

What We Heard Report: Overlanders and Homesteader Neighbourhood Renewal

Exploring Options and Tradeoffs
June 2023

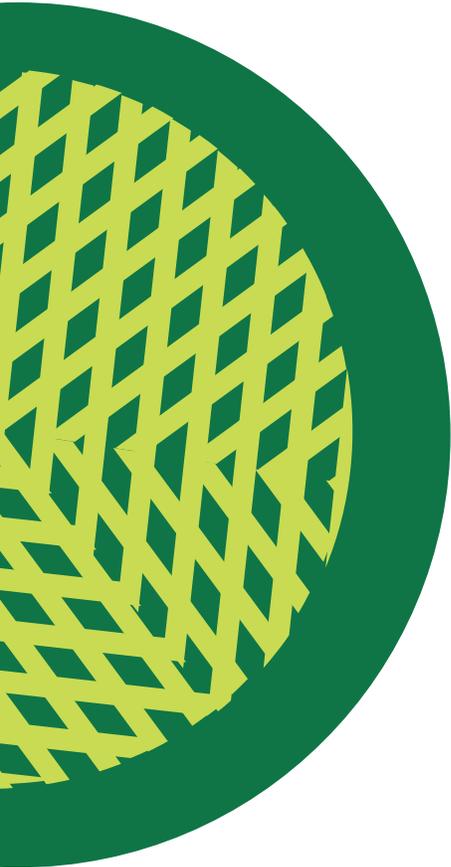
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Edmonton

REFINE

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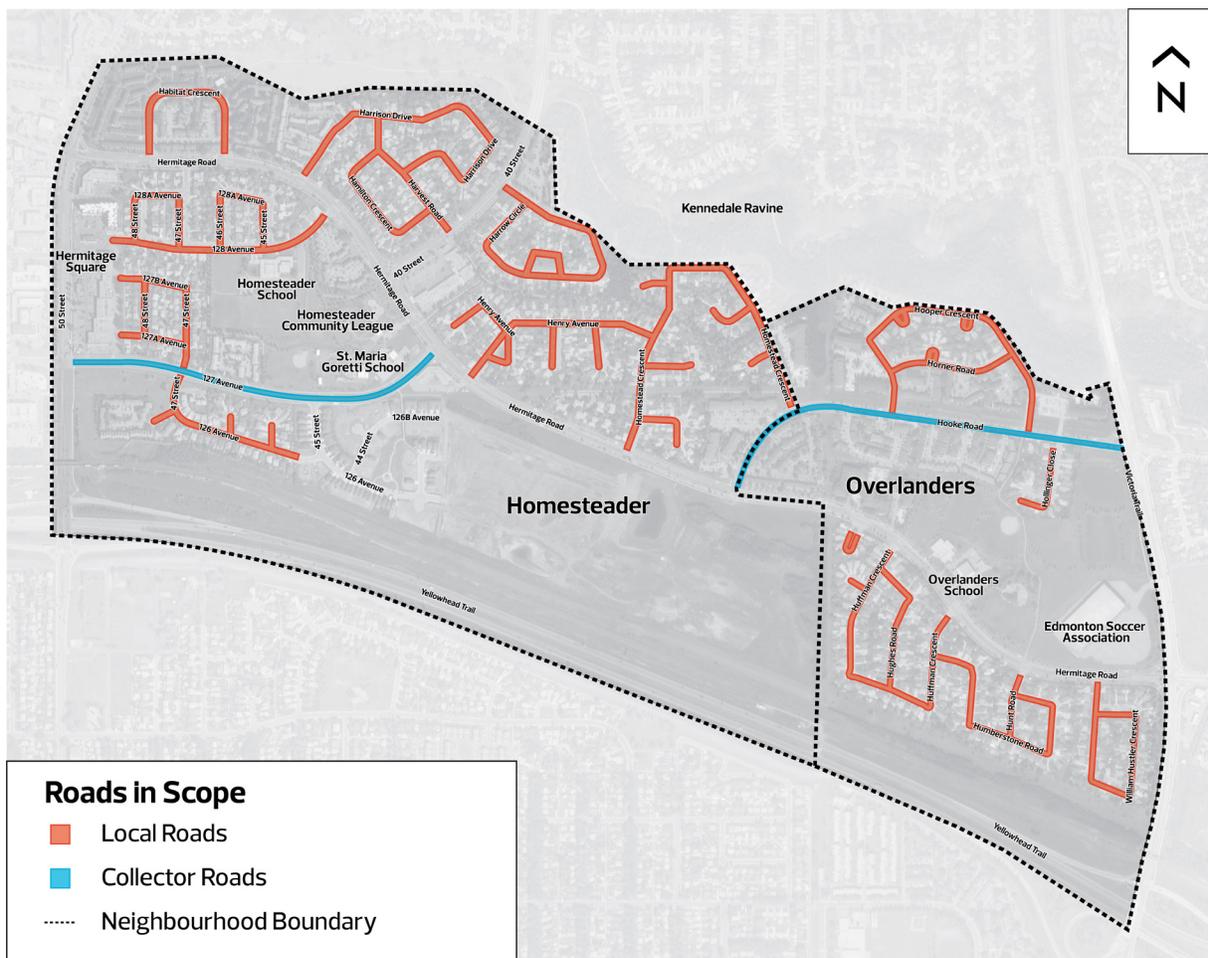
Project overview

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
- + Replace curbs and gutters
- + Repair sidewalks
- + 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 street light upgrades in the neighbourhoods. 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 help inform the decisions being made. This report highlights what we heard during the **Exploring Options and Tradeoffs** stage in June 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:

- + **REFINE** the Project Team's proposed design options

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

Public Engagement Spectrum

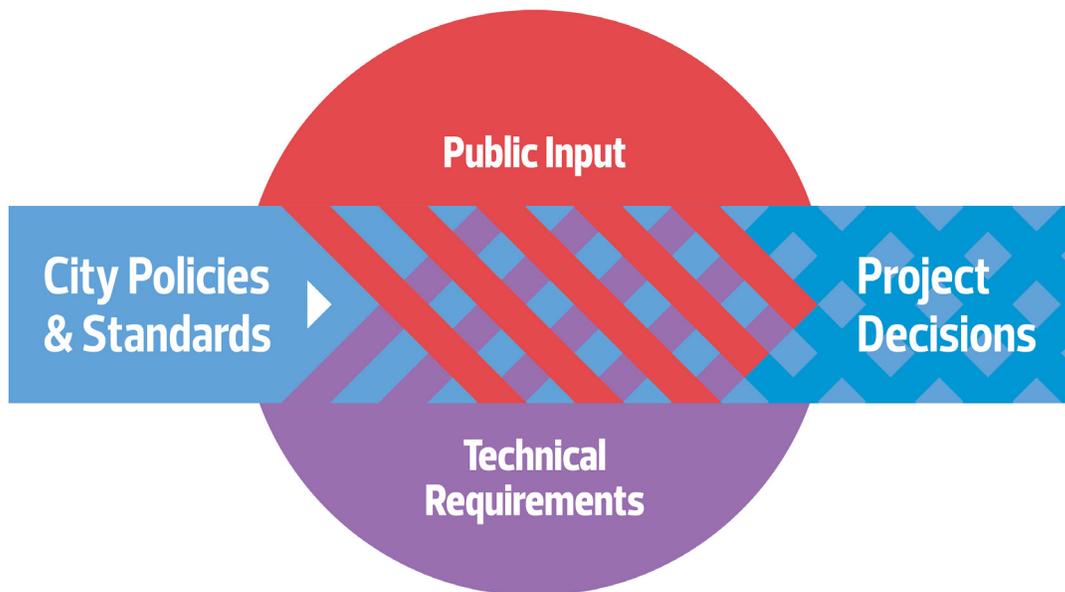


Decision making process

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 neighbourhood and considers technical aspects such as roadway widths and conflicts with utilities and trees to determine what will fit in the neighbourhood.

