The City of Edmonton acknowledges that the traditional land on which we are gathered today, is on Treaty 6 Territory. We would like to thank the diverse Indigenous Peoples whose ancestors footsteps have marked this territory for centuries, including the Cree, Dene, Saulteaux, Nakota Sioux and Blackfoot peoples. We also acknowledge this as the Métis’ homeland and the home of one of the largest populations of Inuit south of the 60th parallel. It is a welcoming place for all peoples who come from around the world to share Edmonton as a home. Together we call upon all of our collective, honoured traditions and spirits to work in building a great city for today and future generations.
INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT

The City of Edmonton values its relationship with Indigenous communities with expressed historical and cultural connections to Edmonton. In October 2019, engagement with 25 Indigenous communities took place through site visits with Elders, knowledge holders, and technicians.

Input shared will be summarized in a report which will be shared back to the Indigenous communities for review. The feedback received throughout all activities will be considered by the project team as the project moves forward.

Indigenous engagement will be ongoing throughout the project with First Nations, Métis, and Urban Indigenous communities and organizations.
PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The City of Edmonton is beginning a concept design for a central stretch of the North Saskatchewan River Valley in Edmonton, a project referred to as the Touch the Water Promenade. The design work will align with, and build upon, the policy direction from Breathe: Edmonton’s Green Network Strategy, Ribbon of Green, and the City’s River Crossing Project.

The goal of this project is to improve access to and within the river valley, create enhanced opportunities for recreation, celebration, heritage interpretation and social gathering. In addition, the ecological condition along the North Saskatchewan River is a key consideration in this project. This project will have two study areas, one adjacent to the Rossdale neighbourhood and the other upstream on the north shore of the River along River Valley Road. The Promenade is proposed to extend from Rossdale along the northern bank of the North Saskatchewan River to Government House Park, West of Croat Road Bridge.
Information to Make Decisions

Mayor & Council: Key Decisions/Approval

Indigenous Engagement

Public & Stakeholder Input

Policy & Technical Requirements

Project Recommendations
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRATEGIC GOALS</th>
<th>OPEN SPACE FUNCTIONS</th>
<th>VISION</th>
<th>GUIDING PRINCIPLES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Healthy City</td>
<td>Wellness</td>
<td>The North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System is a protected, connected landscape that supports ecological resilience and promotes healthy living through opportunities for recreation, active transportation and gathering in the tranquility of nature.</td>
<td>Safe + Inclusive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Places</td>
<td>Celebration</td>
<td></td>
<td>Public Access + Connectivity</td>
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<td>Regional Prosperity</td>
<td>Ecology</td>
<td></td>
<td>Linked to the River</td>
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<td>Climate Resilience</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Vibrant + Livable</td>
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<td>Sense of Community</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Green + Sustainable</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Celebration</td>
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<td>Cohesive Public Realm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RIVER ACCESS

CROSSING THE RIVER

High Level Bridge under Construction 1912

Log Transportation on Saskatchewan River Early 1900’s
Walterdale Bridge under construction
1913 (replaced 2017)

Edmonton Light Rail Transit (Dudley Menzies Bridge)
1979
MAP OF AREAS WITH ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL
ECOLOGY IN THE RIVER VALLEY

SPECIES AT RISK

Barn Swallow
Threatened

Bank Swallow
Threatened

Peregrine Falcon
Threatened
Summer Range

Lake Sturgeon
Threatened
North and South Saskatchewan River
Clean, flowing rivers with depth

Long-tailed weasel
May be at Risk provincial category
Habitat: Crop fields, wooded, and suburban areas

Little brown myotis
Endangered SARA Schedule 1

Threatened: a species likely to become endangered if current conditions aren’t reversed
ECOLOGIES IN THE RIVER VALLEY

RESILIENT ECOLOGIES - DIVERSE AND NATIVE

DATA VIA STANTEC TOUGH THE WATER B OF PHYSICAL DATA SUMMARY & EDMONTON UPVL DIGITAL SITE

SHORT SHRUBLAND
MAPLE BALSAM POPLAR MODIFIED WOODLAND
GREEN SPACE
BALSAM POPLAR WOODLAND
TALL SHRUBLAND
NATURALLY WOODED- TREMBLING ASPEN
ECOLOGY IN THE RIVER VALLEY

