

What We Heard Report Hillview Neighbourhood & Alley Renewal

Building a Project Vision Together
Exploring Opportunities

November 2022

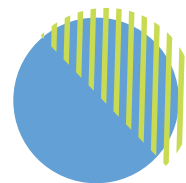
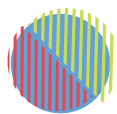
CREATE & REFINE

SHARE YOUR VOICE
SHAPE OUR CITY

Edmonton

Table of Contents

Project overview	3
Roadmap to Building Great Neighbourhoods	4
Public engagement spectrum	5
Decision making process	5
What we asked and how we asked	6
What we heard	8
Building a Project Vision Together	8
Exploring Opportunities	12
Driving	12
Biking	14
Walking / Rolling	15
Parks and public gathering places	16
Next steps	17



Project overview

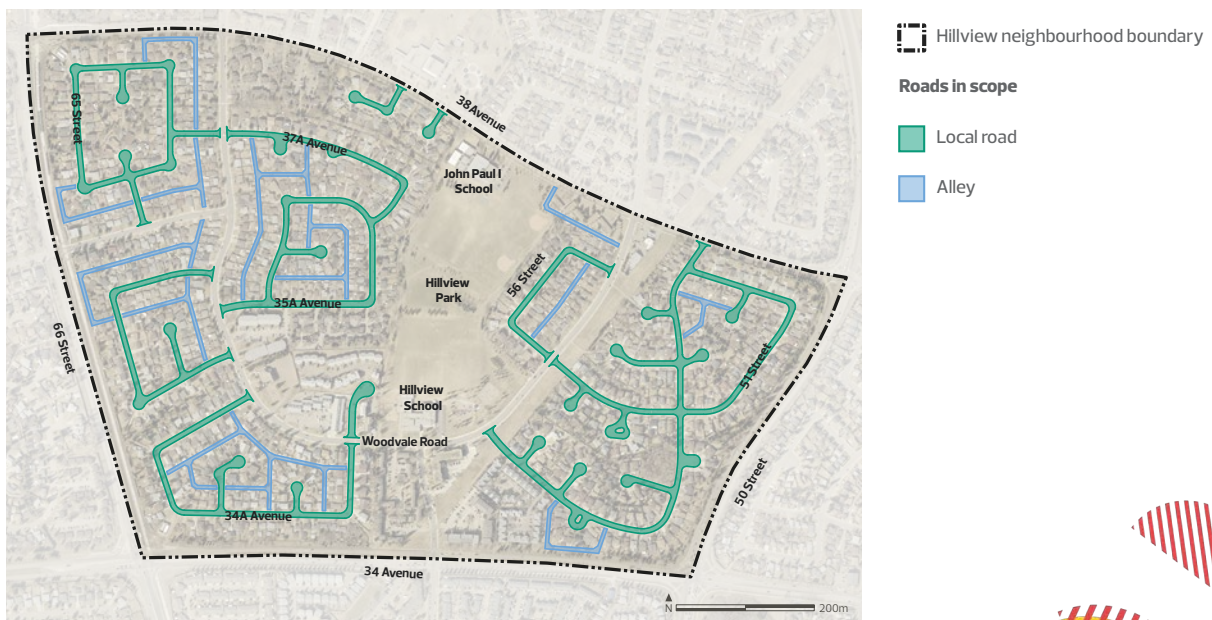
Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal in Hillview has begun with planning and design. Construction is scheduled to start in Spring 2025. Through the City's Building Great Neighbourhoods Branch, the Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal Program will reconstruct roads, curbs, alleys, replace street lights, repair sidewalks, and where possible, complete active transportation links.

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.

The new infrastructure will provide enhancements to the neighbourhood for the next 30 to 50 years.

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.

Hillview Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal Scope Map



Roadmap to Building Great Neighbourhoods

The Neighbourhood and Alley 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 both the **Building a Project Vision Together** and **Exploring Opportunities** stages in November 2022.



LEGEND

- 
Public Engagement and Communications Opportunities
- 
Concept Phase
- 
Design Phase
- 
Build Phase
- 
Operate Phase

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 the public can have on decisions made by the City throughout the project.

