

GBA+ Findings and Recommendations

OVERVIEW OF GBA+ IMPACT

Parks Canada, the City of Edmonton, and other partners have made a commitment to diversity and inclusion as part of the potential creation of a National Urban Park in the Edmonton region. It is essential that the National Urban Park Initiative reflects and accounts for the diverse perspectives, abilities, and lived experiences of Edmontonians. As a city-wide shared asset, the River Valley park system must provide opportunities for diverse community members to access and enjoy a connected network of open spaces through the heart of the city.

Administration's GBA+ considerations for this project have been informed by research and previous public and Indigenous engagement completed through *Breathe: Edmonton's Green Network Strategy (2017)* and *Ribbon of Green SW+NE (2020)*.

The City is applying a GBA+ process/analysis in two primary ways:

1. Incorporating a GBA+ lens when developing criteria and recommendations for a preferred National Urban Park site;
2. Planning GBA+ targeted engagement activities.

GBA+ and Site Selection

Finding Statement 1:

Research findings from previous GBA+ analysis of open space planning policies have shown that open space planning and policies have the potential to lead to inequity and the exclusion of marginalized community members. There is a need to understand what barriers equity deserving groups may face in the establishment of a National Urban Park.

Equity Measure A

When refining the boundaries of the potential National Urban Park, incorporate equity considerations (e.g. access for people with disabilities, proximity to public transit and active transportation networks, population catchment by demographic such as age and income).

Equity Measure B

Ensure that input received through targeted engagement of marginalized populations is considered and implemented when developing criteria to assist with refining site boundaries of the National Urban Park.

GBA+ and Public Engagement

Finding Statement 2:

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 houselessness, newcomers, seniors and children/youth.

Equity Measure A

To understand the specific barriers different populations may face to engagement, work with City staff and organizations who have a relationship with communities that face those barriers. Be deliberate about gathering feedback to inform planning and delivery of engagement opportunities.

Equity Measure B

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 at (e.g. customized engagement sessions with flexible meeting locations based on the needs of participants).

Equity Measure C

For targeted in-person events, provide specific support such as childcare, accommodations for those with a disability (e.g., Computer Assisted Real-Time Translation or sign language translation). Consider reimbursement for time and/or travel as appropriate.