



What We Did & What We Heard Report: Touch the Water Promenade Stage Three

November 2021
edmonton.ca/touchthewater

SHARE YOUR VOICE
SHAPE OUR CITY

Edmonton

Background

Project at a glance

Name	Touch the Water Promenade Project Engagement Stage Three: Refined Design Review
Engagement opportunity and information shared	<p>The Engaged Edmonton online platform was live from July 19 to August 3, 2021 which included project information and feedback opportunities through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">+ A narrated video+ Online survey (July 19 to August 3)+ PDF Refined Design Information Booklet (July 19 to August 3)+ Frequently Asked Questions Document (July 19 to August 3) <p>Virtual stakeholder meetings and workshops were held with six organizations in July and August 2021.</p> <p>Two live online information sessions were held in July where participants could ask the project team questions.</p> <p>From July 19 to August 3, 2021 engagement notifications included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">+ Three Email Newsletters to Project Subscribers+ Project announcements on the City's Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Transforming Edmonton Blog and project website.+ One road sign at River Valley Road and 105 Street (Walterdale Bridge)+ 10 yard signs within the project area+ 2,800 mail pieces delivered to the Rossdale community

Land Acknowledgement

The City of Edmonton acknowledges the traditional land on which we reside is in Treaty Six Territory. We would like to thank the diverse Indigenous Peoples whose ancestors' footsteps have marked this territory for centuries, such as nêhiyaw (Cree), Anishinaabe (Saulteaux), Nakota Isga (Nakota Sioux), Niitsitapi (Blackfoot) and Dené Peoples. We acknowledge this as the Métis' homeland, and also 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.

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What We Heard & What We Did Report: Touch the Water Promenade

Introduction

Between 2012 and 2017, the City explored opportunities for a promenade along the North Saskatchewan River with some initial public and regional Indigenous engagement. In the winter of 2018 City Council combined two projects, Touch the Water in the Rossdale neighbourhood and the North Shore Promenade between Government House Park and the Walterdale Bridge for engagement and design efficiencies. The combined project area now spans a four kilometre stretch of downtown river valley from the Groat Road Bridge up to and including the Rossdale neighbourhood near the Walterdale Bridge.

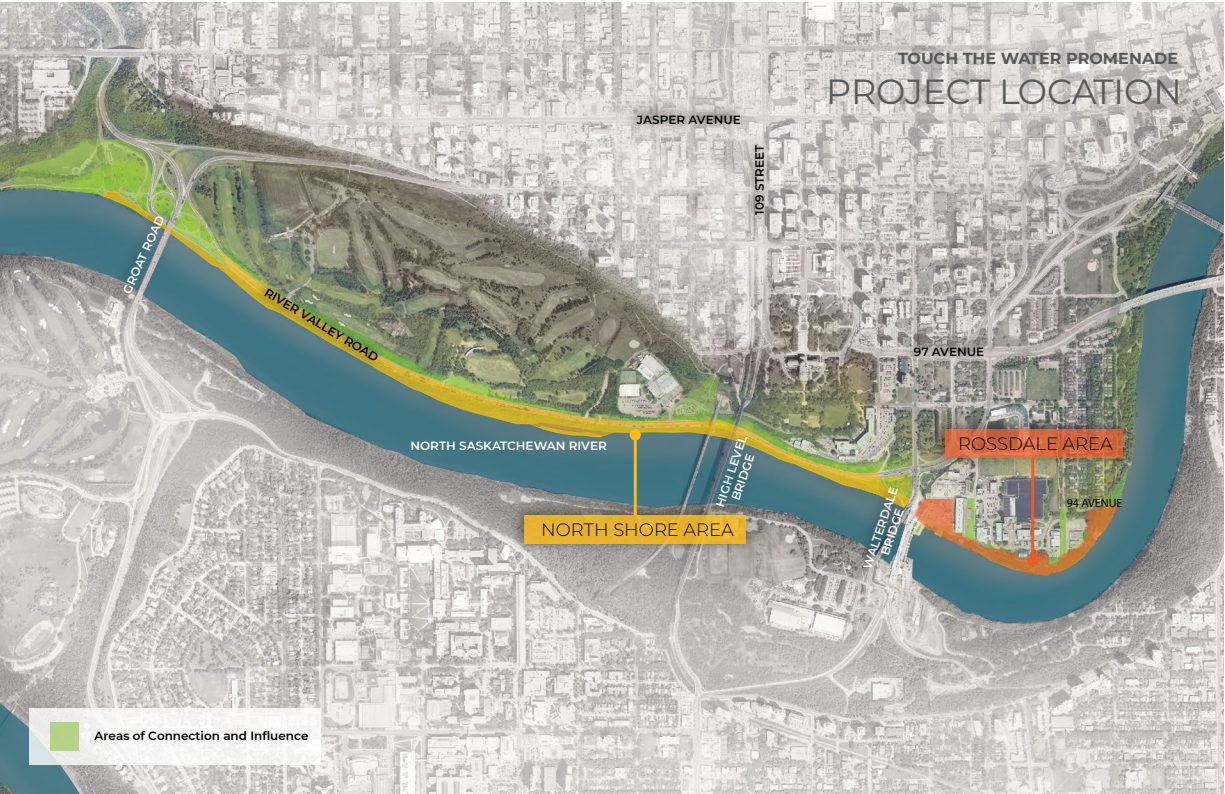
The river valley is a place people have been drawn to and gathered at since time immemorial. The City of Edmonton is looking to improve access to and within the central river valley with the Touch the Water Promenade project, creating enhanced opportunities for ecological connections, recreation, celebration and heritage interpretation. Through this work, the project team is looking to define what a signature promenade experience would look like as directed by Council. There is interest from Council and Administration for the promenade to serve as a regional destination.

Together, Council direction, the supporting strategy documents and the river valley site, create a unique placemaking opportunity that will celebrate and build upon the relationship that many Edmontonians have with the river and the diverse heritage that this section of river valley contains. It is in this space that engagement is needed to build the conversation around possibilities for a new riverfront promenade in the heart of our city.

The Touch the Water Promenade Vision for the Rossdale Area is to create Edmonton's premiere riverfront destination, with outdoor public spaces that attract people to the area and create a unique sense of place in Edmonton.

The refined design presented in Stage Three offers areas that allow for unique riverfront recreation, and play and gathering opportunities not found anywhere else in the region. Improved safety and access along and to the river is proposed, with spaces that provide opportunities to celebrate the special significance of the land and water to Indigenous Nations and Communities and the area's diverse history. Additional planting of trees, gardens and grasslands is proposed to restore the local environment where possible. Multi-use open spaces are included to connect to the Rossdale Power Plant and Pump Houses.

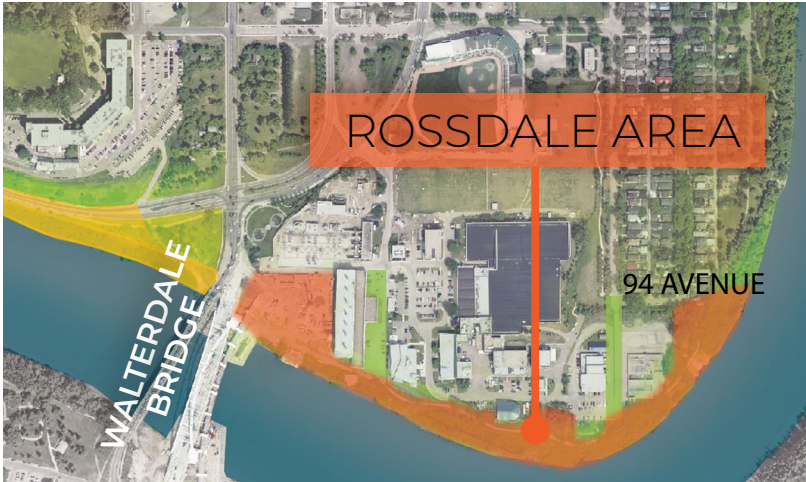
Project location



Project Location

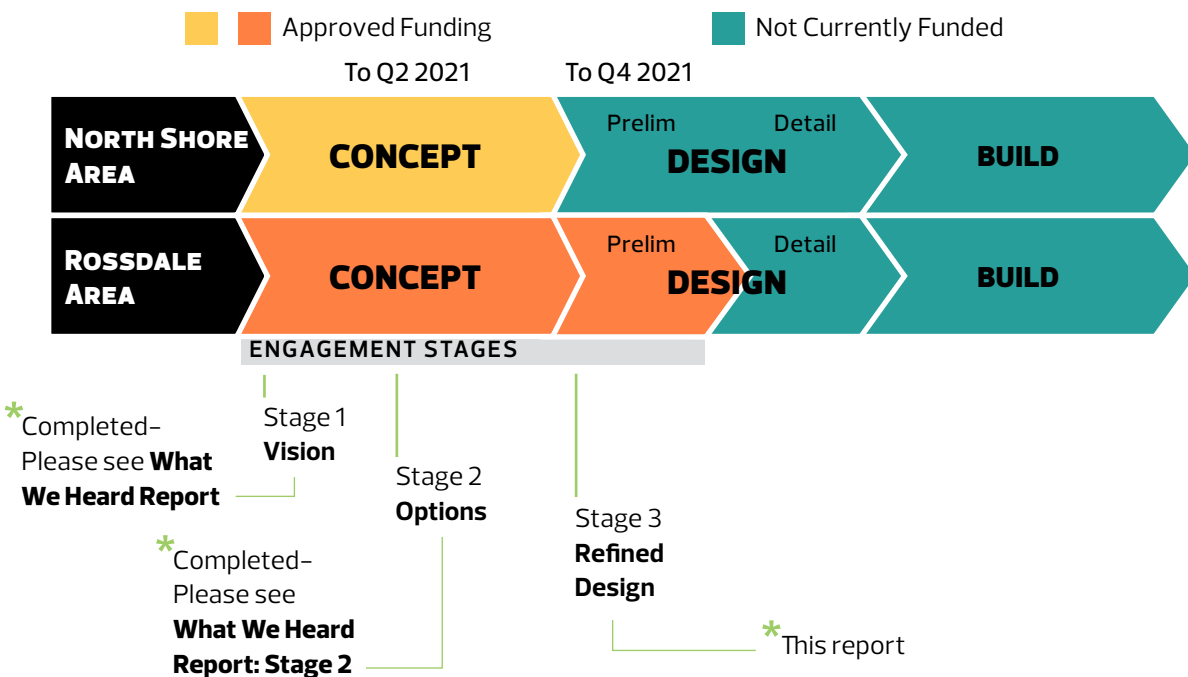
The Rossdale Area, highlighted in orange, includes the area around Walterdale Bridge, the area next to the Power Plant and Pump Houses and around the bend in the river towards the Rossdale neighbourhood. This area was included in Stage Three.