This process helps to ensure the decisions we make are fiscally responsible, align with best practices, consider the existing public and private infrastructure, land uses and activities in the neighbourhood and result in the best outcomes for our city.

Decision making diagram



How we informed and engaged

In June 2023, the Project Team engaged with residents in the following ways:

Drop-in community event



The Project Team hosted a drop-in community event on June 13. Participants learned about the project and the benefits and tradeoffs of the options presented. Participants also had a chance to ask questions and get answers from Project Team members.

67 participants

Community pop-up events



The Project Team went out in the community on June 9 and June 22 to let people know about the project, answer questions and promote the in-person event and online survey.

127 conversations



Exploring Options and Tradeoffs Survey



An online survey was available to the public from June 7 to June 28, 2023, asking participants who live, work and play in Overlanders and Homesteader to **REFINE** the Neighbourhood Renewal design. We asked participants to:

- + Provide feedback on the draft community Vision and Guiding Principles
- + Learn about the benefits and tradeoffs of the design options for walking, rolling, biking, driving and gathering
- + Share their input on how important the benefits and tradeoffs are to them and their community

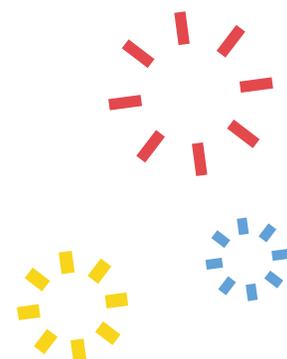
129 completed surveys

How we communicated

- + 4,064 postcards delivered
- + 128 emails to subscribers
- + Three road signs and 20 yard signs were placed throughout the two neighbourhoods to promote the engagement activities
- + 4,064 newsletters delivered
- + 1,106 unique views of the project web page

We enjoyed meeting many people from both neighbourhoods through in-person activities, hearing their feedback and having conversations.

Thank you to everyone who provided their feedback through the online survey and in-person activities. Feedback collected is summarized in the following section and considered in the next engagement stage.



What we heard

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

In the previous stages of engagement, **Building a Project Vision Together** and **Exploring Opportunities**, we worked with the community to **CREATE** a draft neighbourhood Vision and Guiding Principles. The Vision will be used to guide decision making for Neighbourhood Renewal. The Guiding Principles are ideas that inform how the Vision should be applied to the neighbourhood design.

During the **Exploring Options and Tradeoffs** stage of engagement, we presented the following Vision and Guiding Principles to the community at the in-person event and through the online survey.

Vision

We are the welcoming, family-friendly and active communities of Overlanders and Homesteader.

Our neighbourhoods value diverse, inclusive and intergenerational connections. Our residents are well connected to parks, the Kennedale Ravine, schools, commercial services and beyond.

More than half of participants strongly agree or somewhat agree the Vision accurately reflects the current and future needs of the community.



Strongly agree

Somewhat agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Somewhat disagree

Strongly disagree

Guiding Principles

Community Identity



Embrace our connection to Kennedale Ravine and the social and cultural character of the neighbourhood through design elements that embrace its identity and history.

Active and Engaged Lifestyles



Encourage healthy, living and wellbeing by building outdoor spaces that encourage physical activity, social interaction and community spirit for people of all ages and abilities.

Design with Nature



Enhance the health and wellbeing of the community by incorporating nature and trees into the design.

Streets for People



Design streets, sidewalks, and trails to prioritize safety and comfort for people of all ages and abilities. Connect parks, schools, and commercial areas with enjoyable and efficient routes in all seasons.

Connections Between Neighbours



Encourage diverse and inclusive community interactions and social connections through designed outdoor spaces that invite informal gatherings, cultural events, and shared neighbourhood activities.

Engaging Commercial Areas



Design elements that engage people who walk, roll and bike, and create a sense of place between commercial properties and the public realm through landscaping, street furniture and public art.

Safe and Welcoming Atmosphere



Create safe and secure streets, public spaces, and buildings to foster a sense of quality of life and confidence in our communities. Build resilient, safe communities by using effective urban design.

More than half of participants strongly agree or somewhat agree that the Guiding Principles reflect the current and future needs of the community.



■ Strongly agree
 ■ Somewhat agree
 ■ Neither agree nor disagree
 ■ Somewhat disagree
 ■ Strongly disagree

Exploring Options and Tradeoffs

To create a draft concept design, the Project Team wanted to understand what is important to the community. We considered this information, along with City policies, standards and technical requirements, such as current guidelines for roadway widths and conflicts with utilities, trees, etc., to determine which options fit into the neighbourhoods.

What are options and tradeoffs?

Options are proposed ideas for you to consider.

A **Benefit** is how a suggested change can improve or address concerns to an existing space. How you feel about a benefit is important for the Project Team to understand.

A **Tradeoff** is understanding what else is affected as a result of a suggested change to an existing space. How you feel about the tradeoff is important for the Project Team to understand.

We asked participants to identify other benefits or tradeoffs we may not have considered. Those benefits and tradeoffs specific to each option are listed in each section below. Other comments have been themed at the end of this report.

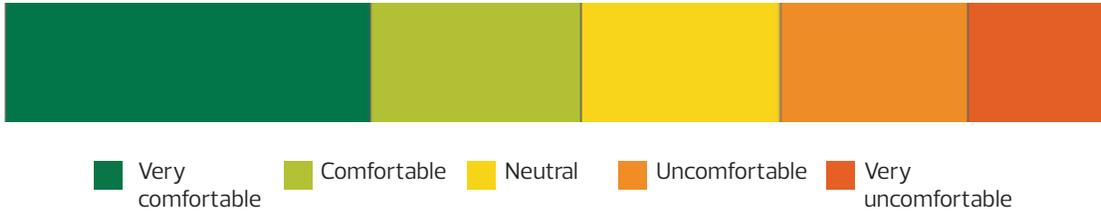
We also asked participants to tell us which benefits they felt were important and which tradeoffs they felt concerned about. The text in the green diagrams shows participants ranking of importance and ranking of concerns.



