

## 9330 - Groat Road NW, 8020 & 8642 - Saskatchewan Drive NW Position of Administration: Support



### Summary

Bylaw 20734 proposes a rezoning from the River Valley Zone (A) to the William Hawrelak Park Zone (A7) to recognize the Heritage Amphitheatre and Community League Plaza as venues and the park as home to historic resources, recreational and cultural events, while being sensitive to the river valley context. Bylaw 21359 proposes an amendment to the Zoning Bylaw's River Valley Special Area to facilitate the proposed rezoning.

Public engagement for this application included two mailed notices and information on the City's webpage. Administration heard from Edmonton River Valley Conservation Coalition (ERVCC), North Saskatchewan River Valley Conservation Society (NSRVCS), Sunchild First Nation and one resident. Most concerns were about adding regulations for additional protection of natural sensitive areas and referring the application to a working group to continue work on the proposed land use regulations.

Administration supports this application because it:

- Aligns with the North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan and Ribbon of Green Strategic Plan.
- Proposes a rezoning which aligns with the direction of The City Plan for a Major Recreation Park by providing opportunities for people to access, enjoy and connect to open space and the river valley and ravine system.

## Application Details

This application was submitted by Open Space Strategy, City of Edmonton.

### Rezoning

The proposed William Hawrelak Park Zone (A7) would allow development with the following key characteristics:

- Regulations that ensure the River Valley is environmentally protected.
- Identifying existing park structures as activity sectors.
- Food and drink services, indoor sales and services, major and minor indoor entertainment uses are only permitted within the activity sectors.

### Text Amendment

- To facilitate the proposed rezoning, an amendment to the River Valley Special Area Zone of the Zoning Bylaw 20001 is required. This amendment would incorporate the William Hawrelak Park Zone (A7) text and its map (Appendix I: A7 - William Hawrelak Park Zone) into the River Valley Special Area Zone of the Zoning Bylaw 20001.
- Appendix I - River Valley Special Area: River Valley Special Area Index Map is proposed to be amended to include the A7 Zone map.

### Site and Surrounding Area

	Existing Zoning	Current Development
<b>Subject Site</b>	River Valley Zone (A)	William Hawrelak Park
<b>North</b>	River Valley Zone (A)	Golf Course
<b>East</b>	River Valley Zone (A)	Open Space
<b>South</b>	Buena Vista Park Zone (A5)	Buena Vista Park
<b>West</b>	River Valley Zone (A)	River Valley



*View of the site looking south from William Hawrelak Park Zone NW (Source: Google Maps)*

## **Community Insights**

This application was brought forward to the public using a broadened approach. This approach was selected because the first mailed notice generated interest from river valley conservation groups. The broadened approach included:

### **First Mailed Notice, November 9, 2023**

- Notification radius: 60 metres
- Recipients: 25
- Responses: 2 (Edmonton River Valley Conservation Coalition and North Saskatchewan River Valley Conservation Society)
  - In opposition: 2

### **Second Mailed Notice, August 22, 2025**

- Notification radius: 120 metres
- Recipients: 79
- Responses: 1
  - Mixed/Questions only: 1

### **Email to Indigenous Governments, September 5, 2025 & January 7, 2026**

- In addition to mailed notice, an email was sent to Indigenous governments within Treaty 6, 7, 8, as well as Lac Ste. Anne Metis Community Association. In response, one email was received from Sunchild First Nation (Treaty 6) on September 17, 2025 requesting a follow up on the project.
- A separate email was sent to the Otipemisiwak Métis Government on Jan 7, 2026 and no feedback was received.

## Webpage

- [edmonton.ca/rezoningapplications](https://edmonton.ca/rezoningapplications)

## Notified Community Organizations

- Windsor Park Community League
- Central Area Council of Community Area Council

## Common comments heard:

### Concerns:

- The proposed zone regulations should include additional protection for the natural sensitive areas of the park.
- The rezoning application should be referred to a working group composed of City staff and citizens to continue work on the land use regulations for the park.
- Opposition to any application going to Council in the absence of modernized North Saskatchewan River Valley ARP.
- This rezoning application is the first within the River Valley ARP under the new zoning bylaw. Concerned about the opportunities, dangers, and precedents this sets.
- It's important that any rezoning proposal in the river valley involves broad engagement in a way that honors Truth and Reconciliation commitments.
- Edmonton's ecological protection has declined for two decades, with approximately 75 acres of river valley land lost annually between 2000 and 2015.
- The reason for this rezoning application remains unclear. City staff confirmed at the Executive Committee meeting on December 6, 2023, that rezoning is not necessary to protect the historical structures in the park.

### Mixed/Questions:

- After three years of expensive and inconvenient renovations, citizens are eagerly anticipating the park's reopening and request no further changes.

## Application Analysis



*Site analysis context*

## The City Plan

In The City Plan, William Hawrelak Park is designated Major Recreation Park, which is intended to be designed with multifunctional amenities and unique features that serve residents at the regional, city-wide and district levels. The proposed rezoning reflects the use of the Heritage Amphitheatre and Community League Plaza as venues and the park as home to a number of metropolitan-level recreational and cultural events by aligning commercial uses appropriately.

## District Plans

In the Scona District Plan, William Hawrelak Park is considered a Major Ecological Connection and defers to the North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan and the Ribbon of Green Strategic Plan.

## North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan

William Hawrelak Park is located within the North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP) and is designated River Valley Open Space.

In accordance with policy 5.1.2, a Strategic Assessment has been completed in support of this application. A summary is provided here and the full assessment is attached as Appendix I. In accordance with policy 5.2.3 of the ARP, a Strategic Assessment must be considered by the City Council as part of this proposed rezoning. In accordance with policy 5.2.6 of the ARP, in considering the proposed rezoning, City Council must also consider whether the proposal meets

the objectives and policies of the ARP, requires a River Valley and Ravine System location, and is in the public interest.

This proposal is compatible with the objectives of the ARP to ensure the environmental protection of the River Valley and provide access to the River Valley. The proposed rezoning includes Protected Natural Area and Park uses as permitted uses and limited Community Services and Commercial uses in Activity Sectors, in alignment with policies 4.1.1, 4.1.2, 4.1.3, 4.4.9, and other relevant policies in the ARP. A comprehensive policy analysis is included in the Strategic Assessment, Appendix I.

This proposal requires a River Valley and Ravine System location as the uses described represent existing uses in William Hawrelak Park, and support the overall intent for the park to be programmed and activated as a Major Recreation Park metropolitan and a destination supporting recreation, special events, access to nature, and amenities for visitors to the park itself and the broader River Valley system.

This proposal is in the public interest as it better reflects the expected uses in the park compared to the current A zone. This results in a more transparent and accurate zoning designation, and enables a more efficient planning process.

### **Ribbon of Green Strategic Plan**

Pursuant to policy 4.1.2 of the ARP, the subject site should be planned in accordance with the spatial and policy guidance provided by the Ribbon of Green Strategic Plan. The Ribbon of Green Strategic Plan identifies William Hawrelak Park as an Amenity Node and provides direction to allow year round activities and amenities throughout the park, and to support temporary and permanent commercial activities including cafe operation, equipment rentals, and mobile vending, which aligns with the intent of the proposed rezoning.

Additionally, it directs to preserve and maintain natural forest cover, and ecological and wildlife connectivity, particularly in pinchpoint areas, and to support and maintain healthy riparian vegetation along the riverback, as well as core habitat to the south and east of the maintained park area. The proposed rezoning accomplishes this by maintaining the protected natural area use in the zone and defining activity sectors that concentrate more intense uses to specific locations within the park. Additional information regarding alignment with direction within the Ribbon of Green Strategic Plan is provided in the Strategic Assessment or Appendix 1.

### **Land Use Compatibility**

When compared to the existing A Zone, the proposed A7 Zone makes changes that ensure ongoing compatibility of park uses. It makes Park a permitted use, food and drink service as a discretionary use (limited to activity sectors), and residential and natural resource development will not be permitted. For a detailed list of changes see Appendix 2.

### **Heritage**

On December 12, 2023, City Council approved Bylaws 20630, 20631, 20632, 20633 and 20634) to designate the Main Pavilion, Boat House, and Picnic Shelters #1, #2 and #3 in the park as legally-protected Municipal Historic Resources.

## **Mobility**

Edmonton Transit Service operates conventional crosstown and local bus service east of William Hawrelak Park along Emily Murphy Park Road NW and the north/south Groat Road NW service roads. Special event park-and-ride service to William Hawrelak Park for major events (e.g. Heritage Days) is also provided by Edmonton Transit Service. During such events, the main William Hawrelak Park parking lot is operated as a special event bus stop. Bus movements within and near the park for such events have been accommodated within roadway designs for the William Hawrelak Park reconstruction project.

