

# What We Heard & What We Decided Report

Menisa Alley Renewal

**ADVISE & DECIDE**

April – May 2025

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

**Edmonton**

# Project overview

Menisa has been chosen for Alley Renewal. The Alley Renewal Program is a cost-effective, long-term strategic approach to renew and rebuild alleys. This City-initiated program is focused on improving alleys city-wide over 25 years.

The Alley Renewal Program is funded by 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.

Each alley that will be renewed in Menisa is numbered on the map to help identify where issues exist and where there are opportunities for improvement.

## Table of Contents

|                                |    |
|--------------------------------|----|
| Project overview               | 2  |
| Decision making process        | 5  |
| City policies and programs     | 6  |
| What we asked and how we asked | 8  |
| What we heard                  | 9  |
| What we decided                | 14 |
| Next steps                     | 20 |

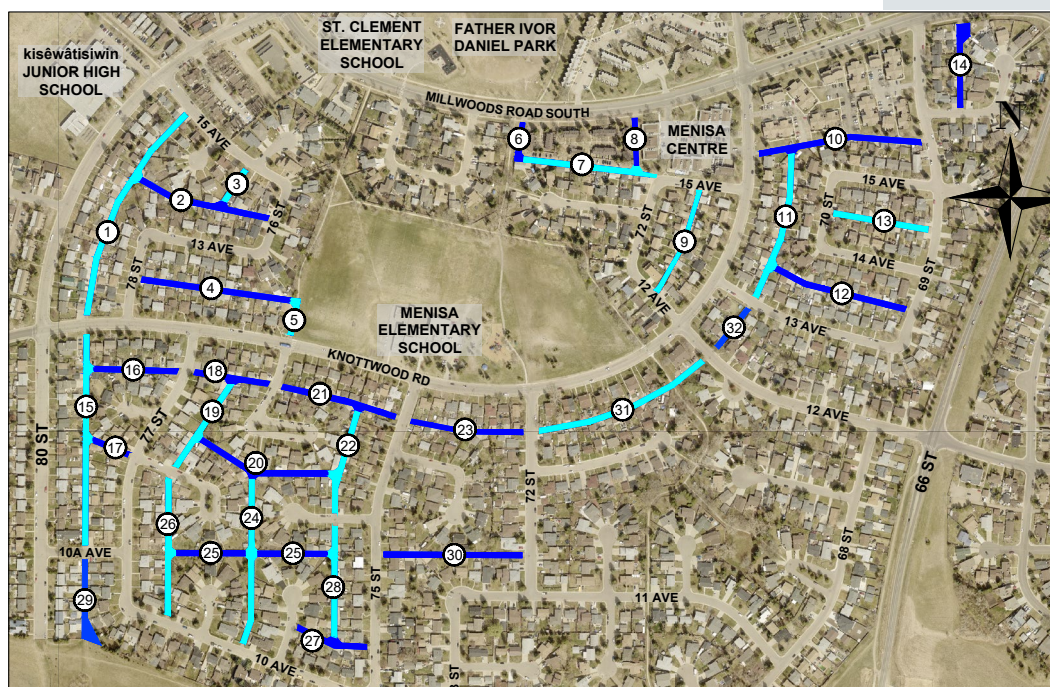
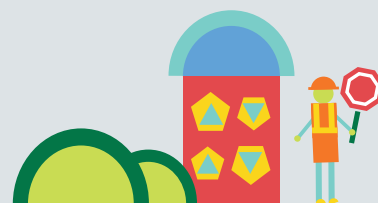


Figure 1. Menisa Alley Renewal: Scope map with numbered alleys

### In Menisa, Alley Renewal will include:

- + Reconstructing alleys throughout the neighbourhood with a new gravel base and hard surface
- + Improving surface drainage where possible
- + Pruning trees/shrubs as necessary ahead of construction
- + Exploring minor enhancements to improve walking, biking and traffic safety

Property owners can request that the City initiate a local improvement to add alley lighting in alleys where it currently does not exist. Information to initiate the Expression of Interest process to have lighting installed is provided online at [edmonton.ca/LocalImprovements](https://edmonton.ca/LocalImprovements).