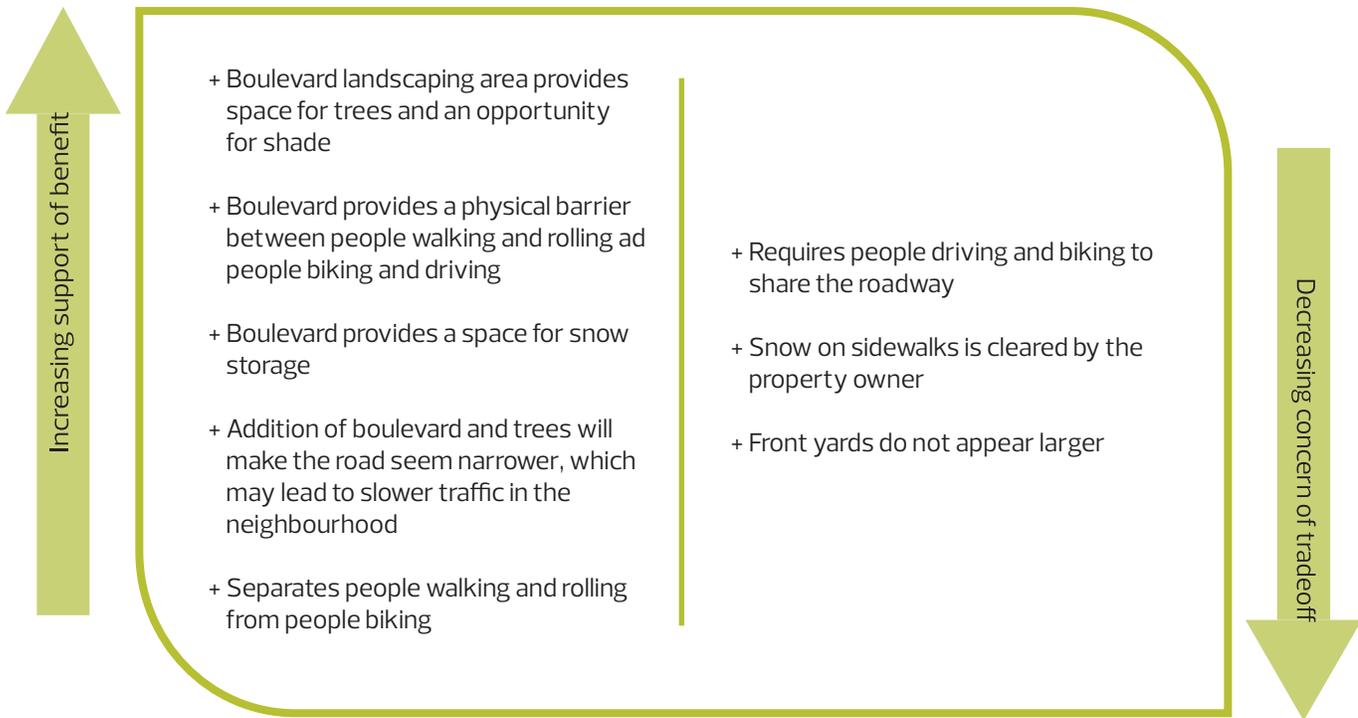
Boulevards and sidewalks

Through Neighbourhood Renewal, we can add sidewalks with a landscaped boulevard on wide local roads to separate people who walk and roll from people who bike and drive.

We asked participants what their comfort level is with boulevards and sidewalks in Overlanders and Homesteader. More than half of survey participants selected either comfortable or very comfortable.



Benefit and tradeoff priorities

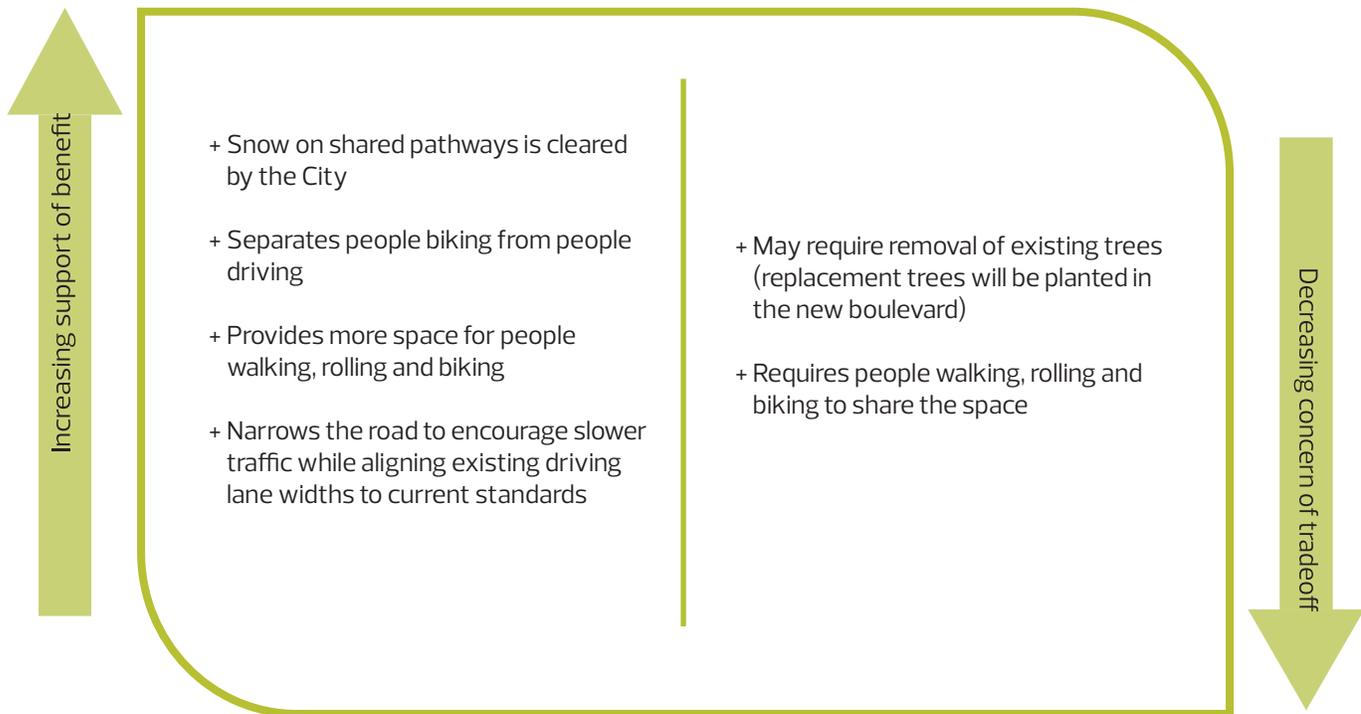


Shared pathways

Proposed shared pathways will improve neighbourhood connections for people who walk, roll and bike. We asked participants about their comfort level with shared pathways in Overlanders and Homesteader. More than half of participants are very comfortable or comfortable with shared pathways in the neighbourhoods.