The North Shore area, highlighted in yellow, extends from Government House Park to Walterdale Bridge. This area was not included in Stage Three.




Timeline

This project is advancing through the planning and design stages and will change the north shore of the North Saskatchewan River between Government House Park and the Rossdale Neighbourhood. Both project areas, the North Shore Area and the Rossdale Area, were funded to complete Concept design. Design for The North Shore Area has concluded at the end of the concept phase and is not currently funded for further design work at this time. In July 2021, we engaged only on the Rossdale portion of the project. While there is no funding for construction at this time, the City of Edmonton is working to create a shared vision for future development for this special space in our river valley and city when the time is right.



The Rossdale Area shared refined designs with the public and stakeholders from July 19 to August 3, 2021. Feedback from this stage of engagement will inform further the design work for the Rossdale Area.

An aerial photograph of a river valley. A large, multi-lane bridge with a white arch spans across a wide river. To the right of the river, there are several large, modern buildings with flat roofs, surrounded by trees with autumn-colored foliage. A road with traffic curves around the buildings. The scene is captured from a high angle, showing the layout of the urban area and the natural landscape.

Regional Indigenous Engagement

The City is committed to engaging with Indigenous Nations and Peoples on projects that may be of traditional, cultural, historical and/or environmental interest. The City acknowledges that projects within the North Saskatchewan River Valley in particular are of significant interest to regional Indigenous Nations and Communities. It is important that Indigenous Peoples are part of conversations about the past, present and future of Edmonton's river valley.

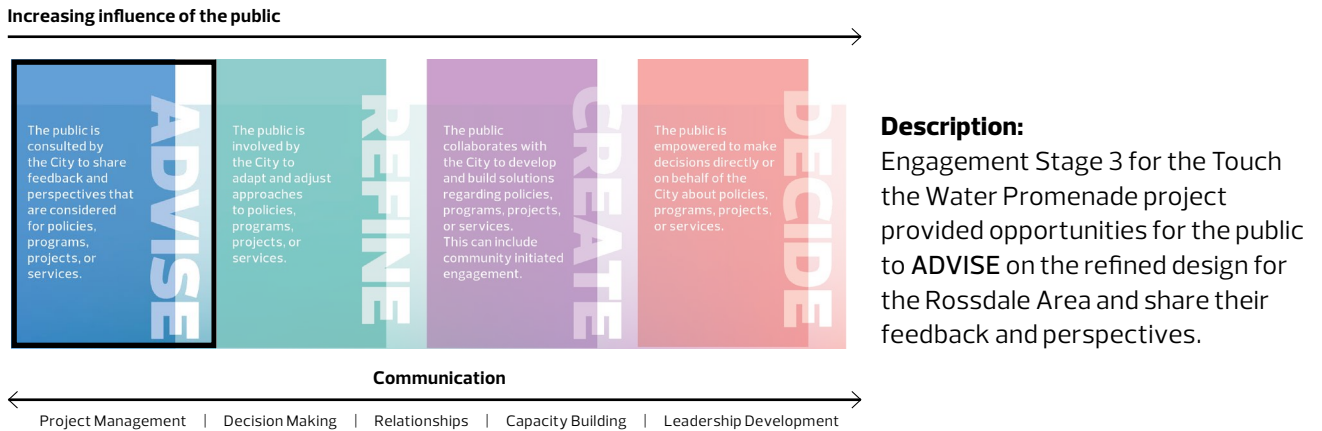
31 regional Indigenous Nations and Communities have been invited to engagement on the project. Elders, Community members, Knowledge Keepers and Technicians from 26 Nations and Communities have participated over the three phases of engagement that have been completed so far.

Cultural protocol was offered at the engagement sessions and the input shared has been summarized in reports for Indigenous Nations and Communities to review. Ongoing advice, wisdom, and input from Indigenous Nations and Communities will continue to help guide the project as it moves forward.

How Decisions are Made

The City of Edmonton values public engagement processes and activities that contribute to project decisions by providing City Council and the project team with the best possible information to support decision making. Public and stakeholder engagement is one factor in the decision making process.

The City of Edmonton's Public Engagement Spectrum



Mayor & Council: Key funding decisions & approval

There are many factors involved in decision-making for the Touch the Water project. City plans and policies, outcomes of technical and environmental studies, along with public and stakeholder engagement and regional Indigenous engagement will contribute to the decision-making process.



The project is aligned with the City of Edmonton's Breathe Strategy, which seeks to enhance Edmontonians' connection to open park spaces within our city. In addition, the project is influenced by many other City of Edmonton plans and policies including but not limited to:

- + **Ribbon of Green:** Provides strategic direction to guide the protection and responsible use of Edmonton's river valley and the ravine system over the next 20 years.
- + **ConnectEdmonton and City Plan:** The City of Edmonton's 10 year strategic plan, as well as the guiding values, intentions, and directions, provide the foundation for how our city will grow.
- + **River Crossing Business Plan:** Provides a business case and implementation plan for integrated urban places investment and economically-sound development in the Rosedale neighbourhood.
- + **River Crossing Heritage Interpretive Plan:** Provides an approach to reflect the rich Indigenous and settler history of the site with a dynamic urban future.
- + **River Access Strategy:** Provides direction to address increasing demands for river recreation while protecting the river valley as the City's signature natural, cultural and recreational resource.
- + **River Access Guiding Principles:** The City of Edmonton will ensure environmental stewardship while encouraging a broader appreciation for activities on or alongside the river, and will provide direction regarding the safe use, programming, partnerships, operations, design and location of infrastructure that supports access to the river and activities associated with the river.
- + **North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan (Bylaw 7188):** Provides the environmental review framework and principles for future implementation plans and programmes for parks protection and development within the river valley & ravines.
- + **Downtown Public Places Plan:** Guides public space improvements to create a greener, healthier and more family friendly Downtown.
- + **Open Spaces Policy and Breathe – Edmonton's Green Network Strategy:** As Edmonton's population grows and diversifies, neighbourhoods evolve and environmental conditions change, the City commits to maintaining a sustainable, inclusive, connected, multifunctional open space network that supports other city building objectives and responds to diverse needs. Key themes for open space function include Wellness, Ecology and Celebration.
- + **Capital Project Governance Policy:** Provides overall framework to guide the management of the City's capital projects, including phased approach to project development and delivery.
- + **Capital City Recreation Park Development Plan (1974):** Provides direction for the development of 16 kilometres of connected trails, pathways, and amenities in the central river valley. The trails and amenities here are among the most valued places in Edmonton to this day.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

In fall 2019, the project team initiated Stage One of public engagement with the goal of understanding the priorities for using the spaces along the river and creating a vision and design principles to guide the development of the concept design options.

Using information gathered from Stage One, two draft concepts for Touch the Water Promenade were presented in Stage Two of public and stakeholder engagement. Due to COVID-19 public health restrictions, all engagement events were conducted online from November 9 to November 30, 2020. Feedback was collected to help inform the refined designs.

For Stage Three, the project team continued to conduct online public and stakeholder engagement. Online public engagement ran from July 19 to August 3, 2021 using the **Engaged Edmonton** website. The public had the opportunity to review the refined design through a narrated, pre-recorded video, a design information booklet, and two virtual Q&A information sessions. Feedback was collected through an online survey, project emails and virtual stakeholder meetings.

PROJECT VISION

The project vision was developed using feedback from Stage One engagement in fall 2019, and was reviewed during Stage Two engagement in fall 2020:

- + Instantly recognizable as Edmonton's premiere riverfront destination, this incredibly **vibrant outdoor public space** evokes a unique sense of place in Canada's northern-most major city.
- + The Touch the Water Promenade **celebrates** the central river valley's multi-layered history and special significance to Indigenous Nations & Communities, **restores** its natural systems and resiliency and **re-connects** the central city to the river.
- + By improving access into and within the river valley network, the Promenade provides diverse opportunities for riverfront **gathering and recreation** not found anywhere else in the region.

