

North Central Renew Project Final Report



The purpose of the Renew Project is to engage residents and renew their sense of pride in their environment as well as renewing North Central overall. We had residents to come out to help with almost all of our work bees. We had very helpful residents who were able to complete minor yard work and were always asking for more things they could assist with in the alley. We had a resident who was very impressed with the Renew Project and was "excited to show his boss the work we were doing" and would work hard to get some of his employees/coworkers to come volunteer. We had a lot of residents who would comment things like "wow the alley looks so different!" We also had another non-resident volunteer who commented "I feel like I could walk down here at night time."

Some of the residents that came to help were parents and would come out with their children to help clean. One mother commented "it looks so much safer for my kids to play." This goes to show how incredible the work that is done makes everyone in the community feel safer.

We had some residents show their enthusiasm about their alley being cleaned up due to the success of last year's cleanups. We also received phone calls from residents requesting information about the alley cleanup schedule who were very eager to come out and help. We had youth who were enthusiastic about coming to help when they saw us working in the back alley. It's great to see the continued support we have gotten from the residents that have come out, and hope to continue to engage the residents and increase their level of pride involved in cleaning their yards/alleys.

The Renew project had a great partnership with Rainbow Youth Centre's Road to Employment program. Through this partnership we were able to work with two students for every cleanup held. These two students showed an immense amount of dedication to the project and were hard-working, enthusiastic and committed to helping the community. Not only did these two students help out enormously but they also learned they were helping in making a difference in the community. Kara stated that she *"enjoyed working for Renew because it meant helping out the children in the area with all the drugs and bottles going around and people leaving them in the alleys. By cleaning the allies we were able to help out people needing help with the garbage, overgrown trees and overgrown grass. One thing I liked the most was making new friends, hoping in the future I'll see them helping again ... I enjoyed being here!"* Aaron said *"I was inspired to do this because it was a good workout, good*



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work experience and knowing I made a change in the neighborhood.”

What We Did

The Renew Project cleaned a total of **12** alleys and in addition, removed graffiti in extra 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 informing them of when Renew Project staff would return to conduct a survey and solicit volunteers for the alley clean-up. When Renew Project staff returned to conduct the survey they also handed out a promotional package which included a Blue Cart Recycling Program Guide

and Wipe Out Graffiti brochure in addition to flyers for other NCCA programs. Renew staff also educated residents on the reporting process of graffiti as well as the City of Regina waste and recycling collections, upcoming greener Regina programs this fall and other NCCA programs. This was followed by an alley cleanup (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.

Performance

This year we had a total of **78** volunteers, removed graffiti from **140** garages, **18** fences, **43** roll out garbage carts and a handful of various locations such as businesses walls and doors. The success of 2013 Renew Project made a lasting impact in graffiti and it showed in these numbers being significantly lower than last year. This also reflects how much the community is taking the initiative to remove graffiti. We hope to still continue to make a difference each year and hope that the community gets involved more and more.

In addition to this progress in 2014, the Renew project recovered over **147** needles. This is more than what was recovered last year. According to the City of Regina Solid Waste Collection Manager, we removed over **15.76** tonnes of garbage overall in the **12** alleys we were able to clean this summer.

A new initiative this year was adding address stickers to properties in the alleys. They were added to the house, fence or garage. This was implemented halfway through the summer and



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consequently only half of the alleys cleaned had addresses added.

A total of **152** addresses were added out of the **369** households in **12** different alleys. **62** addresses were already in place.

The Renew Project staff would like to see it continue next year as it helps Police, Fire and Emergency Responders in the event of an emergency. It also helps to identify the properties to anyone accessing the alleys. Out of all the households in **12** alleys, only **16.8%** had addresses already in place which shows the need to include this initiative with the Renew Project.



Survey Results

The survey participation rate was **31.40%** of households of surveyed blocks. The following are the results of the pre-cleanup survey.

North Central Community Association

50.83% receive the *Community Connection* newsletter and of those that receive it, **52.31%** read it. Out of those surveyed, **33.33%** were interested in the *Hire a Neighbour* program. **57.5%** were not aware of the *Community Gardens*, **40.83%** were aware but didn't use. Out of all surveyed, **94.12%** reported not using the gardens.

Graffiti

20% stated they have had their roll-out carts vandalized and **14.17%** reported that they currently have graffiti somewhere on their property. **30%** of residents reported they had removed graffiti from their property on an average of **0.6833** times each. Only **27.50%** were aware of the reporting process and after being educated on the process, **85%** stated they would report graffiti in the future.



City Services

46.67% of residents felt satisfied with the City's roll-out Garbage roll-out cart service and **75.83%** were satisfied with the Recycling roll-out cart service.

