

RIBBON *of* GREEN

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Edmonton

WHAT IS THE RIBBON OF GREEN?

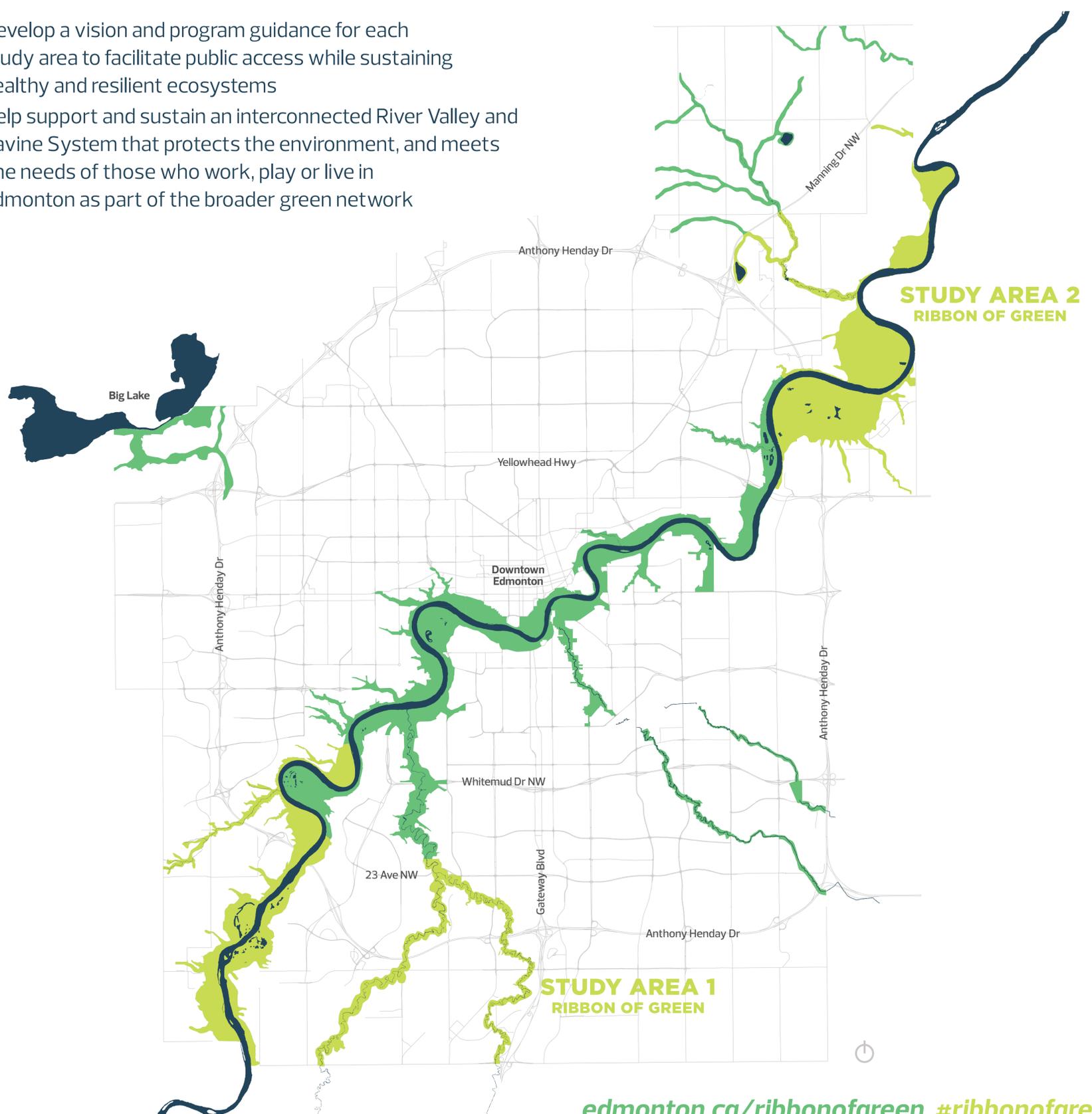
The Ribbon of Green is Edmonton's entire river valley and ravine system. The Ribbon of Green (2018) Project will provide strategic guidance for the southwest and northeast corners of Edmonton's River Valley and Ravine System.

Why Plan for the Ribbon of Green?

As new neighbourhoods are built, the River Valley and Ravine System faces growing pressures from increased use. This Plan needs to account for a future population of 300,000 people in neighbourhoods adjacent to the southwest study area and 150,000 people around the northeast study area.

