

# What We Heard Report: Overlanders and Homesteader Neighbourhood Renewal

**Building a Project Vision Together  
Exploring Opportunities**  
November 2022 to January 2023

**CREATE & REFINE**

**SHARE YOUR VOICE  
SHAPE OUR CITY**

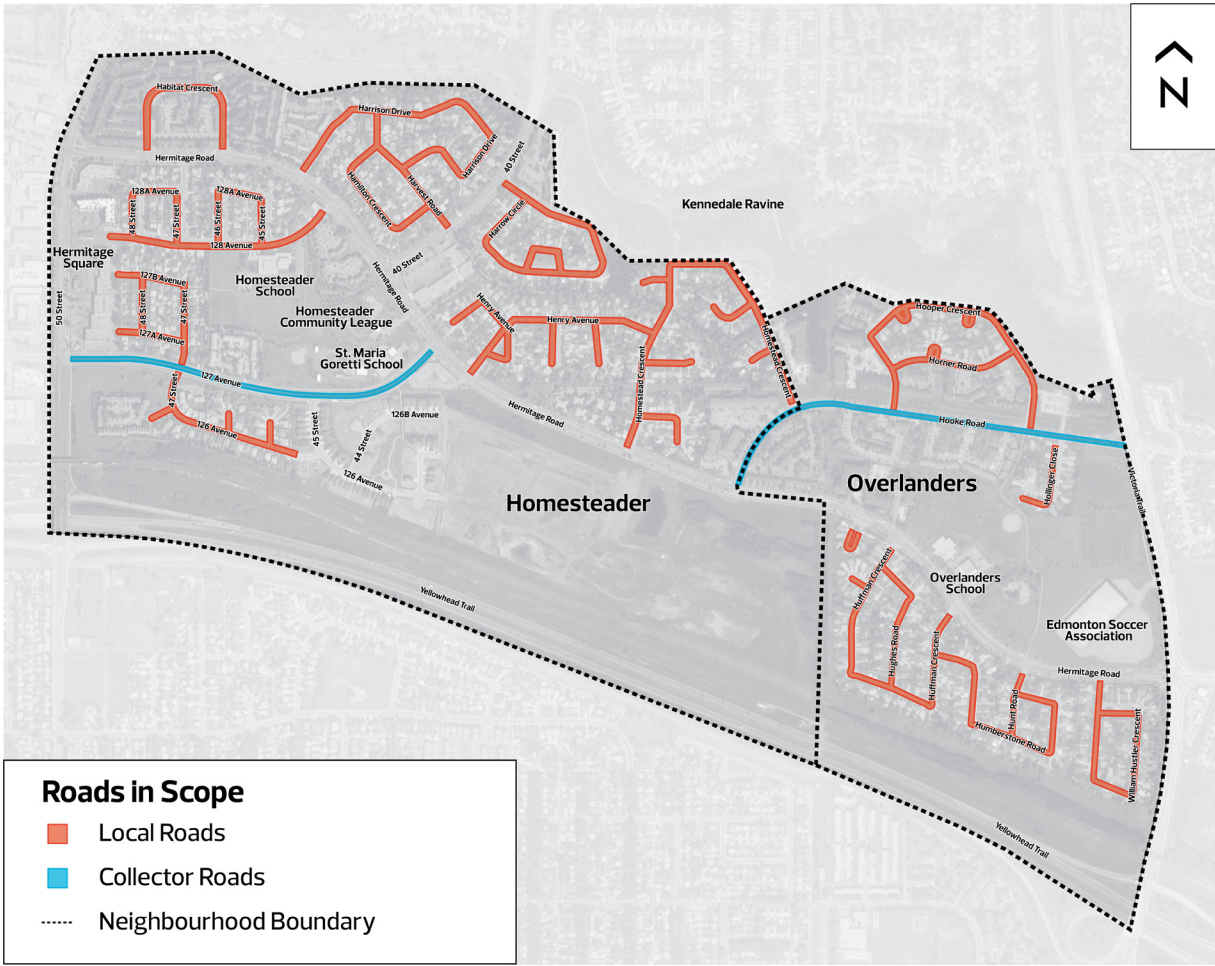
**Edmonton**

# Project overview

Neighbourhood Renewal in Overlanders and Homesteader is anticipated to begin in Spring 2025. Through the City of Edmonton's Neighbourhood Renewal program, we will rehabilitate roads, replace street lights, curbs and gutters, repair sidewalks and address missing links in the active transportation network.

