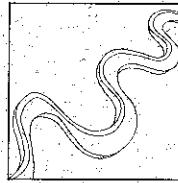


CHAPTER V



Financing and Phasing

THIS chapter contains a review of potential funding sources for the North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System Concept Plan. These potential sources must be examined further at the Master Plan stage to prove their feasibility. This chapter outlines a proposed land acquisition strategy and recommends four criteria for prioritizing projects for construction.



A. FUNDING SOURCES

A brief description of each potential funding source follows.

1. URBAN PARK PROGRAM PHASE II GRANT

Edmonton is eligible for \$15 million in funding through this program extending to March 31, 1999. These funds may be used for planning, design, construction and land acquisition purposes connected with the Plan.

2. TOURISM GRANTS

Tourism grants and tourism industry funding should be vigorously sought for appropriate projects within the river valley and ravine system. Edmonton Parks and Recreation and the Edmonton Tourism and Convention authority should work hand in hand to identify projects which mutually address tourism objectives and river valley planning goals. In particular, development of facilities at the Valley Zoo, Fort Edmonton Park and Muttart Conservatory, which already are strong tourism attractors, should be a focus of this funding. The natural environment of Edmonton's river valley is also recognized for its tourism potential and projects for trail or park development could also be considered for tourism funding.

3. PARKLAND PURCHASE RESERVE ACCOUNT (P.P.R.A.)

The P.P.R.A. receives funding from sales of surplus parks properties. These include some residential and all industrial lands. Revenues from lease or rental of properties also accrue to this fund. This fund presently finances some \$2 million in capital projects and land acquisition for Parks and Recreation annually. It is proposed that a sum of \$2 million per year be targeted to river valley and ravine development beginning in 1992.

4. GENERAL FINANCING

It is proposed that the City fund river valley and ravine projects directly from its pay-as-you-go sources in the amount of \$2 million annually beginning in 1994.

5. OTHER PROJECTS OF THE CITY

A number of City projects relate to or will affect the river valley and ravine system. These are described in Chapter II, Section A. These projects may provide opportunities to build on work identified and funded by other City Departments. Noteworthy examples include the Rossdale Water Intake Relocation, West LRT extension and Clover Bar Landfill Restoration projects. It is proposed that these projects be examined with respect to river valley planning goals and that relevant aspects of the projects be dovetailed. If the river valley route for the Rossdale Water Intake is selected potential exists to develop trails over the water line from Terwillegar Park to Groat Bridge. Cost-sharing of river crossings should also be examined at the Preliminary Design Phase. Some land easement requirements would also serve both projects. One alternative route for a West LRT line would require a river crossing in the vicinity of the Whitemud pedestrian/streetcar bridge and may provide mutual benefits. The City is required to reclaim the Clover Bar Landfill Site upon closure. This work is financed through Environmental Services and is tentatively scheduled for 1993/1994, although this may be delayed.

6. COMMUNITY AND PRIVATE SECTOR FUNDING

Community groups and organizations such as the community leagues, area councils and recreation organizations have repeatedly demonstrated their ability and interest in funding projects of benefit to the quality of life in Edmonton. Recreation groups should be encouraged to support projects financially. Recreation facility or amenity development, portions of park development and community access trails are some aspects of development which may be targeted for community funding. Developer financing of top-of-bank walks is required by the city and many developers have supported park development projects which benefit their lands. This thinking may be extended to projects within the scope of the river valley and ravine plan. Untapped potential exists to incorporate private sector funding. These could include concession development or facility development funding and corporate sponsorships of projects such as bridges and amenity buildings.

Potential Funding Sources and Phasing (in \$'000's)
(Figures are not inflated)

* represents Clover Bar Landfill reclamation only

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Year	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	Total
1. Urban Parks Grant	0	600	400	2000	2500	3200	3150	2000	750	400	15000
2. Parkland Purchase Reserve	0	0	0	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	14000
3. Tourism	0	0	0	1500	2000	2000	2000	1500	1500	1500	12000
4. General Financing	0	0	0	0	0	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	10000
5. Other Projects	0	0	0	0	3000	3000	0	0	0	0	6000*
6. Community & Private Funding	0	0	0	850	850	850	850	850	850	850	5450
7. Grants	0	0	0	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	1750
Totals	0	600	400	6100	10600	13300	10250	8600	7350	7000	64200

