

Downtown **Public Places Plan**

POLICY REVIEW

March 2018

Edmonton

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The Edmonton **Downtown Public Places Plan** (EDPPP) will respect the direction of the City of Edmonton's existing bylaws, policies, guidelines and reports. This backgrounder summarizes the key documents and projects of influence to be incorporated into the project. It will function as a reference throughout the project to ensure that the EDPPP aligns with existing policy.

- ✦ The first section identifies two key projects that will influence the EDPPP – BREATHE: Edmonton's Open Space Strategy (2017) and Capital City Downtown Plan (2010). Each project is addressed in this document, including a brief description of their influence on the EDPPP and how they will be incorporated into the plan.
- ✦ The second section summarizes documents that need to be considered throughout the EDPPP. These policies, guidelines and reports will direct, support, and/or inform the EDPPP and/or the process undertaken to create it. This summary highlights the direction and implications for each of these documents.



KEY PROJECTS



PLANNING CONTEXT

The Downtown Public Places Plan will support the vision, guiding principles and policies of The Ways Strategic Plans and BREATHE: Edmonton's Green Network Strategy.



BREATHE

PROJECT RELEVANCE

BREATHE: Edmonton's Green Network Strategy presents a robust and comprehensive approach to managing, programming, and promoting the sustainable and efficient use of the city's parks and publicly-accessible open spaces. BREATHE is a transformative strategy to make sure that as the city grows, each neighbourhood will be supported by a network of open space for the next 30 years. The main goal of the strategy is to plan and sustain a healthy city by encouraging connection and integration of open spaces within the city.

RELATIONSHIP TO EDPPP

The EDPPP will align with the policy statements, recommendations, and proposed implementation projects provided by BREATHE, and will utilize the findings from BREATHE's spatial analyses.

ALIGNMENT METHODOLOGY

To ensure alignment with BREATHE, the EDPPP will guide strategic open space decisions through the following actions:

- + Apply key ideas, themes and functions (ecology, celebration, wellness)
- + Analyze public spaces using the geospatial tool for planning open spaces conducted for BREATHE
- + Ensure alignment of the high-level strategic directions and application of their policy actions
- + Address issues surrounding the access, quantity, quality and the acquisition of open spaces identified for Edmonton's Downtown.
- + Consider and apply the provision strategies to increase the number of open spaces as well as improve the access, quality and functionality of all public spaces in Edmonton's Downtown.
- + The EDPPP will frequently refer to the implementation Plan on achieving the policy actions

KEY RELEVANT POLICIES

AMOUNT AND ACCESS TO OPEN SPACE

- + Provide increased delivery of currently undersupplied open space functions, particularly wellness, recreation, active living, and child friendly spaces, by providing new multifunctional parks, plazas, promenades, pathways and complete streets.
- + Increase the supply of open space in undersupplied areas of the Central Core by expanding existing open spaces when suitable opportunities arise (e.g. expand into adjacent available lands and street or lane rights-of-way). When valuable open spaces are privately owned, acquire land through opportunity purchase mechanisms.
- + Negotiate improvements and additions to publicly-owned open space and public access to privately-owned open space through:
 - + Cash in lieu of open space provision and density bonusing directed to Central Core open space improvements.
 - + For publicly accessible, but privately-owned open space, ensure design, functionality and connections are complementary to the public open space system.
 - + Build capacity to encourage public-private collaboration to co-create or co-produce publicly accessible open space.

- + Explore creative means to cluster or combine the contributions of multiple landowners (as land or cash in lieu) to supply larger, higher quality or more functional spaces that can either be physically connected or functionally connected.
- + Design buildings, streets and alleyways to provide additional public, pedestrian-oriented open space and commercial frontage. In addition, alleyways in the Central Core should provide multiple functions for emergency, servicing, residential and commercial vehicular access, stormwater management and safe non-motorized movement.
- + Create new multifunctional open spaces through the following means:
 - + Convert appropriate, strategically located, vacant public parcels into parkland or civic spaces.
 - + Close select public roads and alleys to traffic seasonally to create temporary open spaces.
 - + Redesign and convert strategically located public road or lane right-of-ways to shared vehicular/pedestrian oriented open space accompanied by investment in landscape, public art and creatively-designed amenities.
 - + Consider creating elevated open space above laneways, rail corridors and roadways where other options are unavailable or have been exhausted.
 - + Encourage the use of publicly-accessible green roofs. Consider a linked system of public green roofs.
- + Connecting new and existing spaces through complete streets and strategic land acquisition or conversion of adjacent lands.
- + Enhance the Central Core's network of promenades, greenways and pedestrian-oriented streets.
- + Improve physical access to, and activation of, the River Valley and Ravine System. Expand Victoria Promenade and consider a continuous top-of-bank promenade along the River Valley edge, including the south bank in the Strathcona neighbourhood.
- + Expand and enhance the Ribbon of Steel/Railtown Greenway.
- + Use laneways, on-street bikeways and dedicated cycle routes to enhance non-motorized circulation.

