Fall 2020 Project Update

Public Engagement Opportunities: November 9 to 30, 2020

edmonton.ca/touchthewater
The Touch the Water Promenade Project

The river valley is a place people have gathered since time immemorial. The City of Edmonton is exploring ways to improve access to the central river valley with the Touch the Water Promenade project. If the project moves forward it would include opportunities to celebrate heritage, encourage recreation and connect people with nature.

The Touch the Water Promenade will focus on a central stretch of the north bank along the North Saskatchewan River Valley in two connected areas. One area is adjacent to the Rossdale neighbourhood and the other is upstream of the river, along River Valley Road to Government House Park.

We have developed two concepts for how people might use or experience the space that runs along that stretch of the river because Edmontonians have told us they want improved access to the river valley and the river itself. The Touch the Water concepts envision recreation spaces, pathways, ecological restoration, river viewing, access points and gathering spaces. We want to hear what you think about these concepts.

The Touch the Water Promenade project is currently in the planning and design stages and is not funded for construction. The planning and engagement we do now will ensure that we have a blueprint for future development that reflects a shared vision for this very special area. We need your input and feedback to get it right.

Engagement
In Fall 2019, we completed in-person and online engagement. We heard from regional Indigenous Nations and Communities, Edmontonians, local community groups and stakeholder organizations on their vision for the project, how they currently use (or don’t use) the project area and how they would like to use and access the project area in the future. We listened and have developed two draft concept options based on that feedback as well as Council direction, plans and policies, and technical studies, that reflect the future possibilities for the Touch the Water Promenade.

**Draft Concept Options - We Want to Hear From You!**

Please join us online to review the draft project vision, design principles and two draft concept design options for the Touch the Water Promenade project.

We want to hear your thoughts on the proposed draft concept design options for the Touch the Water Promenade project. Your feedback will be used to develop a preferred concept design that will guide the rest of the project should it continue to move forward.

This is the second of what will be three engagement phases for the planning and design stage of the project. If the next phase of the project is approved by City Council there will be additional engagement opportunities in the future. We are committed to keeping you informed, sharing information on the project and listening to your feedback.

**ONLINE ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES - edmonton.ca/touchthewater**

**Project Video and Information Booklet - Draft Vision and Concept Design Options**

- The video and information booklet will present the draft project vision, design principles and two draft concept design options.
Quick Polls and Survey

- After you watch the video and review the flipbook, please answer the quick polls and go more in-depth by completing the online survey to tell us what you think about the draft design concepts presented.
- Available from November 9th to 30th, 2020.

Ideas Board

- Use the virtual feedback board to let us know what parts of the draft concept design options you like best, what is missing and what could be improved.
- Available from November 9th to 30th, 2020.

Questions?

- Ask your questions online and our project team will respond.
- Available from November 9th to 30th, 2020.

With large in-person public events cancelled and physical distancing a priority during the COVID-19 pandemic, we are committed to delivering project information and meaningful public engagement opportunities efficiently and safely.

Paper Copies

If you prefer to have a paper copy of the quick poll and/or survey, please contact touchthewaterpromenadeproject@edmonton.ca to arrange for a copy to be delivered to you.

Draft Concept Options

The concept options are high-level designs that present what might be possible or feasible for the project area. These draft options will show potential opportunities for improvements along the north shore of the river from Government House Park to Rossdale, including:

- Recreation spaces
- Pathways and access
- Ecological restoration
- River viewing and access points
- Gathering spaces
Next Steps

When we have completed phase 2 of engagement, we will share the preferred concept design in 2021 with Regional Indigenous Nations and Communities and the public, and will ask for feedback.

Your feedback will be used to develop a single preferred concept, which will guide design for the rest of the project. The final concept design will serve as a long term plan that could be built through phases over many years, as funding is available.

This project is currently in the Concept Phase, and funding has not been approved for construction. The Rossdale Area has been approved for additional design work. At this time, design for the North Shore Area will conclude at the Concept phase. Completing this planning and design work now will prepare us to provide recommendations to City Council and to move the project forward when the time is right.

Thank You!

The City of Edmonton is committed to transparent communication and engagement, and our project team looks forward to connecting with you.

We appreciate your support and hope you will be able to participate in our upcoming online engagement. For any questions related to the Touch the Water Promenade project, please contact touchthewaterpromenadeproject@edmonton.ca