.
18. Expanded outdoor ice rink, 2/3 size with a fire pit and enclosed change room attached to the DCA.
19. Frisbee golf course around the perimeter of the fencing. Six holes starting on the south side and ending on the west side.
20. Improved landing pit used by the students for long and triple jump.
21. Shed that is used in the summer for free programs for the children in the area. Based on the program that runs in Edmonton. Either this corner location or closer to the playground depending on available space.
22. Expansion of the Dallyn St community centre building to accommodate a multi use flooring or expanding to include a lobby and full size gym. This location would be aimed at residents in the new high rises and the denser housing between the LRT and Canadian Tire.
23. A couple more benches around the dry pond as this area is used for dog walking and sledding in the winter.
24. An agility training area for people to work with their dogs. Various equipment in stations similar to what is seen on tv.
25. Baseball diamond could be re-shaded and new benches
26. If there isn't any tunnel to Nose hill, there could be a fenced in dog park, even just 20mx30m for smaller dogs.
27. Informal trail is popular for cycling, running and walking, but is narrow, off-camber and overgrown in places. Opportunity to formalize and improve as gravel trail in near-term and possibly multi-use pathway in longer-term?
28. Most gates around the playing field are narrow maze-type gates that make access and egress difficult, especially if transporting sports equipment. These need to be modified to be easily accessible and welcoming to anyone.
29. There are many small lot-sized green spaces in the community that could function as gathering places or community gardens.
30. Dalhousie is so close to Nose Hill Park, but the pedestrian and cycling connection from Dalhousie (SW corner Shaganappi & John Laurie) and into the Park (NE corner) is poor at best and unwelcoming at worst. Connection needs improvement and park entrance needs to be more welcoming.
31. There used to be a playground here, but it was removed. Some type of recreation facility, skate park was mentioned and is a great idea, and maybe an outdoor fitness area, might be a great addition here.
32. Basketball court always looks to be quite busy and popular, especially for youth in the community.
33. Community garden somewhere in here! There is so much room!
34. We have so much room for much more vegetation! CO2 capturing trees and bushes for play and maybe a food forest, native water-wise plants for native bees and beauty...
35. We have so much room for much more vegetation! CO2 capturing trees and bushes for play and maybe a food forest, native water-wise plants for native bees and beauty...
36. Bike path along here!
37. Community garden in a sunny spot here!
38. We have so much room for much more vegetation! CO2 capturing trees and bushes.
39. We have so much room for much more vegetation! CO2 capturing trees and bushes for play and maybe a food forest, native water-wise plants for native bees and beauty...
40. This playground is getting much use but is old and very sad and needs to be updated.
41. Would be nice with some seating close to the playground.
42. Very old trees in this park, there should be a variety of new trees planted here for when the old ones go. And to provide a bit of shade around the playground. This could be a natural playground instead of the old sad one that is here now.
43. Always nice with picnic tables near playgrounds!
44. We have so much room for much more vegetation! CO2 capturing trees and bushes for play and maybe a food forest, native water-wise plants for native bees and beauty...
45. We have so much room for much more vegetation! CO2 capturing trees and bushes for play and maybe a food forest, native water-wise plants for native bees and beauty...
46. We have so much room for much more vegetation! CO2 capturing trees and bushes for play and maybe a food forest, native water-wise plants for native bees and beauty...
47. We have so much room for much more vegetation! CO2 capturing trees and bushes for play.
48. We have so much room for much more vegetation! CO2 capturing trees and bushes for play and maybe a food forest, native water-wise plants for native bees and beauty...
49. We have so much room for much more vegetation in this off leash park! CO2 capturing trees and bushes for play and maybe a food forest, native water-wise plants for native bees and beauty...
50. Community garden in here somewhere!
51. A bike path all along here, under Sarcee to Ranchlands and all the way along John Laurie to Shaganappi
52. Skate park!
53. Would love to see a little stage for small performances back here somewhere!
54. Make this parking lot a bit greener!
55. Some place in this community centre to sit and enjoy an ice cream.
56. The City should stop mowing the grass along the north side of path. Some of us would like to plant flowers here but they are always mowed down.
57. A proper hockey/skating rink that could double as basketball courts in summer.
58. Vegetation & green space, benches

