



Your Idlewood Greenway, Your Watershed

Public Open House and Online Survey Summary
November 20, 2025

Prepared by LURA Consulting

Prepared for the City of Kitchener





Executive Summary

The City of Kitchener is adding an underground stormwater storage facility to Idlewood Greenway. This is part of a larger project to build climate change resilience and improve water quality in Kitchener creeks. The City will also upgrade the trail through Idlewood Greenway as part of this project.

Idlewood Greenway upgrades will include:

- Trail upgrades
- An underground stormwater storage facility

Adding an underground stormwater storage facility in Idlewood Greenway will help to:

- Improve water quality in Idlewood Creek and the Grand River;
- Reduce the risk of flooding;
- Reduce erosion in Idlewood Creek;
- Improve resilience against climate change; and
- Enhance community safety.

The City of Kitchener and Aquafor Beech staff presented the final design for Idlewood Greenway in November 2025. This design protects and improves water quality. It also respects the project budget and responds to community feedback.

We invited the community to provide their thoughts on upcoming construction expectations and the engagement process. Community members could share input by:

- Attending an open house on November 20, 2025. There, they could provide feedback verbally, through sticky notes, and a survey.
- Completing the online survey on Engage Kitchener between November 20 and December 20, 2025.
- Emailing the project team.

Thirty-five (35) people attended the open house. Nineteen (19) completed the written or online survey.

What We Heard

- A desire for more fruit/edible, evergreen, and deciduous trees planted throughout the greenway. This feedback was balanced by a request by some to limit the use of plants that produce excessive leaves, needles, and twigs near neighbouring properties.
- Address drainage issues on the trail, where the existing slope results in puddles that can freeze over.



- Add trail lighting and seating options.
- Safety concerns about truck traffic and safety along Oldfield Drive.
- Preference for both mailed and emailed newsletters

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	i
What We Heard	i
Introduction	1
Background	1
Event Purpose	1
What We Heard	3
Participant Feedback.....	3
Plantings and Vegetation.....	3
Trail and Access	3
Construction.....	4
Community Engagement and Partnership.....	4
Community Engagement.....	6
.....	6
Online Survey	7
Public Open House.....	7
Next Steps.....	8



Introduction

Background

In 2016, the City of Kitchener Council approved an Integrated Stormwater Management Master Plan. This plan created a strategy to manage stormwater for the next 15 years. This plan identified that stormwater facilities only manage 25% of runoff in the city. This means that 75% of untreated runoff from heavy rainfall and snowmelt flows into storm sewers. This contributes to contamination of local creeks, erosion, and flooding.

Through the 2016 plan, we identified Idlewood Greenway as a place to add an underground stormwater storage facility to collect runoff. This will help to:

- Improve water quality in Idlewood Creek and the Grand River
- Reduce the risk of flooding
- Reduce erosion in Idlewood Creek
- Improve resilience against climate change
- Enhance community safety

The City now aims to add an underground stormwater storage facility to Idlewood Greenway. This is part of a larger project to build climate change resilience and improve water quality in Kitchener creeks. The City will also upgrade the trail through Idlewood Greenway as part of this project. The design proposes a storage facility that can reduce downstream flood risks and erosion. Idlewood Greenway is a good place to manage stormwater in the area, as it meets several technical criteria that cannot be met elsewhere. These include that the greenway is:

- Larger than 1 hectare
- Public land
- Has a stormwater sewer connection greater than 450 millimetres.
- Not too steep
- Does not have large treed areas or wetlands
- And, the area has the potential to meet water quality criteria

The Master Plan identified an initial concept for stormwater management at Idlewood Greenway. The City gathered the community's input and feedback through an online survey in Winter 2023, which helped the team develop the design for Idlewood Greenway.

To help build these projects, the City was awarded nearly \$50 million from the Government of Canada. This funding is through the Disaster Mitigation Adaptation Fund. This funding enables the City to install necessary stormwater measures sooner and at a lower cost.

