

# **Exactly What Are We Preserving?**

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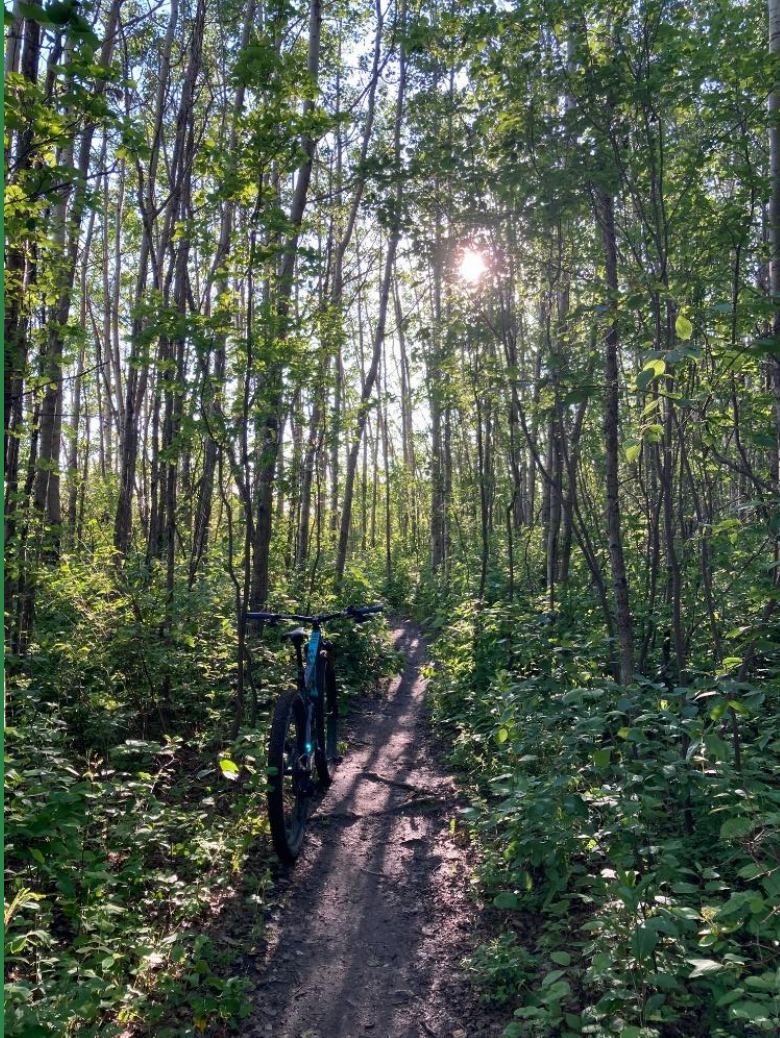
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**EMBA Board Member**





# Thanks!



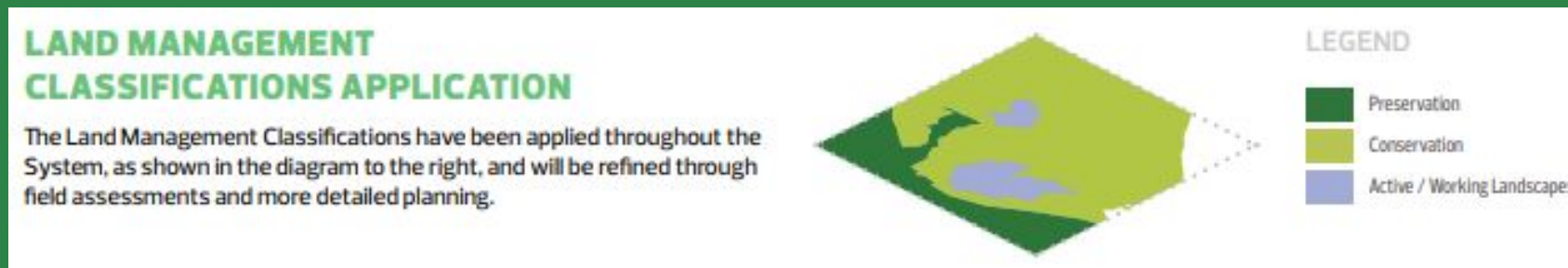
- A lot has transpired since 2021!
- The RoG team have always been willing to listen.
  - Dealt with very different and divisive views
  - Recognized the need to balance use and conservation
  - Often have acted as the middle-people
- Edmonton is a diverse and active City, and we all embrace how important the river valley is to our daily lives.