The public was invited to provide input that would help:

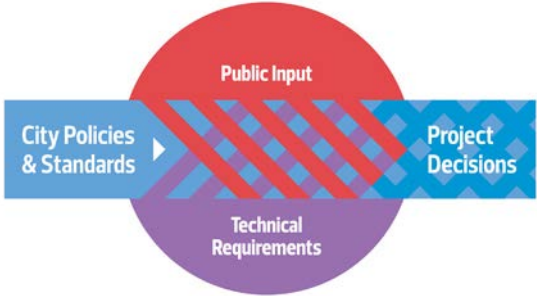
- + **CREATE** a Vision and Guiding Principles for the project
- + **REFINE** the Project Team's knowledge of neighbourhood assets, opportunities and priorities

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

What we asked and how we asked

The Hillview Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal Project Team organized the following opportunities for the public to provide input to help **CREATE** a draft Vision and Guiding Principles for the project and to help **REFINE** the Project Team's understanding of the improvements and opportunities for the neighbourhood.

There were a number of engagement opportunities open to the public from November 7 – 25, 2022.



Surveys

- + An online survey was available from November 7 – 25, 2022 asking respondents to help **CREATE** a Vision and Guiding Principles for Hillview Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal. To help us **REFINE** our understanding of Hillview residents' lived experiences, we asked people to identify opportunities to improve or enhance the neighbourhood
- + Paper copies were made available by request to the Project Manager
- + A paper "mini-survey" was offered to students at Hillview School to share their experiences in Hillview and identify areas for improvement

Over 135 Completed Surveys



Community Walk

- + An in-person guided walking tour was held on November 19, 2022. Participants met outside Hillview School and walked through the neighbourhood from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., stopping at key locations to share input about issues and opportunities for Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal
- + Participants were also invited to drop by for a conversation with the Project Team

17 Participants



Community Conversations

- + Project Team members reached out to six community groups to explore community recreation, school drop-off experiences, condominium needs, community commercial access, seniors accessibility, etc.
- + Additional emails and phone calls from community members received by the Project Manager will also be considered along with the overall feedback

8 Conversations



Project Web Page

- + Over 50 people signed up for project update emails at edmonton.ca/BuildingHillview
- + Over 750 unique page views on the project web page

Over 750 Views



Communication Tactics

- + 4,174 postcards were delivered to all addresses in Hillview, advertising upcoming engagement opportunities
- + Emails were sent to 52 subscribers and local stakeholders
- + Signage was located throughout the community, including a road sign on 66 Street and 20 yard signs on public boulevards throughout the neighbourhood
- + Project information was shared online through the project web page at edmonton.ca/BuildingHillview



What we heard

The following sections include a summary of what we heard at the community walk, in conversations and through the paper and online surveys. 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 residents.

Building a Project Vision Together

Ideas and insights were collected from participants to help us understand how people experience the neighbourhood today and what can be improved or added to create a neighbourhood for the future.

- + A **Vision** is a short description that sets the direction for the community's future liveability
- + **Guiding Principles** are ideas which inform how the Vision is applied to the neighbourhood design

Here is what we heard from engagement participants:

What are your favourite things about Hillview today? The most commonly identified elements can be broadly categorized into the following themes, listed from most to least frequently raised by participants:

- + Outdoor elements such as proximity to Mill Creek Ravine, large open green spaces, parks and playgrounds and prevalence of mature trees
- + Quiet, friendliness and sense of safety in a laid-back and welcoming neighbourhood
- + Walkways, outdoor paths and trails, along with proximity to major roadways which makes for efficient commuting
- + Location and proximity to nearby amenities (schools, hospital, local businesses, etc.)

“The natural feel of older growth trees and green space.”

“Proximity to every kind of amenity. I can walk pretty much wherever I need to go.”

The following word cloud image represents the list of key concepts emerging from participant feedback.



