

## **1.1 THE RIBBON OF GREEN CONCEPT PLAN - A VISION FOR EDMONTON'S RIVER VALLEY.**

The Ribbon of Green Concept Plan was prepared in 1990 by Edmonton Parks and Recreation.

The plan preparation was composed of three streams of work which occurred simultaneously:

- A **vision stream** which developed and confirmed a publicly supported philosophy for the river valley. (Figure 1)
- An **environmental stream** which examined the opportunities and constraints imposed by the valley's physical characteristics and adjacent land uses.
- A **resource management stream** which established a model for how the park will be operated.

These three streams were combined to develop the following products:

- A statement of Vision and planning principles.
- A general program statement for the North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System.
- Overview of proposed or potential development opportunities.
- A preliminary development program itemizing potential work and costs in 1990 dollars.
- Criteria for priority setting.
- Identification of future planning processes.

The Concept Plan proposed tripling the present urban park to include the entire length of the North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System (7400 hectares). It presented a preliminary cost estimate of \$67 million, of which \$22 million was for the upgrading of major park facilities and the restoration of the Clover Bar Landfill and \$45 million was for open space development.

The Concept Plan represented a collective public vision for the future of the river valley system. This process confirmed that as the City continues to grow the river valley system will be subjected to increased pressure from competing uses and can no longer be all things to all people. It is clear that citizens of Edmonton want the valley protected and expect development and management to be conducted in a careful and conscientious manner. The Concept Plan was approved by City Council on November 27, 1990, thereby establishing a planning, development and management philosophy for the entire river valley system.