

Edmonton — Strathcona County **Footbridge** Preliminary Design

March 24, 2022



The logo for the City of Edmonton, consisting of the word "Edmonton" in white text on a dark blue rectangular background.

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 Amiskwaciy, 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

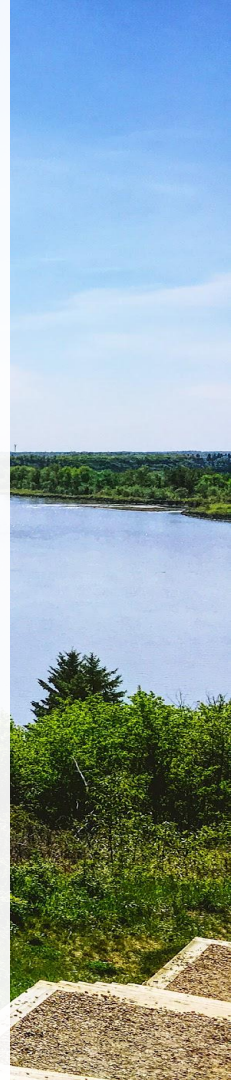
- Provide a summary of what we heard from the second public engagement event and online survey in June 2021, and what we will do in response.
- Introduce the preliminary designs for the proposed footbridge, the East End Trail site and the Riverside Nature Trail site.
- Provide some preliminary construction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

Agenda

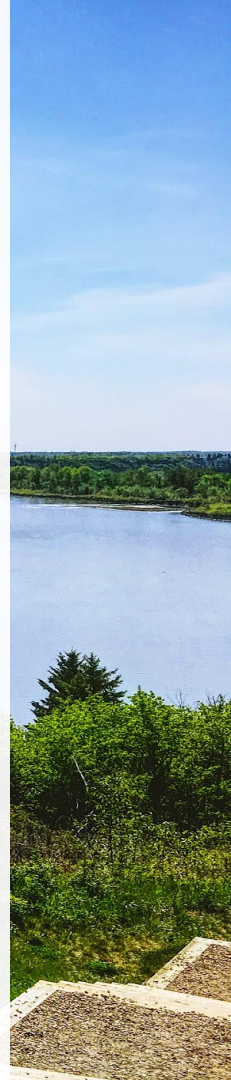
- Presentation
- Q & A



Project Scope and Timeline



What will influence the design?



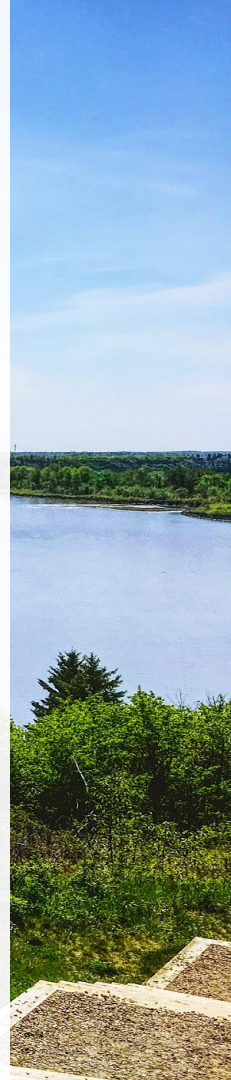
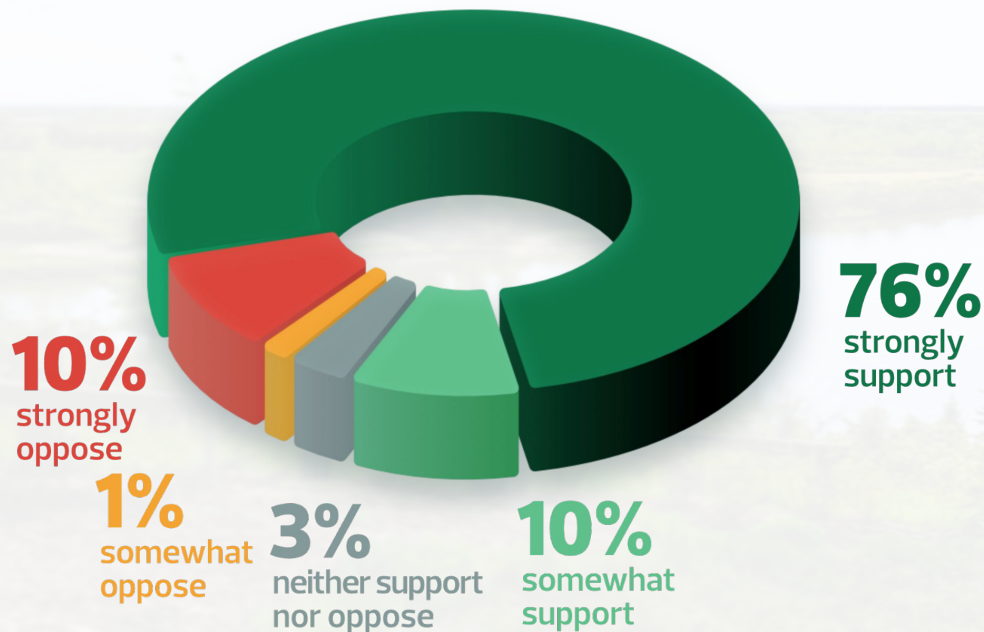
Online Survey - What We Asked