Benefit and tradeoff priorities



An additional benefit participants identified for consideration includes:

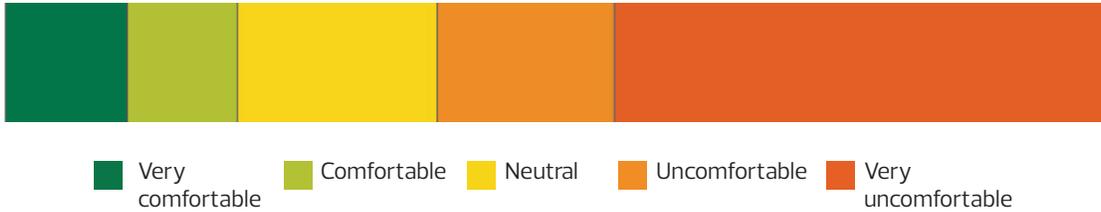
- + People walking, rolling and biking are more visible

Additional tradeoffs participants identified for consideration include:

- + May make front yards feel smaller
- + Possible loss of two-way traffic and parking
- + May require the road to be narrowed

Protected bike lanes

Proposed protected bike lanes will add connections throughout both neighbourhoods. We asked participants about their level of comfort with protected bike lanes in Overlanders and Homesteader. More than half the participants are uncomfortable or very uncomfortable with adding protected bike lanes.



Benefit and tradeoff priorities



An additional tradeoff participants identified for consideration includes:

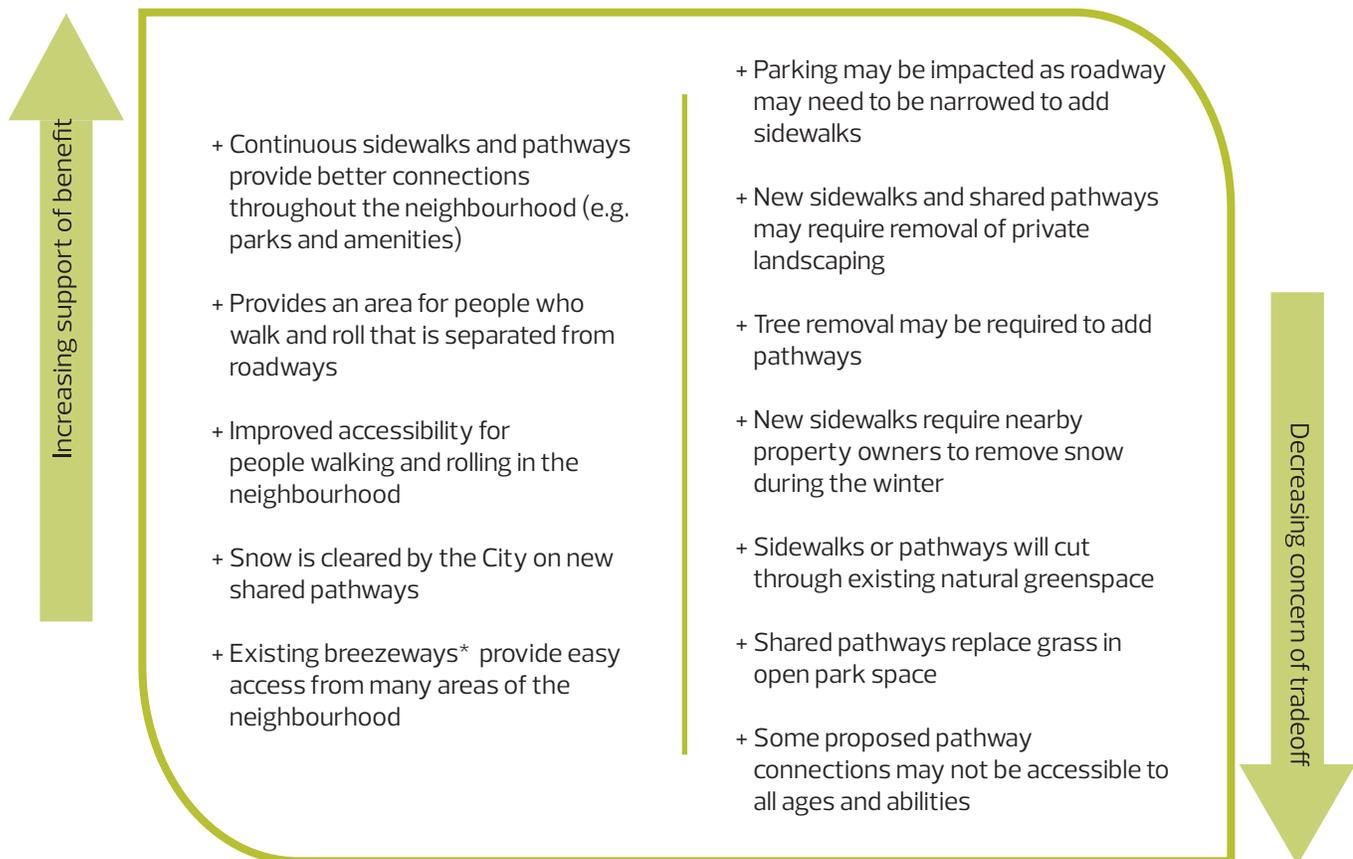
- + Roads will be too narrow



New sidewalk and pathway connections

New sidewalk and pathway connections will be added throughout the neighbourhoods where there are missing connections to reflect The City Plan's commitment to good walking routes and accessibility through neighbourhoods. The locations of new sidewalks and pathways depend on technical analysis, such as where they fit based on roadway width, placement of trees and utilities.

Benefit and tradeoff priorities



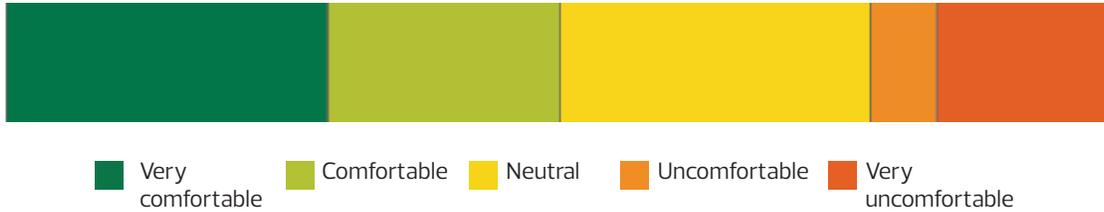
An additional tradeoff participants identified for consideration includes:

