



breathe

EDMONTON'S GREEN NETWORK STRATEGY

Let's Talk Parks Open House

Today's Event Format

Welcome to the open house for BREATHE: Edmonton's Green Network Strategy!

Today you will be participating in the third phase of public engagement for the project. Please take a moment to orient yourself to the different activity centers and opportunities for participation.



VIDEO

Watch the video for an introduction to BREATHE



BOARDS

Each board will help you learn about the project and step you through the different stages that helped us develop the Strategic Directions for planning open space in Edmonton.

If you have questions, look for the Breathe team T-shirts in green!



STICKY NOTES

Ask the Breathe team for a sticky note to provide comments and suggestions about our Strategic Directions directly on the engagement boards. Do you agree they are important? What did we miss?



KIDS TABLE

Kids are welcome to share their input throughout the room, or check out the activities at our Kids Table

What is Breathe?

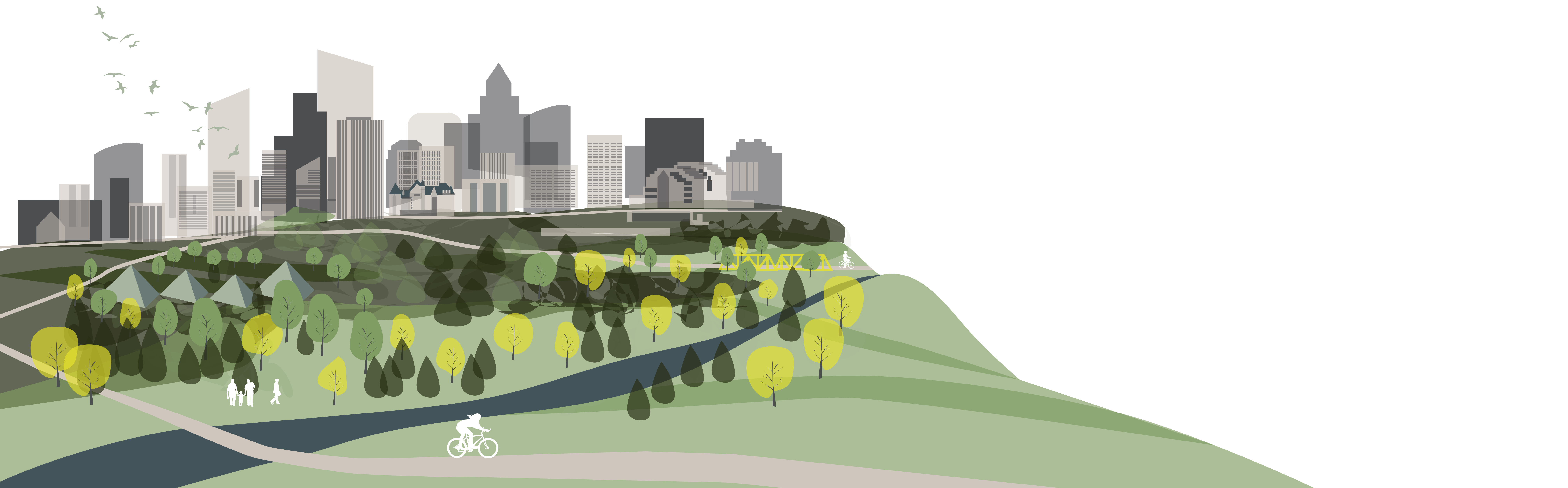
BREATHE: Edmonton's Green Network Strategy

Parks and open spaces are vital to a community's health. These open spaces provide places for people to play, gather, grow food, learn about nature and celebrate.

Because Edmonton Metro is projected to nearly double in population from 1.2 million people to 2.1 million people by 2050, the City has embarked on a process to plan the city's green network to meet the needs of growing communities.

A Multi-Functional Green Network

Edmonton's Green Network Strategy will examine how open space in the City of Edmonton functions as an integrated network of public spaces that provide real, measurable value to Edmontonians. Open spaces contribute to human health and wellness, improve the urban environment, and provide places for people to come together. These contributions are the central themes of the Green Network Strategy, and provide the organizing framework for assessing open space.



What is the goal of the project?

BREATHE is a transformative strategy to make sure that each neighbourhood in Edmonton will be supported by an accessible network of open space as the city grows.

The Green Network Strategy builds on the Urban Parks Management Plan and the Natural Connections Strategic Plan, and aligns with the goals identified in the City's strategic planning documents ("The Ways").

The Green Network Strategy will support the City of Edmonton commitment to:

- Transform Edmonton's urban form
- Enhance the use of public transit and active modes of transportation
- Improve Edmonton's liveability
- Preserve and sustain Edmonton's environment
- Ensure Edmonton's financial sustainability
- Diversify Edmonton's economy

What is included in the green network?

In Edmonton, the green network is all of the city's outdoor land and water that is publicly owned or publicly accessible.

Some examples include:

- Parks and plazas, like Churchill Square
- Main streets, like Jasper Avenue
- Natural areas, like the North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System
- Corridors and linkages, like Mill Creek Ravine
- Green infrastructure, like the bioswale at Ellerslie Fire Station, green roofs, and the rainwater gardens at Government House Park



Open Space Themes

In the same way that organisms function within a natural ecosystem, open spaces function as part of a larger integrated whole within the urban ecosystem.

The primary functions of open space, organized by the central themes of the Green Network Strategy, will be used to understand the role that plans, policies, stakeholders, funding strategies, and management play in providing and shaping the value of the existing open space network, and assessing the network’s capacity to meet current (and future) needs of the city and residents.

OPEN SPACE FUNCTIONS:


-  WATER MANAGEMENT
-  CLIMATE REGULATION
-  BIODIVERSITY
-  RISK MITIGATION
-  WASTE MANAGEMENT
-  FOOD PRODUCTION



CELEBRATION

Connects people to each other and builds a sense of place by providing places for communities to thrive, gather and celebrate.

-  HERITAGE
-  DESTINATION + TOURISM
-  AESTHETIC VALUE
-  COMMUNITY BUILDING
-  PUBLIC SAFETY



WELLNESS

Promotes healthy living and fosters well-being through diverse kinds of recreation, mobility and environments.

-  RECREATION
-  ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION
-  MENTAL HEALTH + WELLBEING
-  LEARN + PLAY

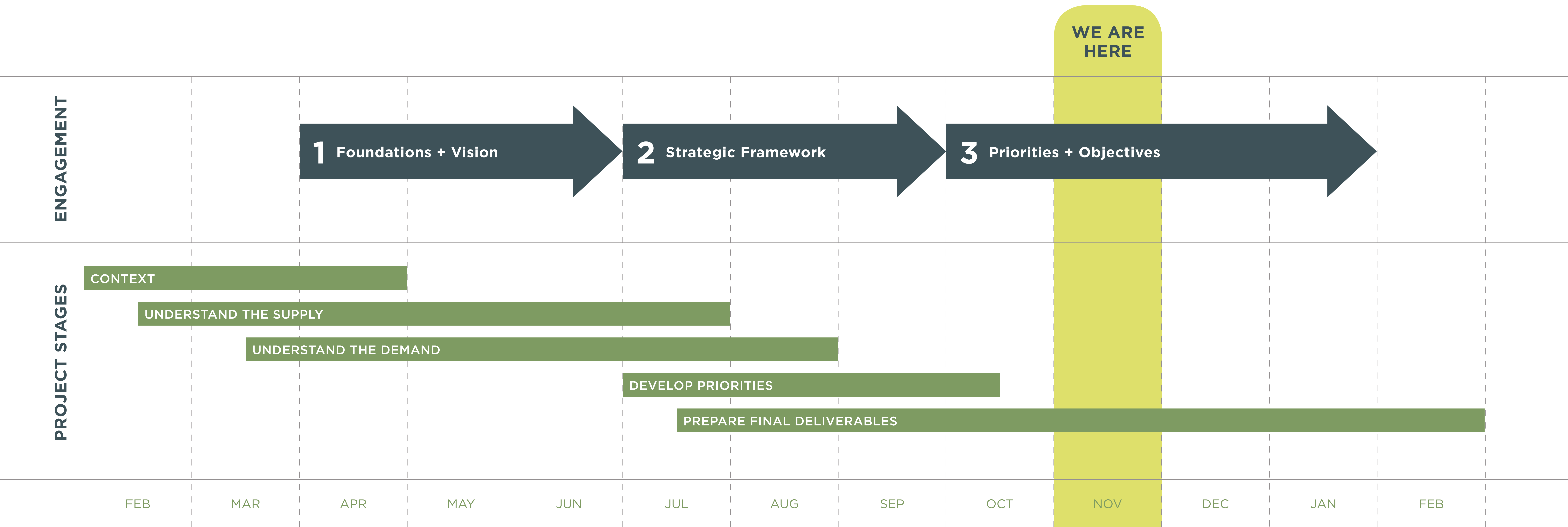


FUNCTIONS	Summer Scene Functions						Winter Scene Functions					
	RECREATION	ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION	LEARN & PLAY	COMMUNITY BUILDING	CULTURE & HERITAGE	DESTINATION & TOURISM	AESTHETIC VALUE	BIODIVERSITY	WATER MANAGEMENT	CLIMATE REGULATION	FOOD PRODUCTION	RISK MITIGATION (SLOPE STABILITY)
	Active and passive recreation opportunities contribute to physical and mental wellness	Trail systems for walking, running, bicycling, and other forms of active transport	People of all ages learning through play	Gathering spaces for social interaction, creating a sense of community	Preserving and highlighting arts, culture, history and heritage	Drawing residents and tourists together, in celebration	Welcoming spaces with attractive design	Habitat protection for plants and animals	Stormwater management, water treatment, and purification	Reducing urban heat island effect, improving microclimates, and mitigating climate change	Food security, healthier communities, and local agriculture	Soil retention, erosion control, and flood risk mitigation

Project Timeline

During **Phase 3: Priorities + Objectives**, we are taking the opportunity to review what we have learned about Edmonton’s open spaces, and evaluate what that information tells us about how we should plan for the Green Network in the future. Which neighbourhoods have access to too little open space, or too much? What are the greatest current demands on the system, and how might they change over time?

