

## Open House

September 14, 2016  
5 pm - 8 pm

Westridge Wolf Willow Country Club  
Community League Gymnasium

## Purpose

We want to get your input on the Oleskiw River Valley Park as the first step in creating a Master Plan for this park!

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

If the park is new to you, we hope that tonight will give you an opportunity to learn about the space and give your insight into how you'd like to see it develop.

## 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

# OLESKIW RIVER VALLEY PARK Master Plan



Mark where you  
live on the map  
with a dot!



YOU ARE HERE

## 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 the Oleskiw River Valley Park will provide a 25-year vision and management plan for the park. The Master Plan will be developed in 2016 and 2017.

This park area has a rich history and has gone through many changes in use over time. It has never had a Master Plan and is not officially named.

## Your Role

We are currently in the Inventory & Analysis phase of engagement for the Oleskiw River Valley Park 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!



Our engagement process includes feedback from internal stakeholders, external stakeholders and the general public.

## 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

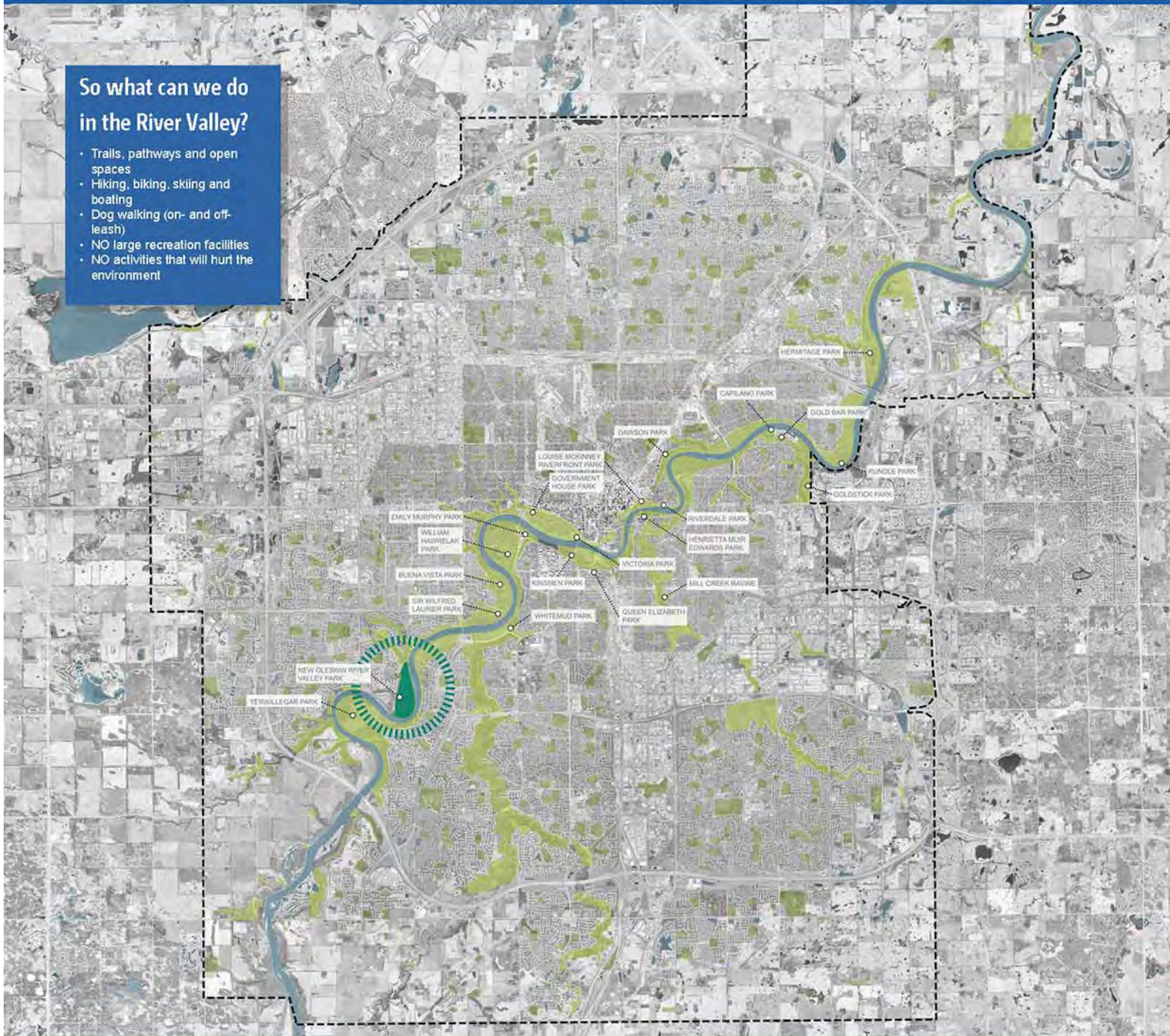
Need more time? Post your insights on the online mapping tool for the Oleskiw River Valley Park.

