Open House

September 12, 2016
5 pm - 8 pm
Alex Taylor School Gymnasium

Purpose

We want to get your input on Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine as the first step in creating a new Master Plan for this River Valley park.

Tonight is about listening to what you think about the existing park - your favourite features and activities as well as what you'd like to see in the future.

We're here to listen

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask one of the project team members here tonight.

The project team includes City of Edmonton staff and O2 Planning + Design as a consulting team. We have a multidisciplinary group of landscape architects, planners, water resource engineers, environmental scientists and historians. We're here to listen to you - we want to know what you think. Your ideas will shape the development of the Master Plan.

Welcome

DAWSON PARK & KINNAIRD RAVINE

Master Plan
What is a Master Plan?

A Master Plan builds on existing plans, policies and initiatives while identifying public needs and priorities for the park. The Plan also provides direction for environmental protection and recommends civic, cultural and recreational uses that are appropriate to the area.

The new Master Plan for Dawson Park and Kinnaid Ravine will provide a 25-year vision and management plan for the park. The Master Plan will be developed in 2016 and 2017.

There has been little change within the park boundaries since the 1970s when the Capital City Recreation Park Concept Plan defined most of the features that are still in the park today.

Your Role

We are currently in the Inventory & Analysis phase of engagement for the Dawson Park and Kinnaid Ravine Master Plan. We are asking for input from the public that will have a large influence on the direction of the future park.

Feedback we receive will be carried forward into each phase of engagement, all the way to the concept design. Your feedback is important!

Tonight

Review the Inventory and Analysis material presented tonight and tell us if we’ve missed anything. We want to know why this space is important to you and how you experience the park.

We’ve provided questions for feedback on the boards. Use the post-it notes and stickers to provide your feedback.

Stay Involved

Need more time? Post your insights on the online mapping tool for Dawson Park and Kinnaid Ravine.

Go to edmonton.ca/dawsonparkmasterplan for the online map, sign up for project updates and to stay informed about upcoming open houses!
River Valley Parks

The North Saskatchewan River Valley in Edmonton is known as the largest urban park in Canada, with more than 160 km of maintained pathways and 20 major parks.

The City of Edmonton takes a different approach when planning and maintaining parks in the River Valley. Only certain activities and developments are allowed to take place for the protection of the natural ecosystem.

This line of thinking began in 1915 when the City of Edmonton adopted a report by Frederick G. Todd, a Landscape Architect from Montreal, to protect the River Valley for recreation.

Sixty years later, the North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP) and Bylaw 7188 reinforced the value of the River Valley landscape in City policy.

The ARP, along with Bylaw 7188, seeks to protect the North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System as part of Edmonton’s valuable open space heritage and establishes the principles for future implementation plans and programs for parks development.

We want the future park to improve the quality of life of those who visit. That’s why, along with considering existing plans and policies, talking to YOU is so important to this process.

Existing Policies and Plans

The North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan (1985)

The Ribbon of Green Master Plan (1992)

Edmonton’s Urban Parks Management Plan (2006-2016)

BREATHE Strategy (2016-2017)

Relevant City Policies:
- Natural Area Systems Policy (C531)
- River Access Guiding Principles (CS88)
- Development Setbacks from River Valley/Ravine Crests (C542)
- Bicycle Transportation Plan
- WinterCity Strategy
- The Urban Forest Management Plan
- The Parkland Bylaw (C2202)
Developing Communities

Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine connect to the Riverdale, Boyle St., McCauley, Cromdale and Virginia Park neighbourhoods.

Several downtown neighbourhoods are undergoing changes as a result of the growing population in Edmonton. Four major Area Redevelopment Plans (ARP’s) are guiding this development.

The ARP’s recommend higher-intensity development surrounding the park area, including more dense housing along Jasper Avenue, surrounding the Stadium Station LRT stop and in The Quarters Downtown development.

These plans also call for improved pedestrian connections, especially along Jasper Avenue and The Armature (a new urban promenade).

Over the next 10-20 years, Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine will serve a much higher number of people in the surrounding communities.

