

Summary

One highlight of the this year's Renew project was engaging residents who had given up caring about their alleys which included no longer reporting crime, traffic and garbage dumping in their alleys. Renew staff were told on a few occasions from these residents that their sense of pride and caring was renewed and they would now monitor the traffic in their alleys to try and keep it clean. We had residents tell us that we “were gifts from the creator” and “appeared like angels” as they were frustrated as they had no tools to cut their grass or and care for their yards. We had many youth enthusiastically come and help. We even had a youth go home and comment to their parents' friend that they did not want them over because they “would just mess the yard up all over again.” This speaks volumes about the level of pride involved in cleaning their yards/alley.

Renew's purpose is to engage residents and renew their sense of pride in their environment as well as renewing North Central overall. Residents from all walks of life came out to help clean up. They met other neighbours, both young and old. We had a great partnership with Rainbow Youth Centre's (RYC) Road to Employment who told Renew and RYC Staff how good they felt about themselves after cleaning an alley all day. They came out most Wednesdays and much of what Renew accomplished may be directly attributed to their assistance as they worked with full hearts and spirit and worked hard.

The Renew project also had a great partnership with the John Howard Society of Saskatchewan (JHSS). Through this partnership we worked with youth graffiti offenders doing alley cleanups as well as graffiti covering blitzes. Two youth graffiti offenders worked ten hours with Renew and specifically asked to work with us again when they had another set of hours to complete. The JHSS coordinator expressed gratitude and appreciation for the Renew Project staff as well as the impact it had on these youth.

These youth expressed a strong sentiment of remorse and understanding of the impact of their crimes. Their biggest level of awareness came while painting in alleys. All types of people approached us, asked what we were doing, thanked us for our work, and occasionally lectured the youth about working hard while completing their hours. Some people would also ask if they could get a job doing what we were doing. The youth offenders both expressed complete shock and humbleness to have so many different types of people thank them. It was a matter of not being judged as well as breaking stereotypes for these youth. They saw that even marginalized people do not want their neighbourhood vandalized/abused. Conversations with these youth reflected their increased sense of awareness of the impact of their crimes to the victims as well as to the neighbourhood.

What We Did

The Renew Project worked in a total of 14 alleys and in addition, removed graffiti in over half the alleys of North Central through graffiti removal blitzes with youth graffiti offenders.

The process started with delivering an introductory flyer to residents of targeted blocks letting them know when Renew Project staff would return to conduct a survey and solicit volunteers for the work bee. When Renew Project staff returned to conduct the survey they also educated residents on the reporting process for graffiti as well as City of Regina waste and recycling collections and other NCCA programs. This was followed by a work bee to pick up garbage, cover graffiti and perform minor yard work with community participation. After the work bee, staff would host a BBQ to encourage community engagement and communication.

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Performance

A total of 129 volunteers removed graffiti from 250 garages, 38 fences, 250 roll out garbage carts and a handful of various locations such as business walls and doors. In addition, the Renew project recovered over 100 needles and, according to the City of Regina Solid Waste Collection Manager, removed an average of 50 hopper loads per month.



Survey Results

The survey participation average was 43%. The following are the results of the pre-cleanup survey.

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58 % receive the Community Connection and of those that receive it, 87% read it. Out of those surveyed, 28% were interested in the Hire a Neighbour program.

Graffiti

13% stated they have had their rollout carts vandalized and 26% reported that they currently have graffiti somewhere on their property. Out of everyone surveyed the estimated total number of times they had removed graffiti in the past was 239 times which averages out to 1.49 times per resident

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surveyed although when looking at the numbers, only a fraction of residents were removing the graffiti and the ones that did were removing it up to 20 times each. Only 19% were aware of the reporting process and after being educated on the process, 88% stated they would report graffiti in the future.

When comparing the graffiti reports of the months that the Renew Project ran for the last 3 years, graffiti reporting went up 280% for North Central while the Renew Project was running.

City Services

60% of residents felt satisfied with the City's rollout garbage cart service and 71% were satisfied with the new recycling rollout out cart service. Of those that weren't satisfied with the garbage cart service, size, mess and dumping were the most frequently reported complaints. Of those that weren't satisfied with the recycling service, being charged, not being used, and lack of education were the most reported reasons. 28% claimed to leave their carts in the alley all week and those that did were educated on the risks of leaving it out as well as pointing out the complaints reportedly solved by rolling in their carts. Of those surveyed 32% had issues rolling out their carts for a variety of reasons with snow build up being the most reported reason. 82% of residents knew what their garbage pickup day was but only 52% were aware of their recycling pick up date. Those that weren't aware were told what their collection date was and referred to the City's email reminder option on the City of Regina website.