Right now is a critical time in BREATHE’s journey... where we identify the positive things about the Green Network that we want to continue celebrating, and the issues or gaps that need some help. By giving us your feedback, you can help us determine which priorities are the most important to you, and how we can take action to improve the Green Network in the future!



What We Heard Summary






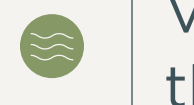

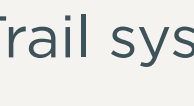



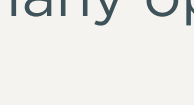

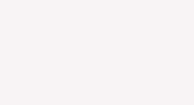
Edmontonians feel passionate about their parks and open spaces, and the BREATHE public engagement process acknowledges the importance of incorporating local knowledge and community values in the planning of our green network.

During Engagement Phase 1, the BREATHE team asked about how the current open space system is working well, issues that are affecting open spaces, and improvements that could be made. Phase 2 was designed to validate the findings of the Supply Analyses and to provide further opportunity for input about residents' open space needs. The most common responses from both Phases are summarized here, and organized so you can see how they relate to the three project themes:


-  **ECOLOGY**
-  **CELEBRATION**
-  **WELLNESS**

Information from engagement to date has been essential in developing the draft priorities you will see here today. Moving forward, community feedback will be used to further refine these priorities and develop the recommendations of the final Green Network Strategy.

What Works Well

-    North Saskatchewan River Valley
-   Abundance of natural areas
-    Variety and availability of open spaces throughout the city
-  Trail system
-   Open space programming
-  Beneficial effects of open space on mental and physical health
-    Many open spaces support multiple activities
-   Maintenance of open spaces

Issues and Concerns

-   Connectivity of spaces
-  Disregard of users for natural open spaces
-    Maintenance of playgrounds, sports fields and trails
-    Not enough wayfinding and interpretive signage
-  Perception of personal safety
-   Lack of open space in the dense urban areas
-  City processes to use and develop open space

Opportunities for Improvement

-   Promote existing opportunities
-  Education about natural areas and natural aspects of open space
-  Access to the North Saskatchewan River edge and River Valley open spaces
-   Improve wayfinding and signage
-   Accessing open space using active transportation or public transit, and for people with mobility issues
-   Providing supportive amenities (washrooms, fountains, seating) in open spaces
-    Urban agriculture
-    More green space in urban core and access to nearby green space for all Edmontonians
-   Consider retail/commercial opportunities in open spaces
-  Streamline City processes
-  Ongoing stakeholder involvement in planning and implementation
-  Support the use of native plant species
-    Improve open space connectivity
-  Celebrate and promote local history and heritage
-  Conserve wooded areas and protect wildlife connectivity
-   Plan open spaces for four season use

During the first two phases of engagement for BREATHE:

- 25 **ENGAGEMENT EVENTS** to consult with the public and stakeholders
- 36 **ORGANIZATIONS** participated in stakeholder workshops or meetings
- 878 **EDMONTONIANS** engaged in person
- 2,555 **RESPONDENTS** to the online questionnaire and spatial survey

Stage 2 Findings: Open Space Supply

The first step to creating priorities for planning Edmonton’s green network is understanding the existing open space system: how much space there is, how easy spaces are to access, and how those spaces work. These are all elements of the supply of open spaces in Edmonton.

To measure open space supply, the project team used GIS to inventory all the open spaces in Edmonton and classify those open spaces into types based on existing management practices and lessons learned from research into the systems used in other jurisdictions.

Edmonton’s green network was analyzed in several different ways:

1. Open Space Supply

How much open space is available in Edmonton? The supply analysis measures the amount of open space in a given area. The results show the degree to which residents of each Open Space Reporting Unit are serviced by parks and other open spaces.

2. Access to Open Space

How much open space is within reasonable traveling distance from residents? The access analysis measures how easy open spaces are for people to reach using a variety of transportation modes. To determine walking access, a 400 m distance was calculated from each open space along pedestrian routes. Because many of these “service areas” overlap with each other, we also calculated the amount of open space within walking distance from any given location in the city.

What is GIS?

A Geographic Information System (GIS) is a computer-based system for recording, storing, and displaying data related to geographic locations on the Earth’s surface. GIS software enables the user to visualize multiple types of data about a place, and to manipulate that information to understand patterns and relationships.

3. Open Space Connectivity

How well are open spaces connected to one another? Measuring the interconnectedness of open spaces helps show which spaces are working as an integrated green network, and which ones are more isolated. A well connected network allows residents and wildlife to move through the city with greater ease. Connectivity was modeled using computer software that simulates landscape cover, barriers to movement, and human behaviour and preferences.

4. Open Space Functionality

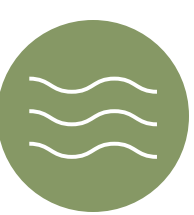
How well does the open space system fulfil the functional needs of Edmontonians? The functions analysis uses the amenities and characteristics of open spaces to measure how they work as part of a holistic, multifunctional green network. A score was developed for each function separately, and then the results were aggregated under the central themes of BREATHE:



ECOLOGY

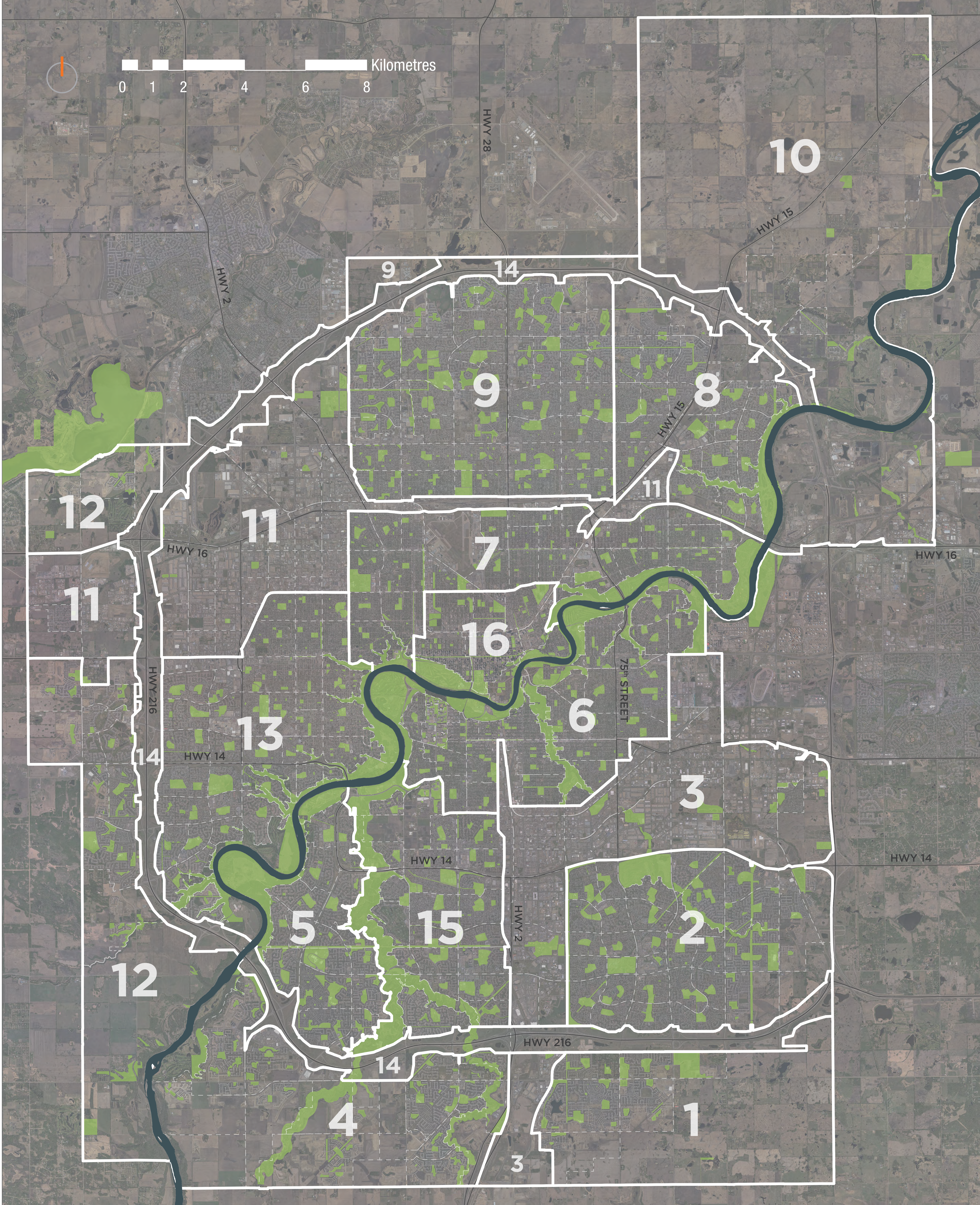


CELEBRATION



WELLNESS

The following presentation boards summarize the results of these analyses. Some boards display **Open Space Reporting Units**, which are divided by Edmonton’s City Sectors and natural barriers in the landscape.