We asked the students at Hillview Elementary School and John Paul I Catholic School: If you could add something to the neighbourhood, what would it be? The most commonly requested additions to the neighbourhood are listed below, from most to least frequently raised by participating students:

- + Waterpark with waterslides and a pool
- + Zipline
- + More swings, especially tire swings
- + Bike lanes

What are some of the challenges you face living in and moving around your neighbourhood? The most commonly identified challenges raised during this phase of engagement can be broadly categorized into the following themes, listed from most to least frequently raised by participants:

- + Poor condition of roads, alleys and driveways, particularly with potholes and cracking
- + Deteriorating sidewalks causing safety hazards and accessibility challenges
- + Poor visibility, road condition and winter access on Hillview Crescent Road
- + Snow removal and icy sidewalks cause hazards in the winter
- + Traffic congestion, speeding, parking and traffic noise concerns on 38 Avenue
- + Increased speeding and accessibility issues in and around school zones
- + Parking issues in the neighbourhood, particularly around the Grey Nuns hospital on residential streets
- + Lack of amenities including local businesses and play areas
- + Limited lighting on park pathways and crosswalks
- + Inadequate and infrequent public transport
- + LRT construction impacts on traffic, crime, mobility and neighbourhood satisfaction
- + Increase in criminal activity in neighbourhood and safety concerns in Charles B. Hill Park

“Parking on both sides of the street with winter windrows makes the road too narrow to pass two vehicles – especially buses.”

“The residential roads in Hillview are in bad shape. It is easier to drive on the roads in the winter because the snow makes the roads less bumpy and treacherous.”

Thinking about a renewed Hillview, what would you like to see changed? Upgrades will be required to support the community for the next 30 to 50 years. The most commonly identified ideas raised during this phase of engagement can be broadly categorized into the following themes, listed from most to least frequently raised by participants:

- + Improve roads and alleys throughout the neighbourhood
- + Improve, widen and increase the number of sidewalks to increase neighbourhood connections and accommodate those who walk, roll and bike
- + Improve parks and green spaces by adding amenities like lighting, seating, picnic tables, trees/plants, updated playground equipment and garbage disposal
- + Improvement and increase in traffic, parking and safety signage throughout the neighbourhood
- + Increase community amenities like basketball, tennis and disc golf courts, toboggan hill and community gathering places for all seasons

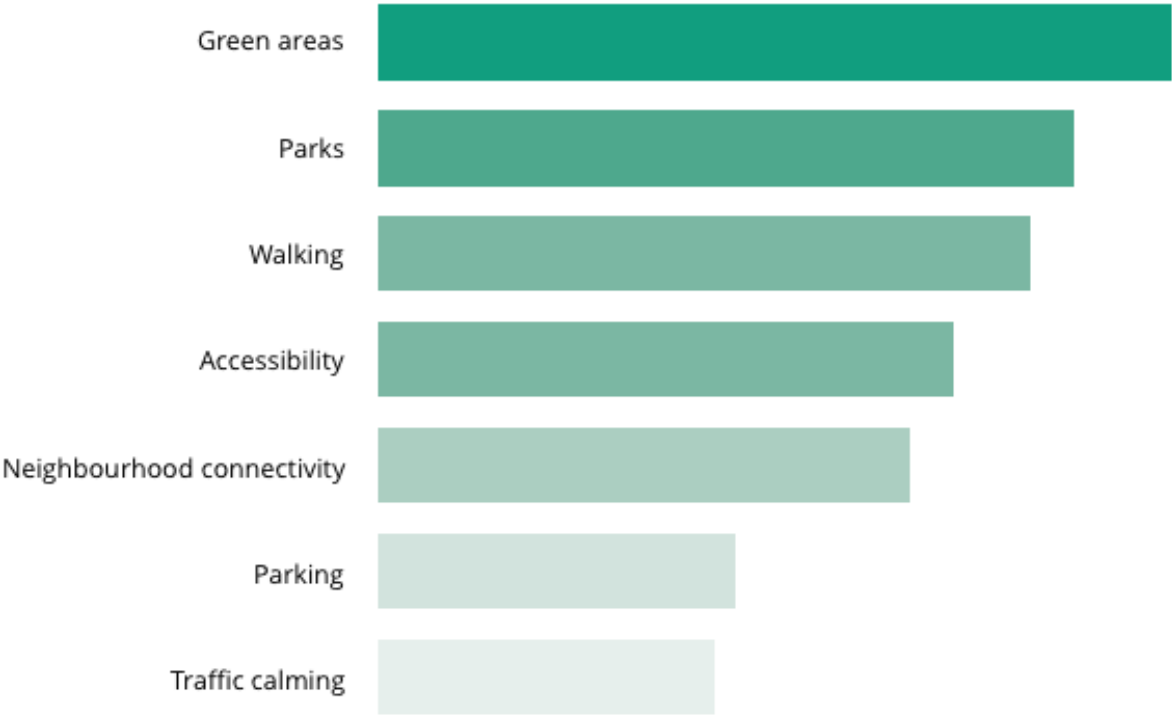
“The roads are the most concern and have been for many years. It would be an upgrade to the community to have roads that are not full of potholes and disrepair.”

