

# What We Heard & What We Decided

Glenwood (163 Street East)  
Alley Renewal

June 2025

ADVISE & DECIDE

SHARE YOUR VOICE  
SHAPE OUR CITY

Edmonton



# Project overview

Glenwood (163 Street East) has been chosen for Alley Renewal. The Alley Renewal Program is a cost-effective, long-term strategic approach to renew and rebuild alleys over the next 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 alleys. There is no additional cost to property owners at the time of Alley Renewal.

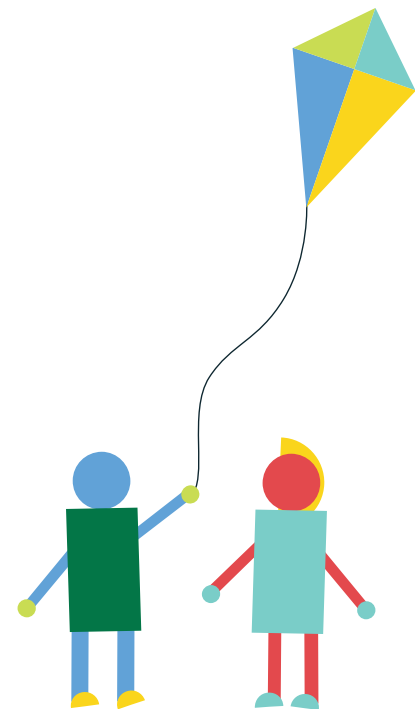
Each alley that will be renewed in Glenwood (163 Street East) is included on the map (Figure 1) to help identify where issues exist and where there are opportunities for improvement.

Alley Renewal will include:

- + Reconstructing alleys with a new base and hard surface
- + Improving surface drainage where possible
- + Upgrading existing alley lighting to LED bulbs
- + Pruning trees/shrubs as necessary before construction
- + Exploring opportunities to improve walking, rolling, biking and traffic safety

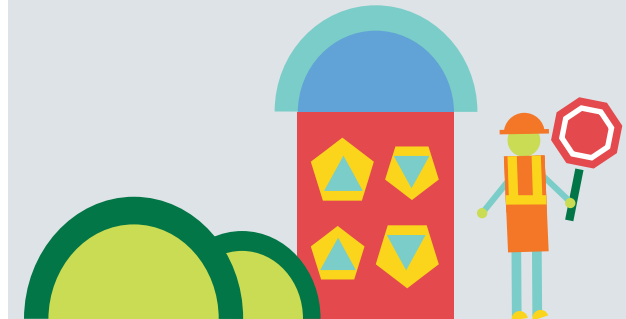
Property owners can request the City to initiate a Local Improvement to add lighting in alleys where it currently does not exist. Information to initiate the Expression of Interest process is provided online at [edmonton.ca/LocalImprovements](http://edmonton.ca/LocalImprovements).

Construction phasing will consider impacts to residents, as well as coordination with other project work, including utilities and Neighbourhood Renewal in Glenwood (163 Street West).



## Table of Contents

<b>Project overview</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Alley Renewal Public Engagement</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Public Engagement Spectrum</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Decision making process</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>What we asked and how we asked</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>What we heard</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>What we decided</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Next steps</b>	<b>12</b>



## Glenwood (163 Street East) Alley Renewal Project scope map



Figure 1: Glenwood (163 Street East) Alley Renewal scope map

## Alley Renewal Public Engagement



# Public Engagement Spectrum

The City of Edmonton sought input from residents to 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 throughout the project.

