



NRS Update – Public Engagement Opportunities

Revised November 9, 2018

What Kind of Engagement Opportunities Exist in the NRS Process?

The NRS uses a mixed-method approach to solicit public input on issues critical to the future of Wheat Ridge neighborhoods. As these opportunities are scheduled and made available, details will be posted here on this page. Some examples are:

Small Group Discussions (sometimes called "kitchen table conversations")

These conversations amongst perhaps a dozen people are set up and facilitated by members of the steering committee. They reflect the types of discussion that might occur at a backyard barbecue or between neighbors over coffee in somebody's kitchen. The small size and informal nature allow for a deeper level of discussion amongst participants. Sometimes they are set up by invitation, sometimes as "pop-up" events in local gathering places, and sometimes they are open to the general public on a sign-up basis. Despite their informal nature, small group discussions may be highly structured to keep participants focused on the kind of feedback that committee members are seeking. The focus is not engagement of the greatest number of people, but rather quality of input. This is only one stream of input.

Public Open Houses

Open Houses are a good opportunity for members of the public to gather information about the project basics, including the project's background, its overall goals, the process used, and any work completed to date. It is also a chance for attendees to share their thoughts directly with the City's consultant and members of the steering committee. The open house format allows attendees to browse information and ask questions at their own pace. There are usually a number of stations focused on key project components and issues, and attendees can provide written comments as well. Open Houses are an important tool in reaching large numbers of people and gathering a wide array of feedback. This is only one stream of input.

Surveys

Surveys are important for getting solid and clear input from participants. They offer a chance for residents and stakeholders to respond to specific questions in a way where the collective response can be easily quantified and reported. Surveys are most often offered online, but hard copies are made available as well. Surveys provide an opportunity for both quantity and quality of public feedback. Because surveys can be completed at any time, day or night, they allow for broad participation. And because of the highly detailed possibilities of both survey questions and answers, deep and insightful responses are obtainable. Surveys are only one stream of input.

How do I stay up to date on project developments and learn how to participate?

The best place to find updates is on the City's website. The NRS Update page can be found via the link on the left hand side of the City Manager's page or by going directly to this page:

<http://www.ci.wheatridge.co.us/NRS>