

The logo for the City of Edmonton, featuring the word "Edmonton" in a white, sans-serif font on a dark blue rectangular background.A wide-angle landscape photograph showing a river flowing through a lush green park area. In the background, a city skyline with various high-rise buildings is visible under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds.

DAWSON PARK AND KINNAIRD RAVINE MASTER PLAN

What We Heard Report
Phase 2: Vision, Principles & Identity
March 2017

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Project Overview

The Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine Master Plan project is an opportunity for Edmontonians to work with the City of Edmonton to develop a 25-year vision and guiding principles for the park. As part of the region's green space network, Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine are essential outdoor places for Edmontonians to relax, learn, explore and reconnect to the North Saskatchewan River Valley.

Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine are established River Valley parks within the North Saskatchewan River Valley, adjacent to Edmonton's downtown core. The area offers visitors the chance to run, hike, walk their dogs and cycle through the ravine landscape — an escape from the city for urban dwellers. The park provides opportunities to meet with friends, family and neighbours and access to the river for boating, fishing and relaxation.

No comprehensive planning process for the project area has been conducted since the 1970s, when the Capital City Recreation Park Concept (CCRPC) Plan was implemented. As part of the CCRPC Plan, Dawson Park was identified as a rest area that offered a 45-stall parking lot, hiking and biking trails, rest areas with rest rooms, benches, telephones and conserved natural areas.

In addition to planned infrastructure, Dawson Park currently provides visitors with an off-leash area between Dawson Bridge and Capilano Bridge, picnic tables, and granular trails for people who are visually impaired. The project area occupies approximately 76 hectares and contains over 10 kilometres of trails, with a continuous 2.4 km stretch of trails starting at the parking lot in the south to Wayne Gretzky Drive NW to the east. As part of the 10-Year Capital Investment Agenda, The River Valley Park Renewal program has identified Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine Master Plan as a key project that will direct

investment for the park. The City of Edmonton has started this Master Plan process for Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine to build on and update the planning work that was completed almost 40 years ago.

Through community consultation that reaches a broad audience using a variety of engagement tools and techniques, the City will develop a vision for Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine and establish the guiding principles that will form the basis of the Master Plan. Public input is a critical component in shaping the plan and the vision for the park.

This report summarizes What We Heard from the second phase of public engagement for the Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine Master Plan, and outlines the following:

- » The Master Plan process,
- » The phases of public engagement
- » Our understanding of the environmental sensitivities within the park,
- » Common values and themes from all inputs, and
- » Feedback that was received during the second phase of engagement: Vision, Principles & Identity.

Dawson Park & Kinnaird Ravine Neighbourhood Context



The Master Plan Process

Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine offer an escape into nature that people love and enjoy. The park is a natural gem in Edmonton in part because of forward-looking policy, planning and community involvement. This type of planning can be traced all the way back to the recommendations of Frederick G. Todd in 1907. With the incredible growth and changing demographics that will occur around the park in the coming years, there is a need to look ahead to create a vision that protects the park while reflecting the needs of citizens and what they would like to see in the future.

The River Valley Park Renewal Program identifies a long-term strategic approach to renew parks located in the River Valley. The program is initiated by key drivers such as city policies, changing demographics, demand, recreational needs and aging infrastructure. Park renewal within the River Valley is based on an analysis of the physical condition and functionality of park elements as well as the ability to meet existing (and future) capacity. Parks with safety concerns, decreased usability and aging infrastructure are considered 'higher needs' parks. Without renewal, existing park infrastructure that is close to the end of its useful life will continue to deteriorate, decreasing park functionality, usability, safety and cost-effectiveness.

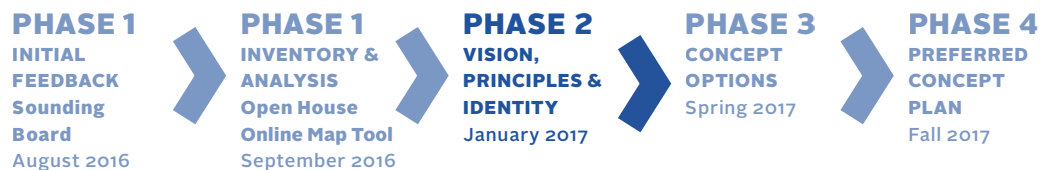
The Master Plan for Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine will establish a vision and management plan for the next 25 years, and build upon existing plans, policies and initiatives while identifying public needs and priorities. It will provide direction for environmental management, as well as recommendations for civic, cultural and recreational uses that are appropriate to the park.

The Master Plan is currently in the CONCEPT Phase of the Park and Facility Development Process. In this phase, public consultation will be critical to informing the Master Plan from now until its completion in the Fall of 2017. The City has hired O2 Planning + Design Inc., a planning and landscape architecture firm, to complete the Master Plan and assist with the consultation process. Existing policy, City Administration and public input will inform the process and outcome of the CONCEPT Phase, at the end of which the Master Plan report and concept plan will be submitted to City Council as part of the 2019–2022 budget cycle to seek funding for implementation.

City of Edmonton's Park and Facility Development Process. This project is in the CONCEPT phase.



Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine: Engagement time line



Engagement Plan

An engagement strategy using multiple consultation techniques will facilitate the ability for the public to provide input into the development of the Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine Master Plan. Four phases of public engagement will help us develop a Master Plan for the park that responds to community needs and City priorities.

Policy C513 for Public Involvement is guided by the City of Edmonton's Public Involvement Framework which outlines the strategic approach to be used in all City hosted public involvement processes. As outlined in Policy C513, the City of Edmonton is committed to involving stakeholders and the public in the Master Planning process. During the engagement, Edmontonians will be asked to identify key uses, needs and strategies for the park and participate in an ongoing dialogue about what Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine might look like in the future. Ecological and infrastructure needs, as well as how this space can support the surrounding neighbourhoods and the larger Edmonton community will be discussed.

The public is invited to participate in four phases of engagement to help develop the Master Plan for Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine. Each phase will include internal and external stakeholder sessions, online engagement and public open houses. External stakeholders include interest groups, neighbourhood groups and other organizations who have expressed an interest in being more deeply involved in the Master Plan process. Internal stakeholders are City of Edmonton employees who can provide input or advice on specific aspects of the park.

Online engagement, in the form of surveys, interactive mapping and activities, gives the public an opportunity to provide their input at their convenience. This option is offered to facilitate input from those who are unable to attend in-person sessions and for those who want to provide additional comments. Material shared at public events will also be available online: edmonton.ca/dawsonparkmasterplan.

Phase 1: Project Introduction, Inventory & Analysis

August – September 2016

In Phase 1, the City received feedback on the existing conditions of the park. We wanted to know what you like about the park, why it is important to you and what you want to see in the future. Information that was presented included: the project scope and boundaries, key existing features, systems and functions of the park, and the relationship of the Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine Master Plan with parallel projects such as BREATHE: Edmonton's Green Network Strategy.

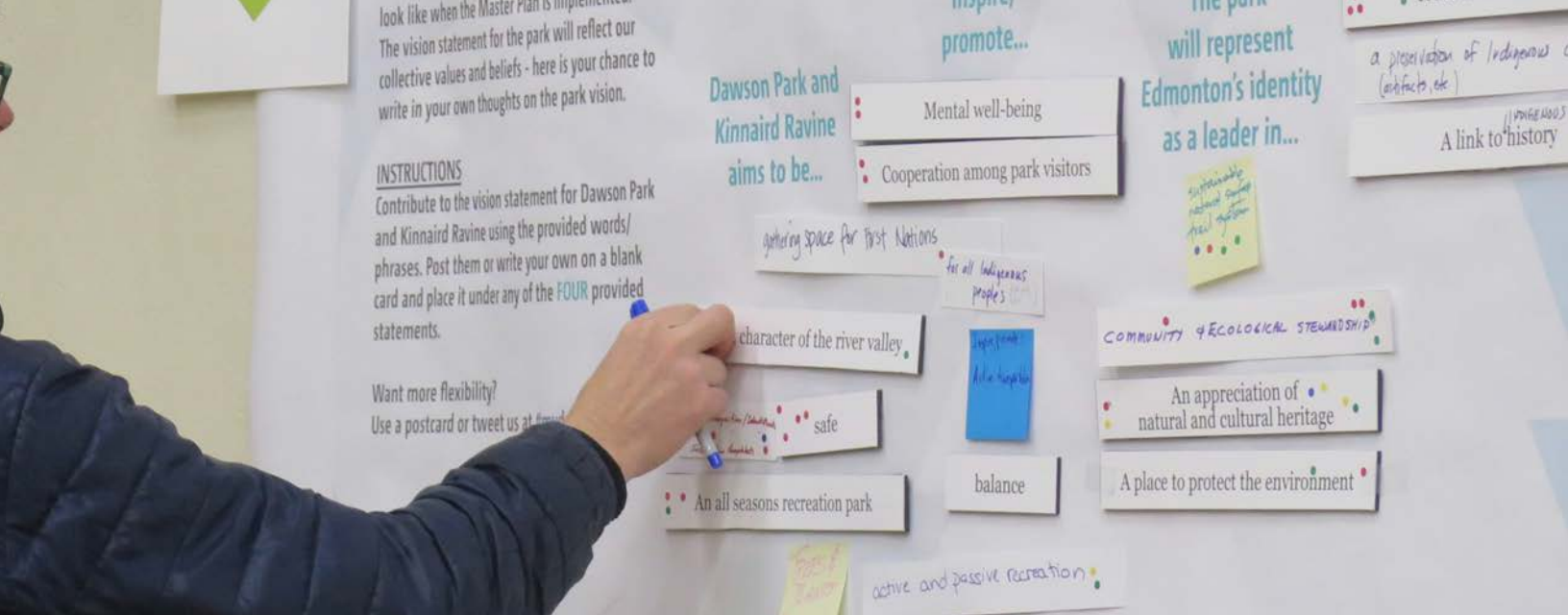
The public and stakeholder input that was captured identifies key dreams, desires, issues and themes that will inform the development of a vision, identity and program for the park. We will use this input to develop a vision statement and one or more concept options based on initial feedback and comments in Phase 3.

Phase 2: Vision, Principles & Identity

January 2017

In Phase 2, the City asked the public to help improve their understanding of the opportunities and constraints in the park to help inform the vision. In addition, the themes and concerns that emerged from Phase 1 were available to the public in a What We Heard Report and helped us choose which park elements would be included in the Phase 2 engagement activities.

The public and stakeholders provided input on the material presented, prioritizing words and phrases for the vision statement and choosing park elements that could become part of the concept options.



Phase 3: Concept Options

Spring 2017

The City will be looking for feedback on more developed concept options for the park in Phase 3. Two distinct concepts will be presented. The refined themes and concerns that emerged during Phase 2 will be shared in a What We Heard Report and will be integrated into the concept options. We will present two variations on proposed activities, features and design elements for the park within two concept plans. The public and stakeholders will be asked to choose which option they prefer, and to prioritize the various proposed elements in each.

Feedback will be summarized in a What We Heard report. The public will also be provided with information about next steps and how they can stay involved.

Phase 4: Preferred Concept Plan

Fall 2017

In Phase 4, the City will present a refined concept plan for the park that integrates the priorities and feedback received in Phase 3.

The public and stakeholders will be provided with the opportunity to give feedback on the preferred concept plan to help fine-tune the program and design. This will support the development of a preferred concept that responds to the needs of the community and park users.

Feedback from Phase 4 will be summarized in a What We Heard report. The public will also be provided with information about next steps and how they can stay involved.

Phase 2: You are here!

In this Phase, we wanted your help building the vision statement for Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine. The Master Plan will provide a 25-year vision for the park, so your input will contribute to the long-term direction for planning the park. We asked you, the public and stakeholders, to complete three main activities to help define a vision for the park as well as the look and feel of park elements you want to see (or don't want to see) in the park.

Jump to page 32 to find out What We Heard!

Discover

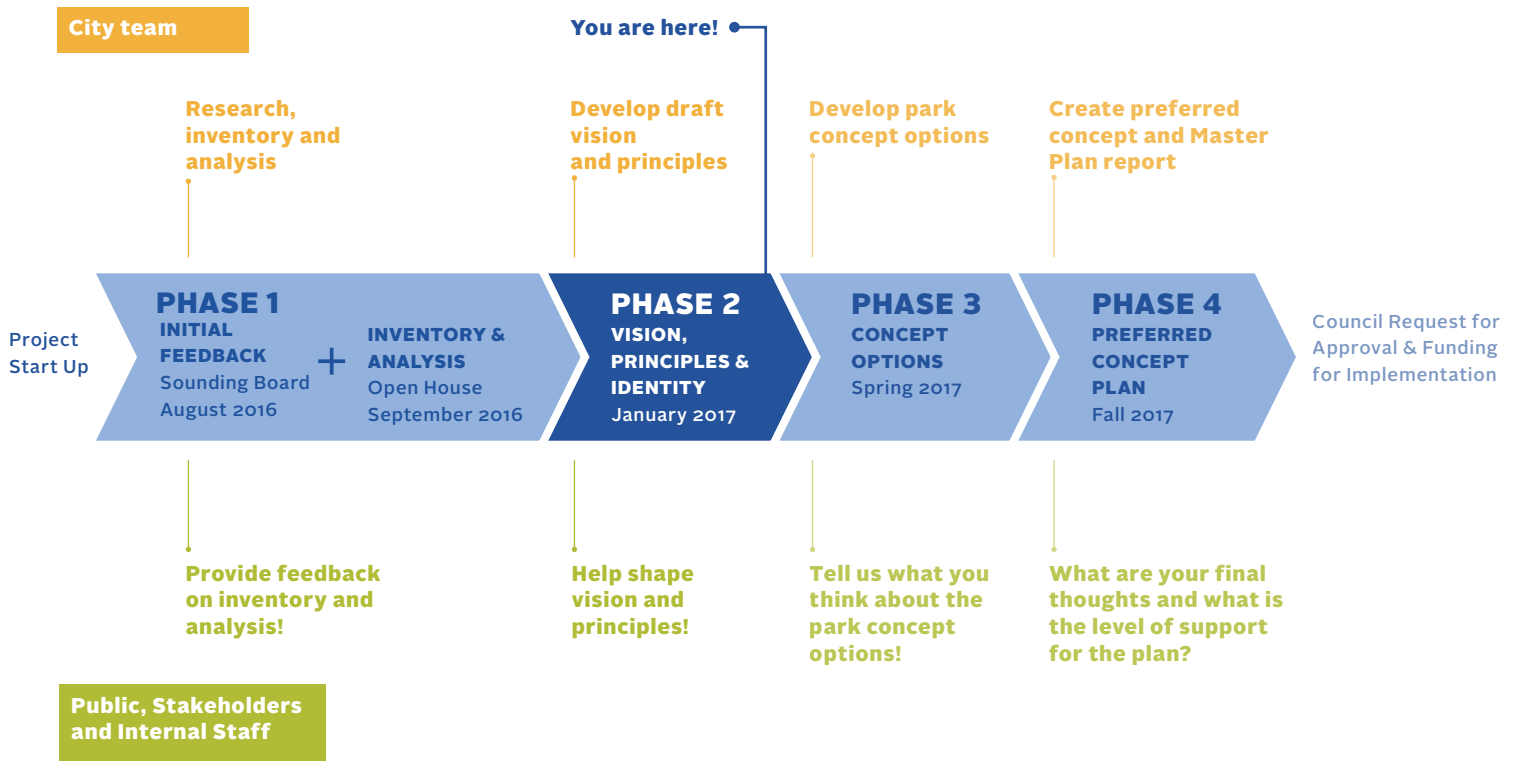
As part of the 10-Year Capital Investment Agenda, The River Valley Park Renewal Program has identified Dawson Park & Kinnaird Ravine for Master Plan development to direct investment for the park.

Develop

Along with City priorities and technical data, public input will be used at each stage in the process to develop the Master Plan.

Deliver

The goal is to fund the next stages of implementation as part of the 2019–22 budget cycle.



Public Involvement in the Master Plan Process

The City of Edmonton prioritizes public engagement as part of the Master Plan process. It is integral at each stage to help make informed decisions.

