

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

TO: Shane Bourke, City Manager	DATE: June 23, 2025
FROM: Brian Glavin, Chief Operating Officer	MEETING: Council Committee of the Whole
REPORT WRITER: Kase DeVries, M.Sc., Director of Environment and Parks	
SUBJECT: Community Enhancement Funding – Project Feasibility Review	

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Committee recommend Council approve projects as selected.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL / COMMITTEE DIRECTIONS

Council Committee of the Whole Budget Deliberations, November 15, 2024 – “Committee amend the Capital Budget to approve \$200K from Future Expenditures Reserve to fund the new upcoming policy regarding Community Enhancement.”

City Council, February 24, 2025, - “Council approve Policy 361 - Community Enhancement Fund, as amended.”

Financial and Administrative Services Committee, April 15, 2025 – “Committee recommend Council approve the transfer of the 2024 operating surplus of \$5,113,000 to the following: ... \$300,000 to the Community Enhancement Reserve.”

BACKGROUND

The Environment & Parks department was tasked with reviewing the feasibility and potential impact of various proposed Community Enhancement projects. These projects aim to improve public spaces, support long-term infrastructure needs, and enhance the visual appeal of the City. Following recent Council approvals, a total of \$665,451.43 is now available for capital enhancements.

ANALYSIS

The following project topics were reviewed internally for their feasibility, alignment with strategic priorities, and potential to enhance public space and community appeal. Project timelines, estimated costs, and implementation considerations are summarized below.

Project 1 – Muskoseepi Park Lighting

This project would fund electrical infrastructure to support LED lighting in trees north of the Ernie Radbourne Pavilion. Preliminary investigations indicate available capacity at the existing Pavilion transformer.

Cost Estimate: \$70,000

Feasibility: 2025 installation dependent upon required site work and procurement lead times

Project 2 – Tree Grove Installations (100 Street Corridor)

This project would fund additional tree groves along 100 Street from 116 Avenue to 139 Avenue. The groves are high-impact and align with the City's current direction on urban forest improvement. This work would enhance the corridor leading to the future recreation facility. Grove measurements are approximate.

- **Option 1 – Three Large Groves and One Small Grove (Attachment 1)**

Includes three large beds and one smaller bed along the 100 Street corridor

- **Cedar Point Bed:** 91m x 9m
- **Near 132 Avenue:** 46m x 9m
- **Near 139 Avenue:** Two beds, each 107m x 9m

Cost Estimate: \$150,000

Feasibility: 2025 completion possible

- **Option 2 – Multiple Smaller Groves Along Full Corridor (Attachment 2)**

Includes two large beds and eight smaller beds distributed between 116 Avenue and 139 Avenue along the 100 Street corridor

- **Near 116 Avenue:** Two beds, each 46m x 9m
- **Near 121 Avenue:** Two beds, each 46m x 9m
- **Near 128 Avenue:** Two beds, each 46m x 9m
- **Near 132 Avenue:** Two beds, each 46m x 9m
- **Near 139 Avenue:** Two beds, each 107m x 9m

Cost Estimate: \$150,000

Feasibility: 2025 completion possible

Project 3 – Beautification of the Triangle Median

This project would fund improvements to the triangular median between 99 Avenue and 100 Avenue, west of Bear Creek. Three implementation options have been evaluated.

- **Option 1 – Asphalt Median**

Resurfacing with asphalt; existing curb and gutter remain.

Cost Estimate: \$125,000

Feasibility: 2025 installation dependent upon required site work and procurement lead times.

- **Option 2 – Bioswaled Median**

Conversion to a vegetated bioswale to slow runoff, filter pollutants, and enhance appearance.

Cost Estimate: \$60,000

Feasibility: 2025 installation dependent upon required site work and procurement lead times

- **Option 3 – Seasonal Planters**

Leave existing millings; add planters annually. Requires ongoing watering and maintenance. Planters to be removed each fall due to snow storage and plowing requirements.

