

RIBBON *of* GREEN POLICY ALIGNMENT BACKGROUNDER

**An Update to the Ribbon of Green
SW+NE Policy Alignment Backgrounder**

November 2021





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The Ribbon of Green Plan needs to respect the direction of multiple projects, policies, bylaws, processes and plans at the municipal, regional, provincial and federal levels. This backgrounder will function as a reference throughout the project to ensure that the Ribbon of Green aligns with and respects existing direction, decisions and processes at all levels of government. Specifically, it compiles and summarizes the key documents and projects of influence, including:

- > Federal Policies and Acts
- > Provincial Plans, Policies and Acts
- > Regional Plans and Policies
- > City of Edmonton Plans, Policies and Programs, including projects planned or underway within or adjacent to the study area

Note: *This document is an update to the Policy Alignment Backgrounder that was developed for the Ribbon of Green SW+NE at the outset of that project. The plans, policies and projects that remain relevant to the Ribbon of Green Completion study area have been kept, and where necessary updated. Those that are not directly relevant have been removed, and others have been added.*

**RELEVANT ACTS,
POLICIES, PLANS +
ONGOING PROJECTS**



FEDERAL POLICIES & ACTS

CANADA WATER ACT
1985

In matters relating to water resources, the Canada Water Act provides a framework for collaboration among the federal and provincial governments. The different levels of governments have varying roles related to the management of water resources.

Alberta, and the other provinces have the primary jurisdiction in most areas of water management and protection, including drinking water treatment and distribution, and waste-water treatment.

Water quality monitoring is conducted through Federal-Provincial water quality monitoring agreements, and information on water quality is shared to the public, government agencies, industry and the scientific community.

Edmonton's drinking water comes from the North Saskatchewan river, and is treated at two treatment plants along the river

As the North Saskatchewan river is captured within the Ribbon of Green area, the Plan's policies should support water quality improvement initiatives

FEDERAL POLICY ON WETLAND CONSERVATION
1991

The purpose of the Federal Policy on Wetland Conservation is to "promote the conservation of Canada's wetlands to sustain their ecological and socio-economic functions, now and in the future."

The policy includes seven recommended strategies for the use and management of wetlands: public awareness, managing wetlands on federal lands, promoting wetland conservation in federally protected areas, enhancing cooperation among stakeholders, conserving wetlands of significance to Canadians, ensuring sound scientific basis for policy, and promoting international actions.

The policy applies to provincial/federal partnerships for wetland conservation, and the conservation of wetlands on federal lands

FISHERIES ACT
1985

The Fisheries Act manages Canadian fisheries resources. Much of the Act is focused on regulating fishing; however, the Act also protects the aquatic habitat that fish need to reproduce, grow, and survive. This habitat protection includes pollution prevention provisions.

The North Saskatchewan River and other aquatic habitats within the Ribbon of Green area are subject to the Fisheries Act

It is an offence to harm, disrupt, or destroy fish habitat

The Minister may request the removal or modification of obstructions or things that are harmful to fish or impeded flow or fish passage Authorization is required for projects that may impact fish or fish habitat

ACT PLAN POLICY OR PROGRAM	DIRECTION	IMPLICATIONS
MIGRATORY BIRDS CONVENTION ACT 1994	The Migratory Birds Convention Act protects migratory bird species from undue harm do to human activity. Under the Act, it is unlawful to capture, kill, scare, hunt, or possess a migratory bird, nest, or egg, unless granted a specific permit to do so for commercial hunting, educational, or scientific purposes.	Any activity that could potentially harm or disrupt nesting migratory birds is prohibited, including the removal of nesting trees Human activity that may disrupt nesting areas is restricted during the bird nesting period
SPECIES AT RISK ACT (SARA) 2002	<p>The purpose of the Species at Risk Act is to prevent Canadian wildlife species, both flora and fauna, from becoming extinct; to support the recovery of wildlife species that are endangered, threatened or no longer exist in the wild due to human activity; and to manage species of special concern from becoming endangered.</p> <p>The Act includes measures that establish how governments, organizations, and individuals can ensure the protection and recovery of species at risk.</p> <p>Under the act, critical habitat for species at risk is protected whether on federal lands, provincial Crown land, or private land</p>	<p>SARA can impact uses, management practices, or development within parks and open spaces within the Ribbon of Green if species at risk are found at any time of the year within the Plan's study area</p> <p>Projects within the Ribbon of Green area that involve habitat projects or species at risk recovery initiatives may be eligible for Habitat Stewardship Program funds</p>

PROVINCIAL PLANS, POLICIES & ACTS

ALBERTA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT ACT (EPEA) 2014	The purpose of the Act is to support and promote the protection, enhancement and sustainable use of the environment.	The EPEA mandates that all stormwater management facilities must meet provincial standards for the timing, quantity, and quality of stormwater runoff release.
ALBERTA'S LAND USE FRAMEWORK (LUF) 2008	<p>The Land Use Framework is meant to respond to development and growth pressures on Alberta's land and resources by providing a blueprint for land-use management.</p> <p>The Framework: Established seven land use regions based on major watershed boundaries and subsequent regional plans to better integrate provincial policies at the regional level</p>	<p>Edmonton and the North Saskatchewan River Valley fall within the North Saskatchewan Region</p> <p>Municipalities are required to ensure that their plans are consistent with the regional plans</p> <p>The Ribbon of Green must be consistent with the North Saskatchewan Regional Plan (in development)</p>

ACT PLAN POLICY OR PROGRAM	DIRECTION	IMPLICATIONS
	<p>Sets out broad goals relating to land conservation and stewardship, managing the cumulative effects of development, promoting land use efficiency, including First Nations into land use planning, and developing information and monitoring systems</p> <p>The Alberta Land Stewardship Act is the legal mechanism through which the Framework is being implemented.</p>	
<p>ALBERTA PUBLIC LANDS ACT 2014</p>	<p>The Public Lands Act governs most public land in Alberta, not including privately owned land, land owned by municipal corporations, land held by the Federal Government, First Nations lands, or provincial parks.</p> <p>The Act requires authorization for projects and construction on land claimed by the Province, including activities or work that will impact water bodies.</p>	<p>Land within the river valley and ravines that are claimed by the Province are subject to the Act. The Act requires First Nations and Métis Consultation</p>
<p>ALBERTA WATER ACT 2014</p>	<p>The Alberta Water Act governs how the Province manages water. It works to promote the conservation, management, allocation, and use of water.</p> <p>The Act also provides a framework to restrict land development within floodplains.</p>	<p>The Act provides guidance for establishing water resource management plans for the North Saskatchewan River as an inter-provincial waterbody</p> <p>The Act requires First Nations and Métis Consultation</p>
<p>ALBERTA WEED CONTROL ACT 2008</p>	<p>The Alberta Weed Control Act regulates invasive plant species such as noxious and prohibited weeds and their seeds. The Act mandates that all persons shall control noxious weeds on land they own or occupy, and shall destroy prohibited noxious weeds on their land.</p> <p>Additionally, control measures such as inspection and enforcement of prohibitions, and the mandating of licenses for seed cleaning plants and mechanisms are included in the Act.</p>	<p>Policies within the Ribbon of Green Plan should address the control and removal of noxious and invasive weeds</p>

