

RIVER VALLEY PLANNING MODERNIZATION

Ribbon of Green & River Valley ARP

Phase 4 What We Heard Report
August 2024

Land Acknowledgement

The lands on which Edmonton sits and the North Saskatchewan River that runs through it have been sites of natural abundance, ceremony and culture, travel and rest, relationship building, making and trading for Indigenous peoples since time immemorial. Edmonton is located within Treaty 6 Territory and within the Métis homeland. We acknowledge this land as the traditional territories of many First Nations such as the Nehiyaw (Cree), Denesuliné (Dene), Nakota Sioux (Stoney), Anishinaabe (Sault-eaux) and Niitsitapi (Blackfoot). We also acknowledge this place as the home of one of the largest communities of Inuit south of the 60th parallel. The City of Edmonton owes its strength and vibrancy to these lands and the diverse Indigenous peoples whose ancestors' footsteps have marked this territory as well as settlers from around the world who continue to be welcomed here and call Edmonton home. Together, we call upon all our collective honoured traditions and spirits to work in building a great city for today and future generations.





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Project Background

Edmonton's North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System ("River Valley") is a vital and highly valued ecological, recreational, and active transportation corridor. a place of incredible cultural significance and a draw for visitors throughout the region. As the population of Edmonton grows, as Edmontonians increasingly seek out opportunities for natural recreation, and as a range of River Valley development projects are proposed, planned, and implemented, pressure on the River Valley is increasing. With demands on the area becoming increasingly complex, there is a need for clear policy, sound planning guidance, and a strong regulatory framework.

The River Valley Planning Modernization (RVPM) project will create an integrated planning and regulatory framework for Edmonton's River Valley to ensure that it remains a protected, vibrant, open space network as the city grows.\

FRAMEWORK

This project includes two streams of work that are being developed together.

RIBBON OF GREEN – COMPLETION

The Ribbon of Green provides the strategic direction: our overall vision for the future of the River Valley, our high-level plans for the connected open spaces within it, and the policy that guides our decisions about what happens in that space.



NORTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER VALLEY ARP – MODERNIZATION

The North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan ("River Valley ARP") provides the regulatory framework: the standards and rules that guide our evaluation of individual projects and developments proposed for the River Valley.

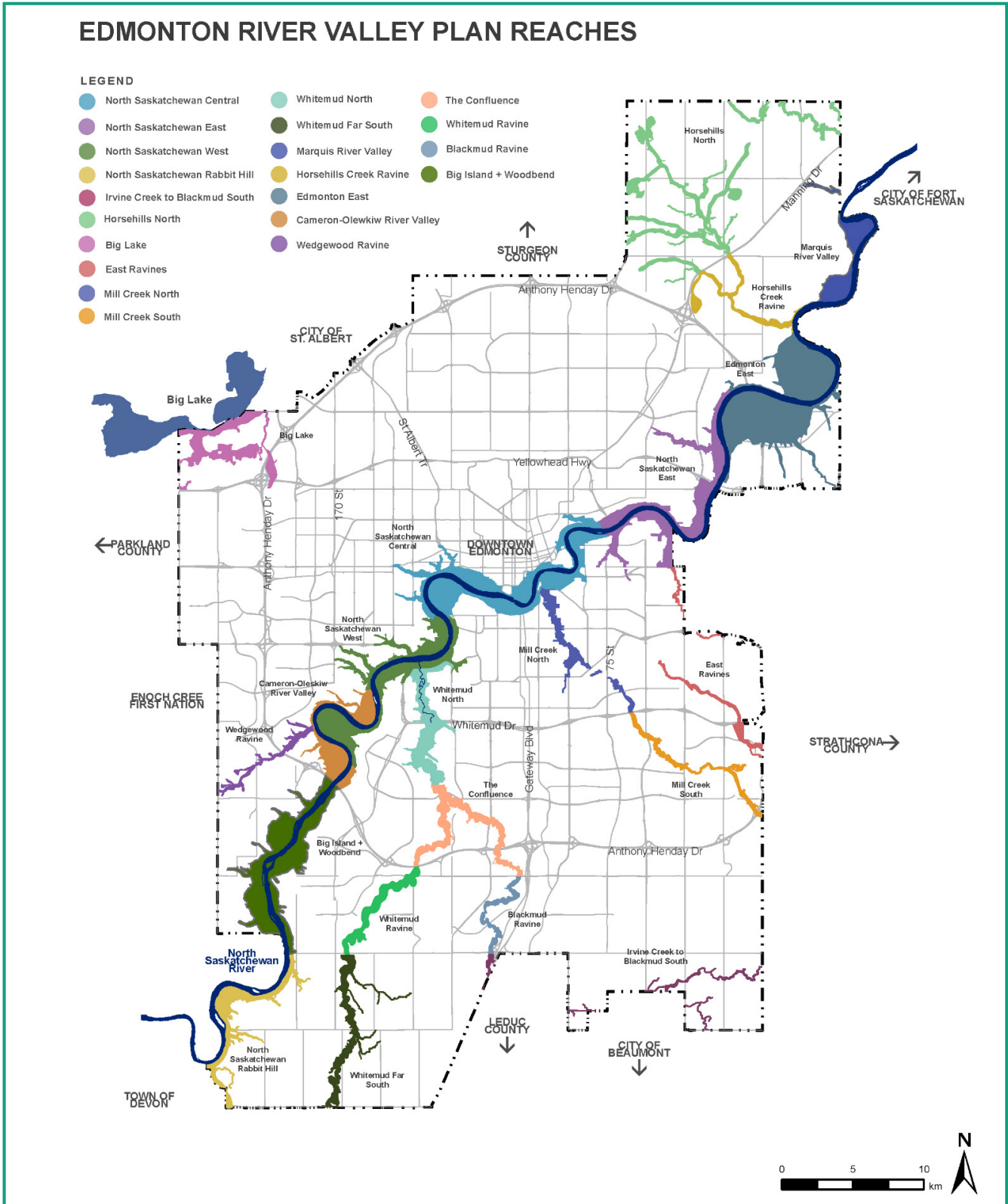


TIMELINE



STUDY AREA

The study area follows the boundary of the North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System. Planning of the northeast and southwest areas of the River Valley was completed through the Ribbon of Green SW+NE project. Earlier phases of RVPM work focused on planning the remaining areas of the system. In Phase 4, all River Valley reaches were brought together in the updated Ribbon of Green plan, and both the Ribbon of Green and River Valley ARP now provide overarching guidance for the entire River Valley and Ravine system.



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

Engagement Approach

ENGAGEMENT GOALS

While each phase has had its own specific aims, there are several overarching goals that all public engagement in this project has aimed to achieve:

- + To offer opportunities throughout the project for participants to provide meaningful, appropriate, and actionable input that will be used to complete the Ribbon of Green plan and update the River Valley regulatory framework
- + To implement an engagement process that is open, transparent and respectful
- + To provide opportunities for involvement that are convenient and accessible
- + Creative engagement and communication with the general public, stakeholders, and communities, including adjacent municipalities
- + To provide opportunities to engage vulnerable populations and equity-deserving groups
- + Clear communication of the project goals, what the engagement process can and cannot influence, and how public input was used to help shape the plan.
- + This phase of engagement falls within the REFINE level of the City's Public Engagement Spectrum. Input from PHASE 4 will help the City to adapt and adjust approaches to planning for the River Valley.

The Phase 4 engagement invited input to help:

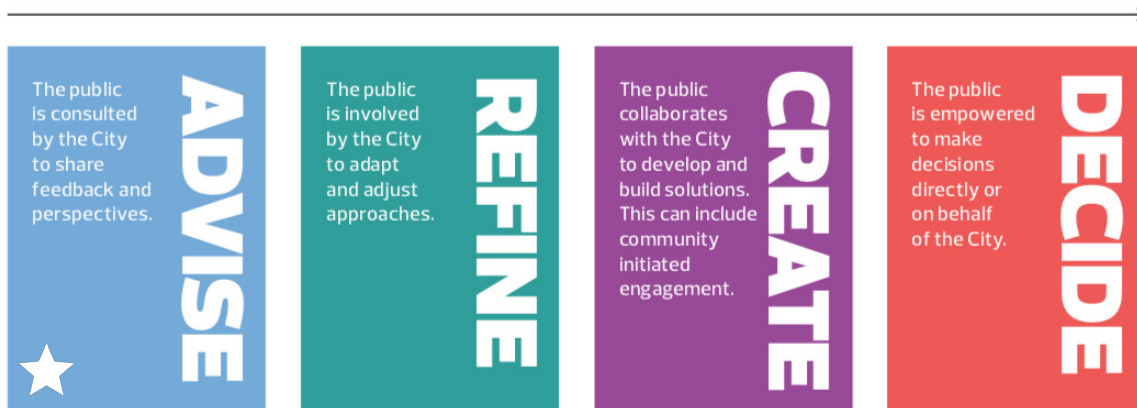
- + Finalize the Ribbon of Green system-wide policies, Land Management Classifications and Program and Ecological Guidance
- + Refine the ARP land use concept, policies and decision-making process

Phase 4 built on the previous three phases of engagement where the public was invited to help finalize the vision and guiding principles for River Valley planning, and refine the land management classifications, draft planning guidance, and early direction for River Valley decision-making.

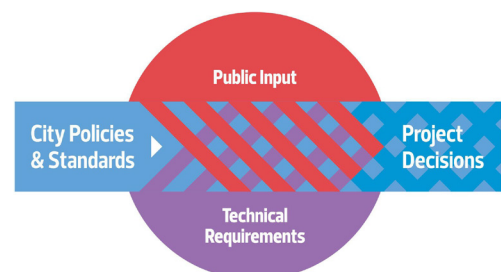
Phase 4 engagement falls within the **ADVISE** level of the City's Public Engagement Spectrum. Input from Phase 4 will help the City to finalize both the Ribbon of Green and River Valley ARP.

The visual below illustrates the City of Edmonton's Public Engagement Spectrum:

Increasing influence of the public











A combination of City policies and programs, technical requirements and Indigenous, public and stakeholder input will inform the final versions of the Ribbon of Green and River Valley ARP. This process helps ensure that the decisions we make are fiscally responsible, align with best practices, and result in the best outcomes for our city.








How We Engaged

Phase 4 Public Engagement was open for feedback from June 10 to 30, 2024, with the online survey. To reach a wide range of Edmontonians and River Valley users, a variety of engagement methods and tools were used, ensuring there were multiple avenues to choose from to participate, both virtually and in-person.

Overall, the engagement opportunities demonstrated our commitment to engaging with a diverse range of stakeholders in order to understand their unique perspectives and experiences. Each activity was designed to meet GBA+ goals by targeting specific stakeholder communities that may be underserved and/or underrepresented in traditional planning processes.

RESOURCES	DESCRIPTION	STATS	AUDIENCE	FORMAT
How We Communicated				
 Project Webpage	The online hub for all project information edmonton.ca/ribbonofgreen	Over 49,000 unique visits from over 40,000 users	Public	Online
 Digital Billboards	Billboards were posted at high-traffic locations to inform users about the project and promote engagement.	13 digital billboards with 6,299,026 impressions	Public	Onsite
 Road Signage	Signs placed along major roadways	7 road signs with 956,235 impressions	Public	Print / Onsite
 Social Media	Posts on Facebook, X, and Instagram	Over 2.3 million impressions and over 19,000 clicks	Public	Online
 Google Ads	Posts through Google	Over 8 million impressions and over 45,000 clicks	Public	Online
 Other Paid Media	External marketing efforts that involve a paid placement	Over 470,000 impressions and over 5,800 clicks	Public	Online
 Direct Emails	Direct emails to stakeholder organizations representing diverse communities and interests	Over 200 emails sent	Public	Online
 Broadcast Television	An interview with the project spokesperson aired on City TV Morning News.	One Interview	Public	Online / Television

Signage, billboards and road signage impressions are measured by traffic counts. Social media impressions are the number of times a Facebook or Instagram post has been seen. This number may include repeat or unique users.

