

Summary of Engagement

Amendments to the Beltline Area Redevelopment Plan

From 2021 November to 2022 May, a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) including multiple business units and departments from Administration began background research, policy formation and identified public, community and industry groups who would be impacted by City decisions. A project website was set up to communicate the timelines, share drafts of the plan and direct members of the public to stay connected and share feedback with the project team.

In 2022 May, the first draft of the proposed amendments was shared with these groups, including the Beltline Neighbourhoods Association (BNA), Beltline Business Improvement Area (BIA), Victoria Park BIA, 17 Avenue BIA, Federation of Calgary Communities, Calgary Municipal Land Corporation, Calgary Stampede, BILD Calgary Region, Calgary Inner City Builders Association, NAIOP and Calgary Board of Education. On 2022 July 7, this same draft was presented to Calgary Planning Commission (CPC) in Closed Session (CPC2022-0455). The cover report and first draft of the Beltline Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP) (including Chapters 1 to 5 and 9, with guiding questions for the revised Chapters 6 to 8 and the Beltline Parks and Public Realm Playbook) were accepted for information and additional feedback was provided by CPC members.

The TAC team took the feedback from the public, community/industry members and CPC and incorporated changes to the plan. The second draft of the ARP (including all chapters and appendices) was shared with the same people and groups through 2022 August and September and the changes made were communicated back to the impacted parties.

Based on feedback from the TAC team and other members of Administration in November 2022, the Playbook was removed as an Appendix to the ARP and turned into a standalone non-statutory document. This new format did not change the spirit or intent of the ARP amendments or Playbook but provided enhanced usability and clarity on both documents. This required further internal and external engagement and a complete re-write of Chapter 6 and Appendix B, which were shared through a third and fourth round of drafts in 2023 June and 2023 December. During this time, the three-or-more bedroom unit incentive policy was further refined and new language added relating to Indigenous placemaking, naming, landscaping design and cultural spaces in the ARP area which responded to the feedback received by Administration from the industry and community groups.

Beltline Parks and Public Realm Playbook

In 2020, the BNA and Administration identified the need for a technical analysis of Beltline parks and public realm to arrive at data and research-driven recommendations to increase, enhance and improve the open space network within Beltline. The BNA worked with their local Councillor and advocated for funds to pay for this research. To support this work, a cross-departmental City of Calgary advisory group was created; this group included a BNA representative, given their role in launching this work with Administration.

This advisory group:

- advised on alignment with City direction, practices and local context;
- provided data and research suggestions;
- reviewed the communication of the analysis results; and
- critiqued the presentation of ideas and recommendations.

The Playbook was then circulated internally to various departments within Administration to review the direction for clarity, relevance and alignment. This opportunity was also provided to the BNA Planning Committee. All direction within the Playbook reflects the findings in the quantitative analysis and qualitative research that was performed and follows existing approved City direction.

The Playbook is intended to identify park and public realm needs using the latest data available. Best practice and other qualitative research then provide direction for how to address those needs. Further public engagement is required before any improvements and investments are made.