

What We Heard Report

Ottewell Neighbourhood Renewal

Community Feedback on Final Design

October 2022

ADVISE

SHARE YOUR VOICE
SHAPE OUR CITY

Edmonton

Where we are in the decision making process

The Neighbourhood Renewal program follows the road map below, and this report focuses on public input heard during the **Community Feedback on Final Design** stage. At each step, the Project Team shares information with you about how your input has and will inform decisions.

Road Map to Building Great Neighbourhoods



LEGEND

- Public Engagement and Communications Opportunities
- Concept Phase
- Design Phase
- Build Phase
- Operate Phase

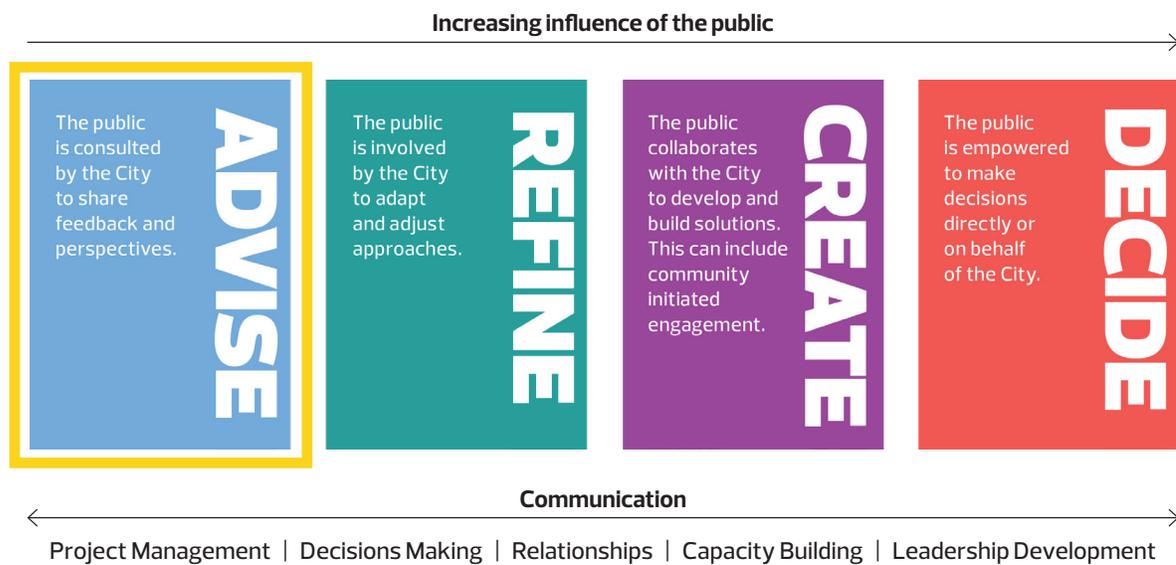
Public engagement spectrum

The City of Edmonton seeks input from residents to help guide the project. The City's public engagement spectrum, 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:

- + **ADVISE** the Project Team on any final adjustments that would align the design with the Vision and Guiding Principles for the project. This input will help the Project Team finalize the design prior to construction in 2023.

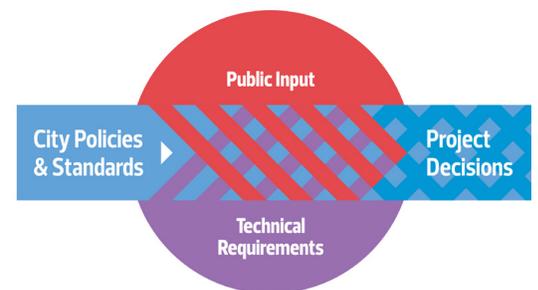
We commit to telling you how the public's comments influence decisions according to the public engagement spectrum.



Decision making process

The City makes decisions using a combination of policy and program information, public engagement comments, technical requirements and available funding. This process helps to ensure the decisions we make are fiscally responsible, align with best design practices, consider the existing public and private infrastructure, land uses and activities in the neighbourhood and result in the best outcomes for our city.

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.



What we did and what we asked

The Ottewell Neighbourhood Renewal Project Team organized the following opportunities for the public to share their thoughts on the most important considerations when looking at the final design.



Survey

An online survey was available from October 12 to 28, 2022. We shared final design plans for Neighbourhood Renewal in Ottewell and asked you questions to help **ADVISE** on these designs.