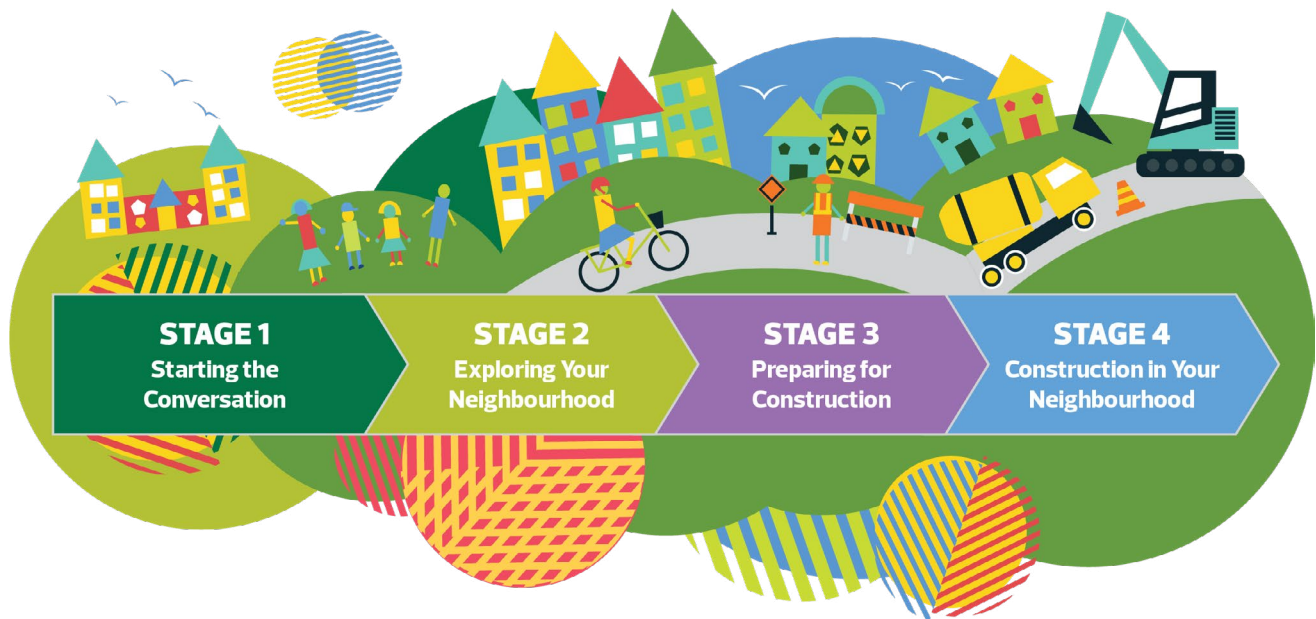
# Public engagement on Alley Renewal

Alley Renewal projects move through a series of stages, from early planning and design to construction. At each stage, the City considers a range of information, including City policies and programs, technical requirements, available funding, and input from community members.

Public engagement feedback is not a vote, nor is it a statistical representation of all residents. It does, however, provide an indication of local concerns and desires. It is important to note that input received through Alley Renewal engagement cannot change City policy direction or construction standards.

## Alley Renewal project roadmap

The roadmap below shows the typical stages of an Alley Renewal project, from starting the conversation through to construction. Public engagement may occur at different points along this roadmap, depending on the project and the decisions being explored. Engagement helps gather local knowledge, understand priorities and concerns, and support informed decision making.



Opportunities for public influence vary by stage and by project. In some cases, technical constraints, policy direction, safety requirements, or available funding may limit where public input can shape outcomes. The City is committed to being clear about the level of influence available and to sharing how public input is considered.

