

What We Heard Report: Gariepy Neighbourhood & Alley Renewal

Building a Project Vision
Together & Exploring
Opportunities

Spring 2022

SHARE YOUR VOICE
SHAPE OUR CITY

Edmonton

REFINE &
CREATE



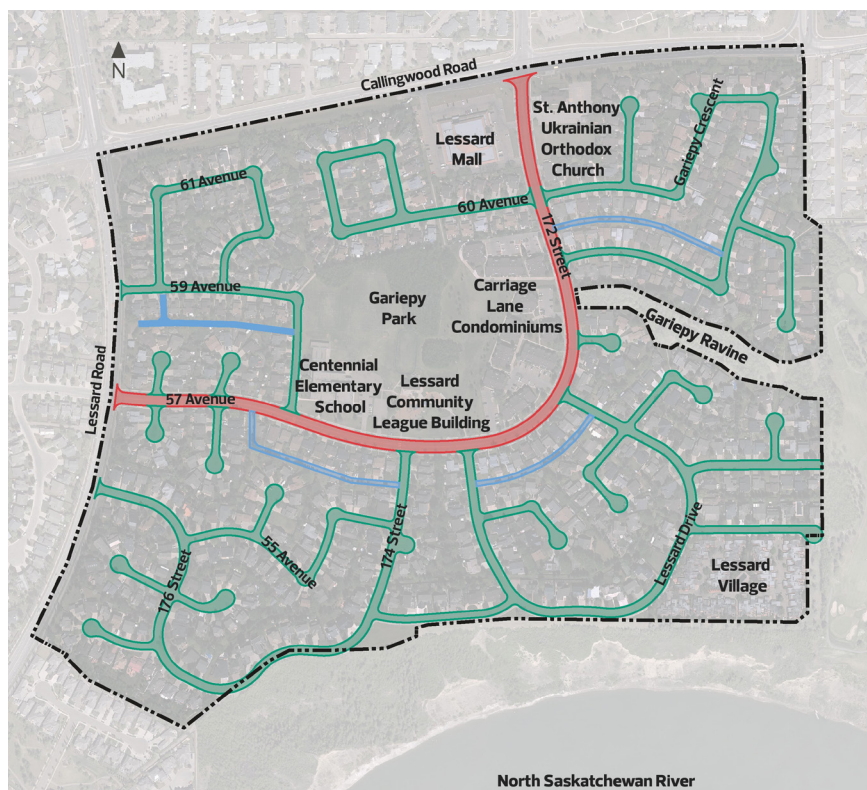
Project overview

Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal in Gariepy will begin in spring 2024. Through the City's Neighbourhood Renewal Program, we will reconstruct roads, curbs, replace street lights, repair sidewalks, and where possible, address missing links to support people who bike, walk and roll. Alley Renewal will also be included as part of this project and involves alley reconstruction and repaving, improvements to surface drainage where possible and upgrading of existing lighting to LED fixtures.

Cost-sharing opportunities will be made available through the Local Improvement process for sidewalk reconstruction and decorative street light upgrades in the neighbourhood. Other opportunities to improve city-owned parks and public spaces will also be explored.

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Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal in Gariepy is expected to be a two-year construction process in the area shown in the map.

The new infrastructure will provide enhancements to the neighbourhood for the next 30 to 50 years.

Roadmap to Building Great Neighbourhoods

The Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal program follows the roadmap below. At each step, the project team shares with you how your input will inform the decisions being made.

This report highlights the input received during both the **Building a Project Vision Together** and **Exploring Opportunities** stages in March 2022.



LEGEND

Public Engagement and Communications Opportunities

Concept Phase

Design Phase

Build Phase

Operate Phase

Public engagement spectrum

The City of Edmonton seeks input from residents 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 the project.

