

Open House

September 12, 2016
5 pm - 8 pm

Alex Taylor School Gymnasium

Purpose

We want to get your input on Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine as the first step in creating a new Master Plan for this River Valley park!

Tonight is about listening to what you think about the existing park - your favourite features and activities as well as what you'd like to see in the future.

We're here to listen

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask one of the project team members here tonight.

The project team includes City of Edmonton staff and O2 Planning + Design as a consulting team. We have a multidisciplinary group of landscape architects, planners, water resource engineers, environmental scientists and historians. We're here to listen to you - we want to know what you think. Your ideas will shape the development of the Master Plan!

Welcome

DAWSON PARK & KINNAIRD RAVINE Master Plan

What is a Master Plan?

A Master Plan builds on existing plans, policies and initiatives while identifying public needs and priorities for the park. The Plan also provides direction for environmental protection and recommends civic, cultural and recreational uses that are appropriate to the area.

The new Master Plan for Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine will provide a 25-year vision and management plan for the park. The Master Plan will be developed in 2016 and 2017.

There has been little change within the park boundaries since the 1970s when the Capital City Recreation Park Concept Plan defined most of the features that are still in the park today.

Your Role

We are currently in the Inventory & Analysis phase of engagement for the Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine Master Plan. We are asking for input from the public that will have a large influence on the direction of the future park.

Feedback we receive will be carried forward into each phase of engagement, all the way to the concept design. Your feedback is important!



Tonight

Review the Inventory and Analysis material presented tonight and tell us if we've missed anything. We want to know why this space is important to you and how you experience the park.

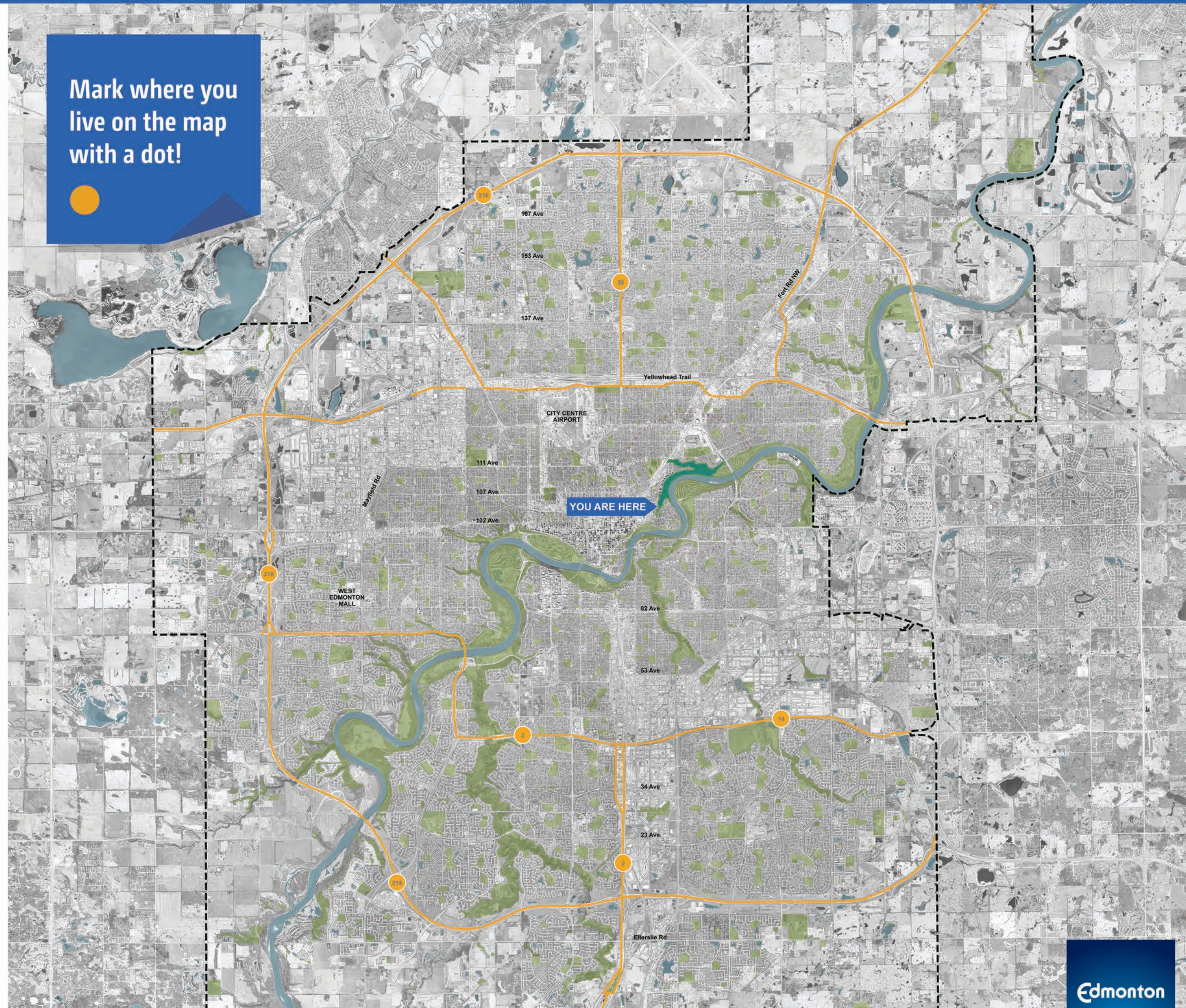
We've provided questions for feedback on the boards. Use the post-it notes and stickers to provide your feedback.