Cost Estimate: \$20,000-40,000, depending on density.

Feasibility: 2025 installation dependent upon procurement lead times

Project 4 – New Park Furniture (Benches, Picnic Tables, Garbage Bins)

This project would fund the installation of new park furniture across multiple neighbourhoods, including O'Brien Lake, South Patterson, Country Club Estates, Crystal Landing, Signature Falls, Country Club West, Countryside North, Crystal Lake, and Muskoseepi Park (adjacent to new tennis and basketball courts).

Cost Estimate: \$100,000

Feasibility: Unlikely for completion in 2025



Project 5 – 100 Avenue / 100 Street Parkette

This project would support the cleanup and improvement of the small parkette at 100 Avenue and 100 Street. Work would include removal of damaged planters, brickwork resurfacing, and installation of picnic tables and garbage bins to create an appealing, low-maintenance public space.

Cost Estimate: \$35,000

Feasibility: 2025 completion dependent upon procurement and contractor lead times

Project 6 – South Entrance Sign

This project would fund the installation of an entrance sign along Highway 40 at the south boundary of the City. The sign would complement existing entry features installed on the north and west approaches. Alberta Transportation has confirmed the sign is allowable in principle. Permit submission would follow Council direction and confirmed funding, with coordination from utility companies as required based on final site selection.

Cost Estimate: \$140,000

Feasibility: Unlikely for completion in 2025

Project 7 – Muskoseepi Pavilion Dock & Fence

This project would replace the existing wooden dock and fence at the Muskoseepi Pavilion, both of which experience recurring damage due to seasonal moisture. Replacing the infrastructure with composite materials would improve accessibility, reduce long-term maintenance, and ensure safe public use.

Cost Estimate: \$160,000

Feasibility: Unlikely for completion in 2025

Relationship to City Council's Areas of Focus / Strategic Priorities

Quality of Life – Fostering a community in which our residents love where they live and embrace their environment.

Environmental Impact

Projects such as the tree grove installations promote green infrastructure. These initiatives support urban biodiversity on the landscape.

Economic Impact

Investments in public spaces have a positive long-term impact on property values and business attraction. Enhancements to corridors and public amenities can stimulate economic activity, particularly around the downtown core and recreational nodes.

Social Impact

Improvements to park spaces and streetscapes enhance quality of life. Upgraded public furniture and beautified areas encourage community gathering, outdoor activity, and civic pride.

Relevant Statutes / Master Plans / City Documents

City of Grande Prairie Policy 361
2022-2025 Strategic Plan
2012 Parks and Open Space Master Plan

Risk

A primary risk is the 2025 completion timeline. Some projects, while feasible in scope, may extend into 2026 due to procurement lead times or contractor availability.

<h2>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT</h2>
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Environment and Parks coordinated with internal departments including Corporate Facility Management, and Engineering and Transportation Services to review feasibility, scope, and alignment of the proposed projects.

BUDGET / FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Individual project cost estimates are included within the Analysis.

SUMMARY / CONCLUSION

The projects reviewed for funding under the Community Enhancement Reserve align with strategic priorities. While all are feasible in scope, some may face scheduling or supply challenges that impact 2025 delivery. Despite these risks, the proposed investments remain strong candidates for implementation to enhance the City's public spaces, advance beautification goals, and support long-term community vibrancy.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Tree Grove Installations – Option 1

