

# What We Heard Report

## Hairsine Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal

Community Feedback on Draft Design  
April – May 2023

**REFINE**

**SHARE** YOUR VOICE  
**SHAPE** OUR CITY

**Edmonton**

# Background

Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal construction in Hairsine is anticipated to begin in spring 2024. Through the City of Edmonton's Neighbourhood Renewal program, we will rehabilitate roads, replace street lights, repair sidewalks and connect missing sidewalk links where possible. 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.

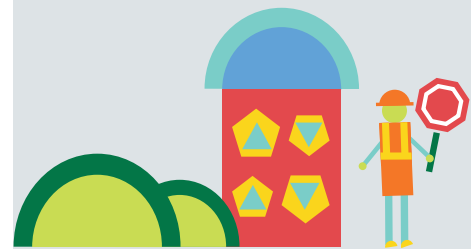
Cost-sharing opportunities will be made available through the Local Improvement process for sidewalk reconstruction. Other opportunities to improve City-owned parks and public spaces are also being explored.

An interactive public engagement process was designed to gather local knowledge, views and opinions from residents and other stakeholders to inform the development of the neighbourhood design. Neighbourhood Renewal considers not just the Hairsine of today that needs renewal, but also the enhancements and opportunities to carry Hairsine into the next 30 to 50 years.

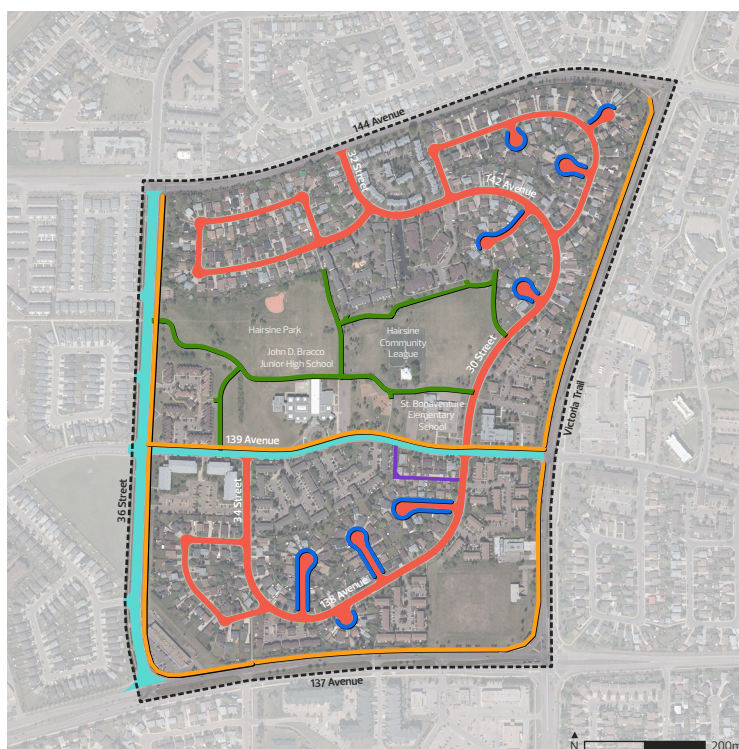
The planning and engagement process began in September 2022 and the final design will be shared in the fall of 2023.

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## Hairsine Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal project scope map



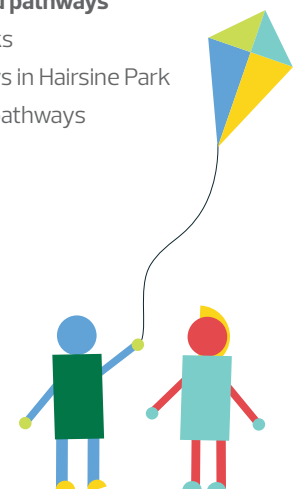
Hairsine neighbourhood boundary

### Roads in scope

- Collector road
- Local road
- Alley

### New sidewalks and pathways

- New sidewalks
- New pathways in Hairsine Park
- New shared pathways



# How we used your input

## Roadmap to Building Great Neighbourhoods

The Neighbourhood 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 the **Community Feedback on Draft Design** stage in April–May 2023.



### LEGEND

Public Engagement and Communications Opportunities

Concept Phase

Design Phase

Build Phase

Operate Phase

## Public Engagement spectrum

The City of Edmonton is committed to seeking diverse opinions, experiences and perspectives from Edmontonians, ensuring a wide range of input is available to support decision making.