Planning Context

The Master Plan for Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine will exist within a framework of environmental and social policy. The direction of the Master Plan, including the activities, amenities and events that will take place in the park as well as the design and maintenance of park features, will be influenced by the following plans and policies.

City-wide Plans and Policies

The Ways Strategic Plans:

The Way Ahead, 2009-2018
The Way We Grow, 2010
The Way We Live, 2010
The Way We Move, 2010

These are the City of Edmonton's high-level strategic plans that outline how the City will achieve its vision. They help to focus the City's efforts to deliver services and infrastructure that are most important to Edmontonians while managing the opportunities and challenges of our ever-changing city.

10-Year Capital Investment Agenda 2012-2021

Understanding that investment in city infrastructure requires a long-term vision, the City of Edmonton created the 10-Year Capital Investment Agenda to steer city spending. The Agenda is aligned with the goals and priorities of the City's Strategic Plan, The Way Ahead.

Capital City Recreation Park Concept Plan (CCRPCP)

1975

Recognizing the inherent beauty of the North Saskatchewan River Valley and its relationship to the City of Edmonton, the CCRPCP set out a conceptual plan and development guidelines for the park to encourage passive and active recreation throughout the park and to ensure the maintenance of the park's ecological and visual assets. The CCRPCP identified the Dawson Park area for further development of trails and facilities for people living with disabilities including vision impairments.

Environmental Plans & Policies

Natural Area Systems Policy (C531), 2007
Corporate Tree Management Policy, 2010
Urban Forest Management Plan, 2012

These plans and policies provide direction for all natural areas and parkland in Edmonton.



Breathe: Edmonton's Green Network Strategy

Under development 2016–2017

BREATHE is a transformative strategic plan to support each neighbourhood with an accessible network of parks and open space as the city grows. The main goal of the Green Network Strategy is to plan and sustain a healthy city by encouraging the connection and integration of open space. Breathe will replace and expand on the Urban Parks Management Plan and Natural Connections Strategic Plan.

Edmonton's Urban Parks Management Plan (UPMP)

2006

The UPMP provides strategic direction for the acquisition, design, construction, maintenance, preservation and animation of parks in the City of Edmonton. In addition to the following three goals, the Plan has a mandate to ensure the integrity of River Valley and Ravine parks is preserved.

- » To provide a vision specific to Edmonton's park system;
- » To develop strategic direction that will guide decision-making;
- » To develop park management instructions that support the vision, service themes and policies and ensure consistency in implementation.

Dogs in Open Spaces Strategy

2016

The Dogs in Open Spaces Strategy provides planning, design and management recommendations for existing and future off-leash dog areas in the City of Edmonton. It also provides a summary of requirements for Neighbourhood, District and River Valley & Ravine off-leash areas.

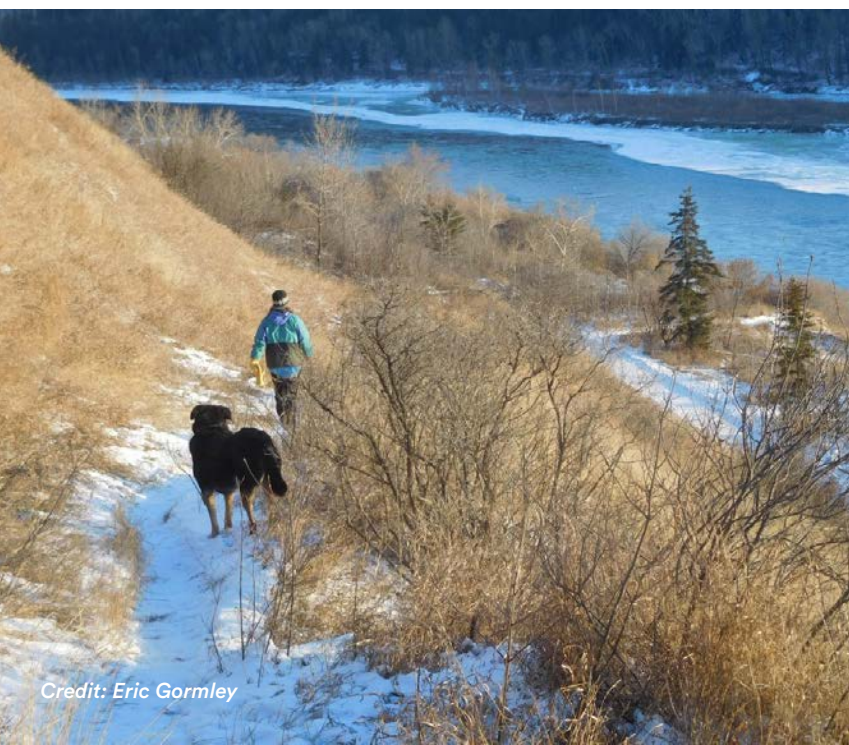
Live Active Strategy 2016-2026

This strategy will raise awareness and help encourage Edmontonians to become more physically active. It provides a road map for supporting the active recreational and sporting needs of all Edmontonians, including active living opportunities within the River Valley.

For the Love of Winter: Strategy for Transforming Edmonton into a World-Leading Winter City

2012

Developed over the course of several years using a community-led approach, the Winter City Strategy aims to enhance Edmonton's culture, urban design, civic life and economy by embracing the opportunities and challenges that come along



Credit: Eric Gormley



with being a Northern capital city. Accompanying the Strategy is an Implementation Plan that provides recommended actions and partners to aid in the implementation of the Strategy throughout the City of Edmonton.

Bicycle Transportation Plan

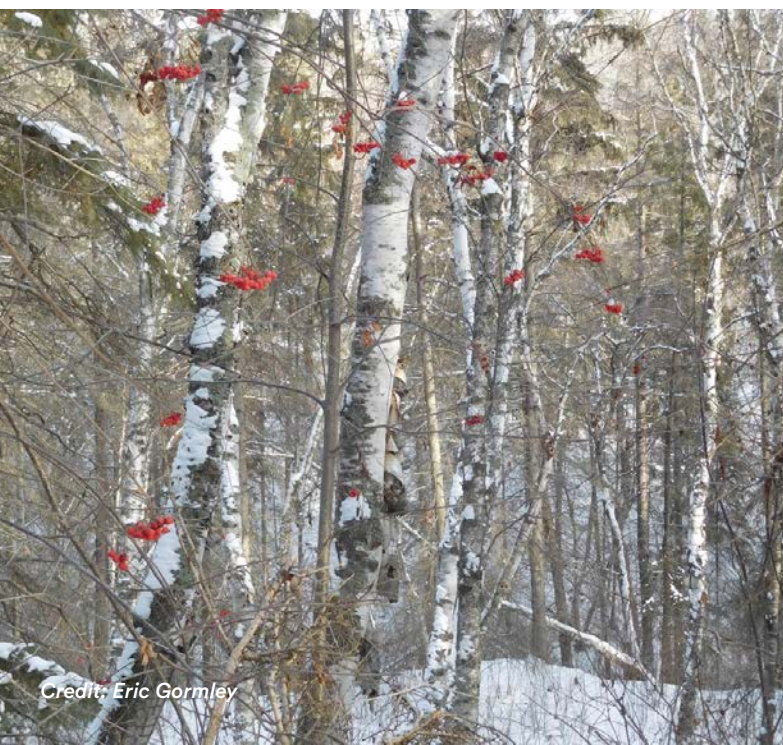
1992, Updated in 2009

This plan is integral to creating a bike friendly city and is an important part of the implementation of the Transportation Master Plan, The Way We Move. The plan proposes to expand city-wide bike routes, including increasing the number of marked on-street bike routes, expanding bicycle racks to all transit buses, expanding bicycle parking facilities and increasing education and awareness around city biking. The plan also proposes an improved maintenance and street sweeping/snow clearing schedule.

Parkland Bylaw (C2202)

Consolidated 2003

The Parkland Bylaw defines the uses and activities that are appropriate for parkland in the City of Edmonton. The purpose of the Bylaw is to promote safe, enjoyable and reasonable use of parks and to protect and preserve natural ecosystems in the city.



Credit: Eric Gormley



River Valley Plans and Policies

North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan (Bylaw 7188)

1985, Consolidated 2014

The ARP provides a comprehensive River Valley and Ravine management program to protect the North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System. The primary goal of this bylaw is to ensure the preservation of the natural character and environment of the North Saskatchewan River Valley and its Ravine System while integrating public recreational opportunities within the landscape. It restricts development within the River Valley and defines features that should be protected, such as rare or endangered flora or fauna or historic/archaeological resources. The Plan started a process for more effectively managing the future of the River Valley and Ravine System.

Ribbon of Green

Concept Plan, 1990

Master Plan, 1992

Southwest Priority 2 Area, Under development

The Ribbon of Green Master Plan establishes policy guidelines for the long-term development, use and care of the entire valley. It limits development within the River Valley to an integrated trail system, providing river accessibility, but protecting the valley landscape and wildlife. The work being completed for the Southwest Priority 2 Area will update, consolidate, and expand on the Ribbon of Green Concept Plan (1990) and the Ribbon of Green Master Plan (1992). The Ribbon of Green nor the Southwest Priority 2 Area do not reference Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine under the area covered by the policy.

River Access Strategy

Under development

The River Access Strategy is a 10-year plan being developed that will 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.

River Access Guiding Principles Policy C586

2015

Understanding that the North Saskatchewan River is important to Edmontonians' quality of life, the River Access Guiding Principles help to ensure that people can access the river for recreation and enjoyment. They also ensure that activities that occur in the river and the River Valley are appropriate, safe and ecologically responsible.

Development Setbacks from River Valley/Ravine Crests (Top of Bank Policy C542)

2010

Accompanied by City procedures, the Top of Bank Policy was updated in 2010 to ensure that private and public property is safe from slope and stability failure and that the River Valley and ravine system is protected from development that may compromise the long term stability of its banks. The policy also helps to ensure that the top of bank portions of the River Valley are accessible to the public and the ravine system remains a natural, ecological and recreational amenity for the people of Edmonton.

Parallel Projects

As development plans for neighbourhoods surrounding the park unfold, our understanding of the potential impacts on the park, including new opportunities to balance human access with ecological protection, is growing. Some existing Area Redevelopment Plans have shaped the surrounding neighbourhoods for several decades, while others are still under development.

Boyle Street McCauley ARP

1994

The Boyle Street McCauley ARP focuses on promoting cooperation within the community and resolving issues such as crowded housing, vacant lots and high traffic volumes. Higher density development and pedestrian improvements are recommended along Jasper Avenue.

Riverdale ARP

Office Consolidation 2010

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

Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Guidelines

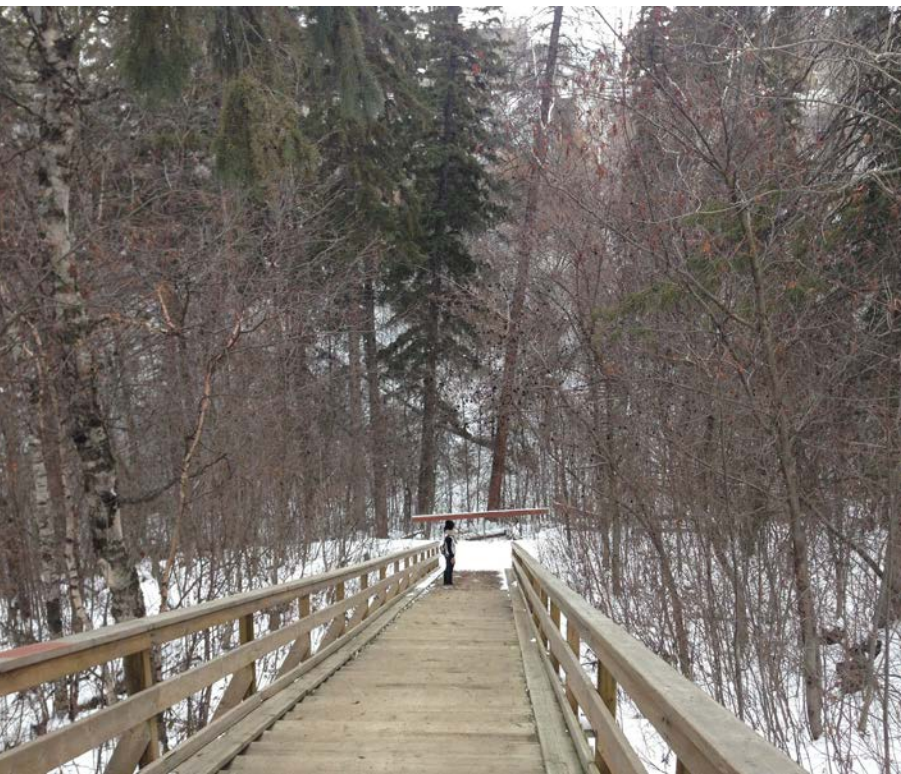
2012

The Stadium Station ARP (1983, Ongoing) was revisited in response to the TOD Guidelines with the goals of accommodating a growing population and regulating the type of development that will take place around the light rail station.

The Muttart Lands Development project is a mixed-use residential community that will be developed to the east of Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine. This project is closely linked to the Stadium Station TOD Plan. The focus of this development is to create an urban, active and connected community just outside of Edmonton's downtown.

These developments are important for the Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine Master Plan because:

- » The higher density development around the Stadium Station LRT stop provides more opportunities for residents to access trail connections to the River Valley within their neighbourhood. This will also increase pressures on Kinnaird Ravine and increase the demand for recreational opportunities in the River Valley.



The Quarters Downtown ARP

2014

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

This ARP is important for the Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine Master Plan because:

- » Extremely high density development will increase the demand for access to green space, specifically into the River Valley. This increase in demand makes the protection of environmentally sensitive areas even more necessary.

Northlands ARP

Office Consolidation 2003, Ongoing

The main goals of this ARP are to guide development and expansion in the Northland's Plan Area over the course of 15 years to mitigate land use conflicts between Edmonton Northlands and adjacent communities, and facilitate the continued operations of the Edmonton Northlands' exhibition and recreation facilities.

This ARP is important for the Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine Master Plan because:

- » Potential development north of the park presents an opportunity to take advantage of northward connections from the park into the city.

Norwood Boulevard Corridor Study

Under development

The City is undergoing a study and design process to recreate this corridor (111 and 112 Avenues) to help create a more vibrant destination to serve the diverse needs of the community. The study will develop a new vision for Norwood Boulevard between 109 Street and 82 Street by updating current land use policies, improving transportation and promoting new design policies.