Attachment 2 - Tree Grove Installations – Option 2

Attachment 1 - Tree Grove Installations – Option 1

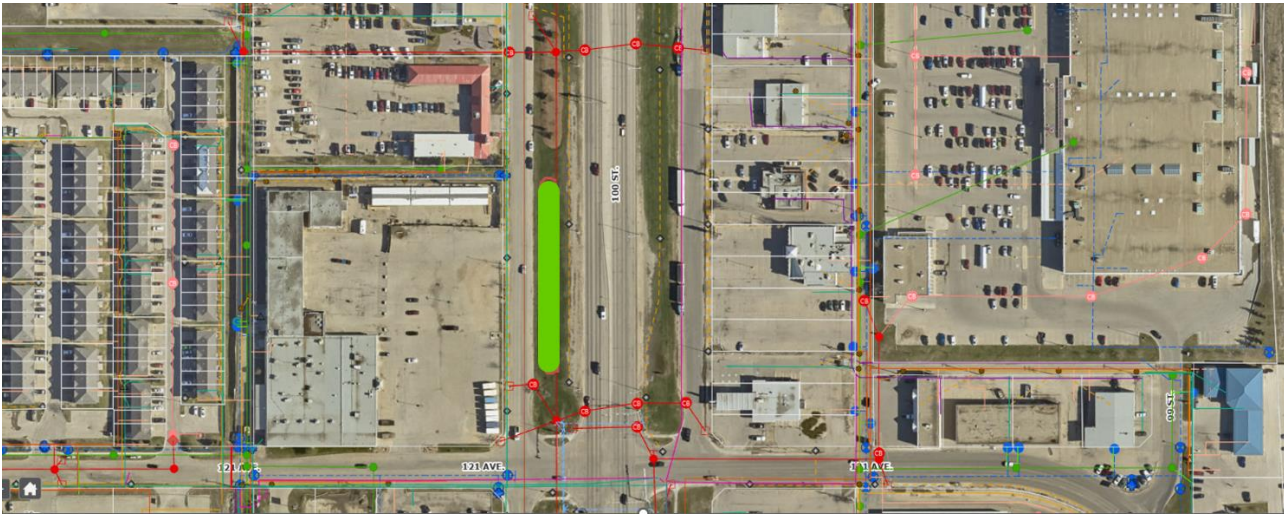


Figure 1. Cedar Point Bed: 91m x 9m

