

The logo for the City of Edmonton, featuring the word "Edmonton" in a white, sans-serif font on a dark blue rectangular background.A scenic landscape photograph showing a wide river flowing through a lush green forest. 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 1: Inventory & Analysis
November 2016

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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 first round of public engagement for the Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine Master Plan, and outlines the following:

- » The Master Plan process,
- » Our initial understanding of the park and its functions,
- » The phases of public engagement, and,
- » The feedback that was received during the first phase of engagement: **Project Introduction, Inventory and Analysis.**





The Master Plan Process

The Master Plan 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.

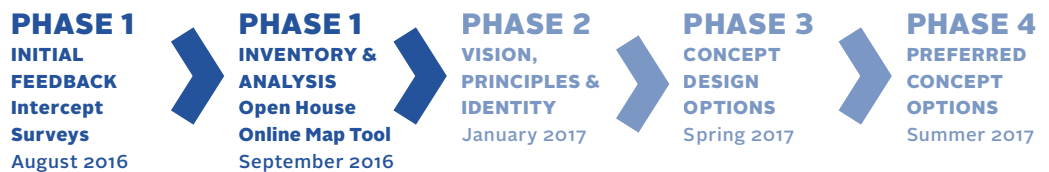
The City of Edmonton is currently in the CONCEPT Phase of the project timeline. In this phase, public consultation will be critical to informing the Master Plan from now until its

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 design 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 timeline



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

Capital City Recreation Park Concept Plan (CCRPCP), 1975

The CCRPCP identified the Dawson Park area for further development of trails and facilities for people living with disabilities including vision impairments. Both the Zoning Bylaw and the City's Urban Parks Management Plan identify Dawson Park as a place for the preservation of natural areas and parkland along the river, creeks, and ravines, and the provision of designated areas for active and passive recreation.

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.

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.

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. The Plan has three specific goals:

- » 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

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.

Dawson Park & Kinnaird Ravine Planning Context



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.

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.

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 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.

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.

River Valley Plans and Policies

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.

North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan (Bylaw 7188), 1985, Consolidated 2014

Provides a comprehensive River Valley and Ravine management program to protect the North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System. The goal of this bylaw is to “create a recreation-oriented land use system which incorporates formal and informal parks and mature areas which are linked through a series of paths, trails and open spaces.” 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 Area Redevelopment Plan also sets out park development guidelines and standards for parkland located within the River Valley.

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.

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).

Area Redevelopment Plans

- » Stadium Station ARP (1983)
- » Boyle Street McCauley ARP (1994)
- » Riverdale ARP (Office Consolidation 2010)
- » The Quarters Downtown ARP (2014)
- » Northlands ARP (Office Consolidation 2003, Ongoing)

Engagement Plan

An engagement strategy using multiple consultation techniques will facilitate the ability for the community 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 be involved 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 was looking for initial 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.

The first phase of public engagement has come to a close. 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 design options based on initial feedback and comments.

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.

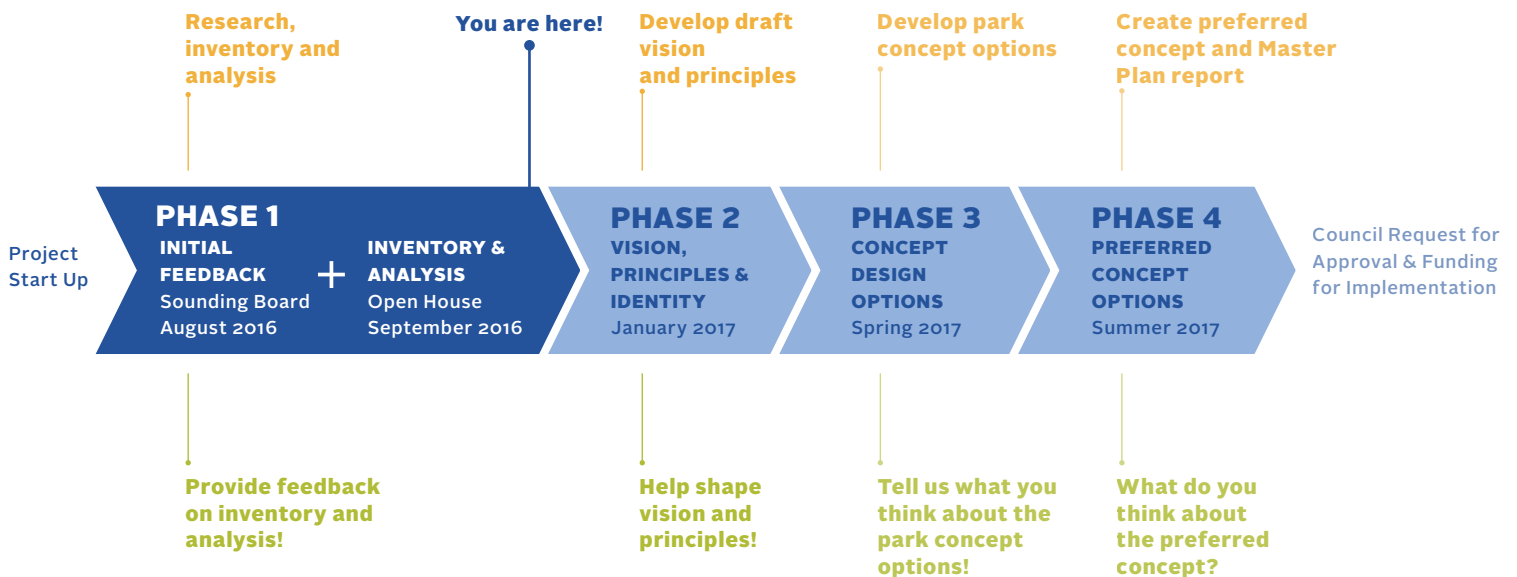
Develop

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.

City team



Public, Stakeholders and Internal Staff

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.

PHASE 2: Vision, Principles, Identity & Program **January 2017**

In Phase 2, the City will be looking for the public to help improve their understanding of the opportunities and constraints in the park. These will help to inform the vision. In addition, the themes and concerns that emerged from Phase 1 will be available to the public in a What We Heard Report and will be integrated into the proposed vision, principles, identity and program.

The public and stakeholders will be able to provide input on the material presented and will be asked to prioritize elements of the vision statement and concept design options.

Feedback from Phase 2 engagement will be summarized in a What We Heard report.

PHASE 3: Concept Design Options **March 2017**

The City will be looking for feedback on more developed concept design options for the park in Phase 3. Two distinct designs 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 designs.

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.

PHASE 4: Preferred Concept Design **August – September 2017**

In Phase 4, the City will present a refined concept design 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 design 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.



Site Inventory & Analysis

The City of Edmonton conducted an inventory of site elements and an analysis of factors that provide some background for Phase 1 participants. This material was presented to the public, stakeholders and internal staff to help facilitate a dialogue around the existing conditions of the park. The feedback from this phase of engagement helped us to gain an even better understanding of the park based on public knowledge and experiences.

Summary

Dawson Park runs between 84 Street and 92 Street on the north bank of the North Saskatchewan River, extending north to Jasper Avenue. Officially zoned as a Metropolitan Recreation Zone within the urban core, the park area includes Kinnaird Ravine, which extends from the North Saskatchewan River north and west into the Cromdale neighbourhood. The park shares a long history of industry and coal mining dating back to the turn of the 19th century. The largely rugged and natural park has one development node at the southern end of park which includes a picnic area, washrooms, and a parking lot. Three distinct elevations provide a variety of vegetative growth dominated by aspen mixed with brushland-grassland along south-facing slopes. The park includes a variety of trails, including off-leash and paths specifically designed for visually impaired visitors, braille trail interpretive signs, and scenic views of the river and hoodoos.

Site History

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 who lived in 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 groups 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. First Nations and Metis 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), with adhesion at Fort Edmonton in 1877 and with Treaty 7 (1877) at Blackfoot Crossing, Indigenous people were forced onto reserves and much of the area was taken up for settlement.

In 1892, Edmonton incorporated as a town. Five years later, there was an explosion of activity in the region caused by the Klondike gold rush. Many prospectors passed through Edmonton during this time. Alberta became a province in 1905, and Edmonton was named the capital city in 1906.

