



## 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 through detailed design was approved by the City of Edmonton, Strathcona County and River Valley Alliance. Detailed design has recently started. Construction is subject to funding approval. We anticipate getting funding approval in spring 2022.

### Q3. How much will this project cost?

The project cost is estimated to be approximately \$38.6 million. This cost will be shared between the River Valley Alliance, Strathcona County and the City of Edmonton.

### 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?

Preliminary design has recently been completed. Detailed design has started and will be followed by construction in summer 2022. We anticipate completing construction in late 2024 or 2025.

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

The closest river crossings are the Highway 216 (Anthony Henday Drive) bridge three 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 Terwilligar 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 preliminary design has been developed and was presented at Event 3 on March 24, 2022. The presentation is available on the [project web page](#). In the 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 further in detailed design.

The bridge will have a 4.5 m wide pathway, similar to other new footbridges within 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. Motorised 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?**

The project team developed an understanding of current traffic and 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 user needs rather than additional parking stalls. This will be studied after the footbridge is constructed. Many footbridges in 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 Riverside Nature Trail site be handled?**

The project team developed an understanding of current parking activities during preliminary design. The proposed parking area will be a similar size to the existing parking area. 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 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 in the future for the Strathcona County Nature Trail site. The concept shows future locations for these amenities, including a fishing pier and small non-motorized boat dock (e.g. canoe and kayak); however, these will not be included as part of this project.

**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 preliminary design provides the locations for these amenities.

**Q18. Why are some of the concept plan amenities missing in the preliminary design?**

The concept plan was developed to provide the long term site layout and design for the two riverside sites. The concept reflects the entire program for the sites and the relationships between the amenities. The concept confirmed that the overall program and amenities would fit. Based on the project budget, key amenities to support the footbridge have been included in the preliminary design while maintaining space for future amenities. The amenities not included as part of this project will be considered for development in the future when funding becomes available.

**Q19. What is the rationale for the trail alignment at the footbridge landings (i.e. the circle trail and curving trails to the circle)? This does not appear to be safe for pedestrians and cyclists.**

The landings are multifunctional and will provide a natural gathering area, a lookout over the river and seating areas at each end of the footbridge. Some interpretive signage may be added in the future. As this footbridge is part of a shared-use path system, many different types of users and levels of accessibility need to be accommodated.

Concerns have been raised about conflicts between cyclists and pedestrians. The circle will help slow down cycling traffic and reduce conflicts with pedestrians. The curved trails going to the landings on both sides of the river will provide a gradual and gentle slope for easy access for many trail users, increase trail accessibility and slow cycle traffic. The detailed design of these trails is ongoing and will be refined.

**Q20. 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. The proposed future washroom sites are shown on page 152 of the document.

Permanent washrooms will be considered on the Strathcona County side. These may be built at a later date, and are dependent on funding. Temporary washrooms are on site and will continue to be provided.

**Q21. Have any environmental studies been completed?**

Two main environmental investigations occurred in 2021:

- **Environmental Review** (per the City of Edmonton's Bylaw 7188) - focused 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** - identified fish habitat near the proposed footbridge site, and upstream and downstream of the site. Habitat enhancements to offset impacts of the proposed footbridge construction were also identified.



The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been approved by both the City of Edmonton and Strathcona County.

**Q22. Have any environmental site assessments been completed?**

Yes, a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment overview was completed as part of Bylaw 7188 requirements. Past activities and land uses for these two riverside sites were investigated to inform the likelihood of contamination concerns.

**Q23. 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. Historical Resources Act Approval permits were obtained for geotechnical drilling and Historical Resources Act permit applications are currently underway for the bridge. A Historic Resources Impact Assessment will be completed in 2022 as part of the bridge permit.

**Q24. Can community groups collect native plant material (e.g. cuttings, seeds) at the project sites before construction starts?**

Community groups will not be able to collect native plant material from the project sites. The Indigenous community will harvest traditional plants followed by a contractor with expertise in seed/plant collection and propagation. The plant material grown from this seed/plant collection will be planted at the project sites as part of the restoration/naturalization process.

**Q25. There are many trails in the area that are not well connected, or are not completed. Who do we contact to get these on the list for construction?**

The Edmonton-Strathcona County Footbridge project will provide trail connections within the project boundaries (i.e. at the two project sites). Other trails in the area are not part of this project.

Trails planned for the river valley can be found on the [River Valley Alliance web page](#), in the [City of Edmonton Ribbon of Green plan](#) and on the [Strathcona County Trails and Parks web page](#). The City of Edmonton trails and pathways [web page](#) may also provide information.

For the status of undeveloped trails and anticipated timelines for construction, please contact:

City of Edmonton: Call 311

Strathcona County: Recreation, Parks and Culture, Phone: 780 467-2211 Email: [recreation@strathcona.ca](mailto:recreation@strathcona.ca)

**Q26. What about Indigenous engagement?**

The City and County are engaging Indigenous communities in a separate process from the public engagement. Nations have asked that their input and information remain confidential and the City and County are respecting this request.

**Q27. What about Duty to Consult?**

The City and County are engaging Indigenous communities in a separate process from the public engagement. Any potential duty to consult requirements are addressed by the City and County Indigenous relations office and intergovernmental affairs staff.

**Q28. Will there be time-lapsed recording of the bridge construction available on the project web page?**

This will be determined closer to the time of construction.



**Q29. 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.

As funding becomes available, Requests for Proposals may be released by Strathcona County during the footbridge construction for additional amenities within the Riverside Nature Park.

**Q30. How can a contractor get on the bid or tender list?**

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

**Q31. 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 past, current and future public engagement opportunities will be available on the [project web page](#). You are always welcome to reach out to the project team at [edmontonstrathconafontbridge@edmonton.ca](mailto:edmontonstrathconafontbridge@edmonton.ca) or provide input through the project website.

**Q32. How can I stay informed about the project?**

The City of Edmonton [project web page](#) will be updated as the project progresses. Strathcona County also has a link on their [website](#) to this web page.

**Q33. What if I have more questions?**

Email your questions and comments to [edmontonstrathconafontbridge@edmonton.ca](mailto:edmontonstrathconafontbridge@edmonton.ca).