



## NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

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Neighbourhood Renewal is a cost effective, long-term strategic approach to address infrastructure needs such as rebuilding and renewing roads, sidewalks, and streetlights in Edmonton's neighbourhoods and collector roadways.

#### Building Great Neighbourhoods

Neighbourhood Reconstruction is part of the Building Great Neighbourhoods initiative—a collaboration between three City programs: Drainage Neighbourhood Renewal, Neighbourhood Renewal, and the Office of Great Neighbourhoods Capital Program.

[www.edmonton.ca/BuildingGreatNeighbourhoods](http://www.edmonton.ca/BuildingGreatNeighbourhoods)

The type of renewal work varies depending on the state of infrastructure:

- **Preventive Maintenance:** reseal roads to extend their lifespan.
- **Overlay:** repave roads and treat sidewalk panels to eliminate trip hazards.
- **Reconstruction:** repave roads, replace streetlights and sidewalks. Does not include arterial roads or alleys.
- **Collector Road Renewal:** priority given to bus routes.

By combining reconstruction, overlay and preventive maintenance, all Edmonton neighbourhoods can be improved within 30 years. This benefits neighbourhoods more quickly and at a lower cost than a reconstruction-only program.

### FUNDING

The average cost of neighbourhood reconstruction is \$17-\$20 million, not including underground utilities work. The program is funded through a combination of:

- Grants from the provincial Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI).
- A property tax levy (1.5 per cent for 2011-14) for continued financial support of neighbourhood renewal.
- Cost sharing on local improvements:
  - Sidewalk reconstruction: shared 50/50 with property owners through a local improvement tax levy.
  - Decorative streetlights: property owners pay 100 per cent of the cost above standard streetlights.

### SCOPE OF WORK

- Improve safety and accessibility for pedestrians.
- Bring infrastructure up to current design and construction standards.
- Add curb ramps to intersections, eliminating "over-designed" intersections and improving curb radius.
- Where possible, resize road widths to current City of Edmonton road design standards.
- Review circulation/traffic control signs to determine if changes are required.
- Consider curb extensions at pedestrian crossings near schools, community halls and playgrounds.
- Provide continuous sidewalks on both sides of collector roads (one side in industrial neighbourhoods) and at least one side of all residential streets. Ensure access to bus routes.
- Implement bike routes through on-street bike route markings or wide sidewalks/trails.
- Ensure streetlights meet current lighting design practices and standards, including LED lighting.
- Install rolled-face (mountable) curbs, except on collector roads, bus routes, or near schools, parks and commercial areas.



## LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS

These are projects considered of greater benefit to a particular neighbourhood than to the greater city. They are typically undertaken near or adjacent to a property, and include alley upgrades, sidewalk reconstruction and decorative streetlights. Both sidewalks and decorative streetlights are subject to the approval of a [Local Improvement Bylaw](#).

### Sidewalk Reconstruction

- City-initiated, with the cost shared 50/50 between the City and property owners.
- Neighbourhoods are divided into sidewalk reconstruction project areas and property owners are sent a local improvement notice in the mail.
- Property owners may petition against sidewalk reconstruction for their project area within 30 days of receiving the Local Improvement Notice. Sidewalk reconstruction will not proceed if the City receives petitions from 51 per cent (or more) of property owners within their project area. If the local improvement is defeated, regular sidewalk maintenance (grinding, asphalt patching, mudjacking) will be done instead.

### Decorative Streetlights

- During reconstruction, streetlights are replaced with standard galvanized poles
- Property owners may choose to pay for decorative streetlights; they will cover 100 per cent of the costs above standard galvanized streetlights.
- Neighbourhoods are responsible for gathering support and completing an Expression of Interest. If the majority of property owners support the Expression of Interest then the City can initiate a decorative streetlight local improvement.

## SELECTING NEIGHBOURHOODS FOR RECONSTRUCTION

Over 150 Edmonton neighbourhoods require renewal. Of these, over 100 need to be reconstructed. For the program to be sustainable, 13 to 15 neighbourhoods should be renewed annually. However, the City does not have the funding or capacity to address all outstanding infrastructure issues in the short term. Every year, 25 per cent of the local roadways are visually inspected to assess the condition of pavement, curbs and sidewalks. Deficiencies are compared with previous ratings, then averaged for the neighbourhood. This average determines the kind of renewal needed. Factors affecting selection and timing include infrastructure condition, budget and coordination with utilities.

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The City hosts three meetings in each community slated for neighbourhood reconstruction. Public involvement begins one to two years prior to construction. First, the City meets with the community league executive to discuss the process and gather information. A second meeting including residents and property owners is then held to review preliminary designs. Shortly after receiving a Local Improvement notice in the mail, the City will host a third and final meeting to go over the final neighbourhood design, inform property owners of the Local Improvement process and discuss what residents can expect over the 2- 3 year construction period.



## MORE INFORMATION

Email [BuildingGreatNeighbourhoods@edmonton.ca](mailto:BuildingGreatNeighbourhoods@edmonton.ca) or go online to [www.edmonton.ca/BuildingGreatNeighbourhoods](http://www.edmonton.ca/BuildingGreatNeighbourhoods).