QUALITY AND FUNCTIONALITY OF OPEN SPACE

- + Improve existing spaces by increasing design quality and providing greater multifunctionality.
- + Improve existing asset condition, through replacement, refurbishment and improved maintenance regimes.
- + Create new designed ecological space(s) in the Central Core. This may be achieved by:
 - + Daylighting buried watercourses (e.g. Mill Creek).
 - + Conversion of all, or part of, select existing parks to more ecologically-supportive species.

- + Establishment of a community based “Green Streets” program to provide enhanced ecological plantings in roadway greens.
- + Maintain and enhance the urban forest of the Central Core.
- + Retrofit or upgrade aging stormwater infrastructure with more multifunctional open space amenities, where appropriate.

CAPITAL CITY DOWNTOWN PLAN

PROJECT RELEVANCE

Edmonton's Capital City Downtown Plan (CCDP) aims to achieve a vision for Edmonton's Downtown that is sustainable, vibrant, well designed and accessible. To achieve this, the plan sets out policy directions and bold initiatives to meet the ever-changing needs and aspirations of Downtown Edmonton. The CCDP identifies open spaces as an important land use and a source of strength for the City and recognizes the importance of increasing the amount of land devoted to parks and recreation use in the Downtown, given the significant ongoing residential growth in the area.

RELATIONSHIP TO EDPPP

The CCDP identifies the need to develop a Downtown Parks Master Plan and the EDPPP is the result of this requirement. The CCDP will set the overarching vision, principles and bold directions for the EDPPP. Additionally, the EDPPP will align with the goals and policies and directions for assembling a network of parks spaces in Downtown.

ALIGNMENT METHODOLOGY

To ensure alignment with CCDP, the EDPPP will guide strategic open space decisions through the following actions:

- ✦ Apply high-level vision and principles (accessible, sustainable, vibrant, well designed)
- ✦ Achieve the Parks and Open Space goal
- ✦ Utilize the identified neighborhoods within Edmonton's Downtown to develop visions and priorities for their respective identities.
- ✦ Consider and incorporate the appropriate outlined policies and projects for parks and open spaces, cycling downtown, pedestrian circulation and the transit system.
- ✦ Achieve several key actions referred to in the Downtown Action Program under Parks and Open Space Master Plan in addition to other policies that pertain to public places.

KEY RELEVANT POLICIES

- ✦ A detailed downtown Urban Design Strategy, intended to improve the aesthetic value of the public realm, which should:
 - ✦ Incorporate opportunities in open spaces for active components such as open-air markets, street vendors, sidewalk cafes and exhibits on public and private land in the Downtown.
 - ✦ Promote the animation of parks and open spaces by providing public art, festivals, special events and recreational programming throughout the year.
 - ✦ Collaborate with downtown stakeholder groups in these activities.
 - ✦ Ensure that plans for new parks and for the redevelopment of existing parks follow design guidelines for Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).
 - ✦ Install interpretive monuments in public spaces and undertake public art commissions.
- ✦ Expand public art programs, and provide financial, marketing and promotional support for downtown festivals.
- ✦ Provide neighbourhood gathering spaces and public places throughout downtown that encourage 24-hour use.

- + Promote special events including farmers' markets, parades, seasonal street vendors, buskers, and other festivities.
- + Incorporate CPTED and universal design into public spaces.
- + Encourage community involvement in design and improvement projects.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION



Municipal Plans

THE WAY AHEAD
2008 (Updated 2014)

The Way Ahead, Edmonton's Strategic Plan, establishes six 10-year strategic goals to achieve the City's vision for Edmonton in 2040, and to direct long-term planning for the City of Edmonton.

The Way Ahead will influence the EDPPP at a high level through the City's vision, and strategic goals including: Urban Form, Transportation, Environment, Financial and Economy

THE WAY WE GROW
2010

The Way We Grow is the City of Edmonton's Municipal Development Plan (MDP). It is designed to guide the growth and development of Edmonton for a ten-year period.

The plan puts forward nine strategic goals: Sustainable Urban Form, Integrated Land Use and Transportation, Complete Healthy and Livable Communities, Urban Design, Supporting Prosperity, Natural Environment, Working Within Our Region, Managing Land and Resources and Food and Urban Agriculture.

There are specific policy directions for parks, public spaces and open spaces that will be applied to the EDPPP. The Way We Grow calls for:

- + The distribution and expansion of the parks and open spaces inventory
- + The protection, preservation, and enhancement of the natural environment by maintaining the integrity and interconnectivity of the river valley, water resources, natural areas, parks and open spaces
- + Ways of acquiring, funding and managing parks and open spaces

THE WAY WE MOVE, TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN
2009

The Transportation Master Plan establishes the framework for how Edmonton will address its future transportation needs, and aligns with the City's vision and Municipal Development Plan.