# Public Engagement Spectrum

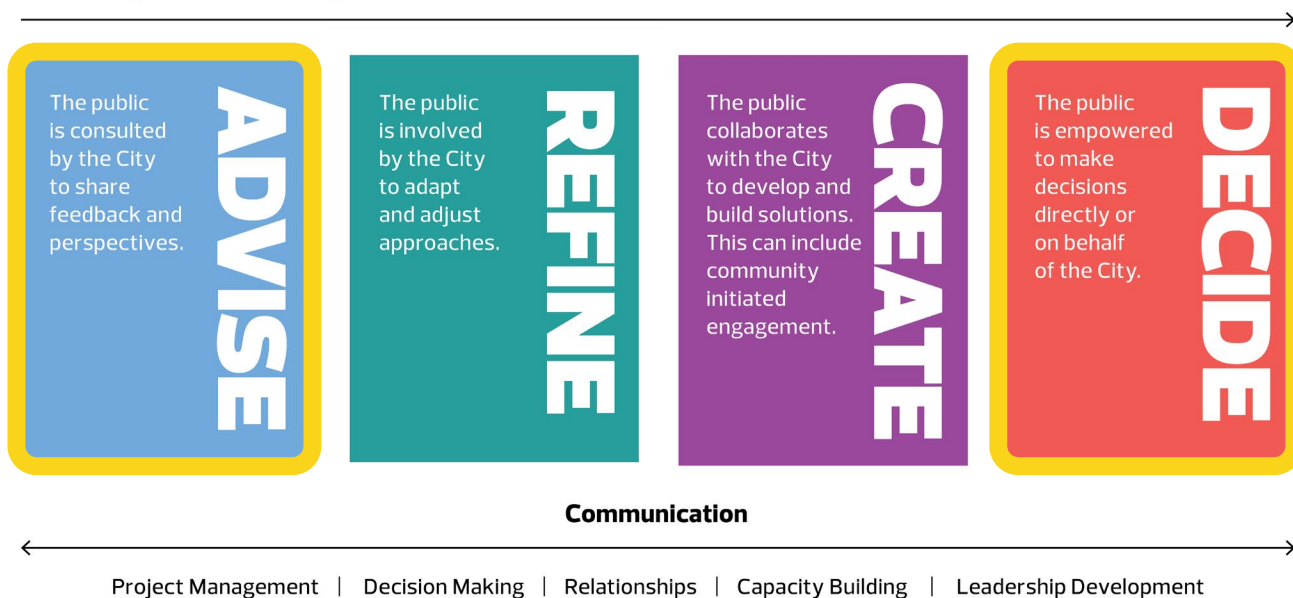
The City of Edmonton seeks input from residents to help guide the project. The City's Public Engagement Spectrum below shows the four levels of influence the public can have on decisions made by the City.

The public was invited to provide input that would help:

- + **ADVISE** the Project Team about:
  - + How Menisa alleys function and are used by residents
  - + Opportunities to explore safety, mobility and ease of movement for people who walk, roll and bike in the area
  - + Comfort levels with a potential alley closure and repurposing (Alley 8)
  - + Use of green space south of Alley 24 that connects to the Anthony Henday Drive open space
- + **DECIDE** whether to add lights to alleys where they do not exist through the Local Improvement process