The public was invited to provide input that would help:

- + **REFINE** the approach for communication and engagement with the community
- + **ADVISE** the Project Team about:
  - + How alleys in the area function and are used by residents
  - + Ideas to improve safety, mobility and ease of movement
  - + Comfort level with potential alley closure and repurposing
  - + Construction considerations
- + **DECIDE** whether to add lights to alleys where they don't already exist through the Local Improvement process

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

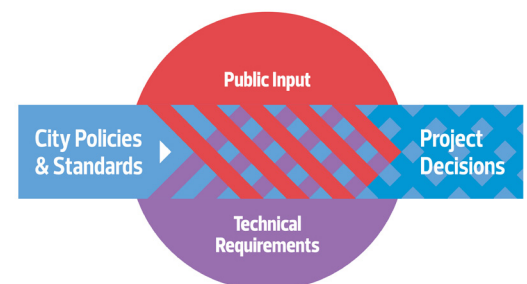


## Decision making process

The City makes decisions using a combination of policy and program information, public engagement feedback and technical requirements.

This process ensures that 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.

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.



## City policies and programs

The following have application in all designs:

- + 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 including a new gravel base and hard 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, tree planting, the creation of green spaces from existing paved surfaces and measures to calm traffic
- + 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
- + 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
- + Winter Design Policy
  - + 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.

## Technical Requirements

- + 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 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 and how we asked

## Phase 1 – Pre Engagement and Communication

The Glenwood (163 Street East) Project Team organized the following opportunities for the public to provide input to help **REFINE** the Team's understanding of the community and the approach to communicate and engage with the community.

In Phase 1 we asked the following questions:

- + Where community members live within Glenwood (163 Street East)
- + How community members prefer to learn about events and activities
- + How community members prefer to participate in engagement activities and if there are any barriers to participation
- + If there is anything the Project Team should know about alleys in the project area



### Online survey

An online survey was available to the public from October 30 to November 20, 2023, asking for input on how to best communicate and engage with the residents and stakeholders. Paper copies of the survey were made available to community members upon request.

32 survey participants



### Project webpage

We asked residents to visit the project webpage to learn more about Glenwood (163 Street East) Alley Renewal and invited them to provide feedback on their communication and engagement preferences via the project survey.

192 visits to [edmonton.ca/GlenwoodEastAlleyRenewal](https://edmonton.ca/GlenwoodEastAlleyRenewal)



### Intercepts

The Project Team was in Glenwood (163 Street East) on Halloween handing out candy and postcards with Alley Renewal information to residents

Engaged over 40 residents



### How we communicated

- + 1,850 postcards delivered
- + 1,800 hydrovac notices delivered
- + 10 yard signs posted

## Phase 2 – Public Engagement and Data Analysis

The Glenwood (163 Street East) 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, bike and roll.

The public was also made aware that they could **DECIDE** whether to add lights to alleys where they do not already exist through the Local Improvement process. Engagement activities and timing were also informed by initial outreach to the neighbourhood in fall 2023 where people shared how and when they prefer to be engaged.

In Phase 2 we asked the following questions:

- + How community members use alleys in the project area, including which alley(s) they use
- + What are the important considerations about how alleys currently function
- + Whether there are ways to enhance safety, mobility and ease of use for people who walk, roll or bike in the neighbourhood
- + Whether an alley between 161 Street and 162 Street should be closed to vehicles and repurposed for walking, rolling and biking
- + Considerations for the Project Team during alley construction



### Online survey

An online survey was available to the public from April 15 to May 6, 2024. Paper copies of the survey were made available to community members upon request.

38 survey participants



### Project webpage

We asked residents to visit the project web page to access information about the project and learn more about Glenwood (163 Street East) Alley Renewal

544 visits to [edmonton.ca/GlenwoodEastAlleyRenewal](https://edmonton.ca/GlenwoodEastAlleyRenewal)



### Community conversations

The Project Team held events in April 2024 to introduce the Glenwood (163 Street East) Alley Renewal project. Project Team members shared proposed changes associated with the alley renewal and gathered feedback from the community.