Stadium Station ARP (1983)
This ARP defines issues facing the neighbourhood in the 1980s and presents solutions including the promotion of high-density development around the LRT station. The City is currently working on a new ARP for this neighbourhood to help accommodate a growing population and to control the type of development in this neighbourhood.

Boyle St. McCauley ARP (1994)
Problems recognized include crowded housing, vacant lots and high traffic volumes, among others. The ARP focuses on promoting cooperation within the community. Higher density development and pedestrian improvements were recommended along Jasper Avenue.

The Quarters Downtown ARP (2014)
What began as a community visioning process has become a plan for the accommodation of 18-20,000 additional people in the neighbourhood when development is complete. The plan focuses on developing a unique character in the neighbourhood.

Riverdale ARP (Office Consolidation 2010)
The Riverdale ARP uses the neighbourhood’s historical background as a catalyst for development. Improvements to pedestrian pathways and controlling the rate of development in the historic parts of the neighbourhood are major recommendations.
Site History

Dawson Park and the Kinnaird Ravine are intertwined into Edmonton’s history.

Park features are named after historical figures who played a role in the development of the City of Edmonton.

See the timeline for important dates related to Dawson Park & Kinnaird Ravine.

PRE-CONTACT & FUR TRADE

10,000 BC
North Saskatchewan River begins carving through the prairies 12,000 years ago, separating the northern boreal forest and the great southern plains.

Early peoples first settle in the region and hunt bison.

2600 BC - 1640
Aboriginal peoples of the western plains camp in the Beaver Hills and through Edmonton’s river valley.

1795
First settlement of the region by Europeans.

The most important Hudson Bay Company post west of Winnipeg is established in this region.

1857
George J. Kinnaird is born in Scotland.

URBAN SETTLEMENT

1871
Edmonton incorporated as a village.

1875
George J. Kinnaird moves to Canada to apprentice with Hudson Bay Company near Regina.

1876
Treaty 6 Signed at Fort Carlton and Fort Pitt in 1876 in the river valley. Covers central Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Modern day Edmonton lies at the heart of the Treaty 6 Territory. Signed by 16 Alberta First Nations.

1885
George J. Kinnaird moves to Edmonton.

1892
Edmonton incorporates as a town.

Population: 700.

1897
There is an explosion of activity with the Klondike gold rush. Many prospectors pass through Edmonton.

Population: 1,638.

The area develops a reputation for excellent agriculture.

1892
H.S. Dawson moves to Edmonton and John Forsyth Dawson is born.

1896
Underground mining for coal was an important activity in the current park area. Mine 50, also known as Baldwin’s Mine operated from 1900 - 1904.

1900
George J. Kinnaird becomes Edmonton’s town clerk.

1904
Edmonton incorporates as a city.

Population: 8,350.

1905
Alberta becomes a province.

1906
Edmonton becomes the capital of Alberta.

1906-1907
Frederick O. Todd visits Edmonton and gives his recommendations for a valley park system. This is the first vision proposing a valley parks system.

1908
Population of Edmonton: 18,500.

1910
Dawson Coal Mine is established.

1912
Town of Edmonton amalgamates with Strathcona.

1914
First World War begins.

Population of Edmonton: 72,516.

Edmonton experiences a significant drop in economic growth until the 1930s when the airplane and freight industries mature.

1915
George J. Kinnaird is appointed auditor of the City.

1915
The Flood of 1915.

On June 27, 1915, Edmonton experienced an unprecedented amount of rain that resulted in a flood spanning several days. At its peak, the North Saskatchewan River was 10 metres above its normal level.

About 2,000 people were displaced, 50 buildings were destroyed and over 700 homes were submerged in the flood.

The neighborhoods most affected were Cloverdale and Rossdale, south of today's Dawson Park.

Early 1900s
City of Edmonton acquires Kinnaird Park land from James McDonald and James Kirkness.

1916
Kinnaird Park officially named by City Council.

1920
John Forsyth Dawson returns to Canada and works in Turner Valley oil fields working for Dominion Oil Fields Supply Co.