This study is important for the Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine Master Plan because:

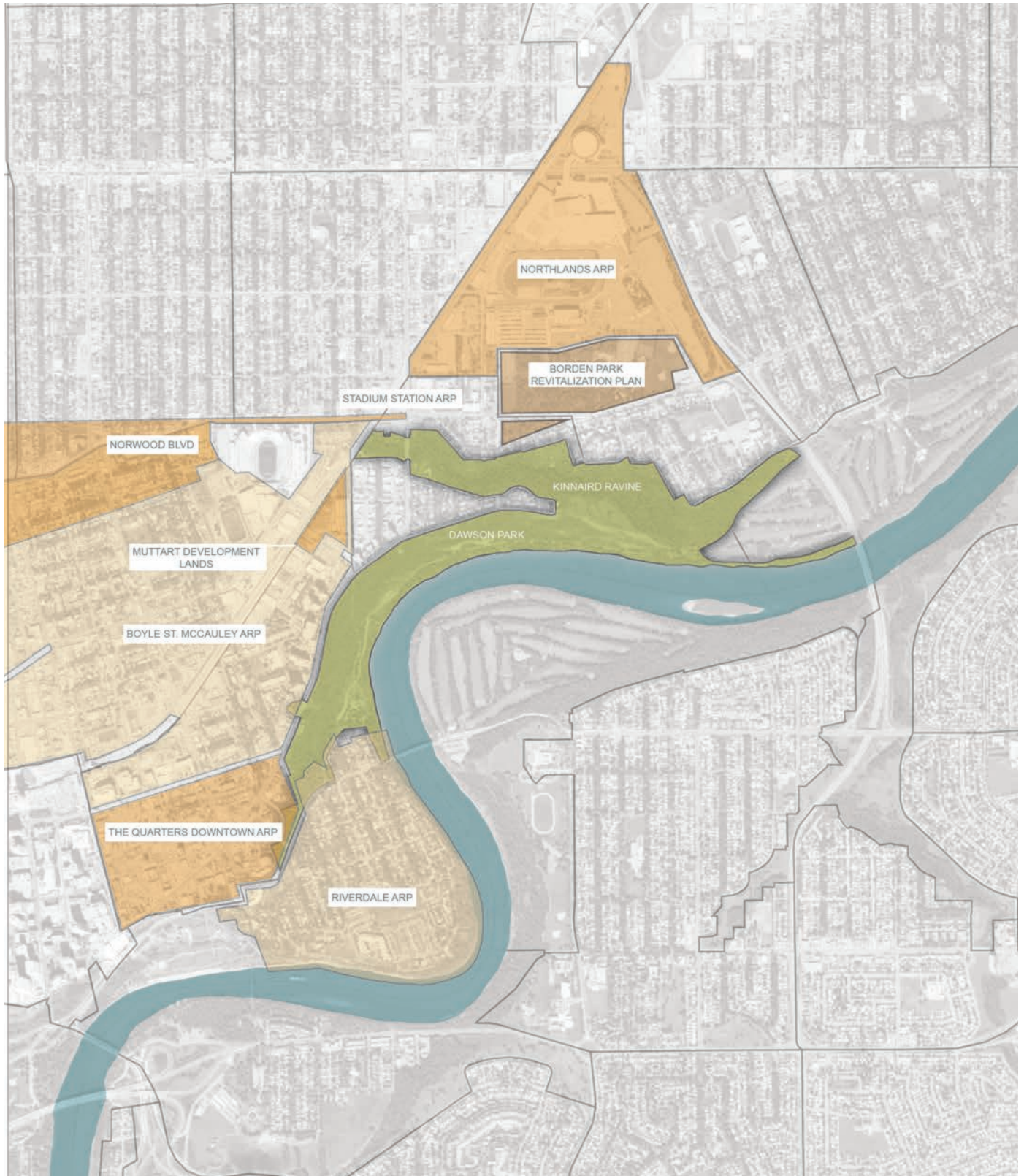
- » It creates a connection to Kinnaird Ravine west from the Kingsway/Royal Alex LRT station and surrounding neighbourhoods. These communities will also enjoy an improved pedestrian and cyclist experience, encouraging active transit to the park.

Borden Park Revitalization Plan

2010

The City is working on a revitalization plan that will see Borden Park's 100 year legacy continue for many years to come. Since the development of the Plan in 2010, major upgrades to the park have been completed. The last piece of the plan will see the redevelopment of the Borden Outdoor Pool into the Borden Natural Swimming Experience. Construction is scheduled to be completed in 2017.

Dawson Park & Kinnaird Ravine Parallel Projects



Phase 2 Engagement Materials

The information that was presented during the Phase 2 open house and engagement workshops built on our initial understanding of the park, including what we heard from you during the first phase of engagement.

Previous work

In the first phase of engagement, Inventory and Analysis, we asked what you like about the park, why it is important to you and what you want to see in the future. To help frame the conversation and provide a context for the park, we presented an inventory of various aspects of the park system, showing our initial understanding of the park. The analysis included elements such as the park history, access, amenities, maintenance natural features and utilities and servicing.

During Phase 1, we learned a lot more about the park from you, expanding our understanding of Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine. For more on what we presented and what we heard during Phase 1, check out edmonton.ca/dawsonparkmasterplan.

Our exploration of the park conditions continued into Phase 2 as we mapped and reported on environmental sensitivities. The following, including the environmental sensitivities, are highlights of what we presented at all engagement events and meetings during Phase 2.

Building capacity

To continue the conversation about the park, we presented more of our work to date. We wanted the public to be informed of our progress so that they could provide informed feedback. Participants of all activities were provided with an opportunity to learn about and review the presented information, which consisted of:

- » Project timeline
- » What we heard from Phase 1 and resulting five themes
- » Environmental sensitivities
- » Common values and themes for the park

Environmental Sensitivities

Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine are part of the larger North Saskatchewan River Valley green space network – providing recreational opportunities to all residents of Edmonton in addition to essential wildlife habitats and ecological linkages. To find a responsible balance between human use and ecological protection, it is necessary to understand the sensitivity of the park's natural features.

The North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan, Bylaw 7188, sets out the environmental factors that must be understood before development can occur within the North Saskatchewan River Valley in Edmonton. The environmental factors that contribute to environmentally sensitive landscapes are:

- » Hydrology
- » Geology/Geomorphology
- » Vegetation
- » Soils
- » Wildlife (Habitat Potential)
- » Historical/Archaeological Resources

Other factors to consider include:

- » Noise/Odour/Visual Impacts
- » Surrounding Land Use Compatibility

As part of the Master Plan process, we developed an environmental sensitivity report based on an Environmental Overview of the park and research by environmental consultants. The report outlines higher and lower sensitivity zones, which reflect the degree to which human activity could have an impact on the ecological balance throughout the park. You can find the report on the project website: edmonton.ca/dawsonparkmasterplan.

Factors that Contribute to Environmental Sensitivity:

Higher sensitivity areas are more susceptible to disturbance and require a higher level of protection. Although no areas of extreme sensitivity were identified, the following factors contribute to an increased potential for disturbance from human impact.

Geology/soils

Historical landslides and the potential for slope failure contribute to greater sensitivity to development, which could aggravate already unstable soils.

Slope

Steeper slopes have a higher sensitivity because of the potential for slope failure when disturbed.

Hydrology / Hydrography

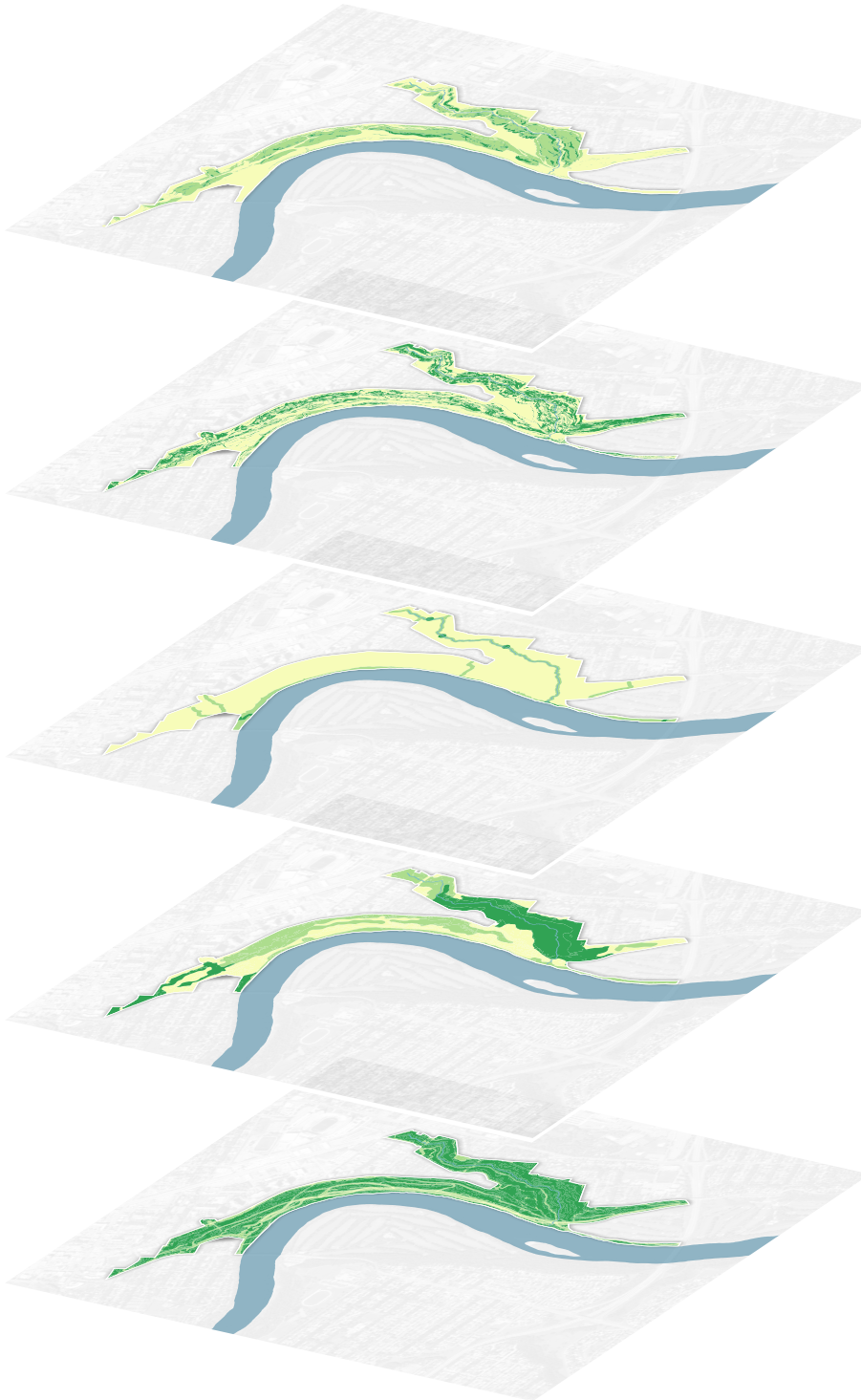
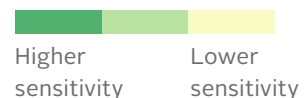
Seasonal streams, areas in the floodplain and wetland areas all contribute to higher sensitivity areas. Storm water contamination and habitat disturbance are major concerns in these areas.

Vegetation

Dense vegetation has the potential to provide quality habitat for many forms of wildlife as well as stabilizing soil on steep slopes. Areas with dense vegetation are considered to have a higher sensitivity to development.

Habitat Potential

Areas with limited human impact and that are difficult for humans to access are more likely to have higher habitat potential.





Management of Sensitivity Zones

Our findings helped us to define the most sensitive areas of the park, which we presented to the public during Phase 2. We gave participants the opportunity to incorporate the sensitivity analysis into the activities as they contributed to the park vision and identity.

The Master Plan will use the sensitivity analysis as a framework to guide the level of protection and development in the park. As we layer public desires for amenities over the environmental sensitivities, we will be able to better understand the program and activities that are best suited to the conditions of the park with consideration of the public vision.

Based on principles from the Ribbon of Green Master Plan (1992), areas of higher and lower sensitivity have different






management and protection recommendations. The park Master Plan will use the sensitivity zones as the basis for a decision-making framework to guide the level of protection and development in the park. The sensitivity levels will be layered with the public's vision and desired park elements to determine solutions that are both feasible and responsible.

Development in higher sensitivity areas should be thoughtfully considered in order to protect the park's natural resources. Suggested management practices include minimal development, routine maintenance and restricted wildlife control. Only emergency safety and security services are recommended. In cases where there is potential for significant historical resources to exist, development is subject to a Historical Resources Impact Assessment by the Province.



The interaction of natural resources and human activity should be managed in medium sensitivity areas to prevent unnecessary negative environmental impacts. Suggested management practices include development limited to trails, routine garbage collection and trail edge maintenance, limited wildlife control, some habitat restoration and some safety and security services.

Lower sensitivity areas have experienced the most ecological degradation. These degraded areas are most suitable for increased activity. However, they may also have the greatest potential for ecological restoration, possibly requiring significant effort.

-  Significant areas of observed invasive species
 -  Wetland-like areas associated with Rat Creek
 -  Existing park entrance
 -  Identified potentially significant historic resource
- 
 Higher sensitivity Lower sensitivity



Landscape Units

We defined landscape units to help describe the existing conditions in the park. A landscape unit is an area that has unique natural features and common activity uses. The five landscape units we defined in Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine are:

- » River Valley Slopes
- » Mobility Corridor
- » River Edge
- » Kinnaird Ravine
- » Plateau Parks

Each landscape unit has a unique set of opportunities and constraints based on what we heard from the public and stakeholders during Phase 1 of engagement, City priorities, and environmental sensitivities. To respond to existing opportunities and constraints, the City summarized the common values from all inputs to provide direction for the future management and conceptual plan of the park. These values are foundational elements that help to ensure the goals for the park are realized and, along with the feedback from Phase 2 of engagement, will help to create the long-term vision for the Master Plan.

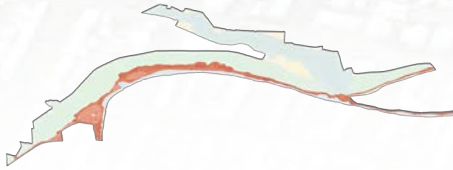
* Existing park entrance



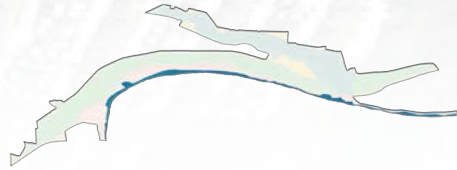
RIVER VALLEY SLOPES



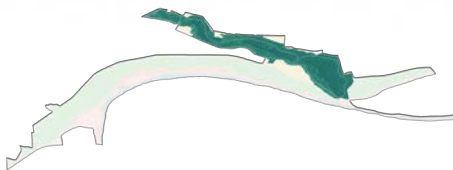
MOBILITY CORRIDOR



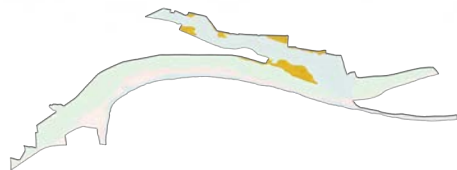
RIVER EDGE



KINNAIRD RAVINE



PLATEAU PARKS



Common Values

River Valley Slopes

This landscape unit is part of the larger continuous steep escarpment that defines the River Valley basin, with loose soil materials that tend to erode. The vegetation consists of dense stands of shrubs, trees, areas of grass and a mix of native and non-native vegetation. Trails run at different levels along the slopes, many of which are natural/informal.

Some of the values and themes that were expressed for the **River Valley Slopes** include:

- » Entrances should be visible, safe and identifiable.
- » Slope stabilization methods should be used in areas with evidence of historical or potential slope failure.
- » The management of invasive and non-native plant species will be addressed in the Master Plan.
- » Improved access from the top of bank will be balanced with erosion mitigation, slope stabilization and the control of invasive species.

Mobility Corridor

This landscape unit is characterized by its flat, manicured grass borders and fields. The south-western end of the park hosts active uses with a variety of facilities and amenities, including the Dawson pavilion and a walled picnic area for people with visual impairments. Two main trails, a paved multi-use regional trail and a Braille Trail, run the entire length of the park. Most trails in this corridor are off-leash dog trails.

Some of the values and themes that were expressed for the **Mobility Corridor** include:

- » Low impact design standards should be employed to mitigate ecological disturbance.
- » Efforts should be made to mediate conflicts between trail and pathway users (i.e. pedestrians, cyclists, dog walkers) through improved signage and wayfinding.
- » Provide appropriate park amenities to facilitate unique park and River Valley experiences.



River Edge

This landscape unit forms the belt along the edge of the North Saskatchewan River. The steep drop to the river makes access difficult, even though Dawson Park has been identified as a hub for boating and general access in the River Access Strategy. There many informal paths down to the river, showing the desire for people to touch the water. The vegetation is a mix of native and non-native species, which aids in slope stabilization.

