



What We Heard Report

Killamey Park Improvements

September 4, 2026

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Executive Summary

We're planning the future of Killarney Park, the existing park space located just south of the Killarney Aquatic & Recreation Centre (19 Avenue S.W., between 29 and 30 Street), by building new and improved spaces where everyone in the community can play, socialize, relax and gather. This report summarizes the feedback received during engagement, which took place from **July 13 – August 3, 2026**.

The Goal

Engagement sought to understand participant preferences for the park's hard court, active fitness amenities, seating and gathering spaces, and additional recreation and landscape features. Participants were also invited to share broader ideas, concerns and considerations to help inform the preferred park concept.

Feedback

- A multi-sport court was the most selected hard-court option.
- Outdoor fitness equipment was the most selected active fitness amenity.
- Small-group seating was the most selected seating option.
- Shade structures were the most selected additional amenity, followed by open flexible green space and a pollinator garden.
- Common themes included support for year-round use, maintenance considerations, accessibility for different ages and abilities, and balancing new amenities with the park's natural and flexible spaces.

Tactics

Engagement tactics included: an online survey on the Engage webpage, which received 881 views, 574 visitors and 112 contributions. Two open houses were held in the park, two pop-ups in the surrounding community, and targeted outreach to local organizations.

Next Steps

The project team will consider engagement feedback alongside technical analysis, surrounding amenities, costs, City policies and applicable bylaws as the preferred concept is developed. In Fall 2026, the preferred concept and a What We Did Report will be shared, showing how public input influenced project decisions. Construction is anticipated for Spring to Fall 2027.



Project Background

The Killarney Park Improvements project focuses on enhancing the existing park space with opportunities to:

- Bring people together by creating spaces for community gathering, events, and everyday connection
- Offer a wider range of amenities so all ages can find ways to play, stay active, and enjoy the park
- Support nature by adding shade, trees, and features that support a healthy outdoor space
- Improve connections within the park and to surrounding pathways
- Plan for year-round activities that can be used in all seasons by people of all ages and abilities

To do this, we are exploring options to add new amenities, improve existing spaces, and update how the park is used overall.

Project Decision

By fall 2026, The City of Calgary will present the preferred concept option of Killarney Park, taking into consideration what we heard during engagement with the community, technical studies, analysis of surrounding amenities, and City policies and bylaws. The preferred concept will feature a multisport court, spaces for gathering, active fitness amenities, and additional amenities.

Timeline	Milestone
July – August, 2026	Public Engagement: Amenities and other considerations
September, 2026	What We Heard Report published.
Fall, 2026	Reveal: Present the preferred concept option to the public and interested/impacted parties and share how feedback from public engagement informed the concept.
Spring-Fall, 2027	Construction: The concept is brought to life through construction.

Table 1 Project Timeline

Engagement Overview

The following section provides an overview of public engagement, the objectives, approach, and timeline for the engagement process.

What is engagement at The City?

The public plays an important role in helping shape future improvements to Killarney Park. By sharing feedback on park amenities, gathering spaces, recreation opportunities, and other features, community members help the project team understand what is most important to park users. This input will be used to inform a preferred design concept that reflects community values and supports recreation, social connection, relaxation, and everyday use of the park.

Public input is collected, and considered along with other factors (such as cost, environmental impact, technical limitations, and long-range plans/goals) before decisions are made. Because of its open and accessible nature, engagement is virtually never positioned as the sole source of input into whether The City should do something but helps to ensure City decision-makers have access to a range of ideas and feedback. This feedback is not statistically representative of all Calgarians, and therefore in this report, participants will be referred to as participants or respondents and not Calgarians.

Engagement Objectives and Approach

The following objectives were developed to guide engagement and inform the preferred design concept for Killarney Park Improvements, focusing on areas where public input could meaningfully shape outcomes at this stage of the project:

- To understand community preferences for the proposed hard-court amenity and identify which option best supports recreation needs and park use.
- To gather feedback on the types of active recreation and fitness amenities that would provide the greatest benefit to park users of different ages, abilities, and interests.

- To identify preferred seating, gathering, and social connection features that support a welcoming and inclusive park experience.
- To understand which recreation, relaxation, and landscape amenities are most valued by the community and should be prioritized in future park improvements.
- To gather broader feedback on the park, including opportunities, concerns, and considerations that should inform the preferred design concept.