PROJECT PRINCIPLES

Touch the Water Promenade project has been guided by Breathe, the City of Edmonton's strategy for parks and open spaces planning and design. The main goal of Breathe is to plan and sustain a healthy city by encouraging connection and integration of open space at the site, neighbourhood, city and regional levels. As a central riverfront public space, Touch the Water Promenade has incorporated the three themes from Breathe into the concept design options: **Ecology, Wellness and Celebration.**



To learn more about Breathe visit: edmonton.ca/breathe

How We Engaged

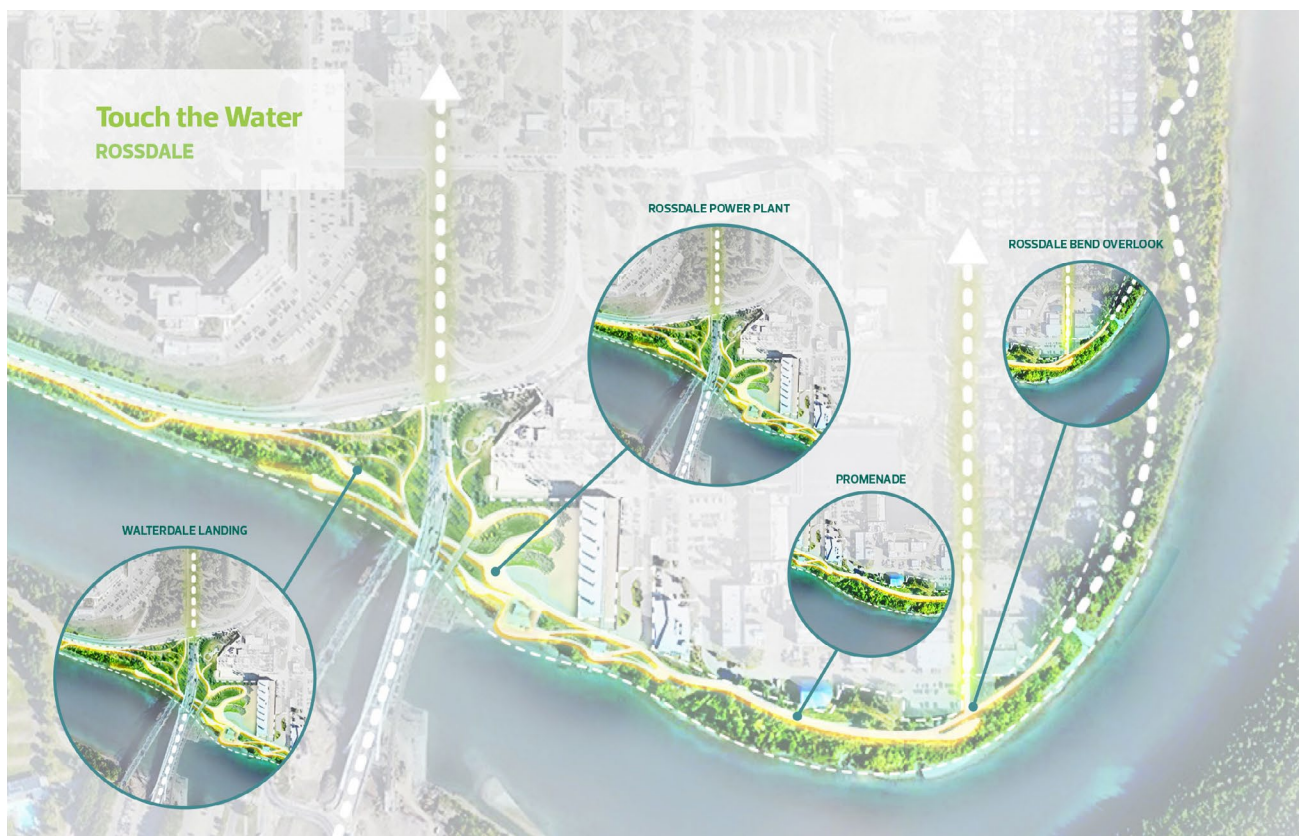
ENGAGED EDMONTON SITE

Stage Three continued to use the Engaged Edmonton site to share information, allow people to ask questions, review project information and connect them to the survey. Approximately 530 people visited the Engaged Edmonton site from July 19 to August 3, 2021. Project information was downloaded 150 times during that time period and more than 430 visitors continued to the online survey from Engaged Edmonton.

Information materials found on Engaged Edmonton included:

- + **Design information booklet**, a PDF describing the refined designs
- + Project narrated video
- + Project Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
- + Stage Two What We Heard Report

The narrated video and information booklet described the overall Touch The Water design, what we've heard through the first two stages of engagement and the refined and updated design for proposed improvements in the Rosedale Area.



Online Survey

The online survey was available on the Engaged Edmonton site, as well as [Edmonton.ca/Surveys](https://edmonton.ca/Surveys).

More than 430 participants responded to the online survey, which asked questions about how the refined design reflects the project vision and design principles.

ADVERTISING

Road and Yard Signs

One road sign was put up between July 3 and August 19 at River Valley Road and 105 Street (Walterdale Bridge). There were ten yard signs put up between July 3 and August 19 along the shared-use path within the project area.

Print and Email Newsletters

There were three email newsletters sent to subscribers in advance of engagement. Engagement opportunities were also advertised in the City's Indigenous Relations Community Bulletin newsletter, and shared in newsletters by organizations such as the North Saskatchewan River Valley Conservation Society and Paths for People.



July 3- August 19, 2021, Yard Signs

Share Your Feedback!
Touch The Water Promenade Project

SHARE YOUR VOICE SHAPE OUR CITY Edmonton

The Touch the Water Promenade project in the **Rosssdale Area** will be moving forward with the next stage of design work. If you live, visit, move through or simply enjoy this area of the river valley, we want to hear from you!

Online Engagement Opportunities
edmonton.ca/[TouchTheWater](https://edmonton.ca/TouchTheWater)

Review the refined concept design, let us know if we've missed anything and help shape the preliminary design for the Rosssdale Area starting on **July 19th** by:

- Watching a video
- Flipping through an information booklet
- Registering for an online session to learn more about the design and ask questions
- Completing the online survey
- Asking questions of the project team, and reviewing the project FAQ at engaged.edmonton.ca

To provide your feedback or to register for an online learning session visit: edmonton.ca/TouchTheWater

ONLINE LEARNING SESSIONS

- July 21, 2021 | 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.
- July 22, 2021 | 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

ONLINE SURVEY

- Available from July 19 – August 3

Paper Copies
If you prefer to have a paper copy of the survey, please contact TouchTheWaterPromenadeProject@edmonton.ca or call 311 to arrange for a copy to be delivered to you.

ADVISE

Project Update

The river valley is a place people have been drawn to and gathered at since time immemorial. The City of Edmonton is exploring ways to improve access to the central river valley with the Touch the Water Promenade project.

Based on what we heard during Stage Two engagement in fall 2020, the City has developed a refined concept design. Although a single concept design was developed for both the Rosssdale and North Shore project areas, only the Rosssdale Area will be moving forward with additional design work at this time. **Stage Three engagement will focus on the Rosssdale portion of the project.**

We are now in Stage Three and want to share the refined designs for the Touch The Water Promenade with you.

Online engagement will be available from **July 19 – August 3** at edmonton.ca/TouchTheWater.

Online Learning Sessions

Join us for a live online learning session where we will share the refined design and answer your questions.

Online Survey

Review the refined design and share your feedback.

Questions?

Ask your questions online and our project team will respond in a timely manner.

For More Information

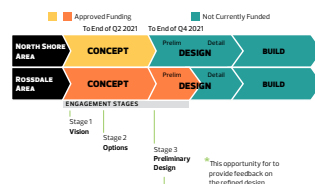
For more project information or to sign up for project updates, please visit edmonton.ca/TouchTheWater.

Thank You!

The City of Edmonton is committed to transparent communication and engagement, and our project team looks forward to connecting with you.

We appreciate your support and hope you will be able to participate in our upcoming online engagement. For any questions related to the Touch the Water Promenade project, please contact TouchTheWaterPromenadeProject@edmonton.ca.

ADVISE



Social Media

Stage Three engagement for Touch the Water was advertised on the City's Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, the Transforming Edmonton Blog and on the **project website**. Details on social media reach are shown below:



Twitter
4 tweets
59,919 impressions
1503 engagements



Facebook
2 posts
41,843 impressions
2031 engagements



Instagram
2 posts
5738 impressions
203 engagements



**Transforming
Edmonton Blog**
1 posts
924 views



Website
2554 unique views
between July 19 and
August 3, 2021

EMAILS TO PROJECT TEAM

The project team received 12 emails with input to Touch the Water, sharing additional feedback or questions about the project overall.

STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

The project team hosted five virtual stakeholder meetings with the following organizations:

- + Alberta Infrastructure, Government of Alberta
- + Rosssdale Community League
- + Paths for People
- + Edmonton Trail Runners
- + Edmonton River Valley Conservation Coalition
- + Explore Edmonton

Stakeholder meetings with adjacent utility companies and other orders of government occurred earlier in Spring 2021, with the following organizations:

- + Alberta Environment & Parks, Government of Alberta
- + Department of Fisheries & Oceans, Government of Canada
- + EPCOR Water
- + EPCOR Drainage

VIRTUAL SESSIONS

Two virtual sessions were held using Zoom video conferencing software on July 21 and 22, 2021, in the afternoon and evening respectively. These sessions provided an opportunity for the project team to present updated information about the project, and receive questions from the public. A panel of project team members responded to questions submitted by the public, which were displayed for all attendees to see. Each event shared the same content.

What We Heard

VIRTUAL SESSIONS

The virtual sessions had twenty-two participants attend the events. The project team comprehensively answered over 20 live questions at each of the online sessions, with multiple project team members from different disciplines contributing answers and responses.

During these information sessions, these key themes came up:

- + Consider incorporating amenities, such as food service, washrooms, bicycle parking and water fountains.
- + Consider working with other projects, organizations and Indigenous Communities to integrate all initiatives, such as the Prairie Sky Gondola Project, Explore Edmonton's Ten-year plan and the Canadian Heritage River initiative.
- + Concerns about funding and operational and maintenance costs for the site.
- + Concerns about ecological and environmental impacts with tree removal and adding infrastructure along the river's edge.

STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

The project team held five stakeholder meetings in July and August. The project team shared the refined designs and had open conversations with the stakeholder groups about their feedback, concerns and answered questions. Each stakeholder meeting shared the same content.

Key themes:

Access

- + Accessing the area for people coming from different parts of the City, this project could create a parking concern for the community and Legislative Grounds.
- + Access to the area and to the water's edge for people with mobility issues should be considered.

Funding

- + Interest in how the project is funded, if funding partnerships are included, and if the project can be done in stages as funding becomes available.