Go to [edmonton.ca/oleskiwparkmasterplan](http://edmonton.ca/oleskiwparkmasterplan) for the online map, sign up for project updates and to stay informed about upcoming open houses!



### 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



## 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)



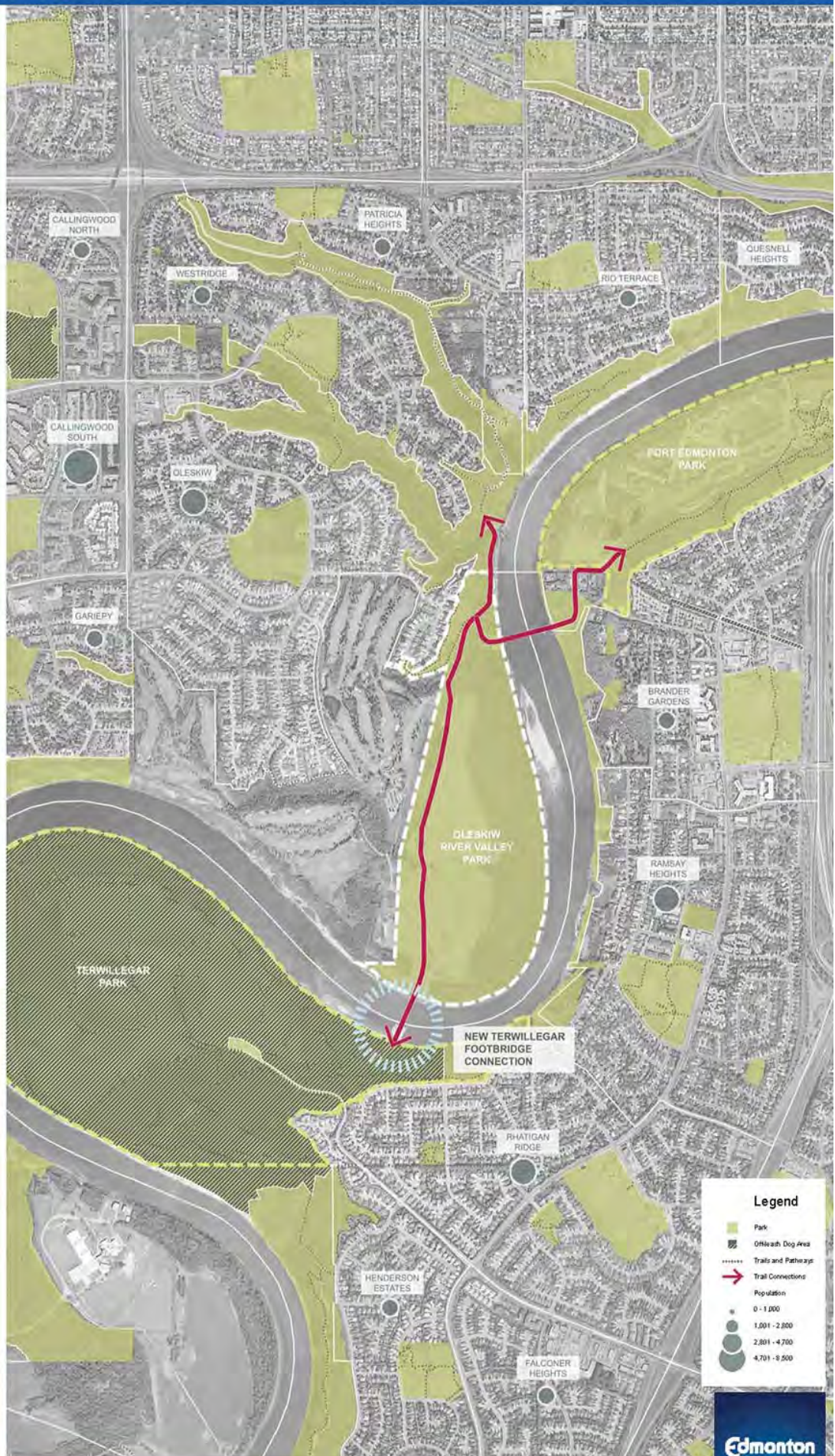
## Developing Connections

With the construction of the Terwillegar Footbridge, the Oleskiw River Valley Park will connect to a series of green spaces along the North Saskatchewan River.