Stay Involved

Need more time? Post your insights on the online mapping tool for Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine.

Go to edmonton.ca/dawsonparkmasterplan for the online map, sign up for project updates and to stay informed about upcoming open houses!

Mark where you live on the map with a dot!



River Valley Parks

The North Saskatchewan River Valley in Edmonton is known as the largest urban park in Canada, with more than 160 km of maintained pathways and 20 major parks.

The City of Edmonton takes a different approach when planning and maintaining parks in the River Valley. Only certain activities and developments are allowed to take place for the protection of the natural ecosystem.

This line of thinking began in 1915 when the City of Edmonton adopted a report by Frederick G. Todd, a Landscape Architect from Montreal, to protect the River Valley for recreation.

Sixty years later, the North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP) and Bylaw 7188 reinforced the value of the River Valley landscape in City policy.

The ARP, along with Bylaw 7188, seeks to protect the North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System as part of Edmonton's valuable open space heritage and establishes the principles for future implementation plans and programmes for parks development.

We want the future park to improve the quality of life of those who visit. That's why, along with considering existing plans and policies, talking to YOU is so important to this process.

Existing Policies and Plans

The North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan (1985)

The Ribbon of Green Master Plan (1992)

Edmonton's Urban Parks Management Plan (2006-2016)

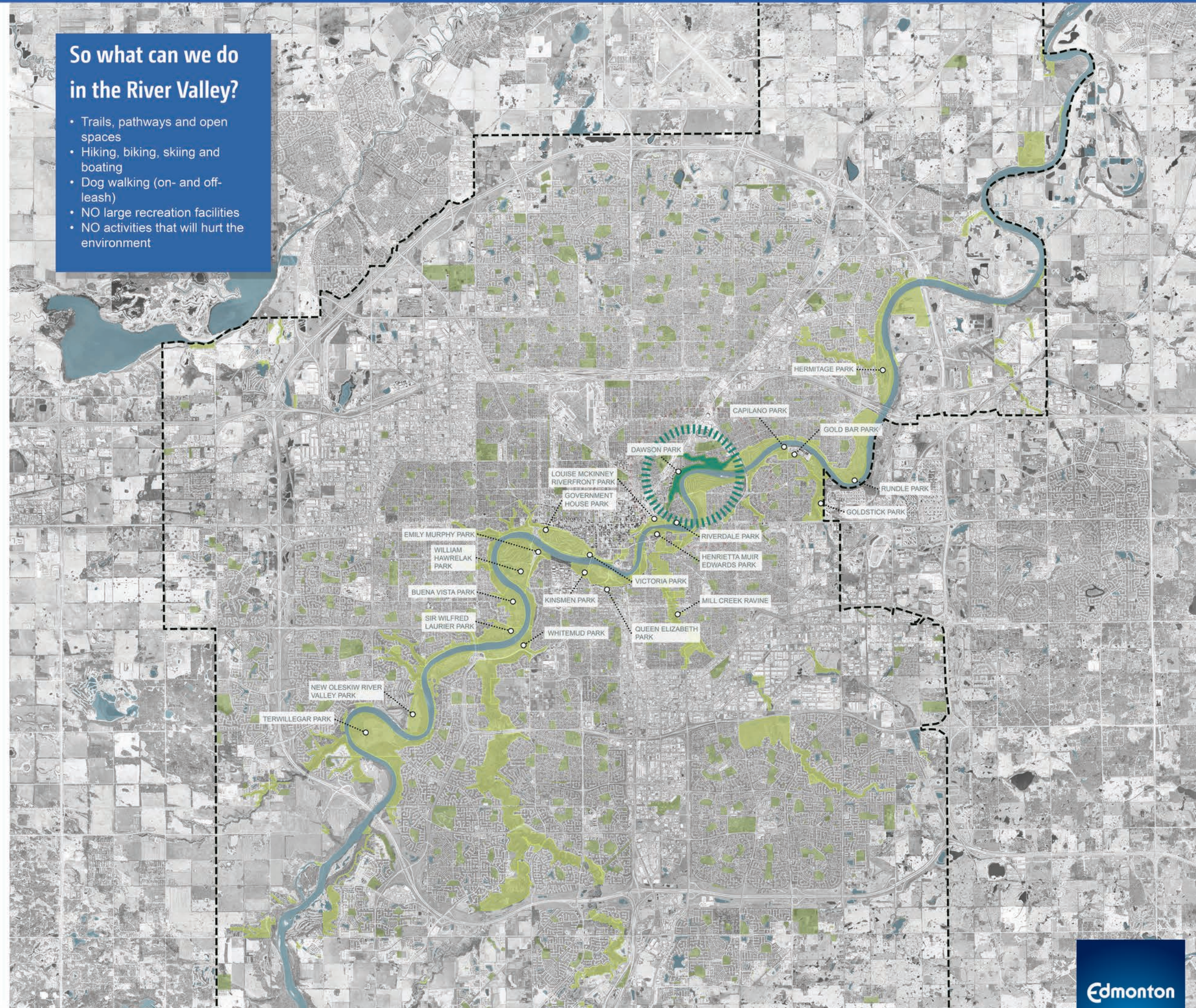
BREATHE Strategy (2016-2017)