RESOURCES	DESCRIPTION	STATS	AUDIENCE	FORMAT
How We Engaged				
 Public Survey	The survey was available from June 10 to June 30. It was designed to gather feedback from the public on the draft documents. The survey was made available on the City of Edmonton website and distributed through the Edmonton Insight Community.	2,104 respondents	Public	Online
	For demographic information on survey respondents, see Appendix A.			
 Public Workshops	Two online workshops were held to collect qualitative feedback on both the Ribbon of Green and River Valley ARP.	50 attendees	Public	Online
 Pop-Ups	Seven pop-up events were held in popular areas of the River Valley or hosted by stakeholder groups, with the intent to meet members of the public where they were.	288 participants	Public	In-Person
 Online Interactive Map	The interactive map included detailed information about the project and an interactive map to collect feedback on specific reaches.	232 comments	Public	Online
 Project Email	Emails sent to the project team ribbonofgreen@edmonton.ca	15 submissions	Public	Online

Who We Engaged

The City is committed to involving the people affected by the decisions it makes. The City seeks diverse opinions, experiences and information so that a wide spectrum of perspectives are represented in the process.

The insights presented in this What We Heard Report represent the viewpoints of people and organizations who voluntarily selected to participate in public engagement for this phase. Results are not necessarily representative of the perspectives of all Edmontonians.

GENERAL PUBLIC:

Engagement opportunities were open to all Edmontonians..

STAKEHOLDERS:

Groups representing a variety of existing and potential River Valley users and uses were included. See Appendix B for a list of stakeholder groups who were invited to participate.

INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT:

While previous phases have had a fulsome Indigenous engagement component with Indigenous Nations and communities in Alberta, in Phase 4 we sought to gather feedback from Edmonton's urban Indigenous community members. This included a pop-up event at the Canadian Native Friendship Centre's National Indigenous Peoples Festival on June 21, 2024.

What We Asked

While engagement tactics varied in format and audience, the questions remained consistent. Below is a summary of the types of questions asked throughout Phase 4.

Meetings 

Public Survey 

Interactive Portal Online Map 

Public & Stakeholder Workshops 

Pop-ups 

WHAT WE ASKED	WHY WE ASKED THIS QUESTION	WHERE IT WAS ASKED
RIBBON OF GREEN		
<p>OVERALL FEEDBACK</p> <p>+ Please tell us what you agree and disagree with most about the Ribbon of Green.</p>	To gather feedback on the draft document.	  
<p>SYSTEM WIDE POLICIES</p> <p>+ What is your level of agreement with the policy approach within the Ribbon of Green?</p>	To gather feedback on the policy approach.	
<p>LAND MANAGEMENT CLASSIFICATIONS</p> <p>+ What is your level of agreement with the approach to planning for ecological protection and different types of use that is outlined in the land management classifications?</p>	To confirm and refine the proposed land management classifications and policies.	
<p>PROGRAM AND ECOLOGICAL GUIDANCE</p> <p>+ What is your level of agreement with the approach to programming and ecological guidance within the River Valley and Ravine System</p>	To confirm and refine proposed planning guidance for protection, access and enjoyment in the River Valley.	
<p>ACCESS BARRIERS</p> <p>+ Do you have any concerns about access barriers to the River Valley and Ravine System that this plan may create?</p>	To gather feedback on potential barriers to access created by the plan.	
RIVER VALLEY ARP		
<p>OVERALL FEEDBACK</p> <p>+ Please tell us what you agree and disagree with the most about the Edmonton River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan approach.</p>	To gather feedback on the draft document.	  
<p>LAND USE CONCEPT</p> <p>+ What is your level of agreement with the proposed approach to land use?</p>	To gather feedback on the land use approach.	
<p>DISCOURAGING INTENSIVE DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>+ What is your level of agreement with the proposed approach of limiting intensive development in the River Valley?</p>	To gather feedback on the land use approach.	
<p>PROTECTING AND RESTORING NATURE:</p> <p>+ What is your level of agreement with the proposed approach to protecting and restoring nature?</p>	To gather feedback on the draft approach to protecting and restoring nature.	

PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER SUMMARY

What We Heard

HOW WE SHARE FINDINGS

Nearly 2,300 community participants shared their thoughts on the Ribbon of Green and River Valley Area Redevelopment Plans during Phase 4.

The following feedback summaries have been organized by focusing on areas of the both of the plans where participants agreed, disagreed, or offered extra thoughts. Each comment has been reviewed and matched with the section of the plans it relates to for further consideration by the project team.

OVERALL FEEDBACK SUMMARY

Phase 4 feedback was gathered through workshops, pop-up events, an online survey, and an interactive map. The key themes that emerged across these different engagement methods included:

Protection of the Natural Elements Within the River Valley

We heard that participants appreciate the River Valley as it is, and some participants noted their appreciation for the natural elements within the River Valley. These participants would like to see the River Valley preserved and conserved as it is now for future generations to also enjoy.

Appreciation for Existing River Valley Recreation and Trail System

We heard about the importance of maintaining and protecting the River Valley for recreational use. These participants would like to keep the recreation opportunities that currently exist in the River Valley and not change land uses that might limit recreational opportunities.

Support for Planning Approach

We also heard from individuals who appreciated that the plan addressed the whole River Valley and that the proposed plan felt relevant to the different River Valley Reaches across Edmonton, acknowledging local opportunities and contexts. Supporters of the plan also felt that it was flexible and proactive and relevant to today and the future of the River Valley.

Creating Inclusive and Accessible Spaces

We heard from participants about the importance of inclusive and accessible use of the River Valley for all Edmontonians. Some participants advocated for both the Ribbon of Green and ARP to specifically identify and support additional/enhanced infrastructure to improve accessibility within the River Valley. Suggestions included improved wayfinding signage, accessible ramps and access points, more benches, accessible washrooms, and increased infrastructure to support a variety of transportation methods to key access points in the River Valley.

Sheltering in the River Valley

We heard that the Ribbon of Green should speak about unhoused community members in the River Valley. Specifically, participants noted the ecological impacts of sheltering in the River Valley and the safety risks that some perceived could be presented by individuals seeking shelter there. We also heard participants express the need for a comprehensive approach to supporting unhoused community members.

Reducing User Conflicts

We heard that it is important to better accommodate people biking, people walking and rolling, and space for off-leash dogs to help reduce conflict between different users of the River Valley trail network. Concerns were raised about the speed of some trail users (e.g. e-bikes, bikes and scooters) presenting risk for other trail users (e.g. those who walk or roll). For example, some respondents suggested separate trails for bikers and pedestrians or designated off-leash areas.

Protecting and Preserving Ecological Integrity while Enabling Access

Some participants expressed appreciation for the focus on protecting ecologically-sensitive areas, highlighting the importance of preserving the River Valley for future generations. We heard support for prohibiting future development in the River Valley while still allowing for recreational use; however, we also heard some participants express the opinion that most forms of recreation cannot be accommodated without compromising the area's ecological integrity.

Connectivity Across the River Valley

Maintaining and improving access to and connectivity through the River Valley for all Edmontonians was another common interest. Some participants suggested enhancing connectivity with neighbourhoods surrounding the River Valley through the development and maintenance of trail networks.

Plan Implementation

Some participants suggested that the Ribbon of Green should address maintenance standards within the trail system or link readers to a document that better addresses levels of service in River Valley trail maintenance.

We also heard concerns about the costs and timelines of implementation of both the Ribbon of Green and River Valley Area Redevelopment Plans. Some participants wanted to see more details in these plans on how they will be actioned, and what funds and resources will be needed to deliver them.

Funding to Support Plan Implementation

Some participants emphasized the importance of securing adequate funding to support the implementation of the plan's guidance. They expressed that without proper financial resources, the goals outlined in the Ribbon of Green would be difficult to achieve, and the plan's effectiveness would be compromised.

Document Design and Presentation

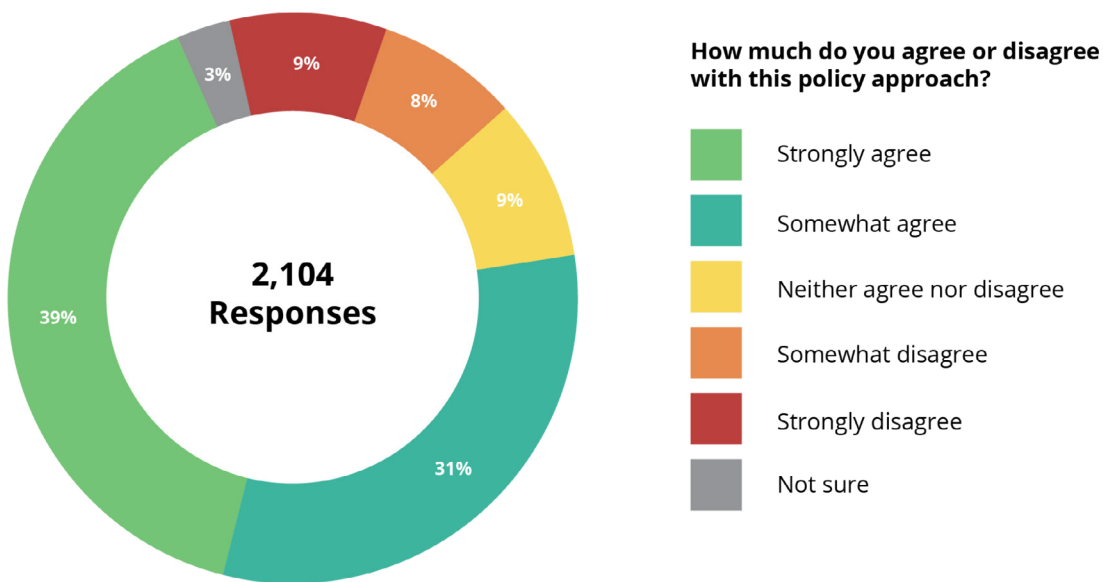
Some participants recommended that the Ribbon of Green be condensed into a more concise and accessible format. This streamlined document should provide clear explanations of how the plan will be applied, the expected changes to the River Valley, and high-level summaries of key elements.

Ribbon of Green: System-Wide Policies

Ribbon of Green system-wide policies guide decision making and direct the planning, design, and management of lands in the River Valley and Ravine System to ensure we are being consistent throughout the System.

The system-wide policies guide how the City:

- + Protects and restores nature, including in areas where development is happening or planned
- + Creates inclusive, accessible and welcoming park spaces for diverse Edmontonians
- + Provides different types of opportunities for recreation and gathering in the River Valley and Ravine System
- + Supports reconciliation and strengthens relationships with Indigenous communities
- + Promotes public engagement and partnerships in planning and managing the River Valley
- + Creates a network of open spaces that is connected throughout the River Valley and Ravine System, and with surrounding neighbourhoods



SURVEY FEEDBACK

Survey respondents were invited to share their input on the system-wide policies for the Ribbon of Green, and 70 percent strongly agreed (39%) or somewhat agreed (31%) with the policy approach as seen in the chart above, suggesting a strong level of support for the policy approach.

The survey invited respondents to provide further comments on areas of agreement or disagreement with the draft Ribbon of Green Plan. A total of 477 written responses were received. Within these responses the following themes emerged related to System-Wide Policies.

Protecting the Ecological Integrity of the River Valley and Ravine System

We received feedback on protecting the ecological integrity of the River Valley and Ravine System. Some respondents supported the emphasis on preserving ecologically sensitive areas, wildlife habitats, and corridors within the Ribbon of Green. Other respondents expressed a desire to keep the River Valley wild, providing spaces for connecting with nature and quiet reflection. We also heard a call to protect these natural areas from development, commercial activity, and the potential impacts of recreation. Respondents also noted the ecological impacts of infrastructure to support accessibility and recreation within the River Valley including raising concerns about the environmental footprint of new trails or facilities.

Legacy and Future Generations

Respondents noted the importance of the River Valley to Edmontonians, with a desire to see the Ribbon of Green guide the protection and enjoyment of the River Valley for future generations. Examples included expressions of the need to preserve the River Valley for children and grandchildren.

Commercial Opportunities

We heard from some Edmontonians who would like to see more small commercial opportunities within certain segments of the River Valley to increase vibrancy. Feedback examples included suggestions for cafes or restaurants and equipment rental shops to enhance visitor experiences.

Prohibition of Commercial Uses

Some respondents indicated they would like to see the Ribbon of Green prohibit all commercial uses anywhere along the River Valley. This feedback included strong opposition to any commercial development in natural areas.

