

River Valley Planning Modernization Action Plan

The Ribbon of Green Strategic Plan (Ribbon of Green) and North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan (River Valley ARP) will take time, resources and partnerships to implement. A number of bodies of work to implement the Ribbon of Green have been identified and listed below. Prioritization, scope and resource requirements of these implementation actions will be further developed and will help inform future business planning and submissions for consideration as part of future City budget deliberations.

Implementation Actions

A. Monitoring and Reporting Plan

- Establish and measure selected indicators on a continuous basis to provide a meaningful understanding of the condition of the River Valley and Ravine System, including ecological health, recreational use and equity measures.
- The Monitoring and Reporting Plan will identify the responsibilities, resources and training for City staff that is required to monitor and report on the indicators created. Partnerships with conservation organizations and research institutions may be explored in order to deliver this monitoring.
- Monitoring results will be made available publicly in a clear and concise manner in a current state report on the River Valley.

B. River Valley Trail Strategy

- Working with partner organizations and experts in trail planning and ecological management and building off the direction for trails within the Ribbon of Green, develop a strategy that establishes a trail network to support high-quality trail experiences for diverse users year-round while protecting the ecological health of the River Valley.
- Development of the Trail Strategy will include engagement with community organizations and the public, as well as Indigenous Nations and communities, in recognition that Indigenous people have historic and ongoing relationship to trails within the River Valley.

- The work will implement a number of City-building outcomes identified in the City Plan, including those related to ecological protection and stewardship of the River Valley, Indigenous reconciliation, River Valley access and enjoyment and community health and wellbeing.

C. Land Assembly Program

- Develop a Land Assembly Program for the Ribbon of Green that determines land assembly methodology, prioritizes sites for acquisition and forecasts required resources over the long term. Acquisition priorities will be updated to inform the City's budget cycle and in response to property availability and adjacent neighbourhood build-out.

D. Capital Program

- In alignment with the Land Assembly Program, develop a long-term capital program to prioritize and fund the site-specific plans, designs and studies required to implement the Ribbon of Green. The Capital Program will be updated in alignment with the City's capital budget cycle in order to inform capital investment priorities.
- Develop prioritization methodology based on guidance in the Ribbon of Green and other considerations, including, but not limited to, ecosystem health targets (to be developed), asset management and operational needs, growth projections and public and community feedback.
- The Capital Program will address both ecological guidance (e.g., nature-based solutions, naturalization and restoration initiatives, etc.) and guidance on built form (e.g., facilities, infrastructure, etc.) and will address both growth and renewal components.

E. Indigenous Partnerships

- Work with Indigenous communities to explore:
 - opportunities for co-creation and co-stewardship in the River Valley;
 - opportunities for traditional knowledge to be incorporated.

F. Zoning Recommendations and Implementation

- Review the Zoning Bylaw for alignment with the River Valley ARP and Ribbon of Green and, where necessary, develop recommendations for any amendments required to support the implementation of these plans. Outcomes could include updates to the Zoning Bylaw, proactively bringing forward individual rezoning applications and seeking rezoning concurrent with capital program delivery (growth and renewal projects) where appropriate.

G. Land Management Sub-classification Mapping

- Establish a process and methodology to be delivered through site-specific planning for refinement of LMCs and delineation of LMC sub-classifications.

H. Guidelines and Best Management Practices

- Develop or update guidelines and best management practices to support River Valley land use planning, management and stewardship, including, but not limited to:
 - Floodplain management
 - Buffers and setbacks
 - Recreational activities
 - Wildlife corridors and connectivity
 - Restoration and naturalization
 - No net loss and cumulative impacts
 - Top of bank stewardship

Plan Administration

In addition to the implementation actions above, there are a number of implementation items related to internal administration of the plans. That work includes, but is not limited to:

- Updating other City plans, policies and procedures to incorporate Ribbon of Green and River Valley ARP guidance
- Confirming the roles and responsibilities of City business areas in implementing the plans and ensuring coordinated transitions between business areas in River Valley project planning and delivery