The City's public engagement spectrum defines the public's level of influence in the engagement process. Engagement activities during this stage were at the **REFINE** level.

The public was invited to provide input that would help:

- + **REFINE** the Project Team's draft design for Hairsine Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal

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

Visit [edmonton.ca/PublicEngagement](https://edmonton.ca/PublicEngagement) for more information on the City's public engagement process and click on Vision, Definition and Spectrum.



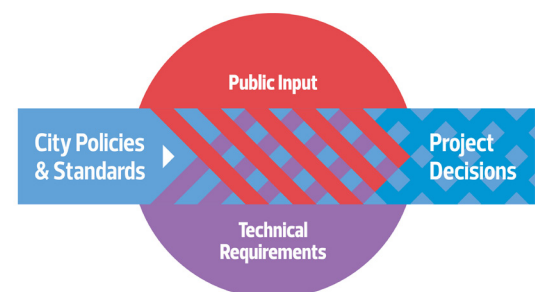
## Community Feedback on Draft Design

During this project stage, the Project Team reviewed and analyzed public feedback on the proposed options from the previous engagement stage — **Exploring Options and Tradeoffs** — and the team used this analysis to create the draft neighbourhood design. The draft design is the first look at how the proposed infrastructure and design elements could work together as a system. To gather feedback, the draft design was shared with the public through engagement activities, which were at the **REFINE** level on the City's Public Engagement Spectrum.

## How decisions are made

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, while considering 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.



# How we informed and engaged

The Hairsine Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal Project Team organized the following opportunities for the public to share feedback on the draft design for the neighbourhood. This input will help the Project Team **REFINE** the draft design into a final design for Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal.



## Surveys

- + An online survey was available to the public from April 17 – May 15, 2023. We shared proposed changes for Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal in Hairsine and asked you questions to help the Project Team **REFINE** the draft design
- + Paper copies of the survey and design booklet were made available upon request
- + Congratulations to the two winners of the prize draw!

**107 Completed surveys**



## Project web page

- + We asked residents to visit the project web page to access information about the project, view the design booklet and learn more about Hairsine Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal
- + As part of the online engagement, we provided the opportunity for residents to view the proposed draft designs for the neighbourhood through design videos. The videos included drawings and animations of the proposed designs

**1,774 unique visits to [edmonton.ca/BuildingHairsine](https://edmonton.ca/BuildingHairsine)**

**418 video views**

**200 design booklet views or downloads**

**2,067 visits to project web page**



## Community Conversations

- + In-person community intercepts took place on April 22 and May 1, 2023
- + Online community open house took place on April 24, 2023
- + Events introduced the draft design for Hairsine Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal. Project Team members shared proposed changes associated with the draft design and gathered feedback from the community
- + 13 residents and/or stakeholder groups contacted the Project Team through the online form or directly by phone or email to learn more about the project and share their perspectives on the draft designs

**24 participants online**

**98 participants in person**

**Over 122 conversations**



## How We Communicated

- + 3,500 newsletters
- + 3,500 postcards
- + 20 posters
- + 19 lawn signs
- + 2 road signs
- + 94,000 impressions on Facebook and Instagram posts
- + 1,774 website visits

**Over 100,000 touchpoints with residents**

## Hairsine Vision and Guiding Principles

In the previous stage of engagement, we worked with the community to **CREATE** a neighbourhood Vision statement and a set of Guiding Principles. This Vision will be used to guide decision making for Neighbourhood Renewal. The Guiding Principles are ideas that inform how the Vision should be applied to the neighbourhood design.

During the **Community Feedback on Draft Design** stage of engagement, we asked participants to reflect on how well the draft designs reflect the Vision and Guiding Principles.