Where is my neighbourhood?

Edmonton is a big city, and different parts of its green network work in different ways. Dividing the city into **Open Space Reporting Units** makes it easier to explain the issues and trends affecting each area of the city, and to target recommendations based on the challenges unique to that area.

The boundaries of the Reporting Units are based on Edmonton's City Sectors (Central Core, Mature, Established, Urban Growth Area, Developing, and Industrial areas) and natural barriers in the landscape (the River Valley and ravine system, Anthony Henday Drive, and other major roads and highways).

As you move through the room, information and analyses are sometimes presented for each park or open space, and sometimes for each Reporting Unit, depending on the type of information. The Reporting Units are numbered on the map to the left to make it easy to remember which one interests you, and the next board explains key characteristics of each Unit. To help determine where you live, Edmonton's neighbourhoods are listed on print-outs located at each station. BREATHE project team members are also happy to help should you have any questions.

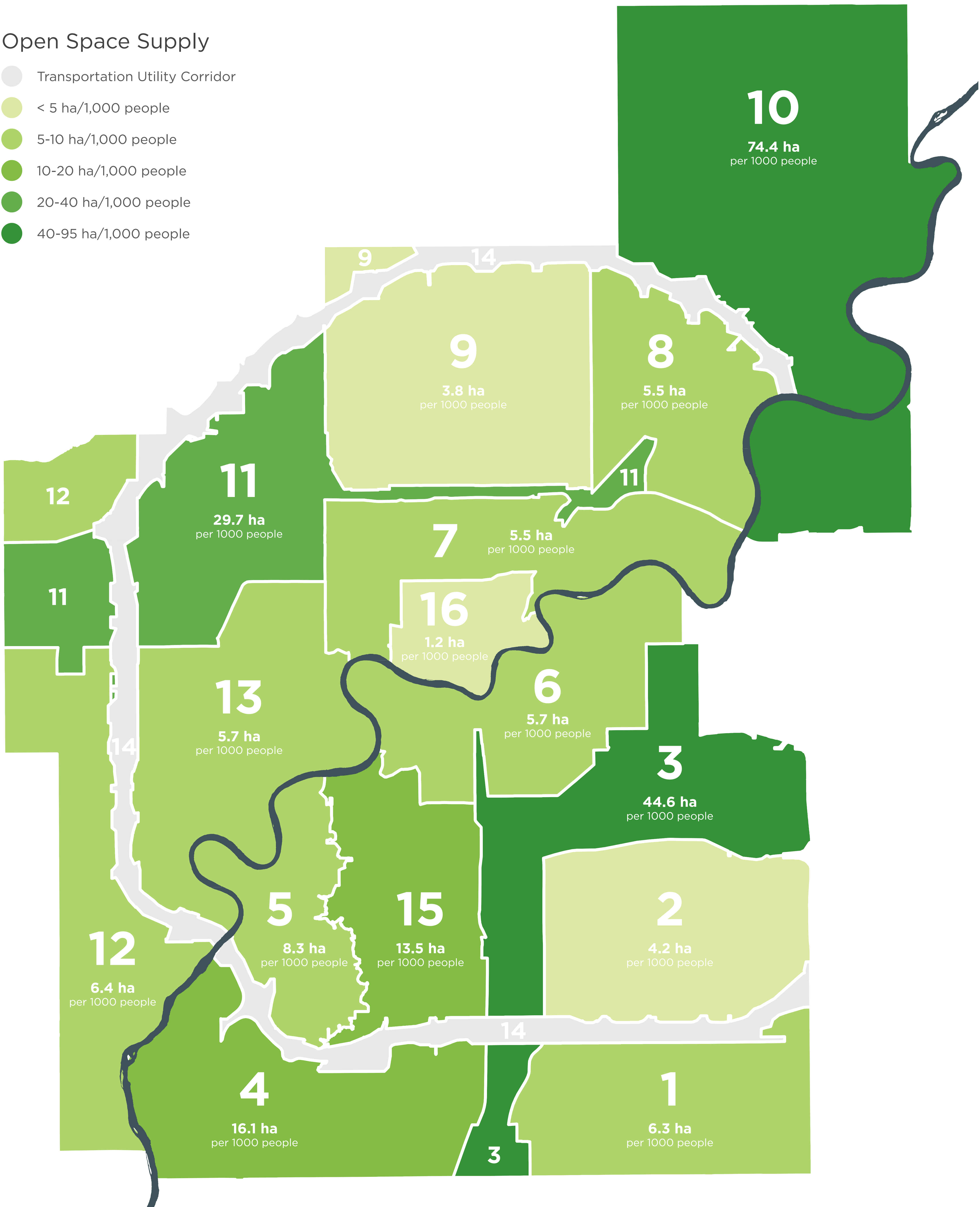
Open Space Reporting Units

- 1. Developing Fringe South-East:** This area contains rural and newly developing communities, and important new open spaces like the Ivor Dent Sports Park.
- 2. Settled South-East:** This area contains both established neighbourhoods, like Mill Woods, and newer and developing neighbourhoods, like Silver Berry. In addition to the Mill Creek Ravine, open spaces here include the Jackie Parker Recreation Area, and Mill Woods Park.
- 3. Industrial South:** With the exception of the Maple Ridge neighbourhood, this area is mostly industrial, although it does contain the John Fry Sports Park.
- 4. Developing Fringe South-West:** One of the newer parts of Edmonton, this area south of the Anthony Henday contains rural lands and new residential communities like Heritage Valley. Blackmud Creek runs through the area.
- 5. Settled South-West B:** Just to the west of Reporting Unit #15, this area contains established and newly developing neighbourhoods served by open spaces like Terwillegar and Terwillegar Heights Parks.
- 6. City Centre South:** This area south of the River contains the denser neighbourhoods around Strathcona and the University of Alberta, along with other mature inner city neighbourhoods north of the industrial area. Key open spaces include the Mill Creek Ravine, Gold Bar Park, and Rollie Miles Athletic Park.
- 7. City Centre North:** This is the area north of Downtown comprised of mature, inner city neighbourhoods, along with the redeveloping Blatchford site. Coronation Park is the most prominent open space in the area.
- 8. Settled North-East:** Although most of this area is currently developing, there are also established and mature residential neighbourhoods that contain open spaces like Matt Berry Park.
- 9. Settled North:** This area contains a mixture of newly developing, established, and mature neighbourhoods. Key open spaces include Castle Downs Park and Grand Trunk Park.
- 10. New Growth Area North-East:** Most of this area is currently rural, but is planned to accommodate industrial and residential development in the future.
- 11. Industrial North:** With the exception of Westview Village, this area is exclusively industrial and contains few open space amenities.
- 12. Developing Fringe West:** This area contains the newly developing residential neighbourhoods west of the Anthony Henday. Although many open spaces have not yet been constructed, important new parks like The Grange are being developed to service the increasing population.
- 13. Settled West:** Nestled between the central core and the Anthony Henday, this area contains established and mature neighbourhoods, and open spaces like Callingwood and Sir Wilfred Laurier Parks.
- 15. Settled South-West A:** The area includes the mature and established neighbourhoods between Whitemud Creek and the industrial area to the east. Key open spaces include Confederation and Twin Brooks Parks.
- 16. Downtown Core:** Located to the north of the North Saskatchewan River, this area contains a concentration of commercial uses, with important civic spaces like City Hall Plaza and Sir Winston Churchill Square.

Note that the Transportation Utility Corridor (Reporting Unit #14, aka Anthony Henday Drive) is not included in the analyses.

Open Space Supply

- Transportation Utility Corridor
- < 5 ha/1,000 people
- 5-10 ha/1,000 people
- 10-20 ha/1,000 people
- 20-40 ha/1,000 people
- 40-95 ha/1,000 people



Open Space Supply

All Open Spaces

This map shows the current supply of all open spaces per capita in each Reporting Unit. Open spaces include municipal and provincial parks, civic spaces, and any other type of currently developed, usable open space.

- Total open space per capita citywide:**
23.7 ha/1,000 people
- Total open space per capita, excluding industrial and New Growth Areas:** 8.5 ha/1,000