From 1906 to 1907, Frederick G. Todd, the first residential landscape architect in Canada who spent much of his career working on structuring urban development in many cities, provided recommendations for limited development in Edmonton's river valley. This was the first vision for a river valley park system in Edmonton, and was very influential in how the city developed.

Mining seems to have been the predominant activity in the Dawson Park area during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In addition to Parkdale Mine no. 10, seven other mines have been identified, all of which were underground. These were active between 1896 and 1937. Mine 50, known as Baldwin's Mine, operated around 1900 to 1904. It was located on River Lot 20, which begins at approximately 92 Street, and runs east. This corresponds with much of the cleared area on the Southern portion of the park. This mine was the most extensive.

Mine 632, known as the Penn Mine (or Pen Mine) was partially located on River Lot 20. Named for its relationship to the nearby penitentiary operated by the Dominion Government from 1908 to 1920, the coal mine spans the north and south sides of Jasper Ave. Prison inmates provided labour for the mine.

After the City of Edmonton acquired Kinnaird Park from James McDonald and James Kirkness in the early 1900s, one of the largest natural disasters to happen in the city had a great effect on Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine, and the surrounding neighbourhoods. On June 27, 1915, Edmonton experienced an unprecedented amount of rain that resulted in a great flood spanning several days. At its peak, the North Saskatchewan River was ten metres above its normal level. About 2,000 people were displaced, 50 buildings were destroyed and over 700 homes were submerged in the flood. The neighbourhoods most affected were Cloverdale and Rosedale, south of today's Dawson Park.

The course of Edmonton's history changed in 1947 with the discovery of oil at Leduc. Agriculture and the oil boom contributed to economic growth in the region. Services in Edmonton improved as the urban region continued to grow. Many people moved to Edmonton and other western cities after the 1970s. Edmonton showed its prosperity to the world in 1978 when it hosted the Commonwealth Games.

The namesakes of Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine were influential in the development of Edmonton's history.

George J. Kinnaird, a pioneer civil servant, was born in 1857 in Scotland. He moved to Canada and apprenticed with the Hudson Bay Company near Regina in 1875. In 1885, he moved to Edmonton and became the town clerk in 1900, eventually advancing to become a city commissioner. In 1910 he established an accounting firm and was appointed to be auditor of the City in 1915. Kinnaird Ravine was officially named in 1967 to commemorate George J. Kinnaird's contribution to the city.

John Forsyth Dawson (1892–1962) was born in Ontario, and moved to Edmonton with his parents as a child. He studied engineering at the University of Alberta and Upper Canada College in Toronto. He worked as a geologist in northern Alberta before joining the Australian Expeditionary Force in 1913. Posted to fight in Europe, he was wounded at Vimy Ridge. After returning to Canada in the early 1920s, he worked in the Turner Valley oil fields, then accepted a position with Dominion Oil Fields Supply Company in Edmonton. Dawson Park was officially named in 1990.

Walter Scott Robertson, the first Sheriff in Edmonton, and Jane Thompson Salisbury, the past grand matron of the Order of the Easter Star who helped to house elderly residents in the park area for almost 30 years, were also commemorated with the naming of parks in the project area.

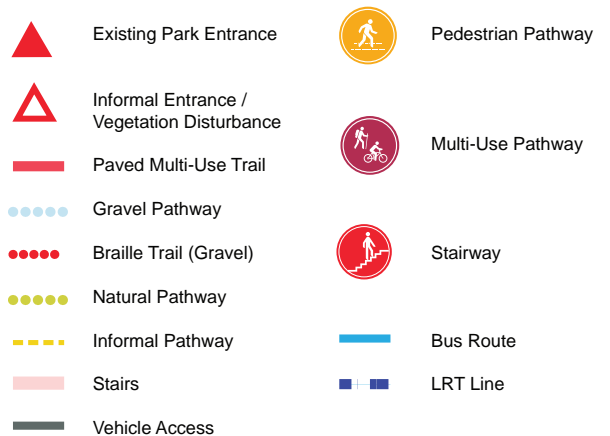
We will continue to discover and build upon the history of Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine through deeper exploration and meaningful conversations with the public and stakeholders.



Access & Circulation

Park entrances are limited and there are few trail connections within the park. Likely for these reasons, several informal trails, or 'desire lines', developed in the park where people want to travel, but no formal trail exists.

The pathways in Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine are generally linear, guiding park users along the water from one end of the park to the other. There are several pathways, stairs and ramps to help people get from the top of the bank down to the water.



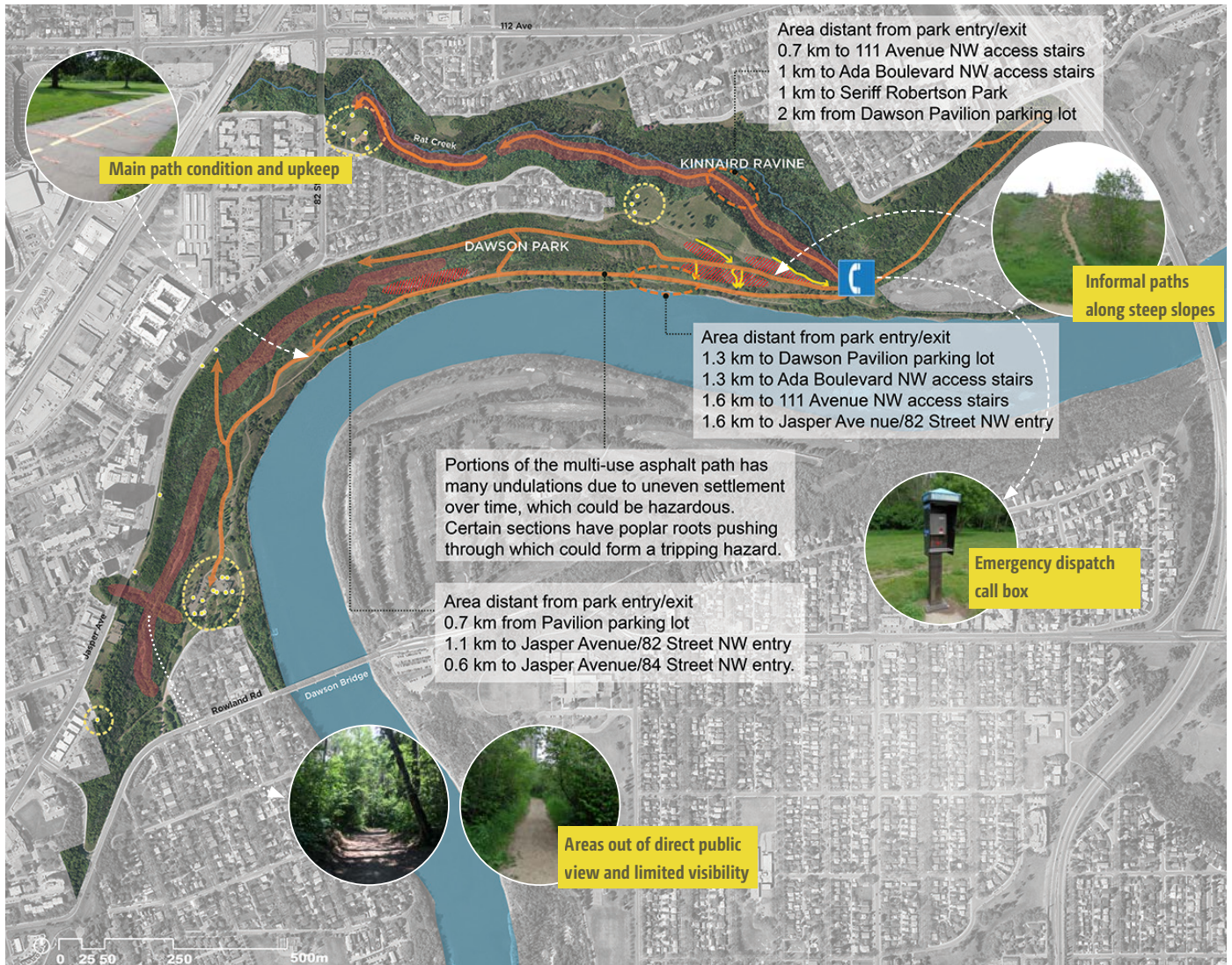


Amenities & Nodes

Dawson Park and the Kinnaird Ravine provide a direct connection for the communities along the edges of the park. This park serves the entire city and provides recreational users with park amenities and activity nodes, including the main node to the south of the park that was planned in the Capital City Recreation Plan. The nodes are highlighted in the above image.








