

# DAWSON PARK & KINNAIRD RAVINE MASTER PLAN

PHASE 4: FINAL CONCEPT PLAN

OPEN HOUSE  
NOVEMBER 21 5-8 PM

# TONIGHT

Welcome to the final open house for the vision and concept plan for the Dawson Park & Kinnaird Ravine Master Plan!

Tonight we are presenting the vision, principles and concept plan for the park, as well as an overview of the management and implementation strategies for the Master Plan.

The open house is organized into three areas:

1. Project Background & Process
2. Vision & Concept Plan
3. Guiding Principles & Implementation

# PARTICIPATE!

Provide your feedback tonight in the following ways:



Use the **dots** to rank how well you think the concept plan achieves the guiding principles and your overall support for the Master Plan.



Or visit [edmonton.ca/dawsonparkmasterplan](http://edmonton.ca/dawsonparkmasterplan) to complete the online survey. All engagement questions and information presented today will be available online from November 24 to December 8, 2017.



# BACKGROUND & PROCESS

The following section provides an overview of the Master Plan process and key drivers that affected decisions made.

# PROJECT PROCESS

Since the summer of 2016, the City has invited you to participate in a process to help shape the Dawson Park & Kinnaird Ravine Master Plan.

## WHAT IS A MASTER PLAN?

A Master Plan establishes a vision and management plan for the next 25 years, building on existing plans, policies and initiatives while identifying public needs and priorities. It provides direction for environmental management, as well as recommendations for park use that is appropriate to the park.

The Master Plan report for Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine will include a park vision, a concept plan, an implementation strategy, estimated costs and a management plan for the park.

## WHY A MASTER PLAN?

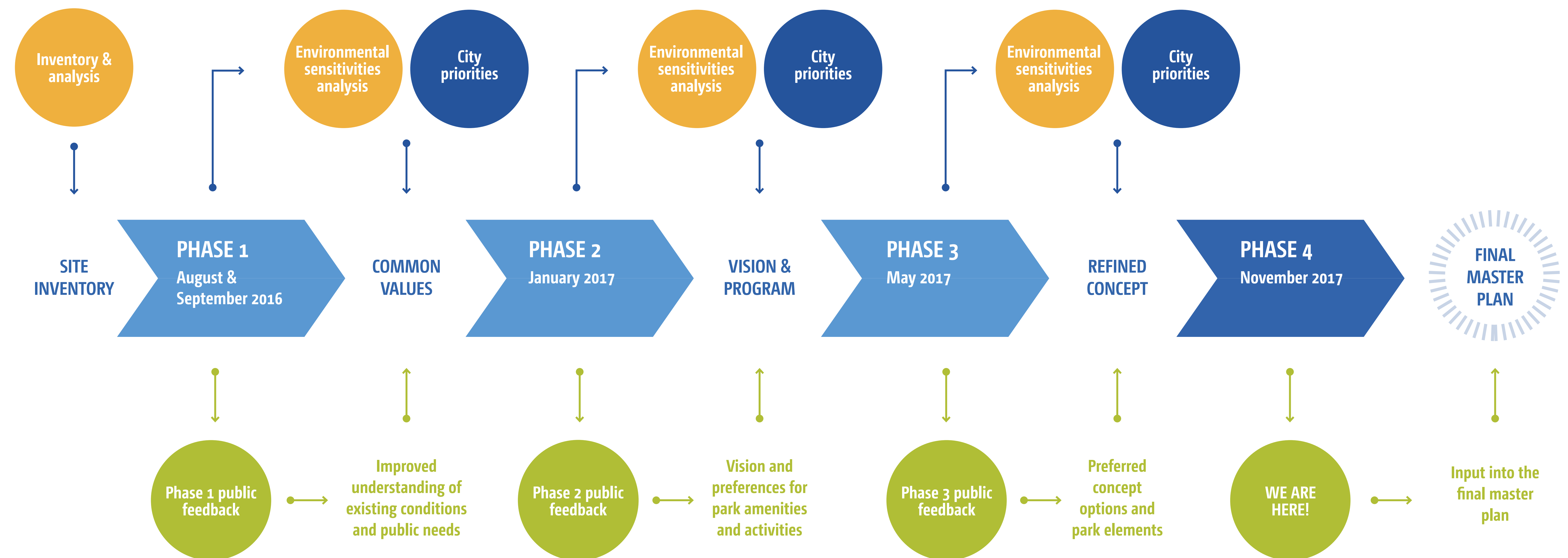
The River Valley Park Renewal Program identified Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine for renewal through a Master Plan. Park renewal within the River Valley is based on an analysis of the physical condition and functionality of park elements as well as the ability to meet existing (and future) capacity.

Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine are well-used and beloved natural areas and gathering spaces. To maintain the quality of this urban park, the City must plan for increased park use by a growing population, which will occur over the next 25 years.

## THE MASTER PLAN PROCESS

The City of Edmonton takes a phased approach to Park and Facility Development. This project is currently in the Concept phase of the process, which includes the development of a concept plan and a Master Plan report.

The Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine Master Plan process consisted of four phases. At each phase, City policy, site analysis and public input informed the development of the Master Plan. The timeline below illustrates how these inputs worked together to contribute to the Master Plan.



### PHASE 1: INVENTORY & ANALYSIS

- An initial inventory of existing park features from site visits, desktop analysis, archival and environmental research was completed.
- The inventory was presented to the public for comments and additional input through an open house, sounding boards and online engagement.

### PHASE 2: VISION, PRINCIPLES & IDENTITY

- The inventory was supplemented with an analysis of environmental sensitivities in the park.
- The sensitivity analysis was used as a basis to ask the public and stakeholders which amenities and programs they felt were appropriate for the park.

### PHASE 3: CONCEPT OPTIONS

- Two concept options were produced with influences from City policy, site analysis and public input.
- The project process to date was described in a draft Interim Report.
- Feedback on the two vision statements and concept plans was provided through a public open house and online engagement.

### PHASE 4: FINAL CONCEPT

- A final concept plan and vision statement has been prepared.
- Feedback has been received from various City departments.
- Internal and public feedback, along with additional site analysis, will be used to refine the final concept plan.

# PROJECT APPROACH

Throughout the Master Plan process, three factors have remained consistent in the development of the vision and concept plan.

As stated on the previous panel, City policy, site analysis and public input have been important elements in all phases of the Master Plan process.

This panel provides more information on each of the three inputs and how they were specifically used in the development of the Master Plan.

More information is provided in the What We Heard Reports, Environmental Sensitivities Report and Interim Report available online at [edmonton.ca/dawsonparkmasterplan](http://edmonton.ca/dawsonparkmasterplan)

## CITY POLICY

The Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine Master Plan will be integrated into the planning framework for the City's green network.

The Master Plan will integrate into Edmonton's open space planning hierarchy, beginning with *The Ways* plans, followed by *BREATHE: Edmonton's Open Space Strategy*.

Other influencing policies include:

- Capital City Recreation Park Concept Plan, 1975
- Natural Area Systems Policy (C531), 2007
- Corporate Tree Management Policy, 2010
- Top of Bank Policy (C542), 2010
- Urban Forest Management Plan, 2012
- River Access Strategy, 2018

Plans guiding community development in the surrounding neighbourhoods (impacting the park and surrounding green network) include:

- Transit Oriented Development Guidelines, 2012
- The Quarters Downtown ARP, 2014
- Coliseum Station ARP, Under development
- Bellevue & Virginia Park Neighbourhood Renewal, 2018-2019

At each phase, Master Plan recommendations were compared against existing policies and plans ensure alignment and to look for opportunities to support City initiatives.

City staff also provided technical expertise and recommendations at each stage.