- 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?



What We Heard—**Footbridge**

What We Heard

The footbridge provides a much needed accessible link in the river valley for pedestrians and cyclists.

Concern about parking issues on each side of the river.

What We Will Do

The footbridge and accessible trails and connections will be provided within the project boundaries.

Parking needs will be investigated further when the number of users and vehicles are better understood.



What We Heard—**Footbridge**

What We Heard

Provide separation between cyclists and pedestrians.

Concern about the ‘urbanization’ of the river valley and the disruption of wildlife.

What We Will Do

Separate cycling trails are not part of this project. Shared use paths will be designed to accommodate all modes of active transportation.

Site development will balance human needs while retaining the natural setting. Wildlife passages and habitat will be maintained on both sides of the river.



What We Heard—**Footbridge**

What We Heard

Concern about the proximity to existing residential lands on the west side regarding noise and increased park use.

Concern about the costs and the curve of the footbridge.

What We Will Do

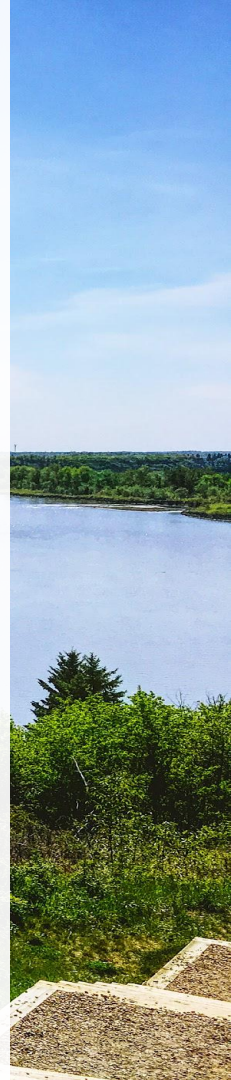
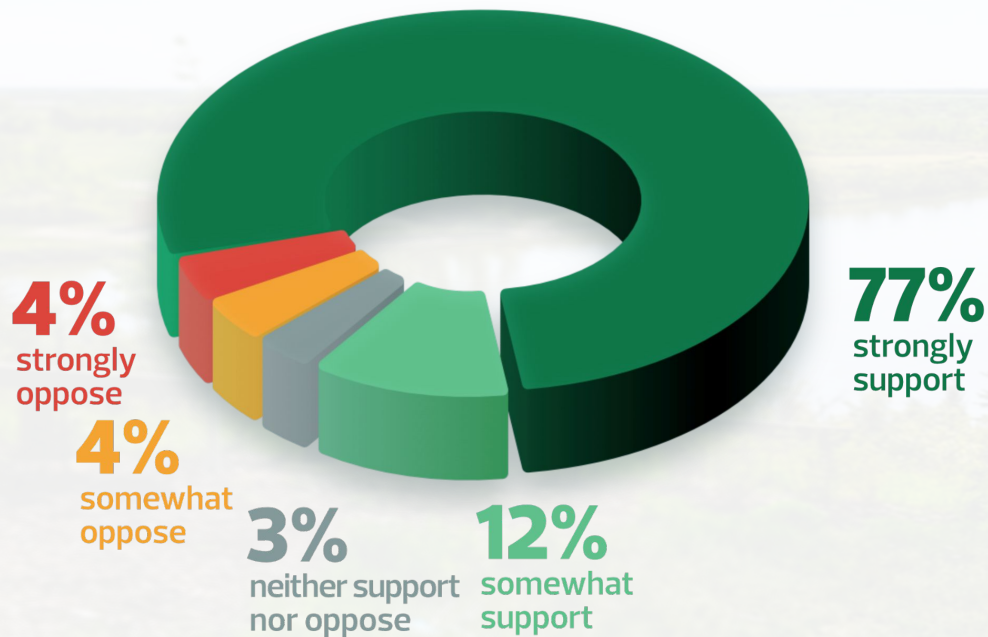
Noise bylaws will be enforced. The existing park amenities will be enhanced to support more users.