### Vision

*Hairsine is a generationally and culturally diverse community that is safe, family friendly and welcoming for all residents and visitors. There are lots of green spaces, amenities, parks and trees offering many opportunities to enjoy Hairsine's beautiful surroundings. We are proud to have safe and accessible connections to and from other neighbourhoods, nearby businesses and amenities for people of all ages and abilities. The many children who live and learn in Hairsine feel safe when walking, driving and rolling to and from school. We are continuously looking for ways to celebrate our diversity and foster positive relationships between neighbours.*

### Guiding Principles



Hairsine is a family- and kid-friendly neighbourhood with safe spaces, parks and amenities to enjoy



Hairsine has beautiful green, open spaces with picnic tables and benches for friends, family and neighbours to gather and build relationships with one another



Hairsine has upgraded sidewalks, roadways and wide pathways throughout the neighbourhood that provide safe and accessible connections for people of all ages and abilities



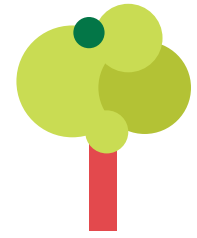
Hairsine has well-lit spaces, crosswalks and streets



Hairsine honours and celebrates the cultural diversity of all residents and visitors

# What we heard

The following is a summary of feedback received. All input and comments will be considered by the Project Team as it refines the draft design to create the final neighbourhood design that will be shared in fall 2023.

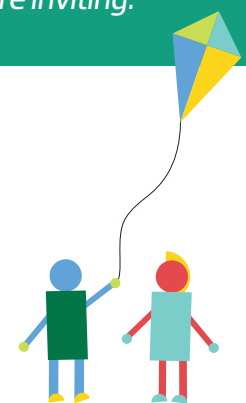
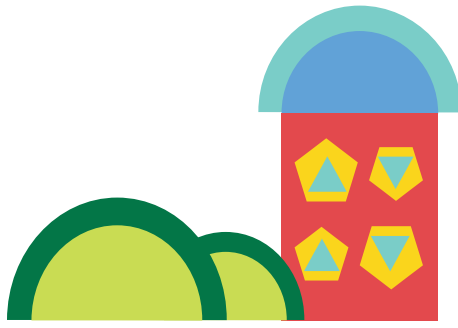


**Note: All designs are subject to final approvals and funding.**

## Biking, driving and traffic safety

Redesign of 36 Street	
What we proposed in the draft design	What we heard
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Add a shared pathway along the east side of 36 Street to make it easier for people who walk, bike and roll to move around the neighbourhood</li> <li>+ Widen the existing sidewalk along the west side of 36 Street to reflect the City's Complete Streets Design and Construction Standards</li> <li>+ Replace areas of on-street parking along the east side of 36 Street with a new boulevard and trees to slow traffic and add greenery to the neighbourhood</li> <li>+ Maintain on-street parking near Hairsine Park and multi-family residential buildings</li> <li>+ Replace the existing crosswalk on the west side of Hairsine Park with a two-staged median crosswalk. The design will help slow traffic and enhance the feeling of safety for people who walk by improving sight lines and providing a shorter crossing distance</li> <li>+ Update the intersection configuration at 137 Avenue with new islands that enhance sight lines when merging into traffic lanes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ There was overall support for the proposed redesign, including improved connections and additional green space</li> <li>+ Some participants said adding the traffic circle would improve traffic flow, while some were concerned about drivers' ability to safely navigate it</li> </ul> <p><b>Participants supported:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ The addition of the traffic circle</li> <li>+ Improved pedestrian connections like the wider sidewalk and new shared pathway</li> <li>+ Additional greenery to the area</li> </ul> <p><b>Some participants indicated concern about:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Potential reduced parking capacity</li> <li>+ Narrowing of the roads</li> </ul> <p><b>61 per cent of survey respondents either strongly agreed or somewhat agreed with the proposed redesign of 36 Street.</b></p>

*"The new trees and sidewalks will make it much more inviting."*





*"I'm looking forward to walking through and seeing all the greenery and plants. This city is filled with such boring grey, brown and white buildings, so it will be a nice change of pace."*

36 Street Linear Green Space	
What we proposed in the draft design	What we heard
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Add new plantings of shrubs and grasses along the 36 Street pipeline corridor that will add greenery to the neighbourhood and increase biodiversity</li> <li>+ Create planting areas that will spark visual interest and a sense of character to people walking or biking nearby</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ There was overall support for the proposed changes, particularly an improved aesthetic for the neighbourhood and better pathway connections</li> </ul> <p><b>Participants supported:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Additional green space including more plants, trees and shrubs</li> <li>+ Updated sidewalks and crosswalks</li> </ul> <p><b>Some participants indicated concern about:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Maintenance and upkeep of the greenery throughout the year</li> <li>+ Safety and vandalism in the area</li> </ul> <p><b>70 per cent of survey respondents either strongly agreed or somewhat agreed with the proposed changes for 36 Street Linear Green Space.</b></p>





