

JUNE 9TH, 2025 PUBLIC HEARING

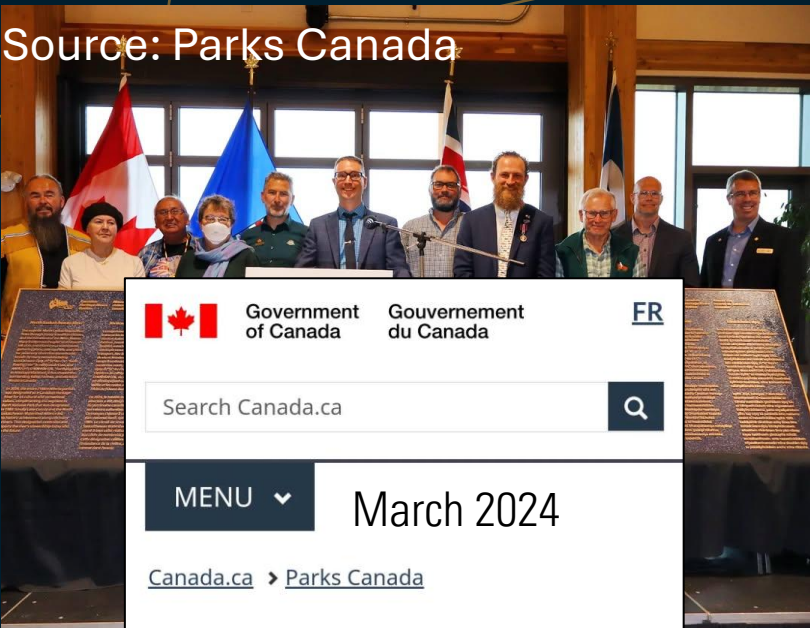
*ITEM 3.11 - BYLAW 20996
TO ADOPT A NEW NORTH
SASKATCHEWAN RIVER
VALLEY AREA
REDEVELOPMENT PLAN*

*River Valley Planning
Modernization (RVPM)*

Kyle Schole



Source: Parks Canada



Governments of Canada and Alberta officially designate Alberta section of the North Saskatchewan River as a Canadian Heritage River



Source: Parks Canada

MENU ▾

March 2022

[Canada.ca](#) > [Parks Canada](#)

Parks Canada and partners take first step toward creating a national urban park in Edmonton

From: [Parks Canada](#)

News release

A national urban park in the Edmonton region would promote access to green spaces and nature