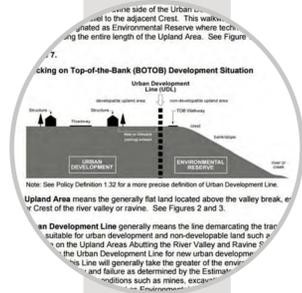
To help meet the needs of a growing population, an updated and consolidated Ribbon of Green Plan will:

- + Develop a vision and program guidance for each study area to facilitate public access while sustaining healthy and resilient ecosystems
- + Help support and sustain an interconnected River Valley and Ravine System that protects the environment, and meets the needs of those who work, play or live in Edmonton as part of the broader green network



River Valley Open Space Planning in Edmonton

The diagram below illustrates how the Ribbon of Green related to other plans approved by City Council.



VISION 2050 AND THE WAYS

Edmonton's 2050 Vision, Principle, and Goals serve as the foundation on which the City of Edmonton's corporate business plan, department business plans, master plans, and budgets are developed and approved. The Ways, the City's six strategic plans, provide direction on how to achieve six 10-year strategic goals, and are being updated to align with Vision 2050.

RELEVANT CITY POLICIES

Natural Area Systems Policy (C531), River Access Guiding Principles (C586), Development Setbacks from River Valley/Ravine Crests (C542), Open Space Policy (C594)

Provides direction to Administration on the development and protection of Edmonton's North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System.

BREATHE: EDMONTON'S GREEN NETWORK STRATEGY & NATURAL CONNECTIONS PLAN

Breathe is a transformative plan to make sure that each neighbourhood will be supported by an accessible network of parks and open space as the city grows. Natural Connections is Edmonton's plan for the protection, management and restoration of local natural areas and biodiversity, and community engagement in that effort.

RIBBON OF GREEN

A strategic and conceptual plan for study areas within the North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System. The strategic plan will focus on the southwest and northeast portion of the System.

NORTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER VALLEY AREA REDEVELOPMENT PLAN (BYLAW 7188)

Provides the environmental review framework and policy direction for the planning and protection of the North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System.

SITE-SPECIFIC PLANS

Further River Valley and Ravine System planning will involve field assessments to verify the direction contained here and inform the detailed planning and design for specific sites within the System. These plans can take many forms including the design and program for a single park, a management strategy for controlling erosion on a vulnerable slope, a trail alignment study and a natural area management program, among others.

