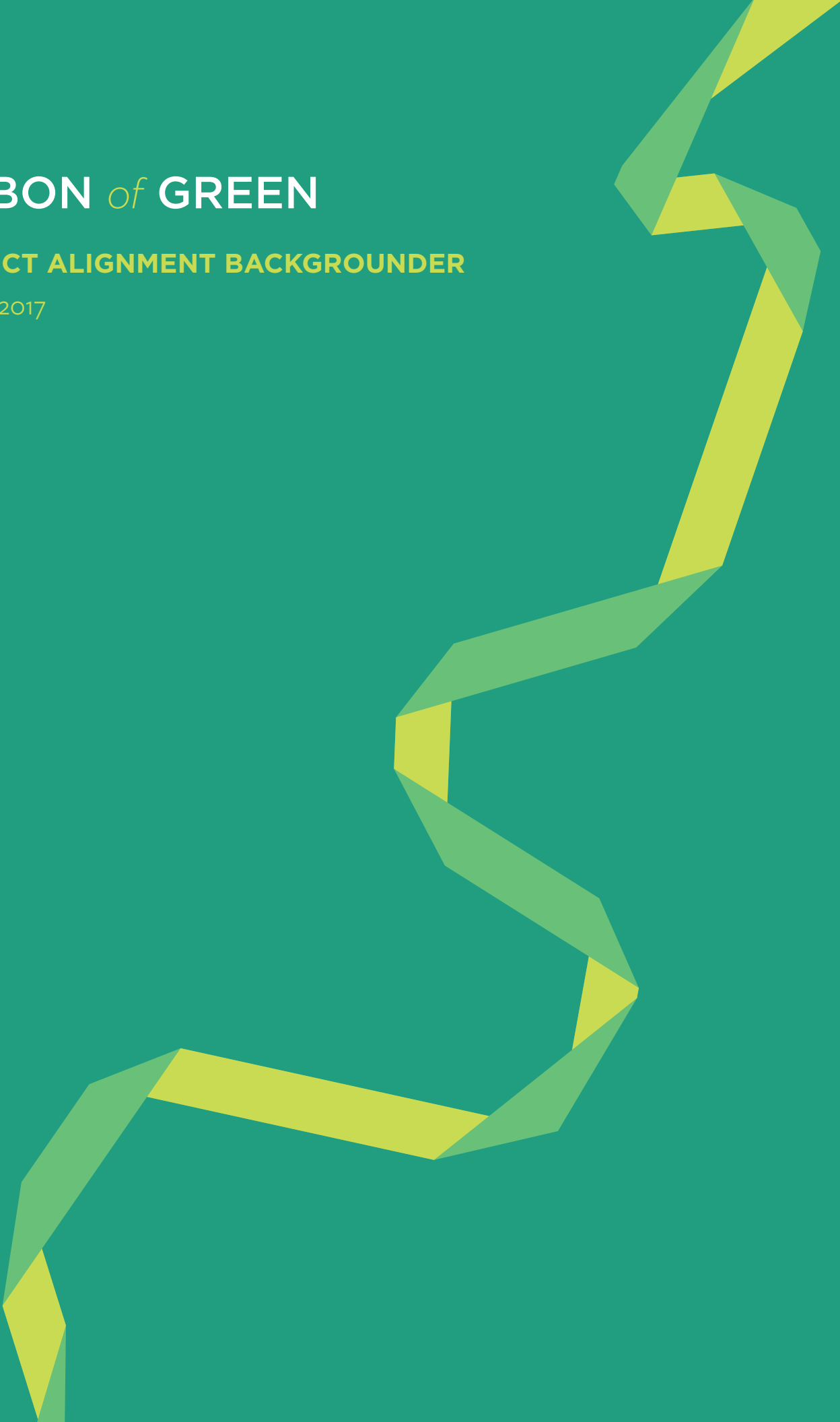


# RIBBON *of* GREEN

## PROJECT ALIGNMENT BACKGROUNDER

January 2017



Prepared for  
**City of Edmonton**

Prepared by  
**O2 Planning + Design Inc.**



O2

|  |           |
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Ribbon of Green (2018) needs to respect the direction of multiple projects, policies, bylaws, processes and plans at the municipal, regional, provincial and federal level. This backgrounder compiles and summarizes the key documents and projects of influence to function as an ongoing reference for use throughout the project.

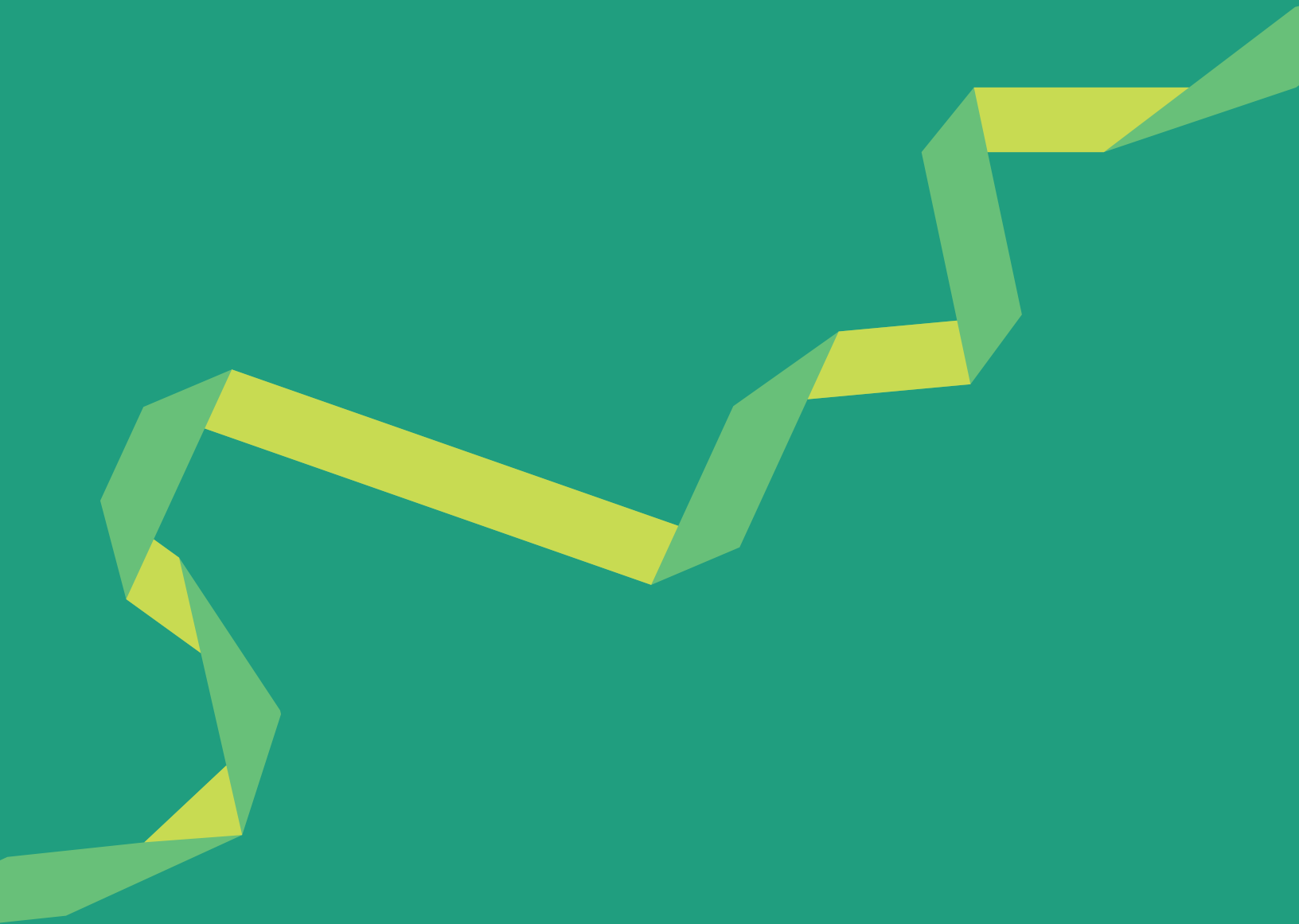
There are two key projects that will influence the Ribbon of Green. The Plan will take direction from BREATHE: Edmonton's Open Space Strategy, and be informed by the Environmental Sensitivities Mapping Project. Both projects are addressed in this document, including a brief description of their influence on the Ribbon of Green as well as preliminary maps applying their results to the two study areas.

The second section summarizes documents that need to be considered throughout the Ribbon of Green Project. These plans, policies, bylaws, acts and processes will direct, support, and/or inform the Ribbon of Green plan and/or the process undertaken to create it. This summary highlights the direction and implications for each of these documents. In addition to these overarching documents, this section also briefly summarizes relevant content from the NSPs, NASPs and ASPs surrounding the study areas.

In conclusion, this backgrounder will function as a reference throughout the project to ensure that The Ribbon of Green aligns with and respects existing direction, decisions and processes established municipally, regionally, provincially and federally.



# ALIGNMENT WITH KEY PROJECTS



# BREATHE: EDMONTON'S GREEN NETWORK STRATEGY

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**PROJECT RELEVANCE:** *BREATHE is a transformative strategy to make sure that as the city grows, each neighbourhood will be supported by a network of open space for the next 30 years. The main goal of the Green Network Strategy is to plan and sustain a healthy city by encouraging connection and integration of open space at the site, neighbourhood, city and regional levels.*

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## RELATIONSHIP TO THE RIBBON OF GREEN PROJECT

BREATHE will set the vision and policy for Edmonton's Green Network, including the North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System. Additionally, the Ribbon of Green will align with the policy statements, recommendations, and proposed implementation projects provided by BREATHE, and will utilize the findings from BREATHE's spatial analyses.

## GAP DISCUSSION

1. BREATHE is currently being finalized with a completion target date in Spring 2017. As the implementation plan is finalized, coordination is required to ensure the Ribbon of Green implements BREATHE accurately and appropriately
2. Ribbon of Green will apply the three themes, functions and other direction provided in BREATHE at the local level. The three themes, Ecology, Celebration and Wellness, include the following functions:
  - » Ecology: water management, climate regulation, biodiversity, risk mitigation, waste management, and flood protection
  - » Celebration: heritage, destination and tourism, aesthetic value, community building, and public safety
  - » Wellness: recreation, active transportation, mental health and wellbeing, and learn and play
3. Policy within the Ribbon of Green requires careful attention to ensure that the right policy level of detail is achieved and alignment with BREATHE without unnecessary replication
4. The analysis from BREATHE applies to all publicly-owned/accessible open space throughout Edmonton. Sections of both Ribbon of Green Study Areas are not publicly-owned and therefore will require supplementary analysis to understand the existing conditions.

## ALIGNMENT METHODOLOGY

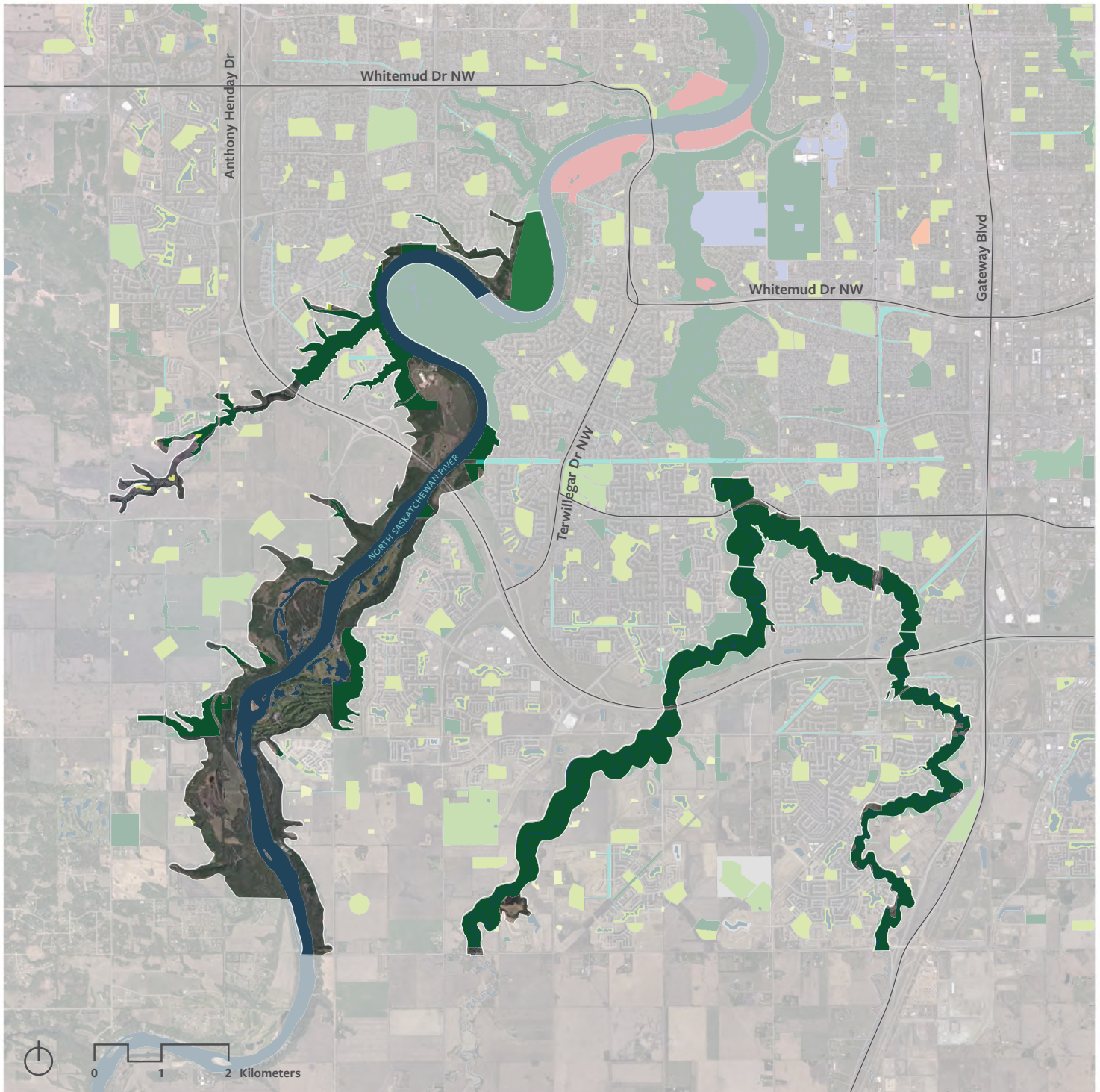
To ensure alignment with BREATHE the following actions will be taken:

- Key ideas, especially the themes and functions, will be applied to the Ribbon of Green study areas
- The Ribbon of Green process will include regular check-ins with BREATHE to ensure alignment, the right level of detail is achieved and that applicable pieces of information and direction is incorporated.
- Open space analysis conducted for BREATHE can be applied to non-publicly-owned, specifically land cover, connectivity, catchment and services areas, and land suitability assessments

## Open Space Classification: SW Study Area

This map illustrates the draft open space classification from BREATHE applied to the SW study area. The areas without a classification are parcels currently not publicly owned.