Some of the values and themes that were expressed for the **River Edge** include:

- » **River access and viewing points should be provided with the necessary measures to accommodate for slope and bank stabilization.**
- » **Opportunities for stream and river habitat rehabilitation should be provided.**
- » **Areas prone to erosion along the river bank should be protected in the Master Plan.**

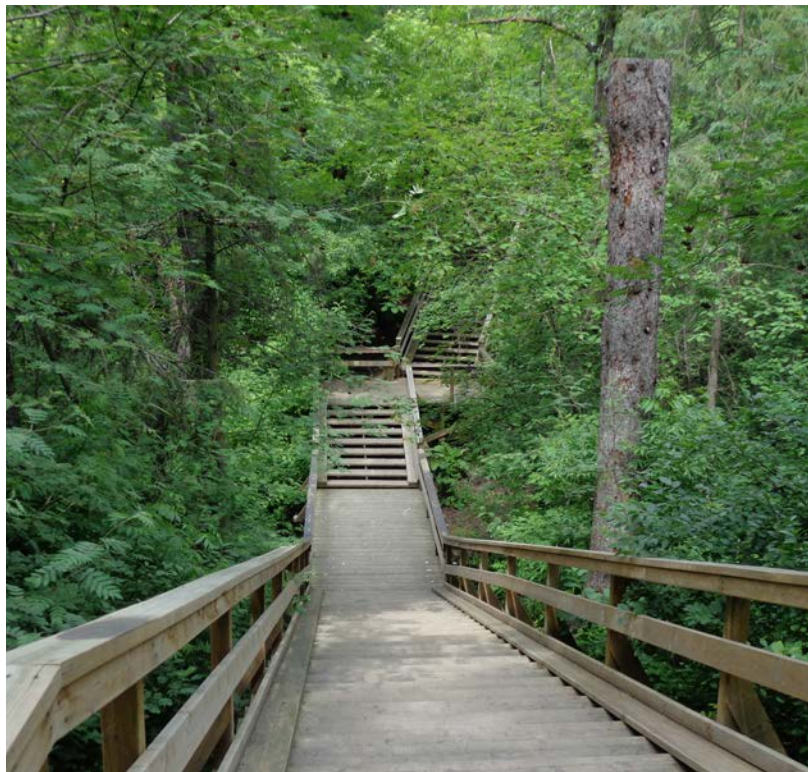


Kinnaird Ravine

The ravine's steep slopes and its high concentration of coniferous trees give it a dense, secluded and mysterious feel. It has high habitat value for wildlife because of its dense upper and under-story growth. Large portions of the ravine are inaccessible to people. A single gravel path is the main route through this zone.

Some of the values and themes that were expressed for **Kinnaird Ravine** include:

- » **The ravine's natural characteristics should be maintained to provide a natural refuge from the city.**
- » **The steep slopes and dense vegetated areas should be preserved to foster habitats for wildlife.**
- » **Development should be restricted in relatively undisturbed land to prevent further damage and disturbances.**
- » **Consider trail enhancements to accommodate multiple user groups.**



Plateau Parks

These flat areas are at the top of the bank and can be easily accessed from adjacent neighbourhoods. Most of the plateau parks have few amenities that could be improved upon to benefit nearby residents.

Some of the values and themes that were expressed for the **Plateau Parks** include:

- » **Provide park amenities that serve the park's neighbouring communities and the citizens of Edmonton.**
- » **Increase access and connections into the park where possible.**

Common Values in the Engagement Process

In the next phases of engagement, the landscape units will be used to help communicate the concept plan recommendations for each area of the park. The Master Plan will use the common themes and values as a basis for future recommendations.

The Environmental Sensitivities as well as common themes and values responding to opportunities and constraints in the park were presented to the public and stakeholders to provide guidance while they participated in the facilitated activities. The common themes and values, based on public input, site analysis and City priorities, will also come through in the vision statement presented in Phase 3.

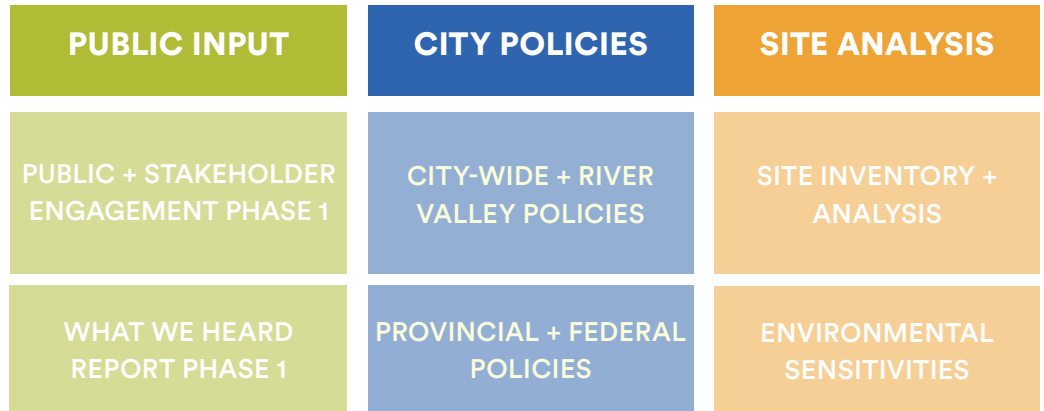


Phase 2 Engagement Goals

INPUTS

Throughout the engagement process we have emphasized that public input, City policies and site analysis inform decisions for the Master Plan.

During Phase 2, we presented our current understanding of the park, including what we heard from Phase 1 and environmental sensitivities.



INFORMATION

We considered inputs from all sources to develop a set of opportunities and constraints for the Master Plan.

The common values we presented are our foundational guidelines for how the Master Plan will respond to the opportunities and constraints. We wanted to hear if you think we got the them right.



INVOLVEMENT

We asked participants to build on their previous feedback and to respond to the information presented by contributing to guided activities in-person and on-line. The purpose of these exercises were to help us gain further insight into the public's long-term vision and program ideas for Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine.



What We Did

In January and February 2017, we engaged Edmontonians through an open house, an online survey, and a series of focused workshops on the vision and desired program for Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine.

We tried to reach a diverse group of participants using the following engagement tools:

- » Public open house
- » Online survey and map tool
- » External engagement workshop
- » Internal engagement workshops
- » Focused citizen engagement

Activities and how feedback will be used:

Four activities were available to participants, which included thick and thin engagement strategies. Thick engagement enables large numbers of people to work together while thin engagement activates people to provide input as individuals.

Write your own vision

Participants were presented with phrases and words to piece together their desired vision statement for the park. They were also offered an opportunity to write a freeform vision statement of their own. The City of Edmonton will use this information to draft a vision statement for the park, as well as identify strategic, high-level issues and opportunities.

Create your own park!

Participants could place park amenities onto a map, essentially designing their own version of the park individually or as a group. This provides the City with a better understanding of where participants would like activities to be located, where these activities and amenities might be compatible and where they might conflict.

How were the engagement opportunities advertised?





Park Elements

People were shown a selection of 72 activities, programs and physical elements such as signage, park furniture, and equipment, then asked to show us their preferences by placing dots on the various park elements. This will help the City of Edmonton understand the public's activity, program, design and stylistic preferences for the park.

How did you get here?

Participants were asked to provide feedback on where they were travelling from to get to the park, what entry points they used, and by what mode of transportation. This will help the City understand the Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine experience from various standpoints: accessibility, park identity, and signage.

Through these various activities, you gave your feedback in 569 interactions online and in person. This total includes the following participants and contributions:

569
in person + online
interactions

52
open house
attendees

16
external stakeholder
participants

35
students

301
online survey
users

162
online map tool
users

490
create your own
park comments

8,517
park element
comments

238
original vision
statements

Open House

Tuesday, January 17, 2017
E4C, Alex Taylor School Gymnasium, 5-8pm
52 Attendees

An open house was held in the E4C Alex Taylor School Gymnasium in the Boyle Street community. The drop-in open house was set up with a series of panels that described the project process, including information about the study area's environmental sensitivities, landscape units and resulting values and themes that emerged during Phase 1.

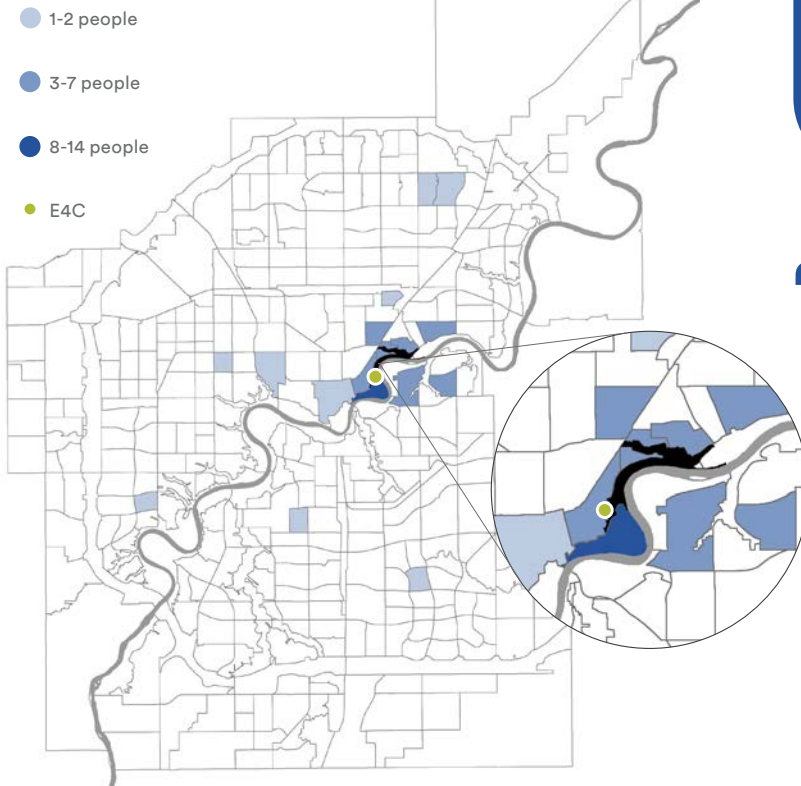
Visitors were encouraged to participate in the four activities described earlier. A handout was provided to visitors to help navigate the space and summarize the information being presented. The handout also provided more information about how to provide feedback later, either online, by email, or by post.

A gallery of the vision drawings from our visit to Mount Royal School Grade 3 classes were showcased at the open house to share the ideas gathered from the school session earlier that day.

Most attendees indicated that they lived in neighbourhoods surrounding the park. The neighbourhood with the highest recorded turnout was Riverdale, which is just south of Dawson Park. Attendees from more distant neighbourhoods were also in attendance, including Matt Berry and Hollick-Kenyon to the north and Callingwood South, Lendrum Place and Lee Ridge to the south.

The majority of attendees were highly engaged, and typically stayed between 15–45 minutes.

Open House Attendance Map



Participants were open to share their knowledge of the park during and after the open house. For example, they taught us about the park's industrial past, including the Riverdale Flats Sewage Disposal Plant history.

“ **Provide a site for traditional Indigenous ceremony.** ”

“ **Clear signage for all including off-leash areas.** ”

“ **Major entrance to the park with additional parking.** ”

Online Survey

January 17 to February 1, 2017

301 survey respondents

<https://www.edmonton.ca/dawsonparkmasterplan>

To complement the in-person engagement opportunities, a version of the information and the activities was posted online for those who were unable to attend the open house.

The survey was distributed through the Insight Community, available through project website. It was advertised at the open house, using stakeholder email lists and communications outreach material (such as mailed flyers).

Online Create your own park! map

January 17 to February 1, 2017

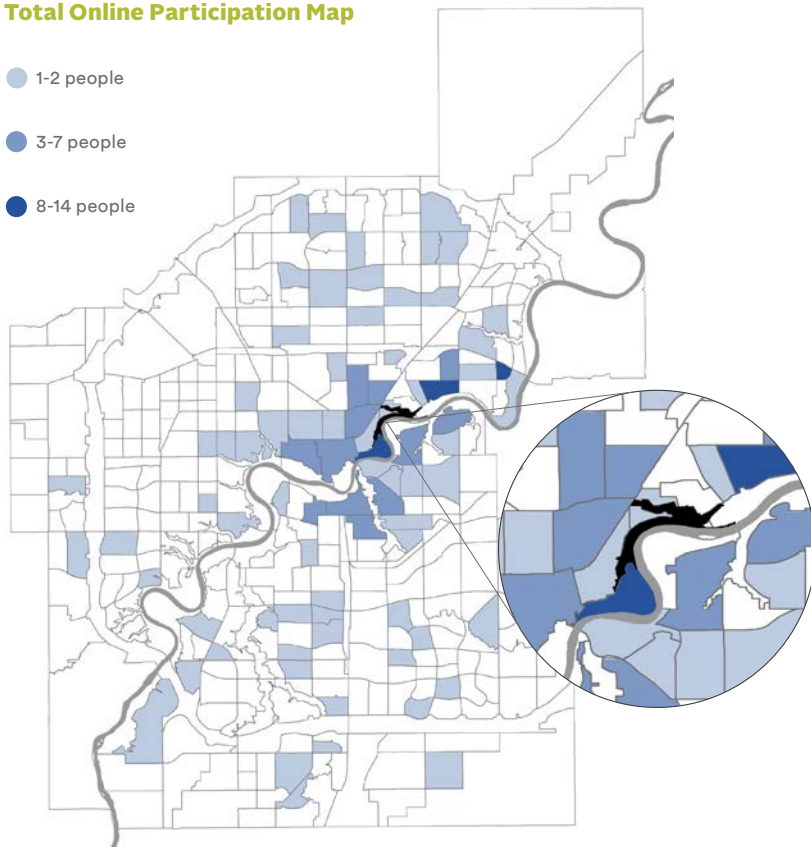
162 online map tool users

<https://www.edmonton.ca/dawsonparkmasterplan>

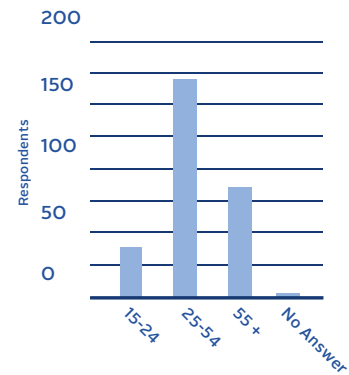
The online map tool provided a way for participants to complete the Create your own park! activity from home. People placed park amenities and comments on the map and were provided access to the environmental sensitivity analysis as a map layer for reference.

Total Online Participation Map

- 1-2 people
- 3-7 people
- 8-14 people

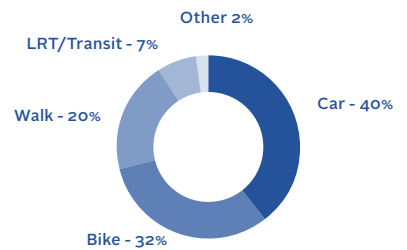


AGE
(ONLINE SURVEY USERS)



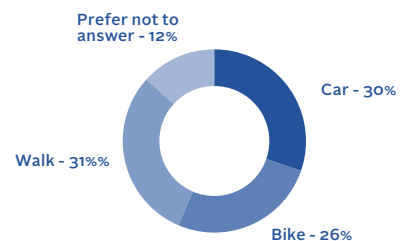
HOW DID YOU GET TO THE PARK?

(ONLINE SURVEY USERS)



HOW DID YOU GET TO THE PARK?

(ONLINE MAP TOOL USERS)



External Stakeholder Workshop

Monday January 16, 2017
E4C, Alex Taylor School Gymnasium, 5:30 – 7:30pm
16 Participants

The two hour workshop began with a presentation to briefly review background information. Following this, the participants were divided into two groups and invited to participate in the four activities.

The activities prompted discussions related to park access, community partnerships with the City and the level of development that is appropriate for the River Valley. Participants agreed with many of the presented vision statements and words and added to the selection by writing their own.

Organizations that were represented include:

- » Community Member
- » Dawson Dogs (Dogs Off Leash Ambassador)
- » Edmonton & Area Land Trust
- » Edmonton Dragon Boat Festival Association
- » Edmonton Dragon Boat Racing Club
- » Edmonton Mountain Bike Alliance
- » Friends of Kinnaird Ravine
- » North Saskatchewan River Valley Conservation Society
- » Northwest Voyageurs Canoe & Kayak Club
- » Protect Edmonton Parks
- » River Valley Alliance
- » RiverWatch
- » Sierra Club Canada

Additional Public Outreach Methods

In addition to the City's needs assessment for the park, which involves understanding the park's existing use and activities, we are using online and in-person methods to reach out to the following communities to gain a more holistic understanding of public needs for the Master Plan:

- » Braille Trail users through an online survey
- » Indigenous Nations through outreach efforts associated with multiple City projects including BREATHE: Edmonton's Green Network Strategy, the River Access Strategy and the Southwest Ribbon of Green Master Plan
- » Members of the community who presently rough sleep in the park or who have previously camped in the park to inform the service needs of this population
- » Multi-cultural communities through workshops aided by the Multicultural Health Brokers Co-op
- » Consultation and discussions with the river users as part of the development of the River Access Strategy

As data from these outreach methods becomes available, the City will incorporate the findings into the Master Plan. Feedback will be shared at public engagement events and/or in subsequent What We Heard reports associated with the Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine Master Plan.