The public was invited to provide input that would help:

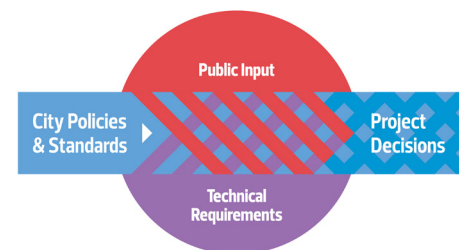
- + **CREATE** a Vision and Guiding Principles for the project
- + **REFINE** the project team's knowledge of neighbourhood assets, opportunities and priorities

We commit to telling you how public input influences decisions according to the public engagement spectrum.



Decision making process

The City makes decisions using a combination of policy and program information, public engagement input, technical requirements and available funding. This process helps to ensure that the decisions we make are fiscally responsible, align with best 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 Complete Streets Design and Construction Standards, Safe Mobility Strategy and Winter City Strategy provide the overall direction for Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal designs. As each neighbourhood is unique, the Project Team asks for input from residents who live, work and play in the neighbourhood and considers technical aspects such as roadway widths and conflicts with utilities and trees to determine what will fit in the neighbourhood.

What we asked & how we asked

The Gariepy Neighbourhood & Alley Renewal project team organized the following opportunities for the public to provide input to help **CREATE** a draft Vision and Guiding Principles for the project and to help **REFINE** the project team's understanding of the improvements and opportunities for the neighbourhood.

There were a number of engagement opportunities open to the public from March 8–27, 2022.



Surveys

- + An online survey was available to the public from March 8–27, 2022, asking respondents to help us **CREATE** a Vision and Guiding Principles for Gariepy's Neighbourhood & Alley Renewal. We also asked people to **REFINE** our understanding of their lived experience in Gariepy by identifying opportunities to improve or enhance the neighbourhood.
- + Paper copies were made available at a drop-off box near the Lessard Community League and by request to the Project Manager.
- + A paper "mini-survey" was offered to students at Centennial Elementary School to share their experiences in Gariepy and identify areas for improvement.

Over 140 completed surveys



Community Workshop

- + An online community workshop took place on March 16, 2022. The event introduced the project to the community and gathered initial feedback from those who live, work and play in Gariepy.
- + Participants were taken on a virtual tour of the neighbourhood and participated in a series of small group brainstorming exercises to explore issues and opportunities for walking, rolling, biking, driving and using parks and public gathering spaces.

Over 30 participants



Community Walk

- + An in-person guided walking tour was held on March 19, 2022. Participants met outside the Lessard Community League and walked throughout the neighbourhood over 2 hours, stopping at key locations to share their input about issues and opportunities for Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal.
- + A self-directed walking tour was also available on the project webpage and paper copies were made available at the drop-off box near the Lessard Community League.

8 participants



Community Conversations

- + Project team members reached out to six community groups to explore community recreation, school drop-off experiences, condominium needs, community commercial access, seniors accessibility, etc. These included the Lessard Community League, Centennial Elementary School, Lessard Mall/Muslim Association of Canada Islamic Centre, St. Anthony's Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Carriage Lane Condominiums and Lessard Village.
- + Community members interested in joining the Gariepy Community Committee reached out to the Project Manager. Participants will have an opportunity to meet regularly with the project team and talk about the project.
- + Additional emails and phone calls from community members received by the Project Manager will also be considered along with the overall feedback.

Over 15 conversations



Project Webpage

- + Over 79 people signed up for project update emails at edmonton.ca/BuildingGariepy.
- + Overall there were 1,934 participants who visited the project webpage to view photos, review documents and read multiple project pages.

Over 1,900 visitors



Communication Tactics

- + 997 postcards were delivered to all addresses in Gariepy advertising upcoming engagement opportunities.
- + Emails were sent to 79 subscribers and local stakeholders.
- + Signage was located throughout the community, including a road sign on Callingwood Road, an a-frame sign near the Lessard Community League Hall and 20 lawn signs on public boulevards throughout the neighbourhood.
- + Project information was shared online through the project webpage and online by the Lessard Community League.
- + A drop-off box was installed outside the Lessard Community League Hall that was used to collect public feedback and share information about engagement opportunities.