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

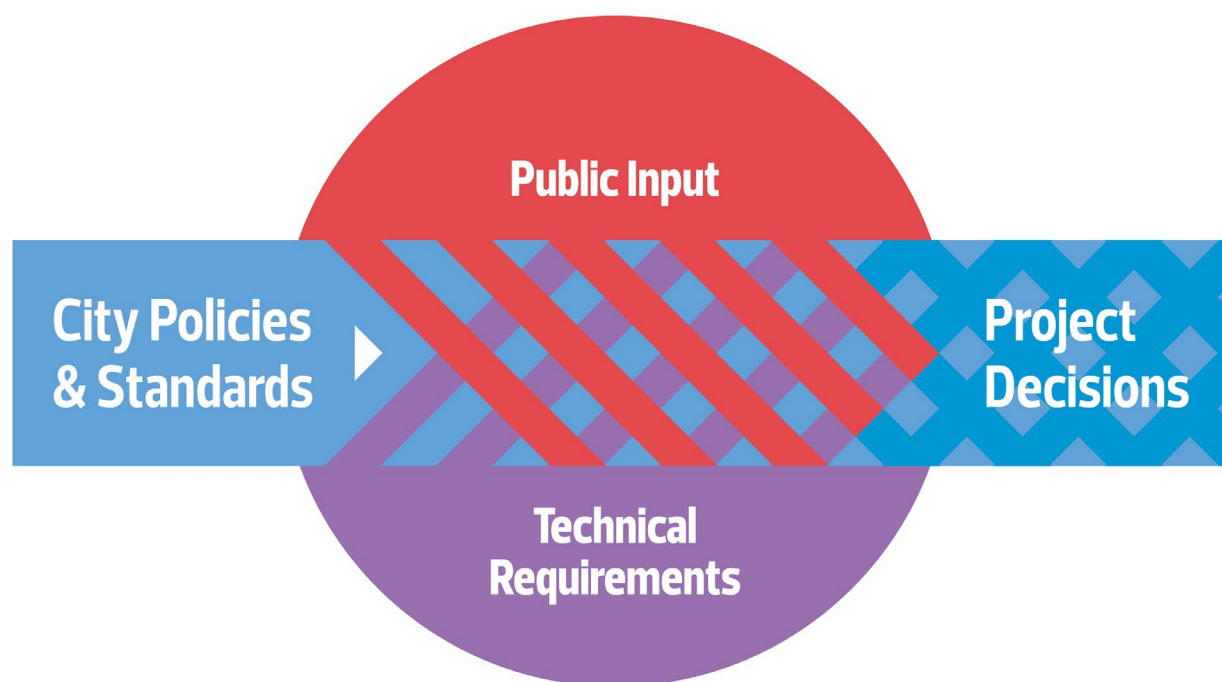
## Increasing influence of the public



# Decision making process

The City makes decisions using a combination of policy and program information, public engagement feedback, technical requirements and available funding. This process helps to ensure 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.



# City policies and programs

The following policies have application in all designs:

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## The City Plan

- + Supports implementing a multi-modal transportation system that creates a connected and accessible city for people of all ages and abilities

## Alley Renewal Program

- + Funds the renewal of existing alleys with an asphalt surface

## ConnectEdmonton

- + Provides direction to create a healthy city, vibrant urban places, regional prosperity and climate resilience
- + Supports safe bike routes, vibrant gathering spaces, the addition of missing sidewalks, partnerships with local businesses, planting trees, creating green space from existing paved surfaces and measures to calm traffic

Other policies considered:

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## Active Transportation Policy

- + Includes opportunities for people to walk, roll and bike and promotes the inclusion of sidewalks, shared pathways and shared streets
- + Encourages active transportation in neighbourhoods

## Accessibility for People with Disabilities Policy

- + Supports accessibility as fundamental to good public engagement and design for all ages and abilities to use neighbourhood infrastructure for the next 50 years

# City policies and programs

## Other policies considered:

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### Local Improvement Policy

- + Follows the Municipal Government Act of Alberta to outline the process to pay for improvements that are of a larger benefit to those near them than to the city as a whole; such as residents requesting the installation of lighting in alleys

### Public Engagement Policy

- + Directs the creation of specific public engagement and best practices to hear from the diverse groups impacted by the project

### Safe Mobility Strategy

- + Supports initiatives to manage driver speeds and shortcutting to increase safety for all users

## Technical requirements:

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### Infrastructure assessments including utilities

- + Prioritizes when City infrastructure will be renewed based on current conditions

### Complete Streets Design and Construction Standards

- + Provides direction for the design and construction of alleys, sidewalks, shared pathways and shared streets

### Winter City Design Guidelines

- + Includes design standards to create inviting and vibrant communities during the winter months that are accessible, safe and enjoyable for people of all ages and abilities

# What we asked & how we asked

The Menisa Alley Renewal Project Team organized the following opportunities for the public to provide input to help **ADVISE** how neighbourhood alleys are currently being used, how they can be used in the future and what opportunities there are to improve safety, mobility and ease of movement for people who walk, roll and bike.

The public was also made aware that they could **DECIDE** whether to add lights to alleys where they do not exist through the local improvement process.

## Spring 2025 neighbourhood engagement

There were several engagement opportunities open to the public from April 15 to May 4, 2025.



### Survey

- + An online survey was available from April 15 to May 4, 2025, asking residents to share feedback on how they use and experience their alleys, and thoughts on potential opportunities including alley closures and improvements for walking, biking and rolling
- + Paper copies were made available upon request

100 contributors



### Conversations

- + Additional meetings, emails and phone calls with interested parties were held or received by the Project Manager to be included in the overall feedback