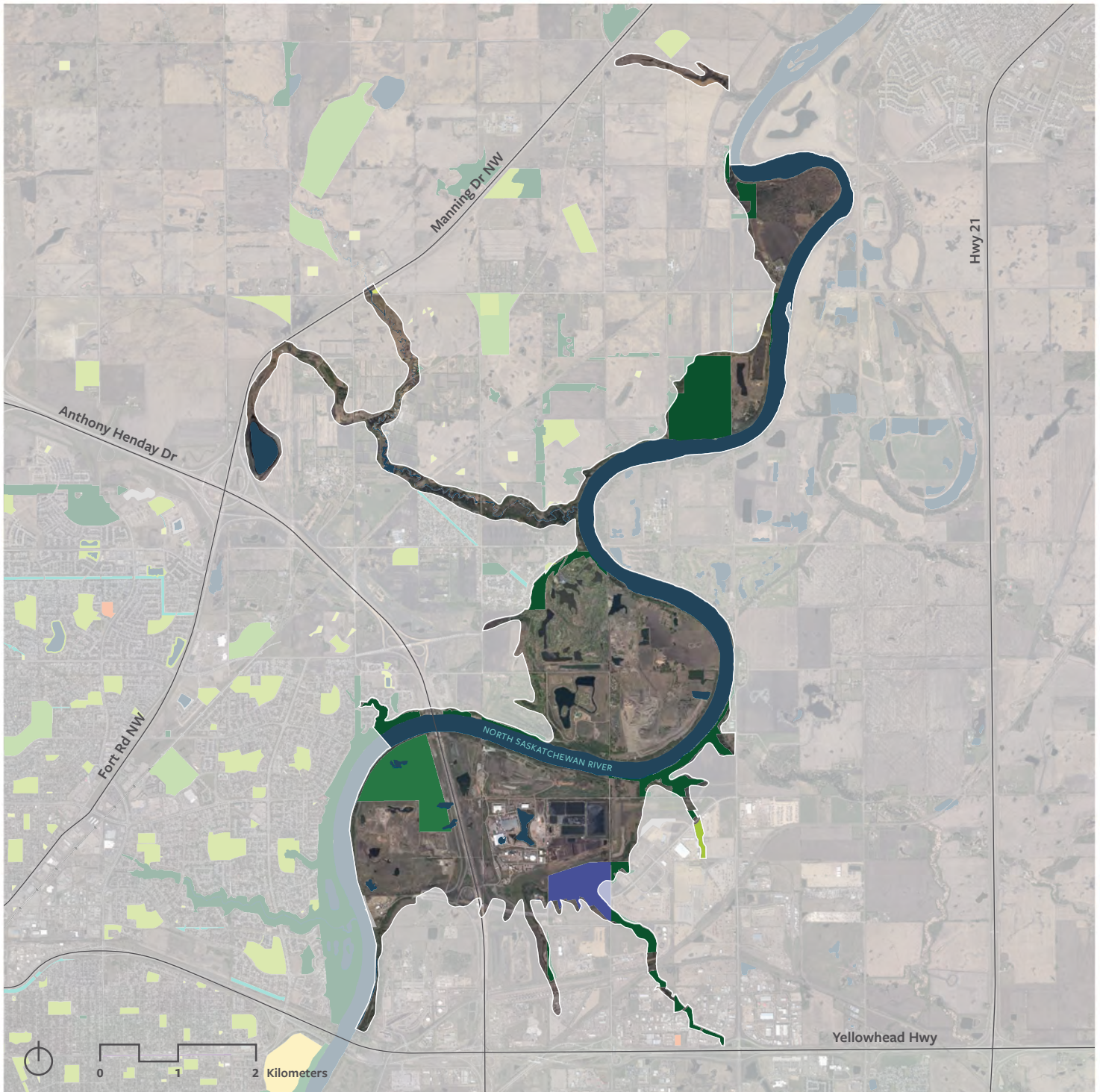
- |                        |                               |                       |                                |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Municipal Parks</b> | <b>Civic Spaces</b>           | <b>Corridors</b>      | <b>Other Public Open Space</b> |
| ● Ecological Parks     | ● Main Streets                | ● Connector           | ● Special Purpose Facility     |
| ● Municipal Parks      | ● Pedestrian Priority Streets | ● Greenway            | ● Municipal Cemetery           |
| ● District Parks       | ● Squares + Plazas            | <b>Other Parkland</b> | ● School Site                  |
| ● Community Parks      |                               | ● Provincial Parks    | ● Municipal Golf Course        |
| ● Local Parks          |                               | ● Campuses            | ● Other Open Spaces            |



## Open Space Classification: NE Study Area

This map illustrates the draft open space classification from BREATHE applied to the NE study area. The areas without a classification are parcels currently not publicly owned.

- |                        |                               |                       |                                |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Municipal Parks</b> | <b>Civic Spaces</b>           | <b>Corridors</b>      | <b>Other Public Open Space</b> |
| ● Ecological Parks     | ● Main Streets                | ● Connector           | ● Special Purpose Facility     |
| ● Metropolitan Parks   | ● Pedestrian Priority Streets | ● Greenway            | ● Municipal Cemetery           |
| ● District Parks       | ● Squares + Plazas            | <b>Other Parkland</b> | ● School Site                  |
| ● Community Parks      |                               | ● Provincial Parks    | ● Municipal Golf Course        |
| ● Local Parks          |                               | ● Campuses            | ● Other Open Spaces            |

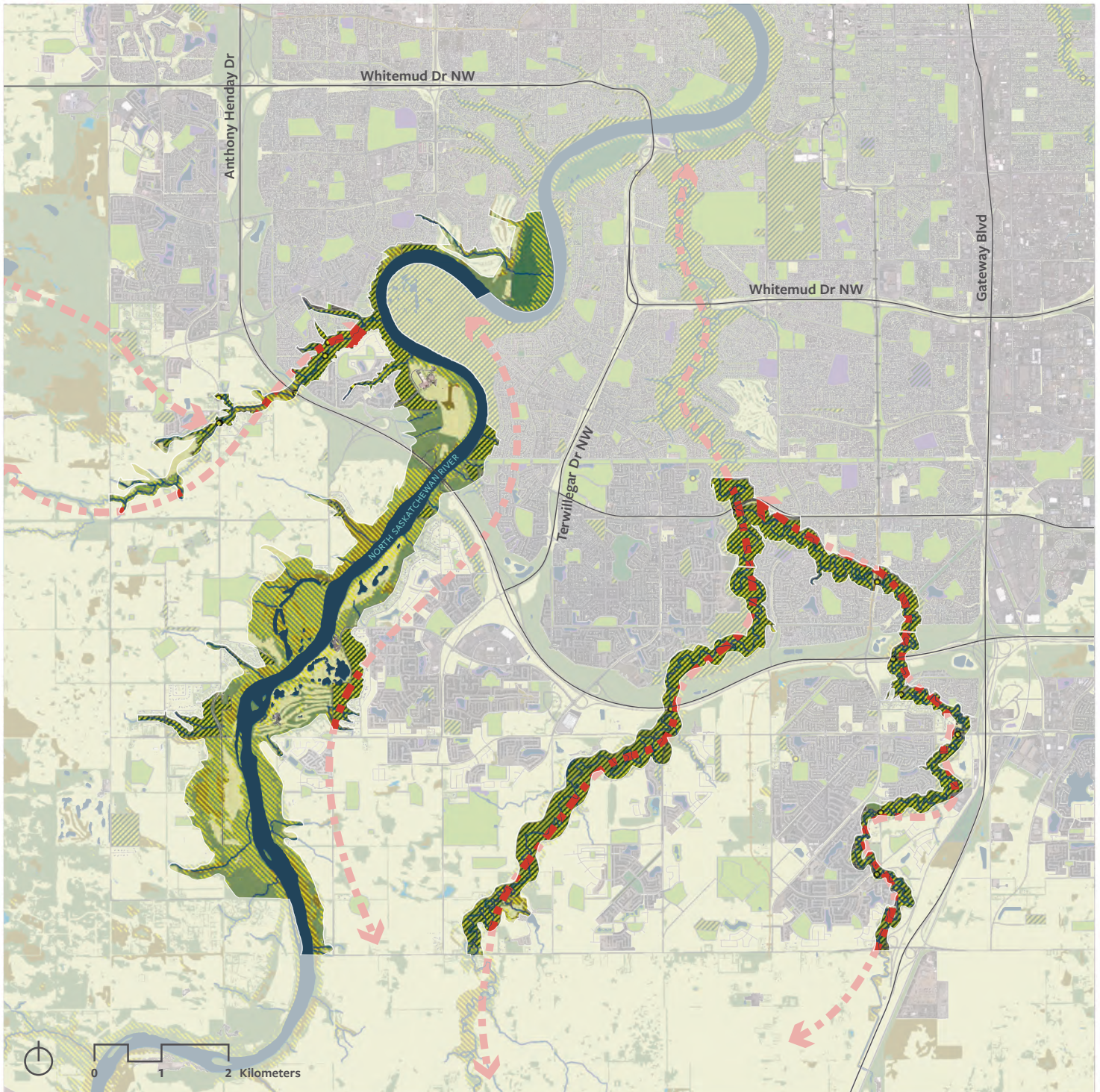




## Areas that Support Ecological Functioning: SW Study Area

This map illustrates the draft open space classification from BREATHE applied to the SW study area.

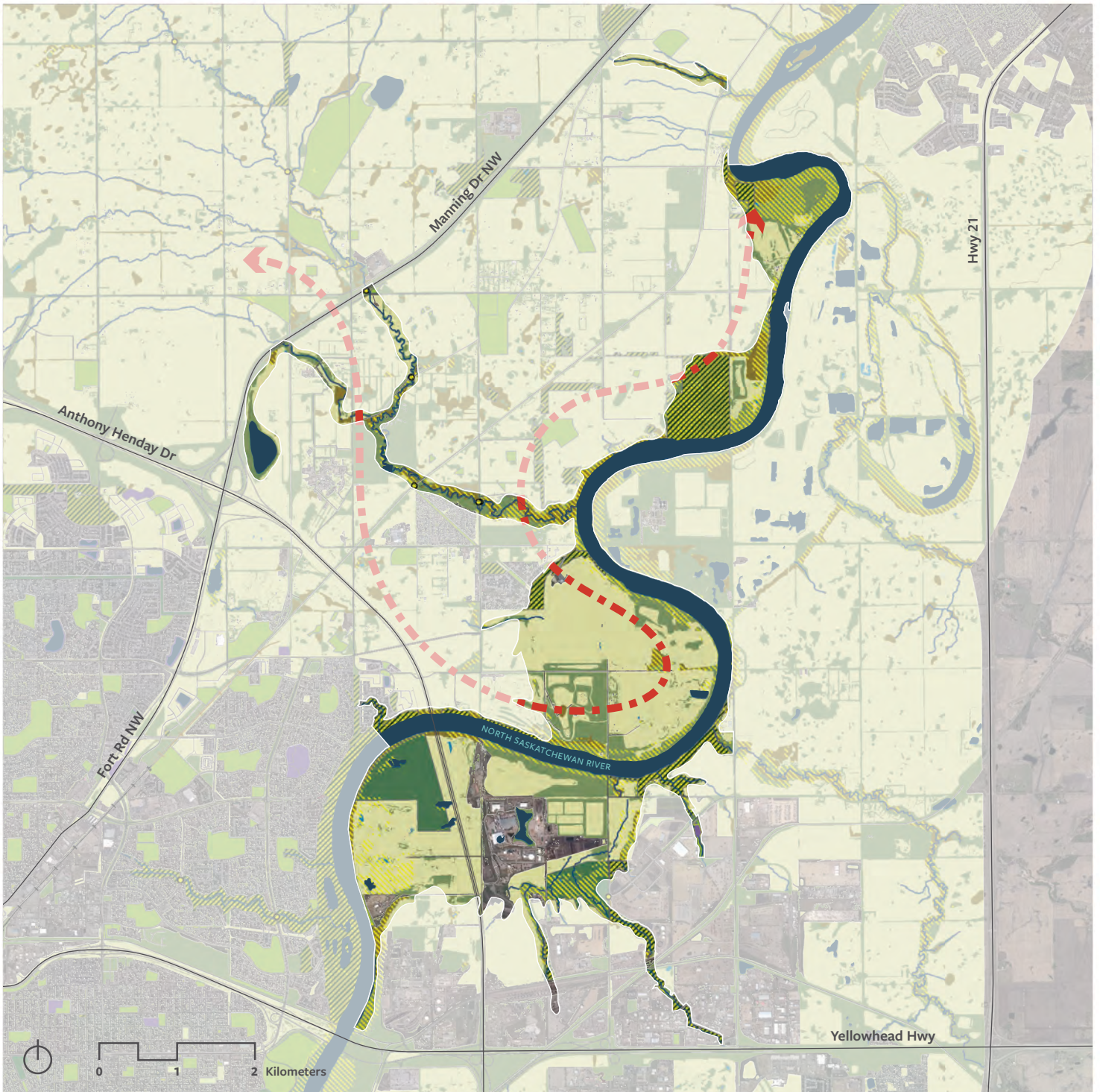
- |  |  |                                   |                         |                       |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| ○ <b>Does Not Support</b> Ecological Functions | ▨ Ecological Parks   | ● Open Water                      | ● Natural               | —+ LRT (Future)       |
| ● <b>Low Support</b> Ecological Functions      | ▨ Extremely High & Very High Environmental Sensitivity Score | ● Permanent Wetlands              | ● Semi-Natural          | —+ LRT (Existing)     |
| ● <b>Moderate Support</b> Ecological Functions | ● Unique Vegetation  | ● Stormwater (Existing & Planned) | ■ Important Connections | — Major Roads         |
| ● <b>High Support</b> Ecological Functions     |  |                                   |                         | — Major Streams       |
|  |  |                                   |                         | ● Crossing Structures |



## Areas that Support Ecological Functioning: NE Study Area

This map applies the 'Ecology' analysis from BREATHE to the NE study area to highlight initial areas of no, low, moderate or high support of ecological functioning to provide a starting point for further analysis.