Environment

- + Concerns about ecological and environmental impacts to the river's edge and the wildlife corridor.

Safety

- + Concerns about safety at the water's edge and the kayak tie-up design.
- + The multi-use pathways in the area could still be overused and have user conflicts. Consider signage and surface treatments to ensure cyclists use the correct pathways and decrease user conflicts.

Seasonal Use

- + Consider adding amenities that are useful in all seasons, such wide barriers, fire pits, washrooms, water fountains and lighting.

ONLINE SURVEY

From July 19 – August 3, 2021, an online survey was made available through the Engaged Edmonton platform and the City's surveys website. The focus of this survey was to gather feedback on the refined design of Rossdale portion of the Touch the Water project. 433 participants completed the online survey. A demographic profile of participants is included in the Appendix.

The following is an overview of What We Heard from Online Survey Respondents.

The Touch the Water Promenade Vision for the Rossdale Area is to create Edmonton's premiere riverfront destination, with outdoor public spaces that attract people to the area and create a unique sense of place in Edmonton. The refined design offers areas that allow for unique riverfront recreation, play and gathering opportunities not found anywhere else in the region. Improved safety and access along and to the river is proposed, with spaces that provide opportunities to celebrate the special significance of the land and water to Indigenous Nations and Communities and the area's diverse history. Additional planting of trees, gardens and grasslands is proposed to restore the local environment where possible. Multi-use open spaces are included to connect to the Rossdale Power Plant and Pump Houses.

Q1. How likely are you to use this space as proposed?

73% of survey respondents indicated that they were "very likely" or "somewhat likely" to use the space as proposed.

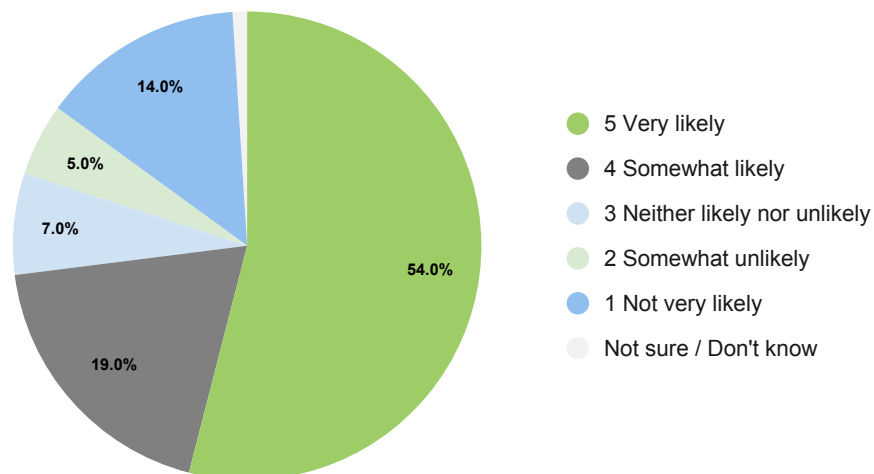


Figure 1. Number of Respondents Very Likely to Use the Space as Proposed

Q1B. Is there anything you see that would prevent your use of this area? Please explain.

The following are summaries of the comments received in the survey.

Design and Upkeep

- + If proper maintenance and care of this area is not budgeted for, and the area becomes run-down, it could discourage people from visiting.
- + The design could be easily damaged by ice, flooding and other seasonal fluctuations in the River Valley which could make accessing the area difficult or unsafe. If the area is not properly maintained it will prevent individuals from using it.
- + The amount of concrete that is currently proposed in the design was off-putting to some respondents, with many suggesting that incorporating more natural elements such as trees and other vegetation would better reflect the area's natural beauty and increase their interest in using the area.
- + There were also concerns that the amount of concrete included in the design could make the area uncomfortably hot or cold and that there were not enough shelters and heated spaces.

Wildlife and Vegetation

- + Many respondents felt that it was important that the design considers the area's important role as a wildlife corridor and sensitive ecology is respected. This is important and attracts some users to the river valley and this area.

General Accessibility

- + If the design is not accessible enough, individuals with disabilities and/or reduced mobility could be excluded or prevented from using the space. It will be important to ensure that the design is wheelchair and stroller friendly.
- + A lack of affordable parking and easily accessible or direct transit close to the project area could make it difficult for individuals who do not live within walking distance to access the area, preventing people from using the space.
- + There is a general concern that increased access to or encouragement to get down to the river in this area could lead to an increase in emergency situations, which could prevent some individuals from wanting to use the space.
- + Concerns that construction of the project will limit access to the river valley, preventing the area from being used by the public for a long period of time.

Recreation

- + Lack of parking in the area could be a barrier to individuals using this area for water sports such as kayaking, as it could be difficult to access the proposed kayak tie-up on foot.
- + Some areas of the design are not inclusive to people with disabilities or reduced mobility accessing the water's edge.

Amenities (Food Service, Retail, and Washroom Facilities)

- + The river valley is in need of food service and retail opportunities to make this space usable year round and to motivate tourists and people from other areas of the city to come and use the space.
- + Many respondents shared that they felt more people would use the area if amenities were available. A lack of washrooms and water fountains could discourage people from using the space, or staying and enjoying it for longer periods of time.

Q1C. What do you like best about the refined designs and the project for the Rosedale Area?

The following are summaries of the comments received in the survey.

Survey respondents shared that they liked the following aspects and features best about the refined designs for the project and Rosedale Area:

General Positive Responses

- + The design would make people feel welcome, it looks good, and it fits into the trails and other things around it.
- + For people that said that they like the design, the reuse of the Power Plant and Pump Houses, as well as the places people can look out over the river, are highlights.
- + Many people that responded liked the idea of making the space useful for lots of different things, and thought that it might mean more new and different kinds of people using it.
- + Many people that responded liked how close the design is to the river.

General Negative Responses

- + Many people that responded did not like the amount of concrete or hardscaping used in the design and the potential for adverse impacts to vegetation and the wildlife corridor.
- + Concerns included: operational costs, general dislike for the overall concept, the amount of disturbance to the environment and ecology and that there is a high risk that the area will be vandalized.

Accessibility to Water

- + The design has the potential to make the river valley more accessible for family activities and water-based recreation, the kayak and canoe tie up will have a particularly positive impact.
- + Viewpoints provide an opportunity for those who are unable or uncomfortable traveling down to the water's edge to enjoy the river safely. Incorporating seating provides an opportunity to stop and enjoy the views.

General Accessibility

- + The design appears to make the area user friendly, connecting well to other nearby areas.
- + The design makes uses other than walking or cycling more feasible in the area by providing improved access to the river for water based recreation and the incorporation of open grassy areas for gathering.
- + The design has the potential to make the area more accessible for families and individuals who would not use the space otherwise.

Pathways

- + The pathways make the river more accessible and integrate well with different access points and multi-use sites in the area, improving mobility in the river valley.
- + The widening of pathways was appreciated, however, many respondents suggested revising these widened pathways to clearly separate routes for cyclists and routes for people walking to avoid collisions and conflicts of use.
- + The pathway designs are aesthetically pleasing and modern.

Amenities (Food Service, Retail, and Washroom Facilities)

- + Adding food service, food trucks and retail opportunities into the design could encourage more people to visit the area and use the space and stay in the area for longer when they do visit the area.
- + Food service and retail opportunities could increase the area's usability in the winter months.

Wildlife and Vegetation

- + The vegetation and planting proposed in the design was appreciated, however, respondents suggested that the design could do more to maintain natural vegetation, incorporate more vegetation where possible and use trees to shelter the site to provide relief from wind and sun.
- + Increased planting would be a positive, as the river valley is a wildlife corridor and it is important to support this corridor and be aware of how the designs can disrupt wildlife and their habitats.

Heritage Preservation and Reuse

- + The potential preservation, reuse and incorporation of existing structures into the design, such as the Power Plant and Pump Houses is appreciated.



As a senior, I would strongly support walking spaces close to the water with easy access. Benches to sit and enjoy the flow of the river and the animals on it.



I like the plaza for public gatherings as a focal point of cultural celebration; whilst being sensitive to the ecological aspects of the riparian realm.



I love that the design builds on what is there already, complimenting it, while maintaining some semblance of nature.



Q2. Is there anything the project team should consider adding that would make you more likely to use this space?

The majority of survey respondents indicated that they would be more likely to use the space if shade features (53%) and seating (48%) were incorporated. 46% of respondents also selected the open ended "other please specify option", the summarized results of which can be found in the Online Survey section of this report, under Question 2 - Other.

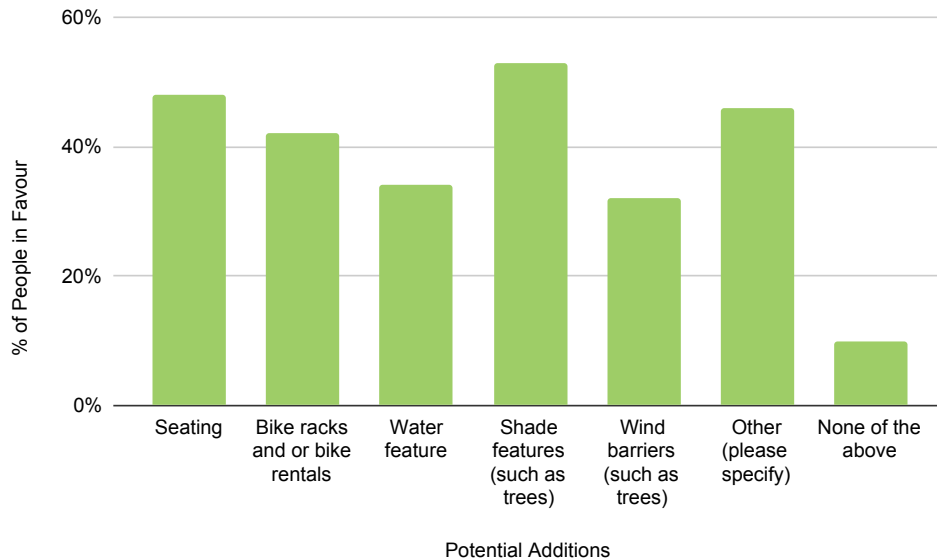


Figure 2. Amenities that Should be Added to Increase Usage of the Space

“Space for food and drinks trucks - nice to have a snack and a beverage while exploring the valley”

“I think that City owned and operated amenities like a cafe would be great for the space.”