1937
Mining operations on the current Dawson Park area cease.

1946
Kinnaird Park officially named by City Council.

1952
Kinnaird Park officially named by City Council.

1953
Lake Thompson Salisbury joins the Order of the Eastern Star and is the Grand Matron from 1976-1982. She helps house elderly residents in cottages in the area now known as Lake Salisbury Park for almost 30 years.

1967
Kinnaird Park officially named by City Council.

1967
Kinnaird Park officially named by City Council.

1975
Capital City Recreation Park Development Plan

1978
Edmonton hosts the Commonwealth Games.

1985
North Saskatchewan River Valley Development Plan Bylaw 7188

1990
Dawson Park officially named by Executive Committee

1992
Ribbon of Green - North Saskatchewan River Valley Development Plan

2006
Urban Parks Management Plan

2016
Population of Edmonton: 899,447

Edmonton population expected to reach one million by 2022 and double to 1.6 million within 30 years

2016 - 2019
Ribbon of Green - North Saskatchewan River Valley Strategic and Conceptual Plan

CONTEMPORARY CITY

Edmonton’s economy continues to grow and draw people from eastern Canada and other countries after the 1970s.

PRESENT DAY TO FUTURE

Have we missed anything? Post your insights on a sticky note below or on the map!
Access + Circulation

The pathways in Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine are generally linear, guiding park users along the water from one end of the park to the other. There are several pathways, stairs and ramps to help people get from the top of the bank down to the water.

Park entrances are limited and there are few trail connections within the park. Likely for these reasons, we noticed several informal trails, or ‘desire lines’, developing in the park where people want to travel but no formal trail exists.

Have we missed anything? Post your insights on a sticky note below or on the map!

Legend
- Existing Park Entrance
- Informal Entrance / Vegetation Disturbance
- Paved Multi-Use Trail
- Gravel Pathway
- Braille Trail (Gravel)
- Natural Pathway
- Informal Pathway
- Stairs
- Vehicle Access
- Pedestrian Pathway
- Multi-Use Pathway
- Stairway
- Bus Route
- LRT Line
Amenities + Nodes

Dawson Park and the Kinnaird Ravine provide a direct connection for the communities along the edges of the park. The park also connects recreational users with park amenities and activity nodes.

Each community and park user has a unique way of interacting with these green spaces. Small recreational areas, or nodes, have developed on the periphery of the park and inside the park boundary.

The map to the right depicts these nodes and the amenities that are located in each. Some nodes are mainly used for active recreation, while others are mainly used by the public in passive ways (like sitting and enjoying views of the park).

Have we missed anything? Post your insights on a sticky note below or on the map!
### Activities + Festivals

A variety of activities and a few local festivals take place in Dawson Park and the Kinnaird Ravine.

What activities and festivals have you participated in? Put a round dot in the “Engage in Activity / Participated in Festival” column if you regularly engage in the activities or festivals noted on the board!

Is the activity or festival you participated in not noted on the board? Write it down in the “Activity / Festival” column; tell us about the location and let’s find out how many other people engage in the activity or festival!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity / Festival</th>
<th>Location in Park</th>
<th>Engaged in Activity / Participated in Festival</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walking my dog or dogs</td>
<td>Dog off-leash paths</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jogging / Running</td>
<td>General trail / paths</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking / Promenading</td>
<td>General trail / paths</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnicking</td>
<td>Open grass fields</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Forested areas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Waterfront</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dragon Boat Racing Festival</td>
<td>North Saskatchewan River</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Have we missed anything? Post your insights on a sticky note below or on the map!
Maintenance + Safety

Steep slopes, dense vegetation and limited lighting create many areas with very little or no visibility into the park.

The trails in Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine go for long distances without connecting to other trails or exit points. This, along with the fact that there are few signs and wayfinding tools, can create the feeling of being trapped within the park.

Informal trails have developed along steep slopes within the park. Trails that are not maintained along slopes can create trip and fall hazards.

Steep slopes also prevent access into the park for emergency crews. Only the edges of the park can be easily accessed by EMS vehicles, increasing the response time in an emergency.