## SITE ANALYSIS

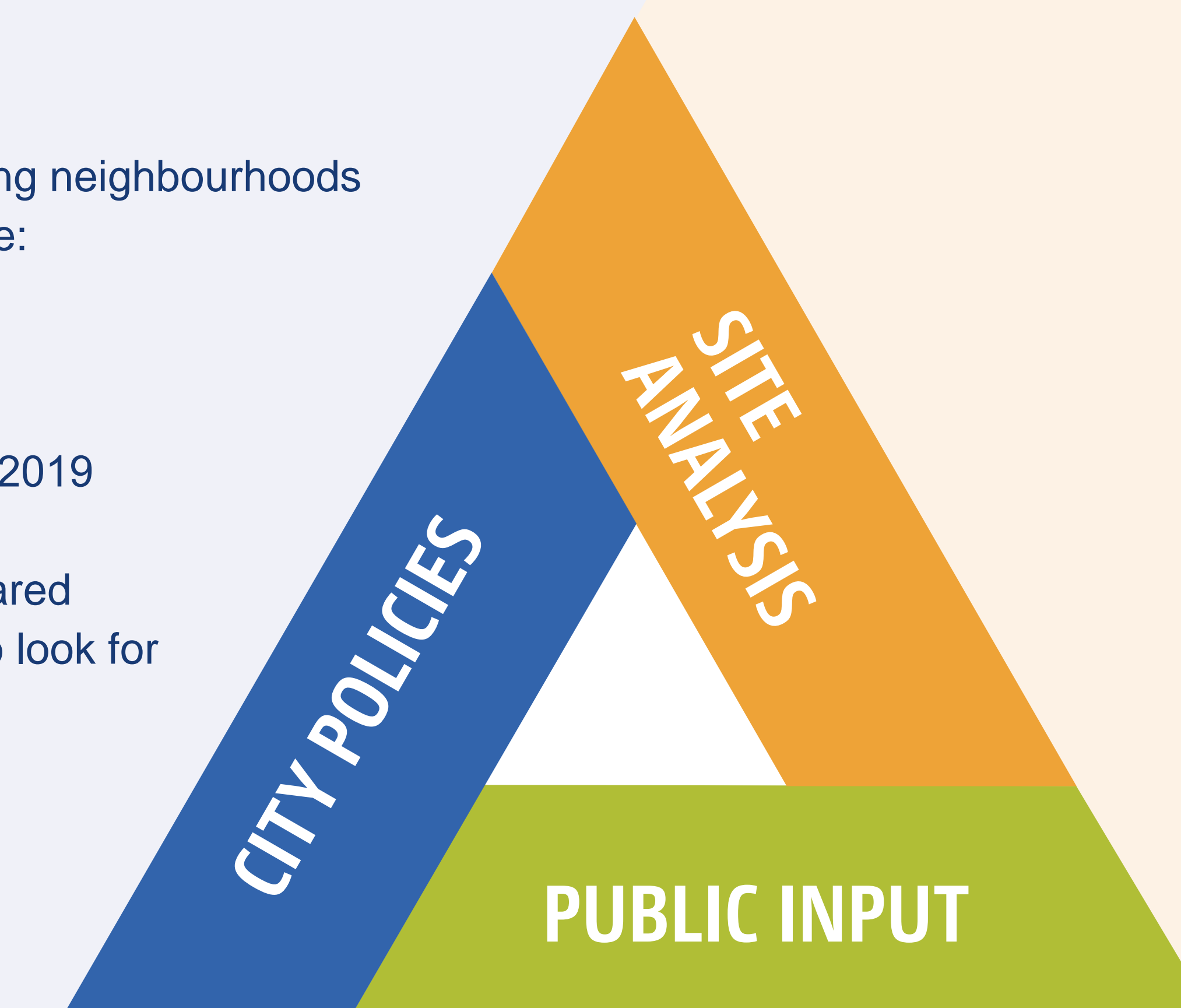
Site analysis includes the study of the environmental, historical, geographical, legal and cultural context of the park.

An initial inventory and analysis of existing conditions in the park was completed in the first phase of the project. This consisted of information from City data, consultant reports and site visits and was presented at the first open house in September 2016.

The **What We Heard Report from Phase 1**, which includes a summary of the site inventory, is available online and on the information table tonight.

This site analysis contributed to an Environmental Sensitivities Report, produced in February 2017 for Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine. The report presents an overview of environmentally sensitive areas in the park and was completed before concept development so that recommendations could be made with an understanding of their impacts on lower, moderate and higher sensitivity areas.

The **Environmental Sensitivities Report** is available online and on the information table here tonight.



## PUBLIC INPUT

Public input throughout the Master Plan process contributed to common values and the development of the vision and concept plan for the park.

For more detail on public feedback in the first three phases of engagement, see the **What We Heard Reports**, available on the project website and on the information table tonight.

### PHASE 1: INVENTORY & ANALYSIS

We presented:

- Our inventory of existing park features

We asked:

- What is your favourite thing to do?
- What would you like in the future?

We heard:

- Suggestions for programming
- A desire for improvements to access and safety throughout the park
- A love for the park's natural features

### PHASE 2: VISION, PRINCIPLES & IDENTITY

We presented:

- Potential programs, elements and vision words and phrases

We asked:

- For your input on the vision statement
- For feedback on park use and elements

We heard:

- Words and phrases for the vision
- Spatial feedback on desired park activity and elements
- Prioritized park elements

### PHASE 3: CONCEPT OPTIONS

We presented:

- Two unique concept options for the park

We asked:

- Of the two concept options and vision statements presented, which do you prefer?

We heard:

- A stronger preference for the more minimal approach in Concept 1
- Mixed feedback on elements in both concepts (see the next panel)

# PUBLIC INPUT

Public and stakeholder input contributed to the development of three important parts the Master Plan: our common values, a vision for the park and the concept plan.

In May and June 2017, as part of Phase 3, two draft vision statements and concept options for Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine were presented to the public and stakeholders. The feedback on priorities for the vision and concept plan from the public and stakeholders contributed directly to the development of the final vision and concept plan, presented here today.

The full results are available in the **Phase 3: Concept Options What We Heard Report** (online and on the information table tonight).

[edmonton.ca/dawsonparkmasterplan](http://edmonton.ca/dawsonparkmasterplan)

## PHASE 3 FEEDBACK

### VISION STATEMENT

The final vision statement (presented tonight) combines elements from both draft vision statements that received the most support.

Vision Statement 1	Vision Statement 2
<b>80% SUPPORTED</b>	<b>68% SUPPORTED</b>
Comments included support for strong ecological and environmental priorities, as well as increased and equitable year-round access.	Comments included support for recreational amenities (e.g. natural playground), but many also felt the overall approach was too intrusive on the natural landscape.
<i>"I prefer the focus on ecological preservation and restoration in Concept Option 1, and appreciate the efforts to reduce ecological disturbance along the River Edge. I also really appreciate the efforts to make more areas accessible for people with physical and visual impairments."</i>	<i>"Concept 2 seems suitable to a more diverse population. Allows accessibility to those who require it."</i>

### CONCEPT PLAN COMMENTS

The following is a summary of the top comments placed on the concept plan maps at the open house and online. These comments helped to refine the placement of features within the park.

Concept 1	Concept 2
<b>I LIKE...</b>	
Existing trail network	Connection to Stadium Station (presented in both concept options)
Proposed natural trail in River Valley Slopes	Some support for the proposed natural trail in Kinnaird Ravine
Smaller footprint of the proposed amenity building	Restoration around Rat Creek (presented in both concept options)
<b>IDEAS FOR IMPROVEMENT...</b>	
Do not reduce the off-leash area	Proposed off-leash trail loop is too short
Keep trail maintenance and infrastructure costs to a minimum	Do not clear vegetation for sight lines
Keep existing trails and focus on maintaining existing rather than creating new trails	Access to Stadium Station might be too intrusive

### PRIORITIZATION OF ELEMENTS

Participants were asked to prioritize elements in the park by comparing similar elements in both concepts. The following are the elements that received the highest level of support. This prioritization feedback helped shape the look and scale of specific elements.



## MOVING TOWARD ONE COMBINED CONCEPT

A diverse range of opinions were received during Phase 3. The final concept plan was developed by combining the two concept options to capture differing ideas and to balance public input with additional site considerations.

To the right are examples of some elements that were combined and re-evaluated to address differing opinions, City priorities and other site considerations.

### Off-Leash Dog Area

- More people preferred the off-leash trail along the multi-use pathway as opposed to a new off-leash trail loop.
- The City considered this feedback along with other priorities, including the Dogs Off-Leash Strategy and the impacts of dogs on restoration efforts in the park to determine the final off-leash area.



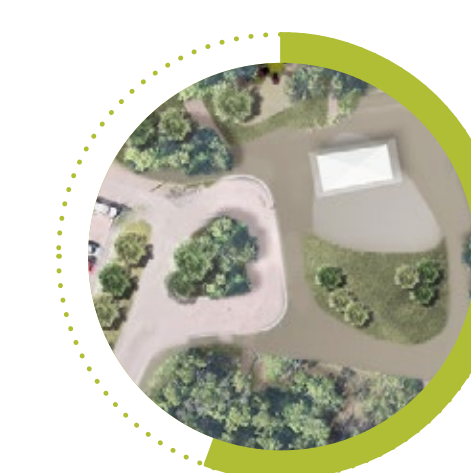
**63%**  
retain existing off-leash dog area on multi-use trail



**25%**  
new off-leash dog loop + off-leash dog area

### Amenity Building

- More people preferred the small amenity building as opposed to the larger footprint (this was still preferred by some).
- The City considered this feedback with other priorities, including the River Access Strategy and interest from potential partner organizations who could use a larger facility.



**56%**  
flexible indoor space + washrooms



**37%**  
flexible indoor space + washrooms + program space

### Parking Lot

- More people preferred to maintain the existing footprint of the parking lot as opposed to a parking lot expansion (this was still preferred by some).
- The City considered this feedback with other priorities, including predicted future use and current operations requirements for the parking lot.