Six conversations



### How we communicated

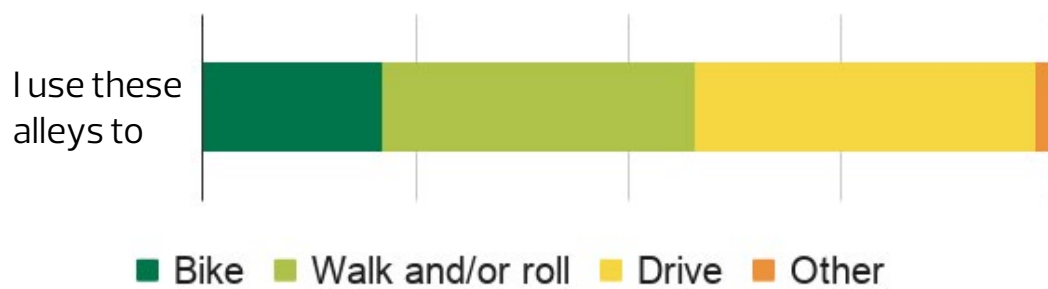
- + Three road signs
- + 59 yard signs
- + 730 targeted letters to residents and property owners
- + Six invitations to participate in a 1:1 meeting
- + 785 page views on the project web page
- + 30 emails to subscribers (*To sign up for future emails, visit [edmonton.ca/MenisaAlleyRenewal](https://edmonton.ca/MenisaAlleyRenewal)*)
- + 419 clicks on the Facebook and Instagram ads

# What we heard

The following learnings share what we heard from Menisa residents in the spring of 2025 that helped inform the design concepts. Alley numbering refers to the alleys indicated in the map below.



## How people use alleys in the neighbourhood



## What is your current experience with this alley?

Community members were asked to share how they use Menisa's alleys and explain their current experience with specific alleys in the neighbourhood. Feedback was organized by alley location, using alley numbers from the map above.

- + **Alleys 5, 6, 9, 11–15, 19, 21–25 and 28–30:** Participants expressed concerns with alley drainage and potholes
- + **Alleys 1 and 20:** We heard there was a lack of lighting in these alleys, leading to challenges with tripping over potholes and perceived increase in crime
- + **Alleys 4, 7 and 8:** In these alleys participants noted large trees in the alleys were breaking up the pavement and causing dangerous debris
- + **Alleys 1, 2 and 23:** We heard large vehicles such as garbage trucks and school buses are causing wear on the pavements in these alleys
- + **Alley 10:** Participants expressed challenges with sight lines when exiting the York Mills apartment complex onto the alley
- + **Alley 16:** We heard concerns about this alley not connecting directly back to a sidewalk, as children use this route to bike to school
- + **Alley 31:** We heard garbage cans from the Knottwood Terrace apartments block the intersection at 12 Avenue
- + **Alley 32:** Participants indicated the concrete apron on the south end of the alley needs to be replaced

## Issues with traffic safety or connections in Menisa

### Where do you experience traffic safety or connection issues while walking, rolling or biking anywhere in the neighbourhood?

The most commonly identified responses can be broadly categorized into the following themes.

- + **Blind corners:** We heard intersections at Alleys 7 and 10 have blind corners and some felt stop or yield signs could help
- + **Cracked and uneven pavement:** Concerns were expressed about the quality of alley pavement in Alleys 10 and 20
- + **Lack of lighting:** Participants indicated Alley 10 was dark without dedicated lighting

## Out of scope feedback

Some of the feedback we received from these questions was out of scope for the project, either in terms of location (such as existing roads and sidewalks) or improvements not funded through Alley Renewal (such as waste collection frequency and other City services). The Project Team reviewed this information and shared the feedback with the applicable internal City departments.

## Potential alley closure

Alley 8 was identified by the City of Edmonton as a potential alley closure since it was not required for rear driveway access. It was considered to be closed to vehicle access and repurposed for walking, rolling, biking and landscaping opportunities. See the alley highlighted in blue on the map.



## What is your level of comfort with closing this alley to vehicle access and repurposing this alley space for walking, biking and rolling?



We asked participants to explain their answers. The most commonly identified responses can be broadly categorized into the following themes:

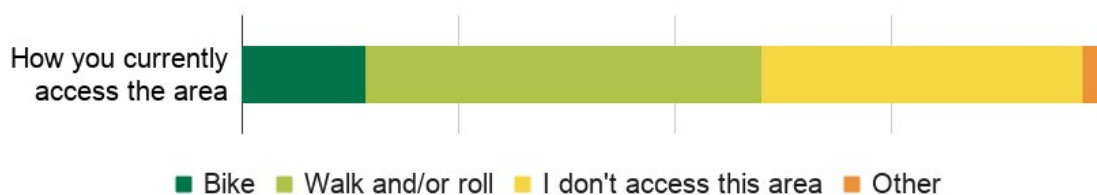
- + **No opinion:** A few participants did not have opinions on the potential closure, noting they rarely or never use the alley
- + **Alley renewal is needed here:** Many residents are happy to see resources allocated to alley renewal here and believe it will enhance safety
- + **Concerns about limited alley access:** We heard from some residents and businesses who are concerned about the impact of alley closure on access to garages and commercial building access

## Missing sidewalk connection

There is a missing sidewalk connection in the southwest corner of Menisa, between 10 Avenue and the green space north of Anthony Henday Drive (south of Alley 24). Community members were asked to share how they currently access the area and opportunities to enhance safety, mobility and ease for all people walking, rolling or biking in the area.