Event Purpose

- Provide the final design
- Hear your feedback on the expected construction plans
- Hear your feedback on the engagement process

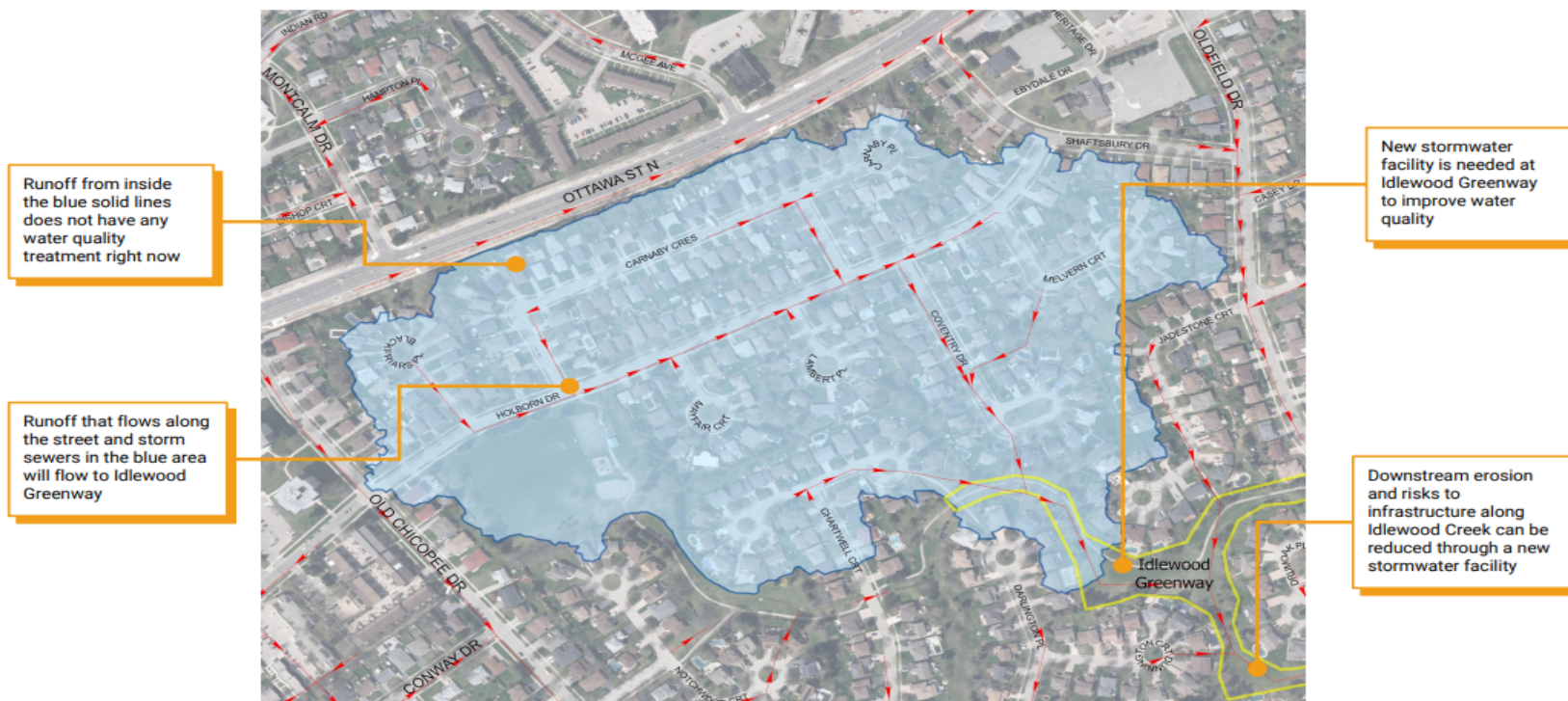


Figure 1. A large area of land drains to Idlewood Greenway. None of the runoff from this area is currently being treated to improve water quality.

What We Heard

We heard positive feedback on the future of Idlewood Greenway. Participants highlighted the following:

- Desire for more fruit/edible, evergreen, and other deciduous trees planted throughout the greenway.
- Avoid plants that produce excessive leaves, needles, and twigs that may be a nuisance to neighbouring properties.
- Address the drainage issue on the trail, where the existing slope and grading result in puddles and ice.
- Install trail lighting and seating options.
- Safety concerns about truck traffic and safety along Oldfield Drive.
- Preference for both mailed and emailed newsletters.

Participant Feedback

The following subsections explain each topic.

