

Downtown **Public Places Plan**

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Edmonton





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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Downtown Edmonton's transformation is bringing more people, activity, and energy in the heart of the city. By 2040, the population of residents in Downtown Edmonton is projected to double to over 40,000 residents.

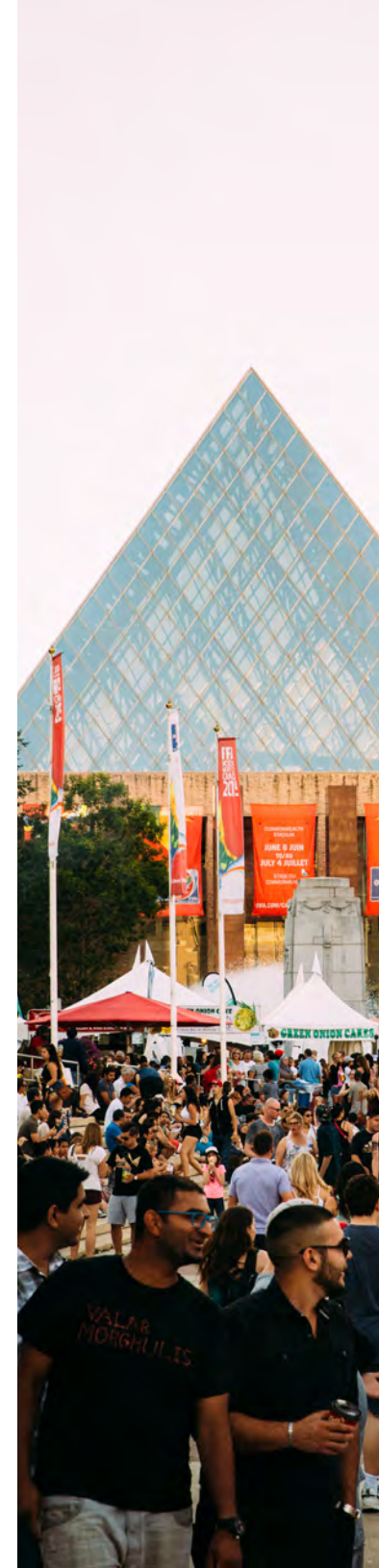
As Downtown's population grows, so does demand for a vibrant and interconnected network of public places. Public places serve as the living room for Downtown residents. They provide respite, relief, and room to socialize, celebrate, and recharge. Public places support public life. They host amenities that support various wellness, celebration, and ecological functions.

The Downtown Public Places Plan provides a 20-year vision and direction for the entire Downtown public places network. Building from the *Capital City Downtown Plan* and *BREATHE: Green Network Strategy*, the Plan provides strategies for improving the provision, connectivity, and functionality of Downtown public places. The Plan aims to create a greener, healthier, and more family friendly Downtown for residents, workers, and visitors alike through a connected network of high quality public places. The Plan establishes Guiding Principles, Downtown-Wide Recommendations, and Place-Based Recommendations to guide Downtown public space acquisition and improvements.

Guiding Principles

Eight Guiding Principles provide the basis for all recommendations in the Downtown Public Places Plan. They guide decision making for public places acquisition, planning, development, and programming which is further specified in the Downtown-Wide Recommendations.

- + *Safe + Inclusive*
- + *Public Access + Connectivity*
- + *Linked to the River*
- + *Vibrant + Livable*
- + *Sense of Community*
- + *Green + Sustainable*
- + *Celebration*
- + *Cohesive Public Realm*





Strategic Direction

The Plan provides recommendations for a Downtown Public Places network that is well-designed, interconnected, and enhances the vibrancy and accessibility of Downtown. To achieve this vision, the Plan provides six Strategic Directions:

1. Acquire 2 hectares of public land in the Plan Area to provide new City-owned public places and expand existing public places.
2. Ensure that each focus area, outside of the Central Core, contains at least two community parks.
3. Connect all public places to each other through the pedestrian network of streets and pathways.
4. Increase the Downtown-wide BREATHE Wellness functionality of the public places network.
5. Design all public places to serve at least two different BREATHE functions.
6. Increase urban tree canopy of the plan area to 15% coverage by 2040.

Big Moves

The Place-Based Recommendations provide several Big Moves to improve the provision, connectivity, and functionality of the public places network. The Big Move projects are:

- + **High Level Bridge North Landing:** addresses the intersection of 109 Street and 97 Avenue to create a better east-west pedestrian and cycle connection between Ezio Faraone Park and the Legislature Grounds. (Page 57)
- + **West Side Corridor + Raitown Community Park:** involves the expansion and establishment of the community park as a community node, as well as addressing the intersection on Jasper Avenue between Raitown Park and the Ribbon of Steel to create better north-south continuity along the west side of Downtown. (Page 59)
- + **Warehouse Campus Park:** involves the development of a large community park in the centre of the Warehouse

District that will provide space for recreation, leisure, and play. Funding for this project has already been approved. (Page 63)

- + **Former Rail Yard + 97 Street Bridge:** involves collaboration with private landowners for the redevelopment of the Former Rail Yard + 97 Street Bridge to enhance the public realm and its function as a viewpoint and a link in the active transportation network. (Page 67)
- + **Quarters Connection to Louise McKinney Riverfront Park:** establishes a link from the 96 Street Armature over Grierson Hill Road to create a better connection to Louise McKinney Riverfront Park. (Page 72)
- + **South Edge Promenade:** develops a boardwalk along the top of bank of the river valley which will serve as the balcony of Downtown. The promenade will connect multiple destinations along this edge, including the 100 Street Funicular, Edmonton Conference Centre, and Louise McKinney Riverfront Park. (Page 77)
- + **104 Street Grand Staircase:** revitalizes the wooden staircase at 104 Street into a grand, terraced public place. The place will include elements of play and rest stations to enhance its function as a destination as well as an active transportation and exercise connection. (Page 78)
- + **Rosssdale + McDougall Hill Roads:** will create direct linkages and reduce road barriers for pedestrians and cyclists to cross Rosssdale and McDougall Hill Roads towards the river. Future opportunities will explore improving ecological function and potential road realignment in this segment of the river valley. (Page 79)
- + **McKay Avenue Gathering Space:** the need for a community gathering space in McKay Avenue was identified in the Capital City Downtown Plan. This Plan identifies an approximate location for the space and what should be considered in its development. (Page 80)

HOW TO USE THIS PLAN

INTRODUCTION

Section 1
Page 1

*Provides background and establishes the **Purpose, Process, Structure, Context, and the Plan Area** of the Downtown Public Places Plan.*

GUIDING PRINCIPLES + STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Section 2
Page 11

*Defines 8 **Guiding Principles** and 6 **Strategic Directions** that inform open space provision for the Downtown Public Places Plan.*

DOWNTOWN-WIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

Section 3
Page 21

*Outlines recommendations, associated with the **Guiding Principles**, to guide the:*

- + Acquisition,
- + Planning + Design,
- + Programming,
- + Management + Operations
- + Engagement + Partnerships

for Edmonton's Downtown Public Places.

PLACE-BASED RECOMMENDATIONS

Section 4
Page 53

*Provides recommendations that employ the Guiding Principles and achieve the Strategic Directions, **to provide specific, in-place improvements** on the **Provision, Connectivity**, and **Functionality** of the Downtown Public Places Network.*

IMPLEMENTATION

Section 5
Page 89

*Provides guidance for the City of Edmonton on how to achieve the Strategic Directions and recommendations of the Downtown Public Places Plan, including **Implementation Actions, and Plan Monitoring, Evaluation and Review.***

1 INTRODUCTION



1.1 PREFACE

Edmonton's Downtown is transforming. New investments, including the refurbished Legislature Grounds, ICE District, and LRT Valley Line, are attracting new high density residential and commercial development. This development, in turn, is bringing more people, activity, and energy to the heart of the city. As a result, the population of Downtown is expected to double to over 40,000 people by 2040. When the population grows, so does demand for a functional network of Downtown public places that provide respite, relief, and room to socialize, celebrate, and recharge in the heart of the city.

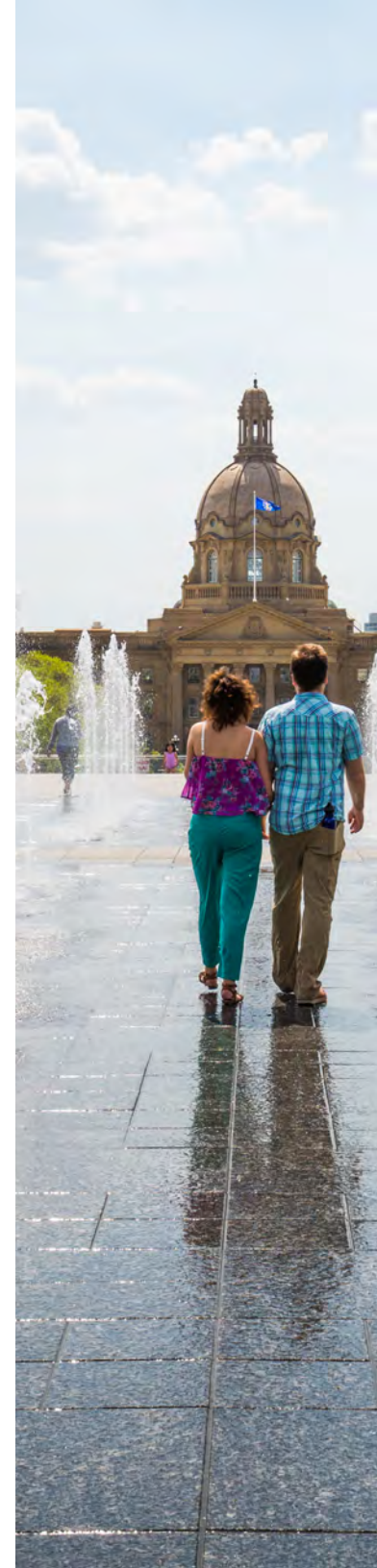
Downtown public places need to support civic life, cultural expression, and economic development, as well as community wellness and ecology. For these reasons, they are essential spaces for residents and workers as well as for visitors to the City. Despite recent investment and development Downtown, the provision of public places in the core has not increased significantly. Previously, Downtown public place projects have focused on one area at a time instead of broadly examining the whole network and developing accordingly. This has resulted in spatial and functional gaps in the public places network. One of these gaps is that existing Downtown public sites currently offer limited opportunities for unstructured wellness functions including recreation, exercise, relaxation, and socialization.

As the public and private sector investment in the Downtown continues, coordination of investment in public places is needed to support existing and new residents, workers, and visitors. Public-place improvements are necessary to meet the needs of a growing population, to support families, stimulate business and tourism, promote employment and help create a vibrant Downtown. This new vibrant Downtown will benefit Edmontonians through a functional and attractive public-place network. This network will support the health and vitality of Downtown Edmonton by:

- + Attracting families and talent
- + Growing civic pride and identity
- + Improving public health, safety, and vibrancy
- + Creating opportunities for chance encounters and memorable experiences

BREATHE: Edmonton's Green Network Strategy (2017) and the *Capital City Downtown Plan (2010)* both identified the need to develop the Downtown Public Places Plan. The Plan provides clear direction and 20-year vision for the programming, design, development, and acquisition of Downtown public places. The Plan's direction will inform Council decisions, and direct Administration priorities. Additionally, it will guide community partnerships, engagement, and collaboration.

Public places are open spaces that allow public access. This includes public parks and plazas owned by the City and other public institutions, as well as publicly accessible private parks with public access agreements in place.





1.2 PLAN PURPOSE

The Downtown Public Places Plan provides direction for future acquisition, design, development, and programming of public places in Edmonton's Downtown for the next 20 years. The Plan aims to create a greener, healthier, and more family friendly Downtown for residents, workers, and visitors alike through a connected network of high quality public places.

Public places include all open spaces that allow public access, including public parks and plazas. The Plan considers publicly accessible private parks as an important supplementary network to public places. Streets and alleys are considered as key connections within the overall Downtown public places network, as well as providing space for additional open space functions such as festivals and community events.

The Plan recommendations address existing provision, connectivity, and functionality gaps in the network to ensure:

- + There are enough quality public places throughout the downtown to serve existing and future demand
- + Public places are equitably distributed throughout Downtown so that all neighbourhoods have access
- + Public places are well connected and are part of a continuous pedestrian-focused network
- + Individual public places support a variety of uses and functions
- + The overall Downtown public places network is highly multifunctional

Strategic, coordinated planning that addresses provision, connectivity, and functionality will ensure that Downtown's public places network will be able to grow as the Downtown Edmonton does.

1.3 PLAN PROCESS

The Edmonton Downtown Public Places Plan was developed in three Phases:

01 Project Initiation

Priorities for the project were identified and the eight Guiding Principles were developed through public engagement.

02 Analysis + Plan Framework

Analysis was conducted to determine existing and future gaps in the network. A framework of recommendations was developed and confirmed with the public.

03 Plan Development + Implementation

The Plan policies and Big Moves were developed and shared with the public for feedback, and an implementation strategy was determined.

1.4 PLAN STRUCTURE

The Downtown Public Places Plan has five sections:

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Guiding Principles + Strategic Directions** provide the overall direction of the Plan
- 3. Downtown-wide Recommendations** applies to all public places in the Plan Area
- 4. Place Specific Recommendations** are site-specific recommendations to address gaps in the network
- 5. Implementation**

1.5 POLICY CONTEXT

The Downtown Public Places Plan aligns with *ConnectEdmonton*, *The City Plan*, *BREATHE: Edmonton's Green Network Strategy*, *The Quarters Downtown ARP*, and *the Capital City Downtown Plan*. The Plan organizes current and future Downtown projects, site-specific strategies, plans, and policies into one co-ordinated plan for all public places in Downtown.





1.5.1 The City Plan

ConnectEdmonton: Edmonton's Strategic Plan 2019 provides future direction to The City Plan which is intended to replace The Ways documents, including the Municipal Development Plan and Transportation Master Plan. The City Plan will chart how Edmonton will build for a future city of two million people. The Downtown Public Places Plan aligns with the four strategic goals outlined in *ConnectEdmonton: Edmonton's Strategic Plan 2019*:

1. Healthy City
2. Urban Places
3. Regional Prosperity
4. Climate Resilience

1.5.2 Capital City Downtown Plan

Edmonton's Capital City Downtown Plan (CCDP) aims to achieve a vision for Edmonton's Downtown that is sustainable, vibrant, well designed, and accessible. The CCDP recognizes the importance of increasing the amount of land devoted to parks and recreation use in the Downtown to keep up with significant residential growth in the area. The Downtown Public Places Plan aligns with the goals, policies, and directions for assembling a network of parks spaces in Downtown.

1.5.3 The Quarters ARP + Quarters Downtown Urban Design Plan

The Quarters Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP) provides a planning framework to guide development and revitalization in The Quarters consistent with the Council approved vision and guiding principles. The vision for The Quarters is for a vibrant, healthy community comprised of five distinct areas, each with its own character, activities and feel, structured around a unique linear park system. The Quarters Downtown Urban Design Plan further refines this vision, providing details on an interconnected and well-designed parks and public streets network.

1.5.4 BREATHE: Edmonton's Green Network Strategy

BREATHE: Edmonton's Green Network Strategy is a 30-year comprehensive plan that addresses the sustainable and efficient use of the Edmonton's parks and open spaces that allow public access. The Strategy outlines how to maintain, manage, program, and promote sustainability and efficient use of these spaces. The Downtown Public Places Plan aligns with the policy statements, recommendations, and proposed implementation projects provided by *BREATHE* for the Core Area.

Specifically, *BREATHE* establishes a framework for describing and assessing the functions of public places using three themes: Ecology, Celebration, and Wellness. Within these themes, there are 15 functions of open space (Appendix C).

The *BREATHE* functions are incorporated into the Place Specific Recommendations (Section 4).



Ecology: Supports and enhances the environment by sustaining healthy and resilient ecosystems.



Celebration: Connects people to each other and builds a sense of place by providing places for communities to thrive, gather, and celebrate.



Wellness: Promotes healthy living and fosters wellbeing through diverse kinds of recreation, mobility and environments.

1.5.5 River Crossing

River Crossing is a long-term city-building initiative that will transform the western area of the Rosedale neighbourhood. The area's open space network will tie in the area's rich history more firmly to its future, provide signature open spaces and community gathering spaces, activate the riverfront, and link people to the downtown and the river valley system. The neighbourhood's main street on 104 Street will link the Rosedale Power Plant, ballpark and Touch the Water Promenade to the 104 Street Grand Staircase. 96 Avenue will serve as an enhanced connection between the Legislature Grounds and Rosedale neighbourhood.

1.5.6 Touch the Water + North Shore Promenade

The Touch the Water Promenade is east of the Walterdale Bridge and includes an opportunity to get down to the river's edge. The Touch the Water Promenade will create a waterfront public space that connects the existing river valley trail, Rosedale Generating Station/pump houses, and the new Walterdale Bridge. The promenade is planned to create a series of spaces that can be used for public gathering and individual enjoyment of the river and River Valley.

To the west of the Touch the Water Promenade, the City is exploring the possibility of a promenade along the north bank of the North Saskatchewan River adjacent to River Valley Road, between Government House Park and the Walterdale Bridge. The promenade would include features such as areas to gather, viewing points, paths for pedestrians, cyclists and other wheeled users, seating and enhanced public access points.

1.5.7 Imagine Jasper Avenue + Imagine Jasper Avenue New Vision

The Imagine Jasper Avenue project involves redevelopment of Edmonton's premier Main Street from 92 Street to 124 Street. The vision is for Jasper Avenue to be transformed into a vibrant, relevant streetscape that balances the needs of the community, commuters, businesses, and visitors. The Downtown Public Places Plan recognizes Jasper Avenue as an important public place and provides recommendations that complement those determined through the Imagine Jasper Avenue

Project, including pedestrian connections and public place linkages to the Main Street.

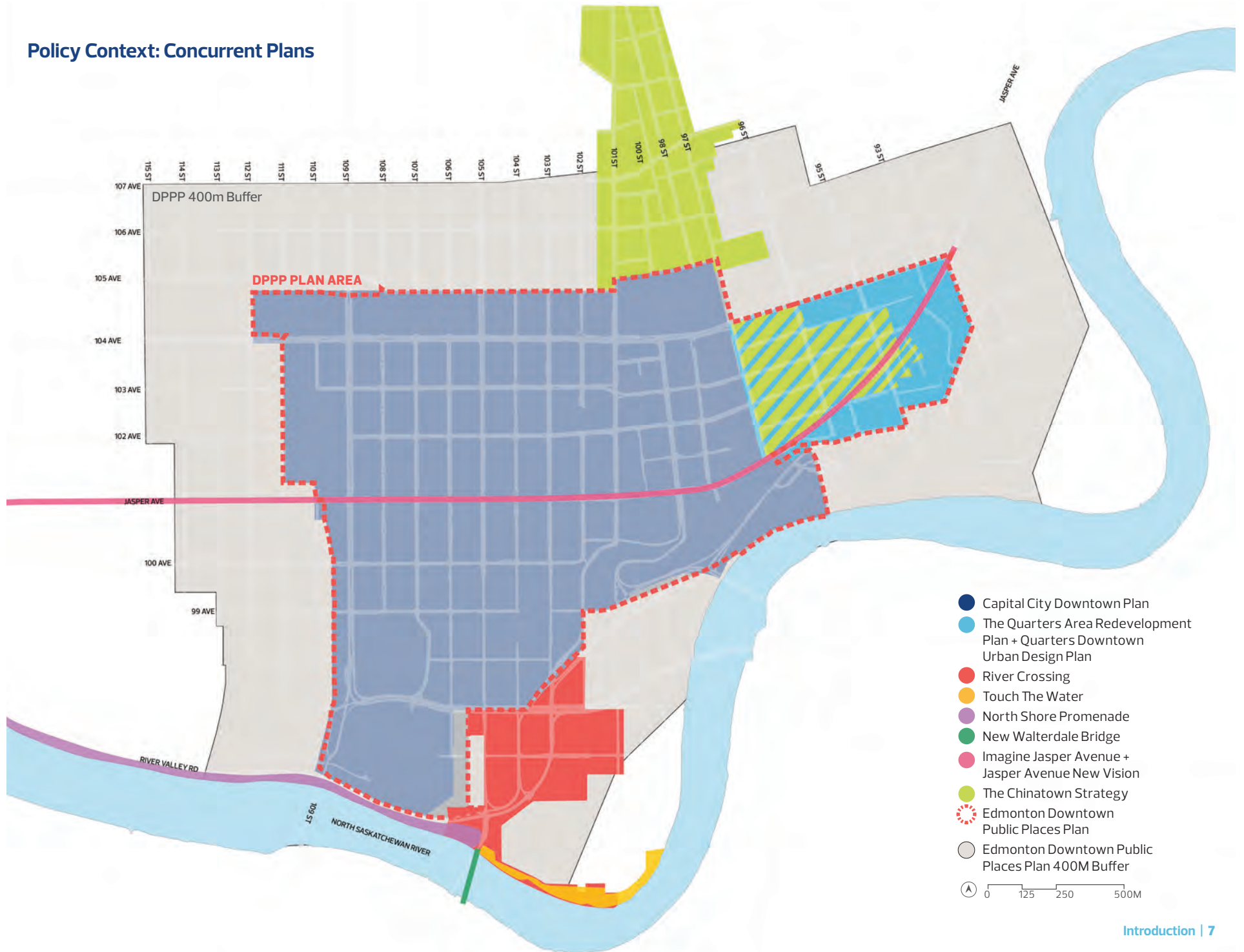
1.5.8 The Chinatown Strategy

The Chinatown Strategy coordinates actions to ensure a prosperous, economically resilient Chinatown. The Strategy builds upon Chinatown Economic Development Plan, Economic Programming, and Urban Interface Plan. All of these plans are focused on five pillars which were engaged on with the community:

1. Improve sense of safety and security
2. Focused economic development
3. Governance and community leadership network
4. Celebrate Chinatown as a destination
5. Enhance built form and landscapes

The Downtown Public Places Plan helps to address pillars 1, 4, and 5. It also considers design recommendations that the Chinatown Strategy provides for Mary Burlie Park, 97 Street, 97 Street Bridge.

Policy Context: Concurrent Plans



1.6 PLAN AREA

The plan area includes Downtown Edmonton and The Quarters. The Downtown boundary is consistent with the *Capital City Downtown Plan* and The Quarters boundary is consistent with The *Quarters Downtown Urban Design Plan*. For this Plan, the two areas have been combined and are collectively referred to as "Downtown." The Plan also considers a 400-metre buffer into adjacent communities. The buffer was added to consider public places that are within walking distance of Downtown.

The plan area is divided into five focus areas to provide organization for the Place-Based recommendations. Each focus area has unique defining characteristics which inform their recommendations.

- 1. West Side
- 2. Central West
- 3. Central Core
- 4. Quarters
- 5. Southern Edge



1.6.1 West Side

The West Side is located along the western edge of Downtown, adjacent to the Oliver, Queen Mary Park, and Warehouse Campus neighbourhoods. The southern section is primarily residential and highly walkable, with some commercial-residential uses in converted Warehouses and larger format retail in the northern section. The existing network is mostly made up of small public places and serves a large population of residents and students from MacEwan University. Key public spaces in the area include Ezio Faraone Park, the MacEwan University Campus Grounds, Railtown Community Park, and the Ribbon of Steel Greenway.

1.6.2 Central West

Central West encompasses most of the Warehouse Campus Neighbourhood. This neighbourhood is characterized by brick warehouses that are often converted to commercial, residential, and other uses. Within this focus area is 104 Street. 104 Street is an attractive, pedestrian friendly street lined with a diverse array of retail outlets, restaurants and cafés. Though there is a concentration of indoor amenities along Jasper Avenue, 108 Street, and 104 Street, the Central West focus area does not have many outdoor public places. Furthermore, the area is primarily hardscaped, with few green areas. Central West hosts important east-west active transportation routes, including the protected bicycle facilities along 105 and 102 Avenues.

1.6.3 Central Core

The Central Core contains the heart of Downtown Edmonton's civic and business districts. This focus area includes prominent places including Edmonton's City Hall, the ICE District, Churchill Square, and Rice Howard Way. All of these places take up large areas and are primarily hardscaped to host events. Most of Downtown's office towers are located here, some of which are connected by the pedway network. The area has a relatively low residential population, but this is expected to increase with the ICE District and Station Lands Developments.

1.6.4 The Quarters

The Quarters is the original location of Edmonton's Downtown and is the home of Chinatown South. Now, this focus area is being revitalized as a diverse community that is anticipated to grow to 10 times its existing population in the next 20 years. Recently, the City has converted 96 Street into a pedestrian priority green street called the Armature. This street is the spine of the focus area that when complete will contain an all-season park, plazas, and many commercial amenities. In addition to the Armature, Boyle Renaissance (north of The Quarters), Alex Taylor School, and Kinistinâw Park (under development) are the main community gathering spaces in the area. Furthermore, Louise McKinney Riverfront Park provides The Quarters public access to the River.

1.6.5 Southern Edge

The Southern Edge follows the top of bank of the North Saskatchewan River Valley, offering unobstructed views in places. This focus area includes the Alberta Legislature, several mid-rise office towers, commercial uses, and sections of both the River Valley and Heritage Trails. The area is primarily characterized by three major neighbourhoods: The Capital City District, McKay Avenue Neighbourhood, and Commercial Cultural Core. Overall, the Southern Edge is very walkable along the top of bank, and has a functional bicycle network. Though the Southern Edge is adjacent to the River Valley, it is difficult to travel down to the river due to the steep embankments and limited pedestrian road crossings. The only universally accessible route to the River is by the 100 Street Funicular. Generally, the southern neighbourhoods of this focus area have more public access to public places than the northern neighbourhoods, even though they are more densely populated.



2 GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Downtown's network of public places is a crucial component in realizing Edmonton's vision for a sustainable, vibrant, well-designed, and accessible Downtown. This section forms the foundation of the Downtown Public Places Plan, outlining the eight Guiding Principles and six Strategic Directions of the Plan.



2.1 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Guiding Principles provide a vision for a functional, safe, and beautiful public places network meeting the needs of all. Every Guiding Principle will be considered in the acquisition, design, development, and programming of public places. The Guiding Principles also provide the basis for all of the recommendations of this Plan.

SAFE + INCLUSIVE

Downtown public places are safe and inclusive places for people of all ages and abilities.

PUBLIC ACCESS + CONNECTIVITY

The Downtown public places network provides clear public access, is pedestrian-oriented, and is well connected by high quality active transportation corridors and streets.

LINKED TO THE RIVER

Downtown is physically and visually linked to both the top of bank and riverfront of the North Saskatchewan River Valley.

VIBRANT + LIVABLE

Downtown is a vibrant, healthy, and animated place to live, work, learn, visit, and grow up in.

SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Downtown public places reflect Downtown's neighbourhoods and the strong sense of community, diversity, social interaction, and engagement that they offer.

GREEN + SUSTAINABLE

The Downtown public places network is environmentally sustainable.

CELEBRATION

Downtown is a regional and national centre for entertainment, sport, creative arts, entertainment, festivals, and culture.

COHESIVE PUBLIC REALM

Downtown has a high-quality, well-designed, year-round, cohesive, and well-maintained public realm.



2.2 STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The Strategic Directions provide the framework for decision making regarding Downtown public places. They are supported by the Focus Area Analysis (Appendix D), which compared the existing provision of Downtown public places to future needs. The six strategic directions provide guidance on how to increase the provision of public places Downtown, with specific direction on:

- + How much land should be acquired;
- + How public places should be distributed;
- + How public places should be connected to each other; and
- + How public places should function individually and as a network.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1

Acquire 2 hectares of public land in the Plan Area to provide new City-owned public places and expand existing public places.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2

Ensure that each focus area, outside of the Central Core, contains at least two community parks.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3

Connect all public places to each other through a well-designed, multifunctional pedestrian network of streets and pathways.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4

Increase the Downtown-wide BREATHE Wellness functionality of the public places network.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 5

Design all public places to serve at least two different BREATHE functions.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 6

Increase urban tree canopy of the plan area to 15% coverage by 2040.

