What We Heard
Belmead and La Perle Alley Renewal
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OVERVIEW

The City of Edmonton has approved the Neighbourhood Alley Renewal Program to address the condition of its nearly 1,200 kilometres of alleys. This ambitious plan will improve alleys city-wide over the next 25 years. The program will be phased in over the next four years and will begin construction in 2019, led by the Alley Renewal team from the City of Edmonton’s Building Great Neighbourhoods and Open Spaces Branch.

This program, which is estimated at $22.3 million annually, will be funded by an increase to the Neighbourhood Renewal Tax Levy. This levy includes a City-wide contribution (not just a contribution from property owners with back alleys).

A renewed alley will:
- Address surface drainage issues
- Have a standard 4 metre wide alley, where possible
- Have a paved surface
- Replace the material between the alley and property line with the material that was removed during construction
- Tie-in to driveways
- Upgrade existing alley lighting to LED fixtures

WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

The City wants to understand how Building Great Neighbourhoods can plan to meet the specific needs of each local alley renewal project. Residents of the Belmead and La Perle neighbourhoods with upcoming alley projects were invited to share their feedback at a meeting at the La Perle Community Hall on Tuesday, February 19, 2019 and were further invited to provide input by phone or email to the Project Manager by March 8, 2019. Residents asked and answered questions, and marked comments and locations on maps, showing the project team where they may need to focus on the existing alley infrastructure. The Alley Renewal team plans to use the community feedback gathered at the meeting to help advise design and construction.
WHAT WE ASKED

Questions that were asked at the meeting included:

- How do you use your alley?
- Do you have any current concerns or issues when using your alley?
- During construction, is there anything that we need to be aware of?
- Do you have any upcoming projects or events planned in your backyard this spring or summer?
- During the construction, is there anything that the construction crews need to be aware of?
- How did you hear about the alley renewal engagement event?
- What did you enjoy about the alley renewal engagement event?
- Please identify any improvements we could make for future alley renewal public engagement activities.
- How would you prefer to receive further information about the project?

WHAT WE HEARD

38 residents attended the meeting, where they discussed the questions with the Alley Renewal project team. Some residents also responded by phone and email to the City’s Project Manager. The community interests included:

- Funding for the alley renewal improvements
- Improving access for walking, biking
- Identifying needs for residents with accessibility concerns
- Improving drainage issues: water pooling, flooding, mud
- Improving the poor surface condition of the alleys to enhance everyday use and activities including garbage and recycling collection
- Accessing driveways, garages, and parking, particularly during construction
- Understanding possible impacts to structures (fences, walls, landscaping, driveways and buildings)
- Understanding the replacement of materials or structures removed during construction
- Understanding construction timing
- Supporting City utility coordination with alley renewal partner ATCO Gas
Residents shared that the meeting was informative and helpful as an opportunity to ask questions, and to speak with both City staff and ATCO representatives. One resident said that the community engagement for alley renewal, “shows (the) City is interested in helping with concerns about homeowner problems”.

**WHAT WE DID**

Your feedback was used to advise the final design and will be considered during the construction of the alleys to inform our Project Team of issues that need to be addressed.

**NEXT STEPS**

Alley renewal in the Belmead and La Perle neighbourhoods will start in late spring or early summer of 2019. During City construction, alleys will be unavailable for a minimum of 3 weeks. Belmead and La Perle residents affected by the 2019 alley renewal will receive hand-delivered bulletins at the start of the construction season, identifying proposed timelines of the alley work. A second construction bulletin identifying a more exact start date will be delivered to each affected residence approximately one week prior to the start of work.

The work for the renewal can vary from alley to alley, depending on its infrastructure. The following is a summary of possible activities leading up to alley renewal:

- Utility assessments and repairs
- Land surveys to inform design (including flags and paint markings)
- Drilling small holes in the alley to verify design assumptions

During construction:

- Expect your alley will be inaccessible for a minimum of three weeks
- Garbage and Recycling collection will be moved to front streets
- Parking will be unavailable in the alley (please contact us to discuss any accessibility concerns)

Once the work is complete, City residents will enjoy renewed alley infrastructure that will improve access and use of the alley.
If you have information that you would like to share or would like to be on an email list for project updates, contact cameron.bennett@edmonton.ca

For further information visit the website:
www.edmonton.ca/alleynrenewalprogram

Thank you again for sharing your feedback. We look forward to renewing your alley in 2019!