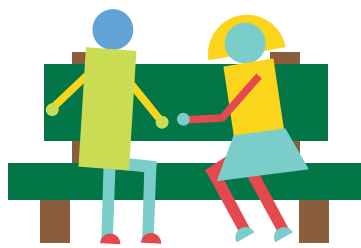
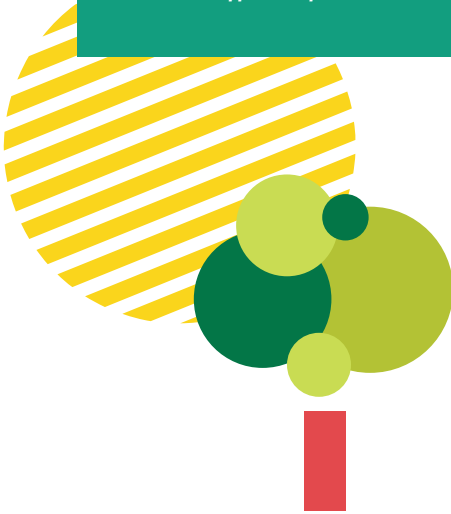


*“Traffic circles don’t work with the driving abilities of Canadians, people will continue to not watch for pedestrians, cyclists, or other vehicles, and safety concerns will remain”*

Intersection redesign (36 Street and 139 Avenue)	
What we proposed in the draft design	What we heard
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Change the existing four-way stop intersection to a traffic circle to improve compliance and safety for all users</li> <li>+ Upgrade crosswalks to improve the visibility of people walking or rolling to those driving</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ There was mixed reactions to the proposed redesign of this intersection, specifically with the addition of the traffic circle</li> <li>+ Some participants said adding the traffic circle would improve traffic flow, while some were concerned about drivers' ability to safely navigate it</li> <li>+ Participants supported the improvements to crosswalks indicating they will be safer for pedestrians</li> <li>+ Some participants shared concern about congestion due to narrower lanes</li> </ul> <p><b>47 per cent of survey respondents agreed with the proposed changes while 45 per cent disagreed with the proposed changes.</b></p>

*“The concept of a traffic circle allows traffic to flow better than a 4 way stop.”*

*“It will keep traffic moving, and there is enough space for a traffic circle.”*





## Redesign of 139 Avenue

### What we proposed in the draft design

- + Replace the north sidewalk with a shared pathway to make it easier for people who walk, bike and roll to move around the neighbourhood
- + Widen the existing south sidewalk to reflect the City's Complete Streets Design and Construction Standards
- + Add new curb extensions at intersections and raised crosswalks to narrow crossing distances and improve visibility for people walking and to reduce driver speeds
- + Remove some areas of on-street parking to narrow the road and reduce driver speeds
- + Maintain some areas of on-street parking as parking bays near multi-family buildings

### What we heard

- + There was overall support for the proposed changes, particularly improved pathway connections

#### Participants supported:

- + Raised crosswalks, shared pathways and updated sidewalks
- + Maintaining some on-street parking

#### Some participants indicated concern about:

- + Traffic congestion due to narrower lanes
- + Removal of on-street parking

**63 per cent of survey respondents either strongly agreed or somewhat agreed with the proposed changes for 139 Avenue.**

*"Sidewalks now are dangerous so new ones will be greatly appreciated."*

## New boulevard over the local loop road of 142 Avenue/30 Street/138 Avenue

### What we proposed in the draft design

- + Remove some areas of on-street parking and replace with grassed boulevard and new trees
- + Add new curb extensions to narrow crossing distances, improve visibility for people walking and reduce driver speeds
- + Explore absorbent landscaping in the new boulevard to help improve drainage

### What we heard

- + There was overall support for the proposed new boulevard and design changes
- + Many participants shared a desire for increased parking capacity

#### Participants supported:

- + Proposed road changes that promote slowing traffic
- + Visually appealing designs including the addition of greenery

#### Some participants indicated concern about:

- + Removal of on-street parking, especially near residential complexes

**49 per cent of survey respondents agreed with the proposed new boulevard while 28 per cent of respondents did not agree.**