Internal Stakeholder Workshops

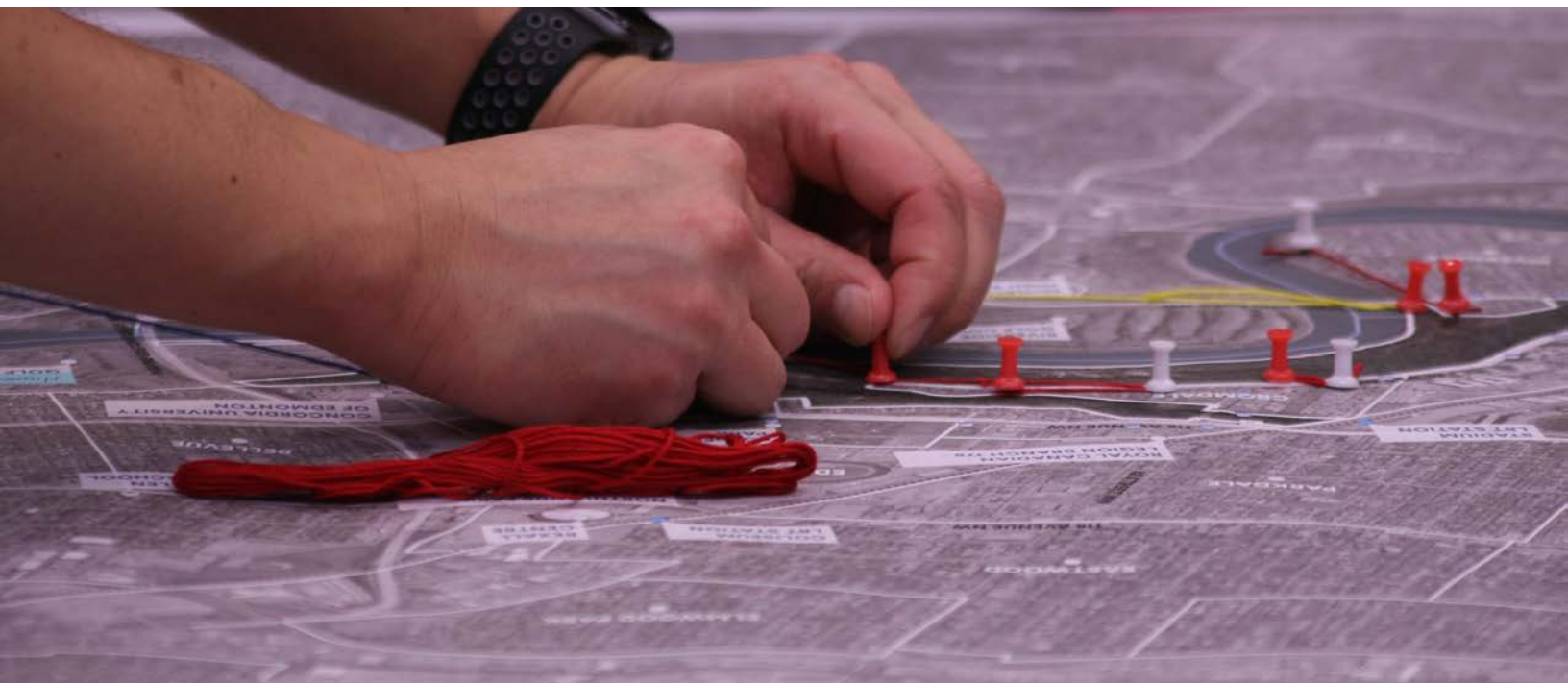
Four internal stakeholder workshops were held in mid-January to facilitate discussions with multiple departments from the City of Edmonton.

Various Departments/Branches/Sections were represented at these internal workshops. Those who were invited are listed to the right. Some representatives were unable to attend the planned sessions and they were followed up with separately (including the Indigenous Relations Office, the Multicultural Relations Office, Accessibility & Age Friendly representatives, Facility Maintenance Services, Edmonton Transit, DATS and Development Planning & Engineering).

Participants were presented with background information on the project, including environmental sensitivities and common themes and values. This was followed by comprehensive discussions about challenges, issues, and potential solutions and opportunities for the park concept plans.

The discussion topics on the following page are a summary of suggestions and recommendations from multiple internal stakeholder workshops. Further discussion and prioritization of these ideas are required to ensure their suitability for the Master Plan. The outcomes of these discussions will also be analyzed against the feedback we received from external stakeholders and the public to help make decisions and priorities for the Master Plan.

- » Citizen Services (Community Recreation Coordinators)
- » Community & Recreation Facilities (Sport & Partner Liaisons)
- » Community & Recreation Facilities Civic Events and Partnerships (Civic Events and Festival Liaisons)
- » Communities of Interest, Indigenous Relations Office
- » Communities of Interest, Multicultural Relations Office
- » Communities of Interest, Accessibility & Age Friendly
- » Park Rangers
- » Edmonton Police Services
- » Environmental Management
- » Forestry
- » Homeless on Public Lands Committee and Boyle Street Outreach
- » Integrated Strategic Services
- » Parks Operations
- » River Valley Parks and Facilities
- » Roots for Trees
- » Fire Rescue Services
- » Drainage Planning
- » Drainage Services
- » Facility Maintenance Services
- » Edmonton Transit
- » DATS
- » Development Planning & Engineering
- » Nodes and Corridors Group
- » Urban Design
- » Walk Edmonton
- » Sustainable Transportation



Internal Stakeholder Discussion Topics

Access + Circulation

- » provide a framework and concept plan to help park visitors use designated trails as well as formalized park and river access points, reducing impacts on sensitive areas and residents in surrounding neighbourhoods
- » the Master Plan should integrate the River Valley wayfinding strategy, improved access point visibility, trail markers and trail loops
- » access into the park from the LRT station would be beneficial for the surrounding neighbourhoods
- » the Master Plan could explore increasing pedestrian comfort along Jasper Avenue at the top of bank
- » explore ways to improve accessibility into and throughout the park, including barrier-free access and accessible features around the parking lot
- » enhance access points with active modes of transportation and align with the Transit Strategy

Environmental Management

- » it is recommended that a detailed record of native and invasive species be developed for the park and efforts be made to reduce the spread of invasive plants
- » there are community resources available that could be utilized to help study the plants in the park
- » tree canopy should not be reduced for the development of infrastructure
- » the storm water outfall in the park is connected to a combined sewer system which has an impact on the activities that are appropriate for the park
- » the Master Plan could explore options to incorporate low impact design techniques, wildlife habitat restoration and Fire Smart guidelines

Safety + Park Maintenance

- » education and signage are recommended to reduce user conflict in the park (on trails)
- » there are opportunities to explore partnerships with community organizations for trail and park maintenance
- » the Master Plan should prioritize safety and could explore options for emergency access, increased Rangers presence and pavilion improvements to increase the feeling of safety among park users
- » while the long-term solution to homelessness is access to housing, the Master Plan could address camps in the park with a collective approach and explore options to facilitate operations and outreach efforts

Programs + Activities

- » ensure the Master Plan aligns with Neighbourhood Renewal efforts and the surrounding Area Redevelopment Plans
- » the Master Plan should account for the increase in park use with the new River Valley Alliance hand launch and could include opportunities for temporary programming
- » the Master Plan could explore options for Dawson Park to become a bookable picnic site and provide interpretive elements
- » recommendations include: garbage receptacles, washrooms, water bottle fill stations, exercise equipment

Mount Royal School Grade 3 Classes

Tuesday January 17, 2017

Mount Royal School, 1:45pm to 3pm

The City of Edmonton engaged two grade three classes at Mount Royal School in the development of the vision and program for Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine. This school was chosen through the City Hall School program and their proximity to the park. Approximately 35 students from Ms. Haman and Mrs. Stauffer's classes participated in the engagement.

The session started with an introduction about what landscape architects do in their career and how the class could help design the future of the park. A brainstorm of ideas followed, and the children took turns suggesting ideas for the design of the park.

The class then broke out into four groups, each with an appointed staff facilitator. The facilitator led their groups through two activities:

Park Elements

In small groups, the group staff facilitator showed the Grade 3s photos of different types of parks, images of Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine, as well as images of what children could do in parks. The Grade 3s were asked to place sparkly stickers on the photos they liked.

My future trip to Dawson Park

The Grade 3s were asked to individually draw their imaginary future trip to Dawson Park. They were prompted to think about how they would get there, who they would be with, what they would see when entering the park and what they would like to do in the park.

When the class finished drawing their future vision of the park, the teachers used a stick jar to select a few presenters from each class to describe their future of the park.

The Grade 3s' vision for Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine was exhibited as a student gallery at the public open house that evening.



What We Heard

The City offered a variety of ways for people to provide input into Phase 2 of this project. We spent time during Phase 2 engaging in meaningful conversations and informative activities to help us develop the vision statement and program preferences for Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine.

We continued to expand our understanding of the park and the public's needs through these interactions. We observed that people typically spent 5–10 minutes on each activity (in person), indicating a very high level of interest and engagement amongst participants.

How did we analyze the feedback?

Responses to each of the four activities were analyzed separately to determine trends and preferences. Trends and common themes emerged as we read and categorized all of the proposed vision statements from the open house, external stakeholder workshop and the online survey. These themes will be used to craft the vision statement for Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine, which will be presented at the next phase of engagement in alignment with the concept plan options.

All park amenities and activities that were placed in the Create your own park! activity and on the online map tool were combined and analyzed to find spatial patterns. We were interested in understanding where activities are desired, where

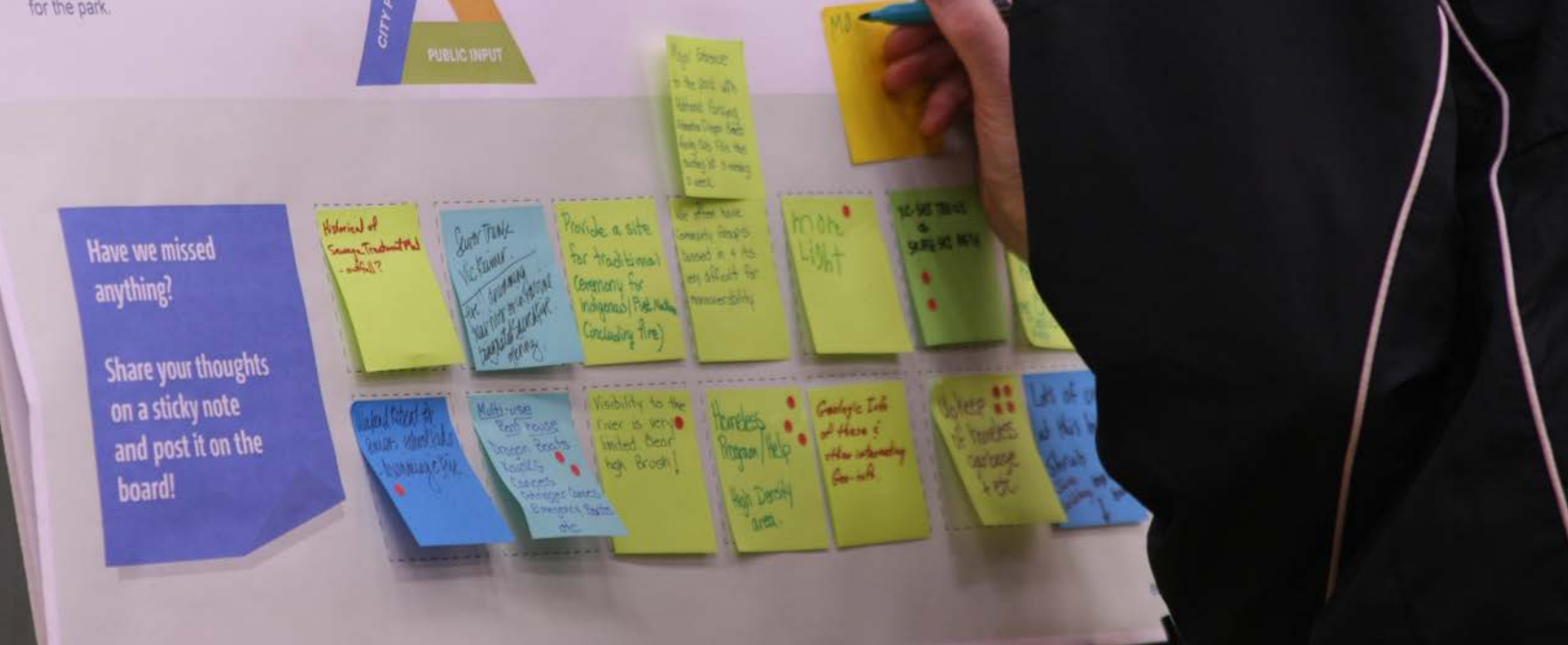
they are compatible with existing conditions and where there might be conflict. We were able to uncover trends related to what elements you want to see in the park and where you want to see them.

Finally, the preferences for park elements from the online survey and the Park Elements activity were tallied and summarized to give us an idea of your level of preference for the types of activities and elements you want to see.

We provided ways for you to give additional information and comments in each engagement method. The additional comments are summarized in this report, as well, focusing on major themes that emerged.

What did we learn?

Feedback about the open house as collected from the feedback surveys indicated generally very positive experiences. The staff was very helpful and friendly, the information was clearly presented, and the activities were unique and provided a variety of ways for people to provide their input. We will continue to communicate the purpose of engagement and the ways in which we will use your feedback.



ACTIVITIES:

VISION STATEMENT

Write your own vision statement!



OUTCOMES:

VISION STATEMENT

You chose the words and phrases that resonated with your vision for the park, and many of you wrote your own. We compiled all the feedback, which is presented in this report, to help us as we develop a vision statement that reflects our collective wishes, values and beliefs.

CREATE YOUR OWN PARK!

Show us what you want to see in the park, and where!



CONCEPT PLAN

Your placement of park elements on the map of the park gave us valuable feedback on what you would like to see in the park and where you want to see it. We have compiled all feedback to find groupings and trends, presented in this report.

PARK ELEMENTS

Tell us your program preferences



CONCEPT PLAN

The park elements that you chose gave us insight into what you think are the most important activities and elements to include in the park. The activity also showed us what you do not want to see. This feedback will contribute to the look and feel of Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine in the concept options.

How do you get to the park?



PARK ACCESS

Your feedback will inform recommendations for improvements to access routes and entry points into and through the park.

Activity 1: Write your own vision

Participants who contributed to the vision statement did so by choosing one of the sample phrases we provided or by writing their own. Many participants used the sample phrases and words that we produced to create their vision statement(s), which indicates that participants have shared values that are closely aligned to what we heard in Phase 1.

Participants at the open house were invited to place dots on the statement already pinned up on the wall if they agreed with the statement or felt it was important. The following summary includes the dotted phrases as well as our analysis of those statements written by participants.