Improving Access and Connectivity

Respondents noted opportunities for the Ribbon of Green to explore access enhancements and improve connectivity of neighbourhoods to the River Valley. Examples of this feedback included suggestions for better pathways or bridges connecting neighbourhoods to the River Valley, maintaining connectivity of trails throughout the city and to adjacent municipalities, ensuring that protected areas do not create “walls” in the River Valley, and suggestions for a continuous riverside trail loop. Existing barriers to access that were noted included stairs, lack of public transportation to the River Valley, and the frequent disruptions to the funicular’s operation.

Some respondents expressed concerns about how protection measures may disrupt popular recreational uses, including mountain biking.

Clearer Planning for Inclusive Spaces

Respondents provided suggestions for clearer language in the Ribbon of Green to outline how inclusive and accessible spaces will be developed and implemented for people of all ages and abilities. Feedback examples included requests for specific guidelines on accessibility features.

Indigenous Partnerships and Land-Based Learning

Some comments were received about partnerships and engagement with Indigenous communities and an interest in seeing more opportunities to increase land-based learning throughout the River Valley. Examples included suggestions for educational programs and partnerships with Indigenous groups.

Sheltering in the River Valley

Some participants noted concern that sheltering practices could conflict with ecological preservation and safety for all users.

POP-UP FEEDBACK

Seven pop-up events were held in popular areas of the River Valley or hosted by stakeholder groups, with the intent to meet members of the public where they were. The following relevant themes emerged through the 288 interactions within these pop up events:

Development of Inclusive and Accessible Spaces

We heard an interest for more inclusive and accessible spaces within the River Valley for people of all ages and abilities. Examples provided include calls for accessible facilities (e.g. washrooms, benches, and access points close to transit and parking) and inclusive design (e.g. wide paths, paved trails, shallow grade ramps).

Awareness of Future Amenity Locations

Participants wanted to see the Ribbon of Green address future amenity locations throughout the River Valley, including washrooms, garbage receptacles, and wayfinding signage. Feedback examples included requests for more information on where amenities will be located.

Reducing User Conflicts

Participants expressed an interest in reducing conflict between different users across the River Valley trail network through proposed Ribbon of Green that better accommodate bikers, off-leash areas, and walkers. Examples included suggestions for separate trails for bikers and pedestrians or designated off-leash areas.

Sample Comments

"I'm pleased to see the system wide ecological policies - that they emphasize ecological connectivity, and reference the opportunity to explore nature-based solutions. I'm glad that the section of the central reach recognizes the importance of protecting wildlife movement in the most ecologically vulnerable area within the plan boundaries, and the importance of protecting unique and sensitive ecological areas and doing restoration work in this reach in particular"- *Survey Respondent*

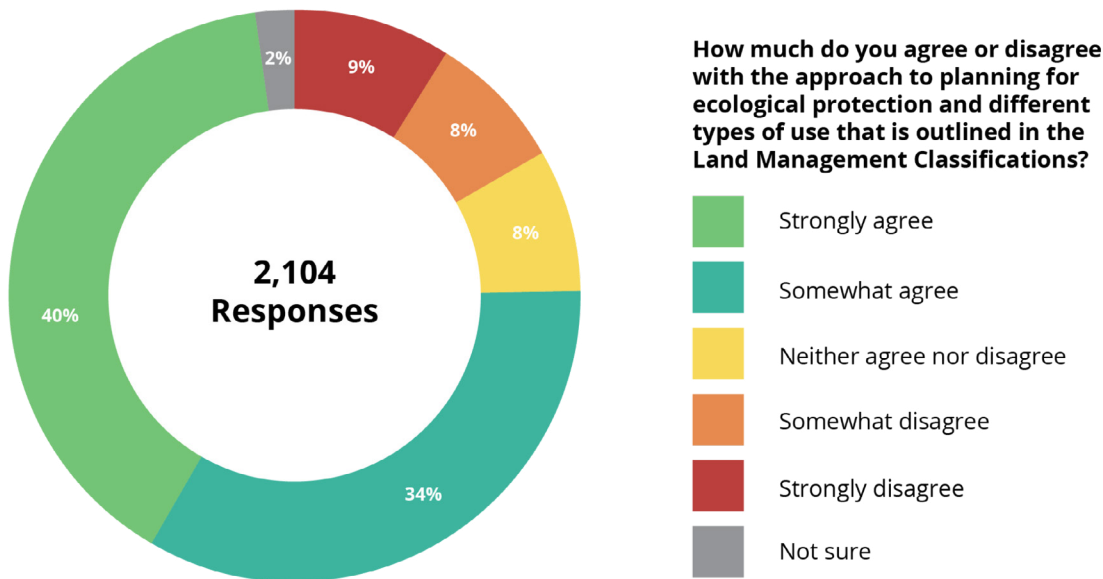
"I love the idea of trying to protect more of what's the most important part of our city, as someone who lives very close to the River Valley I love walking through all the trails, I think trail based recreation is a wonderful idea and makes the city more enjoyable to walk through" - *Survey Respondent*

"Preservation and renaturation needs stronger wording, it already implies loopholes at the policies stage "some" or "minimal" are very flexible words as they depend on what they are compared to. Since Edmonton is projected to grow much larger, conservation and renaturation need stronger wording, a stronger commitment." - *Survey Respondent*

Ribbon of Green: Land Management Classifications

The Land Management Classifications (Preservation, Conservation and Active/Working Landscapes) in the Ribbon of Green tell us how much protection and what kind of development are appropriate in different parts of the River Valley and Ravine System. They guide the design of parks and help us decide what activities are appropriate for each location.

- + Preservation areas are focused on protecting and improving ecological health, while providing some opportunities for low-impact trail recreation.
- + Conservation areas are focused on providing people with opportunities to enjoy and explore nature.
- + Active/Working Landscape areas allow for the highest intensity of uses, including new areas to focus and concentrate recreational activities



SURVEY FEEDBACK

Three in four survey respondents (74%) agreed with the approach to land management classifications within the draft Ribbon of Green. Respondents were asked to provide further comment on what they agreed or disagreed with in the plan overall; 1,235 written responses were provided to the question asking what individuals agreed with and 1,060 written responses were provided to the question asking what individuals disagreed with in the Ribbon of Green. These survey responses presented the following themes that are relevant to the Land Management Classifications:

Preservation and Land Management Classifications

Some respondents expressed support for the proposed land management classifications, specifically noting appreciation for the preservation and conservation of natural spaces. They highlighted the importance of prioritizing areas with important wildlife habitats for ecological protection.

Recreational Uses and Land Management Classifications

Other respondents emphasized the importance of ensuring that land management classifications do not limit diverse recreational opportunities. They expressed concerns that the language in the draft documents might be interpreted to restrict single-track trail users. Additionally, some respondents wanted to ensure that the classifications provide enough flexibility to maintain connectivity of the River Valley trail networks from end to end.

Balancing Proposed Land Use Classifications

Respondents also noted a need for balance between preserving the ecological integrity of the River Valley and maintaining access for recreational users. Some respondents expressed appreciation for the diversity of uses accommodated, and for the dedication of some spaces for specific uses (the protection of Whitemud Ravine was included as an example).

Other respondents commented that the proposed classifications do not go far enough in limiting some recreational uses in the River Valley; for example, some respondents suggested removing existing golf course developments to enhance wildlife habitat and ecological connectivity through the River Valley.

Other respondents expressed caution over the use of the word “balance” suggesting that it may imply equal importance be given to recreation and ecological protection everywhere in the River Valley, without consideration of the different geographic contexts.

Planning for Growth

Some respondents spoke about the need for the Ribbon of Green to set more explicit targets for Preservation to ensure these important lands are not diminished over time and can be enjoyed by future generations.

ONLINE MAPPING FEEDBACK

Feedback on the proposed land management strategy was also left within the online map. The following theme emerged from the 232 comments left in the map:

Single Track Trails

Mountain bike trails and single track trails were marked in the online map by trail users with comments requesting maintained access for mountain bikers, trail runners, and hikers.

POP-UP FEEDBACK

Seven pop-up events were held in popular areas of the River Valley or hosted by stakeholder groups, with the intent to meet members of the public where they were. The following relevant themes emerged through the 288 interactions within these pop up events:

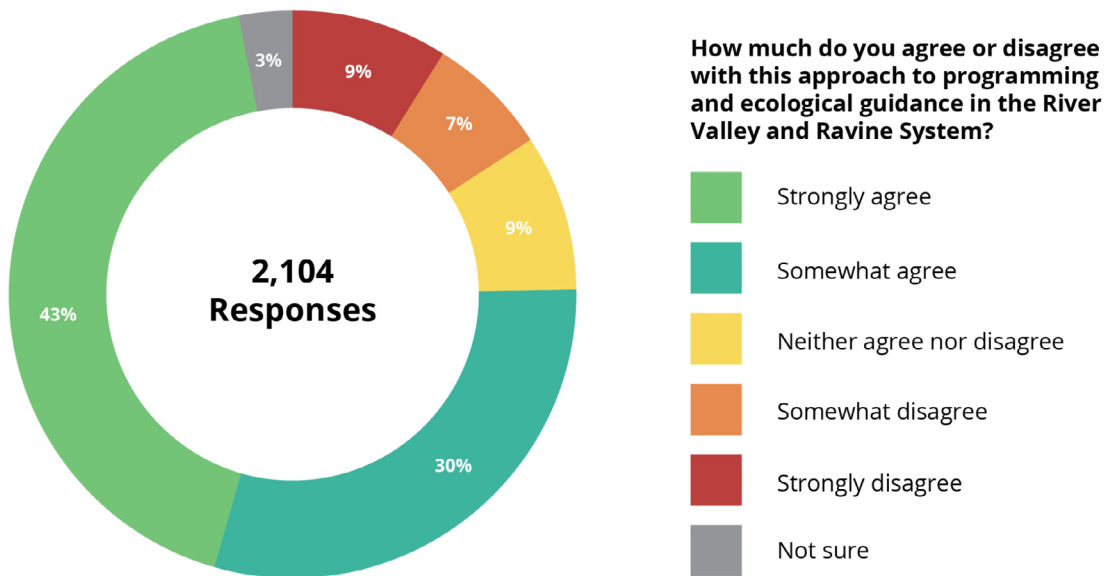
Support for Small-Scale Commercial Uses

Participants expressed interest in incorporating small-scale commercial activities within the River Valley, such as cafes, public markets, and grab-and-go restaurants. They highlighted the potential for utilizing River Valley areas adjacent to downtown to support these commercial ventures, enhancing the overall visitor experience.

Ribbon of Green: Program and Ecological Guidance

The Ribbon of Green Plan gives specific guidance on park programs and ecological protection for each part of the River Valley and Ravine System. This guidance identifies amenity nodes (key destinations) and trailheads (the starting point of a trail or path), both of which support a higher level of use. Amenity nodes and trailheads are strategically located throughout the River Valley and ravines and connected by a high-level trail network. This approach focuses recreational uses in appropriate locations while protecting more ecologically-sensitive areas.

SURVEY FEEDBACK



Survey respondents were invited to share their input on the approach to programming and ecological guidance within the River Valley and Ravine System. Three quarters of respondents (73%) agreed with the approach, as shown in the chart above.

Respondents were asked to provide further comment on what they agreed or disagreed with in the plan overall; 1,235 written responses were provided to the question asking what individuals agreed with and 1,060 written responses were provided to the question asking what individuals disagreed with in the Ribbon of Green. The following themes emerged related to Program and Ecological Guidance:

Prioritizing Ecological Integrity

We heard that the preservation of ecologically sensitive areas within the Ribbon of Green should be a priority; many respondents indicated the importance of accommodating recreational uses in a way that doesn't impact the ecological integrity of the River Valley.

Importance of Amenity Nodes

Some respondents indicated the importance of amenities along the River Valley, which they see as vital to ensuring that all Edmontonians, particularly those with accessibility needs, can enjoy the River Valley. These respondents specifically indicated a need for increased seating, paved pathways, and washrooms throughout the highest use areas of the River Valley.

Trail Planning

Some respondents indicated that the Ribbon of Green should support trail planning that encourages safety for all users and reduces conflicts between e-bikers, scooter riders, bikers, people with dogs and those with limited mobility.