The Fort Edmonton Bridge is an existing pedestrian connection to Fort Edmonton Park and the Brander Gardens neighbourhood.

The future Terwillegar Footbridge will connect to Terwillegar park, the largest dog off-leash area in Edmonton. Terwillegar Park features many trails and natural areas and is the site of a number of organized events.

Many people use the River Valley trails for hiking, walking, skiing and accessing the river. Another favourite activity is dog-walking.



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









## Site History

The current Oleskiw Park area has had an interesting history of diverse uses during the span of development of the city of Edmonton. The park area was also known by different names.

See the timeline to the right for important dates related to Oleskiw Park.

PRE-CONTACT & FUR TRADE

10,000 BC  
North Saskatchewan River begins carving through the prairies 12,000 years ago, separating the northern boreal forest and the great southern plains.

2600 BC - 1640  
Aboriginal peoples of the western plains camp in the Beaver Hills and through Edmonton's river valley.

1795  
First settlement of the region by Europeans.

The most important Hudson Bay Company post west of Winnipeg is established in this region.

Early peoples first settle in the region and hunt bison.

1870

URBAN SETTLEMENT

1871  
Edmonton incorporated as a village

1876  
Treaty 6  
Signed at Fort Carlton and Fort Pitt in 1876 in the river valley.  
Covers central Alberta and Saskatchewan.  
Modern day Edmonton lies at the hearth of the Treaty 6 Territory.  
Signed by 16 Alberta First Nations

1892  
Edmonton incorporates as a town.  
Population: 700.

1897  
There is an explosion of activity with the Klondike gold rush. Many prospectors pass through Edmonton.  
Population: 1,638

The area develops a reputation for excellent agriculture.

1895  
Dr. Joseph Oleskiw (1860-1903), a Ukrainian professor, visits Edmonton. He writes and distributed a pamphlet encouraging Ukrainians to emigrate to Canada upon returning to Ukraine. Also instrumental in organizing Ukrainian emigration to western Canada

1896  
Ukrainians begin to arrive in Alberta as a result of Dr. Oleskiw's efforts

1905

URBAN GROWTH

1905  
Alberta becomes a province

1906  
Edmonton becomes the capital of Alberta.

1905  
Walter Scott Robertson becomes the first Sheriff of Edmonton.

1906-1907  
Frederick G. Todd visits Edmonton and gives his recommendations for a valley park system. This is the first vision proposing a valley parks system.



1908  
Population of Edmonton: 18,500

1910  
Edmonton Country Club acquires 426 acres of land in its current location

1911  
Population of Edmonton: 24,900

1912  
Town of Edmonton amalgamates with Strathcona.

1914

WORLD WAR I YEARS



1915  
The Flood of 1915

On June 27, 1915, Edmonton experienced an unprecedented amount of rain that resulted in a great flood spanning several days. At its peak, the North Saskatchewan River was 10 metres above its normal level.

About 2,000 people were displaced, 50 buildings were destroyed and over 700 homes were submerged in the flood. The neighbourhoods most affected were Cloverdale and Rosedale, south of today's Dawson Park.

1930



1936  
Edmonton Country Club land is significantly altered with a new nine opening spanning portions of the current park

1930  
Curtis and Edith Munson start Wolf Willow Farm and on about 480 acres of land on the current Oleskiw Park site. Curtis Munson was born in the U.S. and attended Yale University, served in the U.S. army during World War I.



1946

WORLD WAR II + POST WORLD WAR II YEARS

1947  
Discovery of oil at Leduc

Agriculture and oil contribute to economic growth.

Edmonton becomes a more diversified urban centre.

Urban region grows and public services improve.

Late 1940s  
Edmonton Country Club land significantly altered again with renovations by renowned landscape designer Stanley Thompson



1970

CONTEMPORARY CITY

1970  
Wolf Willow Farm closes.

Edmonton's economy continues to grow and draw people from eastern Canada and other countries after the 1970s.

1975  
Capital City Recreation Park Development Plan

1985  
North Saskatchewan River Valley Development Plan Bylaw 7188



1978  
Edmonton hosts the Commonwealth Games.

1990  
Dawson Park officially named by Executive Committee

1992  
Ribbon of Green - North Saskatchewan River Valley Development Plan

2006  
Urban Parks Management Plan

PRESENT

PRESENT DAY

2016  
Population of Edmonton: 899,447

Edmonton population expected to reach one million by 2022 and double to 1.6 million within 30 years.