Provision, Distribution, + Connectivity of Public Places Map







PUBLIC PLACES

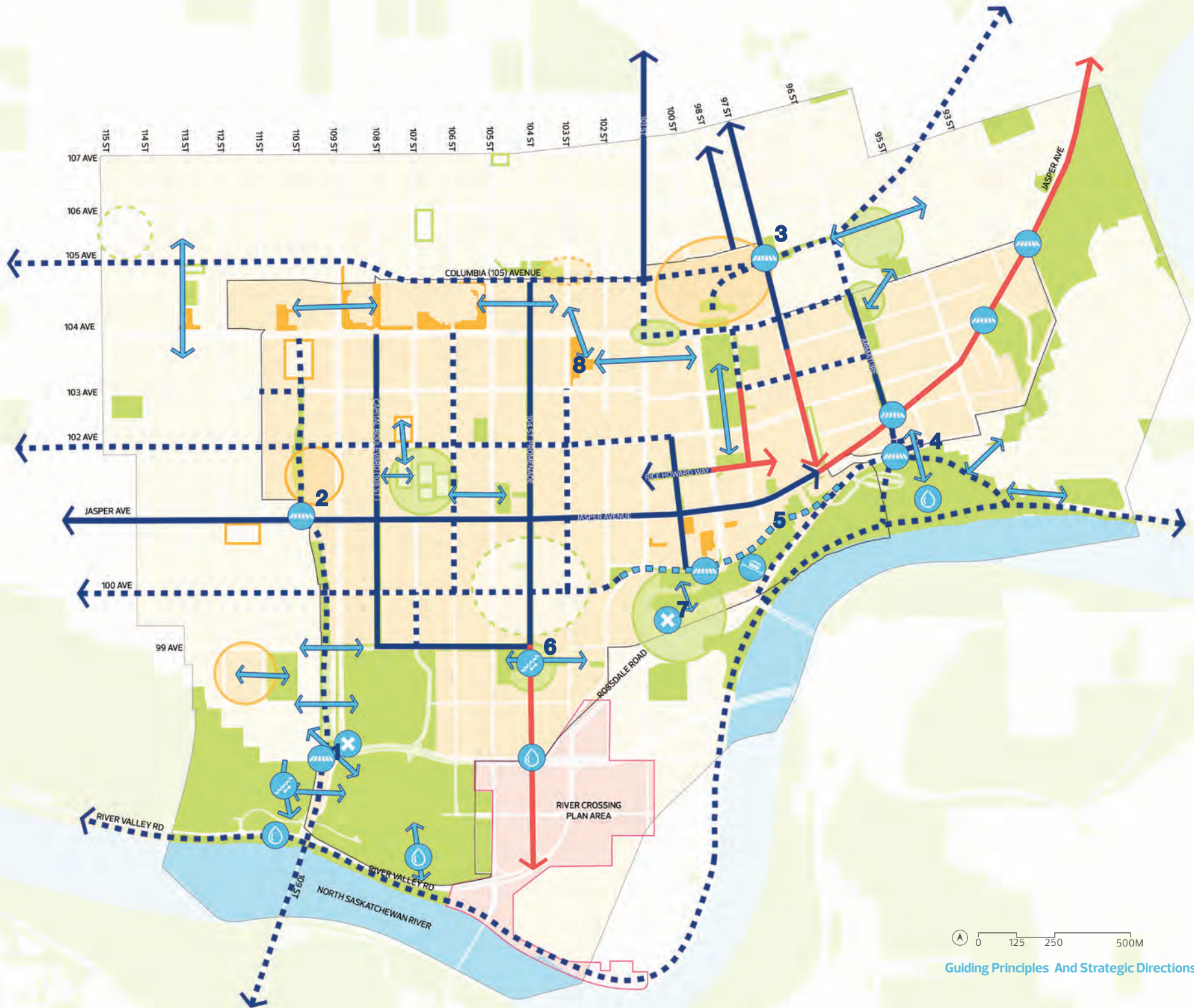
-  Existing Public Places
-  Existing Publicly Accessible Private Parks
-  Planned Public Places
-  Planned Publicly Accessible Private Parks
-  Proposed Public Places
(Configuration + size TBD)
-  Proposed Publicly Accessible Private Parks
(Configuration + size TBD)
-  Privately Proposed Publicly Accessible Private Park
-  Proposed Public Park, Location Not Specified
-  Existing Pedestrian Priority Streets
-  Proposed Pedestrian Priority Streets
-  Existing Active Transportation Routes

ENHANCED CONNECTIONS

- 1** High Level Bridge North Landing
- 2** Railtown Park Intersection with Jasper Avenue
- 3** Former Rail Yard + 97 Street Bridge
- 4** Quarters Connection to Louise McKinney Park
- 5** South Edge Promenade
- 6** 104 Street Grand Staircase
- 7** Rossdale Road + McDougall Hill Roads
- 8** ICE District + Civic Precinct Connection (103 Avenue)

INTERVENTIONS

-  Enhanced Pedestrian Crossings
-  Enhanced River Valley Connection
-  Enhanced Connection + Reconciled Road Alignment
-  Enhanced Stairway Connection
-  100 Street Funicular
-  Proposed Public Place Connections



2.2.1 Overall Provision

The Analysis Report determined that there are 52.22 hectares of public places in the Plan Area. This publicly owned network is supplemented by an additional 3.74 hectares of publicly accessible private parks. Currently, these parks serve a population of 21,171 people.

In the next 20 years, the Downtown population is projected to more than double, from 21,171 people (2016 Municipal Census) to over 40,000 people. This population increase means that twice as many people will be using existing public places. There will also be increased demand for additional places and amenities.

To address growing needs in the next 20 years, the City will acquire additional land downtown to develop new and expand existing City-owned public places. On top of this, the City will improve existing public places. This will help meet growing needs by making spaces more inclusive and child-friendly and creating new amenities for residents, workers, and visitors. Additionally, the City will work with private partners to provide additional publicly accessible private parks that complement the existing network. Because it is difficult to acquire large areas of public parkland in existing urban areas, small highly functional public places are an integral component of the Downtown public places network. These spaces, when well-designed, can provide oases in the middle of the city with opportunities for play, socialization, and connecting with nature.

Strategic Direction 1:

Acquire 2 hectares of public land in the Plan Area to provide new City-owned public places and expand existing public places.

To meet the needs of a growing Downtown population, the City will acquire 2 hectares of land within the Plan Area to develop new public places and expand existing public places Downtown.

In addition to acquiring new spaces, the City will also renovate many several existing parks and pedestrian streets to improve their function as vibrant public spaces. Some will be expanded in collaboration with adjacent property owners or through road redesign and open space reconfiguration.

These open space opportunities were determined through analysis that considered underutilized land, current open space provision gaps, and where population is anticipated to grow. They include private and other non-city jurisdictional parks. See Section 5.3 for acquisition prioritization principles.

City-Owned Public Place Acquisitions

The City will acquire, at minimum, the following new public park spaces (locations to be determined):

Within the Plan Area

- + McKay Avenue Gathering Space
- + 103 A Avenue + 101 Street Park
- + Warehouse Park (expansion)
- + Kinistinâw Park (expansion)

- + Ribbon of Steel Greenway (expansion)
 - + Additional Pocket Parks
- Within the Buffer Area*
- + Queen Mary Park

City-Owned Public Place Development

The City will develop the following parks:

Within the Plan Area

- + Warehouse Campus Park
- + Kinistinâw Park
- + Connection between 104 Street Grand Staircase + Urban Eden Garden
- + 97 Street Park

Within the Buffer Area

- + North Edge Park
- + Boyle Renaissance III
- + North Edge Art Park
- + Columbia Avenue Plaza

Major Public Place Redevelopment

The City will redevelop the following parks:

Within the Plan Area

- + Railtown Park
- + Beaver Hills House Park
- + Michael Phair Park
- + 104 Street Grand Staircase
- + South Edge Promenade

To support the City-owned public places network, the City will also collaborate with private landowners and other jurisdictional landholders to secure a minimum of four publicly accessible private parks

within the plan area, in addition to the ICE District + Plaza and North of Civic Precinct spaces.

New Publicly Accessible Private Parks

Within the Plan Area

- + 104 Avenue + 110 Street
- + NorQuest Plaza
- + Adjacent Lands East of Railtown Park
- + Former Rail Yard + 97 Street Bridge

Within the Buffer Area

- + Jasper Avenue + 111 Street
- + Eric Cormack Development Site

The functional role and programming improvements to of each of these public places is discussed within Section 4.0.

2.2.2 Distribution

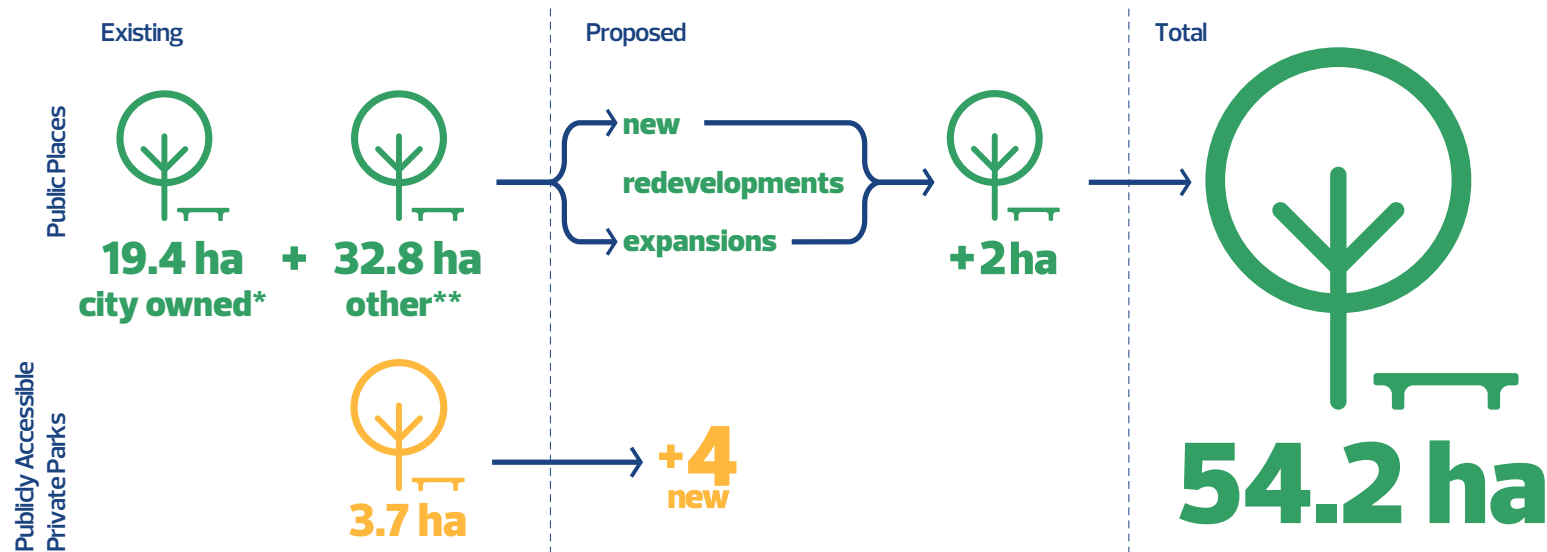
Distribution refers to where public places are located throughout Downtown. The Strategic Directions in this section will ensure that new and expanded public places are strategically located so that residents in all Downtown focus areas have equitable public access to public places.

A spatial analysis of Downtown was conducted to compare existing open space with population densities. Overall, residents closest to larger parks, particularly along the river, currently have more available open space per person than those living in core areas with smaller public places.

Strategic Direction 2

Ensure that each focus area, outside of the Central Core, contains at least two community parks.

Providing community parks within each of the focus areas will ensure that Downtown residents are more equitably served by public places, and have adequate public access to open space, recreation, and wellness amenities. The Central Core is excluded from this requirement, as it has a unique function in the network and is served by several large plaza spaces.



*area statistics refer to DPPP Plan Area Only

* includes Warehouse Campus Park
 ** provincial + school district open space

2.2.3 Connectivity

Connectivity involves how people can travel to, from, and between public places. Connectivity is achieved by linking public places to pedestrian priority streets, trails, multi-use pathways, transit stations, and bike paths. A vibrant public places network contains connections that are equally vibrant. These connections should create a sense of continuity of the pedestrian experience from one destination to another, with landscaping, street furniture, lighting, and other elements.

In Downtown, many connections to public places already exist along streets or roads; however, not all of these are safe or desirable for pedestrians. Fences, roads, buildings, and large elevation changes can create barriers to connectivity of public places. For example, in Downtown there are limited routes into the river valley from the top of bank, and even fewer universally accessible routes. Additionally, there are certain areas where it is difficult for pedestrians and cyclists to cross major roads safely or directly.

The City has already identified three main streets and seven pedestrian priority connections. The Downtown Public Places Plan provides additional guidance on enhancing existing connections and developing new connections to enhance the connectivity of the public places network.

Strategic Direction 3

Connect all public places to each other through a well-designed, multifunctional pedestrian network of streets and pathways.

The City will connect new and existing public places to the overall network through enhancements to streets, pathways, and intersections as well as additional pedestrian crossings. This will ensure that people can move seamlessly between public places and to the various other destinations Downtown. Consideration will also be taken to ensure that universally accessible connections are provided for those with reduced mobility, particularly on routes from the top of bank down to the river valley.

The Provision, Distribution, + Connectivity of Public Places Map (Page 15) identifies open space opportunities and priority connections that will enhance the overall distribution and connectivity of the public places network. Use of land for festivals, public access, and visual linkages was also

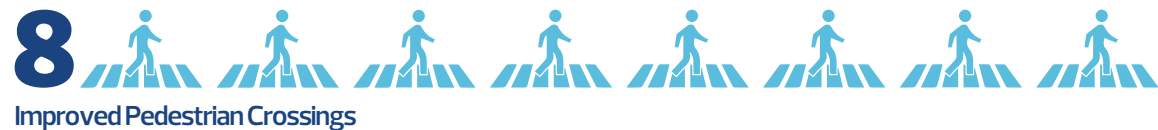
considered. Where opportunities exist or emerge outside of these areas, they should be subject to an open space assessment to evaluate its role and need.

Enhanced Connections:

1. High Level Bridge North Landing
2. Railtown Park Intersection with Jasper Avenue
3. Former Rail Yard + 97 Street Bridge
4. Quarters Connection to Louise McKinney Park
5. South Edge Promenade
6. 104 Street Grand Staircase
7. Rossdale and McDougall Hill Roads
8. ICE District + Civic Precinct Connection (103 Avenue)

Functional Improvements to Streets:

- + Jasper Avenue
- + Columbia Avenue (105 Avenue)
- + Capital Boulevard (108 Street)
- + 104 Street Promenade
- + 96 Street Armature
- + Heritage Trail
- + Rice Howard Way
- + 98 Street (Chinatown)
- + 97 Street



2.2.4 Functionality

Functionality refers to the different amenities, programming, and uses that are supported by public places. The Strategic Directions in this section are informed by *BREATHE*'s analysis of the Core Area. *BREATHE*'s three functionality themes, Ecology, Celebration, and Wellness, are also used in this Plan. These three functions contribute to the vision for a Downtown that is sustainable, vibrant, well-designed, and accessible.

As a unique urban component of Edmonton's overall green network, Downtown has a more specialized set of functions than other parts of the City. Downtown will have a greater focus on celebration functions because it hosts many of the City's main civic and cultural institutions and events. The ecological function of public places is also unique to the urban context. The Downtown network will focus on increasing the vegetative cover including the urban tree canopy both in public places and along green streets. Trees in public places, particularly in urban environments, provide important ecological functions. They assist in the retention of stormwater, reduce the urban heat island effect, absorb carbon emissions, and improve the overall aesthetic of an area.

Wellness spaces are important in dense urban areas where residents do not have access to private yards and grade-related amenity spaces. *BREATHE* identified a lack of wellness-oriented spaces in the Downtown. This means that there are few spaces

that people can use for quiet retreat, leisurely walks, and enjoyment of nature, especially compared to the amount of large event spaces in Downtown. With an increasing population, this will put even more demand on existing wellness spaces Downtown.

The following three Strategic Directions provide guidance on how to improve the overall functionality of the public places network.

Strategic Direction 4

Increase the Downtown-wide Wellness functionality of the public places network.

In order to serve the growing number of Downtown residents, the focus on programming for new and existing spaces will be on more passive and active recreation and leisure opportunities to improve the overall wellness functionality of Downtown. The Place Based Recommendations in Section 4.0 provide further detail on the individual programming of each public place and identify 34 spaces that are prioritized for wellness functions.

Strategic Direction 5

Design all public places to serve at least two of the 15 different *BREATHE* functions.

All public places must be multi-functional in order to properly serve the growing population of Downtown residents as well as visitors to the city. This Strategic Direction ensures that all public places serve as least two of the three *BREATHE* functions (Appendix C).

Strategic Direction 6

Increase urban tree canopy of the plan area to 15% coverage by 2040.

The current urban canopy coverage in Downtown is 10.7%. The City will increase the urban tree canopy of Downtown to 15% coverage by 2040, and to 20% as a phased, long-term goal. This will increase the ecological function of Downtown, such as reducing the urban heat island effect and positively contributing to stormwater management, while also providing other wellness and celebration benefits to residents, workers, and visitors by increasing the aesthetic value of the area.



3 DOWNTOWN-WIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

Provide guidance on how public places should be acquired, designed, programmed, and managed to support a vibrant, sustainable, well-designed, and accessible Downtown.



3.1 DOWNTOWN-WIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Downtown Wide Recommendations provide the tools and methods to achieve the eight Guiding Principles established in Section 2.1. These recommendations apply to all Downtown public places, and are organized into the sections to the right.

For ease of implementation, the recommendations within each section are organized by the following subsections related to municipal process:

- 1. Acquisition:** Identifying and adding lands to the open space network.
- 2. Planning + Design:** Developing or redeveloping new and existing public places, and other development processes that may impact public places.
- 3. Programming:** Activating public places for different uses and activities.
- 4. Management + Operations:** Maintaining public places and managing programs.
- 5. Engagement + Partnerships:** Collaborating with communities and partners in the programming and design of public places.

SAFE + INCLUSIVE

Safety, universal design, inclusivity, and comfort in public places.

PUBLIC ACCESS + CONNECTIVITY

Public access, active transportation, wayfinding, and connectivity to streets and alleys.

RIVER VALLEY CONNECTIVITY

Top of bank and riverfront public places as well as linkages between them and downtown.

VIBRANT + LIVABLE

Creating vibrant and active public places to live, work, learn, visit, and grow up in.

SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Strengthening social ties, sense of community, and downtown's unique neighbourhood identities through public places.

GREEN + SUSTAINABLE

Vegetation, stormwater, waste management, and renewable energy in public places.

CELEBRATION

Festivals and events, public art, and heritage in public places.

COHESIVE PUBLIC REALM

Interfaces between public places and streets, alleys, and buildings. Year-round use of public places, and publicly accessible private parks.



3.2 SAFE + INCLUSIVE

All public places should function as safe and welcoming places for everyone. Public places should be easily recognizable, support a range of uses, and be inviting to a diversity of Edmontonians and visitors, including families and children.

To ensure these goals are achieved, the Downtown Public Places Plan builds upon *BREATHE*'s Inclusivity and Engagement policies to make sure citizens are part of the process of designing and programming public places and amenities. Recognizing that not all members of the public are able or willing to participate equally, current and projected demographic information and engagement will help determine open space needs. One key element of creating safe and inclusive public places is ensuring that marginalized communities, including those experiencing homelessness, are included in the design and programming of public places.

Downtown public places are safe and inclusive places for people of all ages and abilities.



3.2.1 Safe

Planning + Design

- a) Conduct a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) analysis during the public places design process in collaboration with stakeholders. Multiple perceptions of safety and inclusion must be integrated into the analysis, including those of women, families, children, seniors, and other under-represented communities. CPTED recommendations should also support the vibrancy and comfort of public places.
- b) Design public places and adjacent properties to encourage passive surveillance through active uses and unobstructed sightlines so people can monitor the space.
- c) Ensure pedestrian and bike pathways are appropriately-lit at night in accordance to the *Light Efficient Community Policy*.
- d) Where required to control vehicular access, design and place barriers that support programming and aesthetic design objectives.
- e) Incorporate camera and video surveillance or emergency help stations into public places to increase the security of those spaces, when warranted.

Management + Operations

- f) Prioritize maintenance resources to address public safety, including maintaining sightlines and clearing primary pedestrian paths and active transportation routes of hazards, snow, and ice.

3.2.2 Universally Accessible Design

Planning + Design

- a) Follow the guidelines established by the City of Edmonton's Access Design Guide and the Alberta Barrier Free Design Guide to ensure public places are universally accessible and barrier-free.
- b) Ensure public places provide ample seating for a variety of users to increase comfort in those spaces. Where there is a high intensity of public place use, consider a higher standard of seating to support user comfort and programming. Ensure seating placement is integrated in the design of public places. Place seating near and facing points of interest where it is complementary to programming. The seating should promote socialization, relaxation or contemplation, and provides shade and sun options. All park plans must identify and incorporate planned areas for universally accessible seating for a diversity of users.

- c) All primary pedestrian routes and connections to public places, seating, and scenic vistas must be barrier free and constructed and maintained to be universally accessible year-round to people of all ages and abilities.

3.2.3 Inclusive

Planning + Design

- a) Design public places to provide space for all people, including marginalized communities and those experiencing homelessness. In collaboration with the Homeless on Public Land Committee (or equivalent), community organizations, agencies, and people experiencing homelessness, integrate weather protection into the public places network. Discourage hostile defensive design that reduces the comfort of seating, discourages general use, and excludes members of the public.

Programming

- b) Where cultural needs are identified by Indigenous and cultural communities and organizations, help remove barriers to programming public places.

Engagement + Partnerships

- c) Prior to the redevelopment of public places, engage with current user groups to better understand design and programming needs.

- d)** Identify, consult, and engage with relevant stakeholders prior to design, redesign, development or redevelopment of public spaces. These stakeholders could be individuals, interest groups, and communities that are most impacted by proposed changes. This includes but is not limited to:
- + People experiencing homelessness;
 - + Women, children, youth and the elderly;
 - + People with different abilities;
 - + Indigenous and cultural communities and organizations;
 - + Community organizations;
 - + Business community;
 - + Institutional community;
 - + Agencies;
 - + Adjacent property owners; and
 - + Downtown residents and workers.

In accordance with the City's Public Engagement Policy, engagement and contact methods must be flexible and designed to support participation by under-represented communities. Balance feedback from engagement events with current and projected demographic information to ensure all needs are represented regardless of ability to engage.

3.2.4 Comfort

Planning + Design

- a)** Ensure use of best practices and implementation measures to decrease wind, heat, and cold exposure are addressed as part of public place design or redevelopment.
- b)** Require sun shadow and pedestrian level wind studies for buildings developed adjacent to public places to mitigate the impacts of wind, heat, and cold exposure.
- c)** Ensure all public places are planned for year-round use with areas of shade during summer months and areas that are protected from the elements during winter months.
- d)** Encourage designs and materials for site furnishings, such as benches and shelters, that have high insulating properties for user comfort and warmth.
- e)** Plan for an adequate geographic distribution of public washrooms throughout the downtown public places network. Locate public washroom facilities, where feasible, in highly visible, universally accessible, high pedestrian traffic locations, such as adjacent to public streets or active building frontages.

Wherever possible, public washrooms should be integrated with other amenities or services, not designed as single-use structures. Additionally, water fountains should be integrated with public washrooms where possible.

Management + Operations

- f)** Use graffiti-resistant and durable materials in the construction of site furnishings and infrastructure. Work with the City's graffiti management program to cover blank walls with artwork or murals to deter unwanted graffiti.
- g)** Provide ongoing, prompt and frequent cleaning of public places and regular removal of illegal signage.



3.3 PUBLIC ACCESS + CONNECTIVITY

A walkable, interconnected public realm provides places for residents, workers, and visitors to move through the vibrancy of public urban life. To accomplish this, public places should be planned as a network of corridors, including streets and pathways, connected to destination public spaces and amenities.



The Downtown public places network provides clear public access, is pedestrian-oriented, and is well connected by high quality active transportation corridors and streets.

3.3.1 Public Access

Acquisition

- a) Ensure that existing public places are retained, and functions in the Downtown network continue to meet programming needs. When converting uses of a City-owned public place is unavoidable, ensure a community needs assessment is conducted to determine an appropriate replacement.
- b) Consider location, configuration, site conditions, site context and future programming needs when identifying lands for open space acquisition and future public places development.
- c) Ensure new land acquisitions without funding for full park development are brought to a state that allows for interim open space use.

3.3.2 Active Transportation

Planning + Design

- a) Provide well-integrated transitions of infrastructure and facilities between public places, and active transportation corridors.
- b) Connect public places to surrounding areas with sidewalks and pathways to increase pedestrian and cyclist mobility and public access.
- c) Incorporate bicycle parking into or near public places with adequate consideration for the volume of users and future demand.
- d) Enhance efforts to clear snow and de-ice sidewalks, paved pathways, active transportation routes, and pedestrian priority streets Downtown. This is to maintain Edmonton's status as a walkable winter city. Establish consistent clearing and winter public access priorities for the Downtown and communicate these priorities to the public.

3.3.3 Wayfinding

Planning + Design

- a) Design public places with prominent, visible entrances and clear pathways. Promote opportunities for creative methods of wayfinding (e.g. engraved surfaces) within the Downtown wayfinding system. Use public art and gateway features as landmarks within the overall Downtown wayfinding system.
- b) Incorporate wayfinding in the design of public places, conforming to the City's wayfinding standards.
- c) Ensure public place entrance signage is scaled and designed to be compatible with public places in an urban context.
- d) Develop internal public place amenity wayfinding for larger public places that have amenities (e.g. washrooms) which are not clearly visible from the entrance.
- e) Incorporate greater indication of universally accessible routes and amenities into the wayfinding signage in public places as per the Access Design Guide.

Engagement + Partnerships

- f)** Collaborate with private landowners and partners (e.g. leaseholders) for mutually complementary wayfinding Downtown, in publicly accessible private parks, and in the pedway network.
- g)** Collaborate with stakeholders and partners to incorporate tourism and Downtown public event information in wayfinding. Tactics may include, but are not limited to, temporary signage and public boards.

3.3.4 Streets + Alleys

Planning + Design

- a)** Site public places with frontage along and/or clear public access from streets. Ensure public places have at-grade access.
- b)** When planning for street improvements consider the open space function and connectivity of the streets to the rest of the public places network. Refer to the City of Edmonton's Downtown Streetscape Manual when planning.
- c)** No parking should be placed within downtown open space. Ensure the provision of designated on-street universally accessible parking stalls near major open spaces.
- d)** Ensure that new development on pedestrian priority streets provides vehicular access from rear alleys to minimize disruption during street closures.



3.4 RIVER VALLEY CONNECTIVITY

Downtown Edmonton's most prominent physical feature is its location on the northern bank of the North Saskatchewan River Valley. Edmonton has the opportunity to further enhance its image as a riverfront city and increase enjoyment of the river through planned and strengthened connections along the top of bank and riverbank along the North Saskatchewan River.

Downtown is physically and visually linked to both the top of bank and riverfront of the North Saskatchewan River Valley.



3.4.1 Top of Bank

Acquisition

- a) Retain City land to develop a continuous promenade along the top of bank.
- b) Acquire land to increase and enhance all forms of public access into the river valley along the riverbank.
- c) Secure public access to the river valley by establishing agreements with landowners of properties abutting the top of bank, during the rezoning process. Identify, engage, and collaborate with these private landowners to provide public access and increase connections along the top of the bank.

Planning + Design

- d) Provide and preserve views of the river valley from Downtown along the top of bank. Develop opportunities for residents to enjoy these views through proper siting and orientation of public space amenities, such as benches and other site furnishings, including clear wayfinding.

3.4.2 Linkages

Planning + Design

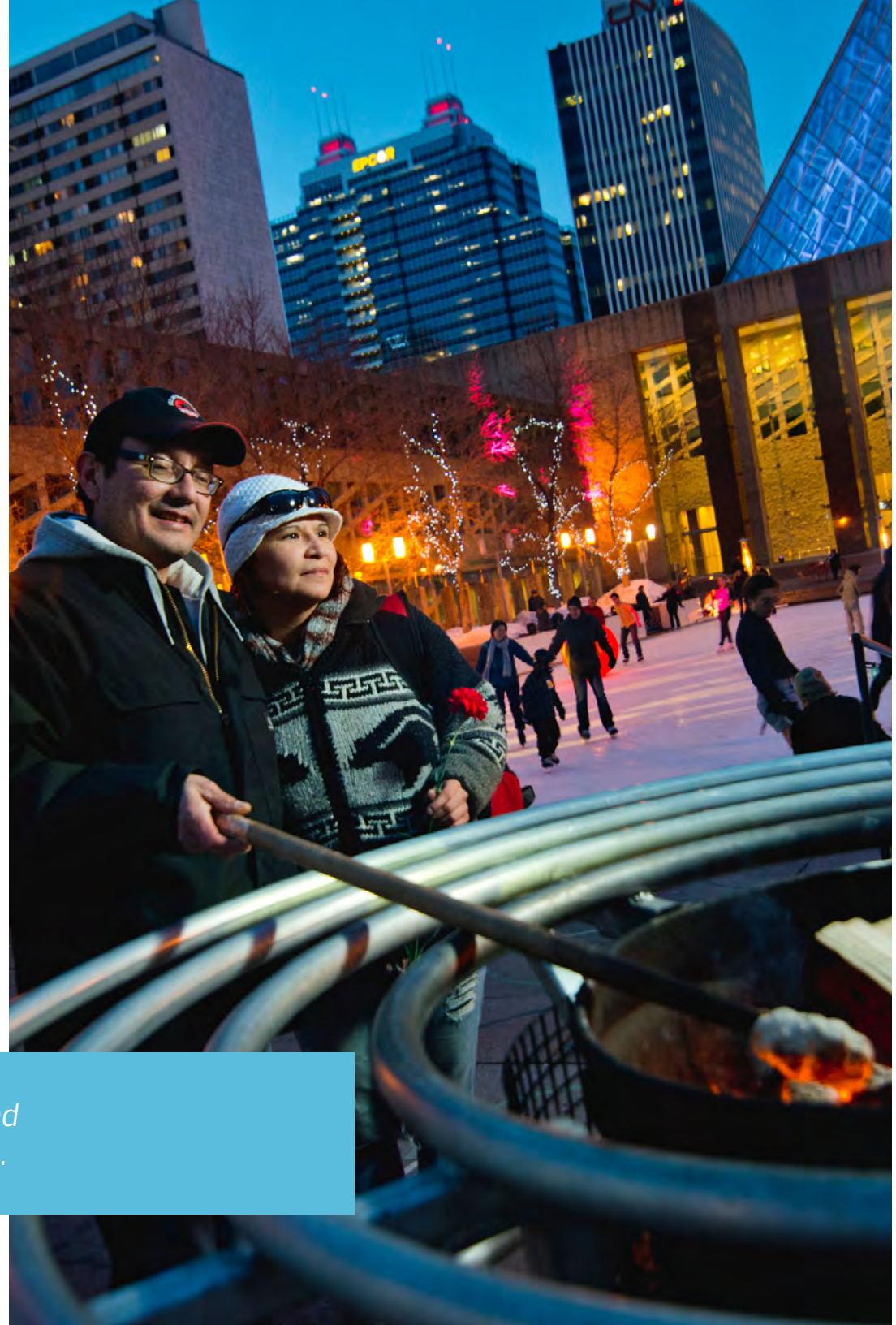
- a) Coordinate public places improvements in the Downtown with planned improvements to the river valley trail system, including River Crossing and future planning for Louise McKinney Park.
- b) Create greater continuity and access to the river from Downtown by enhancing and providing new connections between the top of bank walkways and the river valley trail system. Develop additional universally accessible routes. Where possible, link downslope connections to access points on the south side of the North Saskatchewan River.
- c) Rationalize road networks in the river valley to improve active transportation linkages and reconfigure open space so that it is more contiguous and functional as public space and greater ecological function.
- d) Support a network of activity nodes within the river valley trail system.

3.5 VIBRANT + LIVABLE

Recreation, leisure, and physical activity are essential components of a healthy lifestyle and personal well-being. The Public Places Plan aims to support this through building upon the wellness functions outlined in *BREATHE*. Therefore, the Plan incorporates year-round passive and active recreational opportunities into the open space network for residents, workers, and visitors. Additionally, public places should be vibrant and social, providing a diversity of both formal and informal activities. There should be spaces where people can meet friends and family, connect with loved ones, and interact with new people. There should also be places to play games, learn, and try new things. Ideally, public places will function as the backyard, outdoor living room, and recreation centre for urban dwellers.