Engagement activities were designed to capture diverse perspectives from people with different connections to Killarney Park, including nearby residents, community members, park users, recreational users, and visitors to the area. To ensure broad participation and meaningful input, community members were invited to share their feedback through an online survey hosted on The City's Engage portal and at in-person engagement opportunities.



Communications and Advertising

To promote engagement opportunities and build awareness for the engagement period starting July 13, 2026, we implemented a variety of communication and marketing tactics, including:

- Three-week social media campaign on Facebook, Instagram, Nextdoor, BlueSky and Threads to introduce the Killarney Park Improvements project and invite community members to participate in engagement, both in-person and online.
- Targeted hand delivery of 600 printed postcards to adjacent residents in the Killarney-Glengarry community, promoting engagement activities and events.
- An additional 600 postcards provided to Calgarians at community events, the Killarney Aquatic & Recreation Centre, Killarney-Glengarry Community Association, and the 50+ Members Club for their distribution, to further drive engagement.
- Two bold signs on major roadways in the project area during the three-week engagement period. Informative engagement signage at the Killarney Park and Aquatic Centre sites.
- Communications toolkits for the Ward 8 Councillor, Killarney-Glengarry Community Association, and the Killarney Aquatic & Recreation Centre.
- Promotional 8.5 x 11” poster for printing by the Ward 8 Councillor’s office, Killarney-Glengarry Community Association, and community groups.

Audience and Tactic	Date	Participation number
Online portal page	July 13, 2026 – August 3, 2026	112
Open House: Killarney Park	July 15, 2026	165
Pop-Up: Good Companions 50 Plus Club	July 21, 2026	32
Pop-Up: Killarney-Glengarry CA Farmer’s Market	July 22, 2026	42
Open House: Killarney Park	July 25, 2026	79

Table 2 Tactics and participation

What We Heard

Questions asked during engagement focused on the following key areas. The demographic information is summarized in [Appendix A](#).

- Community preference for upgraded hard court
- Community preference for active fitness amenities
- Community preference for gathering and seating spaces
- Community preference for additional amenities
- Additional considerations for the project team

The main engagement page with the complete list of questions asked is located at:

<https://engage.calgary.ca/KillarneyPark>

Hard Court

When asked which hard court participants preferred, the most selected option was the multi-sport court that accommodates a variety of sports, followed by the 3 x 3 basketball court and the tennis court.

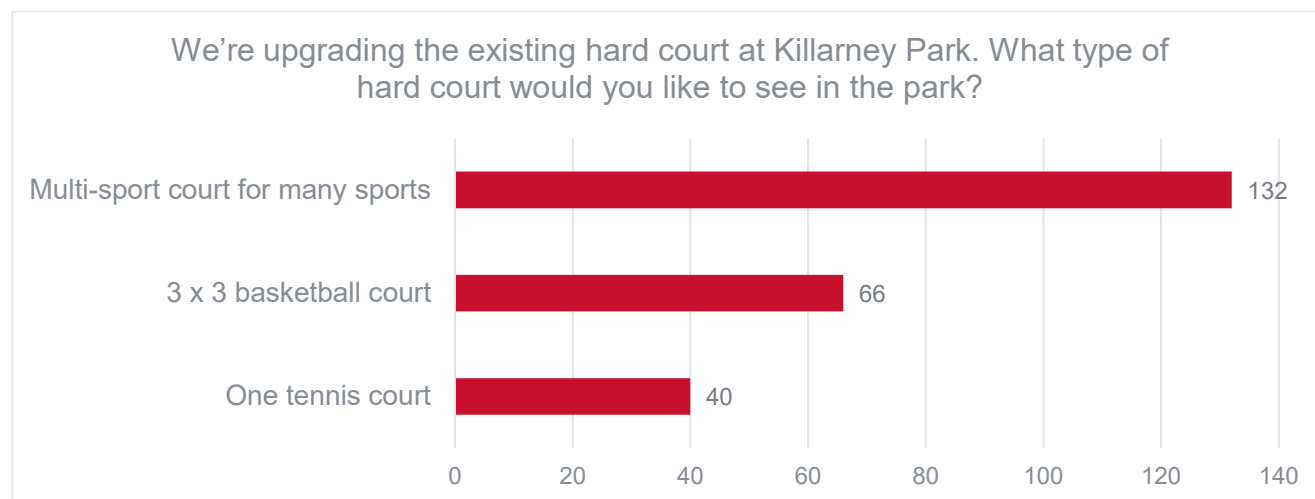


Figure 1 Hard court preference

Active Fitness Amenities

Participants were informed that we are looking to introduce additional opportunities for people to be active in the park that support a range of ages and activity levels. The most selected option was the outdoor fitness equipment followed by the structured climbing and balance play structure.