## **Open Space**

The City recently completed environmental assessments that delineate the park's sensitive plant communities and habitats, sensitive aquatic habitats, and rare plant distribution. The proposed zone takes these assessments into account and ensures activity sectors are located outside of environmentally sensitive areas. Further, the zone requires an environmental review at the development permit stage, this ensures that any changes to the ecologically sensitive areas going forward will be reviewed and disturbances avoided or mitigated. A Strategic Assessment and Environmental Assessment will also be required for any proposed development in the park, in accordance with policy 5.1.7 of the North Saskatchewan River Valley ARP.

## **Utilities**

The proposed zoning change will not significantly impact the sewer and drainage systems in the area. Low Impact Development (LID) is recommended for the development allowed under the proposed zone. Details of any proposed LID would be reviewed at the Development Permit stage.

The applicant/owner will be responsible for all costs associated with providing required water supply including any changes to the existing water infrastructure required by the proposed zoning.

## **Appendices**

1. Strategic Assessment
2. Uses Comparison Table

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Approved By: Tim Ford

Branch: Development Services

Section: Planning Coordination

The logo for the City of Edmonton, featuring the word "Edmonton" in white text on a blue rectangular background.

# **Proposed A7 William Hawrelak Park Zone (Bylaws 20734 and 21359)**

## **Strategic Assessment**

Prepared by:  
Open Space Strategy  
Urban Growth and Open Space  
Planning and Environment Services  
Urban Planning and Economy

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## Introduction

City of Edmonton Administration (Open Space Strategy) has proposed rezoning of William Hawrelak Park, 9330 - Groat Road NW, 8642 - Saskatchewan Drive NW, 8020 - Saskatchewan Drive NW, from (A) River Valley Zone to (A7) William Hawrelak Park Zone under the River Valley Special Area. This Strategic Assessment has been prepared to fulfil the requirements of policy 5.1.2 of the North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan, Bylaw 20996 ("River Valley ARP").

## Section 1: Project Rationale And Anticipated Benefits

The purpose of this rezoning of William Hawrelak Park to A7 is to better reflect the existing and intended development and uses of the park compared to the current A zoning. The A7 zone will more accurately and transparently reflect the type of development and use that is expected for this park, and will result in a more streamlined permitting process for uses that align with the City of Edmonton's vision and strategy for the park by providing clear expectations and guidance for permitting decisions. The A7 zone reflects the intended uses of the park, including allowing Protected Natural Area and Parks uses as permitted uses and complementary uses as Discretionary Uses. The A7 zone further restricts many of the discretionary uses to the Activity Sectors (Figure 1), which are located in areas of existing development and structures (primarily five designated Municipal Historic Resources). The rezoning will also contribute to the protection of the five Municipal Historic Resources within the park by creating standards and guidelines for their rehabilitation and retention.

The A - River Valley zone is a general zone that significantly limits development throughout the River Valley and Ravine System. The only permitted use within the A zone is Natural Area, and remaining uses, including Park uses, are discretionary. The proposed A7 zone better reflects the existing and intended uses of William Hawrelak Park and its status as a designated Major Recreation Park supporting multifunctional amenities and unique features that serve residents at the regional, city-wide, and district levels. As part of the proposed A7 zone, Park uses, including trails, facilities, playing fields, buildings and other structures that serve a recreational purpose of the park, are acknowledged as a Permitted use. Additional Discretionary uses are included in the proposed zone to allow for uses such as Food and Drink Service or Indoor Sales and Service while also constraining them to the Activity Sectors of the park. The ability to designate site- and context-specific Permitted and Discretionary uses, and introduce regulations for the protection of Municipal Heritage Resources, aligns with the intended purpose of the River Valley Special Area Zone as per the Zoning Bylaw 20001, "to designate portions of the North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System as a Special Area for broader recreation opportunities and targeted environmental protection in compliance with the North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan."

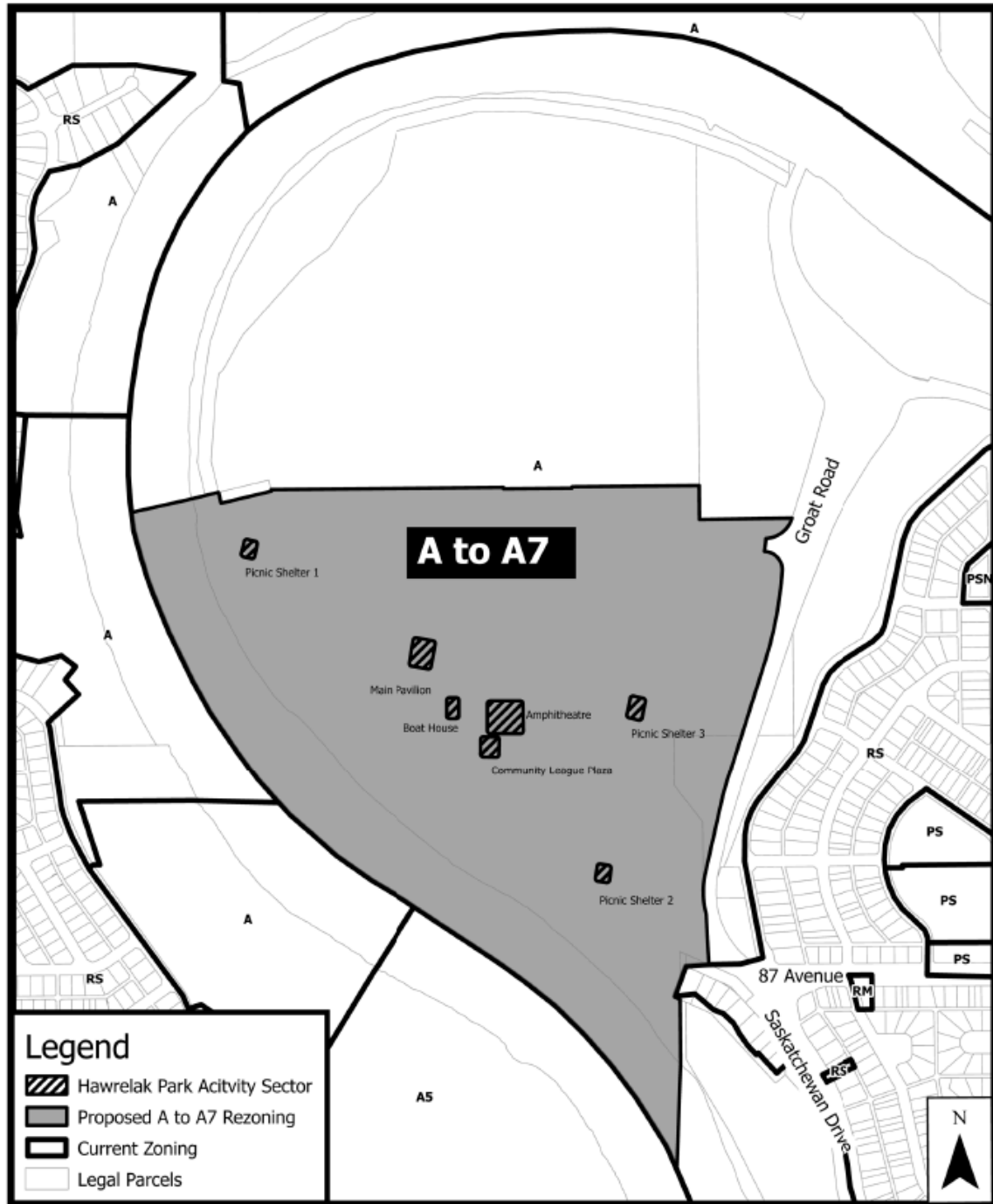


Figure 1. Map of proposed rezoning of William Hawrelak Park from A to A7.

## Section 2: Alignment With Plan Policy Direction And Land Use Concept

### *Alignment with Plan Policy Direction*

A description of how the proposed rezoning aligns with River Valley ARP policies is provided in Table 1.

Table 1. River Valley ARP policy alignment.