ACT PLAN POLICY OR PROGRAM	DIRECTION	IMPLICATIONS
ALBERTA WETLAND POLICY 2013	<p>The goal of the policy is to maintain wetland areas in Alberta such that the ecological, social, and economic benefits that wetlands provide are maintained. This helps to ensure healthy watersheds that provide safe and secure drinking water supplies and healthy aquatic ecosystems.</p>	<p>Management of wetlands within the Ribbon of Green area should align with the best practices and recommendations identified within this policy</p>
ALBERTA WILDLIFE ACT 2000	<p>The Alberta Wildlife Act governs both the protection and sustainable management of wildlife in Alberta, including the protection of threatened/ endangered species, the hunting of wildlife, and permissions to harm or disrupt wildlife through permitting and licenses.</p>	<p>It is unlawful to harm, collect, or kill an animal, including its den or nest, without a license from the province</p> <p>Some species at risk residing in the Ribbon of Green area may require special management considerations</p>

**MUNICIPAL
GOVERNMENT
ACT (MGA)**
2000

The Municipal Government Act is the provincial legislation that governs the 349 municipalities across the province, including Edmonton. The Act focuses on three areas: governance and administration; assessment and taxation, and planning and development. The MGA grants municipalities responsibility over land use planning within their boundaries and requires that each municipality complete a Municipal Development Plan. The MGA also:

- > Gives municipalities the power to designate lands as Municipal or Environmental Reserve
- > Requires developers and landowners to set aside 10% of their total developable land area as Municipal Reserve for the use of parks, recreational areas, or other municipal purposes

A new, modernized Municipal Government Act (MGA) is now in place for Edmonton and other municipalities across the province. New additions under Section 7(h.1) of the MGA state that municipalities are responsible for "the wellbeing of the environment, including bylaws providing for the creation, implementation and management of programs respecting any or all of the following:

- (i) contaminated, vacant, derelict or under utilized sites;
- (ii) climate change adaptation and greenhouse gas emission reduction;
- (iii) environmental conservation and stewardship;
- (iv) the protection of biodiversity and habitat;
- (v) the conservation and efficient use of energy;
- (vi) Waste reduction."

The current MGA also allows for the establishment of city charters. Charters govern "all matters related to the administration and governance of the charter city, including, without limitation, the powers, duties and functions of the charter city."

See also [Subsidiarity in Action: Effective Biodiversity Conservation and Municipal Innovation](#), which summarizes MGA updates with regard to biodiversity conservation.

The MGA sets out rules:

- > For the acquisition of land for public use, including for parks and recreation facilities
- > For the use of reserve land as a public park or public recreation area
- > To enable a recreational services tax

To enable funds from a redevelopment levy to be used for parkland or land for a new or expanded recreation facility

City charter regulations have been passed for the cities of Edmonton and Calgary, granting City Council the authority to pass bylaws for environmental conservation and stewardship and the protection of biodiversity and habitat. Charter cities are also required to complete a climate change adaptation plan, which Edmonton has done (see [Climate Resilient Edmonton](#), approved in 2018).

Section 635.1 includes powers to adopt additional statutory plans, an option that could be considered through the project as the tool types for the final Ribbon of Green and the renewed River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan are determined.

ACT PLAN POLICY OR PROGRAM	DIRECTION	IMPLICATIONS
SOIL CONSERVATION ACT 2000	<p>The intent of the Act is to provide a framework for encouraging soil conservation practices, to preserve Alberta's agricultural land base, and to ensure the long-term productivity of the farming sector. The Act provides municipalities with the authority to take action and impose penalties on landowners/occupants if soil is deteriorating through wind and water erosion, and other by other means. Municipalities also have the power to develop permits that prescribe the terms and conditions required for stubble burning and topsoil removal.</p>	<p>There is a significant amount of agricultural land in the Ribbon of Green's Northeast Study Area</p>
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES FOR THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA 1999	<p>The purpose of the Stormwater Management Guidelines for the Province of Alberta is to provide a framework for stormwater management, from the planning level to detailed design standards.</p>	<p>Stormwater management policies within the Ribbon of Green Plan can look to the province's guidelines for direction</p>
ALBERTA HISTORIC RESOURCES ACT 2000	<p>The Alberta Historic Resources Act provides direction for the protection and study of historic resources, including obtaining formal approval for development prior to the start of activities, the completion of Historic Resources Impact Assessments (HRIA) as needed, and steps to be taken if an historic find is encountered during the course of development activities.</p>	<p>All development footprints (for any scale of development from trails to amenity nodes) need to be submitted to Alberta Culture and Tourism along with an application for Alberta Historical Resources Act (HRA) clearance prior to construction anywhere in the System, and proponents must comply with any regulatory requirements that result from the HRA clearance application. The discovery of historic resources must be reported to Alberta Culture and Tourism to determine strategies for on-site assessment.</p>
GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA'S POLICY ON CONSULTATION WITH FIRST NATIONS ON LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	<p>Under this policy, the Government of Alberta seeks to reconcile First Nations' constitutionally-protected rights with other societal interests with a view to substantially address adverse impacts on Treaty rights and traditional uses through a meaningful consultation process. Alberta's management and development of provincial Crown lands and natural resources is subject to its legal and constitutional duty to consult First Nations and, where appropriate, accommodate their interests when Crown decisions may adversely impact their continued exercise of constitutionally protected Treaty rights.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Projects within the River Valley may impact Treaty rights and require First Nation Consultation. Duty to consult will be triggered by other legislations including the Water Act and Public Lands Act. > Breathe: Edmonton's Green Network Strategy provides additional guidance for Indigenous engagement

ACT PLAN POLICY OR PROGRAM	DIRECTION	IMPLICATIONS
INTEGRATED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE NORTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER IN ALBERTA	The IWMP lays out recommendations and direction for management of the North Saskatchewan River (NSR) Watershed, for sustaining water resources over the long term, and for meeting the three strategic goals of <u>Water for Life: Alberta's Strategy for Sustainability</u> (2003).	
STEPPING BACK FROM THE WATER: A BENEFICIAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES GUIDE FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT NEAR WATER BODIES IN ALBERTA'S SETTLED REGION	This document provides decision-makers with guidance for determining setback widths and designing effective buffers adjacent to water bodies, to ensure the protection of aquatic and riparian ecosystems from adjacent development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Policies within the Ribbon of Green regarding the establishment of wetland and riparian buffers should align with the guidance provided
RECOMMENDED WILDLIFE LAND USE GUIDELINES	<p>A set of guideline documents has been developed for specific wildlife species, species groups and ecological regions of the province to assist land managers, land owners and land users in avoiding or minimizing potential adverse impacts to wildlife from various land use activities. Guidelines of note include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > <u>Key Wildlife and Biodiversity Zones</u> > <u>Select Wildlife Species and Habitat Within Grassland & Parkland Natural Regions of Alberta</u> > <u>Trumpeter Swan Waterbodies and Watercourses</u> > <u>Wildlife Directives for Alberta Renewable Energy Projects</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + <u>Wildlife Directive for Alberta Solar Energy Projects</u> + <u>Wildlife Directive for Alberta Wind Energy Projects</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Policies within the Ribbon of Green should align with the guidelines above.

REGIONAL POLICIES

**EDMONTON
METROPOLITAN REGION
GROWTH PLAN
2016**

The Growth Plan guides the work of the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board, whose mandate is to ensure the long-term economic prosperity and quality of life for all citizens in the Edmonton Metropolitan Region. The Plan guides the efficient use of infrastructure and the building of compact communities to support intermunicipal transit, healthy lifestyles, and economic opportunities. Of note, the river valley in Edmonton is classified as a Key Wildlife and Biodiversity Zone, representing a regional commitment to the Province's system of Key Wildlife and Biodiversity Zones.

Amongst other areas, the Plan sets policy direction for natural living systems, including the following objectives:

- > Conserve and restore natural living systems through an ecological network approach
- > Protect regional watershed health, water quality and quantity
- > Plan development to promote clean air, land and water and address climate change impacts
- > Minimize and mitigate the impacts of regional growth on natural living systems

The Plan speaks to protecting regional environmental assets, defined as “components of nature including air, land, water, organic and inorganic matter and living organisms, and all interacting natural systems.” This aligns with the new City Plan, which directs that Edmonton maintain and invest in regionally-significant ecological connectivity and natural assets, including establishing full-cost accounting for natural assets as part of capital planning and budgeting.