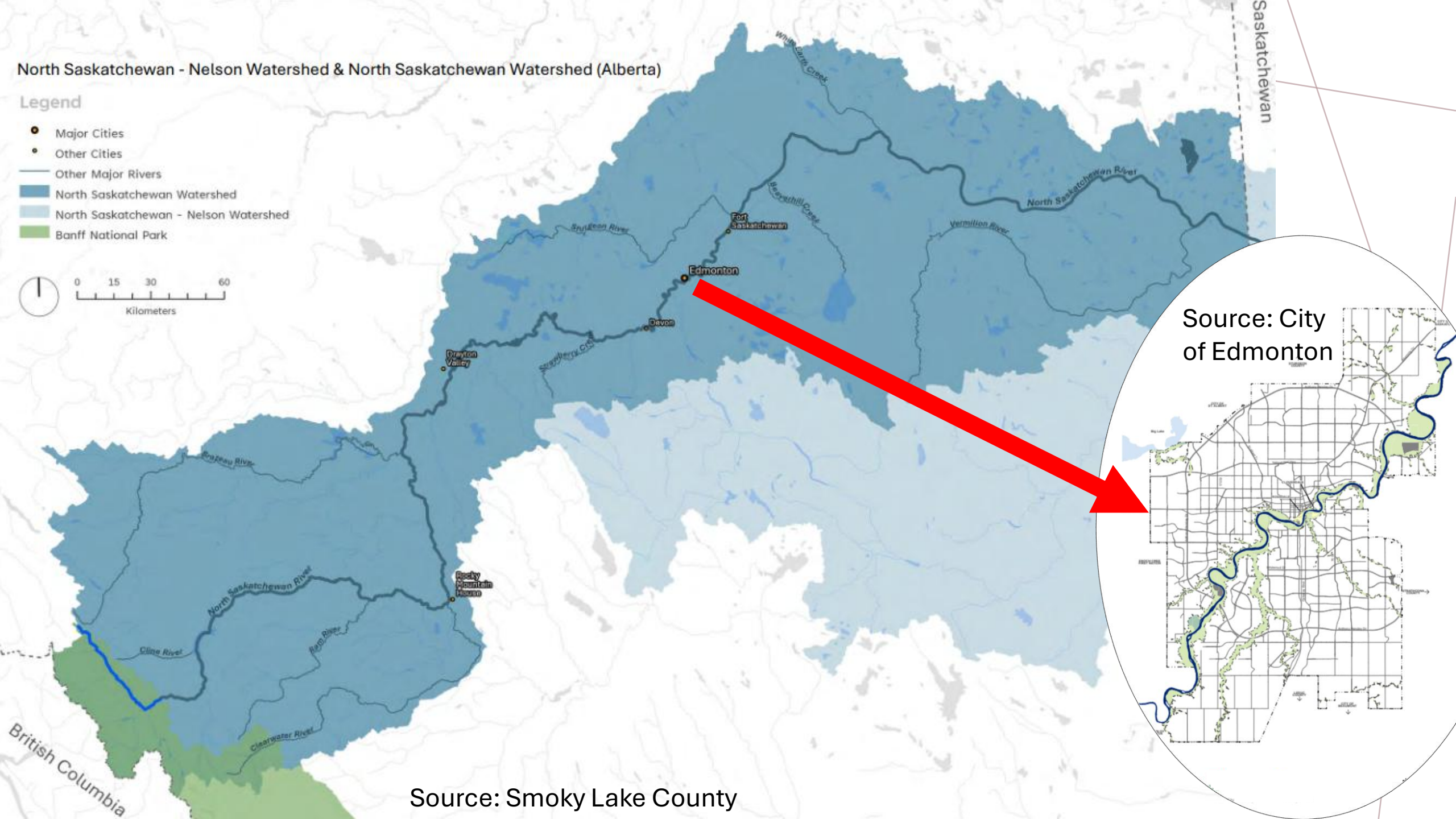
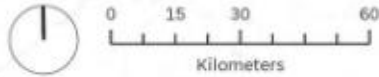


Source: City of Edmonton

North Saskatchewan - Nelson Watershed & North Saskatchewan Watershed (Alberta)

Legend

- Major Cities
- Other Cities
- Other Major Rivers
- North Saskatchewan Watershed
- North Saskatchewan - Nelson Watershed
- Banff National Park



Source: City of Edmonton



Source: Smoky Lake County

AN ECOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE LANDSCAPE



Source: Kyle Schole

'WHAT WE DID'

- HERITAGE, RECONCILIATION & INDIGENOUS COLLABORATION
- ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY
- INCLUSIVE, ACCESSIBLE SPACES
- GROWTH PRESSURES
- COMMERCIAL USES
- TRAIL PLANNING
- GREATER INTERACTION WITH THE RIVER
- SHELTERING



Source: Kyle Schole

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Minneapolis, showing the Mississippi River winding through the landscape. The river is crossed by several bridges, including a prominent cable-stayed bridge. The city features a mix of urban development, including high-rise buildings and residential areas, interspersed with green spaces and parks. The sky is overcast with grey clouds. The text 'Source: Kyle Schole' is overlaid at the bottom left of the image.



Mayor Sohi & City Council
Attn: Michael Janz, Chair, Urban Planning Committee (UPC)
2nd Floor, City Hall
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square
Edmonton, AB T5J 2R7
Via Email: Office of the City Clerk <city.clerk@edmonton.ca>

Members Urban Planning Committee and City Council,

On behalf of the Edmonton Historical Board (EHB) and the Edmonton Heritage Council (EHC), we are writing to express support for the City of Edmonton's River Valley Planning Modernization (RVPM) initiative, which represents a significant opportunity to ensure the preservation, enhancement, and sustainable development of Edmonton's cherished River Valley which is a vital natural and cultural asset that defines our city's identity.