*"With multi-unit housing in the area, removing parking makes it harder for people to park close to their homes (safety and convenience) and hard for visitors to find a place to park."*



Enhanced/new crosswalks	
What we proposed in the draft design	What we heard
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Add curb extensions and narrow the road at existing crosswalks to slow traffic and enhance the feeling of safety for people who walk by improving sight lines and providing shorter crossing distances</li> <li>+ Add raised mid-block crosswalks to help slow traffic along 139 Avenue and 30 Street and improve visibility of people crossing</li> <li>+ Upgrade the crosswalk along the north portion of 36 Street to a two-staged median crosswalk to shorten the crossing distance for people who walk and reduce driver speeds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ There was overall support for the proposed design changes for enhanced and new sidewalks</li> </ul> <p><b>Participants supported:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Enhanced crosswalks making it safer to cross streets</li> </ul> <p><b>Some participants indicated concern about:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Narrowing of lanes potentially causing road congestion</li> </ul> <p><b>64 per cent of survey respondents strongly agreed or somewhat agreed with the addition of new and enhanced crosswalks.</b></p>

*"This enhanced sidewalk would make crossing the street safer."*

## Walking and rolling

New boulevard over the local loop road of 142 Avenue/30 Street/138 Avenue	
What we proposed in the draft design	What we heard
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Widen the west sidewalk along 36 Street and the south sidewalk along 139 Avenue</li> <li>+ Replace the east sidewalk along 36 Street and the north sidewalk along 139 Avenue with shared pathways</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ There was overall strong support for the proposed design changes for improvements to the shared pathways and sidewalks</li> </ul> <p><b>Participants supported:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Sidewalk upgrades for walking, biking and other uses</li> </ul> <p><b>Some participants indicated concern about:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Widened sidewalks causing narrowing of the road lanes</li> </ul> <p><b>68 per cent of survey respondents strongly agreed or somewhat agreed with proposed changes to create wider sidewalks along primary walking routes.</b></p>

*"Great idea as lots of people walk and bike in this area."*



Wider sidewalks along local roads where possible	
What we proposed in the draft design	What we heard
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>+ Widen the sidewalk along the local loop road of 142 Avenue/30 Street/138 Avenue behind the new boulevard</li><li>+ Widen existing sidewalks along local roads where possible</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>+ There was overall support for improving sidewalks along local roads where possible</li></ul> <p><b>Participants supported:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>+ Upgrading sidewalks including repairing cracks and making other fixes</li></ul> <p><b>Some participants indicated concern about:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>+ The amount of pedestrian traffic in the neighbourhood being enough to justify changes to sidewalks</li><li>+ Narrowing of lanes potentially causing road congestion</li></ul> <p><b>58 per cent of survey respondents strongly agreed or somewhat agreed with the proposed widening of sidewalks along local roads.</b></p>

*"I would like wider sidewalks and a boulevard in front of my home."*

Missing sidewalk links	
What we proposed in the draft design	What we heard
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>+ Add new sidewalks on both sides of roadways, where possible, to align with the City's Access Design Guide and ConnectEdmonton to build a city for people of all abilities</li><li>+ Add new shared pathways on the north side of 137 Ave between 34 Street and Victoria Trail, as well as along the west side of Victoria Trail between 137 Avenue and 144 Avenue</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>+ There was overall support for the proposed designs to address the missing sidewalk links</li></ul> <p><b>Participants supported:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>+ Additional sidewalk links particularly along Victoria Trail</li></ul> <p><b>Some participants indicated concern about:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>+ The amount of pedestrian traffic in the neighbourhood being enough to justify changes to sidewalks</li><li>+ Removal of on-street parking</li></ul> <p><b>58 per cent of survey respondents strongly agreed or somewhat agreed with the proposed changes for missing sidewalk links.</b></p>

*"This is great as sidewalks are needed along Victoria Trail and links to them is a bonus."*



## Enhanced breezeways<sup>1</sup>

### What we proposed in the draft design

- + Widen existing pathways to make it easier for people who walk, bike and roll to move around the neighbourhood
- + Install new and upgrade existing lighting along pathways to improve user comfort and the feeling of safety

*“Wider sidewalks and better lighting will make it safer for everyone.”*

### What we heard

- + There was overall strong support for the proposed changes to enhance breezeways especially improvements to enhance safety