The Plan also speaks to the importance of planning for climate resilience and adaptability, acknowledging that urban expansion has impacts on natural living systems that can be mitigated through collaborative regional environmental planning. Edmonton has begun to address these challenges through *Climate Resilient Edmonton*, our Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan.

- > The Plan gives direction to the City of Edmonton's Municipal Development Plan, which in turn provides direction for land use within the city, including parks and open spaces.
- > The Plan provides high level policy direction for the Ribbon of Green.
- > The Plan also identifies an Integrated Regional Open Space Master Plan as well as a Regional Agriculture Master Plan, including urban agriculture, as future implementation items.

ACT PLAN POLICY OR PROGRAM	DIRECTION	IMPLICATIONS
<p>NORTH SASKATCHEWAN REGIONAL PLAN (NSRP) In Development</p>	<p>The NSRP is currently being developed through a phased approach. The consultation period is now over, with contributions from the Regional Advisory Council, First Nations, Métis groups, stakeholders, municipalities and the public to inform the development of The Regional Plan.</p> <p>When complete, the Plan will guide natural resource development, support economic growth, and protect the environment within the North Saskatchewan Region. It will provide policy direction and clarity for decision makers at the federal, provincial, and local levels.</p> <p>The NSRP is one of seven Land Use Regional Plans under the Alberta Land Use Framework.</p>	<p>Future amendments or changes to the Ribbon of Green will need to align with the NSRP when it is completed</p>
<p>NORTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER INTEGRATED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN 2012</p>	<p>The plan outlines recommendations and strategic approaches to land management in the North Saskatchewan River for the purpose of sustaining water resources in the watershed for the long term, and to meet the goals of Alberta's Water for Life Strategy.</p> <p>The Plan also directs that municipalities participate in watershed planning activities, follow recommendations to guide the preparation and implementation of statutory plans and best management practices, and work with the Alliance and other watershed stakeholders to communicate and implement best management practices.</p>	<p>The Ribbon of Green Plan will align with the management plan through policy directions that maintain or improve water quality, aquatic ecosystem health, and ground water health</p>

**RIVER VALLEY
ALLIANCE PHASE 2
CAPITAL PLAN
(2018 – 22)**

In February 2016, the River Valley Alliance (RVA) submitted to its members a Draft Capital Program 2017–2022, which contains an overview of proposed projects across all municipalities. Proposed projects include completing a trail through the region and completing the main river valley trail. The proposed projects align with the River Valley Alliance priority of improving access and connectivity. The southwestern most portion of the proposed trail would complete Edmonton's portion of the Trans Canada Trail connection. The projects as listed by the River Valley Alliance have been identified in either the Ribbon of Green Concept Plan (1990) or the River Valley Alliance Plan of Action, both of which have been approved by City Council and have been reviewed publicly. The status of the projects is a strategic planning level and requires further review to confirm the proposals before proceeding with concept design.

- > The only project identified as part of the RVA's **Phase 2 Capital Plan** that falls within the Ribbon of Green study area is the Touch the Water project, currently in concept design.
- > Other projects that fall within Edmonton's River Valley as a whole include:
 - + Two Edmonton **Primary Trails**: a 5.6 km primary trail starting at Ellerslie Road, then continuing to the Anthony Henday Drive on the south side of the river; and a 2.6 km primary trail from the Anthony Henday Drive bridge on the north side of the river to the E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant.
 - + A **pedestrian footbridge** that will link Terwillegar Park with the E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant, and connect neighbourhoods in west Edmonton to the river valley trails.
 - + **Secondary trails and a pedestrian bridge** to connect Edmonton and Strathcona County
 - + Several new **boat launches and docks**

CITY OF EDMONTON PLANS, POLICIES, & PROGRAMS

CONNECTEDMONTON

ConnectEdmonton is the City's Strategic Plan. It includes four strategic goals, each of which is relevant to this project, as well as indicators to monitor the collective impact of our efforts to achieve the strategic goals.

Healthy City: Edmonton is a neighbourly city with community and personal wellness that embodies and promotes equity for all Edmontonians.

A healthy, inclusive and accessible River Valley is essential to the physical and mental health and wellbeing of Edmontonians. Ecologically, it supports clean air, water, land and regional biodiversity. It also provides opportunities for exercise and play, active transportation, learning, healing and connection with nature. It also supports community wellbeing through opportunities for gathering and celebration.

Urban Places: Edmonton neighbourhoods are more vibrant as density increases, where people and businesses thrive and where housing and mobility options are plentiful.

As Edmonton's population continues to grow, vibrant, well-designed River Valley open spaces that are easily accessible from neighbourhoods (especially those that are higher in density) will become an increasingly valuable amenity. Additionally, investment in restoration of natural systems supports social and environmental health and connectivity.

Regional Prosperity: Edmonton grows prosperity for our Metro Region by driving innovation, competitiveness and relevance for our businesses at the local and global level.

Edmonton's ability to attract and retain residents and employees depends in large part on the quality of life people can enjoy in our city. The River Valley is one of our most important assets in this regard: a place of great cultural and historical significance; a place of biodiversity and connectivity; a place that supports regional resilience and sustainability. It contains 80% of the City's natural assets, providing ecosystem services that we as residents do not need to pay for.

Climate Resilience: Edmonton is a city transitioning to a low-carbon future, has clean air and water and is adapting to a changing climate.

The River Valley system provides many ecological services that, if protected and expanded upon, will help us to remain resilient to the effects of climate change (e.g. flood mitigation, carbon sequestration). The Ribbon of Green will identify opportunities for both protection and restoration of River Valley open spaces.

THE CITY PLAN

In December 2020 The City Plan was approved by City Council. The City Plan is Edmonton's combined Municipal Development Plan and Transportation Master Plan and replaces "The Ways" documents such as The Way We Grow, The Way We Move and The Way We Green. It sets strategic direction for the way Edmonton grows – its land use, mobility systems, open spaces, employment and social networks – with an eye toward welcoming an additional 1 million people to Edmonton. It is rooted in an understanding of our present context, and a comprehensive analysis of our anticipated future state. This up-to-date analysis, together with recent public and Indigenous engagement, will enable us to make more informed decisions as we advance the Ribbon of Green completion. We can also take direction from the policy intentions and directions, guiding values and city-building outcomes.

The Plan applies a systems approach to the city's physical networks. Systems like land use, transportation, environmental, economic and social factors are interdependent and need to be considered and integrated to enable a thriving city. The City Plan describes three systems supported by ten networks and envisions the "Green and Blue Network" – Edmonton's network of open spaces, of which the River Valley forms the backbone – as follows:

"Edmonton's Green and Blue Network contains human and ecological elements. Edmontonians understand the value of our environment and habitat, so it is protected and where possible restored and repaired. People need access to nature for recreation and health. The Green and Blue Network is used by people for cycling, walking, running, rolling, canoeing and relaxation. It is vital to support local biodiversity and ecological connectivity. In addition to protecting our natural systems, the City celebrates its diverse cultures and identities through festivals and events that take place within this network."

The City Plan provides important direction for both the Ribbon of Green and River Valley ARP Modernization projects. The following overview demonstrates how the Ribbon of Green can give form to The City Plan in the context of our River Valley and ravines system.

ESSENTIAL CITY

- > Preserve our heritage
- > Rooted in stewardship

FUTURE CITY

Evolve according to new demands and opportunities

We are stewarding a natural asset, a network, that has been protected and created by many generations before us. Our gift to future generations is continued care of the habitats, the wildlife, the natural processes, the sacred places, the stories contained in the River Valley.

