Edmonton — Strathcona County Footbridge Preliminary Design

March 24, 2022
Land Acknowledgement
City of Edmonton

The City of Edmonton acknowledges the traditional land on which we reside, is in Treaty 6 Territory. We would like to thank the diverse Indigenous Peoples whose ancestors’ footsteps have marked this territory for centuries, such as nêhiyaw (Cree), Dené, Anishinaabe (Saulteaux), Nakota Isaga (Nakota Sioux), and Niitsitapi (Blackfoot) and Iroquois peoples. We also acknowledge this as the Métis’ homeland and the home of one of the largest communities 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.
Territorial Acknowledgement
Strathcona County

Strathcona County Council recognizes that we meet on the traditional travelling routes and gathering places of these Treaty Six nations - Blackfoot, Cree, Dene, Gros Ventres, Métis, Nakota Sioux and Saulteaux.

Strathcona County proudly recognizes that a portion of the land we live on is called Amiskwaciw, Cree for “The Beaver Hills”.

Our indigenous people were joined by settlers and pioneers, building together this great community of Strathcona County.
Intent and Agenda

Intent

- Provide a summary of what we heard from the second public engagement event and online survey in June 2021, and what we will do in response.
- Introduce the preliminary designs for the proposed footbridge, the East End Trail site and the Riverside Nature Trail site.
- Provide some preliminary construction information.

Agenda

- Presentation
- Q & A
Project Scope and Timeline

Phase 1
- Concept Design: Dec 2020 – June 2021
- Preliminary Design: July 2021 – Dec 2021

Phase 2
- Detailed Design: Winter 2021/22 – Summer 2022
- Construction: Summer 2022 – 2024/2025 (subject to funding)
What will influence the design?

Project-Level Recommendations & Design Decisions

- Regional Indigenous Engagement
- Public & Stakeholder Input
- Social Considerations
- Existing Policy & Plans
- Ecological & Environmental Context
- Technical Requirements
- Funding Availability
- Land Use & Transportation Context
- Funding Availability
- Regional Indigenous Engagement
Online Survey - What We Asked

● What is the level of support for the proposed footbridge concept?

● What is the level of support for the Riverside Nature Trail site concept?

● Which proposed fishing pier/platform location at the Riverside Nature Trail will provide the best experience for anglers?

● What is the level of support for the East End Trail site concept?
What We Heard from the Online Survey

What is your level of support for the footbridge?

- 76% strongly support
- 10% somewhat support
- 10% neither support nor oppose
- 3% somewhat oppose
- 1% strongly oppose

10% strongly oppose
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What We Heard</th>
<th>What We Will Do</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The footbridge provides a much needed accessible link in the river valley for pedestrians and cyclists.</td>
<td>The footbridge and accessible trails and connections will be provided within the project boundaries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concern about parking issues on each side of the river.</td>
<td>Parking needs will be investigated further when the number of users and vehicles are better understood.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### What We Heard—Footbridge

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What We Heard</th>
<th>What We Will Do</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provide separation between cyclists and pedestrians.</td>
<td>Separate cycling trails are not part of this project. Shared use paths will be designed to accommodate all modes of active transportation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concern about the ‘urbanization’ of the river valley and the disruption of wildlife.</td>
<td>Site development will balance human needs while retaining the natural setting. Wildlife passages and habitat will be maintained on both sides of the river.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## What We Heard—Footbridge

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What We Heard</th>
<th>What We Will Do</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concern about the proximity to existing residential lands on the west side regarding noise and increased park use.</td>
<td>Noise bylaws will be enforced. The existing park amenities will be enhanced to support more users.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concern about the costs and the curve of the footbridge.</td>
<td>The curved footbridge was included in the proposed budget. The bridge will be curved to span across an underground utilities tunnel below the river. Safety, including impacts of user sightlines/visibility on the bridge, are being considered.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What We Heard from the Online Survey

What is your level of support for the Riverside Nature Trail site?

- 77% strongly support
- 12% somewhat support
- 3% neither support nor oppose
- 4% somewhat oppose
- 4% strongly oppose
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What We Heard</th>
<th>What We Will Do</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recreational opportunities are enhanced within the natural environment and benefit the community overall.</strong></td>
<td>The natural setting will be retained and restored while allowing for recreation activities to occur. A balance between nature and human needs will be provided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Washrooms are important.</strong></td>
<td>Permanent washroom facilities are not included in this stage of development. Temporary facilities are currently being investigated and are dependent on funding.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# What We Heard—Riverside Nature Trail

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What We Heard</th>
<th>What We Will Do</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Improved trail accessibility is required.</strong></td>
<td>Accessible trail improvements and connections will be provided within the project boundaries. Wayfinding signs will be included.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Concerns about impacts to the natural setting and environment.</strong></td>
<td>Field studies looked at terrestrial (e.g. wildlife and vegetation) and aquatic resources (e.g. fisheries). Preservation and protection measures will be implemented during construction.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What We Heard—**Fishing Pier Location**

**What We Heard**

**Option 2 - Preferred Option**

Separation from other users will provide a better site and experience for anglers.

**What We Will Do**

This proposed Riverside Nature Trail amenity will be developed in the future and the timing is funding dependent.
What We Heard from the Online Survey

What is your level of support for the East End Trail site?

- 65% strongly support
- 20% somewhat support
- 6% somewhat oppose
- 9% strongly oppose
## What We Heard—East End Trail

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What We Heard</th>
<th>What We Will Do</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pedestrian and cyclist connections have been improved but some suggestions were provided.</td>
<td>Trails within the project boundaries will be developed and suggestions were considered in the preliminary design.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concerns about increased traffic and a lack of parking.</td>
<td>Parking needs will be investigated further when the number of users and vehicles (traffic) are better understood.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What We Heard</td>
<td>What We Will Do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washrooms are a very important amenity.</td>
<td>Washrooms are not planned for the Edmonton side of the river at this location.*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased noise is a concern.</td>
<td>Noise bylaws will be enforced.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Visit the Ribbon of Green Plan for proposed future washroom locations (page 152)
Vision & Preliminary Design

The footbridge provides a new connection between two municipalities that enables visitors on both sides of the river to experience the natural environment through recreational amenities, with opportunities to celebrate nature, culture and the history of the area.
The Footbridge Preliminary Design Plan
The Footbridge Preliminary Design

Aerial view looking west (subject to change during detailed design)
The Footbridge Preliminary Design

Footbridge landing and natural park (subject to change during detailed design)
The Footbridge Preliminary Design

Footbridge viewing area (subject to change during detailed design)
Footbridge View - Downstream
Footbridge View - Upstream
The Riverside Nature Trail Preliminary Design

Subject to change during detailed design
Anticipated Construction Accesses & Closures

Subject to change during detailed design
The Environment

Site investigations were carried out in summer 2021:

- Environmental Review
- Fish Habitat Assessment

The EIA was approved by Strathcona County. It goes before the City of Edmonton Council on April 4, 2022.
Indigenous Engagement
Next Steps

- Visit the project web pages to share your feedback and complete the survey before April 8, 2022:
edmonton.ca/edmontonstrathconafootbridge
strathcona.ca/edmontonstrathconafootbridge
- View the *What We Heard* Report on the project web pages about 8 weeks after this event.
- Send questions to:
edmontonstrathconafootbridge@edmonton.ca
- Stay tuned for a public event in summer 2022 to provide updated construction information. Construction is anticipated to start in June/July 2022.