

Gated Alley Program Pilot (GAPP) Expansion FAQs

This information addresses the most common questions regarding the City of Phoenix's expanded Gated Alley Program Pilot (GAPP) and the application process to install gates in alleys located in the expanded pilot areas selected by each council office.

EXPANDED GAPP PROGRAM DETAILS

What is the expanded Gated Alley Program Pilot, or GAPP?

The GAPP provides a new approach to deter unwanted activities in the identified pilot areas. The City of Phoenix is attempting to help address complex issues of crime and blight, improve security and to help deter illegal dumping, criminal activity, traffic, and other undesirable activities in the pilot alleys.

Why was the GAPP created?

Alleys in Phoenix serve as access points for utility companies and solid waste services. Approximately 22 percent of Phoenix households, or about 80,000 residents, receiving City refuse collection have alley service. Recently, there is increased interest from neighborhoods for the city to allow residents to gate alleys to address safety, security and illegal dumping concerns. Members of the Royal Palm neighborhood approached city leaders to help shape the pilot.

When did the GAPP go into effect?

The initial GAPP went into effect on June 27, 2017, for a portion of the Royal Palm and Sunnyslope neighborhoods. Based on community feedback asking for gates in all areas of the city, the City Council approved expanding the program in 2020. The expanded pilot allows for 10 alley segments within each City Council district.

What alleys are eligible to participate in GAPP?

Each City Council district selected alley segments to participate in the expanded GAPP based on data showing the neighborhoods most impacted and community feedback.

How do I find out if my alley was selected?

Property owners along the alley segments in selected neighborhoods received a letter from the city inviting them to participate in the expanded GAPP. Based on data from city records on illegal alley dumping, crime, blight and homeless encampments, each City Council office selected their recommended alleys to participate in the pilot. Call 602-534-0742 or email gatedalley@phoenix.gov to find out if your alley was selected.

Is there a list or map of the approved alleys?

Please call 602-534-0742 or email gatedalley@phoenix.gov.

How much time will each step take?

Once the petition is complete, the entire process to obtain applicable permits, conduct utility coordination, review plans, issue a permit, construct gates, schedule an alley clean up and install locks varies depending on both the alley location and coordination complexity. The process is estimated to take approximately 6-8 weeks; however, it could be longer based on the unique conditions of each request.

If I live in an expanded GAPP area, what is the process from beginning to end?

When are applications due? Why do we have so little time to pull this all together?

The deadline to submit an application/petition for the Gated Alley Program Pilot (GAPP) to be included in the second phase of processing is **October 4, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.** Many homeowners have expressed an interest to start the program as quickly as possible. However, many residents have requested more time to submit their application. Please note, the city may continue to accept applications after this date and continuously review application submittals dependent on funding availability.

