

## BUILDING GREAT NEIGHBOURHOODS - Public Involvement

Building Great Neighbourhoods is the framework that coordinates the efforts of three City of Edmonton programs – Drainage Neighbourhood Renewal, Neighbourhood Renewal and the Great Neighbourhoods Capital Program – to renew, replace and enhance infrastructure in Edmonton neighbourhoods.

Your neighbourhood has been chosen for **reconstruction**. This means the City plans to:

- Renew and replace sewers.
- Coordinate utility repairs (EPCOR, ATCO).
- Reconstruct roads, curbs and sidewalks on City-owned property and replace streetlights.
- Work with residents to identify improvements to pedestrian and cycling accessibility.
- Consult with residents to identify capital improvements on City-owned property that will enhance livability.



Building Great Neighbourhoods (BGN) follows the City's standard five-phase public involvement model.

### Strategy



During the **Strategy** phase, the City observes and evaluates drainage infrastructure (storm, sanitary and combined sewers) and transportation infrastructure (roads, sidewalk, curbs and streetlights) across Edmonton, in part to identify neighbourhoods that require reconstruction. Priority neighbourhoods are selected and scheduled based on various factors including budget, maintenance history, coordination with other infrastructure works (such as EPCOR and ATCO utilities) and review of detailed condition assessments.

### Concept (Meeting One)



During the **Concept** phase, members of the BGN team (Drainage Services, Transportation Services, Great Neighbourhoods) meet with neighbourhood Community Leagues to explain the process and gather information that informs preliminary neighbourhood design. The BGN team will:

- Outline Building Great Neighbourhoods processes and timing.
- Ask about any community-led projects or initiatives that may be underway that could align with or impact opportunities for City neighbourhood capital investments.
- Hear suggestions for capital investments to improve pedestrian/cycling access and overall livability.
- Advise of the opportunity for decorative streetlights (requires a community-led committee, a Local Improvement tax levy to pay costs above standard lights, and 51% support from property owners).

## Design (Meeting Two)



During the **Design phase**, neighbourhood residents and property owners are invited to a public meeting to review preliminary neighbourhood designs that show the work the City plans to do. The BGN team will:

- Inform residents how and why their neighbourhood has been chosen for reconstruction.
- Engage residents in reviewing preliminary designs and explain how their input will inform final design.
- Explain two Local Improvements (infrastructure projects that share costs between City and resident):
  - **Sidewalk Reconstruction:** the City initiates this improvement as a 50/50 cost share with property owners, who are required to pay 50% of the costs to reconstruct new sidewalks adjacent to their property. In neighbourhoods that are not being reconstructed property owners desiring new sidewalks are required to pay 100% of costs. Most property owners therefore accept the 50% cost as an addition to their property tax bill, but if 51% of property owners in a project area petition against sidewalk reconstruction the City will only do maintenance work on existing sidewalks in that area.
  - **Decorative Streetlights:** the City replaces all neighbourhood streetlights with a standard model streetlight unless property owners choose to upgrade to a decorative streetlight and pay the additional costs. Most property owners accept the standard streetlight but they have the option to petition for decorative streetlight upgrades. If 51% of property owners in a neighbourhood are in favour, decorative streetlights will be installed and the costs will be added to neighbourhood property tax bills. Property owners must initiate this local improvement, which means they must create a community-led committee that conducts the petition.

## Build (Meeting Three)



During the **Build phase**, residents and property owners are invited to a final public meeting shortly after receiving a Local Improvement notice in the mail. The BGN team will:

- Display and explain the final neighbourhood design, highlighting pedestrian and cycling accessibility and improvements to enhance the neighbourhood's livability.
- Inform property owners of the Local Improvement process.
- Inform residents of what to expect during the two-year construction process.

## Operate



During the **Operate phase** new infrastructure serves residents and property owners for decades. Any deficiencies detected within a two year period after construction are corrected under warranty.

### For More Information:

Call 311, visit [www.edmonton.ca/BuildingGreatNeighbourhoods](http://www.edmonton.ca/BuildingGreatNeighbourhoods) or email [BuildingGreatNeighbourhoods@edmonton.ca](mailto:BuildingGreatNeighbourhoods@edmonton.ca)