

What We Heard Report

Meyokumin Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal

Building a Project Vision Together
and Exploring Opportunities

January – April 2022

**REFINE &
CREATE**

SHARE YOUR VOICE
SHAPE OUR CITY

Edmonton

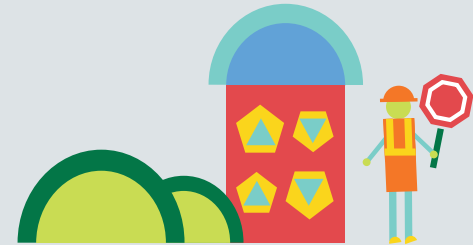
Project overview

Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal in Meyokumin will begin in spring 2024. Through the City of Edmonton's Neighbourhood Renewal program, we will rebuild roads, replace street lights, curb and gutters, repair sidewalks, and connect missing sidewalk and path links where possible. Alley Renewal will also be included as part of this project and involves rebuilding alleys, improving how water drains from the surface, where possible, and upgrading of existing lighting.

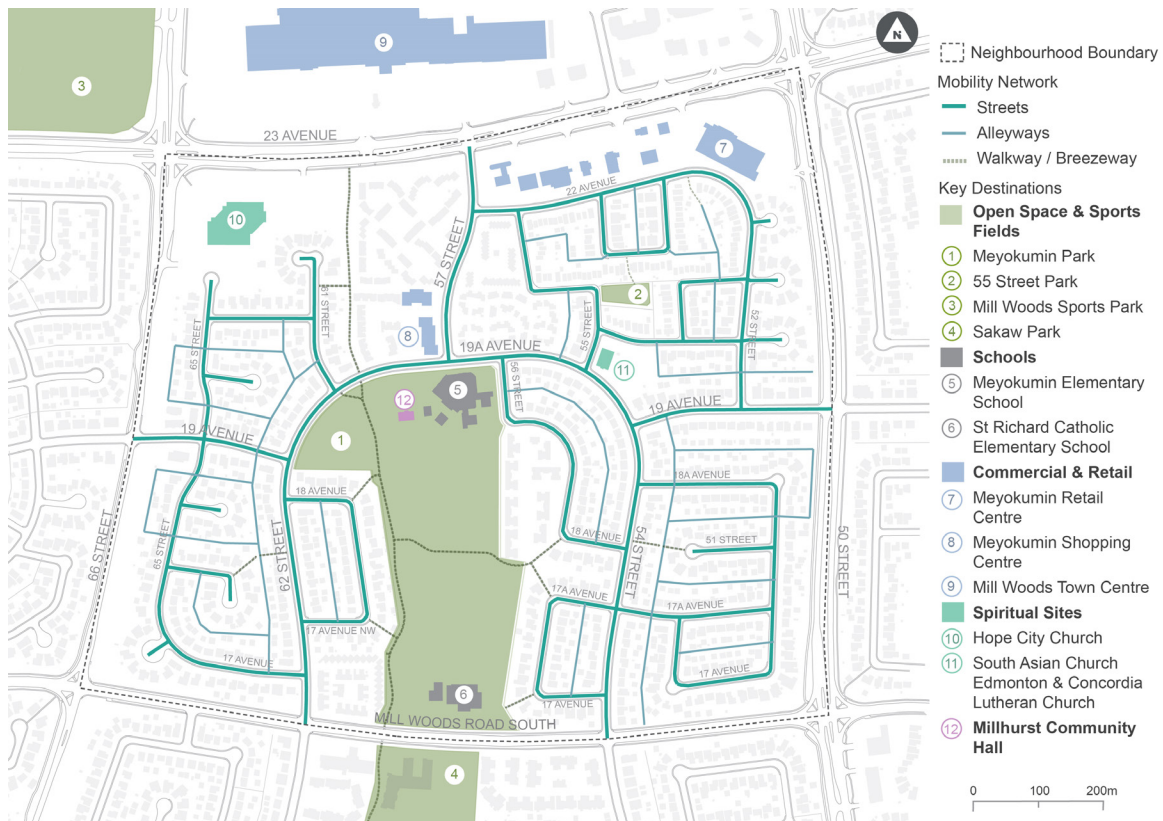
Cost-sharing opportunities will be made available through the Local Improvement process for sidewalk reconstruction and decorative streetlight upgrades in the neighbourhood. Other opportunities to improve City-owned parks and public spaces will also be explored.

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Meyokumin neighbourhood and alley renewal project map



How we use 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 comments will inform the decisions being made.

This report highlights the comments received during the **Building a Project Vision Together** and **Exploring Opportunities** stages between January and April 2022.



