

GBA+ Findings and Recommended Measures

OVERVIEW OF GBA+ IMPACT

As a citywide shared asset, the River Valley and Ravines System needs to provide opportunities for diverse community members to access and enjoy a connected network of open spaces through the heart of the city. It is essential that the River Valley Planning Modernization work reflects and accounts for the diverse perspectives, abilities, and lived experience of Edmontonians.

Administration's GBA+ considerations for this project have been informed by technical assessment, public and Indigenous engagement and research completed through *Breathe: Edmonton's Green Network Strategy*, Ribbon of Green SW+NE and the Zoning Bylaw Renewal project.

The River Valley Planning Modernization project is applying a GBA+ process in two primary ways:

1. In planning public and Indigenous engagement
2. In developing/refining River Valley policies and planning direction

GBA+ AND PUBLIC/INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT

Finding Statement 1: Research shows that a number of socially vulnerable communities may face barriers to participating in conventional engagement activities, including Indigenous community members, people with a disability, people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, newcomers, seniors and children/youth.

- **Equity Measure A:** To provide continuity and build on the strength of existing relationships, the project will work with the Indigenous Relations Office to better understand how to engage with Indigenous community representatives on the River Valley Planning Modernization project in a way that is meaningful for these representatives.
- **Equity Measure B:** To understand the specific barriers different populations may face in engagement, and for a direct and personal reach, work with City staff or representatives of organizations who know those community members to inform planning and delivery of engagement opportunities.
- **Equity Measure C:** To make engagement as accessible as possible for those with limited access to technology and/or transportation, plan

in-person opportunities that meet target audiences where they are (e.g. drop-in session at Boyle Street Community Centre to reach people experiencing homelessness).

- **Equity Measure D:** For targeted in-person events, provide specific supports such as child care, accommodations for those with a disability (e.g. Computer Assisted Real-Time Translation or sign language translation) and language translation. Consider reimbursement for time and/or travel as appropriate.

GBA+ AND RIVER VALLEY POLICY AND PLANNING DIRECTION

Finding Statement 1: Research has shown that open space planning and policies have the potential to lead to inequity, and the exclusion of marginalized community members.

- **Equity Measure A:** Undertake a GBA+ analysis of proposed River Valley policies and land use planning direction in Phase 3 of the project. The analysis will be informed by a review of relevant research/literature.
- **Equity Measure B:** Ensure that input received through targeted stakeholder engagement of marginalized populations (see above) is considered and implemented through policy development.

Finding Statement 2: Spatial analysis completed as part of Breathe: Edmonton's Green Network Strategy assessed access to open space for those living in neighbourhoods with high social vulnerability. Many of these neighbourhoods are at a considerable distance from the River Valley and do not have good access to these open spaces.

- **Equity Measure A:** Through multimodal transportation assessments to be completed in Phase 3, and associated policy and program guidance, ensure that access is provided for those who do not live in proximity to the River Valley (e.g. transit, adequate parking).