Relevant City Policies:

- Natural Area Systems Policy (C531)
- River Access Guiding Principles (C586)
- Development Setbacks from River Valley/Ravine Crests (C542)
- Bicycle Transportation Plan
- WinterCity Strategy
- The Urban Forest Management Plan
- The Parkland Bylaw (C2202)

So what can we do in the River Valley?

- Trails, pathways and open spaces
- Hiking, biking, skiing and boating
- Dog walking (on- and off-leash)
- NO large recreation facilities
- NO activities that will hurt the environment



Developing Communities

Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine connect to the Riverdale, Boyle St., McCauley, Cromdale and Virginia Park neighbourhoods.

Several downtown neighbourhoods are undergoing changes as a result of the growing population in Edmonton. Four major Area Redevelopment Plans (ARP's) are guiding this development.

The ARP's recommend higher intensity development surrounding the park area, including more dense housing along Jasper Avenue, surrounding the Stadium Station LRT stop and in The Quarters Downtown development.

These plans also call for improved pedestrian connections, especially along Jasper Avenue and The Armature (a new urban promenade).

Over the next 10-20 years, Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine will serve a much higher number of people in the surrounding communities.

Stadium Station ARP (1983)

This ARP defines issues facing the neighbourhood in the 1980s and presents solutions including the promotion of high-density development around the LRT station. The City is currently working on a new ARP for this neighbourhood to help accommodate a growing population and to control the type of development in this neighbourhood.

Boyle St. McCauley ARP (1994)

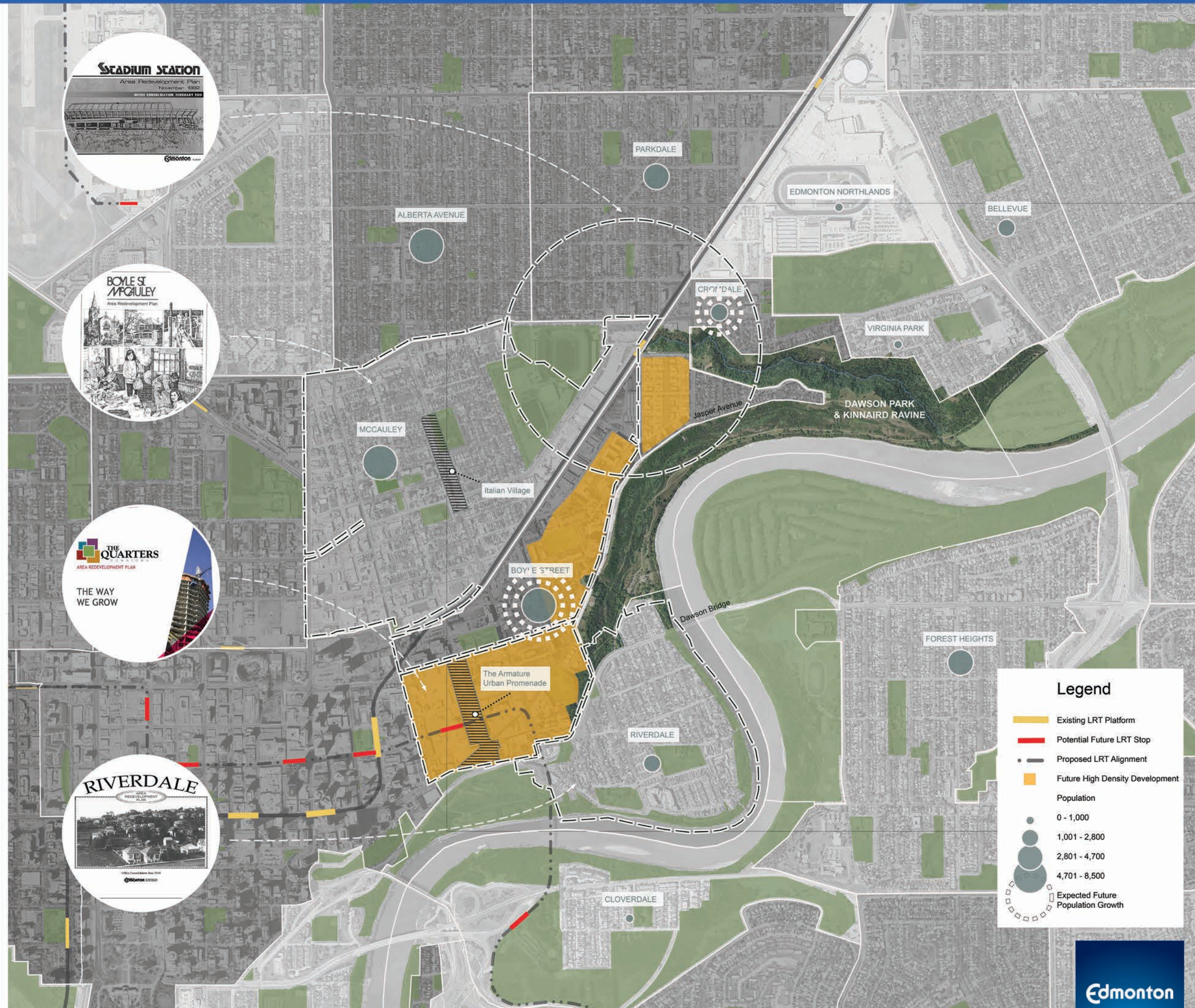
Problems recognized include crowded housing, vacant lots and high traffic volumes, among others. The ARP focuses on promoting cooperation within the community. Higher density development and pedestrian improvements were recommended along Jasper Avenue.