Natural Connections Plan



Ribbon of Green Concept Plan



UPDATE & EXPAND

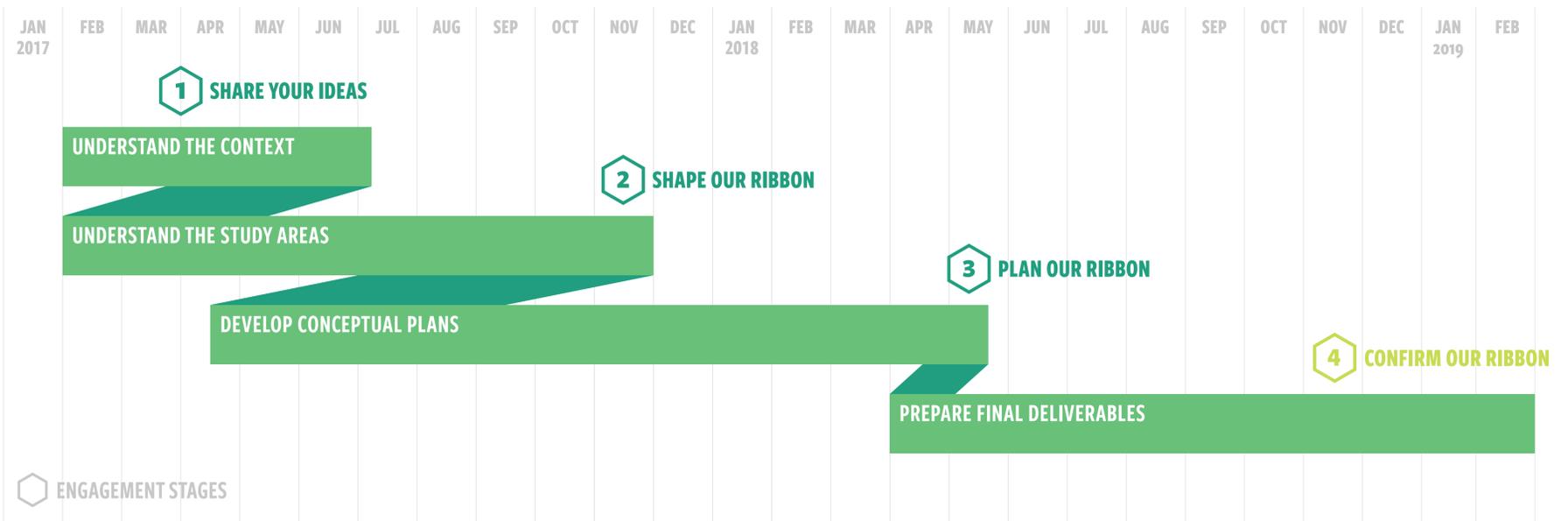


Ribbon of Green Master Plan



HOW DID WE GET HERE?

The Ribbon of Green plan is informed by four phases of public engagement, along with other inputs and analysis. Your feedback is essential to the development of the plan throughout this process.



Share Your Ideas PHASE 1: SPRING 2017

- Public feedback informed:
- + Vision + Priorities
 - + Land Management Classifications
 - + Analysis

Shape Our Ribbon PHASE 2: FALL 2017

- Public feedback informed:
- + Vision + Priorities revisions
 - + Land Management Classifications revisions
 - + Policies
 - + Program Guidance for each amenity node + primary trail head

Plan Our Ribbon PHASE 3: SPRING 2018

- Public feedback informed:
- + Draft Plan revisions

Confirm Our Ribbon PHASE 4: FALL 2018

- Public feedback will inform:
- + Final Plan revisions

Indigenous Engagement

The City of Edmonton is committed to keeping Indigenous communities informed and engaged throughout the Ribbon of Green (2018) project.

Over Summer 2017, the City met with several communities to gather information and insight through workshops with Traditional Knowledge Keepers. The City is continuing to engage communities.

The following themes emerged from these engagements:

- + Recognition of Indigenous Peoples
- + Significant Cultural/Historical Sites
- + Gathering Places
- + Protection of Natural Areas
- + Environmental Stewardship
- + Traditional Plants
- + Engagement

Data Analysis

To ensure local relevance, a reflection of best practice approaches, an appropriate relationship to the surrounding context and respect for site characteristics and conditions, the following inputs also informed the Plan:

- + Ecological Assessment
- + Cultural Assessment
- + Recreation Assessment
- + Geotechnical Considerations
- + Transportation Considerations

ABOUT THE PLAN

The **Ribbon of Green** plan is divided into five main sections, each with a different intent. Together, these sections provide background and strategic guidance for the northeast and southwest corners of the River Valley and Ravine System.

THE PLAN SECTIONS ARE:

- 1 Introduction (Vision + Principles)**
- 2 System-wide Policies**
- 3 Site Direction: Land Management Classifications**
- 4 Site Direction: Program Guidance**
- 5 Implementation**



1 INTRODUCTION

VISION

The North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System is a protected, connected landscape that supports ecological resilience and promotes healthy living through opportunities for recreation, active transportation and gathering in the tranquility of nature.

PRINCIPLES

- + The **ecological system** will be protected, connected, restored and managed to preserve its integrity and resiliency and to minimize the impact of human use.
- + New and/or expanded **facilities, infrastructure and programming** will provide opportunities for users to gather and recreate in nature, will provide essential urban services, and will be located and designed to minimize the environmental impact.
- + A **continuous trail system** and access points will connect neighbourhoods, the city and the region to the River Valley and Ravine System and provide safe and accessible opportunities for recreation and active transportation.
- + Through **engagement and partnerships**, meaningful opportunities will be provided to contribute to the planning, design and management of the River Valley and Ravine System.
- + The **natural and cultural heritage** of the River Valley and Ravine System will shape the places, experiences, and connections within it. Natural and historical sites, features and landscapes will be protected and, where appropriate, interpreted.
- + **Traditional uses** will be recognized and supported throughout the River Valley and Ravine System, and Communities will be meaningfully engaged in the planning, management and use of the System.



Read Section 1

2 SYSTEM-WIDE POLICIES

Section 2: System-wide Policies contains policies to guide decision making and direct the planning, design and management of the northeast and southwest areas within the River Valley and Ravine System. The direction here ensures a consistent approach is applied throughout the System.