Each community and park user has a unique way of interacting with these green spaces. Small recreational areas, or nodes, have developed on the periphery of the park and inside the park boundary. Some nodes are mainly used for active recreation, while others are mainly used by the public in passive ways, for example, sitting and enjoying views of the park.

- | | | | |
|--|--------------|--|------------------|
| | Active Node | | Light Fixture |
| | Passive Node | | Off-leash Area |
| | Picnic Table | | Bike Rack |
| | Bench | | Boat Put Out |
| | Viewing Deck | | Playground |
| | | | Litter Container |
| | | | Washroom |
| | | | Phone |



Maintenance & Safety

Our analysis included an examination of issues relating to the maintenance of park features and park users' sense of safety within the park. Steep slopes, dense vegetation and limited lighting create many areas with minimal or no visibility into the park. The trails in Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine go for long distances without connecting to other trails or exit points. This, along with few signs and wayfinding tools, create few entrance and exit points. Informal trails have developed along steep slopes within the park. Trails that are not maintained along steep slopes can create erosion. Steep slopes also prevent access into the park for emergency crews. Only the edges of the park can be easily accessed by EMS vehicles, increasing the response time in an emergency.

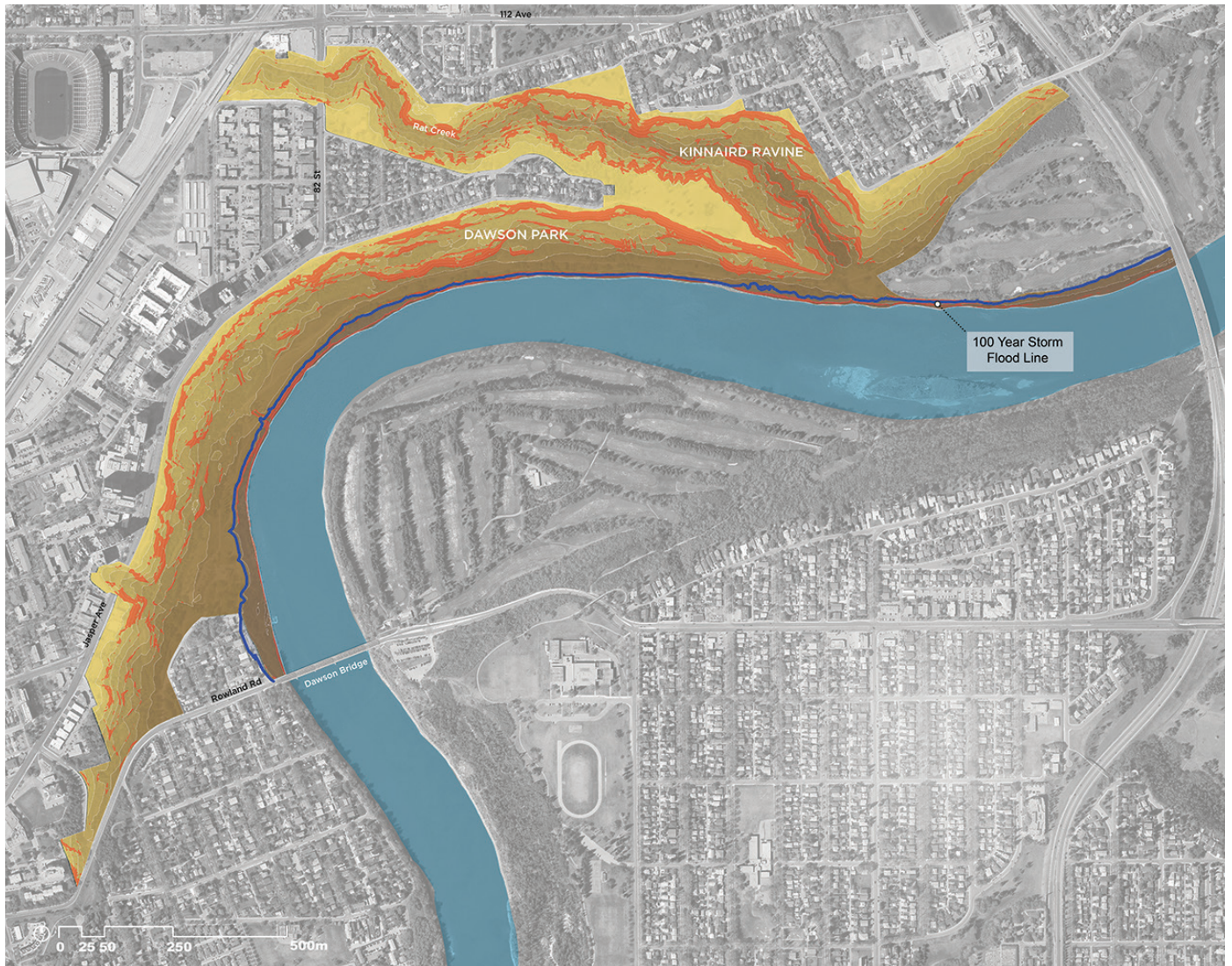
-  Paths that are less visible from public spaces as well as with limited visibility from path
-  Areas significant distant from park entry / exit with limit direct park exit options
-  Areas that are lit. Remaining park unlit
-  Light fixtures
-  Informal pathways down steep slopes
-  Slopes over 30% near formal or informal paths
-  Emergency phone / call box



Utilities & Servicing

Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine are adjacent to a highly developed urban area and become a transitional landscape down to the North Saskatchewan River below. A number of storm water pipes run below the ground in the park area, releasing storm water into the river. Many pipes run to a single discharge point in alignment with 86 Street NW. The existing pavilion near the parking lot in Dawson Park has sewer, water and electrical service.











- Storm Water Pipes (Below Surface)
- - - - - Sewage Pipes (Below Surface)
- Water Supply Pipes (Below Surface)
- Electrical Poles
- Manholes / Drainage Facilities
- Culvert



Natural Features: Topography & Hydrology

Dawson Park is located on the outside of a large meander bend on the north bank of the North Saskatchewan River (NSR). For this reason, the bank has a tendency to erode. Bank erosion is evident throughout this reach, with steep banks approximately two to three metres high. The banks are well vegetated, which helps with bank stabilization. Dawson Park is mostly situated above the 100 year flood line. A comparison of historical bank lines for the North Saskatchewan River spanning a period of 1969 to 2008 indicates minor lateral bank movement along the north bank in the area immediately downstream of Dawson Bridge. Any development that happens near the bank should be located so that vegetation is maintained as best is possible.

Elevation (metres)

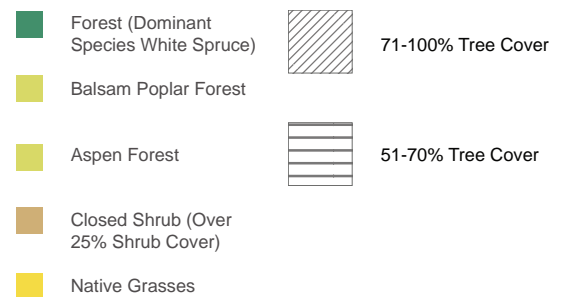
	610 - 615		635 - 640
	615 - 620		640 - 645
	620 - 625		645 - 650
	625 - 630		650 - 655
	630 - 635		Slope over 30%



Natural Features: Vegetation & Open Space

Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine are in the Central Parkland Subregion, a classification of Alberta's Natural Regions (Natural Regions Committee, 2006). Vegetation that is native to this subregion includes aspen, balsam poplar and white spruce trees. Plants such as Labrador tea, feathermoss, willow, bunchberry, wild lily of the valley, wild sarsaparilla and beaked hazelnut typically characterize the forest floor. Finally, plants that typically grow on the riverbank in this subregion include willows, bulrushes and common cattail.

Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine are located in downtown Edmonton and show signs of significant disturbance in vegetation, from recent as well as historic activity. Mining activity and timber harvesting throughout significant portions of the park and riverbank have removed much of the original vegetation. This is reflected in the existing stands of non-native plants such as caragana throughout the park.



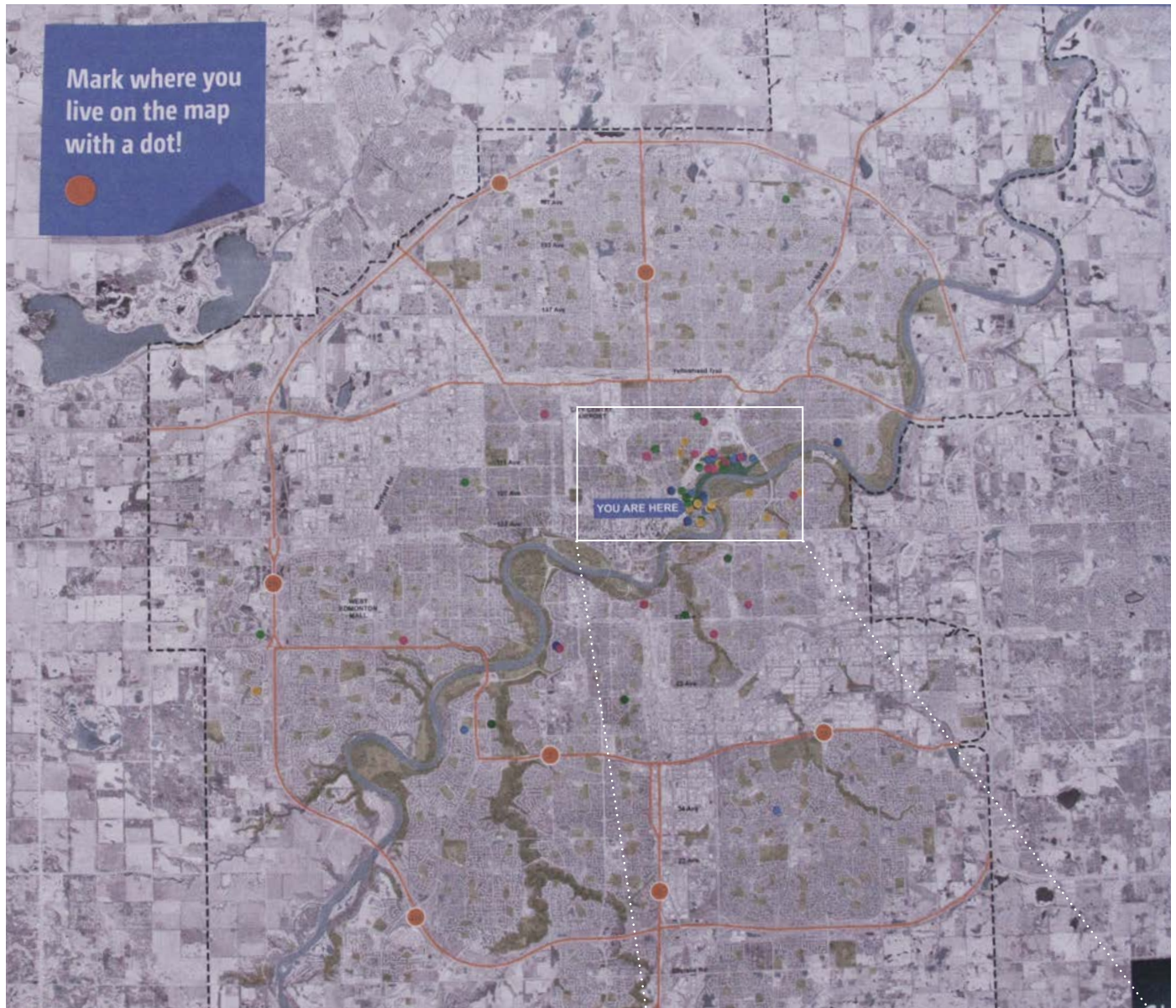


Natural Features: Wildlife & Habitats

The North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine system is considered a national environmentally sensitive area as it provides critical habitat, corridors and linkages for a diverse range of wildlife species. The park is part of the Regional Biological corridor of the system which are ribbons of contiguous connected wildlife habitats at a regional scale.

Several wildlife and vegetation linkages exist in Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine, but the overall value of these are compromised because of the long history of disturbance on the site and significant stands of exotic vegetation. The City of Edmonton Biodiversity Report of 2008 has recommended that maintenance and restoration of ecological connectivity within the river valley where appropriate. Species of concern that may live in or visit the park area include barred owl, northern leopard frog, northern long-eared bat and short-eared owl.

Phase 1 Open House Participant Locations



Public Involvement at the Open House

During the first open house for the Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine Master Plan, people were asked to mark where they live on a map. Many people travelled from various neighbourhoods to give their input on the future of the park!

Note: Coloured dots represent people's locations and larger orange dots are highway labels.



Phase 1: What We Did

In August and September 2016, the City of Edmonton asked citizens to share their thoughts about Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine. A variety of engagement tools were used to provide citizens with convenient opportunities for providing feedback and insight.

Purpose of Engagement

Public engagement is critical to the success of the Master Plan. During the first phase of engagement, each activity asked the following questions, in addition to questions specific to Inventory and Analysis topics:

1. **What is your favourite thing to do in this park?**
2. **What would you like in the future?**

The following engagement methods were used in Phase 1: Inventory and Analysis:

154
comments

Sounding Board

437
online pins

Online Map Tool

342
comments

Open House

12
participants

External Workshop

29
participants

Internal Workshop

How were the engagement opportunities advertised?



5400
mailed flyers



Edmonton
Examiner
print ad

157k
readers



152k
followers



66k
followers



1
project web
page



2
road signs



2
public service
announcements



email
invitations

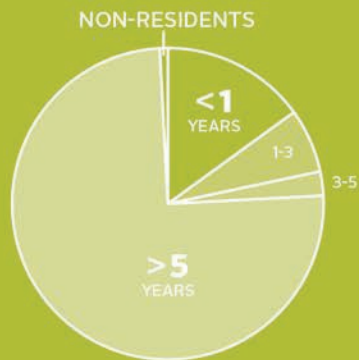
311
script update

Online Participant Demographics

The following statistics outline the demographics of the people who used our online mapping tool to provide their input during Phase 1 of engagement. The Edmonton Insight Community is an inclusive and accessible online citizen panel made up of diverse Edmontonians who provide feedback on City policies, initiatives and issues.

INSIGHT COMMUNITY

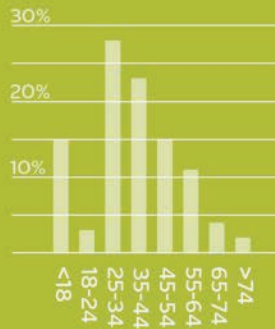
YEARS AS AN EDMONTON RESIDENT



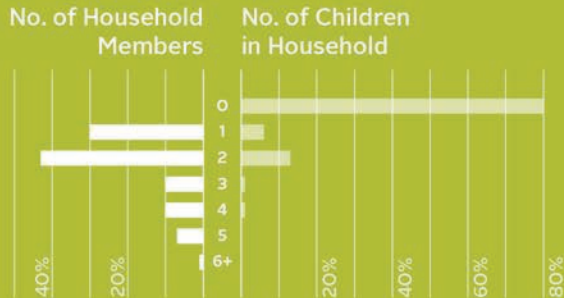
GENDER



AGE



HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS



ALL OTHER USERS

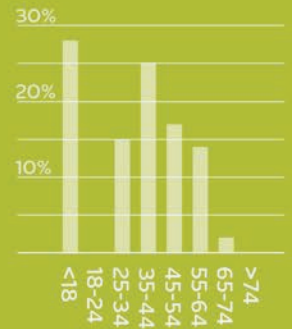
YEARS AS AN EDMONTON RESIDENT



GENDER



AGE



HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS



*Figure for <18 year olds may be exaggerated because it was the default age on the online survey

Sounding Board

154 comments

A sounding board was posted in Dawson Park along the multi-use pathway leading into the park from the parking lot for two weeks, from August 22 to September 6, 2016. The board provided a brief project summary and background on the Master Plan so visitors could participate in the engagement activity. The sounding board was also an opportunity for visitors to learn about other ways they could follow the project or share feedback — either through the project website or in-person at the September open house.

