

HERITAGE INTERPRETIVE PLAN

RIVER CROSSING

VISIONING WORKSHOP

SEPTEMBER 7, 2016

STANLEY MILNER PUBLIC LIBRARY

6PM – 9PM

The logo for the City of Edmonton, featuring the word "Edmonton" in white lowercase letters on a dark blue square background.

Edmonton

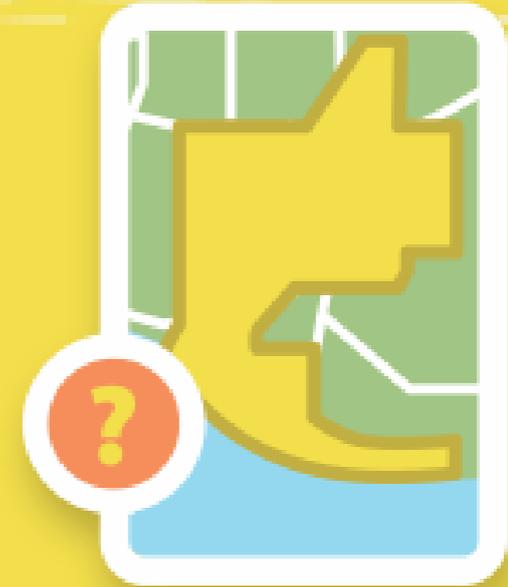
This presentation was originally used on September 7, 2016 at a visioning workshop for the River Crossing Heritage Interpretive Plan. This online version has been re-formatted to include text that makes it easier to follow for people who were not able to attend the event.

At the in-person workshop participants were asked to share their ideas in response to questions posed, first in small table groups, and later with all participants. We were not looking for experts, we were looking for perspectives. When you review this presentation and consider the questions it asks, don't worry about right and wrong ideas; we just want to hear what you think.

Ultimately, this workshop was to answer one big question:
What should people understand about the heritage and culture of the area after they visit River Crossing?

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

About River Crossing

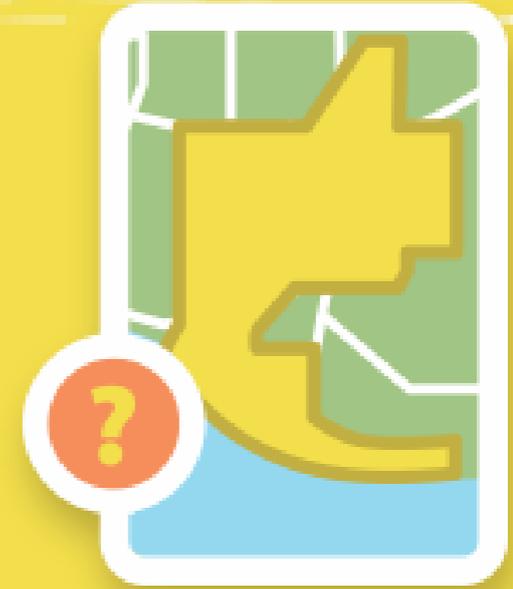


River Crossing (or West Rossdale) has a heritage that is marked by several eras and story lines, including thousands of years of traditional use by Indigenous peoples, fur trading and other activities associated with Fort Edmonton, the inauguration of the Province of Alberta, and over a century of economic, recreational, and industrial activity.

Over the last ten years, the City has undertaken various studies, planning and construction activities in and around River Crossing, including:

- The West Rossdale Urban Design Plan
- The Views and Perspectives on the Rossdale Generating Station
- Stabilization work on the Generating Station
- Construction of a new Walterdale Bridge
- Designation of the Fort Edmonton cemetery
- Planning for a public promenade along the northern bank of the North Saskatchewan River.

PROJECT OVERVIEW: About River Crossing



Last year, Edmonton City Council asked the Administration to pull efforts and conversations about different elements of the area together, and to look holistically at how to create a really great community and place in River Crossing that celebrates its rich history. This request was made with the understanding that this place is special, is historically significant to who we are as a city, and meaningful to many people and many communities.

The River Crossing team has been asked to develop tools to help determine and guide the future of this area. These tools include:

- A Heritage Interpretive Plan (2016 - early 2017)
- A Business Plan (work to begin early 2017)

We are focusing on heritage first, so that it can be a key element that helps to guide future change in River Crossing.



