

What We Heard Report: Meyonohk Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal

Exploring Options and Tradeoffs
September/October 2024

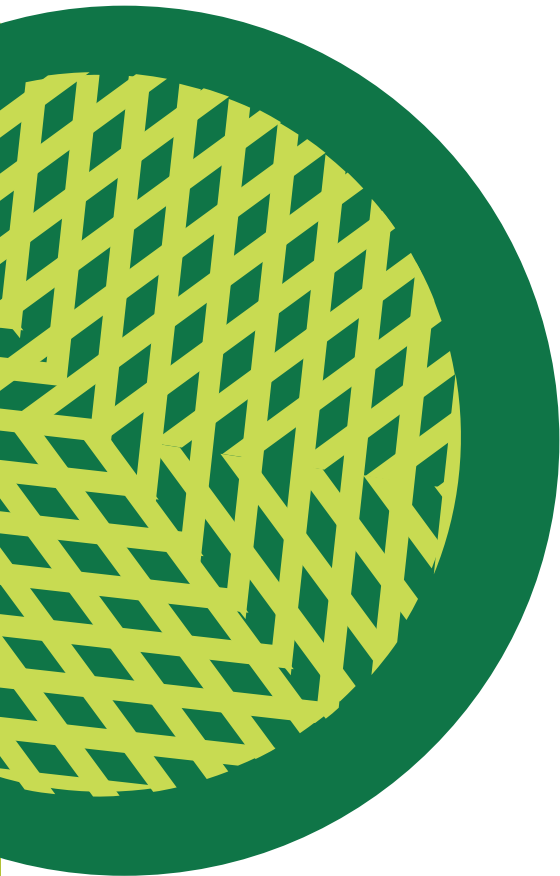
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Edmonton

REFINE

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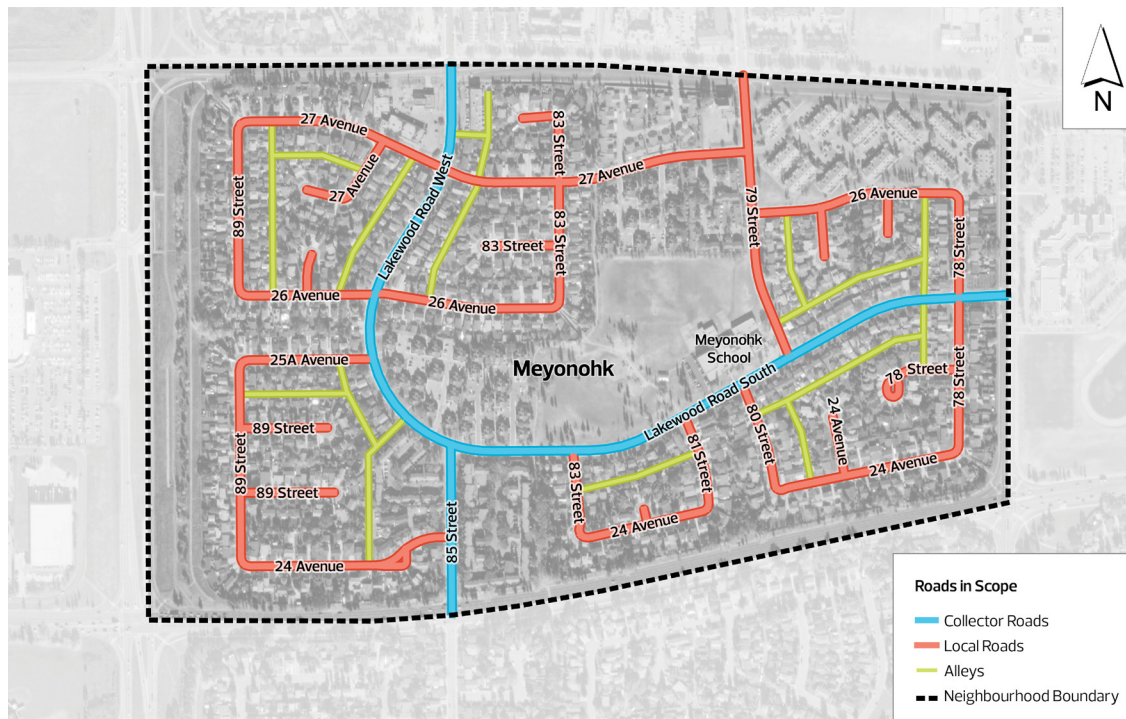
Project overview

Meyonohk has been selected for Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal. Through the City of Edmonton's Neighbourhood Renewal program, we will:

- + Rehabilitate roads and alleys
- + Replace street lights
- + Replace curbs and gutters
- + Repair sidewalks
- + Connect missing sidewalk links, where possible

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.

Meyonohk project scope map



Where we are in the decision making process

The Neighbourhood Renewal program follows the road map shown below. Following each stage of engagement, the Project Team will share with you how your input is used to **ADVISE, REFINE, CREATE** or **DECIDE** key aspects of the project.

This report highlights what we heard during the **Exploring Options and Tradeoffs** stage during September and October 2024.

