PHASE 3 ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

TONIGHT:

STATION A
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE VISION STATEMENTS?

STATION B
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE CONCEPT OPTIONS?

STATION C
WHAT PARK ELEMENTS DO YOU PREFER?

STATION D
COMPARE THE TWO CONCEPT OPTIONS.

ONLINE OPPORTUNITIES:

Online Map & Survey
edmonton.ca/
dawsonparkmasterplan
WELCOME!

DAWSON PARK & KINNAIRD RAVINE MASTER PLAN

Open House

May 30, 2017
5pm – 8pm

Alex Taylor School Gymnasium (E4C)
9321 Jasper Ave, Edmonton
WHAT IS A MASTER PLAN?

The Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine Master Plan will establish a vision and management plan for the next 25 years. It will build on existing plans, policies and initiatives while identifying public needs and priorities. It will provide direction for environmental management, as well as recommendations for civic, cultural and recreational uses that are appropriate to the park.

What are the drivers?

The River Valley Park Renewal Program identifies a long-term strategic approach to renew parks located in the River Valley. The program is initiated by key drivers such as city policies, changing demographics, demand, recreational needs and aging infrastructure.

Park renewal within the River Valley is based on an analysis of the physical condition and functionality of park elements as well as the ability to meet existing (and future) capacity.

Parks with safety concerns, decreased usability and aging infrastructure are considered “higher needs” parks. Without renewal, existing park infrastructure that is close to the end of its useful life will continue to deteriorate, decreasing park functionality, usability, safety and cost-effectiveness.

With the city’s population projected to double by 2050, the Master Plan is an opportunity to support public use of natural spaces and protect the ecological value of the park.

What is the process?

The Master Plan is currently in the Concept Phase of the Park and Facility Development Process. City policy, site analysis and public input will inform the process and outcome of the Concept Phase, at the end of which the Master Plan report and concept plan will be submitted to City Council as part of the 2019-2022 budget cycle to seek funding for implementation. The timeline below illustrates how the three inputs work together in the development of the Master Plan.

Provide your input!

Review the vision statements and concept options and share your thoughts. Input will be used to develop a preferred concept plan for the Master Plan, which will be presented in Fall 2017.

All activities are also available online: edmonton.ca/dawsonparkmasterplan

STATION A
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE VISION STATEMENTS?
Do the visions respond to our common values? What would you change?

STATION B
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE CONCEPT OPTIONS?
What do you like in each concept? What do you think could be improved?

STATION C
WHAT PARK ELEMENTS DO YOU PREFER?
Which elements best represent what you’d like to see in the park?

STATION D
COMPARE THE TWO CONCEPT OPTIONS
Which concept do you think best responds to your values?
PHASE 1: INVENTORY & ANALYSIS
In Phase 1 we asked: How do you currently use the park? What would you like in the future? This is what we heard:

PARK USE & AMENITIES
- Improve access to the river
- Reduce conflict in trail use
- Create a playground / natural play opportunities
- Develop winter activities in the park
- Dog-walking and off-leash areas

SAFETY & MAINTENANCE
- Increase trail maintenance and upkeep
- Clean up garbage in the park
- Address and reduce occurrence of temporary encampments
- Increase signage on natural trails
- Reduce crime

CONNECTIVITY & CIRCULATION
- Keep the natural trails
- Improve connections to adjacent communities and parks
- Signage and wayfinding improvements
- Signage and education on trail rules
- Increase access to the park along Jasper Ave.

NATURE & ECOCYLOGY
- Keep Kinnaid Ravine natural
- Avoid large or damaging development
- Keep it the same
- Control invasive species
- Control vehicle access into the River Valley

IDENTITY & EXPERIENCE
- Historical interpretation
- Public art
- Ecological interpretation
- Mix of maintained and natural areas

PHASE 2: VISION, PRINCIPLES & IDENTITY
In Phase 2 we asked: What is your vision for the park? What park elements do you prefer? Where would you place different elements in the park?

Park Elements
Top 10 Park Amenities:
Participants were provided with a visual survey of park elements and asked to indicate their preferences. Preferences were slightly different at each engagement session. The two concept options presented today explore some of these differences to gain more insight into public preferences for park elements and ecological preservation.

Create Your Own Park
Areas of Major Focus
Clear patterns and game-piece clusters emerged from the results of the “Create your own park!” activity. These patterns helped determine overall management and program strategies, while clustering of amenities and programs identified desirable program nodes.

Vision Statement
Vision Statement Tally results:
Participants were provided the option to either create a vision statement using sample phrases provided or write their own. Most participants used the sample phrases, confirming the shared values that emerged from Phase 1. Input helped craft the two vision statements presented today, and informed development of the concept options.
WHAT IS THE PARK’S HISTORY?

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

The park’s form and function has evolved due to Edmonton’s urban growth and changing land use in the River Valley. From mining to sewage disposal, Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine have changed dramatically throughout the years to become a natural destination for Edmontonians to enjoy.

