

BUILDING GREAT NEIGHBOURHOODS

Garneau Community Newsletter Issue #2 – July 2019

Edmonton

Through the Building Great Neighbourhoods and Open Spaces Branch, the Neighbourhood Renewal Program rehabilitates your residential roads and replaces street lights, sidewalks, curbs, gutters, and adds missing sidewalk links in your neighbourhood where possible. Other opportunities to improve parks and public spaces are also explored.

This newsletter intends to keep you informed of the neighbourhood renewal in Garneau, and when and how you can join the conversation. The four-step Concept Phase is underway, and we are working with you to determine the concept design (what will be built).

We will be inviting you to participate in a variety of ways, then we will share what we heard from you and your neighbours, and how the information was used to inform the design. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2021.

Visioning and Exploring Opportunities

Beginning last year, we reached out to you to begin a discussion about Garneau's neighbourhood renewal. Thank you to all who shared their thoughts over the past several months. We asked you what you love and what you would change, and with this input we created a draft project vision and principles (see page 3). You shared issues, concerns, ideas and opportunities on parking and traffic, open and green spaces, bikes, neighbourhood lighting, and the pedestrian experience. With this local knowledge we are beginning to understand areas and elements to be addressed, as well as desires for the future of Garneau.

Garneau Concept Design schedule

1

November 2018 – April 2019

Visioning and Exploring Opportunities



Visioning survey

Online
November/December 2018
118 surveys completed



Community walk & ideas workshop

April 6, 2019
44 participants



Community pop-up

Garneau Hall
April 5, 2019
11 residents and staff attendees

2

WE ARE HERE

May – November 2019

Exploring Options and Trade-offs

3

November 2019 – February 2020

Community feedback on Draft Design

4

Spring 2020

Community feedback on Refined Design



Here's what we've heard so far from those who shared thoughts and ideas:

What you love about Garneau!

"It's a great place to be a pedestrian."

Garneau is loved for many aspects and elements including its walkable, mature tree-lined streets, nearby amenities, and proximity to transit and the university. The neighbourhood is described as having a "village" feeling with great neighbours, character houses, and historic architecture.

Pedestrian experience: connections, crossings and conditions

"Cars need to be forced to park away from intersections so they are not compromising the visibility of people trying to cross."

Sidewalks are noted as being in poor condition and missing connections make walking challenging, especially along 110 Street. Pedestrian crosswalks along 109 Street, 110 Street, 112 Street, and 82 Avenue are top locations recommended for safety and visibility improvements, with suggestions to add crossing lights and/or markings, and restrict cars from parking too close to intersections. Brighter, pedestrian focused lighting is desired to improve comfort and safety.

Traffic calming measures, driving conditions and traffic management

"Would like to calm traffic on my street as there is some cut through traffic."

Both roads and alleys are considered in poor condition with many potholes and rough surfaces. Speeding and shortcutting are concerns, with suggestions to focus traffic calming measures and enforcement on 109 Street, 110 Street, and 111 Street, as well as 84 Avenue, 85 Avenue and alleys. Parking for residents is difficult as many non-residents park in the area. There is a desire to consider a resident parking program or to enforce parking restrictions for non-residents.

Garneau School is in need of more parking, as well as a defined drop-off area.

Adding traffic signals from arterials would be beneficial as entering and exiting Garneau is challenging.

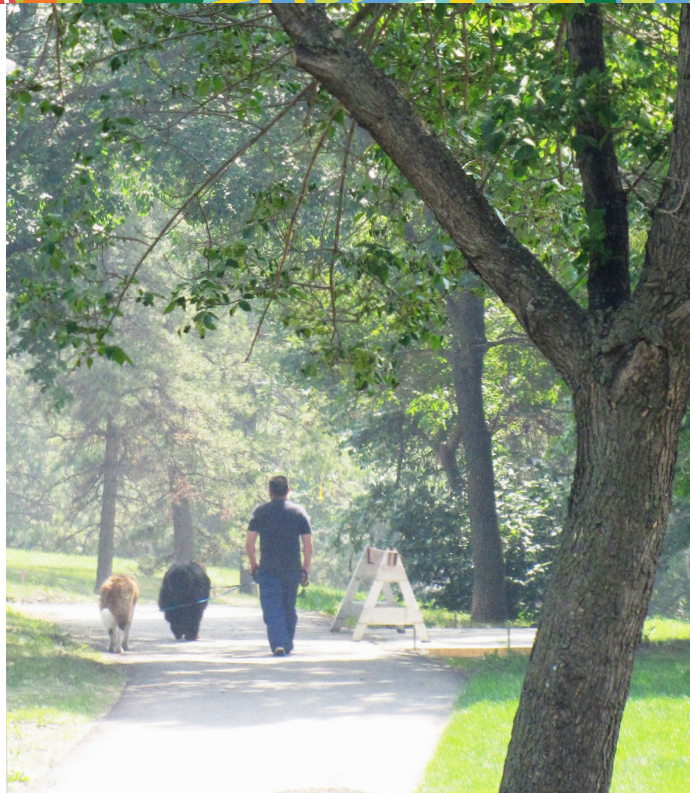
Bike lanes and infrastructure

"Continue to build on the existing cycling infrastructure. Dedicated bike lanes, particularly separated."