Presented here is the combined vision statement data in categories from greatest to least. (Themes from statements that participants wrote on their own are written in black.) The size of the leaves on each tree relates to the number of times the vision phrase was used to complete the following leading phrases:

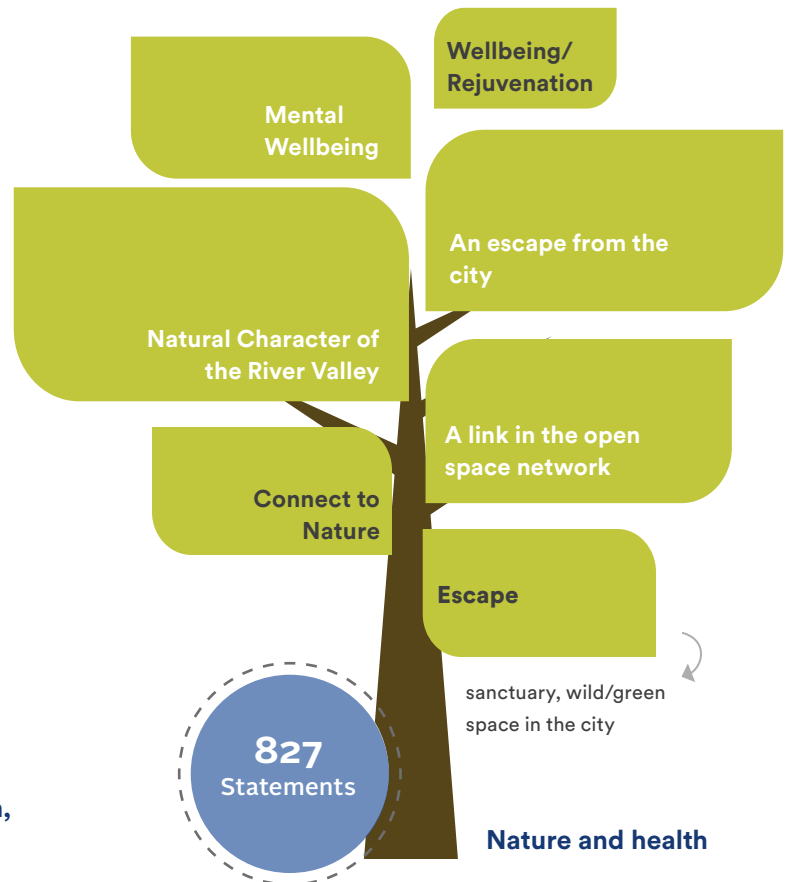
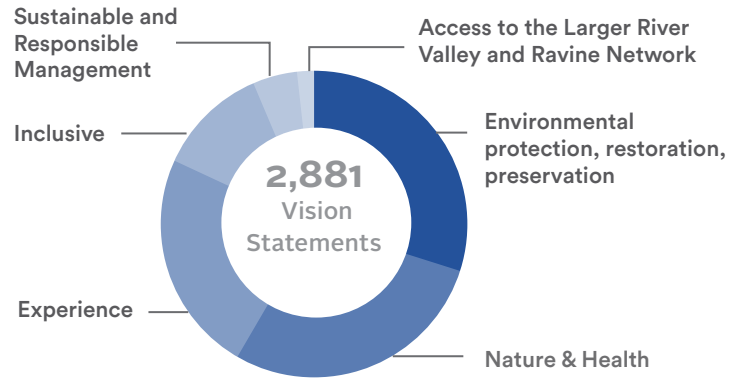
Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine aims to be...

It will inspire/promote...

The park will represent Edmonton's identity as a leader in...

It will leave a legacy as...

VISION STATEMENT TALLY RESULTS:





Vision Statement Summary

From the public's feedback, the vision for the park is that it is first and foremost balanced between two ideas:

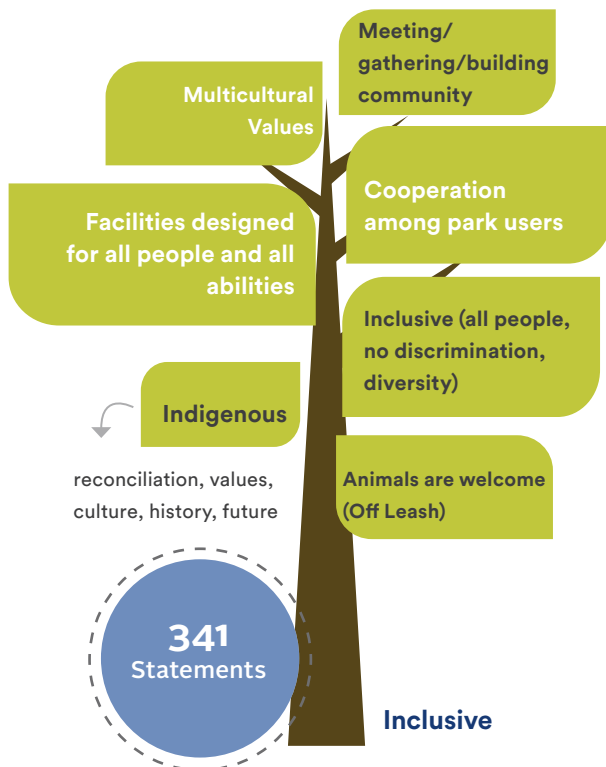
- » a park that is **natural** and protects the ecological balance
- » is a place **for people** to be outside in nature, as to experience the health benefits of being in nature

Secondary to this, people would like the park to facilitate an experience: one that invites **exploration and recreational activity** year round, while telling a story about the **culture and history** of place.

A park that is **inviting and accessible** to all people (and pets) is desired, creating a place for heritage appreciation, including Indigenous heritage and gathering.

The park should also inspire community stewardship, be planned and built **responsibly** and provide **access and connection** to the River Valley.

All of the input received so far will contribute to a robust vision statement that will be presented in the next round of engagement. In addition, guiding principles will be incorporated into the final vision statement for the park.



Activity 2: Create your own park!

This activity allowed participants to think about where activities would be placed on the park map. All Create your own park! maps were layered on top of each other using the online map tool to provide consolidated feedback. From this, we were able to understand in more detail the programs and activities that you prioritized and generally where you wanted to do these activities. The results of this analysis provided the us with insight into where areas of increased activity emerged, and where there were consistencies and inconsistencies with desired locations and activities.

Summary of Focused Conversations

Everyone has a different way of looking at and understanding the park, depending on how they live, work or play within it. Focused conversations with members of the public and stakeholders during the engagement events provided us with many suggestions for how to address the opportunities and constraints presented. As we worked with people to develop responses to activities 2 to 4 and create their own park maps, we often had conversations with them (usually about 5–20 minutes long). During these conversations, we observed that people created their park with a specific challenge or issue they were trying to solve. Similar challenges or issues were heard across the various techniques (open house, workshops and online).

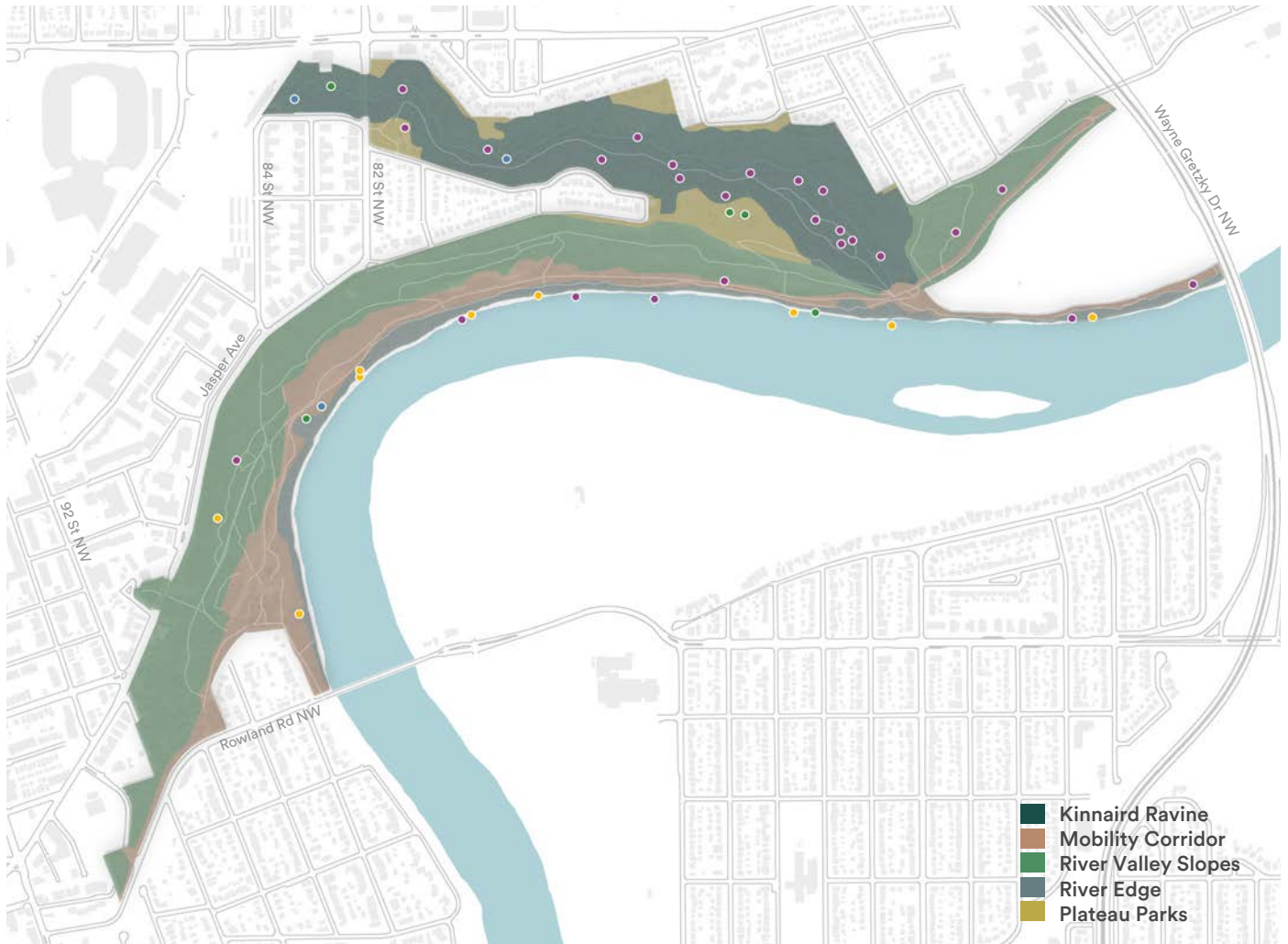
Submissions were analyzed with input from the Create your own park! activity staff facilitators to understand underlying values and intent as people participated in the activity. The diagram below illustrates some of the conversations that took place around this activity, indicating the values and issues that participants found important.

This next series of maps demonstrates the clustering effects of the suggested locations of programs and activities. This gives a snapshot of what the public wants to see in the park and where, focusing mainly on recreational and community needs. These, along with environmental sensitivities and City priorities, will help inform the development of the concept options.

The data collected from the online map tool, the open house and the external stakeholder workshop illustrates areas of increased activity that are desired within specific areas of Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine. These areas of increased activity will be considered with the site characteristics of the desired location to determine the suitability for increased human use in different areas of the park. This will help us make decisions as to where activity should or should not occur.



Nature + Ecology



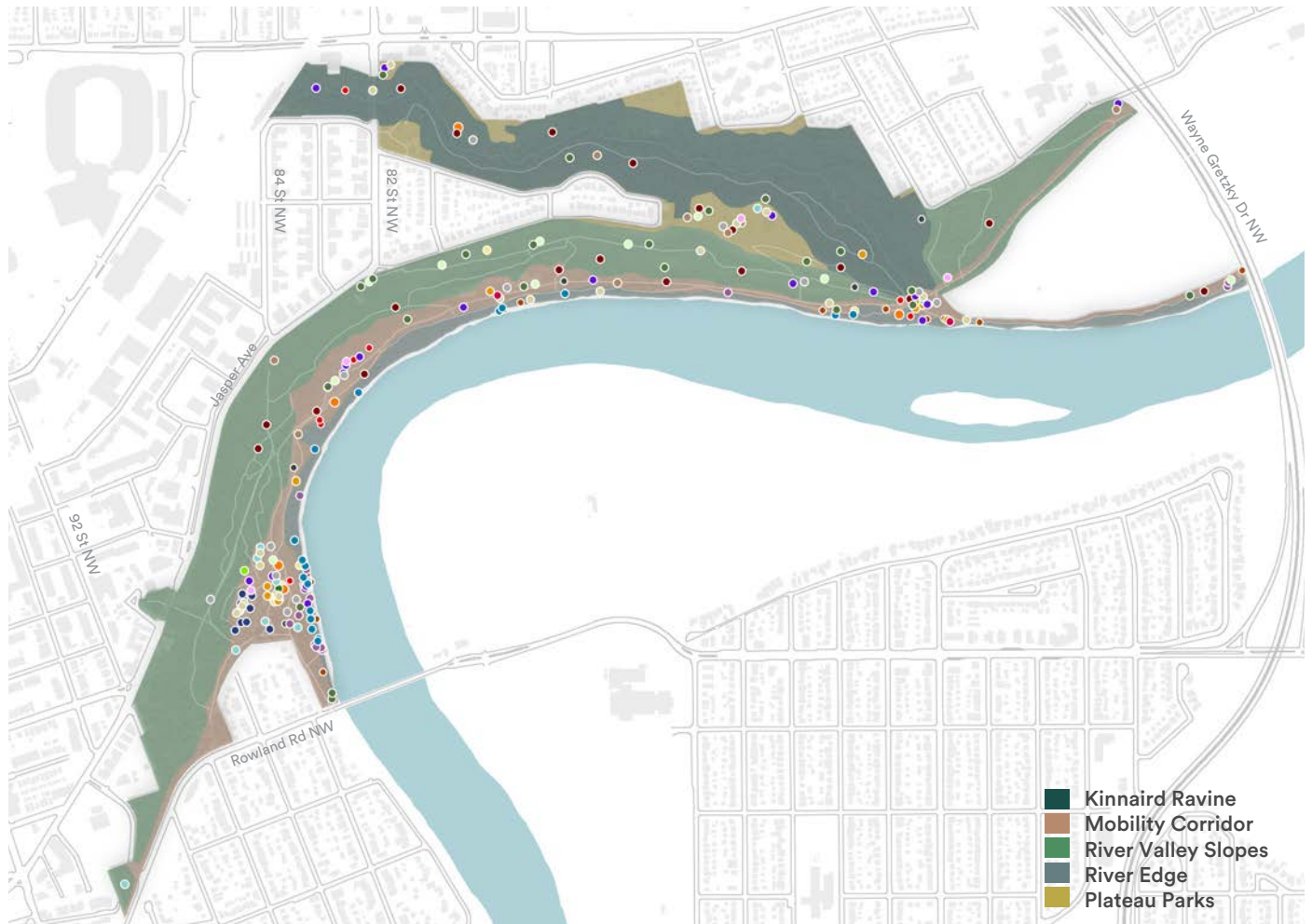
Park Amenity/Program **Frequency Selected Per Landscape Unit**



Within the Nature and Ecology theme and in the Create your own park! activity as a whole, Conservation Area was the highest placed amenity for the park. The majority of Conservation Area amenity pieces were placed in Kinnaird Ravine, but they were also placed in all other landscape units. Invasive Species Control and Restoration were both placed

frequently in the River Edge. This aligns with comments we heard regarding the desire for river edge cleanup and restoration. Comments from the first round of engagement in relation to protecting Kinnaird Ravine and keeping Kinnaird Ravine natural are in line with the results of this activity.