Neighbourhood Renewal Road Map



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Public Engagement Spectrum

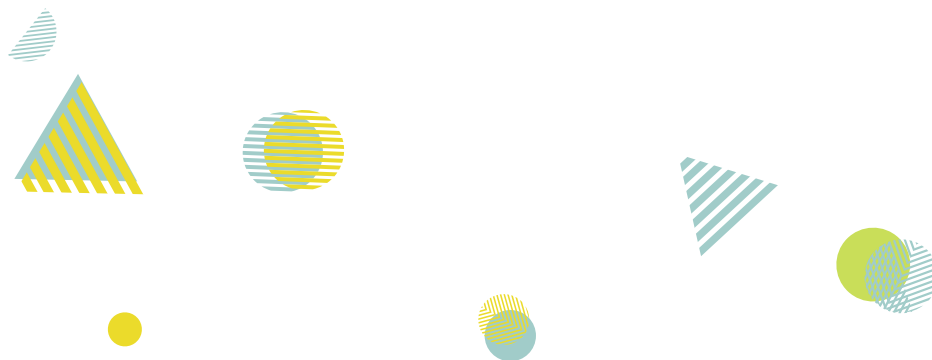
The City of Edmonton seeks input from residents to help guide the project. The City's Public Engagement Spectrum, shown below, shows the four levels of influence the public can have on decisions made by the City throughout the project.

In this stage of engagement, the public was invited to provide input that would help:

- + **REFINE** the Project Team's proposed design options

We commit to sharing how public input influences decisions according to the Public Engagement Spectrum:

Public Engagement Spectrum



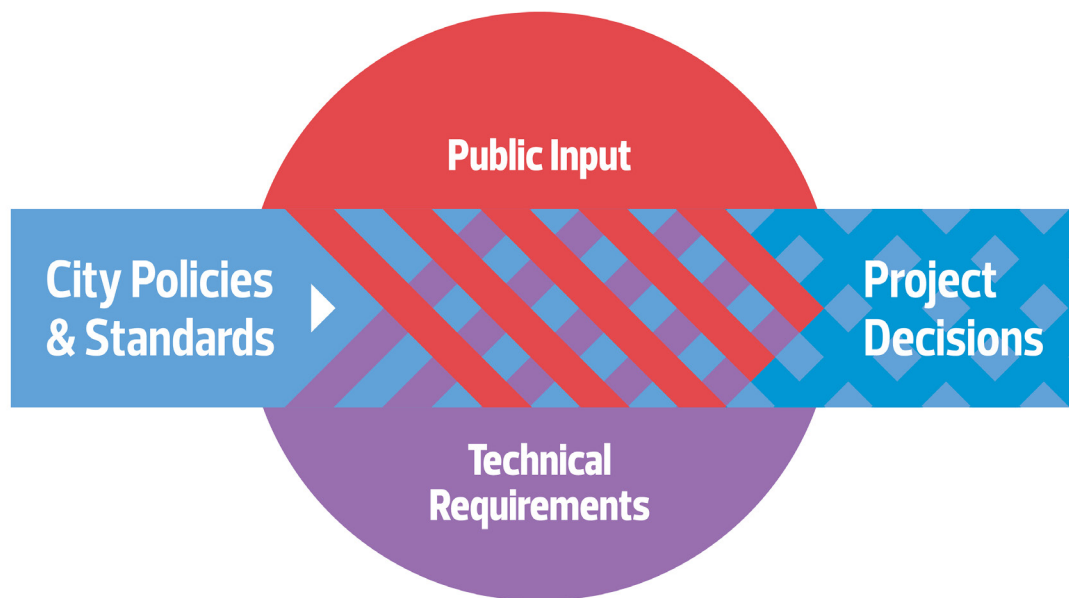
Decision making process

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 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.

This process helps to ensure 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.

It's important to note public engagement feedback is not a vote, nor is it a statistical representation of all residents. It does, however, provide an indication of local concerns and desires. Input received through Neighbourhood Renewal public engagement cannot change policy direction.

Decision making diagram



How we informed and engaged

In September and October 2024, the Project Team engaged with residents in the following ways:

Online survey



An online survey was available to the public from September 26 to October 17, 2024, asking participants who live, work and play in Meyonohk to **REFINE** the Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal design. We asked participants to:

- + Provide feedback on the draft community Vision and Guiding Principles
- + Learn about the benefits and tradeoffs of the design options for walking, rolling, biking, driving and gathering
- + Share their input on how important the benefits and tradeoffs are to them and their community

90 completed surveys

Drop-in community event



The Project Team hosted a drop-in community event on October 1, 2024. Participants learned about the project and the benefits and tradeoffs of the options presented. Participants also had a chance to ask questions and get answers from Project Team members.

24 participants

Community pop-up events



Project Team members “popped up” on October 10 and October 15, 2024 throughout the neighbourhood and at Meyonohk School to share information about the project and encourage survey participation.

173 conversations



Community meeting



Project Team members met with the Parents Involved in Meyonohk group from Meyonohk School on October 21, 2024. Participants had the opportunity to learn about the project, share their feedback and ask team members questions.

