

What We Heard & How We Used Your Input

Allendale Alley Renewal

Exploring Options and Tradeoffs

Fall 2023

SHARE YOUR VOICE
SHAPE OUR CITY

Edmonton

ADVISE & DECIDE



Project overview

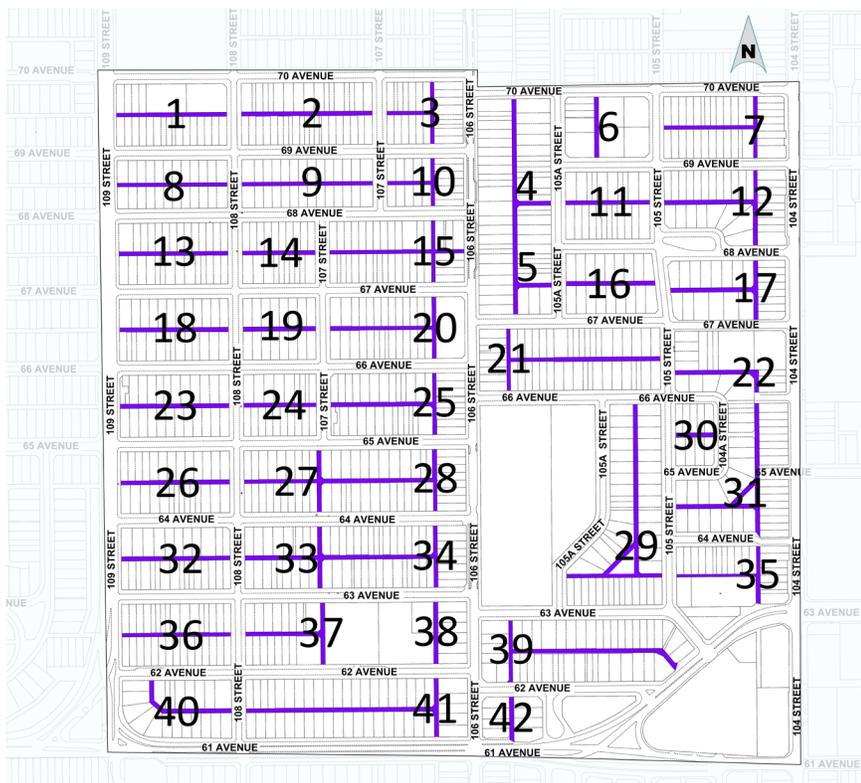
Allendale has been chosen for Alley Renewal. Construction will start in 2024. Construction phasing will be determined based on contractor resources, impacts to residents and coordination with other project work, including utilities.

The Alley Renewal Program is a cost effective, long-term strategic approach to renew and rebuild alleys. This City-initiated program is focused on improving alleys city-wide over the next 25 years.

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

Table of Contents

Table of contents	2
Project overview	3
What we asked and how we asked	8
How we used your input	16
Next steps	19



In Allendale, Alley Renewal will include:

- Reconstructing alleys throughout the neighbourhood with a hard surface
- Improving surface drainage where possible
- Upgrading any existing alley lighting with LED bulbs
- Pruning trees/shrubs as necessary ahead of construction
- Exploring minor enhancements to improve walking, biking and traffic safety

Each alley that will be renewed in Allendale is numbered on the map to assist in identifying where issues exist and where there are opportunities for improvement.

Property owners can request that the City initiate a Local Improvement to add alley lighting where none currently exists. 100 per cent of the cost would be paid for by benefiting property owners along that alley. Information to initiate the Expression of Interest process to have lighting installed in an alley is provided online at edmonton.ca/LocalImprovements.

Alley Renewal Public Engagement



Building Great Neighbourhoods (BGN) Public Engagement Charter



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:

- + **ADVISE** the Project Team about how their alley is used by residents, how it functions, the issues and what could improve its liveability
- + **DECIDE** whether to add lights to their alley, through the Local Improvement process

