

# What We Heard Report: Rideau Park and Royal Gardens Alley Renewal

Engagement:  
March 2022 to November 2022

ADVISE DECIDE REFINE

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Edmonton



# What We Heard Report: Rideau Park and Royal Gardens Alley Renewal

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## Project overview

The Alley Renewal Program is a cost effective, long-term strategic approach to renew and rebuild alleys. This program was approved by City Council in 2018 and is focused on improving alleys across the City 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 not just a contribution from property owners with back alleys. There is no additional cost to property owners at the time of Alley Renewal.

Royal Gardens and Rideau Park have been identified for Alley Renewal, with construction anticipated for 2023 to 2024. Construction phasing will be determined based on contractor resources, impacts to residents and coordination with other project work, including utilities.

## Alley Renewal includes:

- + Reconstructing alleys 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

The addition of new alley lighting is a property owner initiated and funded Local Improvement. Information to initiate the Expression of Interest process to have lighting installed in an alley is provided online at [edmonton.ca/LocalImprovements](https://edmonton.ca/LocalImprovements).

## Alley Renewal Public Engagement



## BGN Public Engagement Charter



## Public engagement spectrum

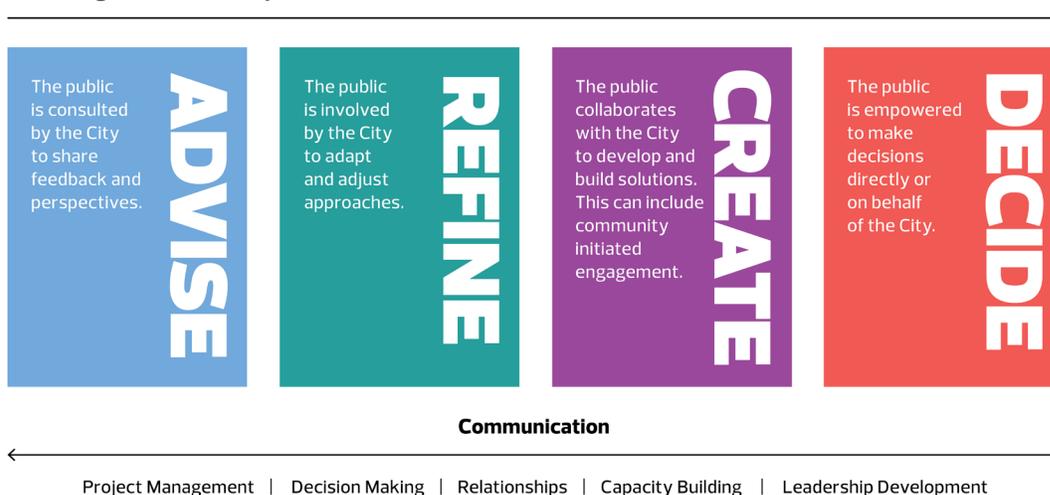
The City of Edmonton seeks input from citizens to help guide the project. The City's public engagement spectrum below shows the four levels of influence that the public can have on decisions made by the City throughout a project.

The public was invited to provide input as follows:

- + **ADVISE** the Project Team about how the 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 Program (when applicable)
- + **REFINE** the design drawings and provide feedback and additional considerations

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

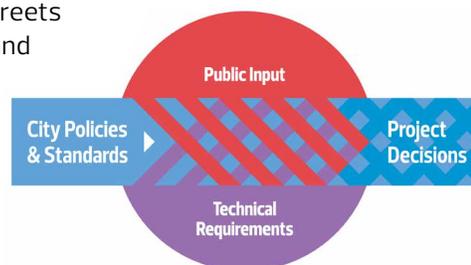
### Increasing influence of the public



## 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.



## What we asked and how we asked

The Alley Renewal Project Team organized opportunities for the public to learn about the Alley Renewal project objectives and scope and provide input to help **ADVISE** them about potential improvements and opportunities for the alleys throughout the neighbourhood and then **REFINE** the Alley Renewal designs by providing feedback and additional considerations. The public was also invited to **DECIDE** whether to add lights to their alley through the Local Improvement process.