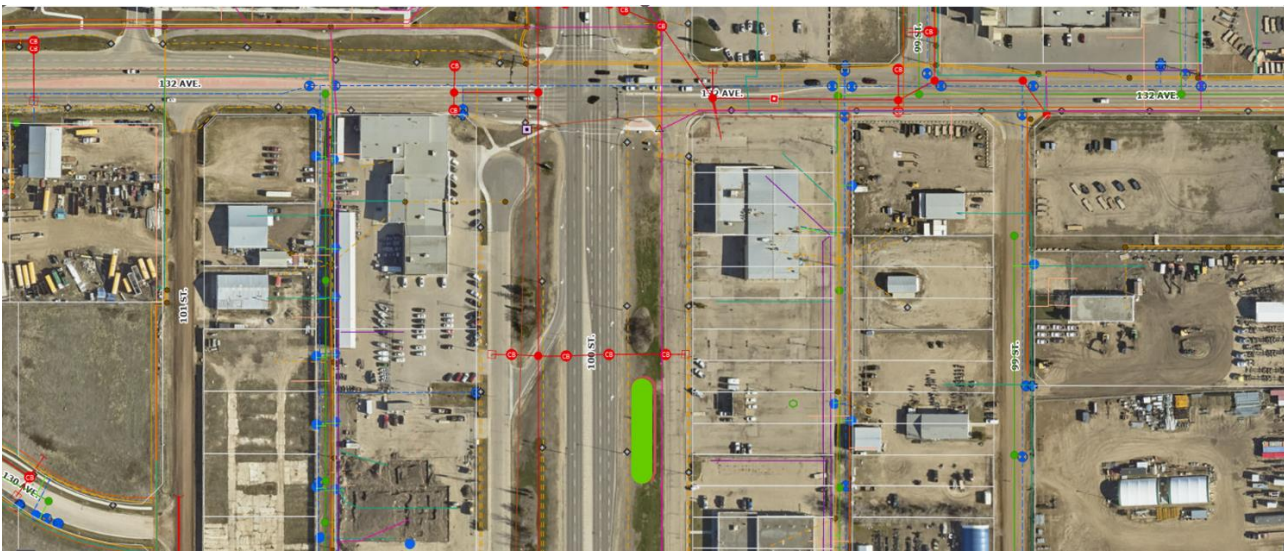


Figure 2. South of 132 Avenue: 46m x 9m

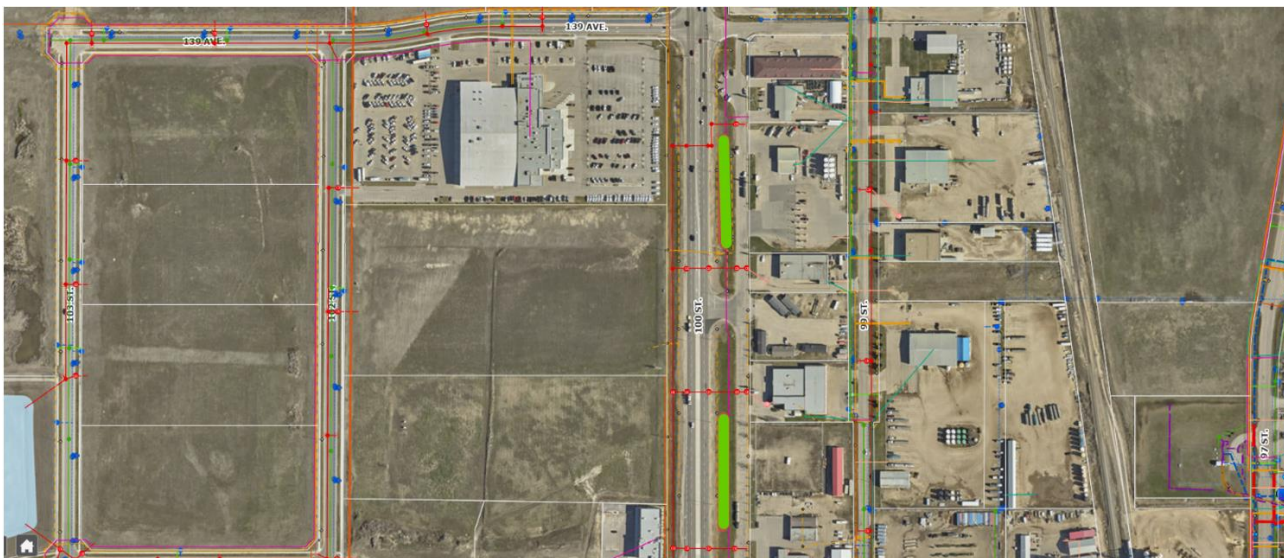


Figure 3. South of 139 Avenue: Two beds, each 107m x 9m