12 participants

How we communicated



- + Three road sings
- + 16 yard signs
- + Four A-frame signs
- + 20,400 social media ad unique views
- + 1,136 newsletters delivered
- + 1,136 postcards delivered
- + 44 targeted letters delivered
- + 1,105 project web page unique views
- + 50 emails to subscribers

We enjoyed meeting many people in Meyonohk through in-person activities, hearing their feedback and having conversations.

Thank you to everyone who provided their feedback through the online survey and in-person activities. Feedback collected is summarized in the following section and will be considered in the next engagement stage.



What we heard

The following sections include a summary of what we heard through the community drop-in event, pop-ups, and online survey. The summary has been developed to reflect the relevancy, frequency and diversity of the responses we received based on the feedback provided by participants.

In previous stages of engagement, **Starting the Conversation, Building a Project Vision Together** and **Exploring Opportunities**, we worked with the community to **CREATE** a draft neighbourhood Vision and Guiding Principles. The Vision will be used to guide decision making for Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal. The Guiding Principles are ideas that inform how the Vision should be applied to the neighbourhood design.

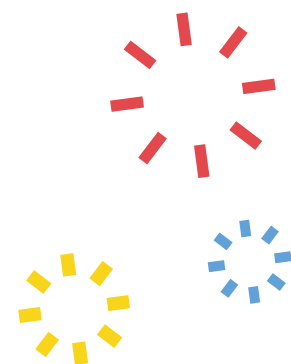
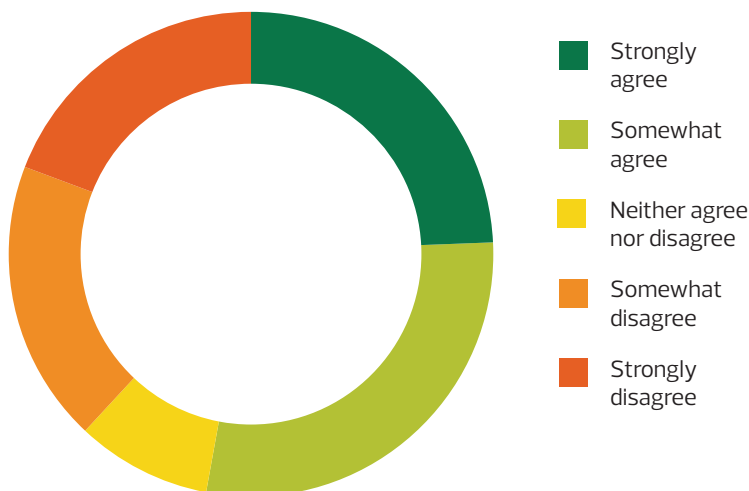
During the **Exploring Options and Tradeoffs** stage of engagement, we presented the following Vision and Guiding Principles.

Draft community Vision for Meyonohk

We are the friendly, welcoming and vibrant community of Meyonohk.

Our neighbourhood values safety, inclusivity and accessibility. Our residents are well connected with walking trails and major roadways nearby, which allows them to easily explore Meyonohk and beyond.

More than half of the participants strongly agree or somewhat agree the Vision accurately reflects the current and future needs of the community.



Draft Guiding Principles for Meyonohk

Community-focused spaces



Foster a sense of community by enhancing public spaces to encourage interaction and inclusion for all ages, backgrounds and abilities.

Active and engaged lifestyles



Support healthy, vibrant lifestyles with enhanced recreational opportunities that encourage physical and social activity for everyone.

Connectivity and mobility



Strengthen Meyonohk's network of pathways to ensure convenient movement to destinations and public transit.

Eco-friendly design



Integrate eco-friendly infrastructure and green spaces, foster environmental health and resilience, encourage native landscaping and support local ecosystems.

Aesthetic and functional spaces



Design public spaces to blend beauty with function and to create places that are enjoyable and practical for everyday use.

Vibrant commercial spaces



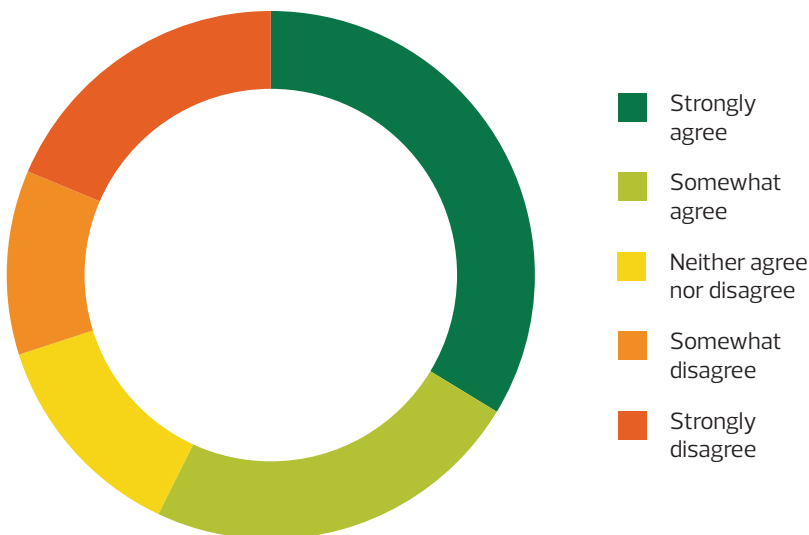
Foster dynamic commercial areas that boost business, attract visitors and provide lively community gathering spots.