**56%**  
retain existing parking lot



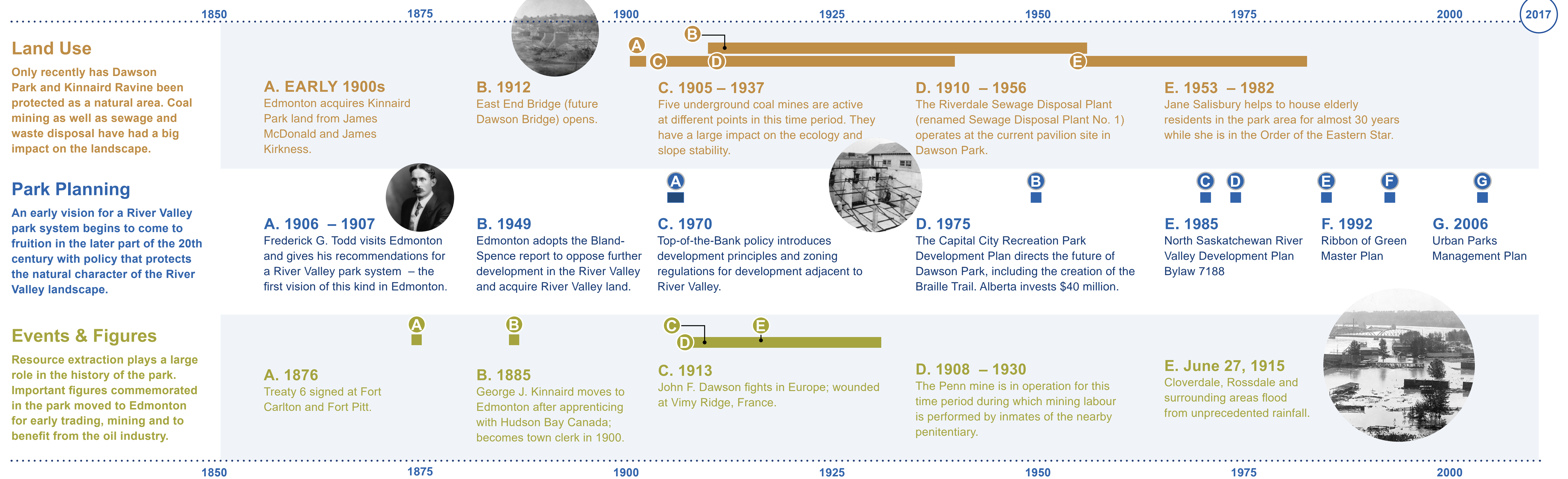
**38%**  
expand parking lot

# EVOLUTION OF THE LANDSCAPE

## The story of Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine began long ago.

The timeline to the right illustrates several events that affected the development of the park in recent history. From mining to sewage disposal, land use in Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine has changed dramatically throughout the years. The park has become a natural destination for Edmontonians to enjoy.

## SITE HISTORY



## MORE TO THE STORY

Settlement in the region of present-day Edmonton began about 13,000 years ago, when the North Saskatchewan River started carving through the landscape. The early peoples hunted bison whose habitat consisted of the unique ecosystem between the northern boreal forest and the great southern plains. The river escarpment allowed the potential to observe wildlife and other people from great heights.

The area that now makes up the City of Edmonton was originally occupied by various Indigenous Peoples including the Cree, Dene, Blackfoot and Nakota Sioux. Archaeological investigations indicate that Indigenous Peoples have inhabited the Edmonton area for thousands of years.

In 1795, Europeans began to settle in the region and set up the most important Hudson Bay Company post west of Winnipeg. Indigenous Peoples in the Edmonton area were essential to the success of the western fur trade, as they scouted, hunted, trapped and traded with the European newcomers. With the signing of Treaty 6 (1876), admission at Fort Edmonton in 1877 and Treaty 7 (1877) at Blackfoot Crossing, Indigenous Peoples were moved onto reserves and much of the area was taken up for settlement.

The City of Edmonton has entered memorandums of understanding (MOU) with these Nations in order to respect their history moving forward.

## RIVER LOT 20 HISTORY

Emma McDonald was a Métis woman who lived on River Lot 20 with her husband, Kenneth McDonald from the Isle of Lewis, in the late 1800s. River Lot 20 extended through the western portion of today's Dawson Park.

The McDonalds played an important role in transforming Edmonton's identity from a trading post to a farming community.

Source: Edmonton Archives, Fort Edmonton Park (Lori Leeks)



## THE PARK TODAY

Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine are used daily by visitors taking part in informal activities such as walking, jogging, hiking and enjoying river views. Visitors who use the park for recreational purposes and nature interpretation have helped to shape the park into the natural community hub it is today. These groups include, but are not limited to:

- Dog walkers
- Naturalist groups
- New Canadians
- River users
- Trail users

“The park is key connector.”

“A jewel in the city — an escape from the city.”

## THE PARK TOMORROW

The vision for the park incorporates an understanding of the site's historical, cultural and environmental significance. Your input has informed the vision and shown the City what is important for current and future park users to experience.

“I would like to see the park become a community resource for physical, mental health through physical activities — summer and winter.”

“Contribute to the revitalization of the surrounding area.”

“Have it meet everyone's needs — increase ability to use and enjoy.”

— Quotes from public engagement



# VISION & CONCEPT PLAN

The following boards present the vision for the park and the concept plan in five key areas to highlight the key decisions that have been made.



# PARK VISION

Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine are ecological corridors in the city that balance recreational activity with habitat conservation and restoration.

The park offers an escape from the city and year-round access to the North Saskatchewan River and Ravine System in a safe and inclusive environment for Edmonton's diverse and growing population.

## STEERING THE PLAN

The vision statement for Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine provides over-arching direction for the park for the next 25 years. Each decision and recommendation in the Master Plan aligns with the vision, which reflects public and stakeholder wishes for the park as well as the City's strategic planning approach for Edmonton's green network.



# CONCEPT PLAN

The park vision is translated into concrete changes and actions in the park, presented in five key areas.

Strategies for each area are summarized here, with major moves highlighted on the map. Each of the five areas is described in more detail on the following panels.

## GATEWAYS, SLOPES & TRAILS

- Improve pedestrian and cyclist access and circulation in the park.
- Improve top-of-bank connections and viewpoints.
- Integrate the natural trail type into the City trail classification system.

## TOP-OF-BANK PARKS

- Formalize top-of-bank gathering areas and viewpoints.
- Seek partnerships for educational programming using existing facilities.
- Establish various vegetation communities to support wildlife habitat and biodiversity.

## MAIN ACTIVITY NODE

- Create a river access hub within the River Valley.
- Update facilities to improve safety and user experience.
- Increase possibilities for recreational and partner use with improved infrastructure.

## KINNAIRD RAVINE

- Maintain existing trail and public art.
- Restrict activity to trail use and nature interpretation.
- Protect wetland areas.

## RIVER EDGE

- Focus river access to select points to preserve the river edge habitat.
- Restore vegetation and manage invasive species.
- Create new gathering spaces and resting points near the river edge.



# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

## PARK USE & AMENITIES

- The park should be a place to experience rejuvenation and **health benefits** associated with being in nature.
- The park should be **active in winter** months and should incorporate winter experiences.
- The **cultural and natural heritage** of the site should be celebrated and should reflect the layered history of the site.
- **Amenities and programs** in the park should be appropriate to the site's environmental sensitivities while meeting the recreational needs of a growing population.
- **Community partnerships** and community stewardship of the park should be promoted.
- **User conflict** should be mitigated.

## CONNECTIVITY & CIRCULATION

- Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine should be a **safe and secure space for all** who occupy the park.
- The park should be **accessible and welcoming** to all people and should support a diversity of park users.
- The park should **serve neighbouring citizens** and Edmonton's broader community.
- The park should provide Edmontonians a **connection** to the North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine system.
- Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine will be connected with the City's **active transportation** network through access and trail connections.

## NATURE & ECOLOGY

- The **natural character** of Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine should be maintained.
- Sensitive **species and habitats** in the park should be protected.
- Rehabilitation and restoration of **natural systems** throughout the park should be promoted.
- Improvements to the park should be **sustainable, maintainable and low impact**.



# GATEWAYS, SLOPES & TRAILS

Well-defined gateways at the top-of-bank lead visitors into Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine where nature is within arm's reach – a stark contrast to the surrounding urban landscape.

In the slopes, native trees are protected to enhance wildlife habitat and maintain the soil stability, creating a feeling of enclosure and a connection to nature. Trails are shared by many park visitors, and are used for various activities, such as biking, hiking, running, dog-walking, skiing and snowshoeing. Conflict in trail use between various park users is minimized using signage, public education and natural or constructed barriers where necessary. A new vehicle and pedestrian entrance to the park creates a sense of arrival and a clear identity for the park.