Attachment 2 - Tree Grove Installations – Option 2

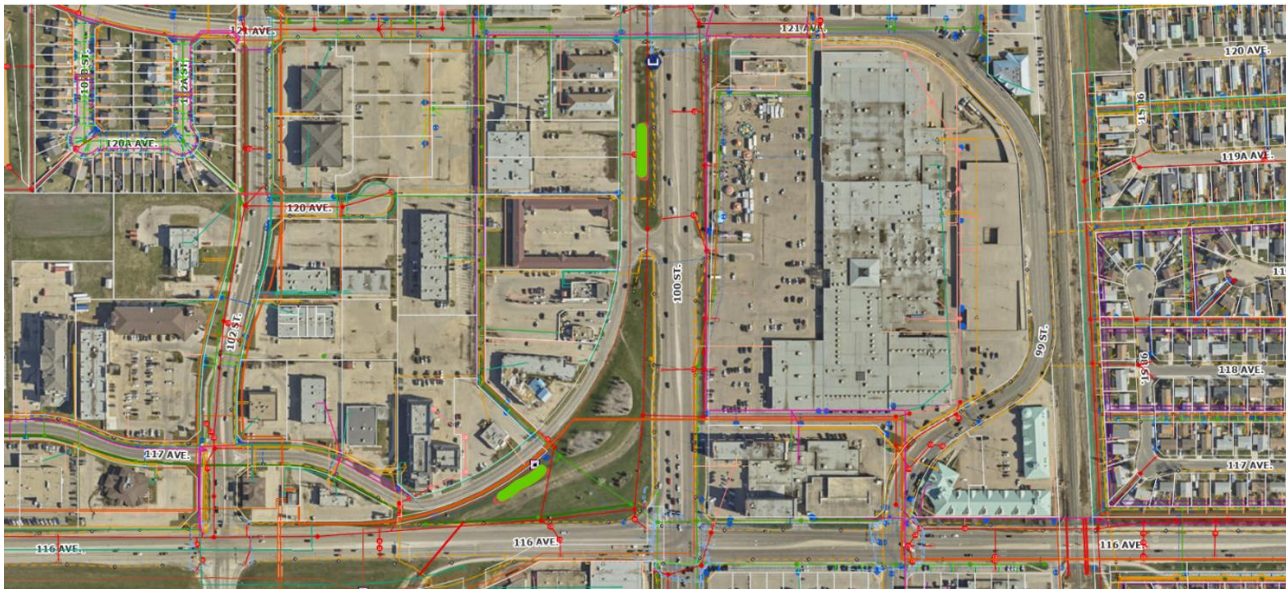


Figure 4. North of 116 Avenue: Two beds, each 46m x 9m

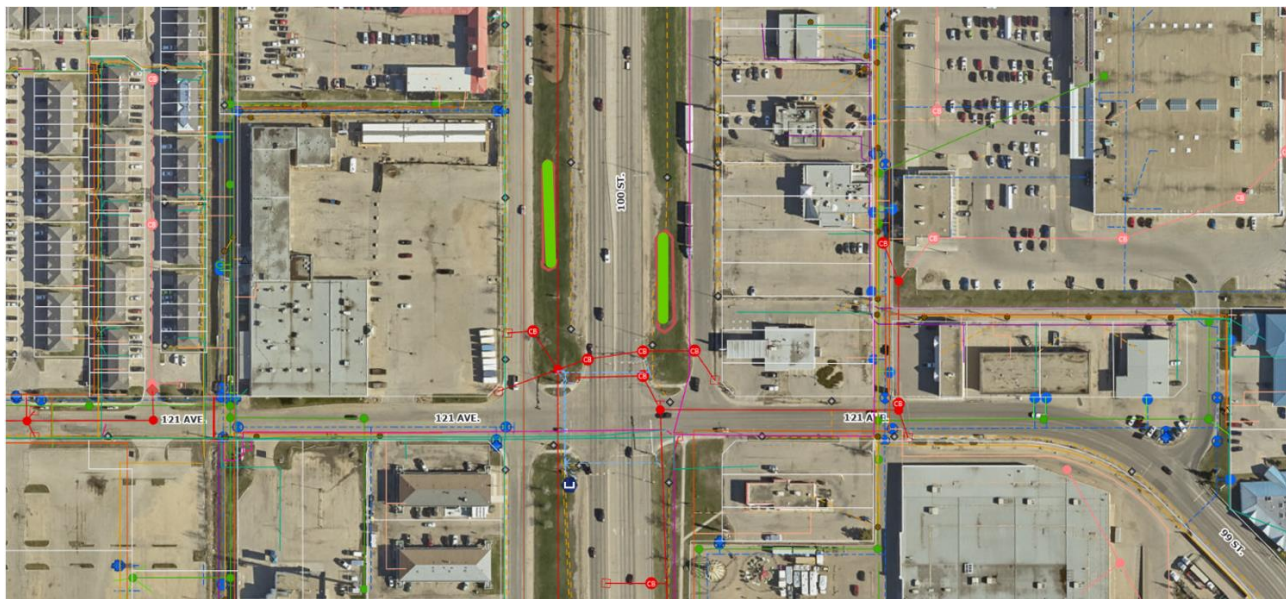


