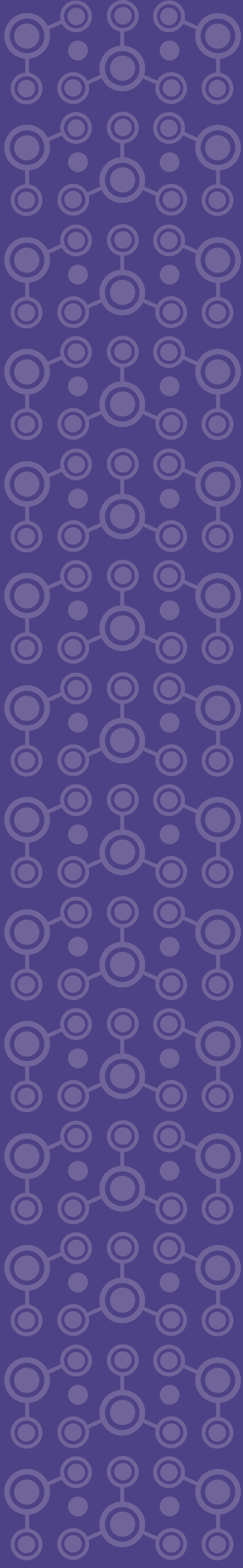


College Corridor Plan 2022 Engagement Summary

- Official Community Plan
- Plan for Growth
- Corridor Planning





In 2022, the City of Saskatoon (City) Corridor Planning team conducted community engagement and technical analysis on the **public realm** in the College Corridor Plan area. This built upon [earlier work in 2021 regarding land use and density](#) to determine potential public realm improvements that are desirable and feasible to support future development.

Public realm refers to the publicly accessible places and spaces that are intended to be accessed by everyone. Public realm includes an area’s **streetscape** (sidewalks, pathways, boulevards and the look and feel of the streets) and **open space** (green spaces, parks and recreation uses).

WHAT WE DID

The first round of public realm engagement in spring 2022 involved educating the community on public realm concepts and developing ideas for opportunities and challenges identified by the project team and the community. The second round in fall 2022 involved surveying the community on priorities and preferences for public realm improvements.

Engagement Activity	Dates
Round One - Approx. 200 participants	Feb-Jun 2022
Public meeting and survey on Open Space and Recreation	Feb 9-Feb 23
Public meeting and survey on Walking and Rolling Connections	Mar 24-Apr 8
Public meeting and survey on Comfort and Character	Mar 31-Apr 15
Saskatoon Council on Aging survey	Apr 29-May 15
Royal University Hospital and Jim Pattison Children’s Hospital survey	May 4-May 30
St. Thomas More College survey	May 19-June 9
Meetings with interested organizations and two Indigenous Elders	Various
Round Two - Approx. 100 participants	Nov-Dec 2022
Fall 2022 Surveys on Streetscape and Open Space	Nov 14-Dec 5
Surveys Walkthrough Event	Nov 21

Most participants were people who live in, work in or visit the area for services and amenities; representatives of city-wide and area organizations; and people generally interested in this project. Not many University of Saskatchewan (USask) students participated, but in 2022 the team has been better able to connect with some highly-engaged student groups. Participation from Indigenous community members continues to be a gap, and the team will continue to connect with Elders and share information with Indigenous partners and organizations.

For full details about the public realm engagement activities and community input received, please see: [College Corridor Plan Public Realm Engagement Report](#).

WHAT WE HEARD

The team received input on walking and rolling connections, streetscape elements (like sidewalks and boulevards), open space (like parks and plazas) and the design of new buildings and future development, as well as design themes to reflect the area's character. This information was then summarized and used to create a list of potential improvements for the community to discuss.

Streetscape Priorities

Participants ranked ideas for improving sidewalks, cycling facilities, street crossings and public realm design elements along College Drive and Preston Avenue.

All streetscape improvements require further evaluation and coordination with area landowners and other City projects, including [Bus Rapid Transit \(BRT\)](#). Many ideas also depend on redevelopment of adjacent privately-owned land and would be realized and implemented gradually over time.