Figure 6

7. GRANTS

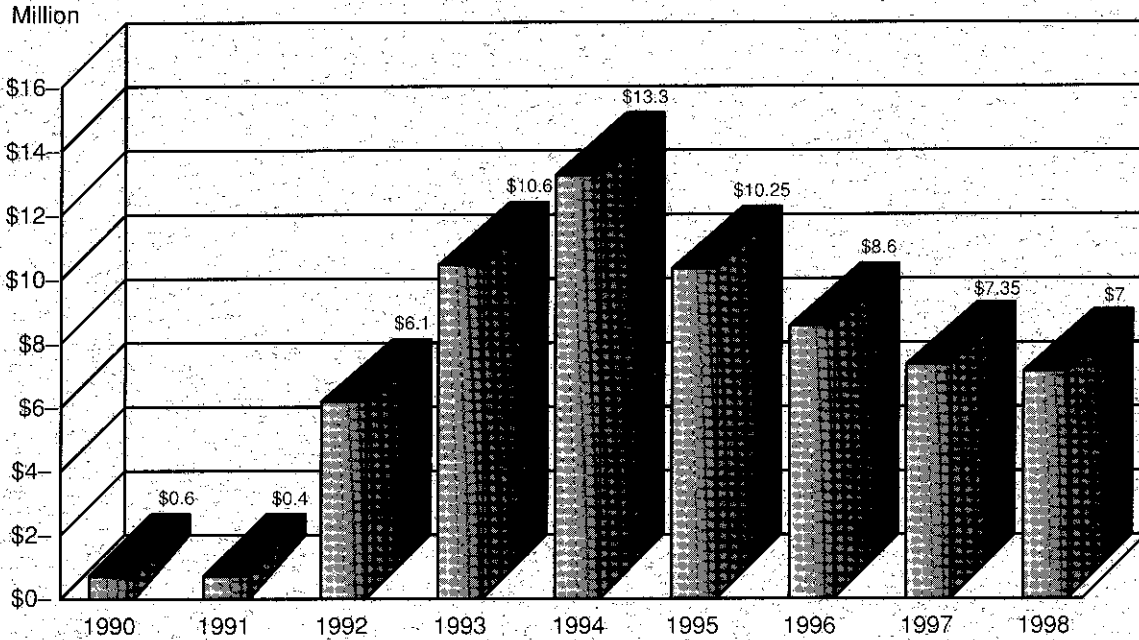
Provincial and Federal grants may be fruitful sources of financing for river valley and ravine projects. These funding sources should be vigorously sought for appropriate projects. Grants related to environmental restoration and conservation and employment grants should be particularly targeted.

Figures 6 and 7 show a potential financing scheme for the Concept Plan through 1999. These funding sources should be further assessed to determine their feasibility and confirm funding targets in the Master Plan phase at the same time program statement and costs are being refined.