"New bike lanes impede traffic."

Existing bike lanes in the neighbourhood are identified as being in poor condition and not well maintained. While there is a desire for more bike connections in and through Garneau, and that they should be protected like the 83 Avenue bike lane, some feel that bike lanes are impactful to drivers by increasing journey time and adding to driver confusion. It was suggested that enforcement and education be considered to promote safer behaviour when people who walk, bike, or drive interact with each other in a shared space.





Project draft vision and principles

The following draft vision and principles were developed with input from the Visioning Survey and the Garneau Public Engagement and Communications Committee. We want to know if anything has been missed. Input will be received during our September 2019 engagement activities. The vision will be used to guide decision making throughout the renewal.

Draft vision

Garneau is a unique urban village—a welcoming neighbourhood where a diversity of people live, work, learn, shop, and play, promoting friendly interactions and a high quality of life.

Pedestrian focused, the neighbourhood is safe, inclusive, and accessible for all who walk, bike, drive, and use transit, with inviting public spaces and parks that strengthen its sense of community.

Garneau embraces and enhances its beauty, and builds on its rich historic charm and distinct character.

Draft principles

1. To provide a safe and enjoyable pedestrian experience that encourages walking.
2. To design safe, user-friendly roadways and intersections that reduce vehicle speeds and discourage shortcutting.
3. To provide safe connections to neighbourhood amenities and destinations for all modes of travel.
4. To provide infrastructure, street crossings and public spaces that are accessible and safe for all ages, genders, and mobility levels, and in all seasons.
5. To establish new and enhance existing public spaces and parks that provide opportunities for community gathering and recreation.
6. To incorporate urban design that reflects and enhances the neighbourhood's history, beauty, and natural elements.
7. To prioritize on-street parking for residents and their visitors within a reasonable distance from their homes.

Parks, open spaces, and trees

“Establish more park area and support community garden plots.”

There is a desire to update existing parks and green spaces with improved amenities, aesthetics and maintenance, and to consider adding new parks, playgrounds, open spaces, and a dog park. People who are homeless make some park users feel unsafe.

Neighbourhood look and feel

“Visual acknowledgement of historic buildings/places.”

The historic look and feel of Garneau is valued and there is a desire for future development to be monitored to ensure this aesthetic is maintained. The pedestrian experience, along with trees and green spaces, are felt to be priorities for the neighbourhood.

Are your ideas represented here? There is still time to share your thoughts and experiences on issues and opportunities in Garneau.



Exploring Options and Trade-offs

Over the next several months, together with you, we will explore design options for the neighbourhood that resolve issues and build on ideas shared. We'll explain and discuss any trade-offs necessary to achieve the desired outcomes, and work with you to determine which options will become reality, and which will not.

Here's where you will find us and ways to get involved:

Pop-Ups

This summer we'll be in your neighbourhood looking to learn more about specific areas of concern and opportunity. Look for the Building Great Neighbourhoods team popping up throughout the community and stop by to tell us about Garneau!

Online

Check us out online and share your thoughts at edmonton.ca/BuildingGarneau.

Do you have an issue, idea or improvement for the neighbourhood? Drop a pin on the map, leave a comment or upload a photo!



Public engagement session 1

Mark your calendars for **September 14, 2019**, and join us at our first renewal engagement event at St. Basil's Cultural Centre. We will share design options for the neighbourhood, discuss the impacts, and gather your feedback and ideas.

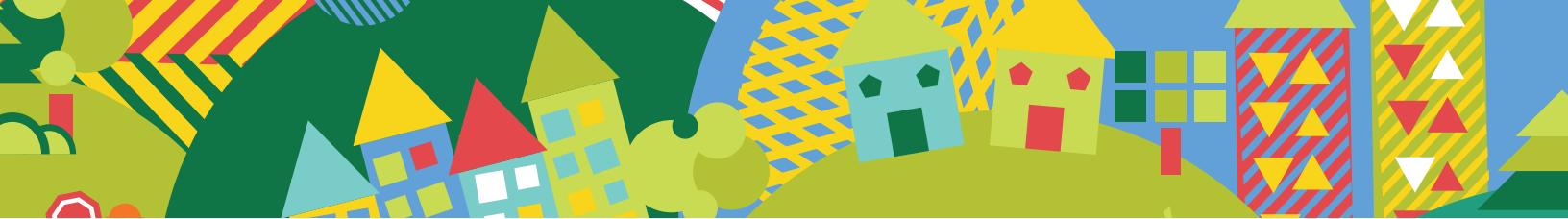
The City's Envision109 team will also share an update on the 109 Street Streetscape Concept Planning Study. This study has been on hold since 2016, pending the outcome of the Southside Bike Network.