Vibrant and livable public places should provide recreation and wellness opportunities at all times of the year. For recommendations on making public places year-round, see Section 3.9.3.

Downtown is a vibrant, healthy, and animated place to live, work, learn, visit, and grow up in.



3.5.1 Urban Vibrancy

Planning + Design

- a) Design public places to serve as points of interest for passers by and as destinations for people to linger in. Pedestrian pathways should be clearly laid out and adjacent to interesting uses that will encourage people to linger or rest in the area.
- b) Incorporate elements of surprise, wonder, and excitement into the design of public places, such as the siting of a small public art installation in a less visible space so that people can 'discover' it, or sculptural elements that shifts meaning according to viewing angle. Encourage the use of interactive elements to encourage further discovery and interest in the area.
- c) Do not over design or over prescribe a space for particular uses and instead, creating flexible space that can be modified to suit different users and community needs.
- d) Consider sensory elements in the design of public spaces, particularly features like water that stimulate multiple senses. Smell is another important design element to consider, such as locating a food vendor nearby or planting flowers that have a pleasant scent.

- e) Use visually interesting colour and vegetation in the design of public places to distinguish them from other grey paved urban surfaces.
- f) Develop unique features in public places that serve as landmarks when navigating the City. Provide seating near landmarks to make them intuitive meeting places.
- g) Position amenities to catalyze activity in public places, such as placing picnic benches near a community oven or a grassy field to promote community gathering.

Programming

- h) Allow for and provide supporting infrastructure in public places for commercial vendors, such as food trucks, small stands, and mobile services, where desired. This infrastructure is to provide vibrancy. Commercial functions must remain an accessory use, not impede other public uses, and may not be appropriate in some locations.
- i) Coordinate design and programming with adjacent uses and functions to animate public places. Examples of uses to coordinate with include schools, libraries, commercial, and residential buildings.
- j) Develop opportunities for informal social interaction through shared seating or providing opportunities for shared experiences, such as a performance or interactive display.

Engagement + Partnerships

- k) Engage with the community on sense of place and existing and potential uses for that space, prior to the design process.

3.5.2 Health + Wellness

Acquisition

- a) Prioritize acquisition of open space that will increase Wellness functions of the public places network.
- b) Identify potential locations for additional fenced off-leash areas downtown as dog ownership and demand increases. Connect off-leash areas to well-signed path linkages with dog waste receptacles and bag stations. Use waste receptacles that are strong, enclosed containers with secure lids to prevent wildlife conflicts and reduce odours.

Planning + Design

- c)** Develop and promote a series of suggested active routes through the downtown, including greenways, trails, and stairways. Develop outdoor exercise amenities adjacent to high use trails and pathways, for various levels of ability. Develop associated signage/trail markers and ensure maps are available in both print and online.
- d)** Incorporate flexible, multi-use open spaces for sports activities, such as frisbee or soccer. Consider smaller, non-standardized sizes for sports fields and courts in the downtown.
- e)** Develop expanded opportunities for nature play and unstructured recreation.
- f)** Locate noisy uses, such as festival areas, in a way that helps to mitigate noise impacts on residential units and other relaxation spaces.
- g)** Incorporate public WIFI and electronic device charging stations into public place amenities, where appropriately aligned with the intended programming of the space. Power these devices through renewable energy sources where possible.

- h)** Ensure the open space network provides space for passive leisure activities. Create quiet urban retreats which use elements such as water features to reduce noise, where possible.
- i)** Collaborate with sports and recreation organizations to develop outdoor spaces and routes to complement existing indoor recreation facilities. These spaces can be used for fitness classes or events.

Engagement + Partnerships

- j)** Engage with nearby employers and partners to incorporate specific amenities in publicly accessible private parks for people who work downtown, such as tables and WIFI.

3.5.3 Food

Planning + Design

- a)** Accommodate, where demand exists, community food preparation and picnic amenities into public places, such as outdoor kitchens, community ovens, and picnic tables.
- b)** Incorporate low maintenance food-producing landscaping into public places, where possible.

- c)** Integrate urban gardens in the overall site design to encourage public interaction, reduce impacts on other programming, and retain public access, where they are provided.

Engagement + Partnerships

- d)** Explore opportunities with Indigenous groups to incorporate traditional plants, including food sources, into public places.
- e)** Support the development of urban gardens in downtown neighbourhoods on private locations such as building rooftops, vacant lands, and publicly accessible private parks.
- f)** Partner with local food system organizations to support Edmonton's food and urban agriculture policies and strategies outlined in Fresh: Edmonton's Food and Urban Agriculture Strategy.

3.5.4 Education Planning

Engagement + Partnerships

- a) Collaborate, monitor, and share information on demographic changes and student enrollment in the Downtown area with Edmonton School Boards through the Joint Use Agreement Committee. Conduct an annual review of this information to ensure sufficient lead time to change existing programs, allocation of students, or identify the need for new facilities.

- b) In the event that a new education facility is required in the Downtown, work together with the School Boards to explore innovative modes of education planning and delivery. This may involve partnerships, integration of community services and organizations, flexible facility and open space requirements and alternative standards. The location and type of education delivery will be determined by the School Board. As such, School Boards will consider the funding mechanisms, future land and facility needs.

- c) Work with School Boards to find creative solutions for meeting open space needs that acknowledge the limited opportunity to acquire land Downtown for education delivery through municipal reserve dedication.



3.6 SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Public places should reflect Downtown's distinct neighbourhoods and the community, diversity, social interaction, and engagement that they offer. To accomplish this Guiding Principle, public places will be planned and designed collaboratively with their users. Furthermore, spaces will provide elements that showcase the history and creativity of Edmontonians and provide safe places for children to play and learn in Downtown.



Downtown public places reflect Downtown's neighbourhoods and the strong sense of community, diversity, social interaction, and engagement that they offer.

3.6.1 Social Spaces

Planning + Design

- a) Develop infrastructure, design elements, and seating in public places that are welcoming for children, such as informal and formal play structures, fields, and hills. Prioritize the development of child play spaces in areas of projected residential growth.
- b) Design public places to include all ages and abilities and promote intergenerational interaction, with particular emphasis on opportunities that bring children and seniors together. For example, when providing play spaces, provide seating clusters and passive recreation opportunities directly and indirectly facing the play space to facilitate socialization while supervising children. Provision of tables and benches in public places help to facilitate socializing, and are also beneficial for those experiencing homelessness.
- c) Design public places so that they have focal points, such as a water feature, public art, or buildings.

Programming

- d) Develop a flexible seating program that can provide local businesses, organizations, and

communities with flexible and movable seating, upon request. This purpose is to animate public places of interest, either on a temporary or permanent basis.

3.6.2 Community Building

Planning + Design

- a) Collaborate with local residents and organizations to develop community specific amenities in public places for use by Downtown residents.
- b) Provide community gathering spaces in public places that contain seating, infrastructure, and design elements tailored to the needs of that community.

Programming

- c) Incorporate interpretive learning and play elements for all ages into public places, such as signage on place history, or labyrinths (painted or raised).
- d) Partner with organizations and businesses, such as the Edmonton Public Library, to develop and provide rentable activity kits for citizens to activate adjacent public places. Potential activities include children play, sports, busking, and picnicking.

Engagement + Partnerships

- e) Provide funding, planning, design, management and programming support for community-driven park improvement and redevelopment projects, consistent with the intent of the open space.
- f) Develop an ambassador program where citizens can volunteer to help steward public places. This could mean providing wayfinding information for visitors and public outreach.
- g) Develop ongoing partnership opportunities that invite citizens to share in maintaining and activating public places, such as an adopt-a-park or plaza program.
- h) Partner with neighbourhood organizations to plant flower beds and conduct landscaping maintenance.

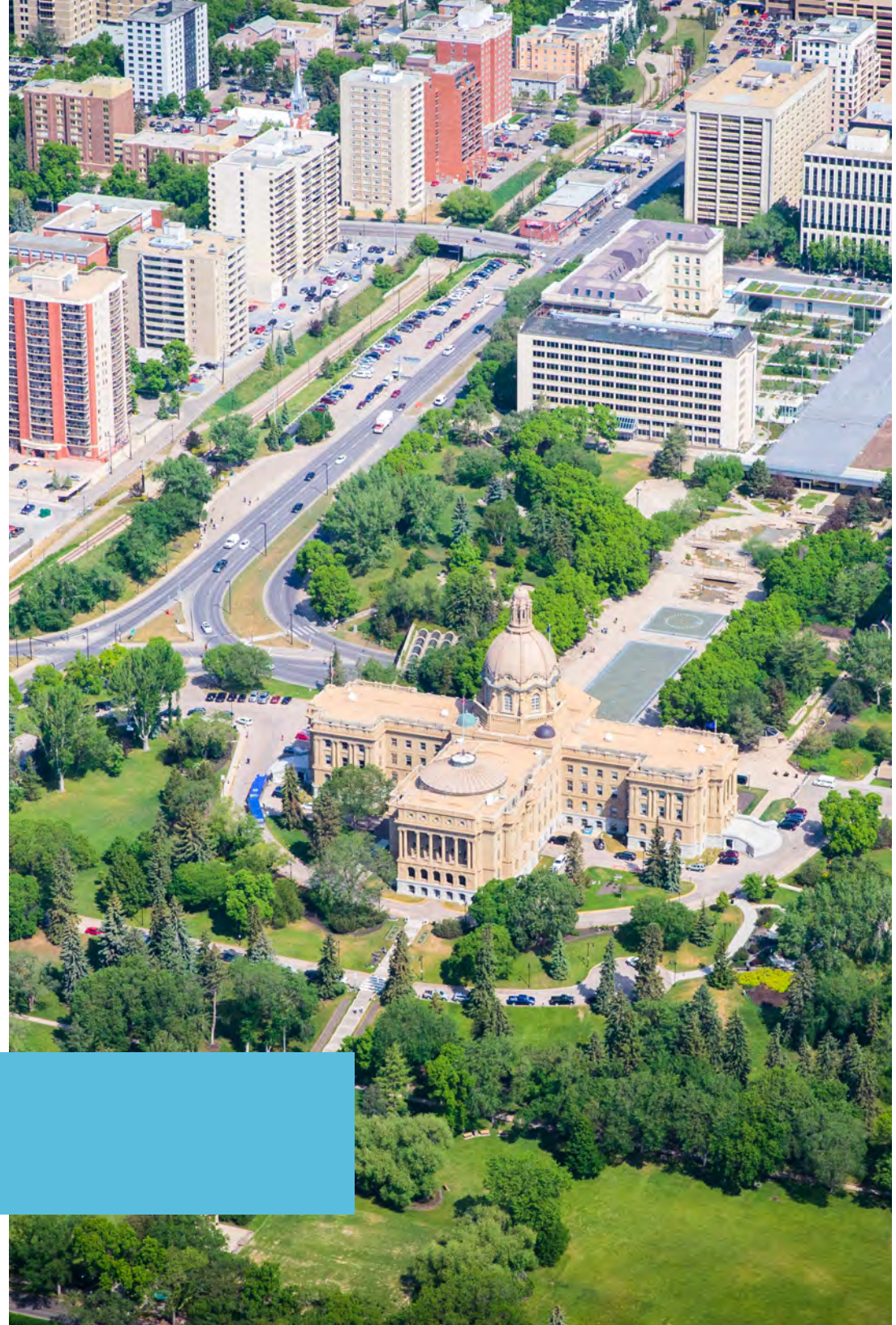
Management + Operations

- i) Display signage onsite during the construction or redevelopment of public places to identify ongoing improvements and the location of additional information about them.
- j) Involve operations staff early in the design of public places. Consider future operating costs in the design and redesign process.

3.7 GREEN + SUSTAINABLE

Public places contribute to the health and vibrancy of natural and human environments by offering an important opportunity to integrate sustainable green infrastructure. One aim of the Plan is to increase the ecological functionality of public places by integrating environmental stormwater, renewable energy, and waste collection systems that complement other public place functions and programs. This integration will promote the overall reduction of the urban heat island effect felt Downtown, and improve stormwater management, both crucial for future climate change resilience.

The Downtown public places network is environmentally sustainable.



3.7.1 Wildlife

Planning + Design

- a) Mitigate light pollution throughout Downtown, particularly in ecologically sensitive areas and in the river valley.
- b) Establish wildlife corridors between open spaces and the river to create healthy habitat for avian animals that facilitates natural movement patterns and reduces wildlife–human conflicts.
- c) Within ecologically sensitive areas and the river valley, take precautions to minimize wildlife conflicts. These precautions can include the adequate provision and maintenance of wildlife proof waste receptacles and provision of educational signage regarding rules for proper human behaviour within an ecological zone.

3.7.2 Vegetation

Planning + Design

- a) Incorporate small naturalized spaces within Downtown public places where possible. In these spaces, incorporate hardy, native, low–maintenance plant varieties into landscaping when possible.
- b) Increase the urban tree canopy and incorporate landscaping elements into public places to decrease urban heat island impacts.
- c) Incorporate street trees and landscaping within streetscaping improvements unless prevented by infrastructure placement. Ensure that trees planted in hardscaped areas are planted in non–compactable soil cells of an adequate size, with proper drainage, soil quality and volume, to facilitate healthy tree growth, wherever possible.
- d) Ensure that materials used in landscaping are wind–resistant or ensure that landscaping beds are sheltered from the wind to prevent dispersal of materials.

Management + Operations

- e) When naturalizing spaces within Downtown public places, clearly identify these areas to the public as intentional.

3.7.3 Stormwater

Planning + Design

- a) Incorporate stormwater capture, retention, and infiltration elements into public place design. Use low impact development techniques, such as rain gardens, permeable pavement, bioretention areas, and streetscape tree trenches to reduce and delay stormwater flows into the drainage network.
- b) Design stormwater elements with interactive or educational features that help to build awareness of the environmental benefit of the systems.
- c) Design water features to minimize water loss. Provide additional environmental functions such as flood mitigation, filtration, and stormwater retention, where possible.

Management + Operations

- d) Capture, filter, and store rainfall for irrigation in public places.

3.7.4 Waste

Planning + Design

- a) Consider the location, quantity, and design of waste receptacles to optimize waste collection. Allow for ease of maintenance, improved aesthetics, and reduced impacts of odours. Obtain temporary waste receptacles for events and festivals.
- b) Provide recycling options in public places and ensure that disposal procedures are well communicated to the public and City maintenance personnel.
- c) Use recycled or repurposed materials in the construction of new park infrastructure and amenities, with preference given to natural recycled materials over plastics, where possible.
- d) Ensure adequate smoking disposal containers are provided away from main gathering and activity spaces in public places.

3.7.5 Renewable Energy

Planning + Design

- a) Consider opportunities to incorporate small-scale wind and solar power generation in public places for primarily public place use and operation.
- b) Consider selection of materials and furnishings that require less water and energy to produce.

Management + Operations

- c) Implement the greenhouse gas reduction practices into all aspects of public place design, management, and decision making. These practices are outlined in the City of Edmonton Greenhouse Gas Management Plan.



3.8 CELEBRATION

Downtown is the heart of the city and region. It is the place to experience art, sport, and a multitude of other city-wide celebrations and events, which make Edmonton unique. Well-designed public places can extend this sense of place throughout streets and into outdoor gathering spaces. Subsequently, the Plan encourages the continued support for safe celebrations throughout the downtown in a manner that supports everyday activities and wellness functions.



Downtown is a regional and national centre for entertainment, sport, creative arts, entertainment, festivals, and culture.

3.8.1 Festivals + Events

Planning + Design

- a)** When designing new public places intended for large events, develop formal event spaces with supporting infrastructure. Some examples of this infrastructure are electrical, water, drainage and WIFI service. Other possible infrastructure are loading zones, portable washrooms, planned spaces for covered performance shelters, and waste receptacles and waste collections.
- b)** Where possible, install winter specific infrastructure in public places to encourage winter and off-season activation opportunities, including but not limited to heating elements, gas lines to connect to fire pits, and shelters.
- c)** Support community performance spaces that are designed to host smaller events.
- d)** Design performance amenities such as amphitheatres, performance shelters, and stages to be functional when not in use for performances.
- e)** Incorporate flexible space into the design of public places to support a variety of cultural and community functions.

Programming

- f)** Support graffiti and other free-expression zones in the downtown, where artists can express themselves informally using their own materials, such as paint or chalk. Establish ground rules for the sites and support participation of youth and youth organizations.
- g)** Support neighbourhood organizations in developing small-scale community events.
- h)** Support a rotation of pop-up events and temporary programming projects to animate public places.
- i)** Prioritize carpooling, ride sharing services, transit, active transportation and shuttle services to support public access to events. Improve transit access during large festivals by locating routes closer to public places and extending service schedules to align with event hours of operation.
- j)** Work with communities to program streets and alleyways with events such as street parties.

3.8.2 Public Art

Planning + Design

- a) Identify and prioritize new sites in public places for public art projects in Downtown. Site considerations may include visibility, intensity of use and complementary nature, and the element of surprise or discovery.
- b) Engage with the Edmonton Arts Council and other organizations at the concept phase of public places to develop integrated public art elements. These integrated public art elements will be relevant to the community, reflect Edmonton's history and diversity, and involve community engagement.
- c) Combine resources to create larger, signature public art pieces in public places.

Programming

- d) Conduct an inventory of blank walls in the downtown and develop a list of priority mural projects with associated funding. Collaborate with building owners and art organizations.
- e) Encourage the use of temporary artwork around construction and redevelopment sites.

3.8.3 Heritage

Planning + Design

- a) Integrate heritage conservation and interpretation into public places planning and design. Ensure appropriate interpretation through engagement or consultation with appropriate knowledge keepers and the community.
- b) Consider historic resources, heritage assets, potential views and/or focal points of those assets in the siting of new public places.
- c) Protect, preserve, and enhance important Cultural Landscapes and their historic value. If not possible to maintain the entire landscape, work to maintain the integrity of the spirit and heritage values of the Cultural Landscape.

Programming

- d) Develop additional heritage or cultural trails and public interpretation within the downtown open space network.



X-L
RUG

CANADIAN
NATIONAL
RAILWAYS

FREIGHT
TELEGRAMS

ARCADE

CANADIAN

FURNITURE

CLIFF'S

APARTS



NORTHERN
ALBERTA
RAILWAYS

Admiral
APPLIANCES

TORONTO STAR
MIKES

DRUGS

3.9 COHESIVE PUBLIC REALM

Public places are an integrated part of Edmonton's urban fabric. Because of this, buildings that front onto public space should do so as they would on a main street, meaning edges are activated to connect indoor and outdoor activities. This creates a mutually beneficial arrangement, as the indoor activities activate the public place and the public place attracts people to use the building. This arrangement encourages people to stay, spend time, and visit the surrounding buildings making the Downtown much more connected, universally accessible, and vibrant. Therefore, the Public Places Plan provides guidance on how buildings, streets, and public places should interact with each other. Additionally, public places should be designed for use throughout the year and incorporate a variety of different functions and programming.



Downtown has a high-quality, well-designed, year-round, cohesive, and well-maintained public realm.

3.9.1 Streets, Alleys + Public Place Interface

Planning + Design

- a) Coordinate park furniture along the street interface with the street furniture program set out in the Downtown Streetscape Manual.
- b) Develop consistent surface treatments and design elements between alleys and adjacent public places.
- c) Ensure public place design improvements are coordinated with planned street improvements to create a harmonized public realm. Encourage the use of greenery and consistent landscaping elements that continues from the public place onto the street and adjacent landmarks.

3.9.2 Building + Public Place Interface

Planning + Design

- a) Require buildings adjacent to public places to have active frontages facing the public space, with visible entrances and clear glazing. Encourage ground floor uses and elements that promote sociability and space activation, such as retail, food service, patio spaces and/or seating. Blank walls should be avoided or developed into active space through murals and other treatments.
- b) Discourage the development of ground floor residential units directly adjacent to parks and plazas. Existing buildings with residential units fronting on public places are encouraged to provide distinct transition between private and public spaces.

- c) Ensure that buildings along the edges of public places are designed and set back enough from the space to contribute to a thriving public place, while accommodating the servicing and maintenance needs of both the building and the space. Where appropriate, design and locate parking, loading, garbage containers, building service entrances and parking garage entrances so as not to impact the adjacent public realm. If impacts cannot be avoided, ensure these features are screened from the public places, by means of landscaping or decorative walls.
- d) Encourage public buildings to provide green roofs that allow public access.
- e) Design public places so that any architectural elements or heritage features fronting the space are visible.

Programming

- f) Ensure that patios and seating encroachments into the public place do not limit the primary functions of the space.

3.9.3 Year-Round

Planning + Design

- a) Incorporate the City of Edmonton's Winter Design Guidelines into the design or re-design, programming, and maintenance of public places to optimize their opportunity for year-round comfort, activation, and use.
- b) Provide power outlets in public places and along trails to support decorative lighting in the winter.
- c) Consider topographical variety in the design of public places to allow for a variety of year-round recreational uses. These uses should optimize hill use, such as, winter tobogganing, event viewing, and summer sunbathing.
- d) Allow flexibility of the standard coniferous and deciduous tree mix in downtown public places, if the design provides sufficient winter colour, wind protection, and similar winter city elements.
- e) Use deciduous trees to provide important shade and relief during the summer months, while allowing maximum sunlight penetration in the winter months.

3.9.4 Publicly Accessible Private Park Spaces

Acquisition

- a) Recommendations on developer contributions for public open space and publicly accessible private parks will be based on a public open space needs assessment at the time of the proposal.
- b) Encourage publicly accessible private park development in areas along green streets and near office/employment areas to supplement publicly owned open spaces.
- c) Encourage activation of vacant and underutilized lands through publicly accessible private park development.
- d) Encourage strata parks to be publicly accessible private parks. Due to functional limitations and complexity of management and liability, strata proposals should not be accepted as a replacement for public park contributions.
- e) Support publicly accessible private parks for mid-block pedestrian connections between public places (e.g. streets and parks). These spaces will help to create a finer pedestrian grid.

- f) Private amenity requirements and Publicly Accessible Private Parks shall not be used to fulfill public open space requirements.

Planning + Design

- g) All proposed Publicly Accessible Private Park Spaces must align with general planning and design objectives contained in Section 3 – Downtown-wide Recommendations. Proposals for new publicly accessible private parks are required to demonstrate:
 - + Mitigation of microclimate impacts from surrounding buildings;
 - + Ease of pedestrian movement throughout the site;
 - + Consolidation of space for greater functionality;
 - + Connectivity to and visibility from existing or planned public space, streets, parks and open space;
 - + How the space enhances the existing open space network functionality (supported by demographic and context analysis); and
 - + Design that encourages public use of the space.
- h) In addition to meeting the objectives in Section 3 – Downtown-wide Recommendations, proposals for Publicly Accessible Private Park Spaces which provide mid-block connections should:

- + Be a minimum width of 6.0 m. Greater width may be required if adjacent buildings do not utilize a tower /podium configuration.
- + Be framed on both sides by building interfaces in alignment with Section 3.9.2. Ground floor residential units abutting a mid-block connection are encouraged to incorporate an additional setback to create an appropriate public-private transition.

i) In addition to meeting the objectives in Section 3 – Downtown-wide Recommendations, proposals for all other types of Publicly Accessible Private Park Spaces should:

- + Be a minimum 185m² in size, and generally rectangular in shape.
- + Be located in a prominent, public facing location.
- + Be south-facing. Other orientations may be acceptable, and spaces only facing north will be strongly discouraged.
- + Be framed by buildings on one or two sides. A third side may be permitted if a mid-block or other outdoor pedestrian connection is provided at the rear of the space to provide desired connectivity and clear sightlines,

out of the space. All building interfaces shall be in alignment with Section 3.9.2.

- + Be visible from adjacent street frontages with a minimum of 50% open sightlines (e.g. no obstructions – excluding deciduous trees).

j) Ensure that all approved publicly accessible private parks provide at least two BREATHE functions.

Management + Operations

k) Ensure that publicly accessible private parks are open to the public for at least the same hours as publicly owned places through the use of public access agreements.

l) Ensure signage identifying publicly accessible private park is displayed at the primary public access to the space and indicates:

- + The times that the space is open to the public; and
- + That the private owner is responsible for maintenance of the area.

m) Ensure that publicly accessible private parks are maintained at a standard consistent with the maintenance and care provided for Downtown public places.

n) Provide resources for landowners and open space managers on how to ensure safety of publicly accessible private parks in an inclusive manner. Patron management should resemble City standards on public places.

o) Re-evaluate the effectiveness of each publicly accessible private park at regular intervals as per the established public access agreement.



4 PLACE-BASED RECOMMENDATIONS

Site-specific recommendations that address provision, connectivity, and functional gaps in the Downtown Public Places Network.



4.1 PLACE-BASED RECOMMENDATIONS

The Place-based Recommendations identify spatially specific improvements to the overall Downtown public places network. The recommendations are intended to achieve the Strategic Directions by enhancing open space provision and connectivity as well as identifying each public place's functional role in the wider network.

- + **Provision:** Identification of new open space opportunities as well as opportunities to expand existing open space.
- + **Connectivity:** Recommendations on strengthening, expanding, and connecting the public places network, increasing overall public access to public places throughout Downtown.
- + **Functionality:** Recommendations that identify and strengthen each Downtown public place's function within the broader public places network, through the implementation of programming and improvements.

How to use the recommendations:

The Place-Based Recommendations are organized by the five focus areas.

1. West Side (Section 4.2)
2. Central West (Section 4.3)
3. Central Core (Section 4.4)
4. The Quarters (Section 4.5)
5. Southern Edge (Section 4.6)

A series of **Big Moves** are presented at the beginning of each focus area section. These Big Moves are feature projects that are considered the most important for increasing the overall provision, connectivity, and functionality of the Downtown public places network. The illustrations provided in this plan are for conceptual purposes only.

Within each focus area, recommendations are provided for proposed and existing Downtown public places in the Plan Area and surrounding 400 metre buffer. The recommendations for each place are structured as follows:

1. **Name** of public place.
2. Open Space **Classification** (Appendix E), a characterization of open space used for management and implementation purposes.
3. **Description and intent** of the public place.
4. **Priority BREATHE functional theme.** Public places should ideally provide all three functional themes of Ecology, Celebration, and Wellness; however, where conflicts or trade offs arise, this plan provides direction for which themes have priority.
5. **Proposed Programming** provides recommended open space programming and amenities to support functionality, intent, etc. based on their role in the network. (Reference next page for list of programming).

A quick reference table of all public places and their proposed programming is located in Appendix B.

Proposed Programming



NATURE APPRECIATION

Places to view the North Saskatchewan River and experience the natural areas along the River Valley.



FOOD PRODUCTION

Places to grow food, such as community gardens.



ECOLOGICAL PROTECTION

Places to protect natural systems and the ecosystem services they provide.



EXERCISE + TRANSPORTATION

Places to exercise, with features such as stairs for running, outdoor gym equipment, and multi-use pathways for bikes and pedestrians.



LEISURE + RETREAT

Places to rest in a quiet oasis-like setting, with opportunities to sit, walk, reflect, and relax.



RECREATION + SPORTS

Places to participate in informal or organized sports and recreation, such as fields for soccer, or courts for tennis and basketball.



COMMUNITY GATHERING

Places, such as picnic shelters, that support small scale community events and informal gatherings, possibly containing food elements such as community ovens, and barbeque's.



VIEWS + VISTAS

Places to protect natural systems and the ecosystem services they provide.



PLAY

Family oriented places that promote intergenerational play, such as playgrounds, grassy open space, interactive displays, and splash parks.



EVENTS + SHOWCASE

Places to support large City events, programming, and tourism that showcase the best of Downtown Edmonton.



FOOD SERVICE

Places that incorporate food service, with associated seating, tables, and waste receptacles.



HISTORY + CULTURE

Places that celebrate Edmonton's rich history and diversity of cultures through art, educational displays, and memorial elements.



TRANSIT PLAZA

Places to support transit riders, with seats and shelter from the elements.



WASHROOM

Places that provide universally accessible public washrooms.



FENCED DOG OFF-LEASH AREAS

Places for Downtown dogs to run, meet other dogs, and relieve themselves.

4.2 WEST SIDE

The West Side focus area is a major north–south corridor that will connect Downtown to the River Valley, adjacent neighbourhoods, parks, and across to the south of the river. A continuous, approximately 1.5 km, green corridor is envisioned to stretch from Queen Mary Park to the High–Level Bridge and into the River Valley with a series of activity nodes and points of intersection. Throughout the corridor, clear and consistent wayfinding for pedestrians and cyclists will be provided. There will be several parks and activity nodes along the corridor, offering places to play and rest. One new dog off–leash park is recommended to be incorporated in the southern portion of West Side. Public realm improvements will be enhanced along Jasper Avenue and at LRT Stations with plazas and Publicly Accessible Private Parks to encourage urban vibrancy. The open spaces of the West Side will be multi–functional, supporting active transportation, recreation, and small–scale tourism.