The Plan puts forward seven strategic goals: Transportation and Land Use Integration, Access and Mobility, Sustainability, Health and Safety, Transportation Mode Shift, Well-Maintained Infrastructures and Economic Vitality.

There are specific policy directions for public spaces that will be applied to the EDPPP. The Way We Move includes actions to:

- + Encourage healthy, active lifestyles
- + Create a walkable and cycle-friendly environment that supports the creation of a healthy, barrier-free, age friendly and safe city where active modes are a preferred transportation choice

THE WAY WE LIVE
2010

The Way We Live: Edmonton's People Plan is the City's first plan focusing on people services and quality of life issues. It acts as a blueprint to coordinate services with the 25 municipalities in the Edmonton Capital Region.

The plan has six goals that contribute to improving Edmonton's livability: vibrant, connected, engaged and welcoming city; celebrates life; caring, inclusive and affordable; safe; attractive and sustainable.

The Plan recognizes and acknowledges that parks add to the quality of life. The Way We Live includes the following objectives application to the EDPPP:

- + Provide parks, natural, green and public spaces for well-being of citizens
- + Take pride in and showcase green spaces and natural places
- + Protects, preserves and expands its parks, green and natural areas

THE WAY WE GREEN
2011

The Way We Green is the City of Edmonton's Environmental Strategic Plan. The Plan sets out principles, goals, objectives, strategic actions and approaches for Edmonton to live in balance with nature, while ensuring the wellbeing of Edmonton's society, economy and quality of life.

The Way We Green has 12 long-term goals that fall under the following categories: land, water, air, energy and climate change, food, solid waste, and foundation for success.

The Way We Green includes the following objectives to be adopted in the EDPPP:

- + Use parks and open spaces to complement and enhance biodiversity, linkages, habitat and the overall health of the ecological network
- + Expand the inventory of parks and open space
- + Understand the ecosystems and ecosystem services on which Edmonton depends, valuing and protecting them as Edmonton grows
- + Protect, preserve and improve the North Saskatchewan River Valley as an accessible year-round place for recreation and activity for people of all ages
- + Edmonton is conserving and efficient in its use of light
- + Travel in Edmonton is energy-efficient and more citizens use public transit and active mode as their preferred choice of transportation

THE WAY WE PROSPER
2013

The Way We Prosper is the City of Edmonton's Economic Development Plan. It is a high-level plan that is focused on growing and diversifying Edmonton's economy. It sets direction for the City to more effectively engage with partners and senior levels of government on issues relating to economic growth and sustainability.

The Way We Prosper is underpinned by five high-level goals for Edmonton: a confident progressive global image; international renowned as a powerhouse of industry; an unrivalled, competitive business climate; an environment for innovation; and a vibrant, livable city.

An iconic downtown can give Edmonton a competitive edge in attracting workers and investment. By enhancing the public places system through the EDPPP, downtown Edmonton stands out as an economic driver for the region and a central place to live, work and gather in the city.

Strategic Plans

COMPLETE STREETS GUIDELINES
2013

Assists the City in implementing its Transportation Master Plan, The Way We Move, by integrating transportation and land use and encouraging active transportation through complete streets.

The Complete Street Guidelines may influence:

- + Active transportation within and around public places
- + Access to public places
- + Understanding the influences of modal priorities on public places
- + Relationships of public places with surrounding streets and land use

MAIN STREETS GUIDELINES
2015

Stemming from the Complete Streets Guidelines, the Main Street Guidelines is a toolkit for the design and operation of all existing Main Streets in the City of Edmonton.

The Main Street Guidelines may influence:

- + Guidelines for potential opportunities for parklets and small-scale public parks