The Quarters Downtown ARP (2014)

What began as a community visioning process has become a plan for the accommodation of 18-20,000 additional people in the neighbourhood when development is complete. The plan focuses on developing a unique character in the neighbourhood.

Riverdale ARP (Office Consolidation 2010)

The Riverdale ARP uses the neighbourhood's historical background as a catalyst for development. Improvements to pedestrian pathways and controlling the rate of development in the historic parts of the neighbourhood are major recommendations.

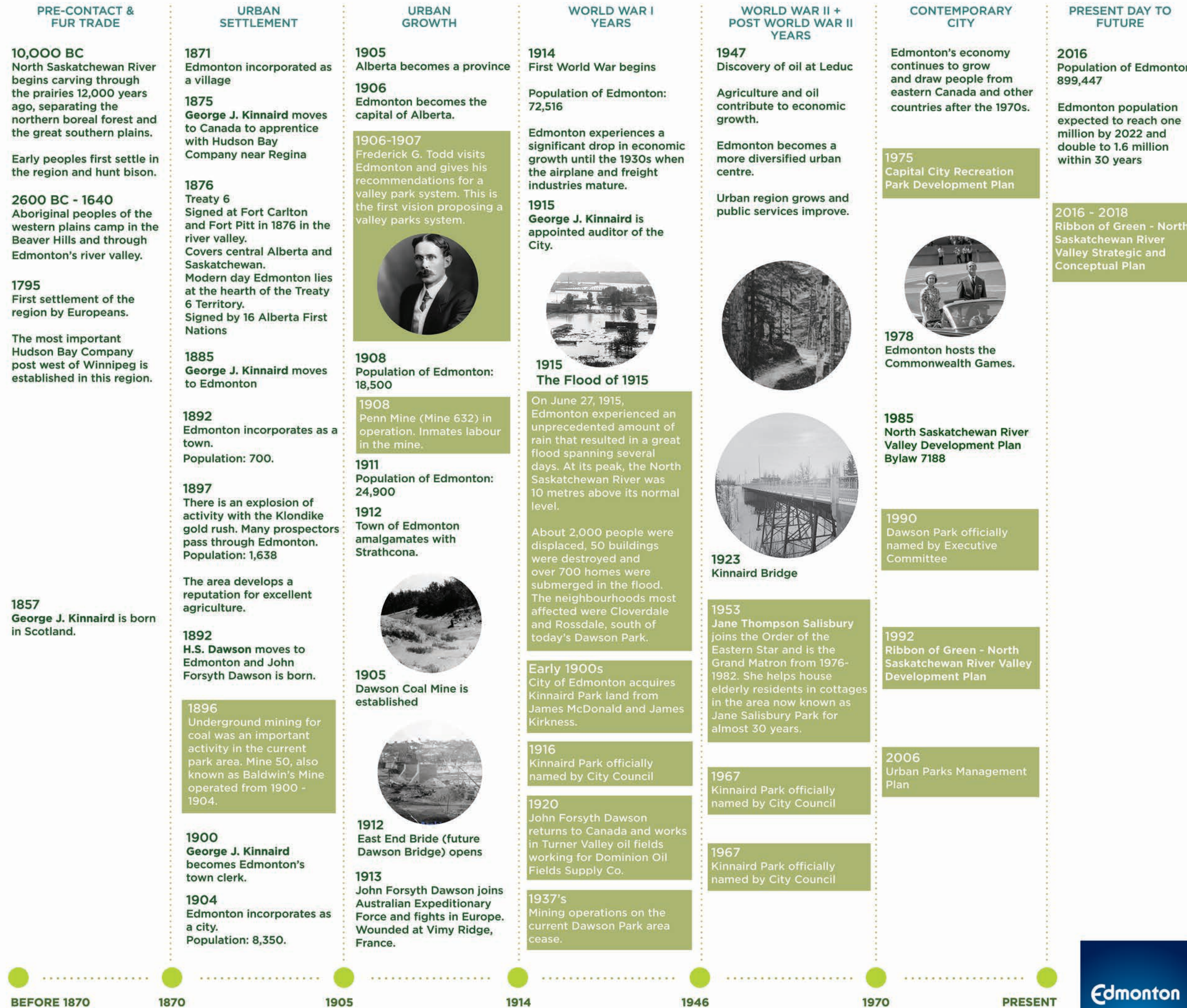


Site History

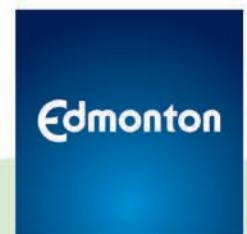
