

## DESIGN GUIDELINES - AESTHETIC QUALITY

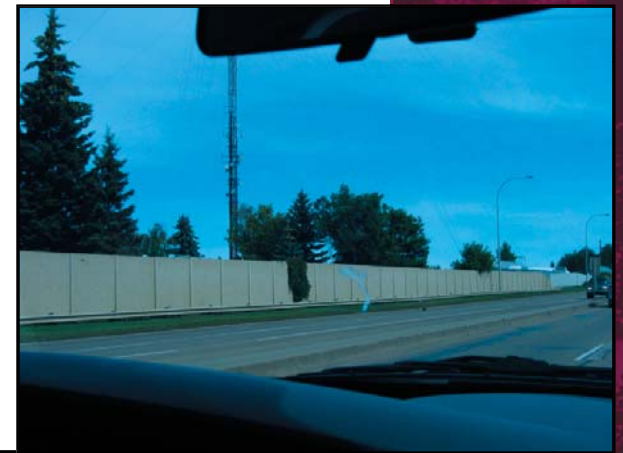
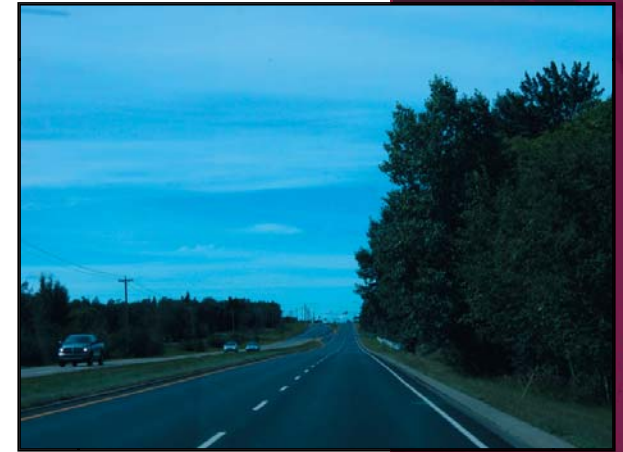
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### INTRODUCTION

As Wye Rd is one of the most publicly recognized focal points in Strathcona County, it is particularly important that it is built with guidelines that aide in delivering a portrait of the community, its history, and its current attractions. Wye Rd should mutually serve as a destination place for both visitors and local residents alike.

### WYE ROAD HISTORY

Wye Road was named for the “wye” at the road’s westerly terminus, between 76th and 77th Avenue (in Edmonton). A “wye” is a rail term for a triangular arrangement of tracks, where crews could change the direction of a locomotive with a three-point turn so it was facing the direction from which it came. Wye Road followed a branch of the North Cooking Lake Trail in a north and westward direction through To field, Cooking Lake and ending at the wye in the Strathcona railyard. (Sourced from [www.strathcona.ab.ca](http://www.strathcona.ab.ca))



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### GUIDELINE 1.0

CREATE A THEME FOR WYE ROAD -- "CONTEMPORARY WESTERN STYLE WITH A TOUCH OF HISTORIC CHARM"

Having a theme can help guide development of each zone. It is important that the theme be specific but also general enough to allow flexibility in design alternatives. The contemporary Western theme is also consistent with Sherwood Park's identity and provides an authentic guide to future improvements. Providing an underlying theme that reflects on local history helps to develop a strong local identity rooted in shared traditions and memories.

Note: The Wye Rd theme term '*contemporary western with a touch of historic charm*' with respects to this report is intended to depict a place that mimics its early establishments and local industries, yet does so with a modern flare.