LAND USE & PARK DEVELOPMENT

TIMELINE

Land Use

- 1870
- Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine began to evolve as a natural area.
- 1900
- Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine were developed as a major parkland.
- 1920
- The Riverdale Sewage Disposal Plant (Riverdale Sewage Disposal Plant No. 1) operated at the current location in Dawson Park.
- 1950
- The Capital City Recreation Park Development Plan directs the future of Dawson Park, including the creation of the Braille Trail.
- 1980
- The North Saskatchewan River Valley Development Plan (NSRVDP) was developed.
- 2000
- Urban Parks Management Plan was implemented.

Park Planning

- 1905 - 1907
- The fenced area was developed for a River Valley park system.
- 1949
- Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine were designated as a major parkland.
- 1979
- The Braille Trail was created.
- 1985
- The North Saskatchewan River Valley Development Plan was developed.
- 2000
- Urban Parks Management Plan was implemented.

Events & Figures

- 1876
- Treaty 6 was signed at Fort Carlton and Fort Pitt.
- 1885
- George H. Kinnaird moved to Edmonton after negotiating with Hudson Bay Company to become town clerk.
- 1913
- John F. Dawson fought in France, wounded at Vimy Ridge.
- 1930
- The Heno mine operated in the time period during which mining occurred.
- 1968
- Riverdale, Riverdale and surrounding area flooded by unprecedented rainfall.

Early Heritage

- Settlement in the region of present-day Edmonton began about 13,000 years ago, when the North Saskatchewan River started carving through the landscape. The Indigenous people who lived in the area came together in the River Valley for gathering, camping, ceremony, hunting, and trade. They hunted bison whose habitat consisted of the unique ecosystem between the northern boreal forest and the great southern plains. The river escarpment allowed the potential to observe wildlife and other people from great heights.

The area that now makes up the City of Edmonton was originally occupied by various Indigenous groups including the Cree, Dene, Blackfoot and Nakota Sioux. Archaeological investigations indicate that Indigenous peoples have inhabited the Edmonton area for thousands of years.

In 1795, Europeans began to settle in the region and set up the most important Hudson Bay Company post west of Winnipeg. First Nations and Metis in the Edmonton area were essential to the success of the western fur trade, as they scouted, hunted, trapped and traded with the European newcomers.

Today

- In 1975, the Capital City Recreation Park Concept Plan set out a conceptual plan and development guidelines to maintain the park’s ecological and visual assets while encouraging recreation in the park. Today, Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine offer visitors the chance to run, hike, walk their dogs and cycle through the ravine landscape – an escape from the city for urban dwellers. The park provides opportunities to meet with friends, family and neighbours and access to the river for boating, fishing and relaxation.
CONCEPT DESIGN DECISIONS

Concept development is an iterative process, weighing the pros and cons of public preferences and balancing them with priorities from site analysis and City policy. As recommendations are refined, they are continually measured against the three checkpoints: public input, site analysis, and City policy.

While developing the concept options, some of the priorities created spatial conflicts with one another. The concept options resolve these conflicts or present alternative recommendations. The table below illustrates some key design decisions and how the background inputs were considered in the concept options.

1. PUBLIC INPUT

How do the concept options align with the common values and vision for the park? What are the conflicting preferences?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Increased Amenities</th>
<th>Increased Parking</th>
<th>River Access</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Input:</td>
<td>Public Input:</td>
<td>Public Input:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- High levels of development in the park is not desirable</td>
<td>- A large parking lot is not desirable if it takes up natural space</td>
<td>- Many want to keep the park the same as it is currently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Some increased amenities and activity in the park is desirable</td>
<td>- Existing parking lot does not meet the park’s current visitor needs, often reaching capacity and providing insufficient room for buses.</td>
<td>- Others want to see some increased amenities and activity in the park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design response:</td>
<td>Design response:</td>
<td>Design response:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Concept 1: Focus on low levels of development and ecological restoration while addressing public safety</td>
<td>Concept 2: Increased opportunities for various activities to occur in the park by providing appropriate infrastructure while managing environmental impacts</td>
<td>Both concepts propose park improvements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Concept 1: Improvements within the same parking footprint</td>
<td>- Concept 2: Expected parking to address existing and future needs</td>
<td>Some enhancements are necessary to protect natural areas, improve safety in the park and accommodate projected usage increases</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. SITE ANALYSIS

Are there conflicts with environmental sensitivities in the park? Can they be resolved?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Off-Leash Dog Walking</th>
<th>New Trails</th>
<th>Access from Jasper Avenue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Input:</td>
<td>Public Input:</td>
<td>Public Input:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Off-leash dog walking is deemed by many</td>
<td>- Use trail to see a new natural trail in the park</td>
<td>- Many want to have better access to the park, especially along Jasper Avenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Dogs-off-leash sometimes pose conflicts with other park users</td>
<td>- Many want to see increased maintenance of existing trails</td>
<td>Site Analysis:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site Analysis:</td>
<td>Site Analysis:</td>
<td>Access down the River Valley slopes will have impacts on the steep, sensitive slopes in the park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Dogs can have a negative effect on the habitat of many birds, animals and aquatic species</td>
<td>New path would negatively impact the steep, sensitive slopes in the park</td>
<td>Site Design:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Site analysis identified two areas where user conflict is most pronounced</td>
<td>Design response:</td>
<td>Concept 7: New connections along Jasper Ave (91 St NW and 70 St NW) and upgraded connection at 64 St NW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design response:</td>
<td>Design response:</td>
<td>Concept 7: Three new connections along Jasper Ave (91 St NW, 82 St NW, and 76 St NW) and upgraded connection at 84 St NW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Concept 4: The multi-use trail and the Mobility Corridor enhanced an off-leash trail with added regulatory signage and natural or constructed buffers</td>
<td>Design response:</td>
<td>Both urban trail and multi-use trails are recommended in the River Valley Slopes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Concept 2: Dedicated off-leash loop on park slopes and dedicated off-leash area on plateau path to improve conflicts</td>
<td>Design response:</td>
<td>Both options include invasive species removal and native planting as part of the restorations efforts along the River Edge</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. CITY POLICY