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.



What We Heard from the Online Survey

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



What We Heard—**Riverside Nature Trail**

What We Heard

Recreational opportunities are enhanced within the natural environment and benefit the community overall.

Washrooms are important.

What We Will Do

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.

Permanent washroom facilities are not included in this stage of development. Temporary facilities are currently being investigated and are dependent on funding.



What We Heard—**Riverside Nature Trail**

What We Heard

Improved trail accessibility is required.

Concerns about impacts to the natural setting and environment.

What We Will Do

Accessible trail improvements and connections will be provided within the project boundaries. Wayfinding signs will be included.

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.



What We Heard—Fishing Pier Location

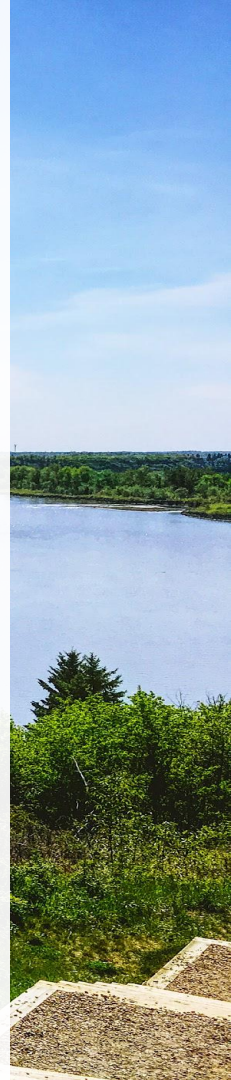
What We Heard

Option 2 - Preferred Option

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

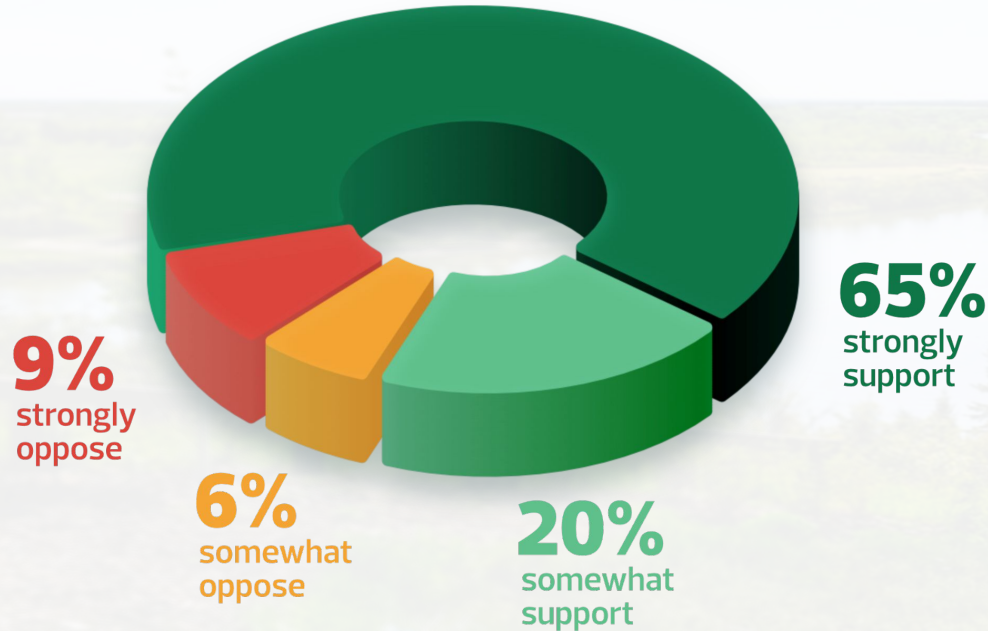
What We Will Do

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?



