

EPCOR's Proposed Solar Farm Undermines River Valley Policies & Plans

Presentation to Oct. 6/20 City Council Public Hearing on Bylaw 18889 & 18890

by

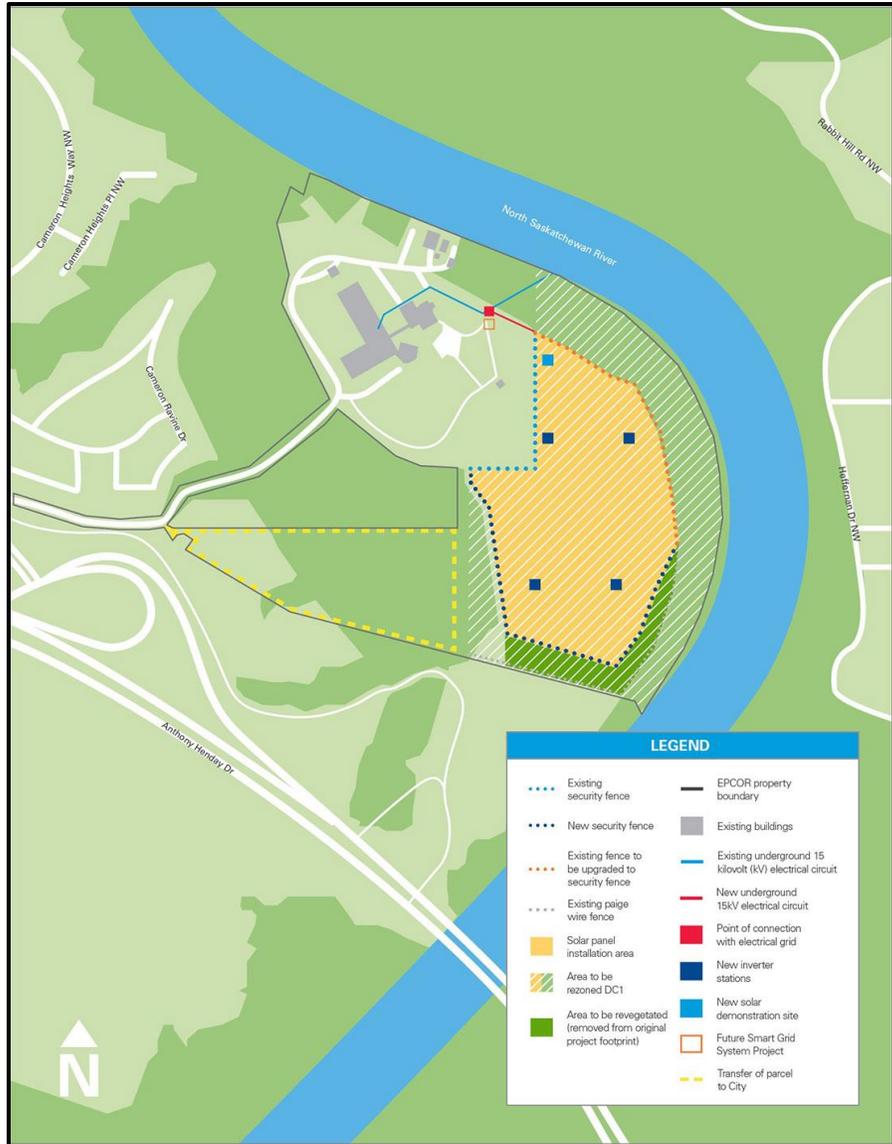
Harry Stelfox

[naturalist, retired wildlife biologist &

Twin Brooks Community naturalization program coordinator]