Dawson Park and the Kinnaird Ravine are intertwined into Edmonton's history.

Park features are named after historical figures who played a role in the development of the City of Edmonton.

See the timeline to the right for important dates related to Dawson Park & Kinnaird Ravine.



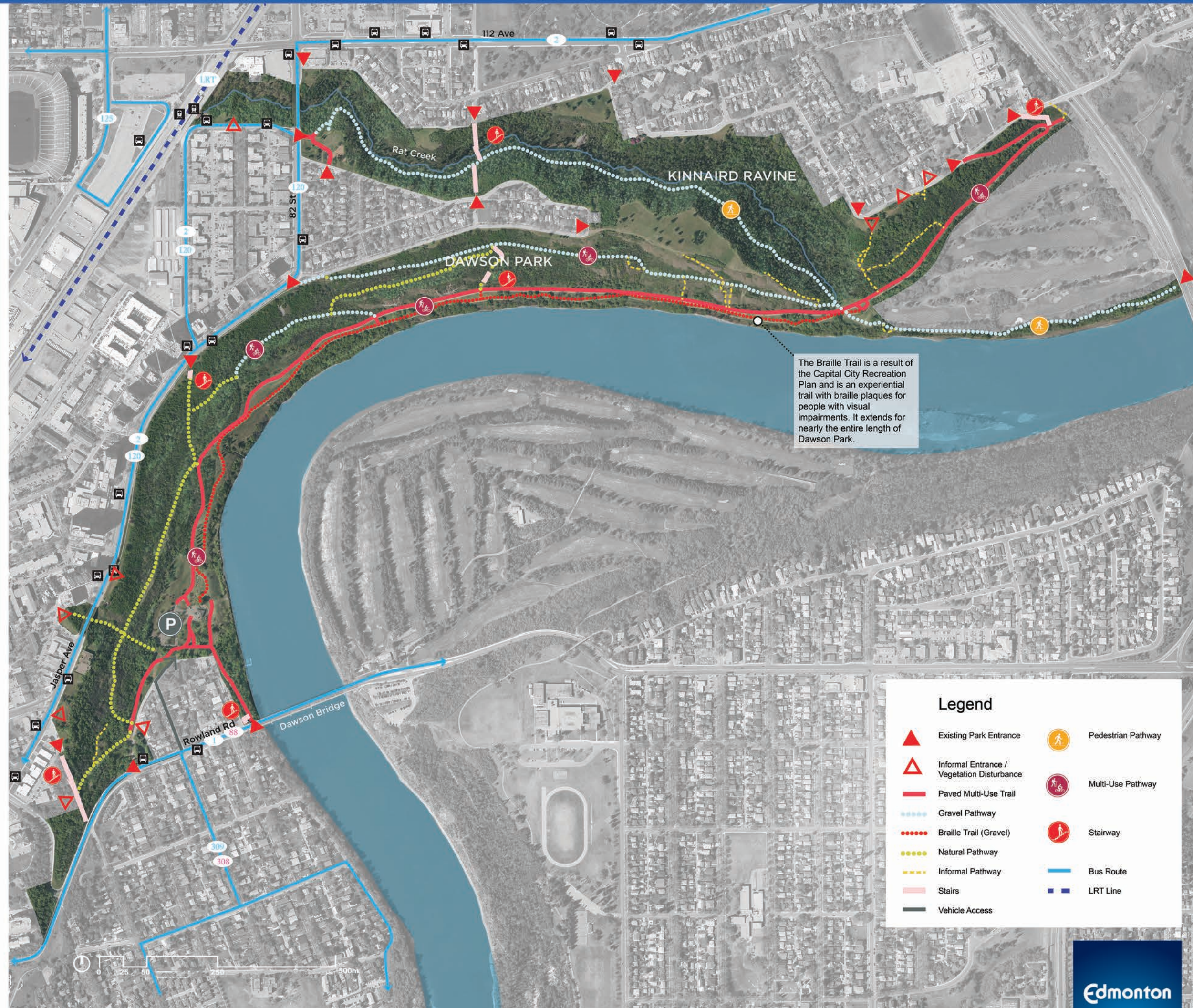
**Have we missed anything?
Post your insights on a sticky note below or on the map!**

Access + Circulation

The pathways in Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine are generally linear, guiding park users along the water from one end of the park to the other. There are several pathways, stairs and ramps to help people get from the top of the bank down to the water.