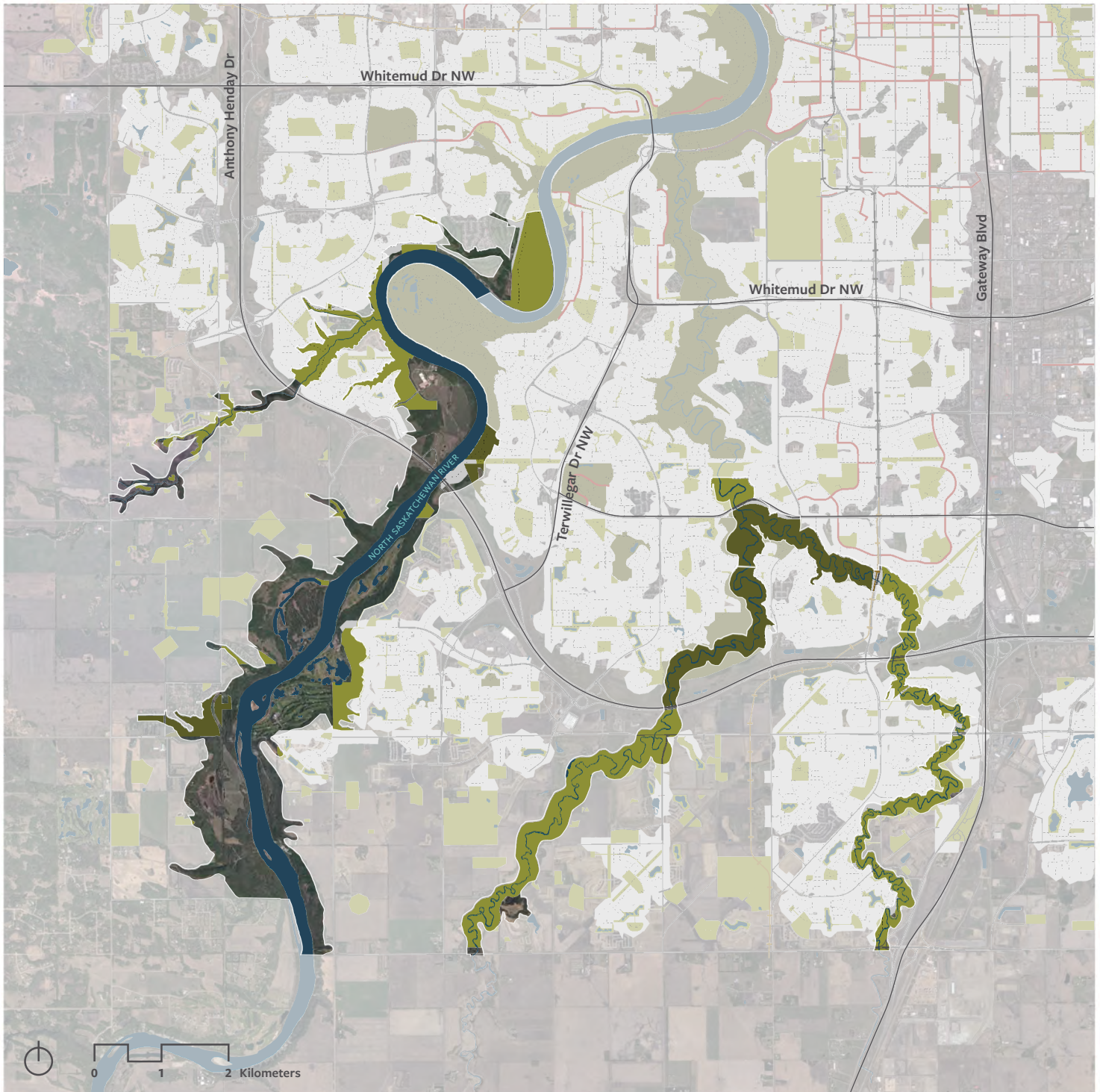
- **Does Not Support** Ecological Functions
- **Low Support** Ecological Functions
- **Moderate Support** Ecological Functions
- **High Support** Ecological Functions
- ▨ Ecological Parks
- ▨ Extremely High & Very High Environmental Sensitivity Score
- Unique Vegetation
- Open Water
- Permanent Wetlands
- Stormwater (Existing & Planned)
- Natural
- Semi-Natural
- Important Connections
- LRT (Future)
- LRT (Existing)
- Major Roads
- Major Streams
- Crossing Structures



## Areas that Support Celebration Functioning: SW Study Area

This map applies the 'Celebration' analysis from BREATHE to the SW study area to highlight initial areas of no, low, moderate or high support of celebration functioning to provide a starting point for further analysis. The areas without a classification are parcels currently not publicly owned.

- **Does Not Support** Celebration Functions
- **Low Support** Celebration Functions
- **Moderate Support** Celebration Functions
- **High Support** Celebration Functions
- Celebration Catchments
- Open Water
- + LRT (Future)
- + LRT (Existing)
- Major Roads
- Bike Routes
- - - Pedestrian Paths



### Areas that Support Celebration Functioning: NE Study Area

This map applies the ‘Celebration’ analysis from BREATHE to the NE study area to highlight initial areas of no, low, moderate or high support of celebration functioning to provide a starting point for further analysis. The areas without a classification are parcels currently not publicly owned.

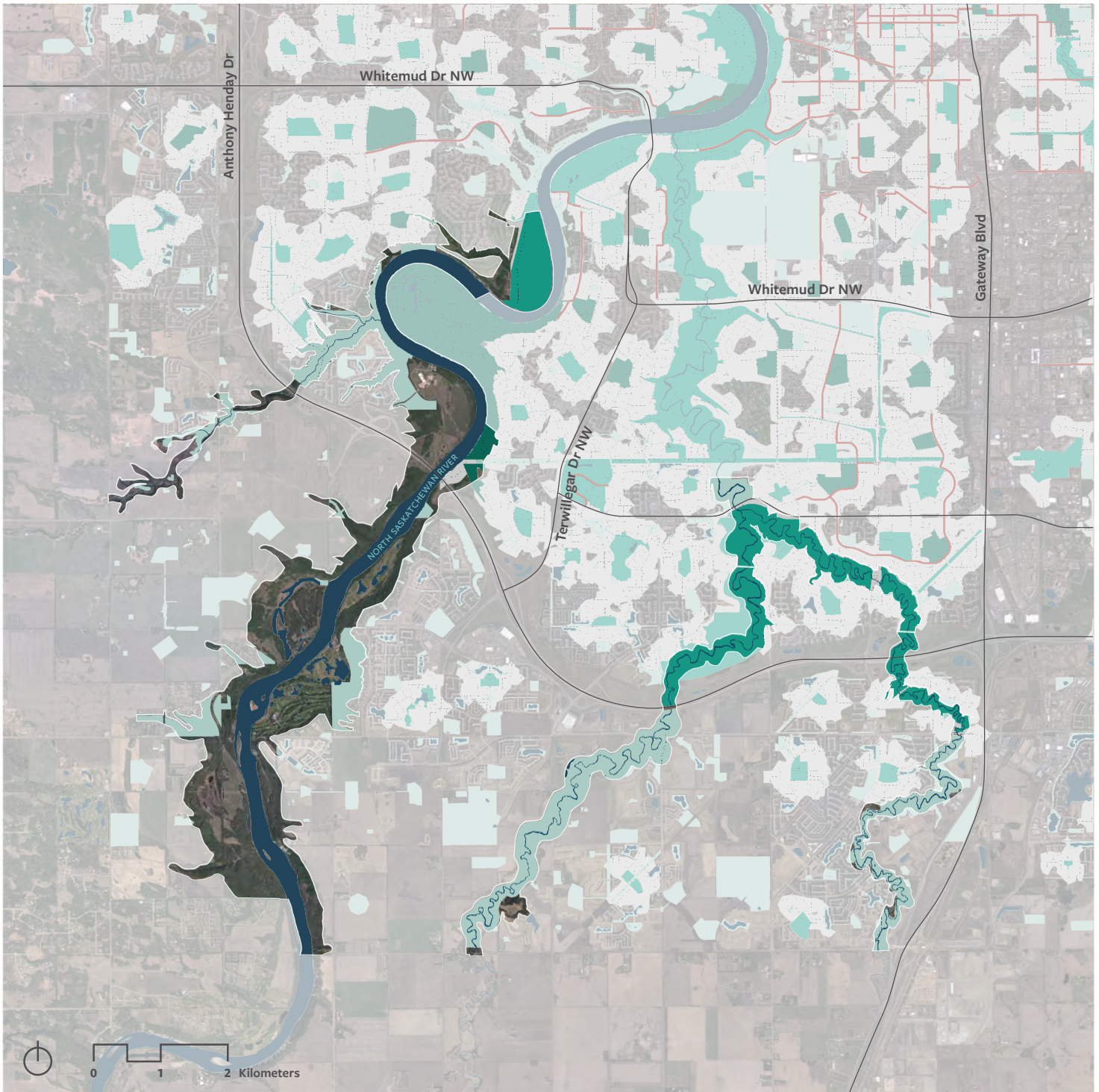
- Does Not Support Celebration Functions
- Low Support Celebration Functions
- Moderate Support Celebration Functions
- High Support Celebration Functions
- Celebration Catchments
- Open Water
- + LRT (Future)
- + LRT (Existing)
- Major Roads
- Bike Routes
- Pedestrian Paths



## Areas that Support Wellness Functioning: SW Study Area

This map applies the 'Wellness' analysis from BREATHE to the SW study area to highlight initial areas of no, low, moderate or high support of wellness functioning to provide a starting point for further analysis. The areas without a classification are parcels currently not publicly owned.

- Does Not Support Wellness Functions
- Low Support Wellness Functions
- Moderate Support Wellness Functions
- High Support Wellness Functions
- Wellness Catchments
- Open Water
- Bike Routes
- - - Pedestrian Paths



## Areas that Support Wellness Functioning: NE Study Area

This map applies the 'Wellness' analysis from BREATHE to the NE study area to highlight initial areas of no, low, moderate or high support of wellness functioning to provide a starting point for further analysis. The areas without a classification are parcels currently not publicly owned.

- Does Not Support Wellness Functions
- Low Support Wellness Functions
- Moderate Support Wellness Functions
- High Support Wellness Functions
- Wellness Catchments
- Open Water
- Bike Routes
- - - Pedestrian Paths



# ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITIES MAPPING PROJECT

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

The goals of the Environmental Sensitivity Mapping (ESM) project are:

- › To advance the City of Edmonton's goal to protect, understand and restore its ecological network, as outlined in The Way We Grow (2010)
- › To identify areas with significant ecological value (assets), threats to those valued assets, physical constraints and cultural resources
- › To summarize these factors as 'environmentally sensitivity'
- › To identify potential restoration sites

## RELATIONSHIP TO THE RIBBON OF GREEN PROJECT

The analysis, and spatial data sets, produced through this project will provide a starting point for the Ribbon of Green ecological network desktop analysis, and inform the Land Management Planning Units.

## GAP DISCUSSION

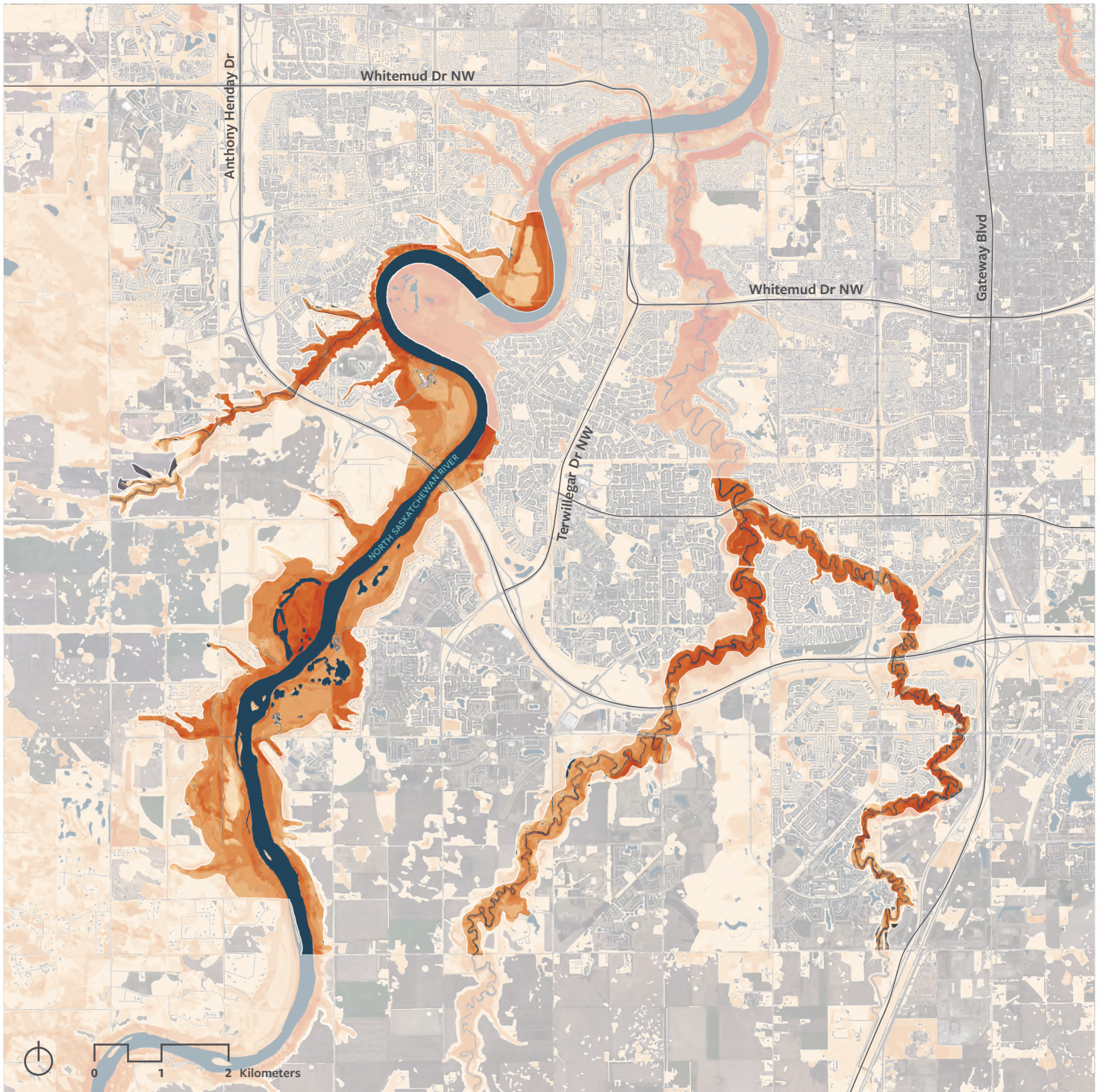
1. Given the city-wide nature of the ESM data, some refinement and supplementary analysis will be required for each study area, which may require incorporating additional factors (potentially un-fragmented natural vegetated patches, wetlands and landscape connectivity).
2. The high value ecological data needs to be analyzed in relation to high level historical, cultural, recreational and mobility/access locations. There may be instances of overlap that will need to be reconciled and evaluated for compatibility
3. Cultural, traditional and historical resources will also be analyzed in the same manner with highly valuable locations that may require conservation or preservation. These areas may overlap and may require different types of preservation or conservation management practices
4. The ESM includes a stakeholder review of its outputs; however, the Ribbon of Green project will include public and Indigenous participation throughout, which adds another level of data and input to reconcile against the ecological data

## ALIGNMENT METHODOLOGY

The ESM data will function as a starting point when defining the locations for Land Management Planning Units focused on ecological conservation or preservation. This data will then be cross referenced with BREATHE data and supplementary local level analysis (including historical, access, cultural and recreational analyses) to ensure that the land delineation is anchored in a rigorous process.