The purpose of the sounding board was to get initial feedback from park users. The following two questions were presented to park visitors and they were asked to record their answers on the board using the accompanying pens and sticky notes.

- » My favourite thing to do in this park is...
- » In the future, I would like...

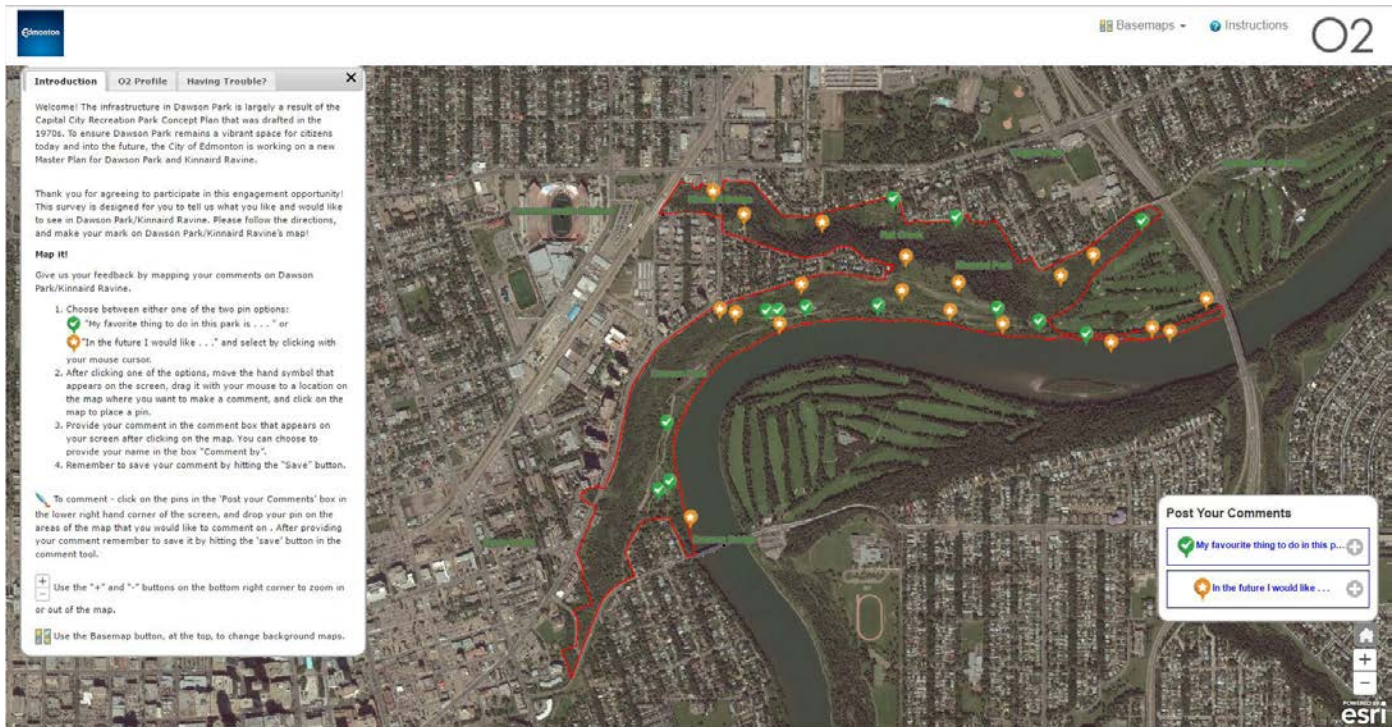
The City of Edmonton received a variety of responses from people who visited the park during those two weeks. Feedback received included comments related to park use and maintenance, dog walking, social interactions within the park and more. Overall, participants were happy with the ways they were able to use the park, for example, dog-walking, accessing the river and enjoying the natural areas with friends and family.

Participants also provided suggestions for how these activities could be improved or made more accessible in the future. Improved access points (into the park as well as down to the river), managing conflict in trail use and increasing the cleanliness of the park were all suggested. Some people felt that very little, if anything, needs to be done to the park to improve their visitor experience.



My favourite thing to do in this park is...

“ **Walk my dog off-leash early and watch sunrise. Keep River Valley natural!** ”



Online Map Tool

333 comments from Insight Community opt-in
104 comments from all other users

The online map tool provided people with a convenient, 24-hour opportunity to provide input. The tool, an interactive online map, was accessed through the City's project website.

The map was made available to the City of Edmonton Insight Community from August 29 to September 12, and open to the public from September 13 to 26. The online map was advertised on the project website, on the open house flyer and presentation boards, as well as through an Insight email opt-in.

Participants were able to respond to the following statements by placing a pin on the map of the project area:

- » My favourite thing to do in this park is...
- » In the future I would like...

In addition to attaching comments to their pins, users could also reply to and 'like' other people's comments, resulting in online conversations between participants.

In the future I would like...

“ Access to the water here is great. Could be even better, though, as in a few places some scrambling is required. ”

The online platform gave people an opportunity to provide long, well thought-out responses about many park planning factors. Responses often provided potential solutions to identified issues.

Participants gave location-specific feedback on activities they engaged in, such as walking, running, dog-walking, and fishing, and park changes that could facilitate an improved experience, such as easier access to the river. We also heard about user conflict within the park between dog-walkers, mountain bikers, cyclists and general park visitors.



Open House
86 attendees

An open house was held for the general public on Monday September 12 from 5–8pm in the gymnasium at the Alex Taylor School (E4C). The event was advertised through a mail-out flyer, email invitations from City of Edmonton community liaisons, on the project website, in a Riverdalian newspaper article and on the sounding board in Dawson Park.

Presentation boards displaying our initial understanding of existing conditions were available to view and comment on throughout the evening. The boards included the following information:

- » Master Plan and Engagement Process
- » Related policies and plans
- » Surrounding community development
- » First look at the history of the site
- » Access and Circulation
- » Amenities and Nodes
- » Activities and Festivals
- » Maintenance and Safety
- » Service and Utilities
- » Topography and Hydrology
- » Vegetation and Open Space
- » Wildlife and Habitats

Those who attended were asked to respond to the information presented on boards by letting the project team know of anything we had missed. Other major questions included:

- » What is your favourite thing to do in this park? Why?
- » What would you like to do in this park in the future? Why?
- » Why is this park important to you?

Comments were representative of viewpoints from various community groups and stakeholders, including residents and interest groups. Because of the impressive turnout, we were able to talk to many members of the community and listen to their concerns. Two topics that were of special concern were the impact of potential changes to the park on the surrounding neighbourhoods and the impact of the homeless population on the visitor experience to the park.

Suggestions for improvement included: improved signage, more regular trail maintenance, natural area protection and cooperation between community groups and the City in the maintenance of park features. People were happy with many of the existing features in the park and provided suggestions on ways to celebrate the park's history and identity, including through the development of public art projects.

In the future...

“ I would like to see mural on wall under Dawson Bridge to commemorate area history. ”

External Stakeholder Workshop

12 Participants

An evening of focused discussion and workshop activities for external stakeholders took place on Tuesday September 13 from 5–7pm in the gymnasium of the Alex Taylor School (E4C).

