



Edmonton- Strathcona County Footbridge FAQs

Q1. Who is leading this project?

The three project partners and funding sponsors are the City of Edmonton, Strathcona County and the River Valley Alliance (RVA).

Q2. Has the project already been approved for funding? Where are you at in the process?

Funding for the concept and preliminary design has been approved by the City of Edmonton, Strathcona County and River Valley Alliance. Detailed design and construction stages are subject to funding approval. Funding approval is anticipated after preliminary design is completed and the budget is confirmed.

Q3. How much will this project cost?

A feasibility study completed for the project estimated the project cost to be approximately \$25 million. This cost will be shared between the three project partners with two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of the cost covered by the RVA and the remaining third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the cost shared equally between the City of Edmonton and Strathcona County.

Q4. Why are we spending money on a footbridge at this time?

Funding specific to recreational amenities has been approved by various levels of government, and allows for the design and construction of this footbridge and associated amenities. This funding is tied to specific timelines to complete the work. The funding is not available if the work is not completed within the required timelines.

Q5. What is the timeline for the project and construction?

Concept design is underway and is anticipated to be completed this summer. Preliminary design will then start and continue until the end of 2021. Subject to funding approval, detailed design is tentatively planned to begin in early 2022 followed by a construction start in fall 2022. Construction is anticipated to be completed in late 2024.

Q6. Are there any other bridges or river crossings close by?

The closest river crossings are the Highway 216 (Anthony Henday Drive) bridge 3 km to the southwest in the City of Edmonton and the Highway 15 bridge 10 km to the northeast in the City of Fort Saskatchewan. Both of these are vehicle bridges with pedestrian connections.

Q7. Does this area have enough foot traffic to merit a footbridge in this location?

This general location has been considered in Edmonton's [Ribbon of Green](#), the [Strathcona County Trail Strategy](#), the [RVA Strategic Plan 2021 – 2024](#), and other related Edmonton and Strathcona County plans and policies. The footbridge will contribute to meeting the long term needs for a **regional river valley trail system** that will run from Devon to Fort Saskatchewan.

Q8. Will this footbridge complete the Devon to Fort Saskatchewan North Saskatchewan River valley trail system?

Two footbridges are identified to complete the trail system in the [RVA Strategic Plan 2021 - 2024](#): the Devon to Parkland County Footbridge and the Terwillegar Park to EL Smith Footbridge. The planning and construction of these footbridges are subject to funding.



Q9. Is there a need for additional land to construct this footbridge?

The footbridge will be built on lands owned by The City of Edmonton and Strathcona County.

Q10. What will the final footbridge look like?

The concept has been developed and was presented at Event 2 on June 24, 2021. This [presentation](#) is available on the [project webpage](#). In plan, the bridge will be curved to span across an underground utilities tunnel below the river. The bridge will include concrete piers, and a steel girder structure. Longevity of materials and maintenance considerations is of key importance. Handrails and other features will be developed in preliminary and detailed design.

The bridge will have a 4.5 m wide pathway, similar to other new footbridges within the City of Edmonton, such as the Terwillegar Park Footbridge. Two viewing areas/lookouts on the footbridge are proposed.

Q11. What trail connections are included in this project?

Connections from the footbridge to the East End Trail in Edmonton and to the Strathcona County Riverside Nature Trail will be included. Cycling trails, and trail connections outside of the project boundaries, are not part of this project.

Q12. Will the trails and footbridge be accessible for all users?

Every effort will be made to consider universal accessibility for both the footbridge and trails. Motorized recreational vehicles, such as ATVs and snowmobiles, will not be allowed on the footbridge.

Q13. How will traffic and parking along 167 Avenue be handled?

Parking and traffic will be considered during the concept and preliminary design. The project team will develop an understanding of current parking activities during preliminary design. Future parking needs will be considered through parking studies that will be conducted once the footbridge is built and the number of users and vehicles can be better understood. The addition of a new facility, such as a footbridge, may change the future parking and access needs in unexpected ways. For example, more cycling and pedestrian amenities may be required to meet the end user needs rather than additional parking stalls. This will be studied after the footbridge is constructed. Many footbridges in the City of Edmonton do not provide parking areas, such as the Fort Edmonton Footbridge.

Q14. How will noise in the open spaces/parks be handled?

City of Edmonton parks are open between the hours of 5:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. The Edmonton Police Service enforces excessive noise caused by people (such as loud parties), and should be contacted when there are issues. Noise issues on the Strathcona County site should be reported to the RCMP.