250 respondents



Project Web Page

We asked residents to visit the project web page to learn more about Ottewell Neighbourhood Renewal and invited them to provide feedback on the final design.

- + There were 1,856 visitors to the project web page
- + A comprehensive final design booklet was posted on the web page, making it easier for people to see and understand the full design package. The booklet was downloaded 551 times

1,856 views of web page



Virtual Meeting

The Project Team provided an overview of the final design and responded to questions at a virtual meeting held October 25, 2022. The team engaged with 119 individuals and received 222 questions.

119 participants



Community Conversations

During this phase, 60 people contacted the City of Edmonton Project Manager via email or telephone, with their questions and feedback.

60 people



How We Communicated

- + Seven road signs
- + Facebook advertising (18,000 views, 719 clicks)
- + 4,711 postcards delivered to addresses in Ottewell
- + 100 postcards delivered to the Ottewell Market on October 20, 2022
- + Two notices on the Ottewell Community League Facebook page (1,857 followers)
- + 267 emails to list subscribers and local stakeholders

What we heard

Ottewell residents love their mature community and were enthusiastic and inquisitive about the opportunities offered by Neighbourhood Renewal. They especially welcomed ideas to:

- + Improve crossing safety for people who walk and bike throughout the neighbourhood
- + Increase the options for traveling comfortably through the neighbourhood by bike, walking, rolling and when using mobility devices
- + Add greenery through boulevards, trees, shrubbery and plantings
- + Adopt innovative methods like Low Impact Development (LID) to help resolve flooding and water pooling while also making the neighbourhood more attractive
- + Create park spaces that were welcoming and accessible to all



Roads and Sidewalks

Most people appreciated the changes to major roads as well as local roads. Many said they thought the changes add to the beauty and livability of the neighbourhood. Shared-use paths and wider sidewalks were well received by most people.

“Shared-use paths and widened sidewalks are greatly appreciated. I have two toddlers and the current sidewalks are narrow and unsafe.”

“I like the idea of shared-use paths, and the shorter crossing distance on some intersections is good. I do feel badly for people who are losing parking in front of their house.”

A majority of people in Ottewell thought that the improvements to the roads, sidewalks and crossing areas would increase safety for people who bike and walk, as well as reduce speed in the neighbourhood. They encouraged the Project Team to emphasize traffic safety measures at neighbourhood schools and supported narrowing the crossing distance across wide streets.

“I’m disappointed about the raised intersection being removed from the plan. I’m not sure what ‘technical considerations’ means and would appreciate more of an explanation.”

They also suggested crosswalks at intersections with shared-use paths be clearly marked. Where crosswalks already exist, there were also requests to have them marked on both sides of the street, not only one. Flashing beacons, stop signs, raised crosswalks and even traffic lights were suggested as ways to improve traffic safety in Ottewell.



Some people thought the streets, which are very wide now, would become too narrow once shared-use paths, wider sidewalks, boulevards, curb extensions and other features were added. They felt that snow storage in the winter months would narrow the streets even further.

“The streets will be too narrow. Widening the sidewalks is not necessary.”

While most people liked the addition of shared-use paths to increase ways to move through the neighbourhood, there were a few who did not think they were necessary.

Several people identified specific concerns in front of their homes; the Project Team will review those considerations and clarify as needed.

Public Spaces

The improvements to public spaces were endorsed by most participants.

- + Pedestrian-friendly alley connection to Ottewell Plaza
- + Breezeways and pedestrian friendly alleys
- + Community bench nodes



Improving the alley connection to Ottewell Plaza received strong support. People felt that walking to and from the plaza would be pleasant and safer with the improvements. The connection was appealing to all ages living and playing in the area, from daycares to seniors' residences.

“Right now, it is too dangerous to walk to the shopping area. Improving the safety would mean the seniors living in assisted living could easily walk to appointments and outings.”

“This is a good idea that will connect that part of the neighbourhood that seems to have its back to us, to the rest of the community.”

Community benches in public areas and City right-of-way were seen as a friendly feature in the neighbourhood. They were especially welcomed by people who need to rest during a walk, or by people who wanted to meet a neighbour for a visit outdoors. People thought benches would create a welcoming space in the community.

“I can imagine taking a book and going to read in the sunshine on one of these benches.”