“Walkable neighbourhood with community stores, trails, parks, trees, connectivity, sense of community with skating rinks and open space for play.”



There are many elements to consider in a Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal project. Which do you feel are the most important to consider for Hillview Neighbourhood Renewal? The most commonly identified elements can be broadly categorized into the following themes, listed from most to least frequently raised by participants:

- + Green areas (boulevards, landscaping, trees and river valley)
- + Parks (playgrounds, sports fields and picnic tables)
- + Walking (safety, crosswalks and connections)
- + Accessibility to neighbourhood homes/businesses by all modes of travel (transit, drop-off and pickup areas, driving, walking, rolling and biking)
- + Neighbourhood connections (moving in and through the neighbourhood)
- + Parking (vehicle) in the neighbourhood
- + Traffic calming (speeding and shortcutting)



The Project Team will use this input to **CREATE** a proposed Vision and Guiding Principles for the Hillview Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal project. This will be shared with the community to gather feedback at the next engagement stage.

Exploring Opportunities

The following section includes a summary of what we heard throughout all of the engagement opportunities. Participants shared ideas and thoughts on various issues and opportunities which could be considered for the Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal project.

The following key themes were identified by participants under the following four categories:

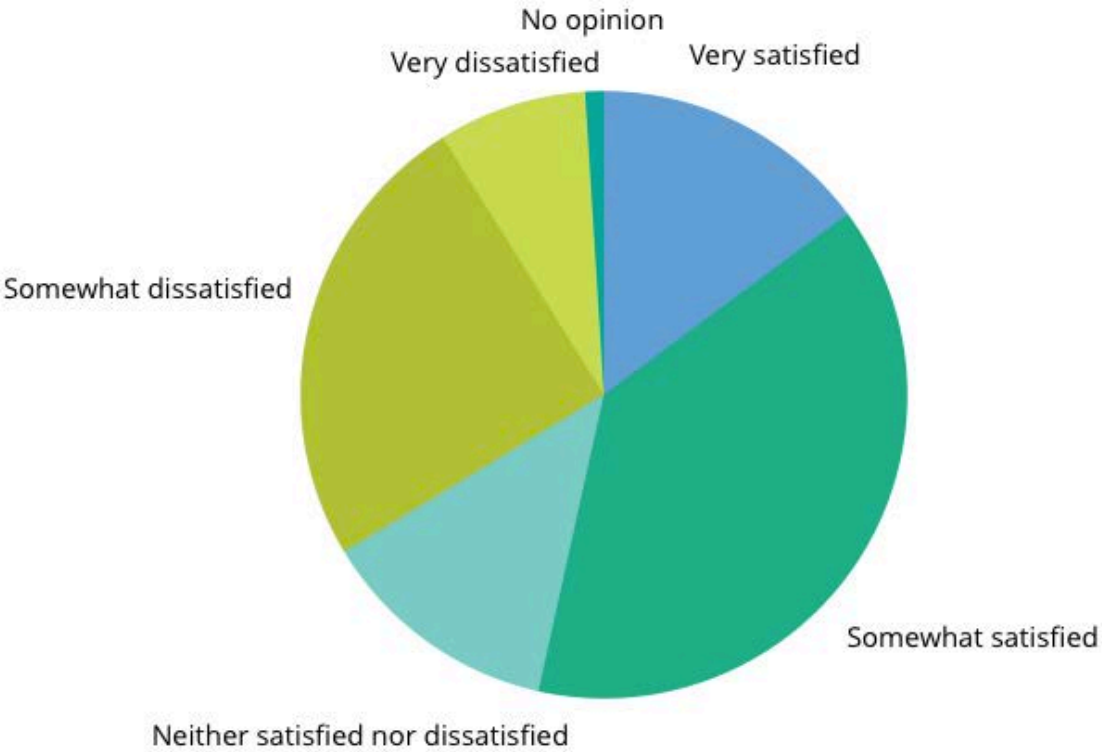
- + Driving
- + Biking
- + Walking and rolling
- + Parks and public gathering spaces