Public engagement session 1
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (Drop-in)
Saturday, September 14, 2019
St. Basil's Cultural Centre
10819 71 Avenue

Public engagement session 2

Once we have your feedback on our early designs, we'll gather again later in the year to discuss fine-tuned design options. We will be getting closer to what the concept design for the neighbourhood will look like by then.



Local Improvements: Sidewalks and Street Lights

Local Improvement Levy

While Neighbourhood Renewal is paid for through city-wide property taxes, two improvements that are considered to be a greater benefit to the local area than to the City as a whole are cost shared by both the City and property owners. These include: sidewalk reconstruction and decorative street light upgrades. As these costs are shared, the property owners have the opportunity to determine if the local improvements proceed.

Sidewalk reconstruction

A sidewalk reconstruction local improvement is initiated by the City as part of Neighbourhood Renewal. However, property owners have the choice to not proceed with sidewalk reconstruction—within a designated part of their project area.



The cost of sidewalk reconstruction is based on the length of the sidewalk along the property; property owners pay 50% of these costs. Different shaped lots have different methods to calculate cost. Payment options are a one-time lump sum or a property tax amortized over 15 years.

The cost of any new sidewalk constructed where connections are missing is covered by the City.

Decorative street light upgrades

Updating a neighbourhood's standard street lights to a newer galvanized version with LED fixtures is a part of Neighbourhood Renewal and carries no cost to property owners.

However, a neighbourhood-wide upgrade to decorative street lights is possible if determined by a majority vote of all property owners. Decorative choices include pole, arm, and colour. The City contributes the cost equivalent to replacing standard street lights and property owners share the incremental cost of decorative upgrades in a one-time lump sum or a property tax levy amortized over 15 years. This is a local improvement that is initiated by the community.



More details on these local improvements and the process to decision making will be shared later in the neighbourhood renewal process.

For more information:

edmonton.ca/SidewalkReconstruction

edmonton.ca/DecorativeStreetLights

Southside Bike Network lane announcement

On April 23, 2019 the Urban Planning Committee of City Council received a report and considered the possibility of bike lanes on 109 Street as part of the Southside Bike Network. While the report indicated that bike lanes can be accommodated along the roadway, it also highlighted potential impacts on traffic and transit on 109 Street and nearby neighbourhoods.

A decision was made to move forward with the north/south bike lane connection on 110 Street in Garneau and the design will include improved biking connections to 109 Street.

Through the Neighbourhood Renewal process, we will work with you to determine how best to design and construct the 110 Street bike lane to meet the needs of all people who bike, and minimize the impacts to residents and drivers.

The Edmonton Bike Plan will guide how biking fits into our city in the future and will support the City's vision of a connected, accessible city.

Safer speeds in Edmonton

In March 2019, a City public survey sought feedback on speed limits within the city. Seventy-two percent of the almost 700 respondents said they desired lower speed limits. On May 15, 2019, City Council decided to explore a 40 km/h speed limit on residential roads across the city, as well as 30 km/h within Edmonton's Core Neighbourhoods. Main (arterial) roads in

Garneau are exempt from this speed limit change (109 St, 82 Ave, 87 Ave, 112 St).

The chance of survival in a pedestrian/car collision at 30 km/h is higher than at 40 or 50 km/h. This is another important step towards achieving Vision Zero, the City's long-term goal of no traffic fatalities or major injuries. This discussion returns to Council in early 2020 for a final decision, where the public will have the opportunity to speak.

Volunteer opportunities

Join the Garneau working committee!

If you're interested in getting involved, consider joining the Garneau Public Engagement and Communications Committee – a collaborative group of residents formed to ensure transparency and open communication during the Neighbourhood Renewal project.

Become a block captain

Garneau block captains share project updates with their neighbours from information provided by the project team and encourage participation in engagement activities.

Contact **Becky Redford**, Project Manager at becky.redford@edmonton.ca or 780.496.4887 for information or to volunteer.

For more information:

Web: edmonton.ca/BuildingGarneau

Email: buildinggreatneighbourhoods@edmonton.ca

Call: 311



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