<p>4.1.1 The primary land use throughout the Plan area shall be open space.</p>	<p>The proposed A7 zone directly aligns with this policy by proposing to zone the subject lands in alignment with “open space” uses and functions as defined in the River Valley ARP. The zone includes two permitted uses, Protected Natural Area and Park, both of which directly reflect the role of William Hawrelak Park as an important component of the open space network across the River Valley. Additional discretionary uses in the zone support the open space functions of Hawrelak Park, a designated Major Recreation Park, by allowing for compatible programming, services, and amenities such as special events, food and drink services, child care services, and indoor and outdoor entertainment facilities.</p>
<p>4.1.2 Lands identified as River Valley Open Space, as shown on Map 1, should be planned in accordance with the spatial and policy guidance provided by the Ribbon of Green Strategic Plan.</p>	<p>The Ribbon of Green Strategic Plan identifies William Hawrelak Park as an amenity node, and recognizes and encourages the permitted and discretionary uses prescribed in the proposed A7 zone. The proposed A7 zone conforms and aligns with Ribbon of Green program guidance for the park, including recognition of the park as a flexible, multi-season destination hosting some of the city’s most beloved events, providing year round activities, and providing for temporary and permanent commercial activities including cafe operation, equipment rentals, and mobile vending. The proposed A7 zone restricts Community Service Uses, Child Care Uses, and most Commercial Uses to the Activity Sector to the Activity Sector, which falls within the mapped “Active and Working Landscapes” land management classification in the Ribbon of Green; as such, potential future development is</p>

	excluded from areas of Hawrelak Park classified as Conservation and Preservation in the Ribbon of Green. Refer to section three for further detail regarding alignment with Ribbon of Green direction.
4.1.3 Development on lands identified as River Valley Open Space or Public Utility, as shown on Map 1, shall be limited to that which is compatible with environmental protection, recreation, and cultural heritage, or provides transportation or utility services that require a River Valley location.	The proposed A7 zone includes permitted and discretionary uses that reflect William Hawrelak Park's intended use as a metropolitan park with multifunctional amenities and a space that supports recreation, cultural, education and commercial activities. The proposed zone protects cultural heritage by facilitating the protection and rehabilitation of five Municipal Historic Resources. The proposed zone contributes to the environmental protection of the park by restricting Community Service Uses, Child Care Uses, and most Commercial Uses to the Activity Sector. The Activity Sector corresponds to areas of the park that are already developed on modified land with lower environmental sensitivity than naturally vegetated portions of the park.
4.1.4 Outside of the Residential Community portions of Rossdale and Cloverdale, as shown on Map 1, development of new or significantly expanded intensive open space facilities shall be discouraged.	The proposed A7 zone is not associated with any specific development proposal, including intensive open space facilities. A proposal for a new or significantly expanded intensive open space could be made under the proposed A7 zone but would be subject to the zone's regulations, this policy (4.1.4), additional environmental reporting, design considerations, and City Council approval requirements as per the River Valley ARP (e.g., policies 5.1.6, 5.1.7, 5.2.1, 5.2.4, 5.2.6).
4.1.5 Subdivisions that would prohibit future dedication of reserves in the Plan area should not be approved.	No subdivision is being proposed as part of the application.
4.1.6 The City shall pursue City ownership of lands in the Plan area, in accordance with the Potential Land Use Pattern, as shown on Map 2, through a combination of reserve dedication, donations, bequeathments, or purchase. Easements shall only be contemplated where no other methods are possible.	The subject site is already owned by the City of Edmonton.

<p>4.1.7 The City shall pursue ownership of lands outside of the Plan area with significant environmental features functionally contributing to the River Valley and Ravine System through a combination of reserve dedication, donations, bequeathments, or purchase. Easements shall only be contemplated where no other methods are possible.</p>	<p>The subject site is fully within Plan boundaries and is already owned by the City of Edmonton.</p>
<p>4.1.8 Lands acquired by the City in accordance with Policy 4.1.7 should be incorporated into the Plan area.</p>	<p>The subject site is already fully within Plan boundaries.</p>
<p>4.1.9 The City shall designate eligible lands within the Plan area as environmental reserve in accordance with the provisions of The City Plan, the Municipal Government Act, and City policies C542A and C531.</p>	<p>Reserve dedication is not an element of this rezoning application and no trigger for reserve dedication (e.g., subdivision) is associated with this rezoning application.</p>
<p>4.1.10 The primary land use of all lands acquired by the City in accordance with Policy 4.1.6 or 4.1.7 should be open space. Such lands, once acquired, should be shown as River Valley Open Space on Map 1 and should be planned in accordance with the spatial and policy guidance provided by the Ribbon of Green Strategic Plan.</p>	<p>The subject site is already owned by the City of Edmonton and policies 4.1.6 and 4.1.7 are not factors in this rezoning application. Please refer to policy alignment rationale for policies 4.1.1 and 4.1.2, above, and Section 3: Alignment with Ribbon Of Green Policy and Spatial Guidance, below, for additional information regarding alignment between the proposed A7 zone and the spatial and policy guidance provided by the Ribbon of Green Strategic Plan.</p>
<p>4.1.11 Outside of the Residential Community portions of Rossdale and Cloverdale, as shown on Map 1, development in the floodplain, as outlined in the District Policy, relevant District Plans, or the Zoning Bylaw, shall be discouraged.</p>	<p>The proposed A7 zone is not associated with any specific development proposal. Any new development proposed under the A7 zone in the future would be outside the floodplain as the entirety of the subject site is outside of the Floodplain Protection Overlay, Zoning Bylaw 20001. No floodplain policies or mapping are included in the Scona District Plan.</p>
<p>4.1.12 Within the Residential Community portions of Rossdale and Cloverdale, as shown on Map 1, development in the floodplain, as outlined in the District Policy, relevant District Plans, or the Zoning Bylaw, shall be in accordance with the District Policy and relevant District Plan.</p>	<p>The subject site is fully outside of the Residential Community portions of Rossdale and Cloverdale, as shown on Map 1.</p>

<p>4.1.13 Outside of the Residential Community portions of Rossdale and Cloverdale, as shown on Map 1, rezoning, or Plan amendments to allow for uses other than open space shall be discouraged.</p>	<p>The proposed A7 zone includes some discretionary uses other than open space (e.g., Child Care Service, Food and Drink Service, Indoor Sales and Service). These uses support the ongoing open space land use, support established programming in the park in alignment with The City Plan and the Ribbon of Green Strategic Plan, and are subservient to the open space function of William Hawrelak Park. These uses are highly constrained within the park as they are restricted to the Activity Sectors, which correspond to existing developed and modified areas of the park, within the proposed A7 zone. Being listed as discretionary uses also ensures that any development permit proposals under these uses are reviewed in accordance with policy 4.1.13 and other relevant policies of the River Valley ARP (e.g., Strategic Assessment requirements, etc.), creating an additional constraint on such uses being proposed or approved as principal uses in the park.</p>
<p>4.1.14 Despite Policy 4.1.13, outside of the Residential Community portions of Rossdale and Cloverdale, as shown on Map 1, rezoning to allow for new or significantly expanded intensive open space facilities shall be discouraged.</p>	<p>The proposed A7 zone is not associated with any proposals for new or significantly expanded intensive open space facilities. While such facilities could be contemplated under certain permitted or discretionary uses (e.g., Park, Outdoor Recreation Service, Outdoor Entertainment, etc.), they would be subject to River Valley ARP policies and evaluated in their own right, including this policy.</p>
<p>4.1.15 Modification of waterbody boundaries within the Plan area for any purpose other than ecological restoration, flood risk mitigation, or geotechnical risk mitigation shall be discouraged.</p>	<p>The proposed A7 zone is not associated with any proposals to modify waterbody boundaries within the Plan area, and such modification is not contemplated as part of any of the permitted or discretionary uses. Should such a proposal be advanced in the future, it would be subject to the policies and decision-making guidance within the River Valley ARP.</p>
<p>4.2.1 Existing utility infrastructure and uses may continue.</p>	<p>The proposed A7 zone does not impact any existing utility infrastructure or uses.</p>
<p>4.2.2 Opportunities to mitigate the impacts of existing utilities, and restore</p>	<p>The proposed A7 zone does not impact any existing utility infrastructure or uses.</p>

lands used for utility infrastructure to open space use, shall be evaluated as part of infrastructure lifecycle management and renewal.	
4.2.3 Outside of the Residential Community portions of Rossdale and Cloverdale, as shown on Map 1, development of new or significantly expanded intensive utility facilities shall be discouraged.	The proposed A7 zone is not associated with any proposals to develop any new or significantly expanded intensive utility facilities. Should such a proposal be advanced in the future, it would be subject to the policies and decision-making guidance within the River Valley ARP.
4.3.1 Existing transportation infrastructure and uses may continue.	The proposed A7 zone does not impact any existing transportation infrastructure or uses.
4.3.2 Opportunities to mitigate the impacts of existing transportation infrastructure, and restore lands used for transportation infrastructure to open space use, shall be evaluated as part of infrastructure lifecycle management and renewal.	The proposed A7 zone does not impact any existing transportation infrastructure or uses.
4.3.3 Outside of the Residential Community portions of Rossdale and Cloverdale, as shown on Map 1, development of new or significantly expanded intensive transportation facilities shall be discouraged.	The proposed A7 zone is not associated with any proposals to develop any new or significantly expanded intensive transportation facilities.
4.4.1 Existing agricultural uses may continue.	The proposed A7 zone does not impact any existing agricultural uses.
4.4.2 Existing industrial uses may continue.	The proposed A7 zone does not impact any existing industrial uses.
4.4.3 Existing resource extraction uses may continue.	The proposed A7 zone does not impact any existing resource extraction uses.
4.4.4 Development of new or expanded resource extraction shall not be supported.	The proposed A7 zone is not associated with any proposals to develop any new or expanded resource extraction uses. Should such a proposal be advanced in the future, it would be subject to the policies and decision-making guidance within the River Valley ARP.