- + An in-person open house took place on April 20, 2024
- + Two Business Improvement Area stakeholder meetings were held virtually on April 27, 2024

Eight neighbourhood conversations



### How we communicated

- + 1,813 newsletters
- + 1,813 postcards
- + 10 posters
- + 10 yard signs
- + One road sign
- + 42,873 impressions on Facebook and Instagram

# What we heard

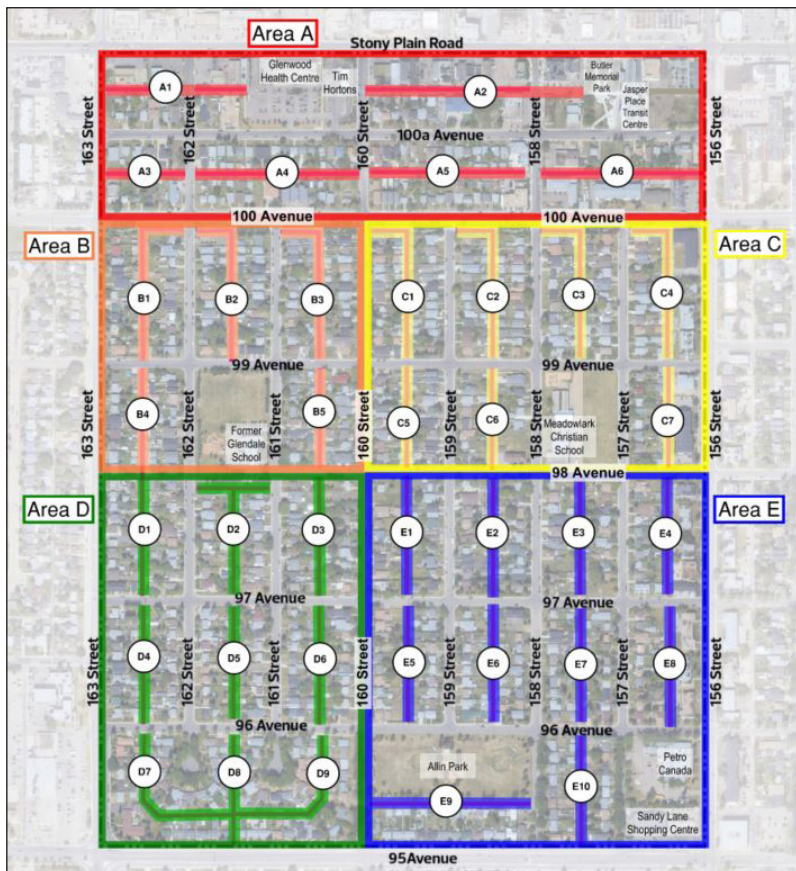


Figure 2: Glenwood (163 Street East) Alley Renewal scope map - numbered alleys

## Phase 1 - Pre Engagement and Communication

### Communication

- + Physical mail is an important communication channel for community members in Glenwood (163 Street East)
- + Other ways that people in the project area share and learn about information include email, the Community League website and social media channels, outdoor signs, the City of Edmonton website and social media channels, and posters throughout the community
- + Many community members prefer online surveys and online tools for engagement
- + Communicating and engaging with certain community members may need to be done outside of standard business hours

### Lighting

- + Residents told us that they wanted additional lighting in their alleys

### Drainage

- + We heard from residents that there was poor drainage in alleys, creating pools of water



## Phase 2 – Public Engagement and Data Analysis

### Usage

- + Most community members use alleys for driving, followed by walking and rolling for recreation
- + The alleys most often used for driving are within Area E
- + The alleys most often used for walking, biking and rolling are within Area E