ACT PLAN POLICY OR PROGRAM	DIRECTION	IMPLICATIONS
BICYCLE TRANSPORTATION PLAN 2009	<p>The Bicycle Transportation Plan envisions a bicycle-friendly city and calls for a range of facilities that would create a functional, comprehensive network of bicycle routes. The Plan proposes an expanded city-wide bicycle network.</p>	<p>The Bicycle Transportation Plan may influence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Standards and guidelines for bicycle connections in, out and through the Downtown public places
TRANSIT STRATEGY 2017	<p>The Transit Strategy is a high-level strategy that provides a comprehensive and integrated perspective on the transit system, including Light Rail Transit (LRT), bus and paratransit.</p> <p>The five pillars of the transit strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Integrate transit with community planning and design + Establish a balanced approach to operating funding and fare policy + Develop a Market Responsive approach to transit-network design + Improve the customer experience + Develop Organizations Capacity 	<p>The EDPPP will integrate transit with community planning and design by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Ensuring that public places in Downtown have pedestrian access to the transit network + Embedding transit planning in the design of major public spaces + Creating features within or near public spaces that make transit more (weather-protected waiting areas, bicycle parking, safe and secure walking and cycling paths)
TRANSIT ORIENTATED DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES 2012	<p>The Transit Orientated Development (TOD) Guidelines identify appropriate transit-oriented development around LRT stations and transit centres. They assist the City, businesses and citizens to plan ahead for the integration of transit and land use in station areas.</p>	<p>The Transit Orientated Development Guidelines will influence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Urban park and plaza guidelines and considerations
FOR THE LOVE OF WINTER 2015	<p>Edmonton's WinterCity Strategy is about creating a city that is inviting, vibrant and exciting for residents and tourists, throughout the winter months.</p> <p>The WinterCity Strategy goals fall under four pillars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Winter Life – make it easier and more fun to be outside + Winter Design – urban design elements that provide warmth to make the most opportunities to stay outdoors + Winter Economy – strong foundations upon which the city can grow and prosper + Our Winter Story – spreading the word on the things you can do in the winter 	<p>The WinterCity Strategy will influence the EDPPP by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Providing more opportunities for outdoor activity + Designing public spaces for winter safety and comfort + Incorporating urban design elements for winter fun, activity, beauty and interest + Increasing the capacity and sustainability of Edmonton's Winter festivals + Embracing living in a cold climate through education and culture
WINTER CITY DESIGN GUIDELINES In Development	<p>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.</p>	<p>These five principles applying to the public realm, specifically streets, parks and open spaces, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + 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

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 EDPPP:

- + Urban agriculture can be incorporated into public spaces, such as parks
- + Parks and open spaces can be used for food festivals, farmer's markets, community gardens and urban farms
- + Edible landscaping should be incorporated into parks and the public right-of-way
 - + Enable fresh food kiosks and mobile markets in food deserts and high pedestrian traffic areas
 - + Encourage street vendors, including food trucks
 - + Support urban agriculture opportunities such as leasing City-owned land, inventorying lands that could be used for urban agriculture, creating guidelines to integrate urban agriculture into public spaces, or working with developers to provide infrastructure for urban agriculture
 - + Support farmers' markets and food festivals like Taste of Edmonton

RECOVER: URBAN WELLNESS PLAN
In Development

RECOVER, Edmonton's Urban Wellness Plan, is a collaborative effort to strengthen the social, physical and economic conditions of neighbourhoods, starting with five downtown core neighbourhoods: Boyle Street, Central McDougall, Downtown, McCauley and Queen Mary Park. RECOVER is about the wellness of every person, neighbourhood and community and the businesses, social services and natural environments that support them. The RECOVER team, along with MaRS Solutions Lab, will facilitate a social-innovation process – working with stakeholders to use systems mapping and systems design to create and test possible solutions.

The Urban Wellness plan recognizes that a blend of natural and built environment promotes health and allow people in their neighborhoods to flourish. The EDPPP will include policies to:

- + Promote physical and mental health, it is health in mind, body, emotion and spirit
- + Promote places where people feel safe and accepted
- + Encourage diversity in opinions and culture
- + Ensure systems are in place to improve conditions for people and promote neighbourhoods to thrive

HISTORIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM & PLAN
2009

The Historic Resource Management Plan provides a long-term strategy for all heritage resources in Edmonton. The Plan focuses on five principal areas of activity to direct and guide future efforts to protect historic resources: Register and Inventory, Incentives, Promotion, Monitoring and Broader Heritage Initiatives.

The Historic Resource Management Plan provides the following recommendations that may be applicable to the EDPPP:

- + If the physical space of a historical resources includes public and open spaces, ensure the management, protection, promotion, preservation and reuse of the environment surrounding the resource

COMMUNITY AND RECREATION FACILITY MASTER PLAN
In Development

The City of Edmonton is developing a visionary 20-year plan to direct development for both new and existing recreation facilities.

The Community and Recreation Facility Master Plan may inform some guidelines within the EDPPP on recreation places and spaces to connect people, create vibrancy and improve physical and mental wellbeing.

