

### WATERWAYS TO THE WORLD

ALL BEINGS ARE CONNECTED THROUGH WATER

Waterways to the World forms the central spine of the visitor circulation between the entry and the outer zoo. This area contributes to a clearly defined sense of place and connects with the adjacent zones. It also provides an important organizing function for visitors traversing in both directions, as the future circulation pattern is not a defined one-way path.

Previously known as The Wander, the path's core function provides nature-play based learning and landscape immersion that is impactful for visitors, creating a space for perspective-taking play, interaction with the natural features, rest and picnicking. This function is retained in the Master Plan as the story is re-imagined to more deeply connect visitors to the adjacent zones through the water story.

Waterways to the World begins in the entry plaza, highlighting the importance of the North Saskatchewan River as the Central Parklands largest waterway. As visitors journey up the central spine, Waterways to the World path takes visitors to the three site zones shaped around how importance of water and how it impacts our planet.

From the Amur River Valley of northeast Russia, to Alberta's northern river deltas, and Canada's and other circumpolar arctic coastlines, ecosystems around the globe are connected through the water cycle. There is a rich opportunity to use the notion of a waterway as a symbol of the relationship between all living beings on earth. Each of these zones adjacent to the Waterway focuses on different ecosystems shaped by water and the relationships between the species that call those places home.

The edges of Waterways to the World are activated through access to guest amenities, including a new multiuse dining/program venue with outdoor plaza and views of the River Valley. Visitors travel through different types of aquatic habitats, both natural and constructed. There are opportunities for learning about the types of aquatic ecosystems and their biodiversity, from wetland marshes, to trickling creeks, and glacial meltwaters.

Play elements foster the type of learning most impactful in childhood, creating opportunities for empathy building, inspiring the next generation of nature stewards. At path junctions, visitors have the choice to branch off to the Amur River Taiga, Boreal Forest Northern Confluence, or Coastal Arctic Zones.



EVZ I MAGE: MELTWATER PLAY



EVZ IMAGE: BEAVER DAM PLAY



PRECEDENT IMAGE: WATER FEATURE SCULPTURE

# VISITOR JOURNEY - WATERWAYS TO THE WORLD

Casey and Josh have 7 year-old twins, Hayden and Winston, and a 2 year-old, Ryley. They are local to Edmonton and has visiting the Edmonton Valley Zoo since the kids were little. Casey homeschools her kids and she loves that a visit to the zoo combines learning with free play. She is a member, so she tends to explore different parts of the zoo on each visit. Josh visits less frequently, but always makes a point to visit around Father's Day.

## "Nature journal time! Today, we are learning about wetlands!"

Casey and the kids settle on the grassy banks of the marsh, ready for a rest after playing a rousing game of hide-and-seek in the beaver dam. Their journals are well worn, pages filled with taped leaves and pressed flowers, pencil crayon sketches of feathers and rocks throughout.

# "Let's all close our eyes. What do you hear? What do you smell?"

While the older kids journal about the scents and sounds of the wetland, Ryley sorts pebbles biggest to smallest. They watch for local birds in the reeds, and spot two different species of butterfly. Before they came today, they printed off a field guide from the zoo website that helps them identify local species.

Getting restless, they pack up their journals and make sure they haven't left any garbage behind them. The last time they visited the zoo, they learned about how important it is to leave no trace behind you. They follow the trickling creek from the wetland to where it widens into a pond. At a fork in the pathway, the waterway branches out in different directions, like a choose-your-adventure story. Do they journey to the river valleys of northern Asia? Traverse the arctic coastline? Or discover the stunning deltas where some of Canada's most endangered species call home. At the junction, they admire an interactive sculpture celebrating the universal nature of water.