# Some Considerations

- The LMC definitions provide important structure and a way to classify valley lands, BUT
  - The way many areas are currently categorized doesn't match up with reality
    - Especially the amount and types of valley land designated as Preservation (Ecosystem Protection)

***“Protect the **HIGHEST VALUE** and **MOST SENSITIVE** ecosystems and features”***

- What is an appropriate and realistic balance amongst the LMC categories?  
Should this be included in the ARP?





# RoG Land Management Classifications



Preservation: Ecosystem Protection and Trail-based Recreation



Conservation: Natural Recreation



Conservation: Trail-Based Recreation



Active / Working Landscapes: Intensive Recreation

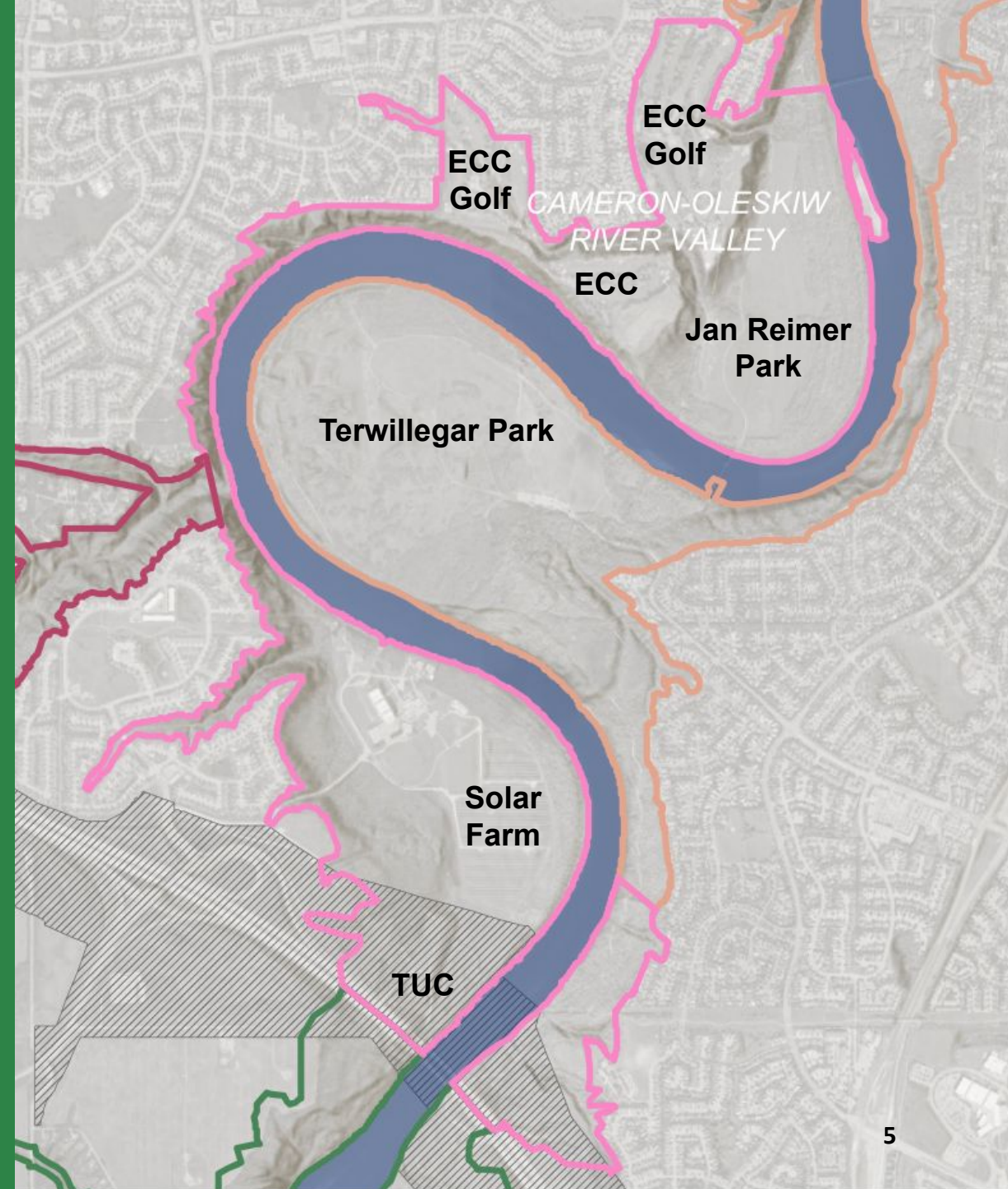


Active / Working Landscapes: Agriculture + Horticulture



Active / Working Landscapes: Urban Services + City-Wide Attractions

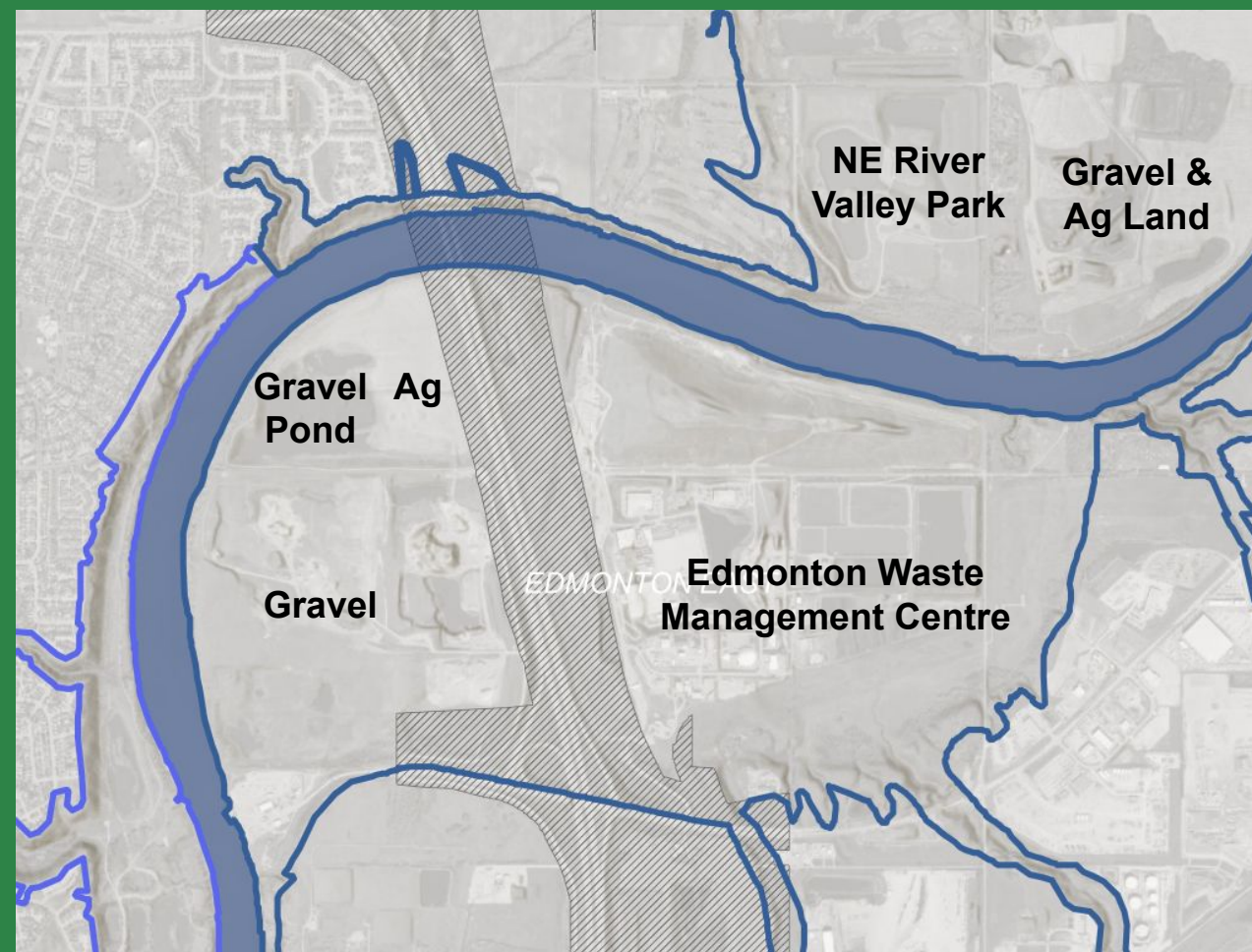












# Other Examples

- Areas along Groat Road
- Fulton Park greenspace
- Greenspaces in between/adjacent to Scona Rd/Conners Rd/98 Ave/Edmonton Ski Club
- Mowed and managed areas next to Hardisty Drive
- Marquis River Valley (NE area reclaimed gravel extraction and agriculture)
- Queen Elizabeth Park
- Museum Hill

