



Integrated Infrastructure Services  
Infrastructure Planning and Design

Edmonton

# Tree Management for the William Hawrelak Park Rehabilitation Project

Urban Planning Committee  
May 2, 2023

IIS01731

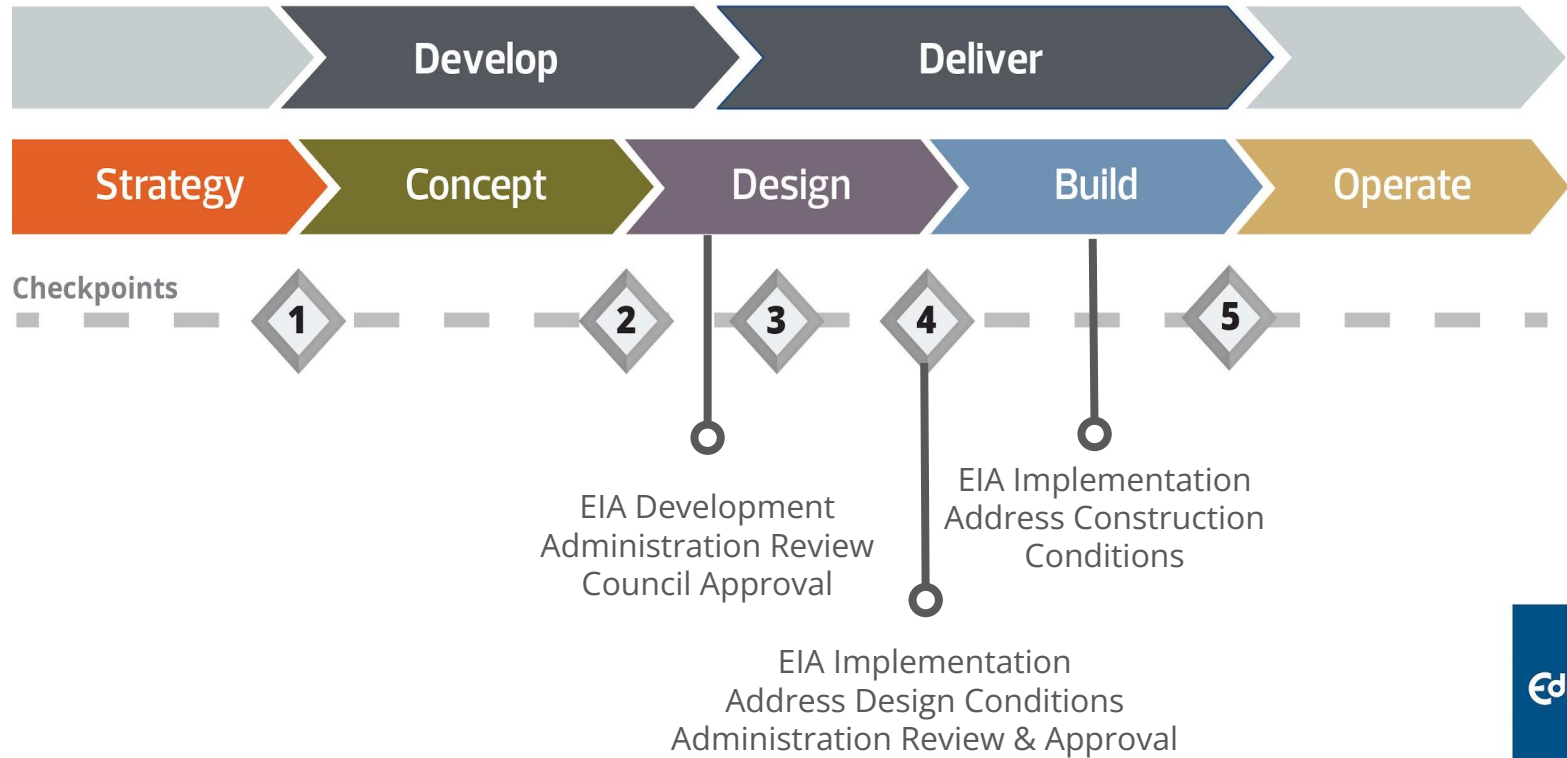
# William Hawrelak Park Rehabilitation Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Requirement of the North Saskatchewan River Valley Area  
Redevelopment Plan (Bylaw 7188, also known as the River Valley  
ARP)

Ensures environmental stewardship for the duration of a project

Analyzes current conditions in the project area, evaluates risks and  
identifies environmental impacts that must be eliminated,  
minimized or mitigated through design, landscaping and  
construction measures

# EIA Process



# EIA Process - Involvement across the Corporation

**Regulatory Authority:**

Urban Growth and Open Space in Urban Planning and Economy

**Development:**

Led by Integrated Infrastructure Services

**Review:**

Multiple City Groups, including City Operations, Urban Planning and Economy and Community Services