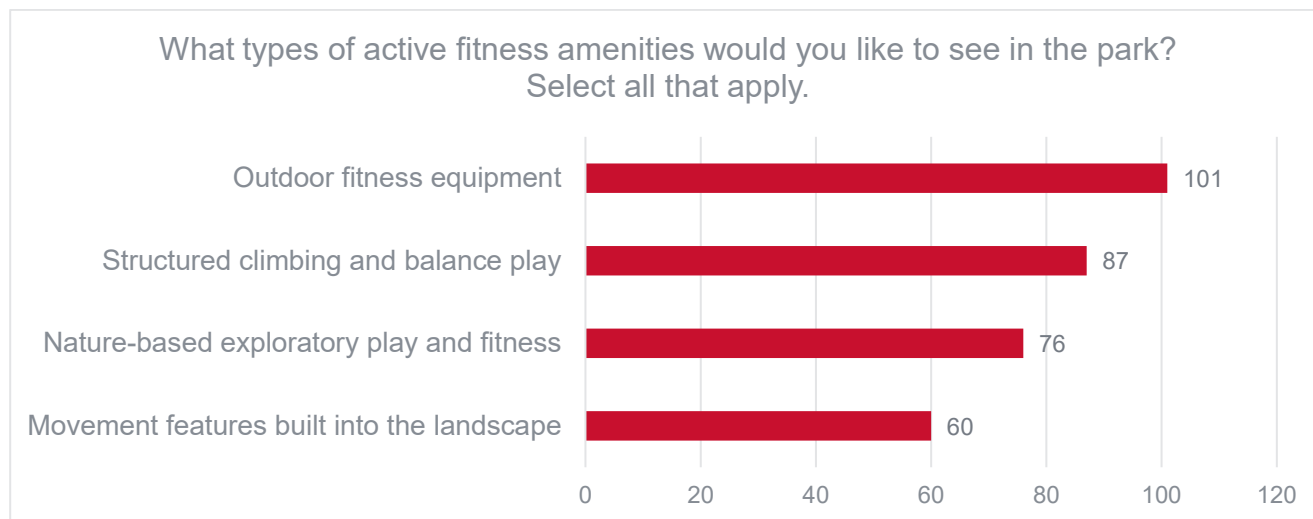


Figure 2 Active fitness preferences

Seating and Gathering Space

Participants were informed that we are looking to create seating that supports gathering and social connection for a range of park users, with the highest selected option being small group seating, followed by feature seating for either small or large groups.