#### Participants supported:

- + Better lighting in the area and improved safety as a result
- + Wider sidewalks and updated pathway connections

#### Some participants indicated concern about:

- + Safety and vandalism in the area

**69 per cent of survey respondents strongly agreed or somewhat agreed with the proposed changes to enhance the breezeways.**

## Open spaces

### Improvements to Hairsine Park

### What we proposed in the draft design

- + Add a new shared pathway network through Hairsine Park connecting the two schools with 36 Street and homes to the north
- + Add new trees and naturalized planting areas to add greenery to the neighbourhood and reduce mowing (implements The City Plan and Climate Resilient Edmonton)
- + Add new waste bins to help keep the community clean
- + Align the new shared pathway to minimize tree removal, shorten one soccer field and remove two small baseball diamonds

*“This will benefit so many with easy access and improved access across the park with seating, etc.”*

### What we heard

- + There was strong support for the proposed improvements to Hairsine Park, particularly the improved pathways

#### Participants supported:

- + Improved access through the park with proposed new connection pathways
- + Additional activities and park features such as seating and kids activities

#### Some participants indicated concern about:

- + Removal of the sports fields
- + Maintenance and safety of the park

**70 per cent of survey respondents strongly agreed or somewhat agreed with the improvements to Hairsine Park**

<sup>1</sup> A breezeway is a public pathway between two private properties. They enhance accessibility and connectivity within the neighbourhood.



Seating areas	
What we proposed in the draft design	What we heard
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>+ Add new seating areas with benches along new shared pathways in Hairsine Park to create spaces for neighbours to rest and connect</li><li>+ Add new planting beds and trees to add greenery to the neighbourhood and provide shade in the summer and wind protection in the winter</li><li>+ Add new waste bins to help keep the community clean</li><li>+ Add kid-friendly sidewalk imprints and games to provide a new amenity</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>+ There was strong support overall for the proposed seating area designs for Hairsine Park, indicating it will improve community connection and time spent in the park</li></ul> <p><b>Participants supported:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>+ Additional seating areas making it more enjoyable to spend time in the park</li><li>+ Additional amenities such as garbage cans and lighting</li></ul> <p><b>Some participants indicated concern about:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>+ Safety and vandalism in the area</li><li>+ Maintenance and upkeep of proposed new amenities</li></ul> <p><b>72 per cent of survey respondents strongly agreed or somewhat agreed with the proposed seating areas in Hairsine Park</b></p>

*“These will encourage community building and will be beautiful.”*





## Next steps

The Project Team will review all of the feedback provided, along with technical information and City policies and programs, for consideration in the development of the final design.

We will return to the community to share a final design of proposed renewal changes for your neighbourhood in fall 2023. During the **Community Feedback on Final Design** phase of engagement, we invite you to provide your feedback to **ADVISE** on the final design for Hairsine.

## Stay Informed

For more information regarding Hairsine Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal, upcoming public engagement activities and to subscribe for project updates, please visit [edmonton.ca/ BuildingHairsine](https://edmonton.ca/BuildingHairsine).

On the project website, you will also find an up to date FAQ page addressing questions and concerns some community members have raised.

## Cost-sharing opportunities for Hairsine

### What is a Local Improvement?

A Local Improvement is a construction project undertaken near or next to residents' properties which is considered more beneficial to the property owner and local area than to the City as a whole. These can be paid as a lump sum, annually or over a period of time as an add-on to your property taxes. Local Improvements are part of the Neighbourhood Renewal discussions with you and your neighbours.

### Local Improvement Options during Neighbourhood Renewal

Sidewalk reconstruction of existing sidewalks is also a cost-shared Local Improvement. Where sidewalks are missing, new sidewalks are 100 per cent funded by the City.

Further Local Improvement information was included in the newsletter you received in April. That newsletter is also available on the project web page [edmonton.ca/ BuildingHairsine](https://edmonton.ca/BuildingHairsine) under the Related Documents section.

For more detailed information on Local Improvements and the decision processes, please visit [edmonton.ca/ LocalImprovements](https://edmonton.ca/LocalImprovements).

### 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. For more information regarding the Hairsine Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal, upcoming public engagement activities and to subscribe for project updates, please visit [edmonton.ca/ BuildingHairsine](https://edmonton.ca/BuildingHairsine).