

Natural Areas Systems Objectives, Policies and Plans

Edmonton MRB Regional Growth Plan (2017), Policy Area 2: Natural Living Systems Objectives:

- 2.1 Conserve and restore natural living systems through an ecological network approach
- 2.2 Protect regional watershed health, water quality and quantity
- 2.3 Plan development to promote clean air, land and water and address climate change impacts
- 2.4 Minimize and mitigate the impacts of regional growth on natural living systems

The City has key strategies and implementation plans related to protecting the city's Natural Areas System, including:

- Natural Area Systems Policy C-531 (2007): This City policy states that all natural areas in Edmonton should be considered as part of an integrated ecological network, and ensures that equal consideration is given to ecological, economic, and social issues in decision making. Attachments to the policy outline guidelines for determining Environmental Reserves associated with water bodies.
- Natural Connections Strategic Plan (2007): Natural Connections is Edmonton's Conservation Plan. It outlines the City's ecological network approach and sets guiding principles, goals, system outcomes, strategic directions and strategies for natural area conservation.
- Open Space Policy C-594 (2017): Recognizes Edmonton's green network as a living system of interconnected public parks and open spaces, which deliver a broad range of services and community benefits.
- Breathe: Edmonton's Green Network Strategy (2017): the City's Open Space strategy that ensures that as the city grows, each neighbourhood will be supported by a network of open space for the next 30 years. The main goal of the Strategy is to plan and sustain a healthy city by encouraging connection and integration of open space at the site, neighbourhood, city and regional levels.
- Parkland Bylaw (C2202): The purpose of this bylaw is to regulate the conduct and activities of people on Parkland in order to promote the safe, enjoyable and reasonable use of such property and to protect and preserve natural

ecosystems for the benefit of all citizens of the City.

- Edmonton's Wetland Strategy (2012): outlines strategies and tools pertaining to Edmonton's natural and constructed wetlands into a single document, in order to strengthen and coordinate the City's wetland conservation approach and help identify areas for improvement in current wetland conservation efforts.
- Inventory of Environmentally Sensitive and Significant Natural Areas (1993): the City's first tableland Natural Area inventory. It identified tableland Natural Areas, Significant Natural Areas, and Environmentally Sensitive Areas as per definitions approved by City Council on August 24, 1993.

Council approved plans and policies specific to protecting natural features within the North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System:

- Ribbon of Green Concept (1990) and Master Plans (1992): The current planning framework for open space development in the North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System. The Concept Plan presents "a collective public vision for the River Valley" and establishes the framework for the Master Plan. The Master Plan establishes policy guidelines for the "long-term development, use and care of the entire valley".
- North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan (Bylaw 7188, 1985): identifies a boundary for the river valley and ravine system and a set of policies and development approval procedures for lands within this boundary.
- Development Setbacks from River Valley/Ravine Crests Policy (C542A): The City's Top of Bank Policy guides the development or redevelopment of areas abutting the North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System. The policy calls for separation between developable upland areas and non-developable Environmental Reserve, for purposes of ensuring slope stability, protecting the river valley from development, and maximizing public use and access.