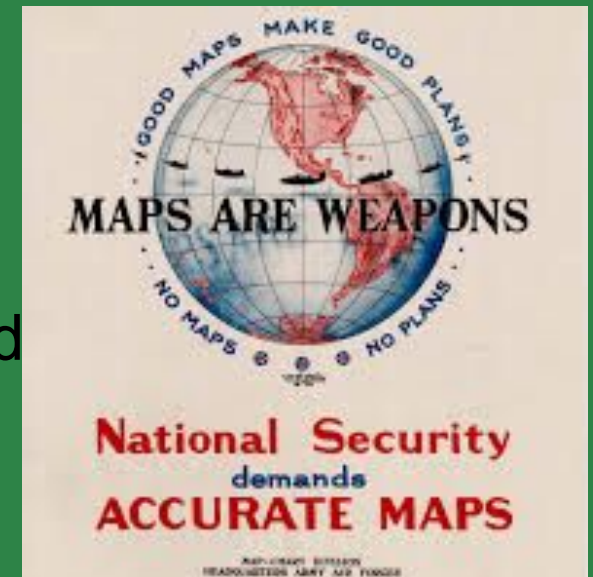




# Revisit & Validate Class Assignments

- Original assignment based on a desktop exercise, but spatial data used for these analyses are often out of date and/or inaccurate
- The past use and current condition and use of the area should also be considered. How much restoration is required?
- Engage with scientific experts and users for their “gut-checks” in definitions and assignments
- How much land is realistically feasible to manage, protect, and enforce with the City’s limited resources?
  - Reference to increased Park Rangers and Fencing
- Will there be an appeal process once the “official” are made?