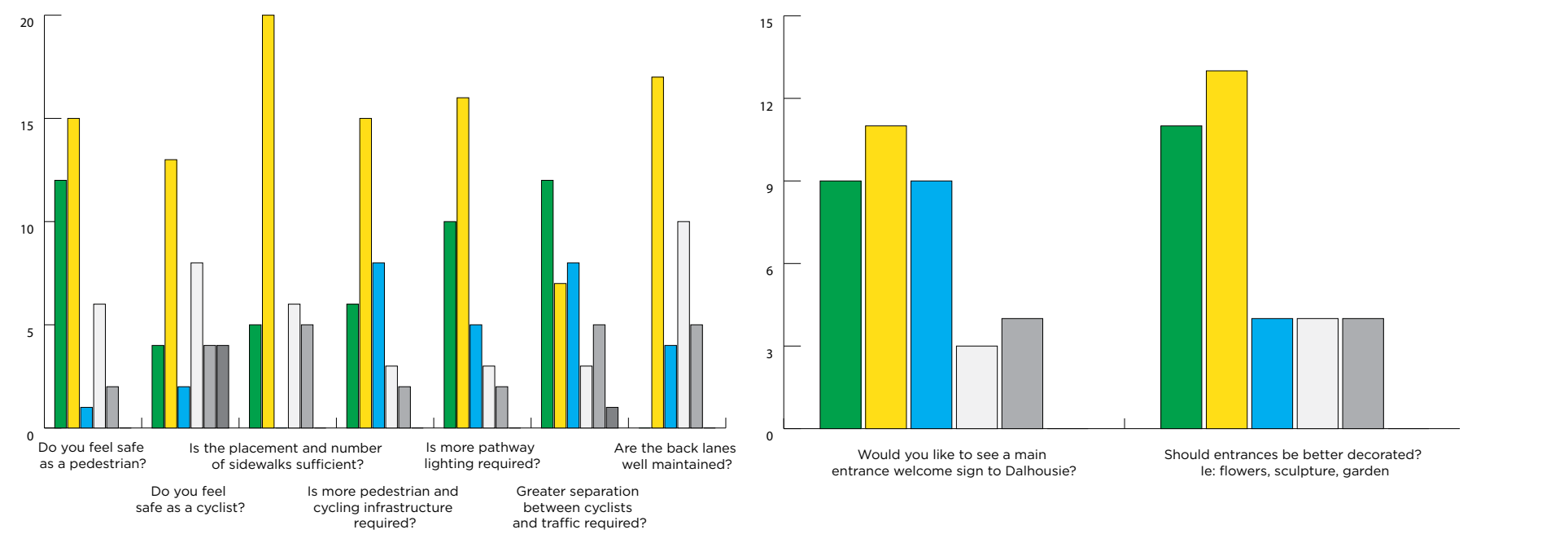


Activity 2: Survey results



Connections to other neighborhoods

Pathway infrastructure



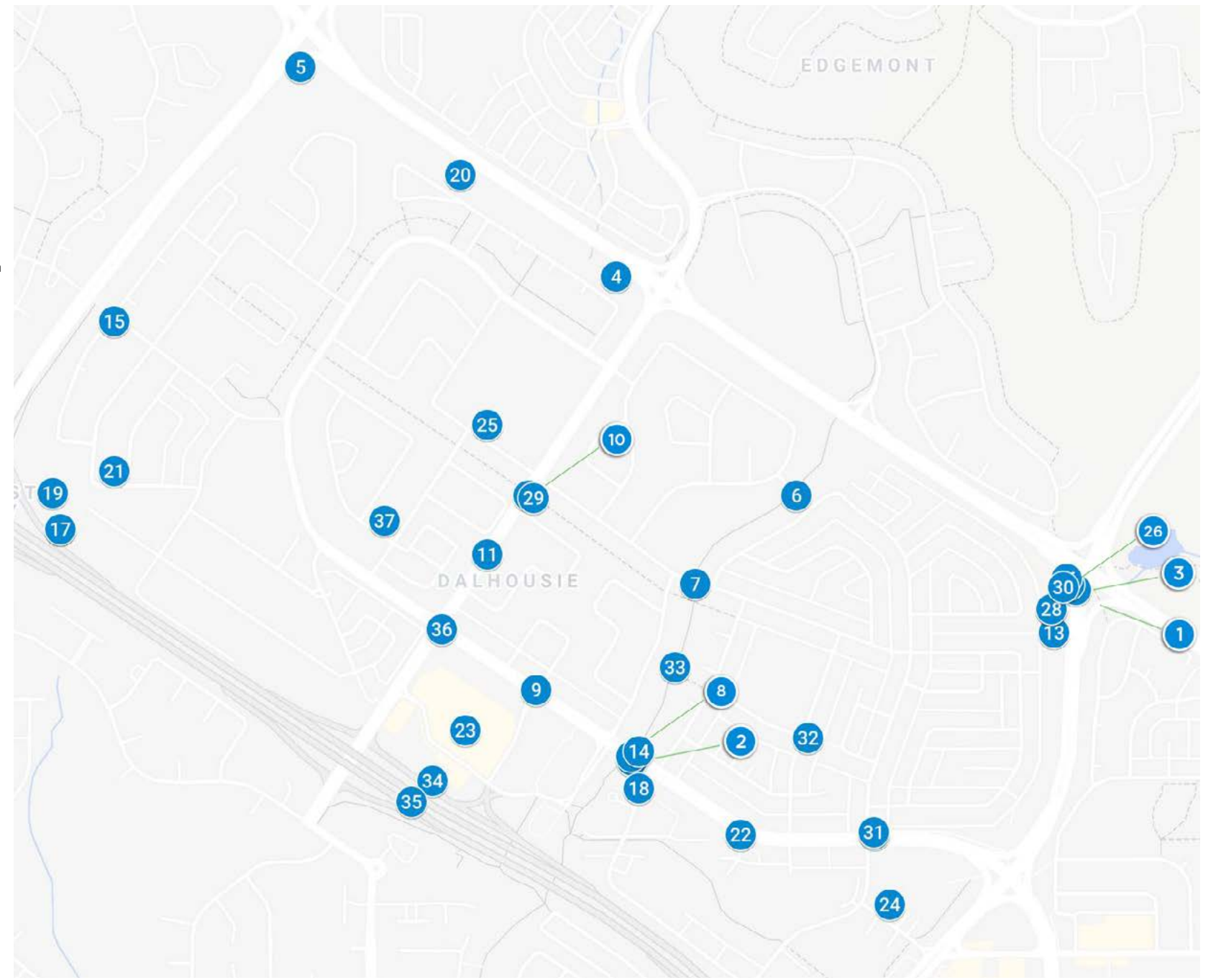
Off-leash dog parks

Welcome signs in the community

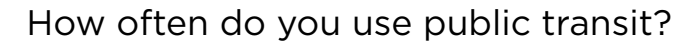
Activity 2: Map exercise

Resident comments match numbers on the map

- Why not have a pathway that runs under John Laurie from Dalhousie to Nose Hill? Heck, why not have a connector that links Dalhousie, Brentwood, Edgemont and Nose Hill under John Laurie!
- Like someone else has mentioned before me, it would be great to have an underpass here!
- Agreeing with Travis, a well-lit underpass in this intersection that could help pedestrians and bikers move easily and safely between NoseHill/Edgemont/Brentwood/Dalhousie would be amazing! Also, proper maintained bike paths in all directions would encourage movement during all seasons.
- Bike path through this dog park, continuing along John Laurie on the other side of 53rd St to Nose Hill. Bike/Walk underpass under 53rd, as there is fast turning traffic from John Laurie onto 53rd.
- Bike path through this dog park and underpass connecting Dalhousie to Ranchlands.
- Curb cuts narrow relative to pathway. No markings or signage to indicate bicycle & pedestrian crossing.
- The design, signage and regulation of pathway crossings throughout Dalhousie, including this one, is inconsistent with the multi-use function of pathways, which create ambiguity in right-of-way and even operation, particularly for cyclists interacting with drivers. Pathway intersections with streets should provide a clear functional framework for all intended uses.
- The pathway layout creates a popular "desire line" for active travel and pathway users often cross mid-block. This crossing should be formalized, either as a well-built surface crossing, or grade-separated.
- The traffic signals are substantially biased to east-west traffic on Dalhousie Drive, resulting in long waits for community members travelling by foot between the residential area and Dalhousie Station, even when there are significant gaps in vehicle traffic.
- There is no direct multi-use connection across 53rd Street for residents cycling or walking along the east-west regional pathway.
- There is a significant distance between Dalhousie Drive and Dalhart Road. Residents wishing to cross must travel a long ways to the signalized crossings north or south, potentially creating a barrier to intracommunity travel.
- There is not any real guidance for residents travelling by bike to access or egress the pathway from or to the streets in any safe or predictable manner.
- There is a path worn into the hill to get from Dalhousie to Nose Hill Park, but no official path at all. It is not maintained at all. We need a formal pathway here to make access to Nose Hill easier and safer.
- Definitely this is a problem. The pathway on either side of Dalhousie Drive just stops and users have to either race across the street or make a large detour.
- Current traffic direction, Stop sign for E/W traffic and right of way to N/S bound traffic is dangerous for cyclists proceeding West and East bound on 66ht avenue through the bus trap under Sarcee trail. Frequent encounters with both cyclists and motorists disregarding the stop sign and right of way create a dangerous point.