### Environmental Sensitivities Mapping Project: SW Study Area

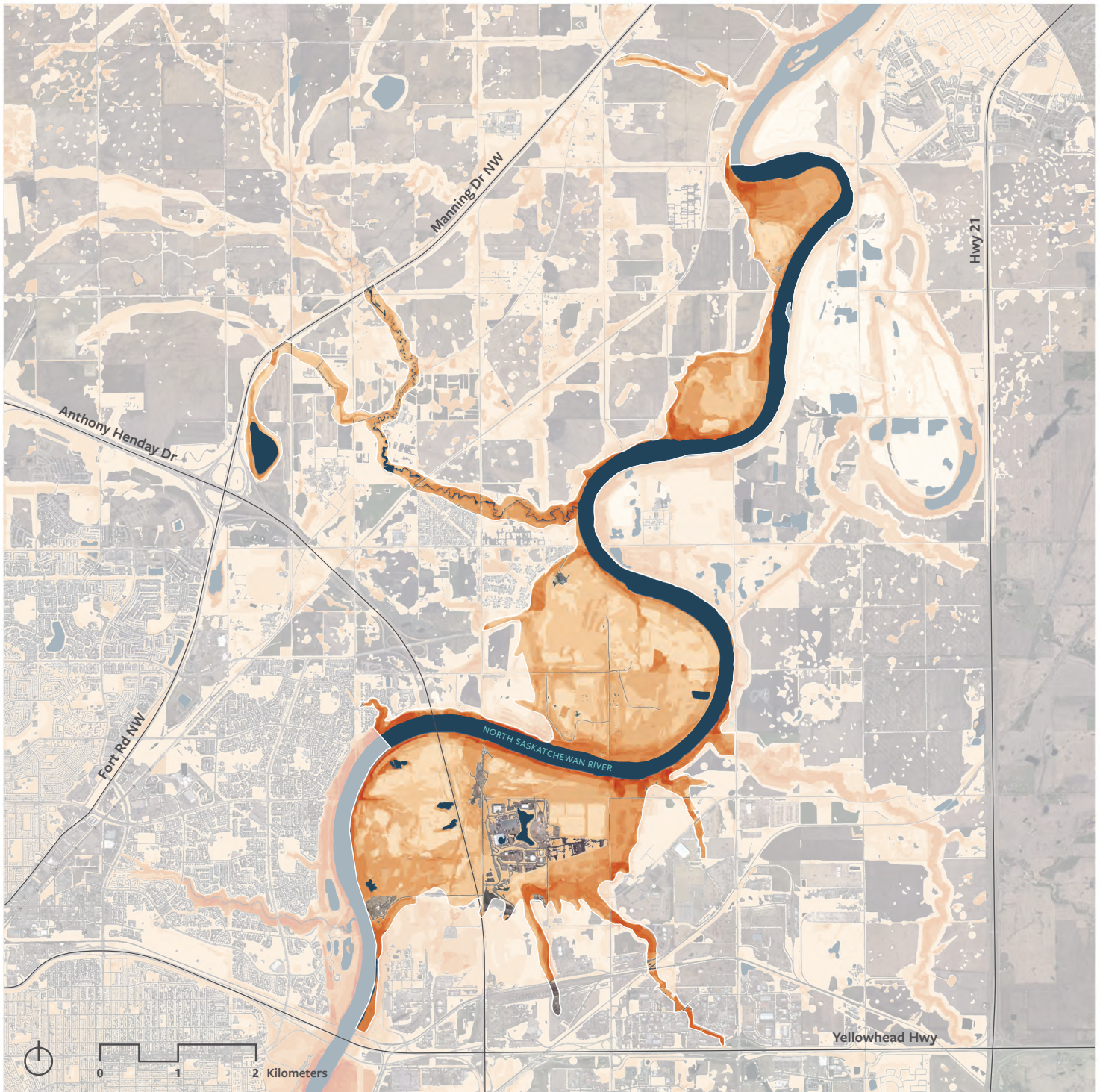
This map applies the ecological asset information from the Environmental Sensitivities Mapping Project to the SW study area. Areas with a high asset score have significant ecological value and are areas to explore further when applying preservation and conservation land use management units.





**Environmental Sensitivities Mapping Project: NE Study Area**

This map applies the ecological asset information from the Environmental Sensitivities Mapping Project to the NE study area. Areas with a high asset score have significant ecological value and are areas to explore further when applying preservation and conservation land use management units.



**RELEVANT ACTS,  
POLICIES, PLANS +  
ONGOING PROJECTS**



FEDERAL POLICIES & ACTS

**CANADA WATER ACT**  
1985

In matters relating to water resources, the Canada Water Act provides a framework for collaboration among the federal and provincial governments. The different levels of governments have varying roles related to the management of water resources.

Alberta, and the other provinces have the primary jurisdiction in most areas of water management and protection, including drinking water treatment and distribution, and waste-water treatment.

Water quality monitoring is conducted through Federal-Provincial water quality monitoring agreements, and information on water quality is shared to the public, government agencies, industry and the scientific community.

- » Edmonton's drinking water comes from the North Saskatchewan river, and is treated at two treatment plants along the river
- » As the North Saskatchewan river is captured within the Ribbon of Green area, the Plan's policies should support water quality improvement initiatives

**FEDERAL POLICY ON  
WETLAND CONSERVATION**  
1991

The purpose of the Federal Policy on Wetland Conservation is to "promote the conservation of Canada's wetlands to sustain their ecological and socio-economic functions, now and in the future."

The policy includes seven recommended strategies for the use and management of wetlands: public awareness, managing wetlands on federal lands, promoting wetland conservation in federally protected areas, enhancing cooperation among stakeholders, conserving wetlands of significance to Canadians, ensuring sound scientific basis for policy, and promoting international actions.

- » The policy applies to provincial/federal partnerships for wetland conservation, and the conservation of wetlands on federal lands

**FISHERIES ACT**  
1985

The Fisheries Act manages Canadian fisheries resources. Much of the Act is focused on regulating fishing; however, the Act also protects the aquatic habitat that fish need to reproduce, grow, and survive. This habitat protection includes pollution prevention provisions.

- » The North Saskatchewan River and other aquatic habitats within the Ribbon of Green area are subject to the Fisheries Act
- » It is an offence to harm, disrupt, or destroy fish habitat
- » The Minister may request the removal or modification of obstructions or things that are harmful to fish or impeded flow or fish passage
- » Authorization is required for projects that may impact fish or fish habitat

| ACT   PLAN   POLICY OR PROGRAM                | DIRECTION  | IMPLICATIONS   |
|---|--|--|
| <b>MIGRATORY BIRDS CONVENTION ACT</b><br>1994 | <p>The Migratory Birds Convention Act protects migratory bird species from undue harm do to human activity. Under the Act, it is unlawful to capture, kill, scare, hunt, or possess a migratory bird, nest, or egg, unless granted a specific permit to do so for commercial hunting, educational, or scientific purposes.</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Any activity that could potentially harm or disrupt nesting migratory birds is prohibited, including the removal of nesting trees</li> <li>» Human activity that may disrupt nesting areas is restricted during the bird nesting period</li> </ul>  |
| <b>SPECIES AT RISK ACT (SARA)</b><br>2002     | <p>The purpose of the Species at Risk Act is to prevent Canadian wildlife species, both flora and fauna, from becoming extinct; to support the recovery of wildlife species that are endangered, threatened or no longer exist in the wild due to human activity; and to manage species of special concern from becoming endangered.</p> <p>The Act includes measures that establish how governments, organizations, and individuals can ensure the protection and recovery of species at risk.</p> <p>Under the act, critical habitat for species at risk is protected whether on federal lands, provincial Crown land, or private land</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» SARA can impact uses, management practices, or development within parks and open spaces within the Ribbon of Green if species at risk are found at any time of the year within the Plan's study area</li> <li>» Projects within the Ribbon of Green area that involve habitat projects or species at risk recovery initiatives may be eligible for Habitat Stewardship Program funds</li> </ul> |

**PROVINCIAL PLANS, POLICIES & ACTS**

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <b>ALBERTA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT ACT (EPEA)</b><br>2014 | <p>The purpose of the Act is to support and promote the protection, enhancement and sustainable use of the environment.</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» The EPEA mandates that all stormwater management facilities must meet provincial standards for the timing, quantity, and quality of stormwater runoff release.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>ALBERTA'S LAND USE FRAMEWORK (LUF)</b><br>2008                          | <p>The Land Use Framework is meant to respond to development and growth pressures on Alberta's land and resources by providing a blueprint for land-use management.</p> <p>The Framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Established seven land use regions based on major watershed boundaries and subsequent regional plans to better integrate provincial policies at the regional level</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Edmonton and the North Saskatchewan River Valley fall within the North Saskatchewan Region</li> <li>» Municipalities are required to ensure that their plans are consistent with the regional plans</li> <li>» The Ribbon of Green must be consistent with the North Saskatchewan Regional Plan (in development)</li> </ul> |

| ACT   PLAN   POLICY<br>OR PROGRAM               | DIRECTION   | IMPLICATIONS  |
|---|---|---|
|   | <p>» Sets out broad goals relating to land conservation and stewardship, managing the cumulative effects of development, promoting land use efficiency, including First Nations into land use planning, and developing information and monitoring systems</p> <p>The Alberta Land Stewardship Act is the legal mechanism through which the Framework is being implemented.</p>  |   |
| <p><b>ALBERTA PUBLIC LANDS ACT</b><br/>2014</p> | <p>The Public Lands Act governs most public land in Alberta, not including privately owned land, land owned by municipal corporations, land held by the Federal Government, First Nations lands, or provincial parks.</p> <p>The Act requires authorization for projects and construction on land claimed by the Province, including activities or work that will impact water bodies.</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Land within the river valley and ravines that are claimed by the Province are subject to the Act</li> <li>» The Act requires First Nations and Métis Consultation</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>ALBERTA WATER ACT</b><br/>2014</p>        | <p>The Alberta Water Act governs how the Province manages water. It works to promote the conservation, management, allocation, and use of water.</p> <p>The Act also provides a framework to restrict land development within floodplains.</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» The Act provides guidance for establishing water resource management plans for the North Saskatchewan River as an inter-provincial waterbody</li> <li>» The Act requires First Nations and Métis Consultation</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>ALBERTA WEED CONTROL ACT</b><br/>2008</p> | <p>The Alberta Weed Control Act regulates invasive plant species such as noxious and prohibited weeds and their seeds. The Act mandates that all persons shall control noxious weeds on land they own or occupy, and shall destroy prohibited noxious weeds on their land.</p> <p>Additionally, control measures such as inspection and enforcement of prohibitions, and the mandating of licenses for seed cleaning plants and mechanisms are included in the Act.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Policies within the Ribbon of Green Plan should address the control and removal of noxious and invasive weeds</li> </ul>   |

**ALBERTA WETLAND  
POLICY**  
2013

The goal of the policy is to maintain wetland areas in Alberta such that the ecological, social, and economic benefits that wetlands provide are maintained. This helps to ensure healthy watersheds that provide safe and secure drinking water supplies and healthy aquatic ecosystems.

- » Management of wetlands within the Ribbon of Green area should align with the best practices and recommendations identified within this policy

**ALBERTA WILDLIFE ACT**  
2000

The Alberta Wildlife Act governs both the protection and sustainable management of wildlife in Alberta, including the protection of threatened/endangered species, the hunting of wildlife, and permissions to harm or disrupt wildlife through permitting and licenses.

- » It is unlawful to harm, collect, or kill an animal, including its den or nest, without a license from the province
- » Some species at risk residing in the Ribbon of Green area may require special management considerations

**MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT  
ACT (MGA)**  
2000

The Municipal Government Act is the provincial legislation that governs the 349 municipalities across the province, including Edmonton. The Act focuses on three areas: governance and administration; assessment and taxation, and planning and development.

In 2014, the Province began modernizing the Act, which continued through 2016 and has included public input. The updated Act has been officially passed by the Legislature.

