

What We Heard

King Edward Park Alley Renewal

November- December 2019

ADVISE

BUILDING GREAT
NEIGHBOURHOODS

Edmonton

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Overview

In 2018, the City of Edmonton approved the Alley Renewal Program to address the poor condition of its nearly 1,200 kilometres of alleys. This long-term plan will improve the condition of alleys, city-wide, over the next 25 years.

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, with a paved surface
- + Replace the material between the alley and property line with the material that was removed during construction
- + Replace tie-ins to driveways
- + Have existing alley lighting upgraded to LED fixtures

Working together to make the most out of your neighbourhood

Building Great Neighbourhoods and Open Spaces wants to understand the specific needs of each local alley renewal project. Residents and property owners in King Edward Park were invited to share their feedback at an event at the King Edward Park Community Small Hall on Wednesday, November 20, 2019 or by phone or email to the Project Manager by December 5, 2019. At the event, residents asked questions of the project team, provided feedback to the project team questions, and marked comments and locations on maps to show the project team where they may need to focus on the existing alley. EPCOR Water also attended the event to answer questions about their utility and alley renewal work. The project team will use the community feedback and perspectives to help **ADVISE** design and construction.

*Feedback gathered will help **ADVISE** design and construction.*

What we asked

Questions that were asked at the event 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?
- + Is there anything we should know about your backyard prior to construction? (e.g. animals, hobbies, events, landscaping, or other)
- + 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.

What we heard

129 residents and property owners attended the event, where they discussed the questions with the Alley Renewal project team. 36 people responded by phone and email to the City's Project Manager. The community interests included:

- + Understanding how alley renewal improvements are funded
- + Improving drainage issues: water pooling, flooding, etc.
- + Improving the poor surface condition of the alleys to enhance everyday use and activities including garbage and recycling collection
- + Identifying needs for residents with accessibility concerns
- + Understanding construction timing
- + Understanding utility coordination, as well as EPCOR Water's renewal in the area
- + Understanding why some alleys are not included in the project
- + Accessing driveways and garages during construction
- + Identifying concerns for limited street parking during construction
- + Understanding possible impacts to structures (fences, walls, landscaping, driveways and buildings)
- + Understanding the replacement of materials or structures removed during construction
- + Understanding the options for alley lighting upgrades
- + Identifying concerns for changes to alley access due to LRT construction
- + Questions about quality control measures for the project

129 people attended the event to learn more, ask questions and give feedback. 36 people reached out to the Project Manager via phone or email.

- + Identifying other concerns for alleys such as traffic shortcutting and theft

We also heard some localized interest in extending the alley (north of 80 Avenue and east of 83 Street) through Duncan Innes Park. The project team could not accommodate the request due to the impacts to park space.

Many people appreciated learning more about the project and were excited about the renewal. The event was highly attended, and we heard that a larger venue would have worked better to accommodate more people. Some expressed frustration over construction in the area, utility trenches in the alleys, and issues from the previous neighbourhood renewal in King Edward Park.

What we did

Your feedback was used to **ADVISE** the final design and will be considered during the construction of the alleys to address access and impacts to properties.

Investigation of some alleys that were not initially included in the King Edward Park project scope is ongoing. If work to improve those alleys is going to occur, residents and property owners will be notified through a construction bulletin.

Next steps

Alley renewal in King Edward Park will start in 2020, and will continue in 2021. *During construction, alleys will be unavailable for a minimum of four weeks.*

Bulletins will be distributed at the start of construction season to inform residents of the proposed timelines of alley renewal work. A second construction bulletin will be delivered approximately one week prior to the start of work at your property.

The work for the renewal can vary from alley to alley. Possible activities leading up to alley renewal include:

- + Utility assessments and repairs

- + Land surveys to inform design (including flags and paint markings)
- + Drilling small holes in the alley to check utility locations
- + Tree and shrub pruning and removals

During construction:

- + Expect your alley will be inaccessible for a minimum of four 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, residents will enjoy improved access and use of the alley.

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

Thank you for sharing your feedback. We look forward to renewing your alley in 2020-2021!