Park entrances are limited and there are few trail connections within the park. Likely for these reasons, we noticed several informal trails, or 'desire lines', developing in the park where people want to travel but no formal trail exists.



Have we missed anything?
Post your insights on a sticky note below or on the map!



Amenities + Nodes

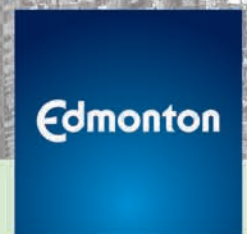
Dawson Park and the Kinnaird Ravine provide a direct connection for the communities along the edges of the park. The park also connects recreational users with park amenities and activity nodes.

Each community and park user has a unique way of interacting with these green spaces. Small recreational areas, or nodes, have developed on the periphery of the park and inside the park boundary.

The map to the right depicts these nodes and the amenities that are located in each. Some nodes are mainly used for active recreation, while others are mainly used by the public in passive ways (like sitting and enjoying views of the park).



Have we missed anything?
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Activities + Festivals

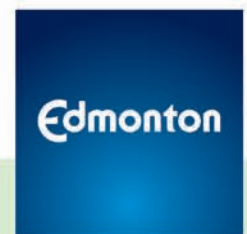
A variety of activities and a few local festivals take place in Dawson Park and the Kinnaird Ravine.

What activities and festivals have you participated in? Put a round dot in the “Engage in Activity / Participated in Festival” column if you regularly engage in the activities or festivals noted on the board!

Is the activity or festival you participated in not noted on the board? Write it down in the “Activity / Festival” column, tell us about the location and let’s find out how many other people engage in the activity or festival!

Activity / Festival	Location in Park	Engaged in Activity / Participated in Festival
Walking my dog or dogs	Dog off-leash paths	
Jogging / Running	General trail / paths	
Walking / Promenading	General trail / paths	
Picnicking	Open grass fields	
	Forested areas	
	Waterfront	
Dragon Boat Racing Festival	North Saskatchewan River	
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Maintenance + Safety

Steep slopes, dense vegetation and limited lighting create many areas with very little or no visibility into the park.

The trails in Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine go for long distances without connecting to other trails or exit points. This, along with the fact that there are few signs and wayfinding tools, can create the feeling of being trapped within the park.

Informal trails have developed along steep slopes within the park. Trails that are not maintained along slopes can create trip and fall hazards.

Steep slopes also prevent access into the park for emergency crews. Only the edges of the park can be easily accessed by EMS vehicles, increasing the response time in an emergency.

The City of Edmonton and local community groups are working hard to address homelessness on public lands. If you have concerns related to this topic or are interested in hearing more, you can talk to a representative of the Homeless on Public Lands Committee who is here tonight.

Have we missed anything?
Post your insights on a sticky note below or on the map!



Service + Utilities

Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine are adjacent to a highly developed urban area and become a transitional landscape down to the North Saskatchewan River below.

A number of storm water pipes run below the ground in the park area, releasing storm water into the river. Many pipes run to a single discharge point in alignment with 86 St. NW.

The existing pavilion near the parking lot in Dawson Park has sewer, water and electrical service.



Stormwater Right of Way Used as Access Path

Stormwater Manhole Kinnaird

Electrical Box Kinnaird

Main Stormwater Outfall Structure

Electrical Right of Way and Path

Legend

- Storm Water Pipes (Below Surface)
- Sewage Pipes (Below Surface)
- Water Supply Pipes (Below Surface)
- Streetlight Cables (Below Surface)
- Poles
- Manholes / Drainage Facilities
- Culvert