What we heard

The following sections include a summary of what we heard at the community walk, online workshop, in conversations and through the paper and online surveys. The summary has been developed to reflect the relevancy, frequency and diversity of the responses we received based on the questions that were asked to participants.

Building a Project Vision Together



"The 'hidden gem' that the community is - not many people know it is here and what it offers."

Ideas and insights were collected from participants to help us understand how people experience the neighbourhood today and what can be improved or added to create a neighbourhood for the future.

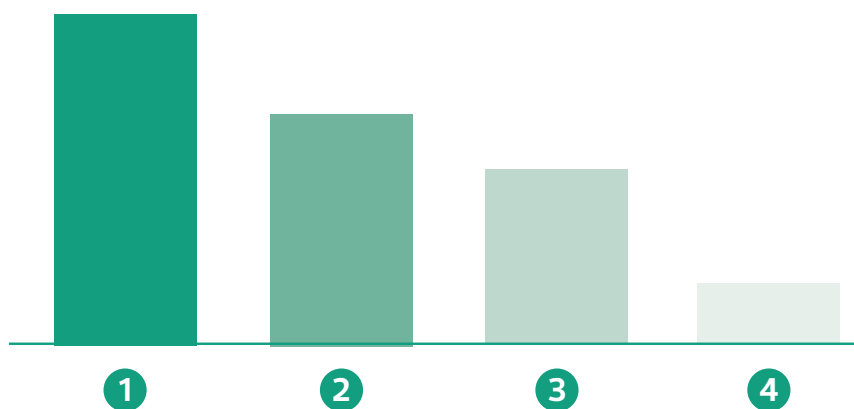
- + A **Vision** is a short description that sets the direction for the community's future liveability.
- + **Guiding Principles** are ideas which inform how the vision is applied to the neighbourhood design.

Here is what we heard from engagement participants:

What are your favourite things about Gariepy today?

The most commonly identified elements can be broadly categorized into the following themes, listed from most to least frequently raised by participants.

1. Location and proximity to pathways, river valley and nearby amenities (school, stores, playgrounds, recreational facilities, etc.)
2. Quiet and clean neighbourhood character with attractive homes and green space
3. A friendly, involved neighbourhood with a sense of community
4. Good transit, minimal traffic and comfortable roads



"Small and engaged community, lots of trails and green space. It's very small and tight knit."



"I feel safe at night when I walk around."

What are some of the challenges you face living in and moving around your neighbourhood?

The most commonly identified challenges can be broadly categorized into the following themes, listed from most to least frequently raised by participants (starting in the left column).

- + Drainage issues which are causing flooding for homes, roads, pathways and parks
- + Poor condition of pathways and sidewalks in the neighbourhood causing accessibility challenges
- + Location of street lights and poor lighting
- + Snow removal and icy sidewalks that cause hazards in the winter
- + Traffic congestion, speeding and parking concerns near Centennial School and Lessard Mall
- + Poor visibility of crosswalks and traffic signs
- + Limited parking in the neighbourhood
- + Inadequate public transit on evenings and weekends
- + Traffic noise from surrounding roads and Lessard Mall
- + Lack of amenities in parks and green spaces
- + Some yards, sidewalks, commercial areas and public areas are poorly maintained
- + Safety concerns around the river bank, Garipey Park and Centennial School
- + Poor connectivity to neighbouring communities due to the absence of a path network



“Concrete – it’s all falling apart, the driveways, the curbs. I have a baby and pushing the stroller is sometimes impossible.”



“Sidewalks and roads are in horrible shape. And water doesn’t drain well in some spots.”



“Parking in the neighbourhood is a challenge – both from residents with several vehicles and from visitors to places of worship.”



“Fence along the river is broken.”



“School pick-up can cause problems for nearby residents when others are blocking driveways, laneways while parked waiting for kids.”