What we plan for in the River Valley will be influenced by future growth and changes, and help to bring it about. We will need to respond to growing and changing demand for access to, and use of, the River Valley and to emerging opportunities. We can also proactively shape the future of this citywide system, and bring about transformational changes – through ecological restoration projects and the creation of vibrant, unique open spaces and amenities.

SYSTEMS AND NETWORKS

River Valley intersections with other City Plan systems and networks:

Planning and Design
District Network

- > Collections of neighbourhoods that contain most of the services and amenities Edmontonians need to meet their daily needs

We need to consider those whose “backyard” is the River Valley (e.g. those living in high density in City Centre), and how their needs might differ from citywide users or visitors. High-quality River Valley open spaces that are easily accessible to those in nearby neighbourhoods will support local living. We also need to ensure that the River Valley supports ecological connectivity to district ecological networks.

Nodes and Corridors

- > Areas of “deliberate urban intensification”

Nearby nodes and corridors are potential generators of demand for River Valley open spaces – on the part of residents, employees, and visitors to the city. We need to consider connecting the River Valley to these places by providing good access at the top of bank and facilitating mobility via active modes.

Green and Blue Network

- > River Valley, habitat and urban greenways, major recreation parks and major ecological connections

As the region's most important biodiversity core area, the River Valley forms the spine of the Green and Blue Network, and includes both major recreation parks and major ecological connections. The Ribbon of Green must protect and support ecological function within the River Valley and ravines, as well as strong open space and ecological connections into neighbourhoods – for human movement and recreation, and in support of the ecological network.

Mobility

Active Transportation Network

- > Integrated transportation networks that provide residents with convenient options
- > Facilitating opportunity, connection, and health while being safe, inclusive and barrier free for all users

The River Valley is a critical link in our mobility system. With a doubling of our population, daily trips made by Edmontonians will grow to more than 7 million. As we look to accommodate more movement by means other than the personal vehicle, certain parts of the River Valley and some ravines will be an increasingly important conduit through our city. We will need to be prepared for emerging mobility technologies, including electric micromobility options (e-bikes, e-scooters), while at the same time considering and reducing potential conflict between active transportation users and other open space functions.

There is also an opportunity to plan for access improvements that would strengthen connections to mass transit routes and mobility hubs, supporting the combination of modes in a trip. Notably, the City Plan identifies four transit river crossings including a proposed new crossing connecting the University of Alberta with the west end and a new crossing directly connecting Downtown with Whyte Avenue. We will also need to consider parking needs, and how these might increase with growth in demand for River Valley access – or decrease with a shift to other modes of travel. Again, potential impacts on ecological function must be considered, avoided where possible (e.g. through top of bank parking solutions where feasible), and otherwise mitigated.

BIG CITY MOVES AND TARGETS

Point the way as we deliberately change our city to welcome one million more. Achieving tangible change means setting ambitious targets

Greener As We Grow

- > Achieve community-wide carbon budget of 135 megatonnes
- > Two million new urban trees planted
- > Zero net per person GHG emissions

The project will support the goal of being “Greener as we Grow” by providing ecological and open space programming guidance that will allow for the protection, restoration, and connection of natural habitat within the River Valley. Guidance in the Ribbon of Green, together with the regulatory and decision-making tools provided through the modernized ARP, will help ensure the functionality of Edmonton's ecological network as we plan for additional users in the River Valley as the population grows. The project will help ensure that sensitive habitat is protected, degraded habitat is restored, and wildlife connectivity is maintained throughout the system and beyond. The project will contribute to maintenance and expansion of our urban tree canopy and to carbon sequestration, helping us meet our goals of 2 million new urban trees planted and staying within a community-wide carbon budget of 135 megatonnes. In addition, the project will directly protect the Green and Blue Network by supporting biodiversity and clean air, water, and land.

Rebuildable City

- > 50% new units added through infill citywide
- > 600,000 new residents welcomed into the redeveloping area

The River Valley Planning Modernization will guide decision-making for routine projects in the River Valley, such as the creation of new trails, as well as disruptive and unpredictable development proposals. Recent examples of such proposals include the E.L. Smith Solar Farm, the Nordic Spa, and the gondola. By setting a clear vision, standards, and land uses for the River Valley, the Ribbon of Green will help us decide which types of development are appropriate in the various reaches and nodes within the river valley to accommodate future growth and adapt to change – including renewing and upgrading existing infrastructure and reimagining existing rights of way. New residents will also increase demand for access, amenities and parking.

Community of Communities

- > 50% of trips made by transit and through active transportation
- > 15-minute districts allow people to easily complete their daily needs

The project will help us build a “Community of Communities” by planning for active transportation connections through and within appropriate parts of the River Valley. By planning for infrastructure and connectivity that supports cycling, walking, and other modes such as scootering, the plan will help us meet our target of 50% of trips made by transit and active transportation. The project will also ensure an adequate supply of open space that will provide all residents with access to Celebration and Wellness opportunities within their 15-minute districts – particularly in high density central areas, where tableland park spaces are in limited supply. Finally, by guiding supply of highly functional open spaces, the project will contribute to a high quality urban realm, place-making, and community-building.

Catalyze and Converge

- > Hold 70% of total regional employment in Edmonton

The River Valley is Edmonton’s greatest natural asset, and a significant contributor to the quality of life of Edmontonians. Long established as a gathering place for Indigenous Nations, Edmontonians continue to value the protection and celebration of the natural and cultural heritage of this area. Appropriate planning and management of the River Valley will contribute to making Edmonton a world-class city that attracts and retains a highly-skilled and talented workforce, draws visitors and fosters a thriving local economy. Long-range planning, streamlined decision-making processes, and practical implementation tools will increase predictability and our ability to deliver effective partnerships with City-building partners. River Valley spaces will contribute to a high quality of life, well connected and integrated mobility system, vibrant urban places and economic opportunities.

Inclusive and Compassionate

- > Less than 35% of average household expenditures are spent on housing and transportation

The project will be grounded in comprehensive engagement with Indigenous communities, stakeholders, and the general public, and will help us plan an Inclusive and Compassionate city that improves equity and makes clear progress towards Truth and Reconciliation. It will promote healthy living and create enjoyable, healing spaces for people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to express themselves.

**CITY PLANNING
FRAMEWORK**

The City Planning Framework, a key implementation item of The City Plan, defines the suite of planning tools used by the City, industry, and communities to plan and direct development and city-building activities. The City Planning Framework defines the purpose and intended use of these tools, including strategies and geographic plans, and how the tools should interact.

The deliverables for the Ribbon of Green Completion and River Valley ARP Modernization streams of work must conform to the nomenclature of the City Planning Framework. The final structure of these documents, and their place in the planning tool hierarchy, will be identified and refined as part of the River Valley Planning Modernization project.

**BREATHE: EDMONTON'S
GREEN NETWORK
STRATEGY**

BREATHE: Edmonton's Green Network Strategy is Edmonton's citywide plan for open space. It provides a vision and strategic guidance to ensure that each neighbourhood is supported by an accessible, connected network of parks and open spaces as the city grows. The plan also developed a functional analysis methodology based on three key themes: Ecology, Celebration and Wellness, and associated open space functions.

The Ribbon of Green takes its direction from Breathe, applying the open space functional themes of Ecology, Celebration and Wellness and planning for the appropriate quantity, quality, distribution and connectivity of open space in Edmonton, including our River Valley. The Ribbon of Green will align with, and refer to this work, in the deliverables and when consulting the public.