What We Heard—East End Trail

What We Heard

Pedestrian and cyclist connections have been improved but some suggestions were provided.

Concerns about increased traffic and a lack of parking.

What We Will Do

Trails within the project boundaries will be developed and suggestions were considered in the preliminary design.

Parking needs will be investigated further when the number of users and vehicles (traffic) are better understood.



What We Heard—East End Trail

What We Heard

What We Will Do

Washrooms are a very important amenity.

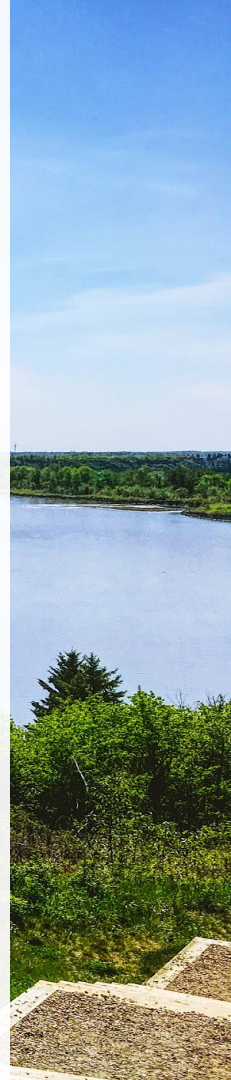
Washrooms are not planned for the Edmonton side of the river at this location.*

Increased noise is a concern.

Noise bylaws will be enforced.

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

https://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/documents/RibbonofGreenSW_NEPlanJune2020.pdf

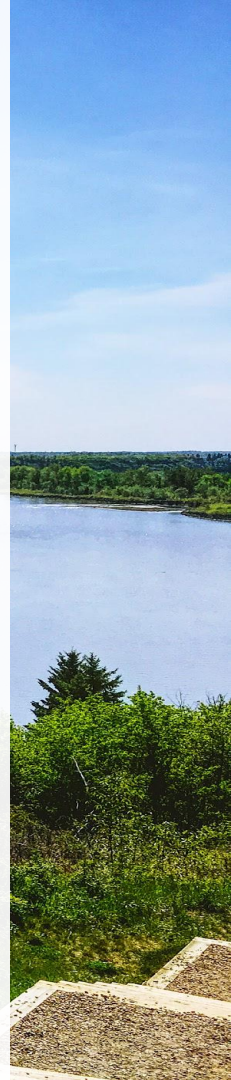


Vision & Preliminary Design

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.