How are the concept options supported and directed by City policies and priorities?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Operations</th>
<th>Amenity Building</th>
<th>Winter Activities</th>
<th>Emergency Call Boxes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Input:</td>
<td>Public Input:</td>
<td>Public Input:</td>
<td>Public Input:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Some do not want higher levels of development in the park</td>
<td>- Society want minor improvements to the pavilion</td>
<td>- Some want to see more winter activity in the park including cross-country skiing</td>
<td>- Some park with appropriate infrastructure is desired.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Others want more development and more people to increase safety in the park</td>
<td>- Others want a new amenity building with increased program</td>
<td>City Direction:</td>
<td>City Direction:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Many people want increased levels of clean up throughout the park</td>
<td>City Direction:</td>
<td>- Close-country skiing is supported, but the City will not provide trail set or cross-country skiing in the park</td>
<td>Emergency Call Boxes:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Direction:</td>
<td>Park Operations and Outreach staff expressed interest in supporting infrastructure in the park</td>
<td>Design response:</td>
<td>- In both concepts, trail markers with a purchasing system for emergency response is being recommended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design response:</td>
<td>Design response:</td>
<td>Design response:</td>
<td>Design response:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Endangered garbage bins are proposed in the parking lot at city park river sites</td>
<td>- Concept 1: Small new amenity building with accessible washrooms and small flexible use room</td>
<td>- No trail-side aid trails provided, however inter-winter area cross-country ski and</td>
<td>- Emergency Call Boxes are being phased out by other City due to poor functionality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- The City will continue to collaborate to support Homeless on Public Lands initiatives, seeking a sensitive approach; the amenity building will include supporting amenities for staff</td>
<td>- Concept 2: New amenity building with accessible washroom, small flexible use room, and potential for expansion to support river access partners</td>
<td>Winter Activities</td>
<td>- Pathways may be used for activities such as snowshoeing, hiking and backcountry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Design response:</td>
<td>Design response:</td>
<td>Emergency Call Boxes</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Concept 1: Small new amenity building with accessible washrooms and small flexible use room</td>
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<td>- In both concepts, trail markers with a purchasing system for emergency response is being recommended</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank you for your time and feedback!

Input from the open house today, the online survey, and stakeholder workshops will inform the development of the preferred concept plan. The draft preferred concept will minimize ecological disturbance while addressing public and City priorities.

Invite your friends and neighbours to share their input until June 16! All engagement questions and information presented today is available online until June 16.

A summary of feedback from all Phase 3 engagements will be available in July.

In Fall 2017, the preferred concept plan will be presented during Phase 4 engagements for final feedback.

edmonton.ca/dawsonparkmasterplan

Have we missed anything?
Share your thoughts on a sticky note and post it here!
As a park and passage within Edmonton’s Ribbon of Green, Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine facilitates access to nature for the City’s growing population to rejuvenate and recreate.

This essential connection provides a sanctuary for visitors to enjoy the physical and mental benefits of spending time in nature while increasing ecological connectivity and conserving wildlife habitat, vegetation and open space heritage. Year-round access to the North Saskatchewan River and Ravine system promotes community stewardship, sustainable maintenance and environmental protection for all visitors to appreciate now and into the future.

*Key features are highlighted on the map.*
WHAT IS THE EXPERIENCE IN THE PARK?

Concept 1

The focus in Concept 1 for Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine is promoting habitat protection and restoration. Concept 1 improves ecological connections, has fewer infrastructure requirements and addresses safety and maintenance concerns in the park.

Landscape Units:

The landscape units used to describe the experience were developed through the inventory and analysis of the park for the Master Plan. The five landscape units include River Valley Slopes, Mobility Corridor, River Edge, Kinnaird Ravine and Plateau Parks. They represent areas with similar ecological attributes that can be expected to respond to management techniques in the same way.

Plateau Parks

Plateau Park spaces play a special role in connecting people and ecological communities at the top of the bank to the North Saskatchewan River. These open spaces are accessible to many neighbours of the park. In the Plateau Parks, people of all ages can run, play and learn amidst the early spring blooms or wander through contemplative winter gardens during the colder months.

Restored vegetation communities create a natural haven for park visitors and provide essential habitat for birds, insects and small mammals. The Plateau Parks open to expansive views of the River Valley, revealing the river in the landscape and persuading visitors to wander down to the water.

River Valley Slopes

As a stark contrast to the urban landscape surrounding the park, nature is within arm’s reach in the River Valley Slopes. Native trees are protected to enhance wildlife habitat and maintain the stability of the slopes.