## How do you currently access this area?



## What opportunities are there to enhance safety, mobility and ease for all people walking, rolling or biking in this area?

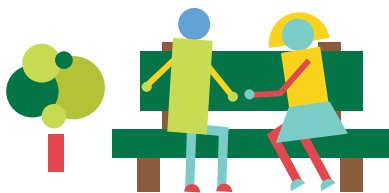
Based on feedback from the public, the following conclusions were made about opportunities for the missing connection in this area:

- + **A pathway is needed:** We heard from those who felt a pathway is needed here, with some comments including suggestions for a bike path. There were some participants hoping for a paved pathway and some preferring keeping the existing grass
- + **Added lighting would enhance safety:** We heard street lights in this area would help people who walk and roll feel safer
- + **Accommodations for dog walking:** We heard from residents who use this area to walk their dog and would appreciate a pathway connection to the Satoo Dog Park, as well as waste bins along the pathway

## Anything else?

Community members were asked to share anything else they would like to tell the Project Team as Menisa Alley Renewal design begins. The most commonly identified responses can be broadly categorized into the following themes:

- + **Improving road conditions is a priority:** Participants emphasized the urgent need to improve poor road conditions in the alleys, particularly addressing drainage issues and uneven road surfaces
- + **Concerns about how alley renewal is funded:** We heard from residents who are concerned about this impacting their taxes, especially those who do not use the alleys
- + **Maintaining access during construction is important:** Residents expressed concerns about alley and street access during alley renewal construction



# What we decided

This section presents the updated Alley Renewal design concepts for specific areas in Menisa.

This section focuses on design concepts for:

- + Potential closure and repurposing of Alley 8 for walking, biking and rolling
- + Missing connection south of Alley 24
- + Improvements for walking, rolling and biking near Alley 5
- + All other alleys

## Legend for “What we accounted for to make our decisions”

The City uses policies and programs, technical requirements and public engagement input to make Alley Renewal decisions.

This report uses three coloured icons to illustrate which decision making criteria is a City policy or program, public engagement input or a technical requirement. You will see these icons in the “What we considered” section in each table on the following pages:

The decision making criteria are:



