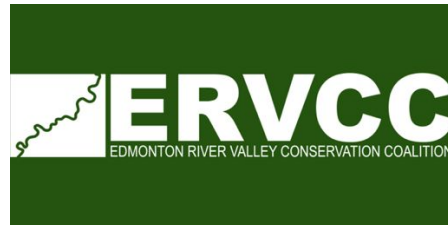


River Valley Planning Modernization: Opportunity and Responsibility to Protect the River Valley



August 18, 2025

Critical Importance of the River Valley

- “As a regional biodiversity core area and Edmonton’s most important natural asset, the North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System provides essential ecosystem services, including, but not limited to, supporting biodiversity, providing clean soil, air, and water, supporting flood protection and mitigation, providing food and medicines, providing carbon sequestration and storage, and supporting urban climate regulation. The River Valley and Ravine System also serves as a key ecological and movement corridor that provides critical habitat for a wide range of plant and animal species that live in and move through the city. In addition to its role in providing a variety of ecosystem services, the River Valley and Ravine System also supports the provision of critical urban services, including utility services such as water and wastewater treatment.”



Ribbon of Green

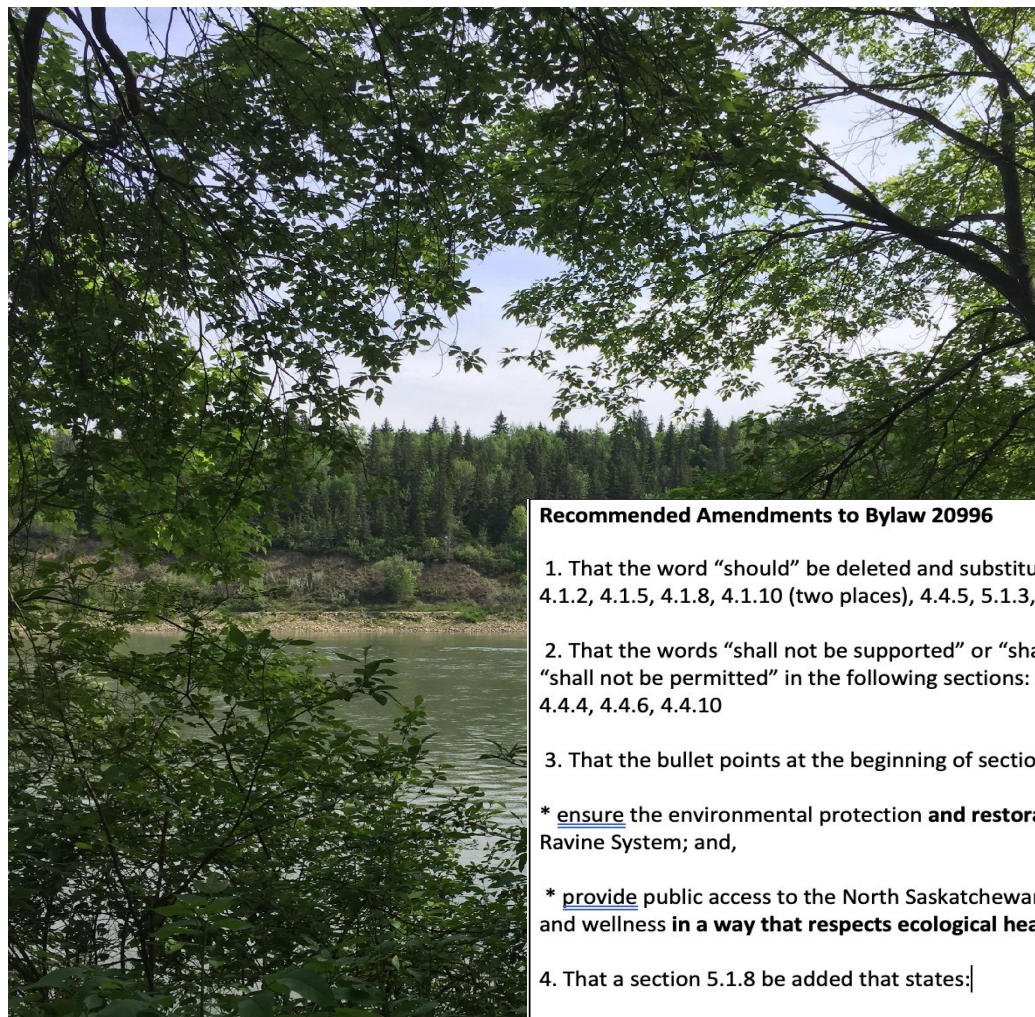
1. Should require City Council approval rather than simply be received for information, so that any changes made in the future also require City Council approval.
2. Approval needs to be paused until a Trails Strategy is funded and completed.



Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP) / Bylaw

Please require Administration to make specific changes to wording as outlined in our written submission, including:

- Many changes of “should” to “shall”
- Many changes from “shall not be supported” or “shall be discouraged” to “shall not be permitted”
- Etc. – please see points in written submission
- We also request a process change: that the Strategic Assessment by the city’s ecological planners occur at the outset of a proposal rather than late in the process. There are now many examples of inappropriate projects approved in the river valley because of “sunk-cost” or “proponent expectations” arguments, and this completely skirts the River Valley ARP.



Recommended Amendments to Bylaw 20996

1. That the word “should” be deleted and substituted by the word “shall” in the following sections: 4.1.2, 4.1.5, 4.1.8, 4.1.10 (two places), 4.4.5, 5.1.3, 5.2.6

2. That the words “shall not be supported” or “shall be discouraged” be deleted and substituted by “shall not be permitted” in the following sections: 4.1.4, 4.1.11, 4.1.13, 4.1.14, 4.1.15, 4.2.3, 4.3.3, 4.4.4, 4.4.6, 4.4.10

3. That the bullet points at the beginning of section 3.0 be amended to include the bolded words:

* ensure the environmental protection **and restoration** of the North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System; and,

* provide public access to the North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System for celebration and wellness **in a way that respects ecological health**

4. That a section 5.1.8 be added that states:

Project proposals falling within section 5.1.7 and costing \$5 million or more shall be subject to a public review process conducted by an independent advisory expert review panel. This panel shall gather and analyze information on project proposals and then make an open and transparent recommendation to City Council. Costs of private proposals shall be paid for by the proponent.

5. That section 5.2.6 be amended to the following (with changes in bold):

In **considering** the strategic assessment as outlined in Appendix 1 for development, rezonings, or Plan amendments subject to policies 5.2.2, 5.2.3, 5.2.4, or 5.2.5, City Council **shall ensure that any approved** proposal: a) meets the objectives and policies of this Plan; b) requires a River Valley and Ravine System location; and, c) is in the public interest.

Please make protecting this beautiful river valley part of your legacy on city council and ensure these amendments are made. This is your chance to help ensure the future of our city's greatest asset and gift.