Stakeholders were asked to send one or two representatives from their group to attend. Invited groups included:

- » Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association
- » Bellevue Community League
- » Ben Calf Robe Society
- » Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society
- » Boyle Street Community League
- » Braemer School (Terra Centre Edmonton)
- » Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
- » Catholic Social Services – Katherine Drexal Place Apartments
- » Concordia University
- » Conseil Scolaire Centre-Nord
- » Distinctive Employment Counselling Services of Alberta
- » Edmonton Catholic School District
- » Edmonton Area Land Trust
- » Edmonton Bike Commuters Society
- » Edmonton Dragon Boat Racing Club
- » Edmonton Heritage Council
- » Edmonton Mountain Bike Alliance (EMBA)
- » Edmonton Native Plant Group
- » Edmonton Nature Club
- » Edmonton Nordic Ski Club
- » Edmonton Public School Board
- » Federation of Alberta Naturalists
- » Friends of Kinnaird Ravine
- » Highlands Golf Course
- » McCauley Community League
- » North Saskatchewan River Valley Conservation Society
- » North Saskatchewan Riverkeeper
- » North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance
- » Parkdale/Cromdale Community League
- » River Watch
- » Riverdale Community League
- » Sierra Club Canada
- » Sierra Club Prairie
- » Social Service Agencies
 - » Boyle Street Community Services
 - » Hope Mission
 - » Bissell Centre
 - » REACH Edmonton Council for Safe Communities
 - » Homeward Trust Edmonton
 - » Mustard Seed
 - » Little Flower School
 - » E4C
 - » iHuman Youth Society
 - » Ambrose Place
 - » Inner City Housing
 - » Operation Friendship
- » The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 178
- » Trails Paths & Routes Advisory Committee
- » Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Edmonton

In the future I would like...

“ Increase accessibility and meet the needs of low income people, including homeless. ”

Representatives from the following organizations attended:

- » Catholic Social Services
- » Centre for Spiritual Living Edmonton
- » Dawson Dog Walkers
- » E4C
- » Edmonton Mountain Bike Alliance (EMBA)
- » Friends of Kinnaird Ravine
- » River Watch
- » Sierra Club Canada

The format of the evening included two components:

- » Workshop activities
- » Focused conversations around specific opportunities and constraints in Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine

Comments were recorded by participants and moderators on sticky notes and index cards, and in moderator notebooks.

The diverse complement of interests represented by the external stakeholders who attended the workshop resulted in a broad spectrum of strategic insights:

- » The needs and desires of a wide-range of user groups was discussed, including the people with low income within the park and in the surrounding neighbourhoods.
- » Universal design was presented as a strategy that would facilitate an improved park experience that would be inherently accessible to all — seniors and people of all abilities.
- » In addition to physical health benefits, attendees discussed how a better park could positively impact the mental and emotional health of visitors.
- » We heard that ecological restoration would be a costly and time intensive process, but that it has potential to create very positive environmental impacts in the region.

Representatives from each of the external stakeholder groups in attendance also shared their personal experiences in the park, including their desire for a greater feeling of safety and continued enjoyment, especially for mountain biking and off-leash dog-walking.

External Stakeholder Toolkits

A take-home information package and survey was made available for stakeholder groups who were unable to attend the stakeholder session in person. A large map of the project area, small-scale information boards and survey were included in the toolkit.

The survey asked participants to provide feedback on the information that was presented at the Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine Master Plan open house and stakeholder session. Toolkits were sent out after the open house sessions and the City of Edmonton is in the process of gathering this feedback. When all of the feedback is collected and recorded, it will become an appendix to this document.

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



Internal Stakeholder Session

29 attendees

The Internal Stakeholder Session took place from 10am-3pm on Wednesday September 14, 2016 at the Commonwealth Community Recreation Centre. The drop-in style, open house event provided an opportunity for City of Edmonton employees to view the presentation boards and speak to members of the project team about specific opportunities and constraints for Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine.

We received feedback on park maintenance, operations, technical information, drainage issues, usage trends, public amenities, park user trends and community development in the area. We recorded comments on sticky notes and took detailed notes during the session. Attendees were from the following City departments:

- » Citizen Services, Urban Forestry
- » Citizen Services, Beautification and Greening Initiatives
- » Citizen Services, Community and Recreation Facilities, River Valley Parks and Facilities
- » Citizen Services, Community and Recreation Facilities, Civic Events and Partnerships
- » Citizen Services, Neighbourhoods Branch
- » Citizen Services, Family and Community Supports
- » Sustainable Development, City Planning, Parks & Biodiversity
- » Sustainable Development, City Planning, Planning and Design
- » Sustainable Development, City Planning, Drainage Planning
- » City Operations, Building and Parks Operations
- » Integrated Infrastructure Services, Facility and Landscape Infrastructure, Program and Project Development
- » Integrated Infrastructure Services, Facility and Landscape Infrastructure, Facility Maintenance Services
- » Integrated Infrastructure Services, Facility and Landscape Infrastructure, Project Review Team
- » Edmonton Police Services

Feedback from this event will be used to inform and determine the feasibility of future recommendations and concept design strategies.

What did we learn?

We collected feedback surveys at the open house and external stakeholder session. The feedback we received was very positive overall. The City advertised these events in a few different ways (for example, on the project website and with mail-out flyers), and community groups helped to spread the word. People appreciated having multiple platforms (on-line, in the mail and in person) to hear about the events and contribute their input. We heard that, overall, people felt like their views were heard and the material presented showed the important aspects of the park.

We also heard that it was not entirely clear how we will be using the feedback we received in the next phase or what the next steps are for those wanting to stay involved. We will work to improve on this process in the next project phases.

Phase 1: What We Heard

From the various engagement techniques, a total of 1170 comments were received. These qualitative responses were analyzed using an in-depth insight analysis process.

We received 1170 comments as a result of the Phase 1 engagement. Feedback provided insight into the history of the park and activities that occur within Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine. Speaking with and engaging the public helped us develop a clearer and more accurate understanding of the identity and functions of the area, especially regarding the role of the various past land uses of the park in shaping the landscape to be what it is today.

How did we analyze the feedback?

Responses were analyzed with the goal of uncovering emerging themes, outlying ideas and points of contention. To start the analysis, responses were individually analyzed for sentiments and actionable recommendations. As this analysis progressed, similar ideas, points of contention, themes and outliers emerged. These were grouped, then further grouped, resulting in five main themes. Comment counts by theme add up to more than the grand total because comments that touched on several themes were assigned to multiple categories.

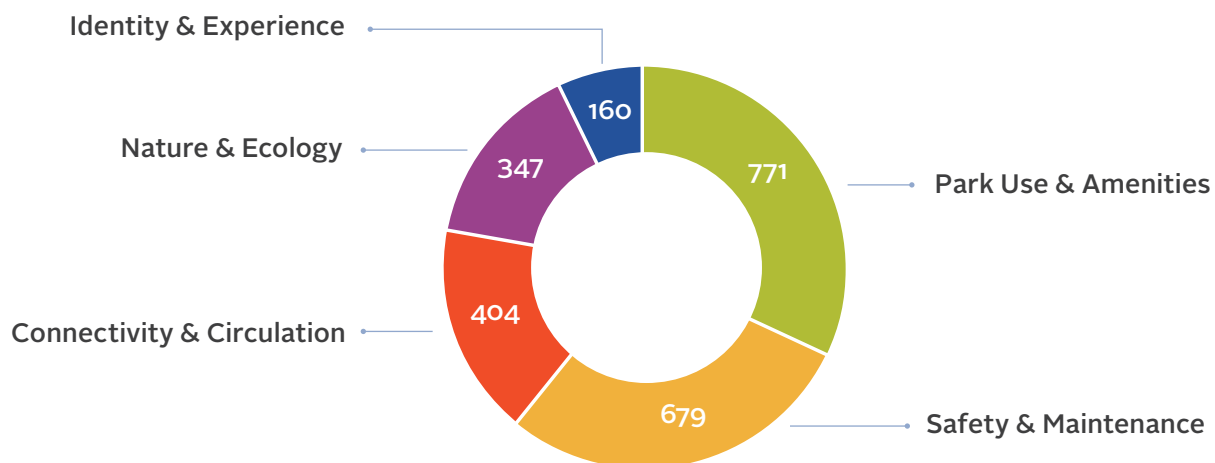
Comments from each engagement session during Phase 1 (sounding boards, open house, external stakeholder workshop and online mapping tool) were counted and summarized into themes.* All opinions will contribute to the creation of a comprehensive Master Plan.

What were the results?

The five themes, listed in order of most to least comment frequency, are:

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

A description of the feedback received under each theme has been provided in this section. Conflicting comments provide direction into areas that require further or closer study. The five themes and their subthemes create a basis for the park vision, as well as direction for the next stages of the project.