Q2B. Is there anything the project team should consider adding that would make you more likely to use this space? – Other

The following are summaries of the comments received in the survey.

Amenities (Food Service, Retail, and Washroom Facilities)

- + Consider incorporating food service and retail opportunities into the old Power Plant and Pump Houses spaces, as well as spaces for food trucks to operate. Concessions, cafes, restaurants, beer gardens, and market spaces for small local businesses would help to draw people to the area.
- + Not including washrooms and water fountains will make the space less accessible to those with disabilities and families with small children who may require frequent access to washrooms.
- + The design should consider ensuring that these spaces are well-lit and heated so that they can be safely and comfortably used in the winter months.

Landscaping

- + Landscaping in the area should include a more natural feel that incorporates more vegetation and less concrete, landscaping should be properly maintained to make the area appealing for people to use.
- + Explore landscaping options that are specifically designed to attract pollinators to the area.
- + Use different paving materials, plants, and signage/markings to separate between cyclists and people walking on the pathways.
- + Incorporate lighting along pathways and into landscaping to help make the area safer for use at night. Doing this could have a positive impact on usage in the winter months when it gets darker earlier.

Recreation

- + Incorporate seating and picnic tables, playgrounds and spaces for small festivals and events. Festivals and events could help to draw people to the area year-round.
- + Include more parking and a more accessible route to the water access/drop-off area so that people are better able to access the area for recreation on the water, and won't need to carry heavy equipment as far.
- + Rental equipment and repair outlets for kayaks, paddle boards, bicycles, and scooters could help to bring more recreation users to the area.

Accessibility

- + Increase the availability of parking and add bike racks, ensure neither have costs associated that will prohibit people from utilizing the area. Designing the space without adequate parking and bike racks will make the area less accessible for those who are not within walking or cycling distance.

 *Not enough parking to match the increased use.* 

- + Incorporate design features that make the space accessible and usable for individuals of all ages and abilities.
- + Explore a separation of cyclists and pedestrians on pathways, as having to share pathways with cyclists can make these spaces less accessible or comfortable for pedestrians to use, and interrupts cyclists.
- + Opportunities for direct access to the water are not available to individuals with disabilities or reduced mobility. Consider incorporating ways for these individuals to directly access the water.
- + Consider providing easily accessible and direct transit routes to the area to improve access.

Q3. The future re-use of the Rossdale Pump Houses and Power Plant are being explored through implementation of the City's River Crossing initiative. However, we've heard it is important for the Touch the Water Promenade to connect seamlessly with these landmark buildings. While no final plans have been confirmed, it is envisioned that the Power Plant and Pump Houses will be reused in the future and accessible to the public (e.g. such as restaurant, cafe, market, gallery, museum, conferences etc.) please rate your level of agreement with the following statements:

Q3.1. The design for the area surrounding **The Pump Houses** provides access to and is adaptable for future uses

Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
54%	22%	10%	5%	9%

Q3.2. The design for the area surrounding **The Power Plant** provides access to and is adaptable for future uses

Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
54%	24%	9%	3%	10%

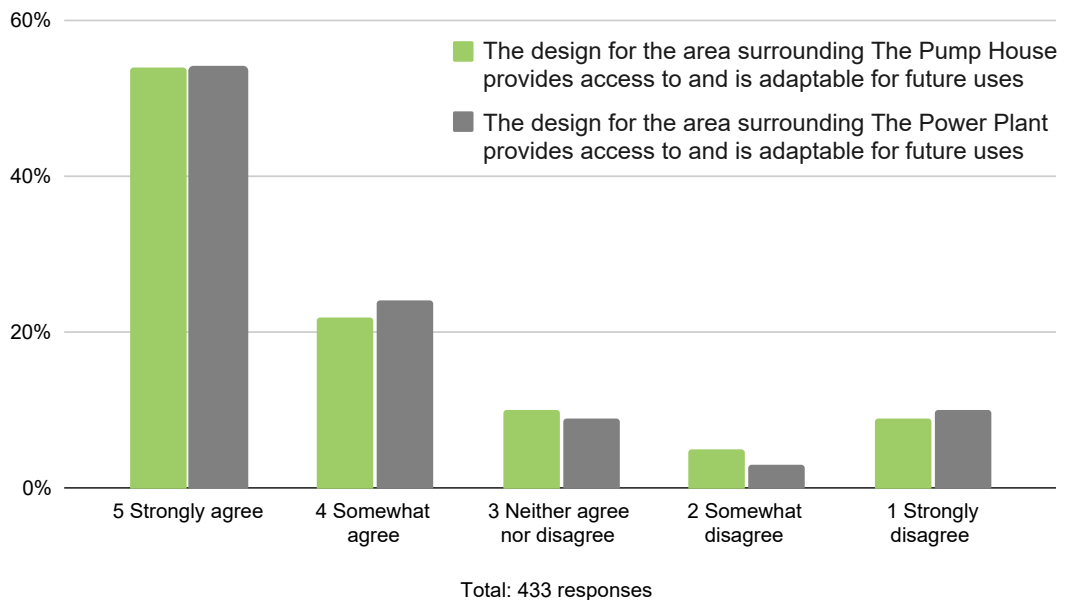


Figure 3. Comparison, Levels of Agreement for Pump Houses and Power Plant Reuse

Q4. How likely are you to use the space in the winter, summer, spring, and fall?

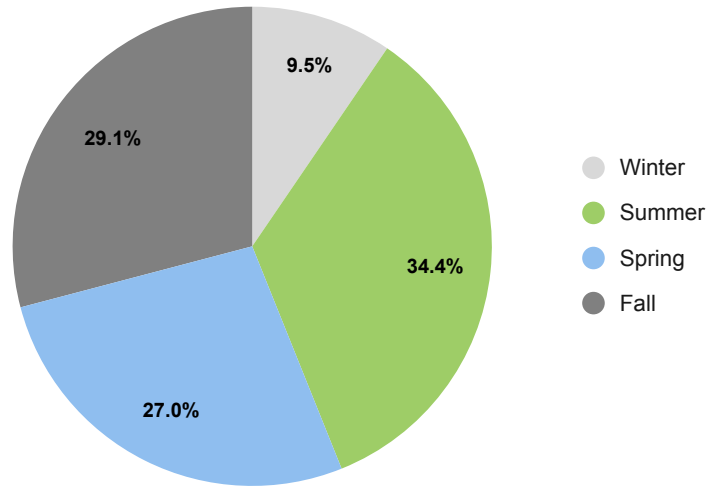


Figure 4. Seasonal Likelihood of Site Usage

Very likely	Somewhat likely	Neither likely nor unlikely	Somewhat unlikely	Not at all likely	Not sure / Don't know
Winter					
18%	29%	15%	14%	22%	2%
Summer					
65%	14%	4%	4%	12%	1%
Spring					
51%	23%	6%	6%	14%	1%
Fall					
55%	20%	5%	6%	13%	1%

Q4B. Anything else the project team should keep in mind for multi-season use of the site?

The following are summaries of the comments received in the survey.

Recreation

- + Provide opportunities for winter recreation such as skating, snowshoeing, and cross country skiing to increase the likelihood of this space being used in the winter.
- + Consider opportunities for summer recreation, such as swimming if it is safe to do so, and design open spaces to support people playing sports in the area.
- + Incorporate seating and picnic tables to encourage people using this space for an extended period of time.
- + Rental opportunities with equipment for different seasons could encourage people to use the area year-round.

““ Bike rentals in the warmer months, fire or warm up features for the winter. ””

““ Edmonton is a winter city and we need to place a greater emphasis on winter activities. ””

Safety

- + The concrete gathering spaces and pathways proposed in the design will require consistent maintenance and snow/ice removal in the winter months to ensure that they are safe to use.
- + Areas close to the water present a risk for emergency situations; it could be especially challenging for emergency responders to access the area in the winter.
- + Some of the lower trails do not easily connect to the upper trails, and this could present a safety hazard in the winter if people attempt to traverse through adverse conditions to access different levels of trails.
- + Access to the river should be well-signed, and include information on river safety and seasonal conditions.
- + The space should be well-lit for safe night time use.

““ I would be happy to see a concession with outdoor service included. Edmonton has a lot of high quality river valley trails and paths, yet there is no direct service provided that would allow members from all walks of life to stay longer and enjoy the space comfortably. Using a pump house for a restaurant/ café would be a welcome addition to the plans. Note that no parking should be added for this! ””

Shelter and Heated Spaces

- + Providing sheltered and/or heated spaces will make it more feasible to use the space in the winter months and in the summer when it is extremely hot. Consider including fire pits to encourage winter use.

Scramble

- + The scramble area could be hazardous in the winter/early spring if it is covered in snow and ice, and could encourage people to access the river when it is not safe to do so.

““ Public washrooms would be a great addition to the area. ””

- + The concrete slabs included in the scramble have the potential to be a tripping hazard, and limit overall accessibility.

Taxes and Resource Allocation

- + Maintenance of these areas, especially the required snow removal, could be very expensive.

Landscaping and Durability of Materials

- + If the materials used are unable to stand up to the harsh winter climate and begin to deteriorate or are not properly maintained, it will make going to the area less appealing regardless of the time of year.
- + Landscaping should incorporate natural elements, lots of vegetation, seating/picnic tables, adequate lighting, and have high visibility so that it is safe for people to use alone.