Importance of Connectivity

Some comments also indicated an interest in complete connections throughout the River Valley trail system from end to end for recreational trail users. Other comments noted the need for connectivity from residential neighbourhoods and connections to adjacent municipalities.

Wayfinding and Interpretive Signage

Some respondents indicated interest in seeing increased communication and improved wayfinding within the Ribbon of Green, especially to provide notice of disruptions along the trail system including trail closures or detours along the trail network. Some comments also indicated the importance of trailhead signage and maps to support recreational River Valley users and the opportunity to include more information about River Valley ecosystems and preservation on wayfinding signage.

POP-UP FEEDBACK

At pop-up events, additional feedback from the 288 interactions with the public indicated a desire for the Ribbon of Green to address the following items either directly within the content or through plan implementation and future phases of work:

Wayfinding Enhancements

Some respondents welcomed Ribbon of Green for additional wayfinding signage to increase awareness of local destinations throughout the River Valley. They suggested implementing more comprehensive signage to guide visitors effectively and highlight key points of interest, and indicated that enhanced wayfinding can significantly improve the visitor experience by making navigation easier and more intuitive.

Expanded Programming Opportunities

Some participants saw value in expanding programming within the River Valley. They specifically suggested hosting guided tours of the trail system to educate the public about the area's natural and cultural heritage and to encourage exploration. Participants felt these activities could attract more visitors and deepen appreciation for the River Valley.

Planning for Greater Interaction with the River

Some participants recommended enhancing planning efforts focused directly on the riverfront. They noted the potential for increased waterfront experiences, suggesting that small commercial ventures, such as non-motorized equipment rentals, could be established along the River Valley. These initiatives would facilitate greater interaction with the river and provide new recreational opportunities for visitors.

Invasive Species Management

Some respondents emphasized the importance of addressing invasive plants and noxious weeds within the River Valley. They expressed interest in the Ribbon of Green incorporating strategies to manage and mitigate the impact of these species to protect the ecological health and biodiversity of the area.

Participants also noted the opportunity to integrate commercial uses (e.g. cafes, equipment rental shops) with existing infrastructure near Downtown. They suggested that this approach could help manage visitor flow and maximize the benefits of commercial developments without compromising the River Valley's natural environment.

ONLINE MAPPING FEEDBACK

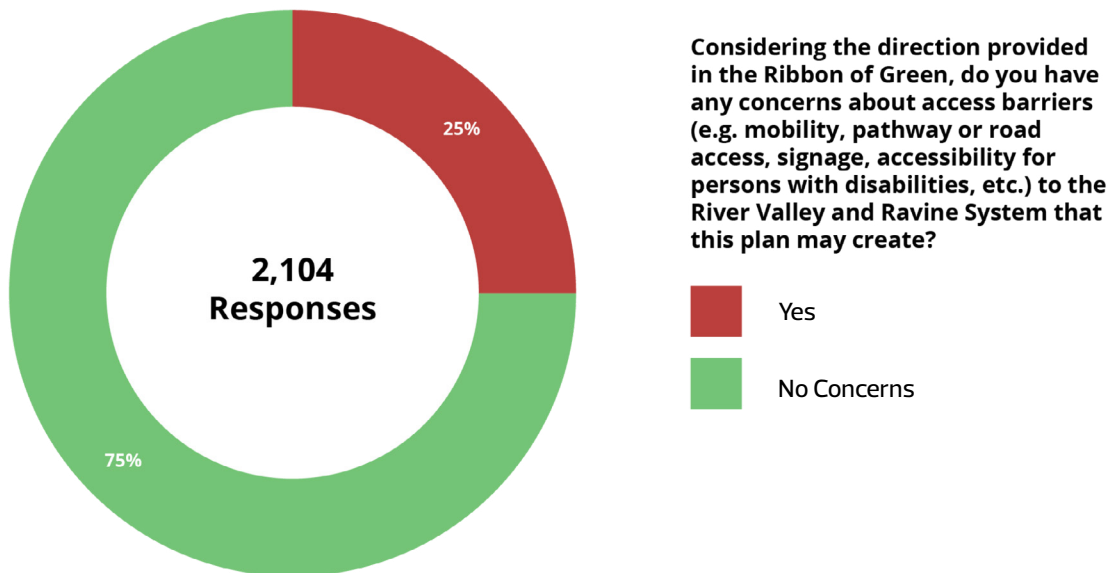
Feedback on the guidance on park programs and ecological protection for each part of the River Valley and Ravine System was also obtained on the online map. The following theme emerged from the 232 comments left in the map:

Connectivity of Trails

Online pin map comments highlighted the importance of connectivity of trails within the River Valley trail network. Some comments indicated the importance of a trail system plan to address gaps or barriers in the existing trail system. Other comments noted that a single track trail plan would support trail continuity and connectivity throughout the River Valley.

Ribbon of Green: Accessibility

SURVEY FEEDBACK



Three in four survey respondents (75%) were not concerned about access barriers in the River Valley being created by the Ribbon of Green. The survey invited respondents to provide further comments on potential accessibility concerns that may be created by the Ribbon of Green Plan. The following themes emerged within the 477 written responses to this question:

Increasing Accessible River Valley Spaces

Respondents highlighted the need for more inclusive spaces in the River Valley for individuals of all ages and abilities. They suggested increasing barrier-free access, improving signage for accessibility, and adding amenities to support diverse user groups. Specific amenities, such as accessible washrooms, benches, water fountains, shaded areas, and picnic tables, were mentioned as essential for groups like seniors, persons with disabilities, expectant mothers and parents with small children.

Improving Access Points to the River Valley

Some respondents emphasized the importance of accessible entry points for people of different ages and abilities. Suggestions included adding supporting infrastructure such as bus stops, parking lots, and bike racks at key access points to enhance overall accessibility. Some also pointed out that stairs can be a significant barrier to access for people with limited mobility and requested mechanized access or access via gentler slopes.

Safety for All

Respondents stressed the need for Ribbon of Green to mitigate conflicts between different types of recreational users on River Valley trails. They noted that the current trails accommodate users traveling at various speeds, leading to potential conflicts.

We also heard that some individuals feel unsafe in the River Valley at night. Other individuals noted concerns for safety of both unhoused community members and recreational users who encounter encampments in the River Valley.

Balancing Environmental Protection and Accessibility

Some respondents raised concerns about the environmental impact of creating accessible spaces within the River Valley. They emphasized the need to balance accessibility improvements with conservation efforts.

Protecting Recreational Activities

Certain recreational user groups expressed concerns that the draft Ribbon of Green might limit some activities within the River Valley. In particular, some respondents emphasized the need to protect single track trails and ensure they remain available for recreational use.

Importance of Trail Maintenance

Respondents highlighted the critical role of maintenance in ensuring accessibility. They expressed interest in having publicly available maintenance standards linked to levels of service in the implementation of the Ribbon of Green, ensuring trails remain safe and accessible for all users.

GBA+ Analysis: Individuals who had concerns about access barriers that may be created by the Ribbon of Green were more likely to have identified as having a disability (39.5%), or who identified as racialized (32.4%) were more likely to express concerns about access barriers that may be created by the Ribbon of Green.

GBA+ Analysis: Respondents with an annual income of less than \$60,000 are more likely (32.2%) compared to those who reported having annual incomes of \$100,000 or more (21.3%) to have concerns about access barriers (e.g. mobility, pathway or road access, signage, accessibility for persons with disabilities, etc.) to the River Valley and Ravine System that this plan might create.

POP-UP FEEDBACK

Seven pop-up events were held in popular areas of the River Valley or hosted by stakeholder groups, with the intent to meet members of the public where they were. The following relevant themes emerged through the 288 interactions within these pop up events:

Enhancing Safety for All User Groups

Respondents highlighted safety concerns within the River Valley, particularly the need to ensure the area is safe for both recreational users and unhoused community members who use the area for shelter. Suggestions included implementing improved lighting, emergency call stations, increased park ranger patrols, designated shelter areas, outreach programs, and conflict resolution strategies to enhance safety for all users of the River Valley.

Enhanced Trail Communication

Some participants expressed a need for improved wayfinding within the trail network, raising the idea of a comprehensive online map for real-time updates on trail status and recreational opportunities. Some participants recommended enhanced communications practices for the benefit of trail users. These enhancements could include more signage to indicate terrain types and trail limitations. Some suggestions also included incorporating information on steep slopes, washroom locations, and rest areas to help users of all experience levels find accessible areas within the River Valley.

Accessibility Comments

"Hard to get in and out for people with mobility issues. Steep areas and lots of stairs." – *Survey Respondent*

"My wife is in a wheelchair. We need to drive into the valley to enjoy it because she can't wheel up and down the path slopes. If we don't have vehicle access, we are excluded from enjoying the River Valley." – *Survey Respondent*

"Add more seating along the [Shared Use Paths] in the dog park. Nothing worse than changing a baby and feeding them on the ground as random dogs run up." – *Interactive Map User*

"Would be nice to have a pathway/sidewalk connection to [Shared Use Path]. Hard for wheelchairs and strollers to access the picnic sites. Need to walk on the road, over parking curbs and through grass." – *Interactive Map User*

Some Seniors who participated in Pop Up Events noted the importance of accessible infrastructure including benches, accessible washrooms and wide trails.

ONLINE MAPPING FEEDBACK

Accessibility considerations within the River Valley were also raised by online map users. The following theme emerged from the 232 comments left in the map:

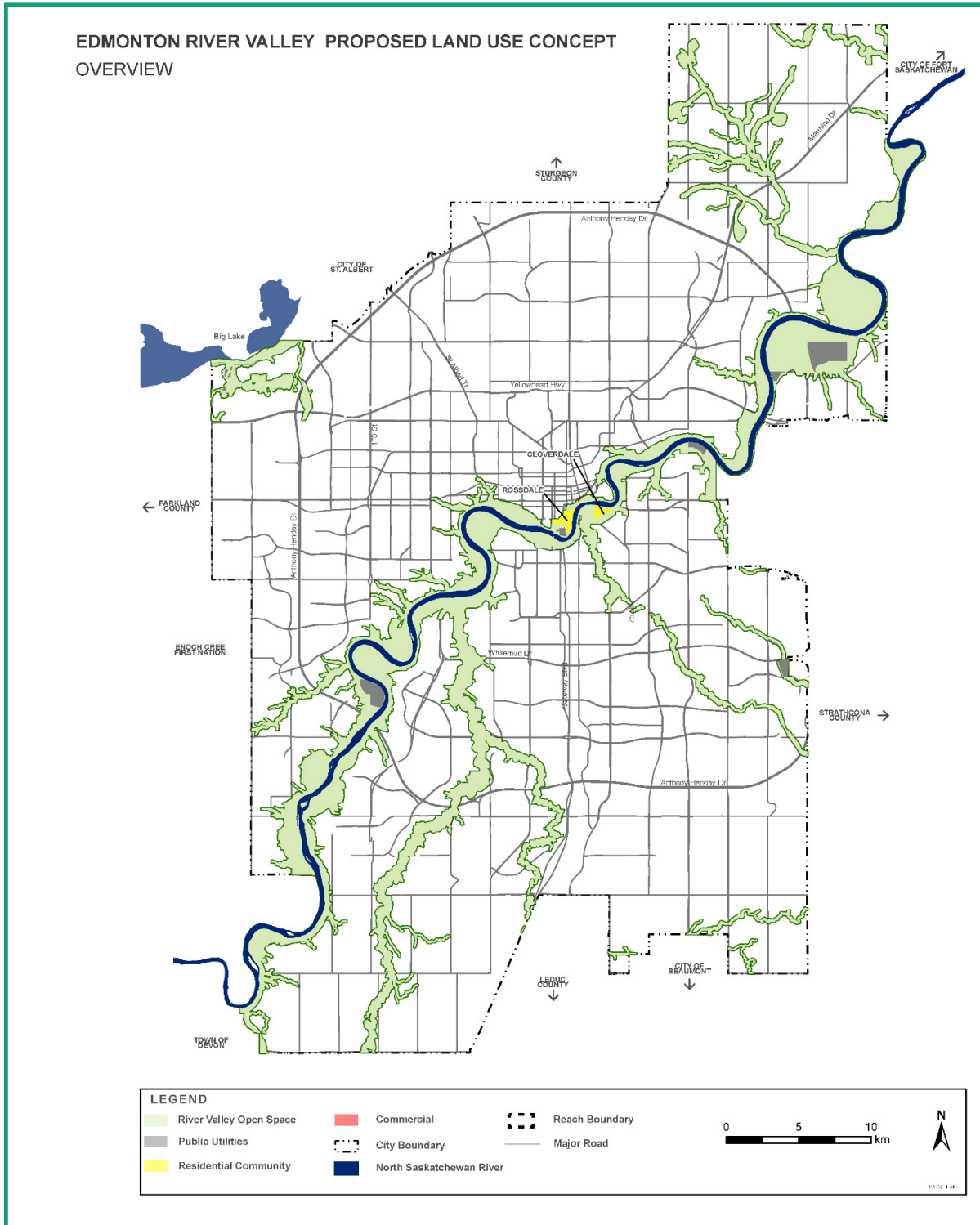
Accessibility Needs

The comments associated with interactive map pins placed by participants in the Hermitage Park Amenity Node noted a need for more accessible infrastructure, including benches, public washrooms, and trail enhancements, to better support accessibility for diverse user groups.