The MGA grants municipalities responsibility over land use planning within their boundaries and requires that each municipality complete a Municipal Development Plan. The MGA also:

- » Gives municipalities the power to designate lands as Municipal or Environmental Reserve
- » Requires developers and land owners to set aside 10% of their total developable land area as Municipal Reserve for the use of parks, recreational areas, or other municipal purposes

The MGA sets out rules:

- » For the acquisition of land for public use, including for parks and recreation facilities
- » For the use of reserve land as a public park or public recreation area
- » To enable a recreational services tax
- » To enable funds from a redevelopment levy to be used for parkland or land for a new or expanded recreation facility
- » The implementation of the modernized MGA will likely include City Charters for Edmonton and Calgary, with ongoing public consultation and negotiations

| ACT   PLAN   POLICY<br>OR PROGRAM   | DIRECTION  | IMPLICATIONS   |
|---|--|--|
| <b>SOIL CONSERVATION ACT</b><br>2000  | The intent of the Act is to provide a framework for encouraging soil conservation practices, to preserve Alberta's agricultural land base, and to ensure the long-term productivity of the farming sector. The Act provides municipalities with the authority to take action and impose penalties on landowners/occupants if soil is deteriorating through wind and water erosion, and other by other means. Municipalities also have the power to develop permits that prescribe the terms and conditions required for stubble burning and topsoil removal. | » There is a significant amount of agricultural land in the Ribbon of Green's Northeast Study Area                   |
| <b>STORMWATER<br/>MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES<br/>FOR THE PROVINCE OF<br/>ALBERTA</b><br>1999 | The purpose of the Stormwater Management Guidelines for the Province of Alberta is to provide a framework for stormwater management, from the planning level to detailed design standards.   | » Stormwater management policies within the Ribbon of Green Plan can look to the province's guidelines for direction |

**REGIONAL POLICIES**

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>EDMONTON<br/>METROPOLITAN REGION<br/>GROWTH PLAN</b><br>2016 | <p>The Growth Plan guides the work of the Capital Region Board, whose mandate is to ensure the long-term economic prosperity and quality of life for all citizens in the Edmonton Metropolitan Region.</p> <p>The Plan guides the efficient use of infrastructure and the building of compact communities to support Intermunicipal transit, healthy lifestyles, and economic opportunities. Of note, the river valley in Edmonton is classified as a Key Wildlife and Biodiversity Zone.</p> <p>Amongst other areas, the Plan sets policy direction for natural living systems, including following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Conserve and restore natural living systems through an ecological network approach</li> <li>» Protect regional watershed health, water quality and quantity</li> <li>» Plan development to promote clean air, land and water and address climate change impacts</li> <li>» Minimize and mitigate the impacts of regional growth on natural living systems</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» The Plan gives direction to the City of Edmonton's Municipal Development Plan, which in turn provides direction for land use within the city, including parks and open spaces</li> <li>» The Plan provides high level policy direction for the Ribbon of Green</li> <li>» The Plan also identifies an Integrated Regional Open Space Master Plan as well as a Regional Agriculture Master Plan, including urban agriculture, as future implementation items</li> </ul> |
|---|--|---|

| ACT   PLAN   POLICY<br>OR PROGRAM  | DIRECTION  | IMPLICATIONS  |
|--|--|---|
| <p><b>NORTH SASKATCHEWAN REGIONAL PLAN (NSRP)</b><br/>In Development</p>             | <p>The NSRP is currently being developed through a phased approach. The consultation period is now over, with contributions from the Regional Advisory Council, First Nations, Métis groups, stakeholders, municipalities and the public to inform the development of The Regional Plan.</p> <p>When complete, the Plan will guide natural resource development, support economic growth, and protect the environment within the North Saskatchewan Region. It will provide policy direction and clarity for decision makers at the federal, provincial, and local levels.</p> <p>The NSRP is one of seven Land Use Regional Plans under the Alberta Land Use Framework.</p> | <p>» Future amendments or changes to the Ribbon of Green will need to align with the NSRP when it is completed</p>  |
| <p><b>NORTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER INTEGRATED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN</b><br/>2012</p> | <p>The plan outlines recommendations and strategic approaches to land management in the North Saskatchewan River for the purpose of sustaining water resources in the watershed for the long term, and to meet the goals of Alberta's Water for Life Strategy.</p> <p>The Plan also directs that municipalities participate in watershed planning activities, follow recommendations to guide the preparation and implementation of statutory plans and best management practices, and work with the Alliance and other watershed stakeholders to communicate and implement best management practices.</p>   | <p>» The Ribbon of Green Plan will align with the management plan through policy directions that maintain or improve water quality, aquatic ecosystem health, and ground water health</p> |



**RIVER VALLEY ALLIANCE:  
CAPITAL PROGRAM  
2017 - 2022**

In Development

In February 2016, the River Valley Alliance (RVA) submitted to its members a Draft Capital Program 2017-2022, which contains an overview of proposed projects across all municipalities. Proposed projects include completing a trail through the region and completing the main river valley trail. The proposed projects align with the River Valley Alliance priority of improving access and connectivity. The southwestern most portion of the proposed trail would complete Edmonton's portion of the Trans Canada Trail connection.

The projects as listed by the River Valley Alliance have been identified in either the Ribbon of Green Concept Plan (1990) or the River Valley Alliance Plan of Action, both of which have been approved by City Council and have been reviewed publicly.

The status of the projects is a strategic planning level and requires further review to confirm the proposals before proceeding with concept design.

- » Projects proposed within the 2017-2022 Capital Program are located within the NE and SW Study Areas of the Ribbon of Green
- » Individual municipalities implement the River Valley Alliance Plan of Action within their jurisdictions
- » The City of Edmonton is currently completing three RVA Capital Program projects. More information on the East End Trails Project can be found on page 28, and the West End Trails and Terwillegar Footbridge on page 32.

**CITY OF EDMONTON PLANS, POLICIES, & PROGRAMS**

**THE WAY AHEAD**

2008 (Updated 2014)

The Way Ahead, Edmonton's Strategic Plan, establishes six 10-year strategic goals to achieve the City's vision for Edmonton in 2040, and to direct long-term planning for the City of Edmonton. They are related to:

- » Urban Form - creating a balance of supporting densities, mixed-use, and place making, shifting to more of an urban centre within a thriving region
- » Transportation - creating an integrated transportation system with greater travel choices for Edmontonians
- » Livability - focusing specifically on the strategic areas of welcoming, safety perception, cleanliness and aspects important to the notion of urban village creation
- » Environment - leveraging existing strengths and new innovations to improve the environment in a sustainable way and minimize the ecological footprint of the City, emphasizing both preservation and sustainability

- » The Way Ahead will influence the Ribbon of Green Plan at a high level through the City's vision, and strategic goals

- » Financial Sustainability - diversifying revenue sources while meeting the obligations the City has to its citizens
- » Economy - Diversifying Edmonton's economy

These goals are detailed out in The Ways documents:

- » The Way We Grow
- » The Way We Move
- » The Way We Live
- » The Way We Green
- » The Way We Finance
- » The Way We Prosper

**THE WAY WE GROW**  
2010

The Way We Grow is the City of Edmonton's Municipal Development Plan (MDP). It is designed to guide the growth and development of Edmonton for a ten-year period. Policy directions for urban form, growth, and development are all provided.

There are specific policy directions for protecting, preserving, and enhancing natural areas, wetlands, the North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System, water, air, and parks and open space.

The Way We Grow calls for:

- » The protection, preservation, and enhancement of the natural environment by maintaining the integrity and interconnectivity of the river valley, water resources, natural areas, parks and open spaces
- » Increased connections to the river valley and other natural areas
- » The identification and protection of views of the River Valley and Ravine System
- » The protection, preservation and enhancement of the North Saskatchewan
- » The mitigation of development impacts on the River Valley and Ravine System
- » The expansion and enhancement of Edmonton's inventory of parks and open spaces
- » The protection, maintenance and enhancement of the water quality within the North Saskatchewan Watershed
- » To work with regional partners, organizations and private landowners to protect, preserve and enhance the North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System for its recreational, aesthetic and natural resource value
- » Subject to Federal and Provincial overriding approvals, resource extraction is prohibited within the North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System

**THE WAY WE MOVE,  
TRANSPORTATION  
MASTER PLAN**

2009

The Transportation Master Plan establishes the framework for how Edmonton will address its future transportation needs, and aligns with the City’s vision and Municipal Development Plan.

The Plan puts forward seven strategic goals:

- » Transportation and Land Use Integration – to ensure that the transportation system and land use/urban design complement each other
- » Access and Mobility – through an interconnected and integrated mobility system
- » Sustainability – to create sustainable, livable communities that minimize the need for new infrastructure and increase quality of life
- » Health and Safety – supporting healthy, active lifestyles, and addressing safety and security
- » Transportation Mode Shift – emphasizing public transit and active transportation
- » Well-Maintained Infrastructures – to ensure fiscal responsibility and economic sustainability
- » Economic Vitality – enhancing the competitive advantage of Edmonton and the Capital Region

The Way We Move includes actions to:

- » Provide well-integrated transitions between sidewalks, the multi-use trail corridor network, other pedestrian networks, transit facilities, parkland, and the River Valley and Ravine System.
- » Develop a coordinated network of multi-use trails throughout the city, including integration with Edmonton’s river valley, parkland and utility corridors, as well as regional connections

**THE WAY WE LIVE**

2010

The Way We Live: Edmonton’s People Plan is the City’s first plan focusing on people services and quality of life issues. It acts as a blueprint to coordinate services with the 25 municipalities in the Edmonton Capital Region. It acknowledges the importance of building positive relationships among individuals, neighbourhoods, communities and regions.

Protection of natural spaces and the North Saskatchewan River Valley is viewed as contributing towards improved quality of life.

The Way We Live includes actions to:

- » Promote, protect, and maintain the North Saskatchewan River Valley as the centerpiece of an integrated parks system
- » Promote civic pride through attractive design
- » Promote the enhancement and protection of significant lands, trees, views, and streets
- » Promote environmental sustainability, and maintain/conservate natural spaces and ecological connectivity in the North Saskatchewan River Valley

**THE WAY WE GREEN**

2011

The Way We Green is the City of Edmonton’s Environmental Strategic Plan. The Plan sets out principles, goals, objectives, strategic actions, and approaches for Edmonton to live in balance with nature, while ensuring the wellbeing of Edmonton’s society, economy and quality of life.

Special attention is paid to the fact that the North Saskatchewan River is Edmonton’s sole source of drinking water, and fundamental to the city’s sustainability.

Of all the Ways documents, the Way We Green is the most directly relevant and impactful for the Ribbon of Green Plan.

The Way We Green includes actions to:

- » Enhance and maintain functional ecological linkages for the River Valley and Ravine System
- » Protect and preserve the North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System as Edmonton’s greatest natural assets, including construction mitigation, creek bed restoration, and working with partners
- » Make the River Valley and Ravine System an accessible year-round place for recreation and activity for people of all ages, including connections with other natural areas, pedestrian and cyclist connections, pathway connections, balancing low-intensity passive recreation with more intensive recreation activities
- » Minimize the impacts from development on the river valley and ravines
- » Use tools and other means to expand, maintain, and operate parks and open spaces
- » Improve water quality, including protection from pollution and erosion
- » Improve air quality

**THE WAY WE FINANCE**

In Development

The Way We Finance is Edmonton’s Financial Sustainability Plan. The Plan outlines how the City will ensure continued fiscal management and long-term financial sustainability.

In preparation of the Plan, white papers have been produced on debt, franchise fees, investments, property assessment and taxation, and uses fees.

The Way We Finance was presented to Council in fall 2016.

- » Once implemented, The Way We Finance may have implications for the Ribbon of Green in terms of changes to user fees for recreation, as well as how park expansion, operation, and maintenance is funded

**THE WAY WE PROSPER**  
2013

The Way We Prosper is the City of Edmonton's Economic Development Plan. It is a high-level plan that is focused on growing and diversifying Edmonton's economy. It sets direction for the City to more effectively engage with partners and senior levels of government on issues relating to economic growth and sustainability.

- » The Way We Prosper sets the goal of creating a vibrant, livable city
- » An iconic and accessible river valley can give Edmonton a competitive edge in attracting workers and investment

**RIBBON OF GREEN:  
NORTH SASKATCHEWAN  
RIVER AND RAVINE  
CONCEPT PLAN**

1990

**MASTER PLAN**

1992

Together, these plans established the long-term strategy for balancing natural environment preservation, conservation of historic resources, and the development of recreation amenities within the river valley and ravines. They provide the City with direction and standards for trails, recreational amenities, recreational facility concepts, and resource management.

The river valley and ravines were categorized into three land management units: extensive use areas, conservation areas, and preservation areas.

- » As an update to these plans, the Ribbon of Green (2018) will be directly influenced by them, including policy directions, Land Management Planning Units, and guiding principles.

**OLESKIW RIVER VALLEY  
PARK MASTER PLAN**

In Development

Oleskiw Park is a 193-acre park located in the west end, south of the Fort Edmonton Footbridge and adjacent to the Edmonton Country Club. In its current form, the park includes a formal trail and several informal trails, as well as various natural vegetation areas. There is currently no vehicle entry into the park, which may limit its development.

Public consultation is being held to craft a community-driven vision for Oleskiw River Valley Park and establish the guiding principles that will form the basis for building a plan for the park. The Master Plan will create a legacy for Oleskiw River Valley Park that is unique to the surrounding neighbourhoods, and considers the park's natural and cultural identity. This work will reflect the needs of today while enhancing and preserving the ecological integrity of the park as part of Edmonton's river valley park system for generations to come.

The Master Plan report is expected in Fall 2017.