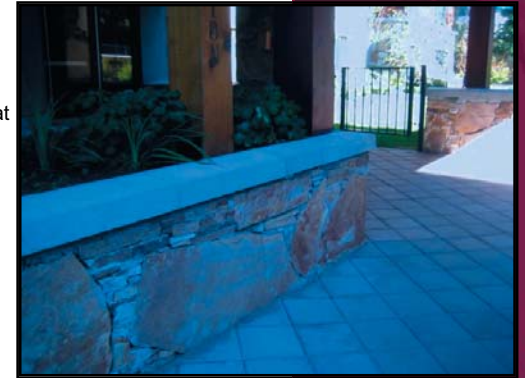
Example of a plaza 'sequence of spaces' where pedestrians can flow from walkable zones to areas of leisurely enjoyment



Example of character signage



Example of a detail design that reinforces the theme



Example of how canopied spaces and hierarchies of the pedestrian environment create interest



Example of detail design that reinforces the theme



## DESIGN GUIDELINES - AESTHETIC QUALITY

### GUIDELINE 1.1

EXPAND AND IMPROVE MEDIANS TO REDUCE IMPACT OF WIDE EXPANSES OF PAVING

#### EXISTING CONDITIONS

- Medians are vegetated with grass and appear vast and open



#### OPPORTUNITIES

- Incorporate planted medians to reduce impact of wide expanses of paving
- ATCO pipeline constraints on street tree planting dictate possible placement in the median.
- Medians can be developed with graphic, 4-season plantings to create a strong visual statement.
- Ornamental or native grasses, low-maintenance shrubs should be considered as a means of being more “earth friendly” and to reduce maintenance requirements. Turf grasses or Kentucky blue grasses are not suggested in medians due to mowing works.

Trees planted in median reduce the scale of the road.



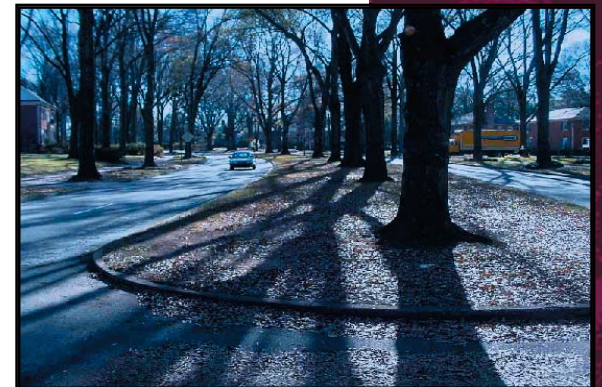
Example of existing use of native grass along Wye Road



Example of native grass in road median



Example of mature trees in road median



## DESIGN GUIDELINES - AESTHETIC QUALITY

### GUIDELINE 1.2

#### REDUCE THE VISUAL IMPACT OF SOUND BARRIERS

##### EXISTING CONDITIONS/ CONSTRAINTS

Relentless wall elevation exposed to street.



##### OPPORTUNITIES

Use planting material to soften sound walls. The following are examples of ways in which the visual impact of bare sound abatement walls can be designed as a more attractive element in the streetscape.

Note: Plant materials or artwork used to create visual interest along Wye Rd. should be presented in repetitive masses, such that drivers have an opportunity to observe their detail, and pedestrians have the opportunity to absorb all of their textural qualities and finer details. The experience of any person along Wye Rd. (both pedestrian and driver) is directly related to the speed that they are travelling at, and thus the amount of information that they can absorb at any given time. Regardless of whether plant material or artwork is used along the sound walls, any improvement dedicated to this portion of Wye Rd. is sure to greatly improve the areas visual character and sense of space.

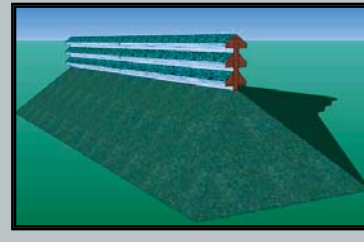
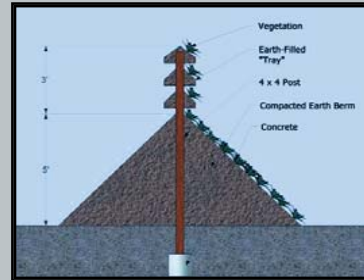
##### Example 1:

Provide a mural or relief sculpture on sound walls depicting community character; thus invoking visual interest in the streetscape. Refer to wayfinding section of the site furnishing section for further information.

##### Example 2:

A patented sand, pumice or planting mix filled sound wall that is wind, weather and graffiti proof. It blocks sound and absorbs sound. This example would be particularly useful in areas that do not have sound barriers already.