River Valley ARP: Land Use Concept

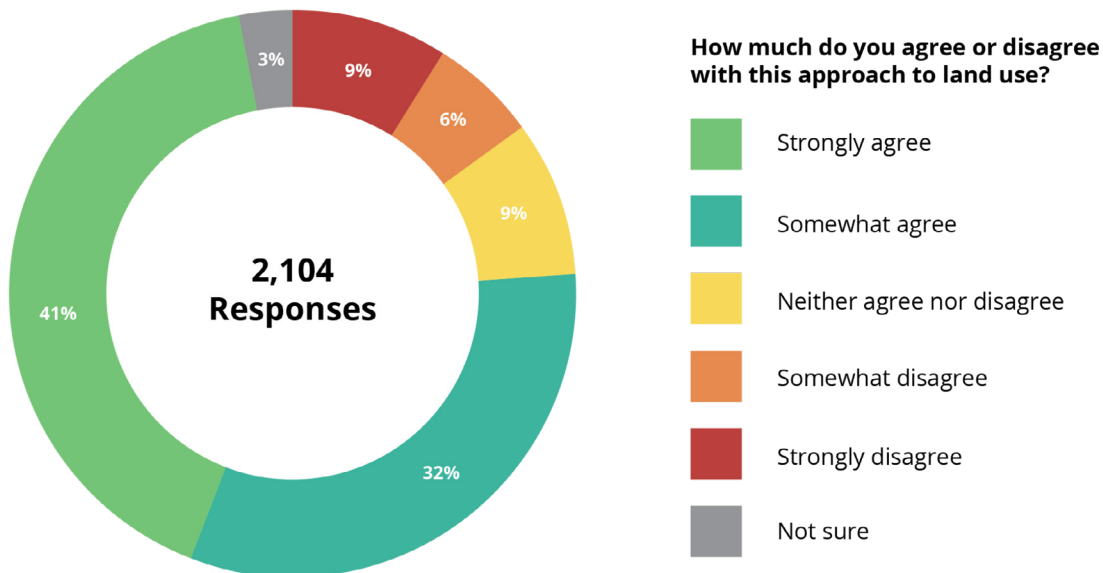
The proposed future land use concept within the draft ARP shows most of the land as "River Valley Open Space." Remaining lands are reserved for existing residential, commercial, and public utility uses. This shows the City's intent to:

- + Protect existing City-owned land for nature, recreation, and culture
- + Set rules for how River Valley and Ravine System lands can be used



SURVEY FEEDBACK

Three in four survey respondents (73%) agreed with the proposed land use concept in the ARP.



River Valley ARP: Discouraging Intensive Development in the River Valley

Land use in the River Valley and Ravine System has changed over time. Some high impact land uses and projects approved in the past will continue or remain, but the plan proposes to avoid future high impact land uses and projects in order to protect the River Valley and ravines.

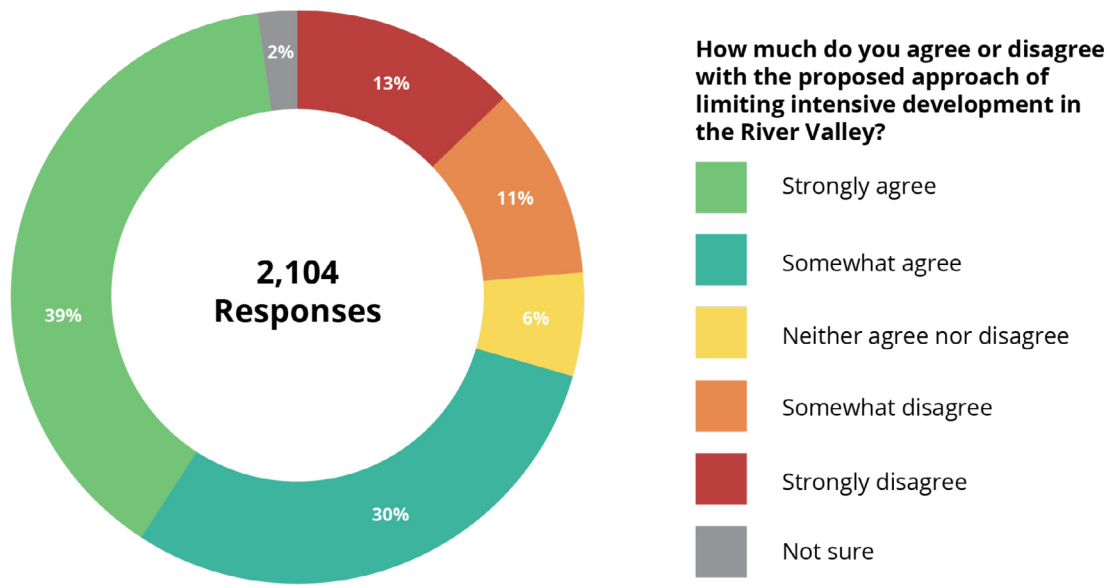
Development that would no longer be allowed in the updated plan includes:

- + Natural resource development
- + Creating new residential lots within the boundaries of the River Valley and Ravine System, except in existing River Valley neighbourhoods

Development that would be discouraged, but not prohibited, by the updated plan includes:

- + New or significantly expanded intensive open space facilities, including major visitor attractions and large recreation centres, typically over 20,000 m² in size, and sports fields, including golf courses
- + New or significantly expanded intensive utilities, such as power, water, or wastewater treatment plants
- + New or significantly expanded intensive transportation facilities, such as major roadways, bridges, or transit centres

SURVEY FEEDBACK



7 in 10 survey respondents (69%) agreed with the proposed approach of limiting intensive development in the River Valley, while 24% of respondents indicated that they disagreed with this approach.

The survey invited respondents to provide further comments on areas of agreement or disagreement with the River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan; 1,022 responses were received on the question asking what respondents agreed with and 1,030 responses were received on the question asking what respondents disagreed with within the River Valley ARP. The following themes emerged related to discouraging intensive development in the River Valley:

Support for Environmental Protection

Some respondents expressed appreciation for the ARP's focus on protecting the natural environment with strong support for preserving the River Valley's natural beauty and restricting development. They emphasized the importance of keeping the area "wild" and advocated for legal protections to ensure it is safeguarded from overdevelopment. The intent to limit private development, particularly in sensitive areas like the River Valley, was an area of agreement for some respondents who saw it as a vital step in protecting Edmonton's natural resources for future generations. Respondents also highlighted the value of ecological preservation and impact mitigation as positive elements of the plan.

Decision Making

We heard concerns that the language used in the document could allow for too much flexibility which could undermine the ARP's goals, potentially allowing unwelcome developments in the future. Additionally, others noted that the plan imposes too much "red tape," stifling future flexibility and potentially hindering necessary developments. There was also an expressed frustration with the perceived lack of clarity and transparency in the proposed decision-making process.

Future Development

Some respondents supported the idea that some limited and carefully-planned development could enhance public access and enjoyment of the River Valley. They expressed interest in adding more public amenities, such as washrooms, picnic areas, and accessible trails, in a way that does not compromise the ecological integrity of the area. Some respondents supported strategies to minimize environmental impacts when development is necessary, and to preserve the River Valley's overall character. However, others expressed the belief that recreation cannot be accommodated without compromising the area's ecological integrity, even with mitigation efforts. These respondents voiced disagreement with any further development within the River Valley. Specific opposition was expressed against private golf courses, large-scale infrastructure projects, and other forms of development that could lead to irreversible damage to the ecosystem.

Development Restrictions

Some respondents expressed support for directing development away from the River Valley, favouring a greater emphasis on preservation. They suggested that the draft plan should prohibit intensive development in the River Valley, and emphasize a preference for minimizing impacts wherever relocation is not feasible.

Utility Projects

Several respondents agreed with limiting utility uses in the River Valley, including the development of solar farms and water treatment plants.

Golf Courses

Some respondents agreed with prohibiting the development of golf courses in the River Valley, and shared concern that these spaces are not accessible to all Edmontonians because the cost of entry presents a barrier for many. Some suggested that existing golf courses should be phased out due to their environmental impact. Other respondents noted that golf courses offer valuable recreational opportunities and should continue to be allowed.

Discouraging Development Comments

"I would like it to remain a natural area and not developed into recreational areas. Maintain what you have already."
– *Survey Respondent*

"Discouraging golf courses is required; we should, in fact, be evicting existing golf courses within these zones."
– *Survey Respondent*

"The preservation goals seem rigorous but also pragmatic, leaving room for adaptive responses to distinct situations. Two tiers of review for unique developments is a good idea and allows development ideas the serious consideration they deserve." – *Survey Respondent*

River Valley ARP: Decision Making Process for Future Development Proposals

If City Council approves the renewed River Valley ARP and accepts the Ribbon of Green, City staff will use these documents to make decisions about future land use and development proposals. Development proposals include everything from small, day-to-day amenities such as trails, picnic sites, or washrooms, to larger-scale development proposals such as bridges or sports clubs.

Development proposals, including those prepared by the City itself when building or renewing infrastructure and amenities in the River Valley and Ravine System, are subject to policy and environmental assessments. These assessments provide City staff with the information needed to determine if a development should proceed, and if so, how any negative impacts to the environment or visitors should be addressed. Public engagement or notification is also typically completed for new development in the River Valley.

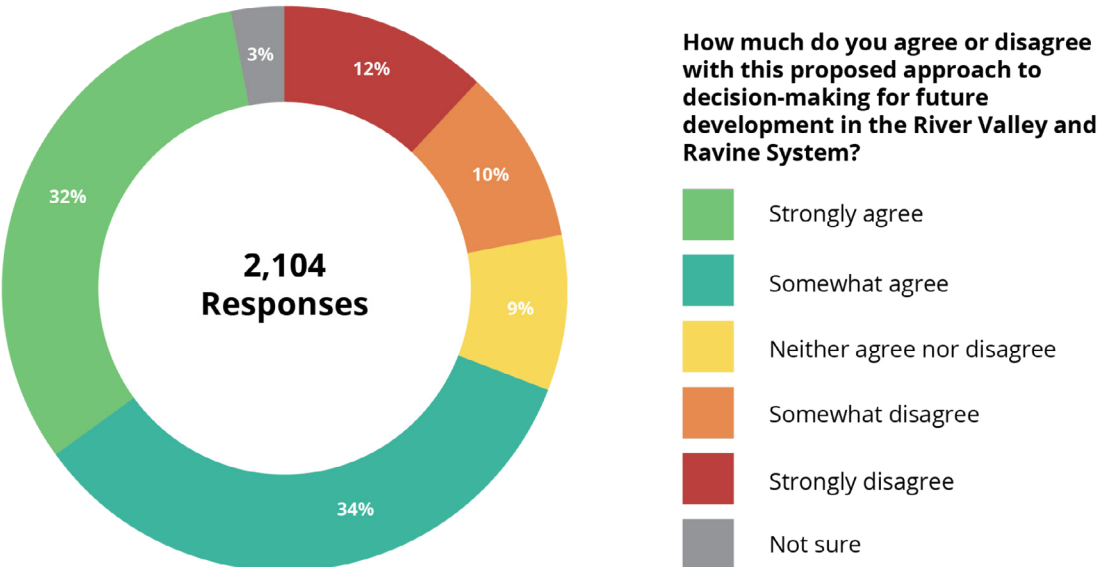
In most cases, detailed decisions about day-to-day park amenities and facilities can be made by City staff. However, there are cases where the type of development being proposed is new in Edmonton, the proposal is particularly complex, or there is a risk of permanent negative impacts. In these cases, City Council's approval, in addition to the review completed by City staff, may be appropriate.