Thinking about a renewed Gariepy, what would you like to see changed? Upgrades will be required to support the community for the next 30 to 50 years.

The most commonly identified ideas can be broadly categorized into the following themes, listed from most to least frequently raised by participants.

- + Improve the condition, visibility and accessibility of neighbourhood sidewalks and pathways throughout Gariepy at a width that accommodates those who walk, roll and bike
- + Improve parks and green spaces by adding amenities like seating, signage, picnic tables, gazebos, trees, climbing features and improving river valley viewpoints
- + Improve roads and alleys throughout the neighbourhood including paving gravel alleys, lowering curb heights, improving snow removal and maintaining usability in all seasons
- + Add ways to bring community members together, like a community garden, winter activities or other amenities
- + Improve parking and traffic around Centennial School, Lessard Community League Hall, Gariepy Park, Lessard Mall and in neighbourhood cul-de-sacs
- + Improve drainage in Gariepy Park and throughout the community
- + Maintain the natural feel and character of the neighbourhood



"The park needs updating. The roads need repaving. The sidewalks need curbs that descend on the corners for wheelchairs, strollers etc."



"Better sidewalks, better water drainage in the cul-de-sacs so water can drain in the winter, when we have melting and freezing cycles. Fix potholes and replace the streets."

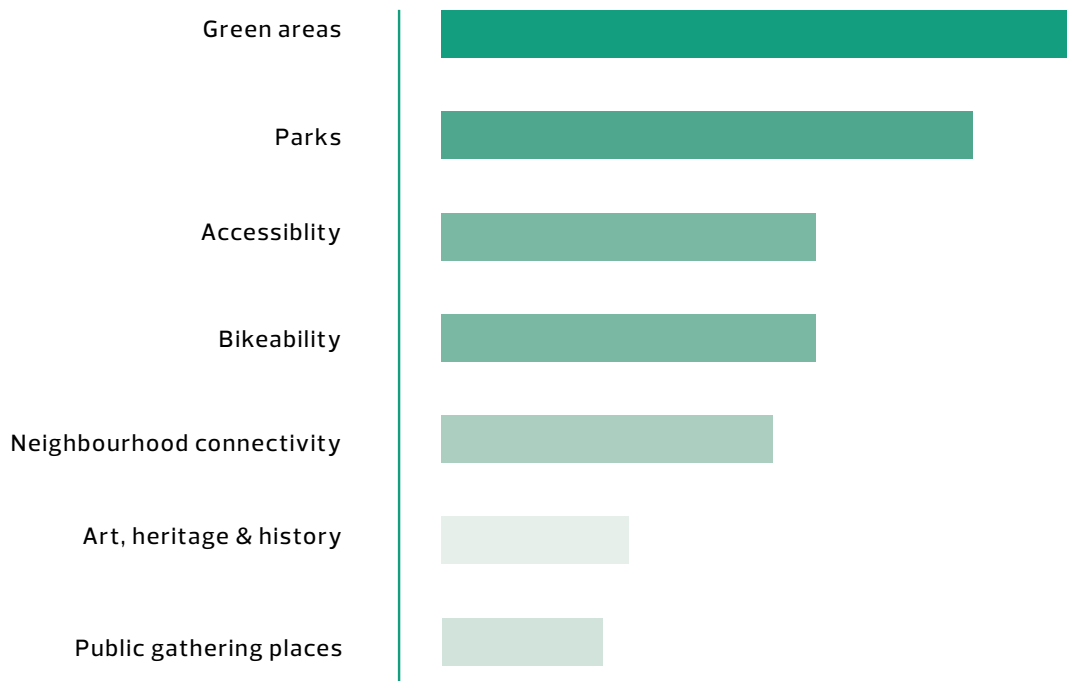


"I would like to see lowered sidewalk curbs for garage access and corner crossings. Would like to see another city prescribed river valley access point planned for our neighbourhood. Currently we need to either travel to Wolf Willow, or to Wedgewood for ravine or river valley access."