POTENTIAL FUNDING - figures not inflated

FUNDING PHASING

1990 - 1998



FUNDING SOURCES

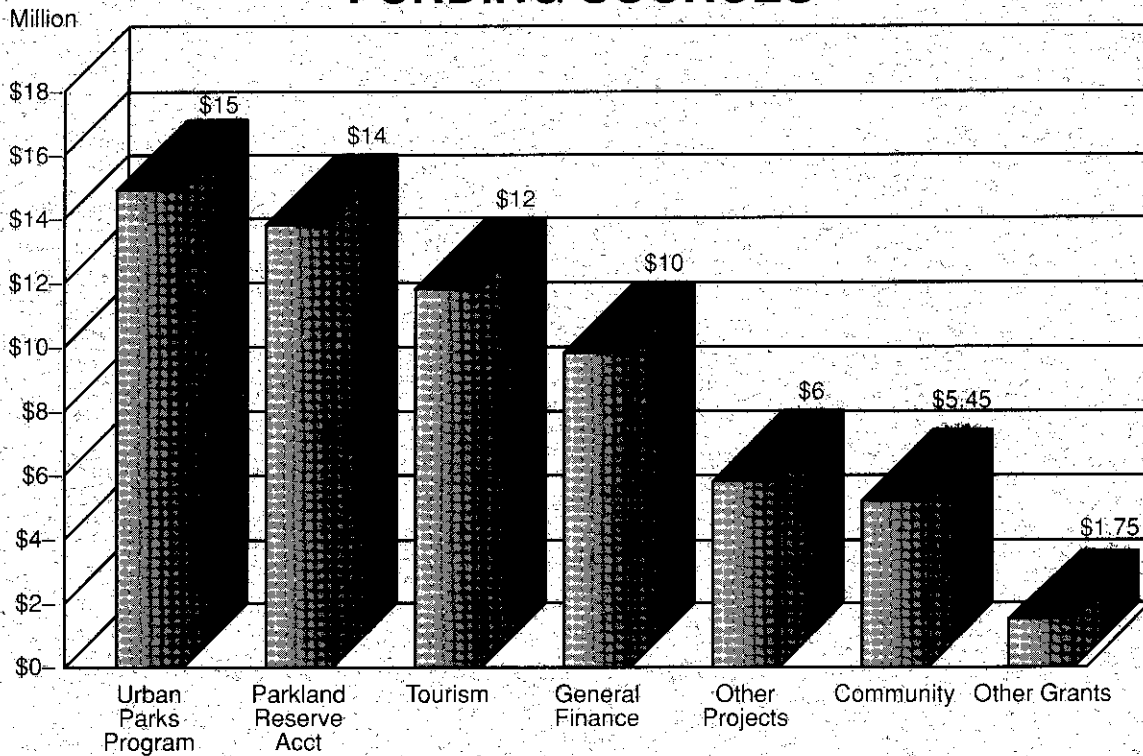


Figure 7

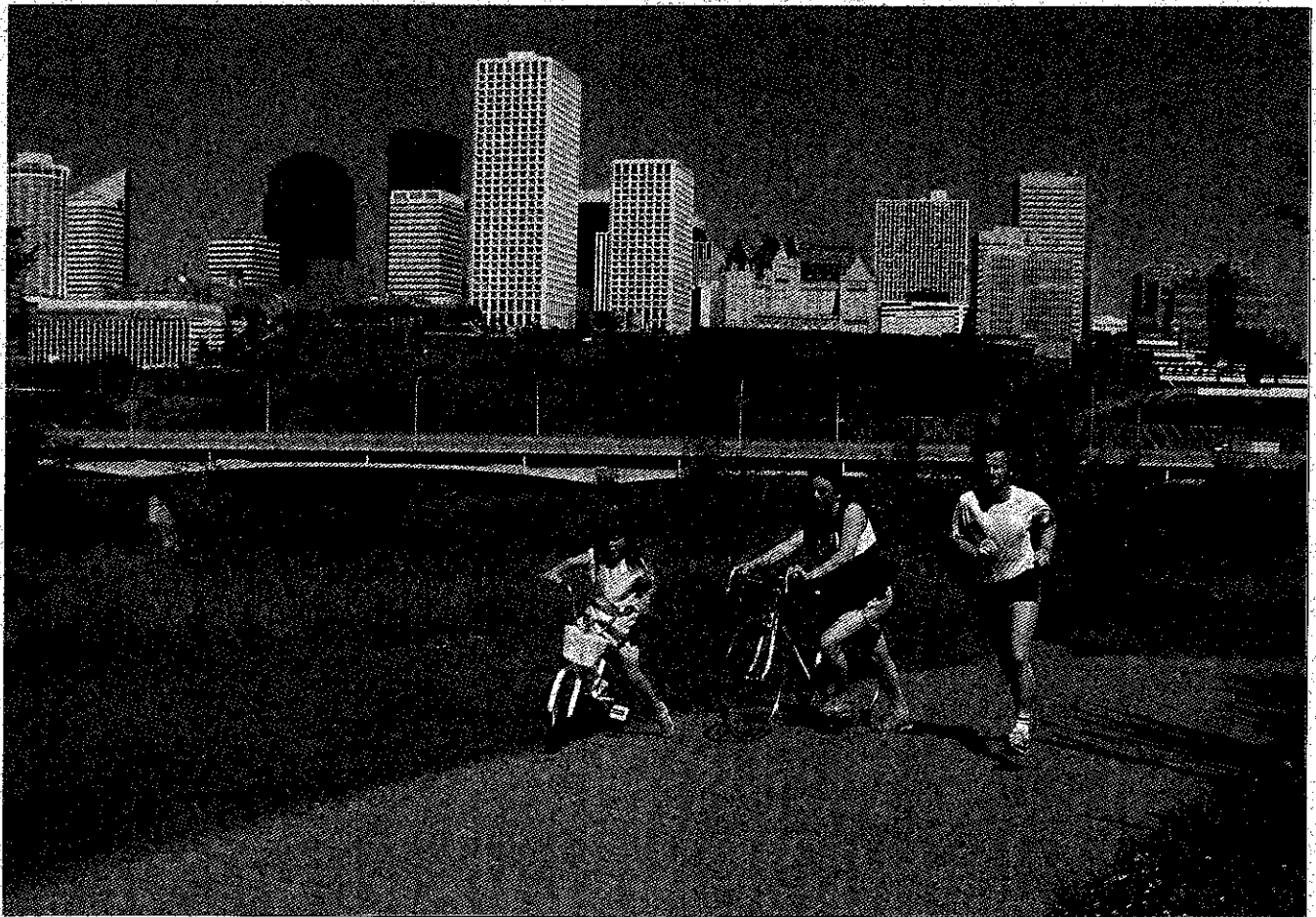
B. LAND ACQUISITION STRATEGY

Land acquisition strategy should recognize the eventual acquisition of areas of the river valley and ravine system adjacent to undeveloped land through Reserves. Land which is required before adjacent development occurs should be approached in these ways:

1. Secure long-term easements required at nominal values recognizing eventual requirement for provision of Environmental and Municipal Reserves upon subdivision.

2. Purchase of permanent easements for required lands which are unlikely to subdivide because of their size or location.
3. Negotiate with the Provincial Government for transfer of lands within their ownership in the river valley and ravine system at nominal values.
4. Outright purchase of properties as a final resort.

Appendix 2 illustrates land ownership within the study area.



C. CRITERIA FOR PRIORITIES

The underlying assumption of the phasing and financing proposals is that the entire system proposed will be built. The goal for financing is to identify means sufficient to provide funds for the entire system. The goal in establishing criteria for priorities is to develop an appropriate sequence for carrying out the work.

The City of Edmonton and the Parks and Recreation Department each employ a capital project priorities system which is applied to all projects.

Several priorities are relevant to the North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System Concept Plan.

Categories 3, 5 and 6 are most likely to be applicable to park and trail development projects in the North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System Concept Plan.

Parks & Recreation Department Criteria	Effect on Concept Plan
1. Council commitment.	1. Not applicable.
2. Conservation of existing assets.	2. May be applicable to facilities existing in river valley.