38.33% claimed to leave their carts in the alley all week and those that did were educated on the risks of leaving their carts out. **83.33%** of residents knew what their garbage pickup day was but only **60%** were aware of their recycling collection date. Those that weren't aware were educated which day theirs was picked up on and was referred to the

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reminder option on the City of Regina's website.

25% of residents would be interested in yard waste collection service, **7.50%** were interested in a kitchen compost collection, **25%** were interested in both services and **40%** were not interested in either collection.

When asked for comments on the garbage and recycling programs, many residents expressed a need for the yard waste collection and for the large Loraas disposal bins to be accessible for the residents. A lot of the residents were concerned that not having access to these services was a major contributor to garbage in the alleys.

42.35% of those surveyed expressed a concern that the garbage bins were too small and almost **10.59%** felt that they create more a challenge to keeping alleys clean. For

recycling, the top comments were positive and included **17.86%** liking the service, and **10.71%** found it convenient.

Neighborhood Perceptions

65.83% of residents surveyed felt that the alley was **not** lit well enough to feel safe. **14.17%** were unsure of lighting and most of those residents were unsure due to not going in the back yard at night because of feeling unsafe. A lot of residents were also concerned with not having enough light in the alleys due to lack of light posts.

In terms of overall feelings of safety in their community, **34.17%** felt very safe, **22.50%** felt moderately safe, **22.50%** had mixed feelings or were unsure, **10.83%** felt moderately unsafe and **6.67%** felt very unsafe.

When residents were asked about what could be done to make the community safer and cleaner there were several responses. The most common response was to find a way to keep the community cleaner all year round and try to find a way for littering to stop. The second most common response was seeing the need to address the drug and prostitution problems. A high number of residents expressed their concerns with the prostitutes and the drugs and they hope that Regina Police Service could get more involved. A few residents had personal



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stories of the safety of their children being at risk due to all of the drugs and prostitutes on the street.

When residents were asked what they valued most about the community, **21.67%** responded that they like living here, **13.33%** felt that it is peaceful and quiet and **4.17%** felt it was friendly. Those that responded that they liked living in North Central included reasons like: they had great neighbours, enjoy the green space, and that North Central is community based and has helpful resources.

Demographics

Of those surveyed, **62.50%** were female and **37.50%** were male. **35%** were over the age of 50, **50%** were in-between the ages of 25-50, and **15%** were under 25.

Community Clean Up

The Community Clean Up was on October 5th, 2014 in partnership with Bennett-Dunlop Ford. Approximately over **130** volunteers helped remove **47.16** metric tonnes of garbage. A totally of **7.5** pallets of electronics were taken to Sarcan in addition to **3.48** 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.

The Community Clean Up increases in weights of garbage removed each year as well as the amount of volunteers.



Outcome Indicators

The Renew project staff received many positive comments on the work being done and how it helped to renew the community. Renew staff conducted a follow up survey with residents that decided to take part in it. Of those surveyed, **100%** were satisfied with their alley cleanup. **65%** of the residents were rated their satisfaction as very high and **35%** of them rated their satisfaction as high. Some suggestions were given to the Renew project in terms of things that could be thought of for next year, such as, the garbage piles to be picked up sooner and ensure all of the graffiti is removed. **85%** of the residents felt that their alley remained clean after. **30%** of the residents felt cleanup had a positive impact on residents rolling in their carts after being surveyed and educated on the risks of not. For the alley cleanup, **65%** felt it positively



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impacted community engagement, **85%** felt it positively impacted graffiti, **65%** felt it positively impacted crime and **95%** felt it positively impacted the feeling of safety in their alley. A few residents even noticed neighbors adding lighting to the back alleys after the cleanup was completed.

Looking Ahead

The performance statistics as well as the follow up survey statistics prove that the project had a major impact in the targeted alleys once again and we would like to build upon the successes of the 2013 and 2014 and continue to make an impact over more targeted blocks and alleys. The community of North Central has been fortunate to have people working and wanting to make the community safer and cleaner. We hope that the residents of North Central will see others take pride in their physical environments and want to do the same. We hope that children in the community will be able to feel safe and have a place to play. We hope that others in this city will see the growing value and pride in the community. We hope to make a difference for everyone in North Central and the city as a whole.



Acknowledgement of Support



City of Regina, Rainbow Youth Centre, RAMP, Johns Howard Society of Saskatchewan, B&B Small Engine Sales & Service Company, Wholesale Club, Sherwood Co-op, Home Depot, Regina Police Service, Aids Programs South Saskatchewan, Student Summer Works Program, Giant Tiger, 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 Resident 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!

Submitted By:
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