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.

Overlanders and Homesteader Project Scope Map



# Where we are in the decision-making process

The Neighbourhood Renewal program follows the road map shown below. Following each stage of engagement, the Project Team will share with you how your input will **ADVISE**, **REFINE**, **INFORM**, or **CREATE** project decisions.

This report highlights what we heard during the **Building a Project Vision Together** and **Exploring Opportunities** phases between November 2022 and January 2023.

## Building Great Neighbourhoods Road Map



### 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, shown below, illustrates the four levels of influence that the public can have on decisions made by the City throughout the project.

In this phase of engagement, the public was invited to provide input that would help:

- + **CREATE** a vision and guiding principles
- + **REFINE** the Project Team's knowledge of the opportunities and priorities for the neighbourhood

We commit to telling you how public input influences decisions according to the public engagement spectrum:

## Public Engagement Spectrum

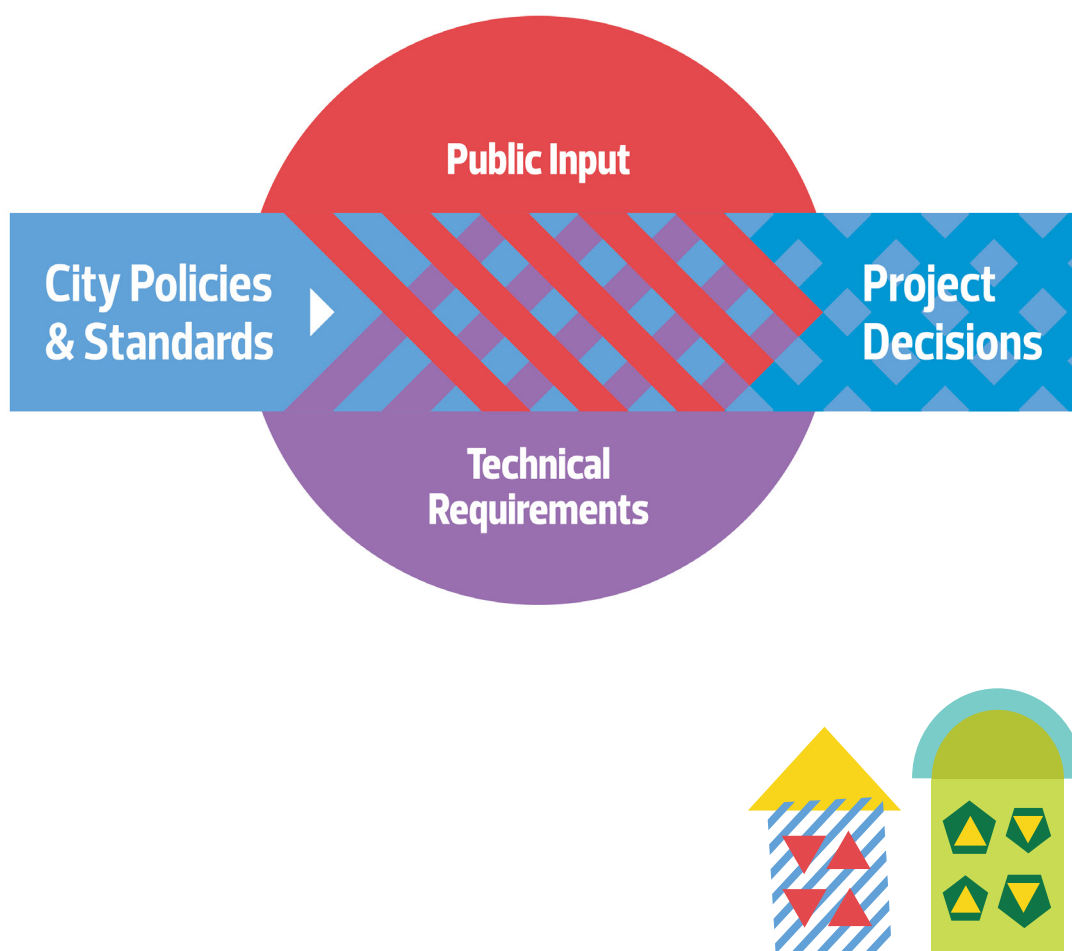


# How decisions are made

The Project Team makes decisions using a combination of policy and program information, public engagement input, and technical requirements. This process helps to ensure that the decisions made are fiscally responsible, follow best-practices, consider the existing infrastructure, land uses and activities in the neighbourhoods, 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 neighbourhoods and considers the technical aspects, such as roadway widths and conflicts with utilities and trees to determine what will fit in the neighbourhood.