General Negative Responses

- + Those who were not in favour of the project shared the following concerns:
 - + Maintenance and upkeep could be costly.
 - + Dislike for the general design/concept.
 - + Felt that the existing pathway system in the area suits the current needs and uses, and does not require updates.
 - + The project could have adverse impacts on wildlife, natural vegetation, and the environment.

Q5. The design takes safety into consideration, including safety at the water's edge and safety of people who want to use the open space and shared-use pathways. To what extent do you agree with the following statements:

Q5.1. The design addresses safety concerns at the water's edge

Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
39%	25%	13%	8%	15%

Q5.2. The design addresses safety concerns of people who use the open space and shared-use

Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
43%	26%	12%	8%	11%

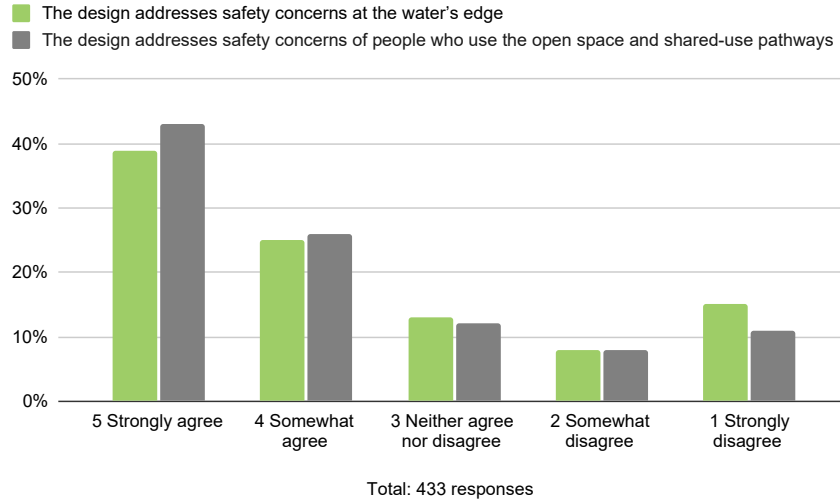


Figure 5. Safety at the Water's Edge and on Shared-Use Pathways

Q5B. What else should the project team consider regarding safety?

The following are summaries of the comments received in the survey.

River Access

- + The North Saskatchewan can be a dangerous river – consider incorporating emergency water safety equipment into the design, presenting information on seasonal fluctuations and safety in the area, and having emergency personnel on-site during busy/high risk days.
- + Consider protocols for blocking off river access points when accessing the river is unsafe.
- + The kayak tie-up is far away from the rest of the design, concerned for the safety of personal belongings and items left there.
- + Pathways along the river can become slippery after flooding events, they will require proper maintenance to remain safe to use.

Pathways

- + Carefully consider the location of the pathways relative to the viewing areas/water accesses – this is an area where people often run and cycle quickly, if pedestrians need to cut across the pathways to access these areas, it could create conflict and increase the likelihood of collisions.
- + Incorporating separate, clearly marked pathways for cyclists and pedestrians will increase the safety of the pathways.
- + Potentially consider a bypass trail or more direct route for cyclists and runners that would allow them to avoid meandering through this area, separating them from those accessing the area for other uses.

- + Consider incorporating speed bumps and signage in areas where cyclists can not be easily separated from pedestrians.

Accessibility for People with Disabilities and/or Reduced Mobility

- + The area should be made accessible for all ages and abilities, incorporating ramps and railings into areas that are more difficult to access.
- + Consider how the surfaces used in the design might impact those with disabilities or reduced mobility. Wheelchairs, canes, walkers, blind canes, guide dogs, and service dogs should all be considered. Review how tiered surfaces can be made safer for individuals who are visually impaired.
- + Provide an opportunity for those with mobility challenges to easily get close to the water if that opportunity is going to be available for others.

Lighting and Surveillance

- + Incorporate bright lighting, surveillance features, and emergency phones/callboxes to help make usage at night time safer. Ensure that the area is open and has a high level of visibility, so that people are able to clearly see others in the area when walking alone.

Criminal/Undesirable Activity

- + Drug use, vandalism, and other illicit/criminal activities that could negatively impact the safety and desirability of the area could be a concern for this area.

Landscaping and Durability of Materials

- + Seasonal flooding and environmental fluctuations such as ice flows could cause damage to the area, making some parts unsafe for use.
- + More trees should be included in the landscaping to provide shade in the summer months.

Q6. Part of the Touch The Water Promenade Vision is to improve access into and within the river valley network. The designs allow visitors to sit and look out at the river, scramble down to the water's edge to touch the water, walk over the river and arrive by and tie-up small watercraft, such as kayaks. To what extent do you agree with the following statements:

Q6.1. The designs provide access to the natural beauty of the river valley

Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
55%	24%	7%	5%	12%

Q6.2. The designs provide access to the river

Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
47%	28%	8%	6%	10%

Q6.3. The designs provide accessibility in the area

Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
49%	27%	9%	4%	11%

Q6b. Anything else the project team should keep in mind relative to access to and within the site?

The following are summaries of the comments received in the survey.

Accessibility for People with Disabilities and/or Reduced Mobility

- + The area should be accessible to people with disabilities, reduced mobility, and seniors. Parking/drop-off options should be available for individuals who may not be able to walk very far or take transit to access the space.

General Accessibility

- + Washrooms should be included in the design to make it more accessible for individuals to spend longer amounts of time in the area, designated family washrooms could help make the area more accessible for families.
- + The design should also include stroller-friendly elements.
- + The area should be easily accessible by transit.
- + Accessing the area could be difficult for individuals coming from outside of, or different parts of the city.
- + Consider a separation of uses on the pathways and adjust some of the barriers that make accessing this pathway system from the downtown core difficult.
- + Should the proposed gondola get built, it should be accessible from this area.

Wildlife and Vegetation

- + The design uses a lot of concrete, which could make accessing the natural beauty of the river valley more difficult, and have adverse impacts on wildlife and existing vegetation.

Scramble

- + Consider including a more accessible route along the scramble that could be used by people with wheelchairs, pushing a stroller or with reduced mobility.

Recreation and River Access

- + The area has the potential to introduce new recreation options, however, much of the design is not conducive to accessing the river for water-based recreation, and the kayak tie-up may be underused given the chance of kayaks being stolen when tied up.

- + There is also concern that the proximity to the water could encourage inexperienced individuals to try and use the river for recreation in this area, without having proper knowledge of safety precautions.
- + Water quality is also a potential concern for this area.

Taxes and Resource Allocation

- + Taxes should be allocated to the maintenance of existing areas that require it and could have their accessibility improved. There were concerns over the amount of tax dollars going towards this project and how this would impact future tax rates.

Q7. The project vision and principles were co-created during public and Indigenous engagement in the concept phase of the Touch the Water Promenade project. Overall, to what extent do you agree that the designs reflect the project vision and principles for Touch The Water Promenade Rosedale Area?

Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure / Don't know
45%	22%	9%	7%	13%	3%

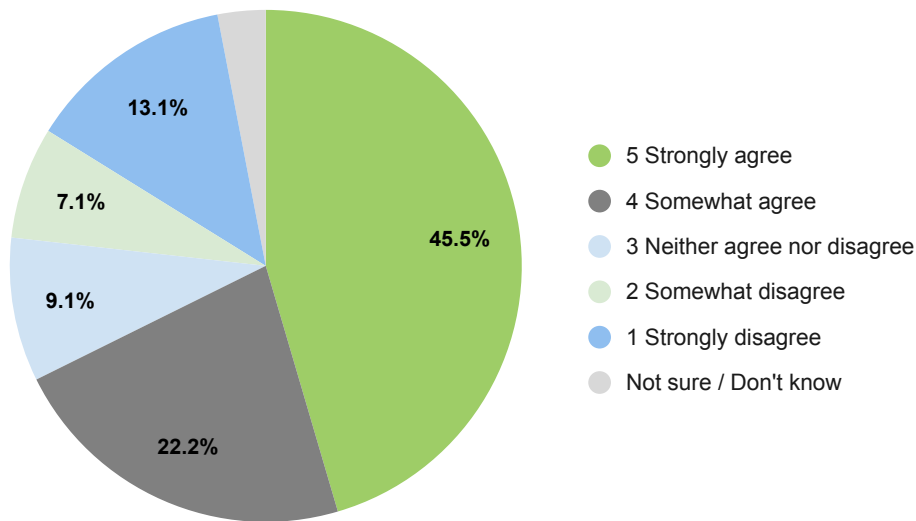


Figure 6. Extent of Agreement that the Designs Reflect the Project Vision and Principles

Q8. Is there anything else you would like to share with the project team?

General Positive Responses

- + The design that surrounds the Traditional Burial Grounds/Fort Edmonton Cemetery with trees is viewed favourably.
- + Developing this area is positive, long overdue, an opportunity to showcase the natural beauty of the River Valley, and something to look forward to.
- + It was noted that other cities have similar areas along their riverfronts, and that this would be a nice addition to Edmonton's riverfront.

General Negative Responses

- + The past few years have been economically challenging for Alberta, and Covid-19 has exacerbated these challenges – would like to see money allocated to other issues the city is facing such as homelessness, maintenance of existing pathways/infrastructure, etc.
- + The river valley already has an existing pathway system, parts of which need maintenance work.
- + Concerns that this development will not be properly maintained once built.
- + Project would impact the wildlife corridor and natural state of the river valley.

Taxes and Resource Allocation

- + Some respondents had concerns regarding allocating money to the development of an area that is already enjoyable in its current state, suggesting that money should be spent on the repair and maintenance of existing trails or other challenges that the city is facing.

Indigenous Engagement and Culture

- + It is important that Indigenous cultures, histories, and voices are represented in the design of this area, and the design could better incorporate and highlight the Indigenous connection to the area.
- + Consider including informative signs that highlight the Indigenous history in the area.
- + There were concerns regarding whether or not this was an appropriate development given the proximity of this area to the Traditional Burial Grounds/Fort Edmonton Cemetery.