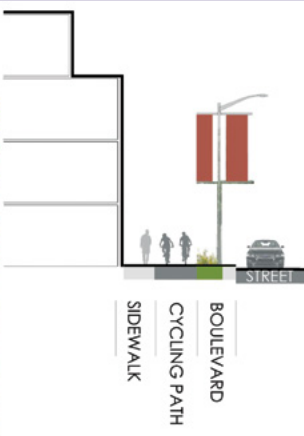

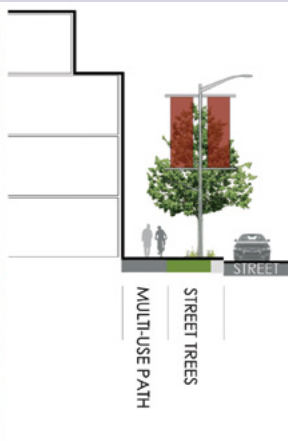
Streetscape Topic	TOP-RANKED Priorities by Survey Participants
Sidewalks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra space and street trees separating the sidewalk from traffic. • Wide sidewalks. • Well-lit sidewalks.
Cycling Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra space separating cyclists from traffic. • Separate lanes for cycling and walking.
Street Crossings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved accessibility for people with disabilities at existing crossings. • A surface-level crossing of College Drive at Clarence Avenue. • Additional crossings of College Drive between Cumberland Avenue and Preston Avenue (locations to be determined).
Design Themes	<p>The potential themes of Trees & Horticulture, Indigenous Culture & the Moose Woods to Batoche Trail, Tyndall Stone, Collegiate Gothic Architecture, University & Academics and Science & Innovation (all except Agriculture) were each important to different groups of participants.</p>

Other priorities included in the ranking:

- **For sidewalks:** A direct route along Preston and College, adding benches and garbage bins, and making sidewalks pedestrian-only by excluding cyclists.
- **For cycling facilities:** Well-lit pathways, a shared multi-use pathway and additional trees and plants. USask students, people who work in the area, younger participants and participants with disabilities preferred a direct route along College and Preston, while visitors to the area wanted a quiet parallel route off of College or Preston.
- **For street crossings:** Adding more time to crossings and new crossings along Preston Avenue.

Participants were also asked to indicate their preferences on sidewalks, boulevards and cycling options:

Sidewalk Scenario	Preferred Option
<p>Where there is limited public space, such as the south side of College Drive.</p>	<p>Trees and a second sidewalk further away from traffic.</p> 
<p>Where there is more space for the public realm, such as along Preston Avenue.</p>	<p>Trees on both sides of the sidewalk – between sidewalk and buildings, and between sidewalk and traffic.</p> 

Cycling Scenario	Preferred Option
<p>General preference for type of cycling facility.</p>	<p><i>Separated Cycling Facility</i> – A pathway where cyclists are directed to stay on only one portion of the lane, such as on Victoria Avenue.</p>  <p>SEPARATED CYCLING FACILITY</p>
<p>Where there is limited space between providing space for cyclists and pedestrians and space for street trees.</p>	<p>Preferences were evenly split between the two presented options.</p> <p>Option A: Separate path for cyclists and pedestrians, but a narrow boulevard and no street trees.</p>   <p>Option B: Street trees and a wider separation from traffic, but a narrower shared pathway for cyclists and pedestrians.</p>  

Open Space Priorities

The team gathered feedback on priorities and potential features or improvements for ten locations.

Open Space Priority Location Map




Opportunities for open space improvements will rely on partnerships with the University of Saskatchewan, Meewasin and the City's Parks, Transportation and Recreation and Community Development departments. Implementation will be a collaborative approach with those groups and their goals and priorities.

Identified open space priority areas are below, as ranked by the survey results.

Open Space Priority Map



1. Top of the University Bridge
2. University Bridge Underpass
3. President's Residence Future Development Area
4. Cumberland Avenue Gathering Area
5. University Drive Parkettes
6. Wiggins Avenue Gathering Area
7. Little Stone School Area
8. Memorial Gates Area
9. Stone Barn Future Development Area
10. President Murray Park