Safe and secure environment



Prioritize safety through infrastructure to enhance safety for all residents.

More than half of participants strongly agree or somewhat agree that the Guiding Principles reflect the current and future needs of the community.



Exploring options, benefits and tradeoffs

As we move forward with creating a draft design, the Project Team is focused on understanding what matters most to the community. While community feedback is an important part of the process, it is considered through the lens of City policies, standards and technical requirements – such as roadway width guidelines and considerations for utilities, trees and other features – to explore design options that suit the neighbourhood.

The **design package** shared during the **Exploring Options and Tradeoffs** stage includes the proposed ideas presented for public feedback. These ideas are preliminary and will continue to evolve as the planning and design process progresses.

NOTE: All design options presented are subject to funding and approvals.

Feedback from this stage of engagement will help inform the draft design, aiming to reflect neighbourhood priorities and values wherever possible within the constraints of policy and technical requirements.

We asked participants to share which benefits they felt were important and which tradeoffs they were concerned about, with the option to select all benefits and tradeoffs that applied to them. Additionally, participants were encouraged to identify other benefits or tradeoffs we may not have considered. The community's priorities regarding the benefits and tradeoffs are described throughout this report. Benefits and tradeoffs specific to each option are detailed in the corresponding sections, while other comments have been grouped into themes and presented at the end of the report.

What are options, benefits and tradeoffs?

Options are proposed ideas for you to consider.

A **benefit** is how a suggested change can improve or address concerns to an existing space. How you feel about a benefit is important for the Project Team to understand.

A **tradeoff** is understanding what else is affected as a result of a suggested change to an existing space. How you feel about the tradeoff is important for the Project Team to understand.



Walking, rolling and biking connections

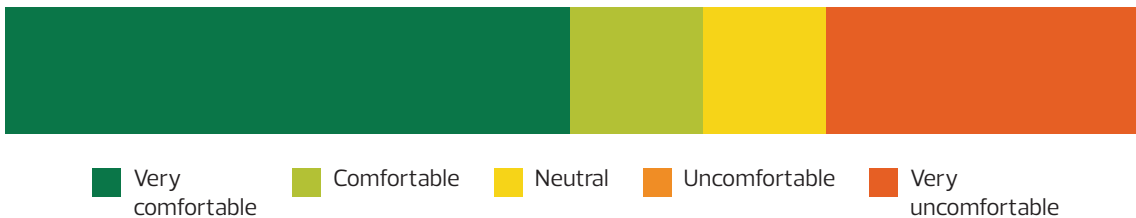
New sidewalks and pathway connections

Through Neighbourhood Renewal, we have the opportunity to upgrade existing sidewalks and boulevards to current standards to ensure residents can easily walk, bike and roll to destinations in their community.

Adding sidewalks where they are currently missing follows the direction set out by City policies and programs, such as the Complete Streets Design and Construction Standards. These reflect The City Plan's commitment to good walking routes and accessibility through neighbourhoods. Missing sidewalks and pathway connections will be added throughout Meyonohk.

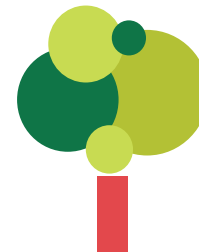
Sidewalk connection south of 28 Avenue

We asked participants about their level of comfort with adding a new sidewalk connection along 28 Avenue between 91 Street and Lakewood Road South, Label A as seen on Page 8 of the [design package](#). More than half of participants are very comfortable or comfortable with adding the new sidewalk connection. Many participants believe the new sidewalk will promote accessibility, while several feel it will provide more options for active transportation. However, some participants feel the existing sidewalk on the north side of 28 Avenue between 91 Street and Lakewood Road is sufficient for this location.



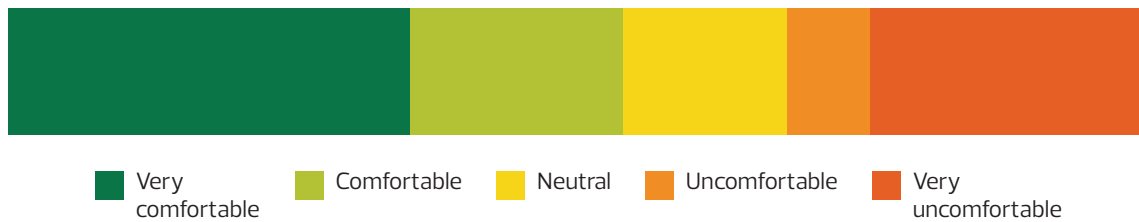
"Helps with accessibility and making the neighbourhood a bit more enjoyable. Adds to recreation potential in the area."