There are many elements to consider in a Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal project. Which do you feel are the most important to consider for Gariepy?

The most commonly identified elements can be broadly categorized into the following themes, listed from most to least frequently raised by participants.

- + Green areas (boulevards, landscaping, trees and river valley)
- + Parks (playgrounds, sports fields and picnic tables)
- + Accessibility to neighbourhood homes/businesses by all modes of travel (transit, drop-off and pick-up, driving, walking, rolling and biking)
- + Bikeability (safety, connections and bike parking)
- + Neighbourhood connectivity (moving in and through the neighbourhood)
- + Art, heritage and history of the neighbourhood
- + Public gathering places



The Project Team will use this input to **CREATE** a proposed Vision and Guiding Principles for the Gariepy Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal project. This will be shared with the community to gather feedback at the next engagement stage.

Exploring Opportunities

The following section includes a summary of what we heard throughout all of the engagement opportunities. Participants shared ideas and thoughts on various issues and opportunities which could be considered for the neighbourhood and alley renewal project.

The following key themes were identified by participants under the following four categories:

- + Driving
- + Biking
- + Walking and rolling
- + Parks and public gathering spaces



“The lights leading out of the community can be timed better to create better flow.”

Driving

- + Current road widths are appreciated for garbage removal, windrows and traffic and there are some that prefer to keep the existing widths
- + Traffic congestion, parking issues and conflicts between people who walk and people who drive, particularly around Centennial School, places of worship and entrances to the community
- + Lack of crosswalk markings, street lights, stop signs and children playing signs
- + Poor road conditions, maintenance and unpaved back alleys that cause concerns during winter and spring melt
- + Poor traffic light timing, adherence to roadway signage, sidewalk and crosswalk visibility at night and the need for curb extensions on the corners of collector roads (57 Avenue and 172 Street)
- + Reduce curb heights to better access driveways
- + Poor accessibility for alternative modes of transportation, including public transit, walking, rolling and biking
- + A need to encourage fast moving vehicles to slow down in playground/school zones and along 172 Street through traffic calming measures, installation of speed limit signage and improving visibility of existing signage
- + Reduce congestion and traffic noise around the Callingwood Road and 172 Street intersection as well as improving the layout of the intersections leading into the community



“Completely change and improve the road design of Callingwood Road, between 172 Street and 178 Street to account for vehicles leaving and entering the mall parking lot.”



"The biggest issue is the mountable curbs which are very tall and create issues getting in and out of driveways."



"Cross walk across 172st and 60th Ave. There are lots of kids that cross here to get to school. Because the kids continue along 60th Ave, the crosswalk near the bus stop doesn't meet this need."

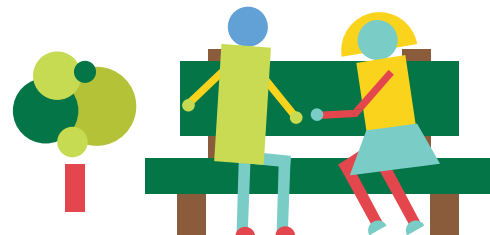
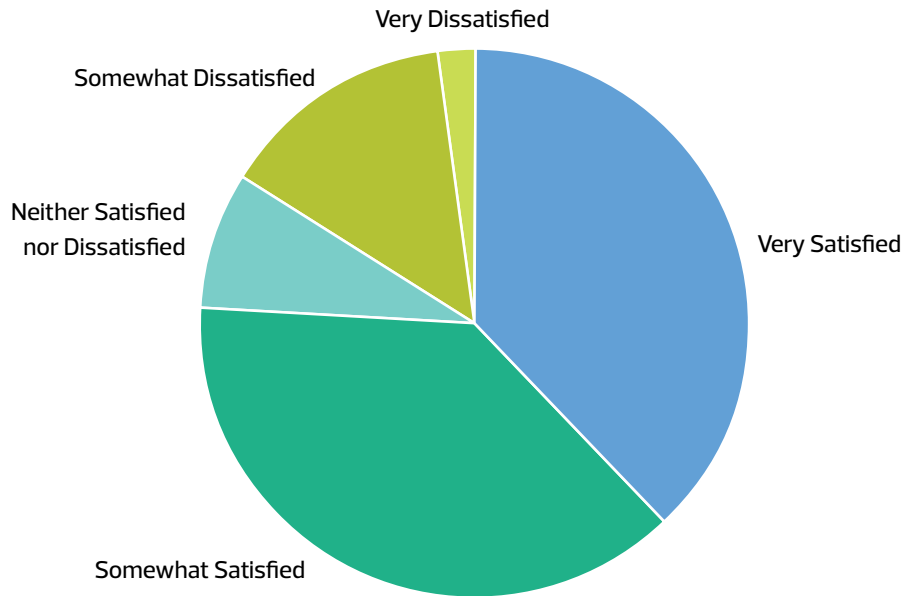