- » Oleskiw River Valley Park is located within the SW River Valley Study Area. Alignment between the two projects, including deliverables, communication materials, and engagement schedule will be critical to the success of both projects

| ACT   PLAN   POLICY<br>OR PROGRAM   | DIRECTION  | IMPLICATIONS   |
|---|--|--|
| <b>ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION<br/>(POLICY C544)</b><br>2009                      | <p>This policy states that the City supports all forms of active transportation by providing infrastructure, facilities, programs, and initiatives to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Enhance the accessibility, safety, security, and convenience of active transportation</li> <li>» Raise awareness of active transportation options</li> <li>» Educate users of Edmonton's transportation systems about their rights and responsibilities</li> <li>» Enact bylaws, policies, procedures, plans, etc. to support and encourage active transportation</li> <li>» Share responsibility for the provision of infrastructure, facilities, and programs to support and encourage active transportation through collaboration and partnerships</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Active transportation routes are found throughout the Ribbon of Green area</li> <li>» The Ribbon of Green will support the Active Transportation Policy, and the expanded active transportation network</li> </ul>  |
| <b>BICYCLE<br/>TRANSPORTATION PLAN</b><br>2009                              | <p>The Bicycle Transportation Plan envisions a bicycle friendly city, and calls for a range of facilities that would create a functional, comprehensive network of bike routes.</p> <p>The Plan proposes an expanded city-wide bicycle network through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Marked on-street bike routes</li> <li>» Bicycle racks on all transit buses</li> <li>» An expanded bicycle parking program</li> <li>» Education and awareness initiatives</li> <li>» An improved maintenance schedule</li> <li>» Street sweeping and snow clearing</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» The Bicycle Transportation Plan will influence the standards and guidelines for bicycle connections in, out, and through the Ribbon of Green area</li> </ul>  |
| <b>BREATHE: EDMONTON'S<br/>GREEN NETWORK<br/>STRATEGY</b><br>In Development | <p>Meant to supplant the UPMP and Natural Connections Strategic Plan, BREATHE is a strategy to ensure that as Edmonton grows, each of its neighbourhoods is supported by a network of open space for the next 30 years. The Strategy will plan for, and encourage the connection and integration of open spaces at the site, neighbourhood, city and regional levels.</p> <p>The Plan will be presented to Council for approval in 2017.</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» BREATHE will establish the vision and policy directions for Edmonton's open space network, which includes the River Valley and Ravine System</li> <li>» The Ribbon of Green will align with BREATHE policies, recommendations, and implementation plan</li> <li>» The Ribbon of Green will also utilize findings from the BREATHE spatial analysis</li> </ul> |

| ACT   PLAN   POLICY OR PROGRAM   | DIRECTION   | IMPLICATIONS   |
|--|---|--|
| <b>CHILD FRIENDLY EDMONTON STRATEGY</b><br>2006  | <p>This high-level strategy document provides general guidelines on improving advocacy and awareness, accessibility, and appropriate services for children.</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Public spaces within the Ribbon of Green area should be designed with children in mind, including best practices such as natural playgrounds, outdoor classrooms, and unstructured play elements</li> </ul>   |
| <b>CITY OF EDMONTON NORTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER VALLEY AREA REDEVELOPMENT PLAN (BYLAW NO. 7188)</b><br>2014 | <p>The goal of this plan is to preserve the natural character and environment of the North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System. It envisions the major portion of the River Valley and Ravine System as an environmental protection area for urban and natural parks, with some residential, recreational, institutional and commercial development in central areas.</p> <p>The ARP addresses development and open space protection in the North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System, as well as outlines policies for intended uses, parkland development, environmental protection, transportation, and future uses.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» The Plan will determine what can or cannot occur with the river valley and ravine areas in terms of land use.</li> <li>» The Ribbon of Green Plan will need to work within these permitted uses.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>CITY OF EDMONTON WETLAND STRATEGY</b><br>2012   | <p>The Wetland Strategy coordinates the City's wetland conservation approach into one document. The strategy describes the commitments that guide the City's wetland conservation practices, as well as a description of the tools used by the City to conserve wetlands.</p> <p>The three main goals of the Strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Secure Edmonton's wetlands as part of the city's ecological network</li> <li>» Manage Edmonton's wetlands to maximize their ecological function</li> <li>» Engage Edmontonians to support wetland conservation</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» The strategy will directly influence policies on how the wetlands within the Ribbon of Green area are conserved and protected</li> <li>» Where applicable, Ribbon of Green Conceptual Plans should incorporate the goals and objectives of this strategy</li> <li>» The strategy can be used to identify and prioritize areas for conservation and rehabilitation</li> <li>» Habitat destruction and fragmentation should be addressed in the Ribbon of Green Plan</li> </ul> |
| <b>CITY OPERATIONS GREENHOUSE GAS MANAGEMENT PLAN</b><br>2012  | <p>The purpose of this plan is to propose a comprehensive strategy for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from City operations, and contributes to Edmonton's long-term goal of carbon-neutrality. The Plan outlines actions to meet the City's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from City operations by 50% by 2020 from 2008 levels, and an 80% reduction by 2050.</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» The urban forest canopy should be doubled by 2090</li> <li>» The City's municipal fleet (7%) and composting operations (6%) contribute significantly to City's Operation emissions of 330,000 tonnes of GHGs in 2008</li> <li>» Operational policies such as reducing the use of GHG emitting lawn mowers can contribute to the city's overall goal</li> </ul>  |

| ACT   PLAN   POLICY<br>OR PROGRAM                                    | DIRECTION  | IMPLICATIONS   |
|--|--|--|
| <b>DOGS IN OPEN SPACES STRATEGY</b><br>2016                          | <p>The Dogs in Open Spaces Strategy is a review and update of Edmonton's previous policies and practices for off-leash dog areas. Recommendations within the strategy provide direction for the planning, design, and management for off-leash areas in the city.</p> <p>Unlike other off leash-dog areas in some other Edmonton districts, the strategy does not set a target for the distribution of these areas within the river valley and ravines.</p>  | <p>Regarding off-leash dog areas in the river valley and ravines, the strategy proposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Selective wildlife friendly fencing and special measures to protect wildlife and natural ecosystems</li> <li>» Fencing is to be decided on a case by case basis</li> <li>» Off-leash area boundaries should be clearly defined and marked</li> <li>» Parking should be adjacent to the area</li> <li>» The size of the area is to be determined based on river valley planning objectives</li> </ul> |
| <b>EAST END TRAILS</b><br>In Development                             | <p>Approximately 16 km of paved and gravel trails are being developed to connect the river valley main trail with new communities in east Edmonton. This includes a new pedestrian river crossing at the Anthony Henday Bridge.</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Construction on the East End Trail on the north side of the river will begin in fall 2016, while construction of trails along the south bank will come later</li> </ul>   |
| <b>ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVES MAPPING</b><br>In Development            | <p>The goals of the Environmental Sensitivity Mapping project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» To protect, understand and restore Edmonton's ecological network</li> <li>» To identify areas with significant ecological value (assets), threats to those valued assets, physical constraints and cultural resources</li> <li>» To summarize these factors as 'environmental sensitivity'</li> <li>» To identify potential restoration sites</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» The analysis, and spatial data sets, produced through this project will be the basis for the Ribbon of Green ecological network desktop analysis, and inform the Units</li> </ul>   |
| <b>FRESH: EDMONTON'S FOOD AND URBAN AGRICULTURE STRATEGY</b><br>2012 | <p>FRESH puts forth approaches and recommendations to increase urban food production in the city, as well as to improve the sustainability of the urban ecosystem and quality of life.</p> <p>The Strategy identifies five goals related to urban food production in the city:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» A stronger, more vibrant local economy.</li> <li>» A healthier, more food secure community.</li> <li>» Healthier ecosystems.</li> <li>» Less energy use, emissions, and waste.</li> <li>» More vibrant, attractive and unique places.</li> </ul> | <p>Fresh puts forth the following recommendations applicable to the Ribbon of Green:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Urban agriculture can be incorporated into public spaces, such as parks</li> <li>» Parks and open spaces can be utilized for food festivals, farmer's markets, community gardens, and urban farms</li> <li>» Edible landscaping should be incorporated into parks and the public right of way</li> </ul>   |



| ACT   PLAN   POLICY<br>OR PROGRAM                             | DIRECTION   | IMPLICATIONS  |
|---|---|---|
| <b>GREEN BUILDING PLAN</b><br>2012                            | <p>The Plan is designed to work with Edmonton residents to incorporate sustainable design and building practices into Edmonton’s existing and new buildings.</p> <p>The goal of the Plan is to improve the environmental, health, and socio-economic performance of all types of buildings in the city.</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» The Ribbon of Green Plan should align with this plan, by ensuring through policy, that buildings within the Ribbon of Green area are sustainable</li> </ul>  |
| <b>LIVE ACTIVE STRATEGY<br/>(2016-2026)</b><br>In Development | <p>This strategy is intended to raise awareness and help encourage Edmontonians to become more physically active through sports, recreational activities, and active living. The Plan will provide direction to support active recreation and sports needs within Edmonton.</p> <p>The intention behind Live Active is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Advance the City’s strategic goal to improve Edmonton’s livability</li> <li>» Improve quality of life, wellbeing and livability through social, economic and environmental benefits</li> <li>» Shift attitudes and behaviour about active living, active recreation and sport in Edmonton</li> <li>» To get Edmontonians active so they can live happy healthy lives</li> <li>» Create strong alignment with international, national and provincial governmental policies and directives</li> <li>» Unite the strengths, capacities and interests of the active living, active recreation and sport communities</li> <li>» Facilitate strong linkages between government, health, education, social services, nonprofit and business sectors</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» The Ribbon of Green Plan can support this strategy by advocating for greater and improved active recreation, active transportation, and active living opportunities within the river valley and ravines</li> </ul> |

**MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION AND DIALOGUE MADE BETWEEN CONFEDERACY OF TREATY NO. 6 FIRST NATIONS & CITY OF EDMONTON**  
2012

The memorandum affirms that the Confederacy of Treaty No. 6 First Nations peoples in Edmonton:

- » Will be honoured and acknowledged through existing documents
- » Will be acknowledged for their contributions to the unique and diverse cultures, languages, and histories of Edmonton

The memorandum commits that both Edmonton and the Confederacy of Treaty No. 6 First Nations peoples are:

- » Committed to respectful engagements
- » Inclusive access by all peoples of all generations for participation in celebrations and portrayal of histories and cultures
- » Committed to ongoing dialogue and cooperative effort around shared issues and interests

- » The Ribbon of Green Project will include First Nations engagement that follows the project's engagement values and principles
- » There will be opportunities throughout the project for Indigenous communities to provide meaningful, appropriate and actionable input that will be used to create the Ribbon of Green Plan

**MEMORANDUM OF SHARED RECOGNITION AND COOPERATION MADE BETWEEN MÉTIS NATION OF ALBERTA AND CITY OF EDMONTON**  
2013

The memorandum affirms that:

- » The Métis people have been a part of the development, and history of Edmonton
- » The Métis Nation of Alberta is acknowledged as having a unique role through its mandate, its representation, and responsibility for the Métis people residing in Edmonton
- » The successes and well-being of the Métis people in Edmonton, is linked to that of all other Edmonton citizens
- » The Métis Nation of Alberta and the City are tied together with a shared vision of building a great city together

The memorandum commits both parties to the following:

- » Creating opportunities for ongoing engagements
- » Ensuring the historical recognition of each party's histories, cultures, and contributions through acknowledgments, communications and other forms of recognition
- » Ongoing conversation regarding issues and concerns of shared interest

- » The Ribbon of Green Project will include Métis engagement that follows the project's engagement values and principles
- » The project will recognize the cultural, historical, and environmental importance of the North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System to all Indigenous communities

**NATURAL CONNECTIONS  
STRATEGIC PLAN**  
2007

The Natural Connections Strategic Plan focuses on strengthening connections between natural areas, and between people to cooperatively protect and sustain Edmonton’s natural systems.

The North Saskatchewan River Valley is classified as an ecological network corridor. While ravines and some river valley lands are classified as natural linkages.

The Natural Connections Strategic Plan will be replaced by BREATHE: Edmonton’s Green Network Strategy.

- » The river valley and associated ravine tributary system is a key component in creating a single natural areas conservation system

**RECREATION FACILITY  
MASTER PLAN**  
In Development

Currently being updated, the Recreation Facility Master Plan is a 20-year plan for public recreation facilities and the provision of City services related to recreation. The Plan focuses on the way recreation facilities are developed, redeveloped, and delivered. It also includes an assessment of future recreation needs. The main goal of the Plan is to ensure that public recreation spaces and places continue to be accessible, welcoming and respond to evolving community needs and resources.

The Plan will be under development throughout 2017.

- » The development and management of recreation facilities within the river valley and ravines are directed through this Master Plan
- » There are numerous City owned recreation facilities in the Ribbon of Green area, including: three public golf courses, Kinsmen Sports Centre, the A.C.T. Aquatic and Recreation Centre, Valley Zoo, Fort Edmonton Park, and the John Janzen Nature Centre

**RIVER ACCESS STRATEGY**  
In Development

The River Access Strategy is a 10-year plan being developed to inform future programming, operations and infrastructure improvements that support access to the river and activities associated with the river. It will define locations, regulations and use guidelines for development of river-based amenities. It will also balance environmental stewardship while encouraging a broader appreciation for activities on the river. All of this will enhance enjoyment of the North Saskatchewan River for existing and future users, as well as provide direction and assurances to partners.

In 2015, City Council approved the River Access Guiding Principles Policy (Policy C586).

The project is expected to be completed in Summer 2017.

- » The River Access Guiding Principles Policy (Policy C586) and the Final Strategy will provide guidance and direction to the Ribbon of Green project for how the river is accessed and used

| ACT   PLAN   POLICY<br>OR PROGRAM  | DIRECTION  | IMPLICATIONS   |
|--|--|--|
| <p><b>RIVER CROSSING<br/>HERITAGE INTERPRETIVE<br/>PLAN</b><br/>In Development</p>                                   | <p>Citizens, Indigenous communities, and other stakeholders are being engaged in the creation of the Heritage Interpretive Plan, with the aim of bringing the cultural heritage of the River Crossing community to life. The Plan will serve as one of the components of the business planning process for the River Crossing project.</p> <p>The Heritage Interpretive Plan will share the history of River Crossing and guide how heritage and culture are reflected and communicated throughout the area as it evolves over time. The Plan is expected to be completed in early 2017.</p> | <p>» Although, not within the one of the Ribbon of Green Project's study areas, this plan can serve as an example of how to incorporate cultural heritage and community histories into the Ribbon of Green Plan</p>                              |
| <p><b>RIVER FOR LIFE STRATEGY</b><br/>2014</p>   | <p>River for Life is a 30-year strategic plan that supports the City in preventing pollution by continuously reducing discharges of contaminants into waterbodies, and improving water quality.</p>  | <p>» The River for Life Strategy should be considered during development of the Ribbon of Green Plan in terms of how the Plan might contribute to pollution control, such as low-impact design measures and other green stormwater practices</p> |
| <p><b>SITE SPECIFIC NATURAL<br/>AREA MANAGEMENT<br/>PLAN: EDMONTON<br/>NATURAL AREA NW384</b><br/>In Development</p> | <p>The City of Edmonton is completing a Site Specific Natural Area Management Plan for the Edmonton Natural Area NW384. The Management Plan will identify unique features within the natural area, the ecological network, and special management considerations.</p>  | <p>» Although above the top-of-bank, the natural is directly adjacent, and linked to the North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System within the Ribbon of Green's southwest study area.</p>  |
| <p><b>TERWILLEGAR PARK<br/>FOOTBRIDGE AND WEST<br/>END TRAILS</b><br/>2016</p>                                       | <p>A new 262-meter-long footbridge links Terwillegar Park in the southwest to Oleskiw River Valley Park on the north side of the river.</p> <p>The West End Trails initiative adds approximately 5 km of paved and gravel trails to the river valley main trail. The north extension links Terwillegar Park with the recently completed Fort Edmonton Footbridge. The south extension connects Terwillegar Park to the Anthony Henday pedestrian river crossing.</p>   | <p>» The Terwillegar Park Footbridge and the West End Trails are located within the SW Study Area</p>  |

