

2025 Naturalization Fall Plantings Survey Results

Parks & Roads Services Branch
City Operations

INTRODUCTION

As part of the “Greener As We Grow” commitment in The City Plan, the City of Edmonton is working to plant a total of 2 million trees and shrubs by 2030. Greener As We Grow puts Edmontonians at the forefront of two important trends for our region—continuing to develop a healthy city, while also paying attention to protecting and enhancing our land, air, water and biodiversity. One of the ways the City does this is through naturalization. Naturalization is a process that transforms a manicured landscape into one reflective of the natural region. Responsible parkland care means sustainable practices that contribute to a healthy, climate-resilient, livable city for generations to come. Naturalization helps preserve and celebrate the natural plant and animal species found in our region.

In Fall 2025, the naturalization program conducted engagement with nearby residents to better understand their usage of three proposed planting sites:





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Kernohan Top of Bank Southeast



Rundle Park 30th Street





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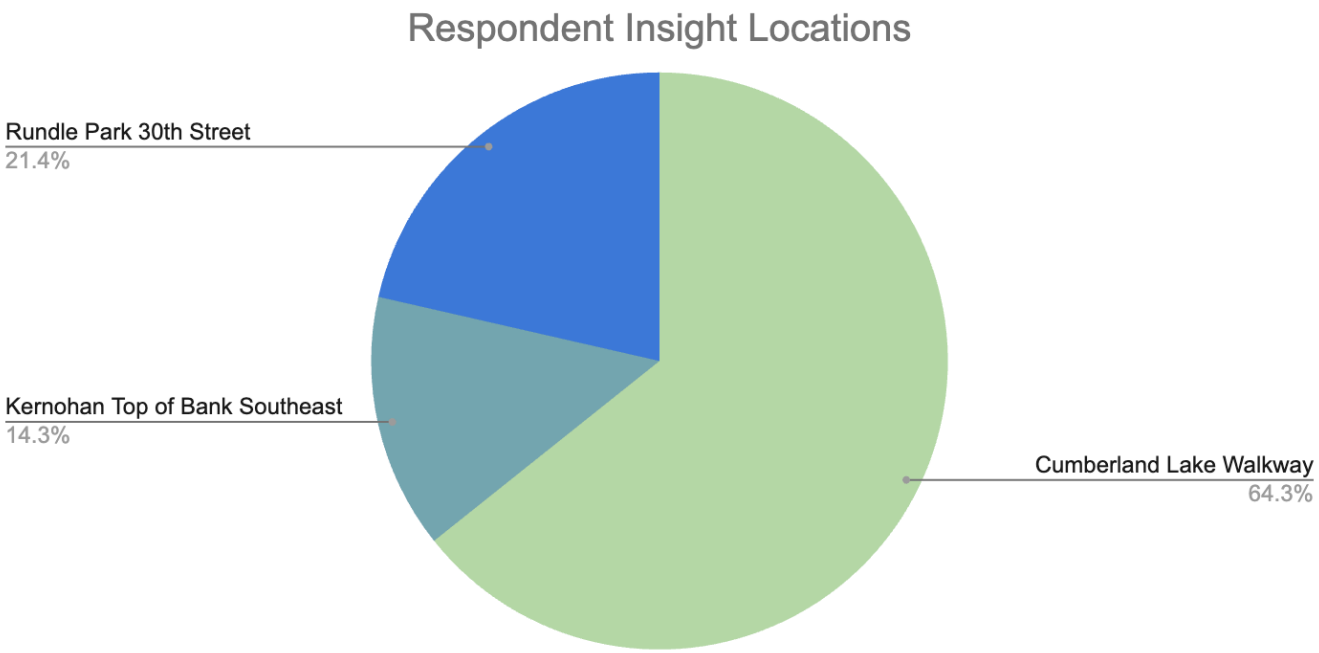
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How We Engaged

An online survey with an interactive map of the three proposed planting areas was posted on Engaged Edmonton from July 18 to August 8, 2025. The survey was promoted through neighbourhood signs, including entrance roadways and emails to the following Community Leagues representing the proposed planting areas:

- Beverly Heights Community League
- Cumberland Oxford Community League
- South Clareview Community Leagues

There were a total of 14 individual respondents across the three planting areas.





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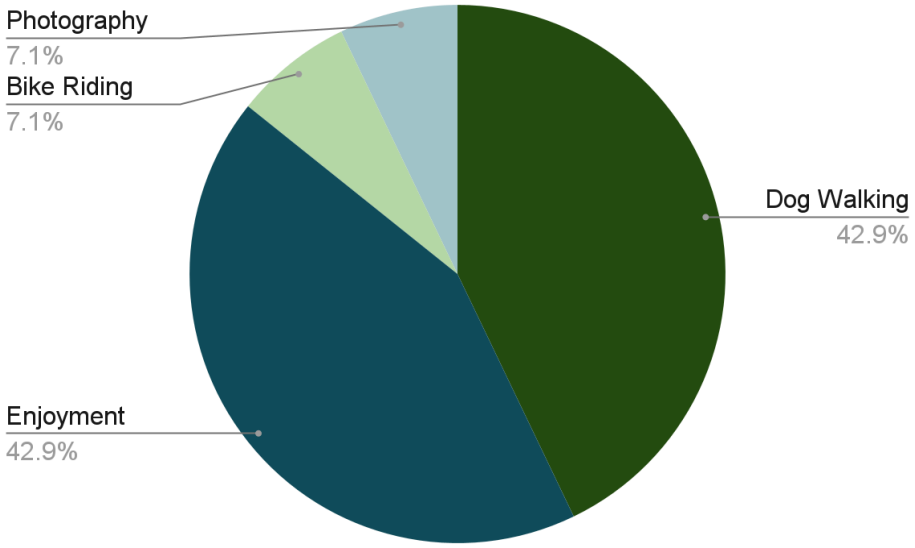
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What We Heard

What are the core uses of these planting areas?

We asked residents how they use these areas to get a sense of how to balance additional trees and shrubs while still ensuring parkland is usable. The majority of respondents make use of these parklands for dog walking and general enjoyment of nature, with a smaller percentage utilizing the space for photography and bike riding.



What impacts would naturalization have on our experience of these areas?

Survey respondents were asked what impacts they may experience should the naturalization plantings go ahead. Respondents did not indicate any negative impacts and were generally supportive of developing more natural features in these areas.

Community League representatives shared some insights based on their interactions with residents on naturalization practices and were generally positive and supportive of more natural features in parkland spaces.

Are there any considerations that the Naturalization Team should take into account?

Respondents provided preferences and considerations for the naturalization plan to consider. These included that trees and shrubs should be:

- Planted in a way that can offer shade to those enjoying the parkland for recreation
- Planted in a way that grasses will not overpower them (i.e., the shrubs disappearing into long grasses)
- Native to the region
- Fruit-bearing
- A blend of deciduous and evergreens
- Support wildlife, such as bees and butterflies



- Planted to still have enough space for short-grasses for recreation purposes and prevention of ticks biting humans and pets
- Planted to still allow for walkways
- Be placed in a way that blocks the view of a refinery facility (specific to Kernohan Park).

Next Steps

The Naturalization program considered the feedback gathered as part of this engagement along with other technical and environmental factors and will proceed with the proposed planting in Cumberland Lake Walkway, Kernohan Top of Bank Southeast and Rundle Park 30th Street in Fall 2025. The naturalization team thanks all participants for taking the time to complete the survey and sharing their perspectives.