TOUCH THE WATER PROMENADE
CONCEPT DESIGNS

GATEWAYS AND THREADS
**Touch the Water Promenade Vision**

Instantly recognizable as Edmonton’s premiere riverfront destination, this incredibly vibrant public space evokes a unique sense of place in Canada’s northern-most major city.

The Touch the Water Promenade celebrates the central River Valley’s multi-layered history and special significance to Indigenous communities, restores its natural systems and resiliency and re-connects the central city to the river.

By improving access into and within the River Valley network, the Promenade provides diverse opportunities for riverfront gathering and recreation not found anywhere else in the region.
**Touch the Water Promenade Principles**

**WELLNESS**
Promotes healthy living and fosters wellbeing through diverse kinds of recreation, mobility and environments

**PROJECT PRINCIPLES: WELLNESS**

1. To provide varied and unique spaces that allow for a more diverse range of recreation and mobility activities.

2. To encourage healthy and active living by further activating and improving the central River Valley multi-use path network.

3. To provide more direct and accessible connections between the promenade, central river valley destinations like Victoria and Government House Parks, and city centre neighbourhoods.

4. To increase diversity of use, safety and appeal by providing options for users through active and passive pathway separation.
Touch the Water Promenade Principles

ECOLOGY

Supports and enhances the environment by sustaining healthy and resilient ecosystems.

PROJECT PRINCIPLES: ECOLOGY

1. To restore and enhance the central River Valley as an ecological network and wildlife corridor within a wider, interconnected network.

2. To expand, enhance and diversify the urban forest, improve the river shoreline, and restore natural ecosystems and habitats within the project area.

3. To connect communities to nature by promoting ecological stewardship through amenities which promote and educate on positive ecological practices, such as watershed quality and naturalization.
Touch the Water Promenade Principles

CELEBRATION

Connects people to one another and builds a sense of place by providing places for communities to thrive, gather and celebrate.

PROJECT PRINCIPLES: CELEBRATION

1. To promote community interaction through the development of vibrant, welcoming, accessible, inclusive and playful gathering spaces along the River edge, in all seasons.

2. To respectfully commemorate the diverse Indigenous history, use, and contributions to the area, and provide gathering spaces to celebrate, teach, and promote culture.

3. To strengthen Edmonton’s identity by telling the story of this place’s diverse cultural significance and rich, multi-layered history, as envisioned by the River Crossing Heritage Interpretive Plan.

4. To provide more inclusive access and connection to the River itself, for social, cultural, and recreational use as a water corridor and for restorative contemplation.
Starting Points
CELEBRATING THE RIVER AND TOUCHING THE WATER
Starting Points
FOUR SEASON ACTIVITY
Starting Points
RECOGNIZING MULTI-LAYERED HISTORIES
Starting Points
CITY AND RIVER
Starting Points
A DISTINCT URBAN WATERFRONT
**Concept Options** Gateways + Threads

**GATEWAYS**
This option focuses new enhancement and activity into three larger gathering spaces. These “Gateways” are located next to Groat Bridge, High Level Bridge and Walterdale Bridge, and are connected by an enhanced riverfront promenade.

**THREADS**
This option distributes the new enhancements into many smaller gathering spaces along the river edge. These smaller “Threads” are more integrated into the enhanced riverfront promenade.
Touch the Water Promenade Concept Options
GATEWAYS
Concept Options Gateways

GROAT GATEWAY

- DRAFT CONCEPT ILLUSTRATION | JUNE 2020
- Design by DUB ARCHITECTS
- STOSS
- ISL ENGINEERING
Gateways Groat Gateway

EARLY 20TH CENTURY

CITY MAP SHOWING GROAT RAVINE

GROAT RAVINE
Gateways Groat Gateway
GROAT STORM BASIN END-OF-PIPE TREATMENT FACILITY
Gateways Groat Gateway
GROAT STORMWATER CATCHMENT
Gateways Groat Gateway
PROPOSED CONDITION
Gateways Groat Gateway
CIRCULATION + AMENITIES

Connection Up Groat Ravine

Social Spaces

Amenity/Building

Active Play

Connection to Promenade
Gateways Groat Gateway

STORMWATER CLEANSING + FLOOD CONTROL SEQUENCE

STORMWATER IN

TREATED WATER RELEASED

DESIGNED TO ELEVATION OF TOLERABLE FLOOD RISK

FLOOD WATERS
Gateways Groat Gateway
PROPOSED CONDITION
Gateways High Level Bridge Gateway