The feeling of enclosure created by the forest vegetation is balanced with improved sight lines and clear wayfinding signage to maintain a sense of security for all park users as they traverse down the slope. Park visitors connect to nature and to one another as they share the trails for biking, walking and snowshoeing through the park.
Kinnaird Ravine
Kinnaird Ravine is a unique place in Edmonton to escape from the city and descend into the rich, cool ravine air. Along the single gravel trail there are opportunities to stop, observe Rat Creek and learn about the birds, insects and aquatic species that call its wetlands home.

Community stewardship and partnerships help to ensure that Kinnaird Ravine remains an essential wildlife corridor and a natural sanctuary for quiet reflection and mental rejuvenation.

Mobility Corridor
In the Mobility Corridor, the landscape once again opens to views of the North Saskatchewan River. Connecting to the larger integrated River Valley trail system, Dawson Park is an essential link in the trail network.

Conflict in trail use between various park users is minimized using signage, public education and natural or constructed barriers where necessary. An accessible trail loop near the parking lot and a universally designed boating hand launch, both of which are enhanced with restored native vegetation, allow everyone who visits the park to experience the beauty of the River Valley.

The amenity building and adjacent rest area become a moment of pause in the trail system, creating opportunities for gathering with friends and neighbours in a safe and natural environment.

River Edge
The park connects with the North Saskatchewan River at the River Edge. It is a place for ecological restoration and quiet fascination. Those who take the time to pause near the river are rewarded with sightings of birds, fish, insects and other wildlife that rely on the river for habitat. Enhanced riparian vegetation, including native grasses, shrubs and flowers, lend to seasonal interest in the park.

The mouth of Rat Creek offers a more naturalized condition for creek daylighting. This restored area opens opportunities for fish habitat and nature interpretation. Whether sitting among the native flowers and grasses at the river’s edge in the summer months or watching the ice flows course through the river in the earliest stages of spring, visitors are encouraged to contemplate their relationship to the river and their place in the larger ecosystem.
CONCEPT #1

PARK USE & AMENITIES

What do you think about how the design responds to Park Use & Amenities priorities?

Legend:
- Outdoor (Enhanced with vegetation clearing)
- Natural Play and Interpretation Elements
- Drinking Fountain
- Public Washroom
- Boating Hand Launch
- Fishing
- Bike Parking
- Uplifted Parking
- Dog-Friendly Dispensers
- Off-Leash Dog Walking
- John C. Hall Building
- River Access
- Off-Leash Dog Trail
- Off-Leash Dog Area
- Park Entrance - Existing
- Park Entrance - Proposed
- Proposed Picnic Locations
- Proposed Garbage Can Locations

Concept 1 takes a less intensive approach to recreation and amenities in the park. The focus is on ecological preservation and restoration, which introduces unique passive recreation opportunities into the park and enhances existing elements and features.

John C. Hall Building

The Master Plan will explore future uses for this building that is located within the park boundary. Potential uses the Master Plan could explore within the current zoning allowance include:
- Community Recreation Services (community hall, local resident organization)
- Exhibition and Convention Facilities (non-profit meeting space)
- Natural Science Exhibits (educational space)
- Public Libraries and Cultural Exhibits (museum, public or non-profit art gallery)

Heritage status may be explored, which would modify the zoning to D1 and allow the uses listed above and other uses as appropriate.
CONCEPT 1:  
CONNECTIVITY AND CIRCULATION

What do you think about how the design responds priorities related to Connectivity & Circulation?

Legend:

- Park Enhancements - Existing
- Park Enhancements - Proposed
- Major Park Entrance
- Minor Park Entrance
- Wayfinding
- Trail Markers for Natural Surface Trails
- Trail Markers for Aggregate and Paved Surface Trails
- Interpretive Signs

Trails are upgraded with a preference of natural and aggregate surfaces over paved surfaces. Some sections of existing natural trails are being closed where they do not meet International Mountain Bike Association Canada (IMBA) standards. Sections which do not meet standards but do not show signs of instability have been maintained. Alternate and new natural trails enhance the connectivity and mitigate environmental impacts.

Trail activities are encouraged in less sensitive areas of the park and new alignments are chosen to create minimal ecological impacts.

One new access point from Jasper Avenue and a new stair access from Ada Boulevard are proposed.

A comprehensive signage plan includes wayfinding, trail markers, entrances, and interpretive signage.
CONCEPT 2: NATURE & ECOLOGY

What do you think about how the design responds to Nature & Ecology priorities?

Legend:
- Interpretive Signage
- Protect Habitat and Dismantle Human Activity
- Manage Vegetation for Fire Prevention and Habitat Enhancement
- Manage and Restore Riparian Planting
- Restore with Native Grass and Shrub Planting
- Restore with Transitional Forest Vegetation
- Maintain as Mown Grass with Shade Trees
- Restore Vegetation Cover to Create Natural Buffer
- Restore Vegetation Cover on Exposed Slopes
- Remove Silted Vegetation for Improved Sight Lines
- Protect Sensitive Geologic Landform

The focus of this concept is on ecological restoration and enhancing habitat. Some existing lawn areas will be restored to native grass and shrub planting.