Breathe describes Edmonton's green network as an integrated system of open spaces, municipal parks and connections that provide value to residents and the environment. It includes all the outdoor land and water that is publicly owned or publicly accessible, such as parks, plazas, pedestrian-priority streets, natural areas, greenways and green infrastructure. The River Valley and Ravine System form the core of the green network.

ACT PLAN POLICY OR PROGRAM	DIRECTION	IMPLICATIONS
<p>RIBBON OF GREEN: NORTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER AND RAVINE CONCEPT PLAN 1990</p> <p>MASTER PLAN 1992</p>	<p>Together, these plans established the long-term strategy for balancing natural environment preservation, conservation of historic resources, and the development of recreation amenities within the river valley and ravines. They provide the City with direction and standards for trails, recreational amenities, recreational facility concepts, and resource management.</p> <p>The river valley and ravines were categorized into three land management units: extensive use areas, conservation areas, and preservation areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The Ribbon of Green SW+NE provided an update to the guiding principles, land management classifications and policy included in the Concept and Master Plans, as well as spatial planning guidance for the previously unplanned (Priority 3) areas, in the southwest and northeast reaches of the River Valley. > The Ribbon of Green Completion will confirm the Ribbon of Green SW+NE direction and update the spatial planning guidance presented in the ROG Master Plan for Priority 1 and 2 areas, as well as for the area previously addressed by the Capital City Recreation Plan.
<p>RIBBON OF GREEN SW+NE</p>	<p>The Ribbon of Green SW+NE represents the culmination of the first phase of Ribbon of Green renewal, completed in 2020. It includes a vision, guiding principles, system-wide policy framework, updated Land Management Classification system and associated policies, and spatial ecological and program guidance for the southwest and northeast reaches of the River Valley. This content will ultimately be integrated with the deliverables of this project to form a comprehensive strategic plan for the River Valley. A detailed overview of Ribbon of Green SW+NE deliverables and methodology is available in the <u>ROG SW+NE Technical Report Summary</u>.</p>	
<p>ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION (POLICY C544) 2009</p>	<p>This policy states that the City supports all forms of active transportation by providing infrastructure, facilities, programs, and initiatives to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance the accessibility, safety, security, and convenience of active transportation Raise awareness of active transportation options Educate users of Edmonton's transportation systems about their rights and responsibilities Enact bylaws, policies, procedures, plans, etc. to support and encourage active transportation Share responsibility for the provision of infrastructure, facilities, and programs to support and encourage active transportation through collaboration and partnerships 	<p>Active transportation routes are found throughout the Ribbon of Green area. The Ribbon of Green will support the Active Transportation Policy, and the expanded active transportation network.</p>

ACT PLAN POLICY OR PROGRAM	DIRECTION	IMPLICATIONS
EDMONTON BIKE PLAN 2020	<p>The draft Edmonton Bike Plan will be presented to Council in the fall of 2020. The plan will guide how biking fits into our city in the future and will support the City's vision of a connected, accessible city. The Bike Plan will lay the foundation for a network that is accessible and predictable for experienced and inexperienced riders alike. It supports active transportation and safe and direct routes for people commuting to work, running errands, accessing the river valley for recreational trips and improved neighbourhood networks to connect people to local destinations.</p> <p>The Bike Plan is an update to the 2009 Bicycle Transportation Plan and provides strategic direction for how the City plans, designs, implements, operates and maintains bike infrastructure and programs.</p>	<p>The Ribbon of Green will take direction from the Bike Plan regarding active transportation and recreational cycling connections to and from the River Valley, to ensure that River Valley trail connections are aligned with the citywide bike network.</p>
BREATHE: EDMONTON'S GREEN NETWORK STRATEGY	<p>Breathe is a strategy to ensure that as Edmonton grows, each of its neighbourhoods is supported by a network of open space. The Strategy plans for and encourages the connection and integration of open spaces as the site, neighbourhood, city and regional levels.</p>	<p>Breathe establishes the vision and policy direction for Edmonton's open space network, which includes the River Valley and Ravine System. The Ribbon of Green will align with Breathe policies, recommendations and implementation guidance. The Ribbon of Green will also utilize findings from the Breathe spatial analysis.</p>
CHILD FRIENDLY EDMONTON STRATEGY 2006	<p>This high-level strategy document provides general guidelines on improving advocacy and awareness, accessibility, and appropriate services for children.</p>	<p>Public spaces within the Ribbon of Green area should be designed with children in mind, including best practices such as natural playgrounds, outdoor classrooms, and unstructured play elements</p>

**CITY OF EDMONTON
NORTH SASKATCHEWAN
RIVER VALLEY AREA
REDEVELOPMENT PLAN
(BYLAW NO. 7188)**

1985

The goal of this plan is to preserve the natural character and environment of the North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System. It envisions the major portion of the River Valley and Ravine System as an environmental protection area for urban and natural parks, with some residential, recreational, institutional and commercial development in central areas.

The ARP addresses development and open space protection in the North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System, as well as outlines policies for intended uses, parkland development, environmental protection, transportation, and future uses.

- > As part of this project, the River Valley ARP will be modernized to resolve existing implementation challenges, ensure alignment with the City's current and emerging planning and development context, and provide for updated environmental land use planning and management practices
- > The Ribbon of Green provides the strategic direction and ecological/programming guidance for River Valley open space, and the NSRV ARP provides the regulatory guidance: the standards, tools, and business processes to enable decision-making. Through this project, the two need to be clearly conceived to function together as distinct but mutually supportive tools, in alignment with the City Planning Framework.

**ZONING BYLAW
RENEWAL (AND
EDMONTON ZONING
BYLAW 12800)**

The City's Zoning Bylaw sets out the rules for the location and size of buildings constructed for all property in Edmonton. It also provides rules for the types of activities that are allowed to take place on those properties.

The City is conducting a **complete review** of Edmonton's Zoning Bylaw (12800), including analyzing current land use zones used in Edmonton. This project also provides an opportunity to ask how our built form can help us live out the values of ConnectEdmonton and the City Plan in an equitable way. The work involves rethinking how, what and why the City regulates in terms of zoning and land development.

The timing of this work presents an important opportunity to align our city-building tools to ensure clear, consistent, and integrated guidance – from strategy to land use regulation – for the River Valley.

**DOWNTOWN PUBLIC
PLACES PLAN**

The **Downtown Public Places Plan** (2020) provides a 20-year vision and direction for the entire Downtown public places network, including strategies for improving the provision, connectivity, and functionality of public places in Downtown Edmonton and The Quarters.

The plan identifies key recreation, ecological, active transportation and visual connections from downtown to the River Valley, as well as open space direction on lands below the top of the bank within the Downtown – all of which will help to guide Ribbon of Green policy, and Ecological and Program Guidance.

**CITY OF EDMONTON
WETLAND STRATEGY**
2012

The Wetland Strategy coordinates the City's wetland conservation approach into one document. The strategy describes the commitments that guide the City's wetland conservation practices, as well as a description of the tools used by the City to conserve wetlands.

The three main goals of the Strategy are to:
Secure Edmonton's wetlands as part of the city's ecological network
Manage Edmonton's wetlands to maximize their ecological function
Engage Edmontonians to support wetland conservation

The strategy will directly influence policies on how the wetlands within the Ribbon of Green area are conserved and protected
Where applicable, Ribbon of Green Conceptual Plans should incorporate the goals and objectives of this strategy
The strategy can be used to identify and prioritize areas for conservation and rehabilitation
Habitat destruction and fragmentation should be addressed in the Ribbon of Green Plan

**CITY OPERATIONS
GREENHOUSE GAS
MANAGEMENT PLAN**
2012

The purpose of this plan is to propose a comprehensive strategy for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from City operations, and contributes to Edmonton's long-term goal of carbon-neutrality. The Plan outlines actions to meet the City's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from City operations by 50% by 2020 from 2008 levels, and an 80% reduction by 2050.