### Purpose of engagement:

- + Inform residents, property and business owners about the Alley Renewal Program and the public engagement opportunities in Rideau Park and Royal Gardens

### Concept Phase

- + Gather local knowledge and suggestions for improvements
- + Gather local knowledge on private property impacts (for construction mitigation strategies)
- + Share active transportation connection opportunities and gather feedback
- + Inform residents of the Local Improvement opportunity and process to decide on adding lights to their alley

### Design Phase

- + Share information about Alley Renewal Program and timing
- + Share the alley draft design and gather feedback
- + Gather local knowledge about private property impacts (for construction mitigation strategies)

# Engagement opportunities

## Concept Phase March 22 to April 14, 2022



### SURVEY

- + An online survey was available to the public from March 22 to April 14, 2022 asking respondents to **ADVISE** on alley conditions and functions, impacts of alley construction on their properties and if any active transportation connections should be considered. Paper copies were made available upon request

———— Rideau Park – 2 Respondents | Royal Gardens – 21 Respondents ————



### PUBLIC INFORMATION EVENT

- + An online public information event took place on March 24, 2022 to inform the public about the Alley Renewal Program and Local Improvement opportunities, answer their questions and encourage attendees to provide feedback through the online survey

———— 26 Attendees ————



### COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

- + One-on-one emails and phone calls from community members were received and responded to by Project Team members



### PROJECT WEBPAGE

- + 49 people signed up for project update emails at [edmonton.ca/RideauParkRoyalGardens](http://edmonton.ca/RideauParkRoyalGardens).
- + Overall there were 138 participants who visited the project webpage to view documents and read multiple project pages



### COMMUNICATION TACTICS

- + In February 2022, letters and flyers were mailed to all property owners and addresses in Royal Gardens and Rideau Park to inform people about the Alley Renewal Program, the public event and the survey
- + Emails were sent to subscribers and stakeholders
- + Signage directing people to the website for the event, survey and project information was located throughout the community including lawn signs (10 in Royal Gardens, 10 in Rideau Park) and 2 road signs
- + Project Information was shared on the project webpage



## Design Phase November 2 to 18, 2022



### ENGAGED EDMONTON IDEAS

- + The public was invited to review alley design maps and help the Project Team to **REFINE** the designs by sharing their thoughts and ideas on the Engaged Edmonton page between November 2 to 16, 2022

3 ideas submitted | 177 page visits



### COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

- + One-on-one emails and phone calls from community members were received and responded to by Project Team members



### PROJECT WEBPAGE

- + 49 people signed up for project update emails at [edmonton.ca/RideauParkRoyalGardens](https://edmonton.ca/RideauParkRoyalGardens)
- + Overall there were 100 participants who visited the project webpage to view documents and read project pages



### COMMUNICATION TACTICS

- + In November 2022, an information flyer was mailed to residents in Royal Gardens and hand delivered to residents adjacent to alleys in Rideau Park to provide an update on the Alley Renewal Project and invite review of the designs and submission of ideas through the Engaged Edmonton page
- + Emails were sent to 49 subscribers and stakeholders
- + Lawn signs directing people to the website for project information, including the alley design and links to the Engaged Edmonton page for feedback, were located throughout the community (10 in Royal Gardens, 3 in Rideau Park)
- + Project information was shared on the project webpage



## What We Heard – Concept and Design Phases

Edmontonians who participated in engagement told us they mainly use their alley to drive and access their garage, parking pads or backyards but some also use them to walk or to connect to nearby streets or alleys. Generally, they welcome the project and are looking forward to having their alleys renewed.

We also heard about concerns people have with their current alley conditions, possible impacts to their properties and accessibility during construction.

The following are common themes we heard among those with questions or concerns:

- + Residents are concerned about drainage and water pooling
- + Rutting and potholes in the existing pavement are problematic
- + There is some confusion over uses and responsibility of Royal Road
- + People are concerned about accessibility to their alleys and parking during construction
- + Some people want assurance that the alley materials will be durable enough to manage the weight of large trucks and easily maintained in the future
- + Residents report tight corners in alley entrances and exits, specifically for garbage trucks and other larger vehicles making turning movements
- + There are worries about how large trucks will impact utilities
- + People want the City to work with EPCOR to ensure utility work (if needed) is coordinated with alley construction timing
- + Questions and concerns regarding costs to landowners were raised
- + Residents would like to understand what can be done on City right-of-way vs. private property (e.g. Driveway tie-ins)

## Next steps

The Project Team will consider all comments received as the project moves forward with Alley Renewal design. The final design and construction information will be shared with the public in spring 2023.

Watch for more information in the coming months.

## Stay informed

Visit [edmonton.ca/RideauParkRoyalGardens](https://edmonton.ca/RideauParkRoyalGardens) for more project information.

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