<http://www.acoustic-sciences.com/soundfence/earthwall.htm>



Example 3:  
Using Green Screen:  
provide vertical climbing support for vines.  
[www.greenscreen.com](http://www.greenscreen.com)



Example 4:  
By providing texture and divisions on the wall



Example 5:  
By staggering wall modules, you develop spaces to plant vines and create shadow on the wall.



## DESIGN GUIDELINES - AESTHETIC QUALITY

GUIDELINE 1.3  
REDUCE VISUAL CLUTTER AND BURY EXISTING  
OVERHEAD UTILITIES WHERE POSSIBLE

CURRENT (BEFORE)



PROPOSED (AFTER)



Above is an example of how reduced visual clutter along streetscapes can create calmed beauty through driving corridors with the addition of vegetation.

Note that trees should be placed 2.5m from the curb at all times and that the planted median area should contain native low maintenance vegetation.

## DESIGN GUIDELINES - AESTHETIC QUALITY

### GUIDELINE 1.4 SELECT AND PLACE LIGHT POLES TO ENHANCE THE VISUAL COHESION OF THE STREETScape

Well designed and placed street lights help to make the streetscape more pedestrian friendly and promote safer night use. Specifiers should look beyond mere functional capacity and consider street lights in terms of their potential sculptural quality and as an animator of the public space.

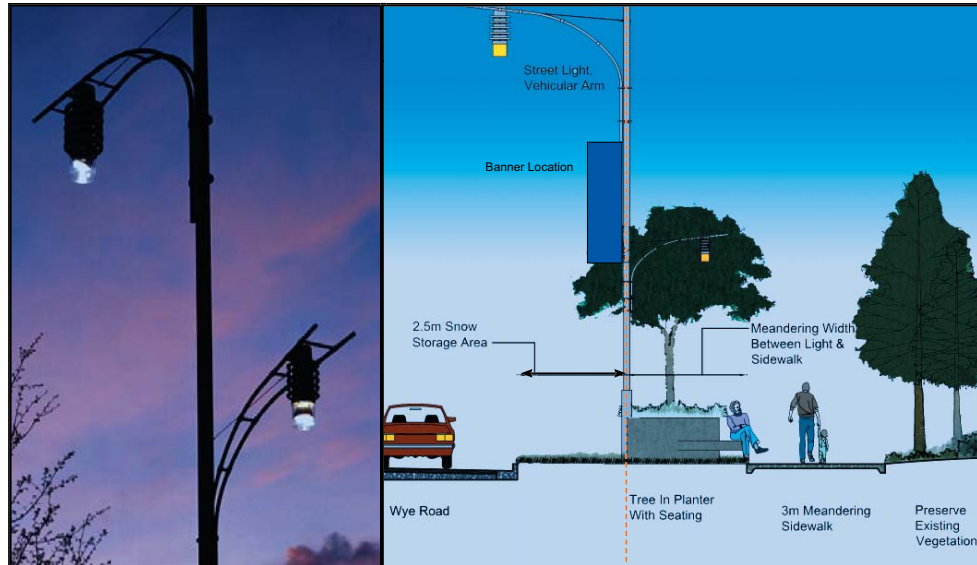
#### EXISTING CONDITIONS/ CONSTRAINTS

Existing street lights are not attractive; they do not address pedestrian needs, and location varies from both sides of road to center of median.



#### OPPORTUNITIES

- Layout street lights in a consistent way;
- Choose a street light which has two arms: one vehicular arm and one pedestrian arm.
- Select and locate street lights in a manner which provide both night safety and aesthetic value.
- Add bollard lights wherever needed for pedestrian safety.
- Along Wye Road, suggest to paint all light poles and traffic light poles dark gray.



**Note:** Refer to the site furnishing section of this report to see a variety of lighting options, including the Stresscrete series. The lighting layout and design should meet TAC standards. Please refer to the lighting portion of the site furnishing section to see a detail example of the TAC standards to be satisfied.

**Note:** In the process of selecting a street light standard, it would be beneficial to also consider the variety of options between lighting types; including low-energy LED fixtures.

#### ADDITIONAL STREETLIGHT OPTION:

(Selected from [www.stresscrete.com](http://www.stresscrete.com))  
We suggest to lower one light to 3-4m high to provide better pedestrian illumination