- + May make front yards feel smaller

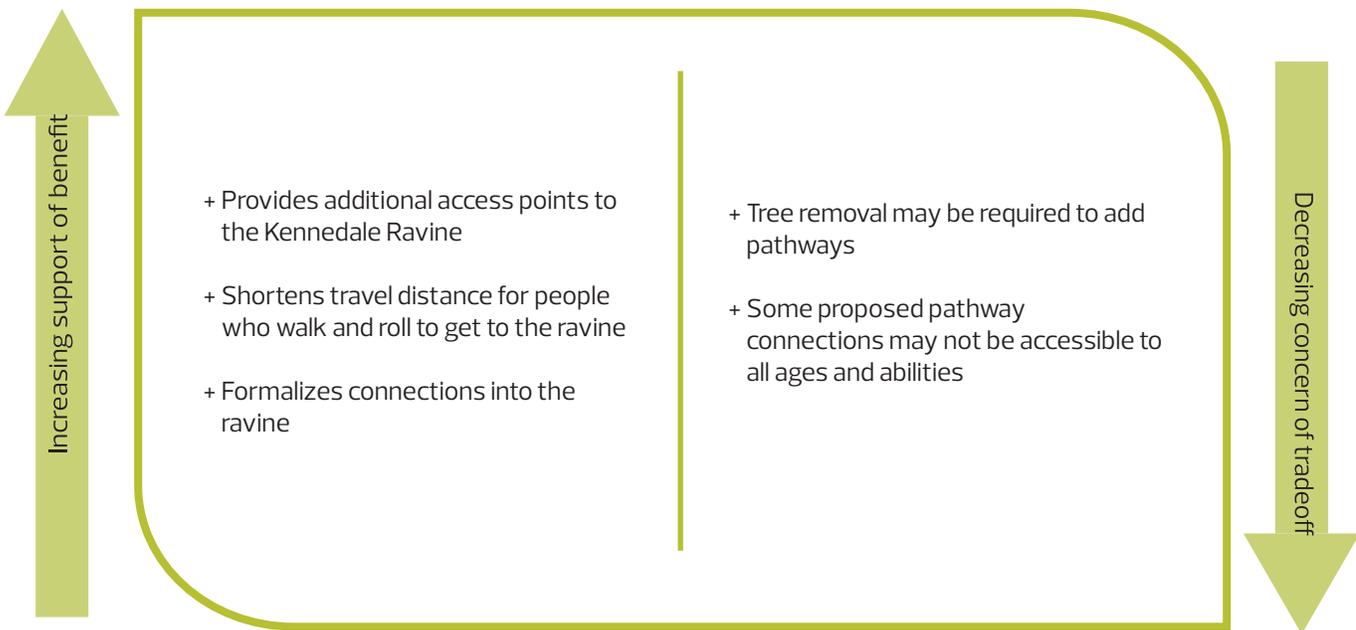
* A breezeway is a public pathway between two private properties. Wider breezeways and pathways make it easier for people who walk and bike to move around the neighbourhood. They enhance accessibility and connectivity within the neighbourhood.

Ravine connections

The Kennedale Ravine runs along the north side of the neighbourhoods and has both paved and unpaved trail sections. Additional connections provide more opportunities for people walking and rolling to access the ravine. We asked participants about their comfort level with ravine connections in Overlanders and Homesteader. Half of participants are comfortable or very comfortable with adding ravine connections.



Benefit and tradeoff priorities



An additional benefit participants identified for consideration includes:

- + Accessible and safer ways to access the ravine

Additional tradeoffs participants identified for consideration include:

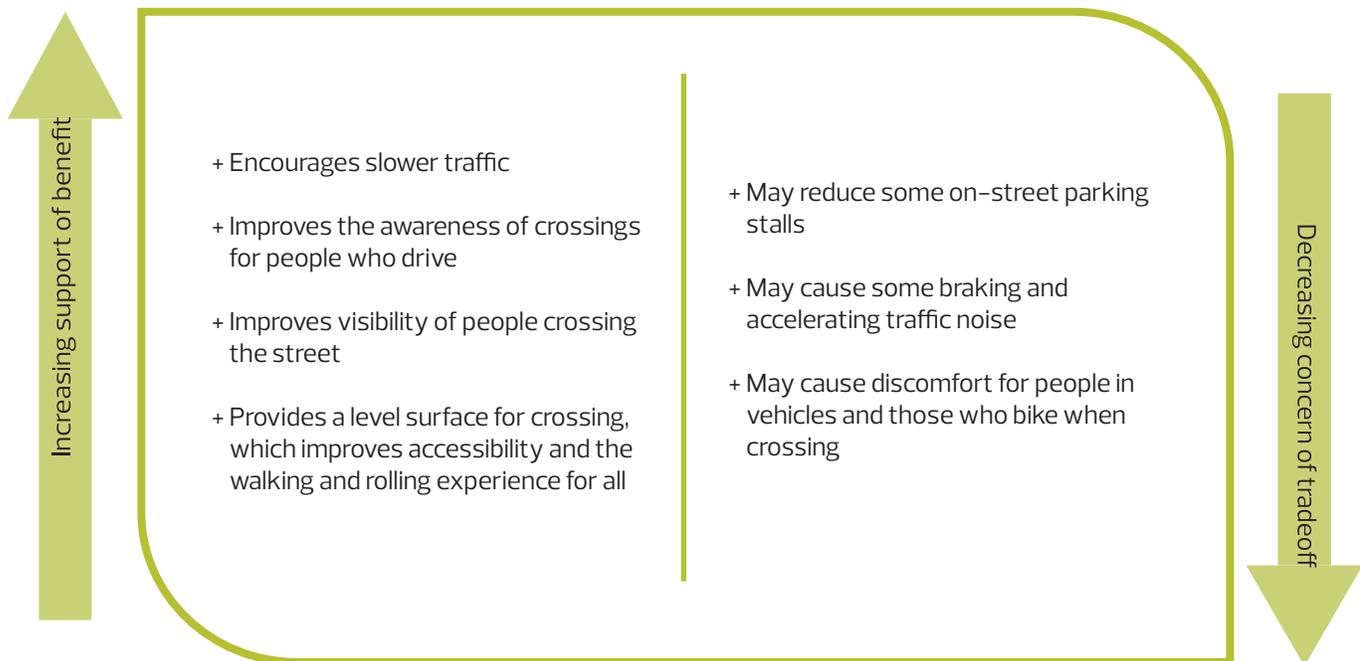
- + May conflict with a common sledding hill
- + Connections may require maintenance and snow removal
- + May increase litter in the ravine

Traffic movement and safety

Traffic calming measures are used to enhance safety for all road users, especially people who walk, bike and roll. Traffic calming is a combination of mainly physical traffic measures that help address speeding and/or shortcutting traffic and improve visibility for people crossing the roads in your neighbourhood. Locations for traffic calming measures will depend on technical analysis, such as where they fit based on roadway width, placement of trees and utilities.