Discourage private vehicle use by removing on-street parking and repurposing some car lanes for public and active transportation. Making driving a private vehicle easier or more convenient is not compatible with the city's declared climate emergency and stated desire to shift more trips to public and active transportation."



"Making sure that Lessard Mall has sufficient parking for their tenants so street parking and traffic are not overwhelming."

Levels of participant satisfaction with **Driving** in the Garipey neighbourhood





"The sidewalks are narrow on the major road ways and cyclists will bike on the sidewalk which makes pedestrian walking and dog walking a challenge."

Biking

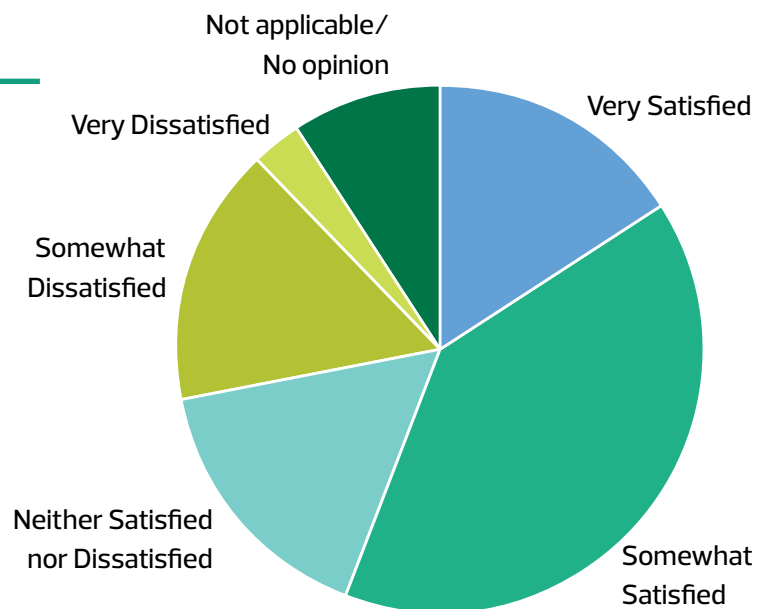
- + Poor road / sidewalk condition and path maintenance, causing hazards for people who bike in the winter
- + On street parking within the community reduces sightlines and available road space for people who bike, pushing them onto the sidewalks
- + Better pathway connections and infrastructure for people who bike
- + Better signage along pathways for people who bike, walk and roll
- + Separated spaces from traffic, such as shared pathways, to accommodate people who bike
- + Widen shared pathway widths to reduce conflicts between people who bike, walk and roll
- + Current conditions being sufficient and no additional infrastructure being needed for people who bike was also shared by some participants



"My major concern right now is the steep slopes to get on and off of sidewalks for kids on bikes. There should also be a shared use path along Lessard Drive by the river as that area has cars coming around the bend quickly that can't see you on the road."