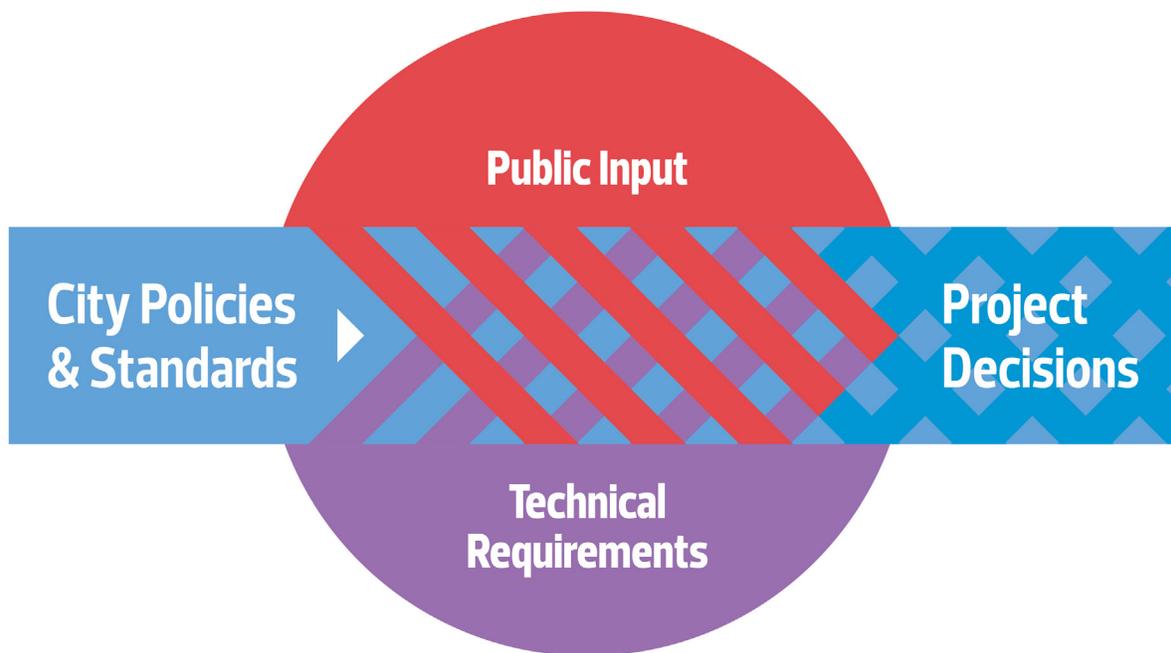
We commit to telling you how public input influences decisions according to the Public Engagement Spectrum.



Decision making process

The City makes decisions using a combination of policy and program information, public engagement 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 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 what will fit.



City policies and programs

The following policies have application in all designs:

Edmonton City Plan

- + Supports implementing a multi-modal transportation system that creates a connected and accessible city for people of all ages and abilities

ConnectEdmonton

- + Provides direction to create a healthy city, vibrant urban places, regional prosperity and climate resilience
- + Supports safe bike routes, vibrant gathering spaces, adding missing sidewalks, partnering with local businesses, planting trees, creating green space from existing paved surfaces and measures to calm traffic

Other policies considered:

Active Transportation Policy

- + Includes opportunities for people to walk, roll and bike and promotes the inclusion of shared pathways
- + Encourages active transportation in neighbourhoods

Accessibility for People with Disabilities Policy

- + Supports accessibility as fundamental to good public engagement and design for all ages and abilities to use neighbourhood infrastructure for the next 50 years

Breathe – Green Network Strategy

- + Ensures each neighbourhood will be supported by an adequate supply, quality and distribution of open space that is accessible to people of all ages and abilities

Local Improvement Policy

- + Follows the Municipal Government Act of Alberta to outline the process to pay for improvements that are of a larger benefit to those near them than to the city as a whole

Alley Renewal Program

- + Funds the renewal of existing alleys to an asphalt surface

Public Engagement Policy

- + Directs the creation of specific public engagement and best practices to hear from the diverse groups impacted by the project

Safe Mobility Strategy

- + Supports initiatives to manage driver speeds and shortcutting to increase safety for all users

Winter City Design Guidelines

- + Includes design standards to create an inviting and vibrant community during the winter months that are accessible, safe and enjoyable for people of all ages and abilities

And more

Technical requirements

Infrastructure assessments including utilities

- + Prioritizes when City infrastructure will be renewed based on current conditions

Complete Streets Design and Construction Standards

- + Provides direction for the design and construction of alleys

And more

What we asked & how we asked

The Allendale Alley Renewal Project Team organized the following opportunities for the public to provide input to help **ADVISE** the Project Team about potential improvements and opportunities for alleys throughout the neighbourhood and **DECIDE** whether to add lights to alleys through the Local Improvement process.

Spring 2022

There were a number of engagement opportunities open to the public from April 5–30, 2022.



