Spring 2020 Project Update

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Project Work During COVID-19

The City of Edmonton’s project team is committed to continuing to develop draft concepts for the Touch the Water Promenade and ensuring those concepts are shared with the public and stakeholders for review and feedback. Although in-person public and Indigenous engagement are currently paused we are committed to delivering project updates and meaningful public engagement opportunities efficiently and safely. When the time is right, we will provide information on how we are advancing public engagement opportunities and how you can participate.

The City of Edmonton is continuing to plan, design, build and better our city because robust and healthy infrastructure is critical to a safe and healthy Edmonton. Almost one million people depend on the work we are doing across neighbourhoods, parks, facilities, transportation and LRT. The COVID-19 pandemic won’t last forever and it won’t change the fact that Edmonton is still the growing and thriving city that we love.

The City and its contractors are following the requirements of Alberta Health, ensuring construction sites are safe and sanitary and provide adequate space for workers and the public to maintain the appropriate physical distance.
The river valley is one of Edmonton’s greatest assets, a place people have been drawn to and gathered for thousands of years. The Touch the Water Promenade project is looking to improve access to and within the river valley, creating enhanced opportunities for ecological connections, recreation, celebration, and heritage interpretation.

Project Update: Where We're At

During the first stage of engagement last Fall, we heard from regional Indigenous Communities, Edmontonians, local community groups and stakeholder organizations on their vision for the project, how people currently use (or don’t use) the central river valley and how they would like to use and access the project area.

The What We Heard Report from the project’s first stage of engagement is now available online. The Report provides a summary of the project’s decision-making process, what was done during the initial phase of engagement, the feedback received and how that feedback has been incorporated into the project.
The project team used the input received through the engagement to date to create a draft project vision and design principles that will guide the development of the project. With a clearer understanding of people’s diverse perspectives on the river valley, values, current uses and preferences for desired uses for the area, the project team has developed two draft concept options that reflect the future possibilities for the Touch the Water Promenade. These concepts are also informed by regional Indigenous engagement, council direction, relevant City plans and policies and results from ongoing technical and environmental studies.

The draft project vision, design principles and two concept options will be shared with the public, local communities, stakeholders and regional Indigenous communities for review and feedback before a single preferred concept is developed.
What We Did & What We Heard Report:
Touch the Water Promenade Stage 1

Engagement & Feedback Opportunities
The project team is currently exploring online and remote engagement opportunities to allow participants to safely review and provide feedback on the draft project vision, design principles and two concept options during the COVID-19 pandemic. You will receive another update with specific engagement opportunities, links and timing when they are available. In the meantime, please continue to check our website for updates.

Thank you for your continued support and patience. Together, we can continue to build Edmonton safely.