Q15. How will parking at the Strathcona Nature Trail site be handled?

Parking and traffic will be considered during the concept and preliminary design. The project team will develop an understanding of current parking activities during preliminary design. Future parking needs will be considered through parking studies that will be conducted once the footbridge is built and the number of users and vehicles can be better understood. The addition of a new facility, such as a footbridge, may change the parking and access needs in unexpected ways. For example, more cycling or pedestrian amenities may be required to meet the end user needs rather than additional parking stalls. This will be studied after the footbridge is constructed.

Q16. Will amenities for paddling (e.g. canoe and kayak) and fishing be provided?

Amenities for water based activities will be considered during the concept and preliminary design for the Strathcona County Nature Trail site. The concept shows potential locations for these amenities. The online survey asks for feedback on the potential locations for fishing piers/platforms.

Q17. What amenities (such as seating, waste receptacles, etc.) will be included at each site?

The feedback from the online surveys, comments received at the online events, design standards, best practices and available funding will influence what will be included at each site. The concepts provide a high level of direction for amenities and this will be refined during preliminary design.

Q18. Will washrooms be provided at each site?

Washrooms are not planned for the Edmonton side of the river at this location. The Ribbon of Green identifies three other sites near the proposed footbridge. Visit the link below for the proposed future washroom sites (page 152 of the document):

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

Washrooms will be considered on the Strathcona County side. These may have to be staged, and are dependent on funding.

Q19. Have any environmental studies been completed?

The project is currently in the conceptual stage and most of the environmental studies will be undertaken during the summer. Two main environmental investigations will occur this year:

- **Environmental Review** (per the City of Edmonton's Bylaw 7188) - will focus on identifying features and sensitivities on the land on both sides of the river, including vegetation communities (e.g. rare plants) and wildlife corridors.
- **Fish Habitat Assessment** - will identify fish habitat near the proposed footbridge site, and upstream and downstream of the site. Habitat enhancements to offset impacts of the proposed footbridge construction will also be identified.

The online survey after our first event provided local knowledge about existing plant material and wildlife in, and around, the sites. This information will be considered as part of the reviews.



Q20. Have any environmental site assessments been completed?

Not yet. A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment overview may be required as part of Bylaw 7188 requirements. Past activities and land uses for these two riverside sites will be investigated this summer, to inform the likelihood of contamination concerns.

Q21. Have there been any historical resources or burial sites discovered within the study area?

There are no known burial sites or historical resources in the project area, however, a historical resources impact assessment will be completed in 2021, if it is required by the province (Alberta Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women).

Q22. What type of Indigenous engagement activities are being planned for the project?

Some of the Indigenous engagement activities planned included a Virtual Workshop at the end of January 2021 to share project information and answer initial questions. Pending COVID-19, in-person site visits are tentatively scheduled for summer 2021.

Q23. Has the project triggered the Duty to Consult (re Indigenous communities and organizations)?

At this time the official Duty to Consult has not been triggered. The City of Edmonton, Strathcona County and River Valley Alliance (project funding sponsors) wanted to engage with Indigenous communities and organizations in advance to explore their interest in the project and identify any specific impacts.

Q24. Will there be time-lapsed recording of the bridge construction available on the project webpage?

This will be determined closer to the time of construction.

Q25. What tender or bidding process will be used to bring a contractor on board to construct the footbridge and open space amenities?

The procurement of the bridge (how the City and County obtain the services needed to build the bridge) is a Design/Bid/Build (DBB). This process requires the development of construction drawings that are put out to tender to obtain prices from contractors for the construction of the project. Criteria for contractor selection includes, but is not limited to: project understanding, experience with similar projects, schedule and price.

Q26. How can a contractor get on the bid or tender list?

Specific tender process details will be established during detailed design (early 2022) once funding has been confirmed. Additional information will be available at that time.

Q27. What other opportunities will be available to provide my feedback?

Public input opportunities will be available throughout the project to share feedback on the design of the footbridge. Information about the public engagement opportunities will be available on the project website, edmonton.ca/EdmontonStrathconaFootbridge. Information about previous events will also be available online. You are always welcome to reach out to the project team at edmontonstrathconafootbridge@edmonton.ca and provide input through the project website or the project email address.



Q28. How can we stay informed about the project?

The City of Edmonton project webpage will be updated as the project progresses. Strathcona County also has a link on their website to this webpage.

www.edmonton.ca/edmontonstrathconafontbridge

Q29. What if I have more questions?

Email your questions and comments to:

edmontonstrathconafontbridge@edmonton.ca