

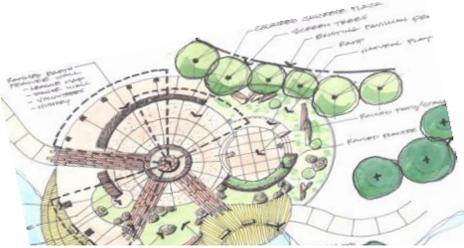
# What the Project is

## And why it is important



### 100 YEARS of COMMUNITY

### Celebration – EFCL 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Project – Hawrelak Park Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues



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#### **We are Celebrating!**

To honour 100 years of community volunteerism, the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues (EFCL) is building a new amenity in Hawrelak Park to gift to the residents and visitors of Edmonton.

#### **We are building the Community League Plaza.**

The EFCL is the support organization for the 159 Community Leagues across the four corners of the city that provide recreation, facility, program and advocacy services for all residents. To celebrate the achievements of one of the largest ongoing volunteer teams, the EFCL is building a Community League Plaza, a restored stream feature, an upgraded scenic pedestrian pathway system and other amenities to commemorate this great contribution.

#### **We envision it to be...**

A new space for neighbours and visitors to meet year-round with places to sit, look out over the water, enjoy the fireplace, the natural setting, the local artwork and the community league story. A place that will enrich your knowledge of our current community league culture and let you be inspired by the stories from our past. Pedestrian trails will meander through the trees, over the restored stream, and surprise you with what you will find around the next corner.

#### **We have a collaborative funding approach...**

This project has gathered the financial support from all our member community leagues, all three levels of government, our organizational and corporate community supporters as well as passionate individuals. We have allocated a portion of the budget for a legacy endowment fund to ensure this new development will remain attractive, current and relevant into the future.

#### **The EFCL 100th Anniversary Project consists of three distinct components.**

**Community League Plaza** – Located on the south east corner of the lake, this is an all-season gathering area for small scale events, and the primary place of information about the unique network of community leagues in Edmonton. Plans include showing a map of the city, location of individual community leagues, their incorporation date and room to grow as more leagues join in the future. A central fireplace will be the prominent feature, with areas to sit, engage in an activity, have a picnic, or simply enjoy the nature and beauty of the natural surroundings.

**Restored Natural Stream.** – Located along side of the Community League Plaza, is an under-utilized, neglected existing stream feature that has not been fully operational and therefore has been of little benefit to the community. Our project plans to significantly upgrade and enhance this stream to realize its full potential as a memorable,

appreciated and cherished park feature. Upgraded infrastructure to the pumping mechanisms, the stream edge, landscaping and features will increase the functional, visual and aesthetic appeal. Visitors will enjoy a naturalized waterfall feature, upgraded bridge or stone pedestrian crossings and intentional view points, designed to facilitate an enjoyable experience in nature.

**Pathways and Art features** - Located along the stream, new pedestrian pathways will connect the Community League Plaza with the pathways to the boathouse, the ring road to the pedestrian bridge, the amphitheatre that leads to the main parking lot and the upper pond. This tranquil pond is adjacent to a greenspace that extends to washrooms and the existing child's playground area. Encouraging the pedestrian flow through the park, this pathway offers points of interest, artwork, historic information, seating, healthy light exercise, picture taking view spots in a lovely natural environment enhancing the glory of our rich river valley landscapes.

### **Why are we doing this in Hawrelak Park?**

This location is a central site within Edmonton to access. Hawrelak Park hosts thousands of visitors each year and will continue to do so for many years to come. In consultation with city administrators it was identified as an underutilized area that could benefit from restoration, such as the largely unused stream feature. Here we could make a great contribution worthy of the historic contribution we endeavour to honour. In this beautiful river valley, we proposed the vision of creating an attractive useful amenity and at the same time establish a lasting tribute that will also encourage new inspiration and connection to our valued community league system to keep it strong and thriving.

### **Why is this important to do?**

As you may well know, Edmonton was the first city nationally to adopt a community league system. Today we are well known internationally as a model for a community engagement system that has had a profoundly positive effect on the quality of life for our residents. Edmonton residents enjoy an unparalleled level of amenities, services, and programs locally because of the passionate efforts of community league volunteers.

Right now, we know that community leagues are struggling with increased regulation and complexity in every service they provide, and they are challenged with an overburdened volunteer pool. This project is an attempt to give some very worthy recognition for 100 years of volunteer service and to promote and inspire future generations to stay engaged in community matters.

*When we celebrate who we are,  
we inspire and shape who we want to be.*

### **What you can do to support Community Leagues for the future?**

Community Leagues have touched the lives of everyone in our city at some point. Through the friendships and memories made, the programs and facilities offered, and when needed, to speak on behalf of our collective voice. You can help us reconnect with each other, with our history and with our community pride through your donation.

## **We want to tell this story in the most inspiring way possible**

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### **Why is showing our history important?**

It will be the only display of its kind in Edmonton depicting city history from this perspective and the EFCL respects the magnitude and the honour of this responsibility. We expect the result will be riveting information told in a way to inspire, educate and ignite the community spirit of all those who visit the EFCL 100th Anniversary Project in Hawrelak park.

This project has the potential to affect how all of Edmonton, and all of the visitors to Edmonton and Edmonton's Hawrelak park, will understand the culture of community that has built a network of community engagement that is envied internationally and that has taken 100 years to grow. This story of community leagues encompasses many organizations that have been born through the community league movement such as the minor soccer associations, minor hockey associations, community ringette associations, Boysdale Summer Camp, Neighbourhood Watch and many others. Community Leagues have touched the lives of everyone in our city at some point and we want to tell the story of the memories made in the best way possible. Done right, telling that story will properly honour the volunteers from the past and it will benefit the volunteers and civil servants of our present and future by encouraging volunteerism and community engagement. The EFCL feels that encouraging volunteerism and community engagement is of paramount importance and benefit to all the citizens of the city and the province of Alberta.

EFCL is creating a space to understand our community league heritage and by creating this space of honour we are modelling to our future citizens the value we hold for the effort, commitment and spirit of those volunteers from our past. This new amenity in William Hawrelak Park will encourage fun, enjoyment of nature, being together with friends in recreation and, at the same time, integrate into our everyday life the respect of 100 years of past volunteer contributions.

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