

# What We Heard Report: Beverly Heights Alley Renewal

Public Engagement and  
Data Analysis: May 2022

ADVISE

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Edmonton



# What We Heard Report: Beverly Heights Alley Renewal

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## Project overview

The City of Edmonton's Alley Renewal program is a cost-effective, long-term strategic approach to renew and rebuild alleys across the city over the next 25 years. Beverly Heights has been identified for Alley Renewal, with construction anticipated to start in spring 2024.

The Alley Renewal program is funded by an increase to the Neighbourhood Renewal Tax Levy. This levy includes a city-wide contribution and not just a contribution from property owners with back alleys. There is no additional cost to property owners at the time of Alley Renewal.

Construction is expected to take up to four years to complete. Construction phasing will be determined based on contractor resources, impacts on residents and coordination with other project work, including utilities.

### Alley Renewal includes:

- + Reconstructing alleys with a hard surface
- + Improving surface drainage where possible
- + Upgrading any existing alley lighting with LED bulbs
- + Tree and shrub pruning and removals as necessary before construction
- + Exploring minor enhancements to improve walking, biking and traffic safety

Property owners can also request that the City initiate a Local Improvement to add alley lighting in alleys where it currently does not exist. Information to initiate the Expression of Interest process is provided online at [edmonton.ca/LocalImprovements](https://edmonton.ca/LocalImprovements).

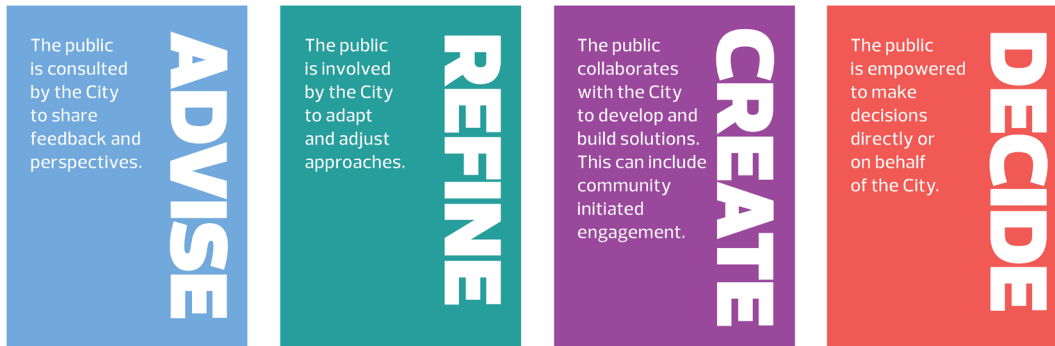
### Alley Renewal Public Engagement



## Public Engagement Spectrum

The City of Edmonton seeks input from Edmontonians to help guide the project. The City's Public Engagement Spectrum below shows the four levels of influence that the public can have on decisions made by the City throughout a project.

Increasing influence of the public →



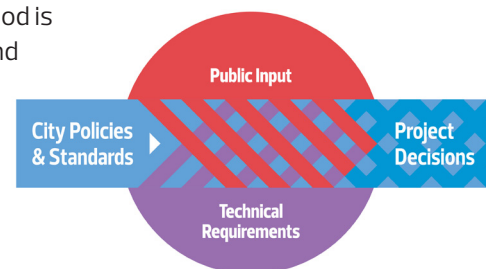
During Alley Renewal, we seek input from property owners, residents and stakeholders to:

- + **ADVISE:** Share their perspectives on how they experience their neighbourhood's alleys and what we might do to make them better
- + **DECIDE:** Invited to choose to add lights to alleys where it does not exist through a Local Improvement (when applicable)

## Decision making process

The City makes decisions using a combination of policy and program information, public engagement comments, technical requirements and available funding. This process helps to ensure that the decisions we make are fiscally responsible, align with best design practices, consider the existing public and private infrastructure, land uses and activities in the neighbourhood and result in the best outcomes for our city.

City policies and programs such as the City Plan, Complete Streets Design and Construction Standards, Safe Mobility Strategy and Winter City Strategy provide the overall direction for Alley Renewal designs. As each neighbourhood is unique, the Project Team asks for input from property owners and residents who live, work and play in the neighbourhood and considers technical aspects such as alley widths and conflicts with utilities and trees to determine the final alley design.



# What we asked and how we asked

## Public Engagement and Data Analysis (May 2–23, 2022)

The Project Team organized opportunities for the public to learn about the Beverly Heights Alley Renewal and share how they experience their alleys to inform the alley designs and construction plan.

### PURPOSE

- + Gather local knowledge on concerns and suggestions for alley improvements
- + Gather local knowledge on potential private property impacts to help inform construction mitigation strategies
- + Inform property owners about Local Improvement opportunities to add alley lighting to alleys where it does not exist

## Engagement opportunities



### ONLINE FEEDBACK FORM

An online feedback form was available to the public from May 2 to 23, 2022, asking respondents to **ADVISE** how their alleys function and are used, identify specific alley issues and concerns and share potential impacts of Alley Renewal construction on their property.

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**18 Respondents**

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### COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

The Project Team responded to emails and phone calls from residents and property owners discussing individual property issues and impacts.



### PROJECT WEBPAGE

We asked residents to visit the project webpage to learn about Beverly Heights Alley Renewal and invited them to share feedback on how their alleys function, how they could be improved and potential construction impacts through the online feedback form.

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**80 visits to [edmonton.ca/BeverlyHeightsAlleyRenewal](https://edmonton.ca/BeverlyHeightsAlleyRenewal)**

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## How we communicated

The following tactics were used to inform residents and stakeholders about Beverly Heights Alley Renewal public engagement and Local Improvement opportunities:



- + 653 letters mailed to property owners and residents
- + 4,211 flyers distributed to homes in Beverly Heights



- + Project email updates sent to 45 subscribers
- + Information booklet and feedback form shared on project webpage
- + Information shared with the Beverly Heights Community League with the opportunity to meet

## What we heard

Edmontonians who participated in the engagement told us they mainly use their alleys to drive and access their garage, parking pads or backyards. Respondents also mentioned using their alleys for biking, walking and rolling (strollers, wheelchairs and walkers) and to connect to nearby streets or alleys.

Generally, respondents welcome the project and are looking forward to having their alleys renewed as they have concerns with their current alley conditions. It was noted that waste collection vehicles cause damage in the alleys and specific locations were identified.

Concerns about local flooding and impacts during construction were also noted.

Common feedback themes collected include:

- + Concern about drainage and water pooling
- + Rutting and potholes in the existing pavement are problematic
- + Trees are overgrown and impacting the alleys

*"Deterioration leading to low spots, water pooling with poor drainage. Trees overgrown into alley at both ends."*



## Next steps

The Project Team will consider comments received as the project moves forward with Alley Renewal design. The final design and construction information will be shared with the public in spring 2024.

In alignment with The City Plan and other City policies, the renewal will also upgrade the alley north of 36 Street between 117 Street and to 118 Street to a shared alley. Shared alleys are designed to be shared by people walking, rolling, biking and driving, and are maintained with enhanced snow clearing. The shared alley will support walkability in the area to transit and other local destinations.

Alley Renewal construction is anticipated to begin in spring 2024 and expected to take up to four years to complete.

## Stay informed

To learn more and subscribe to project updates, visit [edmonton.ca/BeverlyHeightsAlleyRenewal](https://edmonton.ca/BeverlyHeightsAlleyRenewal)

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