Driving

- + Changes and enhancements to traffic light timing all along 66 Street
- + A need to encourage fast-moving vehicles to slow down in school zones and along Woodvale Road and Hillview Crescent through traffic calming measures and better adherence to signs
- + Improvements to winter road/crosswalk maintenance and seasonal parking bans with consideration for windrows blocking neighbourhood entrances and creating safety hazards
- + Traffic congestion, delays in travel, safety concerns and neighbourhood access issues caused by the construction of the LRT
- + Reduce curb heights to better access driveways
- + Poor road conditions, maintenance and unpaved alleys cause concerns during winter and spring melt
- + Parking and driving conflicts around school zones caused by parking congestion and lack of efficient designated school bus zones



Levels of participant satisfaction with **Driving** in the Hillview neighbourhood



“The street from the Husky to Hillview School gets used as a racing strip, often, even during the day. This is especially worrisome as so many kids use this street to get to Hillview School as well as Greenview School. There needs to be increased speed signage, crosswalk lights put in by the playground and maybe an increase in police patrol.”

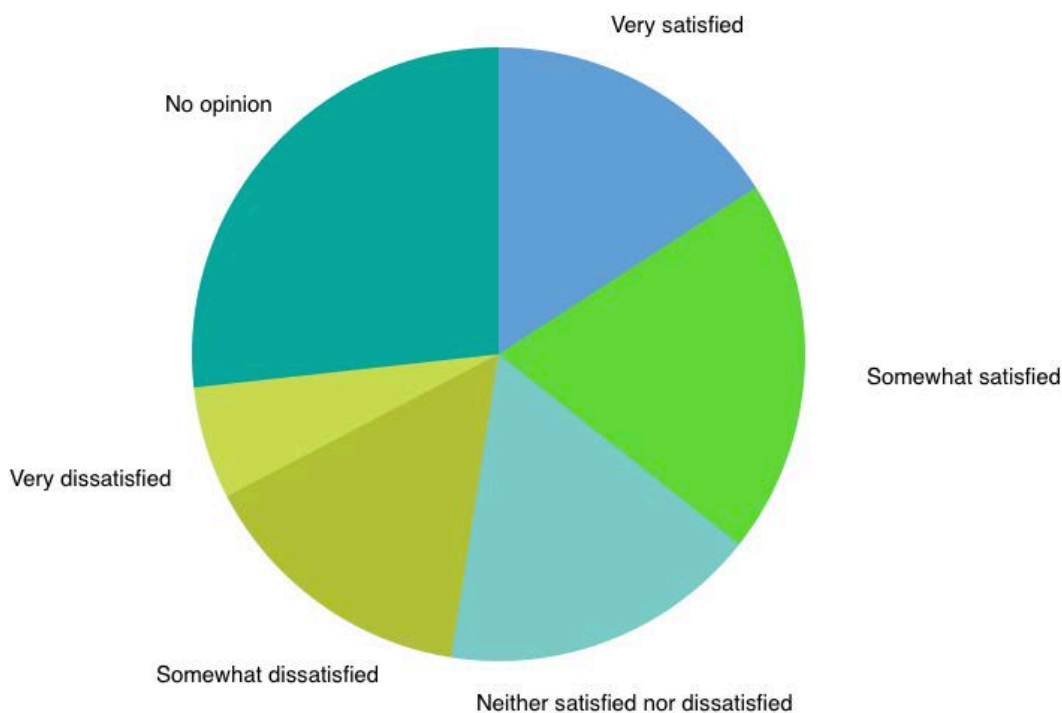
Biking

- + Pathways could be widened to reduce conflicts between people who bike, walk and roll
- + On-street parking, poor road conditions and safety concerns force people who bike onto the sidewalks
- + Pipeline corridor is an underutilized space that could benefit from a wide shared pathway
- + Curb heights and poor sidewalk conditions create a difficult environment for parents biking with small children
- + Increase use of electric and hybrid bicycles on shared paths with pedestrians is a cause for concern
- + Current conditions appear sufficient and general satisfaction with biking was expressed by some participants

“Neighbourhood Renewal should use this opportunity to construct the shared pathway along the oil pipeline corridor in accordance with the Edmonton Bike Plan. It would also be nice to continue the work through Greenview and across 50 Street to Mill Creek Ravine!”