LEGEND

Public Engagement and Communications Opportunities

Concept Phase

Design Phase

Build Phase

Operate Phase

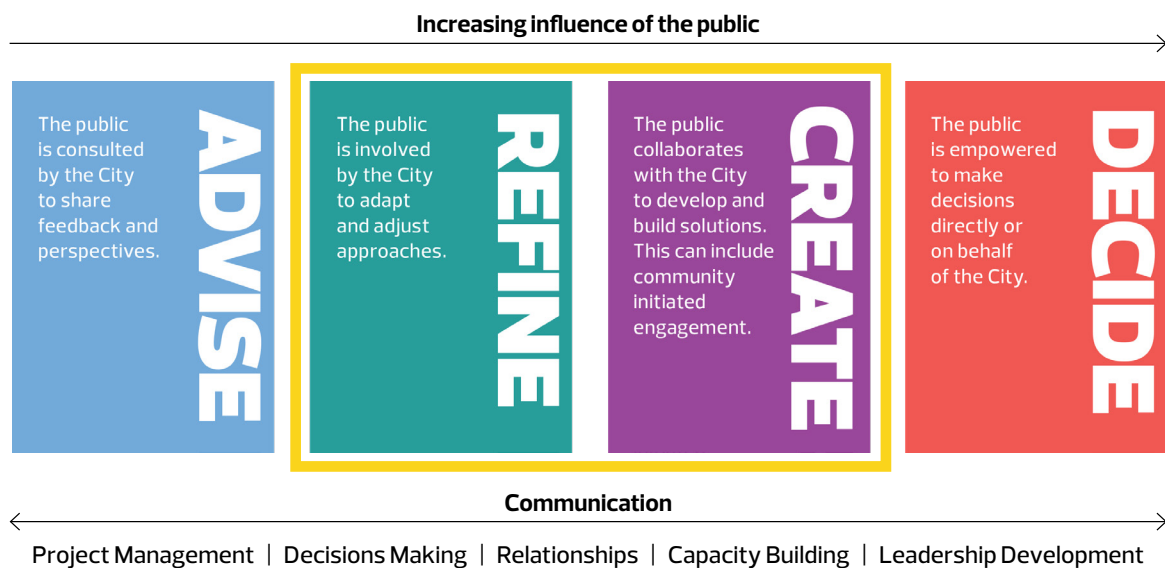
Public engagement spectrum

The City of Edmonton seeks input from citizens 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:

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

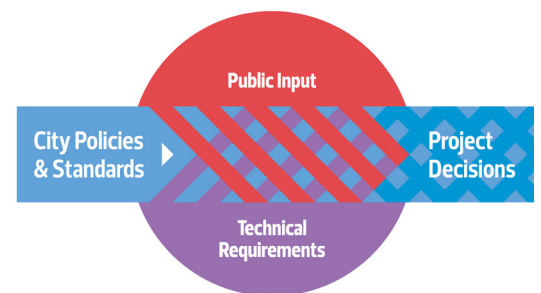
We commit to telling you how the public's comments influence decisions according to the public engagement spectrum.



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 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.



What we asked and how we asked

The Meyokumin 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.



Surveys

- + An online survey was available to the public from February 7 to March 4, 2022, asking residents to help us **CREATE** a Vision and Guiding Principles for Meyokumin's Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal. We also asked people to **REFINE** our understanding of their lived experience in Meyokumin by identifying opportunities to improve or enhance the neighbourhood.

54 Survey participants



Stakeholder conversations

- + Project team members reached out to several stakeholders, including Millhurst Community League, Concordia Lutheran Church, St. Richard School, Meyokumin School, and businesses in the commercial areas.

21 Conversations



How we communicated

- + 2,250 Newsletters
- + Promotional ads were prepared and shared through the Millhurst Community League Facebook page (626 followers) and newsletter (550 subscribers), Concordia Lutheran Church (125 subscribers), St. Richard School and Meyokumin School
- + One road sign
- + Three A-Frame signs

3800+ Outreach
362 Visits to the project webpage

What we heard

The following sections include a summary of what we heard through the online survey, conversations held with people, businesses and organizations in the community as well as an Earth Day event organized by Millhurst Community League. 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

What are your favourite things about Meyokumin today?

Here is what people said they love about Meyokumin:

- + Greenery/trees and parks, including playgrounds and other recreational activities inside the parks

"Huge greenspace between Mill Woods Road S and 19A Ave for schools, playgrounds, community activities."