TRACES OF PAST USE

SASKATCHEWAN RIVER VALLEY (BEFORE HIGH LEVEL BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION)

HIGH LEVEL BRIDGE
Gateways High Level Bridge Gateway

PROPOSED CONDITION

- Enchanced slope planting
- Existing active stairs
- Accessible multi-use path
- Mid-hill overlook
- Mid-hill rest/activity zone
- Heritage recognition of historic EY&P railway alignment
- New direct connection to Victoria Park along historic railway alignment
- Elevate path over roadways
- Public art opportunity
- New open space
- Connection to high level bridge
- Upper path overlook
- Walkway to legislature grounds
- LRT bridge pedestrian connection
- River overlook
Concept Options Gateways
ROSSDALE GATEWAY
**Gateways** Rossdale Gateway

**INTERSECTIONS AT THE RIVER**

*Fort Edmonton*  
*By Paul Kane*  
*Rossdale Power Plant*
Gateways Rossdale Gateway
WALTERDALE BRIDGE + ROSSDALE POWER PLANT

WALTERDALE BRIDGE

ROSSDALE POWER PLANT + PUMP HOUSE
Gateways Rossdale Gateway
ICE FLOW: FRAZIL PANS

FRAZIL PANS:
Frazil ice is a collection of loose ice crystals formed in water that is too turbulent to freeze solid. The resulting discs of ice (frazil pans) are a common sight in the fast-moving water of the North Saskatchewan in early winter.
**Gateways**

**Rossdale Gateway**

**VARIETY OF LANDSCAPES**

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**Lawn**

**GRASSES**
- Plains Rough Fescue
- Green Needle Grass
- Early Bluegrass
- Sand Grass
- Western Porcupine Grass
- Dryland Sedge
- June Grass
- AWned Wheat Grass
- Sweet Grass
- Rocky Mountain Fescue
- Sheep's Fescue
- Needle & Thread Grass
- Blue Grama Grass
- Fringed Brome

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**Evergreen Forest**

**TREES**
- Engelmann Spruce
- Lodgepole Pine
- Subalpine Fir
- Douglas Fir
- Shrubs
- Common Juniper
- Horizontal Juniper
- Tall Bilberry
- Bearberry
- Canada Buffalo-Berry
- Dwarf Bilberry
- Blueberry
- White Flowered
- Rhododendron

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**Boreal Forest**

**TREES**
- Trembling Aspen
- White Spruce
- Balsam Poplar
- Paper Birch
- Jack Pine
- Shrubs
- Prickly Rose
- Wild Rose
- Green Alder
- Canada Buffalo-Berry
- Raspberry
- Bush Cranberries
- Red Osier Dogwood
- Honeysuckles
Gateways Rosedale Gateway

VARIETY OF LANDSCAPES

Native Garden
- SHRUBS
  - BEAKED HAZELNUT
  - WILD GOOSEBERRY
  - SASKATOON
  - SHRUBBY CINQUEFOIL
  - PIN CHERRY
  - CHOKES CHERRY
  - PRICKLY WILD ROSE
  - WILD RED RASPBERRY
  - CANADA BUFFALO-BERRY
  - RED-OSIER DOGWOOD
  - LABRADOR TEA
  - COMMON BLUEBERRY
  - BRACKTED HONEYSUCKLE
  - TWINS HONEYSUCKLE
  - BUCKBUSH
  - SNOWBERRY
- LOW BUSH
  - CRANBERRY
  - WHITE MEADOW
  - SWEET
  - COMMON JUNIPER
  - HORIZONTAL JUNIPER
- TREES
  - TREMBLING
  - ASPEN
  - WHITE SPRUCE
  - TAMARACK
  - LODGEPOLE PINE
  - BALSAM FIR
  - BALSAM POPULAR
  - WHITE BIRCH

Rain Garden
- GRASSES + EMERGENTS
  - TICKLE GRASS
  - PRAIRIE CORDGRASS
  - REED GRASS
  - SEDGE (VARIETY)
  - SLOUGHGRASS
  - TUFTED HAIRGRASS
  - RUSH (VARIETY)
  - HEMLOCK WATER PARSNIP
  - SPIKE RUSH
  - MANNA GRASS
  - WOOL-GRASS
  - SMALL-FRUITED BULRUSH