“Need to be more multi-use trails. Roads are narrow with no designated bike lanes. Limited bike servicing stations or bike racks.”

Levels of participant satisfaction with **Biking** in the Hillview Neighbourhood



Walking / Rolling

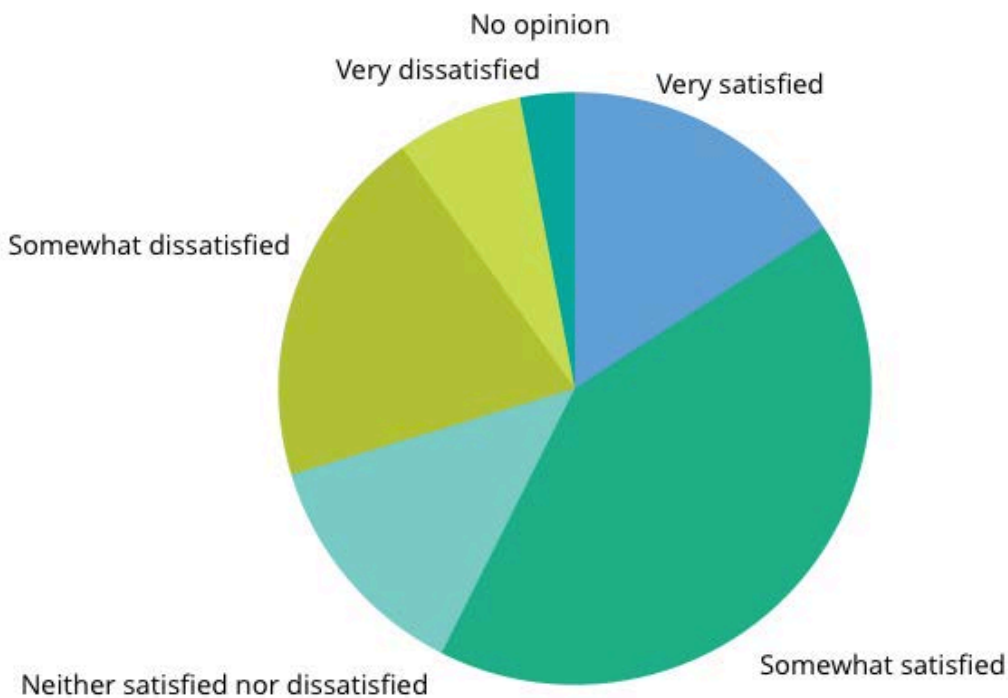
- + Sidewalks are not wheelchair accessible or friendly to the elderly, especially on the east side of Hillview around Hillview Crescent
- + Poor walking and rolling conditions: cracks, chips, narrow widths, steep slopes, uneven pavement, burnt out or non-existent lighting and lack of curb extensions on wide intersections
- + Improve snow removal from alleys into major intersections and sidewalks and consider year-round accessibility for people who walk and roll. Windrows cause congestion when placed on both sides of the same street
- + More garbage cans on shared pathways and sidewalks to dispose of animal waste and litter
- + Connect missing or disconnected shared pathways and sidewalks such as the one between St Paul I Catholic School and Greenview School, on the east side of 66 Street, and through the green space along Woodvale Road

“You have to carry your skateboard or in-lines out of our neighbourhood to find a surface that is rideable.”

“Sidewalks are in very poor shape. When I see my elderly neighbours in Hillview Crescent picking the street over the sidewalk, that is very telling of the condition. MANY small children also trip and fall often.”

“I like that we have walking paths that connect our area to schools and parks.”