2016 - 2018  
Ribbon of Green - North Saskatchewan River Valley Strategic and Conceptual Plan

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





## Access + Circulation

This River Valley park is currently accessible by foot and by bike from adjacent parks and neighbourhoods.

With the construction of a new multi-use paved pathway and the completion of the Terwillegar footbridge in 2017, the park will be much more accessible and will become part of the network of public river valley parks and open spaces.

Vehicles can not currently access the park. Since this River Valley park was never formally used as a park, vehicle access was not planned with the development of the surrounding neighbourhoods.



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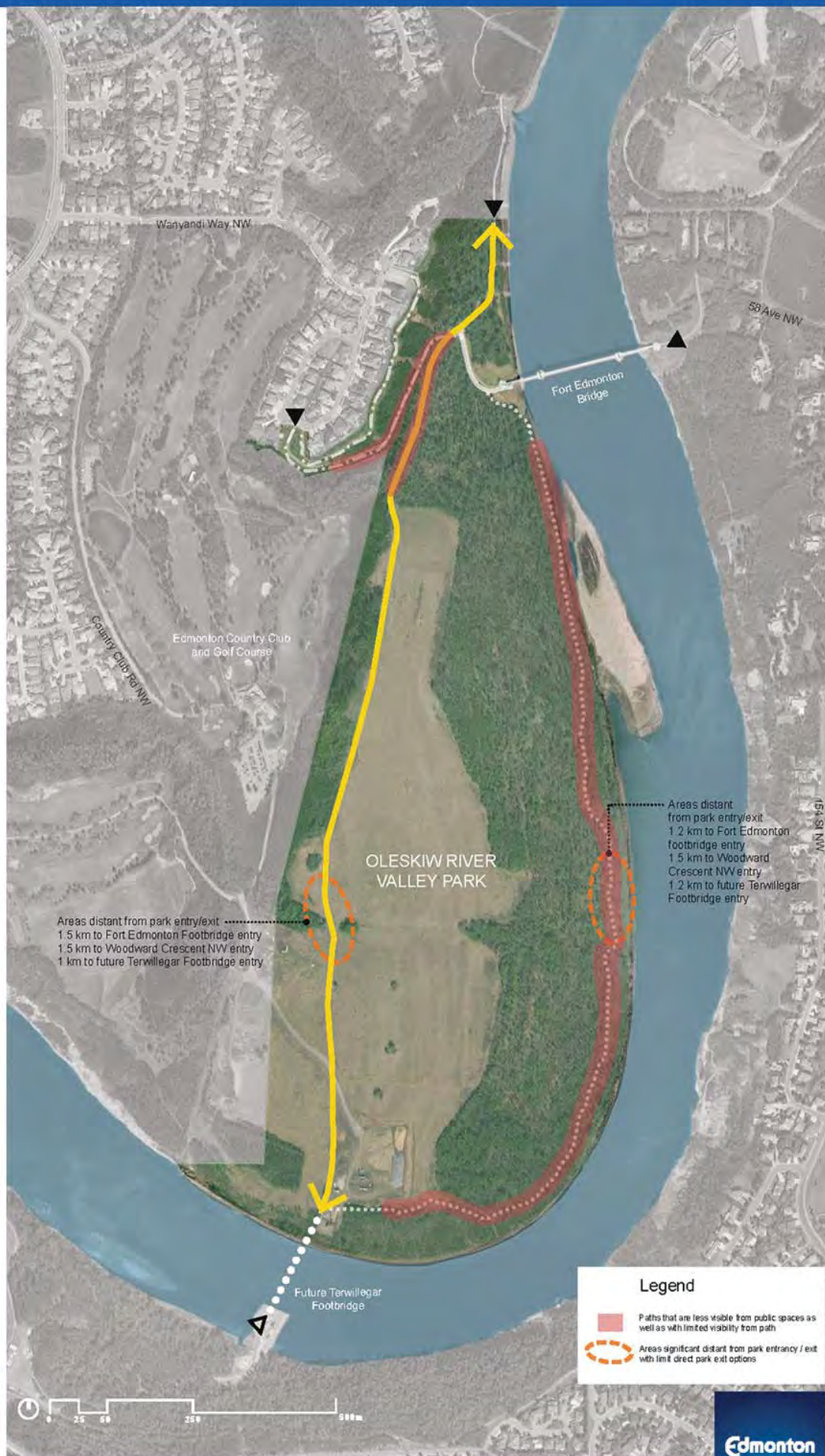


## Maintenance + Safety

Aside from a few points outside the park boundaries where the park is visible from a distance, many areas of the park have poor sight lines to the surrounding neighbourhoods and park areas.

