

Naturalization Fall 2026

What We Heard Report Summary: Windermere

PROJECT UPDATE: City-led planting in Windermere is paused for 2026, pending further technical review. This engagement summary captures feedback heard during engagement.

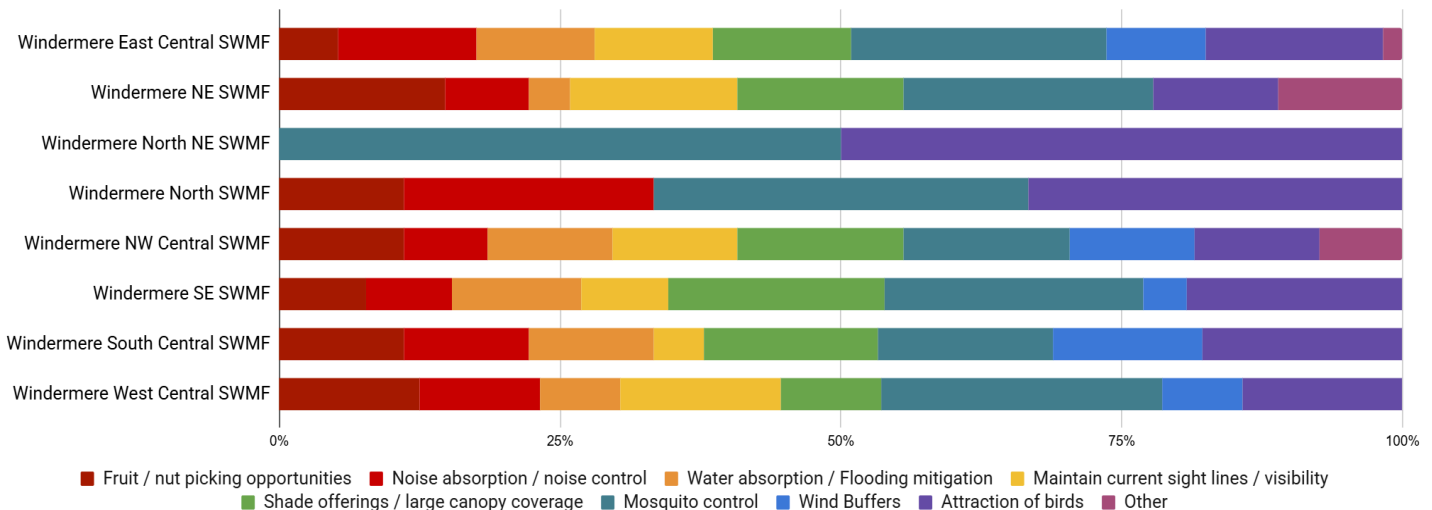
Introduction

The Naturalization Program supports the City's goal to expand our urban forest by planting two million new trees by 2030 and achieve 20% canopy coverage by 2071. This program offers numerous benefits including flood mitigation, increased biodiversity, lower maintenance costs and improved temperature regulation. From April 7-26, 2026 feedback was gathered on eight 2026 naturalization planting sites in Windermere. Forty-two respondents provided 86 contributions on the Engaged Edmonton integrated map survey.

Priorities for Naturalization: Results

Respondents were asked to prioritize a variety of options to help shape new naturalized sites.

What are your top priorities for naturalizing this site?



Six respondents provided feedback through the 'Other' option and their comments are summarized below.

- Focus on maintenance and upkeep including trimming, weeding, mulching and replacing dead trees
- Preserve the current site layout without additional plantings
- Maintain sightlines
- Concern about reduction of property values

Open-Ended Feedback and Actions

Respondents were asked to share additional information about site conditions and usage. Site-specific feedback is summarized below along with how the City applied insights to inform actions for the upcoming plantings.

Respondent Feedback	City Action
Windermere East Central SWMF	
→ Large dog meet-up place → High traffic walking path → Sledding hills are located behind the townhomes → Problem with thistles overgrowing	→ Tree selection and placement will consider meet-up places used by residents and pets. → A mowed buffer strip will continue to be maintained on both sides of the pathway. → The planting area will not affect the sledding areas. → Weed control is performed prior to planting, during tree and shrub establishment and ongoing in established naturalization areas.
Windermere NW Central SWMF	
→ Little shade on walking trails → Has a small playground nearby; concerns about attracting wildlife that would interact with children playing	→ The trees planted near trails will help provide shade to those using walking trails. → The distance between the planting areas and the playground exceeds the required distance mandated in the City of Edmonton Design and Construction Standards. → Sightlines around playgrounds will be maintained.
Windermere SE SWMF	
→ Little shade on walking trails	→ The trees planted near trails will help provide shade for those using walking trails.
Windermere South Centre SWMF	
→ Little shade on walking trails → High traffic noise from Wright Drive SW	→ The trees planted near trails will help provide shade for those using walking trails. → Trees and shrubs will help reduce noise from Wright Drive SW.
Windermere West Central SWMF	
→ Frequent use of trails, high volume of dogs → Problem with thistles overgrowing	→ Tree selection and placement will consider usage by residents and pets. → Weed control is performed prior to planting, during tree and shrub establishment and ongoing in established naturalization areas.

Next Steps

The City is finalizing technical plans to deliver sustainable, climate-resilient green spaces by integrating public feedback with ecological requirements, such as soil conditions and utility protection. Plans will reflect community-identified priorities, where feasible, while maintaining the program's long-term sustainability goals. Naturalization planting across the City is scheduled to begin in Fall 2026.

Want to learn more? Please see engaged.edmonton.ca/naturalizationplantingsites for the full What We Heard Report. The Naturalization Project Team would like to thank everyone who participated in this engagement process.