"There aren't many pure bike / pedestrian trails. Getting to the Fort Edmonton bridge system / Wolf Willow is a challenge."

Levels of participant satisfaction with **Biking** in the Gariepy neighbourhood





“Consider adding accessibility ramps at bus stops.”

Walking and Rolling

- + Poor walking and rolling conditions: cracks, missing sidewalks, poor maintenance, poor drainage, narrow sidewalks and a lack of curb extensions
- + Improve snow removal and consider year-round accessibility for people who walk and roll
- + Improve amenities (e.g. benches) in green spaces for those walking and rolling
- + Improve pathway connections, condition and accessibility, building curb ramps on corners and at crossings for wheelchairs and strollers
- + Improve comfort and accessibility of bus shelters and increasing the frequency of public transit in the area
- + Improve visibility for crosswalks with flashing lights (e.g. 57 Avenue by Centennial School, near Lessard Mall)
- + Install missing sidewalk connections along the riverbank, along Callingwood Road, behind Lessard Mall and along 53 Avenue (between 174 Street and the pathway leading south into the Donsdale neighbourhood)
- + Current conditions being sufficient and no additional infrastructure being needed for people who walk or roll was also communicated by some participants

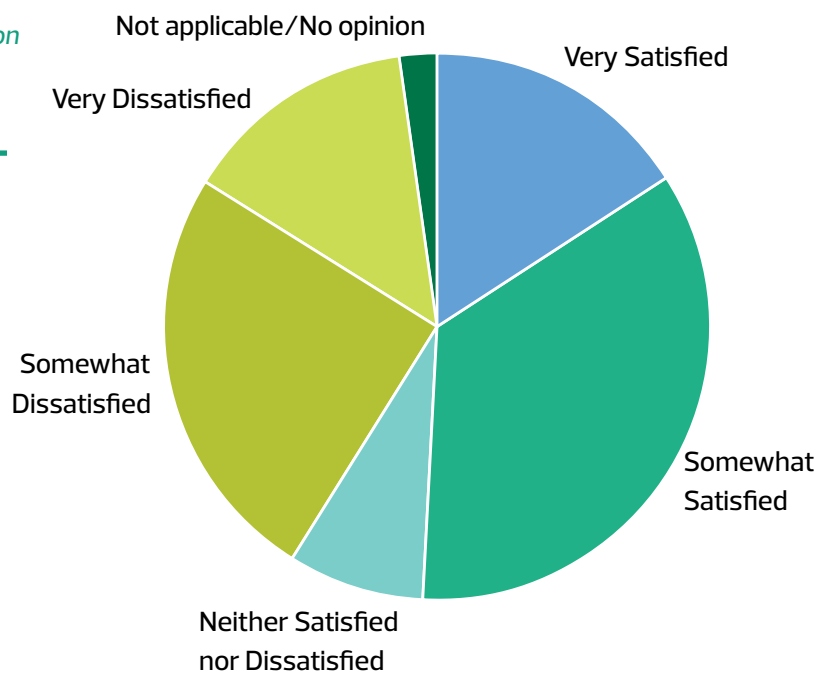


“I like walking near the river valley but wish there was access to get down to the river.”



The curbs need to be improved everywhere. Pushing a stroller is so difficult! Getting it safely up and down curbs is a significant challenge. I also feel nervous with how fast people drive on 59 and 57 ave, even though there are school zones! We need speed bumps.”

Levels of participant satisfaction with **Walking/Rolling** in the Gariepy neighbourhood





“The Park and Community Centre and ice rink are great but the facilities are ageing and need some upgrades or a plan to keep ahead of inevitable deterioration.