- Survey participant



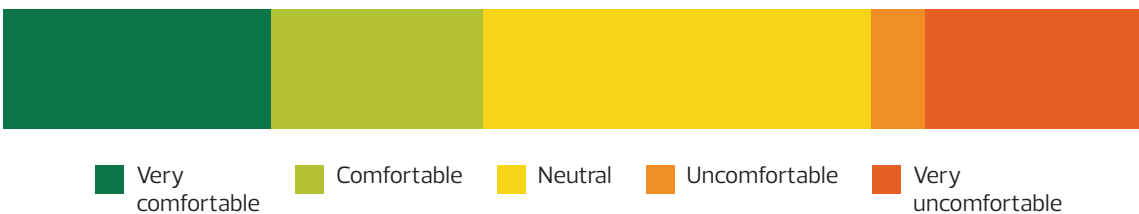
East-west pathway in Meyonohk Park

We asked participants about their level of comfort with adding a pathway connection across Meyonohk Park, Label B as seen on Page 8 of the [design package](#). More than half of the participants are very comfortable or comfortable with the idea. Some felt the pathway would provide an accessible connection to the park from the east side of Meyonohk School. Others, however, expressed concerns about safety, particularly for sports field users, as the pathway would be close to the sledding hill and the school.



Alley improvement

We asked participants about their comfort level with improving the walking and biking connection through the alley between Lakewood Road West and 89 Street, Label C as seen on Page 8 of the [design package](#). While opinions were mixed, responses leaned slightly more toward comfort than discomfort. Many participants felt neutral about the improvements, suggesting a range of perspectives. Some raised concerns about maintaining safety and security in the alley if upgrades were made, while others saw the improvements as a welcome and overdue enhancement to the area.



Feedback for the **realigned pathway** in Meyonohk Park, Label D as seen on Page 8 in the [design package](#), is identified in the Park Improvements section of this report.

Benefit and tradeoff priorities for new sidewalks and pathway connections

In Meyonohk, residents emphasized the importance of accessibility, safety and better connections throughout the neighbourhood. These priorities support the goals to create a safer and more inclusive environment for people walking, rolling and biking.

The top benefit identified by participants was improving accessibility and safety for all users. Additional benefits included enhancing safety by adding lighting along new sidewalks and pathways. However, participants also highlighted key tradeoffs, with the most significant concern being the potential removal or replacement of public trees to accommodate new sidewalks and pathways. Many residents emphasized the importance of prioritizing tree preservation as part of the project.



School drop off

Community members have noted that, due to the number of students coming from outside the neighbourhood, Meyonohk School experiences significant traffic congestion during pick-up and drop-off times. To address these challenges and improve the experience for students, parents and staff, the design options explore changes to the drop-off areas. These include widening sidewalks, adding benches and planting trees to create a safer, more comfortable and functional space during peak times, as seen on Page 9 of the [design package](#).

Benefit and tradeoff priorities for school drop off

We heard from residents that the visibility of students, staff and parents around the school pick-up/drop-off area is important. Participants identified widening the walkways in these areas, adding a physical buffer around crosswalks and intersections and crossing improvements as the most important benefits for the Project Team to consider.

Participants also expressed interest in designating a driving lane around the school for buses and a parking lane along 79 Street for cars waiting during school pick up and drop off.

Participants shared some concerns about the potential tradeoffs for the project. These included losing grassy areas near the school to make room for wider sidewalks, reduced visibility around the school if trees are added and narrower roads to accommodate sidewalk widening. Some participants were also worried that adding an east-west pathway through the park could create conflicts with the sports fields.

Members of the Project Team joined the Parents Involved in Meyonohk meeting on October 21, 2024. The Project Team shared information on proposed changes around Meyonohk School, specifically to improve school pick-up and drop-off. The following is the feedback from the meeting:

- + Create a designated pick-up/drop-off lane on the east side of Meyonohk School on 79 Street
- + Support for proposed crossing enhancements around the school

Additional feedback heard and will be reviewed:

- + Interest in an updated playground



Traffic movements and safety

Traffic calming

Traffic calming measures are used to enhance safety for all road users, especially people who walk and bike. Traffic calming helps address speeding and/or shortcutting traffic and improve visibility for people crossing the roads in your neighbourhood.

There are a number of traffic calming measures that can be applied in Meyonohk, including curb extensions, raised crossings, raised intersections, mid-block crossings, centre medians and speed humps or speed tables. Each measure has different benefits and tradeoffs to consider, as seen on pages 10 – 12 in the [design package](#).

Benefit and tradeoff priorities for traffic calming

We heard from residents that traffic calming measures are important to encourage slower traffic, improve the visibility of people crossing the street, improve the awareness of crossings for drivers, provide a physical buffer from parking too close to the intersection and overall making crossings safer in the neighbourhood.

Residents in this neighbourhood are most concerned about traffic calming measures that may reduce on-street parking or cause discomfort to people driving.