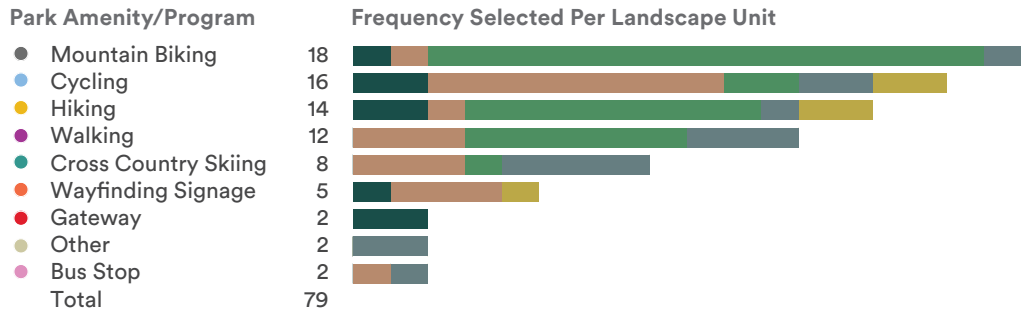
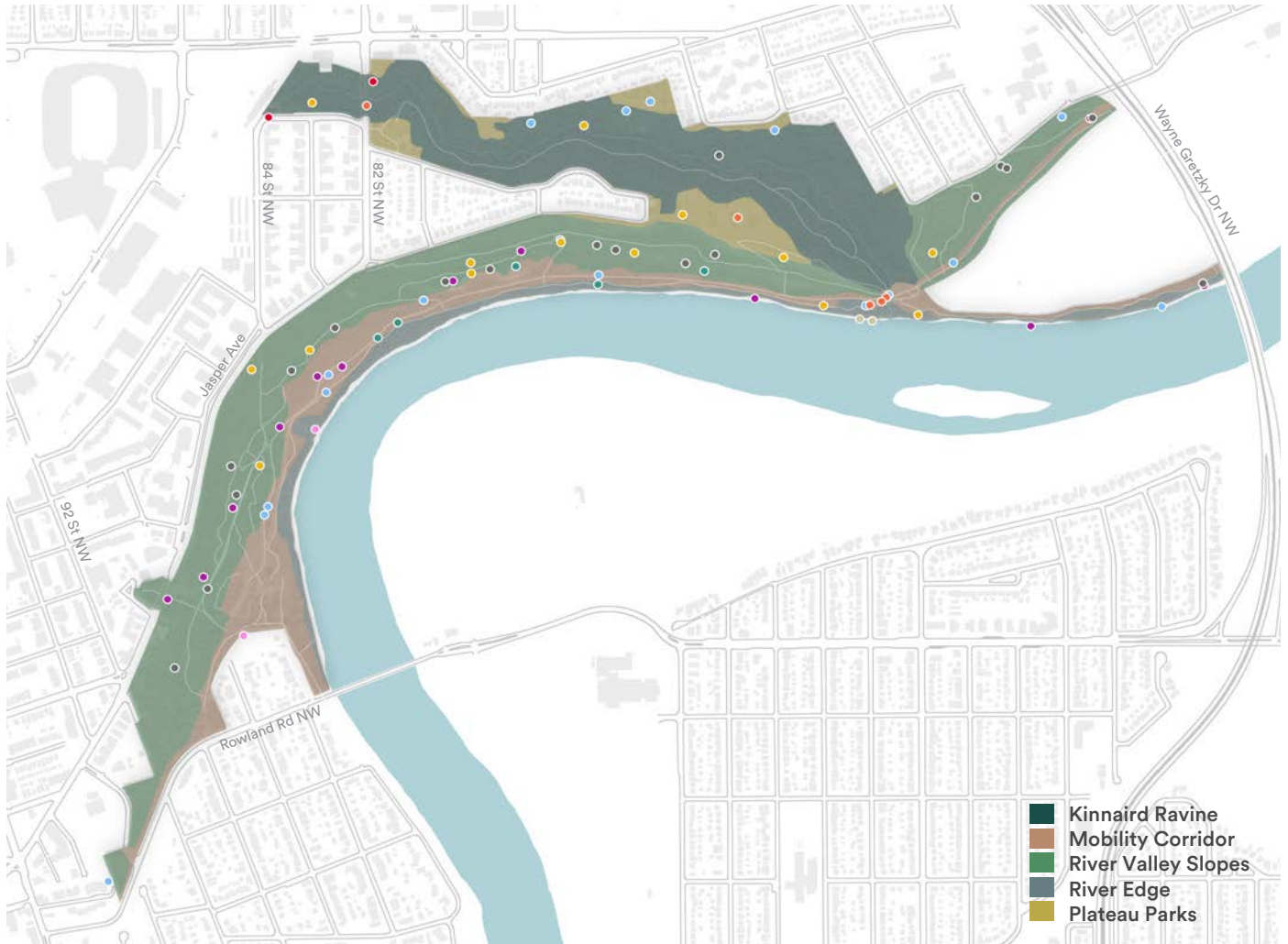
Park Use + Amenities



Park Amenity/Program	Frequency Selected Per Landscape Unit
Garbage Can	22
Water Access	21
Off-Leash Area	19
Picnic Area	19
Boating Hand Launch	18
Fishing	17
Other Comments	17
Public Washrooms	17
BBQ Pit	12
Fire Pit	10
Lookout	10
Dog Bag Dispenser	10
Parking	9
Playground	9
Shelter	8
Drinking Fountain	5
Gathering Space	5
Weather Cam App	4
Performance Pavilion	2
Bench	2
Playfield	1
Total	236

The most popular activities in the Park Use and Amenity category included garbage cans, water access, off-leash areas, picnic areas and boating hand launches. Many of the conversations we have had with stakeholders and the public in the first two rounds of engagement which call for minimal development, low impact activities and access to the river. Some low impact amenities are desired, but there is also the desire for some amenities that will require some level of development.

Connectivity + Circulation

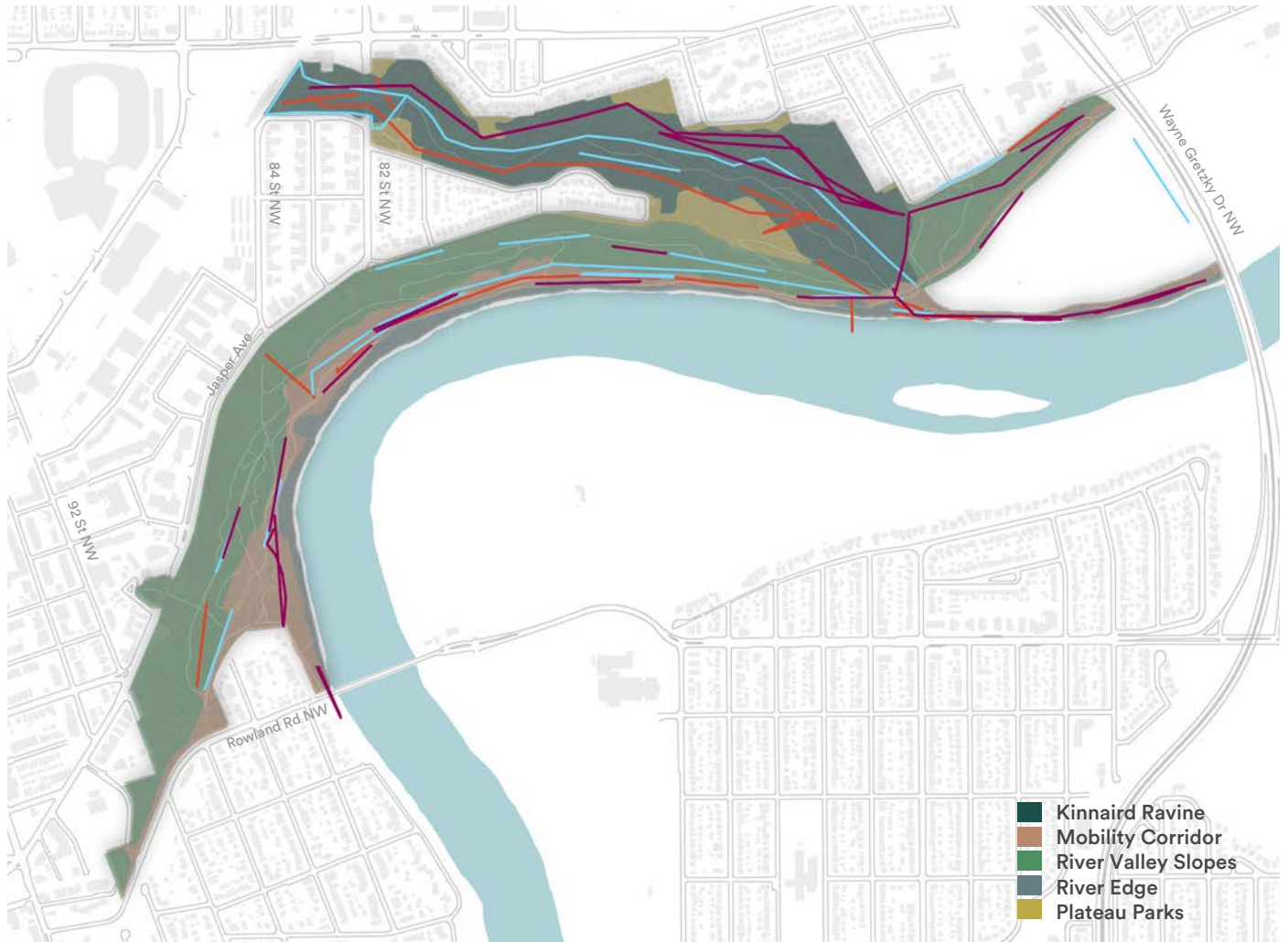


Out of the park elements in the Connectivity and Circulation category, the highest requested activity was mountain biking, which was mainly requested in the River Valley Slopes. Hiking was another popular activity for the River Valley Slopes, while Cycling was requested the majority of times in the Mobility Corridor. In general, people requested the activities that currently occur in the park. Some participants requested new

locations for bus stops near the existing vehicular entrance, which was not an original option for the activity.

Connectivity and Circulation desires are important to understand because of comments we received during the first two phases of engagement on the conflicts arising from various uses of pathways in the park.

Trails + Pathways



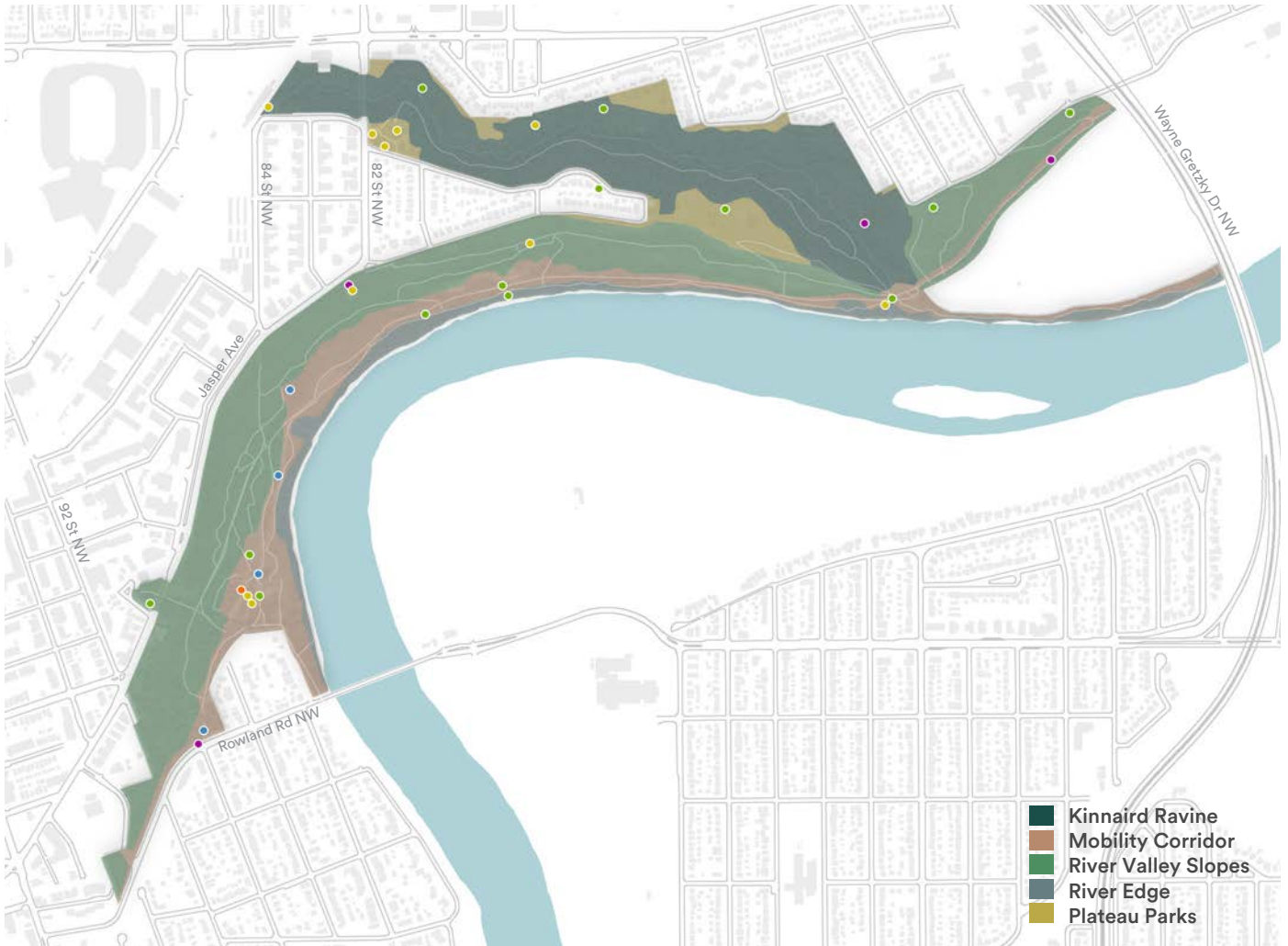
Trail Type

- Bike
- Walk
- Walk + Bike

66 total trails placed

Trail and pathway activities that were added to the map showed the general trend of movement through the park in Kinnaird Ravine and the Mobility Corridor. Less attention was given to connections outside the park. Multi-use trails are desired in the Mobility Corridor, and it appears that there is a desire for more trail activity in Kinnaird Ravine.

Identity + Experience

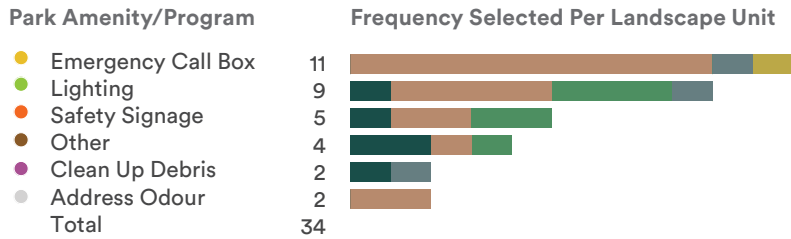
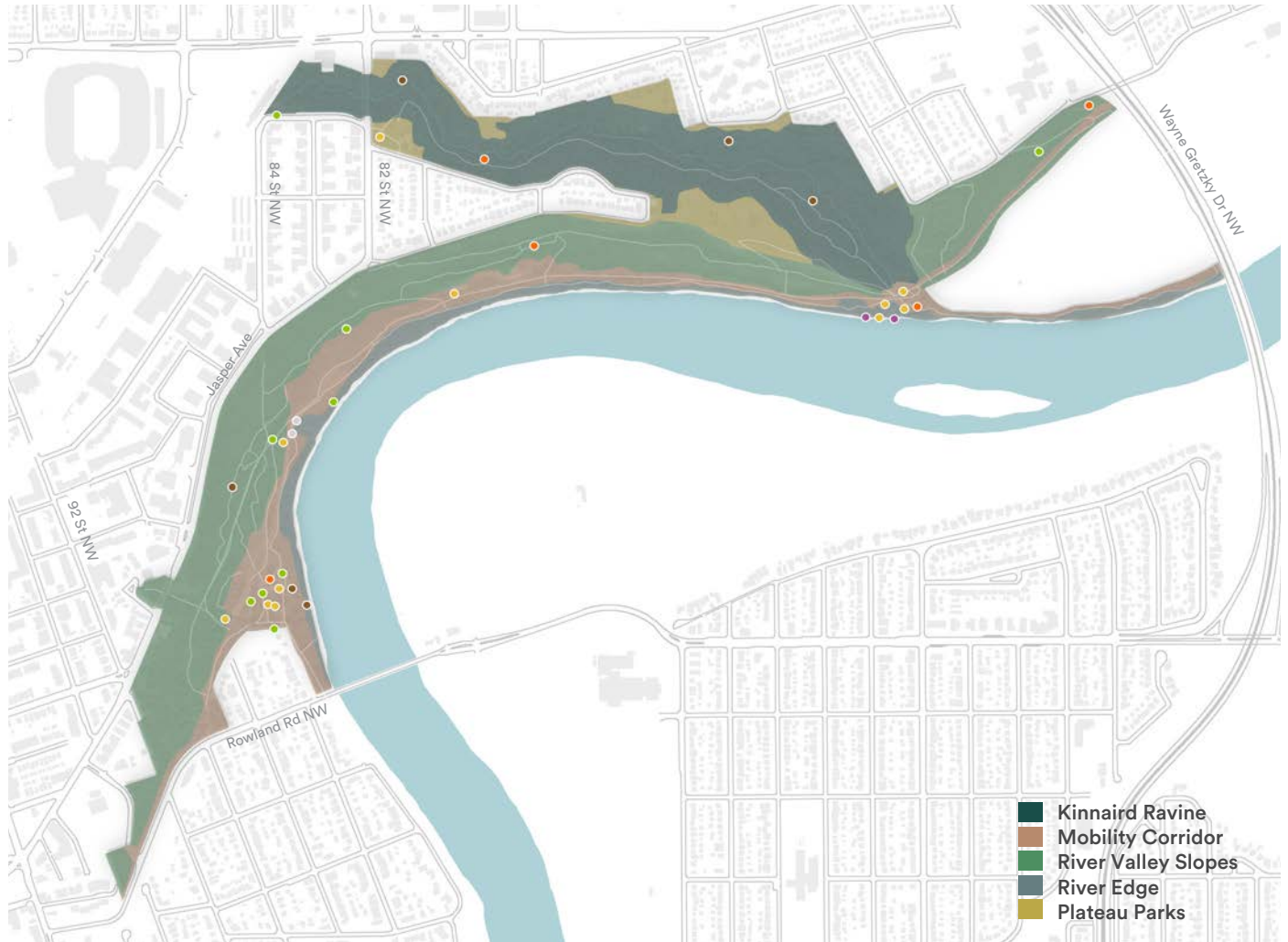


Park Amenity/Program	Frequency Selected Per Landscape Unit
● Interpretive Signage	13
● Visitor Kiosk	10
● Art Installation	4
● Landmark Feature	4
● Other	1
Total	32

The most frequently placed icon in the Identity and Experience category was Interpretive Signage. This amenity was desired in each landscape unit. A Visitor Kiosk was suggested in each landscape unit except for the River Edge. The least popular amenities in this category were Art Installations and Landmark

Features. Interpretive Signage and Visitor Kiosks would contribute to the desire for a larger educational, research or learning environment for the park, which we heard suggested in several of the engagement activities.