<p>4.4.5 Rezoning to allow for new or expanded resource extraction uses should be in accordance with policy 5.3.2.3 of The City Plan.</p>	<p>The proposed A7 zone does not permit any new or expanded resource extraction uses.</p>
<p>4.4.6 Development of new or significantly expanded industrial uses shall not be supported.</p>	<p>The proposed A7 zone does not permit any industrial uses.</p>
<p>4.4.7 Existing residential uses and associated development, including in the Residential Community portions of Rossdale and Cloverdale, as shown on Map 1, may continue.</p>	<p>The proposed A7 zone does not impact any existing residential uses or associated development.</p>
<p>4.4.8 No new residential lots shall be created outside of the Residential Community portions of Rossdale and Cloverdale, as shown on Map 1.</p>	<p>The proposed A7 zone does not propose the creation of new residential lots.</p>
<p>4.4.9 Existing commercial or urban service uses may continue.</p>	<p>The proposed A7 zone allows for existing commercial and urban service uses to continue.</p>
<p>4.4.10 Outside of the Residential Community portions of Rossdale and Cloverdale, as shown on Map 1, development of new or significantly expanded commercial or urban service uses shall not be supported, unless they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) accessory to open space use;</li> <li>b) accessory to agricultural use; or,</li> <li>c) entirely occurring within the footprint of an existing structure.</li> </ul>	<p>The proposed A7 zone includes commercial and urban service uses as discretionary uses. These uses are considered accessory to open space use as they support the main function of William Hawrelak Park as a major city-wide destination that provides space for active recreation and gathering supported by visitor amenities. These uses are also occurring entirely within the footprint of existing structures, as they are restricted to Activity Sectors identified in the proposed A7 zone, which correspond to the existing pavilion, amphitheatre, and picnic shelters.</p> <p>As these uses are listed as Discretionary uses, any future development permit applications would be reviewed against the policies of the River Valley ARP, including this policy; proposals for commercial or urban service uses that did not meet the criteria of this policy would not be supported. Listing these uses as discretionary also allows for the environmental review regulations of the</p>

	<p>zone to be applied to development that met these criteria, in addition to the reporting and approval requirements of the River Valley ARP.</p>
<p>5.1.1 Any application to amend the Plan shall require completion of a strategic assessment as outlined in Appendix 1, unless the Plan amendment application is solely for the purpose of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) amending the boundaries of the Plan, as shown on Map 1, based on updated technical information reflecting the current site conditions; or,</li> <li>b) changing the land use, as shown on Map 1, to River Valley Open Space.</li> </ul>	<p>The proposed A7 zone is not associated with any proposals to amend the River Valley ARP.</p>
<p>5.1.2 Any application for rezoning within the Plan area shall require completion of a strategic assessment as outlined in Appendix 1, unless the rezoning application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) proposes rezoning from any zone to A - River Valley Zone or NA - Natural Area Zone as defined in the Zoning Bylaw (Bylaw 20001), as amended; or,</li> <li>b) is entirely within the Residential Community portions of Rossdale or Cloverdale, as shown on Map 1.</li> </ul>	<p>This Strategic Assessment has been prepared in support of the proposed A7 zone, in accordance with this policy.</p>
<p>5.1.3 The following planning considerations should be considered by City administration as part of development, rezoning, or Plan amendment proposals in the Plan area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) application of an ecological network approach;</li> <li>b) application of the mitigation hierarchy;</li> <li>c) opportunities for nature-based solutions; and,</li> <li>d) opportunities for climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.</li> </ul>	<p>In support of the four considerations within this policy, the proposed A7 zone permits only those uses that support open space functions and the function of the park in alignment with the City's vision for the area as identified in The City Plan and the Ribbon of Green Strategic Plan. Many uses permitted by zone are limited to existing developed areas (Activity Sectors), which represent a small portion of the park's total area and occur outside of environmentally sensitive areas. These elements of the zone were prepared in light of the park's position in the River Valley wildlife corridor and the presence of important habitat. Opportunities for</p>

	<p>nature-based solutions and climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts were considered but were not identified for this rezoning, as it is not associated with a specific development proposal. This policy, and other policies of the River Valley ARP (e.g., Strategic Assessment and Environmental Assessment requirements) will be applied to any future development proposal in the park. Such a proposal would also be subject to the environmental review requirements of the zone, providing additional opportunity to ensure that the proposal meets the intent of this policy.</p>
<p>5.1.4 Public engagement for development, rezoning, or Plan amendment proposals on lands identified as River Valley Open Space or Public Utility, as shown on Map 1, shall be considered in accordance with the City's public engagement policy and The City Plan.</p>	<p>The proposed A7 zone was informed by public engagement feedback received as part of the William Hawrelak Park rehabilitation project and as part of the renewal of the Ribbon of Green Strategic Plan. Engagement for those projects was completed in alignment with the City's public engagement policy and The City Plan. Further information regarding those engagement efforts is provided in Section 7: Completed or Planned Public, Interested Party, and Indigenous Engagement.</p>
<p>5.1.5 Indigenous engagement for development, rezoning, or Plan amendment proposals on lands identified as River Valley Open Space or Public Utility, as shown on Map 1, shall be considered in accordance with The City Plan.</p>	<p>The proposed A7 zone was informed by public engagement feedback received as part of the William Hawrelak Park rehabilitation project and as part of the renewal of the Ribbon of Green Strategic Plan. Engagement for those projects was completed in alignment with The City Plan. Further information regarding those engagement efforts is provided in Section 7: Completed or Planned Public, Interested Party, and Indigenous Engagement.</p>
<p>5.1.6 Applications for development permits in the Plan area may be subject to additional technical reporting requirements addressing environmental impacts and risks at the discretion of the development planner in consultation with the department responsible for river valley strategic planning. The development planner, in consultation</p>	<p>The proposed A7 zone is not associated with a development permit application in the Plan area.</p>

<p>with the department responsible for river valley strategic planning, may impose conditions on the development permit to ensure that environmental impacts and risks have been mitigated in accordance with the application of the mitigation hierarchy.</p>	
<p>5.1.7 All development proposed on lands identified as River Valley Open Space or Public Utility, as shown on Map 1, shall be subject to a strategic assessment as outlined in Appendix 1 and an environmental assessment as outlined in Appendix 2.</p>	<p>The proposed A7 zone is not associated with a development proposal. Should development be proposed under the A7 zone, the policies of the River Valley ARP, including this policy, would apply.</p>
<p>5.2.1 The strategic assessment as outlined in Appendix 1 and environmental assessment as outlined in Appendix 2 shall be subject to review and acceptance by the department responsible for river valley strategic planning.</p>	<p>This Strategic Assessment has been prepared in support of the proposed A7 zone and is subject to review and acceptance by the department responsible for river valley strategic planning.</p>
<p>5.2.2 City Council consideration of a strategic assessment as outlined in Appendix 1 shall be required for any application to amend the Plan as in policy 5.1.1.</p>	<p>The proposed A7 zone is not associated with any proposals to amend the River Valley ARP.</p>
<p>5.2.3 City Council consideration of a strategic assessment as outlined in Appendix 1 shall be required for any application for rezoning within the Plan area as in policy 5.1.2.</p>	<p>This Strategic Assessment has been prepared in support of the proposed A7 zone and is subject to consideration by City Council.</p>
<p>5.2.4 City Council approval of a strategic assessment as outlined in Appendix 1 shall be required for new or significantly expanded intensive utility facilities, intensive transportation facilities, and intensive open space facilities, if those facilities are proposed on lands identified as River Valley Open Space or Public Utility, as shown on Map 1.</p>	<p>The proposed A7 zone is not associated with any proposals to develop any new or significantly expanded intensive utility facilities, intensive transportation facilities, or intensive open space facilities. Should such a development be proposed under the A7 zone, the policies of the River Valley ARP, including this policy, would apply.</p>
<p>5.2.5 City Council approval of a strategic assessment as outlined in Appendix 1 shall be required for new or significantly expanded development proposed on</p>	<p>The proposed A7 zone is not associated with any proposals for new or significantly expanded development. Should such a development be proposed under the A7</p>