Wildlife and Vegetation

- + It will be important for the design to take environmental concerns into consideration, the natural environment and vegetation are a big part of why people enjoy the area.
- + The removal of trees and disturbance of existing vegetation and potential impacts to the wildlife corridor are significant concerns.

River Access and Safety

- + There are limited opportunities to access the water and lack of parking in the area will present a challenge for those wishing to access the river for recreation.
- + Consider ways to block river access seasonally when it is unsafe.
- + Consider the ability of wildlife, not just humans, to access the river.

General Accessibility

- + Lack of parking and easily accessible transit options will limit accessibility to this area.
- + Consider consulting directly with seniors and disability advocate groups to find ways of making this space more accessible for everyone.

As a Result, What Has Changed With the Project

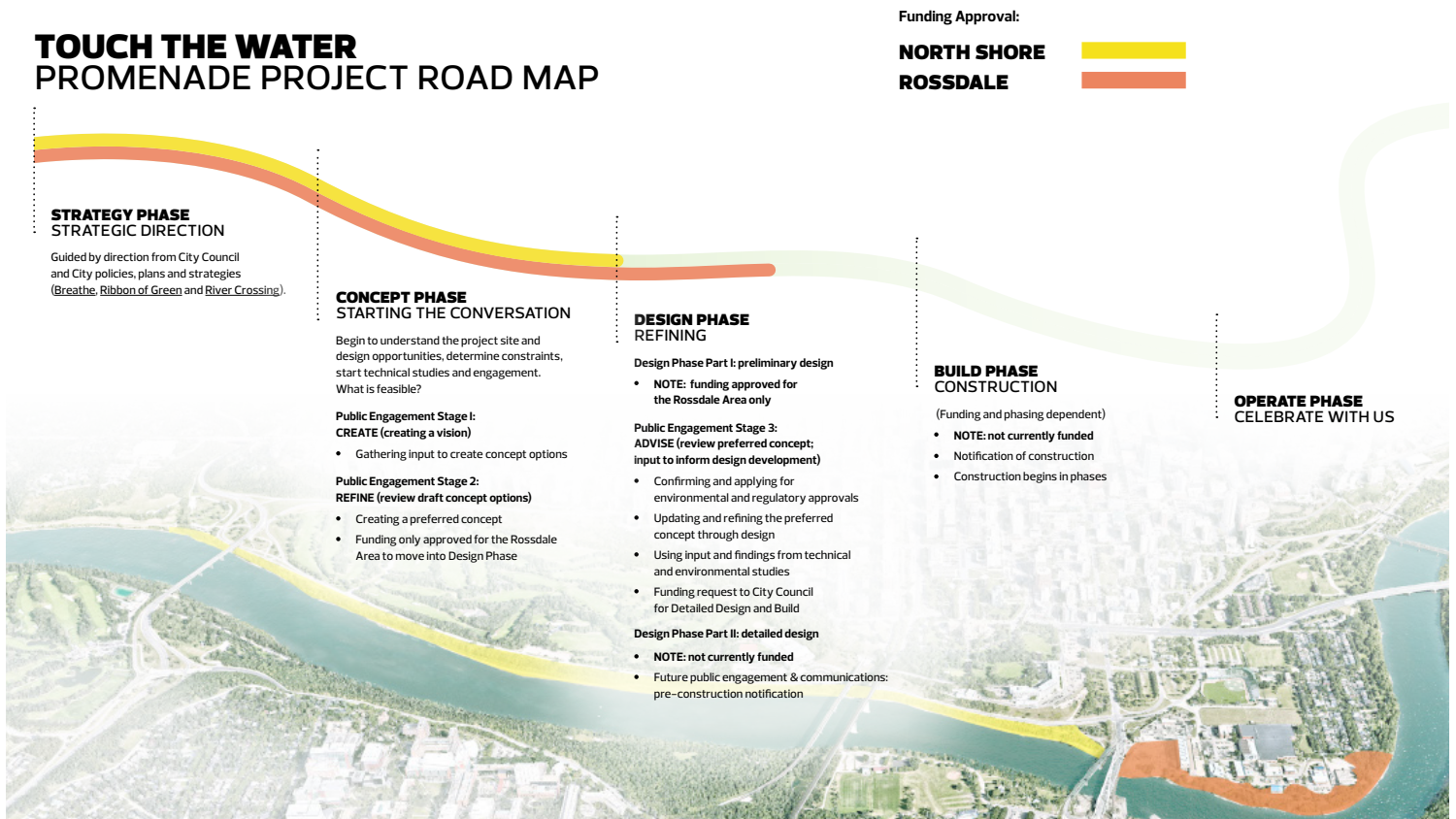
Your feedback, along with wisdom and input shared by regional Indigenous Nations and Communities, the results from initial technical studies, and direction from City Council and approved City policies is being used to further advance and adjust the project design. Based on these inputs, the preliminary design will include revisions and ideas based on what you shared with us. The development of the design will:

- + Incorporate natural options for surfaces and native species and minimize the amount of disturbance on existing vegetation and wildlife corridors.
- + Improve safety in the project area by creating separate pathways for people cycling, walking and wheeling, and incorporate lighting of paths for evening and multi-seasonal use.
- + Focus on universal access within the area and to the water's edge.
- + Continue to provide opportunities and further detail to celebrate Indigenous, industrial and natural heritage and culture of the project.

Next Steps

Now that we have completed this third stage of engagement, the next steps for this project will include:

- + Utilizing the feedback from this stage of engagement to further develop the project design through the Development Design phase for the Rossdale area. Design will only be moving forward for the Rossdale area at this time, and is expected to be completed by the end of 2021.
- + Please note that only the Rossdale project area is funded to complete this phase of design, and no funding is currently approved for construction, which may occur in phases over many years. At this time, design for the North Shore Area concluded at the Concept phase.
- + The completion of planning and design work will allow us to begin preparing recommendations to Council to move the project forward when the time is right.



For more project updates, please visit the project webpage (edmonton.ca/touchthewater) and **subscribe** to the project newsletter.

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Edmonton, is shown with a semi-transparent green overlay. The image captures various urban buildings, streets, and green spaces. The text is positioned on the left side of the page, within the green overlay.

Thank you for participating in sharing your voice and shaping our city.

The City of Edmonton is committed to transparent communications and engagement and our project team looks forward to connecting with you.

We appreciate your support and hope you will be able to participate in future stages of this project. For any questions related to the Touch the Water Promenade project, please contact touchthewaterpromenadeproject@edmonton.ca



| Appendix A

Appendix A: Online Survey Demographics

The following demographic data was provided by individuals who participated in the Online Survey.

D1. Which of the following age groups are you in?

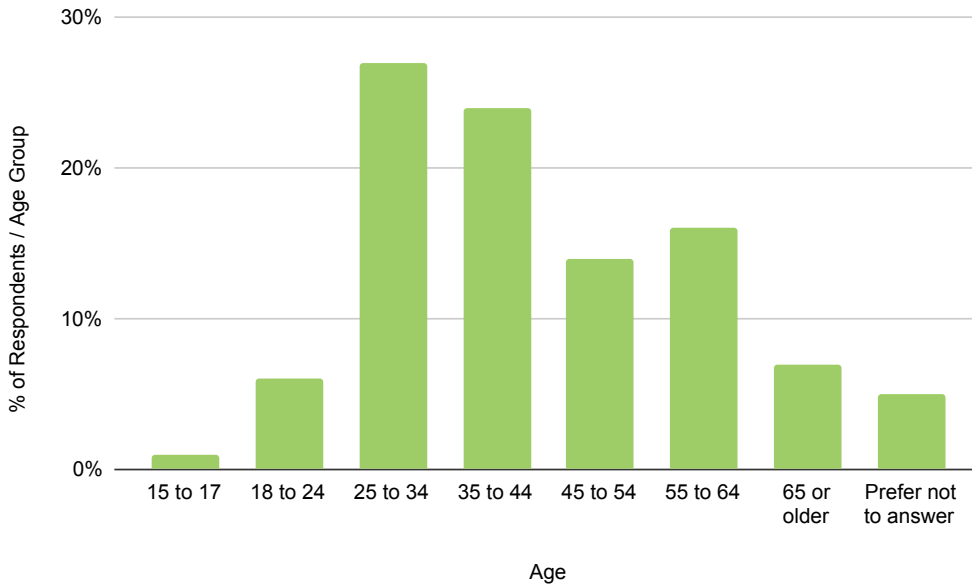


Figure 7. Survey Respondent Age Groups

D2. What is your gender?

48% of survey respondents identified as male, while 42% identified as female. None of the survey respondents chose to identify as non-binary, transgender, or two-spirit, with the remainder selecting "another gender not listed above" or "I prefer not to answer" instead.

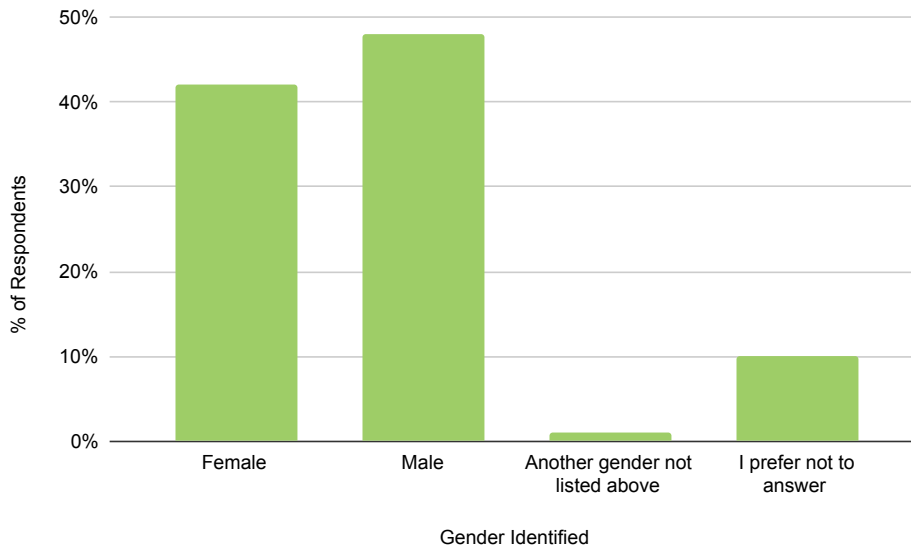


Figure 8. Survey Respondent Genders

D3. In what Edmonton neighbourhood do you reside?