Plantings and Vegetation

Open house and survey answers about plantings and vegetation indicated:

- Interest in tree removals near bordering properties.
 - A few asked about removing extra trees, while others hoped to add more trees.
- Some prefer mowed grass over flowering plants.
- Some want to increase the pollinator habitat.
- Some participants want to avoid plants that lead to excessive leaves, needles and twigs close to their properties.
- A desire for more trees around the area.
- A request for an arborist to check current tree health.
- A desire to add evergreen trees and native deciduous trees.
- A desire to maintain and add more fruit and edible trees.

Trail and Access

Responses about trails and access indicated:

- Participants were happy that the trail would not be closed throughout construction. Sections of trail will be kept open as construction activities allow.
- A desire to improve the Darlington Place cycle entrance.
- A desire to install trail lighting, however, lighting is not within the project budget, and this is not a high-priority route requiring lighting. Kitchener reserves lighting for major parks and trails, such as Victoria Park and the Iron Horse Trail.
- Participants wanted to address the drainage issue in the trail (where the existing slope and grading lead to puddles and ice).

- A desire to include seating options. Seating is not included in this project, but residents can explore seating ideas through the LoveMyHood Matching Grant program: www.lovemymyhood.ca
- The project team clarified that a 4m wide asphalt trail will be installed for maintenance vehicle access.
- The north side of the trail will maintain the current grade to accommodate existing storm drainage efforts.

Construction

Participants shared their thoughts about the construction process:

- They asked where storage and utility buildings for the new underground stormwater system will be.
- Concern about dirt and dust from construction vehicles.
- Requests for measures to improve truck safety throughout the neighbourhood, like speeding enforcement, proper signage, and maintaining the bus route along Oldfield Drive.
- People preferred to receive updates on the timeline, road closure and access.

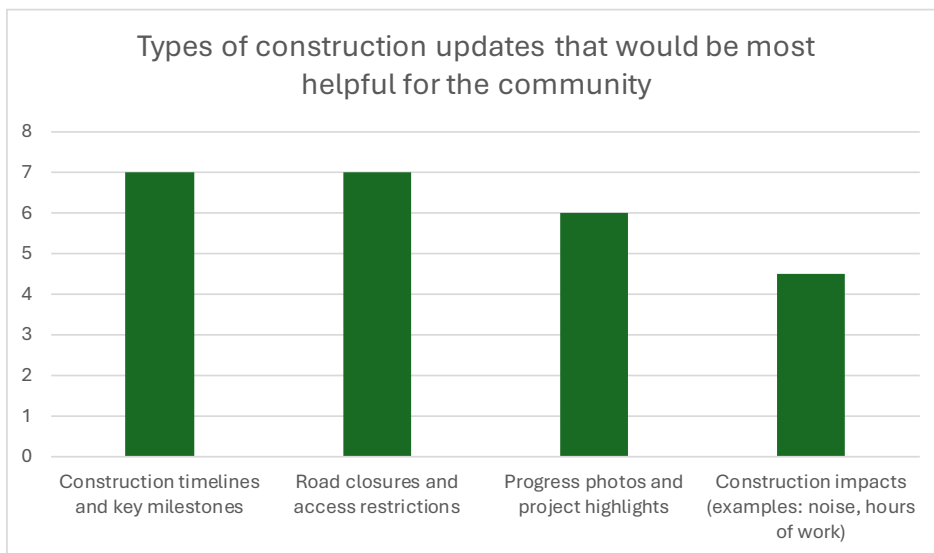


Figure 2. Participant feedback on what types of construction updates would be most helpful (n=9)

Community Engagement and Partnership

Open house and survey answers found:

- A need for mailed notices on top of digital ones due =neighbourhood demographics.
- Respondents mainly participated in engagement by coming to in-person open houses.