RIVER CROSSING PROJECT AREA

**LEGISLATURE
BUILDING**

**HBC
STABLES /
ORTONA
ARMOURY**

**DONALD
ROSS
SCHOOL**

**WEST
ROSSDALE**

BALLPARK

**ROSS FLATS
APARTMENTS**

**SOUTH
ROSSDALE**

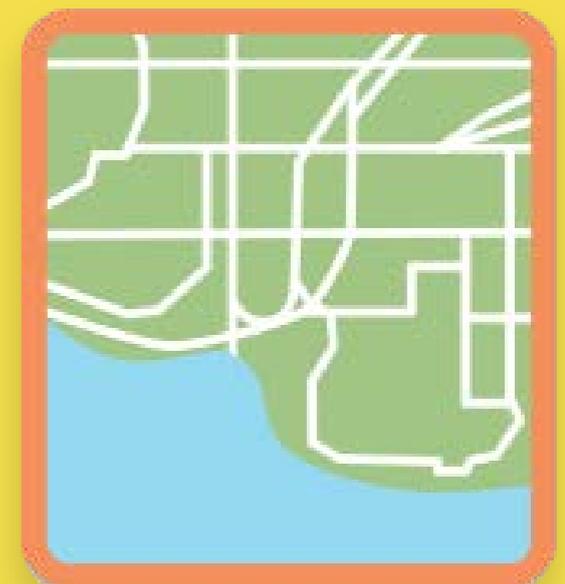
**FORT EDMONTON
CEMETERY /
TRADITIONAL
BURIAL GROUND**

**ROSSDALE
GENERATING
STATION**

**WALTERDALE
BRIDGE**



WHAT WILL THE RIVER CROSSING HERITAGE INTERPRETIVE PLAN BE?



The Heritage Interpretive Plan will answer three main questions.

1. What are the **key stories** about River Crossing?
2. How might we **reflect or translate these stories** on the ground?
3. What are the **tools** that will help ensure that heritage is interpreted with authenticity and with the right people at the table in the future?

The Heritage Interpretive Plan is a starting point.

It will be a **high level guide** that will:

- help us understand the story of River Crossing from different perspectives, and
- provide guidance as to how to tell this story on the ground over time.

These perspectives include those of Edmontonians as well as those of First Nations and Métis peoples with a connection to this area. Some of these connections have not been completely understood in the past.

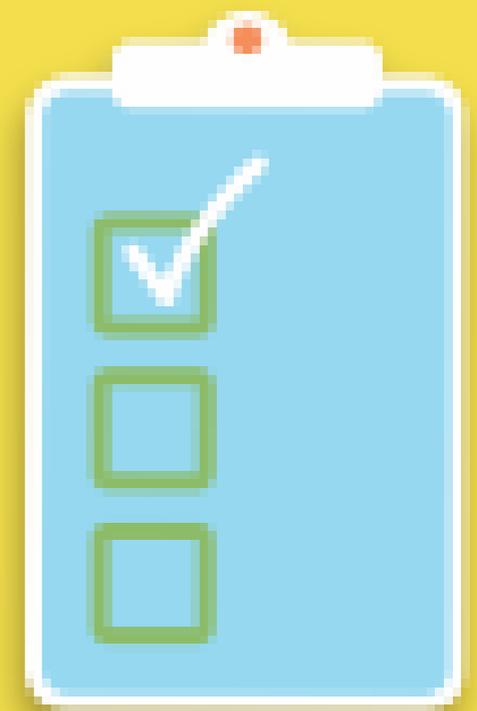
The Heritage Interpretive Plan is a foundational document.

It will determine **how the area's heritage can be celebrated** and honoured. It will not determine what will be built, or where, or when.

It will **guide the development of interpretive content** in the River Crossing area. The plan itself will not develop this content. Content development will occur as part of future activities and on-the-ground projects in the area.

HOW IS THE PLAN BEING DEVELOPED?