* Individual comments may appear in multiple themes.



Theme #1: Park Use and Amenities

771 comments

People who use Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine are passionate about making sure that the park remains a place that many people can enjoy for years to come. The largest proportion of comments received during the first round of engagement related to park use and amenities because the main questions were centred around this theme. Amenities are physical features in the park that provide a service to park users. For example, benches, washrooms, picnic areas and tree shade can all be considered amenities.

We heard that the most popular activities in the park include:

- » Off-leash dog walking,
- » Walking,
- » Mountain biking,
- » Cycling and
- » Running.

People requested improvements to facilities to enhance the park user experience for existing activities, such as bike racks/locks, more safe washrooms and better drinking fountains. There is a desire for several other activities to occur within the park, including boating, playgrounds, natural play and cross country skiing, among others. People also reported enjoying the time spent with family and friends in the park, and the opportunities to meet new people.

Participants mentioned noticing some conflicting use of the trails by different park visitors. Dogs (on- and off-leash), mountain bikers, cyclists and pedestrians all share the trails in Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine. People expressed concern about possible collisions and the need for all trail users to follow the rules. Participants suggested that signs and public education on proper trail use could be a part of the solution to this problem.

Current Park Use and Observations:

Walking / hiking	72
Dog walking	59
Sharing park amenities and trails with many types of park users	45
Running	42
Enjoying the existing park features (trails, pavilion, washrooms)	42
Mountain biking	35
Cycling	28
Meeting and gathering with people	18
Bird watching	7
Pokemon Go	6
Orienteering	4
Fishing	3
Photography	2
Have fun!	1

Future Desires for the Park:

<u>Improve access to the river</u>	63
<u>Reduce conflict in trail use</u>	52
<u>Create a playground / natural play opportunities</u>	43
<u>Develop winter activities in the park (e.g. cross-country skiing)</u>	38
<u>Dog walking / off-leash dog areas</u>	36
<u>Improved amenities and opportunities for picnics</u>	35
<u>Walking / hiking</u>	23
<u>Seasonal food production / service</u>	20
<u>Boating / boat amenities (such as boat storage and launch points for non-motorized watercraft)</u>	20
<u>Mountain biking</u>	18
<u>Improvements to existing amenities (such as washrooms, benches and tables)</u>	15
<u>No off-leash in the park</u>	12
<u>Cycling</u>	11
<u>Areas for camping</u>	8
<u>Water sports</u>	7
<u>No pool or water feature</u>	6
<u>No mountain bikes in the park</u>	5
<u>Climbing / scrambling / bouldering</u>	4
<u>Outdoor shelter</u>	4
<u>Drinking fountain</u>	2
<u>Slack lines</u>	1
<u>Stairs for training</u>	1



Theme #2: Safety and Maintenance

619 comments

Some participants said that they felt very safe when they visit the park, while others shared their concerns over physical hazards as well as a feeling of being unsafe within the park. Overall, people would like to see more regular maintenance and repair of trails and park amenities, such as the pavilion, washrooms and benches. There is interest from community groups to partner with the City to help keep the park safe and maintained. Signage improvements are desired for emergency use and wayfinding.

Safety of park users on trails and at park entrances was a topic that was brought up by several participants. Suggested solutions included addressing homelessness in the park, increasing lighting at park entrances, managing the vegetation to increase sight lines, improving signage to help people navigate the park and maintaining the trails themselves. Some of these solutions conflict with the public's desire to keep the park natural, and should be further investigated.

Current observations:

Mountain bikers attend to the maintenance of many natural trails in the park

34

Future desires for the maintenance and park safety:

Increase trail maintenance and upkeep	126
Clean up garbage in the park	99
Address and reduce occurrence of homeless camps	65
Increase signage on natural trails	60
Reduce crime	43
Ensure the safety of people using the trails	42
Increase safety and maintenance of pavilion / washrooms	32
Increase lighting	29
Control erosion on steep slopes and the river bank	26
Increase safety of access points into the park	25
Increase the effectiveness of emergency response (including access into the park and wayfinding)	20
Create a sustainable maintenance plan for the park	20
Address specific safety concerns that were noted	18
Remediate vegetation	18
Reduce light pollution	8
Mitigate flooding risks	7
Reduce fire risks	4
Increase visibility	3



Theme #3: Connectivity and Circulation

404 comments

Connectivity refers to the physical connections (on trails, pathways, sidewalks, stairs, roads, parking, etc.) from Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine into surrounding neighbourhoods as well as other parks within the River Valley. An important factor of park circulation is also the condition of trails and signage in the park.

We heard that the park is both a community destination and thoroughfare for commuters. People want improved and barrier-free connections into the neighbouring communities and adjacent parks, creating more opportunities to experience Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine. People often suggested locations for new or improved access points along Jasper Avenue, including under the Latta Bridge. While people use all types of trails in Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine, the natural trails seem to be especially valued by many types of users, including mountain bikers, hikers and dog-walkers.

Current Park Use and Observations:

Enjoy using the natural trails (for mountain biking, walking, hiking) 21

Enjoy the Braille Trail 1

Future Desires for the Park:

Keep the natural trails	77
Improve connections to adjacent communities and parks	63
Signage and wayfinding improvements	58
Signage and education on trail rules	30
Increase access along Jasper Avenue	28
Replacement natural trails for Cromdale trail widening	26
Improve cycling connection to Dawson Bridge	21
Create more trails	18
Barrier-free / accessible park entrances, paths and amenities	10
Enhance parking for more / varied use	9
Create a new pedestrian bridge	7
Improve transit access to the park	6
Other	23

For example: Create trail loops, No trail widening, Improve pedestrian crossing at Capilano bridge, Don't add more parking, Widen bike trails, Create bike only lanes.



Theme #4: Nature and Ecology

347 comments

We heard that it is very important to participants that Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine remain natural. Participants said that they value the natural state of the park, but we heard from some participants that the historical and present-day use of the park has disturbed the landscape to the point that it is no longer in its original ecological state. Participants recognized the high number of invasive plant species in the park, and some want to see them removed and a more stringent maintenance regime put in place. People also value the more heavily vegetated areas of the park because they provide the sense of being in nature and away from the city. For this reason and others, large infrastructure, commercial or development projects are not desired for the park.

We asked the public to tell us about wildlife they have seen in the park, and we got an extensive list! Below are the birds and animals that participants have seen in Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine:

- » Rabbits
- » Pileated Woodpeckers
- » Downy Woodpecker
- » Yellow Shafted Northern Flicker
- » American White Pelican
- » Blue Heron
- » Garter Snakes
- » Moose
- » Porcupine
- » Deer
- » Coyote
- » Hawk
- » Owl
- » Rabbits
- » Bald eagle
- » Beaver
- » Bear
- » Mosquitoes
- » Owls
- » Hares
- » Variety of birds
- » Woodpecker

Current Park Use and Observations:

Value the natural state of the park	117
Animals (see list to the left)	100
Value the forested areas of the park	34

Future Desires for the Park:

Keep Kinnaird Ravine Natural	43
Avoid large or damaging development	35
Keep it the same	27
Control the invasive species	21
Control vehicle access into the River Valley	17
Sustainable management practices	14
Protect the hoodoos	10
Ecological restoration	9
Reduce noise	7
Create an arboretum in Kinnaird Ravine	6
Others	8

For example: Clean up the shoreline, Protect wildlife, and Maintain an ecological link



Theme #5: Identity & Experience

160 comments

Many people wanted to share their experiences in the park and what it feels like to visit Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine during the engagement sessions. The park has many valued features, including the hoodoos, varied topography, nature, public art and a rich history, that help to create a unique sense of place and identity for the park. Some of the most popular activities mentioned included enjoying the views and experiencing nature.

Public art projects, such as the mural project in Kinnaird Ravine, help the community connect with the landscape. We heard that people want more art projects like this, as well as historical and ecological interpretation about the park.

Current Park Use and Observations:

Enjoying the views into the valley	24
Feeling of being away from the city	16
Enjoying nature	13
Participating in community stewardship of the park	13
Enjoying artwork	7
Experiencing solitude	4

Future Desires for the Park:

Historical interpretation	42
Public art	21
Ecological interpretation	17
Mix of manicured and natural areas	3

“My favourite thing to do in this park is...”