Municipal Parkland

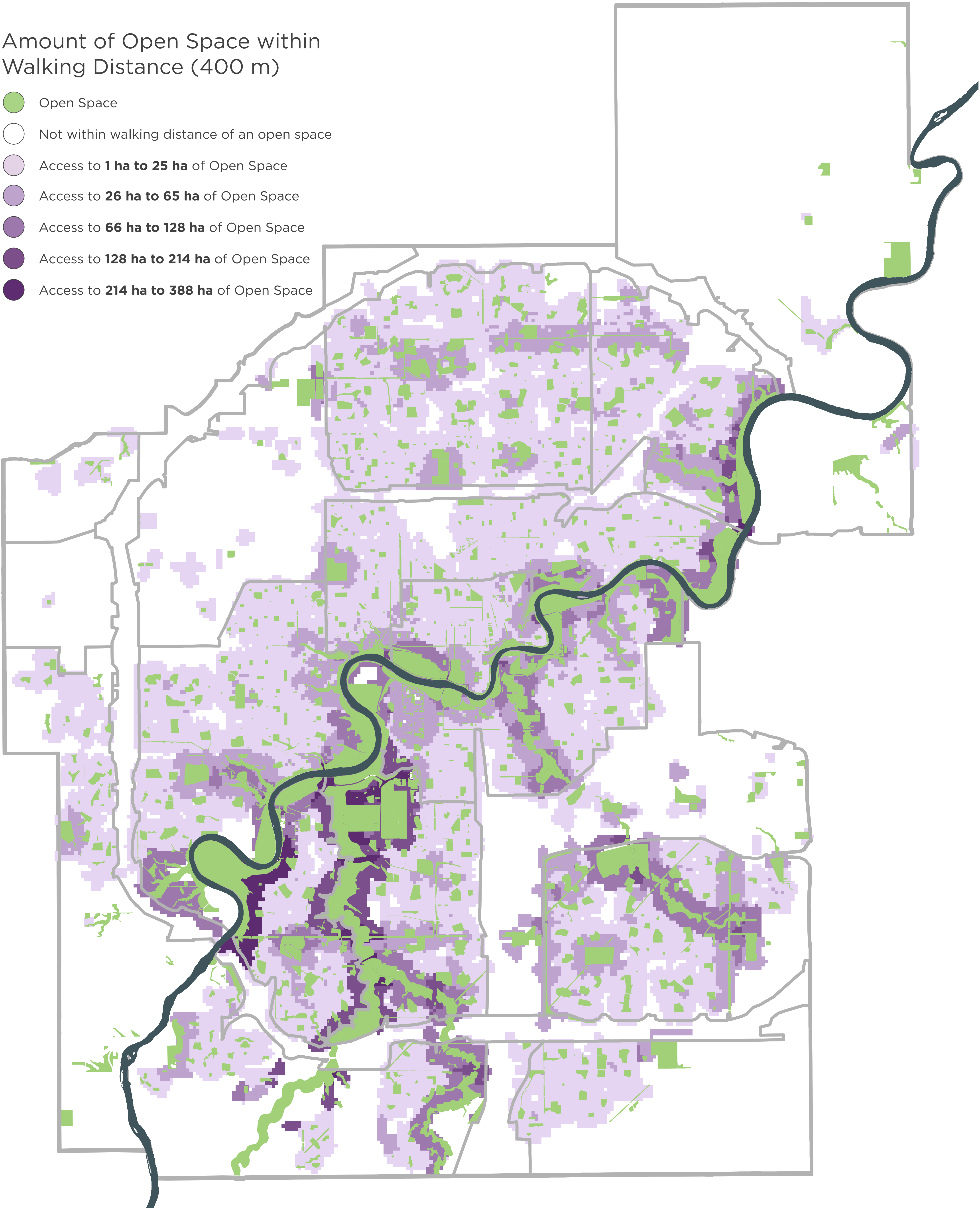
The Supply Analysis also considered the amount of **municipal parkland** available to Edmontonians. Municipal parkland includes various types of parks that are owned and operated by the City and its community partners (community leagues and school boards).

- Total municipal parkland per capita citywide:**
17.8 ha/1,000 people
- Total municipal parkland per capita, excluding industrial and New Growth Areas:** 7.1 ha/1,000

For comparison, the US National Recreation and Park Association suggests that municipalities provide municipal parkland at a minimum rate of 4.0 hectares per 1,000 residents.

Amount of Open Space within Walking Distance (400 m)

- Open Space
- Not within walking distance of an open space
- Access to 1 ha to 25 ha of Open Space
- Access to 26 ha to 65 ha of Open Space
- Access to 66 ha to 128 ha of Open Space
- Access to 128 ha to 214 ha of Open Space
- Access to 214 ha to 388 ha of Open Space



Open Space Access

Walking Access

This map shows how much open space is within walking distance (400 metres, or 5 to 10-minute walk) from any given location in the city. **The darker the colour, the more open space is located within walking distance.**

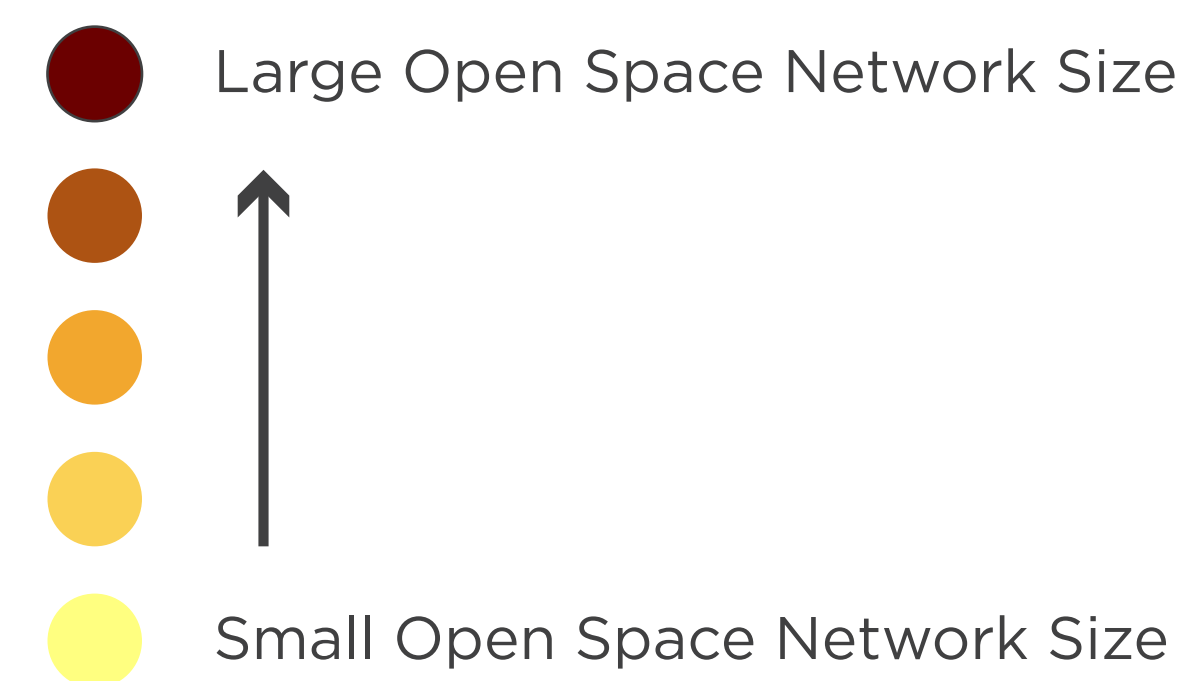
- **99%** of residential lots are located within **walking distance** to open spaces (400 m)

Access for Other Transportation Modes

In addition to walking, access was also measured for other modes of transportation.

- Edmontonians have very good **driving** access to open spaces throughout the city, not considering the availability of parking at open space destinations.
- Only 37% of residential lots are located within **cycling** distance (1,300 m) of open spaces, using designated cycling routes. Access declines with increasing distance from the well-connected bike routes in the inner city and River Valley.
- Nearly all open spaces are located within walking distance (400 m) from at least one **public transit** stop, but 43 community parks and 9 district parks have no transit access.

Size of Interconnected Sub-Network



Open Space Connectivity

Structural Connectivity

This map shows the sub-networks of interconnected open spaces, where connection means either contiguity (i.e. the open spaces are adjacent to each other) or a pedestrian connection up to 200 m. **The darker the colour, the larger the network of connected open spaces.**

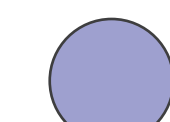


Some disconnections are caused by steep slopes (e.g. river banks) without stairway access, land uses with poor pedestrian infrastructure, and open spaces that are isolated from the network.