Have we missed anything?
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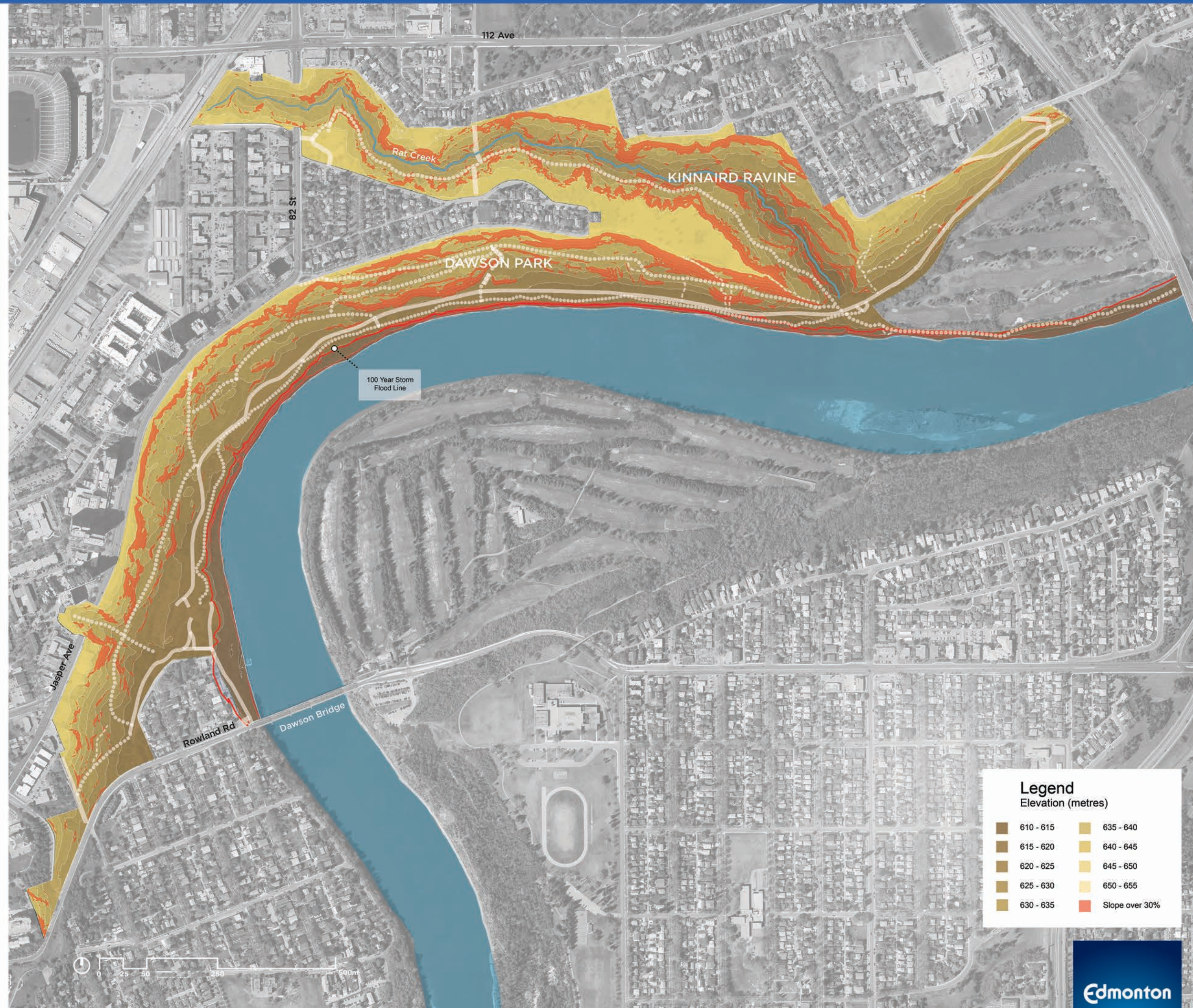
Natural Features: Topography + Hydrology

Dawson Park is located on the outside of a large meander bend on the north bank of the North Saskatchewan River (NSR). For this reason, the bank has a tendency to erode.

Bank erosion is evident throughout this reach, with steep banks approximately 2-3 metres high. The banks are well vegetated, which helps with bank stabilization.

Dawson Park is mostly situated above the 100 year flood line. A comparison of historical bank lines for the North Saskatchewan River spanning a period of 1969 to 2008 indicates minor lateral bank movement along the north bank in the area immediately downstream of Dawson Bridge.

Any development that happens near the bank should be located so that vegetation is maintained as best is possible.



Have we missed anything?
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Natural Features: Vegetation + Open Space

Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine are in the Central Parkland Subregion, a classification of Alberta's Natural Regions (Natural Regions Committee, 2006).

Vegetation that is native to this subregion includes aspen, balsam poplar and white spruce trees. Plants such as Labrador tea, feathermoss, willow, bunchberry, wild lily of the valley, wild sarsaparilla and beaked hazelnut typically characterize the forest floor. Finally, plants that typically grow on the riverbank in this subregion include willows, bulrushes and common cattail.

Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine are located in downtown Edmonton and show signs of significant disturbance in vegetation, from recent as well as historic activity.

Mining activity and timber harvesting throughout significant portions of the park and riverbank have removed much of the original vegetation. This is reflected in the existing stands of non-native plants such as Caragana throughout the park.