It is nearly impossible to see the park area from across the river because of dense vegetation.

Pathways in the park area are generally accessible, but they are limited. Without more pathway options or park entrances, visitors could feel trapped in the park.



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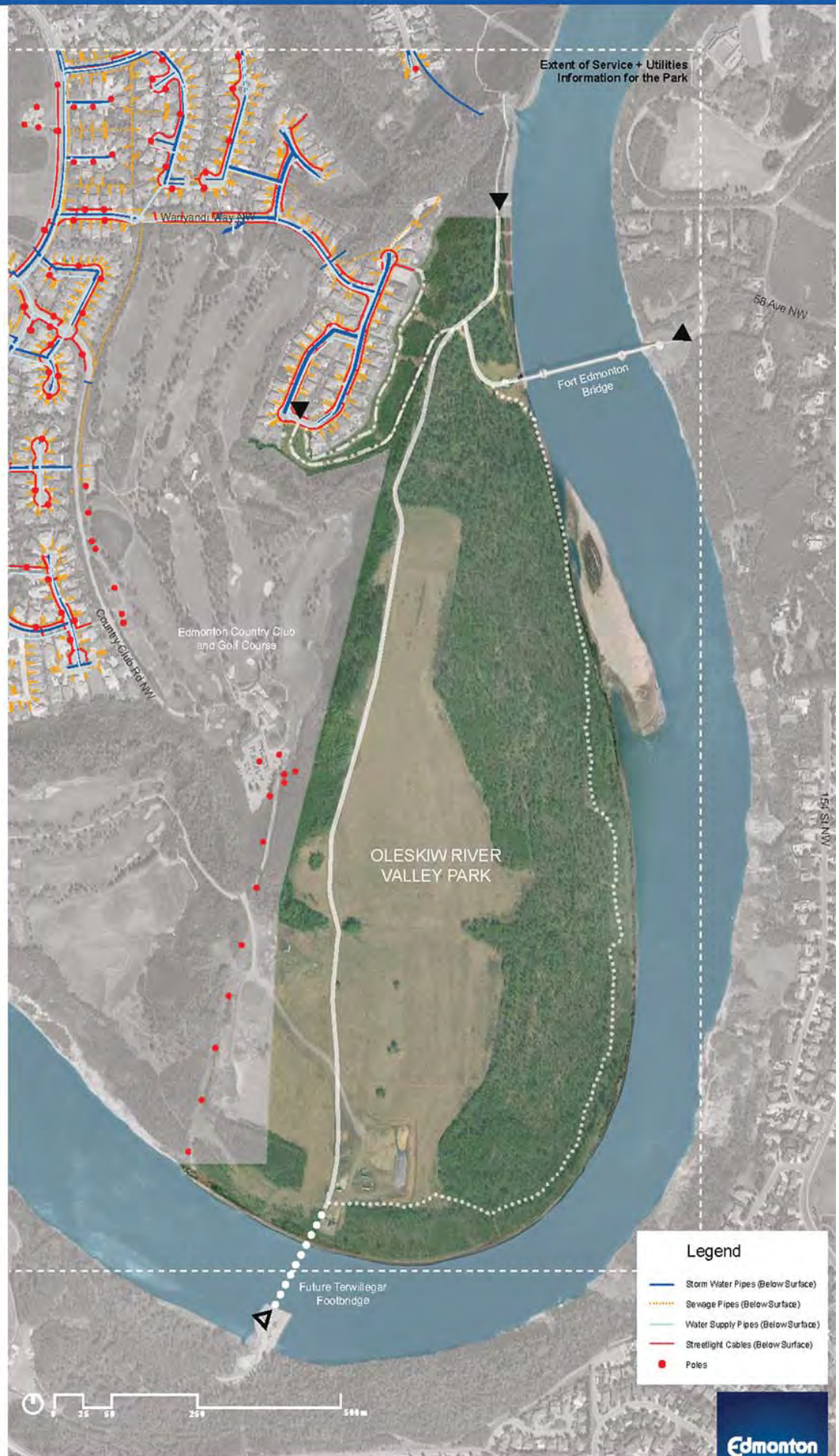




## Utilities + Servicing

The Oleskiw River Valley Park does not have any significant utilities or servicing features except for a power line extension that runs through the western side of the park.

Although the adjacent neighbourhoods and golf course are serviced with electricity, water and sewers, extending service into this park area faces the constraints of natural disturbance and financial cost.