Figure 5. North of 121 Avenue: Two beds, each 46m x 9m

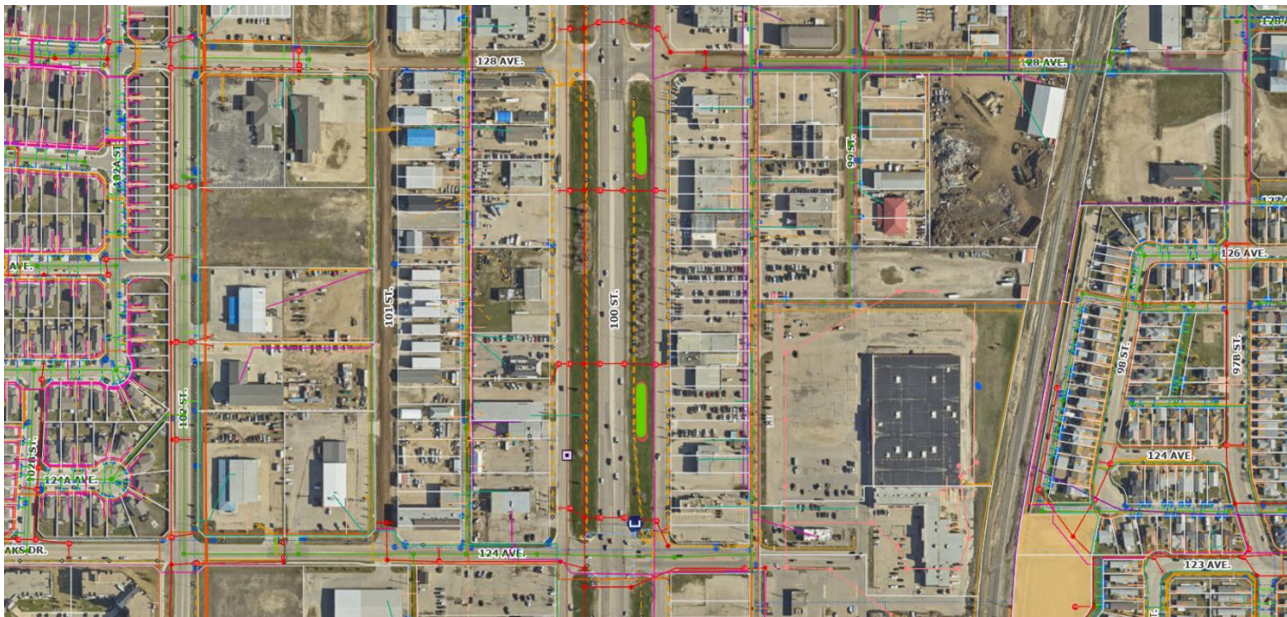


Figure 6. South of 128 Avenue: Two beds, each 46m x 9m