The City of Edmonton and local community groups are working hard to address homelessness on public lands. If you have concerns related to this topic or are interested in hearing more, you can talk to a representative of the Homeless on Public Lands Committee who is here tonight.

Have we missed anything?
Post your insights on a sticky note below or on the map!

Legend
- Paths that are less visible from public areas as well as limited visibility from path
- Areas significant distance from park entrance with little direct park access
- Areas that are 12 feet or more up slope
- Light fixtures
- Informal pathways down steep slopes
- Stairs over 30% near formal or informal
- Emergency phone / call box
Service + Utilities

Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine are adjacent to a highly developed urban area and become a transitional landscape down to the North Saskatchewan River below.

A number of storm water pipes run below the ground in the park area, releasing storm water into the river. Many pipes run to a single discharge point in alignment with 88 St. NW.

The existing pavilion near the parking lot in Dawson Park has sewer, water and electrical service.

Have we missed anything? Post your insights on a sticky note below or on the map!
Natural Features: Topography + Hydrology

Dawson Park is located on the outside of a large meander bend on the north bank of the North Saskatchewan River (NSR). For this reason, the bank has a tendency to erode.

Bank erosion is evident throughout this reach, with steep banks approximately 2-3 metres high. The banks are well vegetated, which helps with bank stabilization.

Dawson Park is mostly situated above the 100 year flood line. A comparison of historical bank lines for the North Saskatchewan River spanning a period of 1969 to 2000 indicates minor lateral bank movement along the north bank in the area immediately downstream of Dawson Bridge.

Any development that happens near the bank should be located so that vegetation is maintained as best is possible.

Have we missed anything? Post your insights on a sticky note below or on the map!
Natural Features: Vegetation + Open Space

Dawson Park and Kinnaid Ravine are in the Central Parkland Subregion, a classification of Alberta’s Natural Regions (Natural Regions Committee, 2006).

Vegetation that is native to this subregion includes aspen, balsam poplar and white spruce trees. Plants such as Labrador tea, feathermoss, willow, bunchberry, wild lily of the valley, wild sarsaparilla and beaked hazelnut typically characterize the forest floor. Finally, plants that typically grow on the riverbank in this subregion include willows, bulrushes and common cattail.

Dawson Park and Kinnaid Ravine are located in downtown Edmonton and show signs of significant disturbance in vegetation, from recent as well as historic activity.

Mining activity and timber harvesting throughout significant portions of the park and riverbank have removed much of the original vegetation. This is reflected in the existing stands of non-native plants such as Caragana throughout the park.

Have we missed anything? Post your insights on a sticky note below or on the map!
Natural Features: Wildlife + Habitats

The North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine system is considered a national environmentally sensitive area as it provides critical habitat, corridors and linkages for a diverse range of wildlife species. The park is part of the Regional Biological corridor of the system which are ribbons of contiguous connected wildlife habitats at a regional scale.

Several wildlife and vegetation linkages exist in Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine, but the overall value of these are compromised because of the long history of disturbance on the site and significant stands of exotic vegetation. The City of Edmonton Biodiversity Report of 2008 has recommended that maintenance and restoration of ecological connectivity within the River Valley.

Species of concern that may live in or visit the park area include: barred owl, northern leopard frog, northern long-eared bat and short-eared owl.

Have we missed anything? Post your insights on a sticky note below or on the map!
Future Conditions: Dreams + Wishes!

The infrastructure in Dawson Park is largely a result of the Capital City Recreation Park Concept Plan that was drafted in the 1970s.

We want to find out how you currently use this park, what you love about it and what you'd like to see in the future. Help us by answering the questions using the sticky notes and pens provided!

What is your favorite thing to do in this park? Why?

What would you like to do in this park in the future? Why?

Use the small sticky notes to place your comments on the map or use the larger sticky notes and place your comments to the side of the map in the outlined boxes!

Stay Involved + Next Steps

Need more time? Post your insights on the online mapping tool for Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine.

The next step in the process will be the conception of visions, principles and identities for the park. Stay posted for news on upcoming events.

Go to edmonton.ca/dawsonparkmasterplan for the on-line map and to stay informed about upcoming open houses!