Natural heritage interpretation, educational programming and passive recreation are proposed as compatible park uses.
CONCEPT 1:
WINTER ACTIVITIES

What do you think about how the design responds to winter use priorities?

Legend:
- Winter Event Space
- Winter Playground
- Johnston C. Hall Building - potential winter programming
- Snow Clearing Pathway
- Snow-Shoeing / Hiking Trail
- Natural Trails / Fat Biking Trail
- Off-Leash Dog Trail
- Off-Leash Area
- Programmed Open Space
- Winter Garden
- Major Park Entrance
- Minor Park Entrance
- Wayfinding
- Trail Markers for Natural Surface Trails
- Trail Markers for Aggregate and Paved Surface Trails
- Interpretive Signs

Winter activities take advantage of the trail network to facilitate hiking, snowshoeing and fat biking. The paved off-leash dog trail will be cleared of snow and the off-leash area provides great access to dog-friendly spaces. The expanded pavilion and flexible open space can be a venue for winter festivals and the playground includes winter-appropriate elements such as a small tobogganing hill. The restored meadow in Kinnaird Park becomes a winter garden showcasing the beauty of native plants throughout the year.
CONCEPT 1:
SAFETY AND MAINTENANCE

What do you think about how the design responds to Safety and Maintenance priorities?

Legend:
- Trail for Maintenance Vehicles
- Lit Pathway / Area
- Regulatory Signs
- Remove Excess Vegetation for Improved Sight Lines
- Wayfinding
- Trail Mixture for Natural Surface Trails
- Trail Mixture for Aggregate and Paved Surface Trails
- Enclosed Roll-Off Garbage Bins for Park Maintenance

The activities and natural area management in Concept 1 generally require a lower level of maintenance.

A focus on ecological restoration and habitat protection calls for lower impact park operations and safety measures.

Selective clearing of vegetation along prominent trails will increase sight lines. A complete signage strategy will provide greater wayfinding and orientation.
An escape from the city, within the city, Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine is a natural destination where Edmonton’s diverse and growing population can gather, learn and play.

This green corridor welcomes all people to recreate and explore in a safe and inclusive environment. Building on Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine’s layered cultural and natural history, this essential link in the open-space network balances the protection of sensitive River Valley ecologies with the recreational needs of generations to come.

**VISION #2**

Does this statement align with your values?

- Yes, because...
- No, because...

*Key features are highlighted on the map.*
WHAT IS THE EXPERIENCE IN THE PARK?

Concept 2

The focus in Concept 2 is creating a meeting place and recreational experience for park visitors while maintaining the natural character of the River Valley.

Concept 2 maintains the ecological integrity of the park while proposing activities with slightly more infrastructure requirements.

Landscape Units:

The landscape units used to describe the experience were developed through the inventory and analysis of the park for the Master Plan. The five landscape units include River Valley Slopes, Mobility Corridor, River Edge, Kinnaird Ravine and Plateau Parks. They represent areas with similar ecological attributes that can be expected to respond to management techniques in the same way.

Plateau Parks

The open spaces at the top of bank offer an exciting introduction to the River Valley and ravine landscape. Whether you are approaching the park from Jasper Avenue, a neighbourhood north of the park or from elsewhere in the City, the Plateau Parks offer play opportunities, picnic sites and off-leash dog areas in a mix of manicured and natural landscapes. These amenities are accessible to all neighbours of the park and encourage pedestrian connections to adjacent green spaces, such as Borden Park north of the ravine. Visitors are enticed to descend the slopes at several improved access points, cross over Kinnaird Ravine on a new pedestrian bridge or simply sit and enjoy the stunning views.

River Valley Slopes

Well-defined gateways at the top of bank lead visitors onto enhanced stairs and pathways, connecting to the network of natural and improved trails that weave through the slopes. Park visitors, including mountain bikers, hikers, dog-walkers, snow-shoers and cyclists, co-exist in the River Valley Slopes, enjoying opportunities to meet friends and neighbours and to experience nature up close. While maintaining a natural feel, improved sight lines, wayfinding signage and pathway improvements increase the feeling of security for all people in the park. The proposed off-leash dog loop brings park visitors and their four-legged friends into the River Valley Slopes, helping to reduce impacts on other, more sensitive, areas of the park and reducing conflict on the multi-use trail at the base of the slopes.
**Kinnaird Ravine**

Secluded and shaded by a towering white spruce forest, Kinnaird Ravine offers a rejuvenating experience unlike any other in Edmonton for commuters, recreationalists and naturalists alike. Visitors are welcomed to walk, roll, run, bike or snowshoe along the existing gravel pathway, experiencing the unique ecologies of the ravine and community artwork.

A suspension bridge across the Ravine creates a spectacular viewing experience for visitors to the park and an additional natural pathway that traverses through the forest will connect park visitors to the confluence of Rat Creek and the North Saskatchewan River from the north bank.

**Mobility Corridor**

The Mobility Corridor is a place for people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to gather and enjoy being in the River Valley. As an open space at the bottom of the bank, the landscape is ideal for running, cycling, snowshoeing and strolling along the pathways. A new vehicle and pedestrian entrance to the park creates a sense of arrival and a clear identity for the park. The parking lot, with improved parking for buses and boat trailers, connects to a barrier-free trail loop and accessible boating hand launch, as well the Braille Trail with enhanced interpretation elements, creating exciting experiences for all park visitors.