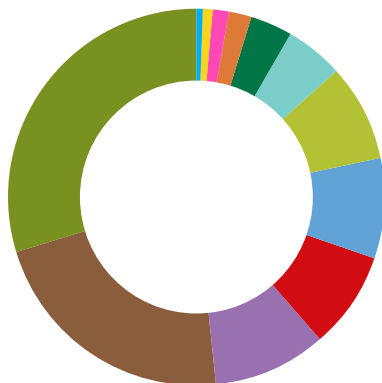
- + Nearby shopping areas, recreation, access to transit, future LRT and major roadways
- + Safety and the generally quiet nature of the neighbourhood

"Community is important. People from all cultures feel at home and are respected."

- + Diverse people, culture and community groups in Meyokumin are treasured
- + Local schools received praise as community connections; people appreciate the school's engagement with the community
- + People like the abundance of parking and street lighting

"I like that road safety is generally quite high given the recent changes to reduce speed limit in residential areas."

How would you describe Meyokumin?



- Good neighbourhood for people who use walkers, wheelchairs or strollers
- Good neighbourhood for people to walk in
- Family-friendly
- Friendly and welcoming
- People of all ages live here
- People with different backgrounds, languages and cultures live here
- Other
- Lots of parks and trees
- Feeling safe in the neighbourhood
- Clean
- We look out for each other

What are some of the challenges you face living in, and moving around, your neighbourhood?

People said they wanted the following to be improved:

- + Road and alley conditions and maintenance
- + The poor condition of sidewalks and paths
- + Lack of sidewalk and path connections for people who walk, bike and roll, particularly between amenities or important locations such as shopping areas or transit stops

“Broken pavement on sidewalks: cracks allow for weeds to grow; are tripping hazards; makes it more challenging to shovel snow.”

- + Winter maintenance of roads and paths, particularly snow storage and the drainage of snow melt
- + Lack of lighting and poor lighting quality
- + Traffic safety and congestion surrounding the local schools, particularly around pick-up/drop-off times.
- + People driving too fast, lack of visibility for crosswalks and traffic noise

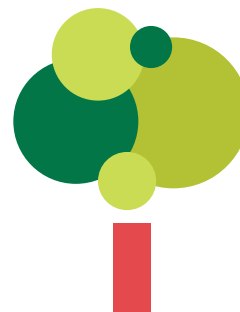
“The trail system is disjointed and winds around, making it hard to commute or use the paths for efficient human-powered transportation.”

“We love the park but cannot use it at night. We would like to use it all year round.”

- + Parks, playgrounds, paths are looking run down and could use improvements such as adding benches or replacing equipment
- + A number of social issues, such as supporting unhoused community members, issues with neighbours' upkeep of property and noise and general petty crime were identified
- + Garbage, litter and lack of cleanliness, mainly in greenspaces in the neighbourhood
- + There was interest in a dedicated dog park

“The park should be the heart of the community. But the heart is very tired.”

- + There were concerns about parking
- + Some felt public transit was unreliable
- + Too many changes in speed limits as you travel through the neighbourhood





Thinking about a renewed Meyokumin, what would you like to see changed? Upgrades will be required to support the community for the next 30 to 50 years.

People would like to see the following changed or upgraded:

- + Sidewalks, paths and other walking connections repaired, new pathways created, road and alley conditions improved
- + Improvements to park and green spaces, including better lighting and a dog off-leash location

“A new dog park, outdoor tennis courts, enclosures for garbage bins to make them look tidier, and more trees planted in the city-owned spaces between the strip mall would help add overall aesthetic appeal and functionality.”

- + Clear, dry and well maintained walkways in all seasons
- + A number of social issues, such as conditions of certain homes/yards in the area, and more community programs and events
- + Improve the ways people travel through the community for everyone, especially those who want to bike

“Better drainage along walkways so there’s not swimming pools during heavy rain or thaw.”

“Comprehensive bike lane network that is physically separated from cars.”

- + Increase safety for people who drive, walk, bike and roll, including adding traffic safety signage for people walking and driving. Pay special attention to addressing people driving too fast
- + Improved traffic safety around schools particularly during pick-up/drop-off times
- + The addition of more trees in boulevards

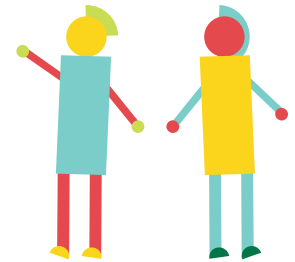
“Safer exits for vehicles AND pedestrians onto 23rd Ave, 66 St, 50 St, Mill Woods Road.”