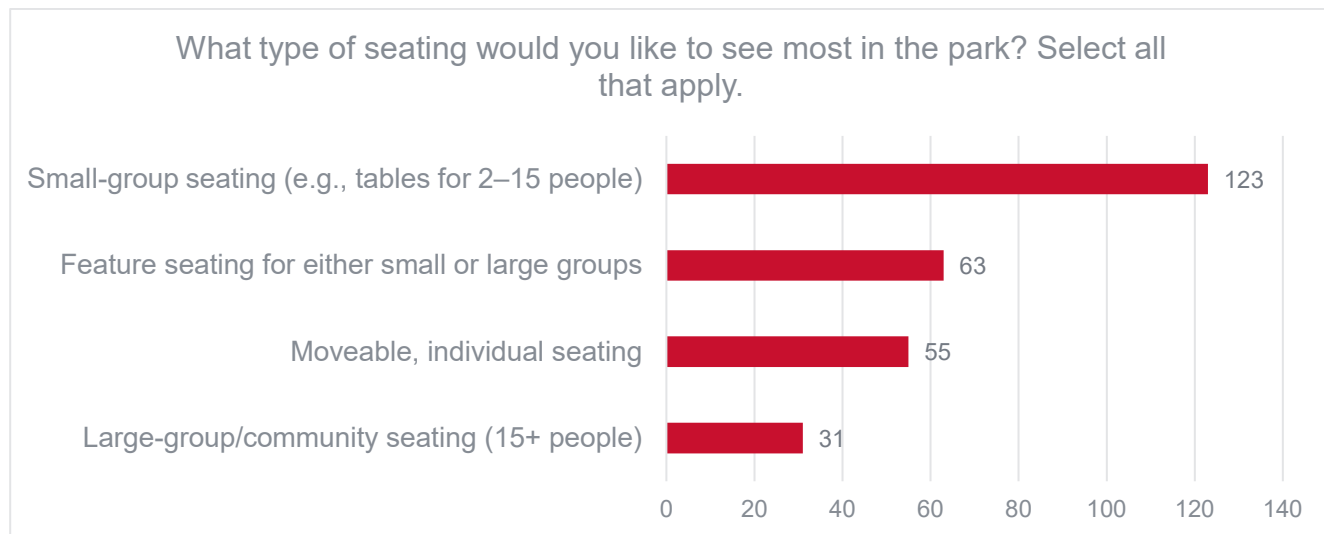


Figure 3 Seating preferences

Additional Amenities

Participants were asked about a variety of additional features that support recreation, relaxation, and time spent in the park. The top selected options included shades structures, flexible green space, pollinator garden, ping-pong table, and lawn games.

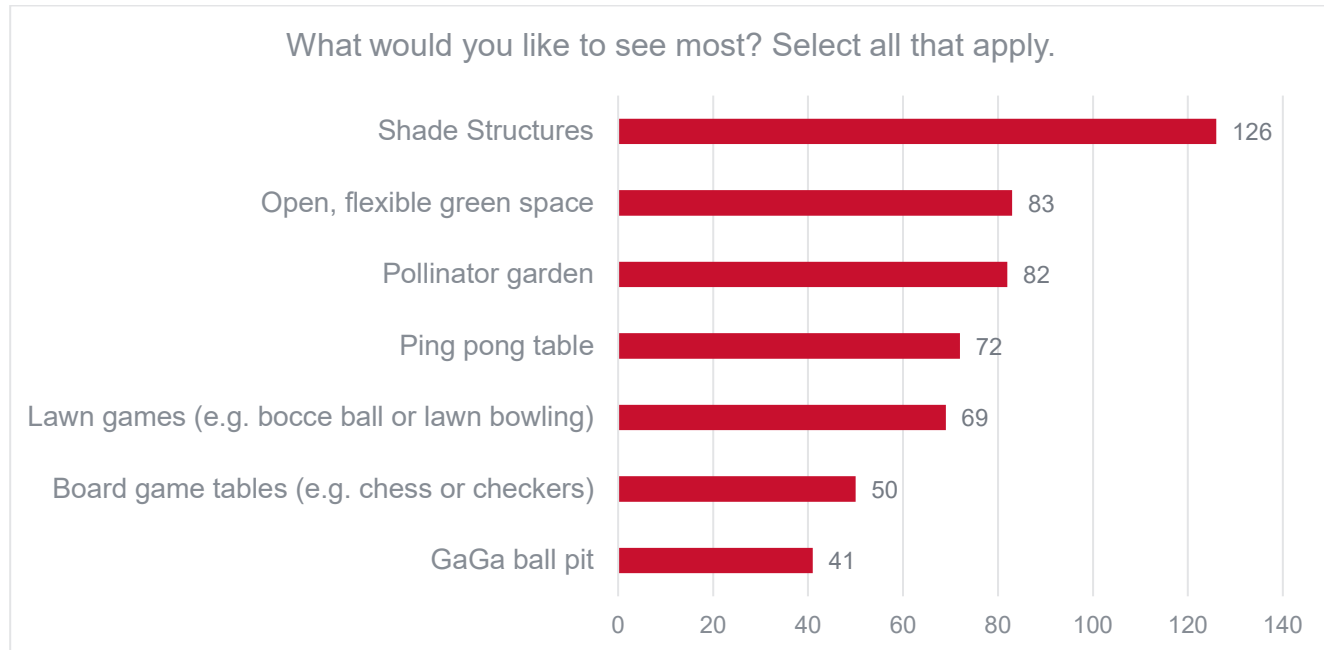


Figure 4 Additional amenity preferences

Do you have any additional ideas, thoughts, or considerations?

Participants shared a variety of additional comments and considerations related to the future of Killarney Park and the draft concept. The themes below reflect the most common topics raised through engagement, including opportunities, concerns, and suggestions for the park's future improvements. While this section highlights key themes, all comments received have been provided to the project team for consideration as the project moves forward.

Winter use of the park

Participants expressed an interest in amenities and programming that support winter activity. Suggestions included an outdoor ice rink integrated with the multi-sport court, as well as winter-focused features such as crokicurl, groomed cross-country trails, winter lighting, fire pits, and walking paths.