**Approval:**

City Council

**Implementation:**

Led by Integrated Infrastructure Services

Supported by: Forestry, Natural Areas, ENVISO in City Operations

# EIA Development

	Source Materials Providing Input into the EIA Report
<b>Terms of Reference</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scoping Specific to the Project</li> </ul>
<b>Design &amp; Engagement Reports</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schematic Design Report</li> <li>Public Engagement Reports (2018, 2021)</li> </ul>
<b>Technical Studies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Previous Environmental Site Assessments (2014, 2021)</li> <li>Hawrelak Lake Water Quality Feasibility Study (2020)</li> <li>Geotechnical (2021)</li> <li>Stairway Replacement Geotechnical (2021)</li> </ul>
<b>Documentation of Existing Conditions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hawrelak Park Plant Community Inventory (2021)</li> <li>Wildlife List (2021)</li> <li>Updated Mapping of Environmental Sensitivities (2021)</li> <li>Review of Alberta's Fish and Wildlife Management Information System</li> </ul>
<b>Identification of applicable Environmental Regulatory Approvals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Municipal - Corporate Tree Management Policy; Public Tree Bylaw; Corporate Tree Preservation Guidelines; EPCOR Drainage Services Bylaw; Parkland Bylaw</li> <li>Provincial - Public Lands Act; Water Act; Wildlife Act, Historical Resources Act</li> <li>Federal - Fisheries Act, Canadian Navigable Waters Act, Migratory Birds Convention Act, Species at Risk Act</li> </ul>
<b>Analysis of Project Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identification of Valued Ecosystem Components (VEC)</li> <li>List of Project Activities that will affect VEC</li> <li>Impact Assessment</li> <li>Mitigation Measures and Assessment of residual impact</li> </ul>

# EIA Development

## **Related to trees:**

- The EIA identified the temporary and permanent loss of open space trees, loss of native plant communities.
- The EIA also identified potential for incidental tree damage during construction.
- The EIA proposed a number of mitigation measures to be completed during detailed design and construction, including reclamation.

# EIA Review and Approval Process

## **Council approval:**

- April 4, 2022

## **Approval conditions related to trees:**

- Tree Preservation Plan
- Restoration Plan
- Update the Tree Removal Inventory

# EIA Review and Approval Process

## Administration review & approval:

- Reviewed by many different groups
  - EPCOR Drainage
  - EPCOR Water & Sewer
  - Planning & Environment Services
  - Engineering Services
  - River Valley Parks & Facilities
  - Civic Events & Festivals
  - Partnerships & Event Attractions
  - Forestry
  - Natural Areas
  - Land Development
  - Risk Management
  - Environment
- Approval letter issued that includes conditions and advisements to follow as the project progresses

# EIA Implementation

## Detailed Design (2023)

- Tree Preservation Plan with updated Tree Removal Inventory
- Restoration Plan

*These documents have been submitted to Urban Planning and Economy for review and approval. Reviews are ongoing and expected to be completed in May 2023. The draft documents are attached to this report and will be available on the City website.*

## EIA Implementation

Open Spaces: Individual counts of trees

Natural Areas: Delineate in terms of total area

# EIA Implementation

## Open Spaces Trees (Urbfor April 2023)

	Number of Trees	Comments
Total number of open space trees within Tree Protection Zone (TPZ)	741	All trees within 5 metres of any boulevard and open space tree (as measured from the edge of the trunk of the tree) must be identified.
Total estimated number of trees to <b><u>protect</u></b>	544	The final number of trees to protect may change subject to further field assessment.
Total estimated number of trees to <b><u>remove</u></b>	112	The final number of trees to remove may change subject to further field assessment.
Tree impacted by current <b><u>grading</u></b> and COE protection requirements	85	Follow specifications as per the Design and Construction Standards. 2022. Volume 5 Landscape.
<b><u>Commemorative</u></b> trees identified within the development site	35	These trees have no planned disturbances within 5 meters and are identified specifically on the Overview Maps.

# EIA Implementation

## Natural Area Tree Loss (Urbfor April 2023)

Will take two forms:

1. Removal of narrow strips on the margins of stands, located throughout the park
2. Removal of ~ 7 smaller more restricted areas (rectangular)

The total area disturbed is estimated at 1512 m<sup>2</sup>

# EIA Implementation

## Build (2023 onward)

- Application of EIA Mitigation Measures
- Implementation of Tree Preservation Plan and Restoration Plan
- Continued in the field collaboration between Contractor, Urban Forestry and Consultants to protect against tree loss

*Through these actions which will also include installing approximately 300 new open space trees and restoring natural areas equal to that which is disturbed in the long-term, the City continues to protect against long term tree loss and adverse impacts.*

## EIA Lessons Learned

1. Provide information on tree removals once the preservation and restoration plans are finalized.
2. Ensure clear communication about the EIA process and key milestones with the public and stakeholders.
3. Engage arborists early.
4. Allow adequate scheduling for sequential tree preservation planning.

# Thank you.

## Questions?

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