Biking opportunities

New bike routes or bike facilities will be added in Meyonohk. A variety of designs could be applied to roads that can accommodate a safe space for people who bike. People identified the following benefits and tradeoffs as important considerations for the Project Team when identifying locations and what type of bike infrastructure to put in the neighbourhood, as seen on page 12 of the [design package](#).

Benefit and tradeoff priorities for bike opportunities

We heard from community members that on-street parking and having a separate space for people who walk, roll and bike from people who drive are important to consider when deciding what biking opportunities to introduce into Meyonohk. Other elements that are important to residents are maintaining existing traffic patterns and connections to other bike facilities outside Meyonohk.

Participants suggested an improvement to add a bike facility along Lakewood Road that passes Meyonohk School. They noted that this area experiences high traffic during school pick-up and drop-off times and serves as an important connector to other parts of the neighbourhood.

An additional tradeoff participants are concerned with is narrowing roadways.



Local roads

All roads in Meyonohk will be redesigned and reconstructed. A variety of designs could be applied to these roads that can accommodate people who walk, roll, bike and drive, as seen on Pages 20 – 22 of the [design package](#). People identified the following benefits and tradeoffs as important considerations for the Project Team when renewing local roadways.

Benefit and tradeoff priorities for local roads

We heard from residents that additional space for trees, snow storage and separating people biking from people driving as important to consider when redesigning local roads.

Residents expressed concern about the potential reduction of on-street parking, along with other tradeoffs such as narrowing roadways and maintaining access to designated accessible parking spots.

"We are concerned that the local roads will be too narrow with these designs, especially during winter."

– Survey participant

Lakewood Road and 85 Street

Lakewood Road and 85 Street are main collector roads into and out of the community. Various designs can be applied to these roads to accommodate people who walk, roll, bike and drive, as seen on pages 16 – 19 of the [design package](#). People identified the following benefits and tradeoffs as important considerations for the Project Team when renewing collector roadways in the neighbourhood.

Benefit and tradeoff priorities for Lakewood Road and 85 Street

We heard from residents that additional space for trees, people walking, rolling and biking and separated spaces for people biking are important to consider when redesigning Lakewood Road and 85 Street.

Residents expressed concern about reduced on-street parking.

"I think that putting something on this road would encourage more bikes. There is no safe place to ride a bike on this street."

– Survey participant

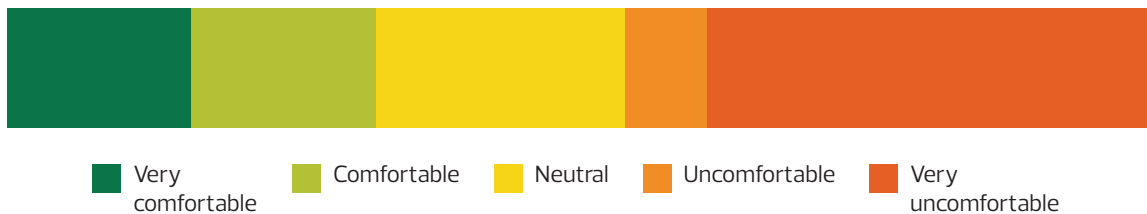


Pedestrian-friendly alley

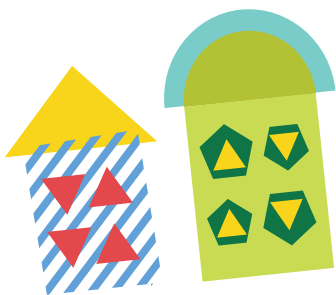
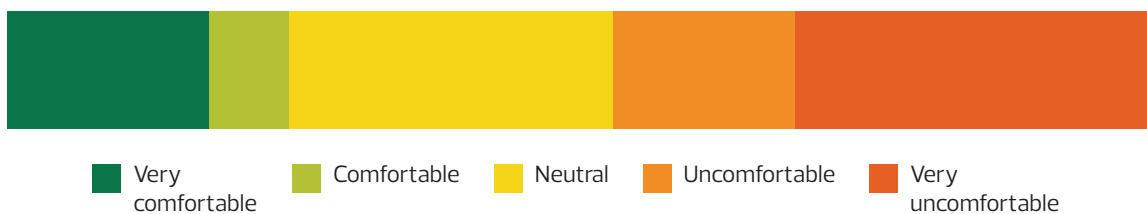
Alleys in Meyonohk will be reconstructed and repaved.

A portion of the alley between 89 Street and Lakewood Road has the opportunity to be redesigned with a shared pathway or as a shared street. This design can be seen on Page 23 of the [design package](#).

We asked participants how comfortable they were with adding a **shared pathway** to the alley between 89 Street and Lakewood Road. Almost half of the participants said they were uncomfortable, with some worried about more people walking through the alley and others concerned it could lead to more crime in the area.