+ City policies and programs



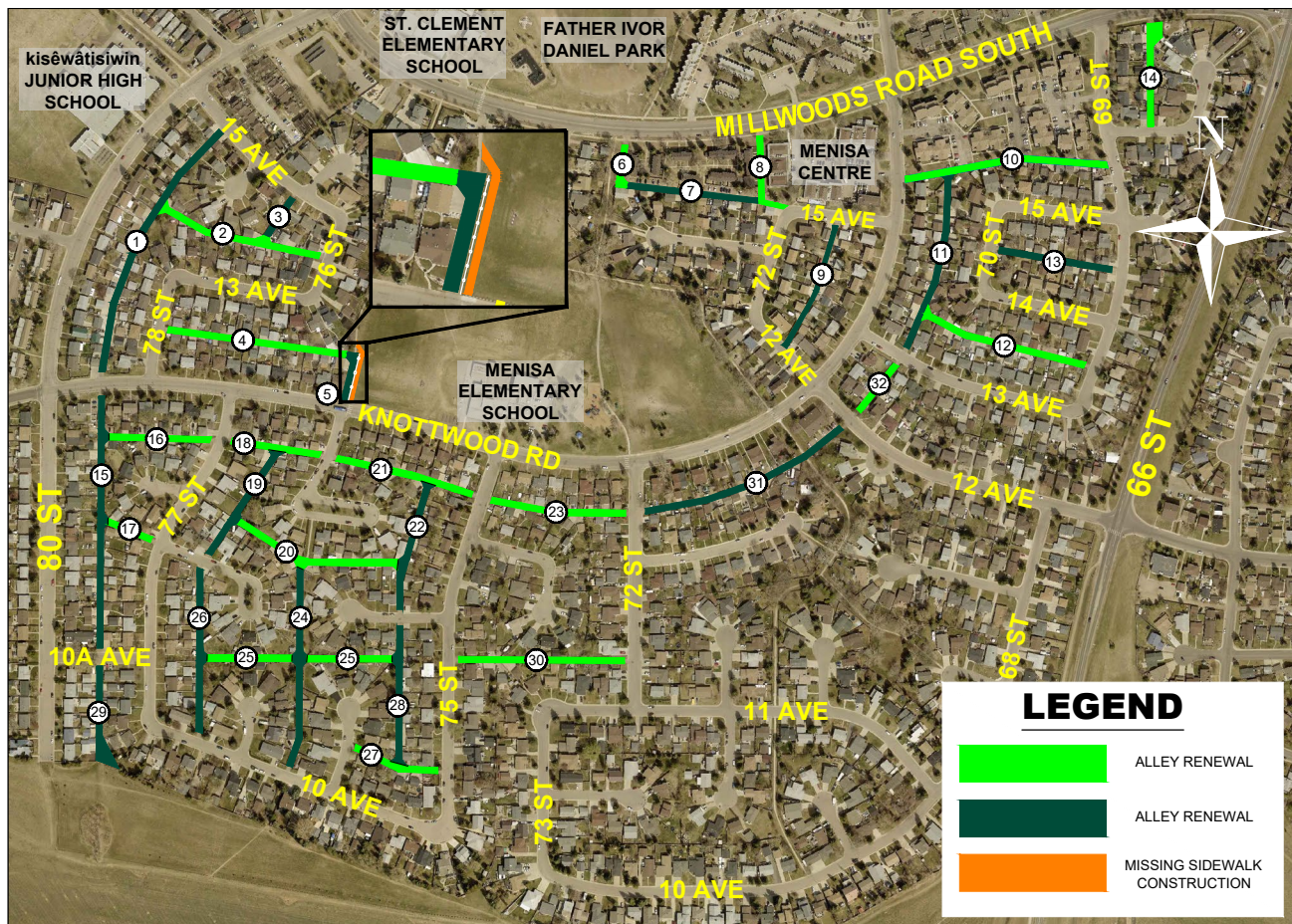
+ Technical requirements



+ Public engagement input/What we heard

## Final Design for Menisa alleys

The final designs are shown on the map with additional details in the tables that follow.



# Improvements to Menisa alleys

## Alley 8

| What we decided                                                          | What we considered                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Alley 8 will remain open to people walking, rolling, biking and driving. |  <b>City policies and programs</b><br>This design is informed by the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ The City Plan</li> <li>+ ConnectEdmonton</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|                                                                          |  <b>Technical considerations</b><br>This design is informed by the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ The existing alley supports walking, biking, and rolling as well as vehicle access to businesses and homes</li> <li>+ Businesses would lose access for loading at their back doors</li> <li>+ The homes along this alley only have walking or rolling access to their front doors; an alley closure would create challenges for moving activities and deliveries of larger household items</li> </ul> |
|                                                                          |  <b>Public engagement feedback</b><br>This design is informed by the following feedback heard during public engagement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Concerns were shared about the closure of Alley 8 impacting access to homes and commercial buildings along the alley</li> <li>+ Many survey respondents shared they were comfortable with the potential closure</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                |



## Missing pathway connection to Anthony Henday Green space (south of Alley 24)

| What we decided                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | What we considered                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>This connection will not be constructed as part of the Menisa Alley Renewal project</p> <p>Further consideration will be given to providing the pathway when Menisa undergoes Neighbourhood Renewal or when a connecting pathway is constructed</p> |  <p><b>City policies and programs</b></p> <p>This design is informed by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ The City Plan</li> <li>+ Breathe: Edmonton's Green Network Strategy</li> <li>+ ConnectEdmonton</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  <p><b>Technical considerations</b></p> <p>This design is informed by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Adding a sidewalk or shared pathway here would not currently connect to a hard surfaced path</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  <p><b>Public engagement feedback</b></p> <p>This design received the following feedback during public engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ We heard from those who indicated a pathway is needed here for people to walk, roll and bike. Some suggested the pathway should extend to another destination like the Satoo Dog Park</li> <li>+ Some participants hoped for a paved pathway and some preferred keeping the existing grass</li> </ul> |