ACT PLAN POLICY OR PROGRAM	DIRECTION	IMPLICATIONS
URBAN ISOLATION AND MENTAL HEALTH 2016	The City of Edmonton's initiative on Urban Isolation and Mental Health will work to positively affect mental health and wellbeing by connecting residents within their communities.	Several goals of the Urban Isolation and Mental Health can be applied through the EDPPP, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Connectedness through a number of activities (block parties, community gardens, etc.)
END POVERTY EDMONTON STRATEGY 2015	The EndPovertyEdmonton Strategy is to end poverty in Edmonton within one generation. There are a total of 28 priorities, within which are several actions to end poverty that have been categorized in the following strategies: towards true reconciliation, justice for all, move people out of poverty, invest in poverty free future, and change the conversation: build a movement to end poverty.	The EDPPP can support the EndPovertyEdmonton Strategy by creating spaces to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Showcase talents in public spaces Gather and be a part of the poverty conversation
CHILD FRIENDLY EDMONTON STRATEGY 2006	This high-level strategy document provides general guidelines on improving advocacy and awareness, accessibility and appropriate services for children.	Public spaces within Edmonton's Downtown public places should be designed with children in mind, including best practices such as natural playgrounds, outdoor classrooms and unstructured play elements.
VISION FOR AN AGE-FRIENDLY EDMONTON ACTION PLAN 2011	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. The Plan offers goals and actions to create age-friendly parks and outdoor spaces.	The EDPPP can align with this plan by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Creating age-friendly policies for the design and maintenance of infrastructure + Offering age-friendly resources and programming + Identifying and addressing the gaps in how Edmontonians view current accessibility of outdoor spaces for seniors
THE COUNCIL INITIATIVE ON PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT 2014	The Council Initiative on Public Engagement is a report that defines the importance and benefits of public engagement.	The EDPPP Internal and External Engagement Plans will be developed to align with the requirements outlined in the Council Initiative on Public Engagement.

LIVE ACTIVE STRATEGY (2016-2026)
In Development

This strategy is intended to raise awareness and help encourage Edmontonians to become more physically active through sports, recreational activities and active living. The Plan will provide direction to support active recreation and sports needs within Edmonton. 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 EDPPP can support this strategy by:

- + Advocating for greater and improved active recreation, active transportation and active living opportunities within public places
- + Careful attention will be given to the type and quality of park features and their connective to surrounding areas
- + Creating more accessible parks will encourage more use
- + Programmable and planned activities in public spaces will encourage use
- + Improving safety and security
- + Reduce, minimize and illuminate barriers to physical activities in public 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.

The EDPPP will apply the planning and some design recommendations for this strategy to parks including:

- + Classification
- + Access and parking
- + Distribution
- + Site use and adjacencies
- + Establishing and eliminating off-leash areas

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 EDPPP will offer opportunities throughout the project for Indigenous Peoples to provide meaningful, appropriate and actionable input that will be used to develop the EDPPP.

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

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, representation and responsibility for the Métis people residing in Edmonton
- + The successes and wellbeing 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 EDPPP 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 Peoples.

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

RIVER ACCESS STRATEGY
In Development

The River Access Strategy is a 10–year plan, in development, to inform future programming, operations and infrastructure improvements that support access to the river and activities associated with the river. It will define locations, regulations and use guidelines for development of river–based amenities. It will also balance environmental stewardship while encouraging a broader appreciation for activities on the river.

The River Access Guiding Principles Policy (Policy C586) and the Final Strategy will provide guidance on how the river is accessed and used within Edmonton’s Downtown.

The seven guiding principles are to: ensure public access; value and protect the unique character and environment in the river valley; educate and engage; foster collaboration and partnership; promote public safety and responsible use; provide and support a range of river recreation opportunities; and celebrate the culture, historical and social role of the river in our city.

WAYFINDING SIGNS FOR PARKS AND TRAILS
2014

The City has developed a new wayfinding sign program to help visitors find their way around river valley parks and the trail system. The new wayfinding program includes signs that provide directions and information, identify parks and buildings, and includes interpretive and regulatory signs. Installations of signs in parks and trails will occur as projects are completed in the river valley.

All future projects in the river valley and ravines will follow this sign program.

Neighbourhood Plans

THE CAPITAL CITY DOWNTOWN PLAN

Edmonton's Capital City Downtown Plan (CCDP) aims to achieve a vision for Edmonton's Downtown that is sustainable, vibrant, well designed and accessible. To achieve this, the plan sets out policy directions and bold initiatives to meet the ever-changing needs and aspirations of Downtown Edmonton. The CCDP identifies open spaces as an important land use and a source of strength for the City and recognizes the importance of increasing the amount of land devoted to parks and recreation use in the Downtown, given the significant ongoing residential growth in the area.

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- + Apply high-level vision and principles (accessible, sustainable, vibrant, well designed)
- + Achieve the Parks and Open Space goal
- + Utilize the identified neighborhoods within Edmonton's Downtown to develop visions and priorities for their respective identities.
- + Consider and incorporate the appropriate outlined policies and projects for parks and open spaces, cycling downtown, pedestrian circulation and the transit system.
- + Achieve several key actions referred to in the Downtown Action Program under Parks and Open Space Master Plan in addition to other policies that pertain to public places.

