



CITY POLICY

POLICY NUMBER: C586

REFERENCE:

ADOPTED BY:

City Council

SUPERSEDES:

New

PREPARED BY: Community Services

DATE: September 19, 2015

TITLE: River Access Guiding Principles

Policy Statement:

The enjoyment, use and protection of the North Saskatchewan River is important to Edmontonians' quality of life.

The City of Edmonton will ensure environmental stewardship while encouraging a broader appreciation for activities on or alongside the river, and will provide direction regarding the safe use, programming, partnerships, operations, design and location of infrastructure that supports access to the river and activities associated with the river.

The purpose of this policy is to:

Ensure the provision, development and management of river access and river-based activities in the City of Edmonton is responsible, orderly, equitable and environmentally appropriate, while providing opportunities for recreation, education and learning, in accordance with the following guiding principles:

1. **Ensure public access** to the river and riverside infrastructure as public domain.
2. **Value and protect the unique character and environment in the river valley** by stewarding, protecting, conserving and restoring the integrity of the river.
3. **Educate and engage Edmontonians** to build lifelong skills, as well as awareness and appreciation of the river and its natural surroundings in order to nurture stewardship of a valued resource.
4. **Foster collaboration and partnerships** so that infrastructure and facilities are shared and programming is coordinated.
5. **Promote public safety and responsible use** to communicate safe water recreation behaviors, emergency response and bylaw enforcement.
6. **Provide and support a range of river recreation opportunities** to enhance Edmonton's unique quality of life.
7. **Celebrate the cultural, historical and social role of the river in our city** to build awareness and appreciation of our river

This policy is subject to any specific provisions of the Municipal Government Act or other relevant legislation or Union Agreement.

DEFINITIONS

- 1) River-based infrastructure is any infrastructure that facilitates or supports river use, and may include but is not limited to the following: hand-launches, vehicular launches, docks, related parking lots and drop-off areas, and any park amenities that may support river use such as washrooms, emergency communication tools, etc.
- 2) River access is the ability to engage or be in proximity with the river in order to participate in a river-based activity.
- 3) River-based activity is any activity either near, in or on the river for recreational, educational or stewardship purposes. Examples include boating, fishing, dog-swimming, River Valley Clean-Up, RiverWatch programming.
- 4) Environmental stewardship refers to the responsible use and protection of the environment through conservation and sustainable practices. (eg. River Valley Clean-Up, RiverWatch programming)
- 5) Environmentally responsible refers to guidelines, practices, procedures and policies that reduce, minimize or avoid harm upon the environment.
- 6) Public domain refers to land and/or infrastructure that can be accessed by the general public.
- 7) River Use Plan: plan overlay indicating appropriate types of uses and intensity of use for river-related activities within existing river valley parkland.
- 8) River Access Partnership Model: a model to foster collaboration between partners, businesses and City programs, as it pertains to programming, services and shared use of facilities and infrastructure.