1.5km 

Continuous Active Transportation Corridor

Big Moves

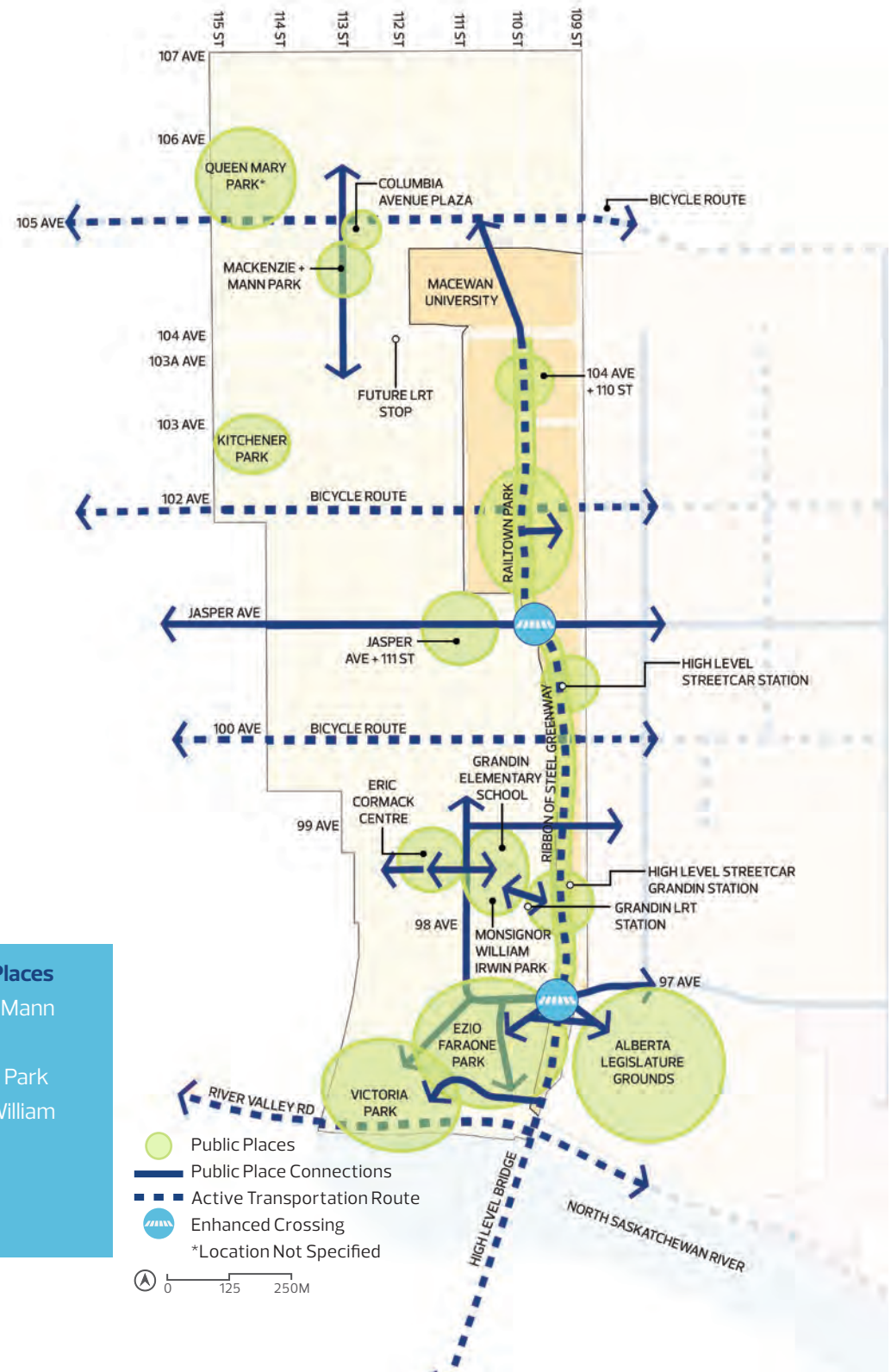
- + High Level Bridge North Landing + Ezio Faraone Park
- + West Side Corridor + Raitown Park

New Public Places

- + Eric Cormack Development Site
- + Jasper Avenue + 111 Street
- + Queen Mary Park
- + 104 Avenue + 111 Street

Existing Public Places

- + Mackenzie + Mann Park
- + Ezio Faraone Park
- + Monsignor William Irwin Park



4.2.1 Big Moves

High Level Bridge North Landing

Enhance pedestrian and cycling connectivity of the High Level Bridge North Landing through the redesign of 109 Street and 97 Avenue.

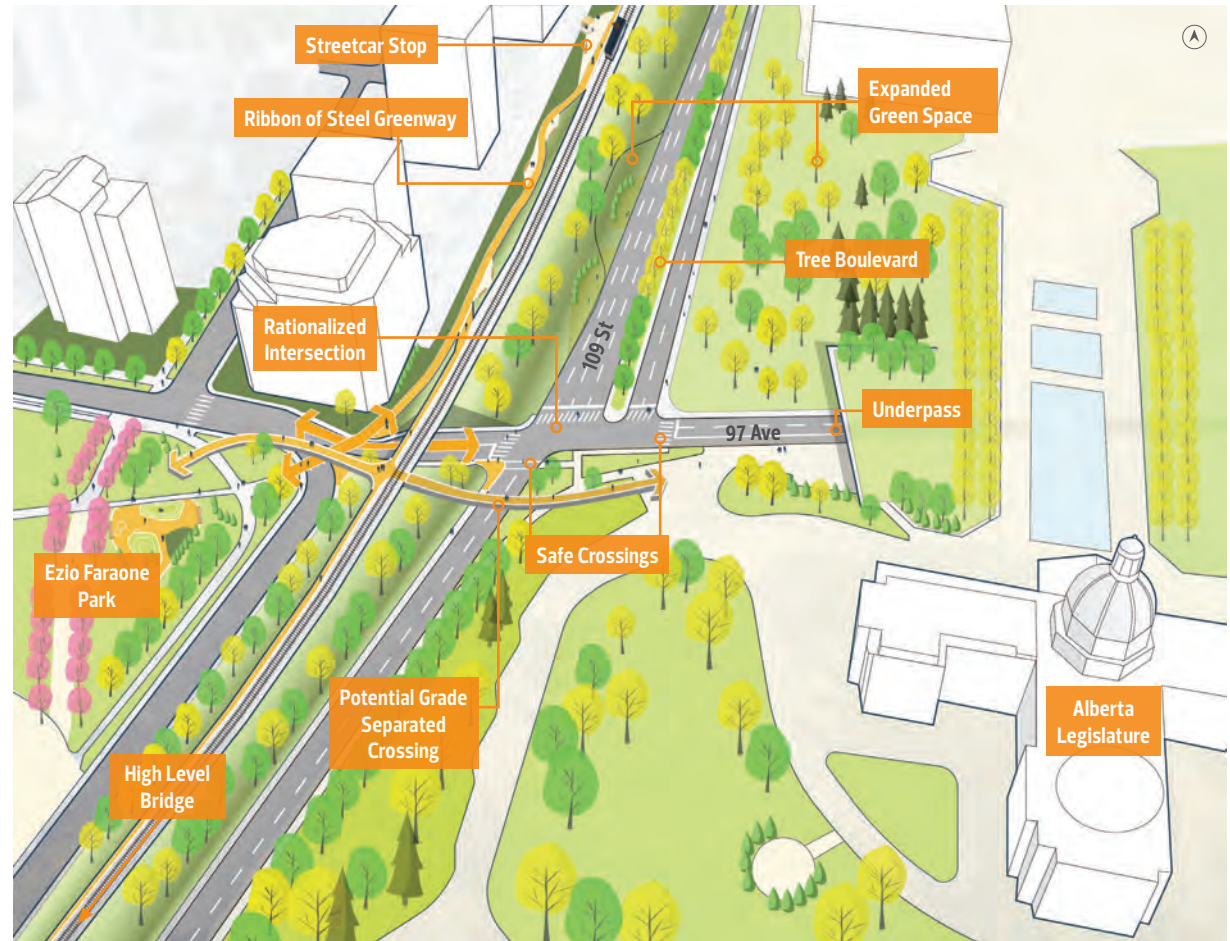
The intersection between 109 Street and 97 Avenue serves as a main connection in the north-south green corridor between Queen Mary Park and the River Valley as well as a linkage between Ezio Faraone Park and the Legislature Grounds. Redesign of this intersection will create safer, more direct pedestrian and cycling connections in all four directions, rationalize roadways, improve transit access, and enhance the public realm.

Ezio Faraone Park

Classification: Metropolitan Park

Named for Constable Ezio Faraone, this is a popular park for exercise and nature appreciation with its views of the river valley and the High Level Bridge.

Improvements to Ezio Faraone Park will focus on its function as a place for passive recreation and exercise. Space on the top of bank will provide opportunities for all ages and mobilities to participate in passive leisure activities such as



frisbee, picnicking, and walking. If not already provided in the West Side, a fenced dog off-leash area may also be developed in the park as long as it does not conflict with other functions of the space. Care will be taken to maintain slope integrity and enhance opportunities for the enjoyment of river valley views.

Priority Function

-  Medium
-  Medium
-  High

Proposed Programming

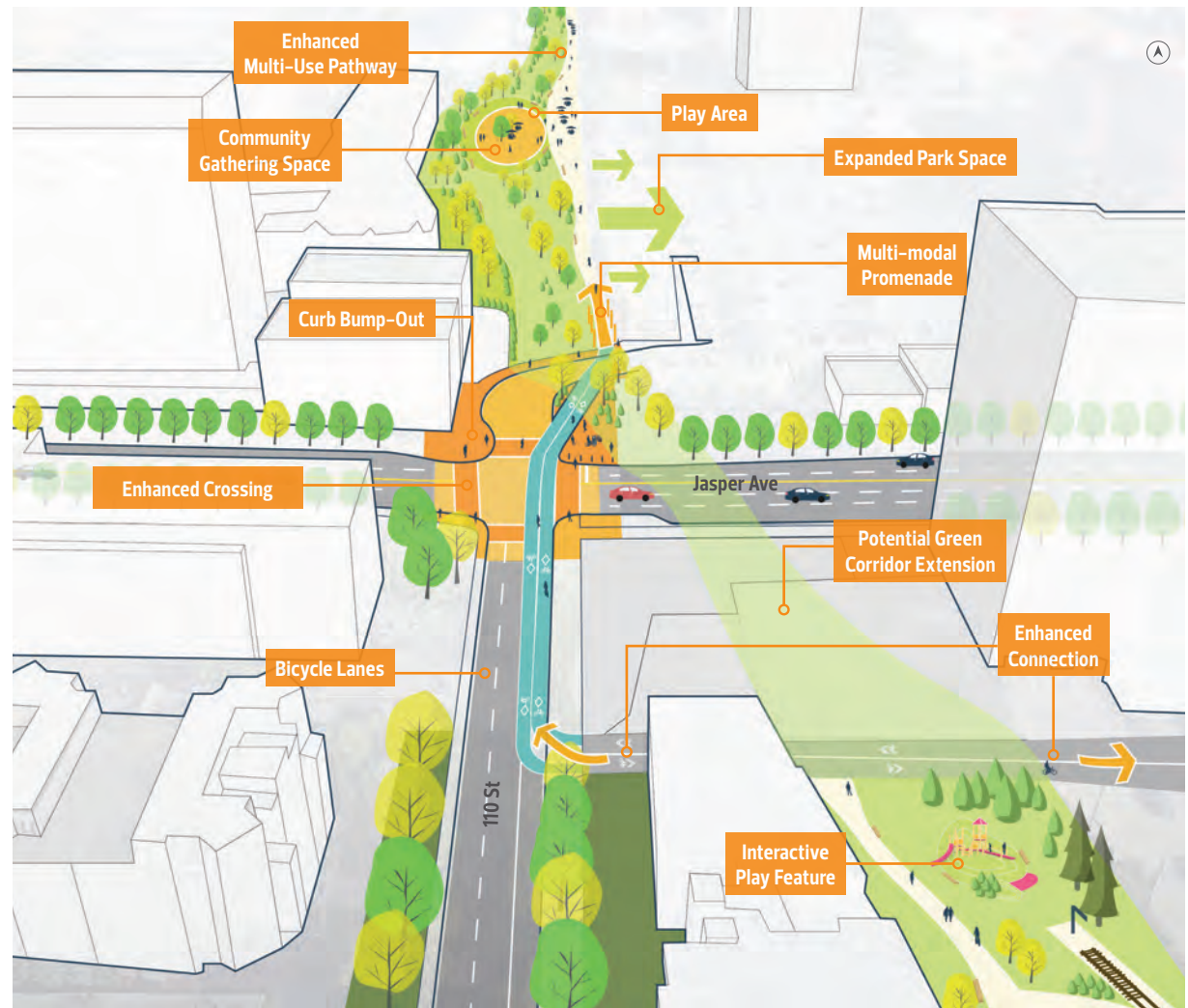
-  Exercise + Active Transportation
-  Leisure + Retreat
-  Views + Vistas (River Valley)
-  Fenced Dog Off-Leash Area

West Side Corridor

Create a continuous active transportation connection from the Ribbon of Steel across Jasper Avenue to Railtown Park.

This project will create a continuous pedestrian and cycling experience from the terminus of the seasonally operated High-Level Streetcar to Railtown Park by developing an enhanced crossing of Jasper Avenue. This enhanced connection will be coordinated with improvements recommended in the Imagine Jasper Avenue Project, which envisions an enhanced pedestrian and cycle connection at the intersection and a reconfigured plaza on the north side of Jasper Avenue. The potential Green Corridor extension would connect the open spaces on either side of Jasper Avenue, establishing a contiguous north-south green corridor. Collaboration with adjacent landowners will also be required for any future modifications to the space.

Improvements to this connection will be coordinated with the expansion of Railtown Park and Ribbon of Steel, as well as their associated functionality improvements.











Railtown Park

Classification: *Community Park*

Railtown park is an important active transportation and recreation park. The linear park provides informal spaces for gathering and picnicking along a shared-use path. In the future, the path will be redesigned as a promenade and will be realigned along the eastern edge of the park interacting with adjacent development. The promenade will extend from the Ribbon of Steel Greenway, across Jasper Avenue to MacEwan University.

Railtown Park will maintain its active transportation function while also providing additional amenities to support more wellness programming. This amenities include flexible green space, play features, exercise features, and food service. In collaboration with adjacent landowners, opportunities will be sought to expand the park and encourage additional active frontages along its edges.

Priority Function	Proposed Programming
 Medium	 Exercise + Active Transportation
 Medium	 Leisure + Retreat
 High	 Community Gathering
	 Play
	 Food Service
	 History + Culture

4.2.2 New Public Places

Eric Cormack Development Site

Classification: *TBD*


The Eric Cormack Development Site, which encompasses three vacant buildings and a recycling facility, may be redeveloped into housing by the Province. The City, in collaboration with the Province, will encourage the integration of open space as part of the redevelopment of the Eric Cormack Development Site. The new public place will be well connected to the public places network and provide leisure amenities for new and existing residents.

Priority Function	Proposed Programming
 Medium	 Leisure + Retreat
 Low	 Community Gathering
 High	

Columbia Avenue Plaza

Classification: Plaza

Columbia Plaza will have a plaza between 112 and 113 Street for community gatherings and a connection to the south via MacKenzie and Mann Park. It will provide open space for the growing community south of 107 Avenue in Queen Mary Park. It will also reduce and slow down traffic on 105 Avenue, making it more pedestrian friendly. The plaza will maintain access through the space for cyclists and emergency vehicles.

Priority Function	Proposed Programming
 Low	 Exercise + Active Transportation
 High	 Leisure + Retreat
 Med	 Community Gathering
	 Events + Showcase

Jasper Avenue + 111 Street

Classification: *Publicly Accessible Private Park*

Through collaboration with the current private landowner, the creation of a new public place at Jasper Avenue and 111 Street will serve to complement the Edmonton General Continuing Care Centre, providing therapeutic and wellness space for residents and visitors.

Priority Function Proposed Programming



Low



Leisure + Retreat
(therapeutic)



Medium



High

Queen Mary Park

Classification: *Community Park*

Establishing new public places, up to a total of 0.5 hectares, in Queen Mary Park neighbourhood will serve the growing residential population south of 107 Avenue. It will include amenities for families and children, multi-purpose green space for sports and recreation, and passive leisure spaces. The space will be well linked to the bike network, Columbia (105) Avenue, MacEwan University, and Railtown Park.

Priority Function Proposed Programming



Medium



Leisure + Retreat



Medium



Recreation + Sports



High



Play



Community Gathering

LRT stop by providing an informal gathering space for staff, students, and transit riders. The space will provide places to sit, relax, enjoy food, and interact with others in small group settings. The configuration of the space will improve connectivity to Railtown Park, MacEwan Arts/112 Street LRT station, and across 104 Avenue from MacEwan University. Future development adjacent to the space, should include active ground floor frontage to establish a lively public place.

Priority Function Proposed Programming



Low



Exercise + Active
Transportation



High



Food Service



Medium

104 Avenue + 110 Street

Classification: *Publicly Accessible Private Park*

In collaboration with the current landowner, the creation of a new publicly accessible private park along the south side of 104 Avenue near 110 Street will provide an active anchor at the north end of Railtown Park. The space will complement MacEwan University and the future MacEwan Arts/112 Street








4.2.3 Existing Public Places

MacKenzie + Mann Park

Classification: *Pocket Park*

MacKenzie and Mann Park serves the Oliver community. It is primarily grassy open space with landscaped pathways which functions as a green mid-block connection between 104 and 105 Avenues. It extends north from a Publicly Accessible Private Park space to the south. The park creates a north-south linear connection features interpretative railroad history displays featured on the its southern edge.

The park's function as part of the active transportation network will be enhanced through wayfinding, clearly identified entrances, and the addition of seating and shade to create rest areas. Emphasis should be given to maintaining public access and north-south connectivity through the park towards the future MacEwan Arts/112 Street LRT stop on 104 Avenue. Active frontage towards the park should be considered if the lands were to redevelop.

Priority Function	Proposed Programming
 Medium	 Exercise + Active Transportation
 Low	
 High	 Leisure + Retreat
	 Food Service
	 History + Culture










Monsignor William Irwin Park

Classification: *Community Park*

Monsignor William Irwin Park is a treed leisure space with meandering paved pathways and seating. It is also the location of the Grandin LRT station.

The park will continue to serve the residents and visitors with additional seating and amenities to support leisure, transit, and community gathering. If not already provided in the West Side, a fenced dog off-leash area may be incorporated into the park.

Expansion of pathways and sidewalks will support active transportation and provide increased connectivity to the LRT station, Ribbon of Steel Greenway, and Ezio Faraone Park.

Priority Function	Proposed Programming
 Medium	 Leisure + Retreat
 Medium	 Recreation + Sports
 High	 Community Gathering
	 Play
	 Transit Plaza
	 Fenced Dog Off-Leash Area

Ribbon of Steel Greenway

Classification: *Greenway*

The Ribbon of Steel Greenway is a dynamic corridor within the previous Canadian Pacific Rail lands north of the High Level Bridge. It supports active transportation uses and the seasonally-operated streetcar.

In the future, the greenway will continue to function as an important north-south active transportation connection. It will also be enhanced to promote the area's railroad history through art and cultural installations. The Greenway will be expanded to include small pocket parks that provide child play

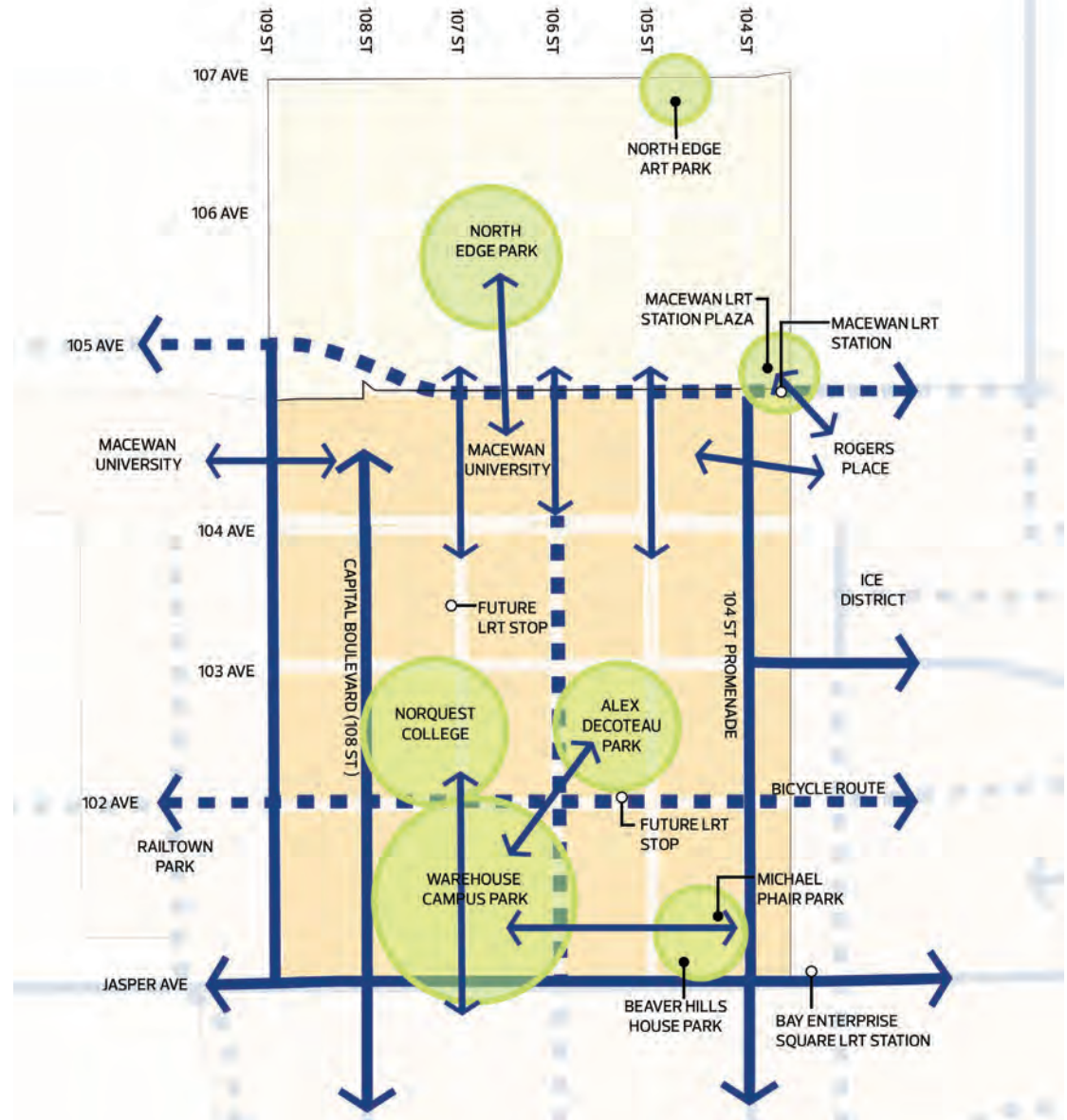
areas, food services, exercise features, space for leisure activities, and open space activity nodes at streetcar stops. Expansion will also improve future east-west connectivity to the surrounding street network and integrate a transit plaza with the 109 Street Grandin LRT entrance along the greenway. Future development and redevelopment will provide active commercial frontage along the Greenway to increase its vibrancy. Opportunities will also be explored to expand the Ribbon of Steel to the top deck of the High Level Bridge.

Priority Function	Proposed Programming
 Medium	 Exercise + Active Transportation
 Medium	
 High	 Leisure + Retreat
	 Community Gathering
	 Play
	 Food Service
	 History + Culture
	 Views + Vistas (Alberta Legislature Building)
	 Transit Plaza

4.3 CENTRAL WEST

The vision for Central West is characterized by flexible, multifunctional open spaces which support wellness activities for residents and families as well as spaces for community events. Streetscapes and open spaces will incorporate greenery with additional trees, intentional soft landscaping, parks and gardens. Future adaptive reuse of existing brick warehouses will be prominently featured along the streets and open spaces, while public spaces that can host patios and appropriate commercial activity give life to the street. All of these initiatives will be multifunctional, addressing connectivity, vibrancy, and design among other Plan Principles.

Warehouse Campus Park will become a large park that is well-connected to other spaces nearby. Some of those other spaces include plazas and Publicly Accessible Private Parks along Jasper and 104 Avenue.



Big Moves

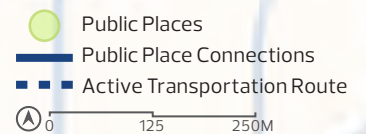
- + Warehouse Campus Park

New Public Places

- + North Edge Park
- + NorQuest Plaza
- + North Edge Art Park

Existing Public Places

- + Alex Decoteau Park
- + Beaver Hills House Park + Michael Phair Park



PLAZA

4.3.1 Big Moves

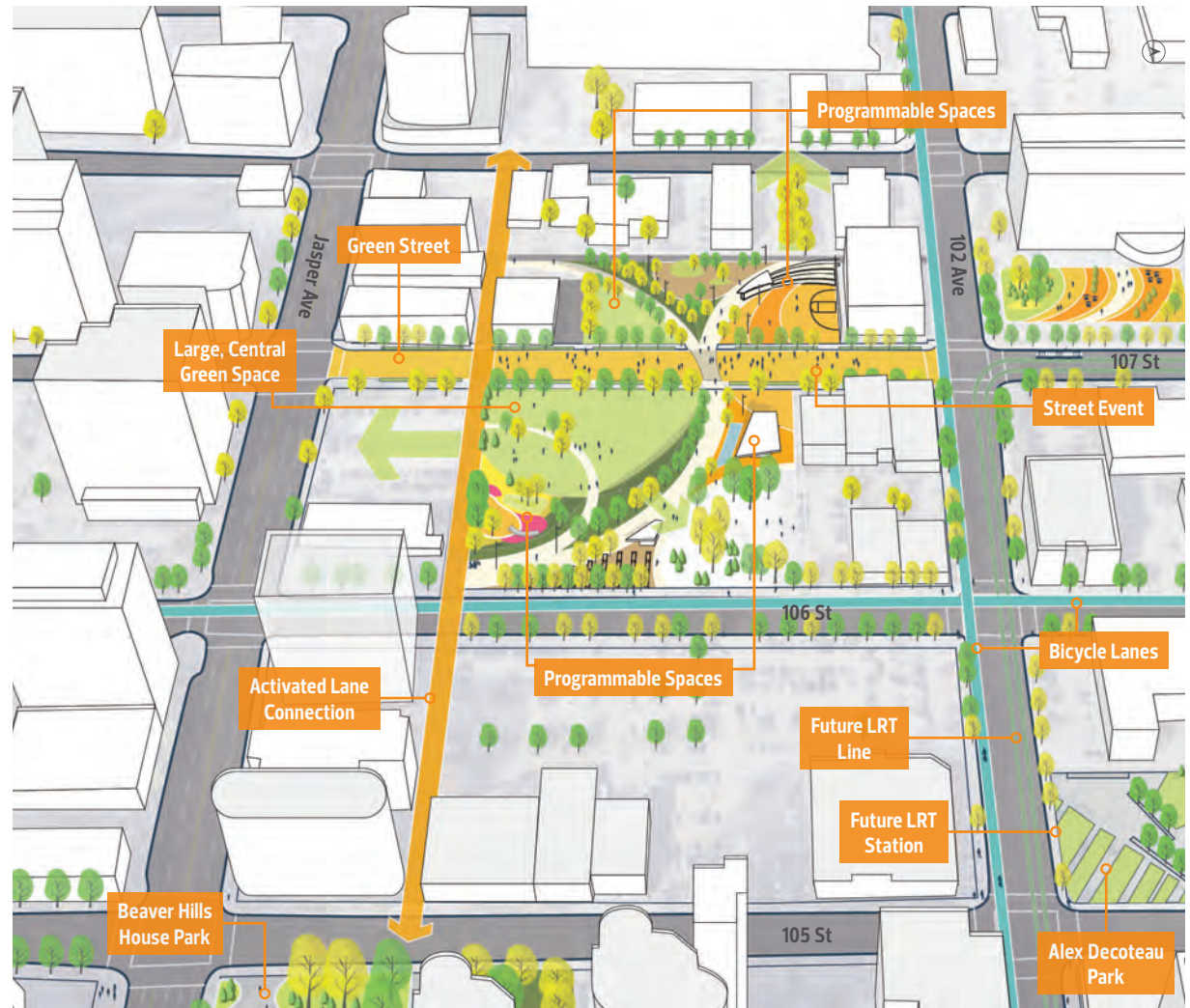
Warehouse Campus Park

Classification: Community Park

Develop a large central green space in the heart of the Warehouse District.

The creation of a large central green space in the heart of the Warehouse District will primarily serve the growing residential population in the area. It will be large enough to host community events and gatherings while also providing many informal recreation and leisure opportunities suitable for individuals and families. It will support a significant tree canopy and a large green open space. The project was recommended by the Capital City Downtown Plan and community revitalization levy funding for park acquisition and development has been approved by the City.

Park programming will connect to and complement that provided in Beaver Hills House Park, Michael Phair Park, NorQuest Plaza, and Alex Decoteau Park. These open spaces will be connected via the Downtown bike network, pedestrian priority streets of 104 and 108 Streets, Jasper Avenue Main Street, LRT lines, and additional green corridors. 107 Street will be integrated into the overall design of the park, with potential for future road closure, or conversion into a barrier-free, shared space for pedestrians.



Priority Function

- Medium
- Medium
- High

Proposed Programming

- Exercise + Active Transportation
- Leisure + Retreat
- Recreation + Sports

- Community Gathering
- Play
- Washroom
- Views + Vistas (MacEwan University 107Street Towers)

4.3.2 New Public Places

North Edge Park

Classification: *Community Park*

Developing a new public place at 106 Avenue and 107 Street will provide recreational open space for children and their families to participate in play and sports. The space will connect to the active transportation network and provide an integrated design interface with the adjacent laneway. The park will serve the growing residential population of the area.

Priority Function	Proposed Programming
 Medium	 Leisure + Retreat
 Medium	 Recreation + Sports
 High	 Community Gathering
	 Play

NorQuest Plaza

Classification: *Campus*





NorQuest College will develop an urban plaza approximately a quarter hectare in size on the northwest corner of 107 Street and 102 Avenue. It will serve as a public meeting and gathering space. The space will also occasionally host events held by NorQuest College, its student body, the Downtown community, and the City of Edmonton. The City of Edmonton will collaborate with NorQuest College to ensure that the space is comfortable, welcoming, and integrated with the adjacent Valley Line LRT route. The park will also be designed to provide an integrated interface with the adjacent laneway.

Priority Function	Proposed Programming
 Medium	 Leisure + Retreat
 Medium	 Community Gathering
 High	 Play

North Edge Art Park

Classification: *Plaza*

North Edge Art Park is a small park on the southeast corner of 107 Avenue and 105 Street planned to be developed in 2020. It is primarily intended to provide a programmable space for the North Edge business community on the local main street (107 Avenue). It will be art-focused, to add a central attraction to the area, and will be designed to accommodate Business Improvement Area events. The park will be designed to provide an integrated interface with the adjacent laneway.

Priority Function	Proposed Programming
 Low	 Events + Showcase
 High	 History + Culture
 Medium	

4.3.3 Existing Public Places

Alex Decoteau Park

Classification: *Community Park*

Alex Decoteau Park, located at 102 Avenue and 105 Street, will continue to function as a community wellness and dog amenity space. As a result, future park improvements will focus on improving universal access in the space. Only small-scale events and programming will be accommodated in the park so as to not impede on its primary function as a passive wellness space. Once the future LRT line is in place there will be opportunities for improved edge integration. The interface with the building to the north, back lane and 105 street will be reimaged as part of this process.