## Decision-making diagram



# How we informed and engaged

From November 2022 to January 2023 the Project Team engaged with residents in the following ways:

## Community Workshops



- + Two in-person community workshops were held, asking participants to share their ideas on what could be improved, such as adding missing sidewalk connections, creating new shared pathways and making streets safer. Participants worked with Project Team members using stickers and drawing on maps of the neighbourhoods to use local knowledge to identify specific locations for improvements

**20 participants**



Vision Tree

## Grade Six Classroom Talks



- + Members of the Project Team worked with three Grade Six classes at Homesteader School and St. Maria Goretti School. The students were asked about their neighbourhood experience and completed worksheets sharing what they love about the neighbourhood and what could be better

**65 participants**



Mapping Activity 1



Mapping Activity 2

"I wish my neighbourhood had less cracking on the sidewalks"

– Grade six student



## Online Survey



- + An online survey was available to the public from November 23 to December 7, 2022, asking participants who live, work and play in Overlanders and Homesteader to help **CREATE** a Vision and Guiding Principles for the neighbourhood. We also asked residents to **REFINE** our understanding of the opportunities and improvements that could enhance their neighbourhood

**40 participants**

## Online Engagement



- + An online mapping tool was available from November 23 to December 23, 2022, asking participants to identify location-specific opportunities within the neighbourhood for improvement

**18 pin drops**

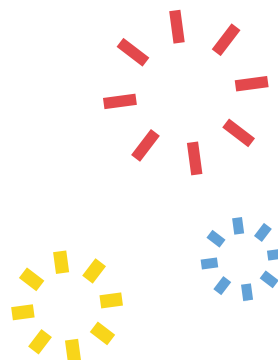


- + The project webpage was revised to include project updates, upcoming engagement opportunities, and other related project information

**231 unique visitors**

## How We Communicated

- + 2 road signs
- + 20 yard signs
- + 99 emails to list subscribers
- + 9 posters placed
- + 200+ door hangers
- + 4064 postcards delivered
- + 4064 newsletters delivered



# What We Heard

The following sections include a summary of what we heard through public engagement events, the online survey, student activities and the online mapping tool. The summary has been developed to reflect the relevancy, frequency and diversity of the responses we received based on the feedback provided by participants.

## 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 vision and guiding principles for the next 30 to 50 years.

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

A series of key concepts were developed following a review of input gathered from our engagement. Here is what we heard from participants:

### What do you like best about your neighbourhood?

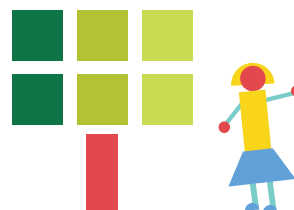
- + It is a quiet, friendly and welcoming neighbourhood
- + It has great green spaces and parks for playing and walking
- + Close to the Kennedale Ravine with mature trees
- + Has great access to and from the river valley, parks, nearby businesses and amenities, and connecting highways

### What would you like to see changed or improved for the future?

- + Enhanced green spaces with trees, landscaping and places for neighbours to gather
- + More amenities for families to enjoy, including a variety of sports fields and courts, parks and a spray park
- + Improved local transit and connections to transit centres
- + Improved lighting in parks, along local roads, on sidewalks and paths in the community and in the Kennedale Ravine

"I have lived in the area for 43 years, stable, friendly community"

– *Community workshop participant*





# Exploring Opportunities

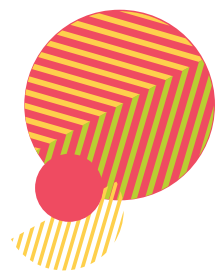
The following section includes a summary of the most common themes heard across all engagement opportunities. Participants shared ideas and thoughts on various issues and opportunities that could be considered as part of Neighbourhood Renewal.