The draft ARP identifies the need for City Council to approve the following types of development:

- + New or significantly expanded intensive open space facilities, including major visitor attractions and large recreation centres, typically over 20,000 m2 in size, and sports fields, including golf courses
- + New or significantly expanded transportation infrastructure, such as a new roadway, bridge, or transit centre
- + New or significantly expanded utilities, such as water treatment plants or power generation facilities
- + Proposed development on public land that doesn't meet the above definitions but is found to pose risk of permanent harm to the environment or human use and enjoyment of the River Valley

City Council may be asked to review and give feedback on a proposal early in the development process. This helps to determine if Council supports the idea before a proponent spends more time and resources on it.

SURVEY FEEDBACK



The majority of survey respondents (66%) agreed with the proposed approach to future decision making around development within the River Valley.

The survey invited respondents to provide further comments on areas of agreement or disagreement with the River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan; 1,022 responses were received on the question asking what respondents agreed with and 1,030 responses were received on the question asking what respondents disagreed with within the River Valley ARP. The following themes emerged related to the decision making process for future development proposals.

Council Involvement

Some responses highlighted the need for clearer guidelines regarding the role of City Council and the process for public engagement in evaluating development opportunities.

Indigenous Consultation

Some comments supported the ARP's inclusion of engagement with First Nations when considering proposed projects in the River Valley.

Public Engagement Requirements

Some comments suggested that public engagement should be mandatory for all proposed development within the River Valley to ensure broader community input.

Public and Expert Engagement

Some respondents recommended enhancing engagement requirements for evaluating development opportunities, especially for large-scale projects. They emphasized the importance of involving environmental organizations and experts in the development process to ensure informed decision-making.

Implementation and Oversight

Some respondents raised concerns about the follow-up documents and processes required after the ARP's adoption, such as Environmental Impact Assessments. They shared the comment that insufficient engagement on these supplementary processes

Discouraging Development Comments

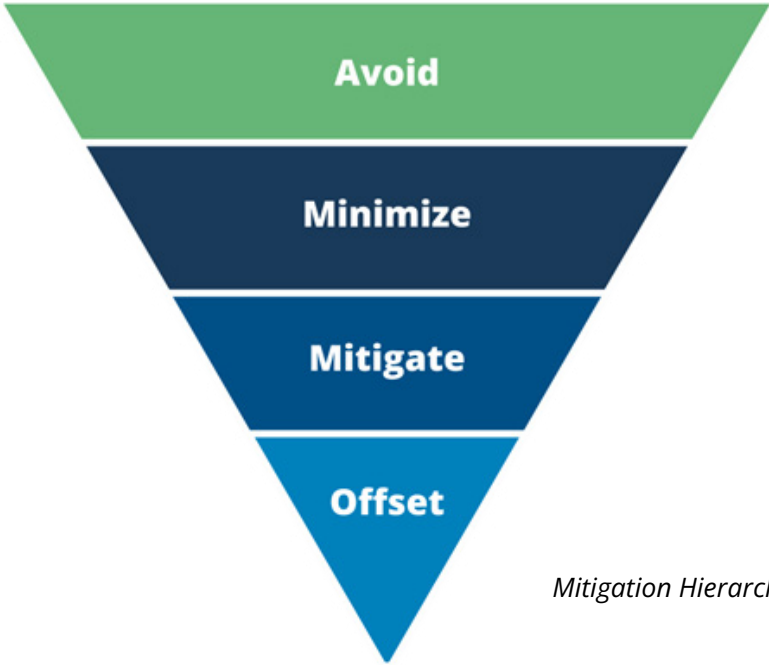
"Utilities don't belong in the River Valley. Expansion of utility facilities should be completely prohibited, and the City should plan long term to relocate existing utilities out of the River Valley." – *Survey Respondent*

River Valley ARP: Protecting and Restoring Nature

The draft ARP seeks to maintain or increase the amount of natural area we have in the River Valley and Ravine System through the application of a common conservation framework called the mitigation hierarchy (shown in diagram below).

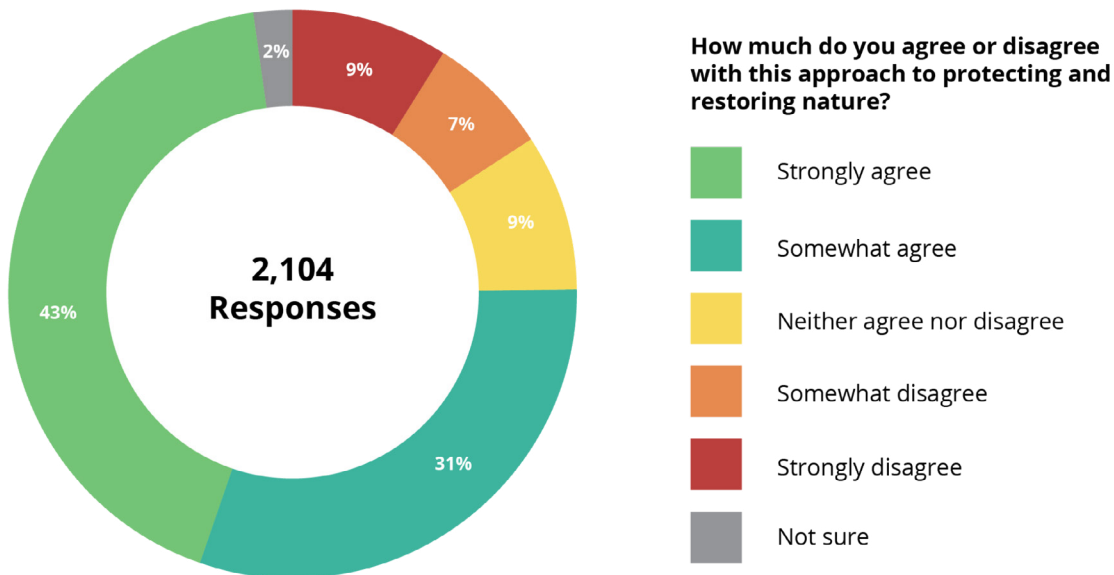
To reduce the impact of development projects on nature and wildlife by applying the mitigation hierarchy, we would:

1. The draft ARP seeks to maintain or increase the amount of natural area we have in the River Valley and Ravine System through the application of a common conservation framework called the mitigation hierarchy (shown in diagram below).
2. To reduce the impact of development projects on nature and wildlife by applying the mitigation hierarchy, we would:



Mitigation Hierarchy Diagram

SURVEY FEEDBACK



3 in 4 survey respondents (74%) agreed with the approach presented within the ARP to protecting and restoring nature. The survey invited respondents to provide further comments on areas of agreement or disagreement with the River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan; 1,022 responses were received on the question asking what respondents agreed with and 1,030 responses were received on the question asking what respondents disagreed with within the River Valley ARP. The following themes emerged related to Protecting and Restoring Nature:

Emphasis on Avoidance

Survey respondents agreed with the strong emphasis on ecological considerations within the mitigation hierarchy. They advocated for avoiding ecological impacts to the River Valley wherever possible, reflecting a preference for preservation over development.

Clarifying Mitigation Efforts

While respondents supported the proposed approach to mitigating ecological damage when development is unavoidable, they requested more detailed information about the specific types of mitigation efforts that would be considered acceptable. Clear guidelines and examples were suggested to enhance understanding and ensure effective implementation.

Discouraging Development Comments

"I do like the idea of offsetting eco[logical] impacts in areas where development can't be avoided. But I hope that there aren't any or many spots where it can't be avoided. The River Valley needs to be preserved." – *Survey Respondent*

"I like the efforts to preserve, mitigate impacts, and offset damage." – *Survey Respondent*

"I really appreciate the protection of the natural land and the approach to avoiding/mitigating or offsetting risk where possible. I believe protecting from development and commercialization outside of pre-existing developments is also key in maintaining the vital health of the valley and all its inhabitants as our city grows." – *Survey Respondent*

"I very much like the inverted pyramid of priority applied to development proposals with avoid being the first and highest priority to be considered." – *Survey Respondent*

For additional feedback gathered on the ARP, see Appendix C.

Workshop Feedback: Ribbon of Green and River Valley ARP

Workshop participants were invited to discuss their areas of agreement and disagreement with the Ribbon of Green and River Valley ARP. Many themes shared through survey responses were reinforced through workshop discussions, including perspectives related to enhanced recreational access and more in-depth ecological protection. This section summarizes additional themes heard through the workshop discussion and includes the feedback related to both the Ribbon of Green and River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan:

Heritage, Reconciliation and Indigenous Collaboration

We heard that honouring heritage and history and advancing reconciliation, including recognizing traditional land use and collaborating with Indigenous Communities, was important to workshop participants. Participants suggested incorporating Indigenous history and culture into the plans, as well as ensuring the protection of heritage sites and traditional gathering areas. Participants wanted to honour both ecological and cultural values while fostering meaningful partnerships with Indigenous people.

Enhancing Recreational Access for Water Users

Workshop discussions explored ways the Ribbon of Green could help improve the recreational experience for river users. Suggestions included adding amenities like rental shops for non-motorized watercrafts, ramps and pathways for access to the water, and facilities for storing equipment and belongings. We also heard an interest in improved wayfinding signage visible from the River. Specific ideas for wayfinding included signs directing users to river launch and exit points and markers indicating the distance to nearby amenities and facilities along the river. We also heard interest in infrastructure to support responsible overnight camping for recreational river users traveling along the North Saskatchewan River through the Edmonton River Valley. Suggestions included designated camping areas or shelters for those navigating the River.

Ecological Protection

Ecological protection and preservation was a key discussion theme in both workshops. Related comments emphasized the need to maintain the health of wildlife and plant communities in the River Valley. Participants noted that increased use of the River Valley places additional pressure on the ecosystem and expressed a desire for ROG guidance to preserve the natural elements of the River Valley as the city grows.

Enhancing Recreational Access for Trail Users

Some workshop participants voiced appreciation and agreement with ROG retaining access for diverse recreational uses on trails and how this enables thorough enjoyment of the River Valley. We also heard opportunity remains for guidance in the ROG to better support trail use by bike users.

Ongoing Engagement with Interested Groups

Interest in ongoing engagement was shared across participant groups. Specific ideas for future engagement with recreational users included calls for ongoing consultation with biking, hiking, paddling, and other recreational groups.

Clarifying Decision-Making Criteria

Some workshop participants suggested incorporating detailed information on the standards a project must meet to proceed through the ARP's development evaluation stages. Some participants also requested a clear outline of the circumstances that would trigger different development approval processes.

Restoration Techniques and Impact Offsetting

Participants highlighted the importance of including detailed restoration techniques within the documents. They sought explanations on how the City would offset development impacts that could not be avoided, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the mitigation process.

Clarifying Land Use and Enhancing Document Accessibility

Participants emphasized the need for clearer explanations of how proposed land uses would impact public access and current usage of the River Valley. They recommended that draft documents explicitly identify areas where changes might occur and outline how these changes could affect the public. To improve understanding, there was a suggestion to create a companion guide for the ARP that breaks down land use concepts into straightforward terms, providing practical examples and scenarios. Additionally, participants recommended making the ARP more accessible by condensing it into a shorter, more digestible format. They suggested this streamlined version could include summaries of key changes, anticipated impacts on the River Valley, and high-level overviews of the plan's main elements.

Addressing Environmental Pressures

Participants highlighted concerns about the impact of increasing River Valley users on natural environments. They suggested that the Ribbon of Green include strategies for managing these pressures and maintaining ecological balance amidst growing use of River Valley open spaces.