Raised crosswalks

Benefit and tradeoff priorities



An additional benefit participants identified for consideration includes:

- + Slower traffic near schools

An additional tradeoff participants identified for consideration includes:

- + Wear and tear on personal vehicles



Curb extensions

Benefit and tradeoff priorities

Increasing support of benefit

- + Improves visibility of people crossing the street
 - + Provides a physical buffer to prevent parking too close to the intersection or crosswalk
 - + Improves the awareness of crossings for people who drive
 - + Encourages slower traffic
 - + Creates an opportunity for beautification and landscaping
 - + Shortens the crossing distance for people who walk or roll
- + May reduce some on-street parking stalls
 - + May cause some braking and accelerating traffic noise
 - + May cause discomfort for people in vehicles and those who bike when crossing

Decreasing concern of tradeoff

Additional tradeoffs participants identified for consideration include:

- + May cause traffic congestion
- + May be more difficult for roadway snow removal

Mid-block crossings

Benefit and tradeoff priorities

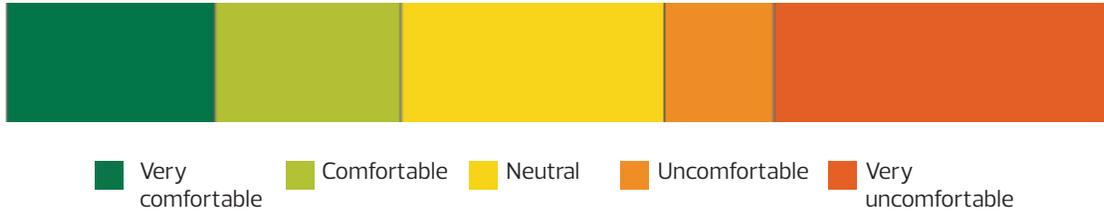
Increasing support of benefit

- + Improves visibility of people crossing the street
 - + Encourages slower traffic
 - + Creates more crossing options for people who walk and roll and may shorten the travel distance
 - + Creates an opportunity for beautification and landscaping
- + May reduce some on-street parking stalls
 - + People who bike must share the roadway if separated bike infrastructure is not provided
 - + Additional landscaping maintenance may be required

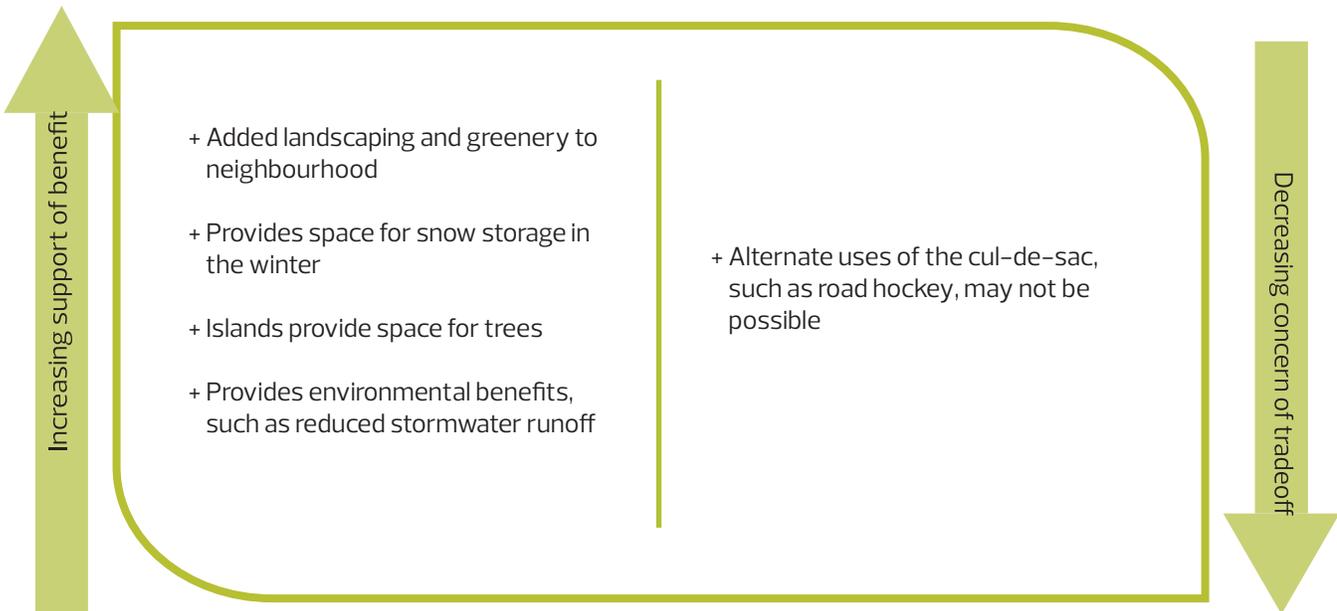
Decreasing concern of tradeoff

Landscaped cul-de-sac islands

Through Neighbourhood Renewal, we can update existing or add landscaped islands in cul-de-sacs. We asked participants about their comfort level with landscaped cul-de-sac islands in Overlanders and Homesteader. Participants had varying levels of comfort with landscaped cul-de-sac islands.



Benefit and tradeoff priorities

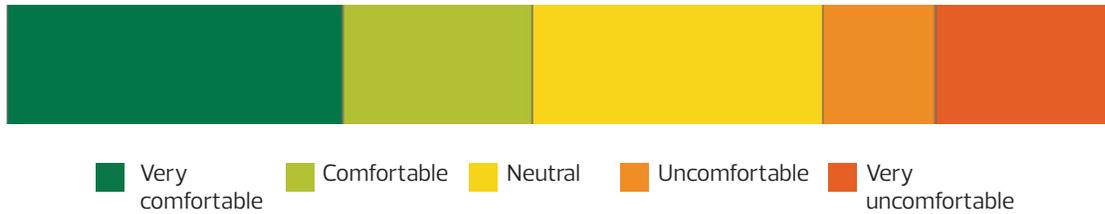


Additional tradeoffs participants identified for consideration include:

- + Restricts the use of the road for residents, angle parking and accessing driveways
- + Reduces roadway and may cause challenges for large vehicles to move around the island
- + Requires landscaping to be maintained

Gathering spaces and rest areas

Rest areas provide benches and waste bins for people using the pathways throughout the neighbourhoods. Gathering spaces are designed with features such as picnic tables to encourage small gatherings. We asked participants about their comfort level with gathering spaces and rest areas in Overlanders and Homesteader. Almost half of participants are comfortable or very comfortable with gathering spaces and rest areas.



Benefit and tradeoff priorities



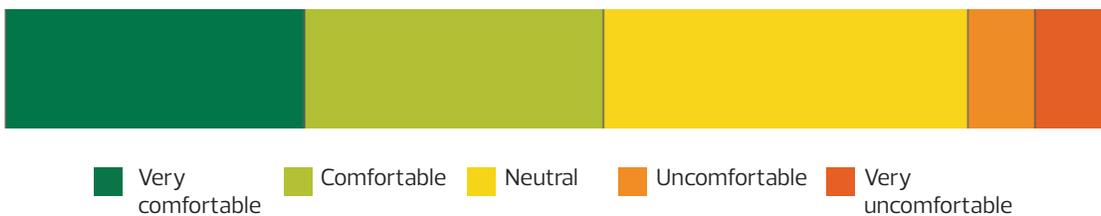
Additional tradeoffs participants identified for consideration include:

- + May encourage unwanted behaviour
- + May increase litter

Overlanders Park

Through Neighbourhood Renewal, improvements can be made to Overlanders Park including improving pathways, gathering spaces and seating areas. Unused open spaces can be redesigned with naturalization plantings and all playgrounds and sports fields will remain as they are today. The proposed designs will improve movement and accessibility throughout the park. All open space designs are subject to approval and funding.