- it would be nice to create a pathway walking from Crowchild West to north of Sarcee Trail. It is beautiful sunset if you walk in the afternoon
- it would be nice to create a pathway walking from Crowchild West to north of Sarcee Trail. It is beautiful sunset if you walk in the afternoon needs an underpass
- Needs connection from Baroc Rd to Sarcee Trail pathways
- Needs perimeter pathway between road and fence line.
- better lighting on back alley pathways
- This section of Dalhousie Drive is a signed bike route, but is nowhere near a sufficient standard to be safe and comfortable for all users as per the City's 5A Cycling Network objective.
- Dalhousie station needs more bike racks positioned around the complex.
- Co-op and Canadian Tire need more good quality bike racks distributed around complex.
- School and Community Centre need better quality bike racks. Current racks are old-style and difficult to lock bikes to securely.
- Adding a paved pathway between the alleyway and intersection crossing, where the current two 'goat trails' are would improve access especially when it is wet and muddy. It is quite the precarious transition coming from the west onto the hillside trail on my bicycle, lots of side sliding.
- "100% need a real path here"
- "100% need a real path here"
- Would be great to be able to smoothly continue on the bike path here, maybe an underpass under 53rd
- better and more formal pathway to this entrance. Connected to the regional pathway system.
- Expand one of the sidewalks to continue pathway until it connects with the regional pathway system. It just ends here and is unsafe. Addition or bike lane or other mechanism to provide safe travel by bikes is needed.
- This is a fairly hard entrance to the road and is dangerous. Something should be done to make it easier to enter and cross the street
- clearing of major pathways is not always quick and this makes for an unreliable pathway.
- More and better bike racks needed for this mall area.
- Sidewalks are not connected to allow for safe travel to all stores. A bit more sidewalk is needed.
- Cycling up and down 53rd is a very busy road these days and can be narrow in parts
- "The pathways that replace alleys in Dalhousie provide a safer, quieter way for pedestrians (including children, the disabled and elderly) to travel throughout the community. Not only is this the best way it is often the only way as not all streets have sidewalks across the front of properties. In keeping with the City's claim to want to make mobility better for all, we need to find a way to encourage residents to maintain their property next to pathways and the pathway itself including keeping them clear of snow, leaves and debris and overhanging trees and encourage them not to build fences right up to the edge of the pathway turning pathways into cattle chutes. Because most pathways border more than one residence this should not be onerous for residents as they can share the work with neighbors.
- Whenever I ask the city about the responsibility of residents keeping pathways clear they state the bylaw that all residents must keep sidewalks bordering their property clear. Does Dalhousie have an exemption? If so why and if not, why is the bylaw not enforced?"