Parks and Public Gathering Places

- + Connected and active community that values open park spaces for community gathering, socialising and connecting with neighbours
- + Maintain existing green spaces and access to nature as these are valued as key components of the neighbourhood character and aesthetic
- + Improve park facilities and amenities by adding benches, lights, firepits, shelters, picnic tables and additional waste bins
- + Improve green areas by adding landscaping around parks and playgrounds, as well as community and wayfinding signage
- + Increase recreational amenities and activities such as play structures, off-leash areas and upgrade existing community amenities including age-friendly features
- + Improve connectivity and accessibility of shared pathways in the area
- + Add a bridge over Gariepy ravine to mitigate steep grades as well as access points into the river valley
- + Improve the condition of existing park barriers along the river bank
- + Improve maintenance of green areas, removing deadfall from forested areas and maintaining pathways
- + Improve security and park maintenance to reduce conflicts with wildlife and use of park areas for undesirable activities
- + Current conditions being sufficient and no changes are needed for people who use parks and public gathering places was also communicated by some participants

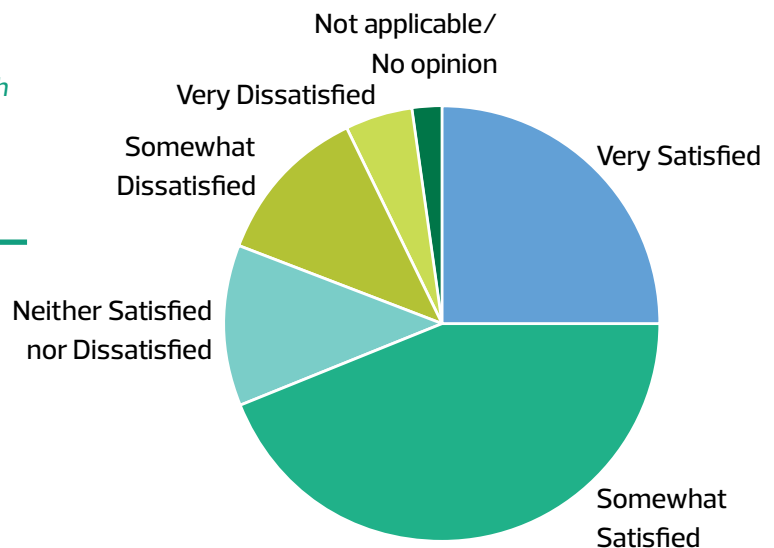


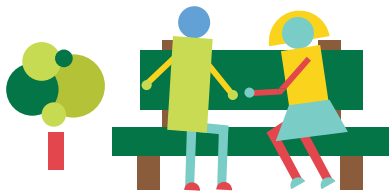
The commercial areas we have in Gariepy are somewhat uninviting. Buildings with parking spaces is what they amount to, not gathering places



“The playground is old, it is geared for older children. The small playground at Centennial is very large with no equipment. There are also no amenities in the neighbourhood (corner store, cafe, etc).

Levels of participant satisfaction with **Parks and public gathering spaces** in the Gariepy neighbourhood





Next Steps

Thank you to all who shared their input during the **Building a Project Vision Together** and **Exploring Opportunities** stages of engagement.

In fall 2022, the public will be invited to the **Exploring Options and Tradeoffs** stage of engagement for Gariepy Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal. The project team will return to the community to confirm the Vision and Guiding Principles and explore options and tradeoffs to understand the preferences of the community. During this stage we will invite you to provide feedback on the design options and to share insights to help refine the options.

Information will also be provided about **Cost-sharing Opportunities** for decorative street lights and sidewalk reconstruction through the Local Improvement process.

For more information regarding the Gariepy Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal, upcoming public engagement activities and to subscribe for project updates, please visit edmonton.ca/BuildingGariepy



Working together to make the most out of your neighbourhood.

This is your city and your neighbourhood. We want to understand how you experience your neighbourhood and ask for your input on what we might do to make it better. We will engage and work with you on the renewal of roads, sidewalks, street lights and park spaces. We will also promote other community opportunities to enhance how people live and interact in your neighbourhood. We commit to being open and transparent about how your input is used. Let's make the most out of your neighbourhood.



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