Surveys

- + An online survey was available to the public from April 5–30, 2022, asking respondents to **ADVISE** about potential opportunities to improve or enhance Allendale alleys

Over 106 completed surveys



'Alley Talks' event

- + An online community workshop took place on April 20, 2022 to introduce the project to the community and gather initial feedback from those who live, work and play in Allendale
- + Participation from residents in a series of small group brainstorming exercises to explore issues and opportunities for alleys in Allendale

7 Participants



Community conversations

- + Emails and phone calls from community members received by the Project Manager were included in the overall feedback

8 Conversations



Project webpage (edmonton.ca/AllendaleAlleyRenewal)

- + Over 42 people signed up for project update emails at edmonton.ca/AllendaleAlleyRenewal
- + Overall there were 687 participants who visited the project webpage to view photos, review documents and learn more

680 visitors



Communication tactics

- + 2,089 postcards were delivered to all addresses in Allendale, advertising upcoming engagement opportunities
- + Emails were sent to 33 subscribers and local stakeholders
- + Signage was located throughout the community, including a-frame, yard and road signs
- + Targeted social media ads were shared on Facebook to advertise upcoming engagement opportunities

Targeted Engagement – Fall 2022

Following the Spring 2022 Engagement, two triangular green spaces were identified for proposed improvements. Draft designs were provided to neighbourhood residents and were asked for their input and feedback. These additional engagement opportunities were open to the public from October 12 – 30, 2022.



Surveys

- + An online survey was available to the public from October 12–30, 2022, asking respondents to **ADVISE** about potential opportunities to improve or enhance Allendale alleys

13 completed surveys



Project webpage (edmonton.ca/AllendaleAlleyRenewal)

- + 1 additional person signed up for project update emails at edmonton.ca/AllendaleAlleyRenewal
- + Overall there were 33 participants who visited the project webpage to view photos, review documents and learn more

33 visitors



Communication tactics

- + 65 letters were hand delivered to surrounding area addresses in Allendale advertising the online survey
- + On-site signage with a QR code to the online survey was located at the two triangular green spaces

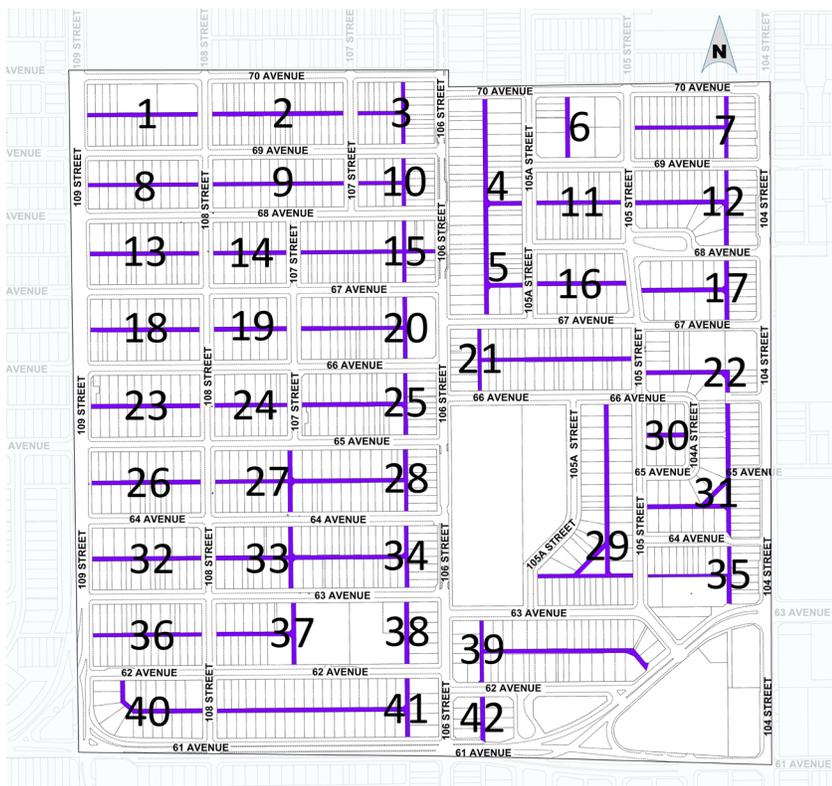
What we heard

Spring 2022

The following sections include a summary of what we heard at the online workshop, in conversations and through the online survey. 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.

How do you currently use alleys in the neighbourhood?

Ideas and insights were collected from participants to help us understand how people experience alleys in Allendale today and what can be improved or added.



- The majority (96%) of survey respondents said that they use their back alleys while driving to access their garage, parking pad or backyard
- Alleys in Allendale are also used for commuting, recreation and access to public transit
- Some participants expressed that alleys (3, 11 and 16) appear to have higher traffic
- Alley 8 is well-used by people who walk, roll and bike

When creating designs for what Alley Renewal in Allendale might look like, what should we know about how your alley currently functions?