Activity 3: Survey results



Activity 3 Map exercise

[illegible]

Activity 4 results

Keeping this in mind, tell us about the kinds of residential development, businesses and/or policy that you would like to see.



"Community gardens have shown to have so many benefits - sharing of gardening skills and knowledge, building community and friendships, a way for immigrants to learn English, for school children to experience where their food is coming from and eat healthier, for lonely seniors to meet others, fresh local and organic vegetables, increase level of sustainability, exercise. Weekdays daytime they can work as outdoor classroom, evenings and weekends a community garden. The young professionals come here with their children to visit on the weekend, or to get their hands dirty in the soil. We even have a greenhouse or dome to be able to garden earlier, and later. There are not only fruits and vegetables grown here, but all kinds of fruit trees and bushes with edible berries. This is extra beneficial for low income families during the growing season."

One great thing about living in Dalhousie in 2035, is that we have a green EV car sharing fleet for those times when you want to take your work friends and leave the city. Many people still have their own cars of course, but this is a great alternative for those people who prefer not to. It is also a great alternative to the “second car”.

Activity 5 results

Beyond that, please feel free to tell a story, add a picture or anything else that you feel would help to make your point.

2) Who you think would benefit the most from it



Fitness parks

"The current rink is suitable for skating, but it would be great to see the rink behind the DCA equipped for hockey and ice games each winter.

Other communities have been using their rinks non-stop and we think that an addition to what's already in that space would draw more residents out. I think that this would be a great addition to the community for families with young children who are learning how to ice skate during the day, and for teens to play more structured hockey games at night. In the summer, the space would serve well for roller hockey for the community or the nearby school.

Having permanent benches and a fire pit nearby would provide additional space for community members to warm up between games, drink some hot chocolate, then continue their skate!"

- Organized street events to get local neighbours out talking. Closing off streets or sections of streets to host neighbours getting out to meet each other.

- Block parties need to make a comeback! There's nothing more fun than having neighbors from a single street all out at once, enjoying a BBQ, conversation and a little music.

- While this doesn't involve the three stated areas for amenities, I'll add this anyway. I'd love to see actual pathways (paved and maintained during winter) encircling Dalhousie. I realize a pathway on the south side would likely need to mostly use existing sidewalks or pathways but otherwise, the other areas are great off-leash areas for dogs but they become incredibly slippery or muddy at certain times throughout the year and maintained pathways would be much-appreciated.

- A paved perimeter pathway system around Dalhousie - I'd love to see actual pathways (paved and maintained during winter) encircling Dalhousie, in the green spaces directly south of John Laurie and to the east of Sarcee, west of Shaganappi and north of Crowchild (wherever space permits).

New playground equipment in Dalton Park!



The future layers of
Dalhousie

By Zhuxuan Ma and Travis Dickie