## ○ JASPER AVENUE

- New gathering spaces, gateway and viewpoint improvements along Jasper Avenue
- Suggested improvements may be integrated with potential future streetscape improvements along Jasper Avenue to create a safer and more comfortable pedestrian experience

## ○ NEW NATURAL TRAIL NETWORK

- New natural trail north of the Cromdale trail connects into the existing natural trail network
- Existing granular trails are transitioned and re-designated to natural surface to create a more integrated natural trail system for multiple uses (i.e. hiking, snowshoeing and cycling)

## ○ NEW PARK ENTRANCES

- New staircase proposed to align with 78 St. NW to provide another top-of-bank connection into the park
- New granular trail connection to Stadium Station improves connection for commuters and visitors
- 84th St. NW access improvement



# GATEWAYS, SLOPES & TRAILS

1A

## MAIN VEHICULAR ACCESS

- New dedicated vehicle access off of Rowland Rd. NW provides a distinct welcoming experience into the park
- Vehicle access includes parking stalls on one side of the road
- Vehicular access is closed from community roads
- Pedestrian and cyclist connections into the park are maintained from the neighbourhood
- A traffic analysis will be completed and will require approval by Subdivision Planning before moving forward. Should this receive approval, signalization may be required.

1B

## LATTA BRIDGE ENTRANCE

- A new formal entrance into the park is created under the Latta Bridge off of Jasper Ave.
- The entrance connects into the Boyle Street McCauley neighbourhood to support increased park use that is projected with future population growth
- A granular trail and stair combination increases access to park users
- The entrance could be enhanced with artwork

1C

## ADA BLVD. ENTRANCE

- A new staircase provides a connection into the park from neighbourhoods to the north, including Virginia Park and Bellevue
- The staircase increases access to park users



1A Main Vehicular Access



1B Latta Bridge Entrance



1C Ada Blvd. Entrance

# TOP-OF-BANK PARKS

Top-of-bank parks provide accessible spaces for visitors to enjoy nature and play in the River Valley landscape.

Restored vegetation communities in these park spaces create a natural haven for park visitors and provide habitat for birds, insects and small mammals.

Clearings open to expansive views of the River Valley, revealing the river in the landscape and persuading visitors to wander down to the water.



## ○ JANE SALISBURY PARK

- Natural surface trails connect features in the park, including new benches with slight vegetation clearing to enhance existing viewpoints
- Native planting along the edge of the ravine softens the transition between the forest and turf, enhancing wildlife habitat
- Interpretive signs teach about the history of the site

## ○ OTHER TOP-OF-BANK IMPROVEMENTS

- Pathway connections, signage and planting improvements in the 82 St. NW parkette
- Off-leash area maintained in Cromdale parkette south of 112 Ave. NW with addition of a dog bag dispenser
- Improvements, including a granular trail at the top of bank, are proposed to enhance the existing Ada Blvd. viewpoint

# TOP-OF-BANK PARKS

2A

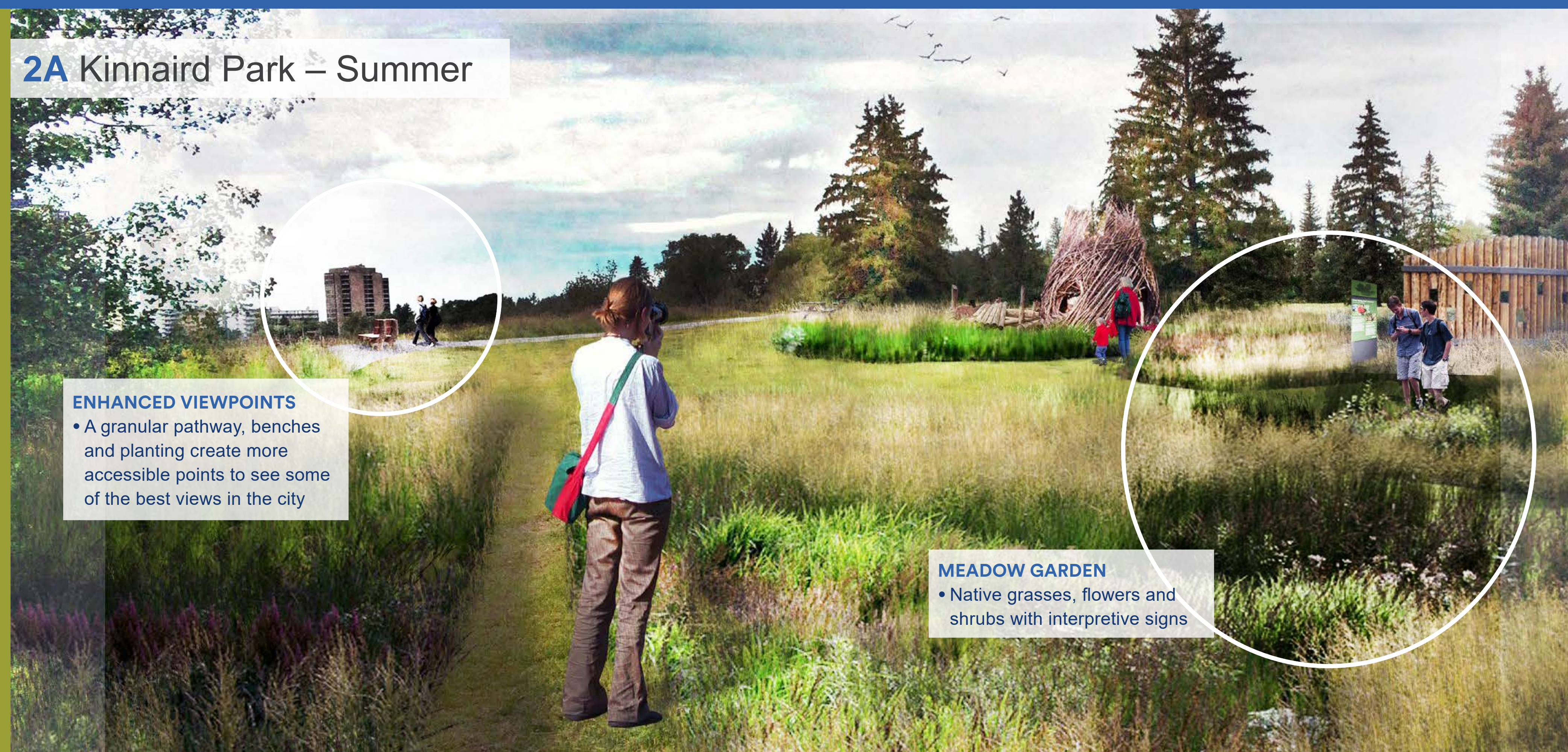
## KINNAIRD PARK

- Native Meadow Garden in the eastern portion of Kinnaird Park, representing different vegetation communities and providing varying sensory experiences
- Natural trails winding through the Meadow Garden
- Maintained turf on the western portion of the park
- A Learning Landscape composed of native grasses, flowers and shrubs identified through interpretive signs
- Opportunities for partnership with a naturalist or educational group to provide programming through the John C. Hall building
- Viewpoints enhanced with planting, benches and pathway connections

2B

## SHERIFF ROBERTSON PARK

- Trail connections and signage to improve the visibility of the gateway into the park
- A Butterfly Garden composed of native grasses, shrubs and flowers to increase the learning potential in the landscape
- A Treehouse Playground Addition that allows children to climb a treehouse structure and safely look over the ravine from a higher viewpoint, increasing the connection to the ravine landscape



# MAIN ACTIVITY NODE

Within the activity node, there are opportunities for play, picnicking, boating and gathering.

The amenity building is accessible, visible and well-maintained, providing a gathering space for partner organizations, City staff and the public.

The picnic and play area accommodates large groups and small community gatherings, providing opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy the River Valley views and landscape.



## ACTIVITY NODE IMPROVEMENTS

- New amenity building
- Improvements to the picnic area, including a formal gathering area for potential cultural and community uses
- Parking lot with improved turnaround and drop-off area
- New Dawson Park Playground with natural playground features
- New ramp to an accessible boat launch and dock

## POTENTIAL FOR EXPANSION

- The River Access Strategy identifies Dawson Park as a river access hub in the city
- The City is exploring the potential for partnership with community and recreational organizations to operate within the park
- If a partner organization identifies interest in operating in the park, the City will explore options for expansion of the amenity building (e.g. for meeting/administration space or boat storage)
- The Master Plan proposes a potential parking lot expansion area west of the existing parking lot if capacity is reached due to increased public or partner use



# MAIN ACTIVITY NODE

## 3A NEW DAWSON PARK PLAYGROUND

- Trees and native plants complement the play features
- Play features could include natural play elements such as stepping stones or logs; climbing features; swinging or spinning features; loose parts play
- Minimal lighting extends the use of this area in winter months

## 3B PICNIC AREA

- New picnic tables with gravel pads and granular pathways connecting some tables to increase their accessibility from pathways
- Native tree species provide shade

## 3C BOAT LAUNCH AND AMENITY BUILDING

- A new amenity building includes a gender neutral washroom, a maintenance and storage room and a flexible vestibule (foyer) or small office space for staff
- The building has a level of transparency into the common area and washroom to address safety and visibility concerns
- A water bottle fill station also includes a water fountain for dogs
- A new granular pathway leads to an accessible boat launch and dock (RVA boat dock) that may be used by people of all abilities
- The Braille Trail and braille plinths are maintained, connecting into the Amenity Node