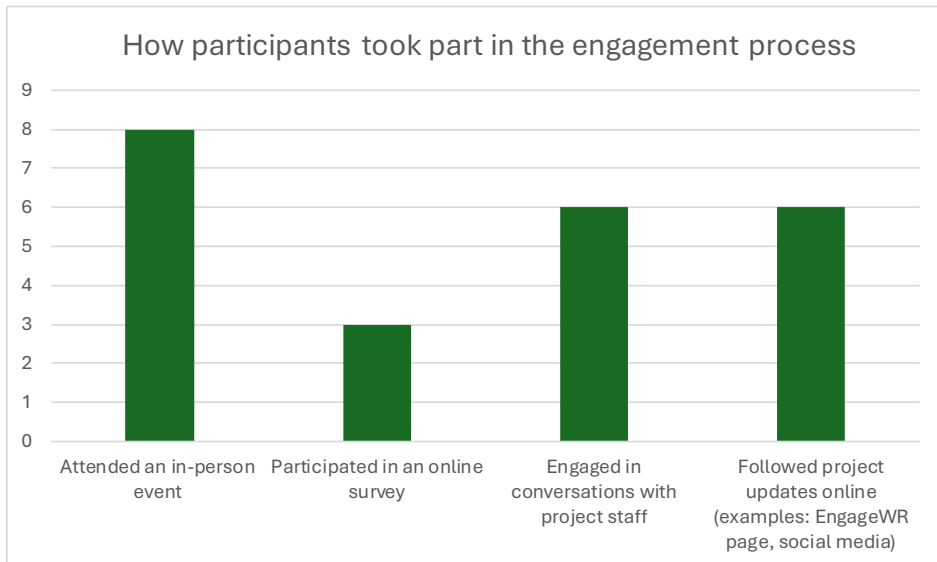


Figure 3. Participant feedback on how they participated in the engagement process (n=9)

- Respondents preferred receiving construction updates via email newsletters.

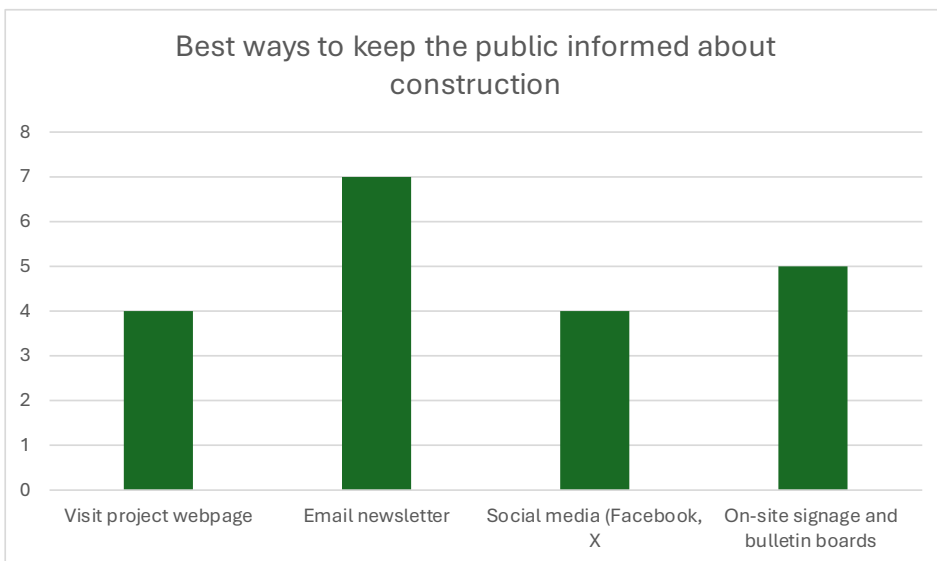


Figure 4. Participant feedback on the best ways to keep them informed about construction (n=9)

- There was interest in learning more about opportunities through Reep and LoveMyHood to pursue ideas for resident-led projects in the Greenway.