13% of residents would be interested in a yard waste collection service, 3% were interested in a kitchen compost collection, 43% were interested in both services and 42% were not interested in either. Many residents expressed a need for the yard waste collection with that being a major contributor to garbage in the alleys.

Neighbourhood Perceptions

74% of residents surveyed felt that the alley was not lit well enough to feel safe. 6% were unsure and most of those residents were unsure due to not going in the back yard at night due to not feeling safe.

In terms of overall feelings of safety in their community, the same amount (27.5%) both felt very safe and moderately safe, 22.5% had mixed feelings or was unsure, 11.9% felt moderately unsafe and 10.6% felt very unsafe.

When residents were asked what could be done to make the community safer and cleaner there were several common responses. The most common response was more alley lighting needed as most residents do not go in their back yards or alley. This increases crime opportunities as well as issues with garbage like dumping, tipping bins and littering.

Addressing the garbage problem was the next most reported issue. The most common opinions to fix it was bringing back the larger bins, giving residents access to large bins, addressing the issue of needles, having more clean ups, street sweeping and collections, as well as issuing more fines for dumping and littering. A high number of residents felt it was an individual responsibility to keep their yards clean as well as holding landlords accountable for their tenants and cleanliness of properties. Several felt that stronger bylaw enforcement could address this as well as for lighting and graffiti.

Issues with needing police presence were the next most common reported opinion, especially at nighttime. Suggestions for more neighbourhood watch/patrol was common with suggestions of having groups walk at night. The next most common opinion was the need for addressing crime and gangs in

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the neighbourhood. Of those opinions, the common suggestion was to have more blitzes, charges laid, surveillance as well as targeting youth education as most children do not receive it at home.

Lastly, another common opinion was to have more community programming, youth specific programs and engagement, community engagement as a whole and more education. In terms of education, the responses were more towards youth and parenting related issues like respect, curfews and discipline.

Demographics

Of those surveyed, 61.88% was female and 38.13% was male. 23.75% was over the age of 50, 66.88% was between the ages of 25-50, and 9.38% was under the age of 25. In terms of home ownership, 67.5% surveyed was a tenant and 31.25% was an owner. A couple refused to answer.

Outcome Indicators

The Renew project staff received many positive comments on the work being done and how it helped to renew the community's sense of pride in their environment. Renew staff conducted a follow up survey with residents that opted in to the option. Of those surveyed, 100% was satisfied with their alley cleanup and all of them rated their level of satisfaction as Very High. Also, all those surveyed felt the Renew project could not have done anything more in terms of duties performed during the cleanup. 64% felt that their alley remained clean after and 55% felt the cleanup had a positive impact on residents rolling in their bins after being surveyed and educated on the risks of not. In terms of the alley clean up, 64% felt it positively impacted community engagement, 82% felt it positively impacted graffiti, 73% felt it positively impacted crime and 82% felt it positively impacted the feeling of safety in their alley.



Community Clean Up

The Community Clean Up was October 20, 2013 in partnership with Bennett-Dunlop Ford. Approximately 100 volunteers helped remove 42 metric tonnes of garbage although a few trucks were not measured and just waved through the line at the landfill. A total of 8 pallets of TV's and almost 3 pallets of electronics were taken to Sarcan in addition to 3.6 metric tonnes of recycled metal that was taken to Wheat City Metals. There was also a large amount of various recyclable materials such as tires and shopping carts that was collected.

When combined with the Renew project, the amount of garbage and recyclable materials that was removed from North Central over the period of a couple months was quite substantial.

Looking Ahead

While the Renew project was very successful in making an impact in North Central, it did only cleanup a small percentage of North Central alleys. The performance statistics as well as the follow up survey statistics prove that the project had a major impact in the targeted alleys and we would like to build upon the successes of the 2013 Renew project and continue to make an impact over more targeted blocks and alleys.

When considering resident opinions, looking at more youth programming, resident engagement, the garbage problem as a whole, more police presence, alley lighting and creation of a neighbourhood watch are all things that could be looked at.