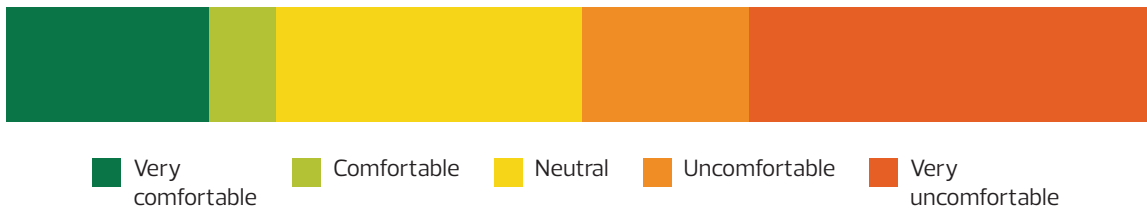


We asked participants how comfortable they were with changing the alley to a **shared street** between 89 Street and Lakewood Road. Almost half of the participants said they were uncomfortable, with several expressing concerns about pedestrian safety when sharing the road with drivers. Others did not want increased foot traffic in the alley and some were worried it could lead to more crime in the area.



Realigned 78 Street cul-de-sac island

There is an opportunity to redesign the cul-de-sac island, as seen on Page 15 of the [design package](#). This design proposed to make better use of space, while ensuring the surrounding roads can accommodate emergency and service vehicles, such as garbage trucks. We asked participants how comfortable they were with increasing the landscaped area of the 78 Street cul-de-sac island. Nearly half of the participants said they were uncomfortable, with several concerned about reducing road space and others worried about losing street parking in front of their homes. A few participants also noted the island is used for snow storage during the winter.

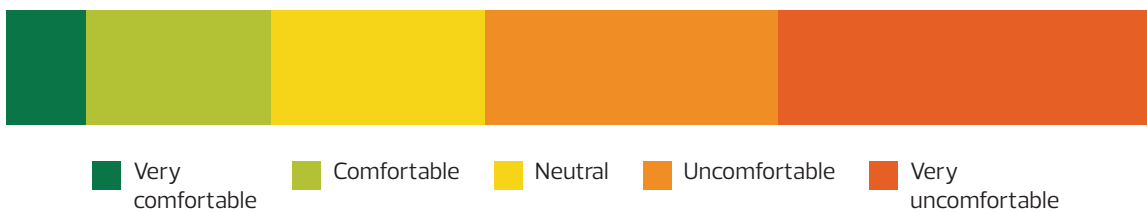


Redesigned 24 Avenue island

There is an opportunity to redesign the roadway island to make better use of space and increase landscape space.

Participants shared mixed feelings about the proposed redesign, as seen on Page 14 of the [design package](#). More than half of respondents said they felt uncomfortable or very uncomfortable with adding more landscaped areas.

When asked to choose between specific design options, some respondents preferred Option 2 or 3, but many still felt strongly about keeping 24 Avenue as it is now.



This feedback shows that, while some people are open to the redesign, there are also significant concerns. It's important to understand and address residents' priorities and concerns as we consider any changes.

Examples of specific concerns include worries about losing driveway access and on-street parking. Some participants with limited mobility were concerned about increasing the distance to the street. Some also feel the two-way traffic flow around the island could be confusing or unsafe if drivers don't follow it properly. Additionally, a few participants would like to keep the island available for snow storage in winter to reduce snow buildup on sidewalks.



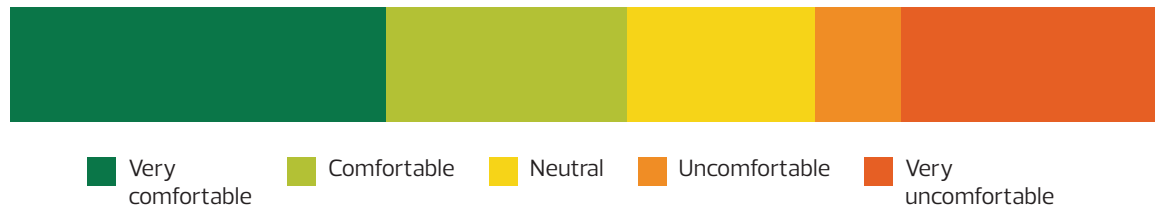
Open spaces and placemaking

Through Neighbourhood Renewal, we have the opportunity to add landscaping, pathways and amenities that create gathering spaces for people and can contribute to reducing climate change. These opportunities can occur in open spaces, parks and in the road right-of-way. All of the proposed improvements are subject to funding and approvals.

Gathering spaces and seating areas options

Seating areas in Meyonohk include benches and waste bins along pathways, while gathering spaces are designed with picnic tables to encourage small group gatherings. We asked participants how comfortable they were with adding these gathering spaces and seating areas in the neighbourhood.

More than half of the participants said they were comfortable or very comfortable with these additions. Some said these spaces could help build a stronger sense of community, while others felt more benches and waste bins would be helpful for people using the pathways. A few participants were concerned about vandalism and how the spaces would be maintained.



Benefit and tradeoff priorities for gathering spaces and seating area options

What we heard from residents is additional lighting and benches to enhance people's feeling of safety and accessibility is important when looking to enhance gathering spaces and seating area options.

Participants expressed some concern with open grass areas being repurposed for new uses.

"Any structures that improve the sense of community are positive changes for the area."