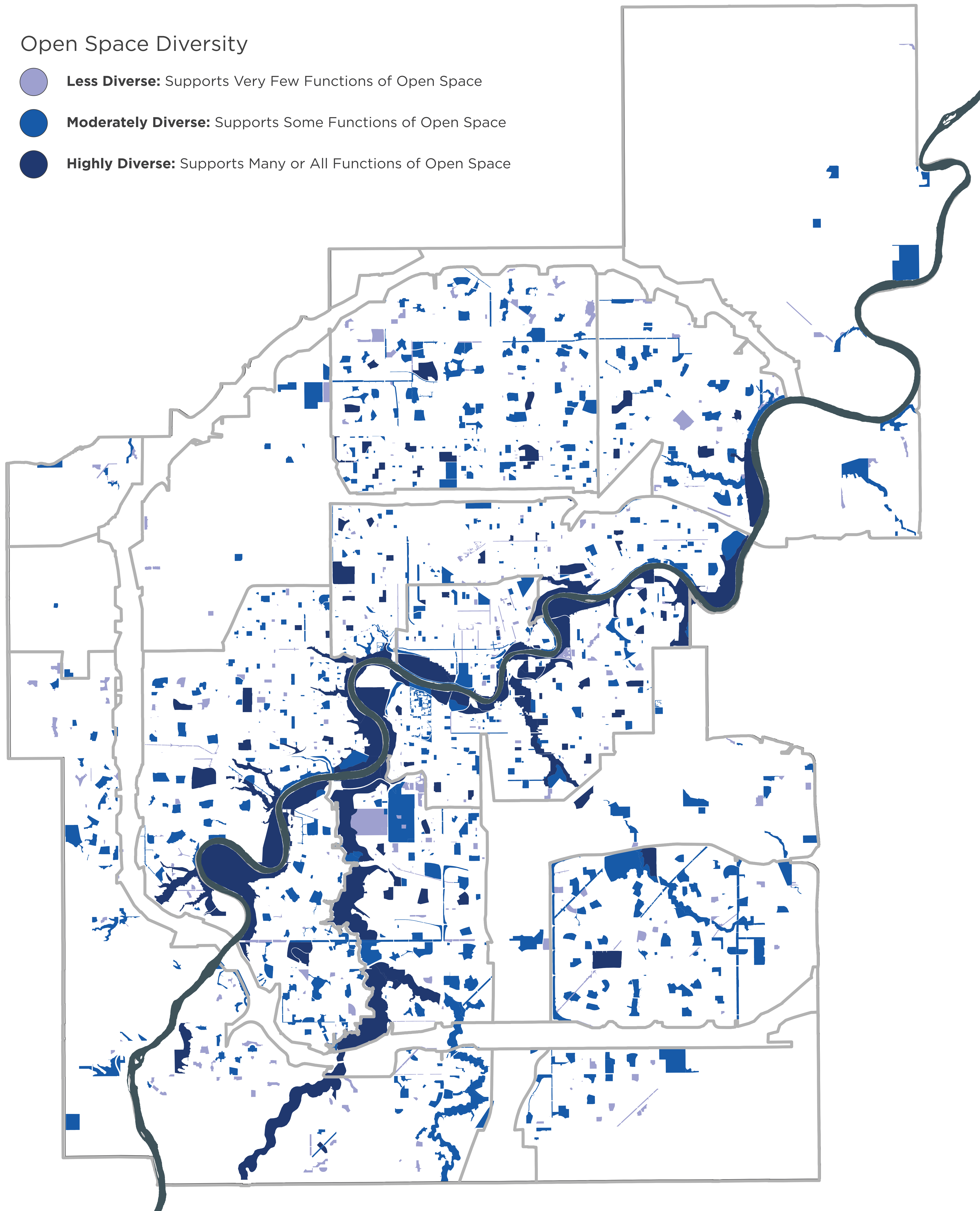
Functional Connectivity

Other analyses measured the functional connectivity of the green network for human movement across the city - which open spaces provide environments amenable to passage, and which present obstacles like fencing or streams.

- Whitemud Ravine and the larger, more open parks along the River Valley are among the most useful corridors for human movement.
- Linear parks have the greatest impact on human connectivity across the city.

Open Space Diversity

-  **Less Diverse:** Supports Very Few Functions of Open Space
-  **Moderately Diverse:** Supports Some Functions of Open Space
-  **Highly Diverse:** Supports Many or All Functions of Open Space



Open Space Functionality

This map shows how well each open space satisfies the fifteen functions of a holistic green network – that is, how it works to satisfy the various social, physical, mental and environmental needs of Edmontonians. **The darker the colour, the more multifunctional the open space** (i.e. the better the open space supports multiple functions).

- Many open spaces are multifunctional, i.e. effective at providing a wide variety of Edmontonians' functional needs.
- The River Valley and Ravine System forms the backbone of the green network by supporting many Ecology, Celebration and Wellness functions.
- Open spaces with high Ecology value are strongly concentrated in the River Valley and Ravine System, but most open spaces achieve a moderate score citywide.
- Open spaces throughout the city achieve a high or moderate Celebration value.
- Open spaces with high Wellness value are distributed throughout the city, including many community parks.

Stage 3 Findings: Open Space Demand

While it is important to measure what the green network provides to people and environment in Edmonton – the types of services and amenities it supplies – it is equally important to measure the demands placed on open spaces by current and future Edmontonians. Evaluating whether there are enough open spaces in Edmonton depends on how many people are using them, and the carrying capacity of the ecological systems supporting them.

To measure open space demand, the project team used the 2016 Edmonton Municipal Census and background research to determine how many people are using open spaces in different areas of the city, and the different types of open space demands they might express. More detailed information about open space preferences among Edmontonians was gathered during public engagement for BREATHE, especially the online questionnaire and spatial survey. Growth trends and projections were used to evaluate how open space demand might change over time.

The following boards highlight findings about four important trends:

- 1. Activities and Amenities:** How do Edmontonians use open spaces?
What improvements are needed to ensure enjoyable experiences?
- 2. Popular Open Spaces:** Which open spaces are Edmontonians most passionate about?
- 3. Current Demographics:** How many people live in different parts of Edmonton?
How can their demographic differences impact open space demand?
- 4. Future Growth:** How will a growing and shifting population influence the pressures and demands on the green network?



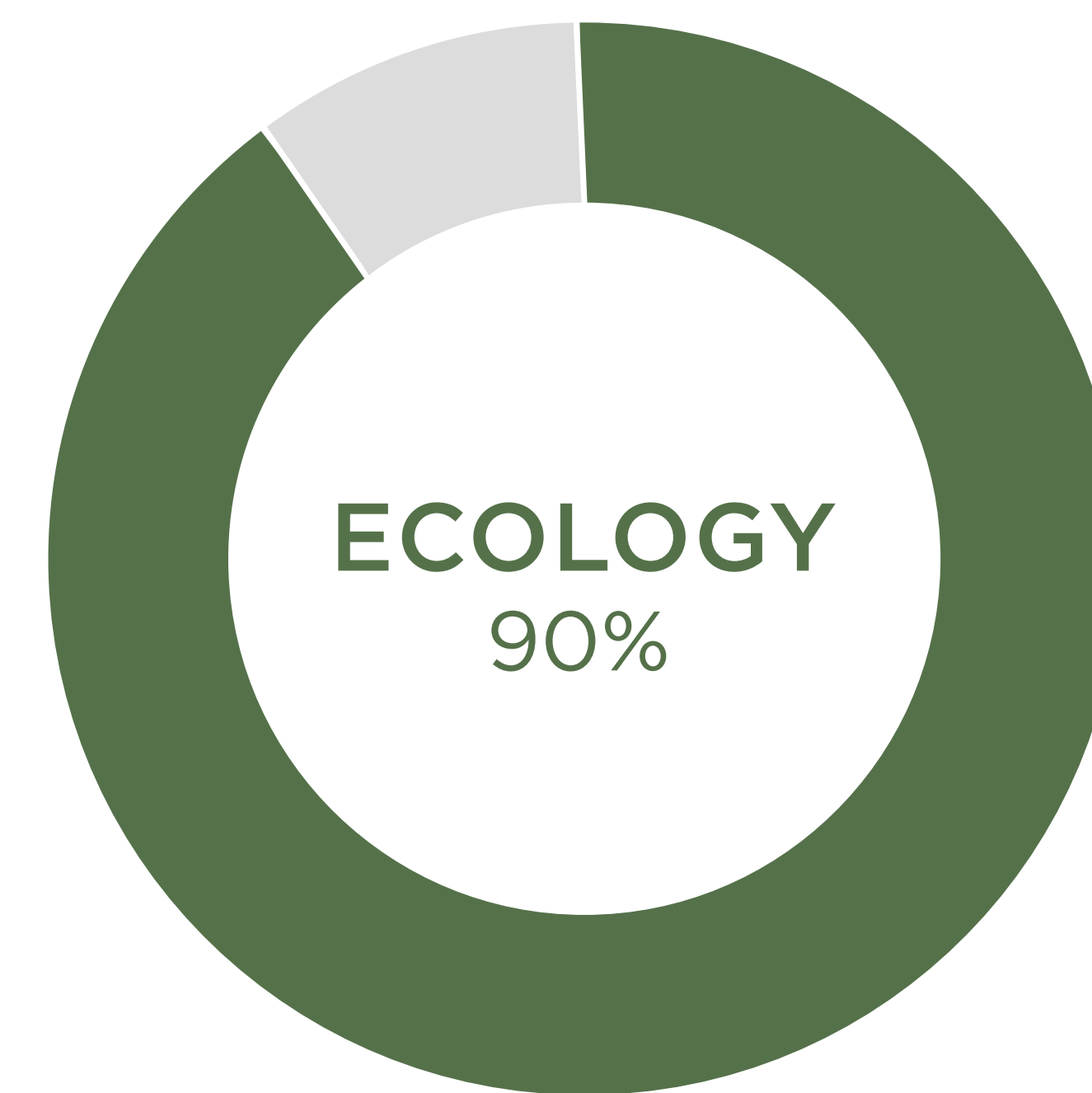
Activities and Amenities

The vast majority of Edmontonians use open spaces during their daily or occasional routines – people watching on Whyte Avenue, nature appreciation in the River Valley, participating in a recreational league at one of the many community parks throughout the city. **Only 3% of questionnaire respondents indicated that they do not use open spaces.**

Based on data from the online questionnaire and online spatial survey, the following key findings can be made about Edmontonians' favourite activities and amenities:

- **Edmontonians value nature to support their preferred activities.** Not only are trees, natural areas and other vegetation valued amenities for nature appreciation activities, but they also create a peaceful, pleasant environment for active or passive recreation, relaxation, contemplation, and community gatherings or festivals.
- **The green network is widely used for recreational activities.** Open spaces are an especially important destination for casual walks, running, cycling/ mountain biking, winter sports, and dog walking. These activities highlight the importance of the trail and pathway network, which Edmontonians identify as an important amenity.

How do questionnaire respondents use open spaces?