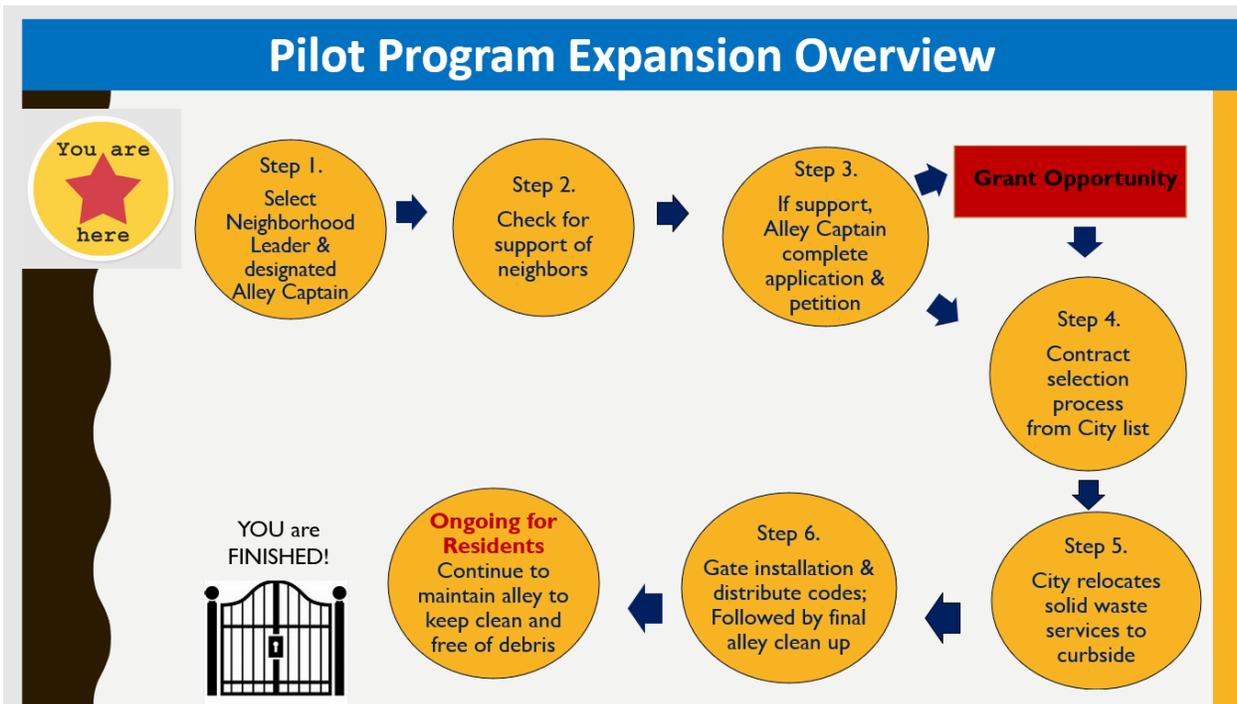
SELECT DESIGNATED NEIGHBORHOOD LEADER

How can I find out who my neighborhood association leader is?

Every alley segment must have a designated leader to represent all of the property owners located along the council selected alley segment(s). Additionally, your neighborhood must be part of an existing neighborhood association or block watch. If one is not in your area, you will be required to create a neighborhood association or block watch. If you need help designating a neighborhood leader for your alley segment or creating a neighborhood association or block watch, call 602-534-4444 or email gatedalley@phoenix.gov

How do I know if someone is already starting an application and how do I contact them?

Please call 602-534-0742 or email gatedalley@phoenix.gov



APPLICATION - CHECK FOR SUPPORT OF NEIGHBORS

Will the neighborhood be required to submit any paperwork?

Yes. The designated neighborhood leader from each alley segment must submit a completed application, petition with 50% plus 1 signatures of owners along both sides of the alley segment, and a sketch of the proposed areas to be gated. Please email gatedalley@phoenix.gov for application materials.

Can renters sign the petition?

No, only the legal property owner as shown on the Maricopa County Assessor's website – <https://mcassessor.maricopa.gov/> may sign the petition.

What if the owners are hard to locate and contact (i.e., out of state)?

Call 602-534-0742 or email gatedalley@phoenix.gov for assistance.

There are two empty houses on our alley segment, owned but not occupied. Do these houses count toward the 50 + 1? Can we inform the city that we have 15 houses versus 17 houses? Or must we include them?

You must include all homes along the alley segment regardless of whether it is vacant or occupied. If you need assistance locating the property owner, please call 602-534-0742 or email gatedalley@phoenix.gov

What if my alley has odd configurations, like a "T", "L" or "F" shape, do we still qualify?

Yes, as long as you meet the program criteria. Additional entrances may require additional gates to restrict access, so additional funds will be needed.

How can I reach out to my neighbors to sign the petition, especially during this Pandemic?

We understand the safety concerns and recommend practicing social distancing and wearing masks while out in public. You may knock on your neighbor's door and step back 6 feet or place a note on their door to contact them. Using social media is also a good tool to contact your neighbors- you can reach a large group in a short period of time. Your neighbors who are interested can respond and reach out using apps such as Nextdoor. If you are having difficulty connecting with your neighbor or the owner, call us at 602-534-0742 or email gatedalley@phoenix.gov for assistance.

In our neighborhood we have 6 sections (alley segments) - should there only be 1 person for the whole neighborhood listed on the application or can we designate 1 person from each section to coordinate for their area?

It is up to the homeowners with property along each alley segment. Both approaches are acceptable to the city. Each segment must meet the GAPP criteria.

What if residents park their vehicles in garages that are accessed through the alley?

All residents along the gated alley segment will be provided access to unlock the gate(s) and may continue to park their vehicles in garages or carports.

What if I am opposed to gating my alley, what can I do?

Share your concerns with your neighbors along the alley segment and do not sign the petition. If 50% + 1 of the homeowners along the alley segment sign the petition and meet the GAPP criteria, gates can be installed.

What if I am supportive of gating my alley and want to sign the petition?

Connect with your neighbors along the alley segment and sign the petition. If 50% + 1 of the homeowners along the alley segment sign the petition and meet the GAPP criteria, gates can be installed.

If our alley was not chosen as one of the alleys during this first or second phase of expansion, and we are willing to pay for the permits, and construction costs, will we be provided the opportunity to have our alley gated? If so, when? Or what are our next steps?

Unfortunately, not at this time. Homeowners should send an email to gatedalley@phoenix.gov to express interest in being part of a future GAPP expansion. Your contact information will be kept by staff and provided to the council office when the next phase of GAPP moves forward.

If my alley was selected for gates, but I think it's a bad idea, do I still need to pay for the gate? Or is it up to the residents to pool the money together?