## 3C Boat Launch and Amenity Building

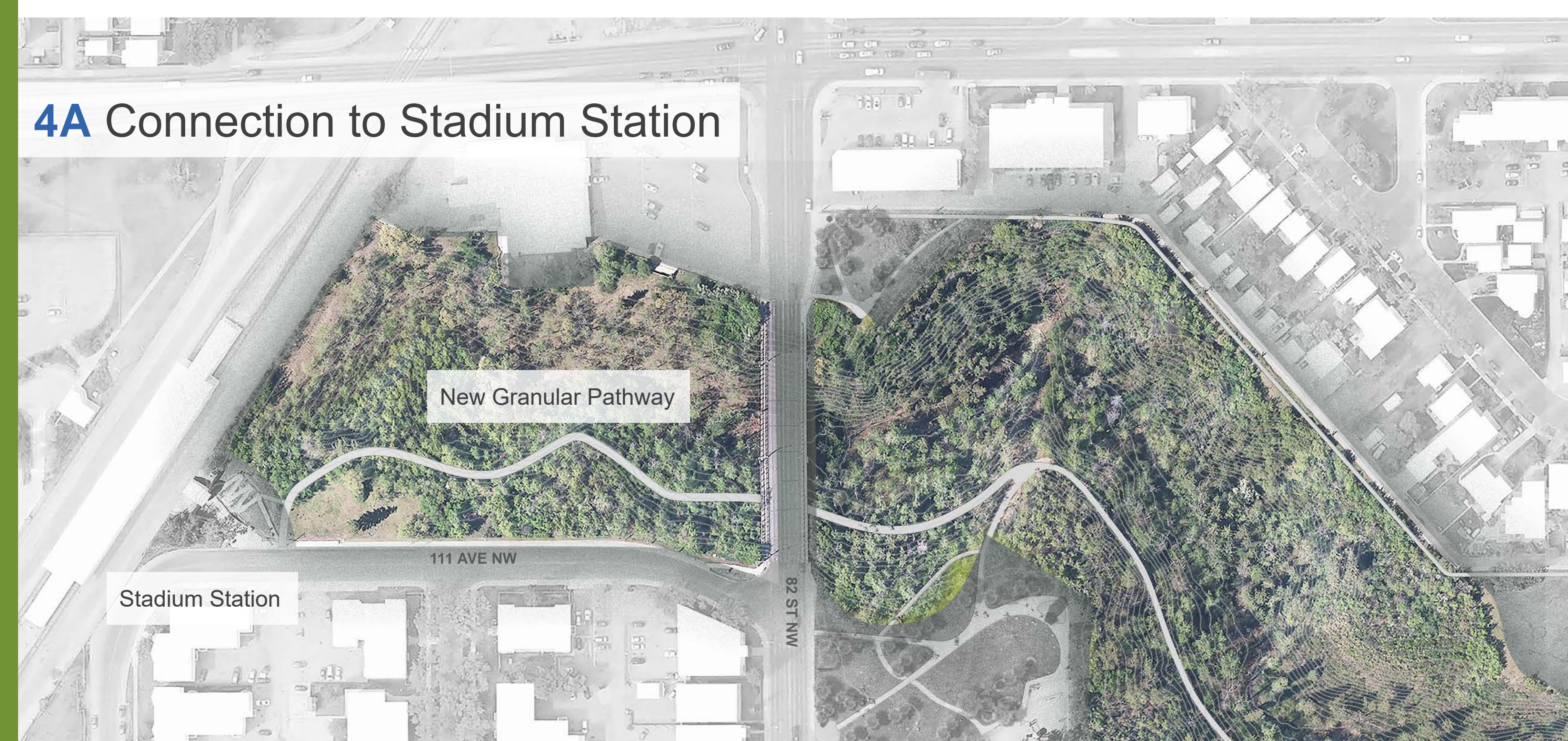


# KINNAIRD RAVINE

Secluded and shaded by a towering white spruce forest, Kinnaird Ravine is a setting for quiet reflection and mental rejuvenation in a preserved landscape.

Park users can walk, run, bike or snowshoe along the existing gravel pathway. It offers the opportunity to experience unique ravine ecologies and learn about the birds, insects and aquatic species that call its wetlands home.

A suspension bridge across the ravine creates a spectacular viewing experience for visitors and enhances connections to nearby green spaces.



- 4A CONNECTION TO STADIUM STATION**
- New granular trail connection to Stadium Station improves connection for commuters and visitors

- 4B KINNAIRD RAVINE PATHWAY**
- Activity is restricted to trail activities to protect the habitat in the ravine
  - Interpretive signs provide information on plants, animals and the wetland areas in the ravine
  - Public art projects, such as the KinnArt mural project, could add to the interpretation in the park

- 4C KINNAIRD SUSPENSION BRIDGE**
- The bridge provides a pedestrian connection to parks and neighbourhoods to the north of the park, including Borden Park and the Northlands community development
  - It provides a one of a kind experience in the tree canopy for visitors to the park



# RIVER EDGE

Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine connect with the North Saskatchewan River at the river edge, a place for ecological restoration and quiet fascination.

Those who take the time to pause near the river are rewarded with sightings of birds, fish, insects and other wildlife who rely on the river for habitat. Enhanced riparian vegetation, including native grasses, shrubs and flowers, lend to seasonal interest in the park. The mouth of Rat Creek is restored to improve fish habitat and nature interpretation.

Whether sitting among the native flowers and shrubs at the river's edge in the summer months or watching the ice flows course through the river in the earliest stages of spring, visitors are encouraged to contemplate their relationship to the river and their place in the larger ecosystem.

## ○ RESTORED RIPARIAN VEGETATION

- Areas of vegetation that have been disturbed from human use are restored with increased planting of native species
- The City will explore options for managing invasive species along the river edge



# RIVER EDGE

## 5A RIVER LOOKOUT & GATHERING AREAS

- A river lookout is proposed where the pathway south of 78 St. NW meets the multi-use trail
- The lookout and small gathering spaces include features such as picnic tables, benches and small shade structures
- These areas could be locations for interpretive signs or subtle art installations