Urban Orchard
- EDIBLE FOOD TREES
  - APPLE
  - CHERRY
  - AMUR CHOKECHERRY
  - SCHUBERT CHOKECHERRY
  - CRABAPPLE
  - MAYDAY
  - PEAR - EARLY GOLD
  - PEAR - GOLDEN SPICE
  - PEAR - USSURIAN
  - PLUM
  - SASKATOON
**Gateways** Rossdale Gateway

**VARIETY OF RECREATIONAL SPACES**

- **Amphitheater Plaza**
  - All Season Public Space

- **Active Play**
  - Active Recreation for All Ages
  - Natives: Balsam Poplar, Trembling Aspen, White Birch
  - Non-Natives: American Elm, Green Ash, Linden, Bur Oak

- **Flexible Event Space**
  - Flexible Event Space
Gateways Rossdale Gateway

CLUSTERS OF LANDSCAPE
Gateways Rossdale Gateway
PROPOSED CONDITION
Gateways Rossdale Gateway

PROPOSED CONDITION
Gateways Rossdale Gateway
PUBLIC GATHERINGS + FOOD TRUCKS
Gateways Rossdale Gateway

SMALL GATHERINGS + SKATING RINK
**Gateways** Rossdale Gateway

**SCALE COMPARISON (EVERGREEN BRICKWORKS; TORONTO, ON)**
Gateways Rossdale Gateway

SCALE COMPARISON (GRANVILLE ISLAND; VANCOUVER, BC)
Concept Options Gateways

SUMMARY
Touch the Water Promenade Concept Options
THREADS
Threads The Terraces
EXISTING CONDITION
Threads The Terraces
PROPOSED CONDITION
Threads The Terraces

PROPOSED CONDITION
Threads The Brim
EXISTING CONDITION

- Shared-Use Path Next to Road
- Open Views to River
- Overlook Platform
- Steep Bank with Few Trees
- Broken Concrete Debris Along Bank
- Access to Victoria Golf Course
- Pedestrian Crossing
Threads The Pass
EXISTING CONDITION
Threads The Pass
EXISTING CONDITION

- Victoria Golf Course
- Victoria Park Picnic Sites
- Victoria Park Pavilion with Washrooms and Skate Change
- Victoria Oval Skating and Open Space
- Iceway Skate Paths and Picnic Area
- Park Maintenance Yard
- Road Crossing
- Gravel Parking Lot
- Shared-Use Path
- River Valley Road
Threads The Pass
PROPOSED CONDITION
 Threads The Pass

PROPOSED CONDITION

- Clear and efficient parking
- Connection to washrooms and amenity buildings
- View of overlook to skating oval
- Safe shared-use crossing over road
- More direct stair connection
- Overlook to river
- Improved pedestrian paths at parking lot
- Maintained ice way
- Enhanced promenade

DRAFT CONCEPT ILLUSTRATION | JUNE 2020
Design by DUB ARCHITECTS
STOSS
ISL ENGINEERING
Threads The Deck
PROPOSED CONDITION
Threads The Landing
PROPOSED CONDITION

PLANTED BUFFER
INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE DECK
POWER PLANT TERRACE
ROSSDALE PLAZA
LAWN TERRACES
RIVERFRONT EVENT STAIRS
LOWER PEDESTRIAN PROMENADE
UPPER PEDESTRIAN PROMENADE
IMPROVED RIPARIAN VEGETATION
BRIDGE CONNECTION
ENHANCED BANK VEGETATION
ACCESSIBLE PATH TO LOWER PROMENADE

DRAFT CONCEPT ILLUSTRATION | JUNE 2020
Design by DUB ARCHITECTS
STOSS
ISL ENGINEERING
Threads The Landing
ART WALK + RIVER EVENT

ART WALK
~300 PEOPLE

RIVER EVENT
~500 PEOPLE
Threads The Landing
SCALE COMPARISON (DOMINO PARK; BROOKLYN, NY)
Threads The Landing

SCALE COMPARISON (DOMINO PARK; BROOKLYN, NY)
**Threads** The Landing

**SCALE COMPARISON (CITY DECK; GREEN BAY, WI)**
Threads The Landing
SCALE COMPARISON (CITY DECK; GREEN BAY, WI)
Threads The Bend
EXISTING CONDITION
Concept Options Threads

SUMMARY

- THE TERRACES
- THE HITCH
- THE BRIM
- THE PASS
- THE DECK
- THE LANDING
- THE BEND
Touch the Water Promenade Promenades
Touch the Water Promenade