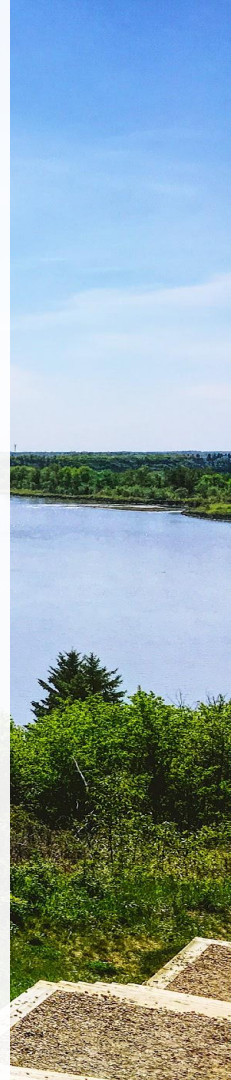
The Footbridge Preliminary Design Plan



The Footbridge Preliminary Design



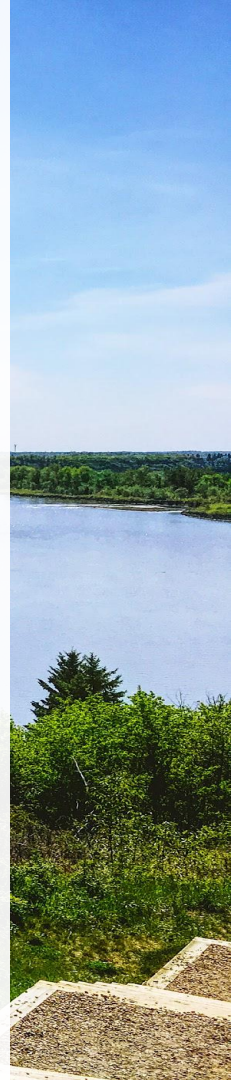
Aerial view looking west (subject to change during detailed design)



The Footbridge Preliminary Design



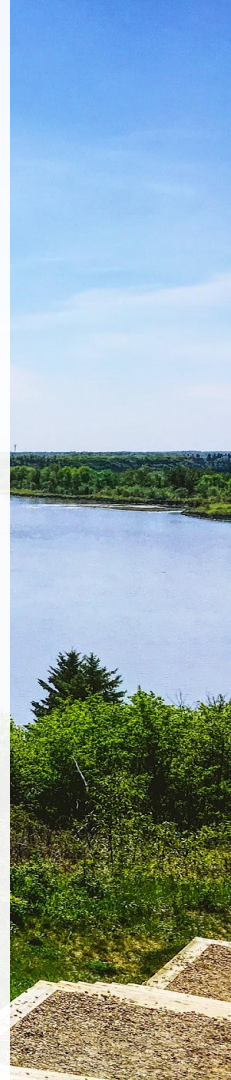
Footbridge landing and natural park (subject to change during detailed design)



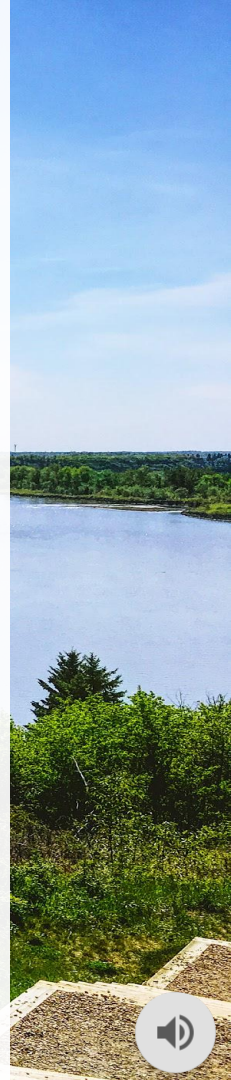
The Footbridge Preliminary Design



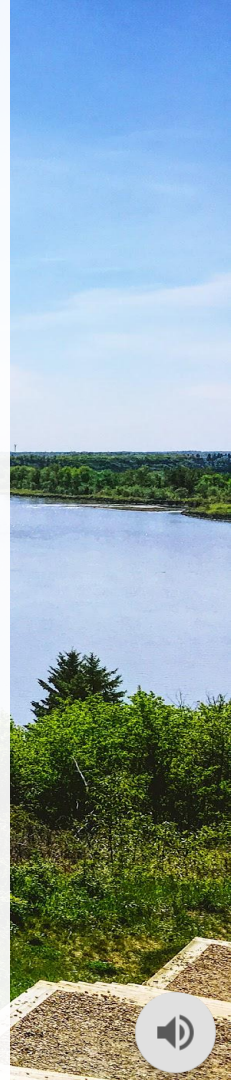
Footbridge viewing area (subject to change during detailed design)