Safety + Maintenance



Within the Safety and Maintenance category, Emergency Call Box was the most frequently placed amenity. It was placed the most in the Mobility Corridor, which is the landscape unit currently with the highest amount of human activity. Lighting was requested in several landscape units except for the Plateau Parks.

Comments that were added by participants included Clean Up Debris (around the River Edge and Kinnaird Ravine) as well as addressing the odour near the combined sewer outfall in the park.

Areas of Focus

Patterns and areas of clustering emerged as we compiled all of the results of the Create your own park! activity. These patterns will help us determine management and program strategies for the park overall, while the clustering will help us determine if and where activity nodes are desired in the park.



Dawson Confluence

The intersection of Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine was identified by many as a place to gather and have additional amenities such as washrooms and seating.

Dawson Park Pavilion

A high concentration of park use amenities was represented in this area including Boating Hand Launches, Fishing, Picnic Spaces, and enhanced facilities such as Washrooms, and an increase in Garbage Receptacles.

Mobility Corridor

A diverse range of amenities, including various trail types and connectivity options have been observed throughout the mobility corridor.

- Park Use + Amenities
- Connectivity + Circulation
- Identity + Experience
- Safety + Maintenance
- Nature + Ecology

Activity 3: Park Elements

The Park Elements activity gave participants an opportunity to share their preferences on both the types of amenities/activities they want to see in the park as well as the look and feel of these elements. General trends emerged as we analyzed the Park Elements activity results. Preferences were slightly different at each engagement session.

The following pages present a summary of the most frequently chosen park elements. They are broken down into the most frequently chosen elements overall as well as those in the categories that were presented online and at the open house.

Some of the results of this activity indicate that there are differing preferences among participants. These differences may present some challenges and require further consideration. For example, conservation and preservation efforts are highly valued but may conflict with other recreational uses of the park that are desired. The two concept options that will be presented during the next stage of engagement will explore some of these differences to gain more insight into public preferences for park elements and ecological preservation.

In total, we received:



...that presented the following trends and values:

Open House

- » people tended to want park features that could be used individually rather than collectively (ie. seating)
- » they wanted to see standard and natural park elements over highly designed and constructed features
- » there was an interest in seeing more winter activities (such as skating and cross-country skiing) in the park
- » the conservation and protection of existing wildlife and vegetation seemed to be more desired than implementing restoration efforts

External Stakeholder Session

- » participants showed an interest in elements that improved the park user's experience of existing features, such as maintained trails and vegetation, as opposed to the addition of new features and amenities
- » external stakeholders were especially interested in the preservation of natural features in the park
- » participants did not want to see elements that they considered to involve unnecessary spending by the City, or that they thought would be easily vandalized

Online Feedback

- » overall the responses from the online survey tended to show a slightly higher preference for increased amenities/activities in the park (including seating, parking, signage, trail activities, washrooms and more)
- » comments reiterated many of the values and themes we heard in the first phase of engagement including the desire for minimal development, increased safety and maintenance, reduced user conflict and maintaining a natural feel in the park, among others

Top 10 Park Amenities



256
mixed use
trail



216
conserve natural
areas and wildlife



193
preserve sensitive
areas



185
cycling
trail



170
restore disturbed
areas



169
drinking fountain



158
standard garbage
receptacle



156
running
trail



156
sewer connected
washroom



147
cross country
skiing trails

● Park Use + Amenities ● Nature + Ecology

Before an element can be proposed for the Master Plan, it will be necessary to reference City priorities and the environmental sensitivities in the park and to use the vision to steer decisions. We are not only considering the most frequently identified elements but the values and sentiments of participants to help us make decisions for the Master Plan.

Identity + Experience

1066 Comments

Dawson Map Field Kiosk, Map Kiosk, Interpretive Signage - Natural Heritage, Edmonton's Heritage, Interpretive Signage - Cultural Heritage, Wildlife Viewing/Bird Blinds, Pre-Contact Heritage, Elements for the Visually Impaired, Public Art Installation, Dawson Park Phone App, Art Mural, Commemorative Art/Monument, Visitors Centre/Kiosk, None



120
field map



115
map kiosk



114
natural heritage interpretation

Nature + Ecology

720 Comments

Conserve Natural Areas and Wildlife, Preserve Sensitive Areas, Restore Disturbed Areas, Nature Education Programming, None



216
conserve natural areas and wildlife



193
preserve sensitive areas



170
restore disturbed areas

Connectivity + Circulation

1178 Comments

Single Track/Natural Trail, Maintain Existing, Trail Rules/Information Signs, Directional Signs, Maintain Existing Parking, Paved Trail (Asphalt/Concrete), Gravel Trail, Ravine Bridge, Standard River Valley Park Entry, Safety Signs, New Stairs, Designed Park Entry, Enlarged Parking Lot, None



143
natural pathway



140
maintain existing



129
trail rules sign

Safety + Maintenance

651 Comments

Snow Clearing on Pathways, Emergency Call Box, Lit Pathway/Stairways, Lit Entrances, Keep Natural Areas Dark, Lit Open Spaces, None



131
snow clearing



124
emergency call box



121
lit pathways

Park Use + Amenities: Picnic/Food

792 Comments

Picnic Tables, BBQ Grills, Fire Pits, Small Picnic Shelter, Water Access for Cooking, Gathering Area, Large Picnic Shelter, Harvest Table, Community Ovens, None



127
picnic table



105
bbq grill



103
fire pit

Park Use + Amenities: Amenities

917 Comments

Drinking Fountain, Standard Garbage Receptacle, Sewer Connected Washroom, Bike Rack, Compostable Washroom, Contemporary Garbage Receptacle, Food/Drink Kiosk, None



169
drinking fountain



158
standard garbage receptacle



156
sewer connected washroom

Park Use + Amenities: Open Spaces

835 Comments

Drinking Fountain, Standard Garbage Receptacle, Sewer Connected Washroom, Bike Rack, Compostable Washroom, Contemporary Garbage Receptacle, Food/Drink Kiosk, None



128
flexible open space



124
natural playground



120
off leash trail

Park Use + Amenities: Trail Activities

1034 Comments

Mixed Use Trail, Cycling, Roller blading, Cross Country Skiing, Mountain Biking, Snowshoeing, Trail Running, None



256
mixed use trail



185
cycling trail



156
running trail

Park Use + Amenities: River Interaction

667 Comments

Natural River Edge, River Access (Stairs or Ramps), River Outlook, Boating Hand Launch, Canoe Club, Shoreline Boat Launch, Fishing Outpost, Constructed River Edge, None



112
natural river edge



94
river access stairs/ramp



93
river outlook

Park Use + Amenities: Gathering Places

694 Comments

Minor Pavilion Improvements, New Facility, Sheltered Performance Space, Open Performance Space, Semi-Covered Shelter, Fully-Covered Shelter, Flexible Seating, Natural Seating, Fixed Seating, Individual Seating, Collective Seating, None



100
pavilion minor improvements



97
new facility



74
sheltered performance space

Activity 4: How did you get here?

This activity gave people the opportunity to show us how they get to the park and how the Master Plan could improve access points into the park. Participants were given string or a marker to define how they get to the park, including their mode of transportation. This will help the City determine how to enhance the Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine experience from various standpoints: accessibility, park identity and signage.

The data we received is not extensive enough to report conclusive trends on park access, but the activity prompted informative conversations on the need to accommodate many types of transportation to the park, including by foot, car, public transit, bike, mobility device, stroller and boat.



Mount Royal Grade 3 Classes

Our visit to with the Mount Royal grade 3 classes yielded some creative results for the Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine Master Plan. After learning more about the work of landscape architects and the Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine Master Plan, the grade 3 students at Mount Royal were very excited to provide their ideas for what could be in the park, or what could happen there.

This is a summary of ideas from the impromptu 30 minute brainstorm session.

- » Natural things: a pond, grasslands, habitat
- » Tree houses (and connecting bridges) with furniture, internet, snacks inside
- » Rock climbing walls
- » Ice cream shop, cold drinks, coffee place
- » Workout room for adults
- » Charging stations, wifi
- » Greenhouse
- » A place for teaching kids and adults about nature
- » A place where choirs could sing
- » More boat launches and a fishing dock
- » Benches, picnic tables, water fountains, public art, recycling and garbage bins
- » Free life jackets to encourage swimming
- » Dog area
- » Skate park
- » Hiking trails
- » Bike racing area
- » Playground with spinning thing, big slides, sliding pole, high swings
- » Parking lot
- » Open space for Pokemon Go
- » Campground
- » Bird watching/binocular area
- » Basketball

Some children commented on how the park would feel, using words and phrases like “a beautiful place to calm down” and “peaceful”.

The class was then asked to draw pictures of what they wanted the park to look like in the future. Most of the class drew tree houses or shelter structures, many of these with connecting bridges. We also saw many climbing walls, various types of refreshment stands (ice cream, cold drinks, snacks), play equipment and lots of trees and wildlife.

During the visual preference activity, the highest number of stickers appeared on the following photos:

Grade 3 Image Preferences



83

scooter



27

cycling



37

hoodoos



43

playground



43

climbing wall



28

Dawson pathway



33

playground



26

natural play



67

playground



28

ravine



23

trail running



24

tobogganing

Grade 3 Park Visit Drawings



Next Steps

Thank you to all participants who provided their feedback during Phase 2 of engagement for the Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine Master Plan!

The public and stakeholder input we received during Phase 2 will help us create the vision statement for the park and will contribute to the park identity. The results of the activities will directly inform the Master Plan as we begin to make decisions for the concept plans.

Write your own vision:

The City of Edmonton will use this information to draft a vision statement for the park. The vision statement denotes the public's collective values for the future identity park and will guide decisions around the identity of the park as well as future activities and programs.

Create your own park:

The public's input will help us to understand site specific needs for amenities in the park. Moving forward, we will take into account the park's environmental sensitivities and physical constraints, while balancing differing public views to develop two unique concept options.

Park Elements:

Capitalizing on the emerging trends and patterns from public feedback, the City of Edmonton will work to define the look and feel of the park, creating a future identity that is reflective of public values, needs and the vision for the park. The identity of the park will also draw from City priorities and respect the regional, neighbourhood, cultural and ecological context.

How did you get there?

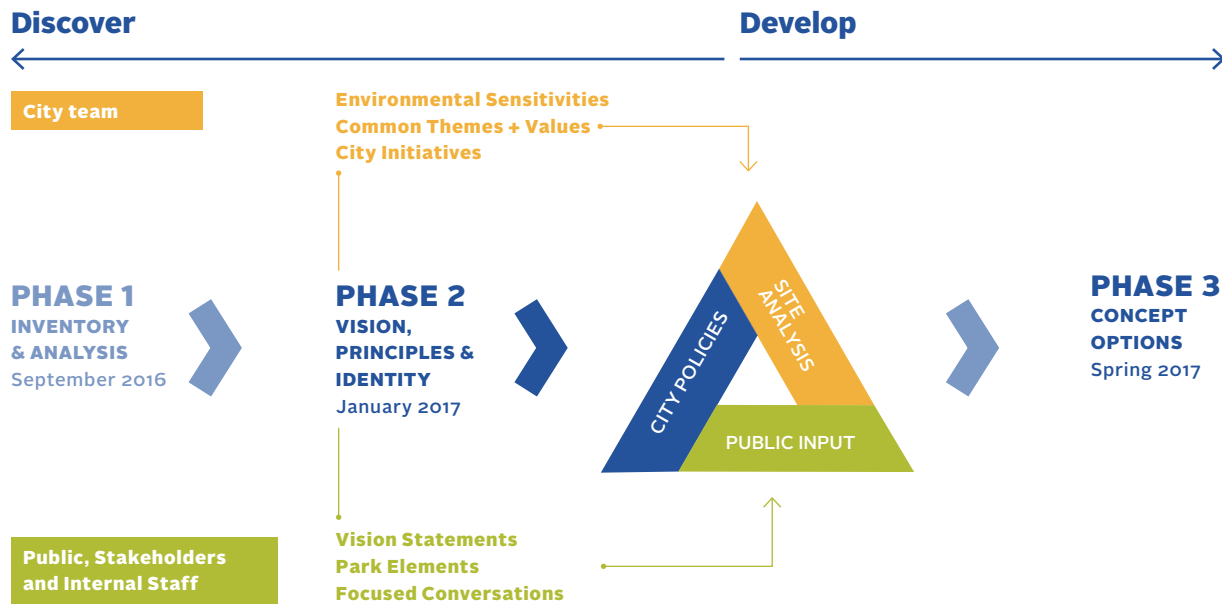
This will help the City provide options for how to enhance the Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine experience from various standpoints: accessibility, park identity, and signage.

Before the next engagement, we will create two concept options for the park based on what we heard during the first two engagement sessions. Each option will have common elements that will address the shared needs and values from the public as well as employing unique strategies to respond to a range of differing values and viewpoints that we have received.

We will analyze the proposed activities and park elements with the existing environmental sensitivities to develop options that minimize ecological disturbance. Another important element to the concept options will be integrating the feedback from internal City of Edmonton stakeholders to ensure they are consistent with City policies and operational needs.

In Phase 3, your role will be to let us know if the vision statement for Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine and the two concept options that we will present are reflective of the feedback you gave in Phases 1 and 2. Your input will help us refine the concept options into a final concept plan.

Phase 3: Concept Options is scheduled to take place in Spring 2017. Until then, stay up to date and follow the Master Plan's progress by visiting edmonton.ca/dawsonparkmasterplan.



Phase 2 Inputs and Results

The activities in Phase 2 of engagement provided us with different forms of feedback, each of which will be used to develop the vision statement and park identity. We will take this feedback into account in conjunction with environmental sensitivities and City priorities as we develop two concept options for the park that will be presented in Phase 3.