The Valley and Ravines System of the North Saskatchewan River (also known in nēhiyawewin/Cree as kisiskāciwan-sīpi (ᑭᓯᓴᓕᐱᗵᓂᓄᓰ), meaning "swift-flowing river", and Apátohs O'mahkahtai, meaning "North big river" in Nitsitapi/Blackfoot) is not only a spectacular natural landscape but also a repository of Edmonton's rich history and cultural heritage. Indeed, it is a living legacy that connects us to our past, anchors our present, and shapes our future.

The RVPM initiative demonstrates a forward-thinking approach to balancing the need for growth, and recreation and tourism, with the imperative to safeguard the ecological integrity and cultural significance of this irreplaceable resource. We commend Administration and City Council for taking necessary steps to expand and modernize this planning framework – and we urge a robust approach in the next steps of *implementation*, which must accompany this body of work.

In pursuit of public awareness and environmental wellness of this cherished emerald on the landscape of amiskwāy-wāskahikan, it is essential that we pursue immersive opportunities for river-centric intergenerational and inter-cultural exchange, interpretation, and understandings. To those ends, we were glad to see the City Council lend its support for 718 km of the North Saskatchewan River across Alberta to finally be successfully designated as a Canadian Heritage River, which recognizes its exceptional natural, cultural, and recreational values. Implementation of the heritage river vision calls for the City of Edmonton to look more outwardly to collaborate with regional neighbors over the next five, ten, and fifty years.

One such crucial piece will be to fund and complete Phase II of the [River Valley Alliance \(RVA\) Plan of Action](#). This will connect the last remaining 25 km of the river valley trail network between Devon and Fort Saskatchewan, completing North America's longest river valley pedestrian trail!



In conclusion, we urge the Urban Planning Committee (and wider City Council) to support the River Valley Planning Modernization initiative by sending it forward for Public Hearing ahead of consideration for adoption. In doing so, you will not only help safeguard this natural wonder of Edmonton, but also uphold its role as a vibrant cultural landscape that enriches the lives of residents and visitors alike.

Thank you for your consideration of our points on this matter - we look forward to continuing our collaboration with both the Committee and City Council to preserve and enhance the River Valley for future generations.

Sincerely,

Stephen Rees,
Chair, Edmonton Historical Board (EHB)

Jessica Burylo
Chair, Edmonton Heritage Council (EHC)

cc: Eddie Robar, Interim City Manager, City of Edmonton <Eddie.Robar@edmonton.ca>
Kim Petrin, Deputy City Manager, Urban Planning and Economy, City of Edmonton <kim.petrin@edmonton.ca>
Executive Director and Board of Directors, North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA) <water@nswa.ab.ca>
Darren Dalgleish, President and CEO, Fort Edmonton Management Corp. <darren.dalgleish@edmonton.ca>
Kristine Archibald, Executive Director, River Valley Alliance (RVA) <kristine.archibald@nirvalley.ab.ca>



Canadian Heritage Rivers System

**Réseau des
rivières du patrimoine
canadien**

EXPLORE EDMONTON



NEXT STEPS – CALL TO ACTION

- **Adopt Bylaw 20996 today** and direct administration to prepare supporting zoning amendments within six months.
- **Fund a dedicated River Valley Implementation Team** in the 2026 operating budget to coordinate ecological restoration, heritage conservation, and trail connections.
- **Mandate annual public progress reports** so Edmontonians can measure success and adjust course.



Source: Kyle Schole

THANK YOU, QUESTIONS

Kyle Schole

NSR Steward, Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS)

Vice Chair, North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA)

Vice Chair, Edmonton Historical Board (EHB)

Director, Edmonton Heritage Council (EHC)

Source: North Sask. Watershed Alliance

SCHEDULE "A"

NORTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER VALLEY

Area Redevelopment Plan

MAY 2025