We asked participants their level of comfort with Overlanders Park improvements. More than half of participants are comfortable or very comfortable with improvements for Overlanders Park.



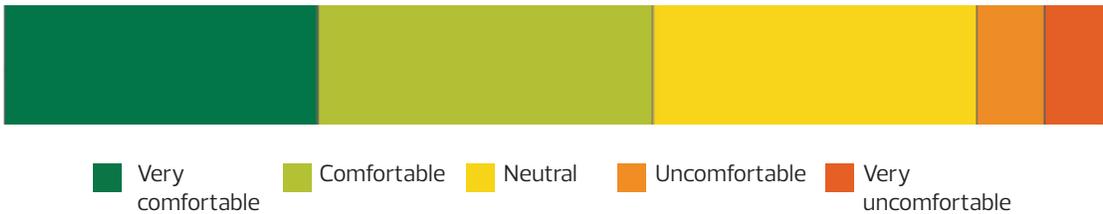
Benefit and tradeoff priorities



Homesteader Park

Through Neighbourhood Renewal, improvements can be made to Homesteader Park including improving pathways, gathering spaces and seating areas. Unused open spaces can be redesigned with trees, landscaping and adding elements such as “bike-bumps” for new recreational activities. The playgrounds and sports fields will remain as they are today. The proposed designs will improve movement and accessibility throughout the park. All open space designs are subject to approval and funding.

We asked participants about their level of comfort with Homesteader Park improvements. More than half of participants are comfortable or very comfortable with improvements for Homesteader Park.



Benefit and tradeoff priorities



Park features

Some elements may be added to park spaces throughout Overlanders and Homesteader. All open space elements are subject to approval and funding. We asked participants to identify which features are most important to them, listed as follows:

- + Natural landscape features
- + Shelter features
- + Unique seating options
- + Naturalized and edible landscaping
- + Plaza and walkway features
- + Outdoor games tables



Naturalized and Edible Landscaping



Shelter Features



Outdoor Games Table



Plaza and Walkway Features



Natural Landscape Features



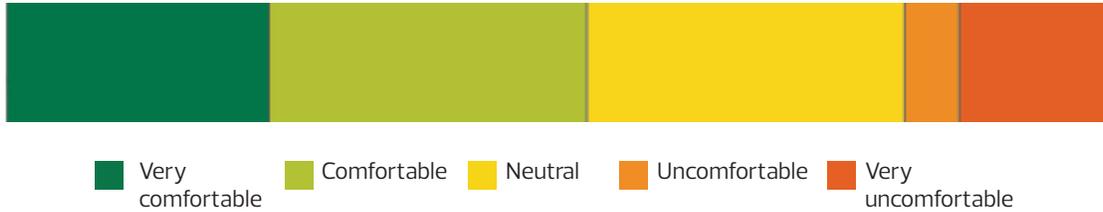
Unique Seating Options

Other ideas identified by participants include:

- + Shelters near playgrounds
- + Water features or spray park
- + Area for skateboarding or mountain bikes, such as a pump track or skate park

Pocket parks

Through Neighbourhood Renewal, improvements can be made to existing pocket parks by repurposing these small areas of unused open spaces by adding landscaping, seating and other amenities to create a welcoming and usable space for the public. All pocket park designs are subject to approval and funding. More than half of participants are comfortable or very comfortable with the proposed pocket park improvements.

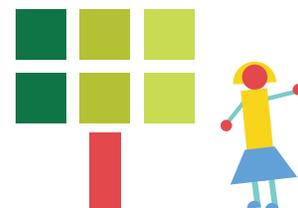


Benefit and tradeoff priorities



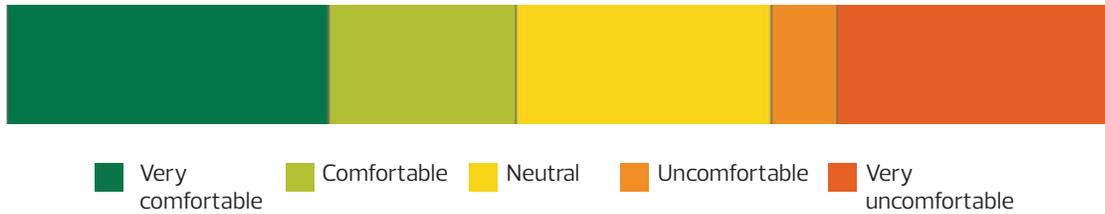
An additional benefit participants identified for consideration includes:

- + Providing places for rest areas and benches



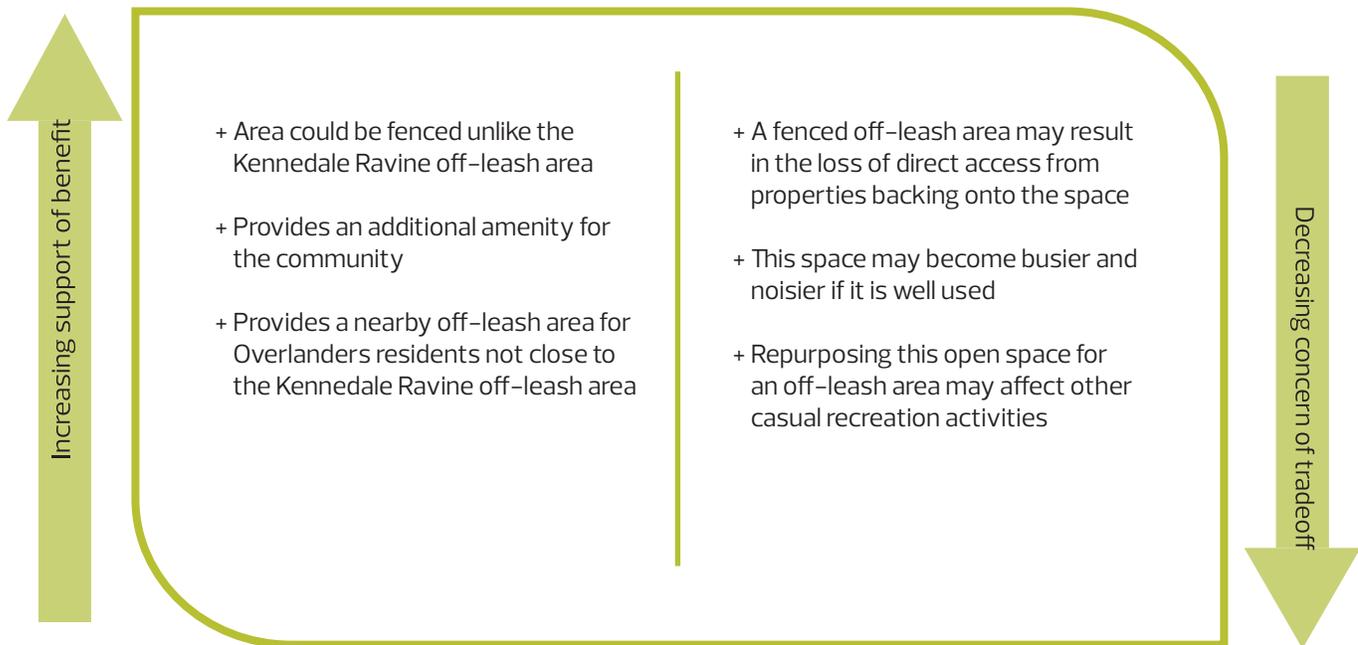
Overlanders Greenbelt off-leash area

The Overlanders Greenbelt open space could be designed as an off-leash area complete with pathways, seating, waste bins and fencing. Participants had varying levels of comfort with an off-leash area being added to the Overlanders Greenbelt.