Have we missed anything?
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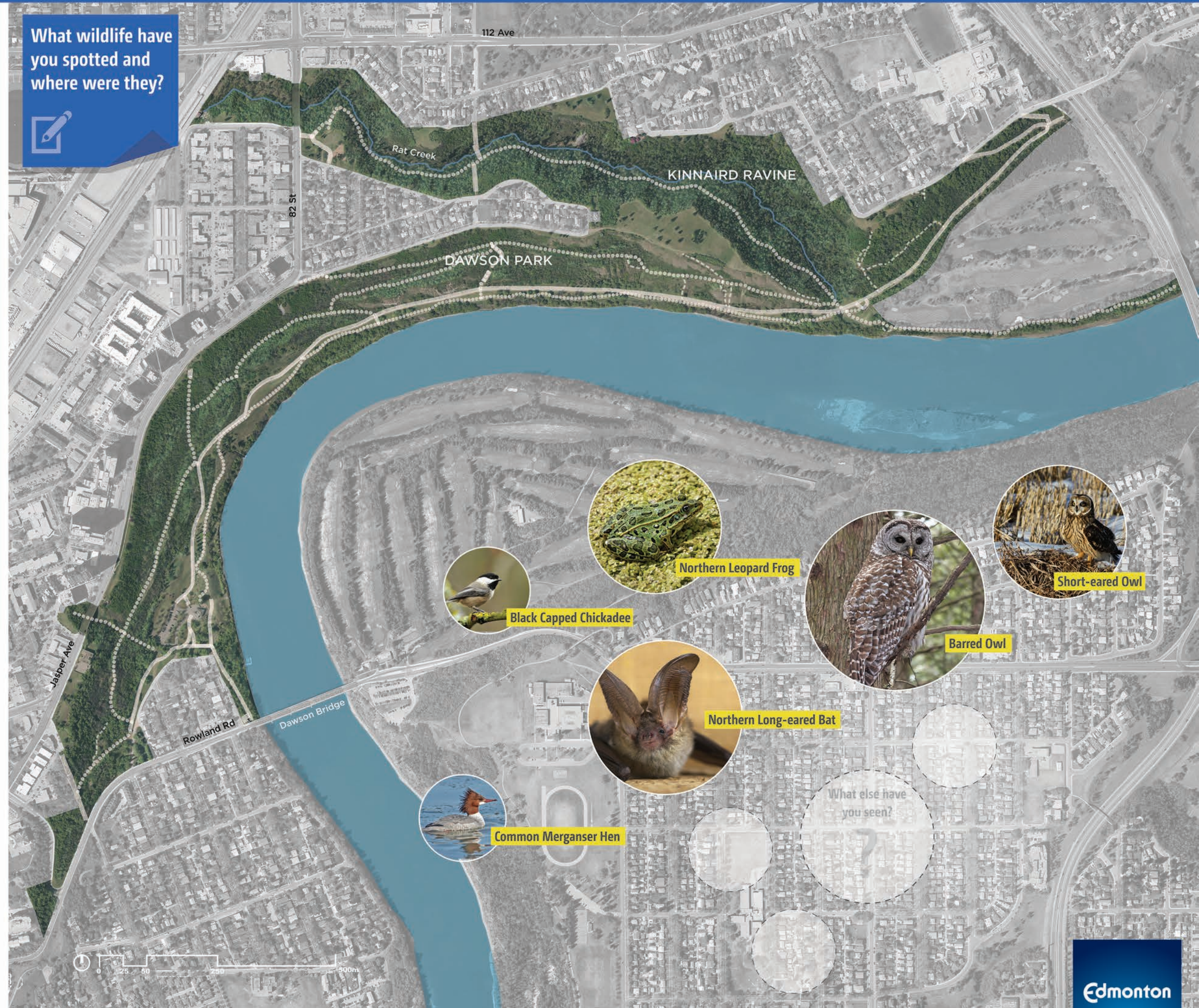
Natural Features: Wildlife + Habitats

The North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine system is considered a national environmentally sensitive area as it provides critical habitat, corridors and linkages for a diverse range of wildlife species. The park is part of the Regional Biological corridor of the system which are ribbons of contiguous connected wildlife habitats at a regional scale.

Several wildlife and vegetation linkages exist in Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine, but the overall value of these are compromised because of the long history of disturbance on the site and significant stands of exotic vegetation. The City of Edmonton Biodiversity Report of 2008 has recommended that maintenance and restoration of ecological connectivity within the River Valley.

Species of concern that may live in or visit the park area include: barred owl, northern leopard frog, northern long-eared bat and short-eared owl.

What wildlife have you spotted and where were they?



Have we missed anything?
Post your insights on a sticky note below or on the map!



Future Conditions: Dreams + Wishes!

The infrastructure in Dawson Park is largely a result of the Capital City Recreation Park Concept Plan that was drafted in the 1970s.

We want to find out how you currently use this park, what you love about it and what you'd like to see in the future. Help us by answering the questions using the sticky notes and pens provided!

**What is your favorite thing to do in this park?
Why?**

**What would you like to do in this park in the future?
Why?**

Use the small sticky notes to place your comments on the map or use the larger sticky notes and place your comments to the side of the map in the outlined boxes!

Stay Involved + Next Steps

Need more time? Post your insights on the online mapping tool for Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine.

The next step in the process will be the conception possible of visions, principles and identities for the park. Stay posted for news on upcoming events.

Go to edmonton.ca/dawsonparkmasterplan for the on-line map and to stay informed about upcoming open houses!

