

BUENA VISTA / SIR WILFRID LAURIER PARK MASTER PLAN

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Buena Vista/Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park forms a large, dynamic park area in Edmonton's west end. Covering more than 110 hectares, the park area offers a wide variety of amenities for a broad range of users from across the city, including natural spaces, year round use trails, a dogs off leash area, playground, picnic sites, ball diamonds, and a boat launch. The park area is also home to the Edmonton Rowing Club and Edmonton Whitewater Paddlers boat houses, Yorath House, and the Edmonton Valley Zoo, attracting many visitors every year.

The master plan will provide strategic direction and guidelines to address increasing demand on the park area as a result of the growing city population and the revitalization plan underway for the Edmonton Valley Zoo, while ensuring that the long-term ecological integrity of the river valley is preserved. The end result of this project will be a solid master plan that is supported by strong design rationale gathered throughout the study process. This information will be gathered in the form of technical site surveys to identify specific site conditions, visual field assessments, information from previous reports and studies, public and stakeholder consultation and consultation with the Advisory Committee.

A park master plan is a high level strategic document that:

- ✓ provides a vision and clear sense of direction for a park

- ✓ integrates park planning with other City plans and initiatives
- ✓ identifies and addresses public needs and priorities
- ✓ guides the City to achieve high standards for public parks and green spaces
- ✓ provides direction for environmental protection

The strategic direction and guidelines in the Buena Vista / Laurier Park Master Plan will guide the use and management of the park area over the next ten (10) years. Options for redevelopment of the former Yorath House, as well as its ongoing use, management and operation will also be considered.

The planning process will address the following key project requirements:

- ✓ Build upon previous related studies.
- ✓ Develop an understanding of public demand for this park area and its amenities through a strategic public and stakeholder consultation process, while incorporating technical considerations and a thorough understanding of the ecological impacts of increased use and development.
- ✓ Utilize the strategic direction and guidelines as set out in the Ribbon of Green Master Plan and the Urban Parks Management Plan as a departure point for this study.

The City of Edmonton is committed to providing interested individuals and park area users with opportunities to review and provide input into the design concepts through the website and public events.