## Walking, rolling, and biking

- + Safe and good conditions for walking is important to residents in the neighbourhood. Pathways cut through grass within both Overlanders and Homesteader parks should be developed into sidewalks or shared pathways and maintained year-round
- + Sidewalks and pathways should be accessible for people of all ages and abilities
- + Garbage cans added along key locations on pathways, sidewalks, and seating areas
- + Additional and/or improved lighting along all sidewalks and trails in the neighbourhood and into Kennedale Ravine will make areas feel safer
- + Adding a trail or shared pathway in the green space adjacent to the train tracks along Yellowhead Trail (Overlanders Greenbelt). Many people use this area and would like improved accessibility
- + Many sidewalks end at the top of the Kennedale Ravine. Sidewalks should be continued and a staircase added near Harrow Circle and Hooper Crescent to provide access to the ravine
- + Concerns with both speeding traffic and crossing roads, such as Hermitage Road near the schools and 40 Street at the Kennedale Ravine
- + Improving bike infrastructure along main roads through either dedicated bike lanes or wider shared pathways that are maintained year-round.
- + Support for east-west connections along the green space (Overlanders Greenbelt) adjacent to the train tracks and improved connections into Kennedale Ravine and the river valley

"Extend shared-use paths so it is not necessary to use Kennedale Ravine or roads to bicycle to the river valley paved trails"

– Online survey participant



## Public transit

- + Concerns about the changes and removal of bus stops in the Overlanders community along Hermitage Road
- + Adding more transit stops and on-demand transit services available for residents
- + Improving pathway connection with better lighting through Overlanders Park to access bus stops on Hooke Road

"The pavement on our road is in horrendous condition. Glad this project is happening, I just wish construction was happening sooner"

– Online survey participant



## Driving and vehicle traffic

- + Concerns about drivers speeding along 127 Avenue, 40 Street and Hermitage Road, and using these routes as short-cuts through the community
- + Traffic congestion getting into and out of the community along 50 Street at both 127 Avenue and Hermitage Road
- + Concerns about drivers doing u-turns and driving into opposing traffic to get around medians on Hermitage Road to access residential properties
- + Adding traffic calming measures to the collector roads, as well as additional signage, signals and traffic enforcement
- + Consistent signage throughout the community, such as yield, stop and parking signs
- + Adding drop-off and pick-up zones at the schools in the community to help with congestion in front of the schools and make these areas safer for students

## Parks and open spaces

- + Enjoyment of the parks and open spaces within Overlanders and Homesteader
- + Improving lighting and adding picnic tables, benches, gazebos or shaded areas to the existing parks and open spaces.
- + Adding an off-leash dog area to the community
- + Adding and maintaining a variety of sports fields, courts, playgrounds and spray parks
- + Adding trees along the soccer fields in Overlanders Park to provide shade for participants and spectators
- + Remove the temporary fencing around the green space between Overlanders and the train tracks
- + Adding a trail or shared pathway to the green space along the train tracks to encourage people to use this area

"Overlanders and Homesteader are nice quiet neighborhoods, with walking paths and the ravine. It would be nice to modernize the area, clean it up."

– Online survey participant



## Other feedback that was shared with the Project Team includes:

- + Addressing the needs of people experiencing homelessness
- + Add community policing or increase police presence in the community
- + Introducing senior (55+) living complexes into the neighbourhoods
- + Remediating the Domtar site, removing the fencing around the site and the green space along the train tracks
- + Adding a noise wall or berm between the community and the train tracks next to Yellowhead Trail
- + Encouraging more local cafes, shops and restaurants to open in and around the neighbourhood



# Next Steps

Thank you to all who shared their input during the **Creating 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 Overlanders and Homesteader Neighbourhood Renewal. At that time, the Project Team will present the draft 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 to share insights to help **REFINE** those options.

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

For information about Overlanders and Homesteader Neighbourhood Renewal, upcoming engagement events, and to subscribe to project updates, visit [edmonton.ca/BuildingOverlandersHomesteader](http://edmonton.ca/BuildingOverlandersHomesteader).

## 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, and 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.



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