Participant Quotes

please keep the idea of making this park a year round destination. Bocce/lawn bowling can turn into crokicurl in the winter. Christmas lights and a walking path would be wonderful. [...]

If a multi sport court was installed, it would be amazing to see an ice rink in the wintertime for free skating and hockey.

Concerns about current or future park maintenance

Participants emphasized various maintenance needs, such as snow and ice removal, grass trimming, drainage issues, litter management, tree maintenance, and repairs to existing amenities including sports fields and playground areas. Concerns were raised about damage to park equipment, vandalism, aging infrastructure, and features that may require significant ongoing maintenance, with some suggesting the use of more resilient materials and designs to improve long-term upkeep.

Participant Quotes

Concerned about wooden benches falling apart. Benches must be durable

Please trim the grass as well. It's too big and there are so many mosquitoes here. And the play area is not cleaned. Less garbage bins and less sitting arrangements.

Support for the project

Participants expressed enthusiasm and support for the proposed park improvements, with many describing the project as exciting, welcome, and a positive investment in the community. They also expressed gratitude that improvements are being made to the park, describing the proposed concept as a positive step for the neighbourhood and future park users.

Participant Quotes

All of this is very exciting and we definitely need this in our neighborhood! I would say the multi sport court would be more beneficial than a single tennis court so it can accommodate more paddle sports like pickle balls and not just tennis.

Very grateful this is happening- long time Killarney resident who lives a block from the park and I walk through it everyday. I've been so excited to see it become so busy!

Importance of accessibility for all users and ages

Comments highlighted support for year-round activities and amenities that accommodate a range of ages and fitness levels, spaces for younger children, families, young adults, and older adults, and opportunities for adults to remain active while supervising children. Considerations related to accessibility and comfort, including access for people with limited mobility, seating for older adults, and amenities that encourage longer visits.

Participant Quotes

[...] My only suggestion when considering the upgrades to this park is making sure that people of all ages can use it. A space for kids and families to play, but also a space for young adults and people without kids to also feel welcome and like they belong in the space and have somewhere to sit, perhaps not right beside the playground either! [...]

I love the idea of an active-targeted park! Include year-round activities and encourage movement for all ages. There are many demographics in this community that should all feel like there is something for them at this park!

Desire to ensure the park is not over-developed

Comments emphasized preserving open green space, balancing natural areas with new features, limiting paving and hard infrastructure, and ensuring the park remains flexible for different types of use rather than being overly programmed or engineered. Participants also highlighted the value of trees, natural landscaping, shade, and opportunities for informal recreation.

Participant Quotes

Yes to more trees, pathway, and pollinator garden! Love so many of these ideas but don't want the park to become overcrowded with amenities either. So excited and cannot wait to see the final plan!

Keep it simple. I like the simple improvements with connectivity through the site

Additional Requested Features

Participants also requested a variety of additional amenities and features, the most commonly requested were:

- Trees
- Water features including fountains, splash pads & other water features
- Shade through either trees or built structures
- Ice rink
- Off-leash dog park, including fenced options
- Water fountain/refill station
- Pickleball courts
- Pump track or skatepark feature
- Improved lighting
- Picnic area

Participant Quotes

I think a Water Park would be nice, doesn't have to be big but just enough to cool our feet on hot days. then in winter it can be a skating rink, where people can still go out and get active, Or a Community garden where everyone is welcome to grow vegetables and herbs. Thank you.

I think adding trees to increase shade spots would be better than having shade structures. Also perhaps some firepits that could be used in the cooler months as well. For the pollinator garden, it would be beneficial to add dragonflies to keep the mosquito populations down.

Design considerations

Participants provided a variety of suggestions related to how the proposed improvements could be designed and built within the park. Feedback included considerations regarding the location and design of the hard court, gathering spaces, active fitness features, other recreational amenities, and pathways. These comments focused on how amenities could be arranged and integrated within the park to support accessibility, usability, and the overall park experience.

Participant Quotes

Would be great to have different height settings on tennis/multisport nets to allow for badminton/volleyball/etc.

Would be nice to have seating under shade structures

[...] I'm especially excited about adding outdoor fitness equipment because there aren't many places like that in Calgary. It would give people a chance to work out outdoors, enjoy the fresh air, and stay active without having to go to a gym. It would be great to include pull-up bars at different heights, dip bars, ab benches, and TRX stations. These additions would make the park more useful for people of all fitness levels.

Access and Traffic Safety

Participants also shared comments related to accessing the park and traffic safety, including vehicle speeds, access and entry points, bike lanes, crosswalks, and pedestrian connections to improve safety and access for people travelling to and from the park.