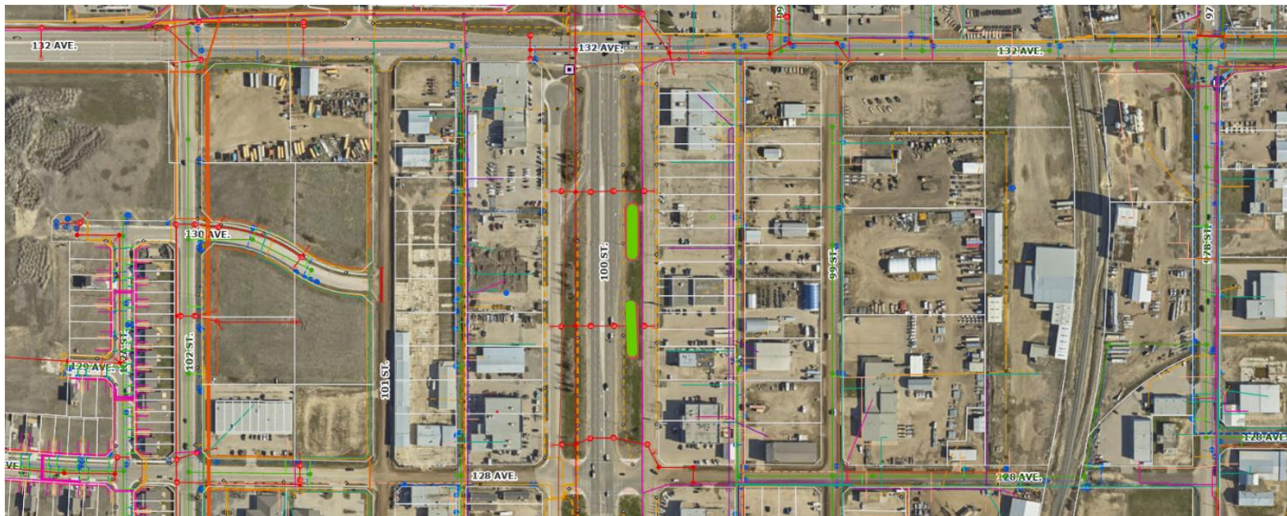


Figure 7. South of 132 Avenue: Two beds, each 46m x 9m

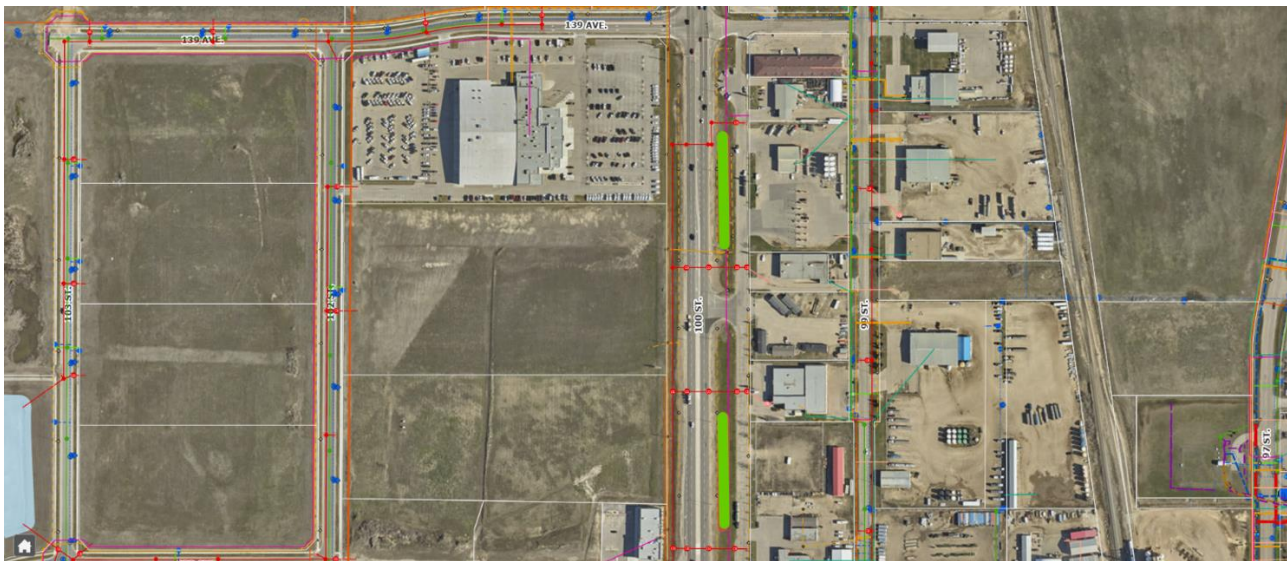


Figure 8. South of 139 Avenue: Two beds, each 107m x 9m