FORESTED LAND COVER BY SPECIES

WHITE SPRUCE
TREMBLING ASPEN
BALSAM POPLAR
MIXED CONIFEROUS
MIXED DECIDUOUS
ECOLOGY IN THE RIVER VALLEY

DESIGN INSPIRATION, EXAMPLES, AND IDEAS

LARGE TERRESTRIAL SPECIES

- High forage value
- Drop-offs and cliffs are not ideal habitat; use of gentle slopes is encouraged.
- Flat, natural surface
- Large mammals use riparian zones as travel corridors
- Open corridor with good visibility and natural light

HABITAT INFO RESOURCE:
WILDLIFE PASSAGE ENGINEERING DESIGN GUIDELINES, JUNE 2010
THE CITY OF EDMONTON OFFICE OF NATURAL AREAS
ECOLOGY IN THE RIVER VALLEY

DESIGN INSPIRATION, EXAMPLES, AND IDEAS

minimal mowing of grassy areas to promote roadside habitat

Densely vegetated corridor

SMALL TERRESTRIAL SPECIES

overhead cover to provide protection (shrubs, rocks, logs, etc.)
small raised pathway for travel

HABITAT INFO RESOURCE:
WILDLIFE PASSAGE ENGINEERING DESIGN GUIDELINES, JUNE 2010
THE CITY OF EDMONTON OFFICE OF NATURAL AREAS
ECOLOGY IN THE RIVER VALLEY

DESIGN INSPIRATION, EXAMPLES, AND IDEAS

preference for large/old growth
large trees such as boxelder, maple, balsam fir, douglas fir, lodgepole pine, western bron

dense forest planting

lower bank plants
pondweeds, eelgrass, marestail, sedges, rushes, duckweed, wild rice, algae

BIRDS

HABITAT INFO RESOURCE:
WILDLIFE PASSAGE ENGINEERING DESIGN GUIDELINES, JUNE 2010
THE CITY OF EDMONTON OFFICE OF NATURAL AREAS
ECOLOGY IN THE RIVER VALLEY

DESIGN INSPIRATION, EXAMPLES, AND IDEAS

enhanced vegetation improves aquatic habitat by controlling erosion and filtering stormwater runoff

lower bank plants: pondweeds, eelgrass, marestail, sedges, rushes, duckweed, wild rice, algae

vegetation for cover and resting

new landforms or floating vegetation for increased habitat
“Portions of the Study Area are dominated by non-native vegetation and opportunities for reclamation or increased native biodiversity exist in these areas.”

Stantec. Touch the Water Biophysical Data Summary 2017.
DESIGN INSPIRATION, EXAMPLES, AND IDEAS

WELLNESS CORRIDOR - 1) PROMENADE AND POCKETS

Enhanced Cycling and Pedestrian path
Safe and accessible

Design for all speeds
Separation of activities

Climbing paths
Alternative pathway and play

Outdoor Exercise Stations
Stationary flexible workout equipment

Informal Exercise and Play
Play for all ages

Rest Areas
Nodes for resting
WELLNESS CORRIDOR - 2) ACTIVITY SPACES

Yoga Deck
Flexible communal exercise space

Beach volleyball
Recreational Field

Table sports
Exercise and Play

Slides
Play for all ages

Playground
Play for all ages

Climbing structures
Climbing for all ages
WELLNESS CORRIDOR - 3) WINTER USE

Winter Playground
Active play for all ages

Tobogganing
Slopes for all different ages

Winter running and cycling
Connected and safe

Snowshoeing
All season trail exploration

Communal Fireplaces
Outdoor winter gathering

Winter Shelter
Amenity structures
DESIGN INSPIRATION, EXAMPLES, AND IDEAS

WATER ACCESS CELEBRATION - 2) EVENT SPACES

- Amphitheater
  Community events

- Water Play
  Safe and seasonal

- Elevated Beach
  Above the High Water Level

- Terraced Edge
  At the Water's Edge

- Water Play at the River's Edge
  River water

- Low Waterlevel Beach
  Naturalized Beach
WATER ACCESS CELEBRATION - 3) IN THE WATER

- **Fishing**
  Community water activities

- **Boat Launch**
  Vehicular Access

- **Pool and Spa**
  Contained pools

- **Fishing in the Water**
  Using the Bank

- **Hand Launch**
  Pedestrian Access
Heritage & Culture Celebration

“Making and Trading”
Fundy National Park, New Brunswick

“Lived Experience / Territory and Land”
Tribal Canoe Journey / Paddle to Puyallup

“Connecting and Understanding”
First Nations Garden, Montreal Botanical Garden

Native Edible Plants
Ecological Tours

Logging Heritage
Docks Reminiscent of the Logging Industry

Fishing
Spaces for Traditional Fishing Techniques