Participant Quotes

30 km/h must be maintained and better signed/enforced including cross walks. Currently about 80% of the cars driving by speed well over.

[...] My last thought is just on access to and from the park, looks like there will be a lot of path enhancements, but please make sure to mark crossings on 29 st!

Next Steps

In Fall 2026, the project team will share the preferred concept with the public and interested and impacted parties. At that time, a What We Did Report will also be released, explaining how community feedback influenced project decisions and helped shape the preferred concept.

Following completion of the design process, construction is anticipated to take place throughout 2027, bringing the approved park improvements to life and creating new opportunities for recreation, gathering, relaxation, and everyday use in Killarney Park.



Appendices

Appendix A: Verbatim comments and quotes

Verbatim comments and quotes, including all feedback, suggestions, comments and messages that were collected online and in-person through the engagement, are presented in their entirety in the Verbatim report. All input has been reviewed and provided to Project Teams to be considered in decision making for the project.

Any personal identifying information has been removed from the verbatim comments presented here. Comments or portions of comments that contain profanity, or that are not in compliance with The [City's Respectful Workplace Policy](#) or [Online Tool Moderation Practice](#), have also been removed from participant submissions.

Wherever possible the remainder of the submissions remains. No other edits to the feedback have been made, and the verbatim comments are as received. As a result, some of the content in this verbatim record may still be considered offensive or distasteful to some readers.

Appendix B: Explanation – Engagement at The City

"Engagement" at The City of Calgary is defined as: Purposeful dialogue between The City and citizens and interest-holders to gather information to influence decision making.

Engagement is:

- **Citizen-centric** - focusing on hearing the needs and voices of both directly impacted and indirectly impacted Calgarians.
- **Accountable** - upholding the commitments that The City makes to Calgarians and other interested and impacted parties by demonstrating that the results and outcomes of the engagement processes are consistent with the approved plans for engagement.
- **Inclusive** - making best efforts to reach, involve and hear from those who are impacted directly or indirectly.
- **Committed** - allocating sufficient time and resources for effective engagement of citizens and interest-holders.
- **Responsive** - acknowledging Calgarian's and other interested and impacted parties' concerns; and
- **Transparent** - providing clear and complete information around decision processes, procedures, and constraints.

The City's commitment to transparent and inclusive engagement processes is outlined in the [Engage Policy \(CS009\)](#).

Appendix C: Explanation – Research versus Engagement

Engagement is a professional discipline that incorporates a variety of methodologies to gather people's opinions and views on specific issues or topics, to provide information for decision making. Engagement often involves two-way dialogues or conversations with the objective of gaining a deeper understanding of the issues.

Unlike Research, Engagement opportunities are inclusive and usually open to all interested parties who would like to have a say about the issue or topic at hand. The outputs of Engagement activities are descriptive and provide a deeper understanding of the views and sentiments of the participants. The nature of these inclusive techniques mean that information collected is directional and, as with qualitative research, cannot be generalized to the larger population.

Engagement at The City of Calgary is defined as purposeful dialogue between The City and interest-holders to gather information to influence decision making. More specifically, the Engage Resource Unit works with project teams at The City to meet project needs and ensure citizens have their say about those projects.

The City has a six-step process for engagement with citizens:

1. Assess the need for engagement.
 2. Develop a plan – determine engagement roadmap and budget.
 3. Tell the story – create content to inform and educate interest-holders.
 4. Raise awareness – promote opportunities for interest-holders to participate.
 5. Connect – open opportunities for interest-holders to provide input.
 6. Report back and evaluate – loop back to share what was heard and what was done with stakeholder input.
-
- Unlike Research, Engagement opportunities are inclusive and usually open to all interested parties who would like to have a say about the issue or topic at hand. The outputs of Engagement activities are descriptive and provide a deeper understanding of the views and sentiments of the participants. The nature of these inclusive techniques mean that information collected is directional and, as with qualitative research, cannot be generalized to the larger population.
 - Engagement is not meant to be a representative sample of interest-holders while quantitative Research methodologies are designed so that the data collected from a randomly selected sample of individuals is considered to be statistically representative of the larger population.
 - Research seeks answers to questions that are important to The City and looks to represent the views of Calgary's population using analytical and statistical methods. Engagement seeks feedback on issues that are important to citizen groups and looks to reflect perspectives of those citizens that are most interested or impacted by City activities.