- Survey participant

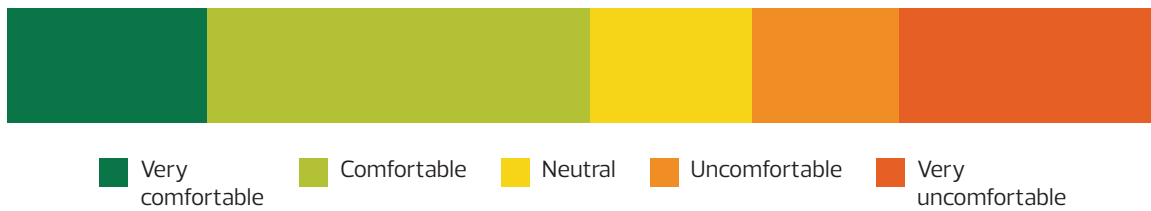
Meyonohk Park improvement options

Through Neighbourhood Renewal, we have the opportunity to make improvements to pathways, gathering spaces and seating areas in the park. Areas of unused open space are redesigned with additional trees and naturalization plantings. The playground, rink and sports fields will remain as is.

Note: The renewal of the playground is currently being considered for funding and approval. It is yet to be determined if the playground will be renewed in coordination with Neighbourhood Renewal.

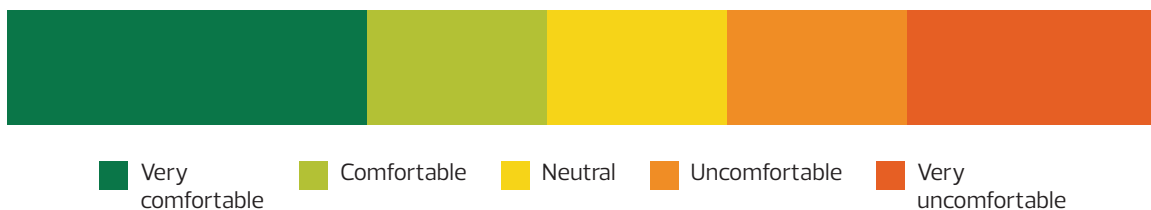
Potential park gathering space – Option 1

We asked participants how comfortable they were with Option 1, as seen on Page 25 of the [design package](#), for the potential park gathering area and improvements. Nearly half said they were very comfortable or comfortable with this option. Some participants suggested reusing the unused plaza instead of removing it, while others recommended adding more seating near the playground. A few also suggested changing the northeast pathway to make it more efficient, as long as it does not mean removing trees.



Potential park gathering space – Option 2

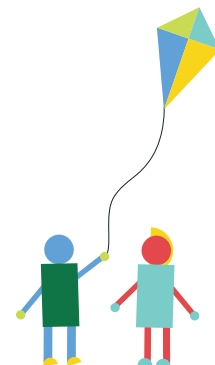
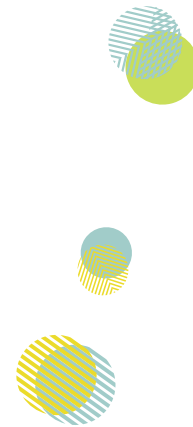
We asked participants about their comfort level with Option 2, as seen on Page 26 of the [design package](#), for the potential park gathering area and improvements. Responses were nearly evenly split between those who were comfortable or very comfortable and those who were uncomfortable or very uncomfortable with this option. As with Option 1, some participants suggested reusing the unused plaza instead of removing it. Others raised concerns about the placement of the new pathway, particularly its location at the base of a toboggan hill and its proximity to the sports field.



Other engagement themes

Throughout the survey, participants had the opportunity to share additional feedback, highlighting a variety of themes for the Project Team to consider. A common concern was how the project is funded and whether it might lead to an increase in property taxes. Many participants also expressed worries about losing on-street parking across Meyonohk, as well as the possibility of roads being narrowed, which they felt could impact accessibility and convenience for residents.

Other feedback focused on broader community improvements outside the scope of Neighbourhood Renewal, such as upgrading the playground at Meyonohk Park or adding another play space for children. While these aspects are not currently part of this project, the Project Team will ensure this input is shared with other City of Edmonton departments to inform future planning. These themes reflect the community's overall concerns and priorities and we will remain mindful of them as we continue with the Neighbourhood Renewal project.



Next steps

Thank you to all who shared their input during the **Exploring Options and Tradeoffs** stage of public engagement. The Project Team will consider your feedback along with City policies, programs and technical requirements. Then, we will begin to decide which design options require modification and which new design options will be proposed as part of the draft design.

In 2025, the Project Team will invite the public to the **Community Feedback on Draft Design** engagement stage for Meyonohk Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal. At that time, the Project Team will present the draft design and commit to being open and transparent about how your input is used. We will then ask for your feedback to help **REFINE** the design.

For information about Meyonohk Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal, upcoming engagement events and to subscribe to project updates, visit edmonton.ca/BuildingMeyonohk.

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 and promote other community opportunities to enhance how people live and interact in your neighbourhood.

Let's work together to make the most out of your neighbourhood.

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