Open Space Opportunity Location	Summary of Feedback
<p>1. Top of the University Bridge With collaboration between the City, USask and Meewasin.</p> 	<p>Participants generally preferred improvements for passive enjoyment of this space, like native plantings, trees, lighting and seating. Many suggested this space has great potential to be enjoyed by Saskatoon residents and visitors, but needs some changes to College Drive for easier pedestrian and cyclist access as well as making this space more comfortable to stay in.</p>
<p>2. University Bridge Underpass Would be a collaboration between the City and Meewasin.</p> 	<p>Lighting, improved sightlines, wheelchair accessibility, stairs adjacent to the bridge (on the north side), wider pathways and maintaining existing trees were all supported for this location. Participants wanted to ensure the trail pathways are smooth and safe for users and suggested ideas to make this space more visually inviting.</p>
<p>3. President's Residence Area Feedback will be shared with USask to consider for future development.</p> 	<p>Participants would like to see future development here incorporate a direct, accessible and public connection to the Meewasin Trail, public benches and trees and native plantings. Participants wanted improved pathways and sidewalks and saw a need for improved lighting, safety and visual appeal.</p>

Open Space Opportunity Location	Summary of Feedback
<p>4. Cumberland Avenue Gathering Area Potential for small public amenity area along Cumberland.</p> 	<p>Participants felt this location had potential for a public space or gathering hub. However, participants suggested the existing adjacent privately-owned parking lot would first need to be modified or redeveloped, and that there should be changes to the streets here to make walking and cycling easier and more comfortable.</p>
<p>5. University Drive Parkettes Potential for realignment of roadway to add open space.</p> 	<p>Participants agreed the University Drive spaces present opportunity for heritage interpretation of the historic Moose Woods to Batoche Trail, and some also want to see recognition of other heritage features of the Varsity View neighbourhood. Participants also supported adding benches, native plantings and landscaping as well as additional lighting.</p>

Other priority locations included:

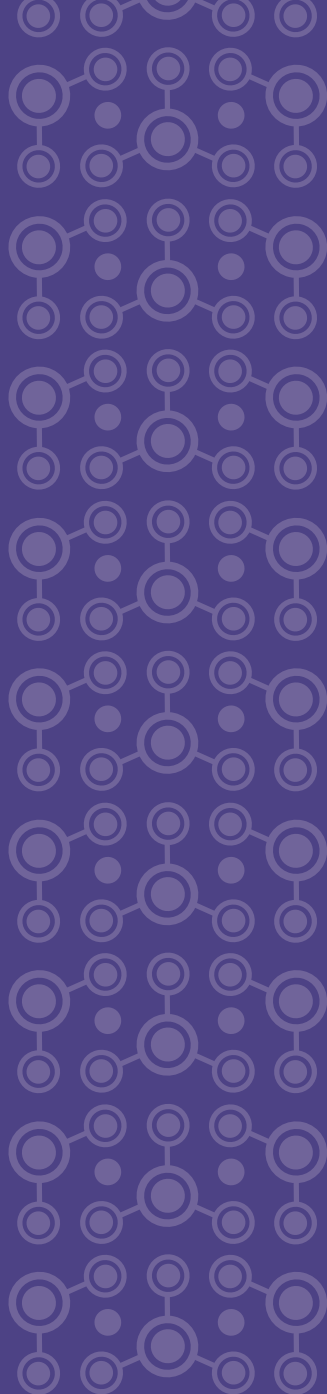
- 6. Wiggins Avenue Gathering Area:** Small improvements such as trees, bicycle parking and benches.
- 7. Little Stone School Area:** Improvements that would beautify this space and complement the Little Stone School.
- 8. Memorial Gates Area:** Preserving the Memorial Gates and highlighting the space's history.
- 9. Stone Barn Future Development Area:** Incorporating the Stone Barn, trees, native plantings and benches in USask's future development of this area.
- 10. President Murray Park:** Small improvements such as lighting, benches, tables and maintaining the park's natural environment.

NEXT STEPS

- **Streetscape:** The team is participating in discussions to finalize a street design for College Drive and will bring forward community feedback for consideration.
- **Open Space:** The team is continuing conversations with USask and Meewasin on partnerships for open spaces managed by those organizations, especially near the University Bridge. Reworking of University Drive between College Drive and Elliott Street will need more detailed work.

The next round of engagement work is on finalizing land use and zoning. The team will re-evaluate the preliminary land use map developed at the end of 2021 to work in public realm priorities and infrastructure requirements, and then consider detailed zoning regulations for the form of new buildings and development, which affect the public realm.

The comprehensive public realm plan will be shared for community feedback at the same time as the full draft of the College Corridor Plan.



saskatoon.ca/corridor

March 2023