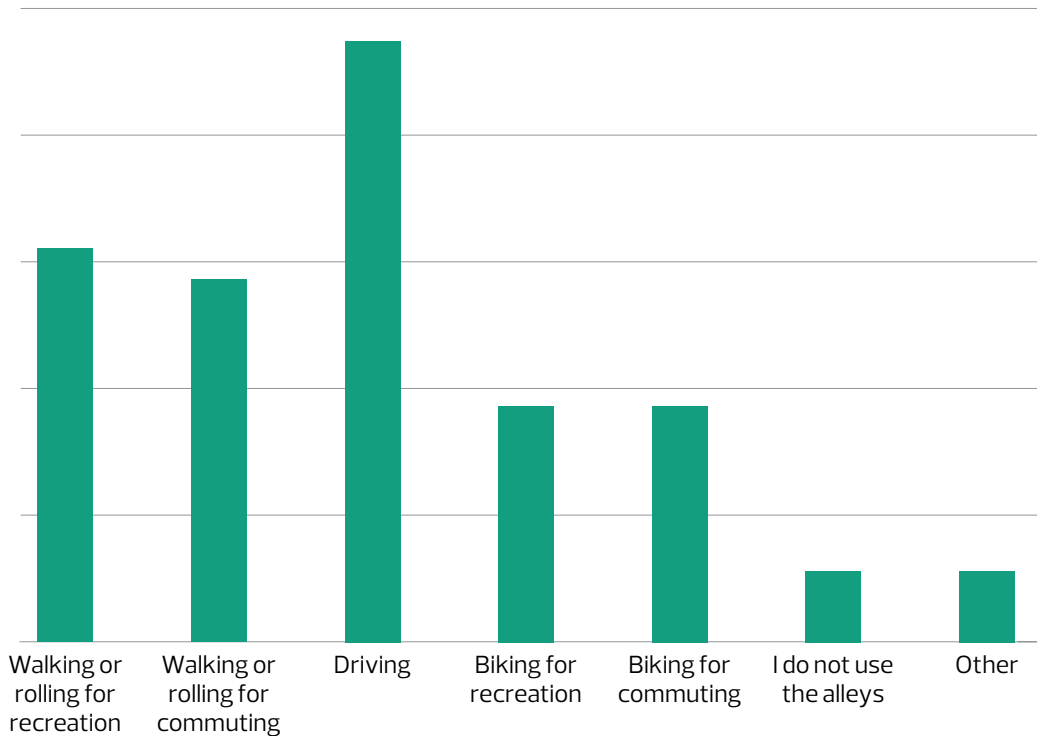


Figure 3: How people move within Glenwood (163 Street East) alleys

### Connections

- + Community members expressed the importance of maintaining connectivity through alleys to amenities within and beyond Glenwood (163 Street East) (e.g. to Rexall, Allin Park or other amenities along 95 Avenue)

### Parking

- + Community members shared the importance of maintaining parking throughout the neighbourhood

### Drainage

- + Community members shared the desire for improved alley drainage in the project area
- + Community members noted potholes in alleys from 160 Street to 162 Street and from 96 Avenue to 100 Avenue

## East to west alley between 161 Street and 162 Street (Alley D2)

- + Some community members were somewhat comfortable or very comfortable with closing this alley to vehicle access
- + A few community members were somewhat uncomfortable or very uncomfortable with closing this alley to vehicle access

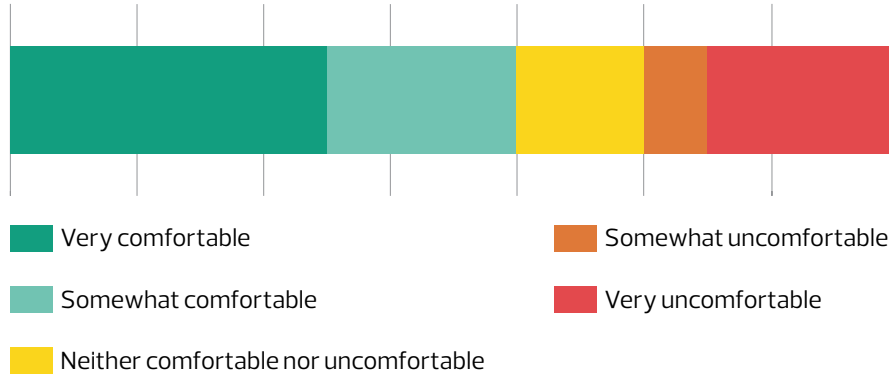


Figure 4: Comfort levels with potential alley closures and repurposing

## Construction considerations

- + The Project Team was made aware of several alley considerations during construction, including, animals or pets, as well as motor homes, campers or trailers that are on their property
- + Maintaining garage access with minimal disruptions during construction was important to residents of Glenwood (163 Street East)

## What we decided

Decision making is based on City policies and programs while considering technical requirements and public engagement input.