EXISTING TRAIL

LEGEND

- 4M MULTI-USE TRAIL
- TOP OF BANK
- 3M MULTI-USE TRAIL
- TOP OF BANK
Promenades Gateways
PROPOSED PROMENADES

LEGEND

- EXISTING 3M MUTI-USE TRAIL TOP OF BANK
- PROPOSED 4M REALIGNED MULTI-USE TRAIL
- PROPOSED 6M PROMENADE AT TOP OF BANK
- PROPOSED 6M PROMENADE AT MID BANK
Promenades Threads
PROPOSED PROMENADES

LEGEND
- EXISTING 3M MULTI-USE TRAIL
  TOP OF BANK
- PROPOSED 4M REALIGNRED MULTI-USE TRAIL
- PROPOSED 6M PROMENADE AT TOP OF BANK
- PROPOSED 6M PROMENADE AT MID BANK
- PROPOSED SEPARATED PROMENADE WITH LOW BANK PEDESTRIAN TRAIL
Promenades Gateways + Threads

EXISTING TRAIL
Promenades Gateways + Threads
REALIGNED 4M TRAIL
Promenades Gateways + Threads
EXPANDED (TOP OF BANK) PROMENADE
Promenades Gateways
EXPANDED (MID-BANK) PROMENADE
Promenades Threads
SEPARATED PROMENADE
Promenades Circulation + Ecology

EXISTING CORRIDORS

Mammal corridors
- Longtailed Weasel
- Coyote
- White-tailed Deer

Bird flyways
- Great Horned Owl
- Common Loon
- Sage Horned Owl

Fish habitat
- Yellow Perch
- Mountain Whitefish
- Lake Sturgeon

Ecological Nodes
- Groat Road Ravine
- McKinnon Ravine

Open spaces connections
- Hawrelak Park Lake
Promenades Circulation + Ecology
EXISTING CORRIDORS

FISH HABITAT

- Enhanced embankment vegetation reduces runoff and erosion
- Emergent + aquatic vegetation improves aquatic habitat
- Varied depths
- Additional habitat variety

LAND ANIMAL HABITAT

- Healthy vegetated edge
- Continuous riparian corridors
- Varied openness ratio
Promenades  Circulation + Ecology
INTEGRATING PATHWAYS

RUNOFF + STORMWATER CAPTURE

STRATEGIC PLANTING FOR ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

VIEW CORRIDOR

RIVER VALLEY RD.

INFILTRATION

TOP OF BANK
Promenades  Circulation + Ecology
INTEGRATING PATHWAYS

BUFFER CAR NOISE AND POLLUTION
EXPANDED PLANTED BUFFER

RIVER VALLEY RD.

IMPROVED MIDBANK PLANTING
CONTINUOUS IMPROVED RIPARIAN EDGE

WILD EMERGENT PLANTING CHARACTER MAINTAINED
5 YEAR FLOODING TOP OF ICE
MWL NWL

MID BANK PROMENADE
Promenades Circulation + Ecology

INTEGRATING PATHWAYS

BUFFER CAR NOISE AND POLLUTION

IMPROVED EMBANKMENT (POOR EXISTING ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS)

CONTINUOUS RIPARIAN CORRIDOR

RIVER VALLEY RD.

50-YEAR FLOODING

5-YEAR FLOODING

NWL

SEPARATED PATH
Promenades Improvements

ECOLOGY

RIPARIAN HABITAT RESTORATION

STORMWATER COLLECTION + RUNOFF INFILTRATION

IMPROVED VEGETATIVE DIVERSITY

SLOPE STABILIZATION + EROSION CONTROL

PRESERVING OFF-CHANNEL HABITAT
Promenades Improvements

CELEBRATION

COMMUNITY / GATHERING DESTINATION

DESTINATION OVERLOOKS

REVEALING SHIFTING CONCEPTIONS OF LAND

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF TRADITIONAL BURIAL GROUNDS

HISTORIC BUILDING CELEBRATION

RECOGNITION OF HISTORY OF INDIGENOUS USE

SAFE PEDESTRIAN CONNECTIONS
Promenades Improvements
WELLNESS

- Open Space with Enhanced Amenities
- Enhanced Winter Activities
- Play Spaces
- River Access
- Contemplative Spaces and Overlooks
- Enhanced Mobility Connection
Touch the Water Promenade Summary
**Touch the Water Promenade Summary**

**CONCEPTS**

**GATEWAYS**
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Thank you