THE QUARTERS DOWNTOWN URBAN DESIGN PLAN

The Quarters – formerly known as Downtown East – is 18 city blocks (approximately 40 hectares) directly east and adjacent to downtown Edmonton. The area currently houses about 2,400 residents and has abundant room for growth and redevelopment to accommodate approximately 18,000 – 20,000 people.

The Quarters will be a vibrant, healthy community comprised of five distinct areas, each with its own character, activities and feel, structured around a unique linear park system running through the neighbourhood that provides a defining element for the community. The neighbourhood is well connected to the downtown core and river valley yet, has a distinct image that identifies it as a unique place in the city.

The EDPPP will align with the following strategies and plans for public spaces within the Quarters:

- + Sustainable social, environmental urban-design practices
- + Mid-block pedestrian street design elements
- + Funicular and/or urban boundary
- + Landscaping and plant materials
- + Lighting
- + Parks and open spaces
- + Plazas
- + Connectivity to the river valley system

Of the seven principles, the following principle will be most applicable to the EDPPP; however, all principles will be applied:

- + Principle #4: Provide open space in the form of parks and plazas that will be physically accessible and useable throughout the year.

THE QUARTERS AREA REDEVELOPMENT PLAN 2014

The Quarters Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP) provides a planning framework to guide development and revitalization in The Quarters consistent with the Council approved vision and guiding principles.

Like the Urban Design Plan, Principle #4 is most applicable to the EDPPP; however, all principles will be applied.

The EDPPP will apply objectives and policies of the Parks and Public Spaces initiatives.

CHINA TOWN STRATEGY 2017

The Chinatown Strategy directs actions to guide economic development of Edmonton's Chinatown. It is supported by placemaking and actionable community-led programming components. The Cultural Chinatown South area falls within the EDPPP site boundaries while Chinatown North is within the 400-metre buffer of the site boundary.

The EDPPP will incorporate the China Town Strategy through the following actions:

- + Future redevelopment of Mary Burlie Park
- + Enhancing built forms and landmarks such as the 97th Street Rail Bridge

Related Projects

RIVER CROSSING
In Development

- The River Crossing project contains a number of interconnected projects
- + A revitalized West Rosssdale community
 - + Touch the Water Promenade and North Shore Promenade
 - + Repurposed Rosssdale Generating Station / the new Walterdale Bridge
 - + Celebration of the rich history of the Rosssdale flats

River crossing borders the study area. It will influence proposed connections and the interface between downtown and the river valley.

DOWNTOWN BIKE NETWORK
2017

- + Opened summer 2017
- + Over 7.8 km of protected bike lanes and shared-use paths
- + The network reaches within two blocks of many destinations
- + Provides cycling opportunities for all ages and abilities to travel to different events, festivals and locations in the city core

The bike network is an essential component of the open-space system connecting people to festivals, events and open spaces and encouraging wellbeing.

VALLEY LINE LRT
In Development

- + A 27 km low-floor, urban line that will operate between southeast and west Edmonton
- + Stage 1: Valley Line Southeast: 102 Street downtown and Mill Woods Town Centre (currently under construction)
- + Stage 2: Valley Line West: 102 Street downtown and Lewis Farms Transit Centre (Preliminary design is being updated and awaiting funding)

Features within the Downtown study area include:

- + A short tunnel from the north face of the River Valley through to the Quarters
- + An interchange point at Churchill Square to access Metro and Capital LRT lines
- + Six new LRT stations (Stage 1: Quarters, Churchill, Centre West; Stage 2: 105/106 Street, 107 Street, 112 Street)

DOWNTOWN CIRCULATOR
In Development

- + Connects Downtown, Alberta Legislature, University of Alberta, Strathcona, Bonnie Doon, east Edmonton and the wider LRT network
- + Will determine the best location for route, stop locations and optimum track alignment
- + Will employ low-floor LRT that operates at street level in dedicated lanes, using traffic signals to flow with traffic through intersections with frequent, sidewalk-level stops

Some of the study options will impact the open-space network, including the planned warehouse campus park.

JASPER AVENUE NEW VISION
In Development

- Jasper Avenue New Vision is a major catalyst project identified in the Capital City Downtown Plan (2010). It calls for Jasper Avenue to feature a high-quality pedestrian experience, including:
- + A narrowed roadway (no change in the number of lanes)
 - + Wider sidewalks
 - + Tree planting
 - + High-quality public realm improvements and landscaping
 - + Refined streetscape elements
 - + Increased design standards for private development

- + Jasper Avenue is the main transportation link for Downtown and touches on the open-space network including Telus Park, Beaver Hills House Park and connections to many others
- + Jasper Avenue is an important component of the open-space network as it serves a high-quality pedestrian experience and provides some open-space functions (e.g. events, stormwater management, active transport)

**DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY
REVITALIZATION LEVY**
2013

The Capital City Downtown Plan sets a course for City investment in catalyst projects designed to promote downtown development. Including new pipes, parks and streets, these investments are transforming the heart of Edmonton into a vibrant, accessible and sustainable community

Council has approved a boundary for the Capital City Downtown CRL. The City estimates that the Capital City Downtown CRL will generate sufficient revenue over its 20-year life to fund approximately \$500 million in new infrastructure downtown

Catalyst Projects eligible for CRL funding:

- + Rogers Place and related public infrastructure, including the land for the arena, a contribution to the Winter Garden, a MacEwan LRT station connection and an interior pedestrian walkway (complete)
- + The Downtown Community Arena (complete)
- + Green and walkable downtown, to increase the attractiveness, connectivity and usability of downtown streets by adding wider sidewalks, trees, pedestrian lighting, landscaping, street furnishing and improved paving
- + Downtown stormwater drainage servicing
- + Jasper Avenue new vision, to create an attractive and distinctive streetscape along Jasper Avenue
- + Alex Decoteau Park (Complete)
- + River Valley promenades, which include extending the Heritage Trail
- + Projects in the Civic Precinct
- + Warehouse campus neighbourhood central park
- + Central warehouse housing incentive program
- + Edmonton Downtown Academic and Cultural Centre (the Galleria)

- + CRL is a funding mechanism for projects listed within the CRL Plan.
- + Most CRL projects are related to public–realm improvements – new parks and improvements to streetscapes and other public spaces
- + This includes the Warehouse Campus Park, Projects in the Civic Precinct, Green and Walkable Downtown, Jasper Avenue New Vision

**QUARTERS COMMUNITY
REVITALIZATION LEVY**
2012

The Quarters Downtown Community Revitalization Levy (CRL) was approved by the Province and came into effect on January 1, 2012. Through The Quarters Downtown CRL, the City of Edmonton can dedicate future property tax revenue to fund public projects, such as infrastructure upgrades, parks or roadway improvements, designed to encourage private–sector investment in The Quarters Downtown. The resulting new development will generate an increase in tax revenue for the area. CRL funding for projects is flexible.

Projects within The Quarters may be funded through the CRL.

NORTH EDGE PARK
In Development

Located at 105 Avenue and 107 Street close to Rogers Arena and the bike network.

This park will be located within the 400-metre buffer of the EDPPP. The Downtown Open Space Master Plan has the opportunity to provide high-level design and programming recommendations for this park from a network perspective.

GREEN AND WALKABLE

- + The vision for a green and walkable downtown includes improvements to the downtown streetscape that will make downtown more accessible, easier to navigate and more pleasant for pedestrians. By improving the streetscapes, more people will use the streets for walking and cycling. The Downtown will be a more attractive and desirable place for people of all ages
- + Streetscape Typology and Manual
- + Future phases will be determined by Council and may include:
 - + Streetscape upgrades to key streets throughout downtown
 - + An improved wayfinding system within downtown Edmonton. This system will include not only street-level signage for pedestrians, but also potentially web and mobile apps and wayfinding tools

The EDPPP will incorporate elements of Green and Walkable plan while creating a network of public places in Downtown Edmonton.

KINISTINAW PARK
In Development

- + Park will improve connectivity to open spaces within the Quarters Downtown
- + The Armature and Kinistinaw Park will be a focal point and a year-round gathering place in the Quarters Downtown
- + Will employ environmentally friendly, sustainable landscape design practices
- + Project will ensure park is designed, maintained and managed to help keep it vibrant, safe and clean

The EDPPP has the opportunity to provide high-level design and programming recommendations for this park from a network and connectivity perspective.

WAREHOUSE CAMPUS PARK
In Development

The Park is intended to be a central gathering place and a catalyst for residential development. The City of Edmonton requires the Subject Properties to develop the Park and to achieve the vision set out in the Capital City Downtown Area Redevelopment Plan.

The EDPPP has the opportunity to provide high-level design and programming recommendations for this park from a network perspective.

QUARTERS DOWNTOWN ARMATURE
2017

The Armature is the first City-led "green street" pilot project and the heart of The Quarters Downtown. This pedestrian-oriented corridor runs along 96 Street from Jasper Avenue to 103 A Avenue, connecting the four unique districts that make up The Quarters Downtown. Upon full build-out, it will contain all-season parks, urban plazas, shopping, eating and entertainment areas, and will serve as a hub for all commercial and social activities in the area.

The EDPPP has the opportunity to provide high-level design and programming recommendations for this park from a network perspective.

CIVIC PRECINCT
2013

The Edmonton Civic Precinct encompasses Sir Winston Churchill Square, Centennial Plaza south of the Stanley A. Milner Library and the City Hall Plaza. The Civic Precinct is a safe, family-friendly, vibrant and lively urban plaza in the heart of Edmonton's downtown. This public gathering space welcomes more than 1 million people a year who participate in programs, events and festivals.