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## Natural Features: Vegetation + Open Space

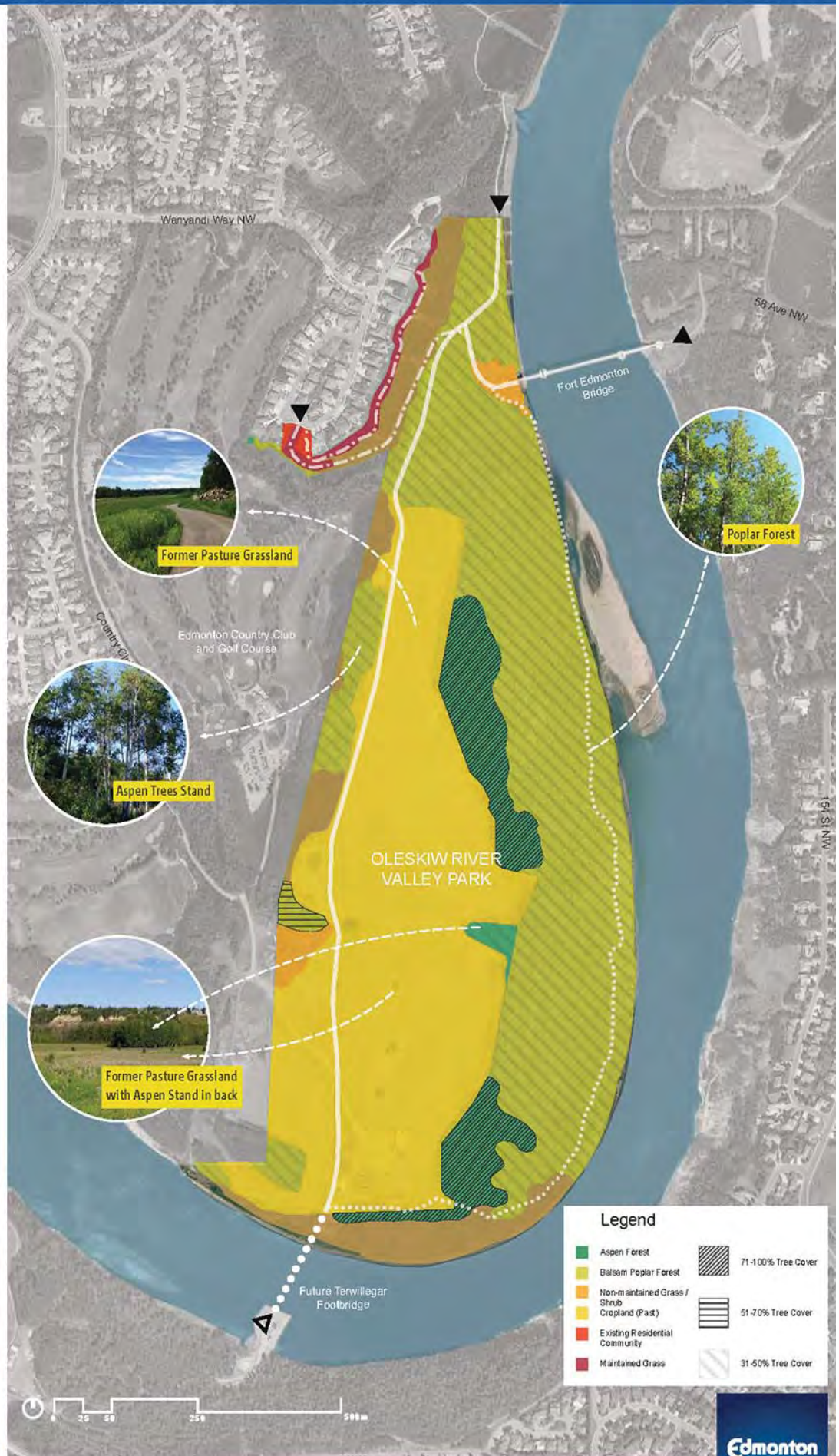
The Oleskiw River Valley Park lies in the Central Parkland Subregion, a classification of Alberta's Natural Regions (Natural Regions Committee, 2006).

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.

Healthy stands of native trees (aspen and balsam poplar) are growing along the bank of the North Saskatchewan River on the eastern portion of the park.

The central area of the park has been cultivated in recent history and remains an open grass field dotted with small groupings of trees.

Along the western portion of the park, large stands of Caraganas are growing, which is likely due to disturbance of the site.