<p>lands identified as River Valley Open Space or Public Utility, as shown on Map 1, likely to result in long-term or permanent, adverse environmental impacts or community impacts that cannot be mitigated, as determined by the department responsible for river valley strategic planning.</p>	<p>zone, the policies of the River Valley ARP, including this policy, would apply.</p>
<p>5.2.6 In considering or approving 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 should consider whether the proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) meets the objectives and policies of this Plan;</li> <li>b) requires a River Valley and Ravine System location; and,</li> <li>c) is in the public interest.</li> </ul>	<p>This strategic assessment supports City Council in determining whether the proposed rezoning conforms to the three subsections listed under policy 5.2.6.</p> <p>Open Space Strategy believes that the proposed rezoning does conform to the three subsections for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The proposed rezoning meets the objectives of this Plan by contributing to the environmental protection of the River Valley and Ravine System through the restriction of more intensive park uses to Activity Sectors and through the environmental review regulations; and, by contributing to public access to the River Valley and Ravine System for celebration and wellness by allowing for recreational and special event uses in the park, supported by thoughtfully designed amenities and some commercial uses. The proposed rezoning meets the policies of the River Valley ARP as described in this table (Table 1) and in other sections of this report.</li> <li>b) The proposed rezoning requires a River Valley and Ravine System location as William Hawrelak Park and the uses described in the zone reflect existing and ongoing uses in the park that are supported by City policy and strategy and by the general public. Moving existing and ongoing uses to a location outside the River Valley would adversely impact well-established special events, recreation, and the general user experience in the park. Relocating the existing built structures would contradict the intent of</li> </ul>

	<p>the Council-approved Municipal Heritage Resource designation.</p> <p>c) The proposed rezoning is in the public interest as it better reflects the expected uses in the park compared to the current A zone. This results in a more transparent and accurate zoning designation, and enables a more efficient planning process.</p>
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#### *Alignment with Plan Land Use Concept*

The proposed rezoning aligns with Maps 1 and 2 of the River Valley ARP as the subject property is, and will continue to be, River Valley Open Space. No fundamental changes in land use or status as municipal parkland are being proposed.

## **Section 3: Alignment with Ribbon Of Green Policy and Spatial Guidance**

### **Program Statement, Program Opportunities, and Ecological Opportunities**

The Ribbon of Green Strategic Plan (“Ribbon of Green”) identifies William Hawrelak Park as an amenity node and flexible, multi-season destination that is host to major City-wide events, supports diverse recreation activities and programming opportunities, and provides habitat and connectivity supporting Edmonton’s biodiversity (see Ribbon of Green Strategic Plan, section 4.13.1). Direction within the Ribbon of Green supports the provision of year-round activities (e.g., skating, boating), accessible and inclusive experiences and amenities, and temporary and permanent commercial activities (e.g., cafe operation, equipment rentals, and mobile vending). Ecological opportunities in the park include improved stormwater management (e.g., rain gardens), preservation and maintenance of natural forest cover and ecological (including wildlife) connectivity, and maintenance of healthy riparian vegetation and core habitat beyond the maintained park area.

### **Land Management Classifications**

The Ribbon of Green defines three Land Management Classifications (LMCs) across the North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System. The Preservation LMC represents the highest level of protection and restoration of the natural environment; compatible activities in Preservation areas include conservation and stewardship activities, and low impact trail-based recreation. The Conservation LMC is assigned to areas that can sustain additional human activity and use, including trail use, picnicking, unstructured play, and river access. The Active / Working Landscapes LMC facilitates gathering and recreation, and provides for a wide range of recreational opportunities, including intensive recreation, agriculture and horticulture, urban services, and city-wide attractions.

Within the Ribbon of Green, the majority of the park is classified as Active / Working Landscapes, corresponding to the developed and manicured portions of the park (Figure 2). Preservation areas are mapped around the perimeter of the park, particularly along the North Saskatchewan River. Areas of Conservation act as a buffer between the more intensive uses in the central portions of the park and the more environmentally sensitive perimeter identified for protection and preservation.

The proposed rezoning conforms to Ribbon of Green LMC guidance by limiting more intensive uses, including Child Care Service, Community Service, Food and Drink Services, Indoor Sales and Services, Major Indoor Entertainment, and Minor Indoor Entertainment, to the Activity Sectors, which are wholly within the portion of the park classified as Active / Working Landscapes (Figure 3). Other uses within the proposed zone could be contemplated outside of the Activity Sectors, including Protected Natural Area and Park uses (both Permitted under the proposed zone) and the following discretionary uses: Outdoor Recreation Service, Special Event, Outdoor Entertainment, and Urban Agriculture. The current rezoning is not associated with any particular development or redevelopment proposal; should the above uses be proposed in the future, they would be evaluated for conformance with Ribbon of Green LMC guidance as part of site-specific planning, in accordance with policy 4.1.2 of the River Valley ARP.

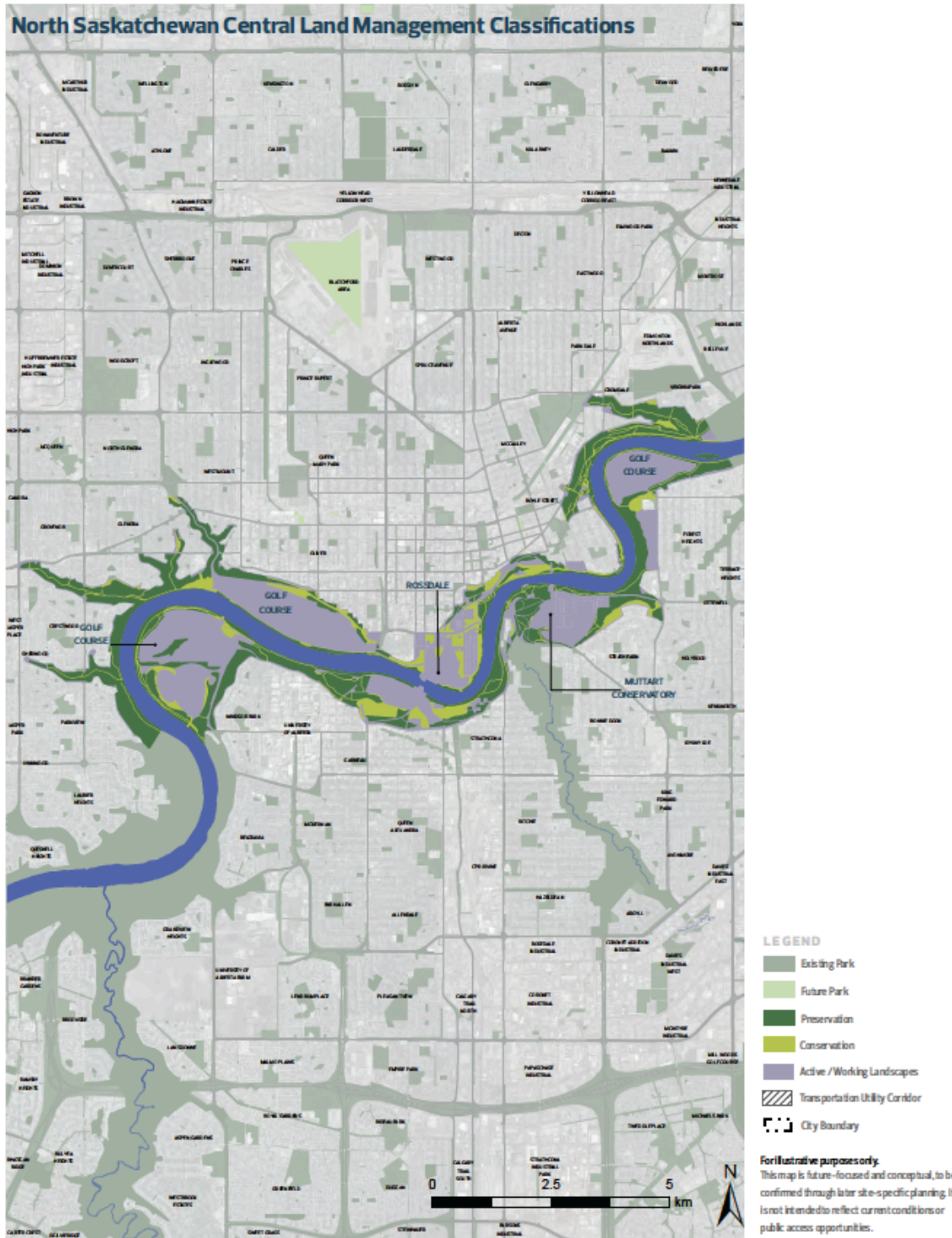


Figure 2. Map of Ribbon of Green Strategic Plan land management classifications in the central River Valley, including William Hawrelak Park.