## Alley 5 Pathway

| What we decided                                                                                                                                                               | What we considered                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>The existing pathway network will be extended to Knottwood Road South, through the park east of Alley 5.</p> <p><i>*See the previous map for the pathway alignment</i></p> | <p> <b>City policies and programs</b></p> <p>This design is informed by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ The City Plan</li> <li>+ Breathe: Green Network Strategy</li> <li>+ ConnectEdmonton</li> <li>+ Active Transportation Policy</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                                                                                                                                                                               | <p> <b>Technical considerations</b></p> <p>This design is informed by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Completing a separate pathway connection east of the alley for people who walk, roll and bike in this area by extending the existing path to the sidewalk on the north side of Knottwood Road South</li> <li>+ Complete Streets recommends wider sidewalks near schools and separation from people driving would be safer for vulnerable users</li> <li>+ Trees on the west side of the existing pathway block visibility for people walking, rolling and biking when entering the alley with people driving</li> </ul> |
|                                                                                                                                                                               | <p> <b>Public engagement feedback</b></p> <p>This design is informed by the following feedback heard during engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Targeted engagement with the school board indicated a sidewalk connection would be supported to improve safety for children commuting to school</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |



## All alleys

| What we decided                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | What we considered                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Reconstruct all remaining alleys with a new gravel base and hard surface.</p> <p>Trees that grow inside the alley right-of-way are typically removed. Trees that overhang the alley are pruned to make room for construction and waste collection equipment.</p> |  <p><b>City policies and programs</b></p> <p>This design is informed by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ The City Plan</li> <li>+ Corporate Tree Management Policy – removal and trimming of existing vegetation in the alley right-of-way</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  <p><b>Technical considerations</b></p> <p>This design is informed by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Drainage and surface conditions will be improved with the reconstructed alley</li> <li>+ Current standards for the alley structure were designed for current and future waste collection vehicles</li> <li>+ Alley intersections are not signed, but sightlines are reviewed and improved where possible (for example, addressing any encroachments and trimming or removing trees)</li> <li>+ Shortcutting and speeding concerns are typically addressed by closing portions (ends) of alleys or using measures to slow traffic; these are not currently being considered <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ The narrow alley right-of-way and pavement width do not allow for traffic calming approaches such as narrowing or curb extensions</li> <li>+ Alleys are typically designed for water runoff to flow down the centre so the addition of speed humps or tables would create drainage issues</li> <li>+ Closures are also not feasible if they would restrict necessary access points for minimum alley access requirements and waste collection in the alleys</li> </ul> </li> <li>+ Complete Streets Design and Construction Standards are used to determine standard widths, grading, pavement structure and other parameters</li> </ul> |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  <p><b>Public engagement feedback</b></p> <p>This design is informed by the following feedback heard during public engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ When asked about the current experience using alleys in Menisa people shared: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Poor drainage and damaged asphalt (i.e., potholes, ruts and uneven surface) including damages due to large vehicles (including waste collection vehicles)</li> <li>+ Safety concerns around a lack of lighting, blind corners, visibility at accesses, trees that need maintenance, alleys used as a shortcut and speeding</li> </ul> </li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

## Local improvement update – new alley lighting

Property owners along alleys without existing lighting have the opportunity to request a local improvement to add lighting to their alley at any time. With the support of the majority of properties along the particular alley, a local improvement can move forward with the adjacent property owners paying 100 per cent of the cost.

No alley lighting local improvements were brought forward by property owners in Menisa as of August 2026.



## Next steps

We are grateful to all participants who shared their thoughts and ideas with us.

In the spring before construction begins we will enter the **Preparing for Construction** stage and the public will be invited to an information event. At the event, the Project Team will share the Alley Renewal design, provide information on construction timelines, what to expect during construction and answer any questions that residents or business owners may have. After the event, and in each spring that follows, specific construction timelines and details will be mailed to residents prior to construction starting. Please sign up on the project web page for email updates and watch your mailboxes for more information.

Residents can expect their alley to be inaccessible for approximately four weeks during construction. Once the work is complete, residents will enjoy improved access and use of the alley.

For further information visit the website: [edmonton.ca/MenisaAlleyRenewal](https://edmonton.ca/MenisaAlleyRenewal)