EPCOR Proposed Solar Farm Location

45,000 modules, 10 MW capacity, 22 ha site



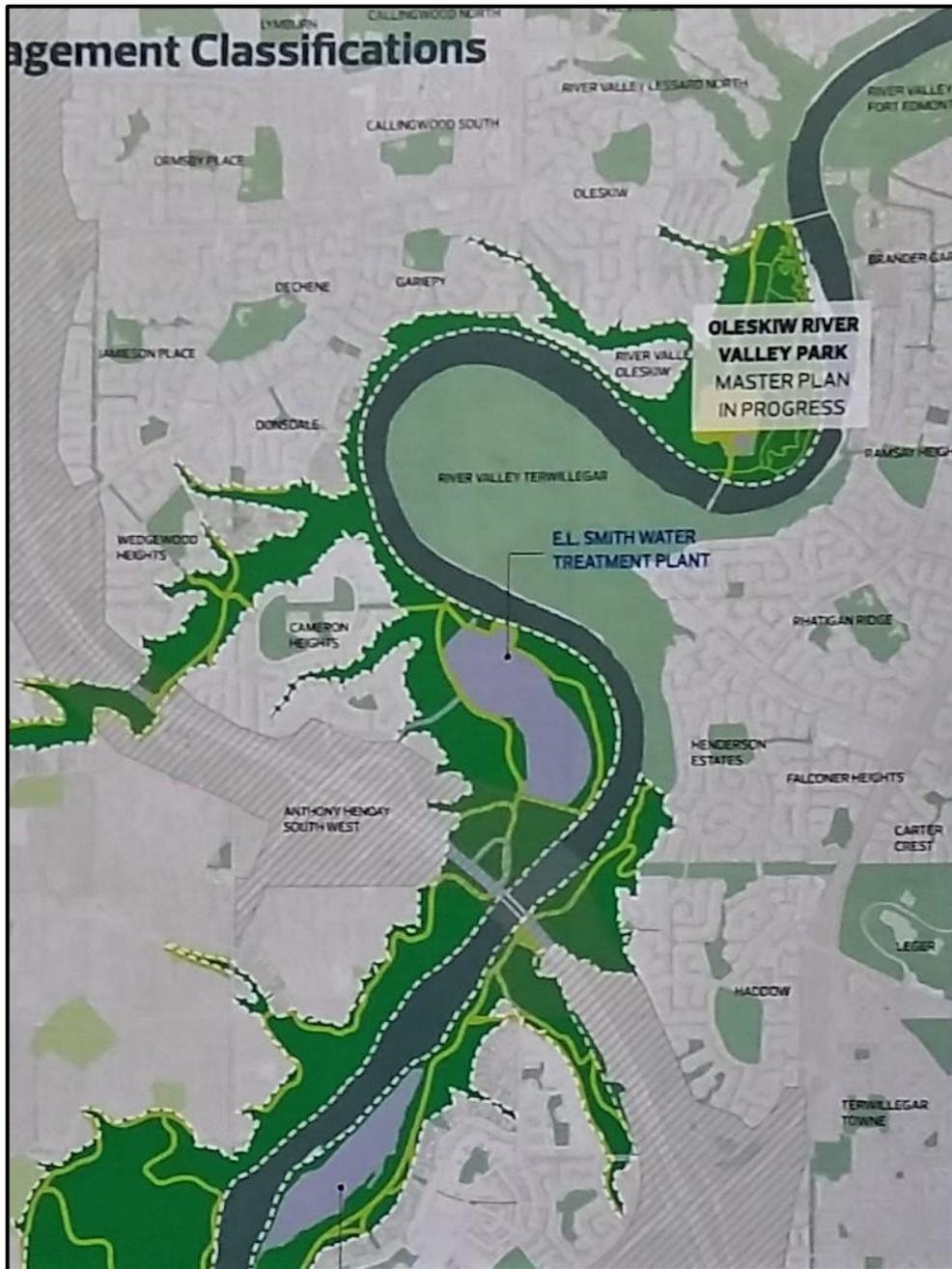
Brooks Solar Farm

48,582 modules, 17 MW capacity, 32 ha site



Expected Environmental & Social Impacts

- Loss of wildlife habitat
- Reduction in wildlife habitat connectivity and ecological system functions
- Restrictions on wildlife movements
- Avian mortality through collision with solar panels
- Loss of open space scenic values
- Reduced opportunities for low impact recreational trails
- Little to no opportunity for meaningful mitigation of impacts



Land Management Classifications Ribbon of Green Update Plan (Nov. 2018 draft)

Preservation Zone (dark green) – To “protect the integrity of the natural environment and restore natural functioning with limited access and recreational opportunities.”

Conservation Zone (mid green) – To “connect people to nature by allowing people to enjoy and appreciate the System while minimizing environmental impact and restoring ecological functioning, when possible.”

Active Working Landscape Zone (bluish grey) – To “facilitate gathering and recreation within the System, recognize existing uses and encourage restoration.”

Unused Farm Field Area Proposed for Solar Farm



Twin Brooks Root for Trees Kick-off Event





Large scale solar power installations need to be located in already developed areas and in ‘brown field’ industrial sites, where green-space environmental effects can be minimized. Residents of Edmonton, who increasingly reside in high density communities, want and need access to high quality recreational green spaces such as are available in our river valley and ravines – our Ribbon of Green.



Let's keep our priority focus on high quality recreation and the protection of biodiversity and wildlife habitat within Edmonton's Ribbon of Green!

An industrial-scale Solar Farm in our river valley sets a bad precedent for the future.

Informal walking trail through forested river valley slopes adjacent to E.L. Smith Water Treatment facility