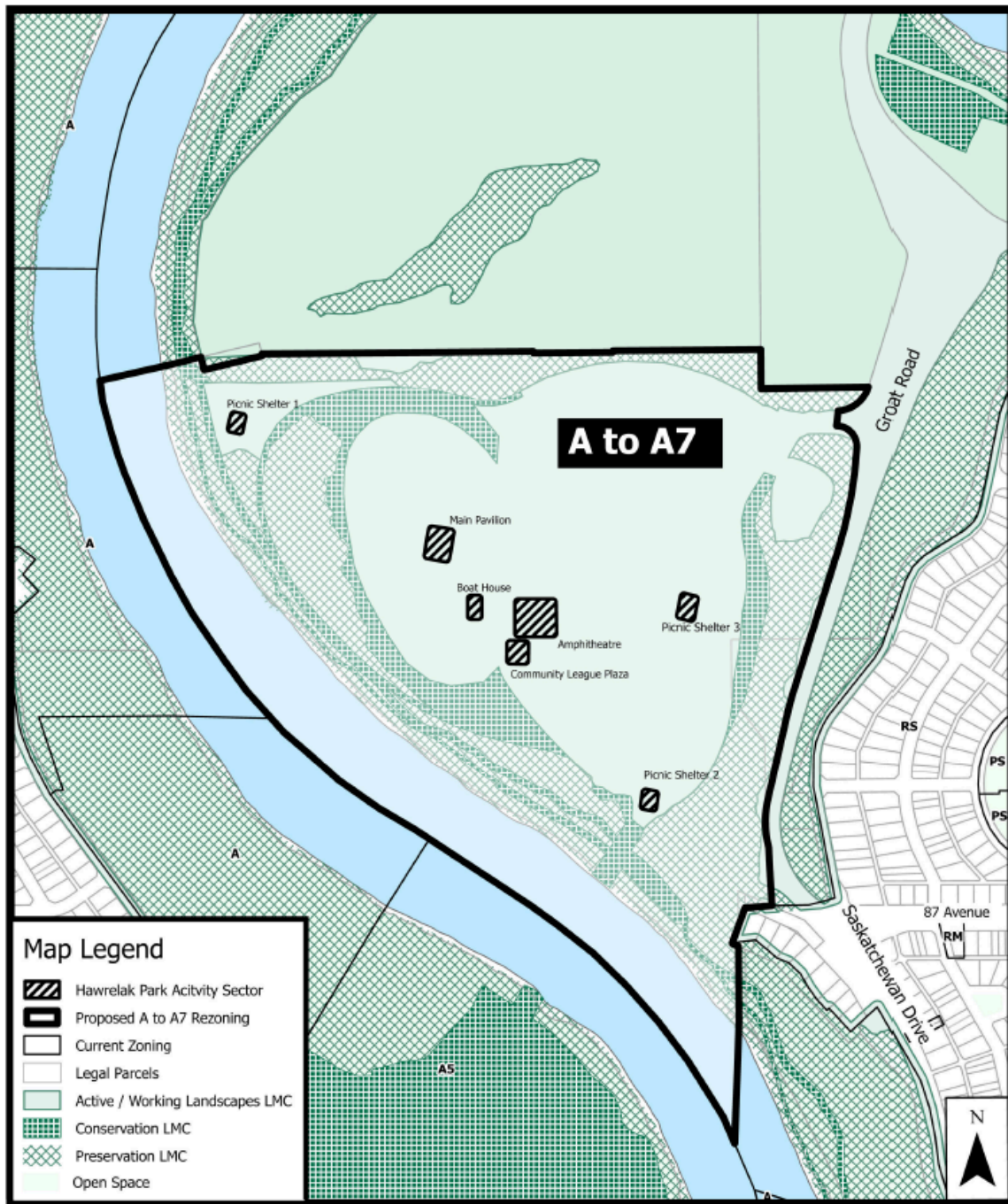


Figure 3. Map of proposed rezoning of William Hawrelak Park from A to A7 overlain with land management classifications delineated in the Ribbon of Green Strategic Plan.

### **Spatial Ecological Guidance**

William Hawrelak Park, as a park within the broader River Valley wildlife corridor, contributes to ecological connectivity through the River Valley and Ravine System. The Ribbon of Green identifies wildlife pinchpoints around the perimeter of William Hawrelak Park, particularly on the park's west, east, and south limits (Figure 4), based on landscape connectivity modeling. The Ribbon of Green also identifies a potential ecological restoration area on the east side of the park along Groat Road.

The current rezoning is not associated with any particular development or redevelopment proposal that could include ecological restoration and wildlife corridor improvements. Opportunities for implementing Ribbon of Green ecological guidance would be considered as part of site-specific planning associated with park development, redevelopment, or standalone ecological restoration initiatives in accordance with River Valley ARP policy. Such activities are generally not regulated by zoning and the proposed zone poses no barriers to such activities being planned or undertaken in the future. The restriction of many of the zone's discretionary uses to the Activity Sectors further limits risk of development occurring in areas of the park identified for ecological improvements in the Ribbon of Green.

### **Spatial Program Guidance**

No new program guidance is identified for William Hawrelak Park within the Ribbon of Green spatial guidance for this area (Figure 5). This reflects the highly programmed and activated nature of the park, which has an extensive network of existing trails, spaces for events and cultural programming, and recreational amenities.

The current rezoning is not associated with any particular development or redevelopment proposal that would build on the general program opportunities identified in the program statement for the park (see Ribbon of Green Strategic Plan, section 4.13.1). Rather, the current rezoning seeks to recognize existing, ongoing park uses, and allow for the protection of municipal heritage resources. Should new program opportunities or development proposals be contemplated in the park in the future, they would be evaluated for alignment with the program statement and guidance as part of site-specific planning.

### **Site-Specific and System-Wide Policy Alignment**

The Ribbon of Green includes numerous policies guiding site-specific planning and management according to the three LMCs and for the River Valley and Ravine System as a whole. These policies apply when a specific development, programming, or management proposal is advanced. Should new development proposals be contemplated in the park in the future under the proposed A7 zone, they would be evaluated for alignment with Ribbon of Green site-specific and system-wide policies through established processes such as capital project planning and design; the Strategic Assessment, Environmental Assessment, and decision-making processes established in

the River Valley ARP; and, application review and reporting (including environmental reporting) requirements associated with the development permit process.

At a high level, the proposed rezoning aligns with Ribbon of Green policy intent in several ways:

- the proposed zone restricts existing development (e.g., pavilions, Heritage Amphitheatre) and more intensive potential future uses to Activity Sectors, which are located solely in the Active / Working Landscapes LMC within William Hawrelak Park, thereby limiting adverse environmental impacts of infrastructure and amenity buildings;
- Permitted and Discretionary uses in the zone support ecological and heritage resource protection; provision of spaces and amenities for recreation, gathering, cultural programming, public access, and connectivity through the broader River Valley and Ravine System; and, opportunities for residents and visitors to experience nature, city-wide attractions, and cultural programming in the heart of Edmonton's River Valley and Ravine System.