Share your concerns with your neighbors along the alley segment and do not sign the petition. If 50% + 1 of the homeowners along the alley segment sign the petition and meet the GAPP criteria, gates can be installed. It will be up to your neighbors along the alley segment to determine how to pay for the costs associated with installing the gates.

What constitutes “support of neighbors”

If 50% + 1 of the homeowners along both sides of the alley segment selected by the council office must sign the petition before the application can proceed through the process.

GATE DESIGN, INSTALLATION & COSTS

Do we have to hire our own gate contractors?

The city has simplified the process by having a list of pre-qualified licensed gate contractors who understand the city’s design and permit requirements. Once the city approves your neighborhood’s application (an alley segment), city staff will contact you and begin the gate construction process. If a neighborhood decides to use a different licensed contractor, they must meet the city’s design requirements. All gates must be constructed of wrought iron per the standard detail available at the GAPP website.

What are the city requirements for the design of the gates?

The city is requiring the gate design to be reviewed/approved by Planning and Development in advance and gates should allow complete visibility into the alley for safety precautions. Therefore, wrought iron gates are required to be transparent, allowing visibility into the alley. The maximum height for these gates is 6 feet tall.

How long will it take for city inspectors to inspect the gates once installed?

Planning and Development inspectors will inspect the gates within 1-2 business days from the time of the request of the contractor.

How do I find out if my alley is located in a low-moderate income census tract area?

Check the map - <https://www.phoenix.gov/nsdsite/Documents/lowmod-ct51.pdf> If you need help finding your property, call 602-534-4444 or email gatedalley@phoenix.gov.

How are the gates installed and how much will they cost us?

The designated homeowner that represents the alley segment will work with one of the three city approved licensed contractors, or the homeowners’ own licensed contractor. Contractors will follow the required specifications for installing wrought iron gates. The table below shows the costs provided by the city and the homeowners’ responsibility. For properties located in low-moderate income census tracts, grant funds may be available – see “Do grant funds cover all costs or partial costs?”

City Paid		Homeowner Paid*	
Revocable permit: (per neighborhood)	\$100	Wrought iron gate and installation (Licensed contractor must install gates)	\$5,000/gate
Permits for gate (only if solid waste is relocated from alley to curbside)	\$600/alley	Future gate maintenance and repair, including replacing damaged locks	TBD
Locks for all gates		Future alley maintenance	
		<i>*Grant funds may be available</i>	

Do grant funds cover all costs or partial costs?

The city strives to offer equitable access to installing alley gates by providing grant funds to cover the costs to install the gates. All of the fees and costs to install the alley gates will be covered for eligible homeowners who reside in low-moderate income census tracts and score well relative to other applicants; however, each alley segment is unique and grant funds will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Is there any other financial support available for future neighborhoods?

City of Phoenix Block Watch grants are open one time annually for applications and is a competitive process. For more information visit: <https://www.phoenix.gov/police/neighborhood-resources/block-watch-grants>

What is the length of time of the expanded pilot?

Once gates are installed, the city will monitor data at 6 and 12 months. After 12 months, staff will analyze the data and report to City Council on findings.

What happens after the expanded pilot?

At 12-month post-implementation, the GAPP will be evaluated, and program outcomes will be presented to City Council for review.

How can I provide the City input and feedback on the GAPP?

The city encourages residents to submit feedback on the GAPP. Please email your feedback to gatedalley@phoenix.gov

AFTER THE ALLEY IS GATED AND ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Who will be responsible for maintaining the alley once the gates are installed?

Alleys gated through this program will remain public right-of-way and the adjacent owners/lessees will continue to be responsible for alley maintenance per Phoenix City Code.

Who will be responsible for maintaining the gate(s), gate appearance and locks once the gates are installed?

Once installed, all future gate upkeep, maintenance and repair, including replacing damaged locks, will fall on abutting property owners to the specific alley segment. The city has not established, nor does it intend to, a schedule regarding gate upkeep and will allow property owners abutting segments with gates the discretion to make this determination based on need. The city only requires that the gate(s) are properly and sufficiently maintained in order to;

- a) NOT impede authorized pedestrian or vehicular traffic; or
- b) NOT present a health, fire or safety hazard.

Lock Replacement Information:

Fire Dept Lock Replacement: call the Knox Company customer service hotline at 1-800-552-5669 and request a "weatherproof Phoenix Fire Dept. padlock" item # 3781.

Combination Lock: Must purchase a combination lock similar to one originally on the gate and must program it with the assigned lock combination provided by the city.

Is there a liability change for the abutting property owners when an alley is gated?

Gating an alley does not significantly alter the liabilities and responsibilities of the property owners. The alley is still public right-of-way owned by the city. The abutting owners are still responsible for maintaining the alley pursuant to Phoenix City Code. That being said, each property's relationship to the alley is different. There may be some unique situations where the owner may incur additional liabilities as a result of gating the alley.