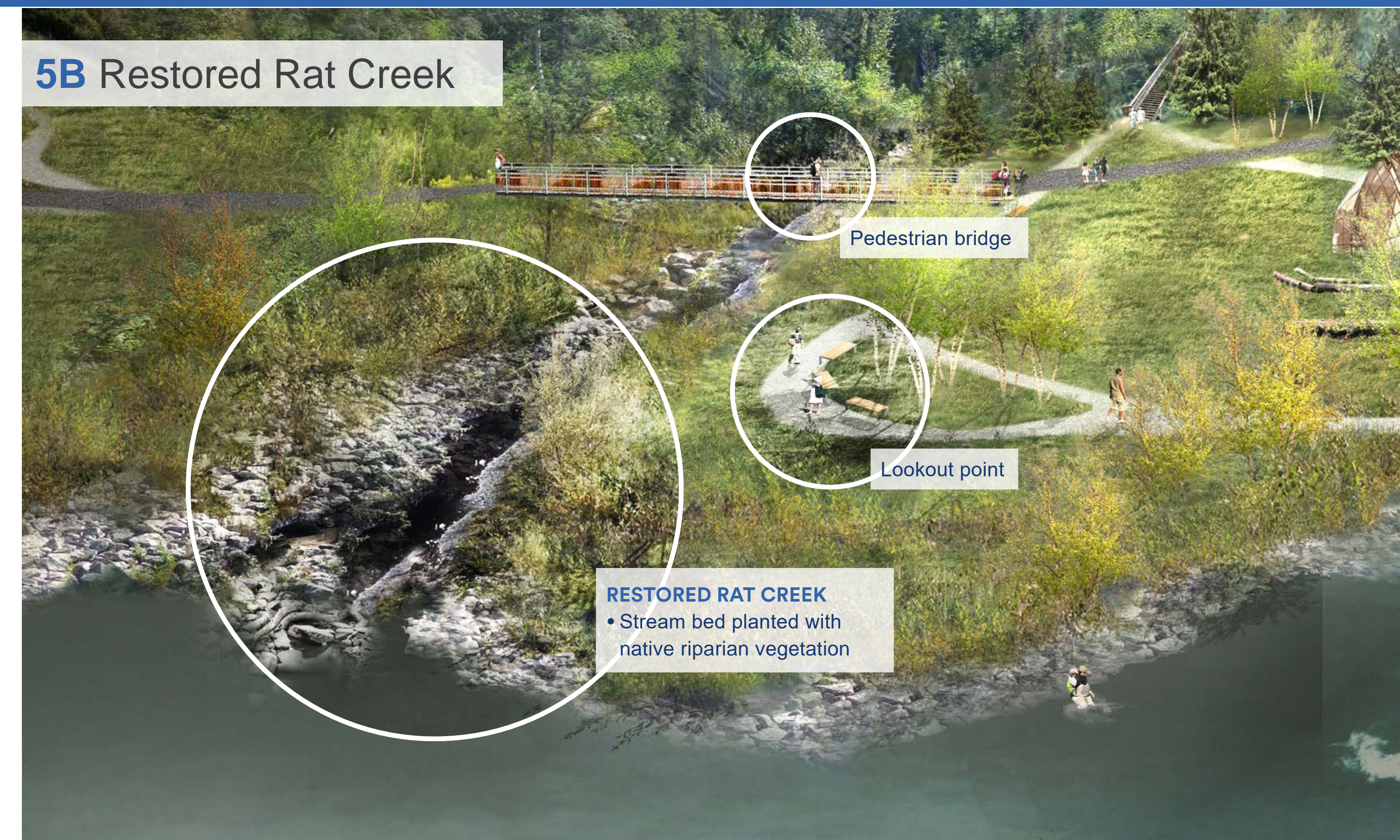
## 5B RESTORED RAT CREEK

- The stream bed near the river is restored by removing the culvert and creating an area for back flow from the river
- Because of low creek flow, the stream bed, which is planted with native riparian species, may be dry some of the time
- This area will become a leash-up zone to allow plants to establish and to protect the new habitat
- A new pedestrian bridge is created where all of the trails converge to provide a connection across the creek
- A gathering space and lookout is proposed on the east side of the creek and may potentially be used for community or cultural gatherings

5A River Lookout & Gathering Areas



5B Restored Rat Creek



5B Restored Rat Creek



# 3

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES & IMPLEMENTATION

**Guiding Principles were developed from our common values. They directed decisions for the future management and use of the park.**

# PARK USE & AMENITIES

Proposed activities are based on public input, a needs assessment, City priorities and environmental sensitivities in the park.

## Informal Use

- Trail-based activities (e.g. running, cycling, snowshoeing)
- Picnicking, gathering, enjoying river views
- Nature appreciation and interpretation
- Potential for community / cultural / winter programming

## Festivals and Events

- Running meets, orienteering, boating races, charity walks and art / winter events

## Education and Play

- New natural play elements
- Potential for programming with an educational / community group



















## River Access

- Accessible boat launch and dock
- Potential expansion of facilities (Expansion of the amenity building and/or the boat launch may occur if there is partner interest in providing increased programming based out of Dawson Park.)

## Dogs Off Leash

- Off-leash use along the multi-use trail and Cromdale top-of-bank park
- Leash-up zone around the restoration at Rat Creek

## LEGEND

- |   |                      |   |                           |
|---|----------------------|---|---------------------------|
|  | Existing Entrance    |  | Play Features             |
|  | Proposed Entrance    |  | Washroom                  |
|  | Off Leash Dog Trail  |  | Water Bottle Fill Station |
|  | Off Leash Dog Area   |  | Bike Rack                 |
|  | Dog Bag Dispenser    |  | Parking                   |
|  | Lookout              |  | River Access              |
|  | Gathering Space      |  | Boat launch and Dock      |
|  | Potential Public Art |  | Fishing Area              |
|  | Picnic Table         |  | All Season Feature        |



# GUIDING PRINCIPLES PARK USE & AMENITIES

- The park should be a place to experience rejuvenation and **health benefits** associated with being in nature.
- The park should be **active in winter** months and should incorporate winter experiences.
- The **cultural and natural heritage** of the site should be celebrated and should reflect the layered history of the site.
- **Amenities and programs** in the park should be appropriate to the site’s environmental sensitivities while meeting the recreational needs of a growing population.
- **Community partnerships** and community stewardship of the park should be promoted.
- **User conflict** should be mitigated.

Thinking about Park Use & Amenities, do you agree that the plan achieves the goals of the guiding principles stated above?

Explain your choice on a large dot.

STRONGLY  
DISAGREE

NEUTRAL

STRONGLY  
AGREE

# CONNECTIVITY & CIRCULATION

Visitors to the park value its connection to the River Valley trail network and its accessibility from surrounding communities.

## Pedestrian Circulation

- All trails in the park may be used for multiple activities (i.e. walking, jogging, hiking, etc.)
- The multi-use regional trail, Braille Trail and pathways near the activity node provide an accessible connection for users with limited mobility to experience the park and river views
- Enhanced connectivity into the park from Jasper Avenue to improve access from adjacent communities
- A suspension bridge and top-of-bank entrances with wayfinding signs improve connections to surrounding communities
- A new trail in Kinnaird Ravine improves the connection to Stadium Station

## Cyclist Circulation

- All trails in the park may be used by cyclists with varying experiences and levels of difficulty.














## Vehicular Circulation

- Public vehicular access is restricted to the southern portion of the park by a dedicated access point which connects to the parking lot and a vehicle turnaround.

## Winter










- The paved, multi-use trail will be cleared of snow.
- Other trails may be used for winter activities including informal cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

## LEGEND

- |   |                         |   |                            |
|---|-------------------------|---|----------------------------|
|  | Existing Entrance       |  | Proposed Asphalt Road      |
|  | Proposed Entrance       |  | Proposed Trail Closure     |
|  | Existing Paved Trail    |  | Existing Wooden Stairs     |
|  | Proposed Paved Trail    |  | Proposed Wooden Stairs     |
|  | Existing Granular Trail |  | Proposed Pedestrian Bridge |
|  | Proposed Granular Trail |   |                            |
|  | Existing Natural Trail  |   |                            |
|  | Proposed Natural Trail  |   |                            |



## SIGNS

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
|  | Major Vehicle Access                    |  | Safety and Maintenance                           |
|  | Major Pedestrian Gateway - Top of Bank  |  | Interpretive Signs                               |
|  | Minor Pedestrian Gateway - Top of Bank  |  | Trail Markers for Natural Surface Trails         |
|  | Minor Pedestrian Gateway - River Valley |  | Trail Markers for Aggregate/Paved Surface Trails |
|  | Wayfinding                              |   |  |



# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

## CONNECTIVITY & CIRCULATION

- Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine should be a **safe and secure space for all** who occupy the park.
- The park should be **accessible and welcoming** to all people and should support a diversity of park users.
- The park should **serve neighbouring citizens** and Edmonton's broader community.
- The park should provide Edmontonians a **connection** to the North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine system.
- Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine will be connected with the City's active transportation network through access and trail connections.

**Thinking about Connectivity & Circulation, do you agree that the plan achieves the goals of the guiding principles stated above?**

**Explain your choice on a large dot.**

**STRONGLY DISAGREE**

**NEUTRAL**

**STRONGLY AGREE**

# NATURE & ECOLOGY

The Master Plan focuses on the maintenance and enhancement of ecological connections.

- Areas of existing high-quality habitat, ecological connections and native vegetation are protected.
- Activity in the park occurs on trails and in areas that are already disturbed, encouraging people and dogs to stay out of sensitive natural areas.
- Where there are sensitive slopes, these areas will be managed for erosion.
- Fences or natural barriers in combination with public education efforts are recommended to protect the areas of highest sensitivity, such as wetlands and the hoodoos.
- Restoration along the river edge, along pathways and in top-of-bank parks enhances wildlife habitat.
- The City will explore options for managing invasive species on the River Valley slopes and the river edge.

## LEGEND

- Restore Rat Creek
- Establish Meadow and Native Shrubs
- Manage Beach
- Manage Sensitive Slopes
- Manage White Spruce Forest
- Manage Mixed Forest and Closed Shrub
- Maintain Turf
- Restore Native Ground Cover
- Maintain & Restore Riparian Vegetation
- Maintain Areas of Native Grasses
- Disturbed Landscape / Hardscape



# GUIDING PRINCIPLES NATURE & ECOLOGY

- The **natural character** of Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine should be maintained.
- Sensitive **species and habitats** in the park should be protected.
- Rehabilitation and restoration of **natural systems** throughout the park should be promoted.
- Improvements to the park should be **sustainable, maintainable and low impact**.

Thinking about Nature & Ecology, do you agree that the plan achieves the goals of the guiding principles stated above?

Explain your choice on a large dot.

STRONGLY DISAGREE

NEUTRAL

STRONGLY AGREE

# PHASING

Below are the recommended phases for the implementation of the Master Plan.

Each phase incorporates considerations for restoration, signage, interpretation, education and park use.

## APPROACH TO PHASING

Generally, a Master Plan is carried out over many years in phases of four or five years. Two major considerations are:

- Ensuring elements are implemented sequentially and do not damage or undo work from previous phases
- Obtaining funding for elements in each phase

While the phasing plan incorporates these considerations, there are things that could change the order in which elements get completed. The following list includes some of the external factors that could affect phasing.

- Council support
- Funding for implementation
- Exploration of partnerships
- Alignment with other initiatives

## COSTING

Costs for the Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine concept plan are estimated based on recent park projects of similar size and scope. The costs presented will be refined as detailed designs are prepared.

The total cost for the concept plan is estimated at \$27,953,381, which includes a 50% contingency and 20% design and project management fee.