Large groups can use the picnic area for family or community gatherings while children can run, jump and climb on the new natural playground in the activity node. The amenity building is safe, visible and well-maintained, providing a space for partner organizations, City staff and the public to come together in the park.

**River Edge**

The River Edge is a place where everyone can access the North Saskatchewan River. Quiet enjoyment of the river is facilitated at designated access points and viewing decks amidst restored riparian vegetation.

Near the amenity building, the landscape terraces down to the boat launch to improve access for all boaters and park users. This terracing is mimicked at the confluence of Rat Creek, inviting people to climb down to the water or to sit and enjoy river views.

**New large adventure playground with winter play opportunities**

**Landscape Terraces at the mouth of Rat Creek**
CONCEPT 2:

PARK USE & AMENITIES

What do you think about how the design responds to Park Use & Amenities priorities?

Concept 2 integrates more recreational activities and amenities into the park plan. This concept proposes relatively low levels of development but provides the required amenities to support a more actively used park for a growing surrounding population.

John C. Hall Building

The Master Plan will explore future uses for this home that is located within the park boundaries. Potential uses the Master Plan would explore within the zoning allowances include:

- Community Recreation Service (community hall, local resident organization)
- Exhibition and Convention Facilities (non-profit meeting space)
- Natural Science Exhibits (exhibition space)
- Public Libraries and Cultural Exhibits (museum, public or non-profit art gallery)
- Heritage status may be explored, which would modify the zoning to allow the uses stated above and/or other uses as recommended.

Legend:

- Informal Picnic Shelter
- Enhanced Concessions Outdoors
- Natural Play and Interpretation Elements
- Drinking Fountain
- Public Restrooms
- Boating Hand Launch
- River Access
- Fishing
- Bike Parking
- Upgraded and Expanded Parking
- Dog Bag Dispensers
- Off-Leash Dog Walking
- John C. Hall Building
- Fire Pit

Edmonton
CONCEPT 2: CONNECTIVITY AND CIRCULATION

What do you think about how the design responds priorities related to Connectivity & Circulation?

Trails are upgraded to accommodate proposed activities, which includes an increase in paved surface trails. Some sections of existing natural trails are being closed where they do not meet International Mountain Bike Association Canada (IMBA) standards. Sections which do not meet standards but do not show signs of instability have been maintained. Alternate and new natural trails are proposed to enhance connections and mitigate environmental impact.

New trail alignments are chosen where they will create exciting user experiences in the park. Greater access is provided from Jasper Ave and a suspension bridge over Kinnaid Ravine connects to Virginia Park neighbourhood and Sorden Park. A comprehensive signage plan includes wayfinding, trail markers, entrance and interpretive signs.

Legend:
- Major Park Entrance
- Minor Park Entrance
- Wayfinding
- Trail Markers for Natural Surface Trails
- Trail Markers for Aggregate and Paved Surface Trails
- Interpretive Sign

Map details include:
- Existing Paved Surface Pathway
- Proposed Paved Surface Pathway
- Existing Aggregate Surface Trail
- Proposed Aggregate Surface Trail
- Existing Natural Surface Trail
- Proposed Natural Surface Trail
- Proposed Trail Closure
- Existing Wooden Stairs
- Proposed Wooden Stairs
- Proposed Aggregate Path with Truck Access
- Proposed Suspension Bridge
- Existing Bike Routes and Trails
- Existing Bus Routes and Stairs
- Key Links between Park and Surroundings
CONCEPT 2:

NATURE & ECOLOGY

What do you think about how the design responds to Nature & Ecology priorities?

Proposed activities aim to minimize impact on the existing natural areas in the park, while providing some additional amenities. Development within sensitive areas is limited to trails and select clearing.

Higher intensity activities are focused in areas of the park that are already disturbed. Highly sensitive areas are protected to preserve the natural character of the park.

Legend:
- Interpretive Signage
- Protect Habitat and Manage Human Activity
- Conserve Vegetation for Slope Stabilization and Manage for Fire Prevention
- Manage and Restore Riparian Planting for Slope Stabilization
- Maintain as Molin Grass with Shade Trees
- Protect Sensitive Geologic Landforms
- Restore Vegetation Cover on Exposed Slopes
- Remove Select Vegetation for Improved Sight-line (+/- 5 m on sides of trails)
- Restore with Native Dune and Shrub Planting
CONCEPT 2:

WINTER ACTIVITIES

What do you think about how the design responds to winter use priorities?

Winter activities take advantage of the trail network to facilitate hiking, snowshoeing, and fat biking. The paved off-leash dog trail will be cleared of snow in the winter. The off-leash area at the top of bank provides great access to dog friendly space. The expanded pavilion and flexible open space can be a venue for winter festivals and the playground features winter appropriate elements.