| ACT   PLAN   POLICY<br>OR PROGRAM                                       | DIRECTION   | IMPLICATIONS  |
|---|---|---|
| <b>URBAN FOREST<br/>MANAGEMENT PLAN</b><br>2012                         | <p>Edmonton's Urban Forest Management Plan is a 10-year strategy for sustainably managing and enhancing the urban forest, including all trees within city limits. The Plan outlines short, medium, and long term strategies for promoting a healthy and sustainable urban forest.</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Trees found in parks, natural areas, the river valley and private lands are all part of the urban forest, and within the scope of this Management Plan</li> <li>» The Ribbon of Green Plan will align with strategies and actions within the Urban Forest Management Plan to ensure the health and growth of the urban forest, protect native forest, and communicate to the public and city partners of the importance and benefits of the urban forest</li> </ul>  |
| <b>URBAN PARKS<br/>MANAGEMENT PLAN<br/>(UPMP) 2006-2016</b><br>2006     | <p>The Urban Parks Management Plan was developed to guide the acquisition, design, construction, maintenance and use of City Parks, the North Saskatchewan River Valley, and natural areas within the city. The Plan has directed how the City plans and manages its parks and open spaces for the past decade.</p> <p>The UPMP includes a parks classification system for parks management. River valley and ravine parks are classified as a separate category.</p> <p>Breathe: Edmonton's Green Network Strategy, currently under development, will replace the UPMP as Edmonton's Green Network Plan. In the interim, the Ribbon of Green can build on the successes of the UPMP.</p> | <p>For the River Valley and Ravine System, the UPMP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Outlines river valley parkland system land assembly</li> <li>» Limits underground utility functions in the river valley and ravines</li> <li>» Promotes universal access, when feasible</li> <li>» Suggests a comprehensive signage strategy</li> <li>» Mandates management plans for conservation sites</li> <li>» Protects views</li> <li>» Outlines steps to support homeless people in parks</li> <li>» Suggests other river valley improvements</li> </ul> |
| <b>VISION FOR AN AGE-<br/>FRIENDLY EDMONTON<br/>ACTION PLAN</b><br>2011 | <p>The Action Plan establishes several strategic goals and actions related to the mental health and wellbeing of seniors, including social and recreational participation, social inclusion, and health services.</p> <p>The Plan offers goals and actions to create age-friendly parks and outdoor spaces.</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» The Ribbon of Green project can align with this plan and put forth age-friendly policies for the design and maintenance of infrastructure that is age-friendly, as well as offering age-friendly resources and programming</li> </ul>  |

| ACT   PLAN   POLICY<br>OR PROGRAM  | DIRECTION   | IMPLICATIONS   |
|--|---|--|
| <p><b>WAYFINDING SIGNS FOR<br/>PARKS AND TRAILS</b><br/>In Development</p> | <p>The City has developed a new wayfinding sign program to help visitors find their way around river valley parks and the trail system. The new wayfinding program includes signs that provide directions and information, identify parks and buildings, and includes interpretive and regulatory signs.</p> <p>Installations of signs in parks and trails will occur as projects are completed in the river valley.</p>  | <p>» All future projects in the river valley and ravines will follow this sign program</p>   |
| <p><b>WHITEMUD RAVINE<br/>CONSERVATION<br/>EASEMENT</b><br/>2016</p>       | <p>Registration of a conservation easement for the subject lands will provide for enhanced protection and stewardship of the property by the Edmonton and Area Land Trust - as a non-profit company dedicated to the conservation of the natural heritage of Edmonton and surrounding communities.</p> <p>The conservation easement agreement will outline the roles, responsibilities, and limitation, of the City and the Edmonton and Area Land Trust, and will meet the purpose of a conservation easement required by section 29 of the Alberta Land Stewardship Act. The interests of the City are protected through such stipulations as compliance with all City policies and regulations, as well as through the preparation of a Natural Area Management Plan, the preparation of a baseline report by the Edmonton and Area Land Trust, and restricted and permitted uses.</p> <p>Bylaw 17502: Registration of Conservation Easement went before Council on November 7, 2016. Once the Bylaw receives three readings Registration of the easement will occur and development of a natural area management plan will begin.</p> | <p>» The site subject to a conservation easement is within the Ribbon of Green study area. Additionally, information collected through the development of the Natural Area Management Plan for the area will inform the Ribbon of Green where possible</p> |

**WINTER CITY DESIGN  
GUIDELINES**

In Development

The Winter Design Guidelines are intended to facilitate best practice winter urban design solutions. Five winter design principles are found throughout the guidelines, and are instrumental to achieving not only a great winter city, but a great year-round city.

These 5 principles apply to the public realm, specifically streets, parks and open spaces, and include:

- » Incorporating design strategies to block wind
- » Maximizing exposure to sunshine through orientation and design
- » Using colour to enliven the winterscape
- » Creating visual interest with light
- » Providing infrastructure that supports winter life

The Winter City Design Policy (C588) and Guidelines are final and complete, with Council approval in December 2016.

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» The principles, guidelines and policy within the Winter City Design Guidelines and the policy being considered by Council will be integrated into the Ribbon of Green Plan

## OTHER RELEVANT CITY OF EDMONTON POLICIES

**THE ART OF LIVING  
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**  
2008

- » Provides recommendations for creative ways to promote and showcase Edmonton's culture and heritage, including awards, plans, strategies, grants, festivals, and opportunities for artists and historians

**CITY OF EDMONTON DESIGN AND  
CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS**

- » Part 3: Drainage, and Part 5: Landscaping stipulate requirements for new construction, including recommended plant materials for restoration and green land cover, soil quality and handling standards, drainage system capacity standards, etc.

**CORPORATE TREE MANAGEMENT**  
(Policy C456A)

- » Protects the tree canopy on City Property by ensuring development of the City's tree inventory; ensuring all trees on City properties are adequately protected; providing a tree reserve account for new planting; and coordinating all City tree planting programs

**EDMONTON COMPLETE  
STREETS GUIDELINES**  
2013

- » Assists the City implement its Transportation Master Plan, The Way We Move, by integrating transportation and land use, and encouraging active transportation through complete streets

**EDMONTON ZONING BYLAW 12800**  
(Sec. 54.3)

- » Addresses bicycle parking and the type of rack that may be used, including design standards, and bicycle parking requirements for building or site use

**ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**  
(Policy C512)

- » States that the City will promote the development of an environmental sustainable city that functions in harmony with the natural environment including the reduction of pollution

**HISTORIC RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
2009

- » Articulates a long-term strategy to manage Edmonton's historic resources by: establishing clear guidelines to manage heritage issues; simplifying City heritage policies, priorities, procedures and implementation strategies; and building on the heritage related work of other individuals, agencies and organizations in Edmonton

**LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT  
BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES  
DESIGN GUIDE**  
2014

- » Provides guidance for the application of low impact development best management practices, so that they can be incorporated into land development, redevelopment, or retrofit projects



| POLICY   DOCUMENT  | DIRECTION   |
|--|---|
| <b>NATURAL AREA SYSTEMS</b><br>(Policy C531)                           | » Recognizes the importance of balancing ecological and environmental considerations with economic and social considerations in City planning and operations  |
| <b>PARKLAND AND RIVER VALLEY UTILITY INSTALLATION</b><br>(Policy C307) | » Damage to the North Saskatchewan River Valley and parkland should be minimized when installing utilities  |
| <b>RECREATION USER FEE</b><br>(Policy C167b) 2014                      | » Provides an approach for establishing user supported recreational services  |
| <b>TOP OF BANK POLICY</b><br>(Policy C542)                             | » Establishes appropriate setbacks from the river valley or ravines to preserve river valley and ravine views; optimize public access; protect from development that may compromise slope stability; and to protect private and public property |
| <b>WILDLIFE PASSAGE ENGINEERING DESIGN GUIDELINES</b><br>2010          | » Provides recommendations that incorporate the needs of wildlife into transportation projects with the intention of reducing habitat fragmentation and improving wildlife movement through the city  |

## RELEVANT CITY OF EDMONTON STRUCTURE PLANS

The City of Edmonton has a number of plans and land use studies that help guide development in Edmonton's neighbourhoods. Some of these, including Area Structure Plans, Neighbourhood Structure Plans, and Neighbourhood Structure Plans, are relevant to the Ribbon of Green as they border the Southwest and Northeast Study Areas.

An Area Structure Plan (ASP) is a statutory plan that identifies future neighbourhoods and where residential, commercial, institutional and recreational sites will be located in a previously undeveloped area and how essential municipal services such as water and sewer systems, roads and fire protection will be provided. These plans also describe the number of people that are expected to live in the new area and how development will be staged over time.

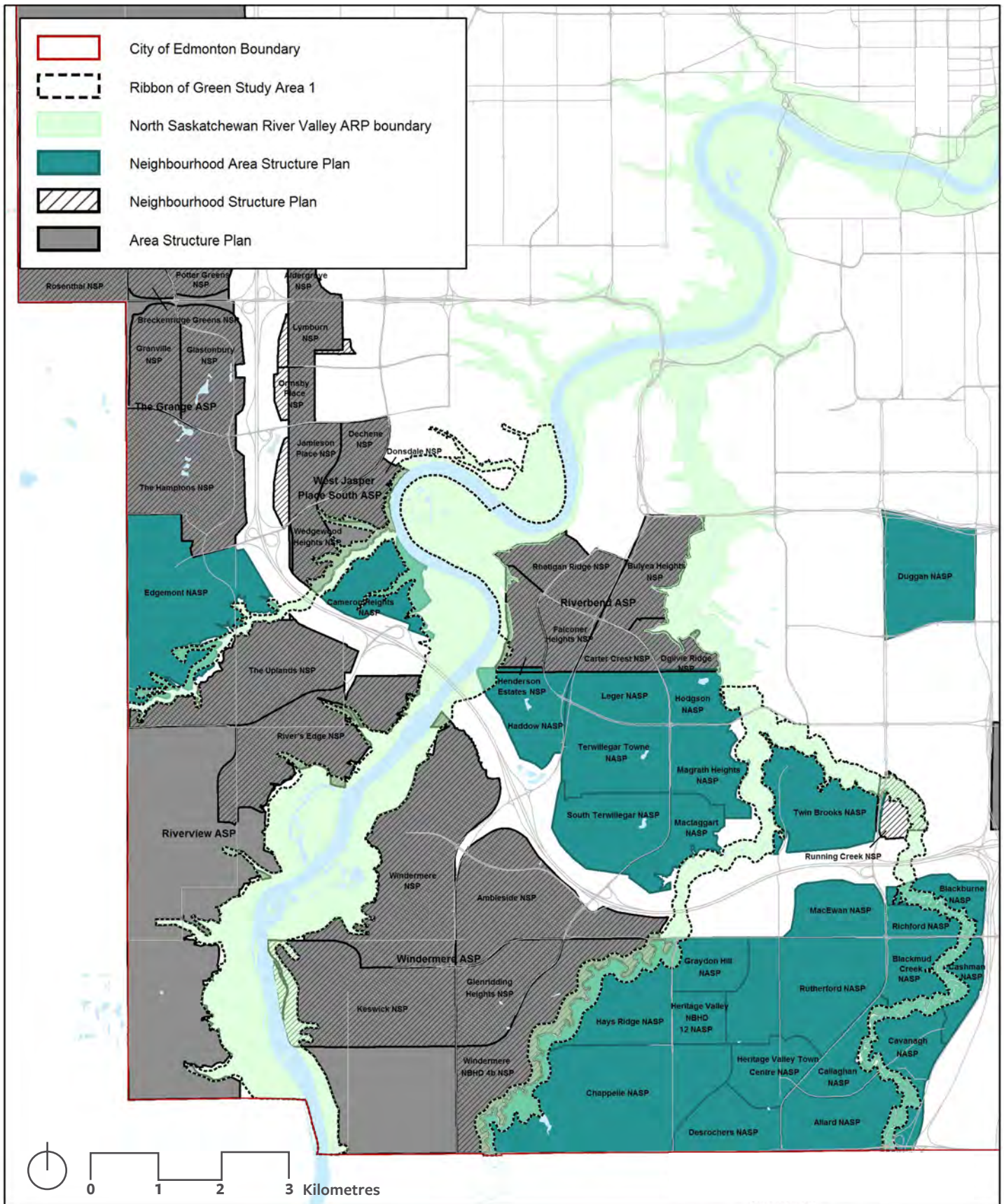
Neighbourhood Area Structure Plans (NASP) are small-scale Area Structure Plans applying to one or two neighbourhoods. NSPs provide a greater level of detail for one neighbourhood within the context of an ASP.

A Neighbourhood Structure Plan (NSP) describes the general pattern of development and subdivision in a new residential neighbourhood. The policies of NSPs guide subsequent stages of neighbourhood development such as zoning, subdivision, infrastructure design and construction.

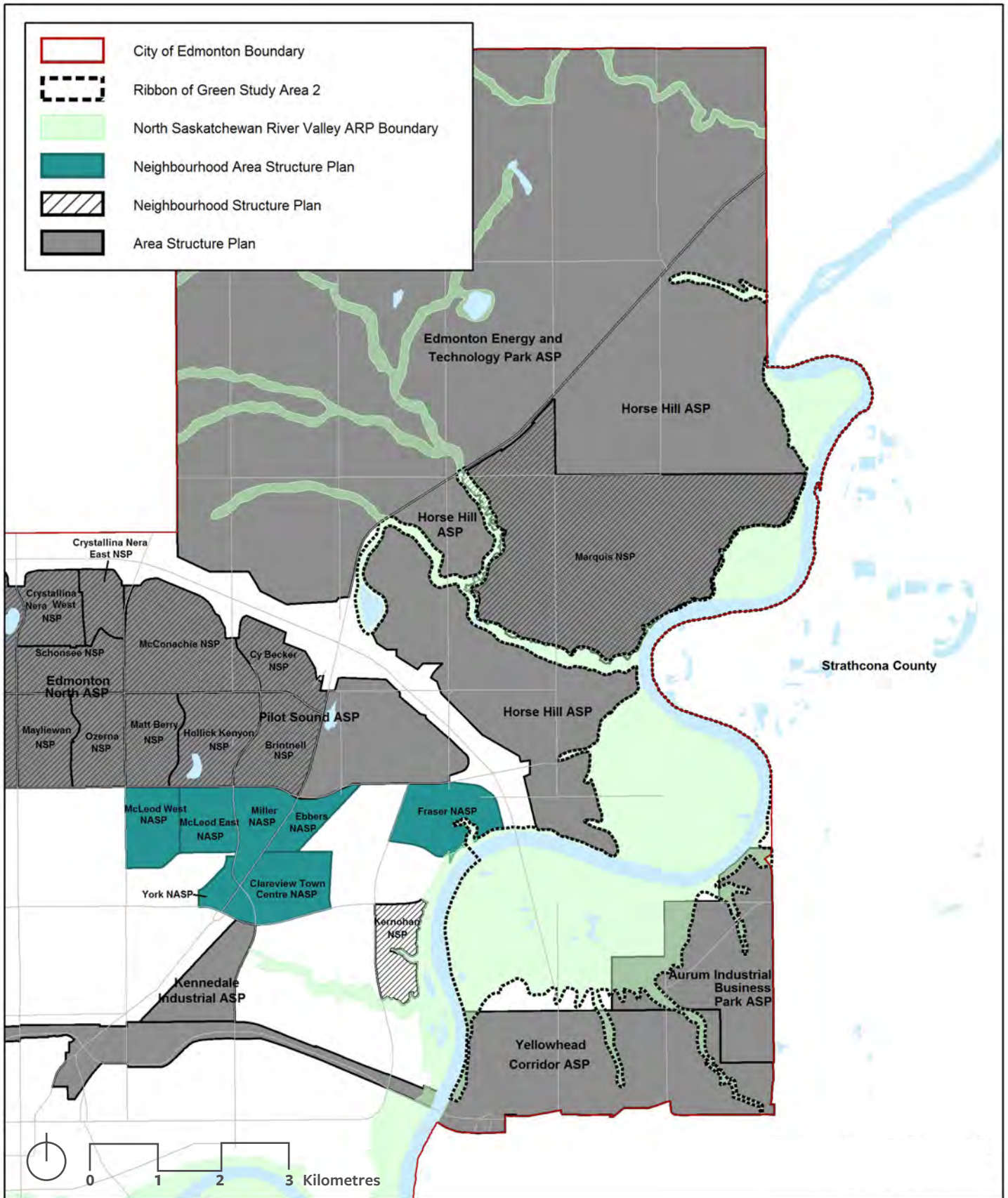
Maps of the ASPs, NSPs, and NASPs that border the Ribbon of Green Study Areas can be found on pages 39 and 40.