The neighbourhoods with the most survey respondents were:

- + Downtown – 7%
- + Oliver and Rossdale – 5%
- + Strathcona – 4%
- + Riverdale, Ritchie, Ottewell, and Garneau – 2%

6% of respondents chose the “prefer not to say” option, and 3% of respondents declined to answer the question and skipped. Based on the information self-declared by survey respondents, individuals who filled out the survey came from 42 unique neighbourhoods within the city of Edmonton.

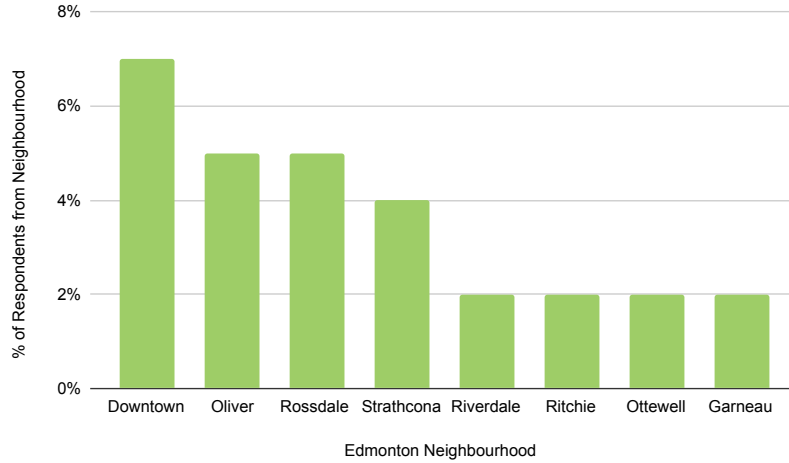


Figure 9. Survey Respondents' Neighbourhoods

D4. How long have you lived in Edmonton?

The majority of survey respondents (88%) had lived in Edmonton for greater than 5 years. Survey respondents who had lived in Edmonton for less than 1 year, had lived in Edmonton between 1 to 2 years, and did not live in Edmonton made up 3% of survey respondents collectively (1% each).

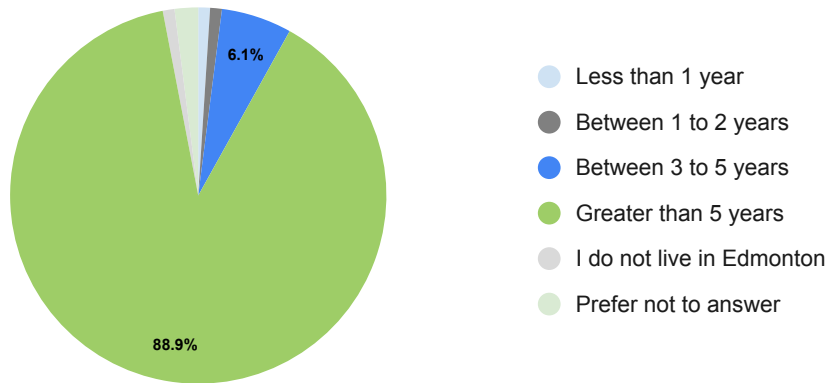


Figure 10. Survey Respondents' Number of Years Residing in Edmonton

D5. Which of the following describes your household?

The majority of survey respondents (72%) lived in households of people aged 13–64. While only 15% lived in a household with children under the age of 13, and only 12% lived in a household with people aged 65 and older, 11% of respondents chose the “prefer not to answer” option.

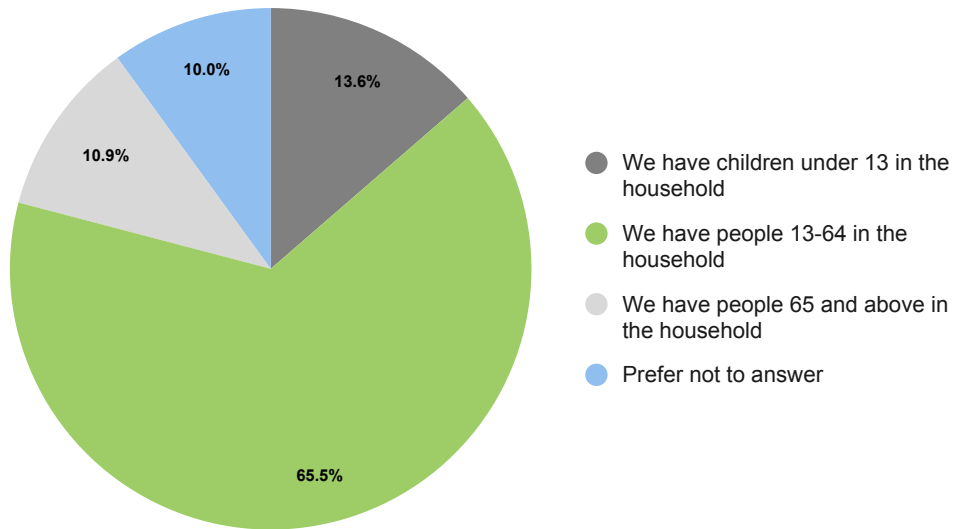


Figure 11. Survey Respondent Household Age Demographics

D6. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

A majority of survey respondents (42.4%) indicated that a university undergraduate degree was their highest level of education. Followed by 21.2% who indicated college/technical school completion, and 17.2% who indicated post graduate studies such as a masters or PhD as their highest level of education.

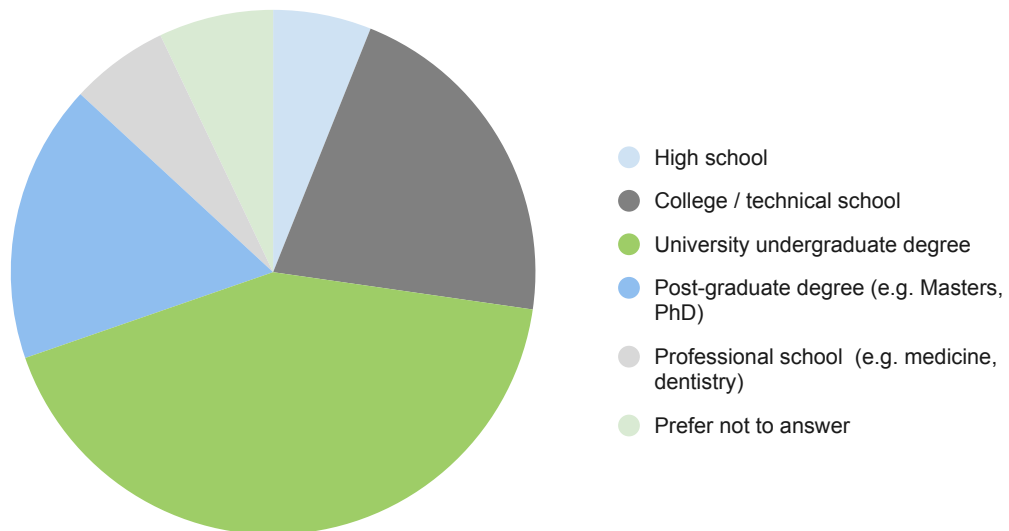


Figure 12. Survey Respondents Highest Level of Education

D7. Which of the following best describes your total annual household income before taxes?

57% of survey respondents indicated that their total annual household income was over \$80,000 before taxes.

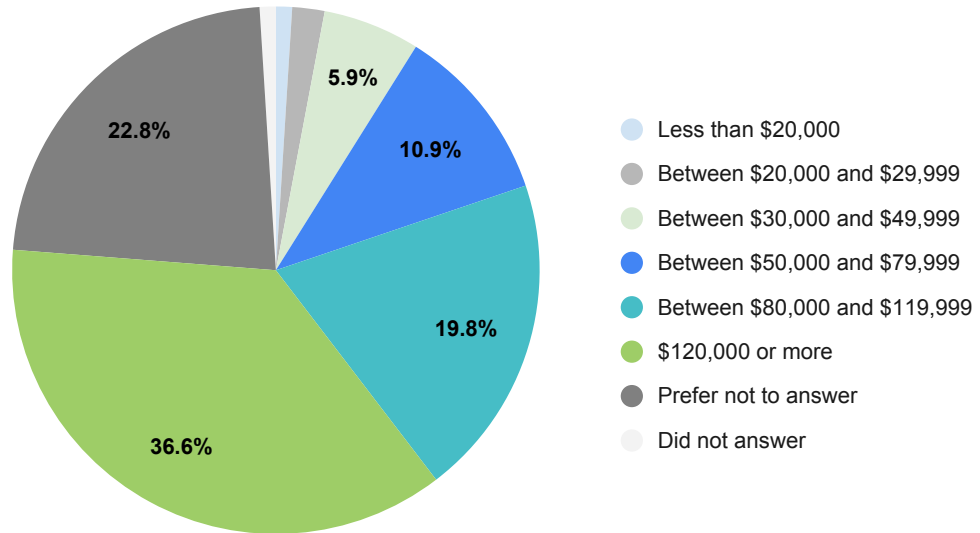


Figure 13. Annual Household Income of Survey Respondents



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Please visit edmonton.ca/touchthewater