

Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal

Frequently Asked Questions

Edmonton

Overall Neighbourhood Renewal Questions

What is Building Great Neighbourhoods?

Building Great Neighbourhoods is an initiative at the City of Edmonton that is committed to making the most out of your neighbourhood by investing taxpayer and utility rate dollars in reconstructing neighbourhoods to enhance their livability and longevity.

Building Great Neighbourhoods Commitment:

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 to enhance how people live and interact in your neighbourhood. We commit to being open and transparent about how your input is used.

What is Neighbourhood Renewal?

Neighbourhood Renewal is part of the City's Building Great Neighbourhoods initiative. Through the program, roads, sidewalks, street lights and park spaces in mature neighbourhoods are renewed and rebuilt, opportunities to improve other areas including bike connections and green spaces are explored and mitigation for issues such as speeding and shortcutting are considered.

The scope of work includes rehabilitating roads and replacing street lights, sidewalks, curbs, gutters, and connecting missing sidewalk links in your neighbourhood where possible. Other opportunities to improve parks and public spaces will be explored.

For more information on the program, [click here](#).



Funding Questions

How is Neighbourhood Renewal funded?

Funding for the Neighbourhood Renewal program has come through a combination of City-wide property taxes and provincial funding over the past decade. To be approved for construction, the cost for the design must fall within the renewal budget for the neighbourhood. Some elements proposed may not receive funding, however efforts will be made to partner with other City programs and initiatives to leverage additional funding opportunities. The upgrades planned for your neighbourhood are to support the community now and for the next 30 to 50 years in the future.

Two specific improvements—**decorative street lights and sidewalk reconstruction**— are cost-shared by the City and the owners of property in the neighbourhood. Decisions for these improvements are voted on by property owners (see details at edmonton.ca/LocalImprovements).

For more information on how Neighbourhood Renewal is funded, [click here](#).

Engagement Questions

How will my input be reflected in the plan?

When the Project Team refines the designs, comments and feedback from all stakeholders are reviewed and discussed. Designs are shared with the public as well as internal stakeholders and utility companies for comment. A decision may reflect what we heard from some of the stakeholders but not what we heard from others as there can be competing interests. This does not mean that feedback was not considered. All feedback will be considered as designs progress. The final design is to be reflective of the neighbourhood's Vision and Guiding Principles as well as balance the needs of current and future users of the area. Decisions are made with the understanding of how all elements work together and changes are reviewed to ensure there are no unintended impacts to the whole.



How will the Vision and Guiding Principles be used?

The Vision and Guiding Principles were co-developed from input from the community to guide the overall direction of the neighbourhood design.

Design recommendations for the neighbourhood are evaluated against how well they align with Vision and Guiding Principles. The Vision will be further used to assist with setting priorities when budgeting and making final design decisions.

For more information on creating a Vision and Guiding Principles, [click here](#).

Decision Making and Design Philosophy

How are decisions made for Neighbourhood Renewal?

City policies and programs such as the Complete Streets Design and Construction Standards, Vision Zero Edmonton, Bike Plan Implementation Guide 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. It is important to understand that the level of influence that the public has on a decision can vary depending, for example, on the level of technical complexity it may have or how it may impact other elements of the project.

The Project Team, made up of project managers, engineers and landscape architects, is charged with developing the neighbourhood designs recommendations for City decision making that include



rationale as to how feasibility, useability, budget, City policy, technical restrictions, public input, community impacts and much more was considered. The City reviews the design justifications for each recommendation and considers project funding to make final decisions.

What City policies and standards influence the renewal design?

There are over 40 different City policies that can influence the renewal design. Some of the most influential ones are listed below and can be found at edmonton.ca and searching using the policy title. This list is not exhaustive.

- The City Plan (2020)
- Edmonton's Community Energy Transition Strategy & Action Plan (2021)
- Public Engagement Policy No. C593A (2021)
- Complete Streets Policy, No. C573A (2015)
- Complete Streets Design and Construction Standards (2018)
- Accessibility for People with Disabilities, Policy No. C602 (2019)
- Access Design Guide, Version 3 (2020)
- Winter Design Policy, Policy No. C588 (2016)
- Winter Design Guidelines
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design
- Gender Based Analysis Plus (2017)
- Neighbourhood Renewal Policy No. C595A (2020)
- Active Transportation Policy No. C544 (2009)
- The Bike Plan (2020)
- The Bike Plan Implementation Guide (2021)
- Safe Mobility Strategy (2021-2025)
- Community Traffic Management Policy No. C590 (2017)
- Breathe: Edmonton's Green Network Strategy (2017)
- Corporate Tree Management Policy C456C (2020)
- Urban Forest Management Plan (2012)



How will accessibility be considered for this project?

Neighbourhood Renewal is guided by the [Accessibility for People with Disabilities, Policy No. C602 \(2019\)](#) and follows the City of Edmonton's Complete Streets Design and Construction Standards, which includes the philosophy of designing with a Universal Design lens. The Universal Design process creates an environment that is usable to as many people as possible regardless of age, ability, or situation including physical access, blind or low vision access, deaf or hard of hearing access and cognitive limitations access.

What is the City's GBA+ process ?

The City applies the gender based analysis (GBA+) process to examine and address how policies, programs and services

impact diverse individuals and groups. It is applied to better understand diverse perspectives, experiences and needs and create services that do our best to serve everyone.

For more information on Public Engagement in Neighbourhood Renewal, [click here](#).