Priority Function	Proposed Programming
 Medium	 Food Production
 Medium	 Leisure + Retreat
 High	 Community Gathering
	 Play
	 Fenced Dog Off-Leash Area
	 Views + Vistas (HV Shaw Building)


Beaver Hills House Park + Michael Phair Park

Classification:

- + Beaver Hills House Park: *Metropolitan Park*
- + Michael Phair Park: *Pocket Park*

Beaver Hills House Park and Michael Phair Park will be planned together as a cohesive space. Beaver Hills House, which is translated from Amiskwaciw Waskayhkan Ihtawin, is the Cree name for Fort Edmonton. Though both parks will continue to serve as community gathering spaces, Beaver Hills Park will also provide necessary city-wide event space along Jasper Avenue.

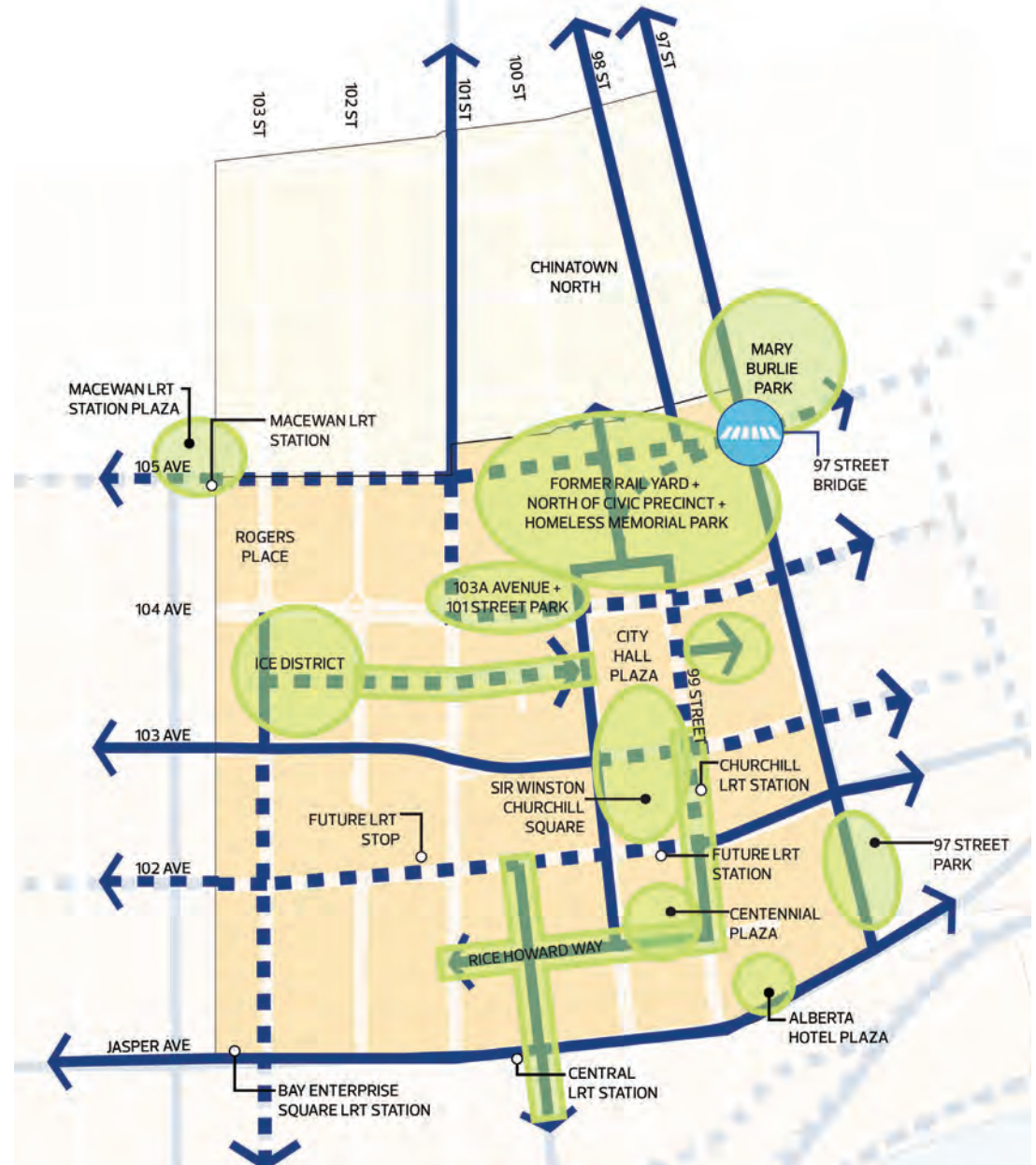
To improve the function of the parks, redevelopment of both parks will address after hours safety concerns by opening up sightlines, providing functional seating, and creating event areas. Attention will be given to activating street edges of the parks and improving the connection between Beaver Hills House Park and Michael Phair Park. This connection will be widened and well-lit. Redevelopment will build upon Beaver Hills Park's existing character, recognizing its historical and Indigenous namesake. Playscapes, landscaping, and water features will remain key components of the parks.

Priority Function	Proposed Programming
 Medium	 Leisure + Retreat
 High	 Community Gathering
 Medium	 Play
	 Events + Showcase
	 Food Service
	 History + Culture
	 Transit Plaza

4.3.4 Central Core

The Central Core focuses on establishing the Downtown core as a cohesive network of public places that balance everyday activities, special programming options, and tourism. To improve these functions of the Downtown core, the area will feature commercial opportunities, with patios on public spaces and vibrant plazas, creating an interactive pedestrian experience. The pedestrian realm will be enhanced through coordinated landscaping, surfaces, and lighting treatments between ICE District Plaza, Churchill Square, Centennial Plaza and Rice Howard Way.

Function improvements to the Central Core will focus on making the area more child and family friendly for everyday use, while also retaining its primary function as a regional hub. It will improve at hosting major events, amenities, shopping, civic services, arts, and culture. Plazas, will be highly flexible and able to host large-scale events, and celebrations throughout the seasons. Key streets will be programmed and designed so that events can spill onto them for further Downtown animation. Particular attention will be given to the treatment of Rice Howard Way to support additional seating, programming, and activation at the street level.



Big Moves

- + Former Rail Yard + 97 Street Bridge

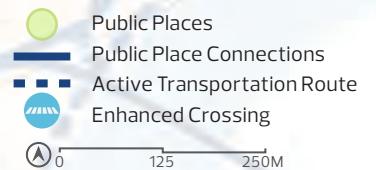
New Public Places

- + 103A Avenue + 101 Street Park
- + 97 Street Park.

Existing Public Places

- + Centennial Plaza
- + ICE District + Plaza
- + North of Civic Precinct + Homeless Memorial Plaza

- + Rice Howard Way
- + Sir Winston Churchill Square + City Hall Plaza
- + CKUA Plaza
- + MacEwan LRT Station Plaza



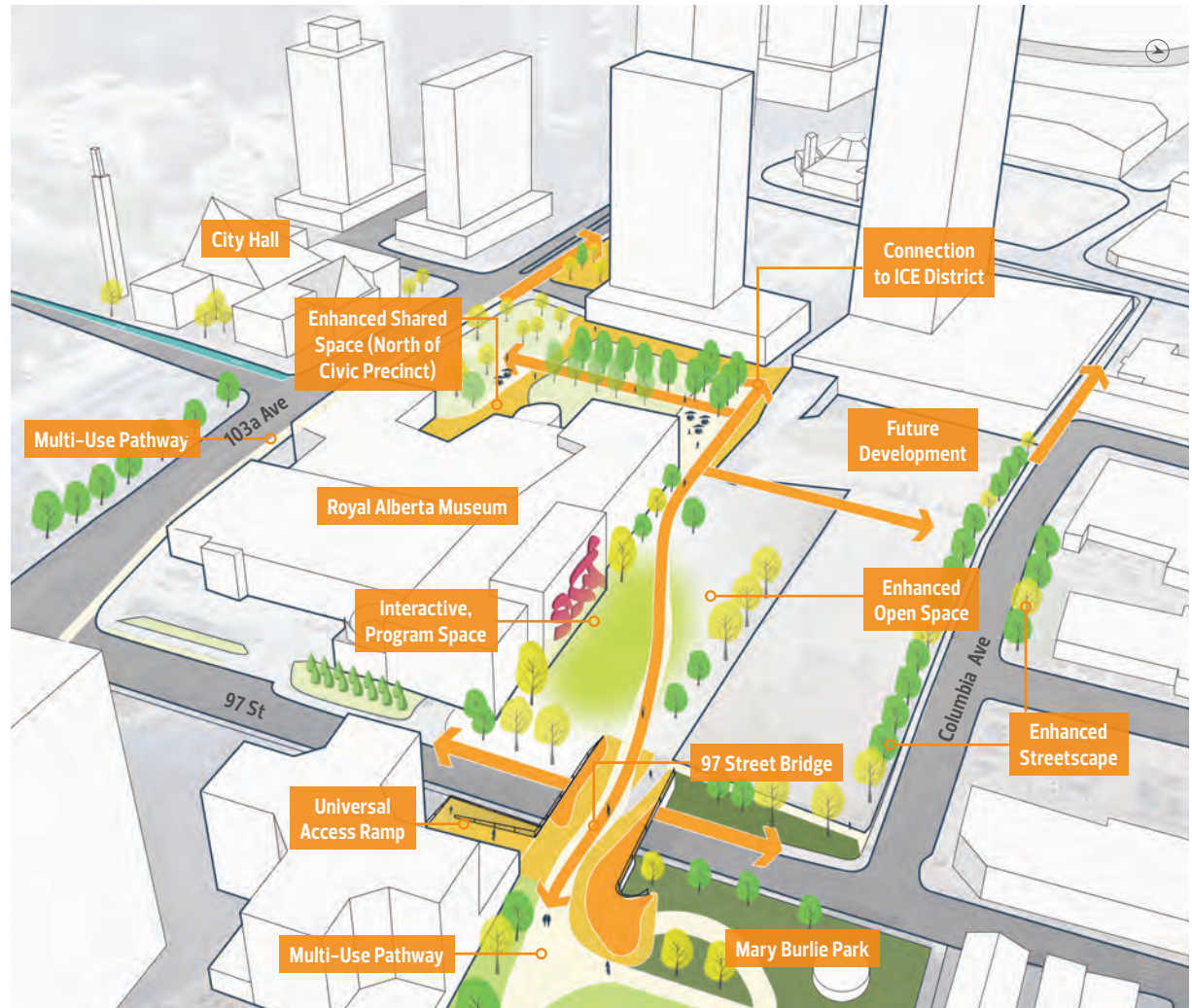
4.3.5 Big Moves

Former Rail Yard + 97 Street Bridge







Redevelop the Former Rail Yard + 97 Street Bridge as a landmark, viewpoint, and active transportation linkage.

This big move will extend the active transportation linkages between the Boyle Renaissance, North of Civic Precinct + Homeless Memorial Park, the Central Core, and Columbia Avenue by renovating or replacing the bridge structure over 97 Street and developing public space behind the Royal Alberta Museum. This will be conducted in collaboration with private landowners.

This redesign will improve visibility and pedestrian safety above and below the bridge, and provide direct, universally accessible connections to the bridge deck from street level. In coordination with future development, a shared-use route will extend through open space westward from the bridge into adjacent lands. This route will connect this area south to City Hall, north to Chinatown North, and west to 101 Street.



Priority Function Proposed Programming

	Medium		Exercise + Active Transportation
	Medium		History + Culture
	High		Views + Vistas

North of Civic Precinct + Homeless Memorial Plaza

Classification:

- + North of Civic Precinct: *Publicly Accessible Private Park and Provincial Parkland*
- + Homeless Memorial Plaza: *Pocket Park*

The pocket park that immediately fronts the Royal Alberta Museum is carefully curated to integrate with the museum's building design and stretches the Civic Precinct northward. It primarily serves a decorative function, with landscaped areas that add greenery to the area. In front of this space is the Homeless Memorial Plaza, which honours those experiencing homelessness who have died.







The memorial nature of the Homeless Memorial Plaza will be retained. In the future, the pocket park in front of the museum will link to the active transportation network, connecting to the north of Civic Precinct, into Civic Precinct, to the Downtown core, and to Chinatown North. The road between the spaces will be re-envisioned as more of a shared space, with potential narrowing. Additionally, the space will offer dog and family friendly programming to serve the growing residential population in the area. The space will be coordinated with the establishment of new Publicly Accessible Private Parks in the area, which will include high quality landscape design, seating, and coordination of amenities with Rice Howard Way, the ICE District, City Hall, and Sir Winston Churchill Square.

North of Civic Precinct

Priority Function

-  Medium
-  Medium
-  High

Proposed Programming



-  Exercise + Active Transportation
-  Leisure + Retreat
-  Community Gathering
-  Play
-  History + Culture
-  Transit Plaza

Homeless Memorial Plaza

Priority Function

-  Medium
-  Low
-  High

Proposed Programming

-  Leisure + Retreat
-  History + Culture


4.3.7 New Public Places

103A Avenue + 101 Street Park


Classification: *TBD*

Development of a new pocket park at 103A Avenue, east of 101 Street, will provide a green buffer from the roadway that connects to the Downtown bike network. Creation of the linear space will likely be done through requiring a building setback for future development. The space will incorporate soft landscaping, seating, and nature elements to provide a pleasant resting place along the active transportation network.

Priority Function

-  Medium
-  Low
-  High







Proposed Programming

-  Exercise + Active Transportation

97 Street Park

Classification: *Pocket Park*

The road right-of-way along 97 Street between Jasper Avenue and 102 Avenue presents an opportunity to reduce travel lanes and extend the public realm to create a new linear open space. The open space will be a linear landscaped green corridor that provides a buffer from the roadway. It will also provide a variety of community gathering functions with furnishings and seating, as per the Jasper Avenue New Vision project and construction of the new Harbin Gate.









Priority Function	Proposed Programming
 Low	 Exercise + Active Transportation
 High	 Food Service
 Medium	 History + Culture

4.3.8 Existing Public Places Centennial Plaza

Classification: *Squares + Plaza*

Centennial Plaza, which previously functioned as an event space, will be revitalized as part of the redevelopment of the Stanley A. Milner Library.

The new plaza will include seating and other furnishings, as well as elements of child play and other interactive features that complement the adjacent library. The plaza will provide public realm connections between Rice Howard Way and the Citadel Theatre, and provide complementary uses, such as food vendors. The design of the space will focus on increasing safety of pedestrian crossings and providing clear sightlines into and out of the plaza.

Priority Function	Proposed Programming
 Low	 Leisure + Retreat
 Medium	 Play
 High	 Food Service
	 History + Culture
	 Views + Vistas (McLeod Building)

ICE District + Plaza

Classification: *Publicly Accessible Private Park*

ICE District is a new urban district development in Downtown Edmonton that combines offices, high-rise residential, hotel space, a public plaza, sports, entertainment, and shopping. The privately-owned ICE District plaza will complement the events and showcase functions of the surrounding public places in the core. It will also provide leisure and retreat opportunities for surrounding office workers during the day. ICE District and the Plaza will connect to City Hall, 104 Avenue, Sir Winston Churchill Square, LRT stations, and the 104 Street Promenade. Coordinated programming throughout these spaces will invigorate the connections and establish a common identity and vibrancy throughout the Core.

Priority Function	Proposed Programming
 Low	 Events + Showcase
 High	 Food Service
 Low	 Washroom

Sir Winston Churchill Square + City Hall Plaza

Classification: *Square + Plaza*










Sir Winston Churchill Square and City Hall Plaza are Edmonton's premier civic spaces, hosting numerous events throughout the year.

These hardscaped plazas will continue to host City events and festivals. On non-event days the plaza will continue to offer spontaneous use and programming opportunities, such as table tennis, large format chess, and a convertible wading pool/skating rink. These programming opportunities, in addition to seating and other complementary furnishing establish the public space as a destination for leisure and retreat for surrounding office workers during the day. Additional landscaping and lighting will improve the pedestrian experience on adjacent streets and in the plazas themselves. Street crossings between the plazas and the Edmonton Courthouse will be enhanced to make it safer for people to get to the plazas.

Priority Function

-  Low
-  High
-  Medium

Proposed Programming

-  Leisure + Retreat
-  Recreation + Sports
-  Play
-  Events + Showcase
-  Food Service
-  History + Culture
-  Transit Plaza
-  Washroom
-  Views + Vistas (City Hall, Art Gallery of Alberta, Stanley Milner Library)

Alberta Hotel Plaza (not officially named)

Classification: *Square + Plaza*

The Alberta Hotel Plaza is a small, green open space located at 9844 Jasper Avenue. It features a hub and spoke inspired brick pathway and garden design that provide resting places and places for contemplation. In collaboration with adjacent property owners, the City will develop additional programming to animate the space.

Priority Function

-  Medium
-  High
-  Medium

Proposed Programming

-  Leisure + Retreat
-  Events + Showcase
-  Views + Vistas (Alberta Hotel)

MacEwan LRT Station Plaza

Classification: *Square + Plaza*

MacEwan LRT Station Plaza, immediately north of Rogers Place arena, hosts a sweeping pathway network. A large lawn is divided north-south with this pathway and divided east-west by a plaza space and garden with lighting and seating.

The plaza's function as a meeting point for people taking LRT will be reinforced through additional seating and landscaping closer to the LRT Platform. The sweeping pathways connecting 105, 104, and 103 Streets and 105 Avenue with the LRT Platform will be reinforced and informal pathways across the grass will be formalized. The plaza will also be better linked to the Downtown bicycle network. Future development of the ICE District Phase II is encouraged to connect to this Plaza.

Priority Function



Medium



Low



High

Proposed Programming



Exercise + Active
Transportation



Leisure + Retreat



Recreation + Sports



Transit Plaza



4.4 THE QUARTERS

The Downtown Public Places Plan's vision is for The Quarters to continue to function as support for an interconnected network of public spaces and a fine-grained pedestrian grid which emphasizes the area's unique history as the original Downtown of Edmonton. This vision builds from the established *Quarters Urban Design Plan* with a greater emphasis on creating opportunities for public spaces and boardwalks that capitalize on the views of the river valley.

The following are three public place priorities for The Quarters:

- + Provision of **heritage and cultural programming** and interpretation in The Quarters public realm about the area's historical significance and diversity of cultures. This important history will be incorporated into the design and programming of public places.
- + Evaluation of a location for **public washroom** amenities as part of The Quarters Public infrastructure project, in accordance with the City's Washroom Strategy.
- + Evaluation of a location for the provision of **a dog-off leash area** in The Quarters to serve the growing population.



Big Moves

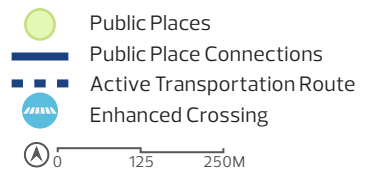
- + Quarters Connection to Louise McKinney Riverfront Park

Existing Public Places

- + Alex Taylor School Park
- + Boyle Street Plaza
- + Mary Burlie Park

New Public Places

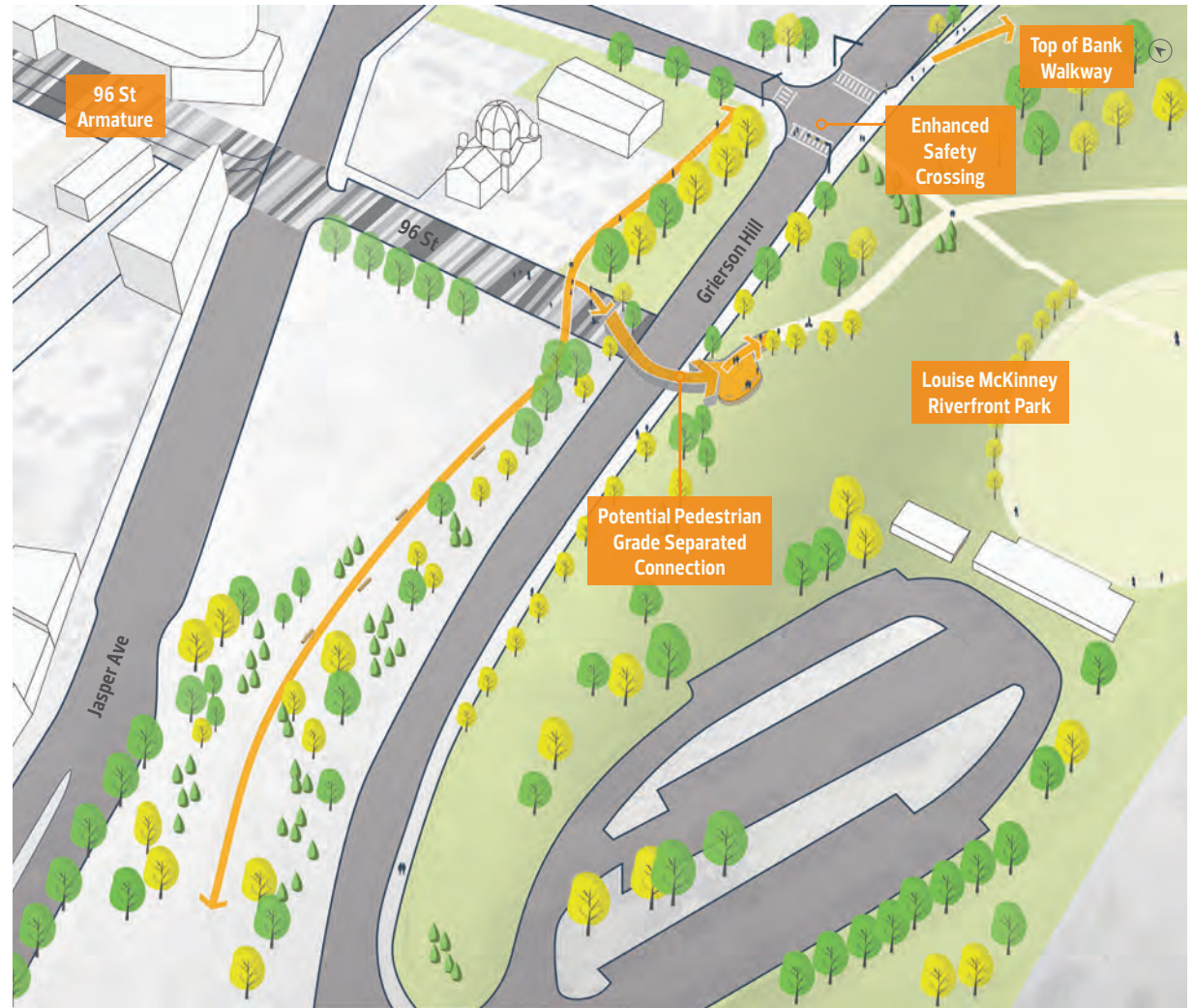
- + Boyle Renaissance Phase III
- + Kinistinaw Park



Quarters Connection to Louise McKinney Riverfront Park

Create a strong connection from the 96 Street Armature to Louise McKinney Riverfront Park.

Linking the 96 Street Armature across Grierson Hill Road into Louise McKinney Riverfront Park will increase public access from The Quarters to the River Valley. This will be coordinated with any future development in the triangular parcel between Grierson Hill Road, Jasper Avenue, and 96 Street. If the triangular parcel is not developed, it is recommended that the City explore opportunities to acquire the site as parkland. In the short-term, improvements will be made to address pedestrian safety at Grierson Hill and 95A Street.



4.4.1 Existing Public Places

Alex Taylor School

Classification: *Community Park*










This community park hosts the Alex Taylor School building, community garden, and sports fields, which is named after the past chairman of the Edmonton Public School Board. It is also the location of Edmonton City Centre Church (E4C), a non-profit organization that helps to build community and eliminate poverty.

The sports fields in the park will be reconfigured to better facilitate active recreation and the development of a new playground. The park will serve as an active recreation hub for the growing number of residents anticipated in The Quarters. Programming will be inclusive, universally accessible, and complementary to the E4C community building functions and serve as a gathering space and point of connection between The Quarters and Riverdale.

Priority Function

-  Medium
-  Medium
-  High

Proposed Programming



-  Food Production
-  Ecological Protection
-  Exercise + Active Transportation
-  Leisure + Retreat
-  Community Gathering
-  Recreation + Sports
-  Play
-  History + Culture
-  Views + Vistas (River Valley, School Building)

Capital Line LRT Shared Use Pathway

Classification: *Greenway*

The Capital Line LRT Shared Use Pathway is a key active modes connection from Mary Burle Park northeast. The City will explore opportunities for providing programmed open space nodes along the path and enhancing the interface with adjacent lots and uses along the public place.

Priority Function

-  Low
-  Medium
-  High

Proposed Programming

-  Exercise + Active Transportation
-  Leisure + Retreat




Boyle Street Plaza

Classification: *Plaza*




The Boyle Street Plaza contains a community centre that includes the YMCA Child Care Centre, YMCA Family Resource Centre, and the Boyle Street Community League offices. It provides multi-purpose programming and space for physical activity functions. The existing plaza functions as a supporting space for community recreation and celebrations.

The plaza will continue to function as a space for celebrations as well as provide additional amenities for passive and active recreation on non-event days. Streetscape improvements, including landscaping, will improve pedestrian safety and comfort along 103A Avenue and 104 Avenue adjacent to the plaza.

Priority Function

-  Low
-  High
-  High

Proposed Programming







-  Leisure + Retreat
-  Community Gathering
-  Events + Showcase

Mary Burlie Park

Classification: *Community Park*

Mary Burlie Park is a small Community Park that contains a gazebo and grassy area. It currently functions as a rest and gathering space, primarily for those experiencing homelessness. The Chinatown Strategy outlines preliminary recommendations for the space which have been considered in the recommendations of this plan. Additional public engagement should be conducted to reaffirm these recommendations.

The park will continue to serve as an inclusive gathering space for those experiencing homelessness and will additionally serve as a cultural focal point and gathering space for the surrounding community. Care will be taken to improve public access and visibility of the park by softening the edges and removing fencing where possible. The park will be better connected to the shared-use pathway and improvements to the 97 Street Bridge. All development in the park will thoughtfully consider the needs of the those currently using the park.

Priority Function	Proposed Programming
 Medium	 Exercise + Active Transportation
 Medium	 Leisure + Retreat
 High	 Community Gathering







4.4.2 New Public Places

Boyle Renaissance Phase III

Classification: *TBD*

The Boyle Renaissance development is a City-led redevelopment located between 95 Street and 96 Street, extending from 103A Avenue north to the LRT tracks. Boyle Renaissance has helped to establish a strong sense of community by bringing together a diversity of affordable and market housing opportunities while acknowledging existing heritage.

Additional open space is being planned as part of Phase III of development to improve its current functions. This open space will complement the existing plaza to the south by providing additional uses that connect with the LRT corridor and shared-use pathway. Programming will be coordinated with adjacent developments to establish active edges, incorporate child play areas, and provide food spaces (e.g. urban gardens) to support the growing residential community.

Priority Function	Proposed Programming
 Medium	 Food Production
 Medium	 Leisure + Retreat
 High	 Community Gathering
	 Views + Vistas (Iron Works Building)

Kinistinâw Park

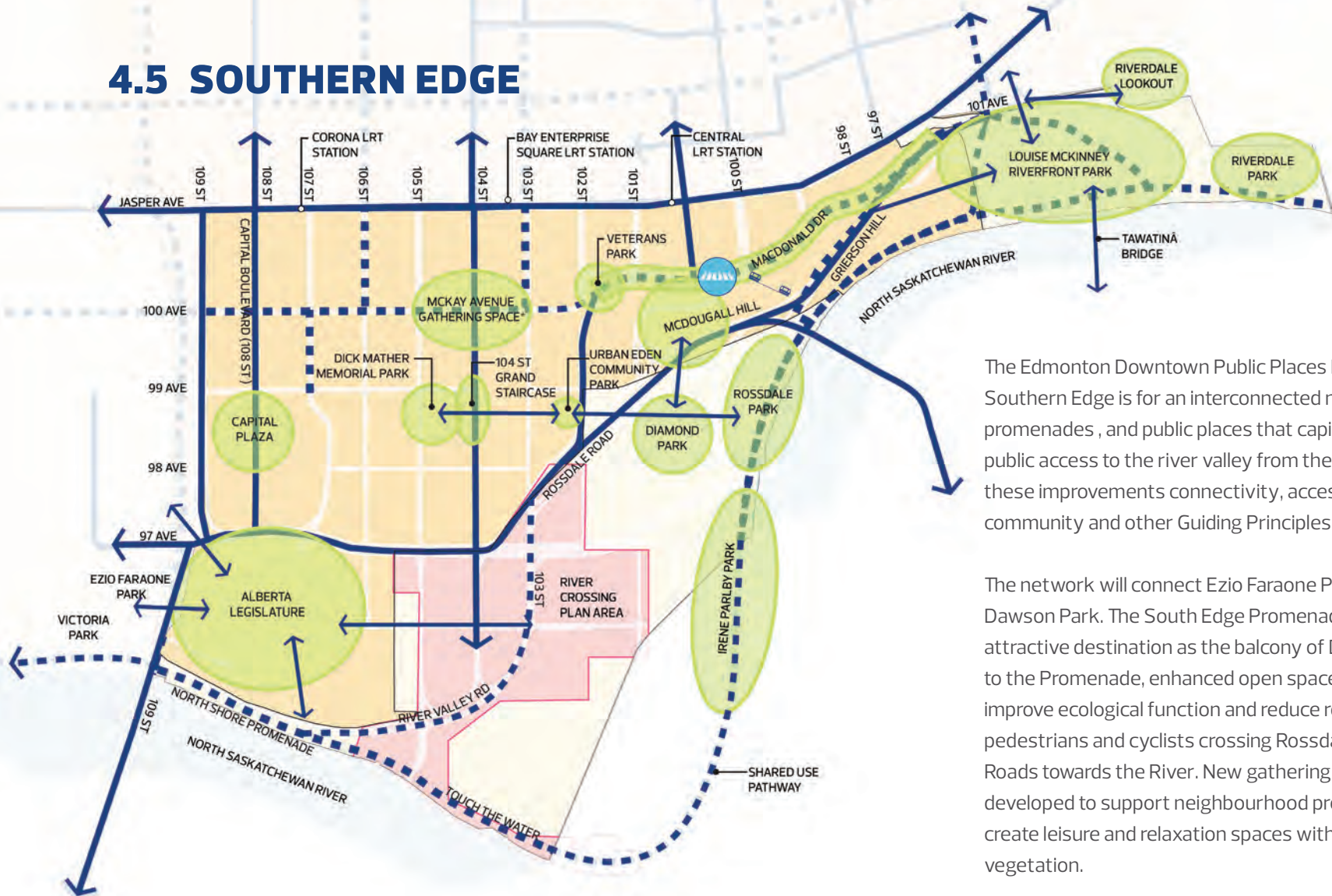
Classification: *Community Park*

Kinistinâw Park is currently a grassy open space along the 96 Street Armature.