The urban forest canopy should be doubled by 2090
The City's municipal fleet (7%) and composting operations (6%) contribute significantly to City's Operation emissions of 330,000 tonnes of GHGs in 2008
Operational policies such as reducing the use of GHG emitting lawn mowers can contribute to the city's overall goal

**CLIMATE RESILIENT
EDMONTON:
ADAPTATION STRATEGY
AND ACTION PLAN**

Climate Resilient Edmonton (2018) focuses on understanding the climate impacts we are already experiencing and how they may shift in the future due to ongoing climate change, and how we can build resilience for those impacts.

The River Valley provides many ecological services that, if protected, will help us to remain resilient to the effects of climate change – e.g. flood mitigation and carbon sequestration. The Ribbon of Green will identify opportunities for both protection and restoration of River Valley open spaces.

**DOGS IN OPEN SPACES
STRATEGY**
2016

The Dogs in Open Spaces Strategy is a review and update of Edmonton's previous policies and practices for off-leash dog areas. Recommendations within the strategy provide direction for the planning, design, and management for off-leash areas in the city.

Unlike other off-leash-dog areas in some other Edmonton districts, the strategy does not set a target for the distribution of these areas within the river valley and ravines.

Regarding off-leash dog areas in the river valley and ravines, the strategy proposes:
Selective wildlife friendly fencing and special measures to protect wildlife and natural ecosystems
Fencing is to be decided on a case by case basis
Off-leash area boundaries should be clearly defined and marked
Parking should be adjacent to the area
The size of the area is to be determined based on river valley planning objectives

ACT PLAN POLICY OR PROGRAM	DIRECTION	IMPLICATIONS
EAST END TRAILS In Development	Approximately 16 km of paved and gravel trails are being developed to connect the river valley main trail with new communities in east Edmonton. This includes a new pedestrian river crossing at the Anthony Henday Bridge.	Construction on the East End Trail on the north side of the river will begin in fall 2016, while construction of trails along the south bank will come later
ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITIES MAPPING	The goals of the Environmental Sensitivity Mapping project were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > To protect, understand and restore Edmonton's ecological network > To identify areas with significant ecological value (assets), threats to those valued assets, physical constraints and cultural resources > To summarize these factors as 'environmental sensitivity' > To identify potential restoration sites 	The analysis and spatial data sets produced through this project will help to inform the Ribbon of Green ecological network desktop analysis, as well as the Land Management Classification process.
FRESH: EDMONTON'S FOOD AND URBAN AGRICULTURE STRATEGY 2012	FRESH puts forth approaches and recommendations to increase urban food production in the city, as well as to improve the sustainability of the urban ecosystem and quality of life. The Strategy identifies five goals related to urban food production in the city: A stronger, more vibrant local economy. A healthier, more food secure community. Healthier ecosystems. Less energy use, emissions, and waste. More vibrant, attractive and unique places.	Fresh puts forth the following recommendations applicable to the Ribbon of Green: Urban agriculture can be incorporated into public spaces, such as parks Parks and open spaces can be utilized for food festivals, farmer's markets, community gardens, and urban farms Edible landscaping should be incorporated into parks and the public right of way
GREEN BUILDING PLAN 2012	The Plan is designed to work with Edmonton residents to incorporate sustainable design and building practices into Edmonton's existing and new buildings. The goal of the Plan is to improve the environmental, health, and socio-economic performance of all types of buildings in the city.	The Ribbon of Green Plan should align with this plan, by ensuring through policy, that buildings within the Ribbon of Green area are sustainable

**LIVE ACTIVE STRATEGY
(2016–2026)**

In Development

Live Active (2016) is a collaborative strategy to encourage Edmontonians of all ages, abilities and interests to enjoy the benefits of physical activity.

The intention behind Live Active is to:

- Advance the City's strategic goal to improve Edmonton's livability
- Improve quality of life, wellbeing and livability through social, economic and environmental benefits
- Shift attitudes and behaviour about active living, active recreation and sport in Edmonton
- To get Edmontonians active so they can live happy healthy lives
- Create strong alignment with international, national and provincial governmental policies and directives
- Unite the strengths, capacities and interests of the active living, active recreation and sport communities
- Facilitate strong linkages between government, health, education, social services, nonprofit and business sectors

The Ribbon of Green Plan can support this strategy by advocating for greater and improved active recreation, active transportation, and active living opportunities within the river valley and ravines

**MEMORANDUM
OF COOPERATION
AND DIALOGUE
MADE BETWEEN
CONFEDERACY OF
TREATY NO. 6 FIRST
NATIONS & CITY
OF EDMONTON**

2012

The memorandum affirms that the Confederacy of Treaty No. 6 First Nations peoples in Edmonton:

- Will be honoured and acknowledged through existing documents
- Will be acknowledged for their contributions to the unique and diverse cultures, languages, and histories of Edmonton

The memorandum commits that both Edmonton and the Confederacy of Treaty No. 6 First Nations peoples are:

- Committed to respectful engagements
- Inclusive access by all peoples of all generations for participation in celebrations and portrayal of histories and cultures
- Committed to ongoing dialogue and cooperative effort around shared issues and interests

The Ribbon of Green Project will include First Nations engagement that follows the project's engagement values and principles

There will be opportunities throughout the project for Indigenous communities to provide meaningful, appropriate and actionable input that will be used to create the Ribbon of Green Plan

**MEMORANDUM OF
SHARED RECOGNITION
AND COOPERATION
MADE BETWEEN MÉTIS
NATION OF ALBERTA
AND CITY OF
EDMONTON**

2013

The memorandum affirms that:
The Métis people have been a part of the development, and history of Edmonton
The Métis Nation of Alberta is acknowledged as having a unique role through its mandate, its representation, and responsibility for the Métis people residing in Edmonton
The successes and well-being of the Métis people in Edmonton, is linked to that of all other Edmonton citizens
The Métis Nation of Alberta and the City are tied together with a shared vision of building a great city together

The memorandum commits both parties to the following:
Creating opportunities for ongoing engagements
Ensuring the historical recognition of each party's histories, cultures, and contributions through acknowledgments, communications and other forms of recognition
Ongoing conversation regarding issues and concerns of shared interest

The Ribbon of Green Project will include Métis engagement that follows the project's engagement values and principles
The project will recognize the cultural, historical, and environmental importance of the North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System to all Indigenous communities

**NATURAL
CONNECTIONS
STRATEGIC PLAN**

2007

The Natural Connections Strategic Plan outlines the building blocks and approach to designing an Ecological Network as presented in Breathe. This strategic plan's vision is to create "A system of conserved natural areas, ecologically and effectively managed, connecting the river valley with tableland natural areas, restored green spaces and regional natural areas, and recognized and supported by the community of Edmonton as a valued asset."

The Ribbon of Green will support the outcomes of Natural Connections, applying an ecological network approach to planning in the River Valley and ensuring connectivity with the broader citywide ecological network.

**APPROACH TO
COMMUNITY
RECREATION FACILITY
MASTER PLANNING IN
EDMONTON**

The Approach to Community Recreation Facility Master Planning in Edmonton (2018) provides a transparent way to plan, prioritize, and provide publicly-supported community recreation amenities in Edmonton. It outlines specific action related to existing or future community recreation facilities and amenities, and provides overall direction for providing recreation opportunities in the city. The Approach ensures a common roadmap exists to guide decision making and other future planning activities.