### Phase 1: Access

#### Intent

- Improve accessibility into the park and to the river for adjacent communities and regional visitors
- Address immediate management and safety issues to reduce risk for people coming to the park

### Phase 2: Amenities

#### Intent

- Add amenity value
- Improve amenities that are reaching the end of their life
- Ensure amenities can meet the expected level of future use
- Create minor nodes of activity

### Phase 3: Rat Creek

#### Intent

- Remove the culvert in Rat Creek
- Restore creek flow
- Set a precedent for future development and potential re-direction of stormwater into Rat Creek to restore creek flow
- Create an area to gather
- Create habitat in the river for fish

### Phase 4: Restoration

#### Intent

- Restore native vegetation where possible (mostly in existing turf areas and areas that have been disturbed by human use)
- Create varied habitats and experiences
- Teach about restoration and the River Valley

### Phase 5: Kinnaird Suspension Bridge

#### Intent

- Create a destination and a connection into the park

#### Phase 1 will include features such as:

- Entrances (e.g. Latta Bridge Entrance)
- Trails (e.g. surface repairs)
- River Access (e.g. accessible boat launch)
- Safety Improvements (e.g. new amenity building)

#### Phase 2 will include features such as:

- Dawson Park Amenities (e.g. new playground and picnic area improvements)
- Lookouts (e.g. top-of-bank lookouts)
- Top-of-bank Improvements (e.g. Sheriff Robertson playground addition)

#### Phase 3 will include features such as:

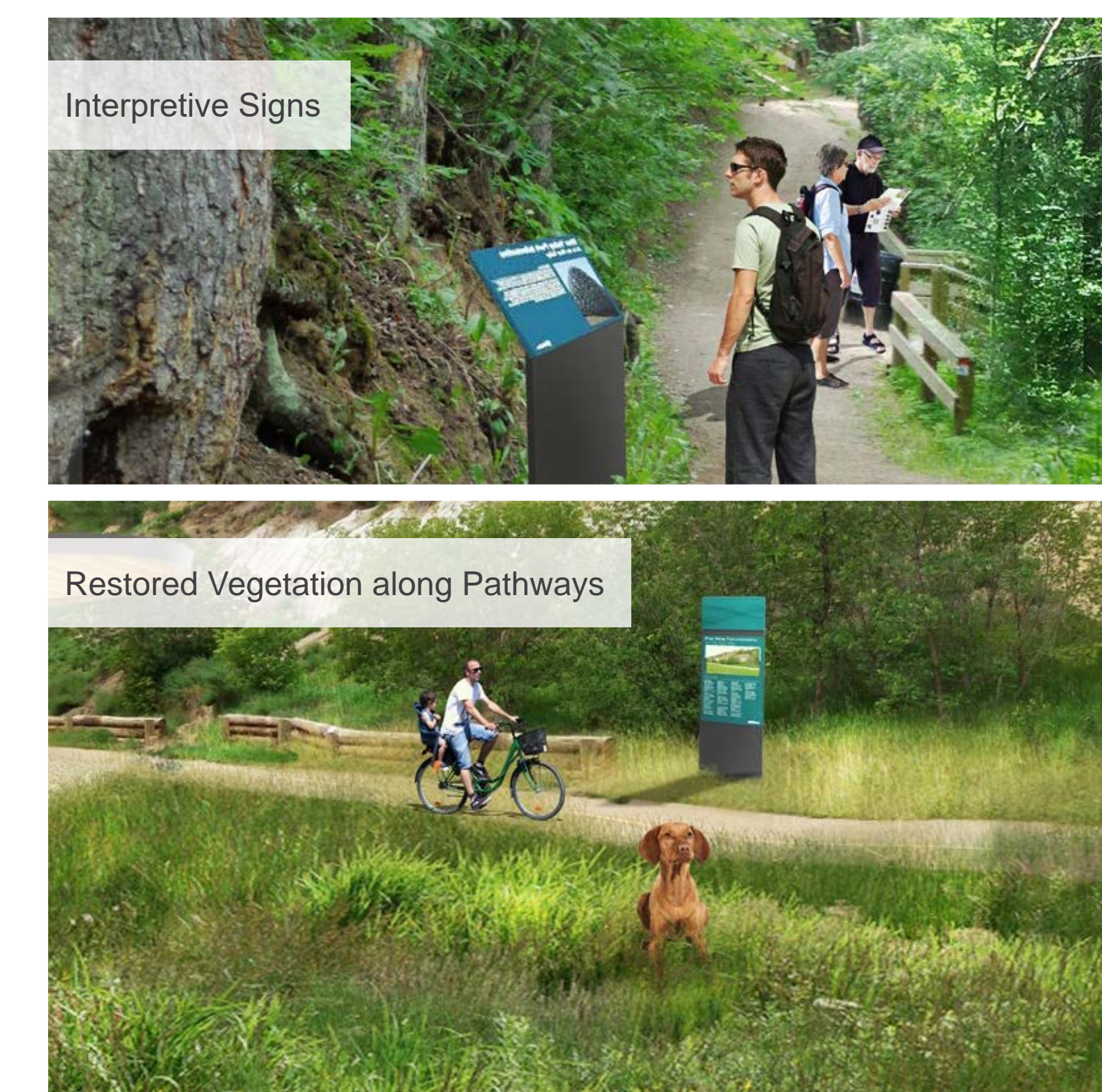
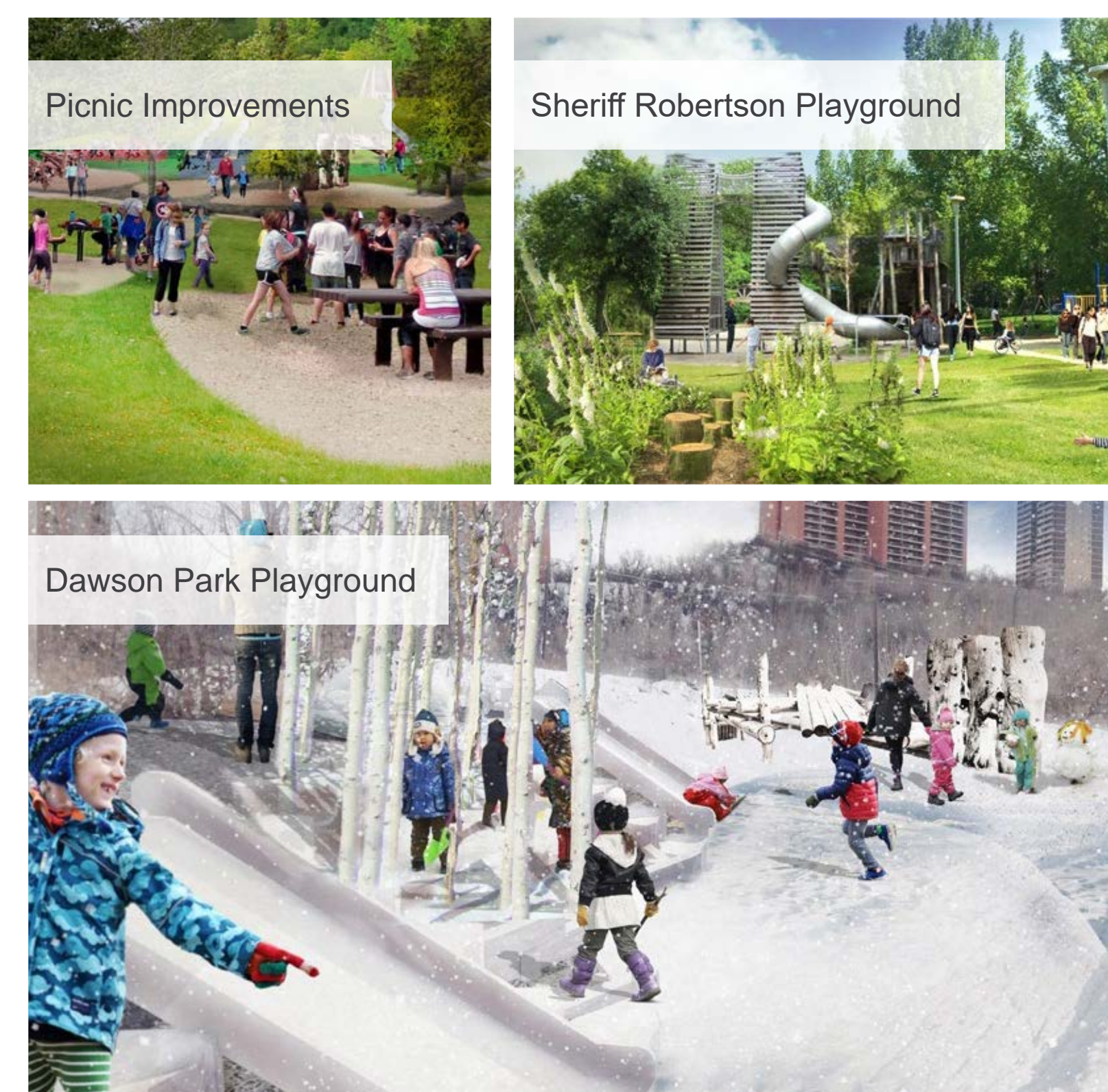
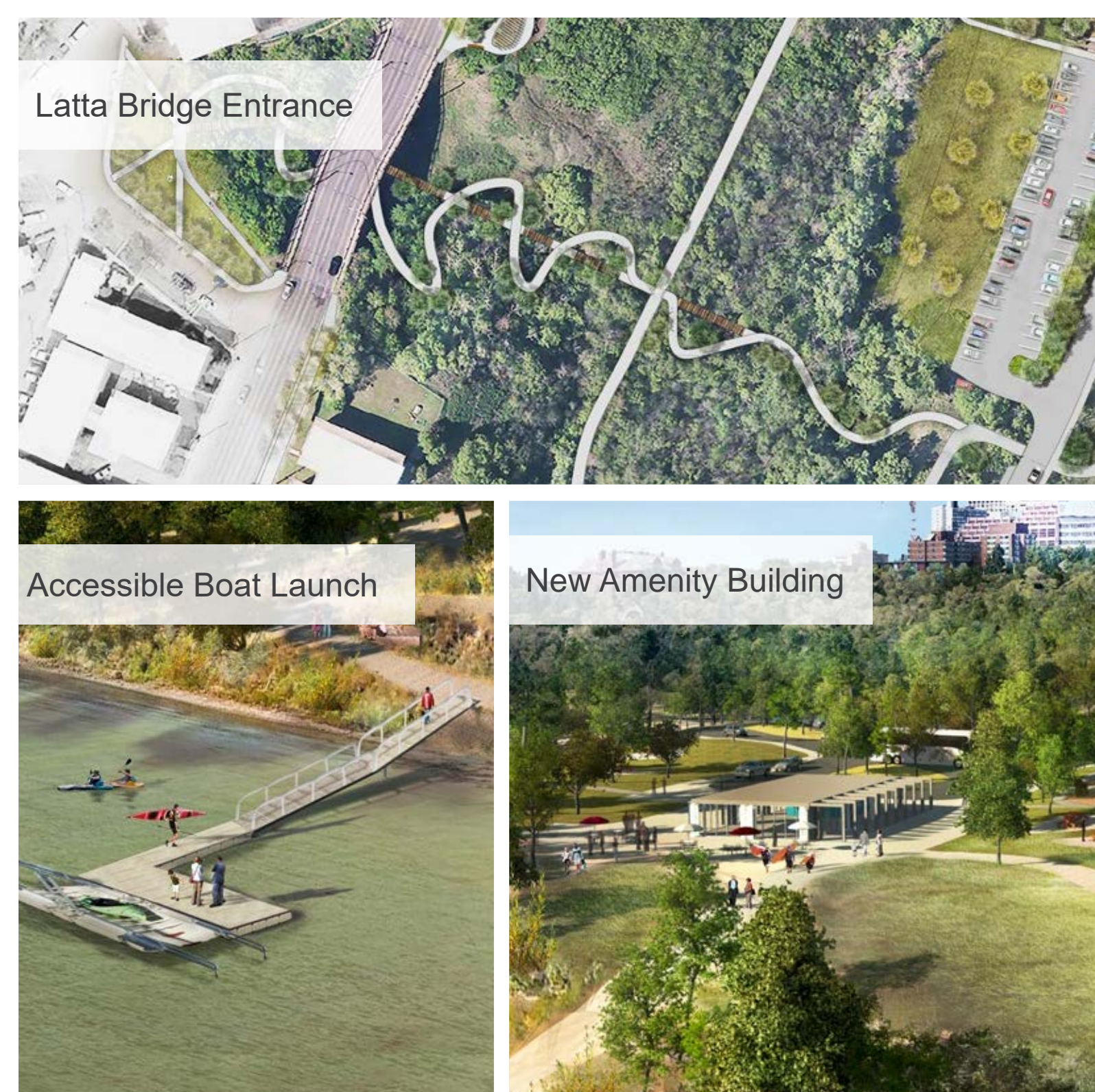
- Rat Creek Restoration
- Gathering Area