The park will be developed as a community space for people to gather with seating, landscaping, and other amenities. It will be inviting and safe, functioning as the centrepiece of The Quarters Downtown. The park will reflect the past, present, and future stories of the community, encouraging everyday enjoyment and special opportunities for celebration and gathering. Integrated with the surrounding streets and properties, the park will be a dynamic and neighbourhood destination that is a source of local pride. Opportunities will be explored to expand the park contiguously to the north or east.

Priority Function	Proposed Programming
 Medium	 Leisure + Retreat
 Medium	 Community Gathering
 High	 History + Culture

4.5 SOUTHERN EDGE



The Edmonton Downtown Public Places Plan vision for the Southern Edge is for an interconnected network of streets, promenades, and public places that capitalize on views of and public access to the river valley from the top of bank. Through these improvements connectivity, access, sense of community and other Guiding Principles will be addressed.

The network will connect Ezio Faraone Park all the way east to Dawson Park. The South Edge Promenade will become an attractive destination as the balcony of Downtown. In addition to the Promenade, enhanced open space connections will improve ecological function and reduce road barriers for pedestrians and cyclists crossing Rosedale and McDougall Hill Roads towards the River. New gathering spaces will also be developed to support neighbourhood programming as well as create leisure and relaxation spaces with seating and vegetation.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>Big Moves</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + South Edge Promenade + 104 Street Grand Staircase + Rosedale+ McDougall Hill Roads + McKay Avenue Gathering Space <p>Existing Public Places</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Alberta Legislature Grounds + Dick Mather Memorial Park + Louise McKinney Riverfront Park + Rosedale Park + Irene Parlby Park + Urban Eden Community Park + Veterans Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Beatrice Carmichael Park + Diamond Park |
|---|--|--|

Public Places
 Public Place Connections
 Active Transportation Route
 Enhanced Crossing

0 125 250M

4.5.1 Big Moves

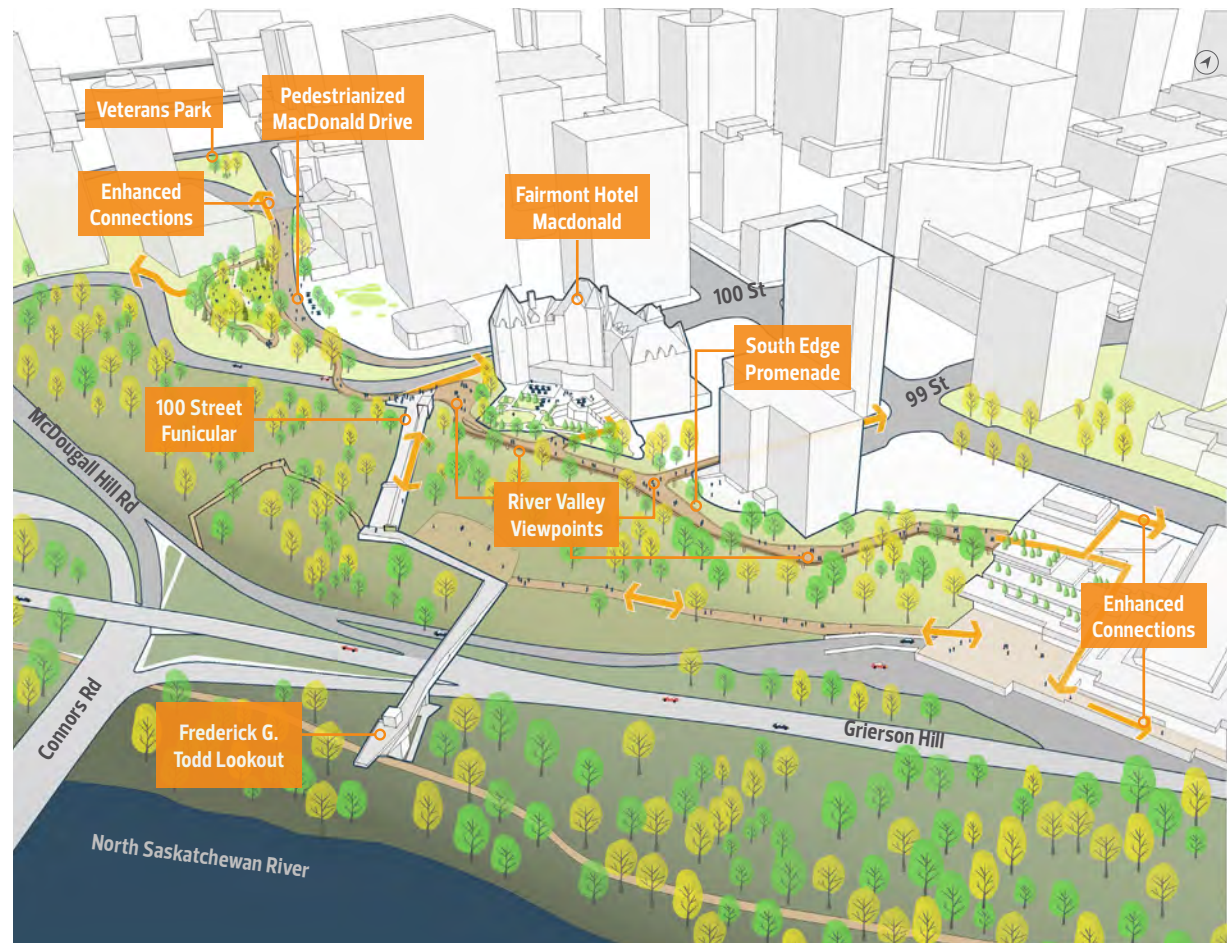
South Edge Promenade

Classification: Promenade

Create a continuous pedestrian connection along the top of bank of the River Valley.

The South Edge Promenade will become the balcony of Downtown Edmonton, winding its way along the top of bank edge of the River Valley from the Edmonton Convention Centre to the 100 Street Funicular, and over 100 Street towards Veterans Park. This connection will improve public access to the top of bank as well as connect to access points into the River Valley.

The new Promenade will provide the best views of the River Valley with prominent lookouts and points of interest along its length. These points of interest will support small scale programming and interpretive elements as well as wellness spaces with seating and landscaping. Opportunities to close or establish the adjacent MacDonald Drive as a pedestrian priority, shared space will be explored. The South Edge Promenade will be a premier Edmonton destination, enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.



Priority Function Proposed Programming



Low



Medium



High



Exercise + Active
Transportation



Leisure + Retreat



History + Culture



Views + Vistas (River
Valley, Hotel
Macdonald)

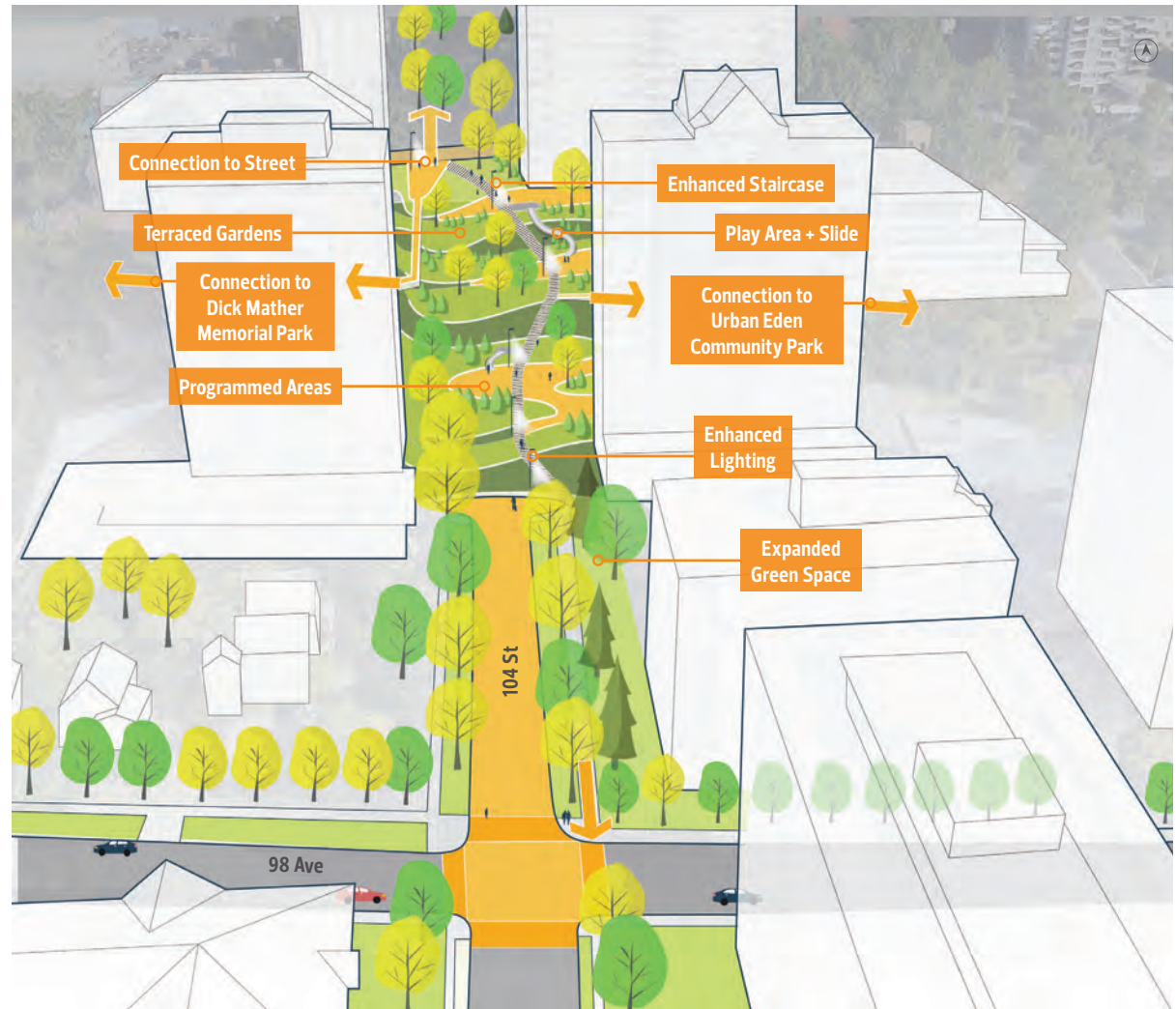
104 Street Grand Staircase

Classification: Greenway




Redevelop the 104 Street Stairs to provide enhanced connection to the River Valley.

The 104 Street Grand Staircase, immediately east of the historic McKay Avenue School, connects Downtown to Rossdale and the River Valley down the steep slope from 99 Avenue and 98 Avenue. The 104 Street Grand Staircase is currently a wooden staircase surrounded by coarse vegetation. It is currently used as an exercise route.

This stairway will be reimagined as a grand staircase that functions as a destination as well as a connection. It will serve as an activity node between Downtown's 104 Street Promenade and the proposed pedestrian oriented 104 Street in Rossdale/River Crossing. It will connect east toward the Urban Eden Community Park and west towards Dick Mather Memorial Park. The redeveloped staircase will incorporate multiple landings that offer places for fitness, socializing, sitting, viewpoints and rest. Programming elements will include play features and the continuation of the Heritage Trail.



Priority Function

-  Medium
-  Low
-  High

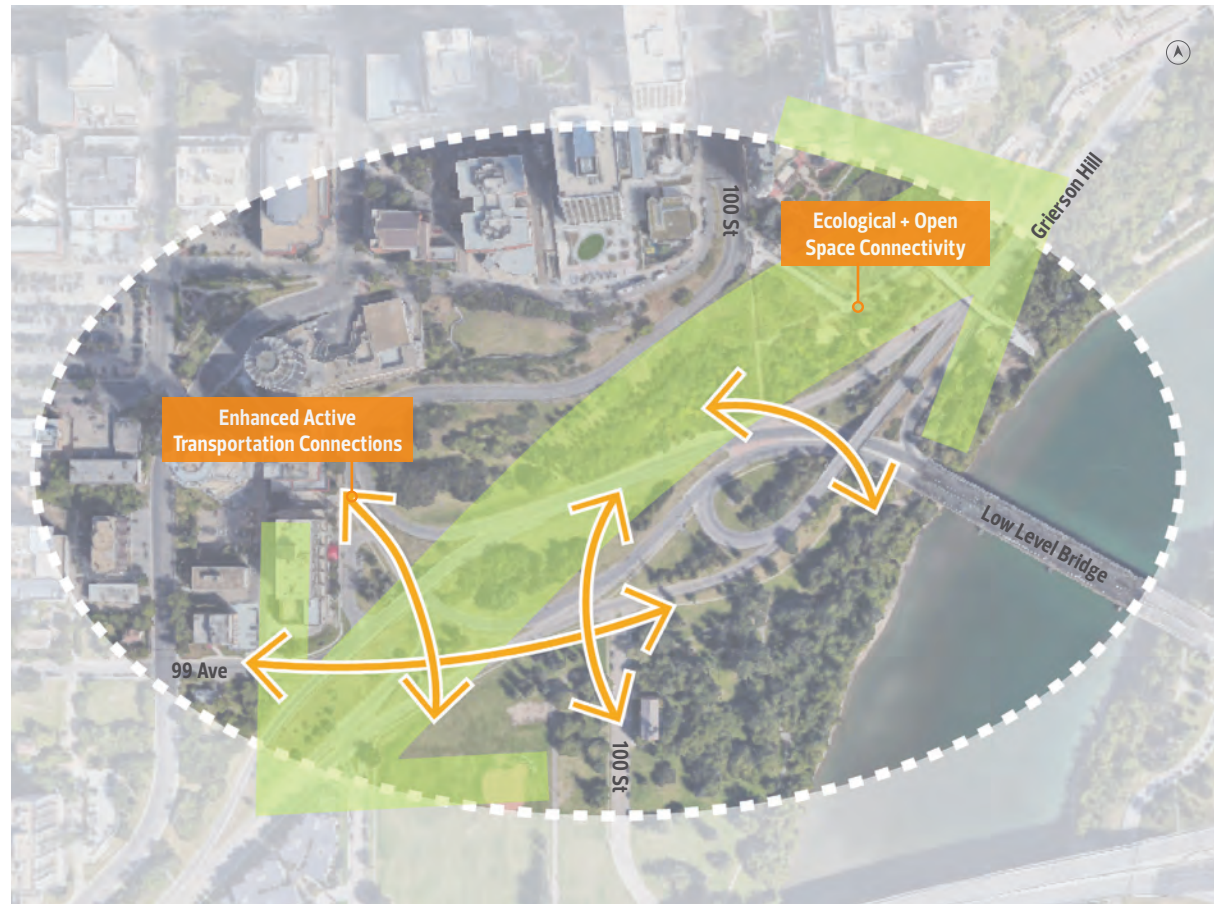
Proposed Programming

-  Ecological Protection
-  Exercise + Active
-  Transportation
-  Play
-  Views + Vistas (River Valley, Walterdale Bridge, Rossdale Power Plant)

Rossdale + McDougall Hill Roads

Improve ecological function and reduce road barriers for pedestrians and cyclists crossing Rossdale and McDougall Hill Roads towards the river.

McDougall Hill Road and Rossdale Road act as a significant barrier to river valley public access. To improve public access, this study will examine opportunities to reduce barriers to safe pedestrian and bike movement to Rossdale Park, Diamond Park, Louise McKinney Riverfront Park, and McDougall Hill. Future opportunities to realign roads, create new open spaces for future programming, and improve ecological function will be explored.



McKay Avenue Central Gathering Space

Classification: Community Park





Develop a community gathering space for the McKay Avenue community.

A new gathering space (location not specified) will be developed to serve the growing residential population of McKay Avenue. The recommended location is to be close to 100 Avenue, well connected to the Downtown cycle network, and up to one hectare in size. The community park will incorporate elements of play for children and families, open space for sporting activities, as well as areas of soft landscaping and trees to accommodate passive recreation activities.

Priority Function

-  Medium
-  Medium
-  High

Proposed Programming

-  Leisure + Retreat
-  Recreation + Sports
-  Community Gathering
-  Play



*Approximately 1 hectare, for illustration purposes only.

4.5.2 Existing Public Places




Alberta Legislature Grounds

Classification: *Provincial Park*













The Alberta Legislature Building is a prominent Beaux-Arts building surrounded by landscaped Provincial grounds. The grounds are a premier public place in the city, as they are vibrant and offer year-round animation with a wading pool in the summer months and decorative light displays in winter. The grounds offer extensive walking paths, seating, and stunning views of the River Valley.

The grounds will continue to serve as a place of celebration for the Provincial Capital, with additional programming and an enhanced connection to the River Valley. The City will support efforts of the Province to expand the grounds towards the river's edge.

Priority Function

-  High
-  High
-  High

Proposed Programming

-  Nature Appreciation
-  Exercise + Active Transportation
-  Leisure + Retreat
-  Recreation + Sports
-  Community Gathering
-  Play
-  Events + Showcase
-  Food Service
-  History + Culture
-  Transit Plaza
-  Washroom
-  Views + Vistas (Alberta Legislature Building, River Valley)

Dick Mather Memorial Park

Classification: *Community Park*






The Dick Mather Memorial Park is a historically significant community park surrounding the Archives Museum and the Edmonton 1881 McKay Avenue School. The grounds contain grass lawns to the west, a small child play feature, gardens, and a gazebo.

An additional entrance through the chain link fence will increase connectivity of the park to the West. The park will incorporate additional seating at view points and pathways throughout the park to increase overall connectivity. Connections to the surrounding community and the 104 Street Grand Staircase will be enhanced.

Priority Function

-  Medium
-  Medium
-  High

Proposed Programming

-  Leisure + Retreat
-  Community Gathering
-  Play
-  History + Culture
-  Views + Vistas (Archives Museum)




Louise McKinney Riverfront Park

Classification: *Metropolitan Park*













Louise McKinney Riverfront Park, located to the east of the Edmonton Convention Centre, is the front door to the river valley parks and trails system. It links the convention centre to the river valley. Encompassing nearly 13 hectares of land with a 500-metre long unobstructed river view.

Improvements to the park will focus on enhancing the space's role as a place for leisure and enjoyment of the river by connecting it to surrounding communities, Jasper Avenue, and Grierson Hill. This will help to achieve a Downtown that is a vibrant place to live, work, learn, visit, and grow up in. Universally accessible north-south multi-use pathways will be developed from the waterfront through the park to cross Grierson Hill Road and connect to Jasper Avenue and the 100 Street Funicular. Seating will be placed strategically along trails and walkways to serve as resting points offering river valley views.

Priority Function

-  High
-  High
-  High

Proposed Programming

-  Nature Appreciation
-  Food Production
-  Ecological Protection
-  Exercise + Active Transportation
-  Leisure + Retreat
-  Recreation + Sports
-  Community Gathering
-  Events + Showcase
-  Food Service
-  History + Culture
-  Washroom
-  Views + Vistas (River Valley, Downtown Skyline)

Rossdale Park + Irene Parlby Park

Classification:




- + Rossdale Park: Metropolitan Park
- + Irene Parlby Park: Ecological Park

Rossdale Park + Irene Parlby Park are regional open spaces that host a trail system along the North Saskatchewan River's edge, connecting to the neighborhoods of downtown.

Improvements to these parks will ensure they are well connected to the rest of the public places network with increased public access across 100 Street. Care will be taken to protect the ecological integrity of the riparian zone while providing new viewpoints, seating, and amenities along the river.

Rossdale Park

Priority Function

-  High
-  Low
-  High

Proposed Programming

-  Nature Appreciation
-  Ecological Protection
-  Exercise + Active Transportation
-  Leisure + Retreat
-  Food Service
-  History + Culture
-  Views + Vistas (River Valley)

Irene Parlyb Park:

Priority Function	Proposed Programming
High	Nature Appreciation
Low	Ecological Protection
High	Exercise + Active Transportation
	Leisure + Retreat
	Community Gathering
	Play
	Views + Vistas

Urban Eden Community Park

Classification: *Community Park*

The Urban Eden Community Park's main function is as an urban garden space. Improvements to the park will focus on creating a community gathering space centred around food and play to complement the garden. The park will be expanded to provide additional opportunities for recreation and play which will capitalize on the park's existing connections to transit. This park is connected from the 104 Grand Staircase towards Diamond and Rosedale Parks via the Heritage Trail (page 88).

Priority Function	Proposed Programming
High	Food Production
Low	
Medium	

Veterans Park

Classification: *Plaza*

Veterans Park is the original location of the Cenotaph War Memorial, which has since been relocated to City Hall. The park now hosts a commemorative cenotaph with landscaping and seating.

Veterans Park's role as a place of rest and reflection will be enhanced by softening the park edges, providing additional soft landscaping, and adding contextual public art. The universal accessibility of park paths will be improved, and additional pathways will connect the park to the Downtown, the 100 Street Funicular, South Edge Promenade, Grierson Hill, and the River.

Priority Function	Proposed Programming
Low	Leisure + Retreat
High	History + Culture
Medium	Views + Vistas (McDougall Church)

Beatrice Carmichael Park

Classification: *Pocket Park*








Beatrice Carmichael Park is a well-designed pocket park that is softly landscaped with trees lining the edges, and large planters with annual flowers. A brick pathway runs through the centre and connects 104 Street west to the alley, towards 105 Street. The trees in the park provide shade, and benches along the pathway make this space a comfortable lunching or reading space. Additional lighting throughout the park will enhance safety and help to connect its edges.

Priority Function	Proposed Programming
Medium	Leisure + Retreat
Low	Food Service
High	

Diamond Park

Classification: District Park







Diamond Park currently is a well-used district baseball diamond, functioning as an important sports infrastructure. The park features a small parking lot located north, behind the backstop, and bleachers behind the backstop for viewing the games. Proposed enhanced network connections to Rossdale Park and Urban Eden Park will increase Diamond Park's overall connectivity with the surrounding community. The park will continue to serve as a district level sports field, and recreation facility, as well as a community gathering location.

Priority Function	Proposed Programming
 Low	 Exercise + Active Transportation
 Medium	 Recreation + Sports
 High	 Community Gathering
	 History + Culture

100 Street Funicular

Classification: Greenway

The 100 Street Funicular provides barrier-free access from Downtown to the river valley for people of all ages and abilities. This public place serves as a destination, a connection to nature, and includes places for play, socializing, and relaxation.

Priority Function	Proposed Programming
 Low	 Exercise + Active Transportation
 Medium	 Leisure + Retreat
 High	 Views + Vistas (River Valley)



4.6 STREETS

Streets are more than just transportation corridors. They serve as vibrant public places that contribute to the ecology, celebration, and wellness functions as well as provide connectivity within the network. These streets should be designed with a focus on pedestrians and should be easily converted to pedestrian-only spaces for festivals, parades, and other events. Development along these streets should provide rear alley access to minimize the impacts of street closures and create opportunities for widening sidewalks.

This section indicates the primary function and programming of several key pedestrian priority streets. The list of pedestrian priority streets and promenades are not limited to the list provided in this plan.

Priority Function Proposed Programming

- | | | | |
|--|--------|--|----------------------------------|
| | Low | | Exercise + Active Transportation |
| | High | | Events + Showcase |
| | Medium | | Food Service |

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Streets | + 104 Street Promenade |
| + Jasper Avenue | + 96 Street Armature |
| + Capital Boulevard (108 Street) | + 97 Street |
| + Rice Howard Way | + 98 Street |
| + Columbia Avenue (105 Avenue) | + Heritage Trail |



Jasper Avenue

Classification: *Pedestrian Priority Street + Promenade*

Known historically as Edmonton's main street, the pedestrian experience and function of Jasper Avenue will continue to be enhanced. The Imagine Jasper project will improve the street's connectivity and functionality, including safer crossings, development of social gathering spaces on street corners, additional transit amenities, food services, and general landscaping improvements.

Additionally, a top of bank promenade along Jasper Avenue will be developed east of 92 Street in Boyle Street overlooking the River Valley.

Capital Boulevard (108 Street)

Classification: *Pedestrian Priority Street*

Capital Boulevard has been recently designed as a grand boulevard that originates at the Alberta Legislature Building and stretches north to the MacEwan University Towers. The prominence of this street will continue to be enhanced as an important north-south pedestrian connection and grand entrance to the Alberta Legislature Grounds. The boulevard will promote connection, active transportation, and protect sightlines to both the Alberta Legislature Grounds and MacEwan University Towers, as per the Guiding Principles. The streetscape will be activated through well designed ground floor commercial activities and food services such as shopping, restaurants, and cafés, and temporary street closures for events and activities.

Rice Howard Way

Classification: *Pedestrian Priority Street*

Rice Howard Way is comprised of the original Rice (100A) Street and Howard (101A) Avenue. It is a popular pedestrian destination, offering many opportunities to enjoy food and other social activities.

To improve these functions, the pedestrian experience of Rice Howard Way will be enhanced through modernization of street furniture and landscaping. Facilitation of temporary closure of the street for events will be examined. Patios and active commercial frontage will be encouraged to make the street more vibrant. Additionally, Improvements to Rice Howard Way will be coordinated with Padua Way and Shoctor Alley to promote a cohesive destination.

Columbia (105) Avenue

Classification: *Pedestrian Priority Street*

Streetscape improvements to Columbia (105) Avenue aim to revitalize and improve the appearance and function of 105 Avenue from 97 through 116 Street for pedestrians, Cyclists, and community members. The street will have comfortable seating and increased tree canopy.



104 Street Promenade

Classification: *Pedestrian Priority Street*

104 Street Promenade is an attractive, pedestrian friendly street lined with a diverse array of commercial amenities including retail outlets, restaurants, and cafés. One of the prominent features is the “Neon Sign Museum” a row of neon signage along the street. The Promenade is closed to vehicular traffic several times a year for festivals and events, making it a vibrant and social space.

The Promenade will extend south, connecting to the 104 Street Grand Staircase, and continue to function as a main street for River Crossing towards the Rosedale Power Plant. 104 Street will continue to host active retail frontages, events, and community activities. Vehicle access will be organized so that it does not impede programming and so the street can accommodate temporary road closures for events.

96 Street Armature

Classification: *Pedestrian Priority Street*

The Armature is a highly walkable, pedestrian priority street that connects The Quarters to the North Saskatchewan River Valley. It will become more cohesive and engaging with the combination of all-season parks, urban plazas, shopping, eating, and entertainment activities. This process will be designed to make the Armature the hub of commercial and social activities in The Quarters.

With the addition of new parks along its length, including Kinistinâw Park, the Armature will serve as a social gathering place for the developing neighbourhood.

Active frontages and seating will be encouraged along the length of the Armature and connecting pedestrian priority streets. The street will allow for temporary closures to support events and street activities.

97 Street

Classification: *Pedestrian Priority Street*

97 Street is the primary street of Chinatown, which connects both Chinatown North and Cultural Chinatown South. As per the Chinatown Strategy, 97 Street will be enhanced with strong elements of design that will secure commercial destination appeal, enhance placemaking, and bolster economic development of the area. North–South walkability will be strengthened along 97 Street to enhance connectivity to Chinatown North and the 97 Street Bridge.

98 Street

Classification: *Pedestrian Priority Street and Plaza*

98 Street functions as a complementary commercial street to 97 Street. The concept in the Chinatown Strategy envisions the street inciting new investment and programming diversity and being used for special events and celebrations. This will be achieved through improvements such as wider sidewalks and special paving.

Heritage Trail

Classification: *Promenade*

The Heritage Trail is a network of streets and paths that run northeast–southwest, through Edmonton's Downtown. It extends from the Alberta Legislature Grounds to the Jasper Avenue and 82 Street intersection.

To complement its function as an active transportation route, the trail offers historical appreciation, and beautiful river views, linking it to the River. Increased passive and active recreation opportunities will improve the vibrancy and health of the area. The section of the trail running parallel to Dawson Park will incorporate viewpoints, landings, and interpretive signage to increase the sense of community. The trail will expand the existing network towards Dawson Park, Rosedale Park, and River Crossing.

5 IMPLEMENTATION



5.1 IMPLEMENTATION

The recommendations provided in this Plan coordinate the City's future investment in public places to improve the function, connectivity, and provision of the Downtown public places network. Centred around the eight Guiding Principles and five Strategic Directions, the Plan identifies how all public places should be designed and programmed to positively contribute to the sustainability, vibrancy, design, and accessibility of Downtown. Additionally, the Plan provides guidance on where to site new public places, what each public place's role is in the wider network, and how they connect to one another to resolve existing gaps in space and function.

To do this effectively, a comprehensive implementation program is required. The implementation program addresses the following areas:

- + Implementation Actions
- + Capital Program Guidance Implementation Principles
- + Monitoring, Evaluation, and Review



5.2 IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

The Implementation Plan provides guidance for the City of Edmonton on how to achieve the Strategic Directions and recommendations of the Downtown Public Places Plan. The following actions are to be completed within the immediate, short- (next 5 years) or medium-term timeframes (next 10 years). Wherever possible, actions will be aligned and coordinated with other open space initiatives.

A. Area Redevelopment Plan Amendments

- a) Amend the Capital City Downtown Plan and Quarters Downtown Area Redevelopment Plan with updated maps and text that refer to the Downtown Public Places Plan to support open space acquisition and public place recommendations.

Timeline: Immediate

Lead: City Planning

Support: Development Services

B. Open Space Inventory Update

- a) Transfer City-owned assets intended as open space within the Study Area to parks holdings.

Timeline: Short-Term

Lead: City Planning

C. Capital Program

- a) Develop a long-term capital program that prioritizes and provides sustainable funding for site-specific plans, designs, studies, acquisition, development and redevelopment as outlined in Strategic Direction 1 and Strategic Direction 3. The Capital Program will be opportunity-based and updated in alignment with the City's capital budget cycle and community revitalization levies in order to inform capital investment priorities.

Timeline: Short-Term

Lead: Cross-Departmental

D. Interim Open Space Use for Undeveloped Acquisitions

- a) Adopt an acquisition phase standard ensuring land is ready for both development and interim open space uses.
- b) Develop an interim open space use approach for undeveloped open spaces.

Timeline: Short-Term

Lead: City Planning

Support: Development Services, Citizen Services

E. Publicly-Accessible Private Park Guide

- a) Develop a guide for landowners and developers interested in developing a publicly-accessible private park. The guide will outline the City's recommendations for publicly-accessible private park governance (principles, operation, agreements), planning and design, and inclusive patron management.