- **Participation in some activities is limited by the quality or availability of appropriate amenities.** Respondents expressed the most dissatisfaction with activities like outdoor swimming, community gardening and water sports because necessary infrastructure is underdeveloped or overcrowded.
- **Edmonton has many great open spaces, but more can be done.** Respondents appreciate the amount of open space in Edmonton, but many people identify potential improvements, such as:
 - Maintenance of amenities, especially playgrounds, sports fields and trails
 - Signage and open space design, to reduce user conflicts and improve wayfinding
 - Addition of washrooms, seating and drinking fountains throughout the green network

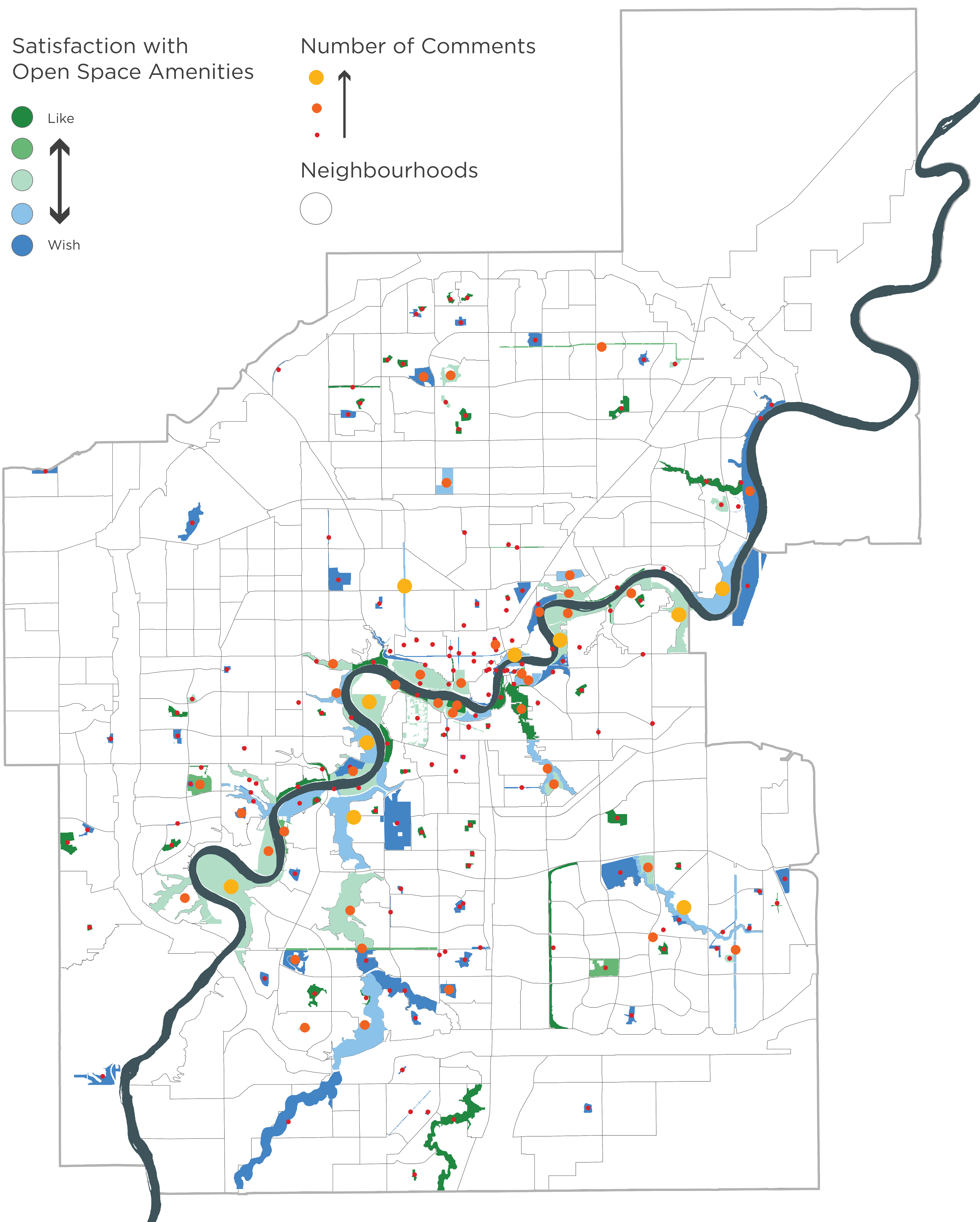
Top 5 most popular activities

1. Walking or running
2. Mental health activities (e.g. reading, chess)
3. Touring heritage locations
4. Nature appreciation
5. Cycling or mountain biking

Top 5 most popular amenities

1. Trees
2. Trails and pathways
3. Washrooms
4. Seating
5. Turf or grassy areas

*among questionnaire respondents



Popular Open Spaces

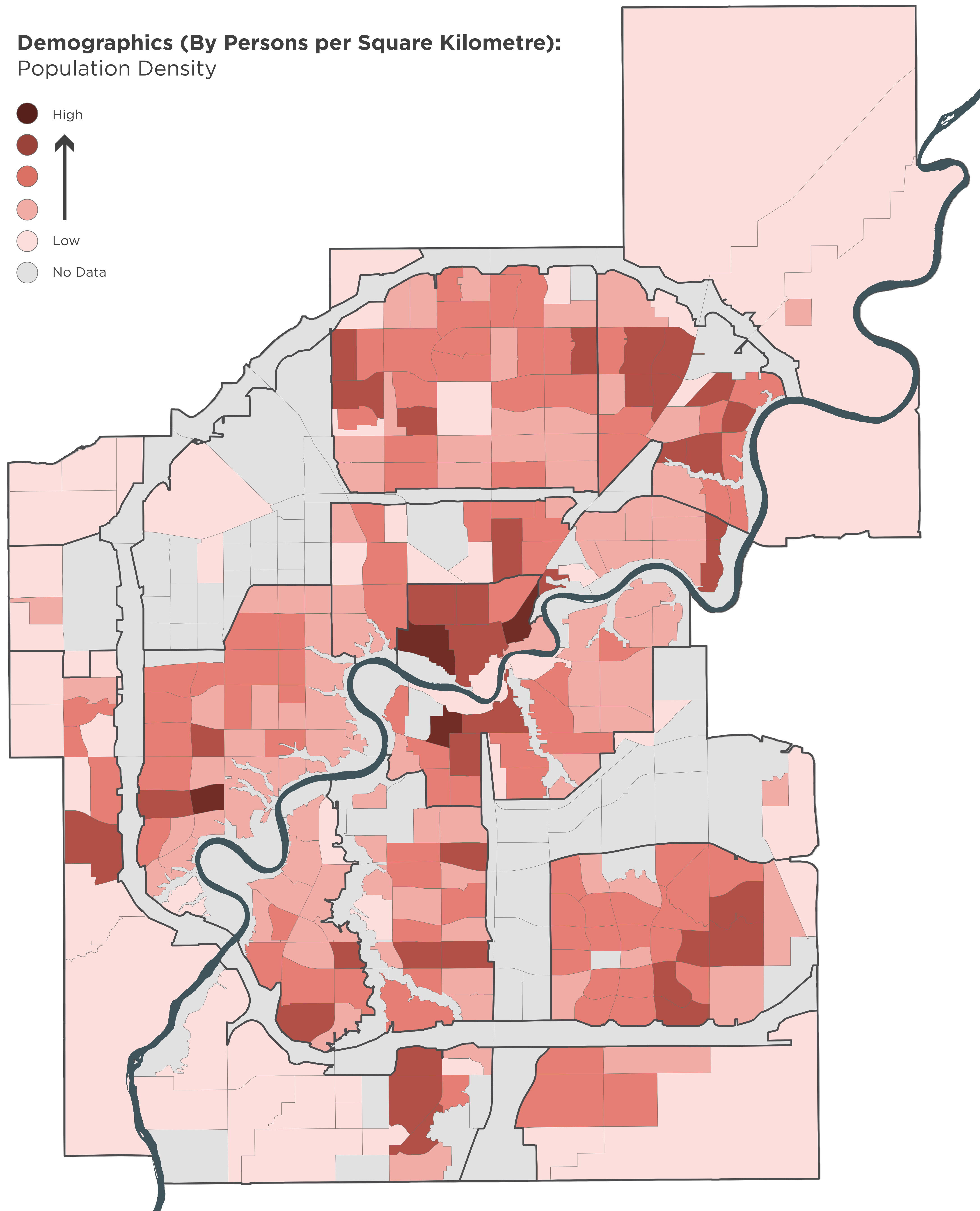
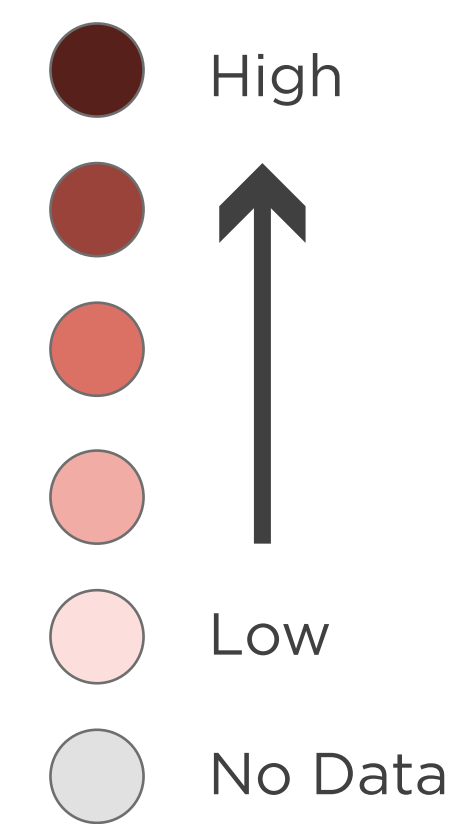
This map shows the relative satisfaction Edmontonians have with amenities in open spaces. The number of spatial survey comments can be used as a proxy for popularity. **The larger and lighter the dot, the more comments the open space received.**

The map shows whether an open space is popular among spatial survey respondents because they are satisfied with its amenities, or dissatisfied. **The most popular open spaces prompt both positive comments about amenities, and suggestions for improvement.**

Based on these comments about amenities, **River Valley and Ravine System parks are the most popular open spaces in the city**, and are a lightning rod for both positive and negative feedback. One notable exception is the 121A Street linear park, which prompted many comments about the multi-use pathway and the dog off leash area.