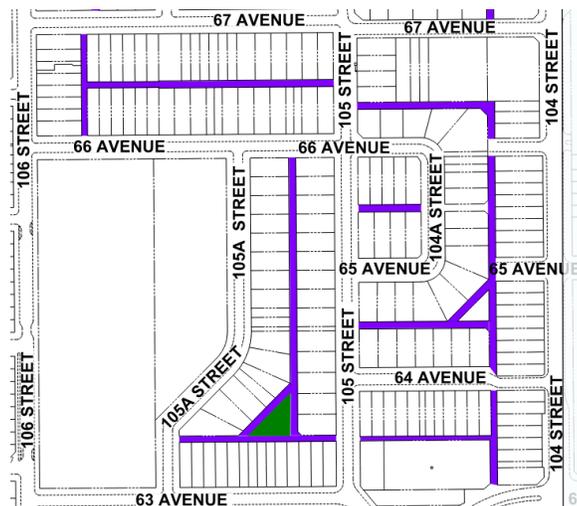
The most commonly identified responses can be broadly categorized into the following themes:

- + Traffic concerns exist in the area
- + Drainage/water pooling issues exist throughout the area
- + Existing issues worsen in the winter, with snow and ice build-up
- + Poor surface conditions and alley width cause accessibility issues for those who walk, roll and bike
- + Issues with maintenance were noted, including waste collection, pet waste, building materials and poor fence conditions
- + Concerns around safety were noted specific to some alleys, including poor or absent lighting and sightlines

How do you currently use the triangular green space at Alley #29 (between 105–105A Street and north of 63 Avenue)? How would you like to use this space in the future? What changes would be required?

The most commonly identified responses can be broadly categorized into the following themes:

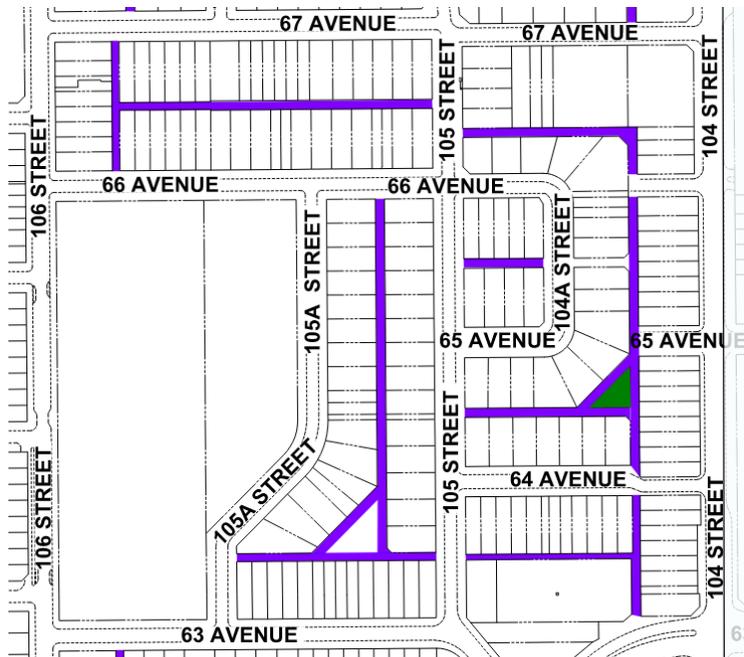
- + The majority of survey respondents (89%) indicated that they do NOT currently use this space
- + 25% said it could be improved (73% said they weren't sure)
- + A wide variety of ideas were received about how to improve the space, including hosting music concerts, adding seating, creating a dog off-leash area, adding landscaping, maintaining existing infrastructure, adding lighting, creating a community garden, adding waste bins, adding art, removing the park and widening the corners/ adding soft curbs for cars passing through



How do you currently use the triangular green space at Alley #31 (between 104–105 Street and north of 64 Avenue)? How would you like to use this space in the future? What changes would be required?

The most commonly identified responses can be broadly categorized into the following themes:

- + The majority of survey respondents (96%) do NOT currently use this space
- + 14% said it could be improved (83% said they weren't sure)
- + A number of participants noted that the area is an eyesore
- + A wide variety of ideas were received about how to improve the space, including adding local art, converting it to a pocket park, adding landscaping, adding seating, adding waste bins, converting it to parking and leaving it as is for use by those without houses



During construction, you can expect that your alley will be inaccessible for approximately four weeks. Are there considerations we should know about your backyard or property prior to construction?

The most commonly identified responses about activities for consideration can be broadly categorized into the following themes:

- + Site-specific activities in individual participant yards
- + Animals or pets
- + Planned events
- + Planned construction projects
- + Accessibility concerns
- + No concerns
- + Other considerations voiced included concerns around parking, impacts to short term renters, reduction of already limited street parking, winter construction, impacts to waste collection, accessibility and construction impacts

What else, if anything, would you like to tell us as we begin the Allendale Alley Renewal design?