Timeline: Medium-Term

Lead: City Planning

Support: Development Services

F. Community Stewardship Programs

- a) Develop programs to provide citizens, businesses, and organizations opportunities for downtown public place stewardship, activation, beautification, and maintenance as per recommendations 3.6.2.F, G, and H.

Timeline: Medium–Term

Lead: Citizen Services, Economic & Environmental Sustainability

Support: City Operations, Downtown Business Association

G. Heritage Trail

- a) Update urban design and planning documents for the Heritage Trail Network in alignment with the Downtown Public Places Plan.
- b) Coordinate capital investments to implement the updated plan.

Timeline: Medium–Term

Lead: Economic & Environmental Sustainability

Support: City Planning, Transportation Planning and Design

H. Schools

- a) Develop an approach for the following:
 - + Retention of School Board–owned lands for long–term school and education–oriented recreation use, including direction on interim uses, and
 - + Inclusion of public education uses in new developments, leveraging public open space opportunities.

Timeline: Medium–Term

Lead: City Planning

Support: Economic & Environmental Sustainability, School Boards, Development Services

I. Fenced Dog Off Leash Area Site Location Study

- a) Engage with community and conduct a location study for fenced dog off leash areas within the West Side and Quarters Focus Areas based on projected population growth and demand.

Timeline: West Side, Medium–Term

Quarters, Long–Term

Lead: City Operations, Economic & Environmental Sustainability

Support: Citizen Services, City Planning, City Operations

J. Pedestrian Realm Expansion

- a) Identify and analyze opportunities to reduce road widths, close or pedestrianize road right–of–way and expand the pedestrian realm within the study area. Analyses will refer to an overall vision, program objectives and impact assessments for road circulation, traffic, public transportation, active transportation, land use, and public realm connectivity.

Timeline: Ongoing

Lead: Economic & Environmental Sustainability

Support: City Planning, Transportation Planning and Design

K. Top of Bank Access

- a) Identify, engage, and collaborate with landowners to secure public access to the river valley as per recommendation 3.4.1.C.

Timeline: Ongoing

Lead: City Planning

Support: Economic & Environmental Sustainability, City Planning, Development

L. Urban Tree Canopy

- a) Identify and pursue opportunities to expand the urban tree canopy in open spaces and streetscapes in alignment with recommendations 3.7.2.B and C.

Timeline: Ongoing

Lead: Economic & Environmental Sustainability, City Planning

Support: City Operations

M. Monitoring and Reporting Plan

- a) In alignment with the Green Network Monitoring and Reporting Plan identified in the Breathe Implementation Plan, establish and measure selected indicators on a continuous basis to provide a meaningful understanding of the Downtown open space network. Partnerships with communities and research institutions may be explored in order to deliver this monitoring.
- b) Report Monitoring and Reporting Plan indicators to the public in a clear and concise manner.

Timeline: Ongoing

Lead: City Planning

N. Flexible Seating Program

- a) Engage with community stakeholders and business and identify targeted areas within the study area for flexible and movable seating as per recommendation 3.6.1.D.

Timeline: Medium-Term

Lead: Economic & Environmental Sustainability

Support: City Operations, Citizen Services,

Downtown Business Association

O. Internal Review and Update

- a) Review existing City policies, strategies, programs and processes to ensure alignment with the Downtown Public Places Plan and address gaps. This includes the following areas:
 - + Commercial on parkland
 - + Park signage
 - + Festivals and events
 - + Green roofs
 - + Public Art
 - + Washrooms
 - + Wayfinding
 - + Zoning Bylaw
 - + Breathe implementation

Timeline: Medium-Term

Lead: Cross-Departmental

Support: City Planning, Economic & Environmental Sustainability

P. City Planning Framework Transition

- a) Review the Downtown Public Places Plan, particularly the Downtown-Wide Recommendations, to address the City Planning Framework and future district planning.

Timeline Medium-Term

Lead: City Planning

5.3 CAPITAL IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS

Many recommendations from the Downtown Public Places Plan are already being implemented through the community revitalization levy projects (e.g. Warehouse Campus Park, Green and Walkable Downtown). New open space acquisitions and redevelopment however will require new sources of funding. This section provides the principles to evaluate and prioritize capital financing for unfunded projects outlined in Strategic Directions 1 and 3.

5.3.1 Open Space Acquisition

The City of Edmonton will use the following principles to achieve the open space supply target as per Strategic Direction 1:

- + Prioritize acquisitions that support wellness functionality within the Downtown
- + Prioritize acquisitions that provide a distribution of community parks in alignment with Strategic Direction 2
- + Prioritize acquisitions of pocket parks that fulfill specific programming and connectivity gaps within the vicinity of new population and/or activity growth, particularly in the Southern Edge and Quarters Focus Areas.
- + Prioritize acquisition of public access rights across private lands to address connectivity gaps in the open space network.
- + Evaluate the cost of deferring acquisition to a later timeline based on projected future land prices
- + Evaluate spontaneous acquisition opportunities on a case-by-case basis
- + Take in account the relation between potential acquisitions and existing and planned land uses and infrastructure.

Supplementary to the Downtown open space network, the City of Edmonton will work with developers to provide publicly-accessible private parks in alignment with Section 3.9.4.

5.3.2 Site-Specific Planning + (Re)Development Prioritization

Site-specific plans will be completed for the elements identified within Strategic Direction 1 and 3. Site-specific plans will vary in scale and scope, and may range from streetscaping to park redevelopment, up to major infrastructure projects. Wherever feasible, site planning should be comprehensive in area, as this allows the City to plan, develop, and manage the open space network holistically, ensuring efficient use of resources, coordination, and limited disturbances to the Downtown communities.

Prioritization of site-specific planning and (re) development exercises will consider:

- + Level of open space functionality provided by the site in question
- + Opportunities for the following:
 - > Gaps to be filled in the open space network (e.g. recreation, connectivity, education, programming, interpretation, accessibility)
 - > Additional funds available for site-specific planning and redevelopment upon onset of infrastructure life cycle renewal
 - > Coordination between other municipal initiatives and projects

5.4 PLAN MONITORING, EVALUATION + REVIEW

5.4.1 Plan Monitoring + Evaluation

To measure the effectiveness of the Downtown Public Places Plan, indicators are required. The City will establish a baseline, develop indicators, and monitor indicators upon approval of the Plan and through the Monitoring and Reporting Plan action identified in Section 5.2.N, and in conjunction with broader open space monitoring.

5.4.2 Plan Review

Regular reviews will allow planners to evaluate changes in the Downtown open space network and adjust if necessary. This will ensure that the Downtown Public Places Plan remains relevant over time and reflects adaptive management best practices.

- + Review the Downtown Public Places Plan every 5 years in order to consider administrative updates, emerging trends, implementation progress, and policy gaps.
- + Undertake administrative updates in alignment with Council approved site-specific planning in order to ensure the plan is relevant and useful.

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APPENDIX A

GLOSSARY



GLOSSARY

Cultural landscapes: are landscapes that have been affected, influenced, or shaped by human involvement. A cultural landscape can be associated with a person or event. It can be thousands of acres or a tiny homestead. It can be a grand estate, industrial site, park, garden, cemetery, campus, and more. Collectively, cultural landscapes are works of art, narratives of culture, and expressions of regional identity.

Green Network: is an integrated system of public open spaces, connections, and functions that provide value to humans and the environment. The green network includes all the outdoor land and water that is publicly owned or allows public access, such as parks, plazas, main streets, natural areas, greenways, and green infrastructure.

Open Space: is an area of outdoor land or water that is publicly owned or allows public access, including municipal parks, civic spaces, provincial, or federal parkland, institutional campuses, and other public spaces. Elements of the public realm, such as main streets and promenades, can also provide open space functions in the Plan Area green network.

Park Pressure: the amount of pressure or stress placed on each park by calculating the park area divided by the number of residents in the dissemination block.

Publicly Accessible Private Park: means development of private land specifically designed for and reserved for use by the general public for active or passive recreational Use and includes all natural and man-made Landscaping, facilities, playing fields, buildings and other structures that are consistent with the general purposes of public parkland, but owned and operated by a private organization, non-profit organization, institution, or similar body. Typical Uses include tot lots, band shells, picnic grounds, pedestrian trails and paths, landscaped buffers, playgrounds and water features.

Public Access: Where all persons have visual and physical access to a space as a right or by express or implied invitation. (*Public Places Bylaw*).

Public Amenity Space: A space in the form of such things as an open space, park, plaza furnishings and includes locations of art, seating areas, and other amenities at ground level that are complementary to the adjacent streetscape and are visually and physically accessible to the public. (City of Edmonton, Land Use Bylaw)

Public Art (Artwork or Public Artwork): Any original work of art that is accessible to the general public. Typically, the creation of a Public Artwork takes into consideration site and context as part of its process; the Artwork can be functional, integrated or discreet to its site. Public Art mediums can include, but are not limited to: sculpture, installation, paintings, drawings, prints, photography, multi-media projects,

murals, mosaics, land art/earth works, or projects which incorporate design, architecture, or landscape architecture. (Percent for Art to Provide and Encourage Art in Public Areas Policy).

Public Place: means any property, whether publicly or privately owned, to which members of the public have access as of right or by express or implied invitation, whether on payment of any fee or not; and Publicly accessible private park (Public Places Bylaw).

Public Places Network The public places network is made up of parks, open spaces, and other civic spaces that are owned by the City or another public entity, and private spaces that allow public access through access agreements. The public places network also incorporates the City's network of streets and alleys, which are essential components of the public realm.

Strata: is when the ownership (title) of land and the building on the land is vertically subdivided into lots and common property. Generally, stratas are used to divide ownership of condominiums, but they can also be used to designate park space above a building or parking structure.

Strata Park: In a strata park, the City maintains the rights to the public place above or below someone else's private property, like a condo development. Strata parks are often located above underground or low-level parking structures, which means that they have limited functionality compared to other public places. The Public Places Plan discourages the use of City-owned Strata parks.

Universal Design: Is the design and composition of an environment so that it can be accessed, understood and used to the greatest extent possible by all people regardless of their age, size, ability or disability.
























































































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APPENDIX B




























PLACE-BASED RECOMMENDATIONS






SUMMARY TABLE

Open Space	Focus Area	Status	Classification	BREATHE Priority			Proposed Programming
				Ecology	Celebration	Wellness	
Ezio Faraone Park	West Side	Existing	Metropolitan	Medium	Medium	High	   
Railtown Park	West Side	Existing	Community	Medium	Medium	High	     
Eric Cormack Site	West Side	New	TBD	Medium	Low	High	 
Columbia Avenue Plaza	West Side	New	Plaza	Low	High	Medium	   
Jasper + 111 St	West Side	New	Publicly Accessible Private Park	Low	Medium	High	
Queen Mary Park	West Side	New	Community	Medium	Medium	High	   
104 Ave + 110 St	West Side	New	Publicly Accessible Private Park	Low	High	Medium	 
MacKenzie + Mann Park	West Side	Existing	Pocket	Medium	Low	High	   
Monsignor William Irwin Park	West Side	Existing	Community	Medium	Medium	High	     
Ribbon of Steel Greenway	West Side	Existing	Greenway	Medium	Medium	High	       
Warehouse Campus Park	Central West	New	Community	Medium	Medium	High	      

Open Space	Focus Area	Status	Classification	BREATHE Priority			Proposed Programming
				Ecology	Celebration	Wellness	
North Edge Park	Central West	New	Community	Medium	Medium	High	   
NorQuest Plaza	Central West	New	Campus	Medium	Medium	High	  
North Edge Art Park	Central West	New	Plaza	Low	High	Medium	 
Alex Decoteau Park	Central West	Existing	Community	Medium	Medium	High	     
Beaver Hills House Park + Michael Phair Park	Central West	Existing	Metropolitan	Medium	High	Medium	      
Former Railyard and Bridge	Central Core	Existing	TBD	Medium	Medium	High	  
North of Civic Precinct	Central Core	New	Publicly Accessible Private Park and Provincial	Medium	Low	High	     
Homeless Memorial Park	Central Core	Existing	Pocket Park	Medium	Medium	High	 
103A Ave + 101 St	Central Core	New	TBD	Medium	Low	High	
97 Street Park	Central Core	New	Pocket	Low	High	Medium	  

Open Space	Focus Area	Status	Classification	BREATHE Priority			Proposed Programming
				Ecology	Celebration	Wellness	
Centennial Plaza	Central Core	Existing	Squares + Plazas	Low	Medium	High	
ICE District + Plaza	Central Core	New	Publicly Accessible Private Park	Low	High	Low	
Sir Winston Churchill Square + City Hall Plaza	Central Core	Existing	Squares + Plazas	Low	High	Medium	
CKUA Plaza (unofficial name)	Central Core	Existing	Squares + Plazas	Medium	High	Medium	
MacEwan LRT Station Plaza	Central Core	Existing	Squares + Plazas	Medium	Low	High	
Alex Taylor School	Quarters	Existing	Community	Medium	Medium	High	
LRT Shared Use Pathway	Quarters	Existing	Greenway	Low	Medium	High	
Boyle Street Plaza	Quarters	Existing	Plaza	Low	High	High	
Boyle Renaissance III	Quarters	New	TBD	Medium	Medium	High	
Mary Burle Park	Quarters	Existing	Community	Medium	Medium	High	
Kinistinâw Park	Quarters	Existing	Community	Medium	Medium	High	

Open Space	Focus Area	Status	Classification	BREATHE Priority			Proposed Programming
				Ecology	Celebration	Wellness	
South Edge Promenade	Southern Edge	New	Promenade	Low	Medium	High	   
104 Street Grand Staircase	Southern Edge	New	Greenway	Medium	Low	High	   
McKay Avenue Central Gathering Space	Southern Edge	New	Community	Medium	Medium	High	   
Alberta Legislature Grounds	Southern Edge	Existing	Provincial	High	High	High	           
Dick Mather Memorial Park	Southern Edge	Existing	Community	Medium	Medium	High	    
Louise McKinney Riverfront Park	Southern Edge	Existing	Metropolitan	High	High	High	           
Rossdale Park	Southern Edge	Existing	Metropolitan	High	Low	High	      
Irene Parlby Park	Southern Edge	Existing	Ecological	High	Low	High	      
Urban Eden Community Park	Southern Edge	Existing	Community	High	Low	Medium	

Open Space	Focus Area	Status	Classification	BREATHE Priority			Proposed Programming
				Ecology	Celebration	Wellness	
Veterans Park	Southern Edge	Existing	Plaza	Low	High	Medium	
Beatrice Carmichael Park	Southern Edge	Existing	Pocket	Medium	Low	High	
Diamond Park	Southern Edge	Existing	District	Low	Medium	High	
Funicular	Southern Edge	Existing	Greenway	Low	Medium	High	
All Pedestrian Priority Streets	Central Core	Existing	Pedestrian Priority Street	Low	High	Medium	

APPENDIX C

BREATHE THEMES + FUNCTIONS

BREATHE THEMES + FUNCTIONS

ECOLOGY

- Water Management 
- Climate Regulation 
- Biodiversity 
- Risk Mitigation 
- Waste Management 
- Food Production 

CELEBRATION

- Aesthetic Value 
- Community Building 
- Public Safety 
- Heritage 
- Destination + Tourism 

WELLNESS

- Recreation 
- Mental Health + Wellbeing 
- Active Transportation 
- Learn + Play 

APPENDIX D

FOCUS AREA ANALYSIS

In advance of preparing the Downtown Public Places Plan and recommendations, an analysis was conducted of each of the Plan's Focus Areas. These analyses examined the urban context of the areas and the existing open space network within them.

The analyses helped to identify functional, connectivity, and provision gaps that needed to be addressed through the recommendations of this plan.

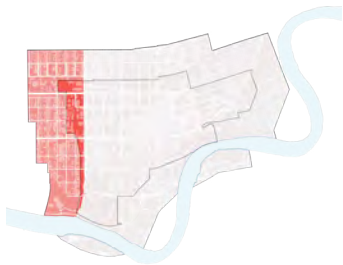
West Side

West Side Total Area: 25.41 ha
Medium-High Density
Residential Dominated

Public Space: 3.5 ha
City Owned: 33%
Privately Owned: 67%
Greenway Dominated

400m Buffer
3 Playgrounds
1 Sports Field

BREATHE: Functionality
High: Ezio Faraone Park
(Ecology + Celebration)
Multi-functionality Average:
Medium to Low



Urban Context

West Side is the smallest focus area, located along the western edge of Edmonton's Downtown, neighbouring the communities of Oliver (west) and Queen Mary Park (north). The northern half (north of Jasper Avenue) is part of the Warehouse Campus neighbourhood, characterized by an urban mix of commercial-residential uses in converted warehouses. The Warehouse Campus District, west of 109 Street, has large-format retail with large areas of surface parking, areas ripe for development.

The West Side and its neighbouring communities are residentially dominated, resulting in a medium-high density focus area. Future residential developments at 109 Street NW and Jasper Avenue propose to bring over 500 new people to the area. Additionally, the MacEwan University, whose campus straddles the West Side and Central West focus areas, brings 19,000 students into the downtown. The small park sizes and high population density in the area, contributes to the heavy pressure being felt by the parks and open spaces in the West Side, excluding Ezio Faraone Park, which is experiencing medium-low pressure. However, Ezio Faraone Park has a wider reach within the City of Edmonton as a fitness destination, point of connection across the river and as a lookout point over the river valley.

Movement + Connectivity

The West Side is quite walkable according to the walkshed analysis conducted for the Analysis Report. West Side is well served by active transportation routes, primarily the Railtown and Ribbon of Steel Greenways, however, the connection across

Jasper Avenue between the Ribbon of Steel and Railtown Park Greenway is disjointed. The West Side is served by public transit, including one underground LRT station (Grandin Station) along the Capital LRT Line and many additional bus routes. The new LRT Valley Line will have a stop to serve the northern half of the West Side.

Public Space

The West Side focus area encompasses 3.5 hectares of public spaces, including the Ribbon of Steel Greenway, Railtown Park and MacEwan University City Centre Campus grounds. Six additional open spaces are within the 400m buffer surrounding the area, including four Community Parks: Ezio Faraone Park, Kitchener Park, Monsignor William Irwin Park, MacKenzie and Mann Park. The parks within and surrounding the West Side scored a medium or low multi-functionality according to BREATHE: Edmonton's Green Network Strategy, with the exception of the Ezio Faraone Park which achieved a high score. These parks are extremely valuable to the area providing many ecological, health and wellness benefits to the residents they serve.

The north-south open space corridor is presently disjointed along the Railtown and Ribbon of Steel Greenway, and lacking in programmable space for urban life. Additionally, the neighbourhood of Oliver, north of 100 Avenue is lacking in parks or open spaces and could benefit from increased open spaces to relieve some of the pressure being placed on the existing green spaces. West Side presents many opportunities for increased functional open space enhancement, connection and vitality.



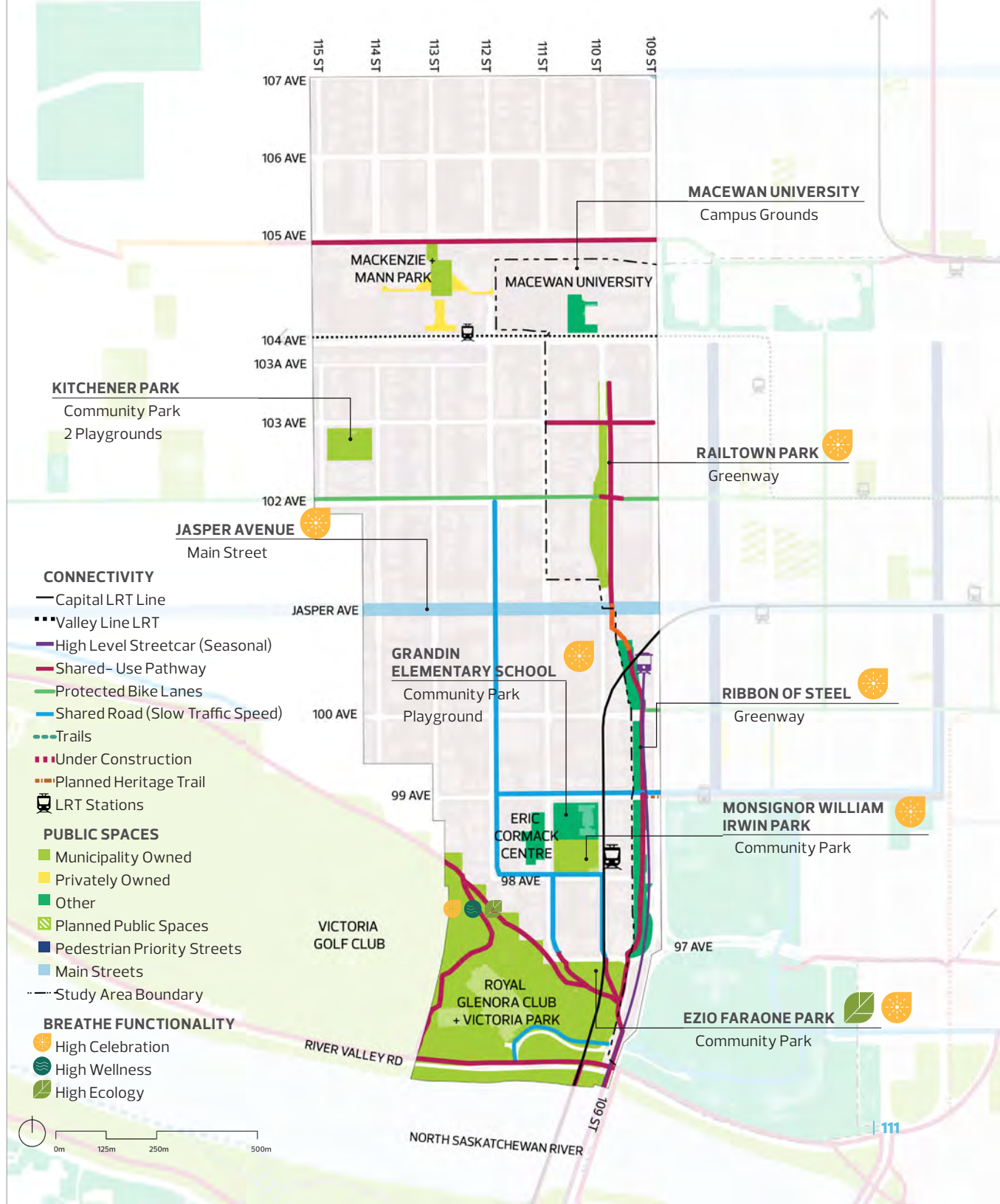
Ezio Faraone Park View towards the High Level Bridge.



Railtown Park



Ribbon of Steel Greenway



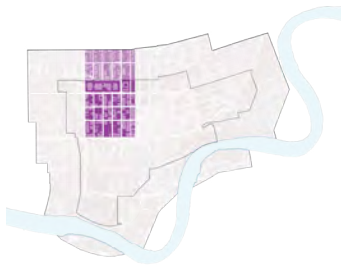
Central West

Central West Total Area: 50.5 ha
High Density

Public Space: 4.5 ha
City Owned: 19%
Privately Owned: 38%
Other: 43%
No Child Programming

BREATHE: Functionality
High Celebration scores
Low: Wellness and Ecological scores

Future Development
5+ High Density Residential
Mixed-Use Developments
Valley Line LRT Access



Urban Context

Central West encompasses the majority of the Warehouse Campus Neighbourhood, an urban mix of old warehouses converted to commercial, residential and other uses. 104 Street NW, is an attractive, pedestrian friendly street lined with a diverse array of commercial amenities, including retail outlets, restaurants and cafés. 104th Street NW is also home to the Downtown Farmers' Market and is closed to vehicular traffic several times a year for festivals.

The Urban Warehouse Zone (UW) is the dominant zone in Central West. This zone promotes the development of a unique, mixed-use neighbourhood, accommodating residential, commercial, institutional, and light manufacturing uses with a pedestrian focus. Surrounding the pedestrian oriented 104 Street NW is the Heritage Area Zone, which stipulates the preservation, rehabilitation and reuse of historical resources in the area.

Central West is densely populated; however, analysis shows that there are entire blocks with no residential population (*2016 data). These spaces, will be filled by future residential developments, including high density and mixed-use developments. These developments are expected to provide over 1300 additional residential units to Central West. The Universities bring over 28,000 students into the Central West, some as residents and others as visitors. Additional residential developments are expected in the future, therefore increasing the residential population and further increasing the stress on the available parks and open spaces.

Movement + Connectivity

Central West is served by the current Capital LRT Line by Corona Station, Bay Enterprise Square Station and MacEwan Station. The future LRT Valley Line will serve the area more completely with an additional 2 stops. The area also has well used east-west active transportation routes, including the protected bicycle facilities along 105 and 102 Avenues NW, 106 Street NW and connecting to the Ribbon of Steel.

In terms of walkability, the focus area is contained within the Pedestrian Priority zone according to the Capital City Downtown Plan and the pedestrian friendly streets of 104 and 108 Streets NW, and Jasper Avenue are heavily used by both visitors and residents alike.

Public Space

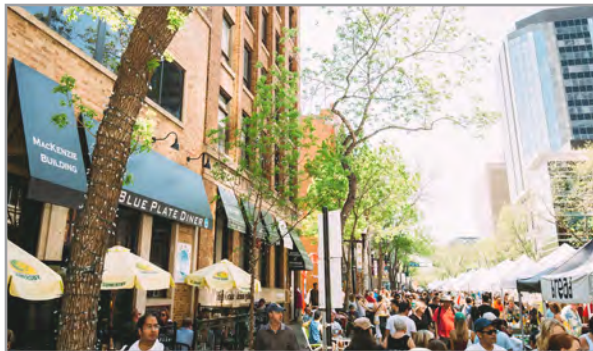
Many indoor community services and amenities are concentrated along Jasper Avenue, 108 Street NW and 104 Street NW. However, Central West is lacking in programmed outdoor public open spaces, and the existing spaces do not facilitate child-friendly activities (e.g. Playgrounds) or programmed active recreation. All parks within the Central West Focus Area face a considerable amount of pressure, and are not living up to their functionality potential, scoring an average of low functionality according to BREATHE. Central West is mostly occupied by impermeable surfaces which present opportunities for hardscape conversion. There is a need for the provision of additional, high quality parks and open spaces in Central West. Proposals such as the Warehouse Campus Park and NorQuest College, along with an increased attention to streetscapes and building façades in all new developments, will make a significant, positive difference to the quality of the public realm in Central West.



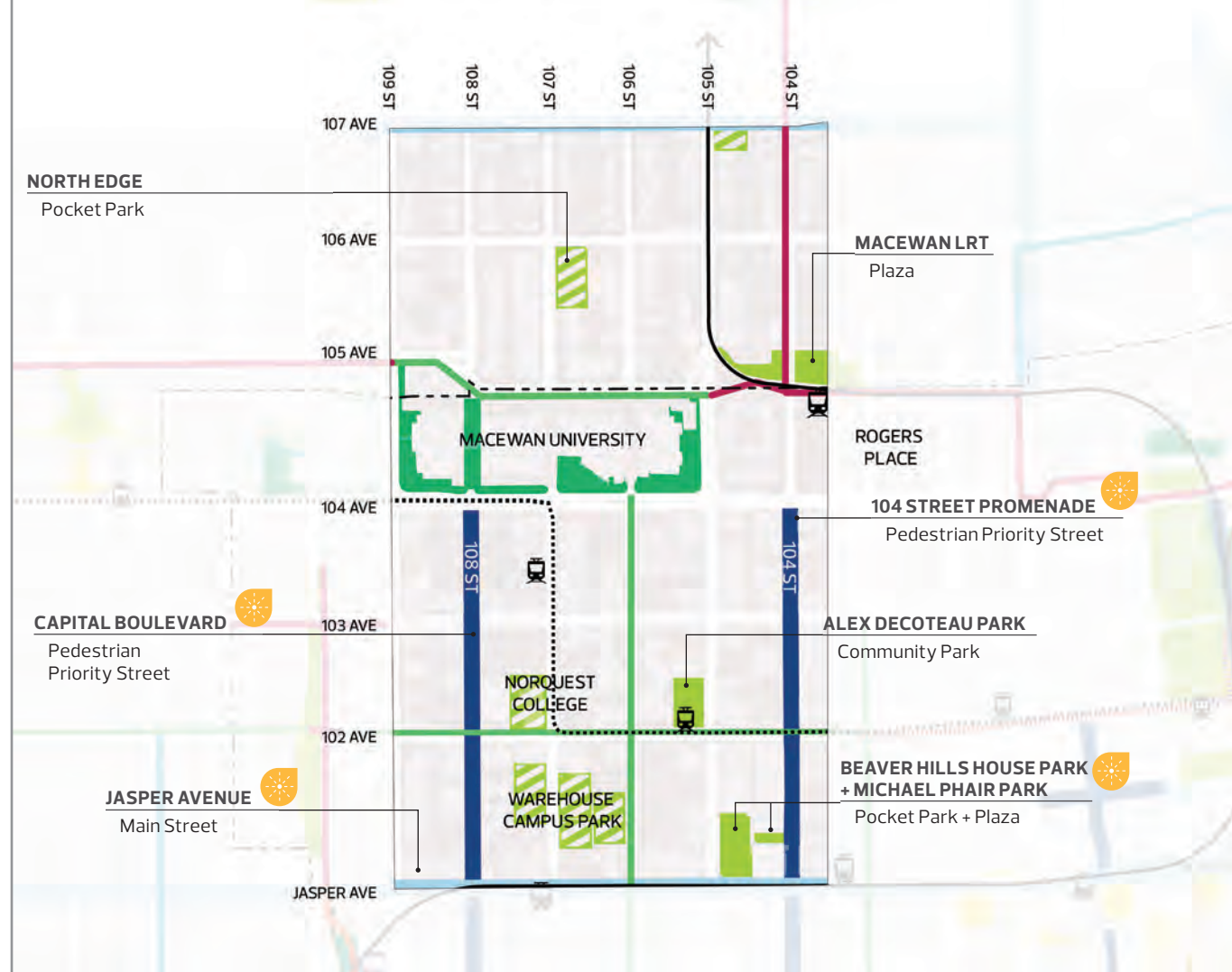
Alex Decoteau Park



Beaver Hills House Park



104 Street Promenade



CONNECTIVITY

- Capital LRT Line
- Valley Line LRT
- High Level Streetcar (Seasonal)
- Shared- Use Pathway
- Protected Bike Lanes
- Shared Road (Slow Traffic Speed)
- Trails
- Under Construction
- Planned Heritage Trail
- LRT Stations

PUBLIC SPACES

- Owned by Municipality
- Privately Owned
- Other
- Planned Public Spaces
- Pedestrian Priority Streets
- Main Streets
- Study Area Boundary

BREATHE FUNCTIONALITY

- High Celebration
- High Wellness
- High Ecology



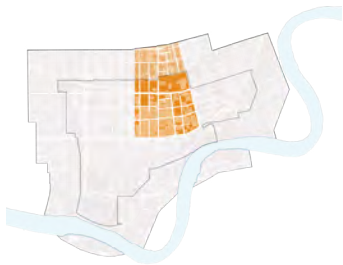
Central Core

Central Core Total Area: 60.7 ha
3 Pedestrian Priority Streets +
2 Main Streets

Public Space: 4.8 ha
City Owned: 80%
Privately Owned: 18%
Other: 2%

BREATHE: Functionality
High Celebration
High Multi-functionality: Sir
Winston Churchill Square

Future Development
Ice District Phase II
Civic Precinct
Chinatown
Valley Line LRT



Urban Context

The Central Core contains Edmonton's City Hall and the majority of Downtown's major office towers (25+ storeys), forming the heart of Edmonton's business district. The Central Core is also home to the Ice District, including the new Rogers Place. The Central Core is part of the Commercial Cultural Core Neighbourhood, a concentration of high-density commercial uses combined with cultural facilities.