3. Collaborative projects.	3. Applicable to specific projects which may have community or group support, grants, private contributions or cost share with other City projects.
4. Optimizing operations of existing assets.	4. May be applicable to existing facilities within the plan area.
5. Extending fundamental services to unserved areas.	5. Applicable to basic works in areas of the river valley and ravines not formally developed.
6. Projects benefitting local economy.	6. May apply to projects supporting economic development or tourism strategies or those generally adding to quality of life.

Corporate priority criteria are imposed upon the ranked priorities of City departments to ensure most important works are financed throughout the Corporation.

Corporate priority categories relevant to North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine projects are (in rank order).

- #240 economic development and promotion.
- #270 support of human and social environment - City wide.
- #390 support of human and social environment - enhanced level of service/new service.

The following criteria derived from the Departmental and Corporate prioritization systems are recommended. They are presented in order of importance. However, it is intended that they be viewed

holistically so that projects which best address the group of criteria overall would be selected over those which address only one.

1. Priority should be given to extending the system logically, tying into existing trail systems, city-wide facilities and adjacent neighbourhoods along the route.
2. Priority should be given to areas of population not presently served by formal river valley and ravine trails and facilities.
3. Priority should be given to portions of the overall plan which show cost - sharing benefits through other City projects or through alternative sources of financing (community, private sector, grants, etc.).
4. Priority should be given to projects in areas where land is in City ownership.