Legend:

- Winter Event Space
- Outlook
- Winter Playground
- John C. Hall Building - potential winter programming
- Fire Pit
- Snow Clearing Pathway
- Snow Shoveling / Hiking Trail
- Fat Biking Trail / Natural Trail
- Dog Walking Trail
- Dog Off-Leash Area
- Programmed Open Space
- Major Park Entrance
- Minor Park Entrance
- Wayfinding
- Trail Markers for Nature!
- Surface Trails
- Trail Markers for Aggregate and Paved Surface Trails
- Interpretive Signs
CONCEPT 2:
SAFETY AND MAINTENANCE

What do you think about how the design responds to Safety and Maintenance priorities?

Higher levels of activity and amenities in the park will require more maintenance and supporting infrastructure. Selective clearing of vegetation along permanent trails will increase sight-lines.

A complete signage strategy will provide greater wayfinding and orientation.
COMMUNITY + PLANNING CONTEXT

The neighbourhoods around Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine are evolving, creating greater pressures and more opportunities for the park.

Five Area Redevelopment Plans (ARP)s are guiding development to support population growth around the park. They include plans for The Quarters Downtown, Boyle St. McCauley, riverdale, Stadium Station, and Edmonton Northlands. The ARPs recommend higher intensity development, including denser housing along Jasper Avenue, surrounding the Stadium Station LRT stop and in The Quarters Downtown development. As a result, it is likely that more people from the surrounding communities will be visiting Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine in the next 10-20 years and beyond.

THE QUARTERS DOWNTOWN

The Quarters Downtown ARP (2014) What began as a community reclaiming process has become a plan for the accommodation of 16,200 additional people in the neighborhood when development is complete. The plan focuses on developing a unique character in the neighborhood.

CITY POLICIES:

Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine are important links in the river valley green space network. Planning and development for river valley parks in Edmonton is influenced and directed by several city-wide plans and policies.

Here is a sample of City policies and plans will guide and provide direction to the development of the Master Plan for Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine.

- **Capital City Recreation Park Concept Plan, 1975**
  - The CORCP identified the Dawson Park area for further development of trails and facilities for residents. The plan included a variety of activities, including a skate park, and was designed to accommodate the needs of the community.

- **Urban Parks Management Plan, 2006**
  - The UPMP, which will be replaced by BREATHE, provides strategic direction for the acquisition, design, construction, maintenance, preservation, and restoration of parks in the City of Edmonton. The plan has three specific goals:
    1. To provide a vision specific to Edmonton's parks system.
    2. To develop strategic direction that will guide decision-making.
    3. To develop management instructions that support the vision, service themes, and policies and ensure consistency in implementation.

- **The Ways Strategic Plans, 2009-2018**
  - These are plans for the City of Edmonton's high-level strategic plans that outline how the City will achieve its vision. They are used to guide the City's efforts to deliver services and infrastructure that are most important to Edmontonians while managing the opportunities and challenges of our ever-changing city.

- **Breathe: Edmonton's Green Network Strategy, 2017**
  - Breathe is a transformational strategic plan to support each neighborhood with an accessible network of parks and open space as the city grows. The main goal of the Green Network Strategy is to plan and sustain a healthy city by encouraging the connection and integration of open spaces. Breathe will replace and expand the Urban Parks Management Plan and Natural Connections Strategy Plan.
ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITIES

The environmental sensitivity of an area is defined by the degree to which human impact disrupts its ecological balance.

FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY:

High sensitivity areas are more susceptible to disturbance and require a higher level of protection. The following factors have the most potential to be disturbed or damaged from human impact.

- Historical landslides/potential for slope failure
- Development along steep slopes
- Development along seasonal streams
- Development in areas in floodplain
- Development in wetland areas
- Development in areas with dense vegetation
- Development in areas with limited human impact
- Areas of high human activity potential

Management of Sensitivity Zones:

If it is possible to propose activity in any zone, but the trade-offs, or disturbance levels, will be higher in zones of higher sensitivity.

- Development in higher sensitivity areas should be restricted for the protection of natural resources. Suggested management practices include the restriction of development, routine maintenance, restricted wildlife control and only emergency safety and security services.
- The interaction of natural resources and human activity should be managed in medium sensitivity areas to prevent unnecessary negative environmental impacts. Suggested management practices include development limited to trails, routine garbage pick up and trail edge maintenance, limited wildlife control, some habitat restoration and some safety and security services.
- Lower sensitivity areas have experienced the most ecological degradation and, therefore, are the most suitable for many types of park activities if increased activity is desired. Degraded areas may have the greatest potential for ecological restoration, but may require significant effort.

ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS:

After the first open house we continued to explore the ecological functions within and surrounding the park. Our findings helped us define the most environmentally sensitive areas of the park.

The City of Edmonton created sensitivity class categories to describe the sensitivities in river valley parks. The sensitivity classes outline the types of development that are suitable for the park and provide direction for the Master Plan.
LANDSCAPE UNITS

Each of the landscape units has a unique set of opportunities and constraints.

LANDSCAPE UNITS:
The five landscape units are based on unique natural features and common activity uses. This helps to frame our discussion about opportunities and constraints throughout the park. Opportunities and constraints were developed based on a combination of City priorities, public input and site analysis.