### North Saskatchewan Central Reach, Section 1 – Ecological Guidance

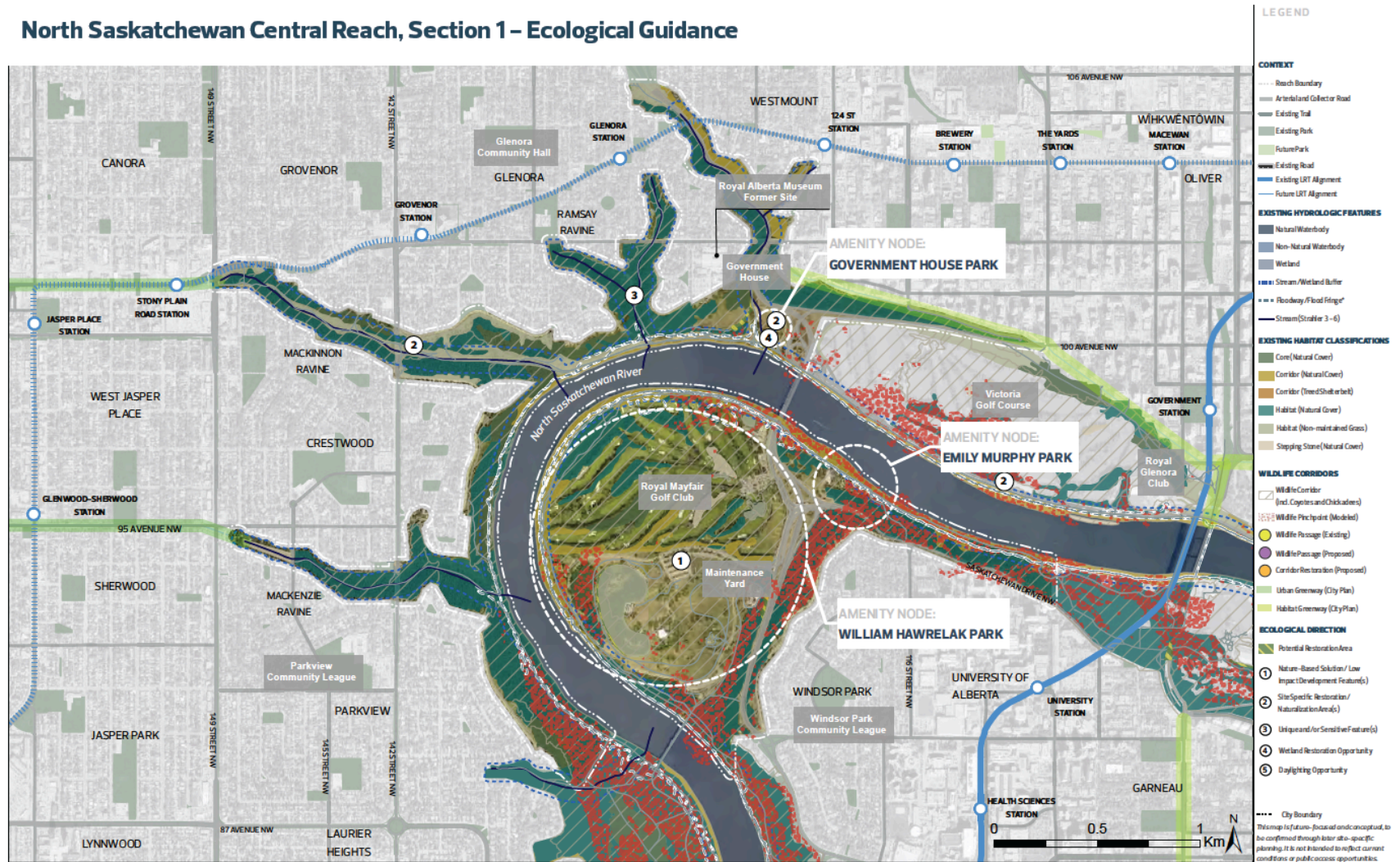


Figure 4. Ribbon of Green Strategic Plan ecological guidance map for the North Saskatchewan Central Reach, which includes William Hawrelak Park.

### North Saskatchewan Central Reach, Section 1 – Program Guidance



Figure 5. Ribbon of Green Strategic Plan program guidance map for the North Saskatchewan Central Reach, which includes William Hawrelak Park.

## Section 4: Site Rationale, Necessity of a River Valley Location, and Alternatives Considered

The application does not propose new development, but rather, updates the park's zoning to:

- ensure that listed uses accurately reflect existing uses and development, as well as the broader purpose and programming intent, of William Hawrelak Park; and,
- provide guidance for the protection of designated Municipal Historic Resources in the park.

As the proposed rezoning is not associated with any particular development proposal, and given existing park amenities, infrastructure, and recreational and cultural programming in William Hawrelak Park, an examination of alternative locations and/or the suitability of the site for the uses listed in the proposed zone would require a broader examination of the park's existing functions and programming. This type of analysis is beyond the scope of the proposed rezoning, and would generally involve a more extensive park planning process. Engagement completed as part of recent related City of Edmonton projects, including the Hawrelak Park Rehabilitation project and renewal of the Ribbon of Green, indicates broad support for the existing uses, functions, and programming of the park. The proposed zone's alignment with the broader vision for this park as a Major Recreation Park (as per The City Plan) and a highly activated and programmed amenity node and city-wide designation (as per the Ribbon of Green) indicates that opportunities to remove or minimize the uses of the park reflected in the proposed zoning are limited. In addition, opportunities to relocate existing structures (five Municipal Historic Resources) to other locations within or outside of the River Valley are highly constrained financially, logistically, and technically, and would contravene the intent of Municipal Historic Resource designation.

Should development or redevelopment falling under any of the proposed zone's listed uses be proposed in the future, site rationale and opportunities to locate the development outside of the River Valley and Ravine System would be evaluated in accordance with relevant policies in the River Valley ARP, including policies seeking to discourage intensive development in the River Valley and Ravine System entirely, as well as policies requiring the preparation of a Strategic Assessment for the proposed development.

## Section 5: Evaluation of Opportunities to Reduce the Developed Footprint and Expand Open Space

As the proposed rezoning does not propose new development or imply a reduction in open space, no opportunities to reduce the footprint of new development and expand open space were identified.

Many Permitted and Discretionary uses listed in the proposed zone (Food and Drink Services, Indoor Sales and Services, Major Indoor Entertainment, and Minor Indoor Entertainment) are restricted to the Activity Sectors that form part of the proposed zone

(Figure 1). These Activity Sectors correspond to existing structures only: the Main Pavilion, Boat House, and Picnic Shelters #1, #2, and #3. All five structures are designated Municipal Historic Resources in accordance with the Alberta Historical Resources Act and are intended to be protected in place. Removal of these structures to reduce

Should development or redevelopment falling under any of the proposed zone's listed uses be proposed in the future, opportunities to avoid expansion of the developed footprint in the park would be evaluated through established processes such as capital project planning and design; the Strategic Assessment, Environmental Assessment, and decision-making processes established in the River Valley ARP; and, application review and reporting (including environmental reporting) requirements associated with the development permit process.

## **Section 6: Overview of Potential Environmental Impacts and Community Impacts, and Associated Mitigation Measures**

### **Environmental Impacts and Associated Mitigation Measures**

As the current rezoning does not propose any new development and is not associated with a particular development proposal, evaluation of potential environmental impacts and mitigation measures can be completed only for potential uses as enabled by the proposed A7 zone.

Adverse environmental impacts arising from uses listed as permitted or discretionary in the proposed A7 zone may occur if development proceeds in environmentally sensitive areas within the park and if such impacts are not carefully evaluated and addressed through application of the mitigation hierarchy. The mitigation hierarchy is defined in the River Valley ARP as:

*A conservation tool that guides users towards limiting the negative impacts on biodiversity from development projects. The components of the mitigation hierarchy are defined in the following order of importance:*

- 1. Avoid: Prevent impacts through project relocation, changing the project scope, and/or project timing.*
- 2. Minimize: Minimize impacts through project design modifications that reduce the extent, duration, and/or intensity of unavoidable impacts.*
- 3. Restore: Restore or rehabilitate areas that have been exposed to impacts that could not be avoided or minimized.*
- 4. Offset: Offset permanent losses to native ecosystems through restoration, creation or protection of native ecosystems where residual impacts cannot be addressed by avoidance, minimization or mitigation.*

The proposed rezoning applies the first and most important step of the mitigation hierarchy - avoidance - by restricting Child Care Service, Community Service, Food and Drink Services, Indoor Sales and Services, Major Indoor Entertainment, and Minor Indoor Entertainment, to the Activity Sectors, which are wholly within existing built structures and developed areas of the park. These areas are classified in the Ribbon of

Green Strategic Plan as Active / Working Landscapes (Figure 3), which are areas of the River Valley with lower environmental sensitivity that can accommodate the highest intensity of uses while minimizing ecological impact.

Remaining uses - Protected Natural Area, Park, Outdoor Recreation Service, Special Event, Outdoor Entertainment, Urban Agriculture, and Sign - are those that, on a case-by-case basis, may be appropriate outside of Activity Sectors. For example, special events and festivals, or park amenities such as trails and picnic shelters, are necessarily located outside of existing buildings (Amenity Sectors) and are an expected use throughout William Hawrelak Park.