Very comfortable Comfortable Neutral Uncomfortable Very uncomfortable

Benefit and tradeoff priorities

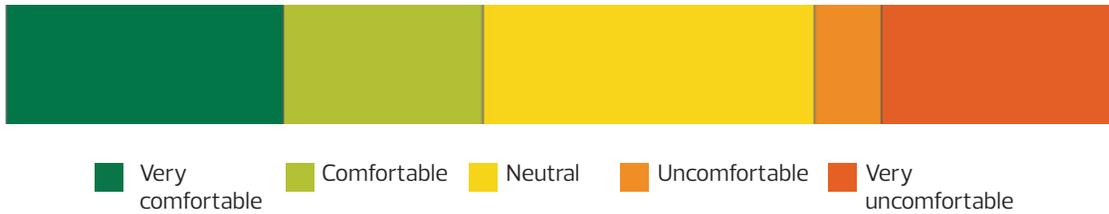


Additional tradeoffs participants identified for consideration include:

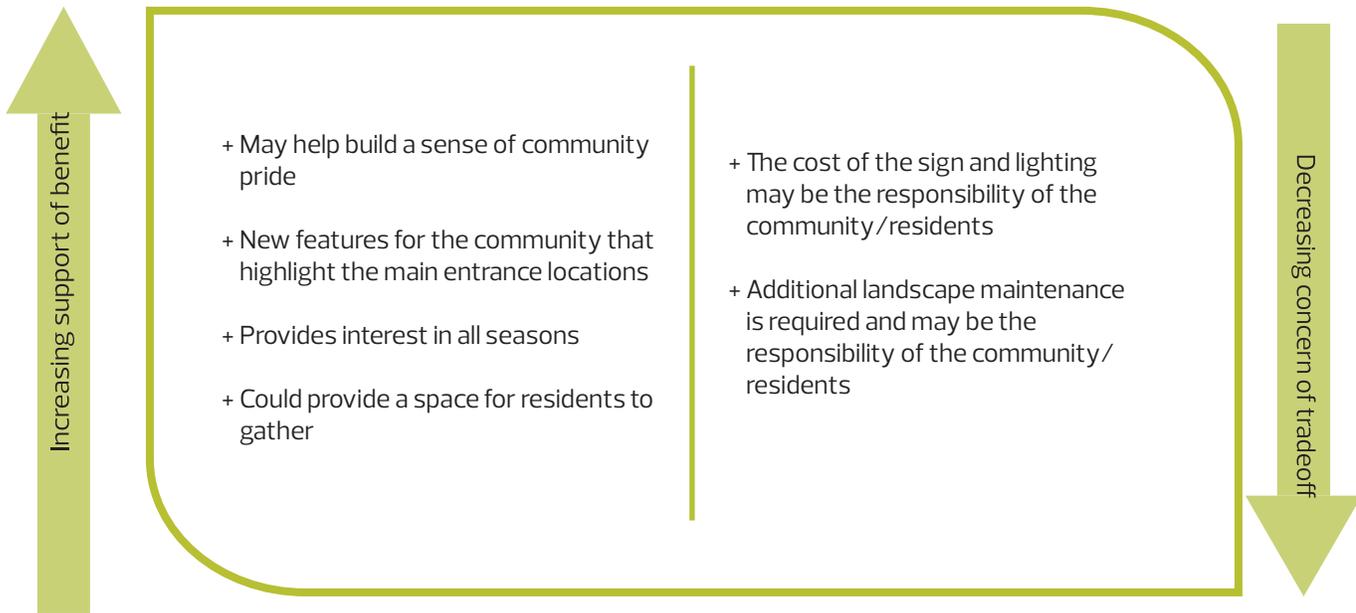
- + An off-leash dog park could attract people from outside of the neighbourhood and cause driving/parking issues
- + Limited entrances to access the greenbelt

Entry features

Neighbourhood Renewal can look at opportunities to add entrance features to highlight main entrances into the neighbourhoods and build a sense of community. They may be done with landscaping or the addition of neighbourhood signs. Costs of the entry feature would vary and may be the responsibility of the residents. Participants had varying levels of comfort with the addition of entry features.



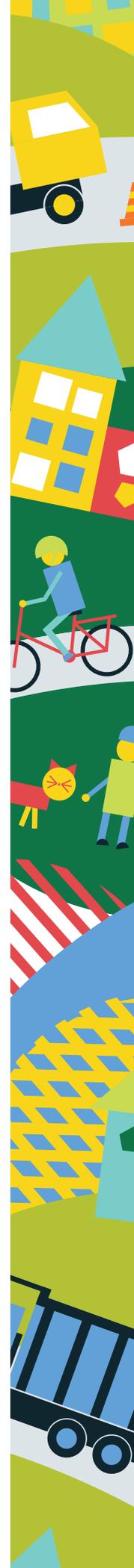
Benefit and tradeoff priorities



Other engagement themes

Throughout the survey, participants had the opportunity to share additional feedback. The common themes of the feedback shared with the Project Team include:

- + Concerns about how the project is funded and if there will be an increase to property taxes as a result of Neighbourhood Renewal
- + Concerns about losing on-street parking throughout Overlanders and Homesteader
- + Participants would like to see a noise berm or noise wall added along Yellowhead Trail
- + Mixed support for bike infrastructure in the neighbourhood
 - + Support for safety of people and kids who bike
 - + Lack of support as more people in the community drive than bike
- + Concerns about the soil contamination in the area



Next steps

Thank you to all who shared their input during the **Exploring Options and Tradeoffs** engagement stage. The Project Team will consider your feedback along with City policies, programs and technical requirements. Then, we will begin to decide which design options move forward, which design options require modification and which new design options will be proposed as part of the draft design.

In fall 2023, the Project Team will invite the public to the **Community Feedback on Draft Design** engagement stage for Overlanders and Homesteader Neighbourhood Renewal. At that time, the Project Team will present the draft design and commit to being open and transparent about how your input is used. We will then ask for your feedback to help **REFINE** the design.

For information about Overlanders and Homesteader Neighbourhood Renewal, upcoming engagement events and to subscribe to project updates, visit 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 how we might improve it. 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.

Let's work together to make the most out of your neighbourhood.

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