THE SYSTEM-WIDE POLICIES ADDRESS:

Ecological Integrity

- + Respecting the Ecological Network
- + Protecting the Ribbon of Green
- + Buffering Sensitive Sites
- + Mitigating Ecological Impacts
- + Restoring and Remediating
- + Site-specific Planning
- + Conducting Environmental Reviews
- + Monitoring Ecological Health

Safe + Inclusive

- + Improving Safety through Education
- + Improving Safety through Design
- + Improving Trail Safety
- + Lighting
- + Improving Accessibility for All

Vibrant Spaces

- + Experiencing the River Valley and Ravine System
- + Experiencing the North Saskatchewan River
- + Celebrating in the System
- + Allowing Commercial Uses
- + Facilitating Year-round Use
- + Incorporating Public Art
- + Expanding Recreational Uses

Education + Awareness

- + Recognizing Indigenous Traditional Use
- + Promoting the River Valley and Ravine System through Interpretation
- + Building Awareness of Appropriate Behaviour in the System
- + Providing Educational Opportunities
- + Wayfinding
- + Designing Signs

Distribution + Supply

- + Expanding the Ribbon of Green
- + Providing Recreational Opportunities
- + Managing Heritage, Cultural + Traditional Resources
- + Developing Buildings, Urban Services + Facilities

Public Access + Connectivity

- + Accessing the System
- + Creating a Trail Network
- + Locating Trails
- + Facilitating Trail Experiences
- + Planning Trails
- + Designing Trails
- + Maintaining Trails
- + Monitoring Trails
- + Implementing Stairs + Decking
- + Planning Pedestrian Bridges
- + Parking

Adaptive Management + Flexible Spaces

- + Management Practices
- + Maintenance Standards
- + Creating Flexible Spaces

Community Engagement

- + Engaging the Public
- + Collaborating with Indigenous Communities

Collaborative Planning

- + Partnering
- + Coordinated Planning

Sustainable Funding

- + Sustainable Funding



Read Section 2

Use a comment card if you have any final feedback to share about this section.

3 SITE DIRECTION: LAND MANAGEMENT CLASSIFICATIONS

Section 3: Land Management Classifications

define the physical site conditions, operations, activities and amenities appropriate to locations within the River Valley and Ravine System.

THE LAND MANAGEMENT CLASSIFICATIONS ARE:

Preservation

Protect the integrity of the natural environment and restore natural functioning with limited access and recreational opportunities.



Conservation

Connect people to nature by allowing people to enjoy and appreciate the System while minimizing environmental impact and restoring ecological functioning, when possible.



Trail-based Recreation: Facilitate a variety of trail experiences in harmony with the natural environment through a connected trail network.



Natural Recreation: Rest, linger and enjoy nature.

Active/Working Landscapes

Facilitate gathering and recreation within the System, recognize existing uses and encourage restoration.



Intensive Recreation: Provide a wide-range of recreational opportunities tailored to the river valley and ravine setting.



Agriculture + Horticulture: Recognize existing agricultural and horticultural uses.

Urban Services + City-wide Attractions: Support city-wide attractions while acknowledging the importance of urban services to accommodate a growing city.