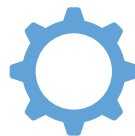
### Legend

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 feedback

## What we decided

### Potential closure 98 Avenue alley

We decided to keep the alley next to 98 Avenue from 161 Street to 162 Street open.



Figure 5: Alley potentially identified for closure

## What we considered



### City policies and programs

- + The City Plan
- + Alley Renewal Program
- + ConnectEdmonton



### Technical requirements

This design is informed by the following:

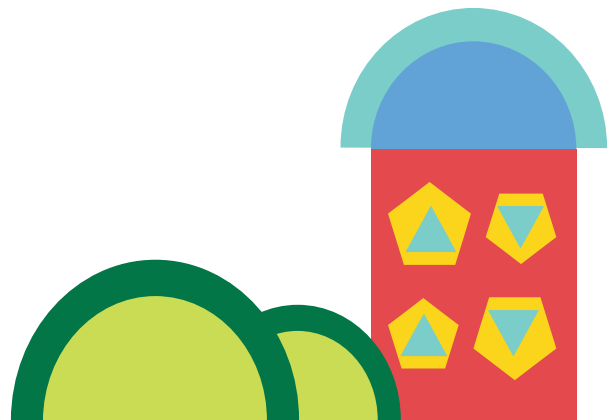
- + Factors such as sight lines and vehicle turning movements were reviewed to inform the decision on whether to keep the alley open or close it. The assessment concluded that there were no technical requirements that warranted the closure of the alley



### Public engagement feedback

This decision is informed by the following feedback heard during public engagement:

- + When asked about the potential closure of the alley between 161 and 162 Street, some community members were somewhat comfortable or very comfortable with closing this alley, while a few community members were somewhat uncomfortable or very uncomfortable with closing this alley to vehicle access
- + Participants shared the importance of maintaining access, connections and parking throughout Glenwood (163 Street East) alleys



## What we decided

### Alley renewal

Reconstruct all alleys with a new base and hard surface. This includes upgrading gravel alleys to the paved standard.

## What we considered



### City policies and programs

This design is informed by the following:

- + Alley Renewal Program
- + The City Plan
- + Corporate Tree Management Policy
- + Accessibility for People with Disabilities Policy



### Technical requirements

This design is informed by the following:

- + Drainage and surface conditions will be improved with the reconstructed alley
- + Alley pavement will be designed to support the loads of waste collection vehicles
- + Complete Streets Design and Construction Standards are used to determine standard widths, grading, pavement structure and other parameters



### Public engagement feedback

This decision is informed by the following feedback heard during public engagement:

- + Participants shared that numerous locations throughout Glenwood (163 Street East) alleys have poor drainage, resulting in pooling water
- + Some alley surfaces are uneven due to patchwork

## Local Improvement update – new alley lighting

Property owners along alleys without existing lighting have the opportunity to request the City to initiate a Local Improvement to add lighting to their alley at any time. With the support of the majority of property owners along the particular alley, a Local Improvement can move forward with the adjacent property owners paying 100 per cent of the cost, including ongoing operations and maintenance fees.

As of May 2025, no alley lighting Local Improvements have been brought forward by property owners in Glenwood (163 Street East).

## Next steps

Thank you to all who shared their input throughout the engagement on Glenwood (163 Street East) Alley Renewal.

We will provide an update once a construction date has been determined.

For more information regarding the Glenwood (163 Street East) Alley Renewal, please visit [edmonton.ca/GlenwoodEastAlleyRenewal](https://edmonton.ca/GlenwoodEastAlleyRenewal) or call **311**.



## Thank you for sharing your feedback

In the spring before construction begins, we will enter the Preparing for Construction phase of public engagement. 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 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, please visit the website:  
[edmonton.ca/GlenwoodEastAlleyRenewal](http://edmonton.ca/GlenwoodEastAlleyRenewal)

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