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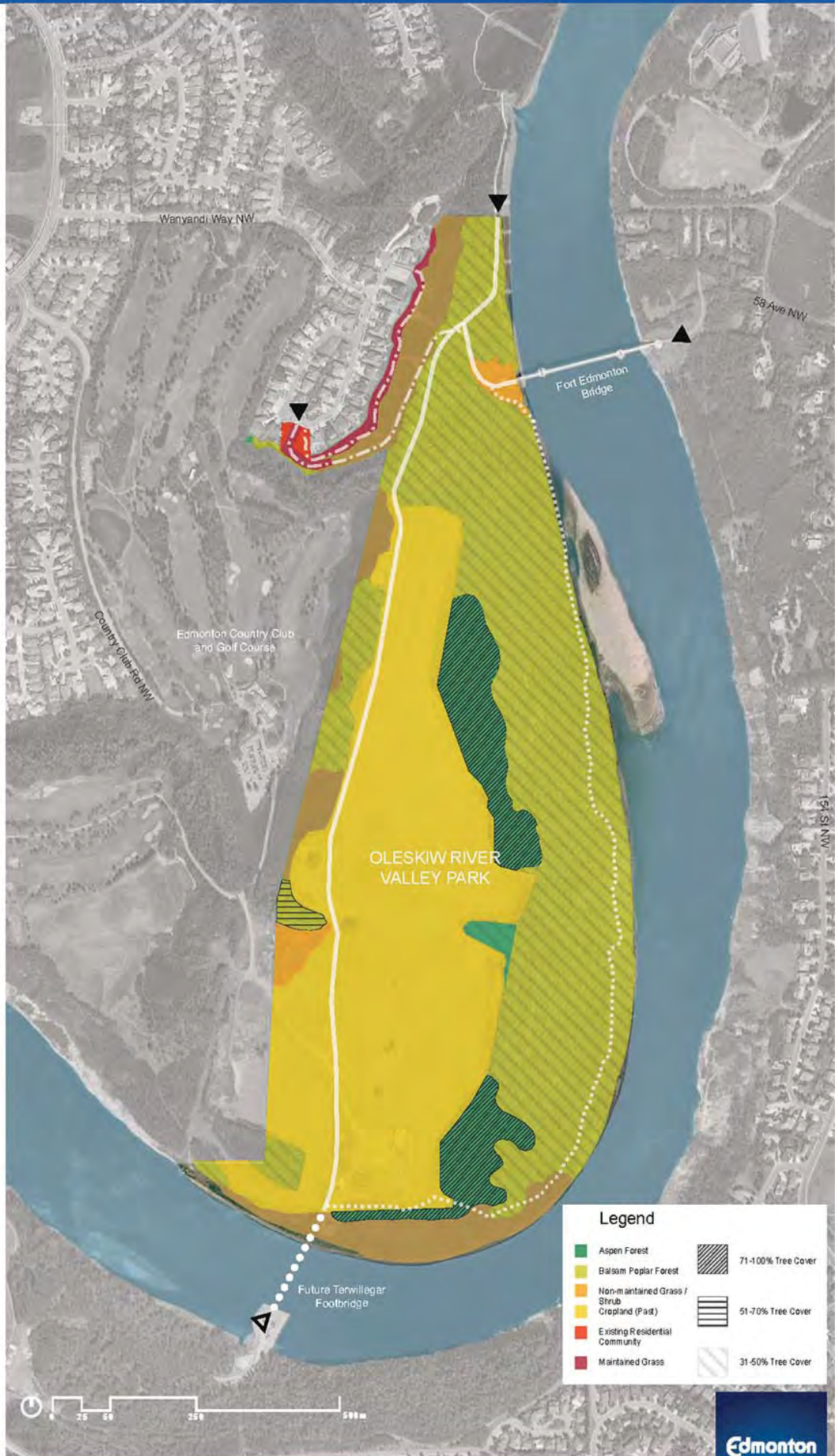
## Natural Features: Wildlife + Habitat

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.

The park area is to date not as heavily used by the public due to its history as a portion of the adjacent golf course and as a farmed plot. Its habit value lies in the fairly healthy stand of aspen and balsam poplar along the eastern edge of the site and its open grass area of the former agricultural field. The open field can be used for foraging by various bird species.

During field observations 22 different species of birds have been observed and the presence of coyotes and deer was established based on the presence of dens and deer tracks. Audio identification confirmed the presence of the least flycatcher which is a provincially listed that is considered sensitive in Alberta.

Wildlife species of conservation concern that have the potential to occur within the park area include Canadian toad, peregrine falcon and short-eared owl.