#### Phase 4 will include features such as:

- Staged restoration of planting along pathways
- Restored riparian planting / fish habitat along river edge
- Interpretive signs and public art to complement restoration

#### Phase 5 will include features such as:

- Suspension Bridge
- Kinnaird Park improvements (e.g. plantings, fixtures, trails) after bridge construction



Costing:  
\$7,760,118

Costing:  
\$7,444,743

Costing:  
\$4,095,788

Costing:  
\$1,002,731

Costing:  
\$7,650,000

# WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Now that you have had a chance to review the vision and concept plan in detail, we would like to understand your level of support for the Master Plan.

**Do you support the Master Plan?**

1 = Do not support  
5 = Strongly support

**Explain your choice on a large dot.**

<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>DO NOT SUPPORT</b></p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>STRONGLY SUPPORT</b></p>

# PARALLEL PROJECTS

Stay informed on related projects in the City.

## HOMELESS ON PUBLIC LANDS

The City of Edmonton and its partners are working together to connect people experiencing homelessness to supports and housing using the housing first principle.

The Master Plan aims to support city staff and outreach workers with the following features:

- A vestibule in the new amenity building provides flexible space for City staff, outreach services, Rangers and emergency services personnel to help perform their tasks related to outreach and park clean-up when necessary.
- Enclosed garbage bins located in the parking lot to help with park clean-up.

- For more information on the City's work addressing homelessness, visit [edmonton.ca/homelessness](http://edmonton.ca/homelessness)
- If you want to know how to communicate with the City regarding rough sleeping in the park, **call 311 or take a flyer** from the Homeless on Public Lands Committee here tonight

## BELLEVUE / VIRGINIA PARK NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL BUILDING GREAT NEIGHBOURHOODS

Bellevue and Virginia Park have been chosen for neighbourhood renewal starting in 2018.

The neighbourhood renewal process typically involves rehabilitating roads, the replacement of streetlights, reconstruction of sidewalks, curb and gutter and connecting missing sidewalk links in mature neighbourhoods. There is also the opportunity to discuss improvements on City owned land that enhance neighbourhood livability and connectivity (trail improvements, trees, pathways). The program doesn't include arterial roads or alleys.

The work that will occur in Bellevue / Virginia Park will complement the top-of-bank recommendations for the Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine Master Plan (e.g. connections to the granular pathway proposed at the Ada Blvd. viewpoint and park entrance).

- For more information on Building Great Neighbourhoods visit [edmonton.ca/BuildingGreatNeighbourhoods](http://edmonton.ca/BuildingGreatNeighbourhoods)

## CITY-WIDE FLOOD MITIGATION STRATEGY

The flood mitigation strategy may impact the sewer outfall in Dawson Park.

Presented to Council in June 2017, the flood mitigation strategy aims to take a proactive approach to dealing with changes to the City's drainage system. Residents can provide feedback informing the flood mitigation strategy's approach by participating in public engagement opportunities through 2018.

- EPCOR will host community working meetings to engage on changes to parkland and sports fields.
- Groups wanting more information can **call 311 or email [epcordrainage@epcor.com](mailto:epcordrainage@epcor.com)** to get in touch with the project team.
- For information on a complimentary home flood prevention check up, please email [floodcheckup@epcor.com](mailto:floodcheckup@epcor.com)

## **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 Stadium station.**

The Muttart Lands Development project is a mixed-use residential community that will be developed to the west 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.**

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

## **COLISEUM STATION ARP, UNDER DEVELOPMENT**

**The proposed boundaries of this future ARP include Rexall Place, the Northlands Park Racetrack & Casino, the Edmonton Expo Centre and Borden Park.**

The ARP will build on first generation transit-oriented development plans in the area. The City is also exploring opportunities to redevelop the Coliseum. 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.

## **WILDFIRE THREAT ASSESSMENT PROJECT**

**The City is working to develop a grading system that would assign a hazard rating to each area of the city with regards to fire risk and wildfire fuel.**

Through the Wildfire Threat Assessment project in progress, the City aims to become a FireSmart community, taking a proactive approach to wildfire prevention and prioritizing hazard areas throughout the city. The Master Plan for Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine may be used as a pilot project for initiatives related to fire prevention with Council approval and may be used to advocate for improved wildfire prevention planning in Edmonton.

# NEXT STEPS

## Thank you for your time and feedback!

Thank you for your continued interest in the Dawson Park & Kinnaird Ravine Master Plan throughout all four phases of engagement.

Your feedback on the concept plan tonight and through the online survey will help us to identify potential modifications to the Master Plan.

Invite your friends and neighbours to share their input from November 24 to December 8! All material presented today will be available online.

## STAY INFORMED!

Information on the progress of the Master Plan will be available at [edmonton.ca/dawsonparkmasterplan](http://edmonton.ca/dawsonparkmasterplan)