Do residents residing along alleys gated through GAPP still have access to the alley?

Yes. All residents will still have access to the alley and will receive the lock code for appropriate use from the lead resident. If more than 50% of abutting neighbors agree to the GAPP, every household abutting the alley will retain access to the alley and will be given a key or access code. Locks provided by the city must be used and the access code must not be changed, or property owners will need to pay to replace the lock. Property owners will still be required to maintain their portion of the alley to the centerline or midpoint, per Phoenix City Code. Alleys participating in the GAPP will still be utilized and accessed as needed by utilities and residents abutting program alleys. That is why alleys cannot be repurposed for other uses (i.e., gardening, etc.) under the GAPP pilot.

Who will receive access to the gate? What if I forget my access code?

Neighbors residing on properties abutting GAPP alleys will receive an access code to the alley lock in addition to Phoenix Police, Fire Department, Public Works, Water Services, Planning and Development Departments and specific utility companies requiring access. If a resident loses their key, they need to contact their neighborhood representative to purchase a replacement key or request the code if applicable.

Can I move private walls or fences abutting the gated alley?

Homeowners are not allowed to move private walls or fences into the alley area. Alleys will remain city-owned public rights-of-way when gated through GAPP. Alleyways must continue to remain passable for resident, utility, city and emergency access.

How do we remove the gates if no longer needed?

Please contact the Planning and Development Department at 602-262-6086 to discuss. It will be imperative that all impacted homeowners are contacted first to discuss and ensure there is a consensus on removing the gate(s) prior to applying for a demolition permit with Planning and Development. All fees associated with the removal of the gates will be the responsibility of the homeowners along the alley segment.

What if I witness crime or suspicious activity in the alley?

If crime is actively occurring in the alley, please call 9-1-1 immediately to report. For non-emergency situations needing police assistance, call CRIME STOP, the non-emergency police line at 602-262-6151. Please note, law enforcement in alleyways gated through GAPP remains the same as law enforcement in other public right-of-way alleys in the city.

What if I just want to relocate my alley solid waste services to curbside?

Public Works Department staff can assist with this request. Please call 602-262-6251.

Is there curbside solid waste service assistance for the elderly and disabled?

Yes, there is assistance provided to the elderly and disabled called Carryout Service. The service is available by calling customer service at 602-262-6251 at no additional charge to individuals living alone who are elderly, ill or disabled and are incapable of moving their solid waste or recycling container to the designated collection location. This does not include entering the dwelling unit. The resident may be required to produce a medical statement of present physical condition. No carryout service will be performed if, in the opinion of the Director, the terrain presents a safety hazard for equipment operators or collection vehicles. The Director has the right to limit the number of containers.

What is the difference between Alley Abandonment, Alley Closure and the GAPP?

The GAPP is not to be confused with the other types of alley closures: Alley Abandonment and Alley Closure. GAPP does not interfere with, supersede, or take the place of Alley Abandonment or Alley Closure. The formal Alley Abandonment/Closure processes may result in abandoning any public rights-of-way and/or easements controlled by the city of Phoenix and may result in costs to residents and change in property ownership. Whereas the GAPP provides property owners abutting pilot alleys the opportunity to apply to the city to gate the alleys and relocate all solid waste services, including bulk trash, from the alley to curbside. In the GAPP, alleys remain a right-of-way regulated by the city of Phoenix. More information about Alley Abandonment or Alley Closure can be found on the website below:

<https://www.phoenix.gov/pdd/development/sitecivil/site/abandonments>

Alleys participating in the GAPP will still be utilized and accessed as needed by utilities and residents abutting program alleys, until such a time as an alley is formally abandoned through the process outlined at the link above. That is why alleys cannot be repurposed for other uses (i.e., gardening, etc.) under the GAPP. If residents in the GAPP areas want to pursue Alley Abandonment or Alley Closure, they are not obligated to participate in GAPP. GAPP is an option in addition to Abandonment and Closure.

It is important to note that gates installed as part of this program are allowed via a revocable permit, which can be revoked by the city at any time and would require the gates to be removed at the expense of the property owners and the solid waste collection would remain curbside. Property owners are welcome to submit an application to the Planning and Development Department if they are interested in having the city abandon the alley right-of-way which could allow the purchase of the area by adjacent owners. Staff in the Planning and Development Department are available to discuss the alley abandonment and closure processes, call 602-256-3487.

I have further questions. Who do I contact?

If your question is not answered after reviewing the material on the website at <https://www.phoenix.gov/GATEDALLEY> and this Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document, then please call 602-534-0742 or email gatedalley@phoenix.gov.