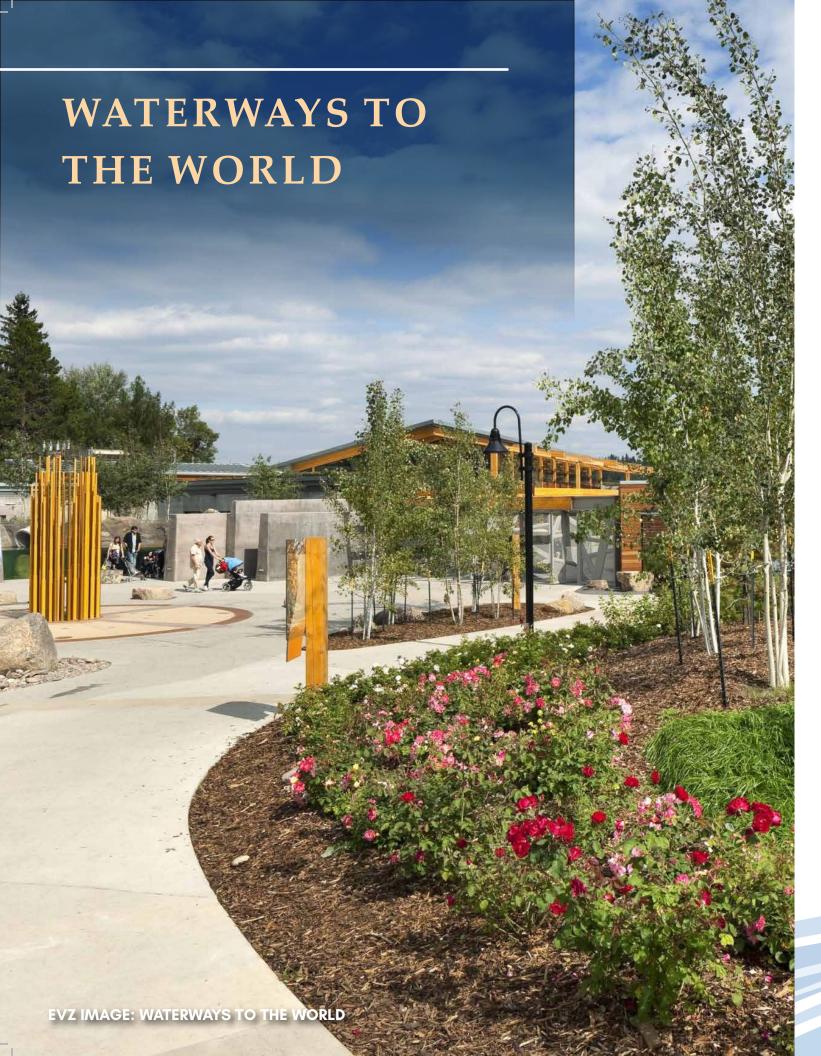
"All beings on Earth are connected by water. Flowing and falling, condensing and circulating across all continents and oceans, sustaining all living things. The Waterways to the World is a gateway where stories of our relationship with water and our responsibility to keep our planet's waters healthy collide.

Which way will you explore first?"





**WATERWAYS TO THE WORLD** 



### **FUNCTIONAL PROGRAM**

The complete functional program including: sizes, components, levels of service requirements, critical asset identification and risk is included in Appendix B.

The functional program largely reflects new or modified infrastructure. Existing infrastructure to be maintained is discussed on page 127, with modifications and removals to current infrastructure further described in Appendix C.

#### PROGRAM AT-A-GLANCE

- Conservation plaza
- Picnic area & outdoor restaurant seating
- Waterways Multi-Use Dining/Program Venue
- Meltwater play, beaver dam play
- Interactive sculptures
- Conserve outpost indoor play & ambassador animal satellite with animal indoor and outdoor habitats
- General components public areas (pathways, landscaping & fencing); signage (interpretive & wayfinding); trees; utilities; zone lighting

### **POTENTIAL SPECIES**

Rotating global conservation ambassador animals in Conserve Outpost, including: Prehensile-tailed porcupine / Coendou prehensilis

Southern three-banded armadillo / Tolypeutes matacus

Southern tamandua\* / Tamandua tetradactyla

Binturong\* / Arctictis binturong

Tenrec\* / Echinops telfairi

\* Indicates new species