Walk my dog off leash early and watch sunrise. Keep River Valley natural!

Park is key connector

Walking, snowshoeing or cross country skiing here in winter is beautiful!

Kinnaird Ravine is a jewel in the city – escape for the city

*Walking/biking with our dog off leash.
Stopping for a snack.
Playing in the big trees.*

Spend time walking with mom!

Dragon boating in the summer

*Love the informal trails!
Leave them as they are*

Going for walks, runs and cycling on this path would be great without having to worry about dogs running out at you

The link that this park has to other great parks and the river valley

I really enjoyed the single track trail prior to it being removed and widened. It was a great place to be able to mountain bike and have my dog with me. There are very few locations that is able to be done.

The park is mainly used as connector between downtown and Rundle and Capilano

“In the future, I would like...”

Historical signage

Safer route to LRT station

Leave it alone. This is a great space. I run here and my dog loves it here.

Address issue of homeless living in parkland – year round cleaning of park

Contribute the revitalization of surrounding area with provision of access by people living in Parkdale, McCauley, Boyle Street, Virginia Park, Highlands

Have it meet everyone’s needs increase ability to use and enjoy

Increase accessibility and meet the needs of low income including homeless

Better wayfinding for all trails: paved, gravel, natural

Uninterrupted natural ribbon from end-to-end in river valley

Access for all people – wheelchairs

Increasing population

Why can’t our parks be a park system? Better connected better signed?

Keep as off-leash park but improve signage

Remove caragana

Build more access stairways down

Going Forward

Thank you for sharing your ideas with us during this first phase of engagement! Moving forward, your input will be used to shaped the draft Vision, Principles and Identity of the park. In January 2017, the City will host engagement sessions to see what you think about the proposed direction.

Edmontonians who participated in the first phase of engagement have shared their opinions, dreams and wishes for the future of Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine — giving the City of Edmonton clear direction for moving forward.

Some topics of conversation came up frequently, but we also heard many unique, outlying comments; both types of comments provided direction on key issues that need to be considered as part of the Master Plan.

Based on what we heard in Phase 1 of engagement, we have summarized the participants' main values and wishes as presented in this section. These values will be used to inform the development of the Vision, Principles and Identity of the park. In the next phase of engagement, participants will be provided with an opportunity to provide feedback on these new ideas and materials in January 2017.

Values

Participants said they appreciate that Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine have space for so many different activities, including dog-walking, cycling, running and boating. However, sometimes there is conflict between different users wanting to use the same trails or amenities. Many people discussed the need to **reduce user conflict** so that the park may be used safely and enjoyably by all. Recommendations for park activities and amenities were closely related to the natural landscape and natural features within the park.

Participants brought up several health and safety hazards within the park. There is a desire to **increase the feeling of safety** and decrease the risk of harm in Dawson Park and

Kinnaird Ravine. We received suggestions for improvements to physical infrastructure to increase the level of safety. We heard that societal issues, such as homelessness, are creating safety concerns for those living in, around and those visiting the park. Throughout the engagement sessions, participants requested action to reduce the occurrence of homeless camps within the park.

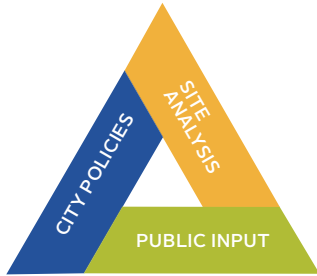
Participants value the opportunities to **access the river** that the park provides, and would like to see more opportunities to safely descend the banks to the river. We also heard that **universal accessibility** (design of spaces that are inherently accessible to everyone — seniors, people without disabilities and people with disabilities) into the park from surrounding communities is important. The park is a connector within the River Valley and participants want to see **greater connections with the adjacent parks and neighbourhoods**.

We heard that the park provides environmental and social benefits as a natural area within the city. The majority of participants want **minimal development** in the River Valley to help retain the sense of nature. This aligns with the City of Edmonton's policies on development in the River Valley. Participants value being able to **escape the city** and want to keep garbage, pollution and noise out of the park.

The sense of **pride and community stewardship** towards the park was clearly evident during the engagement sessions. We heard that participants want to build upon **community talents and strengths** to add to an even greater experience within the park, such as community clean-ups and public art projects. They value the **social interactions and gatherings** that happen in the park and want to ensure that the park continues to provide a safe and enjoyable atmosphere to spend time with family and friends (including four-legged friends!).

Building On What We Heard

The project comprises three decision-making components: the public's needs and desires, technical recommendations (including environmental opportunities and constraints) and City policies and priorities. Together, these inputs steer the project direction.



What we heard during phase one, including the five themes and the values that emerged, along with the identified City priorities and Inventory & Analysis research, informs the development of the next set of deliverables.

Phase 2: Vision, Principles & Identity

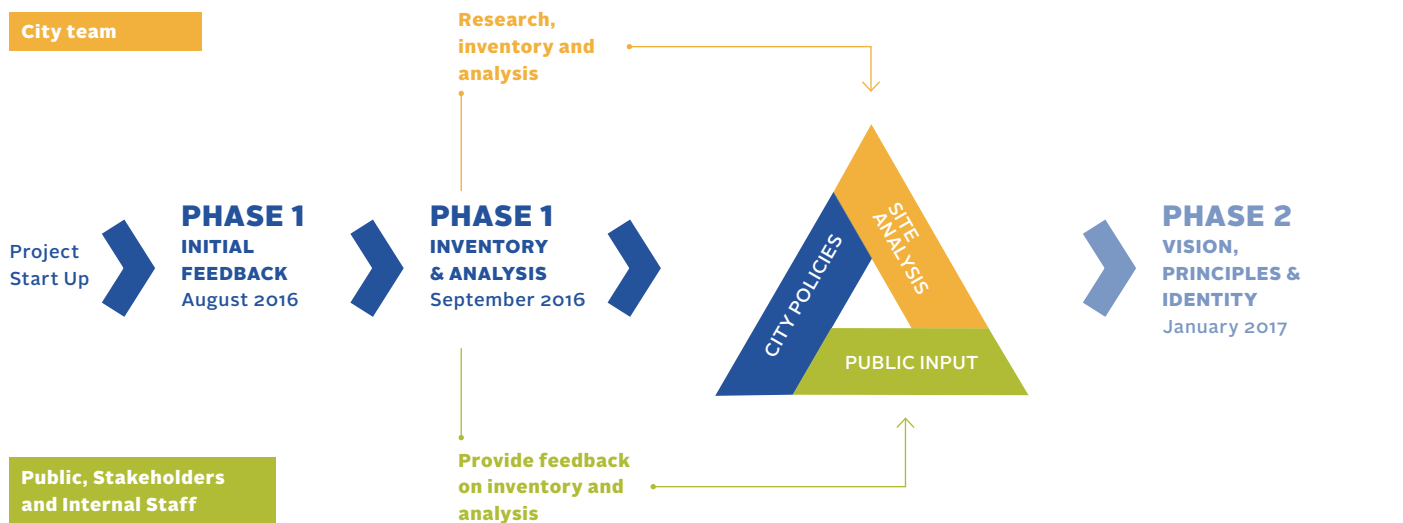
During Phase 2 of engagement, the City will organize a series of engagement opportunities, similar in format to Phase 1. Opportunities for engagement will include an open house, an External Stakeholder workshop, an Internal Stakeholder session and online consultation. Material presented will include:

- » Project summary and progress updates
- » Summary of themes and values heard during Phase 1
- » Opportunities and constraints that will inform park design
- » Visual precedents of park features, activities and programs
- » Engagement technique that guides the development of a vision statement

Stay connected for upcoming engagement opportunities: edmonton.ca/dawsonparkmasterplan

Discover

Develop



Phase 1 Inputs and Results

Site Inventory and Analysis material was presented to all stakeholders and the public. What We Heard during the first phase of engagement, along with our site analysis, discovered opportunities and constraints and City priorities, will support the development of the Vision and Principles. This material will be presented to the public during Phase 2 of engagement.