The most commonly identified responses can be broadly categorized into the following themes:

- + Concerns around parking (safety, garage access) were voiced
- + Participants noted that the renewal is exciting and needed
- + Concerns around construction were voiced
- + Lighting was noted a number of times in relation to crime reduction
- + Light pollution was also identified as important
- + Addressing drainage/ flooding issues was voiced as important
- + A number of additional ideas were suggested for consideration, including converting green spaces to pocket parks, incorporating aesthetic landscaping elements, repairing potholes, leaving alleys for vehicle use (bike paths/ sidewalks for those who bike/ walk/ roll)

Targeted engagement – Fall 2022

In the fall of 2022, a letter was sent to residents and owners adjacent to the triangular green spaces as well as signs placed in the space that included a QR Code to an online survey. This survey presented draft designs for the triangular islands and asked for feedback.

Site 1

How satisfied are you with the proposed design?

The most commonly identified responses can be broadly categorized into the following theme.

- + Desire for additional plantings without benches or hard surfacing



Site 2

How satisfied are you with the proposed design?

The most commonly identified responses can be broadly categorized into the following theme.

- + The additional planting would be appreciated



How we used your input

This section presents the final project decisions for Alley Renewal in Allendale, including the key City policies and programs, public engagement input and technical requirements that informed the City's decisions related to each alley.

All alleys specified for renewal in the scope map will be reconstructed, widened to current standards as feasible, undergo drainage improvements and upgrade existing lighting to LED.

To view the designs discussed below, please visit edmonton.ca/AllendaleAlleyRenewal

Note: All project decisions are subject to final approvals and funding.

Legend for “What we accounted for to make our decisions”

The City uses policies and programs, public engagement input and technical requirements to make Alley Renewal decisions.

This report uses three coloured icons to illustrate which decision making criteria is a policy or program, public engagement input or a technical requirement. You will see these icons in the “What we considered to make our decisions” column in each table on the following page:

The decision making criteria are:



+ Public engagement input / What we heard



+ Technical requirements



+ City policies and programs

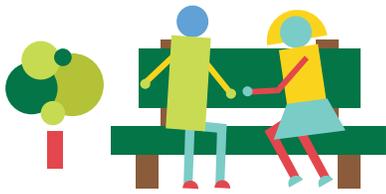
Local Improvement update – new alley lighting

Property owners along alleys without existing lighting have the opportunity to request that the City initiate a Local Improvement to add lighting to their alley at any time. With the support of the majority of properties along the particular alley a local improvement can move forward with the adjacent property owners paying 100% of the cost.

No alley lighting Local Improvements have been brought forward by property owners in Allendale.

Improvements to Green Spaces in Allendale Alleys

What We Decided	What We Considered as we Developed the Design
<p>Site 1 Undertake beautification and tree planting in the green space in Alley 29</p>	 <p>Public engagement feedback This design is informed by the following feedback heard during public engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a welcoming space for community members to gather in and connect with each other • Mixed perspectives on the benefit of integrating seating into the design
	 <p>Technical considerations This design is informed by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access Design Guide • Providing seating for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy the space • Beautifying the space with more trees
	 <p>City Policies and Programs This design is informed by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edmonton City Plan • Breathe: Edmonton's Green Network Strategy • ConnectEdmonton • Corporate Tree Management Policy • Universal Design Standards
<p>Site 2 Undertake beautification and tree planting in the green space in Alley 31</p>	 <p>Public engagement feedback This design is informed by the following feedback heard during public engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adding vegetation and landscaping to improve the look and feel of the space
	 <p>Technical considerations This design is informed by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beautifying the space with more trees
	 <p>City Policies and Programs This design is informed by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edmonton City Plan • Breathe: Edmonton's Green Network Strategy • ConnectEdmonton • Corporate Tree Management Policy



Next steps

Thank you for sharing your feedback. We look forward to construction starting in 2024.

In the spring of 2024, the public will be invited to an information event. At the event, the Project Team will share the Alley Renewal design, provide information on construction timelines, what to expect during construction and answer any questions that residents may have. After the event and in each spring that follows, specific construction timelines and details will be mailed to residents prior to construction starting. Please sign up on the project webpage for email updates and watch your mailboxes for more information.

Residents can expect their alley to be inaccessible for approximately four weeks during construction. Once the work is complete, residents will enjoy improved access and use of the alley.

For further information visit the website:

edmonton.ca/AllendaleAlleyRenewal