The Civic Precinct and City Hall Fountain are important spaces to Edmontonians and visitors. Renewal of this space is necessary to maintain operations of the surface and fountain for people to enjoy and to complete required work to meet legislative requirements. The layout and function of the space will remain the same with improvements to safety and accessibility. Renewal project work include:

- + Replacement of surface pavers and subgrade around City Hall and in the City Hall Plaza
- + Resurfacing 102 A Avenue (between 100 Street and 99 Street) to integrate City Hall Plaza and Churchill Square
- + Renewal of the East Garden turf (located on the east side of Churchill Square) with a durable surface treatment to accommodate festival events and public activity
- + Upgrade the City Hall Fountain mechanical systems and basin to meet current health and safety standards

- + Create barrier-free spaces for use by all citizens
- + Maintain a cohesive feel of the space
- + Increase pedestrian accessibility
- + Install durable, timeless materials to support lifecycle maintenance
- + Keep similar opportunities for activities – skating, wading, programs, festivals, events, etc.
- + Provide vibrancy during all four seasons

BOYLE RENAISSANCE

Phase i + II complete, Phase III underway

Boyle Renaissance is located within The Quarters Downtown Community Revitalization Levy Plan area. The Boyle Renaissance development has helped establish a community that brings together a range of affordable and market housing opportunities. This City-led redevelopment is located between 95 Street and 96 Street, extending from 103A Avenue north to the LRT tracks.

Phase I includes two buildings along 103A Avenue and 95 Street:

The east building contains the Melcor YMCA Village affordable housing units

The west building, called Boyle Renaissance Plaza, is a new community centre that includes the YMCA Child Care Centre, YMCA Family Resource Centre and the offices, multi-purpose programming and physical activity space for the Boyle Street Community League. This development also has ample outdoor park space for community use

Phase II – Complete

Managed by the Metis Capital Housing Corporation, Renaissance Tower offers 90 residential units that are senior-friendly/barrier-free and will cater to the needs of Indigenous Peoples, seniors and people with disabilities.

Phase III is currently underway.

The Downtown Open Space Master Plan has the opportunity to provide high-level recommendations from the outdoor park space from a network perspective.

MECHANIZED RIVER VALLEY ACCESS

2017

- + Mechanized access will create a new destination: an innovative, barrier-free system that will allow people to enjoy both downtown and the river valley within minutes
- + While connectivity to nature is a key element, the project has also been designed to include programmable spaces, as well as places for active play, social engagement and relaxation

The EDPPP has the opportunity to provide high-level design and programming recommendations for this park from a network perspective.

ALEX DECOTEAU PARK

2017

Located on the northwest corner of 105 Street and 102 Avenue, the 0.35-hectare park features:

- + Open green space made of at-grade turf separated by bands of decorative concrete
- + A community garden with raised planters and a shed
- + A fenced off-leash dog park with dog-friendly surfacing and trash receptacles
- + Dynamic in-ground water fountains with programmable water displays

The EDPPP has the opportunity to provide high-level design and programming recommendations for this park from a network perspective.

ACT PLAN POLICY OR PROGRAM	DIRECTION	IMPLICATIONS
CAPITAL BOULEVARD 2014	<p>The City of Edmonton is turning 108 Street, the street leading up to the Legislature building, into a premiere address called Capital Boulevard.</p> <p>The vision is for the five city blocks of 108 street (between 99 Ave and 104 Ave) to become a visual and physical extension of the Legislature grounds, extending into downtown Edmonton.</p>	<p>The EDPPP has the opportunity to provide high-level design and programming recommendations for this boulevard from a network perspective.</p>

Related Plans/Strategies/Policies

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 C456A)	Protects the tree canopy on City property by ensuring development of the City's tree inventory; ensuring all trees on City properties are adequately protected; providing a tree reserve account for new planting; and coordinating all City tree planting programs	
EDMONTON ZONING BYLAW 12800 (Sec. 54.3)	Addresses bicycle parking and the type of rack that may be used, including design standards and bicycle parking requirements for building or site use	
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	
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 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 protect private and public property	
NATURAL AREA SYSTEMS (Policy C531)	Recognizes the importance of balancing ecological and environmental considerations with economic and social considerations in City planning and operations	

ACT | PLAN | POLICY OR PROGRAM DIRECTION

IMPLICATIONS

**RIBBON OF GREEN: NORTH
SASKATCHEWAN RIVER AND
RAVINE CONCEPT PLAN**
1990
MASTER PLAN
1992

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

The river valley and ravines were categorized into three land management units: extensive use areas, conservation areas and preservation areas