Footbridge View - Downstream



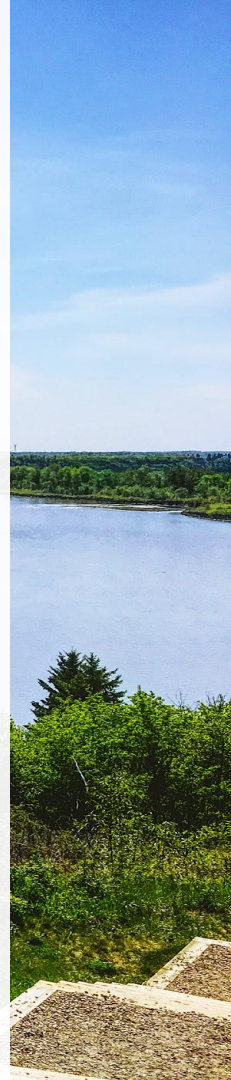
Footbridge View - Upstream



The Riverside Nature Trail Preliminary Design



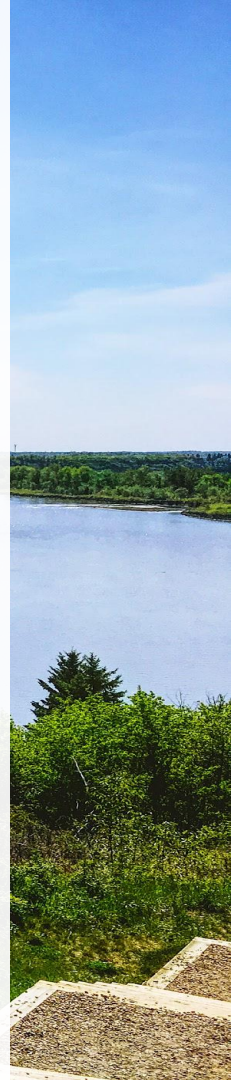
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The East End Trail Preliminary Design



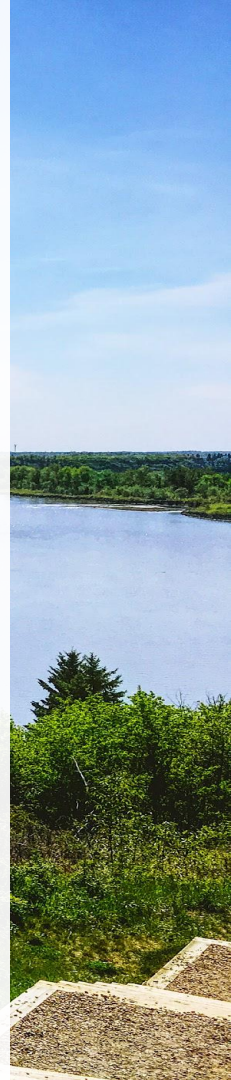
Subject to change during detailed design



Anticipated Construction Accesses & Closures



Subject to change during detailed design

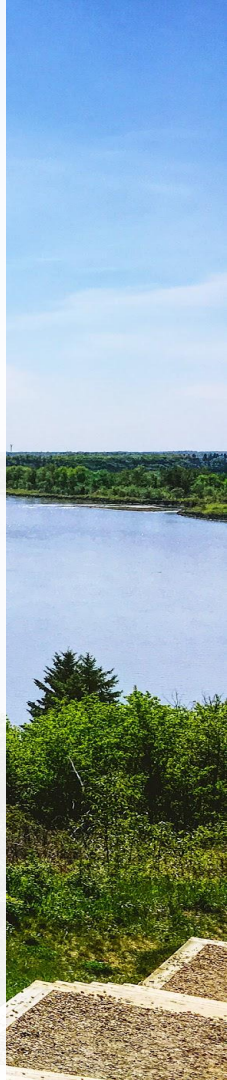


The Environment

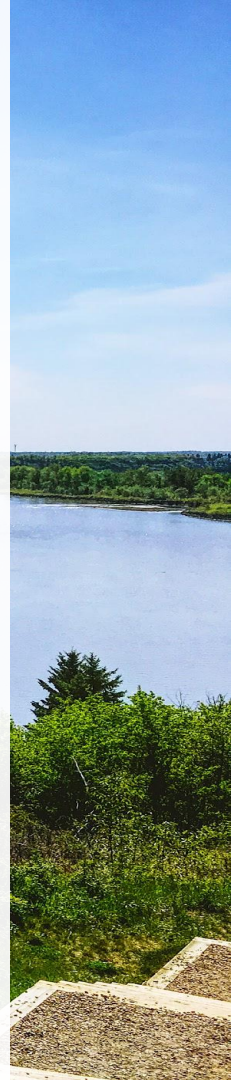
Site investigations were carried out in summer 2021:

- 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.