Parks and Open Spaces

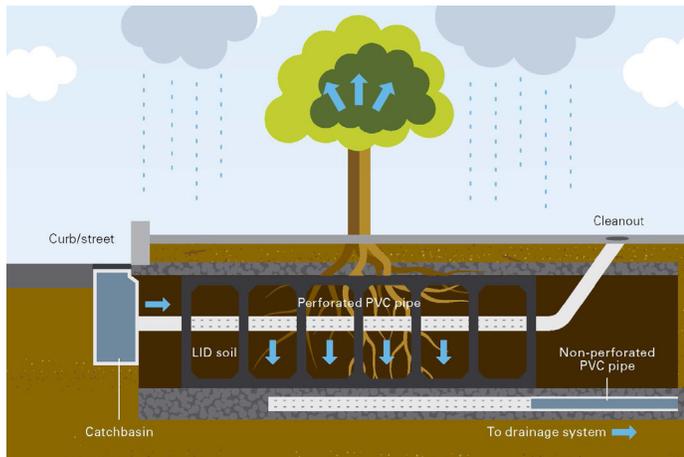
People welcomed the improvements to the parks in the community. They particularly embraced the additions of trees and shrubs as a way to manage greenhouse gas emissions, while beautifying the neighbourhood. Some people expressed concerns with new sidewalks and pathways through the open spaces. They felt this would interrupt the existing play area and could impact existing vegetation and wildlife.

People applauded the idea of an off-leash park, although a few thought it was too small to accommodate larger dogs. Participants emphasized that maintenance and upkeep was an important consideration for the success of the off-leash park. Adding parking for vehicles and bikes would also contribute to ease of use by residents and people visiting the community to use the off-leash park.

“I have a concern that residents of Ottewell who live on the other side of the neighbourhood and need to drive to the off-leash area to use it, won’t be able to have anywhere to park. As well, some residents may bike to the off-leash park with their dog, and will not have a safe place to lock up their bike.”



Low Impact Development

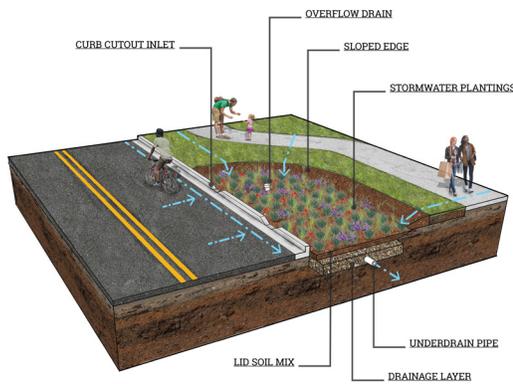


Ottewell has a history of some flooding and water pooling in areas when it rains. Currently, when it rains, the water on the street flows into a catch basin connected to underground pipes which lead to the wastewater treatment plant or into the North Saskatchewan River.

The planned work associated with Neighbourhood Renewal will construct Low

Impact Development (LID) features along the streets and in the open spaces for rainwater and snowmelt to be directed into.

LID features use plants and special soils to capture, store and manage the water from small rain events. Excess water drains into the underground pipes as it did before. There are three types of LID features which are being considered.



Bioretention Basin

People responded enthusiastically to adding LID features in the community. People thought that adding trees and shrubbery, as well as plantings would be an attractive, environmentally friendly feature that would also manage a consistent problem for residents.

“Great addition to the area. Hopefully it will reduce runoff and pooling in the streets.”



Box Planter



Tree Trench

“I’m happy this is being included. Ottewell has had a history of flooding in certain areas. Hopefully this will alleviate some of those issues.”

Some people were opposed to the features, citing loss of parking, potential interference with sight lines and snow removal as problems.

“School buses, parent drop offs and traffic is already congested at peak times. Will create vision/incident issues.”

“I do not support the removal of street parking directly in front of residents, specifically 92B Ave. I get enough neighbours and visitors parking in front of my house as it is and I think this will make it worse.”

Next steps

Feedback received is considered along with technical information and City policies and programs, in order to finalize the design. Construction is scheduled in Ottewell over four years, starting in spring 2023.

For project updates and more information:

Web: edmonton.ca/BuildingOttewell

Email: buildinggreatneighbourhoods@edmonton.ca

Call: 311

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 what we might do to make it better. We will engage and work with you on the renewal of roads, sidewalks, street lights and park spaces. We will also promote other community opportunities to enhance how people live and interact in your neighbourhood. We commit to being open and transparent about how your input is used. Let's make the most out of your neighbourhood.

For more information, visit:
edmonton.ca/BuildingOttewell

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