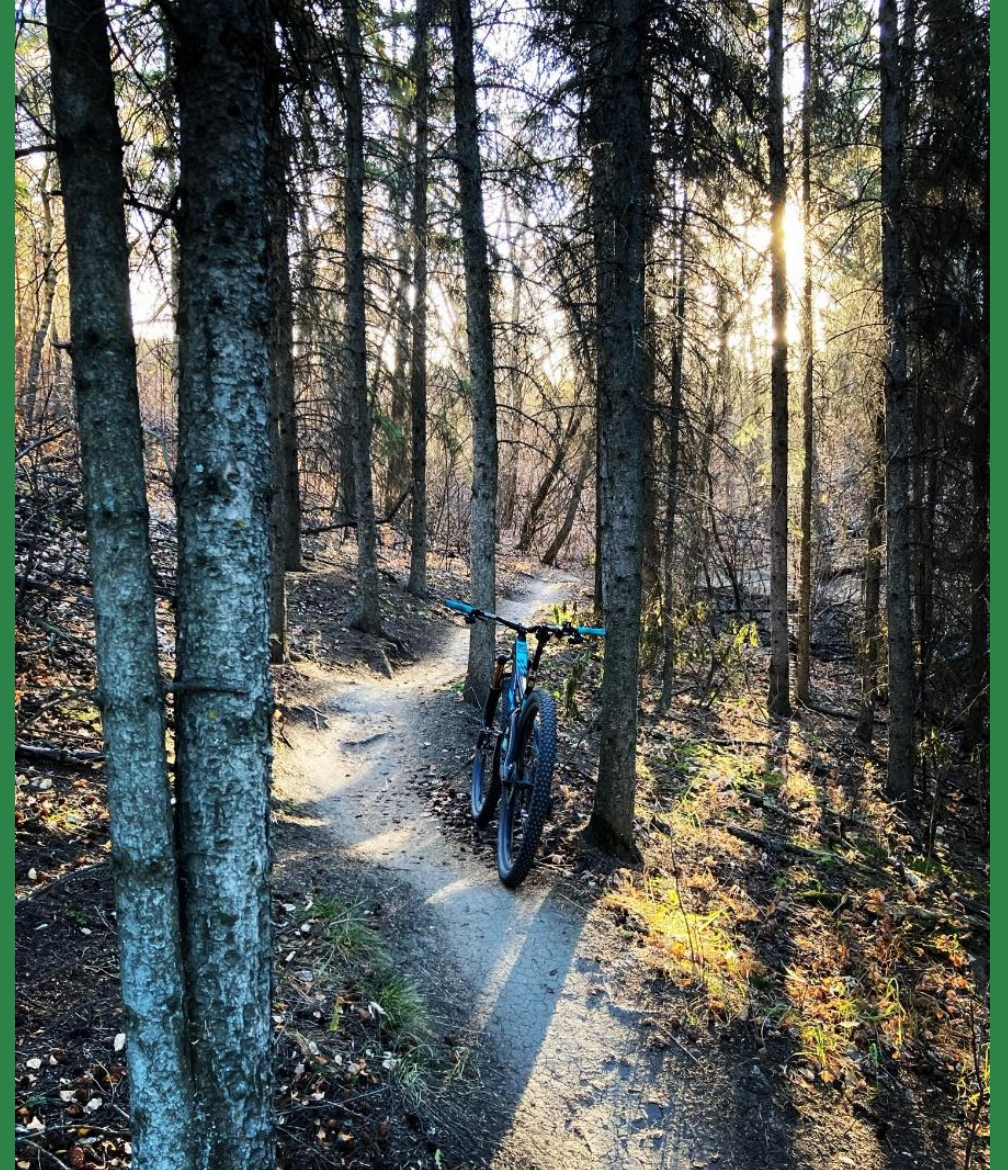
**It’s extremely important to get this stuff right!**





# A Missing Link

- The Preservation Trail-Based Recreation class was created to permit recreational use in Preservation areas
- Currently, these areas aren't included in maps/spatial data due to pending reviews and the requirement for a Trail Management Plan
- Successful implementation of much of the Ribbon of Green policies and guidance hinge on existence of a Trail Management Plan





# My Hopes

- More emphasis on the analysis and verification of areas that are classified as Preservation
- An understanding that responsible and sustainable trail use and recreation opportunities go hand in hand with preservation
- The formalization of the Preservation Trail-Based Recreation class and City funding for the development of a Trail Management Plan





Thank you  
for your time!