The majority of spatial survey comments were about city parks, followed by community parks and district parks.

Demographics (By Persons per Square Kilometre): Population Density



Current Demographics

Population Density

This map shows the relative population density of different neighbourhoods in Edmonton.

The darker the colour, the more people are living within a given area of land.

Other Demographic Findings

- **Children** (12% of the population) are concentrated in Developing Areas near the periphery of the city.
- **Working age adults** (51% of the population) are concentrated in the Downtown Core (young singles and couples) and in Developing Areas (in family groups).
- **Older adults** (27% of the population) are dispersed throughout Edmonton, with high concentrations in some Mature and Established neighbourhoods.
- **Socially vulnerable people** are concentrated in Mature neighbourhoods to the north and west of the Downtown Core, and in Mill Woods.
- Most Edmontonians (79%) use a **personal vehicle** for commuting, but walking and public transit are popular transportation modes in some areas.

Future Growth

A Larger Population

Edmonton is projected to grow from almost 900,000 people to over 1.2 million people by 2040. All these new Edmontonians will have unique open space wants and needs, which will need to be met with an increased supply of open spaces whose amenities and functions reflect different types of demand.

Growing Out, Growing Up

This population growth will not happen everywhere equally. The City plans to accomodate 25% of population growth in Downtown and Mature neighbourhoods, but the majority of growth will continue to be accommodated in Developing neighbourhoods.

Patterns of population growth in every neighbourhood will be influenced by ongoing City initiatives like The Quarters, Blatchford, and the many urban villages being created along expanding Light Rapid Transit corridors.

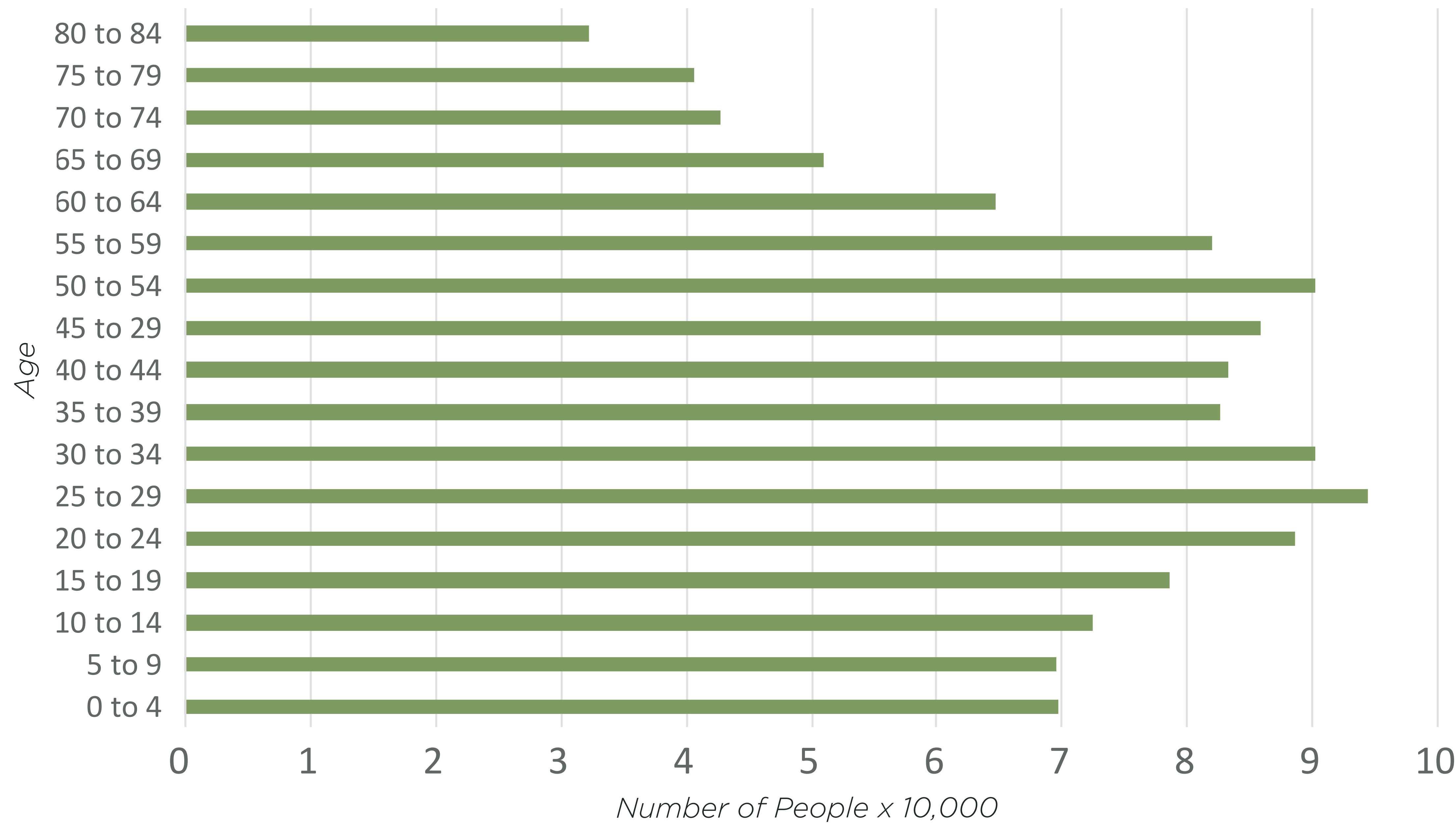
Shifting Demographics...

The demographic profile of Edmonton is also shifting, with growth in the proportion of youth and middle aged adults. However, the largest age cohorts overall are anticipated to be young adults and adults aged 50 to 55, driven by an aging Echo Boom generation and continuing migration of young workers into Edmonton – many of whom are ethno-cultural minorities.

... Shifting Preferences

These trends show that open space demands will be greater or fewer in different parts of the city, and that different demands will be expressed by different people. Children may require more playgrounds; older adults may require more accessible open spaces; low income people may require more cost sensitive programs. The Priorities on the next boards account for these changes to help build a successful Green Netork Strategy.

What will Edmonton’s population look like in 2040?



Source: City of Edmonton, Sustainable Development

Developing Open Space Priorities

So now what?

The preceding boards have reviewed an abundance of information: how the Green Network is configured, the connections among its various parts, the demands placed on open spaces and amenities, and the changing population and demographic trends, all of which will impact open space planning for the future.

Once the Stage 3 Demand Analysis was complete, the project team was tasked with collecting, interpreting, and assessing the information from all stages as a whole. This includes the supply and demand analysis results; findings from public engagement and conversations with internal and external stakeholders; direction from the existing Urban Parks Management Plan and Natural Connections Strategic Plan; and alignment with other plans, policies, regulations and legislation.

Ten Strategic Directions

After this synthesis, it was clear that while many aspects of Edmonton’s Green Network work well, there are also important issues facing open spaces and the way we plan them.

Ten Strategic Directions have been developed to help guide the City, its community partners, and citizens in taking action to address these issues.

The Directions, which are outlined on the following boards, respond directly to the most important needs currently facing the Green Network, and will be used in the next months to refine priorities and make recommendations for action.



COMMENTS ABOUT THE STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS?

Please use sticky notes and post your comments directly on the appropriate panels.

Vibrant Spaces

Make open spaces vibrant, sustainable and functional to support community identity and needs.

Existing design standards are effective at providing for some activities, but there is the potential to make open space design more multifunctional, innovative and flexible to respond to unique community needs. Not only do people need amenities that support their activity preferences, but also spaces that provide enjoyable experiences. Spaces that encourage social gathering, that evoke interest and beauty, that reflect local cultures and create a sense of place.

The Green Network Strategy will:

- ✓ Identify high priority locations and situations for enhanced open space design
- ✓ Identify amenities and design techniques that could promote placemaking and reflect community identity
- ✓ Identify design standards for review to incorporate greater flexibility and responsiveness to community needs



Safe + Inclusive

Ensure that the Green Network is safe, accessible and inclusive for all Edmontonians.

The Green Network is an important community asset for all Edmontonians, which means its open spaces should be designed, provisioned and operated for people of diverse incomes, genders, ages, ethno-cultural identities, and physical abilities.

The Green Network Strategy will:

- ✓ Identify spaces and situations where specialized needs might be expressed in order to plan for the most appropriate programs and amenities
- ✓ Recommend training and other interventions to create usable, welcoming open spaces for everybody
- ✓ Identify amenities that pose barriers to access or participation in preferred activities



Citizen Participation

Empower citizens to become active participants and stewards in planning, sustaining and using the Green Network.

The City is one of many agents working together to achieve a holistic, well functioning Green Network. There are opportunities not only to engage citizens and community partners in planning and funding open space (re)development, but also to enhance their role as environmental stewards and community volunteers.

The Green Network Strategy will:

- ✓ Support evidence-based decision making in combination with public engagement to inform open space planning and design interventions
- ✓ Encourage civic participation in open space development and community events
- ✓ Recommend administrative improvements and potential collaborations to support volunteer initiatives



Education + Awareness

Improve awareness of open space opportunities and appropriate use.

Exciting open space amenities and experiences are available throughout the city, but their potential sometimes remains unrealized because citizens are not aware of the many opportunities their Green Network offers. They may be unclear on the intended use of different open space types, or about how best to coordinate their activities with other users to avoid conflict.