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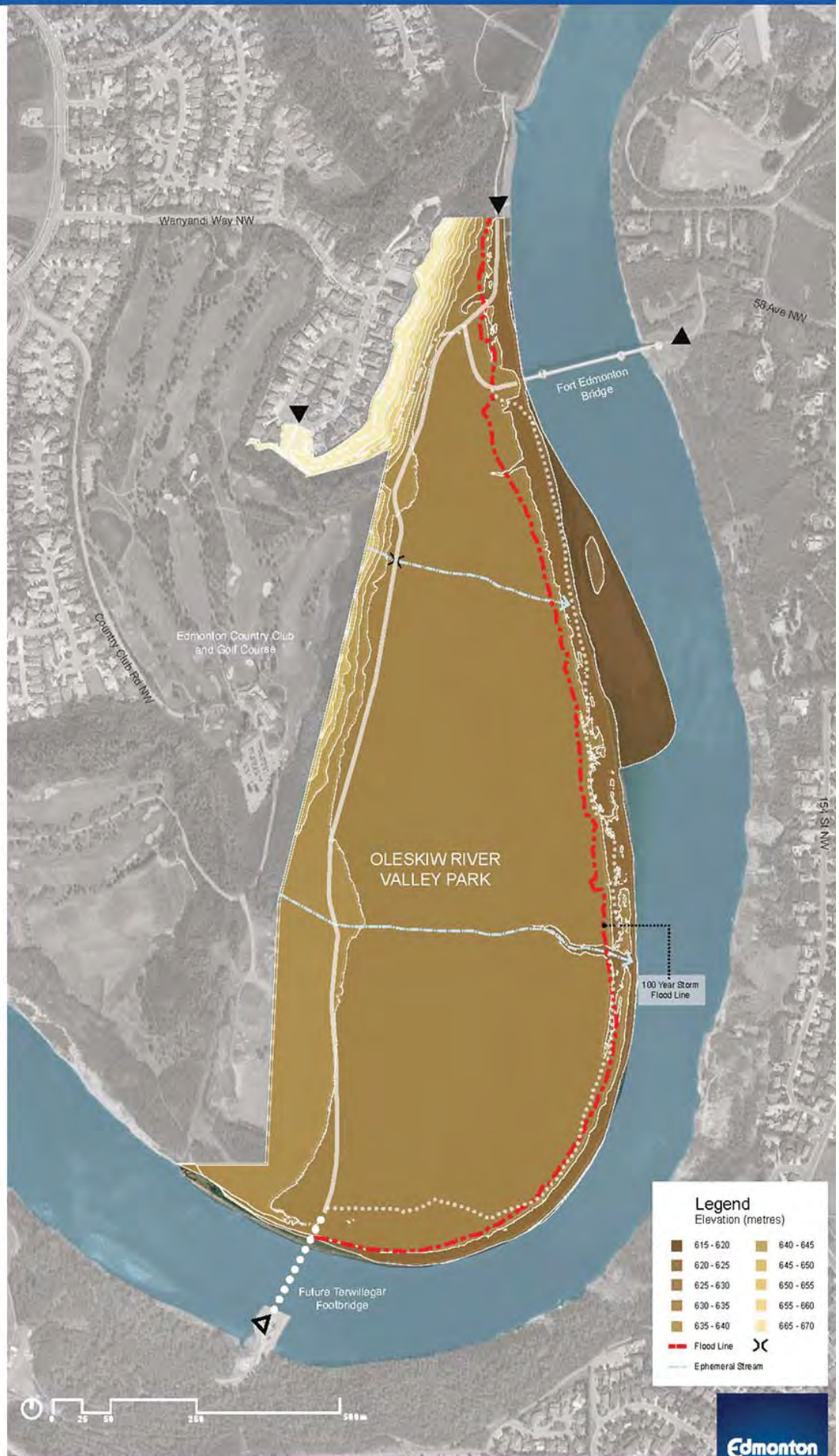
## Natural Features: Topography + Hydrology

The park area is relatively flat and well vegetated. The land generally slopes southeast towards the river. Two ephemeral streams run east to west across the Oleskiw River Valley Park.

A comparison of historical bank lines for the North Saskatchewan River spanning a period of 1969 to 2008 shows that there is little movement of the east bank in the Oleskiw River Valley Park.

However, the bankline along the southern extent of the bend in the river has been eroding over time, producing steep banks about 2-3 metres high.

Proposed developments should be located outside of the 100 year flood line, or appropriate flood proofing measures will be required.



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