

# QUEEN ELIZABETH PARK MASTER PLAN

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

QUEEN ELIZABETH PARK is a large, city-wide park occupying over 31 hectares on the south bank of Edmonton's central river valley, just east of Kinsmen Sports Centre. Originally called South Side Park when it opened in 1909, its name was changed to Queen Elizabeth Park in 1939 to honour King George V and Queen Elizabeth who visited Edmonton in 1939.

Queen Elizabeth Park was also home to western Canada's first municipal outdoor swimming pool, which operated from 1922 until 2004, when it was closed due to a large crack in the pool tank. The pool was removed in 2011. The new Queen Elizabeth Pool opened in Kinsmen Park in 2011.

The park provides Edmontonians access to a variety of outdoor experiences, including year-round trails, forests, picnic areas, a playground, City of Edmonton River Valley programming, and superb views of the downtown skyline and river valley. The park is a popular place from which to watch Canada Day fireworks.

Queen Elizabeth Park has been recognized as a river valley park in need of renewal based on analysis of physical condition, functionality and capacity.

Opportunities for enhancement might include:

- ✓ improving trail connections and linkages between the upper and lower parts of the park;
- ✓ incorporating interpretive signage and wayfinding elements;
- ✓ encouraging year-round use of the park through recreation, programming, events, and play;
- ✓ improving green space and access to river valley and city views
- ✓ accommodating a mountain biking skills park

## PLANNING PROCESS

During 2012 a plan is being developed to recognize Queen Elizabeth Park's potential to be enhanced and upgraded.

The Queen Elizabeth Park planning work will result in a Master Plan for the entire park.

*Note: The City is now completing a Master Plan for the entire park in order to create a more comprehensive approach for implementation of the plan and how it will be phased in. The first phase of development will be determined based on the recommendations outlined in the final Queen Elizabeth Park Master Plan.*

The development of the plans will take into consideration the following:

- ✓ Existing policies and plans, such as the Ribbon of Green Master Plan, Urban Parks Management Plan, The North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan, The Wheeled Recreation Strategy and The Way Ahead - City of Edmonton Strategic Plan 2009-2018
- ✓ Adjacent developments in the central river valley (i.e. Rosedale Power Plant Repurposing, Kinsmen Sports Centre and Park, Rosedale Area Redevelopment Plan, new Walterdale Bridge)
- ✓ Public interest in this park and its amenities
- ✓ The balance between recreation, preservation and conservation



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## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

As a key component of developing the Master Plan, the City will gather input from key stakeholders, user groups and the general public using a public involvement process that is consistent with the City’s Corporate Involving Edmonton Framework.

The City is committed to:

- ✓ Engaging key stakeholders (i.e. users across the City, park leaseholders, businesses, local communities and organizations, the general public) in a transparent public consultation process to obtain input as plans are developed.
- ✓ Providing a variety of opportunities for key stakeholders and the general public to participate in defining the vision for the park and to provide input into planning.
- ✓ Communicating with the public during the public consultation process.

Public Involvement for this process will include consultation and information sharing:

### CONSULTATION

There will be opportunities for the public to be involved at a consultation level relative to:

- ✓ Helping to define the vision for the park
- ✓ Providing input regarding current and desired uses of the park
- ✓ Identifying priorities and criteria that are used to evaluate concept designs for the parks

- ✓ Evaluating and providing input on draft concepts to help identify a preferred approach
- ✓ Providing input on the draft Master Plan for the park

### INFORMATION SHARING

Information will be shared through a variety of means throughout the park planning process regarding:

- ✓ Project purpose and background
- ✓ Opportunities for involvement and timeline
- ✓ Draft concepts, preferred concept, final Master Plan and 10-year phasing strategy

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENTS

The development of the Master Plan will be supported by a consultation strategy with the following key components:

- **Public Workshop 1: Idea Gathering** (April 18, 2012) - collecting local knowledge and identifying key parts of the project vision
- **Public Workshop 2: Concept Evaluation** (August 15, 2012) - design alternatives evaluated based on criteria developed in the first workshop
- **Public Open House** (Winter 2012/2013) - presenting the illustrated draft Queen Elizabeth Park Master Plan
- **Online Surveys** (available for 2 weeks following each public event) to gather input from those who are unable to attend the events
- **Project Website** documenting the design process and public events [www.edmonton.ca/QEParkplan](http://www.edmonton.ca/QEParkplan)