In accordance with River Valley ARP policy, the mitigation hierarchy, and environmental reporting requirements, will be applied to future development proposals falling under the proposed A7 zone. At that time, evaluation of individual proposals can take place, informed by the policy framework of the River Valley ARP, when information regarding location, design, construction methodology, and other similar considerations is available. As part of that process, guidance in the Ribbon of Green Strategic Plan will be applied and policy alignment will be evaluated, helping to guide decisions about what can be proposed where, and application of River Valley ARP policy will help ensure that detailed environmental assessments are completed and mitigation measures are applied.

The above processes established by the River Valley ARP are complemented by the regulations within the proposed zone, which specify that an environmental review is required as part of development applications, that conditions must be applied to a Development Permit to ensure that recommendations from the environmental review are met, and that a Discretionary Development Permit application may be refused if environmental impacts cannot be adequately mitigated.

In combination, the measures outlined above help ensure that the risk of adverse environmental impacts associated with the proposed rezoning is minimized, and that the environmental protection objective of the River Valley ARP is satisfied.

### **Community Impacts and Associated Mitigation Measures**

As the current rezoning does not propose any new development and is not associated with a particular development proposal, evaluation of potential community impacts and mitigation measures can be completed only for potential uses as enabled by the proposed A7 zone.

Adverse community impacts, such as disruption of views and vistas, noise, odour, or negative impacts to public access opportunities, are not anticipated to occur with the proposed rezoning. The proposed A7 zone reflects existing and ongoing uses that are aligned with the vision for the park and intended programming as directed by The City Plan and the Ribbon of Green Strategic Plan, and the feedback heard through engagement completed as part of Ribbon of Green Strategic Plan renewal and the William Hawrelak Park rehabilitation project (please refer to Section 7: Completed or Planned Public, Interested Party, and Indigenous Engagement, below).

The park currently allows for enjoyment of nature and River Valley vistas and viewscales, particularly along the perimeter of the park, and these opportunities are expected to continue. Should new development in the park be contemplated under the proposed A7 zone in the future, potential impacts and mitigation measures related to vistas and viewscales will be evaluated in detail and mitigated as appropriate as part of the development proposal review process, in alignment with River Valley ARP policy.

Some noise may be expected in the park due to regular park programming, recreation, and general visitation, as well as from special events and festivals taking place on site. Routine noise arising from the park's use as a major metropolitan park can be anticipated by visitors. It is not expected that the uses permitted by the proposed A7 would contribute to noise over and above existing and expected noise levels. Should new development in the park be contemplated under the proposed A7 zone in the future, potential impacts and mitigation measures related to noise will be evaluated in detail and mitigated as appropriate as part of the development proposal review process, in alignment with River Valley ARP policy.

Facilitating public access to the River Valley for celebration and wellness - including for active recreation, enjoyment of nature, gatherings, and cultural events - is a key purpose of the programming and operations of William Hawrelak Park. The uses permitted by the proposed A7 zone are intended to support access to and enjoyment of the River Valley, with William Hawrelak Park acting as both a destination in its own right and an amenity node for users of the broader River Valley and Ravine System. All uses in the proposed A7 zone are consistent with public access and enjoyment of the River Valley. Should new development in the park be contemplated under the proposed A7 zone in the future, potential impacts and mitigation measures related to public access will be evaluated in detail and mitigated as appropriate as part of the development proposal review process, in alignment with River Valley ARP policy.

## **Section 7: Completed or Planned Public, Interested Party, and Indigenous Engagement**

The proposed rezoning was informed by past engagement completed for related City of Edmonton projects that provided opportunity for the general public, interested parties, and Indigenous Nations and communities to provide feedback on the programming and design of Hawrelak Park. Specifically, engagement feedback received through the River Valley Planning Modernization project and the William Hawrelak Park Rehabilitation informed Administration's approach in determining the most appropriate zone, uses, and regulations for the park. The zone was written in alignment with feedback received through those engagement processes regarding the purpose, functions, and uses of the subject lands, and the importance of limiting development in environmentally sensitive areas in the park.

### **Ribbon of Green Strategic Plan**

Work to update the Ribbon of Green Concept Plan (1990) and Ribbon of Green Master Plan (1992) began in 2017 with the Ribbon of Green SW+NE project and continued into 2025 with the River Valley Planning Modernization Project. The updated Ribbon of Green Strategic Plan was completed in 2025, and provides a system-wide vision, principles, and policies, as well as programming and ecological guidance for individual parks and amenity nodes throughout the River Valley and Ravine System. Multiple phases of

public, interested party, and Indigenous engagement were undertaken as part of this renewal work. While the zoning of William Hawrelak Park was not the focus of engagement on the Ribbon of Green, the project provided participants with the opportunity to shape the vision and strategic direction for parks in the River Valley, including William Hawrelak Park.

Public engagement feedback reflected general support for the existing programming intent and uses in William Hawrelak Park, and for the park's continued function as a destination park and as a place to gather that supports recreational programming, hosts special events and festivals, and provides amenities and services (e.g., parking, washrooms, food and beverage services, etc.) for visitors accessing the River Valley beyond the park's boundaries. Some participants also expressed that the protection of natural ecosystems should be prioritized, that trees and natural vegetation in the park should be retained, and that nature-based solutions (e.g., rain gardens) should be incorporated into the park's built features. Other participants felt that the facilities and amenities at the park were out of date or not meeting the needs of visitors, and that spaces such as restaurants, bars, and cafes should be added to the park.

No comments or feedback specific to William Hawrelak Park were heard through Indigenous engagement conducted as part of Ribbon of Green renewal. Feedback applicable to the River Valley and Ravine System as a whole touched on many themes, but generally reflected a desire for Indigenous perspectives, knowledge, ceremony, and protocol to be incorporated into planning and decisions, for the River Valley to be protected, and for the protection or creation of places in the River Valley for ceremony, cultural activities, intergenerational learning, and reconnection with River Valley lands.

More detailed information regarding engagement methods and feedback for the Ribbon of Green SW+NE and River Valley Planning Modernization work can be accessed through the [project website](#).

### **William Hawrelak Park Rehabilitation**

In 2018, work began on the planning and design for rehabilitation of William Hawrelak Park. Rehabilitation was initiated due to aging utilities, facilities, open spaces, paths, and roads that were at or nearing their end-of-life. As part of this work, public, interested party, and Indigenous engagement was undertaken to inform rehabilitation design and construction impact mitigation. Feedback received in the first phase of engagement was summarized as follows:

*In general, respondents in the engagements are proud of William Hawrelak Park, are passionate that the green space is not compromised, and the main features of the park remain the same. People stated that they believe the park is "getting old" and needs a shape-up to get it back to more modern standards. This shape-up consists mainly of aesthetic upgrades to the aspects of the park that already exist with the washrooms being the main aspect requiring attention.*

Engagement participants also identified a number of improvements that could be made to the park's infrastructure and amenities to improve access and visitor experience, and improve the ability of festival and event organizers to stage events.

More detailed information regarding engagement methods and feedback for the William Hawrelak Park Rehabilitation project can be accessed through the [project website](#).

### **Land Development Application Notification and Engagement**

The proposed rezoning was subject to standard notification and engagement requirements as required by the Zoning Bylaw and the Municipal Government Act. Additional information regarding notification and engagement methods, and feedback received, is provided as part of the Planning Report for Bylaws 20734 and 21359.

✓ - Permitted, X - Not Permitted, D - Discretionary

Uses	A Current	A7 Proposed
Protected Natural Area	✓	✓
Park	D	✓
Child Care Services	D	D
Community Service	D	D <sup>1</sup>
Outdoor Recreation Service	D	D
Special Event	D	D
Food and Drink Service	X <sup>2</sup>	D
Indoor Sales and Service	D <sup>3</sup>	D
Fascia, Freestanding, Portable & Projecting Sign	D	D
Major Indoor Entertainment	D <sup>3</sup>	D <sup>4</sup>
Minor Indoor Entertainment	D <sup>3</sup>	D
Outdoor Entertainment	D <sup>3</sup>	D
Urban Agriculture	X	D
Library	D	X
Home-Based Business	D	X
Emergency service	D	X
Minor Utility	D	X
Residential	D <sup>3</sup>	X
Natural Resource Development	D <sup>3</sup>	X

<sup>1</sup>year-round shelters excluded, <sup>2</sup>Accessory to park use, <sup>3</sup>limited to those existing as of January 1, 2024, <sup>4</sup>excluding casinos and nightclubs