RIVER VALLEY SLOPES
This landscape unit is part of the larger continuous steep scarpment that defines the river valley basin, with loose soil materials that tend to erode. The planting consists of dense stands of shrubs, trees, areas of grass, and a mix of native and non-native vegetation. Trails run at different levels along the slopes, many of which are natural/informal.

RIVER EDGE
This landscape unit forms the belt along the edge of the North Saskatchewan River. The steep drop to the river makes access difficult. There are many informal paths down to the river, showing the desire for people to touch the water. The vegetation is a mix of native and non-native species, which aids in slope stabilization.

MOBILITY CORRIDOR
This landscape unit is characterized by its flat, manicured grass borders and fields. The south-western end of the park hosts active uses with a variety of facilities and amenities, including the Dawson pavilion. Two main trails, a paved multi-use regional trail and a Braille trail, run the entire length of the park. Most trails in this corridor are off-leash dog areas.

KINNAIRD RAVINE
The ravine’s steep slopes and its high concentration of coniferous trees give it a dense, secluded and mysterious feel. It has high habitat value for wildlife because of its dense upper and under-story growth. Large portions of the ravine are inaccessible to people. A single gravel path is the main route through this zone.

PLATEAU PARKS
These flat areas are at the top of the bank and can be easily accessed from adjacent neighbourhoods. Most of the plateau parks have few amenities that could be improved upon to benefit nearby residents.
### PARK USE & AMENITIES

**PARK ENTRY**
- Concept A
- Concept B

**RIGHT LAUNCH AREA AT PAVilon**
- Concept A
- Concept B

**AMENITY BUILDING**
- Concept A
- Concept B

**WINTER PLAY**
- Concept A
- Concept B

**RAI Access POIntS**
- Concept A
- Concept B

**DRY LAUNCH**
- Concept A
- Concept B

**VIEWPOINTS**
- Concept A
- Concept B

### CONNECTIVITY & CIRCULATION

**NEW NATURAL TRAIL**
- Concept A
- Concept B

**LATHE BRIDGE ENTRANCE**
- Concept A
- Concept B

**NORTH SIDE CONNECTION**
- Concept A
- Concept B

### NATURE & ECOLOGY

**DOWNTANDING JAY CREEK**
- Concept A
- Concept B

**NATIVE VEGETATION & RESTORATION**
- Concept A
- Concept B

### ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK

- Concept A
- Concept B

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**WHAT SPECIFIC PARK ELEMENTS DO YOU PREFER?**

Please circle your preferred park element. You should either comment or don’t have a preference. Write your comments on the back of this page. If you have any questions, please ask in the box under the images.

Consider some of the tradeoffs listed in informing your choice.

Your feedback will be used to refine a single concept plan for the park.
PARK USE & AMENITIES

CONCEPT 1: Concept 1 proposes lower levels of development in the park. The focus for the park is an ecological preservation and recreation, which involves low intensity use and recreation activities on the edges of the park.

CONCEPT 3: Concept 3 integrates more amenity-based activity into the park, while still protecting the ecological integrity of the park.

CONCEPT 4: Concept 4 programs more park, non-park, and urban development and activity into the park, while still protecting the ecological integrity of the park.

CONNECTIVITY & CIRCULATION

CONCEPT 1: Trees are aggregated, with a preference for natural and aggregate surfaces, over paved surfaces. A network of greenbelts and off-street access is the main means of connectivity to the urban park.

CONCEPT 2: Trees are aggregated and some are paved. A network of side streets and off-street access is the main means of connectivity to the urban park.

CONCEPT 3: Trees are aggregated and some are paved. A network of side streets and off-street access is the main means of connectivity to the urban park.

NATURE & ECOLOGY

CONCEPT 1: The focus is on ecological restoration and environmental protection. Parks, parks and existing natural areas are reconnected through natural greenbelts and off-street access. Trails provide opportunities for educational and recreational activities.

CONCEPT 2: The focus is on ecological restoration and environmental protection. Parks, parks and existing natural areas are reconnected through natural greenbelts and off-street access. Trails provide opportunities for educational and recreational activities.

CONCEPT 3: The focus is on ecological restoration and environmental protection. Parks, parks and existing natural areas are reconnected through natural greenbelts and off-street access. Trails provide opportunities for educational and recreational activities.

CONCEPT 4: The focus is on ecological restoration and environmental protection. Parks, parks and existing natural areas are reconnected through natural greenbelts and off-street access. Trails provide opportunities for educational and recreational activities.

SAFETY & MAINTENANCE

CONCEPT 1: Higher levels of activity and amenity in the park require more maintenance and supporting infrastructure. Streetscape improvements will also increase safety levels and provide more “rooms on the park.” Operations, brochures and signage will also be improved for better direction to south slopes and new parking.

IDENTITY & EXPERIENCE

CONCEPT 2: Concept 2 is enhancing the recreationalframework for use while retaining the natural character of the “urban park.” It provides greater access to the river and opportunities for enjoying the river.

CONCEPT 3: Concept 3 is enhancing the recreationalframework for use while retaining the natural character of the “urban park.” It provides greater access to the river and opportunities for enjoying the river.

CONCEPT 4: Concept 4 is enhancing the recreationalframework for use while retaining the natural character of the “urban park.” It provides greater access to the river and opportunities for enjoying the river.