- > The development and management of recreation facilities within the river valley and ravines are directed through this Master Plan.
- > There are numerous City owned recreation facilities in the Ribbon of Green area – e.g. Kinsmen Sports Centre and A.C.T. Aquatic and Recreation Centre

**RIVER ACCESS
STRATEGY**

The River Access Strategy project was initiated to inform future programming, operations and infrastructure improvements that support access to the river and activities associated with the river. The River Access Guiding Principles were approved by City Council in 2015. Throughout 2016 and 2017, the City worked on developing site criteria, design guidelines, and a draft river use plan which identifies appropriate locations and intensity of use at each location.

The River Access Strategy Final Report's objectives will be addressed by the Ribbon of Green project, providing guidance and direction for how the river is accessed and used.

**RIVER CROSSING
2017**

River Crossing is a long-term city-building initiative focused on transforming the western area of the Rosedale neighbourhood into a vibrant community and a place that embraces and celebrates its rich history. The River Crossing Project includes a Heritage Interpretive Plan, which guides how heritage and culture will be reflected and communicated throughout the area as it evolves over time and a Business Plan, which lays out a framework for how the area can redevelop over the next twenty years.

The plans for how this area, at the heart of the River Valley, will evolve over time will be an important catalyst for Ribbon of Green implementation. Additionally, the Heritage Interpretive Plan offers important guidance for how cultural heritage and community histories can be incorporated into the Ribbon of Green.

**RIVER FOR LIFE
STRATEGY
2014**

River for Life is a 30-year strategic plan that supports the City in preventing pollution by continuously reducing discharges of contaminants into waterbodies, and improving water quality.

The River for Life Strategy should be considered during development of the Ribbon of Green Plan in terms of how the Plan might contribute to pollution control, such as low-impact design measures and other green stormwater practices

**CITY-WIDE NATURAL
AREA MANAGEMENT
PLAN**

The City-wide Natural Area Management Plan sets out objectives and strategies for managing and restoring natural areas owned by the City of Edmonton. The plan represents a departure from site-by-site management and a shift to a comprehensive, integrated approach to managing Edmonton's ecological network. The main body of the Plan sets out guiding principles and management strategies to be applied to natural areas city-wide. In addition, when a new natural area is protected, a site-specific management plan will be developed for that area, according to the *Guidelines for Developing Site-Specific Natural Area Management Plans in the City of Edmonton* (see below).

Ecological management strategies and guidance included in the Ribbon of Green should consider and align with the direction provided in the City-wide Natural Area Management Plan, including the Guiding Principles (Section 5.1) and the Management Objectives and Strategies (Section 5.2).

**SITE SPECIFIC NATURAL
AREA MANAGEMENT
PLANS**

Site Specific Natural Area Management Plans build on the guidance provided in the City-Wide Natural Area Management Plan, providing additional management strategies based on the unique features and management requirements of individual sites. The site-specific strategies are to be implemented in addition to the city-wide strategies, which apply to all natural areas.

SSNAMPs exist for many natural areas within or near the study area, and the guidance provided by these plans will be incorporated as direction for the study area is developed.

**URBAN FOREST
MANAGEMENT PLAN
2012**

Edmonton's Urban Forest Management Plan is a 10-year strategy for sustainably managing and enhancing the urban forest, including all trees within city limits. The Plan outlines short, medium, and long term strategies for promoting a healthy and sustainable urban forest.

Trees found in parks, natural areas, the river valley and private lands are all part of the urban forest, and within the scope of this Management Plan
The Ribbon of Green Plan will align with strategies and actions within the Urban Forest Management Plan to ensure the health and growth of the urban forest, protect native forest, and communicate to the public and city partners of the importance and benefits of the urban forest

**URBAN PARKS
MANAGEMENT PLAN
(UPMP) 2006-2016
2006**

The Urban Parks Management Plan was developed to guide the acquisition, design, construction, maintenance and use of City Parks, the North Saskatchewan River Valley, and natural areas within the city. The Plan has directed how the City plans and manages its parks and open spaces for the past decade.

The UPMP includes a parks classification system for parks management. River valley and ravine parks are classified as a separate category.

Breathe: Edmonton's Green Network Strategy, currently under development, will replace the UPMP as Edmonton's Green Network Plan. In the interim, the Ribbon of Green can build on the successes of the UPMP.

For the River Valley and Ravine System, the UPMP:
Outlines river valley parkland system land assembly
Limits underground utility functions in the river valley and ravines
Promotes universal access, when feasible
Suggests a comprehensive signage strategy
Mandates management plans for conservation sites
Protects views
Outlines steps to support homeless people in parks
Suggests other river valley improvements

ACT PLAN POLICY OR PROGRAM	DIRECTION	IMPLICATIONS
<p>URBAN PARKS MANAGEMENT PLAN RETIREMENT & REPLACEMENT</p>	<p>Breathe: Edmonton's Green Network Strategy (2017) establishes a new approach to how the City of Edmonton plans for open space. However, there are still gaps in its implementation. Notably, administration still uses the standards and guidelines for open space provision, assembly and development outlined in the Urban Parks Management Plan (2006–2016). This project will develop and update these planning tools in order to effectively implement Breathe, and retire the Urban Parks Management Plan. The full scope and resources to implement this project are still under review and consideration.</p>	<p>The long-term implementation of this project will impact the City's overall open space management tools including measuring functionality, open space adequacy and provisioning, standards, land assembly, and servicing levels.</p>
<p>VISION FOR AN AGE-FRIENDLY EDMONTON ACTION PLAN 2011</p>	<p>The Action Plan establishes several strategic goals and actions related to the mental health and wellbeing of seniors, including social and recreational participation, social inclusion, and health services.</p> <p>The Plan offers goals and actions to create age-friendly parks and outdoor spaces.</p>	<p>The Ribbon of Green project can align with this plan and put forth age-friendly policies for the design and maintenance of infrastructure that is age-friendly, as well as offering age-friendly resources and programming</p>

ACT PLAN POLICY OR PROGRAM	DIRECTION	IMPLICATIONS
<p>WHITEMUD RAVINE CONSERVATION EASEMENT 2016</p>	<p>Registration of a conservation easement for the subject lands will provide for enhanced protection and stewardship of the property by the Edmonton and Area Land Trust – as a non-profit company dedicated to the conservation of the natural heritage of Edmonton and surrounding communities.</p> <p>The conservation easement agreement will outline the roles, responsibilities, and limitation, of the City and the Edmonton and Area Land Trust, and will meet the purpose of a conservation easement required by section 29 of the Alberta Land Stewardship Act. The interests of the City are protected through such stipulations as compliance with all City policies and regulations, as well as through the preparation of a Natural Area Management Plan, the preparation of a baseline report by the Edmonton and Area Land Trust, and restricted and permitted uses.</p> <p>Bylaw 17502: Registration of Conservation Easement went before Council on November 7, 2016. Once the Bylaw receives three readings Registration of the easement will occur and development of a natural area management plan will begin.</p>	<p>The site subject to a conservation easement is within the Ribbon of Green study area. Additionally, information collected through the development of the Natural Area Management Plan for the area will inform the Ribbon of Green where possible</p>
<p>WHITEMUD RAVINE SOUTH TRAIL STUDY</p>		
<p>WHITEMUD INTEGRATED PLAN</p>		

**WINTER CITY DESIGN
GUIDELINES**

Now Complete

The Winter Design Guidelines are intended to facilitate best practice winter urban design solutions. Five winter design principles are found throughout the guidelines, and are instrumental to achieving not only a great winter city, but a great year-round city.

These 5 principles apply to the public realm, specifically streets, parks and open spaces, and include:

- Incorporating design strategies to block wind
- Maximizing exposure to sunshine through orientation and design
- Using colour to enliven the winterscape
- Creating visual interest with light
- Providing infrastructure that supports winter life

The Winter City Design Policy (C588) and Guidelines are final and complete, with Council approval in December 2016.

