

QUEEN ELIZABETH PARK MASTER PLAN

VISION, MISSION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES - FINAL DRAFT

VISION STATEMENT

Queen Elizabeth Park is a well-loved gathering place in the heart of Edmonton where people come to be active, connect with nature, and discover the rich cultural heritage of the river valley.

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide a variety of ways for Edmonton residents and visitors to experience, understand, and connect to the river valley environment.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

THE PARK IS ACCESSIBLE TO PEOPLE OF ALL AGES AND ABILITIES

- Strive to create a universally-accessible trail into and through the park that connects pedestrians and cyclists to downtown
- Identify and enhance key entry points into the park

THE PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLIST PATHWAY NETWORK IS WELL-CONNECTED

- Improve east-west and north-south multi-use trails through the park
- Improve accessibility of trails throughout the park
- Improve pedestrian crossing at Queen Elizabeth Park Road
- Clarify organization of unimproved trail network for use by hikers, trail runners and/or bikers
- Increase trail network legibility through signage and wayfinding
- Design the path network to encourage good trail etiquette and to reduce conflict between different user groups.

THERE IS A HIERARCHY OF ACTIVE AND PASSIVE SPACES FOR YEAR-ROUND USE

- Create spaces that allow for a range of activities in the park, from quiet intimate spaces to larger group gatherings or small events

- Enhance year-round programming, including new or improved summer activities (children's play, mountain bike skills area, picnicking, small event space) and winter activities (e.g. snowshoeing, tobogganing)
- Explore the use of mountain biking skills features and/or skills park
- Provide program opportunities for all ages

AMENITIES ARE PROVIDED TO SUPPORT USER COMFORT

- Enhance washroom facilities and access to washrooms through improved wayfinding
- Improve sense of park safety through lighting and/or other design features
- Provide additional site amenities such as drinking water, seating, and/or waste bins

IMPORTANT PLACES ARE IDENTIFIED WITHIN THE PARK FOR SITE STORIES AND VIEWPOINTS

- Identify important places for interpreting natural features of the site
- Identify important places for interpreting the cultural history of the site
- Maintain and enhance key viewpoints to the river valley and downtown skyline

THE ECOLOGY OF THE PARK IS CELEBRATED, PROTECTED AND ENHANCED

- Enhance opportunities for wildlife watching and nature interpretation
- Identify areas for restoring and protecting forest ecology
- Minimize disturbance to forest ecosystem during new trail or amenity development

OPPORTUNITIES ARE PROVIDED TO EXPERIENCE THE RIVER'S EDGE

- Create an accessible path that allows park visitors to get close to the river
- Improve conditions along the shoreline
- Explore ways to engage people with the river

THE PARK PROVIDES AN ENTRY EXPERIENCE INTO THE DOWNTOWN CORE

- Build on the gateway function of the new Walterdale Bridge by enhancing the experience of traveling downtown along Queen Elizabeth Park Road
- Enhance the park's role as a respite from the city while offering dramatic views toward the downtown skyline