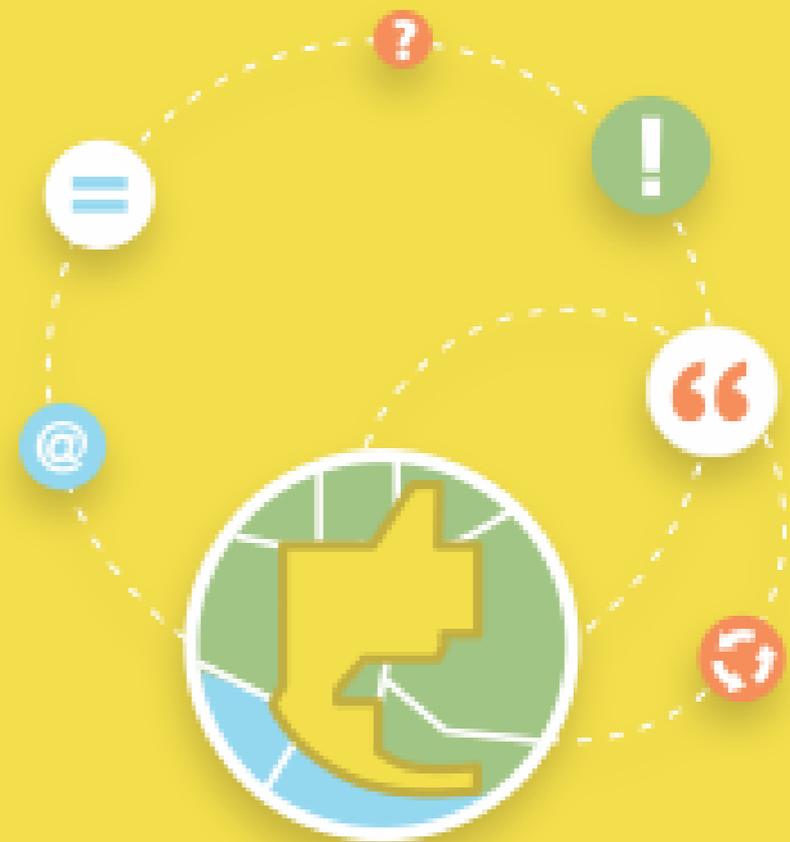
- Background research and early outreach
March 2016 – August 2016
- **Understanding what is important**
September 2016 – November 2016
- Proposing and validating themes
October 2016 – December 2016
- Considering tools for implementation
November 2016 – January 2017
- Drafting and refining the plan
Draft available early 2017



NEXT STEPS AFTER THIS WORKSHOP:

- Proposing themes from information/stories shared
- Validating the facts that support these themes
- Developing the first draft of the interpretive plan

SO WHAT IS AN *INTERPRETIVE PLAN?*



What is an interpretive plan?

Interpretive plans are **the first step in understanding what kinds of stories a place can tell to those who visit.**

They organize these stories into *themes*: a way to focus on stories that connect an audience with a place.

Interpretive planning starts with a question: why is this place important? The answers to this question are the interpretive themes that form the backbone of an interpretive plan. Once the themes are established, the planning process can move on to describing what tools can be used to tell themes' stories: types of media, images, text, built objects or alterations to the landscape.

Interpretation is not about teaching people facts. It's about involving and engaging people, with the aim of causing them to *think* of a place, *see* a place, *understand* a place differently than they did before, and ideally *act* differently - *do* something different than they did before.

The idea is to think about heritage.

Not just protecting old buildings, but integrating heritage into the built environment.

Some possible ways to interpret heritage in a place:

- Activities
- Parks and trails
- Streets and transportation
- Public spaces
- Buildings

WHAT ARE OUR GOALS IN THIS WORKSHOP?



Goals:

- Understand what topics people feel are important.
- What perspectives are we missing?
- Are there myths or assumptions to be challenged?
- How might we tell these stories?

THE BIG QUESTION



What should people understand about the heritage and culture of the area after they visit River Crossing?

A little more context to help you answer:

What people? Residents, neighbours, tourists, your grandchildren, anyone.

Heritage and culture: These are linked. Doesn't just mean "old" things - heritage and culture are about the past, present and future. Creating is as much heritage as preserving.

Understand: Think about a place that you may have only read about, seen in pictures, or movies. Then, you went there. How was your understanding changed? What did the experience of being there change the way you felt about the place?

Possible answers to the big question:

STORIES.

FACTS.

PEOPLE.

PLACES.

ACTIVITIES.

PERSPECTIVES.

Exercise:

As a group, write down topics that you would like to see represented in River Crossing.

Don't worry about the definition of *topic*. It can be broad or narrow. A few words is fine. It can be a fact, a place or an idea. You don't need to know about this topic - it can be something you want to know more about.

Write only one idea per post-it note.

Exercise:

**Can you group these topics
under headings?**

Use the large sticky notes for headings.

Some topics may not fit. Some may fit in a number of places. Worry less about words (words can be worked on later) and more on ideas.

When in doubt, write it down. We're gathering ideas, not making decisions.

edmonton.ca/HeritageInterpretivePlan

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Thank you.