Exploring opportunities

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

The following themes were identified by residents under the following four categories:



Walking

- + Better sidewalks, pathway connections and improved lighting near schools and in parks
- + Better snow clearing on sidewalks and park paths
- + Additional walking connections, such as paths to Sakaw, or to other major destinations such as schools and shopping areas
- + Cars that park too close to the corner block the view of people who walk at crossings

“Need for more and better marked crosswalks, possible speed bumps on 54 Street to reduce speeding. Possible enforcement along road during hours of 10pm–2 am.”

“Connecting Meyokumin to Sakaw with a sidewalk which will connect both neighbourhoods and now we have a walkable park instead of walking in deep snow or walking on the grass which is basically killing the grass. This would also make it easier for me to get to the garden and to the community hall.”





Biking

- + Existing shared pathways should be expanded to allow for side-by-side use for people who walk, bike and roll
- + More paths should be added to improve connection to transit
- + High quality dedicated bike lanes should be created along commuter routes and more bike parking should be available
- + Curbs at intersections should be lowered and sloped to allow for easier access for people who bike
- + Share information with community members to learn about bike and road safety

“More reminders on the road for drivers to make room for cyclists.”

“Sloped curbs need to be added so children can safely walk their bikes across streets without lifting them.”



Driving

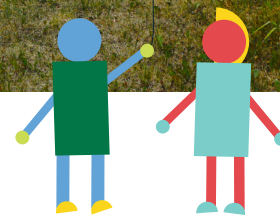
- + Road safety, including short-cutting, people driving too fast, blind spots from parking and and the need for more crosswalks
- + Road conditions, with concerns about potholes and crumbling street and alley conditions
- + Safety in school zones, especially with congestion around pick-up/drop-off times and vehicles travelling quickly through the area
- + Lighting on main roads and alleys
- + Winter snow clearing, particularly with windrows reducing driving space on streets
- + On-street parking was identified as a concern for some respondents, who believed it blocked sight lines and decreased safety for people who drive and walk, as well as obstructing the road when vehicles pass each other
- + Address the difficulty turning onto 66 Street at either 19 Avenue or 23 Avenue



“The 3-way intersection where 19 Ave NW meets 62 St NW is an area of concern, where there are blind spots created by permanent parking on the southeast curve of 62 St. Limiting parking in this area and painting crosswalks would help.”



“Turning lane on 66th Street to 19 Ave!”



Parks and open spaces

- + More lighting in parks
- + More seating/benches and garbage bins
- + Create an off-leash dog park
- + Improve access to the parks for those with mobility issues
- + Improve general maintenance of parks, field maintenance, repairs or upgrades to playground equipment and pathways that lead to and from the parks

“People from around the world meet here and become lifelong friends.”

- + Increase garbage pick up and maintenance to local parks to lessen risks to children and others using the parks.
- + Gathering spaces are important to the community, including ways to use outdoor spaces year-round

“Lighting to be increased to provide some sense of security in parks.”

“General improvement of the park space to include other things. Currently the largest park is a field shared between two schools but it would be nice if it could be adapted to have other uses that families and people of all ages could share and benefit from. It would be nice if there was also a consideration for an off leash dog park area for those with pets.”

Next steps

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

The Project Team used this input to **CREATE** a draft Vision and Guiding Principles for the Meyokumin Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal project. You will have an opportunity to add, change or comment on the draft Vision and Guiding Principles in the fall of 2022.

Vision

Meyokumin – where the world meets to live, work, play and grow together.

Guiding Principles

We value building a thriving community where we celebrate:

- + **Gathering.** We gather in safe spaces to create memories and experiences with friends, families, neighbours and those we haven't met yet
- + **Beauty.** We enjoy nature's gifts in all four seasons: the abundance of trees, plants and greenery throughout our community that all ages and abilities can experience
- + **Diversity.** We are a community of all ages, abilities and generation, diverse cultures and experiences. Inclusion makes us stronger as we meet in community gathering spaces, community programs and events
- + **Connections.** We are connected by wide pathways and safe roadways that link us to Meyokumin and the city beyond
- + **Active living.** We enjoy walking and biking with friends and family on smooth, clean sidewalks and pathways that can be used by people of all ages and abilities as they travel to their desired destinations
- + **Community.** We care for one another and have a strong sense of community

In the fall of 2022, you will be invited to the **Exploring Options and Tradeoffs** stage of engagement for Meyokumin 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 design options and to 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 Meyokumin Neighbourhood and Alley Renewal, upcoming public engagement activities and to subscribe for project updates, please visit edmonton.ca/BuildingMeyokumin.

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, visit:
edmonton.ca/BuildingMeyokumin

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