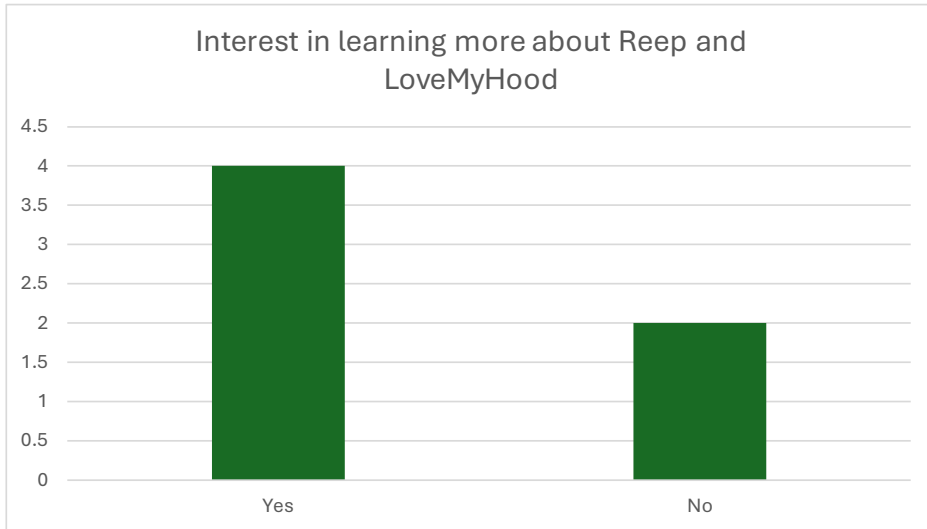


Figure 5. Participant feedback on whether they are interested in learning more about Reep and LoveMyHood (n=9)

Community Engagement

The community was engaged through an in-person Open House on November 20, 2025. An online survey was then posted from November 20 to December 20, 2025.

Participation



35

Registered
Open House
Attendees



19

Survey
Responses

Communication

City of Kitchener staff shared these opportunities using the following methods:



51

Posters placed
in the
community



500+

Notices mailed to all
homes within 400
metres of Idlewood
Greenway

Mailed 3 weeks before



3

Engage Kitchener
posts about the
open house and
survey timelines



Online Survey

After the open house, the City made an online survey on the Your Idlewood Greenway, Your Watershed Engagement Kitchener page. It was open from November 20, 2025, to December 20, 2025.

The survey included five questions to get feedback about the engagement process and future construction. Nine people submitted comment forms at the meeting. Ten people answered the online survey.

Public Open House

City staff and Aquafor Beech hosted an in-person open house on November 20, 2025, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Centreville Chicopee Community Centre.

- People could learn about the Stormwater Management Master Plan and the final Idlewood project design.
- Staff and consultants answered questions and collected feedback.
- Thirty-five people signed in at the event.

At the open house, people gave feedback by:

- Placing sticky notes on display boards.
- Completing an Idlewood Greenway Passport
- Filling out a written survey.
- Speaking to the project team staff one-on-one.

Satisfaction

During the open house, attendees were asked to rate their level of satisfaction with the engagement. Many indicated that they were satisfied.

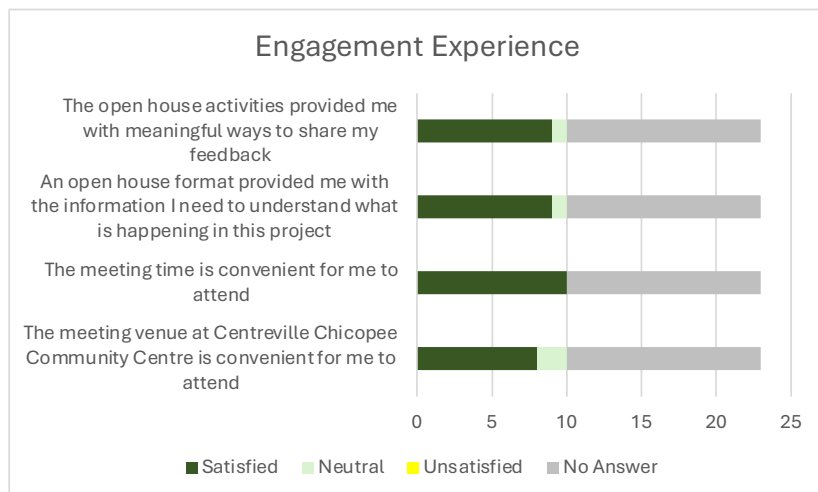


Figure 6. Responses to Open House Passport questions about the open house experience. (n=22)

Attendees offered feedback on the public engagement process:

- Many found that the open houses were well prepared, informative, and effective.
- Many said they were thankful for the helpful information and knowledgeable staff.



- Many found the information and map very helpful in understanding the project.
- Many people saw the posters in the neighbourhood or on a lamp post.
- Many felt heard and informed by the open house engagement.
- Many participants want to keep this level of clarity.
- One thought that the project website worked as good support for the in-person open house.
- One liked the chance to provide input.
- One said they didn't receive a notice for the event.

Next Steps

Construction is scheduled to begin in the winter of 2026. The project will continue through fall 2026. The City wants to thank all who helped shape this project. Community feedback helps us to design a project that better fits with community needs while we make changes to improve water quality and prepare for more intense storms.