## Structure Plans in Effect: SW Study Area



Structure Plans in Effect: NE Study Area



## RELEVANT CITY OF EDMONTON ASP'S + NSP'S

## SOUTHWEST STUDY AREA

**WEST JASPER PLACE SOUTH ASP**

- » Build up of density as distance from the river increases
- » Preservation of the River Valley and Wedgewood Ravine

**DECHENE NSP**

- » No specific river valley content

**JAMIESON PLACE NSP**

- » Link connecting the stormwater detention facility and the pipeline right-of-way with Wedgewood Ravine

**WEDGEWOOD HEIGHTS NSP**

- » Water pipeline right-of-way extends from the river
- » Greater setbacks recommended at specific locations along the ravine
- » Gas pipeline within a 15 metre easement from the Wedgewood Ravine
- » Sanitary sewer under roadways which are then setback from the ravine
- » Pedestrian pathway within the ravine network as well as top of bank walkways
- » Landscape waterline corridor within the ravine
- » Passive recreation through pedestrian circulation within the ravine
- » Reduced roadway width to recognize the unique soils and to site houses appropriately
- » Minimize overland flow into the ravine

**DONSDALE NSP**

- » Variations in setbacks to accommodate the ravine and river
- » Advised restoration of the ravine to its natural condition around the 45 Avenue GRA
- » Protect the river valley and ravine system
- » Top of bank walkway opposed to top of bank roadway in the southwest along the north bank
- » Removal of a roadway and culvert within the ravine
- » Walkway through ravine
- » Restoration/rehabilitation of the ravine surrounding the road alignment
- » Bicycle and pedestrian access to ravine
- » Small parks and natural woodlots within the uplands
- » Neighbourhood level park and a natural area/viewpoint park to provide active and passive recreation, preserve a natural treed area and viewpoint to the river

**EDGEMONT NASP**

- » Conserve ecological resources – river valley and ravine system preserved and protected to the greatest extent possible through an Urban Development Line
- » Public access through a top-of-bank roadway and walkway along the entire length of the public upland area
- » Several small top-of-bank parks
- » River and ravine system primarily an area of unstructured, low intensity and passive recreation with a balance of appropriate recreation activity within park nodes
- » Land acquired for park purposes
- » Select areas accessible to all citizens regardless of age and mobility when feasible
- » Maintain adequate separation between new urban development and the river system
- » Continuous circulation system abutting the river and ravine system
- » Wildlife passage
- » Ecological links between natural areas, stormwater facilities, parks and the ravine
- » Access for circulation, amenity, connection to the parks system, slope repair, geotechnical monitoring, firefighting, emergency and public safety, drainage control and dealing with encroachment issues
- » Greenway connections

**CAMERON HEIGHTS NASP**

- » Pedestrian links
- » Medium density residential near ravine amenities
- » Protect the integrity of the top-of-bank interface
- » Pedestrian and bicycle access to adjacent neighbourhoods through the ravine
- » Environmental setbacks
- » Environmental impact assessments
- » Some low density near the Cameron Ravine
- » Pocket parks with views of the ravine
- » Roads crossing the ravine
- » Controlled pedestrian access points to the ravine
- » Formal pedestrian connection to the Cameron ravine is not provided
- » Formal trail and reserve area provides link to informal trails in the ravine
- » Residential lots backing on to the ravine
- » Protect top-of-bank
- » Stormwater outfall into the river
- » Water treatment plant in the river valley
- » Walkway connection with the river valley
- » River viewpoints

**RIVER'S EDGE NSP**

- » Slope stability
- » Urban Development Line results in increased setbacks
- » Preservation of the ravine area and integration of new open spaces
- » Facilitate wildlife movement with aesthetic and recreational benefits
- » Environmental Reserve
- » Strengthen the ecological network
- » Improve water quality before discharge into the river
- » Undeveloped remnants along the top-of-bank roadway
- » Pre-WWII historic structure adjacent to the top-of-bank – home of Robert John Manson
- » District park on the west bank and staging location for Big Island

**RIVERVIEW ASP**

- » Linkages to the river and ravine (greenways, shared-use paths and roadways)
- » Recreational opportunities
- » Integrate parks and open spaces with the natural systems
- » Retain ecological connections
- » Network of sidewalks, walkways and shared use paths to connect with river, commercial and employment
- » Preservation
- » Active and passive park space
- » Ecologically sensitive areas
- » Respect nature and landscape

**RHATIGAN RIDGE NSP**

- » Environmental reserves for ravine areas
- » Setback requirements
- » Views
- » Top-of-bank road
- » Single detached housing adjacent to ravine overlooking the park
- » Ravine as a buffer between neighbourhood and regional park
- » Ravine in the north for multi-family
- » Linear park system linking with ravine edge

**BULYEA HEIGHTS NSP**

- » Natural aesthetic value of the Whitemud Creek Ravine
- » Dedication of ravine areas below the top-of-bank as environmental reserve
- » Walkway system
- » Public access to the ravine
- » Preserving significant tree stands
- » Overland stormwater drainage to the ravine
- » Roadway design to ensure continuous slopes to the ravine
- » Top-of-bank setback

**FALCONER HEIGHTS NSP**

- » No specific river valley content

**CARTER CREST NSP**

- » Linear park linking district parks with the river and ravine
- » Walkway system

**HENDERSON ESTATES NSP**

- » Pedestrian linkage system with walkway and bike lanes
- » Prestige dwellings along ravine

**HADDOW NASP**

- » Utility ROW can provide access to the river
- » Steep slopes excluded from development

**LEGER NASP**

- » Pedestrian movement to the river and ravines
- » Erosion into the ravine a challenge

**TERWILLEGAR TOWNE NASP**

- » Connection to facilitate convenient transit routing, pedestrian and bicycle access to the river system

**OGILVIE RIDGE NSP**

- » Environmental reserves
- » Top-of-bank roads and walkways to separate housing from the park
- » Ravine terrace areas
- » Use ravine to buffer different densities
- » Low density along higher slopes
- » Minimize impact on ravine
- » Limited recreational development - walkways, observation points, picnic areas
- » Controlled access to the ravine system
- » Major vehicular spine that intersects with the ravine at pedestrian access nodes
- » Pedestrian circulation system along the ravine edge
- » Retain as natural preserve
- » Some multi-unit dwellings along north edge
- » Small neighbourhood park adjoining Whitemud

**HODGSON NASP**

- » Utility corridor as wildlife corridor to ravine
- » Top-of-bank roads and walkways
- » Protection
- » Access between the river and ravine for pedestrians
- » Separation between development and the river/ravine
- » Preservation of lands below the top-of-bank
- » Bike links
- » Pedestrian circulation
- » Passive and active recreation

**MAGRATH HEIGHTS NASP**

- » Access to the river system
- » Central park and staging area for the Whitemud Ravine Trail system
- » South ravine oriented park
- » Top-of-bank roadway
- » Views
- » Limit shadow impact
- » Setbacks

**SOUTH TERWILLEGAR NASP**

- » No specific river valley content

**RIVERBEND ASP**

- » Environmental protection along the river
- » Fragile ravine edges
- » Require geo-technical soil stability study
- » Setback requirements
- » Integrate ravine and topography with development



**TWIN BROOKS NASP**

- » Top-of-bank roadway
- » Open space and public access

**MACTAGGART NASP**

- » Site development guidelines
- » Historical resources (former campsites)
- » Protect topography
- » Environmental reserve
- » Low impact public access
- » Top-of-bank walkway
- » Preserve integrity and ecological habitats
- » Reduce impact of urban development
- » Pedestrianization and integration of open spaces
- » Pedestrian links and sidewalks

**WINDERMERE ASP**

- » Public access to river and ravines
- » Urban development backing onto ravine
- » Multi-use trails
- » Major recreation sites along the ravine
- » Golf courses
- » Location of environmental reserve, roads and municipal reserve, to protect the river and ravine
- » Only residential development, parks, amenity areas, trails and roadways within 33 metres of top-of-bank
- » Pedestrian connectivity
- » Stormwater to minimize disturbance

**KESWICK NSP**

- » Incorporate river into development concept
- » Public accessibility
- » Views
- » Enjoyment, preservation and protection of river valley
- » Physically accessible/Universal design
- » Walking, cycling, rollerblading and wheelchair circulation
- » Focal points
- » Urban development line
- » Top-of-bank walkway
- » Habitat and ecological connectivity
- » Greenway network
- » Passive and active recreation

**AMBLESIDE NSP**

- » Trails and inter-neighbourhood links

**GLENRIDDING HEIGHTS NSP**

- » Protect the functionality of the ecological network
- » Historical impact assessment
- » Pedestrian circulation
- » Multi-use trails
- » Cyclist connections

**WINDERMERE 4B NSP**

- » Not available

**GRAYDON HILL NASP**

- » Protect the Ravine tip
- » Strengthen the ecological network
- » Pedestrian routes and walkways
- » Recreational trails along the top-of-bank

**HAYS RIDGE NASP**

- » Integration of existing golf courses
- » Top-of-bank walkway
- » Views
- » Protect from rural residential development
- » Public access
- » Dedication of environmental reserve below the top of bank
- » Native plants

**HERITAGE VALLEY NBHD 12 NASP**

- » No specific river valley content

**CHAPPELLE NASP**

- » Top-of-bank line
- » Linkages
- » Trail network includes a staging area with parking
- » Protect the ravine system
- » Terrace area – special study area
- » Top-of-bank public roadway

**MACEWAN NASP**

- » No specific river valley content

**RICHFORD NASP**

- » Environmental reserve

**BLACKBURNE NASP**

- » Environmental reserve
- » Retain vegetation
- » Residential lots backing on to the ravine
- » Protect slopes
- » Medium density adjacent to Blackmud Ravine
- » Park and stormwater detention facility along the ravine
- » Dedication of areas below top-of-bank
- » Upland strip designated as a walkway
- » Walkway and pedestrian system
- » Control outflows into the ravine system

**CASHMAN NASP**

- » Natural open space link
- » Low intensity outdoor recreational uses
- » Development setbacks
- » Open space linkages
- » Public access and top-of-bank walkways

**BLACKMUD CREEK NASP**

- » Development setbacks
- » Lot grading to direct water away from the ravine when possible
- » Pedestrian and bicyclist circulation
- » Campground
- » Pedestrian multi-use access

**RUTHERFORD NASP**

- » Wildlife corridor

**HERITAGE VALLEY TOWN CENTRE NASP**

- » Ecological importance

**CALLAGHAN NASP**

- » View-oriented development
- » Three primary access points to the Blackmud Ravine
- » Recreational, educational and aesthetic
- » Preserve and enhance the environment
- » Viewpoint parks
- » Minimize environmental impact
- » Connections to residential areas
- » Active and passive recreation
- » Walkways
- » Multi-family sites adjacent to the ravine

**CAVANAGH NASP**

- » Urban Development Line
- » Preserve and protect the ravine
- » Connected walkway and open space system
- » Focal point
- » Ecological network
- » Slope repair and geotechnical monitoring
- » Restrictive covenant on properties abutting the urban development line
- » Stormwater management facilities

**DESROCHERS NASP**

- » Utility ROW can provide access to the river
- » Steep slopes exclude from development

**ALLARD NASP**

- » Greenways to increase connectivity
- » Top-of-bank roadway
- » Public access
- » Protect the ravine system
- » Top-of-bank that respects the slope, floodplain line to ensure its preservation and protection
- » Maintain and protect the ecology
- » Historical resources

**NORTHEAST STUDY AREA****FRASER NASP**

- » North-south walkway for the pipeline right-of-way
- » Continuous walkway on the top-of-bank
- » Two park sites adjacent to the river
- » Stormwater management facility

**KERNOHAN NSP**

- » Not available

**AURUM INDUSTRIAL BUSINESS PARK ASP**

- » Preservation
- » Development setbacks
- » Stormwater discharge through piping for runoff control instead of the river

**HORSE HILL ASP**

- » Linkages (greenways, shared use paths, roads)
- » Recreational opportunities
- » Integrated open space system
- » Recreational trails along the top-of-bank
- » Separation between the river and development
- » Public access
- » Healthy ecosystems
- » Promote healthy living through active and passive parks spaces
- » Agricultural and historical aspects

**EDMONTON ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY PARK ASP**

- » Integrated open space network
- » Public access
- » River crossings
- » Connections to the land south of Manning Drive to connect the river valley park system
- » A circle route linking regional parks with the river valley
- » Stormwater management - drains into the river. Future diversions will be needed

**MARQUIS NSP**

- » Linkages to the river
- » Ecological network and significance
- » National environmentally sensitive area
- » Horsehills Creek - local environmentally sensitive area
- » Recreational opportunities and connections to the river
- » Pedestrian-oriented environment
- » Network of open spaces
- » Preserve natural areas

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**KENNEDALE INDUSTRIAL ASP**

- » The Kennedale Ravine has been filled and is not recognized as a natural ravine
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