Written Stakeholder Submissions

Written submissions were also accepted from stakeholders with an interest in providing more detailed and technical feedback related to the Ribbon of Green and River Valley ARP. Many themes shared through survey responses and workshops were reinforced through written submissions. This section summarizes additional themes heard through the submissions and includes the feedback related to both the Ribbon of Green and River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan:

Language and Clarity

Some written feedback expressed concerns about the language used in the ARP, describing some terms as subjective and lacking precision. It was noted that the inconsistent use of optional versus mandatory items created confusion, leading to suggestions for stronger language around development, such as using "prohibit" instead of "discourage." There were also calls for greater clarity regarding the mitigation hierarchy, including specific offset ratios and implementation monitoring. The term "essential" developments was highlighted as needing more definition, and feedback suggested avoiding terms like "trade-offs" or "balance" between nature and recreation. Additionally, requests were made for a clearer definition of "open space," as the current definition is seen as too vague and potentially allows for inappropriate land uses within the River Valley.

Public Engagement

Concerns were raised about the level of detail describing public engagement requirements in the ARP, with participants calling for a more specific commitment and a clearly outlined process for public engagement. Responses recommended improved communication about these opportunities, targeting not only nearby neighborhoods but also associations and groups with a vested interest in the River Valley. There were also suggestions to lower the threshold for triggering public engagement, making engagement mandatory for any high-impact projects, not just major developments.

Plan Implementation

Participants expressed a need for better definitions of supporting documents and requirements within the ARP, such as site assessments, strategic assessments, environmental assessments, budgets, and timelines. They also sought clarity on the role of Administration throughout the ARP, particularly at key decision points. Suggestions included developing clear objective statements within the Ribbon of Green (ROG) to support understanding of the plan's intended future state. It was noted that monitoring and evaluating the plan's success should be tied back to its vision, with requests for lists of strategies that may follow ROG through implementation, such as a trail strategy or visitor management strategy.

Connectivity

The importance of connectivity was emphasized, particularly regarding trails and wildlife corridors. Ensuring connectivity to downtown amenities and prioritizing links to transit and bus lines were also seen as essential for the plan's success.

Rezoning and Development

We heard that rezoning or development should be set at a greater distance from the River than the current 30 meters to better protect the River Valley.

Decision-Making Process

Some responses called for more clarity in the decision-making criteria and process, including the data requested, decision-making frameworks, evaluation processes, policies enacted in case of conflict, and appeals processes. Additionally, there was concern that the threshold for Council review is too high. Suggestions included requiring Council review and environmental monitoring for any high-impact projects, not just major developments.

Additional Feedback

We heard that the Ribbon of Green could have stronger mechanisms to ensure it is followed as a guiding document. Respondents also requested the addition of formal zones to the ARP, such as conservation and restoration zones, flood risk zones, riparian setbacks, and a regional wildlife corridor overlay zone. There was expressed support for adding design requirements within the River Valley, including green roofs, wildlife-friendly fences and native plantings as part of landscaping requirements, and transparent environmental impact assessment regulations.

Next Steps

Input received through Phase 4 engagement will be considered as the Ribbon of Green and River Valley ARP are finalized, during the summer and fall of 2024. The project team will provide a project update to the Urban Planning Committee in the fall of 2024 , followed by a public hearing in the winter of 2024. Implementation planning will continue into 2025.

Thank you for your participation! Your input has been essential to this process and will help guide the next stages of work in the finalization of the Ribbon of Green and River Valley ARP.

To receive project updates, please sign up at
edmonton.ca/ribbonofgreen

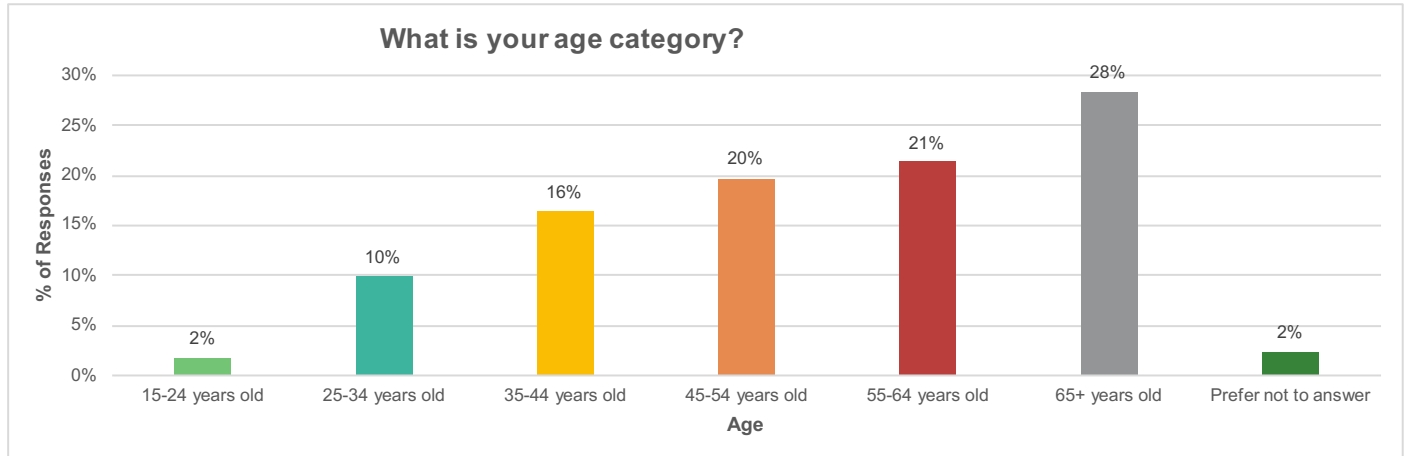
To contact the project team, email
ribbonofgreen@edmonton.ca

APPENDICES

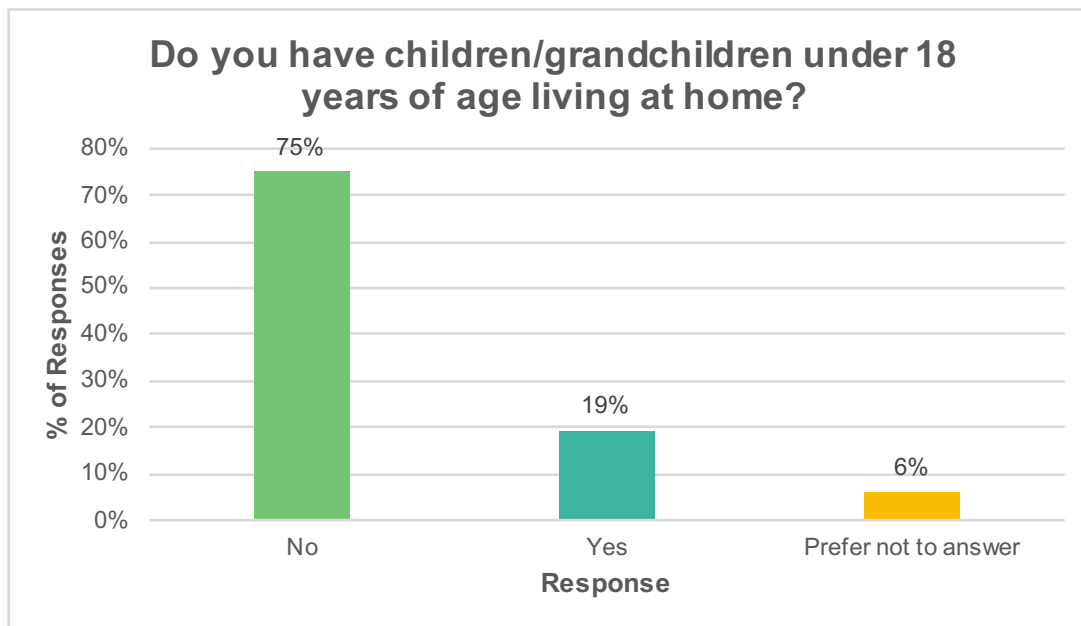
Appendices

APPENDIX A: DEMOGRAPHIC RESPONSES TO SURVEY QUESTIONS

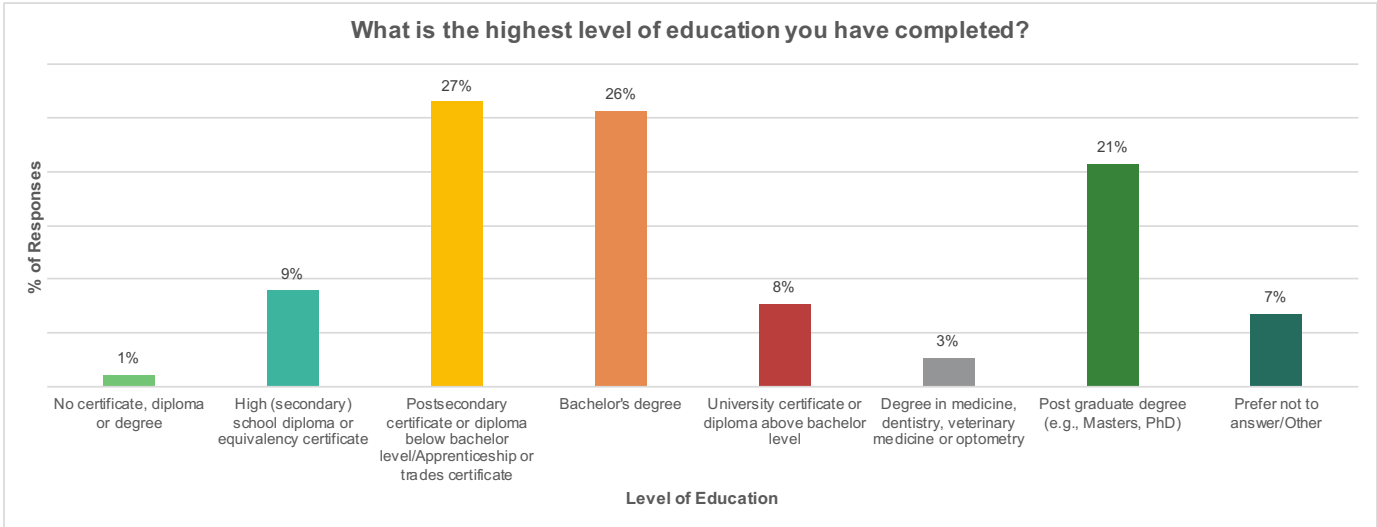
This data is displayed below and shows who engaged in our survey.