As the majority of the area is made up of civic, commercial and institutional buildings, the Central Core is a destination in Downtown Edmonton, with a relatively low residential population. However, as future residential developments take shape, including Ice District Phase 2 and the Station Lands Development, the residential population will increase significantly. This projected population increase, coupled with the existing daily influx of visitors into the Central Core, places a great deal of stress upon public places. Additionally, the Central Core displays the largest proportion of individuals experiencing homelessness in the downtown.

Movement + Connectivity

The Central Core is served by a well-used east-west shared-use pathway and bike lanes, but the area is lacking in north-south active transportation routes. In particular, there is a lack of north-south connectivity north of 104 Avenue NW due to the large blocks created by Rogers Place and the Station Lands. The Central Core is currently served by many bus routes and the Capital Line LRT. The future Valley Line LRT will provide the area with an additional two LRT stations.

The Central Core contains the majority of the downtown's Interior Pedway network, as well as many planned street enhancements and proposed public spaces in the Ice District and Civic Precinct. The area is flat (between a 0–3 degree grade), very walkable and the public spaces are highly accessible by all modes of transportation.

Future developments, including the Civic Precinct and Chinatown, as well as improvements along the Jasper Avenue Streetscape will ensure the area continues to be a downtown destination. There is opportunity to encourage an increased focus on the public realm in the Central Core to influence the quality, quantity, connectivity and overall attraction of public parks and open spaces.

Public Space

Currently, there are 4.79 hectares of public spaces including pedestrian priority streets along Rice Howard Way, Rice Howard Way NW and 100 Street NW beside both Sir Winston Churchill Square and City Hall. Sir Winston Churchill Square experiences a high levels of daily programming, hosting festivals, events and other day to day activities. The majority of the current public spaces are plazas or streets and are contained between 99 and 100 Streets NW. There are no large green spaces to enable passive or active recreational activities or any places with child-friendly programming.



Sir Winston Churchill Square

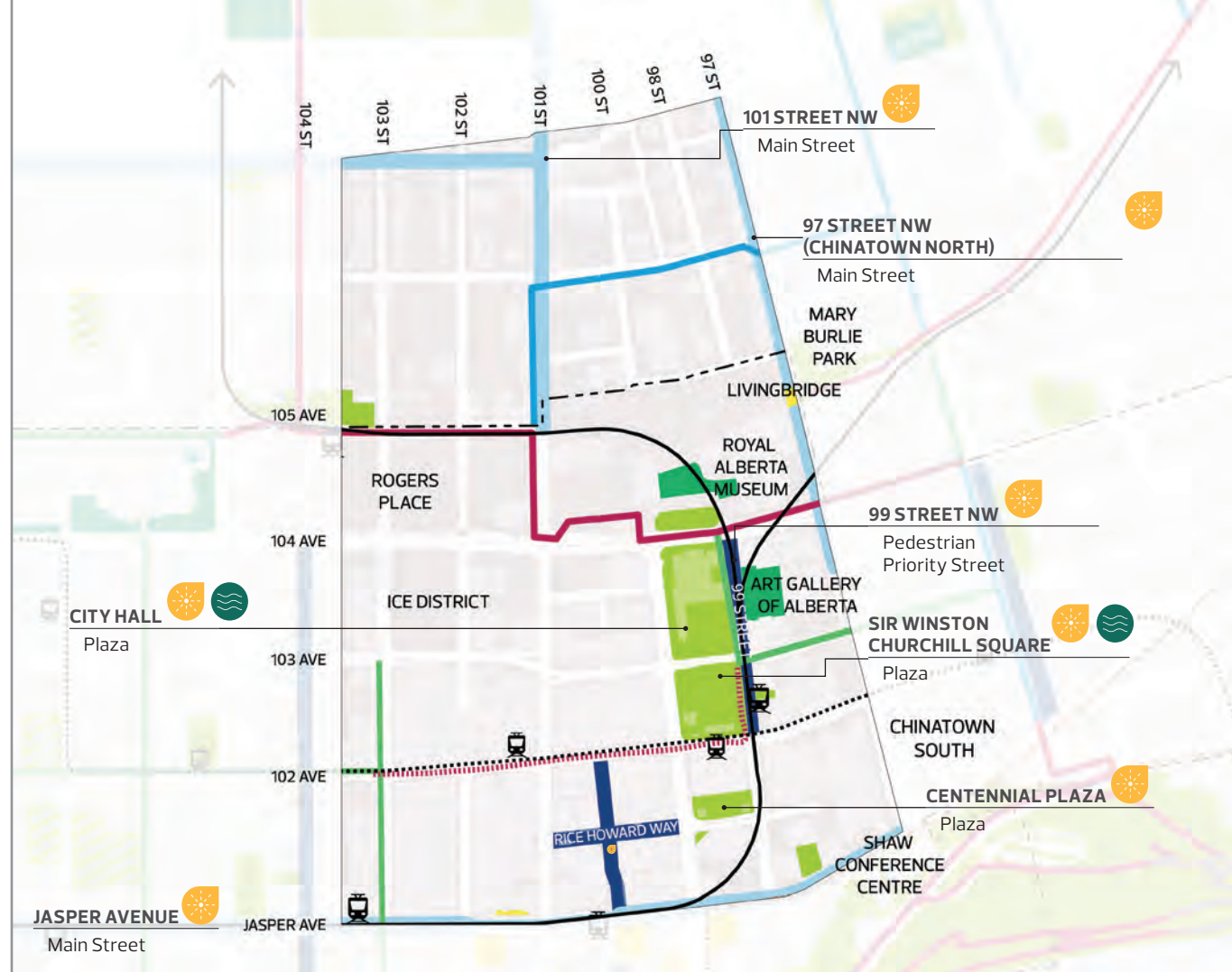


Edmonton City Hall, Winter Skating at Night.



Ice District Rogers Place Rendering.

(Rogers Place, Ice District, 2018)



CONNECTIVITY

- Capital LRT Line
- Valley Line LRT
- High Level Streetcar (Seasonal)
- Shared- Use Pathway
- Protected Bike Lanes
- Shared Road (Slow Traffic Speed)
- Trails
- Under Construction
- Planned Heritage Trail
- 🚊 LRT Stations

PUBLIC SPACES

- Owned by Municipality
- Privately Owned
- Other
- ▨ Planned Public Spaces
- Pedestrian Priority Streets
- Main Streets
- Study Area Boundary

BREATHE FUNCTIONALITY

- 🍊 High Celebration
- 🌿 High Wellness
- 🌱 High Ecology



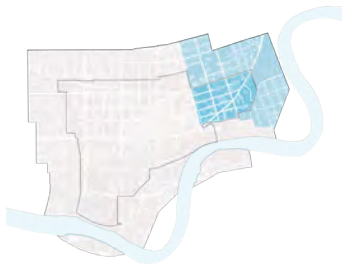
The Quarters

The Quarters Total Area: 41.3 ha
Quarters ARP

Public Space: 3.2 ha
City Owned: 46%
Other: 54%
1 Playground

Within 400m Buffer
2 Playgrounds
Dog Park
3 Sports Fields

BREATHE: Functionality
Multi-functionality Average:
Low
Many High Ecological Scores



Urban Context

The Quarters are a revitalization project that aims to transform The Quarters into a vibrant, diverse, and inclusive community over the next 20 years. The Quarters are the original location of the Edmonton's downtown and the home of Chinatown South, contributing to a rich local history in the area and immense heritage value. The Quarters is also well connected to the central business district, cultural districts, and the river valley.

According to The Quarters Urban Design Plan, The Quarters is expected to grow up to 18,000–20,000 people, 10 times the current population. The Boyle Renaissance is a new development located directly adjacent to the site and outside The Quarters Area Redevelopment Plan area, between 95 and 96 Streets NW extending north of the 103A Avenue NW boundary. Phase I and II are completed, with Phase III currently underway. The Quarters are also home to a concentration of individuals experiencing homelessness.

Movement + Connectivity

The Quarters is a walkable district in which almost every block has access to between 100m² and 1,000m² of open spaces within a 400m (five minute) walk. Particular blocks south of Jasper Avenue have easy access to over 1,000m² of open spaces. The parks are experiencing medium–high pressure, which will only increase as the population grows, if no additional land is acquired.

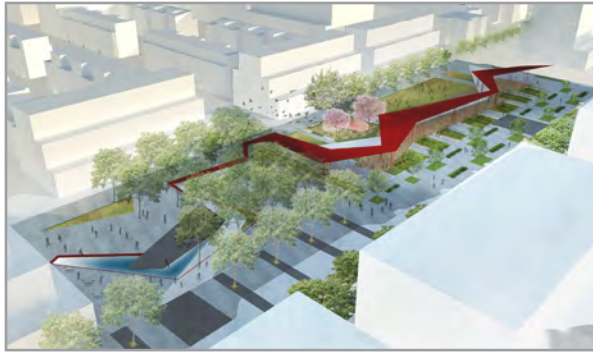
The Quarters active transportation network is functioning well, in particular the shared–pathway along the river and another along the LRT line. The planned Heritage Trail will increase the network, expanding active transportation access in The

Quarters. The public transportation in The Quarters is only served by bus, however the future Valley Line LRT will have one station (The Quarters Station), at 102 Avenue NW just west of 96 Street NW. This will increase the area's accessibility from other areas of Downtown Edmonton and from across the North Saskatchewan River.

Public Space

The Quarters offers minimal commercial amenities or destinations, The Quarters Urban Design Plan aims to change this, by creating The Quarters Downtown Armature, a pedestrian priority, green street on 96 Street NW, from which future proposals will spread. The Armature will contain all–season parks, plazas, and many commercial amenities, and serves as the heart of the district. One park that is included adjacent to the Armature is the Kinistinâw Park, which is intended to create a community space for people to gather. The Armature will create opportunities for future public spaces.

There are 3.22 hectares of public places within The Quarters, consisting of a variety of Community Parks, Ecological Parks and Pocket Parks. The largest of these spaces is the Alex Taylor School location. At 1.7 hectares, it accounts for 54% of the total public places within The Quarters and hosts the only playground within the entire Study Area. An additional 17 hectares of public places are within the 400 metre buffer of The Quarters. Louise McKinney Riverfront Park, located between the river and the southern boundary of The Quarters, is an important ecological asset and attraction to the area. However, it only has one narrow entry from this focus area. The future Valley LRT Line passes through the eastern half of Louise McKinney Riverfront Park, therefore precautions will be necessary to mitigate the impacts on the park.



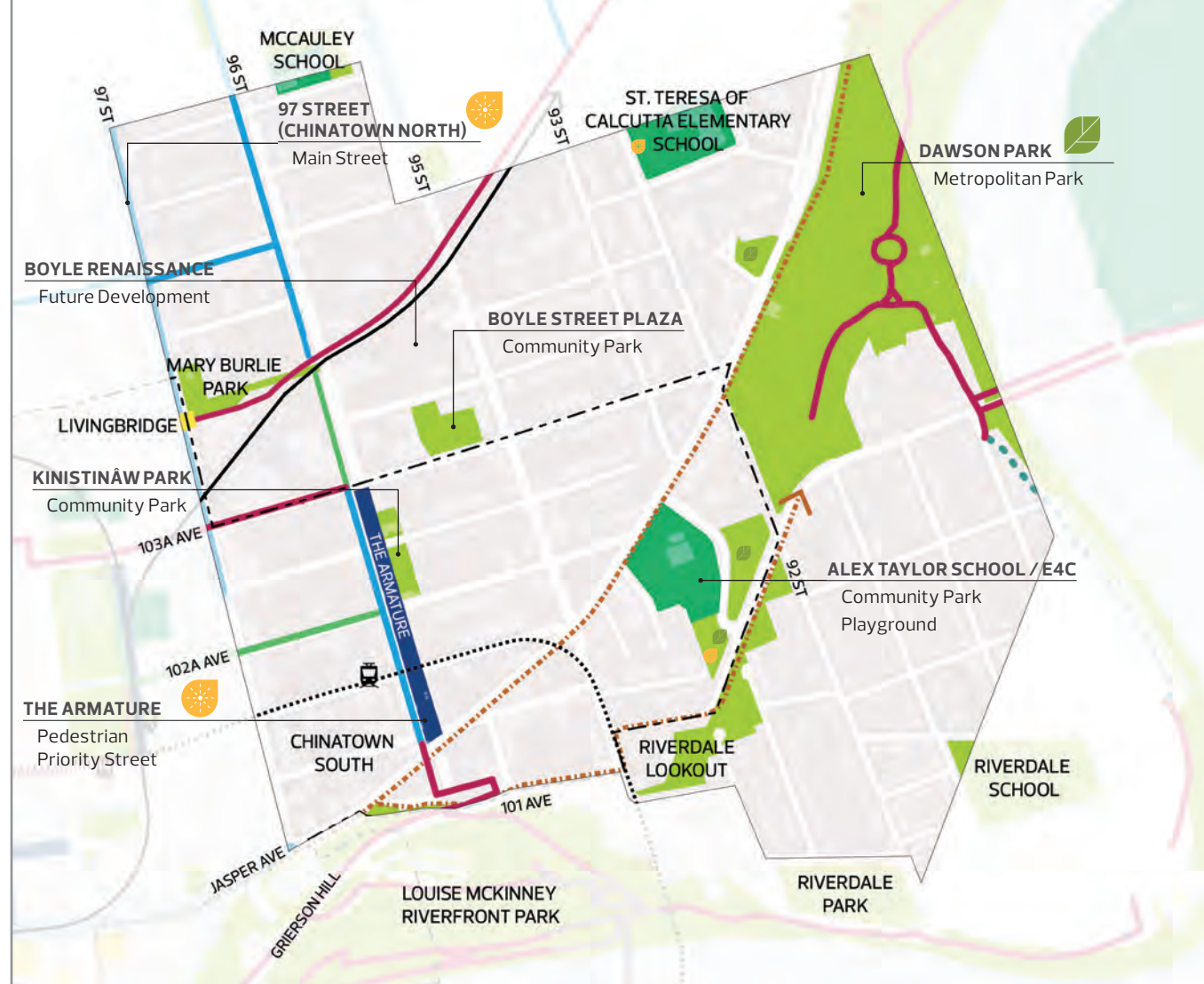
Kinistināw Park Render, Aerial View.



The Armature.



Boyle Street Plaza.



CONNECTIVITY

- Capital LRT Line
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- High Level Streetcar (Seasonal)
- Shared- Use Pathway
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PUBLIC SPACES

- Owned by Municipality
- Privately Owned
- Other
- ▨ Planned Public Spaces
- Pedestrian Priority Streets
- Main Streets
- Study Area Boundary

BREATHE FUNCTIONALITY

- 🍊 High Celebration
- 🌿 High Wellness
- 🌱 High Ecology



Southern Edge

Southern Edge Total Area: 108.1 ha

Alberta Legislature Building
Residential uses closer to the river

Public Space: 40.54 ha

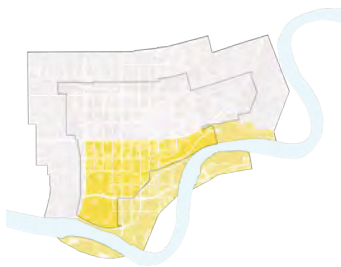
City Owned: 27%
Privately Owned: 4%
Other: 70% (Provincial Park)
Limited child programming
Low Park Pressure

BREATHE: Functionality

Multi-functionality Average:
Medium
High: Louise McKinney
Riverfront Park

Future Development

Heritage Valley Trail



Urban Context

The Southern Edge follows the North Saskatchewan River Valley, offering exceptional views of the valley and opportunities to connect the downtown with the river. The Southern Edge is by far, the largest in the study area and encompasses the Alberta Legislature Building, several mid-rise office towers and associated commercial uses, and sections of both the River Valley and Heritage Trails. The area is characterized by three major neighbourhood identities moving west to east; The Capital City District, McKay Avenue Neighbourhood, and the Commercial Cultural Core.

The Commercial Cultural Core area in the eastern portion of the Southern Edge contains the heart of the downtown business centres, the entertainment district and community amenities. McKay Avenue Neighbourhood (south-eastern portion) has the highest residential density in Downtown Edmonton (2016). The highest density is concentrated within the blocks south of 100 Avenue NW and between 106–101 Streets NW, and contains minimal commercial activity. The Capital City District contains the Alberta Legislature Building and Grounds, associated commercial uses, and notable heritage buildings.

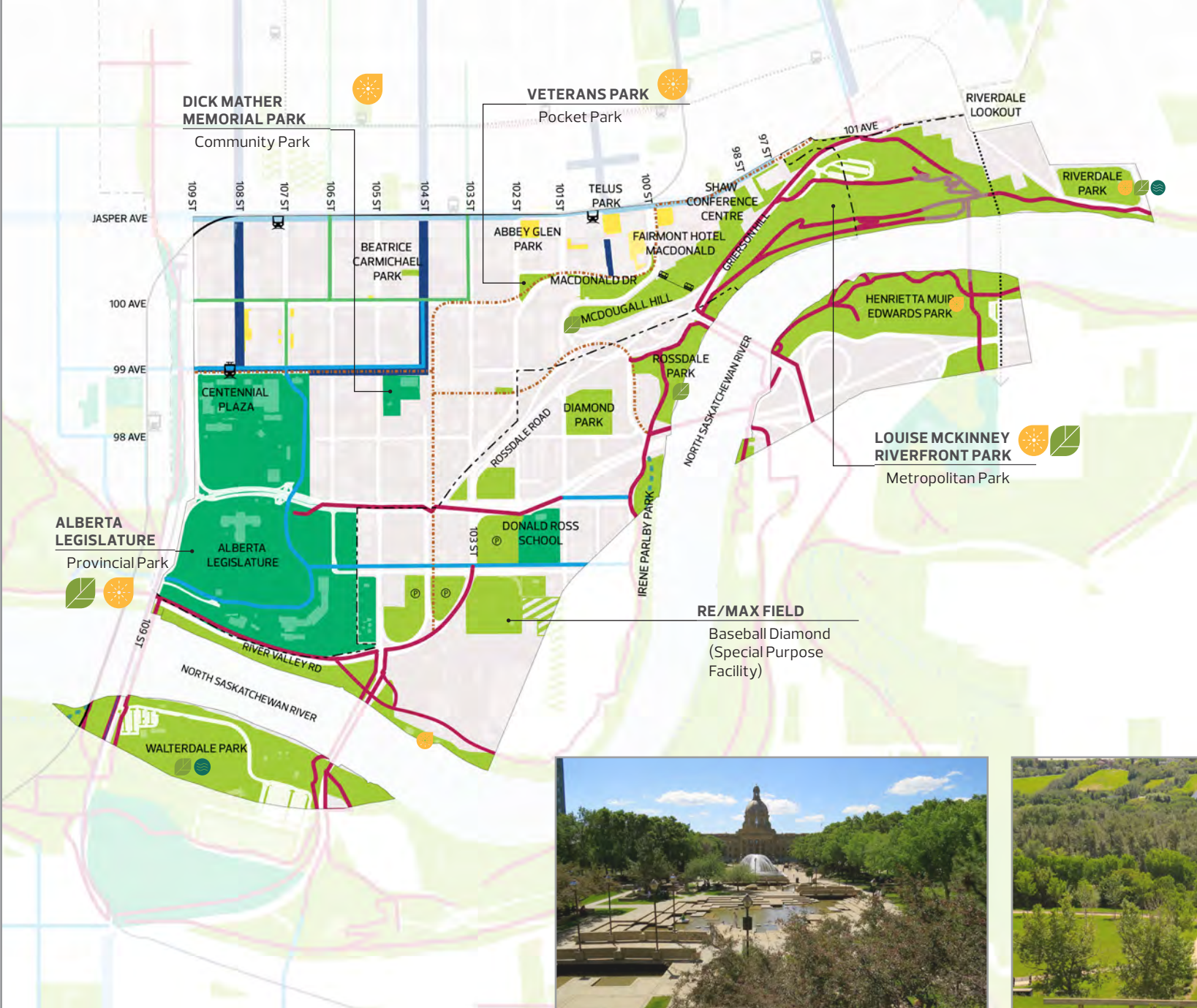
Movement + Connectivity

The northern half of the Southern Edge is well served with bus routes, however service is lacking within the residential area. The Southern Edge is served by the Capital Line LRT Stations along Jasper Avenue. Jasper Avenue supports between 20,000–30,000 vehicles per day, (2015), and 10,000–18,000 pedestrians per day (2016). The Southern Edge is very walkable and with a functional bicycle network, it promotes

active transportation. There are limited connections between the riverfront open spaces and the downtown due to the steep river valley ridge. Recent developments such as the 100 Street Funicular have overcome this barrier to provide the function of connectivity while capitalizing on the spectacular views of the river valley this ridge presents. Additional points of connections, viewpoints and lookouts could have a similar effect, bringing the river to the downtown. Future developments have recognized this, and projects such as River Crossing, which aims to integrate the North Saskatchewan River into Downtown Edmonton.

Public Space

The focus area has 40.54 hectares of public spaces, which is over double the other four Focus Areas combined. The Alberta Legislature Grounds is the largest public open space in the focus area and has the largest reach in the downtown study area. Additional parks and open spaces are concentrated along the southern boundary and along the river. Individuals living in the McKay Avenue neighbourhood area have good access to over 100m² of open spaces within a 5 minute walk (400m), yet there is a lack of public and open spaces to serve the northern and western portions, in particular within the Capital City District. Currently, the parks in the Southern Edge are experiencing medium-high pressure, with the exception of the Alberta Legislature Grounds experiencing low pressure. The four additional residential developments planned within the Southern Edge, will increase pressure on the public spaces. Among the public spaces in the Southern Edge, there is limited outdoor child-friendly programming.



- CONNECTIVITY**
- Capital LRT Line
 - Valley Line LRT
 - High Level Streetcar (Seasonal)
 - Shared-Use Pathway
 - Protected Bike Lanes
 - Shared Road (Slow Traffic Speed)
 - Trails
 - Under Construction
 - Planned Heritage Trail
 - 🚊 LRT Stations
- PUBLIC SPACES**
- Municipality Owned
 - Privately Owned
 - Other
 - ▨ Planned Public Spaces
 - Pedestrian Priority Streets
 - Main Streets
 - 🚶 100 Street Funicular
 - Study Area Boundary
- BREATHE FUNCTIONALITY**
- 🍊 High Celebration
 - 🌿 High Wellness
 - 🌱 High Ecology
- 0m 125m 250m 500m



Alberta Legislature.



Louise McKinney Riverfront Park.

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APPENDIX E

DOWNTOWN PUBLIC PLACES PLAN: PARK CLASSIFICATION

OPEN SPACE CLASS

DESCRIPTION

EXAMPLE

Municipal Parks

METROPOLITAN PARK

Metropolitan parks are large, feature parks intended to provide value to residents and visitors throughout Edmonton and the greater Metro region. Metropolitan Parks may have a variety of functions and uses, but usually contain features and amenities that are not available elsewhere in the City.

Louise McKinney Riverfront Park

DISTRICT PARK

District parks are designed to meet the needs of multiple communities, such as a City quadrant or collection of neighbourhoods under an Area Structure Plan. They may be more specialized than community parks, but also may provide multifunctional amenities. Some district parks contain unique attractions (e.g. Argyll Park Velodrome, Muttart Conservatory). The size and programming depends on the community where they are located, and the provision of amenities in the larger community.

Muttart Conservatory grounds

COMMUNITY PARK

Community parks are the basic units of the green network. They are intended to be frequent in the landscape, and flexible enough in programming to meet the social and recreational needs of most people in their catchment area. Some community parks are co-located with Community Leagues or schools (usually elementary schools) and may be managed under a Joint Use Agreement or Occupancy License.

Alex Decoteau Park

POCKET PARK

Pocket parks are small open spaces meant to serve the nearby neighbourhood and may contain only one amenity or serve one of the functions of open space (e.g. a playground, adult fitness, or seating area).

Michael Phair Park

GREENWAY

Greenways are linear, publicly accessible open spaces that are large enough to operate as parkland, providing opportunities for active transportation, recreation or social encounters in addition to their role as connectors.

Ribbon of Steel Park

ECOLOGICAL PARK

Ecological Parks are public open spaces specifically intended to protect an area of land or water (or both) that is dominated by native vegetation in naturally occurring patterns. Ecological parks are managed for the primary purpose of preserving natural processes, species and habitat elements. Human activities are primarily passive (e.g. nature interpretation, nature appreciation, etc.) with the exception of trails for walking, bicycling and jogging where those uses do not compromise the primary purpose of protection.

Riverdale Park

	OPEN SPACE CLASS	DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLE
Civic Spaces	SQUARES, PLAZAS, AND PROMENADES	Squares, plazas and promenades are primarily hardscaped areas developed as gathering spaces for people. Some may contain markets, event venues, or small shops and food vendors. Most include seating areas. Most promenades, and some squares and plazas, may be linear or part of a streetscape.	Sir Winston Churchill Square Centennial Plaza
	MAIN STREETS	Main streets are 'enhanced' streets intended to act as important social places or grand boulevards. They are pedestrian-friendly streets that also serve as major transportation links with a mix of active street-oriented land uses. They often include seating areas, street trees, vegetated traffic buffers, and room for street vendors and parklets.	Jasper Avenue
	PEDESTRIAN-PRIORITY STREETS	Pedestrian-priority streets are road rights-of-way designed to prioritize pedestrian mobility over other modes of travel, in order to improve the pedestrian experience. Permanent pedestrian-priority streets may or may not also allow vehicular traffic, and may perform important social or ceremonial functions. Temporary pedestrian-priority streets are roadways that prohibit or limit vehicle traffic for a limited duration of time to accommodate pedestrian traffic for a ceremony, event or festival (e.g. Fringe Festival, parade, marathon, etc.).	Rice Howard Way
Corridors	CONNECTORS	Connectors are primarily pathways with some associated green space, usually connecting two or more open spaces together, or two parts of a neighbourhood. The primary purpose of connectors is to provide access to and between neighborhoods, roads or open spaces, although they may also occasionally include park amenities such as small seating areas or landscaping.	
	ROADWAY GREENS	Roadway greens are green spaces on public property within right-of-ways: along roads or major walkways, or within roadways as traffic islands, medians or boulevards. Typically they are turfing/grass, planted with shrubs, or naturalized with native vegetation.	
	UTILITY CORRIDORS	Utility corridors currently provide some of the functions of open space by acting as green landcover, open space connections or other uses. These corridors may have a public access agreement in place, and may be maintained by the City.	Hodgson Altalink Corridor
Other Jurisdictional Parkland	PROVINCIAL PARKLAND	Provincial parks provide valuable regional and community open space services. Although these spaces are managed and operated by the provincial government, they are often integrated into the City's open space network through trails and pathways, and provide value to residents. In addition, the Legislature Grounds surrounding the provincial legislature buildings in Edmonton are publicly accessible, carefully managed open spaces that attract both tourists and residents.	Alberta Legislature Grounds
	FEDERAL PARKLAND	Federally owned or managed parks. Edmonton currently does not have any federal parkland within City limits.	-
	CAMPUS	Publicly accessible provincial, college and university campuses, or teaching hospitals.	MacEwan University grounds

OPEN SPACE CLASS

DESCRIPTION

EXAMPLE

Other Public Open Spaces	OPEN SPACE CLASS	DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLE
	SPECIAL PURPOSE FACILITY	Major cultural, recreational or sporting venues that provide a unique leisure, memorial or entertainment value that draws users from across Edmonton and the greater metropolitan region. They typically involve more intensive investment in facilities and associated services. Often they require a fee or membership for entrance, or restrict the hours or activities that are permitted. Some are located within larger parks.	Edmonton Valley Zoo
	SCHOOL SITES	Lands set aside for schools and owned, managed, or maintained by the City of Edmonton or by an Edmonton school board (e.g. Public, Catholic, or Francophone School Board). These sites include the building envelope and other school facilities such as parking lots and drop off areas. Some of these sites are adjacent to larger parks, and most are managed through the Joint-Use Agreement which allow for public access. Some school sites have not yet been developed, while others have been identified as being surplus (i.e. a school is not required).	Alex Taylor Park
	MUNICIPAL CEMETERY	Municipally-owned cemeteries provide important cultural services, and may also provide some of the same uses as municipal parks, such as passive recreation.	St. Joachim Catholic Cemetery
	MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE	Municipally-owned golf courses often have restricted access (restricted to club members or require a fee for access) but the City retains ownership, allowing for other potential open space uses such as picnic areas or winter skiing opportunities.	Victoria Golf Course
	SELECT VACANT CITY HOLDINGS	Select vacant City holdings include vacant lots and other City-owned spaces that have not yet been developed into other land uses or sold. They are spaces identified by the City as currently providing some open space services such as green space, and represent an opportunity for future open space developments such as civic spaces, greenways and parks.	
	UTILITY LOTS	Utility lots currently provide some of the functions of open space by acting as green landcover, stormwater management facilities or other uses. These lots may have a public access agreement in place, and may be maintained by the City.	-