Acknowledgement of Support

City of Regina, Rainbow Youth Centre, John Howard Society of Saskatchewan, RAMP, B&B Small Engine Sales & Service Company, Wendy Dumalski, General Paint, Colourburst Paint, James Morberg and Wendy Grant, Regina Police Service, Aids Programs South Saskatchewan, Go Green, Student Summer Works Program, McDonalds, 5th Avenue Convenience Store, Bennett-Dunlop Ford, and Roberta Pelletier. Most importantly, The Renew Project would like to thank all of the volunteers and especially the North Central Residents who came out and led by example in working towards a safer, cleaner community. It is the volunteers that made the difference, and we are forever thankful for the time given!

Community Paper	
1. Do you receive?	
Yes	58.13%
1. Do you read?	
Yes	50.63%
City and Community Services	
2. Satisfied with Garbage Service?	
Yes	60.00%
3. Leave cart in the alley?	
Yes	27.50%
4. Satisfied with Recycling Service?	
Yes	71.25%
5. Any issues with moving the bin?	
Yes	20.00%
6. Aware of what day garbage is?	
Yes	81.88%
6. Aware of what day recycling is?	
Yes	51.88%
7. Interested in other programs?	
Leaf and yard waste	12.50%
Kitchen waste	2.50%
Both collections	43.13%
None	41.88%
8. Interested in Hire-a-Neighbour?	
Yes	27.50%
Vandalized Property	
9. Has rollout cart been vandalized?	
Yes	12.50%
10. Has current graffiti?	
Yes	25.63%
11. Had to remove graffiti in the past?	
Yes	32.50%
Total average times resident has covered	1.4938

Neighbourhood Image	
12. How safe do you feel?	
Very Safe	27.50%
Moderately Safe	27.50%
Unsure/Mixed	22.50%
Moderately Unsafe	11.88%
Unsafe	10.63%
14. Is the alley well-lit enough?	
No	73.75%
Maybe/Unsure	5.63%
Graffiti Reporting Awareness	
15. Aware of the reporting process?	
Yes	19.38%
No	80.62%
16. Would you report graffiti?	
Yes	87.5%
Work Bee Interest	
17. Interested in Volunteering	
Pledged Volunteers Turnout	80.62%
Total Volunteers	129
Demographics	
19. Age	
Under 25	9.38%
Between 25-50	66.88%
Over 50	23.75%
20. Gender	
Male	38.13%
Female	61.88%
21. Ownership	
Renters	67.50%
Owners	31.25%
Survey Participation Average	43.3%

Follow Up Survey	
Satisfied with alley clean up	
Yes	100.00%
Level Of Satisfaction	
Very High	100.00%
Felt clean up could have done more	
No	100.00%
Felt the alley remained clean	
Yes	63.64%
Felt clean up impacted people rolling in their bins	
Yes	54.55%
Felt clean up impacted community engagement	
Yes	63.64%
Felt clean up impacted graffiti	
Yes	81.82%
Felt clean up impacted crime	
No	72.73%
Felt clean up impacted feeling of safety	
Yes	81.82%



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Receives Community Newspaper				Reads Community Newspaper					Interest in HAN		
Unsure	Yes	Sometimes	No	Yes	No	Sometimes	New Resident	Doesn't Receive	Yes	No	Didn't Ask
2.50%	58.13%	3.75%	35.63%	50.63%	6.88%	4.38%	2.50%	35.63%	27.50%	56.25%	16.25%
City Services											
Satisfied with garbage service	Satisfied with recycling service	Leaves cart in the alley	Has issues moving bins	Knows garbage day	Knows recycling day	Interested in Yard Waste Collection	Interested in Kitchen Compost Collection	Interested in both collections	Interested in Neither		
60.00%	71.25%	27.50%	20.00%	81.88%	51.88%	12.50%	2.50%	43.13%	41.88%		
Graffiti				Graffiti Reporting							
Rollout cart vandalized	Has current graffiti	Had to remove graffiti in the past		Aware of RRR reporting	Will report in the future	2011 NC Reports July/August	2012 NC Reports July/August	2013 NC Reports July/August			
Yes	Yes	Yes	Total of 239 times	Yes	Yes	5	5	14			
12.50%	25.63%	32.50%	1.49375	19.38%	87.50%						
Feeling Of Safety					Is alley lit well enough to feel safe?						
Very Unsafe	Moderately Unsafe	Mixed or Unsure	Moderately Safe	Very Safe	No	Yes	Maybe/ Unsure				
10.63%	11.88%	22.50%	27.50%	27.50%	73.75%	19.38%	5.63%				
Age range			Gender		Renters/ Owners						
Under 25	25-50	Over 50	Female	Male	Renter	Owner					
9.38%	66.88%	23.75%	61.88%	38.13%	67.50%	31.25%					