The Green Network Strategy will:

- ✓ Recommend locations and situations for appropriate interpretive, wayfinding or regulatory signage
- ✓ Identify compatible functions and design interventions to address user conflict
- ✓ Communicate potential initiatives to advertise the diversity and opportunities available in open spaces



Distribution + Supply

Ensure an adequate supply, quality, diversity and distribution of open space throughout Edmonton.

Edmonton has an excellent Green Network, but some neighbourhoods have a better supply and more diverse opportunities than others. For example, Downtown has less open space per capita than Developing Areas. These differences may become even more pronounced as Edmonton grows.

The Green Network Strategy will:

- ✓ Identify approaches to better match open space functions, amenities and quality with community needs
- ✓ Explore opportunities to develop underused and unconventional open spaces into functional, accessible spaces in underserved areas of the city
- ✓ Create policy to ensure sufficient accessibility and provision of open space in different types of neighbourhoods



Access + Connectivity

Improve open space connectivity for humans and environment.

Nearly all Edmontonians have open space within walking distance, but the network could be improved for all modes of transportation by better connecting popular routes to open spaces, overcoming barriers that interrupt connectivity, and designing environments that are safe and welcoming for travel.

The Green Network Strategy will:

- ✓ Identify priorities for developing or expanding important pathway and transportation connections
- ✓ Recommend opportunities for placemaking along important pathway and transportation corridors
- ✓ Identify areas where land acquisition or preservation would help protect and connect important ecological corridors for plants and animals



Environmental Integrity

Preserve and enhance the environmental integrity of the Green Network.

Edmontonians are passionate about the value of their environmental resources, and recognize the challenge of balancing human use and conservation in natural areas, including much of the River Valley and Ravine System.

The Green Network Strategy will:

- ✓ Address the challenge of providing open spaces that meet the needs of both the community and the environment
- ✓ Recommend opportunities for preservation or restoration of ecologically sensitive areas
- ✓ Develop strategies for ensuring environmental quality for land, air and water



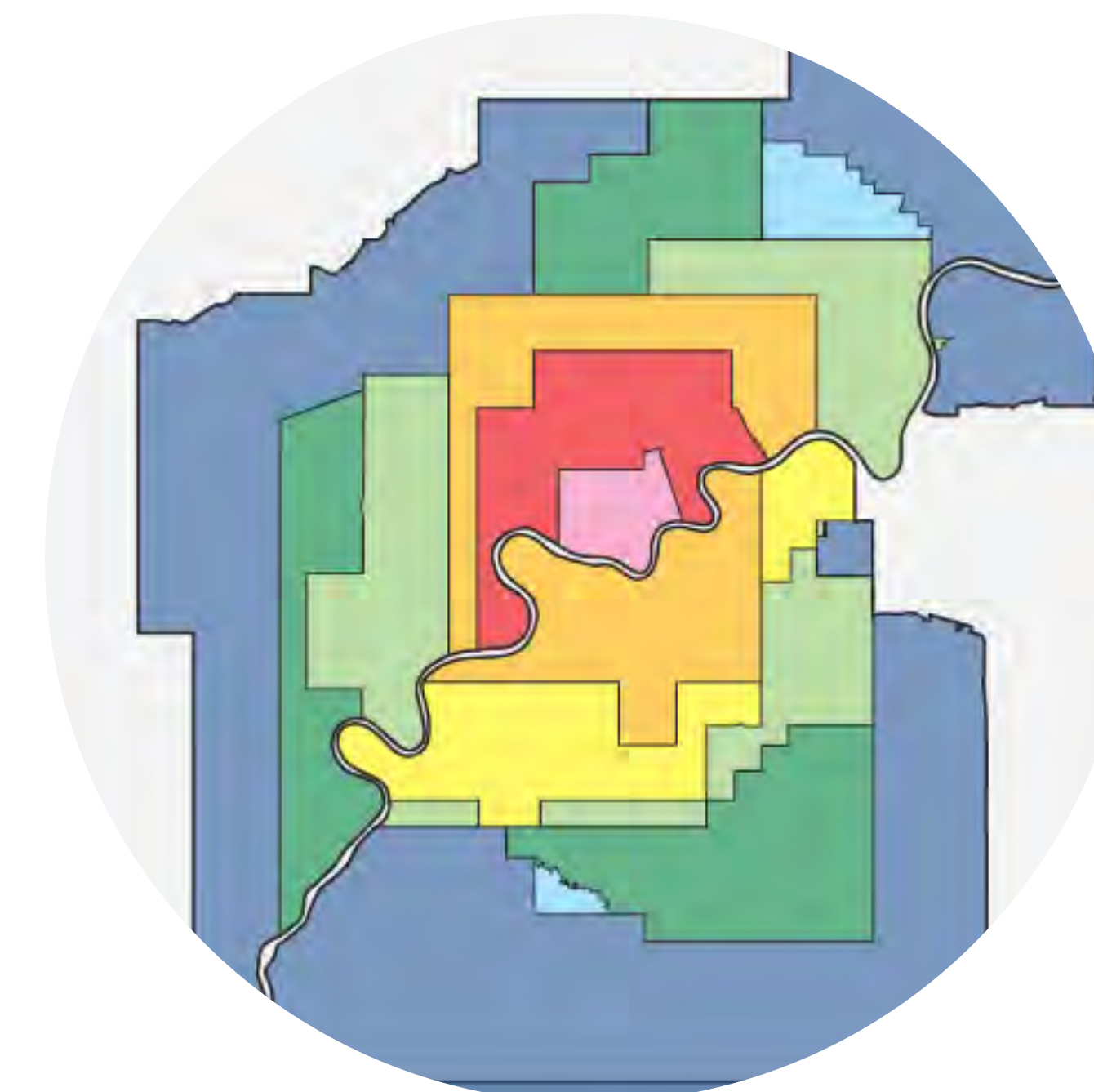
Responsive Management

Adaptively manage changing trends in growth, demographics and preferences.

Edmonton's population is growing and changing (to approximately 1.2 million people by 2040), and so too is the structure of the city itself. Not only do more people increase pressure on the existing spaces and amenities of the Green Network, but changing trends and demographics result in different open space needs.

The Green Network Strategy will:

- ✓ Address the implications of demographic groups' unique needs for open space planning
- ✓ Recommend changes in supply, diversity and functionality of open spaces in response to projected changes in demographics and population
- ✓ Identify best practices in planning processes and open space design to encourage adaptability and flexibility over time



Coordinated Planning

Improve coordination of open space planning with other City departments and initiatives.

The plans, projects and operations that guide life in Edmonton are often undertaken by many different City departments, branches and individuals. When communication breaks down among parts of the organization, transportation or growth management projects may become misaligned with the priorities for the Green Network, and bureaucratic processes for using open spaces may become lengthy or complicated.

The Green Network Strategy will:

- ✓ Recommend approaches to improve coordination across the organization
- ✓ Ensure alignment with other City plans, policies and initiatives
- ✓ Identify areas for future improvement of internal City processes related to open space use and development
- ✓ Improve the City's analytic capacity to enable more interdisciplinary, integrated and evidence based planning



Sustainable Funding

Develop a sustainable funding model that responds to operational requirements, community capacity and local needs.

When the demand for Green Network improvements exceeds the availability of funding, then goals related to the supply, maintenance or programming of open spaces may be compromised. Communities themselves may be required to raise funds for certain types of amenities.

The Green Network Strategy will:




- ✓ Outline best practices to match available financial resources with open space development and management
- ✓ Synchronize available opportunities with budgeting
- ✓ Evaluate means to align open space development processes with community needs and capacity

FUNDING SOURCES (000's)				
	PRIOR YEARS	2015	2016	2017
Approved Budget				
Original Budget Approved	-	3,410	1,350	1,270
Current Approved Budget	-	3,410	1,350	1,270
Approved Funding Sources				
Pay-As-You-Go	-	3,410	1,350	1,270
Current Approved Funding Sources	-	3,410	1,350	1,270
Budget Request	-	-	-	-
Revised Budget (if Approved)	-	3,410	1,350	1,270
Requested Funding Source	-	3,410	1,350	1,270
Pay-As-You-Go	-	3,410	1,350	1,270
Requested Funding Source	-	3,410	1,350	1,270

TOTAL BUDGET BY ACTIVITY TYPE (000's)				
Activity Type	PRIOR YEARS	2015	2016	2017
Other Costs	-	3,410	1,350	1,270
Total	-	3,410	1,350	1,270

Thank you for participating!

Next Steps

-  **Develop Indicators**
Are we meeting our goals?
What should our open space targets be?
-  **Create Recommendations**
Which actions should we take to improve the Green Network?
-  **Public Review**
Submit final feedback on the Draft Green Network Strategy

Future Opportunities for Engagement



DRAFT GREEN NETWORK STRATEGY:
Review the Draft Green Network Strategy to be posted online in January, and provide your feedback.
Visit edmonton.ca/breathe for more information about when and how.

Breathe is Online






Visit edmonton.ca/breathe to keep up to date on the project and stay involved!

NEWS + EVENTS: Come by, learn about the project and share your thoughts about Edmonton's open space

PROJECT REPORTS:

Stage 1 Summary Report
Stage 2 Summary Report
Stage 3 Summary Report (available online by end of Nov)
Engagement Phase 1 What We Heard Report
Engagement Phase 2 What We Heard Report

Have Questions?

-  breathe@edmonton.ca
-  [@PlanEdmonton](https://twitter.com/PlanEdmonton)
-  311