The principles, guidelines and policy within the Winter City Design Guidelines and the policy being considered by Council will be integrated into the Ribbon of Green Plan

OTHER RELEVANT CITY OF EDMONTON POLICIES

CITY OF EDMONTON OPEN SPACE POLICY (C594)

The **Open Space Policy** (2017) informs the planning, design and management of Edmonton's open space to achieve the outcomes and realize the vision of an integrated, sustainable, vibrant and multifunctional green network. It acknowledges five elements fundamental to the City's open space planning: a connected landscape, a multifunctional network, an evidence-based approach, equitable open space provision and a collaborative effort.

NATURAL AREA SYSTEMS POLICY (C531)

- > Directs Administration to:
 - + plan our city so that our ecological systems will function effectively at neighbourhood, city and regional scales,
 - + conserve natural area systems in discharging their duties, and
 - + require ecological information to support planning and development applications;
- > Includes direction to Administration on Guidelines for Determining Environmental Reserve (ER) Dedication for Wetlands and Other Water Bodies

THE ART OF LIVING IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
2008

Provides recommendations for creative ways to promote and showcase Edmonton's culture and heritage, including awards, plans, strategies, grants, festivals, and opportunities for artists and historians

CITY OF EDMONTON DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS

Part 3: Drainage, and Part 5: Landscaping stipulate requirements for new construction, including recommended plant materials for restoration and green land cover, soil quality and handling standards, drainage system capacity standards, etc.

CORPORATE TREE MANAGEMENT
(Policy C456C)

The purpose of the Corporate Tree Management Policy (2020) is to ensure growth, sustainability, acquisition, stewardship, tree maintenance, protection and preservation of the City of Edmonton Urban Forest and to promote public education and engagement opportunities.

EDMONTON COMPLETE STREETS DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS
2013

The **Edmonton Complete Streets Design and Construction Standards** (2018) supports a holistic approach to street design that will develop a network of streets that is safe, attractive, comfortable, and welcoming to all users in all seasons, while considering operational and maintenance challenges.

The Complete Streets Design and Construction Standards provide guidance for active transportation facilities in off-street locations, including the construction of shared use paths or granular trails at the top of bank and/or within the River Valley and ravines at the discretion of the City, and in accordance with applicable environmental assessments and management plans.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY
(Policy C512)

States that the City will promote the development of an environmental sustainable city that functions in harmony with the natural environment including the reduction of pollution

POLICY DOCUMENT	DIRECTION
HISTORIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2009	Articulates a long-term strategy to manage Edmonton's historic resources by: establishing clear guidelines to manage heritage issues; simplifying City heritage policies, priorities, procedures and implementation strategies; and building on the heritage related work of other individuals, agencies and organizations in Edmonton
LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES DESIGN GUIDE 2014	Provides guidance for the application of low impact development best management practices, so that they can be incorporated into land development, redevelopment, or retrofit projects
NATURAL AREA SYSTEMS (Policy C531)	Recognizes the importance of balancing ecological and environmental considerations with economic and social considerations in City planning and operations
PARKLAND AND RIVER VALLEY UTILITY INSTALLATION (Policy C307)	Damage to the North Saskatchewan River Valley and parkland should be minimized when installing utilities
RECREATION USER FEE (Policy C167b) 2014	Provides an approach for establishing user supported recreational services
TOP OF BANK POLICY (Policy C542)	Establishes appropriate setbacks from the river valley or ravines to preserve river valley and ravine views; optimize public access; protect from development that may compromise slope stability; and to protect private and public property
DEVELOPMENT SETBACKS FROM RIVER VALLEY/RAVINE CRESTS (Policy C542A)	
WILDLIFE PASSAGE ENGINEERING DESIGN GUIDELINES 2010	Provides recommendations that incorporate the needs of wildlife into transportation projects with the intention of reducing habitat fragmentation and improving wildlife movement through the city

EXISTING RIVER VALLEY PARK MASTER/CONCEPT PLANS

All master and concept plans – existing and under development – will be reviewed at the outset of this project. The guidance provided in these plans will inform the spatial direction developed for the Ribbon of Green. As appropriate, recommendations will be developed regarding prioritization of or changes to the elements identified in a master/concept plan. With that said, this project respects the analysis and engagement that informed those plans – especially where plans are recently-approved, the Ribbon of Green will seek to take direction from, rather than re-open, those plans.

Dawson Park/Kinnaird Ravine Master Plan (2019)
Oleskiw River Valley Park Master Plan (2020)
Buena Vista/Sir Wilfred Laurier Park Master Plan (2014)
Queen Elizabeth Park Master Plan (2013)
Terwillegar Park Concept Plan (2009)
Gallagher Park Concept Plan (under development)
Whitemud Park Integrated Area Concept Plan (2003)
Fort Edmonton Park Master Plan Update (2010)
Goldbar Ravine Park Master Plan (1975)
Hermitage Park Master Plan (1975)
Louise McKinney Riverfront Park (2014)
Multiuse Trail Corridor Study (2001)
Rundle Park Master Plan (1969)
Snow Valley Master Plan (2013)

OTHER PROJECTS IN AND ADJACENT TO THE STUDY AREA

A number of other projects are planned or underway in or adjacent to the study area. These projects will be reviewed and tracked as the Ribbon of Green Completion unfolds to ensure that the Ribbon of Green plan reflects the amenities, infrastructure and programming that will be delivered through each project.

Big Island Provincial Park proposal
Hawrelak Park Rehabilitation Project
Kihciy Askiy Development
Kinsmen Sports Centre Enhancement Project and Master Plan and Implementation Strategy
Mill Creek Daylighting Proposal
Muttart Conservatory Rehabilitation Project and Replacement Storage Building
River Valley Stairs Rehabilitation Project (complete)
Touch the Water/North Shore Promenade
Valley Line LRT Construction
Valley Zoo Construction Projects
Victoria Golf Course Rehabilitation
Wayfinding Signs for Parks and Trails

RELEVANT CITY OF EDMONTON STRUCTURE PLANS

The City of Edmonton has a number of plans and land use studies that help guide development in Edmonton's neighbourhoods. Some of these, including Area Structure Plans, Neighbourhood Area Structure Plans, Neighbourhood Structure Plans and Area Redevelopment Plans are relevant to the Ribbon of Green Completion as they border the study area.

- > An **Area Structure Plan (ASP)** is a statutory plan that identifies future neighbourhoods and where residential, commercial, institutional and recreational sites will be located in a previously undeveloped area and how essential municipal services such as water and sewer systems, roads and fire protection will be provided. These plans also describe the number of people that are expected to live in the new area and how development will be staged over time.
- > **Neighbourhood Area Structure Plans (NASPs)** are small scale Area Structure Plans applying to one large neighbourhood – usually the size of two or more “typical” neighbourhoods.
- > **Neighbourhood Structure Plan (NSPs)** provide a greater level of detail for one neighbourhood within the context of an ASP. A Neighbourhood Structure Plan (NSP) describes the general pattern of development and subdivision in a new residential neighbourhood. The policies of NSPs guide subsequent stages of neighbourhood development such as zoning, subdivision, infrastructure design and construction.
- > An **Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP)** is a forward-looking document that provides a clear vision of how the area is expected to change and grow in the future. The ARP provides current and future residents, businesses, and landowners clarity about what types of change and investments may be expected for their neighbourhoods.

All relevant Area/Neighbourhood/Neighbourhood Area Structure Plans and Area Redevelopment Plans (those adjacent to the study area) will be reviewed at the outset of this project to ensure that the Ribbon of Green plan both aligns with and supports those plans.

See [Plans in Effect](#) for a map and links to all approved City of Edmonton plans.