Levels of participant satisfaction with **Walking / Rolling** in the Hillview Neighbourhood



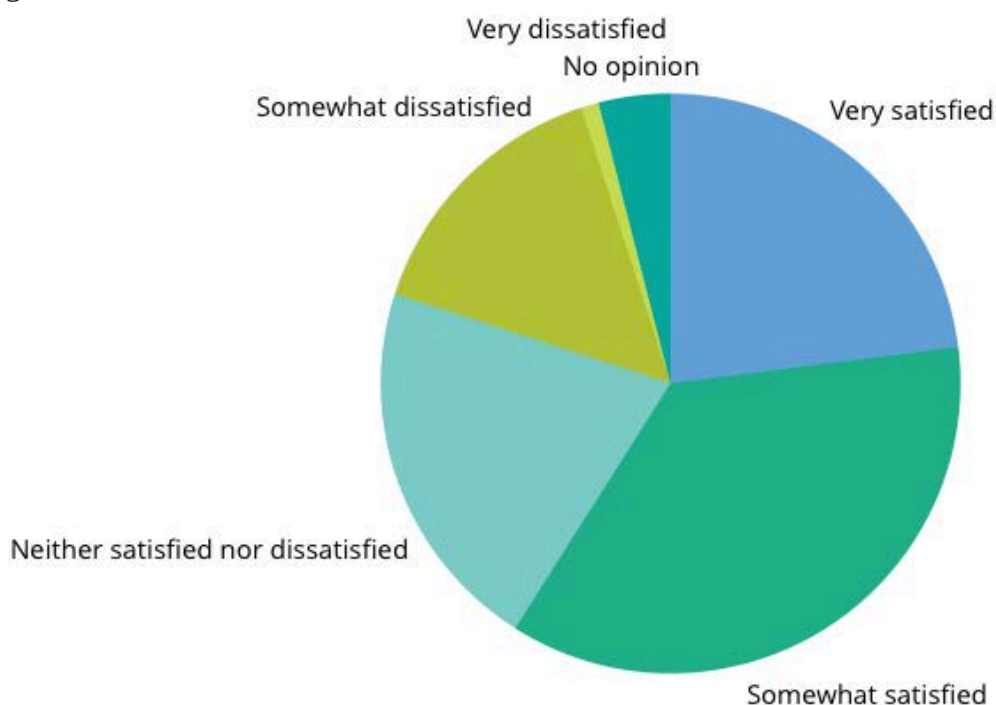
Parks and public gathering places

- + Improve park facilities and amenities by adding benches, gazebos, fire pits, lighting and picnic tables, especially at Hillview Park and the green space along the pipeline right-of-way green space
- + Fence the off-leash dog park along Woodvale Road to provide more security for pets
- + Add a community garden, incorporate art into public spaces and build gazebos away from playgrounds to provide enjoyable gathering spaces for all residents
- + Enhance green areas by doing regular maintenance as well as community signage that explains the green space rules for allowable uses
- + Create opportunities for opening of locally owned sidewalk cafes at Hillview commercial area (301 Woodvale Road)
- + Develop the green space along the pipeline right-of-way with a shared pathway, benches, garbage bins, gazebos and landscaping
- + Current conditions are sufficient and no changes are needed for people who use parks and public gathering places was also communicated by some participants

“There are not many public gathering places in our community and the parks are being diminished. There should be more of them and the condition of parks should be fixed.”

“Hillview mall could use some sidewalk cafes and community gathering space.”

Levels of participant satisfaction with **Parks and Public Gathering Places** in the Hillview Neighbourhood



Next steps

Thank you to all who shared their input during the Building a Project Vision Together and Exploring Opportunities stages of engagement.

In spring 2023, the public will be invited to the **Exploring Options and Tradeoffs** stage of engagement for Hillview Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal. The Project Team will return to the community to confirm the Vision and Guiding Principles and **Explore Options and Tradeoffs** to understand the preferences of the community. During this stage, we will invite you to provide feedback on the design options and share insights to help **REFINE** the options.

Information will also be provided about Cost-sharing Opportunities for decorative street lights and sidewalk reconstruction through the Local Improvement process.

For more information regarding the Hillview Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal, upcoming public engagement activities and to subscribe for project updates, please visit edmonton.ca/BuildingHillview.

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.

SHARE YOUR VOICE
SHAPE OUR CITY

Edmonton