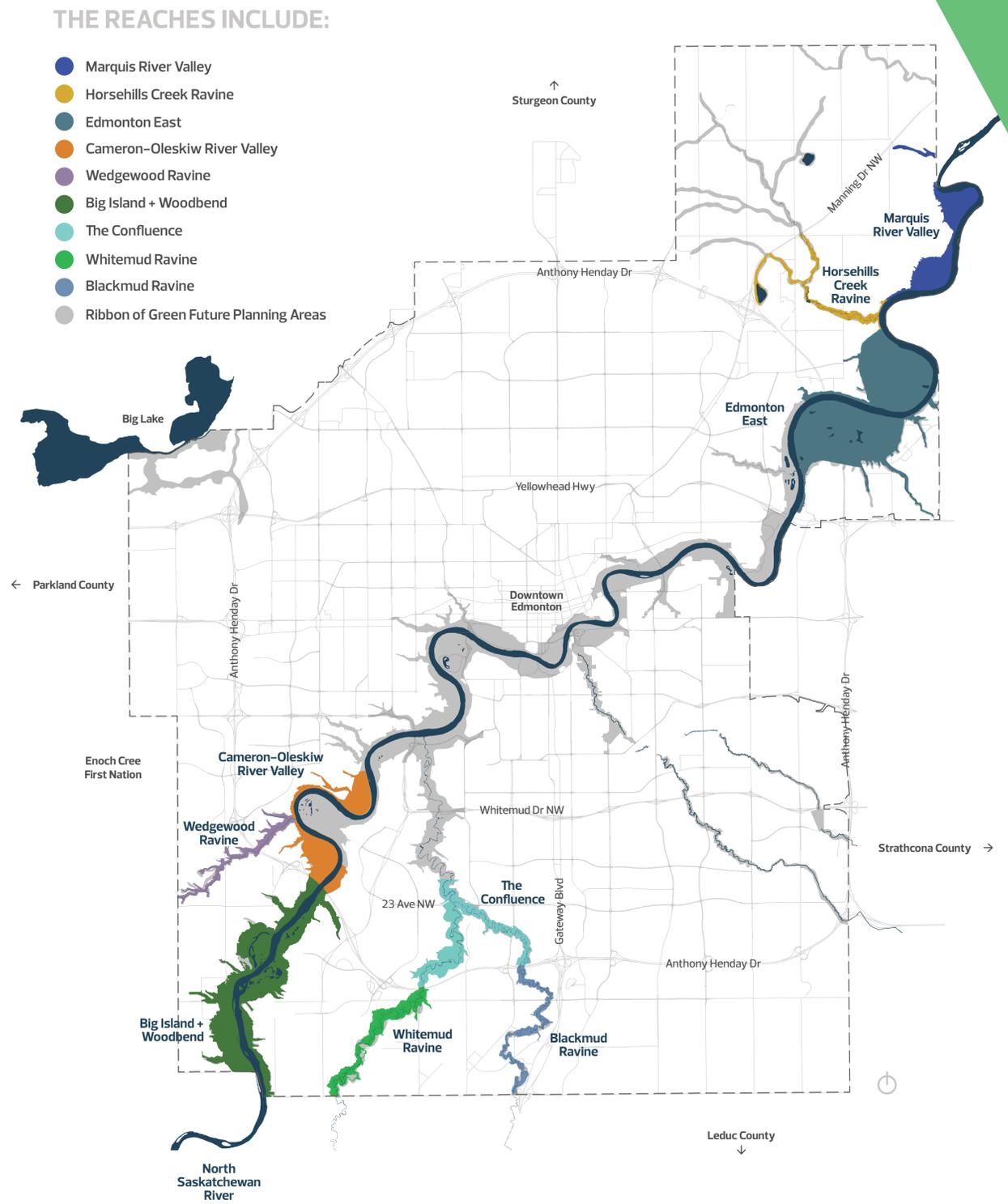


Read Section 3

Use a comment card if you have any final feedback to share about this section.

4 SITE DIRECTION: PROGRAM GUIDANCE

Section 4: Program Guidance provides initial direction for specific locations throughout the System, including a vision for each reach, a program statement for each Primary Trailhead and Amenity Node, and illustrated ecological and programming guidance.



Read Section 4

Use a comment card if you have any final feedback to share about this section.



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5 IMPLEMENTATION

Section 5: Implementation

provides direction to expand, monitor, evaluate and advance the Ribbon of Green over time.

THE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM ADDRESSES:

Implementation Actions:

- + Ribbon of Green Phase 2
- + Monitoring and Reporting Plan
- + River Valley Trail Guidelines
- + Stakeholder Identified Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest Program
- + River Access Strategy
- + River Valley Boundary Guidelines
- + Open Space Encroachment Strategy
- + Land Assembly Program
- + Capital Program

Program Guidance Implementation Principles:

- + Land Assembly
- + Site-Specific Planning + Development
- + Prioritization
- + Emerging Opportunities

Plan Monitoring, Evaluation + Review

- + Plan Monitoring + Evaluation
- + Plan Review + Amendments



Read Section 5

Use a comment card if you have any final feedback to share about this section.

THANK YOU!

Your feedback will inform the final revisions to the Ribbon of Green plan.

*If you did not get to everything you wanted to see tonight,
you can still share your ideas in a number of ways.*



Online Survey

Survey open until December 6, 2018

Survey available at

edmonton.ca/ribbonofgreen



Comment Cards

Return through email or mail
by December 6, 2018

Addresses indicated on form.

Next Steps

Input received at these engagement sessions will be used to inform final plan revisions. Sign up for the newsletter at edmonton.ca/ribbonofgreen to receive project updates, including:

- + Phase 4 What We Heard Report
- + Final Ribbon of Green Plan
- + Technical Report
- + Presentation of the plan to Council in 2019