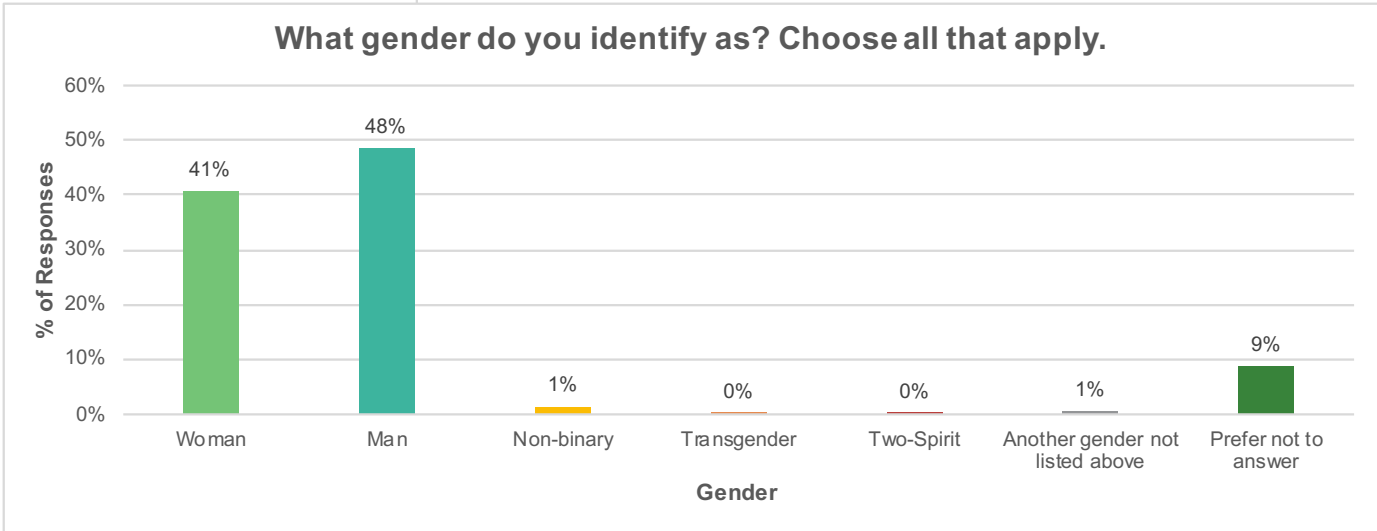
Total Responses: 2,104



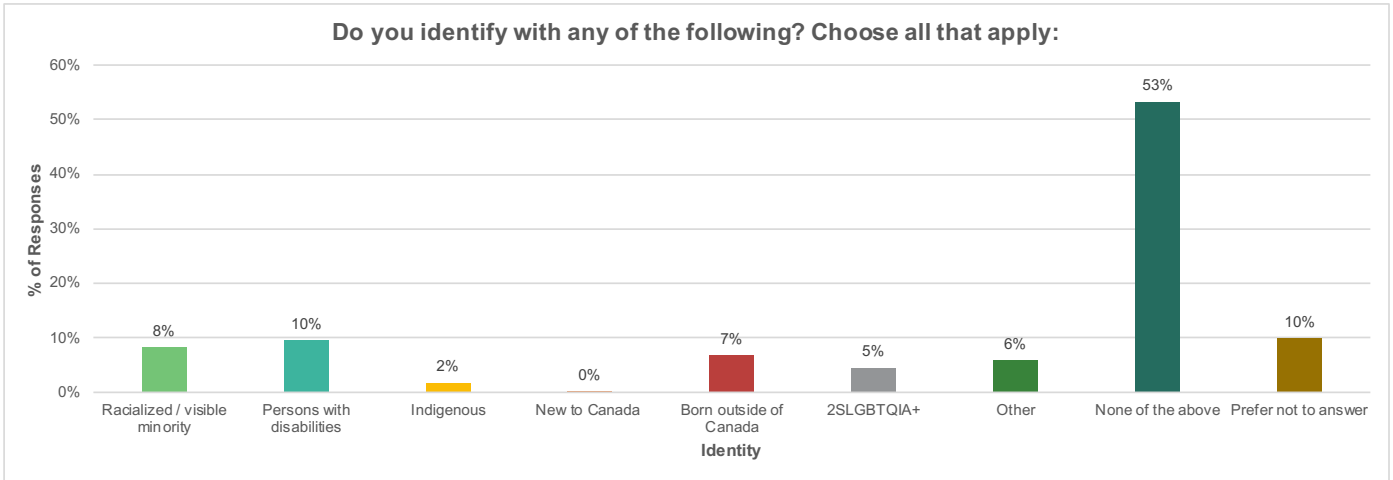
Total Responses: 2,104



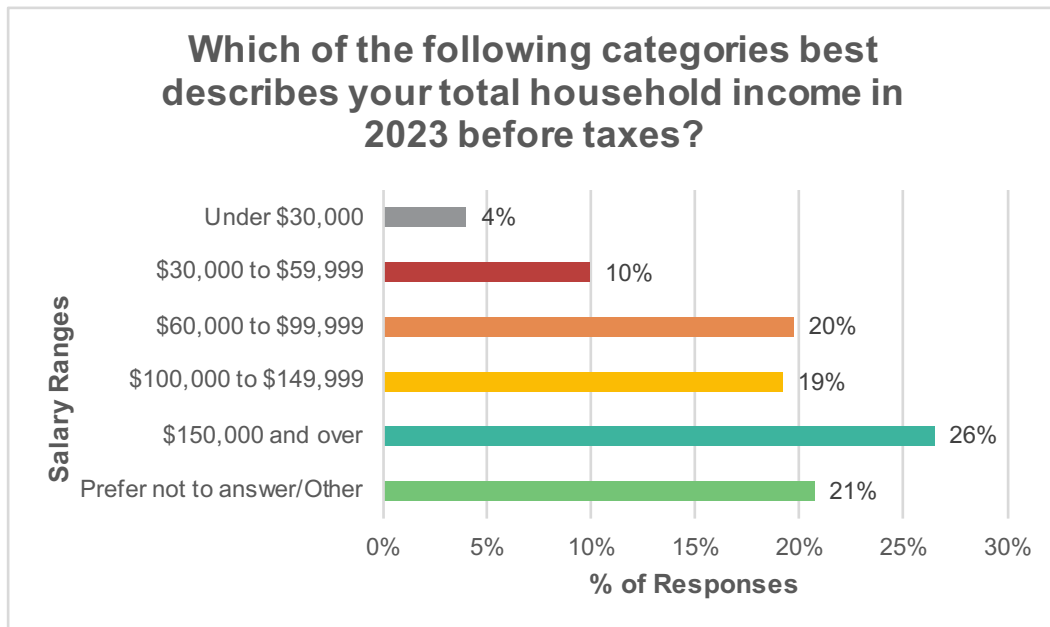
Total Responses: 2,104



Total Responses: 2,104



Total Responses: 2,104



Total Responses: 2,104

Appendix B: Public Workshop Invitation List

The following organizations received direct email communications about engagement opportunities. This outreach was one component of a broader communications strategy that included updates to the project website, signage, billboards, road signs, social media, direct emails, and TV interviews.

ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSION ORGANIZATIONS

Accessibility Advisory Committee (City of Edmonton)
AdaptAbilities
Canadian Hard of Hearing Society
Chrysalis Society City of Edmonton
Edmonton Association of the Deaf
Inclusion Alberta
Paralympic Sports Association
Steadward Centre for Personal & Physical Achievement (University of Alberta)
Voices of Albertans with Disabilities (VAD)

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATIONS

Bike Edmonton
Paths for People
Ski2LRT

CHILDREN, YOUTH & STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

ASSIST COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTRE

Boys and Girls Clubs of Edmonton
Crystal Kids Youth Centre
Edmonton Early Years Community Coalitions
Fyrefly Institute for Gender and Sexual Diversity (University of Alberta)
iHuman
John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights
Old Strathcona Youth Society
Rainbow Alliance of Youth of Edmonton
University of Alberta Student Union
Youth Council (City of Edmonton)

Youth Empowerment and Support Services

YOUCAN
YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association)
Youth Rise
Youth Unlimited Edmonton

BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Edmonton Chamber of Commerce
Explore Edmonton
Edmonton Riverboat
High Level Line Society
Infill Development in Edmonton Association (IDEA)
Prairie Sky Gondola River Valley Adventure Co.
River Valley Adventure Co.

CONSERVATION, NATURALIST & ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONS

Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute
Alberta Conservation Association
Alberta Invasive Species Council
Alberta Mycological Society
Alberta Native Plant Council
Alberta Plantwatch
Beaver Hills Initiative
Big Lake Environmental Support Society (BLESS)
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – Northern Alberta Chapter
CFUW (Canadian Federation of University Women)
Cows and Fish
Ducks Unlimited
Edmonton Native Plant Group
Edmonton Nature Club

Edmonton River Valley Conservation Coalition

Land Stewardship Centre Nature Conservancy of Canada – Alberta
North Saskatchewan River Valley Conservation Society
North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance
Protect Edmonton's Parks
River Watch

Sierra Club – Prairie Chapter
Wildlife Rehabilitation Society

COMMUNITY LEAGUES

Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues
Oak Hills Community League
Royal Gardens Community League
Rossdale Community League
The Ridge Community League
Twin Brooks Community League
Wolf Willow Ridge Homeowners Association
CariWest
Downtown Spark
Dreamspeakers Festival Society
Edmonton Craft Beer Festival
Edmonton Folk Festival
Edmonton Fringe Festival
Edmonton International Film Festival
Edmonton Jazz Festival
Edmonton Pride Festival
Edmonton Ukrainian Festival
Flying Canoe Festival
Heritage Festival
ITU World Triathlon (International Triathlon Union World Triathlon)
Silver Skate Festival

FOOD & AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATIONS

Agri-Environmental Partnership
Edmonton Food Council
Horsehills Berry Farm
Norbest Farms
Riverbend Gardens
Sunstar Nurseries Sustainable Food
Edmonton

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

Edmonton Metropolitan Region
Board
Epcor
Province of Alberta
River Valley Alliance

HERITAGE & ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

Edmonton Arts Council
Historical Society
Edmonton Heritage Council
Edmonton Historical Board

ETHNOCULTURAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS & NEWCOMER SERVICES

Action for Healthy Communities
ASSIST Community Services Centre
CANDORA Society of Edmonton
Catholic Social Services Edmonton
Centre for Intercultural Education
(Norquest College)
China Town Multi-Cultural Centre
Edmonton Intercultural Centre
Edmonton Interfaith Centre
Edmonton Mennonite Centre for
Newcomers
Edmonton Multicultural Coalition
Hellenic Canadian Community of
Edmonton and Region
Jewish Family Services Edmonton
John Humphrey Centre for Peace and
Human Rights
Kara Community Resource Centre
Metis Child and Family Services
Society

Multicultural Health Brokers
Multicultural Women and Seniors
Services Association
Somali Canadian Cultural Society of
Edmonton
The Family Centre
The Green Room
Ukrainian Canadian Social Services

ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING PEOPLE EXPERIENCING OR AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS/ HOUSELESSNESS

Bissell Centre
Boyle Street Community Services
Boyle Street Outreach
E4C
Edmonton Social Planning Council
Homeward Trust

SPORT & RECREATION ORGANIZATIONS

Ceyana Canoe Club
Dogs Off Leash Ambassador
Program
Edmonton Australian Rules Football
Club
Edmonton Nordic Ski Club
Edmonton Dragon Boat Racing Club
Edmonton Mountain Bike Alliance
Edmonton Outdoor Club Edmonton
Rowing Club
Edmonton Ski Club
Edmonton Speed Skating
Association
Edmonton Sport Council
Friends of Terwillegar Park
Hardcore Bikes
Mud Sweat and Gears
Northeast Zone Sports Council
Northwest Voyageurs Canoe and
Kayak Club
Red Bike Cycling Club
River City Runners
Terwillegar Riverbend Advisory
Council

Whitemud Equine Learning Centre
Association
Wildcats Football Club
Women on Wheels

SCHOOL BOARDS & POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

Conseil Scolaire Centre-Nord
Edmonton Catholic School Board
Edmonton Public School Board
Concordia University
King's University
MacEwan University
NAIT

SENIORS' ORGANIZATIONS

City of Edmonton – Age Friendly
Edmonton
Edmonton Seniors Centre
Edmonton Seniors Coordinating
Council
Mill Woods Seniors Association
Operation Friendship Seniors
Society
Seniors Association of Greater
Edmonton (SAGE)
Senior Citizen Opportunity
Neighbourhood Association
(SCONA)
Southwest Edmonton Seniors
Association
West End Seniors Activity Centre

URBAN INDIGENOUS ORGANIZATIONS

Aboriginal Veterans Society of
Edmonton
Alberta Native Friendship Centres
Association Canadian Native
Friendship Centre
Creating Hope Society Edmonton
Native Healing Centre
Sacred Heart Church of the First
People

Appendix C: ARP Additional Feedback

The following additional feedback on the ARP was provided throughout the engagement period:

Ongoing Involvement in Process Development

Participants provided feedback on the implementation phase of the ARP, emphasizing the need for clarity on how the ARP will be utilized once approved. They noted that the effectiveness of the ARP depends on supporting documents and processes still under development or to be developed post-adoption (e.g., Environmental Impact Assessments). Participants expressed a desire to remain involved as these processes are created.

Design and Presentation of Information

Participants highlighted the importance of a well-designed ARP document that clearly outlines changes to current land use classifications and everyday usage of the River Valley. They requested further explanations of accompanying processes to enhance understanding of how the proposed procedures would be implemented.

Continued Engagement with Diverse Groups

Participants emphasized the importance of ongoing engagement with Indigenous Peoples and Nations in and around the City. They also called for further involvement with organizations representing individuals with disabilities, as well as environmental and conservation groups within the City.

Continued Engagement through Implementation

Participants expressed interest in seeing the City commit to ongoing engagement activities during the implementation phase of the ARP, particularly during the development of supporting materials and processes. This continued engagement is viewed as crucial for the successful adoption and actioning of the ARP.

Addressing Implementation Details

Some feedback focused on the need for a clear implementation plan that outlines the costs, timelines, and responsibilities associated with the ARP. Some participants called for a transparent view of the resources required and the steps involved in implementing the plan.



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